

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday, 22 July 2021
<b>Report Subject</b>	Boundary Commission for Wales:2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive & Chief Officer (Governance)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The guide to the Boundary Commission for Wales 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies was published recently. It sets out the process for conducting the review, which is to be concluded by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

This report explains the process which will be followed: further reports will be made to Council in due course.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That Council notes the process to be followed during the Boundary Commission for Wales 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies.
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**REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES 2023 REVIEW OF PARLIAMANTART CONSTITUENCIES</b>
1.01	The guide to the Boundary Commission for Wales 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies was published recently. It sets out the process for conducting the review, which is to be concluded by 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2023. As has already occurred in England, the review is to be carried out under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020). The act states that there should be a fixed number of 650 constituencies for the whole of the United Kingdom. According to the formula, the number of constituencies in Wales should be 32 (8 less than currently).

	<p>Each constituency should have an electorate which is no less than 95% or no more than 105% of the 'UK electoral quota'. For the 2023 review, the quota is 73,393, with a range between 69,724 and 77,062. We have two constituencies: Alyn &amp; Deeside has an electorate of 68,868 and Delyn is 54,885. Therefore both are under the quota.</p>
1.02	<p>In developing proposals, the Commission may take into account the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special geographical considerations, including, in particular, the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;</li> <li>• Local government boundaries that existed or were prospective on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020;</li> <li>• Boundaries of existing constituencies;</li> <li>• Any 'local ties' that would be broken by changes in constituencies and</li> <li>• The inconveniences attendant on such changes.</li> </ul> <p>The Commission will seek to take into account principal council external boundaries 'as far as practicable', but may also use county and community ward boundaries. Electoral wards will be used as the basic building blocks for designing constituencies. Whilst the Commission intends to respect existing constituencies, this does not imply that those have any protection from change. All, apart from Ynys Mon are likely to be changed.</p>
1.03	<p>As far as possible, the Commission will seek to recommend constituencies which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• made up of whole electoral wards that are adjacent to each other;</li> <li>• that do not contain 'detached parts', i.e. where the only physical connection between one part of the constituency and the remainder would require passage through a different constituency.</li> </ul> <p>The Commission will not consider existing voting patterns, the prospective fortunes of political parties, new local government boundaries after 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 or changes to electorate after March 2020.</p>
1.04	<p>The Commission will follow the detailed process in the Act. Initial proposals will be developed and published. Individuals and organisations will be encouraged to make oral or written representations, whether for or against. Objections accompanied by a viable counter-proposal are likely to carry more weight than simple opposition. As soon as possible after the initial consultation period, the Commission will publish all the representations received on its website. There will then be a further 6 weeks period for people to comment on the representations received. During this period, the Commission may also hold between 2 and 5 public hearings across Wales.</p> <p>At the end of the second consultation period, all the written representations will again be published. Interested parties will be able to submit written comments in relation to representations made at the Commission's public hearings. Comments may be made, challenging or supporting assertions</p>

	and arguments put forward at the hearings. This further 4 week period will be known as the third consultation period. The Commission will publish all the written representations received during the third consultation period.
1.05	At the end of the third consultation period, the Commission will take into account all representations made in all three consultation periods. It will then make its final recommendation which it will submit, in a formal written report to the Speaker of the House of Commons by 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2023.
1.06	<p>As we currently do not have a timescale for publication of draft proposals, or an indication of what those proposals may be, there is no action which we can take immediately. Once proposals are available, our approach will be to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider the proposals, whether we agree with them;</li> <li>• identify whether our local knowledge will enable us to make alternative proposals which are more acceptable to Flintshire;</li> <li>• develop those proposals through briefings and workshops with our Members, as we did in response to the Local Democracy &amp; Boundary Review of Flintshire ward boundaries;</li> <li>• Put our alternative proposals (if we have developed ones which are acceptable within the parameters set for us by the Commission) to Council for adoption as our case.</li> </ul> <p>The process will require several reports to Council, at successive stages, to ensure that Members are kept fully apprised of our position.</p>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The preparation of any case made by Flintshire will require both Member and officer time.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	This report has identified the consultation on proposals will take place in due course.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	Not applicable at this stage.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>Boundary Commission for Wales Review of Parliamentary Constituencies: Guide to the 2023 Review.</p> <p><a href="https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/sites/bcomm/files/review/Guide%20to%20the%20Review%20E.pdf">https://bcomm-wales.gov.uk/sites/bcomm/files/review/Guide%20to%20the%20Review%20E.pdf</a></p> <p>Contact Officers: Robert Robins, Head of Democratic Services and Lynn Phillips, Electoral Services Manager</p> <p>Telephone: (01352) 702320/ (01352) 702329</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk">robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk</a> and <a href="mailto:lyn.phillips@flintshire.gov.uk">lyn.phillips@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p>Quota: number of voters for each constituency. For the 2023 review, the quota is 73,393, with a range between 69,724 and 77,062.</p>