

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Epping Forest District Council Final Recommendations

March 2023

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission² are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

² Peter Maddison QPM was present during Board meetings where draft recommendations were discussed and agreed. He ceased his role as a Commissioner on 31 December 2022.

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

Why Epping Forest?

7 We are conducting a review of Epping Forest District Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2000, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.³

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

- The wards in Epping Forest 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 district.

Our proposals for Epping Forest

9 Epping Forest should be represented by 54 councillors, four fewer than there are now.

10 Epping Forest should have 18 wards, 14 fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; one will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Epping Forest.

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

³ Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Epping Forest. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
25 April 2022	Number of councillors decided
10 May 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
18 July 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
4 October 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
12 December 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
7 March 2023	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation⁴ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁵ 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.

18 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.

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

	2022	2028
Electorate of Epping Forest	100,222	114,524
Number of councillors	54	54
Average number of electors per councillor	1,856	2,121

20 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'. Seventeen of our proposed wards for Epping Forest will have good electoral equality by 2028.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2028, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 14% by 2028.

23 Roydon Parish Council challenged the electoral figures and stated that the developments forecasted within Roydon parish are now unlikely to be fully

⁴ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁵ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

completed and occupied by 2028. The Council stated it supported this comment from the parish council.

24 While the Council agreed that the completion of this development may be delayed until after 2028, we decided that a line must be drawn and that the forecasts provided at the beginning of a review are those that should be used as the base forecast throughout. This is because it ensured that all who wish to make a submission to us could use the same base forecast figures.

25 We have made no changes to the electoral figures used and have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

26 Epping Forest District Council currently has 58 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded decreasing by four will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 54 councillors.

28 As Epping Forest District Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years), there is a presumption in legislation⁶ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

29 We received no submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 44 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two district-wide proposals from the Epping Forest District Council Liberal Democrats ('the Liberal Democrats') and a local resident. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

31 The two district-wide schemes provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Epping Forest. We carefully considered the proposals received and noted that neither of these schemes provided a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. As the Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in

⁶ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

three out of every four years), there is a presumption in legislation that it have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that electoral equality, community interests and identity, and convenient and effective local government would be undermined by a uniform pattern.

32 Our draft recommendations were based on a variety of evidence received from political groups, local organisations, councillors, parish councils and residents. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

33 Our draft recommendations were for 18 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

34 We received 30 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. The majority of the submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and Rural East.

35 We visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Epping Forest helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Final recommendations

36 Our final recommendations are for 18 three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

37 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with no changes.

38 The tables and maps on pages 9–21 detail our final recommendations for each area of Epping Forest. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁷ criteria of:

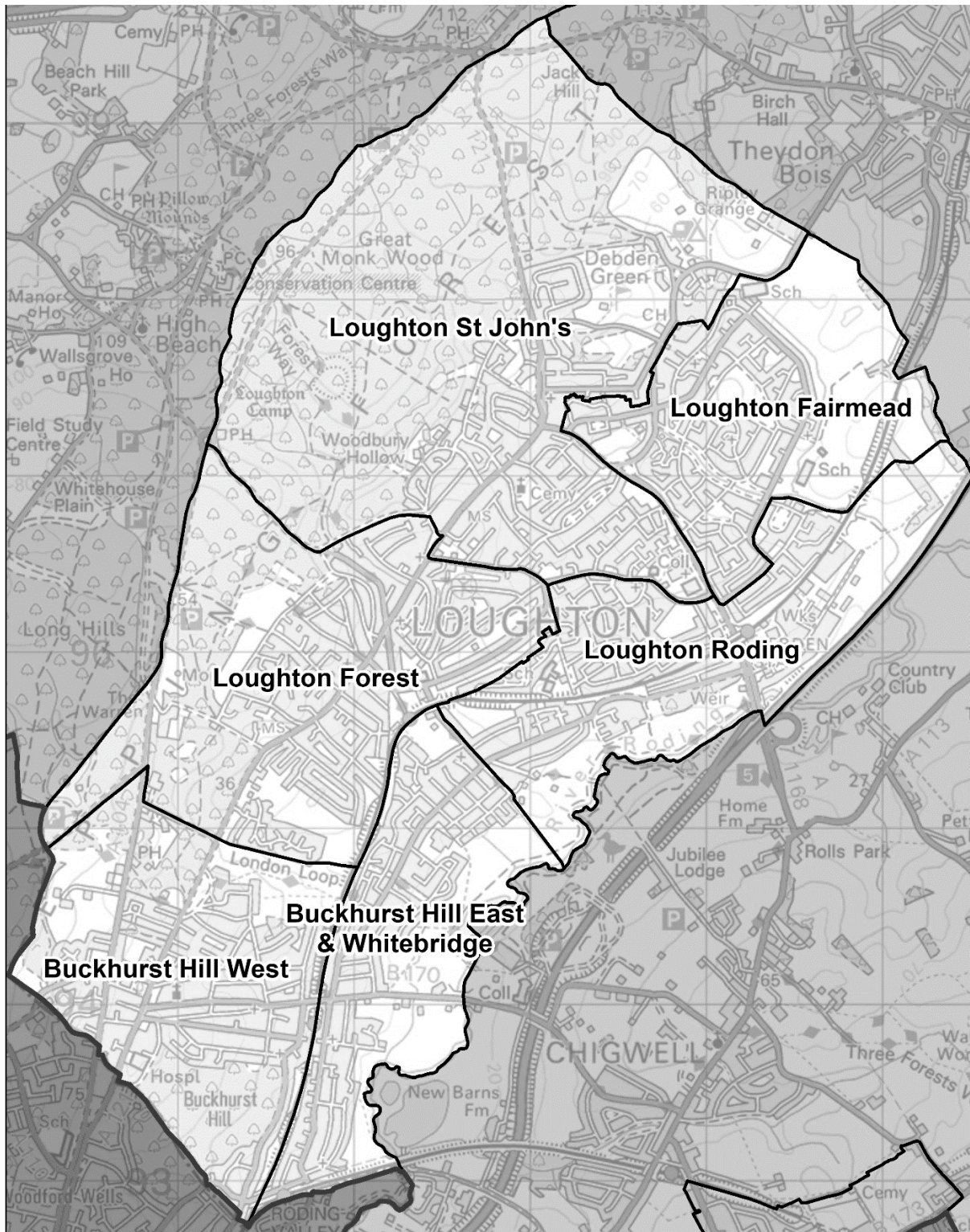
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.

⁷ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

39 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 31 and on the large map accompanying this report.

Buckhurst Hill and Loughton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge	3	5%
Buckhurst Hill West	3	-7%
Loughton Fairmead	3	1%

Loughton Forest	3	-8%
Loughton Roding	3	-4%
Loughton St John's	3	-6%

Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge

40 We received nine submissions regarding this ward from the Council, Loughton Town Council, Councillor Murray, St Mary's Church and five residents. The Council generally supported the draft recommendations.

41 A resident supported the draft recommendations for Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge. They stated that this ward would allow a road with speeding issues to be placed in a single ward, thereby making it easier to manage.

42 Loughton Town Council, Councillor Murray, St Mary's Church and two residents opposed Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge ward. Loughton Town Council and a resident stated that there is not continuous housing across the Buckhurst Hill and Loughton parish boundary and that there is not a community of interest across the parishes.

43 Loughton Town Council and Councillor Murray proposed to split Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge into a two-councillor Buckhurst Hill East ward and a single-councillor ward. The latter would contain the area of Loughton parish currently in Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge ward. The respondents stated that residents on either side of the parish boundary access different facilities. This proposal would result in an extremely high electoral variance of -27% for a one-councillor Loughton Whitebridge ward by 2028.

44 We investigated options for improving this electoral variance and found that in order to provide for a good level of electoral equality, three two-councillor wards would have to be created. These would be a two-councillor Buckhurst Hill East ward, a two-councillor Loughton ward stretching from the parish boundary to Lower Alderton Hall Lane and Highwood Lane, and a second two-councillor Loughton ward encompassing the area from Lower Alderton Hall Lane to Rectory Lane.

45 We carefully considered all of the evidence provided and visited this area on a tour of Epping Forest. While we acknowledge the points made by the respondents and carefully investigated the options, the only solution that would provide for good levels of electoral equality and reflect the parish boundary would be three two-councillor wards. As noted above, we have a presumption towards three-councillor wards in an authority that elects by thirds and we have not been persuaded to move away from a uniform pattern in this area. On our tour of Epping Forest, we visited the area on foot. While we noted the footpath running north-south along the parish boundary, we were not convinced that it offered a substantial local boundary, particularly given our observations of the constant flow of traffic across the parish boundary along Loughton Way. On balance, we have not been convinced that a

uniform pattern undermines community identity or convenient and effective local government in the area and are confirming our draft proposals in this area as final.

46 Regarding this name for this ward, one resident argued against the name 'Whitebridge', stating that this is the name of a school rather than an area. They suggested Buckhurst Hill East with Loughton South. We considered the name for this ward but were unconvinced to change the name proposed as part of our draft recommendations. We concluded that Whitebridge would be more identifiable than the generic Loughton South.

47 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge as final.

Buckhurst Hill West

48 We received one submission regarding this ward from the Council, which generally supported the draft recommendations.

49 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Loughton Fairmead, Loughton Forest, Loughton Roding and Loughton St John's

50 We received four submissions from the Council, St Mary's Church and two residents in this area. The Council generally supported the draft recommendations.

51 A submission from St Mary's Church argued that the name St Mary's should be retained for the local ward. A resident also suggested that St Mary's be added to the ward name of Loughton Forest for continuity. As part of our draft recommendations, we combined part of the existing ward of Loughton St Mary's with the existing Loughton Forest ward, retaining the name of Loughton Forest. Following consideration of the evidence, we consider that the name Loughton Forest well represents this ward and have not been convinced to make changes to this name as part of our final recommendations.

52 A resident proposed that Rectory Lane should be a boundary, and that the ward to the north-east of this road should be named Loughton Debden. Another local resident also suggested that the name Loughton Debden should be considered.

53 As discussed in paragraph 45, we have not been persuaded to use the parish boundary between Buckhurst Hill and Loughton parishes as the ward boundary, as we did not consider that the evidence provided justified moving away from a uniform pattern of three-member wards. We are therefore retaining a pattern of three-councillor wards to the north of Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge, resulting in Loughton Roding ward crossing Rectory Lane. Using Rectory Lane as a boundary between Loughton Fairmead and Loughton Roding wards would result in electoral

variances of 17% and -20%, respectively. We are therefore not proposing to use Rectory Lane as a boundary.

54 Regarding the proposed name of Loughton Debden, we note that while Debden Underground station is located in our proposed Loughton Roding ward, Debden Park High School is located in the neighbouring ward of Loughton Fairmead. We consider, therefore, that it may be unclear to name a ward Loughton Debden if Debden itself is not located in a single ward. We are consequently not adopting the name Loughton Debden as part of our final recommendations.

55 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Loughton Fairmead, Loughton Forest, Loughton Roding and Loughton St John's as final.

Waltham Abbey



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Waltham Abbey North	3	8%
Waltham Abbey South & Rural	3	-6%
Waltham Abbey West	3	-7%

Waltham Abbey North, Waltham Abbey South & Rural and Waltham Abbey West

56 We received five submissions regarding this area from the Council and four residents.

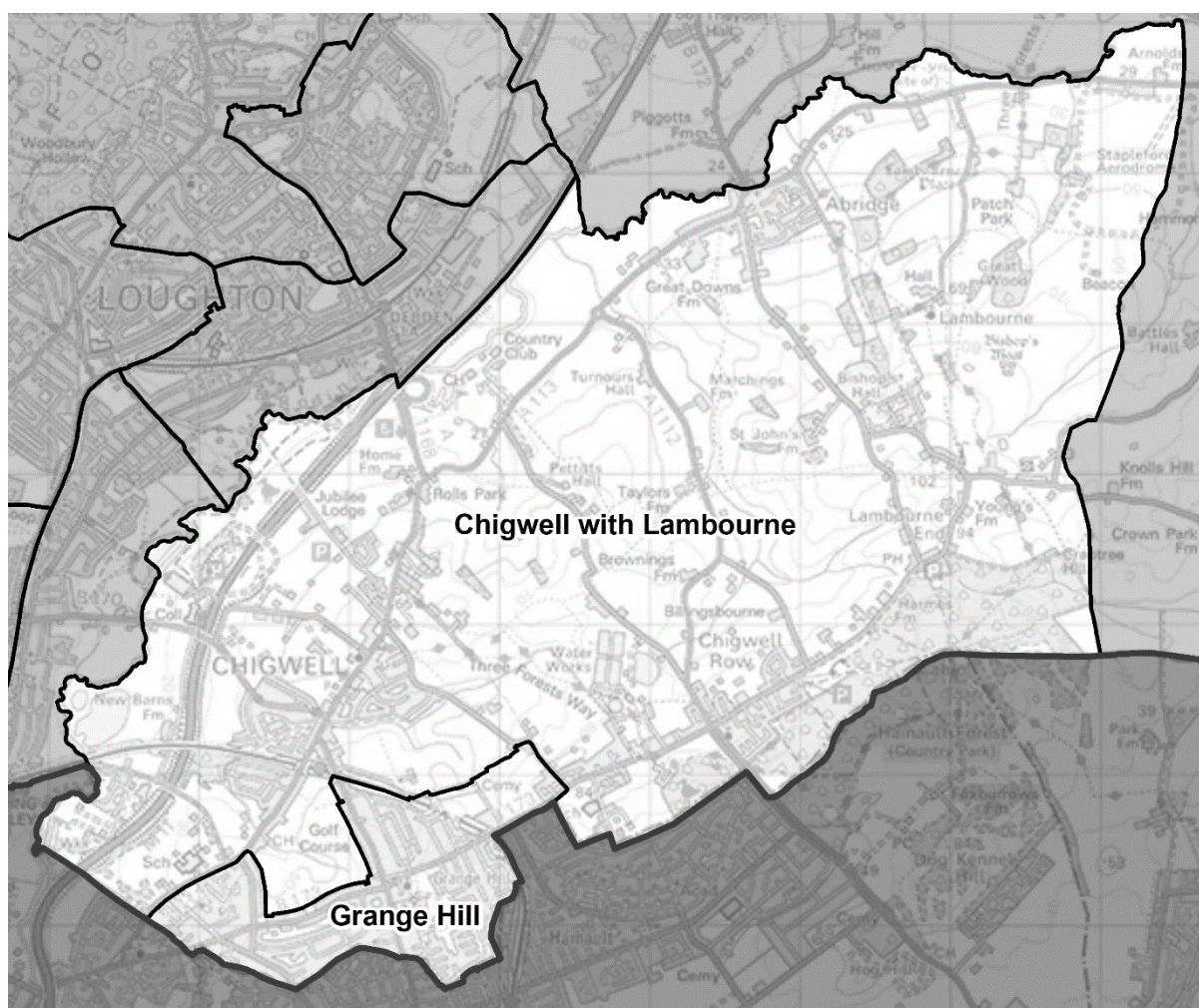
57 The Council generally supported the draft recommendations. A resident also supported the proposed Waltham Abbey North ward.

58 A resident opposed the draft recommendations and argued that Waltham Abbey High Beach and Waltham Abbey Honey Lane wards should not be merged into a three-councillor ward as they have different local issues. However, Waltham Abbey High Beach and Waltham Abbey Honey Lane wards are each currently represented by one councillor. As we have a presumption towards a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards, we do not consider the assertion that these wards should be retained as evidence enough to deviate away from this pattern. We are therefore not retaining the wards of Waltham Abbey High Beach and Waltham Abbey Honey Lane.

59 Another resident also argued against the draft recommendations and argued for their proposed scheme submitted during the first round of consultation, which can be read in paragraph 54 of the Draft Recommendations Report. They stated that the area north of Honey Lane, west of Mason Way, should not be split from the rest of Honey Lane. They further proposed a large north-south ward that would include Sewardstone with the centre of Waltham Abbey and would stretch to the boundary with Nazeing parish. The resident stated that Sewardstone is part of a ribbon development along Sewardstone Road. We looked at these areas during a tour of Epping Forest but were not convinced to adopt these changes as part of our draft recommendations. They proposed a boundary behind the houses on the southern side of Parklands. We considered this to be unclear and would link these properties with areas across a wide expanse of fields. We also note that their proposed northern ward of Paternoster has a poor electoral variance of -15%.

60 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Waltham Abbey as final.

Chigwell and Grange Hill



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Chigwell with Lambourne	3	-1%
Grange Hill	3	10%

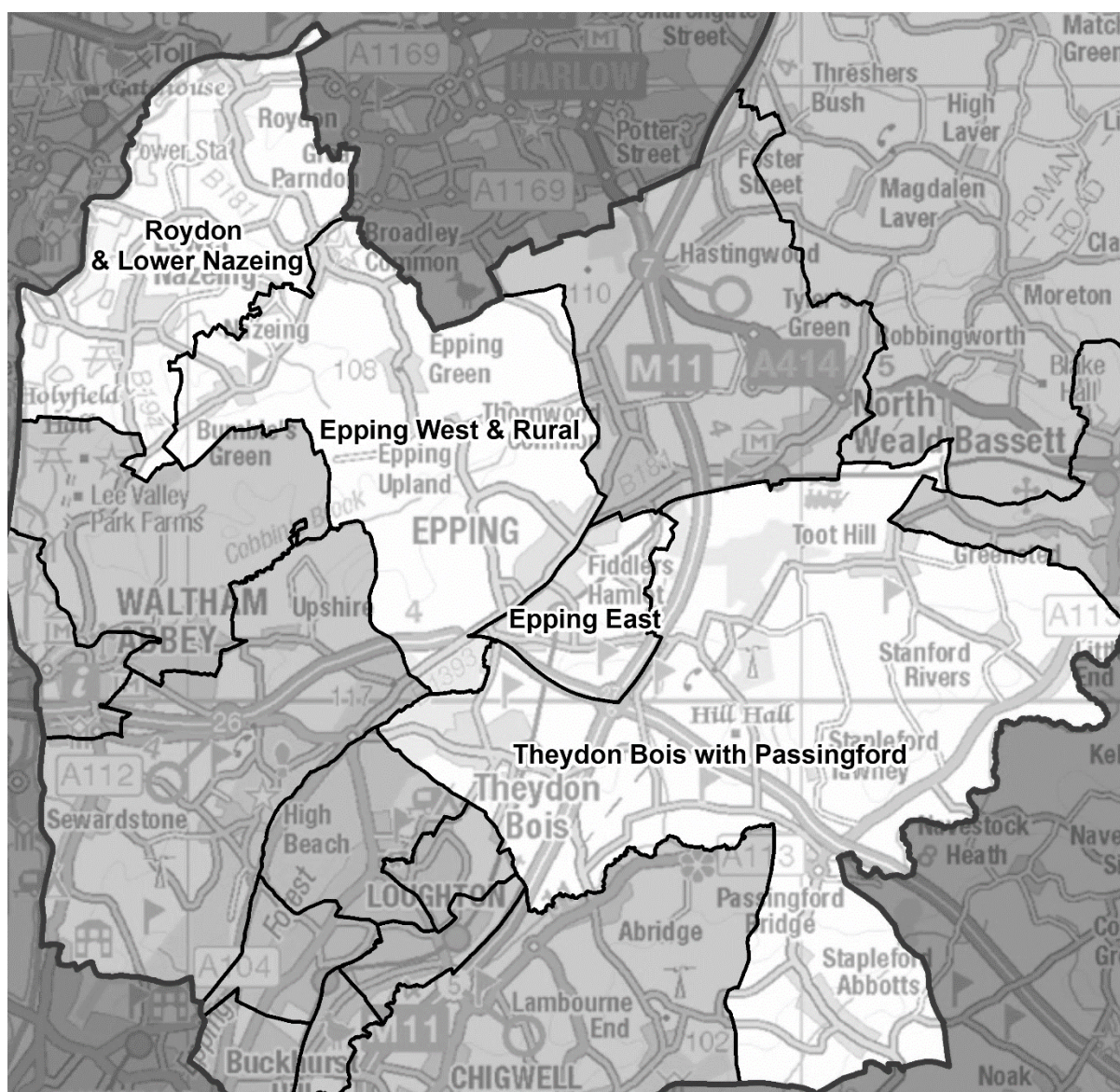
Chigwell with Lambourne and Grange Hill

61 We received two submissions regarding this area from the Council and a local resident. The Council generally supported our draft recommendations.

62 A resident stated that Abridge, in Lambourne parish, would not want to be part of a ward with Chigwell, but offered no evidence or alternative suggestion. We further note the evidence presented during the first round of consultation by the Liberal Democrats and a resident who both described the links between Chigwell and Chigwell Row and Lambourne parish.

63 We have not been convinced to change our draft recommendations and we therefore confirm our draft recommendations for both Chigwell with Lambourne and Grange Hill as final.

Epping, Theydon Bois and north-western parishes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Epping East	3	-4%
Epping West & Rural	3	1%
Roydon & Lower Nazeing	3	4%
Theydon Bois with Passingford	3	-10

Epping East and Epping West & Rural

64 We received four submissions regarding this area from the Council, Nazeing Parish Council and two residents.

65 The Council generally supported our draft recommendations. Nazeing Parish Council's submission stated that they would make no comment on the draft recommendations.

66 A resident argued that Epping should be split north-south along Station Road, with the southern area of Epping joining with Theydon Bois to form two three-councillor wards. The Epping South & Theydon Bois ward would have an electoral variance of 12% and we note this scheme would be reliant on deviating away from a uniform pattern of three-member wards to adopt a neighbouring two-councillor Lambourne & Passingford ward. We were not persuaded to adopt this scheme as part of our draft recommendations, and on balance are also not proposing to adopt this as part of our final recommendations. We do not consider that the evidence provided justifies both moving away from a uniform pattern of three-member wards and creating a ward with an electoral variance of 12%.

67 Another resident flagged the development around the High Street and enquired whether this had been taken into account. We can confirm developments around the High Street that will be built and occupied by 2028 have been included in the Council's electorate forecasts.

68 We confirm our draft recommendations for Epping East and Epping West & Rural as final.

Roydon & Lower Nazeing

69 We received four submissions regarding this area from the Council, Nazeing Parish Council, Roydon Parish Council and a resident.

70 The Council and a resident supported the draft recommendations. Nazeing Parish Council's submission stated that they would make no comment on the draft recommendations.

71 Roydon Parish Council stated that, as part of the draft recommendations, there were too many parish councillors allocated to the Halls Green parish ward. They stated that the developments forecasted for this area are now unlikely to be fully completed and occupied by 2028. The Council stated it supported this comment from the parish council, and a resident also stated that there may be too many parish councillors in Halls Green.

72 We calculate the number of parish councillors in each parish ward using the forecast electorate for 2028. While the Council agreed that the completion of this development may be delayed until after 2028, we decided that a line must be drawn and that the forecasts provided at the beginning of a review are those that should be used as the base forecast throughout. This is because it ensured that all who wish to make a submission to us could use the same base forecast figures.

73 We are therefore not making any changes to the parish warding arrangements as proposed in our draft recommendations. Additionally, following the support for our

draft recommendations for Roydon & Lower Nazeing ward, we are also proposing no changes to our draft recommendations.

74 We confirm our draft recommendations for Roydon & Lower Nazeing ward as final.

Theydon Bois with Passingford

75 We received four submissions regarding this area from the Council, Stanford Rivers Parish Council and two residents. The Council generally supported our draft recommendations.

76 Stanford Rivers Parish Council stated that Stanford Rivers is distinct from Theydon Bois as a rural area. They did not suggest an alternative but stated that consideration should be given to representation for rural areas.

77 A resident suggested that Theydon Bois with Passingford ward should be split into a two-councillor Theydon Bois ward and a single-councillor Passingford ward. They argued that these two areas have little in common. A two-councillor Theydon Bois ward would have an electoral variance of -15%.

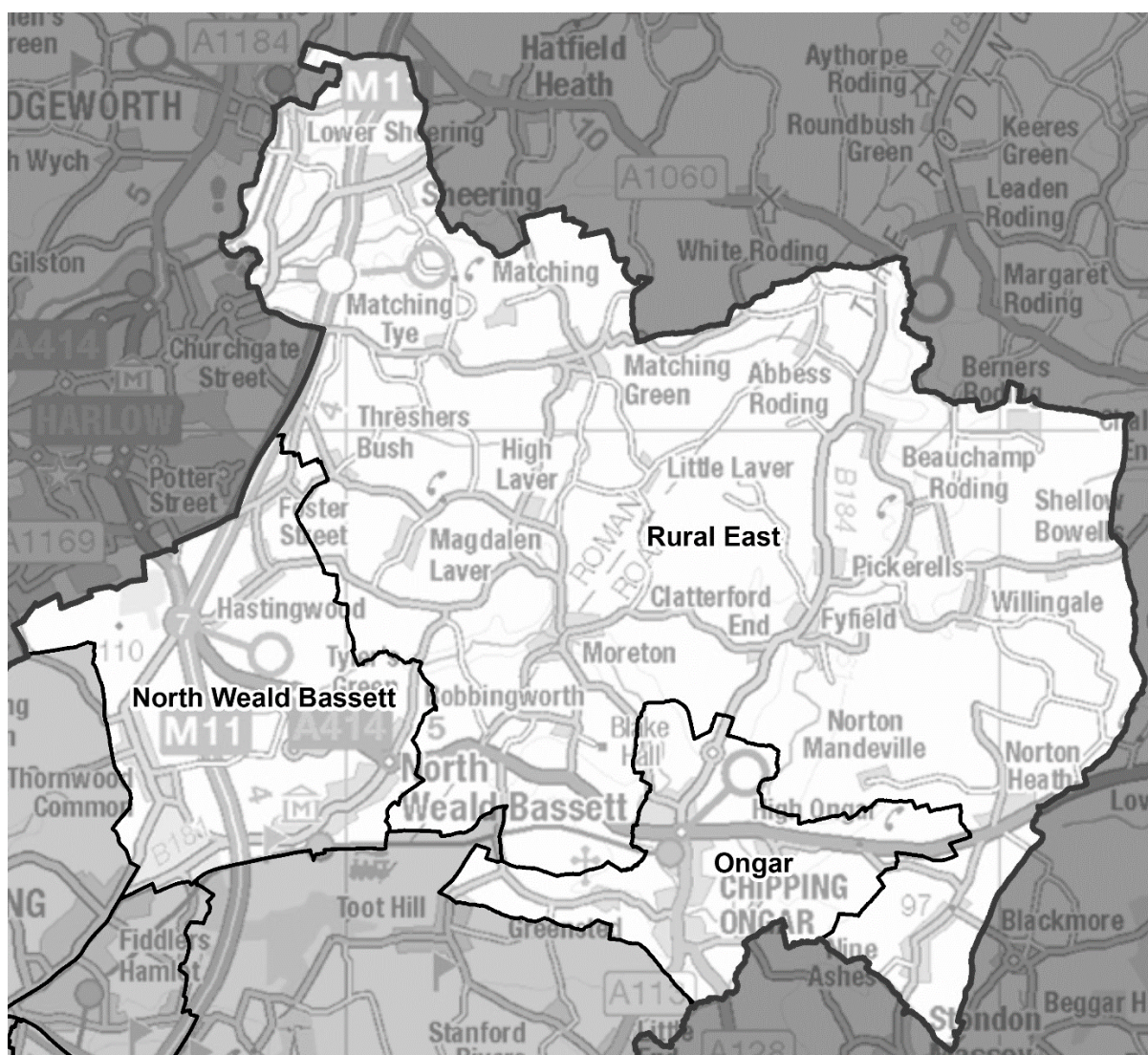
78 Another resident argued that Theydon Bois should be linked with the southern area of Epping in a three-councillor ward that would have an electoral variance of 12%, and that Passingford should be represented by a two-councillor ward.

79 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have not been convinced to adopt either of these proposals as part of our draft recommendations. We do not consider that the evidence provided is strong enough to deviate away from a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards or adopt wards with a higher level of electoral inequality.

80 A resident also suggested that the ward be named Theydon Bois & Passingford, rather than Theydon Bois with Passingford. We received no other comments regarding the name for this ward, and consider that this name well reflects the communities present within this ward. We were not convinced to adopt this change.

81 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Theydon Bois with Passingford as final.

Eastern parishes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
North Weald Bassett	3	6%
Ongar	3	8%
Rural East	3	11%

North Weald Bassett

82 We received one submission regarding this ward from the Council, who generally supported the draft recommendations.

83 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for North Weald Bassett as final.

Ongar

84 We received two submissions regarding this ward from the Council and a resident.

85 The Council generally supported the draft recommendations, whereas a resident opposed them, stating that it will reduce representation in rural wards. When we put together our recommendations, we try to ensure that each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors. Therefore, councillors in rural areas will represent the same number of electors as councillors in urban areas.

86 As there were no further proposals or comments relating to Ongar ward, we can confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Rural East

87 We received nine submissions regarding this ward from the Council, Abbess, Beauchamp & Berners Roding Parish Council, Sheering Parish Council, Councillor Stratton and five residents.

88 All respondents opposed Rural East ward, stating that it is too geographically large and takes in too many different communities.

89 The Council proposed to split Rural East ward into three single-councillor wards. It argued that this would provide for more effective local government, as these wards would be more geographically manageable and would allow for councillors to form better connections with parishes.

90 The Council proposed a single-councillor Sheering ward, containing the entire parish of Sheering. This ward would have an electoral variance of 32%; however, it argued that this high level of electoral inequality is justified as Sheering and Lower Sheering are distinct from the surrounding rural parishes, with more populated urban developments.

91 The Council further proposed a single-councillor ward containing the parishes of Matching and Moreton, Bobbingworth and the Lavers. The third single-councillor ward would contain the parishes of Abbess, Beauchamp & Berners Roding, Fyfield, Willingale and part of High Ongar. These two wards would have electoral variances of -7% and 7%, respectively. The Council also suggested that these two wards could be joined together into a two-councillor ward, with an electoral variance of 0%.

92 We visited the area of Lower Sheering during a tour of the district, and while we appreciated its distance from the other rural parishes of Rural East ward, we were not convinced that this difference justified a ward with an electoral variance of 32%, as well as moving away from a uniform pattern of three councillor wards. We have

therefore not been convinced to adopt the Council's proposal as part of our final recommendations.

93 Sheering Parish Council argued that Lower Sheering should have its own single-councillor ward. They argued that Lower Sheering is separate from the rest of Rural East and has different local issues. A single-councillor ward containing only Lower Sheering, bounded by the M11 in the east, would have an electoral variance of -5%. This would further result in a two-councillor ward containing the parishes of Matching; Moreton, Bobbingworth and the Lavers; Abbess, Beauchamp & Berners Roding; Fyfield; Willingale; and part of High Ongar. This would have an electoral variance of 18%.

94 We looked at splitting this resulting two-councillor ward into two single-councillor wards; however, this would also result in poor electoral equality. For example, splitting this area into an eastern ward containing the parishes of Abbess, Beauchamp & Berners Roding, Fyfield, Willingale and part of High Ongar, and a western ward containing the parishes of Moreton, Bobbingworth and the Lavers, Matching and the eastern area of Sheering would result in two single-councillor wards with electoral variances of 7% and 30%, respectively. With the exclusion of Lower Sheering, there are too many electors within the remaining area of Rural East ward to form a two- or one-councillor ward that would achieve a good level of electoral equality.

95 Additionally, we note that all of these proposals suggested moving away from a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. As Epping Forest District Council elects by thirds, there is a presumption in legislation that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria. We note that moving away from a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for this area would result in wards with poor levels of electoral equality.

96 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have not been persuaded to make changes to our draft recommendations for a three-councillor Rural East ward. While we appreciate that this ward is geographical large, none of the proposals received offered good electoral equality and would have meant moving away from a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards.

97 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Rural East ward as final.

Conclusions

98 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Epping Forest, referencing the 2022 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 at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2022	2028
Number of councillors	54	54
Number of electoral wards	18	18
Average number of electors per councillor	1,856	2,121
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Epping Forest District Council should be made up of 54 councillors serving 18 wards representing 18 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Epping Forest. You can also view our final recommendations for Epping Forest on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

99 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.

100 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, Epping Forest District 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.

101 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 Chigwell, Epping, Loughton, Roydon and Waltham Abbey.

102 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Chigwell parish.

Final recommendations

Chigwell Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Chigwell Row	2
Chigwell Village	2
Grange Hill	7

103 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Epping parish.

Final recommendations

Epping Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hemnal	6
St John's	6

104 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Loughton parish.

Final recommendations

Loughton Town Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Loughton Alderton	3
Loughton Broadway	2
Loughton Debden	1
Loughton Fairmead	3
Loughton Forest	3

Loughton Roding	1
Loughton St John's	5
Loughton St Mary's	2
Loughton Whitebridge	2

105 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Roydon parish.

Final recommendations

Roydon Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Broadley Common	2
Dobbs Weir	2
Halls Green	3
Roydon Village	4

106 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Waltham Abbey parish.

Final recommendations

Waltham Abbey Town Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
High Beach	1
Honey Lane	2
North East	2
Paternoster	3
South West	3

What happens next?

107 We have now completed our review of Epping Forest. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2024.

Equalities

108 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

Final recommendations for Epping Forest District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge	3	5,925	1,975	6%	6,655	2,218	5%
2	Buckhurst Hill West	3	5,343	1,781	-4%	5,906	1,969	-7%
3	Chigwell with Lambourne	3	5,721	1,907	3%	6,322	2,107	-1%
4	Epping East	3	5,533	1,844	-1%	6,105	2,035	-4%
5	Epping West & Rural	3	5,202	1,734	-7%	6,453	2,151	1%
6	Grange Hill	3	6,329	2,110	14%	6,998	2,333	10%
7	Loughton Fairmead	3	5,606	1,869	1%	6,414	2,138	1%
8	Loughton Forest	3	5,284	1,761	-5%	5,841	1,947	-8%
9	Loughton Roding	3	5,542	1,847	0%	6,076	2,025	-4%
10	Loughton St John's	3	5,396	1,799	-3%	5,980	1,993	-6%

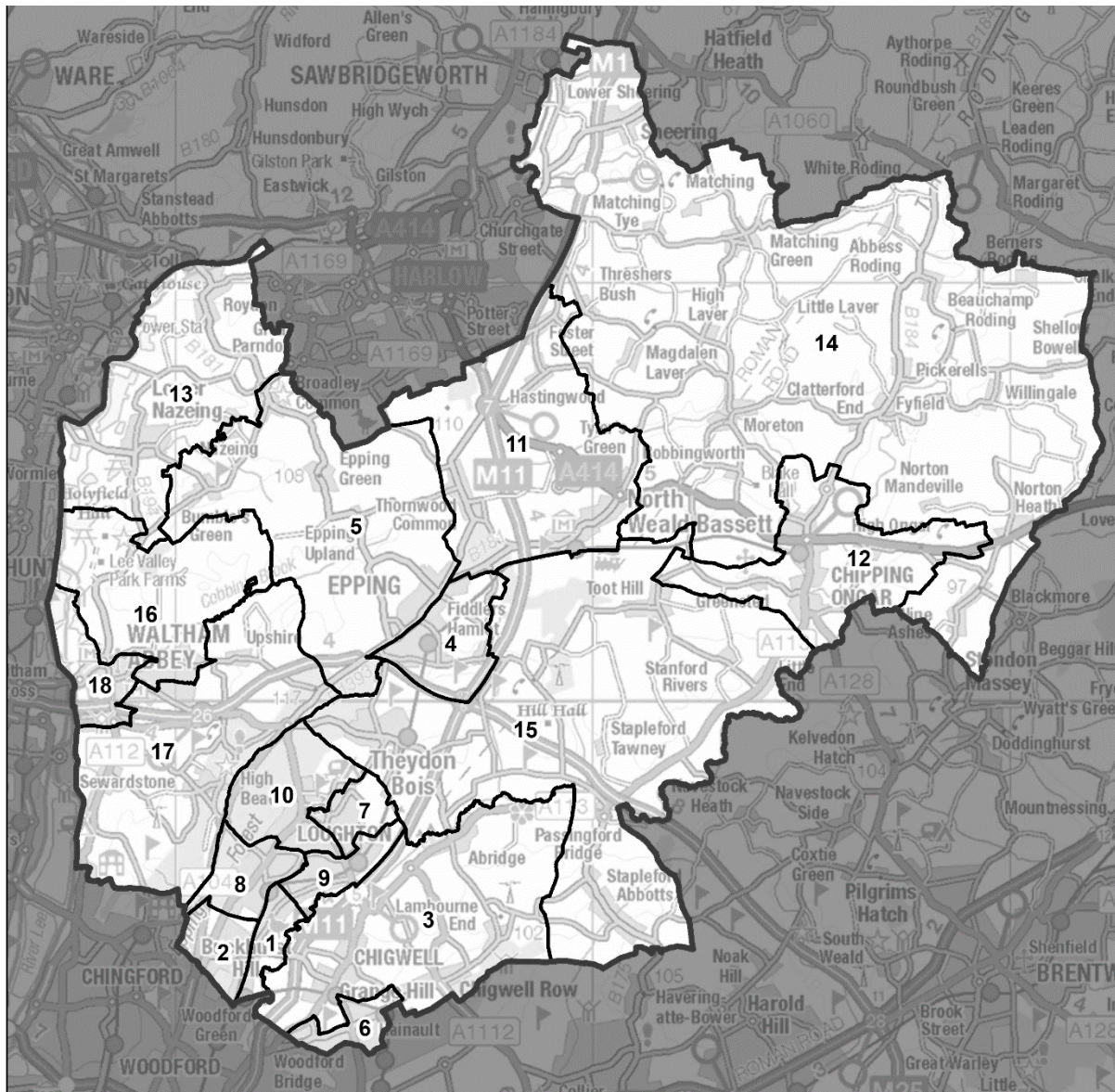
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11	North Weald Bassett	3	5,030	1,677	-10%	6,760	2,253	6%
12	Ongar	3	5,787	1,929	4%	6,865	2,288	8%
13	Roydon & Lower Nazeing	3	5,562	1,854	0%	6,591	2,197	4%
14	Rural East	3	6,356	2,119	14%	7,037	2,346	11%
15	Theydon Bois with Passingford	3	5,178	1,726	-7%	5,711	1,904	-10%
16	Waltham Abbey North	3	5,459	1,820	-2%	6,880	2,293	8%
17	Waltham Abbey South & Rural	3	5,418	1,806	-3%	6,002	2,001	-6%
18	Waltham Abbey West	3	5,551	1,850	0%	5,928	1,976	-7%
	Totals	54	100,222	–	–	114,524	–	–
	Averages	–	–	1,856	–	–	2,121	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Epping Forest District 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 district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge
2	Buckhurst Hill West
3	Chigwell with Lambourne
4	Epping East
5	Epping West & Rural
6	Grange Hill
7	Loughton Fairmead
8	Loughton Forest
9	Loughton Roding
10	Loughton St John's
11	North Weald Bassett

12	Ongar
13	Roydon & Lower Nazeing
14	Rural East
15	Theydon Bois with Passingford
16	Waltham Abbey North
17	Waltham Abbey South & Rural
18	Waltham Abbey West

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/eastern/essex/epping-forest

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/epping-forest

Local Authority

- Epping Forest District Council

Councillors

- Councillor S. Murray (Epping Forest District Council)
- Councillor B. Stratton (Abbess, Beauchamp & Berners Roding Parish Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Abbess, Beauchamp & Berners Roding Parish Council
- Loughton Town Council
- Nazeing Parish Council
- Roydon Parish Council
- Sheering Parish Council
- Stanford Rivers Parish Council

Local Organisations

- St Mary's Church

Local Residents

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

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

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE