



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

West Northamptonshire Council

Ward Proposal B – 77 Councillors

November 2022



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Foreword

This is the submission from West Northants Council. The submission has been prepared on behalf of the Democracy and Standards Committee and was considered by the Council at a meeting on 3 November 2022. The proposed boundaries will improve electoral equality while reflecting community interests and identities and help us to deliver convenient and effective local government.

Our current electoral arrangements were imposed by the Structural Changes Order which created our council in April 2021. While those arrangements have served us well, we welcome the opportunity to put forward proposals for a new pattern on wards that will promote effective and efficient local government and improve electoral equality.

Our process for developing a proposed new pattern of wards has been led by a dedicated cross-party working group which I have been privileged to chair. Through this working group we have consulted with our members, inviting them to submit views. At all times, we have been mindful of the legal factors that underpin reviews:

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

Our commitment remains to work with the residents of West Northants and our partners to protect our environment, meet residents' needs for homes and jobs, and ensure that everyone can live well and safely together. West Northamptonshire must be a place where residents can have faith in our democratic institutions and we very much recognise the importance of this review in achieving that aim.

Councillor Suresh Patel, Chair of the West Northamptonshire Council's Democracy Standards Committee and the Local Boundary Review Working Group

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission have proposed that West Northamptonshire Council should have 77 councillors for West Northamptonshire from the election in 2025.
- 1.2 The Council proposes 35 wards with either one, two or three councillors per ward. The ward names and the forecast electorate numbers are set out at Table 1 below.
- 1.3 The approach to drawing up proposals for wards has been based on balancing the need for electoral equality with the need to reflect community identity and convenient local government. 34 of the 35 proposed wards are within +/- 10% of the electoral equality average. The exception is Middleton Cheney, which just exceeds the threshold but is supported by the available evidence.
- 1.4 The proposal agreed by the Council has been overseen by a dedicated cross-party task and finish group established by the Council's Democracy and Standards Committee. All members of the Council have been invited to contribute their views on their wards and on any issues relevant to the review, such as community identity and barriers. The proposals reflect the views received as far as possible, while maintaining compliance with the statutory requirements overseen by the Local Government Boundary Commission.
- 1.5 The proposal was reviewed by the Democracy and Standards Committee at its meeting on 20th October 2022 and was referred to the full Council meeting held on 3rd November 2022. Individual members and groups who had developed alternative proposals, or who had other contributions to make, were invited to respond directly to the LGBCE.

2. About West Northamptonshire

- 2.1 West Northamptonshire is a large mixed urban and rural local authority which assumed the full range of unitary functions for the area of the three former District and Borough Councils and the County Council of Northamptonshire on 1 April 2021 following local government reorganisation. It is situated at the southernmost tip of the East Midlands Region and has close links with North Northamptonshire Council, which was created out of the same local government reorganisation as the other unitary council covering the area of the former County Council and which is also undergoing an electoral review.
- 2.2 There are several urban and rural centres within West Northamptonshire, including Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley. 55% of the population of West Northamptonshire live in Northampton (the area covered by the former Northampton Borough) which equates to 2,777 people per sq km. Population density in the rest of West Northamptonshire, which is predominantly rural or centred around smaller market towns, is around 90% lower at 282 people per sq km.
- 2.3 This mixture results in different challenges and opportunities across the district. Outside of the large county town the Council also has many sparsely populated wards and a significant number of parish councils and parish meetings representing the rural area. The total number of parish councils and meetings in West Northamptonshire is 166.
- 2.4 Transport links are a major influence on West Northamptonshire. The district is intersected by three motorways; the M1, M40 and M45. The M6 is only a few miles from Junction 18 of the M1. The area has a number of strategic A-roads that also play a part in shaping and connecting communities. These include the A14, A5, A45, A508, A428, A361 and A43.
- 2.5 The West Coast Main Line, one of the busiest mixed-traffic rail lines in Europe, runs through the heart of the district. Trains stop at Northampton and Long Buckby on the Northampton loop of the main line between London and Birmingham and there is a rural station at Kings Sutton on the Chiltern Main Line, which runs into London Marylebone. West Northamptonshire is home to the major rail freight terminal DIRFT (Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal) and a second large rail freight terminal is under construction to the south of Northampton, adjacent to Junction 15 of the M1. The HS2 rail line that is under construction will bisect West Northamptonshire to the west of Brackley.
- 2.6 This combination of strategic connectivity is a key characteristic of West Northamptonshire and helps to shape the community, economic and environmental

characteristics of the area. Older transport links have played a similar role in the past. Towns such as Towcester grew up on historic coaching routes from London, while the Grand Union Canal runs through many of our villages and towns such as Braunston, Weedon Bec, Northampton, Bugbrooke, Stoke Bruerne and Cosgrove. The Oxford Canal also links to the Grand Union Canal at Braunston and travels down to Aynho in the south of the district. The River Nene runs through many of our towns and villages, including the county town of Northampton.

- 2.7 The character of West Northamptonshire provides for opportunities, in terms of industry and economic growth, but also challenges due to the mobile population which can work, shop and do business outside of the area as well as locally. The district does not demonstrate a higher level of deprivation than the national average but has pockets of deprivation in key areas. The makeup of the area is not significantly diverse in terms of demographic pressures, but there are challenges and opportunities.
- 2.8 There is a growing older population, particularly in rural areas, and growing diversity. There are parts of the area which are made up of traditional, affluent communities with an ageing population and limited diversity. There are in contrast areas where the population age is more mixed, there is increasing multi culturalism and diversity and the economic opportunities are diverse. Overall there is a growing older population. Housing prices in West Northamptonshire are lower than the national average and are growing more slowly than the national average.
- 2.9 Transport links are very good for travelling to key urban centres within and outside the district, but travelling from place to place in rural areas is more difficult. There are challenges for councillors representing large rural wards in attending meetings at the large number of parish councils within their areas. It is likewise challenging for members who represent wards in areas of higher deprivation to meet the needs of the communities in their area.

3. Summary and Approach

- 3.1 West Northamptonshire Council is proposing 35 wards with either one, two or three councillors per ward. The ward names, the forecast electorate numbers and the variance from the average number of electors per ward are set out at Table 1 below.

Table 1

Ward Name	Members per Ward	Electors 2028	Variance %
Moulton	3	11,614	-8.4%
Welford and Naseby	1	4,195	-0.75%
Spratton	1	4,318	2.17%
Brixworth	1	4,362	3.21%
Crick	1	4,069	-3.73%
Campion	2	8,217	-2.8%
Long Buckby	2	9,093	7.57%
Woodford and Weedon	2	9,253	9.47%
Daventry and Braunston	3	12,041	-5%
Daventry and Norton	3	13,232	4.36%
Kingsthorpe North	3	12,006	-5.31%
Kingsthorpe South	2	8,137	-3.74%
Dallington Spencer	2	8,534	0.96%
Duston East	2	8,247	-2.44%
Duston West and St Crispin	2	9,148	8.22%
West Hunsbury and Upton	2	7,926	-6.23%
St James and Briar Hill	2	8,358	-1.1%
Far Cotton and Delapre	2	8,262	-2.26%
Nene Valley	3	13,134	3.59%
Headlands	2	9,056	7.14%
Talavera	2	8,331	-1.5%
Billing	2	7,873	-7%
Rectory Farm	2	7,666	-9.5%
East Hunsbury and Collingtree	3	11,828	-6.71%
Castle	3	12,105	-4.5%
Boothville and Parklands	2	8,644	2.26%
Kingsley and Semilong	3	11,913	-7.5%
Riverside Park	2	9,263	9.58%
Phippsville	2	8,197	-1.52%
Brackley	3	12,445	-1.85%
Silverstone and Rural South Northamptonshire	2	9,235	9.25%

Deanshanger and Paulerspury	2	9,006	6.8%
Middleton Cheney	2	9,377	10.93%
Towcester	3	13,430	5.5%
Hackleton and Roade	3	12,893	1.94%

- 3.2 A map of West Northamptonshire Council with the proposed ward boundaries is set out at Appendix 1 to this document.
- 3.3 All of the proposed ward patterns are compliant with the criteria set out by the commission. Namely:
- The new pattern of wards should mean that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters as elected members elsewhere in the authority.
 - Ward patterns should – as far as possible – reflect community interests and identities and boundaries should be identifiable.
 - The electoral arrangements should promote effective and convenient local government and reflect the electoral cycle of the council.
- 3.4 West Northamptonshire Council has taken a blended approach to the preparation of its proposal. The Council has primarily relied on human and societal characteristics to define community focal points; shared facilities such as retail, transport, leisure and recreation and community, as well as shared services such as healthcare, education and worship. The Council has sought to identify the geographical and social hubs around which communities have formed in order to inform its proposal.
- 3.5 The Council has also taken account of the natural and built environment but is aware that elements such as roads and waterways can link communities and enhance a sense of community as well as creating potential physical barriers. Likewise, areas of industry can separate groups of dwellings while also creating employment opportunities.
- 3.6 The Council has also noted the opportunity to address some of the issues that are a legacy of the pattern of former district areas within West Northamptonshire. The Council is grateful for the opportunity to be able to recognise community links in its proposal that would previously have gone unrecognised under the structure of districts. For example, the settlement known as Moulton Leys has all of the characteristics of the adjacent village of Moulton, but up until now has been in a different ward as a result of the border between Northampton Borough and Daventry District. There are other such examples where the Council has been pleased to suggest an improved pattern of wards.

Proposed Wards

The following ward patterns are proposed.

3.7 Moulton

3.7.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal agreed by the Council is for a ward that incorporates the village of Moulton as well as a number of smaller surrounding villages. The proposal is for a ward composed of three members representing 11,616 electors. This will result in a variance of -8.4% from the average. The Council considers that this will achieve a good level of electoral equality by 2028.

3.7.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

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, The Council considers 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, the Council proposes to include these parishes within the Moulton ward, noting that the development of Buckton Fields is part of the proposed Kingsthorpe North ward. Similarly Overstone, to the east 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 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. Holcot and Hannington are also linked to Moulton.

3.7.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

The proposal for a large ward of three councillors is 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. The Council therefore considers that this proposal would be effective and convenient in terms of democratic representation.

3.8 Welford and Naseby

And

Spratton

3.8.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this area is for two rural wards composed of one councillor each. The proposed Welford and Naseby ward will contain 4,195 electors, with a variance of around -1%. The proposed Spratton Ward will contain 4,318 electors with a variance of around 2%. The Council 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) and the need to ensure communities in this area are grouped with those who share many of the same challenges and characteristics.

3.8.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

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

The proposed Spratton ward includes the parishes of Maidwell, Arthingworth, Kelmarsh, Lamport, Great Oxendon, Draughton, East Farndon, Walgrave, Old, Haselbech, Cottesbrooke, Creaton, Spratton and Scaldwell. The proposed Welford and Naseby ward is composed of the parishes of Marston Trussell, Sibbertoft, Clipston, Sulby, Naseby, Cold Ashby, Thornby, Elkington, Welford, Stanford, Lilbourne, Clay Coton and Yelvertoft

Spratton and Welford are the two largest settlements in this area and many of the parishes are very sparsely populated. Children in this area will generally travel to their primary schools and there are no secondary schools in the area. Many schools serve several villages within the ward for instance Yelvertoft Primary is linked to the villages of Clay Coton, Lilbourne, Stanford, Yelvertoft; Welford, Sibbertoft & Sulby Endowed covering Elkington, Sibbertoft, Sulby, Welford; and Clipston Endowed linking to Arthingworth, Clipston, Great Oxendon, East Farndon, Hothorpe, Kelmarsh, Marston Trussell, Thorpe Lubenham (note some of these villages fall within North Northants) with each school having low published admissions numbers. Older children may attend secondary schools outside of this area, such as Guilsborough School, or outside of the Council's area such as the secondary schools in the town of Market Harborough. Similarly, there are many community links through the churches within these ward for example the Faxton Benefice covers Arthingworth, Draughton, Farndon, Lamport, Maidwell, Oxendon 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 Oxendon and service 10 connecting Holcot, Hannington, Walgrave and Old each covering many of the nearby villages. The Council considers that the parishes in this area share common community interests by virtue of their similar rural density ratio.

3.8.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

The Council had considered a larger ward served by two councillors, but resolved this would be too large to promote effective and convenient local government. The view here is that two single-member wards 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.

3.9 Brixworth

3.9.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal here is for a single member ward containing 4,362 electors. This would result in a variance of 3.21%. This proposal reflects the view that, as a large village (far larger than other villages in the rural area north of Northampton), Brixworth's interests would be better served by a single councillor who would be able to focus on the particular needs of the village and building strong relationships with the single parish council in this area rather than a number of villages whose needs may be rather different.

3.9.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

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. There are shared facilities including retail, adult and junior football teams and Brixworth Cricket Club. The village has its own library and the village church is one of the oldest and largest Anglo-Saxon churches in the UK.

The Council considers that, as a large village with a strong sense of community and a great deal of shared facilities, Brixworth would best be served as a single-member ward.

3.9.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient 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.

3.10 Crick

3.10.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal is for a single member ward containing 4,069 electors focussed around the village of Crick and including the parishes of Kilsby and Barby and Onley. This would result in a variance of -3.73%. 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.

3.10.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

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

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.

3.10.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

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.

3.11 Campion

3.11.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this area is for a ward composed of two councillors representing a total of 8,217 electors by 2028. This represents a variance of - 2.8%. It is considered that this is a good level electoral equality and also allows parishes with shared characteristics to be grouped 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-member wards.

3.11.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The proposal is for a two-member ward that is moderately large in a geographical sense, but which groups together parishes along the A4500 and M1 motorway. The proposed ward includes the parishes of Bugbrooke, Harpole, Nether Heyford, Upper Heyford, Kislingbury, Brockhall, Rothersthorpe and Flore. These villages, 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 Campion School) in Bugbrooke. For example Bliss Charity School is linked to the villages of Upper and Nether Heyford. Bugbrooke is also the location of a medical centre that is widely used by residents of the surrounding parishes. Further, a church benefice covers Heyford, Flore and Brockhall. Bus D3 connects Flore, Upper Heyford, Nether Heyford, Bugbrooke, Kislingbury and Harpole.

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 Campion School. Harpole is smaller than Bugbrooke but has its own school and some retail space. It is famous for its annual scarecrow festival, which

draws in visitors from the neighbouring areas and beyond. The A5 forms the south-western boundary of this ward.

3.11.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient 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 the Council is proposing should comprise this ward share good transport links and cultural characteristics, as well as facilities such as the school and medical centre.

3.12 Long Buckby

3.12.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this area is for a two-member ward representing a total of 9,093 electors by 2028. This represents a variance of 7.57% over the average. The Council considers this is 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.

3.12.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

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. Brington Primary is linked to Brington, Whilton and Whilton Locks, Brampton Primary covers Church and Chapel Brampton, West Haddon Primary is linked to West Haddon and Winwick and East Haddon Primary to East Haddon and Holdenby. 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. The Council therefore proposes 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, Harlestone, Church with Chapel Brampton, Winwick, Hollowell and Guilsborough.

3.12.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient 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 Council has therefore identified 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 councillors.

3.13 Woodford and Weedon

3.13.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this area is for a two-member ward representing a total of 9,253 electors by 2028. This represents a variance of 9.47% over the average. The Council 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.

3.13.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

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. The remainder of this ward is proposed to include the parishes of Stowe-Nine-Churches, Dodford, Farthingstone, Badby, Everdon, Hellidon, Newnham, Preston Capes, Staverton, Catesby, Charwelton, Litchborough, Cold Higham, Canons Ashby, Maidford, Adstone and Fawsley. These are smaller villages but with strong community links to the two larger villages. 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 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.

3.13.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient 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. The Council feels the interest of electors would be most effectively served by a two-member ward that incorporates the area to the south of Daventry. The proposal is for this ward to cover the area currently covered by the fourteen parishes mentioned above.

3.14 Daventry and Braunston

and

3.15 Daventry and Norton

3.15.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal here is for two wards, each composed of three councillors. 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 total electorate in 2028 will be 12,041, a variance of -5%.

The proposal for Daventry and Norton includes the southern part of Daventry as well as the parishes of Norton. It will result in an electorate of 13,232 by 2028, a variance of 4.36%.

3.15.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

Daventry is a historic market town which has expanded in the late 20th 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 parish of Norton to the east of Daventry. The village has excellent links to Daventry and residents will use amenities in Daventry. St James Infant School in Daventry is linked to Norton. The proposed Daventry North East extension will extend towards Norton.

3.15.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

Most of the two wards the Council is proposing in this area are covered by Daventry and the Daventry Town Council, with less populous areas covered

by parishes. The Council considers 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 councillors and the town/parish councillors.

3.16 Kingsthorpe North

And

3.17 Kingsthorpe South

3.17.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for Kingsthorpe North is for a 3 member ward with an electorate of 12,006 by 2028. This will result in a variance of -5.3%. A two-member ward is also proposed for Kingsthorpe South, which will result in a ward with an electorate of 8,137 and a variance of -3.74%. The Council has taken account of a significant amount of development to the North of the area (Buckton Fields) in order to improve electoral equality for these wards.

3.17.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The northernmost area of Northampton is made up of a number of communities including Kingsthorpe Village, Boughton Green Road, Sunnyside and Spring Park. The area as a whole is commonly referred to as Kingsthorpe, after the longest-established settlement in the area. The communities in this area have strong mutual connections developed around good transport links (the A5199 (Welford Road) and the A508 (Harborough Road)) and shared interests. The main shopping area for both wards is centred around the point these two roads converge, although there are smaller local shopping areas in Leyland Drive, Spring Park, Sunnyside and St David. The main shopping area includes two supermarkets, a post office, two chemists and numerous other shops and cafes. There are a number of well-established pubs and cafes.

Schools in the area include Kingsthorpe Village Primary School, Whitehills Primary School, Sunnyside Primary Academy and Green Oaks Primary Academy. Buckton Fields Primary Academy opened in September 2021 to serve the new development to the north of the Kingsthorpe North ward. Purple Oaks Academy, located next to Green Oaks Academy, is an all-through special school. There is a large secondary school (Kingsthorpe College) on Boughton Green Road. There are community centres in Kingsthorpe Village and Spring Park and a large indoor bowls centre close to the main shopping area. There are numerous places of worship within the area and several large medical centres serving both wards. The area of Whitehills and Spring Park is covered

by a resident's association, so the Council has sought to keep these areas in the Kingsthorpe North ward.

The outer boundaries of the two wards are formed by the railway line to the west and a golf course and area of parkland (Bradlaugh Fields) to the east. The area to the North, covered by the rural parishes of Boughton and Church with Chapel Brampton, forms a natural boundary to the urban area to the south. There are good bus routes within the area which also link the area to the town centre. The proposal is to create two wards that are reflective of the community of Kingsthorpe. These wards are similar to the existing wards but the Council proposes to revise the boundaries to improve electoral equality and to better reflect community identity, for example by including new urban extension to the North that would otherwise be part of a predominantly rural ward.

3.17.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

Aside from resulting in good electoral equality and reflecting the particularly strong sense of community in this area, the proposal will result in effective and convenient local government. Both proposed wards cover the area also covered by Kingshorpe Parish Council. Three members for each ward reflects the density of population in the area without creating wards that are too small to promote effective and convenient local government and which would present an artificial division of the communities.

3.18 Dallington Spencer

3.18.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this ward is a 2 member ward which will result in an electorate of 8,534 by 2028 with a variance in of 1%

3.18.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

This area of Northampton is defined to the eastern side by a railway line (the Northampton Loop of the West Coast Main Line) and the upper branch of the River Nene and to the west by the A428 (Harlestone Road). The area to the North is currently agricultural land but is under development, which is reflected in the Council's forecast for 2028. The southern border is formed by Spencer Bridge Road. There are good transport links within the ward and bus routes to the town centre.

The area includes significant community facilities including local shops and post office facilities at community centres in Kings Heath and Gladstone Road. There are a number of primary schools in the area, including Earl Spencer Primary

School, Kings Heath Primary Academy and St Mary's Catholic School. Secondary school-age pupils from this area will generally attend schools nearby such as Kingsthorpe College, Northampton International Academy or Malcolm Arnold Academy. The Camrose Early Years Centre, which is an important part of the community for families with Young Children, is located on Tenby Road. There are numerous community centres, including Spencer Dallington Community Centre on Spencer Haven.

The eastern side of the area includes the Gladstone Road industrial and retail estate, which provide employment opportunities in the area. It is the site of the large Kings Heath Traincare Facility, owned by Siemens PLC, which provides servicing for trains that operate on the railway line from London Euston to Birmingham and beyond. The DVSA driving test centre for Northampton is also located on this estate, as well as a gym and martial arts centre.

3.18.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

Communities in this area share similarities in terms of demographic makeup and interests. Aside from resulting in good electoral equality and reflecting the strong sense of community in this area, the proposal will result in effective and convenient local government. The proposed ward is almost entirely consistent with the area covered by Northampton Town Council. 2 members for each ward reflects the density of population in this urban area without creating a ward that is too small to promote effective and convenient local government.

3.19 Duston East

and

3.20 Duston West and St Crispin

3.20.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The Council considers that the existing Duston East and Duston West and St Crispin wards are generally reflective of community interests and boundaries but that some improvements could be made that would result in a better reflection of community interests. The proposal is for two two-member ward with adjustments to the boundaries which will result in an electoral variance in Duston East of less than -2.44% and an Electorate of 8,247. In Duston West & St Crispin will result in an electoral variance of -8.2% and an electorate of 9,148.

3.20.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The area of Northampton to the North West of St James is commonly referred to as Duston. This area is served by a well-established Parish Council and residents have access to a number of shared facilities, including a comprehensive retail and services offer on the high street, a community centre, a health and fitness centre, medical facilities and a number of places of worship. The community is served by a number of primary schools and a large secondary school (The Duston Academy). The area also includes a number of industrial estates which provide employment opportunities, including Westgate and Lodge Farm. The area is surrounded largely by agricultural land to the North and West, which forms the external boundary of the area. The Harleston Manor area at the north of these wards is under development and, as it will form part of the urban area of Northampton when complete, it has been allocated to these wards. Roads that serve connectivity or act as boundaries include Harlestone Road to the North East, Weedon Road to the South and Main Road to the West.

The proposal is to create two wards that are reflective of the community of Duston; Duston East and Duston West and St Crispin. These wards are similar to the existing wards but the Council proposes to revise the boundaries to improve electoral equality and to better reflect community identity. For example, the small residential area of Ryehill Spinney, situated on the north-eastern side of Duston East, is currently in the Dallington Spencer ward. However, the area does not have any transport links to the other settlements within that ward and so the Council considers this change will better reflect community interests and boundaries. Similarly the boundary to the south of both wards will be the A4500 (Weedon Road) which serves as the main route into Northampton from the West. The Harlestone Manor development has also been included in these wards.

3.20.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

Aside from resulting in good electoral equality and reflecting the strong sense of community in the Duston and St Crispin area, the proposal will result in effective and convenient local government. Both proposed wards cover areas that are generally also covered by Duston Parish Council and Upton Parish Council. Three members for each ward reflects the density of population in the area without creating wards that are too small to promote effective and convenient local government. The inclusion of Ryehill Spinney will also be an improvement to the convenience of electoral arrangements in the area.

3.21 West Hunsbury and Upton

3.21.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this ward is a 2 member ward which will result in an electorate of 7,926 by 2028 with a variance in of -6.2%.

3.21.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The boundaries for this ward are formed by the M1 motorway to the south and the A4500 (Weedon Road) to the north. The boundary to the west is the rural area between Kislingbury Parish and Upton Parish. The ward incorporates a number of residential areas with common characteristics, including Hunsbury Meadows and Pineham Barns, as well as Upton and Camp Hill. This ward is composed of a group of communities, each of which has its own local centre for shops, services, etc. The area is characterised by the transport links on the western side of Northampton, which lead to the large Swan Valley industrial estate which buffers the residential area from the M1 motorway in this ward. The area includes a number of primary schools and pupils from this area will generally attend nearby secondary schools such as Abbeyfield School and Wootton Park School, both situated on the A5076 (Mereway). Residents in these areas will use facilities in Northampton for shopping, eating out and leisure.

3.21.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

Aside from resulting in good electoral equality, the proposal will result in effective and convenient local government. The proposed wards covers groups of communities that are generally also covered by parish councils such as Upton Parish Council, Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council and West Hunsbury Parish Council. 2 members for this ward reflects the density of population in the area without creating a ward that is too small to promote effective and convenient local government.

3.22 St James and Briar Hill

3.22.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this ward is a two-member ward which will result in an electorate of 8,358 by 2028 with a variance in of -1.1%.

3.22.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The boundaries for this ward are formed by the A5123 dual carriageway to the west and the A5076 to the south. The northern part of this ward includes much of the more established parts of St James, as well as more recently developed land around the former industrial sites including the still extant National Lift Tower. The centre of this ward incorporates the River Nene, the

Grand Union Canal and a number of leisure and walking areas around former gravel pits. There is a considerable amount of industrial development around this area too, which provide employment opportunities. The southern part of this ward incorporates the distinct development of Briar Hill and the two areas are connected via the A5123. The Council considers that while these settlements are somewhat separate from one another, they share characteristics which mean that are well suited to being in a ward together.

3.22.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

Aside from resulting in good electoral equality, the proposal will result in effective and convenient local government. The proposed wards covers groups of communities that are generally also covered by Northampton Town Council. 2 members for this ward reflects the density of population in the area without creating a ward that is too small to promote effective and convenient local government.

3.23 Far Cotton and Delapre

3.23.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this area is a two-member ward which will result in an electorate of 8,262 by 2028 with a variance of -2.26%.

3.23.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The boundaries for this ward are formed by the railway line on the western site, the A45 and Mereway dual carriageways to the south and east and the River Nene to the north. The ward incorporates the communities and Far Cotton and Delapre, as well as the large University of Northampton Waterside Campus and the historic Delapre Abbey site and Delapre Golf Complex. The A508 London Road and the Towcester Road are the main thoroughfares. The number 12 and 12A bus routes link the area to the town centre and also the nearby Brackmills Industrial Estate.

There are a number of schools in the area, including Delapre Primary School, Queen Eleanor Primary Academy and The Abbey Primary School. Abbeyfield School is a large secondary school in the south of the ward. There are shopping facilities and restaurants on St Leonards Road in Far Cotton and a smaller local shopping centre on Gloucester Avenue. A medical centre and post office are also located on Gloucester Avenue. A large supermarket is located just to the south of the ward. Main Road, to the west of the proposed ward, is the location of an industrial estate.

3.23.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

Aside from resulting in good electoral equality, the proposal will result in effective and convenient local government as the proposed wards covers a single, coherent community. 2 members for this ward reflects the density of population in the area without creating a ward that is too small to promote effective and convenient local government.

3.24 Nene Valley

3.24.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this area is a three-member ward which will result in an electorate of 13,134 by 2028 with a variance in of 3.59%

3.24.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The boundaries for this ward are formed by the A45 dual carriageway to the north and east. The ward incorporates the communities of Grange Park, Wootton, Hardingstone. The ward also incorporates the large Brackmills Industrial Estate, which is a major area of employment for Northampton, and land under development for housing to the south of Brackmills. A smaller industrial estate composed mainly of distribution warehouses is located adjacent to Junction 15 of the M1.

There are primary schools in Grange Park, Wootton and Hardingstone. There is a large secondary school (Caroline Chisholm School) in Wootton. There are medical centres in Grange Park and Wootton. Both settlements have a number of shops and there is a small supermarket in Grange Park and another in Wootton. Grange Park has a large community centre, as does Wootton. Wootton is linked to Brackmills by the Number 12A bus route, while Hardingstone and Wootton are linked by the Number 11 and 11A routes.

3.24.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

Aside from resulting in good electoral equality, the proposal will result in effective and convenient local government as the proposed ward covers communities with shared interests. Wootton and Hardingstone are linked by shared facilities and schools.

3.25 Headlands

3.25.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this location is a two-member ward that will result in an electorate of 9,056 by 2028 with a variance in of 7.14% The Council considers that the natural community in this area allows for a ward that promotes good electoral equality while reflecting community interests.

3.25.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The submission for this area uses the boundary of the A43 dial carriageway (Lumbertubs Way) to the eastern side of the ward and Park Avenue to the west. The ward is bracketed by Eastfield Park to the north and Abington Park to the south.

The Council is seeking to make a submission which improves electoral equality in this area, as well as reflecting community interests and identities. Schools in the area include Cedar Road Primary School, Eastfield Academy, Headlands Primary School and Weston Favell Church of England Primary School. The Weston Favell secondary school also serves this area. Community facilities include Abington Library, which is at the centre of this ward on Lindsey Avenue, while Abington Community Centre is nearby on Wheatfield Road. There are bus links to the town centre and Weston Favell Shopping Centre. The ward contains a tennis club and Northampton Saints Sports Club

There is a large allotment site between Birchfield Road East and the A4500 which is used by residents in this ward. There is a local centre on Bushland Road which provides convenience store facilities and take away food, while there is a supermarket, public house and other facilities on the A4500. The Westone Manor Hotels is located in the Westone area to the eastern side of the ward. A large shopping centre (Weston Favell) is located to the east and can be reached via a dedicated footbridge over the A43 Lumbertubs Way.

3.25.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

A three-member ward will reflect the natural communities that have formed in this established part of Northampton, as well as the boundaries that define this area. The Council believes that smaller wards would not be conducive to convenient local government in this area as communities that share much in common would not be grouped together.

3.26 Talavera

3.26.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal is for a two-member ward which takes in dwellings in the areas of Lings, Thorplands, Round Spinney and Southfields. This proposal will result in an electorate of 8,331 by 2028 and an electoral variance of -1.5%.

3.26.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The proposed ward is centred on communities that are enclosed by the A43 Lumbertubs way to the east and the A4500 to the south. Much of the eastern boundary is defined by the Lings Wood open space and Lings Way. The northern boundary is formed by the extent of urban development, beyond which are the parishes of Overstone and Moulton. The ward is served by four primary schools; Thorplands Primary School, Woodvale Primary Academy, Lings Primary School and Lumbertubs Primary School. A large secondary school, Northampton Academy, is located at the southern end of the ward. Billing Brook School, an all-through special school, is located at the centre of the ward and serves the wider area.

The main shopping centre is the Weston Favell centre, located at the south-western end of the ward. This complex also includes restaurants, a library, places of worship and a leisure centre. A medical centre is located adjacent to the shopping centre. A further medical centre and pharmacy is located on Holmecross Road, in the centre of the ward. Overall, the communities in this ward share common characteristics as much of the area was developed in the 1960s and 1970s as part of the expansion of Northampton.

3.26.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

A two-member ward promotes effective and convenient local government in this area as it allows communities with clearly identifiable characteristics to be grouped together without creating wards that are too small to promote effective and convenient local government.

3.27 Billing

3.27.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal is for a two-member ward which covers the areas of, Ecton Brook, Great Billing, Little Billing and Belling. This proposal will result in an electorate of 7873 by 2028 and an electoral variance of -7%.

3.27.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The proposed ward is centred on communities that are enclosed by the A45 Nene Valley Way to the south, the border with North Northamptonshire

Council to the east and the A5076 to the north. The ward is served by several primary schools including Rectory Farm Primary School and Ecton Brook Primary School, which has a campus in Ecton Brook and another in Bellinge. Pupils from this area of secondary school age will generally attend Northampton Academy, which is situated just to the west of the ward, or Weston Favell Academy.

The ward is served by convenience stores in various locations, but the main shopping centre is the Weston Favell centre, which is located to the west of the ward in neighbouring Talavera Ward. This complex also includes restaurants, a library, places of worship and a leisure centre. A medical centre is located adjacent to the shopping centre. A further medical centre, the Brook Medical Centre, is located on Ecton Brook Road in the southern part of the ward. As with neighbouring Talavera, the communities in this ward share common characteristics as much of the area was developed in the 1960s and 1970s as part of the expansion of Northampton, although there are older settlements within the area as well.

3.27.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

A two-member ward promotes effective and convenient local government in this area as it allows communities with clearly identifiable characteristics to be grouped together without creating wards that are too small to promote effective and convenient local government.

3.28 Rectory Farm

3.28.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal is for a two-member ward which covers the areas of Goldings, Overstone Lodge, Blackthorn and Rectory Farm. This proposal will result in an electorate of 7,666 by 2028 and an electoral variance of -9.5%.

3.28.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The proposed ward is centred on communities that are traditionally grouped together for local government purposes in Northampton. The ward is served by a number of primary schools; Rectory Farm Primary School, and Blackthorn Academy. Pupils from this area of secondary school age will generally attend Northampton Academy, which is situated just to the west of the ward, or Weston Favell Academy.

The ward is served by convenience stores in various locations, but the main shopping centre is the Weston Favell centre, which is located to the west of

the ward in neighbouring Talavera Ward. This complex also includes restaurants, a library, places of worship and a leisure centre. As with neighbouring Talavera and Billing wards, the communities in this ward share common characteristics as much of the area was developed in the 1960s and 1970s as part of the expansion of Northampton, although there are older settlements within the area as well.

3.28.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

A two-member ward promotes effective and convenient local government in this area as it allows communities with clearly identifiable characteristics to be grouped together without creating wards that are too small to promote effective and convenient local government.

3.29 **East Hunsbury and Collingtree**

3.29.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The Council believes that recent development in this area presents an opportunity to improve electoral equality while also reflecting community boundaries. The proposal is for a three-member ward which takes in new development in Collingtree, while correcting the current anomaly that links Collingtree with a ward that is clearly separated by a major road and motorway junction (A45). This will result in an electorate of 11,828 electoral variance of -6.71%

3.29.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The proposal for this area reflects the East Hunsbury, which is enclosed by the A45 to the east and the A5076 (Mereway) to the North. The proposal also ensures the settlement of Collingtree is now part of a ward with East Hunsbury, which the Council considers is an improvement over the current arrangement, which links Collingtree with Wootton and Hardingstone to the North; an arrangement which does not take account of the dual carriageway which runs between those settlements. The proposal also recognises the development currently taking place in Collingtree which, when completed, will result in an additional link between Collingtree and East Hunsbury in the form of a road and roundabout junction on Rowtree Road.

To ensure electoral equality, the community of Shelfleys has been incorporated into the proposed division utilising the ancient drover's path known as Green Lane as the Boundary. There is a very active 'Friends of Hunsbury Country Parks' Group within the area of Shelfleys that works and supports Hunsbury Hill Country Park and Shelfleys Park off Ladybridge Drive.

Therefore Hunsbury Hill Country Park, as well as the isolated road of Hunsbury Close, has been included within the proposed division to keep the parks together for representational purposes.

Community and retail facilities at Mereway/Clannell Road are a focal point for both communities and there are three primary schools and one secondary school (Wootton Park School) in the ward, with another secondary school (Abbeyfield) on the ward boundary. There are several medical centres and community centres which are shared by residents of the proposed ward, as well as places of worship and a leisure centre (Danes Camp) which is located centrally in the ward.

3.29.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

The proposed ward covers areas that are covered by Collingtree Parish Council and East Hunsbury Parish Council. A three member ward will reflect the natural sense of community in the area without creating wards that are too small to promote effective and convenient local government. The inclusion of Collingtree is a distinct improvement to the convenience of electoral arrangements in the area.

3.30 Castle

3.30.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this ward is centred on the heart of Northampton. The proposal is for a three-member ward which takes in dwellings in the areas of Spring Lane, Alcombe Road and The Mounts. This proposal will result in an electorate of 12,105 and an electoral variance of -4.5%.

3.30.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The proposed Castle ward is centred on the historic heart of Northampton. As well as encompassing the town's main retail areas, the area also includes important community facilities including community centres, a GP surgery on The Mounts, a large leisure centre and swimming pool, also on The Mounts and a number of primary schools. A large secondary school (Northampton International Academy) is in the border of this ward. The ward includes major transport links such as Northampton Railway Station and North Gate Bus Station. There is significant industry present in this ward, including the large Carlsberg brewery site and the St James Mill Road industrial area. Much of the housing to the east of the ward is characterised by rows of Victorian-era terraces associated with the town's historically important shoe manufacturing industry. This extends into the Abington area as far as Stimpson Avenue.

The southern boundary of the ward is defined by the River Nene, which flows west-to-east before converging with the northern source of the river at the Carlsberg brewery site. To the eastern side, the ward boundary follows the large Northampton General Hospital site, which separates dwellings in this area from other residential areas. The northern boundary is formed by the A428, which is a wide, multi-lane road at this point, and The Racecourse.

3.30.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

A three-member ward based around the heart of Northampton will reflect the natural community groups in this area without creating wards that are too small to promote effective and convenient local government.

3.31 Boothville and Parklands

3.31.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this ward is a two-member ward that will result in an electorate of 8,644 by 2028 with a variance in of 2.26%. The Council has used the opportunity that local government reorganisation in Northamptonshire has presented to improve electoral equality in this area by moving the Moulton Leys development into a new Moulton Ward.

3.31.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The Council is seeking to make a submission which improves electoral equality in this area, as well as reflecting community interests and identities more effectively. The proposed ward shares a boundary to the west with the proposed Kingsthorpe South and Kingsley and Semilong Wards, the boundary of which is formed by a golf course and the large Bradlaugh Fields park. The boundary to the east is formed by the A43 dual carriageway. The area to the north of the proposed ward is covered almost entirely by Moulton Park, a large industrial and business park which forms a natural divide between this ward and the more rural area to the north. The ward has good internal transport links via Talavera Way and Kettering Road North, as well as bus routes to the town centre.

The area covered by the polling district BBP1 (Moulton Leys) is currently located in the Boothville and Parklands Ward. There is no reason related to community identity for this alignment; the reason is historical because the area is within the former Northampton Borough Council Boundary. Moulton Leys is a distinct settlement which is coalescent with the village of Moulton. It

is separated from Northampton by Moulton Way and the adjacent Moulton Park Industrial Estate, 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, including the large Moulton Community Centre on Sandy Hill Lane and local medical centres and schools within Moulton. The Council considers the inclusion of Moulton Leys within a new Moulton Ward would correct this historical anomaly.

The proposed ward includes the community of Spinney Hill, which is encompassed as roads both sides of the Kettering Road largely around the Spinney Hill Pub. The proposal ensures all of the area known as Spinney Hill is included. This corrects a historic anomaly where areas thought of as park of Spinney Hill, such as Hillcrest Avenue and Mayfield were in separate wards.

The proposed ward has a number of primary schools including Boothville Primary School and Parklands Primary School. There are two secondary schools in the area; Northampton School for Girls and Thomas Beckett Catholic School. Both of these schools take pupils from across Northampton. Northampton's main further education college, Northampton College, is also located within this ward in Booth Lane North. There are a number of local convenience shops within the area, as well as a large supermarket on Kettering Road North.

3.31.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

A three-member ward will reflect the natural sense of community and the extant boundaries that define this area. Moving Moulton Leys to the proposed new Moulton ward is a distinct improvement to the convenience of electoral arrangements in the area.

3.32 Kingsley and Semilong

3.32.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this ward is a three-member ward that will result in an electorate of 11,913 by 2028 with a variance in of -7.5%. It is considered that this ward has well-defined boundaries and results in good electoral equality.

3.32.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The western edge of this proposed ward is defined by the River Nene and the railway line that runs north-south through the town's railway station. The

northern boundary is marked by a golf course and Bradlaugh Fields Park and to the east by Kettering Road. At the southern end the ward boundary is formed by The Racecourse, which is a large public park.

The ward incorporates a number of communities including Semilong, Queens Park and Kingsley that share good transport links and are grouped around The Racecourse. The area is relatively densely populated and has a number of primary and secondary schools. Castle Primary school is in the western side of the ward and serves the Semilong area. Kingsthorpe Grove Primary School serves the area to the North, while Kingsley Primary serves the community to the west. The two largest schools, Malcolm Arnold Academy and Northampton International Academy, have both primary and secondary phases.

Services include a number of local convenience shops within the area, as well as a comprehensive high street offer based around Kingsley Park Terrace. Places of worship include the town's Catholic cathedral on the A508. There are a number of popular public houses that serve the area. The northern part of the ward includes the Studland Road industrial estate. The Racecourse dominates the area to the south of this ward and provides space for amateur football, rugby, cricket, tennis, bowls and parkrun. It has changing rooms which have been fitted out to FA standards. It hosts major events such as fireworks displays and the Northampton Town Festival.

3.32.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

A three-member ward will reflect the groups of communities, shared interests and boundaries that define this area, which is also covered by Northampton Town Council. The view is that a smaller ward would not be viable for this area as the shared interests would be better served in a three-member ward.

3.33 Riverside Park

3.33.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this ward is a two-member ward that will result in an electorate of 8169 by 2028 with a variance of -4.5%. The Council considers that this ward has well-defined boundaries and results in good electoral equality.

3.33.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The southern edge of this proposed ward is defined largely by the A45 dual carriage way, except for an area to the south of the road which incorporates

Billing Aquadrome Holiday Park but is otherwise composed of industrial and out-of-town retail development. This part of the ward is enclosed by the River Nene and a number of lakes formed by quarrying of sand and gravel. To the north of the ward is Abington Park, a large park which houses a museum, café, play equipment and a lake. The western end of the ward is defined by the A5095, which borders the proposed Phippsville Ward. The proposed ward includes communities around the Billing Road area, which is composed mainly of Victorian-era terraced housing, and Abington Vale which is predominantly post-war development.

The ward includes several primary schools such as Abington Vale Primary School and Bridgewater Primary School. The principal shopping area is focussed around the A4500, which includes local and speciality shops, banks and restaurants. There is a local centre in Abington Vale on Landcross Drive, which includes shops and a post office. The area is served by the Number 5 bus, which links the ward to the town centre and also Weston Favel Centre.

3.33.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

A two-member ward will reflect the groups of communities, shared interests and boundaries that define this area, which is also covered by Northampton Town Council. The Council received helpful representations from a local member emphasising the links between Weston Favell village and Abington Vale. It was variously proposed to create a single-member and a three-member ward in this area but feedback indicated this would result in the communities of Abington Vale and Weston Favell being split. A two-member ward promotes effective and convenient local government in this area as it allows communities with clearly identifiable characteristics to be grouped together without creating wards that are too small to promote effective and convenient local government.

3.34 Phippsville

3.34.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal for this area is for a two-member ward that will result in an electorate of 9,291 by 2028 with a variance in of 9.9%. A range of options have been considered for this area, including a single-member ward, but it is proposed that a two-member ward of 9,291 electors is the best reflection of the communities and boundaries in this area

3.34.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The proposal for Phippsville is bordered by the A5095 (Park Avenue) on the eastern side. The County Ground, home of Northamptonshire County Cricket Club, is located at the eastern side of the ward. The southern boundary is formed by the Bedford Road. The large church of St Matthews, constructed by the Phipps family who owned a brewery in Northampton, is located in this ward. Much of the housing in the area was also constructed by the family, hence the name Phippsville. The main shopping area is centred around Kingsley Park Terrace, which forms the border of the ward, and includes convenience shops, specialist shops and restaurants. The ward is composed of a mixture of well-established housing. Northampton School for Boys is a large secondary school in this area which serves the wider community. Vernon Terrace Primary School and Barry Primary School are the primary schools in this area. Several bus routes link the area to the town centre.

Northampton General Hospital is located within this ward, which is a major employer. St Andrews Healthcare, a charity providing specialist care provider for those with mental health conditions and learning disabilities, is located to the east of the main hospital site. This large facility is also a major employer.

3.34.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

A two-member ward will reflect the distinct community in this area, which is also covered by Northampton Town Council. The view is that a two-member ward would be the most viable option for this area as the interests would be better served than in a three-member ward.

3.35 Brackley

3.35.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The current Brackley ward is coterminous with the area covered by Brackley Town Council. The ward has been identified as having significant electoral inequality at present, due largely to the amount of development that has taken place in the last decade. However, the electorate forecasting tool suggests that, if no changes are made to the Brackley Ward and continues to be represented by three councillors, it will be within 2% of the average electorate by 2028 (with 12,445 electors). This is partly due to electorate change and also a result of the reduction in the number of councillors from 93 to 77.

3.35.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

Brackley is an important market town in the south of the Council's area. Historically known for wool and lace-making, Brackley is now home to the

Mercedes AMG Petronas Formula 1 racing team and also houses facilities for the Aston Martin Formula 1 team. The town has four primary schools and a large secondary school, as well as facilities such as medical centres, a library leisure centre and shops.

3.35.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

The Council considers that making a proposal that results in no change to the Brackley Ward will improve electoral equality and will continue to take account of development in the area. The ward will support efficient and convenient local government as the ward does not include any rural areas outside of the town.

3.36 Silverstone and Rural South Northamptonshire

3.36.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal is for a two-member ward with an electorate of 9,647 by 2028. This will produce a variance of around 14.13%. The Council's view is that a two-member ward in this area will allow that member to focus on the particular interests of residents in that ward.

3.36.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The proposal is for a ward composed of the following parish areas: Silverstone, Whittlebury, Abthorpe, Syresham, Whitfield, Helmdon, Wappenham, Bradden, Slapton, Woodend, Weston and Weedon, Sulgrave, Moreton Pinkney, Culworth, Chipping Warden and Edgcote, Eydon, Aston le Walls, Boddington and Byfield.

In the southern part of this ward, the parishes are linked by the A43 as it runs from Towcester to Brackley. These areas therefore have similar interests in terms of traffic and development. Silverstone and Whittlebury have much in common as they are located either side of Silverstone Circuit, and therefore have a mutual interest in development and traffic issues in that area as the circuit is home to many industrial units as well as the race track. There are primary schools in Silverstone, Syresham and Whittlebury. Secondary school age pupils in this area generally attend Sponne School in Towcester, but Silverstone UTC is also located within the ward within the grounds of the race track. Residents in this area will generally travel to Towcester for shopping and services, but also Brackley. There is a medical centre in Silverstone, which is linked to the Towcester surgery. The southern

boundary of this proposed ward is formed by the county boundary with Buckinghamshire.

The remaining area covered by this proposed ward borders Warwickshire to the west and the proposed Towcester ward forms the eastern boundary. The Council considers this ward would be an effective solution for this area as it is composed mainly of interlinked rural areas which share common characteristics and features. There are no large settlements in this area, with Byfield being the largest village.

The Council considered representations from its members about the links between Greens Norton and some of the parishes in this area. Unfortunately it was not possible to include Greens Norton within this parish due to council size considerations.

3.36.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

The Council considers that the communities in this area share sufficient characteristics and interests that the most efficient local government arrangement for this area will be a two-member ward.

3.37 Deanshanger and Paulerspury

3.37.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal in this area is for a two-member ward which covers the south-eastern part of West Northamptonshire, which is enclosed by the county boundary with Buckinghamshire. The ward is composed of the parishes of Deanshanger and Potterspury, Yardley Gobion, Alderton, Cosgrove, Grafton Regis, Old Stratford, Wicken and Paulerspury. This will result in an electorate of 9,006 by 2028 with a variance of 6.8%.

3.37.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

Settlements within the parishes of Alderton, Old Stratford, Yardley Gobion, Cosgrove and Grafton Regis are linked by the A508. This is a busy route between the A5 Old Stratford Roundabout and Junction 15 of the M1. The route suffers from congestion issues which is a common factor for these parishes. Alderton also links to the A5, which in turn links Paulerspury and Potterspury together. The issues caused by this similarly busy route are a common factor for these communities.

There are primary schools in Cosgrove, Paulerspury, Potterspury and Old Stratford. Children of secondary school in these areas generally attend

Elizabeth Woodville School in Deanshanger but may travel across the Buckinghamshire border to schools in Wolverton. Amenities in these villages include local convenience stores and many villages have halls around which community activities are organised. Residents will generally travel to Milton Keynes for shopping needs, although Stony Stratford and Wolverton also provide shopping and services.

The Council considered evidence from local members which emphasised the links between Deanshanger and Old Stratford, including bus routes and healthcare facilities in Old Stratford that serve both communities.

3.37.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

As a promontory at the outer edge of West Northamptonshire, it is logical that these parishes should be grouped together for reasons of effective and convenient local government. The Council has included other parishes that share interests and characteristics in order to propose a viable ward in terms of electorate numbers.

3.38 Middleton Cheney

3.38.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal in this area is for a two-member ward which covers the south-western part of West Northamptonshire, which is enclosed by the county boundary with Oxfordshire. The ward is composed of the parishes of Aynho, Kings Sutton, Newbottle, Warkworth, Croughton, Evenley, Farthinghoe, Hinton In the Hedges, Marston Saint Lawrence, Middleton Cheney, Thenford, Overthorpe, Chacombe, Thorpe Mandeville, Radstone and Greatworth and Halse. This will result in an electorate of 9,377 by 2028 with a variance of slightly over 10%.

3.38.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The boundary to the north, south and west of the ward is formed by the border between Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. To the east of the ward there is a clearly defined boundary with the proposed Brackley ward. There are good transport links through the ward from Middleton Cheney to Brackley via the A422.

The northern portion of this predominantly rural ward has the larger village of Middleton Cheney at its centre. Many surrounding communities look to Middleton Cheney for facilities such as the post office, pharmacy, library and the area's main secondary school, Chenderit School. Middleton Cheney also has

a sports and social club, village hall, shop and pharmacy. There are primary schools in Chacombe, Kings Sutton and Croughton.

Kings Sutton has a small railway station which connects the area to Banbury and also to London and Birmingham. Chacombe, Middleton Cheney, Farthinghoe and Brackley are linked by the Number 500 bus route from Banbury. Residents in this area will travel to Banbury for shopping, restaurant and entertainment facilities and to use Horton General Hospital, which is the main hospital for the area. The M40 forms the main major road link for the area.

3.38.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

The Council considers the proposed ward supports effective and convenient local government by maintaining links between rural communities with common interests and issues. This ward also forms a cluster of parishes on the border with Oxfordshire, which would logically be grouped together.

3.39 Towcester

3.39.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The Council has proposed a ward pattern for Towcester that recognises its status as an important market town in an otherwise rural ward. The Council is proposing a ward composed of three councillors with a total of 13,018 electors and a variance of just under 3.0%.

3.39.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

Towcester is a historic market town in the southern part of West Northamptonshire. Located on the ancient Watling Street route (the modern A5), the town is one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in the country and this creates a strong sense of community. Aside from the A5, which runs through the town centre, the A43 borders the town to the east. A relief road is being constructed to the south of the town to join up the A43 and the A5 and provide a reduction in traffic congestion within the town. Towcester is expected to see significant growth in housing and related development and this is reflected in the forecast electorate figures. Towcester has a wide range of facilities including a large secondary school, primary schools, medical centres and shops and restaurants which serve the local area. There is a leisure centre to the west of the town and Towcester Racecourse is located a short way down the A5, within sight of the town. In the Georgian and Victorian era, Towcester was a major stopover for

stagecoaches and mail coaches. Many coaching inns from that period remain extant in the town.

Aside from the area covered by Towcester Town Council, the proposal includes the parishes of Easton Neston, Pattishall, Gayton, Tiffield, Blakesley and Greens Norton. Greens Norton is a larger village with a primary school, medical centre, community centre and post office. Representations were received from local members emphasising the links between Blakesley and Greens Norton. Greens Norton has, in turn, good links with Towcester and residents of both areas will use facilities in Towcester. The parishes of Easton Neston and Tiffield, to the north of Towcester, are linked via the A43. Gayton and Tiffield have primary schools which share a headteacher. Tiffield is also the site of a Special Educational Needs school which serves the wider area. A further Special School is also planning on the adjacent site.

3.39.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

The Council considers it is important for a town such as Towcester to be part of a single ward rather than divided into two or more parts. The Council believes a three-member ward covering the entire town and closely linked neighbouring areas will promote effective and convenient local government.

3.40 Hackleton and Roade

3.40.1 How does the proposal achieve good electoral equality?

The proposal in this area is for a three-member ward which will result in a ward of 12,893 electors by 2028. This will result in a variance of 1.94%.

3.40.2 How does the proposal reflect community interests and boundaries?

The proposal for this area would be for a ward formed of parishes around the A508 and Junction 15 of the M1 Junction, as well as parishes further east. Many of these parishes have a number of common interests, including the traffic issues caused by the A508 and proximity of the busy motorway junction, but particularly the development of the nationally significant rail freight interchange adjacent to the motorway junction. There is a bypass under construction at Roade which is linked to these developments.

The proposal would join together the parishes of Roade, Blisworth, Milton Malsor, Shutlanger, Stoke Bruerne, Courteenhall, Ashton, Hartwell, Quinton,

Hackleton, Piddington, Yardley Hastings, Denton, Brafield on the Green, Castle Ashby, Cogenhoe and Whiston, Little Houghton and Great Houghton.

Roade is the largest settlement in the area. It has good links to the other parishes in the ward and facilities including a medical centre, community centre, football club, shops and public houses. There is a primary school and a secondary school (Elizabeth Woodville Roade Campus) that serves the neighbouring parishes. There are primary schools in Blisworth and Milton Malsor as well. Many of these settlements are served by convenience stores and there is a post office at Road and Blisworth.

The parishes that make up the rest of the proposed ward are bordered to the east and south by the boundaries with North Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire. The River Nene forms the northern boundary. The M1 motorway runs to the west. The area is predominantly rural, with no large settlements that are dominant. Connectivity is via the A428 which links Northampton and Bedford, and the Newport Pagnell Road, which links Northampton with Newport Pagnell and Milton Keynes.

Most of these villages in this part of the ward have relatively few services but there are local shops in Hackleton, Yardley Hastings, Brafield, Stoke Bruerne and Cogenhoe. Many villages have community halls and other facilities. There are primary schools in Ashton, Little Houghton, Hartwell, Hackleton, Denton, Cogenhoe and Yardley Hastings. Children from the area will attend a variety of secondary schools including Caroline Chisholm School on the outskirts of Northampton. Stoke Bruerne has a canal museum and is a point of interest for tourists and day trippers.

3.40.3 How does the proposal promote effective and convenient local government?

The Council considers that a three-member ward would serve the villages in this area that share common interests and concerns. The council feels this would promote effective and convenient local government for those residents.