

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting8th March 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Parliamentary Constituencies Review

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report regarding the Parliamentary Constituencies review being undertaken by the four UK Boundary Commissions.

Cabinet was reminded that the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) had published initial proposals for England, including the North East on 13 September 2011.

Members were also reminded of the views and comments that the Council had agreed to submit to the BCE, ahead of the initial consultation deadline.

The BCE had published all representations received, to the initial proposals, on its web site. Given the high level of response and the fact that the representations had only been published two days before this meeting officers had been unable to look at all the documents published. However, it did appear that the Council's views had received support from other respondents and particularly with regard to its comments on Billingham North ward and Parkfield and Oxbridge ward.

Members noted that a further four week period of consultation had started on 6 March, ending noon on 3 April 2012.

Members were asked to consider if any further comments should be made to the BCE during this secondary consultation period. Members asked that the comments submitted by the Council, as part of the initial consultation period, be reaffirmed to the BCE. Members also asked that the Council's position on the proposals be publicised and a note relating to the Council's comments on the Billingham Wards be forwarded to Billingham Town Council.

Cabinet noted that Council was not scheduled to meet again until early May, after the closing date of the secondary consultation period. It was therefore suggested that, the Director of Law and Democracy be

authorised to consult with political group Leaders and submit any representations prior to the deadline.

At the end of the secondary consultation period, all of the representations received from the outset of the initial consultation would be considered and a report would be prepared for each region. The BCE would then consider the report and decide whether, and to what extent, revisions should be made to its initial proposals.

A further report would be submitted to Council at that stage.

Members were advised that if the initial proposals were revised then there would be a final consultation period of eight weeks. Following this consultation, final recommendations, for the whole of England, would be produced. The submission of a formal report to Government would conclude the review process.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

1. it notes Cabinet's recommendation, as part of the secondary consultation period, to reaffirm the Council's previous response to the initial proposals.

2. It notes that the Director of Law and Democracy, in consultation with the political group Leaders will resubmit the previously agreed representations to the BCE, before the deadline for the secondary consultation period, using urgency delegated powers, under council functions.

3. a further report be submitted to Cabinet following the end of the secondary consultation period.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that Members' views on the Boundary Commission's initial proposals are submitted prior to the end of the secondary consultation period.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

To submit other comments on the written representations made to date or to submit no further comments.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Parliamentary Constituencies Review as he was employed in a local MP's constituency office.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not applicable

Proper Officer
12 March 2012