EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE STOCKTON-ON-TEES (ELECTORAL CHANGES) ORDER 2023

2023 No. [XXXX]

1. Introduction

1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and is laid before Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

2. Purpose of the instrument

2.1 The Stockton-on-Tees (Electoral Changes) Order 2023 is made to give effect to recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements for the borough of Stockton-on-Tees and, where relevant, parish councils in the authority's area. The Commission has published an amended final recommendations report, dated September 2023 ("the 2023 Report") correcting recommendations in respect of two parish councils in the authority's area contained in an amended report dated 2022 ("the 2022 report"). This instrument gives effect to the recommendations in the 2023 report, and revokes S.I. 2022/966 which gave effect to the recommendations in the 2022 report.

3. Matters of special interest to Parliament

Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 The Commission is adopting the free issue procedure in relation to this instrument. The Commission confirms that it has complied with the requirement stated in paragraph 4.7.1 of Statutory Instrument Practice to consult with the SI Registrar on the use of the free issue procedure in relation to this instrument.

4. Extent and Territorial Application

4.1 The territorial extent of this instrument is England and Wales.

4.2 The territorial application of this instrument is England.

5. European Convention on Human Rights

5.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

6. Legislative Context

6.1 The Commission has power under section 59 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act) to make an order giving effect to recommendations contained in a report, prepared under section 58(4) of the 2009 Act, after conducting an electoral review under section 56(1) of that Act. As both the 2022 recommendations report and the S.I 2022/966 contained errors, it did not fully give effect to the Commission's intended recommendations. The Commission therefore republished an amended final recommendations report dated

September 2023[1]. This instrument is laid to give full effect to the recommendations, whilst making provision to ensure that the tenure of any councillors elected by way of provision made under the 2022 Order is unaffected.

7. Policy background

What is being done and why?

7.1 The 2022 Order was made to give effect to recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements for the borough of Stockton-on-Tees. It was subsequently identified that the 2022 report, and the 2022 Order which gave effect to the 2022 report contained errors. The Commission has subsequently published an amended final recommendations report dated September 2023, which accurately reflects the Commission's final recommendations. This Order seeks to give effect to those final recommendations published in September 2023. The changes relate to recommendations for the parishes on Ingleby Barwick and Kirklevington.

7.2 This new Order does not affect the election or tenure of any councillor elected in 2023, following the implementation of the 2022 Order.

8. European Union Withdrawal and Future Relationship

8.1 This instrument does not relate to withdrawal from the European Union.

9. Consolidation

9.1 This Instrument revokes S.I. 2022/966.

10. Consultation outcome

10.1 The 2023 Order is made to give effect to recommendations that were consulted on during the review of electoral arrangements from October 2020 to March 2022.

11. Guidance

11.1 The Commission does not intend to issue any guidance alongside this instrument. This is not considered necessary as the Order is self-explanatory and gives effect to recommendations following consultation with interested parties as to the changes to electoral arrangements.

12. Impact

12.1 There is no, or no significant, impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

12.2 The impact on the public sector will be limited to the area for which the Order makes provision. The one-off cost of producing the map referred to by the instrument is to be funded by the Commission. The one-off cost of amending the electoral register to reflect the new parish wards is to be funded by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

12.3 A full Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument.

[1] https://www.lgbce.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/stockton-on-tees_final_recommendations_report_-_final_-_sep23.pdf.

13. Regulating small business

13.1 The legislation does not apply to activities that are undertaken by small businesses.

14. Monitoring & review

14.1 The Commission will have no role in monitoring the Council's implementation of the 2023 Order. The Commission is not required to undertake such monitoring; that is a matter for the relevant officers of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The Order will be reviewed insofar as the Commission continually monitors local authorities in England to identify any that meet its criteria for electoral reviews.

15. Contact

15.1 Richard Otterway, Review Manager at the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (Telephone: 0330 500 1282 or email: richard.otterway@lgbce.org.uk), can be contacted with any queries regarding the instrument.