

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England



# New electoral arrangements for Buckinghamshire Council Draft Recommendations

August 2022

### **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](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

### **Licensing:**

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2022

### **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.

# Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Buckinghamshire?	2
Our proposals for Buckinghamshire	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Have your say	3
Review timetable	3
Analysis and draft recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	7
Draft recommendations	8
Buckingham, Horwood and Steeple Claydon	10
Grendon Underwood, Newton Longville, Quainton and Winslow	14
Bierton & Kingsbrook, Ivinghoe and Wing	17
Haddenham & Stone, Long Crendon and Waddesdon	20
Aylesbury	22
Wendover	27
Princes Risborough	30
Chesham	32
Amersham and The Missendens	34
The Chalfonts	36
Gerrards Cross & Denham and Iver	39
Burnham, Farnham and Stoke Poges	42
Beaconsfield	45
Marlow	48
High Wycombe	51
Conclusions	57
Summary of electoral arrangements	57
Parish electoral arrangements	57
Have your say	61

Equalities	65
Appendices	67
Appendix A	67
Draft recommendations for Buckinghamshire Council	67
Appendix B	71
Outline map	71
Appendix C	73
Submissions received	73
Appendix D	75
Glossary and abbreviations	75





# 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

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

## Why Buckinghamshire?

7 In 2019, the Secretary of State for the then Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government laid a structural changes order in Parliament which established the new unitary authority of Buckinghamshire Council ('the Council'). The new council would combine Buckinghamshire County Council, South Bucks District Council, Chiltern District Council, Wycombe District Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council into a single unitary authority. The Buckinghamshire (Structural Changes) Order 2019 provided for a new Buckinghamshire Council that would be created in April 2020. This Order passed Parliamentary scrutiny and was made on 22nd May 2019.

8 It was both the ambition of the new Council and the expectation of the Ministry that an electoral review would be undertaken soon after the establishment of the authority. This was to ensure the new council has electoral arrangements that reflect its functions and responsibilities in time for local elections in May 2025.

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

- The wards in Buckinghamshire 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 authority.

## Our proposals for Buckinghamshire

10 Buckinghamshire should be represented by 98 councillors, 49 fewer than at present.

11 Buckinghamshire should have 51 wards, two more than at present.

12 The boundaries of most wards should change; five will stay the same.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

13 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.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the authority or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not affect 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

15 We will consult on the draft recommendations for 10 weeks from 2 August 2022 to 10 October 2022. 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.

16 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.

17 You have until 10 October 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 61 for how to send us your response.

## Review timetable

18 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Buckinghamshire. After considering the initial submissions on council size, the Commission decided to consult on the number of councillors for Buckinghamshire. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the authority. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

19 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
7 September 2021	Start of consultation on council size
2 November 2021	End of consultation on council size
14 December 2021	Number of councillors decided
11 January 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
4 April 2022	End of the consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 August 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of the second consultation
10 October 2022	End of the consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
10 January 2023	Publication of final recommendations



## Analysis and draft recommendations

20 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> 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.

21 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.

22 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 in the table below.

	2021	2028
Electorate of Buckinghamshire	410,789	443,064
Number of councillors	98	98
Average number of electors per councillor	4,192	4,521

23 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 but two of our proposed wards for Buckinghamshire are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

## Submissions received

24 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

25 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 8%.

26 Councillor Wilson queried the electoral forecasts, suggesting they were too high. While we note the concerns raised, we state in our technical guidance that providing electoral forecasts can be a difficult and somewhat inexact science. While

<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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



local authorities are best placed to know about any planning permissions and the likely pattern of future development, population and development trends, these are dynamic, and the Commission acknowledges that producing a near-perfect electoral forecast can be a difficult task. We consider that an 8% increase in electors is a reasonable estimate and are content that the methodology used and the forecast produced by the Council are underpinned by reasonable evidence. We have therefore used the figures agreed with the Council before the start of the review to produce our draft recommendations.

27 Due to a minor delay to this review, the publication year of our final recommendations has changed from 2022 to 2023. However, we are content that the original 2027 forecast is a reasonable estimate of the forecast number of electors likely to be present in the authority in 2028.

## Number of councillors

28 Buckinghamshire Council currently has 147 councillors. Before the start of the review, we received submissions on council size, supporting numbers ranging from 65 to 120. The Council proposed that the authority should have 120 members. This was based predominantly on creating a sustainable workload for councillors, suggesting that a drastic reduction in the number of councillors would result in a significant increase in meetings, an increase in casework and possibly hinder the representational role of members in the community.

29 Buckinghamshire Business First (BBF) outlined its preference for a council comprised of 65 to 80 councillors, submitting the Business Case report by Ernst & Young from 2014, which first proposed a number within this range. However, BBF was also prepared to endorse an authority of 98 councillors, in line with the recommendation made within the Strategic Financial Case for Local Government Reorganisation in Buckinghamshire report. The Business Case report predominantly stressed the financial and strategic value of a smaller number of councillors for the authority.

30 Having noted the significant range in the proposals put forward to us, we decided to consult locally on the most appropriate number of councillors for Buckinghamshire. We consulted on three numbers:

- 120 councillors, as proposed by the Council;
- 98 councillors, the uppermost limit of members endorsed by BBF and suggested in the Strategic Financial Case for Local Government Reorganisation in Buckinghamshire report;
- 80 councillors, the uppermost limit of members proposed within the Ernst & Young Business Case report.

31 In response to this public consultation, we received 115 responses. Those submissions supporting a number lower than 100 expressed concern that a higher number might produce a ‘bloated’ local authority, with several submissions suggesting that the current arrangements result in a council that is not only costly but also unwieldy and unable to efficiently make decisions or scrutinise them effectively. It was generally argued that a lower number would allow the authority to be far more agile, while also delivering significant financial savings.

32 The overriding arguments made in support of a 120-member council focused upon the high workload of councillors and the potential danger that a number below 120 would increase the risk of inadequate scrutiny, poor accountability and weakened relationships with local communities.

33 We carefully considered all the submissions received. We concluded that a compelling case had not been made in support of 120 councillors. In particular, we were concerned that the evidence in support of this number focussed too heavily on workload considerations rather than how the authority would develop in line with its more strategic focus as a unitary authority. Furthermore, we were concerned that a council size of 80 might hinder members’ capacity to represent local communities and that the authority could be too small to discharge its statutory functions effectively at this time.

34 We concluded that Buckinghamshire Council should be represented by 98 councillors. We concluded that a council size of 98 members would allow councillors to provide strong strategic leadership, robust scrutiny of decision making, while providing effective community leadership. We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 98 councillors - for example, 98 single-councillor wards, 49 two-councillor wards, or a mix of single-, two- and three-councillor wards.

35 We received several submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns, either in support of or in opposition to our decision that Buckinghamshire Council be represented by 98 councillors. However, we were not persuaded by the arguments put forward that decreasing or increasing the total number of councillors from 98 would result in the authority being able to carry out its statutory functions in a more effective manner. Based on the evidence received, we remain satisfied that a council size of 98 will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively both now and in the future.

## Ward boundaries consultation

36 We received 250 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included an authority-wide proposal from the Council. The

remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the authority.

37 The Council's authority-wide scheme provided for a predominantly two-councillor pattern of wards for Buckinghamshire. We carefully considered the proposal received. While the scheme broadly produced wards with good levels of electoral equality and generally used identifiable boundaries, we were concerned that the proposals did not contain sufficient evidence relating to community identities and interests.

38 Our draft recommendations are for a mixed pattern of single-, two- and three-councillor wards, based predominantly on the local evidence that we received, which provided good evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas, we considered that the submissions received did not provide the best balance between our statutory criteria, so we identified alternative boundaries.

39 We also visited the area to look at the various proposals on the ground. This tour of Buckinghamshire helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed

40 We received several submissions which made arguments for wards composed of a particular number of councillors. For example, the Buckingham Constituency Labour Party, the Buckingham Constituency Liberal Democrats ('the Buckingham Liberal Democrats') and the Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats stressed a preference for single-councillor wards, where possible, across the authority. Conversely, the Council proposed a near-uniform pattern of two councillor wards. The Aylesbury Constituency Conservative Association ('the Aylesbury Conservatives') and the Aylesbury Liberal Democrats also supported a two-councillor warding pattern. However, our decisions about the number of councillors per ward is based on our assessment of the evidence as it relates to our statutory criteria and we are therefore recommending a mixed pattern of single-, two- and three-councillor wards.

41 We also received submissions that requested we simply retain the existing wards, with some stating that we reduce the number of councillors allocated to each ward from the current three to two, given that 98 councillors is two-thirds of 147. We did not adopt such a proposal as it would result in wards with high levels of electoral inequality, both now and in five years.

## Draft recommendations

42 Our draft recommendations are for 51 wards, represented by 10 three-councillor wards, 27 two-councillor wards and 14 single-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.

43 The tables and maps on pages 10–56 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Buckinghamshire. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria:

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

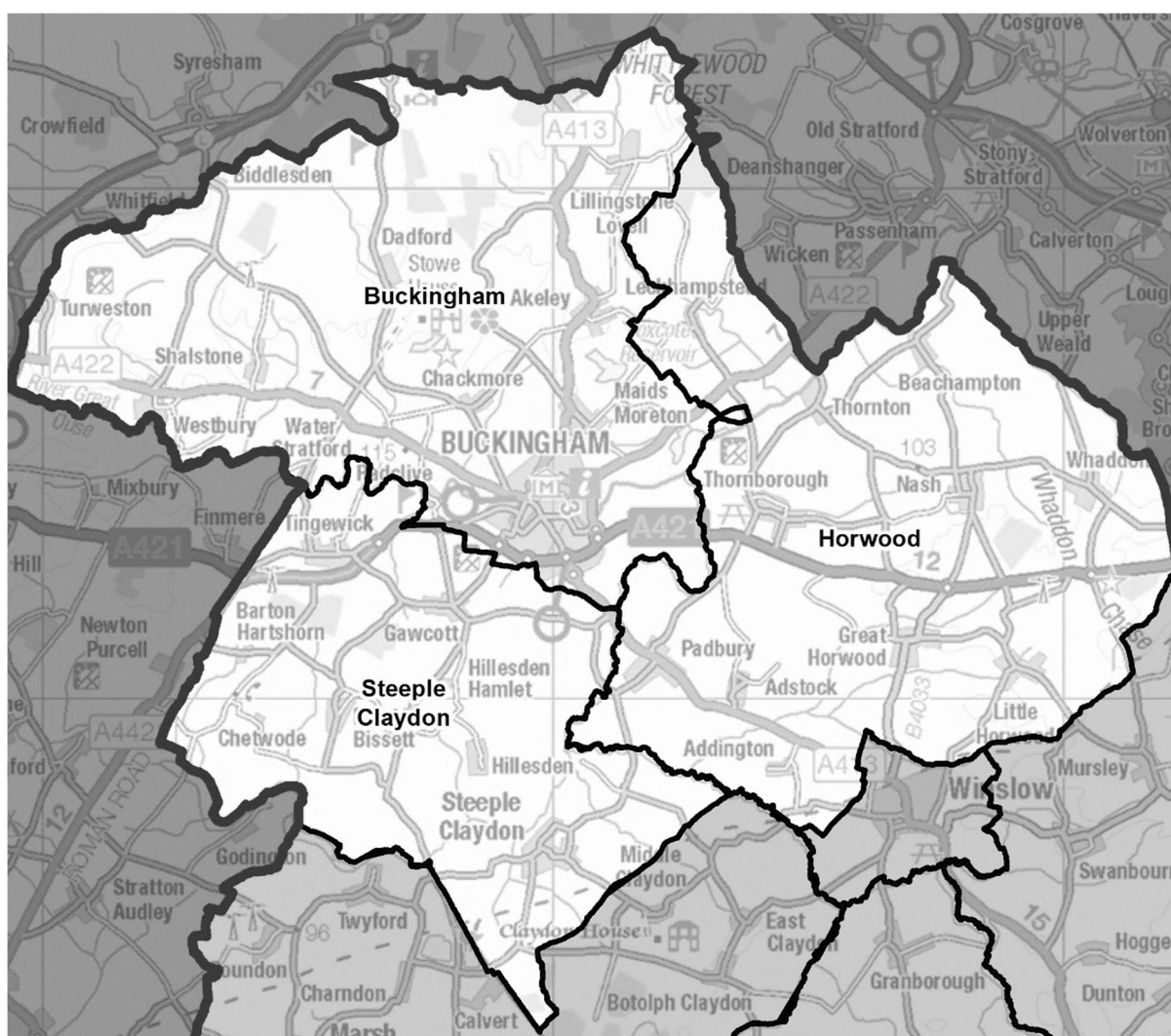
44 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 67 and the large map accompanying this report.

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

---

<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Buckingham, Horwood and Steeple Claydon



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Buckingham	3	10%
Horwood	1	6%
Steeple Claydon	1	0%

### *Buckingham*

46 We received several submissions in relation to Buckingham town and the surrounding rural parishes. The Council proposed reconfigured Buckingham East and Buckingham West wards, transferring several parishes from the current Buckingham West ward to its proposed Buckingham East ward to achieve good electoral equality.

47 Developing a warding pattern for this area of the authority, that effectively balances our statutory criteria, represented a difficult task. We were constrained by the distribution of settlements in this area, as well as the proximity of the authority

boundary, which reduced our scope for considering alternative warding patterns. However, we were not persuaded to adopt the Council's proposed wards, as we were concerned that dividing Buckingham parish into two separate wards and then linking each part of the town with relatively distant rural communities would not reflect community identities, nor promote effective and convenient local government.

48 We then examined whether we could create a three-councillor Buckingham ward composed of the Buckingham parish only, but this resulted in a forecast electoral variance of -12%. The inclusion of Maids Moreton parish would achieve good electoral equality, but this ward excluded all the rural parishes that lie between Buckingham and the authority boundary in the north (Akeley, Biddlesden, Foscott, Lillingstone Dayrell, Lillingstone Lovell, Radclive-cum-Chackmore, Shalstone, Stowe, Turweston, Water Stratford and Westbury parishes). A single-councillor ward comprised of those parishes would have a forecast electoral variance of -56%, which is unacceptably high. We then examined whether to link these parishes to the other rural parishes to the south of Buckingham, in order to achieve good electoral equality, but we were concerned that they do not share particularly close community or geographic ties.

49 Consequently, as part of our draft recommendations, we propose a three-councillor Buckingham ward that places Buckingham parish with the above-mentioned parishes. This ward would have a forecast electoral variance of 10% by 2028, which represents the upper limit for what we normally deem to be good electoral equality. We acknowledge that this ward does link urban and rural communities together, but we are satisfied the proposed ward adequately reflects our statutory criteria, as many of these parishes will look towards Buckingham for a variety of local amenities and facilities. Furthermore, our recommendations ensure that Buckingham town is not divided between wards.

50 Buckingham Liberal Democrats did not offer any warding proposals for Buckingham and its surrounding rural parishes, only suggesting that we potentially develop three-single councillor wards. We were not persuaded to develop a single-councillor warding pattern for this area without significant community evidence outlining how these wards should be configured. However, we strongly encourage comments on our recommendations during the current consultation, and whether an alternative warding arrangement supported by community evidence will provide a better balance of our statutory criteria.

51 Buckingham Town Council requested that its current parish ward boundaries be altered to provide for two parish wards, rather than the current four, both coterminous with any proposed unitary authority wards in the area. However, we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements when they are a direct consequence of our recommendations at unitary ward level. As we are not dividing Buckingham parish between wards, we cannot make changes to the



parish warding arrangements. A community governance review conducted by the Council after the completion of our electoral review would be the most appropriate way to address this issue.

### *Horwood*

52 We received varied proposals in relation to the parishes that lie north of Winslow and east of Buckingham. The Council proposed a two-councillor Winslow ward that included Drayton Parslow, Mursley and Swanbourne parishes from the current Great Brickhill ward, and transferring Beachampton, Nash and Thornton parishes into a Buckingham East ward. Conversely, the Buckingham Liberal Democrats proposed a single-councillor Horwood ward comprised of Addington, Adstock, Beachampton, Great Horwood, Nash, Padbury, Thornborough, Thornton and Whaddon parishes.

53 As part of our draft recommendations, we are adopting the Buckingham Liberal Democrats proposal for single-councillor Horwood ward, with some minor modifications. We have not adopted the Council's Winslow ward, as it is forecast to have an electoral variance of 11% by 2028 and we were not persuaded we had received sufficient evidence relating to community identities that would justify this variance.

54 The modifications we propose to the Buckingham Liberal Democrats' Horwood ward relate to Leckhampstead and Little Horwood parishes. We have included Leckhampstead parish to ensure good electoral equality for our proposed Buckingham ward and we have incorporated Little Horwood parish as we consider that the parish shares close links with Great Horwood parish, meaning our ward will better reflect community identities and interests.

55 Thornton Parish Meeting expressed a preference to be warded with Buckingham town. However, we were unable to incorporate the parish in our Buckingham ward without compromising on good electoral equality. Nonetheless, we have kept the parish warded with Thornborough parish in our proposed Horwood ward as the parish meeting stated that they have 'strong connections and working relationships' with Thornborough. We also note that our proposed Horwood ward places Thornton parish in a separate ward from Winslow parish, which it is currently warded with. We consider that our recommendations will reflect community identities and interests, given Thornton Parish Meeting's statement that they have little connection with Winslow.

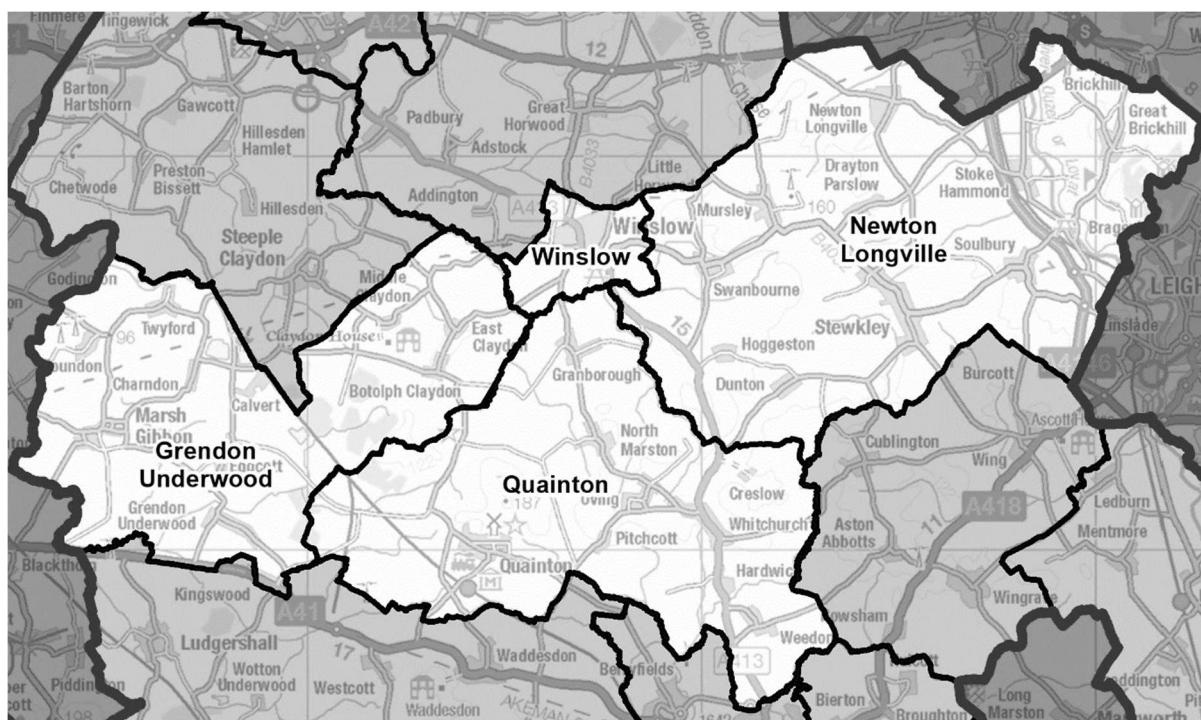
### *Steeple Claydon*

56 We received varied proposals in relation to the parishes that lie west of Winslow and south of Buckingham. The Council proposed a two-councillor Buckingham West ward that placed the south of Buckingham town in a ward with Chetwode, Gawcott with Lenborough, Hillesden, Poundon, Preston Bissett,

Tingewick and Twyford parishes. The Buckingham Liberal Democrats proposed a single-councillor Steeple Claydon ward comprised of Barton Hartshorn, Chetwode, Gawcott with Lenborough, Hillesden, Preston Bissett, Steeple Claydon and Tingewick parishes.

57 As outlined in paragraph 47, we were not persuaded to adopt the Council's Buckingham West ward. We are therefore basing our draft recommendations on the proposals of the Buckingham Liberal Democrats for a single-councillor Steeple Claydon ward. We consider that this ward, comprising of parishes of a predominantly rural nature, provides an effective balance our statutory criteria. However, given the lack of localised submissions for this area, we would particularly welcome comments on this ward during the current consultation period.

## Grendon Underwood, Newton Longville, Quainton and Winslow



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Grendon Underwood	1	-10%
Newton Longville	2	0%
Quainton	1	-5%
Winslow	1	2%

### *Grendon Underwood*

58 The Council and Buckingham Liberal Democrats both proposed a Grendon Underwood ward but the configuration of each was significantly different. The Council's proposal was for a two-councillor ward that incorporated 19 parishes between Steeple Claydon parish in the north and Ickford parish in the south. The Buckingham Liberal Democrats proposed a smaller single-councillor ward that included the nine parishes of Calvert Green, Charndon, East Claydon, Edgcott, Grendon Underwood, Marsh Gibbon, Middle Claydon, Poundon and Twyford.

59 Having carefully considered the evidence received, we have decided to base our draft recommendations on the Buckingham Liberal Democrats' proposals. This is because we were concerned that the Council's proposed ward would link distant rural communities in a geographically large ward. The Council's proposed ward would not, in our view, be conducive to effective and convenient local government, nor reflect community identities. In contrast, the Buckingham Liberal Democrats proposals provide a better balance of our statutory criteria.

60 The ward proposed by Buckingham Liberal Democrats also reflects the concerns of a local resident who suggested the current Grendon Underwood ward be split into two single-councillor wards. This submission strengthened our view that adopting a single-councillor Grendon Underwood ward will better reflect community identities and interests in this area.

#### *Newton Longville*

61 Quainton Parish Council and two local residents opposed the existing Great Brickhill ward, stating that the ward is too large and composed of disparate communities. The Council proposed a slightly modified two-councillor Great Brickhill ward that moved Drayton Parslow, Mursley and Swanbourne parishes into its proposed Winslow ward. Alternatively, the Buckingham Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards for this area, suggesting a Longville ward and a Stewkley ward. Great Brickhill Parish Council suggested that the eastern part of the current Great Brickhill ward be combined with the eastern part of the current Wing ward, placing the western parts of each ward together in another ward.

62 We agree with the submissions made by Quainton Parish Council and the two local residents with regard to the current Great Brickhill ward, sharing their concern that the ward links distant rural communities across a geographically large area. We are therefore not persuaded to adopt the Council's proposed ward which largely maintains the boundaries of the existing ward.

63 We were also not persuaded to adopt Great Brickhill Parish Council's proposal, as we were unable to develop a warding arrangement that both provided for good electoral equality for adjacent wards and reflected community and geographic ties. It was also not made explicitly clear which parishes should be included within each ward.

64 We note that the Buckingham Liberal Democrats' proposed Newton Longville ward is forecast to have an electoral variance of 14% by 2028, which is too high for us to accept, based on the evidence received. We thus propose to link their proposed Longville ward with their Stewkley ward (apart from Little Horwood parish, which is included in our proposed Horwood ward), to form a larger two-councillor ward with a forecast electoral variance of 0%.

65 We propose to name this ward Newton Longville. This reflects a local resident's submission which opposed the Great Brickhill ward name, instead suggesting the largest settlement in the ward be the ward name. We consider that our draft recommendations for this area of the authority sufficiently balance our three statutory criteria, but we welcome comments on the name and boundaries of this ward during the current consultation.

66 A local resident suggested Newton Longville be included within Milton Keynes Council, while another local resident requested that Newton Leys be excluded from Stoke Hammond parish and also placed in Milton Keynes. However, changing the external boundaries between Buckinghamshire and neighbouring local authorities falls outside the scope of the current electoral review, so no changes of this nature are being made.

#### *Quainton*

67 Our draft recommendations for this ward are based on the proposals made by the Buckingham Liberal Democrats who proposed a single-councillor Quainton ward. We determined from our visit to the area that a ward comprised of the rural parishes that lie between Winslow and Aylesbury would effectively reflect community identities. Our Quainton ward also broadly reflects a proposal made by a local resident who suggested we create a ward that included the villages along, and to the west of, the A413.

68 Although Quainton Parish Council expressed a preference to be warded with either Waddesdon or Grendon Underwood parishes, we were unable to do so while ensuring good electoral equality for adjacent wards that also reflect community and geographic links. In any case, we envisage that a ward named after and centred upon Quainton parish itself will be acceptable to the parish council and is preferable to the current Great Brickhill ward that the parish council opposes. We also note that we can accommodate their preference for a single-councillor ward for this area.

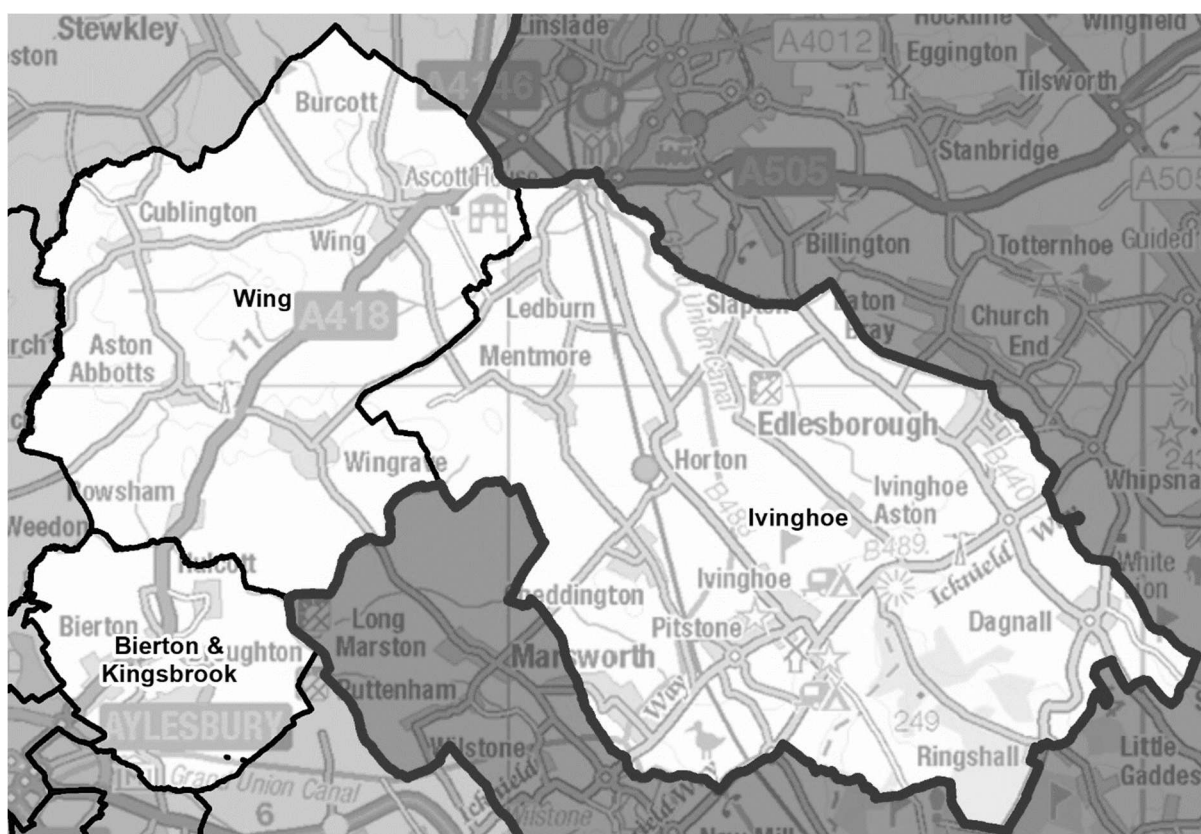
#### *Winslow*

69 We are adopting the Buckingham Liberal Democrats' proposal for a single-councillor Winslow ward as part of our draft recommendations. We agree that the town is distinct from the surrounding rural parishes and consider that a ward fully coterminous with the Winslow parish boundary represents the best reflection of our statutory criteria, with the ward forecast to have an electoral variance of 2% by 2028.

70 As outlined in paragraph 53, we were not persuaded to adopt the Council's two-councillor Winslow ward, as it is forecast to have a high electoral variance by 2028.



## Bierton & Kingsbrook, Ivinghoe and Wing



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bierton & Kingsbrook	1	-10%
Ivinghoe	2	-1%
Wing	1	-3%

### *Bierton & Kingsbrook and Wing*

71 The Council proposed a two-councillor Bierton & Wing ward that linked the parishes of Aston Abbots, Bierton, Broughton Hamlet, Creslow, Cublington, Hulcott, Kingsbrook, Whitchurch, Wing and Wingrave with Rowsham. The Aylesbury Conservatives proposed an almost identical ward but excluded the parish of Aston Abbots. The Buckingham Liberal Democrats proposed a single-councillor Wing ward composed of Aston Abbots, Cublington, Wing and Wingrave with Rowsham, but did not offer any proposals in relation to the parishes of Bierton, Broughton Hamlet, Hulcott and Kingsbrook.

72 We decided not to recommend either the Council's or Aylesbury Conservatives' Bierton & Wing ward. The former proposal is forecast to have an electoral variance of 14% by 2028, which would result in electoral inequality. While the latter proposal is forecast a lower electoral variance of 10%, we were concerned that the geographic and community links across the ward were weak. For example, we were



not convinced that Whitchurch parish had either strong community or road links to Kingsbrook or Broughton Hamlet parishes.

73 Wing Parish Council expressed a preference to retain the existing ward, represented by three councillors. However, given the reduction in the number of councillors for the authority, it is an inevitable consequence that we must reduce the allocation of councillors per ward and redraw ward boundaries across the authority to achieve an effective balance of our statutory criteria.

74 Conversely, Councillor Walmsley of Wingrave with Rowsham Parish Council opposed the current Wing ward. They instead suggested that Wing parish be placed in a ward with the parishes of Aston Abbots, Bierton, Cheddington, Cublington, Mentmore and possibly Marsworth and Ivinghoe. We decided not to adopt this proposal as it would involve transferring parishes from our proposed Ivinghoe ward, which we consider to provide a good balance of our statutory criteria, as detailed further in paragraphs 77 – 78.

75 Consequently, we are instead recommending the Buckingham Liberal Democrats' single-councillor Wing ward as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that this ward will better reflect the community and geographic links in the area, with the A418 representing a strong spine for the ward, facilitating simple road access between the constituent parishes.

76 We do nonetheless agree with the Aylesbury Conservatives' argument that Bierton, Broughton Hamlet, Hulcott and Kingsbrook parishes should not be linked in a ward with Aston Clinton and Weston Turville parishes. We are therefore recommending a single-councillor Bierton & Kingsbrook ward comprised of these four parishes, which is forecast to have an electoral variance of -10% by 2028. We consider that this ward will effectively balance our statutory criteria, reflecting the submissions made by four local residents who requested that the areas surrounding Aylesbury, which are subject to current and future residential development such as Kingsbrook parish, be warded separately from the surrounding rural parishes. We were not persuaded to link Bierton, Broughton Hamlet, Hulcott and Kingsbrook parishes with Aylesbury parish, as suggested by the Aylesbury Liberal Democrats, as we consider these parishes to possess differing issues and interests compared to the more densely populated town of Aylesbury.

### *Ivinghoe*

77 The Council and the Aylesbury Conservatives both proposed an identical two-councillor Ivinghoe ward that we propose to adopt as part of our draft recommendations. We consider this ward provides the best reflection of our statutory criteria, with the ward forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028. This proposal was supported by a local resident, who requested that Ivinghoe ward not include any additional parishes to prevent the ward from becoming too large. We also note that

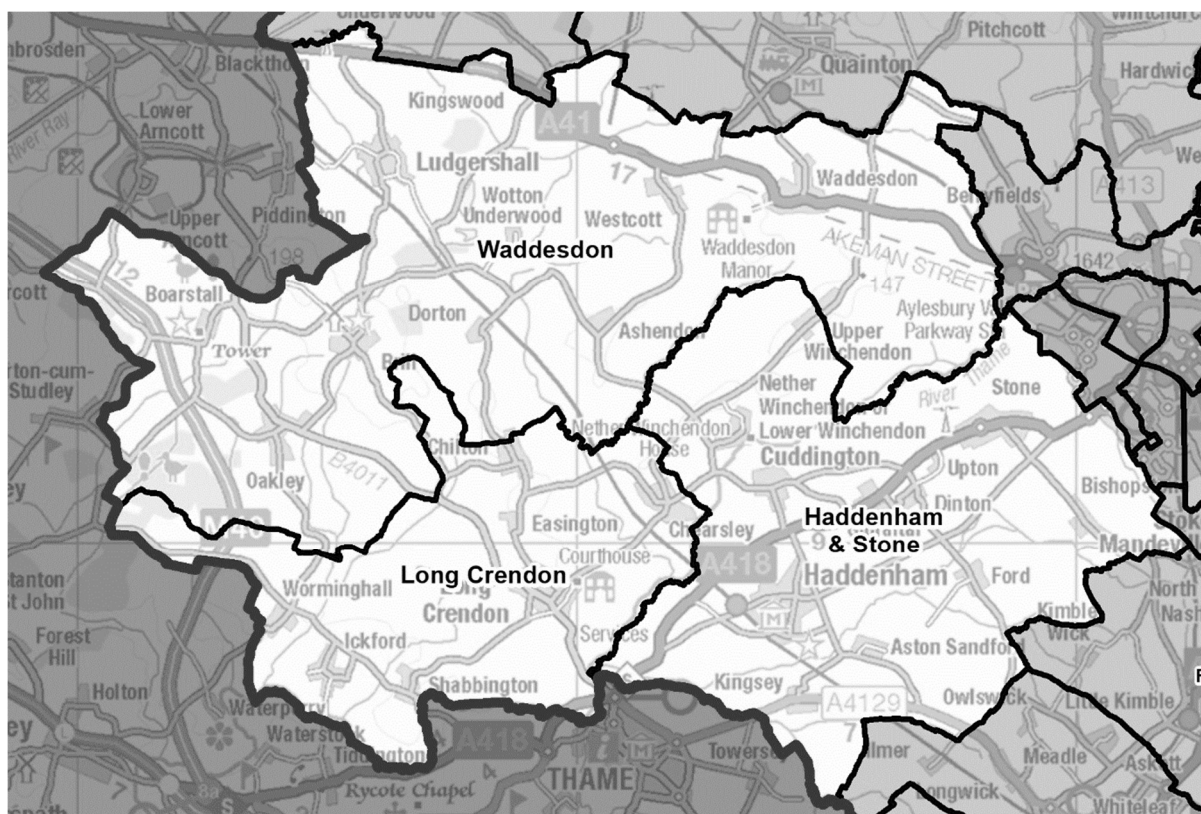
the Ivinghoe ward proposed by the Council and the Aylesbury Conservatives comprises whole parishes.

78 This contrasts with the Buckingham Liberal Democrats' Cheddington and Pitstone wards that split Ivinghoe parish between wards. Good electoral equality can be achieved by keeping the parish within a single ward and we consider that the division of Ivinghoe parish between wards would not reflect community identities nor promote effective and convenient local government.

79 Pitstone Parish Council requested the ward maintain its current allocation of three councillors, while a local resident suggested that the number of councillors for the ward is increased. However, as previously outlined, given the reduction in the number of councillors for the authority, we must reduce the allocation of councillors per ward across Buckinghamshire if we are to successfully balance our statutory criteria.

80 A local resident suggested that some of the parishes in this area were too small and could be merged. However, changing parish boundaries falls outside the scope of this electoral review and is the responsibility of the Council, via a community governance review.

## Haddenham & Stone, Long Crendon and Waddesdon



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Haddenham & Stone	2	1%
Long Crendon	1	-3%
Waddesdon	1	7%

### *Haddenham & Stone*

81 Differing proposals relating to the parishes west of Aylesbury were received during consultation. The Council proposed a reconfigured Bernwood ward that would be represented by two councillors. Alternatively, the Buckingham Liberal Democrats suggested single-councillor Haddenham and Stone wards.

82 We were not persuaded to recommend the Council's proposed Bernwood ward. We decided that the division of Stone with Bishopstone & Hartwell parish between wards would not promote effective and convenient local government.

83 We were also not persuaded to adopt the proposals made by the Buckingham Liberal Democrats. In our view, the single-councillor Haddenham and Stone wards did not reflect our statutory criteria either, with their Haddenham ward forecast to have an electoral variance of 22% by 2028.

84 Instead, we are recommending a two-councillor Haddenham & Stone ward containing the parishes of Aston Sandford, Cuddington, Dinton with Ford & Upton, Haddenham, Kingsey, Nether Winchendon, Upper Winchendon and Stone with Bishopstone & Hartwell. This ward is forecast to have an electoral variance of 1%, meaning the ward will have good electoral equality in 2028. Much like our proposals for Wing ward, we also consider the A418 road to be a strong spine for the ward, facilitating simple road access between the constituent parishes.

#### *Long Crendon*

85 We are broadly adopting the single-councillor Long Crendon ward suggested by the Buckingham Liberal Democrats, although we have included Chilton parish in the ward to ensure good electoral equality across wards in this area. We decided to adopt this ward, rather than the Council's Bernwood ward, as we determined that the community identities and interests of Long Crendon and the adjacent parishes would be more effectively represented in a single-councillor ward centred upon Long Crendon parish.

#### *Waddesdon*

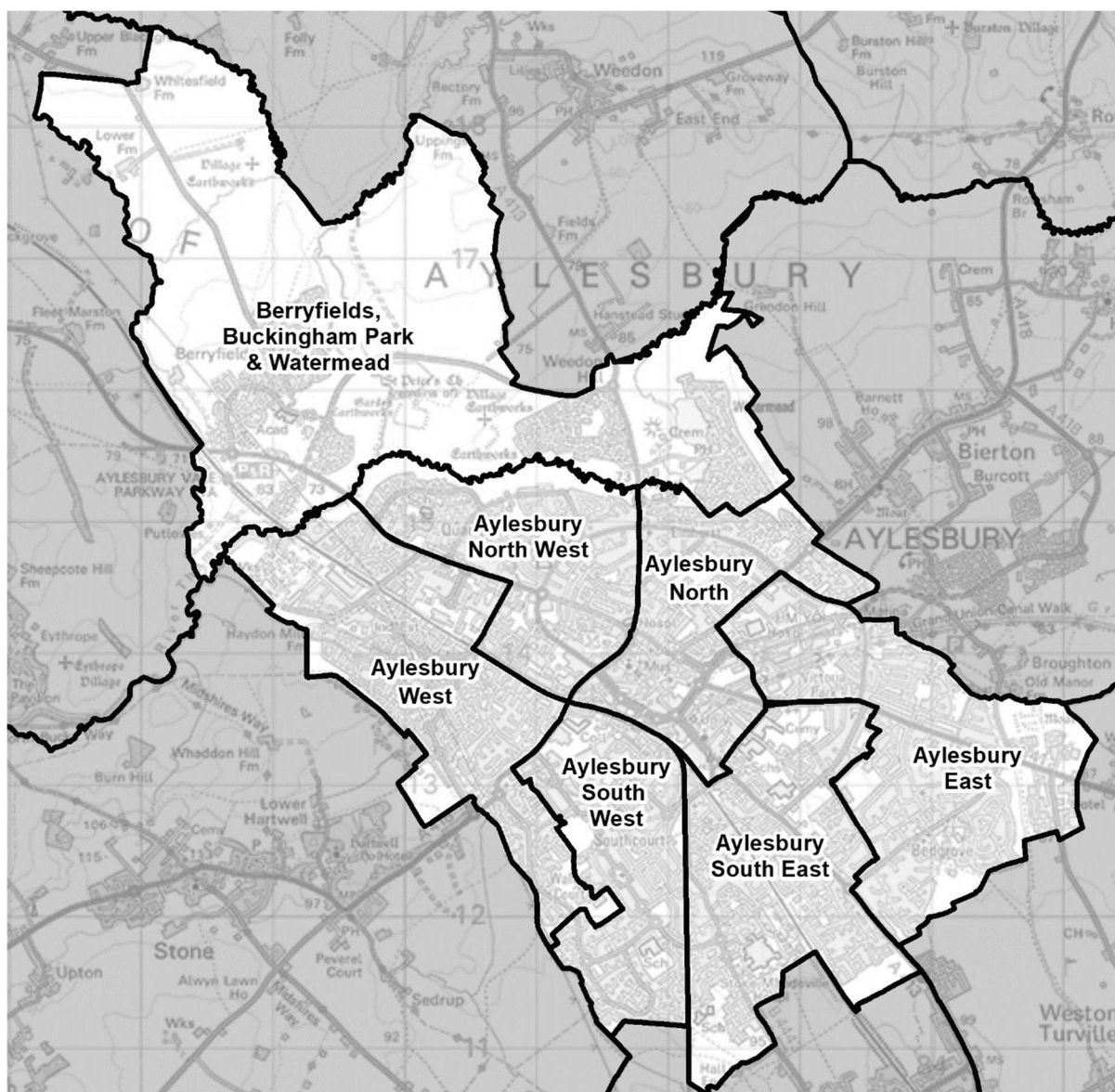
86 We received differing proposals for Waddesdon and surrounding parishes. The Council submitted a reconfigured two-councillor Stone & Waddesdon ward that moved Cuddington and Dinton with Ford & Upton parishes, in addition to the Stone area and Bishopstone & Hartwell parish, into its Bernwood ward. We decided not to adopt this Stone & Waddesdon ward as we considered it does not have sufficiently clear internal road links. In particular, we observed that electors or councillors in Stone would have to travel via wards in Aylesbury to access Waddesdon and the other rural parishes that would comprise the ward.

87 The Buckingham Liberal Democrats' proposed ward forms the basis of our draft recommendations for this area, but we propose some modifications to their ward. Their proposed single-councillor Waddesdon ward contained the parishes of Boarstall, Brill, Chilton, Dorton, Kingswood, Ludgershall, Oakley, Waddesdon, Woodham and Wotton Underwood. However, it did not include Westcott parish, including it in their Stone ward - despite linking Waddesdon with the above-mentioned parishes that lie west of Westcott parish. This would have resulted in detached wards, which neither reflect community identities nor promote effective and convenient local government.

88 We nonetheless consider their proposal to link parishes south and west of the A41 in a ward to be a logical one that would effectively combine similar rural communities together in a single-councillor ward. However, to achieve good electoral equality between wards, we propose to move Chilton parish to our Long Crendon ward and include Ashendon and Fleet Marston parishes in Waddesdon ward. This results in a single-councillor Waddesdon ward with a forecast electoral variance of 7% by 2028.



## Aylesbury



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Aylesbury East	2	8%
Aylesbury North	2	9%
Aylesbury North West	2	-8%
Aylesbury South East	2	8%
Aylesbury South West	2	0%
Aylesbury West	2	9%
Berryfields, Buckingham Park & Watermead	2	4%

### *Aylesbury East*

89 The Council retained the boundaries of the current Aylesbury East ward. The Aylesbury Conservatives also proposed an Aylesbury East ward that largely followed the existing boundaries but included the development at Aston Reach and recent development along the northern part of New Road. This was proposed in order to achieve good electoral equality between wards and reflect anticipated road and community links in the area. These developments are situated in Weston Turville parish, in the current Aston Clinton & Weston Turville ward.

90 We are adopting the Aylesbury East ward as proposed by the Aylesbury Conservatives that incorporates recent and anticipated residential developments on the eastern edge of Aylesbury, therefore dividing Weston Turville parish between wards. Based on our visit to Aylesbury, we agree that these developments will most likely share closer community links with Aylesbury town than with Weston Turville village and should consequently be warded in our Aylesbury East ward.

### *Aylesbury North*

91 We are proposing a two-councillor Aylesbury North ward that follows the boundaries of the existing ward. While the Council and the Aylesbury Conservatives suggested an identical Aylesbury North ward that broadly followed the current boundaries, we were not persuaded to adopt the relatively minor modifications they proposed. They placed the Coppice Way and Oldhams Meadow areas in their respective Bierton & Wing and Watermead & Buckingham Park wards. Although Oldhams Meadow lies within Bierton parish, we consider that electors in both these areas share closer links with Aylesbury town and that community identities and interests will be better served if the Coppice Way and Oldhams Meadow areas are placed in an Aylesbury North ward.

### *Aylesbury North West*

92 We decided not to adopt the Council's two-councillor Aylesbury North West ward that retained the existing boundaries, as it is forecast to have an electoral variance of 11% by 2028, which would result in electoral inequality.

93 Instead, we propose to adopt the ward suggested by the Aylesbury Conservatives and agree that the A41 road represents a strong and identifiable boundary in this area. We are persuaded that the Haydon Hill area has developed closer links with electors in the parish of Coldharbour in Aylesbury West ward, where the 'route along Rabans Lane and Brunel Road has also seen new dwellings constructed (with more proposed) thereby changing the balance of land use in what was once an entirely industrial area'. This proposal partially reflects the submission from a local resident who suggested that 'part of Aylesbury North West (ward) could get reallocated to Aylesbury West (ward)'.



94 The local resident also suggested that the current Aylesbury North West ward be split into smaller wards but did not outline how they would be configured. Consequently, we did not adopt this proposal. Nonetheless, we welcome comments on this decision, in addition to views regarding our proposed Aylesbury North West ward, which is forecast an electoral variance of -8% by 2028.

#### *Aylesbury South East*

95 Both the Council and the Aylesbury Conservatives proposed an Aylesbury South East ward based on the existing warding arrangements. However, they requested that we include electors living on or near Beethoven Drive and Athens Avenue in this ward. This was also requested by a local resident. Although these electors reside in Stoke Mandeville parish, the Aylesbury Conservatives stated that electors here share closer links with Aylesbury town than with Stoke Mandeville village.

96 As part of our draft recommendations, we are adopting the Aylesbury South East ward as proposed by the Council and the Aylesbury Conservatives. This ward will include the above-mentioned roads, thus placing Stoke Mandeville parish in more than one ward. We agree electors here are more likely to share closer community links with Aylesbury town than Stoke Mandeville village and should therefore be located in our Aylesbury South East ward.

#### *Aylesbury South West*

97 The Council and the Aylesbury Conservatives proposed identical Aylesbury South West wards that broadly retained the boundaries of the existing ward. The only modification suggested was for electors on Briskman Way and its adjacent roads to be included within the ward. However, as outlined in paragraph 95, we were not persuaded to incorporate this proposal in our draft recommendations.

98 However, we do agree that the boundaries of the current Aylesbury South West ward broadly reflect our statutory criteria. Therefore, we propose not to make significant alterations to the existing ward. We only recommend a relatively minor adjustment to include electors residing on Alwin Close, Blackwater Drive and Ember Path, to better reflect community identities and improve electoral equality between wards, as explained further in paragraph 100.

99 A local resident suggested that the western boundary follow the HS2 railway line. They also suggested that the western boundary of our Aylesbury West ward do the same. We did not adopt this proposal, as we consider following the Aylesbury parish boundary to be more conducive to effective and convenient local government.

#### *Aylesbury West*

100 Other than the transfer of the Haydon Hill area, as discussed in the previous section, the Council and the Aylesbury Conservatives proposed similar Aylesbury

West wards. Both transferred electors on Briskman Way and its adjacent roads into an Aylesbury South West ward in order to achieve good electoral equality. We did not adopt this modification as electors on these roads do not have any road or pedestrian access to Aylesbury South West ward, and we do not consider this promotes effective and convenient local government. We instead propose to move electors residing on Alwin Close, Blackwater Drive and Ember Path into our Aylesbury South West ward to ensure good electoral equality. We consider that these electors share close links with the Hawkslade area, meaning that this modification will reflect community identities and interests.

101 A local resident suggested that the area south of Oxford Road be transferred into an Aylesbury South West ward. We decided not to adopt this proposal as it would result in a two-councillor Aylesbury South West ward with an anticipated forecast electoral variance of 24%, which would be too high for us to accept.

102 Therefore, apart from the inclusion of the Haydon Hill area and exclusion of electors residing on Alwin Close, Blackwater Drive and Ember Path, our proposed Aylesbury West ward will follow the boundaries of the existing ward. We also note that this ward contains the parish of Coldharbour, as proposed by the Aylesbury Liberal Democrats. This reaffirms our view that this ward will reflect community identities.

#### *Berryfields, Buckingham Park & Watermead*

103 We received several submissions that related to the parishes of Berryfields, Buckingham Park and Watermead. The Aylesbury Liberal Democrats and six local residents opposed either the inclusion of Berryfields parish in the current Stone & Waddesdon ward, or Buckingham Park and Watermead parishes in the existing Wing ward. They provided evidence of the more urbanised nature of these parishes, compared to the rural parishes that comprise the remainder of these wards.

104 The Council kept Berryfields parish in its Stone & Waddesdon ward. It proposed that Buckingham Park and Watermead parishes form a ward with Weedon and Hardwick parishes, and the Oldhams Meadow part of Berton parish. The latter ward was similarly proposed by the Aylesbury Conservatives, but also included Aston Abbots parish. The Buckingham Liberal Democrats suggested a Berryfields ward formed of Berryfields parish only and a North West Aylesbury ward comprised of Buckingham Park and Watermead parishes.

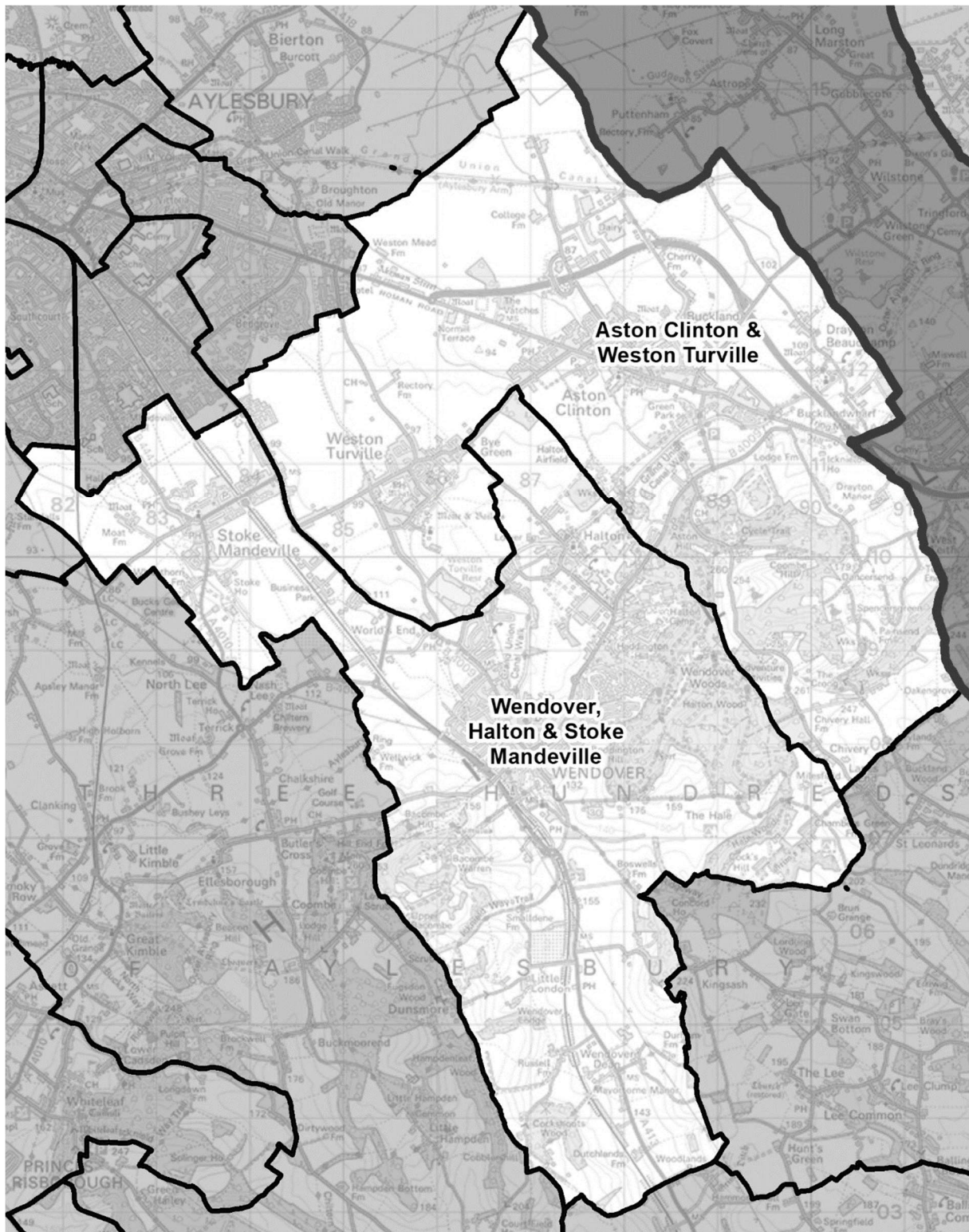
105 We examined this area on our visit to Aylesbury. We agree that the more urban parishes of Berryfields, Buckingham Park and Watermead are distinct from the rural parishes they are currently warded with and should therefore be warded separately in our draft recommendations. Consequently, we are not persuaded to adopt the proposals made by the Council and the Aylesbury Conservatives that continued to link these three parishes in wards with more rural communities.

106 Although the proposals made by the Buckingham Liberal Democrats keep these three parishes separate from the surrounding rural parishes, they result in high levels of electoral inequality. Their single-councillor Berryfields and North West Aylesbury wards have forecast electoral variances of 27% and -18%, respectively. We therefore propose to merge these into a larger two-councillor ward, which would have a forecast electoral variance of 4% by 2028. This ward will have good internal road links, with straightforward road access between the constituent parishes via Martin Dalby Way.

107 We also determined from our visit that these three parishes are relatively self-contained communities, distinct from Aylesbury town itself. For example, we note that the only vehicular access to Aylesbury from either Buckingham Park or Watermead parishes is via their approach roads that lead onto the A413. For this reason, we were not persuaded to link these parishes with our wards for Aylesbury.

108 We consider that the River Thames, which is also the southern parish boundary for Berryfields and Buckingham Park, represents a strong boundary for our proposed Berryfields, Buckingham Park & Watermead ward. We are satisfied this ward will provide the best balance of our statutory criteria, but we welcome comment in regard to this ward during consultation.

## Wendover



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Aston Clinton & Weston Turville	2	5%
Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	2	1%



### *Aston Clinton & Weston Turville*

109 Due to substantial residential development, the current Aston Clinton & Weston Turville ward is forecast to be significantly under-represented by 2028. This necessitated notable changes to the existing ward in order to meet our statutory criteria. We could therefore not retain the boundaries of the existing ward, as requested by Berton Parish Council.

110 The need to significantly redraw boundaries in this area was recognised by the Aylesbury Liberal Democrats and a number of local residents, who stated that the parishes of Aston Clinton, Weston Turville, Drayton Beauchamp and Buckland be warded separately from the parishes of Berton, Broughton Hamlet, Hulcott and Kingsbrook. The Aylesbury Liberal Democrats and a local resident also noted the poor internal road links in the current ward, where electors and councillors must travel via wards in Aylesbury.

111 The Council and the Aylesbury Conservatives both proposed a smaller two-councillor Aston Clinton & Weston Turville ward that removed the parishes of Berton, Broughton Hamlet, Hulcott and Kingsbrook. The Council's proposed ward was forecast to have an electoral variance of 18% by 2028. However, the Aylesbury Conservatives' proposal was forecast good electoral equality, as a result of placing part of Weston Turville parish in Aylesbury East ward.

112 We were not prepared to accept a ward with the electoral variance proposed by the Council. Therefore, as justified in paragraphs 89 - 90, we are adopting the proposal made by the Aylesbury Conservatives as part of our draft recommendations. This will divide Weston Turville parish between Aston Clinton & Weston Turville ward and Aylesbury East ward.

113 A local resident suggested a ward composed solely of Aston Clinton parish. We decided not to adopt this proposal as it would isolate the parishes of Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp. As noted by the Aylesbury Conservatives, these two parishes lie between the authority boundary and Aston Clinton parish and share close links with Aston Clinton. We determined that separating these three parishes from each other would not reflect community identities.

114 We were also not persuaded to transfer Aston Clinton parish into a Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville ward, as proposed by the Aylesbury Liberal Democrats. We consider the evidence provided by Buckland Parish Council to be more persuasive. The parish council preferred that Buckland parish remain in a ward with Aston Clinton, Drayton Beauchamp and Weston Turville parishes, stating that they are 'four interlinked villages which lie on the county boundary' and 'share supporting social infrastructure'.

### *Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville*

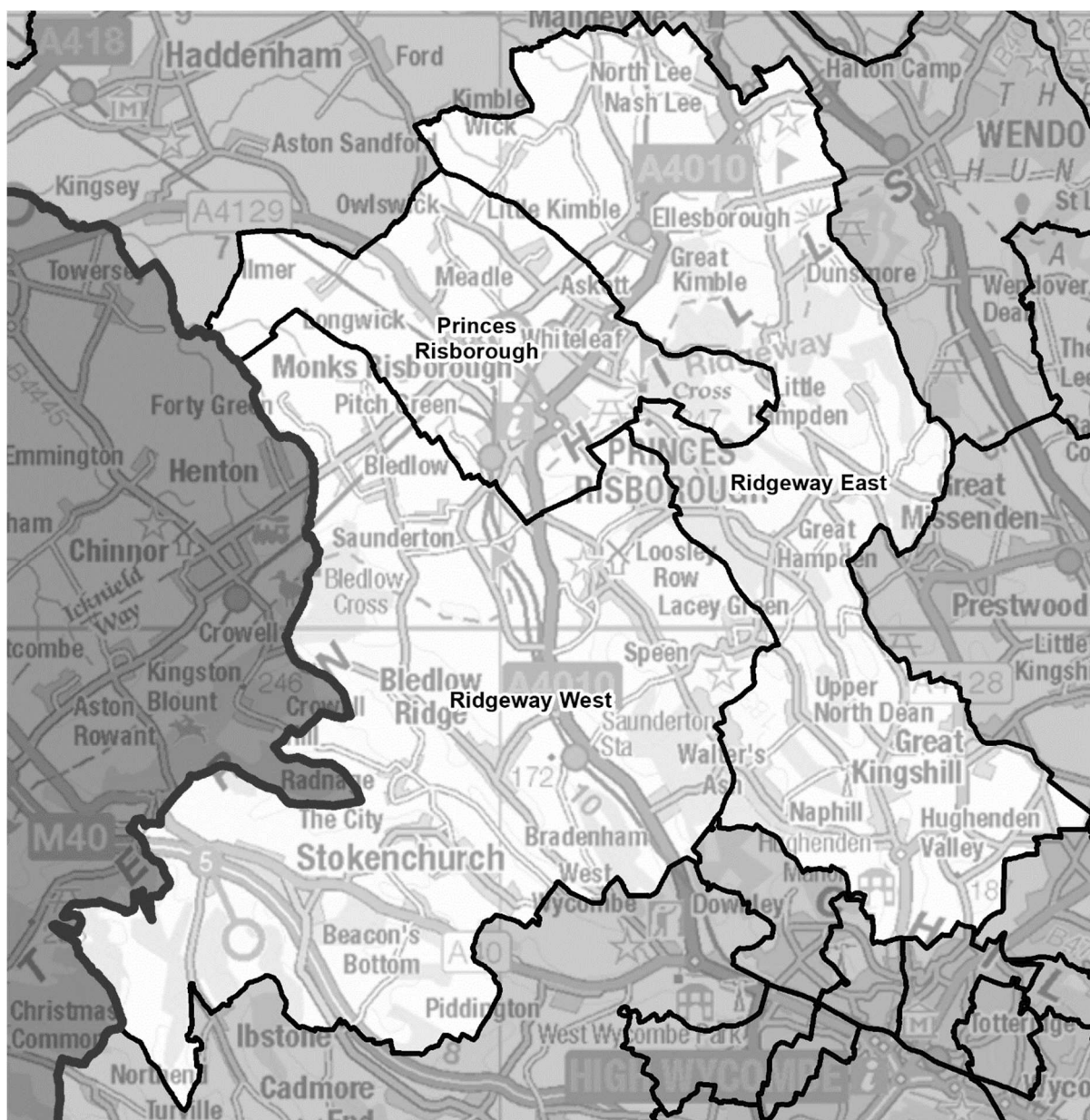
115 We received five submissions in relation to the current Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville ward. We are adopting the Council's and the Aylesbury Conservatives' identical two-councillor ward as part of our draft recommendations. The proposed ward broadly follows the existing boundaries, subject to the transfer of electors in the Beethoven Drive and Athens Avenue areas into Aylesbury South East ward.

116 Wendover Parish Council stated that electors in Weston Turville parish use facilities in Wendover parish rather than those in Aston Clinton parish. Consequently, we examined whether Weston Turville could be included in our proposed Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville ward. While a three-councillor ward comprising Halton, Stoke Mandeville, Wendover and Weston Turville parishes would have good electoral equality, it would result in a single-councillor ward containing Aston Clinton, Buckland and Drayton Beauchamp parishes with a forecast electoral variance of 21% by 2028, which is too high for us to accept.

117 The Aylesbury Liberal Democrats requested that the Stoke Mandeville parish wards that are in the current Aylesbury South East and Aylesbury South West wards be incorporated into Aylesbury parish. However, changing parish boundaries falls outside the scope of this electoral review and is the responsibility of the Council, via a community governance review. We nonetheless agree that these areas share closer links with Aylesbury and have placed these parish wards in either our Aylesbury South East or Aylesbury South West wards as part of our draft recommendations.

118 We are satisfied that our proposed Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville ward will reflect community identities, noting the evidence provided by the Aylesbury Conservatives that outlines the shared local amenities between Wendover and Halton parishes, and the link between Wendover and Stoke Mandeville parishes that has grown because of concerns regarding HS2. The ward will also have good electoral equality, with a forecast electoral variance of 1% by 2028.

## Princes Risborough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Princes Risborough	2	3%
Ridgeway East	2	-1%
Ridgeway West	2	1%

### *Princes Risborough*

119 We received one submission that related to the Princes Risborough area, which came from the Council. It proposed a two-councillor The Risboroughs ward comprised of Princes Risborough, Longwick-cum-Ilmer and Kingsey parishes.



120 As part of our draft recommendations, we propose to retain the existing Princes Risborough ward. We were not persuaded that the inclusion of Kingsey parish in the ward would reflect community identities. Based on our visit to the area, we determined that Kingsey parish has stronger community and road links with Haddenham and should therefore be placed in our proposed Haddenham & Stone ward.

121 Although we have not adopted the Council's proposed ward name of The Risboroughs, we welcome comments on whether this name is more appropriate during the current consultation.

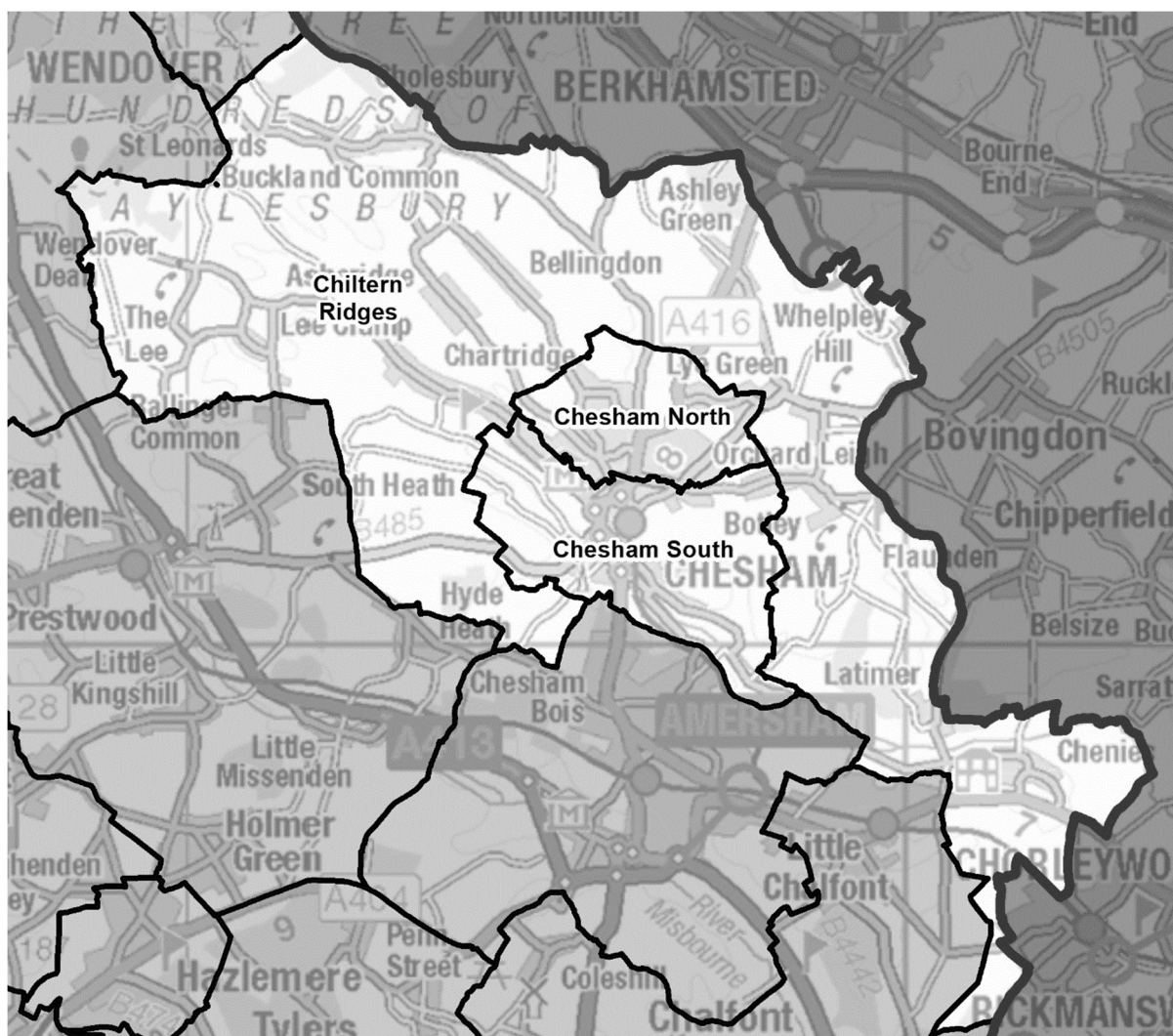
#### *Ridgeway East and Ridgeway West*

122 The Council and the Aylesbury Conservatives both retained the existing Ridgeway East and Ridgeway West wards, while the Buckingham Liberal Democrats offered no alternative proposal for Ridgeway East ward. A local resident stated that the existing Ridgeway East ward represented a 'convoluted long thin type of electoral area' but also did not propose any alternate warding arrangement.

123 We are proposing to retain the existing two-councillor Ridgeway East ward. We also propose a two-councillor Ridgeway West ward, but with a modification to the boundary of the existing ward, to include the Beacon's Bottom and Studley Green part of Stokenchurch parish. This modification will place the entirety of Stokenchurch parish in a single ward, which will aid effective and convenient local government.

124 Bradenham Parish Council stated that Walter's Ash remained split between wards. The village is also currently split between the parishes of Bradenham, Hughenden and Lacey Green. We examined placing the Walter's Ash & Naphill parish ward of Hughenden parish in Ridgeway West ward, but this did not provide for good electoral equality. Similarly, placing Bradenham parish, Lacey Green parish ward and Loosley Row parish ward in a Ridgeway East ward also results in a high level of electoral inequality. As we are unable to develop a warding pattern for this area that ensures good electoral equality across wards, we are not proposing any changes in regard to Walter's Ash as part of our draft recommendations.

## Chesham



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Chesham North	2	-2%
Chesham South	2	-3%
Chiltern Ridges	1	5%

### *Chesham North, Chesham South and Chiltern Ridges*

125 The Council proposed to generally retain the current wards in the Chesham area and the surrounding rural parishes, subject to a relatively minor modification between the Chesham and Chiltern Ridges wards to achieve good electoral equality. However, this warding arrangement was opposed by Councillor Birchley, Ashley Green Parish Council, Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council, The Lee Parish Council and four local residents. These submissions opposed the inclusion of rural parishes in a predominantly urban ward.

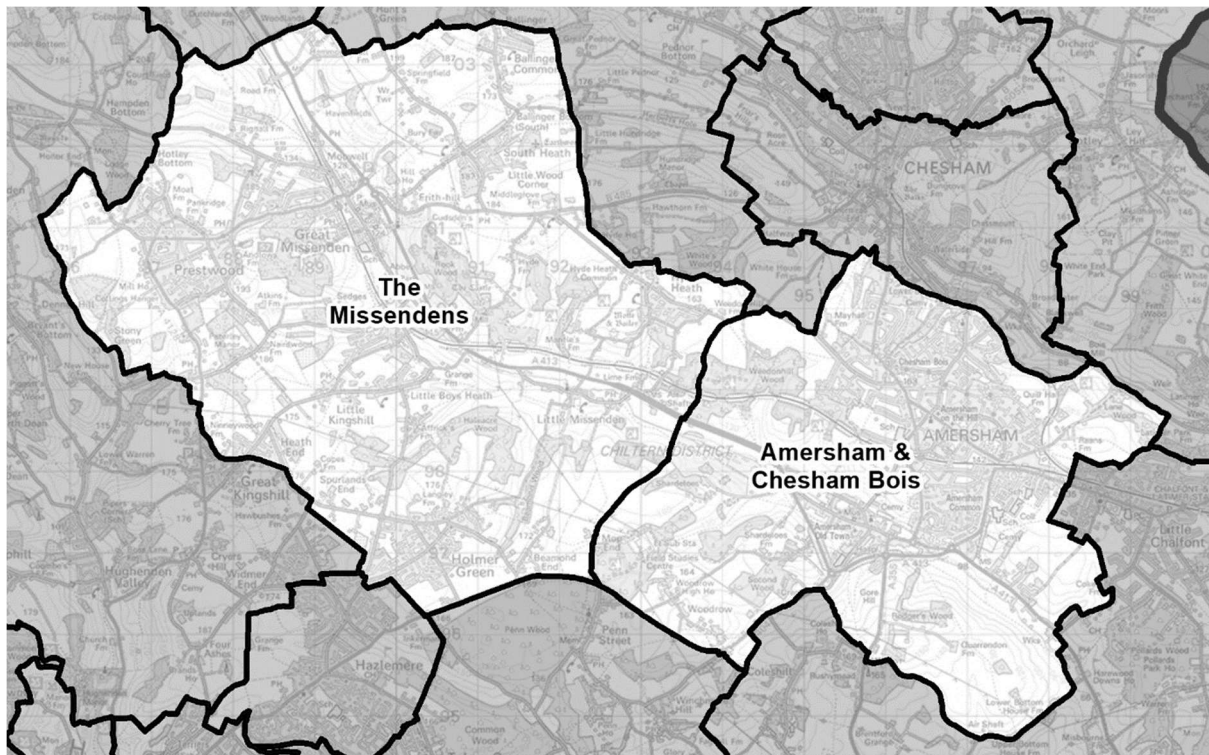
126 We agree that the more densely populated town of Chesham is distinct from the rural parishes that surround the town and should therefore be warded separately. Consequently, we decided not to adopt the Council's proposals for this area.

127 Instead, we propose to adopt a local resident's suggestion to divide Chesham parish on a north and south basis. Our proposed two-councillor Chesham North and Chesham South wards are divided along the boundary between Hilltop and Townsend parish wards and the Asheridge and Lowndes parish wards. By creating two wards contained within the Chesham parish boundary, we consider our proposed wards for the Chesham area effectively reflect community identities and promote effective and convenient local government. Both wards will also have good levels of electoral equality, with our Chesham North and Chesham South wards having forecast electoral variances of -2% and -3% by 2028, respectively.

128 Our proposed single-councillor Chiltern Ridges ward follows the boundaries of the second of two options suggested by Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council, which proposed a ward formed of Ashley Green, Chartridge, Chenies, Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards, The Lee and Latimer parishes. We were persuaded by the evidence received that this ward would provide the best reflection of the statutory criteria, reflecting the community identities and interests of these rural parishes. Nonetheless, we note that Chenies parish may have stronger community and geographic links with the parishes included in our Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont ward. We welcome comments as to whether including the parish in this ward would be preferable.

129 The Lee Parish Council, Councillor Birchley, three local residents and Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council suggested that the Ballinger and South Heath areas of Great Missenden parish and Hyde Heath part of Little Missenden parish be included in a Chiltern Ridges ward. We decided not to adopt this proposal as we consider placing the entirety of Great Missenden and Little Missenden parishes in our proposed The Missendens ward will be more conducive to effective and convenient local government.

## Amersham and The Missendens



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Amersham & Chesham Bois	3	5%
The Missendens	3	0%

### *Amersham & Chesham Bois*

130 The Council proposed to retain the existing three wards that cover the Amersham area. We also received submissions from three local residents who all argued that Amersham Old Town should be included in a ward with Amersham Common and Amersham-on-the-Hill, specifically opposing the current Penn Wood & Old Amersham ward that links Amersham Old Town with geographically distant communities in Penn parish and Holmer Green.

131 We agree with the three local residents that the existing warding arrangement for the Amersham area does not effectively reflect our statutory criteria, linking distinct rural and urban communities in the same ward. Therefore, we are not adopting the Council's proposals for this area.

132 We determined from our visit to Amersham that Amersham Old Town shares closer links with Amersham Common and Amersham on the Hill and should therefore be warded together. We are thus adopting a local resident's proposal to place the entirety of Amersham parish in a three-councillor ward with Chesham Bois parish. We consider this proposed ward, which is forecast to have an electoral

variance of 5% by 2028, will better reflect the community identities and interests of electors in Amersham and Chesham Bois parishes.

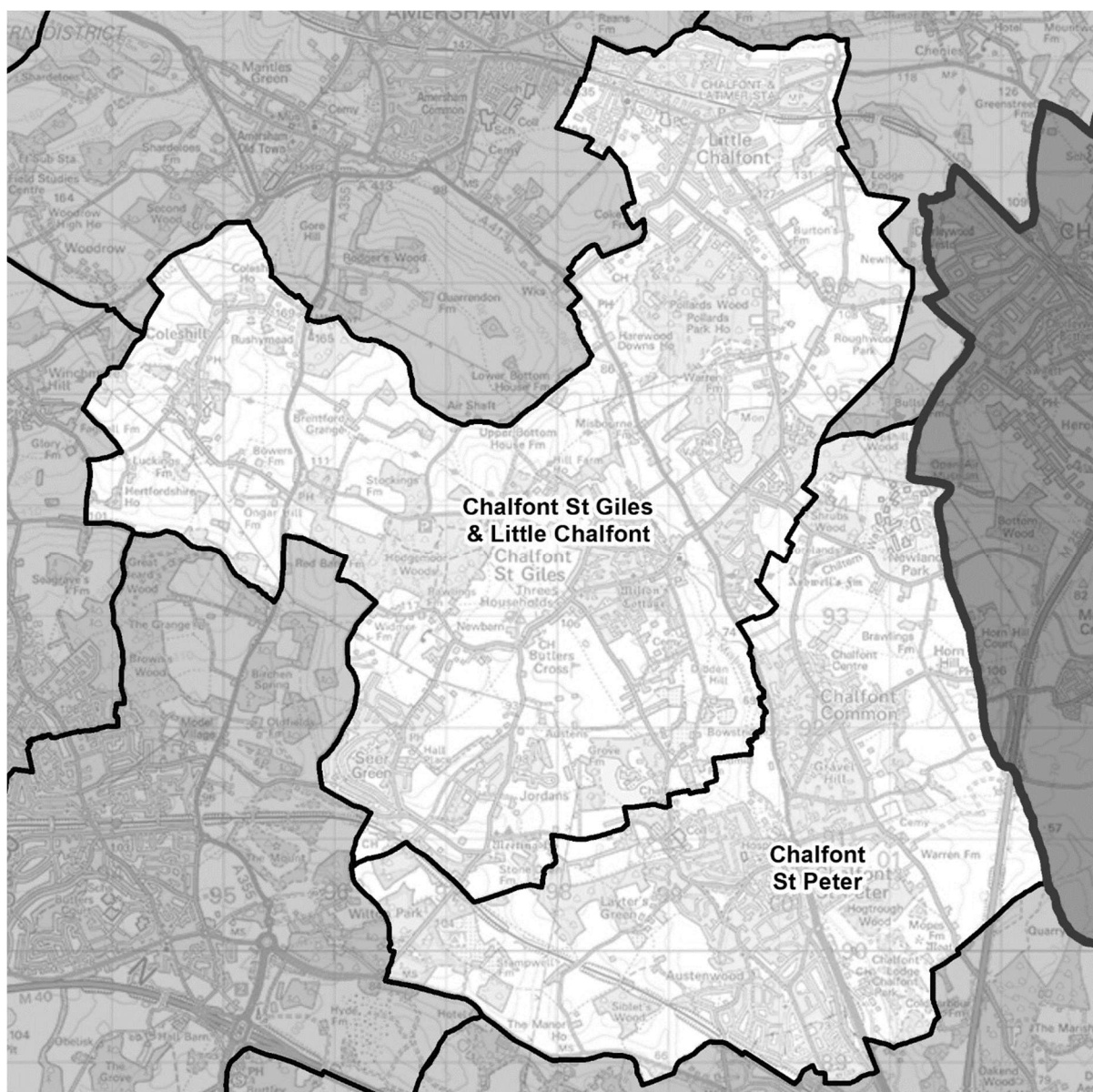
### *The Missendens*

133 The Council retained the boundaries of the existing Great Missenden ward, which is forecast to have an electoral variance of -9% by 2028. This ward is formed by the Great Missenden and Prestwood & Heath End parish wards of Great Missenden parish and the Little Kingshill & Little Missenden parish ward of Little Missenden parish.

134 While the Council's ward is forecast good electoral equality, we found that a three-councillor ward composed of the entirety of Great Missenden and Little Missenden parishes is also anticipated to have good electoral equality. We consider that placing the entirety of Great Missenden and Little Missenden parishes in a single ward is preferable and will better reflect community identities, in addition to promoting effective and convenient local government. We therefore propose a three-councillor The Missendens ward as part of our draft recommendations.



## The Chalfonts



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont	3	-8%
Chalfont St Peter	3	-12%

### *Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont*

135 The Council proposed to retain the existing Chalfont St Giles ward, which linked the entirety of the parish with Coleshill and Seer Green parishes, in addition to the Gold Hill parish ward of Chalfont St Peter parish.

136 Chalfont St Peter Parish Council, Councillor Darby, Councillor Smith, Councillor Shinner and six local residents all disagreed with the current Chalfont St Giles ward, specifically opposing the inclusion of Gold Hill parish ward of Chalfont St Peter



parish in the ward. They argued that the Gold Hill area has little affinity with Chalfont St Giles parish and should be warded with Chalfont St Peter parish.

137 We concur that the Gold Hill area shares closer links with Chalfont St Peter parish and including it in our proposed Chalfont St Peter ward will better reflect community identities and interests. We also consider that placing the entirety of Chalfont St Peter parish in a single ward will also promote effective and convenient local government.

138 As a result of this decision, a two-councillor Chalfont St Giles ward comprised of the entirety of the parish, in addition to Coleshill and Seer Green parishes, would have a forecast variance of -22%, which we consider too high to accept. We therefore propose to also include the parish of Little Chalfont, to create a three-councillor Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont ward with a forecast electoral variance of -8% by 2028, meaning the ward will have good electoral equality.

139 Little Chalfont parish is currently divided between the current Chess Valley and Little Chalfont & Amersham Common wards. Our proposal avoids the division of Little Chalfont parish between wards, which will aid effective and convenient local government. While we recognise that Little Chalfont parish is somewhat geographically distant from Chalfont St Giles, we consider it preferable to combine separate communities in the same ward than divide them between wards to ensure good electoral equality. We note that the two parishes share good road links via the A413 and B4442.

### *Chalfont St Peter*

140 The Council proposed a two-councillor Chalfont St Peter ward that modified the existing ward by transferring the western half of Austenwood parish ward, which contains Austenwood Common, into its Gerrards Cross & Hedgerley ward. However, this modification was opposed by Chalfont St Peter Parish Council, who argued that it would have a significant impact on the community identity of the village.

141 We agree with Chalfont St Peter Parish Council that dividing the parish in this manner would not reflect community identities nor promote effective and convenient local government. Consequently, we have not adopted the Council's proposals for a two-councillor Chalfont St Peter ward.

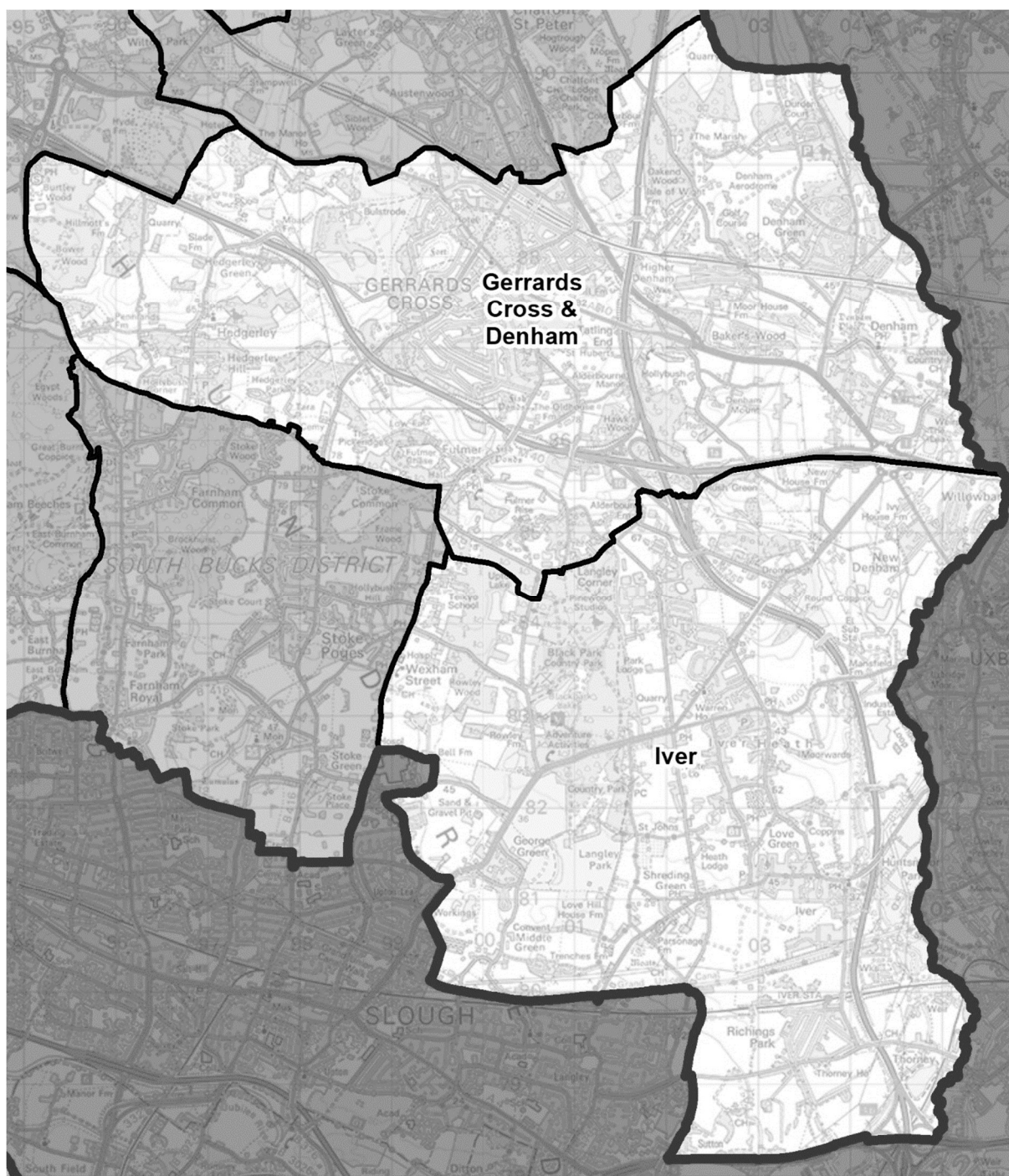
142 Chalfont St Peter Parish Council instead proposed a three-councillor ward that would contain the entirety of the parish. However, it recognised that a three-councillor ward formed solely of the parish would be over-represented, with a forecast electoral variance of -17% by 2028. To remedy this over-representation, the parish council suggested that several roads split between Gerrards Cross and Chalfont St Peter parish be included in Chalfont St Peter ward, such as Orchehill Avenue, Latchmoor Avenue, Latchmoor Way, Oval Way and North Park. This

amendment was also supported by Councillor Smith, Councillor Darby, Councillor Shinner and two local residents.

143 We examined this proposal on our visit to Buckinghamshire and noted that, in this area, no real obvious distinction between the parishes of Gerrards Cross and Chalfont St Peter exists and that the two parishes are relatively contiguous. This was noted by Councillor Darby, who stated that the 'built-up area of (the) two parishes is already joined'. We have therefore broadly adopted this change, placing the southern boundary of our proposed Chalfont St Peter ward along the railway line and to the rear of E Thorpe Close, before following South Park and the A413.

144 This modification would improve the forecast electoral variance of our proposed Chalfont St Peter ward from -17% to -12%. While this variance is slightly higher than what we would normally recommend, we consider that, after careful consideration of all the evidence received in relation to Chalfont St Peter, our proposed ward will provide the most effective balance between our statutory criteria.

## Gerrards Cross & Denham and Iver



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Gerrards Cross & Denham	3	-10%
Iver	3	-8%

### *Gerrards Cross & Denham*

145 We received differing proposals in relation to the Gerrards Cross and Denham areas. The Council proposed a two-councillor ward formed of Gerrards Cross and

Hedgerley parishes, in addition to the western half of the Austenwood parish ward of Chalfont St Peter parish. The Council also proposed a two-councillor ward formed by the parishes of Denham, Fulmer and Wexham. We decided not to recommend the former ward because it divided Chalfont St Peter parish, as outlined above. We also determined from our visit to the area that the latter ward would not effectively reflect our statutory criteria, noting in particular that the community and road links between Denham and Wexham parishes were not particularly strong.

146 The Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats proposed a ward formed of Gerrards Cross, Hedgerley and Fulmer parishes, that also included the Denham South West parish ward of Denham parish that includes Tatling End. They also suggested a single-councillor Denham ward, less the Tatling End and New Denham areas, the latter of which they transferred into their proposed Iver North & Wexham ward. We did not adopt these wards either as we were unable to achieve good electoral equality for their former proposal, due to our decision to incorporate several hundred electors from Gerrards Cross parish in our Chalfont St Peter ward.

147 The ability to create wards in this area of the authority that effectively balance our statutory criteria is a difficult task. This was acknowledged by the Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats, who recognised that a ward formed of Denham parish alone would have too many electors to achieve a good electoral equality as a single-councillor ward, but also too few electors to accommodate a two-councillor ward. They also noted that with the parish lying on the edge of the authority, the scope for considering alternative warding patterns was limited.

148 We therefore propose a three-councillor Gerrards Cross & Denham ward as part of our draft recommendations, which would also include Fulmer and Hedgerley parishes. While we note that this ward links communities on either side of the M25, we found on our visit to the area that the motorway does not form a significant barrier here, with good road access between the constituent parishes via the A40. Furthermore, in accordance with our decision to link the parishes of Little Chalfont and Chalfont St Giles in a ward, we consider it desirable, as much as is viable, to combine individual parishes in the same ward rather than divide them between wards, to ensure good electoral equality.

149 We also consider that our proposed ward will aid effective and convenient local government. It avoids part of Beaconsfield parish being incorporated in Gerrards Cross ward and does not require the inclusion of Gerrards Cross East parish ward in Denham ward, as at present. The latter issue was raised by Councillor Holborn and Councillor Bracken, who both requested that this particular split of Gerrards Cross parish be avoided in our draft recommendations. We nonetheless welcome comments on this proposed ward during consultation.

## *Iver*

150 We received two submissions relating to the Iver area during consultation. The Council proposed a two-councillor Iver ward fully coterminous with Iver parish. Conversely, the Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats divided Iver parish into a single-councillor Iver Village & Richings Park ward and a two-councillor Iver North & Wexham ward that included Wexham parish and the New Denham area from Denham parish.

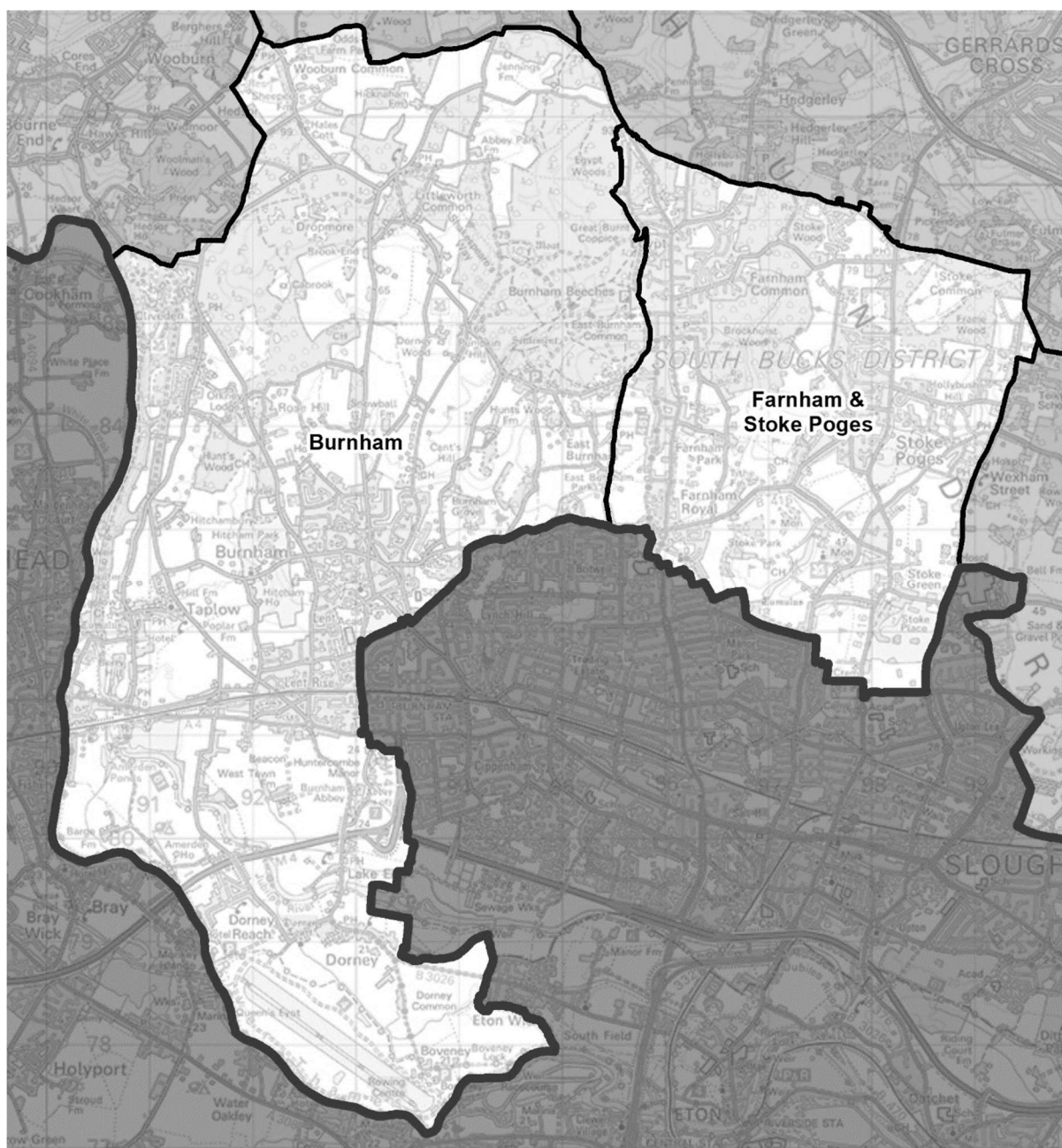
151 We note that the Council's proposed Iver ward would aid effective and convenient local government by following the Iver parish boundary and provide for good electoral equality, with a variance of -3% by 2028. However, as discussed in paragraph 145, we were concerned by their proposal to link Wexham parish in a ward with Denham parish. We consider Wexham parish to have stronger community and geographic links with Iver parish and determined it was more appropriate to link these two parishes together in a ward. Indeed, good road links exist between the two parishes via the A4007. However, including Wexham parish in a two-councillor ward with Iver parish would result in an electoral variance of 23% by 2028, which would be unacceptably high. Therefore, we are adopting the Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrat proposal to include New Denham within an Iver-centric ward, placing it into our proposed three-councillor Iver ward. We consider that electors in New Denham have reasonably good links with the Iver community with road access provided by the A412. We also consider that the M40 represents an identifiable boundary for the ward. Our proposed ward will have a forecast electoral variance of -8% by 2028.

152 We were not persuaded to adopt the Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats' broader proposals for a single-councillor Iver Village & Richings Park ward and two-councillor Iver North & Wexham ward. This is because their proposed Iver North & Wexham ward is forecast to have an electoral variance of -13%, resulting in relatively high electoral inequality.

153 A local resident stated that they did not want the Wexham parish boundary modified. Changing parish boundaries falls outside the scope of this electoral review and is the responsibility of the Council, via a community governance review.



## Burnham, Farnham and Stoke Poges



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Burnham	3	-10%
Farnham & Stoke Poges	2	-1%

### *Burnham*

154 Councillor Horan recognised that the Burnham area is under-represented, with the current Burnham Beeches & Farnham Common ward forecast to have an electoral variance of -17% by 2028. The Council also acknowledged this and therefore proposed to expand the ward to incorporate the Farnham Royal Central area from the existing Stoke Poges & Wexham ward. However, we decided not to



adopt this proposal, as we were not persuaded that we should divide Farnham Royal parish between wards, as justified in paragraph 159.

155 The Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats proposed three single-councillor wards for the Burnham area, named Burnham Beeches, Burnham Church & Taplow and Burnham Lent Rise & Dorney. We did not adopt these wards either, as their Burnham Church & Taplow ward is forecast to have a variance of -12%, which would not provide for good electoral equality.

156 Instead, we are recommending a three-councillor ward formed of the entirety of Burnham, Dorney and Taplow parishes. We determined that a ward fully coterminous with these three parishes will aid effective and convenient local government. Our proposed ward will have a forecast electoral variance of -10% by 2028, meaning it will also have reasonably good electoral equality.

#### *Farnham & Stoke Poges*

157 Councillor Dhillon, Councillor Milne and 10 local residents opposed the current warding arrangements for Farnham Royal parish, which is divided between the existing Farnham Common & Burnham Beeches and Stoke Poges & Wexham wards. A local resident held an opposing view, suggesting that dividing the parish and linking Farnham Royal village with Stoke Poges represented a 'much better fit'.

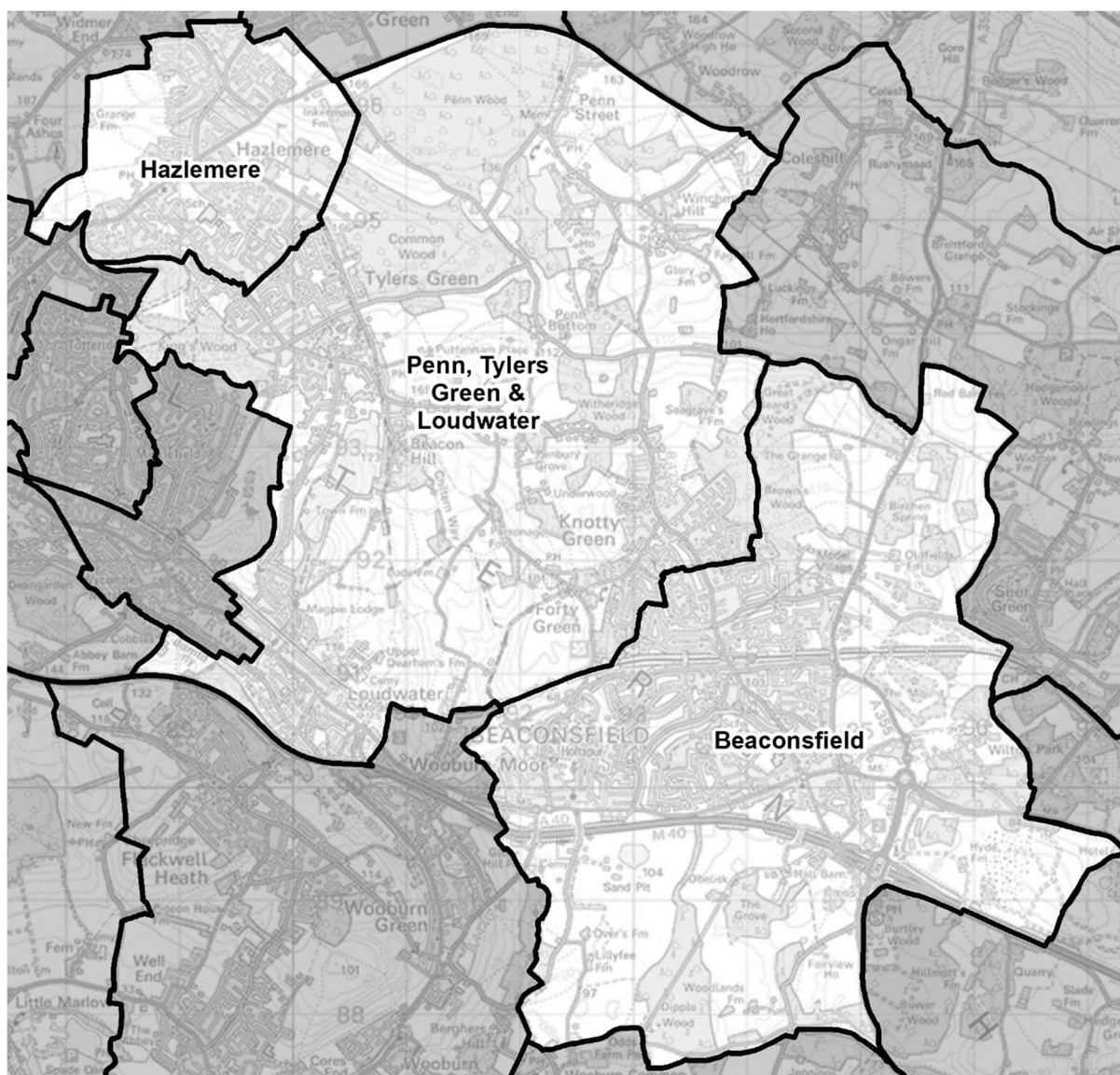
158 The Council's proposal minimised the extent of how much of Farnham Royal parish was divided, only including the area bounded by the existing Farnham Royal South parish ward in a single-councillor Stoke Poges ward. Conversely, the Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats proposed a single-councillor Farnham ward and single-councillor Stoke Poges ward, forecast to have electoral variances of 10% and -11% by 2028, respectively.

159 We were persuaded by the argument made by Councillor Dhillon, Councillor Milne and the 10 local residents that the division of Farnham Royal parish between wards would not reflect community identities or contribute to efficient and convenient local government. Consequently, we were not persuaded to adopt the Council's proposed wards.

160 In respect of the Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrat proposal, we note that their single-councillor Farnham ward does result in good electoral equality. However, their single-councillor Stoke Poges ward is forecast to be slightly outside what we consider to be good electoral equality. Therefore, as part of our draft recommendations, we propose to place the two parishes in a two-councillor Farnham & Stoke Poges ward. We consider that this ward will ensure good electoral equality with a forecast electoral variance of -1% by 2028. Furthermore, the ward will also be composed of the entirety of Farnham Royal and Stoke Poges parishes, reflecting the

submissions we received that expressed a strong preference for Farnham Royal parish being wholly contained in a single ward.

## Beaconsfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Beaconsfield	2	3%
Hazlemere	2	-3%
Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater	2	13%

### *Beaconsfield*

161 Over 100 submissions were received relating to Beaconsfield. A substantial amount of these opposed the current ward that divides the parish and places the South East parish ward, which contains the Old Town, in Gerrards Cross ward. Approximately half of these submissions also requested that the Knotty Green area, in Penn parish, be included in Beaconsfield ward.

162 Both the Council and the Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats proposed an identical two-councillor Beaconsfield ward coterminous with Beaconsfield parish, thereby placing the Old Town area in Beaconsfield ward. We were persuaded by the evidence received during consultation that including Old Town in Beaconsfield ward will reflect community identities and have adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. We also consider that a Beaconsfield ward that is entirely coterminous with the parish will contribute to effective and convenient local government.

163 However, we decided not to include the Knotty Green area in our Beaconsfield ward. Incorporating these areas into a two-councillor Beaconsfield ward would result in a forecast electoral variance of 24% by 2028, while a three-councillor ward would have a forecast electoral variance of -17%. Given that we must ensure that electors in Buckinghamshire have a vote of broadly equal weight, we consider that these variances will not provide for sufficient electoral equality.

#### *Hazlemere*

164 The Council proposed a two-councillor Hazlemere ward that followed the boundaries of the existing ward, which are coterminous with Hazlemere parish. This was supported by Councillor Fleming of Hazlemere Parish Council and a local resident. We decided not to adopt this proposed ward as it is forecast to have an electoral variance of -12% by 2028, which would result in electoral inequality. We were not persuaded that sufficient community evidence had been provided to support such a variance.

165 We are therefore adopting the proposal made by the Wycombe Conservative Association ('the Wycombe Conservatives') and Councillor Green to incorporate the residential development at Terriers Farm in Hazlemere ward. Although the development is predominantly outside the Hazlemere parish boundary, we are satisfied that electors here will share close links with the Hazlemere community given its relatively close proximity to Hazlemere village. The inclusion of these future electors in our Hazlemere ward will result in the ward having a forecast electoral variance of -3% by 2028.

#### *Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater*

166 We received several submissions related to the areas of Penn, Tylers Green and Loudwater. The Penn & Tylers Green Residents' Society and several local residents highlighted the close geographic and community links between Penn and Tylers Green, requesting that they be warded together.

167 The Council and the Wycombe Conservatives retained the existing Tylers Green & Loudwater ward, which places the Penn and Tylers Green communities in separate wards. The Council also proposed to retain the Penn Wood & Old Amersham ward, which was supported by Penn Parish Council.

168 We examined these various proposals on our visit to Buckinghamshire. After careful consideration, we decided that a ward that links Penn parish with Tylers Green would reflect community identities and interests. Conversely, despite Penn Parish Council's view to the contrary, we were not persuaded that Penn parish has particularly strong community links with Amersham town based on the evidence received. Furthermore, as outlined earlier in this report, we consider it appropriate for Amersham to be warded separately from the rural parishes that surround the town. We therefore did not adopt the Council's proposals for this area.

169 We found that developing a warding pattern for this area was particularly challenging. A two-councillor ward comprised of Penn parish and Tylers Green alone would have significant electoral inequality, with a variance of -24%. A single-councillor ward formed of either Penn parish, Tylers Green or Loudwater would also be significantly over-represented by 2028, meaning that each must be combined with adjacent areas to achieve a reasonable level of electoral equality.

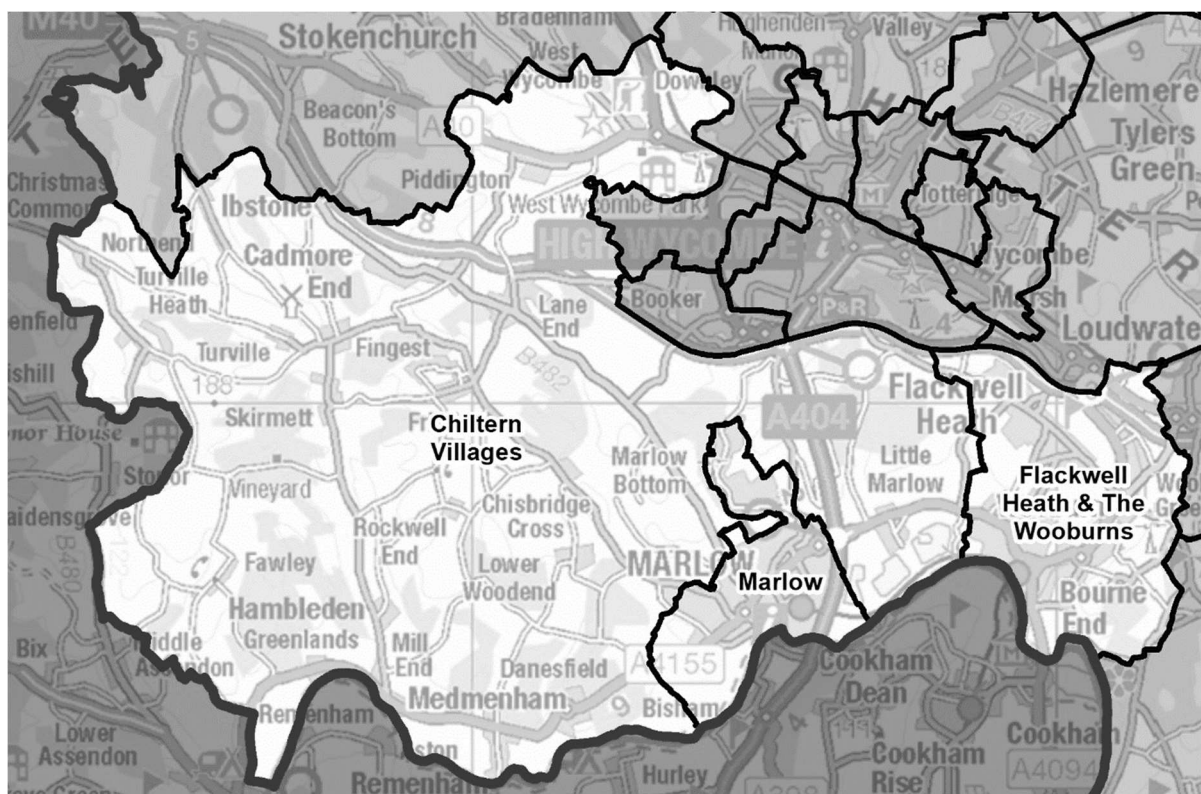
170 We therefore consider the inclusion of the Loudwater part of Chepping Wycombe parish in a two-councillor Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater ward to be the most effective way to achieve a satisfactory balance of our statutory criteria. This ward is forecast to have an electoral variance of 13% by 2028, which is somewhat higher than we would normally recommend.

171 We examined whether we could reduce this variance to achieve a good level of electoral equality. However, as indicated in paragraph 163, we decided not to transfer the Knotty Green area from Penn parish into Beaconsfield ward as it would result in high levels of electoral inequality. We then explored whether to transfer the Penn Street & Winchmore Hill areas of Penn parish into adjacent wards. While this modification would ensure good electoral equality, we decided that arbitrarily splitting Penn parish between wards to achieve good electoral equality would neither reflect community identities nor promote effective and convenient local government.

172 We nonetheless strongly encourage comments on this proposed ward during the current consultation.



## Marlow



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Chiltern Villages	2	-5%
Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns	3	9%
Marlow	3	4%

### *Chiltern Villages*

174 The Council and the Wycombe Conservatives proposed a two-councillor Chiltern Villages ward that followed the boundaries of the current ward. This ward would have good electoral equality by 2028.

175 However, to better reflect our statutory criteria for adjacent wards, we propose that this ward include Piddington & Wheeler End and West Wycombe parishes from the current West Wycombe ward. We also propose that it include the rural part of Little Marlow parish and that Marlow Bottom parish be transferred into our proposed three-councillor Marlow ward.

176 These modifications mean that our proposed Chiltern Villages ward is composed of similar rural parishes. This ensures our proposed ward will effectively reflect the community identities and interests of the constituent rural communities.



### *Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns*

177 The Council proposed to retain the existing Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Marlow South East and The Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor wards. Alternatively, the Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats suggested four single-councillor wards named Bourne End, Flackwell Heath, Marlow South East & Little Marlow and The Wooburns.

178 We were not persuaded to adopt either of these proposals. We determined that linking the largely rural parish of Little Marlow with the more urban south-eastern part of Marlow would not sufficiently reflect community identities, creating a ward composed of disparate communities. Instead, we consider it more appropriate to place the most rural part of Little Marlow parish, which contains Little Marlow village, in our predominantly rural Chiltern Villages ward. We nonetheless welcome comments as to whether this part of Little Marlow parish would be more appropriately placed in our three-councillor Marlow ward.

179 However, we only propose to transfer the rural part of Little Marlow parish. This is because we found the evidence provided by Councillor Wilson and two local residents, who argued that the more densely populated Well End area of Little Marlow parish should be incorporated in a ward with Bourne End, to be persuasive. We agree that Well End and Bourne End share strong community and geographic links, so we endeavoured to develop a ward that placed these two areas together.

180 We have consequently decided to propose a three-councillor Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns ward, comprised of Flackwell Heath from Chepping Wycombe parish, the parish of Wooburn, Hedsor parish and the Well End part of Little Marlow parish. We consider that this ward will reflect community identities, based on the evidence received. The ward is also forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

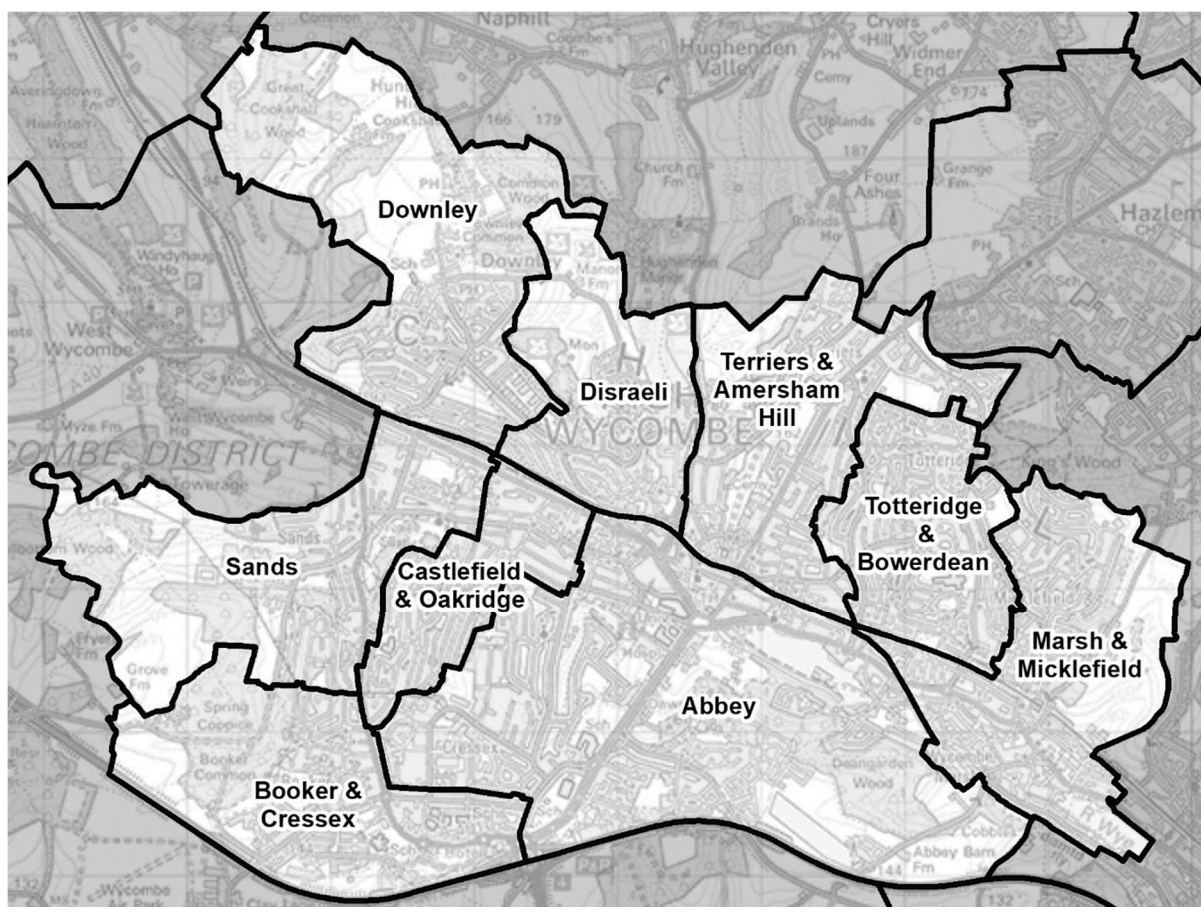
### *Marlow*

181 As outlined in paragraph 178, we were not persuaded to adopt the Council's or the Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats' warding proposals that retained the existing link between the south-eastern part of Marlow town and Little Marlow parish. This decision was supported by four local residents, who opposed such an arrangement.

182 We determined that a ward that contains the entirety of Marlow parish within a single ward would provide the best balance of our statutory criteria. However, a three-councillor ward containing only Marlow parish would have a forecast electoral variance of -15%, resulting in high electoral inequality. Therefore, to improve upon this variance, we have included the parish of Marlow Bottom in this ward, as suggested by three local residents. We examined this proposal on our visit to the authority and we agree that Marlow Bottom has strong links to Marlow.

183 By including Marlow Bottom in a ward with Marlow parish, our proposed three-councillor ward is anticipated to have an electoral variance of 4% by 2028, resulting in good electoral equality. We note that a local resident suggested that Marlow be divided into three single-councillor wards. We were not persuaded that sufficient community evidence had been received to adopt this warding pattern in our draft recommendations, but would welcome comments on whether this, or our proposed three-councillor Marlow ward, would be more appropriate.

## High Wycombe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Abbey	2	8%
Booker & Cressex	1	3%
Castlefield & Oakridge	2	-8%
Disraeli	1	-7%
Downley	1	2%
Marsh & Micklefield	2	3%
Sands	1	5%
Terriers & Amersham Hill	2	-6%
Totteridge & Bowerdean	2	-7%

### Abbey

184 The Council proposed to retain the existing Abbey ward. The Wycombe Conservatives proposed a broadly similar ward, but excluded the area containing Chepping View Primary School, transferring it into a Booker & Cressex ward. They also transferred Carrington Road, Conifer Rise, Sabina Close and Oakridge Road into their proposed Castlefield & Tinkerswood ward.

185 We were persuaded to recommend an Abbey ward as part of our draft recommendations, and we have broadly adopted the modifications to the existing ward proposed by the Wycombe Conservatives. In regard to the latter modification, we consider the boundary proposed to be stronger and more identifiable. However, in relation to the former modification, we propose to place the entirety of Cressex Road in our Booker & Cressex ward as we consider this road to form part of the Cressex area.

186 We also propose our own modifications to the existing ward, because of our proposals for adjacent wards. Given our decision to place Wycombe Marsh in our proposed Marsh & Micklefield ward, as outlined further in paragraphs 195–199, we had to modify that ward to ensure good electoral equality. We therefore consider it appropriate to extend the existing Abbey ward eastwards, placing the boundary along the former Wycombe Railway line from Princes Gate to Bassetsbury Lane, then south of Deangarden Rise, before reaching the boundary of the current Tylers Green & Loudwater ward. This modification will result in a proposed Abbey ward with a forecast electoral variance of 8% by 2028.

#### *Booker & Cressex and Castlefield & Oakridge*

187 We received two submissions from local residents that opposed the boundaries of the current Booker, Cressex & Castlefield ward. We agree that the current ward does not possess clear and identifiable boundaries, so we therefore sought to develop an alternative warding pattern for this area that better reflected our statutory criteria. For this reason, we were not persuaded to adopt the Council's proposals here, which broadly retained the boundaries of the existing Booker, Cressex & Castlefield ward, subject to the transfer of Spearing Road and Grenfell Avenue to West Wycombe ward.

188 Instead, our recommendations closely resemble the proposals made by the Wycombe Conservatives and a local resident, who both suggested very similar Booker & Cressex and Castlefield & Tinkerswood wards (the local resident naming the latter Castlefield & Western High Wycombe). We consider that the boundaries of these proposed wards provide a better reflection of the statutory criteria than the current arrangements. However, while we propose to adopt the Booker & Cressex ward name, we consider Castlefield & Oakridge to be a more appropriate ward name than Castlefield & Tinkerswood, as we determined it to be more reflective of the communities that make up the proposed ward.

189 Furthermore, as justified in paragraphs 184-186, we propose to include Carrington Road, Conifer Rise, Sabina Close and Oakridge Road in our proposed Castlefield & Oakridge ward and Cressex Road in our Booker & Cressex ward. Under our draft recommendations, these wards will have good electoral equality in 2028 and will, in our view, reflect community identities, based on the evidence received.

190 A local resident requested Clayhill be included in a ward with the Booker area. We did not adopt this proposal as we consider the M40 motorway, which is coterminous with the Great Marlow parish boundary, to be a strong and identifiable boundary.

#### *Disraeli and Downley*

191 We received several submissions that related to the current Downley ward. The Wycombe Conservatives, Councillor Turner and five local residents provided persuasive community evidence proposing that we adopt a ward for Downley parish that would separate it from the unparished area of Disraeli in High Wycombe. These submissions stressed the distinct nature of the two areas.

192 On our visit to the area, we came to the view that Downley is a separate community from the broader High Wycombe area. We were therefore not persuaded to adopt the Council's proposal for a two-councillor Downley ward that continued to link the parish with a substantial part of the unparished High Wycombe area.

193 However, a single-councillor ward formed solely of Downley parish would have a forecast electoral variance of -14%, which would not result in good electoral equality. We have therefore adopted the suggestion made by the Wycombe Conservatives and Councillor Turner to transfer electors from the unparished area of High Wycombe into our Downley ward to achieve good electoral equality. We propose to include electors residing at The Pastures and Hithercroft Road in our Downley ward, resulting in an electoral variance of 2%. We consider that our proposed Downley ward will reflect our statutory criteria, in particular reflecting the local community identities.

194 Our proposed single-councillor Disraeli ward is therefore formed of the unparished part of the existing Downley ward (except for electors residing at The Pastures and Hithercroft Road). This ward is forecast an electoral variance of -7% by 2028 and we are content that the ward will reflect community identities, based on the evidence received.

#### *Marsh & Micklefield*

195 The Council proposed a two-councillor Ryemead & Micklefield ward that followed existing ward boundaries, while the Wycombe Conservatives split the ward in two along the railway line, proposing single-councillor Micklefield & Gomm Valley and Ryemead & Kingsmead wards.

196 However, we were persuaded to adopt the proposal made by the Wycombe Liberal Democrats and a local resident, who both proposed that we include the Wycombe Marsh area in a ward with Micklefield. They argued that the Wycombe Marsh community has strong links with the Micklefield community, and they should accordingly be placed in the same ward.



197 Therefore, we could not adopt the proposals made by the Council or the Wycombe Conservatives, which continued to link the unparished area of Wycombe Marsh in a ward with the parished areas of Loudwater and Tylers Green in Chepping Wycombe parish. In any case, we consider that our proposals will aid effective and convenient local government, helping maintain the distinction between parished and unparished areas. This also reflects the submissions made by Councillor Clarke and two local residents who requested that the wards for High Wycombe do not include parished areas, as much as is viable.

198 A local resident requested that the boundary between this ward and our proposed Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater ward follow Cock Lane. We did not adopt this proposal as we consider following the Chepping Wycombe parish boundary is more likely to promote effective and convenient local government.

199 Due to our proposed inclusion of the Wycombe Marsh area in this ward, we propose to name this ward Marsh & Micklefield. We consider that this ward name will accurately reflect the communities that reside in the proposed ward. We welcome comments on the name and boundaries of this ward during the current consultation.

### *Sands*

200 We received several submissions in relation to the area covered by the current West Wycombe ward. West Wycombe Parish Council and three local residents expressed a preference for us to retain the current ward boundaries. However, we did not adopt this proposal, as the current ward is forecast to have an electoral variance of -13% by 2028, which would not provide for good electoral equality.

201 The Council proposed a two-councillor West Wycombe ward that included Spearing Road and Grenfell Avenue from the current Booker, Cressex & Castlefield ward to remedy this electoral inequality, improving the forecast electoral variance of the ward to -4%. However, we did not adopt this proposal either as we were concerned that electors on Spearing Road and Grenfell Avenue would have no direct road access to the rest of West Wycombe ward.

202 We are instead adopting the proposal made by the Wycombe Conservatives who suggested a Sands ward. We noted during our previous consultation on the number of councillors for the authority that we received a number of submissions which stressed the distinctive nature of the Sands community. On our visit to High Wycombe, we determined that the Sands area is indeed distinct from the parishes of West Wycombe and Piddington & Wheeler End, which appeared to be more rural in character. A similar observation was made by Councillor Hayday, who also proposed that we either retain the existing West Wycombe ward (reducing the ward's councillor allocation from three to two) or place the Sands area in a ward with the Booker and Cressex areas.

203 After careful consideration of the evidence received, we deemed it appropriate to create a ward solely focused upon the Sands area, separate from adjacent parishes and communities. We concluded that a single-councillor Sands ward will reflect local community identities and interests most effectively. Consequently, we are transferring West Wycombe and Piddington & Wheeler End parishes into our proposed Chiltern Villages ward, placing them alongside similar rural communities. When creating these wards, we were also mindful of the persuasive submissions made by Councillor Clarke and two local residents who requested that the wards for High Wycombe do not include parished areas, as far as is possible. This warding arrangement reflects those concerns.

204 Our proposed Sands ward will provide for good electoral equality, with an expected electoral variance of 5% by 2028.

*Terriers & Amersham Hill and Totteridge & Bowerdean*

205 We are largely retaining the current Terriers & Amersham Hill and Totteridge & Bowerdean wards as part of our draft recommendations. The retention of these two wards, with two councillors allocated to each, was proposed by the Council, with both wards forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028. The only difference between the current wards and our proposals is the inclusion of the residential development at Terriers Farm in our Hazlemere ward, as described in paragraph 165.

206 We were not persuaded to adopt the proposals made by the Wycombe Conservatives and Councillor Green, who suggested a three-councillor ward that placed the Totteridge area in Terriers & Amersham Hill ward and a single-councillor ward for the Bowerdean area. We determined that insufficient community evidence had been provided to demonstrate how the Totteridge area shares close community links with communities in the current Terriers & Amersham Hill ward.

207 The Wycombe Conservatives and Councillor Green also stated that two separate parts of the Bowerdean community are currently in the current Terriers & Amersham Hill ward and requested they be placed in a ward with the Bowerdean area. The first of these areas include electors at St Marks Close, Wheelers Park, part of Totteridge Avenue, part of Totteridge Road and part of Lucas Road. The second of these areas included electors on Adam Close, part of Arnison Avenue, Hepplewhite Close and Mayhew Crescent.

208 We decided not to adopt these alterations, as including both areas in our proposed Totteridge & Bowerdean ward would result in Terriers & Amersham Hill ward having a forecast electoral variance of -15%, which, in our view, is too high.

209 However, we welcome comments during the current consultation on the name of these wards, in addition to their boundaries. Our proposed Terriers & Amersham

Hill and Totteridge & Bowerdean wards are anticipated to have electoral variances of -6% and -7%, respectively, by 2028.

## Conclusions

211 The table below provides a summary of the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Buckinghamshire, referencing the 2021 and 2028 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found in Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2021	2028
Number of councillors	98	98
Number of electoral wards	51	51
Average number of electors per councillor	4,192	4,521
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	9	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

#### Draft recommendations

Buckinghamshire Council should be made up of 98 councillors serving 51 wards, represented by 10 three-councillor wards, 27 two-councillor wards and 14 single-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 Buckinghamshire Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Buckinghamshire on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

212 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.

213 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, Buckinghamshire 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.

214 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 Aylesbury, Denham, Gerrards Cross, Little Marlow, Stoke Mandeville and Weston Turville parishes.

215 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Aylesbury parish.

#### Draft recommendations

Aylesbury Town Council should comprise 25 councillors, as at present, representing 14 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bedgrove	3
Central	2
Coppice Way	1
Elmhurst	2
Gatehouse	3
Hawkslade	1
Haydon Hill	1
Mandeville & Elm Farm	3
Oakfield	2
Oxford Road	2
Quarrendon	1
Southcourt	2
Walton Court	1
Walton	1

216 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Denham parish.

#### Draft recommendations

Denham Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Denham Central	6
Denham North	6
Denham South	3



217 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Gerrards Cross parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Gerrards Cross Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Gerrards Cross East	2
Gerrards Cross North	4
Gerrards Cross South	5
Gerrards Cross Station	1

218 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Little Marlow parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Little Marlow Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Little Marlow Village	3
Well End	6

219 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Stoke Mandeville parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Stoke Mandeville Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hawkslade	3
Stoke Grange	2
Stoke Leys	3
Stoke Mandeville Village	4

220 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Weston Turville parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Weston Turville Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Aston Reach	2
Weston Turville Village	8



## Have your say

221 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 authority or just a part of it.

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

223 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

224 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Buckinghamshire)**  
**LGBCE**  
**PO Box 133**  
**Blyth**  
**NE14 9FE**

225 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Buckinghamshire 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.

226 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.

227 Electoral equality:

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

228 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?

229 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?

230 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 our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

231 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.

232 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.

233 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 Buckinghamshire Council in 2025.





## Equalities

234 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 Buckinghamshire Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Abbey	2	8,486	4,243	1%	9,728	4,864	8%
2	Amersham & Chesham Bois	3	13,736	4,579	9%	14,213	4,738	5%
3	Aston Clinton & Weston Turville	2	7,068	3,534	-16%	9,508	4,754	5%
4	Aylesbury East	2	8,885	4,443	6%	9,764	4,882	8%
5	Aylesbury North	2	9,270	4,635	11%	9,821	4,911	9%
6	Aylesbury North West	2	7,855	3,928	-6%	8,358	4,179	-8%
7	Aylesbury South East	2	9,014	4,507	8%	9,741	4,870	8%
8	Aylesbury South West	2	8,452	4,226	1%	9,068	4,534	0%
9	Aylesbury West	2	9,238	4,619	10%	9,857	4,928	9%
10	Beaconsfield	2	9,082	4,541	8%	9,330	4,665	3%
11	Berryfields, Buckingham Park & Watermead	2	8,939	4,470	7%	9,444	4,722	4%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Bierton & Kingsbrook	1	2,952	2,952	-30%	4,089	4,089	-10%
13	Booker & Cressex	1	4,430	4,430	6%	4,643	4,643	3%
14	Buckingham	3	13,263	4,421	5%	14,927	4,976	10%
15	Burnham	3	11,753	3,918	-7%	12,248	4,083	-10%
16	Castlefield & Oakridge	2	7,328	3,664	-13%	8,345	4,172	-8%
17	Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont	3	12,098	4,033	-4%	12,518	4,173	-8%
18	Chalfont St Peter	3	11,067	3,689	-12%	11,948	3,983	-12%
19	Chesham North	2	8,435	4,218	1%	8,870	4,435	-2%
20	Chesham South	2	8,320	4,160	-1%	8,815	4,408	-3%
21	Chiltern Ridges	1	4,571	4,571	9%	4,762	4,762	5%
22	Chiltern Villages	2	8,103	4,052	-3%	8,600	4,300	-5%
23	Disraeli	1	4,081	4,081	-3%	4,185	4,185	-7%
24	Downley	1	4,531	4,531	8%	4,608	4,608	2%
25	Farnham & Stoke Poges	2	8,637	4,319	3%	8,989	4,494	-1%
26	Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns	3	13,799	4,600	10%	14,846	4,949	9%
27	Gerrards Cross & Denham	3	11,721	3,907	-7%	12,219	4,073	-10%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28	Grendon Underwood	1	3,877	3,877	-8%	4,073	4,073	-10%
29	Haddenham & Stone	2	8,160	4,080	-3%	9,138	4,569	1%
30	Hazlemere	2	7,409	3,705	-12%	8,744	4,372	-3%
31	Horwood	1	4,082	4,082	-3%	4,814	4,814	6%
32	Iver	3	12,031	4,010	-4%	12,516	4,172	-8%
33	Ivinghoe	2	8,663	4,332	3%	8,947	4,473	-1%
34	Long Crendon	1	4,163	4,163	-1%	4,400	4,400	-3%
35	Marlow	3	13,623	4,541	8%	14,108	4,703	4%
36	Marsh & Micklefield	2	8,373	4,187	0%	9,283	4,641	3%
37	Newton Longville	2	7,300	3,650	-13%	9,086	4,543	0%
38	Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater	2	9,752	4,876	16%	10,204	5,102	13%
39	Princes Risborough	2	8,118	4,059	-3%	9,293	4,646	3%
40	Quainton	1	3,942	3,942	-6%	4,314	4,314	-5%
41	Ridgeway East	2	8,421	4,211	0%	8,910	4,455	-1%
42	Ridgeway West	2	8,638	4,319	3%	9,149	4,575	1%
43	Sands	1	4,595	4,595	10%	4,762	4,762	5%



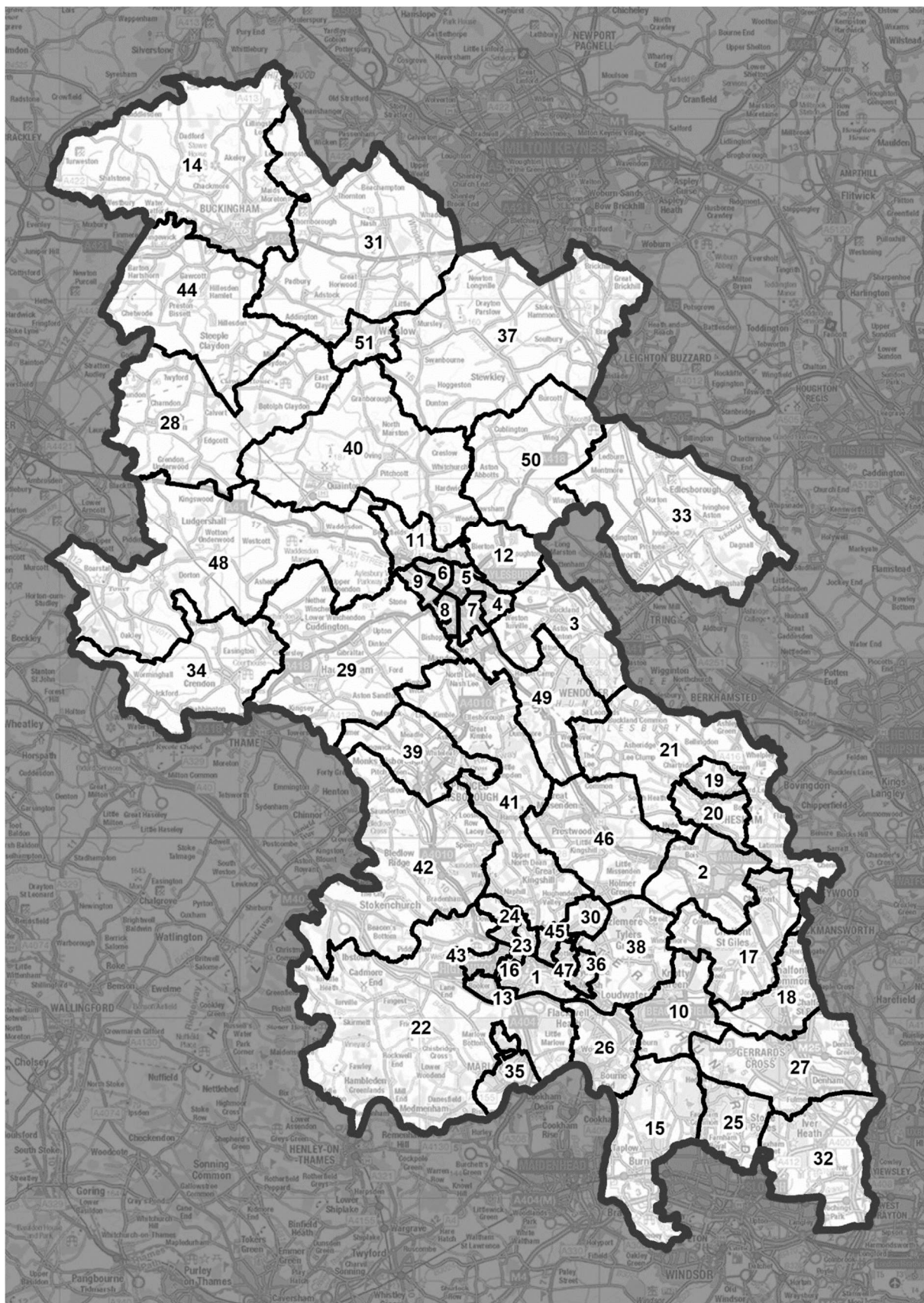
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
44 Steeple Claydon	1	4,207	4,207	0%	4,511	4,511	0%
45 Terriers & Amersham Hill	2	8,032	4,016	-4%	8,481	4,240	-6%
46 The Missendens	3	13,024	4,341	4%	13,523	4,508	0%
47 Totteridge & Bowerdean	2	8,172	4,086	-3%	8,411	4,205	-7%
48 Waddesdon	1	4,669	4,669	11%	4,846	4,846	7%
49 Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	2	8,172	4,086	-3%	9,139	4,569	1%
50 Wing	1	4,157	4,157	-1%	4,377	4,377	-3%
51 Winslow	1	4,095	4,095	-2%	4,592	4,592	2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>410,789</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>443,064</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,192</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,521</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Buckinghamshire 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 authority. 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	Number	Ward name
1	Abbey	27	Gerrards Cross & Denham
2	Amersham & Chesham Bois	28	Grendon Underwood
3	Aston Clinton & Weston Turville	29	Haddenham & Stone
4	Aylesbury East	30	Hazlemere
5	Aylesbury North	31	Horwood
6	Aylesbury North West	32	Iver
7	Aylesbury South East	33	Ivinghoe
8	Aylesbury South West	34	Long Crendon
9	Aylesbury West	35	Marlow
10	Beaconsfield	36	Marsh & Micklefield
11	Berryfields, Buckingham Park & Watermead	37	Newton Longville
12	Bierton & Kingsbrook	38	Penn, Tylers Green & Loudwater
13	Booker & Cressex	39	Princes Risborough
14	Buckingham	40	Quainton
15	Burnham	41	Ridgeway East
16	Castlefield & Oakridge	42	Ridgeway West
17	Chalfont St Giles & Little Chalfont	43	Sands
18	Chalfont St Peter	44	Steeple Claydon
19	Chesham North	45	Terriers & Amersham Hill
20	Chesham South	46	The Missendens
21	Chiltern Ridges	47	Totteridge & Bowerdean
22	Chiltern Villages	48	Waddesdon
23	Disraeli	49	Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville
24	Downley	50	Wing
25	Farnham & Stoke Poges	51	Winslow
26	Flackwell Heath & The Wooburns		

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/buckinghamshire/buckinghamshire-council](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/buckinghamshire/buckinghamshire-council)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/buckinghamshire/buckinghamshire-council](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/buckinghamshire/buckinghamshire-council)

#### *Local Authority*

- Buckinghamshire Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Aylesbury Constituency Conservative Association
- Aylesbury Liberal Democrats
- Buckingham Constituency Labour Party
- Buckingham Constituency Liberal Democrats
- Buckinghamshire South Liberal Democrats
- Wycombe Conservative Association
- Wycombe Liberal Democrats

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor P. Birchley (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor M. Bracken (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor C. Browne (Beaconsfield Town Council)
- Councillor L. Clarke (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor I. Darby (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor B. Dhillon (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor P. Fleming (Hazlemere Parish Council)
- Councillor T. Green (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor E. Glover (Burnham Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Hayday (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor O. Hayday (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor J. Horan (Burnham Parish Council)
- Councillor B. Holborn (Gerrards Cross Town Council)
- Councillor R. Milne (Farnham Royal Parish Council)
- Councillor E. Rose (Watermead Parish Council)
- Councillor A. J. Shinner (Chalfont St Peter Parish Council)
- Councillor L. Smith (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor M. Turner (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor P. Turner (Buckinghamshire Council)
- Councillor J. Walmsley (Wingrave with Rowsham Parish Council)

- Councillor S. Wilson (Buckinghamshire Council)

### *Local Organisations*

- Ellington & District Residents Association
- Hitcham & Taplow Society
- Penn & Tylers Green Residents' Society
- School Close Road Association

### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Ashley Green Parish Council
- Beaconsfield Town Council
- Bierton Parish Council
- Bradenham Parish Council
- Buckingham Town Council
- Buckland Parish Council
- Chalfont St Peter Parish Council
- Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council
- Great Brickhill Parish Council
- Penn Parish Council
- Pitstone Parish Council
- Quainton Parish Council
- The Lee Parish Council
- Thornton Parish Meeting
- West Wycombe Parish Council
- Wendover Parish Council
- Wing Parish Council

### *Local Residents*

- 200 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 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. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
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 can 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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
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](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

**Online:** [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

**Twitter:** @LGBCE