



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Boundary Commission for England 2013 Review Update

Date: 4 August 2011

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1. Purpose of the Report

- To update Cabinet on progress with the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) 2013 review of parliamentary constituency boundaries.

2. Background

The BCE is tasked with reviewing the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies in England. Its approach to this review is influenced significantly by the 2011 Parliamentary Voting and Constituencies Act (the Act).

BCE began its work on the 2013 review in 2011 with a consultation on the allocation of constituencies between regions. Following that consultation, BCE is proposing there should be 44 constituencies for the East Midlands

The review enters a new phase in the Autumn when BCE publishes its initial proposals (due w/c 12 September) and consults on those proposals.

BCE has recently published a guide to the 2013 review. Copies have been sent electronically to Group Leaders and a hard copy is available in the Members' Room. The full version is available on the BCE website at

<http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Guide-to-the-2013-Review.pdf>

Key issues extracted from that document relating to the progress of the review are set out below.

3. Key Issues and progress of the review

The Act specifies that the 2013 review should result in 600 parliamentary constituencies across the UK, of which 502 will be in England. With the exception of constituencies on the Isle of Wight, all constituencies must have an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota of 76,641 electors (in practice between 72,810 electors and 80,473 electors). In practice, most current constituencies are likely to change to accommodate this.

BCE will take into account local authority boundaries when making its recommendations, but cannot guarantee that constituencies will fall wholly within local authority areas – issues of electorate size have to be paramount. However, electoral wards will not be split between constituencies. BCE has indicated it will find it useful to group 2 or more local authority areas when formulating its proposals – details of those groupings will be included in its initial proposals.

A 12 week consultation period will follow publication of initial proposals in mid-September. A new consultation procedure will be followed, based on written representations and representations made at public hearings. There will be 3 public hearings in the East Midlands, to be held between mid-October and mid-November. Each hearing will last no longer than 2 days.

A further, 4 week consultation, will follow the initial 12 week consultation, allowing for comment on responses to the initial consultation (all of which will be made public). If, as a result of consultation, BCE revises its proposals, a further 8 week consultation is held on the revised proposals.

When BCE has decided on its final proposals for the whole of England, it reports formally to the government.

Further progress reports will be submitted to members in due course as appropriate.

4. Recommendation

Members are **recommended** to: -

- Note the report