# Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Test Valley Borough Council

**Electoral review** 

October 2017

## Translations and other formats

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The Local Government Boundary Commission for England GD 100049926 2017

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## Summary

#### Who we are and what we do

1 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.

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

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

## Why Test Valley?

4 We have conducted a review of Test Valley as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Test Valley. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

## Our proposals for Test Valley

- Test Valley should be represented by 43 councillors, five fewer than there are now.
- Test Valley should have 20 wards, four fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of all wards should change; none will stay the same.

# 5 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Test Valley.

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

- 7 The members of the Commission are:
  - Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
  - Dr Peter Knight CBE, DL
  - Alison Lowton
  - Peter Maddison QPM
  - Sir Tony Redmond
  - Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## 1 Introduction

- 8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:
  - The wards in Test Valley are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
  - The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

#### What is an electoral review?

- 9 Our three main considerations are to:
  - Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
  - Reflect community identity
  - Provide for effective and convenient local government

10 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 <u>www.lgbce.org.uk</u>

## Consultation

11 We wrote to Test Valley Borough Council (the Council) to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Test Valley. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
17 January 2017	Number of councillors decided
24 January 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
3 April 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
13 June 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
14 August 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
3 October 2017	Publication of final recommendations

## 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 or town council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

## 2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> 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.

15 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.

16 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.

	2016	2022
Electorate of Test Valley	96,006	103,672
Number of councillors	43	43
Average number of electors per councillor	2,233	2,411

17 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Test Valley will have good electoral equality by 2022.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

#### Submissions received

19 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at <u>www.lgbce.org.uk</u>

## **Electorate figures**

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2017. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 8% by 2022. This increase is due to several large new developments, particularly those east of Andover and north and south of Romsey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

21 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.

## Number of councillors

22 Test Valley Borough Council currently has 48 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing the number by five will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 43 councillors – for example, 43 one-councillor wards or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

24 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. We are therefore proposing 43 councillors in our final recommendations.

## Ward boundaries consultation

25 We received 17 submissions during our initial consultation on ward boundaries. These included one detailed borough-wide proposal from Test Valley Borough Council.

26 We also received submissions relating to specific parts of the borough from North West Hampshire Liberal Democrats, parish councils and local residents.

27 The Council's borough-wide scheme provided for a mixed pattern of five onecouncillor, seven two-councillor and eight three-councillor wards. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that the proposed ward boundaries would have good levels of electoral equality. We also considered that they generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

28 Our draft recommendations were largely based on the Council's borough-wide scheme. In some areas of the borough we also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas, we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Test Valley helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

29 Our draft recommendations were for five one-councillor wards, seven twocouncillor wards and eight three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests.

## Draft recommendations consultation

30 We received 36 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. The majority of the submissions focused on our Charlton & the Pentons ward, the boundary between Ampfield & Braishfield and Romsey Cupernham wards, and our proposed warding pattern to the south and south-east of Romsey.

31 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to the boundaries of our Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams, North Baddesley, Romsey Abbey, Romsey Tadburn and Valley Park wards. We have also made a minor modification to the boundary between our Andover Romans and Bourne Valley wards and changed the name of our proposed Grasslands ward to Bellinger.

## Final recommendations

32 Pages 8–17 detail our final recommendations for each area of Test Valley. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

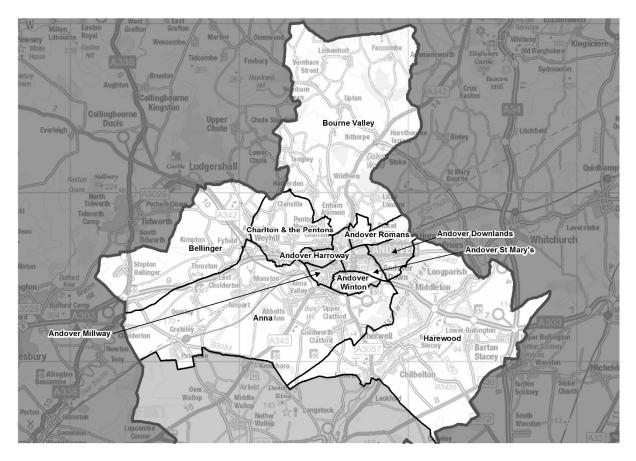
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

33 Our final recommendations are for five one-councillor wards, seven twocouncillor wards and eight three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

34 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 18 and on the large map accompanying this report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Andover and Northern Test Valley



Ward name	Number of Clirs	Variance 2022
Andover Downlands	2	-2%
Andover Harroway	3	7%
Andover Millway	3	-1%
Andover Romans	3	-9%
Andover St Mary's	3	-8%
Andover Winton	2	4%
Anna	2	7%
Bellinger	1	10%
Bourne Valley	1	5%
Charlton & the Pentons	1	10%
Harewood	1	6%

Andover Harroway, Andover Romans, Bourne Valley and Charlton & the Pentons 35 We received six submissions that referred to wards in this area. A local resident questioned whether all the Augusta Park development was in our Andover Romans ward. We have checked the map provided by Test Valley Borough Council and are confident that Augusta Park is entirely in this ward.

36 Andover Town Council commented on parish boundaries around Augusta Park, which we have no powers to amend. It also objected to the A343 being used as the boundary between our Andover Harroway and Andover Romans wards as the communities either side of the A343 share shops and services. However, moving the boundary to the River Anton as the Town Council proposed would lead to considerable electoral inequality in both wards. In the absence of a more detailed alternative proposal that would ensure good electoral equality, we intend to make no changes to our proposed boundaries in this part of the town. Finally, the Town Council pointed out that using the centre of Finkley Road as a boundary between Andover Romans and Bourne Valley wards would split the hamlet of Finkley. We accept the Town Council's argument and have therefore made a small amendment to the ward boundary so that it runs south of the properties on Finkley Road.

37 A borough councillor objected to the break-up of the current Penton Bellinger ward. However, retaining the current boundaries would lead to an electoral variance of -24%, which we consider to be unacceptably high.

38 Penton Grafton and Penton Mewsey parish councils objected to our proposed Charlton & the Pentons ward. Both parish councils argued that they had no connections with Charlton and it was inappropriate to combine rural villages with 'urban sprawl'. Instead, Penton Mewsey Parish Council proposed that the two parishes were included in our Bourne Valley ward with all of Smannell and Enham Alamein parishes being added to Andover Romans ward to ensure acceptable electoral equality. Charlton should either be combined with the whole of Andover Harroway in a four-councillor ward or with the area north-east of Redon Way as a single-councillor ward, with the remainder of Harroway forming a three-councillor ward.

39 Test Valley Borough Council stated its support for our Charlton & the Pentons ward, a ward it had originally proposed, arguing that Charlton had an identity separate from Andover and the ward best reflected its residents' community identity. Charlton Parish Council stated that it didn't oppose the ward, pointing out that in its neighbourhood plan questionnaire, 91% of respondents identified the parish as a rural village. The Parish Council also did not associate itself as part of Andover.

40 We have carefully considered all the submissions and consider that there is better evidence to support our draft recommendations than the alternative scheme from Penton Mewsey Parish Council. While we acknowledge the latter contained evidence to show that the Pentons are a cohesive community, it did not show sufficient connection between the two parishes and the other communities in our proposed Bourne Valley ward. In the survey carried out by Penton Mewsey Parish Council it listed four areas (in addition to 'elsewhere') that residents use for shopping, medical facilities and leisure activities; none of the four areas are in our Bourne Valley ward. Equally, no community evidence was provided to support the proposed addition of Smannell and Enham Alamein parishes to our proposed Andover Romans ward. While we recognise the strongly held views with regard to our recommendations here, we are not persuaded that all the alternative wards proposed were supported by sufficient evidence. Furthermore, we are of the view that our proposals provide the best balance of the statutory criteria for the northern part of Test Valley.

41 We consider that some evidence has been provided relating to the separation between Charlton and Andover and that there are some links between Charlton and the Penton villages. For example, in Penton Mewsey Parish Council's survey, 39 of 55 responses mentioned Charlton as a shopping location. Therefore, we propose to make no changes to our Charlton & the Pentons ward in our final recommendations.

# Andover Downlands, Andover Millway, Andover St Mary's, Andover Winton, Anna and Bellinger

42 Seven submissions referred to these wards. Two residents supported our proposal to put the Burghclere Down area in Andover Millway ward. One resident proposed splitting our two-councillor Anna ward into two single-councillor wards; however, both wards would have electoral inequality in excess of 20%.

43 Andover Town Council commented on parish council boundaries in this area, which we have no powers to amend. It also proposed that the A3057 and B3402 define the north of Andover Winton ward and the A303 should form the southern boundary of our proposed Andover Millway and Andover Winton wards. No evidence was provided in relation to the northern boundary and changing the southern boundary would require us to create Town Council wards with no electors. As we explained in our draft recommendations, creating parish wards with few or no electors does not lead to effective and convenient local government so we propose to make no changes to our wards in this area.

44 Thruxton Parish Council, in a submission on behalf of all the parishes in our proposed Grasslands ward, explained that the name Grasslands has no local support and proposed the name Bellinger instead, as it was part of the area's current identity. This proposal was supported by a local resident. We took the name Grasslands from the Borough Council's scheme but consider it preferable to have a name that is more meaningful to the local community. Therefore, we propose to rename our Grasslands ward Bellinger in our final recommendations.

45 Thruxton Parish Council also argued that Bellinger's southern boundary should follow the Thruxton parish boundary, as in our draft recommendations, rather than the A303 as had been proposed by the Borough Council.

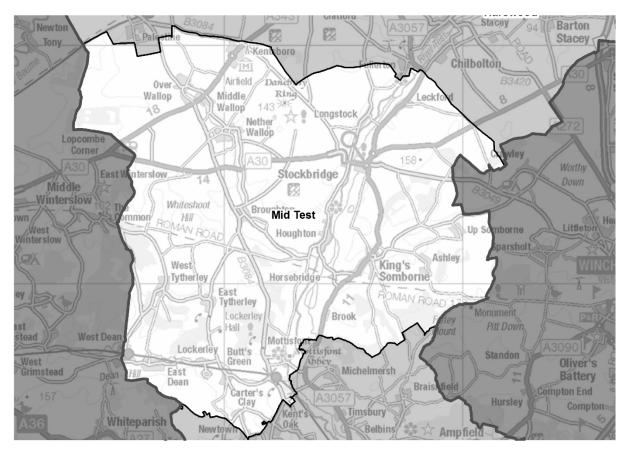
46 Finally, a resident proposed that both sides of Dauntsey Lane should be in Bellinger ward as residents in the area had a stronger connection with Thruxton. However, this would lead to an electoral variance of 14% in Bellinger, which we do not consider is justified by the evidence we have received.

47 We are therefore proposing that our Andover Downlands, Andover Millway, Andover Winton and Anna wards are confirmed as final without amendment and that our Grasslands ward is renamed Bellinger.

#### Harewood

48 As the only submission that related to our Harewood ward supported the draft recommendations, we propose that the ward is confirmed as final without amendment.

## Mid Test



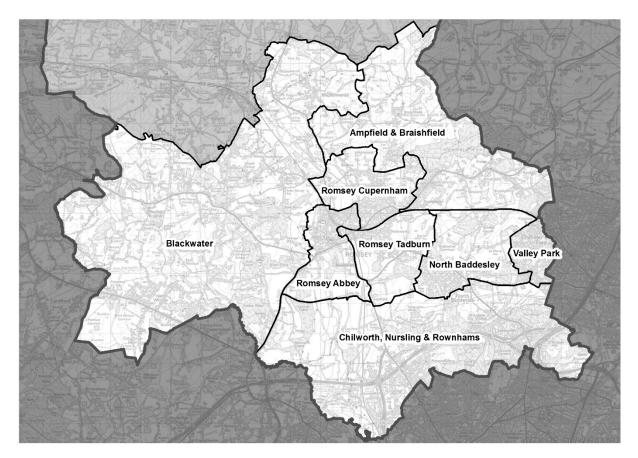
Ward name	Number of Clirs	Variance 2022
Mid Test	3	8%

#### Mid Test

49 We received three submissions for this area. Ashley Parish Meeting supported the draft recommendations. Longstock Parish Council argued that it is important the ward has three councillors, which is what we are proposing. Finally, King's Somborne Parish Council repeated the objection it made during the previous consultation to a three-councillor ward as it would reduce interaction between councillors and residents.

50 Given the good evidence provided in support of this ward by the Borough Council during the last stage of consultation and in the absence of an alternative warding pattern, we propose that our Mid Test ward is confirmed as final without amendment.

## Romsey and Southern Test Valley



Ward name	Number of Clirs	Variance 2022
Ampfield & Braishfield	1	-6%
Blackwater	2	4%
Chilworth, Nursling &	3	-7%
Rownhams		
North Baddesley	3	-10%
Romsey Abbey	2	9%
Romsey Cupernham	3	-5%
Romsey Tadburn	2	8%
Valley Park	2	-5%

# Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams; North Baddesley; Romsey Abbey; Romsey Tadburn; and Valley Park

51 We received 11 submissions that referred to this area, none of which supported our draft recommendations. These were from Test Valley Borough Council; Chilworth, North Baddesley, Romsey Extra and Valley Park parish councils; a Hampshire County Councillor; three Romsey town councillors; and two local residents. Test Valley Borough Council and Chilworth Parish Council provided alternative proposals.

52 The key objection was the inclusion of the Broadlands, Halterworth and Mainstone areas in our proposed North Baddesley & Halterworth ward. It was argued that these areas have a much stronger affinity to Romsey and, in some places, are indistinguishable from the town itself. The Borough Council also pointed out that residents in Lee look to Nursling and Rownhams for services rather than North Baddesley.

53 Test Valley Borough Council's revised scheme, supported by Valley Park Parish Council, proposed the following changes: the Broadlands and Mainstone areas are included in Romsey Abbey; Lee is added to Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams; Halterworth becomes part of Romsey Tadburn; and the Sandringham Close, Tristram Close and Percival Road area of Valley Park is included in a renamed North Baddesley ward.

54 Chilworth Parish Council, supported by the county councillor, proposed four alternative schemes in this area. Its preference was for the Lee and Luzborough areas being added to Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams ward; the south-eastern part of Valley Park parish remaining in Valley Park ward; part of south-west Valley Park being included in North Baddesley; and Halterworth becoming part of Romsey Tadburn ward. Under this proposal the Parish Council included additional electors from the Fen Meadow development in its Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams ward who were not part of the Borough Council's five-year electorate forecast. However, as the Parish Council acknowledged, even were we to accept the inclusion of these electors, the ward would still have an electoral variance of -12%. In addition, when we analysed the figures in the Parish Council's three other options, we found that in each case one ward had a variance of at least -11%.

55 We have carefully considered all the evidence and propose to make changes to our draft recommendations in this area. Firstly, we accept the argument of the Borough Council and others that the Broadlands, Mainstone and Halterworth areas have a strong affinity with Romsey and that residents in Lee are more closely aligned to Nursling and Rownhams than North Baddesley. We have amended our recommendations accordingly.

56 Having removed Halterworth from our proposed North Baddesley & Halterworth ward, we also have removed 'Halterworth' from the ward's name in our final recommendations.

57 We also noted the points made by Romsey Extra Parish Council and the two Romsey Town councillors that residents in the Highwood area look to Romsey for services rather than North Baddesley. In addition, under both alternative proposals we would have had to create a parish ward in this area with too few electors to be viable. We have therefore added Highwood to our Romsey Tadburn ward.

58 The key part of Chilworth Parish Council's argument was that electors in the south-eastern corner of Valley Park feel no affinity with the Chilworth area. While we accept this may be so, no Valley Park residents contacted us during the review and the submission from Valley Park Parish Council supported the Borough Council's revised proposals.

59 Chilworth Parish Council proposed that we should include additional electors at the Fen Meadow development due to houses being built more quickly than anticipated. Including these additional electors would marginally improve the variance in Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams ward from -13% to -12%. However, our guidance makes clear that the forecasts provided and agreed at the beginning of a review are those that will be used as the base forecast throughout. To do otherwise and make forecasting changes as developments start, are delayed or even abandoned would make it impossible to draw reliable boundaries. This is why we work with local authorities to get the best possible forecast at the outset.

60 Given that none of the options provided by Chilworth Parish Council fit with the community evidence we received around Romsey or provide for good electoral equality, we have adopted the boundaries proposed by the Borough Council between Valley Park, North Baddesley and Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams wards. We consider that the Borough Council's proposal allows us to recommend the warding pattern that most closely matches the community evidence we have received as well as ensuring the best achievable level of electoral equality.

#### Ampfield & Braishfield and Romsey Cupernham

61 We received ten submissions that referred to this area. Romsey Extra Parish Council objected to all the wards in the parish. Ampfield Parish Council, two parish councillors, a borough councillor and four local residents proposed that the properties either side of Jermyns Lane in our Romsey Cupernham ward, as well as Ganger Wood, should be part of Ampfield & Braishfield ward and Ampfield parish. It was argued that residents around Jermyns Lane consider themselves to be part of the Ampfield community and that Ganger Wood is an integral part of Ampfield.

62 Test Valley Borough Council supported the draft recommendations, pointing out that they followed the Hampshire County Council division boundary that came into force in 2017.

63 While we consider that Ampfield Parish Council and others have provided some evidence in relation to local identity, making the changes proposed would require us to create a parish ward of Romsey Extra Parish Council containing approximately 20 electors, which is too small to be viable. Therefore, we propose to make no changes to either our proposed Ampfield & Braishfield or Romsey Cupernham wards. However, we note that Test Valley Borough Council has the power to change parish boundaries. Should the Ampfield parish boundary be extended to include all of Jermyns Lane and Ganger Wood, then we would consider amending the corresponding ward and division boundaries should Test Valley Borough Council request this.

#### Blackwater

64 Wellow Parish Council supported the draft recommendations for Blackwater. As stated above, Romsey Extra Parish Council objected to all the wards in the parish. Given Wellow Parish Council's support for this ward and the lack of an alternative proposal, we propose that our Blackwater ward is confirmed as final without amendment.

## Conclusions

65 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2016 and 2022 electorate figures.

## Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2016	2022
Number of councillors	43	43
Number of electoral wards	20	20
Average number of electors per councillor	2,233	2,411
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	12	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	4	0

#### **Final recommendation**

Test Valley Borough Council should be made up of 43 councillors serving 20 wards representing five single-councillor wards, seven two-councillor wards and eight three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

#### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Test Valley Borough Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Test Valley on our interactive maps at <u>http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk</u>

## Parish electoral arrangements

66 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 ward 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.

67 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, Test Valley Borough 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.

68 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Abbotts Ann Parish Council, Andover Town Council, Enham Alamein Parish Council, Michelmersh & Timsbury Parish Council, Smannell Parish Council, Romsey Town Council, Romsey Extra Parish Council and Valley Park Parish Council.

69 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 Abbotts Ann parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b> Abbotts Ann Parish Council should complete representing two wards:	rise seven councillors, as at present,
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Abbotts Ann	4
Burghclere Down	3

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 Andover parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b> Andover Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:		
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors	
Downlands	2	
Harroway	4	
Marlborough	1	
Millway	3	
Picket Piece	1	
Romans	1	
St Mary's East	2	
St Mary's West	2	
Winton	3	

71 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 Enham Alamein parish.

#### Final recommendation

Enham Alamein Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East Anton	2
Enham	5

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 Michelmersh & Timsbury parish.

#### **Final recommendation**

Tadburn

Michelmersh & Timsbury Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Casbrook	1
Michelmersh	6

73 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 Smannell parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b> Smannell Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:		
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors	
Augusta Park	6	
Smannell	1	

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 Romsey parish.

Final recommendation				
Romsey Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing				
three wards:				
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors			
Parish ward Abbey	Number of parish councillors   6			

75 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 Romsey Extra parish.

5

#### Final recommendation

Romsey Extra Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Abbotswood	1
Broadlands	1
Crampmoor	1
Halterworth & Whitenap	1
Lee	1
West	1
Woodley	1

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 Valley Park parish.

#### Final recommendation

Valley Park Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
North	7
South-east	1
South-west	1

## 3 What happens next?

77 We have now completed our review of Test Valley Borough Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2019.

## Equalities

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

## Final recommendations for Test Valley

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ampfield & Braishfield	1	2,233	2,233	0%	2,278	2,278	-6%
2	Andover Downlands	2	2,214	1,107	-50%	4,716	2,358	-2%
3	Andover Harroway	3	7,724	2,575	15%	7,709	2,570	7%
4	Andover Millway	3	6,972	2,324	4%	7,182	2,394	-1%
5	Andover Romans	3	5,086	1,695	-24%	6,555	2,185	-9%
6	Andover St Mary's	3	6,410	2,137	-4%	6,669	2,223	-8%
7	Andover Winton	2	5,114	2,557	15%	5,019	2,510	4%
8	Anna	2	5,327	2,664	19%	5,180	2,590	7%
9	Bellinger	1	2,742	2,742	23%	2,653	2,653	10%
10	Blackwater	2	4,994	2,497	12%	5,032	2,516	4%
11	Bourne Valley	1	2,639	2,639	18%	2,524	2,524	5%
12	Charlton & the Pentons	1	2,526	2,526	13%	2,657	2,657	10%

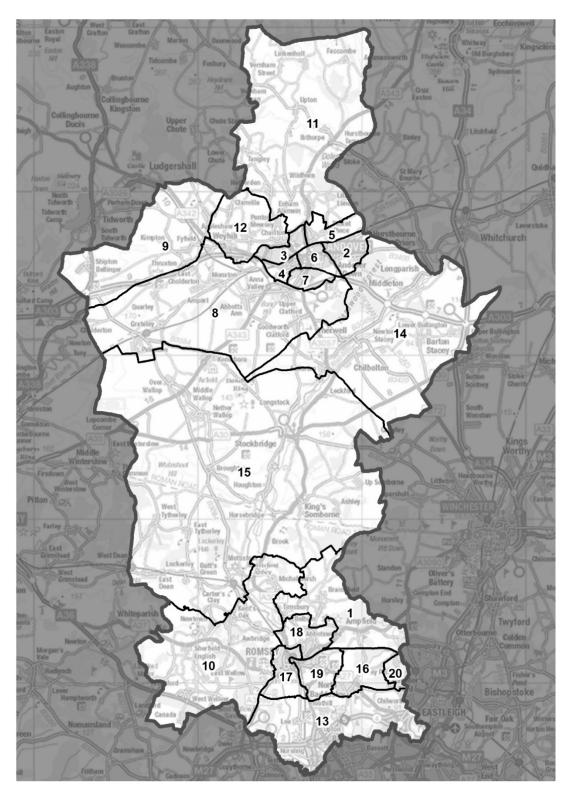
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams	3	5,931	1,977	-11%	6,709	2,236	-7%
14	Harewood	1	2,703	2,703	21%	2,557	2,557	6%
15	Mid Test	3	7,308	2,436	9%	7,787	2,596	8%
16	North Baddesley	3	6,008	2,003	-10%	6,484	2,161	-10%
17	Romsey Abbey	2	4,851	2,426	9%	5,273	2,637	9%
18	Romsey Cupernham	3	5,838	1,946	-13%	6,896	2,299	-5%
19	Romsey Tadburn	2	4,562	2,281	2%	5,206	2,603	8%
20	Valley Park	2	4,824	2,412	8%	4,586	2,293	-5%
	Totals	43	96,006	-	-	103,672	-	-
	Averages	-	-	2,233	-	-	2,411	-

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

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

## Appendix B

## Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <u>http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/hampshire/test-valley</u>

## Key

- 1. Ampfield & Braishfield
- 2. Andover Downlands
- 3. Andover Harroway
- 4. Andover Millway
- 5. Andover Romans
- 6. Andover St Mary's
- 7. Andover Winton
- 8. Anna
- 9. Bellinger
- 10. Blackwater
- 11. Bourne Valley
- 12. Charlton & the Pentons
- 13. Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams
- 14. Harewood
- 15. Mid Test
- 16. North Baddesley
- 17. Romsey Abbey
- 18. Romsey Cupernham
- 19. Romsey Tadburn
- 20. Valley Park

## Appendix C

## Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <a href="http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/hampshire/test-valley">http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/hampshire/test-valley</a>

#### Local Authority

• Test Valley Borough Council

#### Councillors

- Councillor N. Bailey (Romsey Town Council)
- Councillor A. Clark (Ampfield Parish Council)
- Councillor M. Greggains (Romsey Town Council)
- Councillor M. Hatley (Test Valley Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Lashbrook (Test Valley Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Parker (Romsey Town Council)
- Councillor R. Perry (Hampshire County Council)
- Councillor G. Roads (Ampfield Parish Council)

#### **Parish and Town Councils**

- Ampfield Parish Council
- Andover Town Council
- Ashley Parish Meeting
- Charlton Parish Council
- Chilworth Parish Council
- King's Somborne Parish Council
- Longstock Parish Council
- North Baddesley Parish Council
- Penton Grafton Parish Council
- Penton Mewsey Parish Council
- Romsey Extra Parish Council
- Thruxton Parish Council
- Valley Park Parish Council
- Wellow Parish Council

#### **Local Residents**

• 13 local residents

# Appendix D

## Glossary and abbreviations

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

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <u>www.nalc.gov.uk</u>
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
Ward	
	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