

**BOUNDARY REVIEW –  
a review of the electoral arrangements within Corby Borough**

**Background**

Full Council at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2005 agreed to the creation of a new working group to discuss the Council's response to the Boundary Committee's recommendations for electoral arrangements within Corby Borough. Full Council were concerned that some of the recommendations did not adequately reflect the community identity issue within the Borough.

There was particular concern at the mixing of urban & rural areas within the proposed "Stanion & Old Village" ward. It was felt if possible the urban & rural areas should be kept separate.

The working group (comprising of Cllrs Noble, Pengelly, McEwan, Stanbra, Jackson & Heggs) met on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2005 to discuss their initial views. Officers from the Committee & Electoral Services section were also in attendance.

Following the working group meeting, officers were directed to investigate options for resolving the following objectives –

- i) to reintegrate Corby Old Village area back into the urban area;
- ii) draw-up options in relation to the rural area of the Borough.

The respective recognised political groups were reminded that they were able to submit representations direct to the Boundary Committee if they wished. These did not necessarily need to compliment the Council's official response.

A special meeting of Full Council was to be convened on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2005 to confirm Corby Borough Council's official response to the Boundary Committee's recommendations.

The deadline for responses back to the Boundary Committee is 8<sup>th</sup> August 2005.

**Objective 1 - Integrate Corby Old Village back into urban area**

The Boundary Commission are proposing to amalgamate Corby Old Village (currently East 2) with Stanion (currently Rural East). Following representations, officers were requested to investigate the possibility of integrating Corby Old Village back into the urban area.

To achieve this objective there are two possible proposals –

**Proposal 1**

To reunite Corby Old Village with East ward whilst ensuring that the variance for East ward did not become prohibitive. It was therefore necessary to consider transferring part of East ward into another ward.

Extract from Boundary Committee's recommendations -

<b>Proposed Ward</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>	<b>Electorate (2008)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
East Ward	3	4,596	-4
Lloyds Ward	2	3,180	0
Stanion & Corby Village	2	2,840	-11
Weldon & Gretton	2	3,539	11
Rural West	1	1,438	-10

The proposal is for the following area to be transferred from the proposed East ward into the proposed Lloyds ward –

230-292 Studfall Avenue, the Rockingham Arms PH, 150-204a Studfall Avenue, Clydesdale Road (all), Borrowdale Road (all), Darley Dale, 11-39 Wensleydale, Clarke Road (odd numbers only) & 133-135 Rowlett Road (total 333 electors).

It is then proposed to transfer Corby Old Village (current East 2) back into East ward (total 1,072 electors).

The figures for East ward & Lloyds ward would then read as follows –

<b>Proposed Ward (amended)</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>	<b>Electorate (2008)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
East Ward	3	5,335	11.91
Lloyds Ward	2	3,513	10.47

**Proposal 2**

To transfer Corby Old Village into the proposed Central ward.

Extract from Boundary Committee's recommendations -

<b>Proposed Ward</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>	<b>Electorate (2008)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Central	2	3,266	3
Stanion & Corby Village	2	2,840	-11
Weldon & Gretton	2	3,539	11
Rural West	1	1,438	-10

If Corby Old Village (total 1,072 electors) was transferred into Central ward there would be a need to increase the number of councillors representing Central from 2 to 3.

<b>Proposed Ward (amended)</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>	<b>Electorate (2008)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Central	3	4,338	-8.9

**Objective 2 – Formulate options for the rural area**

There would then be the need to resolve the rural wards issue. Dependant upon how Council have determined to resolve the “Old Village” issue there would be the following options available.

If Corby Old Village is transferred into East ward (Proposal 1) then Council may suggest Option A.

**OPTION A – Rural East & Welland Valley**

<b>Proposed Ward (amended)</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>	<b>Electorate (2008)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Rural East (Stanion & Weldon)	3	4,182	-12.27
Welland Valley (Gretton, Cottingham, Middleton, Rockingham & East Carlton)	2	2,563	-19.35

If Corby Old Village is transferred into Central ward (Proposal 2) then Council may suggest Option B or C.

**OPTION B – Rural West & Rural East**

<b>Proposed Ward (amended)</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>	<b>Electorate (2008)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Rural East (Gretton, Stanion & Weldon)	3	5,307	11.3
Rural West (Cottingham, Middleton, Rockingham & East Carlton)	1	1,438	-10

**OPTION C – Rural West, Stanion, Gretton & Weldon**

<b>Proposed Ward (amended)</b>	<b>No. of Cllrs</b>	<b>Electorate (2008)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Stanion	1	1,768	11.2
Rural West (Cottingham, Middleton, Rockingham & East Carlton)	1	1,438	-10
Weldon & Gretton	2	3,539	11

Under Option A the number of councillors representing rural areas would increase from 4 to 5. Under Options B & C the number of councillors representing rural areas would be retained at 4.

Option A is based upon the Council’s initial submission to the Boundary Committee. There would be variances in excess of the 10% margin recommended by the Committee, however, in submitting Option A the Council took a conservative approach to the development within Rural East. If this development exceeds the Council’s expectations in the period up to 2008 the variance figure would improve.

Whilst there are no significant planning applications yet identified within the proposed "Welland Valley" ward any infill or other development that may take place would improve that variance figure.

With regard to Option B this meets the Committee's electoral equality criteria, however, there may be concerns regarding community identity. In addition Option B would require the inclusion of the industrial area to the east of Corby (currently within East ward).

Option C provides the opportunity to create a single-member ward for Stanion. In addition Option B would require the inclusion of the industrial area to the east of Corby (currently within East ward).

**Recommendation(s) –**

- i) for Council to determine its response to the Boundary Committee's draft recommendations.

### **Ward Names**

There was a brief discussion at the working group meeting regarding submission of alternative ward names. Any names submitted needed to relate to the community within that respective area.

There was particular discussion regarding current East ward. It was felt by some members of the group that this could be more closely identified with "Lloyds". It was suggested by some members, that current East ward be renamed "Lloyds", with current Lloyds ward renamed as something else eg. "Studfall", "Rowlett", etc.

Officers, whilst appreciating the views expressed, would suggest to members that if any alteration to the ward names is submitted that current East ward be renamed as "East Lloyds" with current Lloyds ward renamed as "West Lloyds".

There were no other strong views expressed within the group regarding other wards.

Council may choose to accept the suggestions contained within the Boundary Committee's report.

### **Recommendation(s) –**

- i) to decide whether to make any representations regarding ward names.

**Paul Goult**  
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