

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

7th November 2017

AGENDA ITEM 9.2 – Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review – Consultation on Revised Proposals.

1 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall having been consulted on the proposed changes to constituency boundaries this time in 2016. The following comments were submitted to the Boundary Commission on behalf of the Parish Council:

The Parish Council objects to the proposed incorporation of High Legh ward within a constituency which includes a substantial part of the Greater Manchester conurbation. The Council believes that this is completely inappropriate and will not serve the needs of the Parish Council's residents. The Altrincham part of such a constituency inevitably faces towards the rest of the conurbation in terms of transport links, economy, education, health, etc. An MP representing the constituency proposed in your Review will in many circumstances be conflicted as between his/her support for the issues arising in the urban area as compared with the needs and feelings of a rural area such as Pickmere. Almost inevitably, the Parish Council believes, the MP will favour the needs of the much more highly populated urban area he/she represents, to the detriment of the needs of the rural areas also within the proposed constituency. In short, this part of Cheshire does not identify with any part of the Greater Manchester conurbation.

For these reasons the Parish Council supports the alternative arrangement put forward by George Osborne MP, whereby High Legh ward would form part of a new constituency based on Knutsford and Macclesfield. This would reflect the ward's historical identity. It is also understood that this would provide an appropriate constituency population.

2. Report

- 2.1 Representations in respect of those proposals have now been considered; some amendments have been made to boundaries in various parts of the country, and a second consultation exercise is continuing at present, with the deadline date for further comments being 11 December 2017. Information on the revised proposals may be found at:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-review/rp-england/>

- 2.2 Discussion of the comments received in respect of changes to the Tatton Constituency may be found around pages 46-49 in the document North-West-Revised-proposals-report Oct 2017 circulated with this agenda.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Members' views on the revised proposals are requested.