

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING**

**24 FEBRUARY 2014**

**AGENDA ITEM 15**

**BOUNDARY REVIEW**

- (1) To consider the attached draft submission proposals from the Conservative Group (Appendix A) and the Labour Group (Appendix B) as considered by the Regulatory and Licensing Committee on 18th February 2014 and determine the formal submission.
- (2) To grant authority to the Strategic Director Democratic Development and Legal Services in consultation with the Chairman of Regulatory and Licensing Committee to make any minor changes to the submission documents.



**APPENDIX A**

**Conservative Group Proposal**

**LICHFIELD CITY WARDS** (see plan at Appendix I)

There is cross party agreement on the Lichfield Wards.

<b>Proposed Ward Name</b>	<b>Projected Electorate in 2019</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>	<b>Electoral variance by 2019</b>	<b>Supporting Information</b>
<b>Boley Park</b>	3921	2	5.74	Amended Ward  It is proposed that Polling District RD (Old Burton West) transfers to Stowe Ward. This change allows the Ward boundary to follow the railway line which provides a physical, easily identifiable boundary line.  It is also proposed to amend the boundary in the south east of the Ward to incorporate 504 electors from St Johns Ward (part of polling district RP – Cherry Orchard) to improve electoral equality.
<b>Chadsmead</b>	3,382.39	2	-8.8	Amended Ward  It is proposed that the boundary with Curborough Ward be amended to include part of polling district RK (St. Chads) to increase the electorate by 550 and thereby improve electoral equality.

<b>Proposed Ward Name</b>	<b>Projected Electorate in 2019</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>	<b>Electoral variance by 2019</b>	<b>Supporting Information</b>
<b>Curborough</b>	3,518.24	2	-5.2	Amended Ward  It is proposed that the boundary be amended by transferring part of polling district RK (St. Chads) to Chadsmead Ward to decrease the electorate by 550 thereby improving electoral equality.
<b>Leomansley</b>	5871.14	3	5.56	Existing Ward  A transfer of land from Stowe Ward (extending from Watery Lane to north of York Close) improves the boundary line between the two wards.
<b>St Johns</b>	5764.96	3	3.64	Amended Ward  It is proposed that the boundary be amended to transfer 504 electors to Boley Ward (part of polling district RP – Cherry Orchard) to improve electoral equality.
<b>Stowe</b>	5100.60	3	-8.30	Amended Ward  It is proposed that polling district RD (Old Burton West) be transferred from Boley Park Ward to Stowe Ward. This change allows the Ward Boundary to follow the railway line

Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
				<p>which provides a physical, easily identifiable boundary.</p> <p>A transfer of land to Curborough Ward (extending from Watery Lane to north of York Close) improves the boundary line between the two wards.</p>

**BURNWOOD WARDS** (see plan at Appendix 1)

<b>Proposed Ward Name</b>	<b>Projected Electorate in 2019</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>	<b>Electoral variance by 2019</b>	<b>Supporting Information</b>
<b>All Saints &amp; Central</b>	5424	3	-2.48	New Ward It is proposed that the former All Saints and Central Wards are merged to improve electoral equality while recognising and maintaining the communities represented by the former wards.
<b>Summerfield</b>	3416	2	-7.86	New Ward It is proposed that Summerfield Ward remains but with the addition of 200 electors from the Chasetown Ward to improve electoral equality. This ensures that the communities represented by the former wards are kept intact within the new, larger ward.
<b>Chase Terrace</b>	6049	3	8.76	New Ward It is proposed that Chase Terrace Ward remains but with the addition of Polling Districts CC (Crescent) and CE (Spinney)

Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
<b>Highfield</b>	3898	2	5.12	<p>from the current Boney Hay Ward to improve electoral equality. This ensures that the communities represented by the former wards are kept intact within the new, larger ward.</p> <p>New Ward</p>
<b>Chasetown</b>	3522	2	-5.02	<p>It is proposed that Highfields Ward remains but with the addition of Polling District CD (Longfellow) from the current Boney Hay Ward to improve electoral equality. This ensures that the communities represented by the former wards are kept intact within the new, larger ward.</p> <p>New Ward</p> <p>It is proposed that Chasetown Ward remains but with the loss of 200 electors to the Summerfield Ward to improve electoral equality. This ensures that the communities represented by the former ward are kept intact within the new ward.</p>

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT RURAL WARDS** (see plan at Appendix I)

The proposal submitted by the Labour Group for the Rural wards is at Appendix B

<b>Proposed Ward Name</b>	<b>Projected Electorate in 2019</b>	<b>Number of Councillors</b>	<b>Electoral variance by 2019</b>	<b>Supporting Information</b>
<b>Alrewas and Fradley</b>	5652.56	3	1.63	Existing Ward It is proposed that the ward retains its current



Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
<b>Streethay</b>	1859.96	1	0.32	<p>boundaries and in view of the projected electorate of 5652 remains a three member ward.</p> <p><i>* The Alrewas and Fradley Ward also remains unchanged in the Labour Group proposal</i></p> <p>New Ward</p> <p>The proposed new Ward of Streethay represents a distinct community. The arrangement takes into account future housing development in the area which will see the community increase in size.</p>
<b>Armitage with Handsacre</b>	6220.66	3	11.84	<p>Amended Ward</p> <p>It is proposed to extend the Armitage and Handsacre Ward to include the village of Kings Bromley. All these settlements are linked by the A513.</p>
<b>Colton and the Ridwares</b>	1849.36	1	-0.25	<p>Amended Ward</p> <p>It is proposed that the former Colton and Mavesyn Ridware Ward is extended eastwards to include Hamstall Ridware thereby uniting the two Ridware villages.</p>

Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
				Colton, Mavesyn Ridware and Hamstall Ridware are all rural communities and bringing them together delivers electoral equality.
<b>Hammerwich</b>	3257	2	-12.16	Amended Ward  It is proposed that polling district LB (Pool) be transferred into Hammerwich Ward from Chasetown Ward. This ensures electoral equality and makes Chasetown and Hammerwich parish boundaries co-terminus thereby correcting an anomaly with the existing arrangement.
<b>Longdon</b>	1812.48	1	-2.24	Amended Ward  It is proposed that Longdon Ward be enlarged to include polling areas FA (Curborough and Elmhurst) thus retaining the rural nature of the Ward while improving electoral equality.
<b>Bourne Vale</b>	1680.01	1	-9.38	Amended Ward  Bourne Vale is made up of four parishes: - Weeford - Hints & Canwell - Drayton Bassett

Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
			<p>- Swinford &amp; Packington</p> <p>It is proposed that the Ward Boundary be amended to include the area of Drayton Basset Parish currently in Fazeley. This would bring the whole parish back together as one.</p> <p>In addition to rectifying an anomaly it also brings the whole of the Drayton Manor Theme Park into one ward rather than splitting it across two.</p> <p>As a whole the ward is made up of a collection of small rural villages each represented by one of the four Parish Councils.</p> <p>The variance reflects the fact that the area is geographically a challenging ward to represent.</p>	<p>Amended Ward</p> <p>Fazeley has a town council made up of :</p> <p>Fazeley Bonehill/Mile Oak</p>
<b>Fazeley</b>	4113.52	2	10.94	

Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
Little Aston	3147.08	2	-15.13	<p>It is proposed the boundary be amended to unify the parish of Drayton Bassett within Bourne Vale Ward by transferring polling district GA (Drayton Bassett).</p> <p>As a long narrow ward it falls into two distinct areas. Fazeley Town is a tight integrated community while Mile Oak has more rural surroundings on the edge of the Bourne Vale and tends to see itself as a separate community.</p> <p>Consideration was given to making Mile Oak and Fazeley into single Member wards but this leaves Fazeley significantly oversized and therefore it is proposed that it remains as a single two Member ward.</p> <p><i>*The Labour Group proposal for Fazeley differs in so far that it also includes the transfer of 273 electors from polling district KC (Mile Oak) to Mease and Tame. There is agreement on unifying Drayton Bassett Parish by transferring polling district GA (Drayton Bassett) to the ward to the south of Fazeley.</i></p> <p>Amended Ward</p> <p>The existing Ward of Little Aston is a distinct</p>

Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
<b>Mease Valley</b>	1984.75	1	7.05	<p>community, however on its own it falls short of the number of electors required for a single ward.</p> <p>The adjacent boundaries with Birmingham and Walsall offer little opportunity to adjust numbers and splitting Little Aston between wards would break the community affinity.</p> <p>Therefore electoral equality has been addressed by incorporating electors from the surrounding rural belt together with Little Hay.</p> <p>New Ward (currently part of Mease and Tame)</p> <p>The existing Mease and Tame Ward was created at the last boundary when two wards were combined into one ward represented by two Members.</p> <p>However this has not worked successfully since the area is very rural with seven parish councils and very diverse communities.</p> <p>From a Member point of view serving seven Parish Councils in an area that receives a high number of planning applications is very demanding and Members report that it is</p>

Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
Shenstone	1819.62	1	-1.85	<p data-bbox="1197 1366 1268 1859">difficult to provide a consistent level of support.</p> <p data-bbox="1037 1366 1173 1926">It is therefore proposed that a Mease Valley Ward be created consisting Clifton Campville, Thorpe Constantine, Edingale and Harlaston and Wigginton.</p> <p data-bbox="965 1366 997 1579">Amended Ward</p> <p data-bbox="869 1366 933 1926">Shenstone currently has three Parish wards – Little Aston, Shenstone, Stonnall and Wall.</p> <p data-bbox="774 1366 837 1859">The village of Shenstone is a tight knit community with a strong centre.</p> <p data-bbox="638 1366 734 1926">The current link to Wall is not critical to its viability and the surrounding rural properties are not closely linked.</p> <p data-bbox="502 1366 606 1915">Shenstone is in the process of producing a neighbourhood plan highlighting its individuality.</p> <p data-bbox="303 1366 470 1926">It is therefore proposed that Shenstone be made a single Member Ward and that electoral balance be achieved by taking away some of the surrounding rural areas that do not have a close affinity with the village.</p>

Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
Stonnall with Wall	1726.32	1	-6.94	<p>It is also proposed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shenstone Wood End be transferred to Little Aston given its close proximity to this community together with some of the surrounding rural area.</li> <li>• The length of Lynn lane that is largely regarded as Stonnall be incorporated in Stonnall with Wall Ward.</li> <li>• The Ashcroft Lane area of Shenstone Ward be transferred to Stonnall with Wall given its proximity to Chesterfield in Wall Parish.</li> </ul>
New Ward				<p>It is proposed that a new Ward be created comprising Stonnall and Wall.</p> <p>Stonnall was a small hamlet until the growth of housing in the 1950's and 60's. The result is a very close knit community with a large number of activities and groups that centre on the two village halls, playing fields and allotments. It also has a popular village school.</p>

Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
Whittington and Tame Ward	3982.89	2	7.41	<p data-bbox="1109 1366 1268 1937">Wall is rural with a small cluster of properties close to the village hall. There is also a church and public house/restaurant, which are not close together resulting in a scattered settlement.</p> <p data-bbox="901 1366 1077 1937">Wall is currently included in Shenstone Ward, but is not closely linked to Shenstone. Therefore including the Parish with Stonnall helps achieve greater electoral equality without impacting on the community.</p> <p data-bbox="742 1366 869 1937">It is proposed that the new ward should also include the Ashcroft Lane area of Shenstone Ward given its proximity to Chesterfield in Wall Parish.</p> <p data-bbox="614 1366 710 1937">It is also proposed that the length of Lynn lane that is largely regarded as Stonnall be incorporated within the new Ward.</p> <p data-bbox="279 1366 438 1937">New Ward It is proposed that a Ward be created comprising Elford, Hopwas, Whittington St Giles, Whittington Barracks, and Fisherwick. Streethay, adjacent to Lichfield, would be removed from the Ward to create the new</p>



Proposed Ward Name	Projected Electorate in 2019	Number of Councillors	Electoral variance by 2019	Supporting Information
			Ward of Streethay.	<p>The proposal addresses issues associated with the current Mease and Tame Ward; takes into account the increased number of electors which will result from the opening of a new facility at Whittington Barracks and allows for the growth of Streethay.</p>



Draft 6/1

## Lichfield District Minority Group

### Submissions to the Local Government Boundary Commission Review of Lichfield District Council Electoral Review

#### Introduction

These submissions are based firmly in the principles established by the Boundary Commission, namely, they aim to achieve equality of representation whilst reflecting the interests and identities of local communities and providing for effective and convenient local government. They are based on a Council size of 47 members and on projected 2019 electorates, using a divisor of 1880 to inform calculations of equitable representation.

In arriving at our submissions we have found it convenient to take the following factors into account:

- the existing Wards are too variable in size of electorate to allow easy equality of representation, particularly in the rural areas. Accordingly Ward boundaries will need to be redrawn;
- maintaining single member Wards is difficult in respect of the need for equality of representation. Accordingly, existing Wards will need to be merged;
- we believe that multi-member Wards are preferable to single member Wards in that they allow the burden to be shared and electors to be better served. Accordingly, redrawn Wards should be represented by a minimum of two Councillors;
- we believe a margin of variance of 10% in representation to be fair and generally achievable within the principles above;
- so far as is reasonably possible, existing Polling Districts should be maintained for the convenience of electors;
- we consider that, within the framework above and in the light of the principles espoused by the Boundary Commission, that it is preferable to treat urban and rural areas separately as far as is possible. Accordingly, these submissions comprise three parts: the Rural Areas; Lichfield City and Burntwood. The principle of equality of representation implies overall representation in each of these parts respectively of 20, 15 and 12 Councillors.

One consequence of this approach, made essential by the requirement of electoral equality, is that existing communities currently within single member Wards will be joined in electoral terms with other communities. We believe our submissions maintain the principle of recognising existing communities by ensuring that such communities are kept together within the larger Wards.

## **Proposals**

### ***The Rural Areas***

#### **Mease & Tame Ward**

To remain a 2-member Ward. However, current boundaries give a projected electorate of 3063, and an over-representation. To correct this, we propose to transfer 4 small Polling Districts (PB, VA, VB and YC) with scattered populations from Bourne Vale and Whittington Wards together with a part of Polling District KC from Fazeley Ward comprising a small modern housing estate at Gainsborough Drive with the associated housing on Sutton Road.

#### **Fazeley Ward**

To become a 2-member Ward. At the projected electorate this is an under-representation. We propose to correct this by the transfer of electors from PD KC, as above, to Mease & Tame Ward together with the transfer of PD GA (Drayton Bassett) to the new Ward of Little Aston with Bourne Vale, so unifying the village and community of Drayton Bassett within that single Ward.

#### **Little Aston with Bourne Vale Ward**

This would be a new 2-member Ward. At a projected electorate of 2598, Little Aston is under-represented as a single member Ward and over-represented as a 2-member Ward, both outside the 10% variance. Bourne Vale similarly is over-represented on current projections. To resolve this, we propose a merger with Bourne Vale Ward together with the transfer of PD GA from Fazeley Ward to effect the unification of Drayton Bassett within a single Ward. Further, to complete the merger would require the transfer of three adjacent small communities, firstly, the transfer of Shenstone Wood End (PD UC) and Little Hay, from Shenstone Ward, which combined provide a natural link between the two existing Wards. These two small communities could easily be unified under a single Polling District with clear boundaries and an electorate of some 379 in total. This arrangement should be both more efficient and effective from the point of view of both Council and electorate, particularly if a small part of the existing Little Aston electorate on Blake Street and Birmingham Road were brought within scope of the enlarged PD. Secondly, the transfer of part of the small community of Mill Green, currently split between Little Aston and Stonnall Wards, to unify that community. This transfer would affect about 50 electors. Further, in order to enhance equality of representation, we propose the transfer from Bourne Vale of Polling Districts PB, VA and VB to Mease and Tame and of PD XB to the new Ward of Shenstone and Stonnall, below.

#### **Shenstone & Stonnall Ward**

This is a new Ward with 2 Councillors created by the merger of the existing Wards. Without this merger and following the above transfers, Stonnall would be an over-represented single member Ward and Shenstone would be an under-represented single member Ward. Further, in the interests of equality of representation, we propose the transfer of Wall (PD WA) to facilitate the creation of the new Ward of Hammerwich with Wall balanced by the transfer of PD XB from Bourne Vale Ward as above.

### **Armitage and Handsacre**

We propose that this Ward should remain and retain 3 Councillors. Left as it is, this Ward will have a projected electorate of 5230, with 3 Councillors representing an over-representation within the 10% variance.

### **Colton & the Ridwares with Kings Bromley and Longdon**

We propose a new 2 member Ward created by a merger of these three single member Wards. Each of the Wards singly and collectively are over-represented outside the 10% variance.

We propose to deal with this by the transfer of PDs FA and SB with their scattered populations to Highfield Ward.

This does leave the new Ward underrepresented slightly outside the 10% limit. This may be dealt with by the transfer of between 100 and 300 electors from the new Ward to Armitage and Handsacre Ward if this is reasonably possible. This would bring the new Ward within the 10% variance and reduce the over-representation of Armitage and Handsacre.

### **Alrewas & Fradley**

We propose that the Ward retains its current boundaries and remains a 3-member Ward. With a projected electorate of 5652 this represents near-perfect equality of representation.

### **Whittington**

We propose that the Ward remains a 2-member Ward. With a projected electorate of 4188 on current boundaries, this represents an under-representation outside the 10% variance. This issue is addressed by the transfer of PD YC with its scattered communities to Mease and Tame Ward.

### **Hammerwich with Wall**

This is a new 2-member Ward created by the merger of the existing Hammerwich Ward with the transfer of Polling Districts WA from the existing Shenstone Ward and LB from Chasetown Ward in the interests of greater equality of representation whilst maintaining the 2 distinct communities within Hammerwich and the village and community of Wall, together with its otherwise scattered population.

### ***Lichfield City***

We have considered the representation of the City Wards in the round. The projected City electorate justifies a representation of 15 Councillors. This is largely dealt with in the spreadsheet document headed Boundary Review Proposal Version B, with which we largely concur in respect of the City arrangements only, subject to further minor adjustments between St Johns and Boley Wards to achieve greater equality of representation.

### ***Burntwood***

Similarly, we have considered the representations of the Burntwood Wards in the round. On the projected electorate, Burntwood is entitled to 12 Councillors. With the adjustments

proposed for the new Wall and Hammerwich Ward and the incorporation of parts of Longdon Ward within Highfields Ward, we believe that our spreadsheet proposals represent a fair distribution of seats within this largely unified urban area.

## **Conclusion**

We submit that our proposals conform with the principles espoused by the Boundary Commission, namely, equality of representation, preservation of communities and efficiency and convenience in local government overall and as between the two urban areas and varied rural areas of this District.