

Date of issue: Thursday, 21 July 2022

MEETING	COUNCIL
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY, 21ST JULY, 2022 AT 7.00 PM
VENUE:	COUNCIL CHAMBER - OBSERVATORY HOUSE, 25 WINDSOR ROAD, SL1 2EL
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	SHABANA KAUSER 07821 811 259

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

The following Papers have been added to the agenda for the above meeting:-

* Item 9 was not available for publication with the rest of the agenda.

PART 1

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
4.	Questions from Electors under Procedure Rule 9.	1 - 2	All
9.	Update on Electoral Review of Slough Borough Council's Warding Arrangements	3 - 16	All
12.	To note Questions from Members under Procedure Rule 10	17 - 20	All

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL MEETING – 21 July 2022

QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 9

1. From Mrs Marion Anderson to Councillor Bains

“This Council passed a motion in January 2022 to improve the safety of women and girls on our streets. What measures have been taken since to implement this and specifically regarding the Maplin Park area of the Borough?”

2. From Mr Steven Gillingwater to Councillor Ajaib

“The energy rebate application process has been difficult for many in this town due to decisions made by this administration. The Government gave funds to the most vulnerable but this Labour Council chose to hold on to and in cases actually force the money to remain in the council coffers. Can the cabinet member provide clear instructions of when the following occurred:

- 1) Liberta handle the claims?
- 2) the deadline was set?
- 3) the impact of the decisions made with an IEA (impact equality assessment)?”

3. From Mr Gurcharan Singh Manku to Councillor Anderson

“Last year we were told that Audit Bill for the council was about £0.5 M. Is it still the case? And if more, how much more?”

This page is intentionally left blank

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Council
Date:	21 st July 2022
Subject:	Update on Electoral Review of Slough Borough Council's Warding Arrangements
Chief Officer:	Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Nick Pontone, Clerk to the Electoral Cycle & Parliamentary Boundary Review Working Group
Ward(s):	All
Exempt:	No
Appendices:	A – Summary LGBCE draft recommendations B – Draft response to LGBCE C – Map of revised SBC proposal for Slough Central and Upton Lea (preferred option) D – Revised ward profiles E – Alternative Upton Lea and Slough Central Ward Boundary proposal (second preference)

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 This report updates the Council on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) electoral review of Slough and sets out the recommendations of the Electoral Cycle & Parliamentary Boundary Review Working Group.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to consider the recommendations of the Electoral Cycle & Parliamentary Boundary Review Working Group to:

- (a) Approve the draft Council response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's second phase of consultation as set out in Appendices B to E.
- (b) Agree that the scope of the Working Group be extended to include the forthcoming polling district and place review.

Reason:

It is important to respond to the LGBCE consultation to try to ensure the warding arrangements reflect Slough's communities and identities and to meet the LGBCE review criteria. Extending the role of the Working Group will enable the Council to take forward the polling district and polling place review that will follow the boundary review.

Commissioner Review

“Commissioners have been fully involved in the reasoning behind the proposed modifications to the LGBCE’s Draft proposals promoted by the Council and fully support their observations.”

2. Report

Introductory paragraph

- 2.1 This report sets out the recommendations of the Electoral Cycle & Parliamentary Boundary Review Working Group which proposes that the Council respond to the second phase of consultation to the LGBCE electoral review of Slough in order to try to secure warding arrangements which reflect Slough’s communities and identities whilst also meeting the LGBCE review criteria.
- 2.2 The report also seeks approval to extend the scope of the Working Group to include the forthcoming polling district and polling places review that will follow the boundary review.

Options considered

Option 1 – Do not respond to the LGBCE consultation. Not recommended. Not responding to the consultation would mean the Council’s views would not be taken into account by the LGBCE in finalising the warding arrangements for Slough.

Option 2 – Respond to the consultation. Recommended. A response would assist the LGBCE in setting out the Council’s position, including where it supports the LGBCEs draft recommendations which were at variance to those proposed by the Council on 11th April 2022, as well as proposing an alternative for the Slough Central and Upton Lea boundary to further refine the draft recommendations.

Background

- 2.3 The Council agreed on 18th January 2022 to move to whole Council elections from 2023 and to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to conduct an electoral review for the purpose of designing a pattern of wards consistent with the move to whole Council elections.
- 2.4 The LGBCE launched their electoral review of Slough on 1st February 2022 with an initial 10-week consultation which closed on 11th April 2022. The Council agreed a response at the Extraordinary Council meeting on 11th April 2022.
- 2.5 The LGBCE published their draft recommendations for Slough’s ward boundaries on 5th July 2022. A second consultation on the LGBCE proposals is being carried out with a closing date of 12th September 2022 (which is before the next ordinary meeting of Council).
- 2.6 The LGBCEs final recommendations will be published on 29th November 2022 and the new warding arrangements will come into effect for the May 2023 borough elections, subject to Parliamentary approval.
- 2.7 The draft recommendations from LGBCE published on 5th July accept the Council’s proposal for 21 wards each with two councillors. A summary is set out in Appendix

A. The majority of ward boundaries are in line with the proposals agreed by the Council on 11th April 2022 and submitted to LGBCE.

- 2.8 The Council's Working Group has drafted response to the second phase of the consultation which is set out in Appendices B to E. The draft response accepts all of the LGBCE proposals, with the exception of the boundary between the proposed Slough Central and Upton Lea wards where the Working Group agreed an alternative proposal as set out in the response. The Council is asked to consider and approve the response for submission to LGBCE.
- 2.9 Once the new boundaries are confirmed the Council will be required to carry out a review of polling districts in each of the new wards and in each polling district a suitable location for a polling place will need to be identified.
- 2.10 The Council established the Electoral Cycle & Parliamentary Boundary Review Working Group on 24th September 2020. Its remit was to consider and make any recommendation to Council on the review of Slough's electoral cycle and the consultation on the review of Parliamentary boundaries.
- 2.11 As part of the changes arising from the change to the electoral cycle agreed by Council in January 2022, the Working Group has continued its work on the ward boundary review as set out elsewhere in this report. It is proposed that the remit of the Working Group now be extended to include the forthcoming review of polling districts and places to provide Member input and support to this review and make recommendations to Council.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

- 3.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposed response to LGBCE or the remit of the Working Group.

3.2 Legal implications

- 3.2.1 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 sets out the requirements for a review of electoral arrangements carried out by the LGBCE.

The review procedure is prescribed at Section 58 of the Act which requires the LGBCE to inform interested parties to a review and take their representations into consideration.

Section 58: Review procedure

(1) As soon as reasonably practicable after deciding to conduct a review under section 56, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England must take such steps as it considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of—

- (a) the fact that the review is to take place, and*
- (b) any particular matters to which the review is to relate.*

(2) In conducting a review under section 56, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England must—

- (a) prepare and publish draft recommendations,*
- (b) take such steps as it considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the recommendations are informed of them and of the period within which representations with respect to them may be made, and*
- (c) take into consideration any representations made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England within that period.*

(3) The Local Government Boundary Commission for England may at any time before publishing draft recommendations under subsection (2)(a) consult such persons as it considers appropriate.

(4) As soon as practicable after conducting a review under section 56, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England must—

- (a) publish a report stating its recommendations, and*
- (b) take such steps as it considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the recommendations are informed of them*

3.3 Risk management implications

3.3.1 The principal risk was that new warding arrangements agreed by LGBCE would not fully reflect Slough's community interests and identities. This risk has already been significantly addressed by the fact the Council's submission on 11th April 2022 has been substantially reflected in the LGBCEs draft recommendations. Responding to the second phase of consultation seeks to continue this proactive approach and achieve warding arrangements for Slough which are well aligned to local communities.

3.4 Environmental implications

3.4.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

3.5 Equality implications

3.5.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from the report, however, they will be an important consideration in the polling district and place review which will follow the boundary review.

4. Background Papers

None.

Have your say

We are now consulting local people on a new pattern of wards for Slough Borough Council. We have an open mind about our final recommendations, and we will consider every piece of evidence we receive from local groups and people, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole council area or just a part of it.

If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Slough we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

Slough Council

Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements

We aim to propose a pattern of wards for Slough Borough Council which delivers:

- **Electoral equality:** each councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- **Community identity:** reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- **Effective and convenient local government:** helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

Electoral equality

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in the council area?

Community identity

- **Transport links:** are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?
- **Community groups:** is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?
- **Facilities:** does your pattern of wards reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc?

Write to:
Review Officer (Slough)
PO BOX 133,
BLyth,
NE24 9FE

- **Interests:** what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- **Identifiable boundaries:** are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

Effective local government

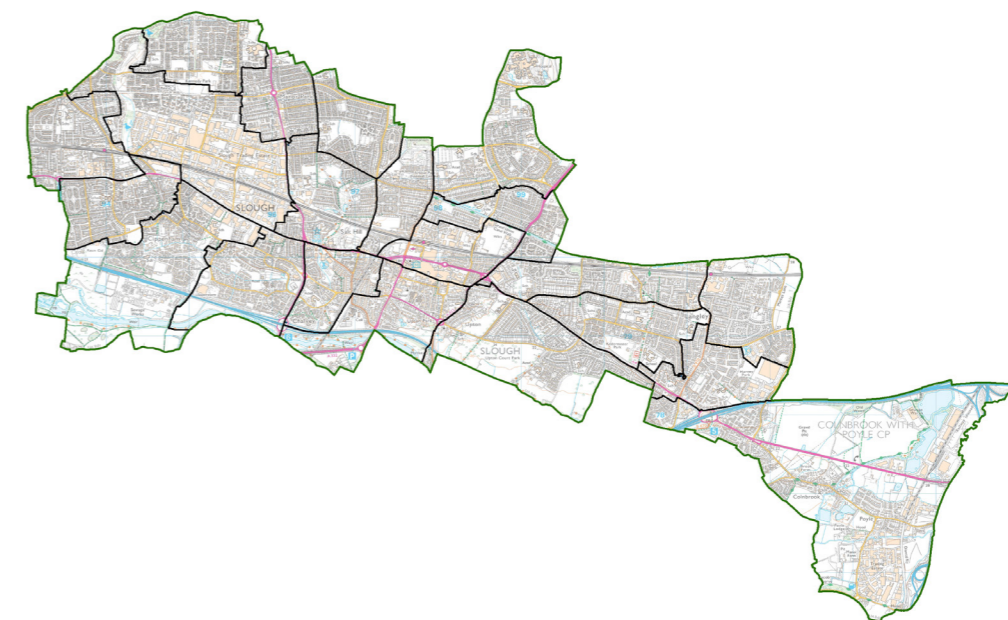
- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?

Useful tips

- Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at consultation.lgbce.org.uk.
- We publish all submissions we receive on our website. Go to: www.lgbce.org.uk

Our consultation area:

consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Email:
reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Twitter:
[@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)



Who we are

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.
- We are not part of government or any political party.
- We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.
- Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority, including:

- The total number of councillors representing the council's electors ('council size').
- The names, number and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
- The number of councillors for each ward or division.

Why Slough?

- The Commission has a legal duty to carry out an electoral review of each council in England 'from time to time'.
- We are reviewing Slough because the authority changed its electoral cycle to whole council elections. The Council requested that the Commission carry out a review so that its wards reflect this change in cycle.

Our proposals

- We propose that the council should have **42 councillors** in future, representing 21 two-councillor wards across the council area.

You have until 12 September 2022 to have your say on the recommendations

Summary of our recommendations

We have considered all the submissions we received during the consultation.

The draft recommendations propose that Slough Borough Council should have 42 councillors. This is the same as there are now.

Those councillors should represent 21 two-councillor wards. This is six more wards than there are now. The boundaries of all wards have been changed in our draft recommendations.

An outline of the proposals is shown in the map to the right. A detailed report on the recommendations and interactive mapping is available on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk.

We welcome comments on our draft recommendations, whether you support the proposals or wish to put forward alternative arrangements.

Have your say at consultation.lgbce.org.uk:

- view the map of our recommendations down to street level.
- zoom into the areas that interest you most.
- find more guidance on how to have your say.
- read the full report of our recommendations.
- send us your views directly.

Stage of Review	Description
1 February 2022 - 11 April 2022	Public consultation on warding arrangements
5 July 2022 - 12 September 2022	Public consultation on draft recommendations
29 November 2022	Publication of final recommendations
May 2023	Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at local elections

Overview of draft recommendations for Slough Borough Council

View this map online: consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Follow the review on Twitter: [@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)

If you are viewing this page online, click on the map to go straight to our interactive consultation area.



SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSIONER FOR ENGLAND (LGBCE)
– SLOUGH ELECTORAL REVIEW**

DRAFT SBC RESPONSE TO SECOND CONSULTATION

Councillor Numbers

Slough Borough Council notes that the LGBCE has agreed with Slough Borough Council's already-stated view that the overall number of Councillors on Slough Unitary Authority should be confirmed as 42, reflecting the current size of the elected Council. Slough Council supported the LGBCE proposal for 42 Councillors when set out in January 2022. We confirm our support for the proposition that the Council should continue to consist of 42 elected members.

Ward Pattern: 21 x 2-member wards

We note that in its proposals on a new pattern of wards published on 5th July 2022, the LGBCE has supported the Council's proposition of a uniform pattern of 21 x 2-member wards, rather than a mixed pattern of wards with variable numbers of Councillors. The Council is pleased that our submission in this regard carried weight and we reaffirm our support for the proposal of 21 x 2-member wards.

Proposed Boundaries of Individual Wards

The Council notes that in the ward pattern as set out in the LGBCE's published proposals, 16 of the wards reflect the boundaries as tabled in Slough Borough Council's submission (including the cross-party amendments agreed at our full Council meeting on 11th April 2022).

We note that the Boundary Commission found the submission made by Slough Borough Council to the LGBCE's consultation on ward boundaries to be, overall, a "strong and well-thought-through scheme which required very few changes" and we support the boundaries for those 16 wards, as set out in the LGBCE's published proposals.

The consultation document containing the draft recommendations groups the proposed new wards into sections based on geography. We support in full the proposals for 'West Slough' (the proposed wards of Britwell, Northborough & Lynch Hill Valley, Farnham, Haymill, Cippenham Green, and Cippenham Meadows).

We also support in full the proposal for West-Central Slough (the proposed wards of Manor Park & Stoke, Baylis & Salt Hill, Elliman, Chalvey Grove and Chalvey wards).

Wexham Court ward

The LGBCE has moved Grasmere Avenue, Kendal Drive and Kendal Close from the proposed Upton Lea ward, to join Shaggy Calf Lane in the Wexham Court ward.

This adds to the upward variance of Wexham Court ward from the electoral average by 2027 (at 8% on the LGBCE proposal), but keeps this variance within 10%. The Council is therefore content to support the LGBCE proposal for this ward.

Upton Lea ward and Central ward

As the area of/around Slough town centre is to accommodate a large amount of the residential development planned for Slough, the new 'Slough Central' ward sees its population rise dramatically between 2023 and 2027. This leads to a variance well above the electoral average in the proposed ward boundary submitted by the Council on 11th April 2022. To minimise/reduce this, the LGBCE has proposed adding the Goodman Park estate to Upton Lea ward.

The Council understands the reasoning behind the LGBCE's proposed change, but believes that aspects of this change now fracture/fail to recognise other community links that exist, as well as creating a rather cumbersome/incoherent boundary along the southern 'middle' of Upton Lea ward as two significant 'dog-legs' run around the Akzo-Nobel/Panattoni site, excluding it from the Upton Lea ward (with a boundary running north up Wexham Road, just north-east of Petersfield Avenue, then running west to east along the canal before running south down Uxbridge Road).

We believe the boundaries for this ward as now proposed, have negative impacts on established community links; are less convenient for some of the electorate that now form the population of the ward in the LGBCE proposal; and exaggerate the dividing effect of Slough canal by running round the Panattoni site, rather than using the canal differently as a feature to reflect the canal-side community of this geographical area.

As a result, the Council's working party re-considered the neighbourhoods here, returned to first principles and re-examined the arterial routes, geographical and other neighbourhood features of the area contained within Slough Central and Upton Lea wards, before working with local ward members to draft an alternative configuration for the new Slough Central and new Upton Lea wards.

This re-crafted proposal does not impact the boundaries beyond these two wards.

The Council's new proposal uses the strong boundary up the mid-line of Wexham Road (an existing Polling District boundary) to separate the two wards into a more coherent formation (map attached at Appendix C).

Wexham Road forms an established Polling District boundary from the High Street northwards as far as the canal (the electors in Diamond Road and its side roads east of Wexham Road vote in the same polling place as Goodman Park and have strong links, and this connection can be maintained with Wexham Road being used as the north-south boundary between the two wards). The Council's new scheme for the Upton Lea ward unites the Upton Lea, estate, Rochfords Gardens estate, Diamond Road and the Goodman Park estate with the community amenities for this area – such as Upton Lea Community Centre and Iqra and Willow Schools, but without the divisive boundary running round and excluding the Akzo Research/Panattoni site. We believe this new proposal preserves key community links, and the coherence of

the estates drawn together to form the new ward. We offer this to the LGBCE as an alternative for these two wards (as shown geographically through the 'split' map in Appendix C) and with details of the electorate numbers attached in Appendix D.

Using Wexham Road as the north-south boundary between Upton Lea ward and Slough Central ward (from Slough High Street to the canal), before then using the north side of the canal as the northern boundary (running west almost to Stoke Road), and drawing in the land that forms the surround to the canal basin before reaching Stoke Road, the Council's new proposal creates a strongly coherent Slough Central ward that now consists of the St Paul's and St John's Road area (currently in Central), all the major apartment developments around Slough Station and the Richmond Crescent/Wellesley Road area, as well as the future residential communities at the former Thames Valley University site, north of Slough High Street and around Petersfield Avenue.

We believe the Slough Central ward in this proposal preserves community identity, reflects the technical specifics of the 'Slough Central' ward identity and maintains electoral convenience of the current area grouped within this existing polling district as the heart of this new ward as its population rapidly expands.

The Council proposed and strongly recommends to the LGBCE the boundaries for Slough Central and Upton Lea wards as set out in Appendix C in response to the consultation proposal for the pattern of these two wards.

If the Boundary Commission isn't able to accept the submission in Appendix C, then as a minimum, the Council would suggest using the newly constructed access road that separates the northern half of the former Akzo Nobel research yard site (currently referred to frequently as the 'Panattoni site') from the southern half as a more coherent southern boundary for the LGBCE's currently proposed Upton Lea ward.

The northern half of the Panattoni site is already substantially re-developed for data centres and other warehousing/logistics/distribution uses, that have included a west to east new road running through the middle of the site, the Council feels that the centre line of this road forms a cleaner boundary than the dog-legs up and down to exclude the entire Panattoni site, though we identify to the LGBCE, propose and support our rival and favoured proposition in Appendix C. However the boundary we show in Appendix E is preferable to that displayed in the LGBCE's southern boundary within their own proposal if the formation of that ward is broadly to be retained as they have set out in their consultation.

This would not affect the population figures set out by LGBCE in their proposal, as the development currently underway on the whole of the northern 40% of this site is for employment/industrial uses, but the effect of using the new access road constructed to the south of that new development area, would be to create a better ward boundary between Slough Central ward and Upton Lea ward in this 'middle section' of the boundary between the two wards as proposed in the LGBCE consultation. It has the effect of moving the whole length of the Slough Arm of the Grand Union canal that is in Slough Borough into Upton Lea ward, reinforcing it as a

key amenity and focal point of this ward. It also reduces the ‘crescent moon’ effect of the staggered boundary in the LGBCE proposal.

If this amendment to the northern boundary of Slough Central ward (and southern middle boundary of Upton Lea ward were to be made (as shown in the attached map), the Council feels that this would be an improvement on the scheme for Upton Lea ward that the LGBCE currently shows in their consultation. However the Council’s wish is for LGBCE to adopt the Council’s alternative proposal now tabled for this ward and Slough Central ward, which we submit in Appendix C as our preferred solution to go forward.

Proposals for Langley wards and Colnbrook & Poyle ward

As stated earlier, the Council supports the proposals tabled by the LGBCE for the Langley Meads ward, the Langley Foxborough ward and the Colnbrook & Poyle ward – as these reflect the submission previously made by Slough Borough Council for this area.

In its proposals for **Langley St Mary’s** and **Langley Marish** wards, the LGBCE has made amendments to the Council’s submission to produce wards closer to the electoral average. The Council had sought in its submission to preserve the ‘shell’ or external boundaries of the area moving to Windsor Constituency from Slough Constituency for parliamentary elections, for ease of administration of combined elections, as this is a pertinent operational consideration. We recognise that this was not a factor or key criterion that is formally considered by LGBCE, but are disappointed that the amendments have not allowed the edge boundaries of the affected area to be kept intact. That said, we recognise that the ward boundaries as proposed by the LGBCE for this pair of wards are clear and coherent, and ensure that all the wards in the Langley area remain within 10% of the electoral average through to 2027, which one ward did not in the SBC proposition. The Council is therefore prepared to accept the proposals for these two wards as set out by the LGBCE in their consultation papers issued on 5th July and to support the LGBCE proposals for Langley St Mary’s and Langley Marish wards.

Summary of Slough Borough Council’s Response to the Consultation

Slough Borough Council Supports the proposals, set out by the LGBCE in their current consultation document, for the wards of - Britwell, Northborough & Lynch Hill Valley, Haymill, Cippenham Green, Cippenham Meadows, Chalvey Grove, Chalvey, Farnham, Baylis & Salt Hill, Manor Park & Stoke, Elliman, Wexham Court, Herschel Park, Upton, Langley St Mary’s, Langley Marish, Langley Meads, Langley Foxborough, Colnbrook & Poyle (19 wards).

Slough Borough Council moves an alternative scheme for Slough Central ward and Upton Lea ward, as set out in Appendix C below, accompanied by the electorate and residential development data set out in Appendix D. The Council also identifies an improved southern boundary for the LGBCE’s currently proposed Upton Lea ward (though our favoured proposition is that in Appendix C) as the amended boundary (E) would be a more logical one than that currently used in the LGBCE’s proposal for this ward.

Map of revised SBC proposal for Slough Central and Upton Lea



APPENDIX D

Upton Lea (new ward) as proposed by Slough Borough Council, 21st July 2022

Existing Polling District WLC	1,920
Existing Polling District WLD	1,184
Existing Polling District CEB	1,827
TOTAL	4,931

The population of this ward sits marginally above the electoral average for a two-member ward on the May 2022 electorate (the average is 4,736). At 2027, the electoral average is predicted as 5,228, and good electoral equality is considered to have been achieved at 10% above or below this number. With the southern part of the 'Panattoni' site now highly unlikely to come forward for residential redevelopment, the ward as proposed on these boundaries sits comfortably within the 10% range but there is nonetheless reasonable headroom for some new development.

The situation in relation to the 'Panattoni' (for Akzo-Nobel research yard) site has moved forward considerably since April.

The Council is currently marketing the land that it owns at the 'Panattoni' site. A significant number of expressions of interest have been received, including from data centres and house builders, and 9 site visits taking place during July 2022. In current market conditions the Council's view is that bids are most likely from data centre and industrial interests and that the value of such offers will be significantly in excess of those received from house builders. Since the Council must achieve "best consideration" from the sale of its assets it now appears highly unlikely that the site will be used for the 1,000 units of residential accommodation previously anticipated should the Council have developed the site itself.

In light of the how the situation has evolved, the Council believes there isn't a need to provide the significant headroom for 1,000 units on the site due to the fact the Council will not dispose of the site within the next few months; the outline permission for the 1,000 units on the site does not have detailed plans or agreed phases; and it is almost certain now to be used for employment purposes.

Slough Central (new ward) as proposed by Slough Borough Council, 21st July 2022

Existing Polling District CEA	3,331*
TOTAL	3,331*

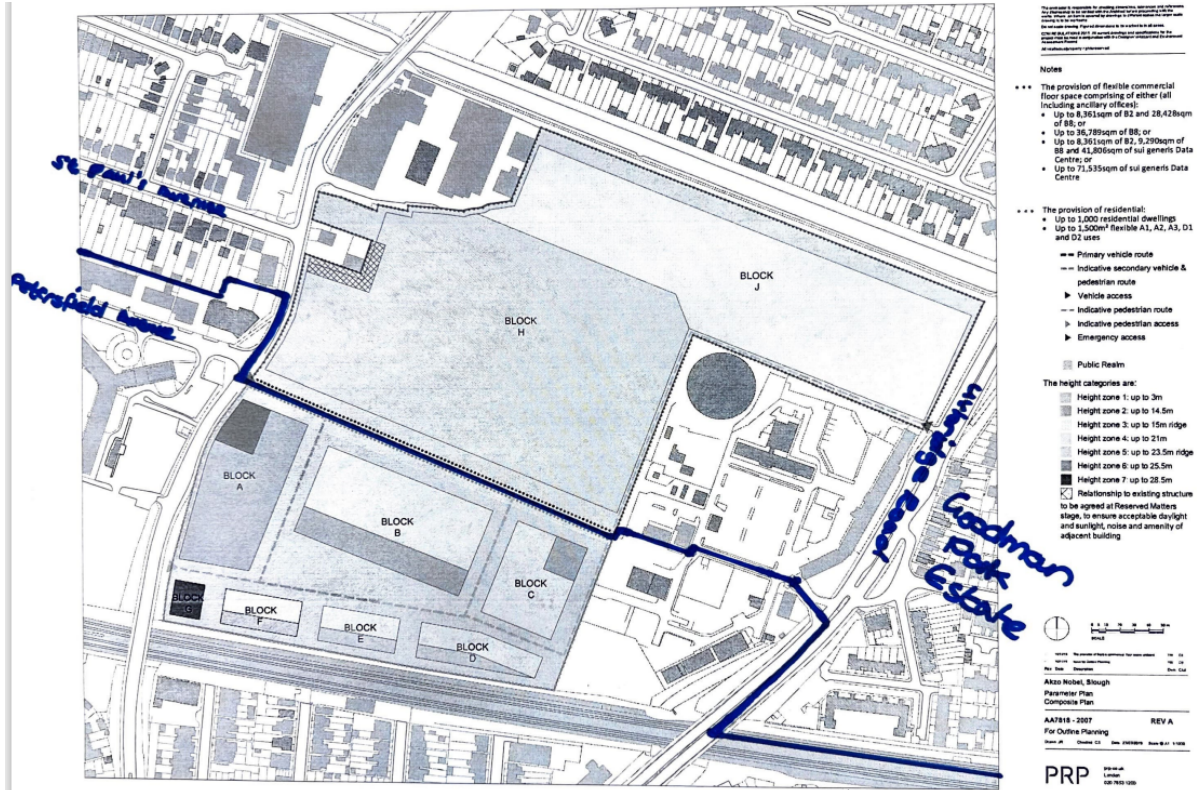
* Major residential development on several key town centre sites is proposed, with some scheme already lodged in the planning system. The electorate as at May 2022 is well below the electoral average, to ensure adequate headroom remains for the large town centre redevelopment sites coming forward including the former

Thames Valley University site, Queensmere Centre redevelopment etc.). Forecasts estimate an additional 925 units and 1,850 additional electors by 2027 bringing the total to 5,181 electors at 2027.

Potential additional dwelling/electorates used for purposes of electorate forecasts to 2027 as submitted in April 2022.

Site	Planning status as per spreadshee	Units Completions expected by March 2028	Assumed additional electors
Canal Basin, Stoke Road	Undecided planning application	288	576
23-25 Mill Street	Planning permission	55	110
Former TVU / North West Quadrant site	Site allocation	390	780
Queensmere and Observatory shopping centres	Site allocation	0	0
Grace House, Petersfield Avenue	Pre-application	56	112
Thomas House, Petersfield Avenue	Undecided planning application	18	36
Beacon House, 50 Stoke Road	Planning application	118	236
TOTAL		925	1,850

Alternative Council's proposal to LGBCE draft proposal for Upton Lea and Central ward boundary if the preferred option as per the map in Appendix C is not accepted



COUNCIL – 21 JULY 2022**MEMBER QUESTION****TO COUNCILLOR BAINS FROM COUNCILLOR MUVVALA**

“Following the Council Motion adopted by the Council in January 2022, can Members be provided with a progress update relating to improving the safety of women and girls on our streets?”

Reply

The summary below provides an overview in relation to the question raised following a council motion passed in January 2022. The motion agreed: “This council believes that more needs to be done to improve the safety of women and girls on our streets. We therefore agree to the following”

An update is provided in respect of the specific points raised within the motion relating to the *work of the council and partnership*.

Details

1. Recommend that the SSP (Safer Slough Partnership) expand their work programme to include community engagement, to pro-actively communicate with women and girls to better understand their needs, challenges and fears within their neighbourhoods and create safe spaces where crime is designed out;

Slough council had formed a multi-agency project team that secured £550k of Home Office funding and delivered across a range of projects that has included.

- *Co-designing with community partners and charities environmental changes across a number of locations including provision of new pathways and improved lighting.*
- *Co-Design Communications Project: Supporting and enabling young people in Chalvey to develop their own communications project aimed at reducing VAWG.*
- *Development of the Choice Programme to focus on VAWG: Working directly in schools with students, teachers, and parents to enhance collective responsibility and action around violence against women & girls.*
- *Street Guardianship: Recruiting community volunteers, these roles will improve the safety of women and girls through co-ordinating daily street patrols with volunteers and implementing the Safe Shops Scheme*

2. Engage with our partners, council companies and contractors to establish what more can be done to improve the safety of women and girls in Slough;

Linked with the wider engagement programme above, there has been wide engagement with partners such as schools and charities. Examples include:

- *Work commissioned to work with young people in the Chalvey area, that has identified risk factors, the opinions of boys and girls that will drive future activity*
 - *A six week digital consultation with communities to determine public opinion and identify solutions for the future. In addition to the borough wide survey, Council Officers took to the streets of Chalvey to hear from women and girls about their concerns. This information supported the Chalvey Project aims.*
 - *We set up a new Domestic Abuse board – this board will drive forward, not only the council’s approach, but also shape our partnership response in Slough.*
3. Write to TVP to ask that they review their community engagement/development policies to ensure that they are responsive and incorporate/reflect “real time” community sentiments and feelings, e.g. resistance to a Slough Women’s Vigil following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard;
 - *The council has worked closely with the police to develop robust tasking and responsiveness to crime including VAWG. This ensures that there are open lines of communication at times of crisis and increased community tension. This in effect enables the police and council to have honest dialogue in respect of community feelings, without impeding operational independence of partners. The council are able to link in with the police independent advisory group, police senior management and community and diversity officer without hindrance.*
 4. That Slough Borough Council works toward becoming a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation.
 - *Whilst this has not been achieved owing to current fiscal constraints, the council is working on the key themes required to achieve accreditation that includes; strategic leadership, engaging with men and boys, changing culture and raising awareness.*

Summary

The Safer Slough Partnership is due to meet at the end of July, where the challenges confronting the partnership will be subject of discussion and prioritisation. The council and partners recognise the challenges of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, and will make the case for prioritising action to tackle VAWG, within an ambitious strategy to achieve long term change. The council recognises the way to achieve change is via a co-ordinated community response, harnessing community interest, drive and resource.

This page is intentionally left blank