

## Report of the Executive Director

**REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**1. Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of the new Parliamentary Constituency for Broxtowe proposed by the Boundary Commission for England as part of the 2023 review of parliamentary constituencies.

2. Background

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. It has the task of periodically reviewing all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. It is currently conducting a review on the basis of rules most recently updated by Parliament in 2020 which retain 650 constituencies for the UK Parliament as a whole, and require constituencies to comply with strict parameters, in particular as far as the number of electors in each constituency is concerned.

Further information on the review process and the proposal for Broxtowe are set out in appendix 1, together with some concerns about the proposed arrangements. A map showing the BCE's proposed boundaries for the Broxtowe County Constituency is attached at appendix 2.

**Recommendation****The Committee is asked to:**

1. **NOTE** the proposed constituency arrangements for Broxtowe and the concerns relating to the proposed Parliamentary constituencies affecting Broxtowe.
2. **CONSIDER** alternative arrangements which could be put forward to the Boundary Commission, taking into account the need to address any knock on effects on the electorate figures of neighbouring constituencies and **RESOLVE** accordingly.

Background papers

Nil

**Review Process and Proposed Arrangements for Broxtowe****1. Review process**

The 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies was formally launched in January this year. The Commission is required to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal; in doing so, the number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543. The Commission is undertaking an independent review of all constituency boundaries in England and will present its final recommendations to Parliament by July 2023.

Comments of support or objection are invited on the proposals during an initial period of consultation until 2 August 2021. BCE recommends that objectors submit an alternative scheme in place of the BCE's proposal as a viable counterproposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection. Any counterproposal, however, would need to address any knock-on effects on the electorate figures of neighbouring constituencies.

The BCE will consider all written representations within a statutory eight-week period following which it will prepare and publish the representations received for each region. There will then be a further statutory six-week period during which comments can be submitted on the representations received during the initial consultation period. There is also the opportunity during this period to make representations at public hearings. Further information on hearings will be published on the BCE's web site in due course.

The BCE staff and Assistant Commissioners will consider all the written representations received in the initial consultation period, and all the written representations and oral representations made at public hearings in the secondary consultation period. They will then submit a report to the Commissioners, summarising and considering the representations, and recommending whether, and, if so, how, the initial proposals for a region should be revised in the light of those representations. The Commissioners will then determine whether and to what extent revisions should be made to their initial proposals. The BCE will publish a report for each region stating whether or not revisions have been made to the initial proposals for that region, together with all the written representations received during the six-week secondary consultation period.

If the proposals are revised, there will be a further period of four weeks for written representations to be made to the BCE on the revised proposals for a region. There are no public hearings at this stage, nor is there a repeat of the six-week period for commenting on the representations of others. Any representations received during the four-week consultation on revised proposals will be published alongside publication of the final report.

The BCE will take into consideration any written representations made in the four-week consultation period about the revised proposals, and then make its final decisions as to whether further modifications need to be made in light of those representations. When it has decided on its final recommendations for the whole of England, a formal written report will be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Commons who will submit to the Privy Council an Order giving effect to all four

Commissions’ recommendations. In drawing up that Order, the Government may not modify any of the Commissions’ recommendations, unless specifically requested to do so by the relevant Commission. After the Privy Council approves the Order, the new constituencies take effect at the next General Election.

2. Considerations for the review

The most important consideration for the review will be to ensure that every constituency has an electorate (as at 2 March 2020) which is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the ‘UK electoral quota’. The UK electoral quota for the 2023 Review is, to the nearest whole number, 73,393. Therefore, every recommended constituency must have an electorate as at 2 March 2020 between 69,724 and 77,062.

Other factors which can be taken into account include:

- special geographical considerations such as mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, estuaries, islands, and major roads, rather than to human or social geography., including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed (or were in prospect) on 1 December 2020;
- boundaries of existing constituencies; The BCE will have regard generally to existing constituencies as far as possible
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies; and
- the inconveniences attendant on such changes.

Factors which the BCE will not consider include:

- the impact on future election results;
- new local government boundaries (this does not apply to Broxtowe)
- changes to electorates after the review date

3. Proposals for Broxtowe

The BCE’s initial proposals for the new constituencies show two constituencies covering Broxtowe:

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Broxtowe Wards</b>
Broxtowe County Constituency Electorate: 72,461	Attenborough & Chilwell East Awworth, Cossall & Trowell Beeston Central Beeston North Beeston Rylands Beeston West Bramcote Brinsley Eastwood Hall Eastwood Hilltop Eastwood St Mary's Greasley Chilwell West Stapleford North Stapleford South East Stapleford South West Toton & Chilwell Meadows

Constituency	Broxtowe Wards
Nottingham North & Kimberley Constituency	Kimberley Nuthall East & Strelley Watnall & Nuthall West

There are some concerns regarding the proposals:

1. Confusion for voters

The BCE's proposals would mean that Broxtowe is covered by two different parliamentary constituencies to the current arrangement. This may cause confusion for some voters in the north of the borough who have voted in the Ashfield Constituency in the past and who would be part of the Broxtowe County Constituency. Voters in the Kimberley, Nuthall East and Strelley and Watnall and Nuthall West Wards who would previously have voted in Broxtowe, would, under the BCE's proposal, be part of the Nottingham North and Kimberley Constituency.

Cross boundary constituencies are an issue particularly in years where there is a combined election and voters have to deal with two different councils. This can be particularly confusing in respect of postal votes, when, under an agreement between the Nottinghamshire districts and County Council, these would be issued by Broxtowe, but might relate to the Nottingham North and Kimberley Constituency which is overseen by Nottingham City Council.

2. Local connections

The proposed arrangements appear to be based around the requirement to achieve electoral equality and do not take into account "any local ties which would be broken by changes in constituencies", one of the criteria which the Commission can consider in drawing up boundaries. The proposed Nottingham North and Kimberley Constituency comprises geographical areas which do not relate to each other - residents in Kimberley, Nuthall East and Strelley and Watnall and Nuthall West associate with Broxtowe and not Nottingham City and the facilities in those areas are used by residents in, for example, Greasley, which would be in the Broxtowe Constituency.

APPENDIX 2

