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| Agenda Item No: | 16  |  |
| Committee:      | Council   |  |
| Date:           | 24 July 2014  |  |
| Report Title:   | Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations |  |

## Cover sheet:

### 1 Purpose / Summary

For Council to approve the final recommendations in relation to the Community Governance review for the future parish warding arrangements of Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey

### 2 Key issues

- Fenland District Council (FDC) has recently been subject to an electoral review of District ward boundaries conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), the results of which will be implemented in May 2015 to coincide with the parliamentary and all out local elections.
- The new LGBCE defined district ward boundaries to be implemented in May 2015 cannot be changed through the Community Governance Review (CGR).
- Following publication of the LGBCE final recommendations report, the Council received requests from Chatteris and Whittlesey Town Councils to conduct a CGR in order to address some of the boundary anomalies resulting from the recent electoral review.
- The request for a review was endorsed by the FDC Member Working Group and as a result a CGR under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007 was launched.
- The CGR Terms of Reference were published on 15 January 2014, which initiated the first phase of public consultation, which ended on 12 April 2014. The terms of reference confirmed the focus of the review as being restricted to:

The external parish boundary between Chatteris Town Council and Manea Parish Council

The internal parish warding arrangements in Chatteris and Whittlesey parishes and finally

The number of parish Councillors to represent Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey parishes in the future.

- FDC consulted extensively with Chatteris and Whittlesey Town Councils and Manea parish Council through a series of briefings and publicised the CGR to residents in all three areas through public notices, press releases, community groups and direct contact with some electors who may be affected by the review.
- The draft proposals report was informed by consultation submissions in response to publication of the terms of reference

- The draft proposals were agreed by annual Council which launched the second phase of public consultation on 12 May 2014 to 12 July 2014. The Council has been mindful of the consultation comments in formulating the final recommendations.
- The key recommendations are to re-establish co-terminosity between the District ward boundaries to be implemented from 2015 and the parish ward boundaries. Realignment of district and parish ward boundaries will maintain communities of interest as well as achieving effective and convenient local government.
- Following agreement of these final recommendations by Council, FDC will require the permission of the LGBCE for implementation in time for the 2015 elections

### 3 Recommendations

For Council to approve the final CGR recommendations

- The parish boundary between Chatteris and Manea to be amended to follow the new district ward boundary
- The new parish wards in Chatteris to be amended to reflect the new district ward boundaries across the town
- The new parish wards in Whittlesey to be amended to reflect the new district boundaries across the town
- For the number of parish Councillors to represent Chatteris (12), Manea (9) and Whittlesey (14) to remain the same as at present.

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| <b>Wards Affected</b>         | Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey parish wards   |
| <b>Forward Plan Reference</b> |  |
| <b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>    | Member Working Group:<br>Cllr Alan Melton<br>Cllr Chris Seaton<br>Cllr Gavin Booth<br>Cllr Mrs Virginia Bucknor<br>Cllr Mark Archer<br>Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor  |
| <b>Report Originator(s)</b>   | Rob Bridge - Corporate Director<br><a href="mailto:robbridge@fenland.gov.uk">robbridge@fenland.gov.uk</a><br>Carol Pilson - Corporate Director<br>01354 622360 <a href="mailto:cpilson@fenland.gov.uk">cpilson@fenland.gov.uk</a><br>Anna Goodall - Head of Governance and Legal Services<br>01354 622357 <a href="mailto:agoodall@fenland.gov.uk">agoodall@fenland.gov.uk</a> |

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|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Contact Officer(s)</b>  | Rob Bridge - Corporate Director<br><a href="mailto:robbridge@fenland.gov.uk">robbridge@fenland.gov.uk</a><br><br>Carol Pilson - Corporate Director<br>01354 622360 <a href="mailto:cpilson@fenland.gov.uk">cpilson@fenland.gov.uk</a><br><br>Anna Goodall - Head of Governance and Legal Services<br>01354 622357 <a href="mailto:agoodall@fenland.gov.uk">agoodall@fenland.gov.uk</a> |
| <b>Background Paper(s)</b> | CGR Terms of Reference<br>CGR Draft proposals Report   |

# Report: Community Governance Review Final Recommendations

## **1 Background / introduction**

- 1.1 Fenland District Council (FDC) has recently been subject to an Electoral Review which was conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The electoral review was undertaken as the current district warding arrangements had resulted in a significant variance in the number of electors residing across the district wards. As a result the electoral review was undertaken by the LGBCE with the intention of achieving three primary aims: namely; to achieve electoral equality across the district; maintain communities of interest; whilst also enabling effective and convenient local government.
- 1.2 The new District Council ward boundaries for 2015 have now been set by LGBCE and Parliament and cannot be revisited as a part of this process.
- 1.3 The final electoral review recommendation report, published by the LGBCE in March 2013, resulted in the creation of several new parish wards, which reflected the new district ward boundaries and existing county division boundaries. The creation of additional parish wards was particularly prevalent in Chatteris and Whittlesey.

## **2 The Community Governance Review**

- 2.1 FDC received letters from Chatteris Town Council and Whittlesey Town Council requesting that a Community Governance Review (CGR) be undertaken, under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, in order to address some of the boundary anomalies which have resulted from the recent electoral review. Whilst the letters did not constitute a Community Governance Petition the requests for a Community Governance Review were endorsed by the Member Working Group, tasked with leading the electoral review project. The review scope focussed specifically on the following:
  - The external parish boundary between Chatteris Town Council and Manea Parish Council;
  - The internal parish warding arrangements in Chatteris and Whittlesey parishes and finally
  - The number of parish councillors to represent Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey parishes in the future.
- 2.2 The CGR commenced on 15 January 2014, when FDC published a Terms of Reference document and invited initial submissions from individuals and/ or organisations who had an interest in the review. Widespread communication took place in the relation to the review in order to engage local residents. In addition the Council published a timetable for the review in order to further maximise transparency and local engagement.
- 2.3 The period for initial submissions closed on 15 April 2014. The Council published its draft proposals in response to the consultation comments received following publication of the

terms of reference. A second period of consultation commenced on 12 May 2014 following publication of the draft proposals report, the closing date for submissions in relation to the second round of consultation was 12 July 2014.

2.4 In preparing its draft proposals the Council was mindful of the letters received from Chatteris and Whittlesey Town Councils in addition to the initial submissions received. The Council had the role of balancing the submissions against the wider requirements and duties which are placed upon it by the 2007 Act. In particular the Council has a duty to ensure that community governance within its area:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area;
- Is effective and convenient and
- takes into account any other, non-parish, arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area.

A timetable for the review was established which allowed for appropriate consultation periods. The draft proposals document was issued to 114 individuals who were identified as being directly affected by the review. In addition the documents were also circulated to local community groups, statutory consultees and were available to the general public on the Fenland District Council (FDC) website and in the District Council One Stop Shops and Community Hub. During the consultation period two press releases were issued to advertise the publication of the draft proposals and the closing date for submissions and information was also published on the Chatteris/ Manea and Whittlesey Shape Your Place websites further encouraging public engagement.

2.5 The District Council's draft proposals made three recommendations in relation to Community Governance arrangements in Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey, those recommendations were as follows:

- **Chatteris/ Manea Parish Boundary - Proposal one**, that the parish boundary between Chatteris and Manea parishes be amended to follow the new district ward boundary introduced by the recent electoral review of district wards. Therefore, moving the How Fen warded parish of Chatteris Town to Manea Parish; this change will affect 114 electors. As such whilst the size of Manea parish will increase we do not believe that it is significant enough to warrant any increase in the number of parish councillors representing Manea.
- **Chatteris parish wards – Proposal two**, that the new parish wards be amended to reflect the new district wards across the town, which were introduced by the recent LGBCE electoral review. Whilst Chatteris parish will transfer 114 electors across to Manea via How Fen moving to Manea Parish this reduction in electorate is not significant enough to warrant any reduction in the level of town councillor representation and therefore it is proposed that Chatteris Town Council returns 12 Councillors, with each of the proposed parish wards being represented by three town councillors. In summary this will result in Curf parish ward moving into Slade Lode parish ward and being named Slade Lode. Curlew parish ward will move into Birch parish ward and be named Birch and as outlined above How Fen parish ward will move into Manea parish and be named Manea.
- **Whittlesey Parish Wards – Proposal three**, that the new parish wards be amended to reflect the new district wards across the town, which were introduced by the recent LGBCE electoral review. This will result in the town returning five parish wards represented by 14 town councillors. In summary this will result in Elm and Delph parish wards moving into Bassenhally parish ward and being named Bassenhally, which will return 5 town councillors. St Marys parish ward will move into St Andrews

parish ward and be named St Andrews and St Marys, which will return 2 town councillors. The remaining newly defined parish wards and level of representation will remain unchanged.

- 2.6 Reasons were given to support the draft proposals, in summary these reasons were as follows; parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest with their own sense of identity. The parish of Manea contains the village of Manea which is the focus of the parish, the village is self-sufficient with local shops, a public house, village hall, a Royal British Legion Hall, a village school and a local train station, the train station tends to facilitate movement from surrounding rural properties into the village. The parish also encompasses a sparsely populated surrounding rural area. The urban towns of Chatteris and Whittlesey are well established, both of which have long established wards within each of the towns which reflect the specific communities in the area. Consideration must be given to the relationship between the parish ward boundaries and the boundaries of the district wards. The parish wards have been used as the building blocks for the district wards across much of the district, and the district wards therefore share the same boundaries with the parish wards. The maintenance of this co-terminosity is in the best interests of effective and convenient local government for the residents in Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey. In relation to the Manea/Chatteris parish boundary for those residents to be in one parish ward but a different district ward may result in confusion.
- 2.7 In drawing up these final proposals, the council has been primarily concerned to identify any submissions which significantly alter and influence the reasoning behind the three draft proposals; namely; that the external boundary of Manea parish should be extended to reflect the district ward, that the parish ward boundaries within Chatteris should reflect the district ward boundaries across the town and also ensuring electoral equality as all the newly proposed town wards would be represented by three town councillors and finally that the town wards across Whittlesey should be amended to reflect the newly created district wards in the area to re-establish co-terminosity and also support electoral equality in relation to Town Councillor representation.
- 2.8 In this review the Council has been required to balance the greater good for all residents in Manea, Chatteris and Whittlesey particularly as the option for no change did not exist in this scenario due to the impact of the recent electoral review conducted by the LGBCE. The resulting changes must therefore represent change for the good whilst also meeting the communities of interest and effective and convenient local government tests, those tests have been at the heart of this review, the balance between successfully achieving both.

### **3 Consultation Submissions**

- 3.1 Publication of the Terms of Reference in relation to the CGR was intended to inform and open the local debate by providing information on the parish governance in the areas concerned, the legislative framework for a review and the other issues the Council felt were of importance. Further more publication of the draft proposals on 12 May 2014 and the opening of a further two month period of consultation permitted local residents and other interested stakeholders to submit comments in relation to the proposals both in support and against whilst also providing the opportunity to propose alternative governance arrangements.

- 3.2 Six consultation submissions were received as a part of the initial period of consultation following publication of the terms of reference which have indicated that there are strongly held views from residents and interested parties both in favour of the re-alignment of parish and District ward boundaries and a counter submission supporting maintaining the arrangements that will take effect in 2015. It is worthy of note that there is not an option to maintain the current parish and district warding arrangements as they will be abolished as a result of the LGBCE electoral review and the new provisions will take effect in May 2015.
- 3.3 Following publication of the draft proposals report a further 11 consultation submissions have been received, Appendix 1 contains the details of the consultation submissions received to date since the publication of the Terms of Reference and publication of the draft proposals. In summary submissions have been received from Chatteris Town Council, Manea Parish Council, Whittlesey Town Council, The Conservative Association, The Royal British Legion, and nine local residents.
- 3.4 As part of the proactive consultation approach taken by the Council to engage local residents we wrote to all 114 electors resident in the How Fen ward to inform them of the publication of the terms of reference in addition to the draft proposals, this approach was taken as the review outcomes could result in a change to the parish these electors reside in. Of those 114 electors we have only been able to determine that two households have responded, although some of the other emailed responses could have originated from How Fen residents, but we are unable to confirm this. It is worthy of note that all the emailed consultation submissions have been in support of the proposed changes.
- 3.5 Mr and Mrs Angood have identified themselves as How Fen residents in their response to both aspects of the consultation, on both occasions they have expressed a very clear view that they affiliate themselves with Chatteris particularly as their property is located close to the town bypass and Manea village is geographically further away. In addition to submitting consultation comments Mr Angood also wrote to the local paper which published his letter, inviting How Fen residents to submit consultation comments. His letter states that 'I do not believe a single one of the 114 people affected in any way consider themselves to be Manea residents and only a very few have any involvement with the village or any interest in that Parish activities' 'The District boundary need not be identical to the Parish boundaries as the roles of the two tiers are considerably different. Parish commitment is about local identity and a feeling of belonging. District levels are based on wider issues where close proximity to a town or village is not so important.'
- 3.6 As a result of the recent electoral review Mr and Mrs Angood's property now falls within the boundary of the newly defined Manea district ward, but How Fen parish ward of Chatteris Town Council. The new ward boundaries will take effect in May 2015. The CGR cannot be utilised as a mechanism to unpick the results of the LGBCE electoral review. Should the district council seek to not make any changes to re-align boundaries then Mr and Mrs Angood would be eligible to vote in elections in relation to Manea District but conversely for Chatteris town council, which would not appear to be logical or reflective of effective or convenient local government. Whilst Mr and Mrs Angood believe that Parish and District boundaries do not need to be co-terminous and can reflect different geographical areas, it is our view that the majority of electors would find voting for Manea District ward but How Fen ward of Chatteris Town Council illogical and confusing. The worst case scenario would be that electors would become disenfranchised by the

confusion and therefore opt out of the democratic process all together. In addition whilst it is accepted that the Angood's property is located closer to Chatteris than Manea, the rail station in Manea which has recently been included in additional train routes significantly increases the ties between the surrounding rural area and Manea village and therefore movement and association with the village is increasing and resulting community ties and identities are growing.

- 3.7 Mr Turner also submitted written feedback following publication of the draft proposals report, he too identified himself as a resident of How Fen. This gentleman wished to register his strong objection to the proposal for How Fen to become part of Manea parish. Mr Turner considers himself to be a resident of the Chatteris community as he attends the local facilities in the town including the library and GP surgery and is interested in issues in the town. He considers his interests to lie with Chatteris rather than Manea, although he is a tenant of the Manea Allotment Association. Mr Turner can see no issues with the boundary anomaly arising from the recent electoral review and he feels he would be disenfranchised from the electoral process were he no longer able to vote in Chatteris Town Council elections.
- 3.8 Chatteris Town Council has expressed their support in relation to the re-alignment of parish and district ward boundaries with the exception of How Fen parish ward, which they support moving into the amended Birch parish ward. This would result in the revised Birch parish ward straddling two District ward boundaries of Manea and Birch which will take effect in 2015. The Guidance on Community Governance Reviews published by the LGBCE states clearly that a principal council undertaking a CGR should be mindful of the provisions of schedule 2 (Electoral change in England: considerations on review) to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 in relation to reviews of district council electoral arrangements. These provide that when the LGBCE is making changes to principal council electoral arrangements, no warded parish should be split by a district or county division boundary. While these provisions do not apply to reviews of parish electoral arrangements, the LGBCE believe that in the interests of effective and convenient local government they are relevant considerations for principal councils to take into account when undertaking community governance reviews. Therefore, How Fen parish ward, if it remained, would be a separate parish ward of Chatteris Town Council, containing 114 electors requiring the representation of one town councillor, which would not provide electoral equality at a parish level or the parish ward boundaries could be amended to reflect the ward boundaries in the area.
- 3.9 Manea Parish Council supports the need to achieve co-terminosity between parish and district ward boundaries. They are aware that such co-terminosity would increase the geographical area of Manea parish by taking in a part of the existing Birch ward of Chatteris, and recognise this will already be the case in relation to the revised Manea district ward with effect from May 2015. Manea Parish Council can see that if no changes are made to parish boundaries these electors would be Manea voters for the purposes of the district council elections but Chatteris voters for the town/ parish elections and there would be no logic to such a situation as it would likely result in confusion and inconvenience as well as affecting residents sense of belonging to an area.
- 3.10 Whittlesey Town Council is strongly of the opinion that their views were not reflected in the final LGBCE electoral review recommendations. They do not believe the warding arrangements which will be taking effect in 2015 are reflective of the local communities. It is their opinion that the current warding system works effectively. The aim of the Community Governance Review is to address the issues raised by Whittlesey Town

Council at a parish ward level, the CGR cannot seek to address the district warding issues which were determined by the LGBCE and take effect in 2015. Whittlesey Town Council are also opposed to the creation of the additional parish wards in the town and also believe the proposed name of Elm parish ward will lead to the area being confused with the district ward of the same name which is in a different area of the district and encompasses the village of Elm. The town council believe that the expected growth in the area is set to exceed the 5 year forecast, which will therefore cause further electoral inequality and result in the requirement for a further electoral review by the LGBCE. The town council supports the need for co-terminosity between parish and district ward boundaries.

- 3.11 North East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association commented on the terms of reference as they registered concern that the electoral review, conducted by the LGBCE, will have a detrimental impact on Chatteris and Whittlesey in particular on the provision of effective local government, therefore they wished to support the consultation submissions of Chatteris and Whittlesey Town Councils.
- 3.12 The responses from the other individuals include Councillor John Carney, Mayor of Chatteris, Councillor David Mason Mayor of Whittlesey, local resident Stephen Wallis, local resident Mr Geoffrey Barnes, local resident Debbie Clark, local resident Chris Boden, local resident D Rosemary Peggs, local resident Mrs Jolley, local resident Major Norman Larke representing the Royal British Legion who wished to register support for the draft CGR proposals concerning the parish of Manea and the towns of Whittlesey and Chatteris, their comments included the following. 'It is my opinion that should the electoral review be allowed to proceed with the current proposals, it will be detrimental to the electorates of Whittlesey and Chatteris where some wards will have greatly unequal representation. They will also lead to confusion among voters as to who their local councillors are, and in some cases necessitate voting at two different polling stations for the Town and District Elections. It is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, and the current proposals will have the opposite effect. Therefore I support the proposal that the Town Councils' ward boundaries remain coterminous with the towns' District Council ward boundaries. Further comments include the following 'So far as Whittlesey Town Council is concerned, it has habitually been the case that the Town Council has been divided into wards, and that these wards have been coterminous with FDC's wards in the town. This has provided effective and convenient local government - it has ensured that there is a close and clear relationship between specific Town Councillors and specific District Councillors, since each District Councillor represents exactly the same area that a group of Town Councillors represents. It is also clear, in the minds of local electors, which Councillors represent them at Town and District level'. 'To promote effective and convenient local government it is therefore clearly preferable, both for reasons of clarity of responsibility and for reasons of avoiding unacceptable electoral inequality, that the St. Andrews FDC Ward not be split into two Town Council Wards'.
- 3.13 Further more the following comments have also been received in relation to the alternative to proposals, namely to leave the How Fen ward as part of Chatteris Town Council 'The current (partial) solution, giving these 114 electors their own single-member ward (How Fen Ward) on Chatteris Town Council, has the undesirable effect of creating a Ward whose elector to Town Councillor ratio is only a tenth of that elsewhere in Chatteris. Such gross disparity in representation is unacceptable in the modern democratic age and is redolent of the systemic electoral inequality seen in "Rotten Boroughs", abolished by the Great Reform Act of 1832! Allowing such gross inequality of representation would clearly breach paragraph 166 of the LGBCE's CGR guidance.

Indeed, leaving arrangements as they are could produce the bizarre prospect, on a normal local government turnout, of a total number of votes cast in a Town Council Ward election amounting to fewer than 30, which would potentially be farcical and certainly not conducive to the good reputation of local government in the community.'

- 3.14 Comments were also received in relation to the proposal to leave unchanged the number of town and parish councillors representing Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey 'I support the FDC CGR proposal that there be no change to the numbers of Councillors elected to any of these three Councils.' The details of all the consultation comments received during the initial and secondary consultation phases are included in appendix 1.

## 4 Summary of Final Proposals

- 4.1 This review began with the receipt of letters from Chatteris and Whittlesey Town Council requesting that a Community Governance Review be facilitated by the District Council in order to resolve some of the boundary anomalies resulting from the recent electoral review conducted by the LGBCE. In particular both Town Councils were concerned about the number of newly created parish wards within the towns which they felt were neither reflective of local communities, effective or convenient nor did they achieve electoral equality in terms of town council representation.
- 4.2 The District Council in its terms of reference and latterly in the draft proposals expressed its view that the resulting changes must be reflective of communities of interest whilst also providing benefits in terms of effective and convenient local government for the electors in the Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey. There was not an option for no change as the changes resulting from the electoral review will take effect in 2015 irrespective of the CGR.
- 4.3 The Council has consulted widely in relation to the proposed changes and whilst we have been minded to identify any submissions which significantly alter and influence the reasoning behind the three draft proposals, it is our view that the submissions received are largely supportive with two exceptions, both of which were from residents of How Fen who emphasise that they are residents of the Chatteris community and would feel disenfranchised by a change to becoming residents of Manea parish. All the other consultation comments were in favour of the proposed changes affecting the parish wards of Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey and also in relation to the number of parish/town councillors to represent the afore mentioned areas. In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards the principal council should take account of community identity and interests in the area, and consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries. It is our opinion that endorsing a boundary scheme which results in electors identifying with Manea in relation to district council elections and Chatteris for town Council elections does not suggest a strong sense of identity or community in the area concerned.
- 4.4 It is for these reasons that the Council considers the final proposals in this review should be as follows
- 4.5 **Chatteris/ Manea Parish Boundary - Proposal one:** the parish boundary between Chatteris and Manea parishes be amended to follow the new district ward boundary

introduced by the recent electoral review of district wards. Therefore, moving the How Fen warded parish of Chatteris Town to Manea Parish. The area under review is shown in Appendix 2 map 3. Whilst it is appreciated that the geographical changes to Manea parish appears substantial, this change will affect 114 electors. As such whilst the size of Manea parish will increase we do not believe that it is significant enough to warrant any increase in the number of parish councillors representing Manea. This change does not include any assets as no existing community assets are located in the area to be transferred into the boundary of Manea parish. We believe this reflects local communities of interest and also ensure effective and convenient local government.

- 4.6 **Chatteris parish wards – Proposal two:** the new parish wards be amended to reflect the new district wards across the town, which were introduced by the recent LGBCE electoral review. The areas under review are shown in Appendix 2 maps 1, 2, and 3. Whilst Chatteris parish will transfer 114 electors across to Manea via How Fen moving to Manea Parish this reduction in electorate is not significant enough to warrant any reduction in the level of town councillor representation and therefore it is proposed that Chatteris Town Council returns 12 Councillors, with each of the proposed parish wards being represented by three town councillors. In summary this will result in Curf parish ward moving into Slade Lode parish ward and being named Slade Lode. Curlew parish ward will move into Birch parish ward and be named Birch and as outlined above How Fen parish ward will move into Manea parish and be named Manea. We believe the proposals for Chatteris ensure that local communities are maintained and that effective and convenient local government is achieved, whilst also enabling electoral equality.
- 4.7 **Whittlesey Parish Wards – Proposal three:** the new parish wards be amended to reflect the new district wards across the town, which was introduced by the recent LGBCE electoral review. The areas under review are shown in Appendix 2 maps 4 and 5. This will result in the town returning five parish wards represented by 14 town councillors. In summary this will result in Elm and Delph parish wards moving into Bassenhally parish ward and being named Bassenhally, which will return 5 town councillors. St Marys parish ward will move into St Andrews parish ward and be named St Andrews and St Marys, which will return 2 town councillors. The remaining newly defined parish wards and level of representation will remain unchanged. We believe the proposals for Whittlesey ensure that local communities are maintained and that effective and convenient local government is achieved, whilst also enabling electoral equality.
- 4.8 Whilst it is the intention of the district council to propose to re-align the parish and ward boundaries it is important to note that this will result in parish wards straddling county electoral division boundaries in Chatteris, Manea and Whittlesey. As a result the council would be required to seek consent from the LGBCE in order to effect these changes. Given that the LGBCE is currently working in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council in relation to conducting a review of electoral division boundaries across Cambridgeshire, it is anticipated that a request of this nature would be looked on favourably, as the current electoral division boundaries are expected to be the subject of change and therefore this could eliminate the issue.

## 5 Next Steps

| Action                                 | Timetable    | Outline of action  |
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| Final Proposals are adopted by Council | 24 July 2014 | District Council considers Final Proposals and decide on the extent to which the Council will give effect to |

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|  |             | them   |
| Final Proposals are submitted to the LGBCE for consideration           | August 2014 | As the District Council has been subject to an electoral review conducted by the LGBCE in the past 5 years we are required to gain consent from the LGBCE to make any changes to parish warding arrangements |
| Council publishes the reorganisation order * subject to LGBCE approval | thereafter  | District Council publishes a reorganisation order and requests the Electoral Commission to approve any consequential changes.  |

Please note that parish boundaries will not change until after the completion of the review. Local residents who will be affected by the change will be informed if and when the boundaries are altered.

How to contact us  
Electoral Services  
Fenland District Council  
Fenland Hall  
County Road  
March  
PE15 8NQ  
[elections@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:elections@fenland.gov.uk)

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process please contact:

Anna Goodall  
Head of Governance and Legal Services

Telephone 01354 622357  
Email [agoodall@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:agoodall@fenland.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1: Consultation Submissions

- 1.1 Chatteris Town Council has stated clearly their opposition to the creation of seven parish wards within the town, they support the view that there should continue to be four wards within the parish each represented by three town councillors (as at present). Making a total of twelve councillors. They also support the re-alignment of parish ward boundaries with district ward boundaries in the area, with the exception of the external boundary between Chatteris and Manea parish. Chatteris Town Council support that Birch parish ward should extend to encompass How Fen parish ward as it believe this arrangement is more reflective of the community in the area.
- 1.2 Manea Parish Council supports the need to achieve co-terminosity between parish and district ward boundaries. They are aware that such co-terminosity would increase the geographical area of Manea parish by taking in a part of the existing Birch ward of Chatteris, and recognise this will already be the case in relation to the revised Manea district ward with effect from May 2015. Manea Parish Council can see that if no changes are made to parish boundaries these electors would be Manea voters for the purposes of the district council elections but Chatteris voters for the town/ parish elections and there would be no logic to such a situation as it would likely result in confusion and inconvenience as well as affecting residents sense of belonging to an area.
- 1.3 Whittlesey Town Council is strongly of the opinion that their views were not reflected in the final LGBCE electoral review recommendations. They do not believe the warding arrangements which will be taking effect in 2015 are reflective of the local communities. It is their opinion that the current warding system works effectively. The aim of the Community Governance Review is to address the issues raised by Whittlesey Town Council at a parish ward level, the CGR cannot seek to address the district warding issues which were determined by the LGBCE and take effect in 2015. Whittlesey Town Council are also opposed to the creation of the additional parish wards in the town and also believe the proposed name of Elm parish ward will lead to the area being confused with the district ward of the same name which is in a different area of the district and encompasses the village of Elm. The town council believe that the expected growth in the area is set to exceed the 5 year forecast, which will therefore cause further electoral inequality and result in the requirement for a further electoral review by the LGBCE. The town council supports the need for co-terminosity between parish and district ward boundaries.
- 1.4 North East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association expressed concern regarding the new warding arrangements to take effect in May 2015 as finalised by LGBCE and believe they will have a detrimental effect on effective local government in Chatteris and Whittlesey and support the submissions of the town councils in the area.
- 1.5 Peter Wilson a Chatteris resident confirmed that the population of Chatteris had increased during the past ten years and will increase even more during the next ten years however he can see no reason to change the parish boundaries in the area. He believes town Councillors do a good job and are available when required. He believes money to conduct a review could be better spend on the provision of local services in the area.
- 1.6 Mr and Mrs Angood both of whom are Chatteris residents, object that they will become residents of Manea District ward, and potentially Manea Parish as a result of the CGR.

They consider themselves to be part of the Chatteris population and have no affiliation with Manea. Their association with Manea is however unavoidable as the LGBCE have finalised that these residents will be a part of the Manea district ward from the 2015 local elections. They have proposed a revised boundary to represent the external boundary between Manea and Chatteris parishes which they believe is more representative of the natural boundary with Chatteris, this would however result in the How Fen ward of Chatteris Town Council containing less than 100 electors which the LGBCE deem as being non-viable. Mr Angood emailed the following: In April 2014 I wrote with comments and objections to the proposed alterations of the Parish Boundaries at Chatteris as it directly affected my wife and I who have been residents of the town for many years, living only 400 yards from the town, who will become Manea residents (3 miles away) in future if your proposals go through. I attach a copy of the letter I sent (most of which was published) to the Cambs Times in June. I think this sums up my wife and my feelings about the whole matter and wish it to be taken as part of our objection. There is no reason, at the very least, the boundary line could not be taken along the Forty Foot to the Washes with all those North of this being Manea and South Chatteris How Fen ward, EXCEPT for wanting parish and District boundaries to be the same. Your proposal does not reflect the relevance and nature of Parish work as opposed to District work which are very different. Parish business requires an affinity with that Parish and your proposals destroy this element for most living in the current How Fen Ward. This cannot be seen as an improvement. The letter attached to the email stated the following: Letter to Cambs Times 2nd June 2014

- 1.7 Your paper reported on the Review currently being undertaken by Fenland District Council to amend Chatteris and Manea Parish boundaries to follow the new 2015 District ward boundary. The greatest effect falls on those Chatteris residents that live in the current How Fen ward which stretches North and East of Chatteris from the bypass , through Horseway, partway along the 16 Foot and East to the Washes. The proposal is that all these residents become part of a MANEA Parish Ward. I do not believe a single one of the 114 people affected in any way consider themselves to be Manea residents and only a very few have any involvement with the village or any interest in that Parish activities. I have lived all my six decades as a Chatteris resident, only 400 metres from Chatteris, but am now being forced to become a Manea Parishioner when Manea is THREE miles away! Your report quotes a spokesman saying the proposed changes are being 'carried out to see what changes may be needed to ensure parish boundaries reflect the identities and interests of local people and are effective and convenient for them'. I maintain the changes neither reflect any of our interests, nor are in any way effective or convenient. It also aims to strengthen local democracy and encourage more community engagement. It will have the opposite effect for How Fen Parish residents. At Parish level I am interested in what happens in Chatteris. I once stood for election at Parish level. I Chair a Chatteris specific Charity, have taken part in Chatteris activities, have helped Chatteris Cricket Club on occasions and have always voted in Chatteris parish elections. I have no affinity with Manea and have not been involved in any village activities over my lifetime. Needless to say I will not be voting in any Manea Parish elections should the changes take place and I believe I will not be alone with this stance. So will the boundary change have done any good? No, it will simply alienate the How Fen residents from Chatteris and create more apathy towards this lower (but vital) end of community involvement. The District boundary need not be identical to the Parish boundaries as the roles of the two tiers are considerably different. Parish commitment is about local identity and a feeling of belonging. District levels are based on wider issues where close proximity to a town or village is not so important. Well done Chatteris Parish Council for seeing the folly of the proposals and standing up for How Fen, with its mere 114 residents, to be retained as Chatteris parishioners. Now its up to us all to write in and

protest before this madness is allowed to become fact. Sadly I fear whatever we say will be ignored to make the bigger picture look right!

- 1.8 Local Resident Mrs D Rosemary Peggs emailed the following comments 'I support Fenland District Councils review proposals to change the Town Council Ward boundaries for Chatteris and Whittlesey so that the Town Councils Ward boundaries will remain identical to the Towns District Ward boundaries.
- 1.9 Local resident Stephen Wallis stated the following 'I support Fenland District Council's Review proposals to change the Town Council ward boundaries for Chatteris and Whittlesey so that the Town Councils' ward boundaries will remain identical to the towns' District Council ward boundaries.
- 1.10 Councillor David Mason, Mayor of Whittlesey emailed the following comments 'Dear Sirs I support Fenland District Council's Review proposals to change the Town Council ward boundaries for Chatteris and Whittlesey so that the Town Councils' ward boundaries will remain identical to the towns' District Council ward boundaries.'
- 1.11 Councillor James Carney, Mayor of Chatteris emailed the following: To Whom It May Concern, I support Fenland District Council's Review proposals to change the Town Council ward boundaries for Chatteris and Whittlesey so that the Town Councils' ward boundaries will remain identical to the towns' District Council ward boundaries.
- 1.12 Local resident Mr Geoffrey Barnes emailed the following To whom it may concern: I support Fenland District Council's Review proposals to change the Town Council ward boundaries for Chatteris and Whittlesey so that the Town Councils' ward boundaries will remain identical to the towns' District Council ward boundaries.
- 1.13 Local resident Mrs Jolley emailed the following: I support Fenland District Council's Review proposals to change the Town Council ward boundaries for Chatteris and Whittlesey so that the Town Councils' ward boundaries will remain identical to the towns' District Council ward boundaries
- 1.14 Local resident Debbie Clark emailed the following: As a resident and elector in Fenland I would like to register my support for Fenland District Council's current draft Corporate Governance Review proposals concerning the parish of Manea and the towns of Whittlesey and Chatteris so that the Town Councils' ward boundaries will remain coterminous with the towns' District Council ward boundaries. It is my opinion that should the boundary review be allowed to proceed with the current proposals, it will be detrimental to the electorates of Whittlesey and Chatteris where some wards will have greatly unequal representation. They will also lead to confusion among voters as to who their local councillors are, and in some cases necessitate voting at two different polling stations for the Town and District Elections. It is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, and the current proposals will have the opposite effect. I therefore support Fenland District Council's Review proposals to change the Town Council ward boundaries for Chatteris and Whittlesey so that the Town Councils' ward boundaries will remain identical to the towns' District Council ward boundaries.

- 1.15 Major Norman Larke emailed the following: I have now had time to look at your proposals, suffice to say as an incomer to this area (although I have been here 14 years). I personally have no observations to make on the proposals, as long as the main objectives of the Council are met in a timely manner and that no resident is disadvantaged in any of the the proposed changes. It is important that the ethos of the council in whatever Ward changes are made is maintained at all times. Many thanks
- 1.16 Local resident Colin Turner emailed the following: I wish to register my strong objection to the proposed change which would result in How Fen ward becoming part of Manea Parish Council. I live in XXXX, formerly in Birch Ward and now part of the proposed new How Fen Ward, about 2 miles from the centre of Chatteris and I consider myself to be part of the Chatteris community. My house is within easy cycling and driving distance of Chatteris, where I shop, socialise and make use of local services such as the library and the GP surgery. I regularly read the minutes of Chatteris Town Council meetings as they often deal with matters that will be of direct consequence to me, such as the recent planning applications for the Tesco development and the anaerobic digester at Block Fen as well as matters such as the proposal for a country park, anti-social behaviour, litter, traffic flows, parking and dog fouling, all of which I feel are relevant to me as a Chatteris resident. I am also interested in the views and actions of my elected representatives and regularly follow their pronouncements and decisions in the local press and on the Shape Your Place website in order to decide which of them can best represent me in future elections. On the other hand, when I consult the Manea Parish Council minutes I see very little to interest me as they concern very localised village matters such as planning applications, the state of the Manea pavilion, speeding in Westfield Road and the like which do not affect me in the least. Apart from being a tenant of the Manea Allotment Association I have little need to visit the village and no real desire or need to be involved in village life. I therefore wish to remain eligible to vote in Chatteris Town Council elections. As for the “anomaly” of voting for District Councillors in Manea and Town Councillors in Chatteris, I see no conflict at all. I am quite capable of distinguishing between the roles of Town and District Councillors and their respective responsibilities. As District Councillors have a broader remit than Town Councillors I am quite happy to vote for someone who is located in another town or village and will be confident that they will represent me competently and effectively. I am not at all happy about being unable to vote for councillors in a ward that I consider to be part of my “home” community. If the proposals are confirmed and I become a Manea Parish council voter I see little reason to participate in Parish Council elections as the issues on which councillors will represent me are of only the remotest interest to me. If I lose the ability to vote for Chatteris councillors I will be forced to look on helplessly while decisions are made which may well directly affect me but which I will have had no opportunity to influence. Since I became eligible to vote in the 1960s I have always made a point of participating in local elections. Under the proposed arrangements I will feel as though I have been effectively disenfranchised and will have no incentive to use my vote in local elections, thereby joining the unconcerned majority who stay at home on polling day. Please do not let these proposals go ahead merely for the sake of administrative tidiness.
- 1.17 Local resident Mr Chris Boden emailed the following: Dear Sir, As a resident and elector in Fenland I would like to register my support for Fenland District Council's [hereinafter FDC] current draft Corporate Governance Review [CGR] proposals concerning the parish of Manea and the towns of Whittlesey and Chatteris. However, should either FDC or the Local Government Boundary Commission for England [LGBCE] not be minded to make the proposed changes to the boundary between the Parish of Manea and the Town of Chatteris, I have an alternative suggestion in respect of the ward boundaries for the Town of Chatteris. The CGR proposals FDC is currently consulting on four specific proposals:

- that the boundaries of the Town Council Wards for Whittlesey be redrawn so as to be coterminous with the redrawn boundaries for FDC Wards within the town, which come into effect from 1st October 2014 following the recent LGBCE boundary review.
- that the boundary between the Parish of Manea and the Town of Chatteris be redrawn so that the whole of the new FDC Ward of Manea, which comes into effect from 1st October 2014 following the recent LGBCE boundary review, should be included in the Parish of Manea.
- that the boundaries of the Town Council Wards for Chatteris be redrawn so as to be coterminous with the redrawn boundaries for FDC Wards within the town, which come into effect from 1st October 2014 following the recent LGBCE boundary review.
- that there be no change to the numbers of Parish Councillors serving on the Parish Council of Manea, nor to the numbers of Town Councillors serving on the Town Councils of Whittlesey or Chatteris.

The starting point for consideration of these proposals should be the guidance given in paragraphs 162-166 of the "Guidance on Community Governance Reviews" published in March 2010 jointly by the LGBCE and the Department for Communities and Local Government, within the overall framework provided by Section 100 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The relevant paragraphs in the Guidance are as follows:

162. In reaching conclusions on the boundaries between parish wards the principal council should take account of community identity and interests in the area, and consider whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries. Principal councils should seek views on such matters during the course of a review. They will, however, be mindful that proposals which are intended to reflect community identity and local linkages should be justified in terms of sound and demonstrable evidence of those identities and linkages.

163. The principal council should also consider the desirability of parish warding in circumstances where the parish is divided by district or London borough ward and/or county division boundaries. It should be mindful of the provisions of Schedule 2 (electoral change in England: considerations on review) to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 in relation to reviews of district or London borough and county council electoral arrangements. These provide that when the LGBCE is making changes to principal council electoral arrangements, no unwarded parish should be divided by a district or London borough ward or county division boundary, and that no parish ward should be split by such a boundary. While these provisions do not apply to reviews of parish electoral arrangements, the LGBCE believes that, in the interests of effective and convenient local government, they are relevant considerations for principal councils to take into account when undertaking community governance reviews. For example, if a principal council chooses to establish a new parish in an area which is covered by two or more district or London borough wards or county division boundaries it may also wish to consider the merit of putting parish warding in place to reflect that ward and/or division

164. When considering parish ward boundaries principal councils should ensure they consider the desirability of fixing boundaries which are, and will remain, easily identifiable, as well as taking into account any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries.

165. If a principal council decides that a parish should be warded, it should give consideration to the levels of representation between each ward. That is to say, the number of councillors to be elected from each ward and the number of electors they represent.

166. It is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors. There is no provision in legislation that each parish councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors. However, the LGBCE believes it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards. Such variations could make it difficult, in workload terms, for councillors to adequately represent the interests of residents. There is also a risk that where one or more wards of a parish are over-represented by councillors, the residents of those wards (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.

I shall deal with each of the four CGR proposals in turn:

a. that the boundaries of the Town Council Wards for Whittlesey be redrawn so as to be coterminous with the redrawn boundaries for FDC Wards within the town, which come into effect from 1st October 2014 following the recent LGBCE boundary review.

So far as Whittlesey Town Council is concerned, it has habitually been the case that the Town Council has been divided into wards, and that these wards have been coterminous with FDC's wards in the town. This has provided effective and convenient local government - it has ensured that there is a close and clear relationship between specific Town Councillors and specific District Councillors, since each District Councillor represents exactly the same area that a group of Town Councillors represents. It is also clear, in the minds of local electors, which Councillors represent them at Town and District level. Several Town Councillors are also District Councillors and the coterminosity of their area of representation on the two different authorities helps to avoid confusion as to who is responsible for what in any particular part of the town. The recent LGBCE review clearly saw merit in retaining coterminosity between Town and District Ward boundaries throughout neighbouring March and in most of Whittlesey - within Whittlesey the LGBCE proposals which come into force on 1st October 2014 maintain coterminosity in three of Whittlesey's five Wards - Coates and Eastrea, Lattersey and Stonald. However, and without any request being made by local people to do this, LGBCE decided to split the area of the District Council Ward of St. Andrews into two Town Council Wards, and decided to split the District Council Ward of Bassenhally into three Town Council Wards.

The split of the FDC Ward of St. Andrews into two Town Council Wards (named St. Marys and [rather confusingly] St. Andrews) is startlingly unequal. The St Andrews Town Council Ward will contain over 54% more electors than the St. Marys Town Council Ward, yet each ward shall return just one Whittlesey Town Councillor. It is capricious and would be seen locally to be quite unfair that fewer than two-fifths of the FDC St Andrews Ward should be represented with such a low elector to Town Councillor ratio whilst the majority of that same FDC ward should have such a high elector to Town Councillor ratio. This 54% difference clearly challenges the LGBCE's own guidance which states, in paragraph 166, that "It is an important democratic principle that each person's vote

should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors. .... [T]he LGBCE believes it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards. Such variations could make it difficult, in workload terms, for councillors to adequately represent the interests of residents. There is also a risk that where one or more wards of a parish are over-represented by councillors, the residents of those wards (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council." This split District Council Ward will also cause some confusion, for example St Andrews Place is in St Andrews Ward for FDC purposes but St. Andrews Place is in the Town Council's St Marys Ward rather than being in the Town Council's St Andrews Ward. If St. Andrews FDC Ward were to be coterminous with a St. Andrews Town Council Ward, the ratio of electors to Town Councillors would be almost exactly the same as the average for the whole of the town. By arbitrarily dividing St. Andrews FDC Ward into two unequal Town Council Wards the new Town Council boundaries, which come into force on October 1st this year, will create two wards each of which will have an elector to Town Councillor ratio with a disparity, compared to the Town as a whole, of more than 20% (one higher, the other lower). To promote effective and convenient local government it is therefore clearly preferable, both for reasons of clarity of responsibility and for reasons of avoiding unacceptable electoral inequality, that the St. Andrews FDC Ward not be split into two Town Council Wards.

The proposed split of Bassenhally FDC Ward into three Town Council Wards will create even more problems - once again, coterminosity between District and Town Ward boundaries would be the obvious solution. The new FDC Bassenhally Ward is somewhat arbitrarily to be split between the three Town Council Wards of Elm, Delph and Bassenhally, resulting in greater electoral inequality than would be the case were there to be a single Town Council Ward coterminous with the FDC Bassenhally Ward. Elm Ward in particular will be electorally unfair. It has an electorate of only 788 (over 5% smaller than the unreasonably small St. Marys Town Council Ward mentioned previously!) and there are no proposals for any new housing developments in the Elm Ward area which would reduce that imbalance and therefore justify there being a Town Ward with such a small electorate. Once again this breaches the LGBCE guideline on avoiding unreasonable and unnecessary electoral inequality. I can make particular representations in respect of Elm Town Council Ward because I live within its boundaries, at 73 Bassenhally Road. My next-door neighbour to my left, however, will be in Bassenhally Town Council Ward whilst the house opposite me in Bassenhally Road to my right will be in Delph Town Council Ward. Bassenhally Road is the eponymous heart of the newly expanded Bassenhally FDC Ward and is an area of reasonably homogenous continuous development. The proposed split of Bassenhally FDC Ward into three different Town Council Wards would leave the easternmost handful of Bassenhally Road residents in Bassenhally Town Council Ward whilst the remainder would be split down the middle between Elm Town Council Ward and Delph Town Council Ward. This will create real confusion when seeking Town Councillor assistance with traffic, drainage, pruning, flooding, pavement, street-lighting, road safety and pothole issues in Bassenhally Road, and most certainly will not be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. As an example of the confusion that will be caused if the proposals in the CGR are not agreed, may I point out that (a) the new Delph Town Council Ward area will contain none of the area covered by the existing Delph Ward on the Town Council nor by any of the existing area of Delph Ward on FDC (b) No part of the existing Delph Ward on the Town Council, nor any part of the existing Delph Ward on FDC, shall be included in the new Delph Ward on the Town Council (c) all of Bassenhally Road will be in Bassenhally Ward for FDC purposes but for Town Council purposes less than 10% of Bassenhally Road will be in Bassenhally Ward (d) Elm Town Council Ward

contains none of, nor is contiguous to, FDC's Elm and Christchurch Ward, although the FDC's Elm and Christchurch Ward does in fact, most confusingly, share a border with the Town Council's Bassenhally Ward (e) Elm Town Council Ward is so bizarrely shaped that, despite its small electorate, the issues facing the electors at the northernmost part of Elm Ward (in East Delph) have very little in common with the issues facing the electors in the southernmost part of the Ward, on Eastrea Road. To sum up, splitting the FDC Bassenhally Ward into three Town Council Wards has been done arbitrarily, without reference to local communities of interest, without sufficient regard to the resultant electoral inequality and in such a way as to be confusing to electors and in a way which will even be confusing (I dare say!) to Councillors themselves.

My final reason to support the CGR proposals in relation to Whittlesey which are currently the subject of consultation is one of effective government so far as local residents are concerned. At Town Council level, having multi-member Wards means that (a) residents have access to one of their Town Councillors even if another is on holiday or has other work commitments and (b) most Town Council Wards have at least one representative on each of the Town Council's Sub-Committees. If single member Town Council Wards are, quite unnecessarily, established for St. Marys, St. Andrews, Delph and Elm then local residents, such as myself, will lose that level of cover when their Councillor is absent or on holiday, and the four single-member Wards will not have direct representation on one (or even two) of the Town Council's important Sub-Committees, thus reducing the level of democratic accountability that all electors in Whittlesey have come to expect.

b. that the boundary between the Parish of Manea and the Town of Chatteris be redrawn so that the whole of the new FDC Ward of Manea, which comes into effect from 1st October 2014 following the recent LGBCE boundary review, should be included in the Parish of Manea.

It is important (and a requirement of the Guidance) that, in redrawing boundaries, "account [shall be taken] of community identity and interests in the area, and consider[ation be given as to] whether any particular ties or linkages might be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries". It's also necessary to seek to achieve "the interests of effective and convenient local government". Having 114 electors in the rural part of the parish of Chatteris who would be part of Chatteris for Town Council purposes but part of Manea for FDC electoral purposes would be very difficult to manage in practice and would undoubtedly lead to a danger of those electors being marginalised in Chatteris. The relevant area contains a very small proportion of the current electorate of the Town of Chatteris: in fact it's just 1.4% of the total. The proposed new boundary (unlike much of the existing boundary) is geographically very clear and well-established (which is, presumably, why the LGBCE decided that it would be appropriate to use it to form the new FDC ward boundary). The area involved in the change is currently the more rural part of the generally built-up Town of Chatteris and, as such, is more in keeping with the rural parish of Manea than with most of the rest of the Town of Chatteris. Unless the proposed change is made, there would be a significant added burden on the FDC Councillor representing Manea Ward, as that Councillor would otherwise need to attend and interact with both Manea Parish Council and Chatteris Town Council, even though 93% of the electors whom that FDC Councillor would represent would be in Manea Parish. The danger would be that these few, 114, electors would end up being marginalised both at Town and District level because of their anomalous position. Indeed, it is likely that they would need to vote in one polling station for Town Council elections but at another polling station several miles away for other elections, even when those elections are held on the same day, as will happen in 2015 and every four years thereafter. The alternative (creating a special polling district and polling place for these 114 electors alone) would not promote efficient and cost-effective local government, especially considering that the area involved almost entirely consists of farmland with absolutely no community asset which would be suitable for use as a polling

station. Leaving 114 electors as an anomalous 1.4% residue in Chatteris Town, but not represented by one of the Chatteris District Councillors, whilst expecting the Manea District Councillor to take on the burden of interacting with Chatteris Town Council for the sake of such a small part of Manea FDC Ward's electorate would clearly not be conducive to good local government and needs to be rectified. The current (partial) solution, giving these 114 electors their own single-member ward (How Fen Ward) on Chatteris Town Council, has the undesirable effect of creating a Ward whose elector to Town Councillor ratio is only a tenth of that elsewhere in Chatteris. Such gross disparity in representation is unacceptable in the modern democratic age and is redolent of the systemic electoral inequality seen in "Rotten Boroughs", abolished by the Great Reform Act of 1832! Allowing such gross inequality of representation would clearly breach paragraph 166 of the LGBCE's CGR guidance. Indeed, leaving arrangements as they are could produce the bizarre prospect, on a normal local government turnout, of a total number of votes cast in a Town Council Ward election amounting to fewer than 30, which would potentially be farcical and certainly not conducive to the good reputation of local government in the community.

c. that the boundaries of the Town Council Wards for Chatteris be redrawn so as to be coterminous with the redrawn boundaries for FDC Wards within the town, which come into effect from 1st October 2014 following the recent LGBCE boundary review.

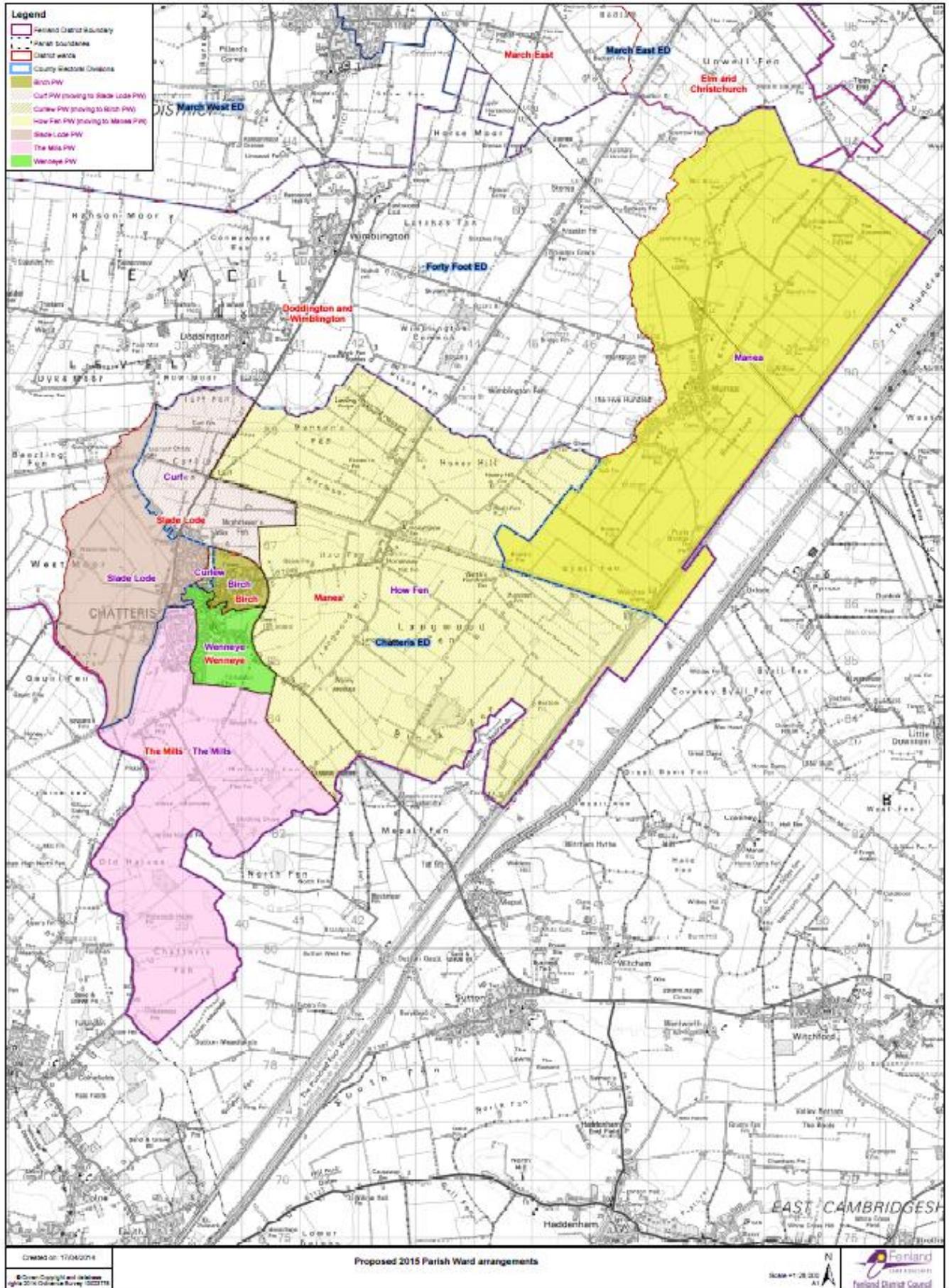
Assuming that FDC and the LGBCE agree to the redrawing of the boundary between the Town of Chatteris and the Parish of Manea, I fully support the proposal by FDC to make the Town Council and FDC Wards coterminous, thus avoiding confusion (for the same reasons as given previously in this representation concerning Whittlesey) and promoting effective and convenient local government in the Town. However, if FDC or the LGBCE do not agree to the change in the boundary between the Town of Chatteris and the Parish of Manea, I would strongly represent that maintaining three single-member wards with electorates of little more than one to two hundred each would be grossly unfair to the remaining 7,500 electors in the Town who would be represented by a total of nine Town Councillors. Using the extreme examples, How Fen Town Ward would have a ratio of one Councillor for 114 electors. However, the 2,220 electors in The Mills Town Ward would be represented by only two Councillors - a ratio of 1110 electors per Councillor which differs unacceptably from How Fen's 114:1 ratio. Additionally the other two proposed single-member Wards would be grossly over-represented electorally. Although I'd prefer to see the Town/Parish boundary changed, if it is not changed then I would propose that the Chatteris Town Council Wards be coterminous with the FDC Wards in the Town with the exception that that part of Manea FDC Ward contained within Chatteris Town (comprising the 114 electors of How Fen) be included with the FDC Ward of Wenneye in a Town Council Ward named Wenneye. This solution would produce four Town Council Wards with the maximum possible level of coterminosity with the Chatteris FDC Wards whilst creating four Town Council Wards with almost equal electorates, each of which would return three Councillors to the Town Council thus achieving the best possible electoral equality in the circumstances.

d. that there be no change to the numbers of Parish Councillors serving on the Parish Council of Manea, nor to the numbers of Town Councillors serving on the Town Councils of Whittlesey or Chatteris.

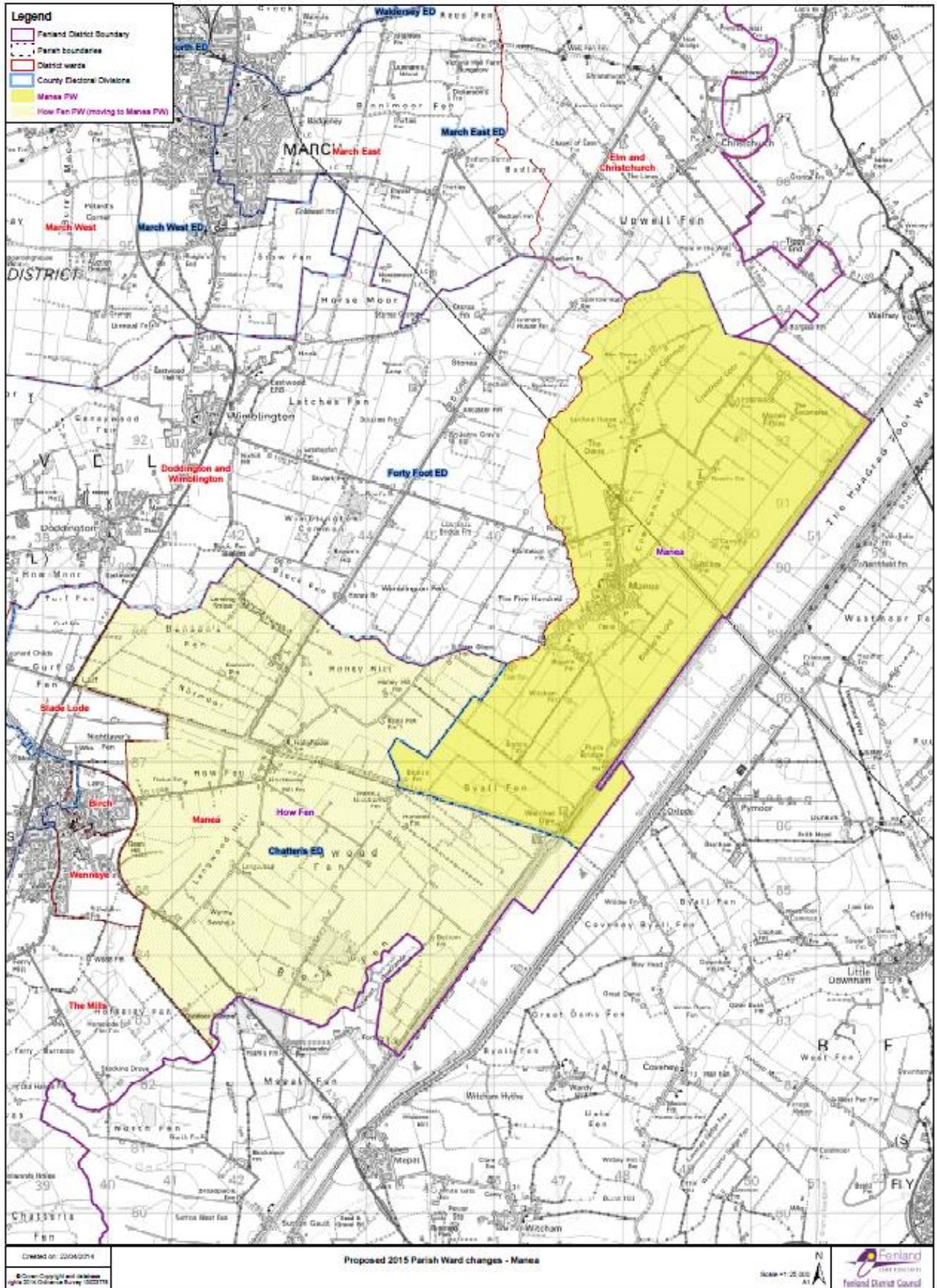
Given that Whittlesey Town Council, Chatteris Town Council and Manea Parish Council (regardless of the proposed boundary change between Manea and Chatteris) have and will continue to have Council sizes reasonably appropriate for their respective electorates (consistent with paragraph 154 of the LGBCE CGR Guidance) I support the FDC CGR proposal that there be no change to the numbers of Councillors elected to any of these three Councils.

**Appendix 2: Maps - Map 1 - Current Chatteris Parish Warding Arrangements from 2015**

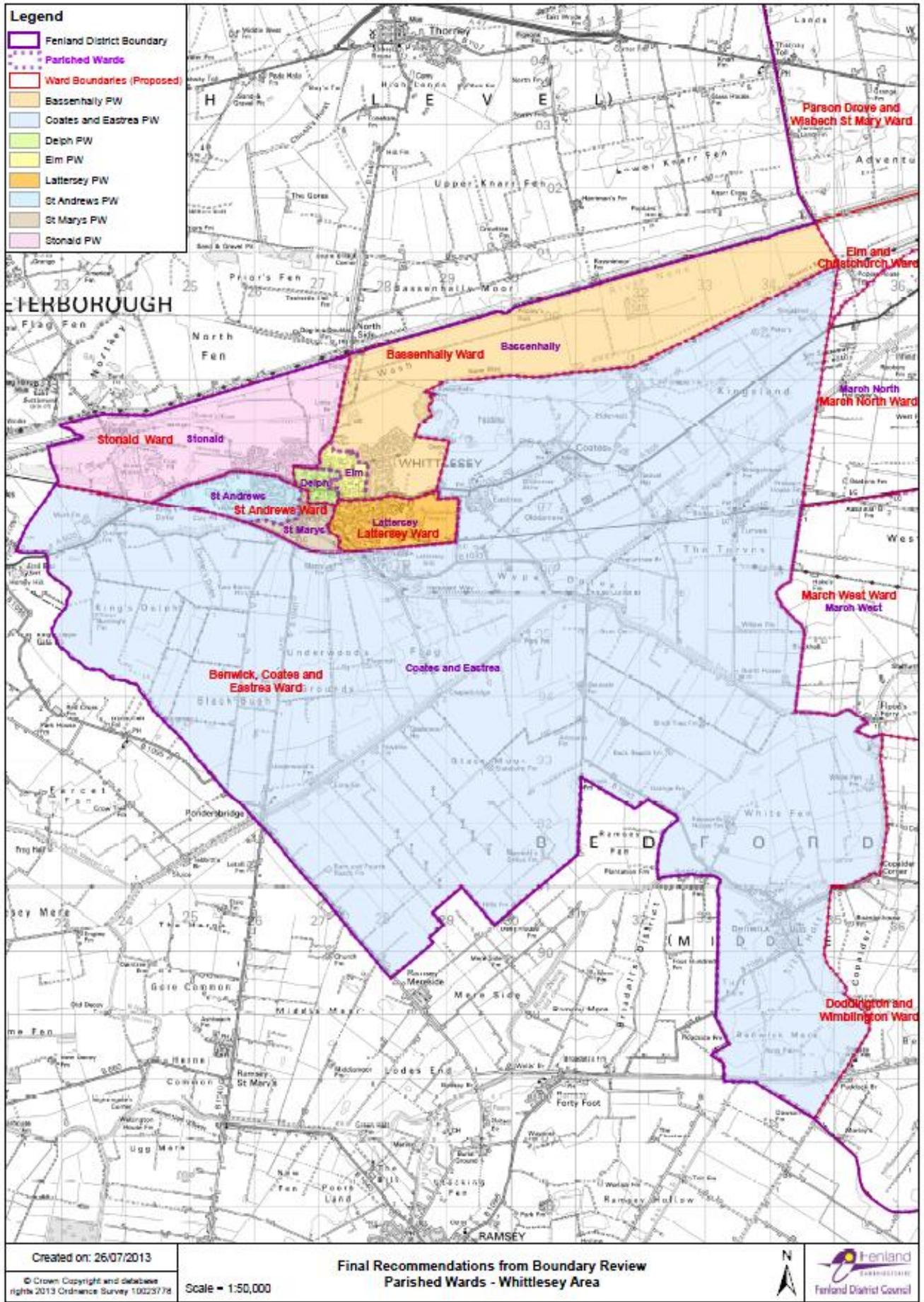




Map 3 - Recommended external Chatteris/ Manea Parish Boundary



Map 4 - Current Whittlesey Parish Warding Arrangements from 2015



Map 5 - CGR Recommended Whittlesey Parish Warding arrangements from 2015

