COUNCIL

DATE 29th July 2021

REPORT OF Councillor Shreeve, Deputy Leader and Portfolio

Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER Rob Walsh - Chief Executive and Returning Officer

SUBJECT Parliamentary Boundary Review – Consultation

STATUS Open

FORWARD PLAN REF NO. Not Applicable

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The Council has two clear strategic priorities – Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities. Within that second priority, the proposed changes to the Parliamentary constituencies will have an impact on local democracy within North East Lincolnshire.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Boundary Commission for England has commenced national public consultation on the future arrangements for Parliamentary Constituencies across the country, including North East Lincolnshire.

For North East Lincolnshire, the proposals are that there should be a Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes Borough Constituency and South Humber County Constituency in place of the current arrangements (Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes).

In accordance with the constitution, the consultation proposals were considered by the Licensing and Community Protection Committee on 22nd June 2021. It was agreed:

"That the proposal contained within the Boundary Commission's consultation document be referred to the next meeting of Council for consideration, with a recommendation that a more Lincolnshire friendly name be put forward for the proposed South Humber constituency".

Council is now asked to consider the response that it would like to make to the Boundary Commission for England on these proposals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council considers the proposals contained within the consultation document and puts forward any comments/views that it would like to include in the response to the Boundary Commission for England.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To ensure that the Council responds to this consultation document and that Members are updated on further developments on this important issue.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

1.1 On 8th June 2021, the Boundary Commission for England issued proposals to amend the Parliamentary Boundaries for Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes Constituencies, respectively. Details of the proposed changes are set out in the report and the two attached maps (appendix 1) show the proposed two new constituency areas. These proposals are now subject to public consultation and North East Lincolnshire Council is one of the consultees.

Boundary Commission for England

1.2 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

The 2023 Review

- 1.3 The BCE has the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all of the Parliamentary constituencies in England. This is principally so that constituencies are altered occasionally to take account of changes in population. Changes are also made to reflect local government boundary changes, so that administrative boundaries coincide as much as possible. The last full review was started in 2000 and completed in 2007; noting that two subsequent reviews aimed at reducing the number of MPs from 650 down to 600 were not adopted by Parliament.
- 1.4 The BCE is currently conducting a review on the basis of rules set by Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020. These rules state that the BCE should retain the overall number of Constituencies across the UK at 650. However, each constituency must have an electorate that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062. By law, the electorate figures used are those that were calculated for each Ward on 2 March 2020.
- 1.5 The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 has also altered the timings of future reviews following the completion of the 2023 Review. These must now be completed every eight years after that date.

Timetable for Boundary Commission Review

- 1.6 The BCE will make its final proposals in July 2023, and these will come into effect from the next scheduled Parliamentary elections in May 2024 (provided no snap Parliamentary election is called before then).
- 1.7 The timetable for the key stages of the Boundary Commission review is as follows:

Stage One	Development of initial proposals by the BCE	Started January 2021
Stage Two	8-week consultation on initial proposals.	8 June to 2 August 2021
Stage Three	6-week consultation on representations received BCE are required to publish all responses received on the initial proposals and BCE comments. Plus 2 to 5 public hearings per region.	Early 2022
Stage Four	Development and publication of revised proposals, incorporating: • Analysis from 1st and 2nd representations made • Publication of revised proposals if change mind as a result of feedback • 4-week consultation period on the revisions made	Anticipated to be towards the end of 2022
Stage Five	Development and publication of the final report and recommendations: • All evidence received to be considered • Report will be published to Government to present to Speaker of the House of Commons	By 1 July 2023

Proposed Changes for North East Lincolnshire

- 1.8 Yorkshire and Humber has been allocated 54 Parliamentary constituencies unchanged from the current number. The BCE's proposals leave only 2 of the 54 current constituencies unchanged.
- 1.9 As it is not always possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual councils, the BCE has grouped some county and council areas into sub-regions. North East Lincolnshire has been included as part of the Yorkshire and Humber sub-region.
- 1.10 Both of the current constituencies in North East Lincolnshire have been significantly changed under the new proposals, as well as the names of both constituencies.
- 1.11 The current Parliamentary constituencies consist of the following Wards (electorate on 2 March 2020):-

Great Grimsby:

- East Marsh 6,369
- Freshney 7,210
- Heneage 8,013
- Park 8,967
- Scartho 8,929

- South 8,315
- West Marsh 4,661
- Yarborough 8,444

Total = 60,908

Cleethorpes:

- Croft Baker 8,660
- Haverstoe 8,195
- Humberston and New Waltham 9,471
- Immingham 8,771
- Sidney Sussex 8,216
- Waltham 5,683
- Wolds 6,092
- Barton 9,367 (North Lincs)
- Ferry 8,975 (North Lincs)

Total = 73,430 electors

1.12 Under the new proposals, two new constituencies are proposed as follows:-

Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes Borough Constituency:

- Croft Baker 8,660
- East Marsh 6,369
- Freshney 7,210
- Haverstoe 8,195
- Heneage 8,013
- Park 8,967
- Sidney Sussex 8,216
- South 8,315
- West Marsh 4,661
- Yarborough 8,444

Total = 77,050 electors

South Humber County Constituency:

- Humberston and New Waltham 9,471
- Immingham 8,771
- Scartho 8,929
- Waltham 5,683
- Wolds 6,092
- Barton 9,367 (North Lincs)
- Brigg and Wolds 9,152 (North Lincs)
- Broughton and Appleby 5,188 (North Lincs)
- Ferry 8,975 (North Lincs)

Total = 71,628 electors

Consultation Options

- 1.13 North East Lincolnshire Council is one of the consultees for the BCE and the authority can either choose to provide a response or not. Any response can either support the proposals, suggest changes, or make no comment.
- 1.14 If the Council does choose to suggest any changes, these changes must:
 - retain the total electorate within each Parliamentary area effected within the specified ranges (69,724 to 77,062).
 - Must contain whole existing Wards they cannot be split up in any way.
 - Factor in any changes to other constituencies in terms of the effect on their electorate.
 - Only relate to the Yorkshire and Humber sub-region. Therefore, any suggested changes cannot include parts of Lincolnshire in the proposal.
- 1.15 The electorate figures provided must be used (the date for calculating the electorate figures was set out in law 2nd March 2020) and no allowance can be made for any future increase in electorate which may take place in future. Any changes to population levels in each Ward will be reflected in the next Parliamentary Boundary review in 2031.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

2.1 There are no direct risks or opportunities associated with this report.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 The Council can choose whether or not to make a response to the consultation document.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 If the Council chooses not to respond to this consultation document, then it cannot influence the proposed future changes to the Parliamentary Constituencies within North East Lincolnshire.
- 4.2 The public are able to access information online (link in section 10 below) and in person, by appointment, at Grimsby Town Hall during normal office hours.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 None directly arising from this report.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct Climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct financial implications that will arise from this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 It should be noted that the initial consultation period for the above is only for 8 weeks, commencing on 8th June 2021 and ending 2nd August 2021. Given the proximity of the Council meeting to the end of the consultation period the Licensing and Community Protection Committee were invited to consider recommending the calling of a Special Full Council meeting to deal with the above. The Council will now have one working day in which to respond to the initial consultation, should it choose to do so. However, Members will note from the table at 1.7 that there will be further opportunities to respond to consultations as proposals emerge.
- 8.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising. The above report adequately reflects the parameters and relevant guidance available for the proposals outlined.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The proposals contained within the consultation document will affect all Wards.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in Yorkshire and the Humber – Published by Boundary Commission for England https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-06-08-Initial-Proposals-Yorkshire-and-the-Humber-Region.pdf

12. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Stephen McGrath - Team Manager (Elections) - 01472 323737

Helen Isaacs – Assistant Chief Executive - 01472 326127

ROB WALSH CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND RETURNING OFFICER

Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes Borough Constituency

South Humber County Constituency