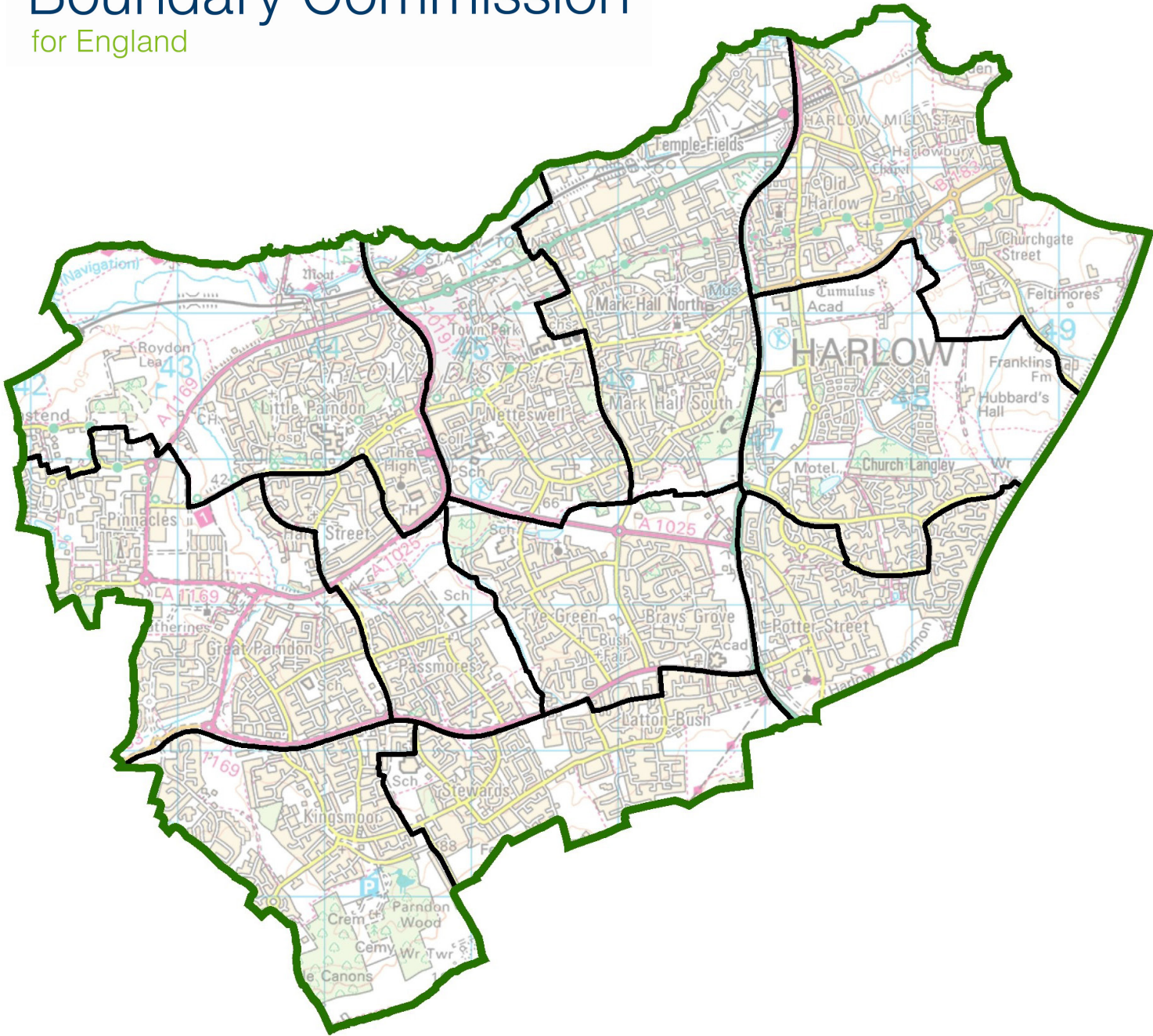


The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England



# New electoral arrangements for Harlow District Council Draft Recommendations

October 2022

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

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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 Parliament.<sup>1</sup> 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 Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why Harlow?

7 We are conducting a review of Harlow District Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2000 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup> 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 wards in Harlow 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 district.

## Our proposals for Harlow

9 Harlow should be represented by 33 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Harlow should have 11 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

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

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district 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 consider any representations which are based on these issues.

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<sup>2</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

## Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 4 October to 12 December 2022. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 12 December 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 23 for how to send us your response.

## Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Harlow. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
25 April 2022	Number of councillors decided
10 May 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
28 July 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
4 October 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
12 December 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
28 February 2023	Publication of final recommendations





## Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation<sup>3</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>4</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

21 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 Harlow	63,895	74,056
Number of councillors	33	33
Average number of electors per councillor	1,936	2,244

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Harlow will have good electoral equality by 2028.

## Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

24 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 16% by 2028. This increase is being driven by significant housing development in the Newhall and Harlow town centre areas.

25 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 draft recommendations.

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

## Number of councillors

26 Harlow Council currently has 33 councillors. The Council proposed an increase of three councillors to 36 councillors. We carefully considered the evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping the existing council size of 33 will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 33 councillors. As the Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation<sup>5</sup> that it have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

28 We received one submission from a local resident about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. This was in support of retaining the existing council size of 33. We have based our draft recommendations on a 33-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 66 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included district-wide proposals from the Council and Harlow Council Labour Group ('the Labour Group'). We also received a submission from Harlow and Epping Forest Labour Party in support of the Labour Group submission. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

30 The two district-wide schemes provided a uniform pattern of 11 three-councillor wards for Harlow. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in some areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

31 We did, however, notice both district-wide schemes provided noticeably poor electoral equality in the Newhall/Old Harlow and town centre areas where the most significant housing development was taking place. In these areas we have sought to provide wards that provide for electoral equality whilst reflecting the community evidence in submissions we have received.

32 Our draft recommendations also take 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 did not provide for the

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<sup>5</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

33 We visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Harlow helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

## Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for 11 three-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

35 The tables and maps on pages 8–19 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Harlow. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>6</sup> criteria of:

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

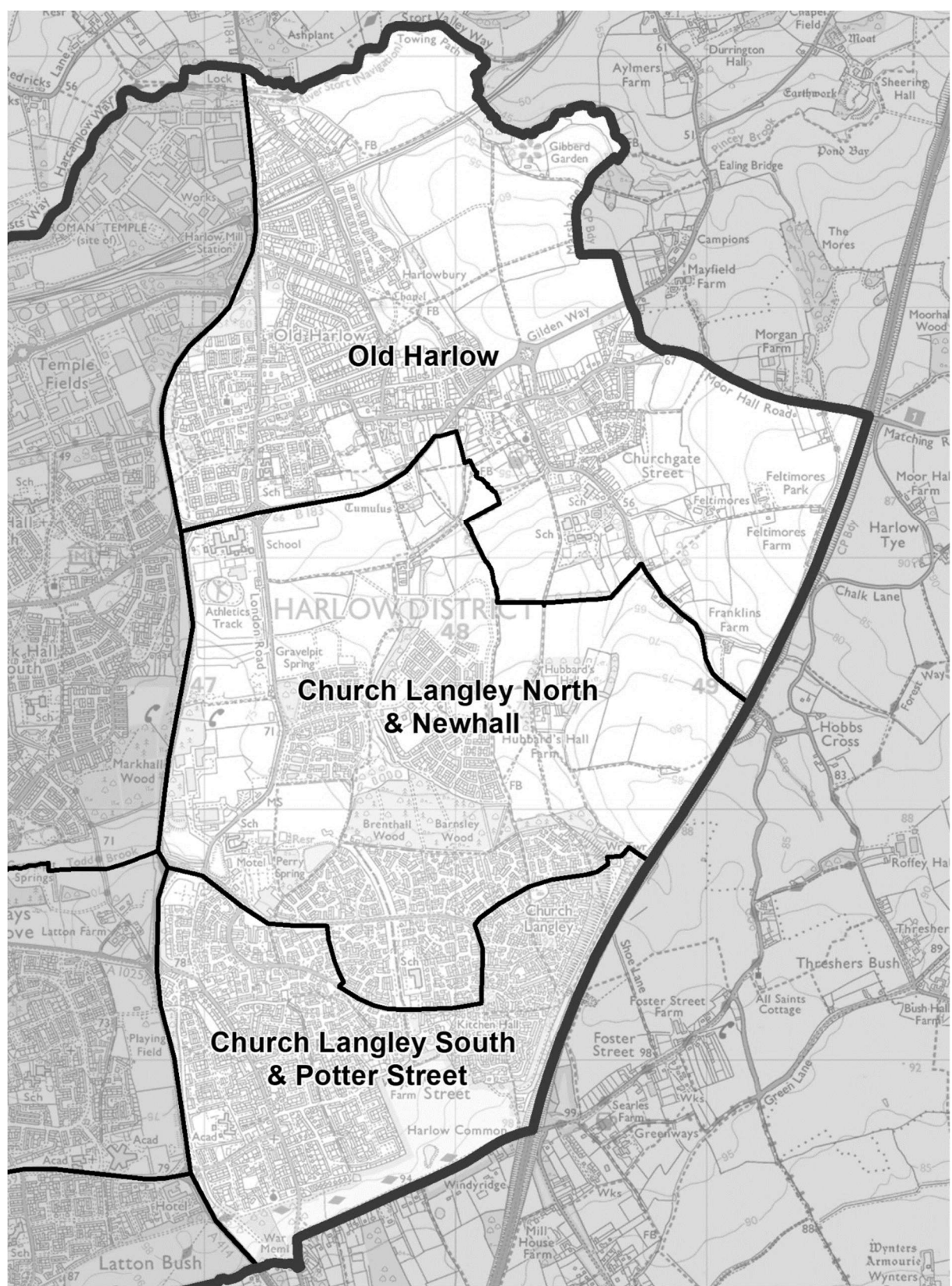
36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 29 and on the large map accompanying this report.

37 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

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<sup>6</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

# Harlow: East of the A414



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Church Langley North & Newhall	3	7%
Church Langley South & Potter Street	3	6%
Old Harlow	3	0%

*Church Langley North & Newhall, Church Langley South & Potter Street and Old Harlow*

38 The two full warding patterns we received for this area proposed significantly different boundaries. The Council proposed a three-councillor Old Harlow ward bounded by the A414 to the west and the B183 Gilden Way to the south. Our calculations forecast this ward to have poor electoral equality by 2028, with a variance of -19%.

39 The warding pattern submitted by the Labour Group proposed a three-councillor Old Harlow & Burnt Mill ward. This suggested ward contained Old Harlow village but not the Gilden Park area. The Group's proposed ward also contained the Temple Fields industrial and commercial area, as well as a number of electors around Harlow Town railway station. The proposed ward has poor electoral equality, with a forecast variance of -22% by 2028.

40 In the Church Langley area, the Labour Group proposed maintaining the existing Church Langley ward and proposed a ward that maintained the connection between Potter Street and neighbourhoods to the west of the A414. The Council suggested that Church Langley be divided between two wards: Churchgate and Brenthall. However, the proposed three-councillor Churchgate ward would have an electoral variance of 26% by 2028. This would be due to the high levels of housing development in progress relating to the new neighbourhood of Newhall.

41 We also received 39 submissions that made reference to the Church Langley area. Most of these submissions were made in response to the proposal from the Council, which had been made public ahead of a Council meeting. The majority of these submissions were opposed to the division of Church Langley into two wards. A small number of the submissions were in favour of linking the Church Langley and Potter Street communities (meaning Potter Street and Latton Bush would no longer be in the same ward) and the use of the A414 as a western boundary to the wards in this area. None of the submissions we received proposed an alternative warding arrangement to the Council's warding pattern on which they were commenting.

42 As part of our tour of Harlow we visited the area, to examine what the proposals looked like on the ground and to assess how well they reflected the communities and used logical boundaries.

43 Our draft recommendations are based on the submission received from the Council, subject to modifications to improve electoral equality. Having carefully considered the evidence provided, we took the view that the Council's proposal in this area best reflected our three statutory criteria. While we noted the suggestions made by the Labour Group, we were concerned by the exclusion of Gildea Park from an Old Harlow ward, as well as an arrangement which linked the area around Harlow Town railway station with Old Harlow. We were also persuaded by the Council's argument that the A414 was a strong boundary in this area and as part of our tour we drove the length of this road to confirm this view. We consider that a warding arrangement which crosses the A414 would not reflect communities in the area.

44 The Council's proposed division of the Church Langley community ran along Church Langley Way, Kiln Lane and Old Hall Rise. We visited this boundary as part of our tour of Harlow and were of the view that if the area were to be divided this was an appropriate boundary. We do not take the division of a community lightly when proposing our draft recommendations, preferring wards that unite two potentially disparate communities to those that divide them.

45 We therefore considered a number of potential options in this area in order to amend the Council's proposal and avoid a division of the Church Langley community, including the creation of an entirely new three-councillor ward that would cover the Newhall community and increase the number of councillors from 33 to 36. We also considered moving away from a uniform three-councillor pattern to propose a mixed pattern of single, two- and three-councillor wards for the area to the west of the A414. However, we were unable to identify a warding pattern that could maintain the existing Church Langley ward and provide for acceptable electoral equality for the remainder of the area. All the options investigated would create wards with electoral variances over 20% from the average. We are not persuaded that the evidence provided justifies this level of electoral inequality.

46 On balance, and in consideration of all the evidence and options explored, we have taken the view that the Council's division of Church Langley provides for the best reflection of our statutory criteria at this stage.

47 As discussed above, however, the Council's proposal included a Churchgate ward with an electoral variance of 26%. We therefore propose to make a significant amendment to the Council's proposed Churchgate and Old Harlow wards to provide for electoral equality for both wards. Our draft recommendations include Churchgate Street in Old Harlow ward. Having visited the area on our tour of Harlow, we consider that these two old villages have much in common. We propose to run the boundary from Gildea Way around the northern extent of the first phase of the Newhall community and along onto Hobbs Cross Road to the district boundary. It is our understanding that as a result the second phase of the Newhall community will

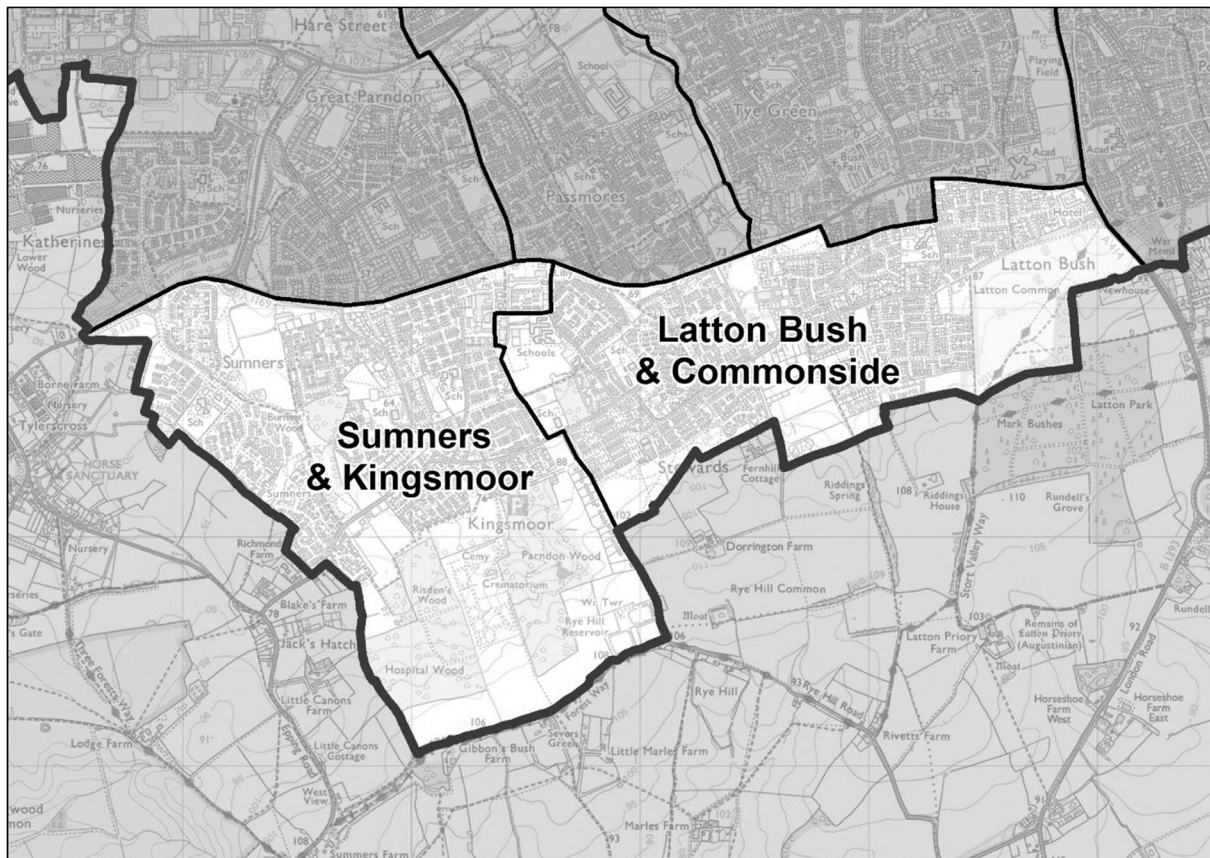
be included in our proposed Church Langley North & Newhall ward and the third phase of the development will fall within our proposed Old Harlow ward.

48 Our draft recommendations also adopt the Council's proposed Brenthall ward with a very minor change to follow a more identifiable boundary around the water tower. We propose to name this ward Church Langley South & Potter Street to better reflect the composition of the ward, but we are open to other suggested names as part of this consultation.

49 We are particularly interested to hear the views of all interested parties (residents, councillors, local organisations and such) to help us inform our future proposals in this part of Harlow. As mentioned above, we are also interested in any alternative proposed names for these wards.

50 Our draft recommendations are therefore for three three-councillor wards of Church Langley North & Newhall, Church Langley South & Potter Street and Old Harlow. These wards will have electoral variances of 7%, 6% and 0%, respectively, by 2028.

## Harlow: South of the A1169



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Latton Bush & Commonsides	3	8%
Summers & Kingsmoor	3	1%

### *Latton Bush & Commonsides*

51 The submissions we received for this area proposed significantly different boundaries. The Labour Group suggested a Brays Grove & Potter Street ward that crossed the A414 and contained the community of Potter Street as well as the Brays Grove community and part of Latton Bush. They proposed to include the remainder of the Latton Bush community in a ward with the Stewards community that they would name Stewards & Latton Bush. The Council proposed a Latton Bush & Commonsides ward that included all of the Latton Bush community and part of the Stewards community, with the suggested western boundary in the area running along Paringdon Road.

52 We also received a number of submissions that detailed the lack of community ties between the Potter Street and Latton Bush areas in the existing Harlow Common ward. Some of these submissions discussed the division of the Latton Bush area between the existing Bush Fair, Harlow Common and Staple Tye wards which did not reflect the community ties of the Latton Bush area as a whole.



53 On visiting the area, we agree with the proposals that an arrangement which mostly uses the A1169 as the northern boundary of a ward in this area would best reflect the communities. In our view, the road appears to form a strong boundary between the areas to the north and south. However, as noted in the previous section, we are of the view that a warding arrangement which crosses the A414 would not reflect communities in the area. We have been persuaded by those submissions that noted the lack of community between Potter Street and Latton Bush. Our proposed ward is similar to the Latton Bush & Commonsides ward suggested by the Council, which uses the A414 as an eastern boundary, with some amendments.

54 We propose to move the western boundary from Paringdon Road as suggested by the Council. We consider that a boundary along this road would divide the Stewards community. Instead, we suggest that the boundary follows Rye Hill Road, then runs to the west of St James' C of E Primary School and Stewards Academy, and onto Pinceybrook and Parnall Roads. This boundary is almost identical to the one suggested by the Labour Group, with a small amendment to use the entirety of Pinceybrook Road as a boundary. We also propose to retain the area to the north of Pear Tree Mead in our proposed Bush Fair ward. This area is currently in the existing Bush Fair ward and is connected to Bush Fair by means of an underpass under the A1169 Southern Way. An arrangement which includes the area in Bush Fair ward allows us to provide for electoral equality in both wards. We are, however, eager to hear local evidence regarding the community identity of these electors.

55 We consider our proposed boundary reflects the Stewards community, but we are eager to hear comments from within this community to ensure the boundaries we have proposed are in the correct place.

56 Our proposed Latton Bush & Commonsides will have three councillors and an electoral variance of 8% by 2028.

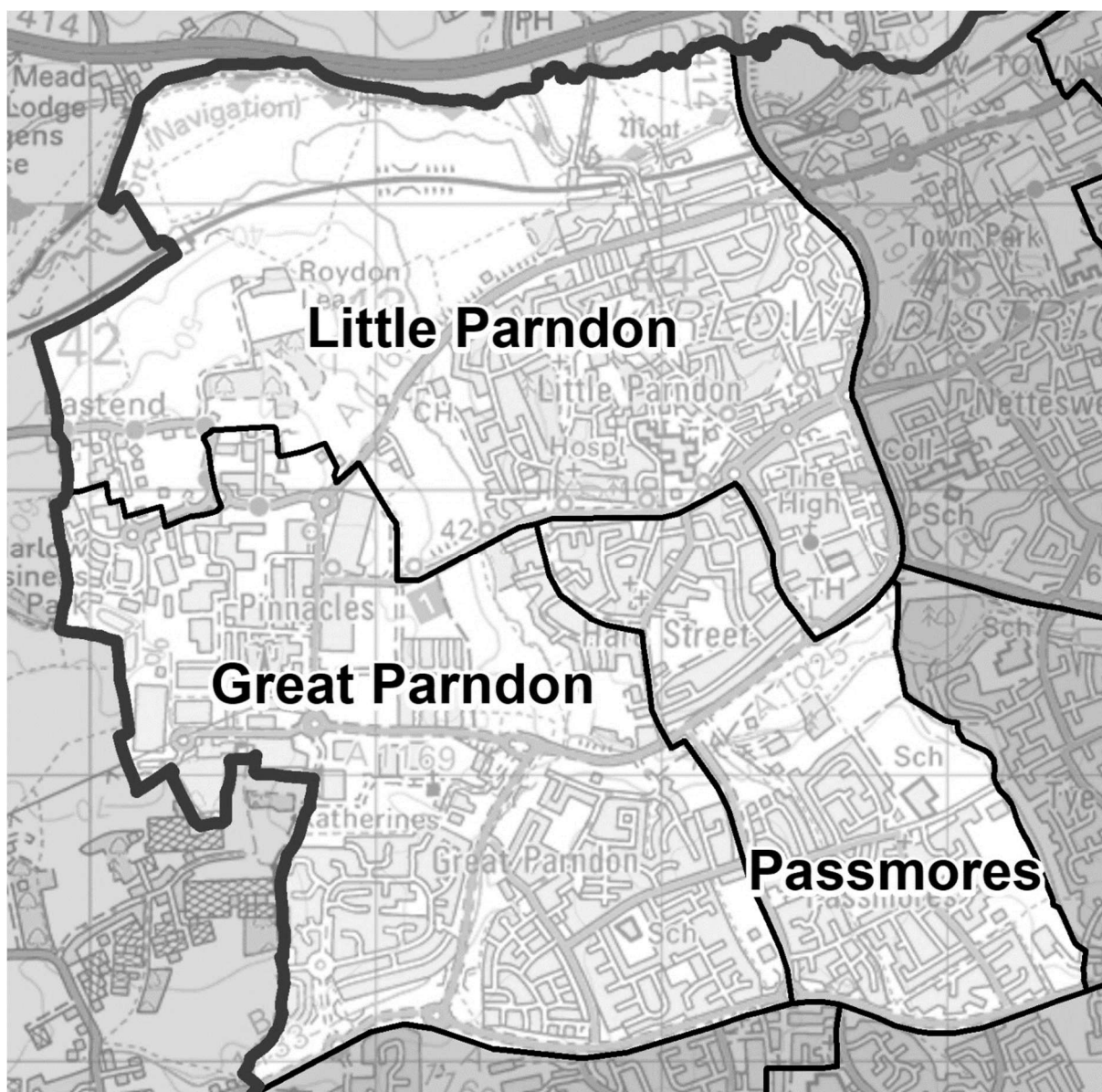
### *Sumners & Kingsmoor*

57 The proposals we received for this area suggested minor changes to the existing ward. The Labour Group proposed to add the area bounded by St James' C of E Primary School and Stewards Academy, and Pinceybrook and Parnall Roads, into Sumners & Kingsmoor. The Council proposed to add all the electors in properties on Joyners Field and Moorfield.

58 Our proposed Sumners & Kingsmoor ward is as proposed by the Labour Group. We consider it reflects the Sumners and Kingsmoor communities and also provides electoral equality for both wards. We intend to include electors on Pegrams Road and Risdens in our proposed Sumners & Kingsmoor ward to provide for electoral equality in both Sumners & Kingsmoor and Latton Bush & Commonsides. We are interested to hear the views of local residents in this area as to where they

considered their community to be. Our ward will be a three-councillor ward with an electoral variance of 1% by 2028.

## Harlow: Town centre and western Harlow



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Great Parndon	3	-9%
Little Parndon	3	4%
Passmores	3	-10%

### *Great Parndon, Little Parndon and Passmores*

59 Both district-wide submissions included the town centre of Harlow in a ward with Netteswell. The Labour Group also proposed The High area be included in a Netteswell & The High ward. However, these proposed wards had extremely poor electoral equality, with forecast variances of 19% and 26% by 2028.

60 The Labour Group also proposed a Little Parndon & Hare Street ward with a small change to the existing ward to provide for electoral equality. Their suggested Great Parndon ward added part of the Passmores community to the existing Great Parndon ward. The Group proposed to include the remainder of the Passmores community in a ward with the Tye Green community.

61 The Council proposed to extend the existing Great Parndon ward across the A1025/1169 to take in part of the Hare Street community, with the remainder included in a proposed Little Parndon ward. The Council also suggested that the community bounded by Third Avenue, Fourth Avenue, Haydens Road and Harberts Road should be included in a proposed Abercrombie ward, linked with the Passmores community and part of the Stewards community.

62 Having carefully considered the submissions and studied this area on our tour of Harlow, we were of the view that the proposal from the Labour Group did not reflect the community in the Passmores area. We also identified it was not possible to include the town centre in a ward with Netteswell while providing for a warding pattern that had good electoral equality. This is due to the increasing electorate in the town centre as a result of housing development.

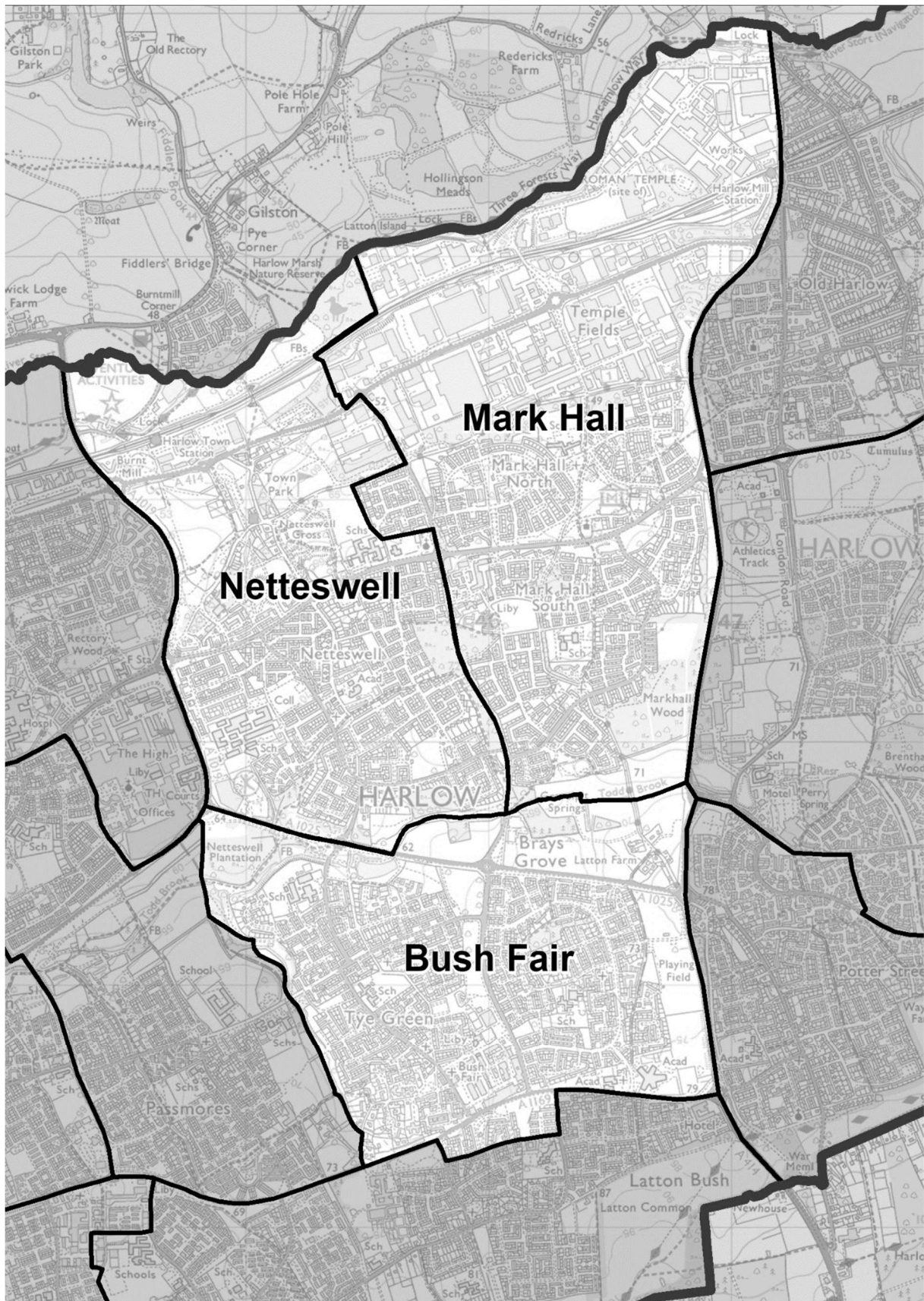
63 We therefore sought to identify a warding pattern that included the town centre with electors that lay north of the A1025. We identified that the only ward in which the town centre could be wholly contained was Little Parndon. This arrangement would ensure we could provide for electoral equality, recognise our understanding of the community ties in the area, and reflect our decisions elsewhere in the district.

64 Our proposed Little Parndon ward therefore includes Harlow town centre, with the boundary then following Fourth Avenue and to the north of The Pinnacles industrial area. This means that The Pinnacles area is wholly included in our proposed Great Parndon ward along with the Great Parndon community and electors who live in an area to the south and east of Fourth Avenue, Helions Road and Harberts Road. The remainder of the Hare Street community is included in our proposed Passmores ward that has the A1169 as its southern boundary.

65 We are particularly interested to hear views on the community identity around the town centre and Hare Street to ensure our boundaries best reflect the community ties of these areas.

66 Our draft recommendations for this area are for three three-councillor wards of Great Parndon, Little Parndon and Passmores. These wards will have electoral variances of -9%, 4% and -10% by 2028, respectively.

Harlow: East of town centre and west of the A414



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bush Fair	3	4%
Mark Hall	3	-8%
Netteswell	3	-4%

#### *Bush Fair, Mark Hall and Netteswell*

67 The two submissions we received for this area proposed significantly different boundaries, although as mentioned in the section above, both included the town centre in a Netteswell ward. The Labour Group proposed to divide the Netteswell community to include some of the area in a suggested Mark Hall ward. They also proposed to move the Felmongers area from Mark Hall to be included with the Newhall area. In addition, as discussed earlier, the Labour Group proposed that Tye Green and Brays Grove are included in separate wards.

68 The Council proposed a small amendment to the existing Mark Hall ward to include Altham Grove in Mark Hall, arguing that the former is intrinsically linked to the Mark Hall area. The Council also proposed to unite the Tye Green area and pair it with the Brays Grove area in a Bush Fair ward.

69 Having considered the submissions we received and visited the area, we have taken the view that the Labour scheme divided communities, particularly the split of the Netteswell area as well as the separation of Felmongers from Mark Hall. We considered the Council's proposals better reflected local communities and we have based our draft recommendations on these suggestions in this area.

70 As mentioned in the section above, we noted it was not possible to include the town centre in Netteswell ward. Our draft recommendation for this area therefore amends the Council's proposals to include the town centre in Little Parndon ward.

71 We agree with the Council that Altham Grove has strong ties to Mark Hall, and we have adopted the Council's suggested Mark Hall ward as part of our draft recommendations. We also agree that the Council's proposed Bush Fair ward is reflective of the Tye Green and Brays Grove communities, and we note that the two areas have strong boundaries on all sides: the A414 to the east, the A1169 to the south, and the A1025 and the Todd Brook to the north and to the east. A natural break in housing is provided by Sir Frederick Gibberd College and Harlow Fields School & College. We do propose to make one change to the Council's suggested ward – we propose to retain the area to the south of the A1169 (currently in Bush Fair ward) in our proposed Bush Fair ward for the reasons set out in paragraph 54.

72 Our proposed draft recommendations for this area are for three three-councillor wards of Bush Fair, Mark Hall and Netteswell with electoral variances of 4%, -8% and -4% by 2028, respectively.





## Conclusions

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

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2022	2028
Number of councillors	33	33
Number of electoral wards	11	11
Average number of electors per councillor	1,936	2,244
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Draft recommendations

Harlow District Council should be made up of 33 councillors serving 11 wards representing 11 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

#### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Harlow.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Harlow District Council on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

## Have your say

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

75 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Harlow, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

76 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

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

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

78 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Harlow 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.

79 A good pattern of wards 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.

80 Electoral equality:

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

81 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?

82 Effective local government:

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

83 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 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.

84 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation, we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, 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.

85 In the light of representations received, we will review our 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 draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

86 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 Harlow in 2024.



## Equalities

87 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

### Draft recommendations for Harlow

	Ward 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	Bush Fair	3	6,378	2,126	10%	7,000	2,333	4%
2	Church Langley North & Newhall	3	4,944	1,648	-15%	7,174	2,391	7%
3	Church Langley South & Potter Street	3	6,676	2,225	15%	7,169	2,390	6%
4	Great Parndon	3	5,619	1,873	-3%	6,130	2,043	-9%
5	Latton Bush & Commonsides	3	6,627	2,209	14%	7,281	2,427	8%
6	Little Parndon	3	5,258	1,753	-9%	7,015	2,338	4%
7	Mark Hall	3	5,647	1,882	-3%	6,225	2,075	-8%
8	Netteswell	3	5,418	1,806	-7%	6,453	2,151	-4%
9	Old Harlow	3	5,854	1,951	1%	6,763	2,254	0%

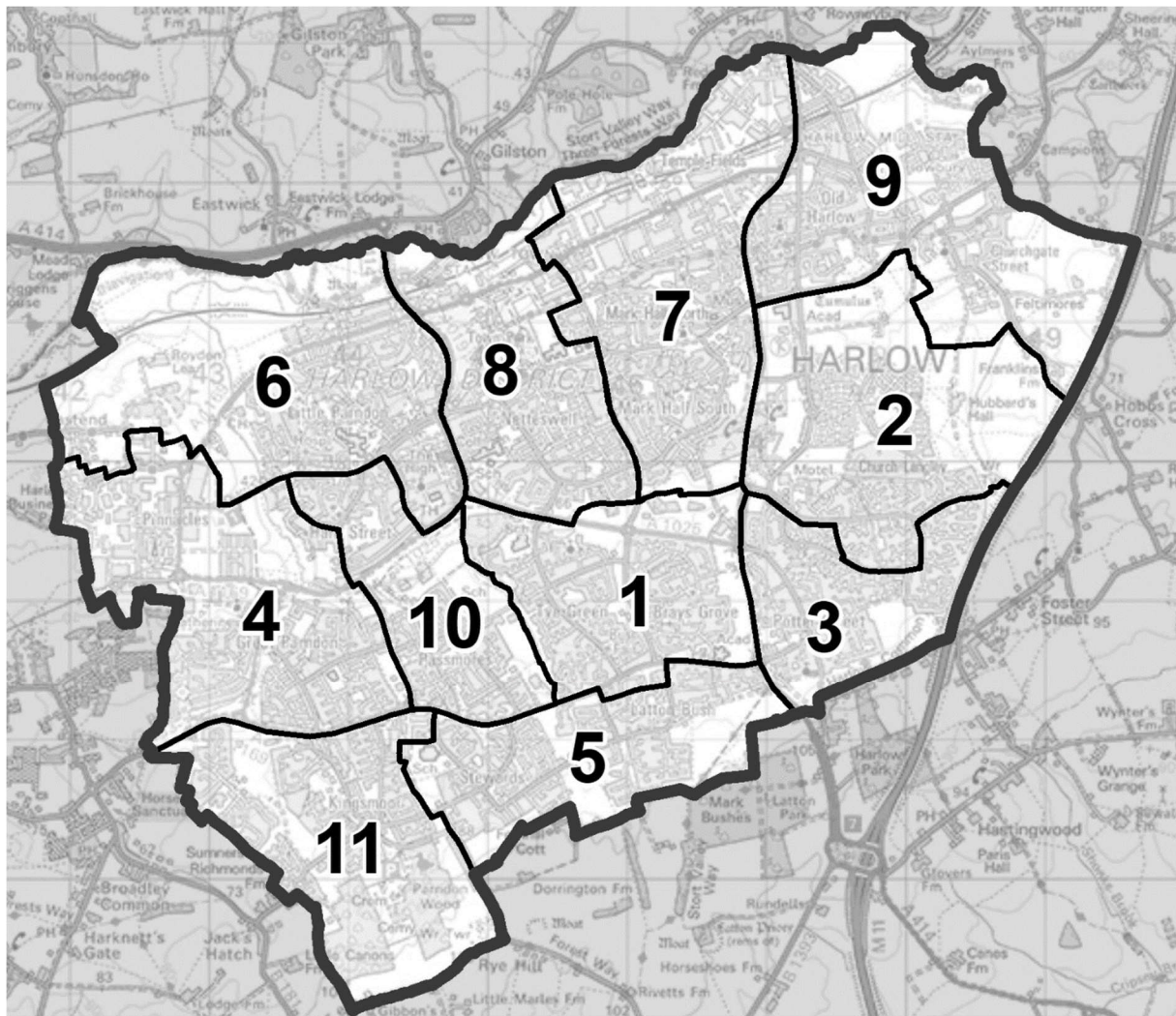


Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
10 Passmores	3	5,261	1,754	-9%	6,037	2,012	-10%
11 Sumners & Kingsmoor	3	6,213	2,071	7%	6,809	2,270	1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>63,895</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>74,056</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Harlow District Council.

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

## Appendix B Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Bush Fair
2	Church Langley North & Newhall
3	Church Langley South & Potter Street
4	Great Parndon
5	Latton Bush & Commonsides
6	Little Parndon
7	Mark Hall
8	Netteswell
9	Old Harlow
10	Passmores
11	Sumners & Kingsmoor

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/harlow](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/harlow)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:  
[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/harlow](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/harlow)

#### *Local Authority*

- Harlow District Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Harlow Labour Group
- Harlow & Epping Forest Co-operative Party

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor J. Leppard (Harlow District Council)

#### *Local Residents*

- 62 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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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