

A meeting of the **ELECTIONS PANEL** will be held in **MEETING ROOM 1, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON** on **WEDNESDAY, 27TH AUGUST 2008** at **6:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact
(01480)**

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 2)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2008.

**A Roberts
388004**

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to personal and/or prejudicial interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any Agenda Item. Please see Notes 1 and 2 below.

3. ELECTORAL CYCLE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE (Pages 3 - 14)

To consider a report by the Head of Administration on future electoral arrangements in Huntingdonshire.

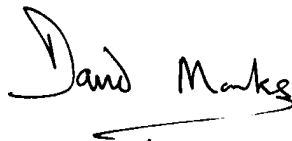
**R Reeves
388003**

4. REVIEW OF PARISH ARRANGEMENTS IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE
(Pages 15 - 40)

To consider a report by the Head of Administration on progress of the Review of Parish Arrangements in Huntingdonshire.

**A Roberts
388004**

Dated this 18th day of August 2008



Chief Executive

Notes

1. *A personal interest exists where a decision on a matter would affect to a greater extent than other people in the District –
 - (a) *the well-being, financial position, employment or business of the Councillor, their family or any person with whom they had a close association;*
 - (b) *a body employing those persons, any firm in which they are a partner and any company of which they are directors;*
 - (c) *any corporate body in which those persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or*
 - (d) *the Councillor's registerable financial and other interests.**
2. *A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest where a member of the public (who has knowledge of the circumstances) would reasonably regard the Member's personal interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.*

Please contact A Roberts, Central Services Manager, Tel No 01480 388004/e-mail: Anthony.Roberts@huntsdc.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk (under Councils and Democracy).

If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit and to make their way to the car park adjacent to the Methodist Church on the High Street (opposite Prima's Italian Restaurant).

Agenda Item 1

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the ELECTIONS PANEL held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Marys Street, Huntingdon on Wednesday, 14th May 2008.

PRESENT: Councillors P J Downes, J E Garner,
A N Gilbert, D Harty, M F Newman,
T D Sanderson and G S E Thorpe.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

that Councillor D Harty be elected Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor D Harty in the Chair.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 20th November 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

that Councillor A N Gilbert be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Chairman

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ELECTORAL CYCLE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

(Report by Head of Administration)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has undertaken elections by thirds since its inception in 1974. It has been possible since for the Council to pass a resolution to ask the Secretary of State to make an order to change the system to whole council elections and vice versa, subject to an interval of not less than 10 years between requests. Legislative change introduced by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables the Council to resolve to change its electoral cycle at certain fixed periods of time and to implement certain consequential changes.

2. CHOICE

- 2.1 Non-metropolitan district councils have the choice of elections by whole council or by halves or thirds of their membership. Huntingdonshire historically has elected by thirds with one fallow year when no district election is held which is the year of the county council election.

- 2.2 The summary position in England is –

Authority type	Thirds	Halves	Whole	Total
County Council	-	-	34	34
District/bor. council	82	7	149	238
Unitary council	19	-	27	46
London borough	-	-	33	33
Metropolitan borough	36	-	-	36
Parish/town councils	-	-	8,700	8,700

3. NEW PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, districts that historically elected by thirds can move to whole council elections and can revert back to thirds. Other authorities that have whole council elections now cannot move to thirds. The same situation pertains to authorities that historically elected by halves. However authorities cannot move from thirds to halves and vice versa.

- 3.2 If an authority wishes to move from thirds to whole council elections, it must

- ◆ consult such persons as it thinks appropriate on the proposed change,
- ◆ convene a special meeting of the Council,
- ◆ pass a resolution to change by a two thirds majority of those voting,

- ◆ publish an explanatory document on the decision and make this available for public inspection, and
 - ◆ give notice to the Electoral Commission.
- 3.3 The authority may also request the Commission to give the Boundary Committee a direction to undertake a review of the authority's area with a view to establishing single member wards, where it considers this to be appropriate.
- 3.4 An authority that elected by thirds and has moved to whole council elections may return to elections by thirds. To do so, it must carry out the same procedure as set out in paragraph 3.2, except that the Commission must make an order to that effect and, before doing so, must consider whether to direct the Boundary Committee to carry out a review of the district in question. That review would look at the division of the district into wards with a view to the desirability of establishing three member wards.

4. TIMESCALES

- 4.1 There is a 'permitted resolution period' for authorities that wish to change their electoral cycle. In the case of Huntingdonshire, a resolution must be passed no later than 31st December 2010. The whole council election would then be held in May 2011. The next opportunity to change will be between the annual meeting in May 2014 and 31st December of that year and then during the same interval every fourth year thereafter. If a resolution were to be passed at any time in those permitted resolution periods, the first whole council elections would take place in 2015 and each fourth year thereafter.
- 4.2 If the authority moved to whole council elections and then wished to move back to thirds, the permitted resolution period is between the annual meeting in May 2012 and 31st December 2012 and every fourth year thereafter. The first election by thirds would happen in the year after the Electoral Commission made the order, except that 2013 and every fourth year thereafter would be a fallow year when no district election would take place. The likelihood is that the cycle of elections would be 2015, 2016, 2018, etc.

5. PARISH COUNCILS

- 5.1 Currently, town and parish council elections in Huntingdonshire coincide with the district election for the ward in which they are located. Roughly one third of the towns and parishes therefore have elections in any year except in the year of county council elections. A schedule showing the dates of elections to the various town and parish councils in the District is shown in Annex 1. The cost of a contested election is shared between the Council and the relevant town or parish, where possible.
- 5.2 If the Council resolve to move to whole council elections in 2011 and every fourth year thereafter, those towns and parishes with elections that fall in the two years in the cycle when there will no longer be district council elections would have to meet the whole of the cost of

their individual elections. Similarly, the District Council itself would have to meet the whole of the cost of its own election in those wards where no town or parish council is held.

- 5.3 Although contested town/parish council elections have become increasingly rare in recent years, other than in the towns of Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots, a contested election is currently a prerequisite for those councils which are quality parishes to retain their status and the transfer of additional powers and responsibilities to towns and parishes recently may encourage more individuals to stand as candidates.
- 5.4 The 2007 Act enables the Council to make an order to alter the years of the ordinary election of towns and parishes so that they coincide with a move by a district council to elections by whole council or a reversion to elections by thirds. The order can make transitional provision for the retirement of town and parish councillors at different times than would otherwise apply during that transitional period.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A move to whole council elections will clearly lead to a financial saving for the Council. As part of the exercise to identify savings in 2006, the Council has already agreed to include whole council elections in the schedule of cuts to services. However the saving will not equate to the whole of the cost of an election in two of the three years of the current cycle.
- 6.2 Currently, the District is divided into 29 wards. Although elections are by thirds, only 4 wards comprise 3 councillors. 15 have two councillors and 10 are single councillor wards. This results from the need to achieve electoral parity of an equal number of electors per councillor with the most recent periodic electoral review only succeeding to create 3 member wards in Eynesbury, Huntingdon East, Ramsey, and Yaxley and Farcet. In very few wards therefore is an election held each year.
- 6.3 Although the electoral split between wards is equal at the moment with 17 wards having elections in two out of three years and 18 wards in the third year, the cost of an election varies with the number of polling stations per ward. This varies from a minimum of 1 station per ward up to a maximum of 11. The current electoral cycle of 63, 73 and 54 stations in each of its three years (as shown in Annex 2) directly affects the cost of the annual election in each of those years.
- 6.4 A move to whole council elections would result in all 106 polling stations being required in each election, representing an increase of 45% compared with the busiest year currently. Similarly all 29 wards would have elections, an increase of 61% on the current position. It is likely therefore that the direct cost of a whole council election would be some 50% higher than in the most expensive of the three current years of the cycle with a saving in the other two years. By-elections also would be more frequent because these could no longer be organised to coincide with annual elections.

- 6.5 Based upon current figures, it is estimated that a saving of approximately £100,000 could be achieved across a four year cycle. However this will vary depending upon the number of contested town and parish council elections that are held. Parliamentary elections have also coincided with district elections in recent years which has enabled costs to be shared, most recently in 2005. A whole council election in 2011 would be out of sequence with general elections and they would be unlikely to coincide for the foreseeable future. Finally the cost would be influenced by the creation of more single member wards.

7. BOUNDARY REVIEW

- 7.1 If the Council considers moving to whole council elections, it will need to decide whether to ask the Commission to implement a boundary review. Ideally, councils where elections are by thirds have three member wards and those with whole council elections have single member wards. The latter tends to focus on the performance of an individual councillor as the representative/champion of his or her ward as opposed to the situation in a multi-member ward. As mentioned above, the last periodic electoral review of the District resulted in a predominance of two member wards to achieve electoral parity. Because of the geographical composition of Huntingdonshire, it is unlikely that single member wards can be created throughout the District without resulting in some unusual ward configurations. Conversely, this would present an opportunity to redress some of the more contrived ward structures that arose from the last review.

- 7.2 A move to all single member wards clearly would generate 52 wards, unless the size of the council changed, with the probability of additional polling stations being required. This could add up to £50,000 to the cost of an election, halving the saving over the electoral cycle.

8. RELATIVE MERITS

- 8.1 A series of arguments can be advanced for the merits and disadvantages of whole council elections and elections by thirds. The Electoral Commission carried out a consultation exercise at the request of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2003 and recommended that authorities move to whole council elections. Conversely the Government had only a few years earlier advocated annual elections as a way of stimulating public interest in local democracy.

- 8.2 A summary of the various merits and disadvantages of the two systems are contained in the attached Annex 3.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The recent legislative change encourages authorities to move towards whole council elections. Those currently electing by thirds or halves can move to whole council elections but those operating the latter system at the time when the Act was passed now cannot change.

- 9.2 The merits of elections by thirds and by whole council are equally balanced but the financial saving is not as great as may be first envisaged, especially if a review is requested which implements single member wards and an opportunity to share costs with a general election is lost. It also would mean that a third of the membership of the Council who were elected in 2010 would have to stand for re-election again in 2011 and those elected in the most recent election in May 2008 only serving three of their four year term of office. A similar situation pertained after the last periodic electoral review which changed ward boundaries.
- 9.3 Any decision on the part of the Council would inevitably require the electoral arrangements of the towns and parishes in Huntingdonshire to change to bring their individual years of election into line with that of the District. Depending upon the transitional arrangements that the Council included in the order, this could mean either a shorter or longer period of office for the councillors affected.
- 9.4 Before a special meeting of the Council could be held to consider a resolution for change, it would be necessary to consult with appropriate bodies which could include existing councillors, the political parties, town and parish councils and others. If the Panel is minded to consider a move to whole council elections, it may wish to review the outcome of that consultation before submitting proposals to a special meeting of the Council.

10. RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 The Panel is asked to consider a move to whole council elections before the current deadline of the end of December 2010 and the consequential implications for the Council, individual councillors and town and parish councils.
- 10.2 In the event of the Panel favouring whole council elections, it is also invited to consider -
- ◆ the implementation of a consultation process with interested parties and the determination of whom to consult;
 - ◆ preliminary consideration as to whether to ask the Electoral Commission to direct the Boundary Committee to carry out a review of the District with a view to the creation of single member wards; and
 - ◆ the consequential implications for town and parish councils, the making of an order to change the year of election for a majority of those councils and any transitional arrangements arising therefrom.

Contact Person: Roy Reeves, Head of Administration
☎ 01480 388003

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Polling arrangements for County, District and Parish Councils in Huntingdonshire.

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ELECTORAL CYCLE

Number of Polling Stations per Ward

WARD	Number of seats	Number of Polling Stations per Ward												Number of Polling Stations					
		COUNTY		DISTRICT		COUNTY		DISTRICT		COUNTY		DISTRICT							
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020						
Alconbury & The Stukeleys	1		4								4				4			4	
Brampton	2		4		4					4					4			4	
Buckden	1		3							3					3			3	
Earith	2		3	3						3	3				3	3		3	
Ellington	1			11							11					11		11	
Elton & Folksworth	1			5							5					5		5	
Fennstanton	1			1							1					1		1	
Godmanchester	2		2		2					2		2				2		2	
Gransden & The Offords	2		7	7						7	7					7	7	7	
The Hemingfords	2		4		4					4		4				4		4	
Huntingdon (East)	3		4	4	4					4	4	4				4	4	4	
Huntingdon (North)	2			2	2						2	2				2	2	2	
Huntingdon (West)	2		3	3						3	3					3	3	3	
Kimbolton & Staughton	1			5								5					5	5	
Little Paxton	1				1							1					1	1	
Ramsey	3		6	6	6					6	6	6				6	6	6	
Sawtry	2		7		7					7		7				7		7	
Somersham	2			6	6						6	6					6	6	
Stilton	1			2								2					2	2	
St Ives West	1				1							1					1	1	
St Ives South	2		2		2					2		2				2		2	
St Ives East	2		2		2					2		2				2		2	
St Neots Eaton Ford	2			2	2						2	2				2	2	2	
St Neots Eaton Socon	2			2	2						2	2				2	2	2	
St Neots Eynesbury	3		3	3	3					3	3	3				3	3	3	
St Neots Priory Park	2		3	3						3	3					3	3	3	
Upwood & The Raveleys	1			5								5					5	5	
Warboys & Bury	2		3		3					3		3				3		3	
Yaxley & Farcet	3		3	3	3					3	3	3				3	3	3	
	52		63	73	54					63	73	54				63	73	54	106

Number of Wards

29

Number of 3 Member Wards

4

Number of 2 Member Wards

15

Number of 1 Member Wards

10

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CYCLE OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE
(Including Wards of Towns and Parishes, where appropriate)

2010	2011	2012
Alconbury Alconbury Weston Alwalton Buckden Bury Elton Farcet Folksworth & Washingley Great Paxton Hemingford Grey Houghton & Wyton (Airfield Ward) Houghton & Wyton (Houghton & Wyton Ward) Offord Cluny Offord D'Arcy Sibson-cum-Stibbington Southoe & Midloe The Stukeleys (Hinchingsbrooke Ward) The Stukeleys (The Stukeleys Ward) Toseland Upton & Coppingford Wistow Yelling	Abbotsley Abbots Ripton Barham & Woolley Bluntisham Brington & Molesworth Buckworth Bythorn & Keyston Catworth Colne Earith Easton Ellington Eynesbury Hardwicke (Town Ward) Eynesbury Hardwicke (Spinney Ward) Fenstanton Grafham Great Gransden Great Staughton Hail Weston Holme Huntingdon (East Ward) Huntingdon (North Ward) Huntingdon (West Ward) Holywell-cum-Needingworth Kimbolton & Stoneley Kings Ripton Leighton Bromswold Old Weston Perry Ramsey St Neots (Eaton Ford Ward) St Neots (Eaton Socon Ward) St Neots (Eynesbury Ward) St Neots (Priory Park Ward) St Neots Rural Somersham Spaldwick Stilton Stow Longa Tilbrook Upwood & The Raveleys Waresley Woodwalton Yaxley	Brampton Broughton Conington Glatton Godmanchester Great & Little Gidding Hemingford Abbots Hilton Little Paxton Old Hurst Pidley-cum-Fenton Sawtry St Ives (East Ward) St Ives (South Ward) St Ives (West Ward) Warboys Woodhurst

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SUMMARY OF MERITS AND DISADVANTAGES OF WHOLE COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND ELECTIONS BY THIRDS

Merits of elections by thirds

- ◆ Encourages people into the habit of voting in May every year
- ◆ A Council is judged on its performance annually, rather than every 4 years
- ◆ The electorate can react more quickly to local circumstances and Council decisions
- ◆ The Council better reflects public opinion locally
- ◆ Political parties have fewer candidates to find at any one time
- ◆ There are more frequent opportunities for potential candidates to stand
- ◆ Easier to assimilate newly elected Members as numbers are less
- ◆ Disruption to ongoing policies etc. is less significant
- ◆ Elections staff maintain their expertise because of frequency of elections
- ◆ Counts are easier to organise for a single councillor per ward
- ◆ Less likely for local situation to be influenced by national situation politically (i.e. whole council election can be heavily influenced by low point in party fortunes nationally)
- ◆ More difficult to change political balance of authority (although can change more frequently if evenly balanced politically)
- ◆ Creates greater continuity/stability
- ◆ Less likely that controversial decisions will be delayed because of election
- ◆ Easier to organise parish elections if contested
- ◆ With the trend towards parliamentary election on same day as local election, result less likely to be influenced by voting on national issues
- ◆ Rising 18 year olds do not have to wait so long before they can vote
- ◆ In moving to whole council elections, some councillors will only serve one year before having to stand again for election
- ◆ If town and parish elections continue to be combined with district elections, the same situation will apply to parishes where, depending upon the existing cycle, the whole council would have to stand again for re-election
- ◆ More difficult to manage whole council and all town/parish councils elections on same day
- ◆ With propensity for parliamentary election to be held on same day as district election, very difficult to manage parliamentary, whole district and town/parish councils on same day
- ◆ Less likelihood for intermittent by-elections as these tend to be held, where possible, on the date when the election by thirds is being held
- ◆ More difficult to revert to election by thirds if Members dislike whole council elections
- ◆ More difficult for towns and parishes to change periodic cycle if Council reverts back to thirds

- ◆ While towns and parishes could remain on existing cycle, costs would increase as these are shared currently on combined elections.

Merits of elections by whole council

- ◆ A council has a clear mandate from the electorate for 4 years
- ◆ An elector can vote for the whole council as well as a councillor
- ◆ Creates greater stability over the 4 year period with no chance (subject to by-elections) of a change in political control
- ◆ Greater propensity for change in political control
- ◆ Avoids situation where political control of council can change in election by thirds but some electors in single member wards have no opportunity to vote
- ◆ Whole electorate votes together, compared to some who only vote once or twice in the three yearly cycle in one or two member wards respectively
- ◆ Greater publicity for whole council election may generate higher turnout
- ◆ Evidence suggests (according to Electoral Commission) that slightly higher turn out in whole council elections
- ◆ Evidence suggests (according to Electoral Commission) that electorate associates more clearly with whole council election rather than dates when thirds
- ◆ Reduced expenditure for Council
- ◆ Reduced expenditure by political parties because less elections
- ◆ Less disruptive for staff
- ◆ Induction training required less frequently
- ◆ Less campaigning needed by parties (two fallow years in four)
- ◆ Problem with publicity purdah only occurs once every four years.

Clearly some arguments can be used both for and against whole council elections or elections by thirds.

**REVIEW OF PARISH ARRANGEMENTS IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE
(Report by the Head of Administration)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Panel with an update on various matters concerning the Review of Parish Arrangements in Huntingdonshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following completion of the Review, the Panel at its meeting on 20th November 2007, made a series of recommendations to the Council regarding:

- the adoption of a new scale of Parish Council representation;
- changes to Parish and electoral arrangements for the Council to implement by order (see Appendix A);
- inviting Buckden and Diddington to group under a common Parish Council; and
- changes to Parish boundaries and electoral arrangements for submission to the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission (see Appendix B).

3. RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE COUNCIL BY ORDER

- 3.1 The final recommendations for changes to Parish electoral arrangements for implementation by the Council by Order (Appendix A) were approved by the Council at its meeting on 20th February 2008. The necessary Orders have been made, which -

- (a) decrease the membership of Catworth Parish Council from 9 to 7 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011;
- (b) decrease the membership of Tilbrook Parish Council from 7 to 5 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011;
- (c) increase the membership of Godmanchester Town Council from 15 to 17 councillors with effect from 1st May 2008;
- (d) decrease the membership of Holme Parish Council from 9 to 7 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011;
- (e) decrease the membership of Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011;
- (f) decrease the membership of Elton Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors with effect from 6th May 2010;
- (g) increase the membership of Yaxley Parish Council from 13 to 17 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011;

- (h) decrease the membership of Great and Little Gidding Parish Council from 8 to 7 councillors with effect from 1st May 2008;
- (i) decrease the membership of Great Staughton Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors with effect from 5th May 2011; and
- (j) group the parishes of Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy under the common parish council of Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy Parish Council consisting of 11 councillors with effect from 1st May 2008.

3.2 Copies of the Orders have been sent to the Parish Councils affected and to various other bodies prescribed in legislation.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND PROPOSALS TO ELECTORAL COMMISSION

4.1 At the time the Review was completed the Council did not have the powers (under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997) to implement those matters referred to in Appendix B. Instead these had to be submitted to the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to consider and act upon.

4.2 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 changed the legislation for matters such as the creation of new parishes with effect from 13th February 2008. Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the 2007 Act devolves responsibility for taking decisions about such matters from the Secretary of State to principal councils. Transitional arrangements have been devised to deal with recommendations submitted prior to the 2007 Act coming into force. As a result the Council was consulted on whether it wished the Secretary of State to implement its recommendations or undertake this work itself. Following consultation with the Chairman of the Panel, the Secretary of State was requested to implement the changes. The Department of Communities and Local Government has indicated that this process will be completed by the end of 2008. The Panel may wish to consider whether it wishes to take any action to publicise this fact in advance of the formal procedures commencing. The latter will include formal consultation with interested parties.

4.3 Decisions about whether to give effect to any related proposals for the alteration of District, Ward or County division boundaries will continue to be for the Electoral Commission to take. In addition, the Council will be responsible for taking other consequential actions, such as making orders to specify the number of councillors a new parish council has.

5. PROPOSALS TO THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION ON CONSEQUENTIAL ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Where changes to ward or division boundaries are significant the Commission may decide to embark upon a District or County Review. Some of the changes resulting from the Parish Review were anticipated however when the previous District and County reviews were undertaken in Huntingdonshire. Initial examination of the current recommendations therefore indicated that few consequential alterations will be required.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Panel concluded its Review of Parish arrangements in Huntingdonshire some time ago. Those recommendations that the Council is able to implement have been given effect to. The remaining recommendations and proposals have been submitted to the Secretary of State and these are being pursued.

7. RECOMMENDATION

It is

RECOMMENDED

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the Panel consider whether any action needs to be taken before the Secretary of State commences the formal procedures for implementing the Council's recommendations.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Parish Review – Review of Parish Arrangements in Huntingdonshire

The Electoral Commission – Guidance on Community Governance Reviews

Report and Minutes of previous meetings of the Elections Panel

Correspondence received from the Department of Communities and Local Government dated 7th February 2008.

Contact Officer: Anthony Roberts, Central Services Manager ☎ 01480 388004

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO PARISH ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY THE COUNCIL BY ORDER

1. Parish Affected

Catworth

a) Draft Proposal

Decrease the membership of Catworth Parish Council from 9 to 7 councillors in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

b) Representations Received

Catworth Parish Council expressed concern with the proposal and requested that the status quo be maintained.

c) Final Recommendations

Decrease the membership of Catworth Parish Council from 9 to 7 councillors which is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus 2 councillors within the new band that the parish lies according to their electorate.

d) Reasons

To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

2. Parish Affected

Tilbrook

a) Representations Received

Tilbrook Parish Council expressed support for a reduction in councillors from 7 to 5. This did not form part of the draft proposals.

b) Final Recommendations

Decrease the membership of Tilbrook Parish Council from 7 to 5 councillors which is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

c) Reasons

To meet the wishes of the parish council, to be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

3. Parish Affected

Godmanchester

a) Draft Proposal

Increase the membership of Godmanchester Town Council from 15 to 17 councillors.

b) Representations Received

Godmanchester Town Council supported the proposal for an increase in membership.

c) Final Recommendations

Increase the membership of Godmanchester Town Council from 15 to 17 councillors which is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

d) Reasons

To meet the wishes of the parish council, to be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation. To reflect the predicted electorate growth as a result of forecast dwelling completions.

4. Parish Affected

Holme

a) Draft Proposal

Decrease the membership of Holme Parish Council from 9 to 7 councillors in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

b) Representations Received

Holme Parish Council objected to the proposal and indicated their preference to remain as they are.

c) Final Recommendations

Decrease the membership of Holme Parish Council from 9 to 7 councillors which is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus 2 councillors within the new band.

d) Reasons

To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

5. Parish Affected

Upwood and The Raveleys

a) Draft Proposal

Reduce the membership of Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors.

b) Representations Received

Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Council objected to the proposed reduction in members. This view was supported by the Ward Councillor for Upwood and The Raveleys.

c) Final Recommendations

Decrease the membership of Upwood and The Raveleys Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors which is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus 2 councillors within the new band.

d) Reasons

To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus or minus 2 councillors with the new band.

6. Parish Affected

Elton

a) Draft Proposal

Decrease the membership of Elton Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors.

b) Representations Received

No representations were made in respect of these proposals.

c) Final Recommendations

Decrease the membership of Elton Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors which is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus 2 councillors within the new band.

d) Reasons

To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

7. Parish Affected

Great Staughton

a) Draft Proposal

Decrease the membership of Great Staughton Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors.

b) Representations Received

No representations were made in respect of these proposals.

c) Final Recommendations

Decrease the membership of Great Staughton Parish Council from 11 to 9 councillors which is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus 2 councillors within the new band.

d) Reasons

To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

8. Parish Affected

Yaxley

a) Draft Proposal

Increase the membership of Yaxley Parish Council from 13 to 17 councillors.

b) Representations Received

No representations were made in respect of these proposals.

c) Final Recommendations

Increase the membership of Yaxley Parish Council from 13 to 17 councillors which is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

d) Reasons

To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

9. Parishes Affected

**Buckden
Diddington
Southoe and Midloe**

a) Draft Proposal

Amalgamate Diddington Parish Meeting with Southoe and Midloe Parish Council consisting of 7 councillors.

b) Representations Received

The Ward Councillor for Buckden has suggested that Diddington would prefer to group with Buckden and not Southoe and Midloe, thereby retaining their own identity as a parish. If this could not happen then Diddington Parish Meeting would prefer to remain as a separate entity. Diddington Parish Meeting has concurred with the Ward Councillors views.

c) Final Recommendations

Group Diddington parish with Buckden parish to form a new parish council of Buckden consisting of 15 councillors, of whom 14 shall be elected to represent the parish of Buckden and 1 shall be elected to represent the parish of Diddington. This is subject to the consent of the parish meeting of each of the parishes.

d) Reasons

To meet the views of the parishes involved and to provide the electors of the area with more effective local government in that the parish to which the other parish will be amalgamated with has a more active and vibrant parish council.

10. Parish Affected

Great and Little Gidding

a) Draft Proposal

Decrease the membership of Great and Little Gidding Parish Council from 8 to 7 councillors.

b) Representations Received

Representations were made by Great and Little Gidding Parish Council in respect of the proposals for amalgamation and they indicated that they would prefer to remain with 8 members. Further consultation indicated their acceptance to a decrease in membership.

c) Final Recommendations

Decrease the membership of Great and Little Gidding Parish Council from 8 to 7 councillors which is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus 2 councillors within the new band.

d) Reasons

To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON
THE REVIEW OF PARISH ARRANGEMENTS AND FINAL
PROPOSALS TO THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION ON
CONSEQUENTIAL ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

1. Parishes Affected

**Abbotsley
Spinney Ward of Eynesbury Hardwicke
Part of St Neots Rural**

a) Draft Proposal

Amalgamate the Spinney Ward of Eynesbury Hardwicke parish, the remaining part of St Neots Rural parish following proposed amendments to the St Neots area and Abbotsley parish to form a new parish of Abbotsley and Hardwicke consisting of 7 councillors.

b) Representations Received

Abbotsley Parish Council accepted the concept in principle, with some reservations. They would prefer to retain the existing name of Abbotsley Parish Council and were concerned that the 7 councillors would not be sufficient to cover the extended area. Eynesbury Hardwicke Parish Council also raised no objections to the proposals. A resident of St Neots Rural supported the proposal to merge with Abbotsley. St Neots and District Liberal Democrats submitted an alternative proposal for this area which was considered and discounted by Members at an earlier stage of the consultation process.

As the suggested number of councillors is in accordance with the proposed new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus or minus 2 councillors within the new band, and the proposals for amalgamation do not result in a large increase of electors, only 332 to 430, there is no justification to increase the number of councillors.

c) Final Recommendations

That the Spinney Ward of Eynesbury Hardwicke parish, the remaining part of St Neots Rural parish (see proposals for St Neots – paragraph 9) and Abbotsley parish be amalgamated to form an expanded parish of Abbotsley as shown on map 16.

d) Reasons

To provide the electors of the area with more effective local government in that the parish to which the other parishes will be amalgamated with has a more active and vibrant parish council.

e) Final Proposed Consequential Electoral Arrangements

That as a result of the amalgamation of Eynesbury Hardwicke parish, the remaining part of St Neots Rural parish and Abbotsley, the number of councillors of the expanded parish of Abbotsley will consist of 7.

2. Parishes Affected

**Abbots Ripton
Alconbury
The Stukeleys**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend various boundaries affecting the parishes of Abbots Ripton, Alconbury and The Stukeleys.

b) Representations Received

Alconbury Parish Council was not in favour of the proposed changes. Abbots Ripton Parish Council have suggested moving Bevills Wood into their parish from Woodwalton parish. The Stukeleys have expressed their support for the proposed boundary changes, with the exception of the part of Abbots Ripton parish.

It is illogical to leave the airfield split between two parishes and Alconbury Parish Council would continue to be consulted on major applications despite their concerns.

c) Final Recommendations

Transfer shaded areas A from Abbots Ripton parish to The Stukeleys parish, B from Alconbury parish to the Stukeleys parish, C from Abbots Ripton parish to The Stukeleys parish and D from Woodwalton parish to Abbots Ripton parish as shown on Map 1.

d) Reasons

This transfer does not involve any properties, but aligns the parish boundaries more clearly with a geographical feature as the new boundary would follow the road and avoid the splitting of the airfield which potentially could be subject to development in the future.

e) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area A and C from Upwood and The Raveleys Ward to Alconbury and The Stukeleys Ward, Warboys and Upwood Division to Huntingdon Division and North West Cambridgeshire Constituency to Huntingdon Constituency.

3. Parishes Affected

**Bury
Ramsey**

a) Draft Proposal

Following the publication of draft proposals for changes to parish boundaries in Bury and Ramsey extensive representations were received and as a result alternative proposals were formulated. It is not possible to retain the existing boundary in its current location as it cuts directly through properties.

b) Representations Received

A large majority of residents in the affected areas wished to remain in Bury. Bury Parish Council submitted an alternative proposal, but supported proposal A if this was not achievable. They also objected to the old Bury Industrial Estate, Signal Road becoming part of Ramsey which formed part of the Ramsey Town Council submission. Ramsey Town Council rejected the alternative proposal.

c) Final Recommendations

That the boundary between Ramsey and Bury be re-drawn in accordance with Option B and transfer shaded area A from Bury parish to Ramsey parish and B from Ramsey parish to Bury parish as shown on map 11. It is also suggested that the Panel support the realigning of the boundary affecting the properties to the rear of Fairfield Drive, Ramsey rather than cutting directly through properties.

d) Reasons

To provide a clearly defined boundary between the two parishes as the current boundary cuts directly through properties and is not easily identifiable. This option affects the least number of properties and the new boundary is as close as possible to the existing boundary to reflect the concerns of the residents.

e) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area A from Warboys and Bury Ward to Ramsey Ward and from Warboys and Upwood Division to Ramsey Division.

Transfer shaded area B from Ramsey Ward to Warboys and Bury Ward and from Ramsey Division to Warboys and Upwood Division.

4. Parishes Affected

**Chesterton
Haddon
Elton**

a) Draft Proposal

Amalgamate Chesterton Parish Meeting and Haddon Parish Meeting with Elton Parish Council. The membership would be reduced from 11 to 9 councillors.

b) Representations Received

Chesterton Parish Meeting have requested that no change be made to their existing arrangements. No response was received from Haddon Parish Meeting or Elton Parish Council.

c) Final Recommendations

Amalgamate Elton Parish Council with Haddon Parish Meeting to form a new parish of Elton consisting of 9 councillors. This is in accordance

with the proposed new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus 2 councillors within the new band.

d) Reasons

To provide the electors of the area with more effective local government in that the parish to which the other parish will be amalgamated with has a more active and vibrant parish council and to be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

5. Parishes Affected

**Fenstanton
St Ives**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundaries between the parishes of Fenstanton and St Ives. This would result in a reduction of membership of Fenstanton Parish Council from 15 to 13 councillors.

b) Representations Received

Fenstanton Parish Council rejected the proposal and requested that the boundaries remain unchanged. Residents in Greenfields, Maytrees, Elizabeth Court, London Road and Bridge Terrace also objected to the proposals. The former Ward Councillor for Fenstanton found no support for the proposals. St Ives Town Council disagreed with the proposals, but suggested alternative arrangements.

c) Final Recommendations

Amend the southern boundary of St Ives South to follow the Low Road up to the junction with London Road and transfer the shaded area as shown on map 3 from Fenstanton parish to St Ives South to reflect the comments from the interested parties.

d) Reasons

To provide a clearly defined boundary between the two parishes as the current boundary cuts directly through properties in Enderby's Wharf and is not easily identifiable and the properties to transfer have a clearer affinity of interest with St Ives as they are quite detached from Fenstanton.

e) Final Proposed Consequential Electoral Arrangements

That as a result of the amendment of boundaries and transfer of properties between Fenstanton and St Ives, the number of councillors of Fenstanton parish will reduce from 15 to 13. This is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

f) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area from Fenstanton Ward to St Ives South Ward and from The Hemingfords and Fenstanton Division to St Ives Division.

6. Parishes Affected

**Hamerton
Winwick
Steeple Gidding
Great and Little Gidding**

a) Draft Proposal

Amalgamate the parish meetings of Hamerton, Winwick and Steeple Gidding with Great and Little Gidding Parish Council consisting of 7 councillors.

b) Representations Received

Hamerton Parish Committee expressed the view that they would prefer to remain as they are. Winwick Parish Meeting would not like to be forcibly amalgamated with any other village. Great and Little Gidding Parish Council would prefer to remain as they are with 8 members, but if they were to amalgamate they would prefer to join Winwick.

c) Final Recommendations

That the parish of Steeple Gidding be amalgamated with Hamerton parish to create an expanded parish of Hamerton and Steeple Gidding.

d) Reasons

To provide the electors of the area with more effective local government in that the parish to which the other parish will be amalgamated with is larger and more active and electors from Steeple Gidding already vote at a polling station in Hamerton.

7. Parishes Affected

**Hemingford Grey
Holywell-cum-Needingworth
St Ives**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundaries between the parishes of Hemingford Grey and St Ives.

b) Representations Received

Hemingford Grey Parish Council objected to the proposals for the area adjacent to The Dolphin Hotel, but were content with the proposals for Holt Island. St Ives Town Council supported the proposals for the boundary changes.

c) Final Recommendations

Transfer the shaded areas A and B from Hemingford Grey parish to St Ives South Ward of St Ives Parish as shown on map 4 and 5.

d) Reasons

To provide a clearly defined boundary between the two parishes as the current boundary cuts directly through units and the site of The Dolphin Hotel and also cuts directly through Holt Island and is not easily identifiable.

e) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area A and B from The Hemingfords Ward to St Ives South Ward and from The Hemingfords and Fenstanton Division to St Ives Division.

8. Parishes Affected

**Holywell-cum-Needingworth
St Ives**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundaries between the parishes of Holywell-cum-Needingworth and St Ives.

b) Representations Received

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Parish Council and a resident of the parish objected strongly to the proposals, but accepted that change to follow the physical boundary of Harrison Way was logical. St Ives Town Council supported proposals to amend the boundaries, but suggested alternative arrangements to extend the boundary further north.

c) Final Recommendations

Amend the boundary between the parishes of St Ives and Holywell-cum-Needingworth to follow Harrison Way/St Ives bypass up to the roundabout and along the A1123 to follow the boundary of the Depot and Compass Point and transfer shaded area C from Holywell-cum-Needingworth to St Ives parish as shown on map 4 and 5 to reflect the comments from the interested parties.

d) Reasons

To take account of existing and planned development and the comments of the interested parties.

e) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area C from Earith Ward to St Ives South Ward and from North West Cambridgeshire Constituency to Huntingdon Constituency.

9. Parishes Affected

**Houghton and Wyton
Hemingford Grey
St Ives**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundaries between the parishes of Houghton and Wyton and St Ives. This resulted in the split of Houghton and Wyton parish, currently consisting of 13 councillors and resulting in the Houghton and Wyton Ward of the parish consisting of 9 councillors and the Airfield Ward of the parish (Wyton-on-the-Hill) consisting of 7 councillors.

b) Representations Received

Houghton and Wyton Parish Council agreed with the split of Wyton-on-the-Hill and extension of the boundary to include How Lodge and The How. They also requested that consideration be given to including Houghton Lock, presently in Hemingford Abbots and amending the boundary between the wards of their parish. St Ives Town Council rejected the proposals.

c) Final Recommendations

Amend the boundary and transfer shaded area A from the parish of St Ives to Houghton and Wyton parish and transfer the shaded area B from Hemingford Grey parish to Houghton and Wyton parish as shown on map 6. Amend the boundary so as to split Houghton and Wyton parish as shown on map 7, currently warded, to create a new parish of the Houghton and Wyton Ward consisting of 9 councillors and a new parish of the Airfield Ward (Wyton-on-the-Hill) consisting of 7 councillors as shown on map

d) Reasons

To take account of existing and planned development and representations submitted and to provide a clearly defined boundary between the parishes. Houghton and Wyton parish is currently warded and in separate Parliamentary Constituencies, Electoral Divisions and District Wards.

e) Final Proposed Consequential Electoral Arrangements

That as a result of the splitting of Houghton and Wyton parish, Houghton and Wyton parish will consist of 9 councillors and Wyton-on-the-Hill will consist of 7 councillors. This is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

f) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area A from St Ives South Ward to The Hemingfords Ward and from St Ives Division to The Hemingfords and Fenstanton Division.

10. Parishes Affected

Huntingdon The Stukeleys

a) Draft Proposal

Amend various boundaries affecting the parishes of Huntingdon and The Stukeleys, with an increase in the number of councillors on Huntingdon Town Council from 16 to 19 and decrease in the membership of The Stukeleys Parish Council from 13 to 7 councillors.

b) Representations Received

Huntingdon Town Council supported the proposals for changes to the parish boundaries, but requested that there be no change to the existing membership. Huntingdon Liberal Democrats submitted an alternative proposal for Huntingdon whereby Huntingdon would be split into smaller areas. It is felt that this area would not lend itself to such proposals at this stage and would lead to confusion for the public distinguishing between District and Town Councillors. The matter would be addressed in more detail as part of a Community Governance Review. The Stukeleys Parish Council supported the proposals for boundary changes, but requested a minimum membership of 10 councillors.

c) Final Recommendations

Transfer the shaded areas A and B (Hinchingsbrooke Ward of The Stukeleys parish) from The Stukeleys parish to Huntingdon West Ward of Huntingdon parish as shown on map 8. Increase the membership of Huntingdon Town Council from 16 to 19 councillors and decrease the membership of The Stukeleys Parish Council from 13 to 9 councillors.

d) Reasons

To take account of existing and planned development. To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus 2 councillors within the new band.

e) Final Proposed Consequential Electoral Arrangements

That as a result of the amendments to the parish boundaries and transfer of properties between Huntingdon and The Stukeleys, Huntingdon parish will consist of 19 councillors and The Stukeleys parish will consist of 9 councillors. This is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

f) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area A from Alconbury and The Stukeleys Ward to Huntingdon West Ward.

11. Parishes Affected

**Kimbolton and Stonely
Stow Longa**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundary between the parishes of Kimbolton and Stonely and Stow Longa.

b) Representations Received

Kimbolton and Stonely Parish Council objected to the proposals to redefine the boundaries. They also objected to a reduction of their membership from 11 to 9 councillors. As the latter did not form part of the original draft proposals, no change is necessary. The Ward Councillor for Kimbolton and Staughton endorsed Kimbolton and Stonely Parish Councils' concerns. Stow Longa Parish Council supported the proposals to amend the boundary, but suggested that Rookery Farm had not fully been included in the proposals.

c) Final Recommendations

Transfer the area of land as shown on map 22 from Kimbolton parish to Stow Longa parish.

d) Reasons

To meet the views of the parishes involved as the properties affected have more affinity of interest with the parish they are transferring to.

e) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area from Kimbolton and Staughton Ward to Ellington Ward, Brampton and Kimbolton Division to Sawtry and Ellington Division and from Huntingdon Constituency to North West Cambridgeshire Constituency.

12. Parish Affected

Little Paxton

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundary to include the Island site within the parish of Little Paxton.

b) Representations Received

Little Paxton Parish Council supported the proposals to amend the boundary and also objected to a reduction of their membership. The latter did not form part of the original draft proposals and therefore no change is necessary. St Neots and District Liberal Democrats also supported the proposals for the boundary changes.

c) Final Recommendations

Amend the boundary between Little Paxton parish and St Neots Priory Park Ward of St Neots parish to follow the southern reach of the River Ouse as shown on map 9.

d) Reasons

To take account of existing development and to provide a clearly defined boundary between the two parishes as the current boundary cuts directly through properties on the Island site and is not easily identifiable.

e) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area from St Neots Priory Park Ward to Little Paxton Ward.

13. Parishes Affected

**Offord Cluny
Offord D’Arcy**

a) Draft Proposal

Amalgamate Offord Cluny parish and Offord D’Arcy parish to form a new parish of The Offords consisting of 9 councillors.

b) Representation Received

Offord Cluny Parish Council and Offord D’Arcy Parish Council supported the proposed amalgamation but considered a membership of 11 councillors to be more appropriate and preferred it to be named Offord Cluny and Offord D’Arcy Parish Council. Residents of both parishes were all strongly in support of such a merger. This view was also supported by St Neots and District Liberal Democrats.

c) Final Recommendations

Amalgamate Offord Cluny parish and Offord D’Arcy parish as shown on map 17 to form a new parish council of Offord Cluny and Offord D’Arcy consisting of 11 councillors.

d) Reasons

To meet the wishes of both parishes affected. To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to plus 2 councillors within the new band.

e) Final Proposed Consequential Electoral Arrangements

That as a result of the amalgamation of both parishes, the new parish of Offord Cluny and Offord D’Arcy will consist of 11 councillors. This is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

14. Parish Affected

St Ives

a) Draft Proposal

Increase the membership of St Ives Town Council from 16 to 19 councillors.

b) Representations Received

St Ives Town Council strongly opposed the increase in membership.

c) Final Recommendations

Increase the membership of St Ives Town Council from 16 to 17 councillors which is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation, whilst allowing some flexibility to minus 2 councillors within the new band.

d) Reasons

To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

15. Parishes Affected

St Neots

Hail Weston

Eynesbury Hardwicke

St Neots Rural

a) Draft Proposal

Amend various boundaries affecting St Neots and the surrounding parishes and increase the number of councillors on St Neots Town Council from 18 to 21.

b) Representations Received

St Neots Town Council supported the proposals for changes to the boundaries and made no comment on the increase in membership. St Neots and District Liberal Democrats have submitted an alternative proposal for this area which was considered and discounted by Members at an earlier stage of the consultation process.

c) Final Recommendations

Transfer the shaded areas from St Neots Eaton Ford Ward of St Neots parish to Hail Weston parish, from Eynesbury Hardwicke parish (Town Ward of Eynesbury Harwicke parish) to St Neots Eynesbury Ward of St Neots parish and from St Neots Rural parish and Eynesbury Hardwicke parish to St Neots Priory Park Ward of St Neots parish as shown on maps 13, 14 and 15. Increase the membership of St Neots Town Council from 18 to 21 councillors in accordance with the proposed new scale of parish council representation.

d) Reasons

To take account of existing and planned development and to meet the wishes of the parishes affected. To be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

e) Final Proposed Consequential Electoral Arrangements

That as a result of the amendments to the parish boundaries St Neots parish will consist of 21 councillors. This is in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.

f) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area on map 13 from St Neots Eaton Ford Ward to Kimbolton and Staughton Ward and from Little Paxton and St Neots North Division to Brampton and Kimbolton Division.

Transfer shaded area on map 15 from Gransden and The Offords Ward to St Neots Priory Park Ward and from Buckden, Gransden and The Offords Division to Little Paxton and St Neots North Division.

16. Parishes Affected

**Pidley-cum-Fenton
Somersham**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundary between the parishes of Pidley-cum-Fenton and Somersham.

b) Representations Received

Somersham Parish Council raised no objection to the proposed boundary changes but strongly objected to any decrease in their membership. As the latter did not form part of the original draft proposals, no change is necessary. Pidley-cum-Fenton Parish Council also supported the proposed changes to the boundary.

c) Final Proposal

Transfer of the shaded area from Pidley-cum-Fenton parish to Somersham parish as shown on map 10.

d) Reasons

To provide a clearly defined boundary between the two parishes.

17. Parishes Affected

**Spaldwick
Ellington**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundary between the parishes of Spaldwick and Ellington.

b) Representations Received

Spaldwick Parish Council supported the proposal for the change to the boundary. Ellington Parish Council also supported transfer of part of their parish to Spaldwick.

c) Final Recommendations

Transfer the shaded area from Ellington parish to Spaldwick parish as shown on map 21.

d) Reasons

To provide a clearly defined boundary between the two parishes.

18. Parishes Affected

**Warboys
Pidley-cum-Fenton
Wistow
Ramsey**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundaries between the parishes of Warboys, Pidley-cum-Fenton, Wistow and Ramsey.

b) Representations Received

Warboys Parish Council accepted the proposals for changes. Pidley-cum-Fenton Parish Council approved the proposed changes.

c) Final Recommendations

Transfer of the shaded areas from the parishes of Pidley-cum-Fenton, Wistow and Ramsey to Warboys parish as shown on maps 18, 19 and 20 respectively.

d) Reasons

To meet the views of the parishes involved as the properties affected have more affinity of interest with the parish they are transferring to.

e) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area on map 18 from Somersham Ward to Warboys and Bury Ward and from Somersham and Earith Division to Warboys and Upwood Division.

Transfer shaded area on map 20 from Ramsey Ward to Warboys and Bury Ward and from Ramsey Division to Warboys and Upwood Division

19. Parishes Affected

**Woodhurst
Oldhurst
Houghton and Wyton
St Ives**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundaries affecting the parishes of Woodhurst, Oldhurst, Houghton and Wyton and St Ives.

b) Representations Received

Woodhurst Parish Council opposed the proposals for changes to the boundaries affecting their parish. They submitted alternative proposals. St Ives Town Council supported proposals to amend the boundaries and transfer an area of land from the parish of Woodhurst to St Ives. They also suggested alternative arrangements for the transfer of other areas of land to Wyton-on-the-Hill.

c) Final Recommendations

Transfer the shaded areas A1 from Woodhurst parish to St Ives parish, A2 and C from Woodhurst parish to the Airfield Ward of Houghton and Wyton parish and B from Old Hurst parish to the Airfield Ward of Houghton and Wyton parish as shown on map 12 to reflect the comments from the interested parties.

d) Reasons

This transfer aligns the parish boundaries more clearly with a geographical feature as the new boundary would follow the road and avoid the splitting of the airfield which potentially could be subject to development in the future.

e) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area A1 from Somersham Ward to St Ives East Ward, Somersham and Earith Division to St Ives Division and North West Cambridgeshire Constituency to Huntingdon Constituency.

Transfer shaded area A2 and C from Somersham Ward to Upwood and The Raveleys Ward and from Somersham and Earith Division to Warboys and Upwood Division.

Transfer shaded area B from Somersham Ward to Upwood and The Raveleys Ward and from Somersham and Earith Division to Warboys and Upwood Division.

20. Parishes Affected

**Buckden
Offord Cluny**

a) Draft Proposal

Amend the boundary affecting the parishes of Buckden and Offord Cluny.

b) Representations Received

No representations were made in respect of these proposals.

c) Final Recommendations

Amend the boundary to follow the course of the River Ouse to the east of the Mill House and transfer the shaded area from Offord Cluny parish to Buckden parish as shown on map 2.

d) Reasons

To provide a clearly defined boundary between the two parishes as the current boundary cuts directly through properties in the Mill House and is not easily identifiable.

e) Related Alterations to District Ward, County Division and Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

Transfer shaded area from Gransden and The Offords Ward to Buckden Ward.

21. Parishes Affected

**Tetworth
Waresley**

a) Draft Proposal

Amalgamate the parish meeting of Tetworth with Waresley Parish Council consisting of 5 councillors.

b) Representations Received

No representations were made in respect of these proposals.

c) Final Recommendations

Amalgamate Waresley Parish Council with Tetworth Parish Meeting to form a new parish of Waresley-cum-Tetworth consisting of 5 councillors.

d) Reasons

To provide the electors of the area with more effective local government in that the parish to which the other parish will be

amalgamated with has a more active and vibrant parish council and to be consistent with other parishes and in accordance with the new scale of parish council representation.