

Report of the Executive Director

REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES1. Purpose of report

To inform the Committee on the progress of the review of parliamentary constituency boundaries being carried out by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE).

2. Background

At its meeting on 19 July 2021 the Committee considered the arrangements for the review of parliamentary constituency boundaries currently taking place and a response to the BCE's proposals relating to Broxtowe. The comments submitted on behalf of Broxtowe Council are set out in Appendix 1. Other representations received during the first consultation period relating to the proposed Broxtowe Constituency are set out in Appendix 2. Full details are available at <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/search/comments>. There is now a further six-week consultation period from 22 February to 4 April 2022 during which time comments can be submitted on the representations submitted.

Recommendation

That the Committee CONSIDERS whether to support any of the representations received by the Boundary Commission during the first stage consultation as set out in Appendix 2 and RESOLVE accordingly.

Background papers: Nil

Comments submitted to the Boundary Commission during the first stage consultation

Broxtowe Borough Council wishes to make the following comments in respect of the proposed boundary for the Broxtowe Constituency:

1. Broxtowe is a distinct community and not simply an extension of Nottingham.
2. Broxtowe has never been one constituency for parliamentary purposes since the constituencies were redrawn in the 1970s.

The Council believes that:

1. each of Nuthall, Kimberley and Beeston are distinct communities in their own right, and that the boundaries of these are well understood.
2. residents in Beeston do not see themselves simply as a part of Nottingham, but rather as residents of Beeston.
3. as the whole of Broxtowe cannot form one Parliamentary Constituency it is preferable for entire communities to be in the same constituency.

The Council notes that the MP for Broxtowe has proposed an alternative arrangement whereby Kimberley and Nuthall are retained in the Broxtowe Constituency and that parts of Beeston are placed into the Nottingham South constituency.

Broxtowe Borough Council regrets that the rules on constituency size mean that it is unavoidable that part of Broxtowe Borough will not be in the Broxtowe Constituency.

The Council therefore supports in principle the proposed changes to the Broxtowe Constituency boundaries which have been proposed by the Boundary Commission and opposes any alternative proposal which would result in Beeston being split into two for parliamentary purposes.