

New electoral arrangements for Rushcliffe Borough Council Final 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 Rushcliffe?

7 We are conducting a review of Rushcliffe Council ('the Council') as 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 Rushcliffe 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 Rushcliffe

9 Rushcliffe should be represented by 44 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Rushcliffe should have 24 wards, one fewer than there are now.

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

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Rushcliffe.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the 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 take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 April 2021	Number of councillors decided
11 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
19 July 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
5 October 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
13 December 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming new recommendations
1 March 2022	Publication of further draft recommendations and start of consultation
29 March 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
31 May 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

	2020	2027
Electorate of Rushcliffe	90,558	107,013
Number of councillors	44	44
Average number of electors per councillor	2,058	2,432

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. Twenty-two of our 24 proposed wards for Rushcliffe are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 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 18% by 2027.

23 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 final recommendations.

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

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Number of councillors

24 Rushcliffe Council currently has 44 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 44 councillors – for example, 44 one-councillor wards, 22 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 We received no submissions specifically about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 44 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 35 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These did not include any borough-wide proposals, which we would normally expect from the Council or political groups. The submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

28 Our draft recommendations took into account local evidence that we received, which provided 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.

29 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a detailed ‘virtual’ tour of Rushcliffe. This tour of the area helped us to decide between the different boundaries we were considering.

30 Our draft recommendations were for seven three-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and five one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

31 We received 102 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments on the majority of our proposed wards from the Council, Nottinghamshire County Council (‘County Council’), Rushcliffe Conservative Association (‘Conservatives’) and the Rushcliffe Labour Party (‘Labour’). The West Bridgford Labour Party provided a submission which

duplicated the proposals of the Rushcliffe Labour Party with regard to the urban area of West Bridgford. This submission is not referred to separately in the body of this report.

32 The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in the Lady Bay area of West Bridgford.

33 In several areas across the borough, the Labour submission argued in favour of single-member wards, recognising that this would divide towns and villages between separate wards. While we recognised that the proposals generally offered good electoral equality, and Labour argued that they offered greater democratic accountability, we were generally not persuaded that they reflected separate community identities within the villages in question.

34 We note that the Council did not request a single-member ward review, where we would aim to deliver a uniform pattern of single-member wards across Rushcliffe. There is therefore no presumption in favour of single-member wards; if multi-member wards better fulfil our statutory criteria we will adopt them instead. In several cases we have not adopted the Labour proposal for single-member wards, as we were not persuaded that these would reflect community identity in particular, one of the statutory criterion.

35 Having carefully considered the submissions received, we decided to undertake a period of further consultation in the east of the borough. We considered that we had sufficient evidence in most other areas of the borough to propose a robust set of final recommendations.

36 In the east of the borough, we received several proposals for changes to our draft recommendations, with our proposed large two-councillor wards receiving relatively little support. We therefore decided to offer further draft proposals, and an additional period of consultation, in this area.

Further draft recommendations

37 In response to this further consultation, we received 27 submissions regarding the east of Rushcliffe. As a result, we are persuaded that our further draft recommendations reflect the best available balance of our statutory criteria, and we are including them as part of our final recommendations.

Final recommendations

38 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations and further draft recommendations, with modifications to the wards in the West

Bridgford area and the rural south-west and north-east of the borough based on the submissions received. The final recommendations derive from our initial proposals, modified by further evidence received across two further consultations.

39 Our final recommendations are for six three-councillor wards, eight two-councillor wards and 10 one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

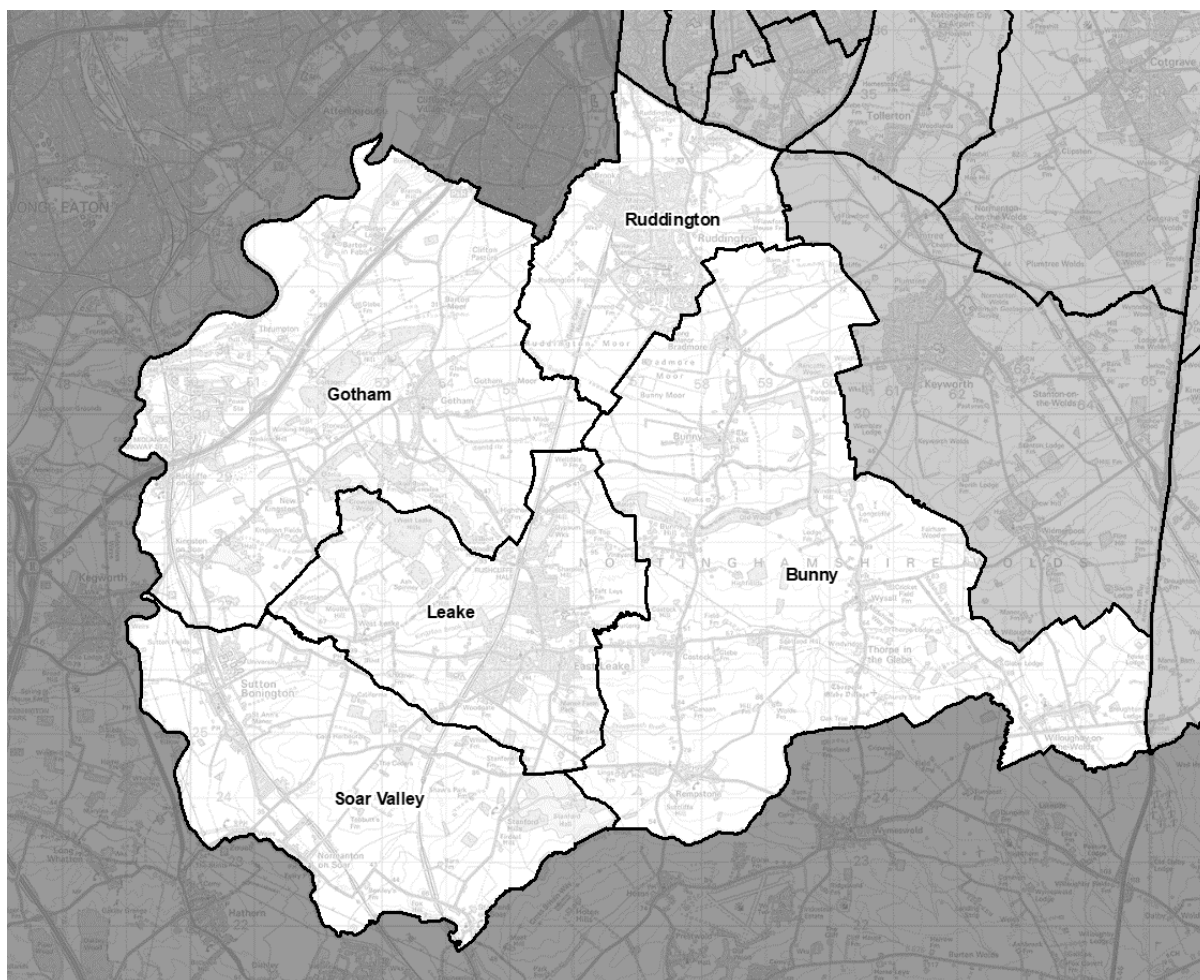
40 The tables and maps on pages 9–28 detail our final recommendations for each area of Rushcliffe. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

41 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 37 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

South-Western Rushcliffe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bunny	1	7%
Gotham	2	-12%
Leake	3	4%
Ruddington	3	-3%
Soar Valley	1	-12%

Bunny

42 We received a number of proposals for modifying the Bunny ward that we outlined in our draft recommendations. The Council and Conservative submissions suggested that Plumtree parish had few links with Bunny and preferred it to be linked with either Tollerton or Keyworth parishes, citing Plumtree residents using health, education and shopping facilities within Keyworth. In contrast, the County Council submission supported our proposed Bunny ward, noting that it comprised small parishes that sit well together.

43 We are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, and place Plumtree parish in a ward with Keyworth, based on the evidence of community identity provided by the Council. As noted below (paragraphs 54–7), it is not possible to include neighbouring parishes within our proposed Tollerton ward while retaining good electoral equality. We have therefore adopted the Labour proposals to add Plumtree to a Keyworth-based ward, while noting that we have not adopted the Labour proposal to split Keyworth into separate wards (see paragraph 60).

44 Labour proposed moving Rempstone parish into a Soar Valley ward, in order to improve electoral equality. We considered this carefully but were mindful of evidence from our initial consultation that Rempstone shares community links with Costock and Bunny. The Labour proposal did not provide strong evidence of community identity between Rempstone and Sutton Bonington, and we have not been persuaded to adopt this proposal.

45 The Council and Labour submissions noted that Willoughby-on-the-Wolds parish is somewhat separate from Keyworth and might share a better community identity with the other similarly sized villages in Bunny ward. We have adopted this proposal, which also facilitates placing Plumtree parish within Keyworth & Wolds ward while retaining good electoral equality.

Gotham and Soar Valley

46 Our draft recommendations proposed a single-member ward consisting of Barton-in-Fabis parish, and a two-member Soar Valley ward stretching from Gotham to Stanford on Soar parishes. This latter ward was not forecast to have good electoral equality, with 14% fewer electors per councillor than average. We created this proposal ourselves, as we received no full proposals for this area in our initial consultation on warding patterns. We proposed a ward with poor electoral equality in order to facilitate better community identity for neighbouring wards.

47 With the exception of Normanton on Soar Parish Council, we received little support for our draft recommendation. Responses focused on the relatively large two-member ward, as well as opposition to the fact that the majority of the electorate of our proposed Barton-in-Fabis ward would be in a new development, named Fairham. While we accept that the community identity of the Fairham development is likely to be somewhat different from the small rural villages in this area, the development is forecast to be occupied by roughly 1,900 Rushcliffe electors within the forecast period for this review and we must include them in whatever warding pattern we propose. Given we received wide-ranging support for our proposed Ruddington ward, there is no alternative location for the Fairham development than a ward including the remainder of Barton-in-Fabis parish.

48 We received a joint proposal from Barton-in-Fabis, Gotham, Kingston on Soar, Ratcliffe on Soar, Sutton Bonington, Stanford on Soar and Thrumpton

parish councils and meetings. They proposed retaining the existing Gotham ward, comprising Barton-in-Fabis, Thrumpton, Gotham, Ratcliffe on Soar and Kingston on Soar parishes as a two-member ward; the remainder of our proposed Soar Valley ward, comprising Sutton Bonington, Normanton on Soar and Stanford on Soar parishes, would be a single-councillor ward. This proposal was supported by the Conservatives, the Council and the County Council.

49 Labour proposed the same Gotham ward, but a different Soar Valley ward, including Rempstone parish. As discussed above (paragraph 44), we have not adopted this proposal.

50 We note that the combined proposal for Gotham and Soar Valley wards does not offer good electoral equality, with both wards having a variance of -12%. However, given the paucity of alternatives in this area, and the widespread support for the alternative proposal, we are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, and adopt the joint proposal of the parishes. We considered improving the equality of one of the wards with the addition of West Leake parish but believe that, in light of the strong evidence that West Leake shares a community identity with East Leake, it is better to accept poorer electoral equality in this area than to compromise community identity.

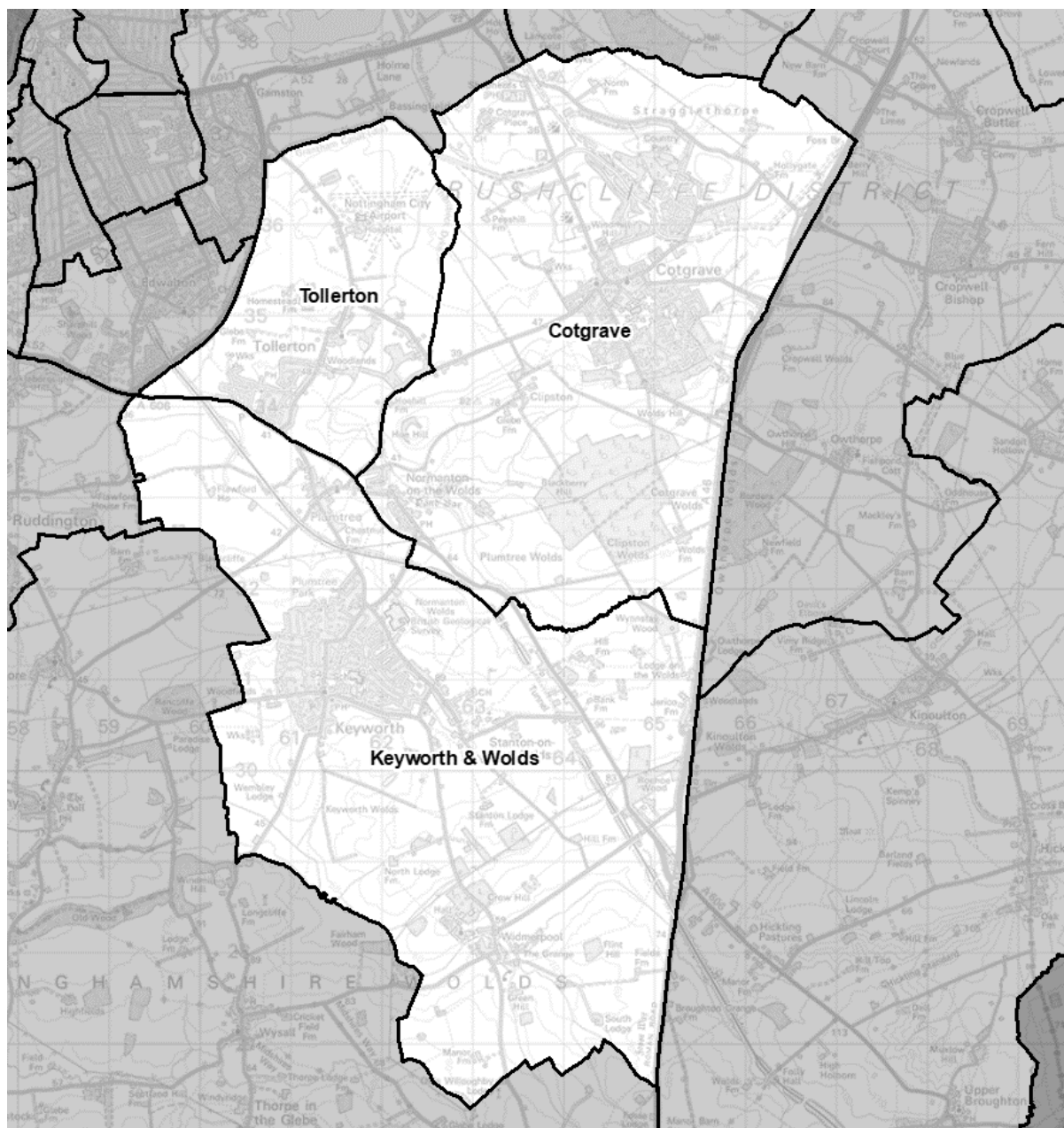
Leake and Ruddington

51 The Conservatives and both the Council and County Council supported our draft recommendations for these wards. Cllrs Shaw, Thomas and Way and East Leake Parish Council also supported our proposals for Leake ward.

52 The Labour submission proposed dividing our draft Leake ward into a single-member and two-member ward based on modified parish ward boundaries. No evidence was provided as to whether this would reflect the identity of separate communities within the village of East Leake. Accordingly, we were not persuaded to adopt this proposal, and instead confirm our draft recommendation for this ward as final.

53 No alternative proposals were received for Ruddington ward, and our draft recommendations were supported by Labour, Conservatives, the Council and County Council and Ruddington Parish Council. We therefore confirm these recommendations as final.

Central Rushcliffe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Cotgrave	3	0%
Keyworth & Wolds	3	6%
Tollerton	1	8%

Cotgrave and Tollerton

54 Our draft recommendations proposed Tollerton parish as a single-member ward, reflecting the significant development forecast in this area to 2027. Tollerton Parish Council noted that, in the longer term, a large number of new houses on the 'Gamston Fields' site will fall within Tollerton parish if this development is

approved. We contacted the Council with regard to this suggestion. It was confirmed that this development falls outside the five-year forecast horizon of this review and we were not persuaded to adopt a proposal on the basis of development beyond 2027.

55 Given that our proposed Tollerton ward has relatively high variance of 8% more electors than average, it is not possible to include any neighbouring parishes within this ward while retaining good electoral equality. The Council and Labour noted that Clipston and Normanton on the Wolds parishes had links to Tollerton, and that an ideal reflection of community identity would place these parishes together in a single ward. However, such a ward would have 20% more electors than average – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality – and we were not persuaded to adopt this proposal.

56 The County Council accepted that our proposal was logical and noted that placing Normanton on the Wolds and Clipston parishes in a ward with Cotgrave reflected the electoral division in this area. The Conservatives also broadly supported our proposals, while noting that we should consider placing Plumtree parish with Tollerton. Doing so would again take Tollerton ward well beyond good electoral equality with a variance of 17%, and hence we have not adopted this proposal.

57 Labour, supported by Cllr K. Chewings of Cotgrave Parish Council, proposed various options for dividing the town of Cotgrave into three single-member wards. All of these options involved placing Clipston and Normanton on the Wolds parishes within Nevile & Langar ward, forming a detached portion of a ward. While there is no statutory bar to us proposing non-contiguous, or detached wards, we do so only under exceptional circumstances, which we do not consider exist in this case. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

58 We consider that our proposals in this area offer the best available balance of our statutory criteria, reflecting community identity as far as is possible while retaining good electoral equality. We have not been persuaded to alter our draft recommendations in this area, and we confirm them as final.

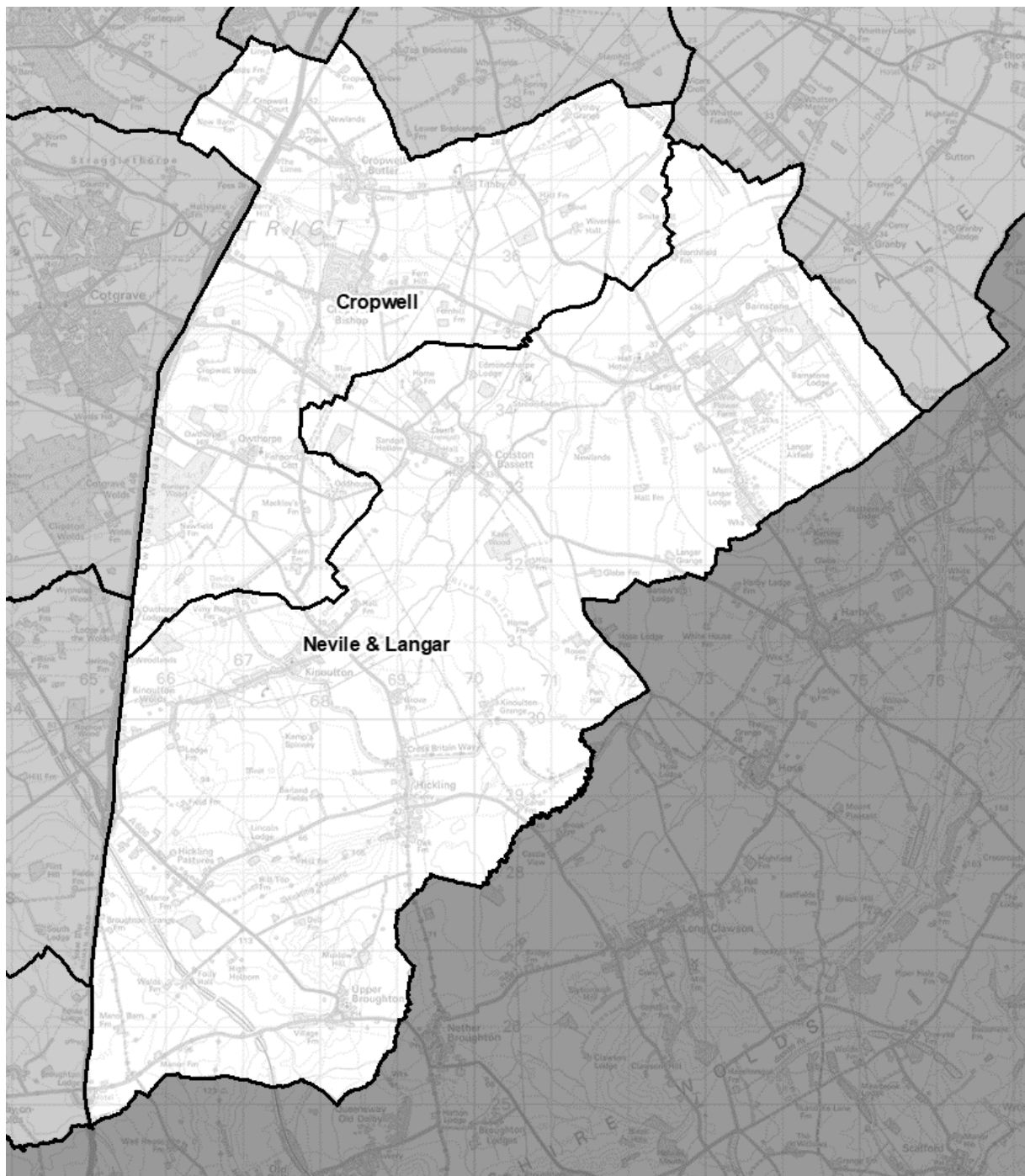
Keyworth & Wolds

59 As discussed previously (paragraphs 42–3), we propose to alter our draft recommendations for this ward, with Plumtree parish being added to this ward, and Willoughby on the Wolds being added to Bunny ward. This improves the electoral equality of Keyworth & Wolds ward from 10% to 6% variance, as well as reflecting the evidence of community identity provided.

60 Labour, and a resident, proposed splitting Keyworth into three single-member wards, based largely on the existing polling districts within the town. No

evidence was provided as to whether these proposed single-member wards would reflect divisions of community identity within Keyworth, and we have not adopted these proposals. We confirm these recommendations for Keyworth & Wolds as final.

South-Eastern Rushcliffe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Cropwell	1	-7%
Nevile & Langar	1	10%

Nevile & Langar

61 Our initial draft recommendations proposed retaining the existing Nevile & Langar ward comprising Upper Broughton, Hickling, Kinoulton, Overthorpe and

Colston Bassett parishes, plus the western portion of Langar cum Barnstone. The Conservative, Council and County Council submissions proposed moving the north-eastern boundary of this ward to bring the entirety of Langar cum Barnstone parish within a single ward.

62 Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council expressed dissatisfaction that our initial draft recommendations continued to split a small number of dwellings within Barnstone village in the east of Langer cum Barnstone parish from their neighbours within the same parish. We considered making a minor adjustment in our initial draft recommendations, in order to bring all of Barnstone village within a single ward. As the boundary in question is also a county division boundary, any minor adjustment would require the creation of a parish ward with a very small number of electors, in a way which would not facilitate effective and convenient local government.

63 However, as part of our further draft recommendations, we adopted the proposal of the Council and the Conservatives to unify Langar cum Barnstone parish within Nevile & Langar ward. This also addressed the concerns of the parish council in this regard. In order to retain good electoral equality, we proposed moving Owthorpe parish into our revised Cropwell ward. This means that our revised Nevile & Langar ward will not have complete internal access by road, as it will not be possible to travel from Upper Broughton to Langar without leaving the ward. However, we do not consider that the journey will be significantly harder, or that this will make it more difficult to represent the ward effectively, and we proposed this as part of our further draft recommendations. Our proposed Nevile & Langar ward comprises the parishes of Upper Broughton, Hickling, Kinoulton, Colston Bassett and Langar cum Barnstone.

64 Responses to the consultation on the further draft recommendations welcomed the unification of Langar cum Barnstone parish, with both the Council and the parish council supporting this proposal. With regard to Owthorpe, Cllr G. Moore suggested that this parish should be placed back into Nevile & Langar ward; while the Council and Cllr S. Bailey supported Owthorpe being placed in Cropwell ward, with Cllr Bailey providing evidence that residents used facilities in Cropwell Bishop.

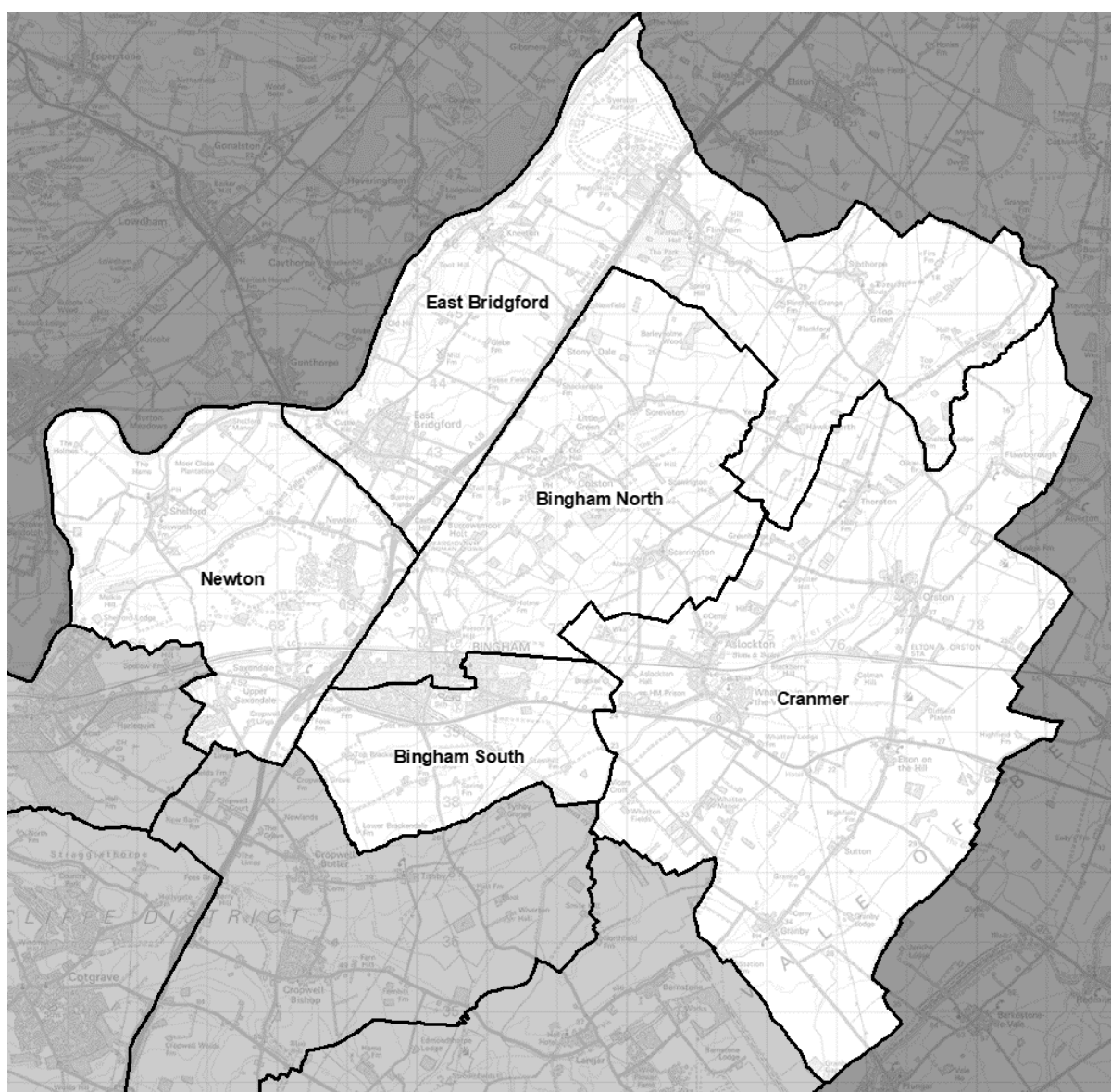
65 We considered reverting Owthorpe to Nevile & Langar ward, but in the absence of any consequential changes, this would leave both wards with poor electoral equality, with Nevile & Langar having a 14% variance and Cropwell - 11%. We do not consider that this departure from electoral equality is justified, and therefore propose to retain Owthorpe in Cropwell ward.

66 In addition to adding Owthorpe parish to Cropwell ward, as part of our further draft recommendations we proposed moving the northern boundary of Cropwell

ward southwards, allowing the entire Upper Saxondale area to be placed in Newton ward. We also proposed to separate Cropwell and Cranmer in contrast to our initial draft recommendations, which combined Cropwell with Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale. Our proposed Cropwell ward includes the parishes of Owthorpe, Cropwell Bishop, Tithby, Wiverton Hall and the southern section of Cropwell Butler parish.

67 Cllr G. Moore and the Upper Saxondale Residents' Association suggested that, although their priority was to see the Upper Saxondale area united within a single ward, they considered that the community links of this area to Cropwell were stronger than those to Newton. As discussed below (paragraphs 80–3), we are not persuaded to make this change to our further draft recommendations, and confirm our further draft recommendations for Nevile & Langar and Cropwell wards as final.

North-Eastern Rushcliffe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bingham North	2	3%
Bingham South	2	-2%
Cranmer	1	10%
East Bridgford	1	9%
Newton	1	-6%

68 Our initial draft recommendations were for two two-member wards to represent only Bingham parish, and two two-member wards covering the rural areas to the north and south of the town. We received little support for these rural two-member wards. The Labour proposal did not comment on them, but the other submissions offering comprehensive comments argued that the proposed wards were too geographically large to be easily represented. We accepted this evidence and proposed further draft recommendations with single-member wards

of East Bridgford and Cranmer. In order to allow these wards to have acceptable electoral equality, we proposed placing the parishes of Car Colston, Scarrington and Screveton in Bingham North ward and invited views on these revised arrangements.

Bingham North and Bingham South

69 As part of our further draft recommendations we proposed to expand Bingham North ward, to include Car Colston, Scarrington and Screveton parishes, in order to facilitate good electoral equality and effective and convenient local government for a number of neighbouring wards. We proposed this to test the proposals and elicit local views on whether this offered the best balance of our statutory criteria.

70 With regard to the internal split of Bingham, we received mixed evidence. Cllr F. Purdue-Horan supported our further draft recommendations, as did the Council. Cllr T. Wallace requested that we maintain the existing east–west split of Bingham, while a resident suggested that ‘Bingham should be Bingham’, and not split.

71 With or without any additional areas being included, Bingham has an appropriate size of electorate to be represented by four councillors with good electoral equality. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not recommend wards of four or more councillors, as we consider that this dilutes democratic accountability. A split of some description for Bingham is therefore required.

72 As outlined at previous stages of the review, we consider that a north–south split of Bingham, allowing the new developments to the north of the existing town to be placed together in a single ward, offers the best balance of our statutory criteria.

73 As part of our further draft recommendations, we proposed adding Car Colston, Screveton and Scarrington parishes to our Bingham North ward, in order to allow good electoral equality for neighbouring wards. This proposal was supported by the Council and Cllrs Purdue-Horan and Bailey.

74 Whatton-in-the-Vale and Aslockton parish councils provided a joint submission broadly supporting our further draft recommendations, but suggesting that, if possible, including Scarrington parish within Cranmer ward would offer a better reflection of community identity. This proposal was also made by Scarrington Parish Meeting, and a number of residents. No proposals were made with regard to Car Colston or Screveton parishes.

75 We carefully considered all the submissions received. Merely adding Scarrington parish to our proposed Cranmer ward would result in a variance of 16% – significantly beyond the bounds of good electoral equality. This could be mitigated somewhat by moving Thoroton parish into East Bridgford ward, which would result in the revised East Bridgford and Cranmer wards having a 13% and 11% variance, respectively. We received no evidence suggesting that Thoroton should move into East Bridgford, meaning this change would be purely consequential.

76 While accepting that purely in terms of community identity it may be preferable to include Scarrington in a Cranmer ward, we do not consider that this justifies a major departure from the principle of electoral equality, particularly where a plausible and supported alternative exists. We consider that our further draft recommendations offer the best balance of our statutory criteria, and confirm our further draft recommendations for Bingham North and Bingham South as final.

Cranmer and East Bridgford

77 The Council welcomed our proposed single-member wards for East Bridgford and Cranmer as outlined in our further draft recommendations, noting that our original proposals were for two geographically large wards that might be difficult to represent effectively.

78 Whatton-in-the-Vale and Aslockton parish councils broadly supported our further draft recommendations, noting that our proposed Cranmer and East Bridgford wards were at the limits of good electoral equality. They suggested that in order to accommodate Scarrington, Colston Basset parish could be moved into Cropwell ward, and Granby-cum-Sutton parish into Nevile & Langar ward. However, as Colston Basset parish extends to the external boundary of Rushcliffe Borough, this would mean that Nevile & Langar ward would be split into two disconnected sections – a situation which we do not consider is compatible with effective and convenient local government. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

79 Other than the proposals to move Scarrington parish into Cranmer ward (discussed in more detail at paragraphs 72–6), we received no other proposals for alterations to our draft recommendations for Cranmer and East Bridgford wards, and we therefore confirm them as final.

Newton

80 Our further draft recommendations placed the area of Upper Saxondale within Newton ward. This proposal was supported by Cllr S. Bailey, who noted that this proposal removed the need to drive through Radcliffe on Trent to access the remainder of this ward.

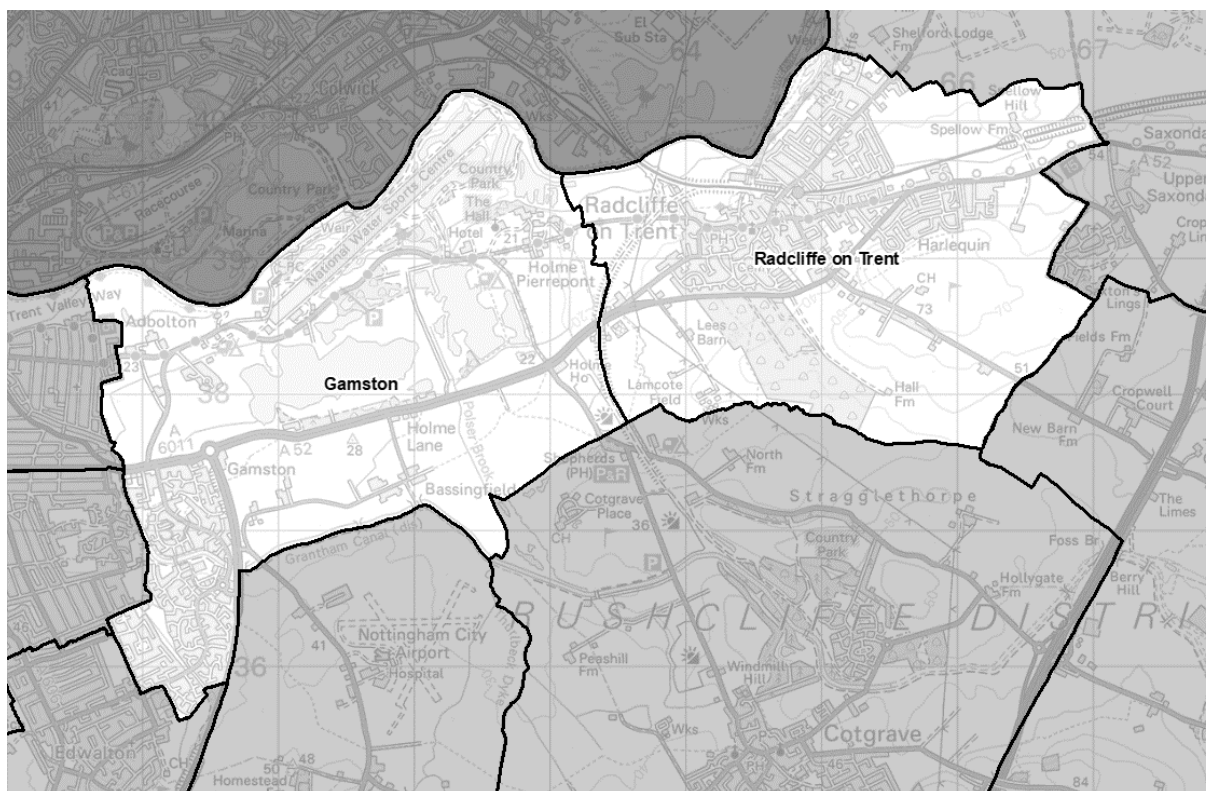
81 Cllr G. Moore, and the Upper Saxondale Residents' Association, welcomed the continued proposal to keep the entire Upper Saxondale area (covering portions of Radcliffe on Trent and Cropwell Butler parishes) together in a single ward. They noted, however, that community links between Upper Saxondale and Cropwell were stronger than those between Upper Saxondale and the remainder of Newton ward, with the A52 cited as a barrier.

82 The Council reported that some members supported the grouping of Upper Saxondale with Newton, but others were concerned about the lack of links between these areas.

83 We have carefully considered all the submissions received. While we note the evidence that Upper Saxondale has stronger community links with Cropwell than with Newton, we do not consider that making a change would offer the best balance of our statutory criteria. In the absence of any further changes, moving the Upper Saxondale area into Cropwell ward would leave this ward with 22% more electors per councillor than average, while the remainder of Newton ward would be forecast to have 35% fewer electors than average. We do not consider a deviation from electoral of this magnitude is acceptable. We note that, particularly in the case of Newton given the constraints of the external boundary, there are no plausible options for making further consequential changes to the ward in order to achieve electoral equality.

84 We are not persuaded to alter our further draft recommendations for Newton ward, and we confirm them as final.

Northern Rushcliffe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Gamston	2	-1%
Radcliffe on Trent	3	2%

Gamston

85 We received broad support for our proposed Gamston ward as set out in our draft recommendations. The Council suggested that the Adbolton parish ward of Holme Pierrepont parish in the existing Lady Bay ward could be added to our proposed Gamston ward, while some residents and councillors arguing for the retention of a Lady Bay ward suggested that that ward should expand further into Holme Pierrepont parish. Both of these suggestions are discussed in more detail at paragraphs 91–2.

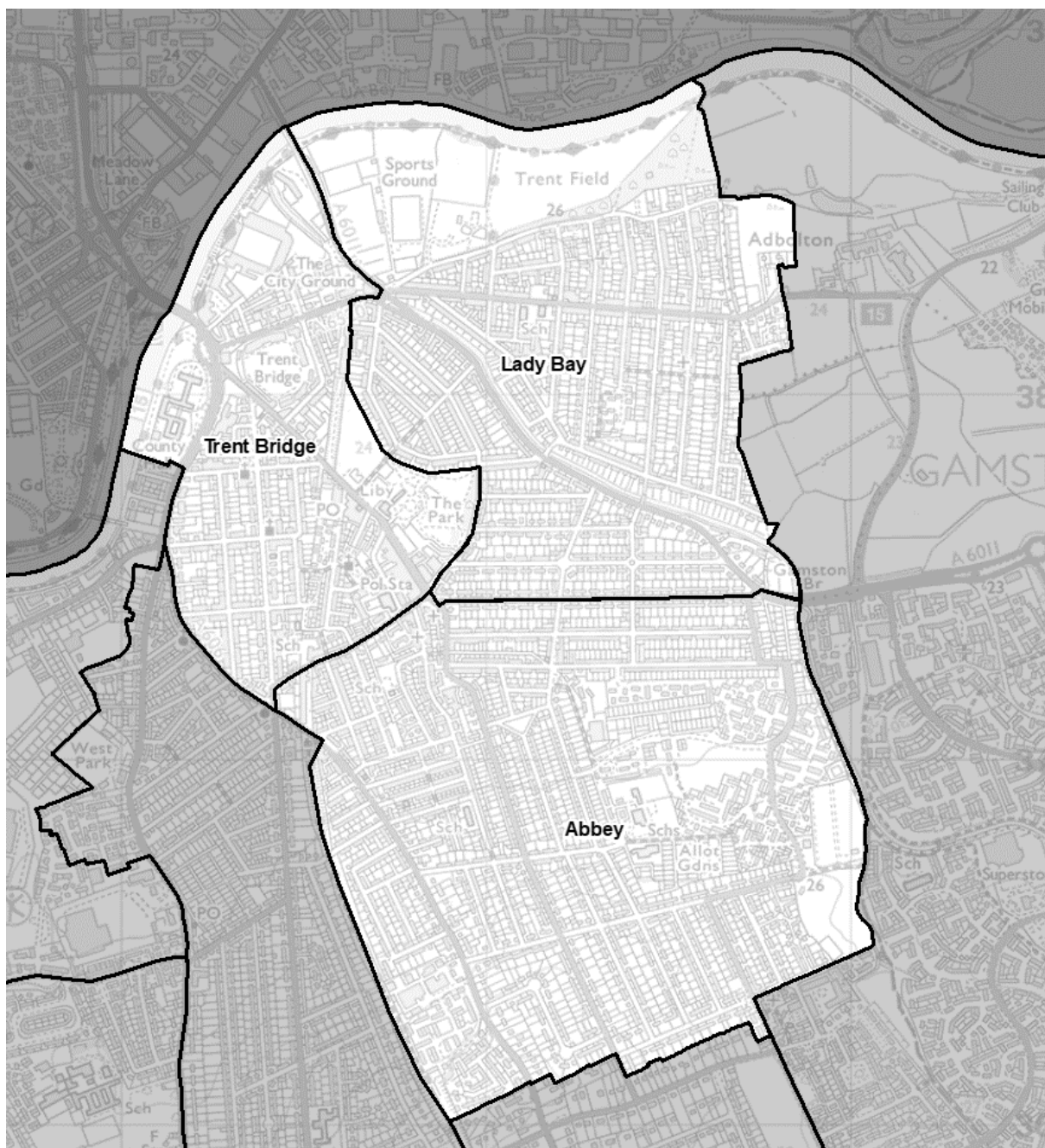
86 The Conservatives accepted the proposal to have a single two-councillor Gamston ward, as opposed to the existing Gamston North and South wards. They suggested that a boundary along the former Grantham Canal would be a natural boundary. We considered this proposal, but a boundary along the canal would not offer good equality in the absence of other changes: Gamston ward would have 16% fewer electors per councillor than average, and Edwalton ward 13% more electors than average.

87 Labour proposed retaining the existing two single-member wards but did not offer evidence as to how this met criteria other than electoral equality. We have therefore not adopted this proposal and confirm our draft recommendations for Gamston as final.

Radcliffe on Trent

88 The Council, the County Council and the Conservatives supported our proposed Radcliffe on Trent ward as set out in our draft recommendations. The Labour submission proposed splitting this ward into three single-member wards based around the existing parish warding arrangements but did not provide evidence as to whether this would reflect separate community identities within the village. As discussed previously, in the absence of a request from the Council for all wards across the authority to be single-member, there is no presumption in favour of single-member wards. We have therefore not adopted the Labour proposal and confirm our draft recommendations for Radcliffe on Trent as final.

North-Eastern West Bridgford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Abbey	3	-8%
Lady Bay	2	1%
Trent Bridge	1	8%

Abbey and Lady Bay

89 We received little support for our plan set out in our draft recommendations to merge Trent Bridge and Lady Bay wards, under the name of the former. Both Councils and the Labour and Conservative submissions proposed retaining a

Lady Bay ward, as did Cllrs R. and S. Mallender and P. Gowland, and the Lady Bay Community Organisation. Several residents also provided evidence of Lady Bay as a separate community.

90 The evidence provided suggested that the boundary of the area universally recognised as Lady Bay was the A6011 Radcliffe Road. The existing Lady Bay ward extends beyond this area, and further expansion is necessary for Lady Bay to retain good electoral equality as a two-councillor ward. We considered proposing a single-member Lady Bay ward comprising just the area north of the A6011, but this would have a variance of 25% more electors than average, again significantly beyond the limits of good electoral equality.

91 The Council proposed limiting the eastern boundary of Lady Bay ward to the edge of the unparished area, which runs along Adbolton Grove. We considered this but concluded that electors living on the eastern side of Adbolton Grove, and those on Moore Close, appear to be part of the Lady Bay community, and that this boundary would not reflect their community identity. We do not have the power to alter parish boundaries as part of this review – this would have to be done through a Community Governance Review undertaken by Rushcliffe Council.

92 Cllrs R. Mallender and S. Mallender, and two residents, suggested that if it were necessary to expand Lady Bay ward, this could be done to the east, taking in Adbolton village and the National Water Sports Centre. However, even if the ward were expanded to take in the entirety of Holme Pierrepont parish, this would not bring in a sufficient number of electors to offer good electoral equality, at a -12% variance, and would split the area covered by the joint parish council of Gamston and Holme Pierrepont. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

93 Labour proposed expanding Lady Bay ward to the south, as far as Davies Road, a boundary which was also suggested by the Conservatives. The Labour submission also suggested extending the western boundary of Abbey ward to the site of the former railway line, arguing that residents to the east of this line had more in common with the remainder of Abbey than with Musters ward. This proposal was supported by the County Council and Cllr P. Gowland. We consider that this proposal offers reasonably strong boundaries, as well as good electoral equality, and we have adopted it as part of our final recommendations.

Trent Bridge

94 The proposals that we received for Trent Bridge ward were closely linked to those for Lady Bay, rather than arguing for a particular ward in its own right. We continue to consider that Rectory Road makes for a strong southern boundary for Trent Bridge ward, and we propose to retain this as part of our final recommendations.

95 With Lady Bay becoming a separate ward, the remainder of our proposed Trent Bridge ward would be slightly too large to offer good electoral equality (11% more electors than average). We propose to improve this by adjusting the boundary with Compton Acres ward and moving electors on Sandringham Avenue and Balmoral Avenue into Compton Acres. This allows Trent Bridge to have good electoral equality as a single-member ward, while also offering a clear and recognisable boundary.

South-Western West Bridgford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Compton Acres	2	1%
Edwalton	2	-2%
Lutterell	1	6%
Musters	2	-8%

Compton Acres and Lutterell

96 The Council supported our proposed Compton Acres ward as set out in our draft recommendations. The Conservatives suggested that Compton Acres and Lutterell could be merged to form a three-member ward, while Labour suggested that Compton Acres should be split into two single-member wards based on polling district boundaries.

97 We considered both proposals for change carefully and viewed the potential boundaries. Although the two wards proposed by Labour would have good electoral equality, we do not consider that there is sufficient evidence of differing community identities on either side of the proposed boundary at Rugby Road to justify splitting these areas between wards. Equally, we are not persuaded that it would be a reflection of community identity to subsume Lutterell completely within Compton Acres ward. With the exception of the minor change to the northern boundary of Compton Acres discussed above (paragraph 95), we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, and we confirm them as final.

Edwalton and Musters

98 We propose to amend our draft recommendations to move the eastern boundary of Musters ward to the former railway line, as discussed above (paragraph 93). Apart from this, we received no concrete proposals for changes to this ward, which was supported by both Councils offering comments. Subject to the change mentioned above, we confirm these recommendations as final.

99 The Conservatives and both Councils supported our proposed Edwalton ward. The Labour submission argued for separate single-member wards covering the older Edwalton village area, and the newer developments based around Sharphill. The Council noted that our proposed arrangement, while appropriate for the purposes of this review, might need to change in future as the identity of the newly developed areas become established.

100 We are not persuaded to change our draft recommendations for Edwalton and confirm them as final.

Conclusions

101 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Rushcliffe, referencing the 2020 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

	Final recommendations	
	2020	2027
Number of councillors	44	44
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	2,058	2,432
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	14	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	7	0

Final recommendations

Rushcliffe Borough Council should be made up of 44 councillors serving 24 wards representing 10 single-councillor wards, eight two-councillor wards and six 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 Rushcliffe. You can also view our final recommendations for Rushcliffe on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

102 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.

103 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, Rushcliffe Borough 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.

104 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 Bingham, Cropwell Butler and Radcliffe on Trent parishes.

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

Final recommendations

Bingham Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bingham Northeast	2
Bingham Northwest	5
Bingham Southeast	5
Bingham Southwest	2

106 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Cropwell Butler parish.

Final recommendations

Cropwell Butler Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Upper Saxondale	2
Village	5

107 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Radcliffe on Trent parish.

Final recommendations

Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Manvers	8
Saxondale	1
Trent	9

What happens next?

108 We have now completed our review of Rushcliffe. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2023.

Equalities

109 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.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Rushcliffe

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Abbey	3	6,238	2,079	1%	6,687	2,229	-8%
2	Bingham North	2	3,503	1,752	-15%	4,992	2,496	3%
3	Bingham South	2	4,430	2,215	8%	4,745	2,373	-2%
4	Bunny	1	2,491	2,491	21%	2,612	2,612	7%
5	Compton Acres	2	4,556	2,278	11%	4,914	2,457	1%
6	Cotgrave	3	6,520	2,173	6%	7,329	2,443	0%
7	Cranmer	1	2,578	2,578	25%	2,670	2,670	10%
8	Cropwell	1	2,012	2,012	-2%	2,260	2,260	-7%
9	East Bridgford	1	2,302	2,302	12%	2,645	2,645	9%
10	Edwalton	2	3,209	1,605	-22%	4,774	2,387	-2%
11	Gamston	2	4,598	2,299	12%	4,836	2,418	-1%
12	Gotham	2	2,022	1,011	-51%	4,295	2,148	-12%
13	Keyworth & Wolds	3	6,296	2,099	2%	7,739	2,580	6%
14	Lady Bay	2	4,804	2,402	17%	4,931	2,466	1%

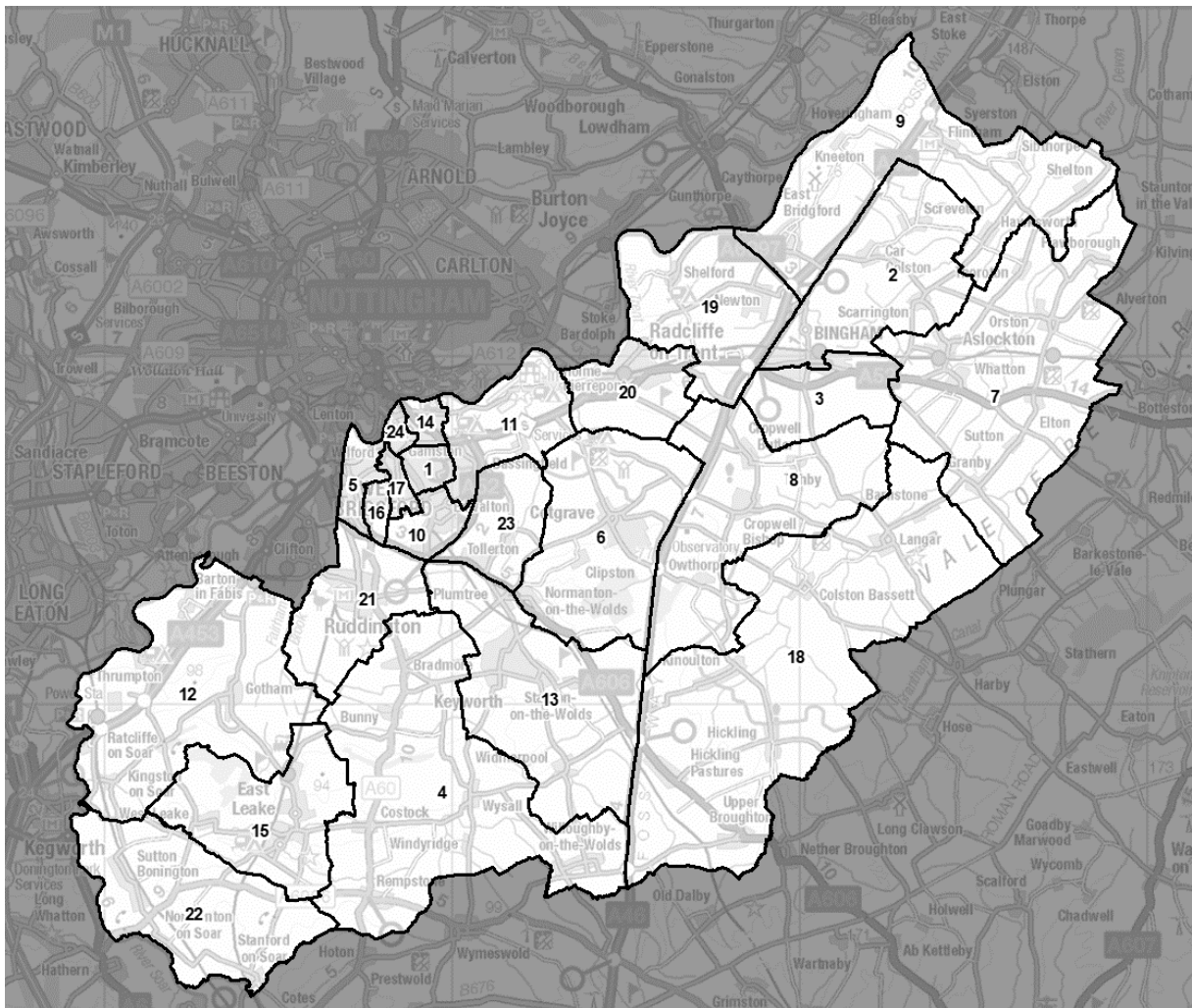
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
15 Leake	3	6,473	2,158	5%	7,611	2,537	4%
16 Lutterell	1	2,466	2,466	20%	2,567	2,567	6%
17 Musters	2	4,284	2,142	4%	4,461	2,231	-8%
18 Nevile & Langar	1	2,522	2,522	23%	2,678	2,678	10%
19 Newton	1	1,495	1,495	-27%	2,278	2,278	-6%
20 Radcliffe on Trent	3	6,005	2,002	-3%	7,471	2,490	2%
21 Ruddington	3	5,848	1,949	-5%	7,100	2,367	-3%
22 Soar Valley	1	1,930	1,930	-6%	2,150	2,150	-12%
23 Tollerton	1	1,550	1,550	-25%	2,636	2,636	8%
24 Trent Bridge	1	2,426	2,426	18%	2,632	2,632	8%
Totals	44	90,558	-	-	107,013	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,058	-	-	2,432	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Rushcliffe 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



Number	Ward name
1	Abbey
2	Bingham North
3	Bingham South
4	Bunny
5	Compton Acres
6	Cotgrave
7	Cranmer
8	Cropwell
9	East Bridgford
10	Edwalton
11	Gamston
12	Gotham
13	Keyworth & Wolds
14	Lady Bay

15	Leake
16	Luttrell
17	Musters
18	Nevile & Langar
19	Newton
20	Radcliffe on Trent
21	Ruddington
22	Soar Valley
23	Tollerton
24	Trent Bridge

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/east-midlands/nottinghamshire/rushcliffe

Appendix C

Submissions received in response to our draft recommendations

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/east-midlands/rushcliffe

Local Authorities

- Nottinghamshire County Council

Rushcliffe Borough Council

Political Groups

- Rushcliffe Conservative Association
- Rushcliffe Labour Party
- West Bridgford Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor B. Bansal
- Councillor K. Chewings
- Councillor P. Gowland (two submissions)
- Councillors R. Mallender & S. Mallender
- Councillor F. Purdue-Horan
- Councillors K. Shaw, C. Thomas & L. Way
- Councillor R. Walker

Local Organisations

- Lady Bay Community Association

Parish & Town Councils

- Aslockton Parish Council
- Barton in Fabis Parish Council (two submissions)
- East Bridgford Parish Council
- East Leake Parish Council
- Gotham Parish Council
- Kingston on Soar Parish Council
- Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council
- Normanton on Soar Parish Council

- Ratcliffe on Soar Parish Council
- Ruddington Parish Council
- Saxondale Parish Meeting
- Stanford on Soar Parish Council
- Sutton Bonington Parish Council
- Thrumpton Parish Meeting
- Tollerton Parish Council
- Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council

Local Residents

- 71 local residents

Submissions received in response to our further draft recommendations

Local Authorities

- Rushcliffe Borough Council

Councillors

- Councillor S. Bailey
- Councillor G. Moore
- Councillor F. Purdue-Horan
- Councillor T. Wallace

Local Organisations

- Upper Saxondale Residents' Association

Parish & Town Councils

- Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council
- Saxondale Parish Meeting
- Scarrington Parish Meeting
- Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council

Local Residents

- 17 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority.
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

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

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