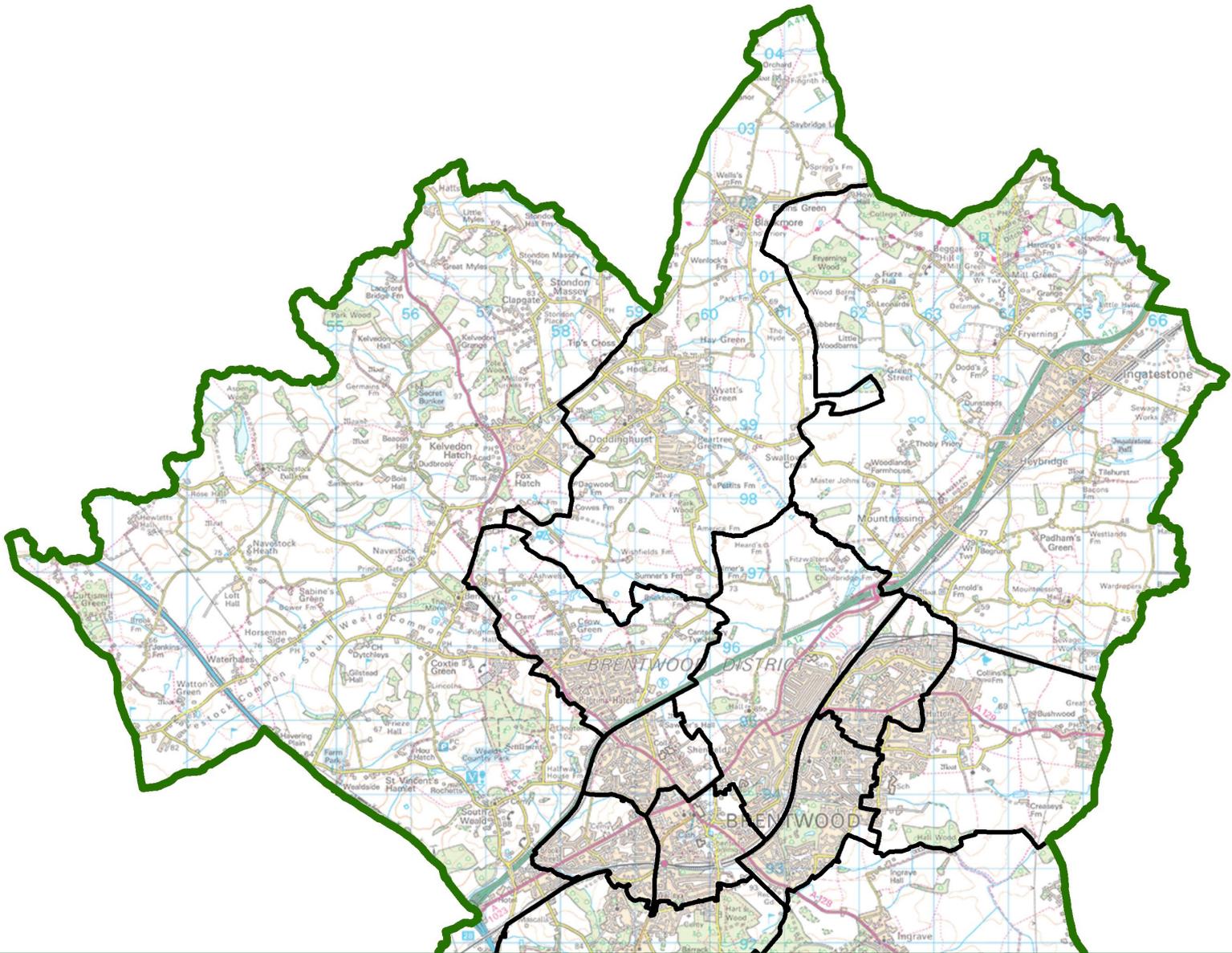


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Brentwood Borough Council Draft Recommendations

October 2022

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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 further guidance and information about electoral reviews and the review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Brentwood?

7 We are conducting a review of Brentwood Borough Council ('the Council') as the 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 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 Brentwood 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 Brentwood

9 Brentwood should be represented by 39 councillors, two more than there are now.

10 Brentwood should have 13 wards, two fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; three 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 borough's external boundaries or result in postcode changes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not affect local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums, and we cannot consider any representations 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 10 weeks, from 4 October to 12 December 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 12 December 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 25 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 Brentwood. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
25 April 2022	Number of councillors decided
10 May 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
18 July 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
4 October 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
12 December 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
28 February 2023	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 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 local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown in the table below.

	2022	2028
Electorate of Brentwood	58,957	65,748
Number of councillors	39	39
Average number of electors per councillor	1,512	1,686

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 our proposed wards for Brentwood will have good electoral equality by 2028.

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 2028, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 20%.

25 However, we determined that this forecast was too high, based on the evidence provided. This was productively discussed with the Council and we worked with officers to revise these figures. The revised forecast from the Council produced an

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.

increase of 12% and we agreed to use this electorate forecast as the basis of our draft recommendations.

26 During consultation on warding patterns, we received four borough-wide schemes. Three of these came from the Brentwood Conservative Group ('the Conservative Group'), the Brentwood Liberal Democrat Group ('the Liberal Democrat Group') and the Brentwood Labour Group ('the Labour Group'). Towards the end of the consultation, when these political groups submitted proposals for new warding arrangements, we noted that the forecast figures used by them did not reflect the previously agreed forecast. It became clear that they had used a forecast figure of 70,877, which represented the 20% increase forecast the Council had initially submitted to us. This was higher than the forecast of 65,748 electors that we had agreed upon with the Council and published on our website.

27 Nonetheless, having examined each of the three borough-wide schemes carefully, we found that they still generally produced wards with good electoral equality on a forecast of 65,748.

28 We raised all the above with the Council, who notified each of the political groups. We received no further correspondence from the political groups. We therefore concluded that the electorate forecast agreed upon at the start of the review would be the one on which we would base our recommendations and that we would examine each borough-wide scheme against.

29 We did not receive any submissions during consultation that challenged the electoral figures put forward by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at present.

Number of councillors

30 Brentwood Borough Council currently has 37 councillors. Having looked at evidence provided by the Council and the Liberal Democrat Group, we have concluded that increasing this number by two will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

31 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 39 councillors. As the Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years), there is a presumption in legislation⁵ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern should we receive compelling evidence during consultation

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

that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

Ward boundaries consultation

32 We received 18 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four borough-wide proposals from the Conservative Group (supported by Councillor Barber), the Liberal Democrat Group, the Labour Group and a local resident. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

33 The four borough-wide schemes all provided for a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Brentwood. 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 identifiable boundaries.

34 Therefore, our draft recommendations represent a combination of the four borough-wide schemes submitted. 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 the best balance between our statutory criteria, so we identified alternative boundaries.

35 We visited the area to look at the various proposals on the ground. This tour of Brentwood helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

36 Our draft recommendations are for 13 three-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.

37 The tables and maps on pages 9–22 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Brentwood. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria:

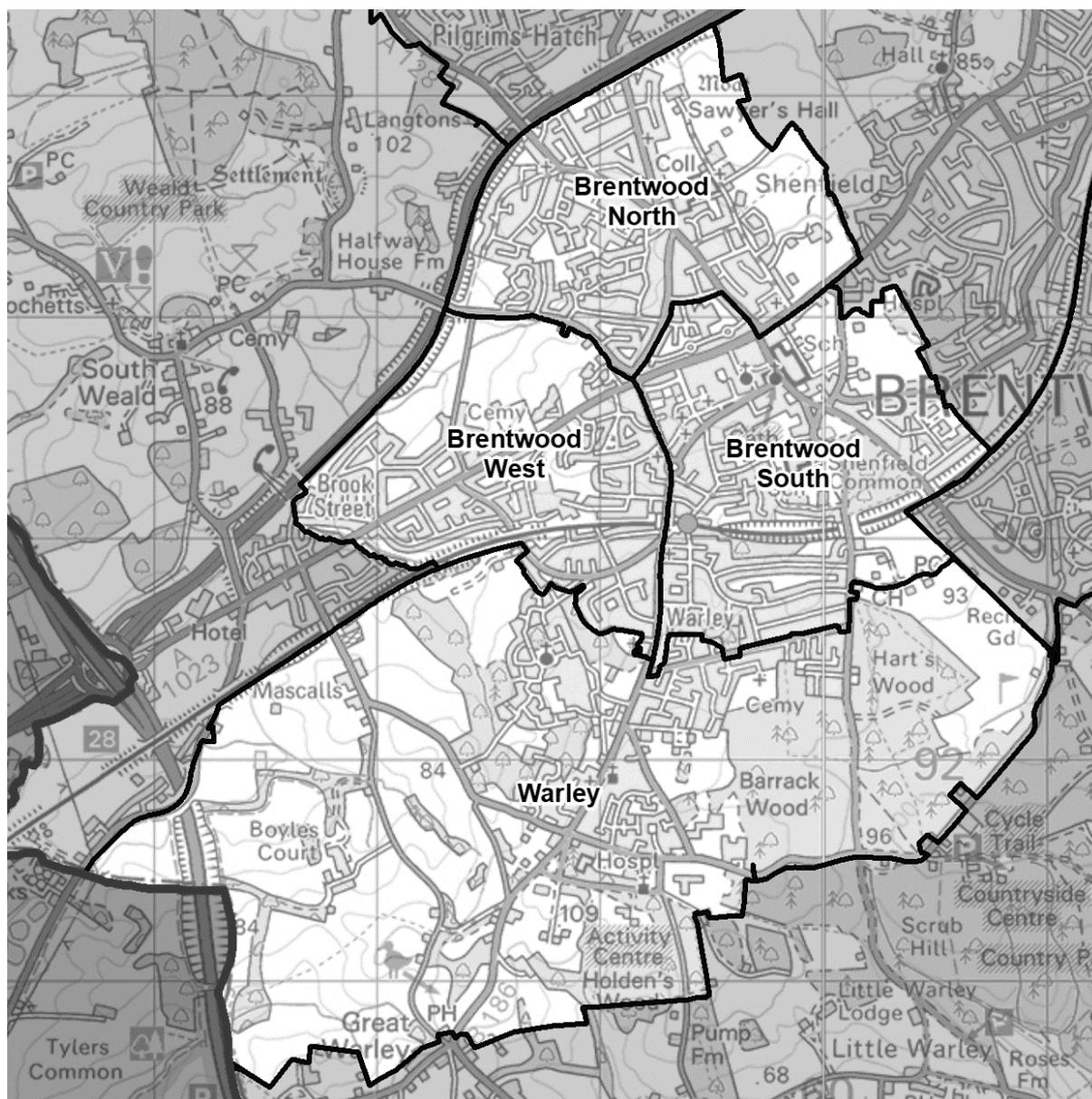
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

38 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 31 and the large map accompanying this report.

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

Brentwood and Warley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Brentwood North	3	4%
Brentwood South	3	1%
Brentwood West	3	6%
Warley	3	-8%

Brentwood North

40 The four borough-wide schemes suggested various configurations for Brentwood North ward. With significant development anticipated north of the High Street, the current ward is forecast to be under-represented by 2028. Consequently,

each scheme proposed a geographically smaller ward to remedy this anticipated electoral inequality.

41 Our draft recommendations for Brentwood North ward most closely resemble the ward proposed by the local resident. Although the Conservative Group's proposed Brentwood North ward was very similar, we were not persuaded to adopt its suggestion of excluding St Charles Road, Borromeo Way, Milan Walk and De Paul Way, which the group had placed in a Brentwood West ward. We consider electors on these roads share closer links with electors north of Brentwood town centre. For the same reason, we did not adopt the Labour Group's Brentwood North ward, which also transferred these roads, in addition to Costead Manor Road and its connected roads, into a Brentwood West ward.

42 We were not persuaded to adopt the Liberal Democrat Group's proposed ward either, which transferred a substantial number of electors around Sawyers Hall Lane into a Chapel ward. We consider electors in this area would fit more appropriately and share community identities with electors in our predominantly residential Brentwood North ward.

Brentwood South

43 We received varied proposals in relation to the area covered by the current Brentwood South ward. The Conservative Group proposed a Brentwood Central ward that would incorporate the entirety of the High Street in a single ward, stating that the current division of the High Street results in confusion and a 'barrier to effective engagement'. The specific proposal to place the commercial centre of Brentwood town in one ward was supported by two local residents.

44 The Labour Group proposed a Brentwood Town ward which, it argued, would effectively represent electors residing south of the High Street. This ward was somewhat similar to the Conservatives' proposal for a Brentwood Central ward, but it did not include both sides of the High Street and excluded the area around Hogarth Primary School.

45 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed a Chapel ward for the town centre that incorporated a significant part of the current Brentwood North ward, north of the High Street. We did not adopt this proposal, for reasons justified in paragraph 42.

46 After careful consideration, we are recommending a Brentwood South ward as part of our draft recommendations. This most closely resembles the local resident's Brentwood South & Warley North ward, which linked the part of the current Brentwood South ward north of the railway line with the area between the railway line and Woodman Road. We are nonetheless proposing some modifications to this ward.

47 We were persuaded by the argument that the town centre should be entirely in a single ward. We therefore recommend placing the entirety of the High Street, between its junctions with Kings Road and Ingrave Road, in Brentwood South ward. This contrasts with the local resident's proposal, which placed the northern side of the High Street in Brentwood West ward. To enable this change and ensure good electoral equality across wards, we have not included the area around Crescent Road in our proposed ward and have instead kept it in Brentwood West ward. We consider that this area has good links with communities north of the railway line, with simple road access via Kavanaghs Road and Crescent Road. This reflects the proposals made by the Conservative Group, the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Group, which each placed the area around Crescent Road in their respective Brentwood West wards.

48 As a result of these modifications, we consider the ward name of Brentwood South to be the most appropriate. We nonetheless welcome comments on the boundaries and name of this ward during consultation.

Brentwood West

49 Our draft recommendations for Brentwood West ward are based on the existing ward. We consider that the current ward has clear, identifiable boundaries and largely reflects our statutory criteria. However, we have decided to place the entirety of the Clements Park area in our Warley ward, so as to unite this community in a single ward. While all of the borough-wide schemes united the area in one ward, we were persuaded by the Labour Group and local resident proposals to place the Clements Park area in a Warley-centric ward.

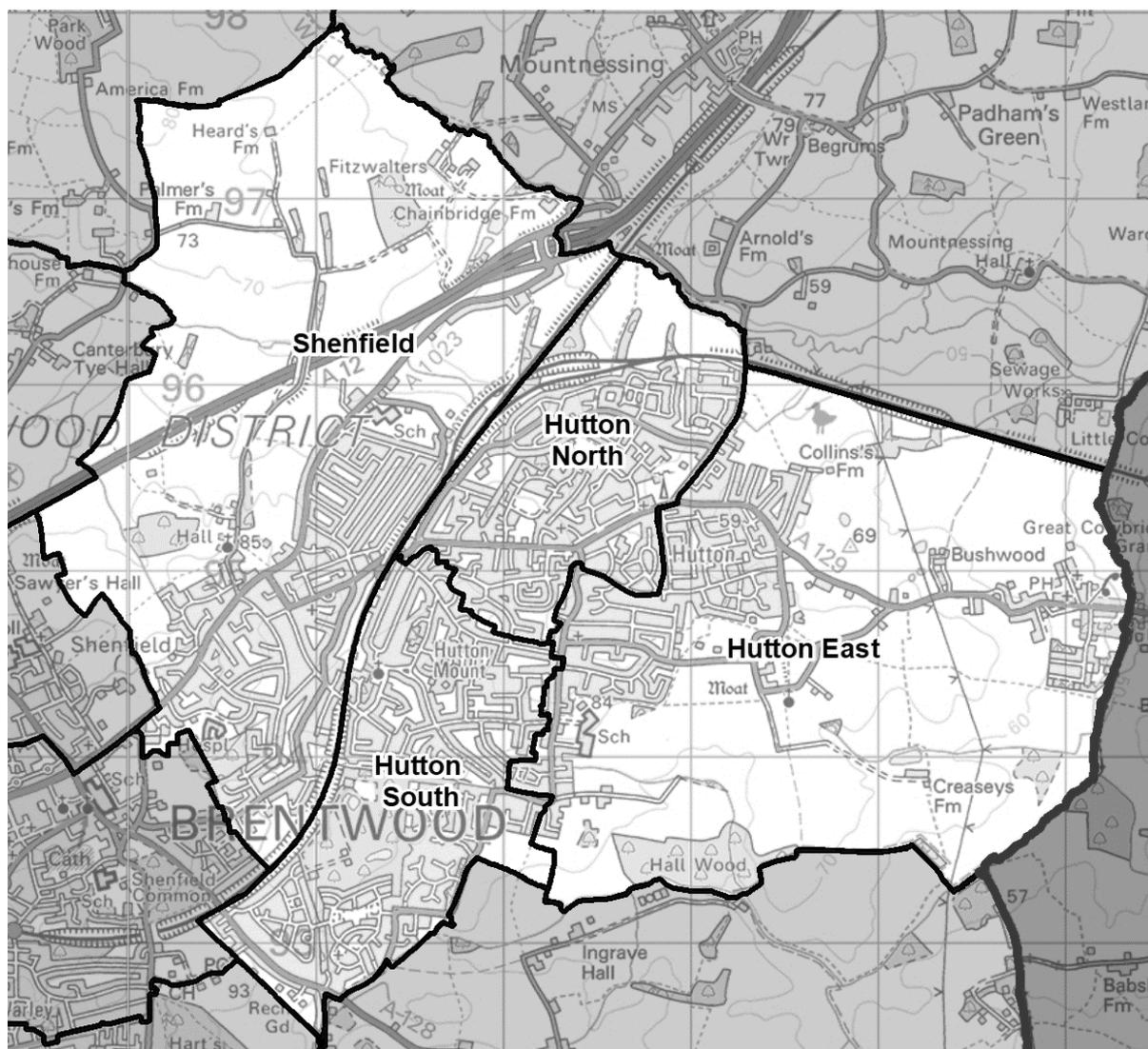
Warley

50 We have based our Warley ward on the proposals made by the Labour Group and the local resident. We determined that the boundaries proposed by these two schemes would effectively reflect community identities. We were concerned that the Conservative and Liberal Democrat groups' proposals for the area would divide the Warley community.

51 We propose to name this ward Warley, as we consider it the most representative of the community that forms much of this ward.

52 The only difference between our proposed ward and the ward suggested by the Labour Group and the local resident was our decision to include the village of Great Warley in our Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon ward, for reasons justified in paragraph 67.

Hutton and Shenfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Hutton East	3	-9%
Hutton North	3	-6%
Hutton South	3	4%
Shenfield	3	8%

Hutton East

53 We received similar proposals for the eastern part of Hutton from the Conservative Group, the Labour Group and the local resident. In particular, they proposed a ward that linked the current Hutton East ward with the part of the current Hutton Central ward that lies east of Hanging Hill Lane. The only differences between the three proposals were the local resident's suggestion to include the area bounded by Rayleigh Road, Hutton Drive and Cedar Road in a Hutton North ward and the Labour Group's decision to exclude Havering's Grove, placing it in a

Doddinghurst & Mountnessing ward. The Conservative Group and the local resident named this ward Hutton East, while the Labour Group named it Hutton South.

54 Alternatively, the Liberal Democrat Group proposed a Willowbrook ward bounded by Rayleigh Road, the rear of properties on the northern side of Park Avenue and Mount Avenue, the Great Eastern railway line and the borough boundary. After careful consideration, we decided not to adopt this ward. In particular, we were concerned that placing the boundary along Rayleigh Road would divide Havering's Grove between wards, which would not reflect community identities and interests.

55 We have instead broadly adopted the Hutton East ward proposed by the local resident. We have adopted this proposal because excluding the area bounded by Rayleigh Road, Hutton Drive and Cedar Road and transferring it to Hutton North ward will ensure good electoral equality for that ward. We were also not persuaded to adopt the Labour Group's suggestion to exclude Havering's Grove, as we consider the area to share stronger links with Hutton than either Doddinghurst or Mountnessing.

56 We consider the name Hutton East most appropriate, given its location east of our proposed Hutton North and Hutton South wards. We were not persuaded to adopt the Liberal Democrat Group's suggestion of Willowbrook as insufficient evidence was supplied to support this ward name.

57 A local resident requested that the current two-councillor Hutton Central ward, which we propose to include in our proposed Hutton East ward, be retained. However, we determined that the evidence for a two-councillor ward was not persuasive enough for us to depart from the presumption that the borough have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards.

Hutton North

58 Our proposed Hutton North ward is based entirely on the proposal made by the local resident, which extended the current two-councillor ward to the north of properties on Mount Avenue. The Conservative Group's Hutton North ward also followed this boundary but did not include the area bounded by Rayleigh Road, Hutton Drive and Cedar Road. They instead included the Officers Meadow development (north of Shenfield) in this ward to achieve good electoral equality. However, we consider that the Great Eastern railway line between Hutton and Shenfield represents a strong boundary, and we are not persuaded to adopt a ward that straddles it as part of our draft recommendations. Furthermore, we expect that as it develops, this area will look towards Shenfield for amenities and should therefore be included in a Shenfield ward.

59 The Labour Group's Hutton North ward extended further south of Mount Drive, incorporating the Hutton Mount area. We decided not to adopt this proposal as it meant placing the area south of Thriftwood in a Brentwood South ward, linking the area with electors between the railway line and Woodman Road. We determined from our tour of the borough that the community and geographic links in this proposed ward were not particularly strong and would not provide an effective balance of our statutory criteria.

60 The Liberal Democrats proposed a Long Ridings ward that was bounded by Rayleigh Road, the Shenfield–Southend railway line and the borough boundary. We did not adopt this proposal as it would have a forecast electoral variance of -16%, which would not provide for good electoral equality.

Hutton South

61 The Conservative Group, the Liberal Democrat Group and the local resident all proposed a similar ward that linked the Hutton Mount area with the area south of Thriftwood. We were persuaded to adopt this proposal as we agree that these areas share close geographic links via Hanging Hill Lane and Pondfield Lane. Additionally, we agree that the Great Eastern railway line represents a clear and identifiable western boundary. We consider this ward preferable to the Labour Group's proposal, which placed the area south of Thriftwood in a Brentwood South ward. Our justification for not adopting the Labour Group's proposed ward is outlined in paragraph 59.

62 We propose to name this ward Hutton South. We nonetheless welcome views on whether the names of Hutton South & Thriftwood or Running Waters, as suggested by the Conservative Group and Liberal Democrat Group, respectively, are more appropriate.

Shenfield

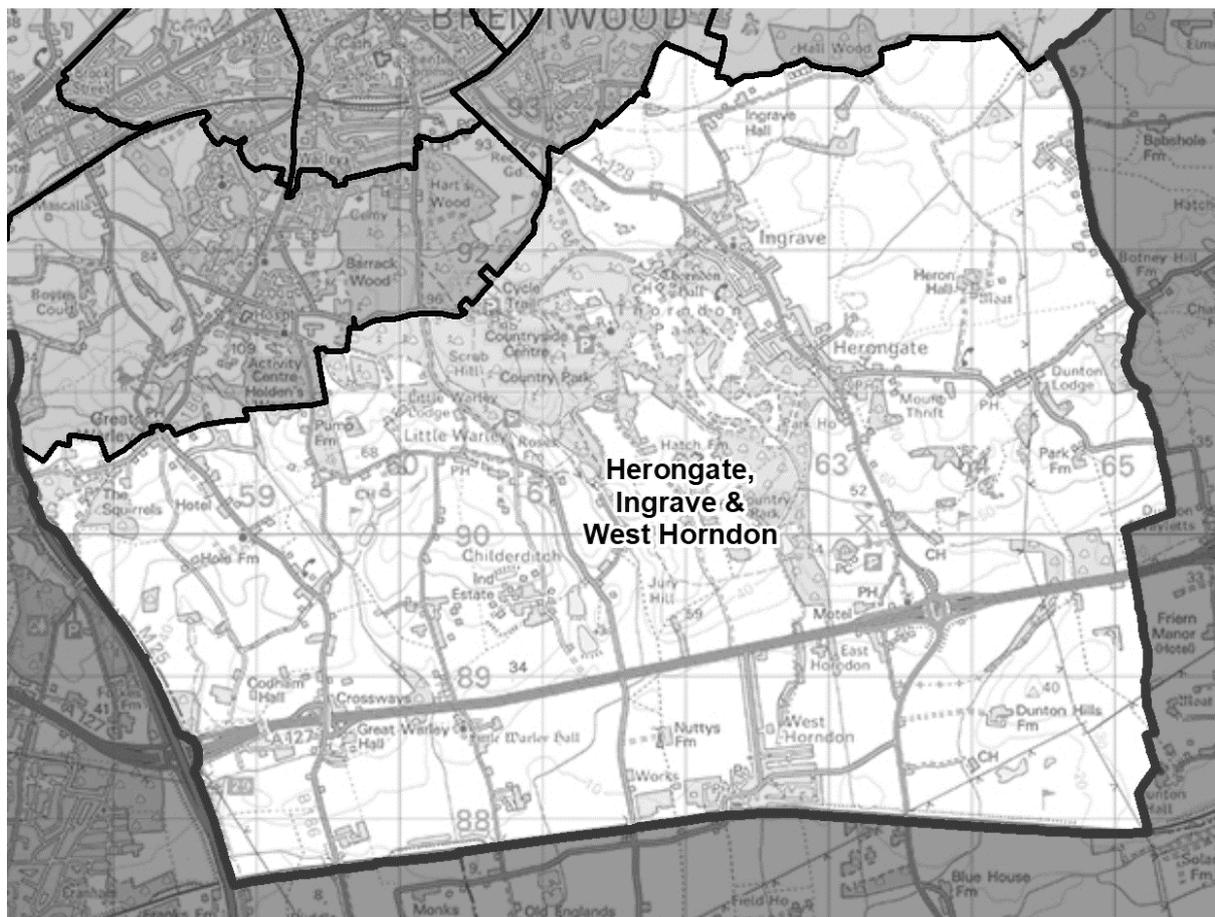
63 We have decided to retain the existing Shenfield ward as part of our draft recommendations, as proposed by the local resident. This ward is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028 and we consider the current ward boundaries effectively reflect the composition of the Shenfield community.

64 We were not persuaded to transfer the Officers Meadow development to adjacent wards, as suggested by the Conservative Group, the Liberal Democrat Group and the Labour Group. As outlined in paragraph 58, we consider it most appropriate to place the development in a Shenfield ward.

65 The Conservative Group included the area around Hogarth Primary School in its Shenfield ward, placing the western boundary along Ingrave Road. This was also suggested by a local resident. We did not adopt this proposal as it would result in our Shenfield ward having a forecast electoral variance of 16%. This would not, in our

view, provide for good electoral equality and we have not received sufficient evidence to justify such a high variance.

Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon	3	-9%

Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon

66 Our draft recommendations for this ward are based on the four borough-wide schemes, all of which proposed a broadly similar ward that linked the parishes of Herongate & Ingrave and West Horndon in a ward with the villages of Little Warley and Childerditch.

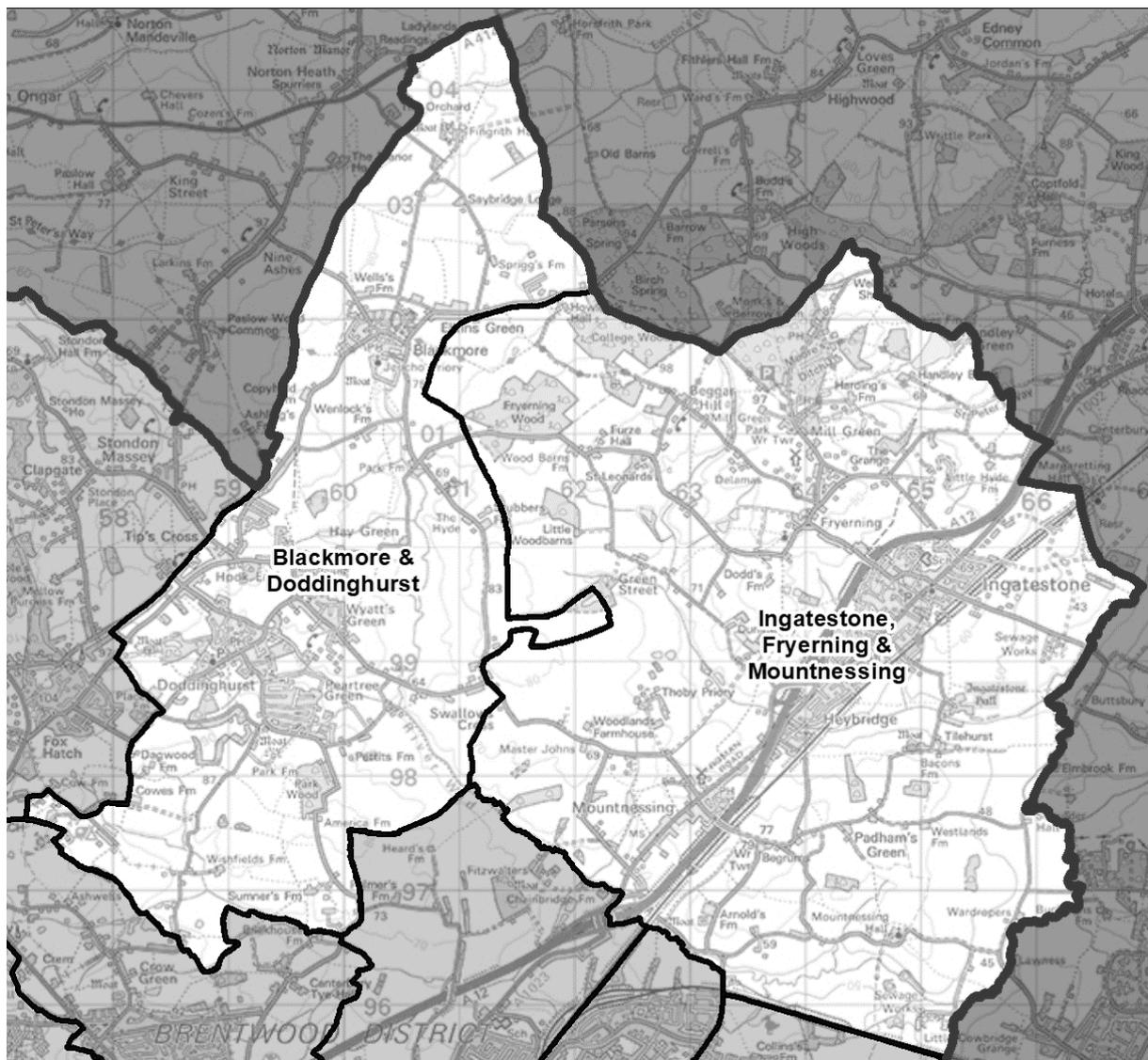
67 However, the proposals made by the Conservative Group, the Labour Group and the local resident placed the boundary of their ward south of Great Warley village and along The Avenue, resulting in a ward that would have a relatively high forecast electoral variance of -12% by 2028. Conversely, the Liberal Democrat Group's proposals extended the ward further north to incorporate the village of Great Warley. This would produce a ward with a forecast electoral variance of -9%, meaning it would have good electoral equality. We consider Great Warley, as a village community, will share common rural interests and concerns with the other villages that will form this ward, and this proposal will accordingly reflect local

community identities. We have therefore included Great Warley village in our proposed Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon ward.

68 The borough-wide schemes each proposed different ward names. The Conservative Group named the ward Herongate, Ingrave, Little Warley, Childerditch & West Horndon. We decided not to adopt this name as we consider it to be too long. We also determined that the Labour Group's proposal to name the ward Little Warley & The Villages to be unsuitable, as we were concerned that it would be unrepresentative of the other communities in the ward. We did not adopt the Liberal Democrat Group's suggestion of Thorndon, as we consider insufficient community evidence was supplied to support this name. Therefore, we propose to retain the existing ward name of Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon, as suggested by the local resident. We consider this name appropriately describes the main communities that are included in the ward. We nonetheless welcome comments on this decision during the current consultation.

69 A local resident requested that West Horndon be represented by a single-councillor ward, separate from Herongate and Ingrave, stating that the areas are distinct with differing needs and issues. We carefully considered this submission, but we were not persuaded that compelling evidence has been received to justify a single-councillor ward in this area, given the presumption in law for a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for the borough.

Blackmore & Doddinghurst and Ingatestone, Fryerning & Mountnessing



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Blackmore & Doddinghurst	3	-2%
Ingatestone, Fryerning & Mountnessing	3	9%

Blackmore & Doddinghurst and Ingatestone, Fryerning & Mountnessing

70 In relation to the parishes situated in the north-east of the borough, the Conservative Group and the local resident proposed near identical wards. Both continued to link the parish of Ingatestone & Fryerning in a ward with Mountnessing parish and proposed a ward that linked Doddinghurst parish with Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green parish.

71 Alternatively, the Labour Group proposed an Ingatestone ward that linked Ingatestone & Fryerning parish with the Blackmore part of Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green parish. It also proposed a Doddinghurst & Mountnessing ward

comprised of Doddinghurst and Mountnessing parishes, in addition to the Officers Meadow development and Havering's Grove.

72 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed a Swallows Cross ward that placed the parts of Ingatestone & Fryerning and Mountnessing parishes that lie west of the A12 in a ward with part of Kelvedon Hatch parish and the entirety of Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green and Stondon Massey parishes. It proposed that the remaining parts of Ingatestone & Fryerning and Mountnessing parishes be linked to the Officers Meadow development in an Ingatestone Manor ward.

73 We carefully examined the alternative warding patterns for this area and have decided to base our draft recommendations on the Conservative Group and local resident proposals. We were concerned that the Labour Group and Liberal Democrat Group proposals divided parishes between wards, which would not promote effective and convenient local government. Furthermore, based on our tour of the area, we observed that Ingatestone & Fryerning and Mountnessing parishes share strong road and geographic links via Roman Road and the A12. We determined that either placing or dividing the two parishes into separate wards would not reflect local community identities.

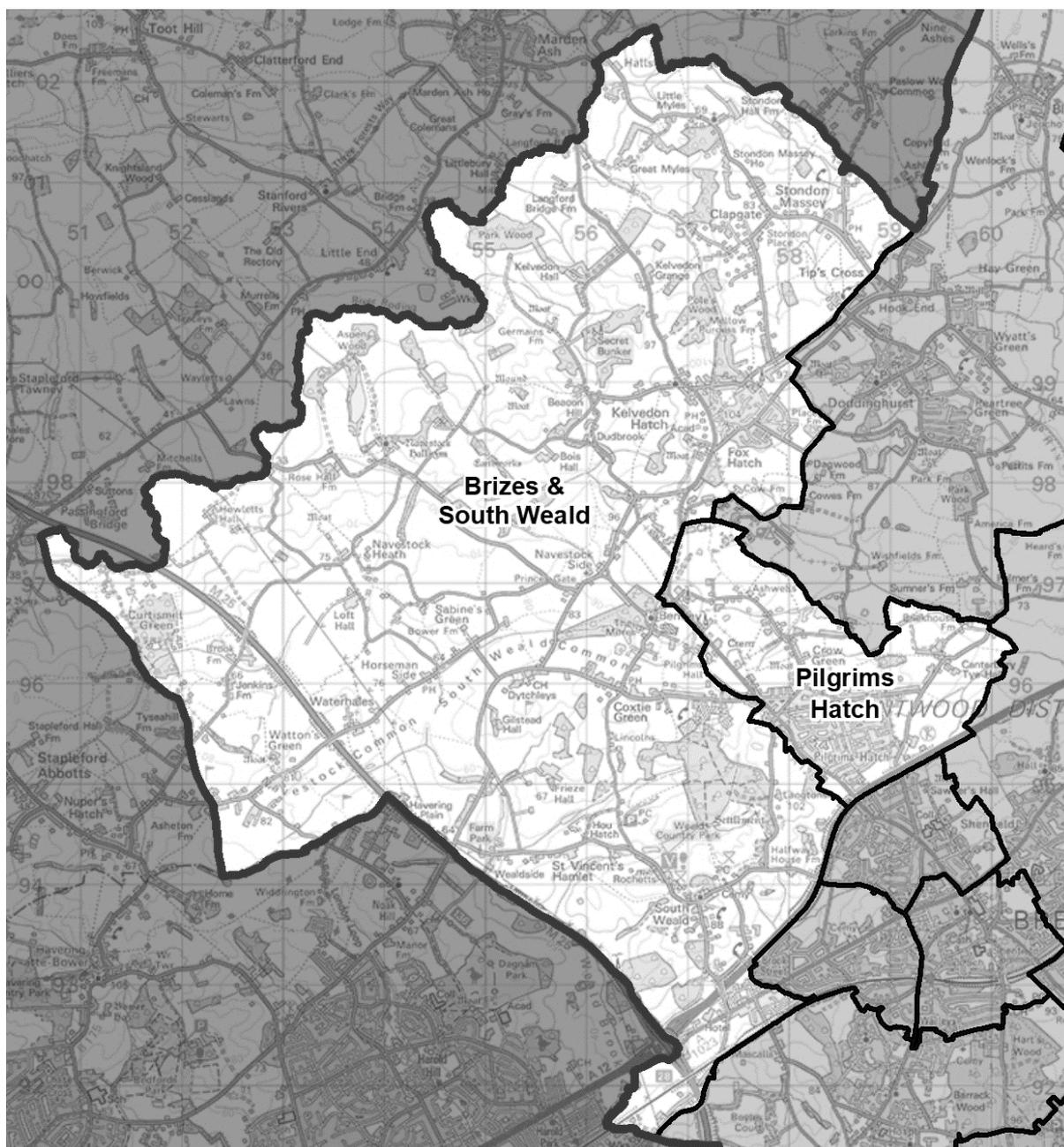
74 The Conservative Group's and the local resident's proposals did have some slight differences. The Conservative Group proposed that the boundary of its Blackmore & Doddinghurst ward follow the A12 instead of the Doddinghurst parish boundary and that Chain Bridge Farm be included in its Ingatestone, Fryerning & Mountnessing ward. We decided not to adopt these proposals as we consider following the parish boundaries will contribute to effective and convenient local government. For the same reason, we did not adopt a separate proposal from a local resident to include the Elms development in Shenfield ward.

75 We propose to name these two wards as Blackmore & Doddinghurst and Ingatestone, Fryerning & Mountnessing. Both the Conservative Group and the local resident suggested the latter ward name, but the local resident named the former ward Doddinghurst, Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green. We decided not to adopt this name as we consider it too long, but we welcome comments on whether the Conservative Group's proposed name of Blackmore & Doddinghurst represents a suitable name for this ward.

76 A local resident requested that the parish of Ingatestone & Fryerning form a two-councillor ward, with Mountnessing parish represented by a single-councillor ward. Another local resident requested a three-councillor ward comprised only of Ingatestone & Fryerning parish. We decided not to adopt the former proposal as we were not persuaded that compelling evidence has been received to move away from the presumption that the borough be represented by a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We did not adopt the latter suggestion as it would result in a ward

with a forecast electoral variance of -18%, which would not provide for good electoral equality.

Brizes & South Weald and Pilgrims Hatch



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Brizes & South Weald	3	0%
Pilgrims Hatch	3	2%

Brizes & South Weald

77 We received varied proposals regarding the rural communities in the north-west of the borough. The Conservative Group and the local resident both proposed an identical ward that placed Kelvedon Hatch, Navestock and Stondon Massey parishes in a ward with the unparished areas of Brook Street, South Weald and Coxtie Green.

The Labour Group suggested a Brentwood Rural ward composed of Kelvedon Hatch, Navestock and Stondon Massey parishes, in addition to the Hook End and Wyatts Green part of Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green parish. The Liberal Democrat Group proposed a Farmlands ward that split Kelvedon Hatch parish between wards, along Ongar Road and Blackmore Road. The southern and western parts of the parish were linked in a ward with Doddinghurst and Navestock parishes, in addition to the unparished areas of Brook Street, South Weald and Coxtie Green.

78 After carefully examining the various proposals received, we have decided that the ward boundaries proposed by the Conservative Group and the local resident will provide the best reflection of our statutory criteria and have adopted their proposals as part of our draft recommendations. We decided not to adopt either ward suggested by the Labour Group or the Liberal Democrat Group as we determined that their proposals would divide parishes between wards which would not promote effective and convenient local government, nor reflect community identities in this area.

79 We are adopting the ward name of Brizes & South Weald, as suggested by the local resident. We prefer it to the Conservative Group's proposed name of South Weald, Navestock, Kelvedon Hatch & Stondon Massey, which we consider to be too long. We nonetheless welcome comments on the ward name and the boundaries of this ward during the current consultation.

Pilgrims Hatch

80 All four borough-wide schemes proposed a Pilgrims Hatch ward. The Conservative Group and local resident both retained the existing ward. The Liberal Democrat Group largely maintained the existing ward but proposed relatively minor boundary adjustments, such as moving the northern boundary from the Doddinghurst and Kelvedon Hatch parish boundary to Crow Green. However, the Labour Group expanded the ward to include the village of Coxtie Green, stating that the village shares close links with the Pilgrims Hatch area.

81 We have decided to adopt the ward proposed by the Conservative Group and the local resident, thereby retaining the current Pilgrims Hatch ward. It effectively reflects our statutory criteria, with the ward forecast to have an electoral variance of 2% in 2028. We were not persuaded to include Coxtie Green village in the ward, as proposed by the Labour Group, as we consider it fits more appropriately in our predominantly rural Brizes & South Weald ward. We did not adopt the Liberal Democrat Group's modifications either, as following the Doddinghurst and Kelvedon Hatch parish boundary will, in our view, aid effective and convenient local government.

Conclusions

82 The table below provides a summary of the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Brentwood, referencing the 2022 and 2028 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found in Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2022	2028
Number of councillors	39	39
Number of electoral wards	13	13
Average number of electors per councillor	1,512	1,686
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Draft recommendations

Brentwood Borough Council should be made up of 39 councillors serving 13 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 Brentwood.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Brentwood on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say

83 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 borough or just a part of it.

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

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

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

Review Officer (Brentwood)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE14 9FE

87 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Brentwood 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.

88 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.

89 Electoral equality:

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

90 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other groups 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?

91 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?

92 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.lqbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

93 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.

94 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.

95 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 Brentwood in 2024.

Equalities

96 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 its 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 Brentwood Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Blackmore & Doddinghurst	3	4,736	1,579	4%	4,967	1,656	-2%
2	Brentwood North	3	5,010	1,670	10%	5,270	1,757	4%
3	Brentwood South	3	4,218	1,406	-7%	5,095	1,698	1%
4	Brentwood West	3	4,953	1,651	9%	5,339	1,780	6%
5	Brizes & South Weald	3	4,637	1,546	2%	5,039	1,680	0%
6	Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon	3	3,530	1,177	-22%	4,579	1,526	-9%
7	Hutton East	3	4,544	1,515	0%	4,585	1,528	-9%
8	Hutton North	3	4,605	1,535	2%	4,773	1,591	-6%
9	Hutton South	3	5,235	1,745	15%	5,274	1,758	4%
10	Ingatestone, Fryerning & Mountnessing	3	5,029	1,676	11%	5,526	1,842	9%

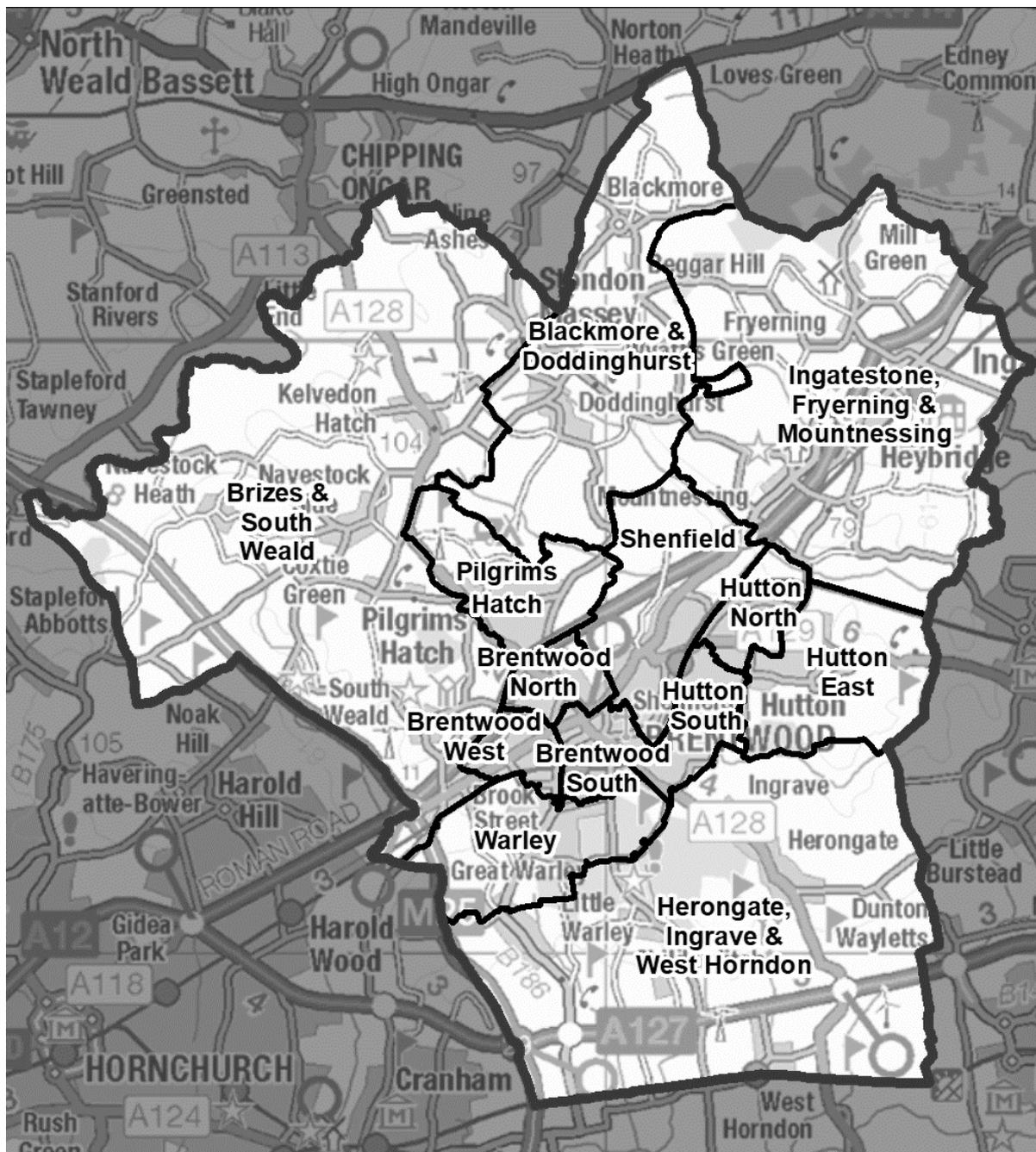
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Pilgrims Hatch	3	4,591	1,530	1%	5,147	1,716	2%
12 Shenfield	3	4,252	1,417	-6%	5,476	1,825	8%
13 Warley	3	3,617	1,206	-20%	4,677	1,559	-8%
Totals	39	58,957	–	–	65,748	–	–
Averages	–	–	1,512	–	–	1,686	–

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

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

Appendix B

Outline map



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/eastern/essex/brentwood

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/brentwood

Political Groups

- Brentwood Conservative Group
- Brentwood Labour Group
- Brentwood Liberal Democrat Group

Councillors

- Councillor K. Barber (Brentwood Borough Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Doddinghurst Parish Council

Local Residents

- 13 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

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

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

Translations and other formats:

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

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

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.

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