

## **Report to Council On Parliamentary Boundary Review**

### **Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.**

The Act requires reducing the total number of UK Parliamentary constituencies to 600 seats (with four exceptions, two in the Isle of Wight and two of the Scottish Island groups).

Every constituency must have an electorate within 5% of the average size of 76,641 (the minimum would be 72,810 and the maximum would be 80,473).

The Boundary Commission has stated it will allocate a number of seats to a region. In the North West the total number of constituencies will be 68, reduced from 75. It has also stated that it will split local authority wards between constituencies as little as possible. However, it may be necessary to cross local authority boundaries to create constituencies that have the required electorate.

The Boundary Commission published its initial proposals on 12 September 2011, in which it proposed that Bury South would remain unchanged and Bury North would be amended to include the Bradshaw ward from Bolton.

### **Consultation**

There is now a consultation period until 5 December 2011, during which you would be required to state if you approve or object to a proposal, and where an objection is made a counter proposal should be supplied.

Following this initial twelve week consultation period 12/09/2011 – 05/12/2011, the Commission will publish representation, likely to be in Spring 2012, after which there will be a further four week period for written comments.

Following this, the Commissions will consider all representations. A report will then be published showing all comments and how if necessary the initial proposals should be revised.

Notice of the changes will then be published, and the final recommendations will be published in a report for Government, which must then be approved by Parliament, by 1 October 2013.

After Parliamentary approval, the new constituencies will take effect at the next General Election (2015), (any by-election held meantime would be based on the current boundaries, i.e. Bury North and Bury South).

Should any member require any further details please contact Warren Rafferty on 6018, ([w.j.rafferty@bury.gov.uk](mailto:w.j.rafferty@bury.gov.uk)).