

BOUNDARY COMMISSION: REVISED PROPOSALS FOR NEW CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN THE SOUTH EAST

Governance Committee - 7 November 2017

Report of Chief Officer, Corporate Services

Status For Consideration

Key Decision No

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Anna Firth

Contact Officer Lee Banks, Head of Transformation and Strategy

Recommendation to Governance Committee: That

- (a) the Committee note the revised proposals contained in the Boundary Commission's most recent report, including the timescales for any response from Sevenoaks District Council; and
- (b) the Committee consider the opportunity to submit a response to these proposals within the revised timescales specified in the Boundary Commission report.

Reason for recommendation: The revised proposals contain changes to some of the existing boundaries within Sevenoaks district.

Background

- 1 The Boundary Commission is currently conducting a review of constituencies on the basis of new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), resulting in the number of constituencies in the South East reducing by one, to 83. The rules also require that every constituency - apart from two specified exceptions¹ - must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.
- 2 The Boundary Commission has now completed the next stage of the review process and has published its revised proposals. These are attached as Appendix A. Proposals for Kent and Medway begin on page 24 of the Appendix.
- 3 Initial proposals for new boundaries were published in September 2016. The Chairman of the Governance Committee submitted a response to these on behalf of the Council in November 2016, after discussions at the Governance

Committee on 3 November that year, and subsequently at a full Council meeting on 22 November. This response is attached as Appendix B.

- 4 The timescales for responses to these revised proposals is between 17 October and 11 December 2017.

Key Implications

Financial

N/A

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

N/A

Equality Assessment

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.

Appendices

Appendix A - Revised proposals for the South East by the Boundary Commission, published 17 October 2017

Appendix B - Response by Sevenoaks District council Governance Committee to the Boundary Commission's original proposals 29 November 2016

Background Papers

Appendix A above.

Jim Carrington-West

Chief Officer Corporate Services