



Report for:	Electoral Review Committee
Date of meeting:	9 January 2019
Part:	1 (For Information)
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW 2018
Contact:	<p>Cllr Williams: Leader of the Council</p> <p>Responsible Officer: Sally Marshall, Chief Executive in the role of Acting Returning Officer. Mark Brookes – Solicitor to the Council</p> <p>Author: J Doyle: Elections Team Leader</p>
Purpose of report:	To note the Boundary Commission proposals for the Hemel Hempstead constituency.
Recommendation	That the Boundary Commission proposals for the Hemel Hempstead constituency be noted.
Corporate objectives:	<p>The holding of elections contributes to the Council's community leadership role and fosters public engagement in the democratic process.</p> <p>The responsibility for the good conduct of elections lays with the Electoral Registration Officer, who as Acting Returning Officer for Parliamentary Election matters, is the Chief Executive.</p>
Implications:	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There is likely to be a significant increase in the volume of printing and consequent postage costs which are reimbursed by the Home Office, Election Claims Unit.</p>
'Value for money' implications	<p><u>Value for money</u></p> <p>The provision of election costs for elections is reviewed on a regular basis and the funding is overseen by the Electoral</p>

	Commission and the Elections Claims Unit.
Risk implications	Electoral matters require continual review to ensure that the democratic process operates effectively. The boundary review has attempted to address the issue of equality of representation by alteration to the MP/elector ratio. Failure to complete this process would result in unequal representation and result in a decrease in the value and effectiveness of the democratic process.
Consultees:	The (Acting) Returning Officer; Election Agents, Political Parties, Boundary Commission and Electoral Commission.
Background papers:	Details of the proposals can be found on the following website: https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-review/
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	EC – Electoral Commission. ECU – Elections Claims Unit SI – Statutory Instrument

BACKGROUND

1. 2018 Parliamentary Boundary Review

The 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies began in 2016, and the final recommendations were reported to Government in September 2018. The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended) ('the Act') sets out certain requirements on the Boundary Commission in relation to the submission of their final report, and on the Government in relation to Parliament's consideration of the report and the laying of the draft Statutory Instrument (SI) that would implement the Commission's recommendations.

As the report has now been before parliament it can be viewed on the Boundary commission's website: <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-review/>

The Commission will not be distributing hard copies of the report and maps but they are available to download, and the recommended boundaries have been overlaid on the interactive map on the website.

The Government must now prepare the SI that would implement the recommendations. Both Houses of Parliament must vote on these SIs before they become law. If both houses approve the SI, the new boundaries would come into force at the next general election after that vote, this is assumed to be the next scheduled parliamentary elections in 2022. If they are not voted through by both houses, the existing boundaries will continue to apply for future general elections.

Details of the proposals can be found on the above website. The boundaries relevant to the Hemel Hempstead Parliamentary Constituency can be viewed by 'checking' the 'Local Authorities' box on the following page: <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/node/6484?postcode=HP11DN>.

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Boundaries ✖

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- Polling districts
- Wards
- Final recommendations
- Revised proposals
- Initial proposals
- Existing constituencies
- Local authorities
- Regions

As far as the organisation of elections is concerned the main issue will be the smooth transfer of elector details between Three Rivers DC and Dacorum Borough Council. Electoral Register details will be required for the production of election materials (Notices, poll cards, postal vote packs and return envelopes, etc.) and accurate elector numbers will be necessary for the conduct of the election count. Officers of both Councils are in regular contact through the regional election administrators meetings and have already discussed the practicalities of implementing the recommendations. As it happens, at current General Elections, DBC already provide 3 Rivers with Electoral Register data for the SW Herts Constituency element of Dacorum Borough. Should the new boundaries be agreed, 3 Rivers will now be providing to us electoral register data for the Hunton Bridge / west Abbots Langley areas. This transfer of data has been made easier by the fact that both authorities now use the same Elections Management Software.