

## FULL COUNCIL – 27 July 2011

### Pre-determined Debate:

### The Boundary Commission for England

Question	Reply
1. Could some appropriate information be given regarding the work of the Boundary Commission	1. Please see Appendix B
2. What is the optimum number of electors in a ward	2. There is no set number of electors in a ward across local authorities. The Boundary Commission's aim is to ensure that the number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same within each council area. In a district with single member wards the number of electors in each ward would need to be approximately the same ie the number of electors divided by the number of members on the council. The aim during a boundary review is to ensure that all wards are within 10% of the average ratio of councillors to electors.
3. Is there a minimum and maximum number of electors?	3. The number of electors to councillor ratio is dependent on the total number of councillors on the council. Decisions on council size are the starting point in any review since that number determines the optimum councillor:elector ratio for the purposes of achieving electoral equality. Currently South Holland has 37 councillors for a total electorate of 70,037 giving an average of 1893 electors per councillor.
4. How often should the boundaries be reviewed – is there any guideline to this?	4. There is no guideline on how often an electoral review should be carried out - the Boundary Commission can initiate a review for a local authority where more than 30% of the wards have an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio or if one or more wards have an electoral imbalance of more than 30%. In addition the Boundary Commission may carry out an electoral review at the request of a local authority.
	5. District council boundaries do not need to

<p>5. Should district council boundaries match those of the local MP's constituency</p>	<p>match constituency boundaries however a district ward cannot be split across two constituencies.</p> <p>A copy of the Local Government Boundary Commission's technical guidance document can be accessed by the following link:</p> <p><a href="http://www.lgbce.org.uk/_documents/lgbce-documents/guidance/er-web-version.pdf">http://www.lgbce.org.uk/_documents/lgbce-documents/guidance/er-web-version.pdf</a></p>
<p>6. Can you arrange for a map showing Ward boundaries, the number of Councillors for each and the number of voters in each Ward.</p>	<p>6. A Boundary Map will be available in the members' lounge for all members to have sight of.</p> <p>Appendix C attached is a schedule of the wards showing the number of councillors and electors for each ward.</p>
<p>7. Is it possible to advise the nearest Districts which have one member one wards in operation.</p>	<p>7. I believe the nearest District with all single member wards is Mansfield District Council. These warding arrangements were implemented at this year's elections following a boundary review undertaken during 2009-10 which resulted in the number of members on Mansfield DC being reduced from 46 to 36. I have been unable to locate any further districts which operate all single member wards - all authorities in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk have mixed wards of one, two and three members.</p>