

Electoral Review of Buckinghamshire Council

Recommendations of the Electoral Review Working Group in response to the Commission's warding proposals

The Electoral Review Working Group recommends the Committee to adopt the following comments in response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's proposed wards for Buckinghamshire Council.

A. Wards on which the Commission specifically invited comment:

The Commission had specifically invited comment on 10 of its proposed wards. The Working Group has considered each one.

Commission's Proposed Ward	Working Group Recommendation
Aylesbury North West	No comment - endorse the Commission's proposed ward
Buckingham	<p>Propose to the Commission that their proposal for Buckingham Ward be amended to include Leckhampstead Parish for community identity reasons, the parish having much more in common with Buckingham than Winslow.</p> <p>Even though this would lead to a marginally excessive variance, it would improve the community identity of the Ward overall.</p> <p>Electoral variance (including Leckhampstead): 11.3% for 3 member ward.</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>
Chiltern Ridges	Propose to the Commission that the following changes be made, in the interests of community identity, all of which give electoral equality. The Working Group is concerned that the Commission's proposed ward is too large and does not reflect communities.

Commission's Proposed Ward	Working Group Recommendation												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="629 280 999 316">Parish</th> <th data-bbox="1010 280 1888 316">Ward to be included in:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="629 316 999 360">Chartridge Parish</td> <td data-bbox="1010 316 1888 360" rowspan="4">Chesham North (becomes 3 member) 12,573 (-7.3%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="629 360 999 405">The Lee Parish</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="629 405 999 485">Cholesbury cum St Leonards Parish</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="629 485 999 529">Ashley Green Parish</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="629 529 999 683">Latimer and Ley Hill Parish</td> <td data-bbox="1010 529 1888 683">Chesham South (2 member) 9,658 (6.8%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="629 683 999 882">Chenies</td> <td data-bbox="1010 683 1888 882">Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont (3 member) 12,734 (-6.1%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Parish	Ward to be included in:	Chartridge Parish	Chesham North (becomes 3 member) 12,573 (-7.3%)	The Lee Parish	Cholesbury cum St Leonards Parish	Ashley Green Parish	Latimer and Ley Hill Parish	Chesham South (2 member) 9,658 (6.8%)	Chenies	Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont (3 member) 12,734 (-6.1%)	
Parish	Ward to be included in:												
Chartridge Parish	Chesham North (becomes 3 member) 12,573 (-7.3%)												
The Lee Parish													
Cholesbury cum St Leonards Parish													
Ashley Green Parish													
Latimer and Ley Hill Parish	Chesham South (2 member) 9,658 (6.8%)												
Chenies	Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont (3 member) 12,734 (-6.1%)												
Flackwell Heath and the Wooburns	<p>Comment to the Commission that the important point is to keep Little Marlow Parish whole, in keeping with the Commission's approach generally, as to do otherwise would not reflect community identity. This should be the case even if Little Marlow comes within the proposed ward for Chiltern Villages.</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>												
Gerrards Cross & Denham	<p>Propose to the Commission that the important point is to keep both Denham and Gerrards Cross Parishes whole, with their boundaries restored, in keeping with the Commission's approach generally, as to do otherwise would not reflect community identity. This should be the case even if variances would be exceeded. The greatest harm would be to split off New Denham from the</p>												

Commission's Proposed Ward	Working Group Recommendation
	<p>parish (New Denham has no connection in practice with Iver Ward) and to compromise the parish boundary for Gerrards Cross.</p> <p>Leave it to the Commission to resolve.</p>
Marsh & Micklefield	Endorse the Commission's proposal for Marsh & Micklefield Ward.
Penn, Tyler's Green & Loudwater	<p>Propose to the Commission that certain areas of Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater actually identify more with Beaconsfield. Recommend the transfer of these streets. This would also have the benefit of eliminating the Commission's otherwise excessive variance for Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater.</p> <p>The proposed transfer would achieve electoral equality for both wards:</p> <p>Beaconsfield: 10.6% for a two member ward. Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater: 5.5% for a two member ward.</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>
Steeple Claydon	<p>Propose to the Commission that their Steeple Claydon and Grendon Underwood Wards be merged to form a single ward with 2 members. This would better reflect community identity; would achieve more effective local governance; and would meet electoral equality.</p> <p>8,584. (-5.1%) for a two member ward. See plan at Annex 2.</p>
Terriers & Amersham Hill	Propose an amendment to the Commission, to improve community identity, creating a three member ward to be called "Terriers & Totteridge" – by transferring the polling districts WG2 and WH2 to a new "Bowerdean" ward, and receiving WW and WX (from the same).

Commission's Proposed Ward	Working Group Recommendation
	<p>-6.8% for a three member ward.</p> <p>NB This also includes moving Terriers Farm to Hazlemere Ward. Hazlemere would have a variance of -3.3% variance for a two member ward.</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>
Totteridge & Bowerdean	<p>Propose an amendment to the Commission, to improve community identity, creating a <u>one</u> member ward to be called "Bowerdean" – transferring polling districts WW and WX to the new "Terriers & Totteridge" and receiving WG2 and WH2 from the same.</p> <p>-6% for a one member ward</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>

B. Ward member proposals endorsed by the Group

In response to a consultation of all members, a small number of amendments were proposed by ward members. The Working Group recommends the Committee to adopt the following:

Commission's Proposed Ward	Local Member Proposal	Working Group recommendation
Horwood (1 member, 6%) and Winslow (1 member, 2%)	<p>Cllrs Cornell, Chilver, Goss and Sir B Stanier suggested that the Commission's proposed wards for Horwood and Winslow be merged into a single <u>two</u> member ward, in the interests of community identity.</p> <p>Electoral variance would be achieved.</p>	<p>Propose to the Commission that its potential wards for Horwood and Winslow be merged to form a single two member ward in the interests of community identity. This continues to achieve electoral equality. NB Leckhampstead parish to move into Buckingham as proposed above.</p>

Commission's Proposed Ward	Local Member Proposal	Working Group recommendation
		<p>2.1% variance for a two member ward (assuming the transfer of Leckhampstead out of this ward).</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>
<p>Newton Longville + Quainton (2 member = Newton Longville, 0%; 1 member, Quainton, -5%)</p>	<p>Cllr Gomm suggested that the Commission's proposed wards of Newton Longville and Quainton be merged to form a single <u>three</u> member ward for community identity reasons, given the farming and rural commonalities of these communities.</p> <p>He proposed the new name of: "Swanbourne and Rural Villages".</p> <p>This would achieve electoral variance.</p>	<p>Propose to the Commission that its potential wards of Newton Longville and Quainton be merged to form a single three-member ward with the suggested name of 'Swanbourne and Rural Villages'.</p> <p>-1.2% variance for a three member ward.</p> <p>See plan at Annex 2.</p>