

New electoral arrangements for Redditch Borough Council Draft Recommendations

August 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.

Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Redditch?	2
Our proposals for Redditch	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	6
Draft recommendations	7
Astwood Bank & Feckenham, Headless Cross & Oakenshaw and Webheath & Callow Hill	8
Batchley & Brockhill and Central	12
Greenlands & Lakeside, Matchborough & Woodrow, North and Winyates	15
Conclusions	19
Summary of electoral arrangements	19
Have your say	21
Equalities	25
Appendices	27
Appendix A	27
Draft recommendations for Redditch	27
Appendix B	29
Outline map	29
Appendix C	31
Submissions received	31
Appendix D	31
Glossary and abbreviations	31

Introduction

Who we are and what we do?

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Redditch?

7 We are conducting a review of Redditch Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2002, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality.' Our aim is to create 'electoral equality,' where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

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

Our proposals for Redditch

9 Redditch should be represented by 27 councillors, two fewer than there are now.

10 Redditch should have nine wards, three fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

² Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, 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.

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

16 You have until 10 October 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 21 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

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

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
15 February 2022	Number of councillors decided
22 February 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
31 May 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 August 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
10 October 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
10 January 2023	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

	2021	2028
Electorate of Redditch	63,545	64,848
Number of councillors	27	27
Average number of electors per councillor	2,354	2,402

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Redditch will have good electoral equality by 2028.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 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 2% by 2028.

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

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Number of councillors

26 Redditch Council currently has 29 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing by two to 27 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 27 councillors.

28 As Redditch Borough Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁵ 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 five submissions that made reference to the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. Three local residents suggested the number of councillors should not be reduced whilst the population is growing but provided no further evidence or an alternative council size suggestion. One local resident suggested that Redditch should have 10 three-councillor wards but did not suggest how that be achieved. Another local resident suggested that Redditch should have 12 two-councillor wards but provided no evidence as to why a uniform two-councillor pattern better reflects the Commission's statutory criteria. The resident also did not suggest a warding pattern. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 27-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 25 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two borough-wide proposals from Redditch Borough Council Conservative Group and Redditch Labour Party. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 The two borough-wide schemes provided a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Redditch. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

32 Our draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the

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

best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

33 There was a detailed virtual tour of Redditch. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for nine three-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.

35 The tables and maps on pages 8–18 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Redditch. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

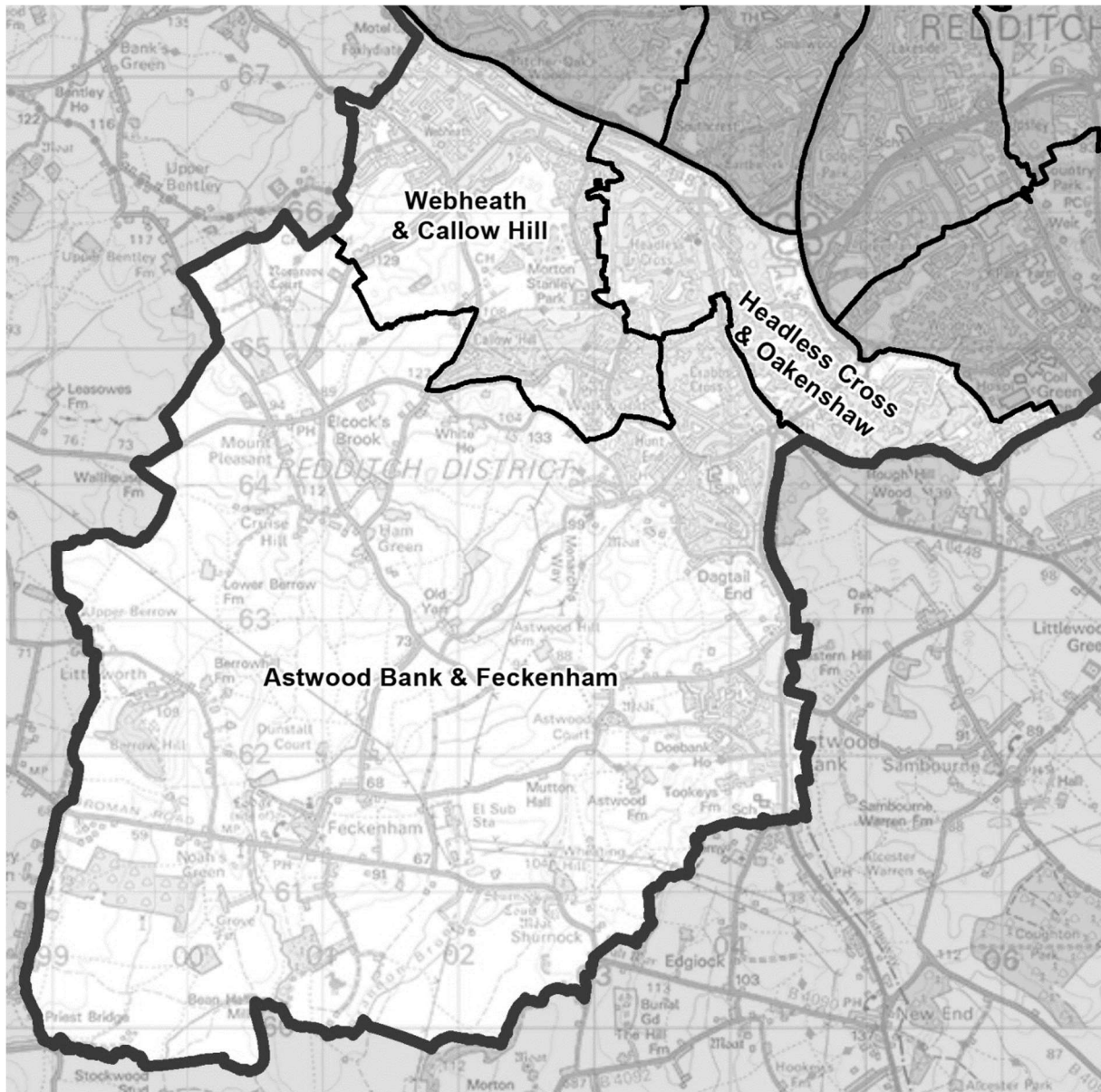
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 27 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Astwood Bank & Feckenham, Headless Cross & Oakenshaw and Webheath & Callow Hill



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Astwood Bank & Feckenham	3	-3%
Headless Cross & Oakenshaw	3	1%
Webheath & Callow Hill	3	1%

Astwood Bank & Feckenham

38 The two warding pattern submissions we received for this area from the Conservative Group and Labour Party both proposed to amend the existing ward in differing configurations. The Conservative Group proposed that the Crabbs Cross area be added to the existing Astwood Bank & Feckenham ward. The area they suggested adding is bounded by the rear of the properties 253–575 Evesham Road,

the rear of properties on Yvonne Road and the watercourse known as The Wharrage. The Conservative Group stated that the existing boundaries between Astwood Bank and Crabbs Cross are ill-defined with many Crabbs Cross residents using facilities in Astwood Bank, including schools and shops.

39 The Labour Party proposed to add the Callow Hill area and part of the Walkwood area to the existing Astwood Bank & Feckenham ward, using the southern boundary of Walkwood Coppice and the B4504 Windmill Drive as their suggested boundaries. They also proposed to include the streets of Grangers Lane in their Astwood Bank ward. The Labour Party did not provide any supporting evidence related to community links between Walkwood and Astwood Bank.

40 In addition to these warding patterns, we also received some other comments in the submissions we received, suggesting that Feckenham parish be divided from Astwood Bank and given its own ward. Another submission suggested that Hunt End should be removed from Astwood Bank & Feckenham ward and be included with areas to its north.

41 Having carefully considered the evidence, we are of the view that a warding arrangement which includes Crabbs Cross in an Astwood Bank & Feckenham ward would provide for the best balance in our statutory criteria. We consider that Crabbs Cross has closer ties to Astwood Bank than the Walkwood area, given the stronger transport links. We were unable to consider a single ward for Feckenham as this would not provide electoral equality as a three-councillor ward (-90%) or as a single-councillor ward (-71%). Likewise, it would not be possible to provide electoral equality for a ward that removed Hunt End and only included Astwood Bank and Feckenham.

42 We have therefore adopted the Conservative Group proposal for this ward as part of our draft recommendations. This ward would have an electoral variance of 3% fewer electors than the average for the borough by 2028.

Webheath & Callow Hill

43 The two warding patterns we received for this area proposed quite different arrangements. The Conservative Group propose to add the Callow Hill and Walkwood area to the existing West ward as part of a new ward they named Webheath & Callow Hill. The Group argued that the communities in this ward share local interests, as they both make up the rural urban fringe of the town with good transport links and shared amenities such as Morton Stanley Park.

44 The proposed warding pattern from the Labour Party suggested extending the boundary of the existing West ward eastwards to part of the Headless Cross area. They proposed to run the boundary along Mount Pleasant, Malvern Road and then to the north of properties on the north side of Yvonne Road. As mentioned above

(paragraph 39), the Labour Party propose that Callow Hill and part of Walkwood are included in their proposed Astwood Bank ward. The Labour Party did not provide any explanation or evidence to support their proposals in this area.

45 We also received two submissions asking that the Callow Hill area not be divided between wards.

46 As part of our draft recommendations, we have adopted the Conservative Group proposal for this area, which we agree reflects our statutory criteria in terms of the likely community ties in the area. We were concerned that the proposal from the Labour Party appeared to divide a coherent community in the Malvern Road area.

47 Our draft recommendation is for a three-councillor Webheath & Callow Hill ward with an electoral variance of 1% by 2028.

Headless Cross & Oakenshaw

48 The two warding patterns we received here differed significantly. The Conservative Group proposed a ward that was identical to the existing Headless Cross & Oakenshaw ward, with the exception of the inclusion of around 700 electors who live on Nine Days Lane and streets off it as well as the new Abbey Gate development. The Labour Party proposed a Crabbs Cross, Greenlands & Oakenshaw ward. Their proposed ward included a number of electors currently in the Greenlands ward on the eastern side of the A441 Alcester Highway, as well as electors on both sides of Evesham Road. It did not include a number of electors in properties on Grangers Lane and the streets off it, which they proposed to include in their Astwood Bank ward. A local resident suggested there was a lack of connections between Headless Cross and Oakenshaw and another suggested that the Wirehill Drive area, currently in Greenlands ward, should be moved back to Headless Cross & Oakenshaw where it had previously been located.

49 We concluded that the submission from the Labour Party did not adequately meet our statutory criteria. By proposing a ward that straddled the A441 Alcester Highway, we took the view the ward would not reflect the community ties of electors in the Greenlands area. We are also of the view that a ward that crosses the A441 Alcester Highway at this point would not provide for effective and convenient local government, given the road forms a significant barrier between the two communities. Likewise, including the Wirehill Drive area in Headless Cross & Oakenshaw would necessitate a ward that crossed the A441.

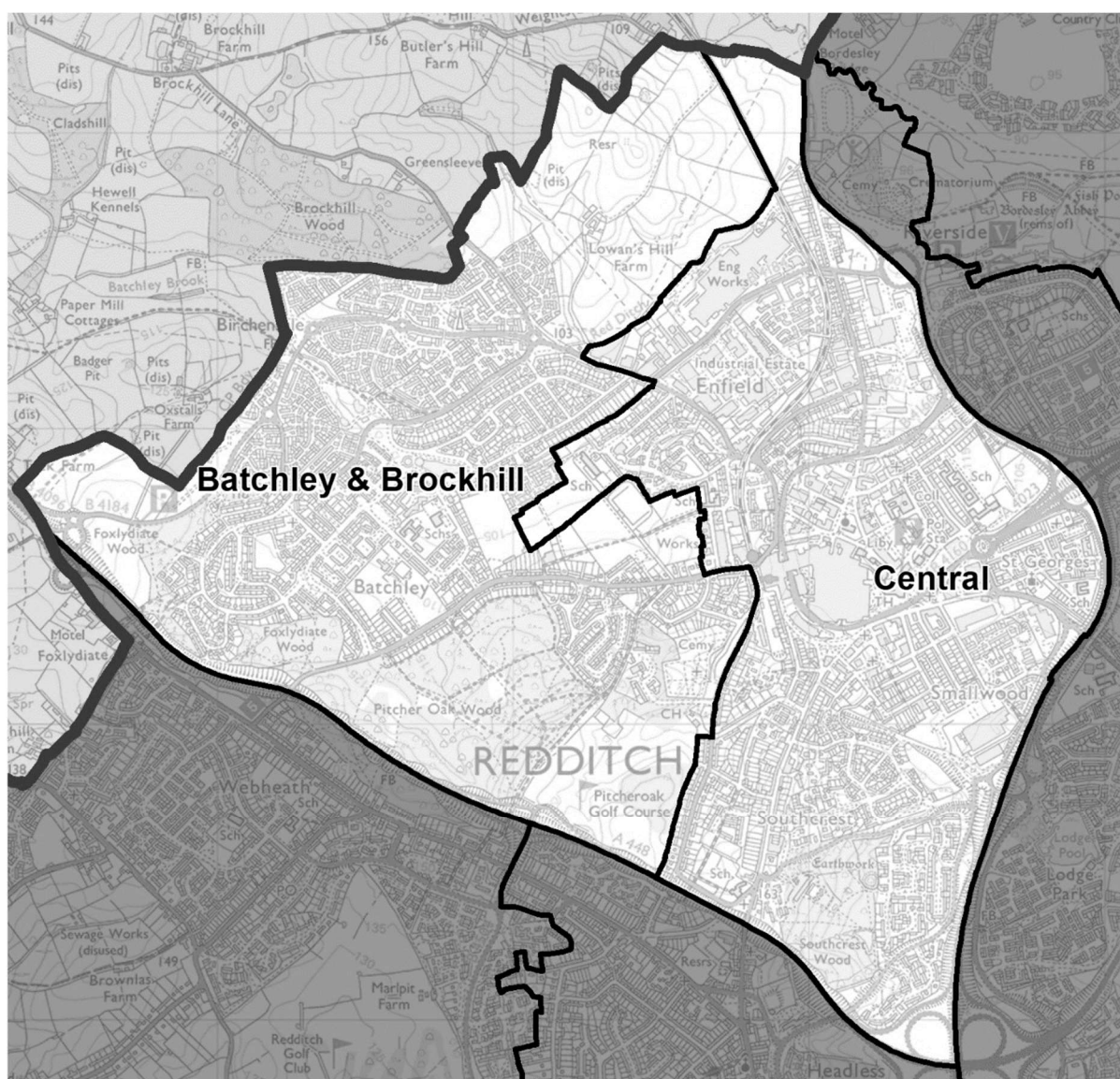
50 Our draft recommendations for this ward are based on the Conservative Group proposal. We agree with the evidence provided by the Conservatives that Headless Cross and Oakenshaw continue to share community focal points around shopping and schooling in particular. We also agree that the electors along Nine Days Lane and on the Abbey Gate development appear to share open space and recreational

areas with the rest of the Oakenshaw area around Wirehill Wood. We also note that including these electors in Headless Cross & Oakenshaw allows electoral equality for both this ward and in the Woodrow area, discussed later in this report.

51 We are particularly interested to hear from local residents along Nine Days Lane as to where they consider their community ties are. We would also welcome further evidence of community ties between Headless Cross and Oakenshaw as well as evidence, if any, of ties with Greenlands.

52 Our proposed ward of Headless Cross & Oakenshaw will have good electoral equality of 1% by 2028.

Batchley & Brockhill and Central



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Batchley & Brockhill	3	4%
Central	3	-4%

Batchley & Brockhill and Central

53 Both warding patterns we received for this area recognised the strong boundaries that surround it, including the Borough Council boundary to the north and west, the A448 Bromsgrove Highway to the south and west and the A441 Alvechurch Highway to the west. Based on its 2028 electorate, this area is entitled to six councillors, which makes it possible to provide two three-councillor wards that do not cross the strong boundaries outlined above.

54 The Labour Party proposed to add two areas to the existing Central ward to form a larger three-councillor ward: Redditch town centre (from the existing Abbey ward) and St George's (from the existing Lodge Park ward). They proposed to make a small amendment to the existing Batchley & Brockhill ward to move the boundary from the Red Ditch and onto Windsor Road so that the industrial building on Windsor Road is included in Batchley & Brockhill ward.

55 The Conservative Group proposed a warding pattern that made more changes to the current warding pattern to reflect the community identity of electors close to the town centre. Their proposed Central ward included the St George's area and the town centre. They also suggested amending the boundary between the existing Batchley & Brockhill and Central wards to better reflect communities. They proposed to include an area around Bridley Moor Road and Cedar Road (currently in Batchley & Brockhill ward) in their proposed Central ward, as well as suggesting moving the current Batchley & Brockhill boundary to follow Plymouth Road so that electors on Bromsgrove Road, and streets off it, are included in Batchley & Brockhill ward.

56 We considered the two warding patterns here and looked at the area closely on our virtual tour of Redditch. We concluded that the inclusion of the St George's area in a Central ward as proposed by both submissions is appropriate and reflects the area's close connection to the town centre.

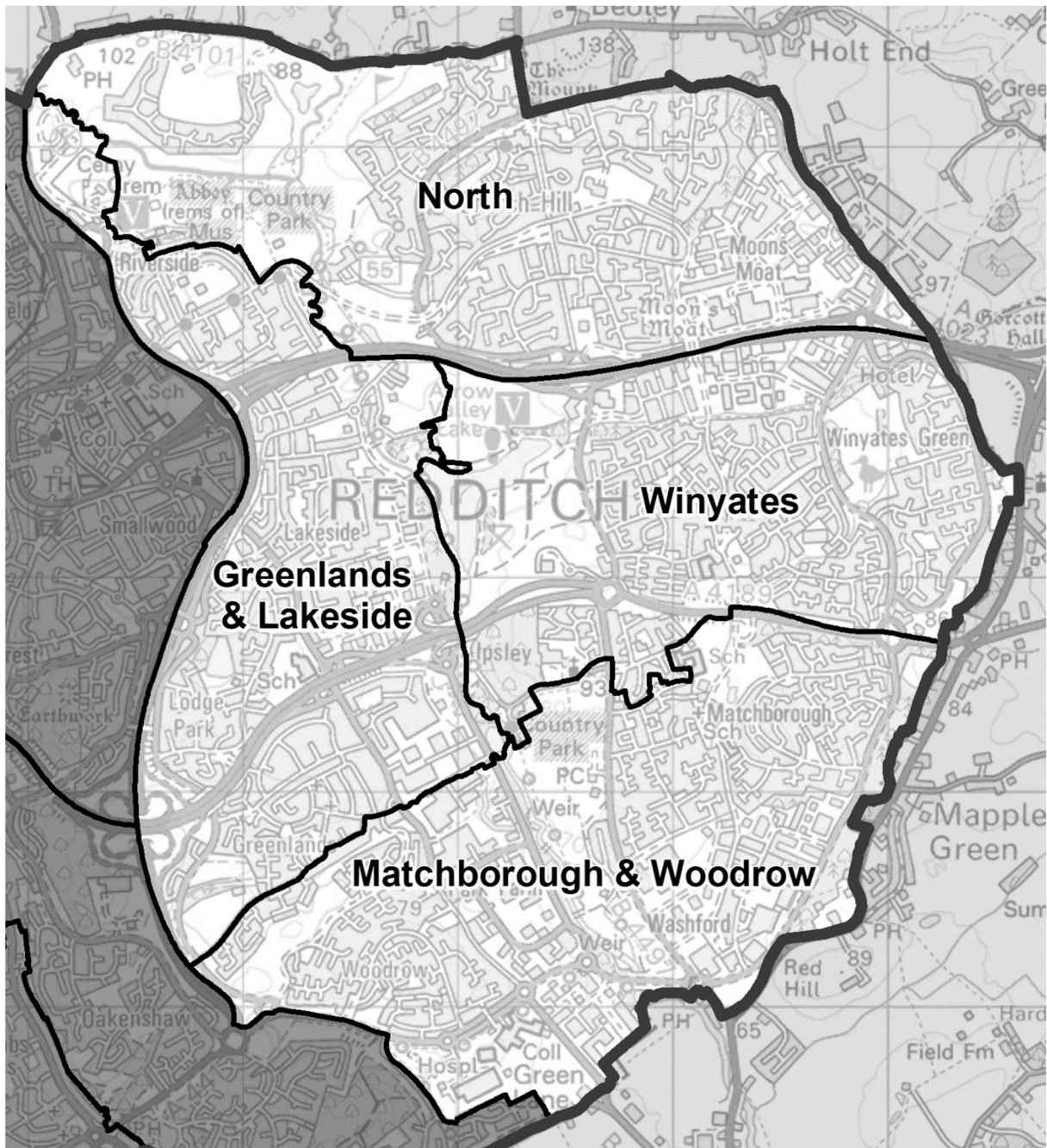
57 Having studied the proposals from the Conservative Group carefully and investigated their proposed changes as part of our virtual tour of Redditch, we consider that their proposals for Batchley & Brockhill and Central wards make sense as part of the wider warding pattern. The area around Bridley Moor Road and Cedar Road appears to be disconnected from the Batchley & Brockhill area by Batchley Brook, and properties in this area appear to look towards the town centre. We also agree that the electors on Bromsgrove Road, and streets off it, appear to have more commonality with Batchley than with Redditch town centre. We have therefore adopted the Conservative proposal in this area as part of our draft recommendations. However, our calculations showed that the Conservative Group's proposal would create an electoral imbalance of -12% for Central ward. We therefore looked to see if there was any proposal that could improve the level of electoral equality.

58 As part of their proposals for North ward (paragraphs 60–64), the Conservative Group proposed to include electors on the development accessed from the Birmingham Road and Weights Lane roundabout in their suggested North ward, along with numbers 219–301 and 224–246 Birmingham Road. We are of the view that such an arrangement would leave these electors slightly isolated from all the other electors in North ward. In our view, including them in our Central ward would provide for a better reflection of community identity, as well as allow us to provide electoral equality for both wards. We would, however, very much welcome evidence

from all these electors about their preferred community ties. Finally, our draft recommendations make one more amendment to the Conservative Group's proposed wards. We have modified the boundary between Batchley & Brockhill and Central wards from the centre of Plymouth Road, instead running the boundary along the rear of numbers 94–170 to ensure the entire road is in the same ward.

59 Our proposed draft recommendations are for two three-councillor wards of Batchley & Brockhill and Central with electoral variances of 4% and -4%, respectively, by 2028.

Greenlands & Lakeside, Matchborough & Woodrow, North and Winyates



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Greenlands & Lakeside	3	5%
Matchborough & Woodrow	3	6%
North	3	-2%
Winyates	3	-7%

Greenlands & Lakeside and North

60 We received two significantly different warding patterns here. As discussed earlier, the submission from the Labour Party proposed to include Greenlands in a

ward with Crabbs Cross and Oakenshaw. We did not consider this arrangement reflected the community identity of that area. Their proposal for the Lakeside and Church Hill areas was for a three-councillor North ward that united the Church Hill area in a single ward along with Hither Green Lane residents. The Labour Party also proposed a Lakeside ward that contained the Lakeside community, the Abbeydale community and some of the Greenlands community.

61 The Conservative Group's proposed North ward also united the Church Hill community, as well as including Hither Green Lane residents, electors from the development accessed from the Birmingham Road and Weights Lane roundabout, and numbers 219–301 and 224–246 Birmingham Road in a three-councillor ward. Their proposed Greenlands & Lakeside ward included all of the Abbeydale area, the Greenlands area, the Lakeside area and the Lodge Park area. Whilst the Conservative Group acknowledged that there are major roads that cross this ward, they argued that these four areas have strong community ties and transport links.

62 Having considered the two submissions and taking account our earlier decision regarding the Greenlands area (paragraph 49), our draft recommendations are based on the submission made by the Conservative Group. We agree that the Church Hill area should not remain divided between wards and also that the Hither Green Lane area naturally fits within this ward. However, we have slightly amended the boundary between Greenlands & Lakeside and North wards to use a pre-existing polling district boundary to ensure electors on Millrace Road and Bordesley Lane are included in Greenlands & Lakeside ward. Such an arrangement reflects their property access.

63 Whilst conducting our virtual tour of the borough we noted that Woodrow North may make a more coherent southern boundary of Greenlands & Lakeside ward. However, our analysis showed that there was no proposal that could accommodate such a southern boundary and provide for acceptable electoral equality across the warding pattern in this part of the borough. We are, however, interested in hearing evidence as to where communities lie in this part of Redditch, and we will consider any alternative warding pattern that meets our three statutory criteria.

64 Our draft recommendations are for two three-councillor wards of Greenlands & Lakeside and North. These two wards have electoral variances of 5% and -2%, respectively, by 2028.

Matchborough & Woodrow and Winyates

65 In this area, the Labour Party proposed a Winyates ward based on the existing ward with the addition of the Ipsley area to the south of the A4189. They also proposed a Matchborough East, West & Woodrow ward that contained all of the Matchborough, Washford and Woodrow areas as well as the electors off Nine Days Lane and on the Abbeygate development.

66 The proposal from the Conservative Group was similar and also proposed an arrangement that included Ipsley in a Winyates ward. The Conservative Group's proposed Matchborough & Woodrow ward also included all of the Matchborough, Washford and Woodrow communities but did not include electors off Nine Days Lane or on the Abbeygate development. They also suggested running the boundary between Greenlands & Lakeside and Matchborough & Woodrow wards along Auxerre Avenue and Throckmorton Road. The Conservative Group stated that Ipsley is a self-contained area with a separate and distinct identity from Matchborough and can appropriately be included in Winyates ward.

67 The Conservative Group went on to argue that keeping the remainder of Winyates ward centred on the Winyates Centre would reflect the community identity of the area. They added that whilst Matchborough and Woodrow are two separate communities on either side of the valley of the River Arrow, the open space between them is common to both communities and they share many other interests: parking, housing stock, regeneration and other local issues.

68 We received a number of other submissions that had been made aware of the proposal to move Ipsley from a ward with Matchborough to one with Winyates. These submissions stated that Ipsley has strong community ties to Matchborough and should remain in Matchborough ward.

69 We considered this evidence and studied the possible warding patterns as part of our virtual tour. We looked at the inclusion of Ipsley in Winyates ward and we noted that Winyates has strong boundaries to the north (A4023), east (borough boundary) and west (River Arrow and Arrow Valley). To the south, Ipsley is connected to Winyates via a footpath to Winyates Way and under Warwick Highway. We investigated the level of electoral equality under an arrangement which retained Ipsley in Matchborough ward but noted that it would result in an electoral variance of 14% in Matchborough & Woodrow and -15% in Winyates. We do not consider we have received sufficient evidence to justify this level of electoral inequality. We do, however, welcome further community evidence from the Ipsley area as well as alternative warding patterns that meet our statutory criteria.

70 We also investigated the connections between Matchborough and Woodrow and considered whether joining these two areas in a single ward would reflect local communities. Given that we must have a presumption towards three-councillor wards in authorities (such as Redditch) that elect by thirds, we will often have to join together two communities that may otherwise form separate wards. Having considered the options, we are of the view that this is one such area. We have therefore adopted the Matchborough & Woodrow ward as proposed by the Conservative Group.

71 Our proposed draft recommendations are for two three-councillor wards of Matchborough & Woodrow and Winyates with electoral variances of 6% and -7% by 2028, respectively.

Conclusions

72 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Redditch, 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 at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2021	2028
Number of councillors	27	27
Number of electoral wards	9	9
Average number of electors per councillor	2,354	2,402
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendations

Redditch Borough Council should be made up of 27 councillors serving nine 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 the Redditch Borough Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Redditch Borough Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say

73 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.

74 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you do not think our recommendations are right for Redditch, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

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

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

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

77 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Redditch Borough Council which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

78 A good pattern of ward 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.

79 Electoral equality:

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

80 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?

81 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?

82 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.lgbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

83 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.

84 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.

85 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 Redditch in 2024.

Equalities

86 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 Redditch

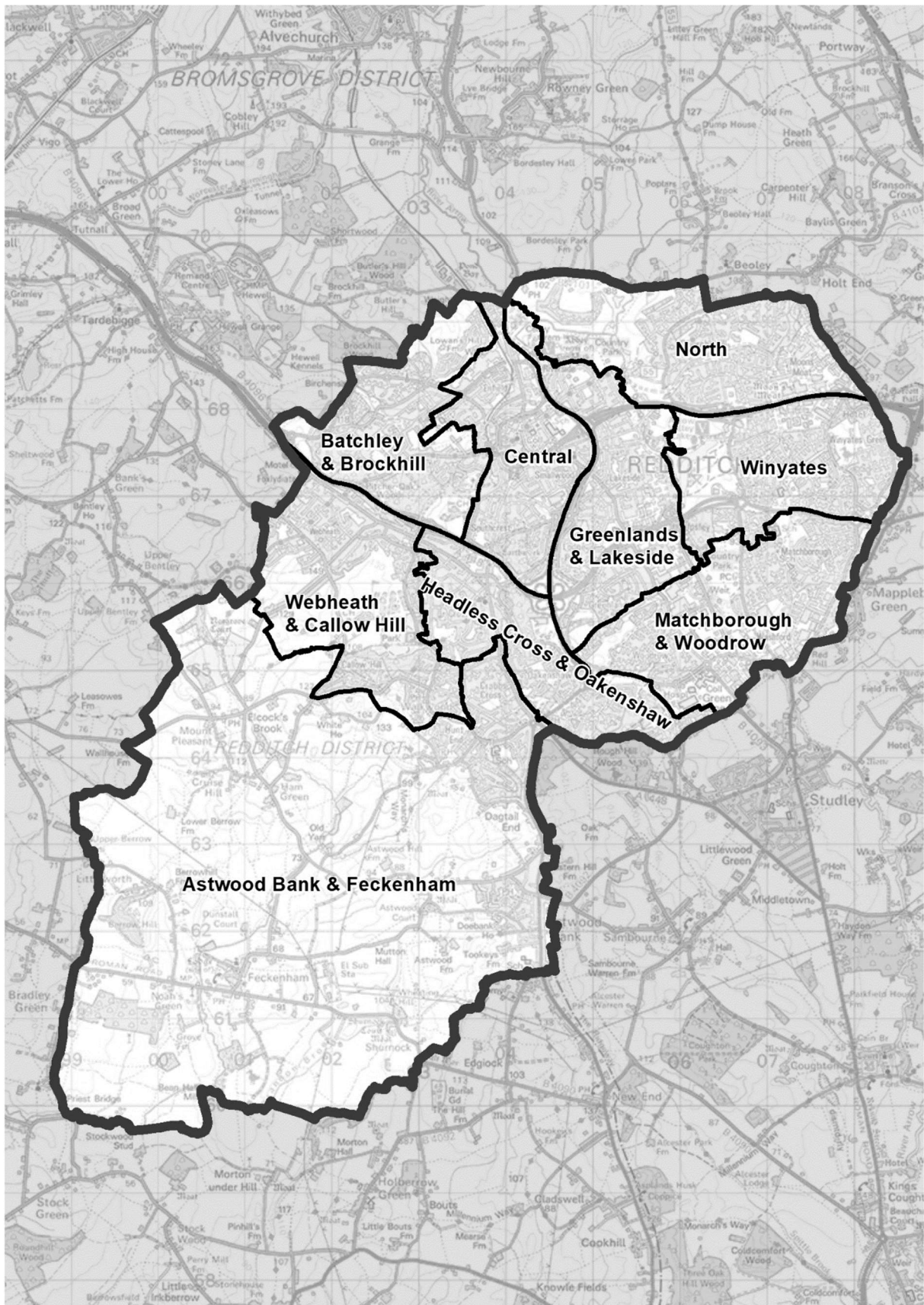
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Astwood Bank & Feckenham	3	6,902	2,301	-2%	7,010	2,337	-3%
2	Batchley & Brockhill	3	6,825	2,275	-3%	7,479	2,493	4%
3	Central	3	6,712	2,237	-5%	6,882	2,294	-4%
4	Greenlands & Lakeside	3	7,475	2,492	6%	7,541	2,514	5%
5	Headless Cross & Oakenshaw	3	7,172	2,391	2%	7,305	2,435	1%
6	Matchborough & Woodrow	3	7,550	2,517	7%	7,613	2,538	6%
7	North	3	7,031	2,344	0%	7,061	2,354	-2%
8	Webheath & Callow Hill	3	7,129	2,376	1%	7,247	2,416	1%
9	Winyates	3	6,749	2,250	-4%	6,709	2,236	-7%
Totals		27	63,545	–	–	64,848	–	–
Averages		–	–	2,354	–	–	2,402	–

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

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

Appendix B

Outline map



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/west-midlands/worcestershire/redditch

Appendix C

Submissions received⁷

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/worcestershire/redditch

Political Groups

- Redditch Borough Council Conservative Group
- Redditch Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor J. Brunner (Redditch Borough Council) – two submissions
- Councillor S. Solomon (Redditch Borough Council)

Local Residents

- 21 local residents

⁷ We also received ward maps from council officers. However, these were not made as a formal submission and were not taken into account when preparing our draft recommendations.

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

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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