

---

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** 14 January 2015

**SUBJECT:** Boundary Review Electoral Review

---

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide Members with a summary of comments received following resolution at last meeting and copies of slides from briefing meeting attended by the Clerk.

### **Background**

Following the decision at the November meeting to submit a response to the consultation in January the Town Clerk attended a briefing meeting to gather relevant information and an email was sent to members on Wednesday 26 November requesting views for inclusion in the Town Council response.

### **Briefing Meeting**

15min presentation was given setting out the background to the review, what the aim is and the process and timeline that is being followed. The presentation slides are appended for information.

A Q&A session was held with most questions being asked by those villages who are to be affected by large housing developments within their boundary.

It was stressed that –

- Councils should promote the review within their communities as comments from everyone are welcome and will be considered.
- Councils can respond with comments limited to their own boundary or further afield if they feel that it will have an impact on their existing community
- A further review will take place in 5 years so comments regarding potential future growth indicated in local plans should not cloud the current thinking.

### **Member Comments**

The following comments were received by the cut-off date provided:-

1. The St Ives ward (with Needingworth) is within the acceptable number of electors per ward based on 2 St Ives Councillors. As Needingworth has strong links with St Ives, there does not appear to be any reason to change.
2. Reducing St Ives Councillors from 2 to 1, would result in a ward with the number of electors far outside the average for the County so would not be acceptable.
3. With major housing planned at RAF Wyton, 4500 homes, say 6000-7000 electors. This would result in an excessive number of electors in existing wards. There are 3 existing wards in that area and it would make more sense to have a single ward that covered RAF Wyton, Wyton camp and Houghton village.

## **Recommendation**

- That the report and attachment be received
- The comments submitted by Members and copied above are used as the basis for the Town Council response to the Electoral Boundary Review.

Alison Melnychuk  
Town Clerk

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

# Cambridgeshire County Council



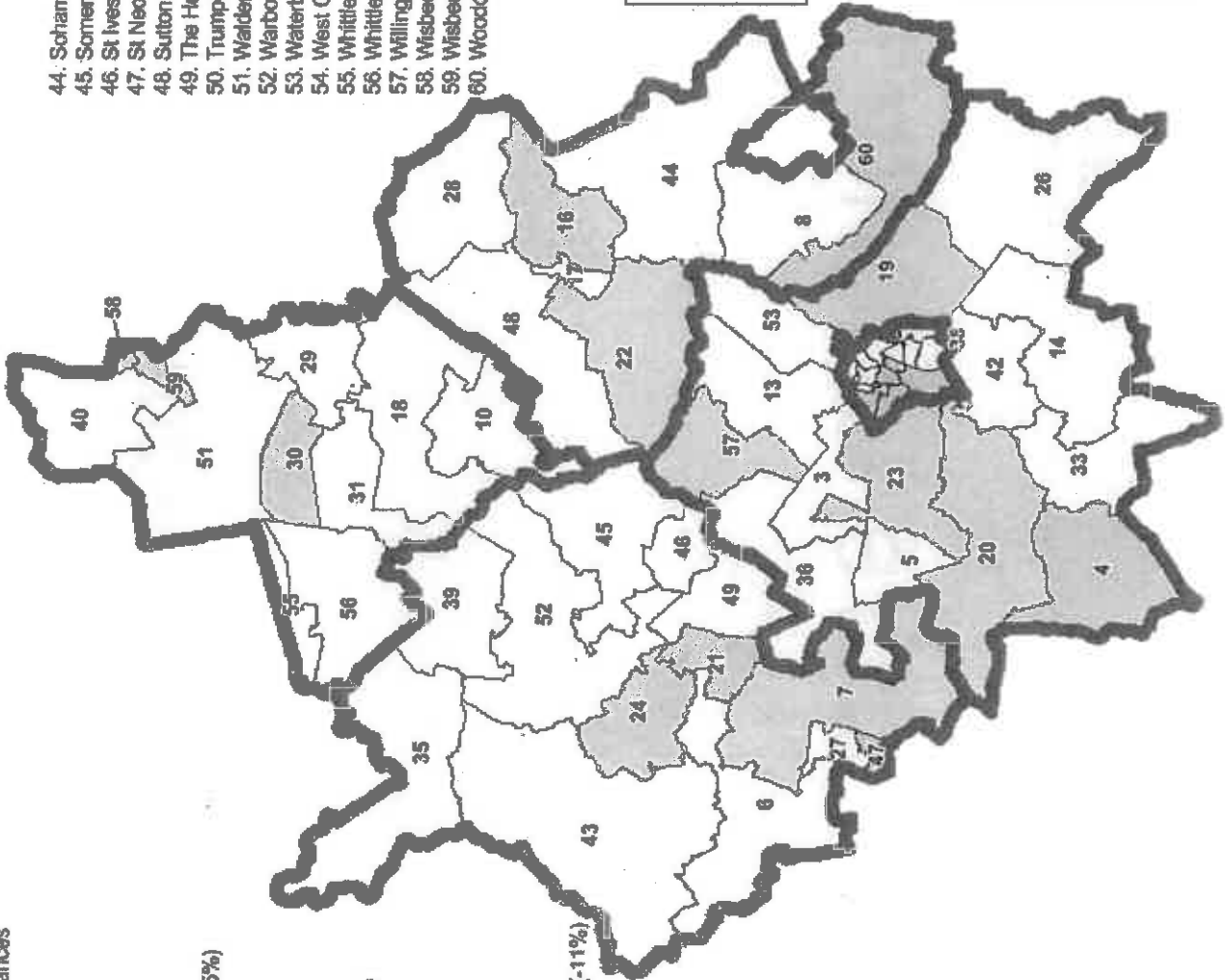
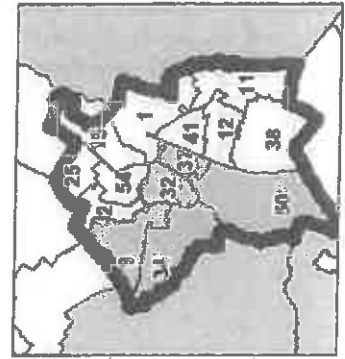
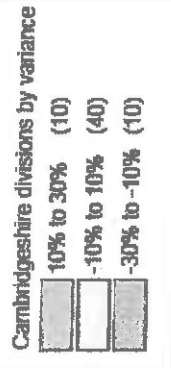
Electoral review briefing  
November 2014

Website: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)  
Have your say: [consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk)  
Follow us: @lgbce  
Contact us: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

Cambridgeshire Electoral Divisions and variances

- 1. Abbey (1%)
- 2. Arbury (-1%)
- 3. Bar Hill (9%)
- 4. Beasingbourn (-19%)
- 5. Bourn (-2%)
- 6. Brampton and Kimbolton (7%)
- 7. Buckden, Gransden and The Offords (15%)
- 8. Burwell (-4%)
- 9. Castle (-11%)
- 10. Chatteris (-8%)
- 11. Cherry Hinton (-4%)
- 12. Coleridge (-1%)
- 13. Cottenham, Histon and Impington (2%)
- 14. Duxford (3%)
- 15. East Chesterton (1%)
- 16. Ely North and East (28%)
- 17. Ely South and West (1%)
- 18. Forty Foot (7%)
- 19. Fulbourn (14%)
- 20. Gamlingay (16%)
- 21. Godmanchester and Huntingdon East (-11%)
- 22. Haddenham (15%)
- 23. Hardwick (15%)
- 24. Huntingdon (-16%)
- 25. King's Hedges (-3%)
- 26. Linton (9%)
- 27. Little Paxton and St Neots North (-8%)
- 28. Littleport (-3%)
- 29. March East (-2%)
- 30. March North (-16%)
- 31. March West (-4%)
- 32. Market (13%)
- 33. Melbourn (9%)
- 34. Newnham (22%)
- 35. Norman Cross (-7%)
- 36. Papworth and Swavesey (-10%)
- 37. Petersfield (-11%)
- 38. Queen Edith's (-10%)
- 39. Ramsey (-4%)
- 40. Roman Bank and Peckover (8%)
- 41. Romsey (-1%)
- 42. Sawston (-3%)
- 43. Sawtry and Ellington (8%)

- 44. Soham and Fordham Villages (8%)
- 45. Somersham and Earith (8%)
- 46. St Ives (7%)
- 47. St Neots Eaton Socon and Eynesbury (-14%)
- 48. Sutton (-2%)
- 49. The Herringfords and Fenstanton (9%)
- 50. Trumpington (-14%)
- 51. Waldsey (4%)
- 52. Warboys and Upwood (7%)
- 53. Waterbeach (4%)
- 54. West Chesterton (-6%)
- 55. Whittlesey North (-7%)
- 56. Whittlesey South (0%)
- 57. Willingham (10%)
- 58. Wisbech North (17%)
- 59. Wisbech South (22%)
- 60. Woodditton (19%)



## The review so far

- Initial meetings with group leaders / full Council / officers
- Council size dialogue with County Council
- Council size of 63 members agreed

## Review process

### 28 October 2014 – 19 January 2015: Consultation on division patterns

- Invite division patterns from council, public, district and parish councils, everybody who takes an interest
- Welcome proposals for whole county or just a few parishes
- Commission tours area

### 12 May 2015 – 6 July 2015: Consultation on Draft Recommendations

- Posters provided to parish councils to publicise review
- Open consultation on draft recommendations

### 29 September 2015: Commission publishes final recommendations

- Once recommendations finalised, an order will be laid in Parliament Laid for 40 sitting days before the order can be made

### Implemented elections 2017

## Producing a scheme of divisions

- Allocate an overall number of councillors between the primary areas of the authority
- Aim for a scheme based on good electoral equality
- Where applicable use district wards as building blocks. Divisions must be contained within district boundaries.
- Ensure supporting evidence provides clear practical examples to support your proposals
- The poorer the level of electoral equality the better the evidence against the other criteria needs to be

# How?

## Division Boundaries:

Effective representations will address:

Electoral equality for  
voters

Community interests  
and identities

Convenient and  
effective local  
government

### Effective representations at every stage:

- Tell us why you are putting forward your view: your rationale.
- Put forward an alternative, not just registering an objection.
- Provide evidence to support your argument.
- Consider the future.



The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

## Electoral Equality

- Basic democratic principle. Each person's vote should be of equal weight across a local authority area
- The 'electoral variance' is the % figure by which a ward deviates from the councillor: elector ratio for the authority
- Bear in mind the Commission aims to have all divisions having variances of less than 10% where possible

## Community identities and interests

- The higher the electoral variance you propose, the stronger the evidence of community identities needs to be
- Evidence should not be assertion but have a basis in practical examples
- Community identity is hard to define and often subjective

## What counts as evidence?

Historical associations are useful, but we need to know how communities interact now. Practical examples are important:

- Shared community events
- Shared amenities and facilities
- Public facilities such as doctors' surgeries, hospitals, libraries or schools.
- What defines it and marks it out as a distinct community or communities
- Show how facilities provide a focus for community interaction

## Effective & convenient local government

- Divisions are coherent
  - Clearly identifiable boundaries
  - Reflect transport and communication links
  - Councillors and electors can engage in the affairs and activities of the wards without having to travel through an adjoining ward.

## Rules relating to parishes

- We cannot create or abolish parishes, or amend their boundaries
- If we divide a parish between divisions, we must create parish wards
- We can change parish electoral arrangements only as a direct consequence of our division proposals

## Parish councils input

- Tell us what you think
  - Explain how the proposed division pattern reflects community identity
  - Consider division names and patterns
  - Give evidence of how recommendations would impact your communities
  - We don't expect a county-wide scheme but remember there may be knock-on effects to proposals
- Talk to residents and publicise the review
  - We will provide all parishes with posters

# The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

## How to get involved

**Electoral review of East Dorset**

**Tell us what you think**  
The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking you to help us decide on the best way to divide East Dorset into wards for the next local council election.

**Our draft recommendations**  
We are now asking local people to have their say on our draft recommendations for new ward names and boundaries. We are asking you to tell us:

- Do the proposed wards reflect local communities?
- Are the names of the proposed wards appropriate?

For more information, including a list of the proposed wards, visit [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) and [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). The report and maps will also be available in council buildings and libraries.

**Have your say**  
Your views will make a difference. Write to:

The Review Office (East Dorset)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
London EC1R 1SL  
Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)  
The Consultation Centre on 8 July 2013

Local Government Boundary Commission

Website: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)  
 Have your say: [consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk)  
 Follow us: @lgbce  
 Contact us: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

## Contact details

Review Officer  
(Cambridgeshire)  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

Alex Hinds  
Review Officer  
[alex.hinds@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:alex.hinds@lgbce.org.uk)  
020 7664 8517

Richard Buck  
Review Manager  
[richard.buck@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:richard.buck@lgbce.org.uk)  
020 7664 8511