

# **TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**20 October 2016**

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### **Part 1- Public**

#### **Delegated**

### **1 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

**To grant delegated authority to allow the Chief Executive to respond to the current consultation on the initial proposals for Parliamentary Constituencies, following discussion at the Council's Electoral Review Working Group**

#### **1.1 Background**

1.1.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) are an independent body with responsibility to review the current Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. Under the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 they are required to complete their current review ahead of the 2020 General Election. This review, known as the 2018 Review, includes a reduction in the number of MPs from 650 to 600 across the UK and equalises the number of registered electors per MP across the country.

1.1.2 On Tuesday 13 September the BCE published their initial proposals for Parliamentary Constituencies in England. Similar bodies are developing proposals for other parts of the UK. These initial proposals are open to public consultation, with the deadline for responses of 5 December 2016.

#### **1.2 TMBC response to the consultation**

1.2.1 The TMBC Electoral Review Working Group (ERWG) is due to meet to discuss the initial proposals, and to formulate a response to the BCE in response to them. The timing of the publication of the initial proposals, in relation to the pre-arranged meeting of General Purposes, mean that it is not possible for ERWG to prepare a response to present to GP for approval in time for the close of the public consultation.

1.2.2 Therefore, Members are invited to agree that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chair of General Purposes, may finalise the response to the consultation following the meeting of the ERWG, on behalf of TMBC.

1.2.3 Individual Members, and political groups and associations may submit their own response to the consultation direct to the BCE.

### **1.3 Legal Implications**

1.3.1 None.

### **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 None.

### **1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 If delegated authority is not given, it will not be possible to submit a TMBC response to the consultation within the timeframe specified.

### **1.6 Equality Impact Assessment**

1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.  
Policy Considerations

### **1.7 Recommendations**

1.7.1 It is recommended that Members:

- 1) Agree that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chair of General Purposes, may finalise the response to the BCE consultation on the initial proposals for Parliamentary Constituencies following the meeting of the ERWG, on behalf of TMBC.

Background papers:

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Nil

**Julie Beilby**

Chief Executive