

Executive Board
21st November 2016

Subject :The 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales-Initial Proposals

Purpose: To consider the report and recommended response to be submitted on behalf of the Council to the Boundary Commission for Wales

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- 1. To consider the report and initial proposals**
- 2. To agree the proposed response to the Boundary Commission for Wales**
- 3. To note that the Boundary Commission for Wales will hold 5 public hearings regarding this review. The Carmarthenshire venue will take place on the 12-13 October at the Ivy Royal Hotel.**

Reasons: The Parliamentary Constituencies Review is now being undertaken by the four UK Boundary Commissions in their respective parts of the UK. The Boundary Commission for Wales are now seeking representation on their initial proposals. The review will take place over approximately two and a half years with final recommendations submitted to Parliament in September 2018 and if agreed the new constituencies will take effect at the next scheduled General Election in 2020.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Pam Palmer

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| Directorate | Designations: | Tel Nos. |
| Chief Executives-Regeneration and Policy | | 01267 224112 01267 228609 |
| Name of Head of Service: | Assistant Chief Executive | E Mail Addresses: |
| Wendy Walters | | WSWalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
| Report Author: | Electoral Services Manager | ABebb@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
| Amanda Bebb | | |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE BOARD
7TH NOVEMBER 2016

**The 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales-
Initial Proposals**

1. Members will recall previous reports that were considered with regards to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (“the Act”) that required the four UK Boundary Commissions to conduct a review of the parliamentary constituencies in their part of the UK and to submit final reports to Government before 1 October, 2013. Members are reminded that no action was taken as a result of this previous review being postponed by Parliament, and that the Boundary Commission for Wales has now been tasked to complete the current review by September 2018.

Parliamentary Boundaries reflect the area where the electorate vote for their MP, the review will examine these areas and make proposals to Parliament for a new set of boundaries of equal size, with Parliament specifying that the review must reduce the number of constituencies in the UK from 650 to 600.

2. The Boundary Commission for Wales have now published their initial proposals and are seeking representation within 12 weeks. All representation will be considered by the Commission who will recommend whether and if so, how their initial proposals should be revised in light of the representations.

3. A summary of the proposals that effect Carmarthenshire County Council are as follows:

- A new county constituency is created from the electoral wards within the existing South Pembrokeshire part of the existing Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire Constituency **and** the electoral wards within the existing Preseli Pembrokeshire Constituency. The proposed name for this new constituency is South Pembrokeshire (De Sir Benfro).

- A new county constituency is created from electoral wards within the existing Carmarthen East and Dinefwr constituency **EXCEPT for** the electoral wards of Cenarth and Llangeler **and** the electoral wards within the existing Carmarthen West part of the existing Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire Constituency. The proposed name for this new constituency is Caerfyrddin (Carmarthenshire).

- A new county constituency is created from the electoral wards within the existing Llanelli constituency **and** the electoral wards within the existing Gower Constituency, namely Gorseinon, Llangyfelach, Mawr, Penllergaer, Penyrheol and Pontardulais. The proposed name for this new constituency is Llanelli and Lliw (Llanelli a Lliw).

- A new county constituency is created from the existing Cerdigion constituency **and** the electoral wards of Cenarth and Llangeler (currently part of the existing Carmarthen East

and Dinefwr Constituency) **and** the electoral wards Blaen Hafren and Llanidloes (currently part of the existing Montgomeryshire constituency) **and** the electoral wards of Cilgerran, Clydau, Crymych, Dinas Cross, Fishguard North East, Fishguard North West, Goodwick, Newport, Scleddau and St. Dogmaels (currently part of the existing Preseli Pembrokeshire Constituency). The proposed name for this new constituency is Ceredigion a Gogledd Sir Benfro (Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire).

4. If the initial proposals are revised, there will be a further period of consultation before the Commission will publish their final recommendations for the whole of Wales and will draft and submit a formal report to Government.
5. Members need to be aware that the Commission have based the notional size of constituencies on the electoral registers from December 2015. Due to the increase in registration levels as a result of the EU Referendum in June of this year, this figures are somewhat out of date.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: **W. S. Walters**

Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE | Legal NONE | Finance NONE | ICT NONE | Risk Management Issues NONE | Staffing Implications NONE | Physical Assets NONE |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **W. S. Walters**

Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)

1. **Scrutiny Committee**
Not applicable
2. **Local Member**
The proposals affect Parliamentary boundaries and all local members have received a copy of the report.
3. **Community / Town Council**
All Community and Town Councils will receive notification of the publication of the Commission's initial proposals
4. **Relevant Partners**
The Commission has sent copies of their proposals to MPs, AMs and Political Parties
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**
Information regarding the review can be found on the main Council website and copies of the initial proposals are available for inspection at all libraries in Carmarthenshire, Electoral Services, Parc Myrddin and Customer Services, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

| Title of Document | File Ref No. | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|--|--|--|
| Initial Proposals English | 160815init propsfulle n.pdf | www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk |
| Initial Proposals Cymraeg | 160815init propsfullc y.pdf | www.comffin-cymru.gov.uk |
| Proposed response on behalf of Carmarthenshire County Council | 1608propr espo.pdf | Please see Amanda Bebb |