



REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF HR, LEGAL & CORPORATE SERVICES
TO:	POLICY COUNCIL
ON:	7th DECEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW 2018

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update the Council on the 2018 Parliamentary Boundary Review being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for England for the Blackburn Borough Constituency area

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to:

1. Note the Boundary Commission for England proposals for Parliamentary boundaries for the Blackburn Borough Constituency Area
2. Acknowledge that the third and final consultation has been running from 17th October 2017 and will conclude on 11 December 2017
3. Confirm their support for the current proposal, which remains unchanged from the initial proposal and, authorise the Chief Executive to write to the Commission accordingly expressing the Council's view.

3. BACKGROUND

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial advisory body constituted under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. It is responsible for conducting reviews of UK Parliament constituencies in England and making recommendations to Parliament. The reviews for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of separate Commissions in those parts of the United Kingdom.

4. PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW 2018

On 17th October 2017 the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries as it opened its third and final consultation. Members will recall that following a decision by parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is within 5% either side of the electoral quota, the BCE had been asked to make independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English Constituencies should be.

The final consultation ends this month with citizens having until 11 December 2017 to have their say. Following this third and final consultation, the Boundary Commissioners will consider

all the evidence submitted throughout the process. They will then decide on their final recommendations before submitting them to Parliament in September 2018. The Council is asked to consider expressing its view on the final proposals noting that if agreed by Parliament, the new constituencies will be in use at the next scheduled General Election in 2022.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications in responding to this consultation.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 altered the Rules for Redistribution by amending the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 . The Rules state the number of constituencies in the UK to be 600 (from 650), and that every constituency in England (except two covering the Isle of Wight) must have an electorate that is 5% either side of the electoral quota (74,769). The legislation also states that when deciding on boundaries, BCE may also take into account:-

- special geographical considerations, including size, shape and accessibility of a constituency
- local government boundaries as they existed on 7 May 2015
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.

However, none of the above overrides the necessity to achieve an electorate in each constituency that is within the range stated above.

Once the consultation of the revised proposals closes on 11 December 2017, the BCE will consider all the representations received and throughout the review. The BCE is then required to make a formal report with final recommendations to the Government during September 2018.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

10. CONSULTATIONS

The review process is heavily informed by public consultation.

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Date: 16th November 2017

Background Papers: Boundary Commission for England [portal](#).