

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

Review of Newark Town Council Ward Boundaries and Electoral Arrangements

Terms of Reference

1.0 Introduction

The Council will undertake a Community Governance Review of the Newark Town Council ward boundaries and electoral arrangements in light of future development of housing in the town and the current electoral arrangements.

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 given the current ward boundaries and the electoral arrangements for Newark Town Council. The context being that the current South Ward continues to see new development whilst development planned in the East Ward has yet to come forward, but both Wards are represented by one Member under existing arrangements.

3.0 What will the Review Consider?

The Review is to consider the current Town Council ward boundaries and the electoral arrangements with consideration as to the appropriate number of Ward Members for each of the Wards and the number of electors to reflect good community cohesion.

4.0 Maps

The following map has been produced to assist with the review process:

Map 1 showing the existing Ward boundaries.

5.0 Further / Background Information

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England conducted a review on the electoral arrangements for Nottinghamshire County Council under Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The Commission's review was published in November 2015, and their final recommendation and subsequent Nottinghamshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2016 gave effect to the following warding / electoral arrangements for Newark Town Council as follows:

Beacon - 4 Members; Bridge - 3 Members; Castle - 2 Members; Devon - 5 Members; East - 1 Member; Magnus - 1 Member; Sleaford - 1 Member; and South - 1 Member.

Following a request by Newark Town Council to review its boundaries given development on land south of Newark, the District Council undertook a Community Governance Review in 2017 and in so doing, made a Community Governance Order on 28 November 2018, which made provision for the electoral arrangements for Newark Town Council to be as follows for the full election to be held on 2 May 2019:

Beacon – 5 Members; Bridge - 3 Members; Castle - 2 Members; Devon - 6 Members; Magnus - 1 Member; and Sleaford - 1 Member.

The reason for the change to the electoral arrangements were that there were insufficient electors in the East and South Wards to return a Town Councillor, but the Town Council wished to retain 18 Town Councillors.

Ahead of the full election held on 4 May 2023, electorate figure showed that there were sufficient electors registered in the South Ward, but this was not the case in the East Ward given the anticipated housing development had not taken place. Given that, the 2023 election was conducted in accordance with the following electoral arrangements:

Beacon - 5 Members; Bridge - 3 Members; Castle - 2 Members; Devon - 5 Members; Magnus - 1 Member; Sleaford - 1 Member; and South - 1 Member.

6.0 Scope /Purpose of the Review

The District Council wishes to regularise the warding and electoral arrangements for Newark Town Council given current numbers on the electoral register and future housing growth projections.

Using the revised Register of Electors published on 1 December 2024, the latest local government electorate figures are as follows:

Beacon - 4,934; Bridge - 3,842; Castle - 2,686; Devon - 6,588; East - 4; Magnus - 1,973; Sleaford - 1,013, South - 1,006.

Given that, the elector ratios based on the current electoral arrangements are as follows:

Beacon Ward =	5 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 987
Bridge Ward =	3 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 1,281
Castle Ward =	2 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 1,343
Devon Ward =	5 Members	Ratio to electors 1: 1,318
East Ward =	0 Members	
Magnus Ward=	1 Member	Ratio to electors 1: 1,973
Sleaford Ward=	1 Member	Ratio to electors 1: 1,013
South Ward=	1 Member	Ratio to electors 1: 1,006

7.0 Housing Growth

South Ward – construction continues on the strategic urban extension Land South of Newark, known as Middlebeck. As set out in the table below 534 dwellings have been constructed so far at the site and a further 307 are anticipated to come forward between 2024/5 and 2028/9, 686

between 2029/30 and 2032/33 and post 2033 a further 1623 dwellings are predicted to come forward.

Housing Growth in Newark South Ward as at 1 April 2024 – NAP2a Land South of Newark – Middlebeck							
Planning Application Ref	Address	Details	Status	Already Built	Total in 5-year period 2024/25 -29/30	Rest of Plan Period 2029/30-2032/33	Post Plan Period
10/01586/OUTM 14/01978/OUTM	NAP2a - (Land South of Newark) Residual	NAP2a - Urban & Civic - Outline planning permission for up to 3,150 dwellings etc.	Already completed parcels	382			
10/01586/OUTM 14/01978/OUTM	NAP2a - (Land South of Newark) Residual	Residual of NAP2a - Urban & Civic - Outline planning permission for up to 3,150 dwellings etc.	Residual Outline for 2,223 dwellings. 3 parcels currently under construction see below	Not Started	25	575	1,623
14/01978/OUTM 19/01164/RMAM	NAP2a - (Land South of Newark) Phase 1, Parcels 4a & 4b	Countryside Properties - Reserved matters permission for 160 dwellings.	Under Construction.	147	13	0	0
14/01978/OUTM 21/02093/RMAM	NAP2a - (Land south of Newark) Phase 1, Parcel 6	Bellway Homes - Reserved matters permission for 104 dwellings.	Under Construction.	5	99	0	0
14/01978/OUTM 23/01161/RMAM	NAP2a - (Land south of Newark) Phase 3, Parcel 5	Miller Homes - Reserved matters permission for 281 dwellings.	Under Construction	None completed	170	111	0
Sub Total				534	307	686	1623
Overall Total for Land South of Newark							3,150

East Ward – At present the strategic site Land East of Newark does not have planning permission and it is not anticipated that development will commence in the next five years. At present the

Council anticipates that following any consent 275 dwellings will be delivered between 2029/30 and 2032/33.

8.0 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 and electoral arrangements.

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”.

9.0 Who undertakes the Review?

The Council’s General Purposes Committee will approve this Terms of Reference for the review and the Members on that Committee will consider the representations received during the consultation process with the Full Council approving both draft and final recommendations.

10.0 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 and accessible 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.

11.0 Timetable for the Review

12 December 2024	Terms of Reference and Timetable for Review to be approved by the General Purposes Committee
7 January 2025	Council to publish the Terms of Reference Consultation begins with initial submissions being invited
18 February 2025	Closing date for submission of initial submissions

20 March 2025	General Purposes Committee Members to be consulted on initial submissions
24 March 2025	Council to publish Draft Proposals Consultation begins on Draft Proposals
2 May 2025	Closing date for submissions on Draft Proposals
19 June 2025	General Purposes Committee to be consider submissions on Draft Proposals and to make final Recommendations to the Full Council
15 July 2025	Full Council to approve and publish final Recommendations.
July – August 2025	Interested parties including the Electoral Commission informed of the outcome of the Review Reorganisation Order is made.
May 2027	Elections to be held if required

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.

13.0 List of Consultees

Nottinghamshire County Council
Newark Town Council
Local government electors / residents (via the District Council website etc)
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

14.0 How to Contact Us

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

Nigel Hill – Business Manager – Elections & Democratic Services Email voting@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

15.0 Date of Publication of Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference due to be published 7 January 2025.