

New electoral arrangements for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Final Recommendations

March 2022

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do?

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

Why Epsom & Ewell?

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

9 Epsom & Ewell should be represented by 35 councillors, three fewer than there are now.

10 Epsom & Ewell should have 14 wards, one more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all but one ward should change; Stoneleigh will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Epsom & Ewell.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 April 2021	Number of councillors decided
11 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
19 July 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
5 October 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
13 December 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 March 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.

	2021	2027
Electorate of Epsom & Ewell	59,262	64,889
Number of councillors	35	35
Average number of electors per councillor	1,693	1,854

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 Epsom & Ewell will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 9% by 2027.

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

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.

Number of councillors

24 Epsom & Ewell Borough Council currently has 38 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing by three will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 35 councillors representing a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 We received several submissions that referenced the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. These submissions included a warding pattern based on 39 councillors submitted by the Epsom & Ewell Conservative Association ('the Conservatives'), and a proposal by Epsom & Ewell Constituency Labour Party ('Labour') based on 40 councillors. The other submissions we received expressed a mixture of general satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the proposed reduction. None of these submissions proposed any alternative council size numbers or offered any further evidence to support their views.

27 We received two submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. Councillor Reeve did not support the reduction of councillors from 38 to 35 and in particular opposed the reduction of councillors for Ewell Village, Ruxley and Stoneleigh from three councillors to two. He stated that this will reduce electors' access to councillors. In addition, a local resident suggested that Epsom & Ewell Borough Council should have fewer than 35 councillors but did not state a figure or reasons for this view.

28 We considered the submission made by Councillor Reeve and the evidence he provided and balanced it against the evidence provided by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council earlier in the review. We concluded that, on balance, the evidence submitted by the Council provided a stronger rationale for the proposed council size. Our final recommendations are therefore based on a council size of 35 councillors.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 45 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals from the Council, the Conservatives and Labour. We also received a submission from a local resident suggesting that Epsom & Ewell should have a single-councillor warding pattern. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

30 The three borough-wide schemes all provided mixed patterns of two- and three-councillor wards for Epsom & Ewell. 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.

31 As noted above, however, the submissions from the Conservatives and Labour were based on councillor sizes of 39 and 40, respectively. The Conservatives argued that the increase in the electorate across the borough justified an increase in council size. This would allow councillors to have a balanced caseload and be effective. The Labour submission gave no evidence to support their proposed increase to 40 councillors.

32 We concluded that we had not received persuasive evidence to move away from our proposed council size of 35 councillors for Epsom & Ewell. Our draft recommendations were therefore based on 35 councillors.

33 We also considered the submission from the local resident that proposed that Epsom & Ewell should have a single-councillor warding pattern. However, as well as noting that the submission did not propose particular boundary arrangements, we concluded that the evidence in other submissions in favour of a mixed-councillor warding pattern better reflected our statutory criteria.

34 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.

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

36 Our draft recommendations were for seven three-councillor wards and seven two-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

37 We received 44 submissions in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a borough-wide response from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. We also received a submission from a local resident reiterating

support for a single-councillor warding pattern for Epsom & Ewell. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough. We were not persuaded by the submission from a local resident regarding a single-councillor warding pattern. Given our assessment of the balance of the evidence across both consultation periods, we remain of the view that a mixed-councillor warding pattern provides for the strongest balance in our statutory criteria.

38 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to the wards of College, Court, Horton, Stamford, Town and West Ewell based on the submissions received.

Final recommendations

39 Our final recommendations are for seven three-councillor wards and seven two-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.

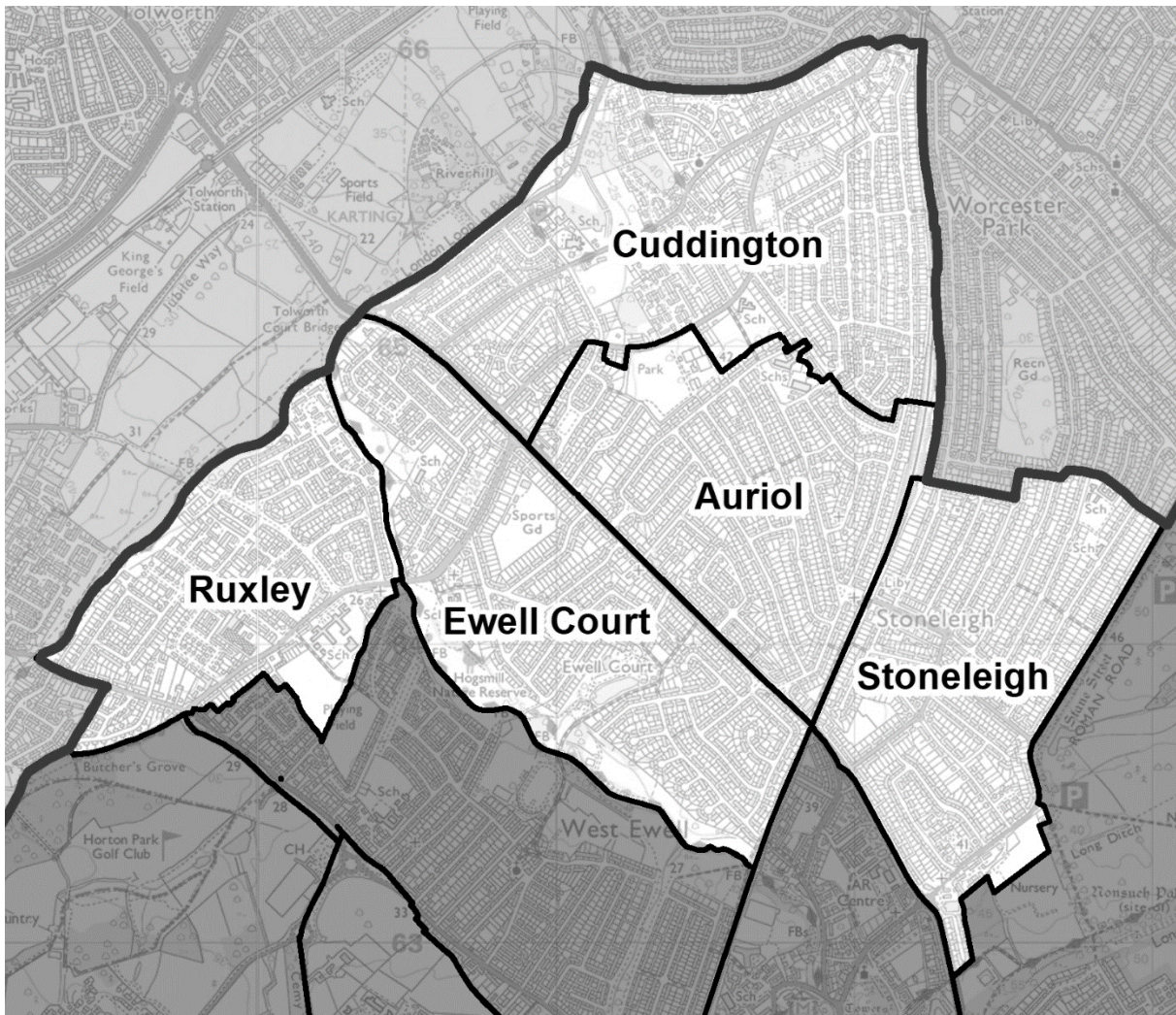
40 The tables and maps on pages 9–16 detail our final recommendations for each area of Epsom & Ewell. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

41 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.

Auriol, Cuddington, Ewell Court, Ruxley and Stoneleigh



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Auriol	2	0%
Cuddington	3	-2%
Ewell Court	2	6%
Ruxley	2	7%
Stoneleigh	2	9%

Auriol, Cuddington and Stoneleigh

42 We received two submissions that referenced this area. The Council supported the proposed draft recommendations for these wards, particularly noting support for the proposal to include Timbercroft, Sterry Drive and Chestnut Avenue in Auriol ward and Cuddington Community School in Cuddington ward. The Council also supported the reduction of councillors in Stoneleigh ward from three councillors to two.

43 A local resident did not support the changes to Auriol ward, arguing that Auriol and Stoneleigh wards both covered the area known as Stoneleigh and that they should not be divided. However, a ward which covered the entire area would require four councillors. In England, there are no wards with four councillors, and we continue to take the view that such wards would not provide for effective and convenient local government.

44 Councillor Reeve did not support the proposal to reduce the council size for Epsom & Ewell from 38 councillors to 35 councillors, arguing in particular against the reduction in the number of councillors in Ewell Village, Ruxley and Stoneleigh wards from three councillors to two. Councillor Reeve stated that reducing the number of councillors did not take into account the workload of councillors. Whilst we acknowledge Councillor Reeve's view, we were not persuaded to change our view made at the earlier stage of the review regarding the number of councillors. We continue to be of the view that the submission made by the Council provides for the strongest case for a particular number of councillors.

45 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for these three wards as final. Our final recommendations are for two two-councillor wards of Auriol and Stoneleigh and a three-councillor ward of Cuddington. These variances are forecast to have electoral variances of 0%, 9% and -2% respectively by 2027.

Ewell Court and Ruxley

46 The Council supported the draft recommendations for Ewell Court and Ruxley wards, specifically citing their support for the proposal to reduce Ruxley from three councillors to two councillors.

47 As well as opposing the reduction in councillors, Councillor Reeve argued that the changes to Ruxley ward did not reflect the community in that ward. However, his submission stated that the draft recommendations introduced a ward that contained streets on both sides of Ruxley Lane. This is not the case. The existing ward already contains electors on both sides of Ruxley Lane as well as a large number of electors in properties off Horton Lane, some distance from the rest of the electors in the ward. We consider that our proposed Ruxley ward strengthens community interests by providing a ward more focused on the Ruxley area than the existing ward.

48 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final. Our final recommendations are for two two-councillor wards of Ewell Court and Ruxley with electoral variances of 6% and 7% respectively by 2027.

Court, Horton and West Ewell



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Court	3	-8%
Horton	2	-4%
West Ewell	3	0%

Court, Horton and West Ewell

49 Almost half of the submissions we received during the consultation on our draft recommendations referred to these three wards, the majority relating to our decision to include Revere Way in our proposed Court ward. Those submissions stated that Revere Way had strong community ties to the West Ewell area, in particular the inclusion of Revere Way in the West Ewell & Ruxley Residents' Association. Most of the submissions also cited ties to West Ewell and Ewell Village such as childcare, schools, shopping and leisure facilities.

50 The Council did not support the proposal to include Revere Way in Court ward, citing its lack of access to rest of the ward. Reflecting their earlier views and our draft proposals, they continued to support the inclusion of Gibraltar Crescent in Court ward, an arrangement which reflects the road's lack of connections to the West Ewell area.

51 The Council also opposed our proposal to include Parkview Way in Horton ward. They reiterated their earlier proposal, which included Parkview Way in their proposed Court ward. The Council argued that the Parkview Way estate is separated from the remainder of Horton ward by a large area of greenbelt land, undermining its connection with the rest of the Horton ward. They also cited potential future development to the north of the existing estate which would have strong connections to Parkview Way.

52 Four local residents wrote in support of the proposed Horton ward and in particular the proposals around Clarendon Way.

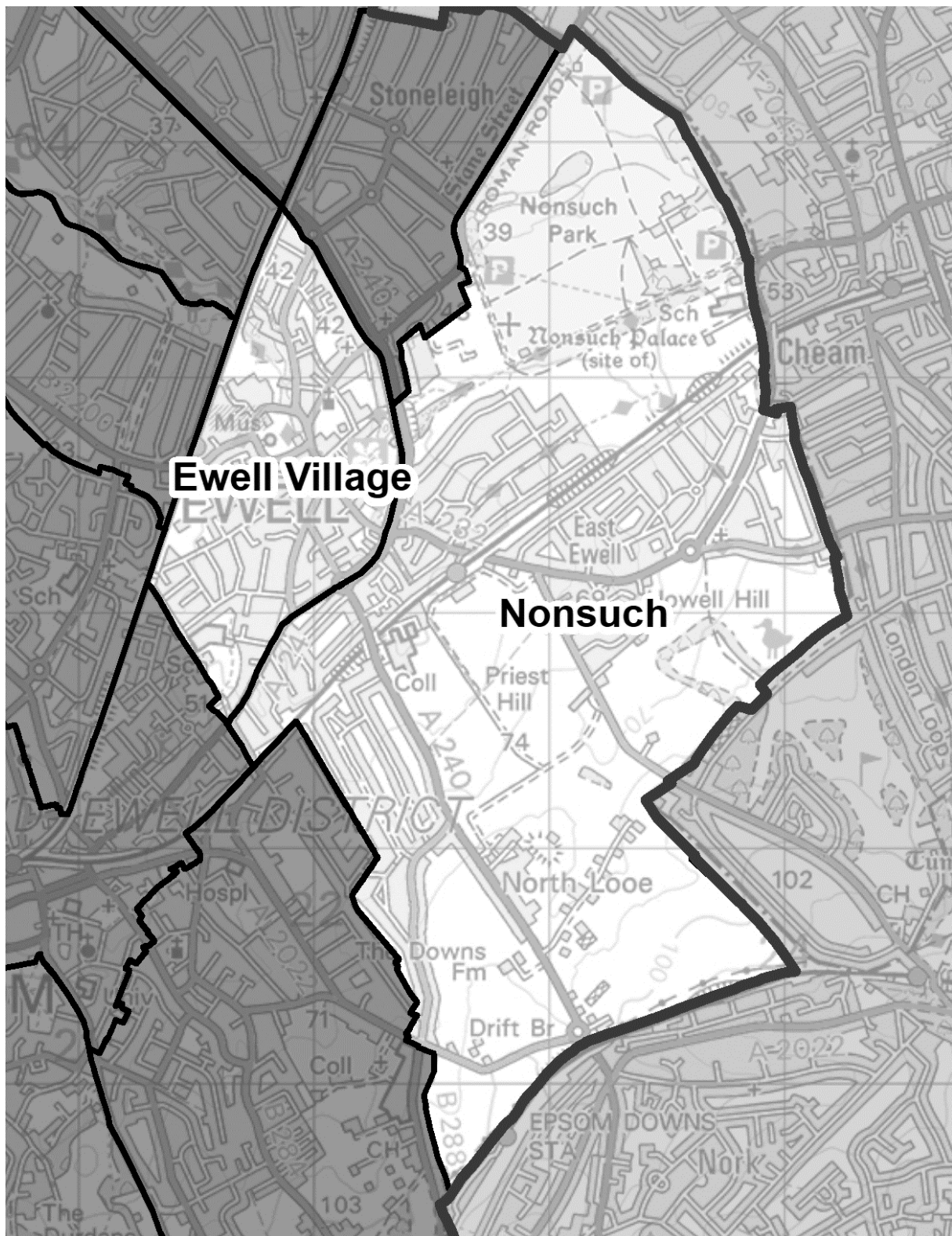
53 Having carefully considered all of the submissions, we have been persuaded to make some amendments to our draft recommendations. We accept that the Revere Way area has strong ties to West Ewell and Ewell Village. We therefore propose to revise the boundary between Court and West Ewell wards so that Revere Way is retained in West Ewell ward. Our revised boundary will run to the south of the properties on Chessington Road and Revere Way, following the rear boundaries of the properties on the northern side of Gibraltar Crescent.

54 We also propose to include the Parkview Way estate in Court ward, having been persuaded that the estate has close community ties to the Court area. However, whilst these two changes give an electoral variance of 0% for a three-councillor Court ward, they have the consequential effect of leaving a two-councillor Horton ward with 16% fewer electors than the average for the borough by 2027.

55 In order to provide for good levels of electoral equality in Horton ward, we therefore propose to include the streets of Brettgrave, Briane Road, Long Grove Road, Marston, Parkhurst and Tichmarsh, as well as 260–330 (evens) and 291–337 (odds) Hook Road and Horton Farm House, in our proposed Horton ward. We consider this area has ties to the Livingstone Park area and this arrangement allows us to provide electoral equality for both wards.

56 Our proposed final recommendations for this area are for a two-councillor Horton ward with an electoral variance of -4% and two three-councillor wards of Court and West Ewell at -8% and 0% by 2027, respectively.

Ewell Village and Nonsuch



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ewell Village	2	-4%
Nonsuch	3	2%

Ewell Village and Nonsuch

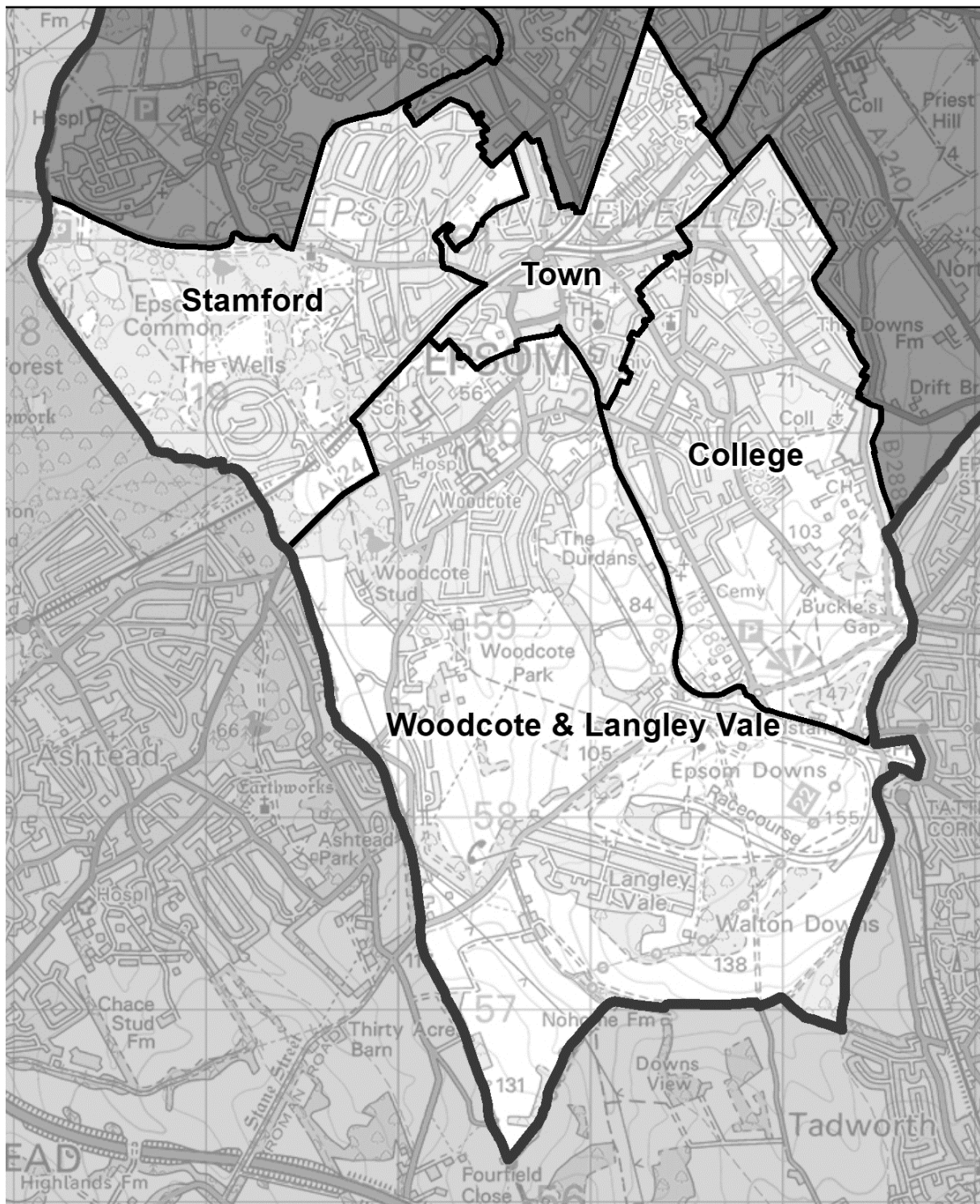
57 We received 10 submissions that referred to these two wards. The Council supported the proposed Ewell Village ward, including the name change from Ewell, and supported the use of the A24 as the boundary between Ewell Village and Nonsuch, which they considered to be a clear boundary.

58 Eight submissions wrote in opposition to the inclusion of the streets to the south-east of the A24 (Beech Walk, Hampton Grove, Langton Avenue, Park Hill Road, St James Avenue and Windmill Avenue) in Nonsuch ward, citing their strong community ties to the Ewell village area. Ewell Village Residents' Association argued that these streets should be included in a Ewell Village ward that retained three councillors. They also suggested that this ward should include electors located in the Sycamore Gardens development. Other submissions stated that the railway line formed the stronger boundary between Ewell and Nonsuch. A resident proposed Nonsuch ward be called East Ewell or Ewell Downs.

59 Having carefully considered the submissions received, we confirm the draft recommendations as final in this area. We investigated whether we could retain Ewell Village as a three-councillor ward as proposed by the Ewell Village Residents' Association. This proposal would result in poor electoral equality in both Ewell Village (-20%) and Nonsuch (28%) wards. We also investigated a warding arrangement which maintained the existing Ewell ward boundaries as suggested by other submissions. However, such an arrangement would require increasing the proposed council size of Ewell from 35 councillors to 36 to provide for good levels of electoral equality. We are not of the view that we have received persuasive evidence to make this change. Moreover, a warding arrangement which retains the existing wards in this area would require significant knock-on changes to Nonsuch, Ruxley, Stamford and Stoneleigh wards to provide for electoral equality. We have not been persuaded to make substantial changes to these wards, particularly given the support expressed for them (detailed earlier in this report). To provide for the strongest balance in our statutory criteria across the wider area, we are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final. We have also not been persuaded to change the name of our proposed Nonsuch ward. We are of the view that this is a well-recognised local name and reflects the community included in the ward.

60 Our final recommendations are for the wards of Ewell Village and Nonsuch, having two and three councillors respectively and electoral variances of -4% and 2% by 2027.

Epsom Town and surrounding area



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
College	3	-6%
Stamford	2	8%
Town	3	6%
Woodcote & Langley Vale	3	-5%

College, Stamford, Town and Woodcote & Langley Vale

61 Of the six submissions that referred to these wards, the Council's supported the proposed Stamford ward as well the boundaries of the Woodcote ward, to which they suggested a name change of Woodcote & Langley Vale. The Council also proposed a small amendment to the boundary between Town and College. They supported our proposal to include St Martin's Avenue and Downside in College ward but suggested that the ward should also include Orchard House and Giles Mead to ensure that Downside is not divided between wards.

62 Other submissions for this area related to Stamford ward and their opposition to the inclusion of the Court Recreation Ground and part of the Stamford Conservation Area in Town ward. Another submission proposed that The Wells estate should be moved to Woodcote ward.

63 Having carefully considered all the submissions, we accept the Council's proposed minor change to the boundary between College and Town wards provides for a better reflection of community in the area. We have therefore included this modification as part of our final recommendations.

64 We also propose to make an amendment to our proposed boundaries in Stamford ward. Our final recommendations include Court Recreation Ground in Stamford ward to reflect evidence relating to the community usage of this area. However, whilst we accept that there are electors in the Stamford Conservation Area now included in Town ward, we are unable to identify a warding pattern that could include these electors in Stamford ward and provide for electoral equality for both wards. We also do not propose to include The Wells estate in Woodcote ward as this would result in poor electoral equality in both wards, with 21% fewer electors in Stamford ward and 15% more electors in Woodcote ward by 2027.

65 We propose to make a further small amendment to the boundary of Town ward to include 31 and 33 Pound Lane in Town ward, reflecting a submission we received from those properties that stated their community ties with the Town area. We also accept the Council's suggested name of Woodcote & Langley Vale for Woodcote ward as we consider that this is a better reflection of the communities included in the ward.

66 Our proposed final recommendations for these wards are for three three-councillor wards of College, Town and Woodcote & Langley Vale and a two-councillor ward of Stamford. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -6%, 6%, -5% and 8% respectively.

Conclusions

67 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Epsom & Ewell, referencing the 2021 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2021	2027
Number of councillors	35	35
Number of electoral wards	14	14
Average number of electors per councillor	1,693	1,854
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

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council should be made up of 35 councillors serving 14 wards representing seven two-councillor wards and seven 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 Epsom & Ewell. You can also view our final recommendations for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council on our interactive maps www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

68 We have now completed our review of Epsom & Ewell. The recommendations must 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

69 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 Epsom & Ewell

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Auriol	2	3,417	1,709	1%	3,691	1,846	0%
2	College	3	5,010	1,670	-1%	5,242	1,747	-6%
3	Court	3	4,742	1,581	-7%	5,102	1,701	-8%
4	Cuddington	3	4,950	1,650	-3%	5,443	1,814	-2%
5	Ewell Court	2	3,658	1,829	8%	3,927	1,964	6%
6	Ewell Village	2	3,256	1,628	-4%	3,554	1,777	-4%
7	Horton	2	3,323	1,662	-2%	3,554	1,777	-4%
8	Nonsuch	3	5,286	1,762	4%	5,657	1,886	2%
9	Ruxley	2	3,700	1,850	9%	3,950	1,975	7%
10	Stamford	2	3,746	1,873	11%	4,019	2,010	8%
11	Stoneleigh	2	3,689	1,845	9%	4,029	2,015	9%
12	Town	3	5,204	1,735	2%	5,900	1,967	6%

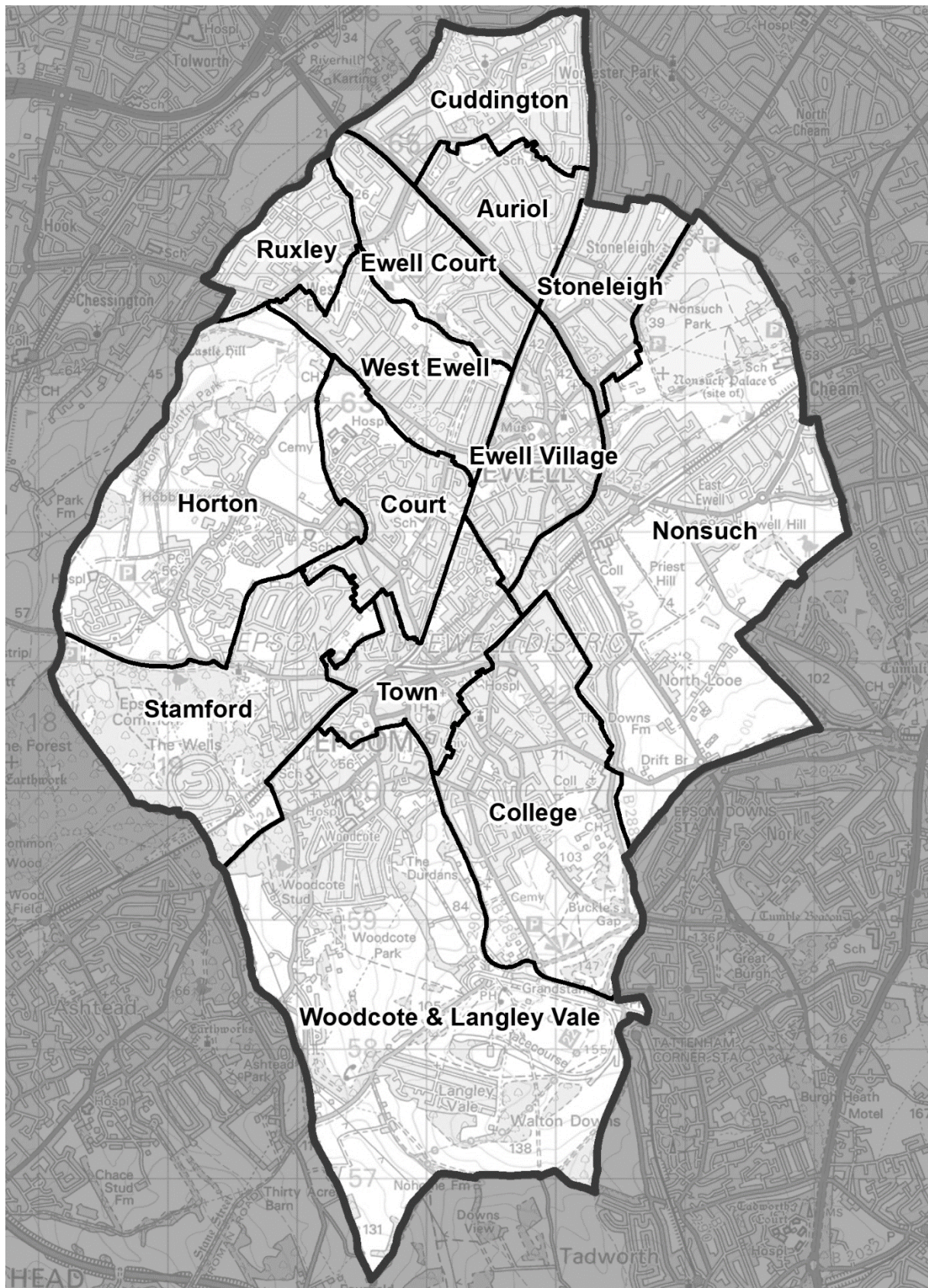
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 West Ewell	3	4,833	1,611	-5%	5,558	1,853	0%
14 Woodcote & Langley Vale	3	4,448	1,483	-12%	5,299	1,766	-5%
Totals	35	59,262	–	–	64,889	–	–
Averages	–	–	1,693	–	–	1,854	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Epsom & Ewell 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/south-east/surrey/epsom-and-ewell

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/surrey/epsom-and-ewell

Local Authority

- Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Councillors

- Councillor D. Reeve (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council)

Local Organisations

- Ewell Village Residents' Association

Local Residents

- 41 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

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

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

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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