EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To consider the Revised Proposals for new Parliamentary Constituency boundaries as part of the Boundary Commission for England’s current 2018 Review Consultation. The 2018 Review is thus named, as the Commission must report its recommendations to Parliament in September 2018.

RECOMMENDED: THAT THE COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND’S FINAL CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF THE NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES REVIEW 2018 BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE COUNCIL WELCOMES THE BOROUGH CONTINUING TO BE REPRESENTED BY TWO PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES; AND

(B) THE COUNCIL COMMUNICATES TO THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND ITS REGRET THAT STATUTORY RULES HAVE ONLY ALLOWED THE COMMISSION TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF LOCAL WARD BOUNDARIES AS EXISTED ON 7 MAY 2015, AND NOT THE BOUNDARIES THAT CAME INTO EFFECT IN MAY 2016, WITH THE DELETERIOUS AND DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS THIS WILL CAUSE TO THE REFLECTION OF COMMUNITY IDENTITY AND TO THE ORGANISATION OF ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PROCESSES.

REPORT:

1. Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is equal, the Boundary Commission for England has been asked to make independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English constituencies should be. The law requires that every new constituency (except four specified island constituencies) must have roughly the same number of electors: no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507, using the tolerance level of plus or minus 5%.

Under the legislation for the 2018 Review, the Boundary Commission is required to base its proposals on the number of electors whose names
Parliamentary boundaries define the geographic area represented by each Member of Parliament – their Parliamentary Constituency. A Parliamentary boundary review examines the existing constituencies and makes recommendations for any changes that might be needed to make sure constituencies comply with legal requirements. Those legal requirements are intended to keep the number of electors in each constituency broadly equal, whilst also taking account of factors such as local community ties.

**Proposed Changes for Elmbridge**

The Borough of Elmbridge is currently represented by two Parliamentary constituencies, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Electorate under Existing Arrangements</th>
<th>Electorate under Proposed New Arrangements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Esher &amp; Walton</td>
<td>78,545</td>
<td>73,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runnymede &amp; Weybridge</td>
<td>70,639</td>
<td>71,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Elmbridge Part)</td>
<td>(15,167)</td>
<td>(19,921)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Esher and Walton Constituency is wholly within the Borough of Elmbridge and Elmbridge is the sole Borough administering elections for the constituency; and

Runnymede and Weybridge Constituency incorporates an area within the west of the Borough of Elmbridge (namely the wards of Weybridge Riverside and parts of Oatlands and Burwood Park and Weybridge St. Georges), where Runnymede Borough Council is the lead Borough in terms of administering elections for the constituency.

The initial proposals for new constituencies in respect of Elmbridge were to include the Oxshott & Stoke D’Abernon Ward within the Mole Valley Parliamentary Constituency.

The Commission’s Revised proposals reverted the Oxshott and Stoke D’Abernon Ward to existing arrangements within the Esher & Walton Constituency and proposes movement of what was previously the ‘Hersham South Ward’ from the Esher and Walton Parliamentary Constituency to the Runnymede and Weybridge Parliamentary Constituency.

Under statutory rules, the Commission can only take into account local government boundaries as they were at the most recent ordinary council elections before the ‘review date’. The 2018 review date is 1 December 2015. Accordingly, the Commission has considered ward boundaries that were in place on 7 May 2015 and **not** the boundaries that took effect in May 2016 as a result of the Local Government Boundary Review for Elmbridge. It is
recommended that the Council expresses its concern on the prejudicial effects this will cause to the community of interest in Elmbridge and to electoral and political organisation.

A map of the proposed changes to the Parliamentary Constituencies is attached at Enclosure ‘A’.

**The Review Process**

The Commission published initial proposals for new constituencies in England on 13 September 2016 and conducted a 12-week public consultation. The responses to the initial proposals were published by the Commission. The statutory second consultation period, allowing comments on these responses received to the Commission’s initial proposals was held in Spring 2017.

The Commission is now conducting a final public consultation on the revised proposals between 17 October and 11 December 2017. Responses to this will inform the Commission’s decision on whether any last adjustments need to be made before submitting final recommendations in September 2018.

Each stage of the consultation has been brought to Members attention to enable any representations to be made to the Boundary Commission, specifically on an individual or political group basis. In addition, information has been included on the Council’s website and via social media to bring the Boundary Commission’s review to the attention of local residents and to enable any representations to be made to the Boundary Commission. The comprehensive consultation portal on the Boundary Commission’s website www.boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk contains detailed information including existing and proposed boundaries; electorate and representations received.

**The Council’s Response to the Consultation**

The Council is asked to consider whether it wishes to respond to the consultation, on the basis set out in the recommendation.

**Financial implications:** None

**Environmental/Sustainability Implications:** None

**Legal implications:** This review of Parliamentary constituencies has operated within a framework of legal provision established by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992 and the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.

**Equality Implications:** None

**Risk Implications:** None
**Community Safety Implications:** None

**Principal Consultees:**
Chief Executive  
Electoral Services Manager  
Head of Legal Services

**Background papers:** None

**Enclosures/Appendices:** Map of Proposed New Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries attached.

**Contact details:** Ms. B. Greenstein, Head of Democratic Services  
e-mail bgreenstein@elmbridge.gov.uk