

PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

4.5 Proposals for future County electoral arrangements for South Cambridgeshire

4.5.1 With a council size of 68, South Cambridgeshire is entitled to 16 electoral divisions. The County Council proposes the following arrangement, as illustrated on map A2.5, which leads to 100% coterminosity across the district.

Table 7: Proposal for South Cambridgeshire - see map A2.5

Division	Constituent Wards	2003 Electorate	Variation from county average	2008 Electorate	Variation from county average
Linton	Balsham	3,536		3,440	
	Linton	3,632		3,600	
		7,168	13%	7,040	5%
Fulbourn	Fulbourn	3,675		3,570	
	Teversham	1,949		1,930	
	The Wilbrahams	1,986		1,970	
		7,610	20%	7,470	11%
Waterbeach	Milton	3,224		3,150	
	Waterbeach	3,884		3,920	
		7,108	12%	7,070	5%
Histon & Impington	Histon & Impington	6,424	1%	7,930	18%
Cottenham	Cottenham	5,931	-7%	5,920	-12%
Willingham	Willingham & Over	4,876		4,920	
	Longstanton	1,509		2,380	
		6,385	1%	7,300	8%
Papworth & Swavesey	Swavesey	1,922		1,870	
	Papworth & Elsworth	3,178		3,860	
		5,100	-20%	5,730	-15%

Bar Hill	Bar Hill	4,012		3,890	
	Girton	2,986		3,160	
		6,998	10%	7,050	5%
Hardwick	Barton	1,894		1,840	
	Comberton	1,723		1,710	
	Hardwick	1,905		1,860	
	Caldecote	1,536		1,750	
		7,058	11%	7,160	6%
Bourn	Bourn	2,768	-56%	7,100	5%
Gamlingay	Gamlingay	3,789		3,770	
	Orwell & Barrington	1,813		1,780	
	Haslingfield & The Eversdens	2,065		2,020	
		7,667	21%	7,570	12%
Bassingbourn	The Mordens	1,801		1,850	
	Bassingbourn	3,611		3,560	
	Meldreth	1,861		1,880	
		7,273	15%	7,290	8%
Melbourn	Fowlmere & Foxton	1,881		1,880	
	Melbourn	4,206		4,120	
		6,087	-4%	6,000	-11%
Duxford	Whittlesford	1,908		2,010	
	Duxford	1,994		2,020	
	The Abingtons	1,757		1,710	
		5,659	-11%	5,740	-15%
Sawston	Sawston	5,542	-13%	5,430	-19%
Shelford	Harston & Hauxton	1,898		1,850	
	The Shelfords &	5,647		5,610	

	Stapleford				
		7,545	19%	7,460	11%
Total electorate		102,323		109,260	

- 4.5.2 The proposed **Linton** division combines the district wards of Linton and Balsham. This is the same as the current Linton division. By 2008 the electorate will be 5% above the County average.
- 4.5.3 The proposed **Fulbourn** division joins the wards of Fulbourn, Teversham and The Wilbrahams. By 2008 the electorate is 11% above the county average. The division joins the geographically compact area between the eastern edge of Cambridge City and the eastern edge of South Cambridgeshire. The River Cam separates the northern border of The Wilbrahams ward from the wards to the north. Horningsea Parish Council considers this "a good scheme".
- 4.5.4 The proposed **Waterbeach** division combines Milton ward and Waterbeach ward. These wards share a close relationship with Cambridge and are well connected by the A10, which runs north from Cambridge towards King's Lynn. By 2008 the electorate is forecast to be 5% above the county average. Waterbeach Parish Council "endorse the proposals for Waterbeach and Landbeach. [and] consider that the two villages have strong pastoral and historic links".
- 4.5.5 The proposed **Histon & Impington** division is formed from the Histon & Impington ward. By 2008 the division is projected to have grown considerably, to 18% above the county average, as it contains the 900 dwelling Cambridge Northern Fringe development. The County Council considered splitting the division to achieve a better level of electoral equality but felt it was illogical to split what is really a single settlement spread over two parishes, and that the coterminosity gain was considerable.
- 4.5.6 The proposed **Cottenham** division is composed from the Cottenham district ward. By 2008 the electorate is 12% below the county average. There are no neighbouring wards or small parishes that could be added to improve electoral equality.
- 4.5.7 The proposed **Willingham & Over** division joins the wards of Willingham & Over and Longstanton, to form a division 8% above the county average.
- 4.5.8 The **Papworth & Swavesey** division groups the district wards of Papworth & Elsworth and Swavesey. By 2008 the electorate is 15% below the county average. This grouping is somewhat unsatisfactory as Swavesey is separated from the rest of the division by the A14. During consultation, the Parish Council expressed their strong desire to remain grouped with Over and Willingham, with whom they share local meetings. The County Council were unable to see an alternative arrangement in the area, as the Papworth & Elsworth ward is on the edge of the district and there are no alternative neighbouring parishes it could be combined with that would lead to both a reasonable level of electoral equality and coterminosity.
- 4.5.9 The proposed **Bar Hill** division joins the wards of Bar Hill and Girton. The parishes concerned are bordered to the east by the A14, and are all

approached directly from the A14. By 2008 the electorate is forecast to be 5% above the county average.

- 4.5.10 The suggested **Hardwick** division is made up of the district wards of Caldecote, Hardwick, Comberton and Madingley. By 2008, electoral variation will be 6% above the county average. Childerley Parish Council comments that, "as it stands, the proposal is exactly right".
- 4.5.11 The proposed **Bourn** division is coterminous with Bourn district ward. The current electorate of the division is 56% below the county average, but the parishes of Bourn and Caxton contain the fast growing new settlement of Cambourne. This means that by 2008 the electorate is projected to have risen to 5% above the county average.
- 4.5.12 During consultation, villages in the southwest corner of South Cambridgeshire expressed a strong preference for the current Gamlingay and Bassingbourn divisions to be kept the same, pointing out that the electoral figures would be approximately correct. The County Council, however, feels that because the underlying district wards have changed, it follows that the divisions must change too. The Council therefore proposes the new **Gamlingay** division should be composed of Gamlingay ward, Orwell & Barrington ward and Haslingfield & The Eversdens ward. This division's electorate is projected to be 12% above the county average by 2008.
- 4.5.13 The proposed **Bassingbourn** division contains the district wards of The Mordens, Bassingbourn and Meldreth, leading to electoral variation 8% above the county average by 2008. This division groups as many of the feeder villages for Bassingbourn Village College as possible, and reflects representations made to the County during the consultation process. The County Council feels that the proposed Gamlingay and Bassingbourn divisions are the best solution to the issues raised during consultation, within the remit to achieve coterminosity wherever possible.
- 4.5.14 The proposed **Melbourn** division groups the district wards of Melbourn and Fowlmere & Foxton. By 2008 the electorate will be 11% below the county average.
- 4.5.15 The proposed **Shelfords** division groups the wards of Harston & Hauxton and The Shelfords & Stapleford. By 2008 the electorate will be 11% above the county average. The division groups a cluster of closely linked villages influenced by their proximity to Cambridge.
- 4.5.16 For the remaining four district wards in the south of the district, the County Council proposes the following arrangement. The larger village of **Sawston** should form one division, with a projected electorate in 2008 of 19% below the county average. Although the electorate is low, coterminosity is maintained, and the village's size lends it a clearly separate status from the surrounding, more rural, villages.
- 4.5.17 The remaining district wards of Whittlesford, Duxford and The Abingtons group to form a **Duxford** division, with an electorate of 15% below the county average by 2008.