

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL DEMOCRACY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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Report Title Parliamentary Boundary Review 2023

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Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO (for West and joint papers)	Catherine Whitehead	24 th May 2022 – email confirmation received.
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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Maps of proposed boundaries for each West Northamptonshire Constituency.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To notify the committee of the Parliamentary Boundary Review 2023 which is being carried out by the Boundary Commission for England and to give an up to date position.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is presently carrying out a Parliamentary Boundary Review of all Parliamentary Constituencies and their boundaries in England. This report is to give an update to Members on the background of the review along with an update as to its progress.

2.2 The Parliamentary review is a separate review to the West Northamptonshire Boundary Review currently being conducted by the Local Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Note the information contained in this report on the Parliamentary Boundary Review 2023.

4. Reason for Recommendations (NOTE: this section is mandatory and must be completed)

- *To ensure that the Members of West Northamptonshire Council are up to date and familiar with the information regarding the Parliamentary Boundary Review 2023.*

5. Report Background

5.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial public body responsible for determining and reviewing parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

5.2 A review of parliamentary constituencies is taking place to ensure each constituency has roughly the same number of electors. The Commission is required by law to make sure that each constituency in England has between 69,724 and 77,062 electors.

5.3 Due to population changes, the number of people currently registered to vote in some constituencies is much higher than in others. The 2023 Boundary Review aims to rebalance the number of electors represented by each MP.

5.4 It is an important process and one which requires considering change to the existing map of constituencies. The Commission is tasked with redrawing the map of constituencies in England so that it represents local communities in the best way possible, while keeping to the legal requirements outlined above. The Commission use local government wards as the building blocks for the proposed constituencies, but would consider splitting a ward where there is a strong case for doing so that helps them respect factors such as local ties, geographic factors and existing constituencies.

6. Issues and Choices

6.1 There are presently four constituencies within West Northamptonshire: Northampton North, Northampton South, Daventry and South Northamptonshire. Maps of the proposals are shown at Appendix 1 and an interactive version can be found at the link below: [East Midlands | BCE Consultation Portal \(bcereviews.org.uk\)](https://www.bcereviews.org.uk).

- 6.2 The electorate figures were taken from the December 2020 published register of electors and the figures for each constituency then were:
- Daventry – 71,157
 - Northampton North – 58,013
 - Northampton South – 60,792
 - South Northamptonshire – 89,396
- 6.3 If the proposals consulted on come into effect, then the electorate numbers would change to:
- Daventry – 76,539
 - Northampton North – 71,214
 - Northampton South – 76,011
 - South Northamptonshire – 76,555
- 6.4 The initial consultation with the public ran from 8th June to 8th August 2021 and the comments received by the BCE are shown on the web site within the map at the following link: [East Midlands | BCE Consultation Portal \(bcereviews.org.uk\)](https://bcereviews.org.uk).
- 6.5 The second consultation ran from 22nd February to 4th April 2022 where feedback from the public was sought for the electoral boundaries and also the Commission’s suggestions for new constituency names.
- 6.6 Public hearings were held in Northampton on 14th and 15th March where members of the public could book a 10 minute slot to speak on their reactions to the proposals.
- 6.7 Now that the second consultation has closed, the Commission will analyse every representation made during both consultations. They will then produce a report deciding whether the initial proposals should change and provide details on any suggested changes. Alongside this report, they will publish all written representations received during the secondary consultation, as well as the transcripts from public hearings.
- 6.8 If the proposals change, they will hold a further four week consultation on the revised proposals inviting comments. There will be no public hearings at that stage. Those comments will be published along with the Commission’s final report, which will be sent to Parliament by July 2023 and subsequently made into law.
- 6.9 Further documentation and counter-proposals can be found here: [East Midlands | BCE Consultation Portal \(bcereviews.org.uk\)](https://bcereviews.org.uk)

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1** There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals for West Northamptonshire Council.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 Consultations have been carried out by the Boundary Commission for England and did not directly involve West Northamptonshire.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 There were no comments received by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to this report and its recommendations.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 There are no climate/environmental impacts relating to this report.

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 There are no community impacts relating to this report.

7.8 Communications

7.8.1 No recommendations were made from the Communication Team, although they were involved with communicating information to the public from the Boundary Commission for England.

8 Background Papers

8.1 There are no background papers.