

REPORT TO ALL MEMBER WORKING GROUP PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW



Report Reference	C-20-09
Meeting Date	5 th July 2021
Agenda Item	12
Prepared by	Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is currently consulting on proposed parliamentary boundary changes for constituencies across England as part of the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies. This is entirely separate and unrelated to the local government boundaries and does not affect the boundaries of Cheshire East Council or its wards nor any parishes.

BCE had been undertaking work a 2018 review which would have reduced the total number of constituencies in across the UK from 650 to 600. This direction from government was changed and the current review does not propose a reduction in the number of seats.

Under previous proposals (which the Town Council made representations on in 2016 and 2017) the Tatton constituency was to be abolished and replaced with a new cross-county constituency of 'Altrincham and Tatton Park'. In the second round of consultations the name was changed to 'Altrincham and Knutsford'.

The Town Council's submissions to the previous reviews had been:

- a) The new constituency should include Knutsford within the name
- b) Knutsford should not be in a cross-county constituency
- c) The wards of Knutsford, Mobberley, High Legh and Chelford should be kept together within a constituency

2.0 NEW PROPOSALS

The 2023 review will reduce the number of North West constituencies from 75 to 73. Each constituency created through the review must contain between 69,724 and 77,062 electors (as at 2nd March 2020) and the review aims to have regard to local ties, geographic factors, local government boundaries, existing constituencies, and minimising disruption caused by proposed change.

Under the 2023 review, it is proposed that the Tatton constituency is retained with minor boundary changes which remove the Cheshire West wards of Marbury, Shakerley and Rudheath from Tatton and add the Dane Valley ward in Cheshire East (Holmes Chapel) and the Lymm North & Thelwall and Lymm South wards in Warrington.

3.0 DIRECTION REQUIRED

Direction is sought from members on a submission to the consultation on the proposed changes.

The new proposed constituency meets two of the council's previous requirements; Knutsford is not in a cross-county ward and it is grouped with the Mobberley, High Legh and Chelford wards.

The constituency retains the existing name of Tatton. The BCE policy for naming constituencies is that when there is little change to a constituency the name should remain and that it shall only be altered where there is good reason for a change. Whilst a name should normally reflect the main population centres, it is unlikely that a name comprising the three towns (Wilmslow, Knutsford and Lymm) would be supported.