

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the Executive  
Director of Core Services

### Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries 2021-23

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide a response on behalf of the council to the Boundary Commission for England's initial proposals for Parliamentary Constituency boundaries.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the council approves the proposed response to the Boundary Commission on their proposals for Parliamentary Constituencies in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council area.

#### 3. Introduction

- 3.1 The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 provided for a new boundary review of Parliamentary constituencies replacing the 2018 review that was not implemented.
- 3.2 The Act requires there to be a fixed number of 650 constituencies for the whole of the UK. Having stated that no single constituency may be split between different parts of the UK, the Act 'protects' five specified island constituencies (two on the Isle of Wight for England, two for Scotland, and one for Wales), then provides a mathematical formula to determine how many constituencies each of the four parts of the UK should be allocated from the remaining 645, based on the electorate figures as at 2 March 2020. The number of constituencies allocated to England for the 2023 Review is 543 (including the two for the Isle of Wight).
- 3.3 The number of constituencies in the Yorkshire and Humber region will remain unchanged at 54. The UK electoral quota for the 2023 Review is, to the nearest whole number, 73,393. Accordingly, every recommended constituency (except the five 'protected' constituencies) must have an electorate as at 2 March 2020 that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062. The electorates of the present Barnsley Central and Barnsley East constituencies are both too small under these rules at 65,494 and 69,640 respectively. Penistone and Stocksbridge (71,377) and Wentworth and Dearne are both large enough to continue in their present form in this review.

- 3.4 The BCE's initial proposals were published on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The proposals for the Barnsley area were to replace the Barnsley Central and East constituencies with two new constituencies of Barnsley North and Barnsley South. They propose no cross boundary constituencies with Rotherham MBC with the Wentworth and Dearne constituency replaced with a new constituency named Rawmarsh and Conisbrough and situated entirely in the Rotherham MBC area. The Penistone and Stocksbridge constituency remains unchanged. A table of the wards included in each constituency is below:

<b>Barnsley North Constituency</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Previous constituency</b>
Central	7646	Barnsley Central
Cudworth	8389	Barnsley East
Darton East	8831	Barnsley Central
Darton West	8575	Barnsley Central
Monk Bretton	8739	Barnsley Central
North East	9908	Barnsley East
Old Town	8304	Barnsley Central
Royston	8609	Barnsley Central
St. Helens	7793	Barnsley Central

<b>Barnsley South Constituency</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Previous constituency</b>
Darfield	7800	Barnsley East
Dearne North	8168	Wentworth and Dearne
Dearne South	9338	Wentworth and Dearne
Hoyland Milton	9332	Barnsley East
Kingstone	6997	Barnsley Central
Rockingham	8753	Barnsley East
Stairfoot	8787	Barnsley East
Wombwell	9263	Barnsley East
Worsbrough	7458	Barnsley East

- 3.5 The consultation on these proposals is open until 3<sup>rd</sup> August. As soon as practicable after this date all responses that have been received will be published on the BCE website for a 4 week period during which the public will be allowed to comment on the submissions. After this stage the proposals will be reformulated and published again for comments at some point in 2022 for a period of 8 weeks. After this consultation any final alterations will be made and the proposals will be finalised in Spring 2023 with the aim of achieving Parliamentary approval in Autumn 2023.
- 3.6 Whilst Barnsley MBC has no formal role in this process it is in a unique position to submit feedback on these proposals on behalf of our residents.

#### **4. Proposal and justification**

##### **4.1 That the council submits a response in support of the proposals for the Barnsley area and does not offer any alternative proposals**

4.2 Whilst the number of Members of Parliament for the area will be reduced from 4 to 3 the retention of two constituencies entirely in the Barnsley area is positive for the area. The Members of Parliament for the Barnsley Central and East constituencies are both broadly supportive of the new Barnsley constituencies.

4.3 Members are able to submit their own responses to this consultation and are encouraged to do so before the deadline on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

#### **5. Consideration of alternative approaches**

5.1 Given the nature of the proposals and the parameters of the legislation it was not possible to devise an outcome for Barnsley that was significantly better than what is proposed.

#### **6. Implications for local people / service users**

6.1 Some wards will move between different constituencies and the council will need to communicate the changes to residents if this review is implemented.

#### **7. Financial implications**

7.1 None.

#### **8. Employee implications**

8.1 None

#### **9. Communications implications**

9.1 It is important that there are only limited communications from the council that go out through official channels to ensure that our role within this process is understood and that these boundary proposals do not come from the council and do not affect local authority or ward boundaries.

#### **10. Consultations**

10.1 None

#### **11. Background papers**

11.1 None.

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Financial Implications /  
Consultation .....

*(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer  
where no financial implications)*