

Executive summary

Draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for South Holland in Lincolnshire

The Boundary Committee for England is the body responsible for conducting electoral reviews of local authorities. A further electoral review of South Holland is being undertaken to provide improved levels of electoral equality across the district. It aims to ensure that the number of voters represented by each district 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 electoral arrangements seven of the 22 wards have variances of more than 10% from the average. This is expected to worsen by 2009, with nine wards having variances of more than 10% from the district average.

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

Submissions received

During Stage One we received 10 submissions. South Holland District Council and Councillor Walls both put forward proposals for the whole district. Gosberton, Crowland, Deeping St Nicholas and Long Sutton parish councils requested the retention of the existing electoral

arrangements. Lutton and Holbeach parish councils supported the Council's proposals.

Analysis and draft recommendations Electorate figures

The Council is predicting electorate growth of 5% over the next five years. This will be spread across the district, but significant developments will be in Spalding and Holbeach towns. The Committee considers that these are the best estimates currently available.

Council size

We received two proposals on council size. The Council proposed a reduction of one member to 37, while Councillor

Stage	Stage starts	Description
One	17 May 2005	Submission of proposals to us
Two	9 August 2005	Our analysis and deliberation
Three	29 November 2005	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
Four	7 March 2006	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

The Boundary Committee for England: **executive summary**

Walls proposed a reduction of 14 members to 24. On the balance of the evidence we were not persuaded to adopt such a large reduction at this time and are therefore adopting the Council's proposal for a 37 member council.

General analysis

We propose adopting a mixture of 18 one, two and three-member wards. In Spalding town we propose adopting the Council's proposals subject to a number of amendments to improve electoral equality. In the east of the district we propose a minor amendment to the Council's proposals to improve electoral equality in its Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge wards. In the rural west area, in the light of poor levels of electoral equality and limited community identity evidence, we propose moving away from the Council's proposals and creating a number of three-member wards. We propose creating three-member Crowland & Deeping St Nicholas; Donington, Quadring & Gosberton; and Pinchbeck & Surfleet wards.

What happens next?

There will now be a consultation period, during which we encourage comment on our draft recommendations on future electoral arrangements for South Holland contained in this report. We welcome views from all parts of the community and believe that the more feedback we receive, based on clear

evidence, the better informed we will be in forming our final recommendations. We will take into account all submissions received by 6 March 2006. Any received **after** this date may not be taken into account.

We have not finalised our conclusions on the electoral arrangements for South Holland and welcome comments from interested parties. In particular, we found our decisions regarding Crowland & Deeping St Nicholas, Donington, Quadring & Gosberton and Pinchbeck & Surfleet wards to be a difficult judgement between our statutory criteria. We would particularly welcome local views, backed up by demonstrable evidence, during Stage Three. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

Express your views by writing directly to us:

**Review Manager
South Holland Review
The Boundary Committee
for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW**

**reviews@boundarycommittee.
org.uk**

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
Boundary
Committee**
for England