

The 2018 Parliamentary Boundary Review

Summary

On 17 October 2017 the Boundary Commission for England published its revised proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries. This marked the start of an 8 week consultation on these proposals.

In relation to Surrey Heath Borough, the revised proposals include moving the current Windlesham Ward from the Surrey Heath Constituency to the Windsor Constituency. The Surrey Heath Constituency will continue to include the Guildford Borough wards of Ash Vale, Ash Wharf and Ash South and Tongham.

The proposal in the initial consultation to move Bisley to the Woking Constituency is no longer included in the recommendations.

Portfolio: Leader

Date Portfolio Holder signed off report: 9 November 2017

Wards Affected: All

Recommendation

The Executive is asked to consider whether to submit a response to the Boundary Commission for England on its Parliamentary Boundary Review.

1. Resource Implications

1.1 There are no resource implications as a result of responding to the consultation.

2. Key Issues

2.1 On 13 September 2016 the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published its initial proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries

2.2 In conducting its review, the BCE must adhere to rules set by Parliament in 2011 which result in a reduction of the number of constituencies in England from 533 to 501. The rules also state that every constituency, with the exception of the 2 constituencies in the Isle of Wight, must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

2.3 Revised proposals were published on 17 October 2017. The BCE is now proposing to transfer the current Windlesham ward, comprising 3,256 electors, from the Surrey Heath Constituency to the Windsor Constituency.

- 2.4 The proposals only affect the Parliamentary boundaries. It should, however, be noted that the proposals are based upon local ward boundaries as at 7 May 2015 and therefore reflect the current ward boundaries for Windlesham, which have been changed following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Review of Surrey Heath Borough ward boundaries (subject to Parliamentary approval). As a result, if the current proposals are adopted, sections of the new Bagshot Ward and Windlesham & Chobham Ward will fall within the Windsor Constituency. This would not adhere to the BCE's policy to avoid dividing wards wherever possible.
- 2.5 The Parliamentary Constituency will not be coterminous with the county boundary.
- 2.6 The BCE's specifically designed consultation website is available at www.bce2018.org.uk

3. Options

- 3.1 The Executive can choose to submit comments to the BCE in relation to the initial proposals for Surrey Heath or not to respond.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Executive considers whether to submit a response to the consultation on behalf of the Council. A draft response is attached at Annex A for consideration.
- 4.2 If the Executive decides to submit a response, it is proposed to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and any appropriate ward councillors, to finalise and submit the response on behalf of the Council.

5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 The BCE's revised proposals for the South East include revised sub-regions from which constituencies will be drawn, including a Berkshire and Surrey sub region.
- 5.2 It is noted that the BCE's revised proposals document states that Surrey Heath Constituency is currently within 5% of the electoral quota; any alterations to the boundaries are therefore due to electoral quotas in other constituencies within the sub region.
- 5.3 The proposed changes will exacerbate issues around coterminosity, which could impact heavily on combined elections in the future. The revised constituency boundaries cross county boundaries and do not reflect the local ward boundaries which will be in place from 2019.

- 5.4 If the boundaries proceed as proposed, further revisions to polling districts, which are scheduled to be reviewed following the local boundary changes, will be required to accommodate this additional non-coterminosity of boundaries.
- 5.5 The Acting Returning Officer for Surrey Heath Parliamentary Constituency will also be submitting a response to the consultation addressing the more logistical consequences of this proposal; this is attached at Annex B for information.

Annexes	Annex A – draft consultation response Annex B- ARO’s response
Background Papers	https://www.bce2018.org.uk/node/6488
Author/Contact Details	Rachel Whillis – Democratic Services Manager rachel.whillis@surreyheath.gov.uk
Head of Service	Richard Payne – Executive Head of Corporate

Consultations, Implications and Issues Addressed

Resources	Required	Consulted
Revenue	✓	✓
Capital	-	-
Human Resources	-	-
Asset Management	-	-
IT	-	-
Other Issues		
Corporate Objectives & Key Priorities	-	-
Policy Framework	-	-
Legal	-	-
Governance	-	-
Sustainability	-	-
Risk Management	-	-
Equalities Impact Assessment	-	-
Community Safety	-	-
Human Rights	-	-
Consultation	-	-
P R & Marketing	-	-