



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 22 November 2022

To: The Chair and Members of the

ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

Report Title: 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review Proposals

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision?
Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources	All	No

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. Since then there have been two rounds of statutory consultation to which there have been over 45,000 responses overall. The Boundary Commission have now considered those comments received and taken them into account in developing their revised proposals which are now published for final consultation with the public for four weeks from 8 November to 5 December 2022. This report provides an update on what the proposals mean for Doncaster and the changes made since their initial proposal.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Committee is asked to note the report for information. Any feedback or comments are to be made to the Boundary Commission for England direct using their online portal: www.bcereviews.org.uk by the consultation deadline of 5 December 2022.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. These 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 moving to 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. 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.
7. 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 5 December 2022. This will be the final chance for public to give their views on the proposals. After this final consultation closes, the Commission will analyse the responses and form its final recommendations, which will be submitted to Parliament by 1 July 2023.

The Revised Proposals

8. There have been no changes to the initial proposals to form a cross-county boundary constituency of Doncaster East and Axholme; the 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 (18,416 electors), this means their three wards would be in 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. Another Constituency will see two Doncaster wards (20,565 electors) given to Rotherham and those two wards would be in a Rotherham Constituency/MP, we would therefore provide ballot papers to Rotherham council from those wards when a parliamentary election takes place. This is nothing new for some Councils however, Doncaster has been fortunate to hold three wholly Doncaster constituencies in the past.
9. Page 13 of the revised proposals report at 3.18 breaks down the proposals and the feedback and counter proposals already received and the reason for the Assistant Commissioners not making any further changes to their initial proposals for Doncaster.
10. Below is a breakdown of the proposals for the three Doncaster constituencies:

Doncaster Central CC *(proposed constituency name)*

- The name has changed back to the original current name of 'Doncaster Central' from the proposed 'Doncaster Town' due to Doncaster receiving City status.
- It resembles the current existing Doncaster Central constituency but without any part of the Stainforth & Barnby Dun ward.
- The proposal also contains all of the Tickhill & Wadworth ward, which is currently divided between constituencies.

Doncaster Central CC		
Ward	Local Authority	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

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 current existing Doncaster North and Don Valley constituencies, and they propose this ward now be included wholly within the proposed Doncaster East and Axholme constituency:

Doncaster East and Axholme CC		
Ward	Local Authority	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

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		
Ward	Local Authority	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

11. Two Doncaster wards; Conisbrough and Edlington & Warmsworth (20,565 electors) will move into a Rotherham Council constituency with a Rotherham Member of Parliament, we would therefore provide ballot papers to Rotherham council for those wards when a parliamentary election takes place:

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 form a Rotherham Constituency and propose the constituency be called Rawmarsh and Conisbrough.

Rawmarsh and Conisbrough CC		
Ward	Local Authority	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
Wath	Rotherham	6,697

Have Your Say

12. 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 Final proposals are to be made between 8 November to 5 December 2022 to the Boundary Commission for England direct using this link:
<https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>
13. You can also follow the Boundary Commission on their social media channels, [@BCEReviews](#) on Twitter and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BCEReviews

OPTIONS CONSIDERED



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

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

15. This report is primary for information only.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

16.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments:				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓

Comments:				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments:				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
Comments:				
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs				✓
Comments:				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓
Comments:				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				✓
Comments:				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments:				
Fair & Inclusive	✓			
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.				

Legal Implications [Officer Initials: SRF | Date: 11/11/2022]

17. There are comprehensive statutory provisions covering the delivery of Boundary Changes. Significant changes were most recently made to the law governing Parliamentary constituency reviews by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 and the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011. Both have a major impact on the way a review operates. Furthermore, as neither of the constituency reviews conducted since the 2011 Act resulted in new constituencies being implemented, the 2023 Review is likely to result in a significant degree of change to a large number of existing constituencies, if for no other reason than the need to adjust for 20 years of change to the distribution of electors since the data on which the existing constituencies are based was established.

Financial Implications [Officer Initials: PH | Date: 10/11/2022]

18. 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 with a further report required to identify funding.
19. 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

20. Human Resources implications have not been requested for this report.

Technology Implications

21. Technology Implications have not been requested for this report.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

22. 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.

CONSULTATION

23. There is a 4 week public consultation (8 November to 5 December 2022) on these final proposals during which anyone can view and comment on their

revised proposals, this will be the final chance for public to give their views on the proposals. After this final consultation closes on 5 December, the Commission will analyse the responses and form its final recommendations, which should be provided to Parliament (and published) by 1 July 2023.

24. It will then be for the Government to prepare a consolidate statutory instrument to implement the new constituencies for the whole UK – which should be provided to the privy Council for approval within four months of the Government receiving the last report of the four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions for the UK.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

26. Not applicable

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Trina Barber, Electoral Services Manager
Legal & Democratic Services

Tel: 01302 734398 E-mail: trina.barber@doncaster.gov.uk

Damian Allen

Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer