

Executive summary

Final recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Corby in Northamptonshire

The Boundary Committee for England is the body responsible for conducting electoral reviews of local authorities. A further electoral review of Corby 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 2 June 2004.

Current electoral arrangements

Under the existing arrangements, five wards currently have electoral variances of more than 10% from the borough average. The development that the Borough Council forecast during the last review for the five-year period between 1996 and 2001 was largely not realised. However, in Hillside ward, more development was undertaken than expected, which has resulted in it having a particularly poor variance, with 50% more electors than the borough average.

Every review is conducted in four stages, as outlined below.

Draft recommendations

As part of our draft recommendations we proposed retaining a council size of 29 members and recommended a scheme for the borough largely based on options that the Borough Council had considered during Stage One of the review.

Responses to consultation

We received eight submissions following publication of our draft recommendations. Our proposals in Corby town were largely supported, although we received proposals to transfer Corby Old Village out of a ward with Stanion parish. Our proposals in the rural areas of the borough were generally opposed as it was stated they did not reflect community identities.

Stage	Stage starts	Description
One	3 August 2004	Submission of proposals to us
Two	16 November 2004	Our analysis and deliberation
Three	17 May 2005	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
Four	9 August 2005	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

Electorate figures

The ambitious growth and regeneration plans that Corby has in place which aim to double the population of the borough by the year 2030 have already begun. Across the borough the Council has forecast a 15% increase in electorate between 2003 and 2008, the majority of which will be in the existing Hillside ward and in Stanion parish. Initially, many of the wards we have recommended will have poor electoral variances. However, our aim is to provide improved electoral equality over a five-year period and as the level of electoral equality that will be achieved by 2008 is good, we are satisfied that the increase in electorate will ensure improved levels of electoral equality over time.

Council size

We received no further submissions relating to council size and are therefore satisfied to recommend a council size of 29 members.

General analysis

We propose to endorse the majority of our draft recommendations as we consider that we have not received sufficient evidence to justify moving away from our proposals which provide good levels of electoral equality. However, we have made an

amendment in the centre of Corby Town where we are adopting a single-member Exeter ward. We are also proposing to make one ward name change. We are proposing 15 wards, which are a combination of single-, two- and three-member wards.

What happens next?

All further correspondence on these final recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to The Electoral Commission, which will not make an Order implementing them before 17 January 2006. The information in the representations will be available for public access once the Order has been made.

**The Secretary
The Electoral Commission
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This address should only be used for this purpose.

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.

**The
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Committee**
for England