



Report to Standards and General Purposes Committee

Date:	17 November 2022
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 final proposals for the 2023 review of Parliamentary Constituencies from the Boundary Commission for England (BCE)
Reason for decision:	To highlight the BCE's final 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 2021, aims to 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 The BCE published their initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England on 8 June 2021. A [report](#) summarising the initial proposals was considered by the Committee at its meeting on 7 July 2021. A response was submitted on behalf of the Council to the BCE. The BCE have carried out further consultation and received 45,000 responses.
- 1.3 The BCE published its final proposals on 8 November 2022 and is currently seeking comments on these. This is the last opportunity for comments on the proposals to be sent to the BCE. The deadline to respond is 5 December 2022.
- 1.4 The differences between the initial and final proposals for the Buckinghamshire Council area are summarised below:

Proposed Constituency Name (Final proposals)	Initially Proposed Constituency Name	Final Electorate (change)	Change from Initial proposals
Aylesbury	(no change)	75,636	(no change)
Beaconsfield	Marlow and South Buckinghamshire	73,238 (+2,926)	The current Beaconsfield ward moves from Chesham & Amersham constituency to Beaconsfield constituency (previously called Marlow and South Buckinghamshire in the initial proposals). Part of the current Gerrards Cross ward (Eastern side) moves from Beaconsfield Constituency to Chesham & Amersham Constituency.
Buckingham & Bletchley	(no change)	73,644	(no change)
Chesham & Amersham	(no change)	73,232 (-2,926)	See above for change to Beaconsfield.
Mid Buckinghamshire	Princes Risborough	72,240	Constituency name changed from Princes Risborough to Mid Buckinghamshire.
Wycombe	High Wycombe	71,769	Constituency name changed from High Wycombe to Wycombe.

1.5 As noted during consideration of the initial proposals, where the BCE refer to Buckinghamshire they mean the unitary authorities of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. The BCE is still 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.

2. Other options considered

2.1 The Committee are asked to note the BCE’s final consultation and consider any response they wish to submit before 5 December 2022 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 have been informed of the BCE’s final consultation on proposed changes to the parliamentary constituencies for 2023 via the Members’ email updates. Communications will be sent to the Council’s distribution list, which includes Town Parish Councils. To support awareness of the consultation the Council will also publish information about the BCE’s consultation on its website and social media channels.

6. Next steps and review

6.1 Following the conclusion of all this final consultation, the Commission will look at all the evidence received and produce its final report. This must 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.

- 6.2 Any Parliamentary elections held in the meantime have to be held on the basis of the existing constituencies.
- 6.3 Under the provisions of the Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022 the monarch has the power to dissolve Parliament, at the request of the Prime Minister of the day. The maximum term of a Parliament is five years from the day on which it first met. The current Parliament first met on Tuesday 17 December 2019 and will automatically dissolve on Tuesday 17 December 2024, unless it has been dissolved sooner by the King.
- 6.4 The Elections Act 2022, and associated Statutory Instruments laid in Parliament this month, mean that there will be a requirement for all electors to show photo ID at a polling station to vote for polls from May 2023. The requirement for voter ID to be provided by electors for UK Parliamentary elections takes effect from 5 October 2023. Voter ID will still apply from May 2023 for any UK Parliamentary by elections.

7. Background papers

- 7.1 There are no background papers for this report as all material relating to the review are already publicly available via www.bcereviews.org.uk

