

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 2 in the name of Councillor Walsh to be seconded by Councillor Hall	
Key Decision	n/a	Item No.
Ward	n/a	
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: July 20 2016

Council Notes:

The Government is currently part way through a Parliamentary Boundary Review that basis it's methodology on elector numbers from December 2015. The Government ambition has been to reduce the number of MPs to 600.

That controversially the government have based the notional size of constituencies on the electoral registers from December 2015, which was after the move from household registrations to individual electoral registrations (IER), has disproportionately affected inner city areas like Lewisham in making the transition. Millions of voters have gone missing from the electoral roll.

The independent Electoral Commission did recommended that those on the register following the General Election in May 2015 should remain on the register until December 2016. The Government ignored that advice.

As examples of impact: the electoral register in Liverpool is down 14,000 from December 2014, Birmingham by 19,000 and Lewisham by 6,000 even when there is an actual increase in population in these areas.

That registrations to vote increased by 18.6% from December 2015 - placing Lewisham at the top of the league table in elector growth, and London the largest regional growth with 7%.

Council Believes:

This Governments aspiration has been to reduce both the number of MPs, but shamefully the number of electors on the electoral roll in a partisan way, by introducing new electoral procedures, such as individual electoral registrations (IER) that disproportionately disadvantage inner city areas like Lewisham.

That Lewisham is potentially going to lose one third of its current say in Parliament if the figures aren't updated in the Boundary Review to reflect these large significant changes.

Council Resolves:

To urgently write to the Boundary Commission to set out our concerns and make clear that this unprecedented growth, must not be ignored and ask for urgent action to resolve this issue.

For the Mayor to work with the LGA and other affected Local Authority leaders to work to significantly influence and change the proposals to reflect both the changes in registrations, but also the partisan structural inequality concerns the process has raised.

To commission a report to return to Full Council that identifies the reasons why so many of our citizens were not on the electoral roll, and highlight the learning we need to take from this unprecedented growth in registration, so that we can replicate it again in the future.