

AGENDA ITEM No. 19



10 May 2016

Dear Parish or Town Clerk

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE: NEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published new draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council. Today is the start of a 6 week public consultation on the Commission's new draft recommendations on new electoral division boundaries across Cambridgeshire County Council. The consultation closes on 20 June 2016.

View the new draft recommendations

You can view the Commission's new draft recommendations at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4143> where you can find interactive maps, a report and guidance on how to have your say. The Commission has not finalised its conclusions and now invites representations on the new draft recommendations.

Enclosed with this letter is a summary outlining the Commission's new draft recommendations outlining the new draft recommendations. An interactive map of the Commission's recommendations for Cambridgeshire County Council, electorate figures and guidance on how to propose new divisions is available on the consultation area at: www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk. Further information about the review and the Commission's work is also published on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/cambridgeshire/cambridgeshire-county-council.

Have your say

We encourage everyone who has a view on the new draft recommendations to contact us whether you support them or whether you wish to propose alternative arrangements.

Before finalising the recommendations, the Commission will consider every representation received during consultation whether it is submitted by an individual, a local group or an organisation. We will weigh each submission against the criteria the Commission must follow when drawing up electoral arrangements:

- To deliver electoral equality where each county councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the county.
- That the pattern of divisions should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.

- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

It is important that you take account of the criteria if you are suggesting an alternative pattern of divisions. You can find additional guidance and information about previous electoral reviews on our website to help you or your organisation make a submission.

Get in touch

The Commission welcomes comments on the recommendations report by 20 June 2016. Representations should be made:

- Through our interactive consultation portal where you can explore the maps of the recommendations, draw your own boundaries and supply comments at: www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk.
- By email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk.
- Or in writing to:
Review Officer (Cambridgeshire)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

The Commission aims to publish every response it receives during phases of consultation. If you do not want all or any part of your response or name to be made public, you must state this clearly in the response. Any such request should explain why confidentiality is necessary. All responses may be subject to publication or disclosure as required by law (in particular under the Freedom of Information Act 2000).

This is the last opportunity to influence the Commission's recommendations before they are finalised. We therefore encourage local people to get in touch with us and have their say.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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0330 500 1274

AGENDA ITEM No. 19

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Ms Gillian Beasley
Chief Executive
Cambridgeshire County Council
Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

10 May 2016

Dear Ms Beasley,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE: NEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has opened a public consultation on its new draft recommendations for electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council.

The consultation opens today, 10 May 2016, and closes on 20 June 2016.

The draft recommendations propose that 61 county councillors should be elected to Cambridgeshire County Council. The recommendations also propose new electoral division boundaries across the county.

Following publication of its final recommendations in February 2016, the Commission received representations from local people and organisations who felt that their voices had not been fully heard during previous phases of the review. The Commission investigated the issues raised and concluded that it should publish new draft recommendations for the whole county and consult on them.

The Commission welcomes views on any aspect of its recommendations in any part of the county. In particular, the Commission draws attention to two specific areas that were the subject of complaints in the previous phase of the review:

- Cambridge City (Abbey and Petersfield divisions) – the Commission proposes that the boundary between the two divisions runs along St Matthew's Street, Norfolk Street and behind properties on Upper Gwydir Street, Fairsford Place and York Street. The Commission welcomes views on the recommendation and/or proposals for an alternative boundary that delivers electoral equality for voters and reflects community ties.
- East Cambridgeshire – a council size of 61 for Cambridgeshire would mean an allocation of eight county councillors to the district. The Commission would

welcome views on its proposed scheme of divisions across the district as well as any alternative patterns that would reflect its statutory criteria.

The Commission will consider all the responses to the consultation and welcomes views on any aspect of the recommendations for all parts of the county.

The Commission aims to publish final recommendations in September 2016. We will then lay a draft order in both Houses of Parliament under the negative resolution procedure. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements are scheduled to come into effect at the county elections in 2017.

All information relating to the new draft recommendations is available on our website. The Commission's report on its new draft recommendations can also be found at: www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/cambridgeshire/cambridgeshire-county-council. In addition, hard copies of the report and accompanying map will be dispatched to the Council shortly.

Interactive maps of the proposals are posted on the Commission's consultation portal at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4143>. The portal also allows visitors to submit comments and alternative proposals.

Publicising the consultation

The Commission will shortly dispatch hard copies of the recommendations to the council for distribution to local information points. In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could bring the consultation to the attention of elected members.

We have also provided information on the draft recommendations directly to district and parish councils and community organisations as well as notifying local press and media.

I would be grateful if you could also take steps to bring the consultation to the attention of the public and interested parties. In particular, please include details of the consultation:

- On your website;
- Promote the consultation through social media and;
- Use any other channels you would normally employ to engage residents in local consultations (newsletters, press releases, publications etc.).

The Commission would be happy to provide information and/or copy to help you promote the consultation locally.

New draft recommendations

The Commission's new draft recommendations mirror the proposals that were published in February 2016. In compiling the recommendations, we have sought to balance the criteria we must follow when drawing up recommendations, namely:

- To deliver electoral equality where each county councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the county.
- That the pattern of divisions should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

The Commission will consider all representations made on the new draft recommendations and has an open mind about amending the scheme if an alternative pattern of divisions would better meet the statutory criteria above. It is also important for respondents to the consultation to indicate where and why they support the draft recommendations.

Further information on drawing up a pattern of electoral divisions and putting forward alternative proposals is available in our guidance document: *Electoral reviews: technical guidance* which can be found at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/10410/technical-guidance-2014.pdf.

We also publish a practical guide for putting forward submissions called *How to propose a pattern of wards* which is available at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/10409/proposing-new-wards-guidance.pdf.

As ever, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the consultation.

Correspondence and enquiries

Correspondence relating to the review – and consultation responses - should be addressed to:

Review Officer (Cambridgeshire)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Responses to the consultation can also be made directly through our specialist consultation portal: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4143>.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14th Floor, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP

Tel: 0330 500 1525; Fax: 0330 500 1526; reviews@lgbce.org.uk; www.lgbce.org.uk

Further information on electoral reviews can also be found at our main website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk.

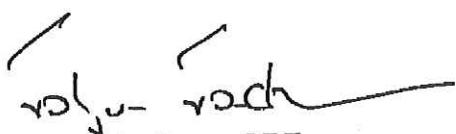
Your direct contacts for the review remain:

Alex Hinds, Review Officer, with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review: email: alex.hinds@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 0330 500 1274.

Richard Buck, Review Manager, leads the team dealing with this and other electoral reviews: email: richard.buck@lgbce.org.uk; tel: 0330 500 1271.

I am copying this letter to the organisations and individuals listed below.

Yours sincerely,



Jolyon Jackson CBE
Chief Executive
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0330 500 1290

cc MPs and MEPs with constituency interests in Cambridgeshire
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
Local organisations in Cambridgeshire
Parish and Town Councils in Cambridgeshire
District, City and Borough Councils in Cambridgeshire

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council

Electoral review

February 2016

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1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Cambridgeshire County Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the county.

What is an electoral review?

2 Our three main considerations in conducting an electoral review are set out in legislation¹ and are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

3 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

4 We wrote to the Council inviting the submission of proposals on council size. We then held a period of consultation on division patterns for the county. The submissions received during our consultation have informed our final recommendations. This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
21 October 2014	Decision on council size
28 October 2014	Division pattern consultation
12 May 2015	Draft recommendations consultation
7 July 2015	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
3 November 2015	Further limited consultation for Cambridge City
9 February 2016	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

5 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which division you vote in, which other communities are in that division and, in some instances, which parish council wards you vote in. Your division name may also change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. The names or boundaries of parishes will not change as a result of our recommendations.

¹ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

7 Legislation² states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors³ in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the date of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the divisions we put forward at the end of the review.

8 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum.

9 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors as shown on the table below.

	2014	2021
Electorate of Cambridgeshire	478,908	521,380
Number of councillors	61	61
Average number of electors per councillor	7,851	8,547

10 Under our final recommendations, one of our proposed divisions will have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for the county by 2021. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for Cambridgeshire.

11 Additionally, in circumstances where we propose to divide a parish between district wards or county divisions, we are required to divide it into parish wards so that each parish ward is wholly contained within a single district ward or county division. We cannot make amendments to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

12 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Cambridgeshire County Council or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. There is no evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

13 See Appendix B for details of submissions received. All submissions may be inspected at our offices and can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

20 A council size of 61 provides the following allocation between the district councils in the county. In brackets, we have also listed the percentage of district and borough wards that are wholly contained within our proposed divisions. We refer to this as coterminosity:

- Cambridge City – 12 councillors (36%)
- East Cambridgeshire – eight councillors (71%)
- Fenland – nine councillors (75%)
- Huntingdonshire – 17 councillors (62%)
- South Cambridgeshire – 15 councillors (62%)

Division patterns

21 During consultation on division patterns, we received 63 submissions. While we did not receive a submission from the County Council, the Cambridge Labour Group submitted a county-wide proposal. Cambridge City Council and the North East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association submitted district-wide proposals for Cambridge City and Fenland respectively. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for division arrangements in specific areas of the county.

Draft recommendations

22 We received 253 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. We received submissions relating to each of the districts in the county. In particular, we received proposals for alternative division arrangements in Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Fenland districts. We considered that the alternative division arrangements submitted for Cambridge City provided clear division boundaries while still ensuring good electoral equality. We therefore decided to further consult on this alternative division proposal for Cambridge City.

Final recommendations

Cambridge City

23 We received 105 submissions relating to our proposed electoral divisions in Cambridge. This included four city-wide proposals for electoral divisions that were notably different from our draft recommendations. The County Council, Cambridgeshire Labour Group, Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrat Group and a local resident each submitted city-wide schemes.

24 We considered that the divisions proposed by the Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrat Group and local resident would better reflect communities in the Market, Petersfield and Romsey areas of the city than the divisions proposed in our draft recommendations. They were further supported by strong evidence from local residents, local organisations and councillors in these areas of Cambridge. Given that this pattern had not been consulted upon previously, we decided to consult locally in Cambridge city on whether this new pattern of divisions should be adopted as part of our final recommendations.

Fenland District

29 We received 29 submissions relating to Fenland. The majority of respondents and Stephen Barclay MP objected to our proposed two-member March North & Waldersey division and our proposals in the March, Wisbech St Mary and Whittlesey areas.

30 We received alternative division patterns based on nine and 10 councillors for Fenland. As in East Cambridgeshire, we are not persuaded that we have received sufficient evidence to change the allocation of councillors for the district and have decided our final recommendations in Fenland should allocate nine councillors. We considered the alternative pattern of nine single-member divisions did not reflect the statutory criteria, particularly in Christchurch, Elm, Manea and Wisbech St Mary parishes. In particular, the locally proposed Waldersey division comprising these parishes would not have clear boundaries. Furthermore, it would span a large geographical area that would combine disparate communities that would not appear to share community identities and interests. Therefore, we do not propose any changes to our proposed division arrangements in Fenland with the exception of Wisbech where we propose the divisions should reflect the district wards.

Huntingdonshire District

31 We received 47 submissions relating to Huntingdonshire, the majority of which objected to our proposed St Neots East & Gransden division. Local councillors and local residents argued against our proposals which included a large housing development in St Neots in a division with Abbotsley, Great Gransden, Great Paxton, Toseland, Waresley-cum-Tetworth and Yelling parishes. We have not made changes to St Neots East & Gransden division because we could not find a suitable alternative division pattern for St Neots that would meet our statutory criteria.

32 We also received objections to our proposed Somersham & Earith and Warboys & The Stukeleys divisions. After considering the evidence received, we have made some minor amendments to the draft recommendations and propose that Wyton-on-the-Hill parish be included in St Ives North division and that Broughton and Kings Ripton parishes be included in Somersham & Earith division to provide for good electoral equality. However, we could not find a suitable alternative division pattern which places The Stukeleys and Warboys parishes in different divisions.

South Cambridgeshire District

33 We received 34 submissions relating to South Cambridgeshire. A number of parishes provided evidence to support minor amendments to our draft recommendations for the district. We also investigated potential alternative division patterns for Northstowe & Over and Papworth & Swavesey divisions. However, we could not find a suitable alternative division pattern that would meet our statutory criteria.

34 We have decided to amend our draft recommendations by transferring Lolworth parish to Bar Hill division and transferring Boxworth, Childerley and Knapwell parishes to Papworth & Swavesey division. To improve electoral equality in Cambourne division, the team proposes to include Little Gransden and Longstowe parishes in Cambourne division. We have also created a two-member Sawston & Shelford division which keeps the parishes of Sawston and Shelford and adjoining parishes together in the same division.

Cambridge City

Division name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Abbey	1	-9%	This division lies in the east of the city and comprises the Barnwell community.	<p>The response to our draft recommendations for this division mainly consisted of local residents in Romsey who objected to being included in our proposed Barnwell division. We also received submissions from local residents in Barnwell supporting the responses of Romsey residents. We received a submission proposing that this division be named Abbey rather than Barnwell. We consider that this name better reflects the community within this division and so we are adopting this name change as part of our final recommendations.</p> <p>We received support for Abbey division during the further limited consultation. We consider this division reflects community identities and provides for good electoral equality. We therefore confirm Abbey division as part of our final recommendations.</p>
Arbury	1	-2%	This division lies in the north-west of the city and comprises the Arbury community.	<p>We did not receive any submissions specifically relating to our proposals for Arbury division. However, the alternative city-wide patterns received included proposals for Arbury division which were notably different from our draft recommendations. These changes were contingent on accepting substantial modifications in the Castle and Newham areas of the city for which we had little evidence. We therefore did not make changes to Arbury division.</p> <p>We received four submissions specifically relating to Arbury division during the further consultation. A local resident proposed that Histon Road should be the division boundary between Arbury and Castle areas. A local councillor proposed that part of Victoria Road be transferred to Arbury</p>

			<p>Richmond Road and other roads which access onto Huntingdon Road.</p> <p>The respondents argued that Castle has few direct road links with Newnham. Castle also has its own separate community facilities and does not look south in a community sense toward Newnham. We consider the evidence received provides a persuasive argument for a single-member division comprising Castle. Furthermore, the evidence to include Windsor Road in Castle division is supported by persuasive evidence and we have decided to make this change. A single-member division would provide for good electoral equality and reflect community identities. We therefore propose a single-member Castle division as part of our final recommendations.</p>
Cherry Hinton	1	5%	<p>This division lies in the east of the city and comprises the Cherry Hinton community.</p> <p>During consultation on our draft recommendations we did not receive any submissions specifically relating to our proposals for Cherry Hinton division. However, the alternative city-wide patterns received were similar to our draft recommendations.</p> <p>During the further limited consultation, we received a submission from a local resident relating to Cherry Hinton division. They proposed to move cul-de-sacs off Cherry Hinton Road, between Mowbray Road and Cherry Hinton Hall, into a division with Queen Edith's. They also proposed that Queen Edith's Way, adjoining roads as well as land to the east of Limekiln Road be transferred to Cherry Hinton division. We consider that insufficient evidence has been received to make this change. We have also received support for the proposed Cherry Hinton division. Subject to a minor change in the north of the division where we have used part of the railway as the boundary, we confirm our draft recommendations for Cherry Hinton division as final.</p>

			<p>Following further limited consultation we received 38 submissions relating to Market division. All but one of the submissions supported the alternative proposals which include most of the city centre and surrounding residential areas in Market division. We received persuasive evidence that Mill Road is a focal point where local residents on either side of the road share community interests and facilities. We consider that the alternative proposals better reflect the Market community. The division also provides for good electoral equality. Therefore, we propose this division as part of our final recommendations.</p>
Newnham	1	-12%	<p>This division comprises the Newnham area and Churchill College to the north of Madingley Road.</p> <p>As noted in the Castle section of this report, we received a number of submissions relating to Castle & Newnham division during consultation on the draft recommendations. The majority of respondents objected to a two-member Castle & Newnham division. An alternative proposal was received for a single-member Newnham division; however, this would require accepting substantial changes in the north of Cambridge for which we had no evidence.</p> <p>During the further limited consultation, 22 submissions were received. The respondents reiterated their objections to Castle & Newnham division. Two political party respondents provided evidence that Newnham is a distinct and separate community from Castle. The Newnham area also has separate community facilities from Castle. It was further argued that a single-member division should include those residents to the north of Madingley Road and Churchill College.</p> <p>We consider the evidence on community identities received from respondents to be persuasive and, exceptionally, justifies a single-member Newnham division with a variance above 10%. The evidence clearly demonstrates Newnham is</p>

				We received 33 submissions during further consultation relating to Romsey division. All but one of the submissions received supported the alternative proposals we put forward which keep the Romsey community in a single division. A political group proposed that the entirety of roads north of Cherry Hinton Road from Hills Road to Perne Road be included in Queen Edith's division. However, we consider that insufficient evidence has been received to make this change. It would also result in an electoral variance of greater than 10%. The alternative proposals for Romsey division better reflect the local community than that proposed in our draft recommendations. The division also provides for good electoral equality. Therefore, we propose this division as part of our final recommendations.
Trumpington & Queen Edith's	2	-4%	This division comprises the areas of Trumpington and Queen Edith's.	In response to the draft recommendations, we received 16 submissions relating to the areas of Trumpington and Queen Edith's. In Trumpington, a local Residents' Association objected to the proposed Trumpington division. In Queen Edith's, 15 respondents objected to the proposed Queen Edith's division. We received alternative division patterns for these areas which would both require substantial changes in other parts of Cambridge for which had no evidence. However, the evidence received persuasively argued our proposals divided communities. Therefore, we created a two-member division which included both the Trumpington and Queen Edith's areas. We put this proposed division forward during further limited consultation. In response we received 18 submissions relating to this two-member division. The respondents in both areas argued against the proposed two-member division. A political group and local resident proposed two single-member divisions. This proposal was supported by local residents and Residents' Associations in both areas.

East Cambridgeshire District

Division name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Ely East	1	5%	This division comprises the east of the city, the cathedral area to the south, and communities east of Lynn Road.	We received 38 submissions relating to East Cambridgeshire district. The majority of respondents objected to the allocation of councillors for the district, and our proposed Fordham Villages & Soham South, Littleport East & Soham North and Littleport West divisions. We also received localised objections from parish councils located in our proposed Littleport West division.
Ely West	1	-7%	This division comprises much of the Ely community which is bounded by the A10 and A142 roads. The remainder of the division is made up of the rural area to the south and west of Ely.	We received alternative proposals which were based on eight and nine single-member divisions. We have decided to base our final recommendations on eight county councillors for East Cambridgeshire. As stated earlier, we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence was received to justify changing the allocation of councillors to the district.
Fordham Villages & Soham South	2	8%	This division comprises Burwell, Chippenham, Fordham, Isleham, Kennett, Reach, Snailwell, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and Wicken parishes. It also comprises the southern part of Soham parish.	While the proposal based on eight councillors resulted in divisions with reasonably good levels of electoral equality, it created divisions comprising Ely and adjoining parishes with poor internal access between communities. The proposals would also result in dividing Downham parish between two divisions. To provide for a uniform pattern of eight single-member divisions which provide an effective balance of the statutory criteria would require significant changes to the proposals received for Ely. We do not have sufficient evidence to make such changes.
Littleport East & Soham North	1	7%	This division comprises the eastern part of Littleport parish, the eastern part of Ely parish and northern part of Soham parish.	We therefore propose to confirm the draft recommendations for these five divisions in East Cambridgeshire as final subject to a minor change in Littleport to allow the division boundary to run behind Millfield and along Ely Road. While we note the views and objections of respondents to our draft
Littleport West	2	9%	This division comprises Coveney, Downham, Haddenham, Mepal, Stretham, Sutton, Thetford, Wentworth, Wilburton, Witcham and Witchford	

Fenland District

Division name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Chatteris	1	5%	This division comprises the whole of Chatteris parish.	We received 29 submissions relating to Fenland district. The majority of respondents objected to the allocation of councillors for Fenland, and our proposed two-member March North & Walderssey division. We also received localised objections to our proposals in Whittlesey and Wisbech St Mary parishes.
March North & Walderssey	2	7%	This division comprises the northern part of March parish and the parishes of Christchurch, Elm and part of Wisbech St Mary parish.	We received alternative proposals which were based on nine and 10 single-member divisions. We have decided to base our final recommendations on nine county councillors for Fenland as we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence was received to justify changing the allocation of councillors to the district.
March South & Rural	1	8%	This division comprises the southern part of March parish and the parishes of Manea and Wimblington.	The alternative proposals for Fenland received resulted in the creation of a division which comprised Christchurch, Elm, Manea and Wisbech St Mary parishes. On visiting the local area, we noted that the proposed division did not have clear road access between communities and did not reflect local community identities. Furthermore, it would span a large geographical area which would combine disparate communities that do not appear to share community identities and interests. Indeed, to traverse the proposed division by road, particularly between Elm parish and Christchurch parish, requires leaving the county. Although this division results in good electoral equality, we consider that it does not reflect community identities or provide for effective and convenient local government.
Roman Bank & Peckover	1	8%	This division comprises Gorefield, Leverington, Newton, Parson Drove and Tydd St Giles parishes. It also includes parts of Wisbech and Wisbech St Mary parishes.	
Whittlesey North	1	-7%	This division comprises Bassenhally, Stonald and part of the St Andrews area.	
Whittlesey South	1	0%	This division comprises the district wards of Benwick, Coates & Eastrea and Lattersey and part of the St Andrews area. It also comprises Benwick and Doddington parishes and the rural part of March parish.	

Huntingdonshire District

Division name	Number of Councillors	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Alconbury & Kimbolton	1	-8%	This division comprises Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Barham & Woolley, Brington & Molesworth, Bucksworth, Bythorn & Keyston, Catworth, Covington, Easton, Ellington, Great Gidding, Great Staughton, Hail Weston, Hamerton & Steeple Gidding, Kimbolton, Leighton, Little Gidding, Old Weston, Perry, Spaldwick, Stow Longa, Tilbrook, Upton & Coppingford and Winwick parishes.	We received a submission objecting to our proposed division. We received an alternative pattern of divisions for this part of the district. However, based on a 61-member Council, a proposed Kimbolton division would have a variance of greater than 10%. We consider that our proposed division better reflects the statutory criteria and propose that it is confirmed as final.
Brampton & Buckden	1	-3%	This division comprises Brampton, Buckden, Diddington, Graftham, Offord Cluny & Offord D'Arcy and Southoe & Midloe parishes.	We received support for our proposed division from a local councillor. We received no other responses for this division. Brampton & Buckden division provides for good electoral equality, reflects communities and ensures effective and convenient local government. We propose it is confirmed as final.
Godmanchester & Huntingdon South	1	-9%	This division comprises Godmanchester parish and a part of Huntingdon parish to the south of American Lane and Priory Road.	We are satisfied that Godmanchester & Huntingdon South division meets the statutory criteria. We received an objection to include the Newtown area in our proposed division from a local respondent. However, they did not put forward an alternative division pattern. Therefore we propose this division is confirmed as final.

	Somersham and Woodhurst parishes.	Hill be transferred to St Ives as it shares closer transport and community links with the town. While such a transfer improves electoral equality in St Ives North division, it would result in 13% fewer electors per councillor in Somersham & Earth division. To improve electoral equality, we propose that Broughton and Kings Ripton parishes are transferred to this division from our proposed Warboys & The Stukeleys division.
St Ives North & Wyton	1 3%	This division comprises the north of St Ives parish and Wyton-on-the-Hill parish.
St Ives South & Needingworth	1 -8%	This division comprises the south of St Ives parish and Holywell-cum-Needingworth parish.
St Neots East & Gransden	1 0%	This division comprises part of a new development in St Neots, east of the railway and Abbotsley, Great Gransden, Great Paxton, Tosseland, Waresley-cum-Tetworth and Yelling parishes.

		Hilton and Houghton & Wyton parishes.	and effective and convenient local government. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this division as final.
Warboys & The Stukeleys	1	-5%	<p>This division comprises Abbots Ripton, The Stukeleys, Upwood & The Raveleys, Warboys, Wistow and Wood Walton parishes.</p> <p>We received objections to our draft proposals in this area. It was argued that The Stukeleys does not share strong community identities with Warboys. It was proposed that The Stukeleys be included with Alconbury & Kimbolton or Brampton & Buckden divisions. This arrangement was supported by a local parish council and local residents.</p> <p>We investigated whether such an arrangement was possible; however, this would result in electoral variances of 28% more and 33% more electors per councillor for Alconbury & Kimbolton and Brampton & Buckden divisions respectively. We did not receive a suitable alternative which would meet the statutory criteria. However, as stated above, we have decided to amend our draft recommendations between this division and Somersham & Earith.</p>
Yaxley & Farset	1	1%	<p>This division comprises Farset and Yaxley parishes.</p> <p>We received support for the draft recommendations relating to this division. Yaxley & Farset provides for good electoral equality, reflects communities and effective and convenient local government. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this division as final.</p>

Duxford	1	-5%	This division comprises Duxford, Fowlmere, Foxton, Great & Little Chishill, Heydon, Hinxton, Ickleton, Pampisford, Shepreth, Thriplow and Whittleford parishes.	We received three submissions relating to Duxford division. Having considered the evidence received we propose that Pampisford parish is included in the division. We are satisfied with the evidence that Pampisford shares strong community links with local parishes within the division. We consider our proposed division reflects the statutory criteria and confirm it as part of our final recommendations.
Fulbourn	1	6%	This division comprises the southern part of Fen Ditton parish. It also comprises Fulbourn, Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham, Stow-cum-Qui and Teversham parishes.	Our proposals for this division split Fen Ditton parish between two divisions. We received an objection to this arrangement which argued that the parish should be included within an entire division. To propose this change would result in poor electoral equality and the creation of a detached division. Our proposals meet the statutory criteria in this area and we have decided to confirm Fulbourn division as part of our final recommendations.
Gamlingay	1	-4%	This division comprises Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Barrington, Croydon, Gamlingay, Guilden Morden, Hatley, Litlington, Orwell, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Tadlow and Wimpole parishes.	We did not receive any objections to our draft proposals for Gamlingay. However due to the transfer of Longstowe and Little Gransden parishes to Cambourne division, Gamlingay division would have a variance of 12% fewer electors. To improve electoral equality we propose to include Litlington parish.
Hardwick	1	4%	This division comprises Barton, Caldecote, Comberton, Coton, Grantchester, Great Eversden, Harlton, Hardwick, Kingston, Little Eversden, Madingley and Toft parishes.	We received five submissions which supported transferring Madingley parish to Hardwick division. Having considered the evidence received we propose to modify our draft recommendations. We are content that Madingley parish has strong community links with parishes in Hardwick division. Our proposed division also provides for good electoral equality and reflects community identities in this area.

		Meldreth and Whaddon parishes.	division with 13% fewer electors per councillor. As a result of changes in Gamlingay division we propose to transfer Litlington parish to Gamlingay division in order to improve electoral equality.
Papworth & Swavesey	1	3%	This division comprises Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Childerley, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Fen Drayton, Gravelley, Knapwell, Papworth Everard, Papworth St Agnes and Swavesey parishes. We received two submissions in relation to our proposed division. We are unable to accommodate an arrangement which would result in Swavesey parish being included in a division with Fen Drayton, Over and Willingham parishes as this would require significant changes to adjoining divisions for which we have no evidence. However, we propose to include Boxworth, Childerley and Knapwell parishes from Cambourne division as evidence suggests that these parishes have stronger community links with local parishes within our proposed division.
Sawston & Shelford	2	-2%	This division comprises Babraham, Great Shelford, Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, Little Shelford, Newton, Sawston and Stapleford parishes. We received submissions from local respondents which proposed that Great Shelford, Little Shelford and Stapleford parishes be included in the same division. It was argued that the parishes share close community links and facilities. While it is possible to include both parishes in a single-member division, it would require significant changes across the district in order to provide for divisions which meet the statutory criteria. Therefore, we propose to create a two-member division from our proposed Shelford and Sawston divisions. This will ensure both parishes are not divided between divisions. We also propose to transfer Pamisford parish to Duxford division where, it was argued, it shares closer community identity with local parishes.

Conclusions

36 Table 1 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2014 and 2021 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2014	2021
Number of councillors	61	61
Number of electoral divisions	56	56
Average number of electors per councillor	7,851	8,547
Number of divisions with a variance more than 10% from the average	20	1
Number of divisions with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Final recommendation

Cambridgeshire County Council should comprise 61 councillors serving 51 single-member divisions and five two-member divisions. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 illustrates in outline form the proposed divisions for Cambridgeshire. You can also view our final recommendations for Cambridgeshire on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

37 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different divisions it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

38 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority division arrangements. However, the district councils in Cambridgeshire have powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to

44 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for March parish.

Final recommendation

March Town Council should return 12 town councillors, as at present, representing seven wards: Central (returning one member), East (returning three members), Eastwood (returning one member), North (returning three members), Rural North (returning one member), Rural South (returning one member) and South (returning two members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

45 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Soham parish.

Final recommendation

Soham Town Council should comprise 14 town councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Soham Central (returning one member), Soham North (returning six members) and Soham South (returning seven members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

46 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for St Neots parish.

Final recommendation

St Neots Town Council should return 21 town councillors, as at present, representing seven wards: Church (returning one member), Crosshall (returning one member), East (returning four members), Eaton Ford (returning three members), Eaton Socon (returning three members), Eynesbury (returning six members) and Priory Park (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

47 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for St Ives parish.

Final recommendation

St Ives Town Council should return 17 town councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Beech (returning one member), North (returning seven members), South (returning seven members) and West (returning two members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

48 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Whittlesey parish.

3 What happens next?

50 We have now completed our review of Cambridgeshire County Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2017.

Equalities

51 This report has been screened for impact on equalities; with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Table A1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Cambridgeshire County Council

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
East Cambridgeshire District							
12 Ely East	1	6,914	6,914	-12%	8,960	8,960	5%
13 Ely West	1	7,581	7,581	-3%	7,960	7,960	-7%
14 Fordham Villages & Soham South	2	16,514	8,257	5%	18,489	9,245	8%
15 Littleport East & Soham North	1	8,957	8,957	14%	9,132	9,132	7%
16 Littleport West	2	17,456	8,728	11%	18,649	9,325	9%
17 Woodditton	1	8,108	8,108	3%	8,460	8,460	-1%
Fenland District							
18 Chatteris	1	8,115	8,115	3%	8,975	8,975	5%
19 March North & Waldersey	2	17,889	8,945	14%	18,351	9,176	7%
20 March South & Rural	1	7,909	7,909	1%	9,234	9,234	8%
21 Roman Bank & Peckover	1	8,992	8,992	15%	9,250	9,250	8%

Table A1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Cambridgeshire County Council

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
35	St Neots Eynesbury	1	7,960	7,960	1%	8,111	8,111	-5%
	St Neots Priory Park & Little Paxton	1	8,504	8,504	8%	8,723	8,723	2%
36	St Neots The Eatons	1	8,687	8,687	11%	8,466	8,466	-1%
37	Sawtry & Stilton	1	9,077	9,077	16%	9,110	9,110	7%
38	Somersham & Earith	1	7,692	7,692	-2%	7,790	7,790	-9%
39	The Hemingfords & Fenstanton	1	7,628	7,628	-3%	8,100	8,100	-5%
40	Warboys & The Stukeleys	1	5,751	5,751	-27%	8,140	8,140	-5%
41	Yaxley & Farset	1	8,479	8,479	8%	8,650	8,650	1%
South Cambridgeshire District								
43	Bar Hill	1	7,337	7,337	-7%	8,760	8,760	2%
44	Cambourne	1	7,224	7,224	-8%	7,720	7,720	-10%
45	Cottenham & Willingham	1	8,163	8,163	4%	8,900	8,900	4%
46	Duxford	1	8,130	8,130	4%	8,140	8,140	-5%

Appendix B

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/cambridgeshire/cambridgeshire-county-council>

County Council

- Cambridgeshire County Council

District Councils

- Cambridge City Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Fenland District Council
- Huntingdonshire District Council

Political Groups

- Cambridge City Liberal Democrat Group
- Cambridge Green Party
- Cambridgeshire County Council Liberal Democrat Group
- Cambridgeshire County Council Labour Group
- North East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association
- South East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association

Councillors (County, District and Parish)

- Councillor A. Bailey (Cambridgeshire County Council & East Cambridgeshire District Council)
- Councillor A. Riley (South Cambridgeshire District Council)
- Councillor A. Taylor (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Councillor B. Hunt (East Cambridgeshire District Council)
- Councillor B. Waters (South Cambridgeshire District Council)
- Councillor B. Boddington (Huntingdonshire District Council)
- Councillors C. Ambrose Smith and D. Ambrose Smith (East Cambridgeshire District Council)
- Councillor C. Boden (Fenland District Council)
- Councillor C. Boden (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Councillor C. Saunderson (Fenstanton Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Harty (Huntingdonshire District Council)
- Councillor D. Baigent (Cambridge City Council)
- Councillor D. Mason (Fenland District Council)
- Councillor D. Brown (Cambridgeshire County Council)
- Councillor D. Laws (Fenland District Council)
- Councillor E. Dorling (Fenland District Council)

- Dullingham Parish Council
- Elton Parish Council
- Farcet Parish Council
- Fen Ditton Parish Council
- Foxton Parish Council
- Grantchester Parish Council
- Great Gransden Parish Council
- Great Paxton Parish Council
- Great Shelford Parish Council
- Haddenham Parish Council
- Hail Weston Parish Council
- Histon & Impington Parish Council
- Little Abington Parish Council
- Little Downham Parish Council
- Littleport Parish Council
- Lolworth Parish Meeting
- Longstanton Parish Council
- Madingley Parish Council
- Meldreth Parish Council
- Oakington & Westwick Parish Council
- Over Parish Council
- Pampisford Parish Council
- Parson Drove Parish Council
- Reach Parish Council
- St Ives Town Council
- St Neots Town Council
- Stetchworth Parish Council
- Stukeleys Parish Council
- Sutton Parish Council
- Swavesey Parish Council
- Warboys Parish Council
- Waterbeach Parish Council
- Whaddon Parish Council
- Whittlesey Town Council
- Willingham Parish Council
- Wisbech Town Council
- Witcham Parish Council
- Witchford Parish Council
- Yelling Parish Council

Local residents

- 151 local residents

Appendix C

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average