

East Cambridgeshire District Council response to the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) consultation on the revised 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.

On 17 October 2017 the BCE published revised proposals. Although changes were made to the South East Cambridgeshire constituency (Milton has been moved from the South Cambridgeshire constituency into the South East Cambridgeshire constituency and Teversham moved in the opposite direction to bring the electorate of both constituencies within the permitted range), the boundaries affecting East Cambridgeshire are unchanged from the initial proposals.

The name of the proposed South West Norfolk constituency has been changed to Thetford and Downham Market.

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 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 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).

Move Roman Bank from (30) North East Cambridgeshire to (34) North West Norfolk and Priory and West Winch from (34) North West Norfolk to (51) Thetford and Downham Market to compensate for loss of Littleport from (51) Thetford and Downham Market.

(30) - Roman Bank + Littleport = 75,727 - 5,146 + 6,052 = 76,633 = +2.5% variance.

(34) + Roman Bank – Priory and West Winch (both to 51) = 77,951 – 2,035 – 3,851 = 72,065 = -4% variance.

(51) - Littleport + Priory and West Winch = 65,172 + 2,035 + 3,851 = 71,058 = -5% variance.