



Lewes  
Town  
Council

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To: All members of Lewes Town Council,

An Extraordinary meeting of Lewes Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lewes, on 30 November, 2022, at 7:30pm, which you are summoned to attend.

Laura Chrysostomou  
Town Clerk  
23 November 2022

## Agenda

### 1 Filming of council meetings and mobile phones

During this meeting, the public are allowed to film the committee and officers only from the front of the public gallery, providing it does not disrupt the meeting. Any items in the exempt part of an agenda cannot be filmed. If another member of the public objects to being recorded, the person(s) filming must stop doing so until that member of the public has finished speaking. Please switch mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting

### 2 Apologies for absence

### 3 Members' declarations of interests

To note any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in items to be considered at this meeting.

### 4 Question time

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting of the council. Questions regarding items on the agenda may be heard at the start of the meeting with the Mayor's consent. A period of 15 minutes is allocated for this purpose. Questions or requests to address the council must be submitted to the Town Clerk by noon the day before the meeting.

### 5 Officers' report

5.1 Boundary Commission for England Review 2023

(Report FC022/2022 attached on pages 2 to 4)

### 6 Exempt business

It is recommended that:

The public and accredited representatives of the press be excluded from the meeting under Section 100 Local Government Act 1972 due to the confidential nature of the business to be conducted.

**Lewes Town Council**

**Non- Confidential**

**Committee: Extraordinary Full Council**

**Date: 30 November 2022**

**Report Number: FC022**

**Report by: Town Clerk**

**Subject: Boundary Commission for England Review 2023**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Council are asked to consider the revised proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the South East region which form part of the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) Review 2023 (paragraph 4.1 refers); consider the advice from the BCE detailed below; explore potential counter proposals using the plan builder (paragraph 4.5 refers) and agree a response from the Town Council in this third and final stage of the review which must be submitted by 5 December 2022.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Council is recommended to:
1. Consider the revised proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the South East region and whether to respond to the third and final stage of the Boundary Commission for England Review 2023.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Following the passing of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 and the publication of the relevant Parliamentary electorate data in January 2021, the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) began a review of all Parliamentary constituencies in England. This is referred to as by the BCE as the 2023 Review as they are required to report their final recommendations by 1 July 2023.
- 3.2 Application of further statutory rules to the published electorate also means that all recommended constituencies must have no less than 69,724 Parliamentary electors and no more than 77,062. By law, these electorate figures relate to the electorates as they were on 2 March 2020.
- 3.3 Lewes Town Council responded to initial proposals in the first stage of the review. The Council's comment, reference number BCE-75025, can be found on the interactive map, as can all other comments. The interactive map can be found here: <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/node/6488?postcode=BN72QS>
- 3.4 The Town Council's comment was as follows: Lewes Town Council believes that the 'northern villages/parishes' in a corridor running from the town

NorthWest up to the East Sussex County border should be retained in the new Lewes County Constituency. These all have strong community links with Lewes (the ancient County Town), established over centuries, and these should be respected. For completeness these are Barcombe & Hamsey, East Chiltington & St John, Chailey, Newick, Plumpton, Streat, Ditchling & Westmeston and Wivelsfield. A useful side effect of this would be the elimination of the proposed division at Landport Bottom, which is acknowledged to follow a parish boundary but unhelpfully divides a significant landholding. As shown on the consultation maps the 'new' boundary also, somewhat bizarrely, arbitrarily divides several domestic landholdings, cutting through gardens and buildings - this can surely not have been intentional? To counterbalance this in terms of constituency electorate numbers it is suggested that Polegate (already part of the existing constituency) is transferred to a neighbouring constituency with more natural community links (Eastbourne or Wealden) for the voters of Polegate. The proposed additions to the east could be retained in respect of the balancing of numbers although arguably Willingdon voters are likely to have the same community links discrepancy as Polegate and almost no commonality with Lewes. Populations for these areas suggest a balance would be maintained as Polegate has a population of 9,000; and Willingdon & Jevington 7,500, whereas the populations of the villages noted in the Lewes area total around 9,000.

#### **4. Revised proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the South East region**

- 4.1 The BCE have issued their revised proposals for the South East regions. The revised proposals can be found online here:  
[https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/review2023/b65f7782-658b-4c4a-9cba-59c16c807f77/reports/E02794963%20BCE%20Revised%20Proposals%20A4%20report\\_SOUTH%20EAST\\_Accessible.pdf](https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/review2023/b65f7782-658b-4c4a-9cba-59c16c807f77/reports/E02794963%20BCE%20Revised%20Proposals%20A4%20report_SOUTH%20EAST_Accessible.pdf)
- 4.2 Paragraph 3.98 of the report considers that the principal of the initially proposed East Grinstead and Uckfield represented the best cross-county boundary constituency, despite the dissatisfaction expressed in representation about the villages north of Lewes. Additionally, they considered a boundary between the wards of Polegate South and Willingdon Watermill ward and Lower Willingdon ward to be unsatisfactory as it would split the Willingdon community.
- 4.3 The Town Council has sought further advice from the BCE regarding its proposal to maintain the villages north of Lewes within the same constituency as Lewes. The BCE explained that any proposal needs to ensure the constituency is within the permitted electorate range (69,724 and 77,062). The proposal put forward by Lewes Town Council would make the constituency absorbing Polegate and Willingdon too large. While the Town Council's precise proposal would not be valid, the BCE are nonetheless interested in receiving any evidence concerning community ties which might assist them in

deciding their final recommendations. The BCE encouraged the Town Council to submit any information that may be useful to them.

- 4.4 It is therefore important to provide a counter proposal that ensures the electorate figures are within the parameters set by the Commission and support this with evidence of local ties such as the way in which the community shops, school catchment areas, road and public transport networks, social links etc. Planning and further development pressures, including how the community is forming could also be used to evidence interconnectedness.
- 4.5 The BCE have a useful interactive tool online for people to use to adjust the wards contained within a constituency and it will state whether the revised constituency meets the permitted electorate range. Councillors are recommended to use this tool to inform any counter proposal that the Town Council may wish to put forward. The plan builder can be found online here: <https://boundaryassistant.org/PlanBuilder/index.html?v=1.68#>
- 4.6 The BCE also advised that it is important for residents to respond and the best way to do this is through the portal.

Laura Chrysostomou

**Town Clerk**