

**HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Report to Council**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Parliamentary Boundary Review</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>Councillor Emily Thrane – Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Marion Hancock – Senior Elections Officer</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>All wards.</b>

**Appendices Attached:-**

[Appendix A – Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the East Midlands](#)

[Appendix B – Guide to the 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituencies](#)

**1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 To inform Councillors about the Boundary Commission for England's consultation exercise in respect of the Parliamentary Boundary Review 2018, following publication of their initial proposals for the new parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Council notes and considers the contents of the report.

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 Constituency boundaries are kept under regular review to ensure that Members of Parliament represent roughly the same number of constituents at Westminster. The reviews are carried out by the Boundary Commissions for England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. These are independent bodies that propose constituencies that must meet the Rules for Redistribution set out in statute.
- 3.2 The Commissions are currently undertaking a consultation exercise on their initial proposals for revised boundaries. After the Commissions submit their final report, the Secretary of State must lay the report before parliament. The Secretary of State must then lay before parliament a draft Order in Council to give effect to the proposed boundary changes. This Order requires the approval of both Houses of Parliament. The Boundary Commissions must

report to the Secretary of State before the 1st of October 2018.

- 3.3 This report details the basis of the Boundary Commission for England's current review and their initial proposals for the East Midlands, including the High Peak parliamentary constituency, together with the next stages of the review process. Should the Council wish to send an initial response to the current consultation exercise then it must do so by 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

#### **4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The report supports the Council's priority of influencing matters which affect the Council and its communities.

#### **5. Options and Analysis**

- 5.1 The first option is to note the report and the contents of Appendix A and to decide not to submit a response to the Boundary Commission's consultation exercise.
- 5.2 The second option is to note the contents of the report and Appendix A and to provide a response to the consultation exercise which reflects the Council's views on the proposals for the High Peak parliamentary constituency boundary.

#### **6. Implications**

##### **6.1 Community Safety – (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)**

There are no specific crime and disorder implications

##### **6.2 Workforce**

The consultation exercise does not affect the workforce.

##### **6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment**

The Boundary Commission should carry out an equality impact assessment as part of their response to the consultation exercise, including any submission on behalf of the Council

##### **6.4 Financial Considerations**

There are no specific financial considerations linked to the consultation exercise other than officer time preparing a response

## 6.5 Legal

The process by which constituency boundaries are changed is set out in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended. As part of the process each Boundary Commission publishes initial recommendations for constituencies based on the Rules for Redistribution. The Commissions must make their proposals available to the public and accept written representations during the initial consultation stage, which is a 12 week period starting with the publication of the proposals.

## 6.6 Sustainability

The proposal supports a sustainable system of electoral administration

## 6.7 Internal and External Consultation

The Boundary Commission is consulting on their initial proposal. Copies of the initial proposals have been deposited at Buxton Town Hall and the Municipal Buildings, Glossop Council for the convenience of High Peak residents who may wish to respond to the consultation exercise.

## 6.8 Risk Assessment

There has been no identified risk to considering the consultation exercise.

### **Mark Trillo** **Executive Director (People)**

#### **Web Links and Background Papers**

Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the East Midlands  
Guide to the 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

#### **Location**

<https://www.bce2018.org.uk/>  
<https://www.bce2018.org.uk/node/6483> (East Midlands)

#### **Contact details**

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## 7. **Background and Detail**

7.1 The Boundary Commission for England is currently conducting a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries on the basis of rules set by Parliament in 2011. These rules require them to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK and to ensure consistency in the number of electors in each constituency. The rules set out in the legislation state that there will be 600 parliamentary constituencies covering the UK, giving a reduction of 50 from

the current number. Within England alone the number of constituencies will reduce from 533 to 501.

- 7.2 To achieve the outcomes of the review the Boundary Commission must review and recommend where the new constituency boundaries should be. As well as the primary rule that constituencies must have no fewer than 71,031 electors and no more than 78,507, the legislation also states that, when deciding on boundaries, the Commission may also take into account:
- a. special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
  - b. local government boundaries as they existed on 7 May 2015;
  - c. boundaries of existing constituencies; and
  - d. any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.

### **Proposals for the High Peak parliamentary constituency**

- 7.3 Paragraph 31 of the initial proposal document (see Appendix A) sets out the proposed changes to the constituency of the High Peak:

*“We noted that the electorate of the Pennine constituency of High Peak at 71,130 was just within the permitted range and propose that it remain wholly unchanged.”*

- 7.4 Further details as to the initial proposals for the East Midlands are contained in the proposals document above (which has also been placed prominently on the Council’s website). Should the Council wish to submit an initial response to the consultation exercise as it affects High Peak then it should bear in mind the factors to which the Commission is required to have regard as highlighted above at 7.2 and must also consider the knock-on effect of any alternative proposals on neighbouring constituencies.
- 7.5 There will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2017. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the Boundary Commission will look at all the evidence received and make final recommendations to Parliament in September 2018.
- 7.6 The Boundary Commission for England will also be hosting three East Midlands public hearings to consider their proposals, as follows:
- 27-28 October - Derby (Cathedral Quarter Hotel, 16 Saint Mary’s Gate, Derby DE1 3JR).
  - 31 October-1 November - Northampton (Northampton Council, The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE).

- 3-4 November – Lincoln (Bishop Grosseteste University, Newport, Lincoln LN1 3DY).

## **The next stages of the review**

7.7 The Boundary Commission's review will be carried out in five stages, as detailed below:

### **Stage 1**

The review began in February 2016 and the initial proposals were published for consultation on 13 September 2016.

### **Stage 2**

This report considers the outcome of the first stage of the process, which is followed by a 12 week initial consultation period until 5 December, including the three public hearings being hosted in the East Midlands. Once the consultation exercise has closed the Commission will collate all the responses received, including records of the public hearings.

### **Stage 3**

The publication of all the responses received on the initial proposals will mark the start of a four week secondary consultation period likely to take place in spring 2017, which allows the public to comment on representations from the original 12 week period (although there are no public hearings during this stage of the process).

### **Stage 4**

The Commission will analyse all the representations and comments from both the initial and secondary consultation periods and decide whether changes should be made to the initial proposals. If changes are made the Commission must publish the revised proposals for the areas concerned and consult on them for a further period of eight weeks which is likely to be near the end of 2017. No further public hearings will take place nor will there be a four week period for comments on the representations of others.

### **Stage 5**

The Boundary Commission will consider all representations throughout the review before determining the final recommendations. The recommendations will be set out in a published report to the Government, who will present it, without amendment, to parliament. The legislation states that the Commission must report to the Government in September 2018. Further details with regard to the recommendations are contained in the Guide to the 2018 Review.

Throughout each consultation the Boundary Commission has confirmed that it will take all reasonable steps to publicise their proposals, in order for as many people as possible to be made aware of the consultation and take the opportunity to contribute to the review of constituencies.

Although the time periods for each period of consultation are laid out in the legislation, the dates on which they commence is a matter for the Boundary Commission.

The Boundary Commission will place equal weight on all representations regardless of whether they are written, made in person at hearings or submitted electronically.