

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Final Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Authority area. This is an exercise where the parish electoral arrangements across the whole area are reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate and relevant.

In undertaking the review, the council will be guided by Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972, Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010, and the following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the Review: Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils)(England) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/625): Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/626). (The 2007 Act has transferred powers to principal councils which previously, under the Local Government Act 1997, had been shared with the Electoral Commission's Boundary Committee for England.)

The Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government published in April 2008 has also been carefully considered.

Why has the council undertaken the review?

The Council is undertaking a Review at this time because a period of 10 years has elapsed since the last one which was carried out in 2002. This is in line with government guidance that it is good practice to conduct a Review every 10-15 years.

What is a Community Governance Review?

A Community Governance Review is a review of the whole or part of the borough area to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes

Parish governance in the Hinckley and Bosworth area

The council believes that parish councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at the local level and wants to ensure that parish governance in our borough continues to be robust, representative and enabled to meet the challenges that lie before it. Furthermore, it wants to ensure that there is clarity and transparency to the area that parish councils represent and that the electoral arrangements of parishes – the warding arrangements and the allocations of councillors – are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by their electorate.

Who undertakes the review?

As a principal authority, the borough council is responsible for conducting the review.

Full Council will approve the final recommendations before a Community Governance Order is made.

CONSULTATION

How the council conducted the consultation during the review

In coming to its recommendations in the review, the council has taken account of the views of local people. The Act requires the council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review and to take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007¹

¹ S.93, LG&PIHA 2007

As set out in the council's Communication and Engagement Strategy "We will put the results of consultation in front of those who need them, helping them to respond appropriately to the issues raised and to use the data to make informed decisions. We will make sure that the key messages are communicated in clear, unambiguous ways and ensure clarity of understanding on the part of our audiences."

The council wrote to all parish councils, both when inviting initial submissions and when seeking views on the draft recommendations. The council also used information from the Local Land and Property Gazetteer as the source of properties in the area.

The council identified other stakeholders it felt may have an interest in the Review and invited comments from any other person or body who wished to make a representation. Any such person that made representation during the initial invitation to submit proposals was invited to make comments in respect of the draft recommendations.

The council intends to clearly publish all decisions taken in the review and the reasons for taking those decisions and will work to meet the Government's expectation in undertaking the review that "Community Governance Reviews should be conducted transparently so that local people and other local stakeholders who may have an interest are made aware of the outcome of the decisions taken on them and the reasons behind these decisions".

In accordance with the act, representations received in connection with the review will be taken into account, and steps will be taken to notify consultees of the outcome of the review, by publishing them on the council's website at www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk, through general press releases and placing key documents on deposit in reception at the Council Offices in Argents Mead, Hinckley, LE10 1BZ.

A timetable for the review

Publication of the terms of reference formally begins the review, which must be completed within twelve months of this publication date.

The table which follows details the timescales for the review

Action	Timetable	Date
Publish Terms of Reference		20/04/12
(Start of Review)		(following approval
		by Council)
Stage 1 – initial submissions are invited	3 months	20/04/12 - 20/07/12
Stage 2		
- consider stage 1 submissions received	2 months	23/07/12 - 21/09/12
- prepare draft recommendations		
Stage 3		September
- publish draft recommendations		2012
		(following approval
		by Executive)
- draft recommendations consultation	3 months	24/09/12 - 28/12/12
Stage 4		
- consider stage 3 submissions received	2 months	31/12/12 – 31/01/13
- prepare final recommendations		
Final recommendations put to council for		
approval and published		21/02/13
(Conclusion of review)		
Reorganisation order made	Thereafter	By end March 2013

Consideration of submissions

The Community Governance Review working group met on 09 January 2013 to consider the submissions received from the second round (Stage 3) consultation.

- The purpose of the meeting was to review the submissions received during the second round consultation and agree the final recommendations to be put forward for approval by full Council
- A report summarising the submissions had been circulated prior to the meeting

Final Recommendations

1. Bagworth & Thornton

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
BAGWORTH	BAGWORTH	4	1112	278	8	247				
& THORNTON	THORNTON	4	868	217						

Following and in response to the initial consultation the following draft recommendations were made:

- That the parish be split into two parishes using the current ward boundaries
- That there should be 6 seats for Bagworth and 5 seats for Thornton

It was agreed that each elector in the existing parish would be sent a consultation letter to establish whether or not the community as a whole were in favour of this change.

Unfortunately, there was an extremely low response to the directed consultation 1955 consultation forms had been issued but only 313 responses had been returned. In total 125 supported the split and 167 were against. However, the response from Bagworth indicated that more were in favour of the split than against (68 for, 58 against) whereas from Thornton, more were against than in favour (57 for, 109 against).

The matter of how non-responses should be taken into consideration was discussed at length by the community governance review working group, as a number of complaints had been received due to the indication on the consultation letter that a non-response would indicate agreement with the draft recommendations. It was noted that this is standard and accepted practice generally in any consultation process and had been used in an attempt to increase

the response rate. The working group members were also mindful that this was a consultation, not a vote, and that comments received as part of the consultation and the proportion of responses received should be looked at together as a whole. It was accepted by the group that usually a high non-response would generally mean that people are happy with the way things are. It was also noted that the working group expected to receive a far higher response to the second round consultation resulting in a clear indication of the wishes of the community and that this was the intention of the wording in the letter to residents.

The group discussed whether any other additional form of assessment could be carried out within the timescales allowed for this Community Governance Review, which could achieve a clearer indication of the wishes of the community. A number of options were considered. However, it was concluded that, as there had been little interest shown in the second round consultation and also towards the public meetings held by the Parish Council in both Bagworth and Thornton, any other form of consultation was likely to have similar results. The group was concerned also about the strict timescales for the completion of the review

The working group tried to identify clear reasons for splitting the parish. They could not find any compelling argument within the comments received from those supporting the split identifying significant benefits a split would bring to either Bagworth or Thornton. Furthermore, the number of responses did not reveal a clear mandate to make changes.

Final Recommendation:

The electoral arrangements for Bagworth & Thornton should remain as they currently are, that is: with a single Parish Council serving both Bagworth & Thornton jointly. The number of ward seats to remain as 4 seats for Bagworth ward and 4 seats for Thornton ward.

2. Barlestone

	Current arrangements								
PARISH	PARISH	SH WARD WARD		RATIO OF	TOTAL	RATIO OF			
	WARD	WARD SEATS ELECTORATE		WARD	PARISH	ELECTORS			
			1 DECEMBER	ELECTORS	SEATS	TO SEATS			
			2011	TO WARD					
				SEATS					
BARLESTONE	N/A	8	1996	249	8	249			

No submissions were received during either consultation and no other issues have been identified by the working group

3. Barwell

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
	REDHALL	2	1129	564						
BARWELL	ST MARY'S	6	3664	610	12	602				
	CHARNWOOD	4	2439	609						

Following and in response to the initial consultation the following draft recommendations were made:

- That the current boundaries remain unchanged, but that they be reviewed during and after completion of expected significant housing development
- That the use of Barwell Scout Hut should continue and that the Jubilee Hall be included on the list of possible alternative polling stations until the next polling place review.
- That the names of St.Mary's ward and Charnwood ward be swapped and therefore corrected

No further submissions were received during the second round consultation and no other issues were identified by the working group

<u>Final Recommendation:</u> As per draft recommendations

4. Burbage

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
	ST. CATHERINES STRETTON	3	1766 2653	588 663						
BURBAGE	SKETCHLEY	4	2102	525	20	597				
	TILTON	4	2482	620						
	LASH HILL	5	2940	588						

Following the initial consultation the following draft recommendations were made:

No changes to the existing arrangements

No further submissions were received during the second round consultation and no other issues were identified by the working group

Final Recommendation: As per draft recommendations

5. Market Bosworth and Cadeby

	Current arrangements								
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS			
MARKET BOSWORTH	N/A	8	1755	219	8	219			

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
CADEBY	N/A	5	146	29	5	29				

Following and in response to the initial consultation the following draft recommendations were made:

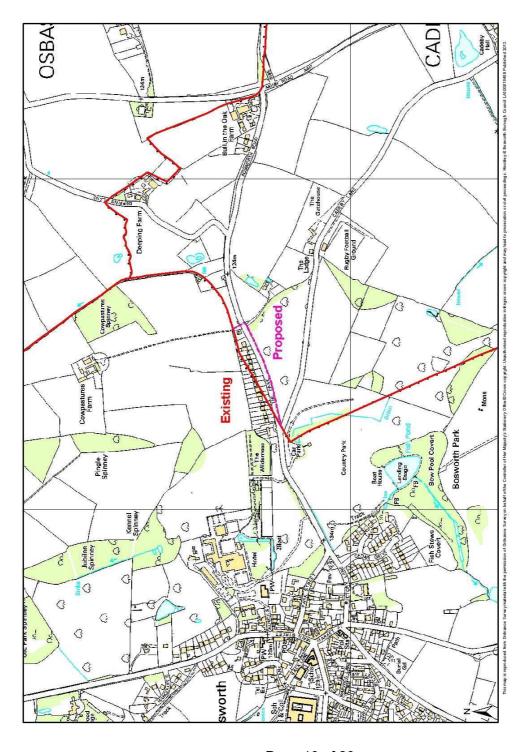
- No changes to the existing arrangements, subject to the views of the residents of 'The Park' being sought.
- That all electors of 'The Park' be sent consultation letters to establish to which community (Market Bosworth or Cadeby) they consider themselves to belong

All responses received indicated that the residents considered themselves to be part of the Market Bosworth community rather than of Cadeby. Consideration was also given to the guidance issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission, which recommends that boundaries should follow natural boundary lines.

Final Recommendation:

Amend the boundary line to include all properties on The Park in the Market Bosworth Parish area. A map showing the existing boundary line and the recommended change to this is shown on the following page

The map below identifies the existing boundary (shown in red) and recommended change to boundary line (shown in pink) between Market Bosworth & Cadeby parishes:



Page 10 of 20

6. Carlton

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
CARLTON	N/A	5	254	50	5	50				

No submissions were received during the first consultation and one submission was received during the second round consultation, agreeing with the draft recommendation that no changes should be made to the existing arrangements.

<u>Final Recommendation:</u> No changes to the existing arrangements

7. Desford

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
	BUFTON	2	434	217						
DESFORD	DESFORD	10	2765	276	12	266				

No submissions were received during either consultation and no other issues have been identified by the working group

8. Earl Shilton

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
	CHURCH	2	1279	639						
EARL	WEAVERS	4	2288	572	14	563				
SHILTON	TOWNLANDS	4	2135	533						
	WESTFIELD	4	2181	545						

Following the initial consultation the following draft recommendations were made:

No changes to the existing arrangements

No submissions were received during the second round consultation.

<u>Final Recommendation:</u> No changes to the existing arrangements

9. Groby

	Current arrangements										
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS					
GROBY	GROBY	13	5632	433	16	381					
	FIELD HEAD	3	470	156							

Following the initial consultation the following draft recommendations were made:

No changes to the existing arrangements

One submission was received during the second round consultation, but the issue raised was outside the remit of changes which can be made through a Community Governance Review.

10. Higham on the Hill

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
HIGHAM- ON-THE- HILL	N/A	6	614	102	6	102				

No submissions were received during either consultation and no other issues have been identified by the working group

<u>Final Recommendation:</u> No changes to the existing arrangements

11. Markfield

Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS			
MARKFIELD	N/A	10	3737	373	10	373			

No submissions were received during the first consultation and one submission was received during the second round consultation, agreeing with the draft recommendation that no changes should be made to the existing arrangements.

12. Nailstone

Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD WARD RATIO OF TOTAL R WARD SEATS ELECTORATE WARD PARISH EL 1 DECEMBER ELECTORS TO 2011 WARD SEATS								
NAILSTONE	N/A	5	431	86	5	86			

No submissions were received during the first consultation and one submission was received during the second round consultation, suggesting a change of polling station venue. This suggestion will be reviewed independently of the Community Governance Review.

Final Recommendation: No changes to the existing arrangements

13. Newbold Verdon

Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH	WARD	WARD	RATIO OF	TOTAL	RATIO OF			
	WARD	SEATS	ELECTORATE	WARD	PARISH	ELECTORS			
			1 DECEMBER	ELECTORS TO	SEATS	TO SEATS			
			2011	WARD SEATS					
NEWBOLD									
VERDON	N/A	10	2483	248	10	248			

No submissions were received during either consultation and no other issues have been identified by the working group

14. Osbaston

Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD			RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS			
OSBASTON	N/A	5	222	44	5	44			

No submissions were received during either consultation and no other issues have been identified by the working group

Final Recommendation: No changes to the existing arrangements

15. Peckleton

Current arrangements								
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS		
	KIRKBY MALLORY	2	333	166				
PECKLETON	PECKLETON	2	230	115	6	154		
	STAPLETON	2	365	182				

The submissions received agreed that no changes should be made to the existing arrangements

16. Ratby

	Current arrangements										
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS					
RATBY	N/A	O	3405	378	9	378					

No submissions were received during either consultation and no other issues have been identified by the working group

Final Recommendation: No changes to the existing arrangements

17. Shackerstone

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
	DARTON		400	00						
	BARTON	2	196	98						
SHACKERSTONE	ODSTONE	1	75	75						
	CONGERSTONE	1	279	279	6	120				
	BILSTONE	1	45	45		120				
	SHACKERSTONE	1	125	125						

Following and in response to the initial consultation the following draft recommendations were made:

 That the distribution of councillors be changed in line with the request received (reduce Barton by 1 seat and increase Congerstone by 1 seat)

No further submissions were received during the second round consultation.

Final Recommendation: As per draft recommendations

18. Sheepy

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
	UPTON	1	77	77						
SHEEPY	SIBSON	2	149	74						
	WELLSBOROUGH	1	85	85	11	87				
	SHEEPY	7	648	92						

Following the initial consultation the following draft recommendations were made:

No changes to the existing arrangements

No submissions were received during the second round consultation.

<u>Final Recommendation:</u> No changes to the existing arrangements

19. Stanton Under Bardon

Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS			
STANTON- UNDER- BARDON	N/A	5	505	101	5	101			

No submissions were received during either consultation and no other issues have been identified by the working group

20. Stoke Golding

Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS			
STOKE GOLDING	N/A	7	1406	200	7	200			

Following the initial consultation the following draft recommendations were made:

No changes to the existing arrangements

No submissions were received during the second round consultation.

<u>Final Recommendation:</u> No changes to the existing arrangements

21. Sutton Cheney

Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS			
SUTTON CHENEY	DADLINGTON SHENTON	3 2	221 86	73 43	7	60			
	SUTTON	2	117	58					

Following the initial consultation the following draft recommendations were made:

No changes to the existing arrangements

No submissions were received during the second round consultation.

22. Twycross

	Current arrangements									
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
	GOPSALL	2	213	106						
	ORTON	2	161	80	7	91				
TWYCROSS	TWYCROSS	3	269	89						

No submissions were received during either consultation and no other issues have been identified by the working group

Final Recommendation: No changes to the existing arrangements

23. Witherley

Current arrangements										
PARISH	PARISH WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL PARISH SEATS	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS				
	FENNY DRAYTON	4	426	106						
	ATTERTON	1	28	28	11	110				
WITHERLEY	RATCLIFFE	2	145	72						
***************************************	WITHERLEY	4	617	154						

No submissions were received during either consultation and no other issues have been identified by the working group

24. Previously unparished areas

The council is required by law to consider other forms of community governance as alternatives or stages towards establishing parish councils. Currently, the Hinckley Borough wards are not represented by parish councils. However, there is a Hinckley Area Committee in place which provides the community representation for this area. This committee is made up of the borough councillors who have been elected for the relevant wards of this area. The structure of this governance is illustrated in the table below.

DISTRICT WARD	WARD SEATS	WARD ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF WARD ELECTORS TO WARD SEATS	TOTAL DISTRICT SEATS	SPECIAL EXPENSES ELECTORATE 1 DECEMBER 2011	RATIO OF ELECTORS TO SEATS
Hinckley Castle	2	4864	2432			
Hinckley Clarendon	3	6802	2267			
Hinckley de Montfort	3	7704	2568	10	24498	2449
Hinckley Trinity	2	5128	2564			

No submissions were received during either consultation and no other issues have been identified by the working group