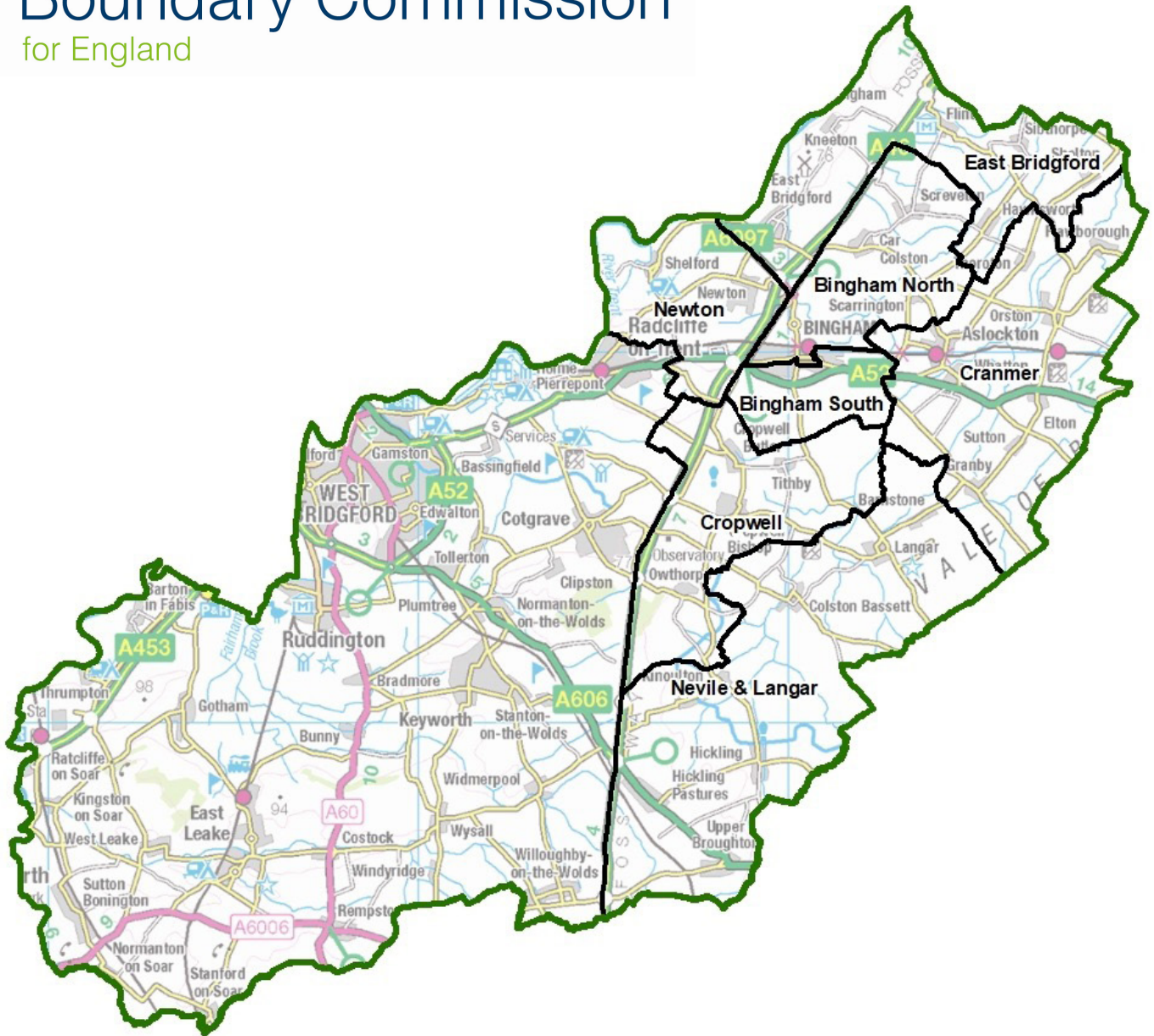


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Rushcliffe Council Further Draft Recommendations

March 2022

Further draft recommendations for the new electoral arrangements in the East of Rushcliffe Council

Electoral review

March 2022

Translations and other formats:

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Licensing:

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2022

A note on our mapping:

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

Contents

Analysis and further draft recommendations in the Eastern Rushcliffe area	2
South-Eastern Rushcliffe	3
North-Eastern Rushcliffe	5
Have your say	9
Equalities	13
Appendices	15
Appendix A	15
Further draft recommendations for the Eastern area of Rushcliffe Council	15
Appendix B	16
Submissions received during consultation on our Draft Recommendations for Rushcliffe	16

Analysis and further draft recommendations in the Eastern Rushcliffe area

1 Following our consultation on the draft recommendations for Rushcliffe, the Commission has decided to hold a period of consultation on further draft recommendations in the east of the borough, prior to publication of its final recommendations. The Commission believes it has received sufficient evidence relating to the rest of the borough to finalise its recommendations.

2 During consultation on the draft recommendations, that were published on 5 October 2021, we received 102 representations. Many submissions focused on specific areas across the borough. We received a number of proposals for alternative warding arrangements in the east of the borough. These were focused on the desire to have rural areas covered predominantly by single-member wards.

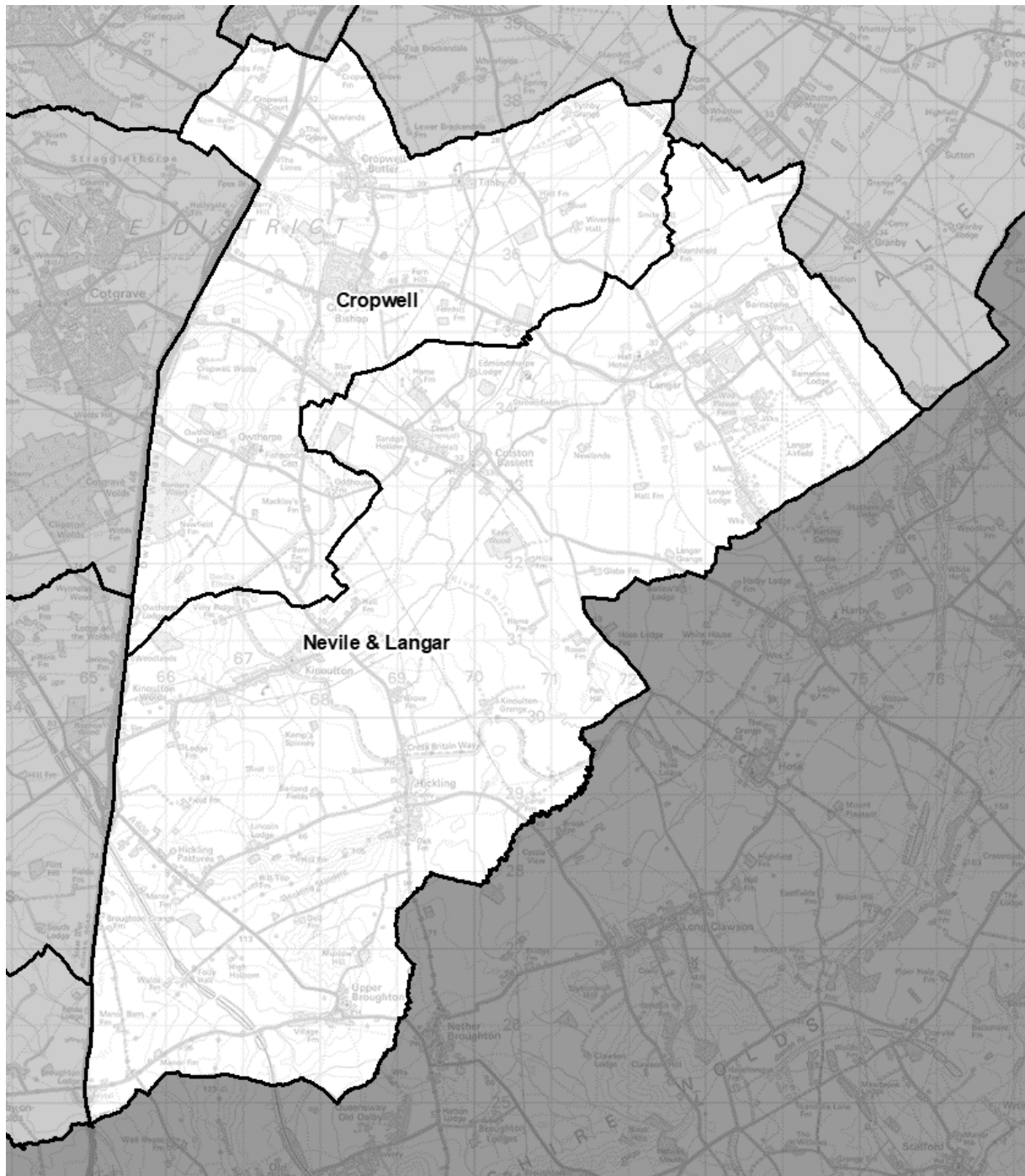
3 Accordingly, we have been persuaded to amend our proposals and publish further draft recommendations for wards in these areas. We are now inviting further views, in this area only, in order to identify whether these revised warding arrangements best reflect our statutory criteria.

4 We welcome all comments on these proposals, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries and the names of our proposed wards. This stage of consultation begins on 1 March 2022 and closes on 29 March 2022. Please see page 9 for more information on how to send us your response.

5 The tables and maps on pages 2–7 detail our further draft recommendations for the areas in the east of Rushcliffe. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

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

South-Eastern Rushcliffe



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

Cropwell and Nevile & Langar

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

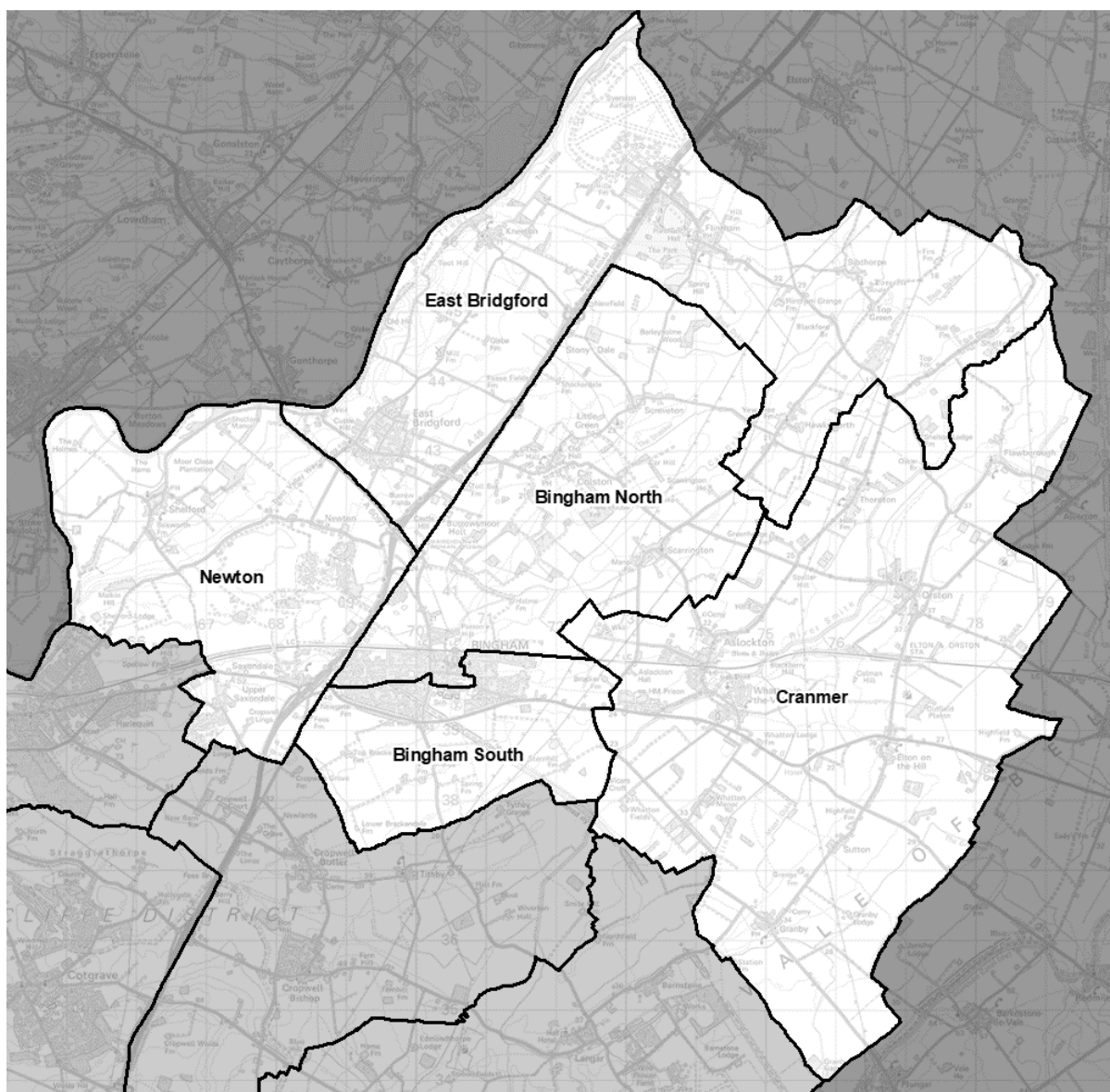
Colston Bassett parishes, plus the western portion of Langar cum Barnstone. The Rushcliffe Conservative Association ('Conservative Association'), Rushcliffe Borough Council ('Borough Council') and Nottinghamshire County Council ('County Council') submissions proposed moving the north-eastern boundary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

7 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. However, 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.

8 We have adopted the proposal of Rushcliffe Council and the Conservative Association to unify Langar cum Barnstone parish within Nevile & Langar ward. This also addresses the concerns of the parish council in this regard. In order to retain good electoral equality, we propose to move 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 propose 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.

9 In addition to adding Owthorpe parish to Cropwell ward, we propose to move the northern boundary of this ward southwards, allowing the entire Upper Saxondale area to be placed in Newton ward. We also propose to split Cropwell from the Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale area, as discussed below (paragraph 16). Our proposed Cropwell ward includes the parishes of Owthorpe, Cropwell Bishop, Tithby, Wiverton Hall and the southern section of Cropwell Butler parish.

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%

10 Our draft recommendations were for two two-member wards restricted to Bingham, 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 Party 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.

11 We are grateful for all of the proposals and evidence received. We accept that, ideally, the parishes of East Bridgford, Kneeton, Flintham, Screveton, Car Colston, Scarrington, Hawksworth, Sibthorpe, Shelton, Flawborough, Thoroton, Orston, Aslockton, Whatton-in-the-Vale, Elton-on-the-Hill and Granby could form two single-councillor wards which would offer a good reflection of community identity. However, these parishes cannot be configured into two single-member wards with good electoral equality, as there are too many electors for this to happen. For two wards with good equality to be created, a minimum of around 400 electors must be moved into alternative wards. Without moving these electors, at least one of the wards in this area would have a variance in excess of 20% – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality.

Bingham North and Bingham South

12 As discussed in more detail below, we propose 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 welcome further evidence from residents of these parishes as to whether they share a community identity with Bingham, and where residents of this area look to access services.

13 We received mixed evidence on our proposal to divide Bingham on a north/south basis rather than the existing east/west axis. Councillor Purdue-Horan supported our proposal, while the Conservative Association suggested that we retain the east/west split, citing the well-understood nature of the existing boundary, and its coterminosity with the county division.

14 We note that retaining the existing boundary to the north of the existing Bingham urban area would result in the forthcoming developments in this area being split, along Chapel Lane. While the community identity of future developments is inevitably speculative, we would not normally look to split a development of this nature between wards where a plausible alternative exists. We have therefore not yet been persuaded to alter the principle of our draft recommendations and continue to propose a Bingham North and Bingham South ward as part of our further draft recommendations.

15 We considered splitting Bingham parish along the line of the railway line. This would create a three-member Bingham South ward, with good electoral equality and a strong boundary along the railway line, and a single-member ward comprising the portion of Bingham parish north of the railway line and a number of rural parishes to the north. This would offer good electoral equality, but would require the creation of a parish ward in the north-eastern section of Bingham parish with very few electors until the development in this area is completed and occupied. We do not consider that a parish ward with a tiny current electorate is compatible with effective and convenient local government.

Cranmer and East Bridgford

16 Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale parish councils provided evidence that the major divide of community identity in this area ran on a north-west/south-east axis. They proposed a single-member Cranmer ward based around Aslockton and Whatton villages, with additional rural parishes as required in order to retain good electoral equality. Councillor Purdue-Horan also proposed two single-member wards comprising most of the parishes to the north-east of Bingham; however, his proposals did not offer good electoral equality, with variances of 13% and 11% respectively, and included a non-contiguous ward with Car Colston and Screveton parishes placed in Newton ward.

17 We considered placing Whatton-in-the-Vale parish in a ward with Cropwell Bishop, in order to provide good electoral equality for the four wards surrounding Bingham, and not expanding the Bingham-based wards. The table below lists the parishes involved in these possible wards. We do not offer this as a primary proposal, as we consider that it would separate the closely linked communities of Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale, as well as creating a ward with no internal access between Cropwell Bishop and Whatton-in-the-Vale. However, we have an open mind if our proposed further draft recommendations are not felt to respect community identity.

Alternative option for North-eastern Rushcliffe				
Proposed ward	Cranmer	Cropwell & Whatton	East Bridgford	Newton
Included parishes / areas	Aslockton	Cropwell Bishop	East Bridgford	Cropwell Butler
	Car Colston	Owthorpe	Flintham	Newton
	Elton-on-the-Hill	Tithby	Kneeton	Saxondale
	Flawborough	Whatton-in-the-Vale	Shelford	Upper Saxondale area of
	Granby	Wiverton Hall		Radcliffe on Trent Parish
	Hawksworth			
	Orston			
	Scarrington			
	Screveton			
	Shelton			
	Sibthorpe			
	Thoroton			
	Variance	10%	6%	4%

18 Our primary proposal is based on those of Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale parish councils, and Councillor Purdue-Horan, but modified to offer good electoral equality. It places Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale parishes together with Granby, Elton-on-the-Hill, Orston, Thoroton and Flawborough within Cranmer ward. East Bridgford ward comprises East Bridgford, Kneeton, Flintham, Sibthorpe, Shelton and Hawksworth parishes. We consider that, based on the evidence before us, this configuration offers the best available balance of our statutory criteria, and we welcome further evidence as to the views of local residents and stakeholders.

Newton

19 We received broad support for our proposal to unify the Upper Saxondale area of Radcliffe on Trent parish with the contiguous residential area in the north of Cropwell Butler parish. Subject to this overriding agreement, the Conservative Association described itself as ‘relaxed’ as to whether Upper Saxondale was placed in a Cropwell-based ward or in a different ward. We note that the parishes of Cropwell Bishop and Cropwell Butler, when taken together with Upper Saxondale, have too many electors to offer good electoral equality as a single-member ward. The Borough Council supported our proposed Radcliffe on Trent ward, which excludes Upper Saxondale.

20 We propose, as part of our further draft recommendations, to place Upper Saxondale, and the northern section of Cropwell Butler parish, in a ward with Saxondale, Newton and Shelford parishes. Saxondale Parish Meeting welcomed our initial proposal to remove this parish from a Bingham-based ward. Given the evidence that single-member wards are necessary across this area of the borough to provide for effective and convenient local government, it is not possible to place Newton and East Bridgford parishes in the same ward while retaining good electoral equality.

21 We welcome any and all evidence as to the views of local stakeholders on these further draft proposals. We would be particularly interested in further evidence regarding our proposed boundary dividing Cropwell Butler parish, as this is the only newly proposed boundary in this area which is not coterminous with a parish boundary.

Have your say

22 The Commission has an open mind about its further draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from.

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

24 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

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

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

26 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Rushcliffe which delivers:

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

27 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters.
- 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.

28 Electoral equality:

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

29 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?

30 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?

31 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 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.

32 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as 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.

33 In the light of representations received, we will review our further 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 further draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

34 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 Rushcliffe in 2023.

Equalities

35 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

Further draft recommendations for the East of Rushcliffe Council

	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	Bingham North	2	3,503	1,752	-15%	4,992	2,496	3%
2	Bingham South	2	4,430	2,215	8%	4,745	2,373	-2%
3	Cranmer	1	2,578	2,578	25%	2,670	2,670	10%
4	Cropwell	1	2,012	2,012	-2%	2,260	2,260	-7%
5	East Bridgford	1	2,302	2,302	12%	2,645	2,645	9%
6	Nevile & Langar	1	2,522	2,522	23%	2,678	2,678	10%
7	Newton	1	1,495	1,495	-27%	2,278	2,278	-6%

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Rushcliffe 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

Submissions received during consultation on our Draft Recommendations for Rushcliffe

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/nottinghamshire/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

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