



Epping Forest District Council

ELECTORAL AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday, 29th September, 2011

Place: Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Room: Council Chamber

Time: 7.30 pm

**Democratic Services
Officer** democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

Councillors C Whitbread (Chairman), D Stallan (Vice-Chairman), C Finn, D Jacobs and J Philip

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Chief Executive) To declare interests in any item on the agenda.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose of Committee:

(a) To consider and make recommendations to the Council on:

(i) requests for community governance reviews and how and when they should be carried out;

(ii) any future Parliamentary and District reviews;

(iii) the outcome of such reviews;

(b) To be responsible for progressing such reviews, including conducting public consultation in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;

(c) To keep under review the need for a larger membership of the Committee bearing in mind its future workload;

Conduct of Reviews

The Committee shall be authorised to agree the detailed arrangements for consulting local communities on such reviews subject to the policy and budget approved by the Council.

Policy Issues

The Committee shall if necessary consider and make recommendations to the Council on future policy to be adopted in regard to such reviews;

5. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 10)

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Electoral & Community Governance Review Committee held on 19 May 2011.

6. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY REVIEW - BRIEFING

To receive a briefing from the Assistant to the Chief Executive on the consultation proposals recently published by the Boundary Commission.

7. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY REVIEW -NEXT STEPS (Pages 11 - 38)

To consider the attached report on the next steps for responding to the Boundary Commission's proposals.

8. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Exclusion: To consider whether, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on grounds that they will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the following paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) or are confidential under Section 100(A)(2):

<i>Agenda Item No</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Exempt Information Paragraph Number</i>
<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, which came into effect on 1 March 2006, requires the Council to consider whether maintaining the exemption listed above outweighs the potential public interest in disclosing the information. Any member who considers that this test should be applied to any currently exempted matter on this agenda should contact the proper officer at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Confidential Items Commencement: Paragraph 9 of the Council Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution require:

- (1) All business of the Council requiring to be transacted in the presence of the press and public to be completed by 10.00 p.m. at the latest.
- (2) At the time appointed under (1) above, the Chairman shall permit the completion of debate on any item still under consideration, and at his or her discretion, any other remaining business whereupon the Council shall proceed to exclude the public and press.
- (3) Any public business remaining to be dealt with shall be deferred until after the completion of the private part of the meeting, including items submitted for report rather than decision.

Background Papers: Paragraph 8 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution define background papers as being documents relating to the subject matter of the report which in the Proper Officer's opinion:

- (a) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and
- (b) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report and does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10) and in respect of executive reports, the advice of any political advisor.

Inspection of background papers may be arranged by contacting the officer responsible for the item.

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EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: Electoral and Community Governance Review Committee **Date:** Thursday, 19 May 2011

Place: Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 7.30 - 8.45 pm

Members Present: J Philip (Chairman), D Stallan (Vice-Chairman), D Jacobs, Mrs M Sartin and D Wixley

Other Councillors: R Morgan

Apologies: C Whitbread

Officers Present: I Willett (Assistant to the Chief Executive)

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(a) Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillor R Morgan declared a personal interest by virtue of being Chairman of Matching Parish Council. The Councillor had determined that his interest was not prejudicial and that he would stay for the meeting.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2011 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Council Minute 39 - 23.7.02)

Councillor M. Sartin attended the meeting as substitute for Councillor C. Whitbread.

15. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the work programme agreed at the last meeting and in particular that this meeting had been convened to formulate proposals arising from the Community Governance Review for submission to the Council meeting on 28 June 2011.

16. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - MORETON, BOBBINGWORTH AND THE LAVERS PARISH COUNCIL: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a report which dealt with the results of the second round of consultations with residents of The Lavers Wards in MBL Parish and in Matching Parish concerning the parish boundary at Matching Green Village.

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The Committee noted that consultation had been conducted by letter with 219 households in the Parish Wards of High Little and Magdalen Laver of MBL Council, with 273 households in the Parish at Matching; and with 180 electors in Matching Green Village (that part of the Village situated in MBL Parish). The consultation had consisted of an explanatory letter, a summary information sheet and a return pro forma with specific questions about the Matching Green boundary change, the possibility of reducing the number of Councillors in The Lavers Ward by one to reflect the possible inclusion of Matching Green in Matching Parish and the possibility of increasing by one the number of Councillors in Matching Parish for the same reason.

The information sheet had been supplemented by more detailed information on the Council's Website. Consultation letters had also been sent to Essex County Council, the two local District Councillors, the two Parish Councils concerned together with County Councillors for North Weald and Nazeing and Ongar and Rural Electoral Division. A public meeting had also been held on 1 April 2011 to which the public from the area consulted were invited.

The consultation period had run from 25 March to 15 April 2011.

The Committee considered the results of the consultation and noted that response rates among Matching Green Electors (MBL) had been 56% whilst for The Lavers Wards and Matching Parish the percentage responses had been 16.4% and 27.4% respectively.

The Committee were advised that the following broad conclusions could be drawn from the results of the consultation:

- (a) that the principle of changing the boundary at Matching Green Village commanded a large percentage support among those who had responded in all three areas but was highest in Matching Parish;
- (b) that lower percentage support would apply if all those consulted (and who had not responded) were taken into account;
- (c) that the new boundary at Matching Green generally commanded support within the MBL area including Matching Green Village;
- (d) that there had been little support for reducing the number of Councillors in MBL Parish or for increasing the number of Councillors in Matching Parish Council to reflect the boundary change.

In terms of the other Consultees, it was noted that both Matching Parish Council and MBL Parish Council had raised no adverse comments about the routing of the boundary. Although there had been a significant, but not overwhelming, response in favour of a reduction in the number of MBL Parish Councillors, MBL Parish Council had made a case for retaining the same number of Parish Councillors on the basis of the large area of that Parish. It was noted that Matching Parish Council was not supporting an increase in the number of its Parish Councillors but had raised the issue of elections in that Parish following the boundary change.

Essex County Council, following consultation with the two County Councillors for the Electoral Divisions affected, had not raised any objection in principle to a consequential boundary change but had queried the timing in the light of the forthcoming review of parliamentary constituency boundaries followed with the Parish District and County Electoral Division boundaries.

The Committee concluded that sufficient steps had been taken to ensure that local communities were aware of the proposal to change the boundary and that had those individuals and households wanted to oppose the proposal, they would have expressed that view.

RESOLVED:

(1) That, after consideration of the consultation responses, the Committee's views on the level of public support for the proposals arising from the Community Governance Review (Stage 2) be recorded namely:

(a) that the overall response rate and the expressed views of consultees who had responded indicated support for the re-warding of MBL, and changing to the Matching/MBL Parish boundary;

(b) that the two Parish Councils had taken a pragmatic approach to the change in the Parish boundary whilst Essex County Council had no overriding objection to the boundary change although some concerns had been expressed about matters related to timing;

(c) that the level of support for changes in the number of Councillors in both MBL Parish and Matching Parish did not to present a case for change; and

(2) That, in the light of the public consultation, the Council had sufficient support to move to the next stage of bringing the proposals into effect.

17. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - MORETON, BOBBINGWORTH AND THE LAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

The Committee considered a report on the next steps required on this review bearing in mind the conclusions reached on the consultation referred to under the previous minute.

The Committee noted that the duty of the District Council was to assess these proposals on the basis that they reflected the identities and interests of the communities in the area and are effective and convenient.

The Committee was advised that there were four main elements to the proposals arising from the review namely:

(a) re-warding of the area comprising the present Parish Wards of High Laver, Little Laver and Magdalen Laver;

(b) transfer of those areas of High Laver and Little Laver Wards within Matching Green Village to the Parish of Matching;

(c) the re-alignment of the MBL/Matching Parish boundary to reflect (b) above; and

(d) proposals relating to changing in the number of Parish Councillors to reflect the transfer of electors between the two Parishes.

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The Committee also considered the statutory requirements for implementing the results of Community Governance Reviews as established by the Local Government and Public Access to Health Act 2007, namely:

- (i) whether MBL and Matching Parish areas should continue to rely on Parish Councils to provide the most appropriate form of Community Governance;
- (ii) whether MBL Parish should continue to have an electoral wards and whether Matching should continue to elect for the whole of its area;
- (iii) whether any alternative arrangements for improving community governance other than through proposals arising from the review had emerged; and
- (iv) whether the proposed change to the Parish boundary at Matching Green severed any other links which would be detrimental to local community governance.

The Committee also considered a question raised regarding elections in that Parish following the boundary change. It was noted that community governance orders made by District Councils normally came into effect at the next ordinary elections for the Parish Council concerned which would mean that for Matching, the change would take effect in 2015 when Parish elections were next scheduled. In the case of MBL Parish, the proposals in the Order would take effect with effect from the next ordinary Parish elections in 2012.

The Committee discussed whether elections should be held for Matching Parish Council before 2015 to avoid any democratic deficit for those transferring electors. It was noted that re-organisation orders arising from a review could make provision for earlier elections should this be desirable in governance terms. It was noted that Matching Parish Council had considered this issue and was opposed to committing further cost to an election in 2012 when one had been held in 2011, although the latter had not been contested.

The Committee also reviewed the position concerning other boundaries which shared the Parish boundary at Matching Green. It was noted that if this Council changed the Parish boundary it could apply to the Local Government Boundary Commission for a consequential change to the County Electoral Division and District Ward boundaries. The Committee took the view that every step possible should be taken to avoid confusing voters and that this application should be made.

It was noted that the Parliamentary Constituency boundary which also followed the present parish boundary could not be changed as this could only be dealt with as part of a national review which was currently in progress. The Committee hoped that when consultation on the Parliamentary Constituency review opened, there might be an opportunity for the Commission and local MPs to be lobbied in order to ensure that all the boundaries in the area followed the same route.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a report be submitted to the Council recommending that the following proposals arising from the Community Governance Review for MBL Parish should be adopted, as they reflect the identities and interests of the communities in the area and are effective and convenient namely:
 - (a) re-warding of the area comprising the existing Parish Wards of High Laver, Little Laver and Magdalen Laver to form a single ward entitled "The Lavers";

- (b) the transfer of those areas of High Laver and Little Laver wards which are part of Matching Green Village to the Parish of Matching;
 - (c) the re-alignment of the MBL/Matching Parish boundary in Matching Green Village as a consequence of (b) above;
 - (d) MBL Parish, should continue to have a Parish Council with electoral arrangements based on wards;
 - (e) that no change to the number of Parish Councillors in Matching and MBL Parishes be made;
- (2) That the Council be also recommended as follows:
- (a) that an Order be made under Section 92 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to give effect of the proposals arising from the review, subject to a report to this meeting on further consultation with elected Councillors resident in the MBL part of Matching Green village to ascertain the level of public support for a new Matching Parish Council elections in 2012;
 - (b) that a statutory statement under Section 96 of the Act indicating the Committee's response to the review be adopted for subsequent publication all respondents to the public consultation;
- (3) That the Council also be recommended to make an application to the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) for the following consequential boundary as follows:
- (a) the re-alignment of the boundary between North Weald & Nazeing and Ongar & Rural County Electoral Divisions and the District Wards of Moreton & Fyfield and Hastingwood, Matching and Sheering village to follow the new Parish boundary;
 - (b) the holding of an election in 2012 in the District Ward of Hastingwood, Matching and Sheering Village; and
- (4) That the Assistant to the Chief Executive prepare a statement under resolution (2)(b) for approval by the Council.

18. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY REVIEW

The Assistant to the Chief Executive gave an update on the current position concerning the Parliamentary Constituency Review.

The Committee noted that the review would be conducted in England on a regional basis with each region having a target number of constituencies. In the case of the Eastern Region (of which the Epping Forest District was part) the number of constituencies was 56. It was reported that the Boundary Commission for England was currently in the process of appointing Assistant Commissioners (3 in each region) and that the work of the Commissioners was likely to be focused in October and/or November 2011 and around in Summer 2012.

The Committee felt that it was important that progress with the review and the opportunity to comment should be carefully monitored and requested that a meeting

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of this Committee convened as quickly as possible once the consultation was opened.

It was also noted that the Commission had consulted on the following:

- (a) taking into account local government boundaries when forming provisional recommendations as to constituencies;
- (b) the extent to which changes in Ward boundaries which take place after May 2011 can be taken into account was part of the Constituency Review; and
- (c) a target constituency size of around 76,000 electors.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the Assistant to the Chief Executive monitor progress with the review of Parliamentary Constituencies and convene a meeting of the Committee at the appropriate time; and

(2) That as part of any consultation of constituency boundaries the opportunity be taken to draw attention to the Parliamentary Constituency anomaly at Matching Green.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That no further meeting of the Committee be convened at the present time.

CHAIRMAN

Report to the Electoral and Community Governance Review Committee

Date of Meeting: 29 September 2011

Item: 7

Subject: Review of Parliamentary Constituencies – Next Steps

Officer Contact for Further Information: I Willett (01992 564243)

Committee Secretary: Rebecca Perrin (01992 564532)

Recommendations:

- (1) To consider how to respond to the current consultation;**
- (2) To consider arguments to be put forward in the Council's response which could be developed in a further report for approval by the Council;**
- (3) To agree that adjustment of the constituency boundary at Matching Green should be part of the response;**
- (4) To consider whether to be represented at the public hearings; and**
- (5) To consider dates for future meetings of this Committee.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies in the Eastern Region. These are open for public consultation purposes until 5 December 2011.

2. The Initial Proposals

- 2.1 The proposals for this area have been the subject of a briefing under the preceding item. The following supporting information is attached to this report:

- ...
- (a) maps showing three new constituencies affecting this District, namely Brentwood and Ongar, Epping Forest and Harlow (large scale version will be available at the meeting);
 - (b) a summary of the proposals for the Eastern Region (Appendix 1);
 - (c) 'Timeline' for the review (Appendix 2);
 - (d) a large map showing the overall position within the Eastern Region (this will be on display at the meeting);
 - (e) the Initial Proposals report (Extract attached as Appendix 3); and
 - (f) listing of current constituency data (Appendix 4).

3. The Criteria Adopted for the Review

3.1 In summary these are:

- (a) the BCE was required by legislation to allocate a precise number of constituencies to England;
- (b) this number is based on a fixed total of 600 for the whole of the UK (650 at present);
- (c) the BCE must also ensure that every constituency has an electorate that is within 5% of the UK electoral quota of 76,641 electors;
- (d) whilst the following factors can be considered by BCE, these are all subordinated to the electoral parity rule;
 - (i) special geographical considerations: size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 - (ii) local government boundaries;
 - (iii) boundaries of existing constituencies; and
 - (iv) any local ties which are broken by new constituencies;
- (e) the BCE bases the review on register totals published between 1.12.10 and 1.2.11;
- (f) the total number of constituencies for England will be 500 (with two protected constituencies the total is 502);
- (g) the building blocks for the revised constituencies continue to be District Wards where it is feasible to do so, having regard to the 5% tolerance;
- (h) the review is presented on a regional basis, EFDC is part of the Eastern Region and has an allocation of 56 constituencies, compared with 58 at present;
- (i) the consultation document breaks down the Eastern Region into a series of sub regions, of which Essex is one (see paragraphs 50-58 of Appendix 3);

4. Local Constituencies

- 4.1 There are currently 18 constituencies in Essex and the Commission's proposals would reduce this to 17.
- 4.2 Epping Forest is regarded as too small in electorate terms and the District Ward of Lambourne has therefore been added. Otherwise, the constituency is unchanged.
- 4.3 Brentwood and Ongar is compensated for the transfer of Lambourne by extending the constituency to cover Orsett ward of Thurrock Borough.
- 4.4 Harlow is also regarded as too small. The boundaries with Epping Forest and Brentwood and Ongar are not changed but to increase the electorate of the constituency, 3 wards from Uttlesford District Council have been added. The boundary between Harlow and Brentwood and Ongar is unchanged which means that the potential

anomaly at Matching Green is a live issue. The Committee agreed at its meeting on 19 May 2011 that the matter shall be raised in this review.

5. Response to Consultation

5.1 The Commission is seeking views on its initial proposals by 5 December 2011. The last available Council meeting is on 1 November 2011 and therefore if the Council wishes to respond, the Committee must aim to have a report ready by 20 October 2011. However, at the Council meeting in December 2011, it was agreed that if there was insufficient time available to submit the proposed response to the Council before the deadline, this could be submitted to the Commission by this Committee but subject to confirmation at the next Council meeting.

5.2 It seems that the Council has three main options regarding this consultation:

(a) not to comment at this stage; or

(b) to comment by indicating those aspects which cause concern or attract support; or

(c) to comment as for (b) but produce its own proposals which meet the statutory criteria.

5.3 Option (c) of the previous paragraph will require considerable effort over a short timescale. Option (b) will be less demanding and is achievable over the current timescale. The fact that Epping Forest is largely unaltered may mean that if there is dissatisfaction in Harlow and Brentwood and Ongar this may focus on proposals which affect Epping Forest.

5.4 It should be emphasised that responses should be based on the criteria in 3.1(b) above. However it is clear that if arguments for exceptions are to be made these must acknowledge the statutory criteria. In view of the time pressure the Commission is itself under, arguments for change under 3.1(b) will need to be persuasive ones.

5.5 After 5.12.11, a further stage of consultation follows. This will provide one month to comment on the published responses by others. Following this there may be a further consultation period of eight weeks but only if the Commission accepts a case for revised proposals following previous consultations.

5.6 The period up to 5.12.11 includes public hearings. For Eastern Region, these will be held on Monday 31 October to 1 November 2011. The Council would not have considered its response by then, however. Those hearings are to be held in Colchester.

6. Future Meetings

6.1 One further meeting would be required if the Committee wishes to make a formal response at Stage 1. This would be required to agree proposals for submission to the Council.

6.2 Further meetings may be required to consider the following consultation stages.

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Eastern region

Initial proposals summary

Who we are and what we do

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

2013 Review

We have the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. We are currently conducting a review on the basis of new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 502), and require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473 (please refer to *A guide to the 2013 Review* for details of how this has been calculated).

Initial proposals

We have now completed the first stage of the review process and have published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. Information about the proposed constituencies is now available on our website or in hard copy at a local ‘place of deposit’ near you.

What is changing in the Eastern region?

The Eastern region has been allocated 56 constituencies – a reduction of two from the current arrangement.

Our proposals leave nine of the 58 existing constituencies unchanged.

As it has not been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties or unitary authorities, we have grouped these into sub-regions. The number of constituencies allocated to each sub-

region is determined by the electorate of the combined local authorities.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Proposed allocation
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	17	16
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk	23	23
Essex	18	17

Consequently, it has been necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county or unitary authority boundaries.

Of the unchanged constituencies, one is in the County of Cambridgeshire, one is in the County of Essex, one is in the County of Norfolk, five are in the County of Suffolk and one is in the Borough of Thurrock.

Substantial change is required, however, throughout the region in order to comply with the new rules.

We have proposed three constituencies that contain electors from both Central Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

Another proposed constituency contains electors from both Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and includes the towns of Downham Market and Wisbech.

Additionally, we propose that electors from the town of Newmarket in the County of Suffolk be combined with the District of East Cambridgeshire.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13 September 2011 to 5 December 2011. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we receive.

We ask everyone wishing to contribute to the design of the new constituencies to first read the *Initial proposals* report and accompanying maps before responding to us.

In particular, we would like to know:

- if you agree in full, in part or not at all with our initial proposals for the Eastern region;
- which sub-regions you agree with and why;
- which sub-regions you disagree with and why; and
- if you can propose alternatives for areas you disagree with that meet the statutory rules we set out in our report.

You can find more details of how to respond on our website, or you can write to us direct or email eastern@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk. You can also find details of where and when we will be holding public hearings in your area on our website.

Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

Tel: 020 7276 1102

Email: information@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

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Find out more

You can find out more about the Boundary Commission for England and the 2013 Review by:

- visiting our website (search online for 'boundary changes' or go to www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk); and
- reading *A guide to the 2013 Review* (available on our website).

If you have any questions, you can:

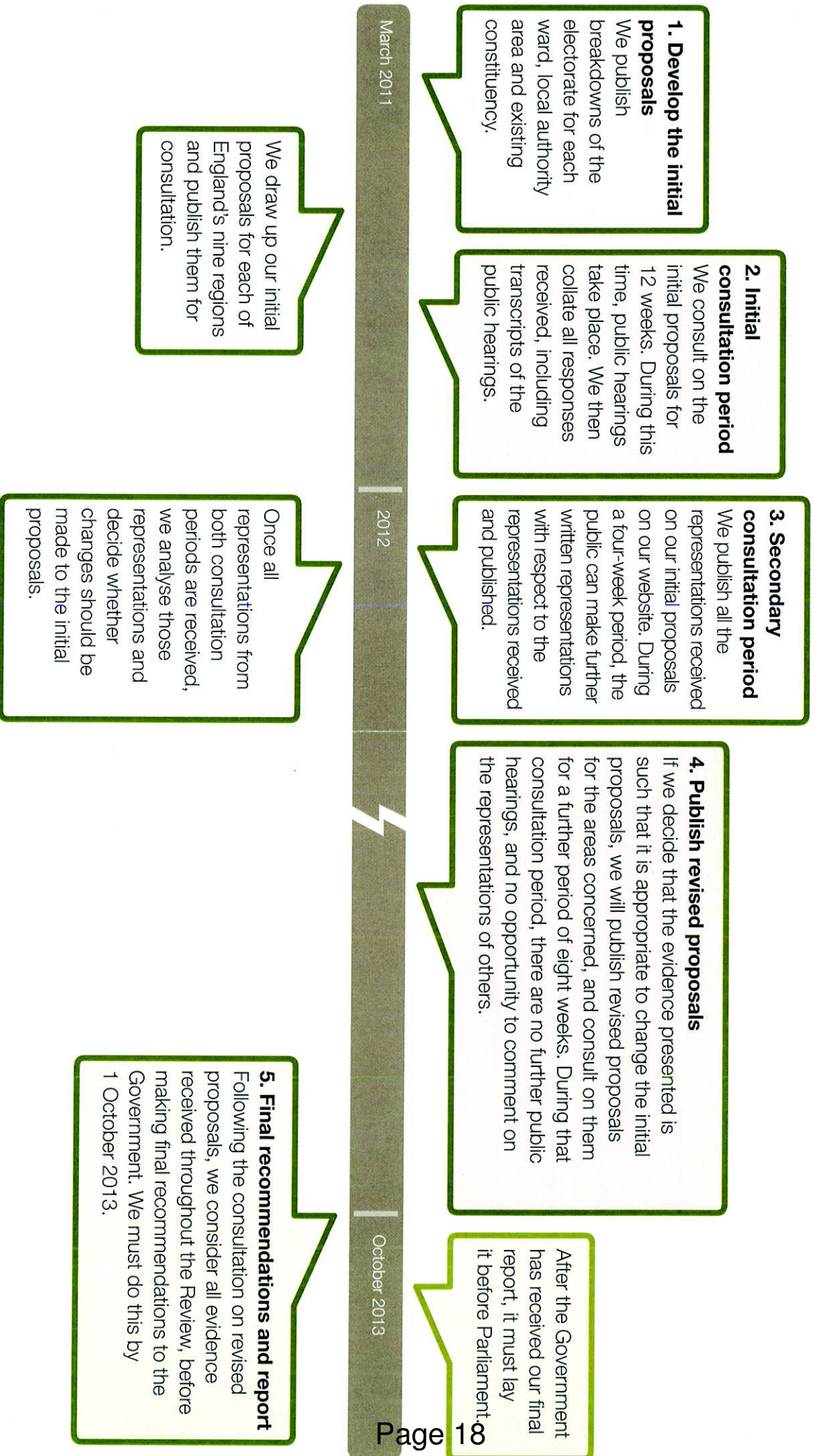
- email information@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk;
- call 020 7276 1102; or
- write to The Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ.

The 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituencies explained

The Boundary Commission for England is the independent public body that reviews all Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England every five years.

We are currently carrying out a review under new rules laid down by Parliament. This Review, which concludes in 2013, means substantial changes to Parliamentary constituencies in England: reducing the total number of constituencies from 533 to 502 and making sure that each constituency has similar numbers of registered electors. In many cases this means redrawing the existing boundaries.

Timeline for the 2013 Review



2. Background to the 2013 Review

4. In February 2011, the UK Parliament passed legislation² stating that all four Boundary Commissions covering the UK (there are separate Commissions for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) must conduct a review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries, and make recommendations to the Government, by October 2013. The four Commissions work separately, and this report covers only the work of the BCE and, in particular, introduces our initial proposals for the Eastern region.

5. Parliamentary constituency boundaries are important, as they define the area that a Member of Parliament will represent once elected to Parliament. The next General Election is expected to be in 2015 (as, at the time of writing and subject to legislation, the Government intends to introduce 'fixed-term' Parliaments – i.e. that last for five years). Therefore any recommendations we make, if accepted, are likely to be used for the first time at the General Election in 2015.

6. The legislation we work to states that there will be 600 Parliamentary constituencies covering the UK – a reduction of 50 from the current number. For England, that means that the number of constituencies must reduce from 533 to 502. There are also new rules that the Commission has to adhere to when conducting the review – a full set of rules can be found in the BCE's *A guide to the 2013 Review*,³ published in the summer of 2011, but they are also summarised later in this chapter. Most significantly, the rules state that every constituency we recommend (with the exception of two covering the Isle of Wight) must contain between 72,810 and 80,473 electors.

7. This is a significant change to the old rules under which Parliamentary boundary reviews took place, where achieving as close as possible to the average number of electors in each constituency was an aim but not an overriding legal necessity. For example, in England, constituencies currently range in electorate size from 55,077 to 110,924. Achieving a more even distribution of electors in every constituency across England, together with the reduction in the total number of constituencies, means that a significant amount of change to the existing map of constituencies is inevitable.

8. *A guide to the 2013 Review* contains further detailed background, and explains all the policies and procedures that we are following in conducting the Review, in greater depth than in this consultation document. We encourage anyone wishing to be involved in the Review to read this document to enable greater understanding of the rules and constraints placed on the Commission, especially if they are intending to comment on our initial proposals.

The rules in the legislation

9. The rules contained in the legislation state that every constituency in England (except two covering the Isle of Wight) must have an electorate of between 72,810 and 80,473 – that is 5% either side of the **electoral quota of 76,641**. The legislation also states that when deciding on boundaries, the Commission may also take into account:

- a. special geographical considerations, including the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;

² The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, available at www.legislation.gov.uk

³ Available at www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/publications and at all places of deposit

- b. local government boundaries as they existed on 6 May 2010;
 - c. boundaries of existing constituencies; and
 - d. any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.
10. It is essential to understand that none of the factors mentioned in the list above overrides the necessity to achieve an electorate in each constituency that is within the range allowed, as explained previously. In particular, it should be noted that we are obliged to take into account local government boundaries as they existed in May 2010. Our initial proposals for the region and the accompanying maps are based on the wards as they existed in May 2010. *A guide to the 2013 Review* outlines further our policy on how, and to what extent, we take into account local government boundaries. We propose to use the local government districts and wards as at May 2010 as the basic building blocks for construction of constituencies.

11. We have also taken into account the boundaries of existing constituencies so far as we can. We have tried to retain existing constituencies as part of our initial proposals where possible, so long as the other factors can also be satisfied. As mentioned earlier in this chapter, because of the scale of change required to fulfil the obligations imposed on us by the new rules, this has proved difficult. Our initial proposals retain 16% of the existing constituencies in the Eastern region – the remainder are new constituencies (although in a number of cases we have been able to limit the changes to existing constituencies, making only minor changes as necessary to enable us to comply with the new rules).

The use of the regions used for European elections

12. Our proposals are based on the nine regions used for European elections. This report relates to the Eastern region. There are eight other separate reports containing our initial proposals for the other regions. In early 2011, following a consultation exercise on the issues, we decided to use these regions as a basis for working out our initial proposals. You can find more details in *A guide to the 2013 Review* and on our website. While this approach does not prevent anyone from making proposals to us that cross regional boundaries (for example, between the Eastern region and the London region), in light of the reasons we have set out for the region-based approach and the level of support for this approach expressed in response to our consultation, we would need to have compelling reasons provided to us in order to persuade us to depart from the region-based approach.

Timetable for the 2013 Review

Stage one – initial proposals

13. In March 2011 we published breakdowns of the electorate for each ward, local authority area and existing constituency, which were prepared using electorate data provided by local authorities and the Office for National Statistics. These breakdowns are available on our website.⁴ The Commission spent a number of months considering the factors outlined above and drawing up our initial proposals. We published our initial proposals for consultation for each of England's nine regions on 13 September 2011.

⁴ At www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

Stage two - consultation on initial proposals

14. We are consulting on our initial proposals for 12 weeks, until 5 December 2011. Chapter 4 outlines how you can contribute during the consultation period. We are also hosting four public hearings in the Eastern region, at which people can give their views (see chapter 4). Once the consultation has closed, the Commission will collate all the responses received, including transcripts of the public hearings.

Stage three - consultation on representations received

15. The legislation requires us to publish all the representations we receive on our initial proposals. This publication will mark the start of a four-week period, likely to be in spring 2012, during which anyone can make further written representations with respect to the representations we have received and published. Once we have all the representations from both consultation periods, the Commission will analyse those representations and decide whether changes should be made to the initial proposals.

Stage four - publication of revised proposals

16. If we decide that the evidence presented to us is such that it is appropriate to change our initial proposals, then we must (under the legislation) publish our revised proposals for the areas concerned, and consult on them for a further period of eight weeks. This is likely to be towards the end of 2012. During that consultation period, there is no provision for further public hearings, nor is there a repeat of the four-week period for commenting on the representations of others.

Stage five - final recommendations

17. Finally, following the consultation on revised proposals, we will consider all the evidence received at this stage, and

throughout the Review, before making final recommendations to the Government. The legislation states we must do this by 1 October 2013. Further details about what the Government and Parliament must do to implement our recommendations are contained in *A guide to the 2013 Review*.

18. At the launch of each stage of consultation we will be taking all reasonable steps to publicise our proposals so that as many people as possible are aware of the consultation, and can take the opportunity to contribute to our review of constituencies.

3. Initial proposals for the Eastern region

19. The Eastern region comprises the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk (which are covered by a mix of district and county councils and unitary authorities).

20. The region currently has 58 constituencies. Of these constituencies, only 26 have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota. The electorates of 27 constituencies currently fall below the lower 5% limit, while the electorates of five fall above the upper limit. As discussed in chapter 2, following our consultation on using the regions as the basis for our initial proposals, we have taken an initial decision that the Eastern region is to be allocated 56 constituencies, a reduction of two.

21. In seeking to produce initial proposals for the region in which 56 whole constituencies, each with an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota, could be proposed, we first considered whether, and how, the local authorities could usefully be grouped into sub-regions. We were mindful of seeking to respect, where we could, the external boundaries of local authorities. Our approach in attempting to group local authority areas together in sub-regions was based both on trying to respect county boundaries wherever possible and on achieving, where we could, obvious practical groupings such as those dictated in some part by the geography of the area.

22. Our division of the Eastern region into sub-regions is a purely practical approach. Respondents to our consultation are welcome to make counter-proposals based on other groupings of counties and unitary authorities, if the statutory factors can be better reflected in those counter-proposals.

23. We noted that the combined electorate of the three unitary authorities (Bedford,

Central Bedfordshire, and Luton) that were part of the former County of Bedfordshire was 432,090, which indicates an allocation of 5.6 constituencies. It is not possible to allocate six whole constituencies to Bedfordshire with electorates within 5% of the electoral quota. Therefore Bedfordshire needed to be grouped with a neighbouring county. We also noted that the County of Hertfordshire had an electorate of 811,936, which indicates an allocation of 10.6 constituencies. With an allocation of 11 constituencies, the average of each constituency would be 73,812, just 1,002 electors above the lower limit (72,810) of the 5% target. We considered that, in all likelihood, it would prove difficult to design 11 satisfactory constituencies all with electorates within the 5% target. We therefore considered that we would review Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire together and allocate them 16 constituencies, which is one fewer than at present. Three of our proposed constituencies cross the boundary between Hertfordshire and the District of Central Bedfordshire. One proposed constituency crosses the boundary between the Borough of Bedford and the District of Central Bedfordshire. One proposed constituency crosses the boundary between the District of Central Bedfordshire and the Borough of Luton.

24. We noted that the County of Norfolk needed to be grouped with a neighbouring county as the number of electors in Norfolk, at 651,119, is such that we cannot allocate a whole number of constituencies to the county. Allocating eight of the largest permissible constituencies would need an electorate of 643,784, while allocating nine of the smallest constituencies would require 655,290 electors.

25. The County of Cambridgeshire (including the City of Peterborough) also needed to be grouped with a neighbouring county as a result of the number of electors (562,526) in the county. If we allocated

seven constituencies to Cambridgeshire, the average electorate of each constituency would be 80,361, which is just 112 below the upper limit (80,473) of the 5% target. While the County of Suffolk did not need to be grouped with a neighbouring county, we decided that we would include it in a group with Cambridgeshire and Norfolk to allow us greater flexibility in proposing constituencies, when considering the other factors to which we have regard. The grouping of these three counties allowed the allocation of 23 constituencies, which is the same as at present. One proposed constituency crosses the boundary between Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, one proposed constituency crosses the boundary between Cambridgeshire and the City of Peterborough, and one proposed constituency crosses the boundary between Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

26. We noted that the electorate of the County of Essex and the boroughs of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock was 1,280,544, which would allow us to allocate 17 constituencies, each with an average electorate of 75,326, which is 1,315 below the electoral quota. We considered that it was not necessary to group the County of Essex and the boroughs of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock with any other county. Therefore, we decided to allocate 17 constituencies to Essex, which is one fewer than at present. Our proposals include two constituencies that cross the boundary between Essex and the Borough of Southend-on-Sea, and two constituencies that cross the boundary between Essex and the Borough of Thurrock.

Initial proposals for the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire sub-region

27. There are currently 17 constituencies in this sub-region, only six of which (Hertford and Stortford, Hitchin and Harpenden, Mid Bedfordshire, North East Bedfordshire, South West Bedfordshire, and South West

Hertfordshire) have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota. Of the remaining constituencies, ten are below the 5% limit, and one is above. We propose to reduce the number of constituencies to 16.

28. We considered whether we could leave unchanged any of the six existing constituencies that have an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota. However, in developing proposals in which all the electorates are within the 5% limit, and taking account of the reduction in the number of constituencies in this sub-region, we propose changing all the constituencies.

29. In Luton, in order to increase the electorate of the existing Luton South constituency, we propose the inclusion of the Barnfield and Saints wards of the Borough of Luton, currently in the Luton North constituency. As a consequence of this change, it is necessary to increase the electorate of the Luton North constituency by including the four Central Bedfordshire District wards that contain the town of Dunstable, which have a direct link into the constituency along the A505. To compensate for the loss of Dunstable, the South West Bedfordshire constituency is extended northwards with the inclusion of four Central Bedfordshire wards, including the town of Flitwick, that are in the existing Mid Bedfordshire constituency.

30. We noted that the electorate of the existing Bedford constituency was too small and we propose that it be extended to the west to include the Bromham and Turvey wards of the Borough of Bedford. However, this change requires us to alter the existing North Bedfordshire constituency and we therefore propose that the remainder of the Borough of Bedford be included in our North Bedfordshire constituency, together with seven wards from the District of Central Bedfordshire, including the towns of Ampthill, Biggleswade, and Sandy.

31. The electorate of the existing Hertsmere constituency is too small and we propose to increase its electorate by including the Carpenders Park ward of the District of Three Rivers. Although there is no direct road link within the constituency between the Carpenders Park area and Hertsmere, including this ward allows us not to have to make more significant alterations to the St Albans constituency to the north and the Welwyn Hatfield constituency to the north east.

32. The three Abbots Langley wards to the north of Watford and the Ashridge ward of the Borough of Dacorum are included in our South West Hertfordshire constituency. Five wards from the District of Three Rivers to the south of Watford are included in our Watford constituency, in place of the three Abbots Langley wards. We noted that this would alter the existing South West Hertfordshire constituency, which could have been left unchanged. However, we considered that the five wards from the District of Three Rivers that we propose including in the Watford constituency – Ashridge, Hayling, Moor Park & Eastbury, Northwick, and Oxhey Hall – are close geographically to Watford.

33. The electorate of the existing Hemel Hempstead constituency is too small and, to compensate for the loss of the Ashridge ward mentioned previously, we propose that the South East Bedfordshire ward of the District of Central Bedfordshire, from the existing Luton South constituency, be included in our Hemel Hempstead constituency. The electorate of the existing St Albans constituency also needs to be increased and we propose that the constituency be extended northwards to include two wards of the City of St Albans (Redbourn and Sandridge), both of which are very close to St Albans itself, from the existing Hitchin and Harpenden constituency. As a result, we propose that the existing Hitchin and Harpenden constituency be extended

northwards to include three wards from the District of Central Bedfordshire (Langford and Henlow Village, Shefford, and Silsoe and Shillington), which have direct links with the existing Hitchin and Harpenden constituency.

34. Of the remaining five existing constituencies in Hertfordshire, only the Hertford and Stortford constituency has an electorate that is within 5% of the electoral quota. However, we have altered this constituency to accommodate the changes that have to be made to the other four (Broxbourne, North East Hertfordshire, Stevenage, and Welwyn Hatfield) in order for all five to have an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota.

35. We propose that the existing Stevenage constituency be extended to the north to include the Chesfield ward of the District of North Hertfordshire and to the east to include the Walkern ward of the District of East Hertfordshire. In particular, we noted that the Chesfield ward contains an area that links directly into the north of Stevenage.

36. We propose that the existing Broxbourne constituency be extended northwards by including two wards of the District of East Hertfordshire (Great Amwell and Stanstead Abbots). To compensate for the loss of these wards, we propose extending the existing Hertford and Stortford constituency to the north west by including two wards of the District of East Hertfordshire (Little Hadham, and Thundridge & Standon).

37. The existing Welwyn Hatfield constituency is extended eastwards by including three wards from the District of East Hertfordshire (Hertford Rural North, Hertford Rural South, and Watton-at-Stone). To compensate for the loss of these wards, the existing North East Hertfordshire constituency is extended northwards to include two wards from the

District of Central Bedfordshire (Potton, and Stotfold and Arlesey). To reflect the change in the composition of the constituency, we propose changing this constituency's name to Letchworth.

Initial proposals for the Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk sub-region

38. There are currently 23 constituencies in this sub-region, 15 of which (Broadland, Cambridge, Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, Huntingdon, Ipswich, Mid Norfolk, North West Norfolk, Norwich South, South Cambridgeshire, South Norfolk, South Suffolk, South West Norfolk, Suffolk Coastal, Waveney, and West Suffolk) have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota. Of the remaining constituencies, four have electorates that are below the 5% limit, and four are above. We are proposing no change to the number of constituencies.

39. We considered whether we could leave unchanged any of the 15 existing constituencies that had an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota. However, in developing proposals in which all the proposed electorates are within the 5% limit, we propose changing all but seven constituencies (Cambridge, Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, Ipswich, Norwich South, South Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal, and Waveney). Our proposed South Norfolk constituency differs only to take account of a very small ward boundary alteration.

40. In Suffolk, as stated previously, it is possible to make minor changes to three of the seven existing constituencies in order to reduce the electorate of the existing Bury St Edmunds constituency, which has 85,933 electors. We do not propose any change to the five constituencies of Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, Ipswich, South Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal, and Waveney. In order to retain the existing Central Suffolk and North

Ipswich constituency, we are proposing to reduce the size of the existing Bury St Edmunds constituency by moving three wards of the District of Mid Suffolk (Badwell Ash, Gislingham, and Rickingham and Walsham) and one ward of the Borough of St Edmundsbury (Pakenham) to our proposed West Suffolk constituency. To compensate for this change, the Suffolk town of Newmarket is included in our Newmarket and Ely constituency, together with the whole of the District of East Cambridgeshire, which almost entirely encircles the town. Although this creates a cross-county constituency, the town of Newmarket has strong communication links with Ely and the rest of the proposed constituency.

41. We propose no change to the existing Cambridge constituency. While the existing Huntingdon and South Cambridgeshire constituencies have electorates that are within 5% of the electoral quota, we are proposing changes to both these constituencies in order to accommodate changes that are required to the North East Cambridgeshire, North West Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, and South East Cambridgeshire constituencies.

42. As we propose to retain the existing Cambridge constituency, the Queen Edith's ward of the City of Cambridge remains in our proposed South Cambridgeshire constituency together with 22 wards from the District of South Cambridgeshire. We propose that the remaining 12 wards of the District of South Cambridgeshire be included in a new St Neots constituency, with ten wards from the south of the District of Huntingdonshire.

43. Our proposed Huntingdon constituency contains 15 wards from the District of Huntingdonshire, including the towns of Huntingdon and St Ives, and seven wards from the District of Fenland, including the town of Chatteris.

44. We propose two constituencies covering the City of Peterborough and surrounding area, with the Peterborough North constituency containing 17 wards north of the River Nene. The six Peterborough wards to the south of the Nene, and the Peterborough ward of Eye and Thorney, are included in our Peterborough South constituency with seven wards from the District of Fenland, including the town of Whittlesey, which are from the existing North East Cambridgeshire constituency, and four wards from the north of the District of Huntingdonshire, including the towns of Ramsey and Yaxley, from the existing North West Cambridgeshire constituency.

45. The remaining 13 wards of the District of Fenland, including the towns of March and Wisbech, are placed in our new Wisbech and Downham Market constituency, which crosses the county boundary between Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. This constituency also contains 13 wards from the west of the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, including the town of Downham Market. There are good road links along the A1101 and A1122 between the two towns named in the constituency.

The remaining 29 wards from the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, including the whole of the existing North West Norfolk constituency, form our proposed King's Lynn constituency.

46. In Norfolk, the changes that have to be made to the three existing constituencies of Great Yarmouth, North Norfolk, and Norwich North, in order to bring the electorates to within 5% of the electoral quota, mean that the neighbouring constituencies of Broadland, Mid Norfolk, North West Norfolk, and South West Norfolk all have to be altered as a consequence, even though their electorates are within 5% of the electoral quota.

47. We propose a Thetford and Swaffham constituency that contains 24 wards of the

District of Breckland and seven wards of the District of South Norfolk. Our South Norfolk constituency contains 28 wards of the District of South Norfolk, with only a minor change from the existing constituency to take account of a very small ward boundary alteration.

48. In the City of Norwich, we propose no change to the existing Norwich South constituency and that the existing Norwich North constituency be extended. We consider the two Drayton wards and the two Taverham wards of the District of Broadland to be the most suitable for inclusion in the constituency.

49. The existing Great Yarmouth constituency is extended to the north by including three wards from the District of North Norfolk (Stalham and Sutton, Waterside, and Waxham) from the existing North Norfolk constituency. The remaining 31 wards of the District of North Norfolk form our proposed North Norfolk constituency. We propose a new Broadland and Dereham constituency containing 16 wards from the District of Broadland and 12 wards from the District of Breckland.

Initial proposals for the Essex sub-region

50. There are currently 18 constituencies in this sub-region, only five of which (Chelmsford, Colchester, Rayleigh and Wickford, Saffron Walden, and Thurrock) have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota. Of the remaining constituencies, all 13 have electorates that are below the 5% limit. We propose to reduce the number of constituencies to 17.

51. We considered whether we could leave unchanged any of the five existing constituencies that had an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota. However, in developing proposals in which all of the electorates are within the 5% limit, and taking account of the reduction in the number of constituencies in this sub-region, we

propose changing all but two constituencies (Colchester and Thurrock).

52. In south-east Essex, the existing Castle Point constituency, at 64,562, does not contain sufficient electors. In seeking to increase the electorate of this constituency, we noted that there was no direct transport link between Canvey Island and the East Thurrock area to the west. Nor did we want to divide the town of Rayleigh between constituencies by including any wards of the District of Rochford in our proposed Castle Point constituency. We therefore propose including two wards from the Borough of Southend-on-Sea (Leigh and West Leigh), because there are continuous development and close transport links between Leigh and the Borough of Castle Point. This also avoids dividing the Borough of Castle Point between constituencies.

53. We propose to include three wards of the Borough of Southend-on-Sea (Milton, St Luke's, and Victoria) in our Southend West constituency. This requires the inclusion of the towns of Hawkwell and Hockley in an enlarged Rochford and Southend East constituency. We propose to include three additional wards of the Borough of Basildon (Pitsea North West, Pitsea South East, and Vange), and the Rettendon and Runwell ward of the Borough of Chelmsford, in the Rayleigh and Wickford constituency.

54. We propose a Basildon and Thurrock East constituency that contains the six wards of the Borough of Basildon that incorporate the town of Basildon, and five wards of the Borough of Thurrock, including the towns of Corringham and Stanford-le-Hope. We propose retaining the existing Thurrock constituency.

55. We noted that the electorate of the existing Epping Forest constituency is too small and we propose to include the Lambourne ward of the District of Epping

Forest (which has direct road links into the rest of the constituency) from the existing Brentwood and Ongar constituency.

To compensate for this change, we propose that the existing Brentwood and Ongar constituency be extended southwards to include the Orsett ward of the Borough of Thurrock.

56. We noted that the electorate of the existing Harlow constituency is also too small. By not altering the boundary between the Harlow constituency and the Brentwood and Ongar and Epping Forest constituencies, we decided to extend the Harlow constituency by including three wards (Broad Oak and the Hallingburys, Hatfield Heath, and The Rodings) from the south west of the District of Uttlesford.

57. As a consequence of our changes elsewhere, we propose a new Billericay and Great Dunmow constituency that contains four wards of the Borough of Basildon, six wards of the Borough of Chelmsford and five wards of the District of Uttlesford. By doing so, we are also able to make only a minor change to the existing Chelmsford constituency, which is reduced by including the Galleywood ward of the Borough of Chelmsford in the Billericay and Great Dunmow constituency. Our proposed Maldon constituency does not extend as far to the west as the existing constituency. It contains the whole of the District of Maldon, four wards of the Borough of Chelmsford, including the town of South Woodham Ferrers, and the Tiptree ward of the Borough of Colchester.

58. We propose retaining unaltered the existing Colchester constituency. We also propose a Braintree and Witham constituency containing 17 wards from the south of the District of Braintree. This constituency respects the district boundaries of Chelmsford, Colchester, and Uttlesford to

the south, east, and west respectively. The remaining 13 wards of the District of Braintree, and 19 wards of the District of Uttlesford, from the existing Braintree and Saffron Walden constituencies, form our proposed North West Essex constituency. Our proposed North East Essex constituency contains 13 wards of the Borough of Colchester and ten wards of the District of Tendring, thereby entirely surrounding the Colchester constituency. The remaining wards in the District of Tendring form our Harwich and Clacton constituency.

4. How to have your say

59. We are consulting on our initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13 September 2011 to 5 December 2011. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we receive.

60. In particular, we ask people to bear in mind the tight constraints placed on the Commission by the rules set by Parliament as well as the decisions we have taken regarding adoption of a regional approach and use of local government wards discussed in chapter 2 and in the BCE's *A guide to the 2013 Review*. Most importantly:

- a. We cannot recommend constituencies that have electorates that are more or less than 5% from the electoral quota (apart from the two covering the Isle of Wight).
- b. We are basing our initial proposals on local government ward boundaries (as at May 2010) as the building blocks of constituencies. Our view is that, in the absence of exceptional and compelling circumstances, it would not be appropriate to divide wards in cases where it is possible to construct constituencies that meet the 5% statutory requirement without doing so.
- c. We have constructed constituencies within regions, so as not to cross regional boundaries. Compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade us that we should depart from this approach.

61. These issues mean that we encourage people who are making a representation on a specific area to bear in mind the knock-on effects of their proposals. The Commission must look at the recommendations for new constituencies across the whole region (and, indeed, across England). We therefore

ask everyone wishing to respond to our consultation to bear in mind the impact of their counter-proposals on neighbouring constituencies, and on those further afield across the region.

How can you give us your views?

62. There are two ways you can give us your views on our initial proposals: in writing (including by email or through the online form on our website), or in person at one of a series of public hearings we are conducting during the consultation period. People are welcome to both attend a hearing and send us a written representation.

Written representations

63. We encourage everyone to make use of our consultation website, at www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk, when contributing to our consultation. The website contains all the *Initial proposals* reports and maps, the electorate sizes of every ward, and an online facility where you can have your say on our initial proposals.

64. You can also contribute to our consultation by writing directly to us at: Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ. Or email us with your views, at: eastern@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk. If you wish to comment on more than one region, please send your email to reviews@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk. If you wish to write to us directly, we encourage you to follow the structured approach outlined below and on the separate summary sheet, copies of which can be found at your local place of deposit, or downloaded from our website, at www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk.

65. We encourage everyone, before submitting a representation, to read our approach to data protection and, in particular, the publication of all representations and personal data within

them. This is available at www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk, or by phoning 020 7276 1102.

Public hearings

66. The Commission will be holding public hearings across all the English regions. In the Eastern region we will be hosting four public hearings during the consultation period. Our website (www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk) has more details of these hearings, and an opportunity to register to attend and speak. The table below shows the locations and dates of the hearings in the Eastern region.

Locations and dates of public hearings

City/town	Location	Dates
Colchester	Town Hall, Colchester CO1 1PJ	Monday 31 October - Tuesday 1 November 2011
Norwich	Norwich City Hall, St Peter's Street, Norwich NR2 1NH	Thursday 3 - Friday 4 November 2011
Luton	Town Hall, Luton LU1 2BQ	Monday 7 - Tuesday 8 November 2011
Cambridge	Best Western Gonville Hotel, Gonville Place, Cambridge CB1 1LY	Thursday 10 - Friday 11 November 2011

67. The purpose of the hearings is for people to have an opportunity to make representations orally to an Assistant Commissioner, who will chair the hearings

and subsequently provide the Commission with a report on their findings. The hearings differ from the way we used to conduct 'public inquiries' in past reviews - these were much more judicial in style, with people being allowed to cross-examine each other. The new legislation that Parliament has introduced specifically rules out such inquiries, specifying instead that we host public hearings. These are intended purely as a way for people to make representations orally, direct to representatives of the Commission, as well as to provide an opportunity for the Commission to explain its proposals.

68. It is important to stress that all representations, whether they have been submitted through the online facility on our website, made in person at a hearing or sent to us in writing or by email, will be given equal consideration by the Commission. Therefore it does not matter if you are unable to attend or speak at a public hearing - even after the last public hearing in the Eastern region has been completed on 11 November 2011, you will still have three weeks left to submit your views to us. By statute, time for the public hearings is strictly limited and you may wish to ensure that your full representations about our proposals are made to us in writing.

69. You can find more information about public hearings, and can register to attend, on our website at www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk, or by phoning 020 7276 1102.

What do we want views on?

70. While you are welcome to write to us on any issue regarding our initial proposals, it would aid our understanding and analysis if you, when contributing, followed the structured approach available on our consultation website at www.consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk. This structured approach is also

outlined below and available in our separate summary leaflet (copies of which are available in places of deposit and on our website).

We encourage anyone wishing to contribute to the formation of our final recommendations to follow this approach. The structured approach will also allow us more easily to identify representations on specific areas, or from specific people, during the subsequent four-week period of consultation (referred to in chapter 2).

71. We would particularly like to ask two things of those considering responding to our consultation. First, if you support our proposals, please tell us so, as well as telling us where you object to them. Past experience suggests that too often people who are happy with our proposals do not respond in support, while those who object to them do respond to make their points. That can give a rather distorted view of the balance of public support or objection to proposals, and those who support our initial proposals may then be disappointed if they are subsequently revised in light of the consultation responses. Second, if you are considering objecting to our proposals, do please use the resources (maps and electorate figures) available on our website and at the places of deposit to put forward counter-proposals that are in accordance with the rules to which we are working.

72. Specifically, while anyone is welcome to submit views in whatever format, we are looking for views structured around the following questions:

- a. Do you agree in full, in part or not at all with our initial proposals for the Eastern region?
- b. Which sub-regions do you agree with and why?

- c. Which sub-regions do you disagree with and why?
- d. What are your alternatives for areas you disagree with that meet the statutory rules set out in chapter 2?

73. Above all, however, we encourage everyone to have their say on our initial proposals and, in doing so, to become involved in drawing the map of new Parliamentary constituencies. The more views we get on our initial proposals, the more informed our consideration in developing those proposals will be, and the better we will be able to reflect the public's views in the final recommendations we present in 2013.

Initial proposals

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Bradwell, Silver End and Rivenhall	Braintree	3,671
	Braintree Central	Braintree	5,893
	Braintree East	Braintree	4,965
	Braintree South	Braintree	5,242
	Coggeshall and North Feering	Braintree	3,975
	Cressing and Stisted	Braintree	1,791
	Great Notley and Braintree West	Braintree	5,185
	Hatfield Peverel	Braintree	3,474
	Kelvedon	Braintree	3,934
	Witham Chipping Hill and Central	Braintree	3,546
	Witham North	Braintree	3,432
	Witham South	Braintree	6,242
	Witham West	Braintree	4,989
5. Brentwood and Ongar CC			74,240
	Brentwood North	Brentwood	4,556
	Brentwood South	Brentwood	4,211
	Brentwood West	Brentwood	4,973
	Brizes and Doddinghurst	Brentwood	4,704
	Herongate, Ingrave and West Horndon	Brentwood	2,940
	Hutton Central	Brentwood	2,885
	Hutton East	Brentwood	2,851
	Hutton North	Brentwood	3,079
	Hutton South	Brentwood	3,047
	Ingatestone, Fryerning and Mountnessing	Brentwood	4,769
	Pilgrims Hatch	Brentwood	4,553
	Shenfield	Brentwood	4,167
	South Weald	Brentwood	1,407
	Tipps Cross	Brentwood	3,042
	Warley	Brentwood	4,508
	Chipping Ongar, Greensted and Marden Ash	Epping Forest	3,313
	High Ongar, Willingale and The Rodings	Epping Forest	1,737
	Moreton and Fyfield	Epping Forest	1,720
	North Weald Bassett	Epping Forest	3,529
	Passingford	Epping Forest	1,772
	Shelley	Epping Forest	1,705
	Orsett	Thurrock	4,772
6. Broadland and Dereham CC			79,080
	Dereham-Central	Breckland	4,581
	Dereham-Humbletoft	Breckland	2,001
	Dereham-Neatherd	Breckland	3,316
	Dereham-Toftwood	Breckland	3,607
	Eynsford	Breckland	1,867
	Hermitage	Breckland	1,710
	Launditch	Breckland	1,627
	Springvale and Scarning	Breckland	3,773
	Swanton Morley	Breckland	1,796
	Taverner	Breckland	1,780
	Two Rivers	Breckland	3,331
	Upper Wensum	Breckland	1,780
	Acle	Broadland	2,220
	Aylsham	Broadland	5,844
	Blofield with South Walsham	Broadland	4,446
	Brundall	Broadland	4,522
	Burlingham	Broadland	2,039
	Buxton	Broadland	1,958
	Coltishall	Broadland	2,069
	Eynesford	Broadland	2,410
	Great Witchingham	Broadland	1,924
	Hevingham	Broadland	2,127
	Horsford and Felthorpe	Broadland	3,486

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Springfield North	Chelmsford	6,714
	The Lawns	Chelmsford	4,220
	Trinity	Chelmsford	4,425
	Waterhouse Farm	Chelmsford	4,424
13. Colchester BC			73,638
	Berechurch	Colchester	6,330
	Castle	Colchester	6,796
	Christ Church	Colchester	3,187
	Harbour	Colchester	4,367
	Highwoods	Colchester	6,628
	Lexden	Colchester	4,309
	Mile End	Colchester	6,942
	New Town	Colchester	5,966
	Prettygate	Colchester	5,937
	St Andrew's	Colchester	6,073
	St Anne's	Colchester	6,419
	St John's	Colchester	4,091
	Shrub End	Colchester	6,593
4. Epping Forest CC			73,785
	Broadley Common, Epping Upland and Nazeing	Epping Forest	1,618
	Buckhurst Hill East	Epping Forest	3,438
	Buckhurst Hill West	Epping Forest	5,154
	Chigwell Row	Epping Forest	1,813
	Chigwell Village	Epping Forest	3,221
	Epping Hemnall	Epping Forest	4,805
	Epping Lindsey and Thornwood Common	Epping Forest	4,874
	Grange Hill	Epping Forest	4,797
	Lambourne	Epping Forest	1,573
	Loughton Alderton	Epping Forest	3,311
	Loughton Broadway	Epping Forest	3,173
	Loughton Fairmead	Epping Forest	3,227
	Loughton Forest	Epping Forest	3,373
	Loughton Roding	Epping Forest	3,470
	Loughton St John's	Epping Forest	3,407
	Loughton St Mary's	Epping Forest	3,373
	Theydon Bois	Epping Forest	3,258
	Waltham Abbey High Beach	Epping Forest	1,775
	Waltham Abbey Honey Lane	Epping Forest	4,569
	Waltham Abbey North East	Epping Forest	3,186
	Waltham Abbey Paternoster	Epping Forest	3,328
	Waltham Abbey South West	Epping Forest	3,042
15. Great Yarmouth CC			79,323
	Bradwell North	Great Yarmouth	5,062
	Bradwell South and Hopton	Great Yarmouth	5,148
	Caister North	Great Yarmouth	3,659
	Caister South	Great Yarmouth	3,555
	Central and Northgate	Great Yarmouth	5,370
	Claydon	Great Yarmouth	5,472
	East Flegg	Great Yarmouth	3,895
	Fleggburgh	Great Yarmouth	1,868
	Gorleston	Great Yarmouth	4,071
	Lothingland	Great Yarmouth	4,331
	Magdalen	Great Yarmouth	5,228
	Nelson	Great Yarmouth	4,971
	Ormesby	Great Yarmouth	3,505
	St Andrews	Great Yarmouth	3,425
	Southtown and Cobholm	Great Yarmouth	3,489
	West Flegg	Great Yarmouth	4,002
	Yarmouth North	Great Yarmouth	3,475

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Stalham and Sutton	North Norfolk	3,416
	Waterside	North Norfolk	3,593
	Waxham	North Norfolk	1,788
16. Harlow CC			73,223
	Hastingwood, Matching and Sheering Village	Epping Forest	1,671
	Lower Nazeing	Epping Forest	3,198
	Lower Sheering	Epping Forest	1,708
	Roydon	Epping Forest	1,743
	Bush Fair	Harlow	5,572
	Church Langley	Harlow	6,204
	Great Parndon	Harlow	5,062
	Harlow Common	Harlow	5,486
	Little Parndon and Hare Street	Harlow	5,750
	Mark Hall	Harlow	5,029
	Netteswell	Harlow	5,377
	Old Harlow	Harlow	5,338
	Staple Tye	Harlow	4,978
	Sumners and Kingsmoor	Harlow	5,300
	Toddbrook	Harlow	5,284
	Broad Oak and the Hallingburys	Uttlesford	2,746
	Hatfield Heath	Uttlesford	1,408
	The Rodings	Uttlesford	1,369
17. Harwich and Clacton CC			76,724
	Alton Park	Tendring	3,392
	Beaumont and Thorpe	Tendring	1,845
	Bockings Elm	Tendring	3,517
	Burrsville	Tendring	1,741
	Frinton	Tendring	3,362
	Golf Green	Tendring	3,929
	Great and Little Oakley	Tendring	1,725
	Hamford	Tendring	3,228
	Harwich East	Tendring	1,874
	Harwich East Central	Tendring	3,559
	Harwich West	Tendring	3,883
	Harwich West Central	Tendring	3,770
	Haven	Tendring	1,756
	Holland and Kirby	Tendring	3,847
	Homefields	Tendring	1,667
	Peter Bruff	Tendring	3,245
	Pier	Tendring	3,323
	Ramsey and Parkeston	Tendring	1,732
	Rush Green	Tendring	3,462
	St Bartholomews	Tendring	3,885
	St James	Tendring	3,441
	St Johns	Tendring	3,797
	St Marys	Tendring	3,715
	St Pauls	Tendring	3,711
	Walton	Tendring	3,318
18. Hemel Hempstead CC			76,457
	South East Bedfordshire	Central Bedfordshire	6,034
	Adeyfield East	Dacorum	3,927
	Adeyfield West	Dacorum	4,037
	Apsley and Corner Hall	Dacorum	6,236
	Bennetts End	Dacorum	4,481
	Boxmoor	Dacorum	6,277
	Chaulden and Warners End	Dacorum	6,754
	Gadebridge	Dacorum	4,121
	Grovehill	Dacorum	5,544
	Hemel Hempstead Town	Dacorum	3,954

CURRENT CONSTITUENCY ELECTORATE TABLE	2010	2011	% change 2010-2011	Difference from 2011 EQ	
Basildon and Billericay BC	65,302	65,373	0.11%	-11,268	-14.70%
Bedford BC	68,692	69,019	0.48%	-7,622	-9.95%
Braintree CC	70,956	72,064	1.56%	-4,577	-5.97%
Brentwood and Ongar CC	70,362	71,041	0.97%	-5,600	-7.31%
Broadland CC	71,982	73,066	1.51%	-3,575	-4.66%
Broxbourne BC	71,224	71,872	0.91%	-4,769	-6.22%
Bury St Edmunds CC	84,588	85,933	1.59%	9,292	12.12%
Cambridge BC	75,612	75,259	-0.47%	-1,382	-1.80%
Castle Point BC	67,689	64,562	-4.62%	-12,079	-15.76%
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich CC	76,137	76,177	0.05%	-464	-0.61%
Chelmsford BC	77,607	77,835	0.29%	1,194	1.56%
Clacton CC	67,216	67,447	0.34%	-9,194	-12.00%
Colchester BC	73,501	73,638	0.19%	-3,003	-3.92%
Epping Forest CC	72,006	72,212	0.29%	-4,429	-5.78%
Great Yarmouth CC	70,196	70,526	0.47%	-6,115	-7.98%
Harlow CC	67,425	67,700	0.41%	-8,941	-11.67%
Harwich and North Essex CC	70,681	71,087	0.57%	-5,554	-7.25%
Hemel Hempstead CC	72,682	72,561	-0.17%	-4,080	-5.32%
Hertford and Stortford CC	78,211	79,255	1.33%	2,614	3.41%
Hertsmere CC	69,438	70,772	1.92%	-5,869	-7.66%
Hitchin and Harpenden CC	73,811	74,189	0.51%	-2,452	-3.20%
Huntingdon CC	80,273	79,134	-1.42%	2,493	3.25%
Ipswich BC	76,530	75,195	-1.74%	-1,446	-1.89%
Luton North BC	65,721	66,273	0.84%	-10,368	-13.53%
Luton South BC	65,184	65,889	1.08%	-10,752	-14.03%
Maldon CC	68,872	69,539	0.97%	-7,102	-9.27%
Mid Bedfordshire CC	75,914	76,381	0.62%	-260	-0.34%
Mid Norfolk CC	74,465	75,080	0.83%	-1,561	-2.04%
North East Bedfordshire CC	77,191	78,350	1.50%	1,709	2.23%
North East Cambridgeshire CC	82,787	83,661	1.06%	7,020	9.16%
North East Hertfordshire CC	71,993	72,658	0.92%	-3,983	-5.20%
North Norfolk CC	67,977	68,277	0.44%	-8,364	-10.91%
North West Cambridgeshire CC	87,358	89,419	2.36%	12,778	16.67%
North West Norfolk CC	73,397	73,269	-0.17%	-3,372	-4.40%
Norwich North BC	64,496	64,982	0.75%	-11,659	-15.21%
Norwich South BC	72,538	73,569	1.42%	-3,072	-4.01%
Peterborough BC	69,732	72,787	4.38%	-3,854	-5.03%
Rayleigh and Wickford CC	75,694	76,089	0.52%	-552	-0.72%
Rochford and Southend East CC	71,582	71,131	-0.63%	-5,510	-7.19%
Saffron Walden CC	75,871	77,109	1.63%	468	0.61%
South Basildon and East Thurrock CC	71,947	71,819	-0.18%	-4,822	-6.29%
South Cambridgeshire CC	78,612	80,001	1.77%	3,360	4.38%

CURRENT CONSTITUENCY ELECTORATE TABLE	2010	2011	% change 2010-2011	Difference from 2011 EQ	
South East Cambridgeshire CC	81,144	82,265	1.38%	5,624	7.34%
South Norfolk CC	76,009	77,316	1.72%	675	0.88%
South Suffolk CC	72,641	72,965	0.45%	-3,676	-4.80%
South West Bedfordshire CC	76,111	76,178	0.09%	-463	-0.60%
South West Hertfordshire CC	78,044	78,269	0.29%	1,628	2.12%
South West Norfolk CC	74,186	75,034	1.14%	-1,607	-2.10%
Southend West BC	66,965	66,780	-0.28%	-9,861	-12.87%
St Albans CC	69,836	70,298	0.66%	-6,343	-8.28%
Stevenage CC	67,948	69,357	2.07%	-7,284	-9.50%
Suffolk Coastal CC	77,142	76,932	-0.27%	291	0.38%
Thurrock BC	77,723	77,667	-0.07%	1,026	1.34%
Watford BC	80,013	80,939	1.16%	4,298	5.61%
Waveney CC	79,035	79,132	0.12%	2,491	3.25%
Welwyn Hatfield CC	71,731	71,766	0.05%	-4,875	-6.36%
West Suffolk CC	74,161	76,158	2.69%	-483	-0.63%
Witham CC	66,887	67,451	0.84%	-9,190	-11.99%
Total	4,253,028	4,280,707	0.65%		
Disparity	22,862	24,857	8.73%		
Highest	87,358	89,419			
Lowest	64,496	64,562			
Standard Deviation	4,987	5,196	4.19%		
Electoral Quota	71,537	76,641	7.14%		

			Ward Electorates		New Constituency
			2010	2011	
EPPING FOREST DISTRICT *			95,464	95,881	
1.	Broadley Cc 22UHGH	E05004147	1,606	1,618	Epping Forest CC
2.	Buckhurst F 22UHGJ	E05004148	3,405	3,438	Epping Forest CC
3.	Buckhurst F 22UH GK	E05004149	5,237	5,154	Epping Forest CC
4.	Chigwell Rc 22UHGL	E05004150	1,827	1,813	Epping Forest CC
5.	Chigwell Vi 22UHGM	E05004151	3,248	3,221	Epping Forest CC
6.	Chipping O 22UHGN	E05004152	3,234	3,313	Brentwood and Ongar CC
7.	Epping Her 22UHGP	E05004153	4,795	4,805	Epping Forest CC
8.	Epping Lin 22UHGQ	E05004154	4,753	4,874	Epping Forest CC
9.	Grange Hill 22UHGR	E05004155	4,753	4,797	Epping Forest CC
10.	Hastingwoo 22UHGS	E05004156	1,651	1,671	Harlow CC
11.	High Ongar 22UHGT	E05004157	1,691	1,737	Brentwood and Ongar CC
12.	Lambourne 22UHGU	E05004158	1,579	1,573	Brentwood and Ongar CC
13.	Loughton A 22UHGW	E05004159	3,289	3,311	Epping Forest CC
14.	Loughton B 22UHGX	E05004160	3,173	3,173	Epping Forest CC
15.	Loughton F 22UHGY	E05004161	3,185	3,227	Epping Forest CC
16.	Loughton F 22UHGZ	E05004162	3,334	3,373	Epping Forest CC
17.	Loughton R 22UHHA	E05004163	3,507	3,470	Epping Forest CC
18.	Loughton S 22UH HB	E05004164	3,451	3,407	Epping Forest CC
19.	Loughton S 22UH HC	E05004165	3,284	3,373	Epping Forest CC
20.	Lower Naze 22UHHD	E05004166	3,141	3,198	Harlow CC
21.	Lower Shee 22UH HE	E05004167	1,717	1,708	Harlow CC
22.	Moreton anc 22UH HF	E05004168	1,719	1,720	Brentwood and Ongar CC
23.	North Weal 22UH HG	E05004169	3,509	3,529	Brentwood and Ongar CC
24.	Passingford 22UH HH	E05004170	1,754	1,772	Brentwood and Ongar CC
25.	Roydon 22UH HJ	E05004171	1,749	1,743	Harlow CC
26.	Shelley 22UH HK	E05004172	1,714	1,705	Brentwood and Ongar CC
27.	Theydon Bc 22UH HL	E05004173	3,232	3,258	Epping Forest CC
28.	Waltham Al 22UH HM	E05004174	1,776	1,775	Epping Forest CC
29.	Waltham Al 22UH HN	E05004175	4,582	4,569	Epping Forest CC
30.	Waltham Al 22UH HP	E05004176	3,216	3,186	Epping Forest CC
31.	Waltham Al 22UH HQ	E05004177	3,290	3,328	Epping Forest CC
32.	Waltham Al 22UH HR	E05004178	3,063	3,042	Epping Forest CC
Brentwood and Ongar CC (pt)			15,200	15,349	
Epping Forest CC			72,006	72,212	
Harlow CC (pt)			8,258	8,320	

* as created by The District of Epping Forest (Electoral Changes) Order 2001

			Ward Electorates		New Constituency
			2010	2011	
HARLOW DISTRICT *			59,167	59,380	
1.	Bush Fair 22UJFS	E05004179	5,552	5,572	Harlow CC
2.	Church Lan 22UJFT	E05004180	6,278	6,204	Harlow CC
3.	Great Parnd 22UJFU	E05004181	5,143	5,062	Harlow CC
4.	Harlow Con 22UJFW	E05004182	5,453	5,486	Harlow CC
5.	Little Parnd 22UJFX	E05004183	5,634	5,750	Harlow CC
6.	Mark Hall 22UJFY	E05004184	5,032	5,029	Harlow CC
7.	Nettleswell 22UJFZ	E05004185	5,365	5,377	Harlow CC
8.	Old Harlow 22UJGA	E05004186	5,156	5,338	Harlow CC

9.	Staple Tye	22UJGB	E05004187	4,966	4,978	Harlow CC
10.	Summers and	22UJGC	E05004188	5,303	5,300	Harlow CC
11.	Toddbrook	22UJGD	E05004189	5,285	5,284	Harlow CC
Harlow CC (pt)				59,167	59,380	

* as created by The District of Harlow (Electoral Changes) Order 2001

			Ward Electorates		New Constituency	
			2010	2011		
BRENTWOOD BOROUGH *			55,162	55,692		
1.	Brentwood 1	22UDFT	E05004067	4,465	4,556	Brentwood and Ongar CC
2.	Brentwood 2	22UDFU	E05004068	4,164	4,211	Brentwood and Ongar CC
3.	Brentwood 3	22UDFW	E05004069	4,899	4,973	Brentwood and Ongar CC
4.	Brizes and 1	22UDFX	E05004070	4,671	4,704	Brentwood and Ongar CC
5.	Herongate, 1	22UDFY	E05004071	2,915	2,940	Brentwood and Ongar CC
6.	Hutton Cent	22UDFZ	E05004072	2,870	2,885	Brentwood and Ongar CC
7.	Hutton East	22UDGA	E05004073	2,853	2,851	Brentwood and Ongar CC
8.	Hutton Nort	22UDGB	E05004074	3,085	3,079	Brentwood and Ongar CC
9.	Hutton Sout	22UDGC	E05004075	3,031	3,047	Brentwood and Ongar CC
10.	Ingatestone,	22UDGD	E05004076	4,697	4,769	Brentwood and Ongar CC
11.	Pilgrims Ha	22UDGE	E05004077	4,535	4,553	Brentwood and Ongar CC
12.	Shenfield	22UDGF	E05004078	4,185	4,167	Brentwood and Ongar CC
13.	South Weak	22UDGG	E05004079	1,388	1,407	Brentwood and Ongar CC
14.	Tipps Cross	22UDGH	E05004080	3,032	3,042	Brentwood and Ongar CC
15.	Warley	22UDGJ	E05004081	4,372	4,508	Brentwood and Ongar CC
Brentwood and Ongar CC (pt)			55,162	55,692		

* as created by The Borough of Brentwood (Electoral Changes) Order 2001