

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 4 DECEMBER 2012

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**Title:**

**BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY  
CONSTITUENCIES**

[Portfolio Holder: Councillor Robert Knowles]  
[Wards Affected: All, but Alfold, Cranleigh Rural  
and Ellens Green, Blackheath and Wonersh,  
Cranleigh East, Cranleigh West and Shamley  
Green and Cranleigh North in particular]

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**Summary and purpose:**

This report proposes making representations to the Boundary Commission for England on their proposals for review of parliamentary constituencies in the Surrey County area. In summary, the five Waverley wards that are currently in the Guildford County constituency would transfer to the Mole Valley County constituency which will be renamed the Mid Surrey Parliamentary Constituency.

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**How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:**

The proposed change to parliamentary constituency relates to all of the Council's priorities but, particularly, to that relating to understanding residents' needs.

**Equality and Diversity Implications:**

There are no direct equality and diversity implications relating to this report.

**Resource/Value for Money implications:**

There could be some logistical issues relating to setting up new communication between Waverley's Election Service and the Mole Valley District Council Election Service but it is likely that these could be contained within existing budgets.

**Legal Implications:**

The Boundary Commission for England has a duty to carry out reviews of parliamentary constituencies and the Council can make representations within the eight week consultation period and before the closing date of 10 December 2012.

The Boundary Commission for England periodically reviewing the boundaries of all parliamentary constituencies in England. It is currently conducting a review on the basis of new rules laid down by parliament, which involve a significant reduction in the number of parliamentary constituencies in England, from 533 to 502. This results in reducing the number of constituencies in the South-east by 1, to 83. The

rules for such reviews require that every constituency, apart from an exception for the Isle of Wight, must have an electorate that is no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473.

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### **Initial Proposals**

1. The Boundary Commission for England published its initial proposals in September 2011 and Waverley responded to the consultation at that time. The initial proposal was to transfer only the Ewhurst Ward to the Mole Valley constituency, and Waverley objected strongly to being split into three Parliamentary constituencies

### **Revised Proposals**

2. The Commission's revised proposals now involve the Guildford Parliamentary Constituency losing the five wards which are within Waverley, that is Alfold, Cranleigh Rural and Ellens Green; Blackheath and Wonersh; Cranleigh East; Cranleigh West and Shamley Green and Cranleigh North, and these five wards being moved to the Mole Valley constituency. The new constituency would be renamed Mid Surrey.
3. The Guildford constituency would gain the three wards of Send, Clandon and Horsley and Lovelace in the north of its area to equalise numbers.

### **Impact on Electorates**

4. The proposed electorates of the new South West Surrey County Constituency would be 76,495 electors and of the newly-named Mid Surrey constituency would be 73,017 electors which are both well within the guidelines set for the Boundary Commission.

### **Implications for Waverley**

5. Because Waverley Borough's total electorate is currently 93,000, the Borough is already split between the South West Surrey and Guildford Constituencies.. However, the current Guildford constituency is very closely linked to South West Surrey, whereas the new Mid Surrey constituency would extend for a significant area across the south of Surrey on the West Sussex County border and its focus would inevitably be in Dorking and Leatherhead, and the interests of the five Waverley wards could suffer under this new constituency arrangement. There is no natural link between the Wards and the new constituency. All Wards have Guildford post codes, telephone numbers (01483) and transport links are with Guildford.

### **Boundary Commission for England proposals for the rest of Surrey**

6. The revised recommendations from the Boundary Commission allow seven of the eleven constituencies to be unchanged but a significant change to the grouping in South West Surrey, Guildford and the existing Mole Valley constituency. The Boundary Commission, in its revised proposals,

acknowledges the “potential disruption” for the five Waverley wards currently in the Guildford Constituency. The Commission also concedes that the changes to Guildford and the existing Mole Valley constituencies are significant.

### **Recommendation**

The Executive is recommended to make representations to the Boundary Commission for England that there should not be any change to the existing split within the Waverley Borough of the South West Surrey and Guildford parliamentary constituencies because of the impact on the wards in the east of Waverley of being incorporated in the new Mid Surrey proposed county constituency.

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### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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