

LOUIE FRENCH MP
OLD BEXLEY & SIDCUP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

09 November 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing regarding the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies including the Old Bexley and Sidcup constituency and would be grateful if this letter could be taken as a formal representation to the final consultation on the revised proposals.

I would firstly like to thank the Boundary Commission for all their hard work and add my support to the revised proposals to the Old Bexley and Sidcup constituency. I would also like to thank the Boundary Commission for listening to mine and local resident's requests to keep the affectionately known 'Old Bexley' name in the constituency title, which reflects the rich history and strongly recognisable features of Old Bexley.

As I previously outlined in the secondary consultation on the initial constituency proposals, the proposals achieve the Commission's requirements by including a suitable number of electorates, aligning local government wards and unifying local community ties and geographic factors.

I also welcome that the proposals align the Parliamentary boundaries with the Bexley Council ward boundaries by encompassing all of the East Wickham and Falconwood and Welling ward. This provides clarity for constituents and facilitates better joint working between Bexley's Members of Parliament and Councillors.

The proposals strengthen community links by unifying Welling, which is particularly important given the distinct nature of Welling, its strong community and the length of the High Street - one of the longest in London. As outlined previously, I believe it would be beneficial to include Welling in the constituency name to appropriately reflect the three larger community areas in the constituency (Old Bexley, Sidcup and Welling) and to provide clarity and accountability for residents in Welling in relation to their Member of Parliament. However, I do understand the Commission's challenge regarding the length of constituency names.

To conclude, I welcome the proposals for the Old Bexley and Sidcup constituency which are sensible and strengthen community links, but I would be grateful if consideration could be given to the addition of Welling in the name of the constituency.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louie French'.

Louie French MP
Member of Parliament for Old Bexley and Sidcup

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