

Special Meeting of Council

Tuesday 27 January 2015

Members of Cherwell District Council,

A special meeting of Council will be held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 6.30 pm, and you are hereby summoned to attend.



Sue Smith
Chief Executive

Monday 19 January
2015

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3 Communications

To receive communications from the Chairman and/or the Leader of the Council.

Council Business Reports

4 Cherwell Boundary Review: Response to Local Government Boundary Commission for England Draft Recommendations (Pages 1 - 44)

Report of Chief Executive

Purpose of report

To agree Cherwell District Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's ("LGBCE" or "the Commission") draft recommendations of the further electoral review for Cherwell District Council.

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To agree the Cherwell District Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations of the further electoral review for Cherwell District Council (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make any necessary amendments to the council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations of the further electoral review for Cherwell District Council prior to submission in light of the resolutions of Council.

5 Polling District and Polling Places Review 2014 (Pages 45 - 54)

Report of Returning Officer

Purpose of report

To agree the recommendations from the Council's Polling District and Polling Place Review 2014.

Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations for Polling Districts and Polling Places within Cherwell as set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 To agree the proposals in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 To note that a further polling place review will be undertaken following the conclusion of the Boundary Commission review.
- 1.4 To delegate authority to the Returning Officer and Chief Executive to conduct and implement a review of polling places once the District Boundary Review has been completed in 2015.

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Room at the end of the meeting.

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk or 01295 221589 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the car park as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact James Doble, Democratic and Elections
james.doble@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, 01295 221587

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Cherwell District Council

Council

27 January 2015

<p style="text-align: center;">Cherwell Boundary Review Response to Local Government Boundary Commission for England Draft Recommendations</p>

Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To agree Cherwell District Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's ("LGBCE" or "the Commission") draft recommendations of the further electoral review for Cherwell District Council.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To agree the Cherwell District Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations of the further electoral review for Cherwell District Council (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make any necessary amendments to the council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations of the further electoral review for Cherwell District Council prior to submission in light of the resolutions of Council.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 In May 2012 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England ("LGBCE" or "the Commission") announced that it would be conducting an electoral review of Cherwell. The review was triggered by the Commission's belief, and Cherwell District Council's ("CDC") subsequent confirmation, that more than 30% of wards within CDC had an electoral variance in excess of 10% from the average for the Council.
- 2.2 The first stage of the review was to determine a preferred council size. Following a submission from CDC and subsequent public consultation carried out by the LGBCE. Following the consultation, the Commission adopted a council size for 48 for Cherwell District Council, retaining elections by thirds.

- 2.3 The second stage of the review was the consultation on warding arrangements. All interested parties were able to propose a new pattern of warding arrangements for Cherwell District Council to the Commission during the consultation.
- 2.4 At its meeting of 7 July 2014, Council agreed its warding arrangements submission to the Commission. This can be viewed at the following link: [Cherwell District Council Warding Arrangements Submission](#)
- 2.5 Following consideration of all warding arrangements submissions, on 9 December 2014 the LGBCE published its draft recommendations for the further electoral review of Cherwell District Council. These are attached at Appendix 2. The Commission is inviting comments on their draft recommendations until 16 February 2015.

3.0 Report Details

Electoral Pattern

- 3.1 Cherwell District Council currently elects by thirds and it is recommended this be retained following the boundary review. Where a council elects by thirds, Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 provides that the Commission should have regard to the desirability of recommending that each ward returns three councillors, subject to its other statutory criteria of achieving electoral equality, reflecting community identity and providing for effective and convenient local government.

Warding Pattern - Principles

- 3.2 Warding patterns should adhere to the following criteria:
- Delivering electoral equality for local voters – this means ensuring each local Councillor represents roughly the same number of people
 - Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities – this means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable
 - Promoting effective and convenient local government – this means ensuring that the new wards can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the pattern of wards reflects the electoral cycle of the council.

Electoral Arrangements of Town and Parish Councils

- 3.3 Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, changes to external parish boundaries are the responsibility of local authorities.
- 3.4 The Commission can however recommend changes to the electoral arrangements within parish and town councils i.e. the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of parish councillors for each parish ward. However, this is only in circumstances where the parished area is already or is to be divided between wards.
- 3.5 The Commission cannot, as part of this review, consider changes to the external boundaries of a parish, the number of parish/town councillors or to creating a new parish.

The Commission Draft Recommendations and Cherwell District Council's Response

- 3.6 The Commission's draft recommendations for the further electoral review of Cherwell District Council were published on 9 December 2014 and are attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.7 The Boundary Review Working Group, an all-party councillor working group, supported by officers from the Democratic and Elections team, considered the Commission's draft recommendations against the council's own warding arrangements submission. A comparison between the two is attached at Appendix 3.
- 3.8 Appendix 1 sets out the proposed response to the Commission's draft recommendations. It has unanimous support from the Boundary Review Working Group.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England Electoral Review of Cherwell

- 3.9 Once the Commission has considered all responses to its draft recommendations, it is intending to publish its final recommendations on the number of councillors, the number and boundaries of wards, and the names of wards in February 2015.
- 3.10 There will be a twelve-week period of consultation on the draft recommendations before the Commission considers all representations received and formulates its final recommendations.
- 3.11 The Commission expects to publish its final recommendations in February 2015. The publication of the final recommendations marks the end of the electoral review process. There is no provision in legislation for representations to be made on the final recommendations.
- 3.12 Once the Commission's final recommendations have been published, they make preparations for the legal order to put them into effect. The Commission prepares a draft order. The final recommendations mapping that will be used as the basis of the map that will be referred to by the order (the order map). The order map will only show new district ward or county divisions and parish ward names and boundaries, and any existing county or district and parish and parish ward names that they do not propose to change.
- 3.13 The Commission will make arrangements for the draft order to be laid in the name of the Speaker of the House of Commons before both Houses of Parliament. It will then be subject to what is the draft negative resolution procedure, meaning the order can only be confirmed after it has been before each house for 40 sitting days (the House of Lords and the House of Commons may have different sitting days). Draft orders can be prayed against in either House. In such an event, a debate on the order may take place. If a debate on a draft order is lost, the order will not be made; there is no provision for Parliament to modify the order.
- 3.14 The orders will come into force at whole-council elections in the next normal year of election for the authority concerned, in the case of CDC, this will be May 2016. Given that it is recommended that elections by thirds are retained, the normal

electoral cycle will be returned to as soon as possible afterwards but no district elections will be held in a year in which they are not normally held. It may be also necessary to alter the years of parish elections to ensure that parish elections are held in the same years as district elections in associated district wards.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Boundary Review Working Group has considered the Commission's draft recommendations and believes that the proposed response reflects CDC's original warding arrangements submission, which it believes will ensure electoral equality across the district.

5.0 Consultation

Boundary Review Working Group	Support the proposed draft response
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The Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer	No further comments
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6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To agree the recommendations as set out.

Option 2: To amend the recommendations.

Option 3: To request that officers undertake further work on the draft response.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications at this time, although the retention of elections by thirds with three member wards would mean the council funding elections across the whole district every year. This will be addressed as part of the budget setting and medium term financial strategy processes.

Comments checked by:

Nicola Jackson, Corporate Finance Manager

01295 221731 nicola.jackson@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 The proposed response is consistent with the consultation process as required by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and conforms to legislation in force.

Comments checked by:
James Doble, Democratic and Elections Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer,
01295 221589, james.doble@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

N/A

Lead Councillor

N/A

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Proposed Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations
2	Local Government Boundary Commission for England draft recommendations
3	Comparison between the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Cherwell District Council warding arrangements submission
Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	Natasha Clark, Team Leader – Democratic & Elections
Contact Information	01295 221589 natasha.clark@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

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LGBCE Proposed Ward Name	Details	CDC Comments
Banbury Wards		
Banbury Calthorpe and Easington	The southern part of Banbury Town, including the residential areas on both side of Bloxham Road and Oxford Road	Whilst the Working Group didn't have any strong objections to the proposed District Wards for Banbury, they were very concerned about the proposed changes to the Town Council electoral arrangements and the 15 Town wards. They felt that the proposals contradicted the Commission's aim of community identity, as the lack of co-terminosity across district and Town Council boundaries would lead to confusion amongst electors.
Banbury Cross and Castle	Includes Banbury Town Centre, extends north to Oxford Canal, east to the railway line, south to junction of Bloxham Road and Queensway and west to the streets behind Woodgreen Leisure Centre	
Banbury Grimsbury and Hightown	Eastern part of the town. Bounded to the north and east by the district boundary. Western Boundary is the A4260 and the southern boundary runs behind properties on Hightown Leyes, Foscoate Rise and Meadow View	
Banbury Hardwick	The northern part of Banbury, including Hardwick, the Hanwell Fields estate and the new developments off Dukes Meadow Drive	
Banbury Ruscote	Ruscote and Neithrop residential areas, as far north as Warwick Road and extending South to Broughton Road. Extends west to the edge of Town and east to the back of Woodgreen Leisure Centre	

Bicester Wards		
Bicester East	Town Centre, as far south as Church Street/Casueway, and the residential areas north of the centre extending to the parish boundary with Launton.	The Working Group felt that the Southern boundary of the proposed district Ward should be moved further south, to follow the railway line down to where it meets the A41, then follow the A41 to the roundabout with the B4030. The railway line and the road act as a physical boundary, and the area of Bicester currently proposed to be in the Bicester South ward would be better suited to the Bicester East Ward, due to the detachment the positioning of the railway line and road creates.
Bicester North	Parish of Caversfield and residential areas either side of Banbury Road, stretching to the railway line in the South and Buckingham Road to the East	The Working Group had no specific comments regarding the proposal.
Bicester South	South of Bicester town centre, including Bicester village, Langford village, new development south of Middleton Stoney Road, and Ambrosden.	Please see comments against the proposed Bicester East Ward.
Bicester West	Residential area bounded by the railway line to the north, Queens Avenue/Field Street to east, Middleton Stoney Road to south and parish boundary with Bucknell to the west.	The Working Group had no specific comments regarding the proposal.
Rural Wards		
Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote	Adderbury, Bloxham, Bodicote and Milton	The Working Group had no specific comments regarding the proposal, other than to reiterate that they felt the CDC submission met the statutory criteria and was more

		appropriate to local community and geographical considerations, and would better enable effective democratic representation.
Cropredy, Sibfords and Wroxton	Parishes of Bourton, Broughton, Claydon with Clattercott, Cropredy, Drayton, Epwell, Hanwell, Horley, Hornton, Mollington, North Newington, Prescote, Shenington with Alkerton, Shutford, Sibford Ferris, Sibford Gower, Swalcliffe, Tadmarton, Wardington and Wroxton	The LGBCE draft recommendation is the same as the CDC submission. The working group therefore support the draft recommendation.
Deddington	Barford St John and St Michael, Deddington, Duns Tew, Hook Norton, Fritwell, Middle Aston, Milcombe, North Aston, Somerton, Souldern, South Newington, Steeple Aston and Wigginton	The Working Group had no specific comments regarding the proposal, other than to reiterate that they felt the CDC submission met the statutory criteria and was more appropriate to local community and geographical considerations, and would better enable effective democratic representation.
Fringford and Heyfords	Ardley with Fewcott, Bucknell, Cottisford, Finmere, Fringford, Godington, Hardwick with Tusmore, Hethe, Kirtlington, Lower Heyford, Middleton Stoney, Mixbury, Newton Purcell with Shelswell, Stoke Lyne, Stratton Audley and Upper Heyford	The Working Group had no specific comments regarding the proposal, other than to reiterate that they felt the CDC submission met the statutory criteria and was more appropriate to local community and geographical considerations, and would better enable effective democratic representation.
Kidlington East	North-west of Kidlington Town, as far south as the High Street, and the parish of Gosford and Water Eaton	The LGBCE draft recommendation is extremely similar to the CDC submission. The working group therefore support the draft recommendation for District level, subject to clarification on the exact positioning of the ward boundary between east and west. The map available on the LGBCE consultation site https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/2727 when zoomed in appears to show two ward boundaries in the High

		<p>Street area.</p> <p>The Working Group were concerned about the proposed amendments to the Parish Wards in Kidlington. The proposal to reduce the parish wards from five to four and change the number of parish councillors per ward does not appear to be in keeping with the rationale of community identity, it seems to confuse it, and makes it more difficult for elected members to accurately represent their communities. The parish proposal is not supported at District or Parish level.</p>
Kidlington West	South-east of Kidlington Town, as far north as the High Street, and the parishes of Begbroke and Yarnton	The LGBCE draft recommendation is extremely similar to the CDC submission. The working group therefore support the draft recommendation for District level, subject to the clarification as detailed above and the comments regarding the Parish proposals.
Launton and Otmoor	Arcott, Blackthorn, Launton, Piddington, Wendlebury, Bletchington, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Fencott and Murcott, Hampton Gay and Poyle, Horton-cum-Studley, Islip, Merton, Noke, Oddington, Weston-on-the-Green, Shipton-on-Cherwell and Thrupp	The LGBCE draft recommendation is the same as the CDC submission. The working group therefore support the draft recommendation.

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Cherwell District Council

Electoral review

December 2014

Translations and other formats

For information on obtaining this publication in another language or in a large-print or Braille version please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

Tel: 020 7664 8534

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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Summary

Who we are

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed
- How many wards or electoral divisions should there be, where are their boundaries and what should they be called
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division

Why Cherwell?

We are conducting an electoral review of Cherwell District Council as the Council currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more or many fewer voters than others. This means that the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in Cherwell. Overall, 36% of wards currently have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the district.

Our proposals for Cherwell

Cherwell District Council currently has 50 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, we consider that a reduction in council size by two to 48 members will ensure the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively.

Electoral arrangements

As Cherwell District Council elects by thirds, the Commission will aim to produce a pattern of three-member wards. Our draft recommendations therefore propose that Cherwell District Council's 48 councillors should represent 16 three-member wards across the district. None of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Cherwell by 2020.

You have until 16 February 2015 to have your say on the recommendations. See page 16 for how to have your say.

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Cherwell District Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

What is an electoral review?

2 Our three main considerations in conducting an electoral review are set out in legislation¹ and are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

3 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

4 We wrote to the Council as well as other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals on council size. We then held two periods of consultation, first on council size and then on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during our consultations have informed our draft recommendations.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
7 January 2014	Council size consultation
29 April 2014	Warding pattern consultation
9 December 2014	Draft recommendations consultation
17 February 2015	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
12 May 2015	Publication of final recommendations

5 We were due to publish our draft recommendations in September 2014; however, we have delayed the publication in order to allow for a Related Alteration to be made following a Community Governance Review by the Council. This Related Alteration amends the county electoral divisions in the Banbury and Bicester areas so that the divisions are coterminous with the parish council boundaries. Without this Related Alteration it would have been necessary to implement some parish wards which would have had no electors.

¹ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

How will the recommendations affect you?

6 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward and, in some instances, which parish council wards you vote in. Your ward name may also change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. The names or boundaries of parishes will not change as a result of our recommendations.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

7 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Members of the Commission are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)
Professor Colin Mellors (Deputy Chair)
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
Alison Lowton
Sir Tony Redmond
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill
Chief Executive (designate): Jolyon Jackson CBE

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

8 Legislation² states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors³ in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the date of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward at the end of the review.

9 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum.

10 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors as shown on the table below.

	2013	2020
Electorate of Cherwell District	109,649	123,835
Number of councillors	48	48
Average number of electors per councillor	2,284	2,580

11 Under our draft recommendations, none of our proposed wards will have electoral variances of greater than 10% from the average for the district by 2020. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for Cherwell.

12 Additionally, in circumstances where we propose to divide a parish between district wards or county divisions, we are required to divide it into parish wards so that each parish ward is wholly contained within a single district ward or county division. We cannot make amendments to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

13 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Cherwell District Council or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. There is no evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

14 See Appendix B for details of submissions received. All submissions may be inspected at our offices and can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Electorate figures

15 As prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2020, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2015. These forecasts were broken down to polling district levels and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 13% to 2020. The growth will largely be driven by substantial new housing developments planned for Banbury and Bicester.

16 Having considered the information provided by the Council, we are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis of our draft recommendations.

Council size

17 Prior to consultation, Cherwell Council submitted a proposal to reduce the council size from 50 to 48. During council size consultation we received 19 submissions. These were from 11 parish and town councils, three district councillors and four local residents. Adderbury Parish Council provided two submissions. The Council did not submit a representation at this stage.

18 We carefully considered the representations received during consultation. We consider that the Council's original submission proposing a council of 48 is supported by adequate evidence to justify a reduction in size. We are content that the Council has sufficiently demonstrated that the authority can operate efficiently and effectively under this council size and ensure effective representation of local residents. The majority of submissions received supported the Council's proposal. We were therefore minded to adopt a council size of 48 as the basis of this electoral review and invited proposals or warding arrangements based on this number of councillors.

19 We received no responses that opposed the council size in response to consultation on warding patterns. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a council size of 48 elected members.

Warding patterns

20 During consultation on warding patterns, we received 22 submissions, including three district-wide proposals. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

21 The three district-wide schemes provided a uniform warding arrangement of three-member wards for the district. Having carefully considered the proposals received, we were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the district and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

22 Our draft recommendations are for 16 three-member wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

23 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 19–20) and on the large map accompanying this report.

24 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations. We also welcome comments on the ward names we have proposed as part of the draft recommendations.

Detailed wards

25 The tables on pages 8-13 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Cherwell. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for convenient and effective local government

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Banbury

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Banbury Calthorpe & Easington	3	3%	This ward comprises the southern part of Banbury town, including the residential areas on both sides of Bloxham Road and Oxford Road.	We received two very similar proposals for this ward, which appeared to broadly reflect local communities. In order to improve electoral equality we have made minor amendments to the boundaries proposed and also sought to use more easily identifiable boundaries. In the east of the ward we have used the middle of Broughton Road as the boundary, rather than the backs of properties, and in the west of the ward our boundary runs between Meadow View and Wood End rather than behind High Acres.
Banbury Cross & Castle	3	8%	This ward includes Banbury town centre and extends north to Oxford Canal, east to the railway line, south to the junction of Bloxham Road and Queensway and west to the streets behind Woodgreen Leisure Centre.	We received two submissions regarding this ward. One proposal suggested the eastern boundary follow the A361 North Bar Street/Horse Fair, whereas the other proposal suggested the eastern boundary follow the A4260 Cherwell Street. Our consideration, based on the tour of the area, was that the A4260 was a more identifiable boundary and that using the A361 as a boundary appeared to divide the town centre. We have made a modification to the proposed boundary in the west of the ward, in the Boxhedge Road area, to improve electoral equality.
Banbury Grimsbury & Hightown	3	7%	This ward includes the eastern part of the town. It is bounded to the north and east by the district boundary. The western boundary is the A4260 and the southern boundary runs behind the properties on Hightown Leyes, Foscothe Rise and Meadow View.	The ward is based on a proposal received during consultation with some modifications to the south of the ward to improve electoral equality. We investigated extending the ward westwards, as proposed by another respondent, but considered that this would divide the town centre area and would not best reflect the communities in the area.
Banbury Hardwick	3	7%	This ward comprises the northern part of Banbury, including Hardwick, the	A local resident commented that Hanwell Fields should not be in a ward with Hardwick. We investigated including Hanwell Fields in our Banbury Cross & Castle or Banbury Grimsbury &

			Hanwell Fields estate and the new developments off Dukes Meadow Drive.	Hightown wards, but this would result in a high level of electoral inequality. We consider that Hanwell Fields is well-linked to Hardwick and planned new developments will increase this connection.
Banbury Ruscote	3	8%	This ward comprises the Ruscote and Neithrop residential areas, as far north as Warwick Road and extending south to Broughton Road. It extends west to the edge of the town and east to the back of Woodgreen Leisure Centre.	The ward is based on a proposal received, with some modifications to improve electoral equality. In the north of the ward we are proposing the boundary runs behind Trinity Close, rather than along Warwick Road. In the east we have modified the proposed boundary with Banbury Cross & Castle to include Boxhedge Road and Poolside Close in Banbury Cross & Castle rather than in Ruscote.

Bicester

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Bicester East	3	-8%	The town centre, as far south as Church Street/Causeway, and the residential areas north of the centre extending to the parish boundary with Launton.	We received one submission regarding this area. Our ward is based on this proposed ward with a modification to the southern boundary to avoid creating a parish ward with no electors in the Bicester Village area. Parish wards with fewer than 100 electors are normally considered unviable. The ward has strong boundaries to the north and west. The southern boundary follows the railway line in the eastern part of the ward and then runs along Launton Road and Church Street to include the town centre area in the ward.
Bicester North	3	-7%	The parish of Caversfield and the residential areas either side of Banbury Road, stretching to the railway line in the south and Buckingham Road to the east.	This ward has clear, easily identifiable boundaries and reflects the community connections in the Woodfield area and Caversfield parish.
Bicester South	3	4%	The south of Bicester town centre, including Bicester Village, Langford Village, the new development south of Middleton Stoney Road, and Ambrosden.	This ward includes a number of development sites south of Bicester and the southern part of Bicester town. Though the ward contains more than one community at present, the areas will be connected by forthcoming developments.
Bicester West	3	-4%	The residential area bounded by the railway line to the north, Queens Avenue/Field Street to the east, Middleton Stoney Road to the south and the parish boundary with Bucknell to the west.	This ward has clear, easily identifiable boundaries and reflects the community connections in the Highfield area.

Rural Cherwell

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote	3	1%	This ward comprises the parishes of Adderbury, Bloxham, Bodicote and Milton.	We received several submissions regarding this area. Our draft ward represents what we consider to be the best balance of the statutory criteria. Several parish councils in the area stated they shared rural community interests and expressed a desire to be included in a rural ward and not with Banbury town. We have reflected this in our draft recommendations.
Cropredy, Sibfords & Wroxton	3	-9%	This ward comprises the parishes of Bourton, Broughton, Claydon with Clattercote, Cropredy, Drayton, Epwell, Hanwell, Horley, Hornton, Mollington, North Newington, Prescote, Shenington with Alkerton, Shutford, Sibford Gower, Sibford Ferris, Swalcliffe, Tadmarton, Wardington and Wroxton.	All three full schemes received for Cherwell proposed the same Cropredy, Sibfords & Wroxton ward. A local councillor commented on the affinity between the parishes in the proposed ward and noted that residents use the same shops and schools. Drayton Parish Council supported the proposed ward. We consider that the ward as proposed has clear boundaries and reflects community identity evidence received.
Deddington	3	0%	This ward comprises the parishes of Barford St John & St Michael, Deddington, Duns Tew, Hook Norton, Fritwell, Middle Aston, Milcombe, North Aston, Somerton, Souldern, South Newington, Steeple Aston and Wigginton.	We received three proposals for this ward. One included the parishes as in our proposed ward, but with the addition of Adderbury instead of South Newington. Another proposed extending the ward west to include Milcombe, Wigginton and Hook Norton, which we have adopted. A third included the parishes of Adderbury, Milton and South Newington instead of Souldern, Fritwell and Somerton. Although including Souldern, Fritwell and Somerton results in the ward including areas both sides of the River Cherwell, we

				consider that this provides the best balance of the statutory criteria. Access between the two parts of the ward is provided by a bridge at Somerton.
Fringford & Heyfords	3	-7%	This ward comprises the parishes of Ardley, Bucknell, Cottisford, Finmere, Fringford, Godington, Hardwick with Tusmore, Hethe, Kirtlington, Lower Heyford, Middleton Stoney, Mixbury, Newton Purcell with Shelswell, Stoke Lyne, Stratton Audley and Upper Heyford.	We received three similar proposals for this area. All proposals included the majority of parishes in the ward as we have suggested. One also included the parishes of Souldern, Fritwell and Somerton, which we have included in our Deddington ward. Two proposals included the parishes of Chesterton and Bucknell, while one included those parishes in wards with Bicester. From our observations from our visit to the area we considered that the parishes were rural in nature and would have more affinity in the Fringford & Heyfords ward.
Kidlington East	3	2%	This ward comprises the north-west of Kidlington town, as far south as the High Street, and the parish of Gosford & Water Eaton.	We received three submissions regarding Kidlington. One involved two-member wards and so we have not been able to adopt it. Another proposed a seemingly arbitrary divide of the town in a north and south manner. We are largely adopting the proposed East and West wards with a minor modification in the Grovelands area to improve electoral equality but are otherwise adopting the ward as proposed. We have also included Gosford and Water Eaton, which a local resident noted together form a community.
Kidlington West	3	2%	This ward comprises the south-east of Kidlington town, as far north as the High Street, and the parishes of Begbroke and Yarnton.	We have made a minor modification in the Grovelands area to improve electoral equality but are otherwise adopting the ward as proposed. The ward also includes Begbroke and Yarnton, which a local resident noted together form a community.
Launton & Otmoor	3	-8%	This ward comprises the parishes of Arccott, Blackthorn, Bletchingdon, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Fencott &	All three full schemes received for Cherwell included the same Launton & Otmoor ward. We consider that the ward as proposed meets the statutory criteria and have therefore decided to include it as part of our draft recommendations.

			Murcott, Hampton Gay &Poyle, Horton-cum-Studley, Islip, Launton, Merton, Noke, Oddington, Piddington, Shipton -on-Cherwell and Thrupp, Wendlebury and Weston-on- the-Green.	
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Conclusions

26 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2013 and 2020 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2013	2020
Number of councillors	48	48
Number of electoral wards	16	16
Average number of electors per councillor	2,284	2,580
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendation

Cherwell District Council should comprise 48 councillors serving 16 three-member wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Cherwell. You can also view our draft recommendations for Cherwell on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

27 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

28 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Cherwell District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

29 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

30 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Banbury parish.

Draft recommendation

Banbury Parish Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing 15 wards: Balmoral (returning one member), Calthorpe North (returning one member), Calthorpe South (returning one member), Easington North (returning one member), Easington South (returning two members), Grimsbury (returning three members), Hardwick East (returning one member), Hardwick West (returning three members), Neithrop North (returning one member), Neithrop South (returning one member), Park Road (returning one member), Ruscote (returning three members), Town Centre (returning one member), Trinity Close (returning one member) and Warwick Road (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

31 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bicester parish.

Draft recommendation

Bicester Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: East (returning four members), North (returning four members), South (returning three members) and West (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

32 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Kidlington parish.

Draft recommendation

Kidlington Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Dogwood (returning four members), Fernhill (returning one member), Orchard (returning four members) and St Mary's (returning six members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 Have your say

33 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole district or just a part of it.

34 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Cherwell, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

35 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at [**consultation.lgbce.org.uk**](http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

36 Submissions can also be made by emailing [**reviews@lgbce.org.uk**](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

Review Officer (Cherwell)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76–86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Cherwell which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of voters
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively

A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government

Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in the council area?

Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?

- Are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?

37 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices in Layden House (London) and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

38 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

39 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

40 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the next elections for Cherwell Council in 2016.

Equalities

41 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Appendix A

Table A1: Draft recommendations for Cherwell District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2013)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote	3	6,956	2,319	2%	7,839	2,613	1%
2	Banbury Calthorpe & Easington	3	6,543	2,181	-5%	7,969	2,656	3%
3	Banbury Cross & Castle	3	7,681	2,560	12%	8,372	2,791	8%
4	Banbury Grimsbury & Hightown	3	7,825	2,608	14%	8,248	2,749	7%
5	Banbury Hardwick	3	6,553	2,184	-4%	8,306	2,769	7%
6	Banbury Ruscote	3	6,982	2,327	2%	8,367	2,789	8%
7	Bicester East	3	6,644	2,215	-3%	7,147	2,382	-8%
8	Bicester North	3	6,020	2,007	-12%	7,167	2,389	-7%
9	Bicester South	3	6,159	2,053	-10%	8,032	2,677	4%
10	Bicester West	3	7,148	2,383	4%	7,432	2,477	-4%
11	Cropredy, Sibfords & Wroxton	3	6,686	2,229	-2%	7,081	2,360	-9%
12	Deddington	3	7,323	2,441	7%	7,738	2,579	0%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Cherwell District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2013)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Fringford & Heyfords	3	5,893	1,964	-14%	7,196	2,399	-7%
14	Kidlington West	3	7,603	2,534	11%	7,927	2,642	2%
15	Kidlington East	3	7,477	2,492	9%	7,856	2,619	2%
16	Launton & Otmoor	3	6,156	2,052	-10%	7,158	2,386	-8%
	Totals	48	109,649	-	-	123,835	-	-
	Averages	-	-	2,284	-	-	2,580	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Cherwell District Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/oxfordshire/cherwell-fer>

Local authority

- Cherwell District Council

Political parties

- Banbury Labour Party
- Cherwell District Council Conservative Group
- North Oxfordshire Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor G. Reynolds (Cherwell District Council)

Parish councils

- Adderbury Parish Council
- Bicester Town Council
- Bloxham Parish Council
- Bodicote Parish Council
- Drayton Parish Council
- Deddington Parish Council
- Kidlington Parish Council
- Middleton Stoney Parish Council
- Milcombe Parish Council
- Shenington with Alkerton Parish Council

Residents

- Seven local residents

Appendix C

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

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Comparison – Cherwell Ward Patterns submission and LGBCE draft recommendations

Ward name (Proposed by CDC)	Details	LGBCE proposal	Details	Differences?
Banbury Wards				
Banbury Calthorpe and Easington	CAF1, CAH1, CAJ1, CAH2, CAI1 part - St George's Cresc, Harriers View, Easington Road, Easington Gardens, Bloxham Road. CAE1 part – Longford Park, Newbold Close. CAV1 part - Claypits	Banbury Calthorpe and Easington	Southern part of Banbury Town, including residential areas on both sides of Bloxham Road and Oxford Road	Middle of Broughton Road as boundary in the East, and boundary runs between Meadow View and Wood End rather than behind High Acres in the West.
Banbury Cross and Castle	CAE1 part – BTC Calthorpe Ward, excluding South of A4260, CAG1, CAI1 part – BTC Cross Ward excluding St George's Cresc, Harriers View, Easington Road, Easington Gardens, Bloxham Road. CAI3, CAJ2, CAN1 part – excluding new houses on Noral Way/Dukes Meadow Drive. CAO1 part – excluding Cherwell Wharf, Lower Cherwell Street, Station approach and Bridge Street. CAO2, CAU1, CAS1 & CAT1	Banbury Cross and Castle	Includes Banbury Town Centre, extends north to Oxford Canal, east to the railway line, south to junction of Bloxham Road and Queensway and west to the streets behind Woodgreen Leisure Centre	Modified boundary to west of the Ward, in the Boxhedge Road area

Banbury Grimsbury and Hightown	CAE1 part – everything south of A4260, CAK1, CAL1, CAM1, CAO1 part – Cherwell Wharf, Lower Cherwell Street, Station Approach and Bridge Street	Banbury Grimsbury and Hightown	Eastern part of the town. Bounded to the north and east by the district boundary. Western Boundary is the A4260 and the southern boundary runs behind properties on Hightown Leyes, Foscoote Rise and Meadow View	Modifications to the South of the Ward in line with Banbury Calthorpe and Easington boundary as detailed above
Banbury Hardwick	CAP1, CAQ1, CAR1, CAW1 part – Warwick Road. CAN1 Part – new houses on Noral Way/Dukes Meadow Drive	Banbury Hardwick	As submitted by CDC	None
Banbury Ruscote	CAT1 part – excluding Warwick Road, Queens Road, Kings Road and part of Park Road. CAV1 part – excluding Claypits. CAW1 part – excluding Warwick Road. CAX1	Banbury Ruscote	Ruscote and Neithrop residential areas, as far north as Warwick Road and extending South to Broughton Road. Extends west to the edge of Town and east to the back of Woodgreen Leisure Centre	In North boundary runs behind Trinity Close rather than Warwick Road. In the East modified boundary with Cross and Castle to include Boxhedge Road and Poolside close in Cross and Castle rather than Ruscote
Bicester Wards				
Bicester East	Bicester Town Council East and Bicester Town Council Town wards	Bicester East	Town Centre, as far south as Church Street/Casueway, and the residential areas north of the centre extending to the parish boundary with Launton.	Modification to the Southern boundary, following the railway line in the Eastern part of the Ward and runs along Launton Road and Church Street to include the Town Centre area

Bicester North	Bicester Town Council North Ward, including Caversfield and Bucknell developments	Bicester North	Parish of Caversfield and residential areas either side of Banbury Road, stretching to the railway line in the South and Buckingham Road to the East	None
Bicester South	Bicester Town Council South East wards, Chesterton Parish and new houses at Kingsmere	Bicester South	South of Bicester town centre, including Bicester village, Langford village, new development south of Middleton Stoney Road, and Ambrosden.	None
Bicester West	Bicester Town Council West, Town and South West wards, excluding houses at Kingsmere	Bicester West	Residential area bounded by the railway line to the north, Queens Avenue/Field Street to east, Middleton Stoney Road to south and parish boundary with Bucknell to the west.	None
Kidlington Wards				
Kidlington West	Kidlington Parish Council St Mary's and Roundham wards, plus Begbroke and Yarnton parishes.	Kidlington West	South-east of Kidlington Town, as far north as the High Street, and the parishes of Begbroke and Yarnton	Minor modification to Grovelands area
Kidlington East	Kidlington Parish Council Dogwood, Exeter and Orchard wards, plus Gosford and Water Eaton parish	Kidlington East	North-west of Kidlington Town, as far south as the High Street, and the parish of Gosford and	Minor modification to Grovelands area

			Water Eaton	
Rural Wards				
Adderbury, Astons and Deddington	Adderbury, Barford St John and St Michael, Deddington, Duns Tew, Middle Aston, Milton, North Aston, South Newington and Steeple Aston	Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote	Adderbury, Bloxham, Bodicote and Milton	Barford St John and St Michael, Deddington, Duns Tew, Middle Aston, North Aston, South Newington and Steeple Aston in Deddington
		Deddington	Barford St John and St Michael, Deddington, Duns Tew, Hook Norton, Fritwell, Middle Aston, Milcombe, North Aston, Somerton, Souldern, South Newington, Steeple Aston and Wigginton	Made up of parishes from CDC Adderbury, Astons and Deddington proposal and a few from Kirtlington, Heyfords and Shelswell proposal.
Bloxham, Bodicote and Hook Norton	Bloxham, Bodicote, Hook Norton, Milcombe and Wigginton	Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote	Adderbury, Bloxham, Bodicote and Milton	Hook Norton, Milcombe and Wigginton in Deddington,
Cropredy, Sibfords and Wroxton	Parishes of Bourton, Broughton, Claydon with Clattercott, Cropredy, Drayton, Epwell, Hanwell, Horley, Hornton, Mollington, North Newington, Prescote, Shenington with Alkerton, Shutford, Sibford Ferris, Sibford Gower, Swalcliffe, Tadmarton, Wardington and Wroxton	Cropredy, Sibfords and Wroxton	As submitted by CDC	None

Kirtlington, Heyfords and Shelswell	Ardley with Fewcott, Cottisford, Finmere, Fringford, Fritwell, Godington, Hardwick with Tusmore, Hethe, Kirtlington, Lower Heyford, Middleton Stoney, Mixbury, Newton Purcell with Shelswell, Somerton, Souldern, Stoke Lyne, Stratton Audley and Upper Heyford	Fringford and Heyfords	Ardley with Fewcott, Bucknell, Cottisford, Finmere, Fringford, Godington, Hardwick with Tusmore, Hethe, Kirtlington, Lower Heyford, Middleton Stoney, Mixbury, Newton Purcell with Shelswell, Stoke Lyne, Stratton Audley and Upper Heyford	Parishes of Fritwell, Somerton and Souldern included in Deddington, all others as per CDC proposal
Launton and Otmoor	Arncott, Blackthorn, Launton, Piddington, Wendlebury, Bletchingdon, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Fencott and Murcott, Hampton Gay and Poyle, Horton-cum-Studley, Islip, Merton, Noke, Oddington, Weston-on-the-Green, Shipton-on-Cherwell and Thrupp	Launton and Otmoor	As per CDC proposal	None

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Cherwell District Council

Council

27 January 2015

Polling District and Polling Places Review 2014

Report of Returning Officer

This report is public

Purpose of report

To agree the recommendations from the Council's Polling District and Polling Place Review 2014.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations for Polling Districts and Polling Places within Cherwell as set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 To agree the proposals in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 To note that a further polling place review will be undertaken following the conclusion of the Boundary Commission review.
- 1.4 To delegate authority to the Returning Officer and Chief Executive to conduct and implement a review of polling places once the District Boundary Review has been completed in 2015.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a number of changes to the Representation of the People Act 1983, including a requirement for the Council to review UK Parliamentary polling Districts at least every four years.
- 2.2 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2006 introduced a change to the timing of these compulsory reviews so that the next compulsory review must be started and completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015. Subsequent compulsory reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013.

2.3 The Act provides that the requirement to review polling districts and polling places relates solely to Parliamentary elections. Constituency boundaries are not the subject of the review, which is confined to the division of Parliamentary constituencies into polling districts and polling places. It is important for the council to take the opportunity to ensure that boundaries remain appropriate in the light of development which has taken place, and any development which is known will take place in the reasonably near future. The following definitions are given in the act:

- A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a UK Parliamentary constituency for the purposes of a UK Parliamentary election.
- A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.
- A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place.

2.4 Amongst the factors that should be considered when reviewing existing polling places or assessing new polling places, the following are suggested:

Location – Is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills, major roads, rivers etc? Are there any convenient transport links?

Size – Can it accommodate more than one polling station if required? If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place capable of accommodating all voters going into and out of the polling stations, even where there is a high turnout?

Availability – Is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections? Is there a possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a neighbouring development?

2.5 Accessibility – Is the building acceptable to all those entitled to attend?

3.0 Report Details

3.1 The review was undertaken in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance, however due to the Cherwell District Boundary Review currently being undertaken it is necessary to leave the majority of polling places the same and review all polling places when the District Boundary review has concluded.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 It is a legal requirement to undertake the polling district and polling place review. The recommendations are based on what will provide the best service and experience to the voters going forward.

4.2 To accept the polling places report as set out and delegate powers to the Returning Officer to conduct and implement a review of polling places once the District Boundary Review has been completed in 2015.

5.0 Consultation

None

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To agree the recommendations as set out

Option 2: To reject the recommendations. This is not recommended as there is a legal requirement to complete a polling Place Review by 31 January 2015.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications currently to be met, although once the review is carried out after the District Boundary Review has concluded there may be a need for additional polling places and these can be met through the budget.

Comments checked by:

Martin Henry, Director of Resources 01327 322304
martin.henry@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

7.2 It is a legal requirement to undertake the review of polling districts and polling places every five years.

Comments checked by:

Kevin Lane, Head of Law & Governance 0300 0030107
kevin.lane@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Risk Implications

7.3 Reputational risk if the review is not undertaken.

Comments checked by:

Louise Tustian, Acting Corporate Performance Manager 01295 221786
louise.tustian2@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Equalities Implications

7.4 Every eligible voter must have the same opportunity to vote in secret, there should be no discrimination due to disability, age, race, gender etc.

Comments checked by:

Louise Tustian, Acting Corporate Performance Manager 01295 221786
louise.tustian2@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

None

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Proposed Changes to Polling Stations
Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	Louise Aston, Democratic and Elections Team Leader
Contact Information	01295 221601 Louise.aston@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Ward	Polling District	Polling Place Address
Adderbury	CAA1	The Institute, The Green, Adderbury
	CAA1	The Institute, The Green, Adderbury
	CCR1	The Meeting Room, Manor Farm, Milton
Ambrosden & Chesterton	CAB1	Ambrosden Village Hall, Ambrosden
	CBS1	Chesterton Village Hall, Alchester Road, Chesterton
	CBS2	Chesterton Village Hall, Alchester Road, Chesterton
	CCP1	Middleton Stoney Village Hall, Heyford Road, Middleton Stoney
	CDN1	Wendlebury Village Hall, Main Street, Wendlebury
Banbury Calthorpe	CAE1	Mobile Station @ Morrisons Car Park, Banbury
	CAF1	Chasewell Community Centre, Avocet Way, Banbury
	CAF1	Chasewell Community Centre, Avocet Way, Banbury
Banbury Easington	CAG1	The Peoples Church, Horsefair, Banbury
	CAH1	Easington Methodist Church Hall, Grange Road, Banbury
	CAH1	Easington Methodist Church Hall, Grange Road, Banbury
	CAH2	Harriers Banbury Academy, Bloxham Road, Banbury
	CAJ2	Harriers Banbury Academy, Bloxham Road, Banbury
	CAI1	Harriers Banbury Academy, Bloxham Road, Banbury
	CAI3	Queensway Primary School, Queensway, Banbury
	CAJ1	Queensway Primary School, Queensway, Banbury
	CAJ1	Queensway Primary School, Queensway, Banbury
Banbury Grimsbury & Castle	CAK1	St Leonards Church, Middleton Road, Banbury
	CAK1	St Leonards Church, Middleton Road, Banbury
	CAL1	Grimsbury Community Hall, 2 Burchester Place, Banbury
	CAM1	East Street Centre, Calder Close, Banbury

Banbury Grimsbury & Castle (cont..)	CAM1	East Street Centre, Calder Close, Banbury
	CAN1	St Mary's School, Southam Road, Banbury
	CAO1	Banbury Methodist Church, Marlborough Road, Banbury
	CAO2	St Johns Church, South Bar, Banbury
Banbury Hardwick	CAP1	Hillview County Primary School, Hillview Crescent, Banbury
	CAQ1	Hardwick Community Centre, Ferriston, Banbury
	CAQ1	Hardwick Community Centre, Ferriston, Banbury
	CAR1	Hanwell Fields Community Centre, Rotary Way, Hanwell Fields, Banbury
	CAR1	Hanwell Fields Community Centre, Rotary Way, Hanwell Fields, Banbury
Banbury Neithrop	CAS1	St. Pauls Church Hall, Warwick Road, Banbury
	CAT1	Woodgreen Leisure Centre, Woodgreen Avenue, Banbury
	CAT1	Woodgreen Leisure Centre, Woodgreen Avenue, Banbury
	CAU1	Ruscote Community Centre, Ruscote Arcade, Longelandes Way, Banbury
Banbury Ruscote	CAV1	St. Josephs Church Hall, Edmunds Road, Banbury
	CAV1	St. Josephs Church Hall, Edmunds Road, Banbury
	CAW1	Woodgreen Leisure Centre, Woodgreen Avenue, Banbury
	CAW1	Woodgreen Leisure Centre, Woodgreen Avenue, Banbury
	CAX1	The Sunshine Centre, Edmunds Road, Banbury
	CAX1	The Sunshine Centre, Edmunds Road, Banbury
Bicester East	CAZ1	Bicester East Community Centre, Keble Road, Bicester
	CAZ1	Bicester East Community Centre, Keble Road, Bicester
	CBA1	Salvation Army, Worship Centre, Hart Place, Off Sunderland Dr, Bicester
Bicester North	CBB1	Emmanuel Church, Barberry Place, Bicester
	CBB1	Emmanuel Church, Barberry Place, Bicester
	CBC1	Southwold Community Centre, Holme Way, Bicester
	CBC1	Southwold Community Centre, Holme Way, Bicester

Bicester South	CBD1	Langford Village Centre, Nightingale Place, Bicester
	CBD1	Langford Village Centre, Nightingale Place, Bicester
	CBE1	Mobile station @ corner of Corncrake/Mallards Way, Mallards Way, Bicester
Bicester Town	CBF1	Bicester Methodist Hall, Bell Lane, Bicester
	CBG1	John Paul II Centre, Causeway, Bicester
	CBH1	Scout Hall, Ashdene Road, Bicester
Bicester West	CBI1	West Bicester Community Centre, Bowmont Square, Bicester
	CBI1	West Bicester Community Centre, Bowmont Square, Bicester
	CBJ1	Highfield Social Club, George Street, Bicester
	CBJ1	Highfield Social Club, George Street, Bicester
	CBK1	Bicester Leisure Sports Centre, Queens Avenue, Bicester
Bloxham & Bodicote	CBM1	The Bloxham Ex-Servicemen`s Village Hall, High Street, Bloxham
	CBM1	The Bloxham Ex-Servicemen`s Village Hall, High Street, Bloxham
	CBN1	Church House, Church Street, Bodicote
	CBN2	Church House, Church Street, Bodicote
	CCQ1	Milcombe Village Hall, Main Road, Milcombe
Caversfield	CAC1	Ardley with Fewcott Community Hall, Ardley Playing Fields, Ardley
	CBQ1	Bucknell Village Hall, Bainton Road, Bucknell
	CBR1	The Bunker (Building 50), Skimmingdish Lane, Caversfield
	CDH1	Stoke Lyne Parish Room, Stoke Lyne
Cropredy	CBO1	The Bourtons Village Hall, Main Street, Great Bourton
	CBT1	Claydon Church Hall, Church Lane, Claydon
	CBV1	Cropredy Village Hall, Red Lion Street, Cropredy
	CCY1	Cropredy Village Hall, Red Lion Street, Cropredy
	CCT1	Mollington Village Hall, Chestnut Road, Mollington
	CDM1	Wardington Memorial Hall, Mount Pleasant, Wardington
Deddington	CAY1	Barford St. Michael Village Hall, Lower Street, Barford St. Michael

Deddington (cont..)	CBW1	Windmill Community Centre, Hempton Road, Deddington
	CBX1	Windmill Community Centre, Hempton Road, Deddington
	CBY1	Hempton Meeting Room, Rear of Hempton Church, Hempton
Fringford	CBU1	St Mary the Virgin Church, Cottisford
	CCH1	St Mary the Virgin Church, Cottisford
	CCC1	Finmere Village Hall, Water Stratford Road, Finmere
	CCU1	Finmere Village Hall, Water Stratford Road, Finmere
	CCD1	Fringford Village Hall, The Green, Fringford
	CCF1	The Meeting Room At the Red Lion, Stoke Lyne Road, Stratton Audley
	CDI1	The Meeting Room At the Red Lion, Stoke Lyne Road, Stratton Audley
	CCI1	Hethe Village Hall, Hardwick Road, Hethe
	CCS1	Mixbury Parish Church, Church Lane, Mixbury
Hook Norton	CCJ1	The War Memorial Hall, Chapel Street, Hook Norton
	CDF1	South Newington Village Hall, Barford Road, South Newington
	CDO1	Wigginton Parish Hall, School Lane, Wigginton
Kidlington North	CKC1	Kidlington Baptist Church, High Street, Kidlington
	CKC1	Kidlington Baptist Church, High Street, Kidlington
	CKD1	Mobile Station At Lyne Road, Lyne Road, Kidlington
	CKD1	Mobile Station At Lyne Road, Lyne Road, Kidlington
Kidlington South	CKE1	Kidlington Youth Football Club, Evans Lane, Kidlington
	CKF1	Kidlington Methodist Church Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington
	CKG1	The Church of St John the Baptist, The Broadway, Kidlington
	CKG1	The Church of St John the Baptist, The Broadway, Kidlington
	CKH1	Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington
Kirtlington	CHA1	Bletchingdon Village Hall, Station Road, Bletchingdon
	CHD1	Bletchingdon Village Hall, Station Road, Bletchingdon
	CHG1	Kirtlington Village Hall, South Green, Kirtlington
	CKI1	Millennium Village Hall, Shipton-on-Cherwell

	CHK1	Weston-on-the-Green Village Hall, Mill Lane, Weston-on-the-Green
Launton	CAD1	Arncott Village Hall, Murcott Road, Upper Arncott
	CBL1	Blackthorn Village Hall, Thame Road, Blackthorn
	CCM1	Launton Parish Hall, Bicester Road, Launton
	CCX1	Piddington Village Hall, Ludgershall Road, Piddington
Otmoor	CHB1	Charlton on Otmoor Community Hall, Fencott Road, Charlton-on-Otmoor
	CHJ1	Charlton on Otmoor Community Hall, Fencott Road, Charlton-on-Otmoor
	CHC1	The Village Hall, Fencott and Murcott
	CHE1	Horton-Cum-Studley Millennium Hall, The Straight Mile, Horton-Cum-Studley
	CHF1	Islip Village Hall, Church Lane, Islip
	CHH1	Merton Village Hall, Merton
	CHI1	The Parish Church of St Giles, Noke
Sibford	CBP1	St. Marys House, Wykham Lane, Broughton
	CCB1	Epwell Village Hall, The Square, Epwell
	CCW1	Bishop Carpenter School, School Lane, North Newington
	CDB1	Sibford Gower Village Hall, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower
	CDC1	Sibford Gower Village Hall, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower
	CDJ1	Swalcliffe Village Hall, Green Lane, Swalcliffe
	CDK1	Tadmarton Village Hall, Main Street, Upper Tadmarton
The Astons & Heyfords	CCA1	Duns Tew Village Hall, Middle Barton Road, Duns Tew
	CCE1	Fritwell Village Hall, Fewcott Road, Fritwell
	CCN1	Lower Heyford Sports & Social Club, Mill Lane, Lower Heyford
	CCO1	Steeple Aston Village Hall, Fir Lane, Steeple Aston
	CDG1	Steeple Aston Village Hall, Fir Lane, Steeple Aston
	CCV1	Meeting Room At the Bakery, 9 Somerton Road, North Aston
	CDD1	The Barnes Memorial Hall, Heyford Road, Somerton
	CDE1	Souldern Village Hall, Souldern

	CDL1	Upper Heyford Village Hall, Somerton Road, Upper Heyford
Wroxton	CBZ1	Drayton Village Hall, Stratford Road, Drayton
	CCG1	Hanwell Village Hall, Main Street, Hanwell
	CCK1	The Old School, Church Lane, Horley
	CCL1	Hornton Methodist Church, Millers Lane, Hornton
	CCZ1	Shenington Village Hall, Shenington
	CDA1	The George and Dragon, Church Lane, Shutford
	CDP1	Wroxton Village Hall, Stratford Road, Wroxton
Yarnton, Gosford & Water Eaton	CKA1	Begbroke Village Hall, Begbroke Lane, Begbroke
	CKB1	Kidlington and Gosford Sports Centre, Gosford Hill, Oxford Road, Kidlington
	CKJ1	Yarnton Village Hall, The Paddocks, Yarnton
	CKJ1	Yarnton Village Hall, The Paddocks, Yarnton