

Chichester District Council

Council

22 November 2023

Boundary Review Panel - Parliamentary Boundary Review 2023

1. Contacts

Report Author

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Council are asked to consider and recommend one, or a combination of, the following four options to form the basis of the Council's response to the BCE's final consultation for the review.
- a. Accept the proposed revised boundaries acknowledging that the main concerns raised in our previous consultation responses have been addressed, whilst pointing out that the splitting of the Goodwood ward is an unsatisfactory element of the revised proposal.
 - b. To propose an alternative boundary that moves the Wards of Pagham and North Bersted in Arun District into the Arundel and Southdowns constituency to enable more of Chichester district to be included in the Chichester constituency. This would mean that the Harting, Easebourne and Midhurst CDC wards along with the parishes of Boxgrove and Eartham would move from Arundel and Southdowns constituency to Chichester constituency.
 - c. To propose an alternative boundary that moves the Wards of Pagham and North Bersted in Arun District into the Bognor Regis & Littlehampton constituency to enable more of Chichester district to be included in the Chichester constituency. This would mean that the Harting, Easebourne and Midhurst CDC wards along with the parishes of Boxgrove and Eartham would move from the Arundel and Southdowns constituency to the Chichester constituency. There would also be further changes of boundaries to the east in the Arundel and Southdowns, Bognor Regis & Littlehampton, Worthing West and East Worthing constituencies to make the numbers of electors fit within the tolerance limits. For the electorate numbers to work within the limitations an established polling district in Worthing will need to be split and new polling districts formed.

- d. For options b and c there is also the option to move the whole of the Goodwood CDC ward from the Arundel and Southdowns constituency into Chichester constituency. This would need to be offset by the parish of Lodsworth remaining within the Arundel and Southdowns constituency rather than moving with the rest of Easebourne CDC ward into the Chichester constituency.
- 2.2 It is recommended that when Council have considered the options above, it is delegated to the Chairman of the Boundary Review Panel, supported by the Divisional Manager for Business Support to set out detailed proposals as appropriate and finalise the consultation response to the BCE.

3 Background and context

- 3.1 Parliament agreed the Parliamentary Constituencies Act in December 2020. The Act sets out the criteria for future Parliamentary boundary reviews, based on retaining the current 650 members of parliament (MPs), but reallocating seats to ensure that all constituencies have broadly equal electorates, within 10% of the average across the 650 constituencies.
- 3.2 New constituencies to take effect from the 2025 election must have electorates of between **69,724 to 77,062**, based on electorate numbers at March 2020. There are exceptions set out in the Act, such as for certain islands.
- 3.3 The Boundary Commission for England is undertaking a consultation on a scheme covering England, which is entitled to 543 constituencies. Within the South East Region, an increase of seven constituencies to 91 in total is proposed.
- 3.4 The Commission has produced draft schemes for sub regions, including a scheme for Sussex, which increases the number of MPs from 16 to 17 in total. Any person or organisation can respond to the public consultation.
- 3.5 Initial proposals for boundary changes were subject to a consultation during 2021, to which CDC responded. The Commission states that it has carefully considered all representations. Revised proposals, informed by those representations, were published on 8 November 2022 and are now subject to a further consultation. This third and final phase of public consultation closes on 5 December 2022, with an expectation that the final scheme will be agreed in 2023.

4 Proposal details

- 4.1 Under the new requirements of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act it is evident that six of the eight current West Sussex constituencies are too large and significant change is therefore necessary within West Sussex.

- 4.2 The Commission's original proposals for the south of the county would be a significant change from the current pattern of constituencies. The County Council proposed a number of changes to these proposed constituencies, and noted some general dissatisfaction with certain proposals, such as the south of Horsham district being linked with Shoreham and Selsey in Chichester district being linked with Bognor Regis.
- 4.3 The Commission's revised plans for the south of the county would see East Worthing and Shoreham being retained completely unchanged from the existing parliamentary constituency. It then proposes to retain Worthing West, Arundel & South Downs, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton and Chichester constituencies, all with revised boundaries.
- 4.4 The implications of the revised proposals for Chichester district are that the south of the district is now in one Chichester constituency along with the Pagham and North Bersted areas of Arun District. The north of the district will now be in the Arundel and Southdowns constituency, which will include all CDC wards north of Westbourne, Lavant and Tangmere. It should also be noted that the Goodwood ward will be split, with the parishes of West Dean and Westhampnett being in the Chichester constituency and the rest of the Goodwood ward being in the Arundel and Southdowns constituency. The revised boundaries are set out in the map in Appendix 1.
- 4.5 The Boundary Review Panel met on 15 November 2022 to consider the revised proposals. Members of the panel had differing views and it was concluded that an outline of those views be presented to Council as options to form the basis of a response to the final consultation on behalf of the Council. The options for the basis of the response can be found set out in the recommendations at the top of this report.

5 Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Map of BCE's revised parliamentary boundaries Chichester CC
- 5.2 Appendix 2 - Map of BCE's revised parliamentary boundaries Arundel & Southdowns CC