

New electoral arrangements for Havant Borough Council Draft Recommendations

May 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 Havant?

7 We are conducting a review of Havant Borough 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'.²

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

- The wards in Havant 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 Havant

9 Havant should be represented by 36 councillors, two fewer than there are now.

10 Havant should have 12 wards, two fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all but three wards should change; Hart Plain, Purbrook and Stakes 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 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 10 May to 18 July 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 18 July 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 Havant. 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
21 September 2021	Number of councillors decided
28 September 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
6 December 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
10 May 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
18 July 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
4 October 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 Havant	97,073	100,656
Number of councillors	36	36
Average number of electors per councillor	2,696	2,796

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 Havant 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 4% 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 Havant Borough Council currently has 38 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing by two 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 36 councillors.

28 As Havant 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 about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. Four submissions argued for a further reduction in council size while one argued for an increase instead. None of these submissions provided sufficient evidence in respect of the Council's governance structure and the representational role of councillors under their preferred number. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 36-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 20 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one borough-wide proposal from the Havant Conservative Group ("the Conservatives"). The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 The Conservatives' proposal provided a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Havant. 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 best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

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

33 We visited the area in order to look at the different proposals on the ground. This tour of Havant helped us to decide between the boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for 12 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 In developing our draft recommendations, we noted that Havant can be considered to be made up of several distinct communities with significant areas of undeveloped and open land between them. We considered that these were Waterlooville, Havant itself, Hayling Island and Emsworth. We attempted to draw up a warding pattern which reflected the boundaries between these areas, but our assessment was that the size of the electorate in the central part of Havant would necessitate multiple wards with significantly higher electoral variances than we would normally be willing to accept.

36 As such, we sought to identify an area of central Havant that could be placed in a ward with one of the other main communities of the borough. We noted that there is a clear separation between the central part of the borough and Waterlooville formed by the A3(M). We also considered there to be a clear separation between central Havant and Emsworth. On the basis of the evidence received and informed by our in-person tour of the borough, we assessed that the best linkage was between the Langstone area to the south of the A27 and Hayling Island. As detailed later in this report, we are therefore proposing a three-member Hayling West & Langstone ward.

37 The tables and maps on pages 9–17 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Havant. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

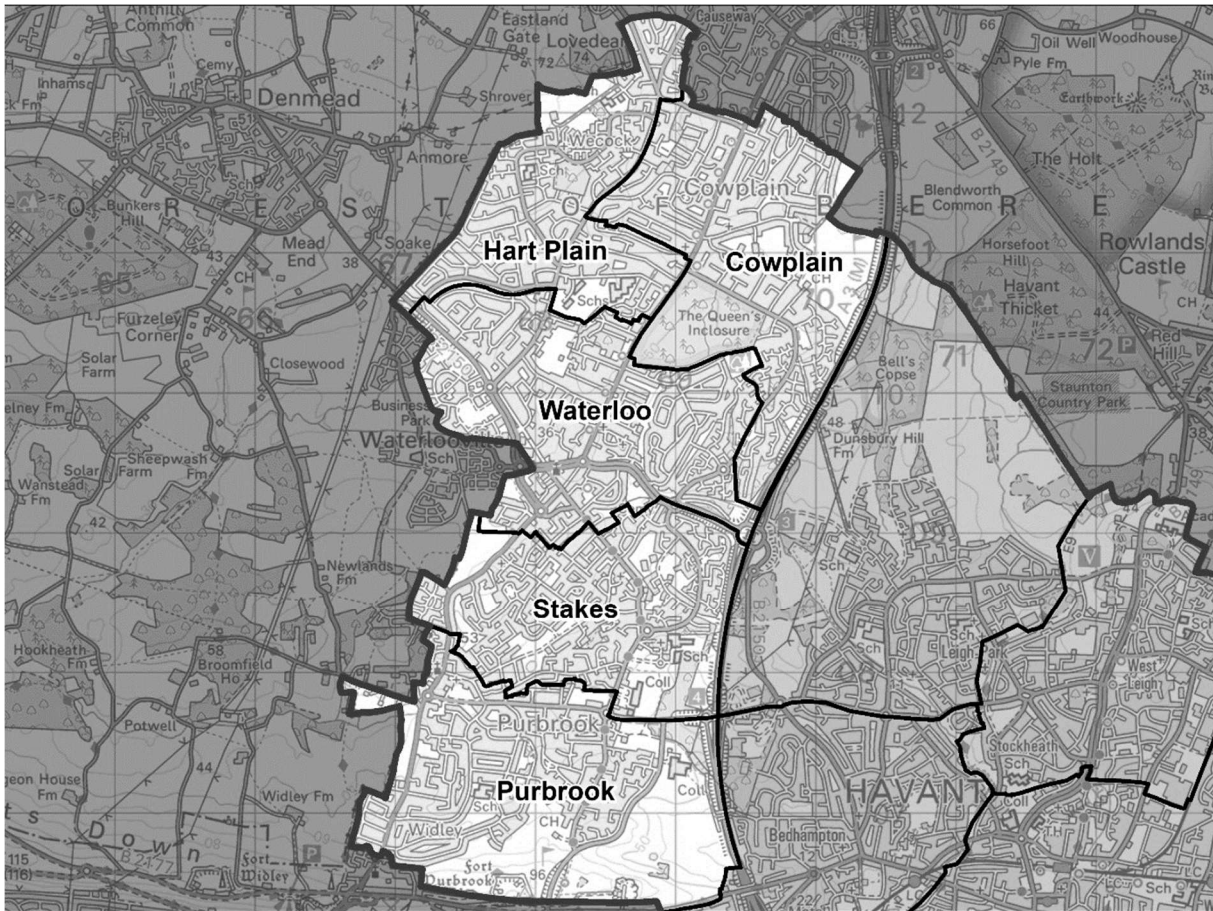
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

38 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.

39 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.

Waterlooville



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Cowplain	3	-4%
Hart Plain	3	-3%
Purbrook	3	-6%
Stakes	3	-8%
Waterloo	3	-9%

Cowplain and Waterloo

40 In their submission, the Conservatives argued that the A3(M) was a clear boundary and that wards should not cross it. They proposed retaining the existing wards, with the only change being an expansion of Cowplain ward to include properties on Tempest Avenue.

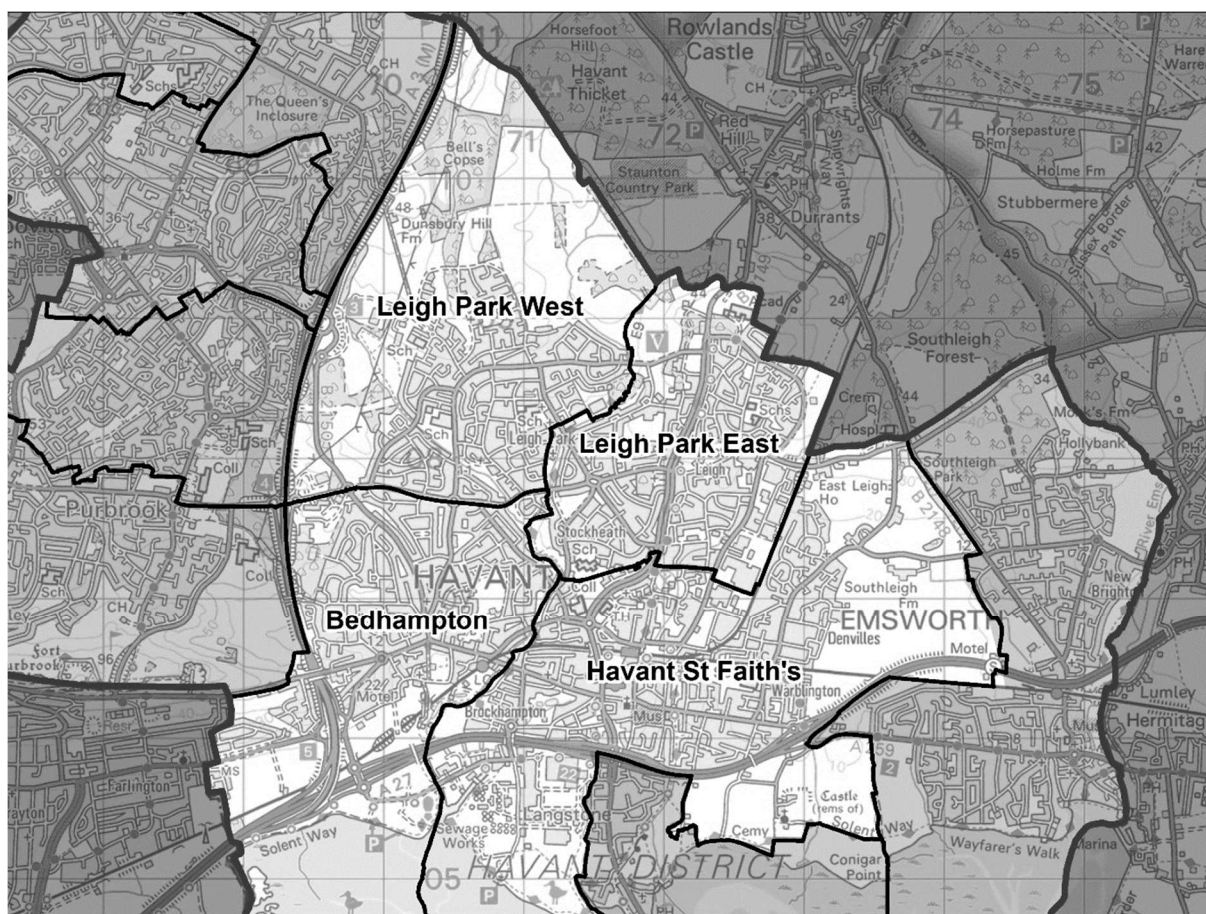
41 The only other submission concerning Waterlooville was from a resident who made the case that Havant Borough Council did not have any interest in Waterlooville, and that new boundaries were needed. However, they did not outline any boundary proposals in detail.

42 Our tour of Havant persuaded us that the motorway and undeveloped gap between Havant and Waterlooville was sufficient reason to maintain the separation between wards on either side. While we did not receive details of the Conservatives' proposals about where on Tempest Avenue Cowplain ward should be extended to, on our visit we considered that the current ward pattern splitting Harkness Drive could be improved. We have decided to extend the boundary of Cowplain ward down the east side of Tempest Avenue to include all cul-de-sacs running off it up to and including Crystal Way. We consider that this will provide a clearer and more identifiable ward boundary that reflects the local road pattern and access routes. Both wards will have good electoral equality, both now and in 2027.

Hart Plain, Purbrook and Stakes

43 We do not propose any changes to the existing Hart Plain, Purbrook and Stakes wards. We are content that the existing wards reflect local community identities and are all forecast to have good electoral equality in 2027.

Central Havant



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bedhampton	3	5%
Havant St Faith's	3	8%
Leigh Park East	3	9%
Leigh Park West	3	10%

Bedhampton and Havant St Faith's

44 The Conservatives proposed to broadly retain these two wards as they currently exist. Among the changes proposed were an extension of Bedhampton ward so that its northern boundary follows Purbrook Way and its eastern boundary follows the Hermitage Stream. They also proposed renaming St. Faith's ward to Havant St Faith's and including The Drive in this ward.

45 In our consultation we received three other submissions from residents related to these areas. One suggested splitting the existing Bedhampton ward on the basis of forecast growth and increased business presence. However, as stated earlier in this report, as we are conducting this review on the presumption of three-councillor wards, it was not possible to significantly reduce the geographical size of the existing ward without compromising significantly on electoral equality.

46 The second submission argued that the roads to the south of Purbrook Way between the Middle Park Way and Hulbert Road roundabouts were part of Bedhampton and, as such, should be in Bedhampton ward. This echoed the Conservatives' proposal to move the northern boundary of Bedhampton ward to Purbrook Way, and on our tour of the area we considered that this road provided a clear and identifiable boundary. We have therefore adopted this proposal.

47 The final submission referred to areas either side of West Street in Brockhampton. It argued that, while the area is currently split between Bedhampton and Havant St Faith's wards, it forms a coherent community. Again, this echoed the Conservatives' proposal and on our visit to the borough our assessment was that West Street was not a clearly defining barrier between communities. We have therefore amended the boundary between Bedhampton and Havant St Faith's wards to unite this area within the latter.

48 Additionally, we propose to remove the Langstone area from the existing St. Faith's ward to create a new Hayling West & Langstone ward. Further detail on this is provided in paragraph 60 below.

Leigh Park East and Leigh Park West

49 Given the presumption that the borough should have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards, substantial change was required in the Leigh Park area. Here, there are currently four two-councillor wards: Barncroft, Battins, Bondfields and Warren Park.

50 The Conservatives' proposal was to divide this area into two three-councillor wards, which they proposed should be provisionally named Leigh Park East and Leigh Park West, pending further consultation. We did not receive any particular comments on ward names for this area and, given that we are proposing significant amendments to the existing wards, we would welcome local input on whether these names are appropriate or whether more specific alternatives would be better.

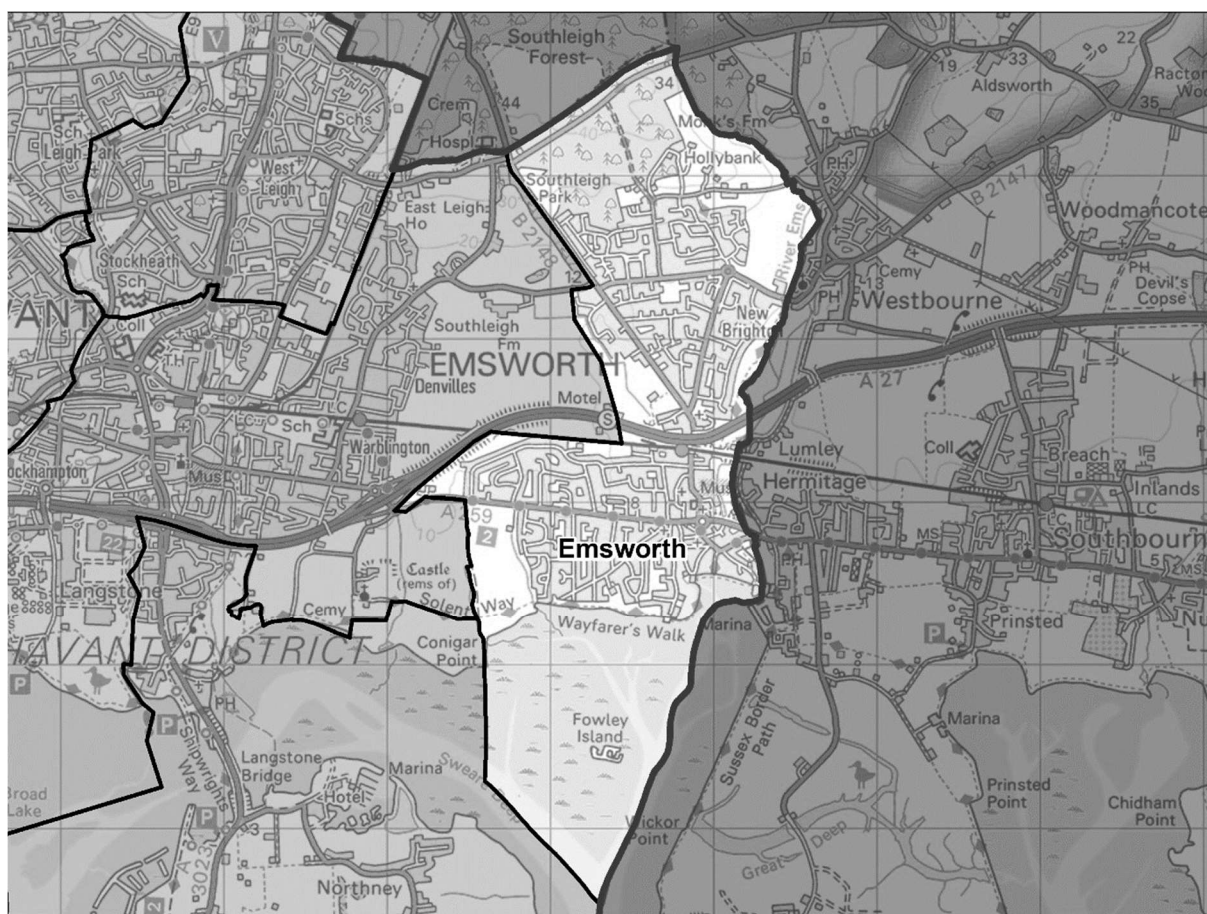
51 The Conservatives' proposal was that Bondfields and the majority of electors in Battins should form Leigh Park East ward, while the majority of Barncroft and Warren Park, as well as the northern part of Battins, should form Leigh Park West ward. As outlined in paragraph 46, the southern boundary of this new ward would move to Purbrook Way and the Hermitage Stream.

52 We received two other comments covering this area. A resident argued that the existing Barncroft, Battins and Warren Park wards should not be increased in size, as they have a high rate of deprivation and casework for councillors is more manageable in smaller wards. We were not persuaded that this, of itself, was sufficient evidence for us to move away from a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards.

53 The other respondent proposed retaining and expanding Bondfields ward to the south and creating two new three-councillor wards for the rest of the Leigh Park area. The submission argued in favour of a council size increase to 39 to accommodate this. We were not persuaded to adopt this proposal. Firstly, we are content that sufficient evidence has been received to justify a council size of 36 members. Secondly, we did not consider that this proposal had been adequately supported by evidence relating to community identities and interests.

54 We therefore propose to adopt the Conservatives' proposal for two new wards in the Leigh Park area. On the basis of our tour of Havant, however, we make some minor changes to the proposed wards. Instead of the whole of GA polling district forming part of Leigh Park West ward, we propose that the boundary between Leigh Park East and Leigh Park West continues along the Hermitage Stream, as we considered that this would avoid separating a coherent community around High Lawn Way. We also include Ditcham Crescent and the roads off it in Bedhampton ward rather than Leigh Park West, which allows for the continuation of Purbrook Way as a ward boundary.

Emsworth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Emsworth	3	7%

Emsworth

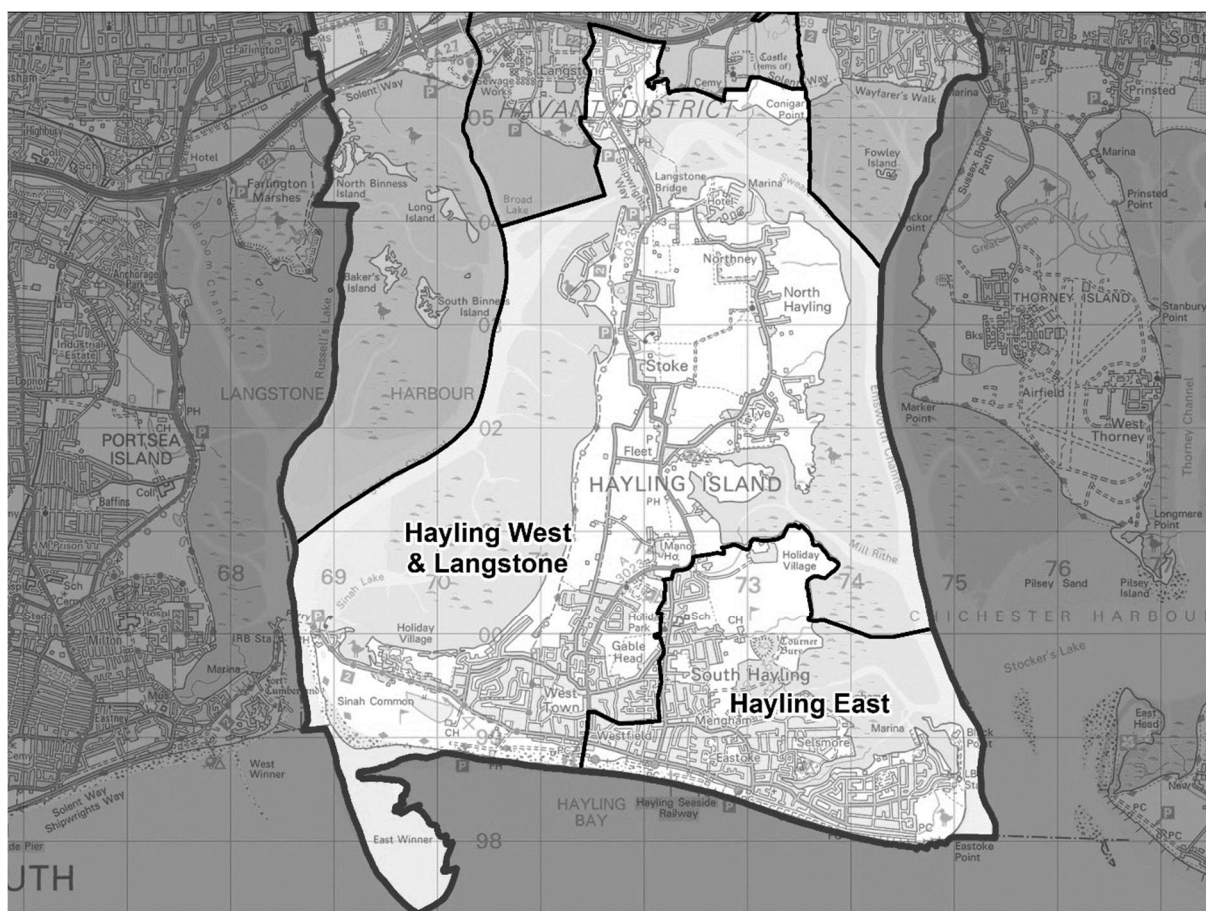
55 The Conservatives' proposal was for a minor amendment to Emsworth ward. They proposed extending its western boundary to the A27, to take in all of the Saxon Corner development for which construction started after the last electoral review. They also argued that consideration should be given to the South Leigh development and that the boundary should not run through this.

56 We received one other comment on Emsworth, which was from a resident supporting the proposed amendment around Saxon Corner.

57 On our tour of the area, we assessed that there was a clear distinction across the A27 between Emsworth and Havant. While we were more open to amending the boundary slightly further north, we are conscious of the comments received about the South Leigh Development and propose to place the ward boundary close to the edge of the current Emsworth built-up area, so that future development falls within Havant. We welcome comments on where residents of the area that lies between

Emsworth and Havant go for services and amenities, and their overall sense of community identity.

Hayling Island and Langstone



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Hayling East	3	-4%
Hayling West & Langstone	3	-5%

Hayling East and Hayling West & Langstone

58 The Conservatives proposed retaining the existing Hayling East and Hayling West wards which bisect the island, and which are forecast to have electoral variances of -9% and -10% respectively in 2027. They argued that the island is a separate and distinct community from the mainland, and that, while there were not significant differences between the east and west half of the island, the current split was preferable to an alternative one on a north-south basis. A resident supported maintaining the existing wards.

59 Two other comments were received regarding Hayling Island. One resident argued that Hayling needed its own ward. A single ward for the whole island would require a very large number of councillors, and the Commission does not generally consider that wards with more than three councillors promote effective and convenient local government. The final submission argued that six councillors for the island was too many and that it should either be represented by two councillors for

each half of the island or a single three-councillor ward for the island as a whole. However, these proposals would result in very high electoral variances. Furthermore, some of the options outlined would require a move away from a uniform pattern of three-member wards which is the basis of this review. We were therefore not persuaded to adopt these proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

60 As stated in paragraphs 35 and 36 of this report, to achieve the best balance of our statutory criteria, we propose putting the Langstone area into a ward with part of Hayling Island. We propose to do so on the basis of shared community interests, for example around Sweare Deep and transport on the A3203 main road to Hayling Island. This will allow for good electoral equality within a uniform pattern of three-member wards. Beyond this, we accept the premise of broadly maintaining the existing east-west split of Hayling, but propose some additional changes further south on Hayling Island.

61 We note that there is no direct transport link between communities in the northern and southern parts of the existing Hayling East ward. On our tour of the area, we noted that the north-east and north-west of the island appeared more similar and better connected to one another than the north-east and south-east. On this basis, we propose amending the existing Hayling East ward to remove the area north of Mill Rythe. In tandem, we propose amending the boundary to run behind the west side of Church Road/Elm Grove, which would unite the retail area here in one ward. The area bounded by Sea Grove Avenue, Hollow Lane and Beach Road would also transfer to Hayling East ward.

62 We consider that, on the basis of the evidence we received and our tour, this arrangement provides for the best balance of our statutory criteria. It provides for two wards with good electoral equality by 2027, unites areas with similar community interests, and enables effective and convenient local government.

63 We are aware that the creation of a ward including part of Hayling Island and part of the 'mainland' is a significant departure from the current arrangements, so would welcome comments on whether this arrangement is appropriate and meets our statutory criteria. We would also welcome alternative warding proposals that both reflect community identities and ensure good electoral equality.

64 We propose to name the wards Hayling West & Langstone and Hayling East. Again, we invite views on whether these names are reflective of the areas concerned.

Conclusions

65 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Havant, 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	36	36
Number of electoral wards	12	12
Average number of electors per councillor	2,696	2,796
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	1	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendations

Havant Borough Council should be made up of 36 councillors serving 12 wards representing 12 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 Havant Borough Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Havant on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say

66 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.

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

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

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

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

70 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Havant 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.

71 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.

72 Electoral equality:

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

73 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?

74 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?

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

76 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.

77 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.

78 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 Havant Borough Council in 2024.

Equalities

79 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 Havant Borough Council

	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	Bedhampton	3	8,127	2,709	0%	8,817	2,939	5%
2	Cowplain	3	7,942	2,647	-2%	8,035	2,678	-4%
3	Emsworth	3	8,357	2,786	3%	8,965	2,988	7%
4	Hart Plain	3	7,747	2,582	-4%	8,150	2,717	-3%
5	Havant St Faith's	3	8,448	2,816	4%	9,066	3,022	8%
6	Hayling East	3	8,092	2,697	0%	8,068	2,689	-4%
7	Hayling West & Langstone	3	7,439	2,480	-8%	7,953	2,651	-5%
8	Leigh Park East	3	8,880	2,960	10%	9,147	3,049	9%
9	Leigh Park West	3	8,994	2,998	11%	9,214	3,071	10%
10	Purbrook	3	7,618	2,539	-6%	7,910	2,637	-6%

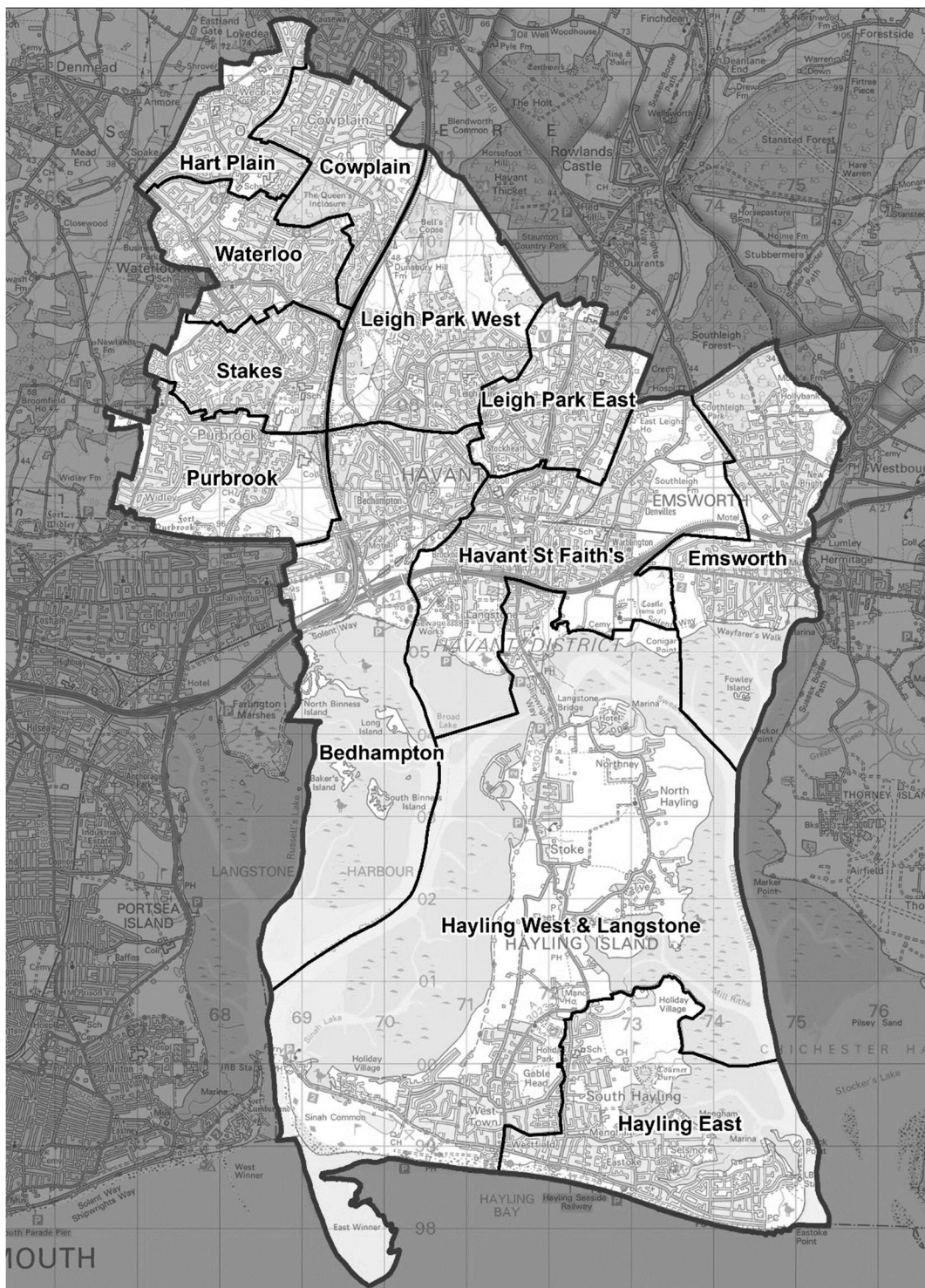
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Stakes	3	7,771	2,590	-4%	7,722	2,574	-8%
12 Waterloo	3	7,658	2,553	-5%	7,609	2,536	-9%
Totals	36	97,073	-	-	100,656	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,696	-	-	2,796	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Havant 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/south-east/hampshire/havant

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/hampshire/havant

Political Groups

- Havant Conservative Group

Local Residents

- 19 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.

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