

South East

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 South East?

The South East region has been allocated 83 constituencies – a reduction of one from the current number.

Our proposals leave 15 of the 84 existing constituencies unchanged. We propose only minor changes to a further 47 constituencies, with two wards or fewer altered from the existing constituencies.

The rules that we work to state that we must allocate two constituencies to the Isle of Wight. Neither of these constituencies is required to have an electorate that is within the requirements on electoral size set out in the rules.

In Berkshire, two of the eight existing constituencies are unchanged, while four are changed only by the transfer of one ward.

In Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway, two of the 25 existing constituencies are unaltered and one is reconfigured slightly due to rewording. A further four are altered only by the transfer of one ward.

In Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, one of the seven existing constituencies is unchanged.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Proposed allocation
Berkshire	8	8
Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway	25	24
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	7	7
Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton	18	17
Isle of Wight	1	2
Oxfordshire	6	6
Surrey	11	11
West Sussex	8	8

In Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton, three of the 18 existing constituencies are unaltered, while a further four are altered only by the transfer of one ward.

In the County of Oxfordshire, one of the six existing constituencies is unchanged, while one is changed only by the transfer of one ward.

In Surrey, five of the existing 11 constituencies are unaltered, while three of the remaining six are altered only by the transfer of one ward.

In West Sussex, one of the existing eight constituencies is unchanged and one is reconfigured slightly due to rewording. A further five are changed only by the transfer of one ward.

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.

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We have proposed one constituency that contains electors from Brighton and Hove, and East Sussex; it crosses the boundary on the south coast, combining the east of the City of Brighton and Hove with Newhaven and Seaford. We propose one constituency that contains electors from East Sussex and Kent; it crosses the boundary at The Weald, combining the towns of Crowborough and Tenterden.

We further propose two constituencies that contain electors from Kent, and Medway. One crosses the boundary at Higham, combining it with Rochester, and the other at Chatham, combining it with East and West Malling.

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.