

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Council		
<b>DATE:</b>	24 March 2022		
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	<b>Cllr Miles Parkinson, Leader</b>		
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Scrutiny and Policy Officer		
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	Initial proposal for the new Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review 2023 for Hyndburn		
<b>EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)</b>	<b>No</b>	Not applicable	
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>No</b>	If yes, date of publication:	

## 1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide Council with an update on the Parliamentary Boundary Review 2023, notifying members of the initial proposals from the Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) concerning the Hyndburn constituency and obtain Council's support for the Commission's initial recommendations after considering the responses to the first consultation.

## 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Council:

- Notes the contents of the report; and
- The Council supports the proposal for keeping Hyndburn in one parliamentary constituency area and Hyndburn CC (County Constituency) for the name of the constituency.
- We understand there maybe differing views regarding preferences of which additional wards make up electorate numbers within the parliament seat. But, any further proposals to change the name and not keep Hyndburn coterminous in one parliamentary seat would not receive the Council's full support.

## 3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

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

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 the Commission published a report on their initial proposals to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal (electorate equality), which included a boundary change to the Hyndburn constituency and again proposed the name Hyndburn CC (County Constituency) which the Commission proposed in the final review back in 2018.

The Commission's latest proposals for the Hyndburn constituency included the loss of the Haslingden area to the West Pennine Moors constituency and the gain of three additional wards (*Billington & Langho; East Whalley, Read & Simonstone; Whalley & Painter Wood*) from the Ribble Valley constituency, whilst keeping Hyndburn coterminous with the district council's boundary.

3.2 Following the passing of the [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020](#) in December 2020, and the publication of the relevant [Parliamentary electorate data](#) in January 2021, the Commission began a new review of all Parliamentary constituencies in England. They refer to this as the '**2023 Review**', as they are required to report with their final recommendations by 1 July 2023.

3.3 The 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies was formally launched in January this year (2021). The Commission is required to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal; in doing so, the number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543 (ten more than there are currently). The Commission is undertaking an independent review of all constituency boundaries in England and will present their final recommendations to Parliament by July 2023. Each constituency that the Commission recommend must contain no fewer than 69,724 Parliamentary electors, and no more than 77,062 (except two 'protected' constituencies for the Isle of Wight). By law, these electorate figures relate to the electorates as they were on 2 March 2020.

3.4 Applying the statutory formula to the electorate figures means the total 650 constituencies is distributed during the review to the four parts of the UK with England receiving 543 seats, Scotland with 57, Wales with 32 and Northern Ireland with 18 seats.

This Commission has applied the same distribution formula to the English allocation, which results in the following redistribution of constituencies among the nine English regions for the 2023 Review with the North West losing two seats from 75 to 73.

- East Midlands = 47 (increase of one)
- Eastern = 61 (increase of three)
- London = 75 (increase of two)
- North East = 27 (decrease of two)
- **North West = 73 (decrease of two)**
- South East = 91 (increase of seven)
- South West = 58 (increase of three)

- West Midlands = 57 (decrease of two)
- Yorkshire and the Humber = 54 (no change)

3.5 The Commission's proposals leave ten of the existing 75 (going down to 73) North West constituencies unchanged. A further three constituencies are unchanged, except to realign with new local government ward boundaries. Across Cumbria and Lancashire it is proposed to reduce the number of existing constituency areas from 22 to 20, whilst Greater Manchester, Cheshire & Merseyside have kept the same number. This is down to the number of constituencies allocated to each sub-region and is determined by the combined electorate of the local authorities they contain.

## Proposals

3.6 In 2018, the Council was united in keeping Hyndburn coterminous with 100% of the district area within the parliamentary seat of Hyndburn whilst keeping its name. The Council is pleased the Commission followed the previous submission and kept Hyndburn coterminous and would like to thank the Commission for retaining the Hyndburn area.

The previous 2018 review recommended the Padiham wards were included in the Hyndburn constituency proposals (Appendix B), and the latest 2023 proposals include the three wards of Billington & Langho; East Whalley, Read & Simonstone; Whalley & Painter Wood (Appendix A) from the Ribble Valley constituency area.

It can be argued that both 2018 and 2023 proposals have natural linkages and community ties from schools, shops and employment. The Padiham wards have similar social economic profiles and good infrastructure links. Whilst, prior to 1983 Great Harwood was in the Clitheroe constituency, before it got changed to the Ribble Valley and Great Harwood moved into Hyndburn.

Whilst there maybe differing opinions regarding preferences of which additional wards make up electorate numbers within the parliament seat the Council follow and support the Commissions impartiality and understands the seat requires a certain number of electorates to represent voter equality and tolerance level and be within the Commission's recommendations.

3.7 In the 2018 review the Ribble Valley Borough Council made a representation and their preferred Parliamentary Constituency was be to include the whole of the Ribble Valley, together with parts of West Hyndburn (Baxenden, Church, Immanuel, Netherton, Overton, Rishton, St Andrew's and St Oswald's) that would bring the new constituency within the right tolerance level at 77,634 and they suggested it should be known as Ribble Valley and Hyndburn West.

However, the latest proposals suggest the Ribble Valley district will only lose those three wards to the Hyndburn seat. The Burnley constituency will lose Briercliffe, and gain Bacup and the Whitworth area. Pendle is 100% coterminous and would gain

Briercliffe, while Rossendale district has been split between the seat of Burnley and the new seat of West Pennine Moors.

The concerns arise if we the Council consider proposing alternative recommendations such as preferences over certain wards the detrimental impact on Hyndburn could be the seat is split into another parliamentary area. The risk being a possibility that Hyndburn would no longer be coterminous if we suggest alternative proposals, with perhaps the Commission redrawing boundaries across the North West and proposing alternative proposals at other submission requests.

The main Council's objective is to support the proposal for keeping Hyndburn in one parliamentary constituency area. Any further proposals to change the name and not keep Hyndburn in one parliamentary seat would not receive the Council's support.

## **Consultation**

- 3.8 On 8 June 2021 the Commission published their initial proposals for how the 543 constituencies for England could be drawn up within the legal parameters mentioned. This commenced a statutory consultation period of eight weeks (closing on 2 August 2021 - <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk> ), where anyone could give their views on those proposals. ***There are two further rounds of public consultation.***
- 3.9 Early this year the Commission published responses to initial proposals and are now conducting a six-week 'secondary consultation', including between two and five public hearings in each region. This secondary consultation will end on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- 3.10 The Commission received numerous comments from members of the public, elected members and businesses relating to the proposals for Hyndburn. These comments can be viewed in full here [North West | BCE Consultation Portal \(bcereviews.org.uk\)](#).
- 3.11 In addition, 3 political parties (Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats) submitted full counter proposals for the North West Region. In summary, the parties were supportive of the proposals affecting Hyndburn, with just one highlighting alternatives in the way Whalley is to be split. These counter proposals are also available to view on the Boundary Commission website.
- 3.12 In late 2022 the Commission will publish revised proposals and conduct a four-week written consultation and following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the Commission will look at all the evidence received before forming its final recommendations. The Commission must then submit its final report and recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Commons by 1 July 2023.

## **4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 The Council is not compelled to respond to the consultation, however this is an opportunity for the Council to support the BCE. ( [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk) )

4.2 The Commission will be particularly interested to hear from people about the extent to which the proposals reflect the local ties in the area, and if people disagree with the proposals, how they think they should be amended.

## 5. **Consultations**

5.1 A report went to Hyndburn Borough Council's Full Council on the 17th November 2016 which discussed the initial 2018 proposals. A second report went to Full Council on the 23rd March 2017 that discussed the secondary consultation period for the new Parliamentary Constituency Boundary for Hyndburn and a letter was sent to the Commission. The letter stated that the Council supports the Commission's proposals for a change to the Hyndburn Parliamentary constituency area and requests that Hyndburn be retained in the name of the constituency.

5.2 The 2023 Commission proposals commenced a statutory consultation period of eight weeks (closed 2 August 2021 - <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk> ), where anyone could give their views on those proposals.

5.3 In early 2022, the Commission published responses to initial proposals and are conducting a six-week 'secondary consultation', including between two and five public hearings in each region. In late 2022, the Commission will publish revised proposals and conduct a four-week written consultation. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the Commission will look at all the evidence received before forming its final recommendations. The Commission must then submit its final report and recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Commons by 1 July 2023.

## 6. **Implications**

<b>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</b>	None
<b>Legal and human rights implications</b>	None
<b>Assessment of risk</b>	Not applicable
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b> <i>A <a href="#">Customer First Analysis</a> should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not applicable

## 7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:**

## **List of Background Papers**

- 7.1 *Copies of documents included in this list must be open to inspection and, in the case of reports to Cabinet, must be published on the website.*

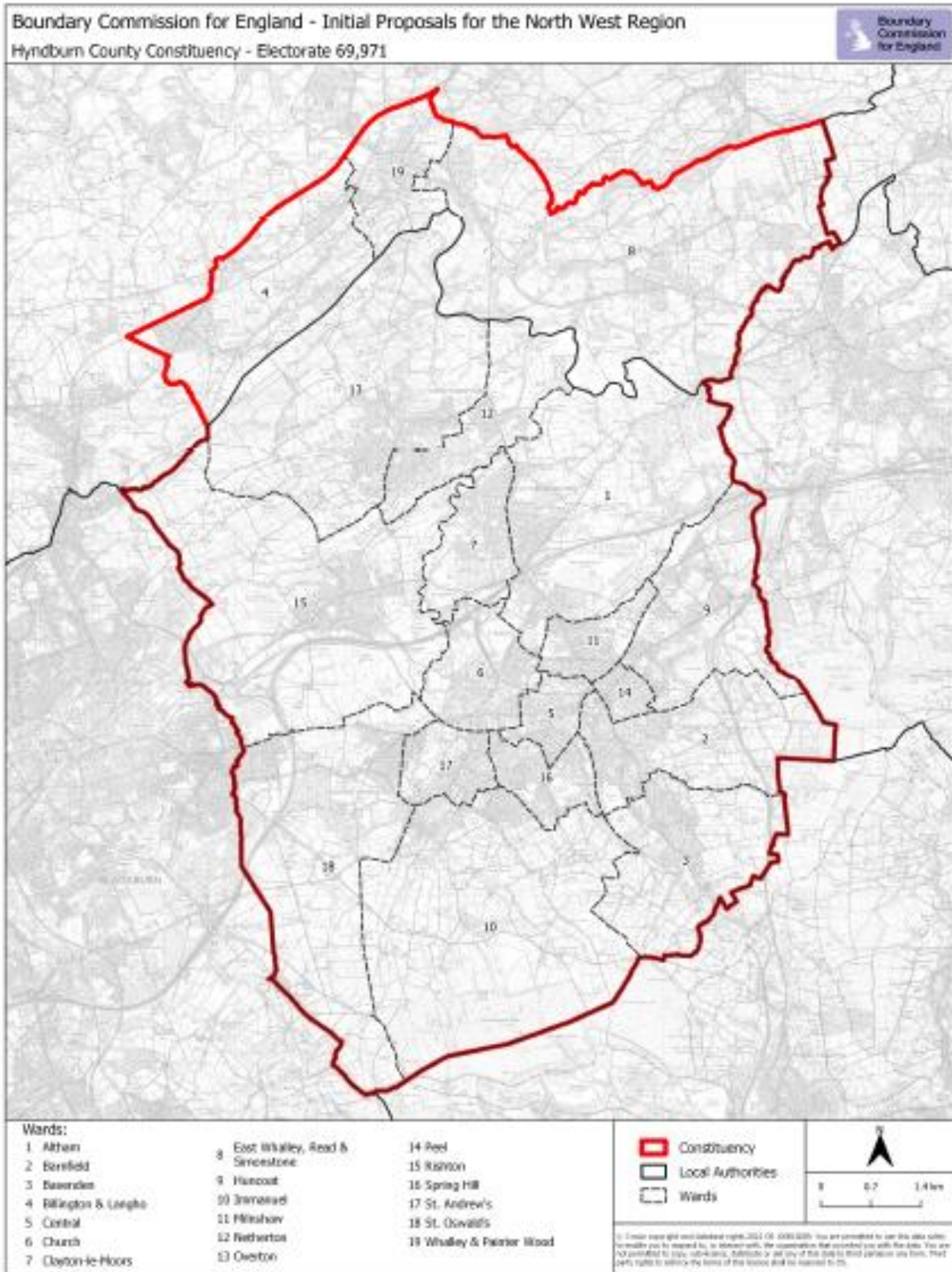
<https://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=1062&Ver=4>

<https://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=1065&Ver=4>

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/north-west/>

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-06-08-North-West-Initial-Proposals-A0-map.pdf>

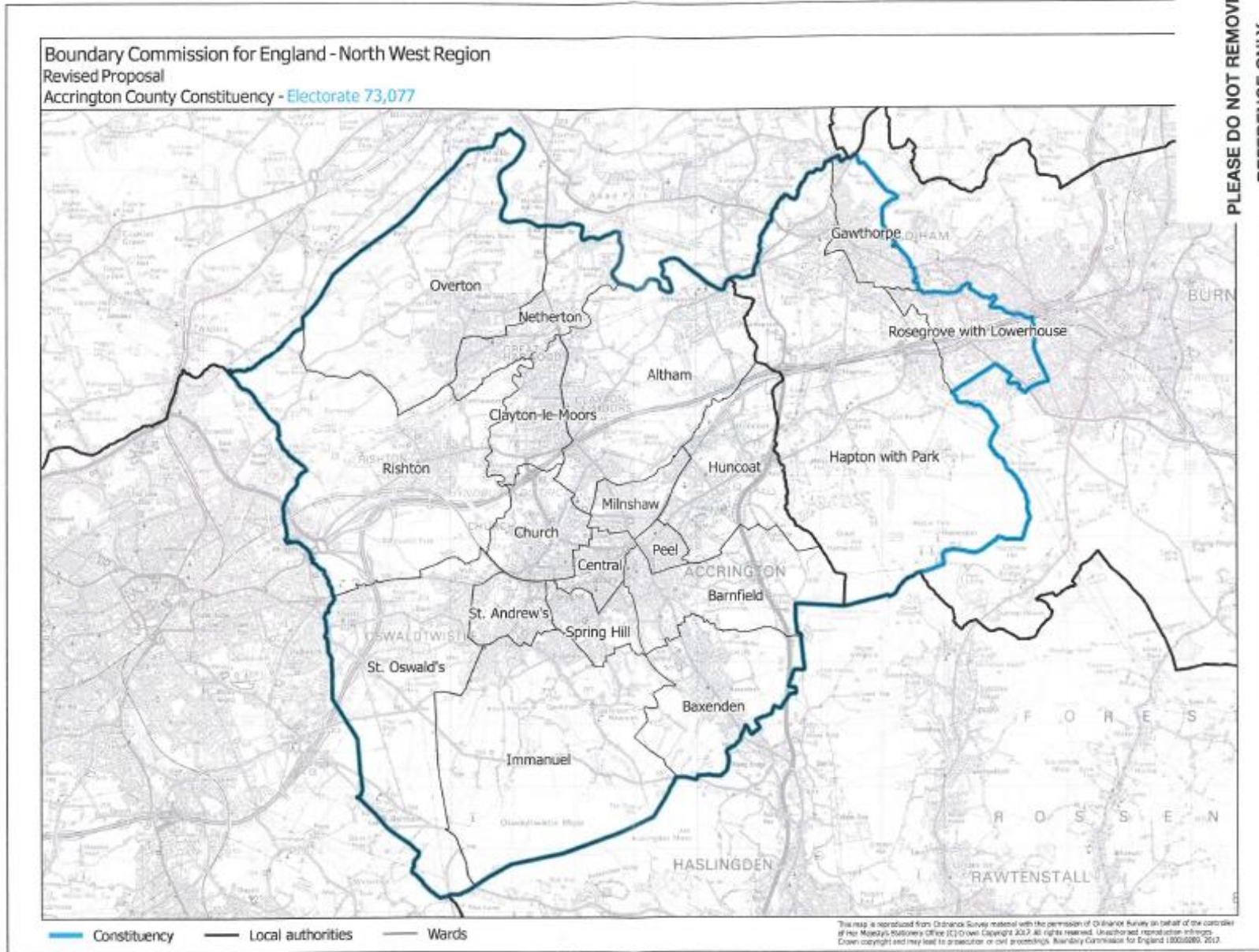
# Appendix A. The Boundary Commission for England – Initial Proposals for the Hyndburn Constituency (2023)



Hyndburn County Constituency

Appendix B

The Boundary Commission for England – Previous Proposals for the Hyndburn Constituency (2018)



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