

Crawley Borough Council

	Report No:LDS 34	C
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Report to General Purposes Committee

Thursday 29th September 2011

The Independent Boundary Commission for England: Initial Proposals for new Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries Consultation

1. Key Points

- 1.1 This report informs the Committee of the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for England for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries as they affect Crawley and outlines the consultation process.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee considers whether to recommend to the Full Council any representations on the Boundary Commission's initial proposals for the Parliamentary Constituency of Crawley.**

Ann-Maria Brown
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

3. Background

- 3.1 The Boundary Commission for England is currently conducting a review of all Parliamentary constituencies on the basis of new rules set out in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011. The Act reduced the number of constituencies in England from 533 to 502 and requires that every constituency (with two exceptions) must have a parliamentary franchise electorate between 72,810 and 80,473 – that is 5% either side of the electoral quota of 76,641.
- 3.2 The legislation states that the Commission may also take into account
- a) special geographical considerations, including the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 - b) local government boundaries as they existed on 6 May 2010;
 - c) boundaries of existing constituencies; and
 - d) any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.
- 3.3 The Commission has published its initial proposals. The proposals are based on the nine regions used for European elections. Crawley falls within the South East region which has been allocated 83 constituencies – a reduction of one.
- 3.4 There will be a 12-week consultation period ending on 5th December during which the Commission is inviting written representations. Representations can also be made at public hearings. There is a hearing to be held in Crawley at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Langley Drive on Monday 31st October – Tuesday 1st November.
- 3.5 The representations that the Commission receives will be published in Spring 2012 and there will be a further opportunity to comment on those representations over a four-week period. Revised proposals will be published towards the end of 2012 with an eight-week consultation period. Final recommendations will be made to the Government by October 2013.

4. Proposals for Crawley Constituency

- 4.1 At present the boundaries of Crawley Constituency and Crawley Borough are co-terminus. The Boundary Commission proposes to add the Copthorne and Worth Ward of Mid Sussex District Council which is currently part of the Horsham Constituency to Crawley Constituency as shown in the map at Appendix A. This would add 3742 parliamentary electors to the 2010 Crawley Constituency total of 71,793.
- 4.2 Under the legislation the current Crawley Constituency does not have enough electors to meet the new criteria. In these circumstances the Boundary Commission's proposal that retains the Borough of Crawley wholly within one new constituency and with the name of Crawley is to be welcomed. The challenge under new arrangements is to find the most appropriate ward

adjacent to Crawley to add into the new constituency to meet the new requirements. The neighbouring wards to Crawley are set out in the table below:

Ward Name	Parliamentary Electorate
Charlwood	1747
Capel, Leigh and Newdigate	3357
Rusper and Colgate	2002
Ardingly and Balcombe	4184
Crawley Down and Turners Hill	5325
Burstow, Horne and Outwood	4494
Horley Central	6003
Horley East	4329
Charlwood	1747
Copthorne and Worth	3742

- 4.3 Any of these options would meet the requirements in terms of minimum number of electors. Copthorne and Worth Ward would appear to be the best fit as it does not cross the county boundary and has some connection to Crawley. Any alternative proposals would need to be considered by the Boundary Commission in terms of the effect on the surrounding constituencies.

5. Staffing, Equalities, Financial and Legal Implications/Powers

- 5.1 None.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed n

6. Risk Implications

- 6.1 None.

7. Environmental Impacts

- 7.1 None.

8. Links to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan

- 8.1 The proposals contained in this report relate to the following key areas of the Sustainable Community Strategy

Community Cohesion	y	Community Safety	n
Young People and Children	n	Health and Well Being	n
Older People	n	The Environment	n
The Local Economy	n	Social Inclusion	y

The following key principles are applicable:-

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| (i) | Working together | y |
| (ii) | Dignity, respect and opportunities for all | y |
| (iii) | Involving People | y |
| (iv) | Making it last | y |

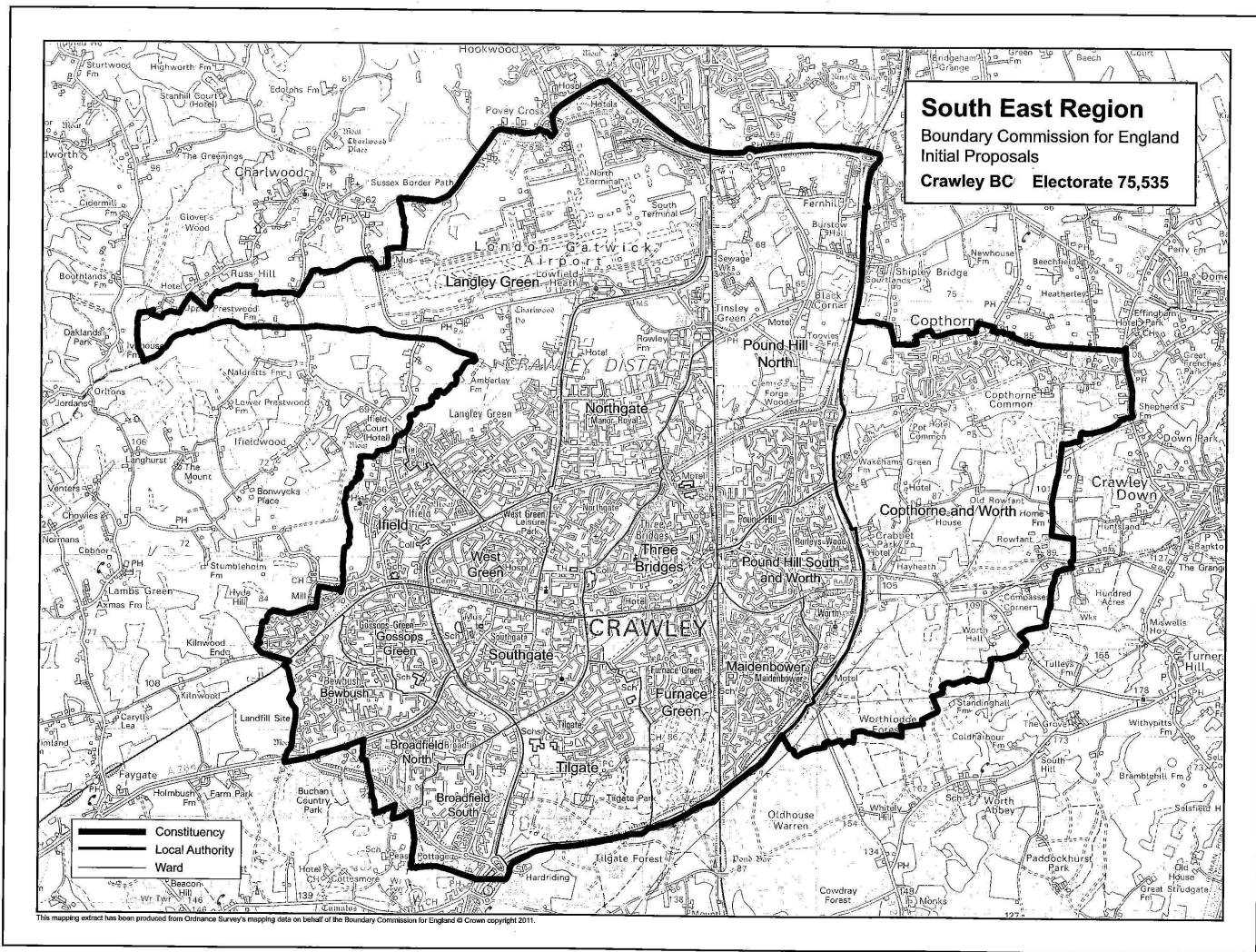
The report relates to the following areas in which the Council operates to enhance the town and the quality of life of local people:-

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------|---|
| (i) | Prosperity | n |
| (ii) | Community | y |
| (iii) | Environment | n |
| (iv) | Value for Money | n |

9. Background Papers

Boundary Commission for England Initial Proposals
 Boundary Commission for England: A guide to the 2013 Review

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Crawley BC