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Summary

Who we are

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. 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.

Electoral review

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

Why Stroud?

We are conducting an electoral review of Stroud District Council as the Council currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more or many fewer voters than others. This means that the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in Stroud. Overall, 20% of wards currently have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the district, and two wards have a variance of more than 20% from the average. Upton St Leonards has an electoral variance of 32% based on current electoral data, and Eastington & Standish ward has a variance of 20%.

Our proposals for Stroud

Stroud District Council currently has 51 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, we consider maintaining a council size of 51 members will ensure the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively.

Electoral arrangements

Our final recommendations propose that Stroud District Council's 51 councillors should represent 12 single-member, six two-member and nine three-member wards. None of our proposed 27 wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Stroud by 2020.

We have finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Stroud.

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Stroud District Council's ('the Council's') electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the city.

What is an electoral review?

2 Our three main considerations in conducting an electoral review are set out in legislation¹ and are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

3 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

4 We wrote to the Council as well as other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals on council size. We then held two periods of consultation, first on warding patterns for the Council and finally on our draft recommendations. The submissions received during our consultations have informed our final recommendations.

This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
26 August 2014	Warding pattern consultation
10 February 2015	Draft recommendations consultation
7 April 2015	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
30 June 2015	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

5 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 instances, which parish council wards you vote in. Your ward name may also change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. The names or boundaries of parishes will not change as a result of our recommendations.

¹ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Members of the Commission are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)
Professor Colin Mellors (Deputy Chair)
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
Alison Lowton
Sir Tony Redmond
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

2 Analysis and final recommendations

7 Legislation states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors² in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the date of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward at the end of the review.

8 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum.

9 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors as shown on the table below.

	2014	2020
Electorate of Stroud District	92,505	97,781
Number of councillors	51	51
Average number of electors per councillor	1,814	1,917

10 Under our final recommendations, none of our proposed wards will have electoral variances of greater than 10% from the average for the district by 2020. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for Stroud.

11 Additionally, in circumstances where we propose to divide a parish between wards or county divisions, we are required to divide it into parish wards so that each parish ward is wholly contained within a single ward or county division. We cannot make amendments to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

12 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Stroud District Council or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. The proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries, and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

13 See Appendix B for details of submissions received. All submissions may be inspected at our offices, by appointment. All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

² Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Electorate figures

14 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2020, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2015. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and projected an increase in the electorate of 6% to 2020. The growth will largely be driven by substantial new housing developments planned for the northern edge of the district.

15 Having considered the information provided by the Council, we are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis of our final recommendations.

Council size

16 Stroud District Council submitted a proposal to maintain the current council size of 51. The Stroud District Council Conservative Group submitted its own proposal suggesting a reduction from 51 to 44 members.

17 We carefully considered both representations received. We considered that the Council's submission proposing a council size of 51 was supported by adequate evidence to justify maintaining this size. We were content that the Council had sufficiently demonstrated that the authority can operate efficiently and effectively under this council size and ensure effective representation of local residents. We were therefore minded to adopt a council size of 51 as the basis of this electoral review and invited proposals on warding arrangements based on this number of councillors.

18 During the consultation on the draft recommendations, we received three submissions which expressed a preference for the Conservative Group's proposed council size. However, we did not consider that sufficient evidence was received to justify a move away from the council size of 51 as suggested by the Council. We have therefore based our final recommendations on a council size of 51 elected members.

Warding patterns

19 We received 21 submissions during the consultation on warding arrangements for Stroud, including a district-wide proposal from Stroud District Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district. It should be noted that, as the authority decided to change its electoral cycle in 2014 to whole-council elections, we are able to put forward a mixed pattern of single-, two- and three-member wards as part of this review.

Draft recommendations

20 We received 27 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations, including submissions from Stroud District Council, six district and county councillors, 11 parish and town councils (one of which submitted twice), and eight local residents. A number of these were positive about our proposals.

Final recommendations

21 The majority of submissions received related to three areas: the proposed Berkeley Vale ward, the proposed Severn ward, and the proposed Hardwicke ward. We also received comments on the proposed boundary between Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood.

22 A number of submissions put forward proposals that would necessitate the creation of unviable parish wards. We are not normally minded to recommend parish wards with fewer than 150 electors as we consider them to be unviable in the sense that they do not provide for effective and convenient local government. As such, we have not adopted these proposals as part of our final recommendations.

Stroud Town

23 We received two submissions that referred to the proposed warding of the town of Stroud and the wards directly surrounding it. One submission was positive but suggested minor changes to the proposed Uplands ward. In order to achieve better electoral equality in Uplands ward, we propose to move Woodlands Drive from Stroud Valley to Stroud Uplands. To improve access, we are also proposing that Parliament Close, Ryeleaze Close, and the properties at the junction between Nelson Street and Acre Street, are moved into Stroud Central. We do not propose to make any other changes in this area. Subject to these small amendments, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

North

24 We received two submissions relating to our proposed Bisley ward, both of which were fully supportive of the proposed ward. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.

25 We received seven submissions relating to the proposed Hardwicke ward. Three of these submissions related to the inclusion of the parish of Moreton Valence in Hardwicke ward, and three referred to the inclusion of the parish of Standish. The submissions expressed a preference that these parishes form part of the proposed Severn ward. However, moving these parishes would result in unacceptable electoral variances, and we do not feel that sufficient evidence has been received to warrant a move away from our draft recommendations. The Council also submitted comments on this ward, preferring their original proposal. However, this would create unviable parish wards. Our final recommendations for this area represent what we consider to be the best balance of the statutory criteria, and avoid the creation of any unviable parish wards. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.

26 We received two submissions relating to the proposed Painswick & Upton ward. One submission objected to the inclusion of Upton St Leonards in the ward, but did not provide a viable alternative. Another submission put forward the possible inclusion of the parishes of Harescombe and Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon in this ward. However, we do not consider that sufficient evidence has been received to move away from our draft recommendations in this area.

27 We received a submission relating to our proposed Randwick, Whiteshill & Ruscombe ward and a submission relating to our proposed Stonehouse ward which referred to parish warding arrangements. We did not receive any persuasive

evidence which would necessitate the alteration of these wards, and are therefore confirming them as part of our final recommendations.

28 We received three submissions relating to the proposed Severn ward, one of which supported our proposed ward. One of the submissions suggested running the ward boundary along the A38. However, this would result in the creation of both unacceptable electoral variances and unviable parish wards. The other submission related to the parish of Moreton Valence, which has been addressed above. The Council also submitted comments on this ward, proposing a name change. We do not consider that sufficient evidence was received to warrant a change, and we are therefore confirming this ward as part of our final recommendations.

West and South

29 We received two submissions relating to the proposed Bisley ward, both of which were fully supportive of the proposed ward. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.

30 We received six submissions relating to Berkeley Vale ward. One of the submissions supported the proposed ward. The other submissions focused on the size of the ward, and the inclusion of Slimbridge. The Council also submitted comments on the ward, proposing an alternative warding pattern of a smaller Berkeley Vale ward and a single-member Hinton & Slimbridge ward. However, this proposed ward would not have direct road access through it from one side to the other. We consider our proposals represent the best balance of the statutory criteria, whilst avoiding dividing communities by the canal or motorway. We are therefore proposing to confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

31 We received two submissions referring to the proposed Kingswood and Wotton-under-Edge wards, along with comments from the Council. The submissions focused on the parish warding arrangements. Alternative solutions were considered, but eliminating Wotton-under-Edge South parish ward and running the ward boundary along the parish boundary would result in unacceptable electoral variances. We do not consider that sufficient evidence has been received to justify the creation of a ward with a variance of -13% and as such we are confirming our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

East

32 We did not receive any comments relating to wards in this area and are confirming our draft recommendations for this area as final.

Detailed wards

33 The tables on pages 9–14 detail our final recommendations for each area of Stroud. Where we have moved away from our draft recommendations, we have outlined how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

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

Stroud Town

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Cainscross	3	2%	This ward lies to the west of the town centre and stretches from Ruscombe Brook in the east to the Horse Trough Roundabout in the west. The A419 forms the southern boundary.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Rodborough	2	2%	This ward includes the area to the south of the River Frome and to the north of Bear Hill. The eastern boundary follows Butterrow Hill.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Stroud Central	1	-5%	This ward comprises the central area of Stroud town, bounded by the River Frome in the south and the railway line and Stratford Park in the north.	We did not receive any submissions specifically relating to this ward. However, to improve electoral equality and access, we are making a minor amendment to the eastern boundary, running it along Acre Street. Aside from this minor change, we confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Stroud Farmhill & Paganhill	1	0%	This ward includes the Farmhill and Paganhill areas of the town. The western boundary follows Ruscombe Brook and the southern boundary follows the railway line.	We received one submission referencing this ward, requesting that a small part of Callowell be moved from Stroud Uplands to this ward. However, we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to justify this amendment and we have therefore decided to confirm this ward as final.
Stroud Slade	1	0%	This ward is in the east of the town and is bounded by Bisley	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.

			Road in the south and Summer Street in the north.	
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Stroud Trinity	1	-4%	This ward comprises the south-eastern part of Stroud town. The ward boundary runs along Summer Street in the north and the railway line in the west.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Stroud Uplands	1	-8%	This ward comprises the Badbrook and Uplands areas of Stroud, and the lower Painswick Valley.	We received one submission relating to this ward, suggesting that properties could be moved from Stroud Valley ward into Stroud Uplands ward. To improve both access and electoral equality, we propose to move Woodlands Drive from Stroud Valley into Stroud Uplands.
Stroud Valley	1	-4%	This ward lies to the east of the urban centre and comprises the area between Slad Road in the north and Summer Street in the south.	We received one submission relating to this ward, suggesting that properties could be moved from the Stroud Valley ward into Stroud Uplands ward. To improve both access and electoral equality, we propose to move Woodlands Drive from Stroud Valley into Stroud Uplands.

North

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Bisley	1	-2%	This ward comprises the parish of Bisley-with-Lypiatt, and is to the north-east of Stroud.	We received two submissions relating to this ward, both of which were fully supportive of the draft recommendations. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Hardwicke	3	7%	This ward lies to the east of the River Severn and to the west of Sevenleaze Lane. It comprises the parishes of Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon, Harescombe, Standish, Haresfield, Moreton Valence,	We received seven submissions relating to this ward. Three of these submissions related to the inclusion of the parish of Moreton Valence in Hardwicke ward, and three referred to the inclusion of the parish of Standish, preferring these parishes to form part of the proposed Severn ward. However, moving these parishes would result in unacceptable electoral variances, and we do not consider

			Longney & Epney, Hardwicke and Elmore.	that sufficient evidence has been received to warrant a move away from our draft recommendations. The Council also submitted comments on this ward, preferring their original proposal. However, this would create unviable parish wards. Our final recommendations for this area represent what we consider to be the best balance of the statutory criteria, and avoid the creation of any unviable parish wards. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Painswick & Upton	3	3%	This ward is situated to the north-east of Stroud, and comprises the parishes of Upton St Leonards, Cranham, Miserden, Painswick and Pitchcombe.	We received two submissions relating to our proposed Painswick & Upton ward. One submission objected to the inclusion of Upton St Leonards parish in the ward, but did not provide a viable alternative. Another submission put forward the possible inclusion of the parishes of Harescombe and Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon. However, we do not consider that sufficient evidence has been received to move away from our proposed warding pattern in this area, and are satisfied that our proposed ward provides the best balance of our statutory criteria. We are therefore confirming this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Randwick, Whiteshill & Ruscombe	1	-4%	This ward comprises the areas of Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe to the north of the centre of Stroud.	We received one submission relating to this area which referred to parish warding arrangements. We did not receive any persuasive evidence which would necessitate the alteration of this ward, and are therefore confirming it as part of our final recommendations.
Stonehouse	3	7%	This ward comprises the parish of Stonehouse, excluding the Ryeford area in the south-east.	We received one submission relating to this area which referred to parish warding arrangements. We did not receive any persuasive evidence which would necessitate the alteration of this ward, and are therefore confirming it as part of our final recommendations.
Severn	2	6%	This ward comprises the parishes of Eastington,	We received three submissions relating to this ward, one of which was positive. One of the submissions suggested

			Whitminster, Frampton on Severn, Fretherne with Saul, and Arlingham.	running the ward boundary along the A38. However, this would result in the creation of both unacceptable electoral variances and unviable parish wards. The other submission related to the parish of Moreton Valence, which has been addressed above. The Council also submitted comments on this ward, proposing a name change. We do not consider that sufficient evidence was received to warrant a change, and we are therefore confirming this ward as part of our final recommendations.
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West and South

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Berkeley Vale	3	3%	This ward comprises the parishes of Slimbridge, Hinton, Hamfallow, Berkeley, Ham & Stone and Alkington.	We received six submissions relating to this ward. One of the submissions was in favour of our proposed ward. The other submissions focused on the geographical size of the ward, and the inclusion of Slimbridge. The Council also submitted comments on the ward, proposing an alternative warding pattern of a smaller Berkeley Vale ward and a single-member Hinton & Slimbridge ward. However, this proposed ward would not have clear road access through it from one side to the other. Our draft recommendations represent what we consider to be the best balance of the statutory criteria, whilst avoiding dividing communities by the canal or motorway. We are therefore proposing to confirm our proposed ward as part of our final recommendations.
Cam East	2	-5%	This ward comprises the eastern area of Cam, from Cam Pitch in the north-west, and includes Dursley Golf	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.

			Course, Sheep Path Wood and Westfield Wood.	
Cam West	2	1%	This ward comprises the northern and western parts of Cam, from Cam Pitch in the south-east of the ward to Leathern Bottle in the north-west.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Coaley & Uley	1	5%	This ward comprises the parishes of Coaley, Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Dursley	3	2%	This ward comprises the urban area of Dursley.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Kingswood	1	-7%	This ward comprises the parishes of Hillesley & Tresham, Alderley and Kingswood, as well as the newly created parish ward of Wotton-under-Edge South.	We received two submissions referring to this ward, along with comments from the Council. The submissions focused on the parish warding arrangements. Alternative solutions were considered, but eliminating the Wotton-under-Edge South parish ward and running the ward boundary along the parish boundary would result in unacceptable electoral variances. We do not consider that sufficient evidence has been received to justify the creation of a ward with a variance of -13% and as such we are confirming our draft recommendations for this ward as final.
The Stanleys	2	-5%	This ward comprises the parishes of King's Stanley, Leonard Stanley and Frocester.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Wotton-under-Edge	3	0%	This ward comprises the parishes of Stinchcombe, North Nibley and Wotton-under-Edge, with the	We received two submissions referring to this ward, along with comments from the Council. The submissions focused on the parish warding arrangements. Alternative solutions were considered, but eliminating the Wotton-under-Edge

			exception of the proposed Wotton-under-Edge South parish ward.	South parish ward and running the ward boundary along the parish boundary would result in unacceptable electoral variances. We do not consider that sufficient evidence has been received to justify the creation of a Kingswood ward with a variance of -13% and as such we are confirming our draft recommendations for this ward as final.
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East

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Amberley & Woodchester	1	-5%	This ward comprises the parish of Woodchester, the area of Amberley and part of Minchinhampton parish.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Chalford	3	-9%	This ward comprises the parish of Chalford, and the existing parish ward of Bourne.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Minchinhampton	2	-2%	This ward comprises the parish of Minchinhampton, excluding the area to the west of Minchinhampton Common.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Nailsworth	3	-3%	This ward comprises the parishes of Nailsworth and Horsley.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Thrupp	1	3%	This ward comprises the parish of Brimscombe & Thrupp, part of Rodborough parish and the area between the railway line and Butterrow Hill.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.

Conclusions

34 Table 1 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2014 and 2020 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2014	2020
Number of councillors	51	51
Number of electoral wards	27	27
Average number of electors per councillor	1,814	1,917
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	1	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Stroud District Council should comprise 51 councillors serving 12 single-member, six two-member and nine three-member wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Stroud.

You can also view our final recommendations for Stroud on our interactive maps at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

35 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.

36 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, Stroud 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.

37 As 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 Cam parish.

Final recommendation

Cam Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Cam East (returning seven members) and Cam West (returning nine members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

38 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 Randwick parish.

Final recommendation

Randwick Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Randwick (returning seven members), Randwick South East (returning one member) and Randwick South West (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

39 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 Stonehouse parish.

Final recommendation

Stonehouse Parish Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Stonehouse (returning 13 members) and Ebley (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

40 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 Stroud parish.

Final recommendation

Stroud Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing six wards: Stroud Central (returning three members), Stroud Farmhill & Paganhill (returning three members), Stroud Slade (returning three members), Stroud Trinity (returning three members), Stroud Uplands (returning three members) and Stroud Valley (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

41 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 Wotton-under-Edge parish.

Final recommendation

Wotton-under-Edge Town Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Wotton-under-Edge (returning 12 members) and Wotton-under-Edge South (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 What happens next?

42 We have now completed our review of Stroud 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 May 2016.

Equalities

43 This report has been screened for impact on equalities; with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Appendix A

Table A1: Final recommendations for Stroud District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Amberley and Woodchester	1	1,797	1,797	-1%	1,814	1,814	-5%
2	Berkeley Vale	3	5,566	1,855	2%	5,904	1,968	3%
3	Bisley	1	1,867	1,867	3%	1,884	1,884	-2%
4	Cainscross	3	5,702	1,901	5%	5,870	1,957	2%
5	Cam East	2	3,622	1,811	0%	3,649	1,825	-5%
6	Cam West	2	3,125	1,563	-14%	3,858	1,929	1%
7	Chalford	3	5,209	1,736	-4%	5,232	1,744	-9%
8	Coaley & Uley	1	1,984	1,984	9%	2,021	2,021	5%
9	Dursley	3	5,242	1,747	-4%	5,874	1,958	2%
10	Hardwicke	3	4,920	1,640	-10%	6,148	2,049	7%
11	Kingswood	1	1,777	1,777	-2%	1,791	1,791	-7%
12	Minchinhampton	2	3,551	1,776	-2%	3,758	1,879	-2%

Table A1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Stroud District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Nailsworth	3	5,431	1,810	0%	5,551	1,850	-3%
14	Painswick & Upton	3	5,646	1,882	4%	5,922	1,974	3%
15	Randwick, Whiteshill & Ruscombe	1	1,831	1,831	1%	1,840	1,840	-4%
16	Rodborough	2	3,724	1,862	3%	3,926	1,963	2%
17	Severn	2	3,970	1,985	9%	4,076	2,038	6%
18	Stonehouse	3	5,942	1,981	9%	6,127	2,042	7%
19	Stroud Central	1	1,658	1,658	-9%	1,821	1,821	-5%
20	Stroud Farmhill & Paganhill	1	1,899	1,899	5%	1,925	1,925	0%
21	Stroud Slade	1	1,828	1,828	1%	1,920	1,920	0%
22	Stroud Trinity	1	1,777	1,777	-2%	1,842	1,842	-4%
23	Stroud Uplands	1	1,756	1,756	-3%	1,765	1,765	-8%
24	Stroud Valley	1	1,776	1,776	-2%	1,850	1,850	-4%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25 The Stanleys	2	3,398	1,699	-6%	3,652	1,826	-5%
26 Thrupp	1	1,908	1,908	5%	1,984	1,984	3%
27 Wotton-under-Edge	3	5,599	1,866	3%	5,777	1,926	0%
Totals	51	92,505	–	–	97,781	–	–
Averages	–	–	1,814	–	–	1,917	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Stroud 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

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-west/gloucestershire/stroud>

Local authority

- Stroud District Council

Councillors

- Councillor A. Blackburn
- Councillor J. Cordwell (County Councillor, Wotton-under-Edge)
- Councillor J. Jones
- Councillor P. Pearson
- Councillor P. Wride
- Councillor D. Young

Town and parish councils

- Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council (two submissions)
- Cranham Parish Council
- Frampton on Severn Parish Council
- Hardwicke Parish Council
- Moreton Valence Parish Council
- Randwick Parish Council
- Slimbridge Parish Council
- Standish Parish Council
- Stonehouse Parish Council
- Stroud Town Council
- Wotton-under-Edge Parish Council

Residents

- 8 local residents

Appendix C

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council