

# City of Lincoln Council Electoral Review

Warding Patterns Submission



June 2014

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## 1. Introduction

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is carrying out an electoral review of the City. The LGBCE has finished its consultation on the size of the Council and has determined that the City of Lincoln Council should have 33 members.

The Commission has now asked for submissions proposing Warding patterns that reflect this change. Any group or individual is able to put forward suggestions on Warding patterns for all or part of the City. The LGBCE will consider all submissions and propose a warding pattern for the City. The LGBCE will run a ten – week consultation on proposed warding patterns before it publishes its final recommendations. Boundaries will be changed following the laying down of an Order in Parliament and will take effect from the city council elections in May 2016.

In preparing its submission proposing new ward arrangements for the City, the Council must take account of:

- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community identities and interests
- Providing for convenient and effective local government

## **2. Equality of representation**

Based on a council size of 33 and growth projections, the projected electorate in 2020 is 67,433 which means the average number of electors for each Councillor is 2,043.

## **3. Community identities and interests**

Using maps, the Constitutional Review Group (CRG) identified key communities within the City. It also identified any man-made or natural barriers such as major roads, rivers and water courses that acted as boundaries between communities. Using CRG's knowledge of communities within the City, CRG proposed warding arrangements that would reflect the community identities and interests of the area whilst ensuring the proposals would deliver electoral equality.

The table provided as **Appendix 3** provides a summary of proposed warding arrangements and the figures to support the proposals. A copy of a map

showing the proposed new Ward boundaries is also enclosed as **Appendix 4** document.

This submission also provides evidence and rationale for how the proposed warding arrangements reflect community identities and interests by highlighting local amenities and facilities that may be either a focal point or natural break between communities, the history and tradition of individual areas which may be the basis of their sense of community identity and any natural or man-made physical barriers that mark the boundary between different communities. The list is not exhaustive; it is illustrative of the connections that bind local communities.

CRG agreed that there should be no changes to any of the ward names as a succession of changes from previous reviews has caused some confusion with electors some of these are detailed in the report.

## 4. Proposed Warding Arrangements

The table below shows how the proposed Warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests
- Providing for convenient and effective local government

Ward Name	Number of Councillors	Forecast Electorate in 2020	Forecast electoral variance in 2020	Evidence and rationale that the proposals meet the three statutory criteria
Glebe	3	6060	-1%	<p>Polling District IF has been included to increase the electorate of the Ward. Polling District IF has an affinity to Polling Districts AA, AB and AC as it is the western end of the St Giles estate which is contained within the other three polling districts.</p>
Castle	3	5770	- 6%	<p>The natural boundaries of Burton Road and Riseholme Road have been maintained were possible, the only amendment to the current Ward is the transfer of Polling District BG to Minster as this is the area around the Cathedral and has a greater relationship with Minster Ward. In addition it also assists with the suggested changes between Glebe and Minster Wards.</p>
Abbey	3	6400	+ 4%	<p>At the last review the southern boundary of the Ward was moved below the River Witham which previously had been the boundary between Park and Abbey wards. The</p>

				proposal is to use the River Witham as the boundary between the wards and also include polling district DI from Carholme Ward.
Carholme	3	6098	- 0.5%	Carholme ward currently has one of the highest variances within Lincoln. The proposal is to use the Foss Dyke as the southern boundary by transferring DH and DJ into Boultham Ward. The only other change is the transfer of DI into Abbey Ward.
Park	3	6587	+7.5%	Currently Park Ward has an electoral variance below - 10%. To achieve a better electoral variance the proposal is to transfer polling districts CJ and FB into Park Ward and transfer polling district EH into Bracebridge Ward.
Boultham	3	5533	- 8%	The proposal is to transfer polling district FA into Hartsholme Ward. This is the Hartsholme estate which has a clear community connection with Hartsholme Ward. In fact Councillors in the current Hartsholme Ward are regularly contacted by Boultham Ward residents living in FA. In addition it is also proposed to transfer polling district FB to Park Ward. Polling districts JA, DH and DJ will be transferred into the ward. Whilst still leaving an electoral variance of -8% this is the one ward in the City that may see significant development over the next few years ie Western Growth Corridor.
Moorland	3	5839	- 5.7%	The only suggested change to this Ward is the inclusion of

				Nos 162 – 232A Rookery Lane from Polling District FD to GA. This only makes a minor addition of 62 electors and the Ward variance will still be within the +/- 10% variance when taking account of growth projections. These properties have a greater affinity with Polling District GA as the current polling district boundary between GA and FD runs down the centre of Rookery Lane and the properties are next to Boultham Park. The suggested amendment would place the polling district boundary at the rear of the properties.
Bracebridge	3	6385	+ 4%	Polling District EH has been included to increase the ward variance. There is a natural boundary between polling districts EE and EH. The remaining ward boundary falls down the centre of Newark Road until the City boundary is reached. The Ward variance will still be within the +/- 10% variance
Minster	3	5993	- 2%	The inclusion of Polling District BG ensures the inclusion of the Cathedral area within Minster ward. The Ward variance will still be within the +/- 10% variance. Minster Ward councillors are regularly contacted by residents living in Polling District BG because of the previous connections with Minster Ward.
Hartsholme	3	6683	+ 9%	The boundaries for this ward have been formed by using the Railway line on its eastern side, Skellingthorpe Road on its Northern side and Birchwood Road and Pershore Way on its western side. The southern boundary is formed by the City boundary. At the last review polling district FA was removed from the Hartsholme Ward and placed in

				<p>Boultham Ward even though it contained the Hartsholme Estate. Consequently it is suggested that it be included within Hartsholme Ward because of the community ties. The exclusion of polling district JF and JG is because a more natural boundary line falls down the centre of Birchwood Avenue. In addition both of these polling districts lie within the Lincoln Birchwood County Division which has caused confusion with electors at both elections because different polling stations have to be allocated. The Ward variance will still be within the +/- 10% variance.</p>
Birchwood	3	6085	- 0.73%	<p>The inclusion of polling district JF and JG is because a more natural boundary line falls down the centre of Birchwood Avenue. In addition both of these polling districts lie within the Lincoln Birchwood County Division which has caused confusion with electors at both elections because different polling stations have to be allocated. The Ward variance will still be within the +/- 10% variance.</p>