

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Chief Executive & Town Clerk
to

General Purposes Committee

On

6 August 2003

Report prepared by: Andrew Wallace

Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries In the Counties of Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock

A Part I Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission for England has published its recommendations for changes to 16 of the 17 existing constituencies in the area covered by the Counties of Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock (legally the Unitary Authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock have the status of Counties). The primary purpose of the Review has been to address under-representation at Parliamentary level of the residents of South-Essex by creating a further Parliamentary Constituency. The consequence is of course a large scale re-definition of boundaries. However, the two Southend Parliamentary Constituencies are not affected to any great degree.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That no objection be raised to the proposals of the Boundary Commission for England.
- 2.2 That the re-alignment of the Southend West Constituency to incorporate the whole of Prittlewell Ward into that Constituency be welcomed.

3. Details

- 3.1 The specific proposals for the Southend Constituencies are as follows:-
1. That the boundary of the Southend West Constituency be re-defined to include the whole of the Prittlewell Ward within that constituency. This proposal addresses a complaint the Council made that when the Local Government Ward Boundaries were re-drawn to create 17 wards the new Prittlewell Ward included the area around Macdonald Avenue which is in Rochford and Southend East Constituency. This has caused confusion amongst the electorate and difficulties for political parties in arranging canvassing etc.

The proposals for the Rochford and Southend East Constituency are that its size be increased by incorporating the Rochford District Wards of Ashingdon and Canewdon. Rochford Town Centre will be included in the new Rayleigh and Wickford Constituency. The constituency would then be re-named Southend East County Constituency which restores its original name.

4. Background Papers

Boundary Commission for England

Proposals for Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in the County of Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.