

**REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE
AND PETERBOROUGH
(Report by the Executive Director of Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission for England (the "Commission") has programmed a review of parliamentary constituencies in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the proposals for changes to existing constituencies covered by the counties of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 18th September 2003 the Boundary Commission published provisional recommendations for changes to all seven existing constituencies in the area covered by the counties of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Commission is required under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992 to conduct a general review of all of the constituencies in England every eight to twelve years. The Commission completed their previous general review on 12th April 1995 and are required to complete the current review after 11th April 2003 and before 12th April 2007.
- 2.2 Following the Periodic Electoral Review by the Boundary Committee for England, new District Wards in Huntingdonshire will come into operation on 10th June 2004. Four of the new wards are divided between the existing constituencies. **The Commission do not divide wards between constituencies and their proposals for Huntingdonshire will realign the constituency boundaries with the new ward boundaries, so that all wards are placed wholly within constituencies.**

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The Boundary Commission has produced provisional recommendations for parliamentary constituencies in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A copy of the notice published in local newspapers and news release outlining the Commission's proposals has been attached at Annex A.
- 3.2 The Boundary Commission has requested comments on its proposals by 31st October 2003. In particular, the Commission has requested representations to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission's proposals and to outline reasons for approval or objection.

4. PROPOSALS FOR HUNTINGDONSHIRE

- 4.1 As a result of the Periodic Electoral Review of Huntingdonshire, the Commission has determined that the constituency boundaries should be realigned with the District Ward boundaries.
- 4.2 In respect of Huntingdonshire, the new District Wards of Earith, Sawtry and Upwood and the Raveleys are currently divided between the Huntingdon Constituency and North West Cambridgeshire Constituency. The Commission propose that these Wards should be transferred to the North West Cambridgeshire Constituency. The Commission further propose that the District Ward of Ellington should also be transferred to the North West Cambridgeshire Constituency. These changes will produce a North West Cambridgeshire Constituency electorate of 73,648 and a reduction of the Huntingdon Constituency Electorate from 79,551 to 74,724. Maps of the new District Ward boundaries, with the existing constituency boundaries and proposed new constituency boundaries for Huntingdonshire have been detailed at Annex B.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The consultation period by the Boundary Commission commenced on 18th September 2003 and the closing date for submissions to the Commission is 31st October 2003.
- 5.2 The Panel is requested to consider whether they wish to make any representations or comments to the Boundary Commission on the proposals for changes to the existing constituencies of Huntingdon and North West Cambridgeshire.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The District of Huntingdonshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2002

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