

## **NEWSLETTER No.2/2011**

1. Members may recall that Newsletter No.1/2011, which was approved at the meeting of 20 December 2010, was due to be issued on 12 January 2011. However, it was agreed at the meeting that the issue of the newsletter should be delayed so that the latest information relating to the Committee stage in the House of Lords of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, could be taken account of. As the Committee stage proved to be greatly extended, Newsletter No.1/2011 was issued on 27 January with most of the detail of what the effects of the Bill would be stripped out to avoid the possibility that they would be made rapidly inaccurate by Amendments to the Bill.

2. The timetable for the sixth general review indicates that a further two newsletters (No.2/2011 and No.3/2011) would have been scheduled for issue on 3 February 2011 and 4 March 2011 respectively. However, the Secretariat suggests that the two newsletters are merged into one document, which should be issued on 4 March 2011. The reason for suggesting the merging of the two newsletters is the extended length of the House of Lords Committee stage and the consequential later than expected date for Royal Assent – originally thought to be by the end of January 2011, but now expected to be on or just before 16 February 2011.

3. It is suggested that the content of Newsletter No.2/2011 (see Appendix A) reflects the content of the two newsletters it was originally planned to issue. With the exception of the matters covered under item a) below, which would have been included in the newsletter scheduled for issue on 3 February 2011, all the other matters would have been covered in the newsletter due to be issued on 4 March 2011. The subjects covered in the newsletter are:-

- a) The new statutory framework for constituency reviews established by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011;
- b) Applicability and availability of 2011 electorate data;
- c) Applicability of local government boundaries
- d) Use of local government wards as building blocks for constituencies;
- e) Use of regions for the initial allocation of constituencies across England;
- f) Publication and distribution of the information booklet; and
- g) Meeting with the Parliamentary political parties

4. The Secretariat previously sent a draft of the newsletter to Members for round-robin circulation. The draft attached at Appendix A contains the amendments subsequently made by Members, who are therefore asked to agree the final content at the meeting.