

**PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEWS – CONSULTATION PAPER
(Report by the Director of Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides details of a consultation paper produced by the Electoral Commission on their evaluation of how periodic electoral reviews are undertaken. It evaluates the policies and processes used to guide electoral reviews in England.
- 1.2 The overall aims are to look at changes to the way any future electoral reviews might be conducted, develop guidance for the Boundary Committee for England on the way reviews should be carried out and consider whether any changes to the law should be recommended to central government.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Reproduced as an Appendix to this report is the consultation paper produced by the Electoral Commission which is seeking views on how the statutory criteria for electoral reviews – community identity, electoral equality and effective and convenient local government – have been applied and if they can be improved. The Commission is also considering possible changes to the review processes and reviewing the timing and frequency of periodic electoral reviews.
- 2.2 The deadline for responses to the consultation paper is 25th November 2005 and the Electoral Commission has invited responses by way of 14 questions as set out in the Appendix. There may also be other issues on which Members may wish to express views.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Following the consultation period, the Electoral Commission intends to produce revised Guidance to the Boundary Committee for England on periodic electoral reviews.
- 3.2 The Panel is recommended to consider its responses to the questions contained in the consultation paper produced by the Electoral Commission.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Consultation Paper by the Electoral Commission on Periodic Electoral Reviews – September 2005

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