

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (BCE) REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES - EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

Committee: Council

Date: 16th November 2016

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[R118]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To agree a submission to the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) consultation on the initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Council agrees the submission to the BCE attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. On 13th September 2016 the BCE published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries.

3.2 These initial proposals split East Cambridgeshire across three new constituencies. The majority of the district is in the new South East Cambridgeshire constituency along with Earith (Hunts), Balsham, Histon & Impington, Teversham, The Wilbrahams, Waterbeach and Willingham & Over from South Cambs. Downham Villages and Sutton form part of the new North East Cambridgeshire constituency with Fenland. Littleport is in the new South West Norfolk constituency with wards from Breckland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

3.3 The purpose of the consultation is to give local people and groups the opportunity to comment on the initial proposals and the deadline for comments is Monday 5th December. A second consultation period is scheduled for spring 2017 and the BCE will publish its revised proposals for consultation towards the end of 2017. The final report and recommendations are due to be published in September 2018.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Appendix 1 sets out an alternative constituency arrangement that enables Littleport to remain part of the North East Cambridgeshire constituency. This arrangement better reflects the statutory factors that the BCE may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies, which include local government boundaries and local ties that would be broken by changes in constituency. It also reduces the number of constituencies in the eastern region that cross county boundaries to just one.
- 4.2 The Councils proposal better reflects local government boundaries as Littleport remains in a constituency with other areas of Cambridgeshire and the Norfolk parliamentary constituencies are contained within the Norfolk county borders. It also follows the boundaries of the proposed Combined Authorities for these counties under Devolution.
- 4.3 Littleport has been part of the North East Cambridgeshire constituency since its creation in 1983 and as part of Cambridgeshire County Council its community interests, identity and all local ties are with Cambridgeshire not Norfolk.
- 4.4 It is not possible to create Cambridgeshire only or Cambridgeshire and Peterborough only constituencies due to the size of the electorate in these areas.
- 4.5 All Councillors have had the opportunity to input into the development of the alternative constituency arrangement. The feedback from Councillors has shaped the proposal.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - East Cambridgeshire District Council response to the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) consultation on initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries.

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
The BCE website provides comprehensive details of the review – http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/	Room 12, The Grange, Ely	Sally Bonnett Infrastructure and Strategy Manager (01353) 616451 E-mail: sally.bonnett@eastcambs.gov.uk