



**New electoral arrangements for
Tameside Metropolitan Borough
Council
Final Recommendations
November 2021**

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 2021

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

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Tameside?	5
Our proposals for Tameside	5
How will the recommendations affect you?	5
Review timetable	6
Analysis and final recommendations	8
Submissions received	8
Electorate figures	8
Number of councillors	9
Ward boundaries consultation	9
Draft recommendations consultation	10
Final recommendations	10
Audenshaw and Droylsden	11
Denton	13
Ashton-under-Lyne	15
Mossley and Stalybridge	17
Dukinfield	19
Hyde and Longdendale	20
Conclusions	22
Summary of electoral arrangements	22
What happens next?	24
Equalities	26
Appendices	28
Appendix A	28
Final recommendations for Tameside Council	28
Appendix B	30
Outline map	30
Appendix C	31
Submissions received	31
Appendix D	32
Glossary and abbreviations	32

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 Tameside?

7 We have conducted a review of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2003 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'. We are also conducting this review as the value of each vote in borough elections varies depending on where you live in Tameside. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'.

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

- The wards in Tameside 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 Tameside

9 Tameside should be represented by 57 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Tameside should have 19 wards, the same number as there are now.

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

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

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 and which other communities are in that ward. 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 Tameside. We then held two 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 January 2021	Number of councillors decided
26 January 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 April 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
1 June 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
9 August 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
2 November 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 Tameside	172,052	179,961
Number of councillors	57	57
Average number of electors per councillor	3,018	3,157

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'. All of our proposed wards for Tameside are forecast to 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 2026, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2021. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 4.6% by 2026.

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 Tameside Council currently has 57 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have 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 57 councillors – for example, 19 three-councillor wards.

26 As Tameside Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁴ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

27 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. These submissions suggested reducing the number of councillors as a cost-saving measure but did not provide any specific reasoning as to how a smaller number of councillors could effectively discharge the business of the Council. We have therefore maintained 57 councillors in our Final Recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 38 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one borough-wide proposal from Tameside Council, with cross-party support. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

29 The one borough-wide scheme provided a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Tameside. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed pattern of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

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

31 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a detailed ‘virtual’ tour of Tameside. This helped to clarify

⁴ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the draft recommendations.

32 Our draft recommendations were for 19 three-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

33 We received 19 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a submission from Tameside Council commenting on our draft recommendations for all wards, and a submission from Andrew Gwynne MP commenting on proposals within his constituency (Denton & Reddish). The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals for the boundary between Droylsden East and Audenshaw.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to the wards in the Hyde and Ashton-under-Lyne areas based on the submissions received. We also make minor modifications to the boundaries between Denton and Audenshaw, and between Droylsden and Audenshaw.

Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for 19 three-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.

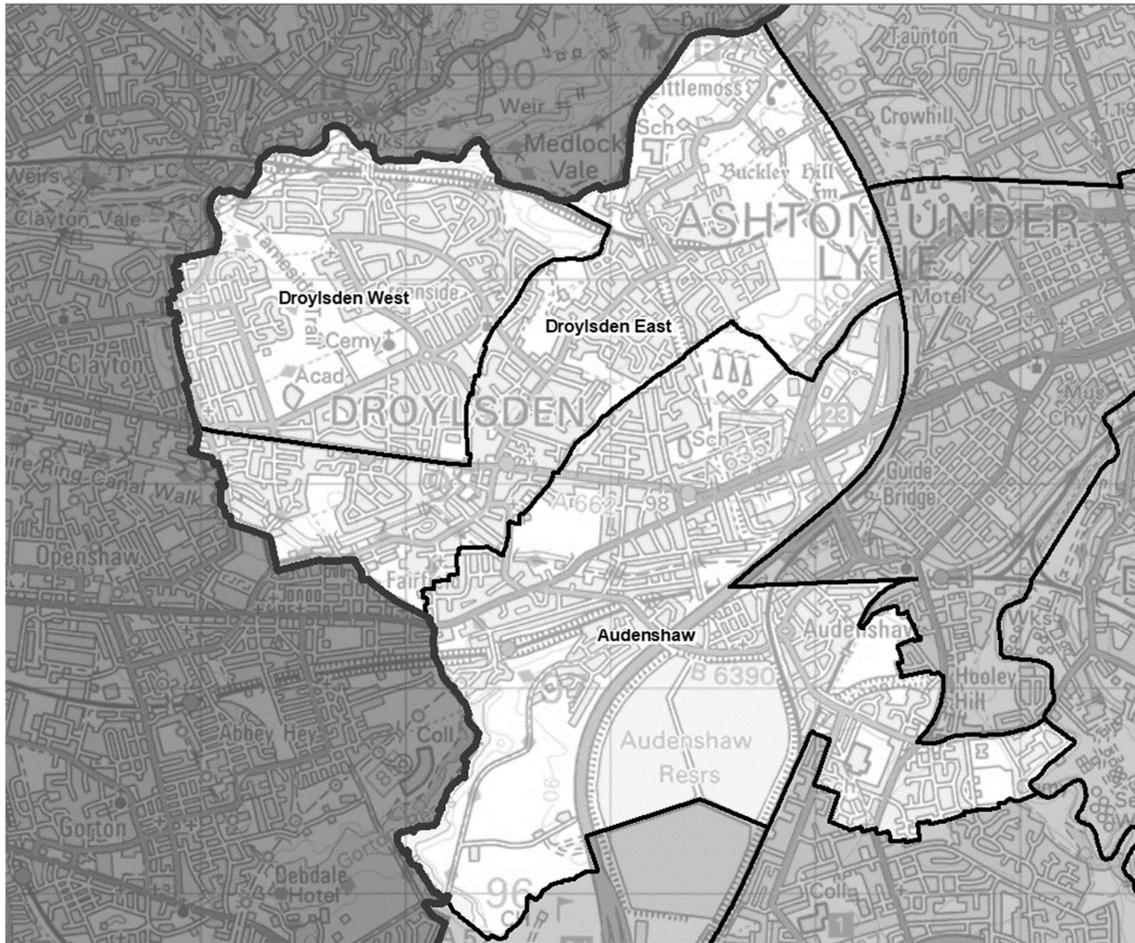
36 The tables and maps on pages 8–18 detail our final recommendations for each area of Tameside. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 25 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Audenshaw and Droylsden



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Audenshaw	3	4%
Droylsden East	3	1%
Droylsden West	3	-2%

Audenshaw, Droylsden East and Droylsden West

38 The Council welcomed our proposals for Droylsden West ward. With regard to Droylsden East, the Council proposed two minor amendments, one of which was supported by both Andrew Gwynne MP and two residents in the affected area.

39 The Council, Andrew Gwynne MP and two local residents all suggested that Willow Fold should be moved into Audenshaw ward, rather than Droylsden East. The Council argued that Williamson Lane was locally understood to be the boundary between the towns of Audenshaw and Droylsden, while one of the residents explained that Willow Fold residents felt that they had a community identity with Audenshaw, reinforced by Willow Fold backing onto Audenshaw Park.

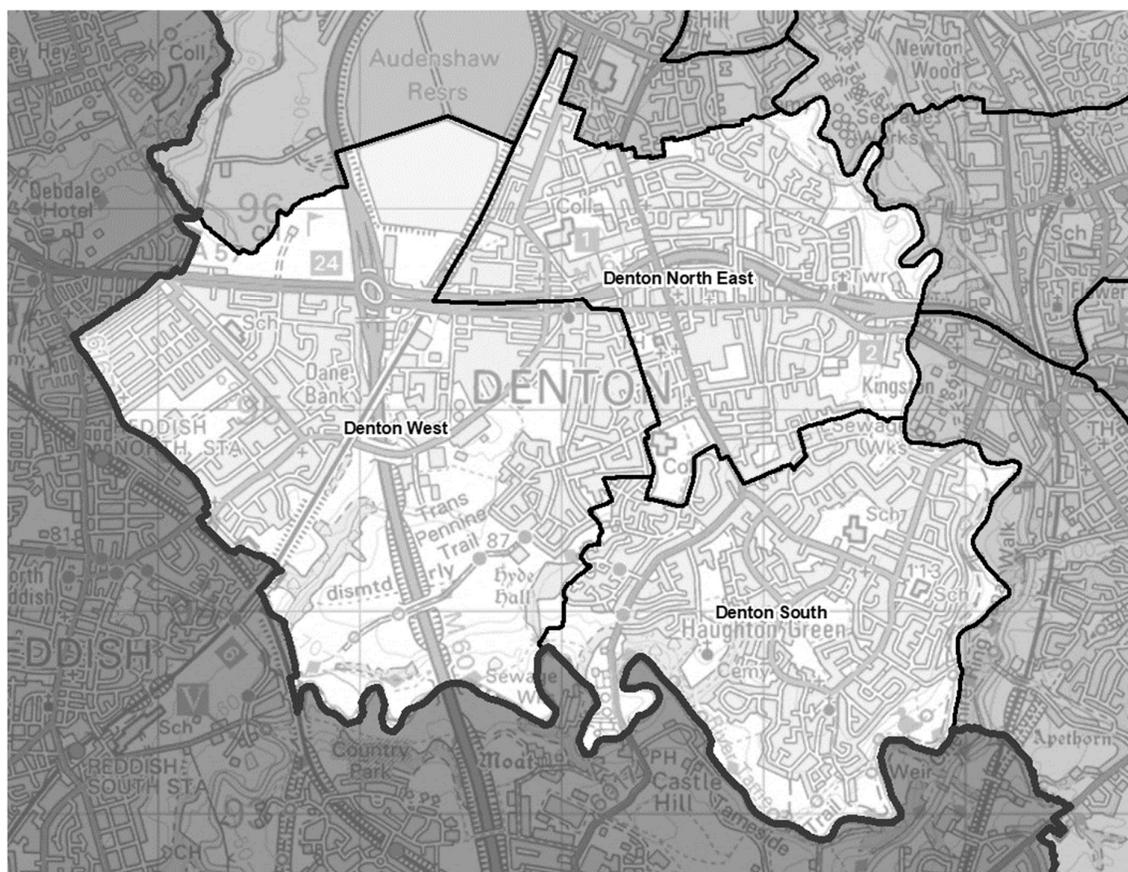
40 The Council further suggested that Fitzroy Street and King Street should move into Audenshaw ward, citing the potential boundary of Williamson Lane and Ashton Hill Lane. We did not receive any further evidence in this area.

41 We have carefully considered all the submissions in this area. We are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations with regard to Willow Fold, which we have placed into Audenshaw ward in order to reflect the evidence of community identity received from residents of this street. We are not persuaded to make a similar change with regard to Fitzroy Street and King Street. These streets have a greater distance to the A662 access road into the rest of Audenshaw ward, and would be isolated within Audenshaw ward, at least until the completion of a development adjoining this area at some time in the future.

42 We propose to make further minor changes to the southern boundary of Audenshaw ward, discussed in more detail below (paragraphs 48–49). Apart from these, and the changes discussed above, we confirm our draft recommendations for Droylsden East, Droylsden West and Audenshaw as final.

43 Audenshaw, Droylsden East and Droylsden West wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026.

Denton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Denton North East	3	-4%
Denton South	3	-3%
Denton West	3	2%

Denton North East and Denton South

44 The Council and Andrew Gwynne MP supported our draft recommendations for these wards. One resident suggested that Denton South could be expanded to include the Kingston area, citing links between this area and Haughton Green along Mill Lane. However, no specific evidence of these links was provided, and we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations in this way.

45 We confirm our draft recommendations for Denton North East and Denton South as final.

Denton West

46 We received alternative proposals for this ward, both in terms of the name and the northern boundary with Audenshaw ward.

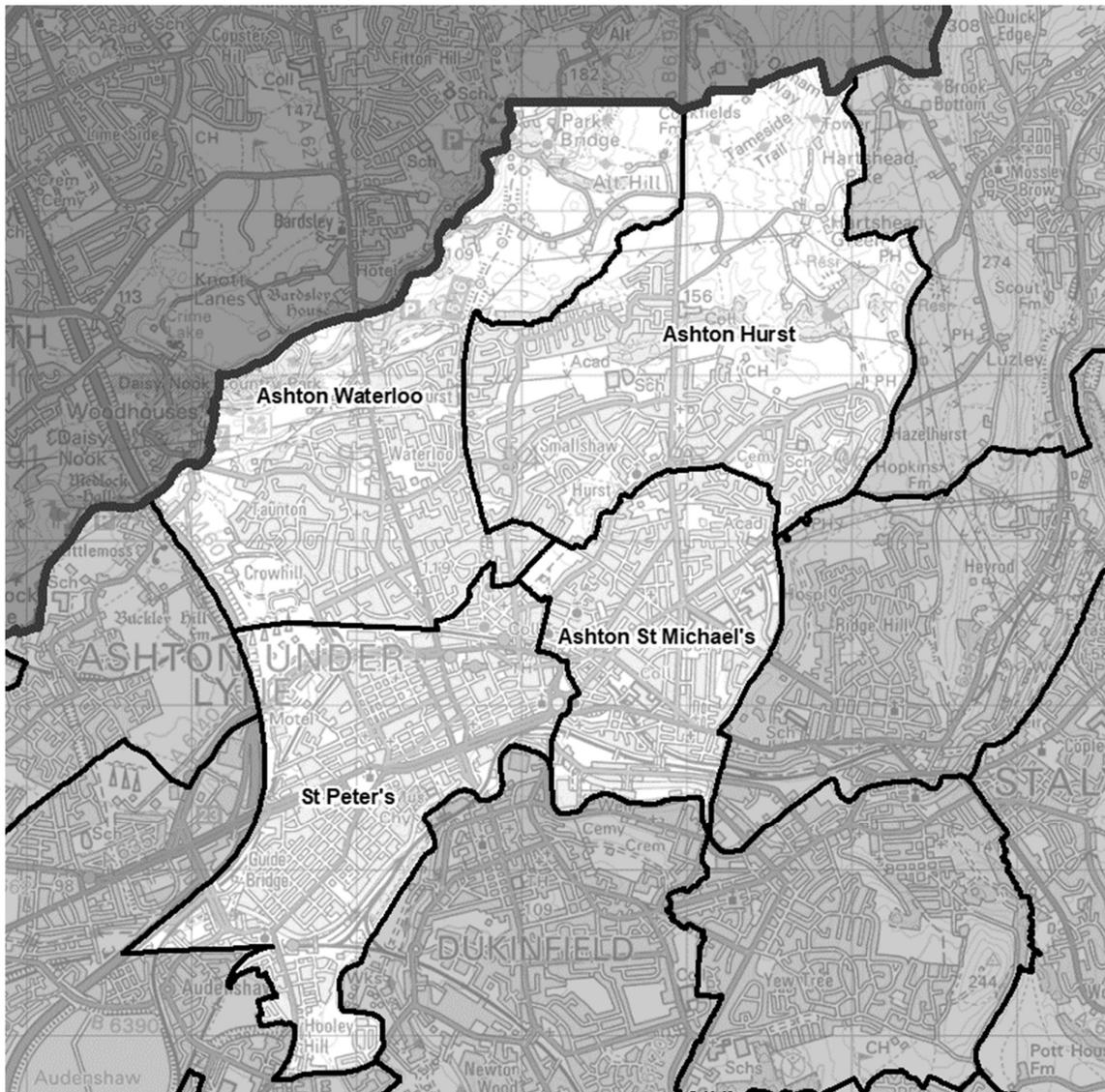
47 In our draft recommendations, at the suggestion of Councillor George Jones, we proposed naming this ward 'Denton West & Dane Bank', as Councillor Jones offered evidence that Dane Bank was a somewhat separate community that deserved to be acknowledged in the name of the ward. After publication of our draft recommendations, Councillor Jones withdrew his previous suggestion, noting that Dane Bank was only one of a number of sub-areas within Denton West. This point was also made by the Council and Andrew Gwynne MP. We have reflected these submissions in our final recommendations and propose to revert to the original Denton West name.

48 Andrew Gwynne MP and the Council proposed a revision to our draft recommendations in the area of Audenshaw Reservoir. Mr Gwynne noted that the existing boundary, dividing the southern section of the reservoir from the remainder, was the historical urban district boundary between Audenshaw and Denton. On a more contemporary basis, he argued, and the Council supported, the proposition that Denton railway station should be maintained entirely within a Denton ward.

49 We have carefully considered these submissions, and are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations in this area. The change does not directly affect any electors and hence has no implications for electoral equality, but we are persuaded that it will provide for a recognisable boundary, and facilitate effective and convenient local government, particularly in terms of Denton railway station.

50 Subject to this change, we confirm the remainder of our draft recommendations for Denton West ward as final. Denton North East, Denton South and Denton West are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026.

Ashton-under-Lyne



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Ashton Hurst	3	-3%
Ashton St Michael's	3	1%
Ashton Waterloo	3	1%
St Peter's	3	-1%

Ashton Hurst and Ashton St Michael's

51 The Council supported our draft recommendations for these wards, and we received no other proposals or comments on them. In our draft recommendation report, we considered whether the Alt Hill and Park Bridge areas might be placed into Ashton Hurst ward, as opposed to Ashton Waterloo. The Council noted that the

community identity of this area was tied to the Medlock Valley, and that this area was appropriately placed within Ashton Waterloo ward.

52 We confirm our draft recommendations for Ashton Hurst and Ashton St Michael's wards as final.

Ashton Waterloo and St Peter's

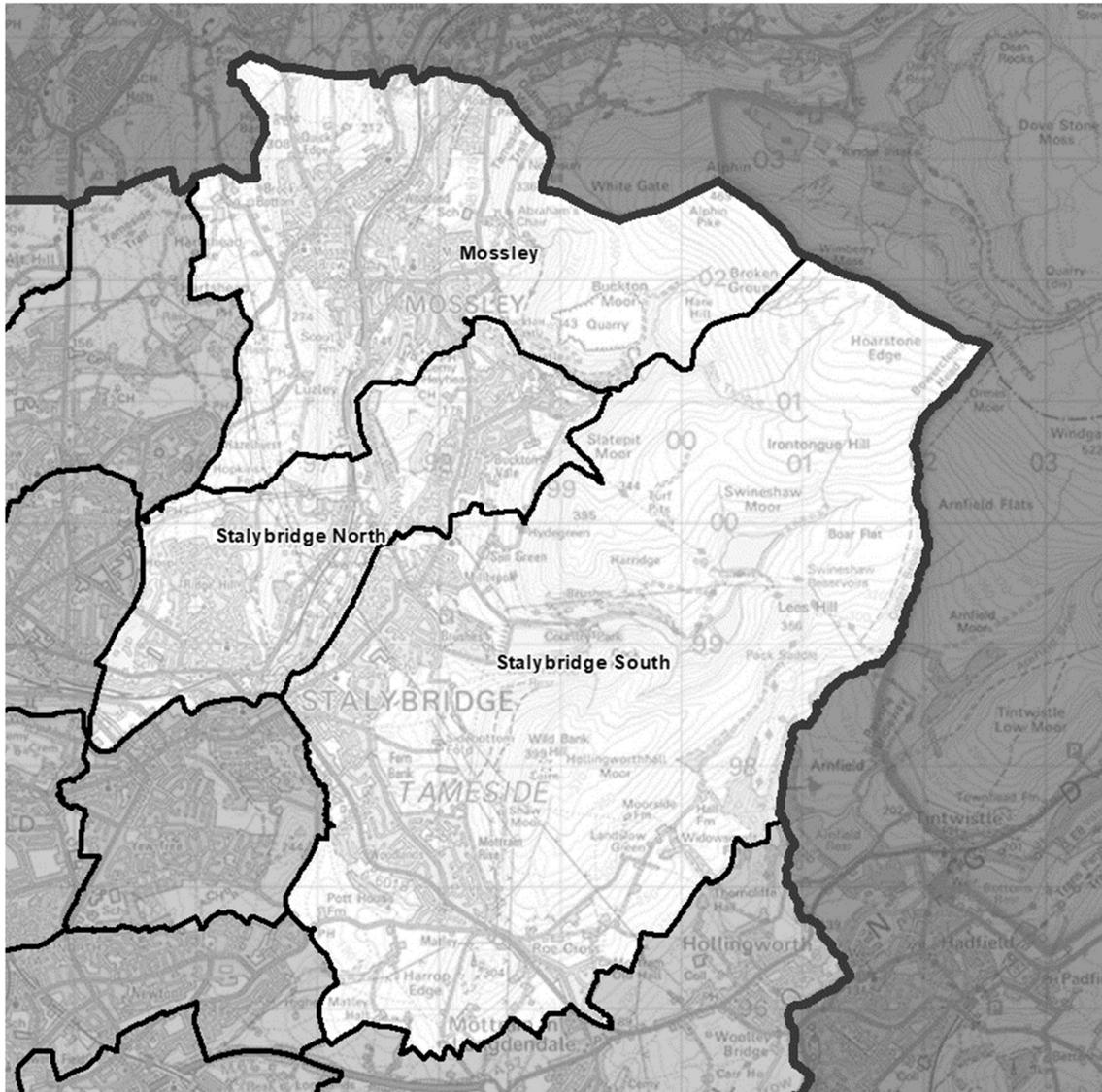
53 The Council, while supporting the majority of our draft recommendations for these wards, proposed one change to the boundary between them. Our draft recommendations proposed a boundary between these wards running along the Manchester–Leeds railway line between the A627 Oldham Road and Cowhill Lane. The Council originally proposed a boundary to the north of this, extending as far as Wrigley Street and King George V playing fields.

54 The Council argued that our proposed boundary, while clear and recognisable on a map, did not reflect the identity of communities in this area. They argued that residents to the south of the proposed boundary looked primarily towards Ashton town centre for their services, while those to the north of the proposed boundary looked towards the Waterloo area, accessing services in the vicinity of Oldham Road. The Council notes that as well as providing a better reflection of community identity, this change will improve the electoral equality of both St Peter's and Ashton Waterloo wards.

55 We were persuaded by this submission and propose to alter our draft recommendations accordingly. Rather than adopt the Council's proposal precisely, we are recommending a boundary running along the edge of the Charlestown industrial area, in order to ensure that this area is within a single ward. This change from the Council's proposal affects very few electors, while providing a more recognisable and clearer boundary than the Council's proposal to split this area between wards.

56 St Peter's and Ashton Waterloo wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026, and we confirm these recommendations as final.

Mossley and Stalybridge



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Mossley	3	-1%
Stalybridge North	3	3%
Stalybridge South	3	1%

Mossley

57 The Council supported our draft recommendations for Mossley ward, and we received no substantive suggestions for any changes in this area. We confirm our draft recommendations as final.

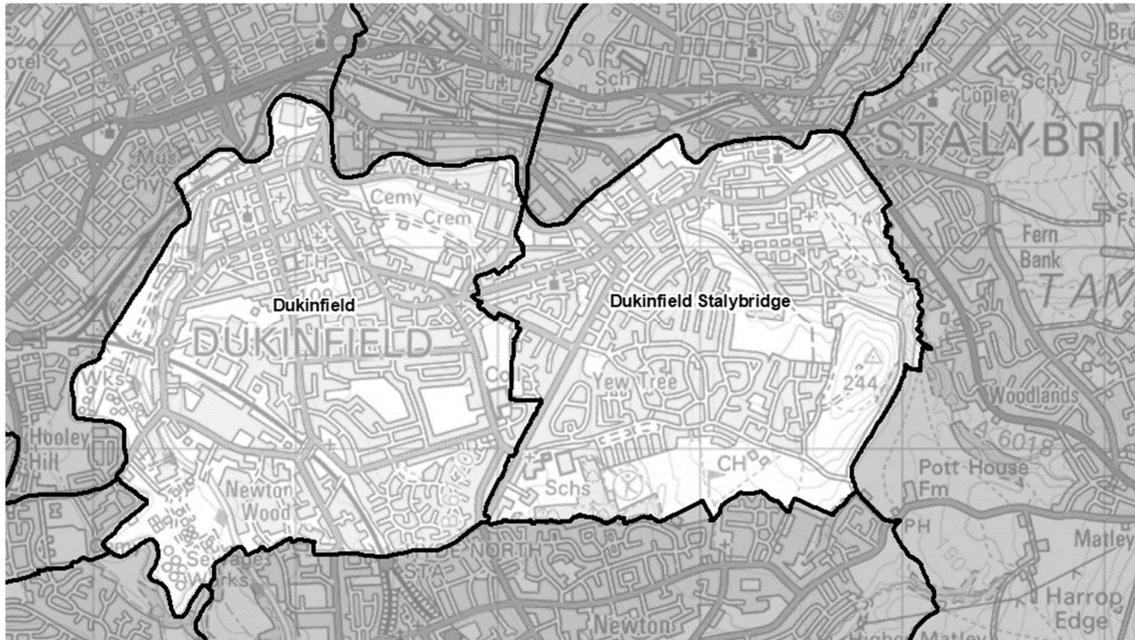
Stalybridge North and Stalybridge South

58 The Council supported our draft recommendations for the majority of the boundaries of these wards, and we received no substantive suggestions for change from any other respondents.

59 In our draft recommendations, we proposed moving St Raphael's RC Primary School, St Raphael's Church and other neighbouring buildings into Stalybridge North ward, in order to be in the same ward as the neighbouring Millbrook School. The Council argued against this change, noting that as a faith school, St Raphael's draws from a much wider geographic area than Millbrook school, suggesting that the existing warding arrangement in this area works well. We were persuaded by this submission, and altered our draft recommendations accordingly. This change affects very few electors directly.

60 Mossley, Stalybridge North and Stalybridge South wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026, and subject to the change mentioned above, we confirm these recommendations as final.

Dukinfield

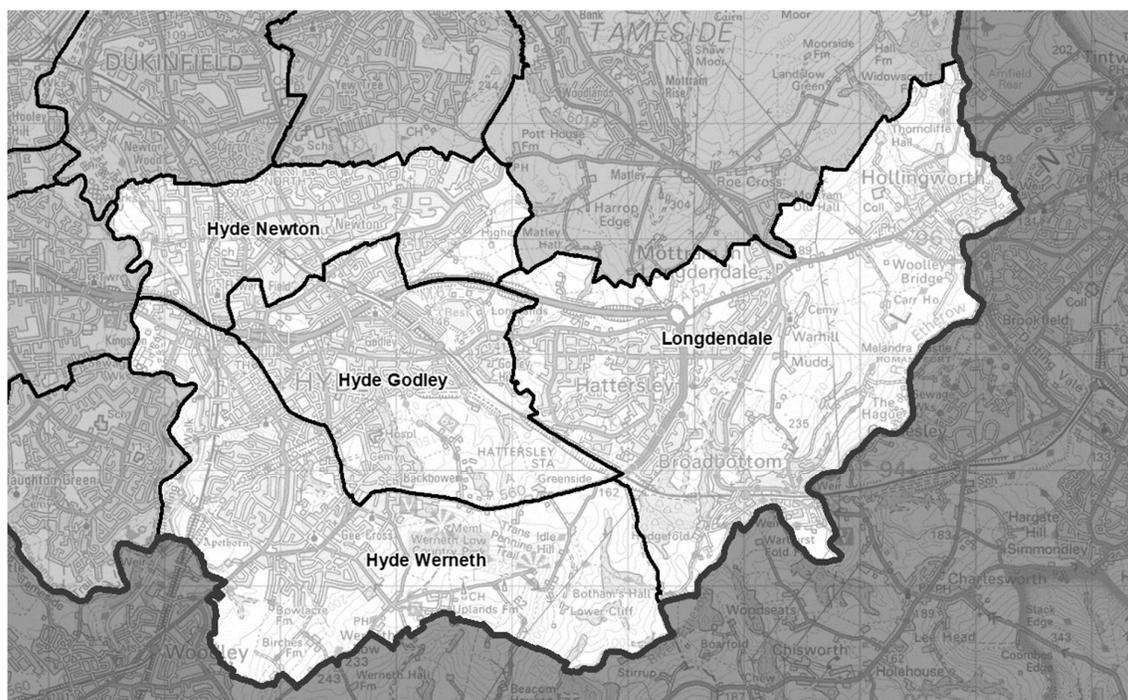


Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Dukinfield	3	2%
Dukinfield Stalybridge	3	-2%

Dukinfield and Dukinfield Stalybridge

61 Our draft recommendations for these wards were supported by the Council and by Andrew Gwynne MP. We received no representations for any changes to our draft recommendations for these wards, and we therefore confirm them as final. Both wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026.

Hyde and Longdendale



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Hyde Godley	3	-5%
Hyde Newton	3	-2%
Hyde Werneth	3	3%
Longdendale	3	6%

Hyde Godley, Hyde Newton and Hyde Werneth

62 The Council broadly supported our proposals for these wards but suggested some relatively minor changes. One resident suggested that the names of these wards should be changed to include geographical signifiers (Hyde North, Hyde Central, Hyde South); however, the Council provided evidence that the existing names were well-understood locally. We are not persuaded to propose any changes to ward names in this area.

63 In our draft recommendations, we proposed placing Carrfield, Bayleyfield and Zorbit Mews, together with the neighbouring development, in Hyde Newton ward. The Council suggested that this area would be better placed in Hyde Godley, to the south, citing the Grafton Centre as a community hub drawing together residents from north and south of the M67. The Council also noted that making this change would improve the electoral equality of Hyde Godley ward from 9% fewer electors than average to 5% fewer.

64 We are persuaded by the evidence provided by the Council and propose to alter our draft recommendations in this area, placing Carrfield and neighbouring streets in Hyde Godley ward.

65 The Council also suggested amending our draft recommendations to place the Kingston area within Hyde Godley ward. The Council argued that Kingston is a self-contained community that, while part of Hyde, did not have strong links to any of the three wards in particular. The Council based their suggestion of placing this area in Hyde Godley ward purely on the grounds of electoral equality.

66 A resident suggested that this area could be placed in a Denton-based ward, asserting community links along Mill Lane/Haughton Green Road. No evidence of these links was provided, and we have not been persuaded to make this change.

67 We have carefully considered the evidence in this area, but are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations. We consider that the access from Kingston to the bulk of Hyde Werneth ward is easier and more convenient than to Hyde Godley, and that the Peak Forest Canal and Rose Hill–Manchester railway line do not function as a strong potential boundary in this area.

68 One resident suggested moving an area of land (Waldorf playing fields) to the east of Early Bank Road from Stalybridge South ward into Hyde Newton ward. Limited evidence of community links was provided, with the principle link cited being a land grant dating from 1972. We are not persuaded that this historical association outweighs the use of Early Bank Road as a clear boundary, and we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations in this area.

Longdendale

69 The Council welcomed our draft recommendations for this ward. In our draft recommendation report, we raised the question as to whether the Hattersley area, described as having a very strong community identity, could be reflected in the name of this ward. The Council, however, suggested that Longdendale was a well-understood name, that covered many of the smaller settlements in this ward as well.

70 We received no proposals for changes to the boundaries of Longdendale ward, and we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

71 Hyde Godley, Hyde Newton, Hyde Werneth and Longdendale wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026.

Conclusions

72 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Tameside, 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	57	57
Number of electoral wards	19	19
Average number of electors per councillor	3,018	3,157
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council should be made up of 57 councillors serving 19 wards representing 19 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 Tameside.

You can also view our final recommendations for Tameside on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

73 We have now completed our review of Tameside Borough 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 2023.

Equalities

74 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 Tameside 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	Ashton Hurst	3	8,624	2,875	-5%	9,210	3,070	-3%
2	Ashton St Michael's	3	9,277	3,092	2%	9,523	3,174	1%
3	Ashton Waterloo	3	9,270	3,090	2%	9,607	3,202	1%
4	Audenshaw	3	9,539	3,180	5%	9,850	3,283	4%
5	Denton North East	3	8,623	2,874	-5%	9,068	3,023	-4%
6	Denton South	3	8,922	2,974	-1%	9,230	3,077	-3%
7	Denton West	3	9,240	3,080	2%	9,652	3,217	2%
8	Droylsden East	3	8,662	2,887	-4%	9,544	3,181	1%
9	Droylsden West	3	8,887	2,962	-2%	9,243	3,081	-2%
10	Dukinfield	3	9,259	3,086	2%	9,614	3,205	2%
11	Dukinfield Stalybridge	3	8,879	2,960	-2%	9,295	3,098	-2%

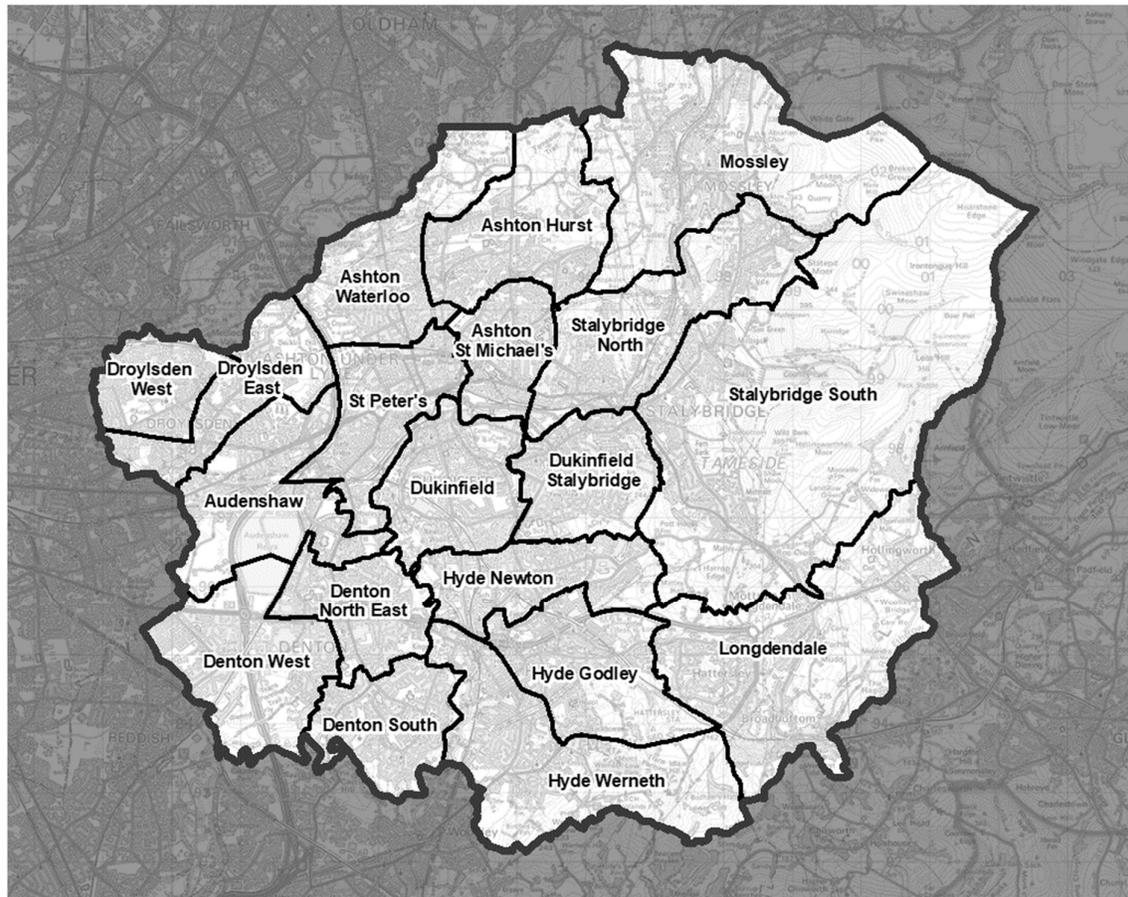
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Hyde Godley	3	8,517	2,839	-6%	9,011	3,004	-5%
13 Hyde Newton	3	9,019	3,006	0%	9,265	3,088	-2%
14 Hyde Werneth	3	9,507	3,169	5%	9,790	3,263	3%
15 Longdendale	3	9,410	3,137	4%	10,066	3,355	6%
16 Mossley	3	8,806	2,935	-3%	9,332	3,111	-1%
17 St Peter's	3	8,950	2,983	-1%	9,347	3,116	-1%
18 Stalybridge North	3	9,472	3,157	5%	9,782	3,261	3%
19 Stalybridge South	3	9,187	3,062	1%	9,531	3,177	1%
Totals	57	172,052	-	-	179,961	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,018	-	-	3,157	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Tameside Borough Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/greater-manchester/tameside

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/greater-manchester/tameside

Local Authority

- Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Councillors

- Councillor G. Jones (Tameside Borough Council)

Member of Parliament

- Andrew Gwynne MP (Denton & Reddish)

Local Organisation

- Mossley Lancashire

Local Residents

- 15 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 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