

22/1137 Local Government Boundaries Commission.

To consider changes of ward representation under Local Government Boundaries Commission.

Discussion Notes (Cllr Ruth Hoose, online meeting LGBC and West Northants Friday 9th Sept 2022)

Background

The LGBC is an impartial body who have the responsibility of ensuring electors are properly represented. This review of West Northants Unitary Authority is necessary as the current wards and councillors reflect the arrangements we had when we were South Northants District council before we became part of West Northants Unitary Authority. Currently every ward in the old SNC has 3 councillors regardless of population in that ward. It was set up like this because we had a 3 year rolling programme of electing one councillor every year with one "fallow" year.

The LGBC have said that for the population of West Northants Unitary Authority we should be **represented** by a total of 77 councillors. That is 16 fewer than we have at present.

The LGBC is looking to reorganise wards with either 1,2,or 3 councillors each representing approx 4277 voters with 10% margin either way (therefore between 3800 and 4650 voters)

The LGBC is only looking at Wards within West Northants. The County Boundary and Parish Boundaries are not being reviewed or changed. Changes will not alter post codes, house prices or insurance premiums. It is not political and such representations will not be taken into consideration.

The review and necessary changes will be made ready for the local government elections in 2025.

Why are we involved and what do we need to do?

The LGBC value the information, views and opinions passed to them by Parish Councils as we are the people best placed to be able to comment on community links etc. We know where it would be sensible for the boundaries of new wards to potentially go.

The process is divided into 3 phases. Phase one is the initial consultation where we are asked for opinions/suggestions etc. *This finishes Nov 6th*. A draft proposal is then published and further comments can then be made. When the LGBC write this they take into consideration all the representations they have had and balance between them. The LGBC then publish their final document. Once that is published there can be no changes.

All electors, as well as parish councils can engage in phase one. All comments will be published on the website so the whole process is open and clear to all. (some parts including names of individuals may be redacted) Any comments and suggestions we make do not have to be evidence based. They do however need to relate to the 3 criteria .

Electoral Equality

Community identities and interests

Effective and convenient Local Government.

The LGBC have published documents which will help us.

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/36573?bbox=430588.74021901,229639.44388806,493812.74021901,268951.44388806>

This gives current voting population and predicted voting population up till 2028 (it is future proofed!) for each current ward.

Please also see below are links to explanatory flipbooks for more information.

Residents and community groups: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/84050348/>

Parish councils: <https://flippingbook.com/account/online/84750912>