

**MINUTES OF
RV BOUNDARY REVIEW WORKING GROUP
12 JUL7 2021 – 1pm**

PRESENT:

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| Cllr Stephen Atkinson | Marshal Scott |
| Cllr Simon Hore | Michelle Haworth |
| Cllr David Peat | |
| Cllr Stewart Fletcher | |
| Cllr Robert Thompson | |
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APOLOGIES

Received from Cllr Jonathan Hill

Cllr Mark Hindle not in attendance.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKING GROUP

- To consider and formulate a response on behalf of the Council to the consultation on the Boundary Commission for England review of 2023 Parliamentary Constituencies.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND REVIEW

The draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements had been received and considered at Policy & Finance committee who had set up a task and finish group to formulate a response on behalf of the Council. Responses are to be made by 2 August 2021.

There is to be a fixed number of 650 constituencies for the whole of the UK with a statutory electorate range of no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062.

The proposals maintained a Ribble Valley constituency in name based mainly on the existing borough boundary but with some additions from Preston and South Ribble to make it big enough to match the numbers required.

However, the main area of concern was the proposal for three wards of Ribble Valley (Billington & Langho, East Whalley, Read & Simonstone and Whalley & Painter Wood) to be moved into the Hyndburn constituency.

The BCE had asked for approval or objections to the proposals but asked that any objection should be accompanied by a viable counter proposal that addresses any knock-on effects on the electorate figures of neighbouring constituencies.

This was the first step in the consultations. Once views had been received and taken into account, another consultation would follow, including public hearings, after which the BCE would make their recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Members asked that thanks be given in our response to BCE for keeping a RV constituency and name.

The members agreed that the main objective was to bring the 'removed' 3 wards back into the RV constituency.

- This was based on a sense of community identity with Whalley being one of Ribble Valley's recognised service centres which constituents visit for services.

- Read & Simonstone is part of the AONB.
- There are no obvious links to Hyndburn at all.
- Ribble Valley is also a 'fully-parished' area, unlike Hyndburn.
- RV has an older demographic that may need/want personal contact with their MP and would therefore need to be closer geographically with good public transport links.

It was AGREED that Michelle be asked to look at the following and calculate the numbers before the group met again to consider a response -

- i) Historical connections to Parliamentary seats;
- ii) Removing Fishwick and Ribbleton (Preston), moving Pleasington (Blackburn) into West Pennine Moors; Haslingden (West Pennine Moors) into Hyndburn and retaining the 3 RV wards.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Arranged for **Monday 26 July 2021 at 2pm by ZOOM.**

The meeting closed at 1:40pm