

**PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE: FINAL
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 electoral review of electoral arrangements in the county of Cambridgeshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Boundary Committee commenced the Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire on 11th March 2003 and published draft recommendations on 24th February 2004.
- 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. Arising from this, the Panel made representations to the Boundary Committee and proposed an alternative scheme for Huntingdonshire.
- 2.3 At their meeting on 7th April 2004 Members considered the draft recommendations published by the Boundary Committee which outlined their proposal to adopt the District Council's scheme in full for Huntingdonshire.

3. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 On 14th September 2004, the Boundary Committee published their final recommendations on the future local government electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council. The report to the Electoral Commission has been attached at Annex A and has also been circulated to District Councillors representing the St Neots Wards.
- 3.2 Following consideration of all representations submitted during consultation on the draft recommendations, the Boundary Committee have proposed that Cambridgeshire County Council should have 69 Councillors, 10 more than at present, representing 60 divisions. They are also mindful of the fact that as divisions are based on District Wards which have themselves changed as a result of the recent District reviews, the boundaries of all divisions will be subject to change.
- 3.3 In respect of Huntingdonshire, the Boundary Committee have endorsed their draft recommendations as final with the exception of the proposed amendment to the St Neots town area. The Boundary Committee are proposing that the boundary for the two divisions in the town should run north to south along the River Ouse rather than east

to west as in their draft proposals. The amendments to these divisions will not effect any other divisions and coterminosity and electoral quality will also be unaffected. The new divisions will be named St Neots East and St Neots West.

3.4 In addition to the name changes outlined above the Boundary Committee have proposed the following name changes in accordance with our original suggestions:-

- ◆ Upwood and The Raveleys and Warboys and Bury will become *Warboys and Upwood*;
- ◆ Kimbolton, Staughton and Brampton will become *Brampton and Kimbolton*; and
- ◆ Elton and Stilton will become *Norman Cross*.

3.5 The Boundary Committee are also proposing to rename the following division:-

- ◆ Gransden and The Offords will become *Buckden, Gransden and The Offords*.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Boundary Committee has completed its statutory role and it is now the responsibility of the Electoral Commission to decide whether to give effect to their recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an order.

4.2 An order will not be made before 26th October 2004 and the Panel is requested to consider whether they wish to make any comments to the Electoral Commission on the final recommendations for Cambridgeshire.

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.

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

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