

## **Electoral Review of Peterborough City Council**

The following are the views of Thorney Parish Council, who have discussed this report fully, and support this document.

Thorney is the largest Parish within the boundaries of Peterborough City Council in land mass, and is now classed as a “Service Centre” in planning criteria. According to the 2011 census its has a population of 2401 and 1064 dwellings.

In 1986 Thorney had a falling population, with people leaving the Fens, and it was classed as a limited growth village and there was one Peterborough City Councillor representing Thorney. At the last Electoral Review of Peterborough City Council in 1996 Thorney was merged with Eye whose population was expanding rapidly. It was classed as a growth village, and the result of this review was that two Councillors represented both Eye and Thorney on Peterborough City Council.

Since then the population of Eye has risen greatly with all the development that has taken place, and will continue. The 2011 census states that the population is 4340, and there are 1883 dwellings.

I was told Officers of the Local Government Boundary Commission work on the figures of 2300 electors plus or minus 10% per Councillor; in that case Eye could be entitled to two Councillors just to serve Eye.

Since 1997 when Peterborough became a Unitary Authority with 57 Councillors, the way the Authority operates has changed greatly. The Cabinet system was introduced, and now many of the functions carried out by Officers of Peterborough City Council have been privatised. The influence an Elected Member has over these privatised departments is very limited; a member of the public has much the same influence as an Elected Member, the exception being a Cabinet Member.

In your review please look at the total number of Councillors that sit on Peterborough City Council. Although Peterborough is going to get larger in population, the total number of Elected Councillors needs to be reduced to reflect their reduced role in running the City Council.

Eye as a “village” wants redefining, although it has grown in size it abuts the urban areas of Peterborough, and will soon become an urban area of Peterborough itself. The problems that Eye encounters are of a different nature to those of rural Thorney.

Thorney is still a rural farming area on a massive scale, also it contains large mineral deposits that an enlarged Peterborough will require. Thorney is far more isolated from Peterborough than Eye is. One can argue that one City Councillor just to represent Thorney is the way forward, and one that Thorney Parish Council supports.