

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM. 13(d)
12 OCTOBER 2016	PUBLIC REPORT

THE 2018 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY REVIEW WORKING GROUP

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM : DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE
<p>That the Council:</p> <p>(1) Agrees the formation and terms of reference of a 2018 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review Cross Party Working Group; and</p> <p>(2) Agrees that the draft response of the Working Group should be referred back to Council in December for approval</p>

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 On 13 September 2016, the Boundary Commission for England published its initial proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries. Consultation on the proposals is being undertaken for a 12 week period up to 5 December 2016. The Council is a consultee in that process.
- 1.2 This report asks the Council to agree the formation of a working group to consider and formulate a response to the consultation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.
- 2.2 The Commission is currently conducting a review on the basis of rules updated by Parliament in 2011, which requires a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England from 533 to 501 and also requires compliance with new parameters for the number of electors in each constituency, this being that no constituency can be smaller than 71,031 and not larger than 78,507.
- 2.3 The proposals are outlined in detail within the 'Initial Proposals for new Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in the Eastern Region' document which are available online.
- 2.4 The Boundary Commission for England is required to make a formal report to the Government in September 2018. It is currently at stage two of its review process, this being a 12 week public consultation ending on 5 December 2016.
- 2.5 Responses to this consultation are encouraged in order for views to be obtained on proposals in specific areas to enable the Commission to make an informed decision when deciding its final report.

2.6 The document further advises of the methods of response to the consultation and there are to be four public hearings hosted by the Commission in the Eastern region during the consultation period throughout October and November.

3. THE 2018 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY REVIEW WORKING GROUP

3.1 In order to ensure that the Boundary Commission's initial proposals and its effects upon the residents of Peterborough are fully considered by the Council, it is proposed that a cross party working group be established. The proposed terms of reference of the Group are attached at **Appendix 1**.

3.2 It is proposed that the Group draft a response to the consultation to be approved by Council at its meeting on 14th December 2016.

3.3 Council will note that the deadline for responses is 5th December i.e. 9 days prior to the Council meeting. The Director of Governance has notified the Boundary Commission that we will be submitting draft proposals by 5th December but that those proposals cannot be relied upon until confirmed by Council on 14th December 2016

3.4 Group Secretaries will be invited to nominate members to the working group if this recommendation is approved.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial implications: None

4.2 Legal implications: None

4.3 Equalities implications: None

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)