

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 14 th November 2017
Report Subject	2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies
Report Author	Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) announced the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 in March 2016.

The Commission published its initial proposals in September 2016. These provisional proposals were based on the new statutory criteria.

In February 2017 the Commission published all responses that had been received during the first twelve-week consultation period. A further statutory four-week period was then open for individuals and organisations to comment on the representations made by others.

The Commission has now published revised proposals for public consultation, having reviewed all representations made and having taken into account the report of the Assistant Commissioners (ACs).

Council is invited to discuss and comment on the revised proposals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	The Council considers and comments on the revised proposals made by the Boundary Commission for Wales on the 2018 review of the Parliamentary Constituencies of Flint & Rhuddlan and Alyn & Deeside.
2	That the Chief Executive be authorised to make a response on behalf of the Council.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REVISED PROPOSALS OF THE 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSISTUENCIES
1.01	On 24 March 2016 the Boundary Commission for Wales (the Commission) announced the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.
1.02	The Commission published its initial proposals on 13 September 2016. The proposals proceeded on the basis of the new statutory criteria. It was emphasised, however, that the proposals were provisional. The launch of the initial proposals represented the start of a twelve-week consultation during which the public were invited to submit their representations in writing or attend one of five public hearings which were held across Wales and chaired by a team of Assistant Commissioners.
1.03	In February 2017 the Commission published all responses that were received during this initial consultation period. A further statutory four-week period was then available for individuals and organisations to comment on the representations made by others. The Assistant Commissioners reviewed all the representations the Commission received during the first and second consultation period and produced a Report for the Commission.
1.04	The Commission has now published revised proposals for public consultation. The Commissioners have reviewed all the representations made during the first and second consultation and having taken into account the report of the Assistant Commissioners.
1.05	In September 2018 the Commission will submit its final recommendations to the Secretary of State (as will the other United Kingdom Boundary Commissions). The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament an Order in Council, and the Order must be debated and approved (or rejected) by both Houses of Parliament.
1.06	<u>Criteria for Reviewing Parliamentary Constituencies</u> The key criteria in the review of Parliamentary constituencies are: • Reduction in the number of constituencies: the reduction in the number of UK constituencies from 650 to 600, together with the introduction of the UK electoral quota, will mean that the number of constituencies in Wales will be reduced from 40 to 29. • Statutory electorate range: every constituency must have an electorate (as at the 'review date' of 31st December 2015) that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the 'UK electoral quota' (UKEQ). The UKEQ for the 2018 Review is, to the nearest whole number 74,769. Accordingly, every constituency in Wales must have an electorate as at the review date that is

	<p>no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507 (the statutory electorate range).</p> <p>• Other statutory factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. special geographical considerations, including, in particular, the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency; 2. local government boundaries as they existed on 7 May 2015 3. boundaries of existing constituencies; and, 4. any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies. <p>As far as possible, the Commission seeks to create constituencies from electoral wards that are adjacent to each other; from whole communities; and that do not contain ‘detached parts’, i.e. where the only physical connection between one part of the constituency and the remainder would require travel through a different constituency.</p>
1.07	<p><u>Revised Proposals for the Flint and Rhuddlan County Constituency</u></p> <p>In the Commission’s initial proposals, it was proposed that this county constituency be created from:</p> <p>The electoral wards within the existing Delyn county constituency and the County of Flintshire of Bagillt East, Bagillt West, Brynford, Caerwys, Cilcain, Ffynnonogroyw, Flint Castle, Flint Coleshill, Flint Oakenholt, Flint Trelawny, Greenfield, Gronant, Gwernaffield, Halkyn, Holywell Central, Holywell East, Holywell West, Mostyn, Northop, Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor and Whitford; and the electoral wards within the existing Vale of Clwyd county constituency and the County of Denbighshire of Dyserth, Prestatyn Central, Prestatyn East, Prestatyn Meliden, Prestatyn North, Prestatyn South West, Rhuddlan, Rhyl East, Rhyl South, Rhyl South East, Rhyl South West, and Rhyl West.</p> <p>This constituency would have 75,902 electors which is 1.5% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency was Flint and Rhuddlan. The suggested alternative name was Fflint a Rhuddlan.</p>
1.08	<p>The Commission received a representation at the Wrexham public hearing from the Member of Parliament for the existing Delyn constituency that the electoral ward of Gwernaffield should be included within the Alyn and Deeside proposed constituency due to its local ties with the town of Mold, and that Northop Hall should be included within the proposed constituency due to its local ties with the electoral ward of Northop. This was supported by other representations received by the Commission and in the Labour Party submission. The Commission also received an alternative proposal from the former Vale of Clwyd Member of Parliament.</p> <p>The Assistant Commissioners concluded that the electoral ward of Northop Hall has ties with the electoral ward of Northop and should be included within this proposed constituency and that the electoral ward of Gwernaffield, which has local ties with the town of Mold, should be included within the proposed constituency of Alyn and Deeside.</p> <p>Having considered the representations, the Commission accepts the</p>

	<p>recommendations of the Assistant Commissioners and proposes to include the electoral ward of Northop Hall within this proposed constituency to avoid breaking its links with Northop and to include the electoral ward of Gwernaffield within the proposed Alyn and Deeside constituency to avoid breaking its links with the town of Mold.</p>
1.09	<p>The Commission therefore proposes to create a constituency from the electoral wards within the existing Delyn county constituency and the County of Flintshire of Bagillt East, Bagillt West, Brynford, Caerwys, Cilcain, Ffynnongroyw, Flint Castle, Flint Coleshill, Flint Oakenholt, Flint Trelawny, Greenfield, Gronant, Halkyn, Holywell Central, Holywell East, Holywell West, Mostyn, Northop, Northop Hall, Trelawnyd and Gwaenysgor and Whitford; and the electoral wards within the existing Vale of Clwyd county constituency and the County of Denbighshire of Dyserth, Prestatyn Central, Prestatyn East, Prestatyn Meliden, Prestatyn North, Prestatyn South West, Rhuddlan, Rhyl East, Rhyl South, Rhyl South East, Rhyl South West, and Rhyl West.</p> <p>This constituency would have 75,548 electors which is 1% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency.</p> <p>There was a general consensus that the name proposed in the initial proposals was appropriate.</p> <p>The Returning Officer for this county constituency would be designated by Order in Parliament.</p>
1.10	<p><u>Revised Proposals for the Alyn and Deeside County Constituency</u></p> <p>In the Commission's initial proposals, it was proposed that this county constituency be created from:</p> <p>The whole of the existing Alyn and Deeside CC; and the electoral wards within the existing Delyn CC and County of Flintshire of Argoed, Gwernymynydd, Leeswood, Mold Broncoed, Mold East, Mold South, Mold West, New Brighton, and Northop Hall.</p> <p>This constituency would have 76,678 electors which is 2.6% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency. The suggested name for the constituency was Alyn and Deeside. The suggested alternative name was Alyn a Glannau Dyfrdwy.</p>
1.11	<p>The Commission received representations as in 1.08 above.</p> <p>The Assistant Commissioners concluded as in 1.08 above and the Commission accepted the recommendations so made.</p>
1.12	<p>The Commission therefore proposes to create a county constituency from:</p> <p>The whole of the existing Alyn and Deeside CC; and the electoral wards within the existing Delyn CC and County of Flintshire of Argoed, Gwernaffield, Gwernymynydd, Leeswood, Mold Broncoed, Mold East, Mold South, Mold West, and New Brighton.</p>

	<p>5.8 This constituency would have 77,032 electors which is 3% above the UKEQ of 74,769 electors per constituency.</p> <p>There was a general consensus that the name proposed in the initial proposals is appropriate.</p> <p>The Returning Officer for this county constituency would be designated by Order in Parliament.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None as a result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Boundary Commission for Wales is conducting an eight week period of consultation on the revised proposals, which will run from 17 October to 11 December 2017.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None as a result of this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix One – Revised proposals with Maps Appendix Two – Assistant commissioners Report

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Guide to the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies and Initial Proposals and associated maps.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Lynn Phillips, Team Leader – Democratic Services Telephone: 01352 702329 E-mail: lyn.phillips@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>The Boundary Commission for Wales - is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for conducting periodic reviews of Parliamentary constituency boundaries in Wales and making recommendations to Parliament for changes.</p> <p>Assistant Commissioner - Person appointed by the Secretary of State at</p>

the request of the Commission to assist the Commission in the discharge of their functions, normally an independent legally qualified person.

County Constituency - abbreviated to CC - Parliamentary constituency containing a significant rural element.

Electoral Ward - The areas into which principal council areas are divided for the purpose of electing county councillors; previously referred to as electoral divisions.

Electorate - The number of registered parliamentary electors in a given area.

Initial proposals - Initial proposals for public consultation.

Revised proposals - The initial proposals as revised.

Final recommendations - The recommendations submitted in a report to the Secretary of State at the end of a review. They may be the initial or the revised proposals in any given area.

Representations - The views provided by an individual, group or organisation to the Commission on its initial or revised proposals, either for or against them, including counter-proposals and petitions.