

Annex C
(Joint Consultation Letter)

4th February 2013

To:

All Hauxton parish electors
Cambridgeshire County Council
Local businesses
Other interested parties

**SHOULD HAUXTON PARISH COUNCIL INCREASE IN SIZE?
YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Hauxton Parish Council has asked SCDC to look at increasing the number of parish councillors to serve the village.

The parish council made the request as the council's workload and the village's population will increase when the former Bayer site is redeveloped.

Hauxton currently has 574 electors registered at 316 properties. This figure is expected to increase by around 500 electors, if the proposed 271 new homes are built on the former Bayer site.

Planning permission has been granted for 201 homes providing that the remediation of the land is successful. The next phase is expected to include 70 apartments for the over 55s.

The parish council will also be responsible for the management of additional recreation areas, including sports grounds, as part of this development.

Most parishes with around 1,000 electors have between nine and eleven parish councillors.

Under The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, SCDC's Electoral Arrangements Committee agreed, on 22 March 2012, to carry out a Community Governance Review.

The terms of reference of the review are to:

“(a) Instigate a community governance review with terms of reference limited to consideration of an increase in the number of parish councillors as requested by Hauxton Parish Council, and

(b) Instruct officers to consult with interested parties in the parish based on the information contained within the report included in the agenda papers, together with the reasons given by Hauxton Parish Council in its request for a review.

Hauxton Parish Council originally asked to increase the number of councillors from seven to nine. The committee agreed that the review should also look at how many councillors would be needed, and not be limited to a fixed number.

As part of this review, South Cambridgeshire District Council is consulting with registered electors in Hauxton and other interested parties, including the County Council. This is your opportunity to take part in the process.

The attached report sets out in more detail the reasons for the review and the matters that must be taken into account. All information relating to the review and decisions of the Electoral Arrangements Committee can be found at:

www.scambs.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/Councillors,WardsandParishes/changes.htm

<http://modern.gov/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=412>

and on the Hauxton Parish Council website at:

<http://www.hauxtonparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Please send your comments on the proposal in writing to:

Mr D Lord, Senior Lawyer (ref: CORPAR/4902)
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridge
CB23 6EA

or by email to: david.lord@scambs.gov.uk

By noon Monday 25th February 2013 please.

The results of the consultation will be considered by the Council's Civic Affairs Committee (successor to the Electoral Arrangements Committee) on 14th March 2013 and any recommendations will take effect at the next scheduled parish council election in May 2016, unless an election is called sooner.

Yours faithfully,

David Lord, Solicitor
Senior Lawyer