

Item 7 (a) - 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review

The attached report was considered by the Governance Committee on 1 November 2022, and the relevant minute extract is below:

2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review (1 November 2022, Minute 9)

Members considered a report which outlined a proposal to submit a final consultation response to the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) for the proposed changes to local Parliamentary boundaries expected to take effect in 2023.

The report laid out that as the BCE was due to publish its revised proposals around 8 November, a final consultation period would ensue lasting 4 weeks. The report therefore sought the Committee's approval to either; issue a statement of support for the revised proposals if they were aligned with the Council's counter proposals, or give Members the opportunity to submit further views to Officers to be collated and then approved by the Chairman of the Governance Committee. The Council's final response would then be submitted to the BCE.

Members discussed the report and highlighted the importance of ensuring that as much input was received from Members as possible which would be collated to provide a thorough response for submission.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that

- (a) the revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) for the Parliamentary boundaries for the Sevenoaks District Council area due to be published around 8 November, be noted; and
- (b) Council submit a final consultation response to the Boundary Commission for England in accordance with one of the options below:
 - i. If the revised proposals directly align to the Council's counter proposal submitted to the initial consultation, a statement of support for that proposal be drafted, or
 - ii. If the initial proposals were unchanged, or do not align directly with the Council's counter proposal that Members be provided with the opportunity to submit further views to Officers for collation, to inform a draft, final consultation response, agreed with the Chairman of Governance Committee. Members' views would be collated through a short survey or drop in session