

COMMITTEE: ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

DATE: 3RD APRIL, 2003

SUBJECT: GENERAL REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY)

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to consider proposals from the Boundary Commission for England to review the Parliamentary Constituency boundaries for Luton and Bedfordshire.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **That the Committee consider what, if any, representations should be made to the Boundary Commission on the provisional recommendations for changes to the six existing Parliamentary Constituencies in the area covered by Luton and Bedfordshire.**
3. The Boundary Commission for England has published a news release, a copy of which is attached at Appendix A, containing provisional recommendations for changes to the six existing Parliamentary Constituencies in the area covered by Luton and Bedfordshire. Comments from interested parties have been requested by the deadline date of 27 April 2003.
4. In formulating their provisional recommendations, the commission considered whether Luton and Bedfordshire should be reviewed separately or whether they should continue to be considered together, in the light of Luton's status as a unitary Authority. Whatever option was chosen, it was noted that the overall allocation of seats would be six.

5. The Commission concluded that the option of Luton and Bedfordshire as one combined review area should be provisionally recommended because it would allow them to make only those changes required to realign constituency boundaries with altered ward boundaries, it would slightly reduce the disparity in numbers of electors, and it would transfer significantly fewer electors between seats. Having decided to treat the two authorities as one combined review area, the Commission decided that in every case the constituency boundaries should be realigned so that part of a divided ward with a fewer number of electors would be transferred to the constituency containing the part of the divided ward with the greater number of electors.
6. Insofar as Luton is concerned the geographical areas covered by each Parliamentary constituency in the proposals are with the exception of the properties in Benington Close, Fairford Avenue, Harveys Hill and Lippitts Hill which move from Luton South to Luton North as a result of their assignment from Stopsley to Barnfield Ward.
7. Luton South will, in the proposals, still retain the south Bedfordshire District Council Ward of Caddington, Hyde and Slip End.

APPENDIX

Appendix A: News Release from Boundary Commission for England dated 12th March 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

Letter and accompanying news release and maps from Boundary Commission for England dated 10th March 2003.