



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

REPORT

9 November 2011

Subject Heading:

**PROPOSED NEW PARLIAMENTARY
CONSTITUENCIES – whether Council
to comment**

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Policy context:

New parliamentary constituency
boundaries

Financial summary:

There are no relevant financial
implications

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Clean, safe and green borough	<input type="checkbox"/>
Excellence in education and learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities for all through economic, social and cultural activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value and enhance the life of every individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

The Boundary Commission for England has published proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies for Havering, two of which would be wholly within the borough, with a third partly covering Havering and parts of eastern Barking & Dagenham.

This report outlines the proposals and their context and invites consideration as to whether the Council should respond formally.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For consideration as to the response, if any, to be made to the proposed constituency arrangements.

REPORT DETAIL

- 1 In September, the Boundary Commission for England published proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies within Greater London. The proposals arise from Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, which (among other things) reduced the number of Parliamentary Constituencies nationally from 650 (533 in England) to 600 (502), and sought bring the number of voters in each constituency more nearly even.
- 2 The changes will take effect on and from the next Parliamentary General Election, which is due on 7 May 2015, following the enactment of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011.
- 3 Overall, the number of constituencies in Greater London is reduced by five. Havering retains two whole constituencies and part of a third but the boundaries are different.
- 4 The Commission proposes that the new constituencies (as illustrated by the appended maps):

Constituency (Electorate)	Comprising the following Wards
Hornchurch and Upminster (80,227)	Elm Park; Hacton; Hylands; Rainham & Wennington; St Andrew's; South Hornchurch; and Upminster
Romford (80,166)	Emerson Park; Gooshays; Harold Wood; Havering Park; Heaton; Pettits; Romford Town; and Squirrels Heath
Dagenham North (74,095)	Brooklands and Mawneys

- 5 The current electoral quota (the total electorate nationally, divided by constituencies) is 76,641. Every constituency – except two covering the Isle of Wight – must have a number of registered electors that is no more than 5% lower or higher than this figure. In practice, this means constituencies

must contain between 72,810 and 80,473 electors. The proposals above achieve that.

- 6 In putting forward their proposals, the Commission acknowledge that it has not been possible to keep constituencies within individual local authority areas, and it will be seen that the proposed Dagenham North constituency includes a number of wards from Barking & Dagenham together with Havering's Brooklands and Mawneys Wards. This contrasts with current constituencies where Dagenham & Rainham crosses the boundary of the two boroughs but includes different Havering Wards (Elm Park, Rainham & Wennington and South Hornchurch), which in the new arrangements revert to being within a wholly Havering constituency.
- 7 The proposals are subject to consultation, closing on 5 December 2011. It is open to the Council to offer comment should it wish to, although individual Members and political groups will undoubtedly wish to make their own points to the Commission.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: There are no specific financial implications for the Council. The cost implications of the boundary adjustments for Election Services are minimal.

Legal implications and risks: There are no relevant legal implications for the Council. The division of the borough in to constituencies has no effect on the provision of Council services.

Human Resources Implications and risks: None

Equalities implications and risks: None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none