

## Cannock Chase District Council

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Steve Partridge  
**E-mail:** stevepartridge@cannockchasedc.gov.uk  
**Postcode:** XXXXXXXXXX  
**Organisation Name:** Cannock Chase DC

### Comment text:

This is a submission on behalf of Cannock Chase District Council. A politically balanced working group considered the LGBCE's draft proposals and made a submission to the Council which was supported by the majority of Councillors present. (A link to a copy of the full report can be found below.) Generally, the Council was in agreement with the LGBCE's initial recommendations, subject to the following: (A) Cannock South / West wards: move the proposed Manor Avenue / Danilo Road / Newhall Street / High Green Court boundary up to the southern side of Park Road, to its junction with Dartmouth Road. This would bring the Cannock town centre area entirely within the Cannock South ward and have minimal impact in terms of elector numbers given the small number of residential properties within the area concerned. (B) Cannock North / West wards: Sankey Road, Hardie Green, and Smillie Place be moved into Cannock North ward (currently proposed to be in Cannock West ward). The proposed boundary line be moved to Common Lane / Heath Gap Road / Cannock Road, up to the junction with Old Fallow Road. Residents in these areas strongly identified with the Chadsmoor community and this was borne out by their proximity to the centre of Chadsmoor (0.3 of a mile). This was consistent with the original Council proposal submitted to the Commission. (C) Ward names: (i) Chadsmoor (instead of Cannock North). (ii) Cannock Park and Old Fallow (instead of Cannock West). (iii) Cannock, Longford and Bridgtown (instead of Cannock South). This was a majority decision of the Council and it is recognised that individual Councillors and / or political groups may also choose to submit their own comments.

### Uploaded Documents:

**[https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download\\_document?file=draft%2F1675426527\\_04-Local+Boundary+Review+Wrg+Grp+to+LGBCE+Rpt+Council+180123.pdf](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1675426527_04-Local+Boundary+Review+Wrg+Grp+to+LGBCE+Rpt+Council+180123.pdf)**

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Governance &amp; Corporate Services</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Partridge</b>
<b>Contact Number:</b>	
<b>Portfolio Leader:</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Report Track:</b>	<b>Council: 18/01/23</b>

## **Council**

**18 January 2023**

### **Local Boundary Review Working Group Proposals to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a New Pattern of Wards in Cannock Chase**

## **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present for consideration proposals to be forwarded to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in respect of ward boundaries and names in response to the Commission's proposals for a new pattern of wards in the District.

## **2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That the proposals detailed in paragraph 5.3 be approved for recommendation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as a Council submission in response to the Commission's proposals for a new pattern of wards in Cannock Chase.

## **3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations**

### **Key Issues**

- 3.1 During the summer, the LGBCE undertook an initial consultation process seeking views on local communities to help inform their process for determining a new pattern of wards for the District.
- 3.2 A Local Boundary Review Working Group was set up to determine a Council proposal. While it wasn't possible to achieve full consensus on all the proposed wards / boundaries, there was a large degree of consistency which enabled a "majority" set of proposals to be agreed. The proposal was agreed by Council on 20 July 2022.
- 3.3 The outcome of the consultation, and the Commission's accompanying proposals, were published in late November 2022.

- 3.4 A fresh consultation on the proposals opened on 29 November 2022 and runs until 6 February 2023.
- 3.5 The Local Boundary Review Working Group met on 4 January 2023 to consider the LGBCE proposals and have reached a “majority view” on comments to be fed back as part of the consultation process. These primarily relate to proposed names for the three new Cannock wards and proposed changes to 2 ward boundaries

### **Reason for Recommendation**

- 3.6 To provide Council consensus proposals, where this is possible, to the LGBCE in respect of ward boundaries and ward names as part of the next phase of the Commission’s review of electoral arrangements for the District.

## **4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The LGBCE review of electoral arrangements, including ward boundaries, is intended to ensure electoral equality for voters, providing for the proper governance of the Council.

## **5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 As with the initial consultation phase, the Local Boundary Review Working Group met to consider the proposals and seek areas of consensus in order that a Council submission for this stage could be prepared. The meeting took place on Wednesday 4 January 2023. Conservative, Labour, and Liberal Democrat members were present, with apologies having been submitted from members of the Chase Community Independents & Green Group.
- 5.2 The Group considered in turn boundary changes suggested by the Commission in: Cannock South/West; Cannock North/West; Cannock South/Hawks Green; Cannock West/Hawks Green; and Hawks Green/Heath Hayes East & Wimblebury. The Group also discussed ward names.
- 5.3 Majority / full consensus support was given to the following:
- Cannock South / West - moving the proposed Manor Avenue / Danilo Road / Newhall Street / High Green Court boundary up to the southern side of Park Road, to its junction with Dartmouth Road. This would bring the Cannock town centre area entirely within the Cannock South ward and have minimal impact in terms of elector numbers given the small number of residential properties within the area concerned.
  - Cannock North / West - Sankey Road, Hardie Green, and Smillie Place be moved into Cannock North ward (currently proposed to be in Cannock West ward). The proposed boundary line be moved to Common Lane / Heath Gap Road / Cannock Road, up to the junction with Old Fallow Road. The reason for this proposal is that residents in these areas strongly identify with the Chadsmoor community and this is borne out by their proximity to the centre of Chadsmoor (0.3 of a mile). This is consistent with the original Council proposal submitted to the LGBCE.

- Ward names:
  1. Chadsmoor (instead of Cannock North)
  2. Cannock Park and Old Fallow (instead of Cannock West)
  3. Cannock, Longford and Bridgtown (instead of Cannock South) - one objection was raised to this proposed name change.

5.4 Other points raised were:

- Cannock South / West - support was given to the LGBCE's proposal that the boundary line at the edge of the District move to Longford Road and Gorsey Lane.
- Cannock South / Hawks Green - reluctant support was given to the LGBCE's proposals to move the Rumer Hill estate into the Hawks Green ward from Cannock South ward. It was noted that residents on the estate were unlikely to identify with Hawks Green but understood it had been proposed to improve electoral variance in that part of the District.
- Cannock West / Hawks Green - concern was raised about the proposal to move Pebble Mill Drive and adjoining roads into Hawks Green given that residents were more likely to identify with living in a 'Cannock' ward. No consensus view was however reached on this matter.
- Hawks Green / Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury - concern was raised about the proposal to move Badgers Way and adjoining roads into Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury given that the proposed Hawks Green ward would have a -8% variance from the projected electorate average. No consensus view was reached on this matter either.
- Ward names - support was given to the LGBCE's proposals for the following:
  - Brereton & Ravenhill, Etching Hill & The Heath, Western Springs.
  - Hednesford Green Heath, Hednesford Hills & Rawnsley, Hednesford Pye Green.
  - Hawks Green, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury.
  - Norton Canes.

5.5 A further issue was raised that at parish level, the existing Old Heath Hayes parish ward would be subsumed into Wimblebury parish ward. It was considered that Wimblebury had its own identity and therefore should be recognised separately from Heath Hayes as a parish ward. The Group noted this issue could be addressed as part of a future Community Governance Review.

5.6 As previously, all proposals are judged on their merits regardless of who they are from, and each is given equal weight. Thus, a proposal submitted by the Council as a whole will carry the same weight as one submitted by a political group, or an individual Councillor, or member of the public. The LGBCE encourages all interested parties to have their say, and there is nothing to prevent an individual Councillor or member of the public; political group; parish council; or community association from submitting their own views.

5.7 The Commission's final report is expected to be published on 9 May 2023.

<b>6 Implications</b>
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**6.1 Financial**

None.

**6.2 Legal**

There is no legal requirement for the Council to submit a representation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

**6.3 Human Resources**

None.

**6.4 Risk Management**

None.

**6.5 Equality & Diversity**

None.

**6.6 Climate Change**

None.

<b>7 Appendices to the Report</b>
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None.

**Previous Consideration**

Local Boundary Review Working Group Proposals to LGBCE for Initial Consultation - Report to Council - 20 July 2022.

**Background Papers**

[LGBCE Draft Recommendations Report on New Electoral Arrangements for Cannock Chase - November 2022](#)