

## Review of Ward Boundaries in Milton Keynes

The Boundary Commission for England published its draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Milton Keynes City Council in December 2024 and a consultation on the recommendations runs until **24 February 2025**.

With the growth in Milton Keynes there is now the need for an extra ward. It is proposing that there should be sixty councillors representing 20 three-councillor wards. The review recommends moving Moulsoe parish into a Ward with Broughton and Milton Keynes parishes and that will also include Fox Milne industrial area. The draft recommendation considered the expected rise in the population in 2029 of Moulsoe parish from 250 residents to 1645. The increase in population is a result of homes being occupied in the first phase of MK East development.

The Commission did note that Moulsoe village would share more of a community identity with other rural villages in the Olney ward, as is the current division, rather than with Broughton and Milton Keynes parish.

Moulsoe, although enjoying a larger land area, could potentially be the “rural-baby” in a mixed ward including others that are clearly more urban in feel and nature. The M1 creates a natural boundary which has been the case since MK was emerging as a new town. Although there is much to support the values of “cross-boundary” integration, Moulsoe has and always will have closer links to Newport Pagnell and nearby rural communities than Broughton etc.

Consideration from the commission was given to splitting the parish, but they could not determine a clear boundary to do this. Although the report does state that if there was evidence of where a boundary could be drawn, then separating the village and placing it in the Olney ward with other rural villages would reflect the community identity of Moulsoe better. One should also consider that a more densely populated urban area could result in a greater pressure on ward councillors’ division of time between urban and rural demands.

The parish council will be commenting on the recommendations and putting forward the case for the village to remain within the rural ward of Olney and proposing that the parish is split with the boundary being the proposed Eastern Perimeter link road.

There are three criteria that the Boundary Commission consider when making decisions:

- a. Electoral equality - ensuring that Ward Councillors represent a similar number of electorates.
- b. Community identities and their interests - ensuring that communities that are connected to areas are kept, so where communities shop, go to school, attend places of worship.
- c. Effective and convenient local government - ensuring that boundaries make sense and councillors can easily move between communities they represent.

Your views and comments are valued and in the case of the Commission it appears that community views are taken seriously and do carry weight since their assessments tend to be free of the political nuances that can taint local decision making.

All the recommendations can be found on the Boundary Commission for England’s website

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/milton-keynes>

Comments can be sent via email to [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)