

Eastern Initial proposals summary

Who we are and what we do

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

The 2018 Review

We have the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. We are currently conducting a review on the basis of rules set by Parliament in 2011. The rules tell us that we must make recommendations for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in September 2018. They also result in a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), and require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

Initial proposals

We published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England on 13 September 2016. Information about the proposed constituencies is now available on our website.

What is changing in the Eastern region?

The Eastern region has been allocated 57 constituencies – a reduction of one from the current number.

Our proposals leave six of the 58 existing constituencies unchanged.

As it has not always been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, we have grouped some county and local authority areas into sub-regions. The number of constituencies allocated to each sub-region is determined by the electorate of the combined local authorities.

Consequently, it has been necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county or unitary authority boundaries.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Proposed allocation
Bedfordshire	6	6
Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Norfolk	27	27
Essex	18	17
Suffolk	7	7

In Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Norfolk, it has been necessary to propose two constituencies that cross county boundaries. We have proposed one constituency that contains electors from both Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, which combines the village of Littleport and the town of Downham Market. We have also proposed one constituency that contains electors from both Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, which combines three wards from the district of South Cambridgeshire in a constituency with the towns of Letchworth and Royston.

In Bedfordshire, Essex and Suffolk it has been possible to propose a pattern of constituencies that is within the boundaries of each county.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13 September 2016 to 5 December 2016. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to help us shape the new constituencies – the more views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when considering whether to revise our proposals.

Our website at www.bce2018.org.uk has more information about how to respond as well as details of where and when we will be holding public hearings in your area. You can also follow us on Twitter @BCE2018 or using #2018boundaryreview.

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