

**BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND – REVISED PROPOSALS  
(PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES)**

Committee: Scrutiny Committee

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Author: Chief Executive

[M139]

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 Revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for England for parliamentary constituency boundaries.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 Members are requested to endorse the urgent action proposed by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to respond to the Boundary Commission, based on the points detailed in para 4.2.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1 The Council on 11 October 2011 agreed a motion under procedure rule 10 “Review of Parliamentary Constituency” (ref 11 October 2011 Agenda Item 7 – Background Documents). The Council approved the proposal for the establishment of a new parliamentary constituency to cover the whole of East Cambridgeshire together with Forest Heath wards in Newmarket. The Council also requested the Boundary Commission to reconsider renaming the constituency to Ely and Newmarket.

4.0 **ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 Following a consultation period on these original proposals, the Boundary Commission has published revised proposals which differ significantly from their original proposition.

Revised Proposals

**SOUTH EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

(East Cambridgeshire (part) specifically Burwell, Bottisham, Cheveley, Dullingham, Fordham Villages, Isleham, Soham North and Soham South) plus South Cambridgeshire (part) and Cambridge City (part).

**NORTH EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

(East Cambridgeshire (part) specifically Downham, Ely East, Ely North, Ely South, Ely West, Haddenham, Littleport East, Littleport West, Stretham and Sutton) plus Fenland (part).

Relevant maps are attached as Appendices 1 and 2.

In responding to the statutory consultation, the Council can only base its objection to the following factors:-

- statutory electorate range (72,810 – 80,473) +/- 5% from the electoral quota;
- special geographical consideration (physical geography such as rivers, hills, lakes etc);
- local government boundaries;
- “local ties” i.e. culture, history and other socio-economic factors

4.2 The Chief Executive is proposing to lodge a formal objection to the boundaries outlined in para 3.2 and Appendices 1 and 2 based on the following issues, specifically:

- that the Council favours the original proposals for the establishment of an Ely and Newmarket constituency;
- proposed Newmarket and Ely constituency is nearer to the electoral quota (-3.38%) than the revised West Suffolk constituency (See Appendix 3);
- revised West Suffolk constituency is only 74 less than the maximum statutory electorate range;
- all revised boundaries affecting East Cambridgeshire are between +1.21% to 4.90% in areas of growth so will necessitate a further review sooner rather than later;
- revised proposals split East Cambridgeshire District Council boundaries;
- the geographical boundary between East Cambridgeshire and Fenland defined by the Hundred Foot Washes; and
- links between the Southern wards of East Cambridgeshire and Newmarket in relation to the horse racing industry (more synergy than the proposed West Suffolk boundary which includes parts of St Edmundsbury).

4.3 The deadline for the statutory consultation is 10 December 2012. The endorsement of this urgent action will enable the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to provide a detailed response based on the issues

outlined in para 4.2. Consideration of this item by Scrutiny Committee may enable a cross policy consensus approach.

## 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 There are no matters for consideration at this stage.

5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required

## 6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 Proposed South East Cambridgeshire CC

Appendix 2 Proposed North East Cambridgeshire CC

Appendix 3 Proposed West Suffolk CC

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<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
Council 11 October 2011 Agenda Item 7	Room 103 The Grange, Ely	John Hill Chief Executive (01353) 616271 E-mail: john.hill@eastcambs.gov.uk
Notice of motions procedure rule 10 – Review of Parliamentary Constituency		
Boundary Commission for England, Eastern Region, Revised Proposals Summary October 2012		