

# New electoral arrangements for Staffordshire County Council - Lichfield

**Further Draft Recommendations**  
January 2024

# Further draft recommendations for the new electoral arrangements for Staffordshire County Council in the district of Lichfield

Electoral review

January 2024

## Translations and other formats:

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

## Licensing:

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2024

## A note on our mapping:

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

# Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Analysis and further draft recommendations in Lichfield district | 1  |
| Lichfield district   | 2  |
| Parish electoral arrangements                                    | 6  |
| Have your say  | 7  |
| Equalities   | 11 |
| Appendices   | 13 |
| Appendix A   | 13 |
| Further draft recommendations for divisions in Staffordshire     | 13 |
| Appendix B   | 15 |
| Submissions received   | 15 |

## Analysis and further draft recommendations in Lichfield district

1 Following our consultation on the draft recommendations for Staffordshire County Council, the Commission has decided to hold a period of consultation on further draft recommendations in Lichfield district, prior to publication of its final recommendations for the whole of the county. The Commission believes it has received sufficient evidence relating to Lichfield City North division and the rest of the county to finalise its recommendations; this consultation is focused on seven of the eight divisions in Lichfield district only.

2 During consultation on the draft recommendations, which were published on 8 August 2023, we received 71 representations, most of which commented on our proposals for Lichfield and Stafford. A significant majority of these submissions expressed opposition to the draft recommendations for the Lichfield City area. Many respondents provided a great deal of evidence describing their community to substantiate their opposition to our proposals.

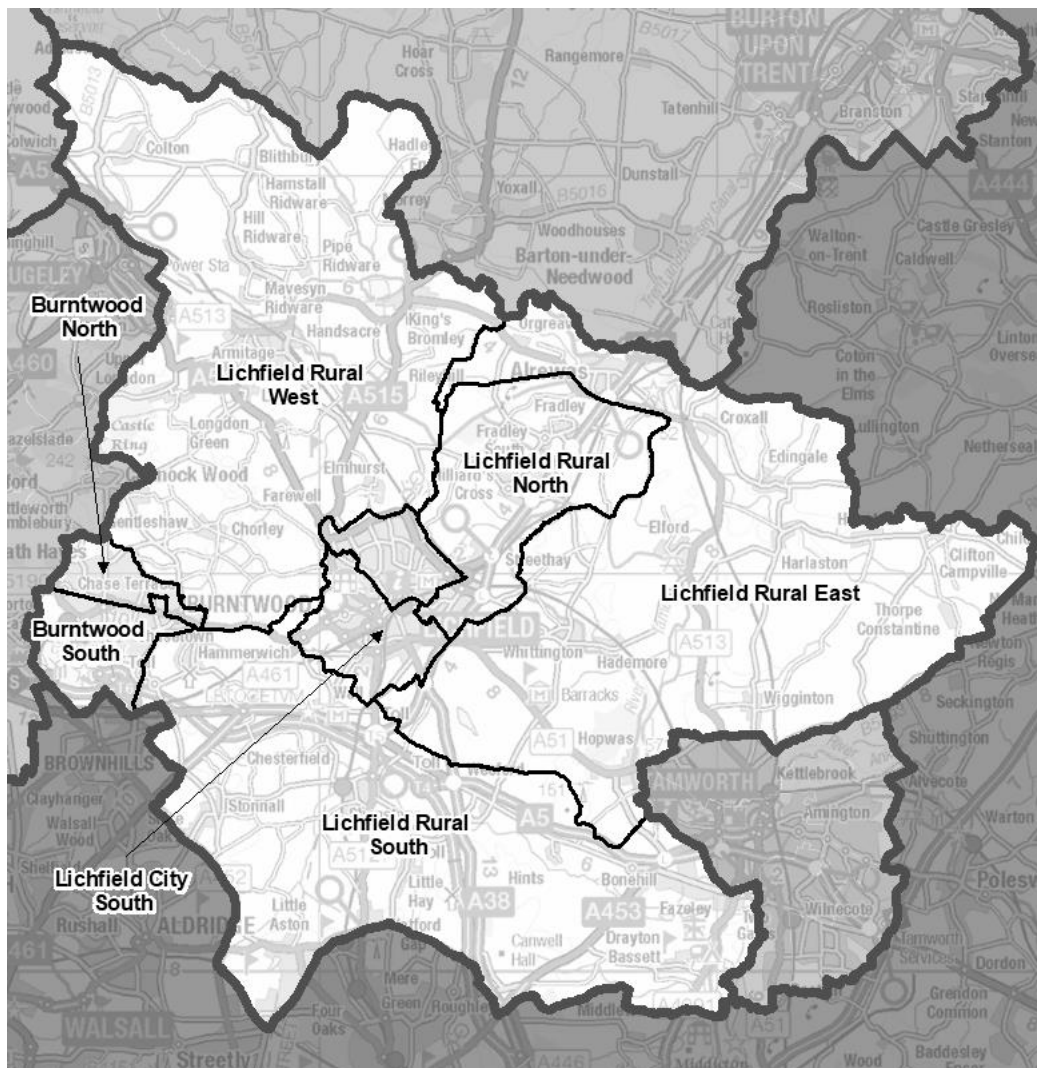
3 Accordingly, we have been persuaded to amend our proposals and publish further draft recommendations for Lichfield. We are now inviting further views in this area.

4 We welcome all comments on these proposals, particularly on the location of the division boundaries and the names of our proposed divisions. This stage of consultation begins on 30 January 2024 and closes on 12 March 2024. Please see page 7 for more information on how to send us your response. Once we have considered the views we receive on these further draft recommendations we will publish our final recommendations for the whole of Staffordshire. We expect to publish our final recommendations in May 2024.

5 The tables and maps on pages 2–5 detail our further draft recommendations for most of Lichfield district. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

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

## Lichfield district



| Division name         | Number of councillors | Variance 2029 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Burntwood North       | 1                     | -5%           |
| Burntwood South       | 1                     | -6%           |
| Lichfield City South  | 1                     | 10%           |
| Lichfield Rural East  | 1                     | -14%          |
| Lichfield Rural North | 1                     | -12%          |
| Lichfield Rural South | 1                     | 7%            |
| Lichfield Rural West  | 1                     | 1%            |

6 We received more than 30 submissions from the County Council, Lichfield Constituency Labour Party ('Labour'), Lichfield City Council, councillors, the National Memorial Arboretum and residents about our recommendations for Lichfield. With the exception of the County Council, all the other comments objected to our draft recommendations as they related to Lichfield City.

7 Labour and Lichfield City Council submitted identical alternative proposals for the district. They are of the view that these proposals better reflect the community identities of Burntwood town and Lichfield City than the draft recommendations.

8 The National Memorial Arboretum explained that a little part of the Arboretum was in East Staffordshire district, and advocated that we move the boundary between Lichfield and East Staffordshire districts so that it would be wholly contained within Lichfield district. This review is an electoral review of the divisions within each district of Staffordshire County Council. We are unable to change the boundaries between districts as part of this review.

*Lichfield City South, Lichfield Rural East, Lichfield Rural North, Lichfield Rural South and Lichfield Rural West*

9 Because Lichfield City has too many electors for two councillors and two few for three, whilst retaining an acceptable level of electoral equality, the draft recommendations included two parts of the built-up part of Lichfield in more rural divisions: we retained the existing boundary which splits Boley Park district ward across Lichfield City South and Lichfield Rural North divisions. We also included part of St John's district ward in Lichfield Rural South. The draft recommendations, based on the Council's proposals, provided an acceptable level of electoral equality across Lichfield district.

10 However, many people questioned why any part of Lichfield City was included in a rural division, on community identity grounds. Others opposed the splitting of Boley Park Estate across two divisions. A number of residents objected to what they saw as Lichfield City being split into 'four zones'.

11 Labour and Lichfield City Council raised similar objections and proposed a number of changes to all but one of the draft recommendations' divisions. Their identical proposals kept most of Lichfield City within two 'city divisions'. The exception was the inclusion of Boley Park district ward in a Lichfield Rural North division in its entirety. Councillor Bragger supported Boley Park's inclusion in the rural ward, for electoral equality reasons, and because a significant part of the ward is currently part of Lichfield Rural North.

12 These new proposals place Drayton Bassett and Fazeley parishes in a Lichfield Rural South division. The built-up area of Hammerwich parish is included in Burntwood South on community identity grounds.

13 Finally, they proposed moving Alrewas parish from Lichfield Rural North into Lichfield Rural East, and retaining the Woodhouses area of Burntwood parish in Lichfield Rural West, to improve the electoral equality of the divisions.

14 While we did not receive a lot of information and evidence about why Drayton Bassett and Fazeley parishes should be included in a Lichfield Rural South division,

we note that both Drayton Bassett and Fazeley parishes have good road connections with the western side of the proposed Lichfield Rural South division. On our tour of the area, we noted that Alrewas parish has road connections with the rest of Lichfield Rural East division.

15 Under these proposals, Lichfield Rural East and Lichfield Rural North are forecast to have 14% and 12% fewer electors than the average for the county. These variances are higher than we would usually allow. However, on careful consideration, we note that these proposals unite Boley Park residents in a single division, and keeps most of urban Lichfield in urban divisions, which we consider will facilitate effective and convenient local government and overall are a better reflection of our statutory criteria.

16 We consider that in spite of these variances in two of the proposed divisions, these proposals have merit. They are significantly different from our original draft recommendations and therefore we are consulting on them. We welcome comments, with evidence, on whether these proposals are a better reflection of our statutory criteria than our original draft recommendations, in particular on how they reflect communities.

17 With the exception of Lichfield Rural East and Lichfield Rural North divisions, all the divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

#### *Burntwood North & Burntwood South*

18 Like Lichfield, Burntwood town has too many electors for two councillors and too few for three. Our draft recommendations retained the existing boundary between Burntwood South and Lichfield Rural South which provided for two divisions with good electoral equality.

19 The Council expressed support for the draft recommendations for Burntwood. However, Labour and Lichfield City Council proposed two Burntwood divisions covering the urban part of Burntwood parish and an area of Hammerwich parish north of Highfields Road and Hospital Road. Under these proposals, the Woodhouses area of Burntwood parish would be retained in its existing division of Lichfield Rural West. Labour and Lichfield City Council stated that they did not believe that the community in this area was concerned about being included in a rural division. However, we note that during the initial consultation, Councillor Ennis and the Council both advocated its inclusion in Burntwood North division.

20 We note that the area north of Highfields and Hospital Roads is contiguous with Burntwood even though they are in Hammerwich parish. Therefore, after careful consideration, we have been persuaded to extend Burntwood South division to include residents north of Highfields and Hospital Roads.



21 We recognise that there are different views with regards to where the Woodhouses area of Burntwood parish is best placed. We have adopted the new proposals as part of our further draft recommendations because we note that including it in Lichfield Rural West improves the electoral equality of that division from -10% to 1%. However, we welcome views on whether the area is better placed in Burntwood North division.

22 Both Burntwood divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

## Parish electoral arrangements

23 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.

24 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, Staffordshire County 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.

25 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Burntwood parish.

26 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Burntwood parish.

### Further draft recommendations

Burntwood Town Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

| Parish ward              | Number of parish councillors |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Boney Hay & Central      | 5                            |
| Chase Terrace            | 4                            |
| Chasetown North          | 1                            |
| Chasetown South          | 4                            |
| Gorstey Ley              | 1                            |
| Highfield                | 1                            |
| Hunslet                  | 1                            |
| Summerfield & All Saints | 5                            |

## Have your say

27 The Commission has an open mind about its further draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole county or just a part of it.

28 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for the Lichfield district in Staffordshire County, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of divisions.

29 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

30 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Staffordshire)**  
**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**  
**PO Box 133**  
**Blyth**  
**NE24 9FE**

31 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of divisions for Staffordshire County which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively

32 A good pattern of divisions should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government

33 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in Staffordshire?

34 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

35 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed divisions too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the divisions appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed divisions? Is there any form of public transport?

36 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices in Westminster (London) and on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

37 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

38 In the light of representations received, we will review our further draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the further draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

39 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Staffordshire County Council in 2025.



## Equalities

40 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

### Further draft recommendations for divisions in Staffordshire

| Division name                         | Number of councillors | Electorate (2022) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2029) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------|
| <b>Lichfield District<sup>1</sup></b> |                       |                   |                                   |                         |                   |                                   |                         |      |
| 1                                     | Burntwood North       | 1                 | 11,083                            | 11,083                  | 3%                | 11,044                            | 11,044                  | -5%  |
| 2                                     | Burntwood South       | 1                 | 10,797                            | 10,797                  | 0%                | 10,950                            | 10,950                  | -6%  |
| 3                                     | Lichfield City South  | 1                 | 10,337                            | 10,337                  | -4%               | 12,776                            | 12,776                  | 10%  |
| 4                                     | Lichfield Rural East  | 1                 | 8,232                             | 8,232                   | -23%              | 9,953                             | 9,953                   | -14% |
| 5                                     | Lichfield Rural North | 1                 | 7,992                             | 7,992                   | -26%              | 10,213                            | 10,213                  | -12% |
| 6                                     | Lichfield Rural South | 1                 | 12,193                            | 12,193                  | 13%               | 12,445                            | 12,445                  | 7%   |
| 7                                     | Lichfield Rural West  | 1                 | 10,887                            | 10,887                  | 1%                | 11,700                            | 11,700                  | 1%   |

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Staffordshire County 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.

<sup>1</sup> We have received enough evidence with regards to Lichfield City North division and it does not form part of these further draft recommendations.



## Appendix B

### Submissions received<sup>2</sup>

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

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/staffordshire](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/staffordshire)

#### *Local Authority*

- Staffordshire County Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Cannock Chase CLP and Labour Group
- Cannock Chase Green Party
- Lichfield Constituency Labour Party
- Stafford & Stone Green Party
- West Midlands Green Party

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor E. Bishop & Councillor M. Boyer (Cannock Chase District Council)
- Councillor R. Bragger (Lichfield City Council and Lichfield District Council)
- Councillor E. Carter (Stafford Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Daniels (Tamworth Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Edgeller (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor J. Elson & Councillor A. Muckley (Cannock Chase District Council)
- Councillor A. Fox (Lichfield City Council)
- Councillor A. Lax (Lichfield City Council)
- Councillor J. Mawle (Cannock Chase District Council)
- Councillor T. Pearce (Stafford Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Pert (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor A. Reid (Stafford Borough Council and Eccleshall Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Rose (Stafford Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Rouxel (Stafford Borough Council)

---

<sup>2</sup> These include submissions received for other districts in Staffordshire, not just Lichfield.

### *Local Organisations*

- National Memorial Arboretum

### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Berkswich Parish Council
- Brocton Parish Council
- Chebsey Parish Council
- Eccleshall Parish Council
- Lichfield City Council

### *Local Residents*

- 45 local residents



### **Translations and other formats:**

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

### **Licensing:**

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2023

### **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.

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.

Local Government Boundary Commission for  
England  
1st Floor, Windsor House  
50 Victoria Street, London  
SW1H 0TL

**Telephone:** 0330 500 1525

**Email:** [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

**Online:** [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

**Twitter:** @LGBCE