

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Representation of the People Act 1983
Electoral Administration Act 2006
The Review of Polling District & Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006
The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Background information and the Returning Officer's proposals

John Hill, Returning Officer

Consultation Period:

If you have any comments or questions please contact:

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Background

The Representation of the People Act places a duty on the Council to divide the District into polling districts and to designate polling places for each district. The Council also has a duty to keep those arrangements under review.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006) introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places at least once every four years. The first such review had to be completed by the end of 2007.

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling places, with a compulsory review having to be started and completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015.

Subsequent reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013. However, this does not prevent changes being made at any time before the next full review in October 2018.

The Council must conduct a review of the polling districts, polling places and polling stations for the South East Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency that fall within the boundaries of the District of East Cambridgeshire.

1. Review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations in the district of East Cambridgeshire in relation to its Divisional Boundaries for County Council Elections.

In 2015, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published its review on the electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council. The proposals set out a council size of 61 and division pattern to accommodate this number of Councillors.

For East Cambridgeshire District Council these proposals returned 8 county councillors and recommended 8 new electoral divisions.

1.2 How the review is conducted

The Council has delegated authority to conduct the review, and the legislation lays down how the review is to be conducted. On commencement of the review the Returning Officer will be asked to make his representations on existing and proposed polling arrangements. The Council will publish the Returning Officer's proposals and will invite comments. The Members will consider these before final recommendations are made to the Council on 5 January 2017

The consultation must seek comments from people who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have disabilities.

Any elector may make representations. It is proposed that the consultation will also include local political parties, district ward councillors, county councillors for East Cambridgeshire divisions, Access Group, local MP's, returning officers for parliamentary constituencies that fall within East Cambridgeshire boundaries and parish councils.

1.3 The role of the Electoral Commission

The Commission, while not having a direct responsibility for the review, can intervene where it considers that the reasonable requirements of electors or the needs of disabled electors have not been taken into account.

The following can 'appeal' to the Commission:

- Any parish council which falls within the constituency;
- Not less than thirty registered electors in the constituency;
- any person who has made representations during the review;
- any person who is not an elector in the constituency but who has sufficient interest or expertise in access to premises or facilities for disabled persons.

The Commission could direct the Council to alter any polling arrangements that arise from the review, and the Commission could make these alterations itself if the Council failed to respond within two months.

1.4 Our timetable for this review

Notice of start of review – Monday 24 October 2016

Council publishes the Returning Officer's proposals – Monday 24 October 2016

Consultation on this proposal ends on Friday 16 December 2016

Report to Full Council – Thursday 5 January 2017

Adoption by Council – Friday 6 January 2017

Arrangements come into force at the publication
of the next revised Register of Electors – 17 February 2017

1.5 Making Comments

Anyone intending to make comments is strongly urged to read the introductory comments to the Returning Officer's proposals. The Returning Officer has found that, by and large, the boundaries of our polling districts are co-terminous with the existing District and parish ward boundaries. Change for change's sake should be avoided in the review because it proves disruptive to the electors and their convenience, subsequently the Returning Officer has recommended few changes.

That said, comments are still welcomed, and an early notification where major alterations are proposed will be appreciated, because it will enable the Electoral Services Officer to enter into further and more detailed consultation where required.

Comments that support the Returning Officer's proposals are also welcomed because they will provide a balance of opinions.

Comments should be made in writing to:

Joan Cox
Electoral Services Officer
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Throughout the review, all working papers, minutes of meetings and correspondence will be available for public inspection at the Elections Office. All items will be published when the review has been completed.

2. The Returning Officer's Proposals

2.1 Introduction

The pattern of polling districts and polling places in the District of East Cambridgeshire has evolved to meet successive boundary changes to district and parish wards to divisional boundary changes and those of the two Parliamentary Constituencies, as well as to meet the convenience of electors across the district. By and large, it ensures that electors have reasonable facilities for voting. Furthermore, in line with the Council's policies, every attempt has been made to ensure that polling stations are accessible to electors with disabilities. This process is as a direct consequence of the Divisional Boundary review conducted by the LGBCE and the changes within this review reflect the new divisional areas. There are two areas within the review which will directly affect electors.

2.2 Guidelines

The Returning Officer has taken the following assumptions into account when drawing up the proposals. Comments made during the consultation should keep these in mind. The first four are requirements laid down in the Representation of the People Act; the remainder are guidelines only.

- The council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- The council must seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to electors with disabilities;
- Every parish shall be in a separate polling district;
- Ideally the polling place should be in the polling district;
- No polling station should be shared by two wards because of the risks associated with holding different elections in the same polling station;
- Ideally there should be no more than 2,500 electors per polling district, although the number of postal voters in the district (presently about 6,500, in an electorate of 65,500) is a further consideration.
- Polling district boundaries should be co-terminous with existing parish ward or district ward boundaries.
- Where existing polling districts serve no necessary function because the electors for each polling district already vote at the same polling station, the polling districts should be merged;
- A polling station costs about £3,000 to hire, equip and staff for polling day;
- The proposals have been mindful of further development in the district as identified in the Local Development Framework.

2.3 The Tables

Following a summary of the proposed changes, each County Division is dealt with separately. The tables show the existing polling arrangements in each division;

- The polling district identity letters
- The polling place for the parish or parish ward
- The polling station at that place
- The number of electors on 23 June 2016 (the date of the last elections)
- Disabled access, including where this is achieved by the use of a temporary ramp.

A map showing the present polling districts follows the tables.

2.4 Glossary of terms

County Divisions – The division of the County into areas for the purpose of electing councillors to represent its different parts. The district of East Cambridgeshire is divided into 8 County Divisions, but the Divisions are **not** the subject of this review.

Boundary reviews – the reviews of the boundaries of parishes, district or parliamentary constituencies. Boundary reviews are **not** part of this review.

Electoral arrangements – the allocation of councillors to a council and the division of a parish or district into wards with the allocation of councillors to wards. The electoral arrangements of the parishes and of the district are **not** the subject of this review.

Parish wards – the division of a parish into areas for the purpose of electing councillors to represent the different parts of the same parish, eg the parish of Ely is divided into four wards; the parish of Coveney is an unwarded parish. The parish wards are **not** the subject of this review.

Polling arrangements – the provision of reasonable and convenient facilities for the electors to cast their votes by the division of a constituency into polling districts with polling places and polling stations

Polling district – an area in the constituency for which the electors vote together at the same polling place.

Polling district letters – three letters that distinguish the polling district and that, together with the elector's number from the register of electors for that district, make up the elector's distinctive and unique electoral registration number. The polling district letters in the part of South East Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency that falls within East Cambridgeshire boundaries have district letters ranging from HA through to MK.

Polling place – a readily identifiable place within the polling district to which the electors will go to vote.

Polling station – the building or part of a building at the polling place, which will serve as the venue for the poll; the extent of the polling station will depend upon local circumstances.

Summary of proposed changes:

No	Division	Polling District Affected	Proposal
1	Burwell	KB1, KB2, LA1, LB1, LE1, KD1, LI6 and KF1	To move the parishes of Chippenham, Fordham, Kennett and Snailwell from Soham and Fordham Villages Division into the new Burwell Division.
2	Ely North	HC1, HD6, HF1, HF2, HG1, HJ6 AND HK1	To move some electors from HF1 register to HF2 register to align with the new parish warding arrangements
3	Ely South	HA6, HH1, HI1 & HI2	To move HA6, and HH1 from the Ely North and East Division into the new Ely South Division
4	Littleport	IE1, IF1 & IG1	To move those electors in IF1 from Dexter Lane, Guernsey Way, Highfield Drive, The Barn and three properties on Ely Road into IE1 Polling District to align with the parish ward arrangements agreed in 2003 but not implemented.
5	Soham North & Isleham	LF1 & LC1	As the LGBCE has created an additional parish ward for Soham Central, several residents previously on the LG1 Soham Central Register will now come under the LF1 Soham North Register.
6	Soham South & Haddenham	JA1, JB1, JD1, JF1, JH1, LG1, LG2, New Register LG3 and LJ1	The major changes for this division lie with the parish ward changes in Soham. As a new parish ward has been created for Soham Central a number of residents will need to be moved from the existing Soham Central Register to a new register to aid with the coterminous boundaries of the district and parish wards. We will also move some of those electors currently in LG1 into LG2 to tie in with the warding arrangements.
7	Sutton	IA1, IB1, ID1, JC1, JE1, JG1, JJ1 and JI1	To move the parishes of Wentworth and Witchford from the Haddenham Division into the new Sutton division
8	Woodditton	KA1, KC1, KE1, MA1, MB1, MC1, MD1, ME1, MF1, MG1, MH1, MI6, MJ1, MK1 and MK2	To move the parish of Swaffham Bulbeck from the Burwell division into the new Woodditton division.

The Tables: Existing polling district, polling places and polling stations and the returning officers proposals

Burwell

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
KB1	Burwell	Burwell Methodist Church x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district	2438	Yes
KB2	Burwell	The Gardiner Memorial Hall High Street x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district	2450	Yes
KD1	Reach	Reach Village Hall Fair Green Or any within the polling district	285	Yes
KE1	Swaffham Bulbeck	Downing Court Communal Room Or any within the polling district	662	Yes
KF1	Swaffham Prior	Swaffham Prior Village Hall High Street Or any within the polling district	638	Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposal				
<p>To take in those electors from Chippenham, Fordham, Kennett and Snailwell parishes from the old Soham and Fordham Villages division.</p> <p>To move those electors that fall within Swaffham Bulbeck parish from Burwell division to the new Woodditton division following the LGBCE's review.</p> <p>There are no proposed changes to registers or polling stations.</p> <p>This division will remain known as Burwell division..</p>				

Ely North and East

Existing Arrangements				
Polling Districts	Polling Places	Polling Stations	Electors	Disabled Access
HA6	Stuntney	Stuntney Social Club Soham Road. Or any within the polling district	210	Yes
HC1	Prickwillow	Prickwillow Village Hall Main Street. Or any within the polling district	409	Yes
HD6	Queen Adelaide	Queen Adelaide Village Hall Prickwillow Road. Or any within the polling district	182	Yes
HF1	Ely North	Ely Community Centre High Barns x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district.	3701	Yes
HF2	Ely North	Portacabin on Davison Road. Or any within the polling district	1584	Yes – with ramp
HG1	Ely East	St Peters Hall Broad Street Or any within the polling district	674	Yes
HH1	Ely East	The Forum Barton Road Or any within the polling district	764	Yes
HJ6	Chettisham	St Michael and All Angels Church Chettisham Or any within the polling district	115	Yes
HK1	Ely East	Vernon Cross Room The Old Gaol House Lynn Road Or any within the polling district	913	Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposal				
<p>To move HA6 and HH1 residents from the old Ely North and East division to the new Ely South division. Following the new parish ward arrangements that come into force for the divisional elections.</p> <p>There will be some residents who are currently in HF1 register that will need to be moved into HF2 register so that they are coterminous with the new district and parish ward boundaries.</p> <p>The electors who would need to be moved are from Allen Road, Longchamp Drive, Orford Close, Merival Way and parts of Kings Avenue.</p> <p>This division will now be called Ely North division</p>				

Ely South and West

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Places	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
HI1	Ely West	Ely Methodist Church Chapel Street x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district	3527	Yes
HI2	Ely South	Guide Hall St Johns Road x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district	3270	Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposals				
To take in those electors from HA6 and HH1 which have been moved from the old Ely North and East Division.				
There are no proposals to change any of the existing registers or polling stations. This division will now be called Ely South division				

Haddenham

Existing Arrangements				
Polling Districts	Polling Places	Polling Stations	Electors	Disabled Access
JA1	Haddenham	Arkenstall Centre Station Road x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district	2463	Yes
JB1	Aldreth	Aldreth Village Centre High Street Or any within the polling district	210	Yes
JD1	Stretham	Stretham Church Hall Or any within the polling district	1483	Yes
JF1	Thetford	Little Thetford Village Hall The Wyches Or any within the polling district	550	Yes
JG1	Wentworth	Wentworth Hall Church Road Or any within the polling district	135	Yes
JH1	Wilburton	St Peters Hall High Street Or any within the polling district	1116	Yes
JJ1	Witchford	St Andrews Hall Main Street x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district	364	Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposal				
<p>To move those electors in Haddenham, Aldreth, Stretham, Thetford, and Wilburton parishes into the newly formed Soham South and Haddenham Division.</p> <p>To move those electors in Wentworth and Witchford parishes into the new Sutton Division.</p>				

Littleport

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Places	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
IE1	Littleport	Vine Community Church Globe Lane x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district	2659	Yes
IF1	Littleport	Littleport Village Hall Victoria Street x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district	3839	Yes
IG1	Littleport	The Community Centre Black Horse Drove Or any within the polling district	137	Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposal				
<p>There was a boundary anomaly from the 2003 review where we will need to move electors from Dexter Lane, Guernsey Way, Highfield Drive, The Barn and three properties on Ely Road which are currently in the IF1 register and should have been in the IE1 register. These electors will be moved in this review to correct the anomaly.</p> <p>There are no proposals to make any further changes to the registers and none to change polling station venues.</p> <p>This division will remain known as Littleport division</p>				

Soham and Fordham Villages

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
LA1	Chippenham	Chippenham Village Hall High Street Or any within the polling district	401	Yes
LB1	Fordham	Victoria Hall Carter Street Or any within the polling district	2115	Yes
LC1	Isleham	The Beeches formerly Isleham Village Hall Mill Street Or any within the polling district	1878	Yes
LE1	Kennett	Kennett Pavilion Station Road Or any within the polling district	283	Yes
LI6	Snailwell	The Conservatory Room of The George & Dragon Public House Or any within the polling district	135	Yes
LF1	Soham North	Town Rangers Football Club Julius Martin Lane x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district	3959	Yes – with ramp
LG1	Soham Central	The Walter Gidney Pavilion Recreation Ground x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z Or any within the polling district	3095	Yes
LG2	Soham South	The Walter Gidney Pavillion Or any within the polling district	1626	Yes
LJ1	Wicken	The Mission Hall High Street Or any within the polling district	658	Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposal

To move those electors in Chippenham, Fordham, Kennett and Snailwell in to the new Burwell division.

To move those electors in LG1 Soham Central, LG2 Soham South and LJ1 Wicken into the new Soham South and Haddenham division.

To move electors in Cornwell Close who are currently in LG1 register known as Soham Central into the LF1 register known as Soham North to align with the new Soham parish wards boundaries and to be coterminous with the new district boundaries.

To move one property from LF1 register to LG1 Register, namely 24 Pratt Street.

We intend creating a new register in Soham called LG3 to take into account the new parish warding; these electors are currently in LG1 register.

Those electors are from Adelaide Close, Alfreda Court, Brewhouse Lane, Brook Dam Lane, Cedar Court, Church Hall Close, Churchgate Street, Clay Street, College Road, Cross Green, Dobede Way, East Fen Common, East Fen Drive, Eastern Avenue, Ennion Close, Fountain Lane, Frederick Talbot Close, Odds of Gardeners Lane, High Street, Hodson Close, Kents Lane, Lines Close, Lode Close, Market Street Mews, Market Street, Odds of Mill Corner, Mynott Mews, Paddock Street, Pratt Street, Ranthorne Mews, Red Lion Square, Regent Place, St Andrews Park, Staploe Mews, 1-63 Odds of Station Road, Thomas Mews and White Hart Lane.

We also intend moving some of the existing LG1 electors into LG2, again to be coterminous with the new parish warding.

These electors are from Angle Common, College Close, Frank Bridges Close, Gidney Lane, Mill Drove, Sand Street and The Causeway.

The remaining electors from LG1 are: Berrycroft, Fairfield Close, Evens of Gardeners Lane, Guntons Close, Harrison Court, Mereside, Evens of Mill Corner, Evens of Station Road, West Drive Crescent, West Drive Gardens and West Drive. This will form the parish ward called Soham Central.

The electors of LG1 and LG2 currently vote at Walter Gidney Pavilion and we see no reason for this to change.

We intend to make it easier for the electors whereby we will have one polling station within the Walter Gidney Pavilion building for each of the three registers. LG1, LG2 and the new LG3 register.

The LF1 Soham North register and the LC1 Isleham register will form the new division called Soham North and Isleham.

Those electors who are in JA1 Haddenham, JB1 Aldreth, JD1 Stretham, JF1 Little Thetford, JH1 Wilburton, LG1 Soham Central, LG2 Soham South, LG3 Soham South and LJ1 Wicken will form the new Soham South and Haddenham division.

Sutton

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
IA1	Coveney	Coveney Village Hall School Lane Or any within the polling district	324	Yes
IB1	Downham South	Little Downham Village Centre Main Street Or any within the polling district	1719	Yes
ID1	Downham North	Pymoor Methodist Church Main Street Or any within the polling district	346	Yes
JC1	Mepal	Mepal Village Hall School Lane Or any within the polling district	783	Yes
JE1	Sutton	The Royal British Legion Hall, The Brook x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z. Or any within the polling district	3108	Yes
JI1	Witcham	Witcham Village Hall Martins Lane Or any within the polling district	364	Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposals				
<p>To take in the parishes of Wentworth and Witchford from the old Haddenham division.</p> <p>There are no proposals to change any of the existing registers or polling stations.</p> <p>This division will remain known as Sutton division.</p>				

Woodditton

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
KA1	Bottisham	Royal British Legion Downing Close Or any within the polling district	1765	Yes
KC1	Lode	Fassage Hall Station Road Or any within the polling district	700	Yes
MA1	Ashley	Ashley Village Hall High Street Or any within the polling district	471	Yes
MB1	Brinkley	Brinkley Memorial Hall High Street Or any within the polling district	300	Yes
MC1	Burrough Green	Burrough Green Village Hall Bradley Road Or any within the polling district	320	Yes
MD1	Cheveley North	Newmarket Town Football Club Cricket Field Road Or any within the polling district	730	Yes
ME1	Cheveley South	Cheveley Primary School Community Room High Street Or any within the polling district	828	Yes
MF1	Dullingham	The Taylor Hall Church Close Or any within the polling district	611	Yes
MG1	Kirtling	Kirtling Village Hall Or any within the polling district	268	Yes
MH1	Stetchworth	Ellesmere Centre Ley Road Or any within the polling district	527	Yes
MI6	Westley Waterless	Westley Waterless Village Hall Main Street Or any within the polling district	128	Yes
MJ1	Woodditton Urban	Newmarket Town Football Club Cricket Field Road Or any within the polling district	854	Yes
MK1	Woodditton Rural	Parsonage Farm Barns Parsonage Farm Lane Or any within the polling district	259	Yes
MK2	Woodditton Rural	Methodist Church Saxon Street Or any within the polling district	246	Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposals				
<p>To take in those electors from Swaffham Bulbeck parish from the old Burwell division.</p> <p>There are no proposals to change any of the existing registers or polling stations within this division.</p> <p>The division will remain named as Woodditton division.</p>				

General Comments

Please note that we are aware of the following issue at our polling stations that do not fall within the remit of this review:

Gravel driveway/car park at Coveney is not ideal for people with mobility problems.

Mepal Village Hall car park needs some improvements to surface, i.e. potholes.

Access to polling station at Lode is poor, minimal parking for disabled electors, car park surface not good for anyone with mobility problems.