

Ward: All

Portfolio: Law and Governance

FROM: Chief Executive

Date: 26 September 2016

SUBJECT: Parliamentary Boundary Review 2018

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	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Legal	Donna Nolan	13.9.2016
	Finance	N/A	
	Chief Executive Officer	Stuart Brown	13.9.2016
	Group Manager	N/A	
Summary:	On 13 September 2016, the Boundary Commission for England published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies. The proposals are the subject of a 12 weeks consultation period. Mendip is currently covered by two constituencies, Wells and Somerton and Frome. The proposals will change the number to three: North East Somerset, Somerton and Frome and Wells.		
Recommendation:	That the Council consider if it wishes to comment on the proposals, and if so, determine the comments to be submitted.		
Direct and/or indirect impact on service delivery to our customers and communities	None for the purpose of this report		
Financial Implications:	None for the purpose of this report		
Legal Implications:	None for the purpose of this report		
Crime and Disorder Implications:	None for the purpose of this report		
Equalities Implications:	None for the purpose of this report		
Risk Assessment and Adverse Impact on Corporate Actions:	None for the purpose of this report		

INTRODUCTION

Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal, the BCE has been asked to make independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English constituencies should be. The BCE must report to Parliament in 2018 and, if agreed by Parliament, the new constituencies will be in use at the next scheduled General Election in 2020.

Comments can be made to the Commission on anything from where the proposed new boundary lines are to the names of the constituencies. The consultation closes on **5 December 2016**. There will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2017. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the BCE will look at all the evidence received and make final recommendations to Parliament in September 2018.

HOW THE PROPOSALS WERE PREPARED

Legislation requires that the electorate figures for the review were those from the electoral registers published on 1 December 2015. The Commission has used the local government boundaries which were in force on 7 May 2015 as the basis for constructing the Parliamentary boundaries. In the case of Mendip, ward boundaries have been used.

Of the 501 constituencies in England, 53 were allocated to the South West. The electoral quota for the UK is 74,769, and every constituency must be no less than 95% or greater than 105% of the quota. Therefore the electorate for constituencies have to be no less than 71,031 and no greater than 78,507.

HOW THE PROPOSALS AFFECT MENDIP

Mendip is currently covered by two constituencies, Wells and Somerton and Frome. The proposals divide the District between three constituencies.

NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

The proposals for this constituency are that it should be extended by including four wards from the Wells Constituency comprising 11,805 electors and two wards from Somerton and Frome comprising 5,380 electors.

Ward	Electorate	Previous Constituency
Bathavon West	1,984	North East Somerset CC
Chew Valley North	1,923	North East Somerset CC
Chew Valley South	2,037	North East Somerset CC
Clutton	1,993	North East Somerset CC
Farmborough	2,034	North East Somerset CC
High Littleton	2,358	North East Somerset CC
Keynsham East	4,412	North East Somerset CC
Keynsham North	4,001	North East Somerset CC
Keynsham South	4,034	North East Somerset CC

Mendip	2,111	North East Somerset CC
Midsomer Norton North	4,468	North East Somerset CC
Midsomer Norton Redfield	4,170	North East Somerset CC
Paulton	4,332	North East Somerset CC
Publow and Whitchurch	2,018	North East Somerset CC
Radstock	3,928	North East Somerset CC
Saltford	3,419	North East Somerset CC
Timsbury	2,067	North East Somerset CC
Westfield	4,532	North East Somerset CC
Ammerdown	1,810	Somerton and Frome CC
Coleford and Holcombe	3,570	Somerton and Frome CC
Ashwick, Chilcompton and Stratton	3,342	Wells CC
Chewton Mendip and Ston Easton	1,611	Wells CC
Shepton East	3,331	Wells CC
Shepton West	3,521	Wells CC
	73,006	
North East Somerset CC	55,821	76.46%
Somerton and Frome CC	5,380	7.37%
Wells CC	11,805	16.17%

SOMERTON AND FROME COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

The proposals involve a reduction in the size of the constituency with the removal of two Mendip wards from the existing constituency.

Ward	Electorate	Previous Constituency
Beckington and Selwood	1,573	Somerton and Frome CC
Butleigh and Baltonsborough	1,702	Somerton and Frome CC
Cranmore, Doultling and Nunney	1,744	Somerton and Frome CC
Creech	1,755	Somerton and Frome CC
Frome Berkley Down	3,265	Somerton and Frome CC
Frome College	3,230	Somerton and Frome CC
Frome Keyford	3,692	Somerton and Frome CC
Frome Market	3,384	Somerton and Frome CC
Frome Oakfield	1,791	Somerton and Frome CC
Frome Park	3,453	Somerton and Frome CC
Postlebury	1,637	Somerton and Frome CC
Rode and Norton St Philip	1,787	Somerton and Frome CC
The Pennards and Ditcheat	1,817	Somerton and Frome CC
Blackmoor Vale	4,169	Somerton and Frome CC
Bruton	1,863	Somerton and Frome CC
Burrow Hill	1,783	Somerton and Frome CC
Camelot	2,042	Somerton and Frome CC
Cary	4,276	Somerton and Frome CC
Curry Rivel	2,031	Somerton and Frome CC
Isle Moor	2,157	Somerton and Frome CC
Langport and Huish	2,253	Somerton and Frome CC

Martock	4,332	Somerton and Frome CC
Milborne Port	2,188	Somerton and Frome CC
Northstone	2,339	Somerton and Frome CC
Tower	1,853	Somerton and Frome CC
Turn Hill	2,244	Somerton and Frome CC
Wessex	4,089	Somerton and Frome CC
Wincanton	3,968	Somerton and Frome CC
	72,417	
Somerton and Frome CC	72,417	100.00%

WELLS COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

Four Mendip wards have been removed from the constituency, and four Bridgewater and West Somerset wards have been added.

Ward	Electorate	Previous Constituency
Highbridge and Burnham Marine	172	Bridgewater and West Somerset CC
Huntspill and Pawlett	1,760	Bridgewater and West Somerset CC
Knoll	903	Bridgewater and West Somerset CC
Puriton and Woolavington	3,766	Bridgewater and West Somerset CC
Croscombe and Pilton	1,930	Wells CC
Glastonbury St Benedict's	1,734	Wells CC
Glastonbury St Edmund's	1,546	Wells CC
Glastonbury St John's	1,697	Wells CC
Glastonbury St Mary's	1,586	Wells CC
Moor	1,968	Wells CC
Rodney and Westbury	1,723	Wells CC
St Cuthbert Out North	1,842	Wells CC
Street North	2,773	Wells CC
Street South	3,530	Wells CC
Street West	1,689	Wells CC
Wells Central	1,500	Wells CC
Wells St Cuthbert's	3,180	Wells CC
Wells St Thomas'	3,198	Wells CC
Wookey and St Cuthbert Out West	1,858	Wells CC
Axevale	3,248	Wells CC
Berrow	1,750	Wells CC
Burnham Central	5,351	Wells CC
Burnham North	5,030	Wells CC
Cheddar and Shipham	5,521	Wells CC
Highbridge and Burnham Marine	5,645	Wells CC
Knoll	3,048	Wells CC
Wedmore and Mark	3,721	Wells CC
	71,669	
Bridgewater and West Somerset CC	6,601	9.21%
Wells CC	65,068	90.79%

REPRESENTATIONS

The Commission is required to consider all written representations made to it within the twelve weeks period. There will also be 4 public hearings in the South West to enable representations to be made about the Commission's proposals, and for counter-proposals to be put forward.

The public meetings are as follows:

7-8 November – Exeter

10-11 November – Truro

14-15 November – Poole

17-18 November – Bristol.

After the publication of the representation received, there will be a four week period during which written comments can be made on those representations.

If the proposals are revised, then there will be a further eight week consultation period on the revised proposals. Subsequently, a final report will be submitted to Parliament.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council consider if it wishes to comment on the proposals, and if so, determine the comments to be submitted.

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Background Papers

Guide to the 2018 Review - Boundary Commission for England