

## PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### 4.3 Proposals for future County electoral arrangements for Fenland

4.3.1 With a council size of 68, Fenland is entitled to 11 electoral divisions. The County Council proposes the following arrangement, illustrated on map A2.3, which leads to 82% coterminosity across the district.

**Table 4: Proposal for Fenland - see map A2.3**

Division	Constituent Wards	2003 Electorate	Variation from county average	2008 Electorate	Variation from county average
Roman Bank & Peckover	Roman Bank	4,747		5,090	
	Peckover	1,698		1,750	
		<b>6,445</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>6,840</b>	<b>2%</b>
Wisbech North	Waterlees	3,683		3,970	
	Clarkson	1,560		1,780	
	Kirkgate	1,710		1,710	
		<b>6,953</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>7,460</b>	<b>11%</b>
Wisbech South	Staithe	1,837		1,810	
	Hill	3,519		3,680	
	Medworth	1,845		1,860	
		<b>7,201</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>7,350</b>	<b>9%</b>
Waldersey	Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary	3,351		3,620	
	Elm & Christchurch	3,385		3,830	
		<b>6,736</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7,450</b>	<b>11%</b>
March North	March North	<b>4,907</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>5,330</b>	<b>-21%</b>
March East	March East	<b>5,362</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>5,910</b>	<b>-12%</b>

March West	March West	<b>5,127</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>5,260</b>	<b>-22%</b>
Whittlesey North	St Andrews	1,997		2,030	
	Bassenhally*	1,317		1,300	
	Delph	1,457		2,190	
	Kingsmoor*	1,216		2,100	
		<b>5,987</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>7,620</b>	<b>13%</b>
Whittlesey South	St Mary's	2,001		2,000	
	Lattersey*	1,931		1,920	
	<i>Coates &amp; Eastrea</i>	<i>2,480</i>		<i>2,580</i>	
		<b>6,412</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Forty Foot	<i>Benwick parish</i>	<i>676</i>		<i>830</i>	
	Doddington	1,640		1,650	
	Wimblington	1,394		1,690	
	Manea	1,303		1,650	
		<b>5,013</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>5,820</b>	<b>-14%</b>
Chatteris	Birch	1,682		2,090	
	Slade Lode	1,647		1,760	
	The Mills	1,971		1,970	
	Wenneye	1,725		1,930	
		<b>7,025</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7,750</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Total electorate</b>		<b>67,168</b>		<b>73,290</b>	

\*See Appendix 3: Corrections

### The market towns

4.3.2 The County Council proposes that six of the seven district wards in **Wisbech** be combined into two electoral divisions. Waterlees, Clarkson and Kirkgate would group to form Wisbech North, with electoral variation of 11% above the county average by 2008. Staithe, Hill and Medworth would form Wisbech South, with variation of 9% above the county average. The remaining, more rural ward of Peckover is grouped with Roman Bank, as outlined below.

- 4.3.3 The County Council considered a number of possible division arrangements for **March**. Consultation was carried out on a proposal to divide March West ward into two parts, along the River Nene. The area to the north of the river would remain in a March division with March North, the area to the south of the river would have joined rural parishes to the south of March. This would have led to a good level of electoral equality, but coterminosity would have been lost. On reflection, the County Council agreed that it was desirable to avoid dividing the parish further.
- 4.3.4 The County Council therefore proposes that the three district wards in March form three electoral divisions, each with fully coterminous boundaries. The largest of these, March East, would have an electorate 12% below the county average by 2008. The other divisions, March North and March West, would have variation of -21% and -22% respectively. The County Council acknowledges that this level of variation is outside that generally considered acceptable, but considers the coterminosity gain to be considerable. The town of March is located towards the centre of this geographically large parish. Grouping any part of March with another area would mean joining a section of this clearly defined rural centre with a rural settlement some distance away.
- 4.3.5 The County Council proposes creating two electoral divisions in **Whittlesey** parish. The first, Whittlesey North, would be formed from St Andrews, Delph, Bassenhally and Kingsmoor wards, and have electoral variation 13% above the county average. The second, Whittlesey South, would be composed of St Mary's ward, Lattersey ward and Whittlesey parish part of Benwick, Coates & Eastrea ward. The parish of Benwick is the only part of the district that would not be coterminous with the district ward boundaries. The Whittlesey South division would have variation of 4% below the county average by 2008.
- 4.3.6 The proposed **Chatteris** division is formed by combining all four of the district wards in the parish into a single division with variation of 15% above the county average by 2008. This division reflects the strong feeling expressed by Chatteris Town Council during consultation that no part of Chatteris should be split and combined with the surrounding rural parishes. The County Council agreed that the moderate level of electoral inequality was outweighed by the advantages of keeping the whole parish and market town within a single division.

### **The rural parishes**

- 4.3.7 The proposed **Roman Bank & Peckover** division combines the predominately rural Roman Bank ward, at the northern tip of the County, with the Peckover ward of Wisbech. Although the Peckover ward does contain part of the town area of Wisbech, it also has a large rural part that links well with the parishes that make up the Roman Bank ward. This division's electorate is 2% above the county average.
- 4.3.8 The proposed **Waldersey** division groups the rural wards of Parson Drove and Elm & Christchurch. Electoral variation is 11% above the county average and coterminosity is maintained.

4.3.9 The proposed **Forty Foot** division is formed from the three rural wards of Doddington, Manea and Wimblington, which sit between the market towns of March and Chatteris. The parish of Benwick would be combined with these, which brings the electorate up to 14% below the county average by 2008. The settlements in the parishes concerned are well connected by the B1093 and are similarly defined by their very separate parish and village identities, and by their shared proximity to March and Chatteris.