

Name of Committee:	Council		
Committee Date:	17 January 2024		
Report Title:	UK Parliamentary and Local Government Boundary Reviews		
Responsible Officer:	Matt Goodwin, Executive Head of Internal Services		
Cabinet Lead:	Councillor Alex Rennie, Leader of the Council		
Status:	Non Exempt		
Urgent Decision:	No	Key Decision:	No
Appendices:	Appendix A – Current and New Ward Structure Appendix B - New Ward property changes		
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map: Map Showing Old and New Boundaries • Final Report: https://www.lgbce.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/report_-_havant_final_recommendations_-_cover.pdf • Order: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2023/200/schedule/made • Order Map: https://www.lgbce.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/si_2023-200_-_havant_electoral_changes_order_map.pdf 		
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Report Number:	HBC/		

Corporate Priorities:

Pride in Place – These reviews help to ensure residents in Havant Borough have an equal opportunity to engage in the democratic process across the borough by ensuring Polling Places are equally situated around borough, thus helping to ensure residents are able to vote as part of the election process.

Executive Summary:

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 Local Government Boundary Commission for England (is an independent body set up by Parliament. The Commission is accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. The main role of the Commission is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

This report requests that the Council notes the implementation of the proposed changes following the boundary review.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to:

- a) note the changes to the new electoral constituency arrangements for Havant Borough Council following the Review of Parliamentary Constituencies by the Boundary Commission for England.
- b) note the impact of the new ward boundaries and equality of electorate for Havant Borough Council following the Local Government Boundary Review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- c) appoint the Monitoring Officer as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer, with full powers, for Havant Borough.

1.0 Introduction

Parliamentary Boundary Review

- 1.1 The 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review, conducted by the Boundary Commission for England, has reorganised UK parliamentary constituencies to reflect population change. Boundary reviews should take place every eight years, but constituency boundaries have not changed since 2010 due to political opposition to previous proposed changes. This report sets out the new Parliamentary constituencies for Havant Borough.
- 1.2 The number of Parliamentary Constituencies in Havant will remain at two.
- 1.3 Havant Constituency remains wholly unchanged.
- 1.4 Meon Valley constituency has been renamed Fareham and Waterlooville Constituency. The change will be effective for the next UK Parliamentary election. Fareham and Waterlooville is a cross-boundary constituency, consisting of three wards, Cowplain, Hart Plain and Waterloo. Havant Borough will 'give away' this constituency to Fareham Borough Council who will be responsible for the conduct of the constituency election at the next General election.

1.5 The following roads will move from Waterloo Ward to Cowplain Ward within the New Fareham and Waterlooville Constituency.

NEW WARD	ROADS ADDED	FROM WARD
Cowplain	Amethyst Grove	Waterloo
	Crystal Way	Waterloo
	Emerald Close	Waterloo
	Harkness Drive (47-57 & 36-44)	Waterloo
	Sapphire Ridge	Waterloo
	Topaz Grove	Waterloo

Local Government Boundary Review

1.6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) carries out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England. This report sets out the new electoral arrangements for Havant Borough Council.

1.7 Their criteria for initiating a review in those circumstances are as follows:

- more than 30% of a council's wards have an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for that authority; and/or
- one or more wards have an electoral imbalance of more than 30%; and
- the imbalance is unlikely to be corrected by foreseeable changes to the electorate within a reasonable period.

1.8 The previous review of Havant Borough Council was completed in 2000 and the LGBCE are required to review electoral arrangements of every council 'from time to time'.

1.9 The electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Havant are in the best possible place to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively;
- The number of electors represented by each councillor in each ward is approximately the same across the borough

1.10 The number of wards in Havant will reduce from 14 to 12 effective for the next Local elections on 2 May 2024. Those wards will be:

- Bedhampton;
- Cowplain;
- Emsworth;
- Hart Plain;
- Havant St. Faith's;
- Hayling East;
- Hayling West;
- Leigh Park Central & West Leigh;
- Leigh Park Hermitage;
- Purbrook;
- Stakes; and
- Waterloo

1.11 The boundaries of all but 3 of the wards, Hart Plain, Purbrook and Stakes, have changed to reflect equality of electorate, which is one of the three main considerations of the LG BCE when undertaking a review. A full list of road moves within each ward can be found at Appendix A.

1.12 Havant will have 36 Councillors representing 12 three-member wards across the borough.

1.13 Each ward will be divided into four polling districts with revised polling district letters to reflect the ward name ensuring and equality of electorate numbers across each ward.

2.0 Background

Parliamentary Boundary Review

2.1 The Commission's statutory function is to keep under review the distribution of constituencies in England and to make periodical reports (currently every eight years) with recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Commons, in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended).

- 2.2 During an active general review of the constituencies in England, the Commission allocate a defined number of constituencies, the precise number being calculated using a formula defined in the Act and producing a figure broadly in proportion to the size of England's electorate as against that of the whole United Kingdom. Each constituency is also required to have an electorate that is within 5% of the United Kingdom 'electoral quota' (also defined in the Act).
- 2.3 All recommended constituencies had to have no less than 69,725 parliamentary electors and no more than 77,062. These electorate figures had to be the electorates as they were on 2 March 2020.

Local Government Boundary Review

- 2.4 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority including the total number of councillors representing the council's electors, the names, numbers and boundaries of wards and the number of councillors for each ward.
- 2.5 LGBCE expects forecasts to reflect ONS sub-national population projections and to consider the following:
- impact of likely housing and economic developments;
 - local development frameworks;
 - expected migration into, out of and within the authority; and
 - expected occupancy rate in individual areas rather than generally across the authority.
- 2.6 Havant Borough Council has not been reviewed since 2000 and the Commission therefore decided that it should review Havant in advance of the elections in 2024. This exercise was conducted between September 2021 and November 2022.

Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer

- 2.7 The role of Electoral Registration Officer is held by the Chief Executive Officer and the role of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (DERO) was designated by Council in March 2023 to the Executive Head of Internal Services. With the prospect of an 'all out' local borough election, combined with the Police and Crime Commissioner

elections and the further requirement to hold a Parliamentary Election before January 2025, it is prudent to designate a second DERO at this time.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 In view of the forthcoming 'all out' local elections, it is considered prudent and necessary to designate a further officer as Deputy ERO and this report recommends that this be designated to The Monitoring Officer. To ensure the Council can continue to operate legally and ease the burden on the Electoral Registration Officer, it is proposed to have appointed 2 deputies in these roles, although it is not a legal requirement.
- 3.2 There is an option to not appoint a second Deputy ERO, but this would leave the main burden of these duties on the ERO and one DERO, which goes against our values of putting people first.
- 3.3 The LGBCE have completed their review and it has gone through parliament. It is now a legal requirement to implement The Havant (Electoral Changes) Order 2023, therefore there are no alternative options in relation to the implementation of the Boundary Review.

4.0 Relationship to the Corporate Strategy

- 4.1 Pride in Place - These reviews help to ensure residents in Havant Borough have an equal opportunity to engage in the democratic process across the borough by ensuring Polling Places are equally situated around borough, thus helping to ensure residents are able to vote as part of the election process.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 Parliamentary Constituencies and Local Ward Boundaries are now finalised by the Boundary Commission for England.

6.0 Implications and Comments

- 6.1 Appointment of a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer under section 8(2) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA)

1983, the council must appoint a senior officer of ERO, this position is responsible for maintaining and publishing the register of electors for the area.

Under section 52(2) of the RPA 1983, Full Council is asked to agree the appointment of a Deputy ERO to carry out the functions of the ERO and be available to act in their absence.

Any deputy appointed should have the skills and knowledge required to perform and exercise the duties and powers of the ERO. Our Monitoring Officer has previous knowledge and experience of this role.

6.2 **Financial Implications**

6.3 The report in relation to the LG BCE and the BCE reviews is for noting only.

6.4 The appointment of a Deputy ERO does not impact on the council's budget as there are no subsequent changes to the Monitoring Officer's Terms and Conditions of employment and salary.

6.5 **Section 151 Officer Comments**

6.6 Members should be content that there are no additional budget pressure or commercial implications arising from this report.

6.7 **Monitoring Officer Comments**

6.8 The Council is responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission. The Council is legally required to implement the changes in time for the May 2024 election.

6.9 **Legal Implications**

6.10 The final recommendation of the Local Government Boundary Commission review setting out the new electoral arrangements for Havant Borough Council and impact on the Borough are for noting. The legislation has been passed by Parliament and it is now the responsibility of Havant Borough Council to implement the required changes in time for the elections in 2024.

6.11 Unlike Returning Officers, the ERO cannot appoint a deputy themselves, unless the power to do so has been delegated to them.

6.12 Electoral Commission guidance recommends the appointment of a Deputy ERO to carry out the functions of the ERO and be available to act in their absence. The Elections Act 2022 places further obligations on the ERO, which it would be more practical for a deputy to undertake.

6.13 Under s52(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 'any of the duties and powers of a registration officer may be performed and exercised by any deputy'.

6.14 **Equality and Diversity**

This report is a review of boundaries and appointment of a Deputy ERO, therefore there is no equality and diversity considerations to be included in this report.

6.15 **Human Resources**

The appointment of a Deputy ERO by Full Council does not alter the terms and conditions of employment of the Monitoring Officer and therefore there are no HR resource implications.

6.16 **Information Governance**

This report is a review of boundaries and appointment of a Deputy ERO, therefore there is no information governance considerations to be included in this report.

6.17 **Climate and Environment**

This report is a review of boundaries and appointment of a Deputy ERO, therefore there is no climate or environment considerations to be included in this report.

7.0 Risks

7.1 The Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer are appointments that are currently within the Chief Executive Officers roles and responsibilities. Sharing these responsibilities across members of the management team will strengthen the Returning Officer role for conduct of elections and Electoral Registration Officer duties.

8.0 Consultation

8.1 The consultation seeking views on new wards commenced on the 28 September 2021 and ended on 18 July 2022. The final recommendations were published on 01 November 2022.

9.0 Communications

9.1 The conclusion of the LGBCE and BCE reviews have been communicated to residents and councillors and is available on the council website.

Agreed and signed off by:		Date:
Cabinet Lead:	Cllr Alex Rennie	21/12/23
Executive Head:	Matt Goodwin	27/12/23
Monitoring Officer:	Jo McIntosh	09/01/24
Section151 Officer:	Steven Pink	27/12/23