

# Oxfordshire

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Oxfordshire

Detailed submission attached.

## Attached Documents:

- Divisional Arrangements Submission.docx

# Oxfordshire County Council Labour & Co-operative Group Submission to LGBCE's Consultation on Division Arrangements

## 1.1 Division Arrangements

The Labour & Co-operative Group on Oxfordshire County Council supports the proposal that Electoral Divisions within Oxfordshire should, as far as possible, be made up of single member divisions which broadly reflect existing local communities.

## 1.2 Oxfordshire County Council Submission

The Labour & Co-operative Group supports the Oxfordshire County Council submission on Division Arrangements in full for the Districts of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. We do, however, support minor amendments to the boundaries proposed in the County Council submission in Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire. These alternative proposals better reflect local communities, recognisable local boundaries (especially in urban areas) and improve overall electoral equality. These alternative proposals are detailed below.

## 1.3 Cherwell

The Labour & Co-operative Group supports the following adaptations to the proposed boundaries included in the County Council submission on initial arrangements for Cherwell district in the Banbury area. The Group supports the proposed divisional boundaries for the devised **Cropredy & Wroxton; Deddington & Hook Norton; Fringford & Heyfords; Kidlington North & Otmoor; Kidlington West & Yarnton; Kidlington East; Bicester North; Bicester South; Bicester East; Bicester West; Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote and Banbury Calthorpe** within the County Council submission.

### **Banbury Calthorpe**

No changes

### **Banbury Easington**

CAK to all be put back into Banbury Easington from Ruscote. No further changes.

### **Banbury Ruscote**

All of CAK Polling District to go back into Banbury Easington Division. There is no need for the change to the current division border and the existing boundary is a recognisable boundary locally.

Warwick Road from CBE polling District in Hardwick to go into Ruscote Division. Currently about ten houses on the road are split into Hardwick. 7 electors.

Ludlow Drive and Warkworth Close (CBG1) to go into Ruscote Division This will mean all of Stratford Road and North Oxfordshire Academy will be in Ruscote Division, and will make more sense geographically. The boundary between Ruscote and Hardwick will be Hermon Road just north of North Oxfordshire Academy. 88 electors.

### **Banbury Hardwick**

Warwick Road from CBE polling District in Hardwick to go into Ruscote Division. Currently about ten houses on the road are split into Hardwick. 7 electors

Ludlow Drive and Warkworth Close (CBG1) to go into Ruscote Division This will mean all of Stratford Road and North Oxfordshire Academy will be in Ruscote Division, and will make more sense geographically. The boundary between Ruscote and Hardwick will be Hermon Road just north of North Oxfordshire Academy. 88 electors

The proposed Banbury Grimsbury & Castle is much too large and stretches across the entire town. The CAU Polling District is similar to and part of the same community as CBE in Banbury Hardwick. We would split the CAU polling district, retaining all of Ruscote Avenue and Evenlode in Banbury Grimsbury. The remainder of the polling district would be added to Banbury Hardwick. The recreation ground on Longelandes Way would be the border between Hardwick and Grimsbury. This represents an easily recognisable border which would make sense to the community. We would also add all of Ruscote Avenue from CBE in Banbury Hardwick into Banbury Grimsbury, once again creating a more logical boundary. 239 electors in Ruscote Ave and Evenlode in CAU1.

### Banbury Grimsbury

The proposed Banbury Grimsbury is much too large and stretches across the entire town. The CAU Polling District is similar to and part of the same community as CBE in Banbury Hardwick. We would split the CAU polling district, retaining all of Ruscote Avenue and Evenlode in Banbury Grimsbury. The remainder of the polling district would be added to Banbury Hardwick. The recreation ground on Longelandes Way would be the border between Hardwick and Grimsbury. This represents an easily recognisable border which would make sense to the community. We would also add all of Ruscote Avenue from CBE in Banbury Hardwick into Banbury Grimsbury, once again creating a more logical boundary. 239 electors in Ruscote Ave and Evenlode in CAU1.

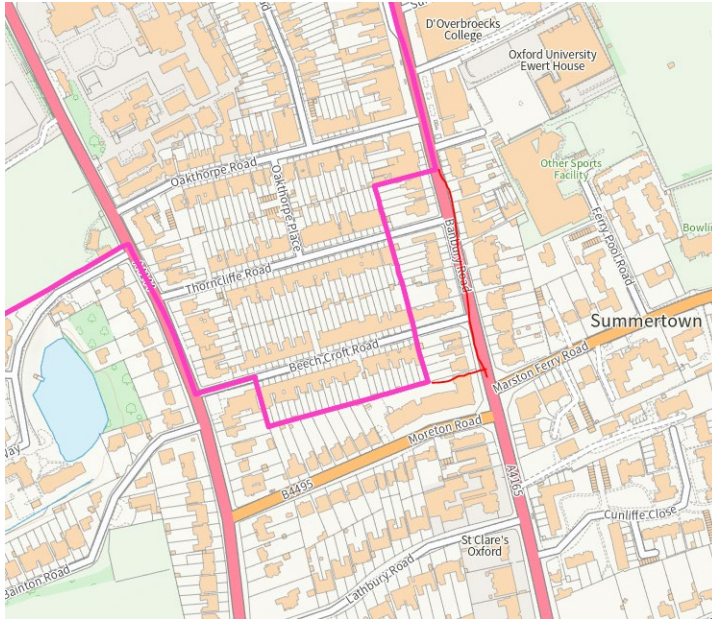
These changes give:

Division	Electorate	Variance
Banbury Calthorpe	7669	-8.9%
Banbury Easington	8581	1.9%
Banbury Ruscote	8412	-0.1%
Banbury Grimsbury	8075	-4.1%
Banbury Hardwick	9072	7.7%

### 1.4 Oxford City

The Labour & Co-operative Group supports the proposed divisions of **Parks; Isis; Bartlemas; Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst; Marston & Northway; Headington & Quarry; Churchill & Lye Valley; Leys; Cowley and Rose Hill & Littlemore** found within the County Council submission.

For the proposed boundaries of a division focused on the communities of Wolvercote, Cutteslowe and North Summertown we would recommend the inclusion of the whole of the existing Polling Districts of AA, AB, AC, AD, BA, BB, BE and CA. These mirror the current recognised boundaries of the current **Wolvercote & Summertown** division, a name that should be retained. By moving removing a small number of houses from CC on Banbury Road north of Moreton Road (see below - 59 electors), the boundary between divisions can be the natural and recognised boundary of the Banbury Road.



The retained Wolvercote & Summertown division would be bordered by as currently, a **St Margaret's** electoral division. The proposed St Margaret's division would largely mirror the existing recognised division boundary, including the Polling Districts of BC, BD, CB, CC (minus above), CD and DA (minus Belsyre Court). The proposed division boundary, as currently, would be defined by the natural boundaries of the Banbury Road, the edge of the North Oxford Victorian Suburb Conservation Area and break between the Cutteslowe Estate and Sunnymead to the South.

This proposal improves electoral equality between North Oxford divisions with the variance of a Wolvercote & Summertown and St Margaret's division (see below) being  $(-5\% \leq x \leq 6\%)$  and below 9,000 forecast electors in 2029.

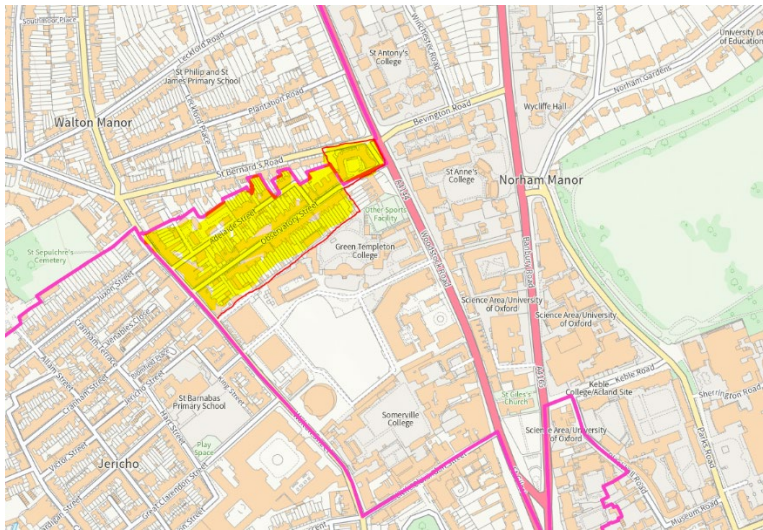
The CA polling district has distinctive similarities with the BA and BE polling districts to the North, which all fall beyond the North Oxford Victorian Suburb or St Margaret's Conservation Area. These homes covered by CA, BA, BE polling districts were built as part as part of the original Summertown in the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century, rather than as an extension of the Victorian suburbs of North Oxford from the early 1850s as in the case of CC and CD. These recognisable boundaries in historic communities for a natural barrier for a change of electoral division as they reflect communities on the ground.

Similarly, the proposed divisional boundary between Wolvercote & Summertown and St Margaret's along the existing divisional boundary south of Aldrich and Wentworth Road (between the BB and BD Polling Districts). Reflects a distinct community break, with the traditional Cutteslowe community of BB having much more in common with the similar historic Cutteslowe communities of AD to the north than those to the south. The communities to the south are dominated by similar detached Edwardian housing and pockets of modern apartments (both owner-occupied and for private rent).

We propose the retention of the existing divisional name of St Margaret's. As well as being a well-recognised name, the heart of the division centres on the St Margaret's Area (which includes much of the North Oxford Victorian Suburb Conservation Area as well as Walton Manor. The heritage of this distinct area is protected and represented by the St Margaret's Area Society.

We would support the proposed divisions of **Parks** and **Jericho & Osney** remaining as proposed in the County Council submission, except for the whole of DB including the western side of Walton Street, Observatory Street, Adelaide Street and Belsyre Court (currently DA) being included in Parks

rather than Jericho & Osney. This area is highlighted in the below map. This change would allow the division boundary to match the City Council ward boundary between Carfax & Jericho and Walton Manor wards. Walton Street forms a recognisable boundary for the local community.



#### 1.4 West Oxfordshire

The Labour & Co-operative Group supports the divisional arrangements proposed in the County Council submission bar the following minor changes to **Eynsham** and **Bampton & Carterton South**. This would involve adopting the River Windrush as a natural and recognisable boundary between the two proposed divisions. This arrangement also better fits existing communities with Hardwick with Yelford (HT) better siting with Standlake (HT) within the proposed Bampton & Carterton South division.

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