

Central Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ

**This meeting
will be filmed.***



**Central
Bedfordshire**

please ask for Sandra Hobbs
direct line 0300 300 5257
date 18 September 2018

NOTICE OF MEETING

COUNCIL

Date & Time

Thursday, 27 September 2018 6.30 p.m.

Venue at

Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the COUNCIL:

***MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS
MEETING***

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AGENDA

Prayers

The Reverend Stephen Nuth will take prayers.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence to be received.

2. **Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 July 2018.

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations of interest.

4. **Questions, Statements and Deputations**

To receive any questions, statements and deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part 4G of the Constitution.

5. **Petitions**

To receive and discuss petitions if any, in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part 4G of the Constitution.

6. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman to announce any matters of communication.

7. **Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications**

The Leader of the Council to announce any matters of communication.

8. **Executive Member Presentations**

To receive reports from up to three Executive Members on recent matters of interest and ask questions on matters contained within the reports.

Reports are anticipated from:

- Councillor Dixon, Executive Member for Families, Education and Children
- Councillor Wenham, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources

9. **Recommendation from the Executive**

To consider a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive, 7 August 2018 and answer questions asked under Part 4A, Rule No. 13.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

- a) Central Area Growth Board

10. **Recommendations from General Purposes Committee**

To consider recommendations from the meeting of the General Purposes Committee, held on 23 August 2018 and answer questions asked under Rule No. 13.1.

- a) Central Area Growth Board Terms of Reference
- b) Health and Wellbeing Board Membership
- c) Consultation on the Community Governance Review

11. **Treasury Management Outturn Report 2017/18**

The purpose of this report is to provide a review of Treasury Management activities for the year ended 31 March 2018 in compliance with relevant codes of practice adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council.

12. **Motions**

To consider motions by Members of the Council under Part 4A, Rule No. 17 of the Council's Procedure Rules in the order received.

13. **Written Questions**

To answer written questions from Members of the Council under Part 4A, Rule No. 13.2 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

14. **Open Questions**

To answer Open Questions asked by Members of the Council under Part 4A, Rule No. 13.7 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 19 July 2018.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs C F Chapman MBE (Chairman)
Cllr B Saunders (Vice-Chairman)

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------|
| Cllrs | R D Berry | Cllrs | C C Gomm | Cllrs | T Nicols |
| | M C Blair | | Mrs S A Goodchild | | G Perham |
| | D Bowater | | Mrs D B Gurney | | A Ryan |
| | J Chatterley | | Ms C Hegley | | D Shelvey |
| | Mrs S Clark | | P Hollick | | P Smith |
| | K M Collins | | J G Jamieson | | Mrs T Stock |
| | N B Costin | | K Janes | | T Swain |
| | I Dalgarno | | D J Lawrence | | A M Turner |
| | S Dixon | | Mrs J G Lawrence | | B Wells |
| | Mrs A L Dodwell | | Cllr M Liddiard | | R D Wenham |
| | P Downing | | K C Matthews | | T Woodward |
| | P A Duckett | | Ms C Maudlin | | J N Young |
| | F Firth | | D McVicar | | A Zerny |
| | E Ghent | | R Morris | | |

Apologies for Absence

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------------|
| Cllrs | Mrs A Barker | Cllrs | R W Johnstone | Cllrs | M A G Versallion |
| | A D Brown | | I Shingler | | N Warren |
| | K Ferguson | | B J Spurr | | S Watkins |
| | Ms A M W Graham | | R C Stay | | |

Absent

| | | | | | |
|-------|---------------|------|------------|------|----------|
| Cllrs | Mrs J Freeman | Cllr | J Saunders | Cllr | B Walker |
| | G Tubb | | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------|---|---|
| Officers: | Mr R Carr | – | Chief Executive |
| | Mr M Coiffait | – | Director of Community Services |
| | Mr D Galvin | – | Assistant Director of Finance |
| | Mrs S Harrison | – | Director of Children's Services |
| | Mrs S Hobbs | – | Senior Committee Services Officer |
| | Mr T Hoyle | – | Assistant Director of Strategic Commissioning |
| | Mr J Longhurst | – | Director of Regeneration and Business |
| | Mr S Rix | – | Interim Monitoring Officer |
| | Mrs C Shohet | – | Assistant Director of Public Health |

C/18/12 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 May 2018 be approved as a correct record.

C/18/13 **Members' Interests**

Councillors Bowater and Perham declared a personal interest in item 5 'Petitions' as they had been in contact with the lead petitioner.

C/18/14 **Questions, Statements and Deputations**

The Chairman invited the public speakers to make their statements in accordance with the Public Participation Scheme.

Everton Heath Primary School

Mr Mardi, Chair of Governors at Everton Health Primary Schools, spoke on the proposal for the school to become part of the CAM Multi-Academy Trust. Mr Mardi referred to the Executive's decision in March 2013 that the Trust would have to take over the responsibilities of any unpaid teacher pension payments for the period between 2007 and 2013. Neither the Governing Body nor the Trust felt able to accept this liability. He requested a meeting with the Council to resolve the issue.

The Executive Member for Children's Services explained that since March 2013 there had been 20 Academy conversions, which had proceeded on the basis suggested by the Council. However, he would respond directly to Mr Mardi.

Sewerage and Fly Tipping

Mr Briggs, a resident from Stanbridge, congratulated the Council on securing an Enforcement Order for the Kingswood Nursery Site for the prevention of the burning of industrial waste. He raised concerns that there was no provision for drainage at the site which had led to foul smells. An additional 6 caravans had moved onto the site meaning that there were now 30 using it with no proper sewerage provision. The ditches around the crop fields were full of sewerage.

The Executive Member for Community Services would raise the concerns with the Environment Agency. He would provide an update on the work being undertaken to Mr Briggs in writing.

Enforcement

Mr Gibson, a local resident, was concerned that the Council was not enforcing breaches of planning and green belt policy by the gypsy and traveller community. He felt that the Council was turning a blind eye and that this had led to Central Bedfordshire having one of the highest concentrations of gypsy and traveller communities in the area. This was having an impact on the communities living in Central Bedfordshire.

The Executive Member for Regeneration requested a list of specific concerns where it appeared that enforcement had not taken place. He would look into these concerns and respond directly to Mr Gibson. He explained that enforcement was a long and difficult process.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that the Council treated everyone the same and had an effective enforcement policy. He acknowledged the frustration and the difficulties with the enforcement policy and assured residents that it was not for the lack of trying that the Council did not always succeed.

Community Cohesion

Ms Dimmock, spoke about community cohesion between the gypsy and traveller and the settled communities in the Tilsworth and Stranbridge area. She believed that these two groups followed different planning laws undermining community cohesion. To improve the situation, the Council needed to show strong leadership by enforcing planning rules. She referred to a recent planning application for Kingswood Nursery, Tilsworth where 140 objections were received. Kingswood Nursery was an unauthorised site and a brick wall had been built in the drainage ditch where hedges used to be. There was a lack of adequate gypsy and traveller sites and this was leading to unauthorised sites. The Council should act fairly to protect the green belt and improve community cohesion. She requested that the Leader set up a steering committee to develop a strategy to address the situation.

The Executive Member for Regeneration explained that the planning application for 6 pitches at Kingswood Nursery had not yet been determined. He requested that Ms Dimmock provide him with the specific details of her concerns and he would reply to her directly.

The Leader advised that he would consider the suggestion of setting up a steering committee.

Councillor's Duty to Care to Residents

Ms Sutton, spoke on behalf of local residents about the lack of enforcement action in the area. She highlighted problems such as the anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, blocked drains and an imbalance in planning decisions in the area. The lack of action by the Council was having an impact on the community. She referred to the work of the Parish Council and queried whether Officers at Central Bedfordshire Council felt valued with the reduction in budgets. She requested that the Council take action to create a fair society.

The Leader confirmed that the Council tried to do its best for the residents of Central Bedfordshire with the funding available. The Council faced significant resource pressures in areas such as adult social care and vulnerable children. The Council was committed to improving its services, within those resource constraints.

Regenerating Small Businesses in Central Bedfordshire

A member of the public read out a statement on behalf of another member of the public who wished to remain anonymous. The statement referred to regeneration in Dunstable and the Oxford-Cambridge Corridor initiative, but raised concerns that the same effort was not being put into Leighton Buzzard. A recent planning application for a barn conversion had been turned down. It was felt that planning applications were not being dealt with fairly as the greenbelt was being built on and hard surfaces were covering pastures, woodlands, natural habitats etc. The statement questioned whether the Council was trying to attract people who ignored planning laws and would not integrate into the local community. The second part of the statement referred to a formal complaint about a Director.

The Executive Member for Regeneration explained that Dunstable Town Centre was in the process of being rejuvenated. Infrastructure benefitting the area such as the A5-M1 and Woodside link roads had been built and employment in the area had increased. He would be happy to liaise with the member of public whose application for a barn conversion had been turned down. If any specific details regarding the lack of enforcement on green belt could be passed to the Executive Member, he would investigate.

The Leader advised that any complaint against a Director should be submitted through the Council's formal complaints process.

C/18/15

Petitions

Leighton Buzzard High Street

Mr Crowe, Chairman of Leighton Buzzard Society, presented a petition containing 615 signatures requesting the Council to repair the pavements in High Street, Leighton Buzzard back to their original standard. Temporary repairs to the High Street had been undertaken, but this had left the pavement looking untidy.

The Executive Member for Community Services thanked Mr Crowe for his work on behalf of the residents in Leighton Buzzard. A project would be carried out in the autumn to repair the footpaths and improve the street scene in the town centre.

C/18/16

Chairman's Announcements and Communications

The Chairman announced that her charity for 2018/19 would be Cancer Research.

C/18/17 Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications

The Leader thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and was pleased that the Executive Member for Community Services was able to confirm that works would be carried out in Leighton Buzzard town centre in the autumn.

C/18/18 Executive Member Presentations

Councillor Ghent, Executive Member for Assets and Housing Delivery provided an update on the activities of the Assets Team:

- a restructure had taken place to enable a greater focus on delivery;
- the three main areas were facilities management; estates service; capital construction;
- the Team was responsible for ensuring all the Council's buildings, including schools, were compliant with appropriate health and safety requirements;
- a digital help-desk had been launched to help the Team interact with customers quickly;
- the Quadrant Accommodation Plan had been approved by the Executive;
- the consultation on the Farm Estates Plan ended in August; and
- the Commercial Estate Plan was being drawn up and would be submitted to the Executive by the end of December 2018.

In response to a question, the Executive Member explained that the move of Customer Services into the libraries did not fall within his remit.

Councillor Young, Executive Member for Regeneration provided an update on the activities taking place within his portfolio:

- the Building Control Service had won six local authority building control (LABC) awards; and
- Biggleswade was the fastest growing commercial area in Central Bedfordshire; and
- he updated on the progress of Stratton Park, Biggleswade.

In response to a question, the Executive Member confirmed that he had not attended any award ceremonies and would advise the relevant Member if any officers had attended and the cost of this.

In response to questions, the Executive Member confirmed that any matters relating to schools were dealt with by the Executive Member for Families, Education and Children and that he was not aware of any S106 contributions for Sandye Place Academy.

He confirmed that he would continue to put pressure on Highways England and Network Rail to improve the infrastructure in Biggleswade.

The Council had supported a number of businesses that had been recognised in the 2018 Queens Award for Enterprise.

The Executive Member for Community Services advised that Modplan based in Arlesey had also won a LABC award for the construction of Houghton Hall.

C/18/19 Recommendations from the Executive

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 12 June 2018, seeking approval of the net overspend on:

- Library and Leisure Centre, Dunstable - £1.596m
- Flitwick Leisure Centre Redevelopment - £3.037m
- Woodside Link - £1.101m
- Fleet Replacement Programme - £0.624m.

RESOLVED

that the above net overspend be approved.

The decision was unanimous.

C/18/20 Audit Committee Activity - 2017/18 Annual Report

The Council considered a report that summarised the work of the Audit Committee during the 2017/18.

RESOLVED

that the work of the Audit Committee during the 2017/18 financial year be noted.

The decision was unanimous.

C/18/21 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

The Council received the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report that summarised the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during 2017/18 and the anticipated activity during 2018/19.

RESOLVED

that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18 be noted.

C/18/22 **Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

The Council received reports from the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority, following its meetings held on 26 April 2018 and 31 May 2018.

RESOLVED

that the reports of the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority be noted.

C/18/23 **Bedfordshire Police Authority**

The Council received the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel activity report for 2017/18.

In response to a question, Councillor Downing explained that the Police and Crime Panel held the Police and Crime Commissioner to account and not the Police Service.

RESOLVED

that the report of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel be noted.

C/18/24 **Motions**

No motions were received.

C/18/25 **Written Questions**

No written questions were received.

C/18/26 **Open Questions**

The Chairman invited the Minority Group Leaders to ask a question, prior to the consideration of questions that had been placed in the Open Question receptacle.

- (1) Councillor Zerny commented on the Leader of the Council's election as the Leader of the Conservative Group on the Local Government Association. He enquired whether the Leader would have the capacity to discharge his LGA responsibilities in addition to being Leader of this Council.

The Leader confirmed that his first duty was to the residents of Central Bedfordshire and that he did have the capacity to take on this new role.

- (2) Councillor Ryan asked for an update on the proposals for the Kingsland Site, Houghton Regis.

The Executive Member for Regeneration apologised that he had not been in a position to meet with ward Members regarding the Kingsland Site. Discussions were still taking place with the Legacy organisation. There were still plans to bring forward better leisure, community facilities, schooling and affordable housing to Houghton Regis.

- (3) Councillor Matthews asked how the review mechanism worked for approving developments where the number of affordable dwellings had not been compliant with the appropriate Local Plan.

The Executive Member for Regeneration explained how the review mechanism worked by looking at the viability appraisal of a site. If the houses on a development sold for more money than in the original viability appraisal, additional payments would be made to the Council and go towards affordable housing.

- (4) Councillor Mrs Goodchild asked about the Council's bids for funds from the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund; one focused on Biggleswade and one for Houghton Regis.

The Executive Member for Regeneration explained that the Council had submitted three bids to the Housing Infrastructure Fund. A bid had been approved for Dunstable, the Council's bid for £65m in Biggleswade had been shortlisted and officers were working to try and secure this funding. The bid for Houghton Regis had not been shortlisted, but officers were working with Homes England to try to secure funding support. Any funding secured would go towards affordable housing in Dunstable, Biggleswade and Houghton Regis.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 8.12 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

COUNCIL – 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting held on 7 August 2018

E/18/27 Central Area Growth Board

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Regeneration that sought endorsement for Central Bedfordshire to become a full member of the Central Area Growth Board and the adoption of the proposed terms of reference. The Council would then work collaboratively with the other neighbouring local authorities and be an active partner within the Cambridge-Oxford Corridor.

In response to questions, the Executive Member for Regeneration explained that the Board would not have any delegated decision-making powers from councils. Any decisions required would need to be ratified by each of the constituent authorities. Regional assemblies had been disbanded, but working collaboratively with neighbouring authorities would help shape the area's future and help access funding for infrastructure.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to actively participate in contributing to shaping and driving the agenda on strategic planning, economic development and infrastructure planning at the sub-regional level.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the significance of the National Infrastructure Commission and Government focus on the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Corridor be noted; and**
- 2. that an associated contribution of £5k of ongoing revenue to support the work of the Central Area Growth Board be approved.**

RECOMMENDED to Council

- 1. that Central Bedfordshire Council become a full member of the Central Area Growth Board by adopting the Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix A to the Executive report;***
- 2. that the creation of the Central Area Growth Board as a joint committee under section 101(5), 102 Local Government Act 1972 and section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant (where applicable) to the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 be approved;***

3. ***that the additions to the Constitution, as set out in Appendix B to the Executive report, be approved; and***
4. ***that the Executive Member for Regeneration be appointed as the Council's representative on the Central Area Growth Board.***

COUNCIL MEETING – 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

Recommendation to Council from the General Purposes Committee held on 23 August 2018

GPC/18/15. Central Area Growth Board Terms of Reference

The Executive Member for Regeneration brought to the attention of the Committee a recent article posted on social media which referred to various bodies including the Central Area Growth Board and its terms of reference. He felt the article had been misleading as it suggested that membership of the Growth Board would mean major infrastructure decisions would be made undemocratically. The Executive Member reminded the Committee that the Central Area Growth Board would be composed of elected members from a number of district, unitary and county councils. He also pointed out that a number of other factual errors were contained within the article.

The Committee considered the report and Members noted the recommendation to include the Central Area Growth Board and its Terms of Reference in the Council's Constitution had been considered and supported by the Executive at its meeting on 7 August 2018. The Committee also noted that the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) was encouraging all local authorities within the growth corridor to strengthen structures for collaborative governance and collective decision making.

Points and comments were as follows:

- that the Growth Board would function as a Joint Committee but that no decision making powers would be ceded to it. All decisions would be made at and by the individual local authorities as part of their standard decision making process.
- the Committee was advised that the Council's representative would be the Executive Member for Regeneration and the agenda and minutes of the meetings would be within the public domain except for that relating to any exempt information as defined under the relevant legislation.
- concern was expressed that the proposed Central Area Growth Board arrangements would be undemocratic in nature and membership, and would result in Central Bedfordshire merely ratifying the decisions approved by the other constituent councils.
- it was emphasised that if Central Bedfordshire did not participate in the Growth Board other councils would be in the position to make decisions on its behalf.

The Committee noted that Central Bedfordshire Council was already engaging with the local councils on other matters and it was important to be involved in the Central Area Growth Board in order to be part of the decision-making process.

RECOMMENDED to Council

that the proposed additions to the Constitution with regards to the Central Area Growth Board and its Terms of Reference be approved as set out at Appendices A and B to the minutes and the Constitution be amended accordingly.

Appendix A

Central Area Growth Board – Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference are not legally binding but are intended to lead to a legal agreement in due course.

Central Area Growth Board

1. Governance

1.1 The Central Area Growth Board (the Joint Committee) includes at commencement the following local authorities:-

Full Members

- Aylesbury Vale District Council,
- Bedford Borough Council,
- Central Bedfordshire Council,
- Cherwell District Council,
- Chiltern District Council,
- Corby Borough Council,
- Daventry District Council,
- East Northamptonshire District Council,
- Kettering Borough Council,
- Luton Borough Council,
- Milton Keynes Council,
- Northampton Borough Council,
- Northamptonshire County Council,
- South Bucks District Council,
- South Northamptonshire District Council,
- Borough of Wellingborough Council and
- Wycombe District Council.

1.2 The Central Area Growth Board is a Joint Committee under s101 (5), 102 Local Government Act 1972 and s9EB Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant (where applicable) to the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.

Each member authority must take the Terms of Reference through its internal processes.

1.3 The Growth Board will exercise the powers which its members have agreed to vest in it on a unanimous basis under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 insofar as they relate to the promotion of development or economic growth or matters ancillary to this. These powers will be exercised concurrently with the constituent members and members will unanimously decide the voting mechanism for exercising powers. This excludes ceding the decision making powers on planning matters, which will remain vested with the Local Planning Authorities, as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

1.4 The Growth Board will also include associate members, who will be able to participate in meetings but not be able to vote. The LEPS that operate in the area are entitled to be associate members.

1.5 It will also include other co-opted non-voting named members from those organisations listed at 4.4 below.

2. Accountable Body and Host

2.1 The Accountable Body for the Growth Board is Milton Keynes Council which will provide the Section 151 officer role to the Growth Board.

2.2 Milton Keynes Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) will provide the Growth Board with a quarterly financial report. This report will provide the Board with an overview of the funds spent, funds committed against funds allocated.

2.3 Programme management will be provided by dedicated growth board officer support and will include milestones and outcomes achieved and where necessary, ensure that action plans are put in place to address any concerns.

2.4 The Growth Board will be hosted under local government arrangements and this will be rotated in accordance with the arrangements for the Chair (see Section 8). Committee services are provided by the Host in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, as outlined in paragraph 8.3.

3. Purpose of the Central Area Growth Board

3.1 To provide the strategic leadership that will enable us to plan for, and realise an economic transformation across the central area, speaking to Government and its Agencies with one co-ordinated voice and encouraging private sector investment.

3.2 To seek to establish Common Planning Areas to produce an integrated and holistic approach to strategic planning for employment, housing and infrastructure that builds on Local Plans, Local Transport Plans and Strategic Economic Plans.

3.3 To accelerate and increase the delivery of planned growth across the area, where this is enabled by investment in infrastructure and services.

3.4 To work together to influence the route planning options, in order to realise the opportunity for the area in the Cambridge-Milton Keynes- Oxford growth corridor, "Expressway" (road and rail) and other associated linkages that may be delivered.

3.5 To approve and monitor the implementation of a Central Area programmes of work including those flowing from any Place Deals, Strategic Economic Plans and transport strategies and other relevant infrastructure programmes as agreed. This is not an exhaustive list and may be expanded at agreement of the Growth Board.

3.6 To bid for and secure investment, including from Government and external sources of resources to support the above purposes.

3.7 To contribute and be an active member of the Cambridge- Milton Keynes-Oxford Corridor cross corridor governance arrangements.

4. Membership

4.1 As the Growth Board is (where applicable) discharging executive functions then the appointed person must (where applicable) be from the Executive. In authorities where the committee system is

in operation the Leader should be the representative. There shall be one member from each constituent body.

4.2 Each constituent authority/body shall appoint a substitute (also being an executive member or in the case of councils using the committee system, another senior member). The substitute member shall have the same rights of speaking and voting at the meetings as the member for whom the substitution is made.

4.3 Subject to the legal right of the Growth Board to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of its choice each year, the proposed protocol is that there will be a rotating Chair and Vice Chair as set out in 8.2 below.

4.4 Other non-voting members as required for good linkages shall be a single named-position representative from the bodies as detailed below:

- England's Economic Heartlands
- Universities Representative
- Further Education Colleges
- DCLG/BEIS/Department for Transport
- Homes and Communities Agency Representative for South East
- Buckinghamshire County Council

4.5 The Growth Board can agree to allow other authorities/parties outside of the initial members (listed in 1.1, 1.4 and 4.4 above) to have either full or associate membership of the Central Area Growth Board and agree the terms on which this is to be permitted. Associate members would not have voting rights.

4.6 The Growth Board can also invite other relevant observers to meetings of the Board.

5. Voting

5.1 One member one vote for each constituent authority member. The Chair will have an original but not a casting vote.

5.2 Normal rules as to declarations of interest and conflicts of interest to be applied to Local Authority members in accordance with the respective Council's Code of Conduct and LEP members in respect of the LEP Assurance Framework.

5.3 Any questions to be decided by the Growth Board will be decided by way of two thirds majority of constituent members present and voting.

5.4 Members votes are only valid when they have paid the annual subscription (see 10.0 below). Each member must pay their contribution before the agreed date for the year, if the subscription is not paid on the agreed date, the Local Authority will only be entitled to observe Growth Board meetings.

6. Quorum

6.1 The quorum for a Growth Board meeting shall be 2/3rds of (12) constituent members, including the Chair.

7. Functions

7.1 The Members have agreed that the main function of the Growth Board is to focus on growth related matters. The Members have agreed that there are four key outcomes it wishes the Growth Board for the Central Area to focus on, namely to;

- a) Accelerate the delivery of planned growth across the area, where this is enabled by investment in infrastructure and services.
- b) Provide the strategic leadership that will enable existing mechanisms and processes to plan for, and realise an economic transformation across the area.
- c) Secure long-term benefits and opportunities for local communities and
- d) Attract increased private sector investment

7.2 The Growth Board will, in relation to matters of general importance to the Central Area

- Represent the Central Area as a whole
- Respond to consultations, express views and make recommendations to Government and others, including partners, on matters of general importance to the Central Area. This will include on:
 - i. Proposals for major development, including local plans.
 - ii. Proposals for major infrastructure.
 - iii. Funding submissions to Government or its agencies.
 - iv. Strategic Economic Plans.

7.3 Coordination of whether spatial planning, infrastructure and public services are integrated and make recommendations to encourage this.

7.4 Advise partners on matters of collective interest.

7.5 Commission and share research and analysis in support of the preparation of statutory and non-statutory plans and strategies (including local plans and strategic economic plans). This will include work designed to assist compliance with the duty to cooperate in connection with plan-making.

7.6 Lead and coordinate the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) liaison process on Central Area wide regeneration and housing issues and contribute to any related interaction with Government agencies.

7.7 The Growth Board will also:

- i. Provide a forum for partnership working and collaboration on spatial planning, economic development, housing, transport, and general infrastructure issues.
- ii. Input into development of a Local Industrial Strategy for the Central Area.
- iii. Engage with and represent the Central Area to the Sub-national Transport Body covering the Central Area.
- iv. Wherever possible, the Growth Board will aim to streamline existing processes

8. Meetings

8.1 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Growth Board will be elected at the first meeting and subsequently at the start of each municipal year (i.e. the first meeting after local government elections are or would usually be held).

8.2 It is expected that the role of Chair and Vice Chair will rotate on a municipal year basis (except in the first year which will be slightly longer than a municipal year), and that the Vice-Chair will serve as the Chair in the following year. It is expected that there will be a rotation of those positions to ensure that each constituent member and geographic area of the Central Area has the opportunity to serve, over time.

8.3 Meetings will be convened by the Chair or on the written request of five or more constituent members. Meetings shall normally be held on a bi-monthly basis at the host authority (that of the Chair), but meetings may be called as and when required to ensure that important timescales are met. Papers will be published in line with the Local Government Act 1972 to ensure statutory timescales are met .

8.4 Proposals for decisions by the Growth Board may be put forward by the Chair or by any member of the Growth Board.

8.5 Local Authority Chief Executives will attend in support of the political attendees at the meetings. Local Enterprise Partnership Chief Executives will attend in support of their LEP Chair.

9. Secretariat and Support

9.1 The secretariat and support for the Growth Board will be established. Primarily the support will be led by dedicated growth board officer support and an Executive Officer Group, the Central Corridor Group (CCoG). CCoG will drive the technical and operational elements and the preparation of advice and recommendations to the Growth Board.

9.2 Dedicated Growth Board officer support will be established. Support will be provided by lead executive officers at each constituent member and LEP, each of whom will link into the CCoG.

9.3 Other investment partners will be involved as appropriate, again connecting directly to the Programme Manager and linking to CCoG as the lead co-ordination group for matters of general importance to the Central Area including the Homes and Communities Agency, Environment Agency, Highways England, Network Rail and England's Economic Heartlands Transport Forum/Sub-national Transport Body. These will advise on the investment and work programme.

10. Funding Contributions

10.1 The budget of the Growth Board will be agreed each year by the Growth Board not later than 1st December of the preceding financial year. The cost of meeting the expenditure planned in the budget shall, to the extent not met from other sources, be divided equally among the members (both constituent and associate) of the Growth Board. This shall be their subscription. At the time of establishment of the growth board, the annual contribution will be £5k. If the Growth Board wishes to seek additional contributions for any further work, proposals will be referred to partners for decision making.

10.2 If the proposed subscription is higher than the preceding year's subscription plus CPI, if any constituent or associate member is unwilling to pay the subscription so determined they may give written notice to the Host on behalf of the Growth Board no later than 1st January preceding the financial year to which the budget will apply. Unless they withdraw in writing that notice they shall cease to be a member from 1st April of that year (and the normal notice period given in Section 11 will not apply).

10.3 Any member which has not given due notice under 10.2 (and whose membership has not come to an end under Section 11) shall be obliged to pay its subscription for the year.

11. Withdrawal

11.1 Any member may give written notice to the Host, on behalf of the Growth Board, of its intention to withdraw from the Growth Board.

11.2 Such notice, unless withdrawn in writing, shall come into effect on the first 1st April which occurs after 12 months after the notice is given.

12. Joining

12.1 Any English local authority may apply to become a consistent member of the Growth Board. The Growth Board may approve such an application if it is satisfied that the applicant's area is closely economically linked to the existing Central Area, and that its joining would not render the governance of the Central Area unreasonably difficult.

12.2 Any English Local Enterprise Partnership may apply to become an associate member of the Growth Board. The Growth Board may approve such an application if it is satisfied that the applicant's area is closely economically linked to the existing Central Area, and that its joining would not render the governance of the Central Area unreasonably difficult.

12.3 On the application to join being approved, the new member shall take on the rights and obligations of the existing members of the Growth Board, including paying the appropriate proportion of the subscription due from members for the financial year in which it joins.

13. Scrutiny Arrangements

13.1 Decisions made by the Growth Committee shall be subject to the usual scrutiny arrangements of each constituent authority.

Appendix B

Additions to the Constitution

Part 2 Article 10 – Joint Arrangements

Paragraph 2. Joint Arrangements

In the table headed “Description of Joint Arrangements”

Add “Central Area Growth Board”

Part 3D – Delegations to Joint Committees

In the table headed “Delegations to joint committees are set out in the following table:-“

Add “Central Area Growth Board” under Description of Joint Arrangements

Add Appendix A the Central Area Growth Board – Terms of Reference under Delegations

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COUNCIL MEETING – 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

Recommendation to Council from the General Purposes Committee held on 23 August 2018

GPC/18/16. **Health and Wellbeing Board Membership**

The Committee considered a report presented by the Assistant Director, Public Health proposing changes to the membership for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Committee were advised that the current membership had been in place since 2013 and had not undergone a review since that time. The proposed changes would expand the membership to include members from other provider organisations to better deliver the outcomes from the emerging Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Committee noted that the recommended removal of a representative from the Commissioning Board from Herts and Midlands was necessary as this organisation no longer existed. Further, a representative from the successor body, NHS England, was unable to attend the Board on a regular basis and had not attended meetings for approximately 3-4 years. The Assistant Director, Public Health advised that other more effective routes existed for NHS England for the purposes of information and engagement.

RECOMMENDED to Council

that the proposed changes to the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, as set out in the report, be approved and the Constitution be amended accordingly.

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COUNCIL MEETING – 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

Recommendation to Council from the General Purposes Committee held on 23 August 2018

GPC/18/18. Consultation on the Community Governance Review

The Committee considered a report that set out the outcomes of the consultation on the Community Governance Review.

The Committee had previously resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of the whole of Central Bedfordshire at its meeting on 26 October 2017. The review had commenced on 1 November 2017 and the Committee approved the stage 3 draft recommendations for publication on 29 March 2018.

The Committee was asked to consider the outcome of the Stage 3 draft recommendations consultation and to make final recommendations to Council accordingly.

As representatives from Leighton-Linslade Town Council and Totternhoe Parish Council were present for this item it was agreed by Committee to consider the outcomes relating to these Councils first.

RECOMMENDED to Council

- 1. that the final recommendations for each town and parish council within Central Bedfordshire, as set out in the final recommendations (revised) at Appendix C to the minutes, be approved and adopted; and**
- 2. that delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer to create any orders necessary for the implementation of those proposals which receive the support of Council (and any consequential matters thereby required).**

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Community Governance Review (2017/18)

Final Recommendations (Revised)

1 Introduction

1.1 Central Bedfordshire Council, at its meeting on Thursday 26 October 2017 resolved that a Community Governance Review be conducted for the whole of the Council's area in accordance with Part 4 Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health (LGPIH) Act 2007

2 The Review

2.1 The Review commenced on 1 November 2017, when the Council published a Terms of Reference document and invited initial submissions from individuals or organisations who had an interest in the Review. In the Terms of Reference, the Council published a timetable for the Review.

2.2 A briefing session was held at the Town and Parish Council Conference on 21 November 2017. All parish and town councils were invited to attend with the majority of the towns and parishes being represented. Officers also attended, by invitation, Houghton Regis Town Council, Leighton-Linslade Town Council, Houghton Conquest Parish Council and Eggington Parish Council to outline the remit of the review and process.

2.3 The formal consultation period, inviting interested parties to make initial submissions, commenced on 1 November 2017 and closed on 1 February 2018. The second consultation phase ran from 14 May 2018 to 6 July 2018. Consultation was published on the Council's web site, local libraries and public notice boards, but more targeted engagement was sent to:

- All Central Bedfordshire Councillors;
- All Town and Parish Councils;
- Bedfordshire Association of Town/Parish Councils;
- Central Bedfordshire Members of Parliament;
- Residents'/Tenants' Associations;
- Businesses/Business Forums/Small Business Federations/Area Forums;
- Bedfordshire Green Business Network;
- Bedfordshire & Luton Chamber of Business;
- Leighton Buzzard Business Club;
- Chambers of Trade/Commerce;
- Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charities;
- Community Voluntary Services;
- Voluntary Community Action;
- Citizens Advice Bureau – local offices;

- Campaign to Protect Rural England (Bedfordshire);
- Age Concern/Golden years/Over 60's Groups/Senior Citizens;
- Bedfordshire Police;
- Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner;
- Bedfordshire and Luton Fire & Rescue Service
- Acting Returning Officer, Bedford Borough Council; and
- Acting Returning Officer, Luton Borough Council.

2.4 In preparing these final recommendations, the Council has been mindful of the initial and second stage submissions that have been received, which are referenced in this document. The Council also has the role of balancing these submissions against the wider requirements and duties that are placed upon it in the 2007 Act. In particular, the Council has a duty to ensure that community governance within its area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is effective and convenient.

2.5 In assessing these criteria, the community governance review is required to consider:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

3 Parish and Ward Boundaries

3.1 Principal council wards cannot be altered by the principal council in a Community Governance Order. However, consequential arrangements can be made by the Local Government Boundary Committee for England (LGBCE) as to what related alterations should be made to the boundaries of the principal council wards, and the LGBCE may by order give effect to these recommendations.

4 Final Recommendations by Parish

4.1 As the Community Governance Review includes a review of the whole of the Central Bedfordshire Council area, this document is divided into sections relating to each parish to assist the reader to follow the proposed changes.

4.2 Each section follows a consistent structure, including a summary of the existing boundary areas, warding, the total number of councillors, the baseline electorate (September 2017) the projected 5-year electorate forecasts, the ratio of electors per councillor and the variance of the ratio from the average. Details of any representations received have been referenced, and an explanation for any changes have also been included.

SUMMARY OF FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

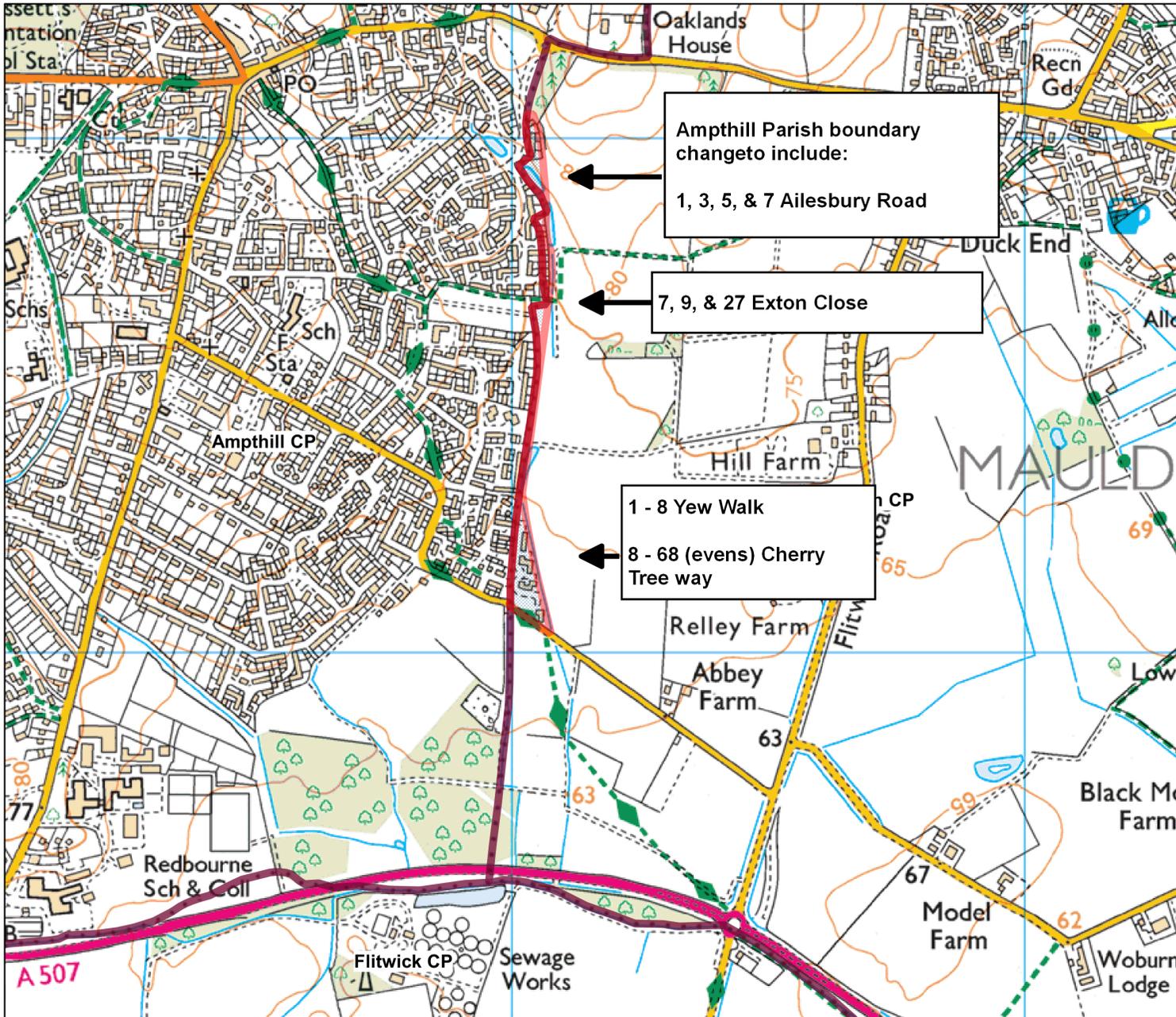
| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Parish | Ampthill |
|---------------|----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 12 | 6250 | 6881 | 521 | 573 | +80% | Ampthill |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Town Council</p> <p>The Town Council at their meeting on 30 May 2018 accepted the 3 draft recommendations</p> <p>Consultation Responses (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Ampthill should remain unchanged: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither, 1 strongly disagree • That the number of parish councillors on Ampthill Town Council remain unchanged (twelve): 1 agree, 1 neither, 1 strongly disagree • That the boundaries of the parish be changed to incorporate the properties at Numbers 1 to 8 Yew Walk; 8 to 68 (evens) Cherry Tree Way; 7, 9 & 27 Exton Close and 1 to 7 (odds) Ailesbury Road together with the properties Houghton Park Farm, Houghton Park House and The Old Stables: 2 neither, 1 strongly disagree • <i>“The town council should ask the residents if there wish to see parts of Maulden enter Ampthill parish and if not both council need to keep a border line between themselves”</i> |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Ampthill should remain unchanged. |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Ampthill Town Council remain unchanged (twelve). |
| 3. That the boundaries of the parish be changed to add the properties at Numbers 1 to 8 Yew Walk; 8 to 68 (evens) Cherry Tree Way; 7, 9 & 27 Exton Close and 1 to 7 (odds) Ailesbury Road, currently within the parish of Maulden, together with the properties Houghton Park Farm, Houghton Park House and The Old Stables, currently within the parish of Houghton Conquest, and for the properties to be omitted from the parishes of Maulden and Houghton Conquest respectively. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|--|
| Developments in the 1980's and 90's extended across the parish boundaries of Ampthill and Maulden. Additionally, the more recent development at Houghton Park Farm has extended across the parish boundaries of Ampthill and Houghton Conquest. The changes rectify these anomalies. |



Central Bedfordshire Council

Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 – Sheet 1

Legend

Proposal(s)

Area Affected

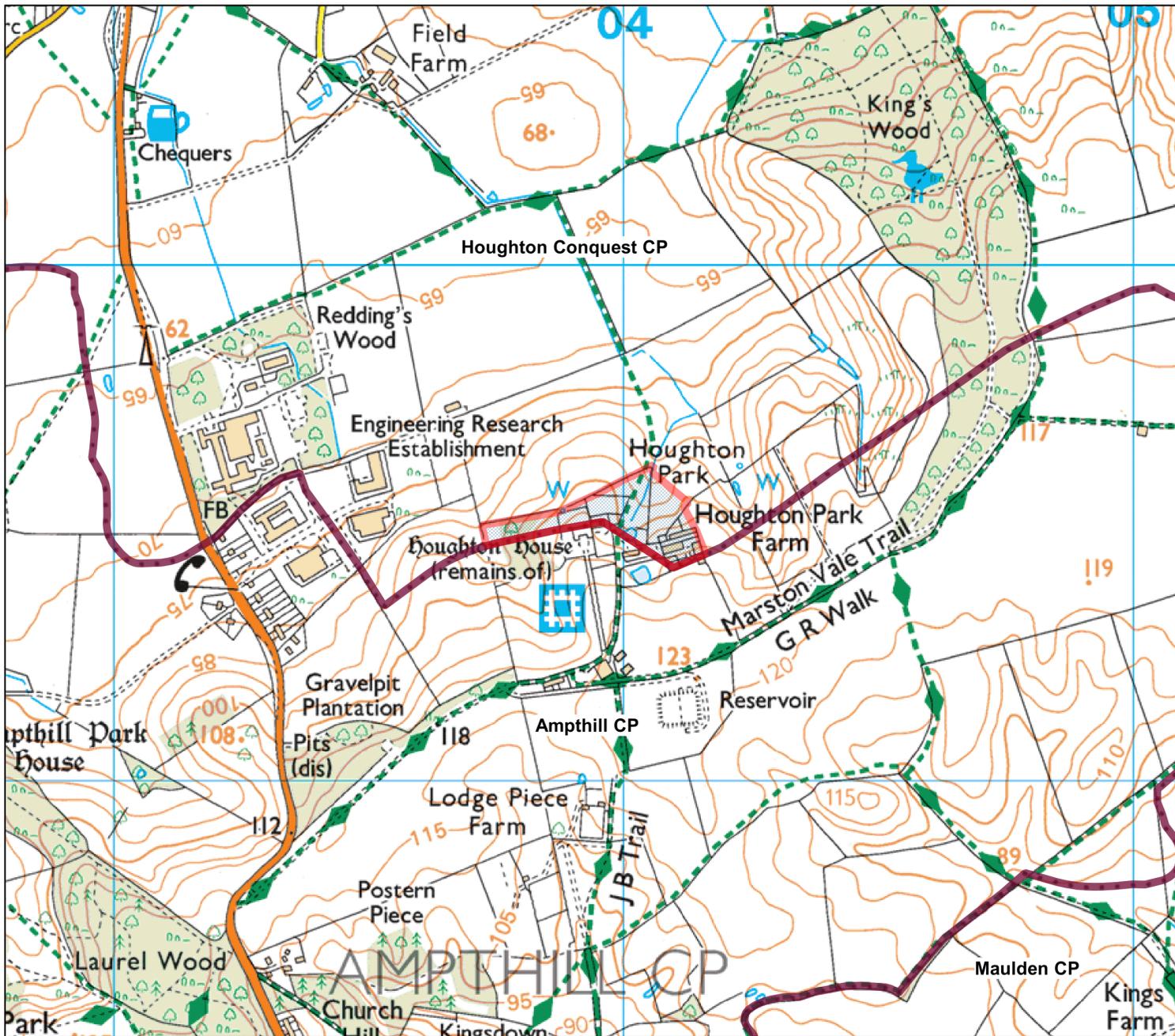
Parishes

Existing Parish Boundaries

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Central Bedfordshire Council.



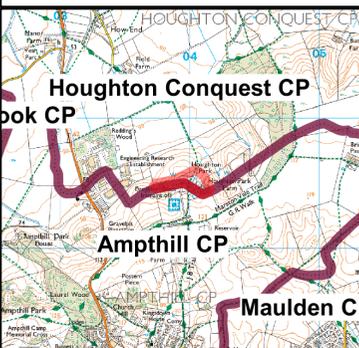


Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 – Sheet 2

- Legend**
- Proposal(s)**
 - Area Affected
 - Parishes**
 - Existing Parish Boundaries

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Central Bedfordshire Council.



| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Parish | Arlesey |
|---------------|---------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 15 | 4424 | 4682 | 295 | 312 | -2% | Arlesey |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Town Council Recommends a reduction in councillors from 15 to 12. The Council has struggled to maintain its full quota of Councillors, with resignations mid-term resulting by-elections and/or calls for co-option.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1) One response received to the questionnaire, with 'neither' selected for all questions</p> |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Arlesey should remain unchanged |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Arlesey Town Council be reduced to twelve; and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Arlesey. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|--|
| To implement the proposal of Arlesey Town Council that the number of parish councillors be reduced by three. |

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Parish | Aspley Guise |
|---------------|--------------|

| Parish Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Not Applicable | 12 | 1818 | 1833 | 152 | 153 | -52% | Aspley & Woburn |

Comments

Parish Council

The parish Council agree to no change to parish name or boundary. They object to a reduction in parish councillors. The workload on councillors continues to grow. They are volunteers and a smaller number would put increased workload on those remaining

Consultation Responses (30)

Thirty responses were received with general agreement for all proposals. Respondents were in favour of reducing the number of parish councillors (77%). This was also reiterated in a number of the free text comments received. Within the 13 free text comments received, there were several on themes of agreement with reducing the number of councillors, and concerns about the way members are currently serving without being elected,

“12 Parish Councillors. There are far too many councillors. Currently meetings are poorly attended, cumbersome and not fit for purpose. Currently there is a vacancy that has been filled. Reduce to 7!”

“Councillors should be elected”

Individual submissions

I am responding to a recent document regarding the make-up proposal for Aspley Guise Parish Council. I was until recently a Parish Councillor and intend on re-joining shortly. I have to say that the proposed reduction of councillors to 12 to 7 is a fantastic proposal and one that I support wholeheartedly. The current running of the council is a shambles and is due in part to the number of councillors. There are too many on the council with vested interests and agendas that are not conducive to a smooth running parish. In principle, there is a lot we can do as a community that we are not doing; engagement with the parish is a particular bugbear to me. Currently the council is wasting time effort and money on projects and activity that are not aligned with what the village needs (in my opinion); a reduction will streamline the decision making process, clear out the ‘dead wood’ and enhance the experience of those participating in parish council meetings.

I welcome your proposals to reduce the number of Councillors to seven for the reasons set out below.

The current ratio of 1 Councillor to 152 Electors is woefully inadequate and inefficient. 152 electors is approximately 70 homes. I see no reason why an increased ratio of 1 to 262 would have an impact on the ability of a Councillor to perform their community role. The Parish Council, with 12 members, has always felt large and has a high turnover of Parish Councillors. Most recently, a new Parish Councillor lasted just three meetings before resigning! The Parish Council seems to be endlessly co-opting people. Too many people make it difficult for effective decisions to be made.

The Parish Council will object to your proposal stating that it would increase the workload on Parish Councillors, yet a glance at a year of meeting minutes evidences little resident involvement (because many Parish Councillors do not talk to residents), and little is achieved. Perhaps the most damning evidence that your proposal

Page 22
Item 10

is correct would be the attendance at the 14th May AGPC meeting where the proposal was discussed (and rejected): a third (4) of the Parish Councillors were not present, and given one vacancy, meant just 7 people were present!

In Aspley Guise (and this may well be a wider problem within CBC), there is little engagement from both the public and Ward Councillors - who in large - do not communicate with residents. Yet people are clearly keen to make a difference, because so many join - and quit - the Parish Council! If you look carefully at the current membership, it is largely a collection of people living near or next door to each other, which I also believe does not help promote democracy. For example, there are two members that live north of the railway line representing approximately 15% of residents, yet there only a dozen or so people living north of the railway line!

It is therefore my view that by reducing the number of Councillors on AGPC to seven, and hence introducing competition, you will vastly increase the chances of an election in 2019. It will encourage people to debate ideas and seek office, because the Parish Council will be smaller, more accountable and better able to make decisions. At present, AGPC is a very poor Parish Council and essentially unrepresentative of the wider community. I look forward to your change being implemented in time for the 2019 elections.

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Aspley Guise should remain unchanged;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Aspley Guise Parish Council remain unchanged (twelve); and
3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Aspley Guise.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Parish | Aspley Heath |
|---------------|--------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Not Applicable | 9 | 521 | 536 | 58 | 60 | -81% | Aspley & Woburn |

| |
|---|
| Comments |
| Parish Council I would like to confirm that Aspley Heath Parish Council wishes to remain with 9 members. |

| |
|--|
| Final Recommendations |
| 1. That the parish name of Aspley Heath should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Aspley Heath Parish Council remain unchanged (nine); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Aspley Heath. |

| |
|---|
| Reason for the decisions |
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Parish | Barton-Le-Clay |
|---------------|----------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Not Applicable | 13 | 4081 | 4100 | 314 | 315 | -1% | Barton-Le-Clay |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>The projected household development within Barton-le-Clay as referenced within the Local Plan is significantly higher than outlined within the Barton-le-Clay profile that forms part of the Governance review. The proposed increase in household numbers would make the ratio of electors to seats and the variance from average significantly different to the figures presented within the village profile. Any reduction in the number of Parish Councillors would result in a net increase in workload being distributed to fewer members. The proposed decrease in Parish Councillors may result in a weaker democratic process given that at committee stage less members would be required to be quorate and less members would be available to debate the agenda items in question.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1)</p> <p>One response received to the questionnaire, with 'neither' selected for all questions</p> |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Barton-Le-Clay should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Barton-Le-Clay Parish Council remain unchanged (thirteen); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Barton-Le-Clay. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

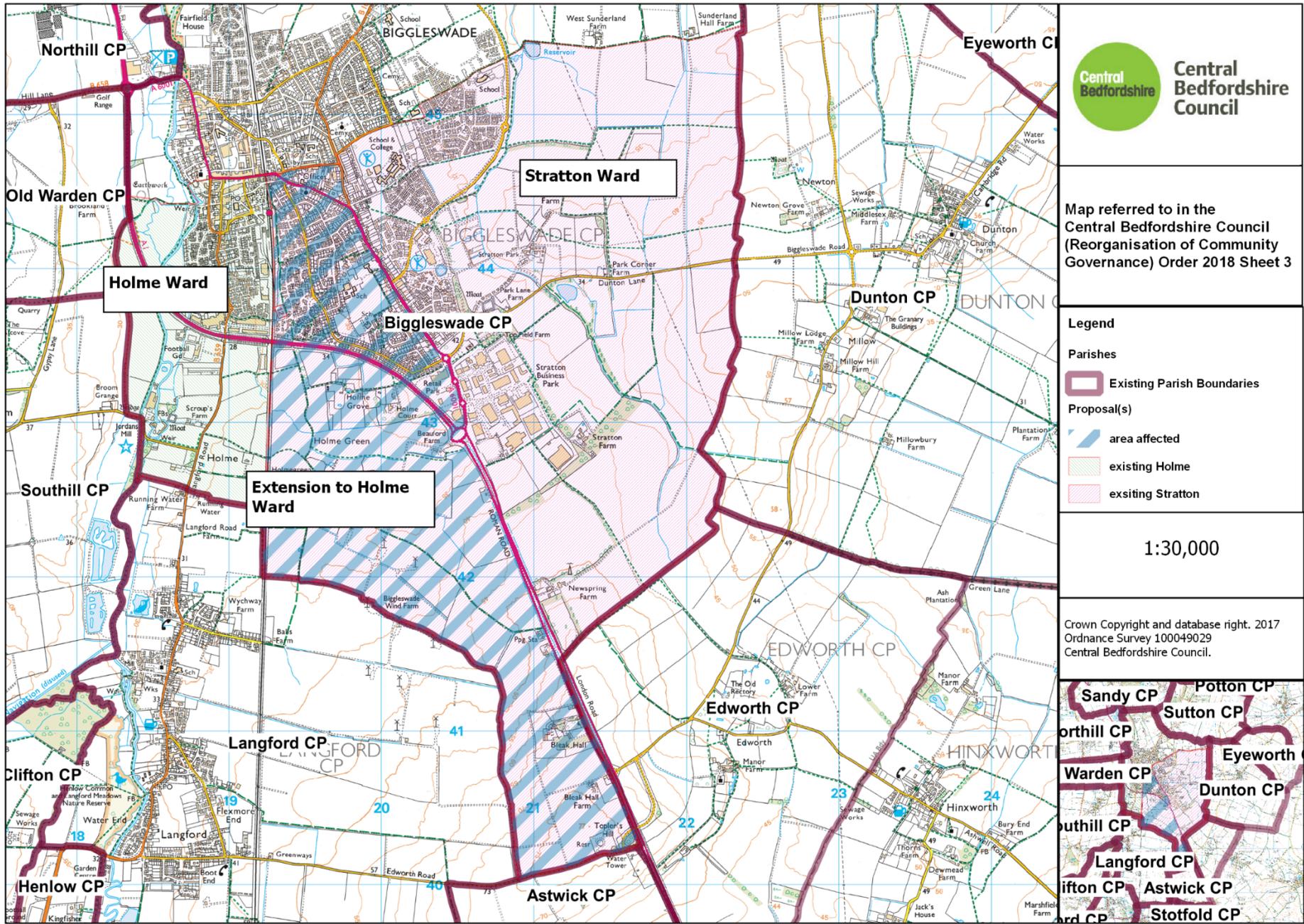
| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Parish | Biggleswade |
|---------------|-------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Holme | 3 | 1834 | 1849 | 611 | 616 | +93% | Biggleswade North |
| Ivel | 7 | 6769 | 8284 | 967 | 1183 | +271% | Biggleswade South |
| Stratton | 5 | 6801 | 6801 | 1360 | 1360 | +326% | Biggleswade South |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Town Council</p> <p>Propose to increase the area of the Holme Ward, based on the information we have, the electorate is currently 1804 with 3 Town councillors. The Holme boundary move would increase the electorate to around 4629 with the proposal that Holme ward has 5 Town councillors. The implication of moving the Holme boundary would be that the Stratton ward, current electorate 6793, would reduce to around 4379 with the 5 Stratton Town councillor positions remaining the same. Ivel ward, current electorate 6650, would reduce to around 6342 with the proposal that the ward has 5 Town councillors.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Biggleswade should remain unchanged: 2 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Biggleswade Town Council remain unchanged (fifteen) but amended to (Holme ward 5, Ivel ward 5 and Stratton ward 5): 2 neither, 1 disagree • That the parish ward boundaries, for the parish wards of Holme and Stratton be changed to provide a more equitable ratio of electors to seats:2 neither, 1 disagree • That the parish boundaries between Northhill and Biggleswade be redrawn to incorporate the Sainsbury's Supermarket, Tidy Tip and the properties 3 Bells Brook House and Numbers 1 to 18 Riverside Court into the parish of Biggleswade:2 neither, 2 strongly disagree • <i>"With new housing coming to Biggleswade Holme ward the council could lose two from the Ivel ward and put six councillors into Holme ward and four into Stratton ward reducing it to twelve and the changes with the tidy tip should go to the residents first as it would benefit Northhill and Biggleswade part of Central Bedfordshire in all."</i> • <i>"The River Ivel should remain as the boundary."</i> |

| Final Recommendations | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. | That the parish name of Biggleswade should remain unchanged; |
| 2. | That the number of parish councillors on Biggleswade Town Council remain unchanged (fifteen) but amended to (Holme ward 5, Ivel ward 5 and Stratton ward 5); |
| 3. | That the parish ward boundaries, for the parish wards of Holme and Stratton be changed (as shown at map 3) to provide a more equitable ratio of electors to seats; and. |
| 4. | That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Biggleswade. |

| Reason for the decisions | |
|--|--|
| <p>The draft recommendation to extend the parish boundary to incorporate the Sainsbury's Supermarket, Tidy Tip and the properties 3 Bells Brook House and Numbers 1 to 18 Riverside Court, currently in the parish of Northill, was rejected as the Committee accepts the argument that such a move would contradict the principles of natural boundaries; in this case the river Ivel.</p> <p>However, it was agreed that the proposal from the Town Council to amend the ward boundaries of Holme and Stratton together with a redistribution of seats across all 3 wards would provide a more equitable ratio of electors to seats.</p> | |



| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Parish | Blunham |
|---------------|---------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 10 | 827 | 1036 | 83 | 104 | -67% | Sandy |

| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Blunham Parish Council has considered the proposals and would comment that the boundary change to incorporate the Old Station Court is supported. However, the reduction in Councillor numbers to 7 is not supported. Councillors would prefer to remain at 10. This gives enough councillors to spread over the various committees and roles without placing too great a burden. A Smaller number would mean far more responsibility for each Councillor, which would be too onerous and make it difficult to attract new members.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Blunham should remain unchanged: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Blunham Parish Council be reduced to seven: 1 neither, 1 strongly agree • That the boundary of the parish be changed to incorporate the properties at numbers 7 to 17 (odds) and number 18 Old Station Court: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Blunham should remain unchanged |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Blunham Parish Council remain unchanged (ten); and |
| 3. That the boundary of the parish be changed to add the properties at numbers 7 to 17 (odds) and number 18 Old Station Court and to omit the properties from Moggerhanger parish. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|--|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. Additionally, no objections have been received to the proposal to change the parish boundary, which has the support of both parish councils. |

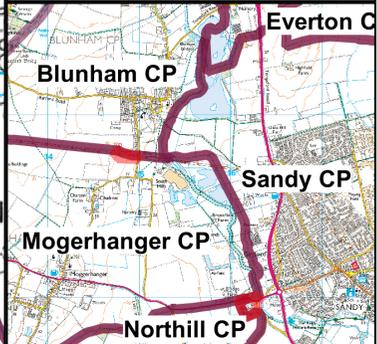


Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 - Sheet 4

- Legend
- Proposal(s)
 - Area Affected
 - Parishes
 - Existing Parish Boundaries

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Central Bedfordshire Council.



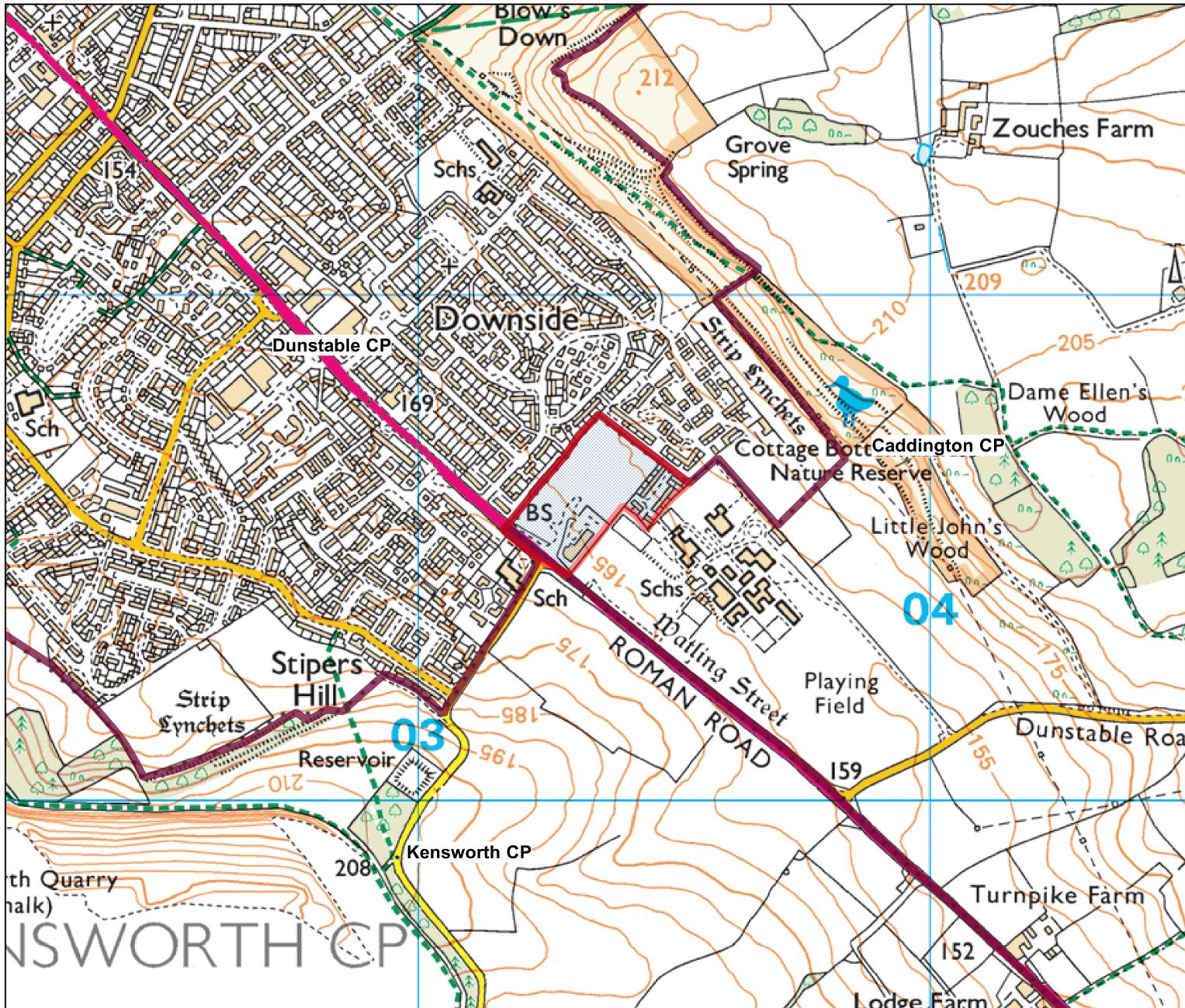
| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Parish | Caddington |
|---------------|------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Not Applicable | 10 | 3209 | 3675 | 320 | 368 | +15% | Caddington, Hyde & Slip End |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Parish Council No response</p> <p>Consultation Responses (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Caddington should remain unchanged:1 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Caddington Parish Council remain unchanged (ten): 1 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the boundary of the parish be changed to remove the properties at Numbers 19 to 73 (odds) Norfolk Road together with the properties at Fossett Grove, Goodhart Crescent, Montgomery Grove, Renner Croft and Numbers 177 to 233 (odds) London Road: 1 neither, 1 strongly disagree • <i>“There should be no plans to put the new housing estate built around the new travel lodge of the A5 coming into Dunstable part of Manshead for Caddington as it sits next to Downside and would cause upset with the residents on that side of Dunstable.”</i> |

| Final Recommendations |
|---|
| 1. That the parish name of Caddington should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Caddington Parish Council remain unchanged (ten); and |
| 3. That the boundary of the parish be changed to omit the properties at Numbers 19 to 73 (odds) Norfolk Road together with the properties at Fossett Grove, Goodhart Crescent, Montgomery Grove, Renner Croft and Numbers 177 to 233 (odds) London Road and to add the properties to the parish of Dunstable. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| Developments in the 1990’s and in 2016/17 have extended across the parish boundaries of Dunstable and Caddington. The changes rectify these anomalies. It was noted that this recommendation to change the boundary would also require the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Committee for England as it affects Central Bedfordshire Council ward boundaries. |



Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 – Sheet 5

Legend

Proposal(s)

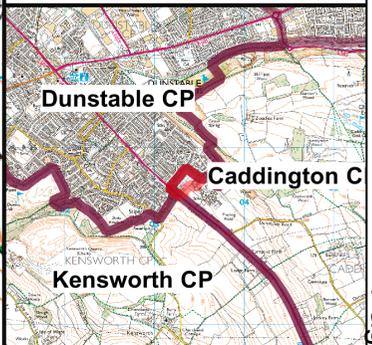
Area Affected

Parishes

Existing Parish Boundaries

1:10,000

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Ordnance Survey 100049029
Central Bedfordshire Council.



| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Parish | Clifton |
|---------------|---------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Not Applicable | 12 | 2595 | 2838 | 216 | 237 | -26% | Arlesey |

| |
|---|
| Comments |
| <p>Parish Council I would like to confirm that Clifton Parish Council wishes to remain constituted with 12 members.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1) One response received to the questionnaire, with 'neither' selected for all questions</p> |

| |
|---|
| Final Recommendations |
| 1. That the parish name of Clifton should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Clifton Parish Council remain unchanged (twelve); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Clifton. |

| |
|---|
| Reason for the decisions |
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Parish | Clophill |
|---------------|----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Not Applicable | 10 | 1420 | 1444 | 142 | 144 | -55% | Ampthill |

Comments

Parish Council
 Clophill Parish Council is very concerned about the recommendation that the number of councillors be reduced for 10 to 7. We believe that this would have a dramatic and detrimental impact on of the current administration of the council and may not allow us to promote the democratic and community involvement we believe we can delivery.

We occasionally find that with Councillor commitments this can limit the number at a meeting and reduction to 7 would have a bigger impact on this. It would also limit the range of activities the Councillors can be involved with and place a greater workload on a smaller number of Councillors. It will also reduce potential options on skill sets available. All of the above is going to have a major impact on the demands on the time and resources of the Council Clerk.

The number of Councillors will change over a period as this is a voluntary role and people’s circumstances change. A large part of recent changes came about with the shift in demographics especially in relation to the age of the Councillors. With Councillors that stay on for a number of years the change can bring challenges when they leave and often recruiting the right Councillor may cause a number of changes in the Council but to date we have not had a situation where an election has been required.

The Parish is going to grow and the growth figures supplied do not reflect the proposals that the Council have seen for housing development. The Council must take a long term view and plan for the required service needs of the future. We are concerned that these changes could result in a loss of identity at a local level and confusion amongst residents over responsibility levels. The new Councillors are settling in to their roles and making great strides towards building closer links within the village community and adjacent parish communities.

Whilst recognizing the aim for equalizing number of Councillors vs the number of residents and a concern voiced on the cost of local elections on the CBC budgets, this further restructuring will lead to a further loss of identity and alienation within the community.

In summary we resolved at the Annual General meeting to maintain the current numbers and stay as we are with 10 members and oppose the proposal by Central Bedfordshire Council. We believe this would lead to confusion in our community and the potential loss of a sense of place. We want to retain and develop strong logical links between the community and the Parish Council and maintain Council at 10 members

Boundaries in Clophill with connections to the Parishes of Silsoe and Campton.

We would also request that CBC investigate possible changes to the Parish Boundary.

It has been noted that a small number of houses on the Old Silsoe Road are in a small enclave and a finger of the Silsoe Parish and the residents would benefit from being in the Clophill Parish.

We would also ask if Speedshill Dairy could be included in the Parish of Clophill.

The above suggestions are currently being explored with the adjoining Parishes and if they are willing to support this.

Consultation Responses (2)

- That the parish name of Clophill should remain unchanged: 2 neither
- That the number of parish councillors on Clophill Parish Council be reduced to seven: 1 agree, 1 neither
- That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Clophill: 1 agree, 1 neither

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Clophill should remain unchanged;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Clophill Parish Council remain unchanged (ten); and
3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Clophill.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government.

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Parish | Cranfield |
|---------------|-----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Cranfield | 13 | 3673 | 4416 | 283 | 340 | +7% | Cranfield |
| Wharley End | 2 | 145 | 145 | 73 | 73 | -77% | Cranfield |

Comments

Parish Council
 I advise that the Council have no objection to abolition of the ward of Wharley End. However, with the continued expansion and ongoing development of Cranfield and the associated increase in workload for Councillors, the Council objects to the reduction in the number of parish councillors to 13 and asks that the number remains at 15.

Consultation Responses (4)

- That the parish name of Cranfield should remain unchanged: 3 strongly agree, 1 neither
- That the ward of Cranfield Wharley End be abolished: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither, 2 strongly disagree
- That the number of parish councillors on Cranfield Parish Council be reduced to thirteen 1 neither, 3 strongly disagree
- That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Cranfield 2 strongly agree, 1 neither, 1 strongly disagree
- All 3 responses to the free text question indicated a strong theme around growth in Cranfield
- *“Cranfield is rapidly expanding and these proposed changes do not meet the needs of the area”*
- *“With the increased housing experienced over recent years there is no justification to reduce the size of the parish council”*
- *“How can you think reducing councillors is a good idea when Cranfield is growing at some ridiculous unsustainable rate & we need people to represent us”*

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Cranfield should remain unchanged;
2. That the ward of Cranfield Wharley End be abolished;
3. That the number of parish councillors on Cranfield Parish Council remain unchanged (fifteen); and
4. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Cranfield.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. However, it was agreed that the proposal, to which the Parish Council has no objection, that the current warding arrangements does not reflect the current distribution of population within the parish and is therefore unnecessary.

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Parish | Dunstable |
|---------------|-----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Central | 3 | 3775 | 3819 | 1258 | 1273 | +299% | Dunstable Central |
| Icknield | 5 | 6344 | 6847 | 1268 | 1369 | +329% | Dunstable Icknield |
| Manshead | 3 | 3883 | 3883 | 1294 | 1294 | +306% | Dunstable Manshead |
| Northfields | 5 | 7451 | 7777 | 1490 | 1555 | +388% | Dunstable Northfields |
| Watling | 5 | 7739 | 7739 | 1548 | 1548 | +385% | Dunstable Watling |

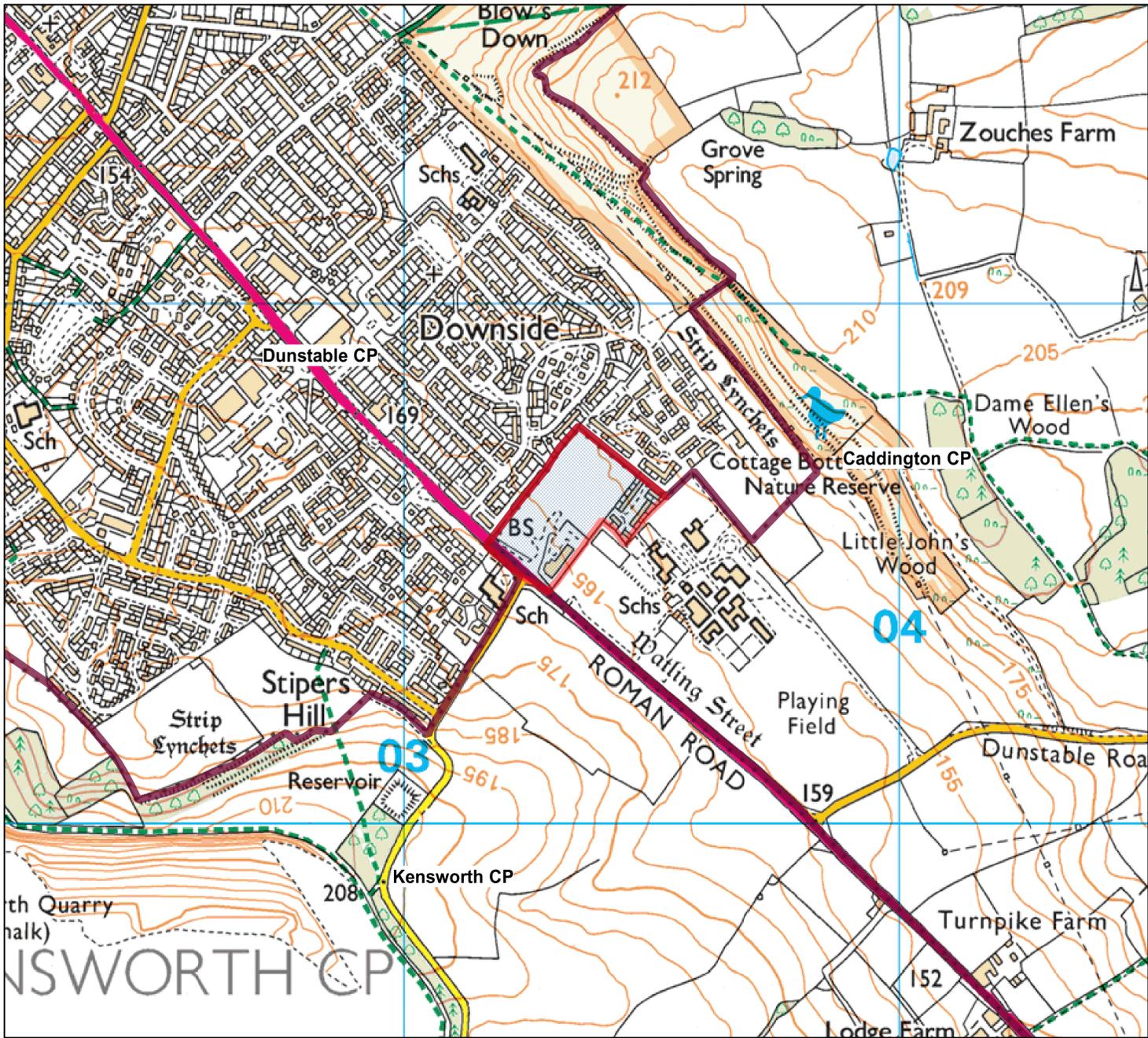
| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Town Council</p> <p>At the meeting of the Town Council on 18 June 2018 it was agreed that the council was content to accept the GP Committee proposals.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Dunstable should remain unchanged: 1 strongly agree, 1 agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Dunstable Town Council be reduced to eighteen (Central Ward 3, Icknield Ward 4, Manshead Ward 3, Northfields Ward 4 and Watling Ward 4): 1 strongly agree, 2 neither • That the boundary of the parish be changed to add the properties at Numbers 19 to 73 (odds) Norfolk Road together with the properties at Fossett Grove, Goodhart Crescent, Montgomery Grove, Renner Croft and Numbers 177 to 233 (odds) London Road: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither, 1 strongly disagree • That the boundary of the parish be changed to effect the removal of the properties at Numbers 21 to 33 Portland Ride: 1 strongly agree, 2 neither • <i>“The council must have its councillors reduced back down to pre 2011 numbers as of 1988 - 2008 because of the cost to the tax payer and with the area in Manshead should not take in parts of Caddington due to the friction this will cause over both areas.”</i> |

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Dunstable should remain unchanged;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Dunstable Town Council be reduced to eighteen (Central Ward 3, Ickniel Ward 4, Manshead Ward 3, Northfields Ward 4 and Watling Ward 4);
3. That the boundary of the parish be changed to add the properties at Numbers 19 to 73 (odds) Norfolk Road together with the properties at Fossett Grove, Goodhart Crescent, Montgomery Grove, Renner Croft and Numbers 177 to 233 (odds) London Road and to omit the properties from the parish of Caddington;
4. That the boundary of the parish be changed to omit the properties at Numbers 21 to 33 Portland Ride and to add the properties to the parish of Houghton Regis.

Reason for the decisions

To implement the proposal of Dunstable Town Council that the number of parish councillors be reduced by three and to rectify a number of anomalies between the parishes of Dunstable, Caddington and Houghton Regis whereby various developments have traversed existing parish boundaries. It was noted that the recommendation affecting the changes to the boundaries of Dunstable and Caddington would also require the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Committee for England as it affects Central Bedfordshire Council ward boundaries



Central Bedfordshire Council

Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 – Sheet 5

Legend

Proposal(s)

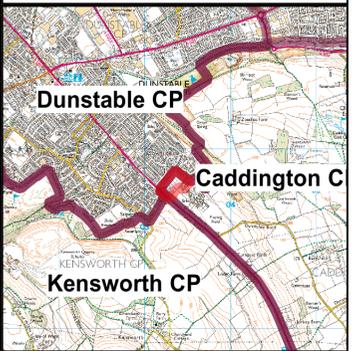
Area Affected

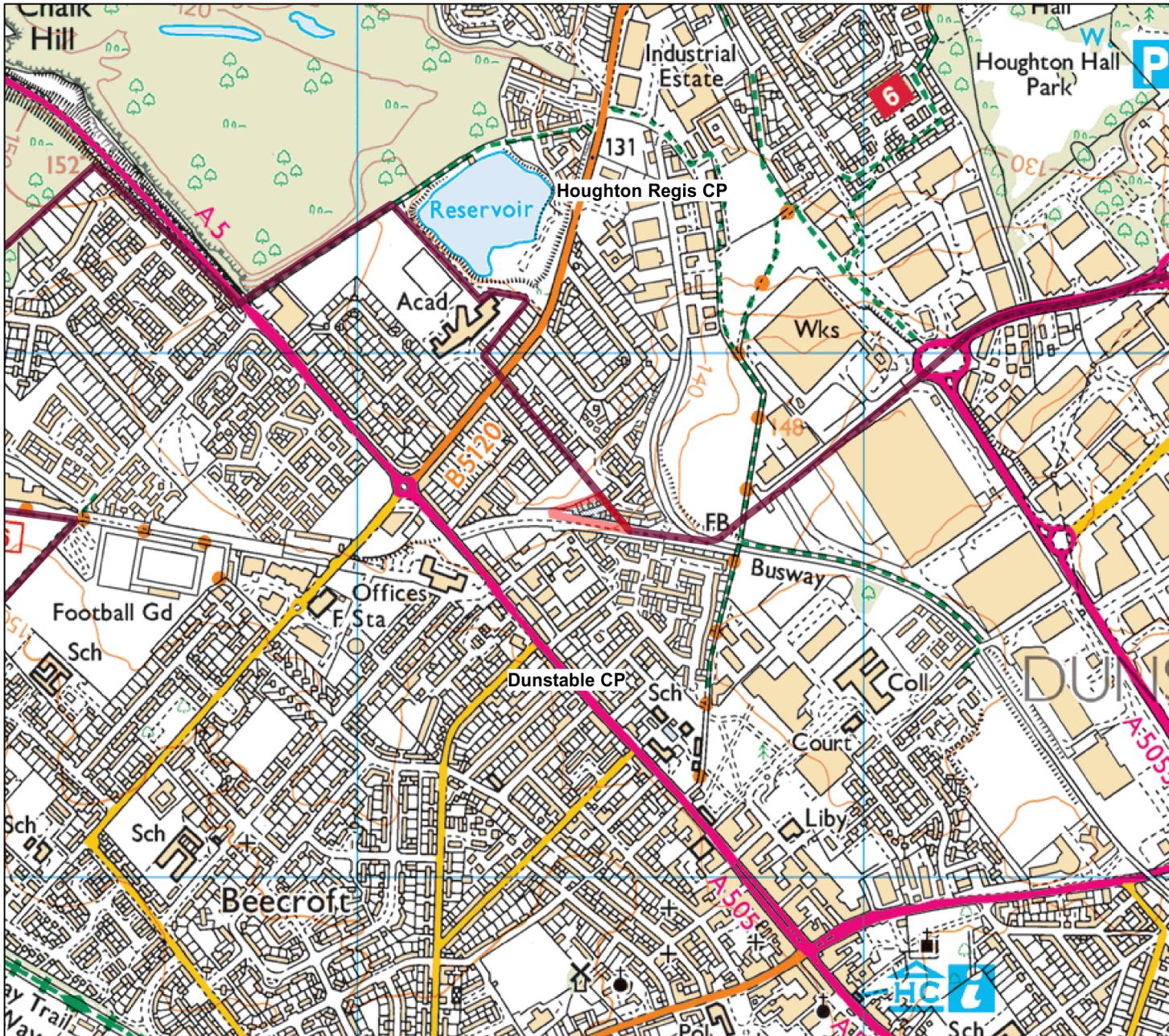
Parishes

Existing Parish Boundaries

1:10,000

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Central Bedfordshire Council.



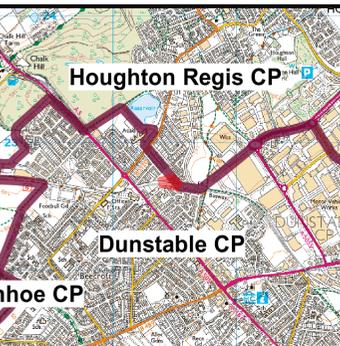


Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 – Sheet 6

- Legend
- Proposal(s)
- Area Affected
- Parishes
- Existing Parish Boundaries

1:10,000

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Central Bedfordshire Council.



| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Parish | Eaton Bray |
|---------------|------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 9 | 2129 | 2144 | 237 | 238 | -25% | Eaton Bray |

| |
|--|
| Comments |
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>The Councillors raised concerns regarding the proposal to cut the number of Parish Councillors from nine Councillors down to seven. Due to the large amount of workload/duties carried out by the Parish Councillors they feel it is very important to maintain the quota of nine Parish Councillors for Eaton Bray Parish Council - to ensure the smooth running of the Council and to be able to give residents the help/support they need.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Eaton Bray should remain unchanged: 3 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Eaton Bray Parish Council be reduced to seven: 1 neither, 1 disagree, 1 strongly disagree • That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Eaton Bray: 2 strongly agree, 1 agree, 1 neither • <i>"I believe that reducing the number of parish councillors in Eaton Bray will result in a serious degradation in service. Parish Councillors work hard on a voluntary basis and the proposed reduction in numbers serves no purpose and save little if any money."</i> |

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| Final Recommendations |
| 1. That the parish name of Eaton Bray should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Eaton Bray Parish Council remain unchanged (nine); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Eaton Bray. |

| |
|---|
| Reason for the decisions |
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Parish | Eggington |
|---------------|-----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 7 | 245 | 585 | 35 | 84 | -74% | Heath & Reach |

| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>The Parish Council agrees with the proposals. There is some concern regards the potential future imbalance between "Clipstone Park" and Eggington Village, given the small size of the existing parish. There is a view that having a greater number of residences within the parish will make it more viable as an entity, rather than see it swallowed up by its larger neighbours.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Eggington should remain unchanged: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Eggington Parish Council remain unchanged (seven): 1 strongly agree, 1 neither • That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Eggington: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Eggington should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Eggington Parish Council remain unchanged (seven); |
| 3. That a further governance review of the parish be held when a substantial number of the proposed development has taken place; and |
| 4. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Eggington. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The Terms of Reference did not provide for the wholesale review of parish boundaries where there is currently no development. |

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Parish | Flitton & Greenfield |
|---------------|----------------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Flitton | 5 | 555 | 577 | 111 | 115 | -64% | Westoning, Flitton & Greenfield |
| Greenfield | 5 | 596 | 596 | 119 | 119 | -62% | Westoning, Flitton & Greenfield |

| |
|--|
| Comments |
| <p>Parish Council The Council requests that the number of councillors remains the same</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1) One response received to the questionnaire, with 'neither' selected for all questions</p> |

| |
|---|
| Final Recommendations |
| 1. That the parish names of Flitton and Greenfield should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Flitton and Greenfield Parish Council remain unchanged (ten); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Flitton and Greenfield. |

| |
|---|
| Reason for the decisions |
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Parish | Great Billington |
|---------------|------------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 7 | 280 | 285 | 40 | 41 | -87% | Eaton Bray |

Comments

Parish Council

At last night's Billington PC meeting we reviewed the boundary map and it was agreed that the triangle south of the bypass should come within Billington's boundary.

Consultation Responses (2)

- That the parish name of Great Billington be changed to Billington:1 strongly agree, 1 neither
- That the number of parish councillors on Billington Parish Council remain unchanged (seven):1 strongly agree, 1 neither
- That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Billington: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither
- *"Yes the village must just be titled under Billington and given a community title."*

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Great Billington be changed to Billington;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Billington Council remain unchanged (seven); and
3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Billington.

Reason for the decisions

The proposed extensions to the parish boundary to incorporate parts of Leighton-Linslade parish and Stanbridge parish is rejected as the proposals are outwith Terms of Reference of the review.

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Parish | Harlington |
|---------------|------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 12 | 1832 | 1857 | 153 | 155 | -51% | Toddington |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Parish Council Harlington Parish Council agrees that the parish name of Harlington should remain unchanged and that no change should be made to the parish boundary and after full consideration and minuted vote the Council asks that they require a minimum of 10 Councillors</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1) One response received to the questionnaire, with 'neither' selected for all questions</p> |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Harlington should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Harlington Parish Council remain unchanged (twelve); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Harlington. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Parish | Haynes |
|---------------|--------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Not Applicable | 10 | 995 | 997 | 100 | 100 | -69% | Houghton Conquest & Haynes |

| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Haynes Parish Council notes your recommendation that Haynes PC reduces its number of Councillors to 7. Councillors considered that given the disparate hamlets within Haynes, such as Deadmans Cross, West End & Church End, 10 Councillors are still preferred to ensure the best possible effort can be made to achieve representation from each of these areas. We therefore ask that you keep Haynes Parish Council set at 10 Councillors.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Haynes should remain unchanged: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Haynes Parish Council be reduced to seven: 1 neither, 1 strongly disagree • That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Haynes: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither |

| Final Recommendations |
|---|
| 1. That the parish name of Haynes should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Haynes Parish Council remain unchanged (ten); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Haynes. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Parish | Heath & Reach |
|---------------|---------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Not Applicable | 9 | 1168 | 1183 | 130 | 131 | -59% | Heath & Reach |

| |
|---|
| Comments |
| <p>Parish Council Heath and Reach Parish Council would not like to reduce the number of councillors</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1) One response received to the questionnaire, with 'neither' selected for all questions</p> |

| |
|---|
| Final Recommendations |
| 1. That the parish name of Heath & Reach should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Heath & Reach Parish Council remain unchanged (nine); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Heath & Reach. |

| |
|---|
| Reason for the decisions |
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Parish | Henlow |
|---------------|--------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Camp | 2 | 1017 | 1017 | 509 | 509 | +60% | Arlesey |
| Village | 10 | 1819 | 1841 | 182 | 184 | -42% | Arlesey |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Henlow Parish Council agrees that the Camp ward should be abolished but requests that the number of Councillors remain at 12. Currently there are many unoccupied dwellings at the RAF base, but there are plans to sell/let these bringing many more residents into the parish of Henlow. Henlow Parish Council also would request that the minor change to the parish boundary to bring the whole of the airfield into Henlow rather than in Clifton and in Henlow be considered.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Henlow should remain unchanged 1 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the Camp ward be abolished 1 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Henlow Parish Council be reduced to ten neither, 1 strongly disagree • That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Henlow 1 neither, 1 disagree |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Henlow should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the Camp ward be abolished. |
| 3. That the number of parish councillors on Henlow Parish Council remain unchanged (twelve); and |
| 4. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Henlow. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. Additionally, the proposal, to which the Parish Council has no objection, that the current warding arrangements does not reflect the current distribution of population within the parish and is therefore unnecessary. |

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Parish | Houghton Conquest |
|---------------|-------------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Not Applicable | 10 | 1286 | 2792 | 129 | 279 | -13% | Houghton Conquest & Haynes |

| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>The Parish Council is of the view that HCPC will not be sustainable in its current status, once the new developments in the proposed new "Thickthorn Ward" become established.</p> <p>Councillors are very keen to understand how we can move towards forming a new Parish Council for this Ward as soon as is legally & practically possible for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The clear disparity in character between the old village & the new housing makes a logical distinction between the two communities, which have different demands & challenges. The physical barrier of the new Country Park. This will completely separate these two communities. The different models for managing green space/grass cutting, will have significant financial implications. We understand that residents of Thickthorn Ward are likely to have their green spaces managed privately & will pay for it themselves. Over & above this they will then be obliged to pay towards the Village Ward green spaces, as it will be collected through the Precept. They would therefore in effect be supplementing the costs of running Village Ward. This is a large element of our Precept so it will not be insignificant, & seems unfair on these residents. <p>The fact that the Parish will double in size yet still retain only 10 Councillors is of concern. HCPC is an efficiently run Parish Council with an experienced Clerk, & all Councillors play their part by taking on roles & responsibilities. To have the Parish doubled with the same number of Councillors needs careful consideration. It is possible this would lead to increased staff costs if the Councillors could not cope with the extra responsibility. It may also lead to difficulties recruiting Councillors</p> <p>I can confirm that the Parish Council decided to request that your proposal to ward Houghton Conquest with effect from May 2019 elections be deferred. This is because the housing within your proposed "Thickthorn" Ward will have very few residents by that time. As such it is likely that there would not be any candidates come forward for this ward, whilst "Village" ward would have too many candidates, forcing an election.</p> <p>The inevitable outcome would be that the unsuccessful candidates for Village Ward would simply be co-opted onto Thickthorn Ward. Whilst the Parish Council encourages democratic elections, this does seem somewhat nonsensical, forcing the cost of an unnecessary election.</p> |

The Parish Council proposes that it remains in its current set up in the short term until the new housing is more substantially occupied. At that stage, these residents can decide if they would like their own Parish Council. In the meantime, the Parish Council will actively encourage residents living in the new housing to join the Parish Council. If any of them do, they will be given the portfolio to represent the needs of these residents.

Consultation Responses (5)

- That the parish name of Houghton Conquest should remain unchanged: 4 strongly agree, 1 neither
- That the parish should be divided into two wards named Village and Thickthorn: 1 strongly agree, 1 agree, 2 neither
- That the number of parish councillors on Houghton Conquest Parish Council remain unchanged (ten): 2 neither, 1 disagree, 2 strongly disagree
- That the number of parish councillors for Village ward is five and for the Thickthorn ward is five: 2 neither, 1 disagree, 1 strongly disagree
- That the boundary of the parish be changed to exclude the properties Houghton Park Farm, Houghton Park House and The Old Stables: 1 strongly agree, 2 agree, 2 neither
- *“The Parish Council's aim is to achieve a new Parish be formed for the new housing, at the earliest opportunity. There are merits for the case for a new Parish Council as follows: a) The clear disparity in character between the old village & the new housing b) The physical barrier of the new Country Park which will separate the 2 communities c) The different models for managing green space/grass cutting, which will have significant financial implications. d) The fact that the Parish will double in size yet still retain only 10 Councillors.”*

Individual Submissions

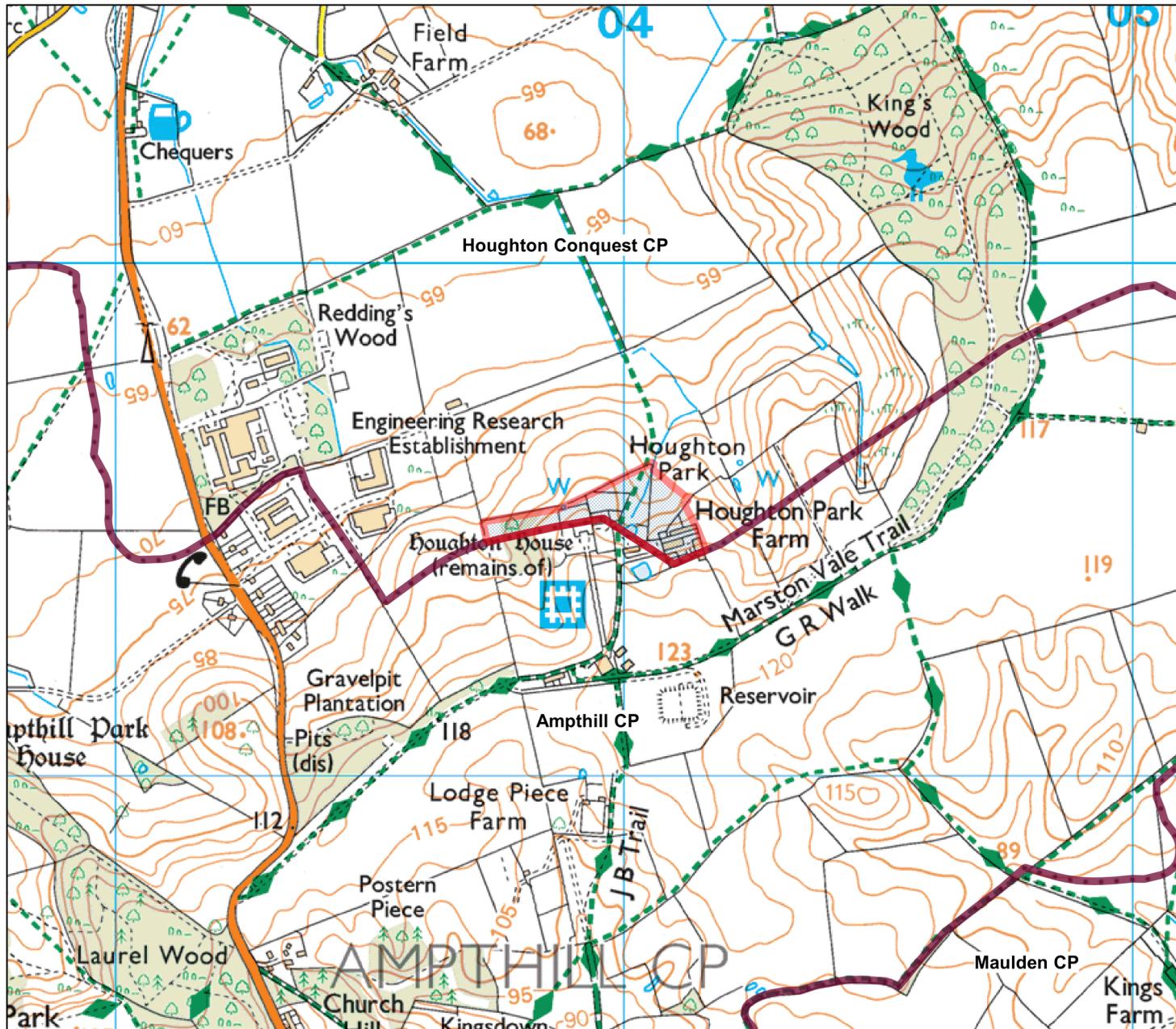
- The council should have the councillors cut from ten to six and the new wards having three representing each one include all properties off Houghton Park Farm, Houghton Park House and the Old Stables.
- I agree with the suggestion of separating the old village and the new housing (Wixams Park, Greenlakes Rise, Thickthorn) as the needs of these communities are very different and the areas are also geographically distinct. The main Houghton Conquest (HC) village and historically-connected How End and Chapel End are currently very well looked after by our 10 hard-working Councillors. Many times, in the past they have had to manage with 7 or 8 members, due to resignations and lack of new people coming forward, and I know it has been a real struggle. The old village population has increased substantially over recent years with developments at Ridge View, Duck End, Bedford Road. Imminent population increase due to the large development on Chapel End Road (Kier) and Mill Lane. I cannot see how the Village could be adequately served by just 5 Councillors. Recruiting people to an existing body of 10 has proved hard enough. If the increased workload of serving a larger population is to be borne by just 5 Councillors, I think there could be great difficulties getting people to take on this responsibility. The needs (and financial requirements) of the two communities will be very different. For instance, the old village pays for its own grass cutting and management of green spaces, but the spaces and other communal areas are well-established. I understand that Thickthorn residents will be paying privately for their own green spaces but I imagine they may also have different requirement regarding getting their new communities going and will be looking for their precept to help towards this. I am not a Parish Councillor, just a resident of Houghton Conquest old village. Please be guided by comments from our current Parish councillors who between them have many years' experience looking after our community and know in detail what this job entails.

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Houghton Conquest should remain unchanged;
3. That the number of parish councillors on Houghton Conquest Parish Council remain unchanged (ten): and
5. That the boundary of the parish be changed to omit the properties Houghton Park Farm, Houghton Park House and The Old Stables and to add the properties to the parish of Ampthill.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to divide the parish into two wards is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that to create a ward for the new development, at this present time, would not be appropriate given the very small number of residents.



Central Bedfordshire Council

Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 – Sheet 2

Legend

Proposal(s)

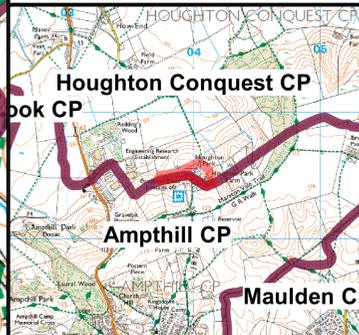
Area Affected

Parishes

Existing Parish Boundaries

1:10,000

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Ordnance Survey 100049029
Central Bedfordshire Council.



| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Parish | Houghton Regis |
|---------------|----------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Houghton Hall | 6 | 6291 | 7741 | 1049 | 1290 | 304% | Houghton Hall |
| Parkside | 4 | 3533 | 3584 | 883 | 896 | 181% | Parkside |
| Tithe Farm | 4 | 3294 | 3294 | 824 | 824 | 158% | Tithe Farm |

Comments

Town Council

The Town Council supports the CBC Stage 3 draft recommendations, namely: That the parish name of Houghton Regis should remain unchanged; that the number of parish councillors on Houghton Regis Town Council remain unchanged (fourteen); that the boundary of the parish be changed to effect the inclusion of the properties at Numbers 21 to 33 Portland Ride; and that a further governance review of the parish be held when a substantial number of the proposed development in the Houghton Hall ward has taken place

Consultation Responses (4)

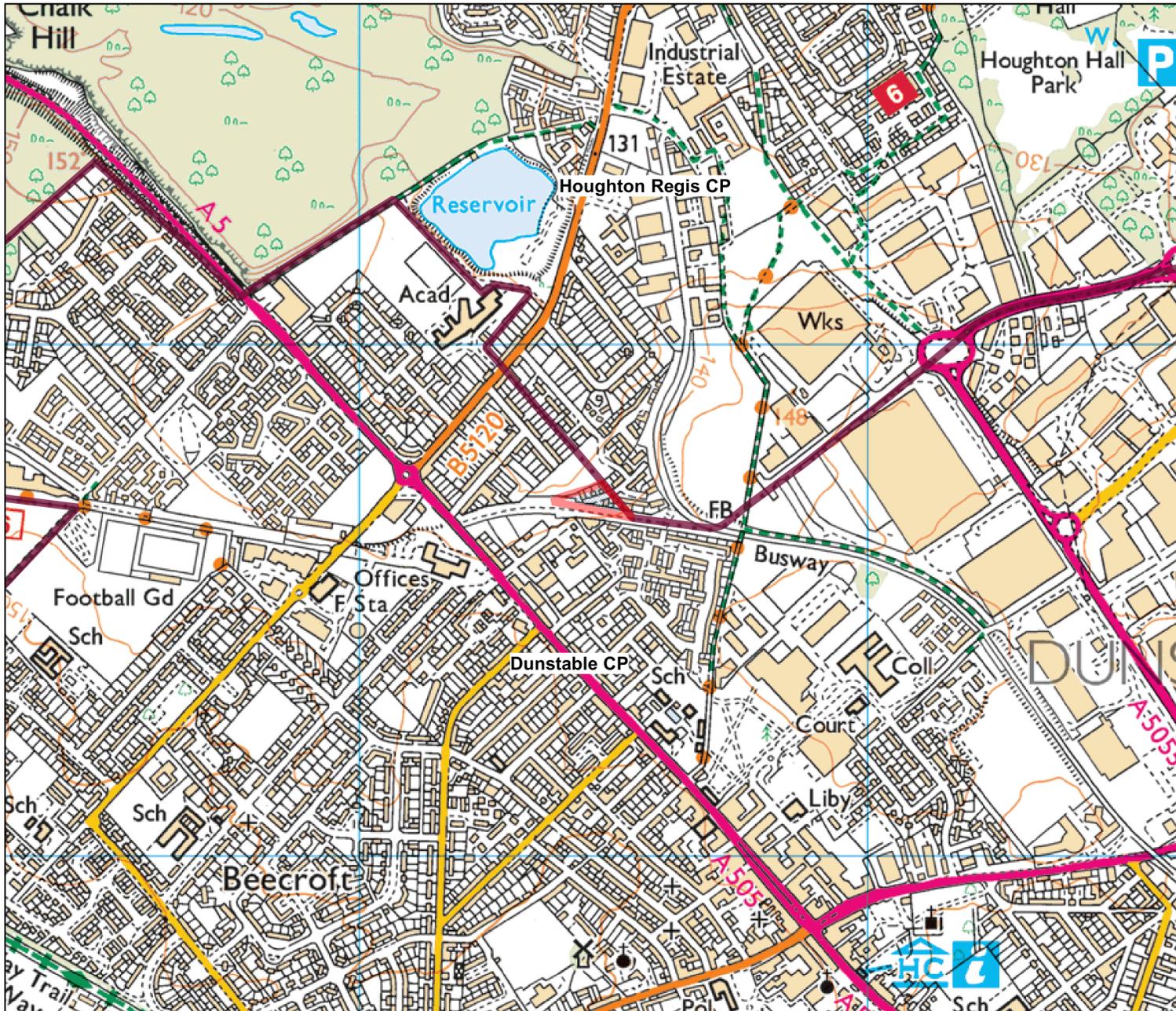
- That the parish name of Houghton Regis should remain unchanged: 2 strongly agree, 1 agree, 1 neither
- That the number of councillors on Houghton Regis Town Council remain unchanged (fourteen): 2 strongly agree, 2 neither
- That the boundary of the parish be changed to effect the inclusion of the properties at Numbers 21 to 33 Portland Ride: 2 strongly agree, 2 neither
- *“There should be no changes to the number of elected councillors and both Dunstable and Houghton Regis town councils could come to some agreement over the Portland Ride matter.”*

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Houghton Regis should remain unchanged;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Houghton Regis Town Council remain unchanged (fourteen);
3. That the boundary of the parish be changed to add the properties at Numbers 21 to 33 Portland Ride, and to omit the properties from the parish of Dunstable; and
4. That a further governance review of the parish be held when a substantial number of the proposed development in the Houghton Hall ward has taken place.

Reason for the decisions

The Development of Portland Ride has extended across the parish boundaries of Dunstable and Houghton Regis. The change rectifies this anomaly.

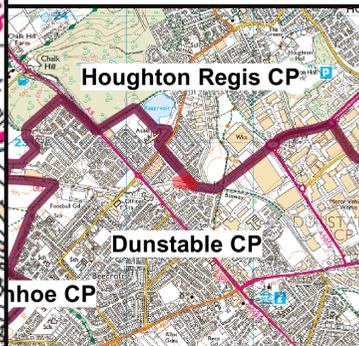


Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 – Sheet 6

- Legend
- Proposal(s)
 - Area Affected
 - Parishes
 - Existing Parish Boundaries

1:10,000

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| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Parish | Kensworth |
|---------------|-----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Not Applicable | 9 | 1168 | 1176 | 130 | 131 | -59% | Caddington, Hyde and Slip End |

| |
|---|
| Comments |
| <p>Parish Council Kensworth Parish Council agreed at their meeting on the 10 May 2018 that they wish to reduce the number of Councillors to 8</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1) One response received to the questionnaire, with 'neither' selected for all questions</p> |

| |
|---|
| Final Recommendations |
| 1. That the parish name of Kensworth should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Kensworth Parish Council be reduced to (eight); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Kensworth. |

| |
|--|
| Reason for the decisions |
| To implement the proposal of Kensworth Parish Council that the number of parish councillors be reduced by one. |

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Parish | Langford |
|---------------|----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Not Applicable | 13 | 2590 | 2950 | 199 | 227 | -29% | Stotfold & Langford |

| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>With the ever increasing number of developments in the village leading to an increase in population along with the fact that Parish Councillors are voluntary members then Langford Parish Council wishes to remain at 13 Councillor seats. This will allow the Parish Council to, in future, have opportunity to fulfil its maximum Councillor seats in order to undertake tasks and also to assist the Clerk in the ever increasing work load. To confirm our wish is to remain with 13 seats</p> <p>Consultation Responses (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Langford should remain unchanged: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Langford Parish Council be reduced to ten 1 neither, 1 strongly disagree • That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Langford 1 strongly agree, 1 neither • “Langford is being overwhelmed with new housing without any changes to infrastructure. There are about to be another 95 houses built on Larman's land north of Tithe Farm Close. Your proposal to reduce the number of parish councillors will reduce the number of volunteer councillors willing to fight Langford's corner whilst the issues faced by the village continue to increase, without any sign of abatement. The number of councillors could be increased rather than decreased...” |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Langford should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Langford Parish Council remain unchanged (thirteen); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Langford. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Parish | Leighton-Linslade |
|---------------|-------------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Barnabas | 3 | 4260 | 4335 | 1420 | 1445 | +353% | Linslade |
| Brooklands | 2 | 2751 | 2751 | 1376 | 1376 | +331% | Leighton Buzzard South |
| Grovebury | 4 | 6231 | 7226 | 1558 | 1807 | +466% | Leighton Buzzard South |
| Leston | 1 | 1401 | 1401 | 1401 | 1401 | +339% | Leighton Buzzard South |
| Planets | 2 | 3493 | 3862 | 1747 | 1931 | +505% | Leighton Buzzard North |
| Plantation | 3 | 4573 | 5347 | 1524 | 1782 | +459% | Leighton Buzzard North |
| Southcott | 4 | 5270 | 5270 | 1318 | 1318 | +313% | Linslade |
| St George's | 2 | 3355 | 3355 | 1678 | 1678 | +426% | Leighton Buzzard North |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Town Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town Council does not seek any changes to the existing parish ward boundaries at this time. However, the Council recognises that a review of parish ward boundaries may become necessary at a future date, following completion of scheduled development, in order to address any inequity between wards and ensure consistency of representation. The Town Council does not seek any change to the number of elected representatives at the parish at this time. There can be no argument that the 21 seats on the town council are difficult to fill when all wards were heavily contested in 2015, especially Southcott with 15 candidates for the 4 seats and where the turnout of electors was particularly high. <p>Consultation Responses (27)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 92% agreed for the name of Leighton-Linslade to remain. |

- For the questions regarding the changing of wards, there is overall disagreement with the proposal to incorporate the parish ward of Leston into Brooklands, with 67% against this, and 64% against the abolishment of the parish ward of Leston. There is very strong disagreement to reduce the number of parish councillors (82%), with only 15% in agreement with the proposal. This is echoed in the free text response.
- There is general agreement that no changes should be made to the parish boundary (64%)
- Twenty-three free text comments were received. The main themes are agreement with a slight reduction in the number of councillors, but also concern that Leighton-Linslade is growing and the reduced numbers of councillors may not be sufficient. A number of comments identified Southcott in particular as needing the 4 seats it currently has.
- *“Leighton-Linslade Town Council undertakes crucial work for the community, including some duties formerly carried out by the Central Beds Council. it is highly valued by local residents. Population continues to grow, and the pace is likely to increase with extensive house building scheduled over the next few years. There can be no case for reducing the number of Town Councillors in these circumstances.”*
- *“Reducing Southcott lessens Linslade's significance when until 1965 it was a discrete town with its own identity which still prevails today. The number of overall councillors should not be reduced in both Southcott and the growing town.”*

Individual Submissions

- The Council could merge both Leston and Brooklands together and reduce another one out two out of Barnabas and Southcott wards and bring the councillors down to eighteen with one in the new ward of Leston and Brooklands.
- New developments in other parishes that directly border Leighton Linslade should be incorporated into the parish.
- The number of twin councillors should not be reduced. Southcott justifies 4 councillors.
- As these councillors are unpaid I see no reason to cut the numbers down, and for the same reason as they are unpaid that makes them volunteers so why give then a larger area to cover, and us the public less chance of meeting or getting our councillor to see any problems we have. Maybe the way to go would be to cut down the number of paid CBC councillors we have or dare I say remove some of the very highly paid officers at Chicksands.
- Leighton is a fast-growing town and the largest in Beds. We need all the councillors we can get, especially needed in the Linslade area because we are a little separated from the body of Leighton, and we certainly need more than 3.
- Reducing Southcott lessens Linslade's significance when until 1965 it was a discrete town with its own identity which still prevails today. The number of overall councillors should not be reduced in both Southcott and the growing town.
- Leighton-Linslade Town Council undertakes crucial work for the community, including some duties formerly carried out by the Central Beds Council. it is highly valued by local residents. Population continues to grow, and the pace is likely to increase with extensive house building scheduled over the next few years. There can be no case for reducing the number of Town Councillors in these circumstances.
- I consider the arguments, strongly against the proposed changes to the reduction in the number of councillors representing a growing population, and against the changing of the local boundaries of Brooklands and Leston, to merit all the support it can achieve. My wife and I moved, late last year, from Linslade to Brooklands area and we definitely remain opposed to these suggestions.
- As the population is going to increase from 40000 to 50000 in the near future, we need strong local councillors input---we do not need the changes local councillors are often ignored by "bloated councillors at Chicksands " they have no respect for local democracy. Suggest they are re arranged or culled as they are overpaid /bloated. I do not expect Chicksands to listen ---. they boast that we will be informed at every stage ---they said so about the local housing plans and expect the public to be over joyed when having thousands of houses built next door. The current governance arrangements should remain unchanged for the near future (but see comments on parish boundary). The proposal to reduce the number of Southcott councillors and adsorb

Leston into Brooklands lacks logic (replacing any "irregularity" by an equal but opposite "inequality"). It is justified neither by earlier public comment, nor the nature and size of the town and the vitality of the democratic process shown in recent local elections. It appears from the results of the Part 1 Consultations that there were a mere 20 responses regarding the number of councillors on Leighton-Linslade Town Council with only 12 of these requesting a change. It is not clear how many of those requesting change thought an increase rather than a decrease should result. Moreover, from the comments quoted, it is clear that some demonstrated a stark lack of understanding about what they were commenting on - one stated that there were far too many councillors claiming far too much in allowances; yet no councillor receives an allowance! Another felt there were too many from one party which is clearly a political comment of no relevance to the total number of councillors for the town. The Town Council requested no change. It is, therefore, difficult to understand the "steer" in the paper presented to the General Purposes Committee in March that the submissions from the majority of the public requested that the number of councillors be reduced, which is consistent with the government advice that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors. This is both at odds with what appears in the reports of the consultation elsewhere (summarised above) as well as seemingly ignoring the fact that Leighton-Linslade is significantly the largest town in Central Bedfordshire with dynamic development in train and, therefore, more than adequate justification for the current number of councillors. It is also noted that the proposals made reflect the suggestions of three Central Bedfordshire councillors from Leighton-Linslade in their joint representations during the first round of consultation, though the figure for electors given, for example, in the Southcott Ward (1281 per seat) does not accord with those in the paper for the March General Purposes Committee (1318 per seat). I can see no justification for the proposals to change the number of seats in Leighton-Linslade, especially the reduction proposed in Southcott, at this time, when it appears generally accepted that, because of the developments currently taking place in the town, there may well need to be far ranging changes to boundaries and seats for 2023. It would seem unnecessary and disruptive to make changes currently proposed for the town against this overall background. In short, the changes proposed to seat numbers in Leighton-Linslade are highly dubious in terms of: 1. The evidence on which the proposal was made to the General Purposes Committee which would appear to have misrepresented the true position and be challengeable. 2. Reducing the number seats in Southcott and absorbing that in Leston into Brooklands would simply mean those wards would then have the highest number of electors per seat rather than (just) the lowest. This would be as hard, if not harder to defend than the current position. The current discrepancies between the electors per seat in the wards is not on any measure excessive, although this will indeed change in future years when much wider ranging changes will be necessary including to boundaries. 3. There can be no argument that the 21 seats on the Town Council are difficult to fill when all wards were heavily contested in 2015, especially Southcott with 15 candidates for the 4 seats and where the turnout of electors was particularly high. 4. The dynamic and developing nature of the town merits the current number of councillors bearing in mind that all are volunteers and there is a commensurately increasing workload. 5. Linslade was a distinct settlement in Buckinghamshire until 1965 and still retains an identity within Leighton-Linslade heightened by the geography and single bridge over the canal and river connecting with Leighton Buzzard town centre. Diminishing the number of Linslade seats from 7 to 6 would be highly negative from this community viewpoint. PARISH BOUNDARIES: Most of the currently proposed Urban Expansion of Leighton-Linslade, which will see an increase in the town's effective population of several thousands will not formally be within the boundaries of Leighton-Linslade as things currently stand but rather in the Parish of Eggington, even though care has been taken to ensure that the village of Eggington itself is separated from the new building. Unless quickly corrected, this will give rise to major and indefensible anomalies. 1. Large numbers of people in the new developments will utilise the facilities and services provided by the Town Council through the element of the Council Tax paid by Leighton-Linslade residents which comes to the town, but will make no contribution to them. 2. Neighbours in the same street in parts of the new developments may end up paying significantly different amounts of Council Tax purely dependent on the location of the parish boundary. 3. However, the entire urban expansion is meant to be an integral part of Leighton-Linslade but, while physically part, large built up areas would be administratively separate with clear anomalies that would then result. For example, there is a proposed new cemetery to help relieve the growing pressure on the available facilities in the town but burials of Leighton-Linslade residents in it, as things stand, would be "out of parish" (ie in Eggington) which is normally more expensive. Any logical analysis dictates that the area of the new developments (but

nothing more) should be reallocated to all being within the parish of Leighton-Linslade as a matter of common sense, reality and fairness as soon as possible and before the phases of the new developments in the Eastern Expansion which are now seeking planning permission complete any construction.

- There is full justification for 4 seats and in an area of growing size, I think the largest in Central Beds, there can be no valid reason to make a reduction.
- The size of Southcott Justifies four seats and I oppose any reduction. the town of Linslade/Leighton Buzzard is the biggest town in the county and should maintain its number of town councillors
- I Think it is unacceptable to lower the number of seats in Southcott or the town considering it is the biggest town in Bedfordshire, all the councillors we have should remain as we are at present.
- Bedfordshire counties biggest town should keep all its seats and Southcott should NOT lose any seats either.
- I strongly believe that Leighton-Linslade as a town with a population that is growing faster than it can accommodate, with inadequate healthcare and policing for its residents, needs full support and representation from the local authority. Therefore, maintaining the number of councillors to ensure the town's requirements are fully met is a necessity. I do not wish to see any reduction in the number of councillors for this parish.
- Southcott should keep four seats on the council, there is no justification for reducing the number. The speed with which Leighton - Linslade is growing in size and the fact that it is the largest town in Central Bedfordshire means there should be no reduction in numbers of Town Councillors. They are all unpaid volunteers and with the growth of the town, an increasing workload. What strange forces are at work here?
- Linslade justifies four seats and therefore should not be reduced. The town is growing and because Leighton Linslade is the largest town in Central Bedfordshire and is continuing to grow there should not be a reduction in the number of town councillors.
- The Parish arrangements for Leighton-Linslade were approved for the 2011 elections, by the local Government Boundary Commission for England. The approved arrangement was designed to serve until the next scheduled review, in readiness for the 2023 election. In the light of the expected development to the east of the parish, any change now is premature and taken with CBC suggestion 4 of a review when some development has taken place will cause two changes in a short time, one of which is unnecessary.
- The boundaries seem to relate to town council boundaries rather than parish boundaries which are historically church related. I would be concerned about the abolition of wards which may just be a spelling mistake (but I am not sure that Leighton-Linslade and Leston ever existed). Reducing parish councillors could leave the area short staffed. Using the Philip's Bedfordshire Atlas (2001) as reference it would seem that some parishes are using properties outside their boundaries and leaving some properties uncovered. I think this is a good thing for cross fertilisation of experiences and leaving space or excluded areas to develop the unknown. Some wards are rivers, hills, business parks and schools. Some places appear fictional. I think councillors need back up and support.
- The town of Leighton-Linslade is growing rapidly and as a major town in Bedfordshire it should retain its 21 Councillors. Southcott and Barnabas constitute Linslade and they should retain 7 Councillors. Linslade is a thriving community and Southcott should continue to have 4 councillors in the future to maintain the cohesion.
- The current number of Councillors (21) is only just enough to satisfy the needs of a growing Town. To reduce the numbers of Councillors in the Linslade wards from 7 to 6 would be detrimental to the future governance of the whole community and the Town.
- I am writing as the secretary of Leighton-Linslade Branch Labour Party. We disagree with the proposal to combine Leston and Brooklands wards, specifically to oppose the proposed reduction in the number of councillors representing these areas from 3 to 2. At a time when the population of the parish of Leighton-Linslade is increasing, we believe that the reduction in the number of councillors will create workload problems for the council. We are surprised that the review did not also consider splitting Grovebury ward into two wards. It is a very large ward and one suggestion would be to separate Sandhills and the Billington Park housing, especially with the large new housing development in Theedways. At our recent Branch meeting, we urged CBC to reconsider its plans.

- As the town continues to expand it seems short sighted to decrease the number of councillors overall to 19. The 21 current seats are justified considering the workload and the fact that Leighton-Linslade is the largest town in Central Beds. As a Linslade resident I feel that it would be a highly negative move if we lost one of our representatives for the area. Also, if Brooklands and Leston are incorporated, rather than losing a seat, surely, they would require three councillors?

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Leighton-Linslade should remain unchanged;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Leighton-Linslade Town Council remain unchanged;
3. That a further governance review of the parish be held when a substantial number of the proposed development that traverses the parish of Eggington has taken place; and
4. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Leighton-Linslade.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government.

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Parish | Lidlington |
|---------------|------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 9 | 1071 | 1124 | 119 | 125 | -61% | Cranfield |

Comments

Parish Council

Lidlington Parish Council wish to stay as a 9-member Council for the following reasons:

- the workload at Lidlington is abnormal for a small parish, this is not just a one off, but a regular issue that the Parish Council have, with numerous very significant important items that impact on the parish and therefore the Lidlington parishioners. This is challenging to manage with 9 representatives, if this were to be reduced it would be even more impossible.

- Lidlington PC have never had a recruitment issue and have always been able to maintain a full complement of Councillors, which as detailed above is needed for the heavy workload.

The Parish Council feel reducing the numbers would have a detrimental impact on the effectiveness of the Council especially in light of the application to build 5,000 houses within the parish.

Consultation Responses (4)

- That the parish name of Lidlington should remain unchanged: 3 strongly agree, 1 neither
- That the number of parish councillors on Lidlington Parish Council be reduced to seven: 3 neither, 1 strongly disagree
- That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Lidlington: 3 strongly agree, 1 neither
- "Area growing more not less representation for the people is needed"

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Lidlington should remain unchanged;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Lidlington Parish Council remain unchanged (nine); and
3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Lidlington.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government.

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Parish | Marston Moretaine |
|---------------|-------------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 12 | 4442 | 5265 | 370 | 439 | +38% | Cranfield |

| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Marston Moreteyne Parish Council, having given matters due consideration, supports the draft recommendations put forward by Central Bedfordshire Council in regard to community governance for Marston Moreteyne.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (31)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses were split as to whether the parish name should be changed, with 48% in favour, and 48% against. Respondents generally agreed that the number of councillors should remain unchanged (58%). 75% of respondents agreed with no change to the boundary. • Marston Moretaine received 8 free text comments. They covered the topics of the change of names (with comments both for and against), as well as increased growth which may require a growth in size of parish council, • “Traditionally we are Moreteyne - please let's revert and keep something of our tradition.” • “Marston Moretaine should remain the parish name.” • “With the volume of new housing the parish council should increase in size accordingly” |

| Final Recommendations |
|---|
| 1. That the parish name be changed to Marston Moreteyne; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Marston Moreteyne Parish Council remain unchanged (twelve); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Marston Moreteyne. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| To implement the proposal of the Parish Council that the name of the parish be changed Marston Moreteyne. |

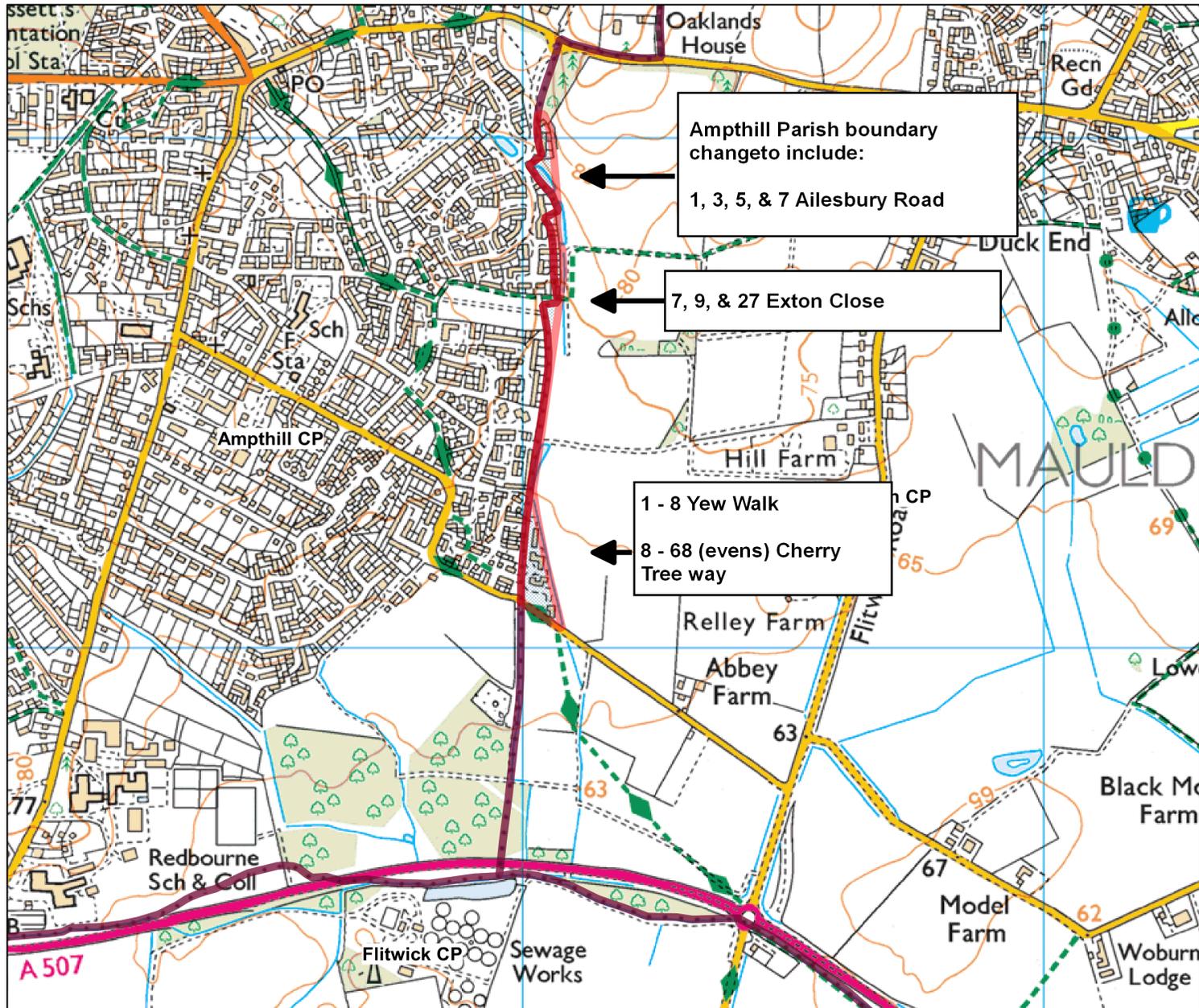
| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Parish | Maulden |
|---------------|---------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 12 | 2498 | 2505 | 208 | 209 | -35% | Ampthill |

| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>The Community Governance Review was discussed at Monday’s council meeting and it was the unanimous opinion of the councillors that they do not wish to make the suggested reduction of the number of sitting councillors from the current 12 to the proposed 8. As for the boundary change, as the Parish Council gets no precept for the properties affected and they are not on Maulden’s electoral roll we have no objection to the boundary changes proposed</p> <p>Consultation Responses (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Maulden should remain unchanged: 2 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Maulden Parish Council be reduced to eight: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither, 1 strongly disagree • That the boundary of the parish be changed to exclude the properties at Numbers 1 to 8 Yew Walk; 8 to 68 (evens) Cherry Tree Way; 7, 9 & 27 Exton Close and 1 to 7 (odds) Ailesbury Road:1 strongly agree, 2 neither • <i>“The council should seek both Ampthill and Maulden residents before going ahead with taking or adding parts of both parishes first.”</i> |

| Final Recommendations |
|---|
| 1. That the parish name of Maulden should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Maulden Parish Council be unchanged (twelve); and |
| 3. That the boundary of the parish be changed to omit the properties at Numbers 1 to 8 Yew Walk; 8 to 68 (evens) Cherry Tree Way; 7, 9 & 27 Exton Close and 1 to 7 (odds) Ailesbury Road and to add the properties to the parish of Ampthill. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. Developments in the 1980’s and 90’s extended across the parish boundaries of Ampthill and Maulden. The changes rectify these anomalies. |



Ampthill Parish boundary change to include:
1, 3, 5, & 7 Ailesbury Road

7, 9, & 27 Exton Close

1 - 8 Yew Walk
8 - 68 (evens) Cherry Tree way

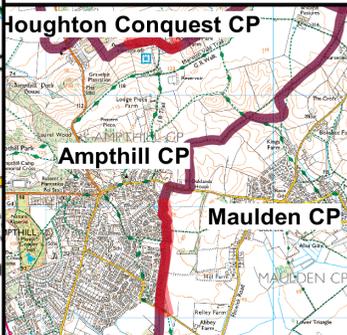


Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 – Sheet 1

- Legend**
- Area Affected
 - Existing Parish Boundaries

1:10,000

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| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Parish | Meppershall |
|---------------|-------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 10 | 1415 | 1548 | 142 | 155 | -51% | Shefford |

Comments

Parish Council

Meppershall Parish Council wish to retain 10 Councillors as a reduction would be detrimental to the function of the Parish Council and risks restricting our ability to deliver the range of activities and community involvement currently covered by the skills set of our councillors. There is an increased work load being placed on Parish Councils particularly with the Local Plan and village developments, Neighbourhood Plan, Watch schemes etc. and without the pool of councillors to draw from our response to these issues may fall below what our residents expect and could lead to a loss of identity and alienation within the community.

Whilst we recognise the aim of raising the ratio of electors to seats we have resolved at our Annual Statutory Meeting to maintain the current number of 10 councillors (stay as we are) and oppose the proposal by Central Bedfordshire Council.

Consultation Responses (2)

- That the parish name of Meppershall should remain unchanged: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither
- That the number of parish councillors on Meppershall Parish Council be reduced to seven: 1 neither, 1 strongly disagree
- That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Meppershall: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither
- “I attend Parish Council meetings regularly as a member of the public and resident of Meppershall. I do NOT think that the number of Parish Councillors should be reduced to 7: they all are volunteers with jobs or other commitments, they all have taken on specific responsibilities within the work of the PC, and they work very hard at what they are doing. We need all 10 to carry out all the different PC tasks on separate working groups (eg on housing, planning, roads and transport, leisure etc) these working groups need and benefit from having more than one councillor in the group, and because Councillors have other commitments outside of the PC, it would be unfair to expect an individual Councillor to 'double-up' and take on the tasks of more than one working group. The village and the PC are facing a lot of difficult challenges at the present time, and we need the expertise and commitment of all 10 councillors. I know the PC itself agrees with this.”

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Meppershall should remain unchanged;

2. That the number of parish councillors on Meppershall Parish Council be unchanged (ten); and

3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Meppershall.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Parish | Moggerhanger |
|---------------|--------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 9 | 516 | 547 | 57 | 61 | -81% | Northill |

| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>The Council supports the proposal to reduce to 7 councillors</p> <p>Consultation Responses (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Moggerhanger should remain unchanged: 3 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Moggerhanger Parish Council be reduced to seven: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither, 2 strongly disagree • That the boundaries of the parish be changed to exclude the properties at numbers 7 to 17 (odds) and number 18 Old Station Court but to include Bridge Farm and Ivel Cottage: 2 neither, 2 strongly disagree • <i>“Central Beds should speak to all residents across the Northill, Biggleswade and Sandy divisions about the many changes within their areas as it could start many issues with what plans the council has.”</i> |

| Final Recommendations |
|---|
| 1. That the parish name of Moggerhanger should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Moggerhanger Parish Council be reduced to (seven); and |
| 3. That the boundaries of the parish be changed to omit the properties at numbers 7 to 17 (odds) and number 18 Old Station Court and add the properties to the parish of Blunham. |
| 4. That the boundary of the parish be changed to add the properties Bridge Farm and Ivel Cottage and to omit the properties from Sandy parish. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| To implement the proposal of Moggerhanger Parish Council that the number of parish councillors be reduced by two. The proposals, to which both Moggerhanger Parish Council and Sandy Town Council have no objection, would lead to more logical boundaries between the parishes, reflecting the extent of the built development in that area. |

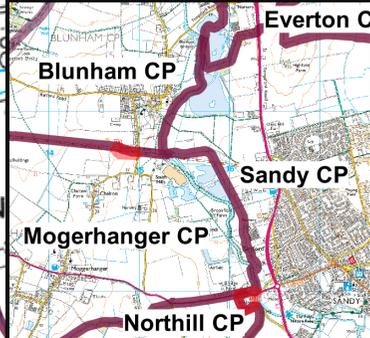


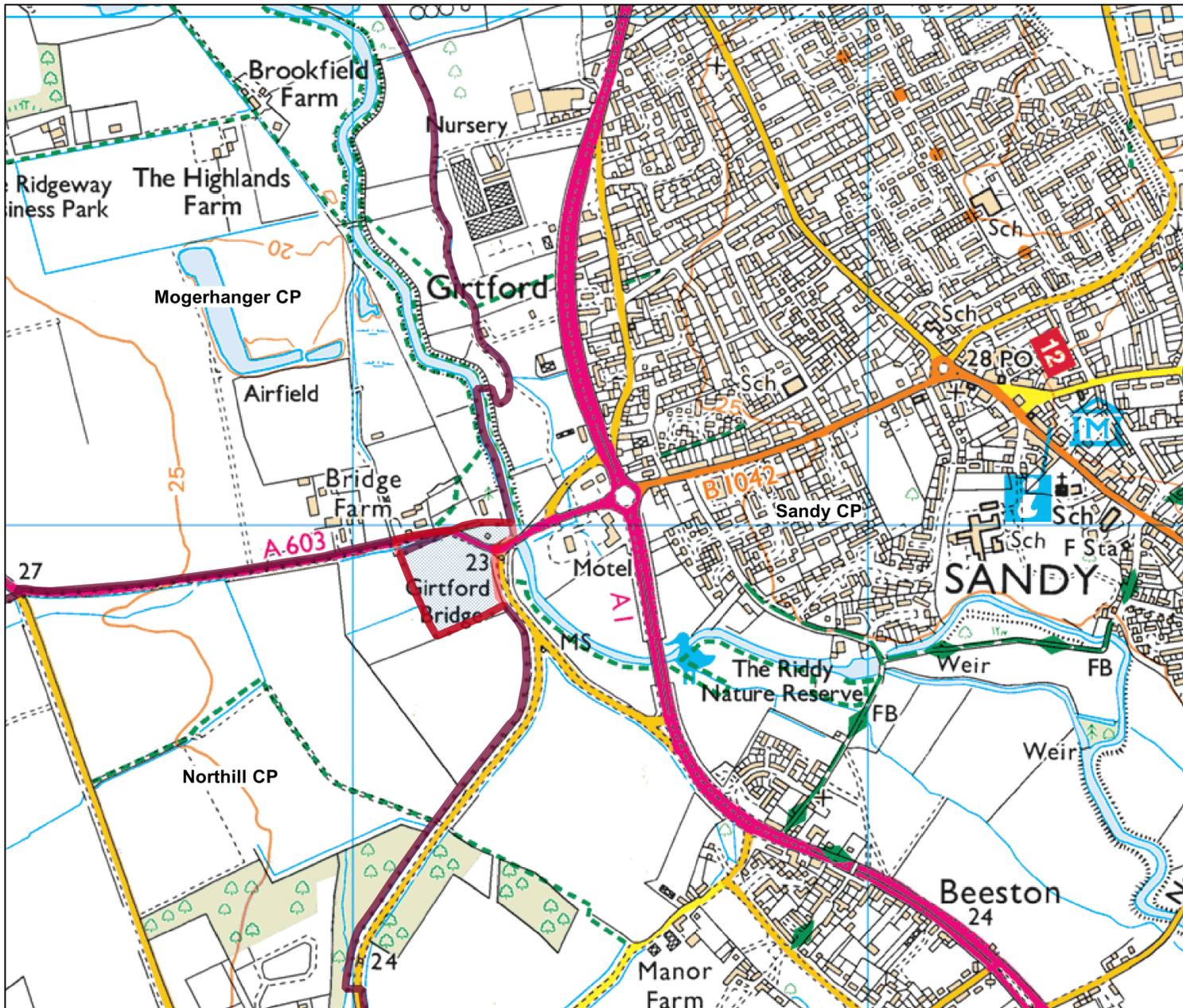
Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 - Sheet 4

- Legend**
- Proposal(s)
 - Area Affected
 - Parishes
 - Existing Parish Boundaries

1:10,000

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Central Bedfordshire Council.



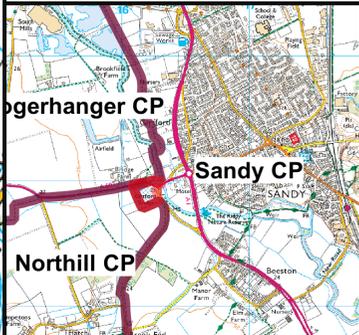


Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 Sheet 7

- Legend
- Proposal(s)
 - Area Affected
 - Parishes
 - Existing Parish Boundaries

1:10,000

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| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Parish | Northill |
|---------------|----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 12 | 1882 | 1950 | 157 | 163 | -49% | Northill |

Comments

Parish Council

Reduction of the number of councillors from 12 to 7: Northill Parish Council object to the reduction of the number of councillors. At the last two elections, 2011 and 2015 the 12 seats were contested by 15 and 17 nominations respectively. Northill Parish is the largest parish in the Ivel Valley Forum and covers a large area. The councillors at Northill Parish are very proactive responding to residents' complaints and questions. It is extremely helpful having councillors who live in the different villages in the parish as they are on hand to respond and help residents. Currently the Council is able to distribute a certain proportion of its work to smaller sub committees, enabling a more efficient management of its increasing workload. This would be impossible with a reduced number of councillors.

Change of boundary at Bridge Farm and Ivel Cottage: Northill Parish Council object to the change in boundary. (Please see additional comment below regarding this change to the boundary).

Change of boundary at Sainsbury's Supermarket, Tidy Tip, and 3 Bells Brook House and 1 to 18 Riverside Court: Northill Parish Council strongly object to this change in the boundary. Historically the river Ivel has been the boundary between Northill and Biggleswade so why change it for just this small area. To use the A1 as the boundary is not satisfactory as the route of the A1 can be changed whereas the route of the river Ivel will not change. The suggestion that the A1 could provide a sustainable boundary is untrue and unsatisfactory. The possible re-routing of the A1 continues to be the subject of topical debate in conjunction with potential new housing development.

I would like to add a comment regarding the Council's objection to the boundary with Moggerhanger. Since the Parish Council meeting held on the 24th May a larger and more detailed map has been obtained showing the proposal for the Moggerhanger boundary. Had the Council had this information to hand at the meeting they would have realized that the sliver of land was in fact very small and would not have resolved to object to it.

Consultation Responses (19)

14 free text responses were received for Northill. They discussed themes of the boundary (with 4 specific comments detailing that the boundary should stay as the river Ivel, and another 2 stating to stick with historic boundaries). There is also disagreement in the reduction of number of councillor's due to the size of the area and number of settlements covered.

- That the parish name of Northill should remain unchanged: 9 strongly agree, 3 agree, 2 neither
- That the number of parish councillors on Northill Parish Council be reduced to seven: 2 strongly agree, 1 neither, 2 disagree, 13 strongly disagree

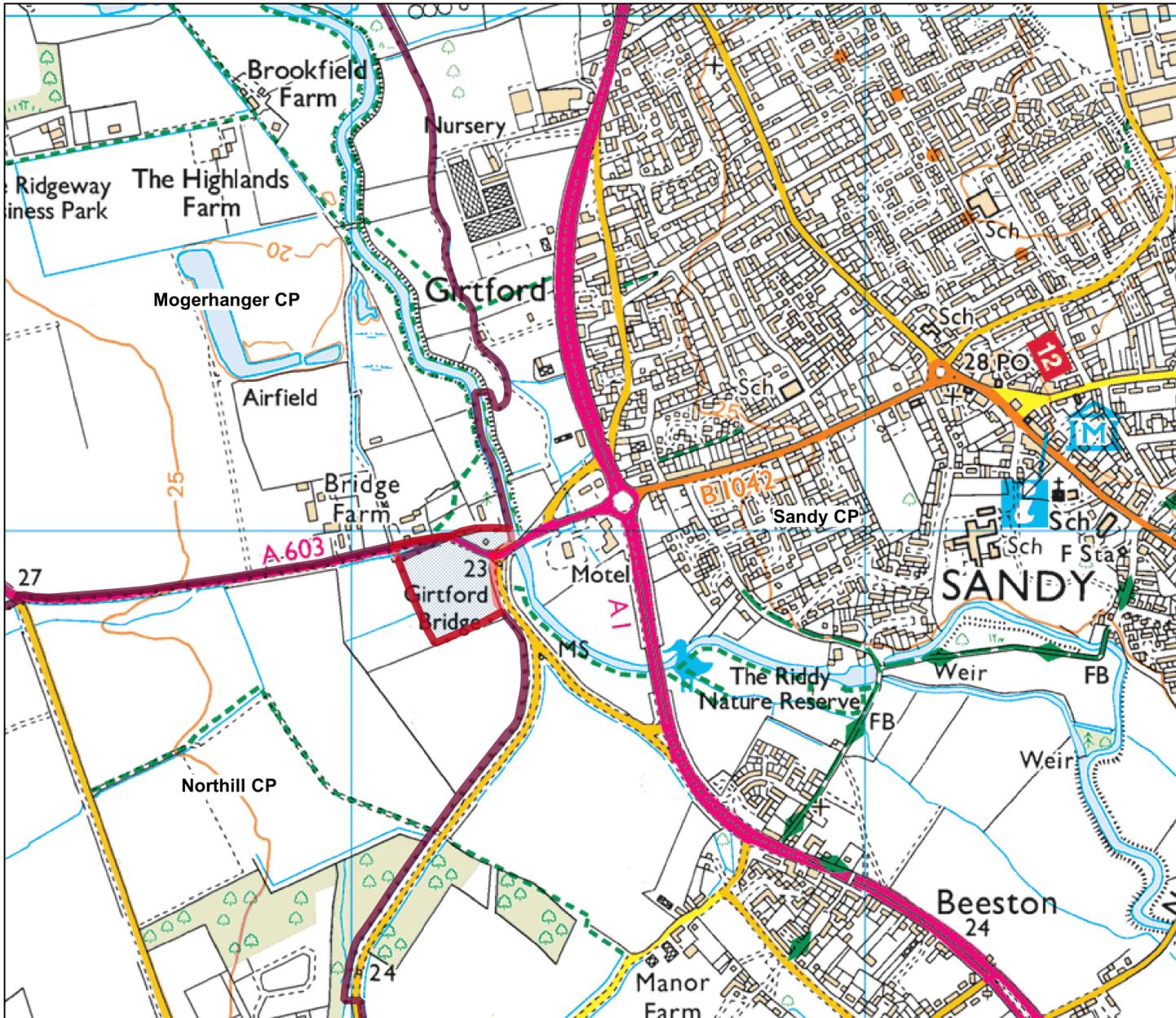
- That the parish boundaries between Northhill and Biggleswade be redrawn to incorporate the Sainsbury’s Supermarket, Tidy Tip and the properties 3 Bells Brook House and Numbers 1 to 18 Riverside Court: 3 agree, 1 neither, 14 strongly disagree
- That a minor change be made to the boundary of the parish to exclude the parcel of land in between the parish boundaries of Moggerhanger and Sandy adjacent to the properties at Bridge Farm and Ivel Cottage: 4 agree, 4 neither, 2 disagree, 3 strongly disagree
- *“Totally disagree to reduction to seven Councillors. The Parish boundary should remain as the River Ivel. It would be expensive and a waste of money to have all the affected maps redrawn.”*
- *“Northhill is a very large parish consisting of 3 villages, Northhill, Upper Caldecote and Ickwell and 4 hamlets, Lower Caldecote, Thorncote, Hatch and Budna. 7 councillors could not satisfactorily look after the needs of this diverse parish. There are always more people willing to stand for election than the 12 required at present...”*

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Northhill should remain unchanged;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Northhill Parish Council remain unchanged (twelve):
3. That a minor change be made to the boundary of the parish to exclude the parcel of land in between the parish boundaries of Moggerhanger and Sandy adjacent to the properties at Bridge Farm and Ivel Cottage.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. The draft recommendation to change the parish boundary to incorporate the Sainsbury Supermarket, Tidy Tip and the properties 3 Bells Brook House and Numbers 1 to 18 Riverside Court, into the parish of Biggleswade, was rejected as the Committee accepts the argument that such a move would contradict the principles of natural boundaries; in this case the river Ivel.

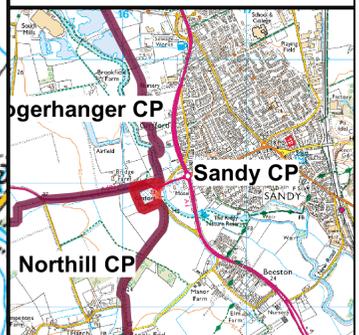


Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 Sheet 7

- Legend**
- Area Affected
 - Parishes
 - Existing Parish Boundaries

1:10,000

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| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Parish | Ridgmont |
|---------------|----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Not Applicable | 9 | 359 | 362 | 40 | 40 | -88% | Cranfield |

| |
|--|
| Comments |
| <p>Parish Council Ridgmont Parish Council are happy with the recommendation of reducing the number of Parish Councillors from 9 to 7</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1) One response received to the questionnaire, with 'neither' selected for all questions</p> |

| |
|--|
| Final Recommendations |
| 1. That the parish name of Ridgmont should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Ridgmont Parish Council be reduced to seven; and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Ridgmont. |

| |
|---|
| Reason for the decisions |
| To implement the proposal of Ridgmont Parish Council that the number of parish councillors be reduced by two. |

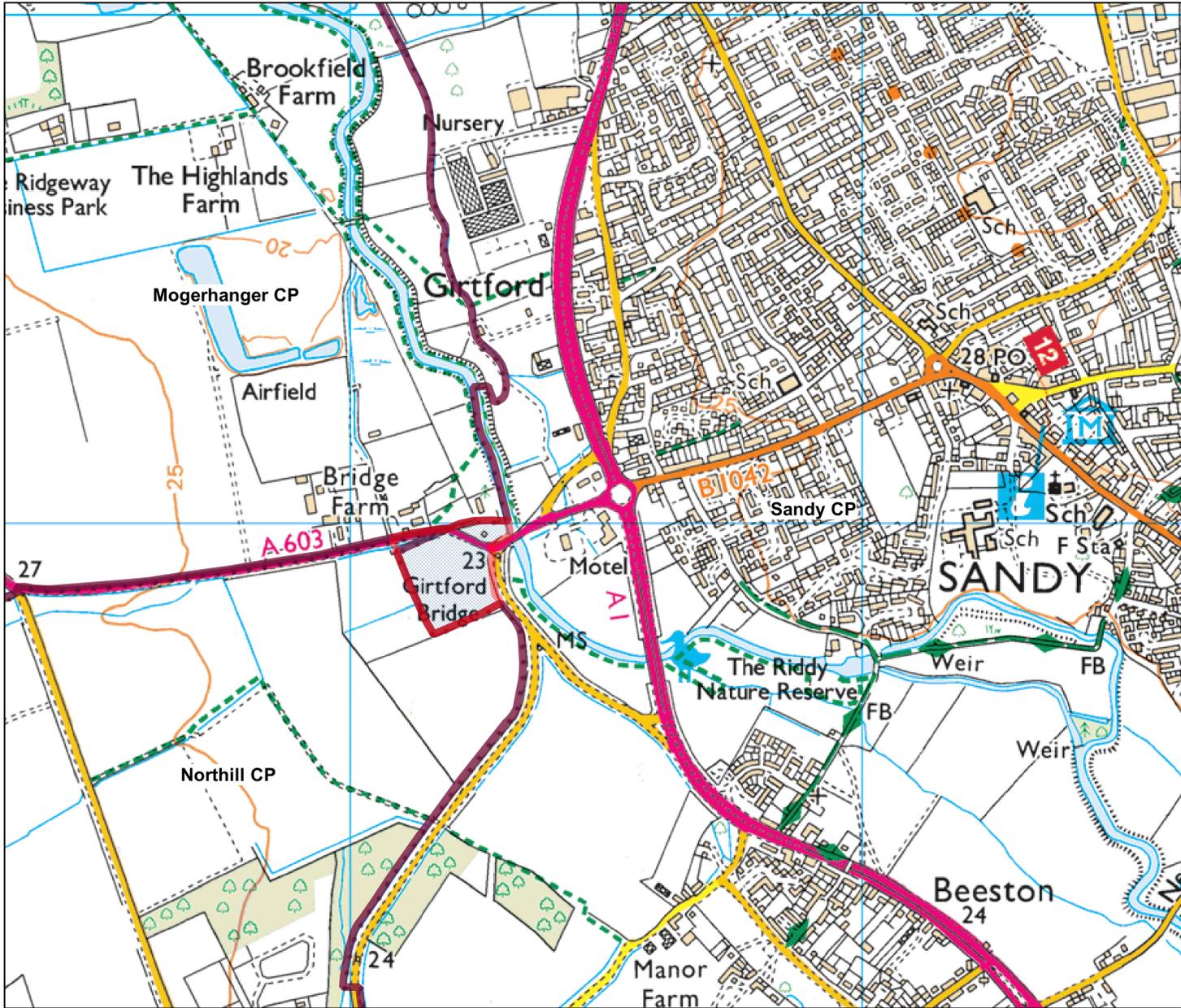
| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Parish | Sandy |
|---------------|-------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Beeston | 1 | 679 | 679 | 679 | 679 | +113% | Sandy |
| Fallowfield | 3 | 1534 | 1534 | 511 | 511 | +60% | Sandy |
| Ivel | 5 | 2962 | 2962 | 592 | 592 | +86% | Sandy |
| Pinnacle | 6 | 4124 | 4124 | 687 | 687 | +115% | Sandy |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Town Council The Town Council agrees with the recommendations</p> <p>Consultation Responses (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Sandy should remain unchanged: 2 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Sandy Town Council remain unchanged (fifteen): 1 agree, 1 neither • That the boundary of the parish be changed to exclude the properties at Bridge Farm and Ivel Cottage: 1 agree, 2 neither • <i>With Sandy not being a political lead council the boundary changes to Bridge Farm and Ivel Cottage would not make much difference the town council should ask the residents approval first.</i> |

| Final Recommendations |
|---|
| 1. That the parish name of Sandy should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Sandy Town Council remain unchanged (fifteen); and |
| 3. That the boundary of the parish be changed to omit the properties at Bridge Farm and Ivel Cottage and to add the properties to the parish of Moggerhanger. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|--|
| The proposal, to which Sandy Town Council has no objection, would lead to a more logical boundary between the two parishes, reflecting the extent of the built development in that area. |



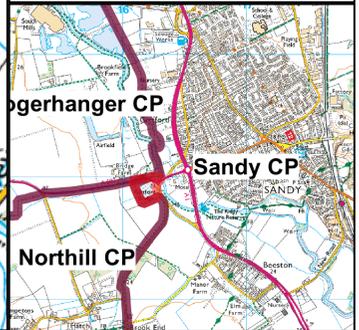
Central Bedfordshire Council

Map referred to in the Central Bedfordshire Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2018 Sheet 7

- Legend**
- Proposal(s)
 - Area Affected
 - Parishes
 - Existing Parish Boundaries

1:10,000

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| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Parish | Shillington |
|---------------|-------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Not Applicable | 10 | 1619 | 1646 | 162 | 165 | -48% | Silsoe & Shillington |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Shillington Parish Council do not agree with the proposal to reduce the number of Parish Council from 10 to 7 for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for the current number of councillors to enable delivery of Parish Council projects, such as our planned new Community building • The current number and spread of councillors allows all areas of our “ends” village to be represented <p>Consultation Responses (1)</p> <p>One response received to the questionnaire, with ‘neither’ selected for all questions</p> |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Shillington should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Shillington Parish Council remain unchanged (ten); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Shillington. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Parish | Silsoe |
|---------------|--------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Not Applicable | 10 | 2296 | 2344 | 230 | 234 | -27% | Silsoe & Shillington |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>The PC would not be in favour of any change to the number of Councillors. Currently the PC is incredibly busy finalising the Neighbourhood Plan, we are involved with negotiations for the Bloor handover. We play a big role in the running of the Community sports centre. We are involved with the Traffic calming project for the High St as well as the everyday running of the PC, maintenance of play areas etc. We are finding it difficult to not over load the current Councillors so taking a reduction in numbers would escalate this issue further. The Village has increased dramatically and reducing the number of Councillors will have a huge effect in the Parish Council and they would therefore be against this suggestion.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1)</p> <p>One response received to the questionnaire, with 'neither' selected for all questions</p> |

| Final Recommendations |
|---|
| 1. That the parish name of Silsoe should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Silsoe Parish Council remain unchanged (ten); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Silsoe. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Parish | Southill |
|---------------|----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Broom | 6 | 490 | 495 | 82 | 83 | -74% | Northill |
| Southill | 3 | 268 | 270 | 89 | 90 | -72% | Northill |
| Stanford | 3 | 212 | 214 | 71 | 71 | -78% | Northill |

| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>I am responding as Chair of Southill Parish Council and giving the Council's position on this matter. The Parish Council strongly disagrees with the proposals to reduce the number of Councillors for the following reasons. This Parish Council is unusual in having a large geographical area divided into 3 wards. There are 3 villages, a hamlet and a number of more isolated outlying properties. The current number of councillors works well with this large parish. Having the current number of seats also works well, in that the workload is able to be shared. Given that all the councillors are volunteers it would be a disincentive to increase the workload and discourage current and possibly future volunteers. At present, due to the number of councillors, there is a good attendance at Parish Council meetings. This makes for a better debate than if the numbers were reduced. There are no cost implications to maintaining the current number of councillors. In fact, to reduce the numbers may provoke elections which have to be paid for. The minimum number of councillors to make a viable parish council is recommended at 7. To recommend that our large 3 ward council only has 8 is clearly not sensible and strongly disagreed with by the council. The number of seats without nominations has been two in recent elections and the number of vacant seats has hovered around this number for some years. Reducing the number of seats to eight is an over-reaction to this gap and would likely cause seats to be contested in future elections. The cost of seats being contested would be a significant extra financial burden to the Parish and its Council Tax payers for no real benefit. Keeping the number of seats at 12 reduces the risk of this occurring. As far as I am aware, having vacant seats incurs no extra cost or work to CBC or SPC. While it would be nice to have no vacant seats, there is some benefit. It means that if an elector has a strong interest and passion to get involved then the Council can co-opt them as a new member at any time without any fuss or expense. To sum up. This Council strongly objects to the proposal to reduce the number of seats to 8 and strongly objects to the thought processes that came up with that figure. This Council agrees that no change should be made to parish boundary of Southill.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Southill should remain unchanged: 5 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Southill Parish Council be reduced to eight:(Broom (4), Southill (2) and Stanford (2)) : 1 strongly agree, 1 neither, 4 strongly disagree • That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Southill: 5 strongly agree, 1 neither. • There were 6 free text responses, of which 4 were similar |

- “...This Parish Council is unusual in having a large geographical area divided into 3 wards. There are 3 villages, a hamlet and a number of more isolated outlying properties. The current number of councillors works well with this large parish. Having the current number of seats also works well, in that the workload is able to be shared. Given that all the councillors are volunteers it would be a disincentive to increase the workload and discourage current and possibly future volunteers. At present, due to the number of councillors, there is a good attendance at Parish Council meetings. This makes for a better debate than if the numbers were reduced. There are no cost implications to maintaining the current number of councillors. In fact, to reduce the numbers may provoke elections which have to be paid for. The minimum number of councillors to make a viable parish council is recommended at 7. To recommend that our large 3 ward council only has 8 is clearly not sensible and strongly disagreed with by me...”

Individual Submissions

- The number of seats without nominations has been two in recent elections and the number of vacant seats has hovered around this number for some years. Reducing the number of seats to eight is an over-reaction to this gap and would likely cause seats to be contested in future elections. The cost of seats being contested would be a significant extra financial burden to the Parish and its Council Tax payers for no real benefit. Keeping the number of seats at 12 reduces the risk of this occurring. As far as I am aware, having vacant seats incurs no extra cost or work to CBC or SPC. • While it would be nice to have no vacant seats, there is some benefit. It means that if an elector has a strong interest and passion to get involved then the Council can co-opt them as a new member at any time without any fuss or expense. Having the current number of seats allows for the workload to be shared across more Councillors. Given that all are unpaid volunteers with other work / family / community interests this situation is best maintained. Whilst the current ratio of seats to electors is low, the Parish is unusual in having a large geographical spread and including three villages, one hamlet (Ireland) and a number of more isolated properties. One of the most important attributes for a Councillor is strong “local knowledge” and connections within a dispersed community. This this would be diluted if less Councillors have to cover the same area.
- Our Parish Council is unusual in that we cover a large geographical area and include 3 villages, one hamlet (Ireland) and a number of isolated properties. In addition, we have the additional work caused by the constant gravel extraction surrounding the village of Broom. Our excellent local knowledge would be severely diluted if we had less councillors. In addition, we are all unpaid volunteers and to arbitrarily propose to increase our workload by reducing our membership is completely unfair and would discourage people from wanting to be councillors. Our neighbouring council Old Warden needs 7 councillors to function with a population of 233. It is not sensible, therefore, to suggest that we shrink in size. To remain as we are is a no cost sensible option.

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Southill should remain unchanged;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Southill Parish Council remain unchanged (twelve); and
3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Southill.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government.

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Parish | Stondon |
|---------------|---------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 10 | 2125 | 2302 | 213 | 230 | -27.9% | Arlesey |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Stondon Parish Council is very concerned by the recommendation from Central Bedfordshire Council that the number of councillors be reduced from 10 to 7. We believe that this would have a dramatic and detrimental impact on of the current administration of the council and may not allow us to promote the democratic and community involvement we believe we can deliver.</p> <p>We occasionally find that with Councillor commitments this can limit the number at a meeting and reduction to 7 would have a bigger impact on this situation. It would also limit the range of activities the Councillors can be involved with and place a greater workload on a smaller number of Councillors. There would be a reduction in skill sets available within the Council, such as HR or Finance.</p> <p>All of the above is going to have a major impact on the demands on the time and resources of the Council Clerk. The number of Councillors will change over a period as this is a voluntary role and people’s circumstances change. A large part of recent changes came about with the shift in demographics especially in relation to the age of the Councillors. With Councillors that stay on for a number of years the change can bring challenges when they leave and often recruiting the right Councillor may cause a number of changes in the Council but to date we have not had a situation where an election has been required.</p> <p>The Parish is going to grow and the growth figures supplied do not reflect the proposals that the Council have seen for housing development. The Council must take a long term view and plan for the required service needs of the future.</p> <p>We are concerned that these changes could result in a loss of identity at a local level, confusion amongst residents over responsibility levels and a greater strain on the Councils ability to deliver. The new Councillors are settling in to their roles and making great strides towards building closer links within the village community and adjacent parish communities.</p> <p>Whilst recognizing the aim for equalizing number of Councillors vs the number of residents and a concern voiced on the cost of local elections on the CBC budgets,</p> |

this further restructuring will lead to a further loss of identity and alienation within the community. However, there is an increasing work load being placed on Parish Councils particularly with the Draft Local Plan, Planning Application review, developing a Neighbourhood Plan and running Watch Schemes for example that requires more Parish Councillors to deal with effectively rather than less.

In summary we resolved at the Annual General meeting to maintain the current numbers and stay as we are with 10 members and oppose the proposal by Central Bedfordshire Council.

We believe this would lead to confusion in our community and the potential loss of a sense of place. We want to retain and develop strong local links between the community and the Parish Council and maintain Council at 10 members.

Consultation Responses (2)

- That the parish name of Stondon should remain unchanged: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither
- That the number of parish councillors on Stondon Parish Council be reduced to seven: 1 neither, 1 strongly disagree
- That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Stondon: 2 neither
- “The Council have 10 good Councillors and reducing it to 7 will limit their ability to work with the community.”

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Stondon should remain unchanged;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Stondon Parish Council remain unchanged (ten); and
3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Stondon.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government.

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Parish | Toddington |
|---------------|------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Not Applicable | 11 | 3648 | 3648 | 332 | 332 | +4% | Toddington |

| Comments |
|--|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Toddington Parish Council would like to inform you that the parish name of Toddington should remain unchanged, that the number of parish councillors on the council stay at 11 and that no change should be made to the parish boundary.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the parish name of Toddington should remain unchanged: 3 strongly agree, 1 neither • That the number of parish councillors on Toddington Parish Council be reduced to nine: 3 strongly agree, 1 neither • That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Toddington: 3 strongly agree, 1 neither |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Toddington should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Toddington Parish Council remain unchanged (eleven); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Toddington. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Parish | Totternhoe |
|---------------|------------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Not Applicable | 9 | 983 | 983 | 109 | 109 | -66% | Toddington |

Comments

Parish Council

The Parish Council resolved to object strongly to the draft proposals and demand that its views are taken fully into account during the stage three process.

My Council will not accept any proposal to reduce its numbers from nine to seven Councillors. The Parish Council’s workload has increased exponentially over the past few years, much of which is a result of legislation, for example the Localism Act 2011, and the need, it must be said, to increasingly lobby your Council to undertake infrastructure maintenance works in the village. Totternhoe has 29 acres of allotments in three sites, three recreation grounds, a sports pavilion which it leases to the local sports club, two scheduled ancient monuments, several miles of public rights of way, bus shelters, a nature reserve maintained by the nature conservation trust, with whom we work closely, an industrial site, a car park adjacent to the sports pavilion and contracts for grass and hedge cutting in the allotments and recreation grounds.

The Council handles this workload through the establishment of sub-committees responsible for planning, highways, recreation grounds and play equipment, rights of way and allotments. We employ a Clerk and have a contract with a litter picker/bus shelter cleaner. Repairs and maintenance are carried out by either specialist firms e.g. play equipment repairs and safety checks, or by local companies employed on a task by task basis.

All of this takes time and the Parish Council prides itself on the overall condition of the village. We meet eleven times a year and without the efforts by individual councillors and the work of the sub-committees we would not have the village environment we are so proud of, and villagers and visitors often comment on. We have a website, which is maintained and updated by a Councillor and we produce a newsletter which is printed and delivered four times a year to every household in the village by Councillors. The website also includes the statutory information required by the Localism Act.

The Council meets regularly with the Police, the Highways custodian, the group responsible for drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan, other Parish Councils, and attends seminars and meetings for Town and Parish Councils organised by your Council on a variety of important subjects.

Without the number of Councillors that we currently have we would be unable to undertake this level of service to our residents. You comment that recent elections have been uncontested, which we cannot deny, but in our view, that is perhaps a testament to resident’s satisfaction with the way we work on their behalf. Our Chairman has been a Councillor for 34 years in 2018 and can recall that previous contested elections in his time on the Council resulted from dissatisfaction with an aspect of village life by groups of residents, political ambition by individuals, or short term personal interests, for example a planning application. Uncontested elections are not in themselves a justification for a reduction in the number of councillors. The Council accept, albeit unhappily, your rejection of our proposal to increase the number of councillors, but cannot accept your proposal to reduce our establishment for the reasons outlined above.

Turning now to the Parish Councils submission for the regularisation of the Parish Boundary no reason is given for its rejection in your review of responses. My Council request that you reconsider this decision.

The proposal had no financial implications for this Council, or the other Town or Parish Councils involved. It sought to bring some logic to the existing anomalous boundaries and to ensure that Totternhoe Parish Council is consulted on any planning applications for development on the land in question. All parcels of land are farmed by Totternhoe residents, and it makes sense to us that their land holdings are within the parish in their entirety.

More importantly the Council is determined to resist any development that would lead to the coalescence of the village with Dunstable. The separate identity of the village is of vital importance to the community, and there is no guarantee that an application for a new development on the land in question would be subject to formal consultation of my Council by the planners. By the simple expedient of bringing the farmers holdings into the Parish we can be assured that we are consulted and that the green belt is retained and protected.

I would be grateful if you would place our response before the General Purposes Committee. If necessary Councillors will request the right to speak at the meeting.

Consultation Responses (4)

- That the parish name of Totternhoe should remain unchanged: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither
- That the number of parish councillors on Totternhoe Parish Council be reduced to seven: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither
- That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Totternhoe: 1 strongly agree, 1 neither
- *“Keep Totternhoe and Dunstable apart and ask residents across Dunstable and Eaton Bray divisions first.”*

Final Recommendations

1. That the parish name of Totternhoe should remain unchanged;
2. That the number of parish councillors on Totternhoe Parish Council remain unchanged (nine); and
3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Totternhoe.

Reason for the decisions

The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government.

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Parish | Westoning |
|---------------|-----------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Not Applicable | 10 | 1700 | 1703 | 170 | 170 | -47% | Westoning, Flitton & Greenfield |

| |
|---|
| Comments |
| <p>Parish Council I can confirm that Westoning Parish Council has considered the review and they would like to remain as they are with 10 Councillors</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1) One response received to the questionnaire, with 'neither' selected for all questions</p> |

| |
|--|
| Final Recommendations |
| 1. That the parish name of Westoning should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Westoning Parish Council remain unchanged (ten); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Westoning. |

| |
|---|
| Reason for the decisions |
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Parish | Woburn |
|---------------|--------|

| Ward | Number of Councillors | 1 Sept 2017 Electorate | 31 March 2023 Electorate | Ratio Electors to Seats | Forecast Ratio Electors to Seats | Variance from Average | District ward |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Not Applicable | 9 | 781 | 789 | 87 | 88 | -72% | Aspley & Woburn |

| Comments |
|---|
| <p>Parish Council</p> <p>The Parish Council agree to no change to the parish name or boundary. However, they object to a reduction in parish councillors. The workload on councillors continues to increase. They are volunteers and a smaller number would put increased workload on those remaining.</p> <p>Consultation Responses (1)</p> <p>That the parish name of Woburn should remain unchanged:1 strongly agree</p> <p>That the number of parish councillors on Woburn Parish Council be reduced to seven:1 strongly disagree</p> <p>That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Woburn: 1 strongly agree</p> |

| Final Recommendations |
|--|
| 1. That the parish name of Woburn should remain unchanged; |
| 2. That the number of parish councillors on Woburn Parish Council remain unchanged (nine); and |
| 3. That no change should be made to the parish boundary of Woburn. |

| Reason for the decisions |
|---|
| The draft recommendation to reduce the number of councillors is rejected as the Committee accepts the arguments of the parish council that the current number of parish councillors is considered to provide effective and convenient local government. |

PARISHES WITH NO CHANGES FOLLOWING THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Battlesden
Brogborough
Campton & Chicksands
Chalgrave
Chalton
Dunton
Edworth
Eversholt
Everton
Eyeworth
Fairfield
Flitwick
Gravenhurst
Hockliffe
Hulcote & Salford
Husborne Crawley
Hyde
Millbrook

Milton Bryan
Old Warden
Pulloxhill
Shefford
Slip End
Stanbridge
Steppingley
Stotfold
Potsgrove
Potton
Pulloxhill
Shefford
Slip End
Stanbridge
Steppingley
Stotfold
Streatley
Studham

Sundon
Tingrith
Tempsford
Tilsworth
Whipsnade
Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley

Central Bedfordshire in contact

Central Bedfordshire Council

COUNCIL

27 September 2018

Treasury Management Outturn Report 2017/18

Report of Cllr Richard Wenham, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources (richard.wenham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Advising Officer: Charles Warboys, Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer
(charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Denis Galvin, Assistant Director of Finance
(denis.galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

This report relates to a non-Key Decision

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a review of Treasury Management activities for the year ended 31 March 2018 in compliance with relevant codes of practice adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council.
2. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy has been underpinned by the adoption of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (2017 Edition)*, which includes the requirement for determining a treasury strategy on the likely financing and investment activity for the forthcoming financial year.
3. The Code also requires that all Members are informed of Treasury Management activities at least twice a year. This annual report on Treasury Management activities after the close of the financial year, together with the mid-year report to Council in November, therefore ensures that Central Bedfordshire Council has adopted best practice in accordance with CIPFA's recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to:

1. **note the report on Treasury Management and the Prudential Indicators performance for the year ended 31 March 2018.**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

4. Local arrangements require the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive, on a quarterly basis, treasury management performance reports and every year to scrutinise the revised strategy. This activity is scheduled for the Committee's meeting on 31 January 2019.

Background

5. Treasury management is defined by the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services as:

“The management of the organisation's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

Summary of Borrowing and Investment Strategies

6. The Council's strategy over the period can be summarised as:
 - i) The Council used internal resources in lieu of borrowing to the full extent as this has continued to be the most cost effective means of funding capital expenditure.
 - ii) The opportunities for debt rescheduling are regularly monitored but, as anticipated, no opportunities materialised.
 - iii) Given continuing economic uncertainty, the security and liquidity of investments were safeguarded by restricting counterparties to those of high creditworthiness and restricting time periods for investments.
7. Continued uncertainty in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis promoted a cautious approach. Investments continued to be dominated by low counterparty risk considerations resulting in relatively low returns, although these were more than offset by low short term borrowing rates from other local authorities and other public sector bodies such as Police and Crime Commissioners. This meant that the Council was not adversely impacted in financial terms.
8. In this scenario the treasury strategy becomes a balance between postponing long term borrowing by utilising our cash balances to fund capital expenditure and avoiding the cost of holding higher levels of cash investments which generate only low returns. This strategy also reduces counterparty risk. The alternative strategy of taking out loans to 'lock-in' long term borrowing at historically low rates mitigates the risk of delaying and borrowing at higher rates in due course. However, the current

interest rate outlook (lower for longer) makes the former better value than the latter.

9. In a 7-2 vote, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased the Bank Rate by 0.25% in November 2017 to 0.5% in line with market expectations. It was significant in that it was the first rate hike in ten years, although in essence the MPC reversed its August 2016 cut following the Referendum result.
10. At its meeting on 1 August 2018, the MPC voted by 9-0 to increase the Bank Rate by 0.25%, to 0.75%. An ongoing tightening of monetary policy over the next few years is considered appropriate to return inflation sustainably to its 2.0% target.
11. The Council maintained its approach of borrowing from local authorities and other public sector bodies such as Police and Crime Commissioners on a short term rolling basis to achieve significant revenue cost savings over the more traditional route of borrowing long term from the PWLB.
12. Aside from maintaining minimal cash levels for operational purposes, the Council also mitigates its investment risk by spreading its cash balance across a diversified range of investment counterparties.
13. An economic summary of 2017/18 is at Appendix A.

Credit Risk

14. The Council continued to follow external treasury advice from Arlingclose Ltd when placing investments and sought to minimise risk in line with its Treasury Strategy. This involved continuing to diversify investments in 2017/18 by using a wider range of AAA-rated Money Market Funds for Council investments.
15. None of the institutions in which investments were made showed any difficulty in repaying investments and interest in full during the year.

Treasury Activities

16. Security of capital remains the Council's most important investment objective. The Council's investment income for the year was £0.3M (£0.3M in 2016/17) and the average cash balance was £21.6M (£22.4M in 2016/17). Details of investment activity in 2017/18 are set out in Appendix B.

17. In line with the approved treasury strategy, the Council used internal resources in lieu of borrowing to the full extent as this has continued to be the most cost effective means of funding capital expenditure. Maturing debt of £441.3M was replaced with new loans on a short-term fixed rate basis from local authorities and other public sector bodies such as Police and Crime Commissioners, together with further internal borrowing of £46.2M. This short term borrowing was secured at rates preferential to the traditional route of borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board.
18. As anticipated, no opportunities for debt rescheduling materialised during 2017/18.
19. Details of borrowing and investment activities are set out in Appendix B.

Prudential Indicators

20. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to adopt the CIPFA Prudential Code and produce Prudential Indicators to support decision making. The Prudential Code was revised in November 2017 and has been adopted by this Council.
21. Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 were approved at the Council meeting of 23 February 2017. The Council's borrowing has not exceeded the various limits determined within the Treasury Management Strategy and any Prudential Indicators relevant to debt. The full details of the performance in respect of all the 2017/18 approved Prudential Indicators are set out in Appendix C.

Council Priorities

22. The effective management of the combined activities of debt and investments and the associated risks contribute to the Council's financial resources and is a cornerstone to the delivery of the Council's priorities.

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

23. The Council's treasury management activities are regulated by statute, professional codes and official guidance. The Local Government Act 2003 (the Act) provides the powers to borrow and invest as well as providing controls and limits. Under the Act, the Department for Communities and Local Government has issued Guidance on Local Government Investments (revised March 2010) to structure and regulate the Council's investment activities. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 – Statutory Instrument (SI) 3146 (plus subsequent amendments), develops the controls and powers within the Act.

The SI requires the Council to undertake any borrowing activity with regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The SI also requires the Council to operate the overall treasury function with regard to the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services (the Code of Practice).

24. CIPFA revised the Code of Practice in December 2017 to reflect recent developments in the financial markets and the introduction of the Localism Act for English local authorities.

Financial Implications

25. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators underpin the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Performance against the Strategy and the Prudential Indicators is explained within the body of this report.
26. The outturn for General Fund debt interest paid in 2017/18 was £5.1M against a budgeted £5.5M. The reason for this £0.4M favourable variance was due to a higher amount of Capital Programme slippage and capital receipts exceeding those originally assumed in the interest payable budget, which both led to a lower level of overall borrowing than assumed in the 2017/18 budget. Lower than budgeted interest rates payable on short-term fixed rate borrowing also contributed to the favourable variance.
27. The outturn for HRA debt interest paid in 2017/18 of £3.9M was in line with budget.
28. The outturn for investment income received in 2017/18 of £0.3M was in line with budget.

Equalities Implications

29. There are no equalities implications to this report.

Conclusion and next Steps

30. Overall responsibility for treasury management remains with the Council.
31. This report provides Members with a summary of the treasury management activity during 2017/18.
32. The Council can confirm a prudent approach has been taken in relation to its borrowing activities, which were based on market interest rate forecasts, and its investment activities with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.
33. The Council has duly applied its Treasury Management Strategy for 2017/18 and there were no breaches in its Prudential Indicators.

Appendices

Appendix A – Economic Summary and Regulatory Changes

Appendix B – Borrowing and Investment Activities

Appendix C – Prudential Indicators

Background Papers

The following background paper is available on the Council's website:

'Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Policy for 2017/18'

(Agenda item 12 of Executive meeting of 7 February 2017)

Appendix A – Economic Summary and Regulatory Changes

1. Economic Summary

- 1.1. **Growth and Inflation:** The UK economy as measured by its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded by 1.2% for the year to March 2018, down from 2.0% a year earlier.
- 1.2. UK inflation as measured by the Office for National Statistics' new main measure of inflation, the Consumer Price Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH), was 2.3% for the year to March 2018, down from 2.5% in February 2018. Since reaching a recent high of 2.8% towards the end of 2017, the rate has fallen back to its lowest level since March 2017.
- 1.3. The labour market continued to improve through 2017 and in Q1 2018, the latest figures showing the employment rate at 75.7% (the highest rate since comparable records began in 1971) and the unemployment rate at 4.2%, a 47-year low, down from 4.5% a year earlier. Wage growth increased by 2.5% including bonuses, which meant that real earnings increased by 0.2% (i.e., after inflation), increasing consumers' spending power.
- 1.4. **UK Monetary Policy:** In a 7-2 vote, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased the Bank Rate by 0.25% in November 2017 to 0.5% in line with market expectations. It was significant in that it was the first rate hike in ten years, although in essence the MPC reversed its August 2016 cut following the Referendum result. The MPC was keen to return inflation to the 2.0% target over a more conventional (18-24 month) horizon with 'gradual' and 'limited' policy tightening.
- 1.5. The programme of purchasing UK Government bonds of £435BN (Quantitative Easing) and £10BN of corporate bond purchases to maintain the supply of credit to the economy has remained unchanged in 2017/18.
- 1.6. At its meeting ending 1 August 2018, the MPC voted by 9-0 to increase the Bank Rate by 0.25%, to 0.75%. An ongoing tightening of monetary policy over the next few years is considered appropriate to return inflation sustainably to its 2.0% target.
- 1.7. Inflation has been increasing by more than the MPC's 2.0% target on average over the past year, primarily due to the big fall in sterling following the Brexit vote. If the economy continues to perform as expected, the MPC is of the view that it will need to raise interest rates a bit more over the next few years.
- 1.8. It expects any rises in interest rates to happen at a gradual pace and to a limited extent. Interest rates are likely to remain substantially lower than a decade ago.

- 1.9. **Financial markets:** The FTSE All Share index had a strong finish to the calendar year 2017, reaching a record high before a global equity correction and sell-off ended the financial year down 3% from a year earlier (3,885 as at 31 March 2018 compared to 4,011 as at 31 March 2017).
- 1.10. **PWLB rates:** The movement in fixed interest rates at which local authorities can borrow from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) is set out in the table below.

| Period | 31 March 2017 | 31 March 2018 |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 year | 0.8% | 1.5% |
| 3 year | 1.0% | 1.7% |
| 5 year | 1.3% | 1.9% |
| 10 year | 2.0% | 2.3% |
| 25 year | 2.6% | 2.6% |
| 50 year | 2.3% | 2.3% |

- 1.11. The rates above reflect the PWLB's 'Certainty Rate'. The Government after 1 November 2012, reduced by 0.2% the interest rates on loans from the PWLB to local authorities who provide information to Government on their plans for long-term borrowing and associated capital spending. The Council has provided the required information and can therefore access this Certainty Rate.
- 1.12. PWLB interest rates have fluctuated during the year. Overall at the year end the rates were higher than those at the start of the 2017/18 financial year.
- 1.13. However, it should be noted that the longer term borrowing rates are the most relevant here given the nature of the Council's long term borrowing requirement and these were unchanged at the year end when compared to the start of the 2017/18 financial year.
- 1.14. This gave support to the Council's strategy of sourcing its borrowing from other local authorities on a short term rolling basis at an average rate of 0.4% (inclusive of brokerage fees) in 2017/18 to achieve significant revenue cost savings over the more traditional route of borrowing long term from the PWLB.

2. Local Authority Regulatory Changes

- 2.1. **Revised CIPFA Codes:** CIPFA published revised editions of the Treasury Management and Prudential Codes in December 2017. The required changes from the 2011 Code are being incorporated into the Council's Treasury Management Strategies and monitoring reports.
- 2.2. The 2017 Prudential Code introduces the requirement for a Capital Strategy which provides a high-level overview of the long-term context of capital expenditure and investment decisions and their associated risks and rewards along with an overview of how risk is managed for future financial sustainability. The Code also expands on the process and governance issues of capital expenditure and investment decisions. The Council will be preparing a Capital Strategy for the 2019/20 financial year.
- 2.3. In the 2017 Treasury Management Code, the definition of 'investments' has been widened to include non-treasury investments such as commercial investments in properties in the definition of "investments". Loans supporting service outcomes and investments in subsidiaries must be discussed in the Capital Strategy or Investment Strategy. Additional risks of such investments are to be set out clearly and the impact on financial sustainability is to be identified and reported.
- 2.4. Another change is the inclusion of financial guarantees as instruments requiring risk management and addressed within the Treasury Management Strategy. Approval of the technical detail of the Treasury Management Strategy may be delegated to a committee rather than needing the approval of full Council.
- 2.5. **MiFID II:** As a result of the second Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II), from 3 January 2018 local authorities were automatically treated as retail clients but could "opt up" to professional client status, providing certain criteria was met which includes having an investment balance of at least £10 million and the person(s) authorised to make investment decisions on behalf of the authority having at least a year's relevant professional experience. In addition, the regulated financial services firms to whom this directive applies have had to assess that that person(s) have the expertise, experience and knowledge to make investment decisions and understand the risks involved.
- 2.6. The Council has met the conditions to opt up to professional status and has done so in order to maintain its MiFID II status prior to January 2018. The Council will continue to have access to products including money market funds, pooled funds, treasury bills, bonds, shares and to financial advice.

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Appendix B - Borrowing and Investment Activities

1. The Borrowing Requirement and Debt Management

1.1. The Council's capital expenditure is financed by external funding, revenue contributions or capital receipts. The Council is allowed to borrow to fund any shortfall in capital financing, provided the level of borrowing is prudent and sustainable. The Council increases its Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) when incurring any capital expenditure which is not financed by grants, contributions, capital receipts or revenue contributions. In addition to paying interest on debt, local authorities are required to set cash aside annually to repay the principal General Fund debt balance by means of a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The borrowing requirement is reduced by the amount of any in-year MRP.

2. Borrowing Activity in 2017/18

| | Balance on 01/04/2017 £M | Debt Maturing £M | New Borrowing £M | Balance on 31/03/2018 £M |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CFR | 524.4 | | | 519.2 |
| Short Term Borrowing ¹ | 72.3 | (441.3) | 395.1 | 26.1 |
| Long Term Borrowing | 275.6 | | | 275.6 |
| TOTAL BORROWING | 347.9 | (441.3) | 395.1 | 301.7 |
| Other Long Term Liabilities | 17.2 | (0.7) | | 16.5 |
| TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT | 365.1 | (442.0) | 395.1 | 318.2 |

- 2.1. The Council's underlying need to borrow, as measured by its CFR as at 31 March 2018, was £519.2M – down by £5.2M from the previous year. This was due to new capital expenditure in 2017/18 being fully funded by a combination of external funding, revenue contributions and capital receipts. This led to a CFR reduction of £5.2M as a result of in-year MRP.
- 2.2. The Council did not repay any debt prematurely in the 2017/18 financial year, as discount rates made the costs involved unattractive.
- 2.3. The Council's strategy of borrowing from other local authorities on a short term rolling basis assumes that interest rates will continue to remain below longer term fixed interest rates, in line with advice from the Council's treasury advisers, Arlingclose Ltd. However, the Council will continue to monitor long term rates with a view to fixing a portion of its borrowing if rates are favourable.

¹ Loans with maturities less than 1 year.

2.4. Internal Borrowing

2.5. Given the significant cuts to local government funding putting pressure on Council finances, the strategy followed was to minimise debt interest payments without compromising the longer term stability of the portfolio. The differential between the cost of new longer term debt and the return generated on the Council's temporary investment returns was significant, at around 2%. The use of internal resources in lieu of borrowing was judged to be the most cost effective means of funding capital expenditure. This has lowered overall treasury risk by reducing temporary investments to minimal operational levels and has limited the extent of increase in external debt. Internal borrowing has been utilised to the full extent and there will be a need to borrow externally for capital purposes during 2018/19 and beyond.

2.6. Lender's Option Borrower's Option Loans (LOBOs)

2.7. The Council continues to hold £13.5M of LOBO loans where the lender, FMS Wertmanagement, has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. The lender did not exercise its option during 2017/18.

3. Investment Activity

3.1. Both the CIPFA Code and MHCLG's Investment Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield.

3.2. Investment Activity in 2017/18

| Investments | Balance on 01/04/2017 £M | Investments Made / Capital Appreciation £M | Investments Repaid £M | Balance on 31/03/2018 £M |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Short Term Investments (call accounts, deposits) | 3.2 | 93.8 | 91.0 | 6.0 |
| Money Market Funds | 5.9 | 395.4 | 397.3 | 4.0 |
| Other Pooled Funds | 5.3 | 0.2 | | 5.5 |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | 14.4 | 489.4 | 488.3 | 15.5 |

3.3. Security of capital remained the Council's main investment objective. This was maintained by following the Council's counterparty policy as set out in its Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2017/18.

3.4. Investments during the year included:

- Investments in AAA-rated Money Market Funds;
- BBB-rated UK banks and Building Societies.

- 3.5. **Credit Risk:** Counterparty credit quality was assessed and monitored with reference to credit ratings (the Council's minimum counterparty rating of BBB+ or equivalent across rating agencies Fitch, Standard & Poor's and Moody's), share prices, credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press.
- 3.6. **Liquidity:** In keeping with the MHCLG's Investment Guidance, the Council has maintained a sufficient level of liquidity through the use of Money Market Funds/overnight deposits/call accounts.
- 3.7. **Yield:** The Council sought to optimise returns commensurate with its objectives of security and liquidity. The UK Base Rate was increased to 0.50% in November 2017, up from 0.25%, where it remained unchanged for the rest of the financial year to 31 March 2018.
- 3.8. Short term money market rates remained at very low levels which had a significant impact on investment income, as investments were placed overnight or for short periods.
- 3.9. The Council's investment income for the year was £0.3M, with the Council's long term investment in the Lime Fund providing some cushioning against the low interest rate environment.
- 3.10. The average cash balance representing the Council's reserves, contributions/grants in advance, and working balances, was £21.6M in 2017/18 (£22.4M in 2016/17).

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. The outturn for General Fund debt interest paid in 2017/18 was £5.1M against a budgeted £5.5M. The reason for this £0.4M favourable variance was due to a higher amount of Capital Programme slippage and capital receipts exceeding those originally assumed in the interest payable budget, which both led to a lower level of overall borrowing than assumed in the 2017/18 budget. Lower than budgeted interest rates payable on short-term fixed rate borrowing also contributed to the favourable variance.
- 4.2. The outturn for HRA debt interest paid in 2017/18 of £3.9M was in line with budget.
- 4.3. The outturn for investment income received in 2017/18 of £0.3M was in line with budget.

5. Compliance

- 5.1. To support financial strategic planning and decision making, the Council approves annually a series of Prudential Indicators which are regularly monitored. The Council did not exceed any of the various limits determined by the Treasury Management Strategy and specific Prudential Indicators. Full details of the Council's performance against its Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 are set out in Appendix C.
- 5.2. In compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice, this report provides Members with a summary report of the treasury management activity during 2017/18. The Council can confirm it has taken a prudent approach in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.
- 5.3. The Council can confirm that during 2017/18 it complied with its Treasury Management Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices.

6. Other Items

- 6.1. **Training:** The needs of the Council's treasury management staff for training in investment management are assessed annually as part of the staff appraisal process, and additionally when the responsibilities of individual members of staff change.
- 6.2. During 2017/18 staff attended training courses, seminars and conferences provided by Arlingclose Ltd and CIPFA.

Appendix C - Prudential Indicators

1. The Prudential Code

1.1. The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to have regard to CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* (the Prudential Code) when determining how much money it can afford to borrow. The objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable, and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice. To demonstrate that the Council has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out the following indicators that must be set and monitored each year.

2. Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

2.1. Estimates of the Council's cumulative maximum external borrowing requirement for 2017/18 to 2020/21 are shown in the table below:

| | 31/03/18 Actual £M | 31/03/19 Estimate £M | 31/03/20 Estimate £M | 31/03/21 Estimate £M |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| General Fund CFR | 354.3 | 402.3 | 431.0 | 447.8 |
| HRA CFR | 164.9 | 164.8 | 164.5 | 164.0 |
| Gross CFR | 519.2 | 567.1 | 595.5 | 611.8 |
| Less: PFI liabilities | (16.5) | (15.7) | (15.3) | (14.9) |
| Borrowing CFR | 502.7 | 551.3 | 580.3 | 596.9 |
| External borrowing | (301.7) | (443.2) | (499.2) | (521.3) |
| Internal borrowing: | | | | |
| - Usable Reserves | (138.4) | (78.1) | (51.1) | (45.5) |
| - Working capital | (62.6) | (30.0) | (30.0) | (30.0) |
| Total | (502.7) | (551.3) | (580.3) | (596.9) |

2.2. The Gross CFR is forecast to rise by £94.2M over the next three years as capital expenditure financed by debt outweighs resources put aside for debt repayment.

3. Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

3.1. The Prudential Code states that the Director of Resources should make arrangements for monitoring with respect to gross debt and the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) such that any deviation is reported, since any such deviation may be significant and should lead to further investigation and action as appropriate.

- 3.2. In order to ensure that over the medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for the current and next two financial years. This is a key indicator of prudence.
- 3.3. The Council has had no difficulty meeting this requirement nor are any difficulties envisaged for future years. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in the approved budget.

| | 31/03/18 Actual £M | 31/03/19 Estimate £M | 31/03/20 Estimate £M | 31/03/21 Estimate £M |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Capital Financing Requirement | 519.2 | 567.1 | 595.5 | 611.8 |
| Gross Debt | 318.2 | 458.9 | 514.5 | 536.2 |
| Difference | 201.0 | 108.2 | 81.0 | 75.6 |
| Borrowed in excess of CFR? (Yes/No) | No | No | No | No |

4. Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt

- 4.1. The Authorised Limit is the affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003. This is a statutory limit which should not be breached. It is the maximum amount of debt that the Council can legally owe. The Authorised Limit provides headroom over and above the Operational Boundary for unusual cash movements.
- 4.2. The Operational Boundary is based on the Council's estimate of most likely, i.e., prudent, but not worst case scenario for external debt. It links directly to the Council's estimates of capital expenditure, the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) and cash flow requirements, and is a key management tool for in-year monitoring. Other long term liabilities comprise finance leases, Private Finance Initiatives and other liabilities that are not borrowing but form part of the Council's debt.
- 4.3. The Director of Resources confirms that there were no breaches to the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary during the year.

| | Authorised Limit (Approved) 2017/18 £M | Operational Boundary (Approved) 2017/18 £M | Actual External Debt as at 31 March 2018 £M |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Borrowing | 559.2 | 549.2 | 301.7 |
| Other Long-term Liabilities | 18.2 | 17.7 | 16.5 |
| Total | 577.4 | 566.9 | 318.2 |

5. Upper Limits for Fixed Interest Rate Exposure and Variable Interest Rate Exposure

- These indicators allow the Council to manage the extent to which it is exposed to changes in interest rates.
- The upper limit for variable rate exposure allows for the use of variable rate debt to offset exposure to changes in short-term rates on our portfolio of investments.

| | Approved Limits for 2017/18 | Maximum during 2017/18 |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Upper Limit for Fixed Rate Exposure | 100% | 79% |
| Compliance with Limits | Yes | Yes |
| Upper Limit for Variable Rate Exposure | 50% | 37% |
| Compliance with Limits | Yes | Yes |

6. Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing

- 6.1. This indicator is to limit large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates.

| Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing | Upper Limit % | Lower Limit % | Actual Fixed Rate Borrowing as at 31 March 2018 % | Compliance with Set Limits? |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Under 12 months | 20 | 0 | 0 | Yes |
| 12 months and within 24 months | 20 | 0 | 0 | Yes |
| 24 months and within 5 years | 60 | 0 | 17 | Yes |
| 5 years and within 10 years | 100 | 0 | 30 | Yes |
| 10 years and within 15 years | 100 | 0 | 18 | Yes |
| 15 years and within 20 years | 100 | 0 | 7 | Yes |
| 20 years and above | 100 | 0 | 28 | Yes |

7. Capital Expenditure

- 7.1. The Council needs to ensure that the level of proposed capital expenditure remains within sustainable limits and, in particular, to consider the impact on Council tax and in the case of the HRA, housing rent levels.

7.2. The Council's actual and planned capital expenditure and financing can be summarised as follows.

| Capital Expenditure and Financing | 2017/18 Actual £M | 2018/19 Estimate £M | 2019/20 Estimate £M | 2020/21 Estimate £M |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| General Fund | 73.2 | 101.9 | 75.4 | 88.9 |
| HRA | 7.5 | 20.2 | 28.3 | 25.6 |
| Total Expenditure | 80.7 | 122.1 | 103.7 | 114.5 |
| Capital receipts | (26.6) | (10.0) | (10.0) | (8.0) |
| Capital Receipts Reserve | | (22.0) | | |
| Grants and Contributions | (45.0) | (38.4) | (31.0) | (58.0) |
| Revenue contributions | (1.6) | - | - | - |
| Borrowing | - | (31.5) | (34.4) | (22.9) |
| General Fund sub-total | (73.2) | (101.9) | (75.4) | (88.9) |
| Capital receipts | (2.2) | (5.4) | (5.0) | (11.4) |
| Reserves | (5.3) | (8.1) | (16.4) | (7.1) |
| Revenue contributions | - | (6.7) | (6.9) | (7.1) |
| HRA sub-total | (7.5) | (20.2) | (28.3) | (25.6) |
| Total Financing | (80.7) | (122.1) | (103.7) | (114.5) |

7.3. General Fund capital receipts in 2017/18 amounted to £48.6M, the highest achieved since the Council began in 2009. As a result, it has not been necessary for the Council to finance any of the 2017/18 capital expenditure from borrowing. This required the application of £26.6M of the £48.6M capital receipts, with the remaining £22.0M transferred to a Capital Receipts Reserve to fund new capital expenditure in 2018/19.

8. Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

8.1. This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet financing costs, net of investment income.

| Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream | 2017/18 Actual % | 2018/19 Estimate % | 2019/20 Estimate % | 2020/21 Estimate % |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| General Fund | 6.2 | 6.4 | 6.8 | 7.0 |
| HRA | 13.3 | 14.0 | 13.6 | 13.0 |

8.2. It measures the proportion of the revenue budget that is required to meet the ongoing financing costs of past capital expenditure which was funded from borrowing. Future year estimates incorporate the additional financing costs of planned capital expenditure to be funded from borrowing. It is important that the total capital investment of the Council remains within sustainable limits. However, the level of capital investment that can be supported will be a matter for local decision.

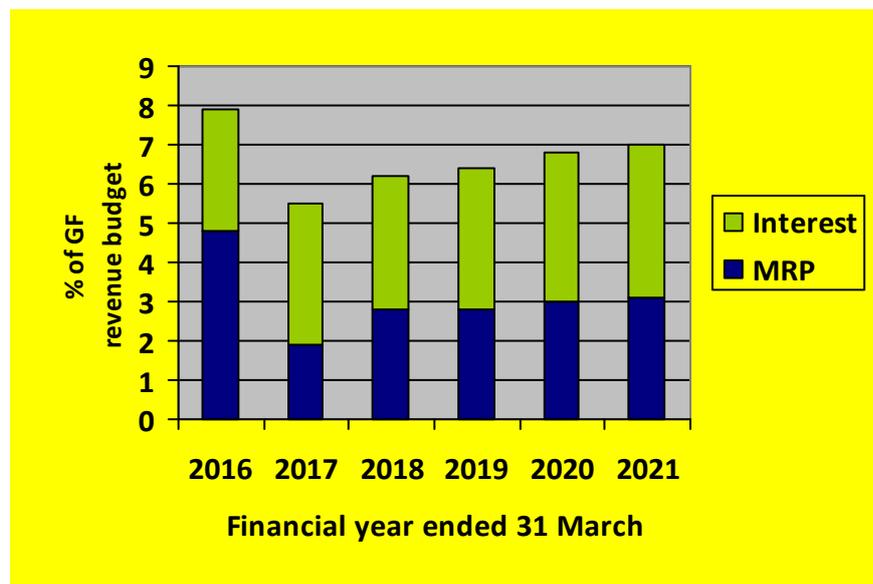
8.3. The Prudential Indicators are designed to support and record local decision making in a manner that is publicly accountable. They are not designed to be comparable performance indicators. Nonetheless, it is interesting to note that Central Bedfordshire's Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream (General Fund) is lower than most of its nearest local authority neighbours due, in part, to the recent change in methodology for calculating the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP):

| | 2016/17 | 2017/18 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Milton Keynes | 11.0% | 9.7% |
| Luton | 7.7% | 7.4% |
| Northamptonshire | 7.4% | 7.0% |
| Cambridgeshire | 7.0% | 7.2% |
| Central Bedfordshire | 5.3% | 6.2% |
| Buckinghamshire | 4.6% | 4.9% |
| Bedford | 3.2% | 2.9% |

* Comparative figures have been sourced from each local authority's treasury management reports published on the internet.

8.4. Central Bedfordshire's ratio is expected to increase relative to its peers given the Council's significant commitment to capital investment over the next few years.

8.5. The impact of the recent change in methodology for calculating the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is shown by the reduction in 2016/17 relative to the previous year. However, the growing impact of borrowing to fund new capital expenditure is illustrated from 2016/17 onwards, with MRP and interest costs taking up an increasingly greater proportion of the Council's net revenue budget over time:



8.6. The Council will need to carefully consider this increasing cost when determining its future plans for capital expenditure.

9. Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 365 Days

9.1. The purpose of this limit is to contain exposure to the possibility of loss that may arise as a result of the Council having to seek early repayment of the sums invested.

| Upper limit for total principal sums invested for periods longer than 365 days | 2017/18 Approved Limit £M | 2017/18 Actual £M | 2018/19 Approved Limit £M | 2019/20 Approved Limit £M | 2020/21 Approved Limit £M |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 10.0 | 0.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 |

10. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Debt

10.1. The purpose of this limit is to report the level of debt imposed on the Council at the time of the implementation of self-financing by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

| | 2017/18 Actual £M | 2018/19 Estimate £M | 2019/20 Estimate £M | 2020/21 Estimate £M |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| HRA Debt Cap (as prescribed by MHCLG) | 165.0 | 165.0 | 165.0 | 165.0 |
| HRA CFR | 164.9 | 164.8 | 164.5 | 164.0 |
| Difference | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1.0 |

10.2. It should be noted that the HRA's Business Plan includes provision for the repayment of debt which occurred for the first time in 2017/18.