

Part A

**Report to:** Council

**Date of meeting:** Monday, 19 July 2021

**Report author:** Group Head of Democracy and Governance

**Title:** Review of Parliamentary Boundaries

## 1.0 Summary

1.1 The Boundary Commission for England has published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries for England. There is an 8 week consultation period which ends on 2 August 2021.

1.2 Council is asked to consider if it wishes to respond to the consultation.

## 2.0 Risks

### 2.1

<b>Nature of risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Suggested Control Measures</b>	<b>Response</b> (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer)	<b>Risk Rating</b> (combination of severity and likelihood)
The Council makes no response	There is the potential that the responses of others may have a knock on effect on the proposal for the Watford constituency	Make a submission	treat	3

## 3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That Council responds to the consultation by supporting the proposals for the Watford Parliamentary Constituency.

### **Further information:**

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#### 4.0 **Detailed proposal**

4.1 The Boundary Commission for England has published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries for England. There is an 8 week consultation period which ends on 2 August 2021.

Full details of the proposals can be found here [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk).

4.2 With regard to Watford it is proposed that the Watford constituency no longer includes any wards from Three Rivers District. Instead it contains the whole of the Borough of Watford plus the Hertsmere Borough of Bushey North taken from the existing Hertsmere constituency. The Boundary Commission acknowledge that this creates what they call an 'orphan ward'. However, they say it is necessary to bring the constituency within the electoral range and consider the ward has good road links with Watford.

4.3 Other changes in South West Hertfordshire include the reconfiguration of the existing South West Hertfordshire constituency into 2 new constituencies which they say is necessary to limit further change elsewhere in the County. They intend to add a new constituency called Harpenden and Berkhamsted with an east-west configuration so it will include Tring, through Berkhamsted to Harpenden and include the 2 Dacorum wards of Watling and Ashridge. The Hemel Hempstead constituency will have Watling, Ashridge and Kings Langley removed from it but will have Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield added which is currently in the South West Hertfordshire constituency. The other new constituency created from South West Hertfordshire is a new Three Rivers constituency which will have Kings Langley ward from Dacorum but will otherwise be totally coterminous with the Three Rivers District Boundary.

4.4 In addition to losing Bushey North to Watford the Hertsmere constituency will gain the Welwyn and Hatfield Ward of Northaw and Cuffley.

4.5 St. Albans constituency remains unchanged other than realigning with the new local government boundaries to the west of the constituency.

4.6 Members are asked if they wish the Council to make a submission in relation to the proposals. Officers would advise that if the current proposals are supported that a submission is made stating that to be the case as if others in Hertfordshire, even other areas within the Eastern Region object to proposals affecting them, changes could be made which might have an impact on the current proposed boundary of the Watford Constituency as a knock on effect.

## 5.0 **Implications**

### 5.1 **Financial**

5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications in this report

### 5.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that it will ultimately be for the Boundary Commission and Parliament to decide on the final Parliamentary Constituencies.

## **Background papers**

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.