



Doncaster Council

Report

To the Chair and Members of the ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

2023 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On the 8 June 2021 the independent Boundary Commission for England released their initial proposals for new constituency boundaries using data from the Parliamentary Electorate as of the 2 March 2020. There is an 8 week consultation (8 June to 2 August 2021) on the initial proposals during which anyone can view and comment on them. This is the first of three rounds of consultation before recommendations for new Parliamentary boundaries are presented to Parliament in July 2023.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. N/A

RECOMMENDATION

3. The Committee is asked to note the report for information. Any comments or recommendations are to be made to the Boundary Commission for England direct using their online portal: www.bcereviews.org.uk

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The initial proposals as they stand mean that some Doncaster wards will move from one Doncaster Constituency into a different Doncaster constituency. Some Doncaster residents could have significant changes by no longer having a Doncaster Member of Parliament and sharing a Rotherham MP that will cover wards between Rotherham and Doncaster and some will share a Doncaster MP with wards within North Lincolnshire.

BACKGROUND

5. The Boundary Commission for England has the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England.

They are currently conducting a review on the basis of rules most recently updated by Parliament in 2020. These latest rules retain 650 constituencies for the UK Parliament as a whole, and require constituencies that they propose or recommend to comply with strict parameters. In particular, the Commission is required to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal; in doing so, the number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543. Accordingly, every recommended constituency must have an electorate as at 2 March 2020 that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062.

6. The Parliamentary Electorate as of the 2 March 2020 was used to prepare the boundary commissions proposals. Ordinarily, the boundary review would have used statistics relating to the regular 1 December reference date but in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Parliamentary Constituencies Bill has been amended to allow the independent boundary review to be based on verified versions of electoral registers from 2 March 2020 and not from 1 December 2020. This removes any risk of using data potentially affected by the impacts of the coronavirus and ensuring the review is based on the most accurate reflection of the UK electorate available.
7. Parliamentary Boundary Commissions are an 'arms length' public body. This means they are 'sponsored' by a UK Government department (Cabinet Office). However, Government Ministers and officials have no direct input or control over the substantive work of the Commissioners in the reviewing of constituencies and development of proposals and recommendations for change: decisions on those matters are taken by the independent Commissioners, working within a legislative framework of rules established by Parliament. The Chair of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons, but by convention he or she does not participate in the conduct of a constituencies review or formulation of the Commission's recommendations. The Deputy Chair therefore, leads the Commission in the conduct of the review. The Deputy Chair must be a serving Judge of the High Court, and is selected and appointed by the Lord Chancellor. The Deputy Chair is supported by two other Commissioners, whose appointments are made following an open public appointments selection process.
8. Members of the public are encouraged to visit www.bcereviews.org.uk to view maps showing the proposed new boundaries and provide feedback before the consultation closes on 2 August 2021. People can comment on anything from where the proposed new boundary lines are to the names of the constituencies. There will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2022. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the Commission will look at all the evidence received before forming its final recommendations. The Returning Officer will be making a response about operational issues arising from the proposed changes but Councillors and/or political parties should make their own representations if they wish to do so.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR DONCASTER

9. Accordingly, every recommended constituency must have an electorate as at 2 March 2020 that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062.

10. On 2 March 2020 Doncaster's three Parliamentary Constituency Electorates were all within the requirement size as follows:

Current Constituency	2 March 2020 Electorate
Don Valley	75,425
Doncaster Central	71,228
Doncaster North	72,355

11. The Boundary Commissions proposals mean that Doncaster will still have three constituencies, however one will no longer only contain Doncaster wards and we will take in three wards from North Lincolnshire, Axholme Central, North and South (18,416 electors), this means those three wards would have a Doncaster Constituency/MP to now cover that area and we would receive ballot papers from North Lincolnshire Council for those three wards when a parliamentary election takes place. North Lincolnshire Council will have responsibility of verifying both postal votes and polling station ballot papers before delivering them to Doncaster's (Acting) Returning Officer. This will likely cause time implications for the counting of votes and declaration of results due to the length of time it may take North Lincolnshire Council to verify and then transport those ballot papers from their Count venue to Doncasters.
12. Two Doncaster wards Conisbrough and Edlington & Warmsworth (20,565 electors) will be given to Rotherham and those two wards would have a Rotherham MP, we would therefore provide ballot papers to Rotherham council from those wards when a parliamentary election takes place but Doncaster would have responsibility to verify both Postal Vote and Polling Station ballot papers before delivering them to Rotherham's (Acting) Returning Officer.
13. Below is a breakdown of the proposals for the three Doncaster constituencies and Rotherham Councils constituency to include two Doncaster wards:
14. **Doncaster East and Axholme CC** (*proposed constituency name*)
- In Humberside and South Yorkshire they have changed a constituency that crosses the county boundary which is Doncaster and North Lincolnshire by combining the Isle of Axholme area of North Lincolnshire unitary authority with wards from the east of the Borough of Doncaster.
 - The Thorne & Moorends ward is currently divided between the existing Doncaster North and Don Valley constituencies, and they propose this ward be included wholly within the proposed Doncaster East and Axholme constituency:

Doncaster East and Axholme CC		Electorate: 70,113
Finningley	Doncaster	13,806
Hatfield	Doncaster	11,576
Rossington & Bawtry	Doncaster	13,549
Thorne & Moorends	Doncaster	12,766
Axholme Central	North Lincolnshire	6,077
Axholme North	North Lincolnshire	6,436
Axholme South	North Lincolnshire	5,903

15. **Doncaster North CC** (*proposed constituency name*)

- The Stainforth & Barnby Dun ward is currently divided between constituencies and they propose that the existing Doncaster North constituency boundary be realigned to follow the ward boundaries, and include the whole of the Stainforth & Barnby Dun ward.

Doncaster North CC		Electorate: 71,739
Adwick le Street & Carcroft	Doncaster	11,505
Bentley	Doncaster	12,442
Mexborough	Doncaster	11,438
Norton & Askern	Doncaster	11,524
Roman Ridge	Doncaster	8,565
Sprotbrough	Doncaster	8,992
Stainforth & Barnby Dun	Doncaster	7,273

16. **Doncaster Town CC** (*proposed constituency name*)

- They propose a Doncaster Town constituency that resembles the existing Doncaster Central constituency but without any part of the Stainforth & Barnby Dun ward.
- The proposal also contains all of the Tickhill & Wadworth ward to the south, which is currently divided between constituencies.

Doncaster Town CC		Electorate: 75,007
Armthorpe	Doncaster	10,475
Balby South	Doncaster	6,813
Bessacarr	Doncaster	11,476
Edenthorpe & Kirk Sandall	Doncaster	7,937
Hexthorpe & Balby North	Doncaster	6,679
Tickhill & Wadworth	Doncaster	8,823
Town	Doncaster	11,001
Wheatley Hills & Intake	Doncaster	11,803

17. **Rotherham**

Rawmarsh and Conisbrough CC (*proposed constituency name*)

- They propose to group the remaining Borough of Doncaster wards (Conisbrough, and Edlington & Warmsworth) with the Borough of Rotherham wards to a Rotherham Constituency and propose the constituency be called Rawmarsh and Conisbrough:

Rawmarsh and Conisbrough CC		Electorate: 70,272
Conisbrough	Doncaster	12,240
Edlington & Warmsworth	Doncaster	8,325
Bramley & Ravenfield	Rotherham	7,207
Hooper	Rotherham	9,504
Kilnhurst & Swinton East	Rotherham	6,204
Rawmarsh East	Rotherham	6,879
Rawmarsh West	Rotherham	6,880
Swinton Rockingham	Rotherham	6,336
Swinton Rockingham	Rotherham	6,697

THE FULL REVIEW

18. For further information and to view the Boundary Commissions initial proposals and maps for the constituency boundaries:

Yorkshire and the Humber region visit:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/yorkshire-and-the-humber/>

Background information and full proposals visit:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk>

There are also paper copies of the documents and maps available for public inspection in the Civic Office one stop shop reception, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU.

HAVE YOUR SAY

19. The Boundary Commission are promoting and encouraging the use of a specifically-designed consultation website as the primary tool for displaying these proposals, and receiving comments on them to help them shape the new constituencies. Any comments or recommendations on these initial proposals are to be made between 8 June to 2 August 2021 to the Boundary Commission for England direct using this link: www.bcereviews.org.uk
20. You can also follow the Boundary Commission on their social media channels, [@BCEReviews](https://twitter.com/BCEReviews) on Twitter and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BCEReviews

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

21. All of the above are statutory requirements of the Boundary Commission. This report is primarily for information only, any comments or recommendations are to be made to the Boundary Commission for England direct using their online portal: www.bcereviews.org.uk

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

22.

Outcomes	Implications
<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better access to good fulfilling work• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish• Inward Investment	
<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough</p>	

<p>that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	
<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	
<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	
<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

23. The Council has a duty to ensure that the final approved Parliamentary Boundaries are successfully implemented. Should these initial proposals be approved, close working relationships between electoral services teams for Doncaster, Rotherham and North Lincolnshire will be needed to administer the Parliamentary Elections in order to ensure that all three (Acting) Returning Officers comply with their legal duties detailed above.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: SRF Date: 01/07/2021]

24. There are comprehensive statutory provisions covering the delivery of Boundary changes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: PH Date: 01/07/2021]

25. At this stage it is unknown if there will be any financial implications for Doncaster Council. Any costs should be managed within the registration of electors budget on cost centre NC003. Any budget pressure that may arise as a result should be identified as soon as possible.
26. Parliamentary Boundary Commissions are 'arms length' public bodies. This means they are 'sponsored' by a UK Government department (Cabinet Office), but are outside of direct Ministerial control. The sponsor department provides funding and other resources (staff, accommodation, IT infrastructure, and often other 'back office' support), and monitors that those resources are being utilised appropriately and efficiently

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

27. Human Resources implications have not been requested.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

28. Technology implications have not been requested.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

29. Health implications have not been requested.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: TB Date 30/06/2021]

30. The Council has a duty to ensure that the final approved Parliamentary Boundaries are successfully completed to ensure eligible electors are able to freely vote in the correct constituencies ensuring freedom of expression and political debate by exercising their vote.

CONSULTATION

31. N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

32. <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk>

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