



Report to Standards and General Purposes Committee

Date:	7 July 2021
Title:	2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies
Relevant councillor(s):	all councillors
Author and/or contact officer:	Mat Bloxham (Electoral Services Manager)
Ward(s) affected:	all wards
Recommendations:	To note the initial proposals for the 2023 review of Parliamentary Constituencies from the Boundary Commission for England (BCE)
Reason for decision:	To highlight the BCE's initial consultation on proposed changes to the parliamentary constituencies for 2023

1. Content of report

- 1.1 The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) are redrawing the map of Parliamentary constituency boundaries. This follows a request from Parliament to review constituencies in England to ensure that there is a more even distribution of electors across them. Due to population changes since the last review, the number of electors in some constituencies is much higher than in others. The 2023 Boundary Review, which was launched in January this year, will make the number of electors in each constituency more equal, thus ensuring individual votes are of broadly equal weight. In making these required changes, the number of constituencies in England must increase from 533 to 543.

- 1.2 In the Buckinghamshire Council area the Boundary Commission’s proposals are for the following 6 parliamentary constituencies (currently there are 5):

Proposed Constituency	Electorate
Aylesbury	75636
Buckingham & Bletchley	73644
Chesham & Amersham	76158
High Wycombe	71769
Marlow and South Buckinghamshire	70312
Princes Risborough	72240

- 1.3 Where the BCE refer to Buckinghamshire they mean the unitary authorities of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. The BCE is proposing 8 constituencies in total in Buckinghamshire with “Milton Keynes” and “Newport Pagnell” entirely within the Milton Keynes unitary authority area. The 6 proposed consistencies in the table above are entirely within the Buckinghamshire unitary authority area, except the proposed “Buckingham and Bletchley” constituency which includes parts of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes unitary authority areas.
- 1.4 Anyone may comment on the proposals. The BCE are encouraging responses to be submitted online at www.bcereviews.org.uk where there is an online mapping tool that enables you to view and comment on the proposals. They are consulting on their initial proposals for an eight-week period, from 8 June 2021 to 2 August 2021.
- 1.5 As well as looking at where the boundaries of constituencies should be, the BCE will recommend a specific name for each constituency. The Commission also welcomes views on the naming of proposed constituencies during the consultation.
- 1.6 For convenience the Commission’s maps for the proposed constituencies are shown as appendices to this report.

2. Other options considered

- 2.1 The Committee are asked to note the BCE’s initial consultation and consider any response they wish to submit before 2 August 2021 deadline.

3. Legal and financial implications

- 3.1 There are no direct legal or financial implications to the Council arising from this report.

4. Corporate implications

4.1 The (Acting) Returning Officer is required to deliver parliamentary elections and any changes to constituencies will be implemented by the Electoral Service team as part of the election delivery.

5. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

5.1 The BCE is inviting anyone to review and submit responses to the review. All councillors will be informed of the BCE's initial consultation on proposed changes to the parliamentary constituencies for 2023 via the Members' newsletter. All parish councils will be informed of the consultation via email. Individual and group responses may be submitted.

6. Communication, engagement & further consultation

6.1 The BCE has published its initial proposals on its website, together with information about how to respond to the consultation. Hard copies of the proposals have been sent to various local 'places of deposit', where the public may view the proposals. In Buckinghamshire these are:

Address				Constituency
Aylesbury Library	Walton Street	Aylesbury	HP20 1UU	Aylesbury
Buckingham Library	Verney Close	Buckingham	MK18 1JP	Buckingham and Bletchley
Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council	Bletchley Library, Westfield Road, Bletchley	Milton Keynes	MK2 2RA	Buckingham and Bletchley
Chesham Library	Elgiva Lane	Chesham	HP5 2JD	Chesham and Amersham
High Wycombe Library	5 Eden Place	High Wycombe	HP11 2DH	High Wycombe
Marlow Library	Institute Road	Marlow	SL7 1BL	Marlow and South Buckinghamshire
Princes Risborough Library	Bell Street	Princes Risborough	HP27 0AA	Princes Risborough

6.2 To support awareness of the consultation the Council will also publish information about the BCE's consultation on its website and social media channels.

7. Next steps and review

- 7.1 The BCE will hold a further two rounds of consultation in 2022. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the Commission will look at all the evidence received and form its final recommendations. These will be submitted to Parliament by 1 July 2023 as part of its final recommendations to Parliament. The Government must turn the recommendations of the BCE (and those of the equivalent Commissions for the other three parts of the UK) 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.
- 7.2 Any by-elections held in the meantime have to be held on the basis of the old (existing) constituencies.
- 7.3 Under the terms of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act, which the Government has said it will repeal in the Queen’s Speech, the next general election is currently expected to take place on Thursday 2 May 2024.

8. Background papers

- 8.1 There are no background papers for this report as all material relating to the review are already publicly available via www.bcereviews.org.uk
- 8.2 For convenience maps of the proposed constituencies are available via the following links:

Constituency	Map
Aylesbury	Appendix 1
Buckingham & Bletchley	Appendix 2
Chesham & Amersham	Appendix 3
High Wycombe	Appendix 4
Marlow and South Buckinghamshire	Appendix 5
Princes Risborough	Appendix 6