

Earley Town Council response to the Community Governance Review (CGR)

10th November 2025

Response

At the first consultation stage, Earley Town Council (ETC) were content with the proposal from the Local Government Boundary Commission of England (LGBCE) review of the Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) wards, that the number of town wards in Earley be reduced from 8 to 7

ETC requested that the number of councillors per ward be better balanced than that proposed in the LGBCE review. ETC requested that each ward would have either 3 or 4 councillors, rather than the 2, 3, 4, 5 councillor wards proposed by the LGBCE

This could be simply achieved by retaining polling district EHEc with its 830 electors in St Nicolas ward and allocating the ward 3 councillors instead of 2

By not allocating this polling district to Radstock ward would mean that it could have a more balanced 4 councillors instead of 5

This would also result in more even representation across the town with St Nicolas having 981 electors per councillor instead of 1057, and Radstock having 904 instead of 889

Ward	Current Councillors (2023 elections)	Proposed councillors after LGBCE review	Proposed electors per councillor after LGBCE review	Councillors with Polling District EHEc retained in St Nicolas ward	Electors per councillor with Polling District EHEc retained in St Nicolas ward
Cutbush	3	4	950	4	950
Hawkedon	3	4	1002	4	1002
Hillside	3	3	986	3	986
Maiden					
Erlegh	3	3	980	3	980
Radstock	3	5	889	4	904
Redhatch	4				
St Nicolas	3	2	1057	3	981
Whitegates	3	4	820	4	820
	25	25		25	

Evidence

The WBC CGR working group offer only the following weak argument for agreeing with the LGBCE proposal

“This proposal creates an issue with the borough ward boundaries. The new town ward boundary of St Nicolas would include parts of the Hillside, and Maiden Erlegh & Whitegates Borough Ward.”

ETC offers the following reasons for retaining polling district EHEc in the St Nicolas town ward

1. WBC has successfully arranged 3 town/parish elections in 2025 where the town/parish ward has been divided across 2 borough wards.

The election on 5th June was in Redhatch ward, Earley, where the ward was split between the WBC wards of Hillside and Maiden Erlegh & Whitegates

The elections on 11th December in the Shinfield North parish ward, which is split between the borough wards of Hillside and Shinfield

This demonstrates that there are no issues with a town ward existing in more than one borough ward

2. Retaining polling district EHEc in the St Nicolas town ward and retaining the number of town councillors as 3, retains the even spread of councillors per ward across the whole town

3. Retaining polling district EHEc in the St Nicolas town ward and retaining the number of town councillors as 3, makes the representation in both St Nicolas and Radstock wards, much closer to the town average of 942 electors per councillor than the LGBCE proposals

Comment

On the document “Wokingham Borough Council Community Governance Review – Draft Recommendations for Consultation working draft”

Table 4.1 Earley Town Wards Electors and Councillors

1. Councillors per Elector should be Electors per Councillor

2. The *Current* number of councillors on ETC is as from the 2023 elections, not those proposed by the LGBCE review