

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: Ends 16 April 2018

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 District Ward and Parish boundaries for the 2019 district and parish elections.

In 2017, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published its review on the electoral arrangements for East Cambridgeshire District Council. The proposals set out a council size of 28 and ward pattern to accommodate this number of Councillors.

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 12 July 2018

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 – 23 February 2018

Council publishes the Returning Officer's proposals - 23 February 2018

Consultation on this proposal ends on – 16 April 2018

Report to Full Council – 12 July 2018

Adoption by Council – 13 July 2018

Arrangements come into force at the publication

of the next revised Register of Electors – 1 December 2018

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 Team Leader
The Grange
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elections@eastcambs.gov.uk or joan.cox@eastcambs.gov.uk

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 7,100, in an electorate of 65,200) 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 District Ward is dealt with separately. The tables show the existing polling arrangements in each ward;

- 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 8 June 2017 (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

District Wards – The division of the district into areas for the purpose of electing councillors to represent its different parts. The district of East Cambridgeshire is divided into 14 district wards, but the wards 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	Ward	Polling District Affected	Proposal
1	Bottisham	KA1, KC1, KD1, KE1, KF1, MB1 and MI6	To move the old Swaffhams ward into the new Bottisham ward and to move the parish of Burrough Green from the old Bottisham ward into the newly formed Woodditton ward.
2	Burwell	KB1 and KB2	No Change to the existing ward.
3	Downham Villages	IA1, IB1 and ID1	To move the parishes of Mepal and Witcham into the new Sutton Ward. <i>To move the parish boundary between Ely, Little Downham and Witchford and to include those electors and properties known as Hurst Farm, Hurst Lodge, Maple Lodge, Maple Farm and The Isle of Ely Veterinary Practices from Little Downham parish to Ely West Parish. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i>
4	Ely East	HA6, HG1, HF1 and HK1	To move HC1 and HD6, from the old Ely East ward into the new Ely North ward. To move HH1 from the old Ely East ward into the new Ely West ward. To move HF1 from the old Ely North ward into the new Ely East Ward. To move the residents of Carey Close and 102-164 Kings Avenue from HF1 to HF2 as part of the LGBCE's final recommendations.
5	Ely North	HC1, HD6, HF2 and HJ6	To move HC1 and HD6, from the old Ely East ward into the new Ely North ward. To move HF1 from the old Ely North ward into the new Ely East Ward. To move the residents of Carey Close and 102-164 Kings Avenue from HF1 to HF2 as part of the LGBCE's final recommendations.
6	Ely West	HH1, HI1 & HI2	To merge the old Ely South ward and the old Ely West ward, and to move HH1 from the old Ely East ward to form the new Ely West ward. <i>To move the parish boundary to the north side of Lancaster Cottage to place it into the Witchford parish. At present it is in Ely parish but it is listed in the Witchford register and the electors currently vote at Witchford (Area 8) subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i> <i>To move the parish boundary between Witchford and Ely to include the land north east of Witchford village</i>

			<p>between the houses at the east end of Ely Road and the A142/Lancaster Way Business Park roundabout into Witchford parish and to move those electors in Alderforth Farm and Meadowsweet into JJ1 register from HI2 register(Area 1). Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order</p> <p>To move the parish boundary between Ely, Little Downham and Witchford and to include those electors and properties known as Hurst Farm, Hurst Lodge, Maple Lodge, Maple Farm and the Isle of Ely Veterinary practices from Little Downham parish to Ely West Parish. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</p> <p>To move the parish boundary from the north side of Lancaster Cottage up to the Lancaster Way Business Park roundabout and down to Bedwell Hey Lane. Known as Witchford 7 (Green wedge) on the Council's local plan documents and Area 9 on the map, into Witchford parish Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</p>
7	Fordham & Isleham	LA1, LB1, LE1, LI6 and LC1	To merge the old Fordham Villages ward and the old Isleham ward to form the new Fordham and Isleham ward.
8	Haddenham	JA1 and JB1	<p>To move the parish of Wentworth to the new Sutton ward and to move the parish of Witchford to the new Stretham ward.</p> <p>To move the parish boundary between Haddenham and Sutton around Hermitage Farm and place it in the Haddenham parish. At present it is in the Sutton parish but it is listed in the Haddenham register and the electors currently vote in Haddenham, subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</p>
9	Littleport	IE1, IF1 & IG1	To merge the old Littleport East and Littleport West wards to form the new Littleport ward.
10	Soham North	LF1, LG1	To move LG1 from the old Soham South ward to the new Soham North ward. To move the residents of Clay Street, odds 83 -101 and Evens 78 - 100, Mill Corner 21-83, Pratt Street odds 1-51, and all of Thomas Mews from LG3 to LG1 following the LGBCEs final recommendations.

11	Soham South	LG2, LG3 and LJ1	To move LG1 from the old Soham South ward to the new Soham North ward. . To move the residents of Clay Street, odds 83 -101 and Evens 78 - 100, Mill Corner 21-83, Pratt Street odds 1-51, and all of Thomas Mews from LG3 to LG1 following the LGBCEs final recommendations.
12	Stretham	JD1, JF1, JH1 and JJ1	<p>To move the parish of Witchford from the old Haddenham ward to the new Stretham ward.</p> <p><i>To move the residents of Bedwell Hey Park that currently vote in Wilburton parish to Witchford parish (Area 3) subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p><i>To move the residents of Sutton Road 2-38 evens, that currently vote in Wentworth parish to Witchford parish (Area 6) subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary to the south side of Boundary Farm to place Boundary Farm into Witchford parish at present it is in Wentworth parish but they are listed on the Witchford register and the electors currently vote at Witchford (Area 5), subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order</i></p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary to the north side of Lancaster Cottage to place it in Witchford parish. At present it is in Ely parish but it is listed in the Witchford register and the electors currently vote at Witchford, as Area 8 on the map [added for the sake of clarity] subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary from the north side of Lancaster Cottage up to the Lancaster Way Business Park roundabout and down to Bedwell Hey Lane. Known as Witchford 7 (Green wedge) on the Council's local plan documents and Area 9 on the map, into Witchford parish. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary between Witchford and Ely to include the land north east of Witchford village</i></p>

			<p>between the houses at the east end of Ely Road and the A142/Lancaster Way Business Park roundabout into Witchford parish and to move those electors in Alderforth Farm and Meadowsweet into the JJ1 register from HI2 register. Identified as Area 1 on the Witchford map [as requested by Witchford Parish council] Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order</p> <p>To move the parish boundary between Wilburton and Witchford for those electors on Grunty Fen Road, south of the village leading to the Grunty Fen Catchwater drain who currently vote in Wilburton and move them back into Witchford parish identified as Area 4 on the map [added for the sake of clarity] Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</p> <p>To move the parish boundary between Wilburton and Witchford for the parcel of land adjacent to Grunty Fen Catchwater drain to Little Thetford parish boundary and any electors and the property known as Kermuel into Witchford parish, identified as Area 2 on the map[added for the sake of clarity] Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</p> <p>To move the parish boundary between Wilburton and Wentworth, north of Pools Road around the properties on Church Road known as No 6, 3 & 3A, Fen View, The Willows, Fairwinds and Nos 1 to 8 Staple Field and any electors. The electors currently vote in Wilburton and it is proposed they will now vote in Wentworth. [Request received from Councillor Hunt] Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</p> <p>To move the parish boundary between Wentworth and Witchford to include the land between Marrow Way Lane Witchford and the A142 into Witchford parish identified as Area 7 on the map [added for the sake of clarity] Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order</p>
13	Sutton	JC1, JE1, JG1 and JI1	To move the parishes of Mepal and Witcham from the old Downham

			<p>Villages ward and to move the parish of Wentworth from the old Haddenham ward to the new Sutton ward.</p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary between Haddenham and Sutton around Hermitage Farm and place it in the Haddenham parish. At present it is in the Sutton parish but it is listed in the Haddenham register and the electors currently vote in Haddenham. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary between Sutton and Mepal to include the land known as MEP.H1 in the Council's local plan document into Mepal parish. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary to incorporate the houses at White Gate Farm and associated land from Sutton parish to Mepal parish [at the request of Sutton parish council and the agreement of both parish councils.]Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary around the property known as Amberlea Country Kennels and the associated land and any electors from Witcham parish into Sutton parish. [Request was received from Sutton Parish council] Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary between Wentworth and Witchford to include the land between Marrow Way Lane Witchford and the A142 into Witchford parish identified as Area 7 on the map [added for the sake of clarity] Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary between Wilburton and Wentworth, north of Pools Road around the properties on Church Road known as No 6, 3 & 3A, Fen View, The Willows, Fairwinds and Nos 1 to 8 Staple Field and any electors. The electors currently vote in Wilburton and it is proposed they will now vote in Wentworth. [Request</i></p>
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			<i>received from Councillor Hunt] Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i>
14	Woodditton	MA1, MC1, MD1, ME1, MF1, MG1, MH1, MJ1, MK1 and MK2.	To merge the old Cheveley Ward and the old Dullingham Villages ward to form the newly created Woodditton ward. To move the parish of Burrough Green from the old Bottisham ward into the newly formed Woodditton ward.

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

Bottisham

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
KA1	Bottisham	Royal British Legion Downing Close		Yes
KC1	Lode	Fassage Hall Station Road		Yes
MB1	Brinkley	Brinkley Memorial Hall High Street		Yes
MC1	Burrough Green	Burrough Green Village Hall Bradley Road		Yes
MI6	Westley Waterless	Westley Waterless Village Hall Main Street		Yes
Returning Officer's Proposals				
<p>To move those electors from Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior from the old 'Swaffhams' ward into the new Bottisham ward.</p> <p>To move those electors that fall within Burrough Green parish from the old Bottisham ward to the newly formed Woodditton ward.</p> <p>There are no proposed changes to registers or polling stations.</p>				
General Comments				
<p>We are aware of vehicular access issues to polling station at Lode, i.e. there is minimal parking for disabled electors, car park surface not good for anyone with mobility problems.</p>				

Burwell

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
KB1	Burwell	Burwell Baptist Church x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z.		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.		Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposal				
<p>There are no proposed changes to registers or polling stations.</p>				
General Comments				

Cheveley

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
MA1	Ashley	Ashley Village Hall High Street		Yes
MD1	Cheveley North	Newmarket Town Football Club Cricket Field Road		Yes
ME1	Cheveley South	Cheveley Primary School Community Room High Street		Yes
MG1	Kirtling	Kirtling Village Hall		Yes
MJ1	Woodditton Urban	Newmarket Town Football Club Cricket Field Road		Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposal				
<p>To move those electors from Ashley, Cheveley North, Cheveley South, Kirtling and Woodditton Urban from the old Cheveley Ward into the newly formed Woodditton Ward.</p> <p>There are no proposed changes to registers or polling stations</p>				
General Comments				

Downham

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Places	Polling Stations	Electors	Disabled Access
IA1	Coveney	Coveney Village Hall School Lane		Yes
IB1	Downham South	Little Downham Village Centre Main Street		Yes
ID1	Downham North	Pymoor Methodist Church Main Street		Yes
JC1	Mepal	Mepal Village Hall School Lane		Yes
Jl1	Witcham	Witcham Village Hall Martins Lane		Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposal				
<p>To move those electors that fall within the parishes of Mepal and Witcham from the old Downham Villages ward into the new Sutton ward.</p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary between Ely, Little Downham and Witchford and to include those electors and properties known as Hurst Farm, Hurst Lodge, Maple Lodge, Maple Farm and the Isle of Ely Veterinary practice from Little Downham parish to Ely West parish. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p><i>To move the parish boundary around the property known as Amberlea Country Kennels and the associated land and any electors from Witcham parish into Sutton parish [Request was received from Sutton parish council] subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.</i></p> <p>There are no proposed changes to polling stations.</p>				

General Comments

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.

Dullingham Villages

Existing Arrangements				
Polling Districts	Polling Places	Polling Stations	Electors	Disabled Access
MF1	Dullingham	The Taylor Hall Church Close		Yes
MH1	Stetchworth	Ellesmere Centre Ley Road		Yes
MK1	Woodditton Rural	Parsonage Farm Barns Parsonage Farm Lane		Yes
MK2	Woodditton Rural	Methodist Church Saxon Street		Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposal				
To move those electors in Dullingham, Stetchworth, MK1 and MK2 Woodditton Rural areas from the old Dullingham ward into the newly formed Woodditton ward.				
There are no proposed changes to registers or polling stations				
General Comments				

Ely East

Existing Arrangements				
Polling Districts	Polling Places	Polling Stations	Electors	Disabled Access
HA6	Stuntney	Stuntney Social Club Soham Road		Yes
HC1	Prickwillow	Prickwillow Village Hall Main Street		Yes
HD6	Queen Adelaide	Queen Adelaide Village Hall Prickwillow Road		Yes
HG1	Ely East	St Peters Hall Broad Street		Yes
HH1	Ely East	The Forum Barton Road		Yes
HK1	Ely East	Vernon Cross Room, The Old Gaol House, Lynn Road		Yes
The Returning Officer's Proposal				
To move those electors in HH1 from the old Ely East ward into the new Ely West ward.				
To move those electors in HC1 and HD6 from the old Ely East ward into the new Ely North ward.				
To move those electors in HF1 from the old Ely North ward into the new Ely East ward.				
To move those electors of Carey Close and 102-164 Kings Avenue from the HF1 polling district to HF2 as part of the LGBCE's final recommendations.				
To consider the use of either Bell Holt Community Room or the old Magistrates Court in HK1 polling district on a temporary basis whilst the Vernon Cross room is				

undergoing refurbishment works. There are no other proposed changes to polling stations

General Comments

Ely North

Existing Arrangements

Polling Districts	Polling Places	Polling Stations	Electors	Disabled Access
HF1	Ely North	Larkfield Resource Centre High Barns x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z.		Yes
HF2	Ely North	The Conference Room, Princess of Wales Hospital, x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z.		Yes – with ramp
HJ6	Chettisham	St Michael and All Angels Church Chettisham		Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposals

To use St Michael and All Angels Church in Chettisham with the use of portable toilet facilities to retain a polling place in Chettisham village.

To move those electors in HC1 and HD6 from the old Ely East ward into the new Ely North ward.

To move those electors in HF1 from the old Ely North ward into the new Ely East ward.

To move those electors of Carey Close and 102-164 Kings Avenue from the HF1 polling district to HF2 as part of the LGBCE's final recommendations.

There are no proposed changes to polling stations.

General Comments

Ely South

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Places	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
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.		Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposals

To move those electors in HI2 from the old Ely South ward into the new Ely West ward.

To move the parish boundary to the north side of the property called Lancaster Cottage to place into the Witchford parish. At present it is in Ely parish but it is listed in the Witchford register and the electors currently vote in Witchford. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move the parish boundary between Witchford and Ely to include the land north east of Witchford village between the houses at the east end of Ely Road and the A142/Lancaster Way Business Park roundabout into Witchford parish and to move those electors in Alderforth Farm and Meadowsweet into JJ1 register from HI2 register. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order

To move the parish boundary from the north side of Lancaster Cottage up to the Lancaster Way Business Park roundabout and down to Bedwell Hey Lane. Known as Witchford 7 (Green wedge) on the Council's local plan documents and Area 9 on the map, into Witchford parish. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

There are no proposed changes to polling stations

General Comments

Ely West

Existing Arrangements				
Polling Districts	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.		Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposal

To move those electors in HI2 from the old Ely South ward into the new Ely West ward.

To move the parish boundary between Ely, Little Downham and Witchford and to include those electors and properties known as Hurst Farm, Hurst Lodge, Maple Lodge, Maple Farm and the Isle of Ely Veterinary practice from Little Downham parish to Ely West parish. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order

There are no proposed changes to polling stations

General Comments

Fordham Villages

Existing Arrangements				
Polling Districts	Polling Places	Polling Stations	Electors	Disabled Access
LA1	Chippenham	Chippenham Village Hall High Street		Yes
LB1	Fordham	Victoria Hall Carter Street		Yes
LE1	Kennett	Kennett Pavilion Station Road		Yes
LI6	Snailwell	The Conservatory Room of The George & Dragon Public House		Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposal

To move those electors that fall within the parishes of Chippenham, Fordham, Kennett and Snailwell from the old Fordham Villages ward together with the electors that fall within the Isleham parish from the old Isleham ward to form the new Fordham and Isleham ward.

There are no proposed changes to registers or polling stations

General Comments

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.		Yes
JB1	Aldreth	Aldreth Village Centre High Street		Yes
JG1	Wentworth	Wentworth Hall Church Road		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.		Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposal

To move those electors in the parish of Wentworth from the old Haddenham ward into the new Sutton ward.

To move those electors in the parish of Witchford from the old Haddenham ward into the new Stretham ward.

To move the parish boundary between Haddenham and Sutton around Hermitage Farm and place it in the Haddenham parish. At present it is in the Sutton parish but is listed in the Haddenham register and the electors currently vote in Haddenham, subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move the parish boundary to the north side of Lancaster Cottage to place into the Witchford parish. At present it is in Ely parish but it is listed in the Witchford register and the electors currently vote in Witchford, subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move the parish boundary and those electors of Sutton Road 2-24 evens, that currently vote in Wentworth parish to Witchford parish subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move the parish boundary between Witchford and Ely to include the land north east of Witchford village between the houses at the east end of Ely Road and the A142/Lancaster Way Business Park roundabout into Witchford parish and to move those electors in Alderforth Farm and Meadowsweet into JJ1 register from HI2 register. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move the electors from Bedwell Hey Park that currently vote in Wilburton parish to Witchford parish subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move the parish boundary to the South side of Boundary Farm into Witchford parish, at present it is in the Wentworth parish but they are listed in the Witchford register and the electors currently vote at Witchford, subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move the parish boundary from the north side of Lancaster Cottage up to the Lancaster Way Business Park roundabout and down to Bedwell Hey Lane. Known as Witchford 7 (Green wedge) on the Council's local plan documents and Area 9 on the map, into Witchford parish. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

There are no proposed changes to polling stations

General Comments

Isleham

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Places	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
LC1	Isleham	The Beeches, 32 Mill Street		Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposal

To move those electors from the parish of Isleham into the new Fordham and Isleham ward.

There are no proposed changes to registers or polling stations

General Comments

Littleport East

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Places	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
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.		Yes
IG1	Littleport	The Community Centre Black Horse Drove		Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposal

To move those electors in IF1 and IG1 from the old Littleport East ward into the newly formed Littleport ward.

There are no proposed changes to registers or polling stations

General Comments

Littleport West

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
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IE1	Littleport	The Vine Community Rooms, Globe Lane, x2 stations, one station deals with addresses from streets A-K and the second deals with addresses from streets L-Z.		Yes
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The Returning Officer's Proposal

To move those electors in IE1 from the old Littleport West ward into the newly formed Littleport ward.

There are no proposed changes to registers or polling stations

General Comments

In 2017 we received a comment from a resident asking why we used The Vine as a polling station and would it not be more considerate to consider to source a secular and neutral venue as a polling station. Other areas have been considered in the past but at present there is not a suitable alternative venue to use.

Soham North

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
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.		Yes – with ramp

The Returning Officer's Proposal

To move those electors in LG1 from the old Soham South ward to the new Soham North ward.

To move those electors of Clay Street odds 83-101 and Evens 78-100, Mill Corner 21-83, Pratt Street odds to 1-51, and all of Thomas Mews from LG3 to LG1 following the LGBCE's final recommendations.

There are no proposed changes to polling stations

General Comments

Soham South

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
LG1/LG3	Soham Central	The Walter Gidney Pavilion Recreation Ground x2 stations, 1 station covers LG1 and the other Station covers LG3		Yes
LG2	Soham South	The Walter Gidney Pavilion		Yes
LJ1	Wicken	The Mission Hall High Street		Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposals

To move those electors in LG1 from the old Soham South ward to the new Soham North ward.

To move those electors of Clay Street odds 83-101 and Evens 78-100, Mill Corner 21-83, Pratt Street odds to 1-51, and all of Thomas Mews from LG3 to LG1 following

the LGBCE's final recommendations

There are no proposed changes to polling stations

General Comments

Stretham

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
JD1	Stretham	Stretham Church Hall		Yes
JF1	Thetford	Little Thetford Village Hall The Wyches		Yes
JH1	Wilburton	St Peters Hall High Street		Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposal

To move those electors from the parish of Witchford from the old Haddenham ward to the new Stretham ward.

To move the electors from Bedwell Hey Park that currently vote in Wilburton parish to Witchford parish subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move those electors of Sutton Road 2-24 evens, that currently vote in Wentworth parish to Witchford parish subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move the parish boundary to the north side of Lancaster Cottage and place it in Witchford parish, at present it is in Ely parish but it is listed in the Witchford register and the electors currently vote at Witchford, subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move the parish boundary to the South side of Boundary Farm into Witchford parish, at present it is in the Wentworth parish but they are listed in the Witchford register and the electors currently vote at Witchford, subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

To move the parish boundary between Witchford and Ely to include the land north east of Witchford village between the houses at the east end of Ely Road and the A142/Lancaster Way Business Park roundabout into Witchford parish and to move those electors in Alderforth Farm and Meadowsweet into JJ1 register from HI2 register. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order

To move the parish boundary from the north side of Lancaster Cottage up to the Lancaster Way Business Park roundabout and down to Bedwell Hey Lane. Known as Witchford 7 (Green wedge) on the Council's local plan documents and Area 9 on the map, into Witchford parish. Subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

There are no proposed changes to polling stations

General Comments

Sutton

Existing Arrangements

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
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JE1	Sutton	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.		Yes
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The Returning Officer's Proposals

To move those electors from the parishes of Mepal and Witcham from the old Downham Villages ward to the new Sutton ward
 To move those electors from the parish of Wentworth from the old Haddenham ward to the new Sutton Ward.
 To move the parish boundary between Haddenham and Sutton around Hermitage Farm and place it in the Haddenham parish. At present it is in the Sutton parish but is listed in the Haddenham register and the electors currently vote in Haddenham, subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order
 To move those electors of Sutton Road 2-24 evens, that currently vote in Wentworth parish to Witchford parish subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.
 To move the parish boundary to the South side of Boundary Farm into Witchford parish, at present it is in the Wentworth parish but they are listed in the Witchford register and the electors currently vote at Witchford, subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.
 To move the parish boundary around the property known as Amberlea Country Kennels and the associated land and any electors from Witcham parish into Sutton parish [Request was received from Sutton parish council] subject to the approval of the Community Governance Review Order.

There are no proposed changes to polling stations

General Comments

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

The Swaffhams

Existing Arrangements				
Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station	Electors	Disabled Access
KD1	Reach	Reach Village Hall Fair Green		Yes
KE1	Swaffham Bulbeck	Downing Court Communal Room		Yes
KF1	Swaffham Prior	Swaffham Prior Village Hall High Street		Yes

The Returning Officer's Proposals

To move those electors in the parishes of Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior from the old Swaffhams ward to the new Bottisham ward.

There are no proposed changes to registers or polling stations

General Comments

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.

Vehicular access issues to polling station at Lode i.e. minimal parking for disabled electors, car park surface not good for anyone with mobility problems.

In 2017 we received a comment from a resident asking why we used The Vine as a polling station and would it not be more considerate to consider to source a secular and neutral venue as a polling station. Other areas have been considered in the past but at present there is not a suitable alternative venue to use.

We have received two comments for this review, one was from a member of public on the consultation register who would like to support the Returning Officers proposals on polling districts, places and stations as these appear logical, reasonable and practicable. They believe these meet the requirements and needs of the electors, particularly in view of the availability of a well organised postal voting option. The second response was from the Access Group and is attached at Appendix 1 – see note regarding repairs to Mepal Village Hall.

Comment on ECDC Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

I write on behalf of The East Cambridgeshire Access Group. Thank you for sending us a copy of the Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations which I have read; the group also discussed the document with a member of the Electoral Services Team of East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC).

We would make the following comments:

- Having spoken to contacts and members who vote in a selection of polling places throughout the district we have had no reports of access problems.
- I made a site visit to Mepal Village Hall to view the car park surface and was pleased to see re-surfacing taking place.
- A member made a site visit to Fassage Hall, Lode. She spoke to voters there and agrees that parking for those with restricted mobility is not ideal; however as there are no alternative venues, having a polling station within the village for the convenience of the majority of voters made sense, bearing in mind other methods of voting are available.
- We agree the gravel car park surface at Coveney Village Hall is also not ideal but as above, there are no alternative sites in the village.
- Installing a temporary WC at the Chettisham Polling Station is a sensible solution.

We would further like to make comment on the provision made to assist voters:

- There is well advertised opportunity to vote by post or proxy.
- Step free access is ensured at all Polling Stations.
- Aids are provided to assist voters in accessible polling booths.
- Staff training is carried out to ensure they can assist voters when needed.
- Seating is provided in case of queuing.

Taking into account the above comments, we consider the Electoral Services Department of ECDC have made reasonable adjustments and provision to accommodate those with disabilities, enabling them to have access to the democratic process.

Thank you for your hard work ensuring access to this service.

Victoria Holden
East Cambridgeshire Access Group.
13/3/2018