



City of Westminster

General Purposes Committee

Date:	7 November 2012
Classification:	For General Release
Title:	Review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries by the Boundary Commission for England
Report of:	Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	Management of the Council
Financial Summary:	The cost of administering UK Parliamentary elections is met from the Government grant for administering these elections. Any cost applicable to making City Council representation at this review would need to be met from the appropriate budget
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission for England ('the Commission') is the independent public body that reviews all Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England every five years. The Commission is currently carrying out a review under new rules laid down by Parliament. This Review, which concludes in 2013, means substantial changes to Parliamentary constituencies in England: reducing the total number of constituencies from 533 to 502 in England and making sure that each constituency has similar numbers of registered electors. In almost all cases this has meant a redrawing of the existing constituency boundaries.
- 1.2 The London region has been allocated 68 constituencies- a reduction of five from the current arrangement.
- 1.3 Details of the revised proposals are set out in paragraph 3 of the report. The Committee is asked, based on these revised proposals, if it wishes to make any further representations at this further consultation stage including indicating its support for the proposals.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee consider whether further representation should be made by the City Council to the Commission.
- 2.2 That the Committee support the Commission's revised proposals.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Commission consulted on its initial proposals for a 12-week period from 13 September 2011 to 5 December 2011. The Commission published revised proposals for new constituency boundaries on 16 October 2012. This consultation marks the start of an eight week period of consultation on the revised proposals, ending on 10 December 2012.
- 3.2 The Statutory Rules are set out in Schedule 2 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). A précis of the Rules is attached as Appendix A.
- 3.3 The Rules include that – apart from four specified exceptions- every constituency **must** have an electorate (as at the review date) that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the 'UK electoral quota'. The UK electoral quota for the 2013 Review is, to the nearest whole number, 76,641. Accordingly, every constituency in England must have an electorate as at the review date that is no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473.
- 3.4 The Commission has revised 51 of the 68 constituencies it originally proposed in September 2011. It has revised its initial proposals to link the City of London with Islington, proposing instead to link it with the City of Westminster. Maintaining the historic constituency link between the two cities was an overarching objective of previous committees and maintaining the link received strong support from a large number of people and organisations.
- 3.5 The revised proposals include the following constituencies:

The Cities of London and Westminster constituency

The City of London with 12 Westminster wards

The City of London, Bayswater, Bryanston and Dorset Square, Churchill, Hyde Park, Lancaster Gate, Marylebone High Street, St James's, Tachbrook, Vincent Square, Warwick, West End, Westbourne

Kensington constituency

12 Kensington and Chelsea wards with 3 Westminster wards
Abingdon, Brompton, Campden, Colville, Golborne, Hans Town, Holland, Norland, Notting Barns, Pembridge, Queen's Gate, St Charles, Harrow Road (WCC), Knightsbridge & Belgravia (WCC), Queen's Park (WCC).

Camden Town and Regent's Park constituency

6 Camden wards with 5 Westminster wards

Camden Town with Primrose Hill, Cantelowes, Gospel Oak, Haverstock, Kentish Town, Regent's Park, Abbey Road (WCC), Church Street (WCC), Little Venice (WCC), Maida Vale (WCC), Regent's Park (WCC).

More details can be found on the BCE's website at www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

3.6 The City Council made representation agreed by the General Purposes Committee on 24 November 2011 to the Commission on 30 November 2011 (see Appendix B). The Commission's revised proposals are in large part the same as those made by the City Council. In terms of the three parliamentary constituencies which contain Westminster wards, the only differences between the Commission's revised proposals and the City Council's representation are that in Camden Town and Regent's Park constituency the Commission has included the Camden wards of Gospel Oak and Kentish Town and not the Camden wards of St Pancras and Somers Town and Belsize as proposed by the City Council.

3.7 The current parliamentary constituencies covering the City of Westminster are made up as follows:

(a) Cities of London and Westminster constituency:

Bryanston & Dorset Square
Churchill
Hyde Park
Knightsbridge & Belgravia
Marylebone High Street
St James's
Tachbrook
Vincent Square
Warwick
West End
and the City of London

(b) Westminster North constituency:

Abbey Road
Bayswater
Church Street
Harrow Road
Lancaster Gate
Little Venice
Maida Vale
Queen's Park
Regent's Park
Westbourne

3.8 The initial proposals made by the Commission, in respect of the City of Westminster, were as follows;

Camden and Regent's Park was comprised of four Westminster wards (Bryanston and Dorset Square, Church Street, Marylebone High Street, Regent's Park, plus seven London Borough of Camden wards. (The electorate is given as 79,897)

Paddington was comprised of nine Westminster wards (Abbey Road, Bayswater, Harrow Road, Hyde Park, Lancaster Gate, Little Venice, Maida Vale, Queen's Park, Westbourne) plus four Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea wards. (The electorate is given as 80,251)

Westminster and Kensington was comprised of seven Westminster wards (Churchill, Knightsbridge and Belgravia, St James's, Tachbrook, Vincent Square, Warwick , West End) plus eight Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea wards (The electorate is given as 78,616).

- 3.9 A report was presented to the General Purposes Committee on 18 October 2011 (see Appendix C). It was agreed at that meeting that officers should work up options to present to a meeting of the General Purposes Urgency Sub Committee on 24 November 2011. A report was presented (see Appendix D) which delivered four possible options (Appendix E –H). The Committee agreed that Appendix H (in the report of 24 November 2011 described as option 2 (c)- Appendix 4) should be the proposal that the City Council made to the Commission.

4. Administrative Implications for Westminster City Council

- 4.1 Under the revised proposals Westminster City Council leads on the Cities of London and Westminster constituency and Kensington and Chelsea leads on the Kensington constituency and Camden leads on the Camden Town and Regent's Park constituency

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The cost of administering UK Parliamentary elections is met from the Government grant for administering these elections. Any cost applicable to making City Council representation at this review would need to be met from the appropriate budget.

Background Papers:

1. Appendix A- Commission Rules of the review
2. Appendix B- City Council representation to the Commission, dated 30 November 2011
3. Appendix C- Report to General Purposes Committee dated 18 October 2011.
4. Appendix D- Report to General Purposes Urgency Sub Committee dated 24 November 2011
5. Appendix E-Appendix 1 option in the report of 24 November 2011
6. Appendix F- Appendix 2 option in the report of 24 November 2011
7. Appendix G- Appendix 3 option in the report of 24 November 2011
8. Appendix H- Appendix 4 option in the report of 24 November 2011 (The City Council representation proposal to the Commission).

Background Information

**If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect any of the
Background Papers, please contact
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