

New electoral arrangements for Havering Council Final Recommendations

May 2021

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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 Havering?

7 We are conducting a review of Havering Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 1999 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'. In addition, the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Havering. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

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

Our proposals for Havering

9 Havering should be represented by 55 councillors, one more than there are now.

10 Havering should have 20 wards, two more than there are now.

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

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

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 Havering. 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
19 November 2019	Number of councillors decided
17 December 2019	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 March 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
28 July 2020	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
5 October 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming new recommendations
12 January 2021	Publication of new draft recommendations and start of consultation
8 March 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
11 May 2021	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.

	2019	2026
Electorate of Havering	190,770	208,748
Number of councillors	54	55
Average number of electors per councillor	3,533	3,795

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'. Nineteen of our proposed wards for Havering will have good electoral equality by 2026.

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 2019, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 9.4% by 2025. The electorate forecast considered the number of electors over the past three years, as well as anticipated electorate growth, based on the Council's planned housing trajectory for 2019 to 2025.

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.

23 During the warding pattern consultation, we received a submission from Councillor Middleton, who suggested that there were inaccuracies in the forecast for St Andrew's ward. However, no further information was provided to support this suggestion. We raised the matter with the Council which confirmed that the geocoded electoral register provided to us was accurate.

24 During consultation on our draft recommendations, a respondent queried the basis for electorate forecast figures. The submission stated that the figures provided to the ONS in an electoral register were different from those provided to us. Electoral registers are updated multiple times a year which can result in differences depending on when the data is taken. The submission also queried why an additional 3,800 electors were added to the projected growth by the Council. This is the calculated number of additional electors projected by the Council within the next five years. We are content that the forecast provided to us is accurate.

25 Due to the Commission's decision to carry out an additional round of consultation, and delays caused by the Covid-19 outbreak, the review will now conclude in 2021. We have agreed with the Council that these figures remain a reasonable forecast of local electors in 2026 and have therefore used them as the basis of our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

26 Havering Council currently has 54 councillors. At the start of the review we looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same would ensure the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 54 councillors – for example, 54 one-councillor wards, 18 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received four submissions from local residents about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. The submissions argued that there should be a reduction in the number of councillors on the basis of austerity. One respondent specified that the number should be reduced to 42 but did not provide compelling evidence to support this.

29 The Council put forward proposals for a 56-member council. We carefully considered these proposals but were not persuaded to change our decision with regard to the number of councillors elected to the authority. In particular, we were not persuaded that a 56-member council would provide a better allocation of councillors across the borough. We were therefore not persuaded to adopt an alternative

number of councillors and based our original draft recommendations on a council size of 54.

30 When proposing a council size, we reserve the right to alter this number if we subsequently discover that an alternative council size would provide a pattern of wards that better reflects our statutory criteria. When drawing up our new draft recommendations, we concluded that a council size of 55 councillors would allow us to provide a warding pattern that better reflected local communities and ensured good electoral equality.

31 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our new draft recommendations. The submissions disagreed with our decision to increase the number of councillors by one, on the basis of cost. We considered the submissions but were not persuaded to change our decision with regard to the number of councillors elected to the authority. We have therefore based our final recommendations on a 55-member council.

Ward boundaries consultation

32 We received 28 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals from the Council, the Hornchurch & Upminster Conservative Association and the Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

33 A few submissions raised considerations outside the context of this review, such as parliamentary constituencies. When drawing up our proposals, we do not have regard to parliamentary constituency boundaries and there is no requirement for our recommended ward boundaries to be coterminous with existing parliamentary constituencies. We are not involved in reviewing parliamentary constituencies, which is overseen by a separate body, the Boundary Commission for England.

34 The borough-wide schemes from the Council and the Hornchurch & Upminster Conservative Association provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Havering. The proposals submitted by the Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association proposed a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. The Council's scheme was based on a council size of 56, whilst the other two schemes were based on a council size of 54. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in reasonably good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority. Whilst we noted that the proposed wards generally used clearly identifiable boundaries, the commentary provided with them was often descriptive in nature rather than evidential.

35 We carefully considered the Council's scheme, which, as noted earlier, was not based on our original decision that the authority should have a council size of 54. We did not consider that the increase of two councillors would provide for a better pattern of wards based on our statutory criteria. We also noted that the Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association based their scheme on some principles which we do not consider as part of our statutory criteria. These included the notion of retaining 18 three-councillor wards and keeping the continuity of existing wards and boundaries where possible. Warding arrangements will only be retained if they are reflective of the Commission's statutory criteria. Whilst we acknowledge that polling district boundaries can be a useful tool for creating a warding pattern, they should not be used if there are clearer and more identifiable boundaries available. Furthermore, having a uniform number of councillors per ward is not a necessary requirement in this electoral review. Since Havering elects all of its councillors once every four years, the legislation provides that it can have a mixed pattern of single-, two- and three-member wards.

36 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of all three borough-wide schemes received. In some areas of the borough, we also considered 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. Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed 'virtual' tour of Havering. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of our recommendations.

37 Our draft recommendations were for 14 three-councillor wards and six two-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

38 We received 575 submissions in response to the consultation on our initial set of draft recommendations. These included a proposal from Andrew Rosindell MP (Romford) for amendments and name changes to our proposed wards in the north of the borough. The submission received support from the London Assembly Members Andrew Boff and Keith Prince. We also received proposals from the Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association and the Hornchurch Residents' Association proposing alternative arrangements for the wards they represent.

39 In addition to this, we received a large volume of submissions from local residents and groups. Many within the Romford area voiced their support for the proposals and alternative ward names suggested by Andrew Rosindell. The largest

concentration of submissions voiced their disagreement with our original draft recommendations for the south of the borough, with the proposals in Upminster proving particularly unpopular.

40 Whilst assessing the evidence received, it was clear that there was evidence in support of a warding pattern based on the current ward boundaries for the south of the borough. We therefore proposed an additional councillor in this area, thereby allowing for a warding pattern more in keeping with the current warding arrangements, which we consider provide for an effective balance of our statutory criteria. We also received strong evidence to suggest that we should reinstate Squirrels Heath ward and make alterations across the Romford Town area. However, there was not a clear consensus about the most effective warding pattern for the north-east of the borough, and so we have developed alternative arrangements based on the evidence received.

41 We received 106 submissions which requested that the electoral review be delayed or cancelled, due to reports circulating regarding the motivation behind the submission received from the Council. The Commission is wholly independent of government and we consider our processes transparent. We treat all submissions with equal weight. They are analysed solely on the basis of their content, and whether that content contains useful suggestions that would help the Commission balance its three statutory criteria of electoral equality, community identity and efficient local government when making recommendations. The motive behind any submission is not something we take into account when analysing submissions. We also hold multiple consultations in order to ensure that anyone affected by the review is able to comment on the proposed changes. We are firmly of the view that the current electoral review should be completed in order that electors in Havering have electoral arrangements that are fit for purpose at the elections in 2022 and beyond.

42 In light of the significant number of changes we proposed across the borough, the lack of consensus in the north-east and the numerous ward name changes proposed, we considered it most appropriate to publish a new set of draft recommendations for consultation.

Final recommendations

43 In response to our new draft recommendations, we received 390 submissions. These were localised in nature and focused particularly on ward names, with a few proposing minor modifications to our new draft recommendations. In response, we have made some minor amendments to our recommendations, as well as making changes to some ward names. Our final recommendations are for 15 three-councillor wards and five two-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.

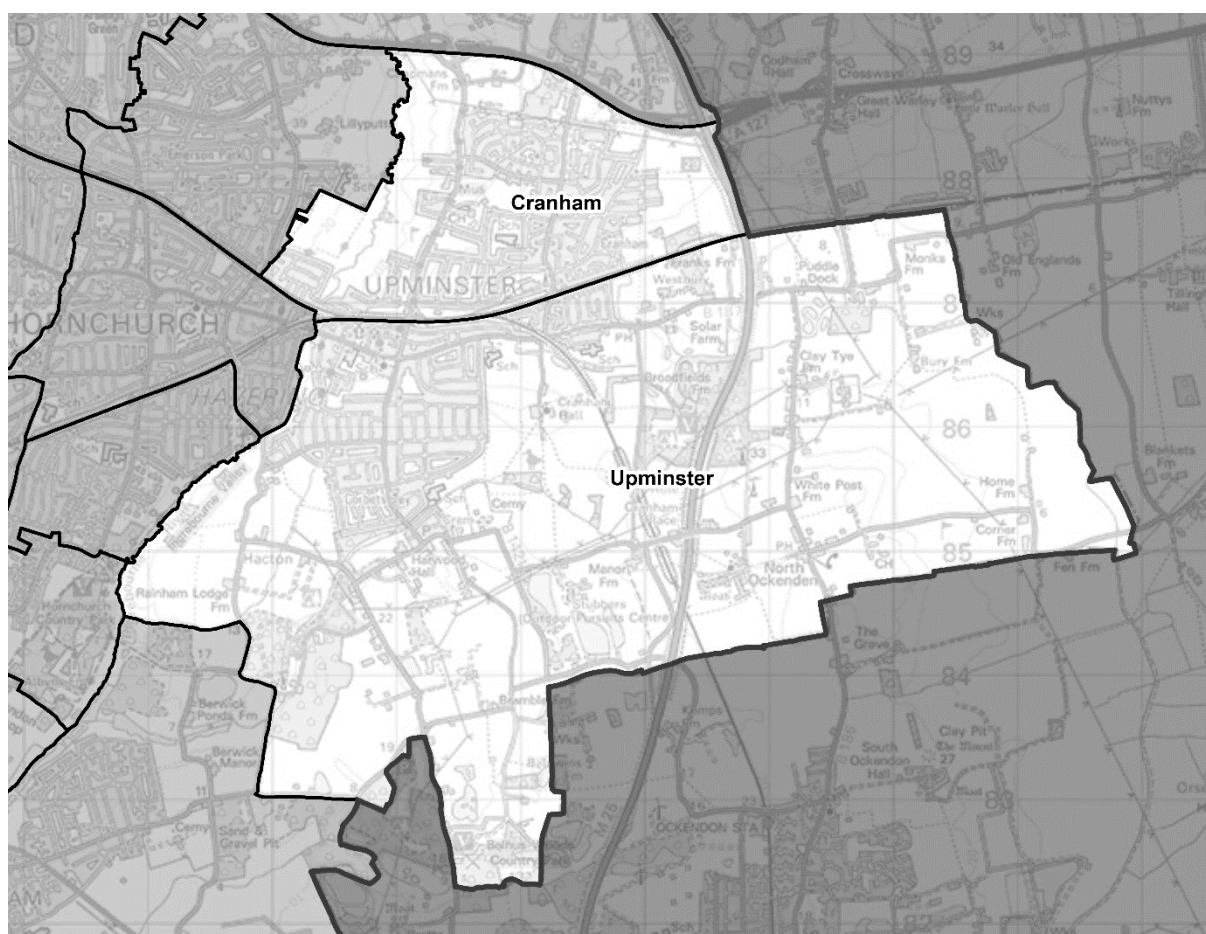
44 The tables and maps on pages 10–23 detail our final recommendations for each area of Havering. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

45 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 31 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Cranham and Upminster



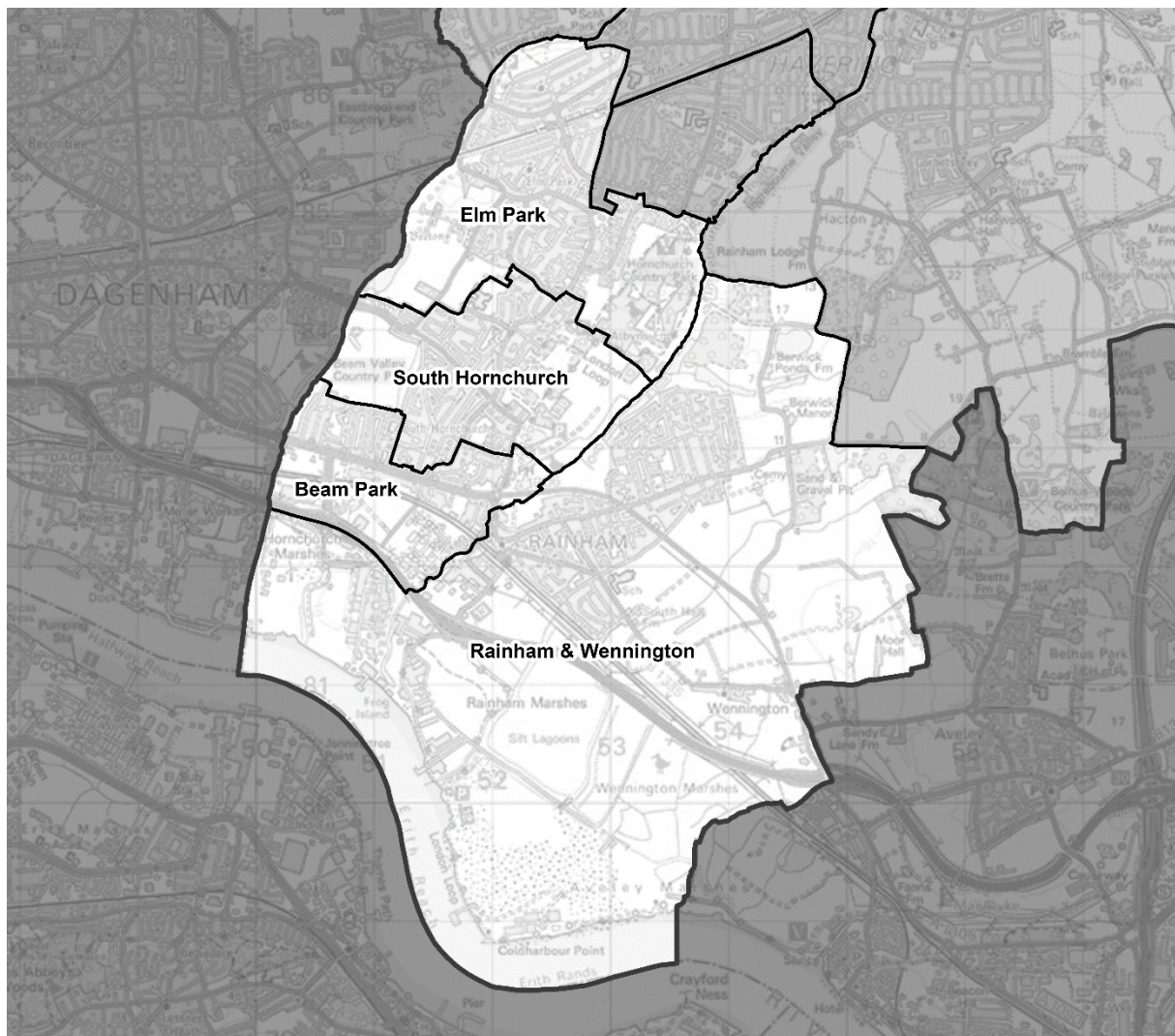
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Cranham	3	-10%
Upminster	3	-4%

Cranham and Upminster

46 We received 14 submissions directly in relation to our proposed new draft recommendations for this area, including from the ward councillors for Upminster and the Upminster & Cranham Residents' Association. The vast majority of submissions expressed their support for the revised proposals, with many stating particular approval of Corbets Tey remaining wholly in Upminster ward. Two of the submissions said that they disagreed with the boundary between Rainham & Wennington and Upminster wards, on the basis that the former ward included areas of the latter. We considered that these submissions were referring to our original draft recommendations which have been modified.

47 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations as final for this area.

Beam Park, Elm Park, Rainham & Wennington and South Hornchurch



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Beam Park	2	5%
Elm Park	3	9%
Rainham & Wennington	3	-11%
South Hornchurch	2	1%

Beam Park and Rainham & Wennington

48 We received four submissions in relation to our new draft recommendations for this area. One resident proposed that the projected Dovers Corner development should be moved from our proposed Beam Park ward to Rainham & Wennington ward in order to more evenly balance the electoral variance for the two wards. The submission also argued that the residents of the new development may be more likely to use facilities in Rainham. A local resident stated their approval for our proposals and commented that they understood the logic of keeping Beam Park a

two-councillor ward in order to ensure it does not comprise wholly of new developments.

49 Two of the submissions expressed discontent with our proposals. One stated that they did want to be placed in Beam Park ward as this would in their opinion, devalue their property. This is not an argument which we take into consideration when drawing up warding boundaries. Furthermore, as explained in paragraph 14, we do not consider there is any evidence to suggest that ward boundaries have an effect on house prices. The other submission queried why part of South Hornchurch ward would now be placed in Rainham & Wennington ward. As explained in our previous report, we moved this area into Rainham & Wennington ward as it is referred to as Rainham Creek. We also considered that the A13 acted as a clear and identifiable boundary and we do not propose adjusting this in our final recommendations.

50 We considered the evidence put forward regarding the possible movement of a development in order to achieve better electoral equality between the wards, but we concluded that the best balance of statutory criteria would be achieved by confirming our new draft recommendations as final. Whilst we accept that the alternative suggested would provide for better electoral equality, we were not convinced that this development would have stronger links to the adjacent ward, and we considered our proposed boundaries to be clearer and more identifiable.

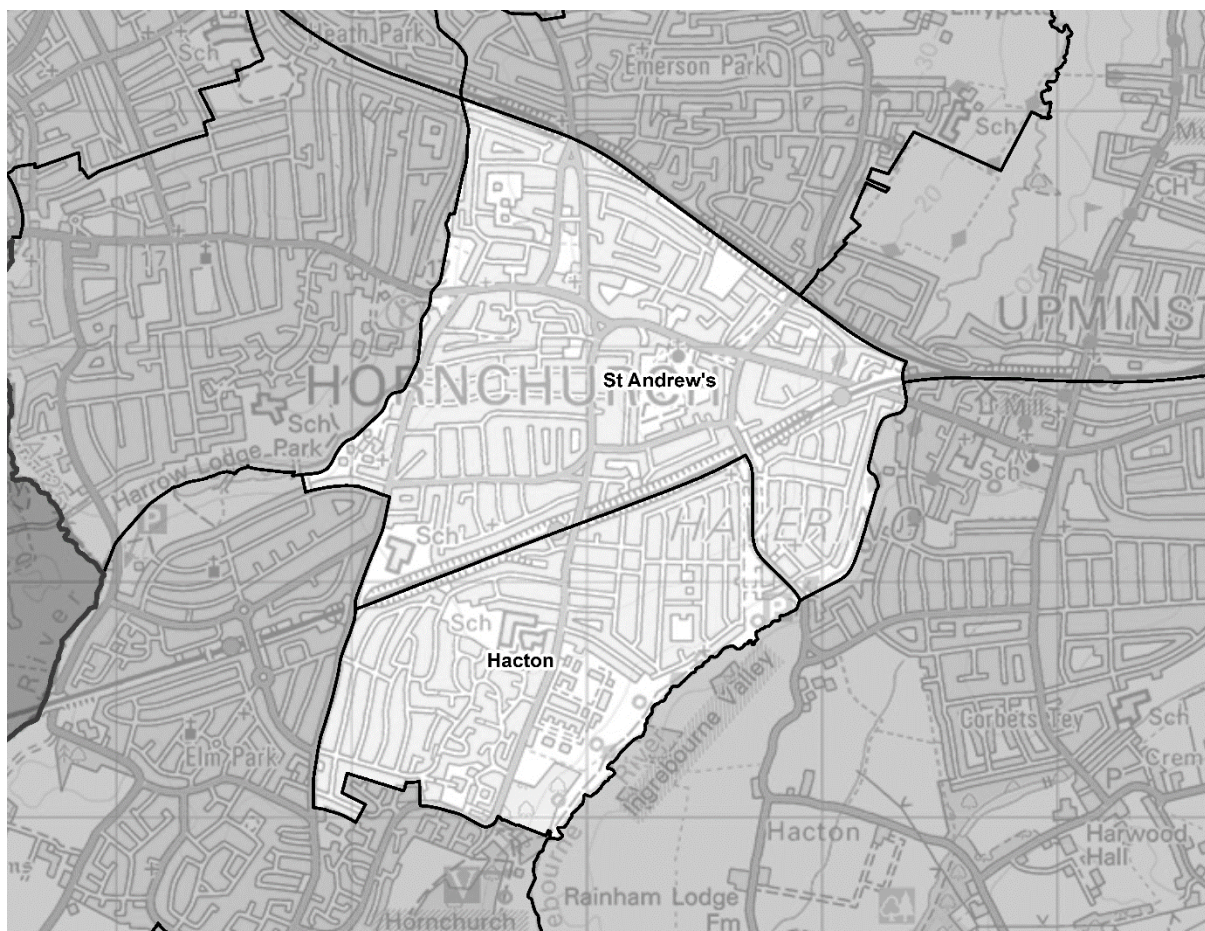
51 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations for this area as final.

Elm Park and South Hornchurch

52 We received nine submissions in relation to our new draft recommendations for this area from local residents. Three of the submissions stated a preference for Elm Park retaining three councillors, whilst four of the submissions agreed with the boundaries we proposed. One submission queried why the boundary between Elm Park and Hacton wards was not adjusted to include a number of houses on South End Road within Hacton ward. They noted that elsewhere we had ensured that whole roads were included within the ward, such as Berry Close, Lancaster Drive and Morecambe Close. We considered this argument but noted that the proposed amendment would not place the whole of South End Road in Hacton ward. We also consider that South End Road acts as a clear and identifiable boundary and the use of it as a ward boundary has been supported by other submissions. We are of the view that our recommendations provide the best balance of our statutory criteria and we were not persuaded to adopt this proposal. The final submission supported our proposed South Hornchurch ward.

53 Having carefully considered the submissions received, we have decided to confirm our new draft recommendations as final for this area.

Hacton and St Andrew's



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Hacton	2	5%
St Andrew's	3	4%

Hacton and St Andrew's

54 We received six submissions directly in relation to our new draft recommendations for this area, which were largely the same as our original draft recommendations. One of the submissions, as discussed above, suggested that part of South End Road ward should move into Hacton ward. One submission queried why we had not recommended a St Andrew's ward. We also received submissions from Councillors Middleton and Morgon, who expressed their acceptance of the proposed boundaries for their respective wards.

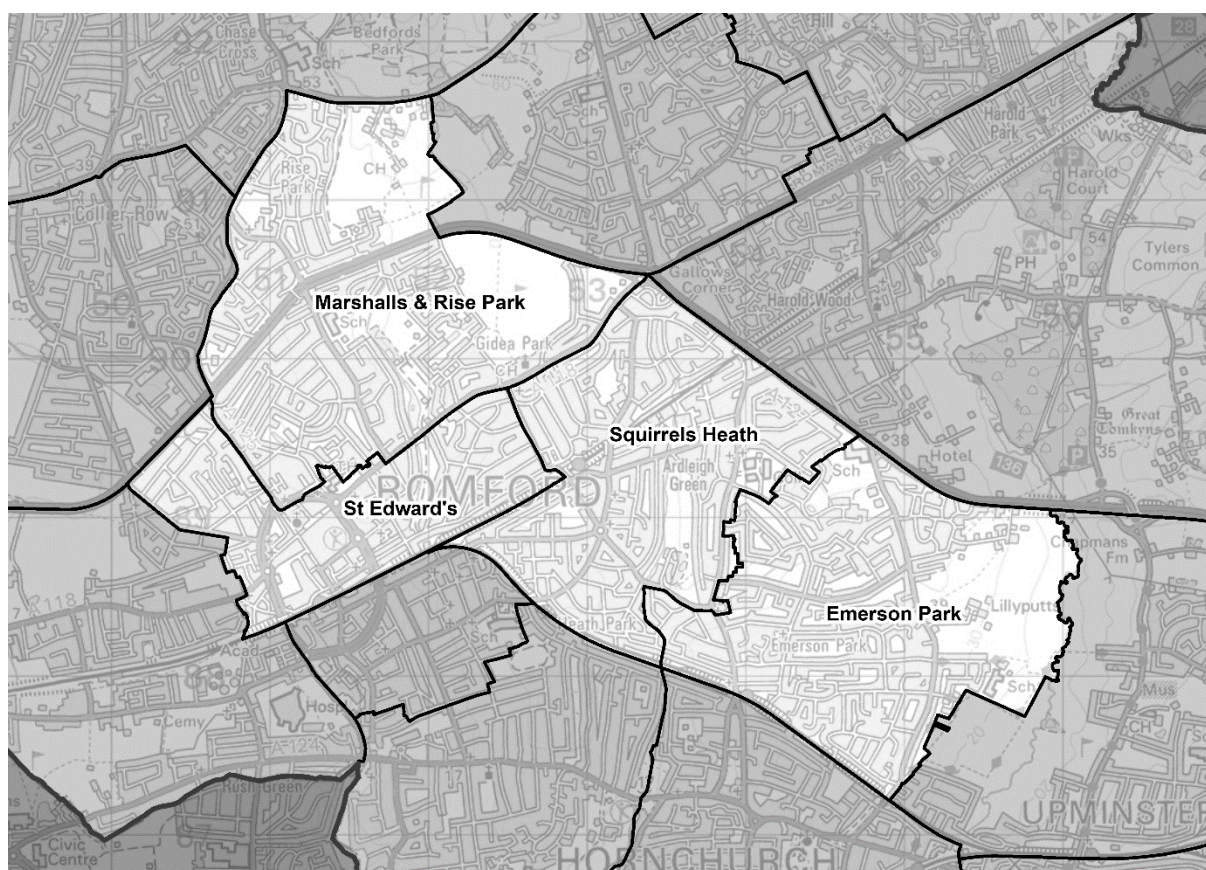
55 Two local residents disagreed with the proposals for Hacton ward, with both stating their disagreement with the ward reducing to two councillors. One of these submissions also objected to our proposed boundaries for the east and west of the ward. Whilst we accept that the proposals change the configuration of Hacton ward somewhat dramatically, we consider they are reflective of the community evidence

received throughout the review. In particular, we have received submissions suggesting the use of the railway line to the north as a ward boundary, and the movement of the area to the west into Elm Park ward, were supported. The area to the east, which is south of Upminster Bridge station, was more difficult to place, with a resident arguing that it should remain in Hacton ward. We had noted in our previous consultation that another resident provided evidence to suggest this area move into Upminster ward.

56 In light of all the evidence received, we still consider that our recommendations represent the best balance of our statutory criteria. The boundaries used are clear and identifiable, with good electoral equality, and we have received evidence in support for the changes proposed.

57 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations as final for this area.

Emerson Park, Marshalls & Rise Park, Squirrels Heath and St Edward's



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Emerson Park	2	-1%
Marshalls & Rise Park	3	-8%
Squirrels Heath	3	7%
St Edward's	3	-9%

Emerson Park and Squirrels Heath

58 We received 32 submissions directly in relation to our new draft recommendations for this area. Six submissions expressed their concern with our proposals, largely on the basis that we had proposed a two-councillor Emerson Park ward. However, we also received support from 26 submissions for our proposed Squirrels Heath ward.

59 Of these submissions, we received one alternative proposal from the Residents' Association of Emerson Park, which was supported by Councillor Ower. The proposal was that polling districts SQ4, SQ5 and SQ6, areas of Squirrels Heath ward, were added to Emerson Park. The submission contended that this would utilise clear and identifiable boundaries, and that the residents of Ardleigh Green would remain with Emerson Park, a Hornchurch-facing area.

60 We carefully considered the arguments put forward. Our original draft recommendations had contained a similar proposal and we received submissions in opposition from those residing in the area, who considered themselves to be part of Squirrels Heath ward. Additionally, some of the arguments put forward fall outside of our statutory criteria, with references made to parliamentary constituencies and arguments for retaining a three-councillor ward. Overall, we do not consider the alternative proposals would provide for clearer or more identifiable ward boundaries than those that we proposed. Furthermore, we had received evidence in opposition to similar proposals previously. Therefore, we were not persuaded to adopt this proposal.

61 Andrew Rosindell MP and Keith Prince AM supported the retention of a Squirrels Heath ward, subject to one minor amendment. They proposed that all the homes along Ardleigh Green Road should be included in Squirrels Heath ward, as well as the Romford Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Nelmes Court, stating they are all part of the same community. We looked at the proposal and noted it would have a nominal effect on the number of electors in the area. We were persuaded that it would be more reflective of community identity and consider the proposal to constitute a clear and identifiable boundary. Therefore, we propose adopting this minor amendment in our final recommendations.

62 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations for this area as final, subject to the small amendment outlined above.

Marshalls & Rise Park

63 We received 73 submissions in relation to our new draft recommendations for this ward. The majority of submissions, including from ward councillors Crowder, Dervish and Misir, disagreed with our ward name choice, arguing that the ward name should include the word 'Park'. It was argued that the inclusion of Park was imperative to the name, as the communities represented in the ward are Marshalls Park and Rise Park. We were persuaded by the evidence received and accepted that there was a clear consensus amongst the local community that the most fitting name for the ward is Marshalls & Rise Park. Therefore, we propose this name is adopted for our final recommendations.

64 We received one further submission from a resident, who argued that the ward boundary with Heaton should be adjusted back to its current placement. We had proposed that the boundary be adjusted in our new draft recommendations, based on evidence which indicated that it would be better for governance purposes if Risebridge golf course was wholly contained in one ward. However, the resident disagreed with this, stating that the area is used by residents of Heaton ward and is regarded as Romford Common locally. The submission also argued that although the area is used by the golf club, it is not owned by them.

65 We assessed the evidence put forward to us and accept there is strong community evidence linking the area to residents of Heaton ward. Whilst we can see the merits of keeping all of the golf course in the same ward, we do accept that the area is used by the local community, particularly by residents of the Heaton area. Therefore, we propose that the current ward boundary between the two wards is maintained.

66 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations for this area as final, subject to the minor amendment outlined above and the change of ward name to Marshalls & Rise Park.

St Edward's

67 We received 19 submissions in relation to our proposals for this ward. The vast majority of submissions expressed their support for our new draft recommendations, and in particular the ward name. A few of the submissions, including from Andrew Rosindell MP, Keith Prince AM and Councillor Holt, suggested some minor amendments to the ward's northern boundary. The submissions suggested that the boundary should be adjusted to ensure that Challis Court be included with the rest of Oaklands Avenue. Andrew Rosindell and Keith Prince further suggested that the church at 29 Main Road would be better placed with the town centre-facing ward, which also included council buildings and other churches. The final suggestion was that boundary should be adjusted to run along Church Lane, thereby placing the bus station in the town centre-facing ward, as this is the area with which it shares the most commonality. We accepted that all three minor amendments were well evidenced, and so we propose that they are adopted in our final recommendations.

68 We also propose one final amendment to the ward name. At the new draft recommendations stage, we had proposed that the ward be named St Edwards. However, we consider that St Edward's (with an apostrophe) would be grammatically more in keeping with ward names proposed elsewhere in the borough.

69 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations as final for this ward, subject to the minor amendments discussed above.

Hylands & Harrow Lodge, Mawneys, Rush Green & Crowlands and St Alban's



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Hylands & Harrow Lodge	3	-2%
Mawneys	3	-7%
Rush Green & Crowlands	3	7%
St Alban's	2	6%

Hylands & Harrow Lodge

70 We received a significant number of submissions in relation to our new draft recommendations for this ward, primarily regarding the proposed ward name change. We received 83 submissions stating a preference for the ward to retain the name Hylands, whilst we received 67 submissions stating that Harrow Lodge was a more representative name. A few submissions also stated a preference for the ward boundaries to remain the same but did not elaborate on why or provide any evidence for this in relation to our statutory criteria.

71 Of the submissions received, those in favour of retaining the ward name Hylands stated that Hylands is still very much representative of the area, with the name referenced within a local park and adjoining roads. While Hylands Primary School sits outside of the ward, the Friends of Hylands Park argued that the name is still relevant as many of those attending the school reside within the ward. Some submissions also argued that Harrow Lodge was not an appropriate name as the park it refers to is split between multiple wards. Some submissions also expressed their disapproval of our slight revision to the north-west boundary of the ward but did not elaborate or provide evidence for an alternative. We therefore do not propose to deviate from our previous boundary proposals.

72 The submissions proposing that the ward should be renamed Harrow Lodge contended that this was a more fitting name for the ward. The submissions, including those from Councillors Frost and C. White, argued that numerous areas within the ward are referred to as Harrow Lodge, including the park, leisure centre, road and local businesses. Some submissions stated that the name was more representative than Hylands which, they argued, was a relatively small area within the ward.

73 In addition to this, the submissions of Andrew Rosindell MP and Councillor D. White proposed that the boundary to the south of our proposed Harrow Lodge ward should be adjusted to take in most of Harrow Lodge Park. We considered this but concluded that the split of the park between wards was well established and follows clear and identifiable boundaries within the park. Furthermore, the proposal itself would place a small area to the south-west of the park in Elm Park ward, which we did not consider would reflect communities or result in better governance.

74 We considered the evidence received and were of the view that both proposed ward names are representative of the area. The evidence indicated that the use of Hylands was particularly prevalent in the north of the ward, whilst Harrow Lodge was more so in the south. Whilst we accept that Harrow Lodge is not wholly contained within the ward (and as discussed, we do not propose to adjust the boundary to place it within the ward), we nonetheless still consider the name to be representative of the south of the ward. We therefore propose that the ward is renamed Hylands & Harrow Lodge, which ensures that both communities are included in the ward name.

75 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations as final for this ward but have renamed it Hylands & Harrow Lodge.

Mawneys

76 We received seven submissions directly in relation to our new draft recommendations for this ward. Whilst five submissions stated their approval of our recommendations, three of these submissions disagreed with the ward name choice. Ward councillors Frost and Patel stated that the ward name should be changed to Collier Row, arguing that this a more recognisable name, and that the new proposal

includes much of the Collier Row area. A resident argued that the ward should be named Mawneys & Lawn Park, as the latter is in the middle of the north-west area of the ward, and the submission considered that those residents would be more likely to identify with this name.

77 A final submission stated that Hog Hill Road should not be moved into Havering-atte-Bower ward. The respondent stated that they had little to do with this area and are a short distance from Mawneys. The submission also stated that they were happy with their current representation locally and supported the creation of a Collier Row ward, which would be more recognisable.

78 We considered the submissions put forward to us. Overall, we considered that the boundaries proposed are clear, identifiable and have been largely supported. We were not persuaded to change our proposals, and we did not consider that sufficient evidence had been provided in order to justify a newly configured Collier Row ward.

79 We also considered the arguments for alternative ward names but were not persuaded that the alternatives suggested would be more reflective of community identity. In particular, we noted that the Collier Row area appears to be split between Havering-atte-Bower and Mawneys ward, and we considered renaming the ward would lead to more confusion.

80 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations as final for this ward.

Rush Green & Crowlands

81 We received 84 submissions in relation to our new draft recommendations for this ward. The vast majority of submissions, including those from Councillors Benham, Persaud and Ryan, stated a preference for the ward to be renamed Rush Green & Crowlands, on the basis that the ward comprises the two distinct communities of Rush Green and Crowlands. Some submissions stated that Rush Green is a small area, but there seemed to be a general consensus amongst the submissions that both communities should be represented in the ward name. Of these submissions, two stated a preference for Crowlands and Romford West, arguing the names would be more representative of the area.

82 We considered the evidence put forward and were persuaded to adopt the ward name of Rush Green & Crowlands, given the overwhelming local support for the name. We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations as final for this ward but have renamed it Rush Green & Crowlands.

St Alban's

83 We received 41 submissions in relation to our new draft recommendations for this ward. Of the submissions received, 38 agreed with our proposed ward, with

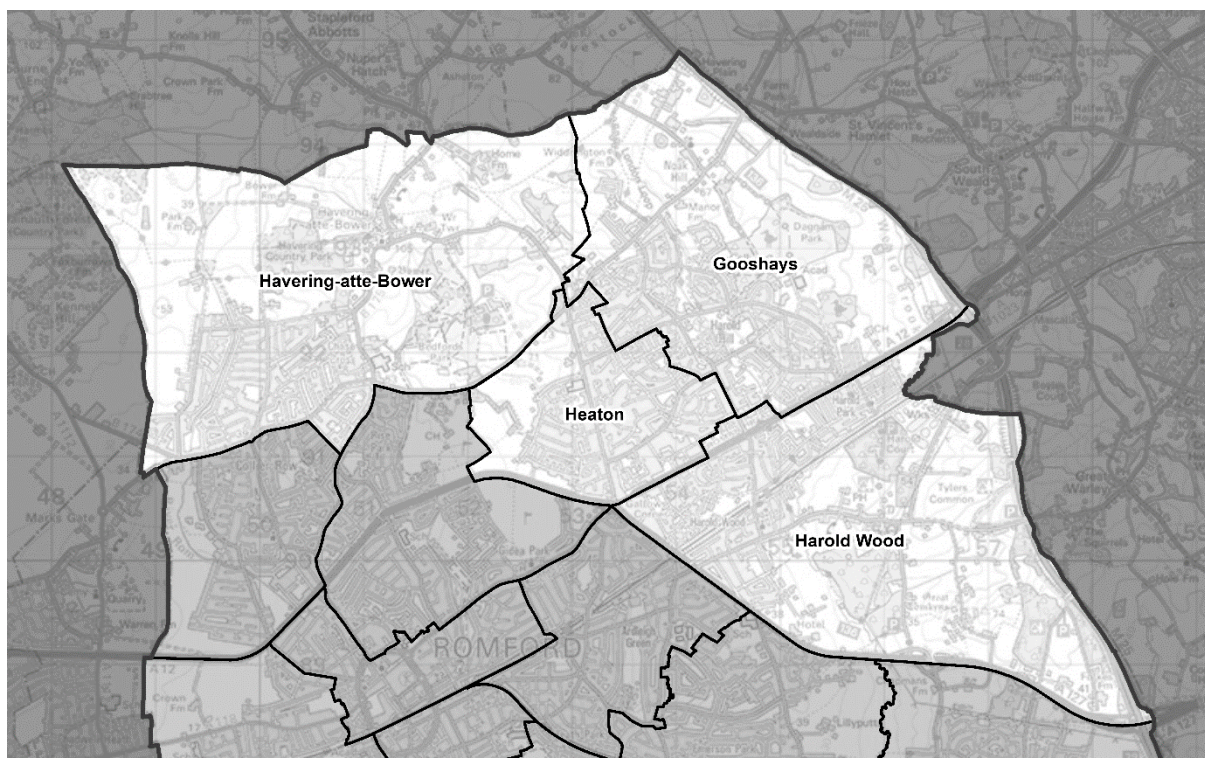
most comments relating to the proposed ward name. We received four submissions which disagreed with the proposed ward name. One considered the ward name to be discriminatory, on the basis that a Catholic church of the same name was situated elsewhere in the borough. Two of the submissions suggested that Victoria would be a more fitting name for the ward.

84 One of the submissions suggesting Victoria as a ward name argued that it was a more reflective choice for the ward because the name is used in multiple roads in the area. The resident also disagreed with our proposals for Romford Town. Whilst they accepted that the railway line acted as a clear boundary, they queried why the ring road was not used instead and argued that this was a clearer and more identifiable boundary. The submission also went on to state that those within the ring road had more commonality. We carefully considered this submission and concluded that it would not be possible to keep the current ward boundaries for Romford Town. The ward already has a high electoral imbalance, which is set to worsen in the coming years. We considered the ring road as a boundary but noted that the submission offered no viable warding solution for the surrounding area, nor had we received any further evidence offering a viable alternative. We therefore do not propose to adopt this alternative.

85 We considered the arguments put forward to us in relation to the ward name but have not been persuaded to change it. We have sought to choose ward names which are representative of the area. The proposed name was locally submitted and had wider support. Furthermore, we do not consider it to be discriminatory and have used it on the basis that the church of the same name is a locally identifiable landmark within the newly configured ward. In respect of the proposed name of Victoria, we considered that the evidence provided was fairly limited and we were not persuaded that this would be a universally accepted name. However, as with St Edward's ward, we considered that it would be grammatically consistent to add an apostrophe to the ward name, and so propose renaming the ward St Alban's.

86 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations as final for this ward subject to the small amendment outlined above.

Gooshays, Harold Wood, Havering-atte-Bower and Heaton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Gooshays	3	9%
Harold Wood	3	-8%
Havering-atte-Bower	3	3%
Heaton	3	9%

Havering-atte-Bower

87 We received 37 submissions in relation to our new draft recommendations for Havering-atte-Bower ward. One of the submissions, from a local resident, stated a preference to remain in Mawneys ward. The remaining 36 submissions all stated their agreement with our new draft recommendations for the ward.

88 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations as final for this ward.

Gooshays, Harold Wood and Heaton

89 We received 11 submissions in response to our new draft recommendations for this area. The Residents' Association of Emerson Park and Councillor Ower agreed with our proposed boundary of the A127 between Harold Wood and Emerson Park ward but proposed a revised Emerson Park ward.

90 We also received submissions from residents stating their disagreement with our proposal not to follow the A12 as a ward boundary to the north of Harold Wood. However, as explained in our new draft recommendations, we were unable to do so and still produce good electoral equality for this ward.

91 A few residents expressed their disapproval with being placed in Harold Wood ward, as they stated they are in areas of a more rural nature. However, some of the comments appeared to confuse this electoral review with that of the parliamentary boundaries and, furthermore, the submissions did not elaborate on which ward the residents wished to be placed in. One of the submissions also mentioned postcodes, which we do not have regard to as part of this electoral review.

92 Finally, the Harold Wood, Hill, Park Residents' Association stated that they were disappointed with the new draft recommendations but did not elaborate why. The submission went on to state that the group fully agreed with the proposals for Harold Wood to the south of the A12. The submission also stated that Heaton ward should not be renamed, and that the current ward name is representative of the area.

93 In light of all the evidence received, we consider that our proposals still constitute the best balance of our statutory criteria. We propose one amendment to the western boundary of Heaton ward, which was discussed earlier in this report under the section relating to Marshalls & Rise Park ward.

94 We also received submissions referring to the ward names proposed for Heaton and Gooshays wards. Harold Wood councillors Eagling, Goode and Wise all stated that these ward names should remain the same, arguing that any change would result in confusion for the electorate. We received a submission from Keith Prince AM, which was also referenced in other submissions, suggesting that Heaton ward should be renamed Heaton Grange, and that Gooshays ward should be renamed Noak Hill. In particular, it was argued that the ward names were more reflective of the community identities within the respective wards.

95 Having assessed the evidence, we were not persuaded to rename the ward as suggested. We received little evidence from those local to the area that the ward name changes would be more reflective of local communities. In particular, we considered that Noak Hill largely referred to the area north of Gooshays ward and were unconvinced that Heaton Grange would be more reflective of community identities than Heaton.

96 We have therefore decided to confirm our new draft recommendations as final for this area.

Conclusions

97 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Havering, referencing the 2019 and 2026 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	
	2019	2026
Number of councillors	55	55
Number of electoral wards	20	20
Average number of electors per councillor	3,469	3,795
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	7	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Final recommendations

Havering Council should be made up of 55 councillors serving 20 wards representing five two-councillor wards and 15 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 Havering Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Havering Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

98 We have now completed our review of Havering Council. 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 2022.

Equalities

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

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Havering Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Beam Park	2	3,042	1,521	-56%	7,972	3,986	5%
2	Cranham	3	9,971	3,324	-4%	10,192	3,397	-10%
3	Elm Park	3	12,162	4,054	17%	12,393	4,131	9%
4	Emerson Park	2	7,374	3,687	6%	7,535	3,768	-1%
5	Gooshays	3	11,903	3,968	14%	12,453	4,151	9%
6	Hacton	2	7,113	3,557	3%	7,938	3,969	5%
7	Harold Wood	3	10,286	3,429	-1%	10,445	3,482	-8%
8	Havering-atte-Bower	3	11,479	3,826	10%	11,718	3,906	3%
9	Heaton	3	11,698	3,899	12%	12,448	4,149	9%
10	Hylands & Harrow Lodge	3	10,845	3,615	4%	11,160	3,720	-2%
11	Marshalls & Rise Park	3	10,069	3,356	-3%	10,481	3,494	-8%

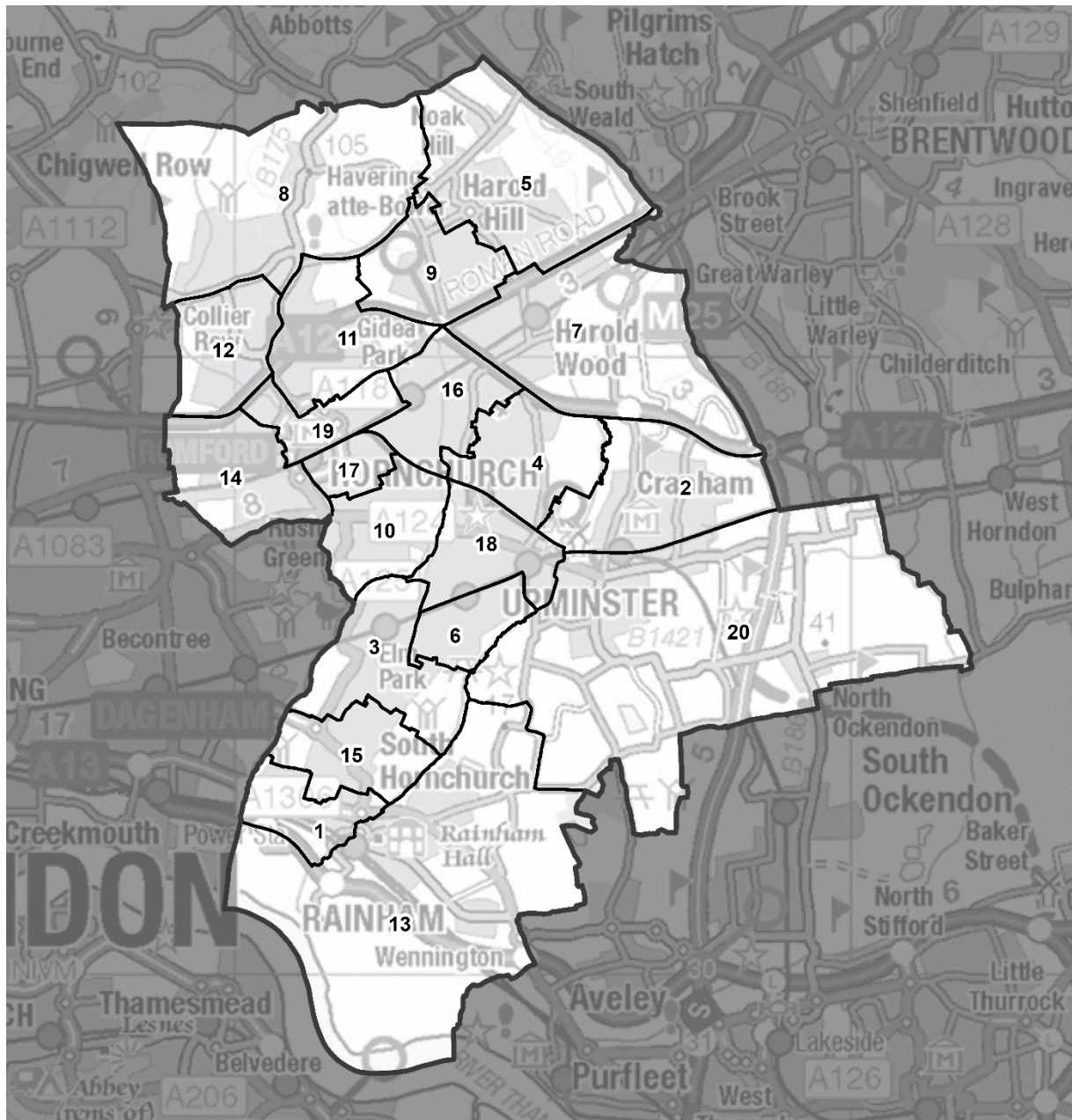
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Mawneys	3	10,315	3,438	-1%	10,558	3,519	-7%
13 Rainham & Wennington	3	9,737	3,246	-6%	10,156	3,385	-11%
14 Rush Green & Crowlands	3	10,375	3,458	0%	12,213	4,071	7%
15 South Hornchurch	2	7,514	3,757	8%	7,703	3,852	1%
16 Squirrels Heath	3	11,856	3,952	14%	12,226	4,075	7%
17 St Alban's	2	5,636	2,818	-19%	8,062	4,031	6%
18 St Andrew's	3	11,334	3,778	9%	11,833	3,944	4%
19 St Edward's	3	7,588	2,529	-27%	10,354	3,451	-9%
20 Upminster	3	10,473	3,491	1%	10,908	3,636	-4%
Totals	55	190,770	-	-	208,748	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,469	-	-	3,795	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Havering 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	Beam Park
2	Cranham
3	Elm Park
4	Emerson Park
5	Gooshays
6	Hacton
7	Harold Wood
8	Havering-atte-Bower

9	Heaton
10	Hylands & Harrow Lodge
11	Marshalls & Rise Park
12	Mawneys
13	Rainham & Wennington
14	Rush Green & Crowlands
15	South Hornchurch
16	Squirrels Heath
17	St Alban's
18	St Andrew's
19	St Edward's
20	Upminster

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/greater-london/greater-london/havering

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/havering

Political Groups

- Harold Wood, Hill, Park Residents' Association
- Upminster and Cranham Residents' Association

Councillors

- Councillor R. Benham (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor R. Best (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor M.D. Burton (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor J. Crowder (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor P. Crowder (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor O. Dervish (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor B. Eagling (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor J. Frost (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor M. Goode (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor J. Holt (3) (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor P. Middleton (2) (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor R. Misir (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor R. Morgon (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor R. Ower (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor D. Patel (2) (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor N. Patel (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor R. Perry (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor V. Persaud (2) (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor T. Ryan (3) (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor C. Smith (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor C. Vickery (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor C. White (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor D. White (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor M. White (The London Borough of Havering)
- Councillor D. Wise (The London Borough of Havering)
- Upminster Ward Councillors (The London Borough of Havering)

Members of Parliament

- Andrew Rosindell MP (Romford)

London Assembly Members

- Andrew Boff (London-wide)
- Keith Prince (Havering & Redbridge)

Local Organisations

- Abbey Total Care
- Crowlands Primary School
- Harrow Lodge Primary School (2)
- Havering-atte-Bower Conservation Society
- Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls
- Friends of Hylands Park
- KingsHeart Church
- Life Education Trust
- Lou Kasparian Barbershop
- Marshalls Park Academy
- Romford Rotary Club
- Romford Snooker Club
- Saint Francis Hospice
- Squirrels Heath Infant School
- St James and St John's Church
- The Growing Federation (2)
- The Parish of St Alban, Protomartyr
- The Residents' Association of Emerson Park
- Wheatsheaf Pub

Local Residents

- 331 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 fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
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. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
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 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.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
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