



REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TO:	COUNCIL FORUM
ON:	6th OCTOBER 2016

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW 2018

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Council Forum with an overview of the process and proposals for the Parliamentary Boundary Review 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To agree in principle the Commission's initial proposals for Blackburn with Darwen Parliamentary Boundary Review 2018.

3. PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW 2018

The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended, requires the four Boundary Commissions (one for each country of the UK) to keep the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies under continuous review, and conduct periodic reviews of all constituencies. In 2011 legislation was passed to reduce the number of MPs from 650 to 600. Under the law as it still stands, a new review by the Boundary Commissions must be completed by October 2018, reducing the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 (533 - 501 in England) resulting in an expected annual saving of £12.2M.

In proposing new boundaries, the Commissions must operate under the Rules for Redistribution in the Act, which set out, among other conditions, the number of constituencies that there should be, and the extent to which the size of the electorate in each constituency can differ within 5% from the electoral quota (average size of a constituency). The law requires that every new constituency (except four specified island constituencies) must have roughly the same number of electors: no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507. Initial proposals were published on 13th September 2016 and information about proposed constituencies is now on the Boundary Commission for England Website.

Stage one – development of initial proposals

Lancashire currently has an existing allocation of 16 constituencies with a reduction to 14 constituencies being proposed.

Stage two Consultation

The Commissions are consulting on their initial proposals for 12 weeks, until 5 December 2016.

Stage three – consultation on representations received

The Commission are required to publish all the responses they receive to their initial proposals. This publication will mark the start of a four-week ‘secondary consultation’ period, likely to take place in spring 2017. People will be able to see all the comments on the website, and use the site to give the Commission their views on what others have said.

Stage four – development and publication of revised proposals

Once the Commission have all the representations and comments from both the initial and secondary consultation periods, they will analyse those representations and decide whether changes should be made to the initial proposals. If they decide that the evidence presented to them persuades them to change their initial proposals, then they must publish their revised proposals for the areas concerned, and consult on them for a further period of eight weeks. This is likely to be towards the end of 2017. When they consult on their revised proposals, there will be no further public hearings, nor will there be a repeat of the four-week period for commenting on the representations of others. People will be able to see all the Commissions revised proposals, and give their views on them, on their website.

Stage five – development and publication of the final report and recommendations

Finally, following the consultation on revised proposals, the Commission will consider all the evidence received at this stage, and throughout the review, before determining their final recommendations. The recommendations will be set out in a published report to the Government, who will present it, without amendment, to Parliament on behalf of the Commission. The legislation states that the Commission must report to the Government in September 2018.

Blackburn with Darwen proposals

The Commission have proposed that the existing Blackburn constituency be slightly changed, by the inclusion only of the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen ward of Fernhurst. The existing Rossendale and Darwen constituency would be moderately changed by the loss of the Fernhurst ward to the Blackburn constituency and the inclusion of the Worsley and Greenfield wards (both Borough of Rossendale wards). The Commission considered that these changes resulted in a geographically better shaped constituency.

For illustrative purposes, from the publication [“Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the North West”](#) the relevant extracts for Blackburn and Darwen have been reproduced:

7. Blackburn BC			72,816
Audley	Blackburn with Darwen		5,595
Bastwell	Blackburn with Darwen		4,883
Beardwood with Lammack	Blackburn with Darwen		4,445
Corporation Park	Blackburn with Darwen		4,666
Ewood	Blackburn with Darwen		4,360
Fernhurst	Blackburn with Darwen		4,125
Higher Croft	Blackburn with Darwen		4,818
Little Harwood	Blackburn with Darwen		4,511
Livesey with Pleasington	Blackburn with Darwen		5,289
Meadowhead	Blackburn with Darwen		4,107
Mill Hill	Blackburn with Darwen		3,721
Queen's Park	Blackburn with Darwen		3,918
Roe Lee	Blackburn with Darwen		4,450
Shadsworth with Whitebirk	Blackburn with Darwen		4,792
Shear Brow	Blackburn with Darwen		4,962
Wensley Fold	Blackburn with Darwen		4,174

49. Rossendale and Darwen CC			74,991
Earcroft	Blackburn with Darwen		2,943
East Rural	Blackburn with Darwen		1,462
Marsh House	Blackburn with Darwen		4,442
North Turton with Tockholes	Blackburn with Darwen		3,466
Sudell	Blackburn with Darwen		4,343
Sunnyhurst	Blackburn with Darwen		4,295
Whitehall	Blackburn with Darwen		2,964
Cribden	Rossendale		2,751
Eden	Rossendale		2,864
Facit and Shawforth	Rossendale		2,741
Goodshaw	Rossendale		3,159
Greenfield	Rossendale		4,325
Greensclough	Rossendale		4,274

5. CONSTITUTION POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

10. CONSULTATIONS

Council Members and Chief Officers

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Date: 28th September 2016

Background Papers: The Boundary Commission has a dedicated website where a comprehensive range of background papers may be accessed: <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/publications>