

Report to Community Governance Review Committee

Date of Meeting: 8 March 2012

Subject: Review of Parliamentary Constituencies - Secondary Consultation

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Recommendations:

(1) That a review be undertaken of consultation submissions on the three local constituencies;

(2) To review the Council's previous response to this review and decide whether a report should be submitted to the Council on

(a) any comments by others where it is felt that this Council should respond; and

(b) whether that response should be re-affirmed or altered.

1. (Assistant to the Chief Executive) The secondary round of consultation on the Boundary Commission for England's proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies runs from noon on 6 March 2012 to noon on 3 April 2012.

2. This will consist of publication on the Commission's website of all the representations received in response to the first round of consultation. The aim of this phase is to allow respondents the opportunity of commenting on the views of others (see Appendices 1 and 2 attached).

3. 22,000 written responses were received and a schedule will be tabled showing all the references to the 3 local Constituencies: Epping Forest, Harlow and Brentwood & Ongar. The decision of this Council at stage 1 is set out in Appendix 3 attached. This written response by the Council was preceded by an appearance at one of the public hearings when the same points were made. The boundary anomaly at Matching Green was particularly emphasised.

4. In view of the closing date for the consultation, it is important that any views to be expressed are ready for despatch for the Council agenda for 27 March 2012, namely 15 March 2012. In order to cope with the restricted timescale, members are encouraged to visit the Boundary Commission for England's website from noon on 6 March for some background reading.

5. Due to the limited time available, it seems unlikely that this Council can comment more widely on this review. It is sensible to leave this to the political parties and any individual Councillor who wishes to respond.

6. The next stage of the process will be for the Commission to publish further consultation on changes that it wishes to make in response to the response in the two previous rounds. This

consultation will, however, not be general in nature but targeted at those areas where changes are being made. This is currently scheduled to take place “towards the end of 2012”.

7. A map will be displayed at the meeting on the proposals affecting this area published by the Commission at the first stage. Appendices 4-6 set out the Commission’s original documentation.