

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CULTURE AND TOURISM** held on 11 December 2017 at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Cabinet Member – Councillor B Lewis

**23/17**      **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

**24/17**      **BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND REVISED PROPOSALS FOR NEW 2018 PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES** (The Cabinet Member agreed to the consideration of this report as an urgent item due to the imminent consultation deadline). In February 2016, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) announced the start of a review of the Parliamentary Constituencies in England. The BCE held a 12 week consultation on its initial proposals from this review which were published in September 2016. BCE published all the comments they received from this consultation and held a second consultation exercise in March 2017. They had now completed the next stage of the review and published their revised proposals. Consultation on these revised proposals was open until 11 December 2017.

The East Midlands currently consisted of 46 constituencies but the BCE were proposing to reduce this to 44. Proposals resulted in eight of the existing 46 constituencies remaining unchanged. The proposals for Derbyshire and the City of Derby were as follows:-

The existing Amber Valley constituency boundary had been extended to include the Amber Valley ward of Duffield, the Erewash borough wards of West Hallam & Dale Abbey and Little Eaton & Stanley and also the Derby City ward of Allestree which were all part of Mid Derbyshire constituency. The wards of Alfreton, Somercotes and Swanwick which were in Amber Valley constituency had been transferred into Bolsover constituency.

The Bolsover constituency required additional electors to meet the electoral threshold and was therefore reconfigured in the proposals. The BCE proposed that the constituency would include all of Bolsover district and also the Chesterfield borough ward of Lowgates & Woodthorpe, which was in the North East Derbyshire constituency. It would also extend into Amber Valley

district to include the wards of Alfreton, Somercotes and Swanwick, which were part of Amber Valley constituency.

Although the existing Chesterfield constituency did not need to be changed, with an electorate of 71,297, it was proposed that the ward of Barrow Hill and New Whittington from the existing North East Derbyshire constituency be included in the Chesterfield constituency.

The electorate of the existing Derbyshire Dales constituency, which already covered a large geographical extent, was very low at 60,909 and had to gain further electors in order to meet the electoral range. The BCE revised proposals suggested that the four wards covering the town of Belper (i.e. Belper Central, North, South and East), which were in Mid Derbyshire, be included in the Derbyshire Dales constituency in order to meet the electorate requirements.

The electorate of the existing Erewash constituency needed to increase and this had been achieved by the proposed inclusion of just one ward (Ockbrook & Borrowash) from the existing Mid Derbyshire constituency.

The electorate of the Pennine constituency of High Peak at 71,130 was just within the permitted range and so it was proposed by BCE that it remained wholly unchanged as suggested in their initial proposals.

North East Derbyshire – the boundary had been revised so it was now proposed that it followed the North East Derbyshire District Council boundary. The North East Derbyshire district wards of Shirland and Pilsley & Morton would be transferred into the constituency from the current Bolsover constituency. The current North East Derbyshire constituency included the Chesterfield Borough wards of Lowgates & Staveley, which the BCE were proposing be included in the revised Chesterfield constituency, and the ward of Barrow Hill & New Whittington which would be transferred to the revised Bolsover constituency.

The current South Derbyshire parliamentary constituency followed the South Derbyshire district boundary. It was proposed by BCE that the revised South Derbyshire constituency covered all of South Derbyshire district except Aston ward which would be part of the new Derby East constituency. The Derby City ward of Mickleover which was in the current Derby North constituency would be included in the revised South Derbyshire constituency.

A full list of the ten proposed constituencies and wards were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. A map showing the existing constituency boundaries was included in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 included a map showing the BCE revised proposals.

The BCE had clearly sought to improve on proposals set out in the first round of consultation. Specifically the BCE had generally avoided the splitting of communities and parishes, which was of concern particularly for communities such as Dronfield, and opposed by a number of respondents to the last consultation.

The revised proposals also better aligned with the existing constituencies and better reflected district Council boundaries, for example North East Derbyshire which was now coterminous. Proposals made for a more simple and straightforward configuration across Derbyshire, which should ensure that local elected representation was more easily understood by local residents. Unlike previous proposals published by the BCE as part of the first round of consultation, current proposals did appear to generally better reflect local community and district boundaries and as such proposals should be broadly welcomed.

**RESOLVED** that (1) the contents of the report and the Boundary Commission for England's (BCE) revised proposals for Parliamentary Constituency boundaries for Derbyshire be noted;

(2) the comments highlighted in the report formed the basis of the Council's response to the BCE's consultation process; and

(3) further reports on progress be brought to a future Cabinet Member meeting once final BCE proposals had been published.