

New electoral arrangements for Malvern Hills District Council Draft Recommendations

January 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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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 Malvern Hills?

7 We are conducting a review of Malvern Hills District Council ('the Council') following a request from the Council. In addition, 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

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

- The wards in Malvern Hills 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 Malvern Hills

9 Malvern Hills should be represented by 31 councillors, seven fewer than there are now.

10 Malvern Hills should have 21 wards, one fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all but one ward should change; Kempsey will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the 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.

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 11 January to 21 March 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 21 March 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 23 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 area. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 January 2021	Number of councillors decided
13 July 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
20 September 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
11 January 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
21 March 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
5 July 2022	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	2027
Electorate of Malvern Hills	62,286	69,940
Number of councillors	31	31
Average number of electors per councillor	2,009	2,256

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 Malvern Hills will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

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

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

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 Malvern Hills Council currently has 38 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing this number by seven will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 31 councillors, for example, 31 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received eight submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. The majority either supported the reduction in councillors or argued that the number should be reduced further. However, neither these, nor the submissions objecting to a reduced council size, provided sufficient evidence to persuade us to change our recommendation for a reduction of seven councillors for Malvern Hills. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 31-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 55 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two district-wide proposals: from West Worcestershire Conservative Association & the Malvern Hills District Council Conservative Group ('the Conservatives'); and Malvern Hills District Council Independent & Green Councillors ('the Independents & Greens'). We also received a full scheme for Malvern from Malvern Town Council, and partial schemes respectively from Councillors Davies, Satterthwaite and Walton. West Worcestershire Constituency Labour Party expressed their support for 31 single-councillor wards across the district but did not provide specific proposals. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for wards in particular areas of the district.

30 The two district-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of wards. 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.

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

32 As a result of the unprecedented circumstances related to the outbreak of Covid-19, we were unable to conduct a visit to the area to look at the various

different proposals on the ground. However, we were able to conduct a detailed, virtual tour of Malvern Hills. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

33 Our draft recommendations are for two three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and 13 single-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

34 The tables and maps on pages 8–20 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Malvern Hills. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

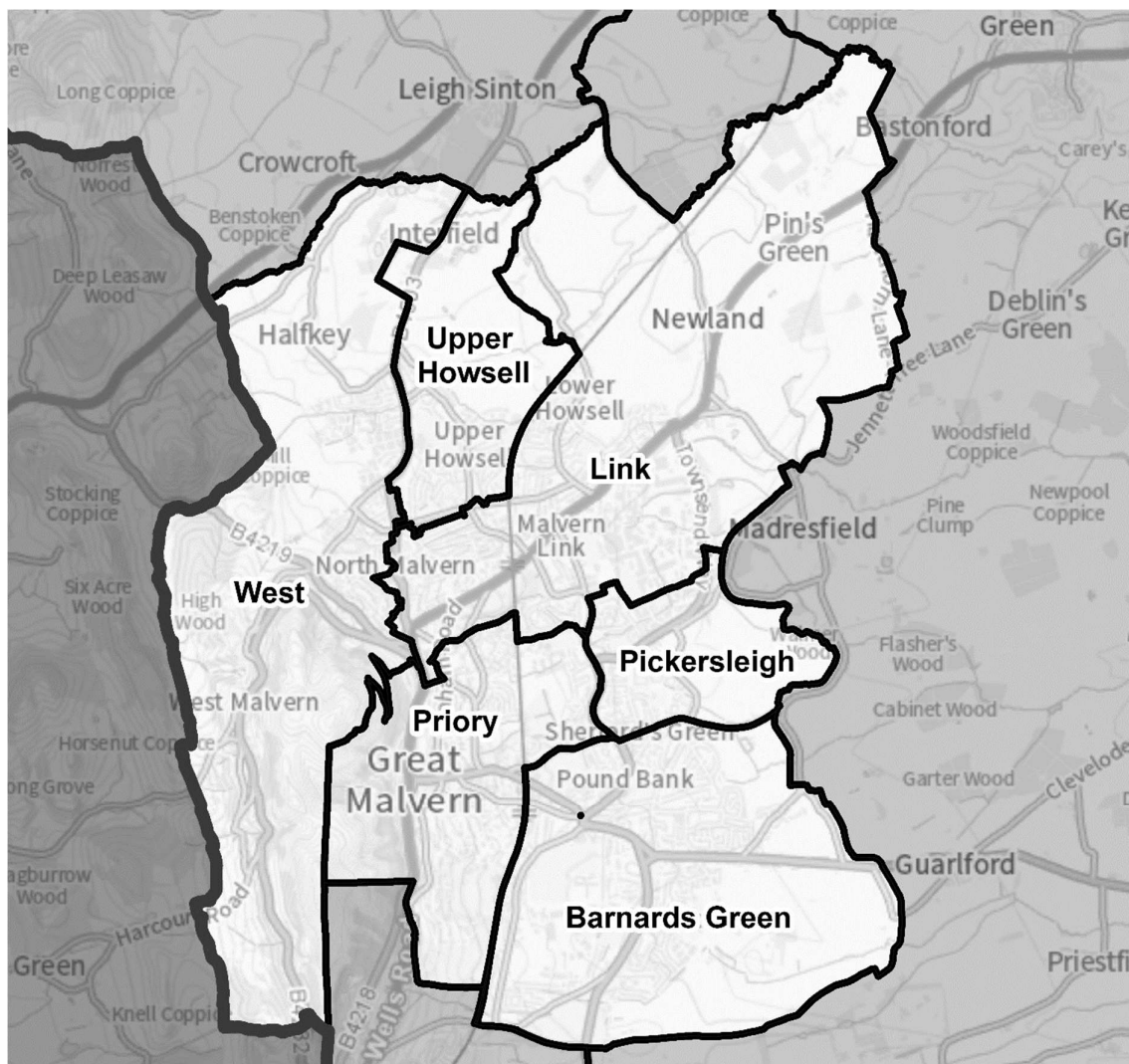
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

35 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 29 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Malvern



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Barnards Green	3	8%
Link	3	-3%
Pickersleigh	1	-4%
Priors	2	-8%
Upper Howsell	1	2%
West	2	0%

Malvern, Newland and West Malvern

37 During the consultation we received two full schemes covering Malvern (Malvern and West Malvern parishes), from Malvern Town Council and the Independents & Greens. We also received general comments on warding for the town as part of the Conservatives' submission, and three submissions from residents

regarding specific areas. All schemes proposed that Newland parish be grouped in a ward with Malvern, as it forms part of the same built-up area and shares community links with the Malvern town area.

38 Malvern Town Council indicated that its proposal intended to unite three commercial areas (Link Top, Barnards Green and Great Malvern) within wards, rather than ward boundaries separating them. The Independents & Greens' proposal provided limited evidence behind the wards they proposed. Both proposals had wards with good electoral equality across the town.

39 We carefully considered both proposals in detail, assessing how they met our statutory criteria. We propose to broadly base our draft recommendations on Malvern Town Council's proposals on the basis of the community evidence provided and its use of clear and identifiable ward boundaries. However, we do make some changes to these proposals in our draft recommendations.

40 The Town Council proposed that the northern boundary of Barnards Green ward should run along Madresfield Road, with the exception of running to the rear of some properties on the south side of this road, as well as Langland Close. The Town Council did not outline a specific reason for placing these properties in Pickersleigh rather than Barnards Green ward. We therefore propose to amend this boundary to run entirely along Madresfield Road, to provide a more clear and identifiable boundary between Barnards Green, and Priory and Pickersleigh wards.

41 Similarly, the Town Council proposed that all properties on Moorlands Road should be included in Link ward. We consider that the Council did not provide sufficient evidence to justify separating these electors from those immediately to their south, so have decided that the ward boundary should run along Moorlands Road from the railway to Graham Road.

42 The Independents & Greens' submission specifically mentioned that 62 and 64 Moorlands Road are isolated from the rest of the road by the railway line. While sympathetic to this proposal, the existing boundary is also a Worcestershire County Council division boundary, and so to place these properties in the same ward as the remainder of Moorlands Road would require the creation of a parish ward for these two properties. This is not something that we consider would provide for effective and convenient local government, and we therefore do not propose to make this change.

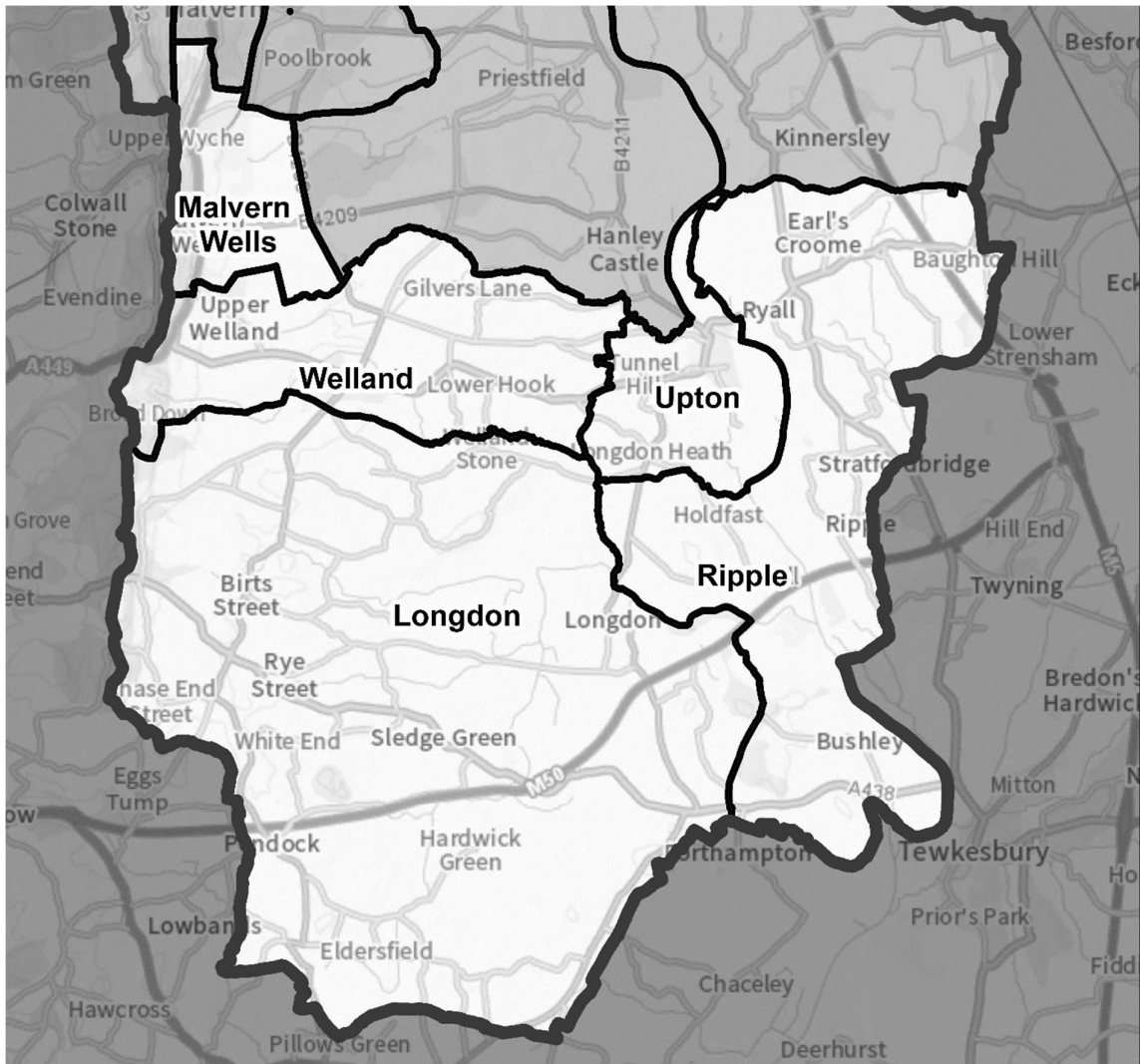
43 On our virtual tour we carefully assessed the proposal to include the area of Link Top centering on Zetland Road, Bank Street and Lygon Bank in Link ward. Under the current arrangements, this area is in Priory ward. We were persuaded that these areas form part of the wider Link Top community and should be included in Link ward. However, we note that this creates a ward boundary running through the

residential area and would welcome comments on whether this arrangement reflects community identity.

44 There were three specific comments from residents related to Malvern. One proposed that Wells ward should be extended northwards to reach the southern end of Abbey Road. However, this would involve combining parts of Malvern and Malvern Wells parishes and we do not consider this would provide an effective balance of our statutory criteria. Another argued that names such as Chase should not be ward names, as these were not in normal use. The Town Council proposed that the new ward covering the previous Chase ward be named Barnards Green, so this comment is accommodated in our draft recommendations. Finally, a resident argued that Link ward included too much of the Leigh area. However, the existing Link ward does not include any of Leigh parish, and we consider that any warding pattern which did not follow the parish boundaries in this specific area would fail to promote effective and convenient local government.

45 We are therefore proposing a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards across Malvern. These are based on the responses we received to our initial consultation and we believe these represent the best balance of our statutory criteria.

Southern Malvern Hills



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Longdon	1	2%
Malvern Wells	1	-7%
Ripple	1	-7%
Upton	1	4%
Welland	1	-8%

Ripple and Upton

46 The Conservatives proposed a single-councillor Upton ward covering the eastern part of Upton-upon-Severn parish, but not including Hook parish ward. They proposed a Ripple ward comprising Earls Croome, Hill Croome, Ripple, Holdfast, Queenhill and Bushley parishes. The Independents & Greens' proposals were for a

two-councillor Upton and Ripple ward covering all of Upton-upon-Severn, along with Earl's Croome, Hill Croome and Ripple parishes.

47 We received comments from both Earl's Croome and Ripple parish councils, arguing that they should not be included in a ward with Upton parish because of their rural nature. Ripple Parish Council specifically suggested that they had more in common with villages across the River Severn such as Queenhill, Holdfast and Longdon rather than with Ripple. A local resident also proposed Holdfast and Queenhill's inclusion in a ward with Ripple. Councillor Tomkins, from Earl's Croome Parish Council, argued that there should be no changes to existing boundaries.

48 However, we also received comments of the opposing view, such as from Upton-upon-Severn Town Council, which commented that it would be happy to be included in a ward with those parishes to the east of the town and referenced some close community links.

49 Two residents proposed maintaining the ward link between Upton and Hanley parishes, with one also arguing that Severn Stoke should be combined with the parishes to the south in Ripple ward. However, this would result in Ripple ward having a significant electoral variance which we are not prepared to recommend.

50 On the basis of the submissions received, we are proposing to adopt the Conservatives' proposals for a single-councillor Upton ward and a single-councillor Ripple ward which crosses the river. We acknowledge that there may be access concerns for Bushley, Queenhill and Holdfast parishes to the rest of the ward, and so would welcome comments on whether this warding arrangement would allow for effective and convenient local government. We also note that this separates Holdfast and Queenhill from their other grouped parish of Longdon, and would welcome comments on what impact this might have, and if there are other viable warding patterns we can consider that keep the grouped parish in a single ward.

Longdon

51 We received a substantial number of different proposals for this part of the district, with the Conservatives and the Independents & Greens proposing to expand the existing Longdon ward. The Independents & Greens proposed adding Birtsmorton, while the Conservatives proposed also adding Castlemorton but removing Holdfast, Queenhill and Bushley from the ward. Councillor Davies expressed his support for the Independents & Greens' proposals in general but proposed localised changes in this area.

52 Councillor Davies argued that the current Morton ward should not be combined with Malvern Wells, but that it should be retained with the addition of Little Malvern parish, and supported the principle of single-member wards in this area. Castlemorton Parish Council submitted their concerns about any proposal to

integrate Morton and Malvern Wells in the same ward and suggested the inclusion of Berrow parish in the existing Morton ward. A resident proposed that Morton could be split between Longdon, and a ward including the Wyche.

53 Because of our proposals for Holdfast, Queenhill and Bushley, it is necessary to include both Birtsmorton and Castlemorton parishes in Longdon ward to avoid creating a ward with a significantly lower electorate than the average for the district. We considered the addition of the Hook parish ward of Upton-upon-Severn parish but ultimately concluded it had better links to Welland (see paragraph 57). We are therefore adopting the Conservatives' proposed Longdon ward, which we consider also reflects local evidence supporting the inclusion of Birtsmorton and Castlemorton parishes in a ward with parishes to their south rather than with Welland or Malvern Wells.

Malvern Wells and Welland

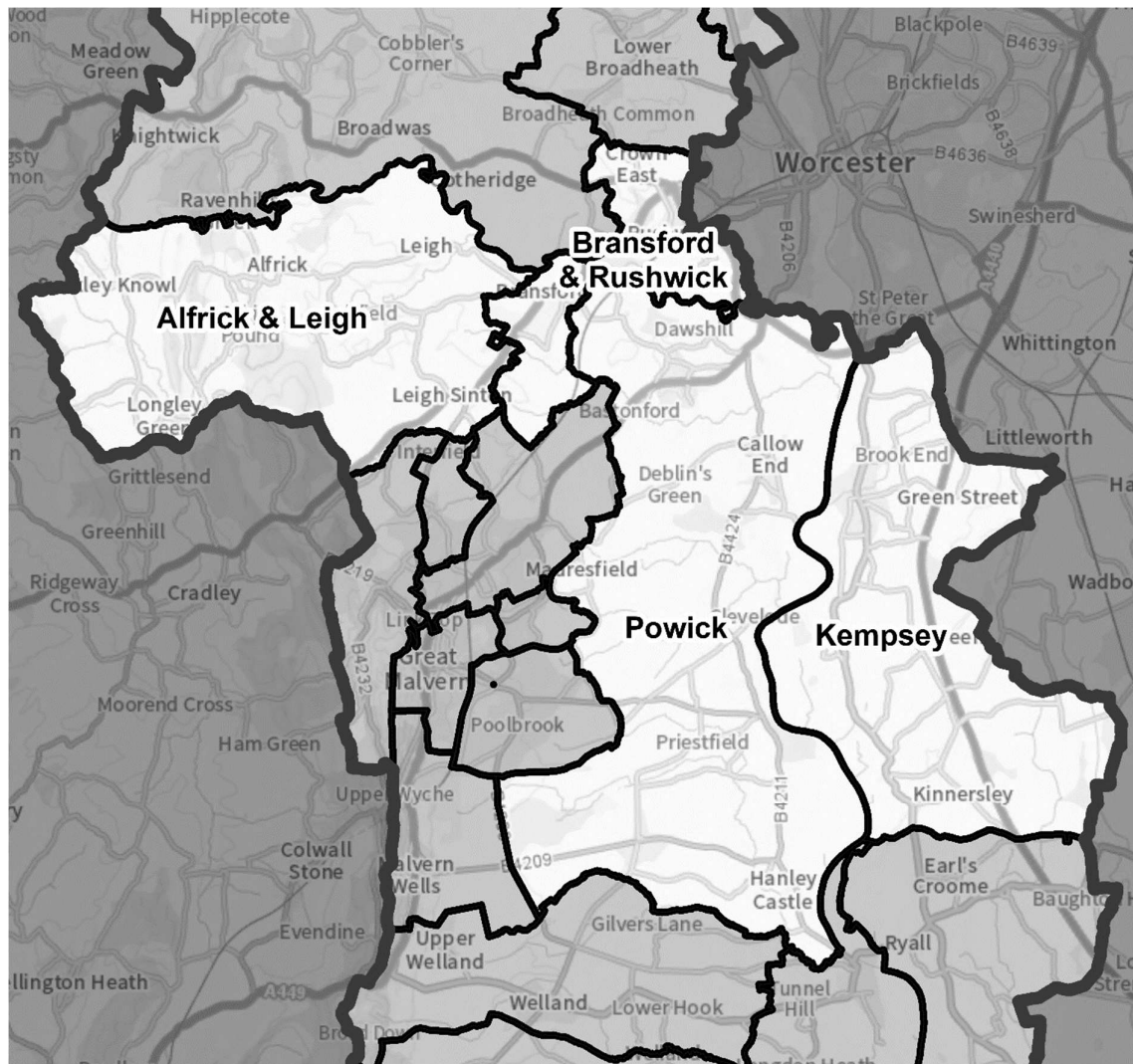
54 The Independents & Greens proposed a two-councillor Wells & Welland ward, while the Conservatives suggested a split in Malvern Wells along Hanley Road to create two single-councillor wards.

55 Councillor Satterthwaite proposed a specific divide in Malvern Wells, to allow for two single-councillor wards. He referenced that while Malvern Wells is part of Great Malvern's built-up area, Welland should be considered distinct, and that these communities would not be best served by a two-councillor ward, with limited public transport links and divergent community identities. He was of the view that the Upper Welland area of Malvern Wells parish has a distinct identity and has strong links to Welland in respect of local amenities. He proposed that all electors on Upper Welland Road and the residential streets off it should be included in a proposed Welland ward.

56 A resident of Wells parish argued that the existing two-councillor ward should be retained.

57 In assessing the various proposals presented to us, we consider that Councillor Satterthwaite's proposal for single-councillor Wells and Welland wards was supported by the strongest evidence and best met our criteria. We are therefore proposing to adopt the Malvern Wells ward as proposed. We are amending the Welland proposal; however, given we are not able to include Castlemorton (as outlined in paragraph 53), we are instead adding the Hook parish ward of Upton-on-Severn parish, which we consider has good links to Welland. We would welcome comments on this proposal during the current consultation.

Central Malvern Hills



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Alfrick & Leigh	1	6%
Bransford & Rushwick	1	1%
Kempsey	2	5%
Powick	2	5%

Kempsey and Powick

58 The Independents & Greens proposed separate two-councillor wards for both Kempsey and Powick. The former includes Kempsey, Severn Stoke and Croome D'abitot parishes, while the latter includes Powick, Madresfield, Guarford and Hanley Castle.

59 The Conservatives proposed splitting this Kempsey ward into two single-councillor wards, with the boundary running through the centre of Kempsey. We were not persuaded that the Conservatives' proposed division of Kempsey would reflect community identities. Kempsey Parish Council stated their preference for being part of a two-councillor ward and a resident argued Kempsey should have two councillors for a ward consisting only of Kempsey parish, and that rural parishes to the south should not be included with it. However, as outlined in paragraph 49, this was not possible because of our recommendations for the wider area. We are therefore proposing to adopt the Independents & Greens' proposal for a two-councillor ward which maintains the existing ward boundaries of Kempsey.

60 The Conservatives proposed separating Powick with the northern bulk of the parish forming a ward on its own. They proposed that the southern part of this area, including Bastonford, Deblin's Green and Kent's Green, be warded with Madresfield, Guarlford and Hanley Castle parishes, as well as Hook parish ward of Upton-upon-Severn. While acknowledging that such a split into two separate wards would reduce their size, we did not consider that sufficient evidence had been received to justify dividing Powick parish between wards. Guarlford Parish Council expressed its support for the existing ward combining rural parishes, and proposed that if further additions were required to the proposed ward, Hanley Castle would be more suitable than any areas of Malvern. This view was echoed by a resident. A resident proposed an amendment to the parish boundary of Guarlford but this is not within the remit of this review.

61 In light of the responses we received, we propose that the Independents & Greens' recommendation for a two-councillor Powick ward should be adopted. We consider that this avoids unnecessarily splitting Powick parish between two different wards, and also accommodates the representations received from parishes in the area.

Alfrick & Leigh and Bransford & Rushwick

62 During our consultation we received a variety of responses covering these areas to the north of Malvern, stretching across the width of the district.

63 The Independents & Greens' proposal was for an expansion of the existing Alfrick & Leigh ward to become a two-councillor ward. This would also include Rushwick, but exclude Doddenham and possibly Knightwick. They presented arguments for and against this but did not make a final proposal.

64 The Conservatives proposed two single-councillor wards covering the same area but excluding Lulsley parish. Under this proposal, Bransford and Rushwick parishes would form one ward, with the other consisting of Suckley, Alfrick and Leigh parishes. They argued that Rushwick and Bransford had linked developments and

looked towards Worcester as commuter areas, while the rural parishes to their west were more oriented to Malvern for services.

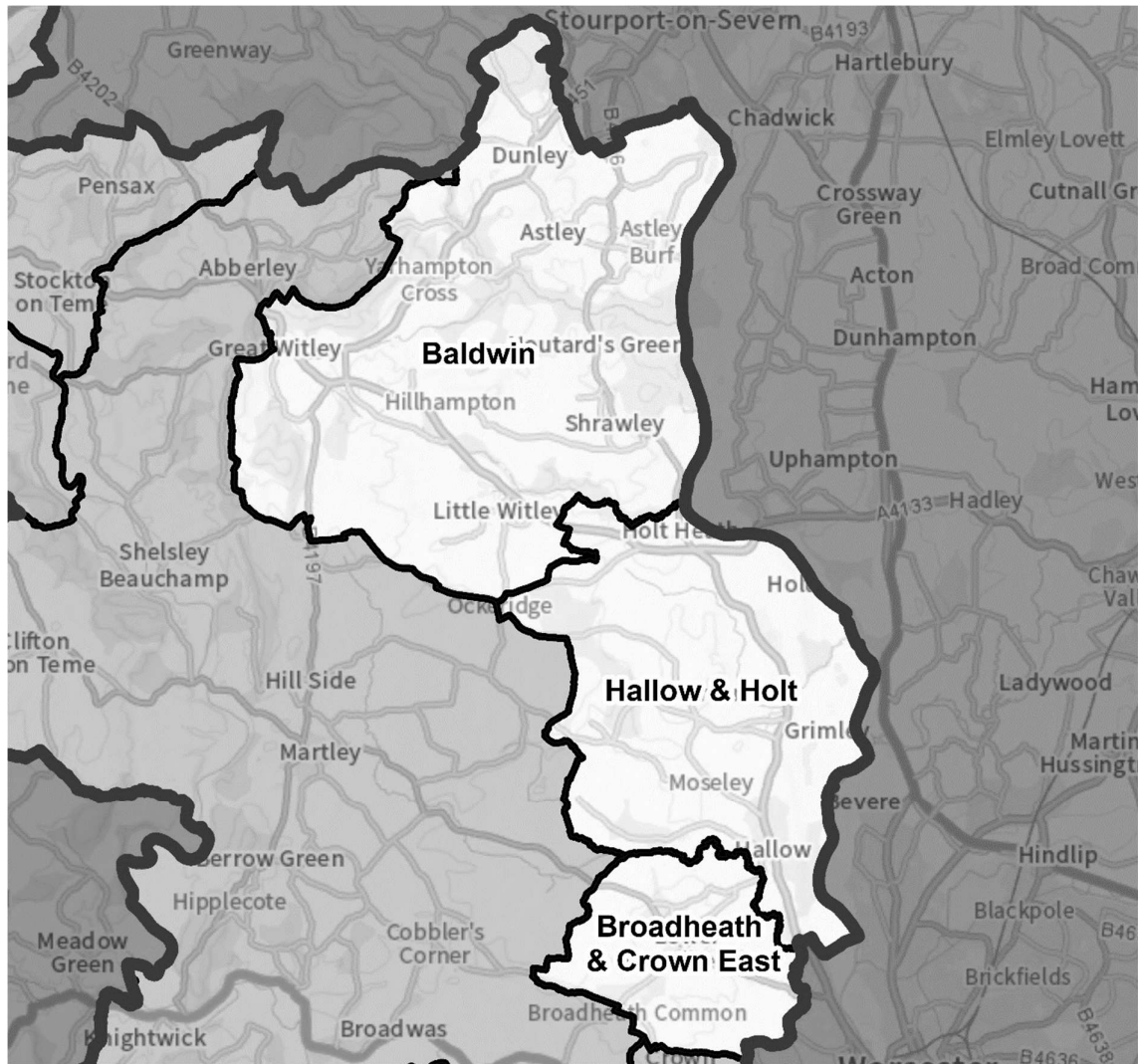
65 Councillor Walton proposed a large Leigh & Bransford ward, but we considered that, with a forecast electoral variance of 28%, this would not be in line with the Commission's criterion of promoting electoral equality.

66 Suckley Parish Council expressed its preference to be part of a two-councillor ward and highlighted its links to Rushwick and Knightwick. A resident stated that they supported the existing ward boundary and opposed any proposal to move part of the ward into Martley or Malvern. They mentioned that some characteristics were shared with Rushwick. Finally, another resident expressed their support for the existing Broadheath ward, which contains Rushwick.

67 Having assessed the variety of evidence we received, we are minded to recommend that two separate single-councillor wards are created, as proposed by the Conservatives, on the basis of the differences in community identity expressed between the eastern and western halves of this area. Knightwick, Lulsley and Doddenham parishes will now form part of the new Martley & Teme Valley ward, given the numerical constraints of including these parishes in a single-councillor Alfrick & Leigh ward.

68 We would strongly encourage comments on our proposals, including assessments of how well these two single-councillor wards would reflect local community identities and interests.

North-east Malvern Hills



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Baldwin	1	4%
Broadheath & Crown East	1	-6%
Hallow & Holt	1	4%

Baldwin, Broadheath & Crown East and Hallow & Holt

69 The Conservatives and Independents & Greens both proposed retaining the existing single-councillor Baldwin ward with the addition of Little Witley parish. Their proposals differed elsewhere – the Independents & Greens proposed two-councillor Broadheath & Hallow and Martley & Teme Valley wards. The Conservatives proposed four single-councillor Hallow, Broadheath, Martley and Woodbury wards. Both proposals referenced community links to justify their proposals and promoted wards with good electoral equality.

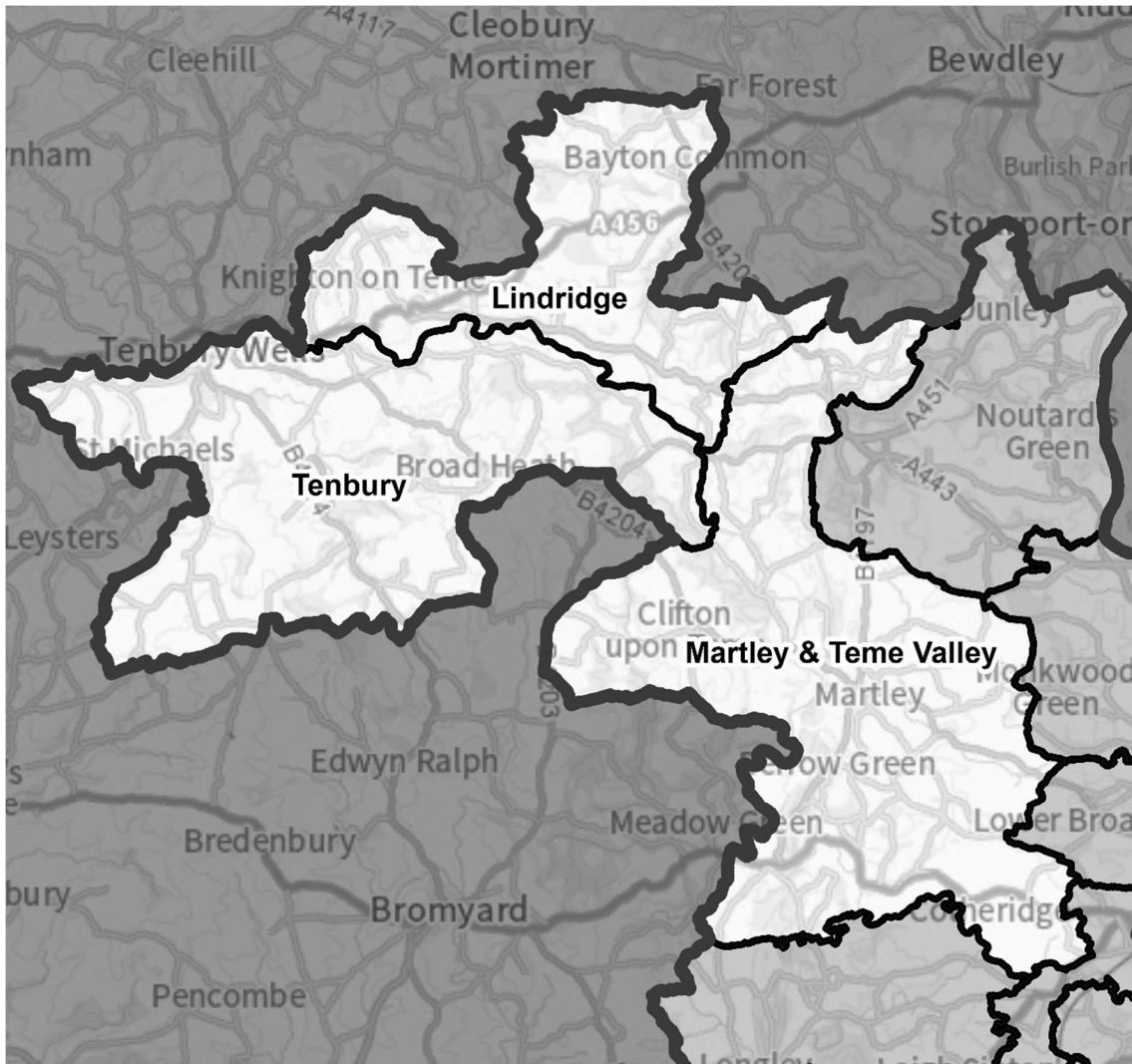
70 Councillor Walton provided his own set of proposals which constituted amendments to the Independents & Greens' submission. He suggested a single-councillor Broadheath & Crown East ward on the same basis as the Conservatives, but proposed different boundaries further north – creating a Hallow & Holt ward formed of those two parishes plus Grimley, and an expanded Baldwin ward which also included Great Witley and Hillhampton parishes.

71 Some elements of Councillor Walton's proposals were echoed in other submissions. A resident stated that Shrawley, Little Witley and Great Witley parishes had connections which meant they should be combined in the same ward. Grimley Parish Council stated its preference to form a ward with Hallow and Holt parishes, stressing transport, business and educational links. Councillor Clarke supported Councillor Walton's proposal and noted that joining Hallow ward with part of Broadheath would require splitting Broadheath parish between wards. Great Witley & Hillhampton Parish Council expressed its desire to remain in a single-councillor ward with nearby parishes.

72 Councillors Chambers, Cumming, Cumming and Jones-Williams expressed their support for the Conservatives' proposals and added specific justifications such as the expansion of the existing Woodbury ward to include the Shelsleys.

73 After careful consideration of these differing proposals, we are recommending Councillor Walton's proposals for Baldwin, Hallow & Holt and Broadheath & Crown East wards. While all the proposals we received in this area created wards with good electoral equality, we assess that Councillor Walton's proposals best reflect the evidence we received on community identity from parishes and residents, particularly around Great Witley.

North-west Malvern Hills



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Lindridge	1	0%
Martley & Teme Valley	2	2%
Tenbury	2	-7%

Lindridge and Tenbury

74 There were broad similarities in the Independents & Greens' and Conservatives' proposals for the north-west corner of the district. Their Lindridge wards differed only in that the Conservatives included Eastham but excluded Pensax parish. Their Tenbury wards differed in the placement of Eastham and the Conservatives' inclusion of Clifton upon Teme and Lower Sapey parishes in their proposed ward.

75 The evidence provided by Councillors Chambers, Cumming, Cumming and Jones-Williams that Eastham should be included with parishes to the north across the Teme did not reference any community identity linkage. In the absence of any comments from parishes or other stakeholders in this area, we were not persuaded that there was sufficient justification to move Eastham. We therefore propose to adopt the Independents & Greens' proposals for a single-councillor Lindridge ward and a two-councillor Tenbury ward. This will mean Eastham continues to be in the same ward as Hanley and Stanford with Orleton parishes. We would welcome comments on whether this arrangement remains appropriate.

Martley & Teme Valley

76 The Conservatives proposed a single-councillor Woodbury ward which removed Little Witley parish from the existing ward and added the Shelsleys. They also proposed a single-councillor Martley ward. The Independents & Greens proposed a two-councillor Martley & Teme Valley ward covering broadly the same area.

77 We received one additional comment for this area, from Abberley Parish Council, which argued that it should be retained in a single-member ward.

78 Because of our proposal for Baldwin ward, the remaining elements of the Conservatives' proposed Woodbury ward would have a significant electoral variance. To account for this, it would be necessary to add part of Martley parish to achieve a good level of electoral equality, with a further ward formed from the rest of Martley and parishes to its south. Instead of this configuration, we considered that it was preferable to have one large two-councillor ward in this area, as proposed by the Independents & Greens. This would avoid an unnecessary division of Martley that was not proposed by any respondents to our consultation.

79 We acknowledge that the four-councillor submission referenced this proposal and argued that it would not help social cohesion and add to workloads. Nonetheless, we consider that this arrangement provides for the best balance of our statutory criteria and note that the distance between the extreme ends of this ward is not significantly further than that of the Conservatives' proposed Tenbury ward.

Conclusions

80 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Malvern Hills, referencing the 2021 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2021	2027
Number of councillors	31	31
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	2,009	2,256
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Draft recommendations

Malvern Hills District Council should be made up of 31 councillors serving 21 wards representing 13 single-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and two 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 Malvern Hills.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Malvern Hills on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

81 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.

82 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, Malvern Hills 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.

83 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 Malvern and Malvern Wells parishes.

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

Draft recommendations

Malvern Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Chase	4
Link	4
Lygon	1
Pickersleigh	2
Pound Bank	1
Priory	3
St Joseph	1
Upper Howsell	2
West	2

85 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Malvern Wells parish.

Draft recommendations

Malvern Wells Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Upper Welland	3
Wells	10

Have your say

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

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

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

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

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

90 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Malvern Hills which delivers:

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

91 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

92 Electoral equality:

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

93 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

94 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

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

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

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

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

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

Equalities

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

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Malvern Hills

	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	Alfrick & Leigh	1	2,191	2,191	9%	2,385	2,385	6%
2	Baldwin	1	2,131	2,131	6%	2,345	2,345	4%
3	Barnards Green	3	6,454	2,151	7%	7,299	2,433	8%
4	Bransford & Rushwick	1	1,497	1,497	-25%	2,275	2,275	1%
5	Broadheath & Crown East	1	1,502	1,502	-25%	2,123	2,123	-6%
6	Hallow & Holt	1	2,203	2,203	10%	2,349	2,349	4%
7	Kempsey	2	3,829	1,915	-5%	4,751	2,376	5%
8	Lindridge	1	2,124	2,124	6%	2,259	2,259	0%
9	Link	3	5,720	1,907	-5%	6,580	2,193	-3%
10	Longdon	1	2,167	2,167	8%	2,295	2,295	2%
11	Malvern Wells	1	1,956	1,956	-3%	2,088	2,088	-7%
12	Martley & Teme Valley	2	4,206	2,103	5%	4,592	2,296	2%

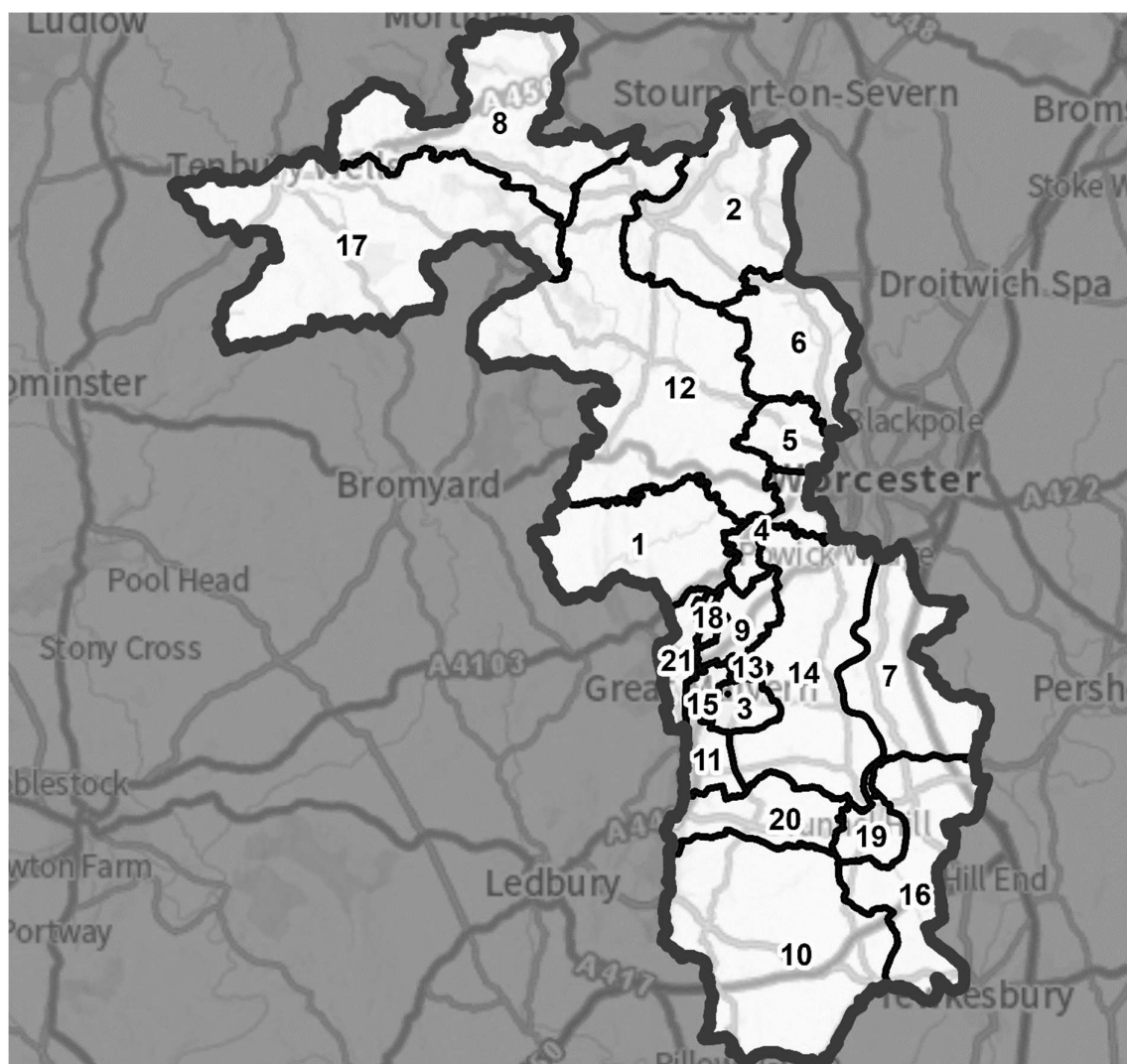
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Pickersleigh	1	2,019	2,019	0%	2,165	2,165	-4%
14 Powick	2	4,308	2,154	7%	4,719	2,360	5%
15 Priory	2	3,888	1,944	-3%	4,167	2,084	-8%
16 Ripple	1	1,871	1,871	-7%	2,109	2,109	-7%
17 Tenbury	2	3,619	1,810	-10%	4,182	2,091	-7%
18 Upper Howsell	1	2,188	2,188	9%	2,304	2,304	2%
19 Upton	1	2,230	2,230	11%	2,348	2,348	4%
20 Welland	1	1,984	1,984	-1%	2,082	2,082	-8%
21 West	2	4,199	2,100	4%	4,523	2,262	0%
Totals	31	62,286	–	–	69,940	–	–
Averages	–	–	2,009	–	–	2,256	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Malvern Hills 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	Alfrick & Leigh
2	Baldwin
3	Barnards Green
4	Bransford & Rushwick
5	Broadheath & Crown East
6	Hallow & Holt
7	Kempsey
8	Lindridge
9	Link
10	Longdon
11	Malvern Wells

12	Martley & Teme Valley
13	Pickersleigh
14	Powick
15	Priory
16	Ripple
17	Tenbury
18	Upper Howsell
19	Upton
20	Welland
21	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/west-midlands/worcestershire/malvern-hills

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Political Groups

- Malvern Hills District Council Independent & Green Councillors
- West Worcestershire Conservative Association & the Malvern Hills District Council Conservative Group
- West Worcestershire Constituency Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillors D. Chambers, P. Cumming, P. Cumming & B. Jones-Williams (Malvern Hills District Council)
- Councillor D. Clarke (Malvern Hills District Council)
- Councillor M. Davies (Malvern Hills District Council and Little Malvern & Welland Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Satterthwaite (Worcestershire County Council)
- Councillor R. Tomkins (Earls Croome Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Walton (Malvern Hills District Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Abberley Parish Council
- Castlemorton Parish Council
- Earl's Croome Parish Council
- Great Witley & Hillhampton Parish Council
- Grimley Parish Council
- Guarlford Parish Council
- Kempsey Parish Council
- Malvern Town Council
- Ripple Parish Council
- Suckley Parish Council
- Upton-upon-Severn Town Council

Local Residents

- 35 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

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