

Single Ward boundary review

In July 2015 the Council requested that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review the size and the warding arrangements of the council, as one had not been carried out since 2002

As part of this process members of the Council's Cabinet later indicated a preference to consider the options of reducing the number of councillors in the interests of efficiency and a preference for single member wards in the interests of accountability to electors where this is possible.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England completed this electoral review of Harborough in 2016/17 and changes to the electoral arrangements for the District Council first came into effect at the elections held on 2nd May 2019.

This has had the effect of reducing the Council from 37 Councillors overall to 34 and from representing 25 wards to 19.

The District Council is now made up of 34 councillors representing 19 wards:

3 Member Wards	2 Member Wards	1 Member Wards
Kibworths	BA - South & Leire	Lubenham
Thurnby & Houghton	BA- Primethorpe & Sutton	Bosworth
MH - Welland	Lutterworth East	Misterton
	Lutterworth West	Dunton
	Glen	Billesdon & Tilton
	Fleckney	Nevill
	MH Logan	Ullesthorpe
	MH Great Bowden & Arden	
	MH Little Bowden	

There are in summary 3 x 3 member wards, 9 x 2 member wards and 7 single member wards.

Whilst the objective to reduce the number of elected Councillors was achieved there was no increase in the number of single member wards, in fact the opposite occurred and they decreased, despite this being a stated preference.

At present the majority of wards are multiple member wards which means that there are issues around

- Electoral equity
- Convenient and effective local government
- Community Identity and interests

All of these pose challenges for councillors, other stakeholders as well as residents and businesses as they seek to hold elected representatives to be account.

After a discussion with representatives of the LGBCE at the LGA annual Conference in July 2023, it was indicated that the only basis on which a further boundary review of the Harborough district warding arrangements could now be carried out for the foreseeable future is on the basis of the Council seeking a Single-member ward review - ie.to have 1 councillor per ward.

For example, if the number of Councillors stayed the same then there could be 34 wards

Motion:

- a) **That this Council authorises the appropriate officer to contact the LGBCE to seek inclusion into their latest work programme for a Single-member review of the warding arrangements for Harborough District Council.**
- b) **That subject to a) being successful, namely HDC being accepted onto the LGBCE programme for a single member review, that a politically balanced review panel of this council, be constituted.**

Proposed by: Cllr Phil King

Seconded by: Cllr Simon Whelband