

<b>Date:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b>
<b>Association:</b>	<b>DCCA</b>
<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Daniel Lister</b>
<b>Vice Chair Political:</b>	<b>Jo Gilford (Report author)</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE's) boundary review of the ward boundaries in West Northamptonshire</b>

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## **1 Executive Summary:**

- 1.1 This report informs the Local Government Boundary Commission for England boundary review into the ward boundaries in West Northamptonshire.
- 1.2 The review has identified that from 2025 there will be 77 members in the area of West Northamptonshire, a decrease of 16 elected members.
- 1.3 The review is now consulting on a pattern of wards the 77 members will represent from the next election in 2025.
- 1.4 The overall electorate currently stands at 299,118 (2022). This is expected to rise to 325,511 by 2025. This would equate to a total of 4,227 per elected member.
- 1.5 This report comments only on the electorate/wards that fall within the DDCA area.

## **2 Background:**

- 2.1 The Daventry Conservative Association falls within the boundary of West Northamptonshire Council and is responsible for managing the election process for 24 of the currently elected members of WNC. These 24 elected members belong to eight three member wards.

Daventry is a constituency represented in the House of Commons since 2010 by Chris Heaton-Harris of the Conservative Party. The constituency falls in the East Midlands region of England

The area covered by the association is in the large mainly rural and covers 257 square miles in the south west of Northamptonshire. The area has just the one town of Daventry, electorate population of 22856. There are a number of large villages, Brixworth, Bugbrooke, Crick, Long

Buckby, Moulton, Overstone, Boughton, Woodford-Cum-Membris, and Weedon, whose electorate is in excess of 2000.

Unemployment is low and the health of people is generally better than the English average.

- 2.2 To draw up the new wards the LGBC has asked the following factors be taken into account:
- Electoral equality (the number of electors per member is broadly similar)
  - and Community identity (what makes people feel comfortable and connected to the place)
- 2.3 Currently in WNC there are eight wards consisting of three elected members each that fall within the boundary of DCCA. The current electorate totals 77,719, this is expected to rise to 87,826 in 2025.
- 2.4 The LGBC guidance recommends that there be an average of 4227 electors per elected member. If the projected electorate total is divided by 4227 this would give rise to there being 20.77 elected members in the DCCA boundaries, if rounded up, then 21 elected members, a reduction in three elected members.
- 2.5 Allowing for a 5% variance this would equate to:

%	1 member	2 member	3 member
+5	4490	8980	13170
0	4277	8554	12831
-5	4063	8126	12189

### 3 Consultation:

- 3.1 A workshop was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 consisting of:
- Association officers
  - Elected representatives
  - Agents
  - West Northants Council cabinet members
  - West Northants Electoral Review Task & Finish group members
- 3.2 All standing elected members were invited to attend the workshop or to send their comments in for consideration. The mix of elected members present enabled there to be an adequate representation on local knowledge across the DCCA area.
- 3.3 Information presented to the group consisted of:
- Polling District
  - Current Parish & Ward details
  - Electorate per polling district for 2021
  - Projected electorate per polling district for 2025
  - Number of current elected members per ward
- 3.4 A further workshop was held with WNC officers on the 7<sup>th</sup> October where:

- Officers educated association officers in relation to the process
- Discussions were held around the areas that had been proposed as part of the workshop facilitated by DCCA and WNC proposed boundaries.

#### 4 Written Material

4.1 The workshop received from WNC democratic services a map detailing:

- Polling Districts
- Parish Boundaries
- West Northamptonshire Boundary
- WNC officers proposed boundary allocations

#### 5 Consideration

5.1 In considering the information presented, particularly in respect of the criteria set by the LGBC, the group identified three key priorities:

- Priority (1)      **Community identity** in geographical area to identify wards in order that people would feel comfortable and connected to the 'place'.
- Priority (2)      **Balance** to ensuring the average electorate per elected member was of a similar size and addressing the current imbalances in the number of residents represented
- Priority (3)      **Urban/suburban and rural density ratio** to create areas where people can identify to their elected member and facilitate a better representation and improved opportunities. Specifically, elected members of a single member urban/suburban area will be able to promote policies more closely tied with particular interest groups in that area as opposed to balancing one interest area group against another, eg. urban/suburban against rural

#### 6 Recommendations:

6.1 DCCA is proposing that:

- 2,148 electorate are transferred to Wards in the neighbouring South Northamptonshire Conservative Association
- The number of wards within the DCCA area is increased from eight to nine
- The elected members be reduced from 24 to 20
- The boundaries be re-aligned as per Appendix I

#### 7 Impact:

7.1 The recommendations result in 2,147 electorate being transferred to the neighbouring South Northants Association which left a net total electorate for 2025 of 85844

7.2 The revised total of 85844 divided by 4227 (average electorate per member) equates to a total of 20 Members. Twenty members are being proposed for the DDCA area.

7.3 The table below indicates the variance range between 5 - 10% based on an average electorate of 4277

%	1 member
+10	4705
+9	4662
+8	4619
+7	4576
+6	4534
+5	4491
0	4277
-5	4063
-6	4020
-7	3978
-8	3935
-9	3892
-10	3849

7.3 The table below details the variance of each Ward proposed within the 5-10% range based on the electorate average of 4277 for the proposed nine wards.

Ward	Electorate	Number of members	Average number of electorate per member
BRIXWORTH	4362	(1)	4362
CAMPION	11770	(3)	3923
CRICK	4069	(1)	4069
DAVENTRY & BRAUNSTON	12041	(3)	4014
DAVENTRY & NORTON	13376	(3)	4459
LONG BUCKBY	8712	(2)	4356
MOULTON	13089	(3)	4363
NASEBY	9116	(2)	4558
WOODFORD & WEEDON	9309	(2)	4655

7.4 The tables below lists (1) the proposed wards and (2) the community identity of each ward.

TABEL (1) – IMPACT ON	
Ward	Detail
BRIXWORTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New one member Ward containing the Urban/suburban area of the previous Brixworth Ward</li> <li>Electorate 4362</li> <li>Variance 3%</li> </ul>
CRICK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New one member Ward containing the community surrounding DIRFT</li> </ul>

<p>ABC6 - Crick</p> <p>ABC7 - Kilsby</p> <p>ABC2 - Barby &amp; Onley (Barby)</p> <p>ABC3 - Barby &amp; Onley (Onley)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electorate 4069</li> <li>• Previously in the Braunston &amp; Crick Ward which has been deleted as a ward with the remaining two large villages of Braunston &amp; Welton being included in the Daventry North area due to planned growth</li> <li>• Variance 3%</li> </ul>
<p><b>NASEBY</b></p> <p>ABC11 - Yelvertoft</p> <p>AML4 - Hannington</p> <p>AML7 - Holcot</p> <p>AML13 - Walgrave</p> <p>ABC5 - Clay Coton</p> <p>ABC8 - Lilbourne</p> <p>ABC9 - Stanford</p> <p>ABX1 - Arthingworth</p> <p>ABX10 - Haselbech</p> <p>ABX11 - Kelmarsh</p> <p>ABX12 - Lamport</p> <p>ABX13 - Maidwell</p> <p>ABX14 - Marston Trussell</p> <p>ABX15 - Naseby</p> <p>ABX16 - Great Oxendon</p> <p>ABX17 - Scaldwell</p> <p>ABX18 - Sibbertoft</p> <p>ABX19 - Sulby</p> <p>ABX20 - Thornby</p> <p>ABX21 - Welford</p> <p>ABX3 - Clipston</p> <p>ABX4 - Cold Ashby</p> <p>ABX5 - Cottesbrooke</p> <p>ABX6 - Creaton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New two member rural Ward</li> <li>• Electorate 9116</li> <li>• Holcott and Walgrave realigned from Moulton Ward</li> <li>• Variance 8%</li> </ul>

<p>ABX7 - Draughton</p> <p>ABX8 - East Farndon</p> <p>ABX9 - Elkington</p> <p>AML12 - Spratton</p> <p>AML9 - Old</p>	
<p><b>CAMPION</b></p> <p>ABG1 - Bugbrooke</p> <p>ABG2 - Gayton</p> <p>ABG3 - Harpole</p> <p>ABG4 - Heyford Nether</p> <p>ABG5 - Heyford Upper</p> <p>ABG6 - Kislingbury</p> <p>ABG8 - Rothersthorpe</p> <p>ALB4 - Brockhall</p> <p>ALB6 - Flore</p> <p>DTR5 - Tiffield</p> <p>DBG11 - Pattishall</p> <p>AML6 - Harlestone Manor</p> <p>AML5 - Harlestone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remains three member Ward</li> <li>• Electorate 11770</li> <li>• Milton Malser, Courteenhall &amp; Blisworth have been re-aligned to the South Northants area</li> <li>• Variance 7%</li> </ul>
<p><b>DAVENTRY &amp; BRAUNSTON</b></p> <p>ABC1 - Ashby St Ledgers</p> <p>ABC10 - Welton</p> <p>ABC4 - Braunston</p> <p>ABC12 - Daventry</p> <p>ABC13 - Daventry</p> <p>ADE4 - Daventry</p> <p>ADE5 - Daventry</p> <p>ADW2 - Daventry</p> <p>ADW3 - Daventry</p> <p>ADW5 - Daventry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remains three member ward</li> <li>• Electorate 12041</li> <li>• Area increased to include Braunston, Welton and Ashby St Ledgers , areas of build 'attaching' Daventry boarder to the North</li> <li>• Ward renamed to DAVENTRY &amp; BRAUNSTON</li> <li>• Variance 5%</li> </ul>

<p><b>DAVENTRY &amp; NORTON</b></p> <p>ADE1 - Norton</p> <p>ADE2 - Daventry</p> <p>ADE3 - Daventry</p> <p>ADW4 - Daventry</p> <p>ADW1 - Daventry</p> <p>ADW6 - Daventry</p> <p>ADW7 - Daventry</p> <p>AWW6 - Dodford</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remains three member Ward</li> <li>• Electorate 13,376</li> <li>• Area increased to include Dodford previously in the Woodford and Weedon Ward</li> <li>• Villages moved to this ward are areas of build 'attaching' Daventry boarder to the South</li> <li>• Ward renamed to DAVENTRY &amp; NORTON</li> <li>• Variance 5%</li> </ul>
<p><b>LONG BUCKBY</b></p> <p>ALB17 - Whilton</p> <p>ALB18 - Whilton Locks</p> <p>ALB3 - Little Brington</p> <p>ALB1 - Althorp</p> <p>ALB11 - Long Buckby Wharf</p> <p>ALB12 - Long Buckby</p> <p>ALB14 - Ravensthorpe</p> <p>ALB15 - Watford</p> <p>ALB16 - West Haddon</p> <p>ALB2 - Great Brington</p> <p>ALB5 - East Haddon</p> <p>ALB8 - Holdenby</p> <p>AML2 - Chapel Brampton</p> <p>AML3 - Church Brampton</p> <p>ABX22 - Winwick</p> <p>ALB10 - Hollowell</p> <p>ALB7 - Guilsborough</p> <p>ALB9 - Hollowell</p> <p>ALB13 - Ravensthorpe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced to two member Ward</li> <li>• Electorate 8712</li> <li>• Winwick realigned from the Crick Ward</li> <li>• Church and Chapel Brampton re-aligned to Long Buckby Ward from Brixworth Ward</li> <li>• Variance 3%</li> </ul>
<p><b>MOULTON</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remains three member ward</li> <li>• Electorate 13089</li> </ul>

BBP1 - Northampton - Boothville Ward AML1 - Boughton AML10 - Overstone AML8 - Moulton AML11 - Pitsford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hannington, Holcott &amp; Walgrave realigned to Spratton &amp; Walgrave Ward</li> <li>Variance 3%</li> </ul>
<b>WOODFORD &amp; WEEDON</b>  AWW14 - Stowe-Nine-Churches AWW8 - Farthingstone AWW1 - Badby AWW7 - Everdon AWW2 - Byfield AWW10 - Hellidon AWW11 - Newnham AWW12 - Preston Capes AWW13 - Staverton AWW15 - Weedon Bec AWW16 - Woodford Cum Membris AWW17 - Woodford Cum Membris AWW4 - Catesby AWW5 - Charwelton AWW9 - Fawsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced to two member ward</li> <li>Electorate 9309</li> <li>Dodford aligned to Daventry</li> <li>Variance 10%</li> </ul>

**TABEL (2) – Community Identity**

Ward	Detail
<b>BRIXWORTH</b>	<p><b>Electoral Equality</b></p> <p>This Ward reflects the vision that, as a large village, (far larger than other villages in the rural area north of Northampton), Brixworth's welfare would be better served by a single elected member. It is a large village with a strong sense of community and a great deal of shared facilities. This would enable the elected member to focus on the particular needs of the village and build strong relationships with the single parish council in this area rather than a number of villages whose needs may be somewhat different.</p> <p><b>Community Interest</b></p>



Brixworth is a large village with good transport links to Northampton, which is located 5 miles to the south. The south-eastern boundary of the village is formed by Pitsford Water, a large reservoir which is also home to the popular Brixworth Country Park. The A508 runs through the parish, providing transport links to the North and South, as well as access to the industrial area to the north of the village.

The village is served by a primary school (Brixworth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School) and children will generally travel to schools in Moulton, Northampton and Guilsborough for secondary education.

Brixworth is home to a number of employers, including Mercedes-Benz High Performance Engines and Haddonstone.

The village has its own library and the village church is one of the oldest and largest Anglo-Saxon churches in the UK.

### **Local Government**

The proposal is for a single-member ward that shares a boundary with Brixworth Parish Council. This solution would be both effective and convenient as a single member would be able to represent the needs of this large village without having to balance the needs of much more sparsely populated areas in the surrounding parishes.

This approach would create an area where people can identify to their elected member and facilitate a better representation and improved opportunities. Specifically, an elected members of a single member urban/suburban area will be able to promote policies more closely tied with particular interest groups in that area as opposed to balancing one interest area group against another, eg. urban/suburban against rural.

## **CRICK**

### **Electoral Equality**

The view is that this area would be best served by a single member ward due to the presence of two similarly sized villages, both of which have significant common interests.

### **Community Interest**

The villages in this area share a number of characteristics and interests. They are intersected by motorways (the M1 and M45), as well as the West Coast Main Line and rail loop that serves Long Buckby and Northampton. The latter rail line also serves that large Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT) This is a very large rail-road intermodal freight terminal covering a large site which handles over thirty trains per day and 500,000 shipping containers every year. The impact of DIRFT on the villages in this area means they have a common interest that would be best served by a dedicated single-member ward.

Crick is a village of 1825 electors (2028 projection) near the border of West Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The village includes a number of facilities including shops and a post office, public houses, places of worship and a primary school.

Pupils of secondary school age generally attend the secondary school in Guilsborough or schools in Warwickshire.

Kilsby is located to the west of Crick and has a primary school, two churches and a public house, as well as a community-run shop.

The parish of Barby and Onley is less populous but shares many interests with Crick and Kilsby due to the aforementioned features of the area.

Barby also shares a church benefice with Kilsby increasing the ties between the two area. Bus service D1 connect Barby and Kilsby along with covering several stops to the west of Crick for the DIRFT development. The area is bordered to the west by Warwickshire

### **Local Government**

This proposal reflects the view that the interests of this part of West Northamptonshire would be best served by a single councillor who would be able to focus on the particular needs of the villages rather than a number of villages further away whose needs may be different.

The proposal for a single-member ward that covers the area affected by DIRFT will promote effective and convenient local government. This solution would be both effective and convenient as a single member would be able to represent the particular needs of this area and facilitate their interactions with the DIRFT owners without having to balance the needs of areas that do not share this need in the surrounding parishes.

This approach would create an area where people can identify to their elected member and facilitate a better representation and improved opportunities. Specifically, an elected members of a single member urban/suburban area will be able to promote policies more closely tied with particular interest groups in that area as opposed to balancing one interest area group against another, eg. urban/suburban against rural.

### **Electoral Equality**

#### **NASEBY**

It is considered this is a good level electoral equality given the sparsely populated nature of the area. None of the parishes in this area are forecast to include more than 1000 electors by 2028 and many are much smaller.

### **Community Interest**

The proposal is for a ward that is relatively large in a geographical sense, but which groups together parishes that share links and facilities or which otherwise share a great deal of mutual characteristics.

Spratton and Welford are the two largest settlements in this area. Children in this area will generally travel to their primary schools. There are no secondary schools in the area. Many schools serve several villages within the ward with each school having low published admissions numbers. Older children may attend secondary schools outside of this area, such as Guilsborough School, or the secondary schools in the town of Market Harborough.

Similarly, there are many community links through the churches within this ward for example the Faxton Benefice covers Arthinworth, Draughton, Farndon, Lamport, Maidwell, Oxenden as well as Harrington which sits inside the North Northants authority area.

Few buses run within the area reflecting its rural composition and the small number that do, run on a north/south pattern which nonetheless connect many of the villages. For example X7 has stops at Lamport, Maidwell, Kelmarsh and Great Oxenden and service 10 connecting Holcot, Hannington, Walgrave and Old each covering many of the nearby villages.

It is considered that the parishes in this area share common community interests by virtue of their similar rural density ratio.

### **Local Government**

The view is that a three member ward would cover an area that is too large to be convenient, while multiple single member wards would not be particularly effective. It was considered therefore that a two member ward would be the ideal solution for this area as it would lead to better representation and improved opportunities for residents of communities that have much in common.

This approach would create an area where people can identify to their elected member and facilitate a better representation and improved opportunities. Specifically, an elected members of a single member rural area will be able to promote policies more closely tied with particular interest groups in that area as opposed to balancing one interest area group against another, eg. rural against urban/suburban

### **Electoral Equality**

#### **CAMPION**

It is considered this Ward will enable a good level electoral equality and group parishes with shared characteristics together. The proposal for this ward groups together several larger villages (with electorate totals of between 1000-2000) that have shared interests but which would not be large enough to form viable single or two-member wards.

### **Community Interest**

The proposal is for a three-member ward that is moderately large in a geographical sense, but which groups together parishes along the A4500 and M1 motorway. These parishes, to the west of Northampton, generally have their own primary schools but the majority of pupils of secondary school age will attend the secondary school (The Champion School) in Bugbrooke.

Bugbrooke is also the location of a medical centre that is widely used by residents of the surrounding parishes. Further, one church benefice covers Heyford, Flore and Brockhall and another covers Tiffield, Gayton and Pattishall. Bus D3 connects Flore, Upper Heyford, Nether Heyford, Bugbrooke, Kislingbury, Harpole and service 87 connecting Rothersthorpe and Pattishall.

Development in the area includes logistics centres grouped around Junction 16 of the M1. Many of these parishes also share links and leisure industry around the Grand Union canal. This important waterway runs through Bugbrooke, Nether Heyford and Flore.

Bugbrooke is the largest village and has a medical centre, as well as a pharmacy and post office. There are several public houses in the village. The village has a Rugby Union club and a football club, as well as a badminton club which uses facilities at The Champion School. Harpole is smaller

than Bugbrooke but has its own school and some retail space. The A5 forms the south-western boundary of this ward.

### **Local Government**

The view is that a three-member ward would be the most effective and convenient for this area. The larger villages are not large enough to sustain single-member wards and the group of parishes that is proposing should comprise this ward share good transport links and cultural characteristics, as well as facilities such as the school and medical centre.

## **DAVENTRY & NORTON and DAVENTRY & BRAUNSTON**

### **Electoral Equality**

The proposal here is for two wards, each composed of three elected members. The proposal for Daventry and Braunston incorporates the northern half of Daventry, as well as the parishes of Welton, Braunston and Ashby St Ledgers.

The proposal for Daventry and Norton includes the southern part of Daventry as well as the parishes of Norton and Dodford.

### **Community Interest**

Daventry is a historic market town which has expanded in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early part of this century to incorporate significant housing and industrial growth. Daventry has good transport links with the rest of the country via the M1 and M45, which has in part led to the development of the town. The Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT) is situated near the town and the town is home to a number of other businesses or distribution centres, including a large engine manufacturing facility owned by Cummins.

Daventry has two secondary schools, with a third in the planning stages. There is an all-through special school and a number of primary schools. The town has a popular leisure centre as well as a football club. The Stefen Hill Sports Ground hosts an athletics club and a rugby club. Other leisure facilities include a skate park, country parks and a new cinema in the centre of the town.

The proposal for Daventry and Braunston incorporates the northern part of Daventry, as well as the parishes of Welton, Braunston and Ashby St Ledgers. These parishes all have excellent links to Daventry by road and communities in this area will travel to Daventry for the amenities. The areas are also linked by recent development, with a large amount of new housing stock being constructed to the north of Daventry. For example, the Middlemore Farm estate now extends towards Braunston, while the Monksmoor Park estate extends towards Welton.

Braunston, Welton and Ashby St Ledgers all share a church benefice. Welton Primary school is linked to Ashby St Ledgers and Welton. Bus D2 connects Daventry to Braunston and Ashby St Ledgers and running close to Welton.

The proposal for Daventry and Norton includes the southern part of Daventry as well as the parishes of Norton and Dodford to the east of Daventry. Both villages have excellent links to Daventry and residents will use amenities in Daventry.

St James Infant School in Daventry is linked to Norton and Dodford. The proposed Daventry North East extension will extend towards Norton. Bus D1 connects Daventry to Dodford.

### **Local Government**

Most of the two wards proposed in this area are covered by Daventry and the Daventry Town Council, with less populous areas covered by parishes. It is considered that two three member wards would be ideal in terms of effective and convenient local government in this area, with the scope of significant close working between the West Northamptonshire elected members and the town/parish councillors.

## **LONG BUCKBY**

### **Electoral Equality**

The proposal has a good level of electoral equality which will enable parishes with shared characteristics to be grouped together. The proposal for this ward groups together the larger village of Long Buckby with neighbouring villages that share good transport links and common characteristics.

### **Community Interest**

Long Buckby is a large village located between Northampton and Daventry. It is characterised by its unique transport links, which include a railway station on the Northampton Loop of the West Coast Main Line, the nearby A5 and the Grand Union Canal and the M1 running to its western border.

The railway stations serves a number of villages in the area, as well as the town of Daventry, which is less than five miles away. Long Buckby has an infant and a junior school and is in the catchment area of Guilsborough School, which is also located in this proposed ward.

The village of Long Buckby has a range of shops and restaurants, a football club and a medical centre on Station Road. Bus 96 serves Long Buckby, East Haddon, West Haddon, Watford and Althorp.

Despite its status as a large village, Long Buckby is not large enough to constitute a single-member ward. It is therefore proposed to include Long Buckby in a two-member ward at the heart of a cluster of parishes with which it shares excellent transport links and community characteristics and facilities.

Other parishes in this area, such as Althorp and Church with Chapel Brampton are somewhat less densely populated but nevertheless have good transport links with Long Buckby. The Bramptons, Bringtons and East Haddon all form part of the Spencer benefice deriving its name from the Althorp area which joins these parishes closely. Likewise, Long Buckby, West Haddon, Watford and Winwick all belong to the same church benefice. Guilsborough, which is home to the local secondary school, has a wider range of facilities.

The boundary of the proposed ward is the A5 to the south-west. The proposal includes the parishes of Whilton, Brington, Althorp, Long Buckby, Ravensthorpe, Watford, West Haddon, East Haddon, Holdenby, Church with Chapel Brampton, Winwick, Hollowell and Guilsborough.

### **Local Government**

As mentioned previously, despite being a large village with a rural railway station, Long Buckby is not large enough to form a single member ward. The proposal therefore includes the parishes with which Long Buckby shares community links of characteristics to form the basis of a two-member ward. This will facilitate effective and convenient local government for the electoral in this area, who will be served by 13 parish councils and two elected members.

## MOULTON

### Electoral Equality

The proposal is for a ward that incorporates the village of Moulton as well as a number of smaller surrounding villages, composed of three members in order to achieve a good level of electoral equality by 2028.

### Community Interest

Moulton is a large village situated to the north of Northampton. It has its own facilities, such as schools (including Moulton School and Science College, a large secondary school), medical facilities, shops and community facilities, including the large Moulton Community Centre on Sandy Hill Lane. Although the village borders Northampton, it is a distinct settlement with a strong sense of community.

The proposal incorporates the area covered by the current polling district BBP1 (Moulton Leys), which is currently within the Boothville and Parklands Ward. This area previously formed part of the outer edge of the Northampton Borough Council Boundary. Moulton Leys is a distinct settlement to Northampton and is coalescent with the village of Moulton. It is separated from Northampton by Moulton Way, which forms a division between the urban area of Northampton and the rural area to the North at this point. Residents of Moulton Leys use community facilities in Moulton. It is considered the inclusion of Moulton Leys within a new Moulton Ward would correct this historical anomaly.

The Parishes of Boughton and Pitsford, situated to the west and north of Moulton village, share close community ties with Moulton. Residents from these parishes rely on the community facilities in Moulton village, including medical and retail facilities.

Both Pitsford and Boughton share a church benefice enhancing community ties.

There are good transport links between each of these parishes and Moulton. In light of these close ties and convenient transport links, it is proposed to include these parishes within the Moulton ward. Similarly Overstone, to the west of Moulton, shares many characteristics and both Moulton and Overstone are the subject of a significant amount of housing and related development. As Overstone forms part of the West Northants Council's external boundary with North Northamptonshire, it is proposed to include Overstone in the proposal for this ward. Bus 10 running between Northampton and Kettering joins the new area included within this ward BBP1, with Moulton and Overstone with service X7 connecting Boughton and Pitsford.

*In contrast, other nearby parishes such as Holcot, Hannington and Walgrave share more in common with other small villages and sparsely populated areas. These are proposed to form part of the Naseby ward.*

### Local Government

The proposal is for a large ward of three elected members and looks to be the optimum solution for this area in terms of effective and convenient local government. The parishes of Moulton and



Overstone, if created as small, single member wards, would not achieve such good electoral equality and the close ties between the remaining parishes and Moulton would not be reflected in the proposal, effectively dividing these communities. Therefore it is considered that this proposal would be effective and convenient in terms of democratic representation.

## WOODFORD & WEEDON

### Electoral Equality

It is acknowledged that the 10% variance is marginally outside the 10% variance threshold but considers this is necessary in order to ensure that parishes with significant links and shared characteristics are able to be part of a single ward. The proposal for this ward groups together the larger villages of Weedon and Woodford Halse, to the south and east of Daventry, with neighbouring villages that share good transport links and common characteristics.

### Community Interest

The proposal incorporates the two larger parishes of Weedon Bec and Woodford Cum Membris, which are situated to the south-west of Daventry. Both villages are of a similar size and share similar characteristics. Weedon Bec (usually referred to as Weedon) has a village hall, as well as a number of shops and cafes. It is known for having a range of antique shops and is home to a historic Napoleonic-era ordnance depot which is now home to a museum and a number of businesses including a brewery, book shop, antique shops and automotive services. The village has a primary school which is part of a multi-academy trust along with the primary schools in Badby and Woodford Halse, both of which are also proposed to be in this ward.

Woodford cum Membris includes the village of Woodford Halse and the smaller settlements of Hinton and West Farndon. The primary school in Woodford Halse is noted for its large playing field which hosts an annual cross-country race involving competitors from over thirty schools. The village has shops and services, as well as a fire station. Byfield is the third-largest settlement in this ward and includes a village hall which provides a venue for clubs and activities, as well as a medical centre. The remainder of this ward is proposed to include smaller adjacent villages but with strong community links to the two larger villages.

Byfield, Charwelton, Fawsley and Badby are all linked by the A361 which is one of the main routes to the M40. Badby, Newnham, Charwelton, Fawsley and Preston Capes are all linked through the Knightley Church benefice with Weedon and Everdon sharing a benefice which borders Knightley.

Bus 200, a much used service, connects Badby, Charwelton, Byfield and Woodford Halse together running between Daventry and Braunston.

The boundary of the proposed ward is the A5 to the east and the border with Warwickshire to the west.

### Local Government

Neither Weedon nor Woodford cum Membris are large enough to form the basis of a single member ward and the view is that such an arrangement would not be conducive to effective and convenient local government for this area. It is felt the interest of electors would be most effectively served by a two member ward that incorporates the area to the south of Daventry.

## APPENDIX I

## Proposed Wards for 2025

Polling district	Proposed Ward	Electorate 2028
ABX2 - Brixworth	Brixworth	4362
<b>BRIXWORTH</b>		<b>4362</b>
ABG1 - Bugbrooke	Campion	2290
ABG2 - Gayton	Campion	424
ABG3 - Harpole	Campion	1858
ABG4 - Heyford Nether	Campion	1287
ABG5 - Heyford Upper	Campion	65
ABG6 - Kislingbury	Campion	1088
ABG8 - Rothersthorpe	Campion	401
ALB4 - Brockhall	Campion	41
ALB6 - Flore	Campion	1187
DTR5 - Tiffield	Campion	282
DBG11 - Pattishall	Campion	1170
AML6 - Harlestone Manor	Campion	1296
AML5 - Harlestone	Campion	381
<b>CAMPION</b>		<b>11770</b>
ABC6 - Crick	Crick	1825
ABC7 - Kilsby	Crick	1173
ABC2 - Barby & Onley (Barby)	Crick	871
ABC3 - Barby & Onley (Onley)	Crick	200
<b>CRICK</b>		<b>4069</b>
ABC10 - Welton	Daventry & Braunston	504
ABC4 - Braunston	Daventry & Braunston	1462
ABC12 - Daventry	Daventry & Braunston	2130
ABC13 - Daventry	Daventry & Braunston	1300
ADE4 - Daventry	Daventry & Braunston	2202



ADE5 - Daventry	Daventry & Braunston	2218
ABC1 - Ashby St Ledgers	Daventry & Braunston	121
ADW2 - Daventry	Daventry & Braunston	438
ADW3 - Daventry	Daventry & Braunston	1427
ADW5 - Daventry	Daventry & Braunston	239
<b>DAVENTRY &amp; BRAUNSTON</b>		<b>12041</b>
ADE1 - Norton	Daventry & Norton	330
ADE2 - Daventry	Daventry & Norton	2719
ADE3 - Daventry	Daventry & Norton	2475
ADW4 - Daventry	Daventry & Norton	565
ADW1 - Daventry	Daventry & Norton	1976
ADW6 - Daventry	Daventry & Norton	3609
ADW7 - Daventry	Daventry & Norton	1558
AWW6 - Dodford	Daventry & Norton	144
<b>DAVENTRY &amp; NORTON</b>		<b>13376</b>
ALB17 - Whilton	Long Buckby	181
ALB18 - Whilton Locks	Long Buckby	68
ALB3 - Little Brington	Long Buckby	247
ALB1 - Althorp	Long Buckby	11
ALB11 - Long Buckby Wharf	Long Buckby	91
ALB12 - Long Buckby	Long Buckby	3461
ALB14 - Ravensthorpe	Long Buckby	428
ALB15 - Watford	Long Buckby	252
ALB16 - West Haddon	Long Buckby	1481
ALB2 - Great Brington	Long Buckby	189
ALB5 - East Haddon	Long Buckby	562
ALB8 - Holdenby	Long Buckby	79
AML2 - Chapel Brampton	Long Buckby	368
AML3 - Church Brampton	Long Buckby	301
ABX22 - Winwick	Long Buckby	88
ALB10 - Hollowell	Long Buckby	45
ALB7 - Guilsborough	Long Buckby	564

ALB13 - Ravensthorpe	Long Buckby	55
ALB9 - Hollowell	Long Buckby	241
<b>LONG BUCKBY</b>		<b>8712</b>
BBP1 - Northampton - Boothville Ward	Moulton	1959
AML1 - Boughton	Moulton	2676
AML10 - Overstone	Moulton	3853
AML8 - Moulton	Moulton	4048
AML11 - Pitsford	Moulton	553
<b>MOULTON</b>		<b>13089</b>
ABC11 - Yelvertoft	Naseby	656
AML4 - Hannington	Naseby	238
AML7 - Holcot	Naseby	365
AML13 - Walgrave	Naseby	760
ABC5 - Clay Coton	Naseby	47
ABC8 - Lilbourne	Naseby	340
ABC9 - Stanford	Naseby	52
ABX1 - Arthingworth	Naseby	212
ABX10 - Haselbech	Naseby	91
ABX11 - Kelmarsh	Naseby	67
ABX12 - Lamport	Naseby	216
ABX13 - Maidwell	Naseby	229
ABX14 - Marston Trussell	Naseby	147
ABX15 - Naseby	Naseby	637
ABX16 - Great Oxendon	Naseby	253
ABX17 - Scaldwell	Naseby	260
ABX18 - Sibbertoft	Naseby	294
ABX19 - Sulby	Naseby	85
ABX20 - Thornby	Naseby	149
ABX21 - Welford	Naseby	938
ABX3 - Clipston	Naseby	551
ABX4 - Cold Ashby	Naseby	248
ABX5 - Cottesbrooke	Naseby	114

ABX6 - Creaton	Naseby	413
ABX7 - Draughton	Naseby	60
ABX8 - East Farndon	Naseby	282
ABX9 - Elkington	Naseby	51
AML12 - Spratton	Naseby	971
AML9 - Old	Naseby	391
<b>NASEBY</b>		<b>9116</b>
AWW8 - Farthingstone	Woodford & Weedon	166
AWW1 - Badby	Woodford & Weedon	534
AWW7 - Everdon	Woodford & Weedon	301
AWW2 - Byfield	Woodford & Weedon	1038
AWW10 - Hellidon	Woodford & Weedon	172
AWW12 - Preston Capes	Woodford & Weedon	171
AWW13 - Staverton	Woodford & Weedon	419
AWW15 - Weedon Bec	Woodford & Weedon	2224
AWW16 - Woodford Cum Membris	Woodford & Weedon	2471
AWW17 - Woodford Cum Membris	Woodford & Weedon	746
AWW4 - Catesby	Woodford & Weedon	81
AWW5 - Charwelton	Woodford & Weedon	185
AWW11 - Newnham	Woodford & Weedon	538
AWW14 - Stowe-Nine-Churches	Bugbrooke	234
AWW9 - Fawsley	Woodford & Weedon	29
<b>WOODFORD &amp; WEEDON</b>		<b>9309</b>
Total		85844
Moved to Towcester & Roade	Courteenhall	76
Moved to Towcester & Roade	Milton Malsor	614
Moved to Towcester & Roade	Blisworth	1458
TOTAL		87992
<b>Number of members</b>	<b>Total Divided by 4277 (ave no or electorate)</b>	<b>20</b>

