

# **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Monday 21 November 2016**

## **Boundary Commission Initial Review**

**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

### **Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the Administration Committee consider the contents of this report and decides if it wishes to make any representations to the Boundary Commission.**

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### **Summary**

This report seeks to advise the committee as to the process and timetable associated with implementing a report from the Boundary Commission. Furthermore, it hopes to outline the proposed 2018 changes to the Hampshire constituency boundaries and what affects it will have on the Borough of Eastleigh.

### **Statutory Powers**

Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 Part 2.

### **Background**

1. In 2011, the Government was under pressure to make politics less expensive. To this end, it passed the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act (referred to in this report as 'the Act'). This legislation provided that the number of constituencies in the United Kingdom be reduced from 650 to 600.
2. As well as reducing the number of constituencies, the Act sought to ensure that the number of electorates be made more equal. It was decided that every constituency must have an electorate that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the UK electoral quota.
3. Accordingly every constituency in the UK should have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78, 507.
4. One notable exception to this rule is the Isle of Wight, who must have two constituencies regardless of electorate size, as stipulated by section 11 of the Act.
5. The organisation tasked with carrying out this undertaking, was the independent public body, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE).

6. By September 2018, the BCE must have given their report to the Government, who will turn their recommendations into draft legislation. There is then the option of codifying the recommendations as they are, or revising them before Parliament gives its approval.
7. The BCE has stated that it wants to keep the impact of its proposals to a minimum, although this will be difficult considering the radical nature of the restructure. However, schedule 2 of the Act sets out a number of factors that must be taken into consideration to help limit the inconveniences felt by the electorate;
  - Special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
  - Local government boundaries as they exist on the most recent ordinary council-election day before the review date;
  - Boundaries of existing constituencies;
  - Any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies;
  - The inconveniences attendant on such changes.
8. The consultation period is currently live in the UK and the BCE is asking the public to share their views on how their proposals can be improved. The deadline for the submission of responses is 5 December 2016.
9. The initial proposals put forward by the BCE split the country up into sub-regions. Eastleigh is contained in the sub-region of Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton.

### **Initial Proposals for Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton**

10. This sub-region has a combined electorate of 1,273,506. It has been proposed that this will be split into 17 different constituencies, a reduction of one from the existing allocation.
11. In respect of the Hampshire and Eastleigh Borough area, the BCE proposal states “we propose significantly reconfigured constituencies of North West Hampshire and Test Valley. We propose that the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane wards of Pamber and Silchester, Bramley and Sherfield, and Sherborne St. John are transferred from the North East Hampshire constituency to the North West Hampshire constituency. Consequently, we propose to include the District of Test Valley wards of Anna, Ampport, and Penton Bellinger in our proposed Test Valley constituency. To ensure the Test Valley constituency is within 5% of the electoral quota and to accommodate the loss of a constituency in the sub-region, we propose to include the Twyford and Compton areas of the Borough of Winchester and the Hiltingbury and Chandler’s Ford areas of the Borough of Eastleigh in our Test Valley constituency.”

12. Please see appendix 1 for a map of the area with the proposed boundary changes.
13. In Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton, three of the existing constituencies remain unaltered, while a further four are altered only by the transfer of one ward.
14. Eastleigh is one of the three constituencies that have been untouched by the changes. However, it is proposed by the BCE that the Hiltingbury and Chandler's Ford wards (situated in the Borough of Eastleigh) but currently within the Winchester parliamentary constituency be moved to the Test Valley constituency.

### **Financial Implications**

15. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

16. The Equality Act is not relevant to the decision in this report as the decision does not relate to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations between different people. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

### **Conclusion**

17. Members are invited to comment on the BCE proposals and to decide if they wish to submit a response to the BCE.

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Appendices Attached: Appendix 1 Plan of Proposed Changes  
\*Report No

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D**

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

- (Initial Proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the South East region) from Boundary Commission.