

New electoral arrangements for Mansfield District Council Final Recommendations

February 2022

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Mansfield?

7 We are conducting a review of Mansfield District Council ('the Council') as some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Mansfield 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 district.

Our proposals for Mansfield

9 Mansfield should be represented by 36 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Mansfield should have 36 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of all but one ward should change; Oak Tree will stay the same.

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

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 district 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 Mansfield. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 February 2021	Number of councillors decided
23 February 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
31 May 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
31 August 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
8 November 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 February 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

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

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

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

	2020	2027
Electorate of Mansfield	81,738	88,410
Number of councillors	36	36
Average number of electors per councillor	2,271	2,456

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 our proposed wards for Mansfield will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 7% by 2027.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and were satisfied that the projected figures were the best available when we launched our consultation on warding arrangements. Upon receipt of the warding pattern submission received from the Council, we became aware that the Council's forecast number of electors in

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.

the Bull Farm & Pleasley area differed from those we had received during the preliminary period. Having discussed this issue with the Council, we are content that the originally submitted forecast figures were erroneously underestimated in the Bull Farm & Pleasley area, as well as in some other areas. We are of the view that the figures used by the Council for its proposed warding pattern represented more accurate electorate forecasts. These increase the overall electorate of Mansfield for 2027 to 88,410, an increase from the original proposed figure of 87,298. We have therefore used these revised figures to produce our draft and final recommendations.

Number of councillors

24 Mansfield Council currently has 36 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. We also noted that the Council passed a motion to request the Commission provide a single-councillor warding pattern.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 36 single-councillor wards.

26 We received six submissions that referred to the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. Five submissions suggested that 36 councillors were too many but did not propose an alternative. One submission proposed that there should be 24 councillors but did not provide any evidence as to how this would allow the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities. Our draft recommendations were therefore based on a 36-councillor council.

27 We received one submission that referred to the number of councillors in response to our consultation on draft recommendations which suggested that 36 councillors were too many but did not propose an alternative. Our final recommendations are therefore based on a 36-councillor council.

Warding arrangements consultation

28 We received 25 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one district-wide proposal from Mansfield Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district. Three submissions disagreed with the Council's decision to request a single-councillor warding pattern, stating that multi-councillor wards would work better for Mansfield. However, none of these submissions proposed multi-councillor warding patterns.

29 The district-wide scheme from Mansfield Council provided a uniform pattern of single-councillor wards for the Council. We carefully considered the proposals

received and were of the view that the Council's proposed patterns 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 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Mansfield. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

32 Our draft recommendations were for 36 one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

33 We received 22 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a response from Mansfield District Council in support of the draft recommendations across the district. We also received submissions that made comment on the Rufford, Quarry, Southwell and West Bank wards.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with two minor modifications to Rufford and West Bank wards and Southwell and Oak Tree wards based on the submissions received. We also propose to rename Quarry ward to Oakham ward.

Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for 36 single-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.

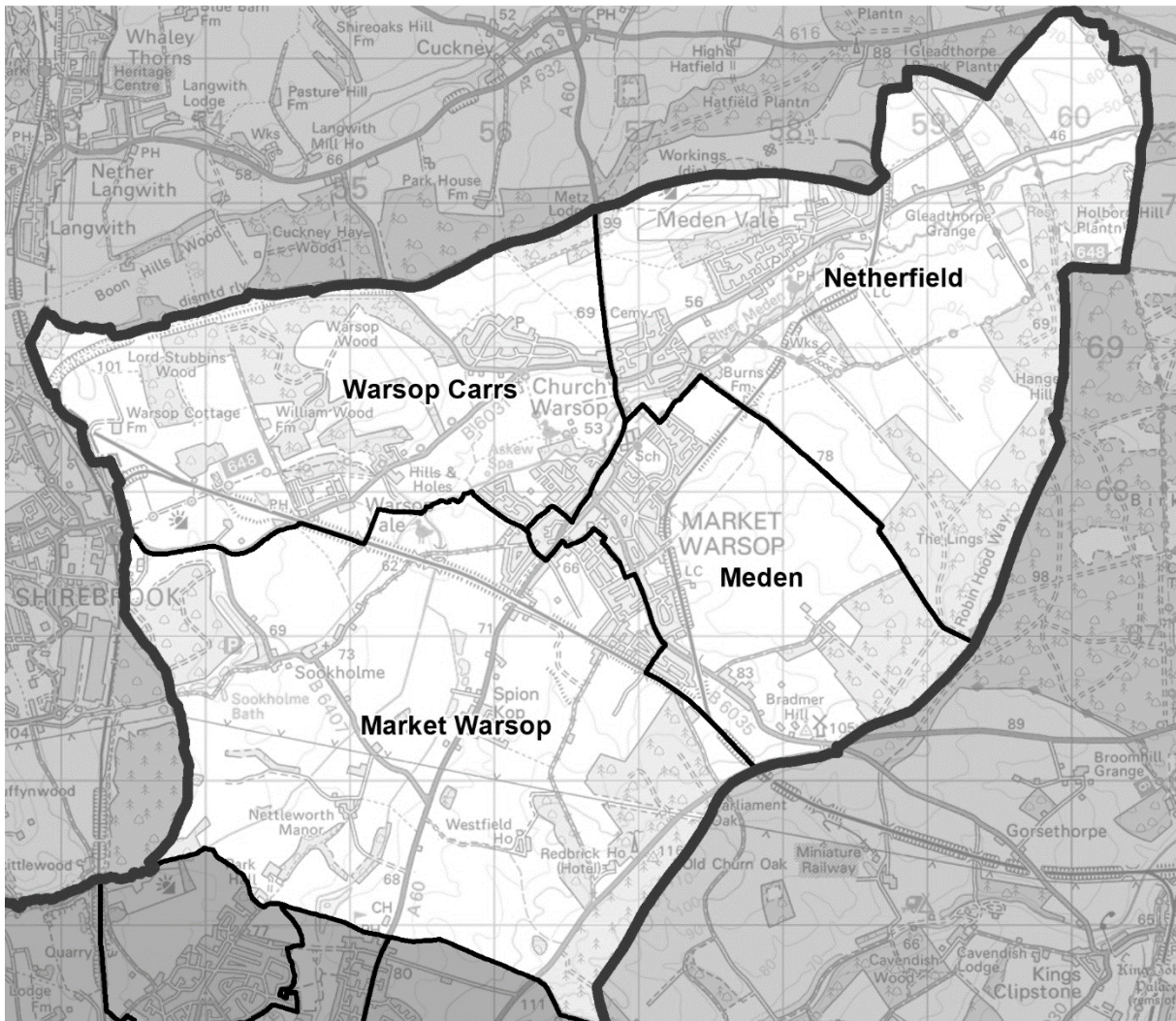
36 The tables and maps on pages 9–19 detail our final recommendations for each area of Mansfield. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

- 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 27 and on the large map accompanying this report.

Warsop parish



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Market Warsop	1	9%
Meden	1	10%
Netherfield	1	-9%
Warsop Carrs	1	9%

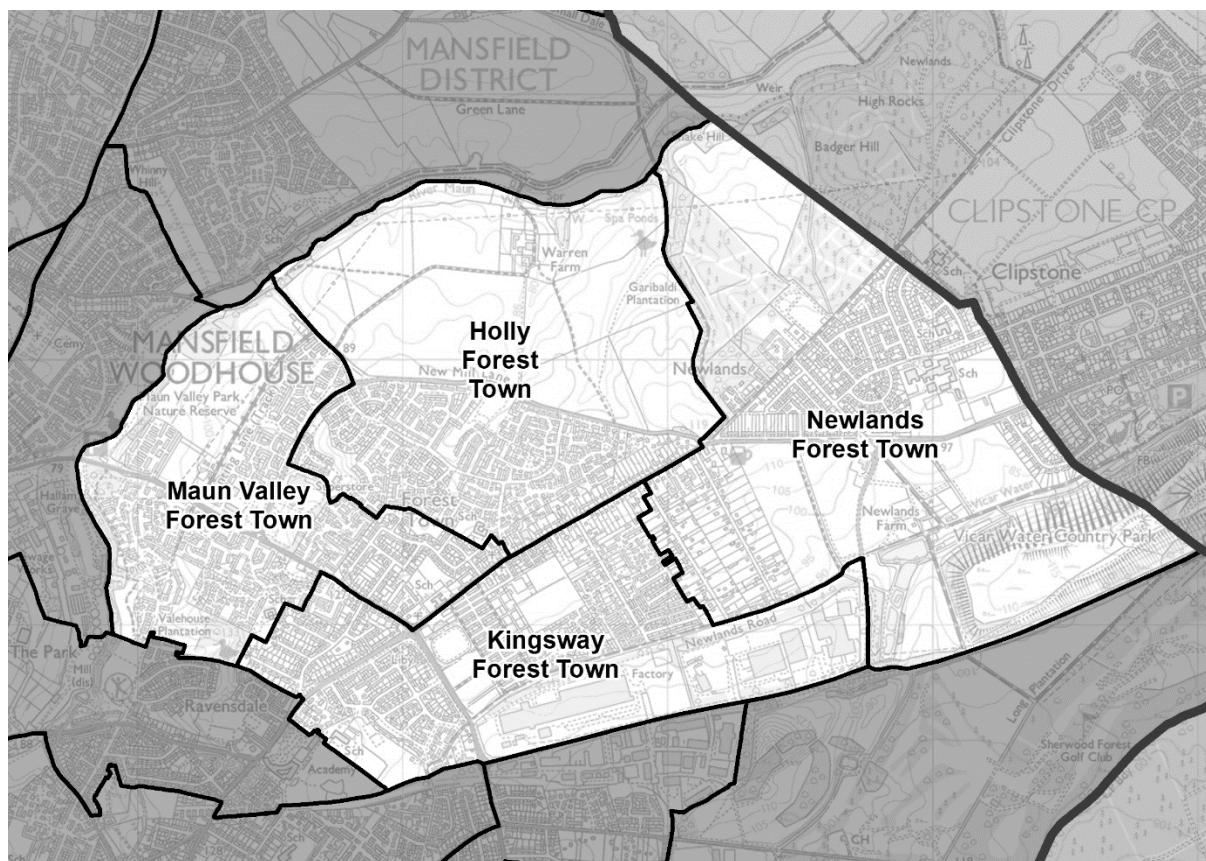
Market Warsop, Meden, Netherfield and Warsop Carrs

38 We only received one submission that referred to Warsop parish, the sole parish within the Mansfield Council area. That submission was from Mansfield Council. The Council stated their agreement with our proposal to move the boundary between Market Warsop and Meden wards to Welbeck Street and Longden Terrace, rather than Clumber Street and Sherwood Street as the Council proposed, to provide for better electoral equality in the Market Warsop ward.

39 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final for this area.

40 Our final recommendations for Warsop parish are for four single-councillor wards of Market Warsop, Meden, Netherfield and Warsop Carrs. They are forecast to have electoral variances of 9%, 10%, -9% and 9% by 2027, respectively.

Forest Town



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Holly Forest Town	1	2%
Kingsway Forest Town	1	6%
Maun Valley Forest Town	1	8%
Newlands Forest Town	1	4%

Holly Forest Town, Kingsway Forest Town, Maun Valley Forest Town and Newlands Forest Town

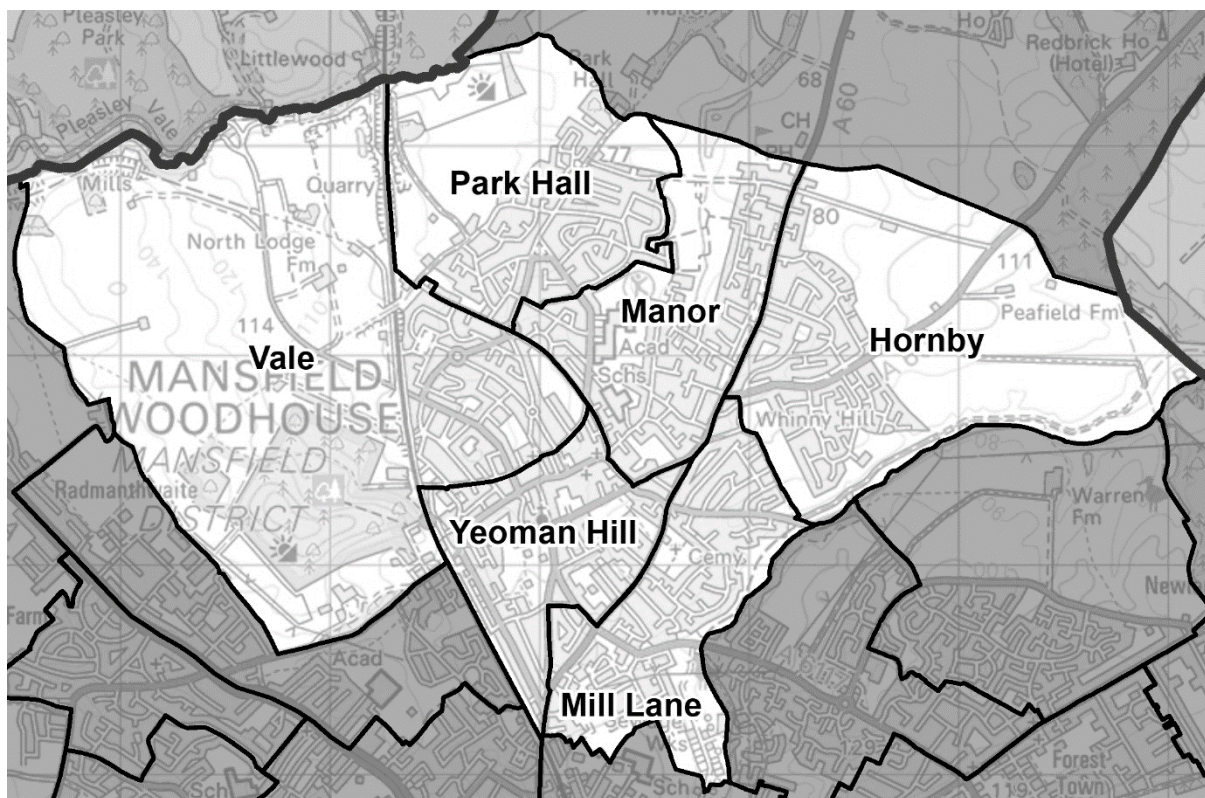
41 We received two submissions that directly referred to the Forest Town area of Mansfield. The submission from the Council supported our draft recommendations, specifically citing their support for the change to the proposed boundary between Kingsway Forest Town and Newlands Forest Town wards, which would follow the rear of properties on Poplar Grove to ensure that street was not divided between wards.

42 The Council also supported our proposal to include Traveller's Rest Farm and 123a Clipstone Road West in the Maun Valley Forest Town ward. This arrangement reflects the access of these properties onto Clipstone Road West. The Council further supported our proposal to wholly include Glebe View in the Maun Valley Forest Town ward.

43 A local resident stated that Newlands Forest Town ward should be called Forest Town Newlands. They provided no evidence to support this assertion and we do not propose to rename this ward or any of the other Forest Town wards, given the support for the names at the previous review stage.

44 We therefore propose to make no changes to our draft recommendations for Forest Town and confirm them as final. Our single-councillor Holly Forest Town, Kingsway Forest Town, Maun Valley Forest Town and Newlands Forest Town wards are forecast to have electoral variances by 2027 of 2%, 6%, 8% and 4%, respectively.

Mansfield Woodhouse



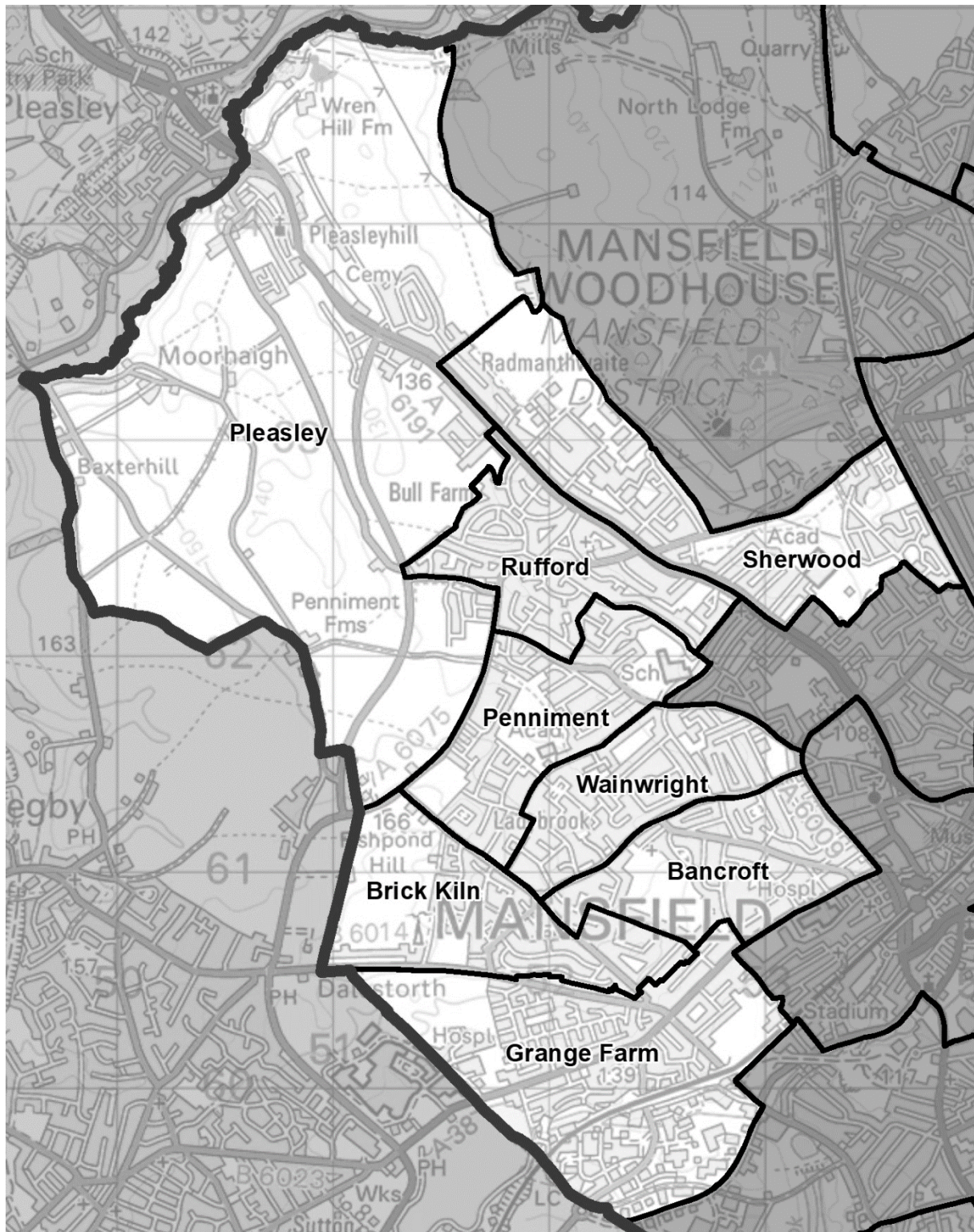
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Hornby	1	-8%
Manor	1	5%
Mill Lane	1	-9%
Park Hall	1	7%
Vale	1	1%
Yeoman Hill	1	-4%

Whole area

45 We received no submissions that made reference to any of the wards in Mansfield Woodhouse.

46 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final. We propose six single-councillor wards of Hornby, Manor, Mill Lane, Park Hall, Vale and Yeoman Hill with forecast electoral variances of -8%, 5%, 9%, 7%, 1% and -4% by 2027, respectively.

East and South East Mansfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bancroft	1	0%
Brick Kiln	1	1%
Grange Farm	1	10%

Penniment	1	-7%
Pleasley	1	4%
Rufford	1	3%
Sherwood	1	-6%
Wainwright	1	-8%

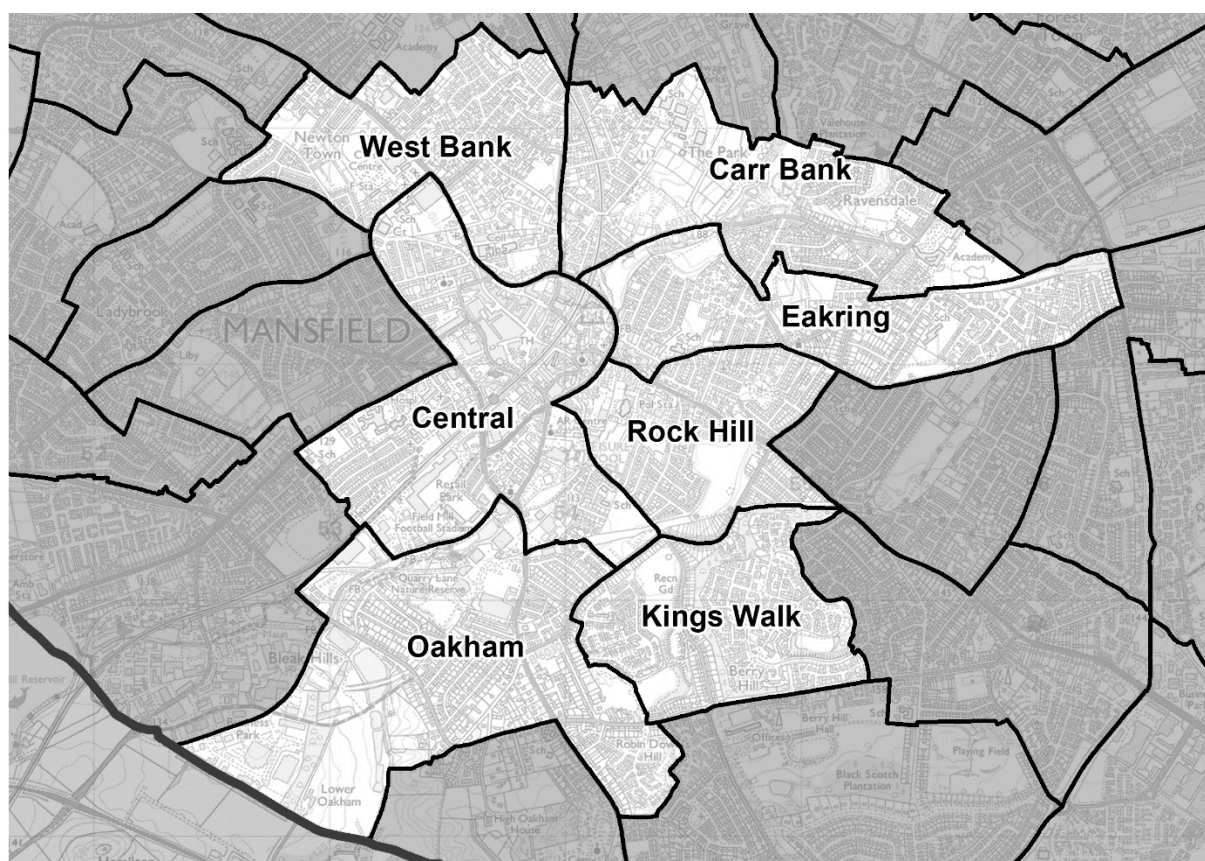
Whole area

47 We received four submissions that referred to this area. The Council supported our proposal to include 114–180 Skegby Lane and all of Mapletree Meadows in Brick Kiln ward rather in the Grange Farm ward. Two local residents suggested that the ward boundary between Rufford ward and West Bank ward should follow the rear of the properties on the south side of Marlborough Road, ensuring that the entire road is included in Rufford ward. One of these local residents further suggested that the developments off Water Lane should be included in a Rufford or Penniment ward rather than a Pleasley ward. A local resident also wrote about the inclusion of Grange Farm in Sutton-in-Ashfield; however, this refers to the review of parliamentary constituency boundaries and is not the subject of this review.

48 Having carefully considered the submissions received, we have been persuaded to amend the boundary between Rufford ward and West Bank ward so that it follows the rear of the properties on the south side of Marlborough Road. This means that the entirety of Marlborough Road would be included in Rufford ward, reflecting the evidence we have received of the community identity of those electors. While we acknowledge the proposal to move the developments off Water Lane out of Pleasley ward, this would leave Pleasley ward with an electoral variance of -34%. We are not persuaded that the evidence justifies this level of electoral inequality.

49 Our final recommendations for East and South East Mansfield are for eight single-councillor wards: Bancroft, Brick Kiln, Grange Farm, Penniment, Pleasley, Rufford, Sherwood and Wainwright. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of 0%, 1%, 10%, -7%, 4%, 3%, -6% and -8% by 2027, respectively.

Central Mansfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Carr Bank	1	-7%
Central	1	-6%
Eakring	1	6%
Kings Walk	1	-1%
Oakham	1	2%
Rock Hill	1	0%
West Bank	1	-7%

Carr Bank, Central, Eakring, Kings Walk, Rock Hill and West Bank

50 We received two submissions that referred to the boundary between Rufford and West Bank wards. These submissions are discussed in paragraphs 47–48, in the section above. The submission from the Council also discussed the boundary between Kings Walk and Thompsons ward, discussed in paragraph 54 below.

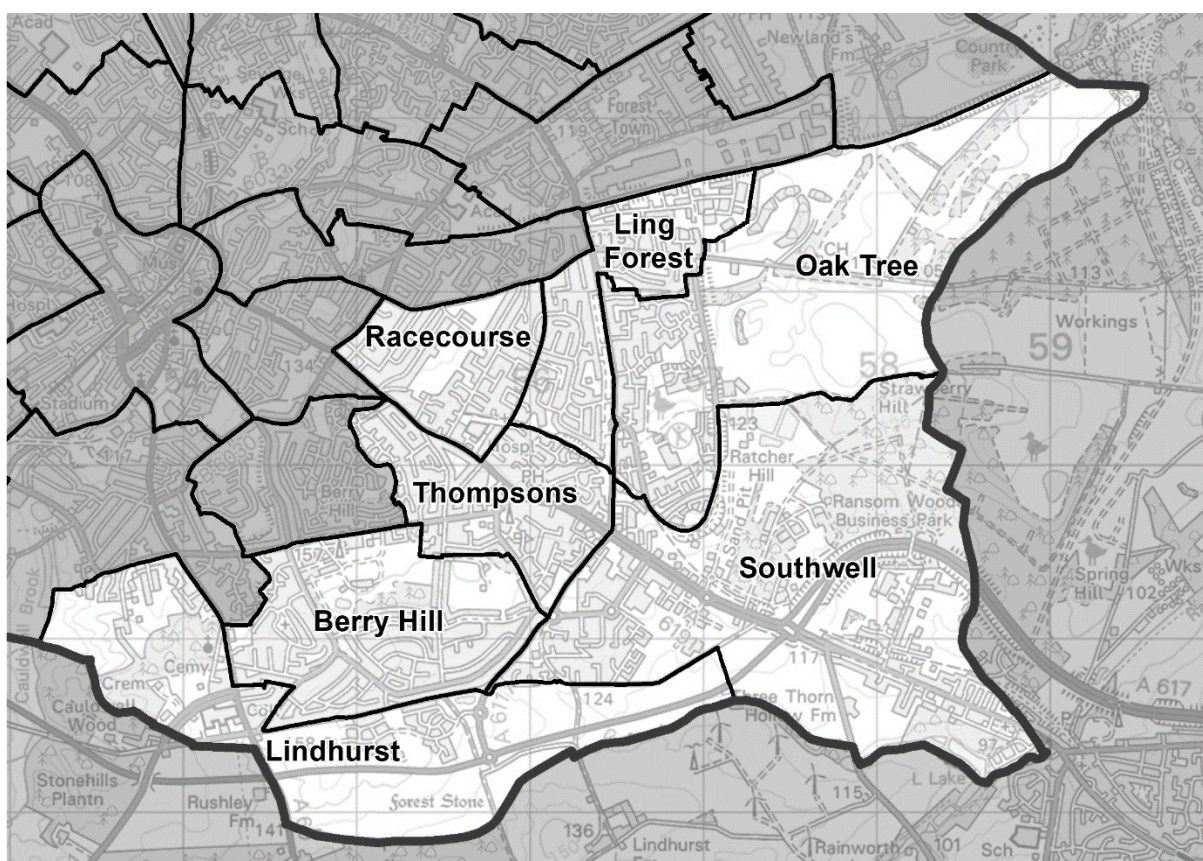
51 Our final recommendations therefore confirm these wards unchanged from the draft recommendations, with the exception of the change to West Bank mentioned earlier in the report. These six wards will have forecast electoral variances of -7%, -6%, 6%, -1%, 0% and -7% by 2027, respectively.

Oakham

52 Nine submissions objected to our proposal to name this ward as Quarry. They stated that the area covered by the ward was recognised as the Oakham community, and whilst the boundaries of the existing ward had changed, the name was still reflective of the community. We agree with these arguments and we propose to rename the ward Oakham as part of our final recommendations.

53 Subject to the name change outlined in the paragraph above, we confirm our draft recommendation for Oakham ward as final. This ward is forecast to have an electoral variance of 2% by 2027.

West and South West Mansfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Berry Hill	1	-8%
Lindhurst	1	-9%
Ling Forest	1	-9%
Oak Tree	1	-7%
Racecourse	1	8%
Southwell	1	3%
Thompsons	1	7%

Whole area

54 We received three submissions that made reference to the wards in West and South West Mansfield. The Council supported the proposal to include King George V Avenue and The Rodery in Thompsons ward to provide for electoral equality.

55 The Council also supported the proposal to have two single-councillor wards for Berry Hill and Lindhurst. The Council did not support a two-councillor ward in this area, which they argued would be confusing as the only two-councillor ward in the district and would also weaken the link between councillor and electorate. As part of our draft recommendations, we asked for views on a two-councillor ward of Berry Hill & Lindhurst; however, other than from the Council, we received no views. The

Council also supported the inclusion of the future Jubilee Way development in Oak Tree ward, as we proposed in our draft recommendations.

56 The two other submissions for this area were from local residents. One submission was from a resident who lived in Ling Forest ward and made no comment about the boundaries of the ward, instead commenting on the way the ward was represented.

57 The other local resident was from Southwell ward. They stated that they did not support the inclusion of the area around Ransom Wood Business Park and Strawberry Hill in Oak Tree ward as this area is part of the Rainworth community. The resident argued that most of the Rainworth community is in neighbouring Newark & Sherwood and that the part of Rainworth that is within the boundaries of Mansfield District would be better served by not being further divided between wards within Mansfield. We note that the area in question contains only one residential property containing one elector.

58 Having considered the evidence received, we have been persuaded to revise the boundary between Oak Tree and Southwell. Our revised boundary reverts to the existing ward boundary between these two wards. We propose no other changes to these wards.

59 Our final recommendations for West and South West Mansfield are as per the draft recommendations except for the small modifications mentioned above. Our final recommendations of Berry Hill, Lindhurst, Ling Forest, Oak Tree, Racecourse, Southwell and Thompsons wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -8%, -9%, -9%, -7%, 8%, 3% and 7% by 2027, respectively.

Conclusions

60 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Mansfield, referencing the 2021 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2021	2027
Number of councillors	36	36
Number of electoral wards	36	36
Average number of electors per councillor	2,271	2,456
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	12	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Final recommendations

Mansfield District Council should be made up of 36 councillors serving 36 single-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 Mansfield District Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Mansfield on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

61 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

62 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our

recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Mansfield District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

63 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Warsop parish.

Draft recommendations

Warsop Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Market Warsop	3
Meden	3
Netherfield	3
Warsop Carrs	3

What happens next?

64 We have now completed our review of Mansfield District 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

65 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 Mansfield

	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	Bancroft	1	2,348	2,348	3%	2,452	2,452	0%
2	Berry Hill	1	2,225	2,225	-2%	2,250	2,250	-8%
3	Brick Kiln	1	2,073	2,073	-9%	2,477	2,477	1%
4	Carr Bank	1	2,204	2,204	-3%	2,277	2,277	-7%
5	Central	1	2,092	2,092	-8%	2,298	2,298	-6%
6	Eakring	1	2,392	2,392	5%	2,605	2,605	6%
7	Grange Farm	1	2,434	2,434	7%	2,691	2,691	10%
8	Holly Forest Town	1	2,488	2,488	10%	2,513	2,513	2%
9	Hornby	1	2,262	2,262	0%	2,262	2,262	-8%
10	Kings Walk	1	2,427	2,427	7%	2,428	2,428	-1%
11	Kingsway Forest Town	1	2,537	2,537	12%	2,609	2,609	6%
12	Lindhurst	1	788	788	-65%	2,233	2,233	-9%

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 %
13 Ling Forest	1	2,239	2,239	-1%	2,239	2,239	-9%
14 Manor	1	2,517	2,517	11%	2,573	2,573	5%
15 Market Warsop	1	2,136	2,136	-6%	2,666	2,666	9%
16 Maun Valley Forest Town	1	2,663	2,663	17%	2,663	2,663	8%
17 Meden	1	2,647	2,647	17%	2,693	2,693	10%
18 Mill Lane	1	2,227	2,227	-2%	2,227	2,227	-9%
19 Netherfield	1	2,142	2,142	-6%	2,246	2,246	-9%
20 Newlands Forest Town	1	2,095	2,095	-8%	2,561	2,561	4%
21 Oak Tree	1	1,989	1,989	-12%	2,294	2,294	-7%
22 Oakham	1	2,360	2,360	4%	2,503	2,503	2%
23 Park Hall	1	2,598	2,598	14%	2,617	2,617	7%
24 Penniment	1	2,114	2,114	-7%	2,292	2,292	-7%
25 Pleasley	1	1,557	1,557	-31%	2,549	2,549	4%
26 Racecourse	1	2,649	2,649	17%	2,649	2,649	8%

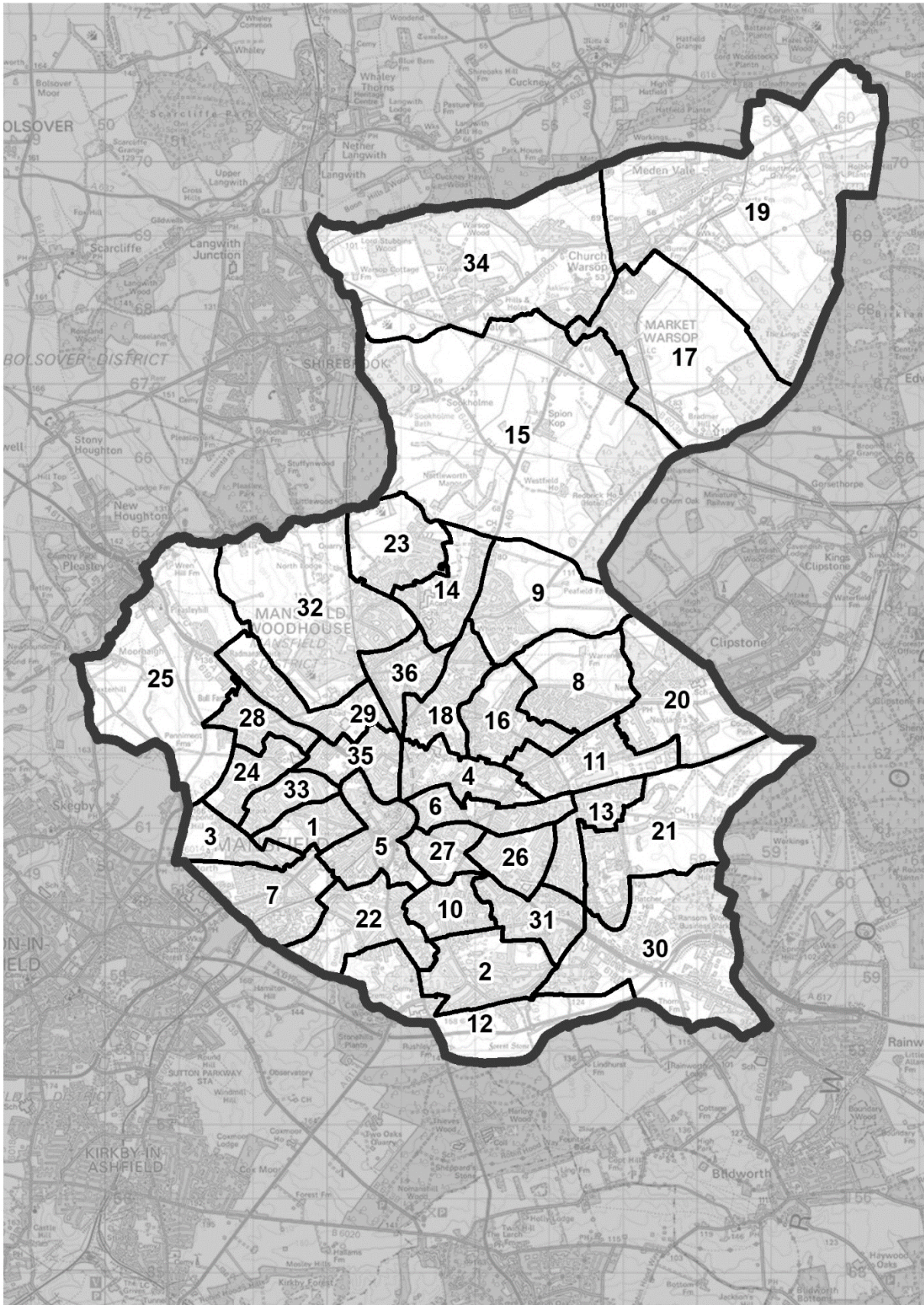
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
27 Rock Hill	1	2,358	2,358	4%	2,455	2,455	0%
28 Rufford	1	2,535	2,535	12%	2,535	2,535	3%
29 Sherwood	1	2,212	2,212	-3%	2,312	2,312	-6%
30 Southwell	1	2,102	2,102	-7%	2,531	2,531	3%
31 Thompsons	1	2,638	2,638	16%	2,638	2,638	7%
32 Vale	1	2,307	2,307	2%	2,477	2,477	1%
33 Wainwright	1	2,186	2,186	-4%	2,258	2,258	-8%
34 Warsop Carrs	1	2,591	2,591	14%	2,681	2,681	9%
35 West Bank	1	2,243	2,243	-1%	2,293	2,293	-7%
36 Yeoman Hill	1	2,363	2,363	4%	2,363	2,363	-4%
Totals	36	81,738	-	-	88,410	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,271	-	-	2,456	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Mansfield District 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 district. 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	Bancroft
2	Berry Hill
3	Brick Kiln
4	Carr Bank
5	Central
6	Eakring
7	Grange Farm
8	Holly Forest Town
9	Hornby
10	Kings Walk
11	Kingsway Forest Town
12	Lindhurst
13	Ling Forest
14	Manor
15	Market Warsop
16	Maun Valley Forest Town
17	Meden
18	Mill Lane
19	Netherfield
20	Newlands Forest Town
21	Oak Tree
22	Oakham
23	Park Hall
24	Penniment
25	Pleasley
26	Racecourse
27	Rock Hill
28	Rufford
29	Sherwood
30	Southwell
31	Thompsons
32	Vale
33	Wainwright
34	Warsop Carrs
35	West Bank
36	Yeoman Hill

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

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Local Authority

- Mansfield District Council

Local Organisations

- Nottinghamshire Police

Local Residents

- 20 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

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

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

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

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