

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Shropshire Council

Electoral review

October 2023

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament¹. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission² are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Liz Treacy
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

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

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Shropshire?

7 We are conducting a review of Shropshire Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2008, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The divisions in Shropshire are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the county.

Our proposals for Shropshire

9 Shropshire should be represented by 74 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Shropshire should have 72 divisions, nine more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most divisions will change; 13 will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Shropshire.

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which division you vote in, which other communities are in that division, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your division name may also change.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the county 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.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Shropshire. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on division patterns for the county. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
15 November 2022	Number of councillors decided
22 November 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new divisions
30 January 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 May 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
10 July 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
3 October 2023	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our divisions.

18 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create divisions with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

19 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2022	2028
Electorate of Shropshire	249,308	265,987
Number of councillors	74	74
Average number of electors per councillor	3,369	3,594

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a division is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the division as having 'good electoral equality'. 68 of our proposed divisions for Shropshire are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2028, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 7% by 2028.

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

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Number of councillors

24 Shropshire Council currently has 74 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively. The Council passed a resolution to request the Commission conduct a single-member review. This means that we will seek, where possible, to recommend a uniform pattern of single-member divisions.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of divisions that would be represented by 74 councillors, representing 74 single-member divisions. As part of our draft recommendations we moved away from the principle of single-member divisions in two areas where we proposed two-member divisions. As part of our final recommendations we are proposing two two-member divisions in Wem and St Martin's

26 We received no submissions specifically about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 74 councillors for our final recommendations.

Division boundaries consultation

27 We received 103 submissions in response to our first consultation on division boundaries. These included two county-wide proposals; from the Council, whose scheme included a number of sub-options, and a local resident. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for division arrangements in particular areas of the county.

28 The two county-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of one-councillor divisions for Shropshire. We carefully considered the proposals received, but considered that they each put forward divisions that would not provide an acceptable balance of the statutory criteria for the whole county. The Council's scheme provided poor levels of electoral equality across several divisions, and split several parishes in ways which would require the creation of very small parish wards.

29 The resident's scheme provided little evidence of community identity, concentrating on offering good electoral equality by assembling divisions based mainly on polling districts. Particularly in urban areas we do not consider that polling districts, which exist for the sole purpose of administering elections, will necessarily offer a good reflection of community identity.

30 Accordingly our draft recommendations were based on differing proposals in different areas of the county. As well as the county-wide proposals, we have taken into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered

that the proposals we received did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

31 Our draft recommendations were for two two-councillor divisions and 70 one-councillor divisions. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

32 We received 209 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a submission from the Council commenting on all our draft proposals. This submission was supported by the Conservative, Labour, and Liberal Democrat political groups represented on the Council – in the interests of brevity, these submissions from political groups are not separately referenced throughout this report except where they add additional material. A local resident also provided comments on the majority of our draft recommendations – where there is an unqualified reference to ‘the resident’ in this report, it refers to this set of comments. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Church Pulverbatch, Bayston Hill, and Nash.

Final recommendations

33 Our final recommendations are for two two-councillor divisions and 70 one-councillor divisions. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification in Wem where we are recommending a two-member division, and a modification in Bayston Hill where we are moving away from our draft recommendations and are proposing a single-member Bayston Hill division. We also make minor modifications to the boundaries between other divisions, and are recommending a number of name changes for divisions across Shropshire.

35 The tables and maps on pages 8-34 detail our final recommendations for each area of Shropshire. They detail how the proposed division arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

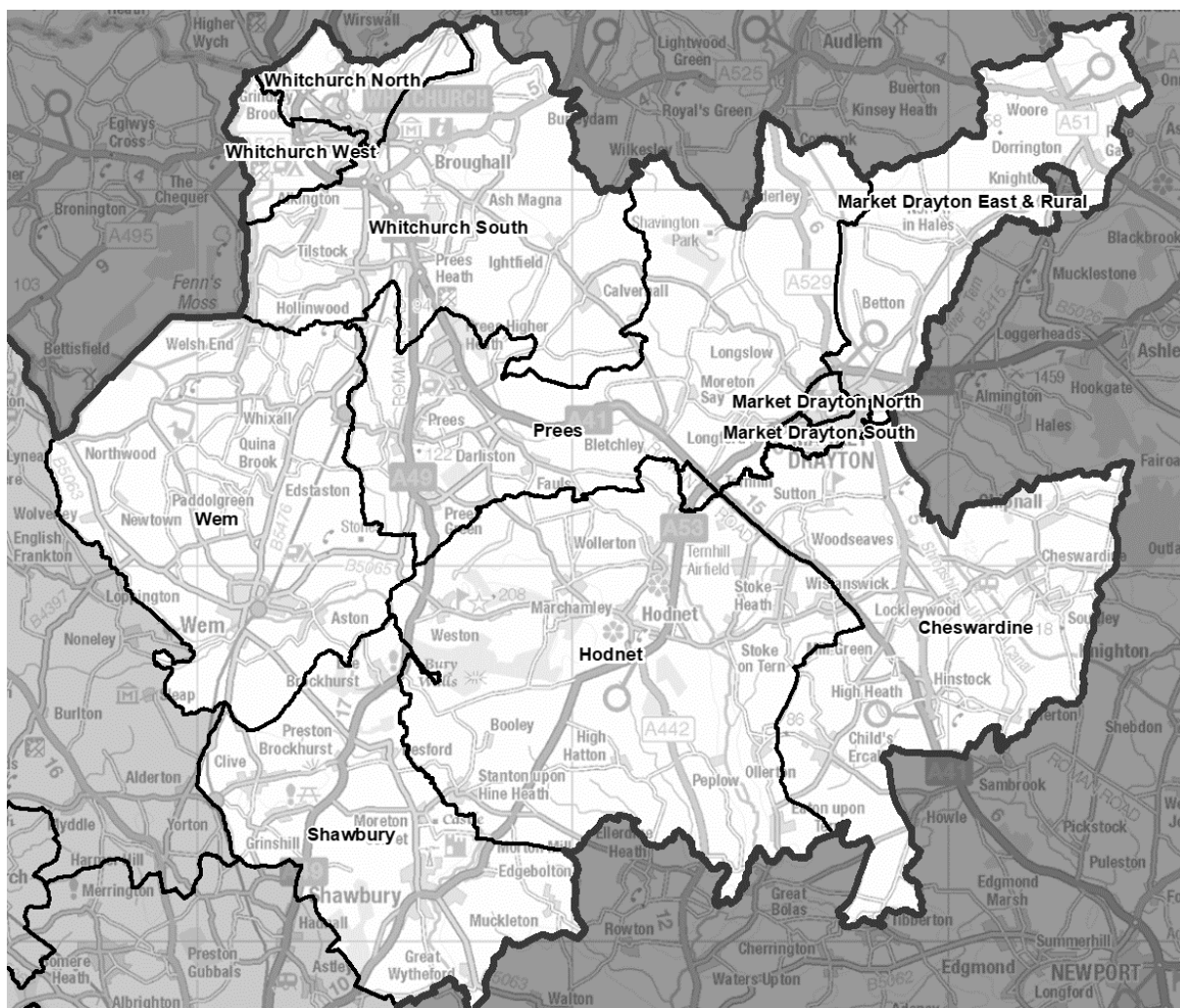
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

36 A summary of our proposed new divisions is set out in the table starting on page 46 and on the large map accompanying this report.

North-Eastern Shropshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Cheswardine	1	-1%
Hodnet	1	-7%
Market Drayton East & Rural	1	9%
Market Drayton North	1	10%
Market Drayton South	1	7%
Prees	1	6%
Shawbury	1	-9%
Wem	2	0%
Whitchurch North	1	9%
Whitchurch South	1	-6%
Whitchurch West	1	4%

Cheswardine, Hodnet, and Shawbury

37 The Council and resident supported our proposals for these divisions, which were also supported by Clive Parish Council. We received no alternative proposals for these divisions, and we therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Market Drayton East & Rural, Market Drayton North, Market Drayton South, and Prees

38 The parish councils of Adderley, and Norton in Hales, noted that the joint neighbourhood plan covering these parishes and Moreton Say was a reflection of their community identity, and that it would provide for effective and convenient local government for them to be placed in the same division. Adderley Parish Council further noted that they would prefer the parish not to be warded, preferring instead for the entire parish to be placed in a modified Prees division. This would leave Prees division with 11% more electors than average.

39 The Council noted the existence of the three-parish neighbourhood plan, and suggested that this was a point supporting the parishes being placed in the same division. However, as well as meaning that Prees division would have to be substantially re-drawn, the Council also noted that the proposal of the parish councils would leave no plausible arrangement for Woore parish, at the north-eastern extremity of the county. We are unable to alter the external boundary of the county as part of this review, and will propose detached divisions (such as placing Woore in a Market Drayton-based division, with Norton in Hales in a Prees-based division) only in the most exceptional circumstances, which we do not consider exist in this case.

40 Noting the constraints of the external boundary, on balance the Council supported our draft recommendations. We have considered this area carefully, but consider that there is no plausible arrangement of divisions that can put Moreton Say, Adderley and Norton in Hales in the same division without very significant revisions elsewhere, for which we have no evidence.

41 Cllr M. Proctor, of Ightfield Parish Council, noted a preference for Ightfield parish to remain within Prees division, noting the relationship with the County Councillor for the existing division. We cannot consider this type of relationship, and note that this change in isolation would result in Prees and Whitchurch South divisions having variances of 19% and -19%, respectively. We have not been persuaded to adopt this proposal, and we confirm our draft recommendations for these divisions as final.

Wem

42 Our draft recommendations for the parishes of Wem Rural, Wem Urban and Whixall were for two single-member divisions, one focused on the centre of the town, and one comprising the rural areas but including the eastern and southern fringes of

the town of Wem. We noted that this arrangement was necessary in order to propose single-member divisions with acceptable electoral equality.

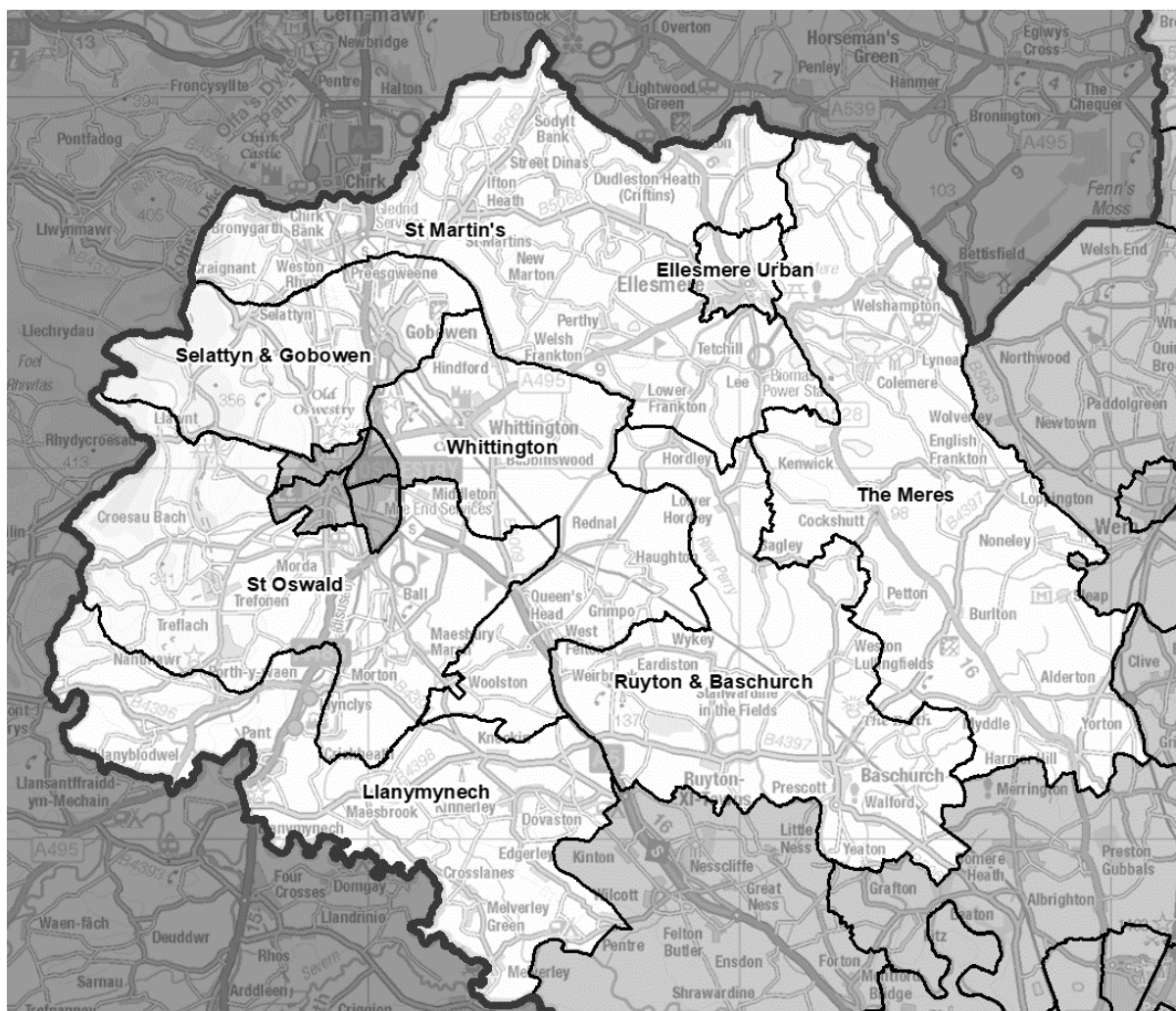
43 Our draft recommendations attracted little support. The Council, Wem Town Council, Wem Rural Parish Council, Cllr E. Towers, Cllr A. Matthews and several local residents proposed departing from the principle of single-member divisions, in order to retain the existing division in this area, which covers the entirety of the town, and surrounding rural parishes. Evidence was provided that the town of Wem shares a single community identity, with the areas to the east and south that we proposed to add to the rural-based division considering themselves integral parts of the town.

44 As noted in our draft recommendations report, a single-member division including all of Wem Urban parish would have very poor electoral equality, with 41% more electors than average. Given these numbers, and the strong evidence provided of a single community identity, we are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, and depart from the principle of single-member divisions. We recommend retaining the existing two-member division, covering the whole of Wem Rural, Wem Urban and Whixall parishes. This division is forecast to have excellent electoral equality, and offers a better reflection of community identity than our draft recommendations.

Whitchurch North, Whitchurch South, and Whitchurch West

45 The Council, political groups, and local resident supported our draft recommendations for these divisions. We received no alternative proposals, other than that of Cllr M. Proctor (para 41), and therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

North-Western Shropshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Ellesmere Urban	1	0%
Llanymynech	1	5%
Ruyton & Baschurch	1	9%
Selattyn & Gobowen	1	0%
St Martin's	2	3%
St Oswald	1	5%
The Meres	1	-9%
Whittington	1	6%

Ellesmere Urban, Selattyn & Gobowen, St Martin's and The Meres

46 The Council, Conservative Group, and Labour Group all supported our proposals for this area, which include a two-member division in order to avoid

splitting the village of St Martin's. This was further welcomed by the resident's comments, Ellesmere Rural Parish Council, Cllr S. Davenport, Cllr C. Emery and Cllr N. Rowley, who suggested changing the name of the division, to include reference to Weston Rhyn and Ellesmere Rural. We considered this carefully, but concluded that the existing name was relatively clear and concise. If the Council wishes to change the name of this, or any other division, it can do so using the procedures in Section 59 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

47 Weston Rhyn Parish Council, in contrast, opposed our proposals, suggesting that the major links from Weston Rhyn village were to Oswestry, and that public transport links to St Martin's were very limited. In contrast, the Labour submission suggested that there were links between the villages, based on their shared history in the mining industry. Weston Rhyn Parish Council did not provide any proposals for an alternative pattern of divisions across this area of the county

48 On balance, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations in this area. The broad support for the proposals, from residents, councillors and the Council suggests a degree of consensus for our decision to depart from the principle of single-member divisions in this area, in order to reflect the community identity of St Martin's in particular. We considered the objections of Weston Rhyn Parish Council carefully, but were unable to devise an alternative pattern of divisions which would better reflect the statutory criteria.

Llanymynech, Ruyton & Baschurch, St Oswald, and Whittington

49 In our draft recommendations report, we noted a proposal for the Morda Bank area, to the south of Oswestry, to be added to a division based in the town. While not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations, we invited comment on whether this would be a better reflection of community identity.

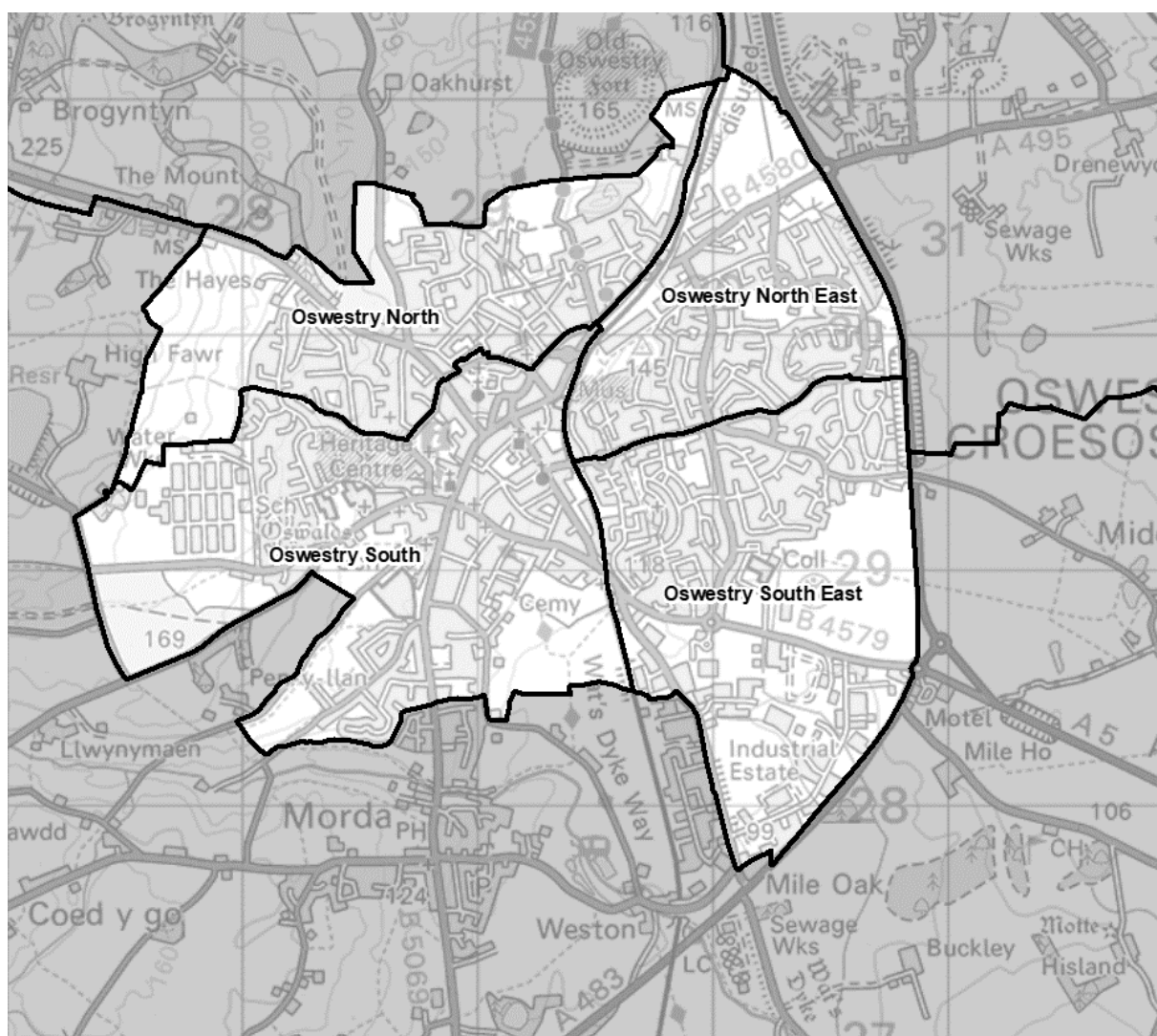
50 Oswestry Rural Parish Council, the Labour Group, and the Council provided evidence that there was a clear distinction of community identity between the Morda Bank area, and Oswestry itself. The resident also supported our draft recommendations. We are confirming our draft recommendations for St Oswald division, covering the whole of Oswestry Rural parish, as final.

51 Cllr D. Catmur-Lloyd repeated the proposal from the initial consultation for the boundary of Llanymynech & Pant parish, and hence Llanymynech division, to be expanded to take in the settlement of Crickheath. We are unable to alter parish boundaries as part of this review process. If a Community Governance Review, led by Shropshire Council, makes amendments to parish boundaries after the conclusion of this review, the Commission can amend the division boundaries to match the new parish boundaries. We received no other comments on Llanymynech division, and confirm our draft recommendations as final.

52 The Council, and Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council supported our proposals for Ruyton & Baschurch division, which included an extension into Pimhill parish in order to ensure that the settlement of Walford Heath is within a single division. The resident also supported this principle, but suggested going further to encompass the entirety of the very small settlement of Old Woods. We have not adopted this proposal, not only because it is unclear which dwellings consider themselves part of Old Woods, as opposed to isolated rural dwellings, but also because our proposed boundary used the railway line in this area as a clear and recognisable boundary. We are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for Ruyton & Baschurch division, and we confirm it as final.

53 Other than general support from the Council and others, we received no specific comments on our proposals for Whittington division, and we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Oswestry



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Oswestry North	1	-2%
Oswestry North East	1	-9%
Oswestry South	1	0%
Oswestry South East	1	2%

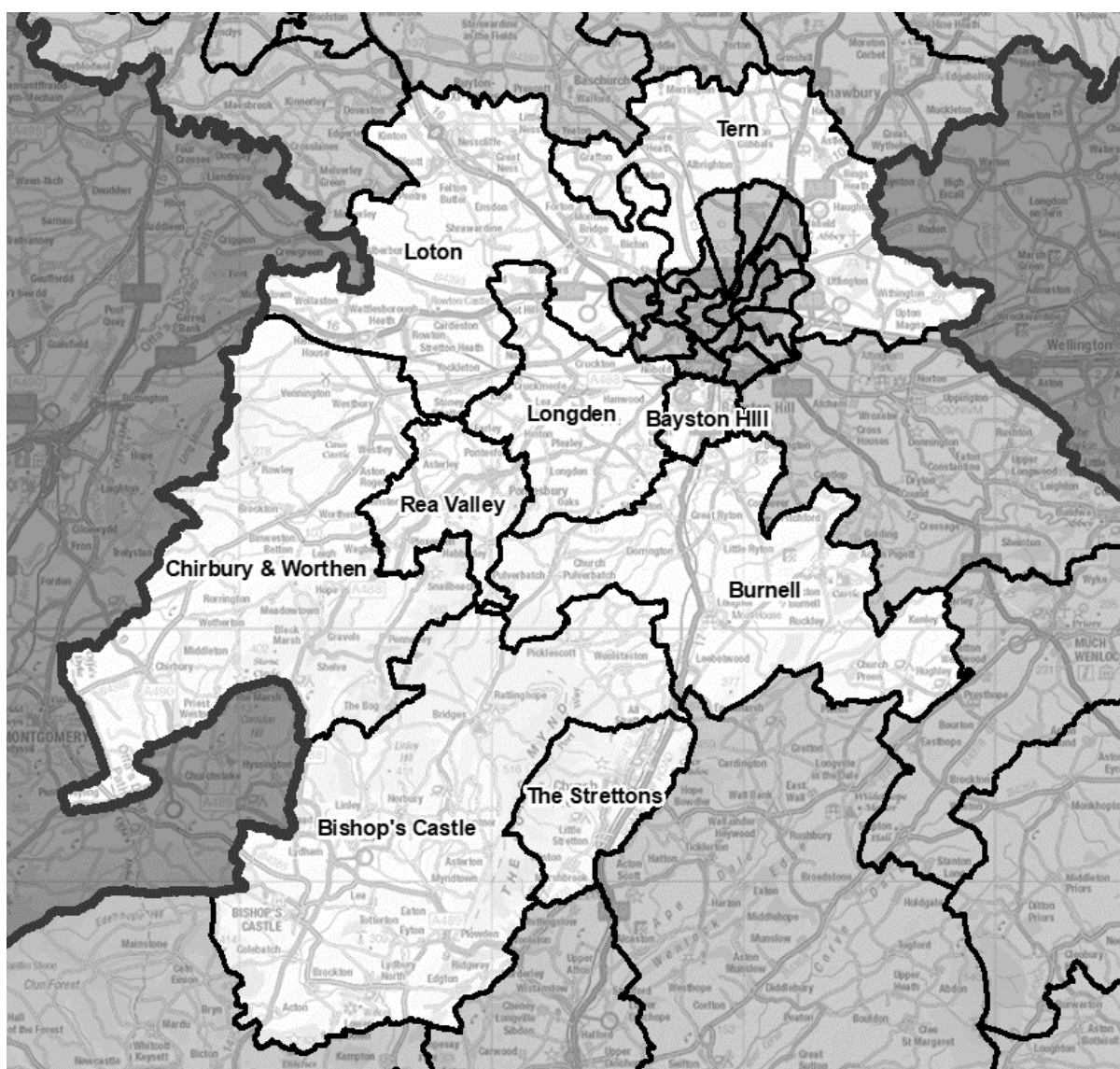
Oswestry North, Oswestry North East, Oswestry South, and Oswestry South East

54 We received broad support for our draft recommendations for boundaries within Oswestry. One proposal was received for a change, for the boundary between Oswestry North and Oswestry North East to run along the railway line, rather than Gobowen Road. While either option offers a strong and clear boundary, removing the electors in this area from Oswestry North East division would leave this division with 11% fewer electors than average. While this is only a minor departure from

good electoral equality, in the absence of any strong evidence as to the community identity of this area, and the broad support for our draft recommendations, we are not persuaded to amend the boundary in this area.

55 The Council, and the resident's comments suggested that the name of Oswestry West division could be changed to Oswestry North, in order to mirror the names of the other divisions covering the town. We have adopted this proposal, and amended our draft recommendations accordingly. Apart from this name change, we confirm our other draft recommendations for Oswestry as final.

Western & Central Shropshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bayston Hill	1	22%
Bishop's Castle	1	-9%
Burnell	1	-4%
Chirbury & Worthen	1	-9%
Longden	1	3%
Loton	1	-6%
Rea Valley	1	6%
Tern	1	-1%
The Strettons	1	11%

Bayston Hill

56 Our draft recommendations for Bayston Hill were for a two-member division that combined Bayston Hill parish with a number of parishes to the south. We had been persuaded not to include Bayston Hill with any part of Shrewsbury itself and wished to test the community identity links with the more rural parishes.

57 Our draft recommendations did not attract support. The Council, and political groups, provided comprehensive evidence about the community of Bayston Hill. This provided evidence that Bayston Hill is a self-contained community, with shopping, leisure, community and social facilities which are not widely used by any other areas. This position was supported by Cllr M. Underwood.

58 No proposals were received for any split of Bayston Hill which would allow for a single-member division with good electoral equality based on the village with a minority of electors from Bayston Hill parish moved into a neighbouring division. We considered various options for a split that would provide for good electoral equality. However, based on our observations on our tour of Shropshire, we concluded that no split which moved a sufficient number of electors into an alternative division would respect the community identity of Bayston Hill, or provide for a clear and recognisable boundary. One resident suggested that the northern boundary could be moved to the A5 ring road – while this offers a strong and clear boundary, there are very few electors to the north of this road in Bayston Hill parish – primarily on Bestune Way. A future Community Governance Review which changes the boundaries of the relevant parishes could place these electors in Shrewsbury parish, but this would still leave a single-member Bayston Hill division with 21% more electors than average.

59 Cllr R. Wintle, Cllr S. James, and Cllr D. Morris all argued against the joining of Bayston Hill to rural areas in the existing Burnell division, arguing that there was no shared community identity between the “urban” Bayston Hill area and the rural parishes to the south. This view was echoed by Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckly & Langley Parish Council, and Conover Parish Council.

60 Bayston Hill Parish Council also supported the principle of a single-member division covering the parish only, arguing that a single member could best focus on effectively representing the village.

61 Cllr D. Morris and the resident’s scheme proposed joining Bayston Hill to the southern portion of Shrewsbury. Neither of these proposals offered substantial evidence of any shared community identity between Bayston Hill and southern Shrewsbury, and would be based purely on meeting one of the three statutory criteria – electoral equality – while providing a poor reflection of the other two, as well as providing another departure from the principle of single-member divisions.

62 The evidence received made it clear that the vast majority of stakeholders around Bayston Hill preferred a single-member division, covering only Bayston Hill parish. Such a division would have 22% more electors than the average across Shropshire. Despite this large inequality, we are proposing this division as part of our final recommendations. We consider that such a division offers an excellent reflection of community identity and effective & convenient local government, as well as providing additional single-member divisions.

63 We acknowledge that it is wholly exceptional to propose a division with this degree of electoral inequality. We have carefully considered all of the evidence, and concluded that any attempt to place Bayston Hill in a two-member division, or to split off a significant portion of the village into a neighbouring division would be addressing only one of our statutory criteria; would offer a very poor reflection of community identity, would not provide for effective and convenient local government, and would not offer the best available balance of our criteria.

Bishop's Castle, Burnell, Chirbury & Worthen, Rea Valley, and The Strettons

64 We received evidence from Church Pulverbatch Parish Council, providing evidence of community identity both within the parish, and in relation to the remainder of the existing Burnell division, citing social groups, agricultural and commercial links that suggest the existing division should be retained in order to reflect communities. Evidence was also provided of links to the north, with many residents using medical and retail facilities in Pontesbury. Several residents also expressed opposition to our draft recommendations, arguing that there were few if any links to parishes to the south, and also expressing concern over the accessibility of transport to the south, particularly in winter.

65 Cllr D. Morris provided evidence supporting the retention of the existing Burnell division with no changes. This included a copy of the 1840 Hundred of Conover, covering a broadly similar area to the existing Burnell division. While interesting, we do not consider that historical evidence of this type can be given great weight when compared to evidence regarding the community identity of the area now. The Council also supported returning Church Pulverbatch to Burnell division, suggesting that it could be placed in Longden division as an alternative.

66 We visited Church Pulverbatch on our tour of Shropshire, and drove south from this area towards Ratlinghope. We concluded that, while possible, the access was limited, with Cothercott Hill presenting a significant barrier; and that it would provide a better reflection of both community identity, and effective and convenient local government, to place Church Pulverbatch parish within our revised Burnell division. This leaves the remainder of our proposed Bishop's Castle division with 9% fewer electors than average – just within the bounds of good electoral equality.

67 The Council proposed to place Cound parish within Severn Valley division, and Cardington parish in Corvedale division, arguing that the latter was geographically large and might be challenging to represent effectively. However, this proposal would leave both Corvedale and Severn Valley divisions with poor electoral equality, at -14% and +14% respectively. We do not consider that this departure from electoral equality is justified by the evidence provided.

68 Pontesbury Parish Council supported our proposed Rea Valley division, and the consequent split of Pontesbury parish. This division, together with Chirbury & Worthen was supported by the Council and political groups. Further support for our proposed Chirbury & Worthen division came from Worthen with Shelve Parish Council, Westbury Parish Council and Cllr H. Kidd. Cllr E. Potter expressed regret at the move of Westbury into Chirbury & Worthen division, but accepted that there were no other alternatives. Accordingly, we are confirming our draft recommendations for this division as final.

69 We received no proposals for changes to the boundary of our draft Strettondale division. The Council, and political groups, suggested that a name of 'The Strettons' might be more appropriate to the character of the division. While we are aware that the parish (but not the village) of All Stretton lies outside this division, we are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, and include the name of 'The Strettons' as part of our final recommendations.

Longden, Loton, and Tern

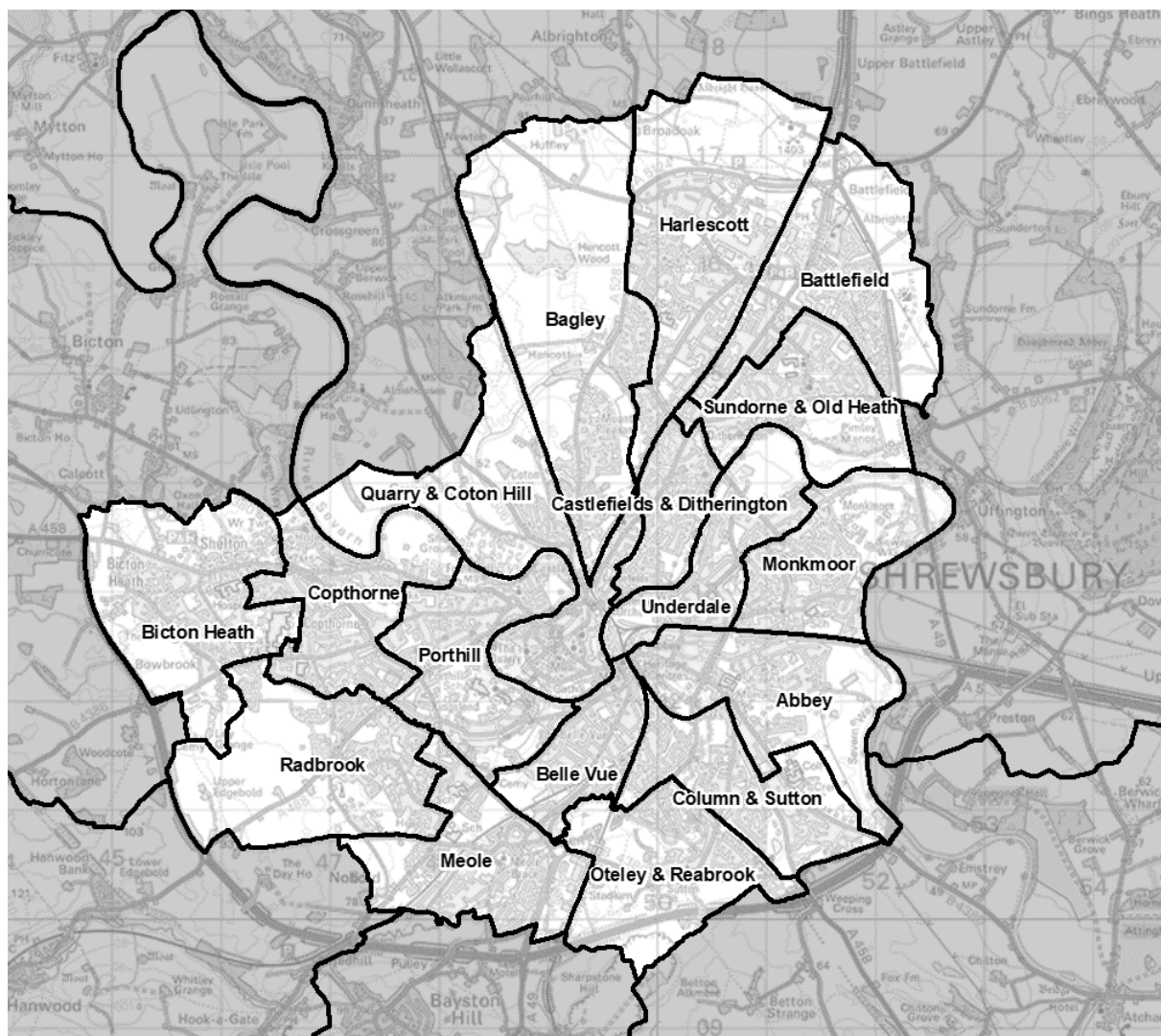
70 Ford Parish Council expressed opposition to our draft recommendations which includes Ford parish in Loton division. It provided evidence of community links with the remainder of Longden division. Evidence was provided of school links, and the divide between the Hereford and Lichfield dioceses of the Church of England.

71 The Council agreed with the proposal to move Ford parish to Longden division, and also provided evidence that Bicton shared community links with Loton rather than Longden, with the A458 road described as a barrier between Bicton village and the remainder of Longden division. It also noted that placing the bulk of Bicton parish in Loton division would allow the entire settlement of Montford Bridge to be in a single division. This proposal was supported by several residents, and Montford Parish Council.

72 We have considered these points carefully, and are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations to essentially swap Ford parish and the rural part of Bicton parish between Loton and Longden divisions. Both divisions will continue to have good electoral equality.

73 We received relatively few comments directly addressing our proposed Tern division, which was supported by the Council, the full set of comments from the resident, and the political groups. Hadnall Parish Council noted that our proposal did not reflect the latest proposals for revised Parliamentary constituencies, but did not oppose the draft recommendations. We do not directly consider Parliamentary constituencies when formulating electoral arrangements for local government. We confirm our draft recommendations for Tern division as final.

Shrewsbury



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Abbey	1	10%
Bagley	1	9%
Battlefield	1	-7%
Belle Vue	1	-2%
Bickton Heath	1	10%
Castlefields & Ditherington	1	1%
Column & Sutton	1	4%
Copthorne	1	10%
Harlescott	1	-5%
Meole	1	4%
Monkmoor	1	-10%
Oteley & Reabrook	1	-9%
Porthill	1	-5%

Quarry & Coton Hill	1	-3%
Radbrook	1	8%
Sundorne & Old Heath	1	-5%
Underdale	1	-7%

Abbey, Belle Vue, Bicton Heath, Column & Sutton, Copthorne, Meole, Oteley & Reabrook, Porthill, and Radbrook

74 The Council, and political groups, supported the majority of these divisions, but proposed modifications to the boundary between Copthorne and Radbrook divisions, and to the boundary between Column & Sutton and Abbey divisions. We have adopted the former of these changes, but not the latter as part of our final recommendations.

75 The Council proposed moving the boundary between Copthorne and Radbrook to run along the Radbrook watercourse itself, with all streets to the north of this placed into Copthorne division. This improves the electoral equality of our draft Radbrook division, which had 12% more electors than average. The Council's submission provided limited evidence of community identity, but this was supplemented by submissions from Cllr C. Lemon, and the Labour Group, which suggested that electors who would move into Radbrook division as part of this proposal saw the retail and medical facilities on Bank Farm Road as part of, if not the hub, of their community.

76 The resident suggested that a small area around the Nuffield Hospital could transfer from Radbrook to Meole division, in order to balance the respective electorates. No evidence of community identity was provided, and we have not adopted this proposal.

77 While the Radbrook watercourse is not, of itself, a particularly strong boundary, it is clearly recognisable. We are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, and adopt the proposal of the Council and political groups in this area.

78 The Council also proposed moving the triangle formed by London Road, Wenlock Road and Ebnal Road into Column & Sutton division rather than Abbey division, together with Shrewsbury College of Arts & Technology, and a number of electors living on the north side of London Road. We considered this carefully, but noted that, while improving the electoral equality of Abbey division, this would leave Column & Sutton with 15% more electors than average. We do not consider that this departure from electoral equality is justified by the relatively limited community evidence provided, and we have therefore not adopted this proposal.

79 The Labour Group submission, and that of Cllr R. Dartnall suggested that Column & Sutton division should be re-named as Wenlock & Sutton Park, noting that the Lord Hill Column, which gives its name to the division, is located at an extreme

edge of the division. We considered this carefully, but concluded that the limited evidence provided did not justify a change of name from that supported by the Council. As previously mentioned, division names (but not boundaries) can be amended through a locally-led process if desired.

80 A resident suggested that The Old Meadow, Railway Lane and Horsefair were part of the Abbey community, leading to the Town Centre. No specific evidence of community identity was provided, and making this change would leave both Abbey and Underdale divisions with very poor electoral equality (+22% and -19% variances respectively). We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

81 Great Hanwood Parish Council opposed the proposal to place the area north of the A5 and A488 into Radbrook division rather than retaining this area within a division based on Great Hanwood. While this area has only a small number of electors at present, significant development is anticipated during the forecast period, such that a parish ward in this area would be viable, even if a future Community Governance Review makes no alteration to parish boundaries, and we are satisfied that our draft recommendations do not risk effective and convenient local government in this area.

82 The Council and political groups welcomed both the boundaries, and name of our proposed Bicton Heath division, while noting that, again, this encroaches beyond the existing boundaries of Shrewsbury parish in order to incorporate significant development. We confirm our draft recommendations for this, and the other divisions in this area, as final.

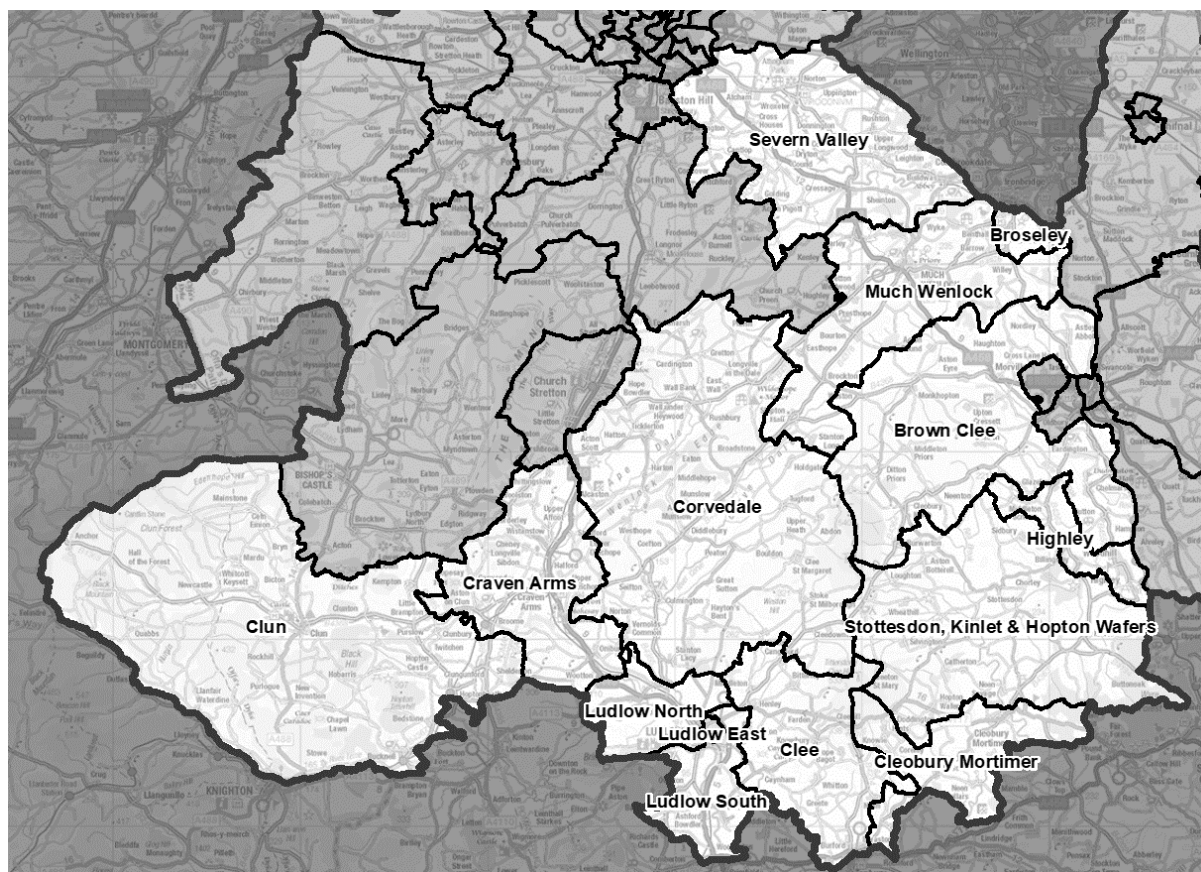
Bagley, Battlefield, Castlefields & Ditherington, Harlescott, Monkmoor, Quarry & Coton Hill, Sundorne & Old Heath, and Underdale

83 We received no comments regarding the boundaries of these divisions, other than general support from the Council and political groups, and specific support for Monkmoor division from Cllr P. Molesey. The Council suggested that our proposed Sundorne division be re-named Sundorne & Old Heath, in order to recognise the separate communities within this division. We have adopted this proposal, and subject to this change, we confirm our draft recommendations for these divisions as final.

84 Shrewsbury Town Council provided a submission which, while commenting on proposals for divisions in the south of the town, focused largely on the external boundary of the town council area, arguing strongly for the parish of Shrewsbury Town to follow the A5 and A49. While we appreciate the arguments in favour of this boundary, we do not have the power to alter the external boundaries of Shrewsbury, or any other parishes, as part of this electoral review. If a future Community Governance Review, led by Shropshire Council chooses to alter the boundaries of

parishes, we can adjust division boundaries to match, without the need for a further full electoral review.

Southern Shropshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Broseley	1	17%
Brown Clee	1	-4%
Clee	1	0%
Cleobury Mortimer	1	-9%
Clun	1	-8%
Corvedale	1	-4%
Craven Arms	1	3%
Highley	1	-6%
Ludlow East	1	-4%
Ludlow North	1	-8%
Ludlow South	1	-6%
Much Wenlock	1	3%
Severn Valley	1	9%
Stottesdon, Kinlet, & Hopton Wafers	1	-10%

Broseley, Much Wenlock, and Severn Valley

85 Broseley Town Council provided strong evidence that the splitting of the town between two different divisions, as with the existing division and our draft recommendation, did not reflect the community identity of the town. The Town Council argued for the town to be placed in a single division, notwithstanding the fact that this division would have 17% more electors than average.

86 The Council proposed an alternative split of Broseley parish, which would see the settlement of Jackfield, and the rural eastern section of Broseley parish, placed in Much Wenlock division. This would allow Broseley to have good electoral equality, but would mean that a number of electors in Jackfield and the surrounding area would have no direct access to the remainder of Much Wenlock division. The Town Council also argued against this potential boundary, noting that, while the main settlement of Jackfield was in the neighbouring authority of Telford & Wrekin, the Town Council worked hard to integrate those living in Shropshire into the community of Broseley.

87 We visited Broseley on our tour of Shropshire. We considered that the existing boundary, separating the Broseley Wood area from the remainder of the town, was not a particularly strong boundary, and that there did not appear to be a clear distinction of community identity between Broseley Wood and the remainder of the town. This was reflected in the submission from Much Wenlock Town Council.

88 We considered the position of Broseley very carefully. On balance, we concluded that the strong evidence provided of community identity, alongside our observations on tour, meant that the best available balance of our statutory criteria is to recommend a Broseley division comprising the whole of Broseley parish. We recognise that this division is forecast to have 17% more electors than average by 2028. However, we consider that the strong evidence of community identity justifies this poor electoral variance.

89 The Council proposed reverting to the existing northern boundary of Much Wenlock division, particularly with regard to using the boundary between Much Wenlock parish and Hughley and Harley parishes as a division boundary. This boundary broadly follows the line of Wenlock Edge.

90 We visited this area on our tour of Shropshire. We considered that Wenlock Edge does form a clear and recognisable boundary. Further, using Wenlock Edge as a division boundary allows the grouped parishes of Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long to be placed together in Much Wenlock division. This was requested by both the grouped parish council and Much Wenlock Town Council, citing shared community and particularly educational links.

91 The Council proposed that Cound parish should be placed in Severn Valley division, rather than in an amended Burnell division without Bayston Hill. While the Council did not offer specific community evidence in this area, Berrington Parish Council provided evidence of links between Cound and Cressage parishes, specifically a shared local magazine.

92 Cllr S. James, of Cound Parish Council, expressed opposition to the draft recommendation proposal to join Cound to Bayston Hill, and expressed a desire that the parish should be placed in a rural-based division.

93 We considered this area carefully, and concluded that, while Cound has sufficient community links to be placed within Severn Valley division, the evidence is not strong enough to justify a variance of 15% which would be the case if we included both Cound and Harley parishes within Severn Valley division. We therefore propose to retain Cound within Severn Valley division as part of our final recommendations, and place Harley parish within Much Wenlock division. We note that this moves away from the use of Wenlock Edge as a boundary, but consider that the A458 Harley Hill offers a good connection between the village of Harley and Much Wenlock.

Brown Clee, Highley, and Stottesdon, Kinlet & Hopton Wafers

94 With the exception of placing Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long parishes in Much Wenlock division (see para 90), the Council and political groups supported our proposals for the remainder of Brown Clee division and Highley division. Chelmarsh Parish Council confirmed that they would rather stay within a Brown Clee division, as opposed to being placed in a division based on either Highley, or Bridgnorth. Burwarton Parish Council also wished to stay in Brown Clee division, although they would prefer that the neighbouring parish of Aston Botterell remained in Brown Clee as well. It is not possible to remove Aston Botterell from Stottesdon, Kinlet & Hopton Wafers division while retaining good electoral equality, and we were not persuaded to adopt this suggestion.

95 Cllr R. Tindall provided a submission opposing changes to the existing Brown Clee division. While some evidence of community identity was provided, this submission did not offer any alternative proposals, or explain how a retained Brown Clee division could fit into alternative patterns of neighbouring divisions and we were not persuaded to adopt this proposal.

96 Billingsley Parish Council expressed opposition to being placed in a different division from its neighbouring parishes of Deuxhill, Glazeley and Middleton Scriven, citing shared community links and facilities within these parishes. The submission expressed a keen desire for these parishes to be represented by a single county councillor, and a secondary desire to be placed in a rural-based division.

97 Highley parish is forecast to have 3,082 electors by 2028. As a division on its own, this would be 14% below the average number of electors. In order to achieve good electoral equality, it is therefore necessary for Highley to be linked to one or more neighbouring parishes.

98 We propose, as part of our final recommendations, to retain the links between Billingsley, Deuxhill, Glazeley and Middleton Scriven parishes, and place these parishes into a division with Highley. We accept that this is an imperfect reflection of the community identity of these parishes, but we believe that it is the best available balance of our criteria given the evidence before us.

99 The Council, and political groups supported the boundaries of our proposed Stottesdon division, but suggested that the name of “Stottesdon” did not adequately reflect the range of communities within this divisions. This view was also reflected by Cllr I. Smith, Cllr P. Blakeaway, Doddington & Hopton Wafers Parish Council, Farlow Parish Council, and Coreley Parish Council. Alternative names were suggested, including ‘South Shropshire Rural’, and ‘Cleobury Mortimer Rural’.

100 Neen Savage Parish Council expressed opposition to our draft recommendations, and wished to remain in a division with the town of Cleobury Mortimer. Farlow Parish Council, and Cleobury Mortimer Town Council also expressed a desire to retain the existing, two-member division in this area. We considered this carefully, but consider that given the formal request for single-member divisions across Shropshire, and the support expressed for the principle of the draft recommendations, we do not consider that we should retain a two-member division in this area as we consider there is a single-member division that reflects the other statutory criteria.

101 While we accept that the name of ‘Stottesdon’ does not fully reflect the communities within this division, we do not consider that either of the names suggested offers a clear improvement. “South Shropshire Rural” could apply to a wide range of areas, while the name of ‘Cleobury Mortimer Rural’ has the potential to be confusing for a division which contains neither the town nor parish of Cleobury Mortimer. We therefore propose the name ‘Stottesdon, Kinlet & Hopton Wafers’ as part of our final recommendations, taking the names of three of the largest settlements from different parts of the division.

Clee, and Cleobury Mortimer

102 Discussion of these divisions focused on the placement of Nash and Boraston parishes. These parishes are in the existing Clee division, and were proposed to be placed in Cleobury Mortimer under our draft recommendations. Bitterley Parish Council provided a submission noting the draft recommendations, but neither supporting nor opposing them.

103 We received a significant number of responses regarding the parish of Nash, including from Cllr C. Morris, Nash Parish Council, and Nash Village Hall. These submissions provided evidence of community links between Nash, and neighbouring parishes of Burford and Caynham, citing cultural, recreational and economic links. The Parish Council submission provided more specific evidence, noting key employment links with Burford, and retail and medical facilities in the village of Clee Hill.

104 The Council, and political groups, supported Nash and Boraston parishes remaining within Clee division. However, this would leave Cleobury Mortimer division with 14% fewer electors than average. In light of this poor variance and the fact that little evidence was offered about how Boraston parish in particular has community links with Clee, we are proposing to include only Nash in a Clee division with Boraston parish being included in Cleobury Mortimer division.

Clun, Corvedale, and Craven Arms

105 The Council and political groups, supported our draft recommendations for Clun and Craven Arms divisions. Mainstone with Colebatch Parish Council expressed opposition to the two parishes being placed in different divisions, but did not provide any possible alternative which would maintain good electoral equality for Clun and Bishop's Castle divisions respectively. We confirm our draft recommendations for these divisions as final.

106 The Council expressed concerns over our proposal to place Cardington parish in Corvedale division, citing the already large geographic size of the division, and the lack of public transport links. We are aware that public transport links across many areas of rural Shropshire are, at best, sporadic; however, we do not consider that this is necessarily a barrier to creating divisions in these areas.

107 Combined with our decision around Cound parish (para 67) placing Cardington in Burnell division, as suggested by the Council would leave both Burnell and Corvedale divisions with poor electoral equality (+17% and -14% respectively). While we recognise the views presented regarding of representing a large rural area, we do not consider that variances of these sizes are justified by the evidence presented. We confirm our draft recommendations for Corvedale division as final.

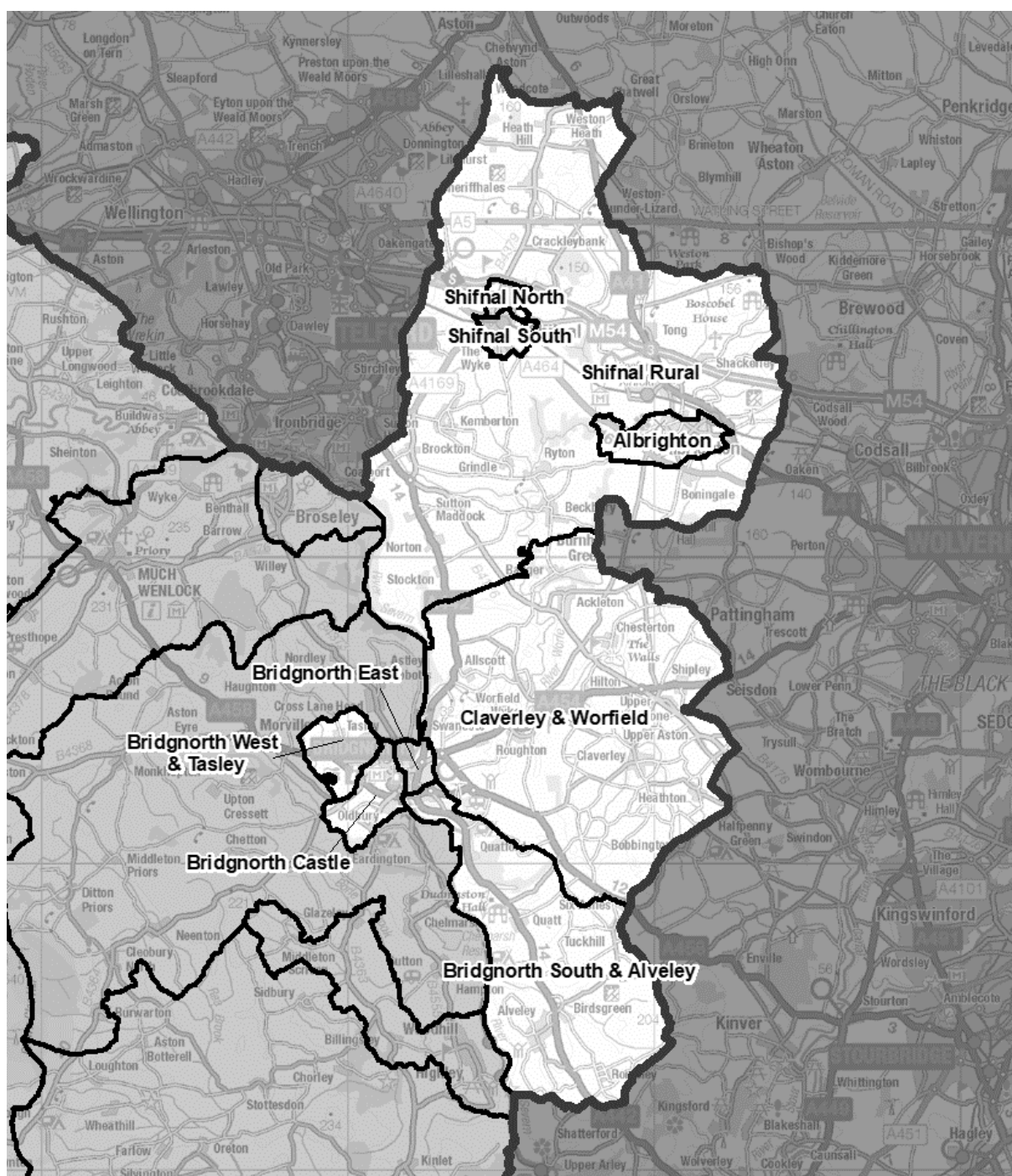
Ludlow East, Ludlow North, and Ludlow South

108 We received relatively few comments on our draft recommendations for Ludlow. The Council and political groups proposed two relatively modest changes from our draft recommendations, placing the Rockgreen estate, in Ludford parish, in

Ludlow East division, and moving Vashon Close, Ballard Close, and Baker Close into Ludlow South in order to retain good electoral equality.

109 Some evidence of community identity, primarily based around transport links, was provided. We consider that the change proposed is likely to reflect community identity, and we are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, and adopt the two modest changes proposed by the Council. Apart for this, we confirm our draft recommendations for Ludlow as final.

Eastern Shropshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Albrighton	1	11%
Bridgnorth Castle	1	-4%
Bridgnorth East	1	-7%
Bridgnorth South & Alveley	1	-10%
Bridgnorth West & Tasley	1	1%
Claverley & Worfield	1	-4%

Shifnal North	1	2%
Shifnal Rural	1	-4%
Shifnal South	1	-6%

Albrighton, Shifnal North, Shifnal Rural, and Shifnal South

110 Our draft recommendations for this area proposed three divisions, each concentrated on the respective urban areas (two in Shifnal and one in Albrighton) with a large rural division covering all of the surrounding areas between them. While we do not typically favour ‘doughnut’ divisions of this type, we considered that this was worth testing in this area, given the constraints of the geography and the discrete nature of the urban areas.

111 Reaction to our draft recommendations was mixed. The Council, and Labour and Liberal Democrat groups, expressed some concern over the size of Shifnal Rural division but, on balance, supported the draft recommendations as the best available pattern for this area. The resident who provided comments across Shropshire broadly supported the draft recommendations, subject to minor changes.

112 The Conservative submission, and those of Cllr R. Marshall and Cllr P. Jones expressed particular concern over Shifnal Rural, noting the relatively large number of parishes, and the fact that this division is likely to span two parliamentary constituencies. This latter point is not one which we can consider. The question of whether in-person attendance at each parish council meeting across a division is a matter for the elected councillor and their constituents. Sheriffhales Parish Council provided a submission expressing opposition to the draft recommendation, but offered no evidence, or an alternative proposal.

113 Cllr T. Lipscombe suggested that there were links between Badger and Beckbury parishes, which might be jeopardised by these being placed in different divisions. No specific evidence of the links between these parishes was offered, and we consider that adding an additional parish to Shifnal Rural division might exacerbate the concerns expressed as to the size of the division. We are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations in this area.

114 Boningale Parish Council expressed concern over being placed in Shifnal Rural division when the major community links of this parish are to Albrighton. While we have no doubt that Albrighton, rather than Shifnal is likely to be the primary destination for Boningale residents, adding this parish to Albrighton division with no other amendments would result in the revised division having 18% more electors than average – a significant departure from electoral equality which we do not consider is justified by the evidence.

115 The resident suggested that the western boundary of Albrighton division should follow the A464, rather than the parish boundary as proposed in our draft

recommendations. While this would allow Albrighton to have good electoral equality, as opposed to the 11% variance proposed, it would require the creation of a parish ward for the area of Albrighton parish south of the A464. This parish ward would have very few electors, and we do not consider that it would provide for effective and convenient local government. We have therefore not adopted this proposal. As with other areas across Shropshire, if a future Community Governance Review leads to changes to parish boundary changes, we can make related alterations to division boundaries.

116 We have carefully considered all the submissions in this area. On balance, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations. While we understand that, in isolation, Shifnal Rural is a geographically large comprising a number of parishes the only alternative in this area would be to combine smaller rural areas with the urban areas of Albrighton and/or Shifnal. This would likely result in Shifnal having to be split between three divisions, or the village of Albrighton being split between two divisions in a way which would not reflect the community identity of these areas. Our task is to devise a pattern of divisions which, as a whole, best meets our statutory criteria, which inevitably means that some divisions will be different from how they might best look in isolation.

Bridgnorth Castle, Bridgnorth East, Bridgnorth South & Alveley, Bridgnorth West & Tasley, and Claverley & Worfield

117 The Council, political groups, and Bridgnorth Town Council supported our draft recommendations for these divisions, as did Cllr J. Buckley. The latter also suggested that, while she supported the boundaries, a change of name to 'Bridgnorth South & Alveley' as opposed to 'Bridgnorth South & Rural' might be appropriate to clearly identify the two largest communities in this division. We have adopted this suggestion, and amended our draft recommendations accordingly.

118 Worfield & Rudge Parish Council also supported our draft recommendations, and noted that they would not support any alternative proposal which placed any part of Worfield parish in a division based on Bridgnorth. A submission from Save Bridgnorth Greenbelt echoed these points, as did that of Cllr D. Hodson.

119 Cllr D. Cooper offered an alternative pattern of divisions covering Bridgnorth. The key to his proposal was the retaining of the existing division of Alveley & Claverley. While this division would have good electoral equality (7% more electors than average), moving Claverley parish into an alternative division would make the pattern of divisions for the areas further north, all of which attracted significant support, completely unviable. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

120 We have carefully considered all the submissions in this area. On balance, given the broad support for our draft recommendations, and the significant knock-on

implications of any changes, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, other than the name of Bridgnorth South & Alveley division. We confirm our remaining draft recommendations as final.

Conclusions

121 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Shropshire, referencing the 2022 and 2028 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and divisions. A full list of divisions, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the divisions is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2022	2028
Number of councillors	74	74
Number of electoral divisions	72	72
Average number of electors per councillor	3,369	3,595
Number of divisions with a variance more than 10% from the average	12	4
Number of divisions with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	1

Final recommendations

Shropshire Council should be made up of 74 councillors serving 72 divisions representing 70 single-councillor divisions and two two-councillor divisions. 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 divisions for Shropshire Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Shropshire on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk/shropshire

Parish electoral arrangements

122 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 divisions it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

123 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 division arrangements. However, Shropshire 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.

124 As a result of our proposed division 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 Adderley, Albrighton, Atcham, Bicton, Bridgnorth, Donington with Boscobel, Great Hanwood, Ludford, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Oswestry, Pimhill, Shifnal, Shrewsbury, Uffington, and Whitchurch Urban.

125 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Adderley parish.

Final recommendations

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

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Adderley Rural	5
Western Way	2

126 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Albrighton parish.

Final recommendations

Albrighton Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Albrighton Rural	1
Albrighton Village	14

127 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Atcham parish.

Final recommendations

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

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Atcham Rural	3
Hendrick Crescent	4

128 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bickton parish.

Final recommendations

Bickton Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bickton Rural	6
Bickton Urban	3

129 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bridgnorth parish.

Final recommendations

Bridgnorth Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bridgnorth Castle	6
Bridgnorth East	5
Bridgnorth Morfe	2
Bridgnorth West	3

130 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for the grouped parishes of Donington and Boscobel.

Final recommendations

Donington with Boscobel Parish Council should comprise ten councillors, as at present, representing three parishes / parish wards:

Parish ward / Parish	Number of parish councillors
Boscobel	1
Cosford	6
Windsor Road	3

131 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Great Hanwood parish.

Final recommendations

Great Hanwood Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hanwood Bank & Hanwood	8
Upper Edgebold	1

132 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ludford parish.

Final recommendations

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

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ludford Rural	5
Rockgreen	2

133 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ludlow parish.

Final recommendations

Ludlow Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bringewood	2
Clee View	2
Corve	2
Gallows Bank	3
Hayton	2

Rockspring	2
Whitcliffe	2

134 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Market Drayton parish.

Final recommendations

Market Drayton Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Market Drayton East	2
Market Drayton North	5
Market Drayton South	5

135 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Oswestry parish.

Final recommendations

Oswestry Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Cabin Lane	2
Cambrian	2
Carreg Llwyd	4
Castle	3
Gatacre	3
Maserfield	2
Victoria	2

136 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Pimhill parish.

Final recommendations

Pimhill Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bomere Heath	8
Fitz	2
Leaton	1
Preston Gubbals	1
Walford Heath	1

137 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Shifnal parish.

Final recommendations

Shifnal Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Shifnal North	7
Shifnal Rural	1
Shifnal South	7

138 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Shrewsbury parish.

Final recommendations

Shrewsbury Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing 17 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Abbey	1
Bagley	1
Battlefield	1
Belle Vue	1
Bowbrook	1
Castlefields & Ditherington	1
Column	1
Copthorne	1
Harlescott	1
Meole	1
Monkmoor	1
Porthill	1
Quarry & Coton Hill	1
Radbrook	1
Sundorne	1
Sutton & Reabrook	1
Underdale	1

139 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Uffington parish.

Final recommendations

Uffington Parish Council should comprise five councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Pimley Manor	2
Uffington Rural	3

140 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Whitchurch Urban parish.

Final recommendations

Whitchurch Urban Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Whitchurch North	6
Whitchurch South	3
Whitchurch West	6

What happens next?

141 We have now completed our review of Shropshire. 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 2025.

Equalities

142 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Shropshire Council

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Abbey	1	3,751	3,751	11%	3,950	3,950	10%
2	Albrighton	1	3,594	3,594	7%	4,003	4,003	11%
3	Bagley	1	3,809	3,809	13%	3,901	3,901	9%
4	Battlefield	1	3,129	3,129	-7%	3,342	3,342	-7%
5	Bayston Hill	1	4,112	4,112	22%	4,398	4,398	22%
6	Belle Vue	1	3,428	3,428	2%	3,512	3,512	-2%
7	Bicton Heath	1	3,537	3,537	5%	3,972	3,972	10%
8	Bishop's Castle	1	3,174	3,174	-6%	3,265	3,265	-9%
9	Bridgnorth Castle	1	3,416	3,416	1%	3,437	3,437	-4%
10	Bridgnorth East	1	3,300	3,300	-2%	3,360	3,360	-7%
11	Bridgnorth South & Alveley	1	2,916	2,916	-13%	3,232	3,232	-10%
12	Bridgnorth West & Tasley	1	3,005	3,005	-11%	3,648	3,648	1%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Broseley	1	4,040	4,040	20%	4,190	4,190	17%
14 Brown Clee	1	3,244	3,244	-4%	3,444	3,444	-4%
15 Burnell	1	3,184	3,184	-5%	3,433	3,433	-4%
16 Castlefields & Ditherington	1	3,404	3,404	1%	3,625	3,625	1%
17 Cheswardine	1	3,420	3,420	2%	3,572	3,572	-1%
18 Chirbury & Worthen	1	3,091	3,091	-8%	3,263	3,263	-9%
19 Claverley & Worfield	1	3,353	3,353	0%	3,449	3,449	-4%
20 Clee	1	3,436	3,436	2%	3,609	3,609	0%
21 Cleobury Mortimer	1	3,197	3,197	-5%	3,257	3,257	-9%
22 Clun	1	3,230	3,230	-4%	3,289	3,289	-8%
23 Column & Sutton	1	3,180	3,180	-6%	3,729	3,729	4%
24 Copthorne	1	4,005	4,005	19%	3,955	3,955	10%
25 Corvedale	1	3,406	3,406	1%	3,467	3,467	-4%
26 Craven Arms	1	3,351	3,351	-1%	3,709	3,709	3%
27 Ellesmere Urban	1	3,375	3,375	0%	3,587	3,587	0%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28 Harlescott	1	3,336	3,336	-1%	3,412	3,412	-5%
29 Highley	1	3,149	3,149	-7%	3,384	3,384	-6%
30 Hodnet	1	3,021	3,021	-10%	3,341	3,341	-7%
31 Llanymynech	1	3,507	3,507	4%	3,775	3,775	5%
32 Longden	1	3,403	3,403	1%	3,689	3,689	3%
33 Loton	1	3,419	3,419	1%	3,383	3,383	-6%
34 Ludlow East	1	3,371	3,371	0%	3,447	3,447	-4%
35 Ludlow North	1	3,103	3,103	-8%	3,321	3,321	-8%
36 Ludlow South	1	2,862	2,862	-15%	3,364	3,364	-6%
37 Market Drayton East & Rural	1	3,541	3,541	5%	3,907	3,907	9%
38 Market Drayton North	1	3,546	3,546	5%	3,948	3,948	10%
39 Market Drayton South	1	3,728	3,728	11%	3,839	3,839	7%
40 Meole	1	3,375	3,375	0%	3,746	3,746	4%
41 Monkmoor	1	3,327	3,327	-1%	3,244	3,244	-10%
42 Much Wenlock	1	3,421	3,421	2%	3,712	3,712	3%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
43 Oswestry North	1	3,498	3,498	4%	3,517	3,517	-2%
44 Oswestry North East	1	3,065	3,065	-9%	3,266	3,266	-9%
45 Oswestry South	1	3,356	3,356	0%	3,600	3,600	0%
46 Oswestry South East	1	3,295	3,295	-2%	3,665	3,665	2%
47 Oteley & Reabrook	1	2,628	2,628	-22%	3,261	3,261	-9%
48 Porthill	1	3,540	3,540	5%	3,408	3,408	-5%
49 Prees	1	3,198	3,198	-5%	3,797	3,797	6%
50 Quarry & Coton Hill	1	3,271	3,271	-3%	3,488	3,488	-3%
51 Radbrook	1	3,465	3,465	3%	3,878	3,878	8%
52 Rea Valley	1	3,476	3,476	3%	3,819	3,819	6%
53 Ruyton & Baschurch	1	3,477	3,477	3%	3,900	3,900	9%
54 Selattyn & Gobowen	1	3,253	3,253	-3%	3,605	3,605	0%
55 Severn Valley	1	3,170	3,170	-6%	3,928	3,928	9%
56 Shawbury	1	3,033	3,033	-10%	3,268	3,268	-9%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
57 Shifnal North	1	3,666	3,666	9%	3,669	3,669	2%
58 Shifnal Rural	1	3,474	3,474	3%	3,440	3,440	-4%
59 Shifnal South	1	3,359	3,359	0%	3,386	3,386	-6%
60 St Martin's	2	6,537	3,269	-3%	7,431	3,715	3%
61 St Oswald	1	3,694	3,694	10%	3,783	3,783	5%
62 Stottesdon, Kinlet & Hopton Wafers	1	3,091	3,091	-8%	3,221	3,221	-10%
63 Sundorne & Old Heath	1	3,520	3,520	4%	3,428	3,428	-5%
64 Tern	1	3,523	3,523	5%	3,542	3,542	-1%
65 The Meres	1	3,187	3,187	-5%	3,253	3,253	-9%
66 The Strettons	1	3,956	3,956	17%	3,989	3,989	11%
67 Underdale	1	3,439	3,439	2%	3,343	3,343	-7%
68 Wem	2	6,825	3,413	1%	7,189	3,594	0%
69 Whitchurch North	1	3,430	3,430	2%	3,902	3,902	9%
70 Whitchurch South	1	2,819	2,819	-16%	3,381	3,381	-6%
71 Whitchurch West	1	3,450	3,450	2%	3,735	3,735	4%

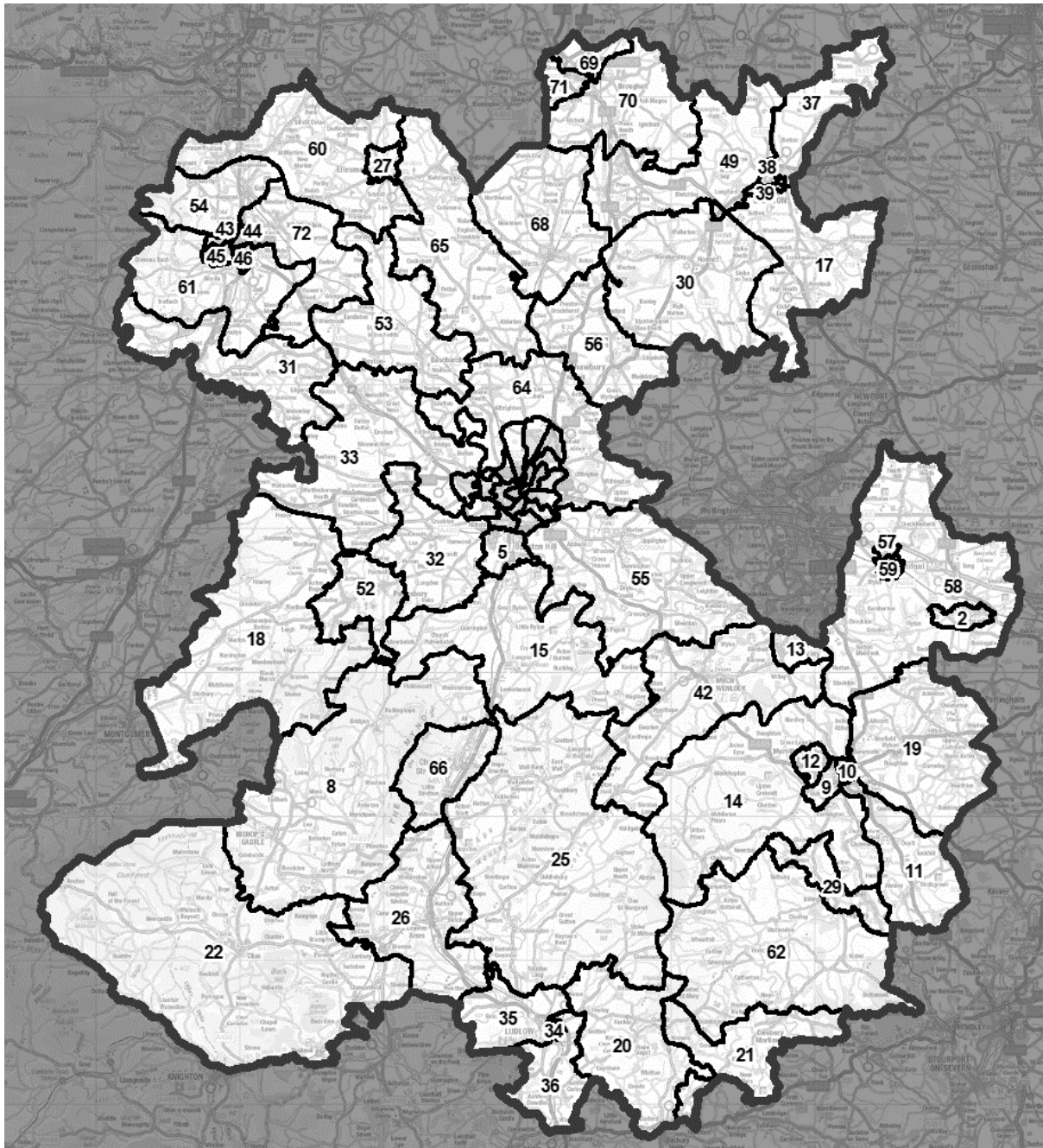
Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
72 Whittington	1	3,417	3,417	1%	3,797	3,797	6%
Totals	74	249,308	–	–	265,987	–	–
Averages	–	–	3,369	–	–	3,594	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Shropshire Council

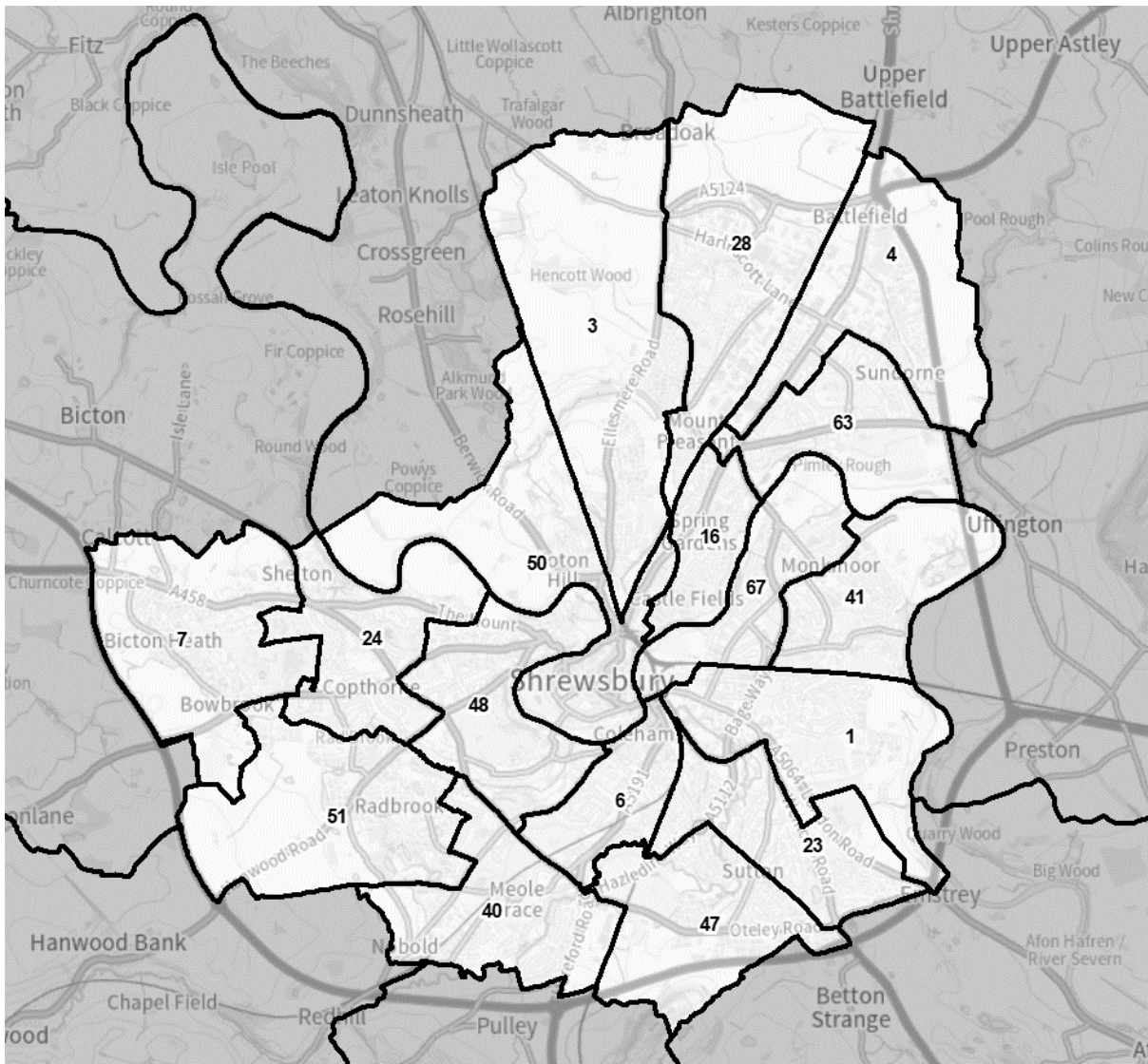
Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral division varies from the average for the county. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole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

Appendix B

Outline map



Outline map – Shrewsbury Inset



Number	Divison name
1	Abbey
2	Albrighton
3	Bagley
4	Battlefield
5	Bayston Hill
6	Belle Vue
7	Bicton Heath
8	Bishop's Castle
9	Bridgnorth Castle
10	Bridgnorth East
11	Bridgnorth South & Alveley
12	Bridgnorth West & Tasley

13	Broseley
14	Brown Clee
15	Burnell
16	Castlefields & Ditherington
17	Cheswardine
18	Chirbury & Worthen
19	Claverley & Worfield
20	Clee
21	Cleobury Mortimer
22	Clun
23	Column & Sutton
24	Copthorne
25	Corvedale
26	Craven Arms
27	Ellesmere Urban
28	Harlescott
29	Highley
30	Hodnet
31	Llanymynech
32	Longden
33	Loton
34	Ludlow East
35	Ludlow North
36	Ludlow South
37	Market Drayton East & Rural
38	Market Drayton North
39	Market Drayton South
40	Meole
41	Monkmoor
42	Much Wenlock
43	Oswestry North
44	Oswestry North East
45	Oswestry South
46	Oswestry South East
47	Oteley & Reabrook
48	Porthill
49	Prees
50	Quarry & Coton Hill
51	Radbrook
52	Rea Valley
53	Ruyton & Baschurch
54	Selattyn & Gobowen

55	Severn Valley
56	Shawbury
57	Shifnal North
58	Shifnal Rural
59	Shifnal South
60	St Martin's
61	St Oswald
62	Stottesdon, Kinlet & Hopton Wafers
63	Sundorne & Old Heath
64	Tern
65	The Meres
66	The Strettons
67	Underdale
68	Wem
69	Whitchurch North
70	Whitchurch South
71	Whitchurch West
72	Whittington

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/shropshire>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/shropshire>

Local Authority

- Shropshire Council

Political Groups

- Shifnal Labour Party
- Shropshire Council Conservative Group (including Conservative Associations)
- Shropshire Labour Party
- Shropshire Liberal Democrats
- Wem Branch Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor P. Blakeaway (Doddington & Hopton Wafers Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Buckley (Bridgnorth Town Council)
- Councillor D. Catmur-Lloyd (Llanymynech Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Cooper (Bridgnorth Town Council)
- Councillor R. Dartnall (Shropshire Council)
- Councillor S. Davenport (Shropshire Council)
- Councillor C. Emery (Selattyn & Gobowen Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Hodson (Worfield & Rudge Parish Council)
- Councillor S. James (Cound Parish Council)
- Councillor P. Jones (Kemberton Parish Council)
- Councillor H. Kidd (Shropshire Council)
- Councillor C. Lemon (Shrewsbury Town Council)
- Councillor T. Lipscombe (Badger Parish Council)
- Councillor R. Marshall (Shropshire Council)
- Councillor A. Matthews (Wem Rural Parish Council)
- Councillor C. Morris (Nash Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Morris (Shropshire Council)
- Councillor P. Moseley (Shropshire Council)
- Councillor E. Potter (Shropshire Council)
- Councillor M. Proctor (Calverhill & Ightfield Parish Council)
- Councillor N. Rowley (St Martin's Parish Council)

- Councillor I. Smith (Stottesdon Parish Council)
- Councillor R. Tindall (Shropshire Council)
- Councillor E. Towers (Shropshire Council)
- Councillor M. Underwood (Bayston Hill Parish Council)
- Councillor C. Williams (Nash Parish Council)
- Councillor M. Williams (Shropshire Council)
- Councillor R. Wintle (Condover Parish Council)

Local Organisations

- Benefice of Great Hanwood, Longden and Annscroft with Pulverbatch
- Pulverbatch Village Hall Committee (2 submissions)
- Wem Civic Society
- Nash Village Hall
- Save Bridgnorth Greenbelt

Parish and Town Councils

- Acton Burnell, Frodsley, Pitchford, and Ruckley & Langley Parish Council
- Adderley Parish Council
- Bayston Hill Parish Council
- Billingsley Parish Council
- Bitterley Parish Council
- Boningale Parish Council
- Bridgnorth Town Council
- Broseley Town Council
- Burwarton Parish Council
- Chelmarsh Parish Council
- Church Pulverbatch Parish Council
- Cleobury Mortimer Town Council
- Clive Parish Council
- Condover Parish Council
- Coreley Parish Council
- Easthope, Shipton, and Stanton Long Parish Council (2 submissions)
- Ellesmere Rural Parish Council
- Farlow Parish Council
- Ford Parish Council
- Great Hanwood Parish Council
- Hadnall Parish Council
- Hopton Wafers Parish Council
- Mainston with Colebatch Parish Council

- Montford Parish Council
- Much Wenlock Town Council
- Nash Parish Council
- Neen Savage Parish Council
- Norton in Hales Parish Council
- Oswestry Rural Parish Council
- Pontesbury Parish Council
- Ruyton Xi Towns Parish Council
- Shrewsbury Town Council
- Wem Town Council
- Wem Rural Parish Council
- Westbury Parish Council
- Weston Rhyn Parish Council
- Worthen with Shelve Parish Council
- Worfield & Rudge Parish Council

Local Residents

- 127 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority.
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

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