

Summary

Final recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Basingstoke & Deane in Hampshire

The Boundary Committee for England is the body responsible for conducting electoral reviews of local authorities. A further electoral review of Basingstoke & Deane is being undertaken to provide improved levels of electoral equality across the borough. It aims to ensure that the number of voters represented by each borough councillor is approximately the same. The Electoral Commission directed the Boundary Committee for England to undertake this review on 12 May 2005.

Current electoral arrangements

Under the existing arrangements 17 wards have electoral variances of more than 10%. Development forecast during the previous review was not realised, particularly in Popley West and Rooksdown wards, which has resulted in them having variances of 32% and 55% fewer electors than the borough average, respectively.

This review was conducted in four stages, as shown in the table below.

Draft recommendations

Our draft recommendations were based on a council size of 60 members. We generally adopted the Council's Option C proposals, but subject to a number of our own amendments and those put forward by other respondents. Under our draft

recommendations it is predicted that by 2009 no ward would have a variance of over 9% from the borough average.

Responses to consultation

At Stage Three we received 83 submissions. The Council revised its Stage One position, expressing support for a 56-member council, but also putting forward comments on the draft recommendations. The remaining submissions expressed a mixture of support and objections to the Council's proposals and our draft recommendations.

Analysis and final recommendations

Electorate figures

Since the last review the electorate in Basingstoke & Deane has

Stage	Stage starts	Description
One	6 September 2005	Submission of proposals to us
Two	13 December 2005	Our analysis and deliberation
Three	27 February 2007	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
Four	22 May 2007	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

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decreased by 1%, despite the Council's prediction of 9% growth over the five-year forecast period of the last review. At Stage Three, after receiving a number of queries from respondents, we sought clarification from the Council about its current five-year forecast of 7% growth.

Following a meeting with Council officers we accepted that its subsequent revisions provided the most accurate figures available.

[Council size](#)

At Stage One, following further consultation on a 30-member proposal, the Committee decided to retain the existing council size of 60 members. At Stage Three the Council revised its position, supporting a 56-member council. However, the Committee did not consider that the Council had put forward sufficiently strong evidence for its revised proposal, particularly when the Committee had already consulted on council size and received support for a 60-member council. We are therefore confirming 60 members as final.

[General analysis](#)

In the urban area of Basingstoke we are broadly confirming our draft recommendations as final, subject to a number of minor amendments necessary to address the Council's revised electorate figures. Our decision in the Hatch Warren & Beggarwood, Kempshott, South Ham and

Winklebury area was a difficult balance between electoral equality and conflicting evidence of local communities. In the rural area, given the strong evidence received, we have decided to revert to the existing electoral arrangements in a number of places. In the remaining areas we are confirming the draft recommendations as final.

[What happens next?](#)

All further correspondence on these final recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be sent to the Electoral Commission through the contact details below.

The Commission will not make an Order implementing them before 19 November 2007.

The information in the representations will be available for public access once the Order has been made.

The Secretary
The Electoral Commission
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW

Fax: 020 7271 0667
Email: implementation@electoralcommission.org.uk

These contact details should only be used for implementation purposes.

[Further information](#)

The full report is available to download at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of the Electoral Commission, an independent body set up by Parliament under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It is responsible for conducting reviews as directed by the Electoral Commission or the Secretary of State.

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Committee**
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