

DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	17 OCTOBER 2016	8
2018 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The Boundary Commission for England has published its Initial Proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries, which would become effective at the next general election, expected to be in 2020. The proposals transfer Kilnhouse and St Leonard's wards from the Fylde constituency to Blackpool South and Poulton-le-Fylde from Wyre and Preston North to Fylde.

The proposals are open to public consultation until December 5. Council is asked whether it wishes to make representations

RECOMMENDATION

1. Consider whether to make any representations on the Boundary Commission's initial proposals.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Finance and Democracy Committee, 26 September 2016: Resolved that Fylde's response to the consultation would be debated at a meeting of Council.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	

REPORT

1. The Boundary Commission for England has published its [Initial Proposals](#) for new constituency boundaries. If adopted, the changed constituencies would become effective at the 2020 general election. The proposals and maps for the nine English regions have been published on the Commission website. The 12-week public consultation period has commenced. This is the

opportunity for the public and interested bodies to give the Commission their views on the proposals.

2. The proposals have a significant impact on the parliamentary representation of the Fylde district. Presently, the whole of the council’s district is within the Fylde parliamentary constituency, which also includes the Lea area of Preston. The Commission (in paragraph 33 on page 14 of the proposals document) proposes the following:

“On the Fylde, we noted that the electorates of both Blackpool constituencies were very low and that both needed additional wards to increase their electorates to within the electoral quota. We propose that the Blackpool North constituency extend northwards to the mouth of the estuary of the River Lune and include the towns of Fleetwood and Thornton. In the north-east of the proposed constituency, the River Wyre would form a physical boundary between it and our proposed Fylde constituency. We propose that the Blackpool South constituency be extended both northwards and southwards, with the inclusion of the St. Leonard’s and Kilnhouse wards around Blackpool Airport. We considered that this allowed the town of Lytham St. Anne’s to remain largely undivided in our reconfigured Fylde constituency, which, in order to increase its electorate to achieve the electoral quota, also includes the town of Poulton-le-Fylde.”

3. The proposals would therefore include some Fylde electors in the parliamentary constituency of Blackpool South, rather than in Fylde, as at present.
4. The initial proposals will subject to public consultation until 5 December. Representations can be made in writing (via a dedicated website, www.bce2018.org.uk) or at any of a series of five public hearings to be held during October.
5. Finance and Democracy Committee considered the proposals at their meeting on 26 September and resolved to have Fylde’s response to the consultation debated at a meeting of the council.
6. The Commission reminds anyone making representations to bear in mind the tight constraints place upon the Commission by rules set by Parliament and the need for any counter-proposals to take account of knock-on effects in neighbouring areas (see generally pages 23-25 of the proposals document). This means that, should the council decide to make representations about any of the proposed changes to the Fylde constituency, those representations will carry considerably more weight if they also contain proposals that will offset the loss or gain of electors from the proposed Fylde constituency.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	The Boundary Commission is required to produce proposals for constituencies having between 70,031 and 78,507 electors. The Commission has determined that the North West region should have 68 constituencies. Any alternative proposals would have to fit within these constraints.
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Initial Proposals for Constituency Boundaries in the North West	September 2016	www.bce2018.org.uk/node/6487 or Town Hall, St Annes Road West, Lytham St Annes
Guide to the 2018 review of Parliamentary Constituencies	July 2018	via www.bce2018.org or Town Hall, St Annes Road West, Lytham St Annes