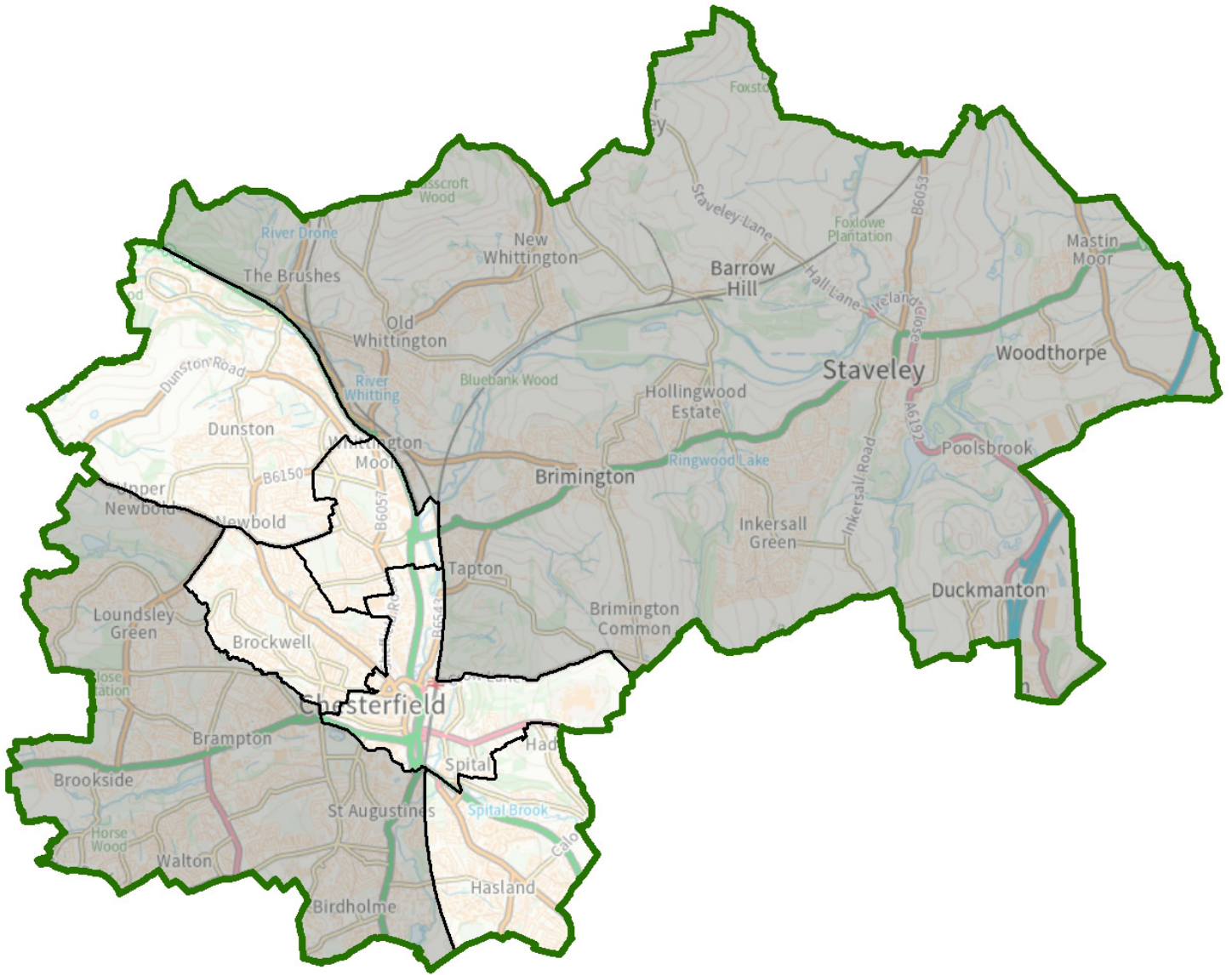


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Chesterfield Borough Council Further Draft Recommendations

March 2022

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Analysis and further draft recommendations in Dunston, Whittington Moor and central Chesterfield of Chesterfield Borough Council

1 Following our consultation on the draft recommendations for Chesterfield, we have decided to hold a period of consultation on further draft recommendations in Dunston, Whittington Moor and central Chesterfield. We are of the view we have received sufficient evidence relating to the rest of the borough to finalise our recommendations.

2 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, which were published on 2 November 2021, we received 43 representations. These included borough-wide comments from the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups on the Council. We received a mixture of support and objections to our proposals across the borough. We received proposals for a significant change between Dunston and Whittington Moor wards. We also received significant new proposals for Brockwell, Spire and Hasland wards.

3 On balance, we have been persuaded to amend our proposals in these areas. However, given the scale of these changes, we are publishing further draft recommendations for Dunston, Whittington Moor and central Chesterfield and are now inviting further views in these areas.

4 We welcome all comments on these proposals, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries and the names of our proposed wards. This stage of consultation begins on 29 March 2022 and closes on 9 May 2022. Please see page 9 for more information on how to send us your response. Following this period of consultation, the Commission expects to publish final recommendations for Chesterfield on 2 August 2022.

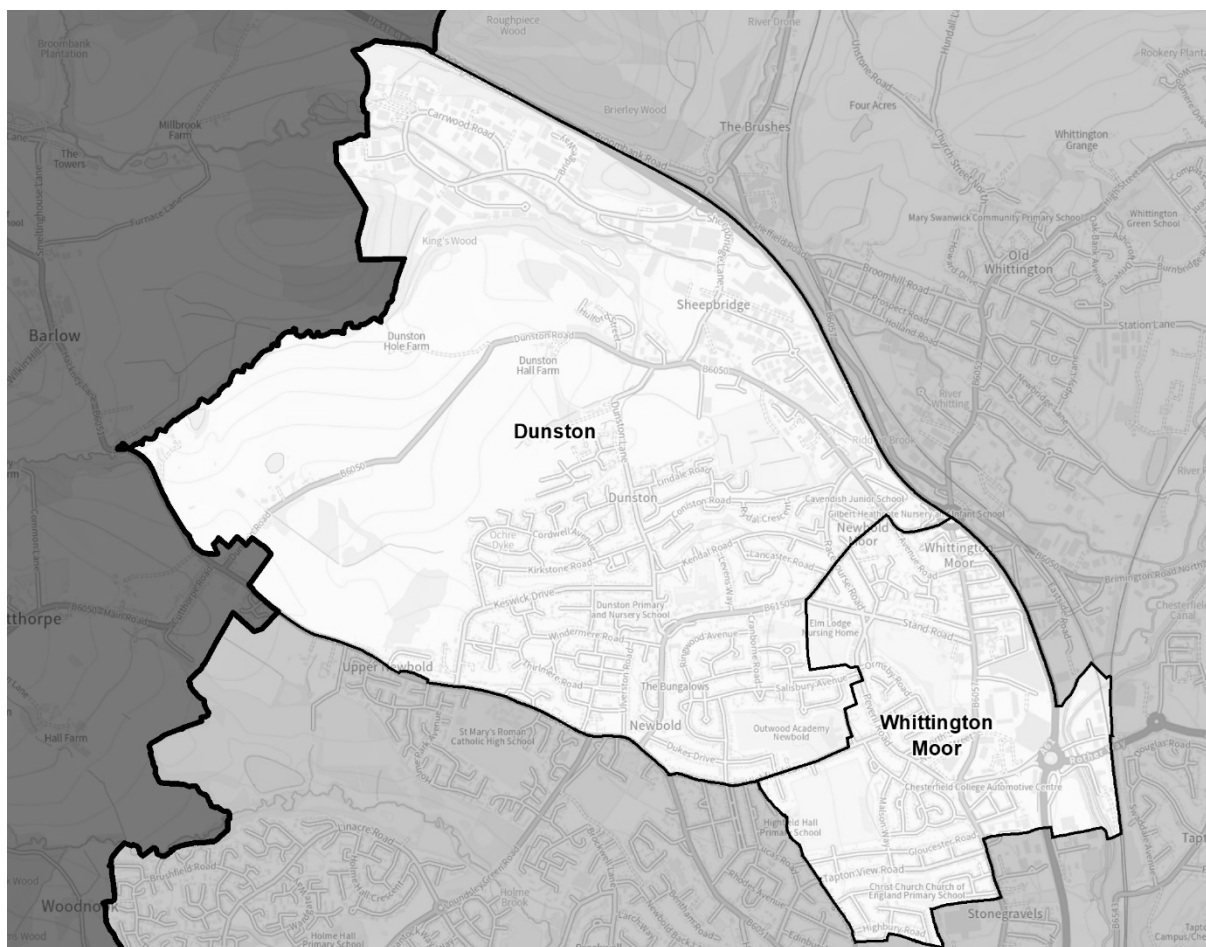
5 The tables and maps on pages 3–8 detail our further draft recommendations. They detail how the proposed ward arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

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

6 The updated timetable for the electoral review of Chesterfield is:

Stage starts	Description
20 April 2021	Number of councillors decided
11 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
19 July 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 November 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
10 January 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 March 2022	Publication of further draft recommendations; start of limited consultation
9 May 2022	End of limited consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
2 August 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Dunston and Whittington Moor



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Dunston	3	4%
Whittington Moor	2	-6%

Dunston and Whittington Moor

7 In response to the draft recommendations we received a mixture of support and objections for these wards. A number of respondents expressed support for our proposal for wards that did not cross the A61, rejecting links between Old Whittington and Whittington Moor. The Liberal Democrat Group expressed support for the draft recommendations, stating that they ‘tidy’ up some of the anomalies under the existing wards that see a number of roads split.

8 The Labour Group and Toby Perkins MP expressed concern that the draft recommendations divided the Whittington Moor area along Sheffield Road, transferring the north section, which includes the post office and GP surgery, into Dunston ward. They stated that this area should be in the Whittington Moor ward. To accommodate this, they proposed transferring the Ringwood Avenue area to Dunston ward, arguing that residents in this area attend Dunston Primary & Nursery

Academy. The Labour Group also proposed transferring the Edinburgh Road area from Brockwell ward to the revised Whittington Moor ward, arguing that this created a clearer boundary while also improving electoral equality in Brockwell ward. Councillor Caulfield stated that the draft recommendations divided the 'Moor' area, placing part in Dunston.

9 A local resident also expressed concern about the division of the Whittington Moor area. They proposed reducing Dunston to a two-councillor ward and transferring an area to the south of Racecourse Road to Whittington Moor. They proposed offsetting this transfer by removing an area around Tapton View Road from Whittington Moor, but did not state where this area should go. Another resident argued that Elm Lodge Farm Close should be in Whittington Moor ward and not Dunston ward.

10 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the comments that reiterated that consideration should be given the impact of parliamentary boundaries. However, we cannot take account of the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies as part of an electoral review.

11 We note that there was support for the draft recommendations, particularly in avoiding the creation of a ward that crosses the A61. We note the concerns that the draft recommendations divide the Whittington Moor area, particularly along Sheffield Road. We accept that this should be avoided.

12 We also note the suggestion from a resident to transfer the area around Racecourse Road to Whittington Moor and reduce Dunston to a two-councillor ward, while also removing the Tapton View area from Whittington Moor. However, while this would unite Whittington Moor, it would not transfer sufficient electors from Dunston ward to reduce it to two-councillors while also securing electoral equality. In addition, the resident did not state where the Tapton View area should be transferred. In addition, the transfer would require a redrawing of the boundaries elsewhere, for which there is no evidence of support. Therefore, we are not adopting this proposal as part of our further draft recommendations.

13 However, we have adopted the proposal from the Labour Group and Toby Perkins MP to transfer the area of Dunston ward as far north as St John's Road to Whittington Moor ward, while also transferring the Ringwood Avenue area to Dunston ward. Given the scale of this change from the draft recommendations, we would welcome local comments. It should be noted that it is not possible to transfer one area without the other, while also securing good electoral equality. We have also considered the suggestion from Toby Perkins MP that Dunston ward should be renamed Dunston & Newbold, but note no other support for this and no specific rationale for this name. Therefore, we are not adopting this change as part of our

further draft recommendations, but would welcome local comments on the proposed names.

14 Finally, we note the argument for transferring the Edinburgh Road area to Whittington Moor. However, given our proposals to modify Brockwell ward (discussed below), while this would still improve electoral equality in our revised Brockwell ward we do not consider it would create a clear boundary. Newbold Road runs through the revised Brockwell ward and the proposal to remove the Edinburgh Road area would disrupt this link.

15 Our further draft recommendations are for a three-councillor Dunston and a two-councillor Whittington Moor ward with 4% more and 6% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively.

Brockwell, Hasland and Spire



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brockwell	3	8%
Hasland	3	10%
Spire	2	-6%

Brockwell, Hasland and Spire

16 In response to the draft recommendations we received a mixture of support and objections for this area. The Labour Group expressed support for the Hasland and Spire wards, particularly the use of the railway line between Hasland and Rother wards. It also expressed support for the inclusion of the Spital area in Hasland ward, acknowledging that this was necessary to accommodate the projected electorate

growth in Spire ward. Toby Perkins MP also acknowledged the need to include Spital in Hasland, but stated it may be a 'surprise' to residents. He also supported Spire ward, while stating that it is 'somewhat wide ranging'. He did, however, argue that the ward should be renamed, to avoid confusion with the division of the same name, suggesting All Saints or including Central in the name.

17 As stated in the Dunston and Whittington Moor section (above), the Labour Group and Toby Squire MP both proposed transferring the Edinburgh Road area of Brockwell ward to the modified Whittington Moor ward, arguing that this would improve electoral equality in Brockwell ward, while creating a stronger boundary.

18 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed a significant amendment to the boundary between Brockwell and Spire wards, transferring most of the residential area to the west of the town centre from Spire ward to Brockwell. Given the number of electors that would be transferred under this suggestion, they also proposed making Brockwell a three-councillor ward, while reducing Spire to two-councillors. They argued that while this area is close to the town centre and identifies as being close to the centre, residents consider themselves part of Brockwell and Ashgate, looking there for GP and dental services and local allotments.

19 A resident expressed concern about the inclusion of Spital in Hasland ward, rather than Spire ward, particularly while part of the existing Brockwell ward is transferred to Spire. Another resident objected to the inclusion of Spital in Hasland ward, but stated that if change was really necessary then the Hady and Spital Lane area could be included in Hasland, while the Spital area around St Leonard's Mission could be included in Spire ward. They argued that Hady has a road link into Hasland via Calow Lane.

20 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. While we note the general support for elements of the draft recommendations in this area, we consider that the Liberal Democrat Group have put forward good evidence for including the residential area to the west of the town centre in a three-councillor Brockwell ward. This ward would have slightly worse electoral equality than the two-councillor ward in our draft recommendations, with 8% more electors than the borough average by 2027, rather than 7% more. We note that the proposal from the Labour Group and Toby Perkins MP to transfer the Edinburgh Road area to Whittington Moor ward would improve the electoral variance to 2% more. However, we consider the latter proposal would create a weaker boundary, disrupting the east-west flow along Newbold Road in the modified Brockwell ward. Therefore, we propose retaining this area in the modified Brockwell ward.

21 We also note the comments about the Spital area. We have examined the proposal from the resident. Transferring the Hady area to Hasland and retaining Spital Lane in Hasland, while also transferring the remainder of Spital to Spire ward

would worsen electoral equality in Hasland ward from 4% more to 10% more electors than the borough average by 2027. While this level of electoral inequality is relatively high, we consider that this proposed arrangement creates a more compact Spire ward, while also including parts of Spital in that ward where it has been argued it has connections. Therefore, on balance, we are adopting the residents' proposals as part of our modified two-councillor Spire ward.

22 Our three-councillor Brockwell and Hasland wards and two-councillor Spire ward would have 8% more, 10% more and 6% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively.

23 Finally, we note the argument that that Spire ward should be renamed to avoid confusion with the division of the same name. We also note the suggestion it could be renamed All Saints or including Central in the name. We note that the existing ward is called St Leonard's, but that this was not appropriate under our draft recommendations as St Leonard's Mission was not in the ward. While this has been returned to the ward as part of the further draft recommendations, in light of a lack of agreement, we propose retaining the Spire name. However, we would welcome local views on a suitable name.

Have your say

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

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

26 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

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

Review Officer (Chesterfield)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

28 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Chesterfield 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.

29 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.

30 Electoral equality:

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

31 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?

32 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?

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

34 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.

35 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.

36 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 Chesterfield in 2023.

Equalities

37 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

Further draft recommendations for Chesterfield

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Brockwell	3	6,771	2,257	15%	6,487	2,282	8%
2	Dunston	3	5,710	1,903	-3%	6,582	2,194	4%
3	Hasland	3	6,860	2,287	17%	6,934	2,311	10%
4	Spire	2	2,445	1,223	-38%	3,979	1,989	-6%
5	Whittington Moor	2	3,978	1,989	1%	3,977	1,989	-6%

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

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

Appendix B

Submissions received

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

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/derbyshire/chesterfield>

Political Groups

- Chesterfield Borough Council Labour Group
- Chesterfield Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group

Councillors

- Councillor M. Bagshaw (Chesterfield Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Catt (Chesterfield Borough Council)
- Councillor K. Caulfield (Chesterfield Borough Council)
- Councillor T. Gilby (Chesterfield Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Mann (Chesterfield Borough Council)

Member of Parliament

- Toby Perkins MP (Chesterfield)

Local Organisations

- Hollingwood Residents Association

Local Residents

- 34 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 www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The
Local Government
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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.

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