

## **Appendix 2**

### **ELECTORAL REVIEW WARDING CRITERIA**

1. In making proposals for a pattern of Wards, full account will be taken of the three statutory criteria of –
  - Securing equality of representation
  - Reflecting the identities and interests of local communities
  - Securing effective and convenient local governmentas described in detail in the Technical Guidance published by the Boundary Commission
2. The objective will be to achieve a Councillor – Elector ratio tolerance of plus or minus 5%, recognising that the Commission's tolerance is within a guideline of plus or minus 10%, if justified by the statutory criteria, particularly the maintenance of local community identities
3. Where possible, existing Ward boundaries should be maintained in principle in those cases where the Councillor – Elector ratio is within the tolerance of plus or minus 5%
4. For a Council of 54 Members, the 5% plus or minus tolerance range based on the current electorate is between 2500 and 2763 Electors per Councillor (the average being 2632), and account will be taken of the electorate projection data to 2018 as warding proposals are developed
5. Weight will not necessarily be given to the maintenance of numerical electoral equality where there are strong arguments and evidence in favour of natural communities
6. There is a general presumption for single Member Wards, where this can be achieved without detriment to local communities. It is expected that single Member Ward arrangements will apply particularly in the rural localities. In order to protect community interests, avoid splitting communities and to retain local community identities as far as possible, flexibility will be provided to allow 2 Member Wards where needed, and in exceptional cases to enable the possibility of one or more 3 Member Wards. It is envisaged that any multi Member Wards will be located primarily in the more urban areas. Any proposals for multi Member Wards will be based on evidence that the three statutory criteria will be best satisfied with such a configuration in the areas concerned.
7. Parish Council boundaries to be used as the lowest level building blocks, with a preference against splitting Parish Councils if this can be avoided. It is recognised that it may be necessary to alter current Parish Council ward boundaries mainly in the urban areas.
8. Where possible, the views of Parish Councils to be taken into account and reflected in the Council's proposals

9. Account to be taken of natural and man made physical features when Ward boundaries are drawn. This will include rivers and general topography, railway lines and roads (which can be seen as dividing lines or links between local communities)

10. Account to be taken of Census output areas and Super output areas, so that wherever possible in developing Ward configurations, statistical information from the Census and other official sources about the population and other local characteristics will relate directly to the new warding arrangements.