

# New electoral arrangements for Oldham Council Final Recommendations

November 2021

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

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

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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.<sup>1</sup> We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

## What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why Oldham?

7 We are conducting a review of Oldham Council ('the Council') as its last review was carried out in 2003 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Oldham are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

## Our proposals for Oldham

9 Oldham should be represented by 60 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Oldham should have 20 wards, the same number as there are now.

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

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

## How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

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

taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider 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 Oldham. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
14 December 2020	Number of councillors decided
6 January 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
29 March 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
1 June 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
9 August 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
30 November 2021	Publication of final recommendations

## Analysis and final recommendations

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

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	2026
Electorate of Oldham	165,109	170,975
Number of councillors	60	60
Average number of electors per councillor	2,752	2,850

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 Oldham will have good electoral equality by 2026.

## 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

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

23 In response to the warding patterns and draft recommendations consultations we received a number of comments about future developments, but no strong further evidence. We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied

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

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

that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

## Number of councillors

24 Oldham Council currently has 60 councillors. The Council proposed the retention of a council size of 60, while the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council proposed a reduction of 18, to 42 councillors, requesting a change to the electoral cycle to achieve a pattern of two-councillor wards.

25 We looked at evidence provided by the Council and the Liberal Democrats. We noted the Liberal Democrats' request to change the electoral cycle to achieve a pattern of two-councillor wards. However, changing the electoral cycle is not within the Commission's powers and the Council had not recommended a change to the electoral cycle.

26 Notwithstanding the issue regarding two-councillor wards, we noted that the Liberal Democrats made reasoned arguments for a reduction in the number of councillors. However, they provided limited supporting evidence and the arguments were directly refuted by much of the evidence included in the Council's submission. The Council argued that a reduction in councillors would significantly impact its ability to deliver services and local leadership, while technology has increased expectations among residents, creating a 24/7 demand that was challenging for councillors. Having considered the evidence, we concluded that retaining a council size of 60 would 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 60 councillors.

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

29 We received a number of general objections to council size in response to our consultation on warding patterns and the draft recommendations. However, these were general comments with limited evidence. We have therefore not been persuaded to move away from a council size of 60 and our final recommendations are based on a 60-councillor council.

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

## Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 84 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included borough-wide proposals from the Council and Oldham & Saddleworth Conservatives. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 The two borough-wide schemes provided a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Oldham. 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.

32 A number of respondents proposed transferring areas of Oldham Council to neighbouring districts. However, we are unable to alter the external boundaries of the borough as part of this review.

33 In a number of areas, we have received proposals that seek to address issues with parish boundaries. These include areas where the parish boundaries cut through housing or separate addresses from their neighbours. We have looked at each case on its merit as it relates to our statutory criteria, but in some instances we consider that rather than drawing ward boundaries to address issues with the parish boundaries, these may be better addressed by a Community Governance Review.

34 The proposals from the Conservatives contained a number of more localised ward names, moving away from the geographic (e.g. north, south, east and west) references applied to many of the existing wards. While they provided some evidence to support these suggestions, we were concerned that in some areas we were using wards that retained geographic references. In addition, there was no other evidence of support for these names. We therefore decided to retain the use of geographic references throughout the borough in our draft recommendations, but requested further local evidence about moving away from this convention to more specific local names.

35 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.

36 As a result of the unprecedented circumstances related to the outbreak of Covid-19, we were unable to conduct a visit to the area to look at the various different proposals on the ground. However, we were able to conduct a detailed, virtual tour of Oldham. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

## Draft recommendations consultation

37 We received 72 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included borough-wide comments from Oldham Council Labour Group ('the Labour Group') and Oldham & Saddleworth Conservatives ('the Conservatives'). The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in the Busk area between Chadderton Central and Coldhurst wards. In response to the comments on the Busk area we are making changes to the boundaries between Chadderton Central and Coldhurst wards. In addition, to secure good electoral equality in the revised Coldhurst ward we are proposing a change to its boundary with Royton South ward. We do not propose any other changes to our draft recommendations.

38 A number of respondents proposed transferring areas of Oldham Council to neighbouring districts. However, we are unable to alter the external boundaries of the borough as part of this review. One respondent made reference to parliamentary boundaries, but these are dealt with by a separate body and not under consideration as part of this review. A number of respondents expressed general support for the draft recommendations, while a number of others made general objections.

## Final recommendations

39 Our final recommendations are for 20 three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

40 The tables and maps on pages 9–24 detail our final recommendations for each area of Oldham. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>6</sup> criteria of:

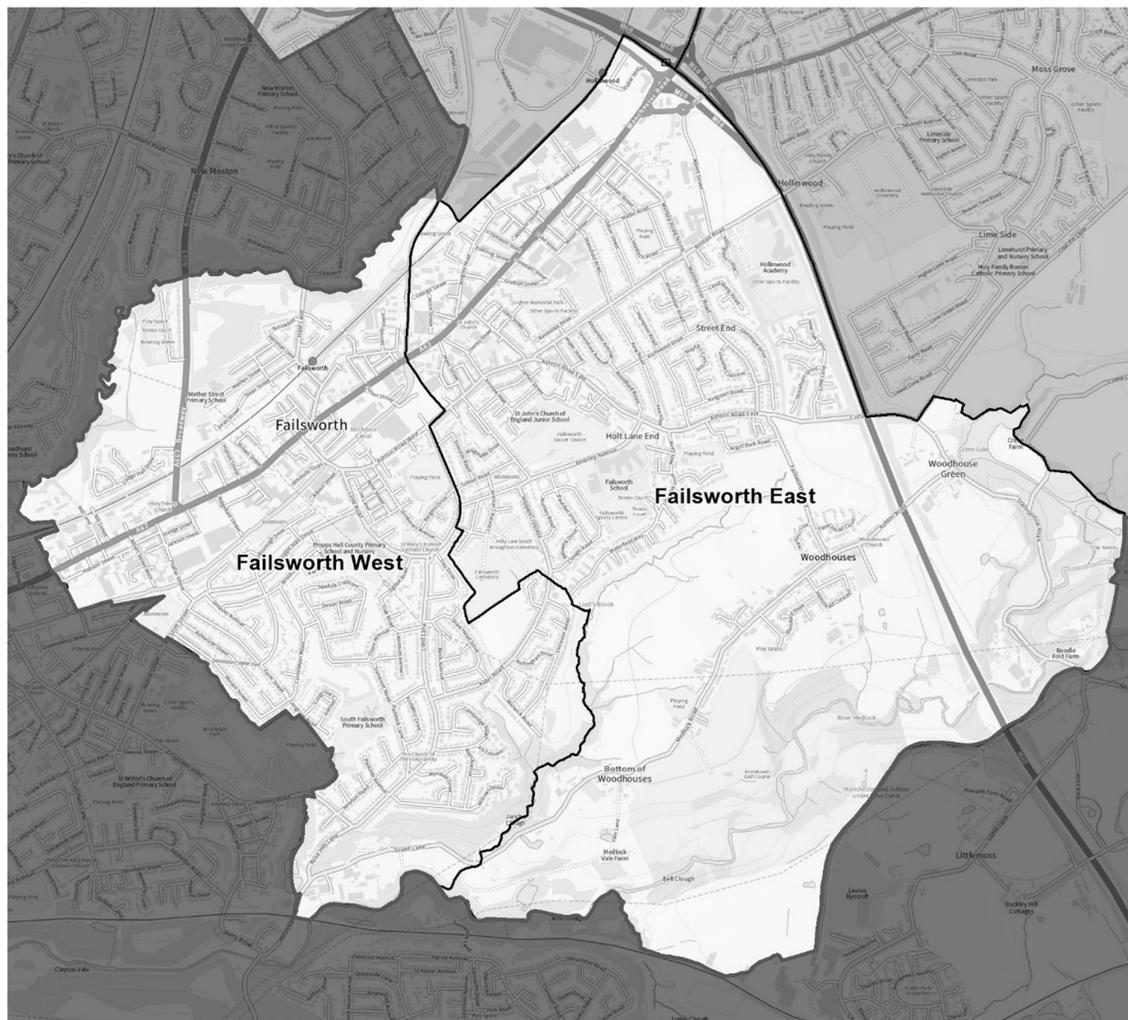
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

41 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 25 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

## Failsworth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Failsworth East	3	-4%
Failsworth West	3	-4%

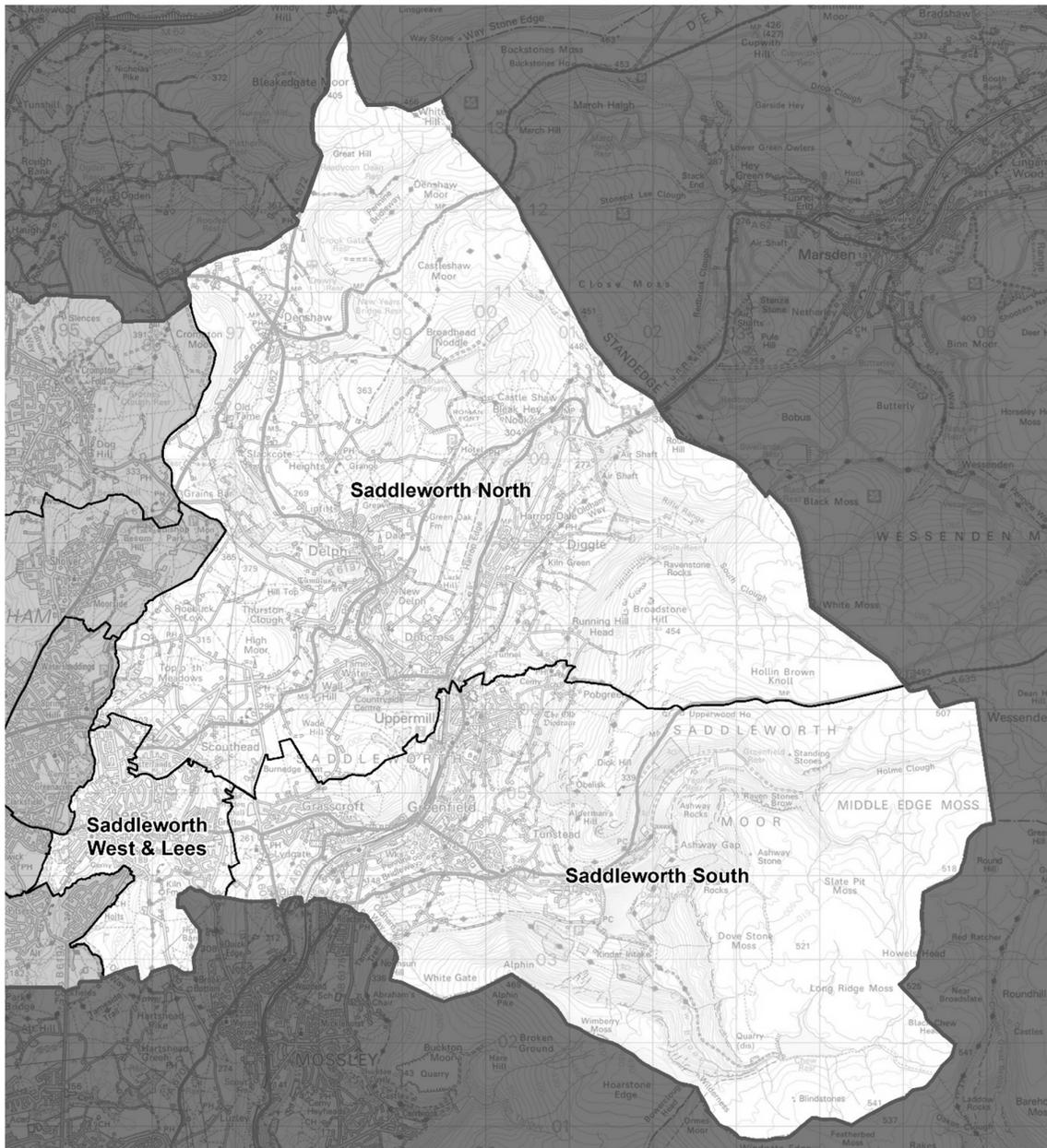
### *Failsworth East and Failsworth West*

42 The Labour Group, Conservatives and Failsworth East & Failsworth West Branch Labour Parties expressed support for the draft recommendations. However, the Conservatives also argued that Failsworth East ward should incorporate 'Woodhouses' into the ward name, to reflect the inclusion of the Woodhouses area in the ward.

43 Given the general support for the draft recommendations, we are therefore confirming these wards as final. We note the suggestion from the Conservatives that 'Woodhouses' should be included in the ward name. While we acknowledge the argument, we did not receive any other support for this proposed name and have not

been persuaded to adopt it as part of our final recommendations. Our three-councillor Failsworth East and Failsworth West wards would both have 4% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026.

## Saddleworth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Saddleworth North	3	-4%
Saddleworth South	3	2%
Saddleworth West & Lees	3	2%

### *Saddleworth North, Saddleworth South and Saddleworth West & Lees*

44 The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats expressed support for the draft recommendations for this area. The Labour Group expressed support for Saddleworth South ward, but reiterated support for its earlier proposals for the

boundary between Saddleworth North and Saddleworth West & Lees wards. Along with Councillor Leach, the Labour Group objected to our proposal to use the parish boundary in this area, reiterating the argument that this divides a number of properties in the Birks area.

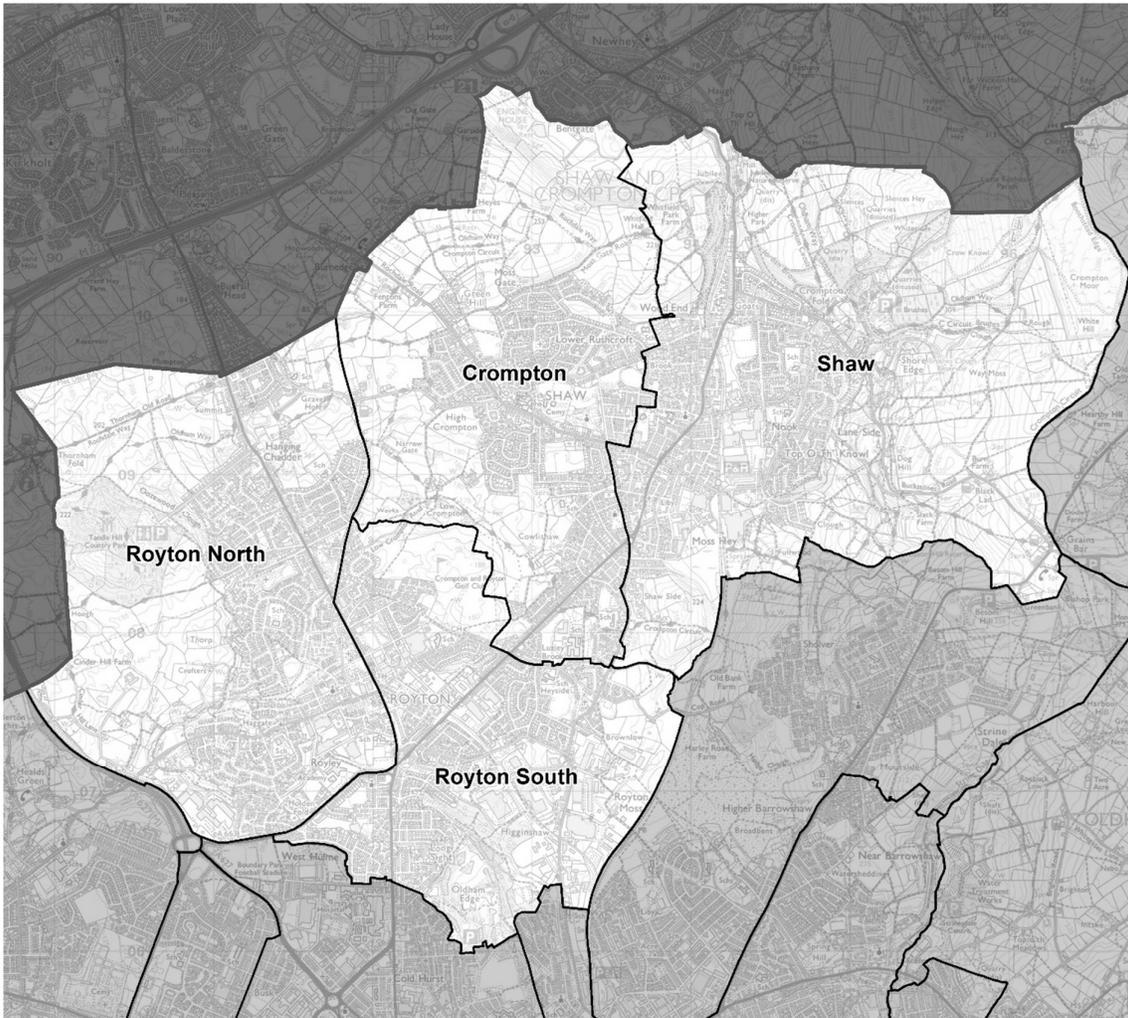
45 A local resident requested no change to the existing boundaries of Saddleworth North and Saddleworth West & Lees wards. Another resident stated that Springhead and Grotton should be included in Saddleworth South ward, but did not provide any supporting evidence. A third resident argued that Grains Bar was split between wards under our draft proposals, but that it would sit most comfortably in Saddleworth North ward. Two additional residents also argued that the Holts and Abbey Hills areas should be in Saddleworth West & Lees ward. Finally, a resident supported the draft recommendations.

46 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the support for elements of our draft recommendations. We note the objections made by local residents, but these do not contain compelling evidence to persuade us to make changes to our proposals in the area. We note the comments about Grains Bar and we acknowledge that this area is split by the ward boundary, but this proposed arrangement reflects the parish boundary. To transfer the whole area to Saddleworth North ward would require the creation of parish ward in Shaw & Crompton parish with only 44 electors. We do not consider this to be a sufficient number of electors to create a viable parish ward and are therefore not adopting this proposal as part of our final recommendations. We also note the comments from residents about the Holts and Abbey Hills areas, but transferring them into Saddleworth West & Lees ward would require a substantial reworking of the draft recommendations, as well as worsen electoral equality. We are therefore not persuaded to make this change.

47 We considered the concerns from the Labour Group and Councillor Leach about the boundary between Saddleworth North and Saddleworth West & Lees wards, noting that they reiterated their views about splitting properties in the Birks area and that using Huddersfield Road would provide for a stronger boundary that would avoid dividing properties. However, the submissions did not address our earlier concerns that the Birks area appears to have a more urban outlook and would be better served in the Saddleworth West & Lees ward with the area to the south of Huddersfield Road. We remain of the view that the community is best reflected by a ward that includes the majority of the Birks area in an urban ward, and that concerns related to the parish boundary would be best addressed by a Community Governance Review that resolves the boundary around the split properties in the Birks area. An amended parish boundary, if made as part of a Community Governance Review, could then be followed by a Related Alteration request that would also amend the ward boundary.

48 We are therefore confirming our draft recommendation for three-member Saddleworth North, Saddleworth South and Saddleworth West & Lees wards as final. These wards would have 4% fewer, 2% more and 2% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

## Royton and Shaw & Crompton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Crompton	3	-5%
Royton North	3	3%
Royton South	3	-5%
Shaw	3	-8%

### *Crompton and Shaw*

49 The Labour Group, the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats and Shaw & Crompton Parish Council all expressed support for the draft recommendations in this area. A resident argued that the Shaw Road area of Crompton ward should be a Royton ward, suggesting that the area does not receive any benefits of being in Shaw & Crompton parish. Another two residents objected to the proposals but did not provide clear evidence for an alternative. Finally, as mentioned in the

Saddleworth section, above, a resident stated that our proposals split Grains Bar between wards, but that it would sit most comfortably in Saddleworth North ward.

50 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the support for the draft recommendations. We considered the argument that the Shaw Road area should be in a Royton ward, but are of the view the evidence to support this change was very limited and have not been persuaded to make the change. As discussed in the Saddleworth section, above, we note the comments about Grains Bar and acknowledge that this area is split by the ward boundary, but this proposed arrangement reflects the parish boundary. To transfer the whole area to Saddleworth North ward would require the creation of a parish ward in Shaw & Crompton parish with only 44 electors. We do not consider this to be a sufficient number of electors to create a viable parish ward and are therefore not adopting this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

51 We are therefore confirming our draft recommendation for these wards as final. Our three-councillor Crompton and Shaw wards would have 5% fewer and 8% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026.

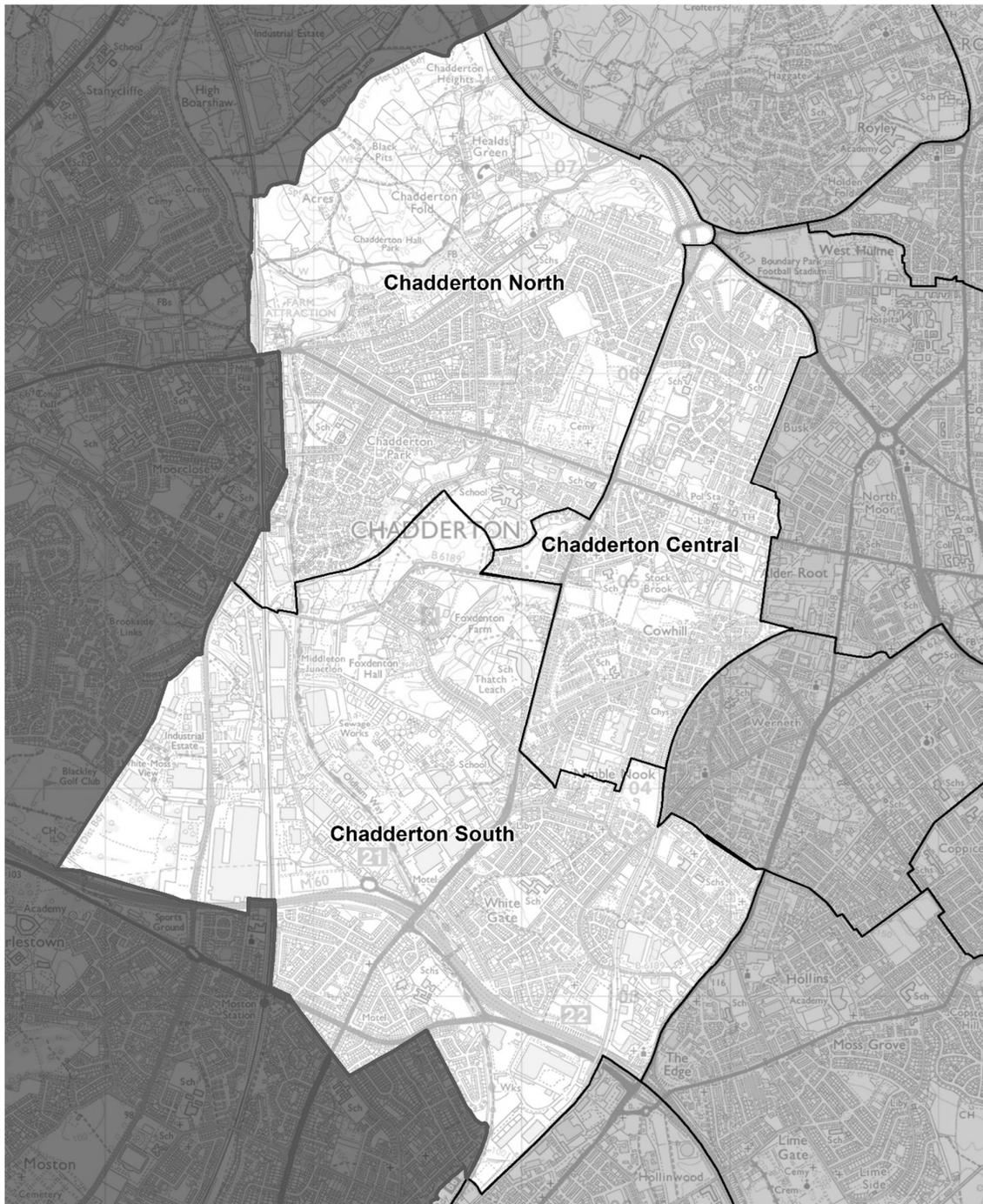
#### *Royton North and Royton South*

52 The Labour Group, the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrat Group and Shaw & Crompton Parish Council all expressed support for the draft recommendations. We received limited other comments on our proposals for these wards.

53 We have given consideration to the evidence received, noting the support for the draft recommendations. We are therefore confirming them as final.

54 Under our final recommendations our three-councillor Royton North and Royton South wards would have 3% more and 5% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026.

# Chadderton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Chadderton Central	3	-9%
Chadderton North	3	1%
Chadderton South	3	4%

*Chadderton Central, Chadderton North and Chadderton South*

55 We received a mixture of support and objections to our proposals for this area. The Conservative Group expressed support for the proposals, providing details of a range of community facilities in each ward. A local resident expressed support for the Chadderton North ward, arguing that it was unclear why under the existing wards the area to the east of Broadway was considered part of Chadderton North, while Firwood Park was considered part of Chadderton Central. The resident argued that the draft recommendations better reflected communities in the area. Another resident also supported the draft recommendations, arguing that the inclusion of Chadderton town centre in the existing Chadderton North ward makes no sense and it is better to place the town centre in a central ward.

56 The Labour Group and Chadderton District Executive both objected to the draft recommendations, expressing support for a slightly modified version of their original proposal, which was based on the existing wards. They objected to the inclusion of the Busk area in Chadderton Central ward, arguing that this has long-established links to Coldhurst and would see the removal of an important community facility, around the open space, from Coldhurst ward.

57 The Labour Group and Chadderton District Executive also rejected the argument that Broadway is a barrier, citing crossing points and the fact residents cross it to access schools. They also pointed out that the draft recommendations breached Broadway to transfer a small area to our proposed Chadderton Central ward, and that this undermines the argument that Broadway is a barrier. Further to this, the submissions argued that Broadway is breached to the south as part of the Chadderton South ward, as well as crossing the M60.

58 They further argued that our proposal to transfer part of an area around Lydia Becker Way to Chadderton Central ward would divide an area of new housing, adding that the developments would have more connection north to Firwood Park, than to Chadderton South ward. The representations also rejected the argument that the town centre should be in a single ward, arguing that the main shops and civic buildings lie to the north, but that Middleton Road runs through the middle, which is as much a barrier as Broadway.

59 Councillor Jabbar, Councillor Malik, Councillor Surjan, Oldham Central Masjid, Oldham Snooker Academy, Vision, Westwood Football Club, Westwood & Coldhurst Women's Association and around 20 local residents objected to changes to the existing Coldhurst ward, with specific objections to the transfer of Busk from Coldhurst ward to Chadderton Central ward. Respondents argued that this area, and particularly the Berries Field green space, had strong community links to Coldhurst, with the green space acting as an important community facility.

60 Chadderton Together objected to changes to the existing wards. One local resident expressed support for our proposed boundary between Chadderton Central and Coldhurst wards. They also argued that the boundary around Lydia Becker Way should be modified to include this area in Chadderton North ward, offsetting the loss of electors by transferring an area around Block Lane in Werneth ward. Another resident argued for the transfer of the Block Lane area, but did not provide any supporting evidence.

61 We have given careful consideration, noting the support for the draft recommendations, specifically in relation to the Chadderton North ward and for a Chadderton Central ward based around the town centre. We also note the objections, including the specific objection to the Busk area.

62 While we acknowledge the concerns of the Labour Group and Chadderton District Executive, we have not been persuaded that using Middleton Road as a boundary is clearer than using Broadway in the north area of Chadderton. We note the comments from two residents that our draft proposals provide a stronger warding pattern for Firwood Park and the area to the north of Middleton Road. We remain of the view that Middleton Road is easier to cross than Broadway, which in this area is a four lane road, with crash barriers. We acknowledge that our proposals to the south of our proposed Chadderton North ward breach Broadway, but this has been necessary to secure electoral equality and only affects a small area. In addition, we are not persuaded that the Foxdenton area would have greater connection north to Firwood Park, than it would via Foxdenton Lane to Chadderton South. We have therefore not been persuaded to make substantial changes to our draft recommendations.

63 We do, however, note the number of concerns regarding the Busk area. While we remain of the view that running a boundary along Garforth Street appears to split this area, we note that there was only limited support for our proposal and we acknowledge the concerns that our proposals divided the Busk area, particularly in relation to the access to the Berries Field green space. We agree that housing on all sides access this area and note the arguments for retaining links to Coldhurst.

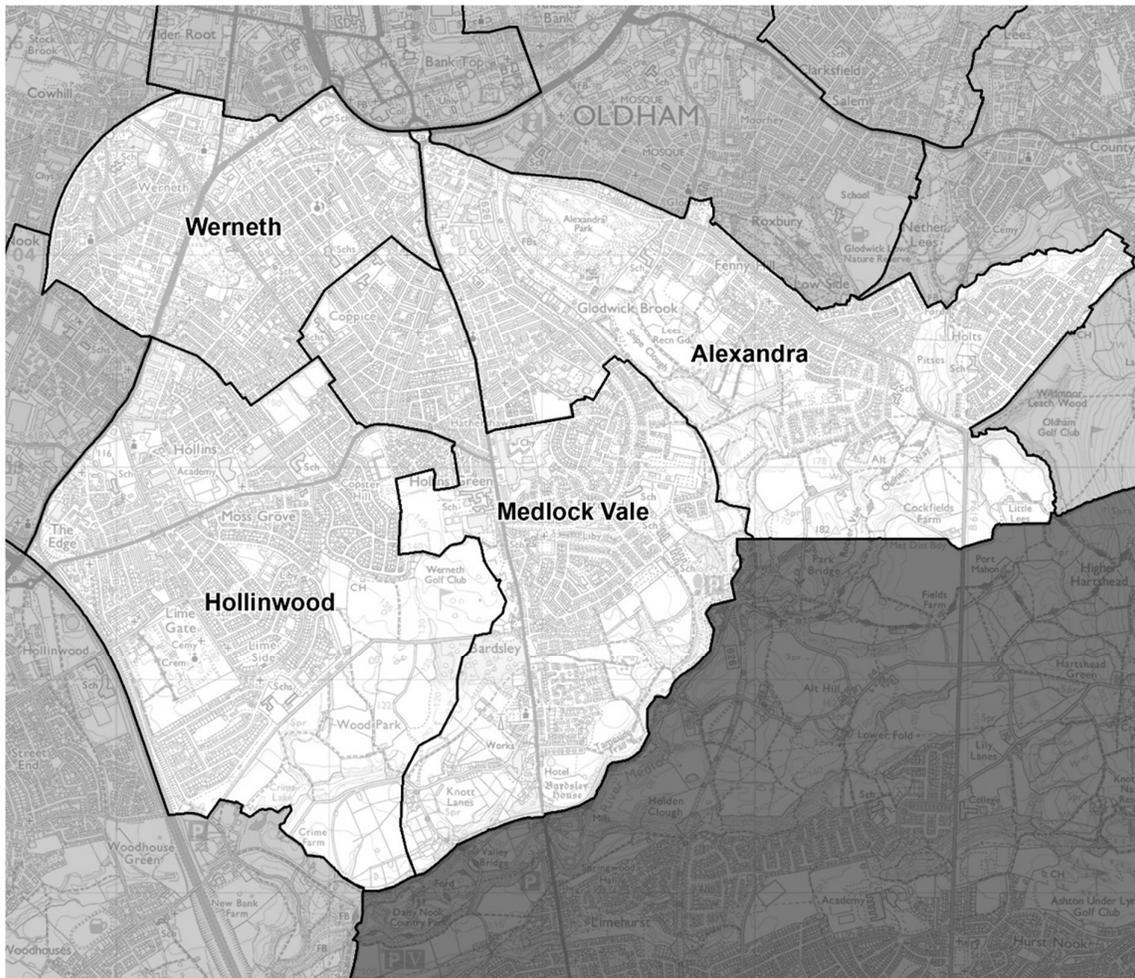
64 We have therefore been persuaded to amend our proposals and include the Busk area in Coldhurst ward as part of our final recommendations. We note that transferring this area would worsen electoral equality in Chadderton Central to ward 9% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026, while worsening it in Coldhurst ward to 13% more. On balance, we have been persuaded that the compelling community evidence received for the Busk area justifies this variance.

65 Finally, we note the comments from a resident about transferring the area round Lydia Becker Way to Chadderton North ward and offsetting this amendment by transferring the Block Lane area of Werneth ward. We considered the transfer of

the Block Lane area when preparing our draft recommendations and do not consider there is sufficient new evidence to justify it at this stage.

66 We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for this area as final, subject to the amendments outlined above. Our three-councillor Chadderton Central, Chadderton North and Chadderton South wards would have 9% fewer, 1% more and 4% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

## Alexandra, Hollinwood, Medlock Vale and Werneth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Alexandra	3	-4%
Hollinwood	3	3%
Medlock Vale	3	4%
Werneth	3	5%

### *Hollinwood, Medlock Vale and Werneth*

67 The Labour Group and the Conservatives both expressed general support for this ward. A resident argued for their inclusion in Hollinwood ward; our draft recommendations did so. Two residents stated that an area of Werneth ward around Block Lane should be in Chadderton ward, but did not provide any community evidence to support this.

68 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the support for our draft recommendations. We also note the comments from local residents, but these do not provide any compelling evidence to persuade us to move

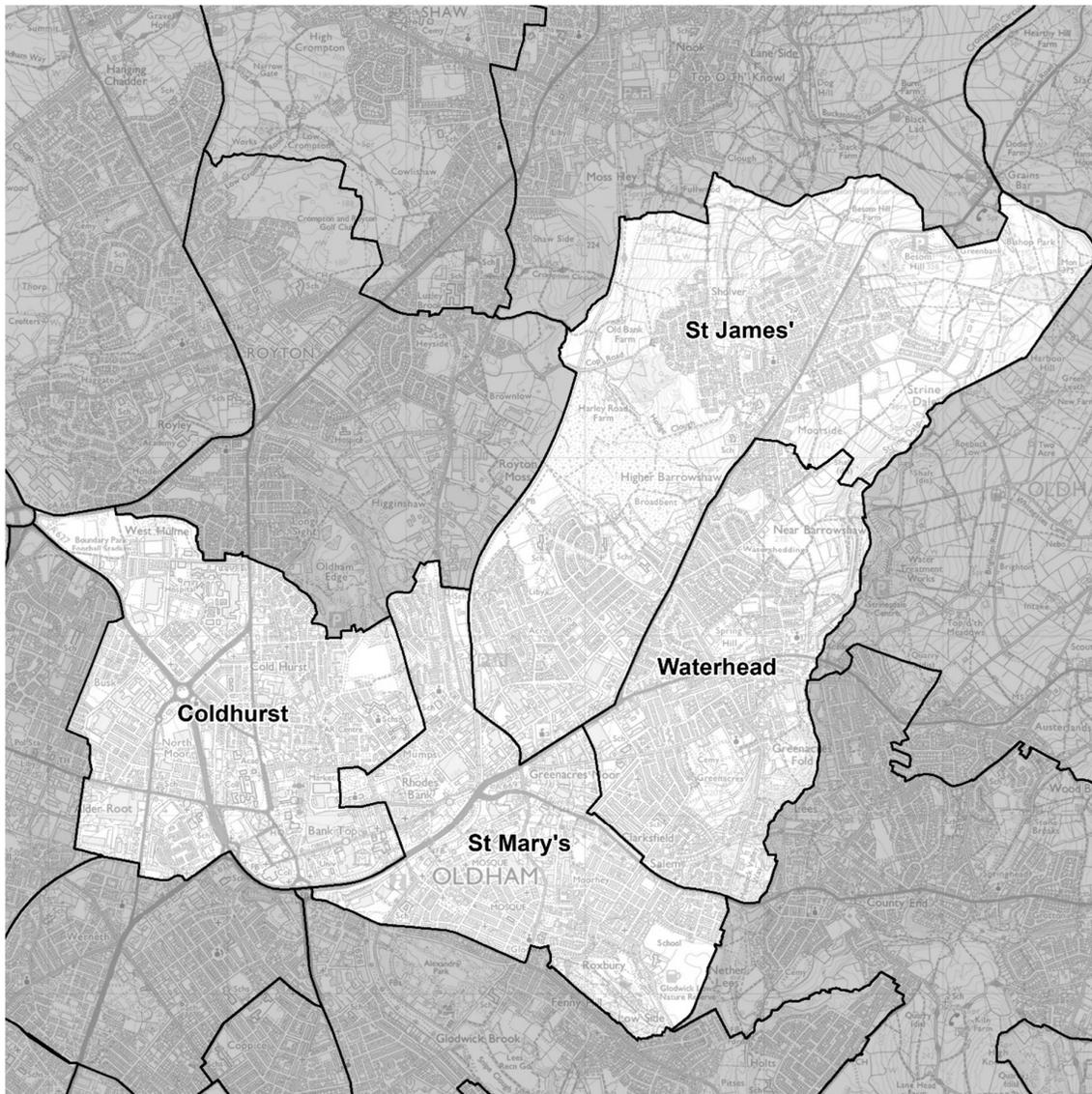
away from our draft recommendations. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendation for Hollinwood, Medlock Vale and Werneth wards as final. These three-councillor wards would have 3% more, 4% more and 5% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

#### *Alexandra*

69 The Labour Group and the Conservatives both expressed general support for this ward. Two residents also argued that the Holts and Abbey Hills areas should be in Saddleworth West & Lees ward.

70 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the support for our draft recommendations. We also note the comments from residents about the Holts and Abbey Hills areas, but transferring them into Saddleworth West & Lees ward would require a substantial reworking of the draft recommendations, as well as worsen electoral equality. We have therefore not been persuaded to make this change and are confirming our draft recommendation as final. Our three-councillor Alexandra ward would have 4% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026.

## Coldhurst, St James', St Mary's and Waterhead



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Coldhurst	3	13%
St James'	3	0%
St Mary's	3	6%
Waterhead	3	2%

### *Coldhurst and St Mary's*

71 The Labour Group and Conservatives expressed support for our proposed St Mary's ward, while the Conservatives also supported our proposed Coldhurst ward. The Labour Group and Chadderton District Executive both objected to the draft recommendations for Coldhurst, arguing that the Busk area should be included in Coldhurst ward.

72 Councillor Jabbar, Councillor Malik, Councillor Surjan, Oldham Snooker Academy, Vision, Westwood Football Club, Westwood & Coldhurst Women's Association and around 20 local residents objected to changes to the existing Coldhurst ward, with specific objections to the transfer of Busk from Coldhurst ward to Chadderton Central ward. Respondents argued that this area, and particularly the Berries Field green space, had strong community links to Coldhurst, with the green space acting as an important community facility. Chadderton Together objected to changes to the existing wards.

73 A resident stated that Salem Grove should be in 'Lees', but did not provide any community evidence to support this suggestion. Another resident argued against the removal of the Higginshaw Estate from St Mary's ward, although the estate continued to be included in St Mary's ward as part of our draft recommendations. A resident argued that St Mary's should be renamed Glodwick or Oldham Central and that Coldhurst should be renamed Coldhurst & St Mary's to reflect the inclusion of the St Mary's Estate in Coldhurst ward. Another resident argued that Coldhurst ward should be renamed Oldham Central.

74 We have given consideration to the evidence received. As discussed in the Chadderton section, above, we note the concerns over the Busk area. While we remain of the view that running a boundary along Garforth Street appears to split this area, we note that there was only limited support for our proposal and we acknowledge the concerns that our proposals divided the Busk area, particularly in relation to the access to the Berries Field green space. We agree that housing on all sides access this area and note the arguments for retaining links to Coldhurst.

75 We have therefore been persuaded to amend our proposals and include the Busk area in Coldhurst ward as part of our final recommendations. We note that transferring this area would worsen electoral equality in Chadderton Central ward to 9% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026, while worsening it in Coldhurst ward to 13% more. On balance, we have been persuaded that the compelling community evidence received for the Busk area justifies this variance.

76 Subject to the amendment outlined above, we are confirming our proposed Coldhurst ward as final. We note the support for the St Mary's ward and are therefore also confirming this as final. Finally, we considered the suggestion of ward name changes, but noted that there was not support or agreement for a particular name change. We are confirming the Coldhurst and St Mary's ward names as final. Our three-councillor Coldhurst and St Mary's wards would have 13% more and 6% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

#### *St James' and Waterhead*

77 The Labour Group and the Conservatives both expressed general support for this ward. We received no other significant comments on these wards. We are

therefore confirming them as final. Our St James' and Waterhead wards would have variances of 0% and 2% by 2026.

## Conclusions

78 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Oldham, referencing the 2020 and 2026 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	2026
Number of councillors	60	60
Number of electoral wards	20	20
Average number of electors per councillor	2,752	2,850
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	1	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Final recommendations

Oldham Council should be made up of 60 councillors representing 20 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 ward for Oldham.

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

### Parish electoral arrangements

79 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.

80 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, Oldham 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.

41 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 Shaw & Crompton parish.

42 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Shaw & Crompton parish.

#### Final recommendations

Shaw & Crompton Parish Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	3
North	4
South	3
South West	1
West	3

## What happens next?

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

## Equalities

45 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 Oldham Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Alexandra	3	7,343	2,448	-11%	8,232	2,744	-4%
2	Chadderton Central	3	7,564	2,521	-8%	7,764	2,588	-9%
3	Chadderton North	3	8,637	2,879	5%	8,674	2,891	1%
4	Chadderton South	3	8,798	2,933	7%	8,886	2,962	4%
5	Coldhurst	3	9,413	3,318	14%	9,663	3,221	13%
6	Crompton	3	7,982	2,661	-3%	8,081	2,694	-5%
7	Failsworth East	3	7,925	2,642	-4%	8,229	2,743	-4%
8	Failsworth West	3	7,790	2,597	-6%	8,174	2,725	-4%
9	Hollinwood	3	8,335	2,778	1%	8,800	2,933	3%
10	Medlock Vale	3	8,438	2,813	2%	8,856	2,952	4%
11	Royton North	3	8,706	2,902	5%	8,822	2,941	3%
12	Royton South	3	7,554	2,518	-8%	8,110	2,703	-5%

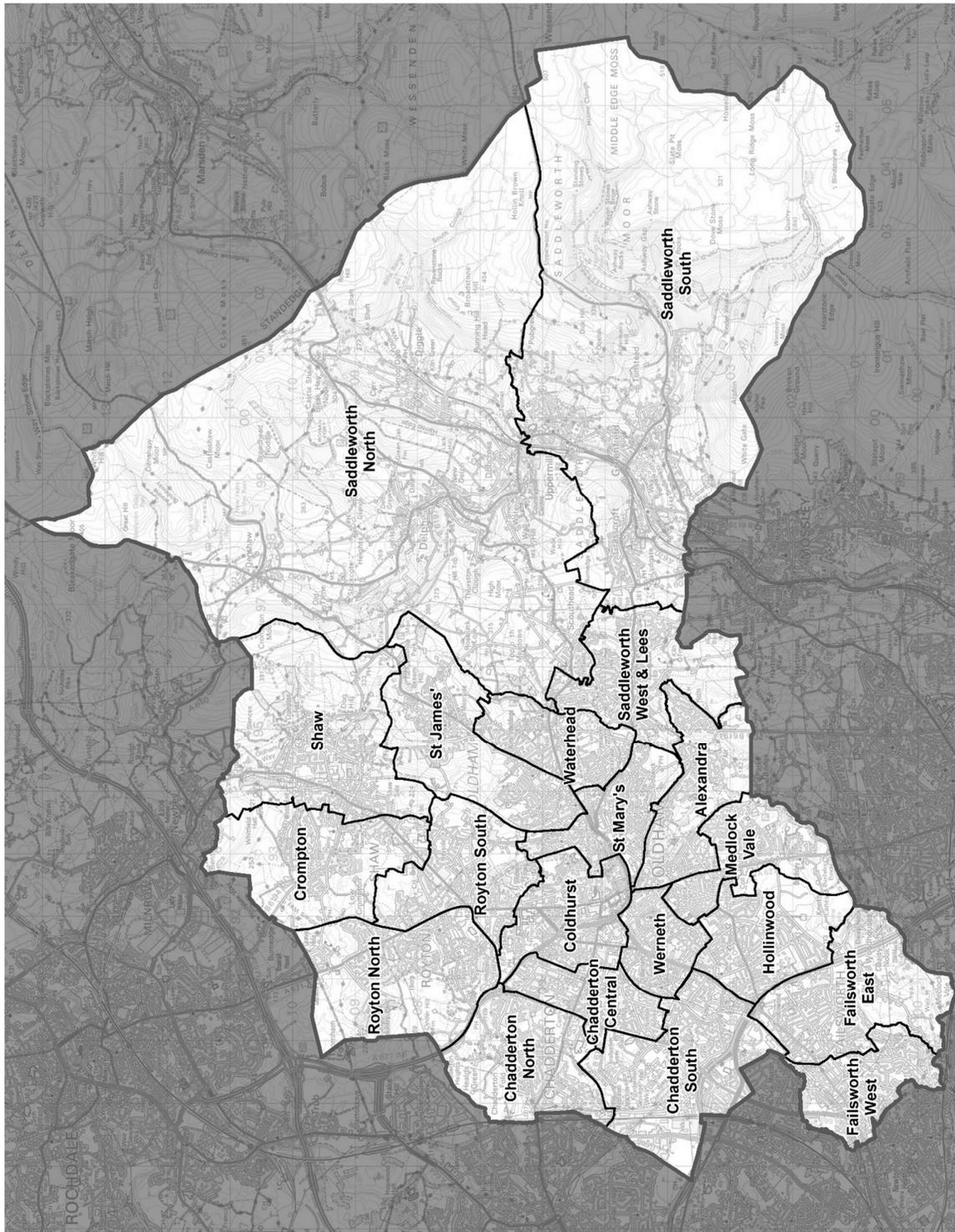
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Saddleworth North	3	7,866	2,622	-5%	8,176	2,725	-4%
14	Saddleworth South	3	8,355	2,785	1%	8,686	2,895	2%
15	Saddleworth West & Lees	3	8,476	2,825	3%	8,700	2,900	2%
16	Shaw	3	7,511	2,504	-9%	7,842	2,614	-8%
17	St James'	3	8,128	2,709	-2%	8,569	2,856	0%
18	St Mary's	3	8,703	2,901	5%	9,021	3,007	6%
19	Waterhead	3	8,670	2,890	5%	8,757	2,919	2%
20	Werneth	3	8,915	2,972	8%	8,934	2,978	5%
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>165,109</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>170,975</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,752</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>-</b>

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

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

## Appendix B

### Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: [www.lqbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/greater-manchester/oldham](http://www.lqbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/greater-manchester/oldham)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/greater-manchester/oldham](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/greater-manchester/oldham)

#### *Political Groups*

- Chadderton District Executive
- Failsworth East & Failsworth West Branch Labour Parties
- Oldham & Saddleworth Conservatives
- Oldham Council Labour Group
- Oldham Council Liberal Democrats Group

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor A. Jabbar (Oldham Council)
- Councillor V. Leach (Oldham Council)
- Councillor A. Malik (Oldham Council)
- Councillor R. Surjan (Oldham Council)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Chadderton Together
- Oldham Snooker Academy
- Oldham Central Masjid
- Vision
- Westwood FC
- Westwood & Coldhurst Women's Association

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Shaw & Crompton Parish Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 56 local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (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](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

**Online:** [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

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