

Parliamentary Boundaries proposals**REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL**

DATE	23/11/2016
PORTFOLIO	Leader
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PURPOSE

1. That Full Council consider the proposed changes to the parliamentary boundaries put forward by the Boundary Commission.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Full Council is recommended to either:
 - a) Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Boundary Commission supporting the changes to the Burnley Parliamentary boundary, or;
 - b) Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Boundary Commission opposing the changes to the Burnley Parliamentary boundary, or
 - c) Not respond to the consultation.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The consultation ends on 5th December 2016. The views of Council will be submitted as the Council's consultation response.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**Parliamentary Boundary Review 2018**

4. 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. The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.
5. In 2011 the Parliamentary Voting and Constituencies Act 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. The reduction in MPs is expected to save £12.2M per annum.
6. The boundary review process is as follows:

- **Consultation.**

The Commission is consulting on the initial proposals for 12 weeks, until 5 December 2016.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

7. 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. Burnley's current electorate is 64,000.
8. Initial proposals were published on 13th September 2016 and information about proposed constituencies is now on the Boundary Commission for England website.
9. The North West has been allocated 68 constituencies – a reduction of seven from the current number. Due to the significant change required throughout the region, the proposals leave just 14 of the 75 existing constituencies unchanged.
10. In re-drawing the boundaries in order to fit in the prerequisite number of voters, the Commission can take into account: special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency; local government boundaries; boundaries of existing constituencies; and any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.

Burnley proposals

11. The proposed changes to the Burnley boundary are in part a consequence of the existing Hyndburn constituency requiring additional wards to bring its electorate to within the electoral quota. Having proposed that it should lose the Worsley and Greenfield wards to

the Rossendale and Darwen constituency, the Commission propose to top up Hyndburn with the inclusion of the three wards of Gawthorpe (which includes Padiham), Hapton with Park, and Coal Clough with Deerplay in the east from the existing Burnley constituency. That proposed constituency will cease to be called Hyndburn and is instead being called Accrington. In addition to the loss of the three wards from the existing Burnley constituency to the proposed Accrington constituency, the Commission propose that the Burnley constituency, in order to increase its electorate, should extend north to include eight wards from the existing Pendle constituency (up to and including the town of Nelson). Appendix 1 includes a map of the proposed boundaries.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

12. None directly arising from this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

13. None arising directly from this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

14. Group Leaders.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. Consultation website: <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/>

Appendix 1: proposals map

