

**PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE:
DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS
(Report by the Director of Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the present position in connection with the periodic review of electoral arrangements in the county of Cambridgeshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 11th March 2003, the Boundary Committee commenced the first stage of its electoral review of Cambridgeshire.
- 2.2 At meetings of the Panel on 27th May and 25th June 2003 Members considered details of a consultation document prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council which outlined their draft recommendations for new electoral divisions in Cambridgeshire.
- 2.3 The Panel submitted comments to the Boundary Committee which specifically referred to their concerns with the method adopted to calculate the average number of electors per Member, the rationale behind the proposed increase in the number of County Councillors from 59 to 68 and the rounding exercise to allocate Councillors to each District. The Panel also expressed concern with the lack of coterminosity with District Ward boundaries, including little community interest in several of the divisions proposed and objected to the splitting of parish wards in the main towns.
- 2.4 In order to resolve some of the issues highlighted, the Panel suggested that the option of multi-member divisions should be considered and with this in mind an alternative scheme was devised based upon 19 Members representing 13 divisions and submitted to the Boundary Committee.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 On 24th February 2004, the Boundary Committee published their draft recommendations on the future local government electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council. The consultation document has been circulated to all Members and any comments received will be presented at the meeting.
- 3.2 Following consideration of all representations submitted at Stage One, the Boundary Committee have proposed to adopt the District Council's proposal in full for Huntingdonshire as they consider that it facilitates the best balance between electoral equality and coterminosity across the District.

- 3.3 Cambridgeshire County Council has produced a response to the draft recommendations published by the Boundary Committee. In respect of Huntingdonshire, the County Council has accepted the Committee's proposal for Huntingdonshire with one modification. In order to reduce the number of two-member divisions and maintain coterminosity, the County Council are proposing that the St Ives division be split. The wards of St Ives East and West would remain together forming St Ives North division while St Ives South would stay with Holywell-cum-Needlingworth to form St Ives South division. This would produce two one-member divisions:

	2008 Electorate	Variation
St Ives North		
St Ives East	5010	
St Ives West	2360	
	7370	11%
St Ives South		
St Ives South	5000	
Holywell-cum-Needlingworth parish	1920	
	6920	4%

- 3.4 The District Council's proposal, currently adopted in draft by the Boundary Committee, produces one two-member division:

	2008 Electorate	Variation
St Ives		
St Ives West	2360	
St Ives South	5000	
St Ives East	5010	
Holywell-cum-Needlingworth parish	1920	
	14290	7.6%

- 3.5 The County Council have suggested the following provisional name changes:

- ◆ Upwood and The Raveleys and Warboys and Bury would become *The Woods*; and
- ◆ Kimbolton, Staughton and Brampton would become *Brampton and Kimbolton*.

- 3.6 Comments received from Members to-date have asked that consideration be given to the following name change:

- ◆ Elton and Stilton to become *Norman Cross*.

Specifically, the Boundary Committee have asked for comments on their proposed division names for Huntingdonshire as detailed at paragraph 123 of their consultation document.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The consultation period by the Boundary Committee will end on 26th April 2004 and they have invited all interested parties to comment on the future electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 4.2 The Panel is requested to consider whether they wish to make any comments to the Boundary Committee on the draft recommendations for Cambridgeshire and the response prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Periodic Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire County Council
Draft County Proposal: Consultation document – April 2003

Future Electoral Arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council: Draft
Recommendations – The Boundary Committee for England, February 2004.

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