

## **Corporate Policy Committee**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	06 July 2021
<b>Report Title:</b>	2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies
<b>Report of:</b>	Jane Burns, Executive Director Corporate Services
<b>Report Reference No:</b>	CP/14/21-22
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	All Wards

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### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1. This report outlines the proposals recently published by the Boundary Commission for England for revised Parliamentary Constituency boundaries and makes provision for a sub-committee to be established, with powers to produce a Council submission to the Commission's current and future consultation exercise, should that be the will of the Committee.

### **2. Recommendations**

Should the Committee be minded to do so:

- 2.1. That the Committee appoint a sub-committee to review the consultation proposals in detail, with full powers to make a formal submission, if it chooses to do so, to the Boundary Commission, and also with such powers to respond to the second round of consultation proposals.
- 2.2. That the Sub-Committee be named the "Parliamentary Constituencies Sub-Committee".
- 2.3. That the Committee agree the size of the Sub-Committee, which will observe the political proportionalities of the Council.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1. The creation of a sub-committee is the most appropriate way of enabling the Council to make a reasoned submission to the Boundary Commission, within the timescale for consultation responses, which now applies.

## 4. Background

- 4.1. The Boundary Commission for England is the independent organisation responsible for reviewing Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. The current exercise will conclude with a formal report and recommendations being submitted to Parliament in 2023. Full details of the proposals for England can be found on the Boundary Commission's website at: <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>
- 4.2. The Commission state that the process for reviewing constituency boundaries is heavily informed by public consultation. There will be two rounds of public consultation before the final recommendations are submitted to Parliament. This report relates to the first round of consultation.
- 4.3. The rules that the Commission are working-to will retain 650 Constituencies in the UK Parliament, but will require that they comply with strict requirements as to the number of electors in each constituency. The proposals being consulted-upon have between 69,724 and 77,062 Parliamentary electors (as at 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020) in each Constituency. Across the North West, the number of constituencies would decrease from 75 to 73. Local Government wards are used as the building-blocks for proposed constituencies, but the Commission will consider splitting wards where there is a strong case for doing so.
- 4.4. When the Commission last made proposals for revised constituencies (2017) they were working to a different set of rules that would have seen the size of the UK Parliament reduce by 50 seats. These plans were not implemented.
- 4.5. Details of the proposed changes as they relate to Cheshire East are set out in Appendix 1. In summary no changes are proposed to the Macclesfield constituency. Minor changes are proposed in respect of Congleton Constituency, Tatton Constituency (including a proposal for two wards from Warrington moving into the Constituency) and Crewe and Nantwich Constituency. However, it is proposed that the Eddisbury constituency be abolished, and a that new South Cheshire Constituency be created.
- 4.6. The proposed South Cheshire Constituency would cover a wide area, including parts of Chester, Tarporley, Tarvin and Winsford, together with Audlem, Bunbury, Wrenbury and Wybunbury from Cheshire East. Details are provided in Appendix 2.
- 4.7. The recommendations of this report provide an appropriate mechanism for formal consultation responses to be agreed by a Sub-Committee, on behalf of Council, and submitted to the Boundary Commission. However, it is acknowledged that, if appointed, the Sub-Committee may not be able to reach a consensus upon a response, in which circumstances, it may choose not to submit one.

- 4.8** Irrespective of whether or not the Committee chooses to appoint a sub-committee to do so, individual Members, political groups and political parties may choose to make their own submissions to the Boundary Commission.

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1. Legal**

- 5.1.1.** There are no direct legal implications flowing from the recommendations in this report. If appointed the Sub-Committee will have full powers to formally respond to the first and second rounds of consultation.

### **5.2. Finance**

- 5.2.1.** There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **5.3. Policy**

- 5.3.1.** There are no policy implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **5.4. Equality**

- 5.4.1.** There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **5.5. Human Resources**

- 5.5.1.** There are no HR implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **5.6. Risk Management**

- 5.6.1.** There are no risk management implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **5.7. Rural Communities**

- 5.7.1.** There are no implications for rural communities arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **5.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children**

- 5.8.1.** There are no implications for children and young people or for cared for children arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **5.9. Public Health**

- 5.9.1.** There are no public health implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## 5.10. Climate Change

5.10.1. There are no climate change implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

<b>Access to Information</b>	
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Appendices:	Appendix 1 – proposals as they relate to each Cheshire East ward. Appendix 2 – proposals for South Cheshire constituency.
Background Papers:	There are no background papers.