

**COUNCIL  
25 JUNE 2003**

---

**REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARIES  
(Acting Director of Corporate Services – Legal)**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission for England has recently completed and published its review of Parliamentary constituencies for Berkshire. A one month period of public consultation commenced on 19 June 2003. Accordingly, any objections have to be lodged with the Boundary Commission by 19 July 2003.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **That a special Committee (“the Parliamentary Boundaries Review Committee”) of 7 Members be appointed (6 Conservative, 1 Labour) to consider the proposals of the Boundary Commission for the review of Parliamentary boundaries in Berkshire and to formulate representations to the Boundary Commission on behalf of the Council.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To enable a decision to be made, within the period allowed for public consultation by the Boundary Commission, as to whether the Council wishes to make any representations on the proposed alterations to Parliamentary boundaries and if so what those representations should be.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 None

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (“the Act”) requires the Boundary Commission to conduct a general review of all the constituencies in England every eight to twelve years. The current review has to be completed between April 2003 and April 2007.
- 5.2 The Act sets out the criteria which the Boundary Commission is to apply in conducting a review. Essentially, those criteria are:
- so far as practicable constituencies should not cross County boundaries (N.B. the areas of the individual Berkshire Unitary Authorities are **not** Counties)

- the electorate of any constituency shall be as near the electoral quota (total electorate divided by the number of Parliamentary constituencies) as practical
- the two criteria referred to above may be departed from “if special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency, appear [to the Boundary Commission] to render a departure desirable”
- the Boundary Commission can take account of inconveniences and local ties which would be broken by an alteration of Parliamentary boundaries which would arise from applying the foregoing criteria

5.3 The existing Parliamentary boundaries have electorates of significant disparity (Maidenhead being the smallest and Bracknell being the largest). To reduce the size of the Bracknell constituency the Boundary Commission propose that the Wards of Binfield with Warfield, Harvest Ride and Winkfield and Cranbourne should fall within the Windsor constituency.

5.4 If the Council (or any of the other Unitary Authorities or one hundred electors) should object to the proposals then a Public Inquiry has to be held. Mere bald objections are likely to carry less weight than objections putting forward alternative proposals.

## **6 ADVICE OF STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

6.1 The advice of the Borough Solicitor has been incorporated into this report.

### Borough Finance Officer

6.2 Nothing to add to the report.

### Access Implications

6.3 None

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 None

### Background Papers

News Release dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 2003 issued by the Boundary Commission for England.

### Contact for Further Information

Alex Jack (01344 355679)

[Alex.Jack@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:Alex.Jack@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

Daphne Gray (01344 352024)

[Daphne.Gray@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:Daphne.Gray@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

Doc Ref:  
aj(f)reports/Council  
Review of Parliamentary Boundaries