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| REPORT TO: | | Council | |
| DATE: | | 01 December 2022 | |
| PORTFOLIO: | | Cllr Miles Parkinson, Leader | |
| REPORT AUTHOR: | | Policy Manager | |
| TITLE OF REPORT: | | Final consultation on the revised proposals for the Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review 2023 | |
| EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A) | Options | Not applicable | |
| KEY DECISION: | Options | 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 latest proposals from the Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) concerning the Hyndburn constituency and to obtain Council's support in providing the Commission with recommendations on the latest proposals as part of the final stage of the consultation.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That members notes the contents of the report;
- 2.2 That members agree the recommendations of the Cabinet made on 30th November 2022 which will be circulated separately and in advance of the meeting;
- 2.3 That Council thanks the Commission for the opportunity to comment on their recommendations and for all their hard work in developing these proposals.

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.
- 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 Commission has been undertaking an independent review of all constituencies in England since January 2021. The number of electors within each constituency currently varies widely due to population changes since the last boundary review. The 2023 Boundary Review will rebalance the number of electors each MP represents, resulting in significant change to the existing constituency map. 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.

- 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 have revised the composition of 32 of the 73 constituencies they proposed in June 2021 for the North West, and maintained their initial proposals for the remainder. They have revised the name of 17 of their initially proposed constituencies. The Commissions revised proposals would leave 13 existing constituencies in the North West region wholly unchanged, and five unchanged except to realign constituency boundaries with local government ward boundaries.

As it is not always possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, they sometimes group these into sub-regions, meaning some constituencies cross county boundaries. They've explained after consideration of the responses to the sub-regions in the initial proposals, the revised proposals are based on unchanged sub-regions, as follows: Cumbria and Lancashire (allocated 20 constituencies); Merseyside and Cheshire (allocated 26 constituencies); and Greater Manchester (allocated 27 constituencies). 30 constituencies would cross local authority boundaries (three more than the initial proposals): four would contain parts of more than two local

authorities (the same as the initial proposals). The Commission are proposing comprehensive change in both Cumbria and the south of Lancashire, reflecting on the evidence received in opposition to the initial proposals.

Proposals for Hyndburn

- 3.6 The latest proposal from the Commission indicates no changes to the Hyndburn Parliamentary Constituency boundary from the current version in operation which includes the two wards of Greenfield and Worsley wards from the Rossendale Borough Council area (shown in Appendix A).
- 3.7 All the way through the process the Commission have kept Hyndburn coterminous with 100% of the district area within the parliamentary seat of Hyndburn whilst keeping its name Hyndburn. The Commissioners may consider including Haslingden in the constituency name, reflecting on not all the area is within the Borough of Hyndburn.
- 3.8 The previous 2018 review recommended the Padiham wards were included in the Hyndburn constituency proposals (Appendix C), and the initial 2023 proposals included the three wards of Billington & Langho; East Whalley, Read & Simonstone; Whalley & Painter Wood (Appendix B) from the Ribble Valley constituency area to be included.
- 3.9 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 voters to represent voter equality and tolerance level and be within the Commission's recommendations.
- 3.10 The main Council's objective is to support the proposal for keeping Hyndburn in one parliamentary constituency area and would like to thank the Commission for retaining the Hyndburn area.

Final Consultation

- 3.11 The Commission has published the latest proposals for constituencies across the country and opens a third and final month-long consultation on the new map of revised constituency proposals. The Commission has taken into consideration over 45,000 comments (over 400 responses referenced to Hyndburn) sent in by the public during the previous two stages of public consultation, and has changed nearly half of its initial proposals based on this feedback.
- 3.12 The public are invited to view and comment on the new map at bcereviews.org.uk giving the public a last opportunity to send in their views before the 5th December 2022.
- 3.13 After this final consultation the Commission will analyse the responses and form its final recommendations. These will be submitted to Parliament by 1 July 2023.

The Next Stage

- 3.14 After analysing all the responses to the third consultation, the Commission will make appropriate changes to their revised proposals, and submit their final report and recommendations. These will be submitted to Parliament by 1 July 2023. This is the end of the Commission's involvement in the process.
- 3.15 Within four months of the last of the four Commissions submitting their report, the UK Government must prepare the Order that would bring all their recommendations into law. Following recent changes, this Order no longer needs the approval of Parliament: it is sent directly to the Privy Council. If the Privy Council approves, the new constituencies are used at the next General election following that.

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)
- 4.2 The Commission will be particularly interested to hear from people about the extent to which the proposals reflect 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 (closing 2 August 2021 - <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk>), when anyone could give their views on those proposals. A report went to Council on these proposals on the 1st July 2021.
- 5.3 In February 2022, the Commission published responses to initial proposals and conducted a six-week 'secondary consultation', including between two and five public hearings in each region. In November 2022, the Commission published their revised proposals and will 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

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| Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council) | None |
| Legal and human rights implications | None |
| Assessment of risk | Not applicable |
| Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis 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/documents/s14812/Boundary%20Review%202023%20for%20Hyndburn%20-%20Main%20Report.pdf>

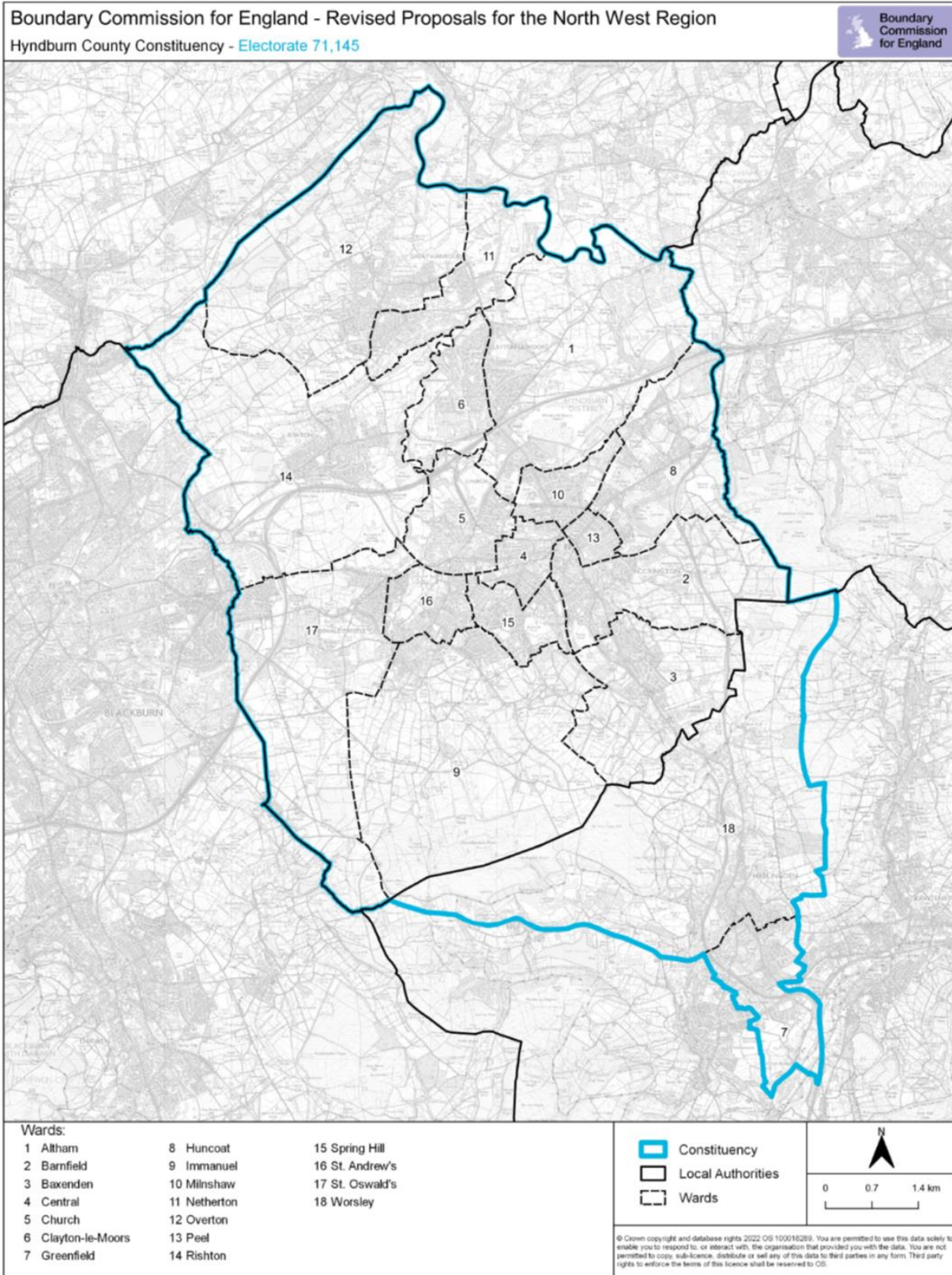
<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/north-west/>

https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/review2023/b65f7782-658b-4c4a-9cba-59c16c807f77/a0-maps/A0_RP_NW_Portrait_Final.pdf

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

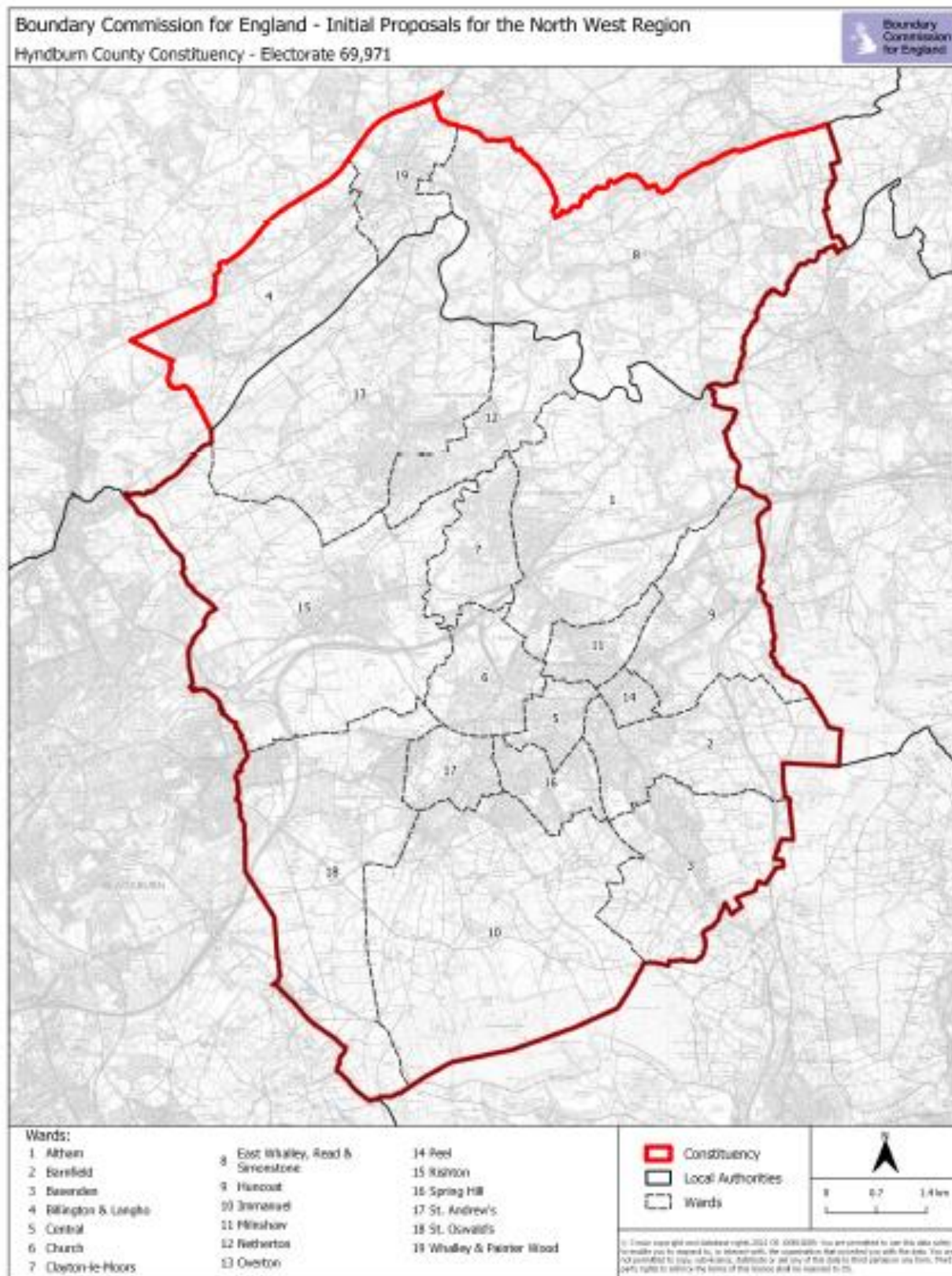
<https://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=1065&Ver=4>

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



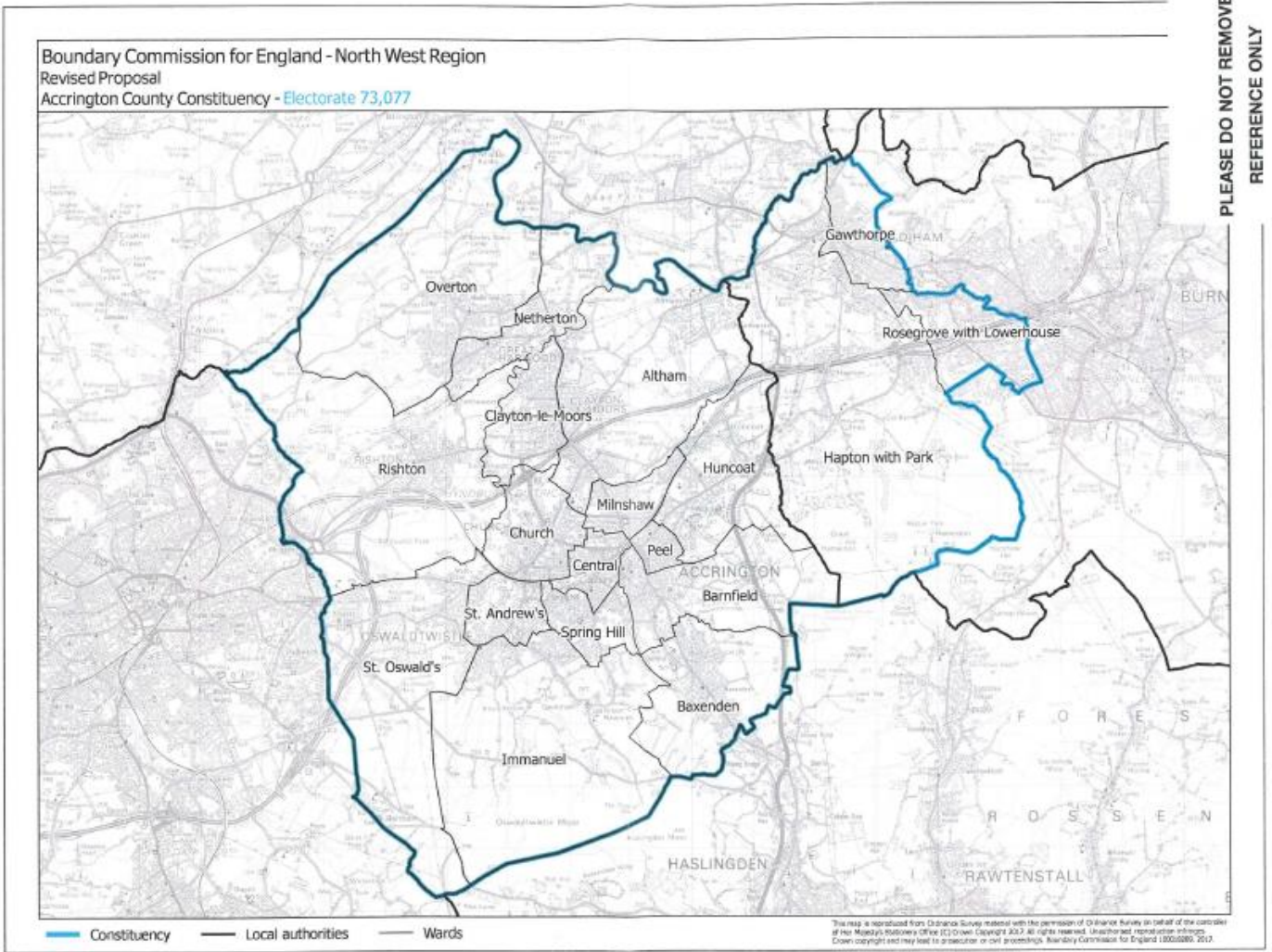
Hyndburn County Constituency

Appendix B The Boundary Commission for England – Previous Proposals for the Hyndburn Constituency (2023 Review)



Hyndburn County Constituency

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



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