

New electoral arrangements for Derbyshire Dales District Council Final Recommendations

June 2021

Translations and other formats:

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

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Licensing:

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

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2020

A note on our mapping:

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

Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Derbyshire Dales?	2
Our proposals for Derbyshire Dales	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Review timetable	3
Analysis and final recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	6
Draft recommendations consultation	8
New draft recommendations consultation	8
Final recommendations	9
North Derbyshire Dales	10
Mid Derbyshire Dales	12
Bonsall & Winster, Cromford & Matlock Bath, Darley Dale and Matlock	14
Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington, Hlland and Wirksworth	17
Ashbourne	19
South Derbyshire Dales	21
Conclusions	23
Summary of electoral arrangements	23
Parish electoral arrangements	23
What happens next?	25
Equalities	27
Appendices	29
Appendix A	29
Final recommendations for Derbyshire Dales District Council	29
Appendix B	32
Outline map	32
Appendix C	34

Submissions received	34
Appendix D	35
Glossary and abbreviations	35

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 Derbyshire Dales?

7 We are conducting a review of Derbyshire Dales District Council ('the Council') as some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Derbyshire Dales 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 Derbyshire Dales

9 Derbyshire Dales should be represented by 34 councillors, five fewer than there are now.

10 Derbyshire Dales should have 21 wards, four fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 17 wards should change; three will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Derbyshire Dales.

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 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 take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Derbyshire Dales. We then held three periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 August 2020	Number of councillors decided
25 August 2020	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 November 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 February 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
12 April 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 June 2021	Initial publication of final recommendations
31 August 2021	Start of additional round of consultation on new draft recommendations
26 October 2021	End of consultation
11 January 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ 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 Derbyshire Dales District Council	58,108	61,392
Number of councillors	34	34
Average number of electors per councillor	1,709	1,806

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Derbyshire Dales will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2026, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2021. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6% by 2026.

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

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

23 In March 2021, we were informed by the Council that forecast housing developments for two polling districts in Ashbourne, which correspond to the parish wards of Hilltop and St Oswalds, had been misallocated. This was corrected.

24 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. Given the extension to this review and the need to publish a set of New Draft Recommendations, the end of this review has been delayed from late 2021 to January 2022. Given this, we are content that the forecasts originally provided for 2026 provide a reasonable estimate of forecast electors for early 2027 and have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

25 Derbyshire Dales District Council currently has 39 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council, Councillor Clare Gamble and Councillor Peter O'Brien and concluded that decreasing the number of councillors by five will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

26 Councillors Gamble and O'Brien both proposed a council size of 37, arguing that significant planned developments in the Peak District National Park had been omitted from the Council's estimation of councillor workload. However, the alleged omissions principally concerned developments of fewer than 10 dwellings and, as stated above, we are content that the Council's figures represent the best information available at this time.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 34 councillors: for example, 34 one-councillor wards, 17 two-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 the consultation on our draft recommendations. These submissions supported the reduction in councillors. We have therefore maintained 34 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 51 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included district-wide proposals from the Derbyshire Dales Conservative Group ('the Conservatives') and the Derbyshire Dales Constituency Labour Party ('Labour'). We also received a district-wide scheme that was supported by the Derbyshire Dales Liberal Democrats, four Liberal Democrat councillors, two residents and Labour councillor Peter O'Brien. Green councillor Clare Gamble submitted a variation of this scheme in which Brushfield parish and its 14 electors were moved from one ward to another, which she claimed had the support of the

scheme's other backers. We therefore considered this the definitive revision to this scheme. Given that this scheme was supported by a range of local political representatives, for the purposes of the report, we referred to it as the 'multi-party scheme'. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

30 The three district-wide schemes provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Derbyshire Dales. The Conservative scheme, while ostensibly providing for good electoral equality, had a number of issues. Each proposed ward contained two descriptions: one of polling districts, the other of parishes. However, in several places, these descriptions did not match and, in one case, the same parish had been assigned to two wards. Furthermore, the Conservatives' proposed Hathersage ward contained an exclave (being made up of Hathersage and Abney & Abney Grange parishes), which is irreconcilable with our statutory criteria for community identity and effective and convenient local government. In addition, one polling district was not included in the scheme at all. We therefore did not adopt this scheme, although we have incorporated some elements into our proposals. The Labour scheme submitted was very similar to the cross-party scheme, differing only slightly in the central and southern areas of the district, but contained one ward with a 26% electoral variance. We therefore did not adopt this scheme as part of our draft recommendations. We considered that the cross-party scheme contained excellent levels of electoral equality in most areas and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. It therefore formed the basis of our draft recommendations.

31 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 cross-party scheme did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

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

33 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.

34 Our draft recommendations were for four three-councillor wards, five two-councillor wards and 12 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

35 We received 201 submissions in response to our consultation on the draft recommendations. These included one district-wide proposal submitted by both the Derbyshire Dales Constituency Labour Party ('Labour') and Derbyshire Dales Liberal Democrats ('the Liberal Democrats'). This submission had the support of seven Liberal Democrat, three Labour, two Independent and one Green councillors and made modifications to our draft recommendations. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

36 The borough-wide scheme provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Derbyshire Dales. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

37 Our initial final recommendations were based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in the Darley Dale, Matlock and Masson areas, based on the submissions received. We also made three minor modifications to the boundaries between Bradwell and Hathersage, Bradwell and Calver & Longstone and Hulland and Wirksworth & Carsington Water wards.

New draft recommendations consultation

38 Following the publication of our final recommendations, the Commission received a communication from two local stakeholders which drew our attention to a number of errors within the final recommendations report. There were found to be several discrepancies between the published mapping and the forecast electorates for the proposed wards which were due to the misallocation of parishes during the calculation of electoral equality. The wards affected were Ashbourne North, Brailsford, Hulland and Wirksworth & Carsington Water. Significantly, the actual variances for Ashbourne North and Hulland were -12% and -13%, respectively, rather than -5% and -9%, as in the report.

39 As the Commission has no power under legislation to amend published final recommendations, a set of new draft recommendations were published. These made the minimum number of changes necessary to bring the variances of Ashbourne North and Hulland wards within $\pm 10\%$. We received 59 submissions in response to

this consultation, including a complete scheme submitted by the Liberal Democrats and a partial scheme submitted by Wirksworth councillors Dawn Greatorex, Mike Ratcliffe and Peter Slack ('the Wirksworth councillors'). More than half of the submissions concerned the inclusion of Middleton by Wirksworth parish in Masson ward, to which they were universally opposed. We had not received any evidence regarding Middleton by Wirksworth in any of the previous two consultations but it became clear in this round that, in its community links and reliance for amenities, the parish was indivisible from that of Wirksworth. Much of the subsequent changes to our new draft recommendations are therefore related to the reincorporation of the parish in a Wirksworth ward and include elements of both the Liberal Democrats' and Wirksworth councillors' schemes. Submissions from the previous rounds of consultation were also considered.

Final recommendations

40 Our final recommendations are for five three-councillor wards, three two-councillor wards and 13 one-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.

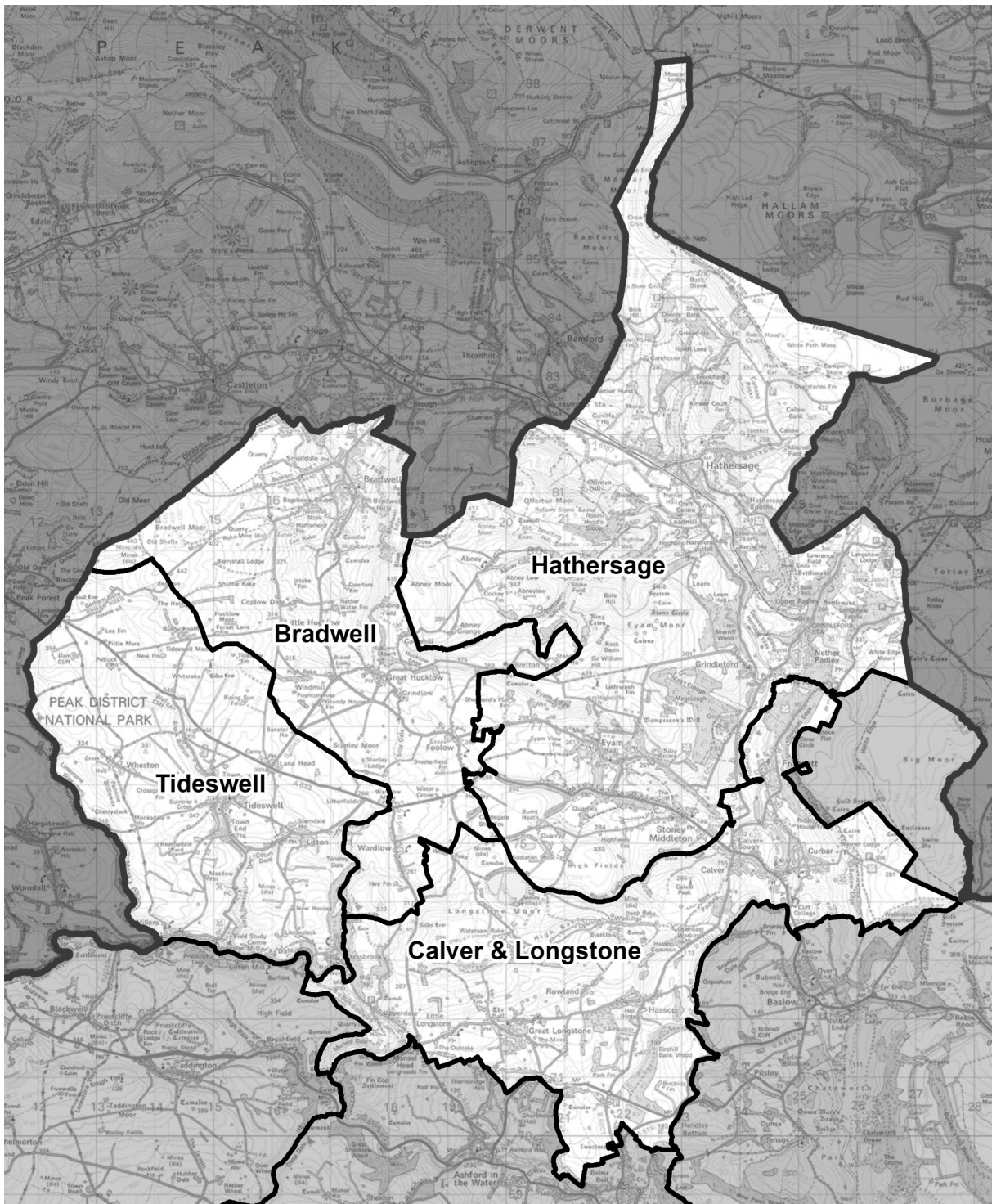
41 The tables and maps on pages 10–21 detail our final recommendations for each area of Derbyshire Dales. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

42 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 23 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North Derbyshire Dales



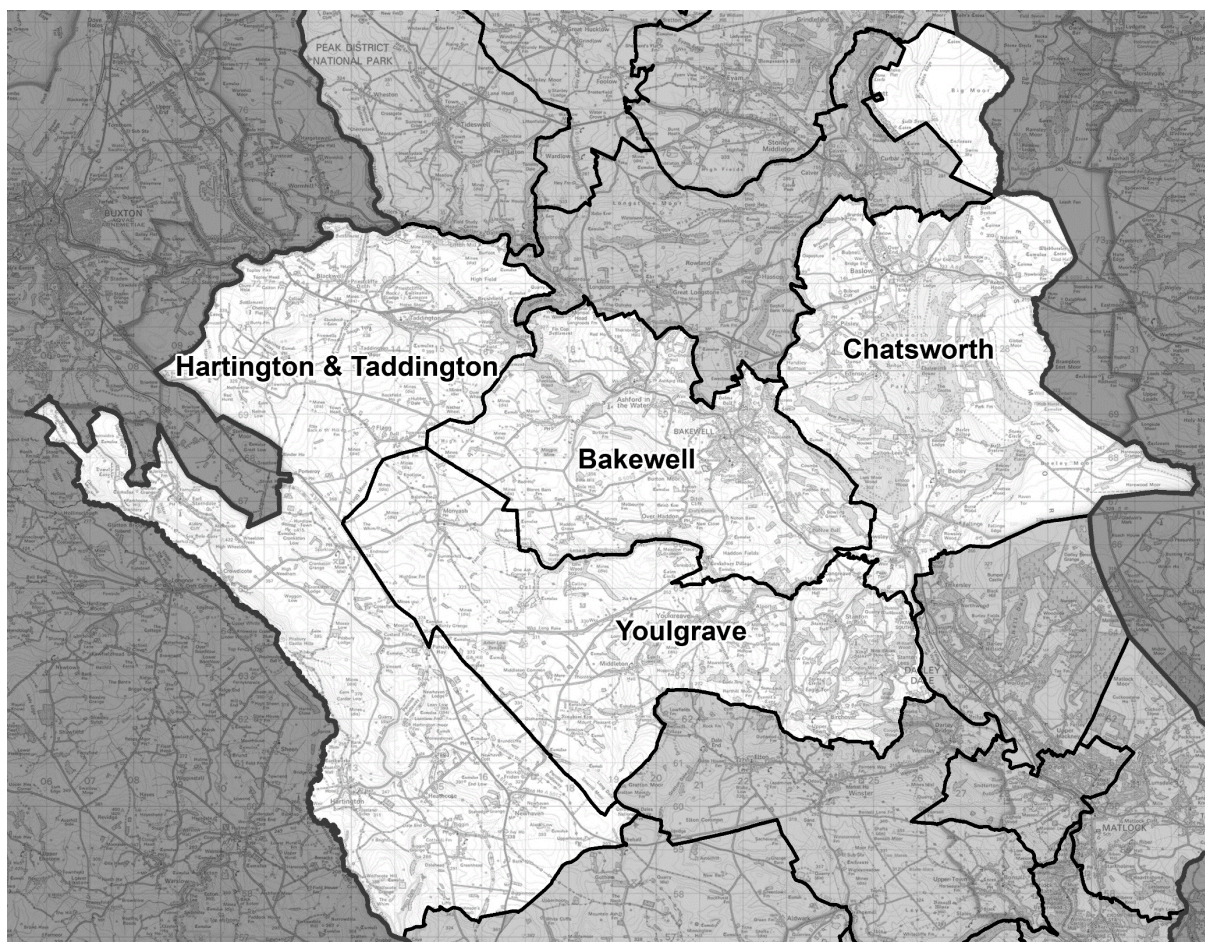
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bradwell	1	-10%
Calver & Longstone	1	2%
Hathersage	2	1%
Tideswell	1	6%

Bradwell, Calver & Longstone, Hathersage and Tideswell

43 We received two submissions from residents in response to our new draft recommendations for this area, both of which concerned Bradwell ward. One resident of Foolow stated the parish had no connections with Bradwell and should be placed in Hathersage ward. This was supported by the statement that Foolow was part of Eyam parish. While we are aware that Foolow has a parish meeting rather than a parish council, the information provided to us by the Council did not suggest Foolow was in a parish grouping with Eyam. Overall, we are content that Foolow parish should stay in Bradwell ward which, with a variance of -10%, cannot in any case afford to lose any parishes to other wards given this relatively large electoral variance.

44 The other resident expressed disappointment that Wardlow parish was included in the ward, citing as evidence the attendance of Wardlow children at Litton and Longstone schools. A similar case was made in the Liberal Democrat submission. We are sympathetic to this and recognise that some of Wardlow's community interests may lie in the Calver & Longstone ward. However, while we are willing to accept electoral variances slightly greater than $\pm 10\%$, moving Wardlow into Calver & Longstone ward would leave Bradwell with a -16% electoral variance. This is a significant variance and much higher than we are normally willing to recommend, given the need to ensure good electoral equality. We have therefore decided to keep Wardlow parish within Bradwell ward as part of our final recommendations.

Mid Derbyshire Dales



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bakewell	2	4%
Chatsworth	1	0%
Hartington & Taddington	1	-3%
Youlgrave	1	4%

Bakewell, Chatsworth, Hartington & Taddington and Youlgrave

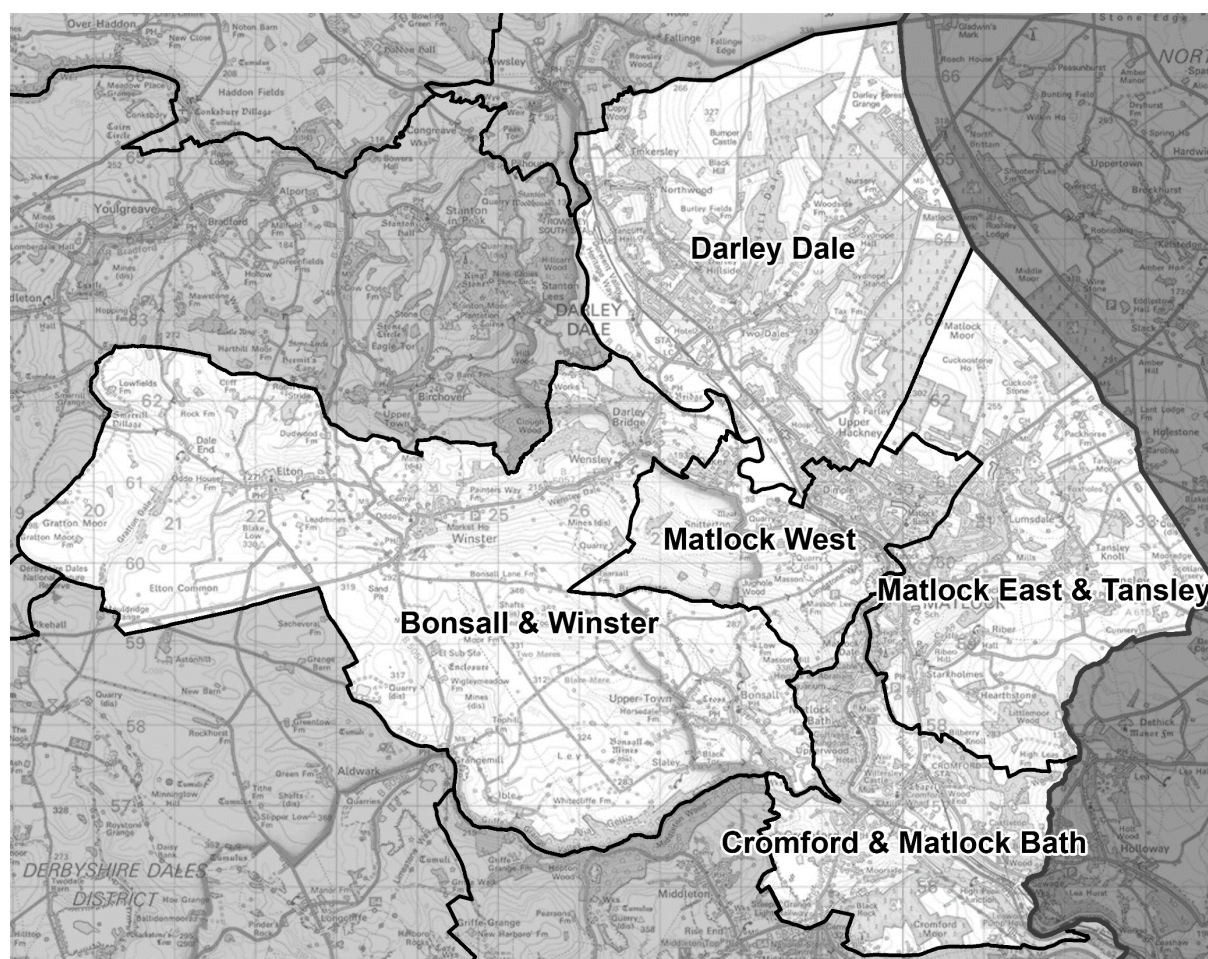
45 In addition to the scheme submitted by the Liberal Democrats, we received submissions from six residents for this area, all of which concerned our proposed Youlgrave ward. While most considered the ward in the new draft recommendations to be an improvement upon our original draft recommendations, some also considered the ward to be too geographically large. Furthermore, one resident welcomed the inclusion of Winster parish, while another spoke against it on the basis of Winster being a separate community.

46 The Liberal Democrats shared the view that the Youlgrave ward in our new draft recommendations was too large and also proposed separate one-councillor wards for Youlgrave and Bonsall, Winster & South Darley. Despite the conflicting

evidence we received with regards to Youlgrave, we have decided to adopt the Liberal Democrat proposals in our final recommendations. This is not least because, as described later in this report, the inclusion of Middleton by Wirksworth parish in our proposed Wirksworth ward requires us to make changes to our recommendations for this area.

47 A consequence of this change in our recommendations was that we could no longer include Over Haddon and Nether Haddon parishes in Youlgrave ward, as this would result in an electoral variance of 16%. We are mindful that, in the last round of consultation, we received submissions stating that residents in the two parishes had not wished to be included in Bakewell ward at the conclusion of the last boundary review in 1998. However, based on the evidence received for the wider area, we have decided that these parishes should be placed in Bakewell ward, as in the Liberal Democrat scheme.

Bonsall & Winster, Cromford & Matlock Bath, Darley Dale and Matlock



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bonsall & Winster	1	8%
Cromford & Matlock Bath	1	0%
Darley Dale	3	-6%
Matlock East & Tansley	3	-5%
Matlock West	3	-8%

Bonsall & Winster and Cromford & Matlock Bath

48 We received 34 submissions in response to our new draft recommendations for Masson ward, all of which were against the inclusion of Middleton by Wirksworth parish, and in favour of it remaining in a ward with Wirksworth parish. This view was also expressed in the Liberal Democrat submission. While we had not received any submission regarding Middleton by Wirksworth at any previous stage of the review, these submissions made clear the parish's complete reliance on Wirksworth for its services and amenities and the close community ties between the two.

49 It should be noted that, in response to previous submissions from residents, we had sought to include Bonsall parish in a Masson ward with Cromford and Matlock

Bath parishes in our new draft recommendations. Having carefully considered the evidence received at all stages of this review, we note that, to ensure good electoral equality, we cannot recommend both of these approaches. In light of this we have now concluded that separating Middleton by Wirksworth from Wirksworth will not provide the best balance of our statutory criteria, and have instead adopted the Liberal Democrat scheme in our final recommendations.

Darley Dale, Matlock East & Tansley and Matlock West

50 We received one submission from a resident in response to our new draft recommendations for this area, in addition to the Liberal Democrat scheme. Both made positive references to our draft recommendations for the area, which had included a small part of Darley Dale parish in Matlock All Saints (now Matlock West) ward, in response to evidence from residents that they used amenities in Matlock and wished to be included in the ward. Our draft recommendations included a relatively large area of Darley Dale parish, which in the ensuing consultation was criticised for going too far. By contrast, the Liberal Democrat submission included only the Morledge estate. On our virtual tour of the area, we could see that the estate was distinct from the surrounding area in Darley Dale parish and very much pointed towards Matlock town. We noted that Upland Drive is presently bisected by the parish boundary. We have therefore adopted the Liberal Democrat proposal in our final recommendations and created a one-parish-councillor Morledge parish ward for Darley Dale Town Council (see paragraph 64).

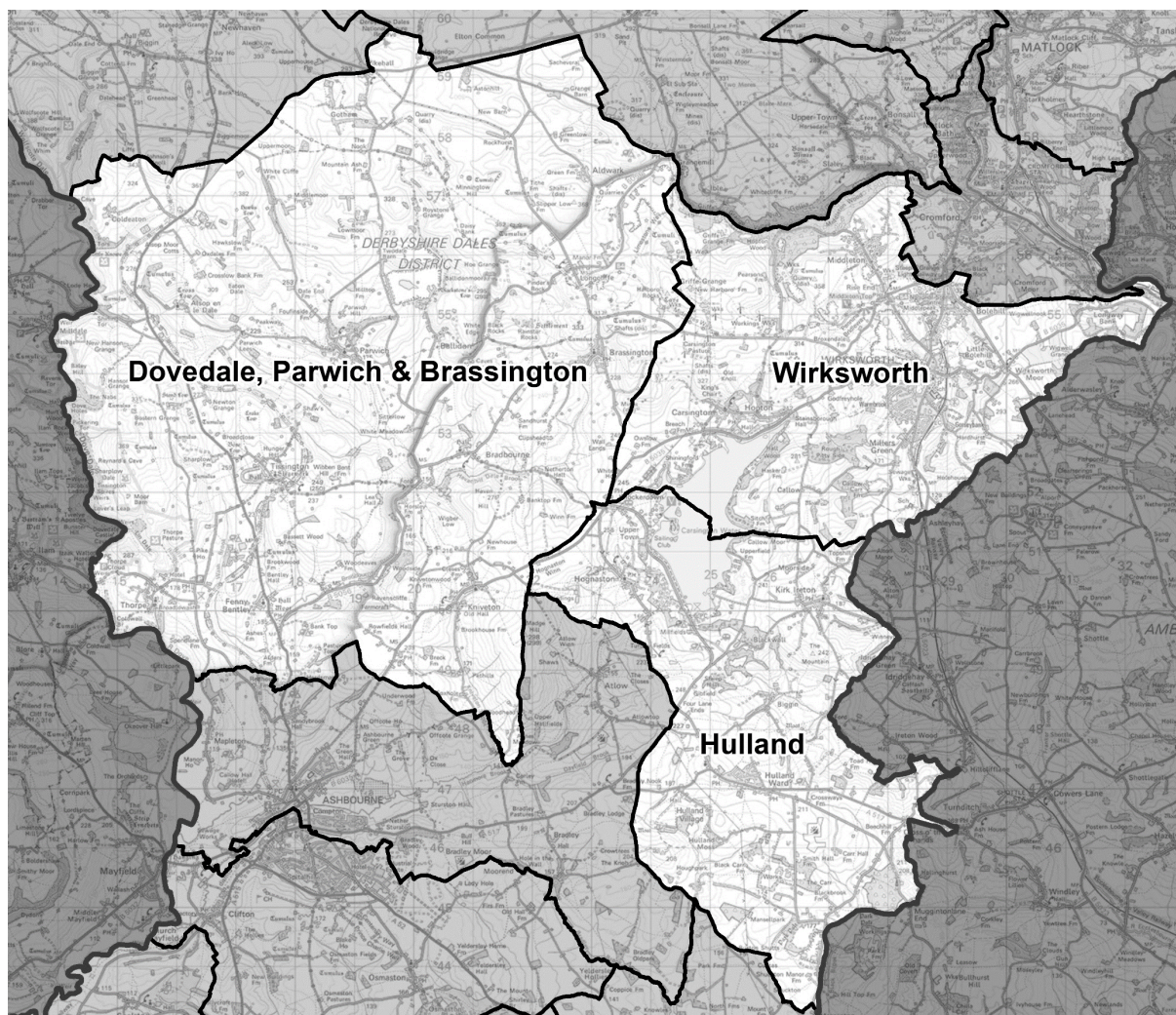
51 The Liberal Democrat submission was also critical of our transfer of the area corresponding to the Chesterfield Road East parish ward (east of Chesterfield Road to the boundary with Tansley parish) from Matlock East & Tansley ward to Matlock West ward. This was on the basis that Chesterfield Road formed a clear boundary between the wards and provided for a mix of housing types. In their proposal, the boundary between the two wards travelled along Chesterfield Road before turning west along Sandy Lane, as in our draft recommendations, including the area north of Sandy Lane in Matlock East & Tansley ward. We noted on our virtual tour an apparent change in the character of the area at this point and have concluded that we should accept this proposed boundary change in our final recommendations. This is reflected in our new electoral arrangements for Matlock Town Council, with the existing North of Jackson Road parish ward being represented by one parish councillor south of Sandy Lane and one parish councillor representing a Cuckoostone parish ward north of Sandy Lane (see paragraph 65).

52 The Liberal Democrat scheme also proposed including Oaker and Snitterton villages from South Darley parish in Matlock West ward. This was largely due to a large planned development on the former Cawdor Quarry and Permanite sites, which would cross the parish boundary between South Darley and Matlock as an urban overspill of the latter. We also received a submission from South Darley Parish Council arguing that the area of the planned estate should be included in Matlock

West ward and Matlock parish (the latter is not within the scope of this review and would have to be part of a Community Governance Review by the Council). This was also proposed as an alternative option by the Liberal Democrats.

53 It should be noted that the development is not scheduled to be completed by our forecast year of 2027, and that we would therefore be creating a parish ward of zero electors for South Darley in the election of 2023 were we to transfer only the area covered by the estate. However, we recognise that including Oaker and Snitterton in Matlock West was proposed by the multi-party group in response to our draft recommendations, and that the Conservatives, Labour and the multi-party group had recommended including the whole of South Darley parish in Matlock All Saints ward during the first warding consultation. We are therefore content to include Oaker and Snitterton in Matlock West ward as part of our final recommendations. As the area is coterminous with Oaker & Snitterton parish ward, we have not provided new electoral arrangements for South Darley Parish Council.

Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington, Hlland and Wirksworth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington	1	6%
Hlland	1	6%
Wirksworth	3	-3%

Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington, Hlland and Wirksworth

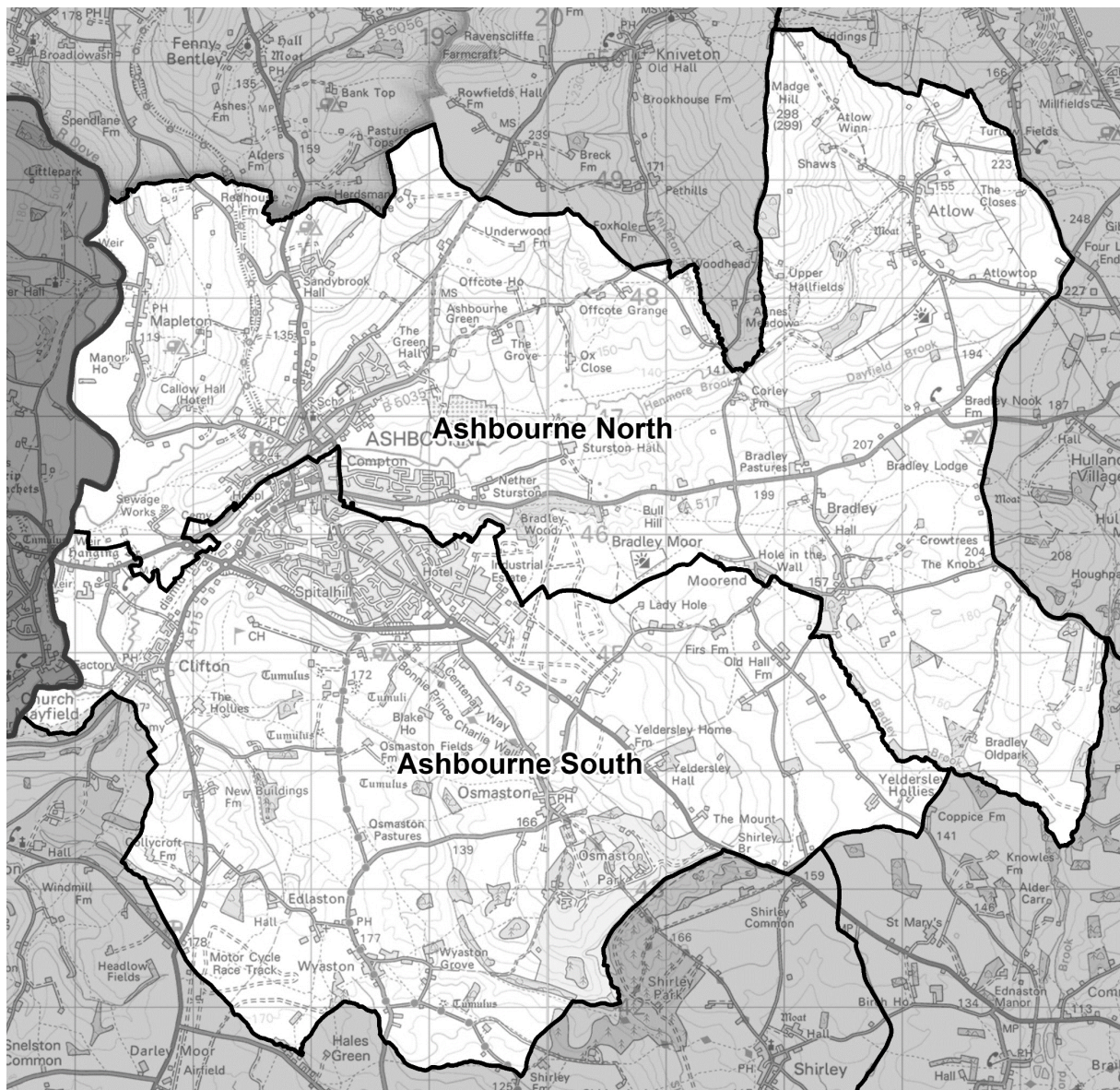
54 In addition to the submissions regarding Middleton by Wirksworth parish, we received one submission from a resident regarding Wirksworth, which argued that the town had a very different identity from its surrounding villages and that Carsington Water should not be included in the ward. No evidence was produced to support this but we note that this opinion has been expressed a number of times during the course of the review.

55 The Liberal Democrat scheme proposed removing Atlow and Kirk Ireton parishes from our new draft Wirksworth & Carsington Water ward on the basis that they had little in common with Wirksworth and were closer neighbours to Hlland.

The scheme submitted by the Wirksworth councillors went further in proposing the exclusion of Hognaston parish which would, with Atlow, join a ward based on our Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington ward but without Brassington parish. This was due to the recommendation that Brassington replace Middleton by Wirksworth in our proposed Masson ward. While this Dovedale, Parwich, Hognaston & Kniveton ward would have an electoral variance of -16% by 2027, we thought the Wirksworth ward proposed by the Wirksworth councillors better reflected the evidence we had received from residents throughout the review. We have therefore adopted it in our final recommendations.

56 On the recommendation of both the Liberal Democrats and the Wirksworth councillors, we have included Kirk Ireton in Hulland ward. We have also included its neighbouring parish Hognaston, on the basis that it is closer, and far better connected, to Hulland than Wirksworth. As including Atlow within this ward would result in a 12% variance, we have instead included the parish in Ashbourne North.

Ashbourne



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ashbourne North	2	-2%
Ashbourne South	3	7%

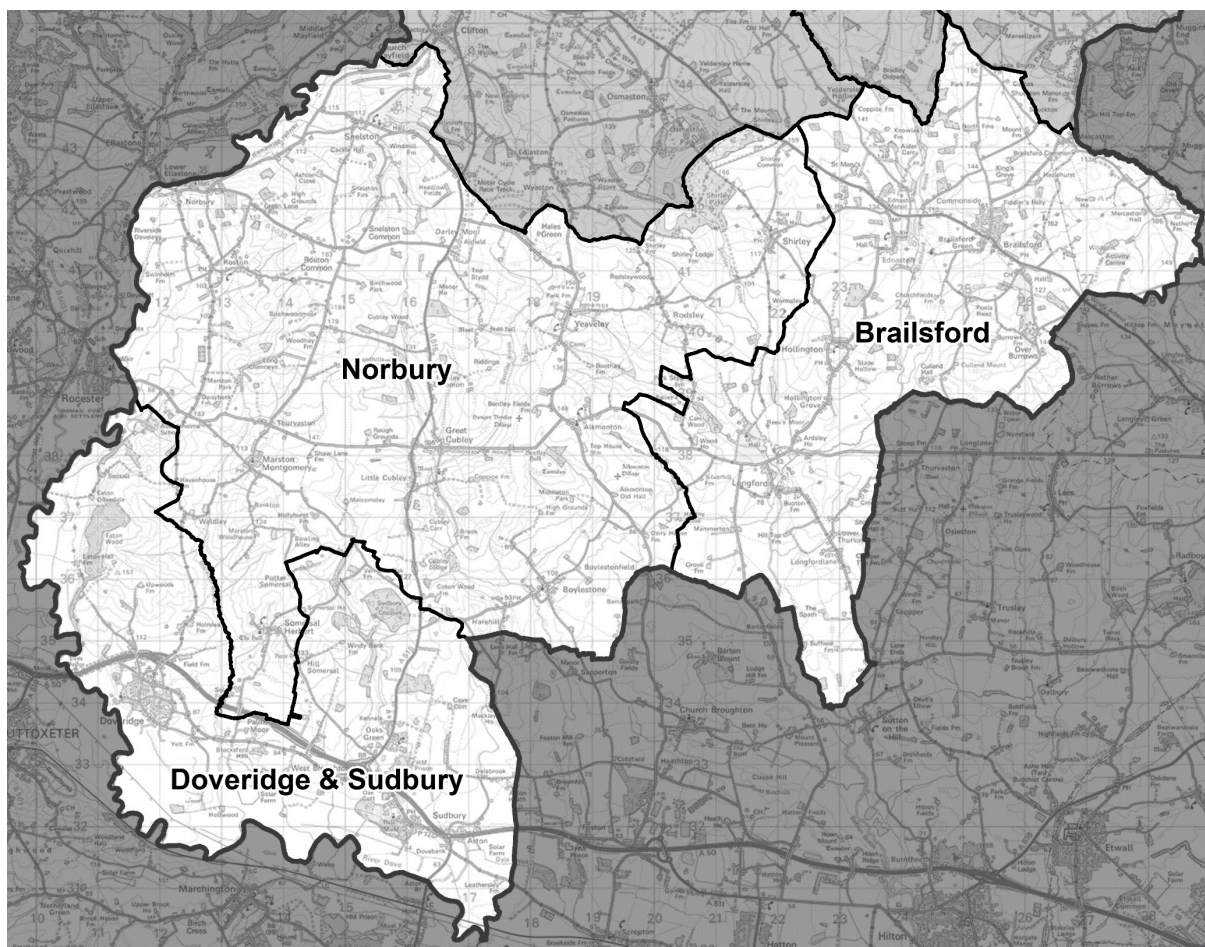
Ashbourne North and Ashbourne South

57 We received three submissions in addition to the Liberal Democrat scheme in response to our new draft recommendations for Ashbourne. These were from two residents and Ashbourne Town Council. One resident disagreed with the inclusion of Mapleton parish in Ashbourne North and proposed its inclusion in Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington ward. However, this would result in a 13% variance for the latter. Another resident argued that the inclusion of rural parishes in the two wards would dilute the votes of Ashbourne town electors. This argument does not meet

with our statutory criteria. The Ashbourne Town Council submission concerned the new parish warding arrangements we had proposed in our new draft recommendations which, for reasons detailed below, are no longer relevant.

58 The Liberal Democrat scheme proposed including Bradley parish in Ashbourne North ward on the basis that the Ashbourne Airfield development will eventually include some 1,500 new homes as an urban overspill of Ashbourne. However, according to the Council, only 20 of these will be completed by 2026. We appreciate that this may create problems of community representation in the future and that the councillors wish to see a Community Governance Review which would transfer the area of the development transferred to Ashbourne Town Council. We note that including Atlow parish in our proposed Hullah ward would create a 12% variance but that the parish is well-connected to Ashbourne. Furthermore, the addition of these parishes to Ashbourne North allows the existing boundary between Ashbourne North and Ashbourne South to be maintained, thus negating the need for new parish warding arrangements for Ashbourne Town Council.

South Derbyshire Dales



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brailsford	1	8%
Doveridge & Sudbury	1	8%
Norbury	1	4%

Brailsford, Doveridge & Sudbury and Norbury

59 The Liberal Democrat scheme agreed with our new draft recommendations for this area with the exception of Mercaston parish, which had been included in our proposed Hulland ward, but which it argued had better links to Brailsford. These links were felt to be sufficiently strong that the Liberal Democrats were willing to tolerate a relatively high 8% variance. As Mercaston's inclusion in Hulland would now result in a 10% variance for that ward, we have adopted the Liberal Democrat proposal in our final recommendations.

Conclusions

60 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Derbyshire Dales, referencing the 2020 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2020	2027
Number of councillors	34	34
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	1,709	1,806
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

Final recommendations

Derbyshire Dales District Council should be made up of 34 councillors serving 21 wards representing 13 single-councillor wards, three 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 the Derbyshire Dales District Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Derbyshire Dales District Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

61 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.

62 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, Derbyshire Dales 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.

63 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 Darley Dale Town Council and Matlock Town Council.

64 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Darley Dale parish.

Final recommendations

Darley Dale Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Morledge	1
North	7
South	4

65 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Matlock parish.

Final recommendations

Matlock Town Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Chesterfield Road East	2
Cuckoostone	1
Hurst Farm	1
Matlock Green	1
Matlock Bank & Sheriff Fields	2
North of Jackson Road	1
Riber & Starkholmes	1
Smedley Street	2

What happens next?

66 We have now completed our review of Derbyshire Dales. 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

67 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 Derbyshire Dales District 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	Ashbourne North	2	3,450	1,725	1%	3,534	1,767	-2%
2	Ashbourne South	3	5,052	1,684	-1%	5,771	1,924	7%
3	Bakewell	2	3,652	1,826	7%	3,751	1,876	4%
4	Bonsall & Winster	1	1,934	1,934	13%	1,957	1,957	8%
5	Bradwell	1	1,610	1,610	-6%	1,628	1,628	-10%
6	Brailsford	1	1,539	1,539	-10%	1,950	1,950	8%
7	Calver & Longstone	1	1,817	1,817	6%	1,839	1,839	2%
8	Chatsworth	1	1,777	1,777	4%	1,799	1,799	0%
9	Cromford & Matlock Bath	1	1,783	1,783	4%	1,804	1,804	0%
10	Darley Dale	3	4,858	1,619	-5%	5,118	1,706	-6%
11	Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington	1	1,888	1,888	10%	1,912	1,912	6%

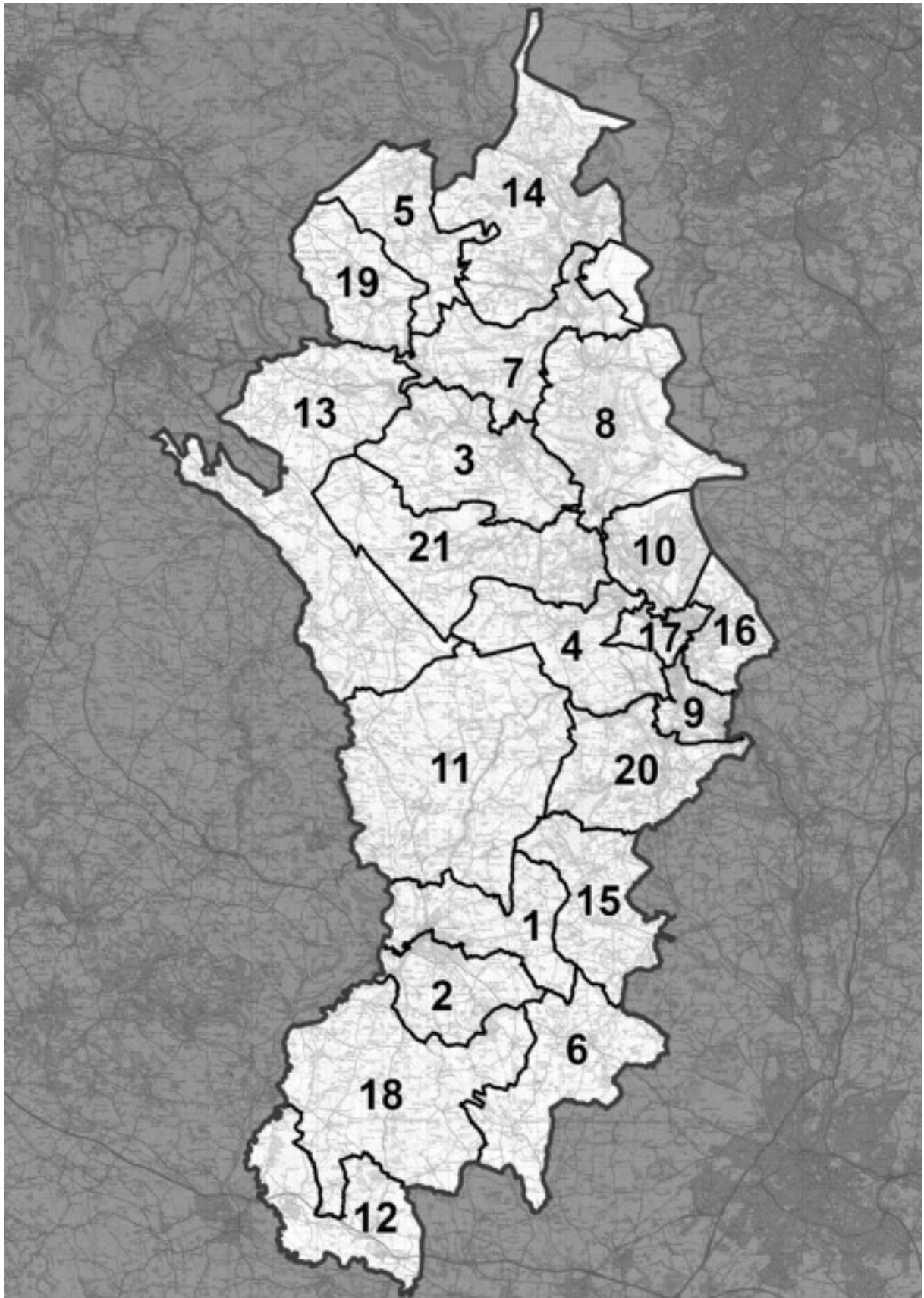
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Doveridge & Sudbury	1	1,634	1,634	-4%	1,948	1,948	8%
13	Hartington & Taddington	1	1,734	1,734	1%	1,754	1,754	-3%
14	Hathersage	2	3,619	1,810	6%	3,662	1,831	1%
15	Hulland	1	1,690	1,690	-1%	1,913	1,913	6%
16	Matlock East & Tansley	3	4,645	1,548	-9%	5,144	1,715	-5%
17	Matlock West	3	4,776	1,592	-7%	4,996	1,665	-8%
18	Norbury	1	1,795	1,795	5%	1,886	1,886	4%
19	Tideswell	1	1,894	1,894	11%	1,916	1,916	6%
20	Wirksworth	3	5,105	1,702	0%	5,233	1,744	-3%
21	Youlgrave	1	1,856	1,856	9%	1,877	1,877	4%
Totals		34	58,108	-	-	61,392	-	-
Averages		-	-	1,709	-	-	1,806	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Derbyshire Dales 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	Ashbourne North
2	Ashbourne South
3	Bakewell
4	Bonsall & Winster
5	Bradwell
6	Brailsford
7	Calver & Longstone
8	Chatsworth
9	Cromford & Matlock Bath
10	Darley Dale
11	Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington
12	Doveridge & Sudbury
13	Hartington & Taddington
14	Hathersage
15	Hulland
16	Matlock East & Tansley
17	Matlock West
18	Norbury
19	Tideswell
20	Wirksworth
21	Youlgrave

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/east-midlands/derbyshire/derbyshire-dales

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/derbyshire/derbyshire-dales

Councillors

- Councillor M. Burfoot (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor G. Elliott (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor C. Gamble (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor D. Greatorex (Derbyshire Dales District Council)*
- Councillor M. Ratcliffe (Derbyshire Dales District Council)*
- Councillor P. Slack (Derbyshire Dales District Council)*
- Councillor S. Wain (Derbyshire Dales District Council)

Local Organisations

- Derbyshire Dales Liberal Democrats

Parish and Town Councils

- Ashbourne Town Council
- Middleton by Wirksworth Parish Council
- South Darley Parish Council

Local Residents

- 47 local residents

Petitions

- One petition with 628 signatures, submitted by Councillor P. Slack

* Also made a joint submission.

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