

To: All Members of the EXECUTIVE

When calling please ask for:

Louise Fleming, Democratic Services &
Business Support Team Manager

Policy and Governance

E-mail: louise.fleming@waverley.gov.uk

Direct line: 01483 523517

Calls may be recorded for training or monitoring

Date: 19 November 2021

Membership of the Executive

Cllr Paul Follows (Chairman)
Cllr Peter Clark (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Andy MacLeod
Cllr Penny Marriott
Cllr Mark Merryweather

Cllr Kika Mirylees
Cllr Nick Palmer
Cllr Anne-Marie Rosoman
Cllr Liz Townsend
Cllr Steve Williams

Dear Councillors

A meeting of the EXECUTIVE will be held as follows:

DATE: TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2021

TIME: 6.00 PM

PLACE: COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, THE BURYS,
GODALMING

The Agenda for the Meeting is set out below.

Yours sincerely

ROBIN TAYLOR
Head of Policy and Governance

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Please note that due to current Covid restrictions, seating in the public gallery is extremely limited. The meeting can be viewed remotely via Waverley Borough Council's [YouTube channel](#) or by visiting www.waverley.gov.uk/webcast.

NOTES FOR MEMBERS

Contact Officers are shown at the end of each report and members are welcome to raise questions, make observations etc. in advance of the meeting with the appropriate officer.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Leader, Deputy Leader or an appropriate Portfolio Holder to respond to any informal questions from members of the public, for a maximum of 15 minutes.

[Questions will be taken in the order in which questioners register with the Democratic Services Officer prior to the start of question time. When read out, each question must be concluded within 2 minutes. In the event that it is not possible to give a verbal response, a written response will be provided following the meeting.]

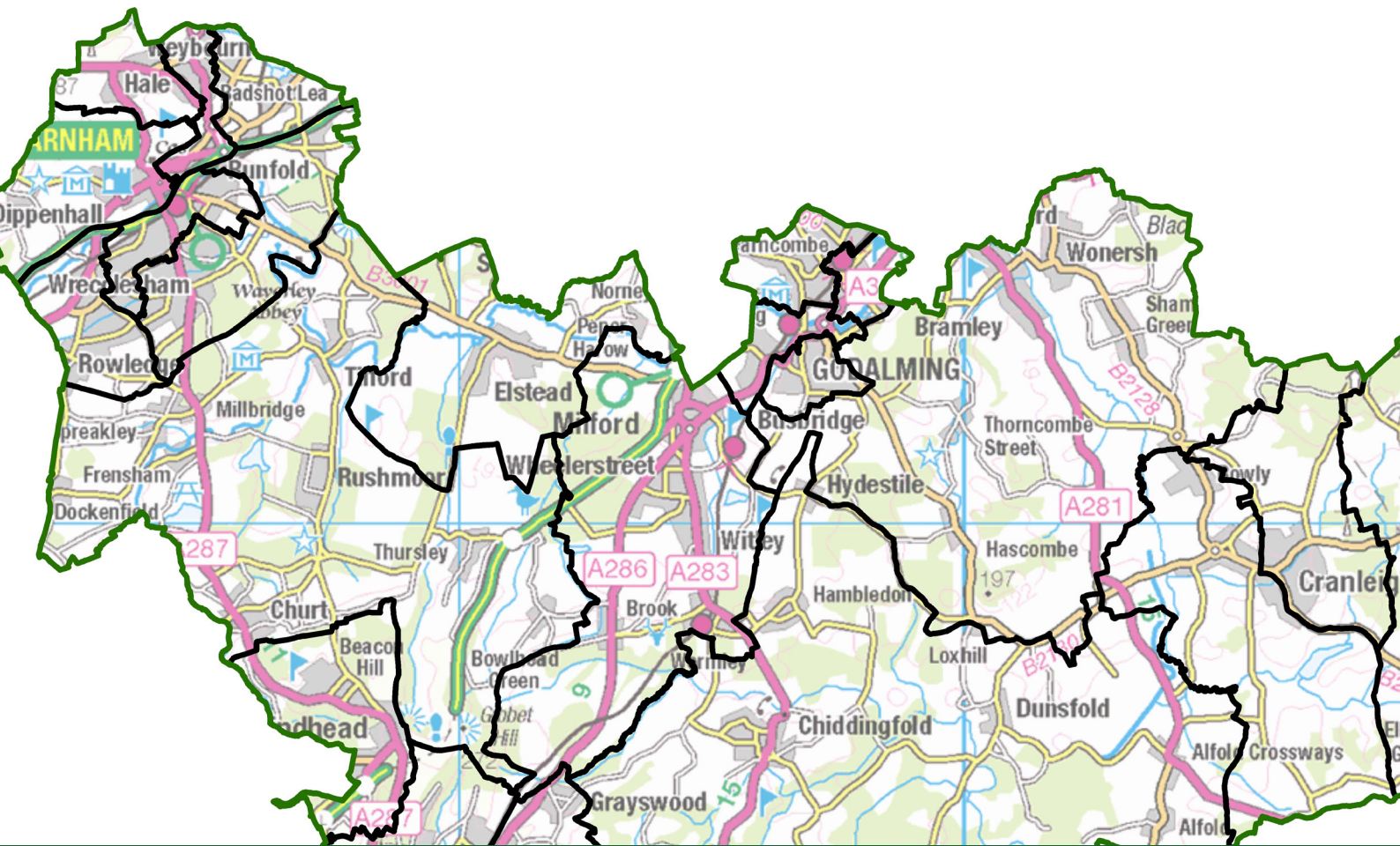
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

8. LGBCE BOUNDARY REVIEW WARDING PATTERN SUBMISSION (Pages 5 - 50)

[Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Follows]

Attached is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Waverley Borough Council.

For further information or assistance, please telephone Louise Fleming, Democratic Services & Business Support Team Manager, on 01483 523517 or by email at louise.fleming@waverley.gov.uk



New electoral arrangements for Waverley Borough Council Draft Recommendations

October 2021

Translations and other formats:

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ 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.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Waverley?

7 We are conducting a review of Waverley Borough Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Waverley. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Waverley are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

Our proposals for Waverley

9 Waverley should be represented by 50 councillors, seven fewer than there are now.

10 Waverley should have 22 wards, seven fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; one (Farnham Castle) will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

12 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 5 October to 13 December 2021. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 13 December 2021 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 27 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Waverley Borough Council. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
4 May 2021	Number of councillors decided
11 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
19 July 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
5 October 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
13 December 2021	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 March 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

20 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

21 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2020	2027
Electorate of Waverley	94,319	105,281
Number of councillors	50	50
Average number of electors per councillor	1,886	2,106

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Waverley will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 12% by 2027.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Number of councillors

26 Waverley Borough Council currently has 57 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing by seven will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 50 councillors: for example, two one-councillor wards and 16 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received two submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. One supported the reduction to 50 councillors, the other proposed an increase to 75 but did not provide justifying evidence for such an increase. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 50-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 24 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one borough-wide proposal from Waverley Borough Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

30 The borough-wide scheme provided a mixed pattern of wards across the borough but did not propose specific wards within Godalming, Farnham, Cranleigh or Haslemere. The Council stated this was due to limited time and resources and that they would provide this at the next stage of consultation. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed pattern of specific wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. In the areas listed above, where we did not receive specific proposals, we have devised our own warding arrangements taking account of more localised submissions received during consultation.

31 Our draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

32 We conducted a virtual tour of the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Waverley helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

33 Our draft recommendations are for eight three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and two one-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

34 The tables and maps on pages 8–21 detail our draft recommendations for each area of area. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

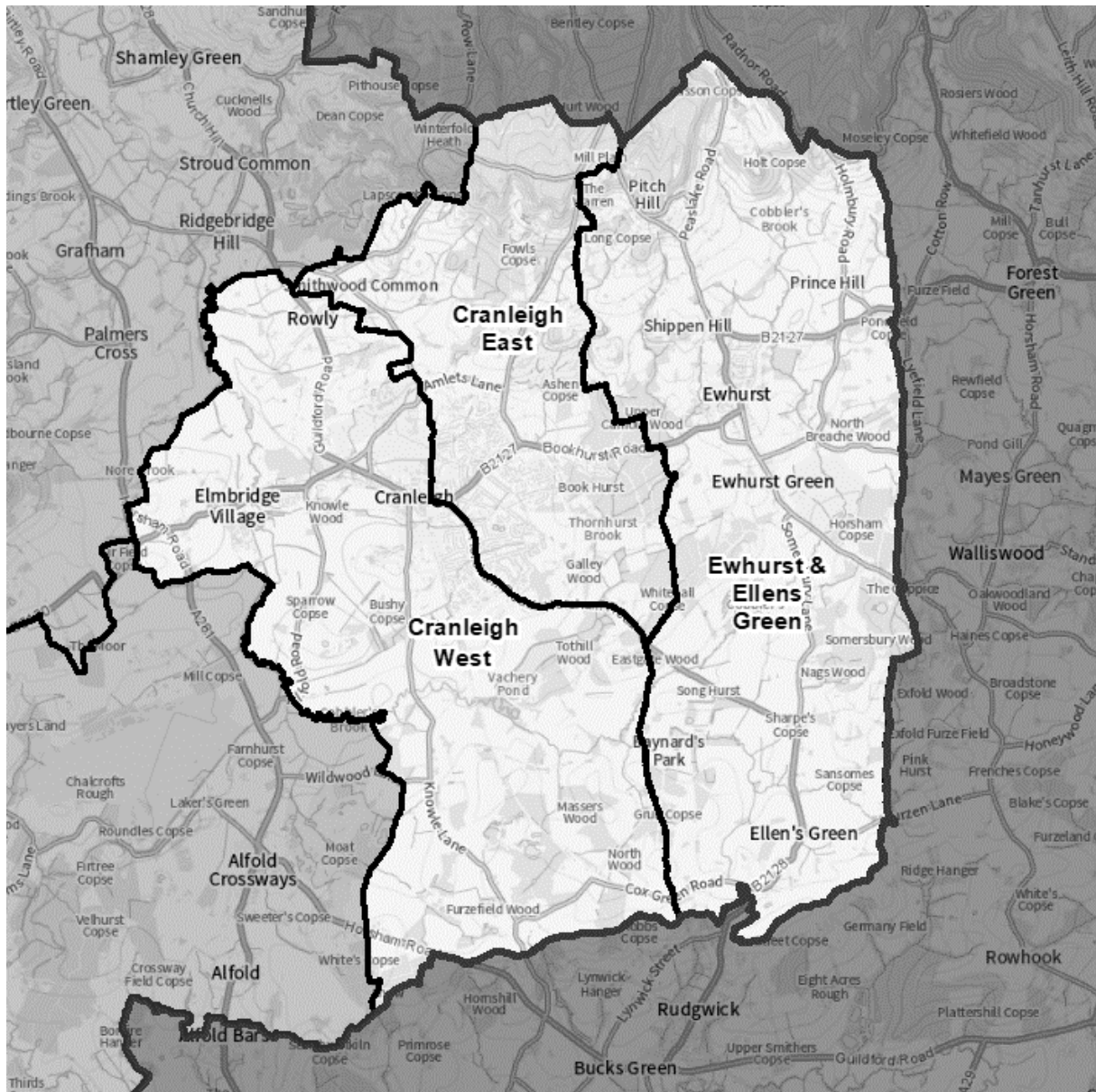
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

35 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

36 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Cranleigh, Ewhurst & Ellens Green



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Cranleigh East	3	7%
Cranleigh West	2	10%
Ewhurst & Ellens Green	1	-4%

Cranleigh, Ewhurst & Ellens Green

37 The Council proposed that Cranleigh and Ewhurst & Ellens Green parishes be considered jointly, and that six councillors should cover this area. They did not provide specific warding patterns for this area.

38 Cranleigh Parish Council requested that the existing arrangements continue. Cllr Deanus commented that as the existing Alfold, Cranleigh Rural and Ellens Green ward is both geographically large and includes parts of three parishes, making it any larger would make it difficult for a borough councillor to effectively represent the area.

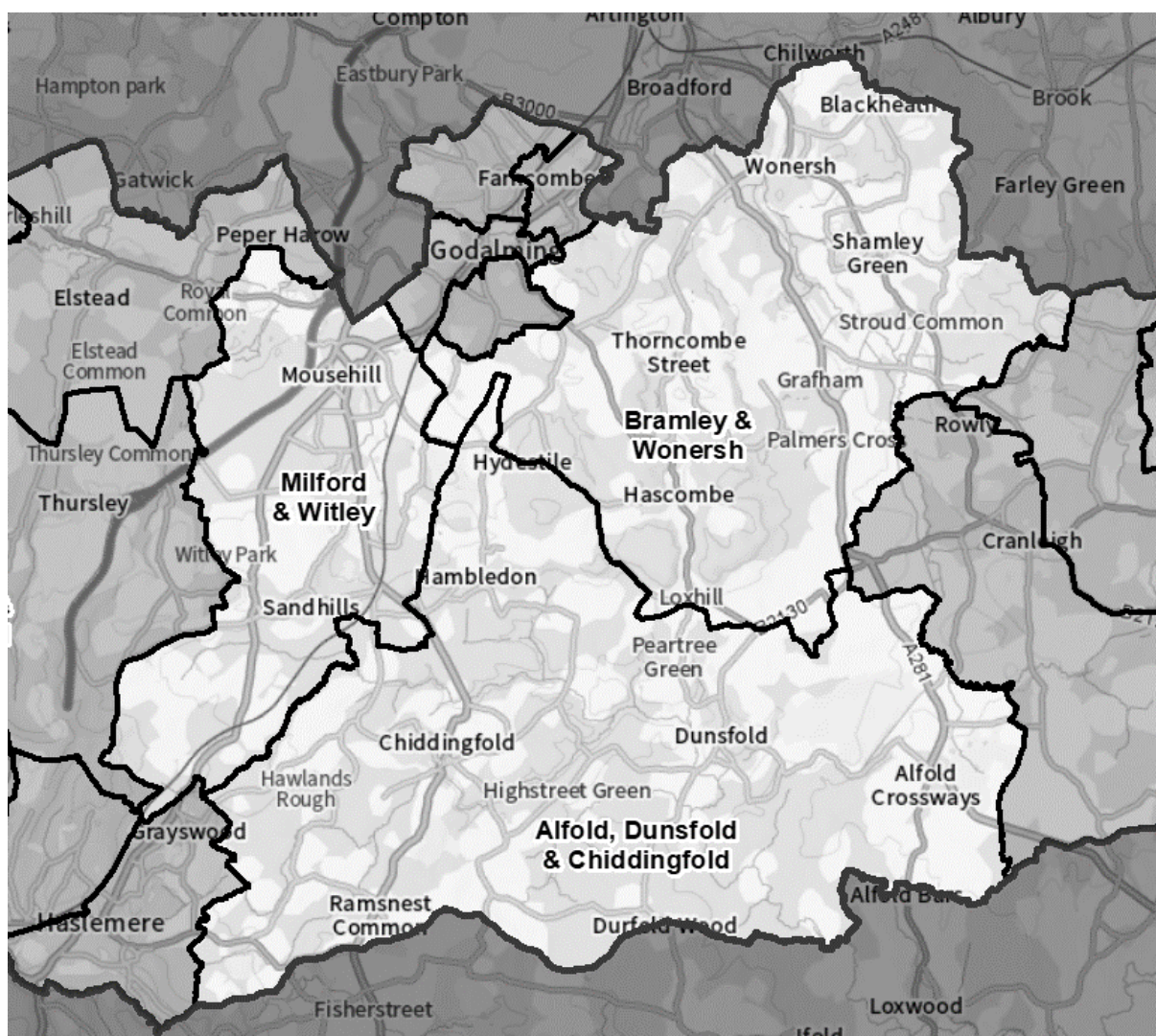
39 Cllr Reed argued there should be no reduction from the three councillors currently representing Cranleigh East, as it has had an increased electorate over recent years and has higher levels of deprivation than surrounding areas.

40 We are not persuaded that the current warding pattern, which sees Cranleigh parish split between four wards, provides for effective and convenient local government. On the basis of this, Cllr Deanus' submission, and the Council's proposal, we have decided to recommend a realignment of wards using parish boundaries. We are proposing a single-councillor Ewhurst & Ellens Green ward which is coterminous with the parish. We note the Council's comments on single-councillor wards, but are of the view that this configuration is preferable to one which requires further separation of Cranleigh between borough wards.

41 We also propose maintaining the existing boundary between Cranleigh West and Cranleigh East. The southern and western parts of Cranleigh parish, which currently form part of Alfold, Cranleigh Rural & Ellens Green ward, will be added to Cranleigh West, and the northern part, which is currently within Shamley Green & Cranleigh North ward, will be added to Cranleigh East.

42 All three wards will have good electoral equality by 2027, and we consider that using parish boundaries as the broad basis for our borough wards will provide for effective and convenient local government.

Central Waverley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Alfold, Dunsfold & Chiddingfold	3	7%
Bramley & Wonersh	3	-1%
Milford & Witley	3	4%

Milford & Witley and Bramley & Wonersh

43 The Council proposed a three-councillor Milford & Witley ward which is coterminous with Witley parish. The parish is currently divided between three wards, and so we were persuaded that this proposal would provide for effective and convenient government for electors in Witley. This proposal was also supported in a submission by Witley Parish Council, and by Cllr Gale. We carefully considered Hambledon Parish Council's comment that their first preference was to be in a ward with Witley, but were unable to produce a warding pattern which also ensured effective and convenient local government for Milford & Witley ward.

44 We have therefore adopted the Council's Milford & Witley ward. We note that Hambledon Parish Council also commented that, if it were not possible to be in a ward with Witley, its second choice would be to be in a ward with Chiddingfold. We are of the view that this solution fulfils our statutory criteria and accommodates the responses we received where possible. We have therefore adopted it as part of our draft recommendations.

45 We also received a comment from Busbridge Parish Council which requested the parish be in the same ward as either Witley and/or Hambledon. As outlined above, it was not possible to provide such a ward. In particular, we were not persuaded this would ensure good electoral equality.

46 We received a number of submissions which supported aspects of the Council's proposed Eastern Villages ward. Bramley Parish Council commented that Bramley's links were significantly stronger with Wonersh, Blackheath and Shamley Green than Busbridge and Hascombe, with which it is currently in the same ward. This argument was also put forward by a resident. Both submissions referenced better transport links between Bramley and Wonersh, as well as shared education facilities, shops and services.

47 Cllr Floyd-Douglass argued that the Council's proposed Eastern Villages ward was too large geographically and that it would be difficult for a borough councillor to effectively represent so many parishes. We considered possible ways of subdividing this ward but were unable to without dividing either Bramley or Witley parishes between wards. We considered that it was preferable to combine different areas with somewhat similar characteristics than to divide whole communities to create smaller wards.

48 We are therefore basing our draft recommendations on the Council's proposed Eastern Villages ward, subject to the exclusion of Hambledon parish. Given the evidence we received, we are of the view this proposal provides for the best balance of our statutory criteria. We considered that naming this ward Eastern Villages may cause confusion with the significantly larger Surrey County Council division of the same name, and have therefore named it after the two largest parishes in the proposed ward in terms of number of electors. This proposed name is a tentative one and we would welcome proposals during the current consultation for alternative names which may better describe these areas.

Alfold, Dunsfold & Chiddingfold

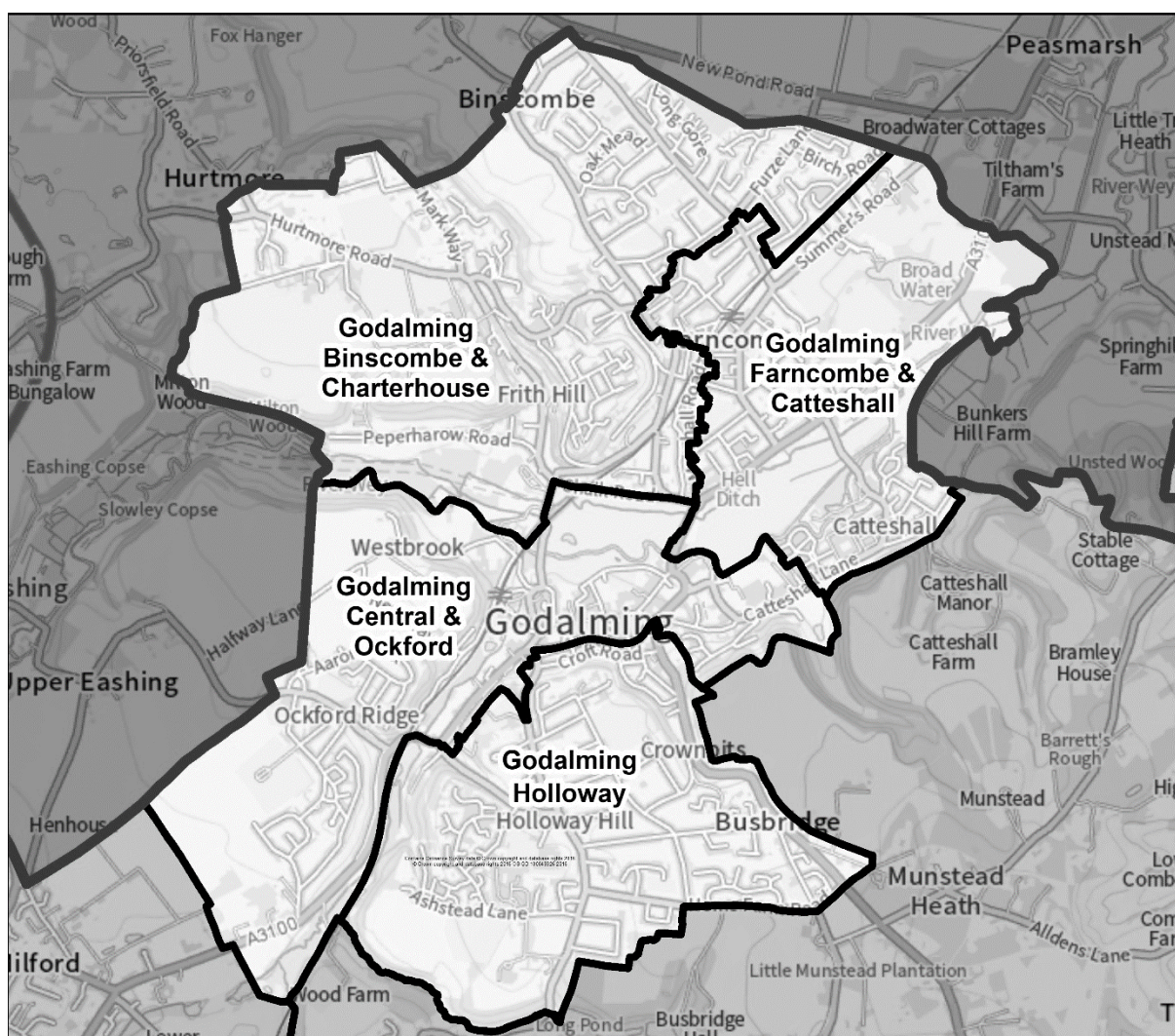
49 The Council proposed a three-councillor Alfold, Dunsfold & Chiddingfold ward made up of the three parishes of the same name.

50 The submission from Cranleigh Parish Council supported retaining the existing ward of Alfold, Cranleigh Rural & Ellens Green. Our proposals for Cranleigh, as

discussed in paragraphs 40–41, are not compatible with this proposal.

51 The Council's proposal provides for good electoral equality and we consider that it links communities with shared interests. We are therefore adopting it as part of our draft recommendations, with the addition of Hambledon parish following the evidence received from Hambledon Parish Council.

Godalming



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Godalming Binscombe & Charterhouse	3	1%
Godalming Central & Ockford	2	-4%
Godalming Farncombe & Catteshall	2	-7%
Godalming Holloway	2	-4%

Godalming

52 The Council's submission did not provide warding patterns for Godalming itself. We received a submission on Godalming from a resident, who argued that Godalming Charterhouse ward should remain in its existing form. Cllr Heagin suggested that some properties could move from Godalming Holloway ward to Godalming Central & Ockford.

53 In the absence of proposals, we considered how to adapt the existing wards to create new wards with good electoral equality and which would reflect community

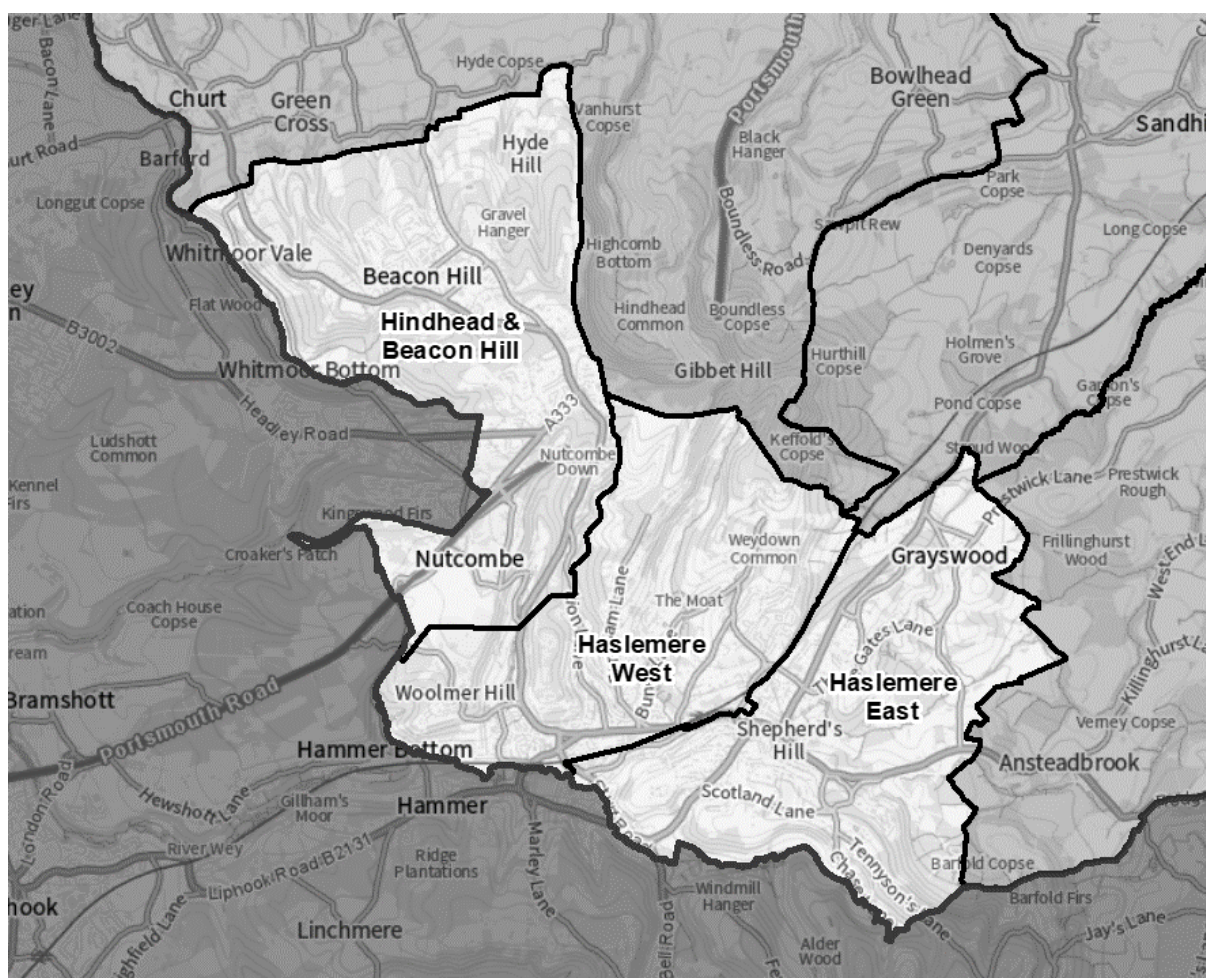
identities and interests. The existing Godalming Central & Ockford and Godalming Farncombe & Catteshall wards are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027. However, we were unable to retain the existing Godalming Central & Ockford ward. This would have left the existing Godalming Holloway ward with poor electoral equality because of lower numbers of electors than average, and the only areas that could be added are outside of Godalming parish. We do not consider this would promote effective and convenient local government.

54 We are able to maintain the existing Godalming Farncombe & Catteshall ward, with a minor change in the boundary with Godalming Central & Ockford to reflect the development that has taken place since the last review. Godalming Binscombe and Godalming Charterhouse wards are both forecast to have electorates entitled to between one and two councillors. Combining the two wards creates a ward which has good electoral equality for three councillors, and reflects the support we received for the existing Godalming Charterhouse ward's boundaries. This ward is proposed to be named Godalming Binscombe & Charterhouse.

55 To provide good electoral equality for the rest of the town, it is necessary to transfer some electors from Godalming Central & Ockford to Godalming Holloway ward. We were unable to use Cllr Heagin's suggestion as this was to transfer electors in the other direction which would not reduce the electoral variance. On our virtual tour of the area, we identified that Flambard Way appeared to provide a clear and identifiable boundary within the town. We are therefore proposing that the areas of the current Godalming Central & Ockford ward bounded by Flambard Way, Holloway Hill and Brighton Road should be transferred to Holloway ward. This will provide for good electoral equality for both wards by 2027.

56 We carefully considered appropriate ward names for the area. In particular, whether to include the prefix 'Godalming' in our ward names for the town. While including the name of the town makes the proposed ward names rather long, we decided it would be appropriate in order to accurately identify each ward's location within the authority. However, we would welcome comments on whether it would be appropriate to remove 'Godalming' from these ward names.

Haslemere



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Haslemere East	2	0%
Haslemere West	3	-9%
Hindhead & Beacon Hill	2	-8%

Hindhead & Beacon Hill

57 Three submissions were made which related to the Hindhead area of Haslemere. A resident proposed that some areas in the north of the current Haslemere, Critchmere & Shottermill ward could move to Hindhead, including Hazel Grove. As the current Hindhead ward has too few electors for a two-councillor ward, we have added the north-west corner of Haslemere Critchmere & Shottermill ward to the existing Hindhead ward. This includes all electors north of Brownscombe, both on Hindhead Road as well as those on the roads which lead off it from this point northwards. On the basis of the submission received, we consider this ward will reflect community identities.

58 The other two submissions received – from Haslemere Town Council and Cllr Whitby – both requested the ward name be amended to include Beacon Hill as it is a separate community. We are therefore proposing to name the new ward Hindhead & Beacon Hill.

Haslemere East and Haslemere West

59 The remaining part of Haslemere parish is entitled to five councillors, so we considered how to configure wards to provide a pattern which fulfilled our statutory criteria. We were not persuaded that the current ward boundary, which runs north to south, was clear or identifiable.

60 We investigated the possibility of using the railway line as an alternative boundary between our Haslemere wards. While we acknowledge it is relatively permeable, on our virtual tour of the area we assessed it would provide a strong boundary.

61 Using the railway line as a boundary for the width of the parish, except the very small area west of the A287, produced a three-councillor Haslemere West ward and a two-councillor Haslemere East ward. We assessed that while the boundary was clear and identifiable, our Haslemere West ward would not have sufficiently good electoral equality. To account for this, we propose to deviate from the railway line at Lower Street, so that the ward boundary runs down this road and then follows Tanners Lane east to where it next crosses the railway. These areas, as well as Oaklands, would form part of Haslemere West ward. We consider that this alteration provides for a good balance of our statutory criteria, as both wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with variances of -9 and 0%, respectively. Additionally, we consider that our proposed ward boundary is strong and identifiable.

West rural Waverley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Churt & Frensham	2	-9%
Elstead & Peper Harow	1	8%

Churt & Frensham and Elstead & Peper Harow

62 The Council proposed a three-councillor Western Villages ward to cover the seven parishes between Farnham, Haslemere and Witley. This proposal is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

63 We received a submission from Frensham Parish Council supporting a similar ward, although they excluded Peper Harow and included the Brook area of Witley parish. As outlined in paragraphs 43–44, we are minded to create a ward which is coterminous with Witley parish and therefore are not persuaded to adopt this aspect of the proposal.

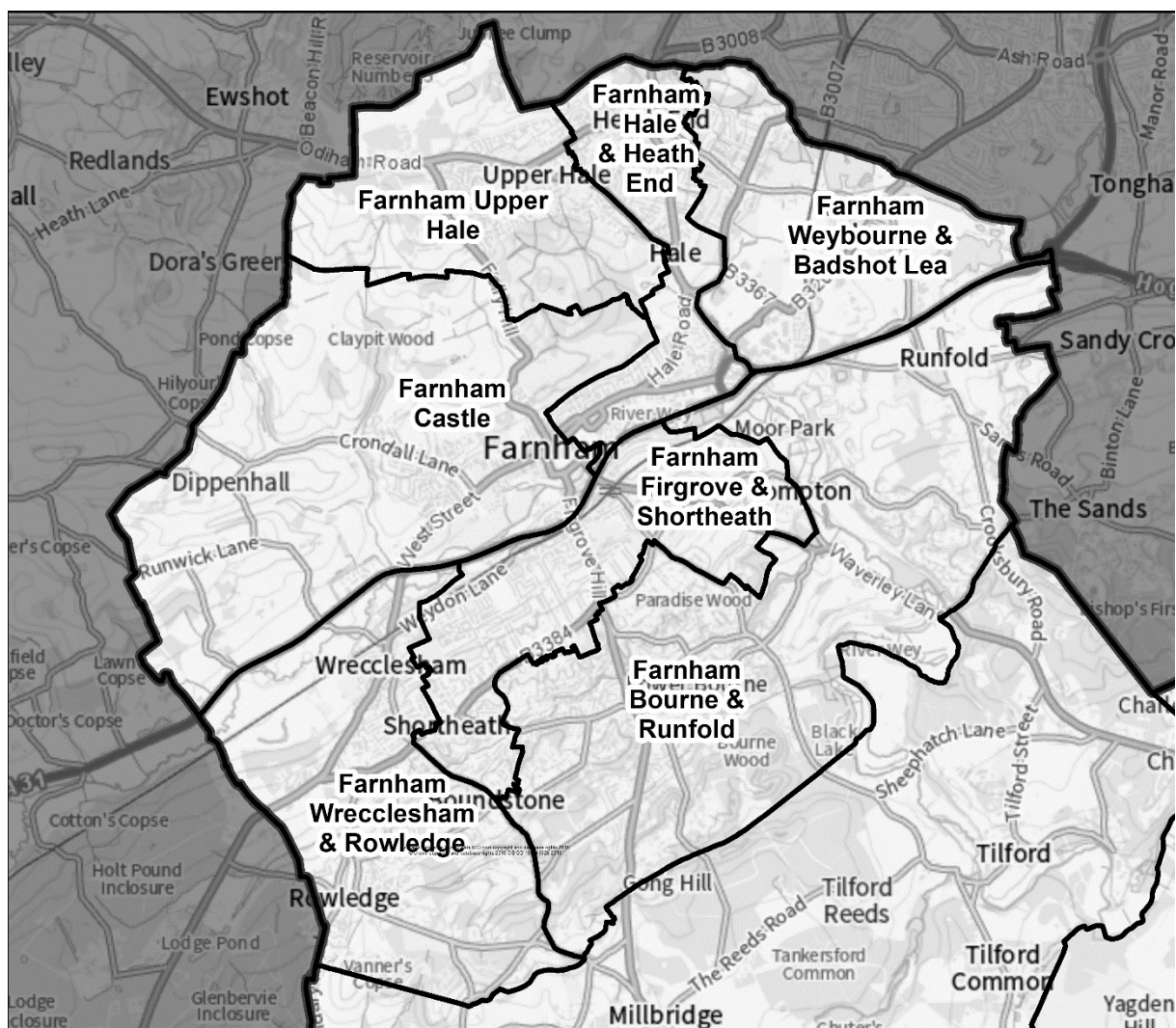
64 A further submission was received from a resident, who advocated keeping the existing Frensham, Dockenfield & Tilford ward, or, if this were not possible, to add

Thursley parish. This submission argued that other areas which could be included – parts of Hindhead, Farnham or Elstead – had markedly different characteristics.

65 We were persuaded by the community evidence provided to us, and are therefore proposing to create a two-councillor Churt & Frensham ward made up of Churt, Dockenfield, Tilford, Frensham and Thursley parishes. We also propose a single-councillor Elstead & Peper Harow ward made up of those two parishes. We acknowledge that the Council expressed its opposition to single-councillor wards but we consider that this is a viable solution which best fulfils our statutory criteria.

66 We would also welcome comments on the proposed ward name of Churt & Frensham. We considered that naming this Western Villages may cause confusion with the significantly larger Surrey County Council division of the same name. We have therefore named it after the two largest parishes in the proposed ward in terms of number of electors. This proposed name is a tentative one and we would welcome proposals during the current consultation for alternative names which may better describe these areas.

Farnham



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Farnham Bourne & Runfold	2	-4%
Farnham Castle	2	0%
Farnham Firgrove & Shortheath	3	10%
Farnham Hale & Heath End	3	1%
Farnham Upper Hale	2	-10%
Farnham Weybourne & Badshot Lea	2	-4%
Farnham Wrecclesham & Rowledge	2	7%

Farnham

67 The Council did not provide proposals for warding patterns in Farnham. Cllr Cockburn commented that the current Farnham wards were artificial and bore little relation to the natural pattern of communities. However, in the absence of proposals for new wards, we considered ways in which we could adapt the existing wards to fulfil our statutory criteria.

68 We consider that the A31 provides a strong boundary through the town, and note that it is already a boundary between wards for its length with the exception of the current Farnham Moor Park ward. We noted that Cllr Cockburn referred to this arrangement as having been done for numbers purposes in a previous review, and so considered the feasibility of dividing Farnham Moor Park ward so no wards crossed the A31.

69 With this configuration we considered warding arrangements for nine councillors to represent the area to the north of the A31 and seven to represent the area to the south.

70 We carefully considered appropriate ward names for the town as a whole. In particular, whether to include the prefix 'Farnham' in our ward names for the town. While including the name of the town makes the proposed ward names rather long, we decided it would be appropriate in order to accurately identify each ward's location within the authority. However, we would welcome comments on whether it would be appropriate to remove 'Farnham' from these ward names.

North Farnham

71 We considered the possibility of adding the northern part of the existing Farnham Moor Park ward to Farnham Castle ward, but the combined electorates of these two areas was too high for a three-councillor ward. We were not persuaded that there were any viable options to divide the existing Farnham Castle ward. We considered a resident's proposal to amend the boundary to follow Folly Hill fully but were of the view that this would divide communities. We are therefore proposing to retain the existing Farnham Castle ward, which is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

72 In light of the above, we considered that the best option was to combine the northern part of the existing Farnham Moor Park ward with the existing Farnham Hale & Heath End ward. This would create a north-south ward along the Farnborough Road and Hale Road axis. We propose that this ward retain the existing name Farnham Hale & Heath End, though we would welcome comments on whether this name remains appropriate given the additional areas included. This ward will have three councillors and is forecast to have good electoral equality.

73 We propose to retain the existing two-councillor Farnham Upper Hale ward, with a minor amendment of moving its eastern boundary to run directly along Upper Hale road, rather than along the edge of Farnham Park. We consider this will provide for a clear and identifiable boundary.

74 We have retained the existing Farnham Weybourne & Badshot Lea ward with one minor change. The area bounded by Hale Road, Weybourne Road and Bullers Road is to transfer to the new Farnham Hale & Heath End ward, as we are of the

view this provides a clearer boundary and that these areas are more closely linked to this new ward.

South Farnham

75 As a result of our decision to split the existing Farnham Moor Park ward along the A31, we considered warding patterns for seven councillors in the southern part of Farnham.

76 A resident of the eastern end of Boundstone commented that they identified more with Rowledge than with their current ward of Farnham Shortheath & Boundstone. We propose to amend the eastern boundary of Farnham Wrecclesham & Rowledge so that it follows Sandrock Hill Road for its length, rather than including the eastern half of Boundstone Road and the roads which lead off it. This amended Farnham Wrecclesham & Rowledge ward is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

77 We considered creating a single-councillor ward for the rest of the existing Farnham Shortheath & Boundstone ward but were not persuaded that this would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. We therefore looked into combining this area with the existing Farnham Firgrove ward. This would create a three-councillor Farnham Firgrove & Shortheath ward and a two-councillor ward for the remaining areas of south Farnham, which we propose to name Farnham Bourne & Runfold. Both of these wards would have relatively high electoral variances, so we considered ways to improve this.

78 On our virtual tour of the area, we came to the view that the western end of the existing Moor Park ward appeared to have good links to the Firgrove area, so have moved this to the new Farnham Firgrove & Shortheath ward. We also noted that three cul-de-sacs off Shortheath Road (Brockhurst Lodge, Cedarways and Highlands Close) were currently split between wards. We are therefore amending this boundary to run straight along Shortheath Road. These changes produce new Farnham Firgrove & Shortheath and Farnham Bourne & Runfold wards which both have good electoral equality, and reflect community interests, based on the limited evidence received to date. Again, given that we have developed our own proposals for this area, we would particularly welcome local evidence and views during the current consultation.

Conclusions

79 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Waverley, referencing the 2020 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2020	2027
Number of councillors	50	50
Number of electoral wards	22	22
Average number of electors per councillor	1,886	2,106
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	7	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendations

Waverley Borough Council should be made up of 50 councillors serving 22 wards representing two single-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and eight three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Waverley Borough Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Waverley on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

80 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

81 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Waverley Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct Community Governance Reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

82 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Farnham, Godalming and Haslemere.

83 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Farnham parish.

Draft recommendations

Farnham Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing 10 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bourne	2
Castle	2
Firgrove	2
Hale & Heath End	2
Riverside	2
Runfold	1
Shortheath	1
Upper Hale	2
Weybourne & Badshot Lea	2
Wrecclesham & Rowledge	2

84 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Godalming parish.

Draft recommendations

Godalming Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Binscombe & Charterhouse	7
Central	2
Croft	1
Farncombe & Catteshall	4
Holloway	4
Ockford	2

85 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Haslemere parish.

Draft recommendations

Haslemere Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Haslemere East	6
Haslemere West	7
Hindhead & Beacon Hill	4
Nutcombe	1

Have your say

86 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole borough or just a part of it.

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

88 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

89 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Waverley)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

90 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Waverley Borough Council which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local 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.

91 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.

92 Electoral equality:

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

93 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- 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?

94 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?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

95 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at www.lqbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

96 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

97 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

98 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Waverley Borough Council in 2023.

Equalities

99 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Waverley Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Alfold, Dunsfold & Chiddingfold	3	4,567	1,522	-19%	6,778	2,259	7%
2	Bramley & Wonersh	3	6,283	2,094	11%	6,243	2,081	-1%
3	Churt & Frensham	2	3,763	1,882	0%	3,843	1,922	-9%
4	Cranleigh East	3	5,422	1,807	-4%	6,744	2,248	7%
5	Cranleigh West	2	3,853	1,927	2%	4,619	2,309	10%
6	Elstead & Peper Harow	1	2,168	2,168	15%	2,271	2,271	8%
7	Ewhurst & Ellens Green	1	1,860	1,860	-1%	2,031	2,031	-4%
8	Farnham Bourne & Runfold	2	3,939	1,970	4%	4,037	2,018	-4%
9	Farnham Castle	2	3,340	1,670	-11%	4,229	2,115	0%
10	Farnham Firgrove & Shortheath	3	6,677	2,226	18%	6,959	2,320	10%
11	Farnham Hale & Heath End	3	5,466	1,822	-3%	6,399	2,133	1%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Farnham Upper Hale	2	3,401	1,701	-10%	3,784	1,892	-10%
13 Farnham Weybourne & Badshot Lea	2	3,497	1,749	-7%	4,052	2,026	-4%
14 Farnham Wrecclisham & Rowledge	2	4,437	2,219	18%	4,494	2,247	7%
15 Godalming Binscombe & Charterhouse	3	5,870	1,957	4%	6,394	2,131	1%
16 Godalming Central & Ockford	2	3,222	1,611	-15%	3,932	1,966	-7%
17 Godalming Farncombe & Catteshall	2	3,823	1,912	1%	4,028	2,014	-4%
18 Godalming Holloway	2	3,815	1,908	1%	4,026	2,013	-4%
19 Haslemere East	2	3,782	1,891	0%	4,229	2,114	0%
20 Haslemere West	3	5,452	1,817	-4%	5,740	1,913	-9%
21 Hindhead & Beacon Hill	2	3,725	1,863	-1%	3,893	1,946	-8%
22 Milford & Witley	3	5,957	1,986	5%	6,557	2,186	4%

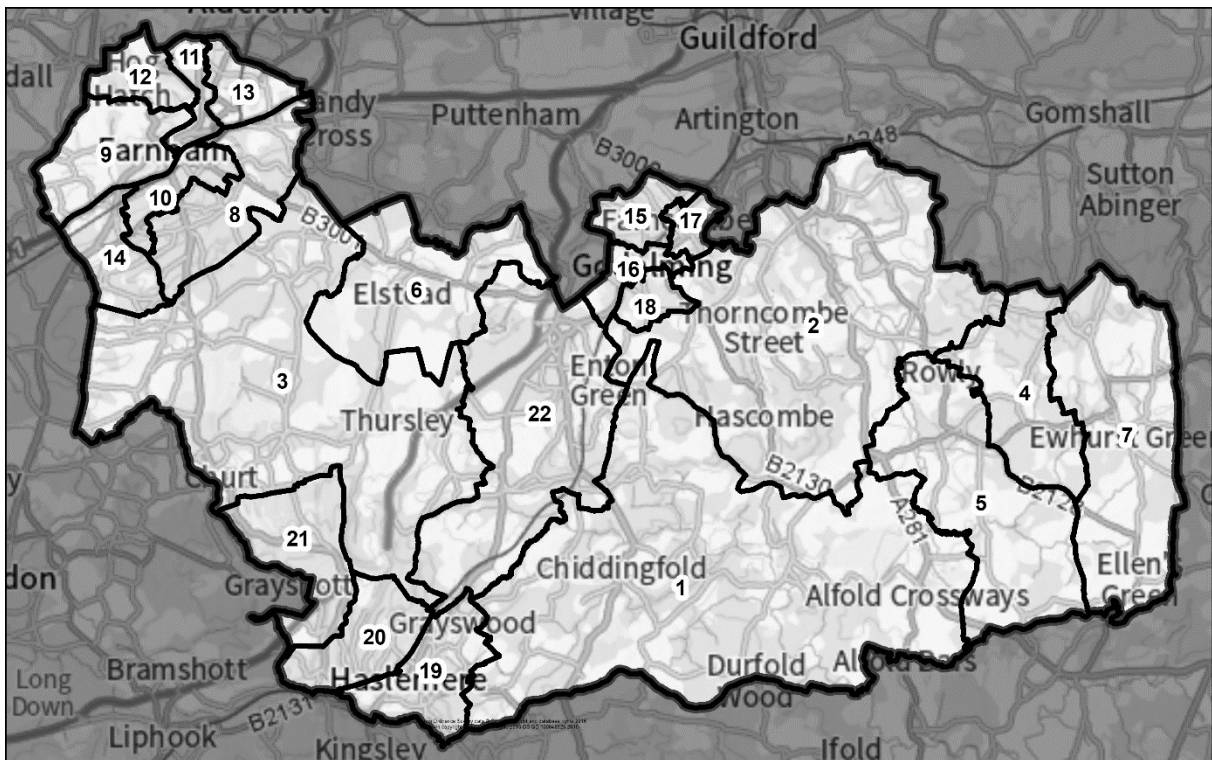
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Totals	50	94,319	-	-	105,281	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,886	-	-	2,106	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Waverley Borough Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Alfold, Dunsfold & Chiddingfold
2	Bramley & Wonersh
3	Churt & Frensham
4	Cranleigh East
5	Cranleigh West
6	Elstead & Peper Harow
7	Ewhurst & Ellens Green
8	Farnham Bourne & Runfold
9	Farnham Castle
10	Farnham Firgrove & Shortheath
11	Farnham Hale & Heath End
12	Farnham Upper Hale
13	Farnham Weybourne & Badshot Lea
14	Farnham Wrecclesham & Rowledge
15	Godalming Binscombe & Charterhouse
16	Godalming Central & Ockford
17	Godalming Farncombe & Catteshall
18	Godalming Holloway
19	Haslemere East
20	Haslemere West

21 Hindhead & Beacon Hill

22 Milford & Witley

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/surrey/waverley

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/surrey/waverley

Local Authority

- Waverley Borough Council (including individual comments from Councillor M. Gale; Councillor J. Heagin and Councillor C. Cockburn)

Councillors

- Councillor K. Deanus (Waverley Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Floyd-Douglass (Waverley Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Reed (Waverley Borough Councillor)
- Councillor G. Whitby (Haslemere Town Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Bramley Parish Council
- Busbridge Parish Council
- Cranleigh Parish Council
- Frensham Parish Council
- Hambledon Parish Council
- Haslemere Town Council
- Witley Parish Council

Local Residents

- 12 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0TL

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE