

**ITEM NO. 12**

**REPORT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2021**

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**Meeting:** Council

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

**Subject:** The 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies – Initial Proposals

**Report of:** Richard Ellis, Returning Officer

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Dann

**Status:** For information

**Relevant Ward(s):** All

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1 Purpose Report

- 1.1 To update Council on the Boundary Commission for England's initial proposals for the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies.
- 1.2 To allow Council to make comments on the initial proposals by the close of consultation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 if it so wishes.

2 Recommendations:

- 2.1 **That Council notes the Boundary Commission for England's initial proposal to create a Harborough County Constituency that is coterminous with the Harborough District local authority boundary.**
- 2.2 **That Council determines if it wishes to respond to the consultation.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 To allow Council the opportunity of considering the initial proposals published by the Boundary Commission for England and submitting a formal response to the current consultation which ends on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021.

4 Impact on Communities

- 4.1 Creation of a parliamentary constituency for Harborough that is coterminous with the boundary of the Harborough District would avoid confusion between the extents of the parliamentary constituency and district boundaries.

## 5 Key Facts

- 5.1 Following the passing of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 in December 2020, and the publication of the relevant Parliamentary electorate data in January 2021, the Boundary Commission is undertaking a review of all Parliamentary constituencies in England.
- 5.2 The final recommendations of the last review (the 2018 review) were not implemented and would have seen Harborough divided between four constituencies rather than the existing three.
- 5.3 The Boundary Commission has now published its initial proposals which would create a Harborough County Constituency based on the Harborough local authority boundary.
- 5.4 A public consultation period commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and ends on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021.

## 6 Legal Issues

- 6.1 None identified.

## 7 Resource Issues

- 7.1 Parliamentary elections are funded by central government so there should be no adverse financial impact.

## 8 Equality Implications

- 8.1 None identified.

## 9 Impact on the Organisation

- 9.1 Harborough District Council will become responsible for organising parliamentary elections for the new constituency. The Returning Officer and Elections team are used to running elections based on the district boundary and under current parliamentary election arrangements support the three parliamentary returning officers with all aspects of current parliamentary elections so there should be no impact on the organisation.

## 10 Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 None identified

## 11. Carbon Management Implications

- 11.1 None identified

12. Risk Management Implications

12.1 Risk registers are maintained for all elections.

13 Consultation

13.1 The Boundary Commission are currently consulting on their initial proposals.

14 Options Considered

14.1 Not applicable

15 Background Papers

15.1 Link to Boundary Commission Review Website:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>

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**Previous report(s): n/a**

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: No**

**Ward Members Notified: No**

**Appendices:**

**Appendix A – Plan showing proposed Harborough County Constituency**