



## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

**Subject Heading:**

**CMT Lead:**

**Report Author and contact details:**

**Policy context:**

**Financial summary:**

**Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been carried out?**

**PROPOSED NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES – outcome of representations**

Ian Burns, Acting Assistant Chief Executive

Ian Buckmaster, Committee Administration & Member Support Manager

Tel: 01708 432431;

[ian.buckmaster@havering.gov.uk](mailto:ian.buckmaster@havering.gov.uk)

New parliamentary constituency boundaries

There are no relevant financial implications

There is no need for an EA as the proposed changes do not affect equality issues.

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

Ensuring a clean, safe and green borough	<input type="checkbox"/>
Championing education and learning for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing economic, social and cultural activity in thriving towns and villages	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valuing and enhancing the lives of our residents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delivering high customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUMMARY**

In November 2011, the Committee considered proposals from the Boundary Commission for England had recently 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.

On the recommendation of this Committee, the Council subsequently expressed the view to the Commission that the proposals were unacceptable as they stood, and alternatives were suggested.

The Commission has now considered the representations submitted and prepared new proposals, details of which are set out in the report. The revised proposals broadly retain the existing constituency boundaries (for Havering).

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1 That the revised proposals for the Borough's Constituencies be noted.
- 2 For consideration as to whether any further representations should be made in response.
- 3 That the Council be informed of the position and, should the Committee consider that further representations are necessary, be invited to endorse them.

### **REPORT DETAIL**

- 1 At its meeting in November 2011, the Committee considered a report about the then recently published proposals by the Boundary Commission for England for adjustments to the Borough's Parliamentary Constituencies in order to accommodate the reduction in the number of MPs consequent upon the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.
- 2 The then proposals were for three constituencies to cover the borough, including Havering wards as follows:

<b>Constituency (Electorate)</b>	<b>Including the following Wards</b>
Hornchurch & 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

- 3 The Council, on the recommendation of this Committee, advised the Commission that it was wrong to disregard both existing, strong local community ties and the fact that there had been significant change to constituency boundaries as recently as May 2010, and urged that alternatives be considered.

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- 4 The revised proposals now prepared by the Commission go a considerable way to accepting the alternatives proposed by the Council, although they are not adopted in their entirety.
- 5 The constituencies now proposed are as follows:

<b>Constituency (Electorate)</b>	<b>Including the following Wards</b>
Dagenham & Rainham (75,880)	Elm Park; Rainham & Wennington; and South Hornchurch  (plus 7 wards in Barking & Dagenham, from Chadwell Heath in the north to River in the south)
Hornchurch & Upminster (79,568)	Cranham; Emerson Park; Gooshays; Hacton; Harold Wood; Heaton; St Andrew's; and Upminster
Romford (79,271)	Brooklands; Havering Park; Hylands; Mawneys; Pettits; Romford Town; and Squirrels Heath  (plus Eastbrook Ward in Barking & Dagenham)

- 6 Maps of the proposed constituencies are appended to this report.
- 7 In general, the current constituency boundaries are retained. The adjustments are as follows:

Dagenham & Rainham

No change in the Havering portion

Hornchurch & Upminster

No change

Romford

The Havering wards are unchanged but Eastbrook ward from Barking & Dagenham – which includes the Dagenham portion of Rush Green – is added to the constituency.

- 8 The Commission has commented that, of 68 constituencies in Greater London, the proposals for 51 have changed following the consultation. The new proposals are now the subject of further consultation, closing in December.

- 9 The 2011 Act referred to earlier in this report required a reduction in the number of MPs for England from 533 to 502, and that their electorates should all range between 72,810 and 80,473. It will be seen that the present proposals are each within the necessary range.
- 10 It should be noted that the Eastbrook Ward of Barking & Dagenham has an electorate of 7,293. Removing it from the proposed Romford constituency and adding it to Dagenham & Rainham would reduce Romford to below the statutory minimum and increase Dagenham & Rainham to above the maximum, and would therefore be unacceptable.
- 11 The Committee is now invited to consider whether any further representations should be made.

## **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 no background papers.