



New electoral arrangements for South Staffordshire District Council

Draft Recommendations

November 2021

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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 South Staffordshire?

7 We are conducting a review of South Staffordshire District Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2000 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² In conducting this review, we note that some councillors currently represent more or fewer electors than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor are 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 South Staffordshire are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

Our proposals for South Staffordshire

9 South Staffordshire should be represented by 42 councillors, seven fewer than there are now.

10 South Staffordshire should have 20 wards, five fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 22 wards should change; three (Essington, Himley & Swindon and Huntington & Hatherton) will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

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

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 2 November 2021 to 10 January 2022. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

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

16 You have until 10 January 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 33 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

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

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

| Stage starts | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| 18 May 2021 | Number of councillors decided |
| 25 May 2021 | Start of consultation seeking views on new wards |
| 2 August 2021 | End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations |
| 2 November 2021 | Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation |
| 10 January 2022 | End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations |
| 29 March 2022 | Publication of final recommendations |

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 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.

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

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

| | 2021 | 2027 |
|---|--------|--------|
| Electorate of South Staffordshire | 84,378 | 87,472 |
| Number of councillors | 42 | 42 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,009 | 2,083 |

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for South Staffordshire are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

24 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 4% by 2027.

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

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

26 South Staffordshire District Council currently has 49 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and decided that decreasing by eight will ensure the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 41 councillors, for example, 41 one-councillor wards or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received two submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. One resident argued against the reduction in councillor numbers and instead suggested an increase from the current 49 to 50. They believed that the Council's scrutiny and oversight function would be negatively impacted by the reduction in councillors. Nevertheless, the submission did not provide any details of why the proposed council size of 50 was the right one with respect to the decision-making, representational and specific scrutiny functions of the Council and councillors.

29 Another resident stated that 41 councillors was too many and was of the view that local authorities ought to be making savings. They did not propose an alternative council size neither did they outline how any further reductions would be achieved in terms of the decision-making responsibilities of the Council or make reference to our key criteria.

30 While we were persuaded to reduce the council size on the basis of what the Council told us, in order to adopt a locally developed scheme with strong boundaries, based on the evidence we received, our draft recommendations are for a council size of 42 and not 41 as it originally proposed. We consider that one more councillor will still enable the Council to carry out its role effectively.

Ward boundaries consultation

31 We received 63 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a district-wide proposal from the Council which used parishes and localities as the basis for its warding pattern. The five localities which the district is divided into facilitate the Council's communication and connection with its communities. It provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for South Staffordshire and was based on a council size of 42.

32 We also received submissions from political groups, councillors, local organisations and residents. South Staffordshire Labour Party advocated a uniform pattern of wards arguing that this was fairer than having wards represented by different numbers of councillors. It was also of the view that boundary changes

should reflect recent and planned population and community changes. As South Staffordshire District Council conducts whole-council elections, we are able to return a mixed pattern of wards which better reflects our statutory criteria, in particular community interests and identities. Furthermore, in line with legislation, the Council's forecast electorate includes electors in housing developments up to five years after the completion of this review (i.e., 2027) and we are satisfied that current and future population changes will be reflected in our recommendations.

33 The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for wards arrangements in particular areas of the district.

34 We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the Council's proposed pattern of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. We note that the Council scheme uses parishes as building blocks and to define communities and we have broadly used it as the basis for our draft recommendations.

35 Our draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

36 Given the continuing Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of South Staffordshire. This helped clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed boundary recommendations.

Draft recommendations

37 Our draft recommendations are for six three-councillor wards, 10 two-councillor wards and four one-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

38 The tables and maps on pages 9–28 detail our draft recommendations for each area of South Staffordshire. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

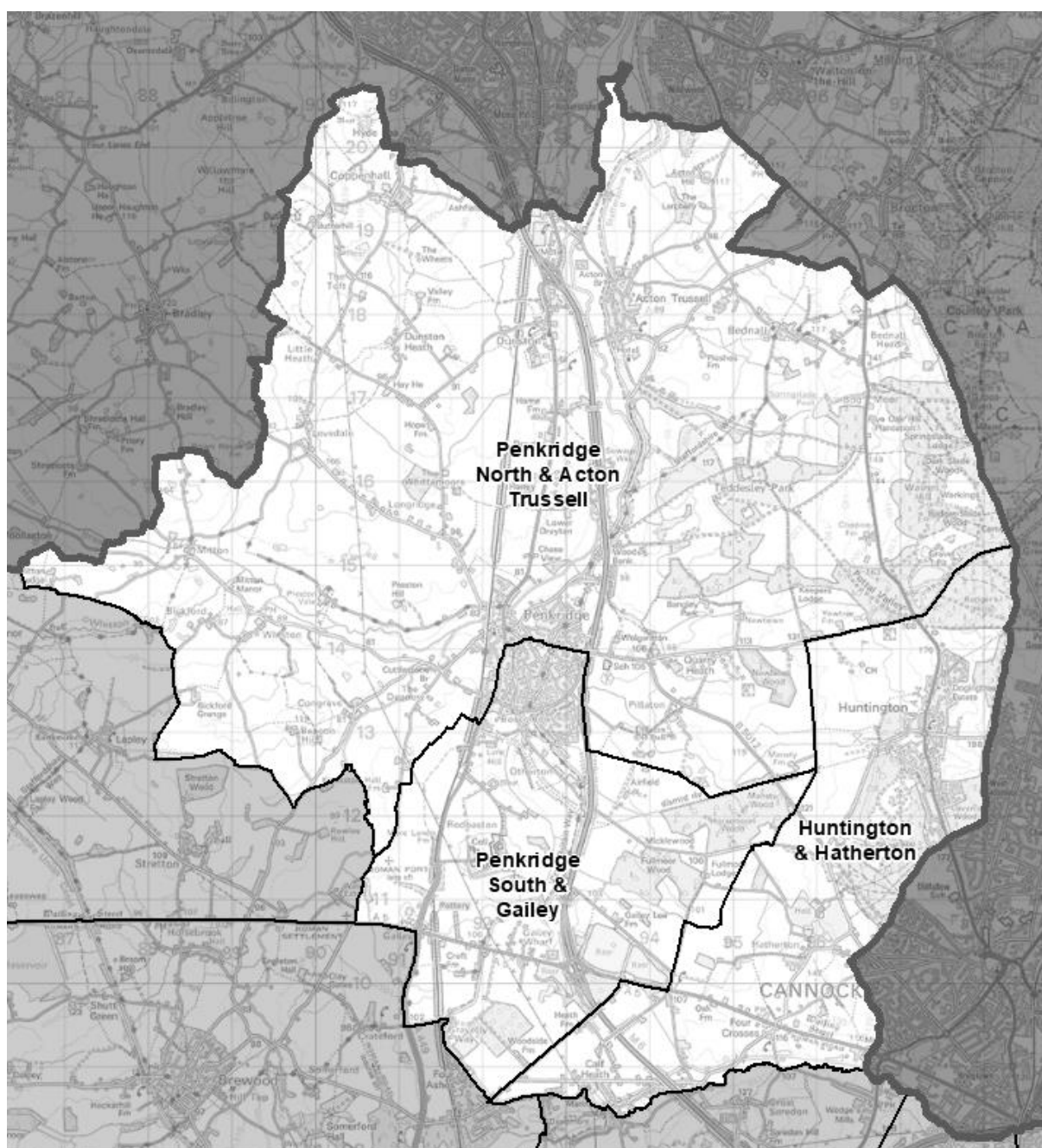
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

39 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 39 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

North-east



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Huntington & Hatherton | 2 | -4% |
| Penkrige North & Acton Trussell | 2 | 8% |
| Penkrige South & Gailey | 2 | 5% |

Penkrige North & Acton Trussell and Penkrige South & Gailey

41 We received three submissions from residents for this area in addition to the Council's district-wide proposals.

42 Under the Council's proposals, the existing three wards in this area are consolidated into two along with a reduction in representation from five councillors to four. Penkrige North East & Acton Trussell ward is expanded to include the area currently in Penkrige West ward to form a new Penkrige North & Acton Trussell ward. Penkrige South East ward boundaries remain the same but is renamed Penkrige South & Gailey. Both wards are two-councillor wards.

43 The Council pointed to community centres, a leisure centre, schools and a market as facilities used by the two proposed wards.

44 The Council's proposals produced forecast variances of 20% and -6% for its proposed Penkrige North & Acton Trussell and Penkrige South & Gailey wards, respectively. While we note that the proposed Penkrige South & Gailey has good electoral equality, we are not minded to create a ward with 20% more electors than the average for the district.

45 A resident also proposed a similar reduction in representation but broadly retained the three existing wards. They proposed amending the boundaries by moving two areas into Penkrige West: an area between Lyne Hill Lane and Boscomoor Lane from Penkrige South East and an area north-east of the A449 around Lower Drayton Lane from the existing Penkrige North East & Acton Trussell ward. The resident proposed that Penkrige South East and West wards each have one councillor while Penkrige North East & Acton Trussell be represented by two-councillors.

46 This proposal produced forecast variances of -29%, 60% and 25% for the three wards. And although like the Council this proposal used parishes as its basis, we were not persuaded to adopt it because of the very high levels of electoral inequality in all three proposed wards.

47 Another resident was of the view that Penkrige ought to have a councillor of its own because of recent housing developments. However, they did not propose any specific boundaries for Penkrige or the neighbouring communities.

48 We have therefore based our draft recommendations for this area on the Council's proposals for two wards but modified part of the boundary between the wards. Instead of running east along Wolgarston Way (B5012) and then north along the stream to the east of Vale Gardens, our proposed boundary continues north along Wolverhampton Road (A449) before running east along New Road.

49 Our draft recommendations for this area are for two two-councillor wards. Penkrige North & Acton Trussell is forecast to have 8% more electors than the district average by 2027. Penkrige South & Gailey is forecast to have 5% more electors than the average for South Staffordshire by 2027.

50 We considered moving the boundary along New Road to run behind the properties on the north side of the road. This would include all the properties on this road in a single ward. We have not done so at this time because most of the boundary is a well-established one but we invite comments on this.

51 A resident of Coppenhall village suggested that the district boundary be moved north to include Hyde Lea village. This electoral review does not involve changing or moving the district boundaries. It relates to areas that fall within the borders of South Staffordshire District Council only. The proposal was therefore out of the scope of this review.

Huntington & Hatherton

52 In addition to the Council's proposals, we received six submissions about this area.

53 The Council did not propose any changes to the existing Huntington & Hatherton ward. It stated that both Huntington and Hatherton look to Cannock for the facilities they use including parks, play areas, community centres and shopping centres.

54 Hatherton Parish Council proposed the inclusion of the parish in a ward with Saredon and Shareshill parishes because it stated that the three parishes worked together on a number of projects and because they are similar sized rural parishes. Councillor Perkins also made a similar point expressing the view that smaller rural parishes with similar issues should be included in the same ward. We note, however, that a ward made up of these three parishes has a forecast variance of -19%. Therefore, we did not adopt this proposal.

55 We note that Saredon Parish Council also proposed being in a ward with other small parishes like Shareshill and Hatherton but stated that for electoral equality reasons it was acceptable to include them with Shareshill and Featherstone. We note that this is in line with the Council's proposal. We considered including Hatherton parish in the Council's proposed Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon ward but this also produced poor electoral equality (18%).

56 We also noted that excluding Hatherton parish from the proposed Huntington & Hatherton ward meant that the resulting Huntington ward would have a forecast variance of -16%. As we did not have any evidence to support including Huntington in any other ward and we are not minded to create wards with such poor electoral equality, we did not adopt these proposals with regards to Hatherton parish.

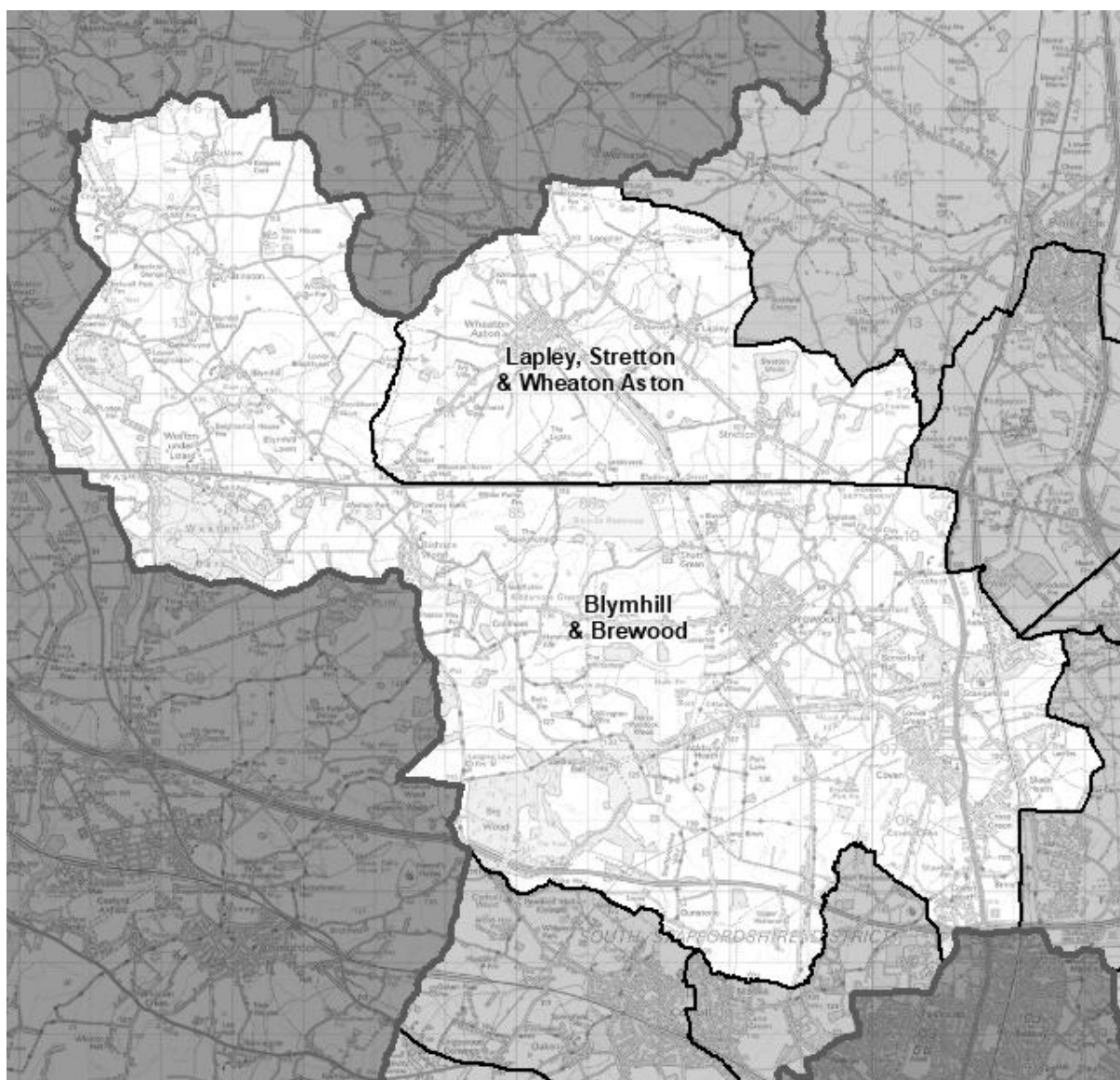
57 We also considered splitting Hatherton parish across district wards, for example using the M6 as a boundary, but this produced forecast electoral variances of

approximately 14% and -11% for the resulting wards in this area. Using the A5 also produced poor electoral variances. Aside from the poor electoral equality we were not persuaded that splitting this rural parish in this way was the best balance of our other statutory criteria.

58 We have therefore based our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals for a Huntington & Hatherton ward made up of the two parishes. This ward is a two-councillor ward and is forecast to have 4% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

59 One resident proposed that Huntington & Hatherton become part of Cannock Chase District. As this electoral review does not involve changing or moving the district boundaries, this proposal was out of the scope of this review.

North-west



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Blymhill & Brewood | 3 | 9% |
| Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston | 1 | 5% |

Blymhill & Brewood and Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston

60 In addition to the district-wide submission, we received six submissions for this area.

61 As part of its district-wide scheme, the Council proposed two wards for this area: a three-councillor Blymhill & Brewood ward and a single-councillor Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston ward. This represented a reduction of one councillor for the area.

62 The three parishes in this area are currently coterminous with two existing district wards with Brewood & Coven parish split across wards. The Council's proposed Blymhill & Brewood ward was made up of Blymhill & Weston-under-Lizard and Brewood & Coven parishes in their entirety while Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston was coterminous with the parish of the same name.

63 The Council was of the view that the existing warding arrangement caused some confusion among residents of Bishop's Wood parish ward in Brewood & Coven parish who frequently approached councillors representing the existing Brewood & Coven district ward instead of Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood & Lapley ward where they are currently located. The Council argued that its proposed wards would keep village and community identities intact.

64 Councillor Sutton submitted an identical proposal and also stated that it had been prepared with all the councillors representing the existing wards in the area. Both submissions noted that while residents of the rural Blymhill & Weston-under-Lizard parish accessed some services in Bishop's Wood ward and Brewood village, due to its location they also accessed services in Shropshire.

65 Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council was of the view that its electorate was slightly below the recommended electorate and therefore it welcomed being included in a ward with a smaller parish.

66 A resident expressed the view that Brewood & Coven parish should form its own three-councillor ward and that this would result in good electoral equality. The resident pointed out that the villages and hamlets that made up the parish were well connected by road and shared transport links.

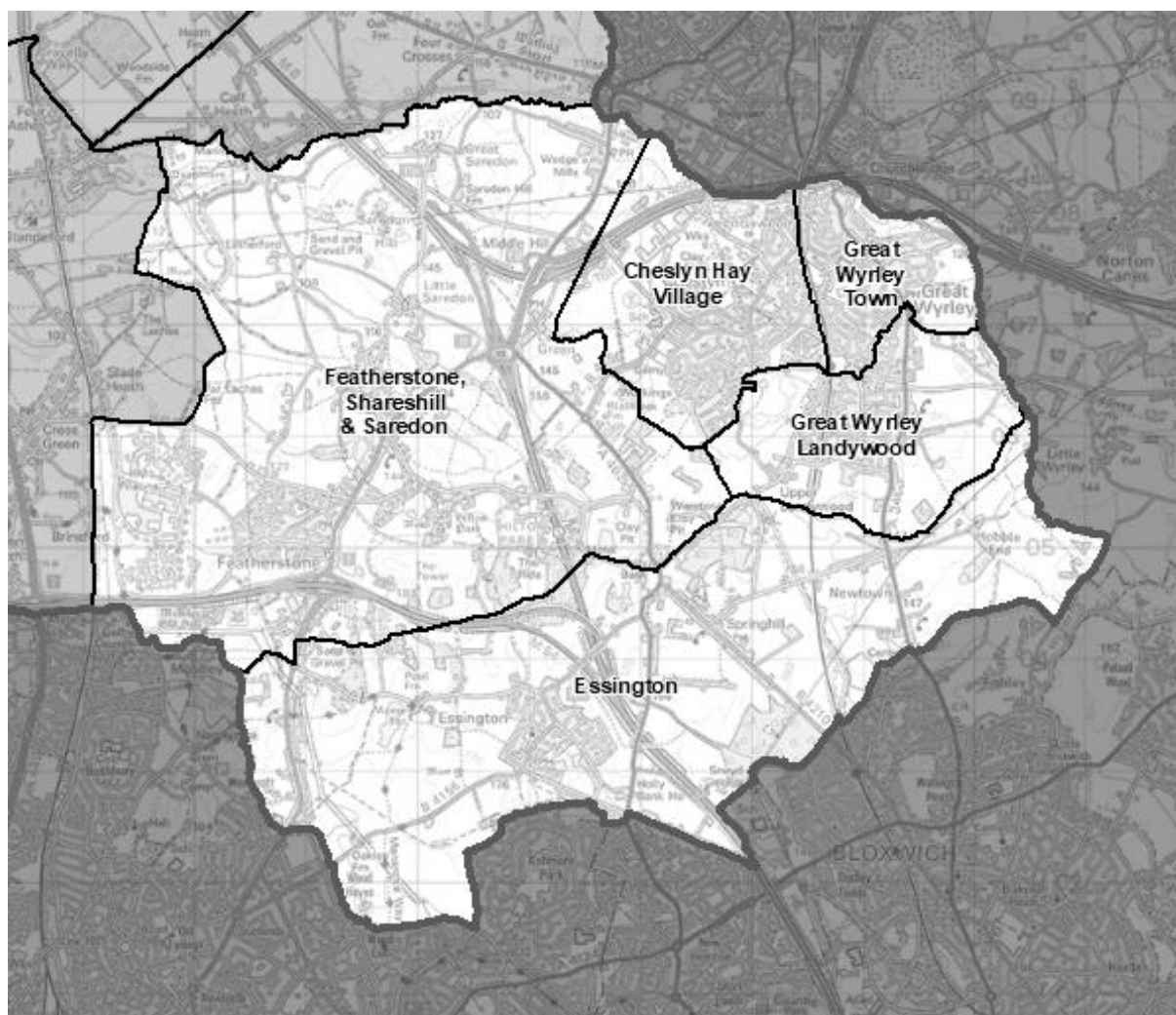
67 One resident advocated no changes to the boundaries of Brewood & Coven ward because they did not want to be included in a bigger ward.

68 We gave careful consideration to the submissions we received for this area. We noted that if Brewood & Coven parish was included in a district ward on its own, the ward would indeed have good electoral equality. However, this would leave the rural Blymhill & Weston-under-Lizard parish to be included in a ward either on its own or with Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston parish to its east. None of these options produced acceptable electoral variances, with a single-councillor ward which included Blymhill & Weston-under-Lizard and Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston parishes producing a forecast variance of 33%. The rural parish on its own would produce a ward with very few electors and therefore an even greater electoral imbalance.

69 We have therefore adopted the Council's proposal as part of our draft recommendations. They have identifiable boundaries and good road networks

between the communities in each ward. Blymhill & Brewood is a three-councillor ward forecast to have 9% more electors than the district average by 2027. The single-councillor Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston ward is forecast to have 5% more electors than the district average, by 2027.

East



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Cheslyn Hay Village | 3 | -1% |
| Essington | 2 | -3% |
| Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon | 2 | 7% |
| Great Wyrley Landywood | 2 | -5% |
| Great Wyrley Town | 2 | 5% |

Cheslyn Hay Village, Great Wyrley Landywood and Great Wyrley Town

70 We received nine submissions for this area, including the district-wide one from the Council.

71 The Council proposed a three-councillor Cheslyn Hay Village ward coterminous with Cheslyn Hay parish boundaries. It also proposed two two-councillor wards for Great Wyrley which together are coterminous with Great Wyrley parish, similar to the

existing arrangements. Great Wyrley Parish Council expressed support for the inclusion of its parish in Great Wyrley wards and not in any other district ward.

72 Cheslyn Hay Parish Council was of the view that its community needed four councillors to represent it. It therefore proposed the retention of the existing Cheslyn Hay North & Saredon ward on the grounds that it had good electoral equality. It proposed modifying the existing Cheslyn Hay South ward in one of two ways (to improve its electoral equality). The first option was the inclusion of residents around Highfields Park from Great Wyrley parish in this ward. Cheslyn Hay Parish Council argued that doing this created a natural boundary and that the properties were already 'attached to Cheslyn Hay roads and infrastructure'.

73 The second option under this proposal was to use the railway line south of Landywood station as the boundary. This would move electors who lived between the railway line and Streets Lane into Cheslyn Hay South ward.

74 Councillor Lockley also proposed changes to the existing boundaries of Cheslyn Hay South ward. Under his proposals the northern boundary of the ward would run from Wolverhampton Road (B4156) then east to High Street and continue along Station Street. He too proposed moving residents around Highfields Park from Great Wyrley parish into Cheslyn Hay South on community identity grounds.

75 We carefully considered the submissions we received for this area of the district, including from Saredon Parish Council and a resident who expressed the view that Saredon should be included in a ward with (smaller) parishes, particularly Shareshill parish, who share the same community issues and interests (see paragraphs 88 and 90).

76 We have not been persuaded to include Saredon with any part of Cheslyn Hay. While we note that retaining the existing boundaries of Cheslyn North & Saredon ward has good electoral equality, on balance we have been persuaded to include Saredon with communities with whom we have been persuaded they share common interests and have a more shared sense of community identity. We also note that the size of the Cheslyn Hay electorate supports three councillors representing it and not four as proposed by Cheslyn Hay Parish Council.

77 However, the Council's proposals which we are broadly persuaded by produced forecast variances of 13% for its Great Wyrley Town ward. We also note that under this scheme, residents of Hazel Lane do not have access to the rest of their ward without crossing into the neighbouring ward.

78 Accordingly, although we are basing our draft recommendations on the Council's proposal, we sought to modify it to produce a better balance of our statutory criteria, including improving the forecast variance for Great Wyrley Town

ward. We have moved residents of Hazel Lane and the fields to its south into Great Wyrley Landywood ward. We have also included residents of Broad Meadow Lane and the roads off it into Great Wyrley Landywood. This improves the electoral equality of Great Wyrley Town ward to within 10% of the district average.

79 On our virtual tour of the area, we noted that residents of the area around Highfields Park, Pool Meadow, Spring Meadow and the southern end of Moon's Lane most likely share community with their neighbours to the immediate north regardless of the parish boundary. Furthermore, Upper Landywood Lane represents a strong boundary with the open space to the east forming a natural boundary between communities. Therefore, we are content to include these residents in a ward with their closest neighbours in Cheslyn Hay on community identity grounds in line with proposals from Cheslyn Hay Parish Council and Councillor Lockley. We welcome views on this during this consultation.

80 Our draft recommendations for this area include three wards: a three-councillor Cheslyn Hay Village ward, a two-councillor Great Wyrley Landywood ward and a two-councillor Great Wyrley Town ward.

81 Cheslyn Hay Village ward is forecast to have 1% fewer electors than the district average by 2027. In addition to comments on the ward boundary, we welcome comments on the name of this ward.

82 Great Wyrley Landywood and Great Wyrley Town are forecast to have 5% fewer and 5% more electors (respectively) than the borough average by 2027.

83 We note that Cheslyn Hay Parish Council requested a review of polling stations. This is a matter for the Council and not for us. However, the Council is required to carry out a polling district review following the completion of our electoral review.

Essington

84 We received one submission about this area in addition to the Council's district-wide proposals.

85 The Council's proposals retained the boundaries of the existing ward which was made up of the parish of Essington. A resident was of the view that since the M54 separated Featherstone and Essington they should not be included in the same ward.

86 We noted that the electoral equality of the Council's proposed ward is good, and the boundaries are identifiable – three were district boundaries and one was the parish boundary. We have therefore adopted the Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations. Essington ward is a two-councillor ward forecast to have 3% fewer electors than the average for South Staffordshire District Council in 2027.

Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon

87 The Council's proposal for this area was a two-councillor ward which comprised the parishes of Featherstone, Hilton, Saredon and Shareshill. It indicated that like other communities in the area, these communities shared issues of traffic congestion. It also believed that including Saredon parish in this proposed ward was a more preferable outcome than it being included with Cheslyn Hay.

88 Saredon Parish Council explained that its residents used facilities and amenities in Shareshill including Havergal C of E Primary School, Shareshill Community Shop and Post Office and St Mary & St Luke Church. Like Hatherton Parish Council, it also mentioned current and future joint working between their two parishes on issues such as fly-tipping and traffic. It advocated being included in a ward with similar parishes, specifically Hatherton and Shareshill. However, it concluded that it was aware of the statutory requirement regarding electoral equality and was of the view that being included in a ward with Shareshill, with whom it has strong links, and Featherstone would be acceptable.

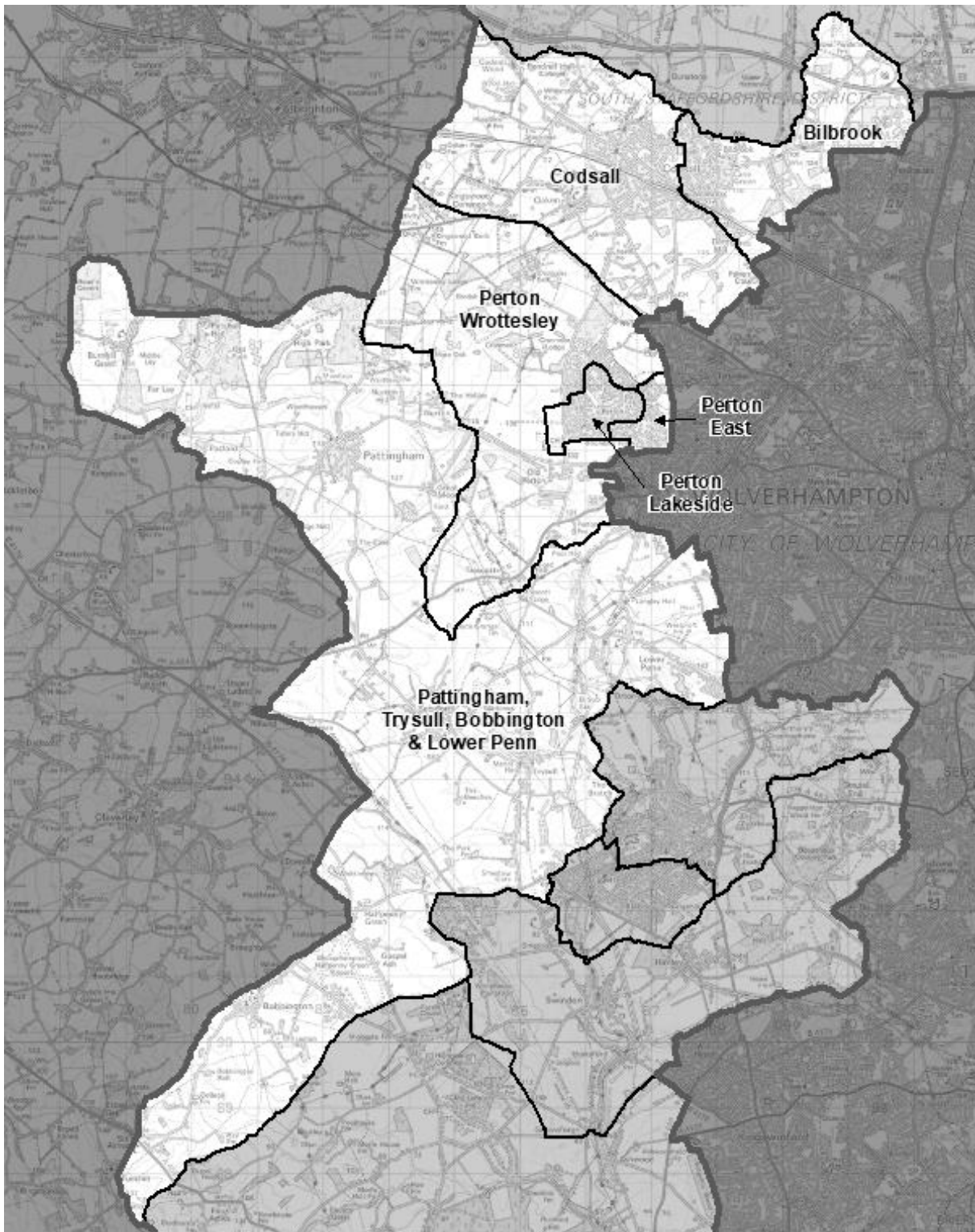
89 Shareshill Parish Council cited the same shared amenities with Saredon parish and concluded that Saredon parish should be 'amalgamated into the Featherstone and Shareshill ward' in line with the Council's proposal.

90 A resident stated that Little Saredon ought to be included in a ward with Shareshill due to shared issues. They were opposed to being included in a ward with Cheslyn Hay in a way that is similar to the existing arrangements, one of the reasons being the distance and geography of the area. Another resident suggested that Saredon should be included in a ward with Hatherton.

91 After careful consideration of the evidence we received, including from submissions mentioned in paragraphs 53–55, we have been persuaded of the shared community interests of Shareshill and Saredon. We have therefore adopted the Council's proposals as they represent the best balance of our statutory criteria. While we note that Hatherton parish also has some shared interests with Shareshill, we have not been persuaded to include it in a ward with Shareshill due to the very poor electoral equality that this produces.

92 We have therefore based our draft recommendations on the Council's proposal for a two-councillor Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon ward. It is forecast to have good electoral equality at 7% more electors than the district average by 2027.

Central and South-west



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Bilbrook | 2 | -5% |
| Codsall | 3 | 1% |

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington & Lower Penn | 2 | -4% |
| Perton East | 1 | -1% |
| Perton Lakeside | 2 | -4% |
| Perton Wrottesley | 1 | 9% |

Bilbrook and Codsall

93 We received five submissions for this area in addition to the district-wide scheme. The Council proposed two wards, each coterminous with Bilbrook and Codsall parishes. It was of the view that these parishes, although neighbours, had different characteristics with Bilbrook being more urban while Codsall was ‘a more rural setting in a traditional village style’.

94 The Council’s Green Group was also of the view that the two parishes were separate communities in spite of their proximity to each other. It pointed out that both parishes were in the process of drawing up Neighbourhood Plans, suggesting that future development could leave the parishes ‘looking substantially different’. In its submission it described the various Bilbrook community amenities and groups including Bilbrook Initiatives Hub and Friends of Bilbrook. The latter was said to be a conservation group particularly active in the care and development of Bilbrook Jubilee Wood and the Moat Brook. The Green Group also mentioned plans for a Bilbrook Community Day which were postponed due to the Covid-19 measures that existed at the time. It therefore supported the Council’s proposal for two separate district wards coterminous with the individual parish boundaries to replace the existing wards which split Bilbrook parish across Bilbrook and Codsall wards.

95 Bilbrook Parish Council stated for its parish boundaries to remain the same. We cannot amend the parish boundaries as part of this review. Parish boundaries can be changed only as a result of Community Governance Reviews conducted by the District Council.

96 Two residents were of the view that the district ward boundaries for Bilbrook should be changed to mirror the parish boundaries.

97 We also received a submission from the Chairman of the Friends of Bilbrook who suggested that Bilbrook’s boundaries ought to be ‘more centred around the village’ and therefore proposed boundary changes between Bilbrook, Codsall and Brewood & Coven. He was of the view that the conservation work that the group did was made more difficult by having to deal with three parishes.

98 With regards to comments from the Friends of Bilbrook, it was unclear to us whether they referred to the parish boundaries or district wards. With regards to parish boundaries, it is important to note that we are unable to change these either

as part of this electoral review or any other review. That is the responsibility of the Council.

99 In light of the evidence we received, in particular in relation to Bilbrook, we have been persuaded to adopt as part of our draft recommendations the Council's proposal for this area, which was supported by the Green Group. We note that both wards have good electoral equality and identifiable boundaries. Our draft recommendations are for a two-councillor Bilbrook ward and a three-councillor Codsall forecast to have 5% fewer and 1% more electors than the district average by 2027.

Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington & Lower Penn

100 In addition to the Council's proposals, we received 12 submissions about this area, most of which argued against the rural Pattingham & Patshull parish being included in a district ward with the more urban Perton parish.

101 The Council proposed two single-councillor wards for this area. One comprised Pattingham & Patshull parish and the other included three parishes, namely Bobbington, Lower Penn and Trysull & Seisdon. It did not include Perton and Pattingham & Patshull parish in a single ward. Its proposed Pattingham & Patshull ward is forecast to have 13% fewer electors than the average for South Staffordshire District Council by 2027.

102 In support of its proposed Trysull, Seisdon, Bobbington & Lower Penn ward the Council expressed the view that Lower Penn was geographically close to Trysull and that both communities had shared interests including farming and horse riding. It asserted that Lower Penn was better included in a ward with Trysull than the existing arrangement with Wombourne.

103 Councillor Abrahams was of the view that Pattingham & Patshull parish should retain its single district councillor to protect and promote its unique character which had different needs to those of Perton parish. Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council advocated for the parish to be represented by its own district councillor because of 'the extensive geographic area covered by the parish and the requirements for it to be represented in a different way from neighbouring wards due to its rural nature'. But it also indicated that if there was a need to increase the electorate, the rural community of Trescott could be included in its ward.

104 A number of the submissions from residents while against being included in a ward with the larger and more urban Perton (or with communities with larger populations) were of the view that they could be included with other rural communities, for example Trysull. Other suggestions were Bobbington, Old Perton, Trescott and 'over towards Seisdon & Trysull'. One resident was of the view that Trysull, Seisdon and Bobbington were all rural villages with similarities and common

issues including concerns over new development, transport, highways and preservation of facilities and traditions. This resident argued against including Trescott in a ward with Pattingham & Patshull on the grounds that it would destroy the good relationship Perton enjoyed with its hamlets.

105 On careful consideration of the evidence we received, we have been persuaded that overall, Pattingham & Patshull residents do not share community interests with residents of Perton Village. We note the different characteristics between the semi-urban Perton Village and this rural parish. At the same time, the submissions suggest that there are shared characteristics with other rural communities and parishes within the district, in particular Trysull & Seisdon and Trescott. With regards to Trescott, we did not receive any specific boundaries for this community. Moreover, we note the comments about their relationship with the rest of Perton parish.

106 Accordingly, as part of our draft recommendations, we have merged the Council's proposed single-councillor wards for this area to create a two-councillor Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington & Lower Penn ward. We particularly invite further comments on this ward, including any additional evidence in support of Pattingham & Patshull being in a separate ward with a -13% electoral variance, or stronger evidence of its relationship with other communities in the area. We also welcome comments on the name of the ward and whether an alternative shorter name would be more appropriate.

107 Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington & Lower Penn ward is forecast to have 4% fewer electors than the district average by 2027.

Perton East, Perton Lakeside and Perton Wrottesley

108 In addition to the Council's proposals, we received four submissions about this area. These do not include the submissions which were solely about not including Pattingham & Patshull in a ward with Perton.

109 The Council's proposals for this area include three wards which together are coterminous with the Perton parish. This proposal extends Perton East ward by including residents of Rockingham Drive and the roads off it within this ward. Furthermore, residents of St Andrews Drive and its network of roads were moved into an expanded Perton Dippons ward, renamed Perton Wrottesley. The rest of Perton Village remained in Perton Lakeside ward.

110 Perton Parish Council and a resident proposed an identical pattern of wards to the Council's. They explained that Perton parish is made up of the semi-rural Perton Village (built around a network of roads) and the two hamlets of Kingswood and Trescott. The parish council stated that the street patterns should continue to form the basis for wards in the area because in its view residents easily identified with

these 'well-established features of the local landscape'. It also expressed the view that Kingswood and Trescott hamlets should remain within a Perton ward based on what it said were well-established social, community, economic and transport links between both areas and Perton Village.

111 The resident also argued for Kingswood and Trescott to be included in a Perton ward. They were of the view that excluding them would adversely affect the relationship that Perton had with its hamlets. We welcome further evidence on this.

112 We considered creating a three-councillor ward for Perton Village and a single-councillor rural ward within the parish boundaries. However, these produced very poor electoral variances of 25% and -76% respectively.

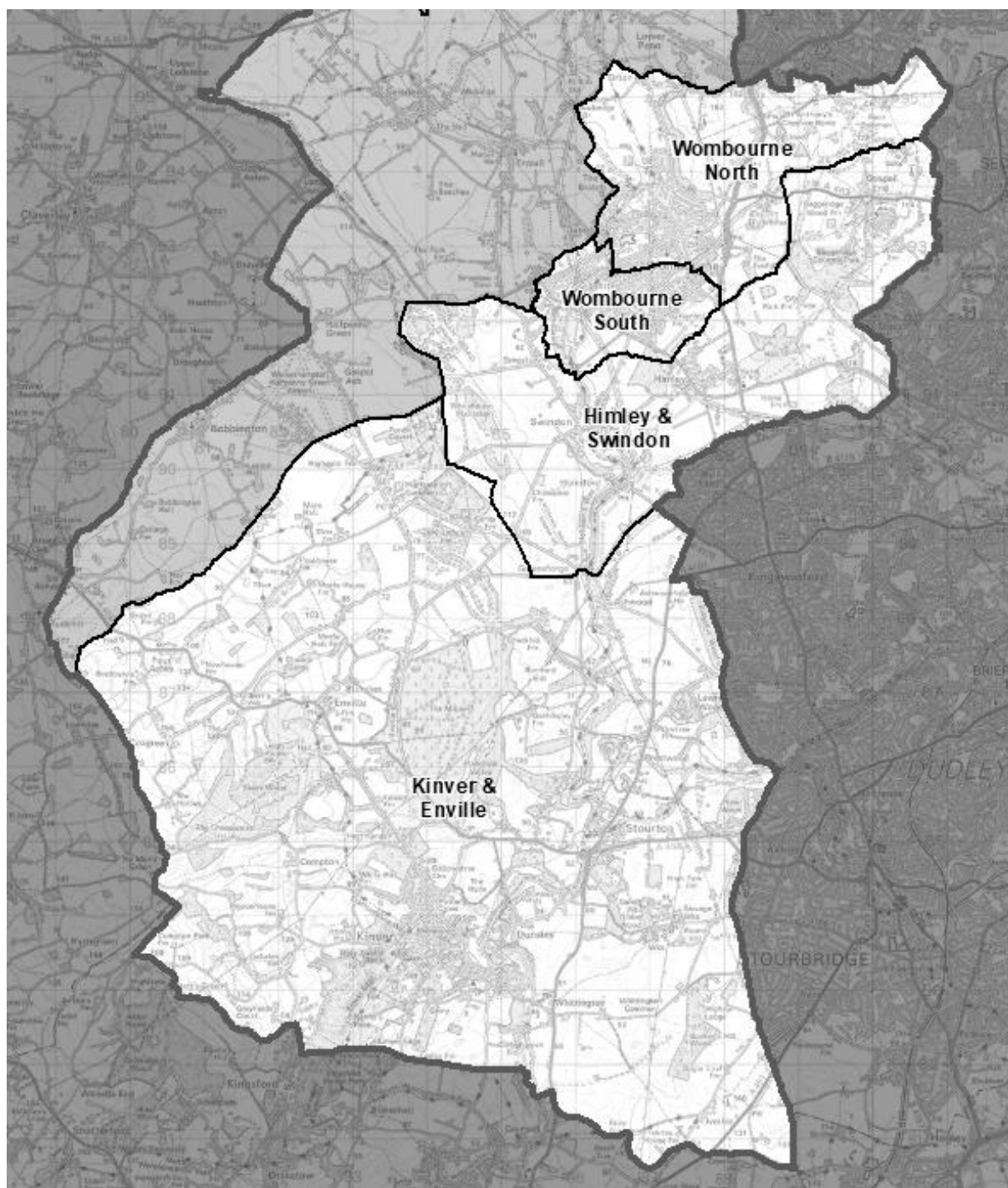
113 Therefore, we have adopted the Council's proposed wards as part of our draft recommendations as we consider that it is the best balance of our statutory criteria.

114 We have made with one minor modification by including five electors at the end of Berkeley Close in Perton East ward and not Perton Wrottesley in line with their access.

115 Perton East and Perton Wrottesley wards are both single-councillor wards forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027. Perton Lakeside is a two-councillor ward also forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

116 We considered creating a three-councillor ward in Perton by combining the proposed Perton East and Perton Lakeside wards in a single three-councillor ward. We welcome comments on whether this would reflect the communities in the area.

South and South-east



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Himley & Swindon | 1 | -2% |
| Kinver & Enville | 3 | 2% |
| Wombourne North | 3 | -7% |
| Wombourne South | 3 | -8% |

Himley & Swindon

117 We received six submissions for this area, including the Council's district-wide one. These were from a councillor, Himley Parish Council and residents.

118 The Council proposed the retention of the boundaries of the existing ward being of the view that the two constituent communities 'form a strong unit' and the ward has good electoral equality.

119 Councillor Lees and Himley Parish Council both supported no change being made to the existing ward boundaries. Councillor Lees stated that Himley children attended schools in Swindon. He also pointed out that the two churches in both communities shared a vicar and the PCCs (Parochial Church Councils) had joint meetings.

120 Himley Parish Council stated that the ward was well defined by roads and brooks and pointed to the good electoral variance.

121 One resident suggested that the boundary between Wombourne and Himley & Swindon wards ought to run along Bridgnorth Road and then along Botterham Lane to the Smestow Brook rather than the existing boundary which they believed weaved in a haphazard way. We note that the existing boundary is the same as the parish boundary and if we were to adopt the proposed boundary along the above-mentioned roads up to Smestow Brook, we would be creating a parish ward with no electors which we are not persuaded to do. Therefore, we have not adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

122 A resident proposed including Gospel End Village (part of Himley parish) in a ward with an area such as Wombourne whose amenities they used. We considered this proposal but noted that doing this would have a significant knock-on effect to the surrounding area for which we have no evidence. Therefore, we did not adopt this proposal.

123 Another resident seemed to suggest that the district boundary be extended further along Himley Road. However, this electoral review does not involve changing or moving the district boundaries. It relates to areas that fall within the borders of South Staffordshire District only. The proposal was therefore out of the scope of this review.

124 In considering the submissions we received, we noted that the Council's proposal for this area has well-established boundaries and includes communities with some shared interests. It also has good electoral equality. We therefore considered that in light of the evidence we received, the Council's proposed ward reflects the best balance of our statutory criteria and we have adopted it.

125 Our draft recommendations are for a single-councillor Himley & Swindon ward. It is forecast to have 2% fewer electors than the district average by 2027.

Kinver & Enville

126 The Council's district-wide scheme for this area included Kinver and Enville parishes in a single ward. It noted that Enville is geographically near to Kinver and that people often moved residence from one of these villages to the other. It also stated that much of Kinver is owned by Enville Estates (Enville & Stalybridge Estates) and that the churches of the two parishes were closely linked.

127 One resident wanted Kinver included in a ward with Swindon 'due to [the] High School catchment area'. However, we note that evidence submitted about other wards suggests that school catchment areas extend beyond electoral ward boundaries. Therefore, we have not been persuaded to include Kinver in a ward with Swindon solely based on school catchment areas.

128 Another resident expressed opposition to any changes that altered the way Kinver was treated with regards to housing needs or that would take away more green space in the area. Housing needs and green spaces are outside the scope of this review and are the responsibility of the Council. As far as we are aware, nothing in the outcome of this review should have any impact on these issues.

129 Accordingly, we are adopting the Council's proposals for a Kinver & Enville ward as part of our draft recommendations. This ward will be represented by three-councillors and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

Wombourne North and Wombourne South

130 Aside from the Council's district-wide submission and those referred to above, we received one further submission for Wombourne.

131 A resident queried why Wombourne was split across wards and suggested that it was one single area and needed one councillor. However, we note that due to the size of the electorate in Wombourne, and based on the proposed council size, Wombourne will need to be represented by six councillors. As we do not create wards with more than three councillors, this area will have to be split across at least two wards.

132 The Council's proposal for this area was two wards which together were coterminous with Wombourne parish boundaries. In its view this was preferable on community interest grounds to the existing arrangement which included Lower Penn parish in a ward with part of Wombourne.

133 We are content that Wombourne is a single community. However, due to the size of the electorate, it has to be split across wards. On the basis of the evidence

we have received, we have adopted the Council's proposals for Wombourne as our draft recommendations with one modification. We have moved the proposed boundary between Wombourne North and Wombourne South wards from Giggetty Lane to run along River Stour. This moves the two developments of approximately 120 electors into Wombourne South ward and we welcome comments on this. We note that at least one of the developments will have to be accessed from Giggetty Lane and our modification reflects this. We welcome comments on this.

134 Wombourne South and Wombourne North are both three-councillor wards forecast to have 7% and 8% fewer electors, respectively, than the district average by 2027.

Conclusions

135 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in South Staffordshire, 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

| | Draft recommendations | |
|--|-----------------------|-------|
| | 2021 | 2027 |
| Number of councillors | 42 | 42 |
| Number of electoral wards | 20 | 20 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,009 | 2,083 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average | 2 | 0 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average | 0 | 0 |

Draft recommendations

South Staffordshire District Council should be made up of 42 councillors serving 20 wards representing four single-councillor wards, 10 two-councillor wards and six 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 the South Staffordshire. You can also view our draft recommendations for South Staffordshire on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

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

137 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, South Staffordshire District 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.

138 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 Great Wyrley, Penkridge, Perton and Wombourne.

139 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Great Wyrley parish.

Draft recommendations

Great Wyrley Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Landywood | 7 |
| North | 2 |
| Town | 5 |
| West | 1 |

140 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Penkridge parish.

Draft recommendations

Penkridge Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Gailey | 1 |
| Levedale | 1 |
| North East | 5 |
| South East | 8 |

141 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Perton parish.

Draft recommendations

Perton Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| East | 4 |
| Kingswood & Trescott | 1 |

| | |
|------------|---|
| Lakeside | 7 |
| Wrottesley | 3 |

142 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Wombourne parish.

Draft recommendations

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

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Wombourne North | 8 |
| Wombourne South | 7 |

Have your say

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

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

145 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

146 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (South Staffordshire)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth BE24 9FE

147 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for South Staffordshire District Council which delivers:

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

148 A good pattern of wards should:

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

149 Electoral equality:

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

150 Community identity:

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

151 Effective local government:

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

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

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

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

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

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for South Staffordshire District Council in 2023.

Equalities

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

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for South Staffordshire District 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 | Bilbrook | 2 | 3,677 | 1,839 | -8% | 3,943 | 1,972 | -5% |
| 2 | Blymhill & Brewood | 3 | 6,574 | 2,191 | 9% | 6,795 | 2,265 | 9% |
| 3 | Cheslyn Hay Village | 3 | 6,101 | 2,034 | 1% | 6,192 | 2,064 | -1% |
| 4 | Codsall | 3 | 6,105 | 2,035 | 1% | 6,314 | 2,105 | 1% |
| 5 | Essington | 2 | 3,748 | 1,874 | -7% | 4,055 | 2,028 | -3% |
| 6 | Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon | 2 | 4,343 | 2,172 | 8% | 4,454 | 2,227 | 7% |
| 7 | Great Wyrley Landywood | 2 | 3,923 | 1,962 | -2% | 3,974 | 1,987 | -5% |
| 8 | Great Wyrley Town | 2 | 4,156 | 2,078 | 3% | 4,358 | 2,179 | 5% |
| 9 | Himley & Swindon | 1 | 1,965 | 1,965 | -2% | 2,043 | 2,043 | -2% |

| | 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 % |
|----|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10 | Huntington & Hatherton | 2 | 3,980 | 1,990 | -1% | 3,983 | 1,992 | -4% |
| 11 | Kinver & Enville | 3 | 6,251 | 2,084 | 4% | 6,403 | 2,134 | 2% |
| 12 | Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston | 1 | 2,096 | 2,096 | 4% | 2,184 | 2,184 | 5% |
| 13 | Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington & Lower Penn | 2 | 3,965 | 1,983 | -1% | 3,997 | 1,999 | -4% |
| 14 | Penkridge North & Acton Trussell | 2 | 4,196 | 2,098 | 4% | 4,516 | 22,58 | 8% |
| 15 | Penkridge South & Gailey | 2 | 4,258 | 2,129 | 6% | 4,369 | 2,185 | 5% |
| 16 | Perton East | 1 | 2,057 | 2,057 | 2% | 2,058 | 2,058 | -1% |
| 17 | Perton Lakeside | 2 | 3,634 | 1,817 | -10% | 4,011 | 2,006 | -4% |
| 18 | Perton Wrottesley | 1 | 2,250 | 2,250 | 12% | 2,264 | 2,264 | 9% |
| 19 | Wombourne North | 3 | 5,736 | 1,912 | -5% | 5,798 | 1,933 | -7% |

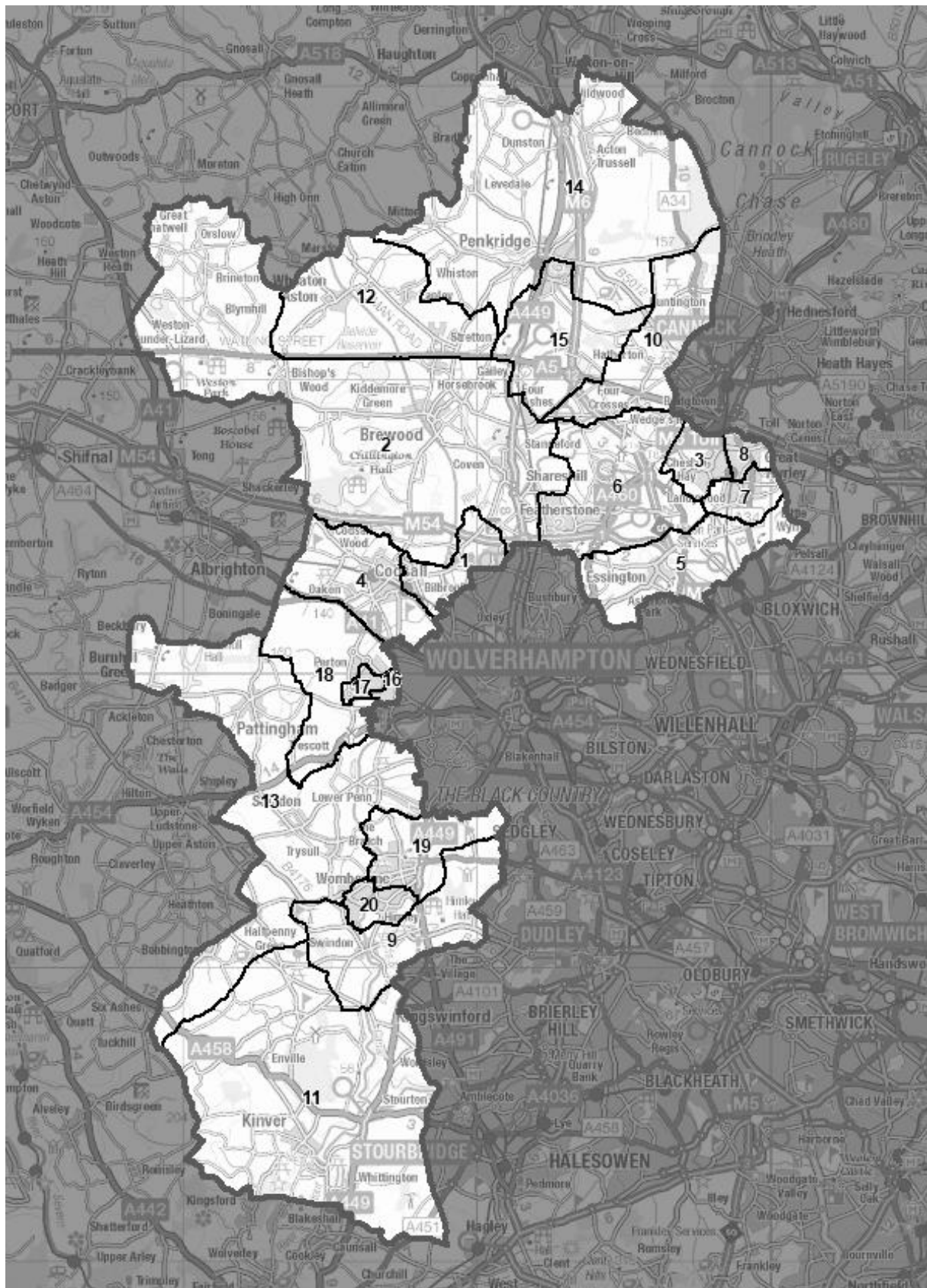
| Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2021) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2027) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 20 Wombourne South | 3 | 5,363 | 1,788 | -11% | 5,761 | 1,920 | -8% |
| Totals | 42 | 84,378 | – | – | 87,472 | – | – |
| Averages | – | – | 2,009 | – | – | 2,083 | – |

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

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

Appendix B

Outline map



| Number | Ward name |
|--------|--|
| 1 | Bilbrook |
| 2 | Blymhill & Brewood |
| 3 | Cheslyn Hay Village |
| 4 | Codsall |
| 5 | Essington |
| 6 | Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon |
| 7 | Great Wyrley Landywood |
| 8 | Great Wyrley Town |
| 9 | Himley & Swindon |
| 10 | Huntington & Hatherton |
| 11 | Kinver & Enville |
| 12 | Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston |
| 13 | Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington & Lower Penn |
| 14 | Penkridge North & Acton Trussell |
| 15 | Penkridge South & Gailey |
| 16 | Perton East |
| 17 | Perton Lakeside |
| 18 | Perton Wrottesley |
| 19 | Wombourne North |
| 20 | Wombourne South |

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/west-midlands/staffordshire/south-staffordshire

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/staffordshire/south-staffordshire

Local Authority

- South Staffordshire District Council

Political Groups

- South Staffordshire Council Green Group
- South Staffordshire Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor J. Abrahams (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor K. Bury (South Staffordshire District Council)
- Councillor R. Lees (South Staffordshire District Council)
- Councillor D. Lockley (South Staffordshire District Council and Cheslyn Hay Parish Council)
- Councillor R. Perkins (Hatherton Parish Council and Saredon Parish Council)
- Councillor W. Sutton (South Staffordshire District Council)

Local Organisations

- Friends of Bilbrook
- Littleton Green Community School

Parish and Town Councils

- Bilbrook Parish Council
- Brewood & Coven Parish Council
- Cheslyn Hay Parish Council
- Great Wyrley Parish Council
- Hatherton Parish Council
- Himley Parish Council
- Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council
- Lower Penn Parish Council
- Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council

- Perton Parish Council
- Saredon Parish Council
- Shareshill Parish Council

Local Residents

- 40 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 fairness | When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's |
| 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. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections |
| 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 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

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

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Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE