News Release from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Embargoed until: 00:01 Tuesday 29 March 2022

Have your say on a new political map for Fenland District Council

New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in Fenland.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A 10-week consultation on the proposals will run until 6 June 2022.



Proposed wards for Fenland Credit: contains Ordnance Survey data (c) Crown copyright and database rights 2021 High resolution map available at <u>https://s3-eu-west-</u> <u>2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Reviews/Eastern/Cambridgeshire/Fenland/Draft/Fenland%20Label</u> <u>s.jpg</u>

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing Fenland to make sure councillors will represent about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements will help the council work effectively.

The Commission has published proposals for changes to Fenland. It is proposing that there should be 42 councillors representing two one-councillor wards, five two-councillor wards, and 10 three-councillor wards.

Proposed changes include:

- Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary parishes, where the Commission propose a two-councillor Parson Drove & Roman Bank ward and a three-councillor Elm & Wisbech St Mary ward and are particularly keen to hear local views.
- The Commission also propose that Whittlesey and Wisbech town have a pattern of single, two, and three-councillor wards.

Launching the consultation Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said:

"We want people in Fenland to help us.

"We have drawn up proposals for new wards in Fenland. We want to make sure these new electoral arrangements reflect communities. We also want them to be easy to understand and convenient for local people.

"Residents and local organisations can help us do that. We would like them to let us know whether they agree with our proposals before we take final decisions.

"It's easy to get involved. Go to our website. Or you can e-mail or write to us.

"Just tell us what you think and give us some details why you think that. It's really simple, so do get involved"

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can see the detail of the proposals and comment on the names of wards, their boundaries, and the number of councillors per ward. <u>https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/30415</u>

People can also give their views by e-mail at <u>reviews@lgbce.org.uk</u>, and by post:

Review Officer (Fenland) LGBCE PO Box 133 Blyth NE24 9FE

Ends/

Notes to editors:

This consultation relates to the arrangements for <u>local government</u> elections. It is separate from consultations that are currently taking place across England on arrangements for <u>parliamentary</u> elections.

For further information contact the Commission's press office on 0330 500 1525 / 1250 or email press@lgbce.org.uk

An interactive map is available at https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/30415

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body accountable to Parliament. It recommends fair electoral and boundary arrangements for local authorities in England. In doing so, it aims to:

- Make sure that, within an authority, each councillor represents a similar number of electors
- Create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community ties and identities
- Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views and circumstances