

REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 2 November 2011 the Cabinet considered the Boundary Commission for England's initial proposals for the review of parliamentary constituencies in the United Kingdom. The review was being conducted to meet the Government's proposal to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK from 650 to 600. In England, the number of constituencies is to be reduced from 533 to 502.
- 1.2 The Boundary Commission is required to work to new rules laid down by Parliament that require that every constituency (apart from the Isle of Wight) must have an electorate that is no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473. The "electoral quota" for each constituency is 76,641, and no constituency may vary by more or less than 5% of this number. The Commission must base its calculations on the number of electors on the electoral registers as at 1 December 2010.

2. INITIAL PROPOSALS AND THE CABINET'S REPOSE

- 2.1 The initial proposals for New Forest District involved:
- (a) extending the New Forest West constituency further to east to include the Boldre & Sway; Brockenhurst & Forest South East and Lyndhurst district wards; and
 - (b) the creation of a new "New Forest East and Romsey" constituency extending into Test Valley Borough Council's area, by including the Abbey, Cupernham, Romsey Extra and Tadburn wards.
- 2.2 The composition of the then proposed constituencies are set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The Cabinet on 2 November 2011 considered that, because greater electoral equality would be achieved, the Lyndhurst District Ward should remain in New Forest East constituency. Comments to this effect were forwarded to the Boundary Commission.

3. BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S REVISED PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The Boundary Commission has now published revised proposals for Parliamentary constituency boundaries. The majority of responses to the initial proposals in regard to the two New Forest constituencies advocated retaining Lyndhurst in New Forest East. Concerns were also expressed to the Commission about splitting Romsey from Chandlers Ford, with which it has long been associated, as well as at proposals for the composition of constituencies covering Southampton City Council's area.
- 3.2 Having considered the responses, the Commission has now published revised proposals. The revised proposals for New Forest District are set out in Appendix 2. Maps are at Appendices 3 & 4.

- 3.3 It will be seen that the proposals provide for the Boldre & Sway District ward to move to New Forest West, and for the Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst South East Wards to remain in New Forest East. Only the Blackwater ward of Test Valley Borough Council is proposed for inclusion in New Forest East, rather than the four Test Valley wards under the initial proposals.
- 3.4 The revised proposals achieve a high degree of electoral equality across the two constituencies. They also retain two constituencies for the New Forest (with the addition of a small number of voters from Test Valley), thus protecting and promoting the identity of the New Forest in Parliamentary representation.
- 3.5 It is recommended that the revised proposals be supported.

4. FINANCIAL, CRIME & DISORDER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLCIATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5. PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Leader of the Council supports the recommendation below.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That the Boundary Commission's revised proposals for the New Forest East and New Forest West Parliamentary constituencies be supported.

Further information:

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Background Papers;

Published documents

INITIAL PROPOSALS – 2011

APPENDIX 1

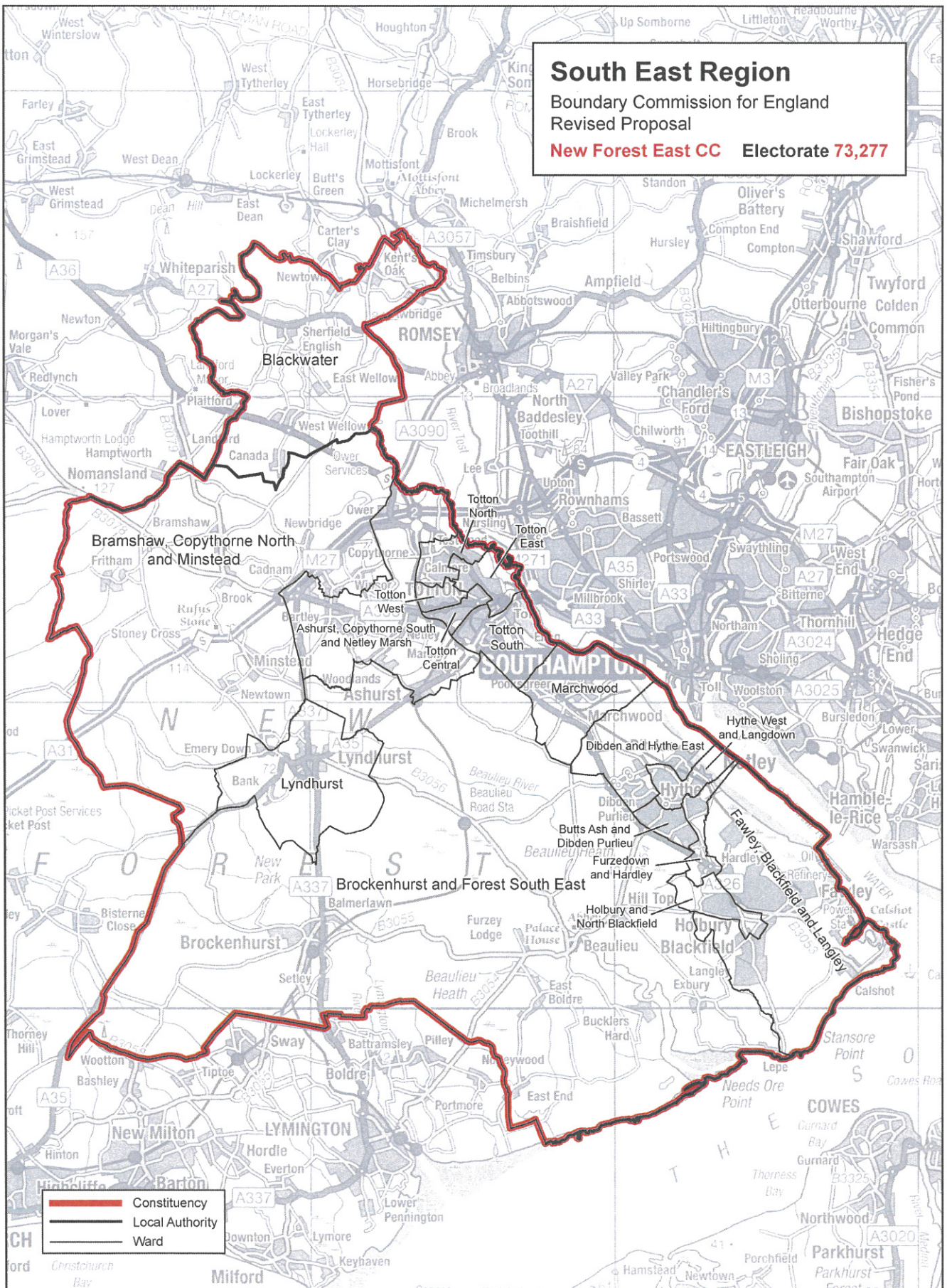
PROPOSED NEW FOREST EAST AND ROMSEY CONSTITUENCY		
District	Ward	Electorate at 1 Dec 2010
New Forest	Ashurst, Copythorne South and Netley Marsh	4,866
	Bramshaw, Copythorne North and Minstead	2,185
	Butts Ash and Dibden Purlieu	5,259
	Dibden and Hythe East	4,565
	Fawley, Blackfield and Langley	4,992
	Furzedown and Hardley	2,697
	Holbury and North Blackfield	5,114
	Hythe West and Langdown	5,054
	Marchwood	4,679
	Totton Central	4,206
	Totton East	4,874
	Totton North	4,841
	Totton South	4,776
	Totton West	3,957
Test Valley	Abbey	3,789
	Cupernham	4,030
	Romsey Extra	2,535
	Tadburn	4,124
Total Electorate		76,543
<i>Proposed New Forest West Constituency</i>		
District	Ward	Electorate at 1 Dec 2010
New Forest	Barton	4,886
	Bashley	2,311
	Becton	4,181
	Boldre and Sway	4,398
	Bransgore and Burley	4,647
	Brockenhurst and Forest South East	4,687
	Buckland	2,679
	Downlands and Forest	2,387
	Fernhill	4,920
	Fordingbridge	5,406
	Forest North West	2,100
	Hordle	4,517
	Lymington Town	4,917
	Lyndhurst	2,392
	Milford	4,366
	Milton	5,023
	Pennington	4,738
	Ringwood East and Sopley	2,225
	Ringwood North	4,887
	Ringwood South	4,797
Total Electorate		80,464

REVISED PROPOSALS – 2012

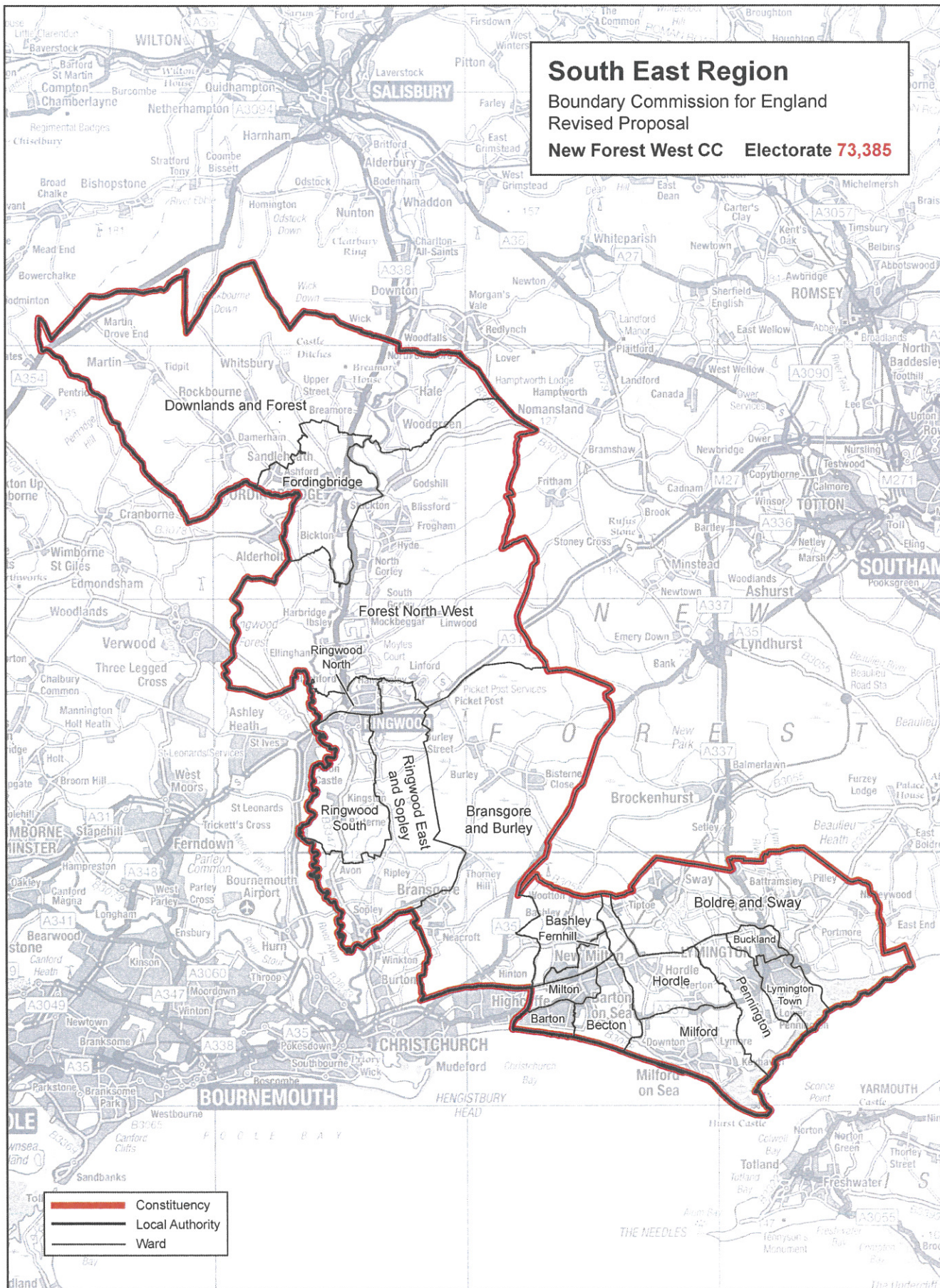
APPENDIX 2

PROPOSED NEW FOREST EAST CONSTITUENCY		
District	Ward	Electorate at 1 Dec 2010
New Forest	Ashurst, Copythorne South and Netley Marsh	4,866
	Bramshaw, Copythorne North and Minstead	2,185
	Brockenhurst & Forest South East	4,687
	Butts Ash and Dibden Purlieu	5,259
	Dibden and Hythe East	4,565
	Fawley, Blackfield and Langley	4,992
	Furzedown and Hardley	2,697
	Holbury and North Blackfield	5,114
	Hythe West and Langdown	5,054
	Lyndhurst	2,392
	Marchwood	4,679
	Totton Central	4,206
	Totton East	4,874
	Totton North	4,841
	Totton South	4,776
	Totton West	3,957
Test Valley	Blackwater	4,133
Total Electorate		73,277

Proposed New Forest West Constituency		
District	Ward	Electorate at 1 Dec 2010
New Forest	Barton	4,886
	Bashley	2,311
	Becton	4,181
	Boldre and Sway	4,398
	Bransgore and Burley	4,647
	Buckland	2,679
	Downlands and Forest	2,387
	Fernhill	4,920
	Fordingbridge	5,406
	Forest North West	2,100
	Hordle	4,517
	Lymington Town	4,917
	Milford	4,366
	Milton	5,023
	Pennington	4,738
	Ringwood East and Sopley	2,225
	Ringwood North	4,887
	Ringwood South	4,797
Total Electorate		73,385



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