

Committee(s): Policy and Resources	Dated: 15/12/2022
Subject: Parliamentary Boundary Review	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: The City Remembrancer	For Information
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Summary

This paper outlines the revised proposal for the City of London's parliamentary constituency published by the Boundary Commission for England on 8 November 2022, and to take effect from 2023.

The revised proposal maintains the longstanding link between the City of London and the City of Westminster.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the Boundary Commission's revised proposal for the City of London's parliamentary constituency, which would maintain the City of London's link with wards in the City of Westminster.

Main Report

Background

1. Following the passing of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 in December 2020, and the publication of the relevant Parliamentary electorate data in January 2021, the Boundary Commission published its initial proposals for the review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England in June 2021.
2. The Boundary Commission's initial proposals provided for the current Cities of London and Westminster seat to be broken up with the City, instead, forming part of a new constituency named 'The City of London and Islington South'. This would have comprised the City of London and 9 local government wards in the London

Borough of Islington. These wards currently fall within the Islington South and Finsbury constituency.

3. The City Corporation submitted evidence in opposition to this proposal in July 2021 during the initial consultation period, and submitted supplementary evidence regarding the representations made to the Boundary Commission on the initial proposals in April 2022. Both submissions can be found in the appendix to this report.

Current Position

4. The Boundary Commission's revised proposals have now been published and maintain the constituency link between the Cities of London and Westminster.¹
5. The Boundary Commission's report for London noted that their initial proposals for the City of London and Islington South constituency were opposed by most respondents, who argued that the City of London should be kept in a constituency with the City of Westminster, but recognised that a number of residents in the north of the City of London supported the constituency link with Islington. The City of London Corporation's detailed submission in opposition to the proposals was noted by the Boundary Commission.
6. The Commission concluded that while there was some strength in the arguments in support of the proposal to join the City of London in a constituency with Islington, the Assistant Commissioners recognised that most respondents were against this proposal on the grounds that it would break longstanding community ties between the City of London and Westminster. They further recognised that keeping the City of London with Westminster would better reflect the existing constituency arrangement in this area. Therefore, they were persuaded that the City of London should be included in a Westminster-based constituency rather than an Islington-based constituency.
7. The revised proposal is therefore for a Cities of London and Westminster constituency to be formed of the following wards: City and County of the City of London, Abbey Road, Hyde Park, Knightsbridge and Belgravia, Marylebone, Pimlico North, Pimlico South, Regent's Park, St James's, Vincent Square, and West End. The constituency would have an electorate of 73,140, within the threshold set by the Boundary Commission.
8. In accordance with the policy of this Committee, a final submission noting the City Corporation's support for the revised proposals has been submitted to the Boundary Commission.
9. The Commission's final report and recommendations will be published in June 2023.

¹ https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/review2023/b65f7782-658b-4c4a-9cba-59c16c807f77/reports/E02794963%20BCE%20Revised%20Proposals%20A4%20report_LONDON_Accessible.pdf

Background Papers (available on request)

- City Corporation submission to the Boundary Commission for England – July 2021.
- City Corporation submission to the Boundary Commission for England – April 2022.

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