

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Councillor Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council, and Garry Payne Chief Executive	Council	20 October 2011	12

## PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN ENGLAND: REVIEW 2013

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the initial proposals published by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) on the new parliamentary constituencies in the North West Region.

### 2. Outcome

- 2.1 That Wyre Council's views are included within the consultation process by the BCE in the design of the new parliamentary constituencies for Lancashire.

### 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Council supports the alternative proposals for Parliamentary constituencies within Wyre as detailed at Appendix B and submits these to the Boundary Commission for England.

### 4. Background

#### 4.1 2013 Review

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) are currently conducting a review of parliamentary constituencies on the basis of new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 502), and require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473 that is 5% either side of the **electoral quota of 76,641**. The legislation also states that when deciding on boundaries, the Commission may also take into account:

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

- b. local government boundaries as they existed on 6 May 2010;
- c. boundaries of existing constituencies; and
- d. any local ties that would be broken by changes in circumstances.

The BCE advise that it is essential to understand that none of the factors mentioned above override the necessity to achieve an electorate in each constituency that is within the range allowed.

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

**4.3 Stage two – consultation on initial proposals**

The BCE are consulting on their initial proposals for a 12 week period until 5 December 2011. They are also 5 public hearings being held in the North West, at which people can give their views.

**Stage three – consultation on representations received**

The BCE will publish all representations that are received. The publication will mark the start of a four-week period, likely to be in spring 2012, during which anyone can make further written representations with respect to the representations that have been received and published.

**Stage four – publication of revised proposals**

Should the BCE decide that the evidence presented to it is such that it is appropriate to change the initial proposals, then they must publish revised proposals for the areas concerned, and consult on them for a further period of eight weeks. This is likely to be towards the end of 2012.

**Stage five – final recommendations**

Following the consultation on revised proposals the BCE will consider all the evidence received at this stage and throughout the Review, before making final recommendations to the Government. This must be done by 1 October 2013.

**5. Key Issues and Proposals**

**5.1 What is changing in the North West?**

The North West region has been allocated 68 constituencies – a reduction of 7 from the current arrangement. Due to the significant change required throughout the region, the proposals leave only 7 of the 75 existing constituencies unchanged. The area has been split into sub regions with Lancashire being represented by 5 rather than 6 MPs.

## 5.2 Initial proposals for the Lancashire sub-region

Currently there are 16 constituencies in this sub-region and only four of these (Ribble Valley, Rossendale and Darwen, South Ribble and West Lancashire) have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota. The electorates of the remaining constituencies fall below the lower 5% limit, some significantly so (such as Preston at 61,025).

In the west of the City of Preston, the Lea ward is included, as at present, with wards from the district of Fylde in the proposed **Fylde constituency**. In order to increase the size of the electorate of this constituency, the BCE propose that it stretches north to include the town of Poulton-le-Fylde. i.e. the Wyre wards of Breck, Hardhorn, Highcross and Tithebarn.

The BCE propose a reconfigured north Blackpool constituency, which stretches north along the coast to incorporate Fleetwood and Thornton Cleveleys. i.e. the Wyre wards of Bourne, Carleton, Cleveleys Park, Jubilee, Mount, Norcross, Park, Pharos, Rossall, Staina, Victoria and Warren. The proposed name is **Blackpool North and Fleetwood**.

Similarly the proposed **Lancaster constituency** largely reflects the constituency that existed prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> General Review. It no longer contains the town of Fleetwood but instead expands to incorporate many wards that are currently included in the Wyre and Preston North constituency i.e. Brock, Cabus, Calder, Catterall, Garstang, Great Eccleston, Hambleton and 'Stalmine-with-Staynall', Pilling, 'Preesall' and Wyresdale.

## 5.3 Current and Proposed Parliamentary Constituencies for Wyre

A table detailing the BCE proposal is contained at Appendix A.

## 5.4 Suggested alternatives proposed by Wyre Council

The BCE encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies. Detailed at Appendix B are the Council's recommended alternative constituencies for the Wyre area.

In developing these alternative proposals consideration has been given to all the factors used by the BCE detailed at paragraph 4.1 above. Each of the constituencies proposed achieves an electorate that is within the range allowed.

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>	
Finance	None arising directly from the report.
Legal	None arising directly from the report.
Community Safety	None arising directly from the report.
Equality and Diversity	None arising directly from the report.
Sustainability	None arising directly from the report.
Health and Safety	None arising directly from the report.
Risk Management	None arising directly from the report.
Asset Management	None arising directly from the report.
Climate Change	None arising directly from the report.

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<b>List of Background Papers:</b>		
Name of Document	Date	Where available for inspection
Boundary Commission for England – Initial proposals and maps for new Parliamentary Constituencies – North West Region	13/09/2011	On deposit in Reception, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix A - Current and Proposed Parliamentary Constituencies for Wyre

Appendix B - Suggested alternatives prepared by Wyre Council to those Parliamentary Constituencies proposed for Wyre

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## Current and Proposed Parliamentary Constituencies for Wyre

WARD NAME	CONSTITUENCY NAME	PROPOSED CONSTITUENCY
Mount	Lancaster and Fleetwood	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Park	Lancaster and Fleetwood	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Pharos	Lancaster and Fleetwood	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Rossall	Lancaster and Fleetwood	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Warren	Lancaster and Fleetwood	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Preesall	Lancaster and Fleetwood	Lancaster
Pilling	Lancaster and Fleetwood	Lancaster
Wyresdale	Lancaster and Fleetwood	Lancaster

WARD NAME	CONSTITUENCY NAME	PROPOSED CONSTITUENCY
Breck	Wyre and Preston North	Fylde
Carleton	Wyre and Preston North	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Hardhorn	Wyre and Preston North	Fylde
High Cross	Wyre and Preston North	Fylde
Tithebarn	Wyre and Preston North	Fylde
Norcross	Wyre and Preston North	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Staina	Wyre and Preston North	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Brock	Wyre and Preston North	Lancaster
Cabus	Wyre and Preston North	Lancaster
Calder	Wyre and Preston North	Lancaster
Catterall	Wyre and Preston North	Lancaster
Garstang	Wyre and Preston North	Lancaster
Great Eccleston	Wyre and Preston North	Lancaster
Hambleton & Stalmine-with-Staynall	Wyre and Preston North	Lancaster

WARD NAME	CONSTITUENCY NAME	PROPOSED CONSTITUENCY
Bourne	Blackpool North and Cleveleys	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Cleveleys Park	Blackpool North and Cleveleys	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Jubilee	Blackpool North and Cleveleys	Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Victoria	Blackpool North and Cleveleys	Blackpool North and Fleetwood

THE 2013 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY  
CONSTITUENCIES IN ENGLAND

Suggested alternatives to those Parliamentary  
Constituencies proposed for Wyre

Wyre and Blackpool North Borough Constituency

78,634

WYRE

Breck	2743	
Bourne	5125	
Carleton	3327	
Cleveleys Park	4800	
Hardhorn	2927	
Highcross	2931	
Jubilee	3201	
Mount	2971	
Norcross	2932	
Park	3162	
Pharos	3893	
Rossall	4739	
Staina	4910	
Tithebarn	3199	
Victoria	4874	
Warren	4600	60334

BLACKPOOL

Anchorsholme	5356	
Ingthorpe	5277	
Norbreck	5221	15854

FYLDE

Elswick and Little Eccleston	1282	
Singleton and Greenhalgh	1164	2446

Fylde County Constituency80290

## FYLDE

Ansdell	3594	
Ashton	3735	
Central	3516	
Clifton	3400	
Fairhaven	3584	
Freckleton East	2560	
Freckleton West	2330	
Heyhouses	3676	
Kilnhouse	3386	
Kirkham North	3231	
Kirkham South	2166	
Medlar-with-Wesham	2741	
Newton and Treales	2589	
Park	4284	
Ribby-with-Wrea	1188	
St Johns	3525	
St Leonards	3494	
Staining and Weeton	2369	
Warton and Westby	3934	59,302

## BLACKPOOL

Clifton	5281	
Marton	5468	
Stanley	5483	16,232

## PRESTON

Lea	4756	4,756
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Blackpool South Borough Constituency80,182

## BLACKPOOL

Bispham	5199	
Bloomfield	5402	
Brunswick	5190	
Claremont	5688	
Greenlands	5457	
Hawes Side	5516	
Highfield	5212	
Layton	5379	
Park	5356	
Squires Gate	5189	
Talbot	5352	
Tyldesley	5322	
Victoria	5265	
Warbreck	5254	
Waterloo	5401	80,182