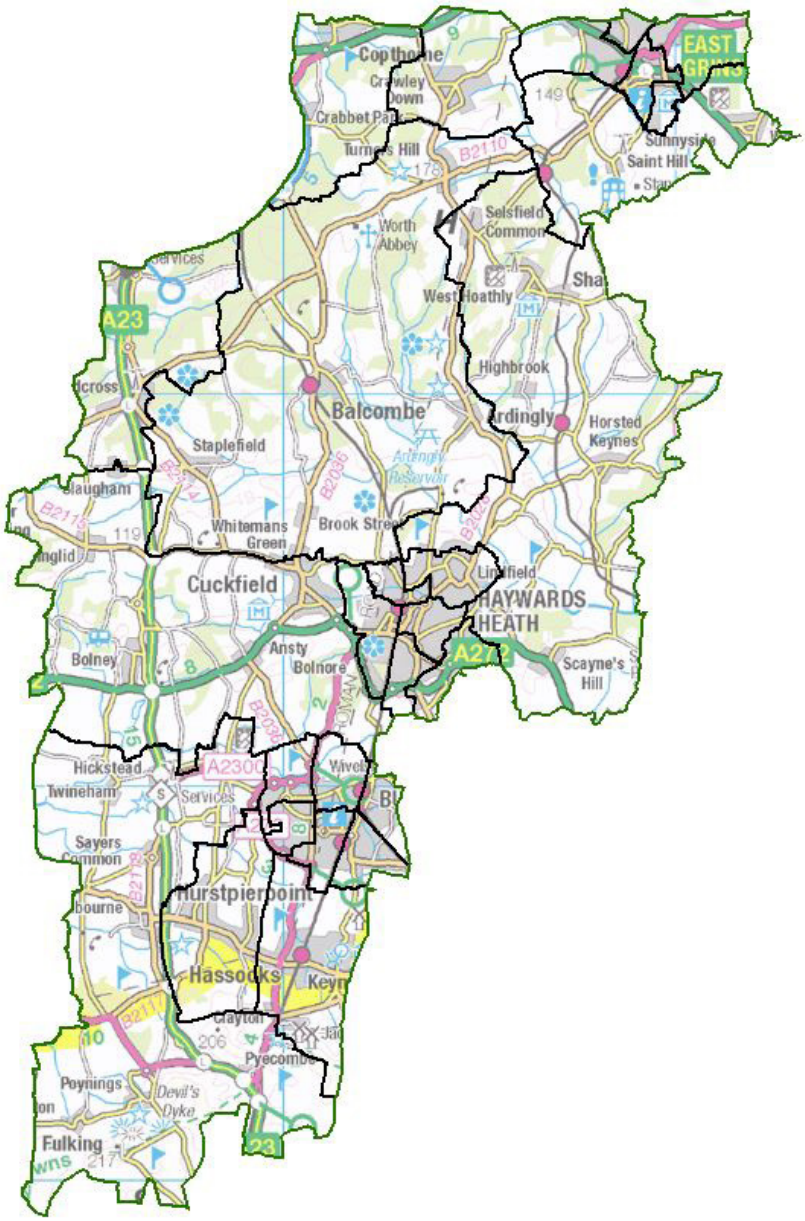
The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Mid Sussex District Council

Final Recommendations

February 2022

Translations and other formats:

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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.

Contents

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 Mid Sussex?

7 We are conducting a review of Mid Sussex District Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2002, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.[2] Additionally, 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 Mid Sussex 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 Mid Sussex

9 Mid Sussex should be represented by 48 councillors, six fewer than there are now.

10 Mid Sussex should have 27 wards, one more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 23 wards should change; three (Copthorne & Worth, Hassocks and Burgess Hill St Andrews) will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Mid Sussex.

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

[2] Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

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 Mid Sussex. 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 March 2021	Number of councillors decided
23 March 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 Legislation[3] states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors[4] 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.

	2021	2027
Electorate of Mid Sussex	114,521	129,567
Number of councillors	48	48
Average number of electors per councillor	2,386	2,699

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 but two of our proposed wards for Mid Sussex are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 13% by 2027.

23 During the warding pattern consultation, we received a number of queries about the Council's forecast. Councillors Gibson and Phillips and Worth Parish Council queried the Council's forecast for two existing wards, Copthorne & Worth and

[3] Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.
[4] Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Crawley Down & Turners Hill, with specific reference to housing development. However, we have analysed the forecast and are satisfied that the development growth is included by 2027.

24 One resident wanted to be sure that the substantial Northern Arc development to the north of Burgess Hill had been appropriately included in the forecast.

25 During the latest consultation, we did not receive any comments about the electorate figures. We remain satisfied that the projected figures provided by the Council are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

26 Mid Sussex District Council currently has 54 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that decreasing by six will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 48 councillors – for example, 48 one-councillor wards, 16 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received six submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. The Mid Sussex Constituency Labour Party ('Labour Party') and Hassocks Parish Council objected to the reduced council size on the grounds that the electorate is forecast to increase.

29 Councillors Gibson and Phillips and three residents supported a reduction in councillor numbers. However, apart from one of the residents, they had different views about what the council size should be.

30 We considered the objections to the proposed council size but in the absence of strong evidence to support a different council size, we based our draft recommendations on a 48-councillor council.

31 We received two submissions which made reference to councillor numbers in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. Both supported a reduction in councillors but did not propose a specific number, nor did they provide any supporting evidence. We have therefore maintained 48 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

32 We received 40 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three district-wide proposals and comments from the Mid Sussex Conservative Party ('the Conservatives'), the Mid Sussex Liberal Democrats ('Liberal Democrats') and a joint submission from Councillor Gibson and Councillor Phillips. The Labour Party also submitted comments.

33 The Conservatives expressed a preference for single-councillor wards wherever possible, on the grounds that it led to better accountability.

34 The Liberal Democrats' scheme provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Mid Sussex.

35 The Labour Party did not submit any specific proposals but provided some comments on a few areas.

36 Councillors Gibson and Phillips proposed a mixed pattern of 23 wards for Mid Sussex, with Burgess Hill having five wards and East Grinstead and Haywards Heath each having four wards.

37 A number of respondents pointed out that in Mid Sussex, the urban areas (Burgess Hill, East Grinstead and Haywards Heath) had more representation. By law, we have to have regard to the number of electors. This means that size of a ward and number of councillors per ward are determined by the number of electors.

38 The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the district.

39 We broadly based our draft recommendations on the scheme locally generated and proposed by the Liberal Democrats. We considered that this provided for good electoral equality, had identifiable boundaries and in our view will reflect communities. In doing this, we made some amendments to reflect what others said, including the Conservatives, where we considered this would provide a better reflection of communities or would provide better boundaries.

40 Given the social distancing requirements (at the time) arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Mid Sussex. This helped clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed boundary recommendations.

41 Our draft recommendations were for three three-councillor wards, 17 two-councillor wards and five one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting

community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

42 We received 31 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included district-wide comments from the Conservatives, Mims Davies MP and West Sussex County Council ('County Council'), who supported our draft recommendations for most of the district. They proposed changes to one of our draft recommendation wards in Burgess Hill and another one in East Grinstead. The Conservatives and Mims Davies MP also proposed modifications to additional wards in Haywards Heath.

43 The Labour Party proposed changes to the same area of Burgess Hill but expressed support for our draft recommendations for Haywards Heath.

44 The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, including in Bolney, Crawley Down, Cuckfield, East Grinstead, Lindfield, Turners Hill and Twineham.

45 These included a submission from East Grinstead Town Council with respect to the number of parish councillors and parish wards. It questioned the need to retain 19 parish councillors spread across eight parish wards. It advocated reducing the councillors to 16 'in line with Haywards Heath Council'. It also wanted to retain the same number of parish wards (six) as it currently has.

46 We do not normally change the number of parish councillors as part of an electoral review, as it is not a change directly resulting from our proposed district ward boundaries. We consider that increasing or decreasing the number of parish councillors is an issue which would be more appropriately resolved via a Community Governance Review. With regards to the number of parish wards, as mentioned above, we are required to create a parish ward where a district ward or county division boundary crosses a parish boundary. Therefore, we have created parish wards where we need to do so.

Final recommendations

47 Our final recommendations are for one three-councillor ward, 19 two-councillor wards and seven one-councillor wards. Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to some wards in Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath and Lindfield. We have also made a modification between Cuckfield, Ansty & Bolney and Downland Villages wards.

48 We have also renamed a number of wards in response to the evidence we received. 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.

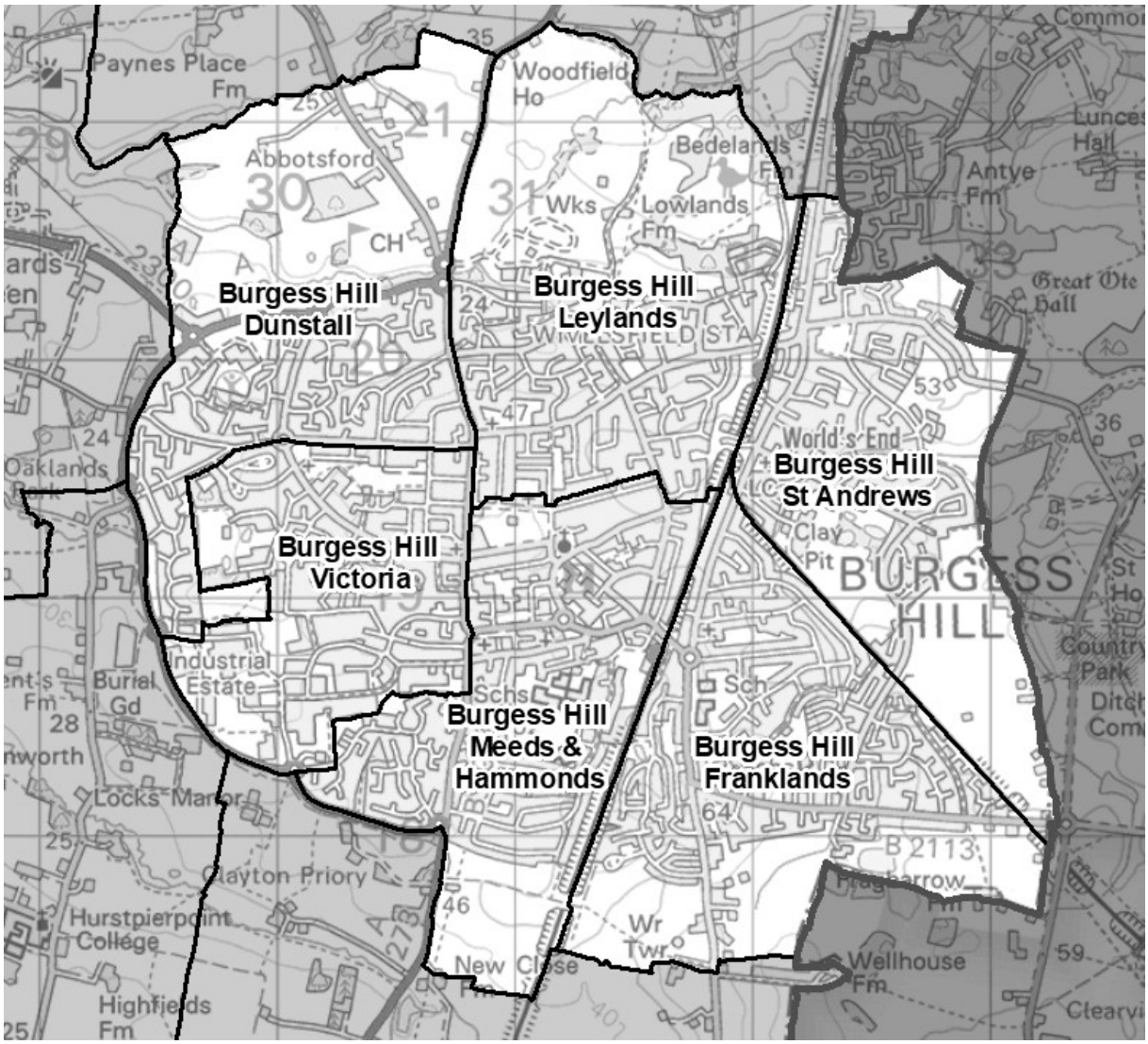
49 The tables and maps on pages 10–28 detail our final recommendations for each area of Mid Sussex. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory[5] criteria of:

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

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

[5] Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Burgess Hill



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Burgess Hill Dunstall	2	2%
Burgess Hill Franklands	2	-11%
Burgess Hill Leylands	2	3%
Burgess Hill Meeds & Hammonds	2	0%
Burgess Hill St Andrews	2	5%
Burgess Hill Victoria	1	6%

Burgess Hill Dunstall and Burgess Hill Leylands

51 The district-wide submissions all supported our draft recommendations for these wards. We also received a submission from a resident who expressed the view that our proposals were an improvement on the existing arrangement. We received no further submissions which specifically referred to either of these wards. We, therefore, confirm our draft recommendations for both wards as final.

Burgess Hill Meeds & Hammonds and Burgess Hill Victoria

52 Our draft recommendations were for a single three-councillor Burgess Hill Meeds & Victoria ward. As part of those draft recommendations, we asked for views on whether we should create two separate wards in this area by including the Hammonds Ridge Estate in a ward to the east.

53 The Conservatives, County Council, Labour Party and Mims Davies MP all objected to a three-councillor ward in this area and supported the creation of two separate wards, albeit with different proposed boundaries.

54 The Conservatives were of the view that such a large urban ward would create a greater challenge for councillors to effectively represent it. This, they argued, would not promote effective and convenient local government. The Labour Party made a similar point, stating that the proposed ward would not 'lead to effective local democracy' as it covered 'a large sprawling area of Burgess Hill'.

55 Mims Davies MP stated that this very large ward was made up of residents with very different needs across its area and proposed a ward based on the Hammonds Ridge Estate and another ward which covered the rest of the area.

56 The Conservatives and County Council proposed identical wards, also based on including the Hammonds Ridge Estate in a single ward. Their proposal would see the creation of a two-councillor Burgess Hill Meeds & Victoria ward and a single-councillor Burgess Hill South ward. The northern boundary of the latter ward would run south of Albert Drive and immediately north of Payton Drive, taking in all of Hammonds Ridge Estate in a single ward but also including an area to the east of London Road. Its boundary would continue eastwards across London Road, north of Grovelands Close and Holmesdale Road on to Chanctonbury Road.

57 The Labour Party proposed including Hammonds Ridge Estate in an expanded Burgess Hill Meeds ward. This involved moving a number of roads north of Hammonds Ridge and south of Royal George Road into this ward which it proposed renaming Burgess Hill South. The Labour Party was of the view that the resulting single-councillor Burgess Hill Victoria ward remained an appropriate self-contained ward.

58 We carefully considered these different proposals and have been persuaded to create two wards in this area to reflect the community identity in Hammonds Ridge Estate and to support effective and convenient local government. However, we note that a ward based solely on Hammonds Ridge Estate alone, as proposed by Mims Davies MP, is forecast to have 40% fewer electors than the district average. We therefore did not adopt this proposal.

59 The wards proposed by the County Council and Conservatives both had good electoral equality. However, we noted that adjacent residents on Meadow Lane and Potters Lane would be split across different wards without any strong community evidence to support doing so. We have therefore not been persuaded to adopt these proposals.

60 The Labour Party's proposal did not include community evidence to support its proposed boundary in the north-west of its Burgess Hill South ward. We have not been persuaded to separate residents around Erin Way and Orchard Road from their neighbours to the west and north. It also produced wards with poor forecast electoral equality (15% and -23%). We are not minded to create wards with such poor variances and did not adopt this proposal.

61 After careful consideration of all the submissions we received in response to both consultations, we have based our final recommendations on the proposals made by Councillor Chapman during our previous consultation. Like the Labour Party, Councillor Chapman also proposed an expanded Burgess Hill Meeds ward which included Hammonds Ridge Estate. Unlike the Labour Party, his proposal did not include any electors north of Albert Drive or Payton Drive. It is a two-councillor ward, and its north-western boundary will run north of Hammonds Ridge Estate (i.e. south of Albert Drive) and keep the whole industrial estate within in the neighbouring single-councillor Burgess Hill Victoria ward. This ward includes Hammonds Ridge Estate residents in a ward with their neighbours to the east of the B2036 London Road. We note that the County Council, Conservatives and Labour Party also proposed including them in a ward with some residents to the east of the B2036.

62 We have modified Councillor Chapman's proposals to reflect earlier decisions made at the draft recommendation stage to include Brambling Way, Goldfinch Road, Linnet Lane, Siskin Close and Skylark Way in Burgess Hill Dunstall ward to reflect the only access to these roads. We consider that these wards are the best balance of our statutory criteria: they have strong boundaries and do not split adjacent or close neighbours across different wards.

63 We note that the County Council, the Conservatives and the Labour Party all proposed naming one of their wards Burgess Hill South. However, as we did not adopt any of the proposed boundaries, we are not able to determine if this name is still appropriate. We have therefore named this two-councillor ward Burgess Hill Meeds & Hammonds to reflect the constituent communities.

64 Burgess Hill Meeds & Hammonds ward is forecast to have the same number of electors as the district average. Burgess Hill Victoria ward is forecast to have 6% more electors.

65 The Labour Party once again raised the issue of residents of Hammonds Ridge Estate being split across two separate parish wards. As mentioned before, the presence of a county division or district boundary within a parish means that we are required to create a separate parish ward and we have not altered our final recommendations in respect to this request. However, the Council is able to conduct a Community Governance Review as it is not bound by the provisions of the 2009 Act.[6]

Burgess Hill Franklands and Burgess Hill St Andrews

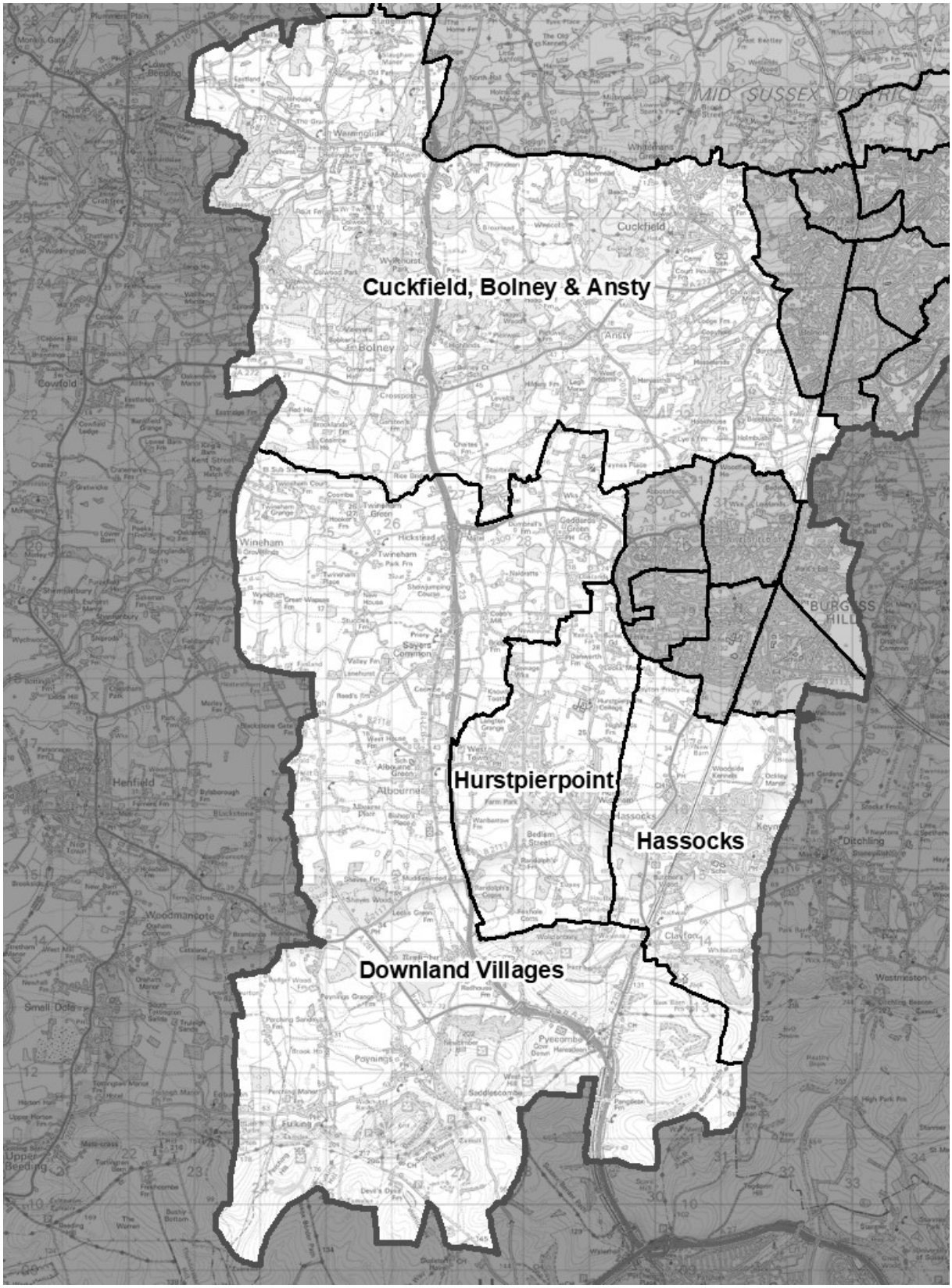
66 The district-wide submissions all supported our draft recommendations for these wards.

67 In giving their support, the Conservatives noted that although Burgess Hill Franklands ward was forecast to have a variance of -11% by 2027, this was justified by the strength of the ward boundaries and community identity.

68 We received no further submissions concerning these two wards. We, therefore, confirm our draft recommendations for both wards as final.

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

Cuckfield, Bolney & Ansty, Downland Villages, Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Cuckfield, Bolney & Ansty	2	3%
Downland Villages	1	5%
Hassocks	3	-5%
Hurstpierpoint	2	-8%

Cuckfield, Bolney & Ansty

69 The district-wide submissions we received supported our draft recommendations' two-councillor Cuckfield, Bolney & Ansty ward. However, we received additional comments from Bolney and Twineham parish councils.

70 Bolney Parish Council objected to its inclusion in a two-councillor ward with Cuckfield parish. Firstly, it was of the view that the existing single-councillor ward worked well. Secondly, it was concerned that the inclusion of rural villages in a ward with the more densely populated Cuckfield could lead to the rural communities being disadvantaged. It proposed that the draft recommendations' ward be split into two 'if a natural border could be found'.

71 Twineham Parish Council was concerned about being included in Cuckfield, Bolney & Ansty ward because of its small size when compared to the other villages in the ward. It advocated for its inclusion in a ward to the south (i.e. Downland Villages ward). Like Bolney Parish Council, it believed that the issues facing smaller villages were different from those facing urban areas. It noted that the villages of Ansty, Bolney and Warninglid are significantly larger than Twineham and that, with the exception of Bolney, they were situated some distance away.

72 We have carefully considered all the submissions we received. We considered retaining the existing single-councillor Bolney ward as proposed by Bolney Parish Council. However, a ward with the existing boundaries was forecast to have 13% fewer electors than the district average. We were also persuaded by evidence submitted at the last stage to include Albourne parish in Downland Villages ward and not with Bolney parish. In addition, it would require us to create a ward with Cuckfield and Ansty parishes. This would result in a ward forecast to have 49% more electors than the average for Mid Sussex. Accordingly, we have not been persuaded to adopt this proposal.

73 As part of our draft recommendations, we considered creating separate Cuckfield and Bolney & Ansty wards. However, it produced a Cuckfield ward forecast to have 14% more electors than the average for Mid Sussex. We did not receive any persuasive evidence to create a ward with such high electoral inequality. On the other hand, we did receive an objection to the creation of a ward with 14% variance.

74 We also did not receive evidence to support the inclusion of Cuckfield village with any other community. And we do not have any proposals or evidence to support where an alternative boundary should be drawn. Considering all this and the support that our draft recommendations received from those who provided district-wide comments, we have not been persuaded to create two single-councillor wards in this area. We consider it preferable to combine distinct communities in the same ward to ensure good electoral equality rather than divide communities between wards.

75 At the same time, we note that Twineham parish with 238 current electors is the smallest community by some margin in our draft recommendations' Cuckfield, Bolney & Ansty ward. We have therefore been persuaded to make one modification to our draft recommendations and include Twineham parish in Downland Villages ward to the south.

76 Our final recommendations are for a two-councillor Cuckfield, Bolney & Ansty ward forecast to have 3% more electors than the district average by 2027.

Hassocks

77 In addition to area-wide comments, we received one submission about Hassocks from Hassocks Parish Council.

78 Hassocks Parish Council supported our draft recommendations stating that they reflected the interests and identity of the parish and that they recognised that Hassocks was a self-contained village with a very strong local identity.

79 We note that the district-wide submissions either expressed support or raised no objections to our three-councillor Hassocks ward. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.

Downland Villages and Hurstpierpoint

80 We received submissions from Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council, Sayers Common Village Association and a resident in addition to the district-wide ones for this area. As mentioned above, we also received comments from Twineham Parish Council who proposed the inclusion of Twineham parish in Downland Villages ward.

81 The Conservatives supported our draft recommendations' Downland Villages ward because they were of the view that it would allow for effective and convenient local government and recognised that the smaller villages in the south of the district had different needs to larger adjoining ones. They also expressed the view that this meant that there was no other alternative to our draft recommendations' Hurstpierpoint ward and therefore they did not object to it.

82 Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council objected to our draft recommendations which placed Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common villages in separate wards. It argued that the proposals would lead to a disconnect that would drive a wedge through the integrated parish area and undermine the work it had done to integrate the two villages under the parish council. Furthermore, it was of the view that a single Downland Villages councillor would be stretched by having to attend meetings of many parish councils, thereby marginalising the representation of the interests of Sayers Common residents.

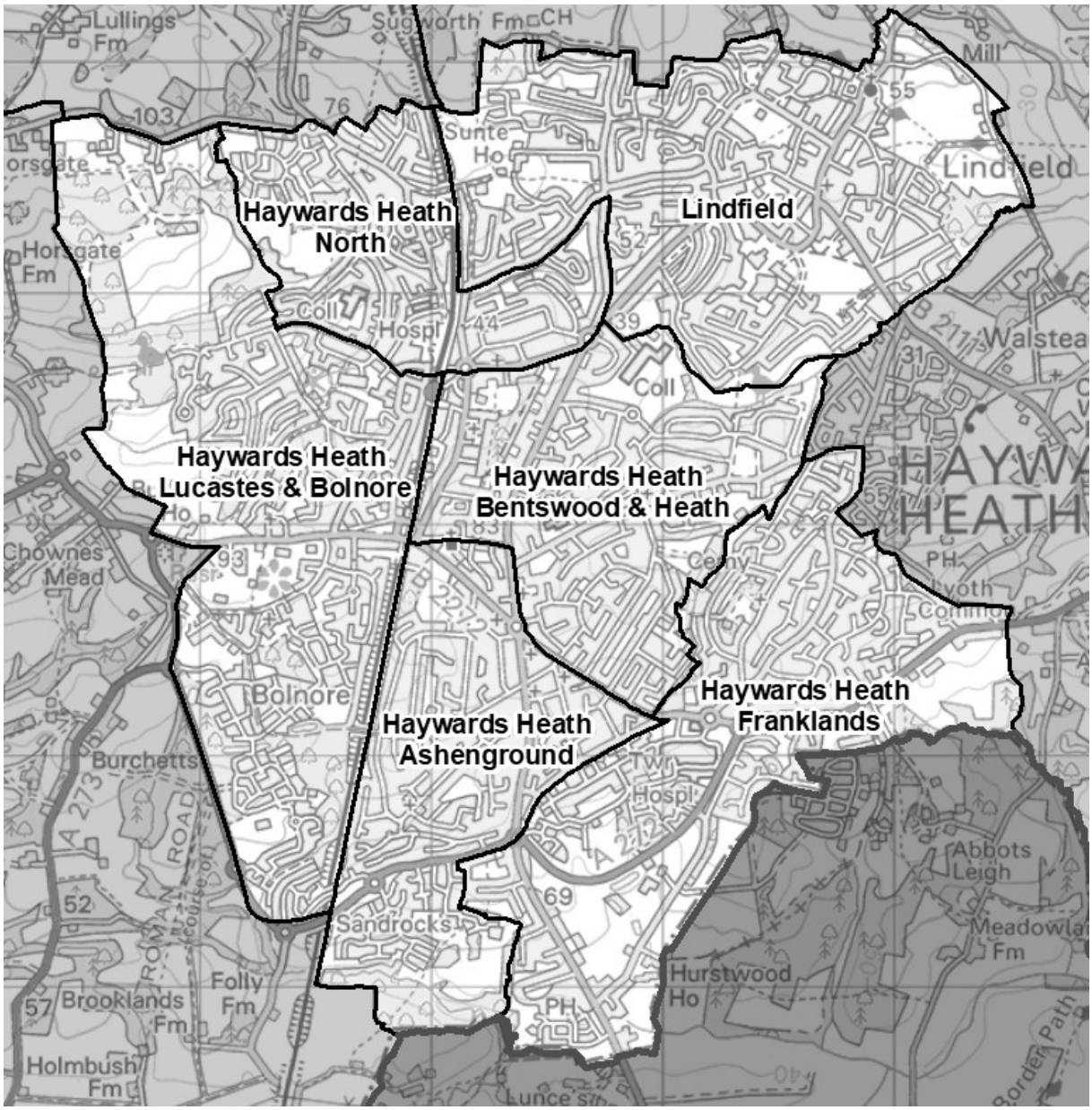
83 Sayers Common Village Association supported the inclusion of Sayers Common village in a Downland Villages ward as did a resident. In the resident's view, the creation of a Downland Villages ward would allow its councillor to concentrate on issues particularly relevant to smaller settlements.

84 We have considered all the submissions we received and note the views expressed by Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council. We note that although included in the same parish, Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common are two distinct villages. Evidence submitted by Sayers Common Village Society, in response to our previous consultation, suggests that the two villages are different communities. We are therefore content that our proposal to place the two villages in different district wards does not completely divide a single community.

85 In light of the above and the support our draft recommendations received, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Hurstpierpoint as final. It is a two-councillor ward forecast to have 8% fewer electors than the district average by 2027.

86 We have made one modification to include Twineham parish in Downlands Villages ward, as explained in paragraph 75. Downland Villages ward is a single-councillor ward forecast to have 5% more electors than the average for Mid Sussex by 2027.

Haywards Heath and Lindfield



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Haywards Heath Ashenground	2	2%
Haywards Heath Bentswood & Heath	2	10%
Haywards Heath Franklands	2	-5%
Haywards Heath Lucastes & Bolnore	2	-2%
Haywards Heath North	1	7%
Lindfield	2	0%

Haywards Heath Ashenground, Haywards Heath Bentswood & Heath and Haywards Heath Franklands

87 We received one submission from a resident in addition to the district-wide comments with regards to this area of the district.

88 The Conservatives and Mims Davies MP supported the boundaries of all three draft recommendation wards. With regards to Haywards Heath Ashenground ward, the Conservatives supported the inclusion of the Rocky Lane communities in this ward and not a ward with Cuckfield and Ansty villages. They supported the use of the railway line as the western boundary for Haywards Heath Bentswood & Town ward because it united residents of Oathall Road in a single ward. Finally, they expressed support for Haywards Heath Franklands ward.

89 The Labour Party supported our proposals for the Haywards Heath area and were also of a similar view to the Conservatives with regards to Rocky Lane and other newer developments. It stated that it was right to incorporate newer developments and ally them with communities using the same facilities.

90 A resident of the Hollows objected to addresses in Lindfield being included in a Haywards Heath ward. As part of our draft recommendations, we included residents of The Hollows (in Lindfield Rural parish) in Haywards Heath Franklands ward. We did this to provide vehicular access for the residents of Silver Birches to the rest of their ward.

91 For this reason and the support our draft recommendations received, we do not propose any changes to the boundaries of our draft recommendation wards for this area.

92 The Conservatives and Mims Davies MP proposed that Haywards Heath Bentswood & Town ward be renamed Haywards Heath Bentswood & Heath to reflect the inclusion of the Heath Conservation Area within the boundaries of this ward. They were of the view that removing ‘town’ from the name would also avoid any confusion because most of the town centre, including South Road and the Orchards Shopping Centre, was no longer in this ward. We have been persuaded to change the name of this ward along the lines suggested.

93 Aside from this name change, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final.

Haywards Heath Lucastes & Bolnore, Haywards Heath North and Lindfield

94 We received four submissions for this area of the district in addition to the district-wide ones. These were from Lindfield Parish Council and three residents.

95 The Conservatives proposed some modifications and consequential ones to these wards. They proposed moving the boundary of Haywards Heath North ward from behind the properties on the western side of Turners Mill Road to run along Harlands Road in order to unite all Penland Road residents in that ward. They were of the view that this would create a more logical ward using an identifiable boundary.

96 They also argued that residents of Wickham Close, Wickham Way and the northern side of College Road in our draft recommendations' Haywards Heath North ward shared community interests with residents on the northern side of Gander Hill, who had been included in Lindfield ward.

97 Mims Davies MP proposed identical modifications east of the railway around Wickham Way. She was of the view that these modifications, which used the railway line for the main part, would create more cohesive ward identities. Her proposals west of the railway line were slightly different from the Conservatives' new proposals and were designed to unite residents of both Penland and Harland Roads in a single ward.

98 The Labour Party supported our proposals for Haywards Heath and Lindfield. Lindfield Parish Council on the other hand wanted to see the existing arrangements retained which would see an area of Lindfield Rural parish around Scamps Hill included in Lindfield ward. The Parish Council argued that residents of both Lindfield and Lindfield Rural parishes used resources in Lindfield village, including the village hall, high street shops, Lindfield Common and primary schools, and would therefore be best served by retaining the existing district ward boundary.

99 One resident welcomed the inclusion of the area west of Portsmouth Lane and north of Gander Hill in Lindfield ward. However, they wanted properties on the west side of Summerhill Lane and south side of Gander Hill also included in Lindfield ward in the way they were prior to the 'Local Government reorganisation in 1972/74' but provided no current community evidence to support this. Another resident stated that Summerhill Lane was in Lindfield, not Haywards Heath.

100 A resident was of the view that Lindfield Rural parish, including Scayne's Hill village relied entirely on Lindfield village and Haywards Heath and proposed including the 'two Lindfields' in a single ward.

101 On careful consideration of all the information we received, we note that retaining the boundaries of the existing Lindfield ward would result in a ward with very poor electoral equality (at least -19%) regardless of whether it was a two- or three-councillor ward. Also, while a three-councillor ward made up of the Lindfield and Lindfield Rural parishes would have good electoral equality, the resulting High Weald ward would be forecast to have 13% more electors than the average for Mid Sussex. This latter ward was proposed by Horsted Keynes and West Hoathly parish

councils in response to our previous consultation. Because of the poor forecast electoral equality of these proposals, we have not adopted them.

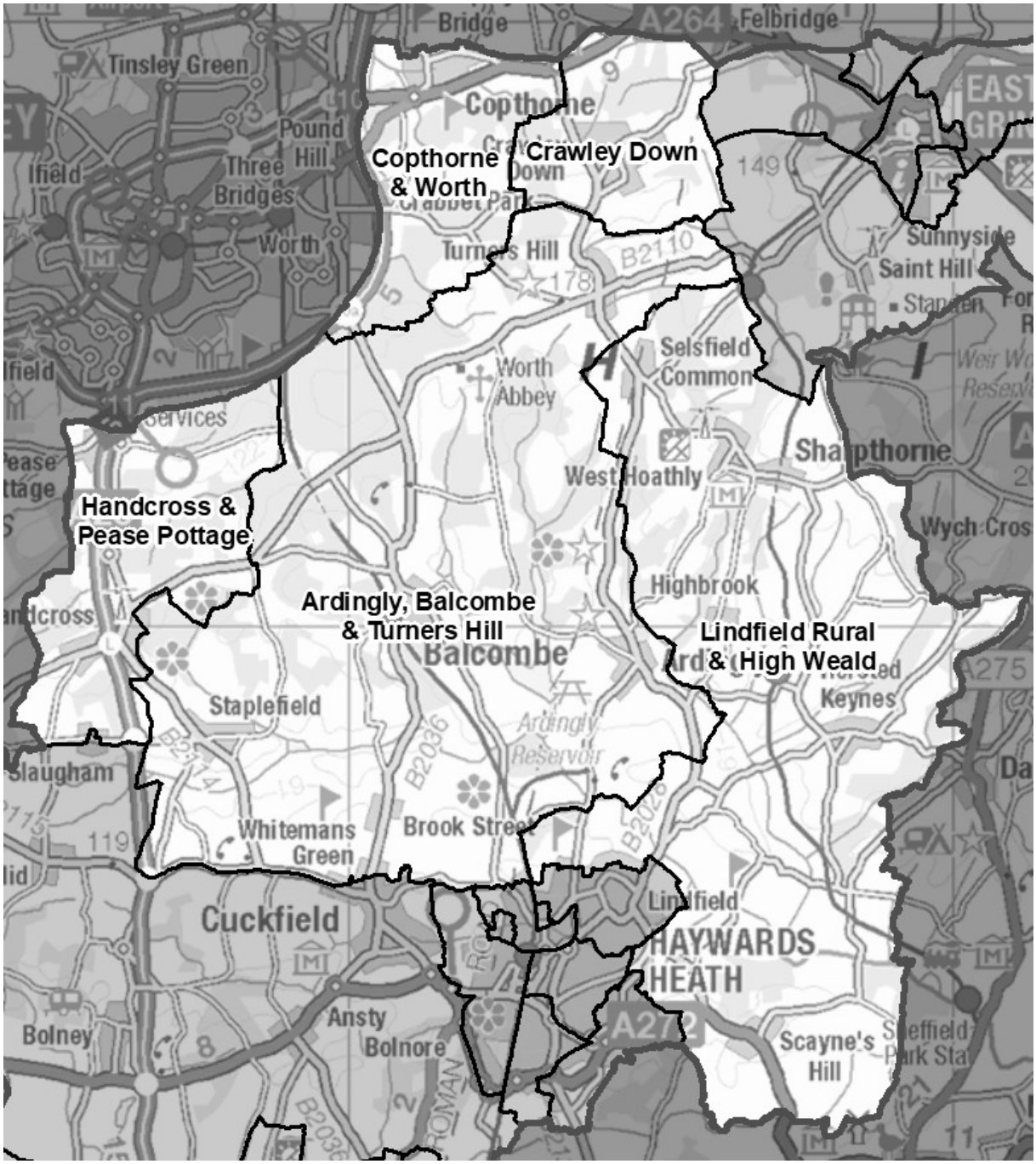
102 With regards to Summerhill Lane being in Lindfield and not Haywards Heath, we note that while properties on the eastern side are in Lindfield parish, those to the west are in Haywards Heath parish. Our draft recommendations retained the existing ward boundary along this road, which is also a parish boundary. If we include the properties on the west side of Summerhill Lane in Lindfield district ward, we will be required to create a parish ward made up of those electors only. We are not minded to create a parish ward with so few electors and, therefore, we are not making any changes to this boundary.

103 However, we were persuaded that electors on the northern side of College Road shared community interests with those on the northern side of Gander Hill. We also noted the strength of the railway line as a boundary. We are therefore adopting the proposals from the Conservatives and Mims Davies MP to include the area east of the railway line around Wickham Way in Lindfield ward. We note that the railway line and College Road are strong boundaries, the use of which is facilitated by the additional changes proposed to the west.

104 To the west, we have been persuaded to unite Penland Road in Haywards Heath North ward. We considered uniting Harlands Road in the same ward as proposed by Mims Davies MP. However, this produced a forecast variance of 17% for Haywards Heath North ward. Therefore, in this area, we have adopted the modifications proposed by the Conservatives with a boundary running along Harlands Road.

105 Our final recommendations are for three wards: Haywards Heath Lucastes & Bolnore, Haywards Heath North and Lindfield. Haywards Heath Lucastes & Bolnore and Lindfield wards will each have two councillors and are forecast to have 2% fewer and roughly the same number of electors (respectively) than the district average by 2027. Haywards Heath North ward is a single-councillor ward, forecast to have 7% more electors than the district average.

Ardingly, Balcombe & Turners Hill, Copthorne & Worth, Crawley Down, Handcross & Pease Pottage and Lindfield Rural & High Weald



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ardingly, Balcombe & Turners Hill	2	-9%
Copthorne & Worth	2	-11%
Crawley Down	2	-9%
Handcross & Pease Pottage	1	9%
Lindfield Rural & High Weald	2	8%

Ardingly, Balcombe & Turners Hill

106 We received three submissions about our draft recommendations Ardingly & Balcombe ward in addition to the district-wide comments. These were from Councillor Bruce Forbes, Crawley Down, Turners Hill & Copthorne Conservative Association and Turners Hill Parish Council.

107 The Conservatives, Mims Davies MP and Turners Hill Parish Council supported our draft recommendations for Turners Hill parish, which was its inclusion in a ward with Ardingly and Balcombe parishes.

108 Councillor Forbes was of the view that the draft recommendations' Ardingly & Balcombe ward ought to include Turners Hill in its name. The Conservatives also proposed this.

109 Crawley Down, Turners Hill & Copthorne Conservative Association argued that the existing Crawley Down & Turners Hill ward should remain unchanged. To support its proposal, it pointed to a number of organisations in the existing ward as evidence of community ties between the two communities, ties it said did not exist between Turners Hill and either Ardingly or Balcombe. It also argued that Crawley Down is closer to Turners Hill than either Ardingly or Balcombe are to Turners Hill.

110 We have carefully considered all the evidence we received. Retaining the existing ward boundaries of a Crawley Down & Turners Hill ward would produce a ward with either 16% more (with two councillors) or 23% fewer (with three councillors) electors than the district average. The resulting ward comprised entirely of Ardingly and Balcombe parishes would also have significantly poor electoral equality. In light of this and the support we received for our draft recommendations, we did not adopt this proposal.

111 We confirm the boundaries of our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

112 We do note, however, the representations about including Turners Hill in the ward name and are content to rename it Ardingly, Balcombe & Turners Hill.

Copthorne & Worth and Crawley Down

113 In addition to the district-wide submissions and the one from Crawley Down, Turners Hill & Copthorne Conservative Association, we received one more submission for this area. This was from a resident.

114 The resident requested information about 'the proposed splitting of Crawley Down from Copthorne'. We note that under the existing arrangements, Crawley Down and Copthorne are not included in the same district ward and our draft recommendations retained the existing boundary between them. However, we also note that both villages are part of Worth Parish. It may be helpful to explain that our

electoral review will not affect parish boundaries. Regardless of which district ward these villages are included in, they will remain in the same parish.

115 In view of the support our draft recommendations received from the district-wide comments and considering decisions made with respect to Turners Hill, we confirm our draft recommendations for Copthorne & Worth and Crawley Down wards as final.

Handcross & Pease Pottage

116 The district-wide comments from the Conservatives and Mims Davies MP included support for our draft recommendations for this ward. The Conservatives noted that this ward would allow the closely related villages of Handcross and Pease Pottage to be represented by a single councillor, reflecting their needs and identities.

117 We did not receive any further submissions about this ward and we are confirming our draft recommendations as final.

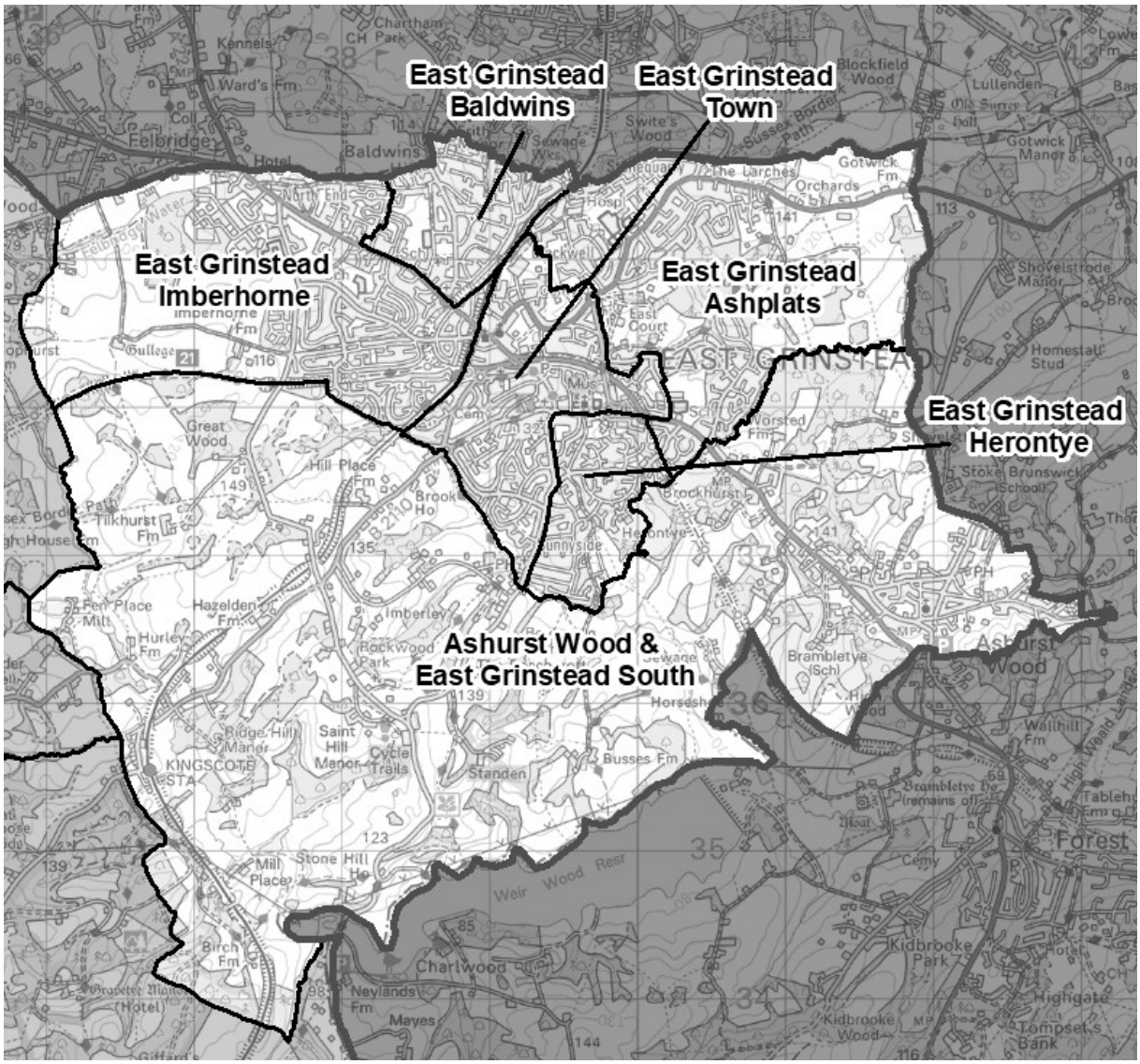
Lindfield Rural & High Weald

118 Aside from the district-wide submissions, the only other comments we received were in relation to retaining the boundaries of the existing Lindfield parish, which includes an area of Lindfield Rural (paragraph 98), and including Lindfield Rural and Lindfield parishes in a single ward (paragraph 100).

119 As explained above, we did not adopt either option on electoral equality grounds, and we note the support for our draft recommendations from the district-wide comments.

120 We confirm our draft recommendations for Lindfield Rural & High Weald ward as final.

Ashurst Wood & East Grinstead



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ashurst Wood & East Grinstead South	1	-4%
East Grinstead Ashplats	2	7%
East Grinstead Baldwins	1	7%
East Grinstead Herontye	1	9%
East Grinstead Imberhorne	2	7%
East Grinstead Town	2	-6%

Ashurst Wood & East Grinstead South and East Grinstead Ashplats

121 We received two submissions in addition to the district-wide comments, specifically about the two wards in this area. These were from Ashurst Wood Village Council and a resident.

122 The district-wide submissions supported the draft recommendations. Ashurst Wood Village Council expressed its support for Ashurst Wood & Rural ward while the resident specifically welcomed the inclusion of an area of East Grinstead, currently within the existing Ashurst Wood ward, in East Grinstead Ashplats.

123 As part of our draft recommendations, we asked if Ashurst Wood & Rural ward should be renamed South East Grinstead & Ashurst Rural. The Village Council did not support this as it believed that it would be very confusing. The Conservatives and Mims Davies MP proposed renaming the ward Ashurst Wood & East Grinstead South to acknowledge that part of East Grinstead is included in the ward.

124 After giving due consideration to this we are content to rename it as proposed by the Conservatives and Member of Parliament.

125 Subject to this renaming, we are confirming our draft recommendations for these two wards as final.

East Grinstead Baldwins and East Grinstead Imberhorne

126 In addition to the district-wide comments, we received a submission from Councillor Gibson about this area of East Grinstead.

127 All of the submissions objected to the creation of a three-councillor East Grinstead Baldwins & Imberhorne ward on the grounds of effective and convenient local government. Councillor Gibson also stated that the Baldwins and Imberhorne communities were different in character and community and would be better served by the creation of two separate wards.

128 The Conservatives proposed using the A22 London Road as a boundary 'as far as possible'. They acknowledged that for electoral equality reasons, some houses north of the A22 would have to be included in a ward to the south and suggested using properties on Buckhurst Way and Lowdells Lane as a boundary between a single-councillor East Grinstead Baldwins ward and a two-councillor East Grinstead Imberhorne ward.

129 The County Council submitted a similar proposal using properties on Buckhurst Way and Lowdells Lane. It provided a list of the roads north of the A22 which should be included in an East Grinstead Imberhorne ward to the south of that road. Councillor Gibson also mentioned Buckhurst Way as a possible boundary.

130 Under this proposal, East Grinstead Imberhorne ward is forecast to have 11% more electors than the district average. Furthermore, there are county division boundaries on either side of Green Hedges Avenue and Green Hedges Close. Therefore, we would be required to create a parish ward consisting entirely of these

two roads. We consider that there are too few electors to make this a viable parish ward.

131 Mims Davies MP proposed using the A22 London Road as a boundary. While we agree that the A22 is a strong and identifiable boundary, we note that using the A22 would create a single-councillor East Grinstead Baldwins ward with 38% more electors than the district average.

132 Nevertheless, we have been persuaded to change our draft recommendations ward and create two separate wards. Our final recommendations are based on the proposals submitted by the County Council. We believe that this proposal is also in line with the proposals from the Conservatives and Councillor Gibson, and to some extent the Member of Parliament.

133 However, we have made some modifications to better balance our statutory criteria and to avoid creating an unviable parish ward. Firstly, Green Hedges Avenue and Green Hedges Close are included in East Grinstead Imberhorne ward south of the A22. Secondly, we have moved the proposed boundary around Buckhurst Grove to the east, which places Knole Grove and Buckhurst Close in East Grinstead Imberhorne.

134 Our proposed East Grinstead Baldwins is a single-councillor ward while East Grinstead Imberhorne is a two-councillor ward. Both are forecast to have 7% more electors than the average for Mid Sussex District Council by 2027.

East Grinstead Herontye and East Grinstead Town

135 All the district-wide submissions expressed support for the draft recommendations in this area.

136 We received an additional submission from a resident who was of the view that the draft recommendations included residents with different needs in a single ward. They felt that this would make it difficult for councillors to represent the area effectively. The resident did not provide details of which areas ought to be included or excluded from the same ward. Nor did they propose any alternative boundaries.

137 We are therefore not making any changes to the draft recommendations and hereby confirm them as final.

138 The resident also questioned why the review was taking place. As mentioned earlier in this report, we are conducting this electoral review as the last review of Mid Sussex was completed in 2002, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.[7] Additionally, some

[7] Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

councillors in Mid Sussex currently represent many more or fewer electors than others.

Conclusions

139 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Mid Sussex, 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	48	48
Number of electoral wards	27	27
Average number of electors per councillor	2,386	2,699
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	12	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Final recommendations

Mid Sussex should be made up of 48 councillors serving 27 wards representing seven single-councillor wards, 19 two-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward. 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 the Mid Sussex District Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Mid Sussex District Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

140 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.

141 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, Mid Sussex 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.

142 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 Ansty & Staplefield, Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath and Lindfield Rural.

143 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ansty & Staplefield parish. The allocation of parish councillors for this parish is based on the existing electorate. This is because the development to the north of Burgess Hill Town, as well as the development south of the county division boundary in the Rocky Lane area within Ansty & Staplefield parish, will not be populated by the time of the first election in 2023. It would be unreasonable for more than one parish councillor to represent so few electors. We are able to do this for parish council electoral arrangements as we do not have to consider the five-year forecast. We have used the forecast electorate for allocating parish councillors in all of the other parishes as growth in these areas is not as significant.

Final recommendations	
Ansty & Staplefield Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:	
Parish ward	**Number of parish councillors**
Ansty	2
Brook Street & Borde Hill	1
Northern Arc East	1
Northern Arc West	1
Rocky Lane North	2
Rocky Lane South	1
Staplefield	1

144 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Burgess Hill parish.

Final recommendations	
Burgess Hill Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing 11 wards:	
Parish ward	**Number of parish councillors**
Burgess Hill Dunstall	1
Burgess Hill Franklands	3

Burgess Hill Gatehouse	1
Burgess Hill Hammonds North	1
Burgess Hill Leylands	2
Burgess Hill Meeds & Hammonds	2
Burgess Hill Norman	1
Burgess Hill St Andrews	3
Burgess Hill St Johns	1
Burgess Hill Victoria East	2
Burgess Hill Victoria West	1

145 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for East Grinstead parish.

Final recommendations	
East Grinstead Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:	
Parish ward	**Number of parish councillors**
East Grinstead Ashplats North	4
East Grinstead Ashplats South	1
East Grinstead Baldwins	2
East Grinstead Herontye	2
East Grinstead Imberhorne	4
East Grinstead Sackville	1
East Grinstead South	1
East Grinstead Town North	1
East Grinstead Town South	3

146 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Haywards Heath parish.

Final recommendations	
Haywards Heath Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:	
Parish ward	**Number of parish councillors**
Haywards Heath Ashenground	2
Haywards Heath Bentswood & Heath East	3
Haywards Heath Bentswood & Heath West	1
Haywards Heath Franklands	3

Haywards Heath Lucastes & Bolnore	3
Haywards Heath Lucastes Boltro	1
Haywards Heath North Central	1
Haywards Heath North East	1
Haywards Heath North West	1

147 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Lindfield Rural parish.

Final recommendations	
Lindfield Rural Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	**Number of parish councillors**
Scayne's Hill & Rural	4
The Hollow	1
Walstead	4

What happens next?

148 We have now completed our review of Mid Sussex 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

149 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 Mid Sussex District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ardingly, Balcombe & Turners Hill	2	4,587	2,294	-4%	4,930	2,465	-9%
2	Ashurst Wood & East Grinstead South	1	2,019	2,019	-15%	2,591	2,591	-4%
3	Burgess Hill Dunstall	2	4,131	2,066	-13%	5,512	2,756	2%
4	Burgess Hill Franklands	2	4,200	2,100	-12%	4,831	2,416	-11%
5	Burgess Hill Leylands	2	3,692	1,846	-23%	5,574	2,787	3%
6	Burgess Hill Meeds & Hammonds	2	4,866	2,433	2%	5,411	2,706	0%
7	Burgess Hill St Andrews	2	4,764	2,382	0%	5,682	2,841	5%
8	Burgess Hill Victoria	1	3,076	3,076	29%	2,873	2,873	6%
9	Copthorne & Worth	2	3,940	1970	-17%	4,808	2,404	-11%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
10	Crawley Down	2	4,549	2,275	-5%	4,888	2,444	-9%
11	Cuckfield, Bolney & Ansty	2	4,962	2,481	4%	5,534	2,767	3%
12	Downland Villages	1	2,434	2,434	2%	2,827	2,827	5%
13	East Grinstead Ashplats	2	5,286	2,643	11%	5,788	2,894	7%
14	East Grinstead Baldwins	1	2,723	2,723	14%	2,875	2,875	7%
15	East Grinstead Herontye	1	2,757	2,757	16%	2,938	2,938	9%
16	East Grinstead Imberhorne	2	4,914	2,457	3%	5,797	2,899	7%
17	East Grinstead Town	2	4,779	2,390	0%	5,091	2,546	-6%
18	Handcross & Pease Pottage	1	2,135	2,135	-11%	2,936	2,936	9%
19	Hassocks	3	6,483	2,161	-9%	7,669	2,556	-5%
20	Haywards Heath Ashenground	2	5,023	2,512	5%	5,516	2,758	2%

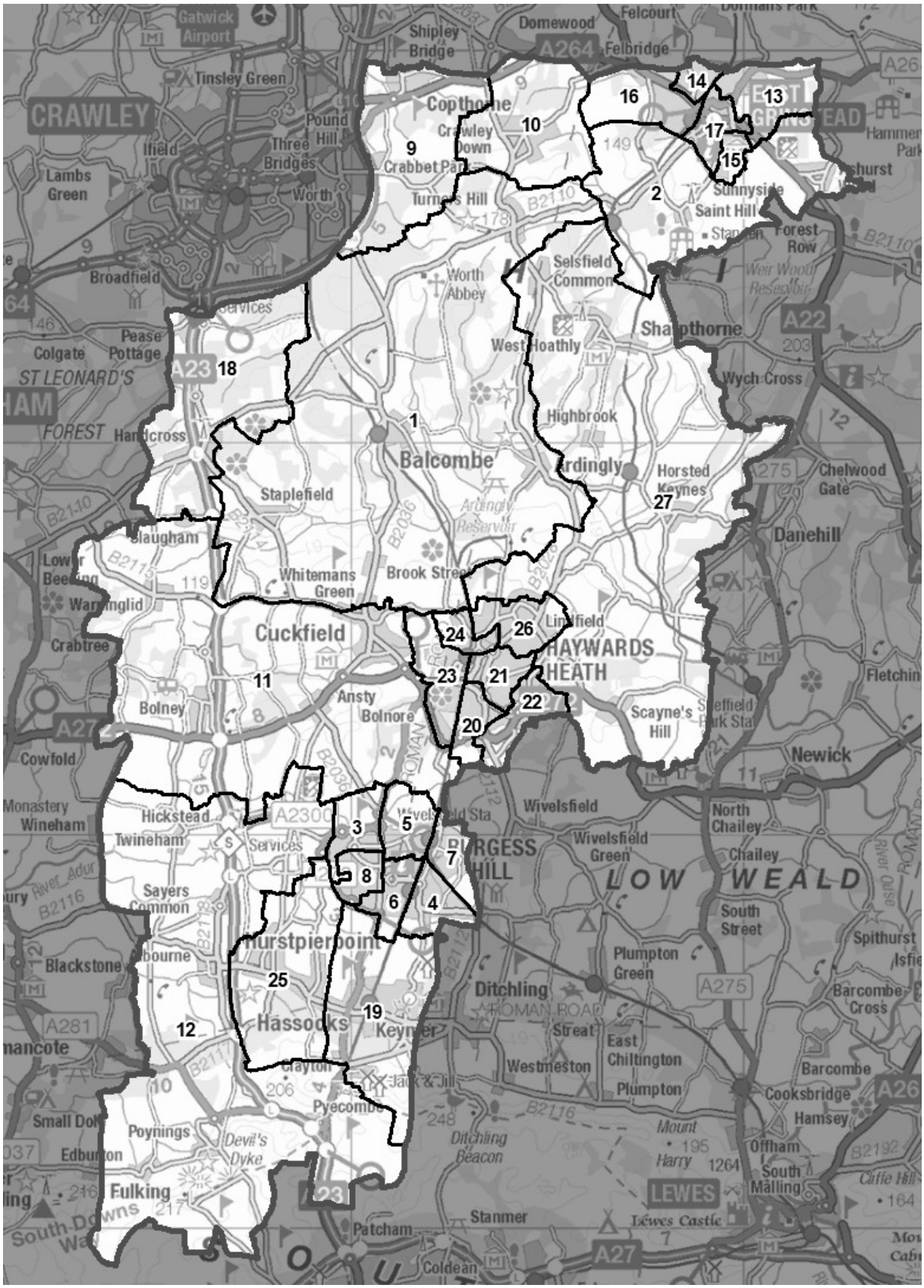
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
21	Haywards Heath Bentswood & Heath	2	5,560	2,780	17%	5,933	2,967	10%
22	Haywards Heath Franklands	2	4,543	2,272	-5%	5,136	2,568	-5%
23	Haywards Heath Lucastes & Bolnore	2	5,142	2,571	8%	5,309	2,655	-2%
24	Haywards Heath North	1	2,603	2,603	9%	2,887	2,887	7%
25	Hurstpierpoint	2	4,882	2,441	2%	4,980	2,490	-8%
26	Lindfield	2	5,301	2,651	11%	5,418	2,709	0%
27	Lindfield Rural & High Weald	2	5,170	2,585	8%	5,833	2,917	8%
	Totals	**48**	**114,521**	**–**	**–**	**129,567**	**–**	**–**
	Averages	**–**	**–**	**2,386**	**–**	**–**	**2,699**	**–**

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Mid Sussex 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	Ardingly, Balcombe & Turners Hill
2	Ashurst Wood & East Grinstead South
3	Burgess Hill Dunstall
4	Burgess Hill Franklands
5	Burgess Hill Leylands
6	Burgess Hill Meeds & Hammonds
7	Burgess Hill St Andrews
8	Burgess Hill Victoria
9	Copthorne & Worth
10	Crawley Down
11	Cuckfield, Bolney & Ansty
12	Downland Villages
13	East Grinstead Ashplats
14	East Grinstead Baldwins
15	East Grinstead Herontye
16	East Grinstead Imberhorne
17	East Grinstead Town
18	Handcross & Pease Pottage
19	Hassocks
20	Haywards Heath Ashenground
21	Haywards Heath Bentswood & Heath
22	Haywards Heath Franklands
23	Haywards Heath Lucastes & Bolnore
24	Haywards Heath North
25	Hurstpierpoint
26	Lindfield
27	Lindfield Rural & High Weald

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/south-east/west-sussex/mid-sussex

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/west-sussex/mid-sussex

Local Authority

- West Sussex County Council

Political Groups

- Crawley Down, Turners Hill & Copthorne Conservative Association
- Mid Sussex Conservative Party
- Mid Sussex Constituency Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor B. Forbes (Mid Sussex District Council and Turners Hill Parish Council)
- Councillor I. Gibson (Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council)

Members of Parliament

- Mims Davies MP (Mid Sussex)

Local Organisations

- Sayers Common Village Association

Parish and Town Councils

- Ashurst Wood Village Council
- Bolney Parish Council
- East Grinstead Town Council
- Hassocks Parish Council
- Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
- Lindfield Parish Council
- Turners Hill Parish Council
- Twineham Parish Council

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 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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