

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Council **DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Parliamentary Boundary Review Working Group  
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Head of Democratic Services

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR DECISION**

#### **PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY REVIEW**

##### **1 Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to a Council response to the Boundary Commissions for England's (BCE) initial proposals for the review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries.

##### **Recommendation**

The Council is requested to resolve:

- (a) That the submission set out at Appendix A be agreed as Slough Borough Council's formal response to the BCE's initial proposals for the review of Parliamentary Constituency boundaries.
- (b) That the views of the Conservative Group as set out in Appendix B be noted.

##### **3 Other Implications**

###### **(a) Financial**

There are no financial or risk management implications as the report is administrative in nature.

###### **(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act Implications associated with this report.

##### **4 Supporting Information**

#### **Background**

- 4.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published initial proposals for new constituency boundaries in England on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016. This publication marked the start of a 12 week period of consultation on the BCE's initial proposals ending on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- 4.2 The BCE's proposals are available on the Commission's website and the Commission has an interactive consultation website at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk) . The

initial proposals for the Berkshire Sub Region were reported to the Council at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The Council established a cross party working group comprising the Leader and five other members (3 Labour Group members and 1 Conservative Group member and the UKIP member) to consider and make recommendations to this meeting on the BCE's initial proposals.

### **Parliamentary Boundary Review Working Group**

- 4.3 The Working Group has met on three occasions and consists of Councillors Swindlehurst (Chair), Munawar, Smith, Coad, Bedi and Usmani.
- 4.4 The working group sought to reach a consensus view on the initial proposals and there was initially general agreement that there may be viable alternatives to the transfer of the Slough Chalvey Ward into the Windsor Constituency. However the Working Group have been unable to reach a consensus on the relative merit of the alternative proposals and the Conservative Group have withdrawn from the Boundary Review Working Group. The Working Group's proposed Council response based on discussion to date is set out at Appendix A for the Council's agreement. The submission has the support of the Labour Group and UKIP member on the Working Group. A copy of the Conservative Group's views is attached at Appendix B.

### **Public Hearing – Guildford 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016**

- 4.5 The Chair presented the initial views of the Working Group at the public hearings for the South East held by the BCE on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

### **TIMELINE FOR THE REVIEW**

- 4.6 The review will take place over approximately two and a half years, with final recommendations submitted to Parliament in September 2018.
- Initial proposals for new boundaries were published on 13 September 2016, which began twelve weeks of public consultation, including holding public hearings in each region of England.
  - All feedback from the initial consultation will then be published in early 2017, followed by a four week consultation period during which the public are invited to comment on that feedback.
  - The Commission will then review all comments from the initial and secondary consultation to revise the proposed boundaries. In late 2017/early 2018.
  - There will be a third period of consultation lasting eight weeks, where the public will be invited to comment on the revised proposals.
  - After looking at whether any more changes need to be made, in September 2018 the Commission will make final recommendations in a report published and presented to the Parliament.

5 **Appendices**

- A - Parliamentary Boundary Review – Slough Borough Council response to the BCE Initial Proposals for the South East
- B Copy of E mail from Councillor Smith setting out the Conservative Group's comments.

6 **Background Papers**

None.