

A meeting of the **ELECTIONS PANEL** will be held in the **CABINET ROOM, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON** on **TUESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER 2003** at **4:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact
(01480)**

1. **MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 2)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 25th June 2003.

2. **REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH** (Pages 3 - 20)

To consider a report by the Executive Director of Central Services on a review of parliamentary constituencies in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

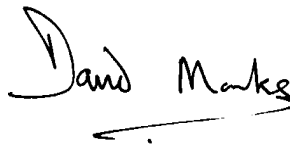
**Mrs L Jablonska
388004**

3. **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2004: APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER** (Pages 21 - 22)

To consider a report by the Executive Director of Central Services on the appointment of a Local Returning Officer for the Huntingdon Parliamentary Constituency in connection with the conduct of the elections for the European Parliament in June 2004.

**P Watkins
388002**

Dated this 3rd day of October 2003



Chief Executive

Please contact Lisa Jablonska on 01480 388004 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 Panel.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the ELECTIONS PANEL held at Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon on Wednesday, 25 June 2003

PRESENT: Councillor I C Bates - Chairman
Councillors D Harty, M F Newman,
K Reynolds and J Taylor

APOLOGIES: Councillors P J Downes and T D Sanderson

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors R L Clarke and J A P Eddy

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 27th May 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The Panel considered a summary of recommendations arising from the County Council's Periodic Electoral Review Working Group (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which had been produced following a period of consultation with interested parties.

The Panel were advised of revised proposals for Huntingdonshire which included two options to be presented by the County Council to the Boundary Committee - a preferred option with no two-Member divisions and a reserve option with four two-Member divisions. In considering the two options, Members expressed concern with the County's preferred option as it had failed to address concerns expressed previously by the Panel in relation to the number of Councillors in Huntingdonshire, the lack of coterminosity with District Ward boundaries and the lack of a community of interest in several of the divisions proposed.

While asserting that neither of the two options was particularly appropriate for Huntingdonshire, the Panel expressed a preference for the reserve option on the basis that 12 out of the 18 divisions proposed were coterminous with District ward boundaries and there was an improved community of interest among several of the divisions proposed.

Members were acquainted with the views of Councillors J A P Eddy and R L Clarke who had been invited to contribute to the debate and addressed the Panel on their concerns about the options proposed by the County Council.

Having regard to the alternative scheme based upon 19 Members in multi-Member divisions, the Panel suggested amendments to several of the divisions proposed. (A summary of the scheme has been appended in the Minute Book). The Panel suggested that the comments raised and the alternative scheme previously conveyed to the County Council, suitably amended to reflect smaller variations in

the Councillor/elector ratio in the Huntingdon East/Godmanchester and the Buckden/Gransden and the Offords Divisions and to deal with the St Ives District Wards as a two Member Division should be submitted to the Boundary Committee as representing the District Council's formal comments on the Review. Whereupon, the Panel

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Executive Director of Central Services be authorised, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel, to determine an amended alternative submission to the Boundary Committee based upon 19 County Councillors in multi-Member Divisions in Huntingdonshire; and
- (b) that the District Council's submission to the Boundary Committee be copied to the County Council, District Councillors and Town and Parish Councils in the District.

Chairman

ELECTIONS PANEL

14TH OCTOBER 2003

REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

(Report by the Executive Director of Central Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission for England (the "Commission") has programmed a review of parliamentary constituencies in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the proposals for changes to existing constituencies covered by the counties of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 18th September 2003 the Boundary Commission published provisional recommendations for changes to all seven existing constituencies in the area covered by the counties of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Commission is required under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992 to conduct a general review of all of the constituencies in England every eight to twelve years. The Commission completed their previous general review on 12th April 1995 and are required to complete the current review after 11th April 2003 and before 12th April 2007.
- 2.2 Following the Periodic Electoral Review by the Boundary Committee for England, new District Wards in Huntingdonshire will come into operation on 10th June 2004. Four of the new wards are divided between the existing constituencies. **The Commission do not divide wards between constituencies and their proposals for Huntingdonshire will realign the constituency boundaries with the new ward boundaries, so that all wards are placed wholly within constituencies.**

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The Boundary Commission has produced provisional recommendations for parliamentary constituencies in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A copy of the notice published in local newspapers and news release outlining the Commission's proposals has been attached at Annex A.
- 3.2 The Boundary Commission has requested comments on its proposals by 31st October 2003. In particular, the Commission has requested representations to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commissions proposals and to outline reasons for approval or objection.

4. PROPOSALS FOR HUNTINGDONSHIRE

- 4.1 As a result of the Periodic Electoral Review of Huntingdonshire, the Commission has determined that the constituency boundaries should be realigned with the District Ward boundaries.
- 4.2 In respect of Huntingdonshire, the new District Wards of Earith, Sawtry and Upwood and the Raveleys are currently divided between the Huntingdon Constituency and North West Cambridgeshire Constituency. The Commission propose that these Wards should be transferred to the North West Cambridgeshire Constituency. The Commission further propose that the District Ward of Ellington should also be transferred to the North West Cambridgeshire Constituency. These changes will produce a North West Cambridgeshire Constituency electorate of 73,648 and a reduction of the Huntingdon Constituency Electorate from 79,551 to 74,724. Maps of the new District Ward boundaries, with the existing constituency boundaries and proposed new constituency boundaries for Huntingdonshire have been detailed at Annex B.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The consultation period by the Boundary Commission commenced on 18th September 2003 and the closing date for submissions to the Commission is 31st October 2003.
- 5.2 The Panel is requested to consider whether they wish to make any representations or comments to the Boundary Commission on the proposals for changes to the existing constituencies of Huntingdon and North West Cambridgeshire.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The District of Huntingdonshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2002

Contact Officer: Lisa Jablonska, Central Services Manager
☎ (01480) 388004.



BCE

Boundary Commission for England

**REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY
CONSTITUENCIES IN
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND
PETERBOROUGH**

NOTICE is given today, 18 September 2003, under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended) that the Boundary Commission for England propose that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough be divided into the following constituencies (2000 electorates in brackets):-

CAMBRIDGE BOROUGH CONSTITUENCY (76,906). Thirteen wards of the City of **Cambridge**:- Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Romsey, Trumpington, West Chesterton.

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (72,274). Fifteen wards of the District of **East Cambridgeshire**:- Bottisham, Burwell, Cheveley, Dullingham Villages, Ely East, Ely North, Ely South, Ely West, Fordham Villages, Haddenham, Isléham, Soham North, Soham South, Stretham, The Swaffhams; and eight wards of the District of **South Cambridgeshire**:- Cottenham, Fulbourn, Histon and Impington, Milton, Teversham, The Wilbrahams, Waterbeach, Willingham and Over.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (74,724). Nineteen wards of the District of **Huntingdonshire**:- Alconbury and The Stukeleys, Brampton, Buckden, Fenstanton, Godmanchester, Gransden and The Offords, Huntingdon East, Huntingdon North, Huntingdon West, Kimbolton and Staughton, Little Paxton, St Ives East, St Ives South, St Ives West, St Neots Eaton Ford, St Neots Eaton Socon, St Neots Eynesbury, St Neots Priory Park, The Hemingfords.

NORTH EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (74,165). Four wards of the District of **East Cambridgeshire**:- Downham Villages, Littleport East, Littleport West, Sutton; and the District of **Fenland**.

NORTH WEST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (73,648). Nine wards of the City of **Peterborough**:- Barnack, Fletton, Glinton and Wittering, Northborough, Orton Longueville, Orton Waterville, Orton With Hampton, Stanground Central, Stanground East, and ten wards of the District of **Huntingdonshire**:- Earith, Ellington, Elton and Folksworth, Ramsey, Sawtry, Somersham, Stilton, Upwood and The Raveleys, Warboys and Bury, Yaxley and Farcet.

PETERBOROUGH BOROUGH CONSTITUENCY (70,640). Fifteen wards of the City of **Peterborough**:- Bretton North, Bretton South, Central, Dogsthorpe, East, Eye and Thorney, Newborough, North, Park, Paston, Ravensthorpe, Walton, Werrington North, Werrington South, West.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (73,264). One ward of the City of **Cambridge**:- Queen Edith's; and twenty-six wards of the District of **South Cambridgeshire**:-

Balsham, Bar Hill, Barton, Bassingbourn, Bourn, Caldecote, Comberton, Duxford, Fowlmere and Foxton, Gamlingay, Girton, Hardwick, Harston and Hauxton, Haslingfield and The Eversdens, Linton, Longstanton, Melbourn, Meldreth, Orwell and Barrington, Papworth and Elsworth, Sawston, Swavesey, The Abingtons, The Mordens, The Shelfords and Stapleford, Whittlesford.

The wards upon which the Commission based their provisional recommendations were created by the following Orders:-

The District of East Cambridgeshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2002;
The District of Fenland (Electoral Changes) Order 2002;
The City of Cambridge (Electoral Changes) Order 2002;
The District of Huntingdonshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2002;
The District of South Cambridgeshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2002; and
The City of Peterborough (Electoral Changes) Order 2003.

INSPECTION:- A news release explaining the Commission's proposals in full and maps illustrating the proposed constituencies may be inspected at:-

CAMBRIDGE	The Guildhall, Cambridge South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, 9-11 Hills Road, Cambridge
ELY	Cherry Hinton Library, High Street, Cambridge Council Offices, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely
HUNTINGDON	Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon
MARCH	Fenland Hall, County Road, March
PETERBOROUGH	Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough Orton Library, Orton Centre, Peterborough

REPRESENTATIONS about the proposals should be submitted before **31 October 2003**. Send representations to the **Boundary Commission for England, PO Box 31060, London, SW1V 2FF**, or fax them to **020 7533 5176**, or email them to **chris.ault@ons.gov.uk**.

Objectors are advised to submit a counter-proposal with their representation, as this is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection. It is very important that all representations, whether of support or objection (particularly counter-proposals), are received within the time allowed.

The Commission wish to stress that their provisional recommendations relate solely to parliamentary constituencies. They do not affect county, district or parish boundaries, local taxes, the administration of local services, or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that the provisional recommendations have an adverse effect on house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. The Commission will not therefore, be able to take account of any representation which is based on these issues.

The Internet version of this notice and the Commission's news release are now available on:-
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/psc/>

Boundary Commission for England

News Release

Issued by the
Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 31060
London
SW1V 2FF

Telephone 020 7533 5174
or 020 7533 5135
Fax 020 7533 5176

Date 10 September 2003

PROPOSALS FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN THE COUNTIES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

The Commission will publish provisional recommendations on 18 September 2003 for changes to all seven existing constituencies in the area covered by the counties of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Provisional Recommendations

1. Following The Cambridgeshire (City of Peterborough) (Structural, Boundary and Electoral Changes) Order 1996 the City of Peterborough acquired unitary authority status and ceased to form part of the county of Cambridgeshire. The Order also made changes between Peterborough and the District of Huntingdonshire. The remaining five districts in the county formed the county of Cambridgeshire. Unitary authorities have the legal status of counties and therefore fall within the scope of Rule 4 of Schedule 2 of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986.
2. Cambridgeshire has a 2000 parliamentary electorate of 410,039 and a theoretical entitlement to 5.86 seats. The City of Peterborough has a 2000 electorate of 105,582 and a theoretical entitlement to 1.51 seats. The combined area of the two counties has a 2000 electorate of 515,621 and a theoretical entitlement to 7.37 seats. However, if the two areas were reviewed separately, a total of eight seats would be allocated instead of seven, and the county average in Peterborough would be very low at 52,791 which would be 17,143 below the electoral quota (69,934). The Commission therefore decided to retain the allocation of seven seats and to review the two areas together with a combined county average of 73,660, only 3,726 above the electoral quota (the electoral quota is explained in "Rules" below).
3. Following the Periodical Electoral Reviews by the Boundary Committee for England, new wards in the Districts of East Cambridgeshire and Fenland came into operation on 1 May 2003. The new wards in the City of Cambridge, the City of Peterborough, and the Districts of Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire will come into operation on 10 June 2004. Ten of the new wards are divided between the existing constituencies. The Commission do not divide wards between constituencies and their proposals will realign the constituency boundaries with the new ward boundaries, so that all wards are placed wholly within constituencies.
4. The Commission propose that the City of Peterborough ward of Eye and Thorney (which is currently in North East Cambridgeshire CC) and the City of Peterborough ward of Newborough (which is currently divided between North East Cambridgeshire CC and North

West Cambridgeshire CC) should be included in Peterborough BC. The Commission also propose that the City of Peterborough ward of East (which is currently divided between North East Cambridgeshire CC and Peterborough BC) should be wholly included in Peterborough BC). These changes would increase the low electorate of Peterborough BC from 64,893 to 70,640, result in the constituency boundary following the eastern boundary of the City of Peterborough and allow the City of Peterborough to be contained in two seats rather than in three as at present. The changes would also reduce the high electorate of North East Cambridgeshire CC from 79,651 to 74,165.

5. Elsewhere in Cambridgeshire, the Commission decided that in every case where wards are currently divided between constituencies, the constituency boundary should be realigned with the ward boundary. In respect of the Huntingdonshire District wards of Earith, Sawtry, and Upwood and The Raveleys (which are currently divided between Huntingdon CC and North West Cambridgeshire CC) the Commission propose that the part of the ward with the fewer number of electors should be transferred to the constituency containing the part of the divided ward with the greater number of electors (North West Cambridgeshire CC in each case). The Commission further propose that the Huntingdonshire District ward of Ellington should also be transferred to North West Cambridgeshire CC. These changes, together with the change affecting the City of Peterborough ward of Newborough (referred to in the preceding paragraph), would produce a North West Cambridgeshire CC electorate of 73,648. The electorate of Huntingdon CC would reduce from 79,551 to 74,724.

6. The Commission propose that the South Cambridgeshire District ward of Cottenham (which is currently divided between South Cambridgeshire CC and South East Cambridgeshire CC) should be wholly included in South East Cambridgeshire CC, and the South Cambridgeshire District ward of The Abingtons (which is currently divided between South Cambridgeshire CC and South East Cambridgeshire CC) should be wholly included in South Cambridgeshire CC. In addition, the Commission propose that the South Cambridgeshire District wards of Linton and Balsham (which are adjacent to The Abingtons ward) should also be included in South Cambridgeshire CC. These changes would reduce the electorate of South East Cambridgeshire CC from 79,768 to 72,274. The Commission also propose, as a result of these changes, that South East Cambridgeshire CC should be renamed East Cambridgeshire CC.

7. The Commission propose that the constituency boundary between Cambridge BC and South Cambridgeshire CC should be realigned so that the City of Cambridge wards of Cherry Hinton and Coleridge (which are currently divided between Cambridge BC and South Cambridgeshire CC) would be included in the constituency containing the part of the divided ward with the greater number of electors (Cambridge BC). The Commission also propose that the Trumpington ward (which is currently divided between Cambridge BC and South Cambridgeshire CC) should be wholly included in Cambridge BC, although this does not represent minimum change realignment. This would allow for all but one of the City of Cambridge wards to be included in Cambridge BC. These changes, together with the changes proposed in the preceding paragraph, would produce a South Cambridgeshire CC electorate of 73,264. The electorate of Cambridge BC would be 76,906.

8. The Commission's proposals go further than minimum change realignment in order to reduce the high electorates of Huntingdon CC, North East Cambridgeshire CC and South East Cambridgeshire and bring them closer to the electoral quota. The Commission's proposals also take into consideration high growth in the recent past of the electorates of those seats. Although under the Commission's proposals Cambridge BC would have the highest electorate (76,906), the Commission noted that the City had experienced a lower rate of growth since 1991 than any of the other districts in Cambridgeshire.

9. The overall effect on electorates of these changes will be to reduce the disparity between the constituencies with the highest and lowest electorates from 14,875 to 6,266.

10. The proposed new constituencies are illustrated in outline on the sketch map which forms part of this document (please note the copyright warning below concerning the map). The letters on the map refer to the districts and the numbers refer to the district wards. The map is to be used in conjunction with the ward listing at the end of this document which shows the letters and districts, the numbers and wards, and the 2000 ward electorates on which the Commission are required by law to work.

11. The composition of the seven constituencies provisionally recommended would be (the 2000 electorates are shown in brackets):-

CAMBRIDGE BOROUGH CONSTITUENCY (76,906). Thirteen wards of the City of **Cambridge**:- Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Romsey, Trumpington, West Chesterton.

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (72,274). Fifteen wards of the District of **East Cambridgeshire**:- Bottisham, Burwell, Cheveley, Dullingham Villages, Ely East, Ely North, Ely South, Ely West, Fordham Villages, Haddenham, Isleham, Soham North, Soham South, Stretham, The Swaffhams; and eight wards of the District of **South Cambridgeshire**:- Cottenham, Fulbourn, Histon and Impington, Milton, Teversham, The Wilbrahams, Waterbeach, Willingham and Over.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (74,724). Nineteen wards of the District of **Huntingdonshire**:- Alconbury and The Stukeleys, Brampton, Buckden, Fenstanton, Godmanchester, Gransden and The Offords, Huntingdon East, Huntingdon North, Huntingdon West, Kimbolton and Staughton, Little Paxton, St Ives East, St Ives South, St Ives West, St Neots Eaton Ford, St Neots Eaton Socon, St Neots Eynesbury, St Neots Priory Park, The Hemingfords.

NORTH EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY (74,165). Four wards of the District of **East Cambridgeshire**:- Downham Villages, Littleport East, Littleport West, Sutton; and the District of **Fenland**.

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PETERBOROUGH BOROUGH CONSTITUENCY (70,640). Fifteen wards of the City of **Peterborough**:- Bretton North, Bretton South, Central, Dogsthorpe, East, Eye and Thorney, Newborough, North, Park, Paston, Ravensthorpe, Walton, Werrington North, Werrington South, West.

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Haslingfield and The Eversdens, Linton, Longstanton, Melbourn, Meldreth, Orwell and Barrington, Papworth and Elsworth, Sawston, Swavesey, The Abingtons, The Mordens, The Shelfords and Stapleford, Whittlesford.

12. Please note that the wards have not been shown for the District of Fenland as the whole of the district is contained within a proposed constituency. However, as already mentioned, a full ward listing with 2000 electorates is given at the end of this document.

13. The wards named in this document are the wards which were created by the following six Orders, two of which came into effect at the local elections on 1 May 2003:-

The District of East Cambridgeshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2002; and
The District of Fenland (Electoral Changes) Order 2002;

and four of which will come into effect at the local elections on 10 June 2004 (it has recently been announced that the local government elections scheduled for 6 May 2004 will be deferred):-

The City of Cambridge (Electoral Changes) Order 2002;
The District of Huntingdonshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2002;
The District of South Cambridgeshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2002; and
The City of Peterborough (Electoral Changes) Order 2003.

Publication of Provisional Recommendations

14. The provisional recommendations will be published formally in a notice appearing in local newspapers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on 18 September 2003. Local Authorities, MPs, the Political Parties' Headquarters, and others will be sent a copy of the recommendations. The notice will also be published on the Commission's web site at:-

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pbc/>

Places of Inspection

15. The notice in local newspapers will also give the addresses where a copy of the recommendations and a more detailed map illustrating them may be inspected once the notice has been published in local newspapers on 18 September 2003 (please note the copyright warning below concerning the map). Those addresses are:-

CAMBRIDGE

The Guildhall, Cambridge
South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire
Hall, 9-11 Hills Road, Cambridge

ELY

Cherry Hinton Library, High Street, Cambridge
Council Offices, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely

HUNTINGDON

Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon

MARCH

Fenland Hall, County Road, March

PETERBOROUGH

Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough
Orton Library, Orton Centre, Peterborough

Representation Period: 18 September 2003 to 31 October 2003

16. The Commission are statutorily required to consider representations about their provisional recommendations made within one month of local publication on 18 September 2003. However, the representation period will be extended to 31 October 2003 to allow for the parliamentary political party conferences.

17. Representations should be addressed to the Boundary Commission for England, PO Box 31060, London, SW1V 2FF, or faxed to 020 7533 5176, or emailed to chris.ault@ons.gov.uk. All representations received by the Commission will be acknowledged.

18. Please note that the Commission are not required to consider any representations made after 31 October 2003, but will endeavour to take late representations into account. However, the later the representation is made, the more difficult this will be. The Commission therefore ask that all representations be made within the period allocated. In the event that a local inquiry is held into the provisional recommendations, all representations will be made public beforehand so that interested persons may prepare for the local inquiry. Any representation received too late to be issued with the other representations before the local inquiry cannot be given the same weight as the other representations because other interested persons will not have had the same opportunity to consider it.

19. Where representations objecting to the provisional recommendations are made by an interested local authority (a county or district council) or by a body of 100 or more electors, the Commission cannot proceed with their final recommendations to the Secretary of State until a local inquiry has been held. If the Commission decide to alter their recommendations as a result of the inquiry, the revised recommendations must also be published and representations invited, but a further local inquiry is not obligatory.

20. Those who make representations are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission's proposals and to give their reasons for their approval or objection. In particular, objectors are advised to say what they propose in place of the Commission's recommendations and should note that an objection accompanied by a counter-proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection.

21. The Commission wish to stress that their provisional recommendations relate solely to parliamentary constituencies. They do not affect county, district or parish boundaries, local taxes, the administration of local services, or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that the provisional recommendations have an adverse effect on house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. The Commission will not, therefore not take account of any representation made about those local issues.

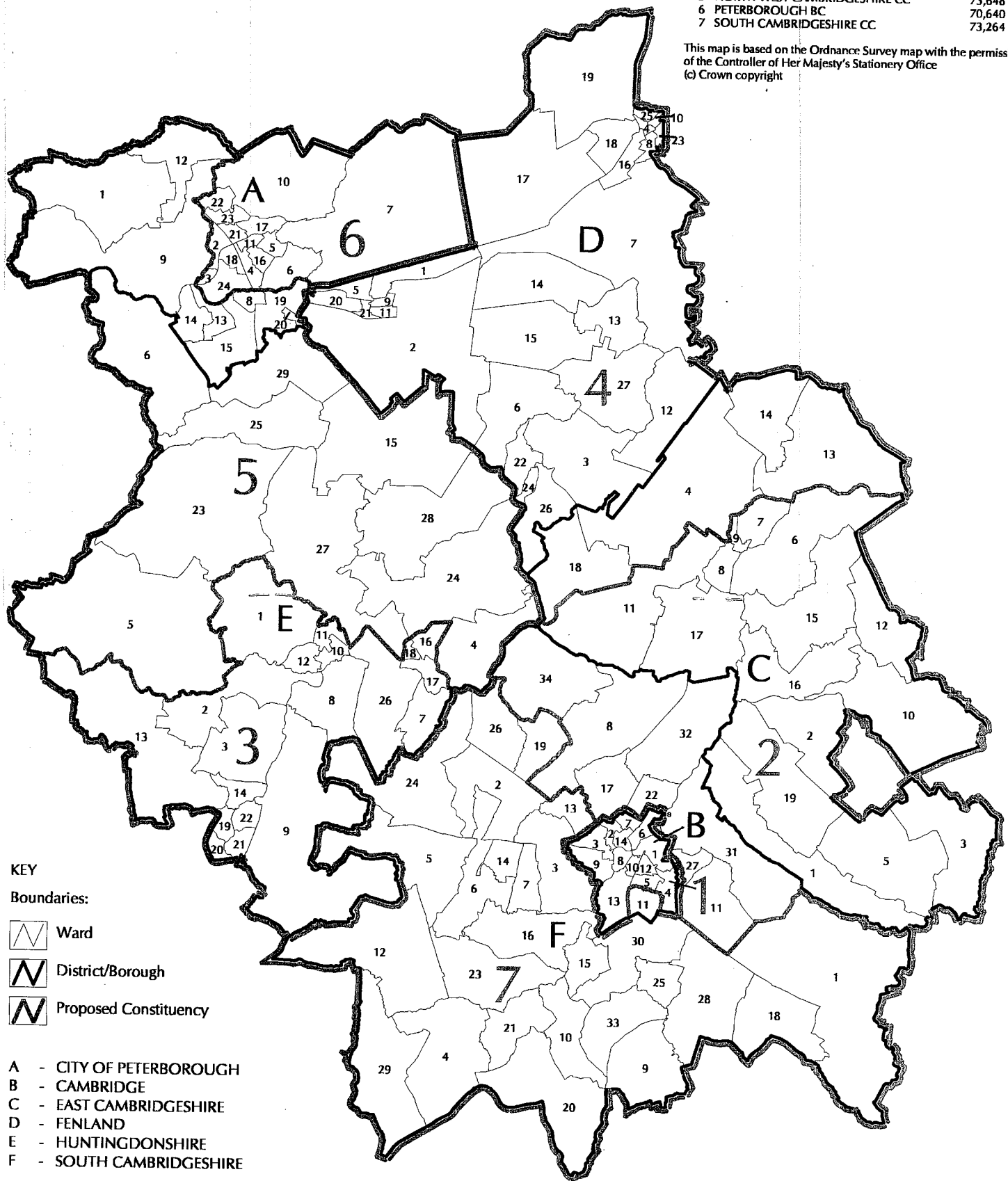
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


22. The Commission are constituted under Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. The ex officio Chairman is the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Deputy Chairman, who presides over Commission meetings, is a High Court Judge appointed by the Lord Chancellor. The other two Commissioners are appointed by the Secretary of State. The two Assessors to the Commission are the Registrar General of England and Wales and the Director General of Ordnance Survey. Assistant Commissioners are lawyers appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct local inquiries.

Boundary Commission for England
 Provisional Recommendations for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Seat	Name & Designation	2000
1	CAMBRIDGE BC	76,906
2	EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE CC	72,274
3	HUNTINGDON CC	74,724
4	NORTH EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE CC	73,648
5	NORTH WEST CAMBRIDGESHIRE CC	70,640
6	PETERBOROUGH BC	73,264
7	SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE CC	73,264

This map is based on the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
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- KEY**
- Boundaries:
-  Ward
 -  District/Borough
 -  Proposed Constituency

- A - CITY OF PETERBOROUGH
- B - CAMBRIDGE
- C - EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
- D - FENLAND
- E - HUNTINGDONSHIRE
- F - SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Notes:
 1. See elsewhere in this news release for a list of places where a larger scale map may be inspected.
 2. The black numbers in this map refer to the wards listed at the end of this news release.

23. The Commission are required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992 to conduct a general review of all the constituencies in England every eight to twelve years. The Commission completed their previous general review on 12 April 1995 and must therefore complete the current review after 11 April 2003 and before 12 April 2007.

24. The general review started formally with the publication of a notice in the London Gazette on 17 February 2000. The Commission's recommendations throughout the review must by law be based on the numbers of electors on the electoral registers on that date.

Rules

25. In recommending new constituencies, the Commission are required to give effect to the Rules for Redistribution of Seats which are contained in Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act.

26. Rule 1 places a limit on the total number of constituencies. Rule 2 requires single member constituencies. Rule 3 relates to the City of London. Rule 4 states that county and London borough boundaries are to be followed so far as is practicable. Rule 5 states that the electorates of constituencies are to be as nearly equal as practicable. Rule 6 allows the Commission to depart from rules 4 and 5 if special geographical considerations make a departure desirable. Rule 7 allows the Commission to depart from other rules; and requires them to take account of inconveniences caused or local ties broken by changes to constituencies. Rule 8 defines the electoral quota as the total number of parliamentary electors in England (i.e. 36,995,157) divided by the existing number of seats (529), and requires the Commission to use the electorates as at the start of a review.

Procedures

27. In conducting a general review of constituencies, the Commission are required by the legislation to follow certain procedures, principally to provide for public consultation.

28. The Secretary of State must be given notice of a review and that notice must be published in the London Gazette. Provisional recommendations must be published in newspapers in the affected constituencies and, unless the proposals are for no changes to be made, they must also be deposited for public inspection in at least one place in each affected constituency.

29. Representations may be made within one month of publication of the provisional recommendations and the Commission must take any representations into consideration. Where objections are received from a county or district council or a body of 100 or more electors, a local inquiry must be held.

30. If the Commission revise their recommendations as a result of an inquiry, the revised recommendations must also be published and further representations invited and considered. A second local inquiry cannot be forced by these further representations, but there is discretionary power to hold a second inquiry, but second inquiries are rarely held. Any further modifications, as a result of further representations or a second inquiry, must also be published and representations invited. When the Commission have decided their final recommendations for the whole country, they must submit a report to the Secretary of State.

Implementation of the recommendations

31. The Secretary of State has a statutory duty to lay the Commission's report before Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to the Commission's recommendations with or without modifications. If modifications are proposed, the Secretary of State must also lay a statement of reasons for the modifications.

32. The draft Order in Council is submitted to both Houses of Parliament for approval and, after it is made by Her Majesty in Council, it cannot be called into question in any legal proceedings. The new constituencies take effect at the general election following the making of the Order in Council.

33. The above information is intended to be a general guide only. For a definitive statement of the law, please refer to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 - as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992, the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, the Government of Wales Act 1998, and the Scotland Act 1998 - together with the Court of Appeal ruling in *R v Boundary Commission for England Ex parte Foot* [1983] QB 600.

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Enquiries

36. Should you require further information about these provisional recommendations or about other aspects of the Commission's work please write to:-

Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 31060
London
SW1V 2FF

Alternatively, send a fax to 020 7533 5176 or telephone:-

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough enquiries: 020 7533 5174 or 020 7533 5135
General enquiries: 020 7533 5177

Email address for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough enquiries: chris.ault@ons.gov.uk

Email address for general enquiries: bcomm.england@ons.gov.uk

37. The Internet version of this news release and the outline map (please note the Crown Copyright warning above) is now available on:-

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/psc/>

Boundary Commission for England

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH 2000 WARD ELECTORATES TO BE USED THROUGHOUT THE REVIEW

A. City of Peterborough	105,582	B. City of Cambridge	83,818
1. Barnack	1,987	1. Abbey	6,150
2. Bretton North	6,357	2. Arbury	6,713
3. Bretton South	2,216	3. Castle	6,127
4. Central	5,301	4. Cherry Hinton	6,317
5. Dogsthorpe	5,720	5. Coleridge	5,565
6. East	5,442	6. East Chesterton	5,379
7. Eye and Thorney	3,933	7. King's Hedges	6,123
8. Fletton	5,159	8. Market	6,281
9. Glinton and Wittering	4,031	9. Newnham	5,876
10. Newborough	1,664	10. Petersfield	5,128
11. North	3,509	11. Queen Edith's	6,212
12. Northborough	2,000	12. Romsey	6,102
13. Orton Longueville	6,253	13. Trumpington	5,150
14. Orton Waterville	5,789	14. West Chesterton	5,995
15. Orton With Hampton	1,937		
16. Park	5,904	D. Fenland District	63,413
17. Paston	5,407	1. Bassenhally	1,311
18. Ravensthorpe	4,151	2. Benwick, Coates and Eastrea	2,992
19. Stanground Central	5,778	3. Birch	1,613
20. Stanground East	2,008	4. Clarkson	1,484
21. Walton	3,867	5. Delph	1,273
22. Werrington North	5,333	6. Doddington	1,581
23. Werrington South	5,478	7. Elm and Christchurch	3,271
24. West	6,358	8. Hill	3,291
		9. Kingsmoor	1,280
C. East Cambridgeshire District	52,229	10. Kirkgate	1,638
1. Bottisham	2,788	11. Lattersey	1,799
2. Burwell	4,279	12. Manea	1,165
3. Cheveley	2,986	13. March East	4,704
4. Downham Villages	3,008	14. March North	4,524
5. Dullingham Villages	1,502	15. March West	5,185
6. Ely East	2,754	16. Medworth	1,720
7. Ely North	3,511	17. Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary	3,045
8. Ely South	1,552	18. Peckover	1,547
9. Ely West	2,563	19. Roman Bank	4,596
10. Fordham Villages	2,587	20. St Andrews	1,937
11. Haddenham	4,073	21. St Marys	1,943
12. Isleham	1,582	22. Slade Lode	1,547
13. Littleport East	1,651	23. Staithe	1,855
14. Littleport West	3,550	24. The Mills	1,894
15. Soham North	2,731	25. Waterlees	3,221
16. Soham South	4,410	26. Wenneye	1,661
17. Stretham	2,669	27. Wimblington	1,336
18. Sutton	2,543		
19. The Swaffhams	1,490		

E. Huntingdonshire District	113,430	F. South Cambridgeshire District	97,849
1. Alconbury and The Stukeleys	2,458	1. Balsham	3,465
2. Brampton	4,525	2. Bar Hill	3,972
3. Buckden	2,430	3. Barton	1,857
4. Earith	4,642	4. Bassingbourn	3,433
5. Ellington	2,144	5. Bourn	1,539
6. Elton and Folksworth	2,111	6. Caldecote	1,189
7. Fenstanton	2,223	7. Comberton	1,788
8. Godmanchester	4,483	8. Cottenham	5,381
9. Gransden and The Offords	3,409	9. Duxford	1,947
10. Huntingdon East	6,286	10. Fowlmere and Foxton	1,797
11. Huntingdon North	3,776	11. Fulbourn	3,579
12. Huntingdon West	3,763	12. Gamlingay	3,739
13. Kimbolton and Staughton	2,447	13. Girton	2,859
14. Little Paxton	2,442	14. Hardwick	1,824
15. Ramsey	5,867	15. Harston and Hauxton	1,895
16. St Ives East	4,933	16. Haslingfield and The Eversdens	2,061
17. St Ives South	4,697	17. Histon and Impington	6,286
18. St Ives West	2,273	18. Linton	3,583
19. St Neots Eaton Ford	5,212	19. Longstanton	1,074
20. St Neots Eaton Socon	4,199	20. Melbourn	4,092
21. St Neots Eynesbury	6,169	21. Meldreth	1,843
22. St Neots Priory Park	4,431	22. Milton	3,082
23. Sawtry	4,946	23. Orwell and Barrington	1,807
24. Somersham	4,341	24. Papworth and Elsworth	2,933
25. Stilton	2,279	25. Sawston	5,611
26. The Hemingfords	4,568	26. Swavesey	1,793
27. Upwood and The Raveleys	1,928	27. Teversham	1,894
28. Warboys and Bury	4,179	28. The Abingtons	1,749
29. Yaxley and Farcet	6,269	29. The Mordens	1,848
		30. The Shelfords and Stapleford	5,546
		31. The Wilbrahams	2,006
		32. Waterbeach	3,909
		33. Whittlesford	1,808
		34. Willingham and Over	4,660

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ELECTIONS PANEL

14TH OCTOBER 2003

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, 2004
APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER
(Report by the Executive Director of Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to acquaint Members with the commencement of planning for the European Parliamentary Elections in 2004 and a consequential issue relating to the appointment of the Local Returning Officer for the Huntingdon Parliamentary Constituency.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On the last occasion that European Elections were held – in June 1999 – significant changes were made to the way in which they were organised and conducted. The variations included:-

- ◆ the reorganisation of UK European Parliamentary Constituencies into twelve regions, each returning a number of Members of the European Parliament, dependent on the size of the Regions' electorate;
- ◆ voting for political parties or individual candidates (if applicable); and
- ◆ a form of proportional representation to allocate seats.

- 2.2 In 1999 the District Council's Chief Executive was appointed Regional Returning Officer for the Eastern Region comprising the Counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. "Westminster" Parliamentary Constituencies were chosen as the "building blocks" for the elections in each of the regions. In the Eastern Region this involved some 56 Constituencies, the Acting Returning Officer for each assuming the role of Local Returning Officer and with it responsibility for the organisation and conduct of the election in his/her area.

- 2.3 Members will be aware of the role of the District Council's Chief Executive as Acting Returning Officer at Parliamentary Elections for the Huntingdon Constituency. This appointment "translates" into that of Local Returning Officer at European Elections. However, and in view of his responsibility for the Eastern Region as a whole in 1999 it was deemed necessary to review the situation locally.

- 2.4 In those circumstances and bearing in mind his experience as Deputy (Acting) Returning Officer at European, Parliamentary and other elections, Mr Peter Watkins, Executive Director of Central Services, was appointed as Local Returning Officer for the Huntingdon

Constituency for the conduct of the European Parliamentary Elections, in June 1999.

3. DEVELOPMENTS SUBSEQUENTLY

3.1 While polling day for the next European Elections – 10th June 2004 – may appear some while away, planning for the event has already begun.

3.2 Furthermore, while the necessary secondary legislation has yet to be laid before Parliament, the District Council's Chief Executive has been reappointed Regional Returning Officer (designate) for the Eastern Region. Other developments are anticipated which will require primary legislation, including –

- ◆ a combination of European, District and Parish elections on 10th June 2004; and
- ◆ a suggestion by the Government that it wishes to consider "all postal" pilot schemes in three Regions and for one of those pilots also to include Internet and telephone voting.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 As in 1999 the responsibilities of the Council's Chief Executive as Regional Returning Officer for the Eastern Electoral Region are likely to be such as to require a separate appointment of a Local Returning Officer for the Huntingdon Constituency.

4.2 While under the Council's constitutional arrangements the Panel is responsible for the determination of a wide range of functions relating to elections, the appointment of a Returning Officer is reserved to full Council.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 For the reasons outlined in the preceding paragraphs, the Panel are invited to recommend to full Council —

that Mr Peter Watkins, Executive Director of Central Services, be appointed Local Returning Officer for the Huntingdon Constituency in connection with the conduct of the elections for the European Parliament in June, 2004.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

European Elections Act 1999 and associated Regulations
Home Officer RPA Circular 423

Contact Officer: Mr Peter Watkins ☎ (01480) 388002