

New electoral arrangements for Cannock Chase District Council Final Recommendations

May 2023

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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	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Cannock Chase?	2
Our proposals for Cannock Chase	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Review timetable	3
Analysis and final recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	6
Draft recommendations consultation	7
Final recommendations	7
Rugeley, Brereton and Ravenhill	8
Hednesford Green Heath and Pye Green	11
Eastern Cannock Chase	13
Cannock	16
Norton Canes	19
Conclusions	20
Summary of electoral arrangements	20
Parish electoral arrangements	20
What happens next?	24
Equalities	26
Appendices	28
Appendix A	28
Final recommendations for Cannock Chase District Council	28
Appendix B	30
Outline map	30
Appendix C	31
Submissions received	31
Appendix D	32
Glossary and abbreviations	32

Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Liz Treacy
- 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 Cannock Chase?

7 We are conducting a review of Cannock Chase District Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2000, 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 Cannock Chase 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 Cannock Chase

9 Cannock Chase should be represented by 36 councillors, five fewer than there are now.

10 Cannock Chase should have 12 wards, three fewer than there are now.

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

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Cannock Chase.

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 consider 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 Cannock Chase. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
15 March 2022	Number of councillors decided
24 May 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
1 August 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
29 November 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
6 February 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
9 May 2023	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ 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	2028
Electorate of Cannock Chase	76,335	82,339
Number of councillors	36	36
Average number of electors per councillor	2,120	2,287

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 one of our proposed wards for Cannock Chase will have good electoral equality by 2028.

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 2028, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 8% by 2028.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

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.

Number of councillors

24 Cannock Chase District Council currently has 41 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that decreasing this number by five will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

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

26 As Cannock Chase District Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁵ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

27 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. This submission argued that each ward should only be represented by one councillor. However, they did not outline how and why such a change from three-councillor wards would improve the governance and decision-making structures of the Council. We have therefore decided to confirm our decision that the authority should have 36 councillors as final.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 22 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four district-wide proposals from the Council, Chase Community Independents' Group ('the Independents'), Cannock Chase Conservative Group ('the Conservatives'), and Cannock Chase Constituency Labour Party and Labour group of councillors on Cannock Chase District Council ('Labour'). Cannock Chase Green Party ('the Greens') also submitted comments across the district though not a full scheme. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

29 The four district-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of three-councillor wards for Cannock Chase. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the 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

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

best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

31 We conducted a detailed virtual tour of the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

32 Our draft recommendations were for 12 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

33 We received 37 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included full responses from the Council, Labour and the Independents. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Cannock, Hawks Green and Rugeley.

Final recommendations

34 Our final recommendations are for 12 three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

35 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in Cannock and Rugeley based on the submissions received.

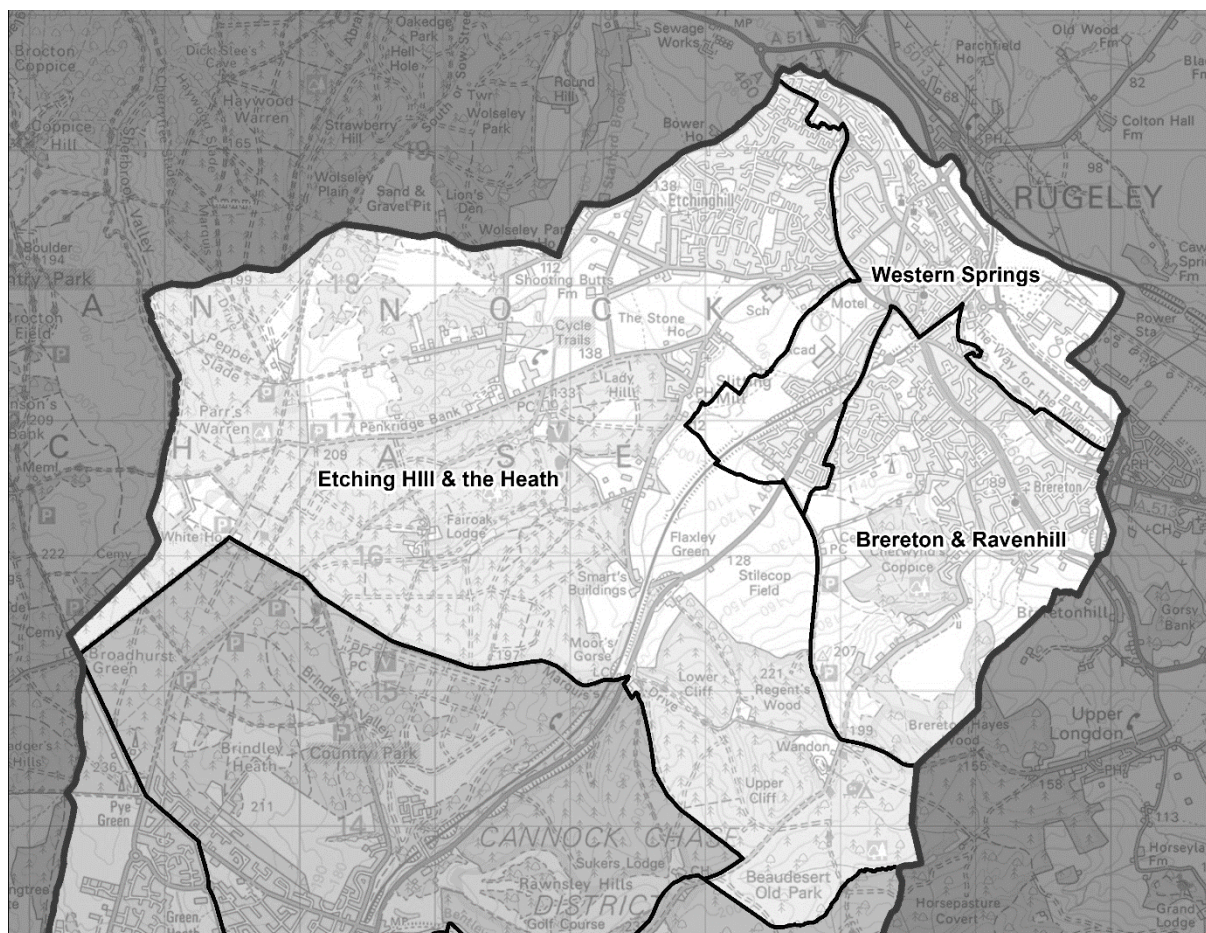
36 The tables and maps on pages 8–18 detail our final recommendations for each area of Cannock Chase. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

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

37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 27 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Rugeley, Brereton and Ravenhill



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Brereton & Ravenhill	3	1%
Etching Hill & the Heath	3	7%
Western Springs	3	7%

Brereton & Ravenhill

38 Labour expressed their support for our proposals for this ward. The Independents reiterated that the Rugeley Power Station development site should remain in Brereton & Ravenhill ward rather than Western Springs. They referenced community links but did not outline any specific examples. A resident argued that our proposed Western Springs ward extended too far into Brereton & Ravenhill parish but without specifying to which area they were referring. We were not minded to make changes to this ward on the basis of these comments.

39 Another resident made two points. The first was that the Pear Tree estate should not be in Brereton & Ravenhill ward as residents would use facilities in Rugeley. However, we considered that the arguments received in favour of this alignment, in both phases of consultation, justified this change. Furthermore, we

have concluded that it would be difficult to make such changes while retaining good electoral equality.

40 The second point related to Wheelhouse Road. The resident argued this too should remain in Brereton & Ravenhill ward. We assessed this, and noted that a small group of electors on Great Meadow Lane, Middle Bannisters Road and Lower Croft would be significantly isolated from the rest of Western Springs ward, particularly before the development on the site of Rugeley Power Station becomes occupied.

41 We have therefore amended the boundary from the Trent & Mersey Canal so that it follows Wheelhouse Road. This moves the aforementioned electors into Brereton & Ravenhill ward, which they have better access to. Furthermore, we consider this change will better reflect community identities and interests.

Etching Hill & the Heath and Western Springs

42 Labour supported our proposals for these two wards. The Conservatives objected to one aspect of our proposed boundary between these two wards. They argued that Hagley Road, Bank Top, Hagley Drive and Chase Side Drive should all move to Western Springs ward. In its submission, the party referenced the proximity of amenities in the centre of Rugeley to electors on these roads and that they should therefore be in the same ward.

43 We acknowledge that evidence was provided to justify such a change. However, we decided that we should not adopt this change for two reasons. Firstly, such a change would increase the electoral variance of Western Springs ward above 10%. Secondly, we assessed that the boundary in our draft recommendations, which runs along Western Springs Road, was clear and identifiable. We noted the limited crossing points across the road and were concerned that breaching would not deliver effective and convenient local government.

44 Councillor Sutherland expressed his support for Etching Hill & the Heath ward, particularly the boundary with Western Springs.

45 Turning to Etching Hill & the Heath ward specifically, a resident argued that Slitting Mill is a separate area and should have its own councillor to reflect its distinct interests from the rest of Etching Hill & the Heath. However, given that Cannock Case elects by thirds, we would not propose a single-councillor ward here unless compelling evidence was provided that this would better reflect our statutory criteria. We are not persuaded that the evidence for a single-member ward here is sufficiently strong to justify a non-three-member ward.

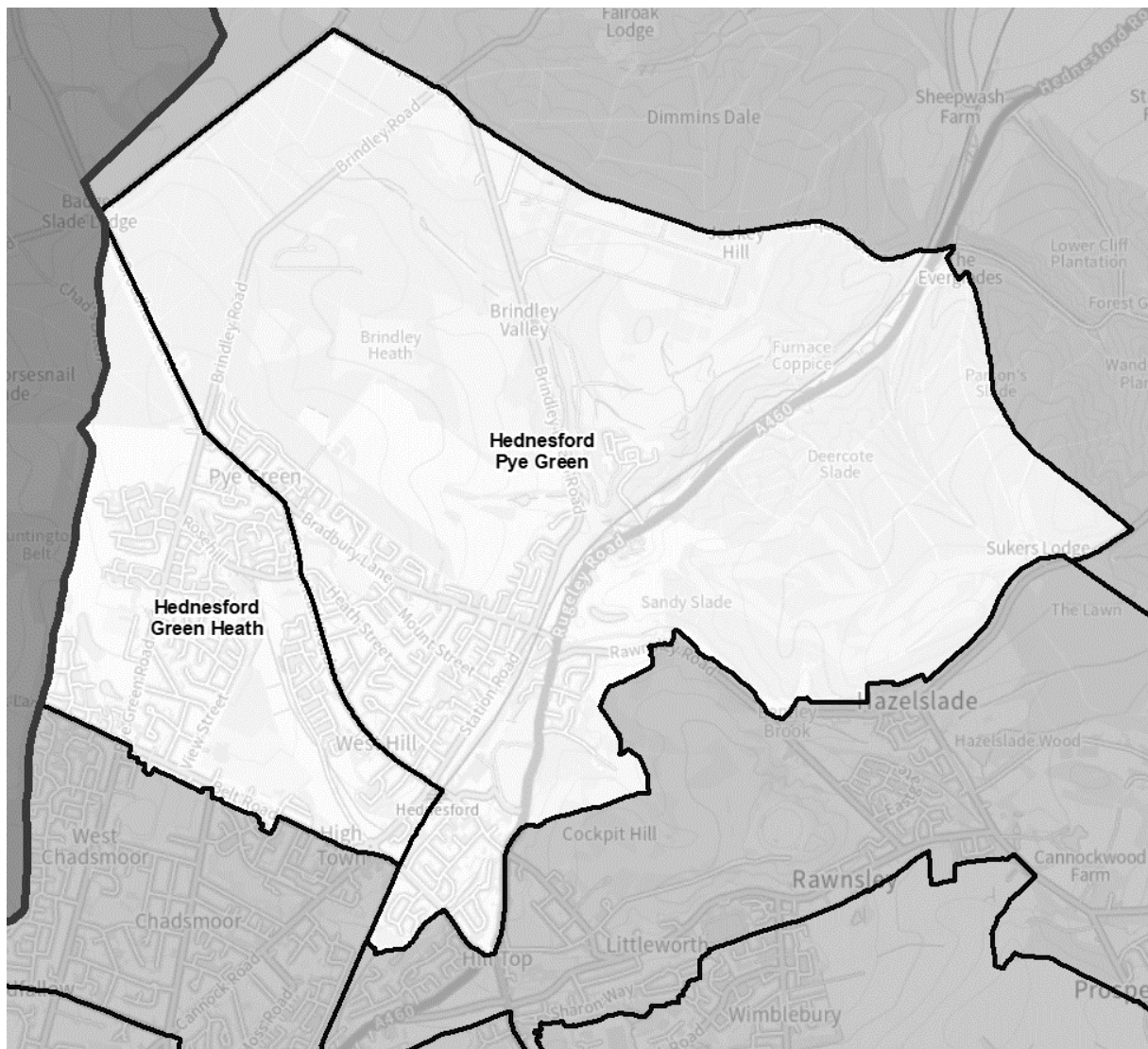
46 Another resident argued the ward as it currently exists is too large in geographical terms and that our recommendations would make it larger still. We

consider that the ward is an appropriate size given the mix of rural and urban areas within it, in particular the size of Brindley Heath parish. Brindley Heath Parish Council expressed their support for proposals in this area.

47 Two comments were received on ward names. One argued that Rugeley should be included within the ward names, as in Cannock. However, given there was clear local support for the names as proposed, we have decided that they are sufficiently recognisable and do not propose to amend them as part of our final recommendations. Another argued Hagley should be reflected in the name of Western Springs, but we did not consider that there was sufficient evidence to justify this proposal.

48 Finally, the Labour submission contained within it some detailed proposals around parish warding in Rugeley parish. We propose to adopt one element, to rename Hagley East parish ward to Pear Tree. Other elements of the submission argued in favour of splitting up existing or proposed parish wards into smaller constituent parts. Our view is that such a decision is better taken by the local authority as part of a Community Governance Review. Overall, we did not feel it would be appropriate to make significant changes to parish electoral arrangements beyond those required in legislation to reflect our proposed district wards.

Hednesford Green Heath and Pye Green



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Hednesford Green Heath	3	-6%
Hednesford Pye Green	3	-11%

Hednesford Green Heath and Hednesford Pye Green

49 Labour expressed their support for our draft proposals for these two wards. The Council and a resident expressed their support for the ward names. One resident argued that Hednesford Pye Green ward seemed to cover a large area.

50 The Independents argued that the area known as Pye Green was not part of the ward of that name, and so the name should be changed to Hednesford Chase. However, a local resident expressed their support for the ward name. Having carefully considered the evidence received across both consultations, and noting the

support for this ward name from different political groups in the initial consultation, we have decided to confirm the ward name as final.

Eastern Cannock Chase



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Hawks Green with Rumer Hill	3	-8%
Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	3	1%
Hednesford Hills & Rawnsley	3	-8%

Hawks Green with Rumer Hill and Heath Hayes & Wimblebury

51 Labour was opposed to our proposal to move the boundary between these wards so that Badgers Way and the areas nearby would be part of Heath Hayes & Wimblebury ward. The party highlighted the strong community links within this area which would be separated in our draft proposals. The Council also referenced this in their submission. They put forward an amendment to our proposed boundary around Meadow Way and Kensington Place.

52 Labour also opposed our proposal to incorporate the Rumer Hill area within Hawks Green ward. They argued there were no community links between these two areas and that Rumer Hill residents would look to Cannock for amenities and services. The Council commented similarly on the lack of community links but noted

their understanding that this decision was in part taken to improve electoral equality in this part of Cannock Chase.

53 A resident opposed our draft recommendations for Rumer Hill, in particular the splitting of Girton Road, while another resident questioned those proposals and agreed with Labour about the Badgers Way area and Kensington Place.

54 The Independents, on the other hand, supported the incorporation of Rumer Hill in Hawks Green ward but requested the name be amended to reflect this. Councillor Kruskonjic also supported this change.

55 We have carefully considered the evidence received relating to this area. On balance, we have not been persuaded to make amendments to our draft recommendations in this area, though we do propose to amend one ward name. Amending the boundary as put forward by Labour around Badgers Way would result in a forecast electoral variance of -14% in Heath Hayes & Wimblebury ward. We were not persuaded that this significant level of electoral equality was justified on the basis of the evidence received. We examined whether any other areas could be added to this ward to increase the number of electors in Heath Hayes & Wimblebury. However, given the relatively low forecast electorate in the adjoining Hednesford Hills & Rawnsley ward (8% below the average), to remove parts of this ward would result in poor electoral equality here. Furthermore, we considered that to add parts of these areas to Heath Hayes & Wimblebury ward would compromise community identities and interests in these places.

56 While sympathetic with the comments concerning the boundary at Meadow Way/Kensington Place, our options are limited by the Staffordshire County Council division boundary in this area. Amending the boundary would create an unviable parish ward with only a few dozen electors comprising Kensington Place, and 90–100 and 241–257 Gorsemoor Road. We were therefore not persuaded to make such a change.

57 We also considered the arguments relating to Rumer Hill. While acknowledging the different community identities of Rumer Hill and Hawks Green, we note that adding this area to Cannock wards would result in relatively high electoral variances for these wards. To minimise variances would then require us to recommend ward boundaries which would divide minor residential streets and clear communities. We therefore consider that combining two whole and distinct areas in a ward is the preferable option in this regard. We propose to change the name of the ward to Hawks Green with Rumer Hill, to reflect the areas included in this ward.

58 Labour made similar proposals around parish warding as in Rugeley arguing in favour of re-establishing the existing Wimblebury parish ward and a new Heath Hayes parish ward to the south of this. They also argued that the proposed Hawks

Green ward should be split into parish wards covering the northern and southern parts of this area. Again, we do not consider that it would be appropriate for us to make such changes as they are not a direct consequence of our district warding proposals. We consider that a Community Governance Review conducted by the District Council would be a more suitable method by which such amendments could be considered.

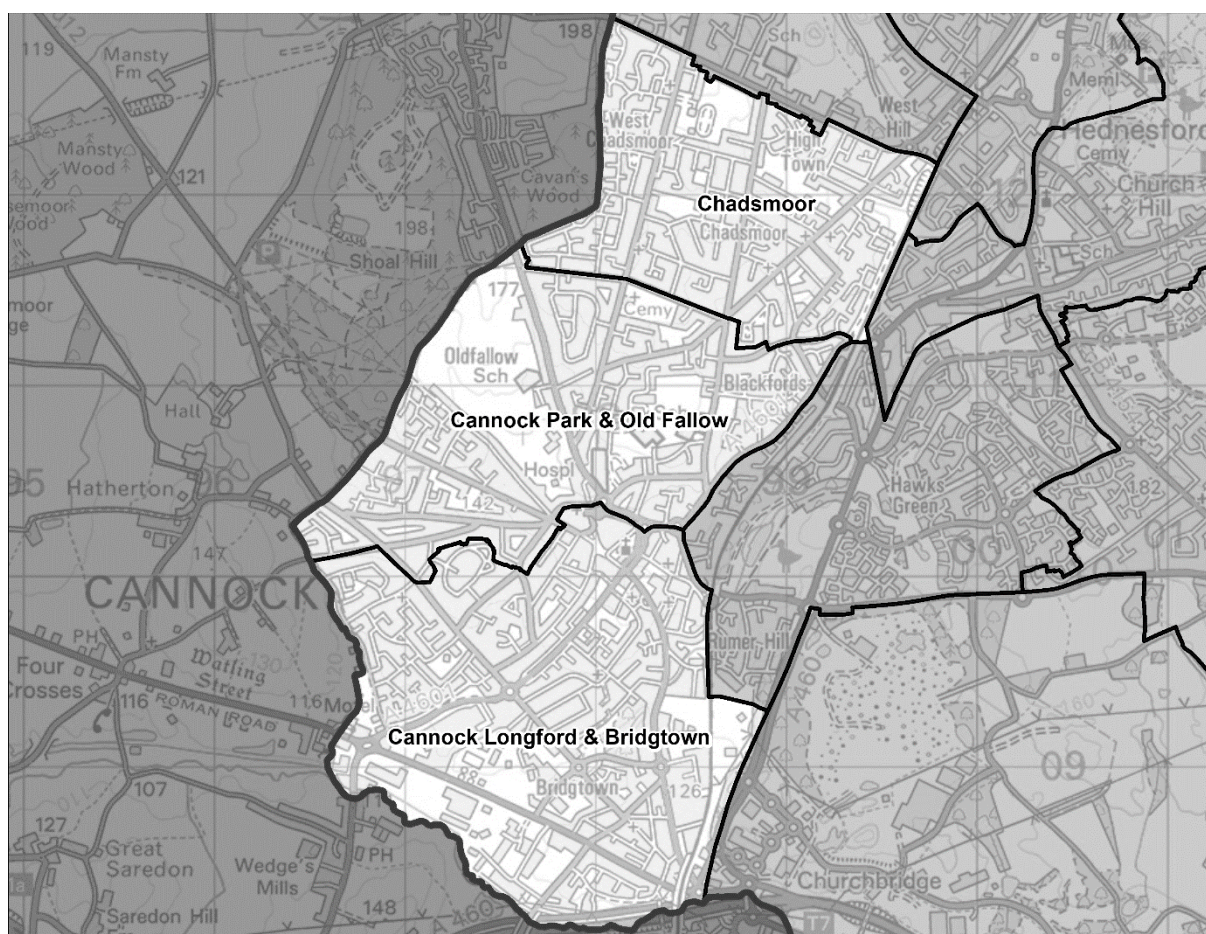
Hednesford Hills & Rawnsley

59 The main comment we received on this ward was from the Independents. It was argued that Hednesford Town Football Club should be included in this ward. They also proposed that the area to the south of this, including Hill Street up to the roundabout with Hayes Way, as well as Sweetbriar Way should be included in this ward. Considering this evidence as well as the evidence received in the initial consultation, we have decided not to amend our draft recommendations here. In the previous round of consultation, we received persuasive community evidence, giving examples of the amenities in Heath Hayes used by residents from this area.

60 Further, we noted that adopting the Independents' proposal would either require the creation of a small and unviable parish ward to the south of Sweetbriar Way, or require a boundary that would divide communities in this area. We have therefore decided not to make this change.

61 The only other comment received was from a resident, who questioned whether the proposed ward would be too large to be properly represented by three councillors. However, firstly, we consider that this ward is of a reasonable size given the geography of the area. Secondly, a number of different respondents proposed to include Cannock Wood, Prospect Village and Rawnsley in a ward with this part of Hednesford.

Cannock



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Chadsmoor	3	10%
Cannock Longford & Bridgtown	3	8%
Cannock Park & Old Fallow	3	1%

Chadsmoor

62 In its submission, Labour supported the ward as proposed, though it reasserted a preference for Chadsmoor as a ward name rather than Cannock North. The party also proposed to move the boundary between Cannock North and Cannock West wards so that all of Stafford Road was in the latter, rather than the few properties north of Cemetery Road being in Cannock West ward. We have adopted this change as part of our final recommendations as we consider it will result in a clearer and more identifiable boundary.

63 The Conservatives proposed an amendment to the ward boundary in the area around Sankey Road, proposing that this area should fall within the northernmost ward of Cannock. The Conservatives highlighted community links, in particular the proximity (0.3 miles) of this area from the centre of Chadsmoor. They also supported

naming Cannock North ward as Chadsmoor. The Council and Councillor Kruskonjic supported this proposed boundary amendment, and the Council proposed Chadsmoor as the new ward name. The Independents proposed the name of Cannock Chadsmoor.

64 We have incorporated most of this proposed change in our final recommendations. We were persuaded by the community evidence provided that this area had better connections to Chadsmoor. However, to ensure good electoral equality we have moved the boundary to the rear of properties on the north side of Heath Gap Road and the east side of Cannock Road, rather than running the boundary down the middle of these roads. We consider that this will ensure the best balance of our statutory criteria, reflecting the full extent of the Chadsmoor community, providing clearer ward boundaries and ensuring good electoral equality.

65 We have also been persuaded to amend the ward name to Chadsmoor, given the breadth of support for this change.

Cannock Longford & Bridgtown and Cannock Park & Old Fallow

66 Councillor Jones expressed her support for the boundary between Cannock West and Cannock South wards as proposed in the draft recommendations. She argued it was established that the centre of the town was split between these wards and that community facilities were regularly used by residents of both wards. She argued that without this area, Cannock West ward lacked a community centre. These points were echoed by Councillor Kenny in his submission.

67 The Council argued that our proposed boundary was overly complex and divided Cannock town centre. It argued that the boundary instead should run along Park Road to create a clearer and more identifiable boundary. Labour supported the boundary amendment in the centre of Cannock to use Park Road, as did a resident and Councillor Kruskonjic. He argued that this slight amendment to the ward boundary would not prevent Cannock West electors from using facilities in Cannock South. He also pointed out that the vast majority of the town centre was in Cannock South so it was reasonable to amend this boundary to encompass the whole town centre in one ward, as is the case in other parts of the district.

68 On balance, we have been persuaded to make this change, considering that the amended boundary will be significantly clearer and mean the whole of the town centre falls within one ward. We assess that this change will deliver effective and convenient local government and will ensure that the community interests of the town centre area will be more effectively represented.

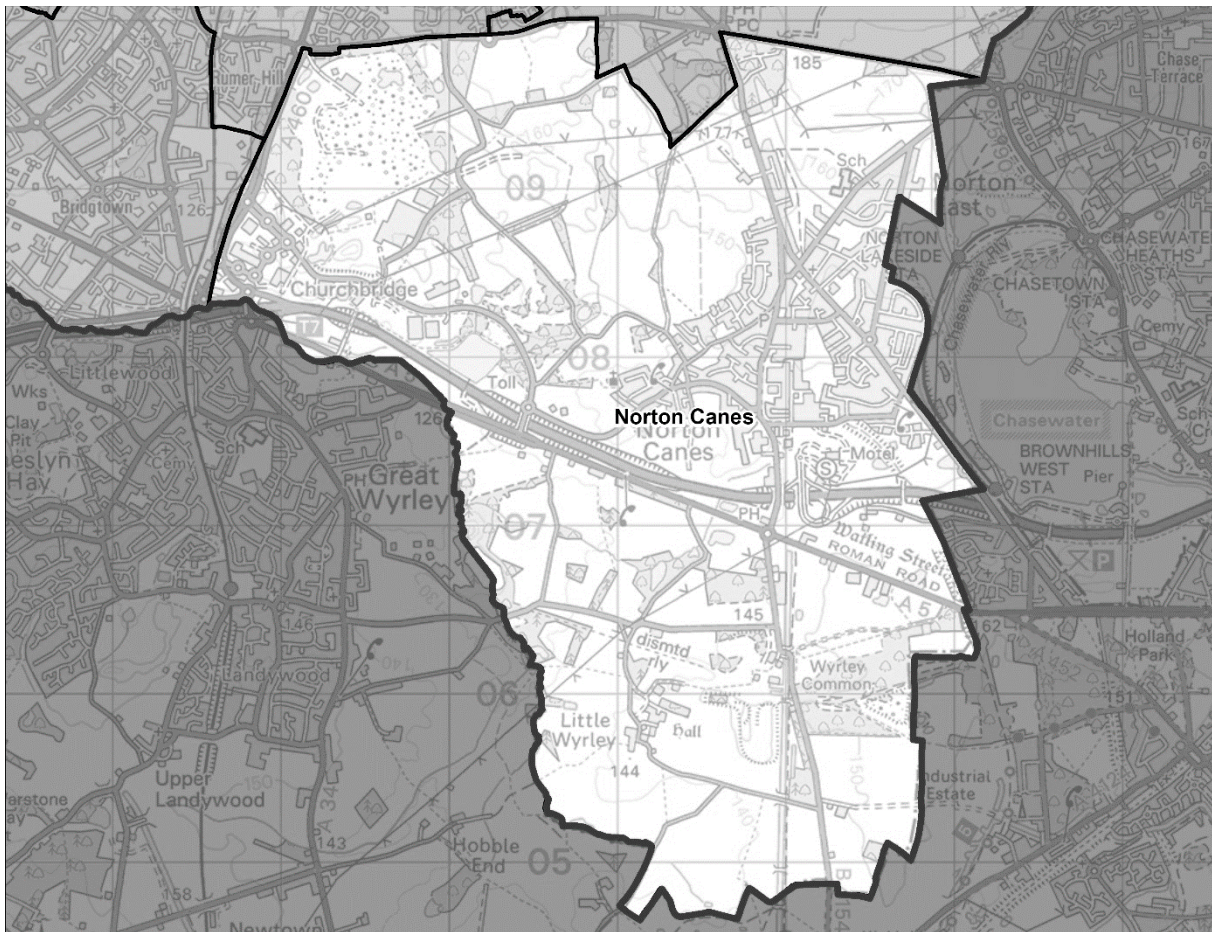
69 The Council supported our amended boundary between Cannock West and Cannock South wards which follows Longford Road and Gorsey Lane. Labour opposed this, and restated its support for the existing boundary which placed

Bideford Way, Dorchester Road and other roads in Cannock South ward. We considered this proposal but were not persuaded that sufficient evidence was provided to justify amending our recommendations here.

70 Labour proposed the ward names of Cannock Longford & Bridgtown and Cannock Park & Old Fallow, in place of Cannock South and Cannock West, respectively. These names were supported by the Council. The Independents proposed Cannock Town & Bridgtown instead of Cannock South, and Cannock Shoal Hill & Blackfords instead of Cannock West. A resident argued in favour of Cannock Central instead of Cannock West if Cannock North and Cannock South were to be retained. Councillors Jones and Kenny supported Cannock Park or Parkside in place of Cannock West.

71 Having reviewed all of the ward names put forward during consultation, we have decided that our proposed wards be renamed Cannock Park & Old Fallow and Cannock Longford & Bridgtown. We consider that the former name reflects the fact that Cannock Park makes up a significant portion of this ward and its use as a community amenity. For the latter, we consider that the name reflects that Bridgtown is a separate community within this ward and that Longford is a known name for this part of Cannock.

Norton Canes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Norton Canes	3	-1%

Norton Canes

72 In our draft recommendations we proposed no change to the existing Norton Canes ward which is coterminous with the parish of the same name and elects three councillors.

73 One resident commented and expressed their support for the ward as proposed. Labour also expressed their support for the ward.

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

Conclusions

75 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Cannock Chase, referencing the 2021 and 2028 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	2028
Number of councillors	36	36
Number of electoral wards	12	12
Average number of electors per councillor	2,120	2,287
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Cannock Chase District Council should be made up of 36 councillors serving 12 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Cannock Chase District Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Cannock Chase on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

76 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.

77 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, Cannock Chase 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.

78 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 Brereton & Ravenhill, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury, Hednesford and Rugeley parishes.

79 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Brereton & Ravenhill parish.

Final recommendations

Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brereton & Ravenhill	10
Power Station	3

80 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Heath Hayes & Wimblebury parish.

Final recommendations

Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Gorsemoor	1
Hawks Green	6
Wimblebury	6

81 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hednesford parish.

Final recommendations

Hednesford Town Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Green Heath	4
Hawks Green	1
Hednesford Hills	1
Keys Park	1
Pye Green	3

82 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Rugeley parish.

Final recommendations

Rugeley Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Etchinghill	10
Pear Tree	2
Western Springs North	3
Western Springs South & Hagley West	4

What happens next?

83 We have now completed our review of Cannock Chase 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 2024.

Equalities

84 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 Cannock Chase District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Brereton & Ravenhill	3	6,540	2,180	3%	6,934	2,311	1%
2	Chadsmoor	3	7,321	2,440	15%	7,578	2,526	10%
3	Cannock Longford & Bridgtown	3	7,003	2,334	10%	7,378	2,459	8%
4	Cannock Park & Old Fallow	3	6,605	2,202	4%	6,913	2,304	1%
5	Etching Hill & the Heath	3	7,069	2,356	11%	7,309	2,436	7%
6	Hawks Green with Rumer Hill	3	5,972	1,991	-6%	6,287	2,096	-8%
7	Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	3	6,728	2,243	6%	6,919	2,306	1%
8	Hednesford Green Heath	3	5,417	1,806	-15%	6,478	2,159	-6%
9	Hednesford Hills & Rawnsley	3	6,059	2,020	-5%	6,286	2,095	-8%
10	Hednesford Pye Green	3	5,976	1,992	-6%	6,136	2,045	-11%

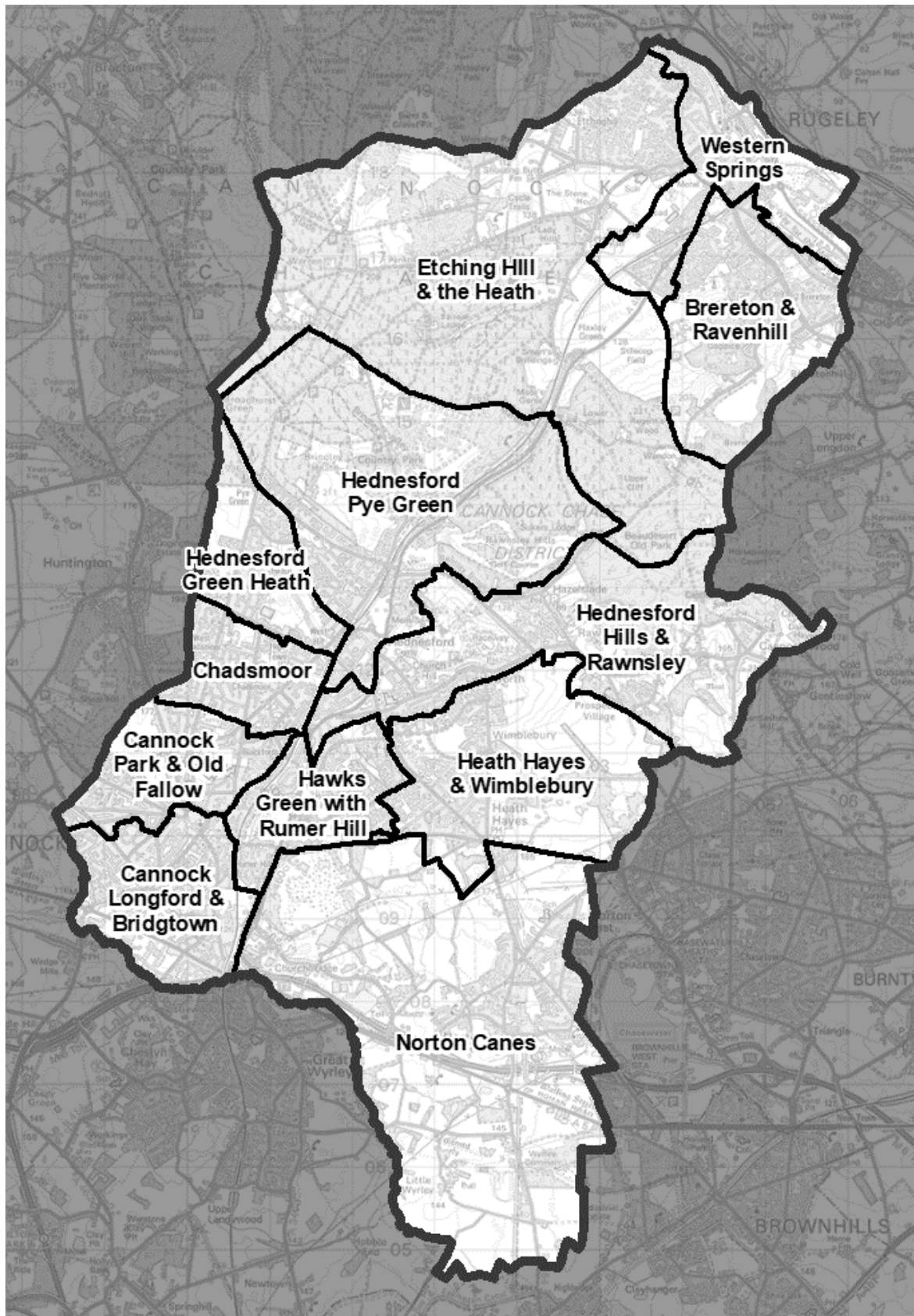
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Norton Canes	3	6,401	2,134	1%	6,799	2,266	-1%
12 Western Springs	3	5,244	1,748	-18%	7,321	2,440	7%
Totals	36	76,335	–	–	82,339	–	–
Averages	–	–	2,120	–	–	2,287	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Cannock Chase 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



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/cannock-chase

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/cannock-chase

- Cannock Chase District Council

Political Groups

- Cannock Chase Conservative Group
- Cannock Chase Constituency Labour Party
- Chase Community Independents' Group

Councillors

- Councillor V. Jones (Cannock Chase District Council)
- Councillor B. Kenny (Cannock Chase District Council)
- Councillor P. Kruskonjic (Cannock Chase District Council and Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor M. Sutherland (Cannock Chase District Council and Staffordshire County Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Brindley Heath Parish Council

Local Residents

- 28 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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