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**CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
SUMMARY OF DECISIONS**

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**21 November 2022**  
(Published on 22 November 2022)

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes from the previous meeting held on 20 October 2022</b>
	DECISION The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 October 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record.
<b>4</b>	<b>Public Question Time</b>
	DECISION There were no questions asked, statements made or petitions presented.
<b>5</b>	<b>Elections Act 2022</b>
	DECISION The Committee considered a report from the Council's Monitoring Officer and Head of Governance and Democratic Services, Scott Wooldridge, concerning The Elections Act 2022 which received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022. It contains a wide range of proposals to make "new provision for and amend existing electoral law to ensure that UK elections remain secure, fair, modern, inclusive and transparent".  The changes apply to all UK Parliamentary elections in Great Britain, PCC elections in England & Wales, English local government polls (excluding parish polls) and Recall Petitions. The Appendix to the report highlighted the impacts on the team.  The Committee noted the update on The Elections Act 2022, which includes the requirements for voter photo ID, the wide ranging changes outlined and the significant work and challenges involved for future elections.
<b>6</b>	<b>2023 Boundary Review - Parliamentary Constituencies - Final Proposals</b>
	DECISION The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from the Council's

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	<p>Monitoring Officer and Head of Governance and Democratic Services, Scott Wooldridge, providing an covering the final proposals for the changes to Parliamentary Constituencies published by The Boundary Commission for England on <a href="#">8 November 2022</a>.</p> <p>Mr Wooldridge explained that the consultation closes on 5 December 2022 and that the Commission will then analyse all the responses submitted during this final consultation stages, to decide whether to make any final adjustments to the revised proposals. The outcome of these deliberations will be their final report and recommendations, which should be provided to Parliament (and published) by 1 July 2023.</p> <p>There are currently five constituencies within the existing Somerset County boundaries and the proposals are for there to be 7 Constituencies. The only amendments affecting initial proposals for Somerset constituencies are the inclusion of the Norton Fitzwarren and Staplegrove ward in the Taunton constituency and the Upper Culm ward in the Tiverton and Minehead constituency.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the proposals for Somerset and how best to respond to the consultation. It was noted that it is open to individual members to separately submit their own responses.</p> <p>It was agreed that the following response be submitted to the consultation: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To request that the following County constituencies be renamed, as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 'Taunton County Constituency' – renamed as 'Taunton and Wellington County Constituency' and to endorse the proposal to include Norton Fitzwarren and Staplegrove ward in the constituency</li> <li>(b) Tiverton and Minehead County Constituency' – renamed as 'West Somerset and Tiverton County Constituency'</li> <li>(c) 'Wells and Mendip Hills County Constituency' – renamed as 'Wells County Constituency'</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Raise concerns about the inclusion of Bruton in the Frome County Constituency as opposed to the Glastonbury and Somerton County Constituency, due to its historic ties with Wincanton and additionally the proposed County Constituency boundary divides the secondary school in Bruton.</li> </ol>
<b>7</b>	<b>Work Programme</b>
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Committee considered the work programme of future work.</p>

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
	The Committee AGREED that the work programme be updated as discussed.