

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	18 December 2017
Report of the	-	Executive Director of Resources
Subject	-	Decisions taken as a matter of urgency at Cabinet Meetings

The Council is asked to receive the report of Cabinet, in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules and 17(a) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, on decisions taken as a matter of urgency at its meeting held on 4 December 2017. (Council to note that there were no urgent decisions taken at the Cabinet meetings held on 2 October and 6 November).

CABINET – 18 December 2017

CB17/53. PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW 2018 – REVISED PROPOSAL (8.1)

Cabinet received and considered the report of the Executive Director of Resources which detailed the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) review of the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies which was being carried out in accordance with the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011. The Act involved a significant reduction in the number of Constituencies in England (from 533 to 501) resulting in the South East reducing by one, to 83.

Following two consultations, the initial proposals - which the Council responded to in December 2016 and a further one on the comments received to the initial consultation. The BCE had now completed the next stage and had published revised proposals; the deadline for responses was Monday 11 December. Members noted that the fifth and final stage of the process would be the development and publication of the final report and recommendations; this was expected in September 2018.

The revised proposals included some remodelling of the Bexhill and Battle County Constituency (CC) with less change to the current position with Darwell, Ewhurst and Sedlescombe, and Rother Levels coming back in, all of Hailsham being removed and Horam added to the CC. In addition, the proposal to create a High Weald CC had also been remodelled to form Mid Kent and Ticehurst CC. This would pull in wards from Ashford, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells Borough Councils, together with Ticehurst and Etchingham.

Members had been invited for their responses and comments had been received from both Darwell Ward Councillors and their comments had been included in the Council's proposed response.

Each constituency needed to have an electorate of between 71,031 and 78,507 and any changes to the proposed constituencies needed to

fall in this margin. The report detailed possible alternative solutions for Ticehurst and Etchingham including moving it back into the Bexhill and Battle constituency, moving Horam to Lewes and Uckfield CC and moving East Dean into Eastbourne constituency; or to bring it into the Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough Ward.

However, due to issues around connectivity, health and clinical commissioning and different high school systems, Members recommended that the Council's response be amended to request that Ticehurst and Etchingham ward be moved back into the Bexhill and Battle CC, that Horam remain within the Bexhill and Battle CC and the Rother Levels ward be transferred to the Hastings and Rye constituency. These changes would fall within the parameters set in relation to the numbers of electorate.

RESOLVED: That the draft response attached at Appendix B to the report be amended and submitted as the Council's response to the Boundary Commission for England's consultation on Parliamentary Boundary changes.

The Chairman of Council had agreed that this decision could be taken as an urgent decision to enable the Council's response to the Consultation by the deadline of 11 December 2017.

(Cabinet Agenda Item 8.1)

Malcolm Johnston
Executive Director of Resources