

Dear Mr. Rutherford,

Please find below the submission from the Milton Keynes Labour Party concerning your ongoing review. We have proposed twenty wards consisting of three members each for a total of sixty elected councillors from 2026. This marks an increase of three councillors and one ward relative to the arrangements that have been in place since 2014, following your last review. Though the Labour Group on Milton Keynes City Council supported an increase to twenty-one wards and sixty-three councillors to ensure the City Council was best-placed to tackle the unique challenges that come with governing a city like Milton Keynes, we respect your earlier decision to endorse a more moderate increase in council size.

We are in no doubt that drawing up cohesive and electorally equivalent wards in a city like Milton Keynes is a challenge. With a mix of traditional towns and villages with long-standing heritage and newer estates with more modern histories associated with the New Town, ensuring community links are preserved and protected by our warding patterns is no mean feat. This is further complicated by the rapid pace of development experienced in Milton Keynes both since the last review and projected beyond this one; in this vein, we urge you to apply your statutory criteria for population only by 2029. Whilst all the wards we propose are securely within +/-10% of the average by the end of the decade, three fall some degree short of the mark as of 2023. Anticipated expansion in Central Milton Keynes and the Western Expansion Area far beyond this 20% range mean it is unfeasible to meet all other requirements whilst also maintaining short-term electoral equivalence.

In brief, our proposed wards adhere to the following principles:

- Preserving the communities around historic towns such as Newport Pagnell, Wolverton, Stony Stratford and Olney; where these cannot be contained in one ward, as with Bletchley and Fenny Stratford, it should be central to the warding pattern in the area.
- Where possible, parishes have been kept together. On the occasions where this hasn't proven possible, we have ensured that communities maintain either community links, geographic links or shared issues, such as those common across new build estates.
- Geographic barriers, such as roads and rivers, have been considered, but where community links or parish boundaries are more compelling boundaries, they've taken precedence.

The nature of expansion in Milton Keynes means that a handful of the wards proposed will be at the extreme ends of the variance permitted, though we're pleased that sixteen of our twenty proposed wards are within a 5% variance. Similarly, growth patterns mean that our proposal does see considerable change from the existing wards, as with previous reviews. Whilst some may seek to make proposals that avoid these two scenarios, we find it unlikely that these proposals are braced for future growth, nor truly reflective of our established communities.

We look forward to your draft proposal, and we shall comment on that in due course - and, of course, we hope you enjoy your time in Milton Keynes!

Yours sincerely,

George Baldock

Secretary of the Local Campaign Forum

On Behalf of the Milton Keynes Labour Party

Note on LGBCE Criteria

We are entirely satisfied that our proposals meet the statutory criteria of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in full.

Using your projected 2029 population of Milton Keynes of 219,994, the “average” number of constituents across twenty wards of three councillors is 11,001. In 2029, the first “fallow” year under the new boundaries, our proposed wards will have between 10,075 and 11,961 electors, both within a 10% variance of this figure. As stated in our covering letter, utilising the full permitted range of electors is key for community cohesion and good governance in a city like Milton Keynes, and keeping the variance as close to zero as possible at the expense of community links would result in a poorer warding pattern. The LGBCE has long allowed a variance of a full ten percent either way of the average, and we would sorely regret if any individual preferences for a smaller variance get in the way of what is both explicitly permitted and best for Milton Keynes.

Our submissions into previous reviews have passed repeated and comprehensive comment on the main geographical features that mark Milton Keynes. As you have no doubt become intimately acquainted with the environment of Milton Keynes whilst drafting your proposals, and other submissions will surely go to great lengths to ensure this, it seems unhelpful to offer a lengthy description of the borough. However, it does seem helpful to provide some comment on the changes that have occurred since the previous review in 2012-13.

New developments have blurred old lines between the urban city and rural hinterland – this is most notable in the area currently covered by the Broughton, Danesborough & Walton and Olney wards, but there are parallels across the city. The most obvious case study of this is that the M1, which has previously played a role as a natural geographic barrier, will no longer mark a clear division, as the ongoing MK East development sits across it – the construction of new grid roads between the M1 and the A509 is significant. A similar phenomenon can be observed with Glebe Farm crossing the A421 barrier, and on the opposite side of Milton Keynes, the Wolverton Mill development has made the A5 a less striking barrier between Wolverton and Stony Stratford. Some key physical demarcations are less noteworthy now than they had been at the time of the previous report, and we hope the commission bears this in mind. Whilst areas with a distinct identity can still be identified – Milton Keynes undoubtedly still has a distinct rural North, for example – the specific geographic boundaries of these areas are changing.

Thankfully, where geography provides a limited indicator of natural boundaries, community links and shared issues prove a strong alternative. Considering the slipping significance of geographical barriers, we have taken a general approach to geography as a secondary concern relative to effective governance and established communities. For example, our proposed MK East ward crosses the M1 to bring together the newly-developed Broughton area with the soon-to-be developed MK East area – this will allow for a team of councillors familiar with the issues surrounding new build estates to most effectively serve their residents, satisfying the “effective governance” criteria central to LGBCE considerations. Similarly, our proposed boundary for the Stony Stratford ward crosses the A5, which has previously been avoided. However, we feel that the issues facing the residents of Galley Hill and Fullers Slade are not dissimilar from those faced in Stacey Bushes and

Hodge Lea, all of which are older states built primarily by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation; sharing a councillor team allows said councillors to be well-versed in the issues specific to these types of estates, and this allows for both good governance and real representation. Though we will discuss specific cases of this at greater length in the next section, this philosophy behind our proposal seems important to set out from the outset.

Milton Keynes is also, unusually for an urban area, fully parished. These are valuable building blocks in forming wards, as they both tend to reflect localised geography and established communities. Where possible, we have tried to keep parishes together - we note the absurd situation ushered in by the previous review in which Great Linford Parish Council was split over five wards, and we were relieved to propose a much more manageable split between two. However, that is still a split - in cases where the Parish Council is too large (as with Great Linford) or covers areas that are clearly different in character (as with Bradwell), we have tried to ensure it is split according to community interests.

These basic principles complement and align with the stated aims of the LGBCE, and we're confident that we've met all requirements within our proposal.

Proposed Wards

For a detailed account of each ward by polling district and corresponding parish council, please see Annex 1. For a map of our proposed wards, please see Annex 2. Please note that “electors” here refers to the total number of electors projected by 2029 as provided by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, rather than the 2023 numbers provided.

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| NAME: OLNEY |
| POLLING DISTRICTS: MA, MB, MC, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH, MI, MK, ML, MM, MN, MO, MP, MQ, MR, KG, KH |
| ELECTORS: 10,606 (-3.6%) |
| <p>Our proposed Olney ward is largely the same as the Olney ward that was established in 2014. However, it has lost Moulsoe to the proposed MK East ward, and has taken on Gayhurst and Stoke Goldington from the existing Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope Ward.</p> <p>Moving the parish and polling district of Moulsoe to a cross-M1 ward is largely to accommodate the MK East development, which will cause the population of this ward to rise considerably. As a rural parish far away from the central towns of Olney, Sherington and Emberton, it often failed to register with councillors representing the existing ward, so we don't think this transfer will negatively impact either community.</p> <p>The inclusion of Stoke Goldington and Gayhurst within Olney is a natural one. At the time of the previous review, both parish councils made representations to either remain with the now-abolished Sherington ward and, failing that, expressed their view that the Olney ward more naturally fit their needs. We suspect this will be a relatively uncontroversial proposal.</p> <p>Together, this maintains a “rural North” ward centred around the market town of Olney, the smaller towns of Sherington and Emberton, and the rural parishes that make up the area.</p> |

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| NAME: MK EAST |
| POLLING DISTRICTS: EC, EF, EG, MJ |
| ELECTORS: 11,478 (+4.3%) |
| <p>This ward is a partial successor to the existing Broughton ward, as well as containing the parish of Moulsoe which will host most of the MK East development. The current ward of Broughton is scheduled to exceed the quota considerably, so it has proven necessary to split it up.</p> <p>Whilst we accept community links between the village of Moulsoe and the residential area of Broughton do not yet exist, it's equally unlikely the residents of Ravenstone and Moulsoe had much in common either under the existing arrangement. These areas will likely share similar themes of casework surrounding new build homes and the construction process, and therefore, concentrating these issues together will allow for more effective governance - whilst Olney has experienced some new developments, the scale is not the same, and it is natural that their team may gravitate towards developing relative expertise in topics such as agricultural communities rather than those in new build estates. Equally, with housebuilding a contentious topic in the rural</p> |

North represented largely by our proposed Olney ward, it may become incredibly politically tricky for councillors in Olney to represent both those views whilst also representing those of one of the largest developments in the city. This would hamper good governance, and further justifies including Moulsoe with Broughton.

The preeminent settlement will be the area currently known as MK East. This is a preferred title but may be amended during the final submission when the local authority has agreed a final name for the expansion area.

We note that polling district EC straddles both the Broughton and Milton Keynes Parish Council area. As such, this ward does contain a small amount of the Milton Keynes Parish Council area - however, this is not avoidable without either altering polling districts or the parish council boundaries. Placing the ward boundary along the polling district boundary allows for marginal better electoral equality between our proposed MK East ward and our proposed Springfield ward, but basing it on the parish council boundary would be equally acceptable.

NAME: NEWPORT PAGNELL

POLLING DISTRICTS: KA, KF, LC, LD, LE

ELECTORS: 11,421 (+3.8%)

Having an active and present Town Council, Newport Pagnell has one of the most well-preserved and notable communities in the city.

Splitting the town into North and South wards generated a large amount of dissenting submissions in the previous review, and the opportunity to reunite the Town Council area would be welcomed by residents. Not only does this combine areas with incredibly strong community links, but the abolition of the existing Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope ward ensures that Hanslope and Castlethorpe, areas that look towards and have a greater shared history with Wolverton, are no longer tied with Newport Pagnell despite their lack of community links.

NAME: STANTONBURY

POLLING DISTRICTS: KD, KE, LA, LB, OA, OB, OF, OG

ELECTORS: 10,096 (-8.2%)

This ward incorporates all of the current Stantonbury ward east of Saxon Street except Neath Hill, all of Newport Pagnell South ward west of the M1, as well as the new build estate of Redhouse Park and the rural villages of Haversham-cum-Little Linford which are currently in Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope ward.

Whilst this comprises parts of three wards, this is largely a relic of the previous review, which split Great Linford Parish Council between five existing wards. This ward contains all of the Great Linford Parish Council area designated as "North" in their community plans (hence why Neath Hill, which has more in common with Pennyland, Conniburrow and Downhead Park, is not included)

and all of Stantonbury Parish excluding Bradville, Bancroft, Bancroft Park and Blue Bridge. It also includes the Haversham-cum-Little Linford parish.

The community links here justify the ward. The majority of Great Linford looks towards Stantonbury for schools, shops and medical services, and with the closely-linked Giffard Park, Blakelands and Redhouse Park no longer included within Newport Pagnell-centric wards, their inclusion makes sense to unify the parish. Redhouse Park and Oakridge Park are both extremely similar new build estates, which were built around the same time and have much of the same casework - containing those within the same ward will allow for councillors to build relevant knowledge to the benefit of good governance. The inclusion of the rural Haversham may raise eyebrows initially, but bringing the Linford Lakes and Stanton Low Park into this ward will prove valuable - periodic planning applications on the lakes, and with Stanton Low Park encroaching directly into Oakridge Park, show that having a sole councillor team responsible for the area makes sense - as well as a providing a clearer geographic link between Redhouse Park and Oakridge Park.

Stantonbury Parish was previously split between Stantonbury and Wolverton, so this arrangement doesn't newly split the parish. Considering the numbers of electors involved, there is no way to sustain the current Stantonbury ward given that Giffard Park, Blakelands and Redhouse Park are not included within our proposed Newport Pagnell ward. Splitting the parish along Saxon Street, with Bradville having incredibly strong links with New Bradwell, seems the most reasonable way to divide this area.

We accept that, whilst decidedly within the +/-10% quota set out, this is one of the more variant wards. Considering the variation of casework that can be expected by representing the small towns of Great Linford and Haversham, the older estates of Stantonbury and the new build estates of Redhouse Park and Oakridge Park, we think this is reasonable and should not halt this otherwise cohesive ward.

NAME: WOLVERTON AND HANSLOPE

POLLING DISTRICTS: RB, RC, RD, RE, KB, KC

ELECTORS: 11,411 (+3.7%)

This ward contains all of Wolverton town itself, as well as the rural towns of Hanslope and Castlethorpe. Unlike the existing Wolverton ward, it does not contain Bancroft Park and Blue Bridge, part of Stantonbury Parish, or New Bradwell, a parish in its own right. With the proposed abolition of Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope, this leaves Hanslope and Castlethorpe without a ward.

Though unusual at first glance, the pairing between Wolverton, Hanslope and Castlethorpe has considerable historical roots. Wolverton predates Milton Keynes as a New Town, being a Victorian railway town - Hanslope and Castlethorpe are linked to Wolverton by this Victorian railway heritage. Then and now, Wolverton was where those in Hanslope and Castlethorpe looked towards for services. As such, this ward proposal is more than just a mathematical convenience, but rather a more accurate reflection of community links and shared histories than the existing Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope has been.

NAME: BRADVILLE

POLLING DISTRICTS: DA, DB, OD, OE, OH, RA, RF

ELECTORS: 10,967 (-0.3%)

This ward is a partial successor to the existing Bradwell ward containing Bradwell Village and Heelands, as well as containing the remainder of Stantonbury Parish currently included within the Stantonbury and Wolverton wards, in addition to New Bradwell.

Though Bradwell has existed as a named ward for some time, the area it represents has varied and under the previous incarnation, the majority of the ward was not in Bradwell itself. Rather than looking westwards to fill out a ward towards Abbey Hill as the 2012-13 review sought to do, we propose looking north to include Bradville, Bancroft, Bancroft Park, Blue Bridge and New Bradwell. To mark this change, and to more accurately reflect the area, we propose renaming the ward "Bradville" as this is the central settlement that links each part together.

New Bradwell and Bradville have strong links in terms of services, with many shared schooling facilities, have many similarities in terms of character and boast a clear road connection - in addition, Bradville and New Bradwell also share many regeneration aspirations both with each other and the Heelands estate nearby. Not only do they share a community link through schools, shared facilities and a physically blurry boundary, but we struggle to see an alternative that works mathematically. As we imagine the majority of proposals received will agree on the Newport Pagnell Town Council area becoming a single ward, this requires the inclusion of Giffard Park, Redhouse Park and Blakelands into another ward - linking it with the Stantonbury ward due to their shared parish council with Great Linford is the most logical option. As such, this requires Stantonbury to move eastwards. Retaining Bradville would therefore cause Stantonbury to have too many electors; a similar issue arises for New Bradwell if Hanslope and Castlethorpe are linked to their historical and economic partner, Wolverton. We strongly endorse the linking of New Bradville and Bradville, as this reflects long-standing links of community and services, as well as the reality of arithmetic. Across the rest of the ward, Bradwell Village has long been linked to Heelands at a ward level, and there isn't a compelling case to change this.

We anticipate criticism that the Bradwell Parish Council area has not been united, with Bradwell Common not included in our proposed ward. However, the needs of Bradwell Common are much more akin to wards in the city centre, reflecting its current position in the Central Milton Keynes ward. As such, we believe this is an unusual case of community links endorsing the splitting of a parish, and considering this ward is only -0.3% away from the average, we hope this doesn't become a distraction from a ward with strong links.

NAME: CONNIBURROW

POLLING DISTRICTS: OC, EB, GA, GB, FE, FF, FG, FH

ELECTORS: 10,934 (-0.6%)

Creating a clear "north of Central Milton Keynes" ward, this proposal brings together the designated "South" region of Great Linford Parish Council together, including Neath Hill, Pennyland, Downs Barn, Bolbeck Park, Downhead Park, Willen Park and Conniburrow, with Bradwell

Common.

As mentioned when discussing Stantonbury, this helps remedy the current five-way split of Great Linford Parish Council. A large part of this ward was previously contained with Campbell Park and Old Woughton, and it is clearer that all these areas have much more in common with each other than they do with Simpson. These areas have been brought together through the parish council over some years, and face similar challenges.

The inclusion of Bradwell Common is one designed with the residents in mind, ensuring that their links with Conniburrow - both currently form a major part of the Central Milton Keynes ward - are retained. Both generate similar casework. Including Bradwell Common here will provide for more effective governance and stronger community bonds than reuniting the parish would.

NAME: STONY STRATFORD

POLLING DISTRICTS: PC, PD, PE, PF, PG, DC, DD, DE

ELECTORS: 10,471 (-4.8%)

The centre of this ward is the historic market town of Stony Stratford. In addition, our proposal includes the Two Mile Ash area under the Abbey Hill Parish, as had been the case between 2002 and 2014, as well as the Hodge Lea and Stacey Bushes estates across the A5.

Notably, development in the Western Expansion Area means that the existing Stony Stratford arrangement is far beyond the quota - however, once the new estates of Fairfields and Whitehouse are removed, the remaining town does not have enough people to sustain a three-member ward. Including the Two Mile Ash area is sensible and has clear precedent.

The inclusion of Hodge Lea and Stacey Bushes, two Development Corporation-era estates, may not seem a natural fit. However, these share many local issues and much of the character associated with the older New Town estates that the existing ward of Stony Stratford covers with Galley Hill and Fullers Slade - as such, though these are part of the Wolverton & Greenleys Parish, we believe they have a compelling case to be included within the Stony Stratford ward to enable more effective representation of an area with low turnout and apathy towards city-wide local politics. The only other apparent alternative would be to include Wolverton Mill, and whilst some areas of this estate do fit with Stony Stratford, it would create an odd boundary in Wolverton itself and would be less reflective of the community links that already exist and can be bolstered between Galley Hill, Fullers Slade, Hodge Lea and Stacey Bushes. As these two estates alongside Two Mile Ash had been part of the Bradwell ward since 2014, they've also got adequate links with each other, making this pattern even more compelling.

NAME: WATLING

POLLING DISTRICTS: PB, PH, PI, ID, IE, IF

ELECTORS: 10,484 (-4.7%)

This is a new ward that encompasses the whole of the Western Expansion Area, namely the estates of Fairfields and Whitehouse, as well as the rural parish of Calverton, in addition to Shenley Wood, Grange Farm and Oakhill.

These areas already have strong links with each other. Fairfields and Whitehouse, though separate estates, are linked by common issues, allowing for good governance and a clustering of casework associated with new build estates into this ward. Whitehouse has long had a connection with the Grange Farm area; prior to the establishment of Watling Academy, the nearby Hazeley Academy provided education to families moving into the new estate (and still provides much of the sixth form capacity). Oakhill and Shenley Wood have existing relations with Grange Farm, having been part of the current Loughton & Shenley ward, ensuring reasonable community links across this ward (though, as this is a new area, we expect these will take some time to fully blossom).

We note that this ward is below the 10% variance if considered on the basis of the number of electors in 2023. We urge the commission to ignore this. In addition to the reasons outlined in our covering letter and opening notes, there is an especially compelling case to do so here, as by the time these boundaries are contested in 2026, we expect that the ward will have already moved within the 10% variance permitted as families move rapidly into these estates under active construction. We hope this sensible warding pattern in a challenging part of the city is therefore given due consideration despite this.

NAME: LOUGHTON AND SHENLEY

POLLING DISTRICTS: IA, IB, IC, PA, NB

ELECTORS: 11,367 (+3.3%)

This ward experiences some boundary changes, but is largely similar to the existing arrangement. Consisting of Loughton, Great Holm, Shenley Church End, Shenley Lodge and Crownhill, this area has long-term community links, be they forged centuries ago between the Shenleys or those between the modern estates of Great Holm and Crownhill.

The inclusion of Crownhill is the only specific change that naturally draws comment. As noted at the time in several submissions, it appears its placement in the current Stony Stratford ward was largely down to arithmetic - with the ward already consisting of the hugely different market town, new estates in Galley Hill and Fullers Slade and the rapidly developing new build estates in Fairfields and Whitehouse, the geographically isolated Crownhill has proven hard to fully include within ward plans. Uniting it with the similar Great Holm will allow for better representation for the residents of the estate.

NAME: WESTCROFT

POLLING DISTRICTS: QB, QC, QD, QE, ND

ELECTORS: 10,689 (-2.8%)

This new ward consists of Oxley Park, Westcroft, Kingsmead and Shenley Brook End. These areas already have strong links – Shenley Brook End School serves children across the area, and the Westcroft district provides many of the shopping, leisure and health facilities used across the area. This area is also already united under the Shenley Brook End parish area, further ensuring community links already exist in this area.

Much of the proposed area which forms the current Tattenhoe ward consists of new build estates. Retaining the existing Tattenhoe ward proves impossible due to projected growth, and dividing it this way – along the “west”, with Tattenhoe itself excluded – provides the least unusual path to do so. We believe that this ward pattern is the best way to retain strong community links in an area made awkward by arithmetic.

NAME: FURZTON

POLLING DISTRICTS: QA, NA, NC, CD, CE

ELECTORS: 10,075 (-8.4%)

This proposed ward consists of Furzton, Emerson Valley, Tattenhoe and Howe Park, creating a single “west-of-Bletchley” ward.

The existing arrangement in Furzton and Emerson splits the area between the Shenley Brook End ward and the Bletchley West ward. This has not facilitated effective governance, or fair representation for those in Furzton South or Emerson Valley South. There are very few community links, and even fewer institutional ones, between the West Bletchley parish area and these parts of Shenley Brook End. Our proposal recognises the A421 as a clear boundary between Bletchley and the rest of the city, and we believe that crossing this limits how effectively those represented by Bletchley-oriented councillors, despite having no connection with that historic community, can be.

Combining this area with Tattenhoe is a geographical consideration, following Loughton Brook and Howe Park, which straddles the two areas. The number of electors in the existing Tattenhoe ward are beyond the quota permitted, mandating that the area is split – this seems the most effective way to do so that maintains strong community links.

Though safely within the quota, we note that this ward has a higher degree of variance than many other of our proposed wards. An unusual pattern of growth across the Shenley area makes this unavoidable, and we continue to press for the commission to use the full +/-10% range permitted.

NAME: BLETCHLEY WEST

POLLING DISTRICTS: CA, CB, CC, CF, BF, BE, BG

ELECTORS: 10,224 (-7.0%)

Bletchley continues to neatly entitle itself to nine councillors, which can be represented by three

wards. Our proposals here consist entirely of areas within Bletchley itself – the inclusion of Furzton South and Emerson Valley South, parts of the New Town, has been to the benefit of nobody. We accept that this ward is another which has a high variance, and this is inevitable if the coherent community of Bletchley is “ring-fenced”; as it is still beneath -10% variance, we see no reason why this should halt an otherwise logical ward.

Removing these two polling districts means that this ward can now be entirely within the West Bletchley parish area, with the exception of Granby, which has strong links to the Denbigh Hall area that justify including it here. Their shared concerns with the rest of our proposed Bletchley West ward will allow these residents to be better represented, and residents of the area get the majority of their services from West Bletchley (especially in regards to schools), rather than looking towards the town centre.

Bletchley is served by two parishes – West Bletchley and Bletchley & Fenny Stratford – both of which are too big to form wards in their own right. We think this arrangement, using the B4034 and Church Green areas as a border, is most reflective of the incredibly strong community links, particularly around Lord Grey School, in the area. Much of our proposed Bletchley West ward consists of areas which are distinct from the New Town, but are not as old as much of Bletchley Town itself – they are similar in character, likely to generate similar casework, and make for a strong warding pattern in this area.

NAME: FENNY STRATFORD AND BLETCHLEY PARK

POLLING DISTRICTS: BA, BB, BC, BD, BH, AC, AA

ELECTORS: 11,199 (+1.8%)

This ward contains most of central Bletchley, as well as the small town of Fenny Stratford. These towns have a relatively blurred boundary on the ground, and keeping them together allows for a more geographically and socially cohesive ward. In particular, the current Bletchley Park and Bletchley East wards feature an unusual border that jumps either side of Princes Way, with the meeting point of North Street and Western Road being especially odd.

Much of this ward is the more historic core of Bletchley Town, giving it a coherent identity. We are confident that linking Fenny Stratford to the Bletchley town centre is a more obvious link than the current Bletchley East, which ties it particularly to the post-war Lakes Estate and the new developments of Newton Leys and Eaton Leys.

NAME: BLETCHLEY EAST

POLLING DISTRICTS: AB, AD, AE, AF, AG, AH, AI

ELECTORS: 10,898 (-0.9%)

New developments in Newton Leys and Eaton Leys have led to the existing Bletchley East ward being projected to be far beyond the permitted variance by 2029. The only change from the current ward is ceding Fenny Stratford to our proposed Fenny Stratford & Bletchley Park ward.

We would note here that a small section of Fenny Stratford north of Water Eaton Brook (the Trees Estate) is included in this ward. This is because it currently shares a polling district with the new Eaton Leys development. We believe this is an area where the polling district ought to be revised, but we still feel this proposed ward is sensible and well-justified.

NAME: DANESBOROUGH

POLLING DISTRICTS: HA, HB, HD, HE, HF, HG, HH, FA, FB

ELECTORS: 11,542 (+4.9%)

By 2030, driven primarily by both existing and expected developments in the South East Milton Keynes Strategic Urban Expansion, the existing Danesborough & Walton ward will be the biggest in the city. As such, it has become necessary to split up this ward.

We believe the best way to do this is to remove the parish of Wavendon, home of the new estates of Glebe Farm and Eagle Farm, which straddles the A421 and has more in common with the new build estates in the existing Monkston ward than the rural villages of Woburn Sands and the Brickhills. We accept that the southern area of the Wavendon parish, containing Wavendon itself, is likely to disagree with this arrangement. Splitting the parish is not viable owing to the number of electors involved, which will make our proposed Danesborough ward too big and our proposed Kingston ward too small. We hope the committee is not minded to let a minority of the parish dictate where it is placed - and the case for linking the developments along the A421 together is incredibly compelling.

The ward continues to cover Bow Brickhill, Little Brickhill, Woburn Sands and the areas of Walton parish - Caldecotte, Tilbrook, Old Farm Park and Wavendon Gate - that have become linked to this area through their inclusion in the current Danesborough & Walton ward.

The only other change made to this ward is the inclusion of Simpson and Ashland. In some ways, this small parish is a microcosm of the casework issues a councillor can expect across the ward more broadly; balancing the issues and problems facing new build estates such as Ashland and the wishes of small towns and villages that predate the New Town, such as Simpson. As such, including this area with this ward allows for both effective representation of their residents, which in the existing Campbell Park & Old Woughton is challenged due to the lack of any apparent community links with the north of the ward, and good governance by allowing councillors to specialise in their familiar casework issues.

NAME: KINGSTON

POLLING DISTRICTS: JA, JB, JD, HC, HI

ELECTORS: 11,513 (+4.7%)

Centred around the major retail park Kingston which serves much of the east of Milton Keynes, and with the A421 as a clear identifiable spine, this ward consists of most of the existing Monkston ward barring Walton and Walnut Tree, as well as the Wavendon parish currently within

Danesborough & Walton ward. Owing to the considerable increase of population in the latter ward, major areas of Danesborough & Walton will have to move into another, and this is the most sensible area in our view.

As mentioned in the previous entry, we strongly support the inclusion of the Glebe Farm and Eagle Farm area with the areas in the Kents Hill, Monkston and Brinklow parish. These are both areas that host lots of new developments, and are connected physically by the A421. They generate similar casework, and are far more coherent with each other than Glebe Farm and Eagle Farm are with rural villages to their south. This ward also contains a lot of retail and industrial estates, such as Brinklow, Magna Park and Eagle Farm North, as well as the Kingston retail centre which lends its name to our proposal. We believe a ward that features a high concentration of these is valuable to allow for their effective representation on the council, and no other ward has such a mix of residential and industrial areas. In addition, ongoing works to expand the capacity of the roads in Monkston and Brinklow to support the eastern developments such as Glebe Farm - including major changes to roundabouts - will considerably impact this area. Whilst some works may be completed by 2026, the impact remains, and most plans for these consider up to the year 2031; providing residents along the relevant area with one voice through a team of shared councillors will allow for the best possible governance in the area.

Some may suggest that Glebe Farm and Eagle Farm would suit developments to their north more so than looking westward. We don't totally reject this argument, but believe the casework and representation benefits of this proposal are considerable and in some ways, outweigh arguments over the character of areas - these hold less weight in new build areas that have not yet had time to establish the strong community bonds we see elsewhere in the city. Numerically, this option appears more sensible, considering both that MK East is already placing pressure on the number of electors in the Broughton and Brooklands area, and the fact that Danesborough and Walton is far too large. As such, we believe this is the most coherent pairing that allows for effective representation and electoral equality.

NAME: SPRINGFIELD

POLLING DISTRICTS: EA, ED, EE, FC, FD, FJ, FK, FL, FM, JC

ELECTORS: 11,351 (+3.1%)

In some ways, this ward is best considered as a successor to the current Campbell Park & Old Woughton ward, consisting of much of the "core" area of the existing ward, as well as much of Broughton ward and the Walton and Walnut Tree area of the Monkston ward.

We believe these areas all have very similar characters. This ward covers a lot of small, older villages that predate the New Town, such as Old Woughton, Woolstone and Milton Keynes. It also covers a lot of newer areas such as Oakgrove, Brooklands and Walnut Park, and some estates of middling age, such as Willen and Walnut Tree. The Grand Union Canal is the spine of this ward. Though the community links between some parts of this ward are limited, this did not prevent the current ward from being created - and, over the last decade, we do think the councillor teams have brought some of the core of the existing ward together, if not the tip and toe. As such, we believe this proposal creates a coherent east-of-Central Milton Keynes ward that represents lots of broadly similar areas.

Springfield is largely included for arithmetic reasons – though it arguably matches the character of areas like Willen and Walnut Tree more so than the Central Milton Keynes or Woughton areas it may otherwise be placed in – but it has also given the ward a name in our proposal. With so many historic areas included in this ward, such as Willen, Old Woughton, Woolstone and Walton, we’ve chosen to avoid singling any out and name the ward after a fairly central estate.

NAME: WOUGHTON

POLLING DISTRICTS: SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, SF, SG, SH

ELECTORS: 11,961 (+8.7%)

This ward has been unaltered from the current incarnation.

Huge projected growth in Campbell Park and Central Milton Keynes limits any change that can be made here. However, we don’t believe much would be justified anyway – Woughton Community Council covers the majority of this ward, and this area has an exceptionally strong sense of community. Whilst most parish councils reflect a cohesive area, it is especially true here, and we would be disturbed by any attempts to remove parts of the WCC area to pad out nearby wards in light of these especially strong community links.

Fishermead is the only part of the ward that is not included within the parish area. Though we accept some would like to reunify Fishermead and Oldbrook, there is simply no way to do this mathematically whilst keeping Woughton Community Council together. As such, we are comfortable including it within our proposed Woughton ward, as it generates similar casework and is not an area of vastly different character.

NAME: CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

POLLING DISTRICTS: GC, GD, GE, FI

ELECTORS: 11,300 (+2.7%)

This ward reunites the Central Milton Keynes Parish by absorbing Campbell Park, as well as including Oldbrook and Winterhill from the Campbell Park parish. This is a clearly-defined area, with the majority of the ward already being together in the current Central Milton Keynes ward; the addition of Campbell Park is a better reflection of community links than splitting it into a separate ward.

As with our proposal for the Watling ward, this proposal is beneath the quota on 2023 numbers. Accelerating and ongoing development in Central Milton Keynes, and especially in Campbell Park, means that this is inevitable, and we’d urge the commission not to adopt poorer ward boundaries that don’t reflect community values and accept gross disproportionality within a few years in order to achieve short-term equity.

Annex 1: Proposed Wards by Polling District and Parish

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| MA | Olney | Olney | Olney | 3,662 |
| MB | Olney | Olney | Olney | 2,036 |
| MC | Olney | Olney | Weston Underwood | 198 |
| MD | Olney | Olney | Ravenstone | 193 |
| ME | Olney | Olney | Cold Brayfield | 55 |
| MF | Olney | Olney | Lavendon | 1,203 |
| MG | Olney | Olney | Clifton Reynes | 94 |
| MH | Olney | Olney | Newton Blossomville | 201 |
| MI | Olney | Olney | Warrington | 25 |
| MK | Olney | Olney | Chicheley | 73 |
| ML | Olney | Olney | Lathbury | 128 |
| MM | Olney | Olney | North Crawley | 560 |
| MN | Olney | Olney | Sherington | 798 |
| MO | Olney | Olney | Emberton | 506 |
| MP | Olney | Olney | Astwood | 148 |
| MQ | Olney | Olney | Hardmead | 57 |
| MR | Olney | Olney | Tyringham & Filgrave | 124 |
| KG | Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope | Olney | Gayhurst | 106 |
| KH | Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope | Olney | Stoke Goldington | 439 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| EC | Broughton | MK East | Milton Keynes | 2,319 |
| EF | Broughton | MK East | Broughton | 3,003 |

| | | | | |
|----|-----------|---------|-----------|-------|
| EG | Broughton | MK East | Broughton | 4,471 |
| MJ | Olney | MK East | Moulsoe | 1,685 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| KA | Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope | Newport Pagnell | Newport Pagnell | 739 |
| KF | Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope | Newport Pagnell | Newport Pagnell | 3,799 |
| LC | Newport Pagnell South | Newport Pagnell | Newport Pagnell | 3,135 |
| LD | Newport Pagnell South | Newport Pagnell | Newport Pagnell | 2,898 |
| LE | Newport Pagnell South | Newport Pagnell | Newport Pagnell | 850 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| KD | Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope | Stantonbury | Haversham-cum-Little Linford | 632 |
| KE | Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope | Stantonbury | Great Linford | 1,025 |
| LA | Newport Pagnell South | Stantonbury | Great Linford | 2,219 |
| LB | Newport Pagnell South | Stantonbury | Great Linford | 41 |
| OA | Stantonbury | Stantonbury | Stantonbury | 993 |
| OB | Stantonbury | Stantonbury | Great Linford | 2,343 |
| OF | Stantonbury | Stantonbury | Stantonbury | 1,907 |
| OG | Stantonbury | Stantonbury | Stantonbury | 936 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| RB | Wolverton | Wolverton & Hanslope | Wolverton & Greenleys | 2,554 |
| RC | Wolverton | Wolverton & Hanslope | Wolverton & Greenleys | 1,015 |

| | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| RD | Wolverton | Wolverton & Hanslope | Wolverton & Greenleys | 2,667 |
| RE | Wolverton | Wolverton & Hanslope | Wolverton & Greenleys | 1,866 |
| KB | Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope | Wolverton & Hanslope | Castlethorpe | 866 |
| KC | Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope | Wolverton & Hanslope | Hanslope | 2,443 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| DA | Bradwell | Bradville | Bradwell | 1,969 |
| DB | Bradwell | Bradville | Bradwell | 2,471 |
| OD | Stantonbury | Bradville | Stantonbury | 648 |
| OE | Stantonbury | Bradville | Stantonbury | 1,519 |
| OH | Stantonbury | Bradville | Stantonbury | 1,420 |
| RA | Wolverton | Bradville | Stantonbury | 644 |
| RF | Wolverton | Bradville | New Bradwell | 2,296 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| OC | Stantonbury | Conniburrow | Great Linford | 1,438 |
| EB | Broughton | Conniburrow | Great Linford | 569 |
| GA | Central Milton Keynes | Conniburrow | Bradwell | 2,042 |
| GB | Central Milton Keynes | Conniburrow | Great Linford | 2,318 |
| FE | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Conniburrow | Great Linford | 1,327 |
| FF | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Conniburrow | Great Linford | 1,641 |
| FG | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Conniburrow | Great Linford | 1,090 |
| FH | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Conniburrow | Great Linford | 509 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| PC | Stony Stratford | Stony Stratford | Stony Stratford | 1,326 |
| PD | Stony Stratford | Stony Stratford | Stony Stratford | 1,157 |
| PE | Stony Stratford | Stony Stratford | Stony Stratford | 1,302 |
| PF | Stony Stratford | Stony Stratford | Stony Stratford | 737 |
| PG | Stony Stratford | Stony Stratford | Stony Stratford | 1,226 |
| DC | Bradwell | Stony Stratford | Abbey Hill | 2,893 |
| DD | Bradwell | Stony Stratford | Wolverton & Greenleys | 867 |
| DE | Bradwell | Stony Stratford | Wolverton & Greenleys | 963 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| PB | Stony Stratford | Watling | Calverton | 121 |
| PH | Stony Stratford | Watling | Fairfields | 2,658 |
| PI | Stony Stratford | Watling | Whitehouse | 4,978 |
| ID | Loughton & Shenley | Watling | Shenley Church End | 1,219 |
| IE | Loughton & Shenley | Watling | Shenley Church End | 1,178 |
| IF | Loughton & Shenley | Watling | Shenley Church End | 330 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| IA | Loughton & Shenley | Loughton & Shenley | Loughton & Great Holm | 2,229 |
| IB | Loughton & Shenley | Loughton & Shenley | Loughton & Great Holm | 2,221 |
| IC | Loughton & Shenley | Loughton & Shenley | Shenley Church End | 2,776 |
| PA | Stony Stratford | Loughton & Shenley | Shenley Church End | 1,871 |

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|
| NB | Shenley Brook End | Loughton & Shenley | Shenley Brook End | 2,270 |
|----|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| QB | Tattenhoe | Westcroft | Shenley Brook End | 2,172 |
| QC | Tattenhoe | Westcroft | Shenley Brook End | 1,611 |
| QD | Tattenhoe | Westcroft | Shenley Brook End | 2,593 |
| QE | Tattenhoe | Westcroft | Shenley Brook End | 1,794 |
| ND | Shenley Brook End | Westcroft | Shenley Brook End | 2,519 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| QA | Tattenhoe | Furzton | Shenley Brook End | 2,806 |
| NA | Shenley Brook End | Furzton | Shenley Brook End | 2,536 |
| NC | Shenley Brook End | Furzton | Shenley Brook End | 2,066 |
| CD | Bletchley West | Furzton | Shenley Brook End | 963 |
| CE | Bletchley West | Furzton | Shenley Brook End | 1,704 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| CA | Bletchley West | Bletchley West | West Bletchley | 1,777 |
| CB | Bletchley West | Bletchley West | West Bletchley | 1,621 |
| CC | Bletchley West | Bletchley West | West Bletchley | 1,862 |
| CF | Bletchley West | Bletchley West | West Bletchley | 1,804 |
| BE | Bletchley Park | Bletchley West | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 203 |

| | | | | |
|----|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| BF | Bletchley Park | Bletchley West | West Bletchley | 1,522 |
| BG | Bletchley Park | Bletchley West | West Bletchley | 1,435 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| BA | Bletchley Park | Fenny Stratford & Bletchley Park | West Bletchley | 2,066 |
| BB | Bletchley Park | Fenny Stratford & Bletchley Park | West Bletchley | 1,317 |
| BC | Bletchley Park | Fenny Stratford & Bletchley Park | West Bletchley | 1,403 |
| BD | Bletchley Park | Fenny Stratford & Bletchley Park | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 2,058 |
| BH | Bletchley Park | Fenny Stratford & Bletchley Park | West Bletchley | 1,317 |
| AA | Bletchley East | Fenny Stratford & Bletchley Park | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 452 |
| AC | Bletchley East | Fenny Stratford & Bletchley Park | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 2,586 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| AB | Bletchley East | Bletchley East | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 310 |
| AD | Bletchley East | Bletchley East | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 1,442 |
| AE | Bletchley East | Bletchley East | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 1,949 |
| AF | Bletchley East | Bletchley East | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 1,690 |
| AG | Bletchley East | Bletchley East | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 1,996 |
| AH | Bletchley East | Bletchley East | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 539 |
| AI | Bletchley East | Bletchley East | Bletchley & Fenny Stratford | 2,972 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| HA | Danesborough & Walton | Danesborough | Bow Brickhill | 1,035 |
| HB | Danesborough & Walton | Danesborough | Little Brickhill | 358 |
| HD | Danesborough & Walton | Danesborough | Woburn Sands | 1,303 |
| HE | Danesborough & Walton | Danesborough | Woburn Sands | 2,286 |
| HF | Danesborough & Walton | Danesborough | Walton | 1,895 |
| HG | Danesborough & Walton | Danesborough | Walton | 2,463 |
| HH | Danesborough & Walton | Danesborough | Walton | 1,027 |
| FA | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Danesborough | Simpson & Ashland | 502 |
| FB | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Danesborough | Simpson & Ashland | 673 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| JA | Monkston | Kingston | Kents Hill, Monkston & Brinklow | 2,810 |
| JB | Monkston | Kingston | Kents Hill, Monkston & Brinklow | 1,167 |
| JD | Monkston | Kingston | Kents Hill, Monkston & Brinklow | 1,958 |
| HC | Danesborough & Walton | Kingston | Wavendon | 1,958 |
| HI | Danesborough & Walton | Kingston | Wavendon | 3,620 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| EA | Broughton | Springfield | Campbell Park | 1,074 |
| ED | Broughton | Springfield | Milton Keynes | 2,190 |

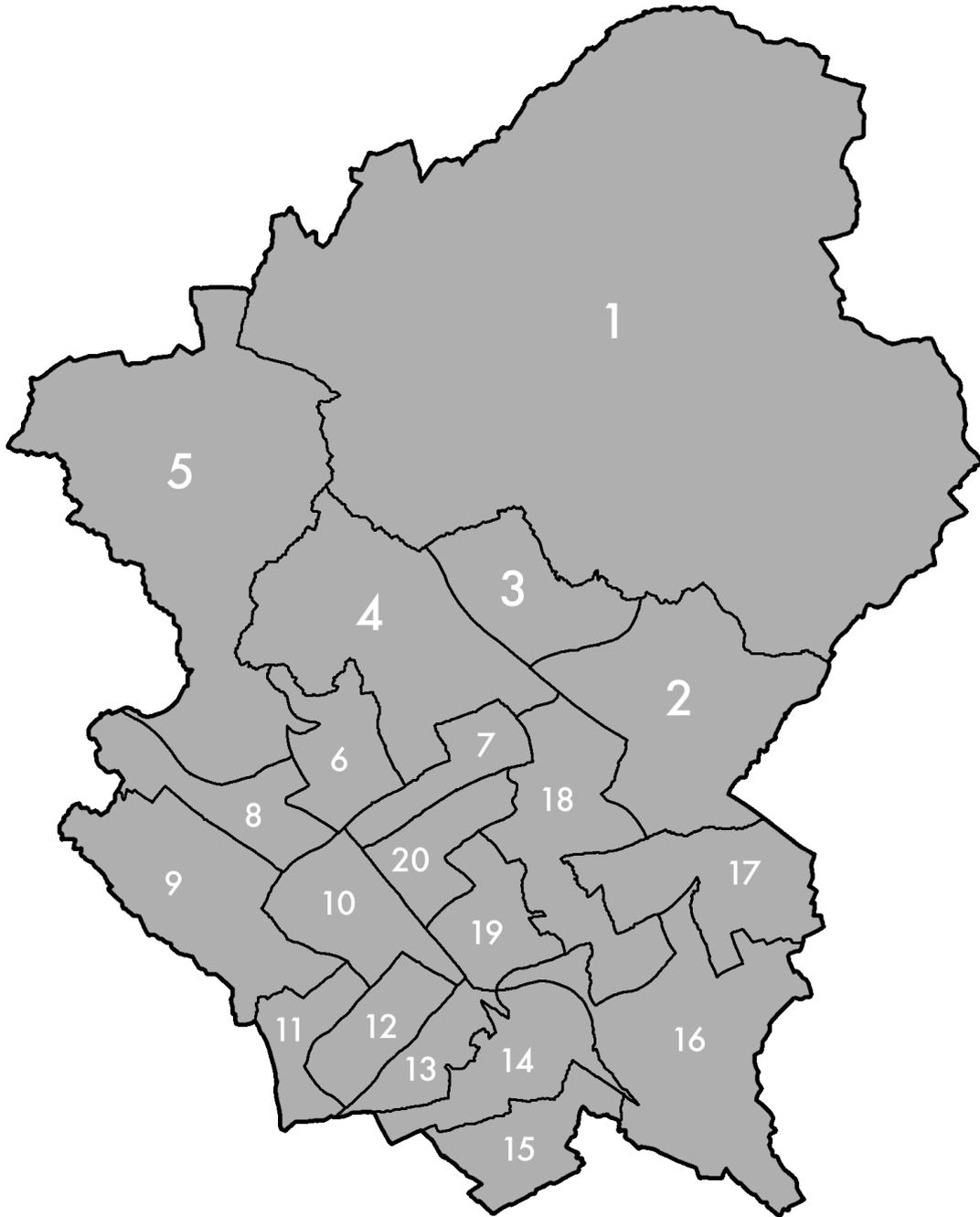
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|----|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------|
| EE | Broughton | Springfield | Milton Keynes | 1,174 |
| FC | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Springfield | Campbell Park | 634 |
| FD | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Springfield | Campbell Park | 1,618 |
| FJ | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Springfield | Old Woughton | 254 |
| FK | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Springfield | Old Woughton | 117 |
| FL | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Springfield | Old Woughton | 125 |
| FM | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Springfield | Old Woughton | 180 |
| JC | Monkston | Springfield | Walton | 3,985 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| SA | Woughton & Fishermead | Woughton | Campbell Park | 3,475 |
| SB | Woughton & Fishermead | Woughton | Woughton | 750 |
| SC | Woughton & Fishermead | Woughton | Woughton | 1,930 |
| SD | Woughton & Fishermead | Woughton | Woughton | 1,326 |
| SE | Woughton & Fishermead | Woughton | Woughton | 609 |
| SF | Woughton & Fishermead | Woughton | Woughton | 1,637 |
| SG | Woughton & Fishermead | Woughton | Woughton | 1,550 |
| SH | Woughton & Fishermead | Woughton | Woughton | 684 |

| Polling District | Current Ward | Proposed Ward | Parish Council | Electors (2029) |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| GC | Central Milton | Central Milton | Campbell Park | 3,602 |

| | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Keynes | Keynes | | |
| GD | Central Milton Keynes | Central Milton Keynes | Central Milton Keynes | 2,211 |
| GE | Central Milton Keynes | Central Milton Keynes | Central Milton Keynes | 3,494 |
| FI | Campbell Park & Old Woughton | Central Milton Keynes | Central Milton Keynes | 1,993 |

Annex 2: Map of Proposed Wards



1 - Olney
2 - MK East
3 - Newport Pagnell
4 - Stantonbury
5 - Wolverton & Hanslope
6 - Bradville
7 - Conniburrow
8 - Stony Stratford

9 - Watling
10 - Loughton & Shenley
11 - Westcroft
12 - Furzton
13 - Bletchley West
14 - Fenny Stratford & Bletchley
Park
15 - Bletchley East

16 - Danesborough
17 - Kingston
18 - Springfield
19 - Woughton
20 - Central Milton Keynes