



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Review of Parliamentary Constituencies</b>
<b>Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> October, 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Mr Ciaran Quigley, assistant Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mr Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland published its Provisional Proposals Report for the 6 <sup>th</sup> Review of Parliamentary Constituencies on 13 <sup>th</sup> September, 2011. The report set out for public consultation the boundaries and names of the proposed new constituencies.
1.2	Following that consultation, the Commission has published a Revised Proposals Report and is undertaking a consultation exercise from 16 <sup>th</sup> October until 10 <sup>th</sup> December during which comments are invited on the revised proposals. In accordance with the legislation there will not be any public hearings in connection with the proposals.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The Council has in the past when previous reviews were being conducted, agreed to display the report and constituency maps in the Reception area of the City Hall in order to inform the public and to assist those interested to submit responses to the consultation.
2.2	The Council's accepted practice when considering consultations on proposed changes to electoral boundaries is not to make a corporate response but rather to leave it to each of the Political Parties to respond. This is due to an acceptance that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to reach a consensus on a matter where there is likely to be different or opposing views taken by the various Parties.
2.3	For the information of the Members a copy of the findings in so far as they relate to the Belfast Constituencies is attached at appendix 1. A full copy of the proposals can be found at <a href="http://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/">http://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/</a> .

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<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	None

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	None

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>The Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant authority for the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland's Revised Proposals Report for the 6<sup>th</sup> Review of Parliamentary Constituencies to be displayed in the Reception area of the City Hall with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> October; and</li><li>• Refer consideration of responses to the Consultation to each of the Political Parties on the Council.</li></ul>

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
<p>Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer October, 2012</p>	

<b>8.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
<p>Appendix 1 Proposals in relation to the Belfast Constituencies</p>	