



Town Clerk

Les Trigg

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15 Station Road
STONE
ST15 8JP

1 July 2021

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** will be held at the Frank Jordan Centre, Lichfield Street, Stone, on **THURSDAY 8 JULY 2021 at 7:05pm** or on the rising of the Council Meeting, if later.

Please note that, following a risk assessment, a number of Covid-19 mitigation measures will be in place for this meeting to support social distancing and increase Covid safety:

- Hand sanitisers will be available in the room and ventilation will be maximised.
- Members of the public will be required to scan the NHS QR code or provide their names and contact details for track and trace purposes. This will be unnecessary for Councillors, whose attendance will be recorded in the normal way.
- Attendees are asked not to change seats unless unavoidable. Councillors will be spaced apart, and any seats where participants need to move will be changed between meetings (e.g. the Chairman's table and chair).
- Everyone in attendance will be required to wear face coverings throughout the whole period that they are in the Frank Jordan Centre. The only exceptions to this will be the meeting Chairman, for the duration of the meeting, and all other meeting participants, but only while speaking as part of the meeting.

Please take particular care when entering and leaving the meeting to ensure that social distancing is maintained. Attendees are reminded that the "rule of six" will apply whilst inside the Centre.

The agenda is set out below and I trust you will be able to attend.

Les Trigg
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Requests for Dispensations Received**
4. **To receive a report from County Councillors representing Stone Town**
 - County Councillor Mrs J. Hood
 - County Councillor I. Parry
5. **To receive a report from Borough Councillors representing Stone Town**
6. **Representations from Members of the Public**

To consider representations from members of the public on items to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation.
7. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
 - a) To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 4 May 2021, Minute No's GP22/001 – GP22/018 (attached).
8. **Minutes of Sub-Committees**
 - a) Estates Sub-Committee held on 27 April 2021, Minute Numbers EST20/041 – EST20/047 (attached)
 - i. To consider the draft minutes
 - ii. To consider the Recommendations contained in Minute Number EST20/0045
 - b) Management Sub-Committee held on 27 April 2021, Minute Numbers MAN20/053 – MAN20/058 (attached)
 - i. To consider the draft minutes
9. **Council and Committee Meetings**

To consider the arrangements for Council and Committee meetings in July and onwards.
10. **HS2 Annual Traffic and Transport General Meeting**

To appointment two representatives to attend HS2 Annual Traffic and Transport General Meetings held with district and parish councils.

An email from the Phase 2a Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager (Community Areas 2 & 3) and updated terms of reference are attached.
11. **Promotion of Stone Working Group**

To consider changing the parent committee for the Promotion of Stone Working Group from this Committee to the Tourism and Town Promotion Sub-Committee.

12. Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

To consider a Boundary Commission for England review of Parliamentary Constituencies.

The following documents are attached to the electronic version of the agenda:

- Guide to the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies
- Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the West Midlands

The following documents are attached:

- West Midlands region initial proposals summary
- Map of the proposed Stone and Great Wyrley County Constituency

For further information also see the following link: [2023 Review | Boundary Commission for England \(independent.gov.uk\)](https://www.independent.gov.uk/2023-review-boundary-commission-for-england/)

13. Public Consultation on Hybrid Bill Procedure

To consider a public consultation on the second stage of a review of Hybrid Bill procedure (first stage completed in 2017). The scope of the review is to consider and make recommendations on possible changes to the procedure and practice of both Houses in relation to Hybrid bills so as to make the hybrid bill process simpler and less time consuming.

A link to further information on the Hybrid Bill procedure and practice is available here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2021/april/consultation-launched-on-hybrid-bill-procedure-and-practice/>

14. Christmas Lights

To consider the Christmas Lights display for 2021.

15. Town Council Payments

To receive a list of payments made by the Council during the period 1 April to 31 May 2021 (attached). This replaces the previous “Non-Cheque Payments Report” as most payments are now made electronically.

16. Update from Working Groups:

- a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
- b) Stone Area Parish Liaison Group (Draft notes attached)
- c) Promotion of Stone Working Group
- d) Heritage Centre Working Group

17. To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council

Stone ATC – Town Mayor & J. Davies

Age Concern Stone & District – Cllrs J. Davies and C. Thornicroft

Stafford & Stone Access Group – Cllr T. Kelt

Stone Common Plot Trustees – Cllrs: Mrs L. Davies, Mrs J. Hood, T. Kelt and R. Kenney

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group – Cllrs: Mrs L. Davies, Mrs J. Hood & J. Powell

SPCA Executive Committee – Cllr M. Green

18. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next items of business are discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate.

19. Confidential Minutes

To approve the confidential minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 4 May 2021, Minute No's GP22/001 and GP22/018.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the General Purposes Committee meeting as observers and/or to make representations to the committee in accordance with the Council's scheme of public participation. Details of the scheme are displayed in the Council's notice boards and website.

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held virtually, on Tuesday 4 May 2021

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) and Government Guidelines on public gatherings, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Members of the public were invited to observe the meeting streamed live on YouTube.

PRESENT: Councillor R. Kenney in the Chair, and
Councillors: A. Best, Mrs A. Burgess, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson,
I. Fordham, Mrs J. Hood, T. Kelt, P. Leason, J. Powell, C. Thornicroft and
R. Townsend

ABSENT: Councillors: K. Argyle, M. Green, M. Hatton and J. Hickling

GP22/001 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors: K. Argyle, M. Green and J. Hickling

GP22/002 Declarations of Interests

None

GP22/003 Requests for Dispensations

None

GP22/004 To receive the report of the County Councillors

County Councillor Mrs J. Hood

The Chairman invited Councillor Mrs Hood to address the Committee.

Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Committee that she would not be delivering a report on this occasion as the Town Council is currently in the pre-election period known as ‘purdah’.

Councillor Mrs Hood thanked the Committee for the gracious way Members had received her reports. She said that it had been a testing four years as a County Councillor but hoped she would be returning to the next meeting.

Councillor Mrs Hood wished everyone well, particularly the Stone Town Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Powell, Deputy Town Mayor, Mrs Kerry Dawson, and their Consorts. She wished them a successful year ahead.

County Councillor I. Parry

Councillor Parry was not in attendance at the meeting.

GP22/005 To receive the report of Borough Councillors

The Chairman invited Councillor Fordham to address the Committee.

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Councillor Fordham advised the Committee that the new Mayor of Stafford Borough was Councillor Tony Nixon who is the ward member for Littleworth. The Deputy Mayor is Councillor Peter Jones who is the ward member for Eccleshall.

Councillor Fordham advised the Committee that he did not wish to speak further due to being in a period of purdah.

GP22/006 Representations from Members of the Public

The Committee noted that the Town Council's Public Participation Scheme had been suspended until after the by-election for the Stonefield and Christchurch Ward.

GP22/007 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 13 April 2021 (Minute No's GP20/366 – GP20/383), be approved as a correct record.

GP22/008 Minutes of Sub-Committees

There were no Sub-Committee minutes for consideration.

GP22/009 Sub-Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee considered the terms of reference for the Council's Sub-Committees, a copy of which had been attached to the electronic version of the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the terms of reference for Sub-Committees are accepted with the following amendments:

- a. That 'The Town Market' listed under Section 4.13 of Estates Sub-Committee Functions, is removed and listed under Section 6.13 of Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee Functions.
- b. That the adopted Town Centre Strategy calling for an oversight of the appearance of the town centre including the appearance of assets not owned by Stone Town Council, is included under Section 4.13 of Estates Sub-Committee Functions.

GP22/010 To appoint the Members, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the following Sub-Committees

RESOLVED: To appoint the following Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Members to the Sub Committees for the municipal year 2021-22:

Tourism & Town Promotion

Chairman: Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Vice Chairman: Councillor I. Fordham

Members: Councillors: A. Best, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies, M. Green, P. Leason, C. Thornicroft

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Environment

Chairman: Councillor P. Leason

Vice Chairman: Councillor T. Kelt

Members: Councillors: K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, Mrs K. Dawson, M. Hatton, R. Townsend

Estates

Chairman: Councillor Mrs L. Davies

Vice Chairman: Councillor A. Best

Members: Councillors: I. Fordham, M. Hatton, Mrs J. Hood, C. Thornicroft, R. Townsend

Management

Chairman: Councillor J. Davies

Vice Chairman: Councillor I. Fordham

Members: Councillors: K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, Mrs L. Davies, M. Green, T. Kelt

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Chairman: Councillor Mrs J. Hood

Members: Councillors: A. Best, I. Fordham, J. Powell

Co-opted Members: J. Bonser, A. Osgathorpe

Mayor's Charity

Chairman: Councillor J. Powell

Members: Councillors: J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson, M. Green, Mrs J. Hood and R. Kenney

In addition, the Town Mayor and the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee are ex-officio members of all committees and sub-committees as set out in Standing Orders.

GP22/011 Stone Heritage Centre Working Group

The Committee considered the appointment of Members to the Heritage Centre Working Group.

RESOLVED: To make the following additional appointments of Council representatives to the Stone Heritage Centre Working Groups:

- Councillor Mrs Lin Davies
- Councillor Mrs Kerry Dawson

GP22/012 Appointment to Outside Bodies

The Committee considered appointments as the Council's representatives on outside bodies:

RESOLVED: To make the following appointments of Council representatives on outside bodies:

Stone ATC (Mayor plus 1 member)

Councillors: J. Davies and Town Mayor

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Age Concern Stone & District (2 members)

Councillors: J. Davies and C. Thornicroft

Stafford & Stone Access Group (1 Member)

Councillor T. Kelt

Trustees of the Town Hall Charity (all members)

All Councillors

Stone Community Hub Group

Councillors: Mrs L. Davies, Mrs J. Hood and J. Powell

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor J. Davies

NOTE: Current membership of the following bodies will continue until the stated dates, or until retirement by an individual member, even if the members cease to be members of the Council.

Stone Common Plot Trustees (four year term)

Currently Mrs L. Davies, Mrs J. Hood, T. Kelt and R. Kenney (all members' terms run to May 2023)

Richard Vernon Trust (four year term)

Currently J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies and J. Powell (all members' terms run to 2023)

SPCA Executive Committee (one member elected for a two year term)

Councillor M. Green (to December 2021)

GP22/013 Staffordshire Pension Fund

The Committee considered a consultation on the draft 'Funding Strategy Statement' of the Staffordshire Pension Fund which is administered by Staffordshire County Council.

A copy of an email from the Staffordshire Pension Fund and the draft Funding Strategy Statement (February 2021) had been attached to the electronic version of the agenda.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that there were two points that should be noted. The first point was that the Town Council's pension fund is pooled with all other parishes so the impact of what might happen at the Town Council is dampened by its spread across those parishes.

The second point was that if a member of staff should leave their employment early (through any reason other than ill health) a contribution is required by the Town Council towards the pension fund which can be spread over a five year period (and doesn't have to be paid all at once).

The Town Council noted the content of the consultation document.

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GP22/014 Town Council Payments

RESOLVED: To note the list* of Town Council payments made by the Council during the period 1 to 31 March 2021.

GP22/015 Update from Working Groups:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Committee that no meeting of the Steering Group had taken place.

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that a meeting of the Liaison Group had taken place on 14 April 2021. A representative from Fulford Parish Council had joined the meeting which resulted in the Group bringing under its wing all of the large parishes surrounding Stone. Councillor Davies said that it had been extremely useful to share knowledge and experiences and to note what a strong sense of community the Stone parishes have together.

Traffic Management in Stone Working Group

Councillor Kenney advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

Promotion of Stone Working Group

Councillor Kenney advised the Committee that no meeting of the Working Group had taken place.

Heritage Centre Working Group

Councillor Kenney advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

GP22/016 To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council

Stone ATC

Councillor Davies advised the Committee that a meeting had been arranged to take place later this month.

Age Concern Stone & District

Councillor Thornicroft advised the Committee that no meeting had taken place.

Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Kelt reported that the meeting of the Access Group scheduled to take place in April had been deferred until June.

Stone Common Plot Trustees

Councillor Kenney confirmed that no meeting had taken place.

Stone Community Hub Liaison Group

Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Committee that no meetings had taken place.

SPCA Executive Committee

Councillor Green was not available to provide a report.

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The meeting was temporarily suspended and then reconvened after the open session of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting had taken place.

GP22/017 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next items of business are discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate.

RESOLVED: To exclude the Press and Public from the next item of business.

GP22/018 Stone Station Roof

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk which explored the repairs required to Stone Station roof and the potential options that were available to the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee notes the position with the Station roof and authorises the Town Clerk to:

- a. Seek further quotations and professional advice regarding the station, including the short and long term requirements for roof repairs and maintenance prior to undertaking any further spending on the repairs themselves.
- b. Report back once the above information has been obtained to enable the Committee to determine the preferred way forward.

CHAIRMAN

Stone Town Council – Estates Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Tuesday 27 April 2021

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) and Government Guidelines on public gatherings, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Members of the public were invited to observe the meeting streamed live on YouTube.

PRESENT: Councillor I. Fordham in the Chair and
Councillors: A. Best, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs J. Hood, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

By Chairman's invitation: Councillors: J. Davies, T. Kelt, P. Leason and J. Powell

ABSENT: Councillors: M. Green, M. Hatton and R. Kenney

EST20/041 Apologies

Councillors: M. Green and R. Kenney

EST20/042 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

EST20/043 Representations from Members of the Public

The Sub-Committee noted that the Town Council's Public Participation Scheme had been suspended until after the by-election for the Stonefield and Christchurch Ward.

EST20/044 Minutes of Previous Meeting

That the minutes of the Estates Sub-Committee meeting held on the 5 January 2021 (Minute Numbers EST20/030 – EST20/040), be approved as a correct record.

EST20/045 Baskets on the Railings at Stone Station

The Sub-Committee considered a proposal for the installation of flower baskets on the railings at Stone Station. The item had been brought forward from the previous Estates Sub-Committee meeting after further information had been requested.

A copy of the proposal had been issued with the agenda for the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the group applying for

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permission to install the flower baskets was London Northwestern Railway Estates Team in conjunction with volunteers which Councillor Kelt confirmed were from the North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership.

The Estates team and volunteers had indicated that (although not confirmed) their proposal involved use of the Blacksmith Hayrack basket design which would be in keeping with the railings. They also indicated that if the Town Council was willing to support the project all necessary permissions would be obtained. The Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council has confirmed that planning permission would not be required.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the Caretaker at Stone Station had agreed to water the plants if supplied with the necessary vessel that would enable the task to be undertaken.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council supports the London Northwestern Railway Estates Team proposal to install and maintain flower baskets on the railings at Stone Station.

EST20/046 Update on Frank Jordan Centre

The Chairman provided the Sub-Committee with an update on the Frank Jordan Centre.

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Town Council had been busy during the pandemic ensuring that the Frank Jordan Centre was in the best possible shape for room hire. The planned internal refurbishment works were complete and bookings were now being taken in line with current Covid-19 restrictions.

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that exterior signage had been improved and repairs to brickwork and fencing completed. The car park has been swept clean and arrangements made to mark out parking bays that will maximise the availability of spaces. This work is planned as soon as possible with the intention of completing before relaxation of the Government's Covid-19 restrictions on 21 June 2021.

EST20/047 Reports of Working Groups

Market Strategy (Market Pricing & Strategy)

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that the Market Strategy Working Group had not met due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Use of Frank Jordan Centre and Stone Station

The Chairman advised the Committee that no meeting of the Community

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Centres Working Group had taken place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chairman

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Stone Town Council – Management Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held virtually on Tuesday 27 April 2021

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) and Government Guidelines on public gatherings, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Members of the public were invited to observe the meeting streamed live on YouTube.

PRESENT: Councillor J. Davies in the Chair and
Councillors: Mrs L. Davies, I. Fordham and T. Kelt

By Chairman's invitation: Mrs J. Hood, P. Leason, J. Powell and R. Townsend

ABSENT: Councillor: K. Argyle, Mrs A. Burgess, M. Green and R. Kenney

MAN20/053 Apologies

Councillors: K. Argyle, M. Green and R. Kenney

MAN20/054 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None received

MAN20/055 Representations from Members of the Public

The Sub-Committee noted that the Town Council's Public Participation Scheme had been suspended until after the by-election for the Stonefield and Christchurch Ward.

MAN20/056 Minutes

That the Minutes of the Management Sub-Committee Meeting held on the 5 January 2021 (Minute No's MAN20/041 – MAN20/052), be approved as a correct record.

MAN20/057 Public Access to Meetings

The Sub-Committee considered whether the Council should investigate adding audio and video facilities to the Council Chamber to allow meetings to continue to be broadcast over YouTube once physical meetings return.

The Chairman reminded the Sub-Committee that the previous twelve month period had proven the worth of technology put in place by the Town Clerk to enable the Council to meet remotely. It had also highlighted how interested the people of Stone are in the work of the Town Council.

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

The Chairman suggested the Town Council look forward to holding physical meetings again whilst investigating whether new technology can be embodied to 'Build Back Better' and enable the continuation of public viewing remotely.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that he had investigated suitable technology and it was emerging that the best approach was the installation of three wide angled cameras in the Council Chamber. Any new system introduced would need to be upgradable so that hybrid meetings are possible if the Government approves remote attendance by Councillors in the future. The equipment needed would include screens, extra bandwidth and sound to broadcast technology.

The Sub-Committee expressed the view that remote public access to meetings was an important consideration with a number of advantages, including improved access to residents with physical disabilities and that residents including the young would be able to see with ease what the Council is about and examples of democracy in action.

Councillor Mrs Davies asked that it be recorded in the minutes that the Town Clerk is awaiting quotations for the necessary equipment.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that it is unlikely that current internet bandwidth in the Council Chamber would be sufficient for remote broadcasting, so quotations would need to include broadband improvements. He also stated that he would discuss whether other users of the building might have the capacity to support this need.

The Town Clerk confirmed that grant aid opportunities from external sources would be fully investigated.

The Sub-Committee concluded that the Town Council should fully support the investigation of suitable technology to make possible remote access to physical meetings and so improve the Council's performance on transparency, accessibility and open democracy.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the Town Clerk should continue his research and provide a further update on his findings when appropriate.

MAN20/058 Updates

The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk for the work undertaken to ensure that the sad death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was appropriately commemorated.

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The Sub-Committee received updates on the following:

a. Website

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that improvements were slowly being made to the website which had included news items including press releases, a new meetings page and information on Planning and the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman advised the Sub-Committee that when the Town Council gets closer to the opening of the Heritage Centre a lot more information will need to be uploaded.

b. Facebook

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that he had no update on the Facebook page as little progress had been made since the Marketing and Events Assistant had left the authority.

The Sub-Committee expressed its disappointment that the Town Council had not yet launched a Facebook page, considered one of the most popular mediums used by young people. The Sub-Committee also suggested that alternative social media platforms be investigated.

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the project needed to be taken on by someone with a good understanding of Facebook (or other platform) and the skills to get it up and running. In addition, social media in all its forms needed significant time resources and dedication in keeping information up to date. The immediacy of responses and regularity of maintenance was an important factor in providing an effective and professional offering.

The Sub-Committee confirmed that the project needed to be high on the Council's to do list as soon as there was a resource to work on it.

c. Service Continuity Plan

The Town Clerk advised the Sub-Committee that the Service Continuity Plan had been robustly tested over the previous twelve months. He advised that a new telephone system had been ordered and 10 May had been given by Virgin Media as a provisional date for installation.

The Town Clerk advised that the part of the Plan that had thankfully not been tested was protection of the buildings contents against fire. Discussions had recently begun on the benefits of transferring paper files to electronic via a scanning program followed by archiving of data files.

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The Sub-Committee considered the options for the safe and secure storage of original historic documents which it concluded should be professionally stored off site. The County Records Office or the Heritage Centre were given as options for consideration.

The Chairman concluded that the Service Continuity Plan had proven its worth and the Town Council was as a result making substantial changes to improve its operation in the future.

The Sub-Committee agreed that a full review should be undertaken in the next six to twelve months.

d. Resolutions Progress Report

The Chairman invited feedback on the Resolutions Progress Report and the Sub-Committee confirmed that Members found it useful and would like it to continue.

e. IT Contract

The Town Clerk informed the Sub-Committee that he had nothing but praise for the Town Council's IT contractor who had provided an excellent service throughout the period of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Chairman

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

From: Joe Wilson <Joe.Wilson@hs2.org.uk>

Sent: 25 May 2021 11:18

To: Les Trigg <les.trigg@stonetowncouncil.gov.uk>; Les Trigg <les.trigg@stonetowncouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: HS2 Ltd: Highways subgroup: Terms of Reference for the Traffic & Transport Annual General meeting

Dear Les

Please find attached an updated Terms of Reference for the HS2 Highways Sub-Group meetings, and also for the Annual Traffic and Transport general meeting held with the District and Parish Councils.

It was agreed after the last meeting held in November 2020, that HS2 along with our statutory stakeholders – Highways England, Local Highways Authorities and Department for Transport to review the ToR.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards

Joe

Joe Wilson | Phase 2a - Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager (Community Areas 2 & 3) | HS2 Ltd

Mobile: 07468 707809 | joe.wilson@hs2.org.uk | hs2instaffordshire.co.uk

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HS2 Phase 2a Planning Forum: Highways Sub-group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1 Preamble

Ordinary meetings (Section 2 of these Terms of Reference) are those meetings which occur throughout the year at least until the completion of HS2 Phase 2a Main Civil Works (see 2.4 below), and whose membership is set out at 2.1 below.

Extraordinary meetings (Section 3 of these Terms of Reference) are those meetings which occur annually until the completion of HS2 Phase 2a Main Civil Works and whose membership is set out at 3.1 below.

2 Ordinary meetings

2.1 Membership

- HS2 Ltd staff.
- Department for Transport representatives.
- Local highway authority officers.
- Highways England.
- Other relevant authority representatives agreed by the membership.
- Other representatives as appropriate and where relevant to the agenda items for discussion.

2.2 Purpose

The Ordinary meetings of the Highways Sub-group of the HS2 Phase 2a Planning Forum has been established to:

- facilitate engagement between members on route-wide common interest matters related to local highway authority roads and public rights of way.
- seek agreement on a common approach to route-wide principles, standards, practices, and processes associated with highway consents and approvals.
- present recommendations on highway-related planning consents and approvals to the Planning Forum as appropriate.
- identify and discuss areas of common interest and concern to local highways authorities along the whole line of route; and

The nature of matters to be addressed by the sub-group may evolve as the project develops. It is not the purpose of the Highways Sub-group to discuss location specific issues and mitigation, which will be considered through bilateral meetings.

2.3 Forward programme

The Highways Sub-group shall develop and keep updated a forward programme of topics to be discussed. The forward programme should be considered at each meeting.

Parish Councils along the line of route may request that topics are considered by the Highways Sub-group. Such requests can be sent from Parish Councils to the relevant local highway authority to enable any new topics to be added to the forward programme, as appropriate.

Districts Councils along the line of route may request that topics are considered by the Highways Sub-group through their membership of the Planning Forum.

HS2 Phase 2a Planning Forum: Highways Sub-group

2.4 Meetings

The Highways Sub-group will meet as necessary at approximately eight-weekly intervals at least until the completion of HS2 Phase 2a Main Civil Works. As Main Civil Works conclude, it is expected that Highways Sub-group meetings will reduce in frequency and conclude as train testing commences. HS2 Ltd will chair the meetings and provide secretariat support. The business of each meeting will include:

- Agree minutes of the previous meeting.
- Review progress and actions, including any updates from the Planning Forum.
- Discussion of topics as listed on agenda including papers circulated in advance.
- Agree actions, action owners and target dates.
- Review and update the forward programme.
- Agree date, time, and place for next meeting.

Where practicable, meetings will rotate between the local highway authorities directly affected by Phase 2a of the Proposed Scheme. If possible, meetings will include facilities for dialling in and displaying presentation slides. If a highway authority is not able to provide a meeting facility, meetings will be held at 2 Snow Hill, Birmingham.

2.4 Timescales and performance

HS2 Ltd and Highways Sub-group members agree to the following timescales:

- Draft meeting minutes and any material discussed from the previous sub-group meeting (including presentation slides and agreed changes to the forward agenda) to be circulated by HS2 Ltd within two weeks after the meeting.
- Draft Agenda for the following sub-group meeting to be circulated by HS2 Ltd two weeks before the meeting.
- Agenda item requests and material for circulation to be provided to the secretariat five working days before the meeting in order for the agenda to be finalised and attachments circulated.
- Final agenda and any materials for discussion to be circulated by HS2 Ltd three working days prior to a sub-group meeting.

Circulation of minutes and forward programme will be to the Highways Sub-group attendees and others as agreed by members. Minutes and other material will be published online as soon as practicable to do so.

3. Extraordinary meetings

3.1 Membership

- HS2 Ltd staff.
- Department for Transport representatives.
- Local highway authority officers.
- Highways England representative
- Parish and District Councils along the line of route and other parishes which may be directly affected by construction. The Councils to be invited will be nominated by the highway authorities along the line of route. A maximum of two representatives from each Parish and District Council will be invited to attend, representatives must be officers of the council, Councillors, or co-opted members.

3.2 Purpose

HS2 Phase 2a Planning Forum: Highways Sub-group

The Extraordinary meetings of the Highways Sub-group of the HS2 Phase 2a Planning Forum has been established to:

- provide an additional opportunity for community engagement on route-wide common interest matters related to traffic and highways to be represented.
- facilitate engagement with Parish and District Councils on route-wide common interest matters related traffic and highways.

The nature of matters to be addressed at the annual extraordinary meeting may evolve as the project develops. It is not the purpose of the annual extraordinary meeting (nor any Highways Sub-group meeting) to discuss location specific issues and mitigation, which will be considered through bilateral meetings.

3.3 Invitations and requests for agenda items

Invitations to the annual extraordinary meeting will be managed by HS2 Ltd and will be issued one month before the meeting. Invitations will include a request for agenda items.

Agenda items are to be submitted by the Parish and District Councils to HS2 Ltd at least two weeks before the meeting, late agenda item requests during the meeting will be accepted. Agenda items are to be route-wide common interest matters. HS2 Ltd may liaise with the highway authorities and the Department of Transport before establishing a final agenda. Similar requests may be dealt with under one agenda item. Site specific matters should be raised as a part of on-going bilateral engagement activities between HS2 and its contractors and local parish or District Councils.

The final agenda will be agreed by HS2 Ltd and the highway authorities at least one week before the meeting.

3.4 Meetings and timescale

The promoter shall seek to hold the first annual extraordinary meeting in June/July 2019 and annually thereafter, but this timescale may be amended according to construction activities, as appropriate.

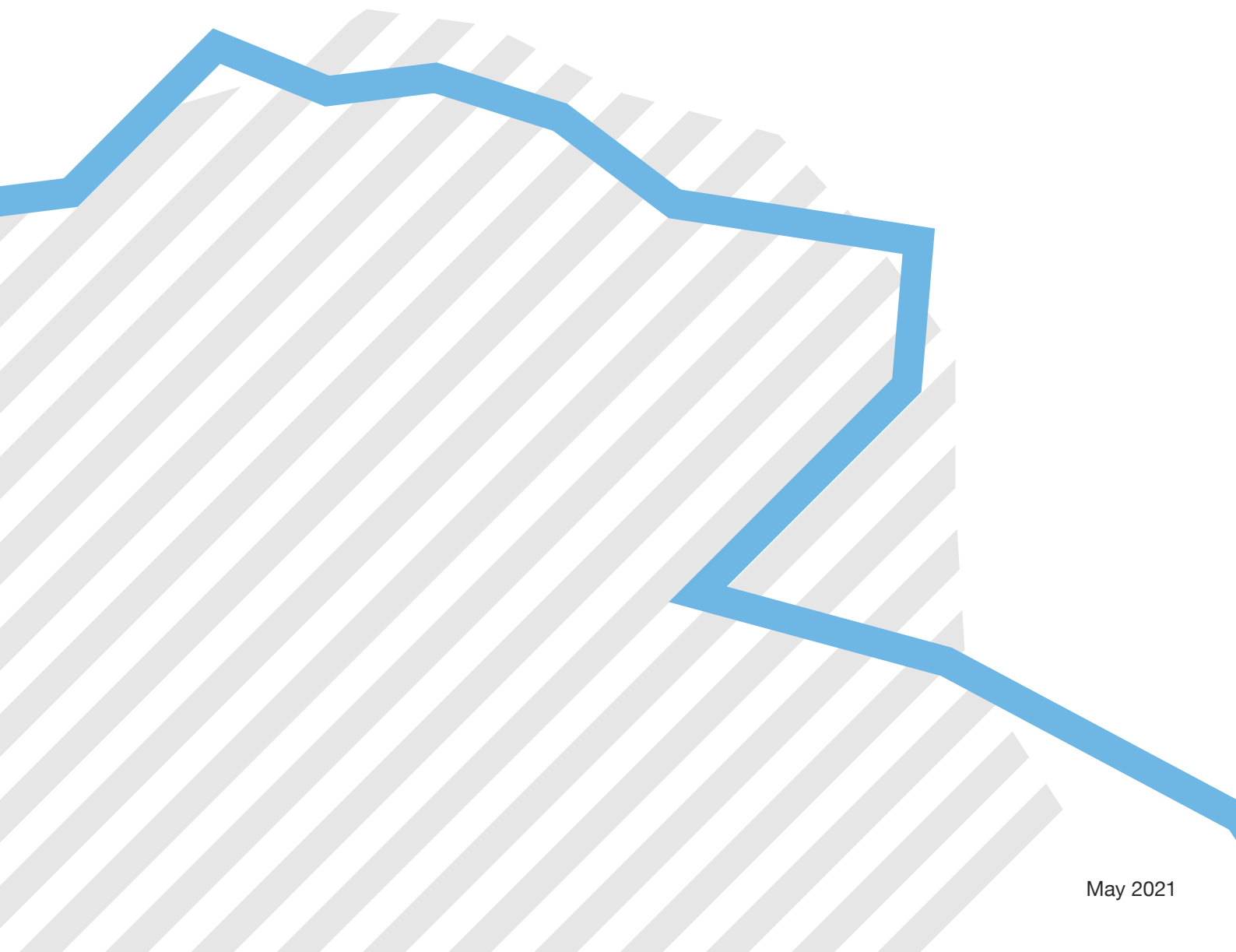
The highway authorities will agree the location, date, and time of the meeting at a preceding Highways Sub-group meeting. HS2 Ltd or an external party will chair the annual extraordinary meetings, HS2 Ltd will provide secretariat support. Meeting etiquette will be set out by the Chairperson at the start of the meeting.

The output of the meeting will be an action log and a summary of the key points discussed. Actions arising from the meeting will be reported back to the Highways Sub-group, or responses included within the action log before issue to attendees, as appropriate. The action log and meeting summary is to be issued within 4 weeks after the meeting for review by meeting attendees. Meeting attendees shall then have 4 weeks from point of issue to provide any comments. The meeting summary and action log will be published online as soon as practicable to do so.

4. Effectiveness

The Highways Sub-group will periodically review its own effectiveness. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the sub-group every six months, or sooner if needed as appropriate (this review frequency will be monitored by HS2 Ltd).

Guide to the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies



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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

- 1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. The members of the BCE and other key positions are described at Appendix A.
- 2 The BCE has the task of periodically reviewing all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. It is currently conducting a review on the basis of rules most recently updated by Parliament in 2020. These latest rules retain 650 constituencies for the UK Parliament as a whole, and require constituencies that we propose or recommend to comply with strict parameters, in particular as far as the number of electors in each constituency is concerned.
- 3 The review process is heavily informed by public consultation. The BCE develops and publishes initial proposals for constituencies across England. Representations from the public about these proposals are then taken in writing and at public hearings in each region of England across two rounds of consultation. In light of all the views expressed about these initial proposals, the BCE may revise them and then conduct a further round of written consultation on the revised proposals.
- 4 The BCE is required to make a formal final report to the Speaker of the House of Commons before 1 July 2023, recommending any changes that it believes are appropriate to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies in England. The current constituencies review is therefore referred to throughout this booklet as ‘the 2023 Review’.
- 5 The Government must turn the recommendations of the BCE (and those of the equivalent Commissions for the other three parts of the UK) into an ‘Order in Council’ that implements the recommendations. The constituencies set out in the Order will then be implemented for the next General Election after the date on which the legislation is approved.

Purpose of the Guide

- 6 The BCE has produced this Guide to help to explain how the process for the 2023 Review will work. The Guide covers both what the law says the BCE must do as part of the process, and the particular approach the BCE proposes to take on matters of policy within its own discretion.
- 7 This Guide therefore sets out a detailed and technical statement of: the statutory framework; the review process; and the BCE's policies in developing proposals and final recommendations.
- 8 The BCE hopes that, by clarifying the process and policy in this way, the Guide will both encourage those who may be thinking of making their views known and help to ensure that those who do make their views known can do so in the most well-informed and effective manner. The Guide therefore aims:
 - to **clearly explain how and when the public may contribute their views**, so as to most effectively inform the development of the BCE's final recommendations; and
 - to explain the significant changes that were most recently made to the law governing Parliamentary constituency reviews by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 ('the 2020 Act') and the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). **Both the 2020 Act and 2011 Act have a major impact on the way a review operates. Furthermore, as neither of the constituency reviews conducted since the 2011 Act resulted in new constituencies being implemented, the 2023 Review is likely to result in a significant degree of change to a large number of existing constituencies, if for no other reason than the need to adjust for 20 years of change to the distribution of electors since the data on which the existing constituencies are based was established.**
- 9 However, the Guide is not intended to be a full statement of the law about the review and redistribution of Parliamentary constituencies. For a definitive statement of that law, please refer to the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992, the 2011 Act and the 2020 Act) available at www.legislation.gov.uk. The 1986 Act (as amended) is referred to throughout the remainder of this Guide simply as 'the Act'.

Contact details

- 10 Any queries about the content of this Guide, or on any other aspect of the work of the BCE, can be raised using these contact details:

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

Telephone: 020 7276 1102

Email: information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk

Web: boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

- 11 All material published by the BCE and other information about the 2023 Review may be found on its website.

UK electoral boundaries the BCE is *not* responsible for

- 12 There are separate Boundary Commissions for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, which are responsible for the review of Parliamentary constituencies in their respective parts of the United Kingdom.
- 13 The BCE has no responsibility for the review of local government electoral boundaries or structural reviews of local government. In England, such reviews are the responsibility of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, while similar bodies conduct local government reviews in the other parts of the UK.
- 14 Contact details for all these bodies are to be found in Appendix B.

Preparing for the review

The base data for the 2023 Review

- 15 The Act provides that the electorate figures that are to be used for this review are the Parliamentary electors as they were in the electoral register on 2 March 2020. The BCE has published all the base electorate data for the 2023 Review on its website.
- 16 The Act says that the BCE may have regard to ‘local government boundaries’ in developing its proposals. The Act defines such boundaries in England as the boundaries of: counties and their electoral divisions; districts and their wards; London boroughs and their wards; and the City of London. The 2020 Act has now introduced the concept of ‘prospective’ boundaries: this means that the local boundaries we may have regard to are – where applicable – not those actually in place on the operative date of 1 December 2020, but future ward/electoral division boundaries that have been made by Order by that date, but not yet implemented on the ground. The maps published alongside the BCE’s proposals (in hard copy and on the BCE website) will show the relevant local government boundaries.

The distribution of constituencies

- 17 The Act requires there to be a fixed number of 650 constituencies for the whole of the UK. Having stated that no single constituency may be split between different parts of the UK, the Act ‘protects’ five specified island constituencies (two on the Isle of Wight for England, two for Scotland, and one for Wales), then provides a mathematical formula to determine how many constituencies each of the four parts of the UK should be allocated from the remaining 645, based on the electorate figures as at 2 March 2020. **The number of constituencies allocated to England for the 2023 Review is 543** (including the two for the Isle of Wight).
- 18 The BCE has subsequently distributed the 541 constituencies (i.e. the total English allocation less the two reserved for the Isle of Wight) between the nine ‘English regions’ defined in the Act. In order to do so, the BCE used the same mathematical formula (commonly known as the Sainte-Laguë method) as that provided in the Act for the initial allocation between the four parts of the UK.

- 19 This results in the following allocation of constituencies between the regions:

	Existing constituencies	Proposed constituencies
Eastern	58	61
East Midlands	46	47
London	73	75
North East	29	27
North West	75	73
South East	84	91*
South West	55	58
West Midlands	59	57
Yorkshire and the Humber	54	54

* Includes the two constituencies for the Isle of Wight

- 20 In developing its proposals, the BCE allocates the specified number of constituencies within the relevant region and aims to produce initial proposals in which each constituency is wholly contained within a single region. This approach does not prevent anyone from putting forward counterproposals that include one or more constituencies being split between regions, but it is likely that very compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade the BCE to depart from the region-based approach it adopts in formulating its initial proposals. A description of the extent of each region appears at Appendix C, and maps can be obtained from Ordnance Survey (or viewed on the BCE website once proposals are published).

Establishing policy and procedure

- 21 In considering the procedures for a review, the BCE consults those Parliamentary political parties with constituencies in England on broad issues of policy ahead of the review, in line with its usual practice. Minutes of the 26 November 2020 meeting conducted with the representatives of these parties are published on the BCE's website.

- 22 In formulating its initial proposals for particular areas, the BCE exercises its own judgement and does not consult the Parliamentary political parties, local authorities or any other interested groups or people. The BCE considers that it should take the initiative in preparing its proposals from all the information available to it. The proposals are therefore formed by the BCE from a position of independence and impartiality and are not influenced by any particular viewpoint or opinion. Once the proposals are published, the statutory procedures allow for a public consultation during which political parties and others can then make their views on proposed boundaries known to the BCE.

Developing proposals – requirements and policy

Statutory electorate range

- 23 The Act sets out a number of Rules in Schedule 2 which are relevant to the detailed development of proposals for individual constituencies. Foremost among these is Rule 2, which provides that – apart from five specified exceptions – every constituency we recommend must have an electorate (as at 2 March 2020) that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the ‘UK electoral quota’. **The UK electoral quota for the 2023 Review is, to the nearest whole number, 73,393.**
- 24 Accordingly, every recommended constituency (except the five ‘protected’ constituencies) must have an electorate as at 2 March 2020 that is **no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062.**
- 25 The specified exceptions to this in England are the two constituencies for the Isle of Wight. However, in all other aspects of the 2023 Review, the Isle of Wight is treated in the same way as other parts of England.

Other statutory factors

- 26 Rule 5 in Schedule 2 provides for a number of other factors that the BCE may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies for the 2023 Review, specifically:
- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 - local government boundaries as they existed (or were in prospect) on 1 December 2020 (see paragraph 16 above);
 - boundaries of existing constituencies;
 - any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies; and
 - the inconveniences attendant on such changes.

Special geographical considerations

- 27 The BCE considers that special geographical considerations that may have an impact on the ability to form a constituency with an electorate within the statutory electorate range will primarily relate to physical geography such as mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, estuaries, islands, and major roads, rather than to human or social geography. Matters of culture, history, socio-economics and other possible aspects of non-physical geography are more likely to arise as issues when considering the separate factor of ‘local ties’.

Local government boundaries and local ties

- 28 The BCE may take into account local government boundaries. These include both the external boundaries of local councils and their internal – ward or electoral division – boundaries.

- 29 While the BCE proposes to identify constituencies by reference to local authority external boundaries as far as practicable, it is nevertheless often necessary to cross these boundaries in order to form constituencies that comply with the statutory electorate range.
- 30 The BCE uses wards (in district and borough council areas) or electoral divisions (in areas of unitary authorities that have a county status) as the basic building block for designing constituencies. The use of the term ‘ward’ throughout the rest of this document should be taken to include electoral divisions in unitary authorities.
- 31 Wards are well-defined and well-understood units, which are generally indicative of areas which have a broad community of interest. Any division of a ward between constituencies would therefore risk breaking local ties, as well as adding complexity to both the task of Returning Officers in administering a Parliamentary election in the area, and the ‘grass roots’ co-ordination of political party activism. The BCE’s view is therefore that **wards should continue to be the default building block for constituencies**. However, the BCE recognises that there may be circumstances where the splitting of a ward may be necessary to achieve a scheme of constituencies locally that better meets the ‘Rule 5’ statutory criteria overall (see paragraph 26 above). In limited circumstances, we would therefore consider the splitting of a ward between constituencies. Those circumstances are:
- Where splitting a ward would significantly enhance the ability of the BCE to adhere to existing or prospective local authority boundaries (i.e. avoid constituencies crossing local authorities), maintain existing constituencies unchanged, and/or preserve local ties, without causing consequential significant problems for surrounding constituencies.
 - Where the division of a ward would avoid the alternative of a significant ‘domino effect’ of change to a wide area if wards were to be kept whole. This is likely to be an issue in metropolitan areas, where wards often have large electorates: an example from a previous Review was the BCE’s recommendation to split three wards in the West Midlands metropolitan area, which minimised the need to cross local council boundaries, and prevented an otherwise radical ‘domino effect’ of change across the whole metropolitan area and beyond.
 - Where the division of a ward would avoid otherwise unacceptable outcomes forced by local geographical factors: an example from a previous Review was the BCE’s acceptance of the need to split a rural ward near Tewkesbury to avoid a proposed Forest of Dean constituency otherwise having to take in an urban area of Gloucester.

- 32 Additionally, where the splitting of wards is proposed, BCE would wish to adhere to the following policies:
- The number of such ward splits should be the smallest number possible, commensurate with achieving the objectives set out in paragraph 31 above.
 - The split of a ward should generally be done on the basis of the boundaries of the component polling districts that form part of that ward, as polling districts are an existing recognised unit of electoral administration (but see paragraph 40 below).
 - Wherever possible, the splitting of a ward should be done such that the separated parts of the ward will nonetheless remain in constituencies where the returning officer for each of the constituencies is likely to be the same individual (i.e. ward splits should where possible be contained within a single local authority area): this is consistent with our policy in relation to ‘orphan wards’ below.

Boundaries of existing constituencies

- 33 The BCE intends to have regard generally to existing constituencies as far as possible, as it does not consider that it would be appropriate to start from a ‘blank sheet of paper’. However, this does not mean that an existing constituency should be automatically considered to be ‘protected from change’, simply on the basis of its electorate figure already falling within the statutory range. The changed number of overall constituencies allocated to most English regions, together with the hard limits of the statutory permitted electorate range, means that many constituencies that have an electorate within the statutory range will, nonetheless, need to be altered to create viable constituencies in the surrounding area, and accommodate the new total of constituencies for the region overall.

Interplay of the considerations

- 34 The policy of the BCE is to take into account all the factors listed in Rule 5 as far as possible, subject to the primacy of the permitted electorate range under Rule 2.
- 35 The Act does not require the BCE to seek to achieve constituency electorates that are ‘as close as possible to’ the UK electoral quota. Nor does the BCE consider it appropriate to superimpose on the statutory scheme a policy objective of trying to minimise divergence from the UK electoral quota. The desirability of such an aim was specifically raised during the passage of the most recent legislation, and Parliament chose not to add it to the factors to which we may have regard. Not least, such an objective would actually conflict with – and reduce the ability of the BCE to have regard to – the existing factors listed in Rule 5. By way of illustration, the BCE would prefer to identify a constituency that had, say, a 4% variance from the UK electoral quota, but which respected local ties, in preference to an alternative that produced a constituency with only a 1% variance, but which would split communities.

- 36 As far as possible, the BCE seeks to create constituencies:
- from wards that are adjacent to each other; and
 - that do not contain 'detached parts', i.e. where the only physical connection between one part of the constituency and the remainder would require travel through a different constituency.
- 37 Where it is necessary to have a constituency that crosses a local authority boundary, the BCE will generally seek to avoid having a single 'orphan' ward from a local authority isolated in a constituency. This is to avoid the perception (if not the reality) that the residents of that ward – and the local authority of which it remains a part – may be considered less important than the remainder of the constituency by its MP.

Factors the BCE will not consider

Impact on future election results

- 38 The BCE is a politically independent and impartial body. It emphasises very strongly that existing voting patterns and the prospective fortunes of political parties should not and do not enter its considerations during a review.

New local government boundaries

- 39 As mentioned above, the local government boundaries that the BCE may have regard to for this review are those that existed or – where relevant – were in prospect (due to being made by an as-yet-unimplemented Order) as at 1 December 2020. Consequently, the BCE will not generally take into account new boundaries after this date.
- 40 However, in the limited circumstances where the BCE may be considering the splitting of a ward (as it existed or was in prospect on 1 December 2020) between constituencies in order to meet the statutory electorate range, in considering how to split that ward, the BCE is prepared to take into account, as appropriate, any new ward boundaries introduced after 1 December 2020.

Changes to electorates after the review date

- 41 The BCE is required to work on the basis of the numbers of Parliamentary electors on the electoral registers as at 2 March 2020. It is unable to take account of any under-registration or over-registration of electors that may be claimed in some areas.

- 42 However, the BCE does not take the view that it is obliged to shut its eyes entirely to growth (or decline) that has occurred since the review date, which it may be aware of from the annual updates of electorate figures it receives, or that it is satisfied is likely to occur. Such a factor may be taken into account in choosing between two or more competing options for the same area that satisfy the statutory rules.

Naming and designating constituencies

- 43 In making its recommendations, the BCE is also required by the Act to specify a name and designation for each proposed constituency. The Act contains no guidance on these points.

Naming

- 44 The BCE's policy on the naming of constituencies is that, when constituencies remain largely unchanged, the existing constituency name should usually be retained. In such cases, constituency names are likely to be altered only where there is good reason for change (for example where a constituency named for its main population centre has, over time, seen that main population centre change).
- 45 Generally, the BCE considers that the name should normally reflect the main population centre(s) contained in the constituency, as that will likely be the main focal point for communities in the area. However, if a suitable alternative name is proposed which generally commands strong support locally, the BCE will usually be prepared to recommend that alternative.
- 46 The BCE adopts compass point names when there is not a clear population centre or other focal point in the constituency. The compass point reference used will generally form a prefix in cases where the rest of the constituency name refers to the county area or a more rural council area (e.g. district), but a suffix where the rest of the name refers to a population centre or essentially urban council area (such as metropolitan or London boroughs, and urban unitaries). Examples of existing constituencies that demonstrate these principles are North Shropshire and Reading West.

Designating

- 47 The Act also requires that each constituency is designated as either a ‘county constituency’ or a ‘borough constituency’. The BCE considers that, as a general principle, where constituencies contain more than a small rural element they should normally be designated as county constituencies. In other cases, they should be designated as borough constituencies. The designation is suffixed to the constituency name and is usually abbreviated: BC for borough constituency and CC for county constituency.
- 48 The designation generally determines who shall act as Returning Officer for Parliamentary elections. The Returning Officer in borough constituencies is a district or borough council chairman or mayor. For county constituencies it is the high sheriff.
- 49 The designation also determines the limit on the amount that a candidate is allowed to spend during a Parliamentary election in the constituency. The limit is slightly lower in borough constituencies, to reflect the lower costs of running a campaign in a more geographically compact urbanised area.

Developing proposals – process

- 50 The BCE obtained the electorate figures from Electoral Registration Officers in local authorities, either directly, or indirectly through the Office for National Statistics. When all the figures had been received, the four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions agreed the UK electoral quota and the number of constituencies allocated to each part of the UK, applying the formulae set out in the Act (see above for the actual figures that have been agreed for the 2023 Review).
- 51 As explained above, the BCE has further allocated constituencies among the nine regions of England using the same distribution formula, and has determined that, in the absence of compelling reasons to the contrary, no constituency should cross a boundary between two regions.
- 52 The mandatory nature of Rule 2 in the legislation – concerning the statutory electorate range for constituencies – means that it will be necessary for a number of constituencies to cross external local authority boundaries: the electorates of many local authorities make it a mathematical impossibility for them to be allocated a whole number of constituencies. However, the BCE has sought to minimise the extent to which this happens. In order to meet the requirements of Rule 2, the BCE has found it necessary to combine some county and unitary authority areas together into sub-region groupings, but will then propose not to cross the boundaries between these sub-regions. The sub-regions used for the 2023 Review will be explained in the initial proposals.
- 53 Within each ‘sub-region’ grouping, the BCE identifies the appropriate number of constituencies to fit within the area that the sub-region covers. This is done by dividing the total electorate within that sub-region (as at 2 March 2020) by the UK electoral quota, with appropriate rounding applied to any fractions.
- 54 Taking into account all the considerations mentioned above and using wards as default building blocks, the BCE then works in detail on how to divide the sub-region into the relevant number of constituencies.
- 55 While the BCE uses a particular pattern of sub-regions for its initial proposals, this does not preclude an individual from submitting a counterproposal during the consultation stage that is, for example, based on a viable alternative pattern of sub-region groupings.

Publication of initial proposals

- 56 When the BCE has decided on its initial proposals, it publishes information on its website (including a series of reports to explain the proposals), together with detailed information about how and when views on those proposals can be submitted. At the same time, it sends hard copies of the proposals to various local ‘places of deposit’, where the public may view the proposals.

- 57 The places of deposit where the public may inspect the proposals are usually the offices of the relevant local authority, although other places such as public libraries may be used instead. There will be one hard copy deposited in each proposed constituency, and a full list of where these are will be published on the BCE website at the same time as the proposals.
- 58 In addition to the initial proposals and its reports on them, in order to help the public better to understand the proposals, the BCE also places on deposit and on its website detailed maps showing, among other information, the name, designation and boundary of each proposed constituency.
- 59 To publicise the initial proposals, the BCE also notifies all interested parties (for example, local authorities, MPs and academics) that it has published and is consulting on them. The House of Commons library also receives copies of the detailed maps. In advance of the information being sent out, the BCE also issues a press release about the initial proposals, the consultation period and the subsequent procedures of a review.
- 60 Copies of the initial proposals, reports and accompanying maps, and all other material published by the BCE, are placed on its website – boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk
- 61 For the 2023 Review, the BCE plans to publish its initial proposals in June 2021.

Initial consultation period

General

- 62 Those who respond to the consultation are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the BCE's proposals. In particular, objectors are advised to say what they propose in place of the BCE's proposals. An objection accompanied by a viable counterproposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection. In this respect – and particularly in light of the importance of Rule 2 (statutory electorate range) – a counterproposal setting out the composition of each constituency in an area will generally be viewed as more persuasive than a proposal for the composition of only one constituency which does not address any knock-on effects on the electorate figures of neighbouring constituencies.

Written representations

- 63 The BCE is required to consider all written representations made to it within a statutory eight-week period commencing with publication of the initial proposals. Details of how to make written representations, including the last date for receipt of representations, will be published alongside the initial proposals themselves. The BCE will be encouraging all interested parties to contribute views through its consultation website.

Secondary consultation period

- 64 Following the eight-week consultation on the BCE's initial proposals, the BCE prepares and then publishes on its website all of the representations that it has received for each region. Once the representations have been published, there is a further statutory six-week period during which people can submit to the BCE written comments on those representations it received during the initial consultation period, for example, challenging or supporting assertions made in a representation. There is also the opportunity during this six-week consultation to make representations at public hearings (see below).
- 65 The BCE attaches just as much significance to representations made in writing and through its website as to those made orally at public hearings – the content of the representation is more important than the form it takes. There needs to be careful management of the conduct of the hearings, since they are strictly limited by statute to last for no more than two days each. However, if there is not time for someone who wishes to speak to the BCE to say everything they would like to, representations can still be made in writing within the six-week consultation period.

Public hearings

- 66 The BCE is required to conduct a minimum of two and maximum of five public hearings in each region of England. These must take place during the six-week secondary consultation period. The precise number and location of public hearings in each region will be determined by the BCE specifically in relation to the nature of the responses it receives to the consultation on its initial proposals, i.e. targeting the holding of hearings to areas where there is particular contention over the proposals and cases being made for competing alternate proposals. The details of venues and dates for the hearings will be announced on the BCE website in due course, although with a reasonable period of notice prior to the start of the secondary consultation period. While public hearings are currently required by law to be physically held at a venue in each region, the BCE is actively exploring how to make them as accessible as possible, including the possibilities for supplementing a physical hearing with remote live viewing and/or participation: this work was being undertaken in any event, but will be particularly relevant in the context of any legal restrictions on large gatherings, such as those implemented to restrict the spread of COVID-19 (which remain in place at the time of writing this guide).
- 67 A public hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for people to make representations about any of the BCE's initial proposals for that region, present any counterproposals, and comment on counterproposals that may have been put forward by others during the initial consultation period.

- 68 Presentations at each public hearing are likely to focus on proposals for the area closest to the location of the hearing, but this does not preclude giving a presentation that relates to any part of the region in which the hearing is located. However, a representation should not be made that relates to an entirely different region.
- 69 Each hearing is chaired by an independent Assistant Commissioner selected by the BCE, who controls proceedings and may ask – or allow to be asked – questions of an individual giving a presentation. Questions should generally be asked through the Chair and should ordinarily be seeking clarification rather than trying to ‘cross-examine’ the speaker on their views.
- 70 Once details of the dates and locations of the public hearings have been published, individuals wishing to make an oral presentation at one of the hearings are encouraged to book in advance with the BCE. Details of how to book a speaking slot at a public hearing will be published on our website. At each ‘lead’ hearing – the first in the region – the four political parties with English seats in the House of Commons will be allocated a longer speaking slot at the start of the hearing to set out their proposals for the whole region. This longer speaking slot allows the political parties to address the whole region – however, it should be made clear that the BCE otherwise places no more weight on the representations from the political parties than from anyone else.
- 71 The BCE should make it clear that the duration of speaking slots is likely to be very limited, so presentations will need to be clear, concise and focused. Those intending to speak at a public hearing will also need to be reasonably flexible about when exactly they are asked to start and finish their presentation.
- 72 It will be for the Assistant Commissioner chairing the public hearing to decide when to call on speakers and the amount of time to be allocated to them. To aid the Assistant Commissioner in this task, it will be helpful if a synopsis or outline of the points the speaker wishes to make can be provided in advance. Guidance on how and when to do this will be published alongside the details of hearing dates and venues.
- 73 The BCE encourages the use of visual aids during the making of oral representations at public hearings. The BCE will have a laptop and projector available at each hearing to provide for an electronic presentation using MS Office software (for example, PowerPoint) or Google Apps (for example Google Slides). Where given sufficient notice, the BCE will also seek to facilitate the use of other visual aids as far as reasonably practicable.
- 74 Each public hearing will have a written record taken of all the representations made, and any visual aids used at a presentation will be attached to that record on subsequent publication.

Development of revised proposals

- 75 The BCE staff and Assistant Commissioners consider all the written representations received in the initial consultation period, and all the written representations and oral representations made at public hearings in the secondary consultation period. They then write a joint report on each region for the Commissioners, summarising and considering the representations, and recommending whether – and, if so, how – the initial proposals for that region should be revised in the light of those representations. The Commissioners then consider each report and determine whether and to what extent revisions should be made to their initial proposals.
- 76 The BCE then publishes a report for each region stating whether or not revisions have been made to the initial proposals for that region. Alongside these reports, it publishes all the written representations received – and transcripts from public hearings – during the six-week secondary consultation period.
- 77 If the proposals are revised, then the Act provides for a further period of four weeks for written representations to be made to the BCE on the revised proposals for that region. There are no public hearings at this stage; nor is there a repeat of the six-week period for commenting on the representations of others.
- 78 Publication of any representations received during the four-week consultation on revised proposals will take place alongside publication of the final report (see below).

The importance of participation

- 79 The BCE wishes to stress very strongly that any person or organisation interested in the proposals for their area is encouraged to exercise their statutory right and make written or oral representations to the BCE, whether for or against the proposals.
- 80 A particular problem is to elicit such a response at the right time. For example, in previous reviews there were several occasions when people who had not made known their support for the initial proposals were surprised when the BCE subsequently published revised proposals. It was only at that late stage that they then made known their support for the initial proposals, often in very large numbers.
- 81 Full and timely participation ultimately assists the BCE in gauging more accurately local opinion on its proposals, and consequently increases the likelihood that its final recommendations will be generally acceptable to the majority of those who will have to live and work with them.

Final recommendations and report

- 82 The BCE takes into consideration any written representations made in the four-week consultation period about the revised proposals, and then makes its final decisions about whether further modifications need to be made in light of those representations.
- 83 When the BCE has decided on its final recommendations for the whole of England, it then drafts and submits a formal written report to the Speaker of the House of Commons. The report, which is also published once the Speaker has laid it before Parliament, contains a description of the review in each region, a textual description of all the final recommendations, and a set of maps to illustrate the existing boundaries and those proposed by the final recommendations.
- 84 The submission of the formal final report concludes the BCE's involvement in the constituency review process. The procedure to subsequently implement new constituencies is the responsibility of the Government but is set out below for information.

After the final report

- 85 After the final report from all four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions has been laid by the Speaker, within four months of the last report being laid, the Government is required to submit to the Privy Council an Order that gives effect to all four Commissions' recommendations. In drawing up that Order, the Government may not modify any of the recommendations of the Commissions, unless specifically requested to do so by the relevant Commission (and any such request must itself be laid before Parliament and published).
- 86 After the Privy Council approves the Order, the new constituencies take effect at the next General Election. Any by-elections held in the meantime have to be held on the basis of the old (existing) constituencies. The validity of an Order in Council, once made, may not be called into question in any legal proceedings.



Conclusion

- 87 It is hoped that the information and explanations given in this Guide will fulfil the purpose set out in the Introduction, helping to clarify the process and policy for interested parties and encourage their informed participation, and thereby assisting the BCE in carrying out its work.
- 88 If any person has any suggestions as to how the Guide may be improved, whether by correction, clarification, addition or deletion or in any other way, please write to the Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England at the address given in the Introduction. The BCE would be pleased to consider any such suggestions for the production of a similar Guide in future reviews.

Appendix A

Who we are

Chairman

The Speaker of the House of Commons is the Chairman of each of the four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions. This is an ex officio appointment, and – being an MP themselves – the Speaker generally plays no part in the substantive work of the Commission.

Three other members

- The Deputy Chair, who presides over the Commission's meetings, is the **Hon Mr Justice (Peter) Lane**. Sir Peter was educated at state schools in Worcester, before studying law at Oxford and Berkeley, California. After five years in the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, he became a solicitor and parliamentary agent in Westminster, drafting and promoting legislation on a wide range of subjects; in particular, infrastructure projects. His clients included public transport operators, local authorities and universities. In 2001, he was appointed as a salaried immigration adjudicator, in time becoming a judge of the Upper Tribunal. In 2014, he became President of the General Regulatory Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal, which decides appeals from a wide range of statutory regulators. He was appointed a deputy High Court judge in 2016 and, in 2017, a High Court judge in the Queen's Bench Division. Since October 2017, he has also been President of the Upper Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber. He was appointed as Deputy Chair of the BCE for a three-year term from 23 June 2020.
- **Colin Byrne**. Colin worked for over 30 years in the Civil Service in a number of roles. These included Divisional Manager, Health and Safety Executive; Director, Town and Country Planning, Department of Communities and Local Government; and Director, Government Office for the South East. He was the Lead Assistant Commissioner for the South East of England in the BCE's 2018 Review. He was a governor of the Guildford College Group for eight years, and a trustee of Citizens Advice Guildford. He was appointed a Commissioner of the BCE for a five-year term from 1 July 2019.
- **Sarah Hamilton**. Sarah graduated from Exeter University with a BA(Hons) in Law in 1992. She was admitted as a Solicitor in 1995 and enjoyed a 20-year career in a City law firm, specialising in litigation, acting for public sector bodies. Retiring from private practice in 2016, Sarah now has a portfolio career in the fields of healthcare, education and regulation. She chairs Fitness to Practise Committees for two healthcare regulators, and is a lay member for a third. She is an Inspector for University Programmes for Dental Schools and Social Work England. She is an Independent Panel Member for the London Assembly. Sarah worked as the Lead Assistant Commissioner for the East of England in the BCE's 2018 Review. She was appointed a Commissioner of the BCE for a five-year term from 1 July 2019. She is married with two children.

Two assessors (available to provide technical advice and support as requested)

- The Registrar General for England and Wales.
- The Director General of Ordnance Survey.

Secretary to the Commission

- **Tim Bowden.** Tim was appointed in 2020 to lead the Secretariat in administering the 2023 review and generally supporting the Commissioners in their work. Tim was the BCE's Head of Reviews during the 2018 Review, and, prior to that, led multiple local government boundary reviews as a Review Manager at the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Assistant Commissioners

- Appointed by the Secretary of State, at the request of the Commission, to assist it in the discharge of its functions. The Commission requests the appointment of independent Assistant Commissioners to: chair the public hearings; work with the Secretariat in analysing the responses to consultations; and – based on that analysis – make recommendations to Commissioners as to what might be appropriate revisions to the Commission's earlier proposals for an area. They are specifically not involved in the development of initial proposals, so that they have no vested interest in retaining them when considering the strength of alternative proposals.

Appendix B

Contact details for other Commissions

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Web address: www.lgbce.org.uk

The Boundary Commission for Wales

(Parliamentary and Local Government Commissions share a single Secretariat)

Telephone: 02920 464819
Email: enquiries@boundaries.wales
Web address : www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk (for Parliamentary)
<http://ldbc.gov.wales/> (for Local Government)

The Boundary Commission for Scotland

(Parliamentary and Local Government Commissions share a single Secretariat)

Telephone: 0131 244 2001
Email: bcs@scottishboundaries.gov.uk (for Parliamentary)
lgbcs@scottishboundaries.gov.uk (for Local Government)
Web address: <http://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/>
(for Parliamentary)
www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk (for Local Government)

The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland

(Parliamentary boundaries only)

Telephone: 02890 527821
Email: contact@boundarycommission.org.uk
Web address: www.boundarycommission.org.uk

**For queries about local government boundaries in Northern Ireland,
refer to the Northern Ireland Department for Communities**

Telephone: 02890 829000
Web address: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/contact>

Appendix C

English regions

The following is the list of unitary authorities and non-metropolitan county councils within each region:

East Midlands	Derby, Derbyshire, Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Rutland.
Eastern	Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea, Suffolk, Thurrock.
London	The 32 London borough councils, plus the Corporation of the City of London.
North East	Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, South Tyneside, Stockton-on-Tees, Sunderland.
North West	Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Bolton, Bury, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Cumbria, Halton, Knowsley, Lancashire, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, St Helens, Salford, Sefton, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Warrington, Wigan, Wirral.
South East	Berkshire, Brighton and Hove, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Medway, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, Surrey, West Sussex.
South West	Bath and North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly, North Somerset, Plymouth, Poole, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Swindon, Torbay, Wiltshire.
West Midlands	Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Herefordshire, Sandwell, Shropshire, Solihull, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire.
Yorkshire and the Humber	Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Doncaster, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Rotherham, Sheffield, Wakefield, York.

Appendix D

Rules for redistribution of seats (Schedule 2 to the Act)

Number of constituencies

- 1 The number of constituencies in the United Kingdom shall be 650.

Electorate per constituency

- 2 (1) The electorate of any constituency shall be –
- (a) no less than 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and
 - (b) no more than 105% of that quota.
- (2) This rule is subject to rules 4(2), 6(3) and 7.
- (3) In this Schedule the “United Kingdom electoral quota” means –

$$\frac{U}{645}$$

where U is the electorate of the United Kingdom minus the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6.

Allocation of constituencies to parts of the United Kingdom

- 3 (1) Each constituency shall be wholly in one of the four parts of the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).
- (2) The number of constituencies in each part of the United Kingdom shall be determined in accordance with the allocation method set out in rule 8.

Area of constituencies

- 4 (1) A constituency shall not have an area of more than 13,000 square kilometres.
- (2) A constituency does not have to comply with rule 2(1)(a) if –
- (a) it has an area of more than 12,000 square kilometres, and
 - (b) the Boundary Commission concerned are satisfied that it is not reasonably possible for the constituency to comply with that rule.

Factors

- 5 (1) A Boundary Commission may take into account, if and to such extent as they think fit –
- (a) special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 - (b) local government boundaries which exist, or are prospective, on the review date;
 - (c) boundaries of existing constituencies;
 - (d) any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies;
 - (e) the inconveniences attendant on such changes.

- (1A) In the case of a local government boundary which is prospective on the review date, it is that boundary rather than any existing boundary which it replaces, which may be taken into account under sub-paragraph (1)(b).
- (2) The Boundary Commission for England may take into account, if and to such extent as they think fit, boundaries of the English regions specified in sub-paragraph (2A) as they exist on the most recent ordinary council-election day before the review date.
- (2A) [Specifies the English regions as per Appendix C above.]
- (3) This rule has effect subject to rules 2 and 4.

Protected constituencies

- 6 (1) There shall be two constituencies in the Isle of Wight.
- (2) There shall continue to be –
 - (a) a constituency named Orkney and Shetland, comprising the areas of the Orkney Islands Council and the Shetland Islands Council.
 - (b) a constituency named Na h-Eileanan an Iar, comprising the area of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.
 - (c) a constituency named Ynys Mon, comprising the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council.
- (3) Rule 2 does not apply to these constituencies.

Northern Ireland

- 7 (1) In relation to Northern Ireland, sub-paragraph (2) below applies in place of rule 2 where –
 - (a) the difference between –
 - (i) the electorate of Northern Ireland, and
 - (ii) the United Kingdom electoral quota multiplied by the number of seats in Northern Ireland (determined under rule 8)
 exceeds one third of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and
 - (b) the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland consider that having to apply rule 2 would unreasonably impair –
 - (i) their ability to take into account the factors set out in rule 5(1), or
 - (ii) their ability to comply with section 3(2) of this Act.
- (2) The electorate of any constituency shall be –
 - (a) no less than whichever is the lesser of –
 - N–A
 - and 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and –

(b) no more than whichever is the greater of –

$$N+A$$

and 105% of the United Kingdom electoral quota,

where –

N is the electorate of Northern Ireland divided by the number of seats in Northern Ireland (determined under rule 8), and A is 5% of the United Kingdom electoral quota.

The allocation method

- 8 (1) The allocation method referred to in rule 3(2) is as follows:
- (2) The first constituency shall be allocated to the part of the United Kingdom with the greatest electorate.
- (3) The second and subsequent constituencies shall be allocated in the same way, except that the electorate of a part of the United Kingdom to which one or more constituencies have already been allocated is to be divided by –
- $$2C + 1$$
- where C is the number of constituencies already allocated to that part.
- (4) Where the figure given by sub-paragraph (3) above is the same for two or more parts of the United Kingdom, the part to which a constituency is to be allocated shall be the one with the smaller or smallest actual electorate.
- (5) This rule does not apply to the constituencies mentioned in rule 6, and accordingly –
- (a) the electorate of England shall be treated for the purpose of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(1);
- (b) the electorate of Scotland shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(2)(a) and (b);
- (c) the electorate of Wales shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituency mentioned in rule 6(2)(c).

Interpretation

- 9 (1) This rule has effect for the purposes of this Schedule.
- (2) Subject to sub-paragraph (2A), the “electorate” of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on the relevant version of a register of parliamentary electors in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency.
- For this purpose the relevant version of a register is the version that is required by virtue of subsection (1) of section 13 of the Representation of the

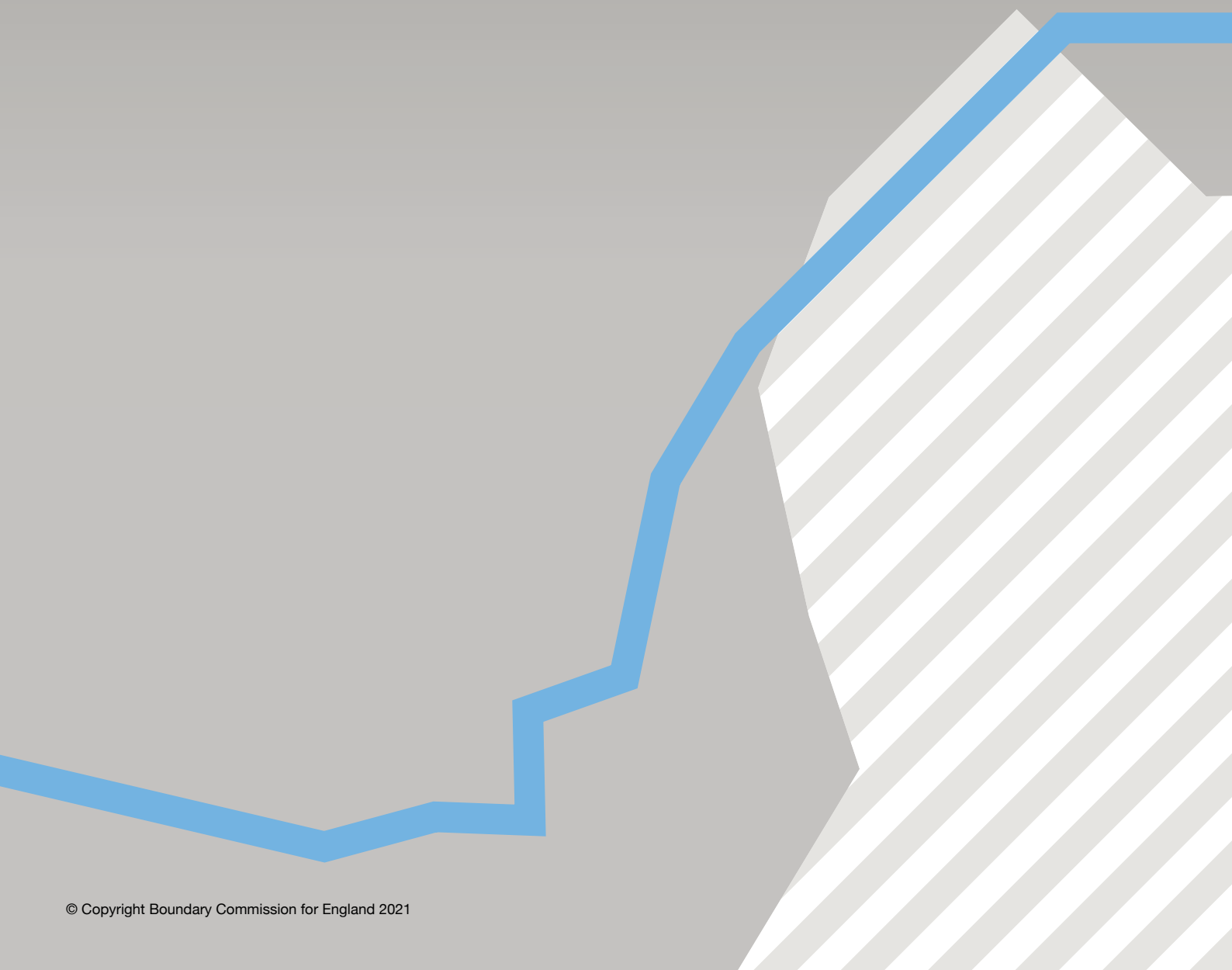
- People Act 1983 to be published no later than the review date, or would be so required but for –
- (a) any power under that section to prescribe a later date, or
 - (b) subsection (1A) of that section.
- (2A) In relation to a report under section 3(1) that a Boundary Commission is required (by sections 3(2)) to submit before 1 July 2023, the “electorate” of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on a register of parliamentary electors (maintained under section 9 of the Representation of the People Act 1983) in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part of that constituency, as that register has effect on 2 March 2020.
- (3) “Local government boundaries” are –
- (a) in England, the boundaries of counties and their electoral divisions, districts and their wards, London boroughs and their wards and the City of London,
 - (b) in Wales, the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral divisions, communities and community wards,
 - (c) in Scotland, the boundaries of local government areas and the electoral wards into which they are divided under section 1 of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004, and
 - (d) in Northern Ireland, the boundaries of wards.
- (3A) A local government boundary is “prospective” on a particular date if, on that date –
- (a) it is specified in a provision of primary or secondary legislation, but
 - (b) that provision is not yet in force for all purposes.
- (3B) For that purpose –
- (a) “primary legislation” means –
 - (i) an Act of Parliament
 - (ii) an Act of the Scottish Parliament
 - (iii) an Act of Senedd Cymru; or
 - (iv) Northern Ireland legislation and
 - (b) “secondary legislation” means an instrument made under primary legislation.
- (4) “Ordinary council-election day” is –
- (a) in relation to England and Wales, the ordinary day of election of councillors for local government areas;

- (b) in relation to Scotland, the day on which the poll is held at ordinary elections of councillors for local government areas;
 - (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, the day of an election for any district council (other than an election to fill a casual vacancy).
- (5) The “review date”, in relation to a report under section 3(1) of this Act that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before a particular date:
 - (a) 1 December 2020 in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 July 2023, and
 - (b) in the case of a report required to be submitted before any other particular date, the date which is two years and 10 months before that date.
(For example, 1 December 2028 in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 October 2031).
- (6) “The United Kingdom electoral quota” has the meaning given by rule 2(3).
- (7) A reference in rule 6(2)(a) or (b) to an area is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of Part 2 the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, and the reference in rule 6(2)(c) to the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of the Schedule to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020.

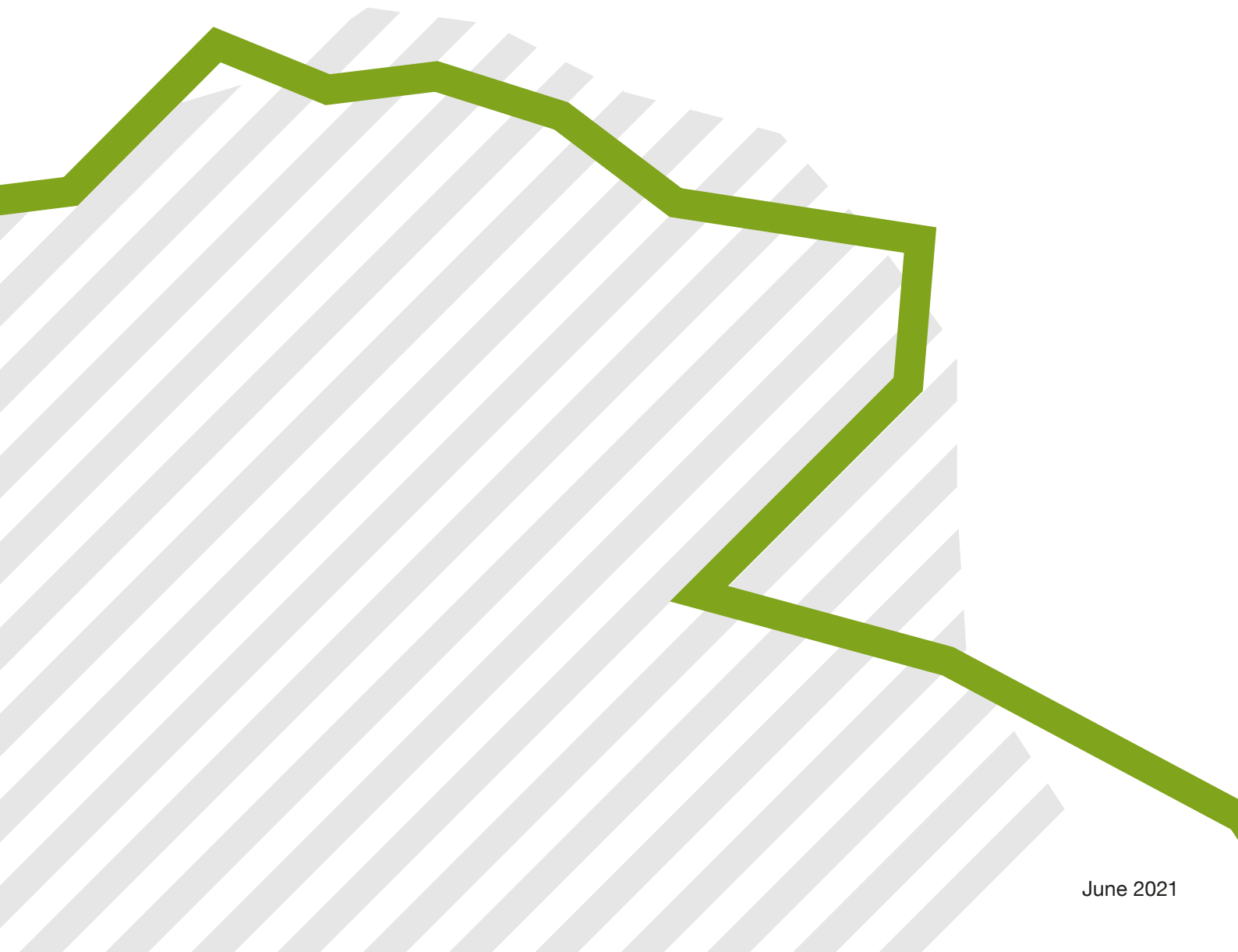
Appendix E

Glossary and abbreviations

Assessor	Statutorily appointed technical adviser to the BCE, being either the Registrar General for England and Wales or the Director General of Ordnance Survey	Redistribution of seats	Re-division of a given area into new Parliamentary constituencies.
Assistant Commissioner	Independent person appointed at the request of the BCE to assist it with the discharge of its functions	Representations	The views provided by an individual, group or organisation to the BCE on its initial or revised proposals, either for or against, including counterproposals and petitions.
Borough constituency (abbreviated to BC)	Parliamentary constituency containing a predominantly urban area	Review date	The operative date from which the data the BCE works with must be drawn. For the 2023 Review uniquely, the review date for local government boundaries we may have regard to is 1 December 2020, though the review date for the electorate we must work with is 2 March 2020.
County constituency (abbreviated to CC)	Parliamentary constituency containing more than a small rural element	Revised proposals	The initial proposals as subsequently revised.
Designation	Classification as either a borough constituency or as a county constituency.	Rules for Redistribution of Seats	The statutory criteria for Parliamentary constituencies under Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended).
Electorate	The number of registered Parliamentary electors in a given area.	Special geographical considerations	Dispensation to depart from the strict application of other criteria for Parliamentary constituencies; includes size, shape and accessibility.
(Statutory) Electorate range	The statutory rule that requires the electorate of every constituency (as at the review date) to be within 5% of the UK electoral quota.	UK electoral quota	The mean average number of electors in a constituency, found by dividing the total electorate of the UK (less that of the five specific 'protected' constituencies) by 645.
Final recommendations	The recommendations submitted in a formal final report to the Speaker of the House of Commons at the end of a review. They may – or may not – have been revised since the initial proposals in any given area.	Unitary authority	An area where there is only one tier of local authority (above any parish or town council). Contrasted with those 'shire district' areas that have two tiers (i.e. both a non-metropolitan county council and a district/ borough/city council).
General review	Major review of all Parliamentary constituencies in England at the same time. Since 2011 all Parliamentary constituency reviews are general reviews.		
Initial proposals	First formal proposals published by the BCE during the review for public consultation.		
Periodical report	Report to the Government following a general review of Parliamentary constituencies.		
Public hearing	Formal opportunity in a given area for people to make oral representations, chaired by an Assistant Commissioner. In each region of England there may be no fewer than two and no more than five hearings, and each may last a maximum of two days.		



Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the **West Midlands** region



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Summary

Who we are and what we do

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

The 2023 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 legislative rules most recently updated by Parliament in 2020. Those rules tell us that we must make recommendations for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries by 1 July 2023. While retaining the overall number of constituencies across the UK at 650, the rules apply a distribution formula that results in an increase in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 543). The rules also require that every recommended constituency across the UK – apart from five specified exceptions (two of them in England) – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062.

Initial proposals

We published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England on 8 June 2021. Information about the proposed constituencies is now available on our website at www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

What is changing in the West Midlands region?

The West Midlands has been allocated 57 constituencies – a reduction of two from the current number.

Our proposals leave nine of the 59 existing constituencies wholly unchanged, and 12 unchanged except to realign constituency boundaries with new local government ward boundaries.

As it has not always been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, we have grouped some county council and unitary authority areas into sub-regions. The number of constituencies allocated to each sub-region is determined by the combined electorate of the authorities they contain.

Consequently, it has been necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county council or unitary authority boundaries, although we have sought to keep such crossings to a minimum.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Proposed allocation
Herefordshire	2	2
Shropshire ¹	5	5
Worcestershire	6	6
Warwickshire	6	6
Coventry	3	3
Birmingham and Solihull	12	12
Staffordshire ² and the Black Country ³	25	23

In Staffordshire and the Black Country, it has been necessary to propose one constituency that crosses the county boundary. We have proposed a constituency that contains electors from both Staffordshire and the Dudley metropolitan borough, which combines the town of Kingswinford, with wards from South Staffordshire district. We have also proposed dividing one ward in the Black Country.

We have proposed two constituencies that include electors from both Staffordshire and the unitary authority of Stoke-on-Trent.

We have proposed one constituency that includes electors from both Shropshire and the unitary authority of Telford and Wrekin.

In Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire, it has been possible to propose a pattern of constituencies that is within the boundaries of each county.

In the sub-region of Birmingham and Solihull, we have proposed one constituency that crosses the boundary between the two councils, extending the Birmingham Hodge Hill constituency to take in the Solihull borough wards of Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood. We also propose dividing two wards between constituencies wholly contained within the City of Birmingham.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our initial proposals for an eight-week period, from 8 June 2021 to 2 August 2021. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to help us shape the new constituencies – the more responses we receive, the more informed our decisions will be when considering whether to revise our proposals. Our consultation portal at www.bcereviews.org.uk has more information about our proposals and how to give us your views on them. You can also follow us on Twitter @BCEReviews or at facebook.com/BCEReviews.

¹ including Telford and Wrekin

² including Stoke-on-Trent

³ Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, and Wolverhampton

1 What is the Boundary Commission for England?

- 1 As already mentioned, BCE is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is required to review Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. We must conduct a review of all the constituencies in England every eight years. Our role is to make recommendations to Parliament for new constituency boundaries.
- 2 The Chair of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons, but by convention he does not participate in the review. The Deputy Chair and two further commissioners take decisions on proposals and recommendations for new constituency boundaries. Further information about the commissioners can be found on our regular website.

You can find further information on our regular website at www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk, or on our consultation portal at www.bcereviews.org.uk. You can also contact us with any general enquiries by emailing information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk, or by calling 020 7276 1102.

2 Background to the 2023 Review

- 3 We are currently conducting a review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries on the basis of rules most recently updated by Parliament in 2020.⁴ These rules require us to make more equal the number of electors in each constituency. This report covers only the work of the Boundary Commission for England (there are separate commissions for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) and, in particular, introduces our initial proposals for the West Midlands region.
- 4 The legislation states that there will be 650 Parliamentary constituencies covering the UK – the same as the current number. England has been allocated 543 constituencies for the 2023 Review, ten more than there are currently. There are also other rules that the Commission has regard to when conducting the review – a full set of the rules can be found in our Guide to the 2023 Review⁵ published in May 2021, but they are also summarised later in this chapter. Most significantly, the rules require every constituency we recommend (with the exception of two covering the Isle of Wight) to contain no fewer than 69,724 electors and no more than 77,062.
- 5 This is a significant change to the old rules under which Parliamentary boundary reviews took place, in which achieving as close to the average number of electors in each constituency was an aim, but there was no statutory fixed minimum and maximum number of electors. This, together with the passage of time since constituencies were last updated (based on data from 2000), means that in England, existing constituencies currently range from 54,551 to 111,716 electors. Achieving a more even distribution of electors in every constituency across England, together with the increase in the total number of constituencies, means that a significant amount of change to the existing map of constituencies is inevitable.
- 6 Our Guide to the 2023 Review contains further detailed background information, and explains all of the policies and procedures that we are following in conducting the review. We encourage anyone wishing to respond to the review to read this document, which will give them a greater understanding of the rules and constraints placed on the Commission, especially if they are intending to comment on our initial proposals and/or make their own counter-proposals

⁴ The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020, available at www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/25/contents

⁵ Available at www.bcereviews.org.uk and at all places of deposit.

The rules in the legislation

- 7 As well as the primary rule that constituencies must have no fewer than 69,724 electors and no more than 77,062, the legislation also states that, when deciding on boundaries, the Commission may take into account:
 - special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 - local government boundaries which existed, or were prospective, on 1 December 2020;
 - boundaries of existing constituencies;
 - any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies; and
 - the inconveniences attendant on such changes.
- 8 In relation to local government boundaries in particular, it should be noted that for a given area, where we choose to take account of local government boundaries, if there are prospective boundaries (as at 1 December 2020), it is those, rather than existing boundaries, of which account may be taken. This is a significant change to the former legislation, which referred only to the local government boundaries as they actually existed on the relevant date.
- 9 Our initial proposals for the West Midlands region (and the accompanying maps) are therefore based on local government boundaries that existed, or – where relevant – were prospective, on 1 December 2020. Our Guide to the 2023 Review outlines further our policy on how, and to what extent, we take into account local government boundaries. We have used the existing and prospective wards as at 1 December 2020 of unitary authorities, and borough and district councils (in areas where there is also a county council) as the basic building blocks for our proposals.
- 10 In a number of existing constituencies, changes to local government wards since those constituencies were last updated (in 2010) have resulted in the new ward effectively being split, between the constituency the old ward was wholly a part of, and at least one other existing constituency. As part of our proposals, we will by default seek to realign the boundaries of constituencies with up-to-date ward boundaries, thus reuniting wards that are currently divided between existing constituencies. In places where there has been only minor change to a ward, this may see an existing constituency boundary change only very slightly to realign with the new ward. However, where wards in an area have been changed more significantly, this may result in the area covered by the new ward becoming part of a different constituency than the one in which the area was previously.

- 11 Although the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies will inevitably result in significant change, 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 wherever possible, as long as the other factors can also be satisfied. This, however, has proved difficult. Our initial proposals retain just over 15%⁶ of the existing constituencies in the West Midlands region – the remainder are new constituencies (although in a number of cases the changes to the existing constituencies are fairly minor).
- 12 Our proposals are based on the nine English regions as defined in the legislation: a description of the extent of each region also appears in the Guide to the 2023 Review. This report relates to the West Midlands region. There are eight other separate reports containing our initial proposals for the other regions. You can find more details in our Guide to the 2023 Review and on our website. While our use of the regions does not prevent anyone from making proposals to us that cross regional boundaries (for example, between the West Midlands and East Midlands regions), very compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade the Commission to depart from the region-based approach. The Commission has previously consulted on the use of the English regions as discrete areas, and this was strongly supported.

Timetable for our review

Stage one – development of initial proposals

- 13 We began this review in January 2021. We published electorate data from 2 March 2020 (the relevant date specified by the legislation) for each local government ward in England, including – where relevant – wards that were prospective on 1 December 2020. The electorate data were provided by local authorities and the Office for National Statistics. These are available on our website and are the data that must be used throughout the remainder of the review process. The Commission has since then considered the statutory factors outlined above and drawn up the initial proposals. We published our initial proposals for consultation for each of England’s nine regions on 8 June 2021.

⁶ This figure excludes constituencies that have been changed only to realign with changed local government boundaries.

- 14 We ask people to be aware that, in publishing our initial proposals, we do so without suggesting that they are in some way definitive, or that they provide the ‘right answer’ – they are our starting point for consulting on the changes. We have taken into account the existing constituencies, local government boundaries, and geographical features, to produce a set of constituencies that are within the permitted electorate range and that we consider to be the best balance between those factors at this point. What we do not yet have is sufficient evidence of how our proposals reflect or break local community ties, although we have drawn on evidence of such ties provided in previous reviews. One of the most important purposes of the consultation period is to seek up-to-date evidence that will enable us to test the strength of our initial proposals, and revise them where appropriate.

Stage two – consultation on initial proposals

- 15 We are consulting on our initial proposals for eight weeks, from 8 June 2021 until 2 August 2021. Chapter 4 outlines how you can contribute during the consultation period. Once the consultation has closed, the Commission will collate all the responses received.

Stage three – consultation on representations received

- 16 We are required to publish all the responses we receive on our initial proposals. This publication will mark the start of a six-week ‘secondary consultation’ period, which we currently plan to take place in early 2022. The purpose of the secondary consultation is for people to see what others have said in response to our initial proposals, and to make comments on those views, for example by countering an argument, or by supporting and reinforcing what others have said. You will be able to see all the comments on our website, and use the site to give us your views on what others have said. We will also be hosting between two and five public hearings in each region, where you will be able to give your views directly to one of our assistant commissioners. We will publish the exact number, dates and venues for those hearings nearer the time.

Stage four – development and publication of revised proposals

- 17 Once we have all the representations and comments from both the initial and secondary consultation periods, the Commission will analyse those representations and decide whether changes should be made to the initial proposals. If we decide that the evidence presented to us persuades us to change our initial proposals, then we must publish our revised proposals for the areas concerned, and consult on them for a further period of four weeks. This is likely to be towards the end of 2022. When we consult on our revised proposals, there will be no further public hearings. You will be able to see all our revised proposals, and give us your views on them, on our website.

Stage five – development and publication of the final report and recommendations

- 18 Finally, following the consultation on revised proposals, we will consider all the evidence received at this stage, and throughout the review, before determining our final recommendations. The recommendations will be set out in a published report to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who will lay it before Parliament on our behalf, at which time we will also publish the report. The legislation states that we must submit that report to the Speaker by 1 July 2023. Further details about what the Government must then do with our recommendations in order to implement them are contained in our Guide to the 2023 Review.
- 19 Throughout each 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 West Midlands region

- 20 The West Midlands region comprises the ceremonial counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, and Worcestershire. It is covered by a mixture of district and county councils, or single-tier metropolitan or unitary authorities.
- 21 The region currently has 59 constituencies. Of these constituencies, only 26 have electorates within the permitted electorate range. The electorates of 25 constituencies currently fall below the 5% limit, while the electorates of just eight constituencies are above the 5% limit.
- 22 Our initial proposals for the West Midlands region are for 57 constituencies, a reduction of two.
- 23 In seeking to produce 57 constituencies within the electorate range, our first step was to consider whether local authorities could be usefully 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 on both trying to respect county boundaries wherever possible and in achieving (where we could) obvious practical groupings, such as those dictated in some part by the geography of the area.
- 24 Our division of the West Midlands region into sub-regions is a practical approach. We welcome counter-proposals from respondents to our consultation, based on other groupings of counties and unitary authorities, if the statutory factors can be better reflected in those counter-proposals.
- 25 The distribution of electors across the West Midlands region is such that allocating a whole number of constituencies to each county, with each constituency falling within the permitted electorate range, is not always possible.
- 26 Herefordshire's electorate of 142,019 results in a mathematical entitlement to 1.94 constituencies. We therefore consider Herefordshire as a sub-region in its own right and allocate two whole constituencies, which is the same as the existing allocation.
- 27 The combined electorate of the unitary authorities of Shropshire, and Telford and Wrekin is 376,136, resulting in a mathematical entitlement to 5.12 constituencies. We therefore consider Shropshire as a sub-region in its own right and allocate it five whole constituencies, the same as the existing allocation.
- 28 The electorate of Worcestershire is 447,152, providing it with a mathematical entitlement to 6.09 constituencies. We also consider Worcestershire as a sub-region and allocate it six constituencies, the same as the existing allocation.

- 29 Like the three areas mentioned above, we consider Warwickshire as a sub-region. Its electorate of 432,462 results in a mathematical entitlement to 5.89 constituencies. Consequently, we allocate it six whole constituencies; this represents no change from the existing allocation.
- 30 Due to the size of the electorate in the West Midlands combined authority, it is beneficial to further divide it by local authority where possible. The City of Coventry has an electorate of 217,818, giving it a mathematical entitlement to 2.97 constituencies. Similarly, the City of Birmingham, with an electorate of 729,944, has a mathematical entitlement to 9.95 constituencies. Therefore, both local authorities could theoretically be considered as sub-regions in their own right. However, the metropolitan Borough of Solihull, which separates the two cities, has an electorate of 162,614, giving it a mathematical entitlement to 2.22 constituencies: too large for two whole constituencies, and far too small for three. It is therefore necessary to pair Solihull with either Birmingham or Coventry. We consider that pairing Birmingham with Solihull minimises disruption to existing constituencies, and better reflects local ties, and as such is preferable to pairing Coventry with Solihull. Therefore, we consider Coventry as its own sub-region, allocating it three constituencies, representing no change from its existing allocation. Birmingham and Solihull have a combined electorate of 892,558, giving them a mathematical entitlement to 12.16 constituencies. Therefore, this sub-region has been allocated 12 whole constituencies, representing no change from the current allocation of constituencies across Birmingham and Solihull.
- 31 The remaining authorities in the West Midlands combined authority are the metropolitan boroughs of Sandwell, Dudley, Wolverhampton, and Walsall, hereafter referred to as the Black Country. With a collective electorate of 827,975, the Black Country has a mathematical entitlement to 11.28, allowing 11 whole constituencies to be allocated. Similarly, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have a combined electorate of 832,892, giving a mathematical entitlement to 11.35 constituencies. This would also allow 11 whole constituencies to be allocated. However, allocating 11 to both would result in a total of 56 constituencies being allocated to the entire West Midlands region, one fewer than the 57 constituencies which it has been allocated. As a result, it is necessary to combine Staffordshire and the Black Country to form a sub-region. When paired, this sub-region has a total combined electorate of 1,660,867 and a mathematical entitlement to 22.63 constituencies. Therefore, this sub-region is allocated 23 whole constituencies: a reduction of two from the existing allocation. This ensures that the total allocation for the West Midlands region is 57 constituencies. In order to facilitate this sub-region pairing, we recognise that there must be a constituency that crosses the boundary between the Black Country and Staffordshire. The cross-county boundary constituency that we propose combines the Dudley borough town of Kingswinford, with areas in the South Staffordshire local authority.

Initial proposals for the Herefordshire sub-region

- 32 There are two existing constituencies in Herefordshire, both of which have electorates that are within the permitted electorate range. Although both constituencies could therefore remain completely unchanged, we propose minor changes to both constituencies to realign with changes to local government ward boundaries.
- 33 As a result of these local government ward changes, two wards (Holmer and Stoney Street) now cross the existing boundary between the two constituencies. The electorate of the Herefordshire sub-region is such that it is not possible to include both wards in the same constituency. We propose to include the ward of Stoney Street in the North Herefordshire constituency and the ward of Holmer in the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency. This configuration has been proposed in order to retain the Victoria Park area of Hereford within the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency, and therefore to respect local ties within the city.

Initial proposals for the Shropshire sub-region

- 34 There are five existing constituencies in Shropshire, of which only one is currently within the permitted electorate range: two constituencies are above the electorate range, while two are below.
- 35 The electorate of the existing Telford constituency is such that it could remain unchanged apart from readjustments to take account of local government ward boundary changes. Therefore, we propose realigning this constituency to reflect new local government wards and make no further changes to the constituency.
- 36 The existing Ludlow constituency has an electorate of just over 69,000, and would therefore have to gain electors to bring it within the permitted electorate range. With an electorate of over 80,000, the existing Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency is too large; its electorate therefore has to be reduced.
- 37 Consequently, we propose that the existing Ludlow constituency would extend northwards to include the Shropshire wards of Burnell and Severn Valley, from the existing Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency. We propose naming this constituency Ludlow and Bridgnorth to reflect the main population centres.
- 38 Since this change would include the Shropshire village of Atcham in a proposed Ludlow and Bridgnorth constituency, it would no longer be appropriate that the constituency be called Shrewsbury and Atcham. We therefore propose naming this constituency Shrewsbury.

- 39 With an electorate close to 84,000, the existing North Shropshire constituency is well above the permitted electorate range. The existing The Wrekin constituency has an electorate within the permitted electorate range; however, due to local government ward boundary changes, it would not be possible to keep the constituency wholly unchanged without dividing wards between constituencies. We therefore propose extending the existing The Wrekin constituency northwards to include the Shropshire wards of Hodnet and Cheswardine. While we recognise that the constituency name of The Wrekin reflects a major geographic feature of the area, we propose that this constituency be named Newport and Wellington, to reflect the main population centres in the constituency. We welcome representations on this proposed constituency name and others across the region.

Initial proposals for the Worcestershire sub-region

- 40 There are six existing constituencies in Worcestershire, four of which have electorates within the permitted electorate range. As a result, substantial change to the existing constituencies in Worcestershire is not necessary.
- 41 The electorates of four existing constituencies (West Worcestershire, Worcester, Wyre Forest, and Bromsgrove) are such that they can remain completely unchanged, and we propose no changes to these constituencies. However, we propose to change the name of the existing Wyre Forest constituency to Kidderminster, to reflect the main population centre in this constituency. We welcome representations on this proposed constituency name.

- 42 Of the remaining existing constituencies in the sub-region, Mid Worcestershire has an electorate above the permitted electorate range, and the Redditch constituency, with an electorate of 65,507, is below. We therefore propose extending the Redditch constituency both northwards and southwards, to include the Wychavon District wards of Dodderhill, and Harvington and Norton. We recognise that our proposed Redditch constituency disrupts local ties between Wychbold and Droitwich Spa, and Norton and Evesham. However, we consider that other configurations of constituencies in this area (for example, including wards from the Bromsgrove local authority in the Redditch constituency) would not better reflect the statutory factors. Other than the transfer of these two wards, the existing Mid Worcestershire constituency is unchanged. However, we propose that this constituency be named Droitwich and Evesham, to reflect the main population centres in the constituency.

Initial proposals for the Warwickshire sub-region

- 43 There are six existing constituencies in Warwickshire. Five of these are within the permitted electorate range. Our initial proposals would bring every constituency in the sub-region to within the permitted electorate range with the transfer of just one ward (plus some realignment to account for changed local government ward boundaries).
- 44 The electorates of the existing constituencies of Nuneaton and North Warwickshire, at 70,335 and 70,245 respectively, are within the permitted electorate range. We therefore propose keeping both constituencies wholly unchanged. However, we propose changing the name of the North Warwickshire constituency to Bedworth and North Warwickshire to reflect the constituency's main population centre.
- 45 The existing Rugby and Stratford-on-Avon constituencies both have electorates within the permitted electorate range. However, neither are able to remain wholly unchanged without dividing wards, as a result of changes to local ward boundaries. As a result, we therefore propose that the Rugby and Stratford-on-Avon constituencies remain unchanged apart from adjustments to realign with these local government ward boundary changes.
- 46 In its existing form, the Warwick and Leamington constituency has an electorate that is within the permitted electorate range. However, when taking into account changes to local government ward boundaries, the constituency is too large in terms of electorate. The adjacent Kenilworth and Southam constituency requires additional electors to bring its electorate within the permitted range. As a result, we propose transferring a single ward from the existing Warwick and Leamington constituency to our proposed Kenilworth and Southam constituency. In our initial proposals, the Warwick District ward of Budbrooke has been included in the Kenilworth and Southam constituency. This configuration ensures that community

ties between the towns of Warwick and Royal Leamington Spa are preserved as much as possible.

- 47 While our initial proposals would result in minimal change to the existing pattern of constituencies, we did consider an alternative configuration that would result in constituencies arguably better reflecting local authority boundaries, at the cost of more change to existing constituencies. In their existing configurations, the Rugby, and Kenilworth and Southam constituencies include wards from two and three local authorities respectively. The alternative proposal we considered would reconfigure the existing Rugby constituency so that it is coterminous with the Borough of Rugby. In doing so, the Bulkington ward, which in its existing constituency is an orphan ward,⁷ would be included in the Bedworth and North Warwickshire constituency. This would allow the remaining four districts of Warwickshire to be divided into pairs: Nuneaton and Bedworth, and North Warwickshire (sharing two constituencies); and Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon (sharing three constituencies). Creating constituencies in the former pairing can be achieved straightforwardly; however, the latter pairing would require three constituencies to be designed with an average electorate of 70,312 – very close to the permitted minimum. In practice, therefore, this configuration would likely require a ward to be divided between constituencies. We welcome representations on this alternative as well as our initial proposal for the area.

Initial proposals for the Coventry sub-region

- 48 There are currently three constituencies in this sub-region, two of which are already within the permitted electorate range. One constituency, Coventry South, has an electorate below the permitted electorate range.
- 49 Due to the large ward sizes in Coventry, there is no solution that allows for all constituencies to fall within the permitted electorate range with the transfer of a single ward. However, there are multiple configurations that bring the Coventry South constituency within the electorate range by exchanging two wards. Our initial proposal would include the City of Coventry ward of Binley and Willenhall in the existing Coventry North East constituency. Meanwhile, we propose to include the Lower Stoke ward in the Coventry South constituency. This configuration would retain Coventry city centre within its existing constituency.
- 50 We also propose changing the name of the existing Coventry North East constituency to Coventry East, to better reflect the area it would now cover.
- 51 We propose leaving the existing Coventry North West constituency wholly unchanged.

⁷ 'Orphan ward' refers to a ward from one local authority, in a constituency where the remaining wards are from at least one other local authority.

Initial proposals for the Birmingham and Solihull sub-region

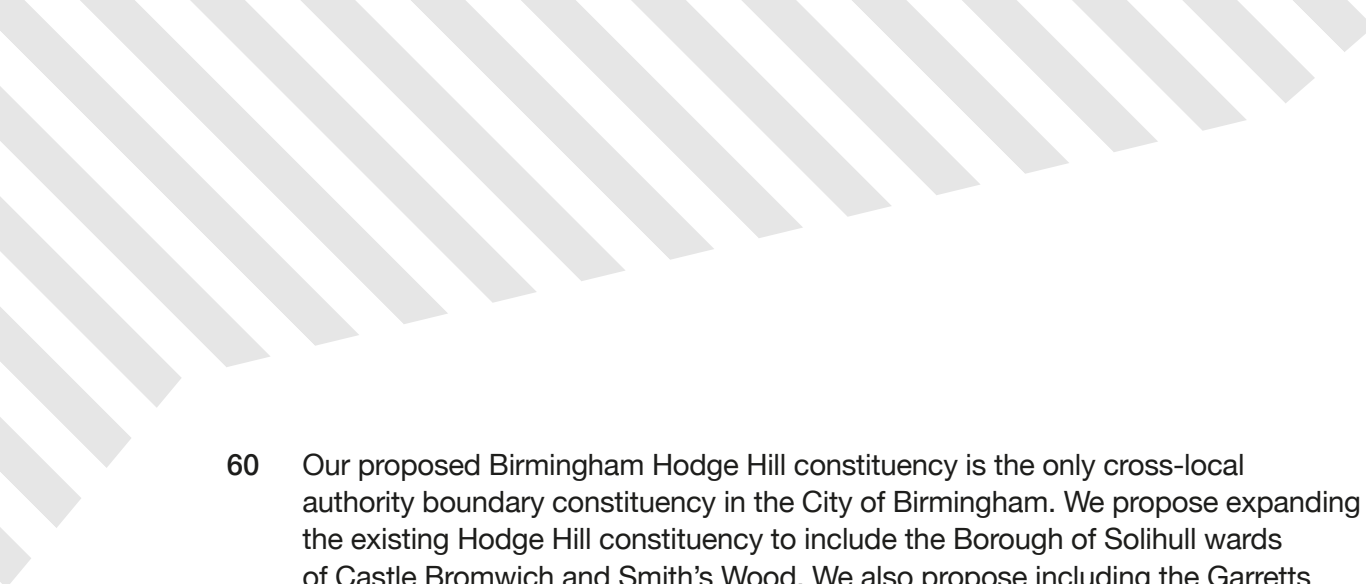
- 52 There are 12 constituencies currently in the area covered by this sub-region. With a combined mathematical entitlement to 12.16, our initial proposals allocate 12 constituencies to the sub-region, which is unchanged from the current figure. While we have attempted to limit change to existing constituency boundaries across the West Midlands region, this has not been possible in parts of this sub-region. Primarily, this is due to wards with a large number of electors (wards in this sub-region have an average of 10,379 electors) and changes to local government ward boundaries in the City of Birmingham. Therefore, our initial proposals incorporate some element of change in every constituency in the sub-region.

Solihull

- 53 Neither of the existing constituencies in the metropolitan Borough of Solihull are within the permitted electorate range. Additionally, due to the large ward sizes in the borough, we have been limited in terms of practicable solutions.
- 54 We propose extending the existing Meriden constituency to include the two Borough of Solihull wards of Elmdon and Silhill. Consequently, we propose extending the existing Solihull constituency southwards to include the Borough of Solihull ward of Blythe. We recognise that this configuration may not reflect local ties as well as the existing constituency boundaries; however, further minimising disruption to existing constituencies would require a Borough of Solihull ward to be divided between constituencies. At this stage, we do not consider it necessary to divide a ward in this area in formulating a pattern of constituencies that reflect the statutory criteria.
- 55 With an electorate of 162,614 and a mathematical entitlement to 2.22, two Borough of Solihull wards need to be included in a cross-local authority boundary constituency with the City of Birmingham. We propose including the two northernmost wards of the Borough of Solihull, Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood, in a cross-local authority boundary constituency. We did consider alternative solutions, in which the Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood wards were retained within the Meriden constituency. However, we concluded that these alternative solutions for the Borough of Solihull constituencies would not better reflect the statutory factors.

Birmingham

- 56 In the City of Birmingham, changes to local ward boundaries in the city mean that none of the existing ten constituencies would be able to remain wholly unchanged without dividing a substantial number of wards between constituencies.
- 57 Our initial proposals for the Sutton Coldfield constituency would not represent substantial change from the existing constituency. Local government ward boundary changes have impacted the City of Birmingham ward of Sutton Walmley & Minworth. While the vast majority of the ward is in the existing Sutton Coldfield constituency, a small uninhabited area between the River Tame and the M6 motorway is in the existing Erdington constituency. We propose including the entire Sutton Walmley & Minworth ward in the Sutton Coldfield constituency to account for these ward boundary changes.
- 58 Our initial proposal for the Birmingham Erdington constituency extends the constituency south-westwards to include the two City of Birmingham wards of Aston and Lozells, which are currently divided between the existing Ladywood and Perry Barr constituencies. While we recognise that these two wards may not best reflect local ties with the Erdington area, this proposal allows us to develop constituencies across the City of Birmingham that better reflect the statutory factors overall.
- 59 We propose including the City of Birmingham ward of Kingstanding in the Birmingham Perry Barr constituency. This change would allow areas on both sides of the Kingstanding Road, and therefore the whole of the Kingstanding Circle, which is currently divided between constituencies, to be united in a single constituency.

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- 60 Our proposed Birmingham Hodge Hill constituency is the only cross-local authority boundary constituency in the City of Birmingham. We propose expanding the existing Hodge Hill constituency to include the Borough of Solihull wards of Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood. We also propose including the Garretts Green ward in this constituency, which is currently included in the Birmingham Yardley constituency.
- 61 With an electorate of 73,411, the existing Birmingham Yardley constituency is within the permitted electorate range. However, as with almost every other City of Birmingham constituency, it is not possible to keep the constituency wholly unchanged without dividing wards, as a result of changes to local government ward boundaries. We therefore propose expanding the constituency north-westwards to include the entire Small Heath ward. This ward is currently divided between the Yardley and Hodge Hill constituencies; this change would reunite the Small Heath ward within a single parliamentary constituency.
- 62 The electorate of the Birmingham Edgbaston constituency is below the permitted electorate range; therefore, we propose including the whole of the ward of North Edgbaston in this constituency (it is currently divided between the constituencies of Birmingham Edgbaston and Birmingham Ladywood). We propose no further changes to the constituency, other than minor adjustments to realign with changes to local government ward boundaries.
- 63 We propose extending the Birmingham Ladywood constituency to include the wards of Balsall Heath West and Alum Rock. This proposal allows all city centre areas within the Middle Ring Road to remain in the Ladywood constituency.
- 64 As a result of this proposal, the Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East, and Balsall Heath West wards are included in separate constituencies, which we recognise may not best reflect local ties. Our initial proposals recommend this pattern as, in our judgement, this arrangement prevents more extensive divisions of local ties in the Hall Green and Selly Oak areas. We appreciate that there may be substantial strength of feeling regarding local ties in Birmingham, and therefore we would particularly welcome representations on this issue.
- 65 In formulating our initial proposals, we identified that it is possible to create a configuration of constituencies for the City of Birmingham, all within the permitted electorate range, without the need to divide any wards between constituencies. However, due to the large electorates in City of Birmingham wards, we feel that we are able to generate a pattern of constituencies that better satisfies the statutory factors when a limited number of wards are divided between constituencies. As a result, our initial proposals include two City of Birmingham wards that are divided between constituencies, impacting the constituencies of Birmingham Northfield, Birmingham Hall Green, and Birmingham Selly Oak.

- 66 We propose dividing the City of Birmingham ward of Weoley & Selly Oak. This ward is currently divided between the existing Northfield and Selly Oak constituencies. Our initial proposals would retain this division. We propose including the area around Weoley Castle in the Northfield constituency and the remainder of the ward, centred on Selly Oak Park, in the Selly Oak constituency.
- 67 We also propose dividing the City of Birmingham ward of Brandwood & King's Heath. This ward is also currently divided between two existing constituencies, Selly Oak and Hall Green. Our initial proposals would retain this division, including the northern part of the ward in the Hall Green constituency and the southern portion in the Selly Oak constituency.
- 68 The division of these two wards allows the Hall Green and Selly Oak areas to be wholly contained in the constituencies that bear their names. We considered an alternative scheme in which none of the City of Birmingham wards were divided between constituencies. However, in this scheme, the Hall Green area was divided between two constituencies and the Selly Oak area was divided between three. Therefore, in order to retain local ties within the city, and satisfy as many of the statutory factors as possible, we are recommending both divisions in our initial proposals. We particularly welcome any representations and counter-proposals that avoid the division of these wards (while respecting the statutory factors).
- 69 Consequently, our initial proposals would expand the Hall Green constituency to include the entirety of the City of Birmingham ward of Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East; this ward is currently divided between Hall Green and Yardley constituencies. As previously mentioned, our initial proposals would also include part of the Brandwood & King's Heath ward, which currently is part of the Hall Green constituency.
- 70 Our initial proposals for the Selly Oak constituency do not represent substantial change from the existing constituency. We propose adjustments to account for local government ward boundary changes. As previously mentioned, our initial proposals for the Selly Oak constituency include the southern area of the Brandwood & King's Heath ward, together with the eastern area of the Weoley & Selly Oak ward.
- 71 We propose including the western portion of the Weoley & Selly Oak ward in the Birmingham Northfield constituency. The only other changes that we propose making to this constituency are to reflect changes to local government ward boundaries.

Initial proposals for the Staffordshire and the Black Country sub-region

- 72 There are 25 existing constituencies in the area covered by this sub-region. With a combined mathematical entitlement to 22.63, our initial proposals allocate 23 constituencies to the sub-region, a reduction of two from the current figure. Seven of the existing constituencies are within the permitted electorate range. However, the remaining 18 existing constituencies in the sub-region are below the permitted range. The reduction in the number of constituencies overall in the sub-region would therefore result in significant change to many constituencies. Our initial proposals keep two constituencies wholly unchanged (Cannock Chase and Burton). Four more constituencies (Lichfield, Tamworth, Stoke-on-Trent North, and Newcastle-under-Lyme) are able to remain unchanged apart from adjustments to take account of changes to local government ward boundaries.

Wolverhampton and Walsall

- 73 There are six existing constituencies in Wolverhampton and Walsall. Every constituency has an electorate below the permitted electorate range, in some cases significantly (such as Wolverhampton South West at 59,260, Wolverhampton North East at 60,709, and Aldridge-Brownhills at 60,602). With a combined mathematical entitlement to 5.04, we propose allocating five constituencies between the metropolitan boroughs of Walsall and Wolverhampton, a reduction of one.
- 74 The electorate of the existing Wolverhampton South West constituency is such that it is required to expand to include two additional neighbouring wards. We therefore propose extending the constituency eastwards to include the City of Wolverhampton wards of Oxley and Blakenhall. While we recognise that alternative wards can be included in the constituency instead, our initial proposals help to retain close local ties in the Bushbury and Bilston areas of the city. We also propose naming the constituency Wolverhampton West, to better reflect the area it would cover.
- 75 The two remaining Wolverhampton constituencies, Wolverhampton North East and Wolverhampton South East, both need to expand. Our proposals for the Wolverhampton South East constituency would retain the entire Bilston area within the constituency. We also propose expanding the constituency eastwards to include the Darlaston area, together with the centre of Willenhall.

- 76 Similarly, our proposals for the Wolverhampton North East constituency would also expand the existing constituency eastwards. We propose retaining the Bushbury and Wednesfield areas within the constituency, together with the Borough of Walsall wards of Willenhall North and Short Heath. We recognise that our proposals would divide the Willenhall area between constituencies. However, we consider that other configurations of constituencies in this and the surrounding area (for example, joining Bilston in a constituency with Bushbury) would not better reflect the statutory factors.
- 77 The three existing Borough of Walsall constituencies are Walsall North, Walsall South, and Aldridge-Brownhills. Since our proposals would include five Borough of Walsall wards in the Wolverhampton North East and Wolverhampton South East constituencies, we are able to propose two constituencies to be wholly contained within the Borough of Walsall. We propose calling these constituencies Bloxwich and Brownhills, and Walsall, to recognise the main population centres in each respective constituency.
- 78 Our proposed Bloxwich and Brownhills constituency would include the areas broadly covered by the named towns, while our proposed Walsall constituency would include the municipal centres of the towns of Walsall and Aldridge. We recognise that our proposals not only represent significant change from the existing constituency boundaries, but also divide the town of Aldridge between constituencies. However, due to the very large ward sizes in the borough, and the small electorates of the existing constituencies, our options were limited; therefore, we consider that this proposed configuration of constituencies in Walsall best reflects the statutory factors.

Sandwell and Dudley

- 79 There are seven existing constituencies in Sandwell and Dudley. As with Wolverhampton and Walsall, every constituency has an electorate below the permitted electorate range. Therefore, every constituency must be changed. Our proposals aim to limit disruption to the existing constituency boundaries and acknowledge community ties.
- 80 The existing West Bromwich West constituency has an electorate below the permitted range. Therefore, we propose expanding the constituency westwards to include the Borough of Dudley ward of Coseley East. We recognise that this configuration would result in Coseley East being an orphan ward. Overall, however, it allows for constituencies that far better reflect the statutory factors across Sandwell and Dudley, particularly in relation to our proposed Smethwick and Rowley Regis, and Halesowen constituencies.
- 81 Like West Bromwich West, we also propose extending the existing West Bromwich East constituency to include a single additional ward. We propose extending the existing constituency southwards to include the Borough of Sandwell ward of St. Pauls.
- 82 The existing Dudley North constituency has an electorate of 61,333, well below the permitted electorate range. However, due to the large ward sizes in the borough, it is possible to include just one additional ward to bring the electorate within the permitted range. We therefore propose extending the existing Dudley North constituency southwards to include the Borough of Dudley ward of Brockmoor and Pensnett. We propose changing the name of the existing Dudley South constituency to Dudley, to reflect that the proposed constituency contains the majority of the town.
- 83 Our initial proposal for the Stourbridge constituency expands the existing constituency northwards, to include the two Borough of Dudley wards of Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrews, and Brierley Hill. This configuration would allow the whole of Stourbridge town to remain in a single constituency, retaining close communities within a single constituency.
- 84 It is possible to create a pattern of constituencies for the Black Country without the need to divide any wards between constituencies. However, due to the very large ward sizes, we feel that we are able to generate a configuration of constituencies that better satisfies the statutory factors when a limited number of wards are divided. As a result, our initial proposals include one Borough of Sandwell ward that is divided between constituencies, impacting our proposed Smethwick and Rowley Regis, and Halesowen constituencies.

- 85 We propose dividing the Borough of Sandwell ward of Blackheath. This ward is currently in the existing Halesowen and Rowley Regis constituency. We propose including an area in the ward to the south of the Birmingham–Worcester railway line in our proposed Halesowen constituency, and the remainder of the ward, largely north of the railway line, in our proposed Smethwick and Rowley Regis constituency.
- 86 The division of this ward allows local ties to be better preserved across the whole of the Black Country, while also reducing the number of cross-local authority boundary constituencies in the region. We considered an alternative scheme in which no Black Country wards were divided between constituencies. However, doing so resulted in significant changes to the pattern of constituencies covering Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, thus disrupting multiple community ties in the process. Therefore, in order to better reflect local ties within the area, and reflect the statutory factors, we recommend the division of the Blackheath ward in our initial proposals.
- 87 Our resulting proposals for the existing Halesowen and Rowley Regis constituency would expand the constituency westwards to include the Borough of Dudley wards of Cradley and Wollescote, and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood. As in the existing configuration, we also propose retaining the constituency as a cross-local authority boundary constituency, including wards from both Dudley and Sandwell boroughs. We propose retaining the Borough of Sandwell ward of Cradley Heath and Old Hill in the constituency, along with part of the Blackheath ward as previously mentioned. We propose renaming the constituency Halesowen, in order to better reflect the new area which it would cover.
- 88 Our initial proposals for the existing Warley constituency propose expanding it westward to include the town of Rowley Regis. As stated previously, we also propose including part of the Blackheath ward in the constituency. We propose changing the name of the existing constituency to Smethwick and Rowley Regis to better reflect the main population centres covered by the constituency.
- 89 As previously outlined, Staffordshire and the Black Country have been included in a sub-region together for our initial proposals. It is therefore necessary for one constituency to include wards from both areas. We propose for this constituency to include the three Borough of Dudley wards of Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South, and Wordsley, which broadly make up the town of Kingswinford. We recognise that Kingswinford has closer local ties to the Borough of Dudley than it does to Staffordshire, and therefore did consider alternative configurations of constituencies in the sub-region. However, we believe that crossing from the Black Country to Staffordshire at Kingswinford would far better respect the statutory factors elsewhere in both the Black Country and in Staffordshire, when compared to the alternatives.

Staffordshire

- 90 There are twelve existing constituencies in Staffordshire. Seven existing constituencies are within the permitted electorate range. The remaining five constituencies have electorates that are below the permitted electorate range. Our proposals for Staffordshire aim to limit change from the existing constituency boundaries as far as practicable.
- 91 We propose extending the existing South Staffordshire constituency eastwards to include the three Borough of Dudley wards of Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South, and Wordsley. We propose naming this constituency Kingswinford and South Staffordshire, which would recognise the largest population centre, and a significant rural part of the constituency.
- 92 We do not propose making any changes to the existing Cannock Chase and Burton constituencies, as they both have electorates within the permitted range.
- 93 The existing Lichfield and Tamworth constituencies also have electorates within the permitted range. However, due to local government ward boundary changes, it would not be possible to keep both constituencies wholly unchanged without dividing wards between constituencies. As a result of these changes, two wards now cross the boundary between the two constituencies: Whittington & Streethay, and Hammerwich with Wall. We recognise that both these wards have close links to Lichfield. However, the electorate of the existing Lichfield constituency is such that it is not possible to include both wards in this constituency. We note that the Hammerwich with Wall ward includes part of the town of Burntwood. Therefore, in order to avoid dividing Burntwood between constituencies, we propose including the Whittington & Streethay ward in the Tamworth constituency and the Hammerwich with Wall ward in the Lichfield constituency.

- 94 The electorate of the existing Staffordshire Moorlands constituency is below the permitted electorate range. We therefore propose expanding the constituency southwards to include the town of Cheadle, and making minor changes to align with local government ward boundary changes, but propose no further change as part of our initial proposals.
- 95 Every constituency in the unitary authority of the City of Stoke-on-Trent is below the permitted electorate range; therefore, each constituency needs to be modified. The electorate of the existing Stoke-on-Trent North constituency is such that, when it is realigned to reflect changes to local government ward boundaries, its electorate would be within the permitted electorate range. We therefore propose a reconfigured Stoke-on-Trent North constituency as part of our initial proposals.
- 96 The existing Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency, with an electorate of 54,551, has the fewest electors of any existing constituency in England. We therefore propose a reconfigured Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency, which expands southwards to include the component town of Fenton, together with the City of Stoke-on-Trent wards of Sandford Hill and Meir Hay.
- 97 Like the other two Stoke-on-Trent constituencies, the Stoke-on-Trent South constituency has an electorate that is below the permitted electorate range. Due to our proposed changes to the Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency, and to preserve community ties in the Staffordshire Moorlands and Newcastle-under-Lyme areas, it is necessary to extend the Stoke-on-Trent South constituency southwards, beyond the boundary of the unitary authority. We therefore propose expanding the constituency to include the Borough of Stafford wards of Barlaston, Swynnerton & Oulton, and Fulford, together with the Staffordshire Moorlands District wards of Forsbrook and Checkley. We recognise that these wards may have closer ties to their respective districts and neighbouring population centres. However, we consider that this configuration of constituencies better reflects the statutory factors across the whole of Staffordshire.
- 98 The Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency has an electorate of 66,658, which is below the permitted electorate range. However, when the constituency is realigned to reflect changes to local government ward boundaries, its electorate would be within the permitted electorate range. Therefore, we propose no further changes to this constituency, beyond realignment to new local government ward boundaries.

- 99 With an electorate of 73,608, the existing Stafford constituency is within the permitted electorate range. However, it would not be possible to keep the constituency wholly unchanged without dividing wards between constituencies, as the local government ward boundaries have changed. The existing Stafford constituency extends eastwards and southwards from the town of Stafford itself. We considered a pattern of constituencies in which the Stafford constituency broadly covered the same areas. However, due to our proposed changes elsewhere in Staffordshire, this would not have been possible without dividing the Cannock Chase district between constituencies. The existing Cannock Chase constituency is coterminous with its district boundary and can remain wholly unchanged. We therefore propose extending the Stafford constituency northwards and westwards from the town of Stafford, including wards from the surrounding Stafford district together with the Loggerheads, and Maer & Whitmore wards from the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.
- 100 The existing Stone constituency has an electorate that is within the permitted range; however, retaining the constituency wholly unchanged would have knock-on effects across Staffordshire, which we consider would cause unnecessary disruption to areas that could otherwise be wholly unchanged or only minimally changed. We therefore propose a constituency that comprises the Borough of Stafford town of Stone, together with the South Staffordshire district towns of Penkridge and Great Wyrley. While we recognise that this constituency may have limited community ties, we consider that no alternative configuration of constituencies in Staffordshire would better reflect the statutory factors. We recommend naming this constituency Stone and Great Wyrley, to reflect the main population centres in the proposed constituency.

4 How to have your say

- 101 We are consulting on our initial proposals for an eight-week period, from 8 June 2021 to 2 August 2021. We encourage everyone to give us their views on our proposals for their area – the more public responses we receive and the more local information that is provided, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the responses we have received.
- 102 On our interactive consultation website, at www.bcereviews.org.uk, you can see what constituency you will be in under our proposals, and compare it with your existing constituency and local government boundaries. You can also easily submit your views on our proposals through that consultation website.
- 103 When making comments on our initial proposals, we ask people to bear in mind the tight constraints placed on the Commission by the rules set by Parliament, discussed in chapter 2 and in our Guide to the 2023 Review. Most importantly, in the West Midlands:
- we cannot recommend constituencies that have electorates that contain more than 77,062 or fewer than 69,724 electors
 - we are basing our initial proposals on local government ward boundaries (existing or – where relevant – prospective) as at 1 December 2020 as the building blocks of constituencies – although where there is strong justification for doing so, we will consider dividing a ward between constituencies (see the Guide to the 2023 Review for more detailed information)
 - we have constructed constituencies within regions, so as not to cross regional boundaries – very compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade us that we should depart from this approach.

- 104 These issues mean that we encourage people who are making a comment about their local area to bear in mind any consequential effects for neighbouring areas that might result from their suggestions. The Commission must look at the recommendations for new constituencies across the whole region (and, indeed, across England). What may be a better solution for one location may have undesirable consequences for others. 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?

- 105 Views on our initial proposals should be given to the Commission initially in writing. We encourage everyone who wishes to comment on our proposals in writing to do so through our interactive consultation website⁸ at www.bcereviews.org.uk – you will find all the details you need and be able to comment directly through the website. The website allows you to explore the map of our proposals and get further data, including the electorate sizes of every ward. You can also upload text or data files you may have previously prepared setting out your views.
- 106 We encourage everyone, before submitting a representation, to read our approach to protecting and using your personal details (available at www.bcereviews.org.uk). As these consultations are very much concerned with a respondent's sense of place and community, when publishing responses (which the law requires us to do), we will associate the response with the general locality of the respondent's address, but we will not publish a respondent's name or detailed address with their response, unless they specifically ask us to do so.
- 107 It is important to stress that all representations, whether they have been made through our website or sent to us in writing, will be given equal consideration by the Commission.
- 108 As noted above, there will be an opportunity to make an oral response to our initial proposals – and comment on the responses of others – during the secondary consultation stage. We will therefore publish further details about these public hearings, and how you can make a contribution to one, closer to the dates of the secondary consultation period.

⁸ Our website has been designed to maximise accessibility for all users, in line with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

What do we want views on?

- 109 We would particularly like to ask two things of people responding to our consultation. Firstly, if you support our proposals, please tell us so. 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 distorted view of the balance of public support or objection to proposals, and those who, in fact, support our initial proposals may then be disappointed if those proposals are subsequently revised in light of the consultation responses. Secondly, if you are considering objecting to our proposals, do please use the resources (such as maps and electorate figures) available on our website and at the places of deposit⁹ to put forward counter-proposals that are in accordance with the rules to which we are working.
- 110 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 and information we receive as a result of our initial proposals and through the subsequent consultation phases, 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 that we present in 2023.

⁹ The legislation requires our proposals to be made available in at least one 'place of deposit' open to the public in each proposed constituency. A list of these places of deposit is published on our website.

Appendix: Initial proposals for constituencies, including wards and electorates

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
Bedworth and North Warwickshire CC			70,245
	Atherstone Central	North Warwickshire	2,867
	Atherstone North	North Warwickshire	2,879
	Atherstone South and Mancetter	North Warwickshire	2,976
	Baddesley and Grendon	North Warwickshire	3,308
	Coleshill North	North Warwickshire	2,512
	Coleshill South	North Warwickshire	2,831
	Curdworth	North Warwickshire	2,764
	Dordon	North Warwickshire	2,261
	Fillongley	North Warwickshire	2,784
	Hurley and Wood End	North Warwickshire	3,008
	Kingsbury	North Warwickshire	2,980
	Newton Regis and Warton	North Warwickshire	2,852
	Polesworth East	North Warwickshire	2,904
	Polesworth West	North Warwickshire	2,602
	Water Orton	North Warwickshire	2,799
	Bede	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,149
	Exhall	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,963
	Heath	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,735
	Poplar	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,680
	Slough	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,391
Birmingham Edgbaston BC			71,354
	Bartley Green	Birmingham	15,537
	Edgbaston	Birmingham	12,493
	Harborne	Birmingham	15,525
	North Edgbaston	Birmingham	13,071
	Quinton	Birmingham	14,728

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
Birmingham Erdington BC			75,925
	Aston	Birmingham	13,901
	Castle Vale	Birmingham	6,718
	Erdington	Birmingham	13,582
	Gravelly Hill	Birmingham	6,195
	Lozells	Birmingham	7,168
	Perry Common	Birmingham	7,469
	Pype Hayes	Birmingham	7,315
	Stockland Green	Birmingham	13,577
Birmingham Hall Green BC			75,781
	Part of Brandwood & King's Heath (polling districts BKH1HG, BKH2HG, and BKH3)	Birmingham	8,044
	Hall Green North	Birmingham	15,269
	Hall Green South	Birmingham	7,909
	Moseley	Birmingham	15,918
	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	Birmingham	15,539
	Sparkhill	Birmingham	13,102
Birmingham Hodge Hill BC			76,922
	Bromford & Hodge Hill	Birmingham	13,880
	Garretts Green	Birmingham	6,988
	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Birmingham	14,877
	Heartlands	Birmingham	7,196
	Shard End	Birmingham	8,284
	Ward End	Birmingham	7,831
	Castle Bromwich	Solihull	9,305
	Smith's Wood	Solihull	8,561
Birmingham Ladywood BC			76,585
	Alum Rock	Birmingham	15,553
	Balsall Heath West	Birmingham	7,263
	Bordesley & Highgate	Birmingham	6,891
	Bordesley Green	Birmingham	6,823
	Ladywood	Birmingham	12,721
	Nechells	Birmingham	6,900
	Newtown	Birmingham	6,831
	Soho & Jewellery Quarter	Birmingham	13,603

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
Birmingham Northfield BC			73,483
	Allens Cross	Birmingham	7,373
	Frankley Great Park	Birmingham	8,155
	King's Norton North	Birmingham	7,716
	King's Norton South	Birmingham	7,709
	Longbridge & West Heath	Birmingham	15,349
	Northfield	Birmingham	8,069
	Rubery & Rednal	Birmingham	7,221
	Part of Weoley & Selly Oak (polling districts WSO1ED, WSO4, WSO6, WSO7, WSO8, WSO9, and WSO10)	Birmingham	11,891
Birmingham Perry Barr BC			74,979
	Birchfield	Birmingham	6,934
	Handsworth	Birmingham	6,805
	Handsworth Wood	Birmingham	13,311
	Holyhead	Birmingham	6,159
	Kingstanding	Birmingham	13,610
	Oscott	Birmingham	14,341
	Perry Barr	Birmingham	13,819
Birmingham Selly Oak BC			76,285
	Billesley	Birmingham	14,030
	Bournbrook & Selly Park	Birmingham	15,748
	Bournville & Cotteridge	Birmingham	14,042
	Part of Brandwood & King's Heath (polling districts BKH4, BKH5, and BKH6)	Birmingham	6,149
	Druids Heath & Monyhull	Birmingham	7,788
	Highter's Heath	Birmingham	7,794
	Stirchley	Birmingham	7,145
	Part of Weoley & Selly Oak (polling districts WSO2SO, WSO3SO, and WSO5SO)	Birmingham	3,589
Birmingham Yardley BC			71,912
	Acocks Green	Birmingham	15,586
	Sheldon	Birmingham	14,211
	Small Heath	Birmingham	12,760
	South Yardley	Birmingham	6,969
	Tyseley & Hay Mills	Birmingham	7,042
	Yardley East	Birmingham	7,910
	Yardley West & Stechford	Birmingham	7,434

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
Bloxwich and Brownhills BC			76,751
	Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	Walsall	10,156
	Birchills Leamore	Walsall	10,296
	Blakenall	Walsall	9,082
	Bloxwich East	Walsall	8,969
	Bloxwich West	Walsall	9,825
	Brownhills	Walsall	9,860
	Pelsall	Walsall	9,069
	Rushall-Shelfield	Walsall	9,494
Bromsgrove CC			75,305
	Alvechurch South	Bromsgrove	2,315
	Alvechurch Village	Bromsgrove	2,269
	Aston Fields	Bromsgrove	2,561
	Avoncroft	Bromsgrove	2,607
	Barnt Green & Hopwood	Bromsgrove	2,446
	Belbroughton & Romsley	Bromsgrove	5,352
	Bromsgrove Central	Bromsgrove	2,386
	Catshill North	Bromsgrove	2,200
	Catshill South	Bromsgrove	2,218
	Charford	Bromsgrove	2,303
	Cofton	Bromsgrove	2,441
	Drakes Cross	Bromsgrove	2,469
	Hagley East	Bromsgrove	2,470
	Hagley West	Bromsgrove	2,934
	Hill Top	Bromsgrove	1,854
	Hollywood	Bromsgrove	2,402
	Lickey Hills	Bromsgrove	2,294
	Lowes Hill	Bromsgrove	2,565
	Marlbrook	Bromsgrove	2,434
	Norton	Bromsgrove	2,512
	Perryfields	Bromsgrove	1,515
	Rock Hill	Bromsgrove	2,402
	Rubery North	Bromsgrove	2,423
	Rubery South	Bromsgrove	2,507
	Sanders Park	Bromsgrove	2,776
	Sidemoor	Bromsgrove	2,700
	Slideslow	Bromsgrove	2,686
	Tardebigge	Bromsgrove	2,418
	Wythall East	Bromsgrove	2,503
	Wythall West	Bromsgrove	2,343

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
Burton CC			75,460
	Abbey	East Staffordshire	2,373
	Anglesey	East Staffordshire	3,633
	Branston	East Staffordshire	6,084
	Brizlincote	East Staffordshire	4,110
	Burton	East Staffordshire	2,159
	Churnet	East Staffordshire	2,150
	Crown	East Staffordshire	2,123
	Eton Park	East Staffordshire	4,402
	Heath	East Staffordshire	5,080
	Horninglow	East Staffordshire	6,022
	Rolleston on Dove	East Staffordshire	2,713
	Shobnall	East Staffordshire	4,629
	Stapenhill	East Staffordshire	5,428
	Stretton	East Staffordshire	6,218
	Town	East Staffordshire	5,287
	Tutbury and Outwoods	East Staffordshire	5,422
	Weaver	East Staffordshire	1,680
	Winshill	East Staffordshire	5,947
Cannock Chase CC			75,582
	Brereton and Ravenhill	Cannock Chase	5,255
	Cannock East	Cannock Chase	5,312
	Cannock North	Cannock Chase	5,350
	Cannock South	Cannock Chase	5,940
	Cannock West	Cannock Chase	5,730
	Etching Hill and The Heath	Cannock Chase	5,194
	Hagley	Cannock Chase	3,279
	Hawks Green	Cannock Chase	5,489
	Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury	Cannock Chase	4,845
	Hednesford Green Heath	Cannock Chase	4,931
	Hednesford North	Cannock Chase	5,259
	Hednesford South	Cannock Chase	4,168
	Norton Canes	Cannock Chase	6,016
	Rawnsley	Cannock Chase	3,707
	Western Springs	Cannock Chase	5,107
Coventry East BC			73,389
	Binley and Willenhall	Coventry	12,048
	Foleshill	Coventry	11,147
	Henley	Coventry	13,007

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Longford	Coventry	12,961
	Upper Stoke	Coventry	11,811
	Wyken	Coventry	12,415
Coventry North West BC			73,431
	Bablake	Coventry	12,663
	Holbrook	Coventry	12,364
	Radford	Coventry	11,685
	Sherbourne	Coventry	11,720
	Whoberley	Coventry	11,433
	Woodlands	Coventry	13,566
Coventry South BC			70,998
	Cheylesmore	Coventry	11,463
	Earlsdon	Coventry	11,955
	Lower Stoke	Coventry	13,933
	St. Michael's	Coventry	10,445
	Wainbody	Coventry	10,257
	Westwood	Coventry	12,945
Droitwich and Evesham CC			74,345
	Badsey	Wychavon	2,492
	Bengeworth	Wychavon	4,537
	Bowbrook	Wychavon	2,439
	Bretforton and Offenham	Wychavon	2,295
	Broadway and Wickhamford	Wychavon	4,077
	Drakes Broughton	Wychavon	2,129
	Droitwich Central	Wychavon	1,959
	Droitwich East	Wychavon	4,235
	Droitwich South East	Wychavon	4,881
	Droitwich South West	Wychavon	3,913
	Droitwich West	Wychavon	3,634
	Evesham North	Wychavon	3,248
	Evesham South	Wychavon	3,658
	Fladbury	Wychavon	2,306
	Great Hampton	Wychavon	2,654
	Hartlebury	Wychavon	2,372
	Honeybourne and Pebworth	Wychavon	2,382
	Little Hampton	Wychavon	3,612
	Lovett and North Claines	Wychavon	5,517
	Norton and Whittington	Wychavon	2,845
	Ombersley	Wychavon	2,020
	Pinvin	Wychavon	2,489

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	The Littletons	Wychavon	2,383
	Upton Snodsbury	Wychavon	2,268
Dudley BC			71,083
	Brockmoor and Pensnett	Dudley	9,750
	Castle and Priory	Dudley	11,319
	Gornal	Dudley	10,392
	Sedgley	Dudley	9,676
	St. James's	Dudley	9,992
	St. Thomas's	Dudley	9,989
	Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	Dudley	9,965
Halesowen BC			69,907
	Belle Vale	Dudley	10,460
	Cradley and Wollescote	Dudley	9,769
	Halesowen North	Dudley	9,700
	Halesowen South	Dudley	9,910
	Hayley Green and Cradley South	Dudley	9,276
	Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood	Dudley	10,096
	Part of Blackheath (polling district BLG)	Sandwell	585
	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	Sandwell	10,111
Hereford and South Herefordshire CC			71,438
	Aylestone Hill	Herefordshire	2,450
	Belmont Rural	Herefordshire	2,630
	Birch	Herefordshire	2,522
	Bobblestock	Herefordshire	2,372
	Central	Herefordshire	2,324
	College	Herefordshire	2,734
	Dinedor Hill	Herefordshire	2,767
	Eign Hill	Herefordshire	2,716
	Golden Valley North	Herefordshire	2,512
	Golden Valley South	Herefordshire	2,668
	Greyfriars	Herefordshire	2,755
	Hinton & Hunderton	Herefordshire	2,704
	Holmer	Herefordshire	3,068
	Kerne Bridge	Herefordshire	2,519
	Kings Acre	Herefordshire	2,514
	Llangarron	Herefordshire	2,780
	Newton Farm	Herefordshire	2,713

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Penyard	Herefordshire	2,891
	Red Hill	Herefordshire	2,850
	Ross East	Herefordshire	2,882
	Ross North	Herefordshire	2,668
	Ross West	Herefordshire	2,653
	Saxon Gate	Herefordshire	2,772
	Tupsley	Herefordshire	2,532
	Whitecross	Herefordshire	2,564
	Widemarsh	Herefordshire	2,072
	Wormside	Herefordshire	2,806
Kenilworth and Southam CC			74,107
	Dunsmore	Rugby	6,340
	Leam Valley	Rugby	2,004
	Bishop's Itchington	Stratford-on-Avon	3,171
	Harbury	Stratford-on-Avon	2,879
	Kineton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,969
	Long Itchington & Stockton	Stratford-on-Avon	3,479
	Napton & Fenny Compton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,806
	Red Horse	Stratford-on-Avon	2,753
	Southam North	Stratford-on-Avon	2,799
	Southam South	Stratford-on-Avon	3,000
	Wellesbourne East	Stratford-on-Avon	3,021
	Wellesbourne West	Stratford-on-Avon	3,185
	Budbrooke	Warwick	5,013
	Cubbington & Leek Wootton	Warwick	4,552
	Kenilworth Abbey & Arden	Warwick	7,905
	Kenilworth Park Hill	Warwick	7,887
	Kenilworth St. John's	Warwick	7,688
	Radford Semele	Warwick	2,656
Kidderminster CC			77,015
	Aggborough & Spennells	Wyre Forest	6,542
	Areley Kings & Riverside	Wyre Forest	6,441
	Bewdley & Rock	Wyre Forest	7,049
	Blakebrook & Habberley South	Wyre Forest	6,689
	Broadwaters	Wyre Forest	6,547
	Foley Park & Hoobrook	Wyre Forest	7,391
	Franche & Habberley North	Wyre Forest	7,625
	Lickhill	Wyre Forest	2,217
	Mitton	Wyre Forest	7,485

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Offmore & Comberton	Wyre Forest	7,337
	Wribbenhall & Arley	Wyre Forest	4,335
	Wyre Forest Rural	Wyre Forest	7,357
Kingswinford and South Staffordshire CC			71,896
	Kingswinford North and Wall Heath	Dudley	9,951
	Kingswinford South	Dudley	10,234
	Wordsley	Dudley	10,025
	Bilbrook	South Staffordshire	3,230
	Codsall North	South Staffordshire	3,488
	Codsall South	South Staffordshire	3,160
	Himley and Swindon	South Staffordshire	2,138
	Kinver	South Staffordshire	5,983
	Pattingham and Patshull	South Staffordshire	1,804
	Perton Dippons	South Staffordshire	1,605
	Perton East	South Staffordshire	1,674
	Perton Lakeside	South Staffordshire	4,773
	Trysull and Seisdon	South Staffordshire	1,823
	Wombourne North and Lower Penn	South Staffordshire	5,296
	Wombourne South East	South Staffordshire	3,225
	Wombourne South West	South Staffordshire	3,487
Lichfield CC			73,844
	Bagots	East Staffordshire	2,258
	Needwood	East Staffordshire	4,814
	Yoxall	East Staffordshire	2,256
	Alrewas & Fradley	Lichfield	5,032
	Armitage with Handsacre	Lichfield	6,130
	Boley Park	Lichfield	3,446
	Boney Hay & Central	Lichfield	5,147
	Chadsmead	Lichfield	3,273
	Chase Terrace	Lichfield	3,778
	Chasetown	Lichfield	3,327
	Colton & the Ridwares	Lichfield	1,964
	Curborough	Lichfield	3,342
	Hammerwich with Wall	Lichfield	3,523
	Highfield	Lichfield	3,787
	Leomansley	Lichfield	5,419
	Longdon	Lichfield	1,767
	St. John's	Lichfield	4,710

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Stowe	Lichfield	4,918
	Summerfield & All Saints	Lichfield	4,953
Ludlow and Bridgnorth CC			77,034
	Alveley and Claverley	Shropshire	3,479
	Bishop's Castle	Shropshire	2,954
	Bridgnorth East and Astley Abbots	Shropshire	5,707
	Bridgnorth West and Tasley	Shropshire	5,671
	Broseley	Shropshire	3,843
	Brown Clee	Shropshire	3,234
	Burnell	Shropshire	3,850
	Chirbury and Worthen	Shropshire	2,418
	Church Stretton and Craven Arms	Shropshire	7,345
	Clee	Shropshire	3,662
	Cleobury Mortimer	Shropshire	6,090
	Clun	Shropshire	3,189
	Corvedale	Shropshire	3,102
	Highley	Shropshire	2,858
	Ludlow East	Shropshire	3,096
	Ludlow North	Shropshire	3,104
	Ludlow South	Shropshire	3,193
	Much Wenlock	Shropshire	3,537
	Severn Valley	Shropshire	3,660
	Worfield	Shropshire	3,042
Meriden CC			74,211
	Bickenhill	Solihull	9,794
	Chelmsley Wood	Solihull	9,162
	Dorridge and Hockley Heath	Solihull	8,923
	Elmdon	Solihull	9,453
	Kingshurst and Fordbridge	Solihull	8,895
	Knowle	Solihull	8,525
	Meriden	Solihull	10,089
	Silhill	Solihull	9,370
Newcastle-under-Lyme CC			70,025
	Audley	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,616
	Bradwell	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,622

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Clayton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,243
	Crackley & Red Street	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,298
	Cross Heath	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,997
	Holditch & Chesterton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,947
	Keele	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,920
	Knutton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,981
	Madeley & Betley	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,398
	May Bank	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,633
	Silverdale	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,246
	Thistleberry	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,943
	Town	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,947
	Westbury Park & Northwood	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,044
	Westlands	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,546
	Wolstanton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,644
Newport and Wellington CC			76,143
	Albrighton	Shropshire	3,705
	Cheswardine	Shropshire	3,397
	Hodnet	Shropshire	3,106
	Shifnal North	Shropshire	4,655
	Shifnal South and Cosford	Shropshire	4,464
	Admaston & Bratton	Telford and Wrekin	2,297
	Apley Castle	Telford and Wrekin	2,515
	Arleston	Telford and Wrekin	2,201
	Church Aston & Lilleshall	Telford and Wrekin	2,474
	College	Telford and Wrekin	2,232
	Donnington	Telford and Wrekin	4,411
	Dothill	Telford and Wrekin	2,159
	Edgmond & Ercall Magna	Telford and Wrekin	4,932
	Ercall	Telford and Wrekin	2,751
	Hadley & Leegomery	Telford and Wrekin	6,909

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Haygate	Telford and Wrekin	2,281
	Muxton	Telford and Wrekin	5,178
	Newport North & West	Telford and Wrekin	5,155
	Newport South & East	Telford and Wrekin	4,430
	Park	Telford and Wrekin	2,126
	Shawburch	Telford and Wrekin	2,289
	Wrockwardine	Telford and Wrekin	2,476
North Herefordshire CC			70,581
	Arrow	Herefordshire	2,950
	Backbury	Herefordshire	2,595
	Bircher	Herefordshire	3,194
	Bishops Frome & Cradley	Herefordshire	2,624
	Bromyard Bringsty	Herefordshire	2,811
	Bromyard West	Herefordshire	2,440
	Castle	Herefordshire	2,565
	Credenhill	Herefordshire	2,514
	Hagley	Herefordshire	3,167
	Hampton	Herefordshire	2,854
	Hope End	Herefordshire	2,979
	Kington	Herefordshire	2,505
	Ledbury North	Herefordshire	2,546
	Ledbury South	Herefordshire	2,475
	Ledbury West	Herefordshire	2,673
	Leominster East	Herefordshire	2,766
	Leominster North & Rural	Herefordshire	3,014
	Leominster South	Herefordshire	2,602
	Leominster West	Herefordshire	2,134
	Mortimer	Herefordshire	2,713
	Old Gore	Herefordshire	2,537
	Queenswood	Herefordshire	2,744
	Stoney Street	Herefordshire	2,755
	Sutton Walls	Herefordshire	2,551
	Three Crosses	Herefordshire	2,874
	Weobley	Herefordshire	2,999
North Shropshire CC			77,052
	Ellesmere Urban	Shropshire	3,266
	Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn	Shropshire	5,600
	Llanymynech	Shropshire	3,487
	Market Drayton East	Shropshire	3,817

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Market Drayton West	Shropshire	6,815
	Oswestry East	Shropshire	6,807
	Oswestry South	Shropshire	3,292
	Oswestry West	Shropshire	2,685
	Prees	Shropshire	3,575
	Ruyton and Baschurch	Shropshire	3,377
	Shawbury	Shropshire	3,782
	St. Martin's	Shropshire	3,710
	St. Oswald	Shropshire	3,512
	The Meres	Shropshire	3,933
	Wem	Shropshire	6,837
	Whitchurch North	Shropshire	5,967
	Whitchurch South	Shropshire	3,255
	Whittington	Shropshire	3,335
Nuneaton CC			70,335
	Arley and Whitacre	North Warwickshire	4,330
	Hartshill	North Warwickshire	2,885
	Abbey	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,832
	Arbury	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,256
	Attleborough	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,609
	Bar Pool	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,278
	Camp Hill	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,982
	Galley Common	Nuneaton and Bedworth	6,148
	Kingswood	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,070
	St. Nicolas	Nuneaton and Bedworth	6,291
	Weddington	Nuneaton and Bedworth	7,002
	Wem Brook	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,095
	Whitestone	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,557
Redditch CC			69,921
	Abbey	Redditch	4,470
	Astwood Bank and Feckenham	Redditch	4,761

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Batchley & Brockhill	Redditch	6,042
	Central	Redditch	4,065
	Church Hill	Redditch	5,477
	Crabbs Cross	Redditch	4,458
	Greenlands	Redditch	6,375
	Headless Cross and Oakenshaw	Redditch	6,451
	Lodge Park	Redditch	3,564
	Matchborough	Redditch	4,286
	West	Redditch	4,803
	Winyates	Redditch	5,813
	Dodderhill	Wychavon	2,243
	Harvington and Norton	Wychavon	2,171
	Inkberrow	Wychavon	4,942
Rugby CC			72,603
	Bulkington	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,096
	Admirals and Cawston	Rugby	6,243
	Benn	Rugby	4,648
	Bilton	Rugby	5,056
	Clifton, Newton and Churchover	Rugby	2,044
	Coton and Boughton	Rugby	5,157
	Eastlands	Rugby	5,400
	Hillmorton	Rugby	4,616
	New Bilton	Rugby	4,580
	Newbold and Brownsover	Rugby	5,421
	Paddox	Rugby	5,589
	Revel and Binley Woods	Rugby	5,254
	Rokeby and Overslade	Rugby	5,560
	Wolston and the Lawfords	Rugby	5,855
	Wolvey and Shilton	Rugby	2,084
Shrewsbury CC			75,139
	Abbey	Shropshire	3,407
	Bagley	Shropshire	3,851
	Battlefield	Shropshire	3,383
	Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton	Shropshire	10,055
	Belle Vue	Shropshire	3,453
	Bowbrook	Shropshire	3,391
	Castlefields and Ditherington	Shropshire	3,400

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Copthorne	Shropshire	3,301
	Harlescott	Shropshire	3,337
	Longden	Shropshire	3,375
	Loton	Shropshire	3,268
	Meole	Shropshire	3,319
	Monkmoor	Shropshire	3,280
	Porthill	Shropshire	3,431
	Quarry and Coton Hill	Shropshire	3,182
	Radbrook	Shropshire	4,171
	Rea Valley	Shropshire	3,355
	Sundorne	Shropshire	3,117
	Tern	Shropshire	3,884
	Underdale	Shropshire	3,179
Smethwick and Rowley Regis BC			71,249
	Abbey	Sandwell	7,977
	Part of Blackheath (polling districts BLA, BLB, BLC, BLD, BLE, BLF, and BLH)	Sandwell	8,524
	Bristnall	Sandwell	8,828
	Langley	Sandwell	9,091
	Old Warley	Sandwell	8,997
	Rowley	Sandwell	9,562
	Smethwick	Sandwell	9,006
	Soho and Victoria	Sandwell	9,264
Solihull BC			70,537
	Blythe	Solihull	11,291
	Lyndon	Solihull	10,193
	Olton	Solihull	9,967
	Shirley East	Solihull	8,886
	Shirley South	Solihull	9,824
	Shirley West	Solihull	9,880
	St. Alphege	Solihull	10,496
Stafford CC			70,537
	Loggerheads	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,649
	Maer & Whitmore	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,094
	Baswich	Stafford	5,065
	Common	Stafford	2,958
	Coton	Stafford	5,065

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Doxey & Castletown	Stafford	2,749
	Eccleshall	Stafford	5,559
	Forebridge	Stafford	2,451
	Gnosall & Woodseaves	Stafford	5,633
	Highfields & Western Downs	Stafford	4,911
	Holmcroft	Stafford	5,495
	Littleworth	Stafford	4,406
	Manor	Stafford	5,367
	Penkside	Stafford	2,574
	Rowley	Stafford	2,627
	Seighford & Church Eaton	Stafford	5,170
	Weeping Cross & Wildwood	Stafford	4,764
Staffordshire Moorlands CC			70,113
	Alton	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,173
	Bagnall and Stanley	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,391
	Biddulph East	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,574
	Biddulph Moor	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,395
	Biddulph North	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,557
	Biddulph South	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,419
	Biddulph West	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,152
	Brown Edge and Endon	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,009
	Caverswall	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,461
	Cellarhead	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,638
	Cheadle North East	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,822
	Cheadle South East	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,892
	Cheadle West	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,051
	Cheddleton	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,423
	Churnet	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,665

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Dane	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,326
	Hamps Valley	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,501
	Horton	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,586
	Ipstones	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,527
	Leek East	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,002
	Leek North	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,208
	Leek South	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,501
	Leek West	Staffordshire Moorlands	3,672
	Manifold	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,517
	Werrington	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,651
Stoke-on-Trent Central BC			70,550
	Abbey Hulton and Townsend	Stoke-on-Trent	6,827
	Bentilee and Ubberley	Stoke-on-Trent	6,636
	Birches Head and Central Forest Park	Stoke-on-Trent	7,164
	Boothens and Oak Hill	Stoke-on-Trent	3,838
	Eaton Park	Stoke-on-Trent	3,394
	Etruria and Hanley	Stoke-on-Trent	3,679
	Fenton East	Stoke-on-Trent	3,985
	Fenton West and Mount Pleasant	Stoke-on-Trent	3,774
	Hanley Park and Shelton	Stoke-on-Trent	2,690
	Hartshill and Basford	Stoke-on-Trent	4,456
	Joiner's Square	Stoke-on-Trent	3,652
	Meir Hay	Stoke-on-Trent	3,748
	Penkhull and Stoke	Stoke-on-Trent	4,637
	Sandford Hill	Stoke-on-Trent	4,128
	Sneyd Green	Stoke-on-Trent	3,548
	Springfields and Trent Vale	Stoke-on-Trent	4,394
Stoke-on-Trent North BC			69,821
	Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe	Newcastle-under-Lyme	7,020

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Newchapel & Mow Cop	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,642
	Talke & Butt Lane	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,887
	Baddeley, Milton and Norton	Stoke-on-Trent	12,882
	Bradeley and Chell Heath	Stoke-on-Trent	3,629
	Burslem Central	Stoke-on-Trent	3,910
	Burslem Park	Stoke-on-Trent	3,744
	Ford Green and Smallthorne	Stoke-on-Trent	4,150
	Goldenhill and Sandyford	Stoke-on-Trent	4,149
	Great Chell and Packmoor	Stoke-on-Trent	7,566
	Little Chell and Stanfield	Stoke-on-Trent	4,029
	Moorcroft	Stoke-on-Trent	3,631
	Tunstall	Stoke-on-Trent	3,582
Stoke-on-Trent South CC			69,831
	Barlaston	Stafford	2,231
	Fulford	Stafford	4,933
	Swynnerton & Oulton	Stafford	5,257
	Checkley	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,673
	Forsbrook	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,213
	Blurton East	Stoke-on-Trent	3,984
	Blurton West and Newstead	Stoke-on-Trent	4,526
	Broadway and Longton East	Stoke-on-Trent	3,805
	Dresden and Florence	Stoke-on-Trent	3,639
	Hanford and Trentham	Stoke-on-Trent	9,215
	Hollybush and Longton West	Stoke-on-Trent	4,124
	Lightwood North and Normacot	Stoke-on-Trent	3,765
	Meir North	Stoke-on-Trent	4,086
	Meir Park	Stoke-on-Trent	3,748
	Meir South	Stoke-on-Trent	3,700
	Weston Coyney	Stoke-on-Trent	3,932
Stone and Great Wyrley CC			70,701
	Brewood and Coven	South Staffordshire	5,393
	Cheslyn Hay North and Saredon	South Staffordshire	3,397
	Cheslyn Hay South	South Staffordshire	2,918
	Essington	South Staffordshire	3,979
	Featherstone and Shareshill	South Staffordshire	3,699

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Great Wyrley Landywood	South Staffordshire	3,702
	Great Wyrley Town	South Staffordshire	5,081
	Huntington and Hatherton	South Staffordshire	4,040
	Penkridge North East and Acton Trussell	South Staffordshire	3,069
	Penkridge South East	South Staffordshire	3,730
	Penkridge West	South Staffordshire	1,763
	Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley	South Staffordshire	3,316
	Haywood & Hixon	Stafford	5,609
	Milford	Stafford	2,447
	Milwich	Stafford	5,224
	St. Michael's & Stonefield	Stafford	8,057
	Walton	Stafford	5,277
Stourbridge BC			69,840
	Amblecote	Dudley	10,260
	Brierley Hill	Dudley	10,198
	Lye and Stourbridge North	Dudley	9,294
	Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrews	Dudley	10,143
	Norton	Dudley	9,763
	Pedmore and Stourbridge East	Dudley	9,739
	Wollaston and Stourbridge Town	Dudley	10,443
Stratford-on-Avon CC			72,388
	Alcester & Rural	Stratford-on-Avon	2,961
	Alcester Town	Stratford-on-Avon	3,011
	Avenue	Stratford-on-Avon	2,343
	Bidford East	Stratford-on-Avon	3,145
	Bidford West & Salford	Stratford-on-Avon	3,022
	Bishopton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,415
	Brailes & Compton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,836
	Bridgetown	Stratford-on-Avon	3,119
	Clopton	Stratford-on-Avon	1,738
	Ettington	Stratford-on-Avon	2,906
	Guildhall	Stratford-on-Avon	2,520
	Hathaway	Stratford-on-Avon	2,166
	Henley-in-Arden	Stratford-on-Avon	3,178
	Kinwarton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,380
	Quinton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,692

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Shipston North	Stratford-on-Avon	3,074
	Shipston South	Stratford-on-Avon	2,982
	Shottery	Stratford-on-Avon	2,415
	Snitterfield	Stratford-on-Avon	2,944
	Studley with Mappleborough Green	Stratford-on-Avon	3,058
	Studley with Sambourne	Stratford-on-Avon	2,992
	Tanworth-in-Arden	Stratford-on-Avon	2,698
	Tiddington	Stratford-on-Avon	3,060
	Welcombe	Stratford-on-Avon	2,439
	Welford-on-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	3,322
	Wotton Wawen	Stratford-on-Avon	2,972
Sutton Coldfield BC			74,584
	Sutton Four Oaks	Birmingham	7,642
	Sutton Mere Green	Birmingham	8,049
	Sutton Reddicap	Birmingham	7,355
	Sutton Roughley	Birmingham	8,509
	Sutton Trinity	Birmingham	7,554
	Sutton Vesey	Birmingham	15,381
	Sutton Walmley & Minworth	Birmingham	12,807
	Sutton Wylde Green	Birmingham	7,287
Tamworth CC			74,742
	Bourne Vale	Lichfield	1,790
	Fazeley	Lichfield	3,533
	Little Aston & Stonnall	Lichfield	4,117
	Mease Valley	Lichfield	1,553
	Shenstone	Lichfield	1,980
	Whittington & Streethay	Lichfield	5,026
	Amington	Tamworth	5,981
	Belgrave	Tamworth	5,645
	Bolehall	Tamworth	5,490
	Castle	Tamworth	5,363
	Glascote	Tamworth	5,285
	Mercian	Tamworth	5,217
	Spital	Tamworth	5,664
	Stonydelph	Tamworth	5,584
	Trinity	Tamworth	5,738
	Wilnecote	Tamworth	6,776

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
Telford BC			70,768
	Brookside	Telford and Wrekin	4,005
	Dawley & Aqueduct	Telford and Wrekin	6,770
	Horsehay & Lightmoor	Telford and Wrekin	5,703
	Ironbridge Gorge	Telford and Wrekin	2,573
	Ketley & Overdale	Telford and Wrekin	7,945
	Madeley & Sutton Hill	Telford and Wrekin	7,480
	Malinslee & Dawley Bank	Telford and Wrekin	4,474
	Oakengates & Ketley Bank	Telford and Wrekin	6,829
	Priorslee	Telford and Wrekin	5,050
	St. Georges	Telford and Wrekin	4,599
	The Nedge	Telford and Wrekin	6,571
	Woodside	Telford and Wrekin	4,307
	Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	Telford and Wrekin	4,462
Walsall BC			71,237
	Aldridge Central and South	Walsall	11,165
	Paddock	Walsall	9,793
	Palfrey	Walsall	10,560
	Pheasey Park Farm	Walsall	9,026
	Pleck	Walsall	9,587
	St. Matthew's	Walsall	10,248
	Streetly	Walsall	10,858
Warwick and Leamington BC			72,784
	Bishop's Tachbrook	Warwick	3,557
	Leamington Brunswick	Warwick	7,292
	Leamington Clarendon	Warwick	7,742
	Leamington Lillington	Warwick	8,793
	Leamington Milverton	Warwick	7,398
	Leamington Willes	Warwick	7,316
	Warwick All Saints & Woodloes	Warwick	7,238
	Warwick Aylesford	Warwick	5,014
	Warwick Myton & Heathcote	Warwick	5,676
	Warwick Saltisford	Warwick	5,396
	Whitnash	Warwick	7,362
West Bromwich East BC			71,832
	Charlemont with Grove Vale	Sandwell	9,035
	Friar Park	Sandwell	8,622
	Great Barr with Yew Tree	Sandwell	9,660

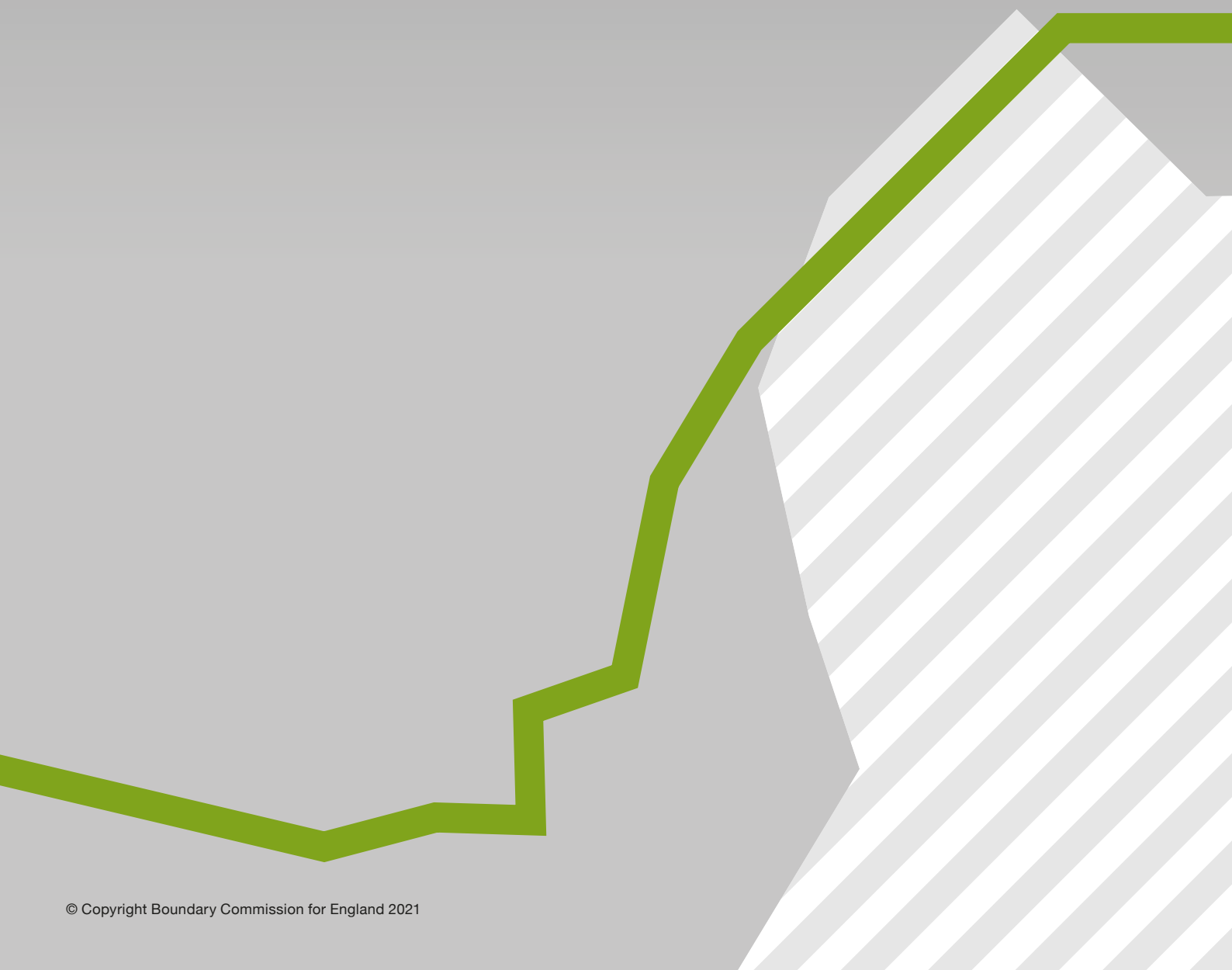
Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Greets Green and Lyng	Sandwell	8,340
	Hateley Heath	Sandwell	9,247
	Newton	Sandwell	8,472
	St. Pauls	Sandwell	9,508
	West Bromwich Central	Sandwell	8,948
West Bromwich West BC			74,140
	Coseley East	Dudley	9,378
	Great Bridge	Sandwell	9,067
	Oldbury	Sandwell	9,255
	Princes End	Sandwell	8,859
	Tipton Green	Sandwell	10,132
	Tividale	Sandwell	8,934
	Wednesbury North	Sandwell	8,998
	Wednesbury South	Sandwell	9,517
West Worcestershire CC			76,638
	Alfrick and Leigh	Malvern Hills	2,992
	Baldwin	Malvern Hills	1,738
	Broadheath	Malvern Hills	3,067
	Chase	Malvern Hills	4,742
	Dyson Perrins	Malvern Hills	3,456
	Hallow	Malvern Hills	1,589
	Kempsey	Malvern Hills	3,783
	Lindridge	Malvern Hills	1,874
	Link	Malvern Hills	4,851
	Longdon	Malvern Hills	1,758
	Martley	Malvern Hills	1,566
	Morton	Malvern Hills	1,885
	Pickersleigh	Malvern Hills	4,356
	Powick	Malvern Hills	3,363
	Priory	Malvern Hills	3,221
	Ripple	Malvern Hills	1,554
	Teme Valley	Malvern Hills	1,682
	Tenbury	Malvern Hills	3,057
	Upton and Hanley	Malvern Hills	3,552
	Wells	Malvern Hills	2,604
	West	Malvern Hills	3,261
	Woodbury	Malvern Hills	1,787
	Bredon	Wychavon	2,142
	Eckington	Wychavon	2,288

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Elmley Castle and Somerville	Wychavon	2,068
	Pershore	Wychavon	6,439
	South Bredon Hill	Wychavon	1,963
Wolverhampton North East BC			70,449
	Short Heath	Walsall	8,896
	Willenhall North	Walsall	9,452
	Bushbury North	Wolverhampton	8,735
	Bushbury South and Low Hill	Wolverhampton	9,702
	Fallings Park	Wolverhampton	8,639
	Heath Town	Wolverhampton	7,787
	Wednesfield North	Wolverhampton	8,635
	Wednesfield South	Wolverhampton	8,603
Wolverhampton South East BC			75,685
	Bentley and Darlaston North	Walsall	9,389
	Darlaston South	Walsall	10,233
	Willenhall South	Walsall	11,281
	Bilston East	Wolverhampton	9,670
	Bilston North	Wolverhampton	8,557
	East Park	Wolverhampton	8,481
	Ettingshall	Wolverhampton	9,458
	Spring Vale	Wolverhampton	8,616
Wolverhampton West BC			75,592
	Blakenhall	Wolverhampton	7,724
	Graiseley	Wolverhampton	7,661
	Merry Hill	Wolverhampton	9,152
	Oxley	Wolverhampton	8,608
	Park	Wolverhampton	7,577
	Penn	Wolverhampton	9,918
	St. Peter's	Wolverhampton	6,592
	Tettenhall Regis	Wolverhampton	9,359
	Tettenhall Wightwick	Wolverhampton	9,001
Worcester BC			73,928
	Arboretum	Worcester	4,432
	Battenhall	Worcester	4,085
	Bedwardine	Worcester	6,638
	Cathedral	Worcester	7,727
	Claines	Worcester	6,482
	Gorse Hill	Worcester	3,510
	Nunnery	Worcester	5,821

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Rainbow Hill	Worcester	3,891
	St. Clement	Worcester	4,353
	St. John	Worcester	6,023
	St. Peter's Parish	Worcester	4,499
	St. Stephen	Worcester	4,326
	Warndon	Worcester	3,720
	Warndon Parish North	Worcester	3,956
	Warndon Parish South	Worcester	4,465

Glossary

Assessor	Statutorily appointed technical adviser to the BCE, being either the Registrar General for England and Wales or the Director General of Ordnance Survey.	Public hearing	Formal opportunity in a given area for people to make oral representations, chaired by an Assistant Commissioner. In each region of England there may be no fewer than two and no more than five hearings, and each may last a maximum of two days.
Assistant Commissioner	Independent person appointed at the request of the BCE to assist it with the discharge of its functions.	Representations	The views provided by an individual, group or organisation to the BCE on its initial or revised proposals (or on the representations of others), either for or against, including counter-proposals and petitions.
Borough constituency (abbreviated to BC)	Parliamentary constituency containing a predominantly urban area.	Review date	The 'effective date' at which electorate and local government boundary data is fixed so that we can then work with it on a stable basis. Defined by the 2020 Act for the 2023 Review as 2 March 2020 for the electorate numbers, and 1 December 2020 for local government boundaries.
County constituency (abbreviated to CC)	Parliamentary constituency containing more than a small rural element.	Revised proposals	The initial proposals as subsequently revised.
Designation	Classification as either a borough constituency or as a county constituency.	Rules	The statutory criteria for Parliamentary constituencies under Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended by Acts up to and including the 2020 Act).
Electorate	The number of registered Parliamentary electors in a given area.	UK electoral quota	The average number of electors in a constituency, found by dividing the total electorate of the UK (less that of the five specific 'protected' constituencies) by 645.
(Statutory/ Permitted) Electorate range	The statutory rule that requires the electorate of every recommended constituency to be – for the 2023 Review – between 69,724 and 77,062.	Unitary authority	An area where there is only one tier of local council (above any parish or town council). Contrasted with those 'shire district' areas that have two tiers (i.e. both a non-metropolitan county council and a district/ borough/city council).
Final recommendations	The recommendations submitted in a formal final report to Parliament at the end of a review. They may – or may not – have been revised since the initial proposals in any given area.		
Initial proposals	First formal proposals published by the BCE during the review for public consultation.		
Periodical report	Report to Parliament following a general review of Parliamentary constituencies.		
Places of deposit	In each constituency the Commission will make available hard copies of its initial proposals (including report and maps). The places of deposit where the public may inspect the proposals are usually the offices of the relevant local authority, although other public places such as libraries may be used. The Commission will publish a full list of places of deposit on its website.		



West Midlands region

Initial proposals summary

Who we are and what we do

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

The 2023 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 legislative rules most recently updated by Parliament in 2020. Those rules tell us that we must make recommendations for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries by 1 July 2023. While retaining the overall number of constituencies across the UK at 650, the rules apply a distribution formula that results in an increase in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 543). The rules also require that every recommended constituency across the UK – apart from five specified exceptions (two of them in England) – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062.

Initial proposals

We published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England on 8 June 2021. Information about the proposed constituencies is now available on our website at www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

What is changing in the West Midlands region?

The West Midlands has been allocated 57 constituencies – a reduction of two from the current number.

Our proposals leave nine of the 59 existing constituencies wholly unchanged, and 12 unchanged except to realign constituency boundaries with new local government ward boundaries.

As it has not always been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, we have grouped some county council and unitary authority areas into sub-regions. The number of constituencies allocated to each sub-region is determined by the combined electorate of the authorities they contain.

Consequently, it has been necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county council or unitary authority boundaries, although we have sought to keep such crossings to a minimum.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Proposed allocation
Herefordshire	2	2
Shropshire	5	5
Worcestershire	6	6
Warwickshire	6	6
Coventry	3	3
Birmingham and Solihull	12	12
Staffordshire and the Black Country	25	23

In Staffordshire and the Black Country, it has been necessary to propose one constituency that crosses the county boundary. We have proposed a constituency that contains electors from both Staffordshire and the Dudley metropolitan borough, which combines the town of Kingswinford, with wards from South Staffordshire district. We have also proposed dividing one ward in the Black Country.

We have proposed two constituencies that include electors from both Staffordshire and the unitary authority of Stoke-on-Trent.

We have proposed one constituency that includes electors from both Shropshire and the unitary authority of Telford and Wrekin.

In Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire, it has been possible to propose a pattern of constituencies that is within the boundaries of each county.

In the sub-region of Birmingham and Solihull, we have proposed one constituency that crosses the boundary between the two councils, extending the Birmingham Hodge Hill constituency to take in the Solihull borough wards of Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood. We also propose dividing two wards between constituencies wholly contained within the City of Birmingham.

How to have your say

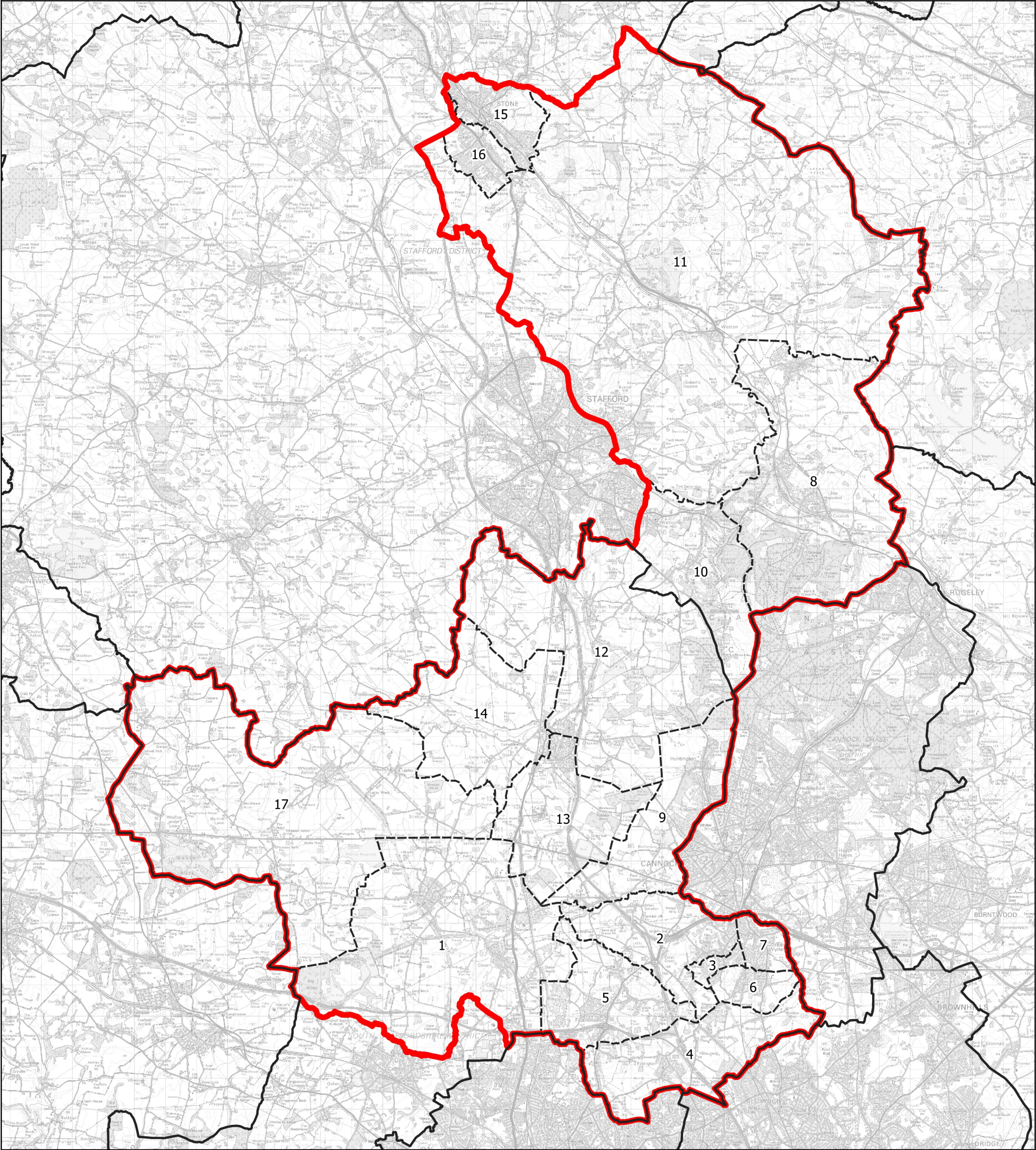
We are consulting on our initial proposals for an eight-week period, from 8 June 2021 to 2 August 2021. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to help us shape the new constituencies – the more responses we receive, the more informed our decisions will be when considering whether to revise our proposals. Our consultation portal at www.bcereviews.org.uk has more information about our proposals and how to give us your views on them. You can also follow us on Twitter @BCEReviews or at facebook.com/BCEReviews.

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

t: 020 7276 1102
e: information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk

www.bcereviews.org.uk

 @BCEReviews
 www.facebook.com/BCEReviews/



Wards:			<div><div></div> Constituency</div> <div><div></div> Local Authorities</div> <div><div></div> Wards</div>	<div>N</div> <div>0 1 2 km</div>
1 Brewood and Coven	7 Great Wyrley Town	13 Penkridge South East		
2 Cheslyn Hay North and Saredon	8 Haywood & Hixon	14 Penkridge West		
3 Cheslyn Hay South	9 Huntington and Hatherton	15 St. Michael's & Stonefield		
4 Essington	10 Milford	16 Walton		
5 Featherstone and Shareshill	11 Milwich	17 Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley		
6 Great Wyrley Landywood	12 Penkridge North East and Acton Trussell			

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Stone Town Council - Payments

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The table below lists payments made by the Council in the period since the last report, for the Committee's information.

The table includes payments by cheque, direct debit, PayPal, telephone banking and online banking. It excludes salary and related payments, payments from the Mayor's Charity, and transfers between the Council's bank accounts, which can be seen by any Member on request. All amounts exclude VAT.

Payment Date From : 01/04/2021

Payment Date To : 31/05/2021

<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
01/04/2021	65695	Prism Solutions	Line Rental February 2021	46.69
01/04/2021	65695	Prism Solutions	Line Rental February 2021	44.45
21/04/2021	1	MJ Plant	Grounds Maint for C Meadow, Amphi, Allots, Old Bridge	1,554.00
21/04/2021	2	MJ Plant	Annual tree pruning & disposal of cuttings - amphi, C	1,200.00
21/04/2021	3	MJ Plant	Annual removal of bullrushes at Crown Meadow scrapes	500.00
21/04/2021	4	MJ Plant	Cleaning and maint of war memorial stand, storage,	459.00
21/04/2021	5	MJ Plant	Weed control x 8 / general odd jobs	300.00
21/04/2021	6	MJ Plant	Supply materials and re-build wall by steps	350.00
21/04/2021	7	MJ Plant	Roof repairs - replace rotten joists, new felt and battens.	650.00
21/04/2021	8	MJ Plant	Materials / labour - re-widening of Crown Meadow	1,130.00
21/04/2021	9	MJ Plant	Removal of willows and silver birch tree from scrapes x 2	660.00
21/04/2021	10	MJ Plant	Crown Meadow - spray weeds by bridge and clear top	380.00
20/04/2021	SI-146027	Mailing room	Ink for franking machine	47.95
28/04/2021	6163731	Water Logic	Water cooler rental Mar 2021	12.71
28/04/2021	6163730	Water Logic	Water cooler rental Mar 2021	6.05
28/04/2021	6144635	Water Logic	Water cooler rental Mar 2021	5.00
09/04/2021	1499332	British Gas	Elec 61 High St Feb/Mar 2021	10.20
20/04/2021	SI-144707	Mailing room	Franking Machine Rental Apr to June 2021	60.00

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Stone Town Council - Payments

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<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
06/04/2021	V01858751028	EE	EE mobile phone charges	21.28
06/04/2021	V01858751028	EE	EE mobile phone charges	21.55
06/04/2021	V01858751028	EE	EE mobile phone charges	22.00
09/04/2021	1499697	British Gas	Elec feeder pillar 1 Feb/Mar 2021	7.95
24/04/2021	146603710	World Pay	Worldpay monthly fee - Mar 2021	9.99
24/04/2021	146552976	World Pay	Worldpay managed service fee Mar 2021	12.50
28/04/2021	VEO1077184	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection March 2021	33.60
28/04/2021	VEO1077183	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection March 2021	70.21
14/04/2021	EU-01816483	Opayo by Elavon	Opayo / Sage Pay March 2021	15.00
14/04/2021	INV80292437	Zoom Video Comm Inc	Zoom Charge Apr/May 2021	47.96
26/04/2021	743014903/001/04	Virgin Media Business	Broadband Apr/May 2021	50.00
26/04/2021	139103	Prism Solutions	IT support service April 2021	714.92
07/04/2021	742962701/001/04	Virgin Media Business	Telephone Line Rental / Calls Apr 2021	50.13
21/04/2021	713392021895017	Pozitive Energy	Elec Usage March 2021	213.56
21/04/2021	713382021895012	Pozitive Energy	Elec Usage March 2021	173.93
21/04/2021	713402021895019	Pozitive Energy	Gas Usage March 2021	359.63
21/04/2021	713412021895015	Pozitive Energy	Gas Usage March 2021	197.72
23/04/2021	4317	Christmas Plus	Install and dismantle bunting 2021/22	1,676.52
21/04/2021	LGWK3HTN	NPower Ltd	Elec Usage Christmas Lights 2020	1,257.10
23/04/2021	13720	Call Handling Services Ltd	CALL HANDLING	26.22
30/04/2021	7070287788	Stafford Borough Council	Sweep FJC car park to prep for line painting	45.00
06/04/2021	Rates DD	Stafford Borough Council	FJC Rates April 2021	435.30
06/04/2021	Rates DD	Stafford Borough Council	Market Square Rates April 2021	34.30
06/04/2021	Rates DD	Stafford Borough Council	Station Rates April 2021	220.50
01/04/2021	SI-163	Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association	SPCA Annual Subscription 2021/22	955.00
20/04/2021	SI-23726	Signs 2000	Update Honours Board in Chamber	25.00

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Stone Town Council - Payments

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<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
20/04/2021	7070287770	Stafford Borough Council	Station Rd Office Rental 20/04/21 to 19/07/21	150.00
26/04/2021	78825546	Home & Colour	Cable ties, velcro, painting materials	72.85
06/04/2021	47060	Call Handling Services Ltd	Annual Charge - Stone Helpline 21/22	1,150.00
21/05/2021	0815-21	Urban Vision	Planning Representation: Heath Gardens	525.00
12/05/2021	SI-253	Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association	SPCA Be a better cllr - KD	50.00
21/05/2021	SI-280	Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association	SPCA - Planning - Effective Reps RM	30.00
26/05/2021	19775	Prism Solutions	System Backup and Sage upgrade	166.50
17/05/2021	14	MJ Plant	Renew 3 x notice boards used for banners	215.00
17/05/2021	13	MJ Plant	Replace tap at Mount Rd Allotment	45.00
17/05/2021	12	MJ Plant	Maint of Amphi, C Meadow and Allots	1,554.00
17/05/2021	11	MJ Plant	Hedge Cutting - Canoe Club - March 2021	300.00
18/05/2021	SINV025618	Ellis Whittam	H&S Advisors - Insurance & fee 2021/22	31.08
18/05/2021	SINV025618	Ellis Whittam	H&S Advisors - Insurance & fee 2021/22	55.00
07/05/2021	SIN025492	Ellis Whittam	E Learning and H&S Support 2021/22	2,357.00
18/05/2021	INV-8091	EDG Security Limited	Annual Alarm Monitoring & Service 2021/22	320.00
06/05/2021	INV-0512	Current Electrical & Property Services	Setting up marquees Apr 2021	635.00
26/05/2021	13888	Call Handling Services Ltd	Stone Helpline Charges Apr 21	27.05
17/05/2021	977551187	British Gas	Amphitheatre Standing Charge Apr 21	10.31
12/04/2021	968652815	British Gas	Amphitheatre Standing Charge Mar 21	3.52
14/05/2021	INV86027624	Zoom Video Comm Inc	Zoom Charge May/Jun 2021	47.96
19/05/2021	150307843	World Pay	Worldpay monthly fee - Apr 2021	9.99
19/05/2021	150228131	World Pay	Worldpay managed service fee Apr 2021	12.50
18/05/2021	100050256	The Flag Shop	Union Jack Flags for High Street	687.50
26/05/2021	6214264	Water Logic	Waterlogic	14.96
26/05/2021	6214263	Water Logic	Water cooler rental Apr 2021	8.30
28/05/2021	VEO1078315	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection April 2021	57.92

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Stone Town Council - Payments

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<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount (£)</u>
28/05/2021	6195232	Water Logic	Water cooler rental Apr 2021	7.25
28/05/2021	VEO1078314	Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	Waste Collection April 2021	94.53
25/05/2021	140613	Prism Solutions	IT support service May 2021	714.92
20/05/2021	742962701/001/05	Virgin Media Business	Telephone Line Rental / Calls May 2021	44.01
24/05/2021	743014903/001/05	Virgin Media Business	Broadband May/ June 2021	50.00
21/05/2021	713412021936045	Pozitive Energy	Gas Usage April 2021	142.76
21/05/2021	713392021936043	Pozitive Energy	Elec Usage April 2021	196.91
21/05/2021	713402021936046	Pozitive Energy	Gas Usage April 2021	285.34
21/05/2021	713382021936044	Pozitive Energy	Elec Usage April 2021	145.45
31/05/2021	EU-01881040	Opayo by Elavon	Opayo May 2021	15.00
03/05/2021	65835	Prism Solutions	Leased Lines April 2021	46.69
03/05/2021	65835	Prism Solutions	Leased Lines April 2021	44.45
04/05/2021	V01868457445	EE	EE mobile phone charges May 2021	21.53
04/05/2021	V01868457445	EE	EE mobile phone charges May 2021	22.10
04/05/2021	V01868457445	EE	EE mobile phone charges May 2021	22.99
28/04/2021	1581130	British Gas	British Gas	207.41
10/05/2021	1575850	British Gas	British Gas	8.80
04/05/2021	Rates DD	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates May 2021	434.00
04/05/2021	Rates DD	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates May 2021	225.00
04/05/2021	Rates DD	Stafford Borough Council	SBC Rates May 2021	35.00
17/05/2021	INV12143103	Sage UK Ltd	Sage Accounts Annual Licence May 21 to Apr 22	1,164.00
19/05/2021	INV-360073	AutoEntry	AutoEntry Monthly Sub May 2021	9.00
				<u>26,586.50</u>

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group

Notes of the meeting held Virtually on Wednesday 14 April 2021

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) and Government Guidelines on public gatherings, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom.

PRESENT: Councillors: J. Davies (Stone Town Council & Hilderstone Parish Council) in the Chair and
B. Fletcher (Stone Rural Parish Council), P. Jones (Eccleshall Parish Council),
Mrs K. Ong (Swynnerton Parish Council), S. Amison (Swynnerton Parish Council), Mrs G. Wyatt (Sandon & Burston Parish Council), Mrs S. Hughes (Yarnfield & Cold Meece Parish Council)

Also:

Mr J. Fraser (Parish Clerk to Yarnfield & Cold Meece Parish Council)
Ms K. St Leger (Parish Clerk to Barlaston Parish Council)
Mr L. Anderson (Parish Clerk to Fulford Parish Council)
Mr L. Trigg (Town Clerk to Stone Town Council)
Trudy Williams (Assistant Clerk to Stone Town Council)

L20/049 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor B. Eyre (Yarnfield & Cold Meece Parish Council) and Mrs Liz Harrington Jones (Parish Clerk to Chebsey Parish Council)

The Town Clerk confirmed that as this meeting was not a public one, the rules on purdah were not relevant.

L20/050 Declarations of Interest

None received.

L20/051 Notes of the previous meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 20 January 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chairman asked all present to introduce themselves for the benefit of new attendees.

L20/052 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chairman, Councillor Davies, and Vice-Chairman, Councillor Fletcher, were re-elected after confirming they were happy to continue in their roles.

L20/053 Recovery from Covid-19

The Chairman suggested that, after discussing the impact of Covid-19 at the

last meeting, the Liaison Group could now take a more positive view in focusing on what councils have been doing and in the preparations to move forward (within the confines of the Government's Roadmap).

The Chairman said he had been pleased to note that local parish councils had marked the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh with appropriate solemnity.

Preparation for Meetings

It was acknowledged that preparations for the return to face to face meetings would vary between parishes depending on their facilities which dictated the numbers of people permitted to attend. With eighteen Town Councillors at Stone, physical meetings presented a challenge.

The Chairman advised the Liaison Group that Hilderstone Parish Council may be able to meet in the village hall by the end of May.

The rise in public interest in parish meetings during the lockdown has been an interesting outcome of virtual meetings and Stone Town Council would like to retain the convenience of remote access for members of the public when face to face meetings have resumed. The Town Clerk is currently investigating the technology that will make this possible.

The Town Clerk advised the Group that May meetings had been brought forward to 4 May in order to hold them remotely. The meetings scheduled in June would be delayed until after 21st which marked the end of the Government's Roadmap. It may be possible to broadcast meetings after this date and there is a body of opinion suggesting that if it is not technically possible for the Council to hold meetings physically, it will be possible to hold them virtually. The Town Clerk is waiting to hear the outcome on a legal ruling.

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council has moved its dates forward to the 4 May and doesn't have any dates programmed after that. The Council is also looking at how it can develop the technology for members of the public to view remotely as audiences are larger and more diverse than attendances at face to face meetings.

The Town Clerk informed the Group that audiences/viewings on YouTube (not necessarily live viewings) are running at 500 to 600 for some meetings.

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council screen meetings live on Facebook and leave them running to the next meeting. The Parish Clerk is able to see the numbers viewing the meeting and also feedback given in chat messages which is useful information to know.

Fulford Parish Council's biggest concern with physical meetings is in not knowing how many members of the public will attend as in theory this could run into large numbers. NALC guidance has recommended holding remote meetings early in May and delaying meetings until after the relaxation in restrictions but the Parish Council hasn't decided how it will proceed as yet.

Mr Anderson (Clerk to Fulford) suggested holding an informal meeting to advise members of the public how the Clerk can use delegated powers. He

also recommended responding to a NALC consultation on the extension of virtual meetings, which would be particularly useful for committee meetings.

The Town Clerk advised the Group that one potential issue with delegation is that, unless a local council's accounts can be submitted to the May meeting, there has to be a physical meeting by the end of June to approve the annual accounts. Delegated powers cannot be used for accounts and the Clerk will be responsible for ensuring they are approved.

Eccleshall Parish Council has moved its meetings forward and backward in order to hold some within the Zoom continuum and others after the situation has been resolved.

The Group agreed that councils were in the hands of the Government's announcements.

Workshop

Barlaston Parish Council is working with Stafford Borough Council to facilitate a workshop for Clerks and Councillors of parish and town councils in Staffordshire. Its purpose is to look at lessons learned from the pandemic, the things that went well and where parishes have struggled. There will be an opportunity to share information and formulate templates for future use. Invitations to the event will be issued shortly.

Welcome Back Fund

The Chairman informed the Liaison Group that Government Minister Rt Hon Robert Jenrick had written to the National Association of Local Councils drawing the Association's attention to a new 'Welcome Back Fund' designed to help councils restart and get back to normal after the pandemic. The fund can be used to boost tourism, improve green spaces, town centres and coastal areas. The letter encourages members to engage with their borough/district Councils while spending plans for the allocations are developed.

A copy of the letter should have been issued to town and parish councils through Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association.

The Liaison Group shared its observations on the recovery having noticed that green shoots had already appeared with public houses and shops reopening. The Group has confidence that the good people of the parishes will generate the recovery, supported and encouraged by local councils as far as possible.

The Group concluded that if common sense prevails and everyone is sensible in following the rules our communities will be ok. We can trust businesses in our towns and parishes as they know what they need to do and we should support and use them as much as possible.

L20/054 Joint Calendar of Events

The Chairman advised the Liaison Group that Stone Carnival, scheduled to take place on 12 June, had been cancelled.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the provisional date for the Music Festival in Stone High Street was 11 September 2021. The Town Council was in the process of contacting the bands that had been booked to perform last year to give them the first option of returning.

Stone Food and Drink Festival Committee was planning an event this year.

It was noted that the Eccleshall Festival had been cancelled to 2022.

The 'Open Gardens' which take place in Eccleshall will go ahead on 19 and 20 June 2021.

The Chairman concluded that events can only be planned tentatively at present and asked Liaison Group members to make sure people know about them so that everyone supports one another.

L20/055 Planning Applications Processing

The Town Clerk confirmed that the proposal put forward for parishes to be allowed an automatic right to speak on planning applications (at the Borough Planning Committee), was refused by Stafford Borough Council.

It was noted that in Eccleshall a developer had succeeded in gaining planning permission to develop land outside the settlement boundary. Permission had been refused by Stafford Borough Council but the developer had gone to the Secretary of State and won. There is concern this decision will set a national precedent.

The Chairman confirmed that Blackies lane in Stone had been a similar case.

Ms St Leger (Barlaston Clerk) advised the group that Urban Vision, in its response to a Borough Council Planning Policy Consultation (prepared on behalf of the Parish Council) had enclosed an illustration of a good example of an LPA that was making reference to the Neighbourhood Plan in its literature.

In Barlaston planning applicants are not given information about the Neighbourhood Plan prior to submitting their planning applications and the Parish Council makes comment about the lack of reference at every Parish meeting.

Barlaston Parish Council has had a contentious planning application submitted for 42 affordable homes outside the settlement boundary and in the Green Belt.

The homes would occupy half the field with the other half being gifted to Stafford and Rural Homes for affordable housing.

In response to the planning application Urban Vision has written a framework agreement and letters to the Borough (on behalf of the Parish Council), pointing out that the proposed development would be illegal. An affordable homes label cannot be put on a development in order to disregard planning law.

The parish council had already had a meeting with the Planning Department

about the Lichfield Plan for the Wedgwood Memorial and pointed out where the affordable housing should go in Barlaston. The Planning Department say the Lichfield Plan is not part of planning policy as it had not been put through the consultation process by the Borough and was not a legitimate document.

However, the Lichfield Plan had been included as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, as a supplementary document, and had gone through Regulation 14, Regulation 16 and the Referendum. The Parish Council is waiting for a decision possibly in the next week.

The parish council is concerned that if planning permission is awarded a precedent will be set as there are other pockets of Green Belt around Barlaston.

Urban Vision believes the new White Paper will strengthen the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Plans although this will not mitigate against weak local planning authorities.

Ms St Leger expressed the view that until the Borough Council reference the Neighbourhood Plan to planning applicants it is not worth the paper it is written on – despite taking five years to produce.

In Stone the referendum for the neighbourhood plan is next month.

The Town Council has responded to the Borough Council's Planning Application Validation Consultation which is useful in some ways but also flawed. A response to the submission is awaited.

L20/056 Ongoing Items of Interest

a. Update on Neighbourhood Plans

The Chairman invited the Liaison Group to give updates on the progress with their neighbourhood plans:

The Town Clerk reported that In Stone, a person who is not a local, has been working to identify pockets of land left over from previous housing developments. Most of these are identified as Local Green Infrastructure in the Stone Neighbourhood Plan. The person is buying and selling the land by auction, giving local residents an uneasy time, putting pressure on them to consider clubbing together to buy the land to prevent future development. The person is apparently doing this around the country.

The Town Council has been asked by residents to consider buying the land but if the Council had purchased one site it would have to purchase them all. The first pocket of land was sold for £18,000 and the total for three pockets of land is over £36,000.

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council has been approached by a number of residents about protecting open space on developed sites. The Council is considering making applications for village green or common status on two sites. However, the process is costly (with a County prescribed fee of just over £2000) and it has been suggested

the community consider collecting donations to support the process. The parish council has explored the possibility of lumping the sites together to negotiate a better fee. The land is designated Public Open Space but the protection will not prevent a future planning application for a change of use. It is suspected the land may be under Borough Council ownership and both sites are developable.

Barlaston Parish Council has arranged three training courses with Urban Vision who will be using the Barlaston Green Belt case as a basis for their training with others. The Clerk advised that it was worth taking a training course with them when challenging Green Belt issues.

The Borough Council had originally concluded the land that came up on the Green Belt in Barlaston was unfit building land as identified in their Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). The Parish Council has used the Borough Council's evidence against them on their Green Belt planning.

Barlaston is also looking at offsetting its carbon footprint by planting trees on various pockets/areas of land (excluding the village green).

b. HS2

The Chairman invited updates on HS2:

Activists are protesting in tree houses at Swynnerton and Lord Staffordshire has taken a dim view as their actions are potentially harmful and damaging to the environment.

The Liaison Group expressed the view that the HS2 project was way beyond the influence of local people and everyone needed to focus their efforts on how best to mitigate the consequences.

There is money available through HS2 community funding schemes and Stone Rural Parish Council is looking at small schemes of around £5,000 here and there, to take advantage of the opportunity.

c. Highways, Traffic and Parking

The Chairman invited updates on highways, traffic and parking matters:

The Liaison Group made reference to the large number of potholes in the area and the techniques the County Council is using to fill them.

On the A34 through Stone there are a lot of mini potholes where the wearing course has come away from the base course. It was suggested that closer supervision of construction workers was needed as it is clear the work has not been executed properly. The tarmac should be rolled at a certain temperature otherwise the wearing course will not adhere to the course beneath it. Three new roundabouts on the A34 are all showing signs of distress.

The Liaison Group acknowledged that parish councils do not have a lot of influence on highway matters other than reporting issues to the County Council. The parish council is however often the first port of call for members of the public. It was suggested there is scope for parish councils to put forward their views about how the maintenance of the highway network is managed. Contractors may have devised their own methods for filling potholes (employing poor technique) and in the interpretation of priorities. It was suggested that it would be a positive move for parish councils to agree to comment on the issue. Adequate investment to do the job properly, even if this might cause a delay, may warrant due consideration.

The Chairman said this forum was not a body that makes decisions but its members do go back to their councils and encourage them to send a recommendation, in a co-ordinated way (becoming expert naggers). He also said that consideration has to be given to balancing issues occurring/things going wrong with a commitment to continuous improvement.

Councillor Fletcher (Stone Rural) has been trying to get Aston Lane reconstructed for 20 years. Every year potholes are filled and the next year the same potholes are there again. The whole road needs to be resurfaced. There doesn't appear to be a long term plan.

The Chairman advised the Liaison Group that the reason the splitter island hadn't been removed was that Morrisons supermarket had obtained planning approval to increase the capacity of the inflow and outflow of vehicles to the store. Until this work is done the County Council don't wish to review the future of the splitter island.

Closure of Yarnfield Lane

Councillor Fletcher (Stone Rural) advised the Liaison Group that he had attended a meeting (yesterday morning) with the agent and contractor of Western Power Distribution who is planning to install a new cable running from Meaford to Eccleshall. This work is anticipated to be extremely disruptive as it will involve the closure of Yarnfield Lane for a three month period between July and November 2021.

The work will also involve closure of one lane on the A34 and closure of the road running from the A34 for Meaford, up to the new roundabout at the entrance to the Meaford industrial estate.

Councillor Fletcher reminded the group that the proposal to close Yarnfield Lane had been a big bone of contention when HS2 first suggested it (before agreeing not to close it). He expressed concern about the impact of the work which would affect traffic flow to the whole area and asked the Group what alternatives there could be to avoid closure of Yarnfield Lane.

Mr Fraser (Yarnfield and Cold Meece) confirmed that the diversion routes were published on Yarnfield & Cold Meece Parish Council's

webpages. He advised that answers to a Q and A session were also available on the Parish Council's Facebook page. This includes the first 20 minutes of the parish meeting.

Mr Fraser advised the Liaison Group that the seventeen week closure isn't a full seventeen week closure for the whole of Yarnfield Lane.

Western Power will be closing the back lane out of the village to Meece Road near the access down the lane to the Wayfarer. They will then be working in the centre of the village before closing Yarnfield Lane from the entrance down to the Wayfarer. They don't know where the line will go for their works (within the carriageway or the verge) because they haven't yet undertaken their surveys.

Safety requirements involve a wide safety zone for workers (as the road carries a 60mph speed limit) and there isn't sufficient room to allow vehicles to pass when they have coned off for the safety of motorists and workers.

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council is talking to Western Power about whether there are any mitigation measures such as leaving Yarnfield Lane open in the evening and at weekends, even if traffic lights are installed so that some passage can be maintained (particularly from the village to the Wayfarer).

Mr Fraser advised the Group that surveys need to be done to establish where the line will run and the options that might be available.

Western Power is aware that Yarnfield Lane won't be in the same place and Yarnfield bridge won't be the same bridge when HS2 have finished. They will have to come back and do the work again.

Western Power's view is that the network in the area is running at 100% capacity and that the work is needed to maintain the service people currently have. The cable will come through Yarnfield but not a single house will be tapping in to it. The work will involve linking sub stations in two different locations.

The Town Clerk confirmed that no information had been forwarded to Stone and Mr Fraser said that he would send some plans to the Town Council.

d. Leisure and Recreation

The Chairman invited updates on matters relating to leisure and recreation:

The Town Clerk advised the Liaison Group that improvements to Westbridge Park appeared not to have been included in the Borough Council's Plan. This is the most recent information, learned a couple of months ago.

Eccleshall – The Parish Council offered to refurbish a children's

playground in Beech Road, Eccleshall, and take it off the Borough Council. The Borough has been looking at the proposal for twelve months and have come back saying that lead officers have got to consider the scheme over the next twelve months and decide whether the work can be done.

Swynnerton – there are a lot of children getting very bored as they grow up. The only recreational leisure facility for children is a toddlers play park and they are currently kicking balls against the side of houses because there are no football pitches. It was suggested that it might be worth taking advantage of HS2 funding opportunities for an Astroturf football pitch.

Stone Rural – repair work has not yet been undertaken on the board walk between Aston and Burston. The farmer who has offered to carry it out has been unwell.

Fulford – there has been an increase in anti social behaviour (consistent with other parts of the Borough) and the parish council has looked at funding for outdoor gym equipment on parks which will be accessible to all age groups. The Police and Crime Commissioner funding opportunity is geared towards things like this and it may be worth an application, particularly at the present time.

e. Commercial and Retail Activity

The Chairman invited updates on commercial and retail activity:

The Chairman advised the Liaison Group that the Town Council had discussed the return of the Farmers' market back in the High Street on 1 May 2021. Hopefully the town would be able to get back to normal in the near future and shops are wanting to get going as soon as they can. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the shops that stayed open through the lockdown including takeaway and delivery services.

f. Future Governance

It was acknowledged that no one knows what shape and size local government will look like in the future. The Group has Identified a number of areas of concern in the way services and resources are structured and allocated. At the next review the Group wish to make sure its ideas are right and can be fed in.

L20/057 Schedule of Future Meeting Dates and times

The Chairman asked whether the continuation of meetings via Zoom would be more convenient than face to face meetings and it was agreed that they were.

It was suggested the Group meet face to face once a year and on occasions when a guest is in attendance.

The Group agreed that compilation of a schedule of meeting dates be

deferred to a future meeting (due to continuing uncertainty with Covid-19).

L20/058 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 3pm, via Zoom.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance before closing the meeting.