

Report to the Governance Select Committee

Date of meeting: 5 December 2017

Subject: Parliamentary Boundary Review

Officer Contact for further Information:

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Recommendations:

(1) That the Assistant Director, Governance be authorised to submit comments to the Boundary Commission for England, supporting the no change proposals relating to the Epping Forest Parliamentary Constituency; and

(2) That members consider whether any further comments should be made to BCE on the other proposals effecting residents.

1. (Assistant Director, Governance) The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended in 2011) requires the four Boundary Commissions for the UK to carry out a review of constituencies and to submit final reports to Parliament in September 2018. Parliament has specified that the 2018 Review must reduce the number of constituencies, and therefore MPs, in the UK, to 600. It has asked us, as an independent and impartial body, to consider where the boundaries of the new constituencies in England should be, ensuring that every new constituency has roughly the same number of electors; no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507.

2. The current Parliamentary boundary review therefore has the aim of making proposals for a new set of parliamentary boundaries which are fairer and more equal, while also trying to reflect geographic factors and local ties.

3. The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has looked at current constituencies and local government patterns in redrawing the map of boundaries in England, and intend to make a recommendation to Parliament in September 2018. The review involves regularly consulting members of the public for their views on their local area, and refining proposals in a number of stages.

4. The timetable suggests that the Government will then place before Parliament a Statutory Instrument containing those recommendations (which may not be amended by the Government) and Parliament will debate the changes. If Parliament agrees the changes to boundaries, the new constituencies will take effect at the next scheduled General Election in 2022.

5. On 17 October 2017 BCE published their revised proposals and all the representations received during the secondary consultation. The consultation on their revised proposals ends on 11 December 2017 and is the final consultation before they report to Parliament in 2018.

6. All comments from the initial consultation were published on our website on 28 February 2017 - this is a legal requirement. Comments received during the secondary consultation stage were published on our website on 17 October 2017. Those received during consultation on the revised proposals will be published at the end of the review. All comments will be considered by our commissioners when deciding whether to revise our proposals.

Essex

7. In the County of Essex (including the boroughs of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock) BCE propose changes across the county and in particular to the constituencies in south Essex. BCE have made revisions to seven of the 17 constituencies in the county and an additional change of name to one further constituency. The existing constituencies of Chelmsford, **Epping Forest**, and Thurrock remain unchanged, as in their initial proposals.

Epping Forest

8. The Proposals for Epping Forest Constituency show no change from current boundaries. It is made up from the wards below and has always been within the tolerance for new seat configurations.

14. Epping Forest CC		73,521
Broadley Common, Epping Upland and Nazeing	Epping	1,693
Buckhurst Hill East	Epping	3,433
Buckhurst Hill West	Epping	5,234
Chigwell Row	Epping	1,835
Chigwell Village	Epping	3,304
Epping Hemnall	Epping	4,858
Epping Lindsey and Thornwood Common	Epping	5,239
Grange Hill	Epping	4,898
Loughton Alderton	Epping	3,258
Loughton Broadway	Epping	3,173
Loughton Fairmead	Epping	3,166
Loughton Forest	Epping	3,349
Loughton Roding	Epping	3,523
Loughton St. John's	Epping	3,392
Loughton St. Mary's	Epping	3,703
Theydon Bois	Epping	3,296
Waltham Abbey High Beach	Epping	1,987
Waltham Abbey Honey Lane	Epping	4,508
Waltham Abbey North East	Epping	3,254
Waltham Abbey Paternoster	Epping	3,362
Waltham Abbey South West	Epping	3,056

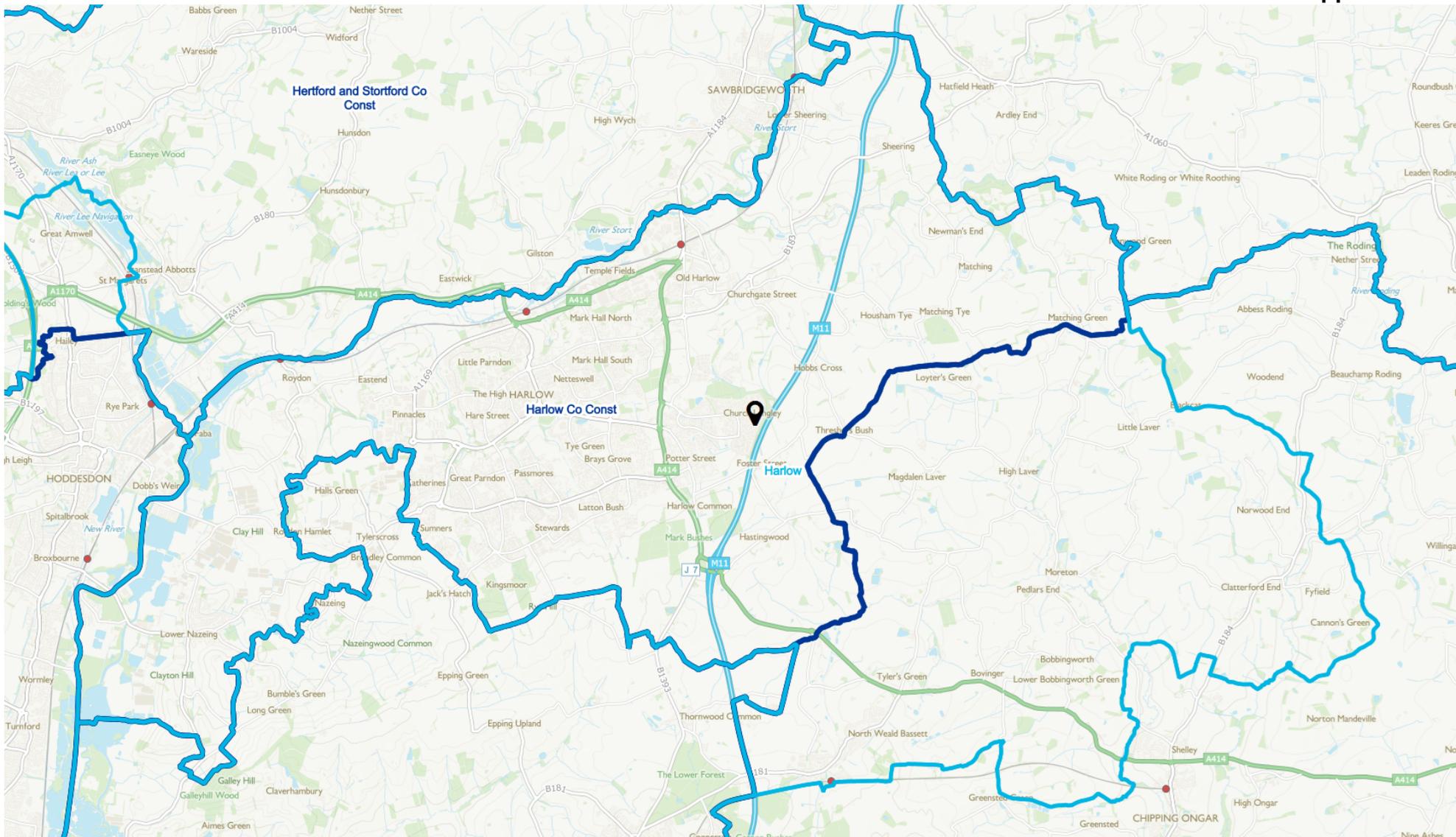
Harlow/Brentwood and Ongar

9. In order to meet the new equitable elector numbers, the seats of Harlow and Brentwood and Ongar are suggested to change. The attached map show the revisions as they affect residents of Epping Forest District. The new constituency will cover the Epping Forest wards of Hastingwood, Matching and Sheering Village, Moreton and Fyfield, North Weald Bassett, Roydon, Lower Sheering and Lower Nazeing. The full report into the Essex proposals can be found on the BCE portal here: <https://goo.gl/UNJrPD>

Consultation Responses

10. The consultation period ends on 11 December 2017 and members may of course submit their own views on the proposals via the website at: <https://www.bce2018.org.uk>

11. Members are asked to consider if they (i) support the proposals for no change to the Epping Forest Constituency; (ii) wish to submit any other observations on the proposals affecting residents; and (iii) authorise officers to submit comments to the BCE before the deadline. BCE have specifically asked that where proposals are supported that those representations are made.



Harlow Constituency – Proposals map

Source Map : BCE