

New electoral arrangements for Torbay Council

Final recommendations

February 2018

Translations and other formats

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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 Torbay?

4 We are conducting a review of Torbay Council as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Torbay. 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 Torbay

- Torbay should be represented by 36 councillors, the same number as there are now.
- Torbay should have 16 wards, one more 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 Torbay.**

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.¹

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Sir Tony Redmond (Deputy Chair)
- Alison Lowton
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Steve Robinson
- Andrew Scallan CBE

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

¹ 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 Torbay 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 www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Torbay. 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
18 April 2017	Number of councillors decided
13 June 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
14 August 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 October 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
11 December 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
6 February 2018	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 town council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

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

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.

	2017	2023
Electorate of Torbay	99,602	103,406
Number of councillors	36	36
Average number of electors per councillor	2,767	2,872

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 Torbay will have good electoral equality by 2023.

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 www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 3.8% by 2023. Much of this forecast increase reflects anticipated housing development, most notably in Blatchcombe.

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

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

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 Torbay Council currently has 36 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will make sure 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 36 councillors – for example, 36 one-councillor wards, 12 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

24 We received two submissions, from the Torbay Labour Party and the Torbay Liberal Democrats, supporting our proposal to retain a total of 36 ward councillors. We have maintained this proposal in our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

25 We received 30 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three detailed borough-wide proposals from the Council and from the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties. The Conservative Party largely supported the Council's scheme. These schemes were based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 36 councillors. In addition to the borough-wide schemes, we also received proposals for more localised areas. These too provided us with helpful information about different parts of Torbay.

26 The borough-wide schemes each provided for a mixed pattern of two- and three-councillor wards for Torbay and included descriptions of community identities and interactions. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that, in general, the proposed ward boundaries would have good levels of electoral equality.

27 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of the borough-wide proposals that we received with some modifications to provide for better electoral equality and more identifiable boundaries. In some areas of the borough we took into account local evidence that we received, which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries.

28 Our draft recommendations were for one single-councillor, 10 two-councillor and five three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests.

Draft recommendations consultation

29 We received 30 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments on our proposals for all parts of the

borough made by the Council, the Torbay Labour Party and Torbay Liberal Democrats. The majority of the other submissions focussed on specific areas, particularly our proposals in St Marychurch and Maidencombe. One local resident questioned the desirability of a review whilst another appreciated our endeavours to restore electoral equality to the people of Torbay. The Liberal Democrats expressed the view that no ward created by the review should cross a parliamentary constituency boundary. We do not, however, take account of national constituency boundaries when conducting any of our reviews.

30 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to the wards in St Marychurch and Barton with Watcombe. We also make 10 minor modifications to the boundaries between all wards except those in Brixham.

31 The Borough of Torbay includes a large area of sea, all of which currently lies in Wellswood ward. In our draft recommendations, we proposed that, with the exception of Brixham where the town is defined by a parish boundary, this area of sea be divided into portions reflecting those wards which have a coastline. In response to our consultation, one respondent commented that the implementation of our draft recommendations would compromise the provisions of the Tor Bay Harbour Acts. Torbay Council further commented that dividing up the sea area could cause confusion in the operations of the Council's Harbour Management Committee. We consider that, as the sea area contains no electors, we should not compromise either the Harbour Acts or the management of the harbour. We have therefore included the sea area in our proposed Wellswood ward.

Final recommendations

32 Pages 8–17 detail our final recommendations for each area of Torbay. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

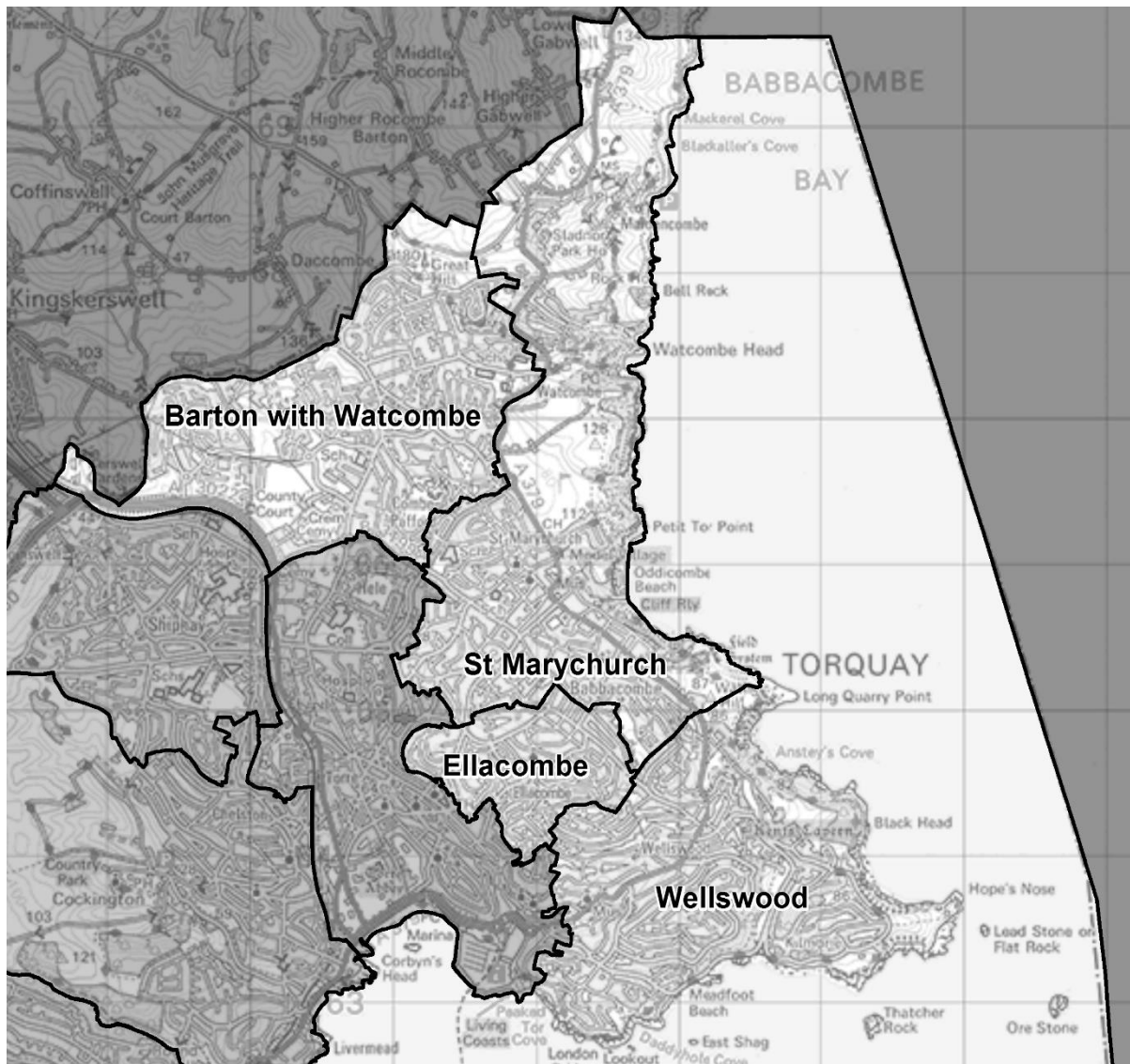
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

33 Our final recommendations are for one single-councillor ward, 10 two-councillor wards and five 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.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

The north and north-east



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Barton with Watcombe	3	5%
Ellacombe	2	-4%
St Marychurch	3	-2%
Wellswood	2	-2%

Barton with Watcombe and St Marychurch

35 In our draft recommendations, we proposed that the high electoral variance in Watcombe be addressed by using Riviera Way as a ward boundary in this area. We received no objection to this proposal. We also proposed that the Maidencombe area be included in our Barton with Watcombe ward.

36 The Torbay Liberal Democrats suggested that the whole of Lichfield Avenue be included in Barton with Watcombe ward instead of being divided between wards as proposed in our draft recommendations. Our recommendation for Maidencombe means that we can include the whole of Lichfield Avenue, together with Shrewsbury Avenue and Truro Avenue, in Barton with Watcombe ward without compromising electoral equality. We consider that this approach better reflects the identity of the community in the Lichfield Avenue area.

37 The Torbay Labour Party and the Torbay Liberal Democrats supported our draft recommendations in respect of the Maidencombe area whilst the Council argued that Maidencombe should continue to be included in the same ward as St Marychurch. The Council's view was supported by the St Marychurch & District Community Partnership and by nine local residents. These objectors provided substantial evidence of community identity and relationships between the neighbourhoods in the north-eastern part of the borough. We are persuaded, particularly by this additional evidence from the local community, to move away from our draft recommendations. We therefore propose that Maidencombe and the area between Teignmouth Road and the coast be included in our St Marychurch ward.

38 The Torbay Labour Party suggested that our St Marychurch ward be named 'St Marychurch with Plainmoor'. We do not consider that Plainmoor should be referred to in the ward name whilst excluding references to Babbacombe and Maidencombe, but equally, do not consider that a ward name which lists all the neighbourhoods in our ward would be appropriate or necessary.

Ellacombe

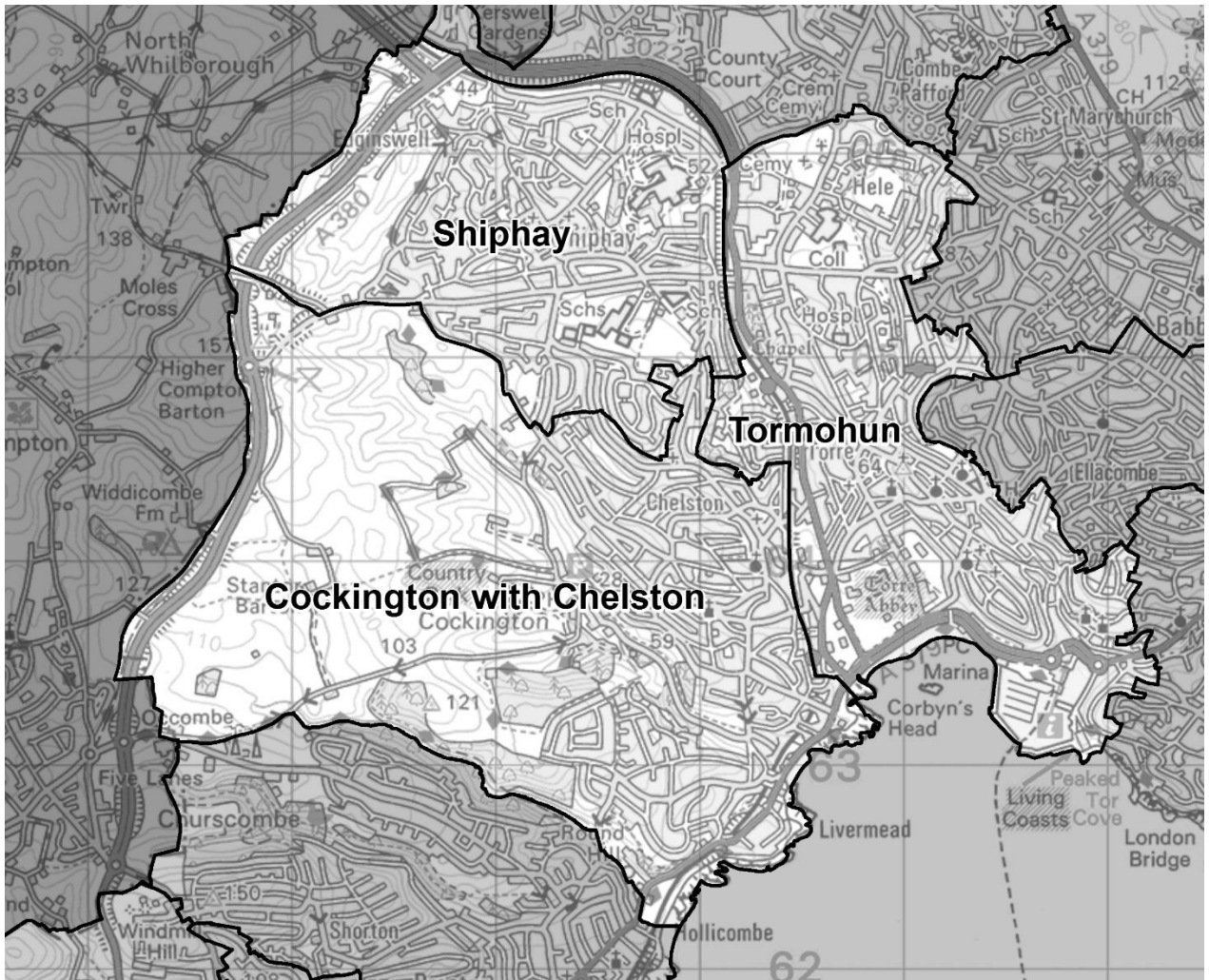
39 We mostly received support for our proposed ward. One resident proposed that the Quinta Road area be included in St Marychurch ward, but we were not persuaded by the proposal to use Windsor Road as a boundary between wards. We therefore confirm as final our draft recommendations for Ellacombe.

Wellswood

40 We received broad support for our draft recommendations for Wellswood ward, including the retention of the current name. However, the Torbay Liberal Democrats proposed that Museum Road and Marion View be included in Wellswood ward as these are accessed only from Babbacombe Road. Additionally, a local resident proposed that Braddons Hill Road East should not be regarded as a boundary between communities. We are persuaded by the evidence provided to us and have decided to reflect these proposals in our final recommendations.

41 As described in paragraph 31, we propose as part of our final recommendations that Wellswood ward include the sea area indicated in the Tor Bay Harbour Acts.

Central Torquay



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Cockington with Chelston	2	5%
Shiphay	2	9%
Tormohun	3	-2%

Cockington with Chelston and Shiphay

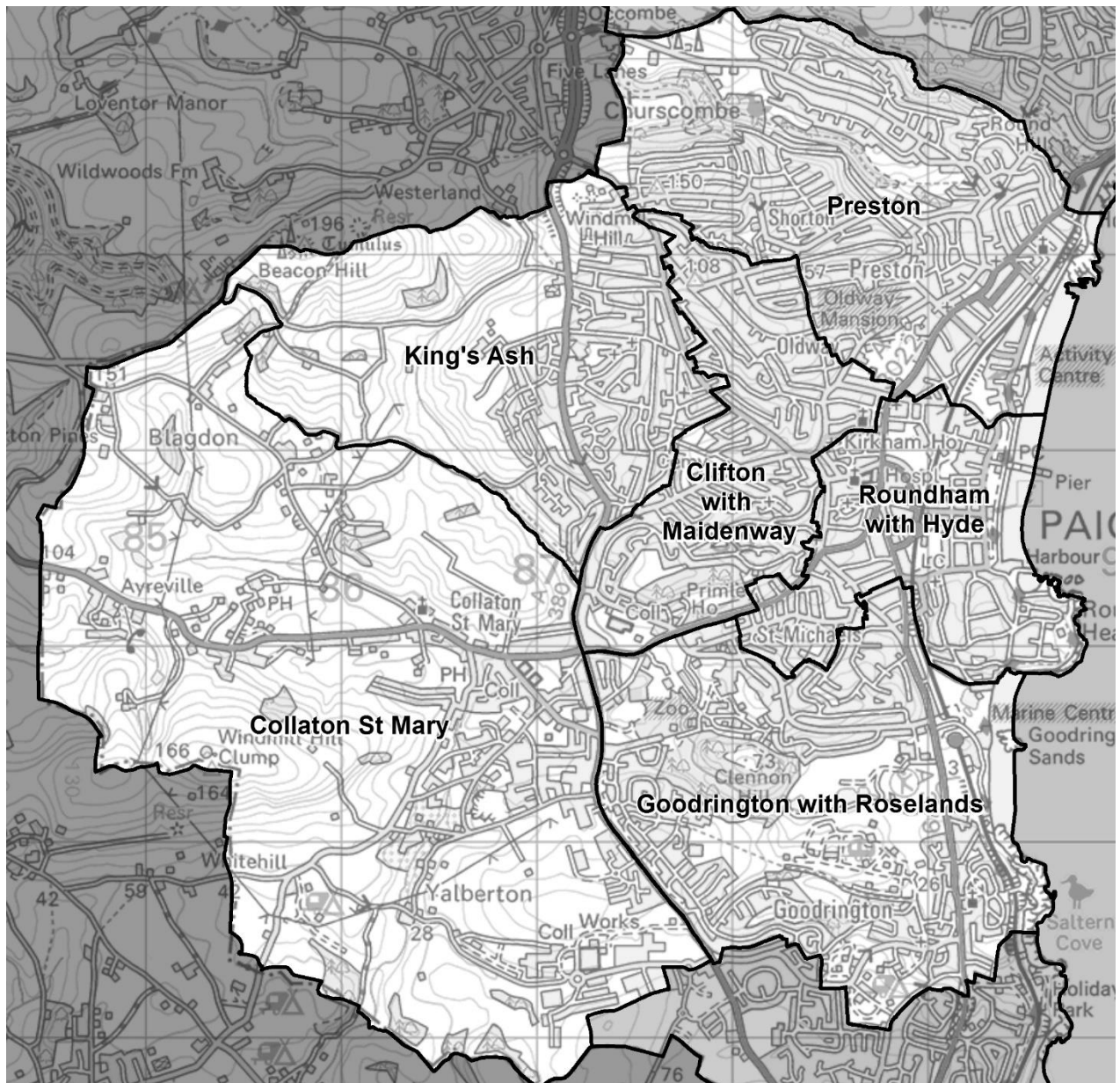
42 The Torbay Labour Party proposed that the whole of Queensway be included in our proposed Shiphay ward and argued that whilst this would result in a relatively high electoral variance, such inequality would be justified in this instance. We disagree with that conclusion and are not prepared to recommend a ward having nearly 20% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough. The Torbay Liberal Democrats broadly supported our draft recommendations but proposed that the whole of Raleigh Avenue be included in Shiphay ward. We consider that such an amendment would be in the interests of securing effective and convenient local government. We therefore have decided to modify our proposed Shiphay ward accordingly.

43 The Cockington, Chelston & Livermead Community Partnership argued that our proposals would lead to a loss of community cohesion but put forward boundaries that would result in high electoral variances. However, the Partnership did propose that the whole of the Cockington Country Park be included within Cockington with Chelston ward. We are persuaded that the substantial area of countryside described should be included in a single ward and include it in our final recommendation for Cockington with Chelston ward.

Tormohun

44 We received broad support for our proposed three-councillor Tormohun ward, including the retention of the name of the ward. Subject to our modification of our draft recommendation in the Lichfield Avenue area described in paragraph 36, we confirm as final our recommendation for Tormohun ward.

Paignton and Preston



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Clifton with Maidenway	2	6%
Collaton St Mary	1	7%
Goodrington with Roselands	2	1%
King's Ash	2	-5%
Preston	3	-5%
Roundham with Hyde	2	4%

Collaton St Mary and King's Ash

45 In making our draft recommendations, we considered that proposals for a three-councillor Blatchcombe ward would result in a large, disparate ward, containing the area around King's Ash Road, Ayreville, Blagdon, Collaton St Mary and Yalberton. We therefore proposed a two-councillor King's Ash ward with King's Ash Road running through the centre. To the south, we proposed a single-councillor Collaton St Mary ward which, for the most part, has Brixham Road as its eastern boundary. We invited comments on whether Collaton St Mary ward should be combined with an adjacent two-member ward.

46 Torbay Liberal Democrats supported our draft recommendations for this area. The Council, the Torbay Labour Party, the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan Forum and Councillor Robson opposed them, arguing in favour of a three-councillor Blatchcombe ward. Each argued that the Collaton St Mary area could not be adequately represented by a single councillor. We are not persuaded by that argument. Single-councillor wards are a common feature of local government, including in areas where most or all other wards in the same authority area are multi-member wards. We received no significant evidence to suggest that the community in our Collaton St Mary ward has a common identity with that of the King's Ash area.

47 The Council added a further comment about this area suggesting that 21 properties on the eastern side of Brixham Road at Tweenaway should be moved from the Collaton St Mary ward to Goodrington with Roselands ward as they are the only properties on that side of the road that are in the proposed Collaton St Mary ward. We agree with the Council's assessment and therefore, subject to that minor change, we confirm as final our recommendations for Collaton St Mary and King's Ash.

Clifton with Maidenway, Preston and Roundham with Hyde

48 The Council and the Torbay Labour Party supported our Clifton with Maidenway ward whilst the Torbay Liberal Democrats gave broad support but proposed a number of minor changes to it. They proposed that residents at Torbay View in Colley End Park be included in Clifton with Maidenway ward. They also proposed that 154–156 Marldon Road be included in King's Ash ward and that 90–95 Dolphin Crescent be included in Preston ward. We are persuaded that these changes will contribute to effective and convenient local government and so make them as part of our final recommendations. We are, however, not persuaded by the Liberal Democrats that the inclusion of 1a, 3, 22, 22a and 22b Winner Hill Road in Clifton with Maidenway would result in a clearly defined ward boundary. We consider that they form part of the group of houses and other buildings at the junction of Winner Hill Road and Winner Street.

49 The Torbay Liberal Democrats reiterated their earlier proposals in respect of Preston and Roundham with Hyde. They argued that Preston should be a two-councillor ward and Roundham with Hyde be a three-councillor ward taking in the coastal part of our proposed Preston ward. The Liberal Democrats argued that Paignton town centre needs to be represented by three councillors because of its social, commercial and transport issues. However, we do not consider that this argument outweighs our need to provide wards that reflect community identities and ensure good electoral equality.

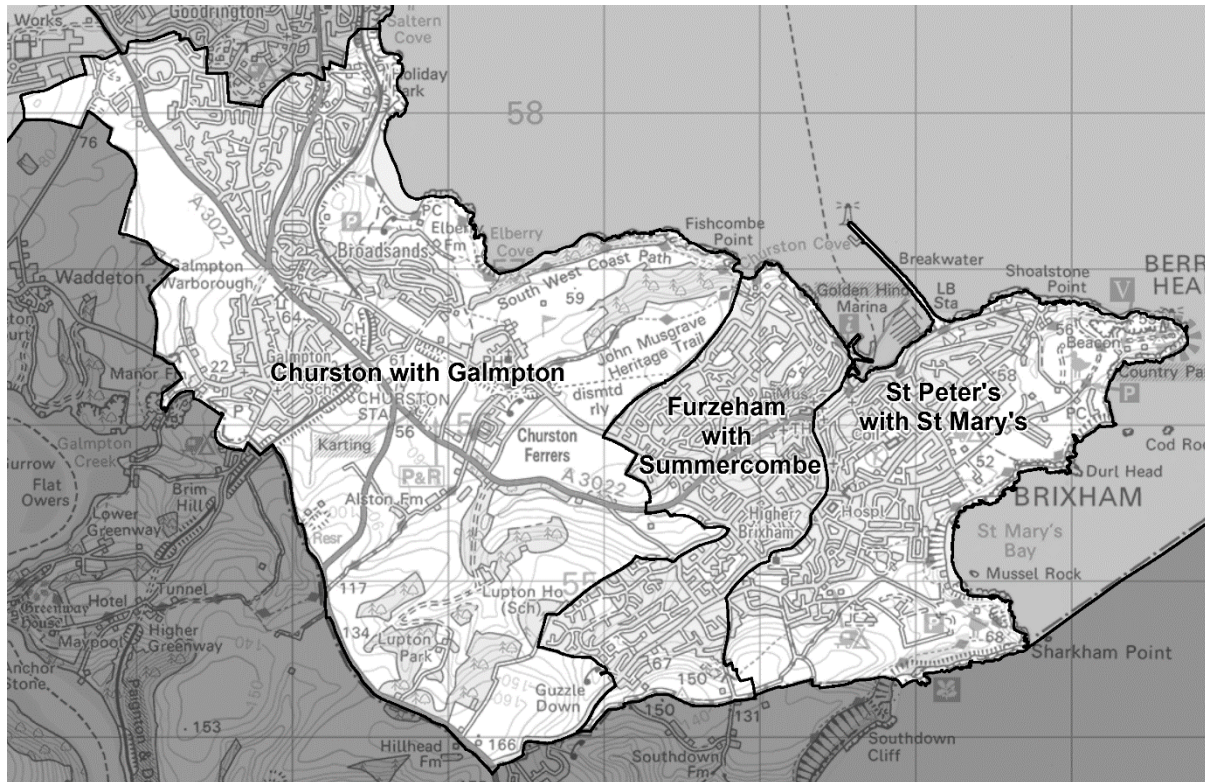
50 The Torbay Labour Party and the Torbay Liberal Democrats proposed that York Road, York Gardens, Sparks Barn Road, Elsdale Road, Footland Road and Broadlands Road be included in Roundham with Hyde ward, arguing that residents in those areas consider themselves to be part of the St Michael's community rather than the Goodrington community. We considered this option but were not persuaded that inclusion of this area in Roundham with Hyde ward would provide for good electoral equality. We do accept, however, the suggestions made by the Torbay Liberal Democrats that Logan Road, Wilbarn Road and all the properties in Batson Gardens be included in Roundham with Hyde ward. We consider that making this change to our draft recommendations will be in the interests of providing effective and convenient local government.

Goodrington with Roselands

51 We based our draft recommendations for this area on the proposal we received from the Council. The Torbay Conservative Association indicated that people in the Goodrington Road area have identified themselves with the Goodrington, Roselands & Hookhills Community Partnership. On our visit to the area, our observations matched this assertion and we therefore recommended that the Goodrington Road area be included in a two-councillor Goodrington with Roselands ward.

52 With the exception of arguments about the York Road area described in paragraph 50, we received broad support for our Goodrington with Roselands ward and confirm it as part of our final recommendations.

The Brixham Peninsula



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Churston with Galmpton	2	4%
Furzeham with Summercombe	3	-6%
St Peter's with St Mary's	2	-5%

Churston with Galmpton, Furzeham with Summercombe and St Peter's with St Mary's

53 We received broad support for our draft recommendations in this area from the Council, the Torbay Labour Party and the Torbay Liberal Democrats.

54 The Council proposed that we adopt the ward name Churston & Galmpton with Hookhills. We are not persuaded, however, that this would be an effective ward name as parts of Hookhills Road, Hookhills Grove and Hookhills Drive would lie in our Goodrington with Roselands ward. We consider that accepting the Council's proposal could lead to confusion amongst residents of the area.

55 The Torbay Liberal Democrats proposed that Stabb Close and Stabb Drive be included in Churston with Galmpton ward as they are accessible only from the part of Goodrington Road which lies within that ward. We are persuaded to confirm this change as part of our final recommendations in the interests of providing effective and convenient local government.

56 Our draft recommendations for Brixham provided for wards that reflected the boundary of the civil parish. One local resident responding suggested that we reflect the ecclesiastical parish of Brixham by extending the Furzeham with Summercombe ward beyond the boundaries of the civil parish and also extend the Brixham wards seaward. We are not persuaded to do so however. Brixham is the only part of Torbay which has a civil parish and we consider that aligning our ward boundaries to it will contribute to effective and convenient local government. Furthermore, and as described in paragraph 31, we have been persuaded not to subdivide the sea areas to reflect the operation of the Tor Bay Harbour Acts and the Torbay Harbour Management Committee.

Conclusions

57 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2017 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	36	36
Number of electoral wards	16	16
Average number of electors per councillor	2,767	2,872
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	1	0

Final recommendation

Torbay Council should be made up of 36 councillors serving 16 wards representing one single-councillor ward, 10 two-councillor wards and five 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 Torbay. You can also view our final recommendations for Torbay Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

58 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.

59 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, Torbay 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.

60 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 Brixham parish.

Final recommendation Brixham Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Furzeham with Summercombe	7
St Peter's with St Mary's	5

3 What happens next?

61 We have now completed our review of Torbay 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

62 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 Torbay Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Barton with Watcombe	3	8,550	2,850	3%	9,079	3,026	5%
2	Churston with Galmpton	2	5,550	2,775	0%	5,946	2,973	4%
3	Clifton with Maidenway	2	6,019	3,010	9%	6,073	3,037	6%
4	Cockington with Chelston	2	5,969	2,985	8%	6,026	3,013	5%
5	Collaton St Mary	1	1,934	1,934	-30%	3,069	3,069	7%
6	Ellacombe	2	5,467	2,734	-1%	5,491	2,746	-4%
7	Furzeham with Summercombe	3	8,060	2,687	-3%	8,091	2,697	-6%
8	Goodrington with Roselands	2	5,830	2,915	5%	5,830	2,915	1%
9	King's Ash	2	5,260	2,630	-5%	5,473	2,737	-5%
10	Preston	3	8,025	2,675	-3%	8,182	2,727	-5%

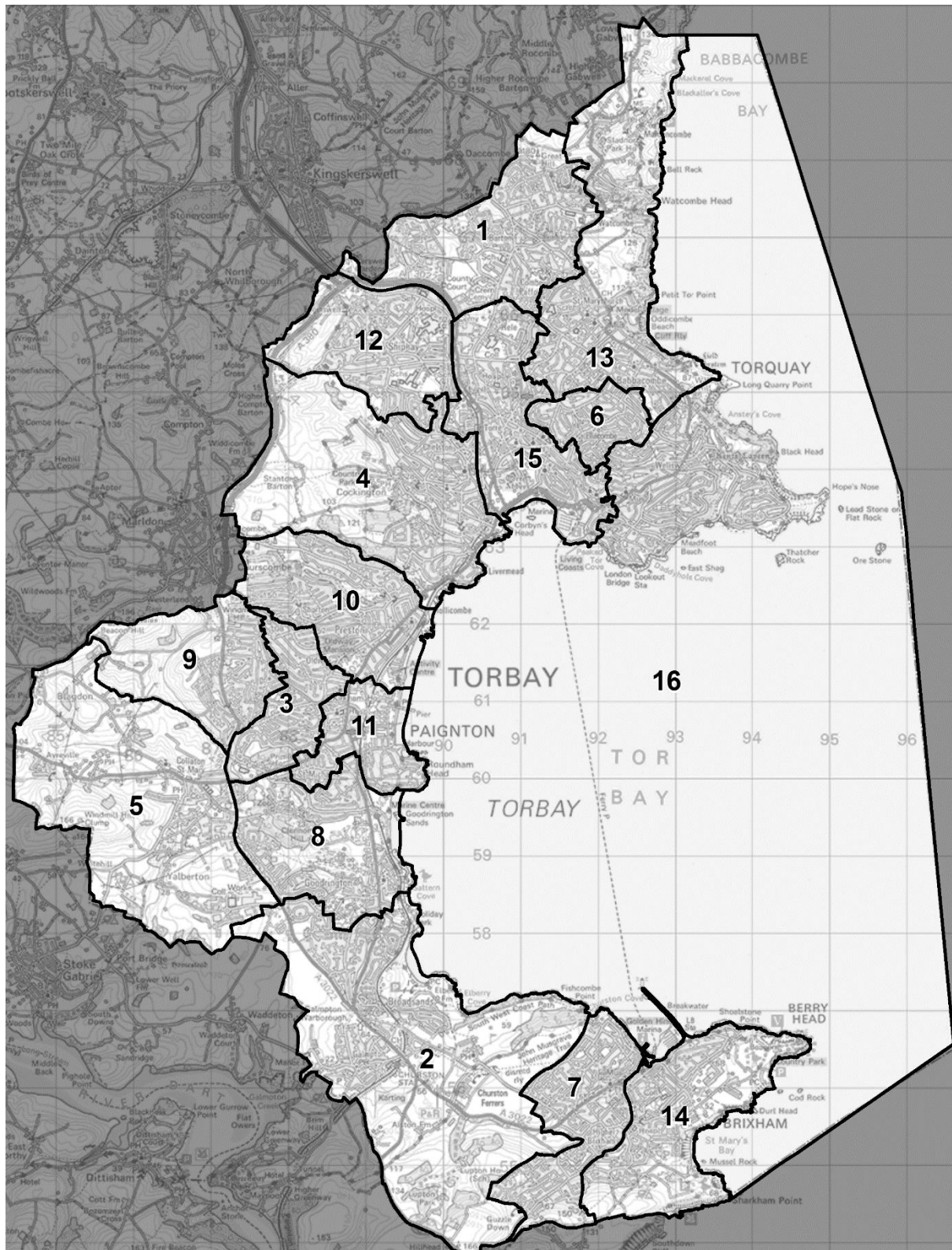
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Roundham with Hyde	2	5,784	2,892	5%	5,962	2,981	4%
12 Shiphay	2	6,014	3,007	9%	6,245	3,123	9%
13 St Marychurch	3	8,423	2,808	1%	8,469	2,823	-2%
14 St Peter's with St Mary's	2	5,083	2,542	-8%	5,461	2,731	-5%
15 Tormohun	3	8,063	2,688	-3%	8,407	2,802	-2%
16 Wellswood	2	5,571	2,786	1%	5,602	2,801	-2%
Totals	36	99,602	-	-	103,406	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,767	-	-	2,872	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Torbay 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



Key

1. Barton with Watcombe
2. Churston with Galmpton
3. Clifton with Maidenway
4. Cockington with Chelston
5. Collaton St Mary
6. Ellacombe
7. Furzeham with Summercombe
8. Goodrington with Roselands
9. King's Ash
10. Preston
11. Roundham with Hyde
12. Shiphay
13. St Marychurch
14. St Peter's with St Mary's
15. Tormohun
16. Wellswood

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-west/devon/torbay>

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

Local Authority

- Torbay Council

Political Group

- Torbay Labour Party
- Torbay Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor C. Robson (Torbay Council)

Local Organisations

- Cockington, Chelston & Livermead Community Partnership
- Paignton Neighbourhood Forum
- St Marychurch & District Community Partnership

Local Residents

- 23 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 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

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 areas.

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