

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**27 JUNE 2016**

**REPORT OF SENIOR  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook**

**PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES REVIEW 2018**

1. Summary  
This is an update for Members regarding the Parliamentary Constituencies review being undertaken by the four UK Boundary Commissions in their respective parts of the UK.
2. Recommendations
  1. That the report be considered.
  2. A report regarding the initial proposals be submitted to Cabinet at its meeting in September / October 2016
  3. The initial set of proposed boundary proposals produced by the Boundary Commission for England will be presented to a Members Seminar in September / October 2016 following a report to Cabinet for discussion
3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)  
  
To ensure that Members are kept up to date with the proposed review of Parliamentary Constituency boundaries.
4. Members' Interests  
  
Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.  
  
Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-
  - affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
  - relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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**SUMMARY**

This is an update for Members regarding the Parliamentary Constituencies review being undertaken by the four UK Boundary Commissions in their respective parts of the UK.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the report be considered.
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**DETAIL**

1. Member will recall previous reports that were considered by Cabinet during 2011 with regards to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 ("the Act") that required the four Boundary Commissions to conduct a review of the parliamentary constituencies in their part of the UK and to submit final reports to Government before 1 October, 2013. Members are reminded that no action was taken as a result of this previous review being postponed by Parliament, and that the Boundary Commission for England have now been tasked to complete the current review by September 2018.
2. Parliamentary Boundaries reflect the area where the electorate vote for their MP, the review will examine these areas and make proposals for a new set of boundaries of equal size, with Parliament specifying that the review must reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650
3. The North East has been allocated 25 constituencies (currently it has 29). The BCE's initial proposals will ensure that each of these constituencies are wholly contained in the North East region.
4. The BCE is also required by the Act to ensure that each constituency has an electorate that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the UK electoral quota. This quota has been calculated at 74,769. Accordingly, each constituency must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

**Initial Proposals**

2. Taking these requirements into account, the BCE will publish its initial proposals for England, including the North East in September, 2016.

3. It is to be expected given the rules that limit the size of the electorate and the reduction in seats that existing constituencies will have to change.

### **Initial Consultation Period**

7. A 12 week period of consultation by the BCE on its initial proposals will begin in September 2016; there will be public hearings in each region with feedback published in early 2017.
8. In addition there will be an on-line platform to facilitate consultation or you will be able to write direct to the BCE.
9. The review will take place over approximately two and a half years with final recommendations submitted to Parliament in September 2018 and if agreed the new constituencies will take effect at the next scheduled General Election in 2020.

### **Further Consultation Periods**

10. As soon as possible after the initial 12 week consultation period, the BCE will publish on its website all of the representations it has received for each region
11. Once the representations have been published, there will be a further statutory secondary consultation period for four weeks, during which people can submit to the BCE written comments on the published representations.
12. After the end of the secondary consultation period, all of the representations received from the outset of the initial consultation will be considered and reports will be prepared for the BCE for each region. The reports will summarise and consider each of the representations, and recommend whether and if so, how, the BCE's initial proposals should be revised in light of the representations
13. Following this, the BCE will publish a notice in each region, stating whether or not revisions have been made to its initial proposals for that region. All of the written representations submitted during the 4 week secondary consultation period will be published at the same time as the notice.
14. If the initial proposals are revised, there would then be a further, final period of eight weeks for written representations to be made to the BCE on the revised proposals for that area.
15. Once the BCE has decided on its final recommendations for the whole of England, it will then draft and submit a formal report to Government. The report, which will be published, will 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.
16. The submission of the formal, final report will conclude the review process.

### **Next Steps**

17. A report regarding the initial proposals will be submitted to Cabinet at its meeting in September

18. The initial set of proposed boundary proposals produced by the Boundary Commission for England will be presented to a Members Seminar in September 2016 following report to Cabinet for discussion

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

19. An assessment has not been considered necessary for the purpose of this report.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

20. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

21. There are no financial or legal implications arising directly from this report.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

22. The report is considered to be a low risk category report

### **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

23. Developing strong communities by enhancing democratic representation and local democracy.

### **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

There are no parenting implications.

### **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

Consultation with the Cabinet Member and Group Leaders, is and will be ongoing throughout this review.

Members Policy Briefings drop in's will be provided to ensure the membership can access the proposals at each stage.

This report affects all wards.

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Education related? No

Background Papers N/A

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: The report affects all wards

Property

Summarise any implications the report has in relation to the Council's property. Explain how the report impacts on the Capital Programme and Asset Management Plan.