

As the Member of Parliament for North-East Cambridgeshire, I write to oppose the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in respect of the current review of electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC).

There are a number of areas where different communities have been put inappropriately in the same ward, specifically March and Whittlesey. March and Whittlesey are two quite distinct towns, and it is difficult to see how the voice of the relatively small number of March residents involved will effectively be heard in the proposed new Whittlesey South Division.

The splitting of the Parish of Wisbech St. Mary between two different divisions unnecessarily fragments a Parish whose Council works hard to maintain a successful and united local community.

The LGBCE has proposed a two-member division which includes almost two-thirds of the Town of March with the more rural areas of Christchurch, Elm and (most of) Wisbech St. Mary. Not only would this division be very large, it also contains very diverse communities with very different identities and quite separate problems and challenges. This proposed "super-division" would not comply with the statutory requirements to reflect local communities and to secure convenient and effective local government.

The LGBCE has also proposed a two-member division including half of Littleport, and a swathe of Parishes including some, such as Stretham and Thetford, which lie on the other side of Ely and which have no connection whatsoever with Littleport. By splitting Littleport between two divisions the LGBCE is failing to respect the integrity of a natural local community. At the same time, the LGBCE proposes to include with each half of Littleport areas such as Stretham and North Soham which share no community of interest with Littleport. I oppose the draft recommendations from the LGBCE in respect of the proposed electoral divisions for the northern part of East Cambridgeshire District.