

Electoral Review

Submission on Pattern of Wards



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1. INTRODUCTION

This submission presents the case for the number and location of electoral wards for the Central Bedfordshire unitary authority.

The proposals made are in line with the regulations contained with the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Act 1992 and the Local Government and Public Involvement In Health Act 2007 in that, due consideration has been given to the statutory criteria; of:

the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities;

the need to secure effective and convenient local government; and

the need to secure equality of representation.

2. BACKGROUND

Following direction by the Electoral Commission in 2008, the Boundary Committee for England commenced an electoral review of the new unitary authority of Central Bedfordshire on 4 August 2009.

Stage 1 of the review invited submissions on the appropriate number of Councillors for the authority. In considering the evidence submitted on the council size the Boundary Committee advised that they were minded to recommend that Central Bedfordshire council should consist of 59 members.

3. PROFILE OF CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Central Bedfordshire is home to approximately 250,000 people living in 105,400 households. It is estimated that housing growth will increase the population to over 282,000 by 2021. It is an area just north of London set in beautiful countryside that embraces the Chiltern Hills and the Greensand Ridge.

Central Bedfordshire is classified as predominantly rural with just over half of the population living in rural areas. In common with many rural areas, the area has long standing agricultural and market gardening traditions. The intensification of agricultural methods over the years, however, has led to less reliance on these activities for local employment, with many villages becoming commuter suburbs. Indeed 50% of Central Bedfordshire's resident workforce commutes outside the area for work; many heading to the surrounding employment centres of Bedford, Luton, Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire as well as London, 40 miles to the south. Car dependency is high with the majority of work journeys being made by car, with limited alternatives available for people without a vehicle in the rural areas.

The area is diverse with picturesque villages, hamlets and historic market towns. However, it is at the same time one of the most rapidly growing areas in England and is planning for substantial additional development as part of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth Area.

There are many areas of outstanding natural beauty and attractions, which include stately homes and gardens, woodland walks and nature reserves, country parks and world-famous animal parks.

Industry is well represented in the area with industrial developments in most of the larger towns and parishes.

4. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Bedfordshire (Structural Changes) Order 2008 determined that Central Bedfordshire was to be divided into wards and that the area of each new ward would be same as that of the existing divisional ward of the former Bedfordshire County Council.

The wards of Biggleswade, Dunstable Downs, Houghton Regis, Leighton Linlade Central, and Stotfold and Arlesey would have four councillors and that every other ward would have two councillors.

The 2008 electorate totalled 192,915 divided between 5 x 4 member wards and 23 x 2 member wards. This equates to an average of 2,923 electors for each Councillor although not all wards have equal numbers of electors. The following table shows the variance from the average for each ward

Ward	Variance from average
Amphill	-5.92%
Barton	-1.64%
Biggleswade	5.27%
Cranfield	-25.56%
Dunstable Downs	-5.13%
Flitwick East	7.01%
Flitwick West	0%
Grovebury	18.47%
Houghton Regis	4.75%
Icknield	-9.95%
Langford & Henlow	9.58%
Leighton Linlade Central	-4.17%
Marston	-24%
Maulden & Houghton Conquest	0.13%
Northfields	-8.65%
Northill & Blunham	15.87%
Plantation	3.69%
Potton	-1.81%
Sandy	14.78%

Shefford	12.35%
Silsoe & Shillington	6.16%
South East Bedfordshire	3.83%
South West Bedfordshire	-3.08%
Southcott	-8.79%
Stotfold & Arlesey	-7.22%
Toddington	-12.52%
Watling	-7.63%
Woburn & Harlington	30.07%

5. OUR APPROACH TO DETERMINING PATTERN OF WARDS

From the onset of the Review of the Electoral Arrangements, the Council established a cross party Member Working Group consisting of four members and three substitute members. At this stage of the review, the Group met on a number of occasions and formulated a submission having consulted with Member colleagues and stakeholders. Substitute members were also in attendance at most of the meetings.

Throughout the process the Working Group looked at a variety of ward patterns using the parishes as the “building blocks” of the proposed wards. However, given the wide disparity on the numbers of the electorate across the parishes it was felt that there was justification for areas to be represented by either one, two or three members.

In formulating the proposals, the priority has been to reflect community identity and interests with electoral equality as secondary criteria albeit the submission has endeavoured to minimise the number of wards outside of the tolerance levels.

6. CONSULTATION

Whilst acknowledging that the Boundary Committee has already invited the Town and Parish Councils to submit their own proposals on the pattern of wards it was still felt that the Council’s submission should be circulated to the Towns and Parishes for their consideration and comment. At the same time, an alternative scheme from the opposition political party group was also circulated.

Due to the time constraints, and the intervening holiday period, it was not expected that all of the Towns of Parishes would have the opportunity to comment. The responses received to date, are shown at Appendix G.

Public awareness of this stage of the review was via the Council’s website. Additionally, posters were sent to community groups, selected outside bodies and all of the post offices and public libraries within the Council’s area.

7. PROPOSED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Leighton-Linslade

Leighton Linslade is the largest town in Central Bedfordshire and is proposed to be represented by 9 Councillors. It is formed of two once separate towns, Linslade and Leighton Buzzard. They are separated by the River Ouzel and the Grand Union Canal and each has retained its own town centre. They were until 1960's in different counties, Linslade having been in Buckinghamshire, and remain in different dioceses of the Church of England. Thus they are by reason of history and geography more clearly separate communities than exist in any of the other larger towns. The proposal is for Linslade to be one 3-Member Ward and for Leighton Buzzard to have 2 3-Member Wards.

This is the justification for proposing that Linslade has separate representation from Leighton Buzzard even though with some 30% of the town's population the proposed 3 Councillors out of 9 makes it inevitable that its ratio of electors to councillors will be lower than average with the ratio in Leighton Buzzard being correspondingly above average by way of compensation. Within Linslade the West Coast mainline separates the somewhat older settlement to the east to the more recent suburb of Southcott to the west. The numbers involved would also allow a potential separation of wards with Linslade to the east of the railway line having one seat and Southcott two, although Southcott would then be more than 10% below the average of electors per Councillor.

In contrast to Linslade there are no correspondingly clear-cut divisions between communities in Leighton Buzzard. Estates developed at different times in the past are the nearest approach to community identification. Of the main roads into the town, Hockliffe Road (A4012) is the one acting as the main divider of population as the Billington Road route from the south has very little population to the west of it. Hockliffe Road runs due east to the nearest point of A5 and has close to equal numbers of the town's projected population north of it and south of it. North of it the Clarence Road, Willowbank Walk and Planets estates are each identifiable areas, as is the more wooded Heath Road/Plantation Road area. But each contains numbers of electors well short of those which would justify a Councillor to represent it even as a single-member ward. South of Hockliffe Road, the estates of Meadow Way, Brooklands Drive, Billington Park and Sandhills are similarly identifiable communities, the latter two being very recently-developed.

Since 1973 Leighton Buzzard has had a variety of electoral arrangements, with 2, 3 or 4 divisions at various times and clearly a number of different options are possible. Current electoral arrangements bring together some areas that have few if any common characteristics with other areas within the same ward and these arrangements are therefore not necessarily a useful starting reference point. Under South Midlands Growth Area proposals the town's Councillors may well have to represent very significant additional

numbers of electors within possible 'urban extensions' to the east of the town during the period of currency of these arrangements beyond 2013. It therefore makes sense to share this burden among all the Councillors for Leighton rather than have it falling heavily on the smaller number who would represent the eastern portions if a pattern of one or two member wards were to be adopted.

It is therefore proposed that Leighton be divided by the main east-west route West Street/Hockliffe Street/Hockliffe Road into 2 3-Member wards. By way of exception the Meadow Way estate lying immediately south of Hockliffe Road but connecting only into that road would continue to be aligned with the northern half of the town. This gives 2 wards with electorates less than 10% above the average electorate per Councillor.

Linslade

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Leighton Linslade (Southcott Ward)	3991	
Leighton Linslade (Linslade Ward)	5452	
Leighton Linslade (All Saints Ward) AS1 part (Vimy Road area)	180	
Total	9623	
Divided by 3 members	3208	8.88%

Leighton Buzzard North

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Leighton Linslade (Plantation Ward)	5423	
Leighton Linslade (Planets Ward)	3563	
Leighton Linslade (All Saints Ward) AS1 part (except Vimy Road area)	1685	
Leighton Linslade (All Saints Ward) AS2 part (north of Hockliffe Street)	228	
Leighton Linslade (All Saints Ward) AS3 part (north of Hockliffe Road)	657	
Total	11556	
Divided by 3 members	3852	9.40%

Leighton Buzzard South

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Leighton Linslade (Grovebury Ward)	9514	
Leighton Linslade (All Saints Ward) AS2 part (south of Hockliffe Street)	714	
Leighton Linslade (All Saints Ward) AS3 part	857	

(south of Hockliffe Road)		
Total	11085	
Divided by 3 members	3695	4.94%

Dunstable

Dunstable takes its place as an historic town of nearly 30,000 electorate lying on the general line of communications between London and the Midlands. It adjoins the much larger town of Luton to the east where it has access to the M1 motorway, to a railway passenger service and an airport. The town sits in a gap through the Chiltern Hills on the site of a small roman settlement called Durocobrivis, which was established as crossroads formed by Roman Watling Street and the prehistoric Icknield Way.

Dunstable is the second largest town within the Council area and it is proposed that it is represented by 8 members, 2 less than the number currently representing the former divisional boundaries.

In determining the proposed scheme strong consideration has been made to reflect community identities rather than simply extending the existing ward boundaries to achieve electoral equality.

The existing ward of Northfields has seen considerable development in the last 5 years and a substantial number of properties have been built on a former industrial site adjacent to French's Avenue, with an even greater number of houses planned in the next 5 years. These increases in the electorate however would not provide a sufficient number to merit a two-member ward within the existing boundaries. Additionally, it is felt that this new community will have a clear and distinctive boundary by way of Brewers Hill Road and therefore it is proposed to make this area a single-member ward.

The remaining part of the Northfields ward (Beecroft) is a self contained community with its own distinct identity. A fact recognised by this Authority through the sponsorship of the Beecroft Residents Association. It is proposed to slightly extend the ward boundary into part of the Dunstable Central parish ward to achieve electoral equality and to make the area a single member ward.

The current ward of Icknield has distinct boundaries to the east (Luton Borough Council) and to the north (Houghton Regis) however it has insufficient numbers to make a two-member ward. A natural extension of the ward is to the west of the town into the shopping centre area and the associated housing around Kingsway, indeed the areas have now been joined by a link road running parallel to Dunstable college. There is planned development around the former railway line and an extension of the Icknield ward would accommodate this development. The proposal for an extended Icknield would be for a two-member ward.

The parish ward of Manshead within the Central Bedfordshire ward of Dunstable Downs is a self contained community again a fact recognised by this Authority through the provision of a full time appointment of a Downside Community Officer. It is proposed to make this area a single-member ward.

Watling ward has insufficient numbers to constitute a two-member ward and has a clear boundary to the east, the A5 Trunk Road (High Street South) which provides a clear and logical boundary. The community interest of Watling ward would naturally however extend to the west into the parish ward of Chiltern. It is proposed therefore to extend the boundary of Watling ward to encompass part of the Chiltern parish ward and make the area a two-member ward.

The extensions of the Icknield and Watling wards together with newly formed Beecroft ward would leave an area in the centre of the town that would continue to maintain the existing community interests and identities albeit on a smaller scale. It is proposed therefore that this area (Dunstable Central) be represented by a single-member.

Dunstable - Northfields

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Dunstable (Northfields Ward) N2	1800	
Dunstable (Northfields Ward) N5	790	
Dunstable (Northfields Ward) N6	671	
Dunstable (Northfields Ward) N4 part (north of Brewers Hill Road)	164	
Total	3425	-2.72%

Dunstable – Beecroft

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Dunstable (Northfields Ward) N1	1183	
Dunstable (Northfields Ward) N3	883	
Dunstable (Northfields Ward) N4 part (south of Brewers Hill Road)	664	
Dunstable (Central Ward) DC1 part (north of Dog Kennel Path)	696	
Dunstable (Central Ward) DC1 part (north of Union Street, east of Victoria Street)	478	
Total	3904	10.87%

Dunstable – Central

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Dunstable (Central Ward) DC3	1063	
Dunstable (Central Ward) DC4	500	
Dunstable (Central Ward) DC2 part (west of Victoria Street)	635	
Dunstable (Chilterns Ward) CT3	1044	
Dunstable (Chilterns Ward) CT1 part (east of Meadway)	470	
Total	3712	7.01%

Dunstable – Watling

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Dunstable (Watling Ward)	5516	
Dunstable (Chilterns Ward) CT2	1251	
Dunstable (Chilterns Ward) CT1 part (west of Meadway)	988	
Total	7755	
Divided by 2 members	3878	10.13%

Dunstable – Manshead

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Dunstable (Manshead Ward)	3842	9.11%

Dunstable – Icknield

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Dunstable (Icknield Ward)	5474	
Dunstable (Dunstable Central) DC1 part (south of Dog Kennel Path)	697	
Dunstable (Dunstable Central) DC1 part (new development)	908	
Total	7079	
Divided by 2 members	3540	0.53%

Houghton Regis

Houghton Regis is a town located between the major towns of Luton to the east and Dunstable to the west. The town is considerably older than Dunstable, and is mentioned in the Domesday Book when it was called

Houstone. The parish includes the ancient hamlets of Bidwell, Thorn and Sewell.

Bordered by the Chiltern Hills, the town was once a small village that had its character changed completely when massive development took place in the 1950's and 60's to accommodate a 'London overspill'. Redevelopment of the area continued through the 1970's when the Parkside Estate was built.

The area is warded into three parishes Houghton Hall, Parkside and Tithe Farm. Both the Parkside and Tithe Farm wards have clear boundaries and self-contained community identities and would therefore be ideally suited to being single member wards. Indeed the Council recognises this fact by employing full time community development officers for both wards. The Houghton Hall ward does not have sufficient numbers to justify a two-member ward and we therefore propose that the area to east of Bedford Road that was transferred to the Houghton Hall in the 2001 review of the electoral arrangements in South Bedfordshire be extended to incorporate the remaining properties in Churchfield Road and the adjoining streets. This would have the effect of transferring 422 of the electorate from the Tithe Farm ward to the Houghton Hall ward.

Houghton Hall

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Houghton Regis (Houghton Hall Ward)	6041	
Houghton Regis (Tithe Farm Ward) TF4 (part) properties west of Tithe Farm Road	422	
Total	6463	
Divided by 2 members	3231	-8.23%

Parkside

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Houghton Regis (Parkside Ward)	3576	1.56%

Tithe Farm

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Houghton Regis (Tithe Farm Ward)	3545	
Less: Houghton Regis (Tithe Farm Ward) TF4 (part) properties west of Tithe Farm Road	422	
Total	3223	-8.46%

Caddington, Hyde, Slip End, Kensworth, Whipsnade, Studham

The parishes of Caddington, Hyde and Slip End were collectively linked following the review of the electoral arrangements of the former South Bedfordshire Council in 2001.

The parish of Hyde is separated from the remainder of the Council area by the M1 motorway. Apart from the small village of East Hyde, much of the parish is taken up by the extensive parkland of the Luton Hoo Estate. Caddington is the largest parish in the south of the Council area and has always contained a number of hamlets including Aley Green, Woodside and Chaul End. The civil parish of Caddington was known officially as Caddington & Slip End until 2000 when in recognition of the growing size of the latter hamlet of Slip End a separate civil parish was created, with its own Parish Council.

The combined electorate of Caddington, Hyde and Slip End is too many for a single member ward and insufficient for a two-member ward. Moreover, the ability to consider alternative warding arrangements in this area is somewhat limited due to relatively isolated nature of these communities that abut the south east boundary of the Council area. The adjoining parish of Kensworth was added to the division of Caddington/Hyde and Slip End following the review of the electoral arrangements for Bedfordshire County Council in 2004.

Although, Kensworth parish has an electorate of just over a thousand, that is still insufficient to make two-member ward. The inclusion of the adjoining, but smaller, parishes of Whipsnade and Studham provides for a completely integrated rural ward covering both of the most southerly villages in the Council area. The proposed two-member ward shares good community links and social ties, despite the presence of the M1 motorway.

Caddington

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Caddington	3195	
Hyde	317	
Slip End	1580	
Kensworth	1179	
Whipsnade	403	
Studham	986	
Total	7660	
Divided by 2 members	3830	8.79%

Eaton Bray, Totternhoe, Great Billington

Eaton Bray sits at the foot of the Dunstable Downs and is a village steeped in history; it takes its name from the Bray family who came to the area in 1490. Today it is a lively vibrant village with many activities, clubs and societies for the inhabitants to participate in.

The parish has traditionally been linked to the adjoining parish of Totternhoe for at least thirty years or more when the area was represented as the divisional ward of Luton Rural No3. In the 1980's the divisional ward of Eaton Bray incorporated several parishes including the parishes of Totternhoe and Great Billington. The electoral review of Bedfordshire County Council in 2004 re-affirmed the relationship between these villages with the inception of the new division of South West Bedfordshire.

The villages of Eaton Bray, Totternhoe and Great Billington all boast histories from the 13th century and are traditional rural communities surrounded by wooded countryside with views over rich farmland. These communities share the same common interest of village life and are inextricably linked; collectively they make a single-member ward.

Eaton Bray

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Eaton Bray	2127	
Totternhoe	1036	
Great Billington	273	
Total	3436	-2.41%

Heath & Reach, Hockliffe, Stanbridge, Chalgrave, Tilsworth, Eggington.

Heath & Reach is the largest parish within this group. It is bordered by Soulbury (Buckinghamshire) to the west, Little Brickhill (Buckinghamshire) to the north-east, Potsgrove to the east and north-east, Hockliffe to the south-east, Eggington to the south, Leighton Buzzard to the south and Linslade to the south-west. The boundary between Heath & Reach and Potsgrove is formed by the Roman Road later called Watling Street, now the A5.

In the electoral review of Bedfordshire County Council in 2004 Heath & Reach was included within the Plantation division from the adjoining town of Leighton Buzzard. Whilst it can be argued that there is a clear geographical link to Leighton Buzzard the two communities are distinctively different. The village has a thriving community with several community based activities being held throughout the year. Indeed and quite uniquely, the village has its own sports association offering a variety of sports facilities.

Although Heath & Reach has no community ties with the neighbouring village of Hockliffe there is a direct connection in the A5 trunk road. This fact was recognised when both the villages were formed to create the district ward of Heath & Reach in the 2001 electoral review of South Bedfordshire.

The combination of these two parishes does not give sufficient numbers to form a single member ward. Therefore, the adjoining parishes of Stanbridge,

Chalgrave, Tilsworth and Eggington have been added to make a single-member rural ward with a mutual sense of identity.

Heath & Reach

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Heath & Reach	1145	
Hockliffe	715	
Stanbridge	602	
Chalgrave	401	
Tilsworth	318	
Eggington	227	
Total	3408	-3.20%

Barton-le-Clay

The attractive village of Barton-le-Clay nestles at the foot of the Barton Hills, which form the northernmost extremities of the Chilterns. It is ringed by beautiful Bedfordshire countryside and is famous for its impressive chequered stone church.

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas has been a place of worship for over eight hundred years and today continues to play a central role in the life of the village.

Around the village the special countryside is a nature reserve. This offers interest to everyone with an amazing range of wild plants, trees, bushes and natural habitats for creatures of the wild.

The village has an attractive mix of properties and a considerable number of amenities; it is a friendly place with a strong community spirit. The parish contains a relatively large electorate of 3,991 but nevertheless retains a cohesive rural community. It is therefore considered appropriate to retain this parish as a single-member ward notwithstanding that the variance on electoral equality exceeds the normal tolerance level of 10%.

Barton-le-Clay

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Barton-le-Clay	3991	13.36%

Toddington, Harlington, Chalton, Sundon, Streatley

Toddington is the largest village in this group and is situated 4 miles north of Dunstable on the A5120 and B579. It is half a mile from Junction 12 of the M1 motorway and lends its name to the nearby service station.

Toddington's past importance as a market town is witnessed by the fine old houses built around a large village green, on which sits the parish church and four of the village's seven public houses. Many of the population commute to London for work using the nearby rail services at Harlington.

Harlington village is home to Harlington Lower and Upper Schools which serve students up to A level. Many students from the surrounding villages travel to Harlington for its schools. The Upper School recently became a specialist science college.

The villages of Chalton, Sundon and Streatley share many common interests with the parishes of Toddington and Harlington and their residents use joint amenities and facilities.

These communities are subject to the same local issues, specifically in relation to the traffic problems generated from the M1 motorway. It is proposed that they become a two-member ward.

Toddington

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Toddington	3497	
Harlington	1834	
Chalton	450	
Sundon	383	
Streatley	1449	
Total	7613	
Divided by 2 members	3807	8.12%

Potton, Everton, Tempsford, Sutton, Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley, Eyeworth, Dunton, Edworth

The town of Potton is by far the largest settlement within this group of parishes. It is 10 miles east of the county town of Bedford and 15 miles south-west of Cambridge. It is on the B1042 road to the east of Sandy.

Potton is a thriving town of nearly 4000 electorate. It has an historic Georgian Market Square which is the heart of the Town. There are many busy local shops in and around the Square. In the centre stands the Clock House in which are located the Town Library and the Council Chamber all watched over by the Town Clock. There are also many small businesses situated in and around the town providing local employment.

Potton has a strong artistic community with many theatre groups, sports clubs, community groups and social organisations all of which are shared by the neighbouring parishes. Consequently it is felt that this group of parishes would be best served as a two-member ward.

Potton

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Potton	3850	
Everton	444	
Tempsford	433	
Sutton	244	
Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley	632	
Eyeworth	80	
Dunton	536	
Edworth	76	
Total	6295	
Divided by 2 members	3148	-10.60%

Sandy

Sandy is a small market town situated on the A1 which hugs the western edge of the town. The A603 leads west towards Bedford; the B1042 leads east towards Potton and Cambridge. There are a number of bus routes, principally from Biggleswade to Bedford. The town has a railway station which is on the East Coast Main Line with services north to Peterborough and south to London King's Cross. The area is dominated by a range of hills known as the Sand Hills.

Sandy is probably best known today as the headquarters of the RSPB. The Society moved to The Lodge, on the outskirts of the town in 1961.

Although the town has four wards it is suggested that the discrete urban area covered by the wards of Ivel and Pinnacle has limited affinity to the surrounding parishes and therefore this part of the town is best suited as a two-member ward.

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Sandy (Ivel Ward)	2840	
Sandy (Pinnacle Ward)	3900	
Total	6740	
Divided by 2 members	3370	-4.28%

Sandy (Fallowfield Ward), Sandy (Beeston Ward), Old Warden, Blunham, Southill, Moggerhanger, Northill

Blunham and Northill parishes lie broadly to the west of Sandy and the A1. The parish of Northill represents the largest electorate and covers a number of villages and hamlets. The Shuttleworth estate is in the parish. Additionally,

the parish contains a feeder stream to the River Ivel, which forms the eastern boundary.

The combination of these two parishes does not give sufficient numbers to form a single member ward. Therefore, the adjoining parishes of Old Warden, Southill and Moggerhanger together with the two adjoining town wards of Sandy (Fallowfield) and Sandy (Beeston) have been added to make a two-member rural ward to reflect the interests and identities of the local community.

Northill

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Sandy (Fallowfield Ward)	1465	
Sandy (Beeston Ward)	665	
Old Warden	262	
Blunham	802	
Southill (Stanford Ward)	200	
Southill (Broom Ward)	467	
Southill (Southill Ward)	266	
Moggerhanger	508	
Northill	1837	
Total	6472	
Divided by 2 members	3236	-8.09%

Biggleswade

Biggleswade is a market town with a rich history and much of its character comes from buildings that have remained largely unchanged over the years. The town centre features the Market Square where a general market is held each Saturday. It is surrounded by shops, many in attractive converted buildings such as the old Market house.

The River Ivel runs along the northern and western boundaries of the town causing development to be very one-sided, with housing estates in the east and south.

It is well served by transport routes, being close to the A1 road between London and the North, as well as a railway station on the main rail link North from London (the East Coast Main Line).

Biggleswade is in the heart of the market gardening area of the county of Bedfordshire. It acts as a centre for a number of nearby villages.

The town lies on the B1040 and A6001 (a section is the former A1) which also leads to Henlow to the south.

The town is the largest settlement in the northern part of the Council's area and it is considered that to reflect local community ties a clear identifiable boundary running through the High Street and from west to east would be best served by 2 x two-member wards.

Biggleswade North

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Biggleswade (Ivel Ward) ATZ	2132	
Biggleswade (Ivel Ward) AUZ	1009	
Biggleswade (Ivel Ward) AVZ	1134	
Biggleswade (Stratton Ward) AYZ	2393	
Biggleswade (Stratton Ward) AZZ (part) Orchard Close	38	
Total	6706	
Divided by 2 members	3353	-4.76%

Biggleswade South

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Biggleswade (Ivel Ward) AWZ	1759	
Biggleswade (Holme Ward) AXZ1	2737	
Biggleswade (Holme Ward) AXZ2	1118	
Biggleswade (Stratton Ward) AZZ	1487	
Less: Biggleswade (Stratton Ward) AZZ (part) Orchard Close	-38	
Total	7063	
Divided by 2 members	3532	0.31%

Astwick, Langford and Stotfold

Langford and Stotfold Parishes lie in the eastern corner of the Council's area adjacent to the boundary with Hertfordshire

The town of Stotfold has developed considerably over the years and building work continues to expand the town, with new areas such as Mill View and Fairfield Park. Fairfield Park is on the site of the old Fairfield Hospital covering a very large area, south of Stotfold and to the east of Arlesey. The old hospital has been converted into luxury apartments, with hundreds of new homes being built in the grounds of the former mental health institute.

The parish of Langford has insufficient electorate to make a single member ward and therefore the adjacent parish of Stotfold together with the parish hamlet of Astwick have been added to create this new three-member ward.

Stotfold

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Astwick	32	
Langford	2436	
Stotfold	7953	
Total	10421	
Divided by 3 members	3474	-1.34%

Clifton, Arlesey, Henlow Camp, Henlow Village, Stondon

Arlesey is a small industrial town which borders with Hertfordshire. In historic times Arlesey was a Royal Manor (Manor of Arleseybury) and a market town, once known as the most prosperous parish in the area. It is located about three miles north-west of Letchworth Garden City and six miles south of Biggleswade. Arlesey railway station provides train services to London, Peterborough, York and Edinburgh.

The parish of Arlesey has too many electorate for a single-member ward and insufficient electorate for a two-member ward consequently it is proposed to add this parish to the parishes of Clifton, Henlow and Stondon to form a three-member ward.

The combination of these parishes achieves electoral equality whilst also meeting the statutory criteria.

Arlesey

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Clifton	2391	
Arlesey	4316	
Henlow Camp	1147	
Henlow Village	1744	
Stondon	1784	
Total	11382	
Divided by 3 members	3794	7.76%

Campton & Chicksands, Meppershall, Shefford

Campton and Chicksands, Meppershall and Shefford parishes are linked by the A507. The largest settlement in this grouping is Shefford which is dominated by the River Flitt which runs more or less through the middle, with

the River Hit flowing into it from the south in the angle between Stanford Road, Northbridge Street and Southbridge Street, after which point the combined river becomes part of the River Ivel Navigation (although this is now disused as such)

The parish of Shefford borders Clifton to the east, Meppershall to the south, Campton and Chicksands to the south-west.

The combination of these parishes will facilitate a two-member ward.

Shefford

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Campton & Chicksands	928	
Meppershall	1404	
Shefford	4471	
Total	6803	
Divided by 2 members	3402	-3.39%

Gravenhurst, Shillington, Silsoe

The village of Silsoe is situated midway between Bedford and Luton on the A6 and between Ampthill and Shefford on the A507.

Silsoe is a large village and was, until 2007, the location of the Silsoe Research Institute which had an international reputation for its research in Agricultural, Food Processing and Environmental Engineering.

The adjoining villages of Gravenhurst and Shillington are steeped in history and village and community life are sustained by farming. Collectively the villages share a rural lifestyle whilst maintaining their own character.

This group of villages would be a single-member ward.

Silsoe and Shillington

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Gravenhurst	482	
Shillington	1481	
Silsoe	1582	
Total	3545	0.69%

Ampthill, Clophill, Maulden

The ancient market town of Ampthill is situated under the brow of the Greensand Ridge. It is a town that enjoys the rural surrounds of open and wooded countryside.

The town is mainly Georgian boasting over 200 listed buildings. The four main streets lined with elegant houses and other buildings meet at the Market Square.

The village of Maulden is located 1.5 miles east of Ampthill and about 8 miles south of Bedford. Adjacent to Maulden is the village of Clophill which somewhat hides it light under a bushel in that the houses along the A6, whilst perfectly respectable, do not give any idea of the wealth or number, of older buildings tucked away behind.

Collectively these parishes would make a three-member ward.

Ampthill

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Ampthill	5828	
Clophill	1368	
Maulden	2417	
Total	9613	
Divided by 2 members	3204	-8.99%

Houghton Conquest, Haynes

The parish of Houghton Conquest lies some 6 miles south of Bedford. The village stands at the crossing of two byroads and is dominated by the fine church of All Saints.

The parish comprises 3,431 acres, of which 80 are woodland, while the remainder are divided in almost equal proportions between arable land and permanent grass.

There is insufficient electorate for Houghton Conquest to be a single-member ward so the adjacent parish of Haynes has been added.

Houghton Conquest

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Houghton Conquest	2257	
Haynes	985	
Total	3242	-7.92%

Brogborough, Cranfield, Hulcote & Salford, Ridgemont, Lidlington, Marston Moretaine, Millbrook

Cranfield and Marston Moretaine are the largest settlements within this group of parishes. Cranfield is situated between junctions 13 and 14 and to the east of the M1 motorway. Bedford is 9 miles to the east and Milton Keynes is 6 miles to the west. The north of the village joins on to Cranfield University and Airfield and the other three sides are surrounded by farmland with good countryside views as the village is built on a hill.

About 1,500 students live on the University campus or in lodgings in the village (about 2 miles apart by road).

The adjacent village of Marston Moretaine is a large village on the A421 road towards Bedford. It has an electorate of just over 4,000 and is served by Millbrook railway station, which is about a mile away.

On the outskirts of the village sits the Forest Centre and Millennium Country Park in the heart of the Forest of Marston Vale.

Collectively, the parishes of Cranfield and Marston Moretaine have too many electorate for a two-member ward but have insufficient numbers for a three-member ward. Therefore the adjoining parishes of Brogborough, Hulcote & Salford, Ridgemont, Lidlington and Millbrook have been added to the group.

Cranfield & Marstone Moretaine

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Brogborough	250	
Cranfield	4282	
Hulcote & Salford	154	
Ridgmont	337	
Lidlington	1029	
Marston Moretaine	4135	
Millbrook	115	
Total	10302	
Divided by 3 members	3434	-2.46%

Flitwick, Steppingley

Flitwick is a small town in the heart of Central Bedfordshire dating back to Saxon times. It is considered that there are no distinct areas of the town that clearly reflect any specific community and therefore it is recommended that the area is represented by a three-member ward. The adjacent parish of Steppingley, which has strong community links with the town, has been added.

Flitwick

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Flitwick East	4468	
Flitwick West	5671	
Steppingley	208	
Total	10347	
Divided by 3 members	3449	-2.04%

Flitton & Greenfield, Pulloxhill, Tingrith, Westoning, Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Husborne Crawley, Battlesden, Eversholt, Milton Bryan, Potsgrove, Woburn.

Aspley Guise is the largest parish within this group and lies in the west of the Council's area adjacent to the boundary with Milton Keynes. This grouping of parishes retains a mixed profile of residents, small businesses and larger organisations.

This extensive area shares good communication links and the same common interest of village and rural lifestyle, with the smaller parishes looking to their larger neighbours for their services.

It is proposed that this grouping is served by a two-member ward.

Aspley Guise & Westoning

Parish	2013 electorate	Variance
Flitton & Greenfield	1114	
Pulloxhill	760	
Tingrith	125	
Westoning	1647	
Aspley Guise	1800	
Aspley Heath	508	
Husborne Crawley	180	
Battlesden	41	
Eversholt	358	
Milton Bryan	140	
Potsgrove	41	
Woburn	724	
Total	7438	
Divided by 2 members	3719	5.63%

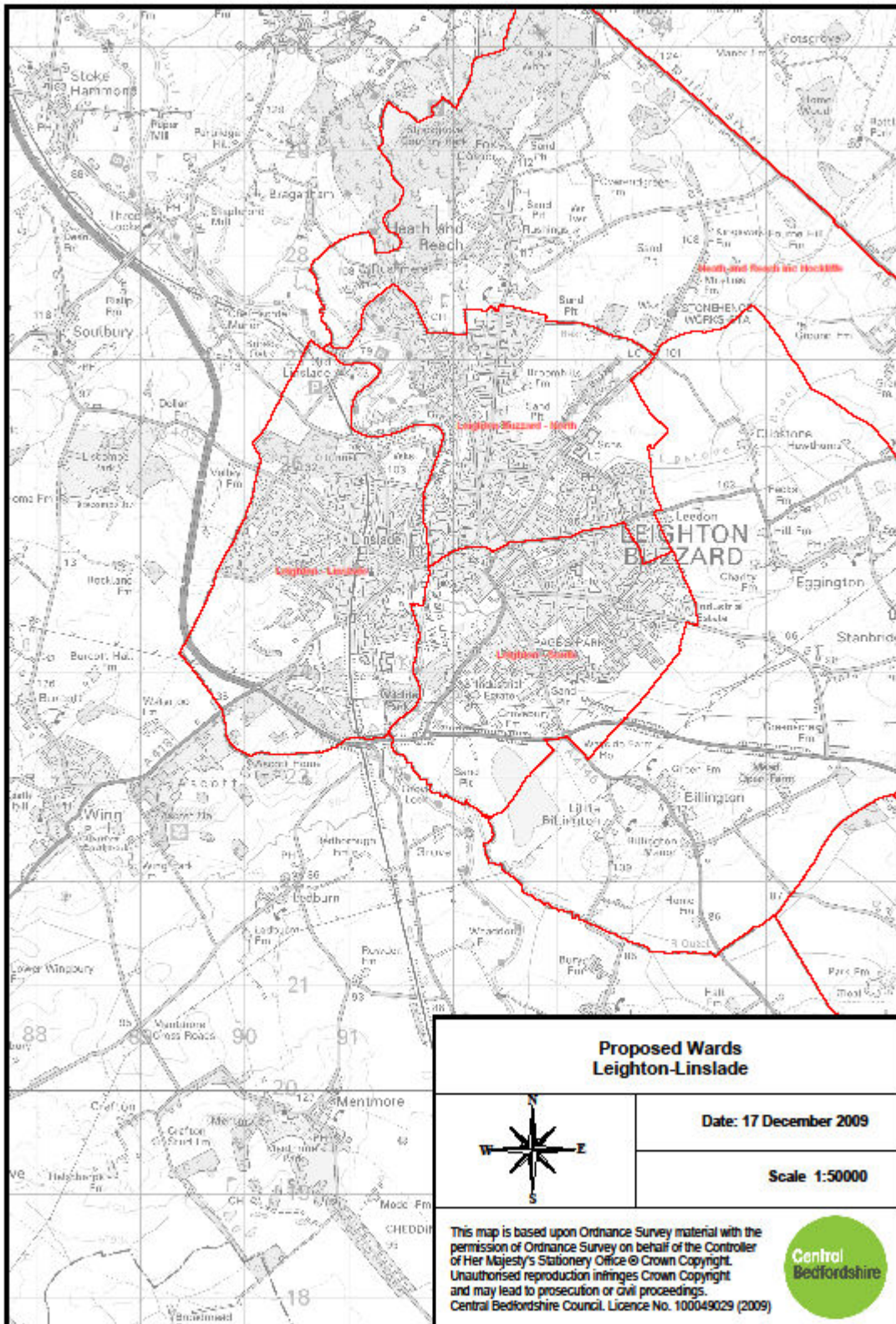
8. PARISHES

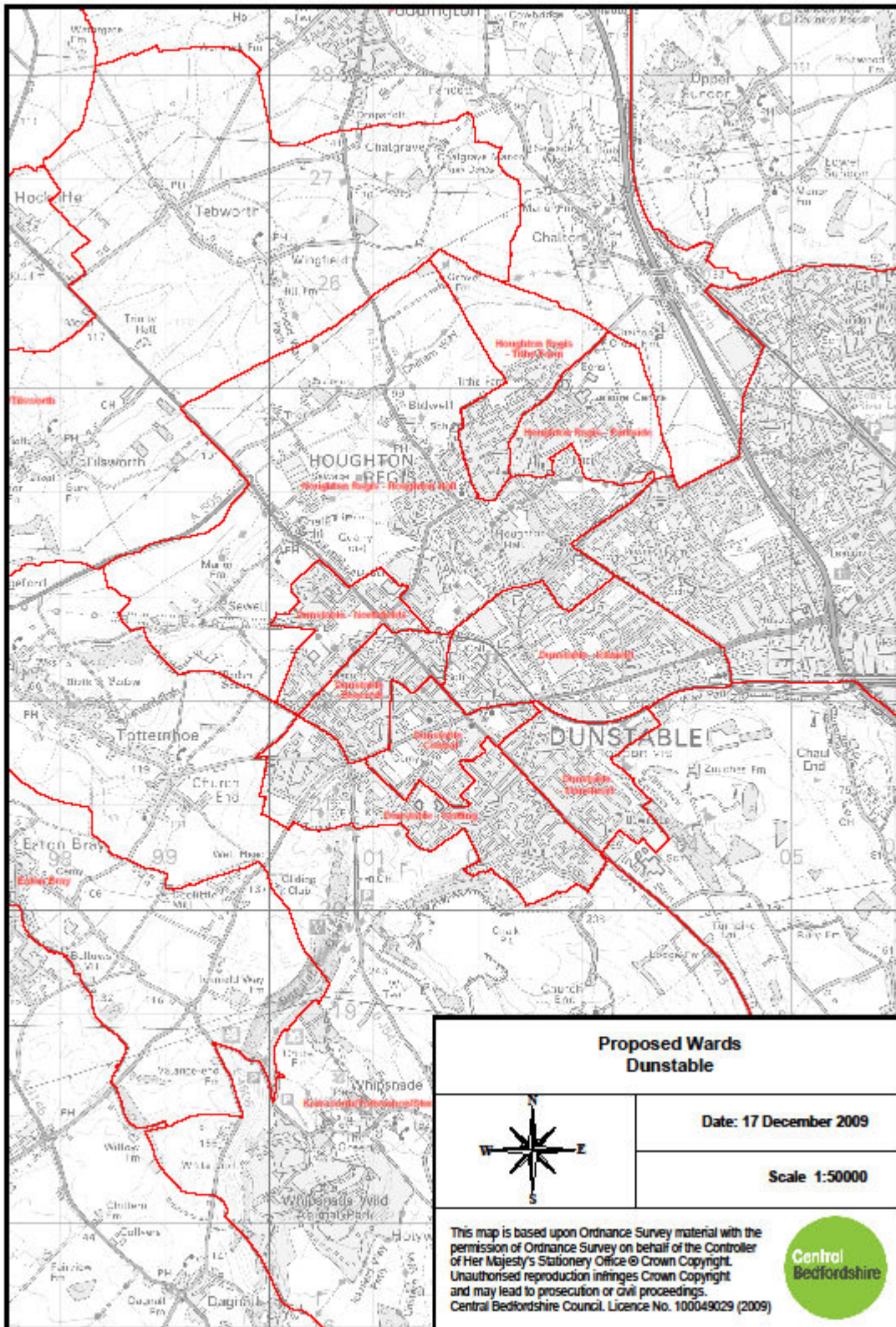
Central Bedfordshire is fully parished with 71 town and parish councils and 8 parish meetings. A schedule of the parishes together with the number of councillors is shown at Appendix F.

9. CONCLUSION

In summary, the Council is proposing (shown at Appendix E) 11 single-member wards, 12 two-member wards and 8 three-member wards resulting in 31 wards being represented by 59 members. Of the 31 wards, 4 are outside the $\pm 10\%$ tolerance on electoral equality.

The submission, we believe, represents clear community identities and interests as well as identifiable communication links.





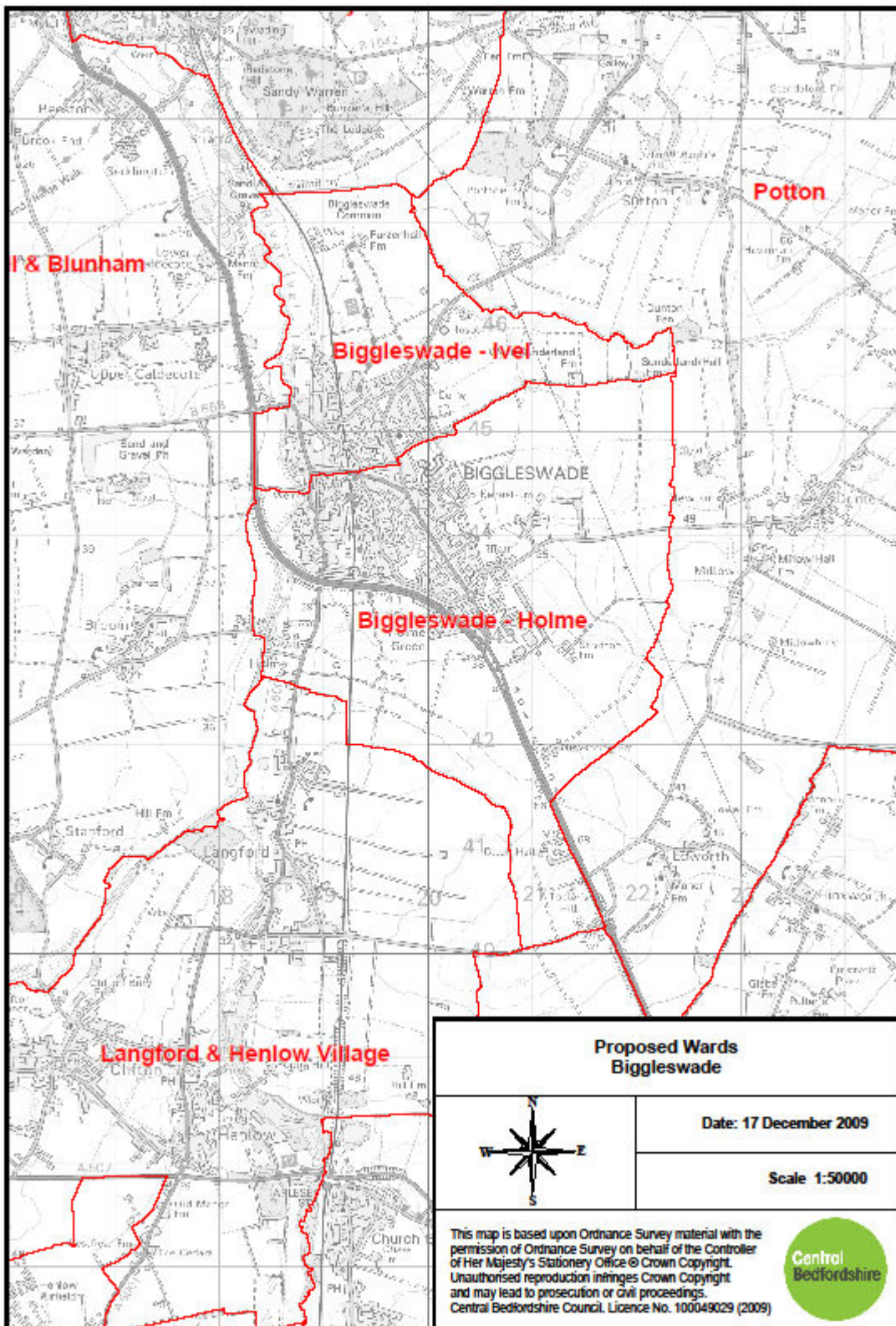


Table of Wards

Parish	Electorate (2008)	Electorate (2013)	Members	Variance From Average
Potton	3,798	3,850		
Everton	434	444		
Tempsford	423	433		
Sutton	234	244		
Wrestlingworth	612	632		
Eyeworth	70	80		
Dunton	526	536		
Edworth	66	76		
	6,163	6,295	2	-10.60%
Sandy	6,710	6,740		
	6,710	6,740	2	-4.28%
Fallowfield	1,455	1,465		
Beeston	635	665		
Old Warden	252	262		
Blunham	792	802		
Stanford	190	200		
Broom	457	467		
Southill	256	266		
Moggerhanger	498	508		
Northill	1,817	1,837		
	6,352	6,472	2	-8.09%
Biggleswade North From Biggleswade Ivel Ward				
Polling District ATZ	2,081	2,132		
Polling District AUZ	999	1,009		
Polling District AVZ	955	1,134		
From Biggleswade Stratton Ward				
Polling District AYZ	1,315	2,393		
Plus Orchard Close from AZZ	38	38		
	5,388	6,706	2	-4.76%

Parish	Electorate (2008)	Electorate (2013)	Members	Variance From Average
Biggleswade South From Biggleswade Ivel Ward				
Polling District AWZ	1,749	1,759		
From Biggleswade Holme Ward				
Polling District AXZ1	2,624	2,737		
Polling District AXZ2	1,108	1,118		
From Biggleswade Stratton Ward				
Polling District AZZ (less Orchard Close)	1,477 -38	1,487 -38		
	6,920	7,063	2	0.31%
Astwick	22	32		
Langford	2,409	2,436		
Stotfold	6,522	7,953		
	8,953	10,421	3	-1.34%
Clifton	2,328	2,391		
Arlesley	4,306	4,316		
Henlow Camp	1,137	1,147		
Henlow Village	1,670	1,744		
Stondon	1,774	1,784		
	11,215	11,382	3	7.76%
Campton & Chicksands	918	928		
Meppershall	1,394	1,404		
Shefford	4,257	4,471		
	6,569	6,803	2	-3.39%
Gravenhurst	472	482		
Shillington	1,471	1,481		
Silsoe	1,353	1,582		
	3,296	3,545	1	0.69%

Parish	Electorate (2008)	Electorate (2013)	Members	Variance From Average
Ampthill	5,396	5,828		
Clophill	1,358	1,368		
Maulden	2,397	2,417		
	9,151	9,613	3	-8.99%
Houghton Conquest	1,124	2,257		
Haynes	975	985		
	2,099	3,242	1	-7.92%
Brogborough	240	250		
Cranfield	3,968	4,282		
Hulcote & Salford	144	154		
Ridgmont	327	337		
Lidlington	1,019	1,029		
Marston Moretaine	3,439	4,135		
Millbrook	105	115		
	9,242	10,302	3	-2.46%
Flitwick East	4,448	4,468		
Flitwick West	5,651	5,671		
Steppingley	198	208		
	10,297	10,347	3	-2.04%
Flitton & Greenfield	1,094	1,114		
Pulloxhill	714	760		
Tingrith	115	125		
Westoning	1,637	1,647		
Aspley Guise	1,780	1,800		
Aspley Heath	498	508		
Husborne Crawley	170	180		
Battlesden	31	41		
Eversholt	348	358		
Milton Bryan	130	140		
Potsgrove	31	41		
Woburn	714	724		
	7,262	7,438	2	5.63%
Barton-le-Clay	3,936	3,991		
	3,936	3,991	1	13.36%

Parish	Electorate (2008)	Electorate (2013)	Members	Variance From Average
Toddington	3,454	3,497		
Harlington	1,824	1,834		
Chalton	441	450		
Sundon	374	383		
Streatley	1,440	1,449		
	7,533	7,613	2	8.12%
Chalgrave	390	401		
Heath & Reach	1,136	1,145		
Eggington	216	227		
Hockliffe	613	715		
Tilsworth	307	318		
Stanbridge	591	602		
	3,253	3,408	1	-3.20%
Houghton Regis	12,250			
	12,250			
Houghton Hall part TF4 (west of Tithe Farm Road)		6,041		
		422		
		6,463	2	-8.21%
Parkside		3,576		
		3,576	1	1.57%
Tithe Farm less: part TF4 (west of Tithe Farm Road)		3,645		
		-422		
		3,223	1	-8.46%

Parish	Electorate (2008)	Electorate (2013)	Members	Variance From Average
Dunstable	27,097			
	27,097			
Northfields				
N2		1,800		
N5		790		
N6		671		
part N4 (north of Brewers Hill Road)		164		
		3,425	1	-2.72%
Beecroft				
N1		1,183		
N3		883		
part N4 (south of Brewers Hill Road)		664		
part DC1 (north of Dog Kennel Path)		696		
part DC2 (north of Union St, East of Victoria St)		478		
		3,904	1	10.89%
Central				
DC3		1,063		
DC4		500		
CT3		1,044		
part DC2 (west of Victoria St)		635		
part CT1 (east of Meadway)		470		
		3,712	1	5.43%
Watling				
W1 to W5		5,516		
CT2		1,251		
part CT1 (west of Meadway)		988		
		7,755	2	10.14%

Parish	Electorate (2008)	Electorate (2013)	Members	Variance From Average
Manshead M1 to M3		3,842		
		3,842	1	9.13%
Icknield ICK1 to ICK4 part DC1 (south of Dog Kennel Path) DC1 (New Development)		5,474 697 908		
		7,079	2	0.53%
Leighton Linlade	28,389			
	28,389			
Linslade L1 to L3 SO1 to SO4 part AS1 (Vimy Road)		3,991 5,452 180		
		9,623	3	-8.89%
Leighton Buzzard North PLTN1 to PLTN4 PLS1 to PLS3 part AS1 except (Vimy Road) part AS2 (north of Hockliffe Street) part AS3 (north of Hockliffe Road)		5,423 3,563 1,685 228 657		
		11,556	3	9.41%
Leighton Buzzard South G1 to G6 part AS2 (south of Hockliffe Street) part AS2 (south of Hockliffe Street)		9,514 714 857		
		11,085	3	4.95%

Parish	Electorate (2008)	Electorate (2013)	Members	Variance From Average
Totternhoe	1,025	1,036		
Eaton Bray	2,111	2,127		
Billington	264	273		
	3,400	3,436	1	-2.41%
Hyde	308	317		
Slip End	1,571	1,580		
Caddington	3,024	3,195		
Kensworth	1,168	1,179		
Whipsnade	394	403		
Studham	975	986		
	7,440	7,660	2	8.79%
Total	192,915	207,720	59	
Electorate/Councillor	3,270	3,521	0	

Schedule of Parishes

Town/Parish	Ward	No of Councillors
Amphill		12
Arlesey		15
Aspley Guise		12
Aspley Heath		9
Astwick		Parish meeting
Barton-le-Clay		13
Battlesden		Parish meeting
Biggleswade	Holme	4
Biggleswade	Ivel	6
Biggleswade	Stratton	5
Blunham		10
Brogborough		7
Caddington		10
Campton & Chicksands		7
Chalgrave		7
Chalton		7
Clifton		12
Clophill		10
Cranfield	Cranfield	13
Cranfield	Wharley End	2
Dunstable	Chiltern	3
Dunstable	Dunstable Central	3
Dunstable	Icknield	4
Dunstable	Manshead	3
Dunstable	Northfields	4
Dunstable	Watling	4
Dunton		7
Eaton Bray		9
Edworth		Parish meeting
Eggington		7
Eversholt		7
Everton		7
Eyeworth		Parish meeting
Flitton & Greenfield	Greenfield	5
Flitton & Greenfield	Flitton	5
Flitwick	East	7
Flitwick	West	10
Gravenhurst		7
Great Billington		7
Harlington		12
Haynes		10

Heath and Reach		9
Henlow	Camp	2
Henlow	Village	10
Hockliffe		7
Houghton Conquest		10
Houghton Regis	Houghton Hall	6
Houghton Regis	Parkside	4
Houghton Regis	Tithe Farm	4
Hulcote & Salford		7
Husborne Crawley		7
Hyde		7
Kensworth		9
Langford		13
Leighton-Linslade	All Saints	3
Leighton-Linslade	Grovebury	4
Leighton-Linslade	Linslade	3
Leighton-Linslade	Planets	3
Leighton-Linslade	Plantation	4
Leighton-Linslade	Southcott	4
Lidlington		9
Marston Moretaine		12
Maulden		12
Meppershall		10
Millbrook		Parish meeting
Milton Bryan		Parish meeting
Moggerhanger		9
Northill		12
Old Warden		7
Potsgrove		Parish meeting
Potton		15
Pulloxhill		7
Ridgmont		9
Sandy	Beeston	1
Sandy	Fallowfield	3
Sandy	Ivel	5
Sandy	Pinnacle	6
Shefford		15
Shillington		10
Silsoe		10
Slip End		7
Southill	Broom	6
Southill	Southill	3
Southill	Stanford	3
Stanbridge		7
Steppingley		7

Stondon		10
Stotfold		15
Streatley		7
Studham		7
Sundon		7
Sutton		7
Tempsford		7
Tilsworth		7
Tingrith		Parish meeting
Toddington		11
Totternhoe		9
Westoning		10
Whipsnade		7
Woburn		9
Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley		7

TOWN/PARISH - CONSULTATION

Town/Parish Council	Response
Ampthill Town Council	
Arlesey	
Aspley Guise	
Aspley Heath	
Astwick (Meeting)	
Barton-le-Clay	
Battlesden (Meeting)	
Biggleswade Town Council the Town Council resolved to adopt the proposals put before the meeting to split Biggleswade into two wards running west to east.....
Blunham	
Brogborough	
Caddington	
Campton & Chicksands	
Chalgrave	
Chaltonagrees with the views of the Conservative Group and requests that you recommend an electoral ward with two members comprising – Toddington, Harlington, Chalton, Sundon and Streatley. This group of parishes already have close links through GAPP and the proposal is completely logical and sensible. Chalton specifically does not want to be part of a single ward.....
Clifton	
Clophill	
Cranfield	
Dunstable Town Council overall Members were not in agreement with the proposals set out. Furthermore, they believed the proposals would not achieve the aim of reflecting the new functions of Central Bedfordshire Council nor did they believe the arrangements would lead to an improvement in Central Bedfordshire Councillors engagement with local communities. Members also felt that Dunstable should have one more Councillor to that proposed at the expense of a representative to the north of Central Bedfordshire....
DuntonMembers prefer the proposal from the Conservative Group warded as detailed with two Councillor

	representatives from Central Bedfordshire Council.
Eaton Bray	
Edworth (Meeting)	
Eggington	
Eversholt	
Everton	
Eyeworth (Meeting)	
Flitton and Greenfield	
Flitwick Town Council	
Gravenhurst	
Great Billington	
Harlington	
Haynes	
Heath & Reach	...wishes to retain its current electoral ward in which Heath & Reach is linked with Plantation Ward – Leighton Buzzard and not the proposals suggested by Central Bedfordshire Council. The Parish Council strongly opposes the Liberal Democrat Party's suggestion of becoming part of Woburn Unitary ward. If the parish council's request to remain within Plantation Ward is not granted by the Boundary Committee they would opt for the Conservative Party's suggestion to link Heath & Reach with Hockliffe.....
Henlow	... they prefer the Liberal Democrat proposal as this shows Langford, Henlow and Arlesey as one electoral ward. The area accords with the present area of Policing, SN Teams and service providers...
Hockliffe	
Houghton Conquest	
Houghton Regis Town Council	
Hulcote & Salford	
Husborne Crawley	
Hyde	
Kensworth	
Langford	... favours the option of Langford being linked with Stotfold and Astwick....
Leighton-Linslade Town	

TOWN/PARISH - CONSULTATION

Council	
Lidlington	
Marston Moretaine	
Maulden supports the Liberal Democrat proposal which would link our village of Maulden with Clophill village. My Councillors feel that the two rural villages would be the best combination and do not wish to be linked with the urban town of Ampthill as suggested by the Conservative Group
Meppershall	
Millbrook (Meeting)	
Milton Bryan (Meeting)	
Moggerhanger	
Northill	...they wish Northill Parish Council to remain warded as at present with two Councillor representatives from Central Bedfordshire Council.
Old Warden	
Potsgrove (Meeting)	
Potton	
Pulloxhill	
Ridgmont	
Sandy Town Council	<p>...It took account of the need for each ward to have a similar number of electors but was also cognisant of the need to recognise the identities and interests of local communities.</p> <p>Sandy is a small town which over the past ten years has expanded northwards by means of a new estate “the Fallowfield area”. Although an integral part of the town the area is a discrete one and could easily be separated physically from the rest of Sandy. Sandy Town Council has expended considerable efforts to ensure that Fallowfield is integrated into the town and that its residents identify with the rest of the townspeople. However, Council Members fear that the area, because it can be easily separated on paper from the rest of the town, will be attached to a ward outside Sandy.</p> <p>Similar concerns have been expressed with regard to Beeston, a settlement on the A1 which is part of the parish of Sandy. Again the Town Council has tried to ensure that this village remains an integral part of the town. This endeavour would be damaged if, as is proposed in some quarters, Beeston were placed in an</p>

	<p>electoral ward other than Sandy.</p> <p>Proposals put forward by Central Bedfordshire so far have included the separation of either both of the proposed areas or just Fallowfield, neither solution is acceptable to the Town Council.</p> <p>It must be pointed out that, on the current information we have, no other town or parish in Central Bedfordshire is proposed for division in this way.</p> <p>The solution proposed by Sandy Town Council is as follows:</p> <p>Sandy, Beeston and Fallowfield should remain as one ward but be joined by the neighbouring parish of Blunham. This would give an electorate of 9,592, allowing for 3 members to stand for the ward.</p> <p>This would then leave the parish of Northill, together with Old Warden, Stanford, Broom, Southill and Moggerhanger to form a one member ward with an electorate of 3,470.</p> <p>The final neighbouring wards would be Potton encompassing Everton, Tempsford, Sutton, Wrestlingworth, Eyeworth, Dunton and Edworth (2 members, electorate of 6,163) and Biggleswade which traditionally has been divided into separate wards.</p> <p>The Town Council would be very grateful for the Committee's careful consideration of the facts of the case and the need to ensure that the people of Fallowfield and Beeston continue to identify with the town of Sandy as a whole.....</p>
Shefford	<p>... overall they feel that reducing the number of members to 59 is not viable and feel that it would be far better to increase the number of Councillors and reduce the allowances. It was generally agreed that in today's society there is a far greater workload than there used to be and to have this spread over 59 members is nonsensical. In Shefford there used to be 3 District Councillors and 1 County Councillor - now reduced to 2 members in total. Prior to the recent demise of Bedfordshire County Council there were 127 members for Bedfordshire.</p> <p>The Town Council feels that such a change in numbers will discriminate against Councillors with full-time employment and therefore is not commensurate with the delivery of a quality service on behalf of the electorate.</p>

TOWN/PARISH - CONSULTATION

	It could be further argued that potentially members could comprise of retired people with more time on their hands and/or people with sufficient personal monies that they don't have to work. It is unlikely that either of those groups would fully represent the views of the majority of the people they represent.....
Shillington	
Silsoe	
Slip Endare pleased to advise that we are in agreement to the proposed grouping put forward by the Conservative party, in that Slip End would be grouped with Hyde, Caddington, Kensworth, Whipsnade and Studham....
Southill	
Stanbridge	
Steppingley	...continue to link with Flitwick West. This is the current arrangement and has worked satisfactorily for many years.....
Stondon	
Stotfold	
Streatley	
Studham	
Sundon	
Sutton	
Tempsford	
Tilsworth	
Tingrith (Meeting)	
Toddington	
Totternhoe	
Westoning	...broadly supports the proposals but would wish to see the locality be a two single Member ward and not a two Member ward.
Whipsnade	
Woburn	
Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley	