

**Proposed wards for rural eastern North Northamptonshire (RENN)**

We have read with interest the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) draft recommendations for North Northamptonshire dated May 2023.

We would like to support the idea that wards should be created for an area that has been described as 'rural eastern North Northamptonshire (RENN)'. We would suggest an area bounded by the villages of Easton on the Hill in the north, Warmington, Lutton and Luddington in the east, Clopton, Titchmarsh, Aldwincle and Lowick in the south and Brigstock and Laxton in the west. The area is rural with village communities and Oundle serves as a market town.

The area is currently represented by two three-member wards, Oundle and Thrapston. We would suggest that Thrapston and Woodford are best served by their own ward.

The LGBC draft notes that:

'it would be possible to construct a two-member ward focused on the town of Oundle and neighbouring parishes, and a single-member ward comprising rural parishes further north. We would welcome further evidence as to whether this proposal might offer a better reflection of community identity or result in two wards which were easier to represent effectively.'

We agree with this proposal and would go further suggesting the addition of a single member ward representing the villages south of Oundle.

Rural eastern North Northamptonshire (RENN) would therefore be represented by two single-member wards representing the villages north and south of Oundle, and a two-member ward for Oundle – a total of four councillors of the area.

We do not have the electoral figures for each parish but would happily be advised on how the numbers stack up. We believe the starting point should be the selection of a sensible community for representation and the wards can then be adjusted to achieve electoral equality by varying the number of members.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.