

# Crawley Borough Council

## Report to Governance Committee

28<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services: LDS/133

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#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This report informs the Committee of the revised proposals of the Boundary Commission for England for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries as they affect Crawley.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That representations be made to the Boundary Commission for England that the Rusper and Colgate ward should be included in Crawley parliamentary constituency.

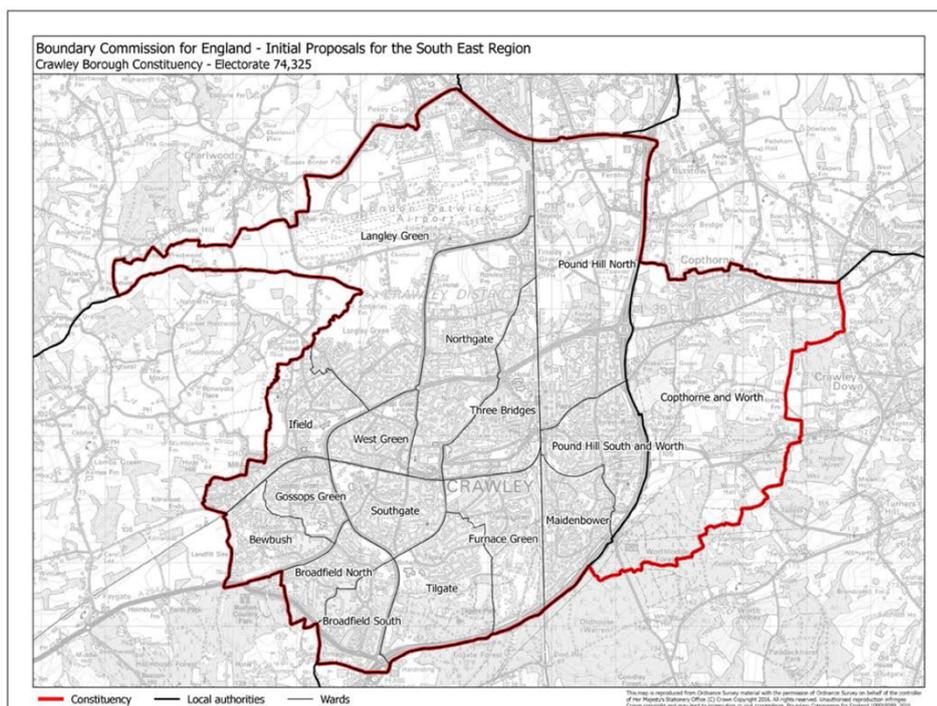
#### **3. Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 3.1 The residents of Kilnwood Vale will receive significant services from Crawley constituency and would be best represented by the Member of Parliament for Crawley.

#### **4. Background**

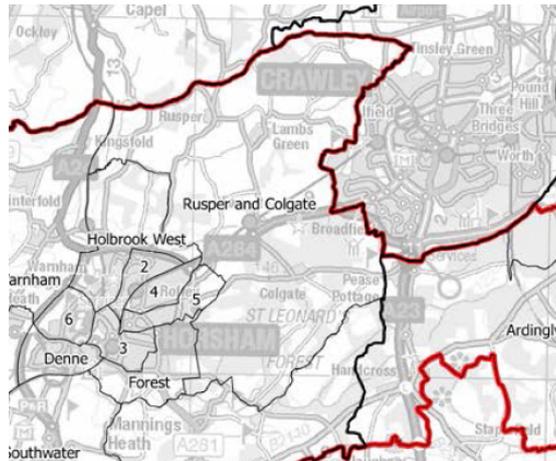
- 4.1 In 2016 the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) announced the start of a Review of Parliamentary constituencies. At its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the Governance Committee considered the initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) for a new parliamentary constituency for Crawley as part of the review of constituencies under the provisions of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.
- 4.2 The new rules involve a reduction in the number of Constituencies in England from 533 to 501, and state that each constituency must have an electorate, at December 2015, no smaller than 71,031 and no bigger than 78,507.
- 4.3 At present, the boundaries of Crawley Constituency and Crawley Borough are co-terminus. The parliamentary electorate for Crawley on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 was 70,578 and therefore is not big enough to remain co-terminus with the borough boundary under the new rules.

- 4.4 The BCE had proposed adding the Copthorne and Worth ward of Mid Sussex to Crawley constituency as shown in the map below.



- 4.5 At its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 the Governance Committee considered the alternative options for Crawley constituency and agreed to make representations to the Commission to include the new Kilnwood Vale development to the West of Bewbush in the proposed constituency in addition to the Copthorne and Worth Ward.
- 4.6 The Boundary Commission for England have now published their revised proposals which retain their original proposals for Crawley as shown in the map at 4.4. In response to the Committee's proposal to include Kilnwood Vale in the constituency the Commission stated that they "did not consider Crawley Borough Council's Governance Committee's proposal to have exceptional and compelling circumstances to justify splitting the ward of Rusper and Colgate". The consultation period for responses to the revised proposals closes on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
- 4.7 The Committee is recommended to consider whether to make further representations to the BCE. Once it has considered the comments on the revised proposals the BCE will make final recommendations in a report published and presented to Parliament in September 2018. If Parliament agrees the changes to boundaries, the new constituencies will take effect at the next scheduled General Election in 2022.
- 4.8 The new neighbourhood of Kilnwood Vale in Horsham constituency, at land to the west of Bewbush, is a significant development on the constituency boundary. Many of the services received by residents will be based in Crawley and it would be appropriate for the residents there to be represented by the Member of Parliament for Crawley.

- 4.9 Kilnwood Vale is contained in the Ruser and Colgate Ward which is shown on the map below.



- 4.10 A proposal to add Ruser and Colgate Ward to Crawley constituency in place of Copthorne and Worth Ward would leave both Horsham and Crawley constituencies close to the UK electoral quota.
- 4.11 There are close community links with residents living in Kilnwood Vale and on the part of Ruser and Colgate Ward on the Western edge of Ifield to Crawley. The committee is therefore recommended to consider whether representations are made to the BCE to include Ruser and Colgate ward with Crawley Constituency in place of Copthorne and Worth.

## 5. Implications

There are no other implications.

## 6. Background Papers

[Boundary Commission for England Guide to the 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituencies.](#)

[Report to Governance Committee 14th November 2016](#)

[Revised proposals for new constituency boundaries in the South East](#)

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