

**BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (BCE) 2018 CONSTITUENCY  
BOUNDARY REVIEW - EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON REVISED PROPOSALS**

Committee: Council

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

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[S176]

1.0 ISSUE

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

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 On 13 September 2016, the BCE published initial proposals for new parliamentary boundaries. These proposals split East Cambridgeshire across 3 constituencies. The majority of the district was in the new South East Cambridgeshire constituency, Downham Villages and Sutton formed part of the new North East Cambridgeshire constituency with Fenland, and Littleport was in the new South West Norfolk constituency with wards from Breckland and King's Lynn.

3.2 The feedback from the initial consultation was published on 28 February 2017. This was followed by a four-week consultation period during which the public were invited to comment on the feedback. In response, the Council wrote to the BCE to reiterate its request that Littleport remains part of the North East Cambridgeshire Constituency.

3.3 On 17 October 2017, the BCE published revised proposals. Although minor amendments have been made to the southern part of the new South East Cambridgeshire constituency, the boundaries affecting East Cambridgeshire are unchanged from the initial proposals.

3.4 The purpose of this consultation is to give local people and groups the opportunity to comment on the revised proposals that were published in October 2017. This is the last opportunity for people to comment on the new Parliamentary constituencies. After looking at whether any more changes need to be made, in September 2018 the BCE will make final

recommendations in a report published and presented to the Parliament. If Parliament agrees the changes to boundaries, the new constituencies will take effect at the next scheduled General Election in 2022.

#### 4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The Council strongly objects to the revised proposals produced by the BCE for the reasons set out in Appendix 1. The Council is proposing an alternative constituency arrangement which would enable Littleport to remain part of the North East Cambridgeshire constituency. This arrangement meets the statutory criteria relating to electoral reviews more effectively than the proposal from the BCE as it respects local government boundaries and the local ties that would be broken by the changes proposed by the BCE.

4.2 All Councillors have had the opportunity to input into the development of the proposed. The feedback from Councillors has shaped the final proposals.

#### 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 - ECDC response to BCE 2018 Constituency Boundary Review

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<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
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Revised proposals for new constituency boundaries in the Eastern region – October 2017.	Room 12, The Grange, Ely	Sally Bonnett Infrastructure and Strategy Manager (01353) 616451 E-mail: sally.bonnett@eastcambs.gov.uk
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The BCE website provides comprehensive details of the review to date - <https://www.bce2018.org.uk>