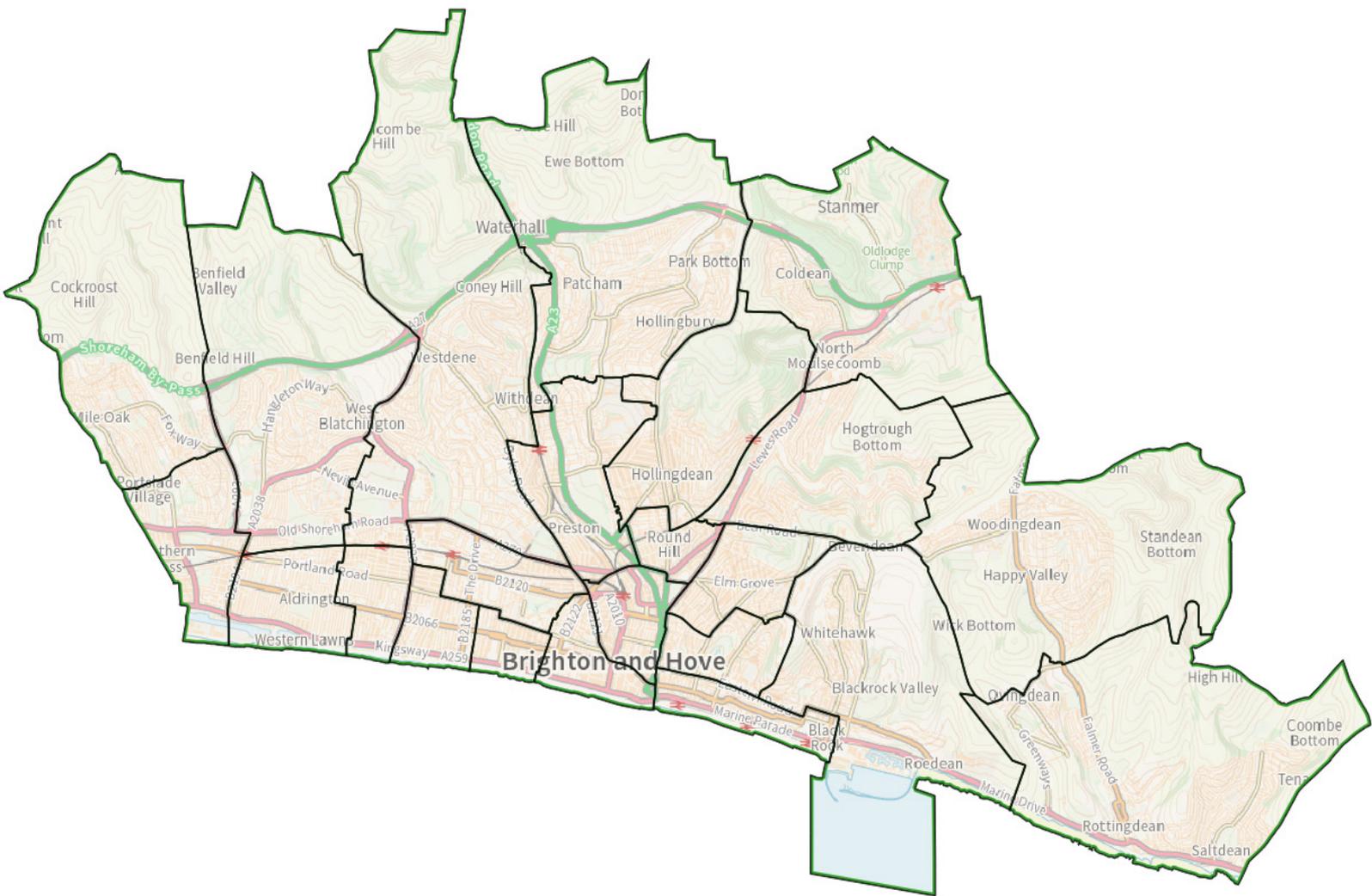


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Brighton & Hove City Council Final Recommendations

October 2022

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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.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 Brighton & Hove?

7 We are conducting a review of Brighton & Hove City Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2001, 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 Brighton & Hove 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 city.

Our proposals for Brighton & Hove

9 Brighton & Hove should be represented by 54 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Brighton & Hove should have 23 wards, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; five will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Brighton & Hove.

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 city 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

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

prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
17 August 2021	Number of councillors decided
24 August 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
1 November 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
1 February 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
5 July 2022	Publication of further draft recommendations; start of limited consultation
15 August 2022	End of limited consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
4 October 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 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.

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 Brighton & Hove	207,856	230,488
Number of councillors	54	54
Average number of electors per councillor	3,849	4,268

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'. With the exception of our proposed Kemptown ward, all of our proposed wards for Brighton & Hove 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 11% by 2027.

23 During the consultation on our further draft recommendations, the Council contacted us to let us know that they had incorrectly assigned developments to the wrong polling districts in the spreadsheet they had provided. Having assessed this

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.

information, we are content that this error did not impact any of our calculations, since our forecast electoral variances are calculated by using geolocated developments and we had plotted all new developments onto our mapping system using information independent of the provided spreadsheet. Some minor adjustments were needed to account for slight discrepancies in 'natural growth' (i.e. growth that does not result as a consequence of new housing) across some of these polling districts, but these were not significant and had no impact either on our previous recommendations or on our assessments of submissions. In revised figures submitted by the Council, the overall forecast increased slightly from 230,414 to 230,488.

24 We are satisfied that the slightly modified figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

25 Brighton & Hove City Council currently has 54 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

26 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 54 councillors. For example, 54 single-councillor wards, 18 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

27 We received two submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. A resident argued that 'the increased burden of each councillor of representing an additional 418 electors... is so significant that it would deter some people with protected characteristics from seeking election or re-election'.

28 We all share an interest in promoting equality of opportunity and ensuring that councils can benefit from a diverse range of skills and experiences among councillors. On completion of the review, we hope that the Council will take the opportunity to further consider how best to support councillors in the context of the new warding arrangements. In our view, a council size of 54 best reflects the balance of the evidence and arguments we have received regarding decision-making, accountability and scrutiny, and representational roles within the Council.

29 The additional submission relating to council size suggested that there should only be one councillor per ward. However, the proposal did not outline how this would be achieved in terms of the decision-making responsibilities of the Council or make reference to our key criteria. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 64 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three city-wide proposals from the Conservative Group on the Council ('the Conservative Group'), the Brighton & Hove Green Party ('the Green Party') and the Labour Group on the Council ('the Labour Group'). The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the city.

31 The city-wide schemes all proposed significantly different ward boundaries, with varying levels of electoral equality. Having carefully considered the three city-wide schemes, we were of the view that each had merit. However, all also contained proposals which, according to our calculations, led to some wards having an electoral variance of greater than $\pm 10\%$ from the city average by 2027. In addition, the boundaries of the wards proposed were very different across the majority of the city. Our draft recommendations incorporated a combination of the different schemes in order to produce the best balance between our statutory criteria.

32 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.

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

34 Our draft recommendations were for 10 three-councillor wards and 12 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

35 We received 247 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included three city-wide responses from the Conservative Group, the Green Party and the Labour Group. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the city. We received a number of strongly evidenced objections to our proposals in the northern, central and eastern areas of Brighton & Hove.

36 In light of the evidence received, we decided to undertake another round of consultation on some revised recommendations in these areas. In the rest of the city, we concluded that we had received sufficient evidence to finalise our recommendations.

Further draft recommendations consultation

37 We undertook a period of further limited consultation for warding arrangements in northern, central and eastern areas of Brighton & Hove.

38 We received 723 submissions in response to this consultation. We received support and opposition to our further draft proposals with the majority of comments expressing objections to our proposals in the Patcham area. We have consequently made adjustments to our further draft recommendations, returning to our original draft proposals for much of the Hove Park, Westdene, Patcham and Hollingbury areas, with some minor adjustments to Preston Park and Kemptown wards.

39 Before finalising our recommendations, we visited Brighton & Hove to observe the different boundary arrangements on the ground. These observations have informed our final recommendations.

Final recommendations

40 Our final recommendations are for eight three-councillor wards and 15 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.

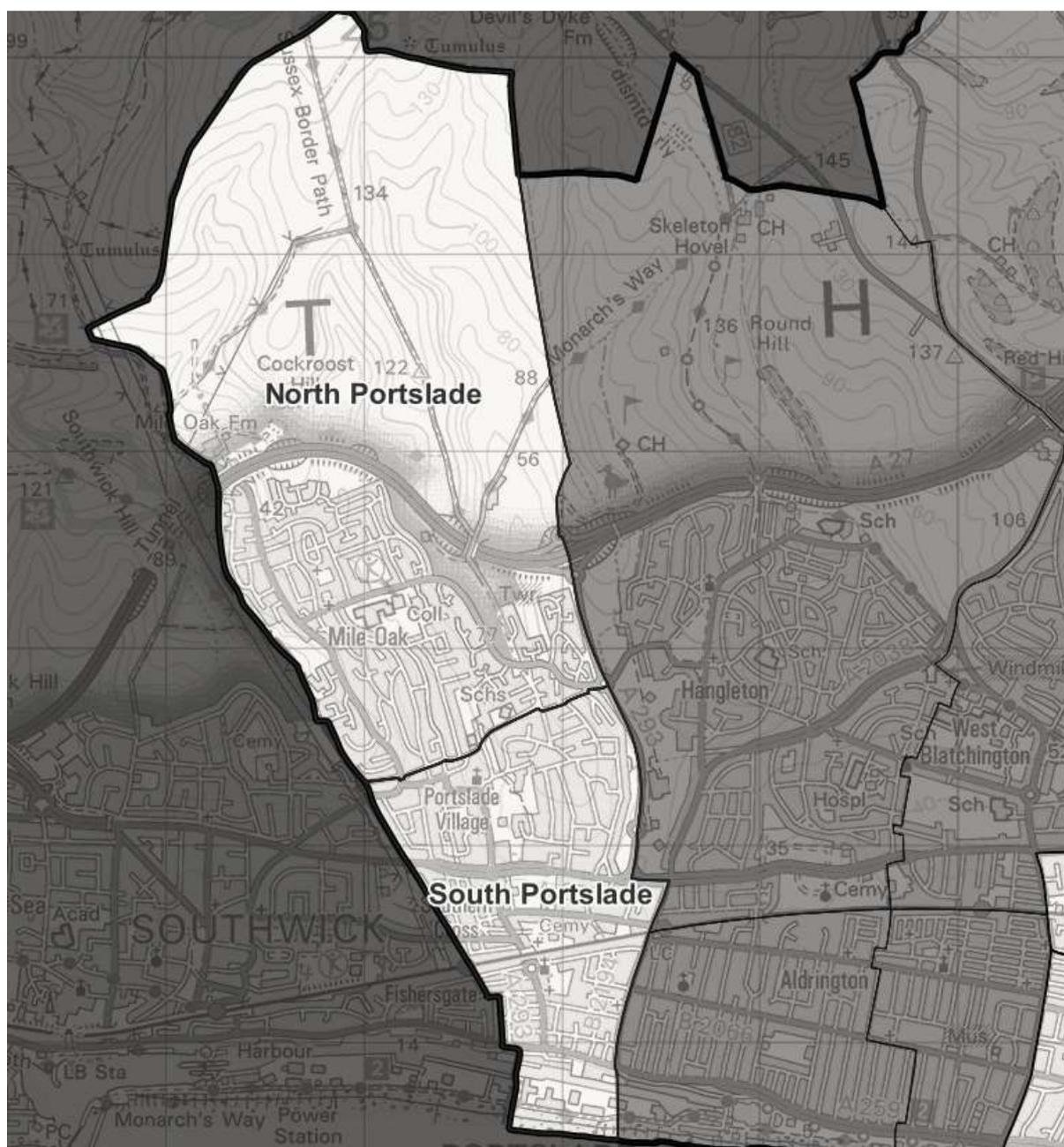
41 The tables and maps on pages 9–37 detail our final recommendations for each area of Brighton & Hove. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

42 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 45 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Portslade



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
North Portslade	2	-7%
South Portslade	2	-5%

North Portslade and South Portslade

43 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the existing ward boundaries. In addition to the city-wide submissions, we received comments on our proposals from two local residents and a local councillor. Submissions were supportive of our recommendations.

44 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for North Portslade and South Portslade as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 7% fewer and 5% fewer electors than the city average by 2027, respectively.

Hove Seafront



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Central Hove	2	8%
Goldsmid	3	8%
Westbourne & Poets' Corner	2	-6%
Wish	2	-7%

Wish and Westbourne & Poets' Corner

45 Our draft recommendations for this area were largely based on the existing boundaries, with an amendment to include the entirety of the Poets' Corner community in Westbourne ward. In addition to the city-wide submissions, we received comments from a number of residents.

46 The Conservative Group, Green Party and local residents were supportive of our draft recommendations. The Conservative Group highlighted that the railway line remains an appropriate northern boundary for both wards, with residents from Old Shoreham Road identifying themselves as Knoll residents. The Green Party and residents were supportive of the inclusion of the Poets' Corner area in Westbourne, with one noting that our proposals 'put borderline streets back into their correct communities'.

47 The Labour Group disagreed with our draft recommendations, suggesting that the existing boundary between Wish and Westbourne wards should be retained. The Group argued that Wish ward should remain unchanged and that the northern boundary of Westbourne ward should be moved north to the A270 Old Shoreham Road in order to include residents from Amherst Crescent and Aldrington Avenue. In response to our further draft recommendations (and in commenting on Hove Park ward), Councillor Appich also argued for this amendment, stating that the area

shares 'more characteristics' with Westbourne than with Hove Park. The Labour Group proposed an alternative in response to the further draft recommendations, suggesting that only the 'Leighton Cluster' could be included in Westbourne ward.

48 The Conservative Group proposed an alternative name for this ward, suggesting that it should be called Westbourne & Poets' Corner, setting out the nature of a 'well-defined community of interest' with detail relating to local community activity.

49 We have carefully considered all the evidence we received. While we note the comments made by the Labour Group, we have not been persuaded that the A270 Old Shoreham Road is a more identifiable boundary between communities in the area. Furthermore, we are of the view that we have received strong evidence from local residents during consultation, which supported our proposal to unite the Poets' Corner area within the same ward. An adjustment to the boundary to the A270 would also create an electoral imbalance of -13% in our proposed Westdene & Hove Park ward. Finally, while we acknowledge the Labour Group's most recent proposal regarding the 'Leighton Cluster', we are not of the view that this area should be separated from properties to its west and consider the area to be best placed in Westdene & Hove Park.

50 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Wish and Westbourne wards as final, subject to a change to the ward name of Westbourne to include Poets' Corner. We have been persuaded that this amendment will better reflect communities within the ward. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 7% fewer and 6% fewer electors than the city average by 2027.

Central Hove and Goldsmid

51 Our draft recommendations for this area were largely based on the existing boundaries, with an amendment to include Goldstone Road, Shirley Street, Livingstone Road and Clarendon Road in Central Hove. In addition to the city-wide submissions, we received a comment from a resident. The city-wide submissions all made similar proposals for the boundaries in this area.

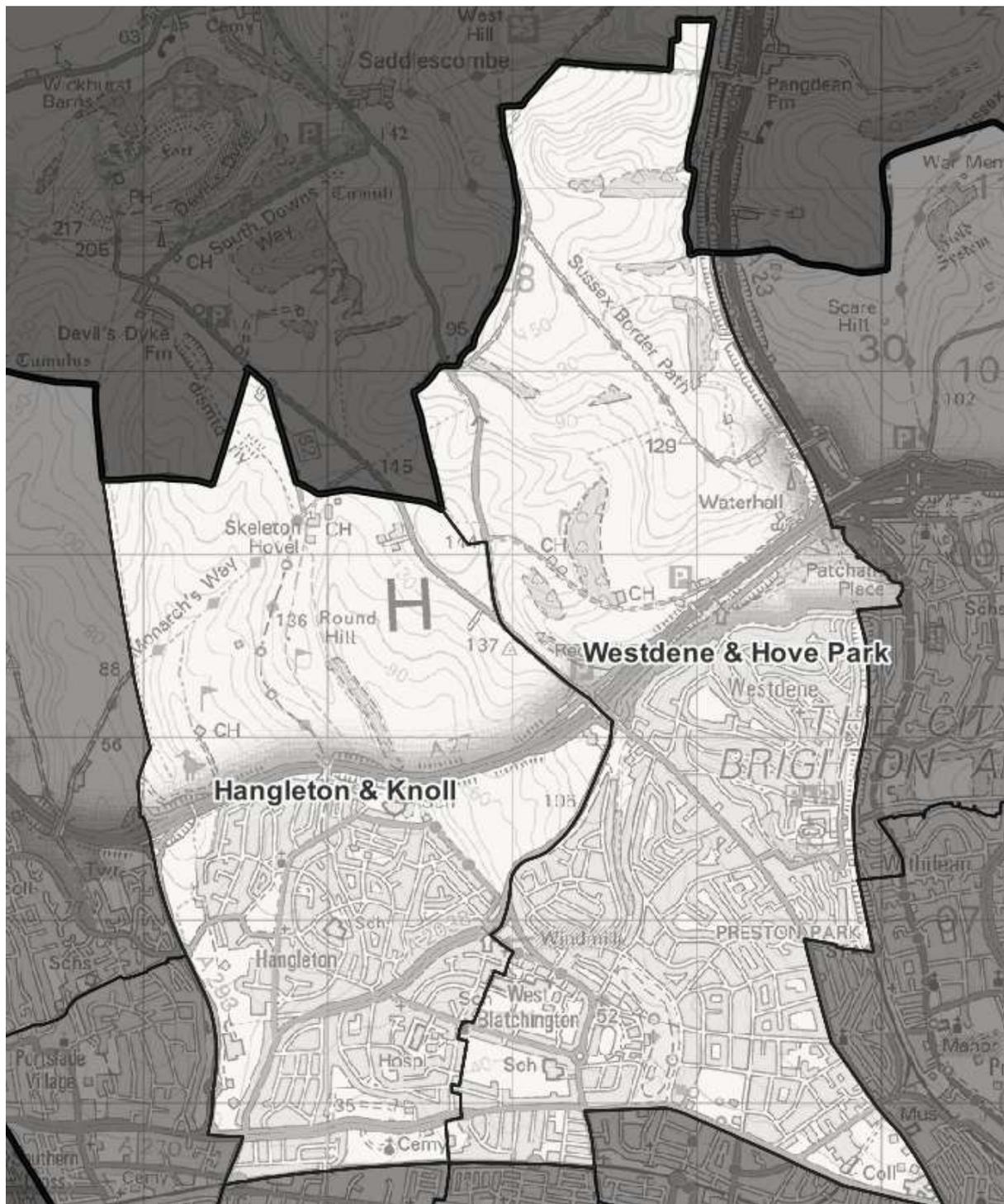
52 The Green Party supported our draft recommendations, with the Conservative Group and Labour Group proposing one minor modification to include the Sackville Trading Estate in Goldsmid ward. The Conservative Group argued that this would strengthen the boundaries of the ward, as well as include an area more in keeping with the ward's 'inland industrial areas'. We agree that this would provide a better reflection of local communities in the area.

53 A local resident argued that First Avenue should be included in Central Hove ward. However, this amendment would create an electoral variance of 16% in

Central Hove. In our view this level of electoral inequality has not been justified by the evidence we have received.

54 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Central Hove and Goldsmid wards as final, subject to the amendment mentioned above relating to the Sackville Trading Estate. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with both wards forecast to have 8% more electors than the city average by 2027.

North Brighton and Hove



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Hangleton & Knoll	3	-9%
Westdene & Hove Park	3	-3%

Hangleton & Knoll

55 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the existing ward boundaries. In addition to the city-wide submissions, we received comments on our proposals from Goldstone Valley Residents' Association and five local residents.

56 The Conservative Group, the Labour Group and local residents were supportive of our draft recommendations. Submissions highlighted the desirability of retaining the existing ward boundaries, arguing that they are representative of communities in the area and make shared use of local amenities such as places of worship, shops, green spaces and Hangleton Community Centre.

57 The Labour Group subsequently proposed an amendment to the ward in response to our further draft recommendations, suggesting that the Toads Hole Development should be incorporated into Hove Park ward, rather than within Hangleton & Knoll.

58 Goldstone Valley Residents' Association and a local resident supported our draft proposals on the basis that Hangleton & Knoll does not share any community interests with Goldstone Valley. Both provided additional evidence in support of our decision not to pair these areas as part of our draft recommendations.

59 The Green Party disagreed with our draft recommendations for this area, arguing that the eastern boundary of Hangleton & Knoll ward should be extended to Nevill Road in order to improve levels of electoral equality in their proposed, adjacent Hove Park ward. The Green Party stated that 'the Hove Park ward can be made to work within electoral equality by moving the boundary with Hangleton & Knoll'; however, they provided limited evidence as to whether communities in West Blatchington would identify with the area or use any of its local amenities.

60 We have carefully considered all the evidence we received. While we note the comments made by the Green Party, we are not persuaded that a warding arrangement that includes West Blatchington in Hove Park ward provides for a good reflection of local communities. Furthermore, residents expressed desire to retain the existing ward boundaries in Hangleton & Knoll based on the communities which have formed around them. We also note that the Green Party's proposal would exclude Hove Park School from Hove Park ward. Finally, we acknowledge the Labour Group's recent argument relating to the Toads Hole Development, but did not receive this suggestion from any other respondents and are not of the view that an adjustment to Hangleton & Knoll ward would best reflect local communities.

61 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Hangleton & Knoll as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 9% fewer electors than the city average by 2027.

Westdene & Hove Park

62 On the basis of the evidence we received during the consultation on our draft recommendations, we proposed further draft recommendations for this area. These revised proposals suggested a two-councillor Hove Park ward that used Dyke Road Avenue (and therefore the historical boundary between Brighton and Hove) as the north-eastern boundary. We invited comment from local residents as to whether they viewed their community to be better reflected either under an arrangement which linked Hove Park with Westdene (as under our original draft recommendations) or one which retained Hove Park as a separate ward.

63 In response to our consultation on the further draft recommendations, we received representations from local political groups, councillors and residents.

64 We received support from some local residents for our proposed arrangement for a two-councillor Hove Park ward, with a number stating that they 'recognise [their] local communities in the wards shown by these further draft proposals'. The Labour Group also 'welcomed' our proposals for Hove Park, citing examples relating to bus routes in support of the revised arrangements. However, the Group suggested some modifications. They argued that Dyke Road Park should be included in Hove Park ward and proposed that the Toads Hole Development and the 'Leighton Cluster' should be incorporated into Hangleton & Knoll and Westbourne wards, respectively. Councillor Appich made a similar argument relating to the Leighton Cluster, although broadened the area suggested to be included in Westbourne ward.

65 The Green Party also supported the further draft recommendations for a two-councillor Hove Park ward. They argued that there 'are strong reasons to retain the boundary on Dyke Road', noting that it is a 'major route that severs the communities' and provided evidence relating to local bus routes, schools, parking zones and other services. However, the Green Party also noted the effect of the further draft recommendations on the village of Patcham, arguing that the arrangement would 'split rather than unite communities'. They set out a substantially revised proposal for the area to the immediate east of Dyke Road Avenue that would accommodate the two-councillor Hove Park ward without splitting Patcham. This proposal is set out in more detail in a later section of this report.

66 We received considerable opposition to the further draft recommendations for Hove Park ward from the Conservative Group, Councillor Bagaen, local organisations and local residents. A number of these residents responded directly to our question about this ward and told us how they viewed their local community, arguing that Hove Park should be linked with Westdene. Arguments were made relating to shared bus routes (with many mentioning the number 27), services, facilities and amenities. Residents also noted that there were numerous crossing points along Dyke Road Avenue, with locals crossing for dog-walking, exercise, schooling and shopping. The Conservative Group also made many of these points in

their submission, providing evidence relating to our criteria to argue that ‘the arguments presented against a Hove Park & Westdene ward are not supported by any evidence and in the context of a comparative analysis’.

67 We also received strong opposition – and no specific, articulated support – to our proposal to include Dyke Road Park in the neighbouring Preston Park ward. These submissions advocated the retention of Dyke Road Park in a ward with residents in Hove Park. Arguments related to the use of the area by local people, as well as by the two schools located on either side of the park ‘triangle’.

68 A local resident submitted a proposal for a Goldstone & Withdean ward that would encompass ‘Goldstone Valley, Hove Park, Westdene & Withdean... it would provide the benefit of giving equal weight to four interconnected communities that make up this part of the city’. The resident’s proposed ward would extend from King George VI Avenue in the West to the railway line below Withdean Stadium in the east and would therefore be ‘similar to the Hove Park and Westdene ward... but the name would carry more significance and historical meaning’. The respondent provided evidence related to the historical identity of Goldstone Valley within Brighton & Hove.

69 Another resident supported a return to our original proposal for a three-councillor Westdene & Hove Park ward, but suggested an eastern extension across the railway line to ‘incorporate the area bounded by London Road, Clermont Road and Station Road, up to the Deneway’. Citing a number of community examples, the resident argued that the ‘character of the London Road area below Preston Park has changed dramatically... from being a conventional shopping area to becoming a more inner city vibe of student developments’. The resident argued that the area covered by the proposed extension ‘has been left on its own to a great extent’.

70 After carefully considering the evidence and having visited the area by car and on foot, we have decided to revert to our original draft recommendations in this area, with the exception of two main changes: the inclusion of Hazeldene Meads, The Beeches and Withdean Road in Preston Park ward, for which we have received support (see Preston Park section, below); and the inclusion of the Sackville Trading Estate in Goldsmid ward (see Goldsmid section, above). Once again, arguments have been strongly made on both sides of the debate around Hove Park but we have been persuaded to move back to a three-councillor Westdene & Hove Park ward for the following reasons.

71 Firstly, we have received overwhelming evidence that the existing Patcham ward should not be split. To avoid this, and at the same time reflect the weight of evidence received for Preston Park, Hollingdean and Fiveways, it is necessary to revert to an arrangement that links Westdene with Hove Park. These areas are discussed in the next section of the report.

72 Secondly, we have received compelling evidence from residents that has demonstrated links between Hove Park and Westdene on either side of Dyke Road Avenue. While we note that other residents have made opposing arguments, we have been persuaded that a number of local people do in fact have links across the road and that an arrangement which incorporates the two areas together would best reflect communities there.

73 Thirdly, having visited the area on foot and crossed Dyke Road Avenue, we agree that there are numerous crossing points along the road and that it can be navigated safely on foot, as we did ourselves. We are not of the view that the road provides for a barrier between communities.

74 Finally, we note that responses relating to Dyke Road Park itself argued comprehensively that it should be included in Hove Park ward. We have therefore adjusted the boundary so that Dyke Road Park is included in Westdene & Hove Park ward.

75 As to the modifications proposed by the resident and the Labour Group, which can be considered separately, we have not been persuaded to make any further amendments to the Westdene & Hove Park ward, save for a minor adjustment outlined in paragraph 77. We carefully considered the resident's proposed extension across the railway line to incorporate a small corridor between London Road and the railway line, and we did visit this area on our visit to Brighton. While we noted that the area was relatively isolated, we remained of the view that the railway line was a very strong boundary, and that all of the roads to its immediate east accessed onto London Road.

76 We acknowledge the Labour Group's argument relating to the Toads Hole Development, but did not hear this suggestion from any other respondents and are not of the view that a northward extension of Hove Park would best reflect our criteria. We are of the same view about the Leighton Cluster, which we view to be best placed in Westdene & Hove Park.

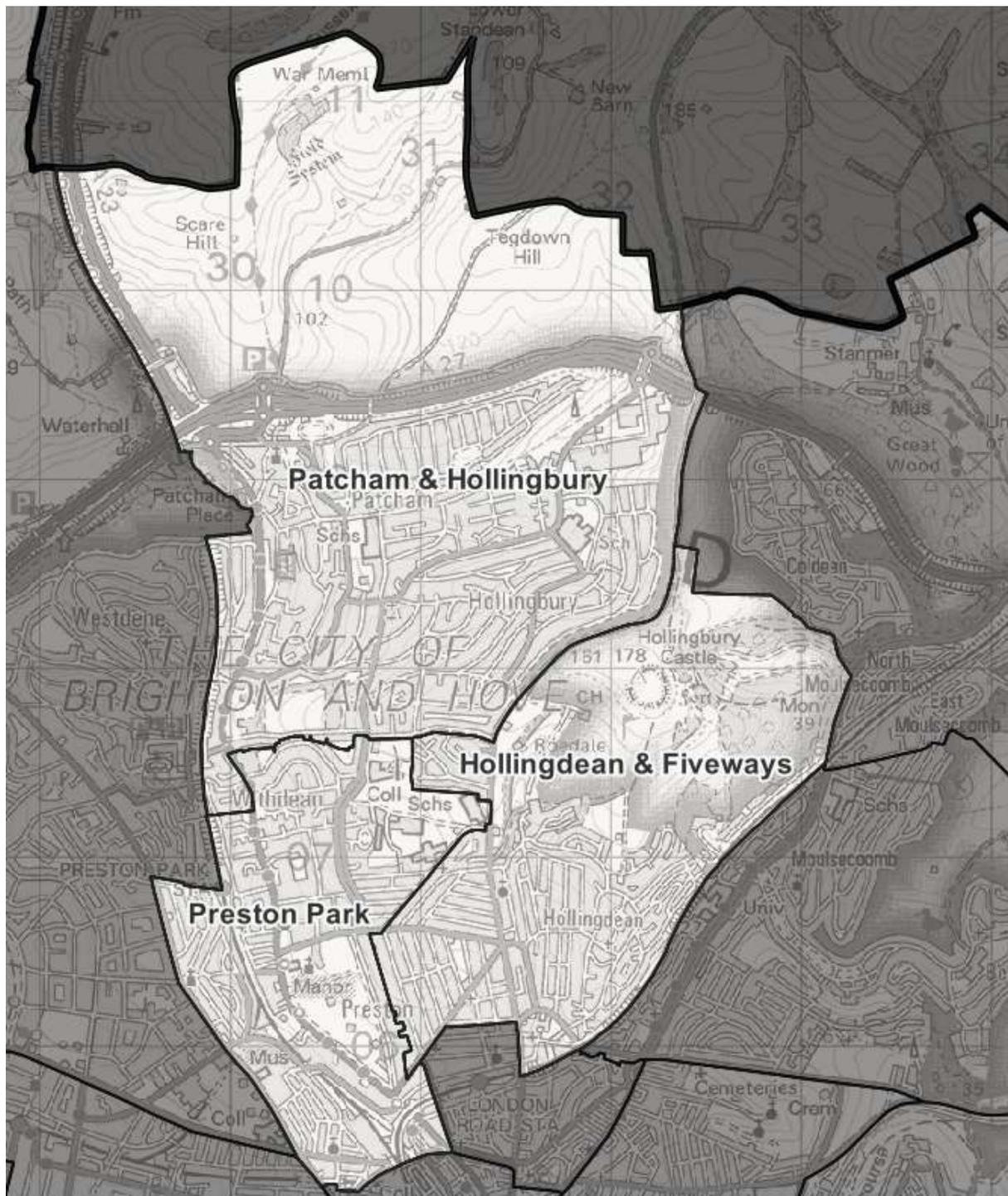
77 Our minor adjustment relates to the eastern boundary where the railway enters the tunnel above Brangwyn Crescent. As a result of the tunnel, the boundary would not be tied to ground detail in this area and therefore not be clearly identifiable. We have consequently adjusted the boundary to run around the edge of the woods to the west of Patcham By-Pass, before it then re-joins the railway at Mill Road.

78 We did receive several comments about the name of this ward. One resident suggested the name Tongdean, while another – as noted above – argued for the name Goldstone & Withdean. We do acknowledge the arguments made by the residents, particularly the detail provided to us relating to Goldstone Valley, and we have carefully considered them. However, on balance, we are of the view that the

name Westdene & Hove Park provides for the best reflection of the ward we are proposing after receiving submissions across three rounds of consultation.

79 Our final recommendation is therefore for a three-councillor Westdene & Hove Park ward. It will have an electoral variance of -3% by 2027.

Hollingdean & Fiveways, Patcham & Hollingbury and Preston Park



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Hollingdean & Fiveways	3	-7%
Patcham & Hollingbury	3	-4%
Preston Park	3	1%

Patcham & Hollingbury

80 On the basis of the evidence we received during the consultation on our draft recommendations, we proposed further draft recommendations for this area. These revised proposals suggested a two-councillor Westdene & Patcham ward and a two-councillor Hollingbury & Carden ward. As with Hove Park, we invited comment from local residents as to whether they viewed their community to be better reflected either under an arrangement which kept the existing Patcham ward together (as under our original draft recommendations) or one in which part of the existing ward is linked with Westdene and the remainder with Hollingbury.

81 We received 630 submissions relating to this proposal from local political groups, councillors and residents. While we did receive some support from residents and the Labour Group for this suggestion, over 600 submissions were received setting out opposition to the further draft recommendations. These submissions argued overwhelmingly that the revised proposals split the community of Patcham. Respondents cited numerous community features, events, groups and amenities that demonstrated a strong and coherent community. We have been persuaded that a warding arrangement which splits the community of Patcham would not reflect communities in the area and are therefore reverting to our original draft proposals for a three-councillor Patcham & Hollingbury ward, subject to minor revisions relating to the railway tunnel (paragraph 77) and around Peacock Lane.

82 Our initial draft recommendations split Surrenden Crescent as a southern boundary for Patcham & Hollingbury. As part of our further draft recommendations, we amended this boundary (albeit as part of a Westdene & Patcham ward) to run along Peacock Lane. During the consultation, residents wrote to suggest that houses on Peacock Lane should be part of Patcham ward. They argued that those residents 'use and share all amenities including Withdean Park, Old London Road shops and Ladies Mile shops'. We visited this area on our tour of Brighton & Hove and agree that residents on Peacock Lane are more likely to share a community within a ward with Patcham. We have therefore amended the boundary to run along the southern edge of properties facing Peacock Lane.

83 We did receive comments from three residents along Surrenden Road, arguing that they should be part of the community to the south and that the boundary should run behind the houses to the north of the road. However, we are of the view that Surrenden Road provides for a clearly identifiable boundary in the area. In addition, the arrangements for our final recommendations for Preston Park and Hollingdean & Fiveways, discussed below, would necessitate that those properties to the north side of Surrenden Road be split between the two wards in order to accommodate them southwards. We are not of the view that such an arrangement would reflect communities.

84 Our proposed Patcham & Hollingbury ward has a forecast electoral variance of -4% by 2027.

Hollingdean & Fiveways and Preston Park

85 We proposed revised arrangements for these two wards that were subject to additional consultation. Our further draft recommendations proposed a three-councillor Hollingdean & Fiveways ward and a three-councillor Preston Park ward. In the case of the former, we invited comment specifically on the area west of Lewes Road and whether it should be included in Hollingdean & Fiveways.

86 In response to our consultation on the further draft recommendations, we received representations from local political groups and residents. With the exception of residents who proposed amendments around Peacock Lane and Surrenden Road (as described in the previous section), the Green Party, and those that commented on the area around Lewes Road and on Dyke Road Park, we received support for our further draft recommendations in this area. One resident noted that the existing arrangements for Preston Park – in which the areas of Westdene and Withdean are linked with Preston Park – ‘make no geographic or communal sense’. Another resident detailed their support for our revised Preston Park ward, noting that ‘the distribution area for the Preston Pages [community magazine] corresponds quite well to the ward you have drawn’ and adding that the ward includes ‘most of the public transport catchment area around Preston Park station’. The Labour Group and Conservative Group both expressed support for the arrangements for these wards, subject to the concerns (noted in a previous section) about Dyke Road Park. Specific support was given for the proposed northern boundary and the inclusion of Hazeldene Meads, The Beeches and Withdean Road in Preston Park ward.

87 As noted previously, the Green Party proposed a revised arrangement for this area which would keep Patcham & Hollingbury together while retaining a two-councillor Hove Park ward to the west of Dyke Road Avenue. Their proposal included a new two-councillor Westdene & Prestonville ward that used Dyke Road Avenue and the railway line as western and eastern boundaries, respectively, and extended south to include the area of Prestonville as well as Dyke Road Park. The Green Party’s revised arrangements also proposed a two-councillor Preston & Surrenden ward. The submission argued that there was a ‘strong geographic disconnect between Prestonville and the Preston & Surrenden areas due to the large elevation gap... and small number of routes between these areas’.

88 We carefully considered these alternative proposals. However, we noted that these were significant departures from both our draft and further draft recommendations, and that they were not supported by other submissions we received. Moreover, we are of the view that we have received compelling support for the overall further draft recommendations in this area. We have therefore not

adopted the Green Party's alternative proposals as part of our final recommendations.

89 A number of local residents wrote concerning our specific question regarding the area between Lewes Road and the railway line. At the previous stage, we were concerned that a warding arrangement which extended Hollingdean & Fiveways ward to Lewes Road would not reflect communities or access routes, as well as create an electoral imbalance of 12% by 2027. In response, a local resident – supported by other resident submissions – suggested an arrangement in which 'the Saunders Park estate' (an area between Hollingdean Road and The Furlong) could be included in the ward, rather than the entire area as previously proposed. The resident noted that 'prior to the development of the Preston Barracks site, access out of this neighbourhood was via Popes Folly onto Hollingdean Road. From there, residents can easily walk to shops, buses and other amenities nearby in Hollingdean.'

90 We visited this area by car and on foot. While we acknowledge the arguments that have been made and note that Lewes Road is indeed a main highway in the area, we have not been convinced that the proposed extension reflects communities. With the exception of Freehold Terrace, we observed that all properties in this area – most notably Saunders Park View – access directly onto Lewes Road and are significantly separated from communities on the other side of the railway line. We also noted amenities and services in the area itself – for example, the Aldi store close to Saunders Park View – and were of the view these would likely be accessed by those either side of Lewes Road. We have therefore not made this amendment to our further draft recommendations.

91 As described in the previous section, we have also not been persuaded to amend the boundary around Surrenden Road. However, we have made amendments to Preston Park ward to instead include Dyke Road Park in Westdene & Hove Park ward and Peacock Lane in Patcham & Hollingbury. This was discussed in the Hove Park paragraphs, above.

92 Another resident argued that Rugby Road and Florence Road should be included in a ward with the Fiveways area, stating that the roads are 'a significant part of the Fiveways community'. This argument was echoed by an additional resident, who suggested that the 'area between the railway line and Stanford Avenue should remain in the same ward as the areas north and east', although did not provide any supporting evidence. While we considered this suggestion, this amendment would create an electoral variance of -15% in Round Hill ward. In our view, the evidence provided does not justify this level of electoral inequality and we have consequently not included it in our final recommendations.

93 A resident also argued that the area encompassed by the 'Brighton to London railway line to the west, Ditching Road to the east, the Brighton to Lewes railway line to the south, and Peacock Lane (extended east) to the north is a distinct community. Ward boundary changes should maintain this community.' However, no accompanying evidence was included in this submission and we have therefore not adopted the suggestion in our final recommendations.

94 A local resident suggested that Preston Park ward be named Preston, Stanford & Varndean, arguing that using the name of the existing ward would be confusing for local organisations and electors. However, we have not been persuaded that a revised name would better reflect communities and note the general support for the name Preston Park.

95 Subject to the amendments around Dyke Road Park and Peacock Lane, we therefore confirm our further draft recommendations for Hollingdean & Fiveways and Preston Park as final. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -7% and 1% by 2027, respectively.

Central Brighton and Hove



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brunswick & Adelaide	2	-2%
Regency	2	1%
Round Hill	2	-6%
West Hill & North Laine	2	10%

Round Hill and West Hill & North Laine

96 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a combination of the submissions received, as well as our own proposals. This included the creation of a two-councillor Round Hill ward and a city-centre Seven Dials, St Peter's & North Laine ward. In addition to the city-wide submissions, we received comments on our proposals from the London Road Area Action Team ('LAT'), Providence Place Steering Group and eight local residents. The city-wide submissions all made mostly similar proposals for the boundaries in this area.

97 The Conservative Group and six local residents wrote in complete support of our draft recommendation proposals. Residents were particularly supportive of the creation of a Round Hill ward, which they argued would provide better levels of

community representation and made sense as a geographical area.

98 The Green Party were mostly supportive of our boundaries for the Round Hill area; however, they proposed that the boundary between Round Hill and Seven Dials, St Peter's & North Laine wards be amended in order to include the entirety of London Road in one ward. The submission also expressed concern about our proposals in the city centre, where the Green Party proposed reverting to the existing ward boundary in order to better represent communities within the Regency and Brunswick & Adelaide areas.

99 The Labour Group submission expressed general support for our proposed Round Hill ward but also suggested an amendment in the London Road area, proposing that the boundary be drawn so that the residential streets east of London Road are included in Round Hill ward, while the 'predominantly commercial areas... including the Open Market and Baker Street be retained in St Peter's & North Laine'. The Group noted that this arrangement would also improve electoral equality. Like the Green Party, the Labour Group also expressed concern about our proposals in the city centre and argued that the existing ward boundary should be used to reflect the communities in the Regency and Brunswick & Adelaide areas. Along with the Green Party, the Group suggested that such an amended ward should be named West Hill & North Laine.

100 LAT and Providence Place Steering Group both expressed strong opposition to our proposals around London Road. LAT argued that our proposal would split an area that shares a number of issues, and that the 'coherence of this key area of Brighton' should be retained. This was a view shared by the Steering Group, which argued that the area was 'homogenous' and its 'interests and concerns are the same'.

101 Having carefully considered the evidence, we agree that our proposal in the London Road area split a community and are of the view that community identity and convenient and effective local government would best be reflected by an arrangement which keeps the area together. Our final recommendations therefore extend a renamed and revised West Hill & North Laine ward northwards to Viaduct Road and Union Road. To reflect the weight of evidence received for Regency and Brunswick & Adelaide wards (discussed in paragraphs 103–107), we also propose to amend the south-western boundary to follow the existing boundary. Finally, we have proposed a minor amendment to the northern boundary of Round Hill to ensure that the waste transfer station is entirely contained in one ward, as included in our further draft recommendations for Hollingdean & Fiveways ward, as well as reverting to Lewes Road in the far north-east of the ward to facilitate a Hanover & Elm Grove ward that is identical to the existing arrangement.

102 Our final recommendations for Round Hill and West Hill & North Laine wards will have good electoral equality, with forecast electoral variances of -6% and 10% by 2027, respectively.

Regency and Brunswick & Adelaide

103 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a three-councillor Regency ward comprising Brighton & Hove's seafront. In addition to the city-wide submissions, we received comments on our proposals from Councillor Phélim Mac Cafferty, Councillor Hannah Clare, The Avenues Residents' Association, The Brunswick Town Association, Cornerstone Community Centre, Friends of Brunswick Square & Terrace, Friends of Brighton & Hove Citizens' Action Group, 55 local residents and a petition from Lansdowne Area Residents' Association.

104 The Conservative Group and one local resident wrote in support of our draft recommendation proposals, with the Conservative Group citing a number of examples in support of their view that the proposed Regency ward 'unites for the first time the Regency architecture, developments and communities across the seafront'.

105 All other submissions received for this area opposed the draft recommendations. Respondents argued that the existing wards should be retained, citing significant community evidence in support of this view. Detailed submissions were provided by a number of local organisations and residents which set out how our draft recommendations would undermine local communities in the area and how the existing boundaries better reflect the orientation of those communities.

106 A local resident also argued that Regency and Brunswick & Adelaide wards should be retained, but suggested that the boundary between the two wards should be the historical boundary between Brighton and Hove along Boundary Passage and Little Western Street. The resident argued that this change would 'observe the actual and historic town boundary', as well as reflect the orientation of the local communities.

107 In our view, respondents have set out compelling reasons relating to our statutory criteria for a warding arrangement which retains the existing boundaries in the area. We agree that our draft proposals did not reflect the interests and identities of local communities. Our final recommendations are therefore based on the existing boundaries, with Kingsway Court retained in Brunswick & Adelaide ward (rather than in Central Hove). We received specific support for this amendment. Our final recommendations for Regency and Brunswick & Adelaide wards will have good electoral equality by 2027, with variances of 1% and -2%, respectively.

East Brighton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Hanover & Elm Grove	3	5%
Kemptown	2	14%
Queen's Park	2	-8%
Whitehawk & Marina	2	4%

Kemptown

108 As part of our further draft recommendations, we proposed substantially revised arrangements for a two-councillor Kemptown ward. While this ward had a forecast variance of 12% by 2027, we were of the view that the community evidence was compelling and that any other arrangement would split coherent communities either in Kemptown itself or further north in Queen's Park.

109 In response to our further consultation, we received support for this ward from local political groups, an MP and residents. The Conservative Group stated that we had ‘for the first time managed to unite Kemptown... into a single ward’. This was a view also given by local residents and the Green Party, who noted the revised proposals brought together ‘the whole Kemptown community’. The Labour Group expressed support. Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP stated that the ward represented a ‘coherent community’ and was ‘well supported’.

110 Some opposition was expressed to the proposal. As a consequence of their opposition to our suggested Whitehawk & Marina ward (as described below), the Liberal Democrats argued that Kemptown should be linked with the marina, stating that ‘the needs of the Marina and Kemp Town are far more in line as both border the sea, and the ongoing development of Black Rock heading west into Brighton has a major impact on both communities’. They suggested splitting our revised Kemptown ward along Paston Place.

111 We have received strong support for our revised Kemptown and Whitehawk & Marina wards (the latter as detailed below). Having analysed responses across three consultation periods, we are of the view that an arrangement which splits Kemptown would divide a coherent community. We have consequently not adopted the Liberal Democrats’ proposed revisions in this area.

112 Our final recommendations confirm the further draft proposals, subject to a minor modification. A number of local residents argued for an amendment to the eastern boundary of the ward. The residents argued that the proposed boundary, which ran along Arundel Road, divided electors in Arundel Street from their immediate community in Kemptown to the west. These submissions argued that our proposal had isolated these properties from their neighbours and their community, with Boundary Road suggested as an alternative boundary immediately to the east.

113 We visited this area on our tour of Brighton & Hove and agree that the boundary along Arundel Road does split those residents on Arundel Street from their immediate community in Kemptown. We noted that our proposal had isolated these properties and that there was significant separation between residents on Arundel Street and those to the east of Marina Way, with a large industrial area – as well as the main road – covering the ground between them.

114 At the previous stage, we did investigate the possibility of using Boundary Road as an alternative boundary but noted that this would create an electoral variance of 14% by 2027 in Kemptown ward. Given this number is higher than we would normally recommend, we have therefore considered options for improving the level of electoral equality in Kemptown while utilising Boundary Road as an eastern boundary. A resident did suggest that an area bounded by Bristol Place, Eastern Road, Arundel Road and Bristol Gardens (an area that includes the Lidl supermarket) could be included in Whitehawk & Marina ward. This suggestion was not accompanied by compelling community evidence, and while the amendment

would improve electoral equality, it would only marginally improve it to 13%. We also considered whether any electors could be moved from south of Edward Street into Queen's Park ward. However, we are of the view that Edward Street is a very strong boundary. This arrangement has also been well supported by community evidence in our consultations.

115 On balance, we have decided to extend Kemptown ward east and recommend that the boundary run along Boundary Road, with no other amendments to the ward. While we acknowledge that this will create an electoral variance of 14% by 2027, we view the evidence in this area to be particularly compelling. We consider that residents have provided strong arguments that the Arundel Road boundary split the community. These arguments were confirmed by our visit to the area. While we could move electors south of Edward Street into Queen's Park ward to improve the variance, we are of the view that any change we make would be arbitrary, would not provide for a strong boundary, and would not reflect the evidence we have received about communities in Kemptown and in Queen's Park.

116 We received other suggestions for modifications to the ward that we have not adopted. A resident proposed that Prince Regent's Close, Prince's Terrace, Bristol Street, Bennett Road and Rugby Place should be included in Kemptown ward. However, they did not provide supporting evidence and such an arrangement would create an electoral variance of 22% by 2027. We also received a submission which argued the hospital – with buildings either side of Eastern Road – should be wholly contained within one ward. While we acknowledge this suggestion, we note that the footprint of the hospital is widespread across several locations and would require a redrawing of a strong boundary to one that, in our view, would not be clear and identifiable.

117 While Friends of Brighton & Hove Citizens' Action Group noted that they were 'extremely pleased that Madeira Drive, a source of many council issues, is to be incorporated within 1 whole ward', they suggested that Kemptown ward be merged with Queen's Park ward to create a four-councillor ward. While there is no upper limit in legislation regarding the number of councillors that may be returned from each ward or division, there are currently no principal authority wards or divisions in England returning more than three councillors. We take the view that wards or divisions returning more than three councillors result in a dilution of accountability to the electorate. Without very compelling evidence, we will not recommend a number above that figure. We are not of the view that we have received such compelling evidence in this instance.

118 A number of alternative names were suggested for Kemptown ward. Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP argued that the ward should be named Kemp Town, noting that Kemp Town was used by the local paper and by the conservation area covering Lewes Crescent and Sussex Square. He also noted that Kemptown was the name of the constituency and different names would provide greater clarity. Craven Vale Community Association also suggested the name Kemp Town, 'as that is the original

historic name of the Kempt Town development of 1823', but noted there is disagreement locally about the name's spelling.

119 The Green Party noted that there may be some confusion arising from a constituency with the same name and suggested the name Kemptown Village to 'denote [the ward's] historical and cultural significance'. A resident suggested 'appropriate names would be St James or St Georges'. The Labour Group supported the name Kemptown.

120 We have carefully considered the different proposals and have decided to retain the name Kemptown as part of our final recommendations. We note that there is no consensus regarding the name of the ward and, on balance, are of the view that the name Kemptown best reflects the evidence we have received over the course of the entire review.

121 Our proposed Kemptown ward is forecast to have an electoral variance of 14% by 2027.

Hanover & Elm Grove and Queen's Park

122 We proposed further draft recommendations in this area, suggesting a three-councillor Hanover & Elm Grove ward that was identical to the existing ward and a substantially amended two-councillor Queen's Park ward. Having considered the proposal from Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP for an alternative arrangement for the Pankhurst Estate, we asked for local views from residents as to their preferences.

123 We received support for our revised proposals in this area from local political groups, residents and local organisations. The Green Party noted that they were 'pleased to see the previously proposed changes... around St Luke's and the Phoenix estate... have been reversed which better fits the Commission's criteria'. The Conservative Group, the Labour Group and the Hanover & Elm Grove Branch of the Labour Party expressed support, while Phoenix Art Space and Craven Vale Community Association wrote in strong support for the further draft recommendations, as did local residents.

124 We did receive additional submissions suggesting amendments to the proposed wards in this area. A local resident argued that 'the area known as Bear Hill' should be included in Hanover & Elm Grove ward but did not provide any supporting evidence. We have consequently not made this amendment to our proposed boundaries. Another local resident argued that the Craven Vale Estate should be included in Whitehawk & Marina ward 'as it has been part of East Brighton ward for many years'. We have not been convinced that this alternative arrangement would better reflect communities in the area, particularly given the support given for our proposal during consultation, and we have therefore not adopted the resident's suggestion.

125 Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP proposed that the Pankhurst Estate should be included in Queen's Park ward. Citing community evidence, Mr Russell-Moyle stated

that the St Luke and Craven Vale areas have much in common with Pankhurst residents and should be included in the same ward, noting that the Craven Vale and Pankhurst areas 'have become closer' during the pandemic 'sharing food banks and community development workers'. We did not hear from any residents in the Pankhurst area, although we did receive a response from a resident who said that 'I would support Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP's proposals and arguments regarding removing Pankhurst Estate from the [Hanover & Elm Grove] ward if they reflect the views and wishes of residents of that area and/or facilitate desirable changes in neighbouring wards. Otherwise I would wish to see no changes to the existing boundaries for the ward.'

126 We carefully considered the proposal from Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP and visited the Pankhurst Estate and neighbouring areas on our tour of Brighton & Hove. While we acknowledge the arguments made, we note that the proposed amendment would move a large number of electors from Hanover & Elm Grove into Queen's Park and that we have not received any other support for this proposal during the consultation on our further draft recommendations. Conversely, our proposal to retain the existing ward received strong support. On balance, we have therefore decided not to incorporate the modification around the Pankhurst Estate into our final recommendations. We confirm our further draft recommendations for Hanover & Elm Grove and Queen's Park wards as final. These wards have forecast electoral variances of 5% and -8% by 2027, respectively.

127 The Hanover & Elm Grove Branch of the Labour Party suggested the alternative name Hanover & Hartington for this ward, arguing that 'people living in areas north of Elm Grove... often report feeling left out of ward community activity and events'. While we acknowledge the suggestion, we received support for the name Hanover & Elm Grove and did not receive any other submissions during our consultation on the further draft recommendations arguing for a ward name change. We are therefore retaining the existing name of Hanover & Elm Grove as part of our final recommendations.

Whitehawk & Marina

128 We proposed further draft recommendations for a two-councillor Whitehawk & Marina ward. We received responses from local political groups, an MP and local residents relating to this ward.

129 Respondents expressed a mixture of support and objections to our revised proposal. The Labour Group, Conservative Group and the Green Party submitted support for the further draft recommendations, with the Green Party noting that 'the Marina is geographically distinct from the rest of the city, but it has strong transport links with the Whitehawk area, and so the pairing of these two communities seems a good match'. One resident stated that 'Whitehawk people use the Marina for shops and recreation... and Marina people will come up to Whitehawk for the green parks and hills'. This view was echoed by other residents, with the local geography also cited as a reason for linking the marina with Whitehawk.

130 Representations that opposed this ward were submitted by the Liberal Democrats as well as local residents. As noted above, the Liberal Democrats argued that ‘the twinning of the Marina with Whitehawk is totally inappropriate. These are two very different communities of common interest with different local needs.’ This was a view echoed by a local resident, who stated that they ‘fail to see any community of interest between the areas... apart from Asda’. The Liberal Democrats argued instead that Kemptown should be linked with the marina, with large adjustments to Queen’s Park and Hanover & Elm Grove ward, ‘allowing for an extension of Whitehawk’. A local resident submitted that their preference was for the original draft recommendations in this area, as ‘it makes sense to have the council estates together in terms of the communities and issues they face’.

131 We have carefully considered the comments for this area and have decided to confirm our further draft recommendations as final, subject to a minor to the western boundary (outlined in the Kemptown section) in order to reflect the community around Arundel Street. While we acknowledge the arguments made against our further draft proposal for Whitehawk & Marina, we have also received strong support for this suggestion. Moreover, the ward facilitates wards in Kemptown, Queen’s Park and Hanover & Elm Grove which reflect the balance of evidence received. Our proposed ward is forecast to have an electoral variance of 4% by 2027.

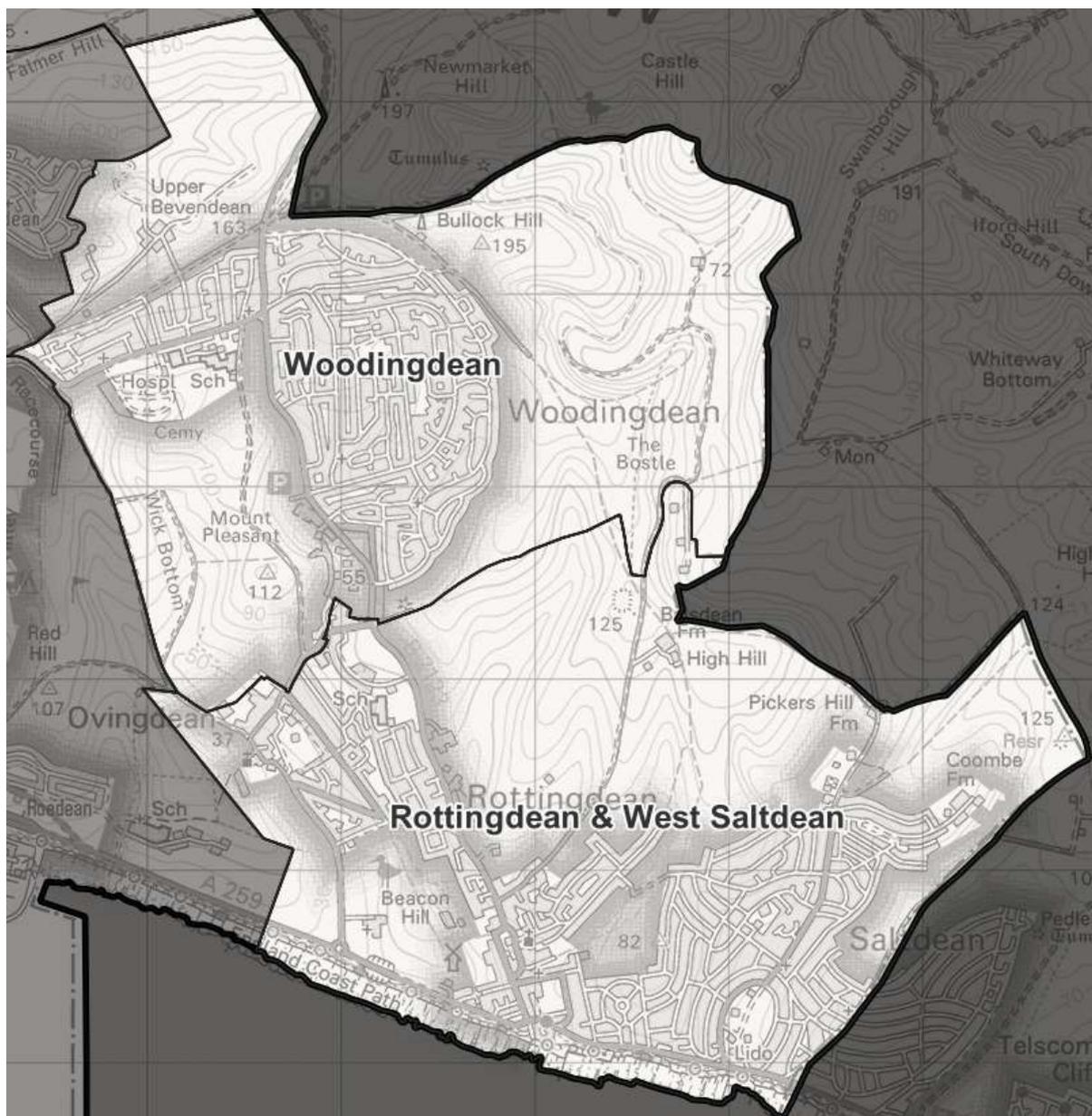
132 We did receive a number of comments on the name in this area. Local residents, Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP and the Labour Group proposed the name East Brighton, with the Labour Group noting that East Brighton Park ‘is now a central feature of the ward.... The name “East Brighton” is used by a range of community groups in the area.’ Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP argued that the name East Brighton would be a ‘better more inclusive name’, citing examples of local community activities and locations.

133 Another respondent suggested the names Whitehawk & Blackrock and Whitehawk, Blackhawk & Roedean. The submission noted that ‘Marina has a sparse, mostly transient, population’. An additional resident suggested the name Whitehawk, Roedean & Marina, stating that ‘perhaps the name of the new ward should include Roedean’.

134 We also received support for the name Whitehawk & Marina, with the Conservative Group arguing that the name ‘is much improved from the previous “East Brighton” which was vague and lacking in meaning for the community’. Local residents also expressed their support for the name, noting that ‘Whitehawk is a big suburb and a proper part of Brighton and Hove City in its own right’.

135 We have carefully considered the submissions received and are confirming the name Whitehawk & Marina as final. While we acknowledge the other suggestions, we note that there is no consensus regarding the ward name and are of the view that the name Whitehawk & Marina best reflects the communities within the ward.

Rottingdean & West Saltdean and Woodingdean



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Rottingdean & West Saltdean	2	4%
Woodingdean	2	-9%

Rottingdean & West Saltdean and Woodingdean

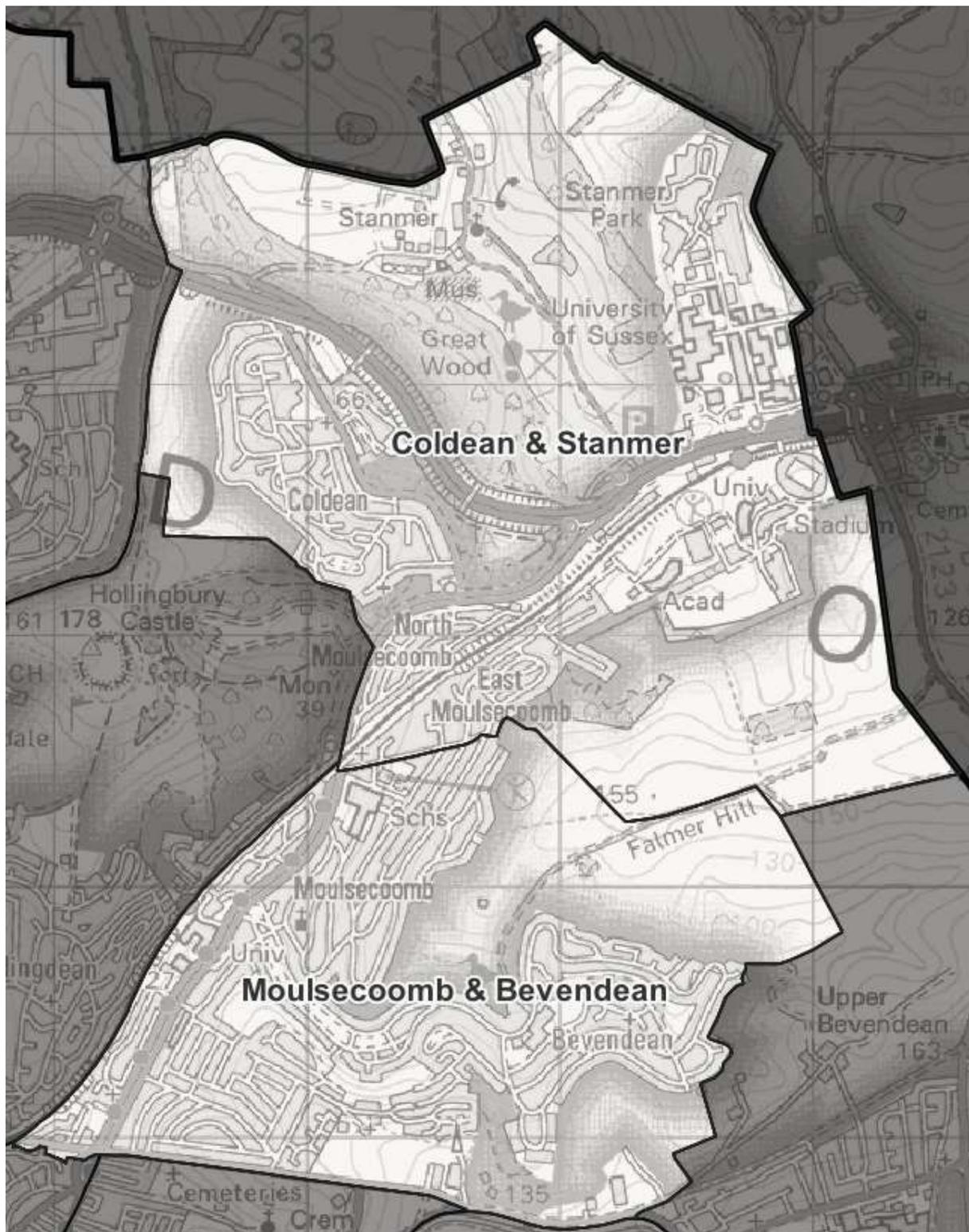
136 Our draft recommendations for this area paired Rottingdean, Ovingdean and West Saltdean in one ward and retained the existing boundaries of Woodingdean. In addition to the city-wide submissions, we received comments on our proposals from Councillor Fishleigh and three local residents.

137 The city-wide submissions, Councillor Fishleigh and a local resident were all supportive of our proposals for the boundaries in this area.

138 Two local residents proposed that West Saltdean should be in the same local authority as Saltdean. However, our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the city.

139 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Rottingdean & West Saltdean and Woodingdean wards as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 4% more and 9% fewer electors than the city average by 2027.

Moulsecoomb & Bevendean and Coldean & Stanmer



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Coldean & Stanmer	2	5%
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	3	10%

Moulsecoomb & Bevendean and Coldean & Stanmer

140 Our draft recommendations for this area were for a two-member Stanmer ward, comprising Coldean, Stanmer, the University and North Moulsecoomb. Our proposals also included a three-member Moulsecoomb & Bevendean ward. In addition to the city-wide submissions, we received comments on our proposals from Coldean Residents' Association and 12 local residents as well as Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP. The city-wide submissions all made similar proposals for the boundaries in this area.

141 The Conservative Group and Labour Group wrote in support of our draft recommendations in both wards, with the Green Party proposing one minor modification to rename our proposed Stanmer ward 'Coldean & Stanmer'. This naming amendment was also suggested by Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP, who noted that 'most voters will live in Coldean or the universities and not the very small village of Stanmer'.

142 Three local residents opposed our draft recommendation proposals in the area, arguing that the entirety of Moulsecoomb should be in one ward. However, the submissions did not provide alternative proposals for ward boundaries in this area and, as the existing ward is forecast to have 17% more electors than the city average by 2027, these levels of electoral inequality must be addressed.

143 Coldean Residents' Association and nine local residents proposed a number of alternative names for Stanmer ward, including 'Coldean & Stanmer' and 'Coldean & Moulsecoomb'.

144 As discussed in our further draft recommendations report, Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP made a proposal for alternative boundaries in this area. While we acknowledge this proposal, these suggestions could only be adopted by significantly amending the adjacent Hanover & Elm Grove ward, for which strong evidence has been provided during consultation. We have therefore not included these proposed wards within our final recommendations. As discussed in the section regarding Hollingdean & Fiveways, we have also not made amendments between Lewes Road and the railway line, as suggested by a local resident during the consultations on our draft and further draft recommendations.

145 However, we agree that our proposed ward name for Stanmer does not fully reflect the communities within the ward and have adopted the name of Coldean & Stanmer as part of our final recommendations.

146 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Stanmer and Moulsecoomb & Bevendean wards as final, subject to the naming amendment mentioned above to Coldean & Stanmer. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 5% more and 10% more electors than the city average by 2027, respectively.

Conclusions

147 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Brighton & Hove, 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	54	54
Number of electoral wards	23	23
Average number of electors per councillor	3,849	4,268
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Brighton & Hove City Council should be made up of 54 councillors serving 23 wards representing 15 two-councillor wards and eight 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 Brighton & Hove City Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Brighton & Hove on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

148 We have now completed our review of Brighton & Hove City 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

149 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 Brighton & Hove City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Brunswick & Adelaide	2	7,921	3,961	3%	8,350	4,175	-2%
2	Central Hove	2	8,384	4,192	9%	9,236	4,618	8%
3	Coldean & Stanmer	2	6,171	3,086	-20%	8,965	4,483	5%
4	Goldsmid	3	11,003	3,668	-5%	13,828	4,609	8%
5	Hangleton & Knoll	3	11,159	3,720	-3%	11,616	3,872	-9%
6	Hanover & Elm Grove	3	12,236	4,079	6%	13,503	4,501	5%
7	Hollingdean & Fiveways	3	11,351	3,784	-2%	11,942	3,981	-7%
8	Kemptown	2	9,154	4,577	19%	9,771	4,886	14%
9	Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	3	11,096	3,699	-4%	14,082	4,694	10%
10	North Portslade	2	7,554	3,777	-2%	7,969	3,985	-7%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11	Patcham & Hollingbury	3	11,905	3,968	3%	12,327	4,109	-4%
12	Preston Park	3	11,679	3,893	1%	12,941	4,314	1%
13	Queen's Park	2	7,127	3,564	-7%	7,889	3,945	-8%
14	Regency	2	7,742	3,871	1%	8,656	4,328	1%
15	Rottingdean & West Saltdean	2	8,283	4,142	8%	8,869	4,435	4%
16	Round Hill	2	7,299	3,650	-5%	8,029	4,015	-6%
17	South Portslade	2	7,408	3,704	-4%	8,124	4,062	-5%
18	West Hill & North Laine	2	7,755	3,878	1%	9,425	4,713	10%
19	Westbourne & Poets' Corner	2	7,443	3,722	-3%	7,997	3,999	-6%
20	Westdene & Hove Park	3	11,920	3,973	3%	12,439	4,146	-3%
21	Whitehawk & Marina	2	8,441	4,221	10%	8,886	4,443	4%
22	Wish	2	7,368	3,684	-4%	7,909	3,955	-7%
23	Woodingdean	2	7,457	3,729	-3%	7,735	3,868	-9%

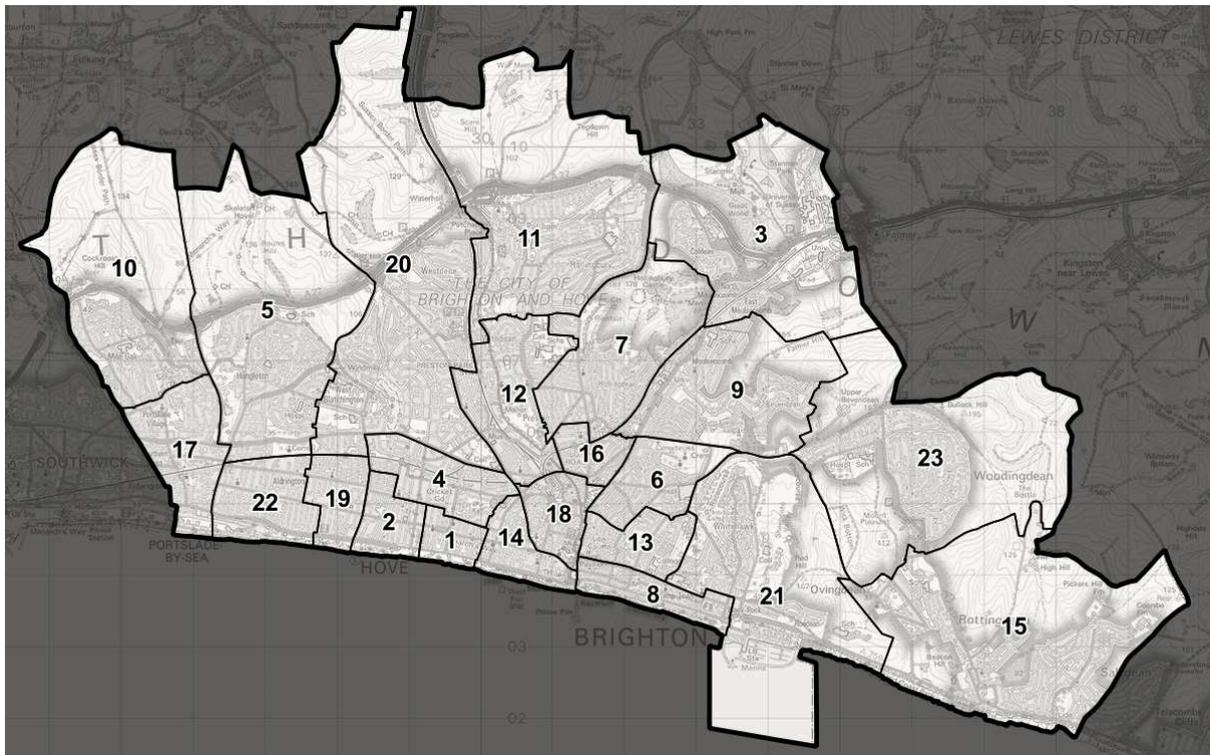
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Totals	54	207,856	–	–	230,488	–	–
Averages	–	–	3,849	–	–	4,268	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Brighton & Hove City 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 city. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Brunswick & Adelaide
2	Central Hove
3	Coldean & Stanmer
4	Goldsmid
5	Hangleton & Knoll
6	Hanover & Elm Grove
7	Hollingdean & Fiveways
8	Kemptown
9	Moulsecoomb & Bevendean
10	North Portslade
11	Patcham & Hollingbury
12	Preston Park
13	Queen's Park
14	Regency
15	Rottingdean & West Saltdean
16	Round Hill
17	South Portslade
18	West Hill & North Laine
19	Westbourne & Poets' Corner
20	Westdene & Hove Park

21	Whitehawk & Marina
22	Wish
23	Woodingdean

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/east-sussex/brighton-and-hove

Appendix C

Submissions received in response to our draft recommendations

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/east-sussex/brighton-and-hove

Political Groups

- Brighton & Hove Conservative Group
- Brighton & Hove Labour Group
- Brighton & Hove Green Party
- Withdean Labour Branch

Councillors

- Councillor P. Mac Cafferty
- Councillor H. Clare
- Councillor D. Gibson
- Councillor B. Fishleigh
- Councillor L. Hamilton

Members of Parliament

- Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP

Local Organisations

- Prestonville Community Association
- The Avenues Residents' Association
- The Brunswick Town Association
- Cornerstone Community Centre
- Landsdowne Area Residents' Association
- Friends of Brunswick Square & Terrace
- Hollingdean News
- Phoenix Art Space
- Phoenix Residents' Group
- Phoenix Food
- Friends of Brighton & Hove Citizens' Action Group
- London Road Area Local Action Team
- Goldstone Valley Residents' Association
- St Luke's Residents' Association
- Providence Place Steering Group

- Coldean Residents' Association

Petition

- 189 signatures, submitted by Landsdowne Area Residents' Association

Local Residents

- 220 local residents

Submissions received in response to our further draft recommendations

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/east-sussex/brighton-and-hove

Political Groups

- Brighton & Hove Conservative Group
- Brighton & Hove Labour Group
- Brighton & Hove Green Party
- Brighton & Hove Liberal Democrats
- Goldsmid Liberal Democrats
- Hanover & Elm Grove Branch of the Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor A. Grimshaw
- Councillor C. Appich
- Councillor A. McNair
- Councillor S. Bagaeen

Members of Parliament

- Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP

Local Organisations

- Friends of Brighton & Hove Citizens' Action Group
- Coldean Residents' Association
- Phoenix Art Space
- Cardinal Newman Catholic School
- Craven Vale Community Association
- Bristol Estate Tenants' & Leaseholders' Association

Local Residents

- 706 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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