

APPENDIX 2

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL – COMMENTS ON THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND’S (The Commission) REVISED PROPOSALS FOR NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES (OCTOBER 2017)

Background

- 1 The Commission’s initial proposal was to increase the number of electors in the Windsor constituency by transferring the Chalvey Ward to it from the Slough Constituency.
- 2 Slough Borough Council’s submission was that the Chalvey ward should not be transferred to the Windsor Constituency and that the current Slough Constituency remain unchanged. The Council proposed that moving a ward from the Bracknell Constituency to the Windsor Constituency was a viable alternative.
- 3 The Council argued that the proposal would both achieve a better outcome on the statutory electorate quotas with less variance from the median between the three constituencies affected and would maintain the community identity and integrity of the Slough seat.

Revised Proposals for new constituency boundaries

- 4 The Commission’s revised proposals were published on 17th October 2017 and the revised proposal for the Slough Constituency is for Chalvey Ward to remain in the constituency and that the constituency is therefore unchanged.
- 5 The Commission’s report acknowledges that there was strong opposition to the transfer of Chalvey Ward from Slough to Windsor and that the overwhelming response received during the consultations indicated that a revised approach was required in relation to the proposed Windsor constituency.
- 6 The Council notes that the assistant commissioners were persuaded by the strength of evidence presented that:
 - Chalvey ward clearly has stronger ‘local’ ties to Slough than Windsor, not least given the presence of a number of Slough civic institutions are in the ward.
 - Chalvey ward may not be adequately represented if it were transferred to the Windsor constituency and to do so would break local ties.
- 7 The Council notes that the Commission has instead recommended the transfer of the Windlesham Ward from the Surrey Heath Constituency to the Windsor Constituency in order to address the low electorate in the Windsor Constituency. The Council has no comment to make on this recommendation but welcomes the Commission’s decision to support the Assistant Commissioner’s recommendation that Chalvey Ward remains in the Slough constituency.

The Council has publicised the Commission's revised proposals to local ward Members so that they can respond directly if they wish to.

- 8 The Council is pleased that the Commission was persuaded by the strength of argument to retain Chalvey Ward in the Slough constituency and welcomes the revised proposals.