



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item no.
The Leader of the Council (Cllr Gibson) and Marianne Hesketh Service Director Performance and Innovation	Council	8 September 2016	10

Electoral Review Working Group: Parliamentary Constituencies 2018

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To enable a Working Group to be appointed to consider proposals for a review of parliamentary constituencies.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Effective parliamentary constituencies for the residents of Wyre.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That a Group comprising the Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder (Cllr A Vincent), 4 other Councillors nominated by the Conservative Group and 2 Councillors nominated by the Labour Group be appointed to respond to the consultation process on the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies and to submit comments and proposals on behalf of the Council to the Boundary Commission for England.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial public body which is responsible for periodically reviewing parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. It is currently conducting a review on the basis of rules updated by Parliament in 2011. These latest rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England and require compliance with new parameters for the number of electors in each constituency. The BCE is required to make a formal report to the Government in September 2018, recommending any changes that it believes are appropriate to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies. The Government will turn the recommendations of the BCE into draft

legislation which will then be presented to Parliament. If Parliament approves the legislation, the recommended changes will be implemented for the next General Election after the date on which the legislation is passed.

- 4.2** The BCE plans to publish its initial proposals in the week commencing 12 September 2016. Any written comments on those proposals must be submitted within a 12 week period. There will also be 5 public hearings at various locations across the North West, which members of the public and representatives of interested bodies can attend if they wish. As soon as possible after the initial 12 week consultation period, the BCE will publish on its website all the representations that it has received for each region. Once the representations have been published there will be a further four-week period during which written comments on those representations can be submitted. The BCE will then decide whether and to what extent to revise its initial proposals. If revisions are made, there is provision for a further 8 week period for the submission of written representations on the revised proposals. A final report will then be published.
- 4.3** A Guide to the 2018 Review, setting out in more detail the process to be followed, has been published by the BCE and can be viewed on its website.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** To enable the BCE’s initial proposals and any revised proposals to be fully considered and comments to be submitted within the required timescales, it is proposed that a politically balanced Member Working Group be set up with delegated authority to approve the Council’s comments and proposals, as recommended in paragraphs 3.1 above.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	None arising directly from this report.
Legal	The current review is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Roy Saunders (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager)	01253 887481	roy.saunders@wyre.gov.uk	28/07/16

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None	-	-

List of appendices

None

arm/ex/cou/cr/16/0809rs1