

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting1st November 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Parliamentary Constituencies Review

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided details of the revised proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries published by the Boundary Commission for England (“BCE”) on 16 October.

Representations on the BCE’s initial proposals were agreed by Council at its meeting on 1 December 2011 and a copy of the representations were detailed within the report.

The review entered a secondary consultation phase on 6 March 2012. This concluded on 3 April 2012. The secondary consultation allowed interested parties to submit further comments on the representations received by the BCE on their initial proposals.

At its meeting on 8 March, Cabinet agreed that the Council’s original representations should be reaffirmed for the purposes of the secondary consultation period. This was done and the decision to do so, in consultation with the Mayor, was reported to Council on 2 May 2012.

The BCE published revised proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries on 16 October.

The details affecting the administrative area of Stockton-on-Tees were attached to the report.

Members considered whether any representations should be made to the BCE on these revised proposals. It had been suggested that as regards the proposed Stockton North and Aycliffe Constituency, given the respective sizes of the electorate of the Billingham, Stockton and Aycliffe/Sedgefield wards, the name of the Constituency should be Stockton North, Billingham and Aycliffe. It was also indicated that the BCE should be advised that the administration of parliamentary elections for both of the revised Stockton North and Stockton South constituencies should remain with Stockton on Tees Borough Council.

The final consultation period on the revised proposals concluded on 10 December 2012. This final consultation would not include any public hearings, nor was there an opportunity for commenting on the representations of others.

The BCE would consider any representations made during the final consultation period about the revised proposals and would make its final decisions about whether further revisions were needed in light of these representations.

Once the BCE had decided on its final recommendations for the whole of England, it would then draft and submit a formal report to Government. The report, which would be published, would contain a description of the review in each region, a textual description of all of the final recommendations, and a set of maps to illustrate the existing constituency boundaries and those proposed by the final recommendations.

The submission of the formal, final report would conclude the review process and a further report would be presented to Cabinet once this stage had been reached.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. the report be noted.

2 further representation be submitted to the BCE regarding their revised proposals in line with the suggestion above and as detailed in paragraph 12 of the report.

3. a further report be submitted to Cabinet when the final consultation period had finished and the BCE had reported formally to Government.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that Members' views regarding the BCE's revised proposals are submitted prior to the end of the final consultation period.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Cllr Cook declared a personal interest in the item entitled Parliamentary Constituencies Review, under paragraph 11, of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, as he was employed within the constituency office of a local MP.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

Proper Officer
05 June 2012