



Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date **Thursday, 2 November 2017** Time **6.00pm**
Venue **Meeting Room G3/G4, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

Enquiries Regarding this Agenda:

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Committee Membership: Councillors C F Smith (**Chairman**), R A Overton (**Vice Chairman**), K T Blundell, N A Dugmore, I T W Fletcher, A D McClements and G C W Reynolds

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Minutes** Appendix A
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on 9th February 2017.
- 4. Review Of Parliamentary Constituencies: Council Response** Appendix B
To consider the Boundary Commission for England's revised proposals for future parliamentary constituencies for the Borough.
- 5. Community Governance Review – Newport Town Council** Appendix C
The report of the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning **To Follow**

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE**Minutes of a meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on Thursday 9th February 2017 at 6.00pm in Meeting Rooms G3/4, Addenbrooke House, Telford**

Present: Councillors R J Sloan (Chairman), R A Overton (Vice Chairman), K T Blundell, N A Dugmore, K R Guy and G C W Reynolds

In Attendance: J Eatough (Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning), D Bowen (Elections Team Leader) and S Worthington (Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer)

BRC-05 Apologies for Absence

Councillors I T W Fletcher and A D McClements

BRC-06 Declarations of Interest

None.

BRC-07 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on 29 September 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman

BRC-08 Community Governance Review

The Committee received the report of the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement and Commissioning. A draft timetable had been included for undertaking Community Governance Reviews, which demonstrated how the process would be completed within a 12 month period.

In response to a question, Members were advised that the number of signatories required to trigger a Review had changed since the 2010 guidance. Members raised their concerns regarding the number of electors required to trigger a review in respect of the smaller parishes, as it may be harder for smaller parishes to reach the required numbers.

The Committee was advised that the Council would work with Town and Parish Councils; however, the requests for Reviews should come from the community. Members were advised that the timetable was the same for a Review initiated by the community as one initiated by the Council.

Members raised their concerns regarding the impact on communities when parishes were split, for example, if there were significantly more resources in one area of the parish, which would lead to some areas funding facilities which were also used by other areas.

It was **RESOLVED** -

- (a) that the timetable and suggested process for undertaking Community Governance Reviews be agreed; and
- (b) that the Information Pack (Appendix B of the report) be approved and that authority be delegated to the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement and Commissioning, in consultation with the Chair, to make minor amendments to the Information Pack to ensure that the documentation is as useful as possible and reflects best practice in the efficient delivery of Community Governance Reviews; and
- (c) that, other than in exceptional circumstances, the policy that Community Governance Reviews will only be considered when a formal petition from local electors is received be endorsed.

The meeting ended at 6.31pm

Chairman:

Date:

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) previously undertook a public consultation throughout 2016, for the future parliamentary constituencies for the Borough.
- 1.2 The revised proposals were published on 17th October 2017, following consultation. Please see appendix B1 for the West Midlands extract of this BCE publication.
- 1.3 Revisions in the proposals are:
 - a) renaming of ‘The Wrekin’ constituency which will be known as ‘Bridgnorth and The Wrekin’
 - b) removal of the inclusion of Much Wenlock within Bridgnorth and The Wrekin
 - c) Proposals for Telford are unchanged from the original consultation document, so still include Donnington and Hadley & Leegomery which will ‘transfer’ from The Wrekin.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That Boundary Review Committee review the contents of the BCE’s revised proposals for the West Midlands region, in particular paragraphs 3.34 to 3.38 on pages 21-22 (see appendix B1)
- (ii) That Boundary Review Committee put forward any comments/views on a Council response to the final proposals, which are due by 11th December 2017, to the next full Council meeting on 23rd November 2017.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	No	
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	<i>Borough Wide</i>
DELIVERY DATE	Deadline for submissions in this Review –	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	There are no financial implications that will arise as a result of accepting the recommendations of this report.

LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The Council's Constitution states that it is the responsibility of the Boundary Review Committee to prepare information on and to recommend consultation responses to Council on Parliamentary Boundary Reviews.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	<i>Borough-wide impact.</i>

BACKGROUND

Parliamentary Boundary review

1.1 On 13 September 2016 the Boundary Review Commission for England issued proposals to amend the parliamentary boundaries for Telford and The Wrekin constituencies respectively. The Boundary review Committee considered these proposals at its meeting on 29 September 2016.

1.2 The original proposal for the Telford constituency remains: that the ward boundary will be extended to take in the district wards of Donnington and Hadley & Leegomery which are currently in the Wrekin constituency.

The revised parliamentary electorate for the Telford constituency is 76,556

1.3 The proposal for The Wrekin constituency is to extend the constituency by including six Shropshire county wards, from the existing Ludlow constituency, including the towns of Bridgnorth and Broseley. Much Wenlock is no longer included in the revised proposal. This constituency will be called Bridgnorth and The Wrekin.

The revised parliamentary electorate for the Bridgnorth and The Wrekin constituency is 73,850

1.4 The Committee is asked to consider the proposals and make any comment which should be returned to the Boundary Commission for England. The deadline for submitting any comments is 11 December 2017.

Background Papers

Further information and the full set of revised proposals from the Boundary Commission for England can be accessed at the following online web page: www.bce2018.org.uk

Report prepared by Dave Bowen, Elections Team Leader, telephone 01952 383210

Revised proposals for new constituency boundaries in the West Midlands



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Summary

Who we are and what we do

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

The 2018 Review

We have the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. We are currently conducting a review on the basis of new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), resulting in the number of constituencies in the West Midlands reducing by six, to 53. The rules also require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions¹ – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

How did we conduct the 2018 Review?

We published our initial proposals for new boundaries in September 2016 and consulted on them. We received written comments and oral submissions at public hearings held in each region. We published all the comments we received and we held a second consultation exercise in relation to them in March 2017. We are very grateful for all the comments that these two consultation exercises have generated. We have now completed the next stage of the review process and we are now publishing our revised proposals. For each region, the revised proposals report sets out our analysis of all the responses to our

initial proposals in the first and second consultations, and the conclusions we have reached as to how those proposals should be revised as a result. The annex to each report contains details of the composition of each constituency in our revised proposals for the relevant region; maps to illustrate these constituencies can be viewed on our website or in hard copy at a local place of deposit near you.

What are the revised proposals for the West Midlands?

We have revised the composition of 36 of the 53 constituencies we proposed in September 2016. After careful consideration, we have decided not to make any revisions to the composition of the remaining 17. In one instance, however, we have revised our proposed name for a constituency.

Under our revised proposals, six constituencies in the West Midlands would be the same as they are under the existing arrangements.

As it was not always possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, our initial proposals grouped some local authority areas into sub-regions. It was also necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county or unitary authority boundaries. Following consideration of the representations made on our initial proposals, our revised proposals divide the region into four sub-regions, as shown in the table overleaf.

¹ The specified exemptions in England to the rules on constituency size are the two constituencies in the Isle of Wight.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Allocation under revised proposals
Coventry and Warwickshire	9	8
Solihull	2	2
Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire, and the West Midlands metropolitan county area (less Coventry and Solihull)	36	32
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	12	11

As in our initial proposals, we have proposed six constituencies that cross county boundaries. We have proposed one constituency that contains part of Coventry and part of Warwickshire. We have proposed one constituency that contains part of Shropshire and part of Telford and Wrekin, one constituency that contains part of Herefordshire and part of Shropshire, one constituency that contains part of Herefordshire and part of Worcestershire, one constituency that contains part of Birmingham and part of Worcestershire. We have also proposed one constituency that contains part of Staffordshire and part of Stoke-on-Trent.

By including Coventry and Warwickshire in a sub-region, we have been able to minimise change across these two areas and have proposed a Coventry South and Kenilworth constituency, thereby allowing for all of the Warwick University campus to be included in one constituency.

In Solihull, we have minimised change by only moving two wards between constituencies in the borough.

In Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Worcestershire, we have made a number of changes, including putting Much Wenlock in a Ludlow and Leominster constituency, Bromyard in a Malvern and Ledbury constituency, and Drakes Broughton in an Evesham constituency.

In the remainder of the West Midlands metropolitan county area, we have revised our initial proposals based on local views

and in order to attempt to minimise change from the existing pattern of constituencies. We have proposed that the two Bromsgrove district wards of Rubery North and Rubery South be included in a Birmingham Northfield constituency. We have suggested splitting three wards (Brierley Hill in Dudley and Greets Green and Lyng, and St. Pauls in Sandwell) between constituencies.

In Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, we have made changes to the constituencies in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, and Stoke-on-Trent so as to reduce the amount of change to the pattern of existing constituencies.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our revised proposals for an eight-week period, from 17 October 2017 to 11 December 2017. We encourage everyone to use this final opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when we make recommendations to the Government.

We ask everyone wishing to contribute to the design of the new constituencies to first look at the revised proposals report, and accompanying maps, before responding to us. The best way to respond to our revised proposals is through our consultation website: www.bce2018.org.uk.

1 What is the Boundary Commission for England?

1.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is required by Parliament to review Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. We conduct a review of all the constituencies in England every five years. Our role is to make recommendations to Parliament for new constituency boundaries. We also make recommendations for any changes in the names of individual constituencies.

1.2 The Chair of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons, but by convention he or she does not participate in the formulation of the Commission's recommendations, nor in the conduct of the review. The Deputy Chair and two further Commissioners take decisions on what recommendations to make for new constituency boundaries. They are assisted in their task by 21 assistant commissioners (two or three allocated to each of the nine regions of England). Further information about the Commissioners and assistant commissioners can be found in the 'About us' section of our corporate website.²

1.3 Our consultation website at www.bce2018.org.uk contains all the information needed to view and comment on our revised proposals. You can also contact us with any general enquiries by emailing information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk, by calling 020 7276 1102, or by writing to:

The Secretary to the Commission
Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

² <http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/about-us>

2 Background to the 2018 Review

2.1 There are four Boundary Commissions covering the UK with separate Commissions for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 states that they must conduct a review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries, and make recommendations to Government, every five years. Under the current review, we must report in September 2018. The four Commissions work separately, and this report covers only the work of the Boundary Commission for England and, in particular, introduces our revised proposals for the West Midlands.

2.2 Parliamentary boundaries are important, as they define the area in which voters will elect a Member of Parliament. If our recommendations are accepted, they would be used for the first time at the next General Election following their acceptance.

2.3 The legislation we work to states that there will be 600 Parliamentary constituencies covering the UK – a reduction of 50 from the current number. For England, that means that the number of constituencies must reduce from 533 to 501. There are also new rules that the Commission has to adhere to when conducting the review – a full set of rules can be found in our Guide to the 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituencies ('the Guide'),³ published in the summer of 2016, but they are also summarised later in this chapter. Most significantly, the rules state that every constituency we recommend (with the exception of two covering the Isle of Wight) must contain between 71,031 and 78,507 electors.

2.4 This is a significant change to the old rules under which Parliamentary boundary reviews took place, where achieving as close to the average number of electors in each constituency was an aim but not an overriding legal necessity. For example, in England, the largest constituency currently has around twice as many electors as the smallest. Achieving a more even distribution of electors in every constituency across England, together with the reduction in the total number of constituencies, means that a significant scale of change to the existing map of constituencies is inevitable.

2.5 If implemented, the recommendations that we will make in September 2018 will be the first set of boundaries to be defined under the new rules. While there has to be a significant amount of change across the country, we will, where possible, try to limit the extent of such change, having regard to the statutory factors. Under the Act, we have a challenging job to do in conducting a review of constituency boundaries that is necessarily going to result, in many places, in a pattern of constituencies that is unfamiliar to the public. Nevertheless the review has been one that we have conducted in a rigorous and thorough fashion.

2.6 The revised proposals that we set out in this report, and in the reports for the other eight regions across England, are made on the basis of the evidence we received during two consultation exercises, the careful consideration of our assistant commissioners and the best judgement of the three Boundary Commissioners. We are confident that these revised

³ Available at <http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-review>.

proposals strike the best balance between the statutory factors and, having consulted twice already, we are close to settling on a pattern of constituencies to recommend to Parliament next year. There may be particular areas across the country where our judgement has been a balanced and marginal one between competing alternatives, and in such cases, we have made clear that we are looking for further evidence before we finalise our recommendations. In many areas we are persuaded by the evidence we have received thus far, and we would therefore require new and significantly stronger arguments to make us depart from our revised proposals. If it exists, such new and compelling evidence would be welcome. However, we will not be assisted by repetition of arguments that have already been made, and which we have already considered. The requirement to keep constituencies within the permitted range of electors is strict, but otherwise we have sought to balance often conflicting considerations. Our proposals must also be comprehensive. We are acutely conscious that very often a change in one constituency necessarily requires an alteration in another and sometimes the consequential alterations reverberate through a whole chain of constituencies.

2.7 *The Guide* contains further detailed background, and explains all the policies and procedures that we are following in conducting the review, in greater depth than in this consultation document. We encourage anyone wishing to be involved in the review to read the Guide, to enable greater understanding of the rules and constraints placed on the Commission, especially if they are intending to comment on our revised proposals.

The rules in the legislation

2.8 The rules contained in the legislation state that every constituency in England (except two covering the Isle of Wight) must have an electorate of between 71,031 and 78,507 – that is, 5% either side of the electoral quota of 74,769. The legislation also states that, when deciding on boundaries, the Commission may also take into account:

- special geographical considerations, including the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency
- local government boundaries as they existed on 7 May 2015
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.

2.9 It is essential to understand that none of the factors mentioned in the list above overrides the necessity to achieve an electorate in each constituency that is within the range allowed, as explained previously. In relation to local government boundaries in particular, it should be noted that we are obliged to take into account local government boundaries as they existed in May 2015. Our initial proposals for the region and the accompanying maps were based on the wards as they existed in May 2015, and our revised proposals contained within this report continue to be based on those boundaries. The Guide outlines further our policy on how, and to what extent, we take into account local government boundaries that have been amended since 2015.

2.10 In our initial proposals, we took into account the boundaries of existing constituencies so far as we could, and tried to retain existing constituencies where possible, so long as the other factors could also be satisfied. As mentioned earlier in this chapter, because of the scale of change required to fulfil the obligations imposed on us by the new rules, this proved difficult. Our initial proposals retained 12% of the existing constituencies in the West Midlands – the remainder were new constituencies (although in a number of cases we were able to limit the changes to existing constituencies, making only minor changes as necessary to enable us to comply with the new rules).

2.11 Among the many arguments we heard in response to the consultations on our initial proposals was the need to have particular regard to this factor of the rules to which we work. While some respondents put a higher value on retaining existing constituency boundaries over the other factors in the rules, it is the Commission's task to balance all the factors. As we set out in the course of this report, our revised proposals retain six (10%) of the existing 59 constituencies in the West Midlands.

The use of the regions used for European elections

2.12 Our proposals are based on the nine regions used for European elections. This report relates to the West Midlands. There are eight other separate reports containing our revised proposals for the other regions. At the very beginning of the 2018 Review we decided, in agreement with all the main political parties, to use these regions as a basis for working out our initial proposals. You can find more details in the Guide and on our website. We stated in our initial proposals report that, while this approach does not prevent anyone from making proposals to us that cross regional boundaries, we would need to have compelling reasons provided to us to persuade us to depart from the region-based approach.

2.13 In response to the consultations on our initial proposals, we did not receive sufficient evidence across the country to suggest that we should depart from the regional approach to this review. Therefore, this report, and all other regional reports, continues to use the regional boundaries as a basis for proposals for constituencies.

Timetable for the review

Stage one – initial proposals

2.14 We began this review in February 2016 by publishing breakdowns of the electorate for each ward, local government authority and existing constituency, which were prepared using electorate data provided by local authorities and the Office for National Statistics. These are available on the data pages of our corporate website.⁴ The Commission spent a number of months considering the factors outlined above and drawing up our initial proposals. We published our initial proposals for consultation for each of England's nine regions on 13 September 2016.

Stage two – consultation on initial proposals

2.15 We consulted on our initial proposals for 12 weeks, from 13 September 2016 to 5 December 2016. This consultation period also included holding 36 public hearings, at which people had the opportunity to make oral representations. We received more than 18,000 unique written representations across the country as a whole, including more than 1,600 unique written representations relating to the West Midlands. We also heard more than 190 oral representations at the four public hearings in the West Midlands. We are grateful to all those who took the time and trouble to read and respond to our initial proposals.

Stage three – consultation on representations received

2.16 The legislation requires us to publish all the representations we received on our initial proposals, and to allow people to send us comments on them for a four-week period. We published the representations on 28 February 2017 and invited comments on them until 27 March 2017. We received more than 7,500 unique written representations across the country as a whole during those four weeks.

Stage four – publication of revised proposals

2.17 As we outline in chapter 3, having considered the evidence presented to us, we have decided that the evidence is such that it is appropriate to revise our initial proposals in some areas. Therefore, as we are required to do (under the legislation), on 17 October 2017, we are publishing this report – Revised proposals for new constituency boundaries in the West Midlands – alongside eight others, one for each of the other regions in England. We are consulting on our revised proposals for the statutory eight-week period, which closes on 11 December 2017. Unlike the initial consultation period, there is no provision in the legislation for further public hearings, nor is there a repeat of the four-week period for commenting on the representations of others. Chapter 4 outlines how you can contribute during this consultation period.

⁴ <http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/data-and-resources>

Stage five – final recommendations

2.18 Once the consultation on revised proposals has closed on 11 December 2017, we will consider all the representations received at this stage, and throughout the review, before making final recommendations to the Government. The legislation states that we must do this during September 2018. Further details about what the Government and Parliament must do to implement our recommendations are contained in the Guide.

2.19 At the launch of each stage of consultation, we have taken – and are continuing to take – all reasonable steps to publicise our proposals, so that as many people as possible are aware of the consultation and can take the opportunity to contribute to our review of constituencies.

3 Revised proposals for the West Midlands

3.1 In July 2016, we arranged for the appointment of two assistant commissioners for the West Midlands – Margaret Gilmore and David Latham – to assist us with the analysis of the representations received during the first two consultation periods. This included chairing public hearings held in the region to collect oral evidence, as follows:

- Birmingham: 3–4 November 2016
- Shrewsbury: 7–8 November 2016
- Royal Leamington Spa: 10–11 November 2016
- Stafford: 14–15 November 2016

3.2 We asked the assistant commissioners to consider all the written and oral representations, and to make recommendations to us on whether our initial proposals should be revised, in light of evidence provided in the representations. It is important to stress that the assistant commissioners had no involvement in developing – and therefore no vested interest in supporting – our initial proposals. Accordingly, they came to the analysis with an independent mind, open to viable alternative proposals supported by evidence. We are incredibly grateful for the thorough and methodical approach the assistant commissioners have taken to their work.

3.3 What follows in this chapter is:

- a brief recap of our initial proposals
- a description of the counter-proposals put forward during the consultations
- the assistant commissioners’ analysis of the strength of the arguments for adoption of any of those counter-proposals
- our decision on whether or not to make changes to our proposals in the given area.

3.4 A tabular summary of the revised constituencies we now propose appears at Annex A to this report.

3.5 Throughout this chapter, where we refer to a respondent’s response we also include the reference number, i.e. BCE-12345. This reference number corresponds with the representations that can be found on our consultation website at www.bce2018.org.uk. All representations received in response to the first two consultations are publicly available on this website. The representations received in response to these revised proposals will be published at the end of the review.

3.6 The use of the term ‘ward’ throughout this document should be taken to mean electoral division in reference to the county unitary authority of Shropshire.

The sub-region split

3.7 In our initial proposals we decided to divide the West Midlands region into two sub-regions. These were: Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent; and Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Warwickshire, West Midlands county, and Worcestershire. The electorate of Stoke-on-Trent was 179,857 and was too large to be allocated two constituencies and too small to be allocated three constituencies. We decided to pair it with the neighbouring county of Staffordshire, with an allocation of 11 constituencies, one fewer than at present. It would be necessary to pair some of the counties in the rest of the region to be able to allocate whole numbers of constituencies, and we decided to create one sub-region that contained all of the rest of the region, as this would provide, at that stage, the best reflection of the rules we work to across the region as a whole.

3.8 There was a little support for our proposed sub-regions. The Labour Party (BCE-33146) counter-proposal did not suggest any different sub-regions. Many representations objected to the inclusion of the Stratford-on-Avon district ward of Tanworth-in-Arden in the Shirley and Solihull South constituency, and to the inclusion of wards from Warwickshire in the initial proposals for an Evesham and South Warwickshire constituency. For example, Martin King (BCE-28477) objected and said 'Firstly, the constituency would stretch from very close to the edge of Tewkesbury (at Strensham) across the Vale of Evesham and then through rural areas to be fairly proximate to Banbury (at Farnborough),

and there is no natural geographical linkage or synergy across this area, nor is there any East/West major road route across the bulk of the constituency. There are no rail or bus linkages across the whole of constituency, and to drive from one extreme of the constituency to the other would take about 1 hour 30 minutes. Whilst the town of Evesham is probably a maximum of 50 minutes from any point in the proposed constituency, I would anticipate that the nature of the cross constituency links would mitigate against effective political organisation across such an area.'

3.9 There were a large number of objections to the inclusion of two Solihull borough wards in the initial proposals for a Coventry West and Meriden constituency. Some of the representations also objected to the consequential division of the neighbouring towns of Dorridge and Knowle between constituencies. Dame Caroline Spelman MP (Meriden) submitted a petition with 831 names (BCE-33203 and BCE-41009) objecting to the initial proposals. There were also calls for Solihull Borough to be reviewed separately and allocated two constituencies, with only minimal change to the two existing constituencies. Many of the objections to the inclusion of the towns of Warwick and Royal Leamington Spa in separate constituencies suggested that the town of Kenilworth should be included in a constituency with wards from the south of the City of Coventry.

3.10 There was some opposition to the cross-county constituency of Ludlow and Leominster. Some representations observed that it had the largest geographic area of any constituency in the region, and that it would be the fourth largest constituency by area in England. For example, Keith Lawton (BCE-19056) stated ‘To put the village of Sutton Saint Nicholas into the Ludlow and Leominster boundary group is illogical. Sutton is only 3 miles from Hereford, whereas Ludlow is 35 miles away which is a 70 mile return journey if you wanted to see your MP.’ However, nobody suggested any alternative pairings for Herefordshire or Shropshire that met with any level of public support.

3.11 Our assistant commissioners considered these issues carefully, and felt it would be helpful to recommend an alternative sub-regional grouping. They agreed that there should not be a constituency that crossed the county boundary between Warwickshire and Worcestershire. They decided that Warwickshire should be paired with the City of Coventry and allocated eight constituencies. They also accepted the evidence that the Borough of Solihull should be a sub-region on its own, with two constituencies allocated. They further decided that Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire, and the five West Midlands boroughs of Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, and Wolverhampton should be joined to form a sub-region, and be allocated 32 constituencies. They agreed that there was no need to alter the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent sub-region. We agree with their proposed sub-regions.

3.12 In the next sections of our report, we consider each sub-region in turn, summarising our initial proposals followed by the responses and counter-proposals received, our assistant commissioners’ consideration of the evidence and their recommendations, and our revised proposals on the basis of the evidence received and in accordance with the statutory rules for the 2018 Review.

Coventry and Warwickshire

3.13 Of the nine existing constituencies in this sub-region, only one (Coventry North East) has an electorate that is currently within 5% of the electoral quota. Under our initial proposals, we proposed a reduction of one in the number of constituencies in this sub-region, and we recommended that the existing Coventry North East constituency remain unchanged. We proposed changes to the other eight constituencies, and recommended one constituency that crossed the Warwickshire county boundary with Worcestershire, one constituency that crossed the Warwickshire county boundary with Solihull Borough, and one constituency that crossed the Coventry city boundary with Solihull Borough.

3.14 There was widespread opposition to the initial proposals for Coventry and Warwickshire. Our proposal to include the town of Warwick in a Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon constituency led to many objections, which said that the towns of Warwick and Royal Leamington Spa should be in same constituency, as in the existing Warwick and Leamington constituency. For example, Ben Wesson

(BCE-30079) on behalf of Warwick and Leamington Constituency Labour Party said that ‘We believe that Warwick and Leamington form a community of common interest, common culture, common trade and industry and a common future. Not only are the towns geographically linked with no green space separating them, they also complement each other by their diverse strengths; Warwick as a historic county town and national tourist centre and Leamington much-valued for its architecture, gardens and as a retail and leisure destination. To the people of the two towns the boundaries are invisible because they are viewed as one unit and one community.’ Maxine Godfrey (BCE-25877) said ‘I firmly believe the towns of Warwick and Leamington should remain as one constituency for many reasons. It seems as if the Boundary Commission proposal is the result of just reallocating numbers in each constituency, with no thought to the consequences. The proposed boundaries do not reflect a recognisable geographic, nor economic community. Warwick and Leamington are physically attached to each other – with many shared services. To split them apart with Warwick in the Stratford constituency and Leamington in the Kenilworth constituency is splitting them to no good effect. Stratford and Kenilworth are miles from Warwick and Leamington, whereas there is no gap between Warwick and Leamington. It would isolate each town to the periphery of separate constituencies and would be to the detriment of the local economy. Dividing the towns will damage the link between them and it is not in line with the makeup of the local area. If each is assigned to a separate constituency it will not make sense in terms of the

close affiliation of the towns and the corresponding Local Authority structure. Local ties would be broken. The local economies of W&L are interconnected. Public services are closely interlinked. Warwick/Leamington has a joint forward plan for residential and commercial development. The proposals also split the actual town of Warwick, because the proposed new constituency of Kenilworth and Leamington would include part of Warwick – the Myton and Heathcote ward of the district – which falls within the boundaries of Warwick town.’ The assistant commissioners did note that there was some limited support for a division of Warwick and Royal Leamington Spa, e.g. Charles Bourne (BCE-36771), but such a view did not enjoy widespread support.

3.15 Our assistant commissioners noted that, over the course of two days at the public hearing in Royal Leamington Spa, the overwhelming majority of the speakers spoke in favour of retaining a Warwick and Leamington constituency, instead of putting the town of Warwick in a constituency with the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, and the town of Royal Leamington Spa in a constituency with the town of Kenilworth. Most of the counter-proposals received suggested an identical Warwick and Leamington constituency, which would satisfy those objectors to our initial proposals.

3.16 While the issue of the division of the towns of Warwick and Leamington Spa cannot be considered in isolation, given the knock-on effects across the south of the region, our assistant commissioners were persuaded by the evidence from the community of the breaking of local

ties and recommended that these two towns must be included in the same constituency and they therefore sought to build recommendations that achieved this. We agree.

3.17 There were also a number of objections to the division in the initial proposals of Stratford-on-Avon district among four constituencies. Objectors suggested that by dividing the district between only two constituencies, the ties of residents with a Stratford-on-Avon constituency would be maintained.

3.18 There were objections to the proposed division of the City of Coventry between constituencies. It was accepted that the electorate of the city was too small to allow for the retention of three constituencies, each wholly within the city boundary. We had included two Solihull wards (Knowle and Meriden) in our initial proposals for a Coventry West and Meriden constituency. The Conservative Party (BCE-32257), the Liberal Democrat Party (BCE-31732) and the Green Party (BCE-28253) all suggested that the three Warwick district wards making up the town of Kenilworth (Abbey, Park Hill, and St. John's) should be included in a Coventry South and Kenilworth constituency to allow for, among other things, all of the campus of Warwick University to be included in one constituency. Mike O'Brien QC (BCE-31666), and Jim Cunningham MP (Coventry South) and Geoffrey Robinson MP (Coventry North West) (BCE-22932) suggested that there were close links between the town of Bedworth, in the] Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth, and the City of Coventry, as demonstrated

by the new rail link (known as 'Nuckle') between the two towns and that Bedworth should be included in a Coventry constituency. Mr Cunningham and Mr Robinson (BCE-32278) also gave evidence in support of their counter-proposal on day one at the Royal Leamington Spa public hearing.

3.19 Our assistant commissioners noted that to include Bedworth in a Coventry constituency would require extensive changes to the pattern of the existing constituencies in the north and east of Warwickshire. They also noted that there had been support for the North Warwickshire and Nuneaton constituencies in our initial proposals, and that there had been objections to any counter-proposal that had divided North Warwickshire district between constituencies. Mark Bramley (BCE-33857) said 'I support the original Boundary Commission Proposals for the North Warwickshire Constituency to include Hartshill and Arley and therefore unite the whole of North Warwickshire Borough with Bedworth in one constituency. I believe the name of the constituency should change to 'North Warwickshire and Bedworth' to formally include both parts of the constituency in the title. I reject calls to divide or break up the North Warwickshire Borough – it is important and logical to keep North Warwickshire Borough in one constituency. It has one Borough Council and should have one Member of Parliament. There are also strong local, social, historic, economic and geographical ties between all the parishes in North Warwickshire, it would be detrimental to the community to break this.' Our assistant commissioners also noted the objections to including part of

the Borough of Solihull in a constituency with part of the City of Coventry (see Solihull sub-region below).

3.20 The Labour Party (BCE-33146) counter-proposal maintained a constituency that crossed the Warwickshire and Worcestershire county boundary. It also maintained the existing Kenilworth and Southam constituency. It proposed that there should be a constituency containing most of the towns of Nuneaton and Bedworth, with wards from the west of the city of Coventry included in a constituency with wards from North Warwickshire Borough.

3.21 Mike O'Brien QC, the former MP for North Warwickshire, and Jim Cunningham MP (Coventry South) and Geoffrey Robinson MP (Coventry North West) submitted similar counter-proposals. They proposed that Bedworth should be included in a Coventry West and Bedworth constituency. The town of Kenilworth would be included in a Meriden and Kenilworth constituency. The four northern Solihull borough wards, including the Chelmsley Wood area, would be included in a North Warwickshire constituency, because they claimed that there are links between these two areas. The North Warwickshire borough ward of Curdworth would be included in a Sutton Coldfield constituency, and the North Warwickshire borough ward of Newton Regis and Warton would be included in a Tamworth constituency across the county boundary with Staffordshire.

3.22 While there was some support for this pattern of constituencies in these similar counter-proposals, our assistant commissioners advised that, in light of the requirement for the Commission to have regard to existing constituencies, there was more change required by them than was necessary and rejected them both. They noted that to include the town of Bedworth in a Coventry constituency would require extensive changes to our initial proposals for the North Warwickshire constituency, and to neighbouring constituencies, which they considered would be unnecessarily disruptive. They also noted the support received for that proposed North Warwickshire constituency, which would be included in four separate constituencies under this counter-proposal. They also rejected the Labour Party counter-proposal because it did not fit with all of the objections received across Warwickshire.

3.23 The assistant commissioners considered that, given the objections, the towns of Warwick and Royal Leamington Spa should in fact remain in the same constituency, Kenilworth should be in a constituency with Coventry South as discussed above, and that Stratford-on-Avon did not then need to be divided among four constituencies. They noted that a particular counter-proposal, (though put forward separately by each of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat, and Green parties), which overall made fewest changes to the existing pattern of constituencies, would address most of these issues. It maintained a Warwick and Leamington constituency and only divided Stratford-on-Avon district between two constituencies. It included the Warwick

district ward of Radford Semele in a Rugby and Southam constituency, to compensate for the Stratford-on-Avon district ward of Kineton being included in a Stratford-on-Avon constituency. While it did not retain the existing Coventry North East constituency unchanged, it did suggest a practical division of the City of Coventry into three constituencies, two of which were wholly in Coventry.

3.24 In looking at the best pattern of constituencies across Coventry and Warwickshire, our assistant commissioners advised us that the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties' counter-proposals were the best for this area. They considered that there was no need to include parts of Warwickshire in any other neighbouring county. They noted that to accept this counter-proposal for Coventry and Warwickshire would also affect the pattern of constituencies across the other boroughs in the West Midlands county, and in Worcestershire, but they decided that the evidence received concerning this sub-region was so compelling as to fully warrant making these changes and the changes required to other sub-regions. They considered that it came closer to balancing the criteria laid down by Parliament for reviewing constituency boundaries than other counter-proposals or indeed the initial proposals for this region.

3.25 As part of their counter-proposal, the Conservative Party (specifically) had suggested that the proposed North Warwickshire constituency should be renamed as North Warwickshire and Bedworth, to reflect the inclusion of the town in the constituency. Our assistant commissioners noted that the town of

Bedworth had been included in the North Warwickshire constituency since 1983 without being referenced in the name. As the constituency was not being changed significantly from the existing constituency, they decided not to recommend altering the name to include Bedworth.

3.26 We agree with and adopt the assistant commissioners' recommendations.

Solihull

3.27 Of the two existing constituencies in this sub-region, one has an electorate that is currently within 5% of the electoral quota. Under our initial proposals, we proposed changes to both constituencies, so that parts of Solihull Borough would be contained in three constituencies, each of which would contain wards from a neighbouring local authority (Birmingham, Coventry, and Stratford-on-Avon).

3.28 There was widespread opposition to the initial proposals for Solihull. Solihull Borough Council (BCE-28938) called for two constituencies to be formed wholly within the borough, with the Blythe ward being included in the Solihull constituency, and the Elmdon ward being included in the Meriden constituency. This counter-proposal was supported by the Conservative Party (BCE-32257), as part of its regional counter-proposal. The Liberal Democrat Party (BCE-31732) and the Green Party (BCE-28253) also suggested this division of Solihull between constituencies as part of their regional counter-proposals, as did Aaron Fear (BCE-31726). These counter-proposals also united the villages of Knowle and Dorridge, which were divided by the initial

proposals, a move which had brought considerable objection. It was argued by many, for example Barry Cox (BCE-21393) that ‘Knowle is part of Solihull and together, Knowle, Dorridge, and Bentley Heath are and always will be considered a unit with historical local ties. It is essentially rural with no links to Coventry, West or otherwise.’

3.29 Adrian Bailey (BCE-32166) proposed that, because the Elmdon ward was ‘an integral part of the town’ of Solihull, the Solihull borough ward of Bickenhill should be split between constituencies, which would allow for a better match of existing constituencies.

3.30 Other counter-proposals that affected Solihull were received from Jonathan Stansby (BCE-18871), John Chanin (BCE-25109), Oliver Raven (BCE-30045), the Labour Party (BCE-33146), Mike O’Brien QC (BCE-31666), and Jim Cunningham MP (Coventry South) and Geoffrey Robinson MP (Coventry West) (BCE-22932), all suggesting different divisions of Solihull as part of their counter-proposals, which all included constituencies that crossed the borough boundary. As detailed in the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region above, our assistant commissioners rejected these counter-proposals because they accepted that the best way to reflect the rules was to recommend two constituencies wholly within the Borough of Solihull. They noted that this would affect the pattern of the initial proposals for constituencies in Birmingham, with the Birmingham city ward of Sheldon having to be included in a Birmingham constituency, rather than in a Solihull constituency.

3.31 Our assistant commissioners advised us that there was no need to split a ward between constituencies in Solihull, with the whole ward counter-proposal having widespread support. They noted that this would move more electors between constituencies, and considered that such a move would not constitute the ‘exceptional and compelling reasons’ required to split a ward. Therefore they recommended that the Solihull borough ward of Elmdon should be included in a Meriden constituency, and the Solihull borough ward of Blythe should be included in a Solihull constituency. They rejected suggestions to change the name of the Meriden constituency, such as suggested by the Liberal Democrat Party who wanted to include reference to Chelmsley Wood within the constituency name, because there had only been minimal change to the existing constituency. We accept all their recommendations.

Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire, and the West Midlands metropolitan county area (less Coventry and Solihull)

3.32 Of the 36 existing constituencies in this sub-region, only nine have electorates that are currently within 5% of the electoral quota. Under our initial proposals we proposed to reduce the number of constituencies in this sub-region to 32 and we recommended that three of the existing constituencies (Birmingham Hodge Hill, North Shropshire, and Sutton Coldfield) remain unchanged. We proposed changes to the other 33 constituencies, and recommended one constituency that crossed the

Shropshire county boundary with Telford and Wrekin, one constituency that crossed the Herefordshire county boundary with Shropshire, one constituency that crossed the Herefordshire county boundary with Worcestershire, one constituency that crossed the Warwickshire county boundary with Worcestershire, and one constituency that crossed the Birmingham city boundary with Solihull Borough.

3.33 In the boroughs that formed the county of West Midlands, the size of the electorate in each ward made it very difficult to form constituencies containing whole wards only. This was a particular problem in the City of Birmingham and the Borough of Dudley. We decided, in our initial proposals, that we would not recommend any constituencies in the West Midlands which would contain parts of a split ward, but that ‘we would welcome evidence on whether an alternative configuration of constituencies could be formulated that was not based on whole wards’. In response to the consultation we received a number of representations that suggested splitting wards in Birmingham, Dudley, and Sandwell.

Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Worcestershire

3.34 In Shropshire, we decided to make no change to the existing North Shropshire constituency as part of our initial proposals. While we could have made no change to the existing Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency, we decided to include the Shropshire ward of Chirbury and Worthen in a renamed Shrewsbury constituency. We had to increase the existing Telford constituency

to bring the electorate to within the permitted electorate range and this meant that we had to include an additional six Shropshire wards in a renamed Bridgnorth, Wellington and The Wrekin constituency. The remaining 11 Shropshire wards were included in a cross-county boundary constituency called Ludlow and Leominster with 15 wards from Herefordshire.

3.35 There was support for our proposals in Shropshire, but a number of objections were received as to which Telford and Wrekin wards should be included in the expanded Telford constituency, and to the inclusion of the Much Wenlock ward in the proposed Bridgnorth, Wellington and The Wrekin constituency.

3.36 In Shropshire, the Conservative Party (BCE-32257) suggested including the Telford and Wrekin ward of Apley Castle in the Telford constituency, and the Telford and Wrekin ward of Donnington in a renamed The Wrekin constituency. They also proposed the inclusion of the Shropshire ward of Much Wenlock in the Ludlow and Leominster constituency. The Liberal Democrat Party proposed that the Chirbury and Worthen ward be included in the Ludlow and Leominster constituency.

3.37 Our assistant commissioners noted that there had been a significant level of support for our proposed constituency of Telford, and our proposed Bridgnorth, Wellington and The Wrekin constituency. For example, Peter Bradley (BCE-27231), who is a former MP for The Wrekin, argued that ‘Transferring the urban areas of Donnington and Hadley & Leegomery into the predominantly urban Telford constituency makes obvious sense. The

communities of those two wards have closer links and more closely shared characteristics with other parts of Telford than they do with the rural parts of The Wrekin and this revision will help create a homogeneous and relatively compact constituency.’ They also noted the evidence from Lucy Allan MP (Telford) (BCE-39846) suggesting that the support for the initial proposals had all come from one political party and should not be given any weight. They rejected Ms Allan’s argument and based their conclusion on the evidence presented to them and did not consider the alleged political consequences of any alternatives put before them. Our assistant commissioners rejected the counter-proposal from the Conservative Party for an exchange of wards between the proposed Telford, and Bridgnorth, Wellington and The Wrekin constituencies noting that there was insufficient evidence to support such a change. They recommended no change to proposed North Shropshire and Shrewsbury constituencies. We agree.

3.38 The assistant commissioners noted the objections to the name of the proposed Bridgnorth, Wellington and The Wrekin constituency. They accepted the argument that the town of Wellington had historical connections to the name The Wrekin and did not need to be included in the constituency. They did not agree that The Wrekin was a correct description for the whole of the proposed constituency, as the existing The Wrekin constituency had been enlarged to include the town of Bridgnorth. They recommended that the constituency should be named Bridgnorth and The Wrekin. We agree.

3.39 In Shropshire, the assistant commissioners considered the Conservative Party counter-proposal to include the Much Wenlock ward in the Ludlow and Leominster constituency. They noted that evidence had been received of community and commercial links and was also supported by Much Wenlock Town Council (BCE-21016) and, for example, by B Revell (BCE-25227) who said that ‘Much Wenlock is located in the Shropshire Hills AONB, and geographically, economically and culturally has greater linkages within rural South Shropshire, than with the settlements agglomeration of the proposed new constituency.’

3.40 In deciding to include the Much Wenlock ward in a Ludlow and Leominster constituency, the assistant commissioners noted that this would leave the Broseley ward – on the west bank of the River Severn – without a direct road link across the river into the proposed Bridgnorth and The Wrekin constituency. They considered that this was not such an inconvenience for the electors of Broseley as to mean that the Much Wenlock ward should not be transferred, or that the Broseley ward should be included in a Ludlow and Leominster constituency, especially as to do so would lead to significant reconfigurations in Shropshire that were not justified. Therefore, they recommended we include Much Wenlock in the Ludlow and Leominster constituency, and we agree.

3.41 They noted the evidence relating to whether the Chirbury and Worthen ward should be included in the Shrewsbury, or the Ludlow and Leominster constituency. They considered that there were strong enough links between Chirbury, Worthen

and the town of Shrewsbury along the A488 to justify its inclusion in the Shrewsbury constituency, and that to include it in the Ludlow and Leominster constituency would make an already geographically large constituency even larger. We agree.

3.42 In Herefordshire, the existing Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency needed to be expanded and now contains 31 Herefordshire wards. The remaining seven Herefordshire wards were included in a cross-county boundary constituency called Malvern and Ledbury, with all of Malvern Hills district and the Ombersley ward from Wychavon district. There was support for the inclusion of the Backbury and Hagley wards in the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency. There were objections to the inclusion of the Old Gore ward in the proposed Malvern and Ledbury constituency, and to the inclusion of Bromyard in the Ludlow and Leominster constituency.

3.43 In Herefordshire, the Conservative Party suggested including the Credenhill ward in the Ludlow and Leominster constituency, and the Bromyard Bringsty and Bromyard West wards in the Malvern and Ledbury constituency. The Liberal Democrat Party suggested that the Bromyard Bringsty, Bromyard West, and Hampton wards be included in the Malvern and Ledbury constituency. A number of localised counter-proposals were also received. Bill Wiggin MP (North Herefordshire) (BCE-25933) suggested three alternatives affecting our initial proposals that included the existing North Herefordshire constituency. The West Midlands Green Party (BCE-28253)

suggested changes to the constituencies in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire, including creating a Ludlow and Stourport constituency, and gave evidence (BCE-32578) on day one of the Birmingham public hearing.

3.44 There was support for the inclusion of Bromyard in the Malvern and Ledbury constituency, with this being part of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties' counter-proposals. It was argued by Philip Dunne MP (Ludlow) (BCE-29597) that Bromyard looked more towards Tenbury Wells than to Leominster. The assistant commissioners advised us that the Liberal Democrat counter-proposal to move the three wards of Bromyard Bringsty, Bromyard West, and Hampton to the Malvern and Ledbury constituency achieved the best overall solution for the county.

3.45 In Herefordshire, our assistant commissioners noted the broad support for our initial proposals for the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency. For example, Bartestree with Lugwardine Parish Council (BCE-36820) said that it was 'sensible to move the Hagley Ward from the existing North Herefordshire to the new Hereford and South Herefordshire Constituency as it is only three or four miles from Hereford City'. They also suggested that the Old Gore ward should be included in the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency. This was echoed by Robert Palgrave (BCE-35141) who said 'I live in Old Gore ward, which is currently in the North Herefordshire Westminster constituency – although about 8 miles south of Hereford. It is in the wrong constituency already. The proposal to move us into the Ledbury and

Malvern constituency makes it even worse.’ Anna-Maria Coda (BCE-22167), on behalf of the Hereford and South Herefordshire Constituency Labour Party, noted that ‘we regret that ‘Old Gore’ could not have been accommodated within our new boundaries as we feel its residents will have little connection with the new area as they regard Ross as their local town.’

3.46 The assistant commissioners noted that to include the Old Gore ward in our proposed Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency would result in the electorate of that constituency falling outside the permitted electorate range, so one of the wards in the proposed constituency would have to be moved to another constituency. They accepted that the Old Gore ward would have close links with the town of Ross-on-Wye, but they noted that they were not currently in the same constituency, with the River Wye as the constituency boundary. They concluded that to make further changes to accommodate the Old Gore ward in the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency was not justified, and we agree.

3.47 The assistant commissioners noted that there had been objections to the inclusion of wards from Herefordshire in cross-county boundary constituencies with either Shropshire or Worcestershire. However, they considered that no one had put forward a viable alternative that would better reflect the rules and ties as expressed in the evidence across the sub-region as a whole. We agree.

3.48 In Worcestershire, we proposed that the Wychavon district wards of Drakes Broughton, and Norton and Whittington be included in the Worcester constituency. We also proposed that the Wychavon district ward of Hartlebury be included in the Wyre Forest constituency, even though that constituency could otherwise be left unchanged. We included eight Bromsgrove district wards in an expanded Redditch constituency, and combined the towns of Bromsgrove and Droitwich Spa in a Bromsgrove and Droitwich constituency. The remaining Worcestershire wards were included in a cross-county boundary Evesham and South Warwickshire constituency with wards from Stratford-on-Avon district.

3.49 While there was some support for the constituencies in the north of Worcestershire, there was opposition to our initial proposals for a cross-county boundary constituency with Warwickshire, and the division of Wychavon district among five constituencies, including from the Mid Worcester Liberal Democrats (BCE-30038) and residents. There were a number of different suggestions as to which neighbouring wards should be added to the Worcester constituency. As a result of the decisions made in Coventry and Warwickshire (see above), we noted that it was inevitable that changes would have to be made to our proposed constituencies in Worcestershire.

3.50 In Worcestershire, the Conservative Party suggested including the Malvern Hills district wards of Kempsey and Ripple in the Worcester constituency, and made changes consequent upon not crossing the Warwickshire and Worcestershire county boundary.

3.51 The Liberal Democrat Party suggested that the Wychavon district wards of Lovett and North Claines, and Ombersley be included in the Worcester constituency.

3.52 In Worcestershire, given the changes to the initial proposals so as not to recommend a constituency that crossed the Warwickshire and Worcestershire county boundary (see the section on Coventry and Warwickshire above), the assistant commissioners looked at the alternatives as to which wards might be added to the existing Worcester constituency to bring the electorate to within the electoral range. The Labour Party suggested that only the Wychavon district ward of Norton and Whittington needed to be included. Aaron Fear (BCE-31726) suggested the Malvern Hills district wards of Broadheath and Hallow should be included.

3.53 In the second consultation, the Labour Party (BCE-41029) said about the Conservative and Liberal Democrat counter-proposals that ‘Both of these proposals contain weaknesses which we would argue make them less acceptable in these respects than the Initial Proposals. In particular their Worcester constituencies are both unsatisfactory. The Lib Dem proposal would include two wards to the north of the city which look towards Droitwich as their local centre and would extend some miles from the urban area. The Conservative counter proposal would include the Malvern Hills district wards of Kempsey and Ripple, which would form a long thin “tail” to the constituency extending to the southern edge of the county.’

3.54 There were many objections to the inclusion of the Drakes Broughton ward in the Worcester constituency. Pat Davis (BCE-20652) said ‘As a large, rural area which looks to the local market town of Pershore for its services, Drakes Broughton Ward has little affinity with Worcester. Most people living in the Drakes Broughton Ward would say they live in or near Pershore.’ Sharon Stirling (BCE-39874) pointed out that these two wards formed part of the Upton Snodsbury electoral division on Worcestershire County Council and should be in the same constituency. In her evidence on day one of the Royal Leamington Spa public hearing (BCE-32338), she objected to both wards being included in the Worcester constituency.

3.55 There was support for the inclusion of the Norton and Whittington ward in the Worcester constituency. As Robert Campbell (BCE-33635) said ‘It makes sense to add Norton and Whittington. This Ward is within easy reach of Worcester City Centre. People living in this Ward use Worcester’s schools, NHS services, leisure, sport and shopping facilities and consider themselves to live in Worcester, even though they lie just outside the city council’s administrative boundary. The Norton and Whittington Ward has a number of recently built housing estates, with more planned, that constitute urban extensions to Worcester and were designed largely to meet Worcester’s housing needs. Norton and Whittington Ward is, to all extents and purposes, in Worcester.’

3.56 Our assistant commissioners considered that by including only the Norton and Whittington ward in the Worcester constituency, it would be a better reflection of the rules and help minimise change in Worcestershire. They accepted that this would result in the Norton and Whittington ward being an ‘orphan ward’⁵ in the Worcester constituency, but considered that this was not an overwhelming objection. We agree with their conclusion.

3.57 They noted that this change allowed for the Drakes Broughton ward to be included in a renamed Evesham constituency, which would not include any Warwickshire wards, thereby recognising the ward’s ties with the towns of Evesham and Pershore. To ensure that the electorate of the Evesham constituency fell within the permitted electorate range, the assistant commissioners recommended we adopt part of the Liberal Democrats’ counter-proposal, by including the five Malvern Hills district wards of Kempsey, Longdon, Morton, Ripple, and Upton and Hanley in the Evesham constituency. They noted that this would divide the Malvern Hills district between constituencies, but they also noted that these wards are currently in the same existing constituency as the town of Pershore, so that these ties would be respected. We agree.

3.58 The changes recommended above to the Malvern and Ledbury constituency allowed the assistant commissioners to recommend that the Wychavon district ward of Ombersley be included in the Bromsgrove and Droitwich constituency. They noted that the Ombersley ward is an

orphan ward on the east bank of the River Severn, while the rest of the proposed Malvern and Ledbury constituency is on the west bank. While there is a road connection via the A4133 across the River Severn, the assistant commissioners considered that the Ombersley ward should be in the same constituency as the town of Droitwich Spa. They noted the evidence of Ombersley and Doverdale Parish Council (BCE-24589) that ‘Historically, the Parish had developed an affinity with Droitwich. This is regarded as its ‘administrative centre’. Furthermore, many services (including postal services and school placements arrangements) have been developed (and continue to operate) on this basis. This relationship is well understood and the Parish Council feels that it is imperative that this relationship is preserved. Ombersley and Doverdale will be the only Parish within Wychavon District Council to be moved into the new Malvern and Ledbury constituency. As a consequence, to effectively represent the interests of the Parish, the serving Member of Parliament would be required to develop a day to day working relationship with the District Council for the benefit of only one Parish. The responsibilities of MPs are significant and the Parish Council believes that it would be unreasonable to expect an MP to do so. Whilst it is sure any serving MP would endeavour to represent the interests of the Parish, it believes that this is not realistic and it would become the ‘poor relations’ of the new Constituency. Historically, electoral divisions (whether Parish, District, County or Parliamentary) have always taken account of natural boundaries. In Ombersley and Doverdale’s

⁵ ‘Orphan ward’ refers to a clear minority of wards (usually just one ward) from one local authority, in a constituency where the overwhelming majority of wards are from another local authority.

case the River Severn has always formed one of these natural boundaries. This is well understood and the proposal to move the Parish to the other side of the River would simply create confusion.'

3.59 The assistant commissioners also noted that there had been objections to the inclusion of the Wychavon district ward of Hartlebury as an orphan ward in our proposed Wyre Forest constituency. For example, David Mills (BCE-21087) said 'Hartlebury is a rural ward as opposed to Wyre Forest which is mainly an urban constituency. The ward has a greater affinity with the rural area to the south – Ombersley. The Church parish is linked to Ombersley and Doverdale ... The Hartlebury Parish Plan links more with the Wychavon councils. There is no interaction with Wyre Forest at present.'

3.60 There was some support for Hartlebury's inclusion in the Wyre Forest constituency, such as from Ian Miller (BCE-26005) on behalf of Wyre Forest Council. However, having considered the evidence, the assistant commissioners recommended that Hartlebury ward should be included in the Bromsgrove and Droitwich constituency. They considered this would recognise the close ties between the Hartlebury and Ombersley wards. It will also revert Wyre Forest to a constituency that is coterminous with the Wyre Forest District and, therefore, be unchanged from the existing constituency. It will also mean that Wychavon district would only be divided between three of the recommended constituencies, as opposed to five in the initial proposals. We agree with their recommendation.

3.61 By including the Hartlebury and Ombersley wards in the Bromsgrove and Droitwich constituency, the assistant commissioners noted that the electorate of that constituency would fall outside the permitted electorate range. They noted that the Labour Party had suggested that the two Bromsgrove district wards of Rubery North and Rubery South should be included in a Birmingham Northfield constituency. They visited the area to see the links between Rubery and the Birmingham city ward of Longbridge, which borders Rubery. They noted that, while there was some difference in the housing stock between the two areas, there was a good road link via the A38 through to the Longbridge and Northfield wards. They considered that it would be reasonable to include the two Rubery wards in a Birmingham Northfield constituency (see later in this chapter), and we agree.

3.62 The assistant commissioners recommended to us to change the proposed Redditch constituency by including the Bromsgrove district ward of Tardebigge in the Bromsgrove and Droitwich constituency and the Bromsgrove district ward of Cofton in the Redditch constituency. Bentley Pauncefoot Parish Council (BCE-24899) objected to the inclusion of the Tardebigge ward in a Redditch constituency and suggested that the Cofton ward should be swapped with the Tardebigge ward. They said 'An alternative and perhaps more radical approach would be to look at the north of the present Bromsgrove constituency where Cofton Hackett has an electorate of 2,142. Separated from Bromsgrove

by the Lickey Hills and closely linked to Birmingham's southern suburbs, employment opportunities and services, it might seem to be more logical to include it within a Birmingham constituency. Its exclusion from the Bromsgrove and Droitwich constituency could therefore also be considered as an opportunity to counterbalance Tardebigge's inclusion within the new constituency.' They added that 'The Parish Council stresses that the residents which it represents do not see themselves as being closely linked to Redditch and wish therefore to retain their historic parliamentary links with Bromsgrove.' We accept our assistant commissioners recommendations.

3.63 The assistant commissioners rejected the counter-proposal from the Labour Party to retain the Wychavon district ward of Inkberrow in the Redditch constituency, as they considered that it was not necessary to divide Wychavon district into more than three constituencies. They also rejected the Conservative Party's suggestion that the Redditch constituency be renamed as North Worcestershire, as they considered this not to be geographically accurate. We agree.

3.64 Our assistant commissioners noted that there had been a number of objections from Alvechurch to its inclusion in the Redditch constituency. For example, Lorna Thomas (BCE-33859) said 'I am presently within the Bromsgrove constituency and it is proposed it will soon become Redditch. I have significant concerns with this. Alvechurch is considered a village, surrounded at present with green belt land. There has been significant residential development within the village already. A local MP in a rural district,

which we currently have, will understand the need to protect that green field status and not over develop the local area. We need a local MP to Alvechurch to understand the needs of the local small growing community ... It is my belief that a Redditch MP, with Redditch being a new town, will not understand the immediate needs of the rural community here in Alvechurch. Therefore I would prefer my MP constituency to remain as it is, as Bromsgrove.' The assistant commissioners noted that the electorate of the existing Redditch constituency was some way outside the permitted electorate range and that wards from a neighbouring local authority needed to be added. They agreed with our initial proposal to include wards from Bromsgrove district in the Redditch constituency and recommended we not make any further changes to that constituency. We agree.

West Midlands metropolitan county (less Coventry and Solihull)

3.65 In the West Midlands county, we had to create a number of constituencies that crossed borough boundaries. We did not recommend a constituency that contained parts of three West Midlands boroughs. Of the 20 constituencies wholly in the five boroughs, 11 contained part of only one borough and nine contained parts of two boroughs, and one Birmingham ward was included in a Solihull constituency.

3.66 There was some support for parts of the initial proposals, with representations approving of the shape of the proposed constituencies in Birmingham, which contained parts of the inner city and the outer suburbs. In particular, the boundaries of the three

proposed Wolverhampton constituencies were supported, as were the proposed Aldridge, Brownhills and Bloxwich, and Walsall Central constituencies.

3.67 However, there was strong opposition to the proposed Birmingham Selly Oak and Halesowen constituency, with respondents objecting to the inclusion of wards from Birmingham and Dudley in the same constituency. Lawrence Eastwell (BCE-14652) said ‘I am a student who lives in this constituency in term time and must say that it makes absolutely no sense whatsoever!! Halesowen and Selly Oak are completely different! ... Perhaps the constituencies should be ‘rounder’ and focused on grouping common areas rather than long thin stretches across Birmingham.’ Sally Vernon (BCE-16080) said ‘I live in Halesowen, which is in Dudley and part of the Black Country. I’m concerned that the new boundaries show Halesowen as being in the same area as parts of Birmingham. Birmingham and the Black Country are very different and the people are very distinct. Local rivalries run deep so it seems illogical to try to combine the two. It would make far more sense to include Halesowen with either other Dudley areas or with parts of Sandwell, which is also in the Black Country.’

3.68 There were objections to the division of the town of Halesowen between constituencies, with respondents saying that the Dudley ward of Hayley Green and Cradley South should not be included in the Stourbridge constituency. Christopher Woodall (BCE-14627) said ‘The proposal to incorporate the Hayley Green section of Halesowen into Stourbridge makes no sense whatsoever. Hayley Green is

attached to Halesowen and a distinct part of it – as are all the other parts of the town. Halesowen has a documented history stretching back to the Domesday Book, with Hayley Green, Lutley, Hawne, etc, being traditional “hundreds” associated with the town. It also makes no sense to associate other parts of the town with new suburbs of Birmingham.’

3.69 There were objections to the inclusion of the Birmingham city ward of Tyburn in the Birmingham Ladywood constituency, thereby crossing the M6, which was considered a barrier between the two parts of the constituency, and which also stretched across the width of the city and into the neighbouring Borough of Sandwell. There was some support for, but more objection to, the inclusion of the Walsall borough ward of Pheasey Park Farm in the Birmingham Erdington constituency. A joint submission from Pheasey Park Farm Councillors (BCE-33204) argued the ward should not be moved into a city constituency because of its parochial, rural feel. This submission was supported by a 699-signature campaign. Several respondents objected to our policy of not splitting wards in this sub-region and suggested that it would result in constituencies that better reflected local ties if wards were split.

3.70 As discussed previously in this chapter, the Labour Party (BCE-33146) counter-proposal suggested including the Bromsgrove district wards of Rubery North and Rubery South in the proposed Birmingham Northfield constituency. They strongly supported the policy of not splitting wards.

3.71 The Conservative Party's (BCE-32257) counter-proposal suggested retaining the Tyburn ward in the Birmingham Erdington constituency, with the Stockland Green ward included in the Birmingham Perry Barr constituency, and the Aston ward included in the Birmingham Ladywood constituency. As part of other changes in the West Midlands boroughs, they suggested splitting two wards in Birmingham (Brandwood and Springfield) and one ward in Dudley (Brierley Hill).

3.72 The Liberal Democrat Party's (BCE-31732) counter-proposal suggested that Birmingham should contain nine whole constituencies, with five wards split between constituencies (Acocks Green, Kings Norton, Nechells, Oscott, and Shard End). They also suggested splitting the Walsall borough ward of Aldridge Central and South between constituencies as part of a different pattern of constituencies in the four Black Country boroughs. One of their proposed constituencies would contain parts of three boroughs (Sandwell, Walsall, and Wolverhampton).

3.73 Other regional counter-proposals were received from Aaron Fear (BCE-31726), who suggested splitting three Birmingham wards between constituencies; Adrian Bailey (BCE-32166), who suggested splitting five Birmingham, two Dudley, four Sandwell, and one Walsall ward between constituencies; Michael Barge (BCE-27095), who suggested splitting one Dudley ward between constituencies; John Chanin (BCE-25255 and BCE-25109), who suggested splitting five Birmingham wards between constituencies; and Jonathan Stansby (BCE-18871 and BCE-18173), and

(BCE-35483) in the second consultation, who suggested splitting one Birmingham ward between constituencies.

3.74 John Bryant (BCE-28361) suggested a counter-proposal that did not split wards in the West Midlands, but which included the Birmingham city ward of Hall Green in a Solihull constituency. Oliver Raven (BCE-39493 and BCE-30045) also suggested a counter-proposal that did not split wards in the West Midlands, but in doing so he created constituencies that crossed the Staffordshire and West Midlands county boundary, and the Worcestershire and West Midlands county boundary. He also disregarded the existing pattern of constituencies in the West Midlands in order to create constituencies with electorates within the electoral range.

3.75 A number of localised counter-proposals were also received. Sandwell Borough Council (BCE-21464) suggested changes to our proposed constituencies in Sandwell. James Strawbridge (BCE-18197) suggested some minor changes in the West Midlands.

3.76 Our assistant commissioners noted that changes had to be made to the initial proposals in Birmingham as a result of not including the Birmingham city ward of Sheldon in a predominantly Solihull constituency, and of including the Worcestershire wards of Rubery North and Rubery South in a Birmingham constituency, both discussed previously in this report. They also noted in particular that, as the Sheldon ward had an electorate of 15,778, it would not be a simple task to re-configure the Birmingham constituencies to take account of this one ward.

3.77 Having reviewed our initial proposals, all the counter-proposals and suggestions for this sub-region, our assistant commissioners considered that there was no one counter-proposal that should be adopted in its entirety. As previously outlined, they decided to recommend elements of some of the counter-proposals in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire. However, they decided to recommend an alternative configuration that did not split wards in Birmingham, but did split one ward in Dudley (Brierley Hill) and two wards in Sandwell (Greets Green and Lyng, and St. Pauls), that was based more closely on the existing constituencies than the initial proposals had been. The assistant commissioners considered splitting alternative wards. They also visited the wards to be split and considered various ways of splitting them, but concluded they had found the best solution and met the exceptional and compelling circumstances required to split wards and fulfil legal obligations. They advised us that their recommendations provided a much better fit to the existing constituencies, and local authority areas, while reflecting as much as possible the evidence about local ties received during the consultation periods, thereby providing a better reflection of the statutory factors overall. We accept their recommendations.

3.78 In Birmingham, the addition of the two Rubery wards to the existing Birmingham Northfield constituency (discussed previously in this report) would result in a constituency with an electorate within the permitted electorate range. The assistant commissioners noted that it would also allow for relatively little

change to be made across the south and east of the City of Birmingham. They considered that it would be possible to recommend a pattern of constituencies across Birmingham that did not split any ward between constituencies, and also mean that fewer Birmingham wards would be part of a cross-borough boundary constituency. They noted that it was possible to add the Selly Oak ward to the existing Birmingham Edgbaston constituency, and that this would unite student areas within the Edgbaston and Selly Oak wards in one constituency. Such a constituency had been proposed by John Bryant (BCE-28361) as part of his counter-proposal. Ben Pugh (BCE-33729) noted the large student population in the Selly Oak ward, as did Steve McCabe MP (Birmingham Selly Oak) (BCE-26297). The assistant commissioners suggested that the constituency be named Birmingham Edgbaston and Selly Oak to reflect both historical constituency names. To compensate for the loss of the Selly Oak ward, they decided to add the ward of Moseley and Kings Heath to a renamed Birmingham Brandwood constituency. By retaining the whole of the Brandwood and Billesley wards in one constituency, they noted that this would respect the ties between these two wards. Councillor Barry Henley (BCE-20502) said ‘I live in Billesley ward and as a Councillor I represent Brandwood ward so I know this area very well. I can cross the entire constituency on foot or bike by the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, the Stratford on Avon Canal and the River Cole valley. Much of the area has historic links into the Kings Norton parish and the borough which was a late addition to Birmingham in 1911.’ We accept their recommendations.

3.79 To replace the Moseley and Kings Heath ward in the existing Birmingham Hall Green constituency, the assistant commissioners proposed including the Acocks Green ward. They noted that the existing Birmingham Hall Green constituency had an electorate within the electoral range, and that there had been support for its retention unchanged. Catherine Hamburger (BCE-29133) said 'I, and my husband, of the same address, wholeheartedly support the submission made by Moseley Forum regarding the proposed constituency boundary changes for Birmingham Hall Green Constituency. As long standing residents of Moseley, we feel that the proposed boundary changes are at the very least extremely impractical.' However, the assistant commissioners noted that this had not been possible when balancing the evidence across the whole of the region, but they considered that this was an acceptable alternative given the evidence of the ties between the Acocks Green and Hall Green wards. Jess Phillips MP (Birmingham Yardley) (BCE-32637) said on day one of the Birmingham public hearing 'there are already very strong and existing links between certainly the Acocks Green ward of that constituency and Hall Green, so, for example, the Hall Green Little Theatre is in Acocks Green. The schools, so Lakey Lane School, which if you were to ask anybody who lived in that area they would say it was in Hall Green although it falls into the Acocks Green boundary.'

3.80 With the Birmingham city ward of Sheldon not being included in a Solihull constituency, changes had to be made to the existing Birmingham Hodge Hill and Birmingham Yardley constituencies. The Birmingham Hodge Hill constituency has

an electorate within the electoral range and was left unchanged in the initial proposals. By including the Stechford and North Yardley ward in the Birmingham Hodge Hill constituency and the Bordesley Green and Nechells wards in the Birmingham Yardley constituency, two constituencies with electorates within the permitted electorate range could be created. The assistant commissioners noted that this would divide the Yardley area between constituencies, but considered that this was acceptable to achieve a better result across Birmingham as a whole. We agree.

3.81 There was support for our proposal for the Sutton Coldfield constituency, which was unchanged from the existing constituency. However, Andrew Mitchell MP (Sutton Coldfield) (BCE-31629 and BCE-34902) requested that the name of the constituency should be Royal Sutton Coldfield. He argued that as the constituency boundary was coterminous with the Sutton Coldfield Town Council, which claims historical 'Royal' status, it should be reflected in the name of the constituency. The changing of the name of the constituency to Royal Sutton Coldfield was rejected by the assistant commissioners. They noted that no other constituency in the United Kingdom has a Royal prefix and did not consider the arguments put forward in favour of such a move justified setting such a precedent. We agree.

3.82 The assistant commissioners noted the objections to the inclusion of the Tyburn ward in our proposed Birmingham Ladywood constituency, with objectors claiming Tyburn's ties were with the Birmingham Erdington constituency. David Owen (BCE-16605) said 'Tyburn and Castle

Vale more specifically have had long lasting ties with Erdington and many community groups in North Birmingham as a result.’ They also noted that the Conservative Party had suggested that the Stockland Green ward should be excluded from the Birmingham Erdington constituency, suggesting that it had closer links with the Perry Barr ward than with the Erdington ward. The assistant commissioners noted that there was strong support for retaining the Stockland Green ward in the Birmingham Erdington constituency. Jack Dromey MP (Birmingham Erdington) (BCE-27091) said ‘Stockland Green ward borders Erdington High Street in Erdington ward, this means that many residents rely on the local shops and would naturally look to Erdington High Street as their local shopping district. Stockland Green ward does not have a local library, instead residents tend to use either the Erdington library in Erdington ward or the Perry Common library in Kingstanding ward.’ The assistant commissioners considered that both the Stockland Green and Tyburn wards should be part of a Birmingham Erdington constituency to recognise the close ties both wards had with that constituency. We agree.

3.83 They noted the evidence presented in support of the inclusion of the Oscott ward in the Birmingham Erdington constituency, to recognise the close links between the Oscott and Kingstanding wards. Alexander Hall (BCE-26506) said ‘Kingstanding has been linked for many years with Erdington and I often shop and go out there. The same is true of the Oscott area where until very recently my brother lived. In fact he lived literally 100 yards from my house, used the same

doctors, went to the same local shops but was in a different constituency – something your proposals thankfully change.’

However, the assistant commissioners were aware that to include the Erdington, Kingstanding, Oscott, Stockland Green, and Tyburn wards in a constituency would result in an electorate outside the permitted electorate range. Some counter-proposals had suggested that the electoral range be achieved by splitting the Oscott ward between constituencies. The assistant commissioners rejected this alternative and decided to include the Perry Barr ward instead of the Oscott ward, with the constituency being named Birmingham Erdington and Perry Barr, to reflect both historical constituency names. This constituency had been proposed by John Bryant (BCE-28361) in his counter-proposal. They noted that this would not be an ideally shaped constituency, but considered that there were adequate communication links between the Witton part of the Perry Barr ward and the Stockland Green ward.

3.84 By adding the Aston, and Lozells and East Handsworth wards to the Ladywood and Soho wards in a Birmingham Ladywood constituency, the assistant commissioners noted that the electorate would be outside the permitted electorate range. They therefore recommended we include the Sandwell borough ward of Soho and Victoria in the Birmingham Ladywood constituency, as it was in the initial proposals for that constituency, and was generally supported by respondents. Lord Rooker (BCE-19828) said ‘Adding Soho and Victoria wards from Sandwell makes sense as the community straddles the boundary here.’ We agree.

3.85 The assistant commissioners noted that the four wards of the existing Birmingham Perry Barr constituency would be included in four separate constituencies as part of the alternative they recommended. They considered whether it would be possible to retain the Birmingham Perry Barr constituency as suggested in the initial proposals, given that there had been support for it. Lord Rooker (BCE-19828) said 'I was a born and grew up in the constituency. It changed in 2010 in a modest way. In particular it is right to add the Newton Ward of Sandwell. It is integral to Perry Barr Ward from a person, shopping and transport view. Most people do not realise it is another local authority area. It makes a good constituency and I am pleased the name Perry Barr has been retained.' However, retaining a Birmingham Perry Barr constituency in this form alongside the pattern of constituencies agreed elsewhere in Birmingham would result in the Birmingham city ward of Ladywood, which contains much of the Birmingham city centre, being included in a predominantly Sandwell-based constituency. They, therefore, rejected this option, and we agree.

3.86 Our assistant commissioners had only two Birmingham wards that had not been allocated to a Birmingham constituency. They noted that there had been support for the inclusion of the Oscott ward in the same constituency as the Kingstanding ward. John Turner (BCE-32275) on day one at the Royal Leamington Spa public hearing gave detailed evidence of the close links between the Kingstanding and Oscott wards. However, they considered that there was sufficient evidence to justify their recommending inclusion of the Oscott

ward in a Walsall and Oscott constituency, which would also mean that the Walsall borough ward of Pheasey Park Farm would be included in a predominantly Walsall constituency, rather than a predominantly Birmingham constituency. The links between the wards of Oscott and Pheasey Park Farm were accepted by many respondents, for example by Alexander Hall (BCE-26506), and Louise Alden (BCE-23958) who said 'Firstly I support the addition of Oscott and Pheasey Park Farm. They naturally tie into the wider Erdington and Kingstanding area and so it makes sense for them to be joined in. They share many common communities and facilities and postcodes. Indeed you can get on a bus in Pheasey Farm Park and go through Oscott, Kingstanding, Erdington and end up at Castle Vale.' There was also evidence from the three ward councillors in Pheasey Park Farm (BCE-33204) that the ward should be part of a Walsall constituency.

3.87 The other ward was Handsworth Wood, which would be included in a West Bromwich constituency with wards from Sandwell Borough. Our assistant commissioners noted that this pattern of constituencies had not been proposed in any counter-proposal, but they considered that each of the alternative counter-proposals had weaknesses, either in terms of splitting more wards than was considered ideal, or of breaking the established local and community ties. They also noted that their recommended constituencies would be a significant improvement on the initial proposals in terms of matching the existing pattern of constituencies. No constituency would be formed that linked wards from the City of Birmingham and the Borough of Dudley, thereby acknowledging the

poor communication links across the M5, which forms the boundary between the two authorities. We agree with these recommendations in respect of the wards of Oscott and Handsworth Wood.

3.88 In the four Black Country boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, and Wolverhampton, the assistant commissioners considered how best to reconcile the evidence submitted with trying to create 11 constituencies, all with electorates within the permitted electorate range. In Wolverhampton, they noted that there had been a significant level of support for the three proposed constituencies (Wednesfield and Willenhall, Wolverhampton South and Coseley, and Wolverhampton West) and they have supported the proposed boundaries of these constituencies.

3.89 Ian Morton (BCE-14492) said ‘My current constituency is Wolverhampton South East. Having looked at the proposal for the new Wolverhampton South & Coseley constituency I am happy to support the proposed boundary changes.’ The assistant commissioners decided that there was no need to change the boundaries of these constituencies, but they did note the objections to the name of the proposed Wednesfield and Willenhall constituency. It was argued that as this constituency would contain the St. Peter’s ward which included Wolverhampton city centre, the name should be changed to Wolverhampton East and Willenhall, so that all three constituencies containing wards from Wolverhampton included Wolverhampton in the name. David Bennett (BCE-14461) said ‘The proposed Wednesfield and Willenhall constituency covers large areas of

eastern Wolverhampton and even the city centre. The name is therefore completely misleading and does not reflect a large part of the area it covers. How can the constituency covering Wolverhampton city centre not include the city’s name?’ Our assistant commissioners agreed with this argument and recommended we adopt this revised name. We agree.

3.90 In Walsall, the assistant commissioners noted the support for our initial proposals for the Aldridge, Brownhills and Bloxwich, and Walsall Central constituencies. For example, Valerie Vaz MP (Walsall South) (BCE-33070) gave evidence at the Birmingham public hearing in support of the Walsall Central constituency. However, the assistant commissioners noted that the Birmingham ward of Oscott and the Walsall borough ward of Pheasey Park Farm needed to be included in a Walsall constituency. They decided not to change our proposals for the Aldridge, Brownhills and Bloxwich constituency, and to include the Oscott and Pheasey Park Farm wards in a Walsall and Oscott constituency. They decided that the Walsall borough wards of Bentley and Darlaston North, Darlaston South, and Pleck would have to be included in a constituency with wards from Sandwell Borough.

3.91 In Dudley, the assistant commissioners noted that the initially proposed Stourbridge constituency was the only way that a constituency with an electorate within the permitted electorate range could be created, without dividing the town of Stourbridge between constituencies. They noted that by including the Hayley Green and Cradley South ward in the Stourbridge

constituency, the town of Halesowen would be divided between constituencies. They also noted the counter-proposed Stourbridge constituency suggested by the Conservative Party (BCE-32257) was for the existing constituency, plus part of the split Brierley Hill ward. Our assistant commissioners visited this ward and noted that the proposed ward split was clear, using the railway line where it was a polling district boundary. They considered that this was a satisfactory proposal and have recommended it.

3.92 This would allow the four wards that comprised Halesowen town to be included in a Halesowen and Rowley Regis constituency, which would be the existing constituency plus the Dudley borough ward of Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrews. Brendan Clegg (BCE-34364) said 'I think it's disgraceful that a place with an identity as strong as Rowley Regis is being effectively wiped off the map. There are long standing community ties between Halesowen & Rowley Regis – neither of which have anything to do with Selly Oak. We are the Black Country not a Birmingham suburb ... Please keep Halesowen & Rowley Regis.'

3.93 With three Dudley wards being included in the initial proposals for the Wolverhampton South and Coseley constituency, the assistant commissioners recommended that seven Dudley wards of Brockmoor and Pensnett, Castle and Priory, Gornal, Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South, St. James's, and Wordsley form a constituency to be named Dudley, which also included the other part of the split Brierley Hill ward.

3.94 The remaining Dudley ward of St. Thomas's would be included in a Warley constituency with the Sandwell borough wards of Abbey, Bristnall, Langley, Old Warley, Oldbury, Smethwick, and Tividale. In order to ensure that the electorate was within the permitted electorate range, the assistant commissioners decided to split the St. Pauls ward between constituencies using a railway line as the proposed boundary where it is the polling district boundary. They noted that this would ensure that the Hawthorns football ground would be in a West Bromwich constituency. They visited the ward and considered that this was a sensible division of the ward between constituencies.

3.95 The existing West Bromwich East constituency would be expanded to include the Birmingham city ward of Handsworth Wood and that part of the St. Pauls ward not included in the recommended Warley constituency. In order to recommend all constituencies with an electorate within the permitted electorate range, the assistant commissioners also proposed splitting the Greets Green and Lyng ward, with part of the ward remaining in a West Bromwich constituency. This would recognise that there are ties between the Greets Green and Lyng ward and West Bromwich, as stated by Salah Saeed (BCE-18617). Our assistant commissioners visited this ward, and while they considered this split to be not as clear-cut as the other ward splits, were content that this was a satisfactory solution. They noted in particular that a number of West Bromwich's municipal and community buildings, such as the police station and leisure centre, would remain in the West Bromwich constituency by splitting this ward.

3.96 The assistant commissioners recommended that the rest of the Greets Green and Lyng ward would be included in a Darlaston and Tipton constituency, with the Sandwell borough wards of Great Bridge, Princes End, Tipton Green, Wednesbury North, and Wednesbury South, and the Walsall borough wards of Bentley and Darlaston North, Darlaston South, and Pleck.

3.97 Our assistant commissioners noted that this recommended division of the four Black Country boroughs would be more closely based on the existing pattern of constituencies. They considered that splitting three wards (one in Dudley and two in Sandwell) would allow for a sensible pattern of constituencies to be adopted across this sub-region as a whole and therefore meet with our policy of only splitting wards in ‘exceptional and compelling cases’.

3.98 We consider the assistant commissioners’ recommendations are a significant improvement on the initial proposals and accept them.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

3.99 Of the 12 existing constituencies in this sub-region, only four have electorates that are currently within 5% of the electoral quota. Under our initial proposals we proposed a reduction of one in the number of constituencies in this sub-region, and we recommended that three of the existing constituencies (Burton, Cannock Chase, and South Staffordshire) remain unchanged. There was support for our proposals not to change these three constituencies, which the assistant commissioners endorsed.

3.100 We noted that we had to make changes to the existing Lichfield and Tamworth constituencies to realign ward and constituency boundaries, following changes to ward boundaries in Lichfield. We noted that in both of the two currently split wards of Hammerwich with Wall, and Whittington & Streethay, the majority of the electorate was in the existing Lichfield constituency. Therefore, we had to include one ward wholly in the Lichfield constituency and one ward wholly in the Tamworth constituency, noting that whichever was put in the Tamworth constituency would be likely to break ties. We decided to include the Whittington & Streethay ward in the Tamworth constituency as this would make for a better boundary between the two constituencies. We also decided to include the Stafford borough ward of Haywood & Hixon in the Lichfield constituency to make the electorate within the permitted electorate range. We received a number of objections to the inclusion of the Whittington & Streethay ward in the Tamworth constituency. For example, James Morris (BCE-15515) commented ‘Streethay and Whittington are part of the Lichfield community, the residents from this area are connected to the city of Lichfield, it is where the locals use public services, healthcare, educational, leisure and retail establishments. Lichfield is better placed to represent the needs of these areas. Streethay and Whittington are Lichfield, always have been Lichfield and always should be, it would be against the residents’ wishes to become part of Tamworth.’ The Conservative Party (BCE-32257) counter-proposed that the Hammerwich with Wall ward should be included in the Tamworth constituency, in place of the Whittington & Streethay ward.

This alternative was supported by Michael Fabricant MP (Lichfield) (BCE-32075 and BCE-32053).

3.101 We also received objections to the inclusion of the Haywood & Hixon ward in the proposed Lichfield constituency. For example, Catherine Gill, on behalf of Hixon Parish Council (BCE-27544), wrote 'Hixon Parish Council does not want Hixon to move to the Lichfield Parliamentary Constituency and wants Hixon to remain in the Stafford Parliamentary Constituency. Hixon has a strong connection with Stafford for many reasons (including that Stafford is the local Borough Council) and has absolutely no connection with Lichfield, which is some 15 miles distance from Hixon. Hixon would be right on the edge of the proposed new boundary, on the North-Western fringe. There are other ways of moving the boundaries to get the numbers correct that would leave Hixon with Stafford, which is only 8 miles away. Hixon has had an allegiance with Stafford for many years and this should be maintained by keeping Hixon in the Stafford constituency.'

3.102 Our assistant commissioners visited the Hammerwich with Wall, and Whittington & Streethay wards. They noted that Streethay was close to the town of Lichfield, but that the Hammerwich with Wall ward contained part of the town of Burntwood and they considered that to divide the town between constituencies would not be appropriate. They noted the evidence from Ellen Bird, on behalf of Hammerwich Parish Council (BCE-37856), in support of the initial proposals, and of Councillor David Smith (BCE-38930) who said that Hammerwich looked to Burntwood for many of its services.

3.103 The assistant commissioners decided that the proposed Lichfield and Tamworth constituencies should not be altered. They considered that the town of Burntwood should not be divided between constituencies to allow for the villages of Streethay and Whittington's ties to Lichfield to be recognised. They noted that the electorate of the existing Tamworth constituency was outside the permitted electorate range and something had to be added to the existing constituency to increase the electorate. They had already rejected the option of adding electors from the neighbouring North Warwickshire district, as they saw no reason to cross the county boundary. They noted that it would be possible just to include the polling district that contained Streethay in a Lichfield constituency and to achieve the permitted electorate range. However, they rejected this option as it had not been suggested by any respondent during either of the two initial consultation stages, and because it would mean that Whittington would be in the Tamworth constituency, even though there was strong opposition from that village too.

3.104 The assistant commissioners noted the opposition from the Haywood & Hixon ward to being included in the Lichfield constituency, but they noted that this was the best option for ensuring that the Lichfield constituency had an electorate within the permitted electorate range.

3.105 In our initial proposals we proposed a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency that contained all of the district of Staffordshire Moorlands. We also proposed a Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency that would contain all of the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme and

all of the civil parish of Kidsgrove. In the City of Stoke-on-Trent, we proposed a Stoke-on-Trent North constituency that contained 14 wards from the north of the city. We also proposed a Stoke-on-Trent South constituency that contained 18 wards from the centre and south-east of the city. We decide to include the five remaining Stoke-on-Trent wards together with four Newcastle-under-Lyme wards and six Stafford wards in a West Staffordshire constituency.

3.106 There was general support for our proposed Staffordshire Moorlands, Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Stafford constituencies. However, there were objections to the inclusion of urban Stoke-on-Trent city wards in a largely rural West Staffordshire constituency. A number of counter-proposals were received suggesting alternative divisions of Stoke-on-Trent between constituencies. Paul Farrelly MP (Newcastle-under-Lyme) (BCE-26500, and BCE-38638 in the second consultation) objected to any counter-proposal that would divide the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme between constituencies, such as that proposed by Rob Ffello (then MP for Stoke-on-Trent South) (BCE-29654). The Conservative Party (BCE-32257), the Labour Party (BCE-33146) and the Liberal Democrat Party (BCE-31732) did not suggest any changes to our initial proposals for the Stoke-on-Trent constituencies.

3.107 Mr Farrelly MP supported the inclusion of the five wards of the civil parish of Kidsgrove in the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency, but Kidsgrove Town Council (BCE-38316) objected and said that Kidsgrove's ties were with the Stoke-on-Trent North constituency. They

argued that 'the Commission's initial proposals: Ignore the long-established social boundaries of Kidsgrove; Ignores the will of Kidsgrove's population; Disrupt patterns of electoral representation; Would lead to the town of Kidsgrove being moved for the third time in three boundary reviews; Ignore the size and significance of Kidsgrove in the Constituency Name.'

3.108 The counter-proposals from Aaron Fear (BCE-31726) and Adrian Bailey (BCE-32166) both suggest a division of Stoke-on-Trent that allows for three constituencies to be formed, each containing a majority of Stoke-on-Trent wards. John Chanin (BCE-25109) suggested a similar counter-proposal.

3.109 The counter-proposal from Mr Bailey and Mr Fear suggested a Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove constituency that would contain 11 wards from the north of the City of Stoke-on-Trent and the five Kidsgrove Town wards, which would be very similar to the existing Stoke-on-Trent North constituency. They also suggested a Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency that would contain 15 wards and be largely based on the existing Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency. The remaining 11 Stoke-on-Trent wards would form a Stoke-on-Trent South and Stone constituency together with five wards from Stafford Borough, including the town of Stone. The Stafford borough ward of Eccleshall would be included in the Stafford constituency. The Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency would include the whole of the town of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the four Newcastle-under-Lyme borough wards of Audley and Bignall End, Halmerend, Loggerheads and Whitmore, and Madeley.

The Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme would only be divided between two constituencies and the suggested Stoke-on-Trent South and Stone constituency would only contain parts of two districts, and not three as the proposed West Staffordshire constituency does. It was also noted that this counter-proposal more closely matched the existing constituencies.

3.110 Having weighed up our initial proposals, all the counter-proposals and suggestions for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, our assistant commissioners considered that the identical counter-proposal put forward by Mr Fear and Mr Bailey was a significant improvement on the initial proposals in the Stoke-on-Trent area and would satisfy most of the objections to them. They considered that those changes struck a better balance than our initial proposals applying the criteria to which we work.

3.111 They noted the evidence of the ties between the villages of Streethay and Whittington, and the town of Lichfield, but also noted the evidence in relation to the Hammerwich with Wall ward. They advised us that ties would be broken whichever ward was chosen, and concluded not to alter our initial proposals for Lichfield and Tamworth. They also rejected the division of the Whittington & Streethay ward between constituencies on the grounds that it did not meet the test of ‘exceptional and compelling circumstances’.

3.112 The Conservative Party had also suggested that the proposed Burton and Tamworth constituencies should be renamed, respectively, Burton and Uttoxeter, and Tamworth and South East Staffordshire. The assistant commissioners decided that there was no need to change the name of an otherwise unaltered Burton constituency, and of a largely unaltered Tamworth constituency.

3.113 We accept our assistant commissioners’ recommendations for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

4 How to have your say

4.1 We are consulting on our revised proposals for an eight-week period, from 17 October 2017 to 11 December 2017. We encourage everyone to use this last opportunity to help finalise the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be before making final recommendations to Government.

4.2 While people are welcome to write to us on any issue regarding the constituency boundaries we set out in this report and the accompanying maps, our main focus during this final consultation is on those constituencies we have revised since our initial proposals. While we will consider representations that comment again on the initial proposals that we have not revised, it is likely that particularly compelling further evidence or submissions will be needed to persuade us to depart at this late stage in the review from those of our initial proposals, which have withstood intensive scrutiny of objections in the process of consultation and review to which they have already been subject. Representations relating to initial proposals that we have not revised and that simply repeat evidence or arguments that have already been raised in either of the previous two consultation stages are likely to carry little weight with the Commission.

4.3 When responding, we ask people to bear in mind the tight constraints placed on the Commission by the rules set by Parliament and the decisions we have taken regarding adoption of a regional approach and use of local government wards discussed in chapter 2 and in the Guide. Most importantly:

- We cannot recommend constituencies that have electorates that are more than 5% above or below the electoral quota (apart from the two covering the Isle of Wight).
- We are obliged by law to use the Parliamentary electorate figures as they were in the statutory electoral register published by local electoral registration officers between December 2015 and February 2016. We therefore cannot base our proposals for this constituency review on any subsequent electorate figures.
- We are basing our revised proposals on local government ward boundaries (at May 2015) as the building blocks of constituencies. Exceptional and compelling evidence needs to be provided to persuade us that splitting a ward across two constituencies is necessary or appropriate.
- We have constructed constituencies within regions, so as not to cross regional boundaries. Particularly compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade us that we should depart from this approach.

4.4 These issues mean that we encourage people who are making a representation on a specific area to bear in mind the knock-on effects of their counter-proposals. The Commission must look at the recommendations for new constituencies across the whole region (and, indeed, across England). We therefore ask everyone wishing to respond to our consultation to bear in mind the impact of their counter-proposals on neighbouring constituencies, and on those further afield across the region.

How can you give us your views?

4.5 We encourage everyone to make use of our consultation website, www.bce2018.org.uk, when contributing to our consultation. That website contains all the information you will need to contribute to the design of the new constituencies, including the revised proposals reports and maps, all the representations we have received so far during the review, the initial proposals reports and maps, the electorate sizes of every ward, and an online facility where you can instantly and directly submit to us your views on our revised proposals. If you are unable to access our consultation website for any reason, you can still write to us at 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ.

4.6 We encourage everyone, before submitting a representation, to read our approach to data protection and privacy and, in particular, the publication of all representations and personal data within them. This is available in our Data Protection and Privacy Policy at:

<http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/freedom-of-information-and-data-protection>

What do we want views on?

4.7 We would like particularly to ask two things of those considering responding on the revised proposals we have set out. First, if you support our revised proposals, please tell us so, as well as telling us where you object to them. Past experience suggests that too often people who agree with our proposals do not respond in support, while those who object to them do respond to make their points – this can give a distorted view of the balance of public support or objection to proposals. Second, if you are considering objecting to our revised proposals, do please use the resources available on our website and at the places of deposit (maps and electorate figures) to put forward counter-proposals which are in accordance with the rules to which we are working.

4.8 Above all, however, we encourage everyone to have their say on our revised proposals and, in doing so, to become involved in drawing the map of new Parliamentary constituencies. This is the final chance to contribute to the design of the new constituencies, and the more views we get on those constituencies, the more informed our consideration in developing them will be, and the better we will be able to reflect the public's views in the final recommendations we present in September 2018.

Annex A: Revised proposals for constituencies, including wards and electorates

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
1. Aldridge, Brownhills and Bloxwich BC			76,572
	Aldridge Central and South	Walsall	10,770
	Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	Walsall	9,918
	Bloxwich East	Walsall	8,672
	Bloxwich West	Walsall	9,541
	Brownhills	Walsall	9,218
	Pelsall	Walsall	8,758
	Rushall-Shelfield	Walsall	9,030
	Streetly	Walsall	10,665
2. Birmingham Brandwood BC			72,083
	Billesley	Birmingham	18,277
	Bournville	Birmingham	18,449
	Brandwood	Birmingham	17,728
	Moseley and Kings Heath	Birmingham	17,629
3. Birmingham Edgbaston and Selly Oak BC			76,801
	Bartley Green	Birmingham	16,768
	Edgbaston	Birmingham	14,069
	Harborne	Birmingham	15,548
	Quinton	Birmingham	16,410
	Selly Oak	Birmingham	14,006
4. Birmingham Erdington and Perry Barr BC			77,920
	Erdington	Birmingham	15,478
	Kingstanding	Birmingham	16,007
	Perry Barr	Birmingham	15,368
	Stockland Green	Birmingham	15,036
	Tyburn	Birmingham	16,031
5. Birmingham Hall Green BC			74,594
	Acocks Green	Birmingham	18,285
	Hall Green	Birmingham	18,731
	Sparkbrook	Birmingham	18,323
	Springfield	Birmingham	19,255
6. Birmingham Hodge Hill BC			71,165
	Hodge Hill	Birmingham	17,292
	Shard End	Birmingham	17,647
	Stechford and Yardley North	Birmingham	17,092
	Washwood Heath	Birmingham	19,134
7. Birmingham Ladywood BC			74,276
	Aston	Birmingham	17,430
	Ladywood	Birmingham	15,042
	Lozells and East Handsworth	Birmingham	17,558
	Soho	Birmingham	15,513
	Soho and Victoria	Sandwell	8,733
8. Birmingham Northfield BC			74,447
	Kings Norton	Birmingham	16,097
	Longbridge	Birmingham	17,839
	Northfield	Birmingham	18,602
	Weoley	Birmingham	16,839
	Rubery North	Bromsgrove	2,507
	Rubery South	Bromsgrove	2,563

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
9. Birmingham Yardley BC			71,365
	Bordesley Green	Birmingham	19,100
	Nechells	Birmingham	17,731
	Sheldon	Birmingham	15,778
	South Yardley	Birmingham	18,756
10. Bridgnorth and The Wrekin CC			73,850
	Albrighton	Shropshire	3,549
	Alveley and Claverley	Shropshire	3,338
	Bridgnorth East and Astley Abbots	Shropshire	5,322
	Bridgnorth West and Tasley	Shropshire	5,433
	Broseley	Shropshire	3,545
	Shifnal North	Shropshire	3,533
	Shifnal South and Cosford	Shropshire	3,645
	Worfield	Shropshire	2,944
	Admaston & Bratton	Telford and Wrekin	2,208
	Apley Castle	Telford and Wrekin	2,376
	Arleston	Telford and Wrekin	2,137
	Church Aston & Lilleshall	Telford and Wrekin	2,381
	College	Telford and Wrekin	2,134
	Dothill	Telford and Wrekin	2,141
	Edgmond & Ercall Magna	Telford and Wrekin	4,549
	Ercall	Telford and Wrekin	2,347
	Haygate	Telford and Wrekin	2,169
	Muxton	Telford and Wrekin	4,977
	Newport North & West	Telford and Wrekin	4,431
	Newport South & East	Telford and Wrekin	3,897
	Park	Telford and Wrekin	2,161
	Shawbirch	Telford and Wrekin	2,323
	Wrockwardine	Telford and Wrekin	2,310
11. Bromsgrove and Droitwich CC			77,216
	Aston Fields	Bromsgrove	2,492
	Avoncroft	Bromsgrove	2,424
	Belbroughton & Romsley	Bromsgrove	5,193
	Bromsgrove Central	Bromsgrove	2,363
	Catshill North	Bromsgrove	2,208
	Catshill South	Bromsgrove	2,174
	Charford	Bromsgrove	2,318
	Hagley East	Bromsgrove	2,044
	Hagley West	Bromsgrove	2,680
	Hill Top	Bromsgrove	1,778
	Lickey Hills	Bromsgrove	2,242
	Loves Hill	Bromsgrove	2,565
	Marlbrook	Bromsgrove	2,395
	Norton	Bromsgrove	2,058
	Perryfields	Bromsgrove	1,385
	Rock Hill	Bromsgrove	2,414
	Sanders Park	Bromsgrove	2,671
	Sidemoor	Bromsgrove	2,530
	Slideslow	Bromsgrove	2,635
	Tardebigge	Bromsgrove	2,209
	Dodderhill	Wychavon	2,129
	Droitwich Central	Wychavon	1,930
	Droitwich East	Wychavon	4,257
	Droitwich South East	Wychavon	4,185
	Droitwich South West	Wychavon	3,862
	Droitwich West	Wychavon	3,747
	Hartlebury	Wychavon	2,152
	Lovett and North Claines	Wychavon	4,230
	Ombersley	Wychavon	1,946

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
12. Burton CC			72,542
	Abbey	East Staffordshire	2,276
	Anglesey	East Staffordshire	3,647
	Branston	East Staffordshire	5,409
	Brizlincote	East Staffordshire	4,165
	Burton	East Staffordshire	1,883
	Churnet	East Staffordshire	2,141
	Crown	East Staffordshire	2,049
	Eton Park	East Staffordshire	4,016
	Heath	East Staffordshire	4,605
	Horninglow	East Staffordshire	6,070
	Rolleston on Dove	East Staffordshire	2,700
	Shobnall	East Staffordshire	4,565
	Stapenhill	East Staffordshire	5,538
	Stretton	East Staffordshire	6,115
	Town	East Staffordshire	5,119
	Tutbury and Outwoods	East Staffordshire	4,741
	Weaver	East Staffordshire	1,645
	Winshill	East Staffordshire	5,858
13. Cannock Chase CC			73,470
	Brereton and Ravenhill	Cannock Chase	5,028
	Cannock East	Cannock Chase	5,128
	Cannock North	Cannock Chase	5,447
	Cannock South	Cannock Chase	5,734
	Cannock West	Cannock Chase	5,653
	Etching Hill and The Heath	Cannock Chase	5,178
	Hagley	Cannock Chase	3,308
	Hawks Green	Cannock Chase	5,511
	Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury	Cannock Chase	4,825
	Hednesford Green Heath	Cannock Chase	3,845
	Hednesford North	Cannock Chase	5,220
	Hednesford South	Cannock Chase	4,147
	Norton Canes	Cannock Chase	5,647
	Rawnsley	Cannock Chase	3,714
	Western Springs	Cannock Chase	5,085
14. Coventry East BC			73,304
	Binley and Willenhall	Coventry	11,588
	Henley	Coventry	12,310
	Longford	Coventry	12,538
	Lower Stoke	Coventry	13,029
	Upper Stoke	Coventry	11,520
	Wyken	Coventry	12,319
15. Coventry North West BC			77,745
	Bablake	Coventry	12,376
	Foleshill	Coventry	10,419
	Holbrook	Coventry	11,536
	Radford	Coventry	11,633
	Sherbourne	Coventry	11,136
	St. Michael's	Coventry	9,766
	Whoberley	Coventry	10,879
16. Coventry South and Kenilworth BC			77,275
	Cheylesmore	Coventry	11,308
	Earlsdon	Coventry	11,604
	Wainbody	Coventry	10,670
	Westwood	Coventry	12,244
	Woodlands	Coventry	13,156
	Abbey	Warwick	5,292
	Park Hill	Warwick	6,455
	St. John's	Warwick	6,546

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
17. Darlaston and Tipton BC			76,902
	Great Bridge	Sandwell	9,166
	Part of Greets Green and Lyng (polling district GGA)	Sandwell	1,557
	Part of Greets Green and Lyng (polling district GGB)	Sandwell	1,531
	Part of Greets Green and Lyng (polling district GGG)	Sandwell	783
	Princes End	Sandwell	8,856
	Tipton Green	Sandwell	9,619
	Wednesbury North	Sandwell	8,959
	Wednesbury South	Sandwell	9,325
	Bentley and Darlaston North	Walsall	8,927
	Darlaston South	Walsall	9,210
	Pleck	Walsall	8,969
18. Dudley BC			75,255
	Part of Brierley Hill (polling district H05)	Dudley	832
	Part of Brierley Hill (polling district H06)	Dudley	836
	Part of Brierley Hill (polling district H07)	Dudley	1,455
	Part of Brierley Hill (polling district H08)	Dudley	683
	Brockmoor and Pensnett	Dudley	9,585
	Castle and Priory	Dudley	11,018
	Gornal	Dudley	10,502
	Kingswinford North and Wall Heath	Dudley	10,108
	Kingswinford South	Dudley	10,272
	St. James's	Dudley	9,842
	Wordsley	Dudley	10,122
19. Evesham CC			72,477
	Kempsey	Malvern Hills	3,051
	Longdon	Malvern Hills	1,673
	Morton	Malvern Hills	1,684
	Ripple	Malvern Hills	1,436
	Upton and Hanley	Malvern Hills	3,377
	Badsey	Wychavon	2,233
	Bengeworth	Wychavon	4,394
	Bowbrook	Wychavon	2,339
	Bredon	Wychavon	2,089
	Bretforton and Offenham	Wychavon	2,203
	Broadway and Wickhamford	Wychavon	3,818
	Drakes Broughton	Wychavon	1,920
	Eckington	Wychavon	2,215
	Elmley Castle and Somerville	Wychavon	2,015
	Evesham North	Wychavon	3,324
	Evesham South	Wychavon	3,732
	Fladbury	Wychavon	2,214
	Great Hampton	Wychavon	2,052
	Harvington and Norton	Wychavon	2,048
	Honeybourne and Pebworth	Wychavon	2,007
	Inkberrow	Wychavon	4,576
	Little Hampton	Wychavon	3,601
	Pershore	Wychavon	5,836
	Pinvin	Wychavon	2,309
	South Bredon Hill	Wychavon	1,913
	The Littletons	Wychavon	2,221
	Upton Snodsbury	Wychavon	2,197
20. Halesowen and Rowley Regis BC			77,651
	Belle Vale	Dudley	10,494
	Halesowen North	Dudley	9,468
	Halesowen South	Dudley	9,910
	Hayley Green and Cradley South	Dudley	9,285
	Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrews	Dudley	10,352
	Blackheath	Sandwell	9,124

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	Sandwell	9,982
	Rowley	Sandwell	9,036
21. Hereford and South Herefordshire CC			77,370
	Aylestone Hill	Herefordshire	2,412
	Backbury	Herefordshire	2,242
	Belmont Rural	Herefordshire	2,505
	Birch	Herefordshire	2,370
	Bobblestock	Herefordshire	2,278
	Central	Herefordshire	2,159
	College	Herefordshire	2,679
	Credenhill	Herefordshire	2,276
	Dinedor Hill	Herefordshire	2,602
	Eign Hill	Herefordshire	2,574
	Golden Valley North	Herefordshire	2,386
	Golden Valley South	Herefordshire	2,546
	Greyfriars	Herefordshire	2,482
	Hagley	Herefordshire	2,752
	Hinton & Hunderton	Herefordshire	2,599
	Holmer	Herefordshire	2,599
	Kerne Bridge	Herefordshire	2,437
	Kings Acre	Herefordshire	2,537
	Llangarron	Herefordshire	2,671
	Newton Farm	Herefordshire	2,504
	Penyard	Herefordshire	2,631
	Red Hill	Herefordshire	2,757
	Ross East	Herefordshire	2,806
	Ross North	Herefordshire	2,541
	Ross West	Herefordshire	2,535
	Saxon Gate	Herefordshire	2,618
	Stoney Street	Herefordshire	2,603
	Tupsley	Herefordshire	2,489
	Whitecross	Herefordshire	2,463
	Widemarsh	Herefordshire	1,781
	Wormside	Herefordshire	2,536
22. Lichfield CC			74,778
	Bagots	East Staffordshire	2,155
	Needwood	East Staffordshire	4,441
	Yoxall	East Staffordshire	2,159
	Alrewas & Fradley	Lichfield	4,510
	Armitage with Handsacre	Lichfield	5,693
	Boley Park	Lichfield	3,447
	Boney Hay & Central	Lichfield	5,065
	Chadsmead	Lichfield	3,304
	Chase Terrace	Lichfield	3,717
	Chasetown	Lichfield	2,640
	Colton & the Ridwares	Lichfield	1,768
	Curborough	Lichfield	3,201
	Hammerwich with Wall	Lichfield	3,423
	Highfield	Lichfield	3,652
	Leomansley	Lichfield	4,879
	Longdon	Lichfield	1,694
	St. John's	Lichfield	4,407
	Stowe	Lichfield	4,725
	Summerfield & All Saints	Lichfield	4,850
	Haywood & Hixon	Stafford	5,048
23. Ludlow and Leominster CC			73,503
	Arrow	Herefordshire	2,798
	Bircher	Herefordshire	2,916

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Castle	Herefordshire	2,388
	Kington	Herefordshire	2,445
	Leominster East	Herefordshire	2,544
	Leominster North & Rural	Herefordshire	2,832
	Leominster South	Herefordshire	2,465
	Leominster West	Herefordshire	1,997
	Mortimer	Herefordshire	2,542
	Queenswood	Herefordshire	2,556
	Sutton Walls	Herefordshire	2,392
	Weobley	Herefordshire	2,725
	Bishop's Castle	Shropshire	2,747
	Brown Clee	Shropshire	3,015
	Church Stretton and Craven Arms	Shropshire	7,141
	Clee	Shropshire	3,477
	Cleobury Mortimer	Shropshire	5,614
	Clun	Shropshire	3,014
	Corvedale	Shropshire	2,991
	Highley	Shropshire	2,574
	Ludlow East	Shropshire	2,935
	Ludlow North	Shropshire	2,942
	Ludlow South	Shropshire	3,047
	Much Wenlock	Shropshire	3,406
24. Malvern and Ledbury CC			72,441
	Bishops Frome & Cradley	Herefordshire	2,433
	Bromyard Bringsty	Herefordshire	2,548
	Bromyard West	Herefordshire	2,222
	Hampton	Herefordshire	2,666
	Hope End	Herefordshire	2,805
	Ledbury North	Herefordshire	2,436
	Ledbury South	Herefordshire	2,385
	Ledbury West	Herefordshire	2,479
	Old Gore	Herefordshire	2,424
	Three Crosses	Herefordshire	2,658
	Alfrick and Leigh	Malvern Hills	2,844
	Baldwin	Malvern Hills	1,654
	Broadheath	Malvern Hills	2,782
	Chase	Malvern Hills	4,648
	Dyson Perrins	Malvern Hills	3,330
	Hallow	Malvern Hills	1,488
	Lindridge	Malvern Hills	1,846
	Link	Malvern Hills	4,825
	Martley	Malvern Hills	1,411
	Pickersleigh	Malvern Hills	4,433
	Powick	Malvern Hills	3,058
	Priory	Malvern Hills	3,039
	Teme Valley	Malvern Hills	1,544
	Tenbury	Malvern Hills	2,924
	Wells	Malvern Hills	2,630
	West	Malvern Hills	3,267
	Woodbury	Malvern Hills	1,662
25. Meriden CC			78,247
	Bickenhill	Solihull	8,941
	Castle Bromwich	Solihull	9,193
	Chelmsley Wood	Solihull	8,067
	Dorridge and Hockley Heath	Solihull	8,686
	Elmdon	Solihull	9,255
	Kingshurst and Fordbridge	Solihull	8,506
	Knowle	Solihull	8,183
	Meriden	Solihull	9,421
	Smith's Wood	Solihull	7,995

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
26. Newcastle-under-Lyme CC			71,622
	Audley and Bignall End	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,440
	Bradwell	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,655
	Chesterton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,926
	Clayton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,123
	Cross Heath	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,261
	Halmerend	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,947
	Holditch	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,201
	Keele	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,220
	Knutton and Silverdale	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,890
	Loggerheads and Whitmore	Newcastle-under-Lyme	5,403
	Madeley	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,283
	May Bank	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,643
	Porthill	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,984
	Seabridge	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,362
	Silverdale and Parksites	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,983
	Thistleberry	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,628
	Town	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,949
	Westlands	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,377
	Wolstanton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,347
27. North Shropshire CC			77,768
	Cheswardine	Shropshire	3,135
	Ellesmere Urban	Shropshire	3,060
	Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn	Shropshire	5,457
	Hodnet	Shropshire	2,780
	Llanymynech	Shropshire	3,291
	Market Drayton East	Shropshire	3,589
	Market Drayton West	Shropshire	6,500
	Oswestry East	Shropshire	6,665
	Oswestry South	Shropshire	3,082
	Oswestry West	Shropshire	2,599
	Prees	Shropshire	3,347
	Ruyton and Baschurch	Shropshire	2,992
	Shawbury	Shropshire	3,383
	St. Martin's	Shropshire	3,428
	St. Oswald	Shropshire	3,186
	The Meres	Shropshire	3,500
	Wem	Shropshire	6,233
	Whitchurch North	Shropshire	5,232
	Whitchurch South	Shropshire	3,146
	Whittington	Shropshire	3,163
28. North Warwickshire CC			74,124
	Arley and Whitacre	North Warwickshire	4,050
	Atherstone Central	North Warwickshire	2,728
	Atherstone North	North Warwickshire	2,659
	Atherstone South and Mancetter	North Warwickshire	2,768
	Baddesley and Grendon	North Warwickshire	3,063
	Coleshill North	North Warwickshire	2,468
	Coleshill South	North Warwickshire	2,698
	Curdworth	North Warwickshire	2,666
	Dordon	North Warwickshire	2,276
	Fillongley	North Warwickshire	2,643
	Hartshill	North Warwickshire	2,837
	Hurley and Wood End	North Warwickshire	2,880
	Kingsbury	North Warwickshire	2,945
	Newton Regis and Warton	North Warwickshire	2,712
	Polesworth East	North Warwickshire	2,602
	Polesworth West	North Warwickshire	2,623
	Water Orton	North Warwickshire	2,721
	Bede	Nuneaton and Bedworth	4,910

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Exhall	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,760
	Heath	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,480
	Poplar	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,449
	Slough	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,186
29. Nuneaton CC			76,385
	Abbey	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,583
	Arbury	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,084
	Attleborough	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,385
	Bar Pool	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,160
	Bulkington	Nuneaton and Bedworth	4,916
	Camp Hill	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,312
	Galley Common	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,834
	Kingswood	Nuneaton and Bedworth	4,768
	St. Nicolas	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,427
	Weddington	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,748
	Wem Brook	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,040
	Whitestone	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,529
	Revel and Binley Woods	Rugby	5,170
	Wolston and the Lawfords	Rugby	5,439
	Wolvey and Shilton	Rugby	1,990
30. Redditch CC			77,689
	Alvechurch South	Bromsgrove	2,248
	Alvechurch Village	Bromsgrove	2,234
	Barnt Green & Hopwood	Bromsgrove	2,208
	Cofton	Bromsgrove	2,142
	Drakes Cross	Bromsgrove	2,489
	Hollywood	Bromsgrove	2,390
	Wythall East	Bromsgrove	2,344
	Wythall West	Bromsgrove	2,139
	Abbey	Redditch	4,213
	Astwood Bank and Feckenham	Redditch	4,596
	Batchley & Brockhill	Redditch	5,677
	Central	Redditch	4,015
	Church Hill	Redditch	5,654
	Crabbs Cross	Redditch	4,431
	Greenlands	Redditch	5,970
	Headless Cross and Oakenshaw	Redditch	6,588
	Lodge Park	Redditch	3,633
	Matchborough	Redditch	4,338
	West	Redditch	4,360
	Winyates	Redditch	6,020
31. Rugby and Southam CC			76,575
	Admirals and Cawston	Rugby	5,508
	Benn	Rugby	4,487
	Bilton	Rugby	5,000
	Clifton, Newton and Churchover	Rugby	1,683
	Coton and Boughton	Rugby	4,789
	Dunsmore	Rugby	5,761
	Eastlands	Rugby	5,099
	Hillmorton	Rugby	4,073
	Leam Valley	Rugby	1,918
	New Bilton	Rugby	4,476
	Newbold and Brownsover	Rugby	4,839
	Paddox	Rugby	5,396
	Rokeby and Overslade	Rugby	5,559
	Bishop's Itchington	Stratford-on-Avon	2,771
	Harbury	Stratford-on-Avon	2,649
	Long Itchington & Stockton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,949
	Napton & Fenny Compton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,548

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Southam North	Stratford-on-Avon	2,440
	Southam South	Stratford-on-Avon	2,565
	Radford Semele	Warwick	2,065
32. Shrewsbury CC			77,830
	Abbey	Shropshire	2,971
	Bagley	Shropshire	3,339
	Battlefield	Shropshire	2,782
	Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton	Shropshire	9,640
	Belle Vue	Shropshire	3,270
	Bowbrook	Shropshire	2,882
	Burnell	Shropshire	3,430
	Castlefields and Ditherington	Shropshire	3,149
	Chirbury and Worthen	Shropshire	2,302
	Copthorne	Shropshire	3,030
	Harlescott	Shropshire	3,265
	Longden	Shropshire	3,108
	Loton	Shropshire	3,081
	Meole	Shropshire	3,002
	Monkmoor	Shropshire	3,108
	Porthill	Shropshire	3,399
	Quarry and Coton Hill	Shropshire	2,807
	Radbrook	Shropshire	3,296
	Rea Valley	Shropshire	3,143
	Severn Valley	Shropshire	3,262
	Sundorne	Shropshire	3,012
	Tern	Shropshire	3,567
	Underdale	Shropshire	2,985
33. Solihull BC			75,626
	Blythe	Solihull	9,760
	Lyndon	Solihull	9,720
	Olton	Solihull	9,528
	Shirley East	Solihull	8,610
	Shirley South	Solihull	9,519
	Shirley West	Solihull	9,108
	Silhill	Solihull	9,119
	St. Alphege	Solihull	10,262
34. South Staffordshire CC			72,132
	Billbrook	South Staffordshire	3,160
	Brewood and Coven	South Staffordshire	5,374
	Cheslyn Hay North and Saredon	South Staffordshire	3,327
	Cheslyn Hay South	South Staffordshire	2,908
	Codsall North	South Staffordshire	3,265
	Codsall South	South Staffordshire	3,135
	Essington	South Staffordshire	4,020
	Featherstone and Shareshill	South Staffordshire	3,663
	Great Wyrley Landywood	South Staffordshire	3,639
	Great Wyrley Town	South Staffordshire	4,936
	Himley and Swindon	South Staffordshire	1,788
	Huntington and Hatherton	South Staffordshire	3,835
	Kinver	South Staffordshire	5,912
	Pattingham and Patshull	South Staffordshire	1,805
	Perton Dippons	South Staffordshire	1,530
	Perton East	South Staffordshire	1,689
	Perton Lakeside	South Staffordshire	4,657
	Trysull and Seisdon	South Staffordshire	1,759
	Wombourne North and Lower Penn	South Staffordshire	5,203
	Wombourne South East	South Staffordshire	3,119
	Wombourne South West	South Staffordshire	3,408

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
35. Stafford CC			77,970
	Penkridge North East and Acton Trussell	South Staffordshire	2,949
	Penkridge South East	South Staffordshire	3,377
	Penkridge West	South Staffordshire	1,758
	Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley	South Staffordshire	3,191
	Baswich	Stafford	4,993
	Common	Stafford	2,629
	Coton	Stafford	4,080
	Doxey & Castletown	Stafford	2,334
	Eccleshall	Stafford	5,074
	Forebridge	Stafford	2,071
	Gnosall & Woodseaves	Stafford	5,177
	Highfields & Western Downs	Stafford	4,769
	Holmcroft	Stafford	5,334
	Littleworth	Stafford	4,282
	Manor	Stafford	5,150
	Milford	Stafford	2,438
	Milwich	Stafford	4,285
	Penkside	Stafford	2,411
	Rowley	Stafford	2,364
	Seighford & Church Eaton	Stafford	4,623
	Weeping Cross & Wildwood	Stafford	4,681
36. Staffordshire Moorlands CC			78,211
	Alton	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,151
	Bagnall and Stanley	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,376
	Biddulph East	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,516
	Biddulph Moor	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,375
	Biddulph North	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,391
	Biddulph South	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,416
	Biddulph West	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,271
	Brown Edge and Endon	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,005
	Caverswall	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,412
	Cellarhead	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,584
	Cheadle North East	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,771
	Cheadle South East	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,928
	Cheadle West	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,060
	Checkley	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,612
	Cheddleton	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,358
	Churnet	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,611
	Dane	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,275
	Forsbrook	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,182
	Hamps Valley	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,485
	Horton	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,572
	Ipstones	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,540
	Leek East	Staffordshire Moorlands	3,944
	Leek North	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,110
	Leek South	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,385
	Leek West	Staffordshire Moorlands	3,752
	Manifold	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,485
	Werrington	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,644
37. Stoke-on-Trent Central BC			71,730
	Abbey Hulton and Townsend	Stoke-on-Trent	7,369
	Bentilee and Ubbberley	Stoke-on-Trent	7,346
	Birches Head and Central Forest Park	Stoke-on-Trent	8,101
	Boothen and Oak Hill	Stoke-on-Trent	4,338
	Eaton Park	Stoke-on-Trent	3,675
	Etruria and Hanley	Stoke-on-Trent	3,875
	Fenton East	Stoke-on-Trent	4,307
	Fenton West and Mount Pleasant	Stoke-on-Trent	4,073
	Hanley Park and Shelton	Stoke-on-Trent	2,507

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Hartshill and Basford	Stoke-on-Trent	4,582
	Joiner's Square	Stoke-on-Trent	3,759
	Meir Hay	Stoke-on-Trent	4,023
	Penkhull and Stoke	Stoke-on-Trent	4,682
	Sandford Hill	Stoke-on-Trent	4,405
	Springfields and Trent Vale	Stoke-on-Trent	4,688
38. Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove BC			75,725
	Butt Lane	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,096
	Kidsgrove	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,811
	Newchapel	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,679
	Ravenscliffe	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,065
	Talke	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,974
	Baddeley, Milton and Norton	Stoke-on-Trent	13,371
	Bradeley and Chell Heath	Stoke-on-Trent	3,906
	Burslem Central	Stoke-on-Trent	4,009
	Burslem Park	Stoke-on-Trent	4,054
	Ford Green and Smallthorne	Stoke-on-Trent	4,501
	Goldenhill and Sandyford	Stoke-on-Trent	4,314
	Great Chell and Packmoor	Stoke-on-Trent	7,982
	Little Chell and Stanfield	Stoke-on-Trent	4,333
	Moorcroft	Stoke-on-Trent	3,779
	Sneyd Green	Stoke-on-Trent	3,936
	Tunstall	Stoke-on-Trent	3,915
39. Stoke-on-Trent South and Stone CC			73,842
	Barlaston	Stafford	2,164
	Fulford	Stafford	4,658
	St. Michael's & Stonefield	Stafford	7,766
	Swynnerton & Oulton	Stafford	4,679
	Walton	Stafford	4,548
	Blurton East	Stoke-on-Trent	4,226
	Blurton West and Newstead	Stoke-on-Trent	4,140
	Broadway and Longton East	Stoke-on-Trent	4,002
	Dresden and Florence	Stoke-on-Trent	3,793
	Hanford and Trentham	Stoke-on-Trent	9,519
	Hollybush and Longton West	Stoke-on-Trent	4,438
	Lightwood North and Normacot	Stoke-on-Trent	3,766
	Meir North	Stoke-on-Trent	4,507
	Meir Park	Stoke-on-Trent	3,886
	Meir South	Stoke-on-Trent	3,826
	Weston Coyney	Stoke-on-Trent	3,924
40. Stourbridge BC			75,342
	Amblecote	Dudley	10,445
	Part of Brierley Hill (polling district H01)	Dudley	1,455
	Part of Brierley Hill (polling district H02)	Dudley	1,505
	Part of Brierley Hill (polling district H03)	Dudley	1,460
	Part of Brierley Hill (polling district H04)	Dudley	1,619
	Cradley and Wollescote	Dudley	9,756
	Lye and Stourbridge North	Dudley	9,264
	Norton	Dudley	9,712
	Pedmore and Stourbridge East	Dudley	9,895
	Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood	Dudley	10,113
	Wollaston and Stourbridge Town	Dudley	10,118
41. Stratford-on-Avon CC			78,370
	Alcester & Rural	Stratford-on-Avon	2,878
	Alcester Town	Stratford-on-Avon	3,005
	Avenue	Stratford-on-Avon	1,902
	Bidford East	Stratford-on-Avon	2,664
	Bidford West & Salford	Stratford-on-Avon	2,592
	Bishopton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,488

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Brailes & Compton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,764
	Bridgetown	Stratford-on-Avon	3,024
	Clopton	Stratford-on-Avon	1,690
	Ettington	Stratford-on-Avon	2,703
	Guildhall	Stratford-on-Avon	2,457
	Hathaway	Stratford-on-Avon	2,023
	Henley-in-Arden	Stratford-on-Avon	3,147
	Kineton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,720
	Kinwarton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,229
	Quinton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,360
	Red Horse	Stratford-on-Avon	2,639
	Shipston North	Stratford-on-Avon	2,846
	Shipston South	Stratford-on-Avon	2,801
	Shottery	Stratford-on-Avon	2,358
	Snitterfield	Stratford-on-Avon	2,758
	Studley with Mappleborough Green	Stratford-on-Avon	2,849
	Studley with Sambourne	Stratford-on-Avon	2,864
	Tanworth-in-Arden	Stratford-on-Avon	2,582
	Tiddington	Stratford-on-Avon	2,805
	Welcombe	Stratford-on-Avon	2,309
	Welford-on-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	2,587
	Wellesbourne East	Stratford-on-Avon	2,994
	Wellesbourne West	Stratford-on-Avon	2,446
	Wootton Wawen	Stratford-on-Avon	2,886
42. Sutton Coldfield BC			73,172
	Sutton Four Oaks	Birmingham	18,833
	Sutton New Hall	Birmingham	17,195
	Sutton Trinity	Birmingham	19,140
	Sutton Vesey	Birmingham	18,004
43. Tamworth CC			73,305
	Bourne Vale	Lichfield	1,762
	Fazeley	Lichfield	3,458
	Little Aston & Stonnall	Lichfield	3,977
	Mease Valley	Lichfield	1,535
	Shenstone	Lichfield	1,890
	Whittington & Streethay	Lichfield	3,994
	Amington	Tamworth	5,756
	Belgrave	Tamworth	5,666
	Bolehall	Tamworth	5,680
	Castle	Tamworth	5,443
	Glascote	Tamworth	5,519
	Mercian	Tamworth	5,179
	Spital	Tamworth	5,372
	Stonydelph	Tamworth	5,608
	Trinity	Tamworth	5,843
	Wilnecote	Tamworth	6,623
44. Telford BC			76,556
	Brookside	Telford and Wrekin	4,090
	Dawley & Aqueduct	Telford and Wrekin	6,735
	Donnington	Telford and Wrekin	4,468
	Hadley & Leegomery	Telford and Wrekin	6,382
	Horsehay & Lightmoor	Telford and Wrekin	4,273
	Ironbridge Gorge	Telford and Wrekin	2,459
	Ketley & Overdale	Telford and Wrekin	6,789
	Madeley & Sutton Hill	Telford and Wrekin	7,364
	Malinslee & Dawley Bank	Telford and Wrekin	4,151
	Oakengates & Ketley Bank	Telford and Wrekin	5,967
	Priorslee	Telford and Wrekin	4,506
	St. Georges	Telford and Wrekin	4,443

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	The Nedge	Telford and Wrekin	6,536
	Woodside	Telford and Wrekin	3,915
	Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	Telford and Wrekin	4,478
45. Walsall and Oscott BC			72,331
	Oscott	Birmingham	17,483
	Birchills Leamore	Walsall	9,516
	Blakenall	Walsall	8,023
	Paddock	Walsall	9,429
	Palfrey	Walsall	9,880
	Pheasey Park Farm	Walsall	8,782
	St. Matthew's	Walsall	9,218
46. Warley BC			77,670
	St. Thomas's	Dudley	9,781
	Abbey	Sandwell	7,865
	Bristnall	Sandwell	8,851
	Langley	Sandwell	8,958
	Old Warley	Sandwell	8,965
	Oldbury	Sandwell	9,188
	Part of St. Pauls (polling district SPA)	Sandwell	1,454
	Part of St. Pauls (polling district SPB)	Sandwell	1,255
	Part of St. Pauls (polling district SPF)	Sandwell	1,678
	Part of St. Pauls (polling district SPG)	Sandwell	1,811
	Smethwick	Sandwell	9,014
	Tivdale	Sandwell	8,850
47. Warwick and Leamington CC			77,569
	Arden	Warwick	4,289
	Aylesford	Warwick	4,618
	Bishop's Tachbrook	Warwick	2,012
	Brunswick	Warwick	4,682
	Budbrooke	Warwick	4,705
	Clarendon	Warwick	4,046
	Crown	Warwick	4,452
	Emscote	Warwick	4,575
	Leam	Warwick	3,401
	Manor	Warwick	4,994
	Milverton	Warwick	4,407
	Myton & Heathcote	Warwick	3,804
	Newbold	Warwick	4,029
	Saltisford	Warwick	4,968
	Stoneleigh & Cubbington	Warwick	4,024
	Sydenham	Warwick	4,119
	Whitnash	Warwick	6,394
	Woodloes	Warwick	4,050
48. West Bromwich BC			78,225
	Handsworth Wood	Birmingham	17,301
	Charlemont with Grove Vale	Sandwell	9,132
	Friar Park	Sandwell	8,741
	Great Barr with Yew Tree	Sandwell	9,438
	Part of Greets Green and Lyng (polling district GGC)	Sandwell	1,367
	Part of Greets Green and Lyng (polling district GGD)	Sandwell	938
	Part of Greets Green and Lyng (polling district GGE)	Sandwell	693
	Part of Greets Green and Lyng (polling district GGF)	Sandwell	1,173
	Hateley Heath	Sandwell	9,379
	Newton	Sandwell	8,544
	Part of St. Pauls (polling district SPC)	Sandwell	527
	Part of St. Pauls (polling district SPD)	Sandwell	1,200
	Part of St. Pauls (polling district SPE)	Sandwell	1,035
	West Bromwich Central	Sandwell	8,757

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
49. Wolverhampton East and Willenhall BC			77,139
	Short Heath	Walsall	8,583
	Willenhall North	Walsall	9,275
	Willenhall South	Walsall	10,576
	Bushbury South and Low Hill	Wolverhampton	9,038
	Fallings Park	Wolverhampton	8,804
	Heath Town	Wolverhampton	7,435
	St. Peter's	Wolverhampton	6,321
	Wednesfield North	Wolverhampton	8,681
	Wednesfield South	Wolverhampton	8,426
50. Wolverhampton South and Coseley BC			73,652
	Coseley East	Dudley	9,607
	Sedgley	Dudley	9,797
	Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	Dudley	10,114
	Bilston East	Wolverhampton	9,442
	Bilston North	Wolverhampton	8,649
	East Park	Wolverhampton	8,550
	Ettingshall	Wolverhampton	8,915
	Spring Vale	Wolverhampton	8,578
51. Wolverhampton West BC			77,373
	Blakenhall	Wolverhampton	7,892
	Bushbury North	Wolverhampton	8,812
	Graiseley	Wolverhampton	7,635
	Merry Hill	Wolverhampton	9,118
	Oxley	Wolverhampton	8,766
	Park	Wolverhampton	7,415
	Penn	Wolverhampton	9,759
	Tettenhall Regis	Wolverhampton	9,137
	Tettenhall Wightwick	Wolverhampton	8,839
52. Worcester BC			72,912
	Arboretum	Worcester	4,141
	Battenhall	Worcester	3,914
	Bedwardine	Worcester	6,304
	Cathedral	Worcester	6,826
	Claines	Worcester	6,397
	Gorse Hill	Worcester	3,407
	Nunnery	Worcester	5,590
	Rainbow Hill	Worcester	3,844
	St. Clement	Worcester	3,938
	St. John	Worcester	5,738
	St. Peter's Parish	Worcester	4,374
	St. Stephen	Worcester	4,057
	Warndon	Worcester	3,683
	Warndon Parish North	Worcester	3,965
	Warndon Parish South	Worcester	4,364
	Norton and Whittington	Wychavon	2,370
53. Wyre Forest CC			75,226
	Aggborough & Spennells	Wyre Forest	6,559
	Areley Kings & Riverside	Wyre Forest	6,437
	Bewdley & Rock	Wyre Forest	6,788
	Blakebrook & Habberley South	Wyre Forest	6,569
	Broadwaters	Wyre Forest	6,424
	Foley Park & Hoobrook	Wyre Forest	6,807
	Franche & Habberley North	Wyre Forest	7,591
	Lickhill	Wyre Forest	2,189
	Mitton	Wyre Forest	7,246
	Offmore & Comberton	Wyre Forest	7,295
	Wribbenhall & Arley	Wyre Forest	4,277
	Wyre Forest Rural	Wyre Forest	7,044



TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL
BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2017
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW REQUEST – NEWPORT TOWN COUNCIL
REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE, PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Telford & Wrekin Council has a responsibility to undertake Community Governance Reviews (CGR's) when a petition is received for such or at its discretion.
- 1.2 Newport Town Council requested such a review, initially in March 2014, and has pursued progress with the request again in August 2017.
- 1.3 The Committee is asked to consider the request for a CGR to be undertaken as an 'exceptional circumstance', thereby not requiring a formal petition to be submitted by the Town Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Boundary Review Committee approve Newport Town Council's request for a Community Governance Review under "exceptional circumstances", thereby not requiring a formal petition.**
- (ii) That the Boundary Review Committee delegate responsibility to the Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement and Commissioning, to commence a Community Governance Review and to report back to the BRC of progress at the next BRC meeting.**
- (iii) That Boundary Review Committee reaffirms the policy that, other than in exceptional circumstances, all future Community Governance Reviews will only be considered when a formal petition from local electors is received.**

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	No	
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	<i>Residents within the area of Newport Town Council and Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Council</i>
DELIVERY DATE	Prior to the May 2019 local elections	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Local Authorities have the responsibility to undertake Community Governance Reviews, which includes arrangements in Parishes. The process to be followed is prescribed and will involve officer time and

		other associated costs, such as postages and printing. These costs will be met from within existing resources.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 the Council has a responsibility to undertake community governance reviews in defined circumstances.</p> <p>Authority is delegated to the Boundary Review Committee to deal with matters relating to Community Governance Reviews.</p> <p>Regulations under the 2007 Act make provision for the purposes of, or in consequence of, the making of reorganisation orders. These make provision in relation to matters such as the distribution of property, rights and liabilities for which the Council must appoint a 'Proper Officer', and the setting of precepts for new parishes.</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	Risks would include legal challenge – Judicial Review (local residents or statutory bodies, e.g. Boundary Commission etc) in respect of process and final decision.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Depending on the outcome of the review, there may be an impact on the parish-element of council tax charge for some residents, as the precept differs between Newport Town Council and Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote Parish Council.

BACKGROUND

1. What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review enables Telford and Wrekin Council to review and put in place, or make changes, to community governance systems and structures. This may be by creating, merging, abolishing or changing parish or town councils in the review area. A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of the district to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- The naming of parishes and the style of local governance
- The electoral arrangements for parishes – i.e. the council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council and parish warding.

2. When is the Council required to undertake a CGR

Telford & Wrekin Council has the responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews within its electoral area and deciding whether to implement the recommendations made in those reviews. A Community Governance Review can be undertaken for a variety of reasons including, for example, in response to demographic changes such as a rise in population as a result of significant new housing development. A review can also be triggered if a petition is presented to the council asking for a review to be undertaken, and the law places a duty on principal

councils to respond to such a petition.

3. **The Role of the Boundary Review Committee**

The Boundary Review Committee has been delegated responsibility from the Council to deal with all matters relating to Community Governance Reviews. Please see Appendix C2 for the Terms of Reference.

4. **Telford & Wrekin Council's approach to CGR's.**

The Boundary Review Committee agreed at its meeting in February 2017 for the council to make available a full information pack about the CGR process. It also agreed that other than in exceptional circumstances, that Community Governance Reviews will only be considered when a formal petition from local electors is received be endorsed.

5. **The current request**

On 14th August 2017, Newport Town Council submitted a request; being to extend the Southern Parish boundary of Newport to the A518, to match with the Telford and Wrekin ward boundary for consistency. For further information please see Appendix C1.

The current request from Newport Town Council was first made on 24th March 2014, but has been deferred by the BRC due to other boundary matters.

Newport Town Council has not so far submitted a formal petition requesting a CGR. Therefore, the BRC must exercise its discretion as to whether the request falls under an "exceptional circumstance" (thereby not requiring a formal petition to be submitted by the Town Council).

Exceptional circumstances has not been defined by the BRC, however it covers circumstances where the BRC is of the view that it is fair, reasonable, rationale and necessary to conduct a CGR without the requirement for a formal petition.

In this case, the original request was made in March 2014, and in August 2016 Newport Town Council was promised by the BRC Chair that the parish boundary issues would be considered in mid 2017. As a long outstanding request, it seems reasonable to enable a CGR to be commenced without further delay or the need for a petition to be acquired.

In terms of next steps, if it is agreed there are exceptional circumstances to accommodate Newport Town Councils request, the CGR process would commence in early 2018 and progress reported back to the next BRC Meeting.

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14/08/17 - Purposed Changes to Parish Boundaries

Aim

To provide an overview of the Newport Town Council suggested changes to parish boundaries.

Newport Town Councils purpose to extend the Sothern Parish boundary of Newport to the A518, to match with the Telford and Wrekin ward boundary for consistency.

Background

Town Council resolved to support the recommendation from the planning committee at meeting on 12th March 2014 (Minutes 193/13-14).

Newport Town Council requested a governance review of Telford & Wrekin under the local government & public involvement in Health Act 2007 Section 93 (4) Powers to conduct reviews, terms of reference and general duties item 2.16 (reflects the identities and interest of the community in that area and is effective and convenient) 24th March 2014.

The Borough Councillor boundary was changed in the Boundary commission review in 2014, in which the four borough council wards were made into two wards (South & East Ward and North & West Ward) each with two councillors.

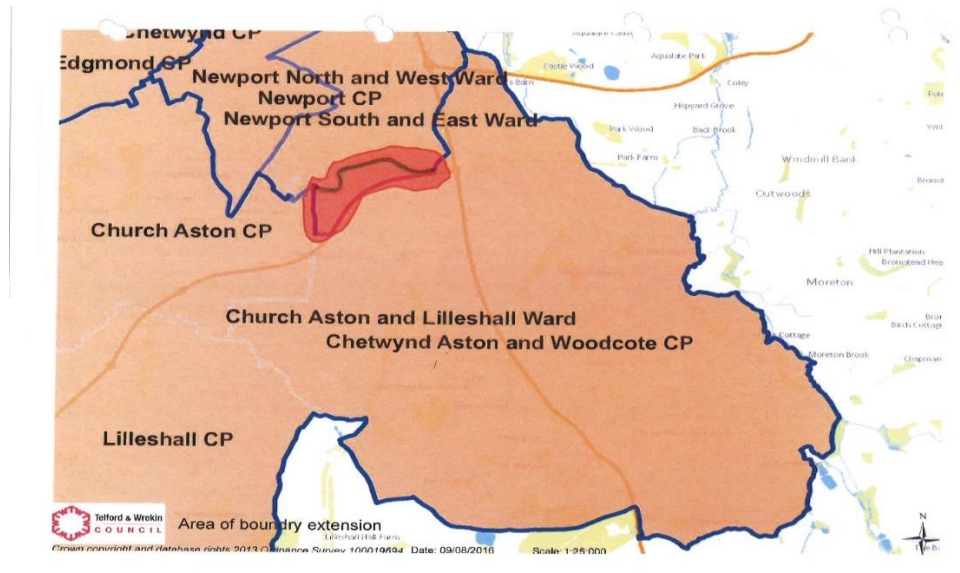
Discussion

Newport Town Council have been in correspondence with The Borough Council, To deliver the change in parish boundary, there needs to be a community governance review which would assess the facts based on the local boundary commission for England (LGBCE) guidelines and come up with a final recommendation regarding this boundary. The Borough council is looking to carry out outstanding Community Governance reviews during 2017/18 following the parliamentary boundary review (early 2016).

Following the review the LGBCE are responsible for making any reorganisation order required to change the boundary. Their guidance on reviews states that such an order would become effective from the first parish elections after it is made which would be in May 2019.

The residents within the suggested boundary change are likely to consider themselves residents of Newport and not Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote, as borough boundary

suggests. Housing developments within this area also assessed on, and approved because of their location is considered to be within the boundaries of Newport and not Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote, this is because the A518 and A41 which border Newport, are a more natural boundary than what exists.



The dark red area is area of discussion, the blue line represents the parish boundary for Newport, and the red line represents the Telford and Wrekin Consistency Boundary for Newport's South & East Ward.

Summary

There appear to some merits in considering extending the boundary of Newport in certain areas based upon:

- General public perception of what is Newport.
- The ability to properly represent future residents and provide services.
- Having a boundary that is consistent with Telford & Wrekin borough wards.

Certain features lend themselves to be natural boundary points, namely the A41 and A518.

Recommendations:

That the parish boundary is extended to match the Consistency boundary, and to be brought in to effect for the 2019 town and parish elections.

Boundary Review Committee - Terms of Reference and Procedure

The Committee has the responsibility and delegated powers to act on behalf of the Council in respect of the following electoral arrangements for the Borough.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Boundary Reviews

1. Duty to prepare information on and to recommend consultation responses to Council on Parliamentary Boundary Reviews.
2. Duty to prepare information on and to recommend consultation responses to Council on Periodic and further Electoral Reviews.
3. Duty to prepare information on and to recommend consultation responses to Council on Reviews of European Parliamentary electoral regions.
4. Duty to prepare information on and recommend consultation responses to Council on all other electoral arrangement reviews.

Community Governance Reviews

5. Dealing with all matters relating to Community Governance Reviews.

Parishes

6. Grouping parishes, dissolving groups and separating parishes from groups.

Polling Districts

7. Duty to divide the constituency in to polling districts.
8. The power to divide electoral divisions into polling districts at local government elections.

Elections

9. As set out in Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000/2853 (as amended).

General

10. Annually at the first meeting after the Annual Council Meeting consider its terms of reference.

PROCEDURE

As a general rule the Council Procedure Rules govern the way that committees operate but these, with the exception of paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules, may be varied or suspended at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee in the interests of efficient and effective management of the committee.