

New electoral arrangements for Trafford Council Final Recommendations

May 2022

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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 Parliament.¹ 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.

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 Trafford?

7 We are conducting a review of Trafford Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2003, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² In addition, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors is as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Trafford 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 borough.

Our proposals for Trafford

9 Trafford should be represented by 63 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Trafford should have 21 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of 18 wards should change; three will stay the same.

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

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local

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

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 Trafford. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 February 2021	Number of councillors decided
15 June 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
23 August 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
30 November 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
7 February 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
31 May 2022	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 wards.

18 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.

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.

	2021	2027
Electorate of Trafford	172,709	183,136
Number of councillors	63	63
Average number of electors per councillor	2,741	2,907

20 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 Trafford will have good electoral equality by 2027.

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 2026, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2021. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 4% by 2026.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. Owing to delays caused by the Covid-19 outbreak, the review will now conclude in 2022. We are

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.

content that these figures remain a reasonable forecast of local electors in 2027 and have therefore used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

24 Trafford Council currently has 63 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.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 63 councillors.

26 As Trafford Council elects by thirds (meaning that it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁵ that the Council 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 a uniform pattern would undermine our statutory criteria.

27 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations from a local resident. This submission argued for a reduction in the number of councillors. However, it did not argue for a specific number of councillors to represent the Council and did not include accompanying evidence. We therefore based our final recommendations on a 63-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 63 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four borough-wide proposals from Trafford Council ('the Council'); Trafford Labour Group; Trafford Conservative Group and Altrincham & Sale West, Stretford & Urmston and Wythenshawe & Sale East Conservative Associations ('the Conservative Group'); and Trafford Green Party. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

29 The four borough-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of three-councillor wards for Trafford. 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 most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

30 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised

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

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

31 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Trafford. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

32 Our draft recommendations were for 21 three-councillor wards. 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

33 We received 315 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from Trafford Council ('the Council'), three political groups, five councillors, four local organisations, one MP, one parish council and 300 residents. The majority of submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals for Western Parishes ward, as well as the boundary between Timperley Central and Hale Barns & Timperley South.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to some of the wards south of the River Mersey in response to the submissions received.

Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for 21 three-councillor wards. 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.

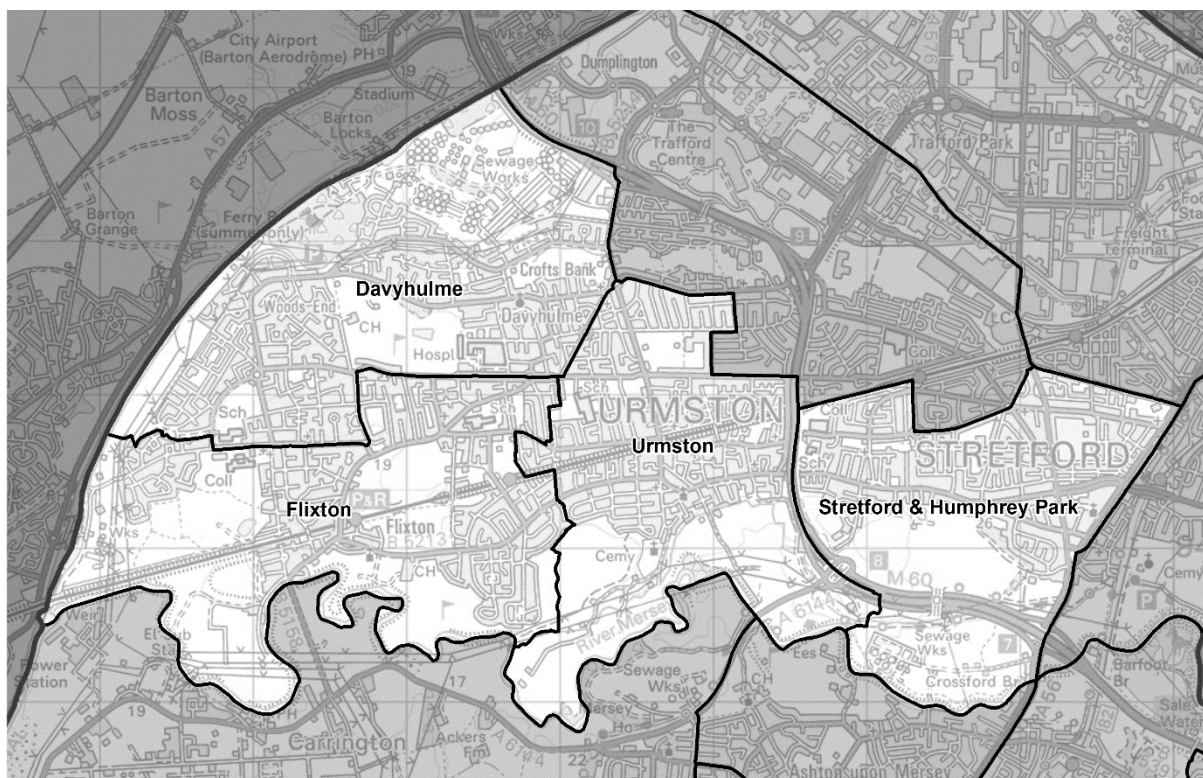
36 The tables and maps on pages 9–30 detail our final recommendations for each area of Trafford. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

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

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 37 and on the large map accompanying this report.

North West Trafford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Davyhulme	3	6%
Flixton	3	3%
Stretford & Humphrey Park	3	3%
Urmston	3	4%

Davyhulme and Flixton

38 We received 18 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP, Councillor Chilton and 13 residents.

39 The Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and nine residents supported our draft recommendations for Davyhulme and Flixton wards. The Labour Group stated that both wards united communities and used strong boundaries. The Labour Group, Kate Green MP and seven residents supported our proposal to unite the area around Woodsend Circle, stating that Woodsend Circle is the nucleus of the community, with Woodsend Library, medical centres and shops used by local residents. There was also support for our proposed Flixton ward, with residents stating that this ward was centred on Flixton village and better reflected community links in the area. There was also support for Princess Road and Irlam Road as boundaries in this area.

40 Conversely, four residents argued against our proposed Davyhulme and Flixton wards. Three residents argued that the boundary between Davyhulme and Flixton should continue to be Moorside Road, rather than Irlam Road, as this is identifiable for local residents. Another resident stated that we should retain the current boundaries and ensure that the Woodsend Estate is kept together in a single ward. Both of these suggestions require the ward boundary to run through Woodsend Circle, which would be in contradiction to the evidence provided to us by a number of respondents.

41 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have not been persuaded to make any changes to our draft recommendations for Davyhulme and Flixton. We consider that both of these wards reflect the local community, with Flixton ward centred on Flixton village and the area around Woodsend Circle united in Davyhulme ward. We further consider Irlam Road to be an identifiable boundary and note the broad support for the external boundaries of both of these wards.

42 Councillor Chilton argued that the entirety of the Davyhulme area is not present within Davyhulme ward. They therefore proposed the alternative names of 'Woodsend' and 'Park'. We considered both options but note the support for the current name of Davyhulme from the Labour Group, which described this name as straightforward and recognisable for local residents. We consider that Davyhulme reflects the communities present within this ward and confirm the name Davyhulme as part of our final recommendations.

43 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Davyhulme and Flixton as final.

Stretford & Humphrey Park and Urmston

44 We received 50 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and 46 residents.

45 The Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and 18 residents supported our draft recommendations. There was support for using the M60 as the boundary between Stretford and Urmston, with many respondents stating that the M60 is a strong and identifiable boundary for local residents. The Labour Group and 16 residents also stated that using the M60 as the boundary and placing the area of Humphrey Park into Stretford & Humphrey Park ward would allow for residents closer to Urmston town centre to be included in Urmston ward. They argued that the residents to the north of Urmston town centre, currently in Davyhulme East ward, are part of the Urmston community and use facilities located in Urmston, and that extending Urmston ward northwards will encourage a stronger sense of community. A resident further noted that Stretford Cricket Club will now be included in Stretford & Humphrey Park ward.

46 Thirty residents opposed using the M60 as the boundary between Stretford and Urmston. They argued that residents in the Humphrey Park area use facilities in Urmston and do not consider themselves part of Stretford. They stated that local facilities in this area bear the name of Urmston, such as Urmston Pharmacy, and that they are part of the Urmston community.

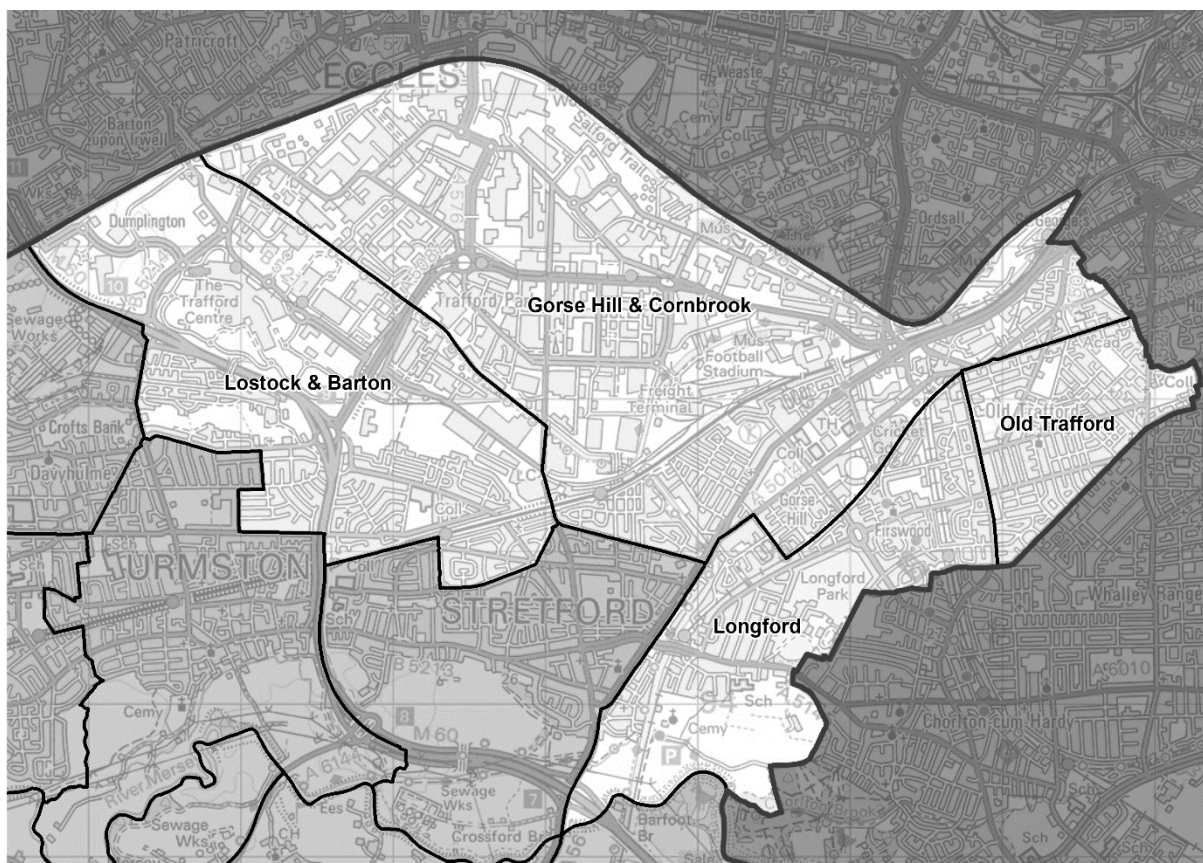
47 Two residents argued that the railway line between Humphrey Park and Trafford Park stations should be the boundary between Stretford & Humphrey Park and Lostock & Barton wards. While we do consider this to be a strong boundary, it would result in an electoral variance of 19% for Stretford & Humphrey Park ward. We do not consider the evidence received justifies this high level of electoral inequality and have therefore not adopted this change as part of our final recommendations.

48 We carefully considered the evidence and on balance have decided to use the M60 as the boundary between Stretford & Humphrey Park and Urmston wards. While we acknowledge the arguments from residents east of the M60 who wish to remain in Urmston ward, we consider that the M60 is an extremely clear boundary in this area and further allows for Urmston ward to be extended northwards to encompass residents that are much closer to Urmston town centre. We consider that this better reflects the community in Urmston.

49 The Council proposed an amendment to the name of our proposed Stretford ward. They stated that adding 'Humphrey Park' to the ward name would reflect the area that is being moved from Urmston ward to Stretford ward, where residents feel distinct from Stretford. Following evidence provided to us from Humphrey Park residents who told us that they feel separated from Stretford, we consider that amending the ward name better reflects the communities present within this ward. We are therefore changing the name of this ward to Stretford & Humphrey Park.

50 Following this name change, we confirm our draft recommendations for Stretford & Humphrey Park and Urmston wards as final.

North East Trafford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Gorse Hill & Cornbrook	3	9%
Longford	3	1%
Lostock & Barton	3	4%
Old Trafford	3	0%

Gorse Hill & Cornbrook

51 We received 11 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and seven residents.

52 The Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and six residents supported our draft recommendations. Residents supported including the area of Lostock in Lostock & Barton ward, describing how residents in each area use different facilities and amenities, and stated that this better reflects the communities in the area.

53 The Council supported our draft recommendations; however, they proposed a minor change. As discussed below in paragraph 67, the Council proposed a minor amendment to place the area south of Chester Road and City Road in Old Trafford ward. We were not convinced to adopt this change, as we consider the boundary

between Gorse Hill and Old Trafford wards to be strong and identifiable for local residents.

54 While supportive, the Conservatives stated that ideally the area located between the A56 and the canal, centred on Stephenson Road and Renton Road and currently in Longford ward, should be part of Gorse Hill ward. However, they acknowledged that this may impact electoral equality. This amendment would result in an electoral variance of -21% for Longford ward, and we have therefore not been persuaded to make this change.

55 The Labour Group and two residents proposed to add 'Cornbrook' into the name of this ward. They argued that the Cornbrook community in the north of Gorse Hill ward is a distinct and growing community, and that residents of this area would not identify themselves as being part of Gorse Hill. The two residents further stated that Cornbrook is a well-known name in the local area, with amenities such as the Cornbrook local tram station. Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to adopt this change as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that the addition of Cornbrook in the ward name better reflects the communities present within this ward.

56 Following the amendment to the name of this ward, we confirm our draft recommendations for Gorse Hill & Cornbrook as final.

Longford

57 We received 10 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and six residents.

58 All respondents supported our draft recommendations for Longford ward. There was strong support for using the A56 as a clear boundary between Stretford and Longford.

59 As discussed in paragraph 54, the Conservatives did suggest placing the area between the A56 and the canal in Gorse Hill & Cornbrook ward. However, this would result in an electoral variance of -21% for Longford ward and as such we are not adopting this change.

60 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Longford ward as final.

Lostock & Barton

61 We received 16 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and 12 residents.

62 The Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and seven residents supported our draft recommendations. The Labour Group stated that this

ward would unite the communities in this area, with residents sharing local amenities. Residents described how they share facilities across the M60, such as George Carnall Community Hub, Lostock Library, medical centres and shops. Kate Green MP stated that crossing the M60 in this area would be acceptable, as Lostock residents access services in Urmston and Davyhulme. This was supported by local residents, who also stated that Lostock residents often travel west into Davyhulme and Barton rather than south into Stretford, and that this ward would also reflect school catchment areas.

63 Five residents argued against our draft recommendations. One resident stated that Lostock Road should be the boundary for Lostock & Barton ward. However, using this road as the boundary and placing the residents south of Lostock Road into Urmston ward would result in an electoral variance of 26% for Urmston ward and -18% for Lostock & Barton ward. Another resident stated that Lostock should be linked to Stretford, and two other residents argued that the M60 should be used as the boundary. However, running the boundary along the M60 and placing Lostock in Stretford ward would result in an electoral variance of 60% for Stretford ward and -52% for Lostock & Barton ward. We consider that both proposals result in levels of electoral inequality not justified by the evidence and have therefore not adopted these proposals as part of our final recommendations.

64 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Lostock & Barton ward as final.

Old Trafford

65 We received 15 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and 11 residents.

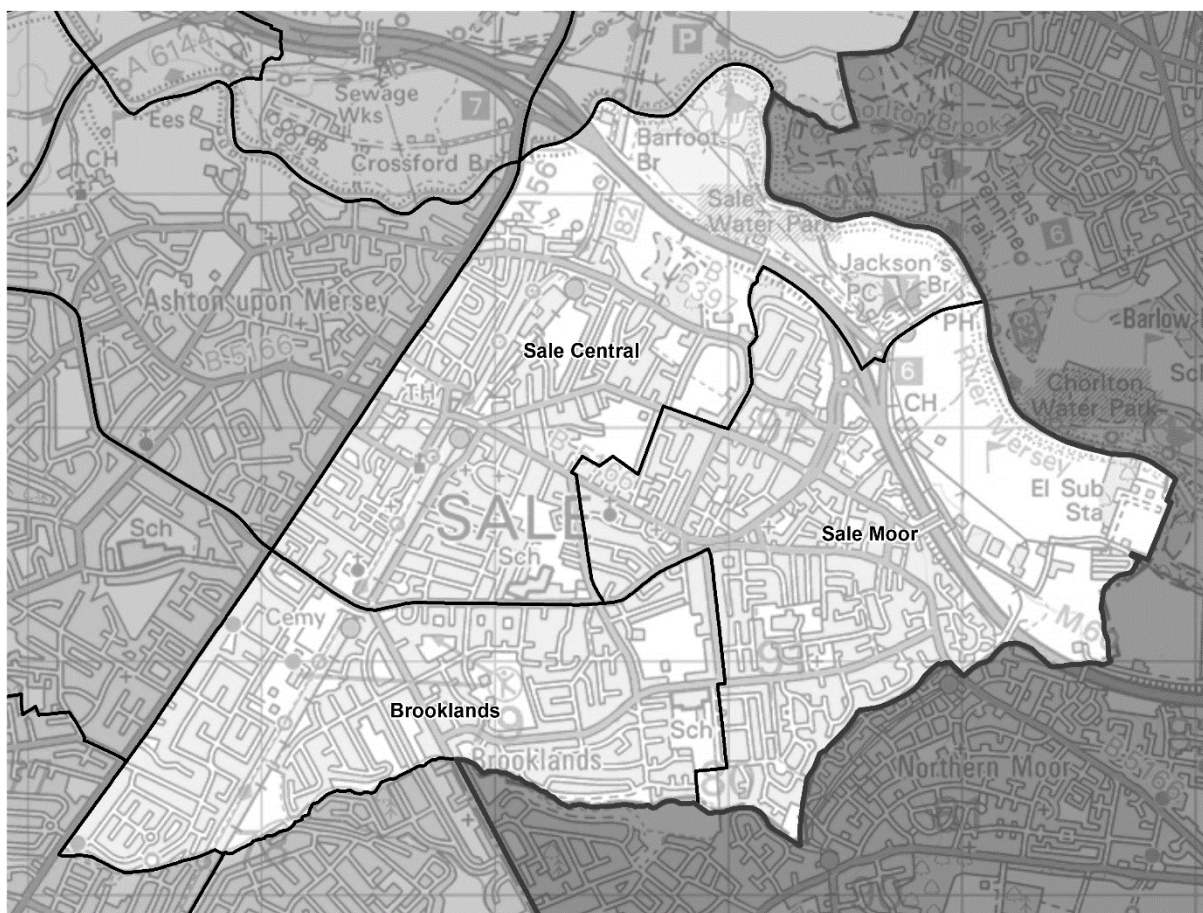
66 The Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and 10 residents supported our draft recommendations. All stated that Old Trafford is a more representative name for the area, and that the boundaries for this ward are strong and identifiable. One resident disagreed and stated that the name of Clifford should be retained, arguing that using the name Old Trafford would cause confusion. However, other residents stated that the name Clifford means little to local residents and supported the change. We have therefore been persuaded to confirm the name of Old Trafford as final.

67 The Council broadly supported our draft recommendations; however, they proposed a slight amendment to the northern boundary of Old Trafford ward. They proposed running the northern boundary along Chester Road and City Road and stated that residents in this area use amenities in Old Trafford ward. They further argued that this would provide for long-term electoral equality for Gorse Hill & Cornbrook ward, with development in this area likely in the coming decade. We considered this proposal but did not conclude that the evidence justified moving the

northern boundary of Old Trafford ward away from the clear and identifiable boundary of Stretford Road. Additionally, the Labour Group stated that the Pomona area north of Stretford Road is best linked with communities in Gorse Hill & Cornbrook ward, with a growing community along Talbot Road. We are therefore not proposing to amend the boundaries for Old Trafford ward.

68 We confirm our draft recommendations for Old Trafford ward as final.

Sale and Brooklands



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brooklands	3	-7%
Sale Central	3	-5%
Sale Moor	3	-2%

Brooklands

69 We received nine submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group and six residents.

70 All of the submissions we received supported our draft recommendations. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Brooklands ward as final.

Sale Central and Sale Moor

71 We received 20 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group and 17 residents.

72 Aside from one resident who argued that no changes should be made to the current wards in this area, all the other respondents supported our draft recommendations.

73 The Council proposed a minor amendment to the boundary between Sale Central and Sale Moor. They argued that the boundary should run along the eastern edge of Worthington Park, rather than through the centre, to unite this park in a single ward. We consider this to be a practical adjustment and have therefore made this change as part of our final recommendations.

74 We received a number of comments regarding the name for our proposed Sale Priory ward. While the Council supported this name, we received submissions from the Labour Group, Conservative Group and six residents with alternatives. The Labour Group and four residents suggested the name Sale Central, arguing that this more accurately reflects the geographic make-up of this ward, with Sale town centre as the focal point. The Conservatives proposed the name Sale, arguing that Priory is not recognised as a location by the community, and that the name Sale would be more representative. Finally, two residents proposed retaining the current ward name of Priory.

75 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to adopt the name Sale Central for this ward. We consider that this name better reflects the communities present within this ward.

76 Following these minor amendments, we confirm our draft recommendations for Sale Central and Sale Moor as final.

Timperley and Hale Barns



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Hale Barns & Timperley South	3	-10%
Timperley Central	3	2%
Timperley North	3	4%

Hale Barns & Timperley South and Timperley Central

77 We received 76 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Liberal Democrats, Councillor Brophy, The Broomwood Partnership, The Friday Group and 69 residents.

78 The Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Councillor Brophy, The Broomwood Partnership, The Friday Group and 62 residents argued against our draft recommendations in this area, stating that the proposed boundary between Hale Barns & Timperley South ward and Timperley Central ward splits the Broomwood Estate. We received extensive evidence describing the tight-knit community of the Broomwood Estate. Respondents stated that residents in this area share schools, community groups and facilities, and that the Broomwood Estate should be united in a single ward.

79 The Conservative Group supported our draft recommendations; however, they stated that running the boundary completely along Mainwood Road, rather than going around the properties on the northern side, would be clearer. However, this boundary would continue to split the Broomwood Estate.

80 Following consideration of the evidence received, we have been persuaded to amend the boundary between Hale Barns & Timperley South and Timperley Central as part of our final recommendations to unite the Broomwood Estate. The Broomwood Partnership defined the Broomwood Estate as being contained by Timperley Brook, Shaftesbury Avenue, Thorley Lane and Ridgeway Road. The Council and Liberal Democrats also proposed this boundary. We consider this boundary to be clearer than the current ward boundary while also ensuring that the Broomwood community is placed within a single ward. We are therefore adopting this amendment. The Broomwood Estate will now be united in Timperley Central ward.

81 The Labour Group, Conservative Group and four residents stated that they supported the name of Hale Barns & Timperley South ward. Residents stated that this was more reflective of the areas contained within this ward.

82 In the south-west of Hale Barns & Timperley South ward, as discussed in paragraph 102, the Hale Civic Society and two residents opposed the boundary along Park Road between Hale ward and Hale Barns & Timperley South ward. We have been persuaded to alter the boundary between these two wards to place more of the Hale community in Hale ward. The boundary will now run behind the properties on the eastern side of Park Road, rather than along Park Road itself. We consider that this better reflects the community in this area.

83 Following these amendments, we confirm our draft recommendations for Hale Barns & Timperley South and Timperley Central as final.

Timperley North

84 We received 22 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Liberal Democrats, Councillor Brophy and 17 residents.

85 As discussed in paragraph 98, nine residents argued that the area located between the A56 and the canal should be included in Timperley North ward. They stated that this area is closely linked with Timperley and that the A56 is a physical boundary separating this area from the rest of Broadheath ward. However, this amendment would result in electoral variances of 21% for Timperley North ward and -15% for Broadheath ward. We did not consider that the evidence provided justifies this level of electoral inequality and are therefore not making this amendment as part of our final recommendations.

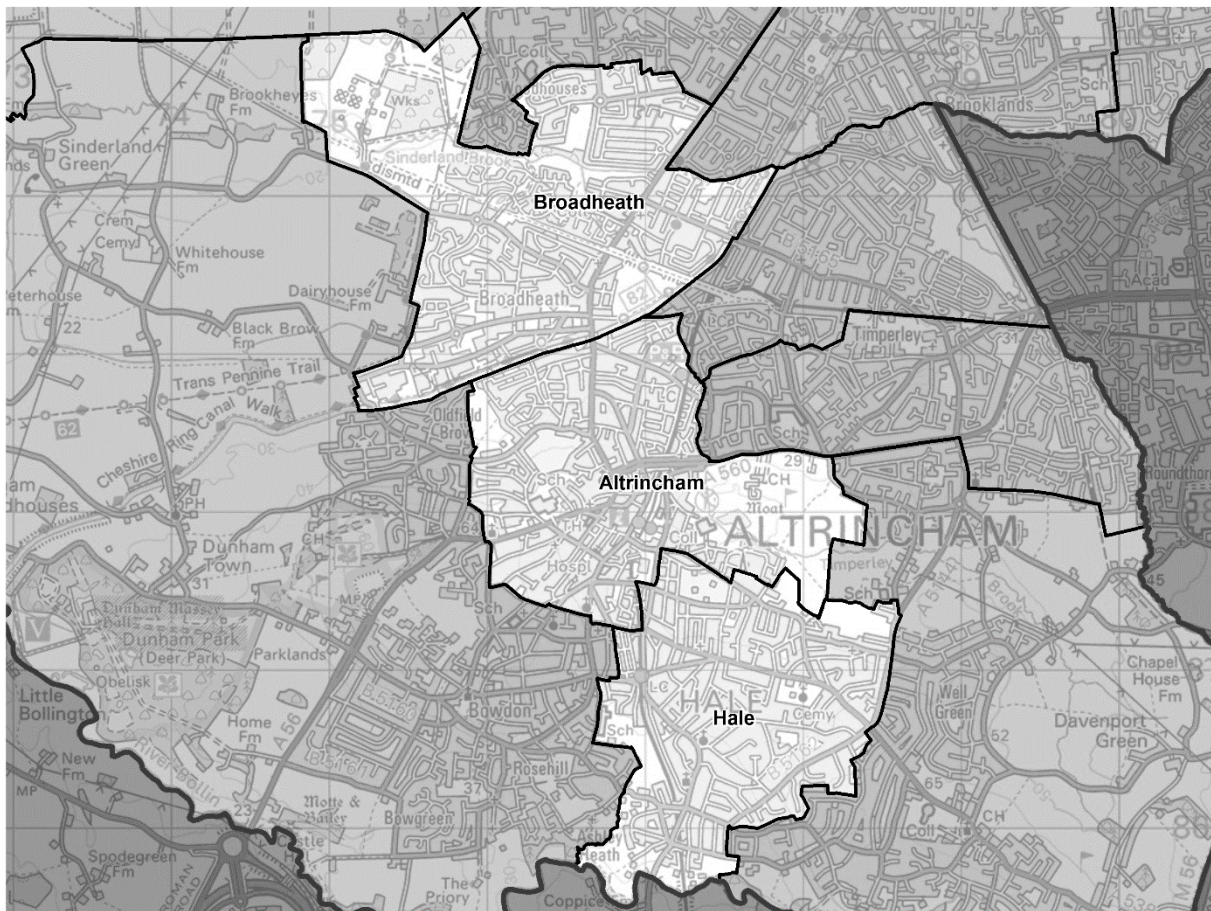
86 The Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group and six residents supported our draft recommendations for Timperley North. There was support for using the railway line as the boundary between Timperley North and Timperley Central.

87 The Liberal Democrats and Councillor Brophy argued that the area around Pickering Lodge Park should be placed in Timperley North ward. Councillor Brophy stated that the organisation Friends of Pickering Lodge Park would be split between Timperley North and Timperley Central as part of our draft recommendations. The Liberal Democrats further argued that the Moss Trooper pub forms the centre of the community in this area.

88 We considered the evidence provided and have been convinced to place Pickering Lodge Park and the properties to the east in Timperley North ward. The boundary between Timperley North and Timperley Central will now run along Grove Lane, before heading north behind the properties on the eastern side of Green Drive to meet the railway line. We consider that this amendment better reflects community links in this area.

89 Subject to these amendments, we confirm our draft recommendations for Timperley North as final.

Altrincham, Broadheath and Hale



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Altrincham	3	-4%
Broadheath	3	4%
Hale	3	-7%

Altrincham

90 We received 12 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Hale Civic Society and eight residents.

91 The Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group and three residents all supported our draft recommendations for Altrincham. The Labour Group suggested a minor amendment to ensure that the entirety of Altrincham golf course is placed in Altrincham ward. We consider this to be a practical adjustment and have therefore made this change as part of our final recommendations. The Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group and a resident also supported placing the Welman Way Estate in Hale ward.

92 Conversely, the Hale Civic Society and four residents opposed placing the Welman Way Estate in Hale ward. They stated that this area is part of Altrincham and residents use facilities and amenities in Altrincham rather than Hale.

93 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to place the Welman Way Estate in Altrincham ward. We consider that this better reflects the local community in this area.

94 A resident argued that the electors west of Stamford Park consider themselves part of Altrincham and as such should be placed in Altrincham ward. Additionally, another resident stated that York Street should be in Altrincham ward. We looked at running the boundary along Ashfield Road, Stamford Park Road and Queen's Road in order to place these areas in Altrincham ward. However, this would result in an electoral variance of -13% for Hale ward. We do not consider that the evidence received justifies this level of electoral inequality and as such are not adopting this change.

95 Following the Welman Way amendment, we confirm our draft recommendations for Altrincham ward as final.

Broadheath

96 We received 17 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group and 14 residents.

97 The Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group and five residents supported this ward. There was support for running the boundary between Broadheath and Timperley along the canal, thereby moving the area east of the canal out of Broadheath ward. The Labour Group highlighted that residents north of Sinderland Brook would be better placed in Manor ward; however, they acknowledged that this would not result in a good level of electoral equality for either Manor or Broadheath wards, with electoral variances of 33% and -26%, respectively.

98 Nine residents argued that the A56 should be the boundary between Broadheath and Timperley North wards. They stated that the area between the A56 and the canal is part of Timperley and that residents here use facilities in Timperley. They further argued that the A56 is a physical barrier separating them from the rest of Broadheath ward. We considered moving the boundary to the A56 to place these residents in Timperley North ward. However, this would result in electoral variances of 21% for Timperley North ward and -15% for Broadheath ward. We looked carefully at the knock-on changes that would have to occur for this amendment to be accommodated; however, we did not consider the knock-on changes to the surrounding wards was justified. These changes would also not result in good levels of electoral equality, with a variance of 17% for Timperley Central if the area south of the railway line was moved from Timperley North to Timperley Central to balance out

the additional electors from Broadheath ward. We are consequently not making this change as part of our final recommendations.

99 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Broadheath ward as final.

Hale

100 We received 12 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Hale Civic Society and eight residents.

101 The Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group and six residents supported our proposed Hale ward. They stated that the focus of this ward was on the village centre and a resident stated that the proposed boundaries were clear and robust. Additionally, there was support for shortening the ward name to Hale.

102 The Hale Civic Society and two residents opposed the boundary along Park Road between Hale ward and Hale Barns & Timperley South ward, with each proposing a different boundary between these two wards. The Conservative Group also stated in their submission that our draft recommendations had included some of the Hale community in Hale Barns & Timperley South ward.

103 The Hale Civic Society defined the area of Arthog Road and Hill Top as areas closely linked to Hale. They stated that residents in this area are tithed to St Peter's Church and as such should be placed in Hale ward. Moving these electors from Hale Barns & Timperley South ward to Hale ward would result in electoral variances of -13% and -5% for each ward, respectively. We were not convinced that the evidence received justifies this higher level of electoral inequality. Additionally, adding more electors into Hale Barns & Timperley South ward to balance this amendment would result in splitting the Broomwood Estate, which we received very strong evidence to unite in a single ward (see paragraph 78).

104 One resident stated that the boundary between Hale and Hale Barns & Timperley South should be Hill Top and Bankhall Lane. This would encompass the entire area identified as Hale by the Hale Civic Society. However, this amendment would result in an electoral variance of -15% for Hale Barns & Timperley South.

105 Finally, another resident stated that all of the properties on both sides of Park Road should be placed in Hale ward. They stated that residents here use the church in Hale and consider themselves part of the Hale community. We note that all of the properties on the eastern side of Park Lane, in Hale Barns & Timperley South as part of our draft recommendations, access west into Hale ward. This amendment would result in good levels of electoral equality for both wards.

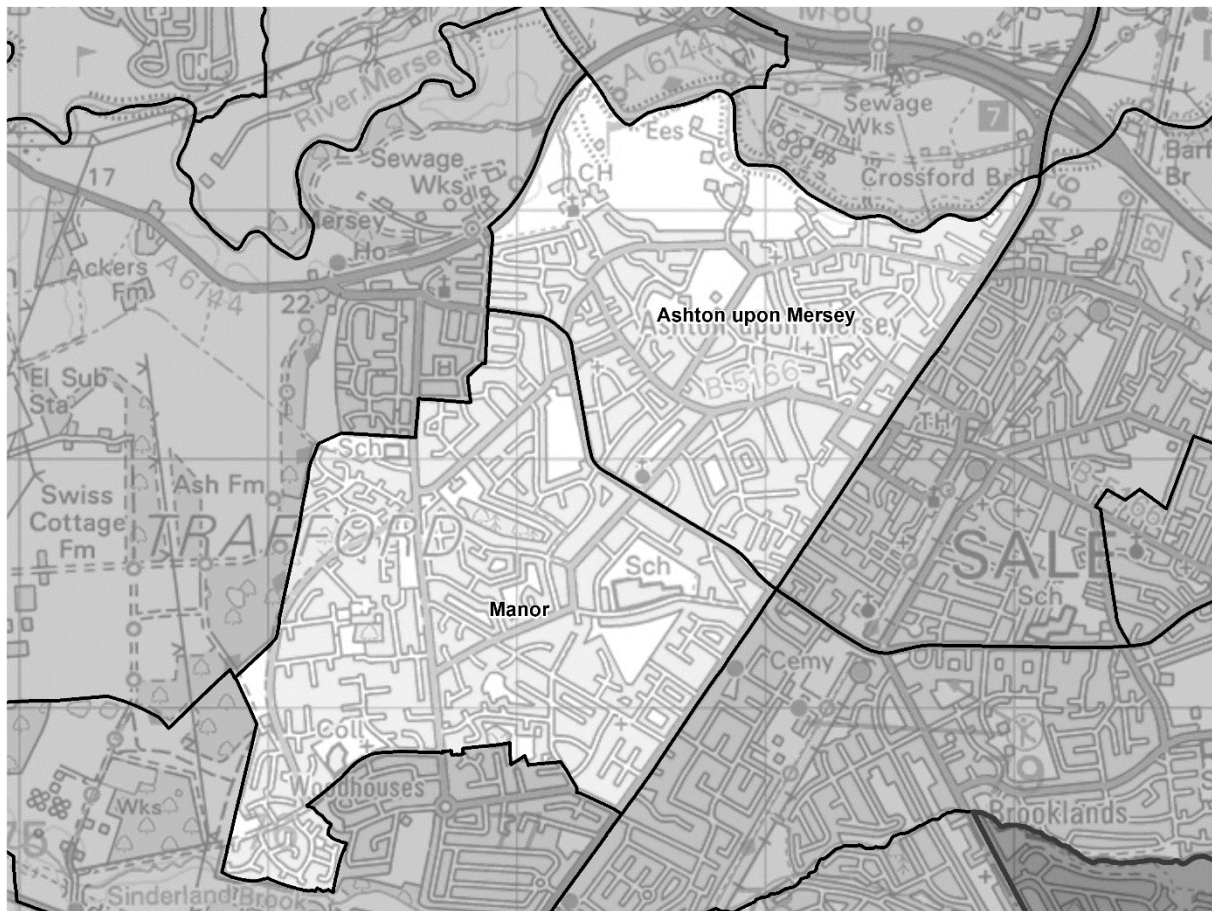
106 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to amend the boundary between Hale ward and Hale Barns & Timperley South ward to

include more electors around Park Road in Hale ward. While we are unable to use the boundary proposed to us by the Hale Civic Society and a resident due to the high levels of electoral inequality, we consider that running the boundary behind the properties on the eastern side of Park Road unites more of the Hale community in Hale ward while still resulting in good levels of electoral equality, with electoral variances of -7% for Hale ward and -10% for Hale Barns & Timperley South ward. We consider that this amendment will better reflect the community in south-east Hale.

107 Finally, as discussed in paragraph 93, we have been persuaded to place the Welman Way Estate in Altrincham ward rather than Hale ward. While the Council, Labour Group and Conservative Group supported placing this area in Hale ward, the Hale Civic Society and four residents argued that this area is better linked with Altrincham, as this is where residents access amenities.

108 Following these amendments, we confirm our draft recommendations for Hale ward as final.

Ashton upon Mersey and Manor



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ashton upon Mersey	3	-7%
Manor	3	2%

Ashton upon Mersey

109 We received seven submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and three residents.

110 The Council and a local resident supported our draft recommendations for Ashton upon Mersey. The local resident stated that this ward would be more geographically appropriate and would encourage engagement with local initiatives.

111 The Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP and two residents argued that the current ward boundaries of Ashton upon Mersey should be retained. They argued that the current boundaries are clear and allow for the retention of the current Bucklow-St Martins ward, which was strongly argued for by political groups and residents alike.

112 As discussed in paragraph 126 we are adopting the current Bucklow-St Martins ward as part of our final recommendations. This includes retaining the current boundary between Bucklow-St Martins ward and Ashton upon Mersey ward. We are therefore reverting to the current boundaries for Ashton upon Mersey ward. We consider that this ward best reflects communities in this area and uses identifiable boundaries for local residents.

113 Our final recommendations are therefore for a three-councillor Ashton upon Mersey ward. This ward is forecast to have a good level of electoral equality, with 7% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

Manor

114 We received nine submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group and six residents. The Council supported our draft recommendations for Manor ward.

115 The Labour Group and Conservative Group both broadly supported our draft recommendations for Manor; however, both proposed amendments to the boundary between Manor ward and Bucklow-St Martins ward. The Labour Group proposed to retain the current ward boundary between Manor and Bucklow-St Martins ward. This was supported by four residents.

116 Alternatively, as discussed in paragraph 125, the Conservative Group proposed to run the northern boundary of Manor ward along Firs Road, thereby uniting the Devon Estate in Bucklow-St Martins ward.

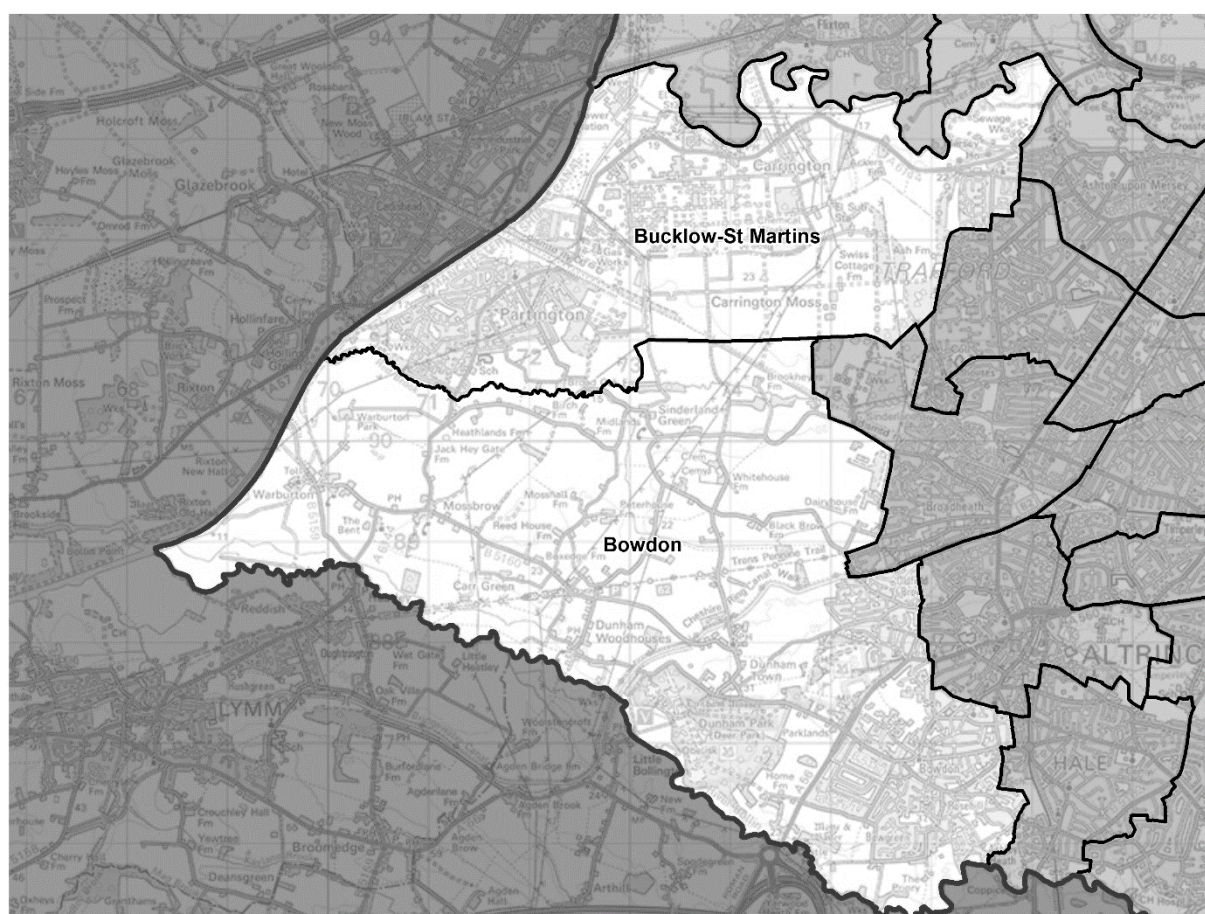
117 Following consideration of the evidence and our decision to revert to an unchanged Bucklow-St Martins ward, we are adopting the current ward boundary between Manor and Bucklow-St Martins wards as part of our final recommendations. This boundary would run along Tavistock Road, Exmouth Road, Totnes Road and Brayton Avenue. We consider that this best reflects community links in this area and provides for a good level of electoral equality.

118 A local resident argued that the area centred on Newgate Road should be included in Broadheath ward rather than Manor ward, stating that they feel more connected to the community in Broadheath ward. This change would result in an electoral variance of 12% for Broadheath ward. We were not convinced that the evidence received justified this level of electoral inequality and are therefore not adopting this change.

119 The Council and Labour Group supported the name Manor for this ward. One resident argued that the current ward name of St Mary's should be retained. We consider that the name Manor accurately reflects the communities present within this ward and therefore confirm this name as final.

120 Following the amendment to the northern boundary of Manor ward, we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Bowdon and Bucklow-St Martins



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bowdon	3	2%
Bucklow-St Martins	3	-3%

Bowdon and Bucklow-St Martins

121 We received 65 submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Conservative Group, Kate Green MP, Councillor Chilton, Councillor New, Councillor Priestner, Councillor Whetton, Dunham Massey Parish Council and 56 residents.

122 All respondents opposed our proposed Western Parishes ward which grouped together the four parishes of Carrington, Partington, Dunham Massey and Warburton. We received extensive evidence which described how residents of Carrington and Partington parishes access facilities in Sale West and that residents of Dunham Massey and Warburton parishes are instead closely linked with Bowdon and Altrincham. Respondents also stated that these four parishes are very different in character, with rural-facing Dunham Massey and Warburton and industrial Carrington and Partington. Additionally, there were concerns about poor transport connections between the northern and southern parishes and few community links.

These respondents proposed retaining the current wards of Bowdon and Bucklow-St Martins, arguing that these wards accurately reflect the communities in this area and are clear and identifiable for local residents.

123 The Council opposed our draft recommendations and instead proposed a ward containing only the parishes of Carrington and Partington. They argued that these two parishes are closely linked, and this would allow for a clear boundary between this ward and wards in Sale West. They stated that, since the beginning of the electoral review, more developments have been green lit for Carrington and Partington bringing the forecast electoral variance for Carrington & Partington ward to -14% in 2027. However, using the forecast put together at the start of the review, Carrington & Partington ward would have an electoral variance of -21%. While we consider an electoral variance of -14% not to be unreasonable if there is compelling evidence, we are unable to alter the electoral forecasts once the electoral review has started. We have therefore not been convinced to adopt the Council's proposed Carrington & Partington ward due to the high levels of electoral inequality that we do not consider to be justified. Additionally, we received substantial evidence from respondents that supported linking Carrington and Partington parishes with Sale West, due to shared facilities.

124 The Labour Group, supported by Kate Green MP, proposed to retain the current ward of Bucklow-St Martins. They argued that Carrington and Partington are best linked to Sale West and that an unchanged Bucklow-St Martins ward would best represent communities in this area while also providing a good level of electoral equality. Kate Green MP stated that the area of Sale West is linked to Carrington and Partington, with children from Carrington attending All Saints' Catholic Primary School in Sale West.

125 The Conservative Group also proposed to retain the current ward of Bucklow-St Martins, with a minor amendment. They stated that the Devon Estate should be united in a single ward. As part of our draft recommendations, the Devon Estate was united in Manor ward. However, the Conservative Group stated that running the boundary along Manor Avenue splits a community which shares facilities, such as Bodmin Road Health Centre and shops on Plymouth Road. They therefore proposed to unite the Devon Estate in Bucklow-St Martins ward, using Firs Road as the boundary between Bucklow-St Martins ward and Manor ward. This would result in Bucklow-St Martins ward having an electoral variance of 10%. However, the majority of submissions we received supported the retention of the current boundaries for Bucklow-St Martins ward, stating that these are clear and reflect the community.

126 We considered the evidence provided and have not been persuaded to use Firs Road as the boundary between Manor ward and Bucklow-St Martins ward. We note the evidence received during the first round of consultation from residents of Bucklow-St Martins located in Sale West who stated that they are closely linked to

Ashton upon Mersey and Manor wards. While we are unable to place these electors in either of these wards due to impact of electoral equality for Bucklow-St Martins ward (-21%), we are not convinced that adding additional electors from Sale West into Bucklow-St Martins ward best reflects communities in this area. Therefore, we are adopting the Labour Group's proposal to retain the current ward of Bucklow-St Martins. We consider that this best reflects community links between Carrington, Partington and Sale West, and allows for a good level of electoral equality.

127 In Bowdon, all respondents argued that the parishes of Dunham Massey and Warburton should be placed in Bowdon ward. They stated that these areas are closely linked and that residents of Dunham Massey and Warburton access facilities in Bowdon and Altrincham. Following consideration of this evidence, we have been convinced to place the parishes of Dunham Massey and Warburton in Bowdon ward. We consider that this will best represent communities in this area.

128 Four residents made submissions regarding the inclusion of Oldfield Brow in Bowdon ward. Two residents opposed this change, stating that Oldfield Brow should remain in Altrincham, whereas two residents supported this addition and argued that Oldfield Brow is linked to Dunham Massey. The Labour Group also supported including Oldfield Brow in Bowdon ward. Furthermore, moving Oldfield Brow to Altrincham ward would result in electoral variances of 13% for Altrincham and -18% for Bowdon. We do not consider the evidence provided justifies this higher level of electoral inequality and are also of the view that placing Oldfield Brow in Bowdon ward best represents community links in this area.

129 Our final recommendations are therefore for two three-councillor wards of Bowdon and Bucklow-St Martins. Both wards are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality, with 2% more and 3% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

Conclusions

130 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Trafford, referencing the 2021 and 2027 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

	Final recommendations	
	2021	2027
Number of councillors	63	63
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	2,741	2,907
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	1	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Trafford Council should be made up of 63 councillors serving 21 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 Trafford Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Trafford Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

131 We have now completed our review of Trafford Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2023.

Equalities

132 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 Trafford Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Altrincham	3	7,804	2601	-5%	8,414	2805	-4%
2	Ashton upon Mersey	3	7,698	2566	-6%	8,085	2695	-7%
3	Bowdon	3	8,575	2858	4%	8,882	2961	2%
4	Broadheath	3	8,873	2958	8%	9,111	3037	4%
5	Brooklands	3	7,855	2618	-4%	8,067	2689	-7%
6	Bucklow-St Martins	3	7,208	2403	-12%	8,454	2818	-3%
7	Davyhulme	3	8,961	2987	9%	9,247	3082	6%
8	Flixton	3	8,719	2906	6%	8,967	2989	3%
9	Gorse Hill & Cornbrook	3	7,648	2549	-7%	9,519	3173	9%
10	Hale	3	7,859	2620	-4%	8,100	2700	-7%
11	Hale Barns & Timperley South	3	7,609	2536	-7%	7,821	2607	-10%

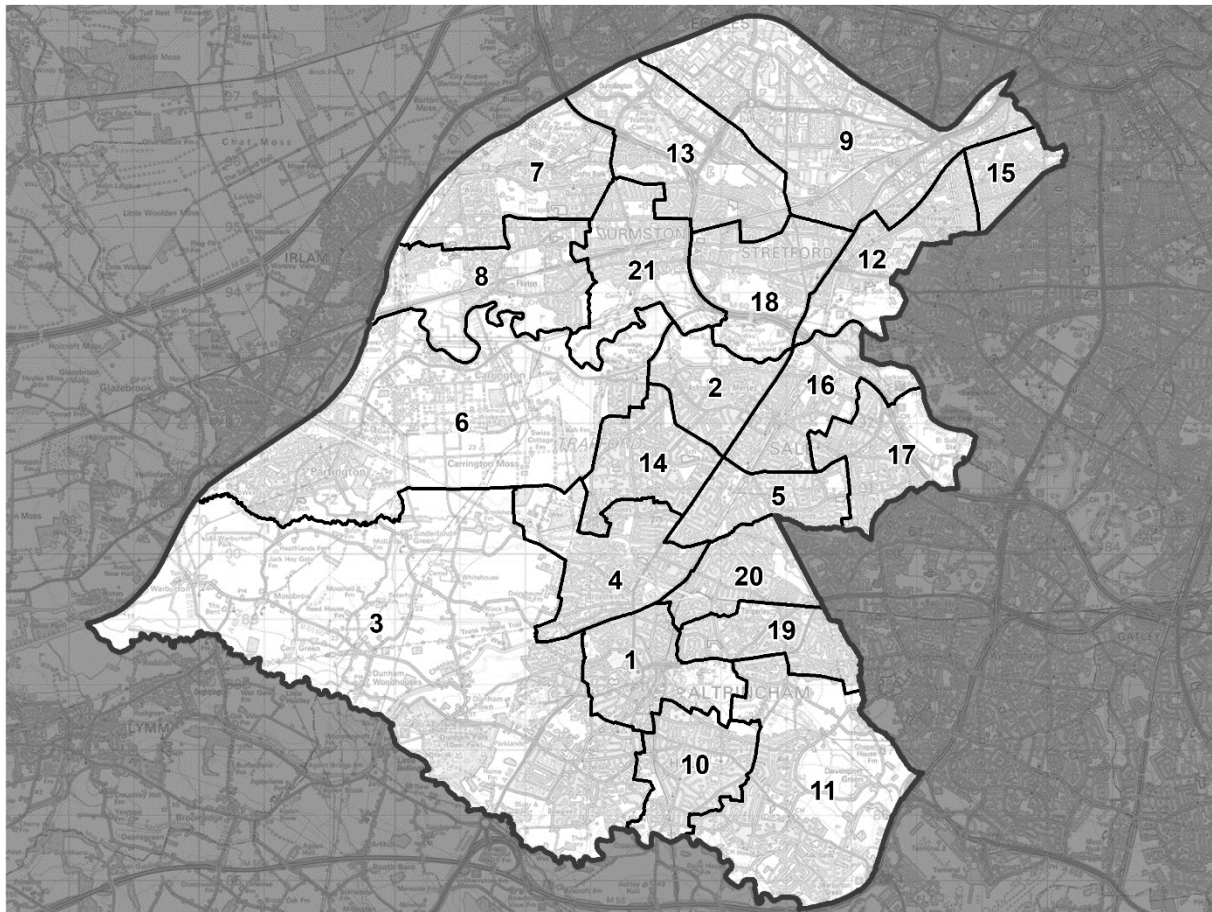
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Longford	3	7,881	2627	-4%	8,844	2948	1%
13 Lostock & Barton	3	8,304	2768	1%	9,108	3036	4%
14 Manor	3	8,552	2851	4%	8,928	2976	2%
15 Old Trafford	3	8,498	2833	3%	8,734	2911	0%
16 Sale Central	3	7,544	2515	-8%	8,253	2751	-5%
17 Sale Moor	3	8,266	2755	1%	8,549	2850	-2%
18 Stretford & Humphrey Park	3	8,794	2931	7%	9,002	3001	3%
19 Timperley Central	3	8,572	2857	4%	8,918	2973	2%
20 Timperley North	3	8,766	2922	7%	9,071	3024	4%
21 Urmston	3	8,723	2908	6%	9,062	3021	4%
Totals	63	172,709	-	-	183,136	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,741	-	-	2,907	-

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

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Altrincham
2	Ashton upon Mersey
3	Bowdon
4	Broadheath
5	Brooklands
6	Bucklow-St Martins
7	Davyhulme
8	Flixton
9	Gorse Hill & Cornbrook
10	Hale
11	Hale Barns & Timperley South
12	Longford
13	Lostock & Barton
14	Manor
15	Old Trafford
16	Sale Central
17	Sale Moor

18	Stretford & Humphrey Park
19	Timperley Central
20	Timperley North
21	Urmston

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/north-west/greater-manchester/trafford

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/greater-manchester/trafford

Local Authority

- Trafford Council

Political Groups

- Trafford Conservative Group
- Trafford Labour Group
- Trafford Liberal Democrat Group

Councillors

- Councillor J. Brophy (Trafford Council)
- Councillor R. Chilton (Trafford Council)
- Councillor A. New (Trafford Council)
- Councillor D. Priestner (Dunham Massey Parish Council)
- Councillor M. Whetton (Trafford Council)

Members of Parliament

- Kate Green MP (Stretford & Urmston)

Local Organisations

- Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society
- Broomwood Partnership
- Hale Civic Society
- Friday Group

Parish and Town Councils

- Dunham Massey Parish Council

Local Residents

- 300 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

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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