

Review of Parishes and Related Matters
Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Review of Newark Town Council Boundaries

Terms of Reference

1.0 Introduction

The Council will undertake a Community Governance Review of the Newark Town Council boundaries in light of the planning permission and site layout in respect of the development on land to the south of Newark.

In addition the Review will consider the boundary between Newark Town Council and Balderton Parish Council around the proposed new development site at Highfields School and the boundary with Winthorpe and Langford Parish Council.

In undertaking the Review, the Council will be guided by Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972 and Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission.

These Terms of Reference will set out the matters on which the Review is to focus.

2.0 Why is the Council Undertaking the Review?

The Review is being undertaken following the receipt of a request from Newark Town Council for a review of its boundaries in three areas.

3.0 What will the Review Consider?

The Review is to consider changes to parish boundaries arising from:-

- (a) the implication of the planning permission and site layout for the new housing development on land south of Newark;
- (b) the implication of the proposed new housing development known as the Highfields School site; and

In addition the Review will consider the boundary between Newark and Winthorpe and Langford parishes.

The Review will also need to consider the electoral arrangements including the number of Councillors to be elected and any warding arrangements of all the affected parishes.

4.0 Maps

The following maps have been produced to assist with the review process:

Map 1 showing proposed parish boundary changes for land south of Newark

- Map 2 showing proposed parish boundary changes for the Highfields School site
- Map 3 showing proposed parish boundary changes between Newark and Winthorpe and Langford
- Map 4 showing existing parish warding arrangements for Newark and Balderton
- Map 5 showing new parish warding arrangements for Newark and Balderton that will be effective from the elections scheduled in May 2019

5.0 Further Information

Land South of Newark (Map 1)

The current boundary between Newark and Balderton parishes follows the former line of Bowbridge Lane. This road has now been realigned to move further west before it joins with the new southern link road. This results in the current parish boundary cutting through the new housing development. Newark Town Council consider that a more appropriate boundary would be to follow the line of the Sustrans route. This would result in the whole of the new development known as 'Middlebeck' falling within the Newark Town Council Boundary.

The Town Council also consider that the boundary should follow the Sustrans route until it meets with the existing boundaries with Balderton, Hawton and Fernwood.

Highfields School Site (Map 2)

The existing boundary between Newark and Balderton parishes cuts through the Highfields School site. Newark Town Council considers that the whole of the Highfields School site should fall within Balderton Parish along with numbers 92 – 102 London Road, Newark. Consideration will need to be given to address anomalies this would create with these properties potentially moving into Balderton Parish.

Boundary with Winthorpe Parish Council (Map 3)

Newark Town Council consider that the realignment of the boundary with the A1 should extend to South Muskham which will change the existing boundary with Winthorpe parish.

It is important to note that no properties are affected by this proposed boundary change.

6.0 Parish Governance within the District

The Council wants to ensure that there is clarity and transparency to the areas that parish councils represent and that the electoral arrangements are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by the electorate.

The Council is aiming to put in place strong and clearly defined boundaries.

In their White Paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities, the Government emphasised that "Ultimately, the recommendations made in a community governance review ought to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services".

7.0 Who undertakes the Review?

The Council are to establish a working group of Members to consider the representations received during the review process and to recommend to the Council both draft and final recommendations. The working group will not have delegated powers other than to oversee the review process and will make recommendations directly to the Council.

8.0 How the Council proposes to conduct consultations during the Review?

In arriving at its recommendations in a Review, the Council will need to take account of the views of local people. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the Review (for instance the local Member of Parliament and the County Council) and to take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Council will consult in an appropriate manner within the Review area ensuring that those most affected are given the opportunity to respond. Any decisions made and the reasons for those decisions will be published following the Review.

In accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, representations received in connection with the Review will be taken into account, and consultees will be informed of the outcome of the review. The mechanism for this will be through the Council's website, issuing press releases, personal communication where appropriate and through the lodging of key documents on deposit at parish council offices etc.

9.0 Indicative Timetable for the Review

12/12/17	Terms of Reference and Timetable for Review to be approved by the Council
18/12/17	Council to publish Terms of Reference Consultation begins with initial submissions being invited
09/02/18	Closing date for submission of initial submissions
Week commencing 12 February 2018	Member Working Party to consider submissions and recommend to Council Draft Proposals
08/03/18	Council to approve Draft Proposals
12/03/18	Council to publish Draft Proposals Consultation begins on Draft Proposals
20/04/18	Closing date for submissions on Draft Proposals
Week commencing 23 April 2018	Member Working Party to consider submissions on Draft Proposals and recommend final proposals to Council
15/05/18	Council to approve and publish final Recommendations
May/June 2018	Council to seek the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for any parish ward changes / changes in electoral arrangements

May/June 2018	Interested parties (including Electoral Commission informed of the outcome of the Review) Reorganisation Order is made
01/12/18	Publication of Register of Electors incorporating any boundary changes
May 2019	Elections to Parishes (under any new arrangements)

10.0 Electoral Arrangements

Present Structure of Relevant Parishes

Newark Town Council

Newark Town Council has 18 elected Members divided as follows:

Beacon Ward =	6 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 1,082
Bridge Ward =	4 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 1,203
Castle Ward =	2 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 1,233
Devon Ward =	6 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 1,112

Balderton Parish Council

Balderton Parish Council has 15 elected Members divided as follows:

North Ward =	8 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 484
South Ward =	7 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 550

Winthorpe and Langford Parish Council

Winthorpe and Langford Parish Council has 9 Members divided as follows:

Winthorpe Ward=	7 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 78
Langford Ward=	2 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 36

Electorate figures are taken from the register published on 1 December 2017.

The current Parish Warding arrangements are illustrated in Map 4.

Future Structure of Newark Town and Balderton Parish Councils

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has conducted a Further Electoral Review of the County Council. The Final Recommendations have direct implications on the electoral arrangements for Newark Town Council and Balderton Parish Council.

With effect from the elections scheduled to take place in May 2019 the following new arrangements will apply:

Newark Town Council

Newark Town Council will retain 18 elected Members as present but divided as follows:

Beacon Ward =	4 Members
Bridge Ward =	3 Members
Castle=	2 Members
Devon=	5 Members
East=	1 Member
South=	1 Member
Magnus=	1 Member
Sleaford=	1 Member

Balderton Parish Council

Balderton Parish Council will retain 15 elected Members as present but divided as follows:

Milton Ward =	1 Member
North Ward =	4 Members
Rowan=	3 Members
South=	7 Members

These new Parish Warding arrangements are illustrated in Map 5.

Consideration of electoral arrangements will need to be determined in light of the changes made by the Further Electoral Review as described above.

11.0 Parish Precepts Illustrations for affected Parishes (for 2017/18)

Parish	Band A Precept	Band D Precept	Band H Precept
Balderton	£57.51	£86.26	£172.52
Newark	£71.21	£106.81	£213.62

12.0 Reorganisation of Community Governance Orders and Commencement

The Review will be completed when the Council adopts the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. Copies of this Order, any maps which affect the order of the detail and the document which sets out the reasons for the decisions that the Council has taken will be deposited at Castle House and on the Council's website.

The Order would need to be effective as soon as practicable to ensure that when residents begin to occupy homes in the development areas they are located within the appropriate parish.

13.0 List of Consultees

Nottinghamshire County Council
All affected Parish Councils
Local government electors (via the District Council website etc)
Voluntary Organisations / Community Groups
Local Residents Associations

Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Primary and Secondary Schools in Newark
Appropriate outside bodies

14.0 How to Contact Us

Contact details at the Council for the duration of the review are as follows:

Nigel Hill – Business Manager - Democratic Services Tel 01636 655243 Email nigel.hill@nsdc.info

15.0 Date of Publication of Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference due to be published 18 December 2017.