

ITEM 5: PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

Recommendation proposed By Simon Tagg and Seconded by Mark Holland

Council notes the revised proposals for Parliamentary boundaries published by the Boundary Commission for England on 8th November.

Council welcomes the proposed reduction in the number of MPs representing the Borough from 4 to 3 but believes that the Commission could go further and consolidate all of the Borough's rural south into the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency.

Council regrets that the Commission has not found it possible to propose a pattern of seats that includes the Maer & Whitmore and Loggerheads wards in the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency.

Council regrets that the Commission has not accepted representations in the first round of consultation in support of renaming the Stoke-on-Trent North constituency "Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove".

Council therefore **resolves** to make the following representation to the Boundary Commission in its final consultation round:

"Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council thanks the Boundary Commission for its diligent work in drawing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in our Borough. The proposals will increase electoral equality so that every elector's vote carries a more similar weight.

"We strongly believe that the Maer & Whitmore and Loggerheads wards are an integral part of Newcastle-under-Lyme and this area was previously included in the Newcastle seat, prior to 1983. We ask that further consideration is given to their inclusion in the Newcastle-under-Lyme constituency, which would then total an electorate of 75,768, which is within the acceptable variance of a constituency as set out in statute.

"We also support the representations made at the initial consultation stage that favour the renaming of the proposed Stoke-on-Trent North constituency "Stoke-on-Trent North and Kidsgrove". The town of Kidsgrove has a proud history independent of Stoke-on-Trent and it is right that its name should be included in the Parliamentary constituency that is proposed, which will contain every household within the Kidsgrove Town Council area including those in Newchapel Ward."