

**East Cambridgeshire District Council response to the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) consultation on initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries**

Introduction

On 13th September 2016 Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries. These proposals split East Cambridgeshire across three new constituencies. The majority of the district is in the new South East Cambridgeshire constituency along with Earith (Huntingdonshire), Balsham, Histon & Impington, Teversham, The Wilbrahams, Waterbeach and Willingham & Over from South Cambridgeshire. Downham Villages and Sutton form part of the new North East Cambridgeshire constituency with Fenland. Littleport is in the new South West Norfolk constituency with wards from Breckland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

Alternative constituency arrangement

The Council is proposing an alternative constituency arrangement which would enable Littleport to remain part of the North East Cambridgeshire constituency.

The deficit this creates in the new South West Norfolk constituency is made up by moving other Norfolk wards into it. The surplus electorate Littleport creates in North East Cambridgeshire is moved through the North West Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon constituencies and the Huntingdon ward Northill is moved into North East Bedfordshire which has a low enough electorate to absorb it (the BCE proposal includes three Huntingdonshire wards in the North East Hertfordshire constituency).

The Council believes this arrangement better reflects the statutory factors that the BCE may take into account in establishing a new map of constituencies, which include local government boundaries and local ties that would be broken by changes in constituency.

The Council's proposal reflects local government boundaries as Littleport remains in a constituency with other areas of Cambridgeshire and the Norfolk parliamentary constituencies are contained within the Norfolk county borders. It also follows the boundaries of the proposed Combined Authorities for these counties under Devolution.

Littleport has been part of the North East Cambridgeshire constituency since its creation in 1983 and as part Cambridgeshire County Council its community interests, identity and all local ties are with Cambridgeshire not Norfolk. All the public services Littleport resident's access for example schools, police, waste collection are all within Cambridgeshire.

This arrangement also reduces the number of constituencies in the eastern region that cross county boundaries to just one. This provides for effective and convenient government as it allows for the constituencies to be represented more effectively and there are also better links, in terms of public transport, within county boundaries than there are across them.

### The Council's proposal

Littleport East and Littleport West form part of the new North East Cambridgeshire constituency (28).

South West Norfolk (47) less Littleport East and Littleport West = 65,172. To increase the electorate to the required level:

- Take Bressingham & Burston and Bunwell from South Norfolk (43)  $(77,348 - 2,228 - 2,166) =$  South Norfolk (43) = 72,954 (-2.7%)
- Move Bressingham & Burston and Bunwell into Mid Norfolk (26)  $(72,791 + 2,228 + 2,166) = 77,185$ . Take Launditch and Lincoln from Mid Norfolk (26)  $(77,185 - 2,054 - 4,605) =$  Mid Norfolk (26) = 71,066 (-5%)
- Move Launditch and Lincoln into South West Norfolk (47)  $(65,172 + 2,054 + 4,605) =$  South West Norfolk (47) = 71,291 (-4.9%)

North East Cambridgeshire (28) + Littleport East and Littleport West = 81,779. To decrease the electorate to the required level:

- Take Slade Lode, Birch, Wenneye and The Mills from North East Cambridgeshire (28)  $(81,779 - 1,867 - 2,101 - 1,659 - 2,161) =$  North East Cambridgeshire (28) = 73,991 (-1.3%)
- Move Slade Lode, Birch, Wenneye and The Mills into North West Cambridgeshire (32)  $(78,279 + 1,867 + 2,101 + 1,659 + 2,161) =$  North West Cambridgeshire (32) = 86,067. Take Ellington and Sawtry from North West Cambridgeshire (32)  $(86,067 - 2,417 - 5,144) =$  North West Cambridgeshire (32) = 78,506 (5%)
- Move Ellington and Sawtry into Huntingdon (21)  $(77,715 + 2,417 - 5,144) =$  85,276. Take Kimbolton & Straughton and Brampton from Huntingdon (21)  $(85,276 - 2,485 - 4,460) =$  Huntingdon (21) = 78,331 (4.4%)
- Move Kimbolton & Straughton and Brampton into North East Bedfordshire (27)  $(74,198 + 2,485 + 4,460) =$  81,143. Take Northill from North East Bedfordshire (27)  $(81,143 - 3,453) =$  North East Bedfordshire (27) 77,690 (3.6%)

- Move Northill into Mid Bedfordshire (25)  $(71,365 + 3,453) = \text{Mid Bedfordshire (25)} = 74,818$  (-0.2%)

Or

- Take Doddington & Wimblington from North East Cambridgeshire (28)  $(81,779 - 3,568) = \text{North East Cambridgeshire (28)} = 78,221$  (4.3%)
- Move Doddington & Wimblington into North West Cambridgeshire (32)  $78,279 + 3,568 = 81,847$ . Take Ellington and Upwood & The Raveleys from North West Cambridgeshire (32)  $(81,847 - 2,417 - 2,418) = \text{North West Cambridgeshire (32)} = 77,012$  (2.7%)
- Move Ellington and Upwood & The Raveleys into Huntingdon (21)  $(77,715 + 2,417 - 2,418) = 82,550$ . Take Kimbolton & Straughton and Brampton from Huntingdon (21)  $(82,550 - 2,485 - 4,460) = \text{Huntingdon (21)} = 75,605$  (1%)
- Move Kimbolton & Straughton and Brampton into North East Bedfordshire (27)  $= 74,198 + 2,485 + 4,460 = 81,143$ . Take Northill from North East Bedfordshire (27)  $(81,143 - 3,453) = \text{North East Bedfordshire (27)} = 77,690$  (3.6%)
- Move Northill into Mid Bedfordshire (25)  $(71,365 + 3,453) = \text{Mid Bedfordshire (25)} = 74,818$  (-0.2%)