



# Council

23 September 2021

**Report of:** Chief Executive (Returning Officer)

## Boundary Commission Review

<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	All Priorities
<b>Relevant Ward Member(s):</b>	All Ward Members
<b>Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):</b>	N/A
<b>Exempt Information:</b>	No

### 1 Summary

- 1.1 To note the proposals from the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) for the East Midlands.

### 2 Recommendation(s)

#### That Council:

- 2.1 Note the proposals from the Boundary Commission for England.

### 3 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 The BCE are a politically independent public body who periodically review parliamentary constituencies in England. A recent consultation was launched and their next report to Parliament is due on 1 July 2023.

### 4 Background

- 4.1 The review will specify names/designations for each proposed constituency. The review uses boundaries information as at 1 December 2020 and is informed by public consultation.
- 4.2 Following any views expressed the BCE may revise their proposals and conduct a further round of written consultation.

### 5 Main Considerations

- 5.1 Full details of the review process can be viewed on the Boundary Commission website:

5.2 The guide on the website shows legislation, considerations used in proposals (including electorate ranges, geographical considerations, local government boundaries, existing constituencies, local ties that might be broken if constituencies change and any inconveniences).

**5.3 Initial consultation period**

During the initial consultation period the BCE consider written representation without a statutory 8-week period, commencing at publication of the initial proposals on 8 June 2021 with the process for this will be published at the same time.

**5.4 Secondary consultation period**

Following the initial consultation in early 2022, the BCE will prepare and publish all representations, which will be followed by a further 6-week consultation period and will include between two and five public hearings in each region.

5.5 Following this, in late 2022, the BCE will publish proposals and conduct a 4-week written consultation period before submitting and publishing their final report and recommendations in June 2023.

5.6 The BCE is required to make their formal final report to the Speaker of the House of Commons before 01 July 2023, recommending any changes that it believes appropriate to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies in England.

5.7 The Government must turn the recommendations of the BCE into an “Order in Council” that implements the recommendations. The constituencies set out in the Order will then be implemented for the next General Election after the date on which the legislation is approved.

5.8 In summary, there are 453 constituencies across England and the East Midlands region currently has 46. The BCE are proposing to increase the number to 47.

5.9 The direct effect of the initial proposal on Melton is:

5.9.1 The current Rutland and Melton constituency is to be replaced with one called Melton and Syston with an electorate of 74,216;

5.9.2 If approved, this would see a new constituency comprised of all Melton borough wards being joined by eight from the Charnwood Borough i.e. East Goscote, Queniborough, Sileby, Syston East, Syston West, The Wolds, Thurcaston and the Wreake Villages.

5.9.3 The other wards (e.g. Oakham, Uppingham, Langham and Whissendine) which formed part of the Rutland and Melton constituency will fall into a new Rutland and Stamford constituency if the proposals are adopted.

5.9.4 The new Harborough Constituency will include the Harborough areas that also formed part of the Rutland and Melton constituency.

5.10 Members were notified of:

5.10.1 these proposals on 14 June 2021;

5.10.2 the consultation period running from 8 June 2021 to 2 August 2021; and

5.10.3 the deadline by which to submit representations.

- 5.11 The full report including the boundary maps can be found at:  
<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/east-midlands/>

## **6 Options Considered**

- 6.1 If the report was not provided, Members may be unaware of the BCE proposals.
- 6.2 A formal response submitted on behalf of the Council – this was not the recommended option as all Councillors were notified and able to submit comments through the BCE process.

## **7 Consultation**

- 7.1 The proposals were put through a formal consultation process which was open to all for comment.

## **8 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication**

- 8.1 As detailed in the made body of the report

## **9 Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**Financial Implications reviewed by: Director for Corporate Services, 15 September 2021**

## **10 Legal and Governance Implications**

- 10.1 The proposals do not affect the local government boundaries for the area and as such there are no specific legal and governance issues.

**Legal Implications reviewed by: Monitoring Officer, 14 September 2021**

## **11 Equality and Safeguarding Implications**

- 11.1 An equality impact assessment is not required.

## **12 Community Safety Implications**

- 12.1 There are no direct Community Safety Implications arising from this report

## **13 Environmental and Climate Change Implications**

- 13.1 There are no direct Environmental and Climate Change implications arising from this report.

## **14 Other Implications (where significant)**

- 14.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

## **15 Risk & Mitigation**

- 15.1 N/A

## **16 Background papers**

- 16.1 There are no additional background papers

## **17 Appendices**

- 17.1 Appendix A – Map of the proposed constituency and wards

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