

EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

CURRENT AND FORECAST ELECTORATE

In undertaking a Community Governance Review, the principal council must take into account the number of registered electors in the area under review, and any change in the number or distribution of electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years from when the review starts. In the case of the review of Buntingford Town Council it is therefore necessary to forecast the electorate in the parishes and areas under review as at February 2023. This will help to ensure that any recommendations for electoral arrangements arising from the review are robust in the short- to medium-term.

For the purposes of the Community Governance Review, East Herts District Council has calculated the following current and estimated forecast electorates for the areas under review, based on registration trends and planned/consented development:-

Parish/Town Council or area	Current electorate (February 2018)	Forecast electorate at February 2023
Aspenden Parish Council	196	197
Buntingford Town Council	4,579	6,106
Cottered Parish Council	557	861
Area 'A' (part of Cottered Parish)	58	370
Area 'B' (part of Aspenden Parish)	0	0

Notes

1. The above areas and figures relate to the **current** boundaries of the relevant parish and town councils.
2. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the above figures are as accurate as possible, any forecast electorate figure can only be an estimate based on the best information available. In particular, planned or consented development may not take place as scheduled, or at all.

Technical notes regarding methodology:-

- In preparing the electorate forecasts the Council has been guided by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England document "Electorate Forecasts – A Guide for Practitioners" (October 2011)
- The electoral register on the day the review was started (13 Feb 2018) has been used to provide an accurate figure for the existing electorate.
- The % change in the electorate since 2013 has been identified as a guide to any registration trend that may continue for the next five years. For this purpose any change in the electorate resulting from a change in the housing stock or boundary changes has been disregarded so as to identify only any occupation or registration trend within a consistent property base. This % change has then been reduced by 50% to moderate the effects of one-off factors e.g. increased registration for elections/referenda.
- The change in electorate resulting from changes in the housing stock or boundary changes has then been added back to give a provisional 2023 electorate figure, net of new development.
- Finally, an estimate of additional electors arising from new housing development has been added. This figure has been arrived at by identifying any additional dwellings that are expected to be built within the area, based on existing planning consents and projections contained in the East Herts District Plan, multiplied by an estimated average 'electors per dwelling' figure calculated from national ONS election statistics and the English Housing Survey.