

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**3 NOVEMBER 2016**

**PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW**

**HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To provide details of a consultation by the Boundary Commission for England on their proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituency boundaries for England in 2018, and to seek views / recommendations from the Committee on whether representations should be made on behalf of the Council.

**BACKGROUND**

**Parliamentary Boundary Review**

- 2 The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 required that the Boundary Commission conduct a review of the Parliamentary constituencies. The Act requires that the current 650 constituencies in the UK be reduced to 600.

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is presently conducting a review of the boundaries for all parliamentary constituencies in England on the basis of new rules laid down by Parliament. This will result in a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), of these, two constituencies are allocated to the Isle of Wight as per the Act.

The BCE has subsequently distributed the remaining 499 constituencies between the regions used for European Parliamentary elections.

The proposals in the review which are currently being consulted on are designed to ensure that each constituency contains a similar number of registered electors and, with two exceptions, propose that each constituency will be based on an electorate no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507

The table below gives the following allocation of constituencies between the regions:

Eastern	57
East Midlands	44
London	68
North East	25
North West	68
South East	81*
South West	53
West Midlands	53
Yorkshire and the Humber	50
* Plus the two constituencies for the Isle of Wight	

When considering the revised boundaries the Act provides for a number of factors that the BCE may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2018 Review, specifically:

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

While the BCE proposes to identify constituencies by reference to local authority external boundaries as far as practicable, it is nevertheless often necessary to cross these boundaries in order to form constituencies that comply with the statutory electorate range.

The BCE uses wards (in district and borough council areas) as the basic building block for designing constituencies.

3. All existing constituencies in the North East region will be affected by the changes. The region has been allocated 25 constituencies (4 less than at present).

## 2018 Review Proposals

### Existing Middlesbrough wards per current Constituencies

#### 4. **Middlesbrough (Election Administering Authority - Middlesbrough Council)**

Acklam; Ayresome; Berwick Hills & Pallister (Part); Brambles & Thorntree; Central: Kader; Ladgate (part); Linthorpe; Longlands & Beechwood; Newport; North Ormesby; Park; Park End & Beckfield (Part); Trimdon.

#### 5. **Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland (Part) (Administering Authority - Redcar and Cleveland)**

Berwick Hills & Pallister (Part); Coulby Newham; Hemlington; Ladgate (part); Marton East; Marton West; Nunthorpe; Park End & Beckfield (Part); Stainton & Thornton.

6. The proposed changes that will impact on Middlesbrough are as follows:-

Middlesbrough will see an increase from two to three Parliamentary constituencies

- Middlesbrough North East and Redcar constituency will take on areas from Middlesbrough
- Middlesbrough West and Stockton East constituency will take on areas from Middlesbrough and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, and also Stockton South
- New Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency will retain part of Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, the remaining part being transferred to Redcar constituency.

#### Changes in electorate

Existing Constituency (Middlesbrough share)	Electorate	Proposed Constituency	Proposed Electorate
Middlesbrough	59774	Middlesbrough North East and Redcar	29281
		Middlesbrough West and Stockton East	30493
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	30388	Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	24158
		Middlesbrough West and Stockton East	6230

#### Proposed Constituencies

7. Copies of the proposals are attached to this report at Appendix A (the Initial Proposals for new Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in the North East report with pages 24-25 of the report identifying the proposed location of each ward.

A large A0 map and an A3 booklet have also been received and are available for inspection at the Town Hall Reception.

The Commission are also hosting public hearings across England. In the North East they are hosting two public hearings during the consultation period at;

- **Newcastle** Victoria Hall, Royal Station Hotel, Neville Street, on:  
14 November 2016 - 10.00am - 8.00pm  
15 November 2016 - 9.00am - 5.00pm
- **Darlington** King's Ballroom, Mercure Darlington Kings Hotel, 9-12 Priestgate, on:  
17 November 2016 - 10.00am - 8.00pm  
18 November 2016 – 9.00am – 5.00pm

8. The BCE are strongly encouraging everyone to make use of their consultation website, at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk), when responding to the consultation.

#### 9. Local implications

A briefing session was held for elected Members who raised the following concerns;

- Middlesbrough would lose its identity

- Middlesbrough would be the minority authority for each of the constituencies and therefore may not be the focus for any one of the Parliamentary candidates.
- Middlesbrough is the central district for the Tees Valley – new constituencies don't reflect this.
- The public may become very confused
- The Middlesbrough and Stockton South constituency would see two Town Centre's
- How will the increases in electorate in areas with large housing developments impact upon this.

It is also envisaged that this model will add an additional layer of complexity to the administration of an election in respect of sharing staffing and polling venues especially during combined elections. Also generally the authority with the highest number of electorate will act as the administering authority and therefore take on the role of the Returning Officer and a much greater cross boundary area.

10. The following documents are appended to the report:

Appendix 1 - Initial Proposals – North East

Appendix 2 - Maps

Members are asked to consider the proposed changes and determine whether to submit comments in regard to the proposals.