

Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee Agenda



Contact: Steven Corrigan, Democratic Services Manager
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Date: 7 October 2016
Website: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

A meeting of the **Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee**

will be held on Monday 17 October 2016 at 6.30 PM
Meeting Room 1, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB

Members of the Committee:

Councillors

Yvonne Constance
(Chairman)

Edward Blagrove	Debby Hallett
Charlotte Dickson	Ben Mabbett
Gervase Duffield	

A large print version of this agenda is available. In addition any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement.

Please note that this meeting will be held in a wheelchair accessible venue. If you would like to attend and have any special access requirements, please let the Democratic Services Officers know beforehand and they will do their very best to meet your requirements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Reed".

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Agenda

Open to the public including the press

1. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 3 - 4)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2016 – **attached**.

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting and any other relevant interests.

4. Community Governance Reviews

(Pages 5 - 19)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic services which invites the committee to consider draft terms of reference for community governance reviews which the committee decided to undertake at its meeting on 13 October 2015 and for reviews which have been requested by parish councils since that date – **report attached**.

5. Review of parliamentary constituencies

(Pages 20 - 28)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic services on the Boundary Commission for England's review of parliamentary constituencies - **report attached**.



Minutes

of a meeting of the

Community Governance and

Electoral Issues Committee

held on Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 6.00 pm

at the Meeting Room 2, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton OX14 4SB

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Yvonne Constance (Chairman), Ed Blagrove, Charlotte Dickson, Gervase Duffield, Debby Hallett and Ben Mabbett

Officers: David Buckle (Returning Officer), Margaret Reed (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), Steven Corrigan (Democratic Services Manager), Sarah Ling (Elections Team Leader), Philippa Rugman (Electoral Services Officer)

Number of members of the public: 0

5 Apologies for absence

None

6 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015 as a correct record and agree that the Chairman sign them as such.

7 Declarations of interest

None

8 Community Governance Review

The committee considered the report of the head of legal and democratic services on those matters referred by Council at its meeting in July 2014 and a further request for a review from Longworth Parish Council.

The committee agreed to undertake reviews of CGR13 (Grove and East Challow), CGR21 (Radley and Kennington), CGR24 (Wantage, Grove and Lockinge) and Longworth parish. In agreeing to undertake a review of CGR14 (arrangements for a new parish East of Harwell) the committee was of the view that this should be undertaken when the development had been progressed for implementation at the May 2019 elections.

The committee considered whether to invite parish councils to submit further proposals for changes to community governance arrangements. The committee considered that as a major review had just been undertaken the council would deal with issues on an ad hoc basis in response to requests rather than inviting another full review.

RESOLVED TO:

1. undertake a community governance review of CGR13 (Grove and East Challow)
2. undertake a community governance review of CGR21 (Radley and Kennington)
3. undertake a community governance review of CGR24 (Wantage, Grove and Lockinge)
4. undertake a community governance review of CGR14 (parish arrangements for a new parish East of Harwell East) at a time to be agreed for implementation before the 2019 election
5. undertake a review of the warding arrangements in the parish of Longworth
6. authorise the head of legal and democratic services to draft the terms of reference for items 1, 2, 3 and 5 above for consideration at a future meeting.

9 Final report of the Returning Officer on the delivery of the May 2015 Elections - Henley, Oxford West and Abingdon and Wantage parliamentary constituencies; South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts; and various parish and town councils

The returning officer presented his final report to the committee. The committee discussed the following issues:

- Paragraph 8 regarding the verification of electors. The officer clarified that all electors who had failed to be verified were approached either via phone call or email, provided they had given these details with their application. Across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse there were only 100 of the 932 cut-off registrations which were unable to be verified.
- Paragraph 9 regarding the organisation of the registers. It was noted that this was an issue due to a switch between software suppliers and was currently being addressed by the new software company Xpress. The committee queried the decision to switch software suppliers in the run up to the 2015 election. The returning officer clarified that a full risk assessment had been taken before the decision was made. It became evident that staying with the old software company had become a higher risk than switching to a different supplier which had a reliable track record dealing with the transition to IER.
- Paragraph 18 which details parish ballot papers for Watlington parish were erroneously sent to voters in North Hinksey and Wheatley. Officers clarified that this was only the second issue of postal votes which were sent out so only small numbers of electors were affected, about 70 in each instance. This issue was quickly identified and those affected were hand delivered a correct ballot paper within 24 hours of the error being discovered.
- Paragraph 19 regarding the absent votes which were not sent abroad. The returning officer explained that although this was an unfortunate error, it was mitigated by offering proxy votes to those affected. An estimated 123 voters, at most, were affected across the three parliamentary constituencies.

The committee reviewed the key actions points going forward and considered them to be sound measures to avoid repeat errors for future elections.

The meeting closed at 7:20pm

Chairman

Date

Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee



Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Author: Margaret Reed

Telephone: 01235 422550

Textphone: 18001 01235 422550

E-mail: margaret.reed@southandvale.gov.uk

To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND ELECTORAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

DATE: 17 October 2016



Community Governance Reviews

Recommendations:

1. To decide whether to undertake community governance reviews of East Hanney Parish Council and South Hinksey Parish Council as requested in appendix one and appendix two of this report;
2. To consider the draft terms of reference attached as appendix three to this report;
3. To authorise the head of legal and democratic services to finalise and publish the terms of reference for any reviews the committee agrees to undertake at this meeting and incorporating the comments of the committee;
4. To note that the committee will receive a further report in 2017 on a review of the electoral arrangements for Harwell East Parish Council.

Purpose of Report

1. To invite the committee to consider draft terms of reference for community governance reviews which the committee decided to undertake at its meeting on 13 October 2015 and for reviews which have been requested by parish councils since that date.

Strategic Objectives

2. Community governance reviews contribute to the council's strategic objective of sustainable communities and wellbeing.

Background

3. Local authorities (in the case of two-tier areas, district councils) have had powers to review parish arrangements for many years. Until 2007, any proposals for change resulting from such reviews had to go to the relevant secretary of state for approval. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007Act) changed that and gave full powers to local authorities to implement proposals without reference to central government. The Act created the title of community governance reviews (CGR) to cover such activity.
4. In the conduct of a review, the council has to be mindful of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Guidance on Community Governance Reviews that has been issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government and The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The council has a duty to ensure that community governance within the area under review meets the 'Community of Identity' test. Community governance should:
 - reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area;
 - be effective and convenient, and
 - take into account any other, non-parish, arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area.
5. At its meeting in July 2013 Council agreed to undertake a district wide CGR. This review included proposals submitted by parish councils following an invitation from the chief executive to put forward any changes to community governance arrangements.
6. At its meeting on 17 July 2014 Council considered the final recommendations of the community governance working group, established to consider the issues in detail and submit proposals to Council, and agreed a number of changes to the governance arrangements of parishes within Vale. Council authorised the head of legal and democratic services to make a reorganisation of community governance order to implement the changes, subject to receiving the necessary consents from the LGBCE. The relevant order was made and brought the changes into effect in time for the 2015 parish council elections. As authorised by Council, officers have applied to the LGBCE for related alteration orders, to make district wards and county divisions coterminous with parish boundaries where these have become out of sync.
7. At that meeting Council also agreed to establish a community governance and electoral issues committee with terms of reference which include the responsibility to undertake community governance reviews.
8. At its meeting in July 2014 Council agreed to defer a number of reviews for further consideration by this committee following the May 2015 elections. Council resolved to:
 - (a) reject CGR13 (Grove and East Challow) because Council agrees with the views of East Challow Parish Council but requests the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a further review of this area after May 2015;
 - (b) request the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a wider review of the boundary between Sunningwell, Kennington and Radley parishes than that proposed by option two in CGR21

(Radley and Kennington) after May 2015, in accordance with option one proposed by the Community Governance Review Working Group;
(c) request the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to consider undertaking a wider review than that proposed by CGR24 (Wantage, Grove and Lockinge) after May 2015, to take account of future development;
(d) create a new parish of Harwell East (CGR14) comprising that part of Harwell parish that lies to the east of the A34, with the exception of land lying to the north of the London-Bristol railway line, the timing of the creation of the new parish to be a matter for the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to determine.

9. At its meeting on 13 October 2015, this committee decided to proceed with the reviews deferred by Council in July 2014. These include reviews of Grove and East Challow, Radley and Kennington and Wantage, Grove and Lockinge. It also decided that it should implement the new Harwell East Parish Council in May 2019, with a review of electoral arrangements prior to that. The committee also agreed to carry out a review of the warding arrangements of Longworth Parish Council.

Further parish council requests

10. Since the last meeting of the committee, East Hanney Parish Council has requested a review of parish councillor numbers (attached as appendix one) and South Hinksey Parish Council has requested a review of possible warding arrangements (attached as appendix two). The committee is asked to decide whether to proceed with these reviews.

Terms of reference

11. The first stage of a review is the drawing up of terms of reference. In effect, this document becomes the council's policies for the conduct of the review. It should provide background information to help electors and other interested organisations to make informed submissions and should also refer to the legislative framework against which the review must operate. Publication of the terms of reference commences the review, which the council then has twelve months to complete.
12. The committee is invited to consider the draft terms of reference attached as appendix three and to authorise the head of legal and democratic services to finalise and publish the terms of reference for any reviews agreed at this meeting and incorporating the comments of the committee.

Financial Implications

13. Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, local authorities have responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews. The process is prescribed and involves officer time and other associated costs, such as postage and printing. These costs will be met from within existing budgets.

Legal Implications

14. The Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee has delegated authority to deal with all matters relating to parish community governance reviews.

15. All community governance reviews will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements laid down in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the joint guidance on community governance reviews published by the Communities and Local Government Department and LGBCE in 2010.
16. The council will implement any changes by making a reorganisation of community governance order. Where the changes impact on arrangements put in place by the LGBCE's reviews of the electoral arrangements for Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council, the council will need the LGBCE's consent before making an order.

Risks

17. There is a risk that someone could challenge the outcome of a particular review item through judicial review. Council officers will mitigate against this by ensuring that at all times the council follows the requirements laid down in the 2007 Act and guidance.

Conclusion

18. The council undertook a comprehensive review of parish arrangements in 2013/14 and agreed changes for implementation in 2015. Council referred a number of reviews to this committee for consideration and the committee has also decided to conduct a review of Longworth Parish Council. In addition the committee is invited to consider requests from East Hanney and South Hinksey Parish Councils.
19. The committee is invited to authorise the head of legal and democratic services to finalise and publish the terms of reference for any reviews agreed at this meeting and incorporating the committee's comments.

Background Papers

- **Report to Council on 17 July 2014**

Appendix one - East Hanney

From: Steven Corrigan
Sent: 21 April 2016 09:18
To:
Cc: Margaret Reed <Margaret.Reed@southandvale.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Parish Councillors

Dear Mr Langton

Thank you for your email regarding East Hanney Parish Council's request to increase the number of parish councillors on the parish council. We will take the request to the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee when it next meets. This is likely to be during the summer.

I will contact you to confirm the date of the meeting.

Regards

Steven

Steven Corrigan
Job title: Democratic Services Manager
Service name: Legal and Democratic Services
South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils
Visit us at: www.southoxon.gov.uk, www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

From: Guy Langton
Sent: 17 April 2016 11:01
To: Marcia Beviere <Marcia.Beviere@southandvale.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Parish Councillors

Dear Marcia

East Hanney Parish Council requests that the number of councillors be increased as a result of the current housing developments and expansion of the village since 2011.

please could you initiate this process and outline for me the timetable of the review?

Many thanks.
Best Wishes
Guy Langton
Clerk to East Hanney Parish Council

Appendix two - South Hinksey

From: David Buckle
Sent: 19 August 2016 10:10
To: South Hinksey Parish Clerk <s.hinksey@gmail.com>
Cc: Margaret Reed <Margaret.Reed@southandvale.gov.uk>; Steven Corrigan <Steven.Corrigan@southandvale.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Community governance review: South Hinksey

Dear Mr Ferres

Thank you for your email. I have passed this on to Steven Corrigan, the councils' democratic and electoral services manager, who will report your request to the next meeting of the Vale's community governance and electoral issues committee. There is no meeting of this committee scheduled currently but I understand that there is likely to be one called in the next couple of months. I am sure Steven will keep you posted.

Your sincerely
David Buckle
Chief Executive
South and Vale councils

From: South Hinksey Parish Clerk
Sent: 18 August 2016 23:04
To: David Buckle <David.Buckle@southandvale.gov.uk>
Subject: Community governance review: South Hinksey

Dear Mr Buckle,

I have been instructed by South Hinksey Parish Council to request a community governance review in respect of two matters:

- Warding of the parish
- Increasing the number of parish councillors from five to six.

Here is a link to a copy of the signed minutes of the Council's June meeting at which the decision to approach the District Council was taken:

<https://shinksey.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/20160606-shpc-minutes-signed.pdf>.

Warding of the Parish

The parish of South Hinksey is small but comprises two distinct areas, namely the village of South Hinksey and the Hinksey Hill area. The parish council happens at the moment to comprise three members from the village and two members from the Hinksey Hill area. Both individual areas of the parish have their own identity and cohesion.

The village has been sorely troubled in recent years with problems of flooding. In addition, the village is affected by the rail works and the associated questions of access over the rail bridge, alternative public footpaths into Oxford and incidents of public nuisance and crime.

Hinksey Hill has its own distinct problems of volume and speed of traffic and its effect on the inhabitants in their daily lives. Improvements for access to Oxford for pedestrians and cyclists are an important issue. It is anticipated that Hinksey Hill will face increasing pressure in respect to planning.

Therefore, in accordance with the recommendations of the Department for Communities and Local Government/Local Government Boundary Commission for England joint Guidance on community governance reviews:

- Para 159 & 160 – Having regard to the different problems and challenges faced by the two areas it is requested that it is considered warding the two areas
- Para 166 – It is considered desirable to balance the parish council to reflect the two different part of our community by allowing both wards, if approved, to elect three councillors which would result in an increase in the size of the Council from five members to six.

Increasing the number of parish councillors from five to six

The Parish Council wishes to have the number of councillors increased to six even if the review does not find that warding is justified. The basis of the request is as follows:

- The parish, although small, faces a wide range of challenges including chronic flooding, access issues, traffic, increase in the number and complexity of planning applications.
- Budget cuts at District and County Council level mean that the Parish Council deals with more residents' questions and more time is expended in dealing with local issues
- The Parish Council is responsible for the management of the burial ground in the parish. The management of the burial ground has been undertaken on the Parish Council's behalf by interested unpaid parishioners but now pressure of applications outside the parish and other factors require the Parish Council to take a more active role in the day to day running of the burial ground
- The Parish Council owns a Community Woodland that requires attentive management
- Historically the Chairman has taken the burden of much of the work of the parish. This is no longer sustainable and more councillors are needed to share out the workload.

- We have residents who are willing to stand as parish councillors.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Ferres
Parish Clerk
South Hinksey Parish Council

Vale of White Horse District Council

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The council’s Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee (“the committee”) has agreed to undertake a number of community governance reviews (CGRs) pursuant to Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 of parts of the district of Vale of White Horse. The 2007 Act vested powers in the council to undertake such reviews and the council has delegated those powers to the committee.

The committee will undertake the reviews in accordance with the guidance on community governance reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in March 2010 (“the guidance”).

Proposals for consideration

The committee proposes to consider the following parish matters:

CGR reference	Parish/Area	Matters to be considered
CGR_A(13)	Grove, East Challow	Amending the boundary of Grove parish to include Grove Technology Park, currently in East Challow parish (subject to LGBCE consent) Map attached
CGR_B(21)	Kennington, Radley Kennington, Radley and Sunningwell	Amending the boundary of Radley parish to include Chandlings Manor school currently in Kennington parish (subject to LGBCE consent) Map attached OR Amending the boundary of Sunningwell parish to include land to the west of Oxford Road currently in Kennington and Radley parishes (subject to LGBCE consent) Map attached

CGR_C(24)	Wantage, Grove and Lockinge	Amending the boundary of Wantage parish to include land at Stockham Farm currently in Grove parish; and at Crab Hill, currently in both Grove and Lockinge parishes (subject to LGBCE consent) Map attached - ??two separate reviews
CGR_E	Longworth	A review of the parish warding arrangements
CGR_F	East Hanney	A review of parish councillor numbers. Not yet considered by the committee
CGR_G	South Hinksey	A review of possible warding arrangements. Not yet considered by the committee

Assessment criteria

The factors that the council will take into account in making decisions are as follows:

- natural or man-made boundaries that help to define clearly one community from another
- housing developments that straddle parish boundaries, thereby resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours
- effective and convenient representation of local residents at parish level
- the newly created wards of Vale of White Horse District Council for the purposes of district council elections
- the divisions of Oxfordshire County Council for the purposes of county council elections
- views expressed in relation to any changes, particularly from those people directly affected
- the extent to which proposals reflect the identities and interests of the affected community

Why is the Council undertaking the reviews?

The guidance states that it is good practice for principal councils (in this context that means this council) to undertake CGRs every 10-15 years. The council completed a review of the whole district in 2014 but at that time deferred certain reviews (CGR_A(13), CGR_B(21) and CGR_C(24)) until after the district council elections in May 2015. Since that time, several other parishes have asked the council to conduct a further review of their electoral arrangements **and the committee has agreed to carry out those reviews.**

Consultation

The committee will consult formally on the reviews. This will include those people living in properties directly affected by any changes to parish boundaries.

Timetable

The 2007 Act requires that a principal council must complete a CGR within 12 months of the date of publication of terms of reference. The proposed timetable complies with the legal requirement.

Action	Completion Date
Publication of final terms of reference	October 2016
Consultation commences	November 2016
Consultation closes	31 January 2017
Committee agrees draft proposals for consultation	March 2017
Further consultation commences	April 2017
Further consultation closes	30 June 2017
Committee agrees changes	July 2017

How to make comments

Please submit any comments via email to cgr@southandvale.gov.uk. The council does not require a hard copy of any submission. For those without access to email please send any submission to:

CGR
Vale of White Horse District Council
Legal and Democratic Services
135 Eastern Avenue
Milton Park
Milton
OX14 4SB

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process, please contact:

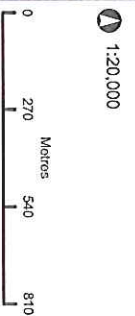
Steven Corrigan
Democratic Services Manager
Telephone: 01235 422526
Email: steven.corrigan@southandvale.gov.uk

B
Map (21) - parish council proposal

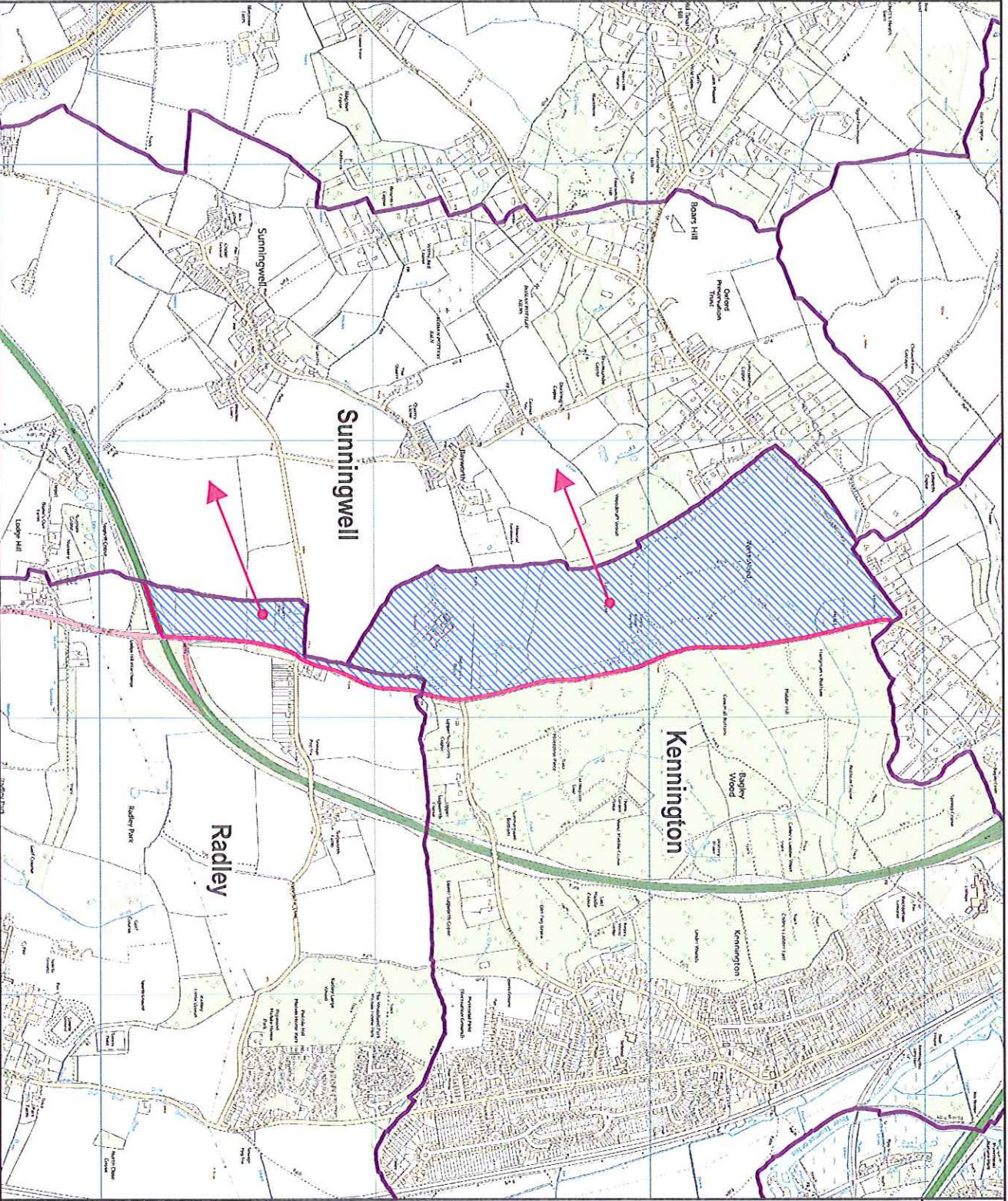
Proposed boundary change in the area of Chandlings Manor School, Kennington



- Parish boundary
- Proposed Boundary Change
- Area Affected






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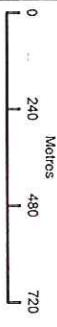


Proposed Boundary Changes
in the area of Wantage, Lockinge &
Grove

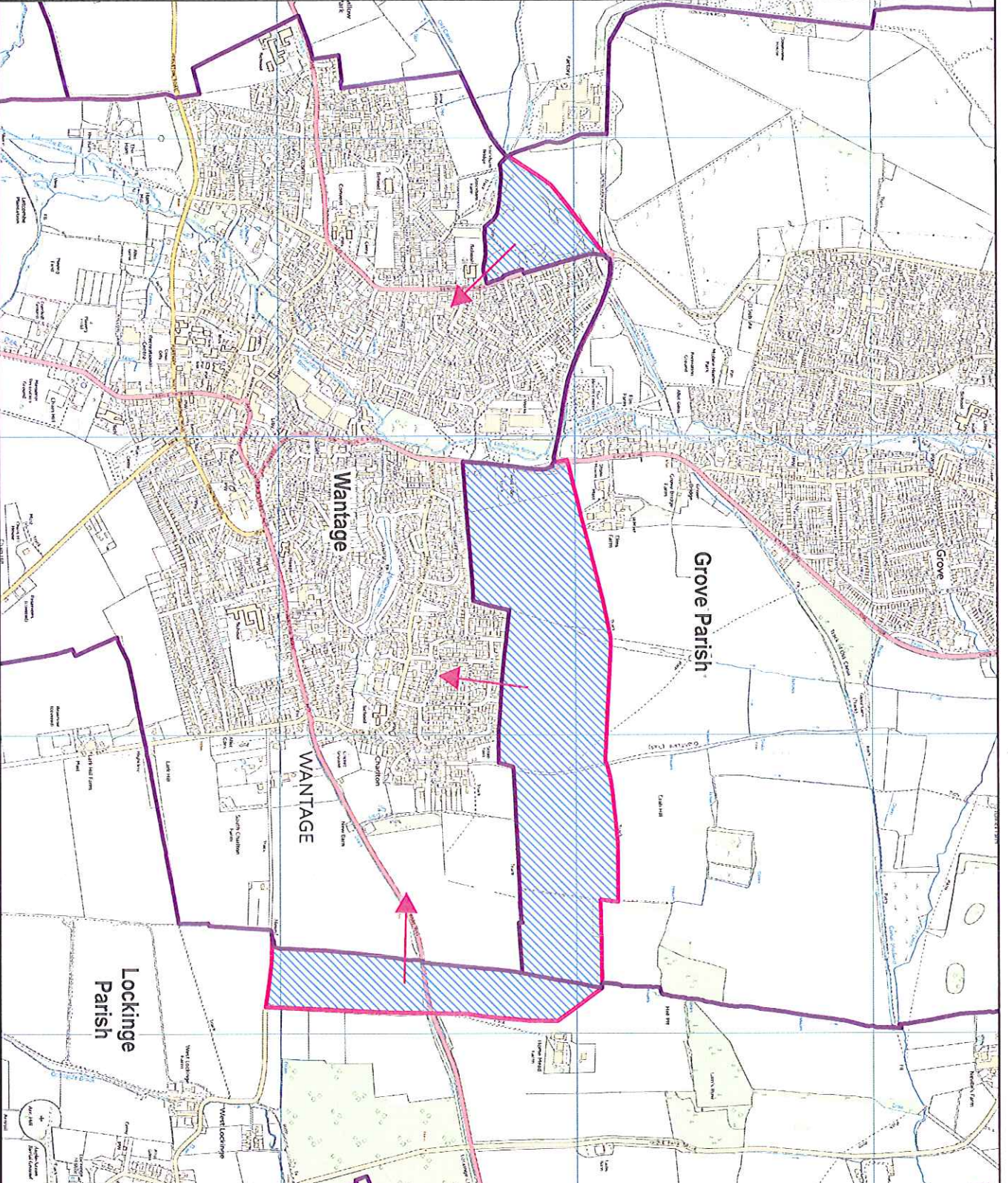
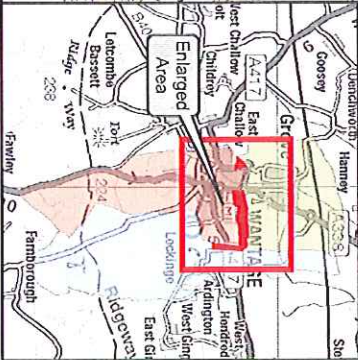


-  Existing parish boundaries
-  Proposed Boundary Change
-  Area Affected

1:17,890



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Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee

Report of head of legal and democratic services

Author: Steven Corrigan

Telephone: 01235 422526

E-mail: steven.corrigan@southandvale.gov.uk

To: Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee

DATE: 17 October 2016



Review of parliamentary constituencies

Recommendation(s)

That the Committee:

- (a) considers whether it wishes to support the initial proposals for the Oxfordshire sub-region;
- (b) agrees to request the BCE consider amending the constituency boundaries to reflect the Local Government Boundary Commission for England related alteration order.

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out details of the above review and invites the committee to make representations to the Boundary Commission for England (BCE).

Strategic Objectives

2. The report does not specifically relate to any of the council's strategic objectives.

Background

3. The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 makes provision for a reduction in the number of parliamentary constituencies (members of parliament) from 650 to 600. 501 of these constituencies will be in England. The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is responsible for reviewing constituencies and drawing up proposals, with a view to submitting its formal report on the review to parliament in 2018. If agreed the changes will be implemented at the first general election after the approval of proposals by parliament currently scheduled for 7 May 2020. The initial consultation closes on 5 December 2016. There will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2017. Following the conclusion of all three

consultation periods, the BCE will look at all the evidence received and make final recommendations to parliament in September 2018.

The review

4. One of the objectives of the review is to ensure that constituencies fall within a defined “electoral quota” to ensure there is broad equality in the number of electors represented by each Member of Parliament (MP). The electoral quota for each constituency is 74769; no constituency shall be more than 105% of that figure, nor less than 95% of it (i.e. all constituencies must have an electorate in the range of 71031 to 78507). The review is based on the electorate at 1 December 2015.
5. The BCE’s initial proposals were published on 13 September. Publication of the initial proposals is followed by a statutory consultation period of twelve weeks. The BCE will hold a series of public hearings, at which interested persons will be able to give views. These are *“not inquiries, public meetings or debates, but are there to provide an opportunity both for BCE to explain its initial proposals and for people to give their views on those proposals”*. BCE also states that it *“attaches just as much significance to representations made in writing as to those made orally at public hearings”*. In the South East, five two day public hearings have been scheduled, at various locations and in the period between 20 October and 4 November. Details of the hearings are available on the BCE website. The nearest hearing will take place in Oxford on 24 and 25 October.
6. The 12 week consultation period on the initial proposals ends on 5 December 2016. As soon as possible after the close of consultation, BCE will publish all representations received, together with transcripts of all the public hearings. This is followed by a further statutory four week period during which interested persons may submit written comments on the representations made in the initial 12 week period. Subsequently, BCE will publish notice of whether or not revisions have been made to the initial proposals. If the proposals are revised, then there is a further eight week period for written representations to be made relating to the revised proposals.
7. Following this, BCE will submit a formal written report to the government. Parliamentary procedures will then apply for agreeing and implementing the new constituencies. As mentioned above, the changes will become effective at the next general election following this process.
8. BCE is very clear in saying that *“an objection accompanied by a viable counter-proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection”* and that a counter proposal *“setting out the composition of each constituency in an area will generally be viewed as more persuasive than a proposal for the composition of only one constituency which does not address any knock-on effects on the electorate figures of other constituencies”*.

Current Situation in Oxfordshire

9. The current electorate information for Oxfordshire is summarised as follows:

Electorate at 1/12/15		Difference from Electoral Quota			Within range?
		(Min)	(Max)	(Quota)	
		(71031)	(78507)	(74769)	
Banbury CC	85,398	14367	6891	10629	No
Henley CC	72,682	1651	-5825	-2087	Yes
Oxford East BC	70,293	-738	-8214	-4476	No
Oxford West and Abingdon CC	73,647	2616	-4860	-1122	Yes
Wantage CC	80,859	9828	2352	6090	No
Witney CC	78,455	7424	-52	3686	Yes

10. As can be seen, the current Banbury, Oxford East, and Wantage constituencies all fall outside the required electorate range referred to in paragraph 4 above.

BCE initial proposals

11. BCE's initial proposals provide for changes to the current constituencies covering Vale of White Horse (Oxford West and Abingdon and Wantage).
12. The Commission's initial proposals are reproduced below from the BCE initial proposals document relevant to Oxfordshire:

"Initial proposals for the Oxfordshire sub-region

77. There are currently six constituencies in the County of Oxfordshire. We are proposing no change to the number of constituencies.

78. Three of the existing constituencies (Henley, Oxford West and Abingdon, and Witney) have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota. Of the remaining three constituencies, Banbury and Wantage have electorates above the 5% limit and Oxford East is below the 5% limit.

79. We considered whether we could leave unchanged any of the three existing constituencies that have an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota. We propose no change to the constituency of Witney.

80. To reduce the electorate of the existing Banbury constituency, which is too large, we propose to transfer the wards of Fringford, Launton, and Ambrosden & Chesterton (located in the Borough of Cherwell) to our renamed Henley and Thames constituency. As we have altered the existing Banbury constituency, we propose to rename the constituency Banbury and Bicester to reflect the names of the two largest towns. Our proposed Henley and Thames constituency extends further north than the existing Henley constituency. It extends up to, but does not include, the town of Bicester. In the south of our Henley and Thames constituency, we propose that it includes the ward of Wallingford from the existing Wantage constituency and, to ensure the constituency remains within 5% of the electoral quota, we propose to transfer the wards of Wheatley, Garsington & Horspath, and Sandford & The Wittenhams to our Oxford West and Abingdon constituency. The inclusion of these wards also reflects changes to the local government ward boundaries in the District of South Oxfordshire.

81. The existing Oxford East constituency currently has an electorate below 5% of the electoral quota. In order to increase the number of electors in this constituency, we propose to include the wards of North and St. Margaret's (located in the City of Oxford) in our Oxford East constituency.

82. In order to reflect changes to local government ward boundaries in the District of the Vale of White Horse, we propose that the whole of the Thames ward be included in our Wantage constituency."

13. The appendix to this report sets out the initial proposals showing details of the proposed constituencies and the district/city wards proposed to be included in each.

14. When the BCE consulted on proposed changes in 2011 Council resolved, at its meeting on 19 October 2011, to make the following representations:

"That Council believes that the current proposal by the Parliamentary Boundary Commission to place Radley in a future Henley Constituency is fundamentally flawed. Radley has nothing in common with the proposed new Henley and is physically separated from it by the Thames, with no direct road connection whatsoever. This Council believes that if a rebalancing in the number of electors is required to equalise the new constituencies, then this would be better achieved by transferring another suitably sized area. This would leave Radley as an integral part of its present constituency. Council resolves to make representations accordingly".

10. As can be seen from the current proposals Radley is not included in the proposed new Henley and Thame constituency.

11. Paragraph 80 of the BCE's initial proposals document states that the proposals reflect the changes to the local government ward boundaries made under 'The Vale of White Horse (Electoral Changes) Order 2014' and implemented at the local elections in May 2015. However, the proposals do not take account of the anticipated changes to district ward boundaries to be made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England under a related alteration order. These changes, requested by this council, will make changes to the boundaries of district wards and county divisions to reflect changes made at parish level following the community governance review completed in 2014 and implemented on 1 April 2015 under the Vale of White Horse District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2015.

12. Officers recommend the committee alerts the BCE to the making of this order and asks it to amend the proposals to reflect the changes to district ward boundaries.

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

14. There are no legal implications arising from the current consultation.

Risks

15. There are no discernable risks associated with the decision whether to submit any views during this consultation stage.

Conclusion

16. The BCE has published its initial proposals for parliamentary constituencies. The committee is invited to consider whether it wishes to make representations on the initial proposals.

Background Papers

BCE Guide to the 2018 Review, available at

<http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>

BCE Initial Proposals for the South East, available at www.bce2018.org.uk/

**2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies
Initial Proposals of the Boundary Commission for England**

Constituency	Ward	District/City	Electorate
Banbury and Bicester			78,250
	Adderbury	Cherwell	2,317
	Banbury Calthorpe	Cherwell	3,974
	Banbury Easington	Cherwell	6,076
	Banbury Grimsbury and Castle	Cherwell	6,821
	Banbury Hardwick	Cherwell	5,911
	Banbury Neithrop	Cherwell	3,869
	Banbury Ruscote	Cherwell	5,606
	Bicester East	Cherwell	4,307
	Bicester North	Cherwell	4,601
	Bicester South	Cherwell	3,630
	Bicester Town	Cherwell	3,784
	Bicester West	Cherwell	5,467
	Bloxham and Bodicote	Cherwell	5,250
	Caversfield	Cherwell	2,087
	Cropredy	Cherwell	2,268
	Deddington	Cherwell	2,163
	Hook Norton	Cherwell	2,063
	Sibford	Cherwell	2,161
	The Astons and Heyfords	Cherwell	3,756
	Wroxton	Cherwell	2,139
Henley and Thame			77,517
	Ambrosden and Chesterton (currently in Banbury)	Cherwell	3,005
	Fringford (currently in Banbury)	Cherwell	1,887
	Kirtlington	Cherwell	2,346
	Launton (currently in Banbury)	Cherwell	2,256
	Otmoor	Cherwell	1,967
	Benson & Crowmarsh	South Oxfordshire	5,716
	Berinsfield	South Oxfordshire	2,846
	Chalgrove	South Oxfordshire	2,643
	Chinnor	South Oxfordshire	6,118
	Forest Hill & Holton	South Oxfordshire	2,688

Constituency	Ward	District/City	Electorate
Henley and Thame (contd)			77,517
	Goring	South Oxfordshire	2,991
	Haseley Brook	South Oxfordshire	3,062
	Henley-on-Thames	South Oxfordshire	8,318
	Kidmore End & Whitchurch	South Oxfordshire	2,789
	Sonning Common	South Oxfordshire	5,214
	Thame	South Oxfordshire	8,847
	Wallingford (currently in Wantage)	South Oxfordshire	5,625
	Watlington	South Oxfordshire	2,955
	Woodcote & Rotherfield	South Oxfordshire	6,244
Oxford East			76,914
	Barton and Sandhills	Oxford	4,614
	Blackbird Leys	Oxford	3,790
	Carfax	Oxford	1,926
	Churchill	Oxford	3,715
	Cowley	Oxford	3,937
	Cowley Marsh	Oxford	3,982
	Headington	Oxford	3,843
	Headington Hill and Northway	Oxford	3,109
	Hinksey Park	Oxford	3,717
	Holywell	Oxford	1,573
	Iffley Fields	Oxford	3,645
	Littlemore	Oxford	4,305
	Lye Valley	Oxford	4,327
	Marston	Oxford	4,232
	North (currently Oxford West and Abingdon)	Oxford	2,936
	Northfield Brook	Oxford	4,081
	Quarry and Risinghurst	Oxford	4,418
	Rose Hill and Iffley	Oxford	4,235
	St. Clement's	Oxford	3,767
	St. Margaret's (currently Oxford West and Abingdon)	Oxford	2,965
	St. Mary's	Oxford	3,077
Oxford West and Abingdon			75,606
	Kidlington North	Cherwell	3,973

Constituency	Ward	District/City	Electorate
Oxford West and Abingdon (contd)			75,606
	Kidlington South	Cherwell	6,112
	Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton	Cherwell	4,047
	Jericho and Osney	Oxford	4,040
	Summertown	Oxford	4,197
	Wolvercote	Oxford	4,281
	Garsington & Horspath (currently in Henley)	South Oxfordshire	2,752
	Sandford & the Wittenhams (currently in Henley)	South Oxfordshire	2,880
	Wheatley (currently in Henley)	South Oxfordshire	3,023
	Abingdon Abbey Northcourt	Vale of White Horse	4,333
	Abingdon Caldecott	Vale of White Horse	5,083
	Abingdon Dunmore	Vale of White Horse	4,545
	Abingdon Fitzharris	Vale of White Horse	4,616
	Abingdon Peachcroft	Vale of White Horse	5,178
	Botley & Sunningwell	Vale of White Horse	4,240
	Cumnor	Vale of White Horse	4,645
	Kennington & Radley	Vale of White Horse	5,081
	Wootton	Vale of White Horse	2,580
Wantage			75,312
	Cholsey	South Oxfordshire	6,597
	Didcot North East	South Oxfordshire	6,805
	Didcot South	South Oxfordshire	7,104
	Didcot West	South Oxfordshire	4,663
	Blewbury & Harwell	Vale of White Horse	4,583
	Drayton	Vale of White Horse	2,274
	Faringdon	Vale of White Horse	5,362
	Grove North	Vale of White Horse	3,998
	Hendreds	Vale of White Horse	2,151
	Kingston Bagpuize	Vale of White Horse	2,555
	Marcham	Vale of White Horse	2,158
	Ridgeway	Vale of White Horse	2,355
	Stanford	Vale of White Horse	2,654
	Steventon & the Hanneys	Vale of White Horse	2,444
	Sutton Courtenay	Vale of White Horse	2,086

Constituency	Ward	District/City	Electorate
Wantage (contd)			75,312
	Thames	Vale of White Horse	2,534
	Wantage & Grove Brook	Vale of White Horse	5,138
	Wantage Charlton	Vale of White Horse	4,764
	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Vale of White Horse	5,087
Witney			78,455
	Alvescot and Filkins	West Oxfordshire	1,367
	Ascott and Shipton	West Oxfordshire	1,713
	Bampton and Clanfield	West Oxfordshire	2,877
	Brize Norton and Shilton	West Oxfordshire	1,549
	Burford	West Oxfordshire	1,467
	Carterton North East	West Oxfordshire	3,806
	Carterton North West	West Oxfordshire	3,260
	Carterton South	West Oxfordshire	3,295
	Chadlington and Churchill	West Oxfordshire	1,533
	Charlbury and Finstock	West Oxfordshire	2,955
	Chipping Norton	West Oxfordshire	4,640
	Ducklington	West Oxfordshire	1,667
	Eynsham and Cassington	West Oxfordshire	4,706
	Freeland and Hanborough	West Oxfordshire	3,378
	Hailey, Minster Lovell and Leafield	West Oxfordshire	3,107
	Kingham, Rollright and Enstone	West Oxfordshire	3,115
	Milton-under-Wychwood	West Oxfordshire	1,645
	North Leigh	West Oxfordshire	1,506
	Standlake, Aston and Stanton Harcourt	West Oxfordshire	3,280
	Stonesfield and Tackley	West Oxfordshire	3,111
	The Bartons	West Oxfordshire	1,556
	Witney Central	West Oxfordshire	3,654
	Witney East	West Oxfordshire	5,541
	Witney North	West Oxfordshire	3,114
	Witney South	West Oxfordshire	4,522
	Witney West	West Oxfordshire	2,994
	Woodstock and Bladon	West Oxfordshire	3,097