

**REPORT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011**

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**Status:** For Information  
**Title:** The 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies  
**Originator:** Richard Ellis, Returning Officer  
**Where from:** Returning Officer  
**Where to next:**

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1 Purpose Report

1.1 To inform members of the Boundary Commission for England's initial proposals for the 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies.

2 Recommendations:

2.1 **That Council notes the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for England in respect of the 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies;**

2.2 **That Council determines if it wishes to make representations on the initial proposals in so far as they relate to the District of Harborough.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

3.1 The Boundary Commission for England is the independent public body that reviews all Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England every five years. The Boundary Commission is currently carrying out a review under new rules laid down by Parliament. This Review, which concludes in 2013, means substantial changes to Parliamentary constituencies in England: reducing the total number of constituencies from 533 to 502 and making sure that each constituency has similar numbers of registered electors. In many cases this means redrawing the existing boundaries.

3.2 In Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire, it has been necessary to propose two constituencies that cross county boundaries. The Boundary Commission are proposing one constituency that contains electors from both Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, which combines the towns of Daventry and Lutterworth, and another that contains electors from both Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, combining the towns of Coalville and Keyworth.

## 4 Impact on Communities

- 4.1 The review is being undertaken in accordance with rules laid down by Parliament. Under the rules constituencies are required to comply with new parameters so far as the number of electors in each constituency is concerned, each having an electorate that is no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473. This will result in fewer constituencies nationally but more standardisation between the number of electors within each constituency.
- 4.2 The District of Harborough will remain split between 3 separate parliamentary constituencies.

## 5 Key Facts

- 5.1 Under current arrangements the District of Harborough is divided between three different parliamentary constituencies for the purposes of UK parliamentary elections, South Leicestershire, Harborough and Rutland and Melton. The existing arrangements are indicated in graphical form in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The East Midlands region has been allocated 44 constituencies in the Boundary Commission's initial proposals, a reduction of two from current arrangements. It has not been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties and Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and Nottinghamshire have been grouped into a sub-region with a proposed allocation of 27 constituencies (as opposed to 28 under existing arrangements).
- 5.3 In the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and Nottinghamshire sub-region, 7 of the 28 existing constituencies are unchanged in the initial proposals, 5 of which are located in Leicestershire.
- 5.4 Under the initial proposals the boundaries of the Harborough and Rutland and Melton constituencies remain unchanged.
- 5.5 Under the existing arrangements the Peatling, Misterton, Dunton, Ullesthorpe, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley district wards fall within the South Leicestershire Parliamentary Constituency along with wards from Blaby District. Under the initial proposals the existing constituency of South Leicestershire ceases to exist and the Peatling, Misterton, Dunton, Ullesthorpe, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley wards become part of the revised Daventry Constituency. The boundaries of the proposed Daventry Constituency are shown at Appendix B,
- 5.6 The proposals do not change the existing boundaries between the three parliamentary areas within the Harborough district.

## 6 Legal Issues

6.1 None arising from this report.

7 Resource Issues

7.1 Under existing arrangements the Council is required to work with 3 different authorities to assist in the running of parliamentary elections (Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Melton Borough Council and Blaby District Council). Under the revised proposals similar arrangements will exist but rather than assisting Blaby District Council (for the South Leicestershire Constituency) we will be required to assist Daventry District Council with the running of parliamentary elections for the revised Daventry Constituency.

8 Equality Implications

8.1 None relevant to this report.

9 Impact on the Organisation

9.1 The District of Harborough will remain represented by 3 different Members of Parliament.

10 Community Safety Implications

10.1 None relevant to this report.

11. Carbon Management Implications

11.1 None relevant to this report.

12. Risk Management Implications

12.1 None relevant to this report.

13 Consultation

13.1 The Boundary Commission are currently undertaking a public consultation exercise which runs from 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011 to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

14 Options Considered

14.1 Not to report this matter to Council. The Boundary Commission are carrying out national consultation exercise and everyone is being encouraged to contribute. It was considered important to brief Members on the initial proposals as they relate to the District and give Council the opportunity to make representations as an organisation if it so wishes.

15 Background Papers

15.1 Boundary Commission for England – Initial Proposals Documents and Guide to the 2013 Review (Available for public inspection in Customer Services).

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**Previous report(s):** None

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure:** N

**Ward Members Notified:** All Councillors have received summary information relating to the 2013 review and initial proposals.

**Appendices:** *list any appendices here including title and filename in brackets (e.g. Performance Data 2010 (perfdata.doc)).*

**A. Plan showing existing arrangements within Harborough District (Existing Parliamentary Constituencies.pdf)**

**B. Plan showing proposed boundaries of Daventry Constituency (Proposed Daventry Constituency.pdf)**

**C.**

**D.**