

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

13 July 2021

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters For Decision

1 THE 2023 BOUNDARY REVIEW – INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

Executive Summary

This report provides information on the initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries including the consultation process and background documents. It is proposed that a dedicated meeting of the Electoral Review Working Group considers the proposals in relation the Borough and that a formal response to the consultation be submitted thereafter.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Boundary Commission for England has published its initial proposals for Parliamentary Constituency changes in England. The Commission has been asked to do this by the Government in order to achieve an improved pattern of electoral equality given changes in population. These proposals, which are in the public domain are now subject to a period of consultation, closing on the 2 August 2021.

1.1.2 It is not the intention of this report to provide a proposed response to the Consultation, but rather to propose that a meeting of the Electoral Review Working Group be convened to allow Members to consider the proposals and consider any response that the Council may wish to make.

1.1.3 These initial proposals do alter the current arrangements. At present the Borough falls within two Constituencies, Chatham and Aylesford in the north of the Borough, and Tonbridge and Malling in the South. Neither constituency is co-terminus with the Borough Boundary.

1.2 Boundary Commission Proposals

1.2.1 The Boundary Commission proposals can be viewed on their website [BCE Consultation Portal \(bcereviews.org.uk\)](https://bcereviews.org.uk)

1.2.2 Under these proposals this Borough would fall within three parliamentary constituencies:

- Tonbridge
- Maidstone and Malling
- Chatham and Aylesford

1.2.3 None of the boundaries for these 3 proposed constituencies are contiguous with existing Boundaries.

1.2.4 The Boundary Commission consultation is open to all including individuals, community groups or administrative units, political parties etc. Submissions are invited via the Boundary Commission website [BCE Consultation Portal \(bcereviews.org.uk\)](https://bcereviews.org.uk).

1.3 Proposed Way Forward

1.3.1 That a meeting of the Electoral Review Working Group be invited to consider the proposals to agree the basis of any response from the Council. Given the timescales for the consultation, it is proposed that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to thereafter submit a response to the Boundary Commission consultation in relation to the proposed constituency arrangements.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 None at this stage.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 None at this stage.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 The constituency patterns may have an impact on our residents, so there is a risk in not responding to the proposals.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

1.7.1 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 at this stage

1.8 Policy Considerations

1.8.1 Community

1.9 Recommendations

1.9.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that

1.9.2 The Electoral Review Working Group be invited to consider the proposals and delegated Authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to thereafter submit the Council's response to the Boundary Commission.

Background papers:

contact: Daune Ashdown

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive