

The 2018 Parliamentary Boundary Review

Summary

On 13 September 2016 the Boundary Commission for England published its initial proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries. This marked the start of a 12 week consultation on these proposals.

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

Portfolio: Leader

Date Portfolio Holder signed off report: 21 September 2016

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. This marked the start of a 12 week consultation on these proposals, the first of three rounds of consultation which will be undertaken before the BCE makes its recommendations for new parliamentary boundaries to Parliament in September 2018.

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 There are no proposals to alter the number of constituencies in Surrey from the current total of 11.

- 2.4 The BCE is proposing to transfer the Bisley ward, which currently has 2,610 electors, from the Surrey Heath Constituency to the Woking constituency.
- 2.5 The proposals will only affect the Parliamentary boundaries. It should, however, be noted that the proposals reflect the current ward boundaries for Bisley, which are currently under review and could be affected by the separate ongoing review of the Council's ward boundaries.
- 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.
- 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 proposed changes will exacerbate issues around coterminosity, which could impact heavily on combined elections in the future. The taking on of wards from Guildford together with the giving away of Bisley to Woking will increase the complexity of running the polls and conducting the Count, thereby adding further risks to the election process.

- 5.2 The electorates are as follows:

Ash Vale	4,276
Ash South and Tongham	5,958
Ash Wharf	4,717
Bisley	2,610

- 5.3 The electorate for Surrey Heath, as currently proposed by the Boundary Commission, which includes the three Ash wards but excludes Bisley, is 74,975.
- 5.4 Bearing in mind the requirement that the rules require the constituencies to contain no fewer than 71,031 electors and no more

than 78,507, Members can then consider if the parliamentary constituency is required to give up an area, whether the loss of an area(s) within Guildford would reduce the impact on coterminosity.

Annexes	None
Background Papers	Initial proposal for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the South East region
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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	-	-