



www.dacorum.gov.uk

# Electoral Review Committee

<b>Report for:</b>	Electoral Review Committee
<b>Title of report:</b>	Revised Parliamentary Boundaries
<b>Date:</b>	31 October 2023
<b>Report on behalf of:</b>	Councillor Symington, Portfolio Holder for Corporate & Commercial Services
<b>Part:</b>	I
<b>If Part II, reason:</b>	n/a
<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix A: summary of Parliamentary constituencies which Dacorum falls within.
<b>Background papers:</b>	n/a
<b>Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:</b>	

## Report Author / Responsible Officer

Mark Brookes, Assistant Director (Legal & Democratic Services)

Michelle Anderson, Electoral Services Manager



[Mark.brookes@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.brookes@dacorum.gov.uk) / 01442 228236 (ext. 2236)

[Michelle.anderson@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:Michelle.anderson@dacorum.gov.uk) / 01442 2282230 (ext. 2230)

<b>Corporate Priorities</b>	Building strong and vibrant communities Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery
<b>Wards affected</b>	All of Dacorum
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	1. To note the outcome of the Parliamentary boundary Review
<b>Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):</b>	1. To note the outcome of the Parliamentary boundary Review
<b>Period for post policy/project review:</b>	n/a

## **1 Introduction/Background:**

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has undertaken a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries. The Commission has published its final recommendations and Orders for the new parliamentary constituency boundaries will be made by 1 November 2023.

Once the Orders for new parliamentary constituencies have been made, the new boundaries will be used for the next general election.

If a parliamentary by election is called in the meantime, it would be run on existing boundaries.

The review process was heavily informed by public consultation. The BCE developed and published initial proposals for constituencies across England. Representations from the public about these proposals were then taken in writing and at public hearings in each region of England across two rounds of consultation. In light of all the views expressed about these initial proposals, the BCE then conducted a further round of written consultation on the revised proposals.

The BCE made a formal final report to the Speaker of the House of Commons in July 2023, recommending any changes that it believed were appropriate to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies in England.

## **2 Changes being implemented**

One of the large areas for change in Hertfordshire is in the south-western part of the county. The existing north-south configuration of the constituency runs from Tring, through Berkhamsted, to Rickmansworth. Instead a new constituency named Harpenden and Berkhamsted, will have an east-west configuration from Tring, through Berkhamsted, to Harpenden. The constituency also includes the two Borough of Dacorum wards of Watling and Ashridge.

The transfer of the Borough of Dacorum wards of Watling and Ashridge to the proposed Harpenden and Berkhamsted constituency from the existing Hemel Hempstead constituency means that, to bring the Hemel Hempstead constituency within the permitted electorate range, now includes the ward of Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield, currently in the existing South West Hertfordshire constituency.

The Hemel Hempstead constituency will no longer include the Kings Langley ward, which is now included in the amended Three Rivers constituency. While this leaves the Kings Langley ward as the only Borough of Dacorum ward in a constituency otherwise wholly coterminous with Three Rivers district (known as an orphan ward<sup>10</sup>), it is necessary in order to bring the constituency within the electorate range, and unites the village of Kings Langley, including the train station, in the same constituency.

Updated constituency lists are shown at Appendix A

## **3 Acting Returning Officer Designations**

The Acting Returning Officer designations for the new constituencies (which Dacorum fall within), which will be created later this year are as follows:

For the proposed new UK parliamentary constituency of Hemel Hempstead County Constituency, **Dacorum Borough Council** will provide the Acting Returning Officer

For the proposed new UK parliamentary constituency of South West Hertfordshire County Constituency, **Three Rivers District Council** will provide the Acting Returning Officer.

For the proposed new UK parliamentary constituency of Harpenden and Berkhamsted County Constituency, **St Albans City and District Council** will provide the Acting Returning Officer.

#### **4 Consultation**

All Dacorum Borough Council staff and electorate via the DBC website. The full review consultation was conducted by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE)

#### **5 Financial and value for money implications:**

The re-alignment of the parliamentary boundaries will not incur any costs other than back office resources.

#### **6 Legal Implications**

The Government must turn the recommendations of the BCE (and those of the equivalent Commissions for the other three parts of the UK) into an 'Order in Council' that implements the recommendations. The constituencies set out in the Order will then be implemented for the next General Election after the date on which the legislation is approved.

The Polling Place Order will be amended and agreed by Full Council.

#### **7 Risk implications:**

Electoral matters require continual review to ensure that the democratic process operates effectively. A failure to provide polling places within set boundaries would result in huge reputational damage.

#### **8 Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:**

There are no equalities or community impacts arising directly from this report.

#### **9 Sustainability implications (including climate change, health and wellbeing, community safety)**

There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

#### **10 Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)**

There are no council infrastructure implications arising directly from this report.

#### **11 Conclusions:**

All new parliamentary boundaries will be updated by the Electoral Services team ahead of publishing the revised electoral register on 1 December 2023.

A revised Polling Place Order will be approved by Full Council.

## Harpenden and Berkhamsted CC 71,635

Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
Aldbury and Wigginton	Dacorum	1,910
Ashridge	Dacorum	2,177
Berkhamsted Castle	Dacorum	4,655
Berkhamsted East	Dacorum	4,718
Berkhamsted West	Dacorum	4,766
Northchurch	Dacorum	2,266
Tring Central	Dacorum	3,965
Tring East	Dacorum	2,337
Tring West and Rural	Dacorum	4,299
Watling	Dacorum	4,406
Harpenden East	St Albans	5,517
Harpenden North	St Albans	5,660
Harpenden South	St Albans	5,437
Harpenden West	St Albans	5,983
Redbourn	St Albans	4,846
Sandridge	St Albans	3,734
Wheathampstead	St Albans	4,959

## Hemel Hempstead CC 70,496

Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
Adeyfield East	Dacorum	3,907
Adeyfield West	Dacorum	4,110
Apsley and Corner Hall	Dacorum	6,886
Bennetts End	Dacorum	4,353
Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield	Dacorum	6,596
Boxmoor	Dacorum	6,691
Chaulden and Warners End	Dacorum	6,566
Gadebridge	Dacorum	4,020
Grovehill	Dacorum	5,269
Hemel Hempstead Town	Dacorum	4,296
Highfield	Dacorum	3,746
Leverstock Green	Dacorum	7,032
Nash Mills	Dacorum	2,759
Woodhall Farm	Dacorum	4,265

## South West Hertfordshire CC 71,552

Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
Kings Langley	Dacorum	4,052
Abbots Langley & Bedmond	Three Rivers	4,973
Carpenders Park	Three Rivers	5,056
Chorleywood North & Sarratt	Three Rivers	5,841
Chorleywood South & Maple Cross	Three Rivers	5,793
Dickinsons	Three Rivers	5,103
Durrants	Three Rivers	5,041
Gade Valley	Three Rivers	5,058
Leavesden	Three Rivers	5,708
Moor Park & Eastbury	Three Rivers	4,613
Oxhey Hall & Hayling	Three Rivers	4,972
Penn & Mill End	Three Rivers	5,129
Rickmansworth Town	Three Rivers	5,553
South Oxhey	Three Rivers	4,660