

New electoral arrangements for Waverley Borough Council Final Recommendations

March 2022

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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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 Waverley?

7 We are conducting a review of Waverley Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 1998, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.²

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

- The wards in Waverley 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 Waverley

9 Waverley should be represented by 50 councillors, seven fewer than there are now.

10 Waverley should have 24 wards, five fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change.

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

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 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.

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

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for area. 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
20 April 2021	Number of councillors decided
11 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new ward
19 July 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
5 October 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
13 December 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 March 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.

	2020	2027
Electorate of Waverley	94,319	105,281
Number of councillors	50	50
Average number of electors per councillor	1,886	2,106

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 but one of our proposed wards for Waverley 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 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 12% by 2027.

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

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

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

Number of councillors

24 The Council currently has 57 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing by seven 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 50 councillors – for example, two one-councillor wards and 16 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received 24 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one borough-wide proposal from the Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

27 The borough-wide scheme provided a mixed pattern of wards across the borough but did not propose specific wards within Cranleigh, Farnham, Godalming or Haslemere. The Council stated this was due to limited time and resources and that it would provide this at the next stage of consultation. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed pattern of specific wards we did receive resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. In the areas listed above, where we did not receive specific proposals, we devised our own warding arrangements taking account of more localised submissions received during consultation.

28 Our draft recommendations also took 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 best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

29 We conducted a virtual tour of the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Waverley helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

30 Our draft recommendations were for eight three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and two one-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

31 We received 26 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments on our entire proposals from Waverley Borough Council. The majority of the other submissions were from parish councils and councillors, and focused on specific areas.

32 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to the wards in Farnham, Haslemere and central rural Waverley. We also make a change to the name of our proposed Churt & Frensham ward.

Final recommendations

33 Our final recommendations are for five three-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and three single-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.

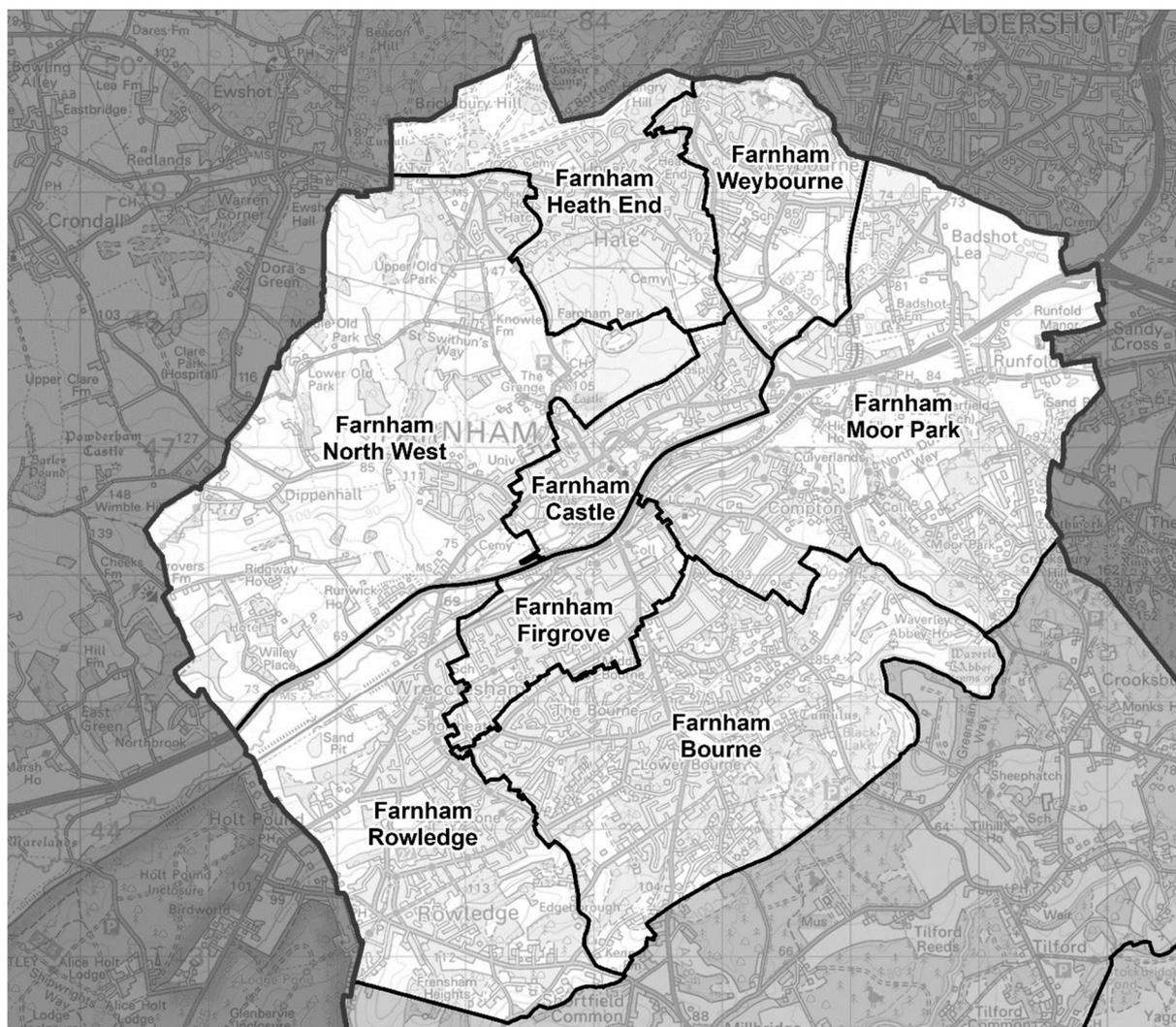
34 The tables and maps on pages 8–19 detail our final recommendations for each area of Waverley. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

35 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.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Farnham



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Farnham Bourne	2	1%
Farnham Castle	2	9%
Farnham Firgrove	2	7%
Farnham Heath End	2	5%
Farnham Moor Park	2	-7%
Farnham North West	2	-5%
Farnham Rowledge	2	6%
Farnham Weybourne	2	-10%

Farnham

36 Our draft proposals for Farnham were a mixture of two- and three-councillor wards. We received responses from the Council, Farnham Town Council and three local residents. The Council's response included individual comments from councillors as well as the Council's working group's consensus.

37 The Council rejected our draft proposals for Farnham, and proposed a pattern of eight two-councillor wards. It provided limited evidence for the pattern it proposed and emphasised that its prevailing desire was for borough wards and town wards to be completely coterminous, meaning that they would be identical in boundaries. It asserted that this could be done by creating a warding pattern without regard for the existing Surrey County Council divisions.

38 However, the Commission's interpretation of the legislation is that we *must* take account of existing county division boundaries as well as our proposed borough wards when drawing up parish warding arrangements. For areas where our district warding proposals differ from county division boundaries, we must create parish wards. Because of this, the Council's proposal for eight two-councillor wards would require the creation of a total of 15 parish wards. Some of these would have had extremely low numbers of electors, which as a point of principle, we do not consider would promote effective and convenient local government. Further, we considered that, given the Council's expressed views on coterminosity, this would not be a favoured result locally. We therefore were not inclined to adopt the Council's proposal in full.

39 Farnham Town Council did not provide a specific scheme but argued in favour of the alignment of borough and town wards, and a pattern of eight two-member borough wards for Farnham parish. It also highlighted some specific objections to our draft proposals, such as the merging of Bourne and Runfold wards and the removal of Moor Park as a ward name.

40 Other comments we received from residents noted that our proposals separated two properties on Snailslynch from the area they are accessed from to their west. A resident expressed their support for our proposals for Farnham in general, while another proposed an alternative ward name of Weydon & Broomleaf in place of Firgrove & Shortheath.

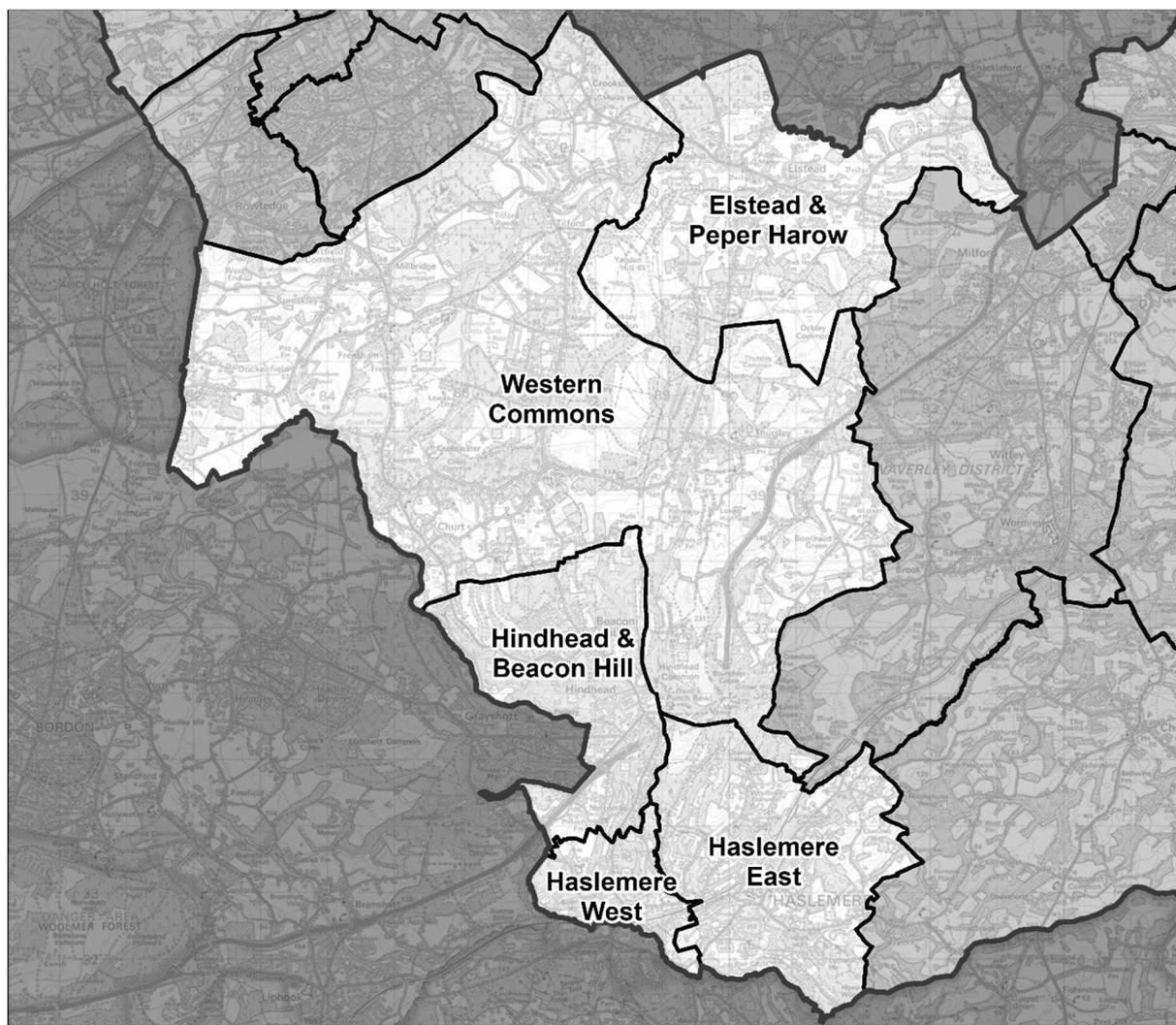
41 The Council also provided us with copies of comments from individual councillors which formed part of its deliberations in coming up with a consensus position from its working group.

42 Given the Council's and Town Council's comments about a desire for coterminosity, we considered a scheme which would provide for this in totality, taking the three Surrey County Council divisions which cover Farnham parish as a starting point and dividing these between borough wards. While it was possible to produce such a scheme and provide good electoral equality, we note that this would result in significant differences in which areas were combined when compared with the Council's proposals. Further, this scheme would not be based on local insight into community identity, and we therefore did not consider that this was the best approach in creating a warding pattern for Farnham.

43 As outlined above, the Council's proposals would necessitate the creation of many additional parish wards. However, we considered whether adapting this proposal to remove some of the smaller parish wards was viable. This option preserved the vast majority of the Council's proposals, provided for eight two-councillor borough wards and minimised the number of parish wards that would be created, given our obligations under the legislation. We propose to amend the borough ward boundaries in the following areas to follow the nearby division boundaries: the eastern and northern boundaries of Bourne ward; the eastern boundary of Castle ward; and the extension in the east of Farnham North West. This would result in five parish wards having coterminous borough wards, while Farnham Firgrove, Farnham Moor Park and Farnham North West will each have two parish wards on the basis of existing division boundaries.

44 We acknowledge that this does not completely meet the Council's or Town Council's preference for borough and town council warding. However, we consider that this is the best compromise which reflects the submissions we received, while ensuring adherence to the legislation and ensuring effective and convenient local government.

Haslemere and western Waverley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Elstead & Peper Harow	1	8%
Haslemere East	3	-7%
Haslemere West	2	-2%
Hindhead & Beacon Hill	2	-8%
Western Commons	2	-9%

Haslemere East, Haslemere West and Hindhead & Beacon Hill

45 Our draft recommendations were for a two-councillor Haslemere East ward, a three-councillor Haslemere West ward and a two-councillor Hindhead & Beacon Hill ward. The Council and Haslemere Town Council both supported our proposed Hindhead & Beacon Hill ward and proposed an amendment to our split of the remainder of Haslemere between East and West wards.

46 Both councils argued that the railway line, which we had used predominantly for our boundary between East and West wards, was not considered to be a boundary between communities in Haslemere. They instead proposed amending the boundary to run north–south in the west of the town. Farnham Lane would form the westernmost part of the East ward, with the boundary subsequently following Wey Hill, a short stretch of the railway line, Longdene Road and Midhurst Road. We assessed this boundary on our virtual tour and, while noting that it did run through a somewhat densely populated area of the town, considered it was relatively clear in uniting communities in the same ward. We considered that the exception to this is King’s Road, but we assessed that adopting the boundary proposed by the Council was the best option, given that it also reflected the Town Council’s view that ‘most of Kings Road consider themselves to be part of Shottermill’. We have made a minor amendment the Council’s proposal so that Longdene House is not in a separate ward from the areas it faces, and so that two properties on Midhurst Road are in the same ward as other electors immediately to their west. Finally, we were not minded to accept the proposal to have a large area with no electors at the northern end of the proposed Haslemere West ward, so have transferred this area to Haslemere East. This, in our view, will provide a clearer and more identifiable ward boundary.

47 We also received three comments from Grayswood residents who are within Witley parish, requesting the boundary of the wards for Haslemere be amended to include them. Such a change would require the creation of a very small parish ward for Witley parish which, because of its limited size, would not be viable in terms of numbers of electors and therefore would not promote effective and convenient local government.

48 In conclusion, we propose to amend our draft recommendations for Haslemere East and Haslemere West wards on the basis of the responses received, with minor additional changes. All three wards covering Haslemere parish are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

Elstead & Peper Harow and Western Commons

49 The Council supported our proposals for a single-councillor Elstead & Peper Harow ward and a two-councillor Churt & Frensham ward. Thursley Parish Council supported the change but requested the ward name either include Thursley or be named Western Villages so as not to exclude certain parishes from the name. A resident also supported our proposals with regard to Frensham and Dockenfield.

50 A resident argued that our proposed Churt & Frensham ward should be rejected on the basis that the proposals for the borough as a whole overrepresented Farnham and Godalming, and that while rural parishes might have smaller populations, the size and rural needs meant they had different dynamics. However, we are bound by legislation to ensure good electoral equality and the number of councillors for the primary areas of the borough are distributed accordingly. We do

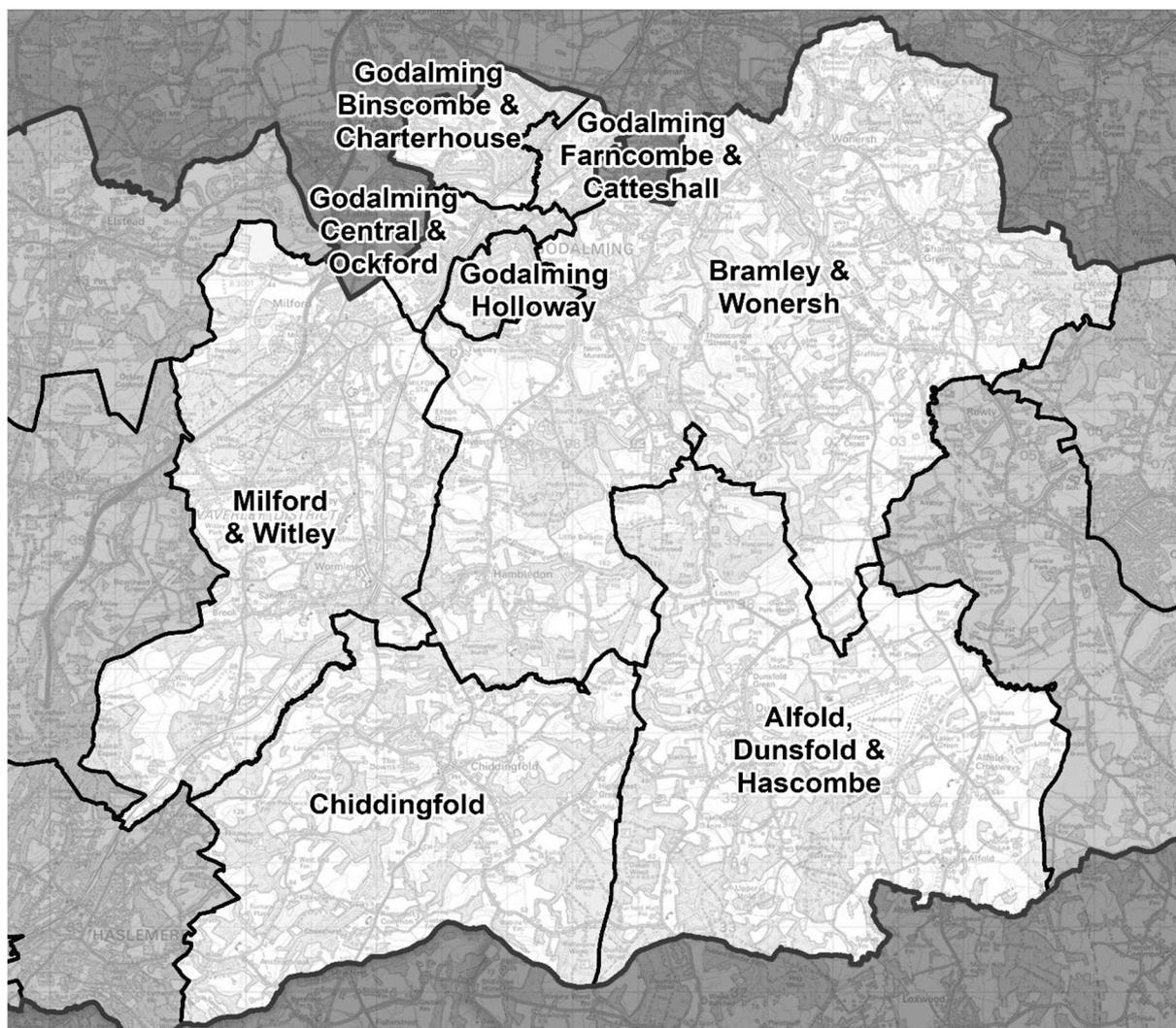
not weight our warding proposals to take account of differentials in workload between rural and urban areas, so were unable to act on this comment. A similar argument was advanced by Tilford Parish Council, who objected to the existing Frensham, Dockenfield & Tilford ward being expanded to include Thursley while still being represented by two councillors. It expressed concerns about the ability of borough councillors to attend all relevant parish meetings with an increase in parishes they would represent. We considered dividing this ward into two single-councillor wards but were unable to produce a pattern that would also provide good electoral equality.

51 Elstead Parish Council objected to the change from being part of a two-councillor ward of four parishes to a single-councillor ward with two parishes. It contended that the forecast electorate was below what it expected based on local plans. However, we were not persuaded to change the forecast on which basis the review has been conducted by the evidence presented. Elstead Parish Council also commented on the overall disparity of electors per councillor between its area and the towns which have fewer electors per councillor. However, these comments both referenced 2020 figures, while we assess our electoral equality on the forecast figures five years after the end of the review (in this case 2027). Our view is that it is not possible to achieve exact electoral equality and we aim to minimise variances to within 10% of the average for the borough unless compelling evidence persuades us otherwise.

52 With regard to names, in addition to the comments mentioned above, a resident argued that the ward name of Churt & Frensham omitted too many parishes, and that a more inclusive name would be Frensham and the Devil's Punch Bowl. Tilford Parish Council suggested the name Western Commons.

53 We are persuaded by the evidence received in this respect, and therefore propose to rename our proposed Churt & Frensham ward to Western Commons. We confirm as final our draft recommendations for Elstead & Peper Harow ward.

Godalming and central Waverley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Alfold, Dunsfold & Hascombe	2	-4%
Bramley & Wonersh	3	5%
Chiddingfold	1	11%
Godalming Binscombe & Charterhouse	3	1%
Godalming Central & Ockford	2	-7%
Godalming Farncombe & Catteshall	2	-4%
Godalming Holloway	2	-4%
Milford & Witley	3	4%

Godalming Binscombe & Charterhouse, Godalming Central & Ockford, Godalming Farncombe & Catteshall and Godalming Holloway

54 In our draft recommendations we proposed three two-councillor and one three-councillor wards to cover Godalming parish. The Council, while unsatisfied with our proposal to combine the existing Binscombe & Charterhouse wards into one three-

councillor ward, stated that it was unable to find an alternative pattern of wards for Godalming that would avoid this. We again considered this issue but likewise were not able to come up with an alternative solution for this area.

55 Within the Council's submission, Councillor Heagin made some specific comments which we were minded to accept. For example, she commented that our proposals would separate a property on Busbridge Sidings from its access onto Portsmouth Road. However, there were some of Councillor Heagin's proposals we were unable to adopt. It was proposed that two properties on Grove Road and the old Mole Stores site should be in Holloway ward rather than Central & Ockford. While sympathetic to these proposals, the boundaries we used are also a division boundary, and deviating from it here would require the creation of parish wards which would have very few or no electors. We do not consider that this would promote effective and convenient local government and have therefore not adopted this proposal in our final recommendations.

56 Godalming Town Council expressed support for retaining 'Godalming' within borough ward names. It, like the Borough Council, considered that while it was not entirely satisfied with the proposed Godalming Binscombe & Charterhouse ward, it could not find a reasonable way to divide it into two.

57 Godalming Town Council's submission also commented on parish warding arrangements. In particular, it recommended a reduction of town councillors from 20 to 18. However, such a change is outside the remit of this review. Amendments to the total number of town councillors can be enacted by the Borough Council as part of a Community Governance Review. We are, however, minded to preserve the existing parish wards of Binscombe and Charterhouse, rather than creating a new parish ward combining the two as outlined in our draft recommendations.

58 The only other submission related to Godalming that we received was from a resident, who repeated some of the comments regarding small changes outlined above.

59 We therefore retain a pattern of four borough wards for Godalming in our final recommendations, subject to the changes outlined above.

Alfold, Dunsfold & Hascombe and Chiddingfold

60 In our draft recommendations we proposed a three-councillor ward for the parishes of Alfold, Dunsfold, Chiddingfold and Hambledon. One resident expressed their support for the ward, noting links between Alfold and the other parishes. However, Chiddingfold Parish Council, Councillors Deanus and Gray and a resident all objected to our proposed ward.

61 Chiddingfold Parish Council provided a detailed response arguing against the proposed ward. It argued that there were few links between Alfold and Chiddingfold, but supported a ward which covered Chiddingfold and Dunsfold on the basis of shared links in healthcare. It proposed that these parishes, along with Hambledon and possibly Hascombe, should form a ward.

62 Councillor Deanus argued similarly about the lack of links between Alfold and the other villages, while Councillor Gray, as mentioned in paragraph 76, supported Alfold's continued links to Cranleigh and supported links between Chiddingfold and Dunsfold.

63 A local resident argued the ward was too large to be effectively represented and should be split into a two-councillor and single-councillor ward.

64 The Council proposed an alternative arrangement, separating the proposed three-councillor ward into a single-councillor ward comprising Chiddingfold parish, while Alfold, Dunsfold and Hascombe parishes would form a two-councillor ward. We are sympathetic to the arguments advanced about the limited links across the ward, and consider that dividing our proposed Alfold, Dunsfold & Chiddingfold ward into two is appropriate.

65 Because of our proposals for Cranleigh, we could not identify a way of warding Alfold separately from Dunsfold. Further, we note that the Dunsfold Park development straddles the Alfold and Dunsfold parish boundary, so to place these parishes in different wards could be problematic for the representation of this new development.

66 We are therefore minded to adopt the Council's proposal for a single-councillor Chiddingfold ward and a two-councillor Alfold, Dunsfold & Hascombe ward. While Chiddingfold ward will have a variance of 11% by 2027, we consider that this is justified given it provides for a ward encompassing one whole parish, which we evaluate as positive for effective and convenient local government. It will also reflect the evidence of community identities and interests we received during consultation. We therefore propose to move Hambledon parish to be part of a ward to the north, which is explained below.

Milford & Witley

67 Our draft recommendations were for a three-councillor Milford & Witley ward which united the whole of Witley parish in one ward. Under the current warding pattern, it is split between three wards. This proposal was supported by the Council and Witley Parish Council, and they both also suggested the addition of Hambledon parish to this ward. Hambledon Parish Council presented a detailed submission, outlining how Hambledon has a strong connection to Witley parish, accessing services, healthcare and education in the latter.

68 However, this proposal would result in a three-councillor Witley, Milford & Hambledon ward with an electoral variance 14% above the average for the borough. While acknowledging the arguments made as to why these links reflect community identity and interests, we are of the view that the electoral inequality that would result would not provide a good balance of our statutory criteria.

69 In an attempt to alleviate the said electoral inequality, we considered the possibility of placing the Brook area of Witley parish in the proposed Western Commons ward, which would maintain its connection to Thursley in the existing Elstead & Thursley ward and improve electoral equality for Witley, Milford & Hambledon to a more acceptable level.

70 However, we considered that such a change would be contrary to the evidence received which supported the unification of Witley parish in a single borough ward as this option would require the division of Witley between borough wards. Having carefully considered all of the evidence received, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Milford & Witley ward as final, and that Hambledon parish becomes part of the proposed Bramley & Wonersh ward.

71 We acknowledge that this does not reflect the local preferences expressed during consultation, but consider that this arrangement provides the best balance of our statutory criteria.

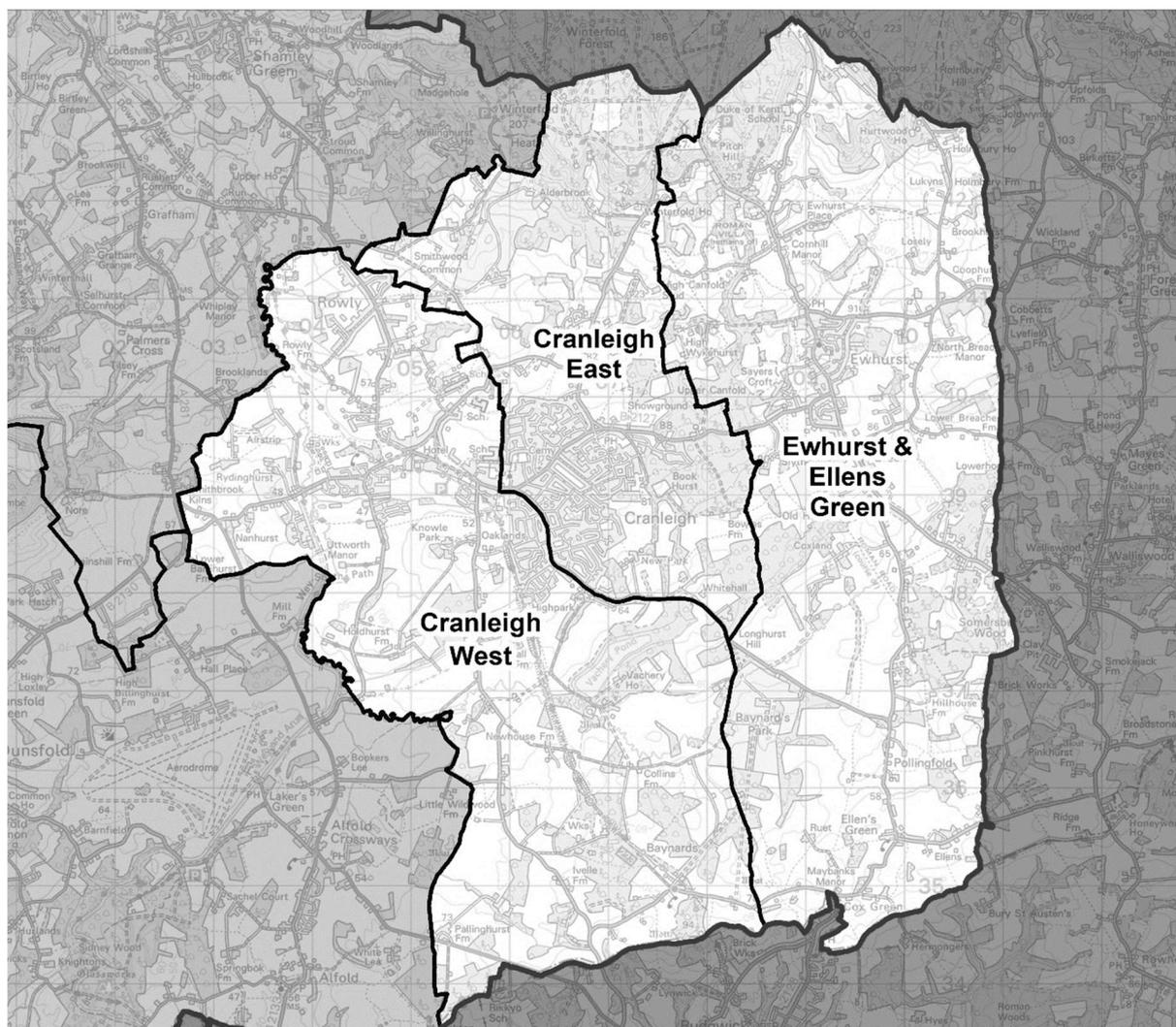
Bramley & Wonersh

72 In our draft recommendations, we proposed a two-councillor Bramley & Wonersh ward made up of Bramley, Busbridge, Hascombe and Wonersh parishes. Bramley Parish Council expressed its support for our proposal to place its parish in the same ward as Wonersh, on the basis of the links between the two communities.

73 Wonersh Parish Council expressed concerns about the 'disparate areas' combined into wards, and the possible impact on effective and convenient local government from the size of some wards. Specifically related to this ward, the Council agreed with Bramley Parish Council's comments regarding the links between the two parishes.

74 As part of our final recommendations, we propose that Hascombe parish be transferred to our proposed Alfold, Dunsfold & Hascombe ward and that Hambledon parish be included in Bramley & Wonersh ward (as detailed in paragraphs 66 and 70, respectively). We propose to retain the name of Bramley & Wonersh, as this will reflect the two largest settlements in the ward. We did not receive any suggestions for more general ward names that would reflect the area.

Cranleigh, Ewhurst and Ellens Green



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Cranleigh East	3	7%
Cranleigh West	2	10%
Ewhurst & Ellens Green	1	-4%

Cranleigh East, Cranleigh West and Ewhurst & Ellens Green

75 Our draft recommendations were for amended wards in Cranleigh, so that the parish was split between two borough wards rather than four as at present. We put forward a three-councillor Cranleigh East ward and a two-councillor Cranleigh West ward, along with a single-councillor Ewhurst & Ellens Green ward constituting those two parishes.

76 The Council and Cranleigh Parish Council both fully supported our proposals for these three wards. Councillor Gray expressed his support for retaining the existing Alfold, Cranleigh Rural & Ellens Green ward, as part of his submission.

However, as outlined in paragraph 65, there were arguments in favour of the links between Alfold and Dunsfold parishes and, given that the other responses received for this area were in favour of our proposals, we have decided to confirm as final our recommendations for Cranleigh East, Cranleigh West and Ewhurst & Ellens Green wards.

Conclusions

77 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Waverley, referencing the 2020 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and ward. 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	
	2020	2027
Number of councillors	50	50
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	1,886	2,106
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	10	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Final recommendations

Waverley Borough Council should be made up of 50 councillors serving 24 wards representing three single-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and five three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Waverley Borough Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Waverley on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

78 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards or divisions it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward or division. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

79 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Waverley Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

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

81 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Farnham parish.

Final recommendations

Farnham Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing 11 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Badshot Lea	1
Bourne	2
Castle	3
Firgrove East	2
Firgrove West	1
Heath End	2
Hog Hatch	1
Moor Park	1
North West	1
Rowledge	2
Weybourne	2

82 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Godalming parish.

Final recommendations

Godalming Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Binscombe	4
Central	2
Charterhouse	3
Croft	1
Farncombe & Catteshall	4
Holloway	4
Ockford	2

83 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Haslemere parish.

Final recommendations

Haslemere Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hindhead & Beacon Hill	4
North	4
Nutcombe	1
South	4
West	5

What happens next?

84 We have now completed our review of Waverley Borough 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

85 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 Waverley Borough Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Alfold, Dunsfold & Hascombe	2	2,018	1,009	-47%	4,059	2,029	-4%
2 Bramley & Wonersh	3	6,634	2,211	17%	6,626	2,209	5%
3 Chiddingfold	1	2,198	2,198	17%	2,336	2,336	11%
4 Cranleigh East	3	5,422	1,807	-4%	6,744	2,248	7%
5 Cranleigh West	2	3,853	1,927	2%	4,619	2,309	10%
6 Elstead & Peper Harow	1	2,168	2,168	15%	2,271	2,271	8%
7 Ewhurst & Ellens Green	1	1,860	1,860	-1%	2,031	2,031	-4%
8 Farnham Bourne	2	4,150	2,075	10%	4,267	2,133	1%
9 Farnham Castle	2	3,785	1,893	0%	4,610	2,305	9%
10 Farnham Firgrove	2	4,313	2,157	14%	4,488	2,244	7%
11 Farnham Heath End	2	4,222	2,111	12%	4,437	2,219	5%
12 Farnham Moor Park	2	3,775	1,888	0%	3,936	1,968	-7%
13 Farnham North West	2	2,873	1,437	-24%	3,986	1,993	-5%
14 Farnham Rowledge	2	4,384	2,192	16%	4,446	2,223	6%
15 Farnham Weybourne	2	3,255	1,628	-14%	3,786	1,893	-10%

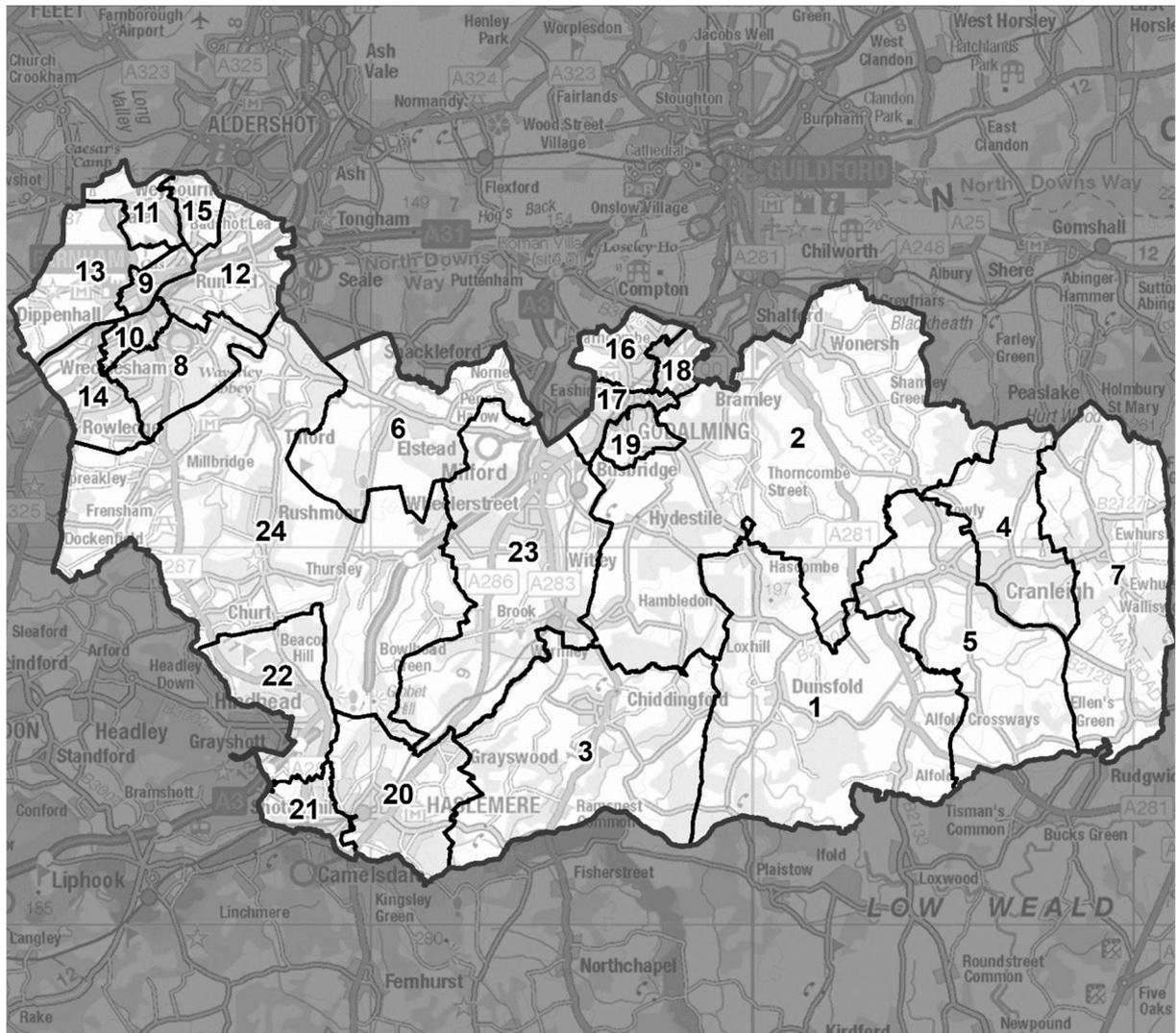
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
16 Godalming Binscombe & Charterhouse	3	5,870	1,957	4%	6,394	2,131	1%
17 Godalming Central & Ockford	2	3,225	1,613	-15%	3,935	1,967	-7%
18 Godalming Farncombe & Catteshall	2	3,823	1,912	1%	4,028	2,014	-4%
19 Godalming Holloway	2	3,812	1,906	1%	4,023	2,012	-4%
20 Haslemere East	3	5,584	1,861	-1%	5,859	1,953	-7%
21 Haslemere West	2	3,650	1,825	-3%	4,108	2,054	-2%
22 Hindhead & Beacon Hill	2	3,725	1,863	-1%	3,893	1,946	-8%
23 Milford & Witley	3	5,957	1,986	5%	6,557	2,186	4%
24 Western Commons	2	3,763	1,882	0%	3,843	1,922	-9%
Totals	50	94,319	–	–	105,281	–	–
Averages	–	–	1,886	–	–	2,106	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Waverley Borough 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	Alfold, Dunsfold & Hascombe
2	Bramley & Wonersh
3	Chiddingfold
4	Cranleigh East
5	Cranleigh West
6	Elstead & Peper Harow
7	Ewhurst & Ellens Green
8	Farnham Bourne
9	Farnham Castle
10	Farnham Figrove
11	Farnham Heath End
12	Farnham Moor Park
13	Farnham North West

14	Farnham Rowledge
15	Farnham Weybourne
16	Godalming Binscombe & Charterhouse
17	Godalming Central & Ockford
18	Godalming Farncombe & Catteshall
19	Godalming Holloway
20	Haslemere East
21	Haslemere West
22	Hindhead & Beacon Hill
23	Milford & Witley
24	Western Commons

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/south-east/surrey/waverley

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/surrey/waverley

Local Authority

- Waverley Borough Council

Councillors

- Councillor K. Deanus (Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council)
- Councillor J. Gray (Waverley Borough Council and Dunsfold Parish Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Bramley Parish Council
- Chiddingfold Parish Council
- Cranleigh Parish Council
- Elstead Parish Council
- Farnham Town Council
- Godalming Town Council
- Hambledon Parish Council
- Haslemere Town Council
- Thursley Parish Council
- Tilford Parish Council
- Witley Parish Council
- Wonersh Parish Council

Local Residents

- 11 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.

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

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE