

19th October 2016

Ordinary Council

Draft Proposals of the 2018 Review of the Boundary Commission for England.

Report of: *Philip Ruck – Head of Paid Service*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission is an independent and impartial advisory public body, which reviews the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies in England.
- 1.2 On 13 September 2016, the Boundary Commission published the first set of proposals which was a full map of the new parliamentary constituencies for its first consultation which ends on the 5 December 2016.
- 1.3 It was agreed in-principle by all the Political Group Leaders to a Cross Party representation to the Boundary Commission draft proposals. Both the Conservative and Labour Groups have agreed to the wording of the draft letter. The Liberal Democrat Group have yet to agree the wording, although it is anticipated that any proposed amendment may be considered with this report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Agree that the draft letter as set out as Appendix A be sent as a Council response to the first Boundary Commission consultation.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 The Government Parliament has asked the Boundary Commission, as an independent and impartial public organisation, to conduct a review of all the constituency boundaries in England.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 The task is twofold: to reduce the number of constituencies (from 650 to 600); and to make more equal the number of electors in each constituency, no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507.
- 4.2 The proposals include various changes to the existing seat of Brentwood & Ongar which currently includes the entire Borough of Brentwood.
- 4.3 The proposals would remove the electoral wards of Warley and Herongate, Ingrave and West Horndon out of the Brentwood & Ongar constituency into an enlarged South Basildon & East Thurrock seat, dividing the Borough of Brentwood into two Parliamentary Constituencies.
- 4.4 In addition to this consultation there will be two further consultations held in 2017.
- 4.5 The Boundary Commission are required to submit their final report and recommendations to Parliament in September 2018.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To ensure that Council provides the views of our communities.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 None.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 This report relates to the Vision for Brentwood 2016-19 purpose to represent the views of our communities.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

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- 8.1 There are no financial implications at this stage.

Legal Implications

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8.2 There are no legal implications at this stage.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

8.3 No other implications are identified.

9. Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.1 There are no background papers.

10. Appendices to this report

Draft letter – Appendix A

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