

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Professor Colin Mellors OBE
Chair
North Northamptonshire Review
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
LONDON, SW1H 0TL

Copy sent via email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

7th August 2023

Dear Professor Mellors,

I wanted to offer a small number of observations in relation to the ongoing local government boundary review relating to North Northamptonshire Council.

Overall, I consider that the Commission has done a fair and reasonable job of drawing up appropriate ward boundaries covering the Corby & East Northamptonshire constituency area.

I believe that residents will broadly think that these are logical proposals, not least because they are largely in-line with the current ward boundaries that people know and understand, resulting in minimal change and movement of electors.

However, one observation I would have is that it would make more sense for the village of Rockingham to be included in the proposed new Gretton and Weldon Ward, rather than the proposed Desborough Ward. I say this, as it is in-keeping with the character and composition of the proposed Gretton and Weldon Ward, and would also have the effect of ensuring the new ward boundaries are in-line with the newly designed Corby & East Northamptonshire parliamentary constituency. I am sure the Commission will want to minimise the number of split wards and this very small change would remove the need for one unnecessary split across parliamentary constituencies. As you will no doubt be aware, I would rather the parliamentary constituency stay as it is now, but that is not possible and final decisions have now been made by the Boundary Commission for England, since you published your recommendations.



I also know that the Commission is interested in hearing views relating to the proposed new Oundle Ward. The current proposal is largely in-keeping with the existing Oundle Ward, with minimal change. I believe this is the right approach, bearing in mind the many and varied rural communities in that part of East Northamptonshire, which arguably needs more than one local councillor representing it. The issues affecting these towns and villages are considerable and varied, but not broadly dissimilar, and would be very difficult for one councillor to satisfactorily cover. These rural communities that look towards Oundle also cover a large area geographically, hence why it also makes sense for Oundle and the villages to be represented in a multi-member ward, as you have recommended. This also has the advantage of retaining a greater number of electors in their existing ward, and minimising displacement, compared with hiving the town of Oundle off from its rural hinterland.

Once again, thank you to you and the Commission for all of your efforts and I hope that these observations are helpful to you in determining your final ward boundary proposals.

Yours sincerely,



**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**