

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council

Summary

Who we are:

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas.

Electoral reviews:

The purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards – for a local authority.

Why Warwick?

We are conducting an electoral review of Warwick District Council to deliver improved levels of electoral equality for local voters.

Warwick currently has high levels of electoral inequality so that the value of your vote - in district council elections - varies depending on where you live in the district.

Council size

The Commission is minded to recommend that Warwick District Council should be represented by 46 councillors in future: the same as under the current arrangements.

We consider that a council size of 46 members will ensure the council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively and will provide for a pattern of wards that reflects community identities across Warwick.

To view the proposals in detail, visit: consultation.lgbce.org.uk

You can view the full report and maps at: www.lgbce.org.uk

We will also make hard copies available in council buildings and libraries.

Electoral arrangements

Our draft recommendations propose that Warwick's 46 councillors should represent two three-member wards, 19 two-member wards and two single-member wards across the district.

The Commission believes its draft recommendations meet its obligations - which are set out in law - to:

- Deliver electoral equality for voters.
- Reflect local community interests and identities.
- Promote effective and convenient local government.

The Commission welcomes proposals for alternative boundaries that better reflect the three criteria above.

Stage starts	Description
14 February 2012	Submission of proposals for ward patterns to the Commission by District Council
4 May 2012	Commission's formulation of draft recommendations
23 October 2012	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
7 January 2012	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Submissions received

Prior to the publication of these draft recommendations, the Commission received a submission from Warwick District Council which put forward proposed ward boundaries for the whole district.

The submission can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

General analysis

The Commission's draft recommendations for new ward boundaries are broadly based on the proposals presented to us by the District Council. However, we have proposed a number of modifications where we believe an alternative pattern of wards would better meet our statutory criteria.

West rural area

Our proposals for the west of the district are for a two-member ward called Arden ward. The ward includes the parishes of Baddesley Clinton, Beausale, Haseley, Honiley & Wroxall, Bushwood, Lapworth, Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe, Rowington and Shrewley.

We also propose a two-member Budbrooke ward which includes the parishes of Barford, Budbrooke, Hatton, Norton Lindsey, Sherbourne and Wasperton parishes.

Warwick town

The Commission proposes a pattern of wards that is based on the submission made to us by Warwick District Council. As such, we propose four two-member wards called: Aylesford, Emscote, Saltisford and Woodloes.

We propose an amendment to the council's Aylesford and Woodloes wards. In particular, we propose that the area around Mallory Drive

should be included in the Woodloes ward. Such a proposal would deliver higher levels of electoral equality for voters.

Kenilworth and east rural area

We are proposing significant changes to the proposals put to us by the council for this part of the district. For example, we propose to include the parish of Burton Green and the Warwick University site into a three-member Abbey ward. We believe this arrangement delivers high levels of electoral equality whilst maintaining community ties.

As a result of the amendment described above, we propose to create a two-member Stoneleigh & Cubbington ward comprising the parishes of Ashlow, Baginton, Bubbenhall and Weston under Wetherley as well as the remainder of Stoneleigh parish.

We also propose a single-member Radford Semele ward comprising the parishes of Eathorpe, Hunningham, Offchurch, Radford Semele and Wappenbury.

Elsewhere in Kenilworth, we propose to retain the proposals put to us by the council which included a two-member St John's ward as well as two other two-member wards called Park Hill and Windy Arbour with some minor amendments.

Leamington Spa - south

The Commission proposes to adopt the council's proposal for two-member wards called: Briar Hill, Brunswick, Leam and Sydenham.

We are proposing significant changes to the council's proposals elsewhere in this part of the district. The Commission believes a single-member Myton

ward would better reflect local community identities.

We also propose to include Bishops Tachbrook in the council's proposed Heathcote ward to create a three-member Heathcote & Bishops Tachbrook ward.

Leamington Spa - north

We are proposing to include the whole of Milverton parish in Milverton ward as the Commission was concerned by the potentially unviable parish wards proposed by the council's scheme.

Elsewhere, the Commission proposes some minor modifications to the council's proposals for the two-member wards of Newbold, Crown, Manor and Clarendon.

What happens next?

There will now be an eleven-week consultation period on the draft recommendations. We will take into account all submissions received by **7 January 2013**.

We have not finalised our conclusions on the electoral arrangements for Warwick and welcome comments relating to the proposed ward boundaries, ward names and number of councillors representing those wards.

Write to us:

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View the proposals and maps in detail and have your say at: consultation.lgbce.org.uk

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament in April 2010. It is independent of government and political parties, and is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government areas

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The full report and accompanying maps are also available at:
www.lgbce.org.uk