

# Vale of White Horse

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Steven Corrigan

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:** Vale of White Horse District Council (District or county officer)

## Comment text:

Please find attached the council's submission with map. The submission includes links to the various committee meetings for reports and minutes if that helps.

Look forward to receiving The Commission's draft proposals ! Please let me know if anything in the attached needs further clarification.

## Attached Documents:

- vale-of-white-horse-district-council\_final-warding-proposals.pdf
- vale-ward-proposal-map\_final.pdf

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## Warding Proposals

### Introduction

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE – the Commission) is currently undertaking an electoral review of Vale of White Horse District Council. This is considering the warding arrangements for the district taking effect from the May 2027 elections.
2. The Council previously submitted a proposal to the Commission for a council size of 41. In December 2023 the Commission advised that they had agreed a council size of 38 members (no change from the current council size) although with flexibility up or down to facilitate a stronger more equal warding pattern, although the aim should be to achieve electoral equality with 38 members.
3. The Commission provided guidance and figures on the current electorate situation and electorate forecast for 2029.

### Development of the council's proposed warding arrangements

4. In developing our proposal, we have taken account of the three statutory criteria that the Commission must consider when devising new warding arrangements;
  - to deliver electoral equality for voters
  - to provide boundaries that reflect natural communities
  - to provide effective and convenient local government
5. Officers submitted initial proposals to the committee for consideration at its meeting on [19 February](#). In drafting the proposals officers had regard to the existing warding patterns and the previous review documents from the 2013 ward review, including the consultation responses. These proposals were considered together with comments submitted by members of the council. The committee made the following recommendations which Council, at its meeting on [21 February](#), agreed with three abstentions:
  - (a) Request officers seek to address the comments raised by members on the draft proposals submitted to the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee when drafting revised proposals.
  - (b) Request officers consult with relevant ward members where appropriate when drafting revised proposals.
  - (c) Request multi member wards are considered wherever practicable and community identity supports this.
  - (d) Request officers circulate the redrafted proposals to all members for comments prior to further consideration by the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee.
  - (e) Delegate authority to the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee to finalise the report to be submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England by the deadline of 18 March 2024.

6. Revised proposals were submitted to the committee for consideration at its meeting on [18 March](#).
7. At that meeting the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee unanimously agreed the proposals set out below.

### Warding proposals

8. The table below sets out in summary form the warding proposals. There is a brief commentary on the rationale for each proposal where this has altered from the previous officer proposals.

Ward Name	Number of members	Projected electorate 2029	% variance from average
Abingdon North	3	9,533	2%
Abingdon South	3	9,372	0%
Abingdon East	3	9,743	4%
Blewbury	1	3,164	2%
Botley & Sunningwell	2	5,683	-9%
Cumnor	2	6,443	4%
Drayton	1	3,140	1%
Faringdon	2	7,123	14%
Grove	3	8,645	-7%
Harwell & Western Valley	2	6,157	-1%
Hendreds	1	3,159	2%
Kennington & Radley	2	6,087	-2%
Kingston Bagpuize	2	6,213	0%
Marcham and Wootton	2	5,869	-6%
Ridgeway	1	2,788	-10%
Stanford	1	3,336	7%
Steventon & East Hanney	1	2,836	-9%
Sutton Courtenay	1	2,897	-7%
Wantage	4 across two two member wards	12,278	-1%
Watchfield & Shrivenham	2	6,909	11%

### Abingdon-on-Thames

9. Currently all of the wards in Abingdon are predicted to have negative variances in 2029 (electoral equality is predicted to range from -2%, -5%, -6% and two at -19%). The electorate forecast for 2029 suggests Abingdon should have nine members).
10. Having regard to the Commission recommendations for the county divisions in Abingdon, officers propose that Abingdon comprises three wards of three members mirroring the county division boundaries. This arrangement will provide for the same boundaries at county council and district level and facilitate the

retention of the existing town wards supporting effective and convenient local government.

### **Faringdon**

11. Currently Faringdon is a two-member ward covering the whole of the town and parish of Faringdon. The proposal is to retain this arrangement.

### **Wantage and Grove preamble**

12. Proposal is for a three-member ward for Grove and two two member wards for Wantage.

### **Grove**

13. The proposal is for a three-member ward covering the parish of Grove and, following feedback from members, the parishes of West Hanney and Denchworth to the north and west, to achieve greater electoral equality.

### **Wantage**

14. The proposal is that Wantage is represented by four members split across two member wards, an east and west ward, reflecting the increase in population since the last review. If this is supported officers suggest that the warding arrangements are formulated with the Commission if it is supportive of the proposal.

### **Current Blewbury & Harwell Ward to be split into two wards**

15. At the last review this ward had one of the smallest electorates of any ward, reflecting the fact that it would grow rapidly over time as future housing schemes came to fruition. With this growth the proposal is that the existing two-member ward of Blewbury and Harwell is split to create the following:

- a one member Blewbury Ward covering the parishes of Blewbury, Chilton and Upton in the south-eastern corner of the district.
- A two member Harwell and Western Valley ward covering the parishes of Harwell and the newly created Western Valley parish. This proposal reflects that much of the population growth is within the parish of Western Valley (formerly within the parish of Harwell). The proposal also includes that part of Harwell parish (Harwell Oxford campus) currently excluded from the Blewbury and Harwell ward (and included in the Hendreds ward).

16. At the last review the council argued against linking Blewbury with Harwell in the same ward. The above recommendations ensure discrete representation for these communities.

### **Botley & Sunningwell**

17. The proposal is for no change to this ward which was created at the previous review and comprises the parishes of Botley and North Hinksey, South Hinksey, Sunningwell and Wytham.

## **Cumnor**

18. This ward currently comprises the whole of Cumnor parish. The proposal is to expand the ward to include the parishes of Appleton-with-Eaton and Besselsleigh currently within the Thames ward.

## **Drayton**

19. The proposal is to retain this ward which comprises the whole of Drayton parish with that part of Milton parish that includes Milton Village. Milton parish is already divided in this manner under the current and previous electoral arrangements with Milton Heights in the Hendreds ward. The communities of Milton village and Milton Heights are separated by a business park, railway and the A34. They are distinct from each other.

## **Hendreds**

20. Proposal is for the retention of this ward which comprises four parishes (including East and West Hendred) that contain villages sitting at the foot of the North Wessex Downs. The only change is to place that part of the Harwell Oxford campus that lies in Harwell parish, currently within the Hendreds ward, within the Harwell and Western Valley ward.

## **Kennington & Radley**

21. Proposal is the retention of the two-member ward covering the parishes of Kennington and Radley.

## **Kingston Bagpuize**

22. This ward currently comprises the parish of Kingston Bagpuize with a string of five smaller parishes to the south and east. The ward has witnessed significant growth since the last review with a current variance 38% above the average. The proposal is that the ward is expanded to include the parishes of Buckland, Fyfield and Tubney, Hinton Waldrist, Littleworth, Longworth and Pusey. Including these additional parishes within the ward will help achieve electoral equality. The proposal is that the ward becomes a two-member ward. The committee recognised that this ward would cover a large area encompassing a number of rural parishes.

## **Marcham and Wootton**

23. The proposal is for a two member ward covering the existing Marcham and Wootton wards providing for the whole of St Helen Without to be placed in one ward. Although Marcham and Wootton do not share a common identity the creation of the ward will provide for the parish of St Helen Without to sit in one district ward. St Helen Without parish has strong links with both Wootton and Marcham. Wootton and St Helen Without share a joint Neighbourhood Development Plan and community centre, the Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre. The future Dalton Barracks development, within the parish of

St Helen Without, will impact both communities and a multi member ward could ensure better representation.

### **Ridgeway**

24. This ward currently comprises a collection of seven parishes to the west of Wantage and Grove. With no dominant settlement the ward name reflects the fact that the ancient Ridgeway path passes through five of the seven parishes. No change is proposed to the current ward arrangements.

### **Stanford**

25. This ward comprises six parishes, of which Stanford-in-the-Vale is the largest by some margin, hence the proposed retention of the ward name. There are good road connections between the main villages. No change is proposed to this ward.

### **Steventon & East Hanney**

26. Proposal for two changes to the existing ward – the transfer of Denchworth and West Hanney to the Grove ward. The proposed name reflects the fact that the ward covers two large settlements.

### **Sutton Courtenay**

27. This ward comprises two parishes in the east of the district and mirrors the ward already in existence.

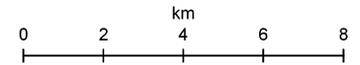
### **Thames – recommendation to remove**

28. As described in various proposals above, the proposal is that the existing ward of Thames is removed with the various parishes becoming part of neighbouring wards to achieve acceptable electoral variances across the wards.

### **Watchfield & Shrivenham**

29. Proposal is to retain this two-member ward which comprises the parishes of Watchfield and Shrivenham and a number of rural parishes over a large geographical area and which are well connected with each other.

## Proposed Changes to District Wards



1:125,000 @ A3  
19/03/2024

### Key

- Proposed Wards
- Polling Districts

### ENLARGED VIEW OF ABINGDON

