

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.

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