

New electoral arrangements for Telford & Wrekin Council Final Recommendations

August 2022

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

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

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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 Telford & Wrekin?

7 We are conducting a review of Telford & Wrekin Council ('the Council') at the request of the Council. The Council requested this review in order to ensure that the warding pattern across the borough reflected the significant amount of development which is occurring, and to ensure that arrangements are fit for purpose.

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

- The wards in Telford & Wrekin 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 Telford & Wrekin

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

10 Telford & Wrekin should have 32 wards, two more than there are now.

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

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Telford & Wrekin.

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 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 Telford & Wrekin. 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
18 May 2021	Number of councillors decided
25 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 August 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
30 November 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
9 May 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
2 August 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

18 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

19 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2020	2027
Electorate of Telford & Wrekin	133,071	147,063
Number of councillors	54	54
Average number of electors per councillor	2,464	2,723

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'. Thirty-one of our proposed wards for Telford & Wrekin are forecast to 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 10.5% 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 Telford & Wrekin 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.

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

26 We received no submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 54 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 43 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included borough-wide proposals from the Council and from Cllr N. Dugmore. We also received a proposal from Telford Conservative Association ('the Conservative Association') proposing arrangements covering the majority of the built-up area of Telford. Cllr Dugmore's scheme was very similar to that proposed by the Conservatives in the built-up areas of Telford. Outside this area, it proposed splitting a number of villages in a manner which we did not consider would effectively represent the community identity of these areas. We therefore did not adopt Cllr Dugmore's proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

28 The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

29 The borough-wide scheme, and the partial scheme that we received, provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Telford & Wrekin. We were of the view that both the proposed patterns of wards from the Council and the Conservatives resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

30 Accordingly, our draft recommendations were based on both the Council and Conservative proposals in different areas of the borough and also took into account other 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.

31 We visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Telford & Wrekin helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

32 Our draft recommendations were for four three-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and 16 one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

33 We received 309 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments on the majority of proposed wards from the Council, the Conservative Group and Cllr S. Davies. The Liberal Democrat Group offered comments on a number of wards, and the Telford Labour Party and Conservative Association offered comments on wards within the area covered by Telford parliamentary constituency.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modification to the wards in the Horsehay, Oakengates and Apley Castle areas based on the submissions received. We also propose to merge our draft recommendations wards of Sutton Hill and Madeley, reverting to a three-member ward for this area.

Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for five three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and 15 one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

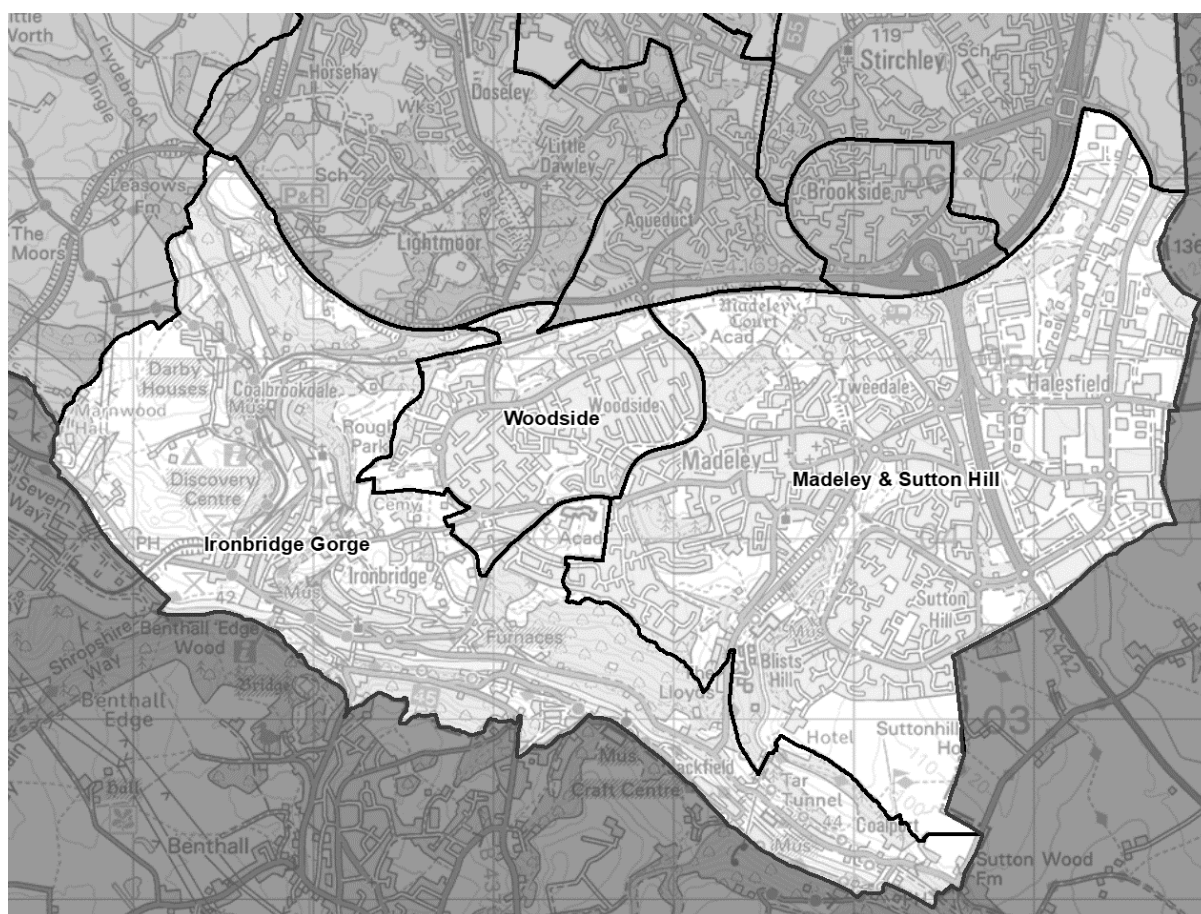
36 The tables and maps on pages 8–29 detail our final recommendations for each area of Telford & Wrekin. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Southern Telford & Wrekin



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ironbridge Gorge	1	-4%
Madeley & Sutton Hill	3	-2%
Woodside	2	-6%

Ironbridge Gorge and Woodside

38 Our draft recommendations for these wards were welcomed by Cllr R. Overton, Cllr S. Davies, Cllr K. Middleton and Telford Labour Party. The Telford Conservative Association suggested that residents of the Nightingale Walk area did not see themselves as part of the Woodside community and, by implication, suggested that this area be made part of a ward to the north. No specific evidence was provided with regard to the details of this community identity.

39 We have carefully considered all the proposals in this area. Given the widespread support for our proposed Woodside ward, the lack of specific evidence cited in terms of the community identity of Nightingale Walk, and the fact that to move this area would worsen the electoral equality of both Woodside and Horsehay & Lightmoor wards (to -8% and 10% variance, respectively), we have not been persuaded to alter our draft recommendations in this area.

Madeley & Sutton Hill

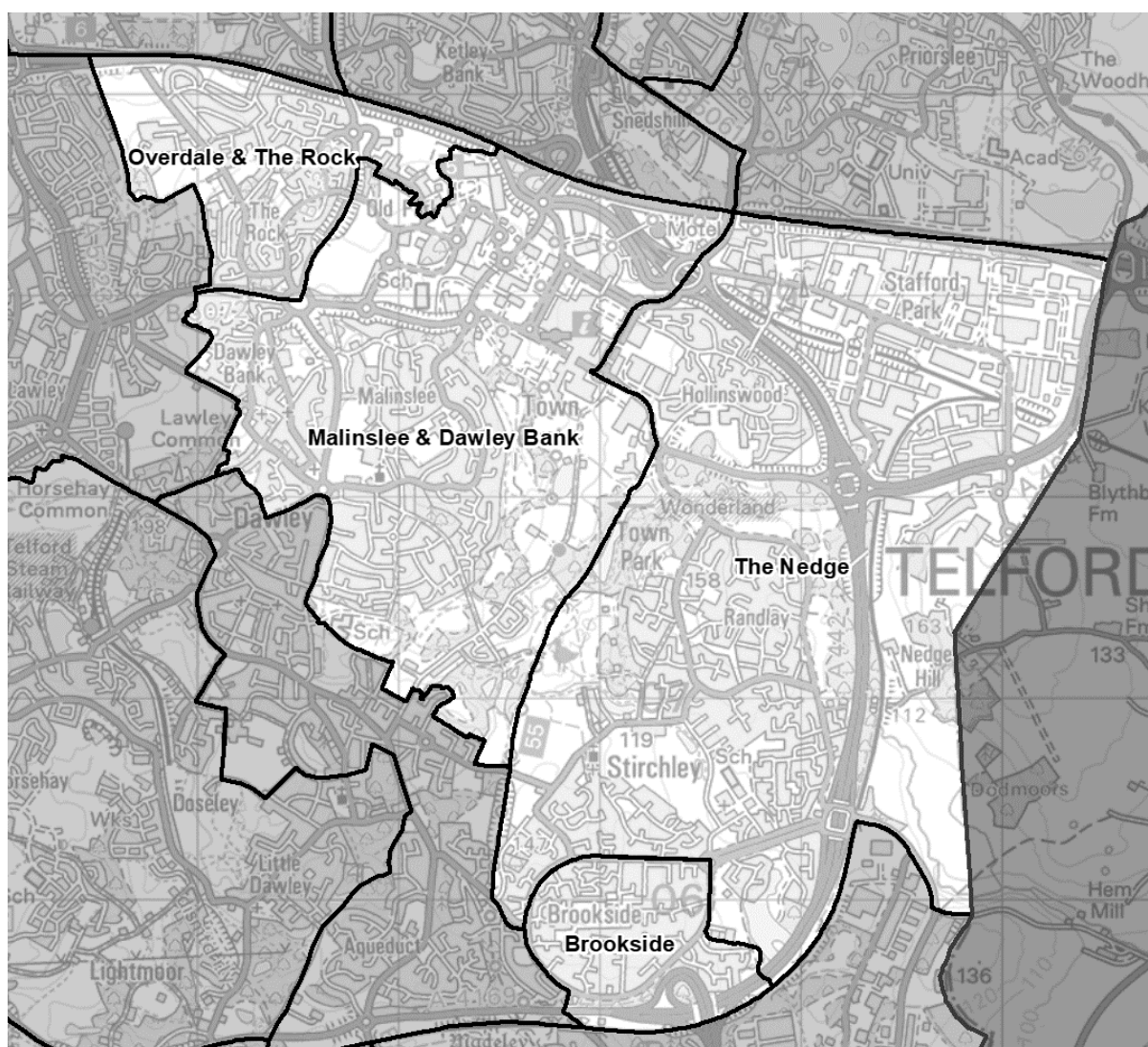
40 Our draft recommendations in this area were for a single-councillor Sutton Hill ward, broadly comprising the area within and to the south of Sutton Way, and a two-councillor Madeley ward covering the remainder of the existing ward. This proposal was supported by the Conservative Group and Conservative Association (whose original submission it was based upon), but opposed by numerous other respondents, including Cllr D. Wright, Cllr R. Overton, Cllr K. Middleton, Cllr S Davies, the Liberal Democrat Group and Labour Party, as well as the Sutton Hill Community Trust and the Council. These respondents generally supported a three-councillor ward in this area.

41 Specific factors supporting the proposal for a three-councillor ward covering both areas were shopping facilities, with residents of Sutton Hill using facilities in Madeley for large shops, post offices and libraries. Transport links were also cited, as the only road outlet from Sutton Hill goes through Madeley. The Council reported the results of an engagement exercise at which all respondents from Madeley and Sutton Hill reported a desire to maintain the existing three-member ward, although the Conservative Group noted that the level of engagement was relatively low in terms of raw numbers.

42 We have considered all the submissions in this area carefully. We note the suggestion of the Sutton Hill Community Trust that three councillors are required to ensure that Sutton Hill gets a 'fair share' of resources. However, we consider that the details of representation, and funding allocation, are a matter for the elected councillors, and that it would be quite possible for a single councillor focused on representing Sutton Hill alone to represent the area as effectively as three councillors whose focus will be on a wider area.

43 However, we are persuaded by the evidence provided of detailed links between the communities of Sutton Hill and Madeley that it would be reflective of community identity for them to be combined in a single ward. We have therefore amended our draft recommendations, and as part of our final recommendations propose retaining the existing three-member ward of Madeley & Sutton Hill, which continues to offer good electoral equality.

Central and Eastern Telford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brookside	1	11%
Malinslee & Dawley Bank	2	5%
Overdale & The Rock	1	8%
The Nedge	3	7%

Brookside and The Nedge

44 Our draft recommendations placed only electors within Brookside Avenue in a Brookside ward, with Lake End Drive and Cygnet Drive placed within The Nedge ward. The latter had 10% more electors per councillor than average, while Brookside had excellent electoral equality forecast by 2027, with 2% more electors per councillor than average.

45 This proposal attracted mixed responses. The Conservative Group and Conservative Association supported our draft recommendations, noting that residents in this area were roughly equidistant from facilities in Stirchley and those in Brookside, and were perhaps more likely to use those in Stirchley. In contrast, the Council offered evidence that residents from Lake End Drive and Cygnet Drive are engaged primarily with the facilities on the Brookside estate, including shops and educational facilities. Cllr D. Wright, Cllr R. Overton and Cllr S. Davies also supported these streets being placed in Brookside ward, stating that residents in this area considered themselves to be part of the Brookside community, although little specific evidence was provided.

46 Depending on the precise boundary drawn, the inclusion of Lake End Drive and Cygnet Drive means that Brookside ward will not have good electoral equality, with at least 11% more electors per councillor than average. The Council and Cllr Davies suggested that this could be mitigated in future, as continued development and growth across the rest of the borough means that the number of electors in Brookside will move closer to average. However, we can only consider the five-year electorate forecasts to 2027, and not any speculative future developments beyond this date.

47 We have carefully considered all the submissions in this area, and consider that this decision is particularly finely balanced. On balance, we propose amending our draft recommendations, to place the Lake End Drive and Cygnet Drive areas within a Brookside ward, based on the evidence of the Council. While this leaves Brookside slightly beyond the bounds of good electoral equality, we consider that this is outweighed by the improvement in electoral equality for The Nedge ward (from 10% more electors per councillor to 7%), and a better reflection of the community identity of the area in question.

Malinslee & Dawley Bank and Overdale & The Rock

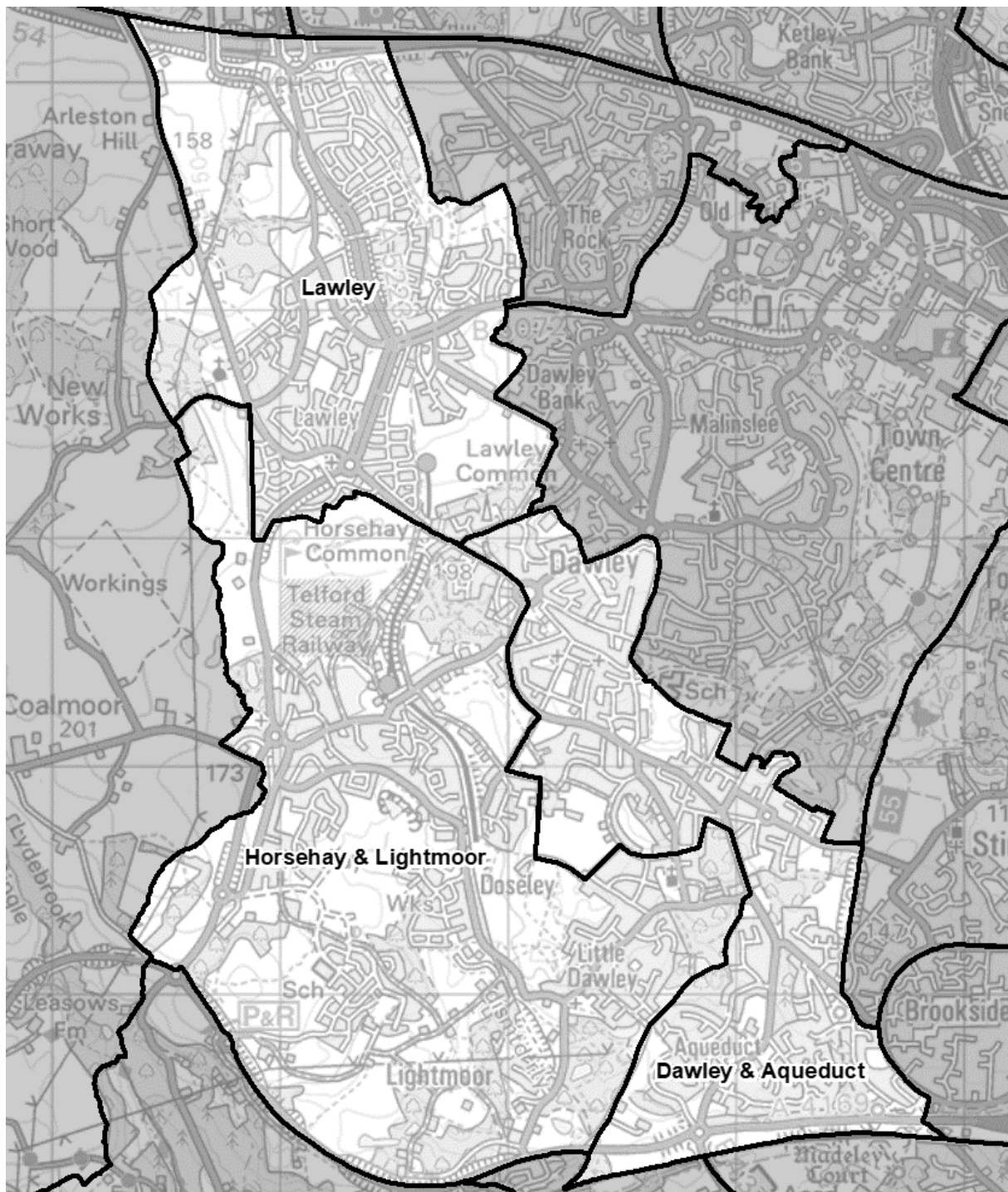
48 The Council, Labour Group and Cllr S. Davies supported our proposed boundaries for these wards. The Conservative Association suggested that Overdale & The Rock ward could be expanded to include the area around Telford Town Centre, noting that the central area was in Lawley & Overdale parish. However, Cllr Davies provided evidence of close links between the Town Centre and Malinslee, citing Malinslee Chapel and Malinslee House in the town centre area in particular.

49 Cllr A. Jhawar and Ketley Parish Council noted the existing links between the Ketley and Overdale areas, across the M54. This was in the context of our recommendations for Ketley ward, and did not include direct comments on our proposed Overdale & The Rock ward.

50 The Council and Cllr Davies, supported our proposed boundaries for our proposed Great Dawley & Dawley Bank ward. They suggested that a better name for the proposed ward would be Malinslee & Dawley Bank.

51 We have carefully considered all the proposals for this area. Based on the evidence from Cllr Davies in particular, we are not persuaded to alter the boundaries of the wards we proposed in our draft recommendations. However, we are persuaded that Malinslee & Dawley Bank is a better reflection of the area covered by our proposed ward, and we are revising the name of this ward as part of our final recommendations.

Southwestern Telford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Dawley & Aqueduct	2	4%
Horsehay & Lightmoor	2	7%
Lawley	3	0%

Dawley & Aqueduct, Horsehay & Lightmoor and Lawley

52 Our draft recommendations for this area were for a three-councillor Lawley ward, newly created to cover an area of very significant development which was, in part at least, the catalyst for the Council requesting this review, together with a three-councillor Dawley & Aqueduct ward and a single-councillor Horsehay & Lightmoor ward. We received significant opposition to the latter two recommendations, with opposition focused on our proposed boundary along Woodhouse Lane/Frame Lane. We received evidence from a significant number of sources that this proposal would divide the village and community of Horsehay between wards, and mean that areas and facilities such as Horsehay Pool and Horsehay Steam Railway would not be in the ward bearing this name.

53 An alternative proposal was received from Cllr D. Hopkins, which attracted support from a number of residents and the Lightmoor Village Voice Committee. This proposal was to move the western section of our proposed Dawley & Aqueduct ward into an expanded Horsehay & Lightmoor ward, with this expanded ward having two councillors, and the remainder of Dawley & Aqueduct having two councillors. Cllr Hopkins, and supporting residents, provided helpful evidence about the extent of the community of Horsehay and how this community is expected to relate to future developments in this area. The Labour Party submission agreed with this principle, as did that of Dawley Hamlets Parish Council, although these latter submissions did not go into the same level of detail.

54 The Telford Conservative Association and Cllr J. Greenaway again expressed concern about our draft recommendations splitting existing communities. The Liberal Democrats also cited concerns around the urban character of Dawley and the village of Horsehay being placed in the same ward. Further evidence was provided by Cllrs D. Wright and R. Mehta, with the latter citing specific examples of dining and leisure facilities shared across our proposed boundary.

55 The Council, and Cllr S. Davies, proposed an alternative which retained our existing single-councillor Horsehay & Lightmoor ward, but added the area north of Woodhouse Lane/Frame Lane to a Lawley ward. Based on the electorate figures used for this review, this proposed Lawley ward would not offer good electoral equality, at a 16% variance, as well as retaining a boundary along Woodhouse Lane/Frame Lane that is thought would divide the community of Horsehay. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

56 Great Dawley Town Council proposed retaining the existing western boundary of Dawley & Aqueduct ward, while supporting the Horsehay Common area being placed in a larger Horsehay & Lightmoor ward. We considered this proposal, but this would result in relatively poor levels of electoral equality, with the proposed three-councillor Dawley & Aqueduct ward having 10% more electors per councillor than

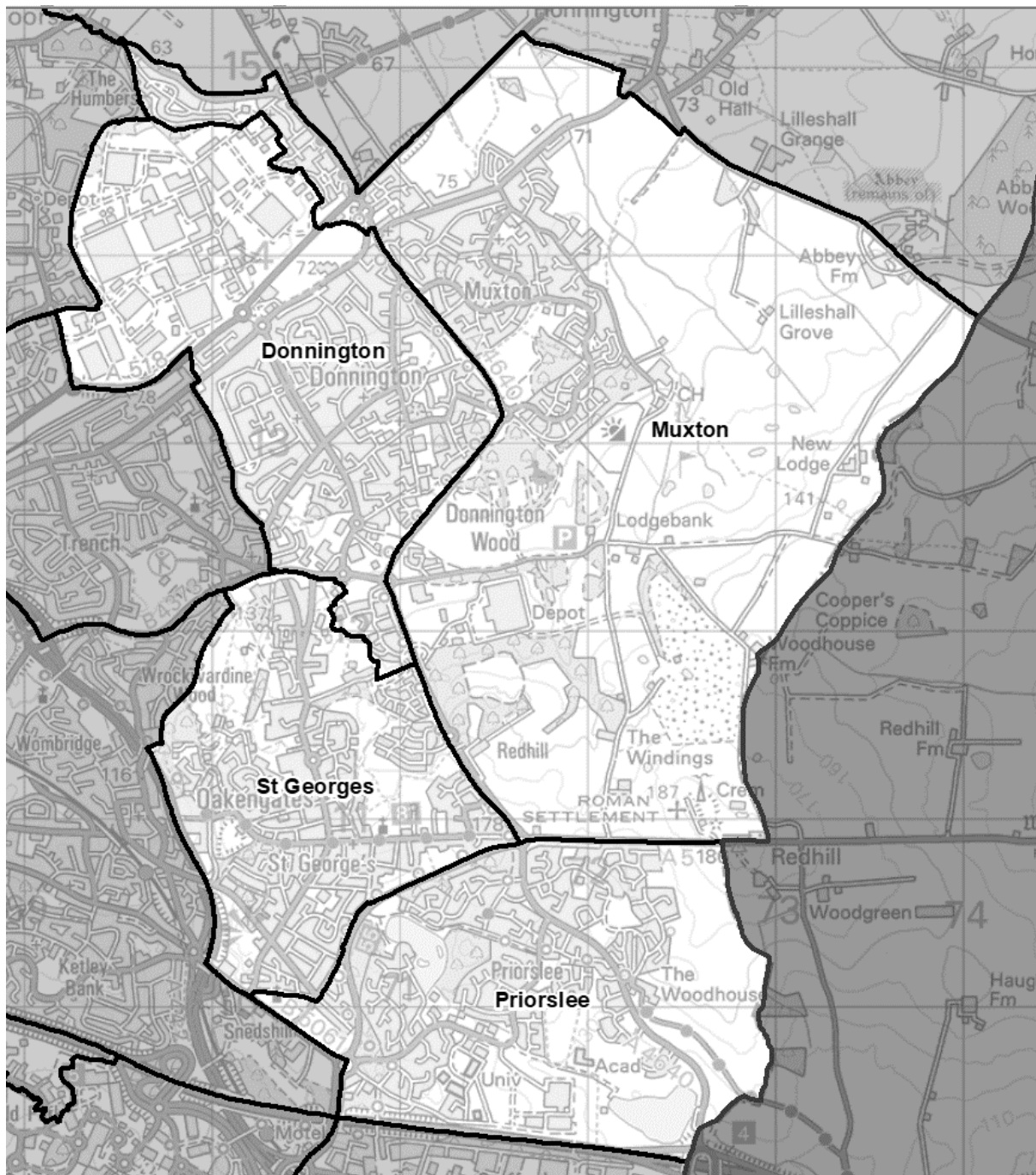
average, and Horsehay & Lightmoor having 11% fewer electors than average. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

57 We are persuaded by the myriad of evidence provided that our draft recommendations do not reflect the community identity of the Horsehay area in particular. We are therefore amending our draft recommendations, and broadly adopting those of Cllr Hopkins. We are proposing an amended version of Cllr Hopkins' suggested ward – in the northern section, the ward boundary was proposed to run along Wellington Road and Dawley Road, placing electors on Lawley Gate in a ward to the south. However, the boundary between Lawley & Overdale and Dawley Hamlets parishes splits this area, meaning that Cllr Hopkins' proposed boundary would require the creation of a very small parish ward, in a way that we do not consider would facilitate effective and convenient local government. We therefore propose to retain Lawley Gate within a Lawley-based ward.

58 Cllr Hopkins proposed a name of 'Dawley Hamlets & Lightmoor'. However, although appreciating that the ward contains the majority of Dawley Hamlets parish, we consider that using the name 'Dawley' in three neighbouring wards would have the potential to cause confusion. We therefore propose to retain the name of Horsehay & Lightmoor for the expanded ward.

59 We received relatively few comments on our proposed Lawley and Dawley & Aqueduct wards other than those which were consequential on changes to Horsehay & Lightmoor. Aside from the changes outlined above, we therefore propose to confirm as final the remaining boundaries of these wards as presented in our draft recommendations.

Northeastern Telford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Donnington	2	9%
Muxton	2	-6%
Priorslee	2	2%
St Georges	2	5%

Donnington and Muxton

60 We received no proposals to alter the boundaries of these wards, which were explicitly supported by the Council, Cllr S. Davies and Donnington & Muxton Parish Council. The submissions from the Conservative Association and Conservative Group, and that from the Liberal Democrats, did not comment on these proposed wards.

61 In the absence of any evidence suggesting an amendment, we confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

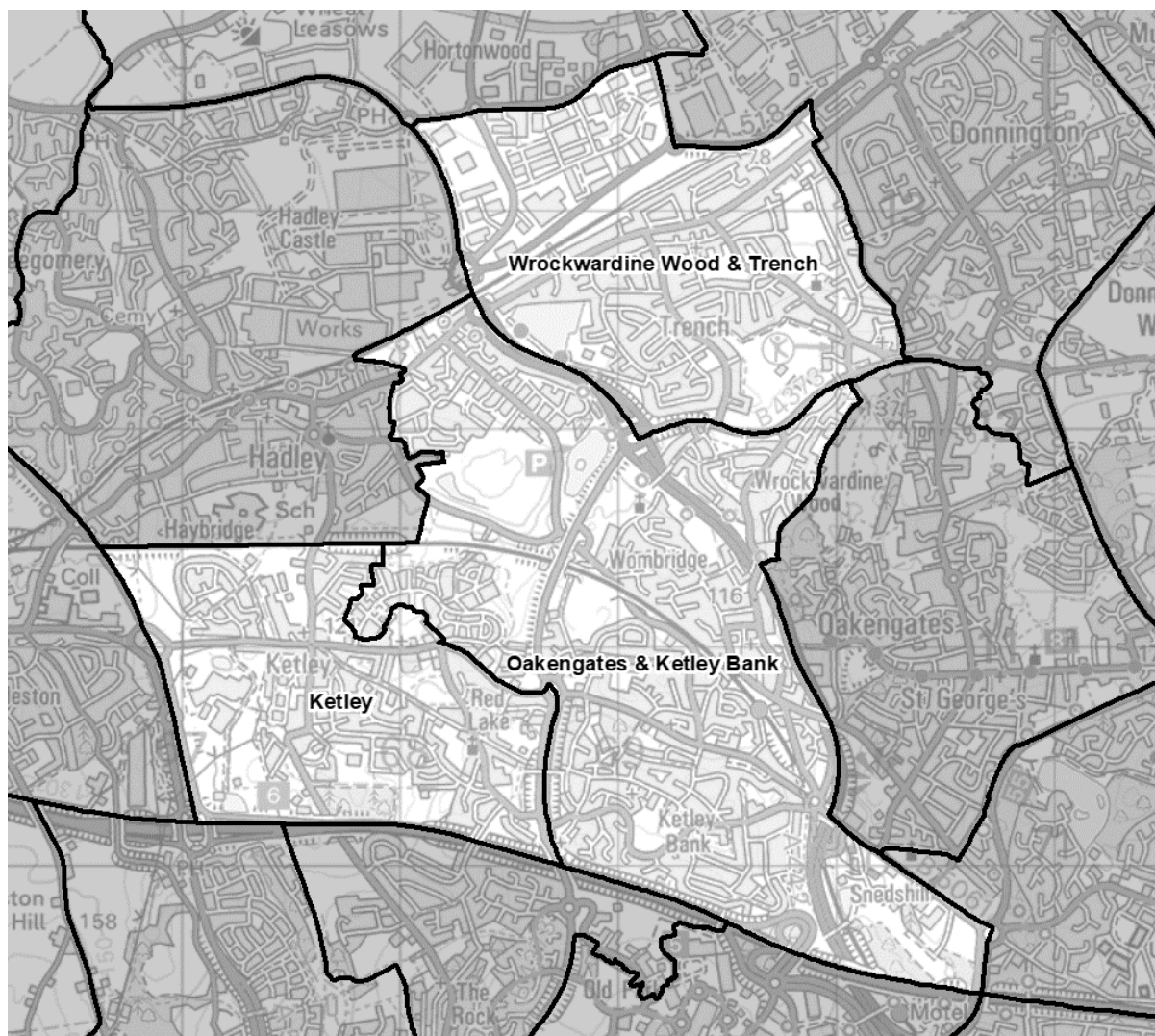
Priorslee and St Georges

62 Our draft recommendations for these wards were supported by the Council and Cllr S. Davies. The Conservative submissions, and that of the Liberal Democrats, did not comment on these recommendations.

63 The Telford Constituency Labour Party submission suggested that, although it was logical for St Peter's Church, Priorslee to be in the ward of that name, some other areas that we proposed to move out of Priorslee ward into St Georges did not share a community identity with the area. Specifically, it suggested that the Snedshill area, and the Cloisters area, should remain within Priorslee, although it welcomed Limekiln Bank being moved into St Georges.

64 We considered this proposal carefully. We note that if the Snedshill area alone was moved from our draft Priorslee to St Georges ward, this would leave the latter with an 11% variance. Given the acceptance of Limekiln Bank being added to St Georges ward, it would be implausible for other areas further north, such as Cloisters Way or Daisy Bank Drive, to remain in Priorslee ward. Given these issues, and the broad support for our draft recommendations, we are not persuaded that amending them would result in an overall better balance of the statutory criteria. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

North Central Telford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ketley	1	3%
Oakengates & Ketley Bank	3	-1%
Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	2	-7%

Ketley, Oakengates & Ketley Bank and Wrockwardine Wood & Trench

65 Our draft recommendations for this area were for a single-councillor Oakengates ward, a two-councillor Ketley ward including the area of Ketley Bank, and a three-councillor Hadley & Trench Lock ward containing the area of Trench Lock. These recommendations attracted very limited support.

66 The Conservative Association supported our recommendations, which were based on the Conservative submission from the initial warding pattern consultation. The Conservative Group proposed an amendment to the plan, with the Ketley Bank area added to an Oakengates ward, and the remainder of our proposed Ketley ward

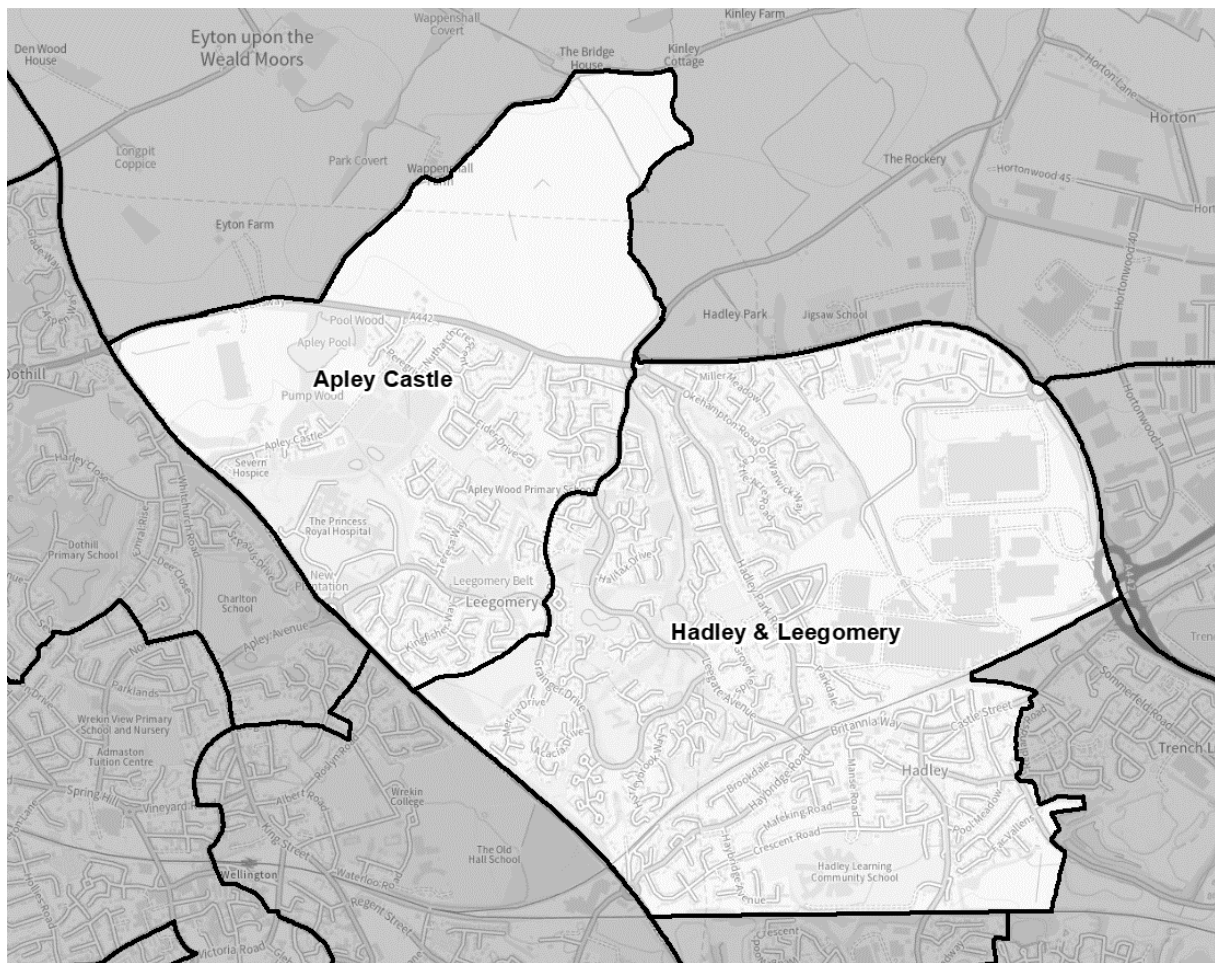
remaining as a two-councillor ward. Taking the boundary between Ketley and Ketley Bank as Mossey Green Way, this remainder of Ketley ward would have a variance of 42% as a single-councillor ward, or -29% as a two-councillor ward. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

67 Cllrs D. Wright, S. Parr, G. Reynolds, R. Overton, S. Reynolds, A. Jhavar, J. Ellis on behalf of independent colleagues and S. Davies all opposed our draft recommendations, as did the Council, Telford CLP and the Liberal Democrats. Evidence was provided that, despite the name, there was relatively little community identity between the areas of Ketley and Ketley Bank, and that the latter area had much stronger ties to Oakengates in terms of shopping, medical and leisure facilities.

68 Further evidence was provided by Friends of the Cockshutt, two local vicars, Trench Lock Safer Roads Group, Oakengates & District Royal British Legion, 2nd Wombridge Scouts, Ketley Bank Residents' Group, Oakengates & Wrockwardine Wood Residents' Group, Friends of Hartshill Park and the 0-19 Oakengates Group, together with Ketley Parish Council, Oakengates Town Council and Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council. These all opposed our draft recommendations, and supported a retention of an Oakengates & Ketley Bank ward broadly similar to the existing ward in this area. Evidence was provided that the B4373 Wrockwardine Wood Way was in fact a stronger boundary, with fewer crossing points, than the A442 Queensway.

69 Given the large amount of high-quality evidence provided, we are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, and propose a three-member Oakengates & Ketley Bank ward, together with a single-member Ketley ward. As part of our final recommendations, we have adopted the proposal put forward by the Council, which offers good electoral equality as well as broadly reflecting the existing ward in this area. The Council's proposal also unites the Ketley Park Road area within a single ward. As well as improving the community identity of this area, this proposal also ensures good electoral equality, as retaining the portion of the existing Ketley & Overdale ward north of the motorway as a single-councillor ward would have a variance of 18% – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality.

Apley Castle and Hadley & Leegomery



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Apley Castle	1	5%
Hadley & Leegomery	3	-2%

Apley Castle

70 We received several submissions from residents, Cllr K. Blundell, Cllr G. Offland, Cllr S. Davies, the Council, Conservative Group, Liberal Democrats and Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council opposing our draft recommendation for a two-councillor ward covering the Apley Castle and Leegomery areas. Evidence was provided of significant differences in the community identity of these areas, with Apley being focused around Apley Woods and Leegomery having significant links to the Hadley area.

71 The Council offered evidence that residents of Apley and Leegomery generally attended separate schools, and that residents of Apley looked to Shawburch as their shopping centre at least as much as Wellington.

72 Cllr S. Parr, in contrast, broadly welcomed our proposed Apley Castle & Leegomery ward, although he was concerned about the consequential parish warding arrangements for Hadley & Leegomery parish.

73 We considered all the submissions in this area carefully, and are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, based on evidence of a clear distinction of community identity between the Apley and Leegomery areas, and greater links between the latter area and Hadley Castle. We have adopted the Council's proposal for a single-member Apley Castle ward, with a boundary running down Pool Farm Avenue and Grainger Drive. This offers a single-member ward with good electoral equality, with 5% more electors per councillor than average.

Hadley & Leegomery

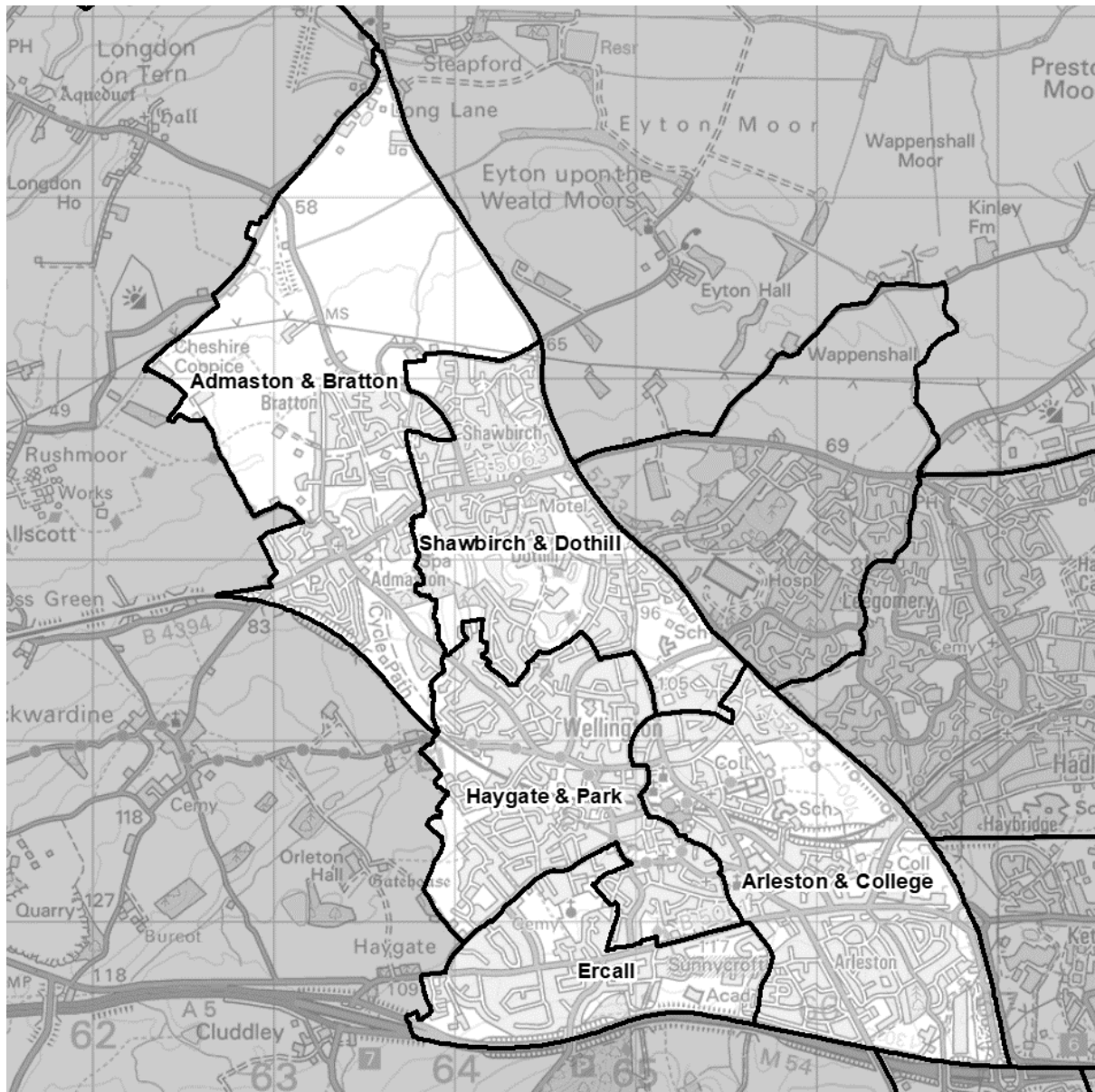
74 We received a number of submissions which discussed this ward in passing, with many focusing on neighbouring wards and the consequential changes which would affect this ward. Our draft recommendations were for a three-member ward covering the Hadley and Trench Lock areas. As discussed above (paras 65–69), we have decided to place the Trench Lock area within an expanded Oakengates-based ward.

75 Our draft recommendations placed electors to the north of the A442 Queensway but within Hadley & Leegomery parish in a rural-based Ercall Magna ward. The primary concentration of electors in this area is along Horton Lane.

76 This proposal was supported by the Council and Cllr S. Davies. The Liberal Democrats and Conservative Group did not comment on this proposal. However, Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council did not support this proposal, noting that the electors in this area were within the urban boundary of Telford & Wrekin, and that the relatively small, but viable, parish ward of Horton required by the proposal would have disproportionate representation on the parish council.

77 We have considered all the submissions in this area carefully. We consider that the electors in the Horton area are likely to have a predominantly rural focus, notwithstanding that they may be within the existing boundary of the urban wards. Equally, while we are sensitive to concerns over parish warding, we do not consider that this outweighs a better reflection of community identity, particularly with the support of the Council and other groups. While we are required to put in place parish warding arrangements to reflect changes to borough wards, it is possible for these arrangements to be subsequently modified through a Community Governance Review led by Telford & Wrekin Council. We are not persuaded to amend our draft recommendations with regard to the Horton area, and continue to include the Horton area within Ercall Magna ward as part of our final recommendations.

Northwestern Telford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Admaston & Bratton	1	-5%
Arleston & College	2	-2%
Ercall	1	-10%
Haygate & Park	2	3%
Shawbirch & Dothill	2	-9%

Admaston & Bratton and Shawbirch & Dothill

78 Our draft recommendations for Admaston & Bratton ward placed electors in Wellington parish to the north of Crowdale Road into Admaston & Bratton ward. This was supported by the Council and Cllr S. Davies. The Liberal Democrats did not

comment on this proposal, while the Conservative Group proposed going further, and including all electors to the west of the B5063 in Admaston & Bratton ward.

79 Two residents objected to this proposal. One suggested that 'crossing parish and town boundaries should be avoided at all costs'. While parishes can in certain areas be reflective of community identity, we are not persuaded that an 'at all costs' approach is appropriate as this addresses only one of the three statutory criteria that we must seek to balance. The other resident suggested that their community identity was with Shawbirch, and that this was where they did their shopping and attended medical appointments.

80 We have considered all the submissions in this area, and consider that this decision is finely balanced. We are not persuaded to adopt the Conservative Group proposal to move Gainsborough Way and neighbouring streets into Admaston & Bratton ward – in the absence of further consequential changes, this would leave Shawbirch & Dothill with a -14% variance – significantly beyond the bounds of good electoral equality.

81 Reverting to the existing boundary would leave Admaston & Bratton ward with an -11% variance – slightly outside the range of good electoral equality. We considered if there were alternatives that would allow a relatively small number of electors to be introduced to this ward, potentially from the Long Lane area, but we consider that this would not reflect the community identity of these latter electors, as well as requiring warding of Rodington parish. On balance, we are not persuaded to amend our draft recommendations for Admaston & Bratton ward, and we confirm them as final.

82 We received several submissions suggesting that Shawbirch and Dothill are separate communities, and that they should be represented in separate, single-member wards. Key among the points made was the lack of easy road access between the two areas – while footpath access is available between, for example, Tee Lake Boulevard and Harley Close, vehicular access throughout our proposed ward relies on Whitchurch Drive and Apley Avenue. Our proposed ward was supported by the Council and Cllr S. Davies, but opposed by the Liberal Democrats and Conservative Group.

83 The Conservative Group suggested that the inclusion of the future development on the site of the former Maxell factory could alleviate any concerns regarding the relatively low number of electors in our proposed Shawbirch ward. However, as this site is in Hadley & Leegomery parish, it would require the creation of a parish ward with no currently registered electors, in a way which would not promote effective and convenient local government.

84 Cllrs A. Lowe, L. Jinks, B. Tomlinson and K. Tomlinson opposed our draft recommendations, although in several cases they argued for the merits of single-member wards in principle rather than providing specific evidence regarding Shawbirch & Dothill. Cllrs B. Tomlinson and K. Tomlinson proposed that the Charlton School development be moved into Shawbirch ward rather than Dothill. They noted that this would not have direct road access to the remainder of Shawbirch ward, but would involve leaving the ward for vehicular access to Shawbirch village. Our draft recommendation proposal does include complete vehicular access along Whitchurch Drive, albeit not as direct as might be desired.

85 We have carefully considered all the submissions in this area, and consider that this decision is finely balanced. We note that, given our decision regarding Admaston & Bratton (paras 78–81), it is not possible to propose two separate wards for Shawbirch and Dothill with good electoral equality. Retaining the existing southern boundary of Shawbirch ward would lead to a -17% variance – well beyond the bounds of electoral equality. Equally, Cllr B. Tomlinson's and K. Tomlinson's proposal to expand Shawbirch ward to encompass the Charlton School development would allow good electoral equality in Shawbirch (-7% variance), but leave Dothill with poor electoral equality (-11%), as well as creating a Shawbirch ward without internal access.

86 On balance, and while acknowledging that the areas of Dothill and Shawbirch have separate community identities, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendation for this ward. We do not consider that the access issues between Shawbirch and Dothill are insurmountable. We consider that it is preferable in this area, and provides a better balance of our statutory criteria, to include two somewhat separate, but neighbouring communities, within a single ward where the alternative would be to split a community, or produce multiple wards with poor electoral equality.

Arleston & College, Ercall and Haygate & Park

87 We received support for our proposal to merge the existing Arleston & College ward from Cllrs A. McClements, J. Latter, J. Gorse, P. Davis, L. Carter, S. Davies and the Council. Evidence was provided of significant links between areas on either side of the B5061, with links to schools and places of worship mentioned several times, together with Arleston Community Centre serving both existing wards.

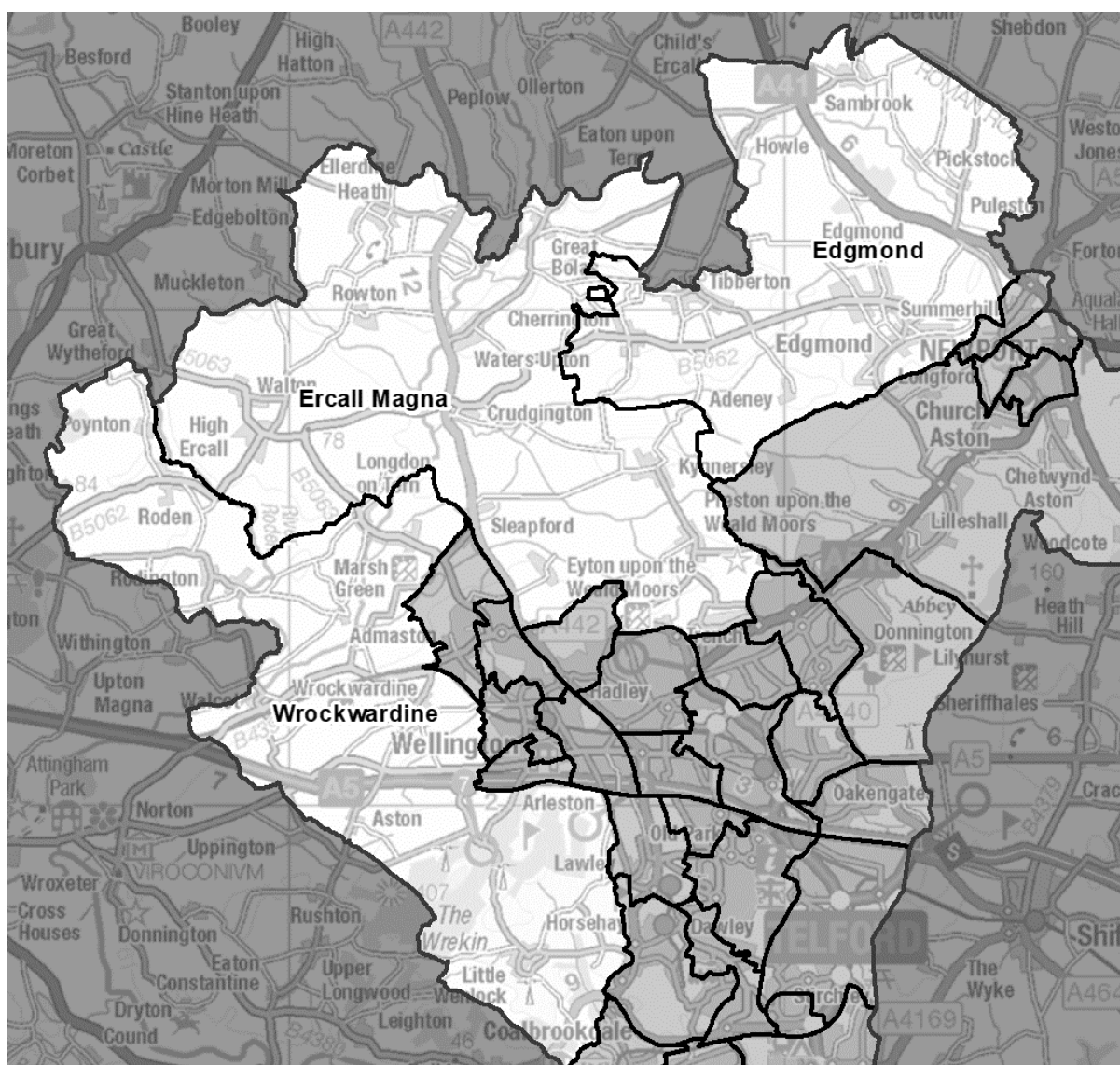
88 In contrast, the Conservative Group and Cllr A. Eade argued for the retention of separate wards for these two areas. These submissions noted the natural boundaries for the existing Arleston ward in particular, and suggested that the Council's original proposal had been motivated by partisan politics, as until recently the two wards had been represented by councillors from different political parties. This latter point is not one which we can consider.

89 The Conservative Group further proposed extending College ward northwards, to include the area bounded by Apley Drive and Park Gardens. This would remove electors from our proposed Shawbirch & Dothill ward, reducing the latter to a -14% variance. We were not persuaded to adopt this proposal given the poor variance and the lack of community identify evidence to justify it.

90 We carefully considered all the submissions in this area. Given the evidence provided of significant community links across the Arleston and College areas, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for this ward, and confirm them as final.

91 We received few comments on our proposed Haygate & Park and Ercall wards, which were supported by the Conservative Group, Council and Cllrs S. Davies, G. Cook, P. Davis and J. Pierce. The Conservative Group both supported our proposed Haygate & Park ward, and suggested the retention of the existing Ercall ward, which appear to be incompatible propositions. We confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

Rural Western & Northern Telford & Wrekin



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Edgmond	1	-9%
Ercall Magna	1	7%
Wrockwardine	1	-10%

Edgmond

92 We received no opposition to our proposed Edgmond ward, which was supported by the Council and Cllr S. Davies. We confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Ercall Magna and Wrockwardine

93 We received mixed comments on our draft recommendations for these wards, with the focus on the area around Roden. Our draft recommendations placed this

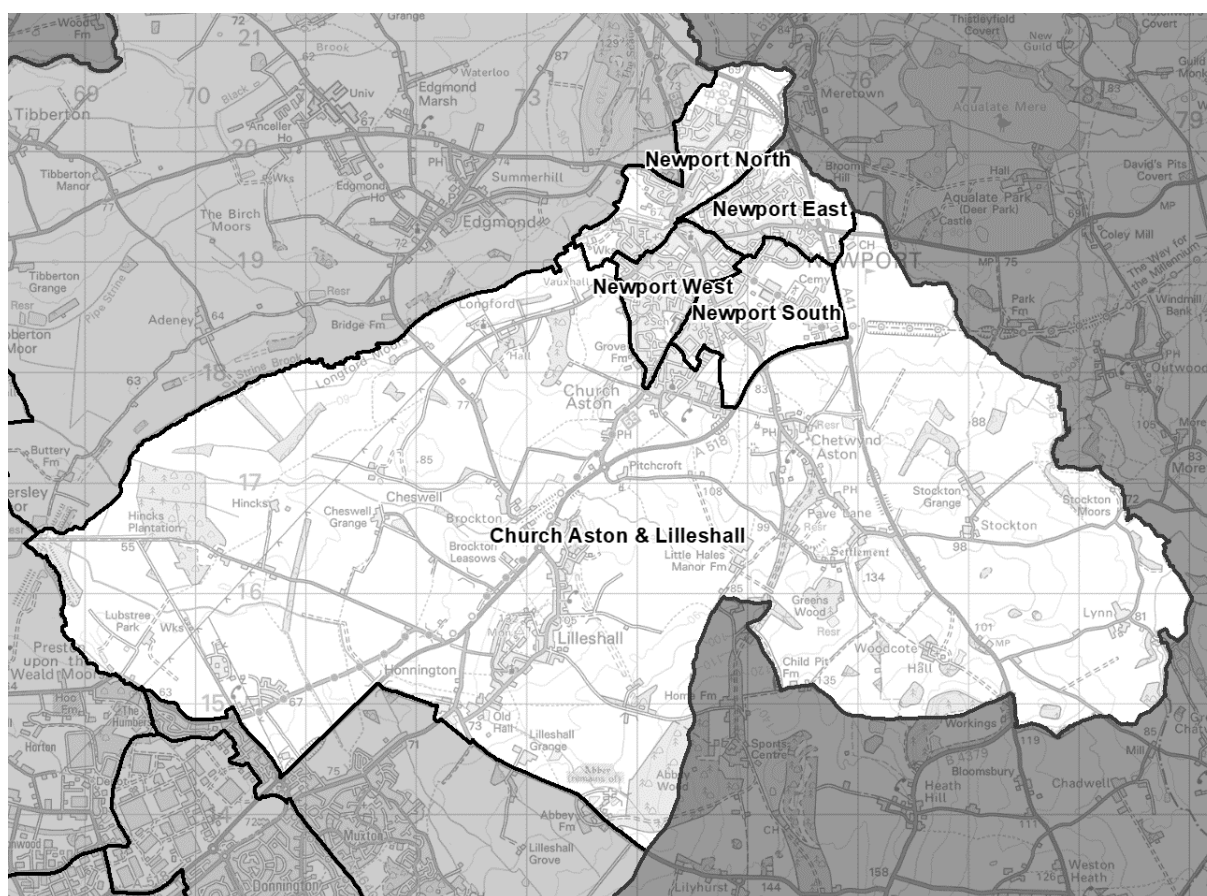
area within the Wrockwardine ward (named Little Wenlock & Wrockwardine in our draft recommendations). This was primarily to provide good electoral equality for both wards in question. If Roden were placed in Ercall Magna ward with no further changes, Ercall Magna would have a variance of 14%, and Wrockwardine -17%. We do not consider deviation from electoral equality of this magnitude to be acceptable in light of an alternative that has better electoral equality and support. Our draft recommendations were supported by the Council and Cllr S. Davies, while the submissions from the Conservative Group and Liberal Democrats did not mention this area specifically or suggest any changes.

94 Ercall Magna Parish Council and two residents provided evidence of community identity, with Roden linked to shops, schools and the village hall in High Ercall. They did not offer any proposals for alternatives to provide for good electoral equality once the Roden area is added to our proposed Ercall Magna ward.

95 Cllr J. Seymour, who represents the existing Wrockwardine ward, suggested that the addition of Roden might make the ward challenging to represent, both geographically and in terms of the addition of part of a fourth parish to the ward. She also objected to our proposed name of 'Little Wenlock & Wrockwardine', citing the more prominent position of Wrockwardine in the centre of the ward.

96 We have carefully considered all submissions in this area. As stated above, we do not consider that two wards with variances of 14% and -17% respectively can be justified by the evidence received. Equally, while we accept that our proposals are not an ideal reflection of community identity in the Roden/High Ercall area, we consider that any change, such as removing the Horton area (paras 75–77) from Ercall Magna ward, or reverting the Haygate Fields development into Wrockwardine ward, would result in an equally poor reflection of community identity in the area in question. We continue to consider that our draft recommendations reflect the best available balance of the statutory criteria, and we confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

Church Aston & Lilleshall and Newport



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Church Aston & Lilleshall	1	-1%
Newport East	1	-4%
Newport North	1	-2%
Newport South	1	-8%
Newport West	1	2%

Church Aston & Lilleshall, Newport East, Newport North, Newport South and Newport West

97 Our draft recommendations for this area received broad support, including from the Council, Liberal Democrats and Cllr S. Davies. One resident objected to our proposal to divide Newport into four single-member wards, citing support for their two existing councillors and welcoming the option to submit issues to a choice of representatives. We considered this carefully, but given the broad support for our draft recommendations, we are not persuaded to revert to two-member wards covering Newport.

98 Cllr P. Scott, and a resident, argued that we should also adjust the boundary between Newport Town and the parishes of Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote and

Church Aston. As outlined in our draft recommendations report, we have no power to alter parish boundaries as part of this electoral review – any alterations to parish boundaries would be a matter for a Community Governance Review undertaken by Telford & Wrekin Council.

99 We are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for these wards, and we confirm them as final.

Conclusions

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

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2020	2027
Number of councillors	54	54
Number of electoral wards	32	32
Average number of electors per councillor	2,464	2,723
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	11	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Final recommendations

Telford & Wrekin should be made up of 54 councillors serving 32 wards representing 15 single-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and five three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Telford & Wrekin. You can also view our final recommendations for Telford & Wrekin on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

101 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

102 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Telford & Wrekin has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

41 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote, Dawley Hamlets, Donnington & Muxton, Ercall Magna, Great Dawley, Hadley & Leegomery, Ketley, Lawley & Overdale, Madeley, Newport, Oakengates, St Georges & Priorslee, Stirchley & Brookside, Wellington, Wrockwardine, and Wrockwardine Wood & Trench.

103 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote parish.

Final recommendations

Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Chetwynd Aston	4
Station Road	3

104 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Dawley Hamlets parish.

Final recommendations

Dawley Hamlets Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Aqueduct	3
Horsehay	3
Little Dawley	1
Nightingale Walk	1
Smallhill Road	1

105 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Donnington & Muxton parish.

Final recommendations

Donnington & Muxton Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Donnington East	2
Donnington West	5
Muxton	5
The Humbers	1

106 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ercall Magna parish.

Final recommendations

Ercall Magna Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
High Ercall	11
Roden	2

107 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Great Dawley parish.

Draft recommendations

Great Dawley Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Dawley	5
Doseley Road	1
Malinslee	7
Trinity	1

108 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hadley & Leegomery parish.

Final recommendations

Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Apley Castle	4
Hadley Castle	7
Hadley Manor	3
Horton	1
Trench Lock	1

109 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ketley parish.

Final recommendations

Ketley Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Beveley	3
Ketley	8

110 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Lawley & Overdale parish.

Final recommendations

Lawley & Overdale Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Lawley Common	1
Lawley East	3
Lawley West	1
Overdale & The Rock	2
Town Centre	1

111 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Madeley parish.

Final recommendations

Madeley Parish Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Academy	1
Cuckoo Oak	5
Madeley Village	5
Woodside	6

112 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Newport parish.

Final recommendations

Newport Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Newport East	3
Newport North	3
Newport South	3
Newport West	3

113 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Oakengates parish.

Final recommendations

Oakengates Town Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hollyhurst	1
Middle Pool	1
North	3
Oakengates & Wombridge	8

114 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for St Georges & Priorslee parish.

Final recommendations

St Georges & Priorslee Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Priorslee	5
St Georges East	1
St Georges West	4
Snedshill	1

115 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Stirchley & Brookside parish.

Final recommendations

Stirchley & Brookside Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brookside	5
Holmer Lake	1
Stirchley	7

116 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Wellington parish.

Final recommendations

Wellington Parish Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Arleston	3
College	3
Dothill	3
Ercall	3
Haygate	4
Meadows	1
Park	2
Shawbirch	2

117 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Wrockwardine parish.

Final recommendations

Wrockwardine Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Admaston & Bratton	6
Lewis Crescent	1
Wrockwardine	3

118 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements Wrockwardine Wood & Trench parish.

Final recommendations

Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Kenwray Drive	1
Trench	8
Wrockwardine Wood East	1
Wrockwardine Wood West	1

What happens next?

119 We have now completed our review of Telford & Wrekin. 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

120 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 Telford & Wrekin

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Admaston & Bratton	1	2,463	2,463	0%	2,579	2,579	-5%
2	Apley Castle	1	2,367	2,367	-4%	2,867	2,867	5%
3	Arleston & College	2	4,780	2,390	-3%	5,337	2,669	-2%
4	Brookside	1	2,953	2,953	20%	3,022	3,022	11%
5	Church Aston & Lilleshall	1	2,600	2,600	6%	2,709	2,709	-1%
6	Dawley & Aqueduct	2	5,362	2,681	9%	5,657	2,829	4%
7	Donnington	2	5,743	2,872	17%	5,916	2,958	9%
8	Edgmond	1	2,369	2,369	-4%	2,468	2,468	-9%
9	Ercall	1	2,394	2,394	-3%	2,459	2,459	-10%
10	Ercall Magna	1	2,551	2,551	4%	2,906	2,906	7%
11	Hadley & Leegomery	3	7,671	2,557	4%	8,006	2,669	-2%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Haygate & Park	2	5,266	2,633	7%	5,607	2,768	3%
13	Horsehay & Lightmoor	2	4,731	2,366	-4%	5,824	2,912	7%
14	Ironbridge Gorge	1	2,328	2,328	-6%	2,620	2,620	-4%
15	Ketley	1	2,703	2,703	10%	2,817	2,817	3%
16	Lawley	3	4,930	1,643	-33%	8,191	2,730	0%
17	Madeley & Sutton Hill	3	7,713	2,571	4%	8,044	2,681	-2%
18	Malinslee & Dawley Bank	2	5,458	2,729	11%	5,713	2,857	5%
19	Muxton	2	4,594	2,297	-7%	5,128	2,564	-6%
20	Newport East	1	2,508	2,508	2%	2,601	2,601	-4%
21	Newport North	1	2,497	2,497	1%	2,670	2,670	-2%
22	Newport South	1	1,876	1,876	-24%	2,516	2,516	-8%
23	Newport West	1	2,743	2,743	11%	2,787	2,787	2%
24	Oakengates & Ketley Bank	3	7,791	2,597	5%	8,106	2,702	-1%
25	Overdale & The Rock	1	2,787	2,787	13%	2,954	2,954	8%

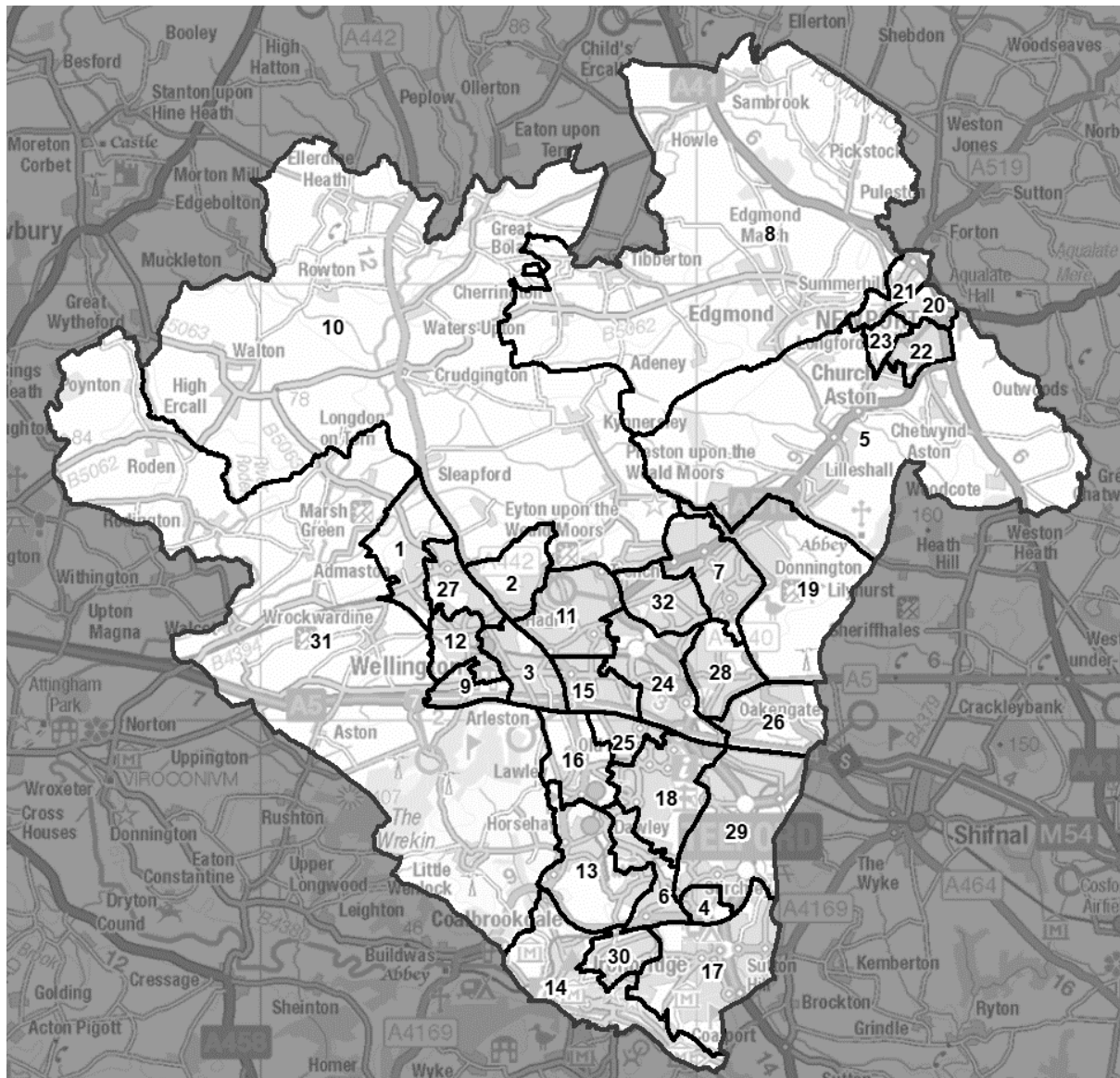
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
26 Priorslee	2	4,148	2,074	-16%	5,536	2,768	2%
27 Shawbirch & Dothill	2	4,385	2,193	-11%	4,977	2,489	-9%
28 St Georges	2	5,376	2,688	9%	5,693	2,847	5%
29 The Nedge	3	8,326	2,775	13%	8,723	2,908	7%
30 Woodside	2	4,911	2,456	0%	5,142	2,571	-6%
31 Wrockwardine	1	2,101	2,101	-15%	2,444	2,516	-10%
32 Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	2	4,646	2,323	-6%	5,044	2,522	-7%
Totals	54	133,071	-	-	147,063	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,464	-	-	2,723	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Telford & Wrekin 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



Number	Ward name
1	Admaston & Bratton
2	Apley Castle
3	Arleston & College
4	Brookside
5	Church Aston & Lilleshall
6	Dawley & Aqueduct
7	Donnington
8	Edgmond
9	Ercall
10	Ercall Magna
11	Hadley & Leegomery

12	Haygate & Park
13	Horsehay & Lightmoor
14	Ironbridge Gorge
15	Ketley
16	Lawley
17	Madeley & Sutton Hill
18	Malinslee & Dawley Bank
19	Muxton
20	Newport East
21	Newport North
22	Newport South
23	Newport West
24	Oakengates & Ketley Bank
25	Overdale & The Rock
26	Priorslee
27	Shawbirch & Dothill
28	St Georges
29	The Nedge
30	Woodside
31	Wrockwardine
32	Wrockwardine Wood & Trench

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/west-midlands/shropshire/telford-and-wrekin

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/shropshire/telford-and-wrekin

Local Authority

- Telford & Wrekin Council

Political Groups

- Oakengates Independent Town Councillors
- Telford & Wrekin Conservative Group
- Telford Conservative Association
- Telford Labour Party
- Telford & Wrekin Council Liberal Democrat Group

Councillors

- Councillor P. Beaumont
- Councillor K. Blundell
- Councillor L. Carter
- Councillor G. Cook
- Councillor S. Davies
- Councillor P. Davis (2 submissions)
- Councillor A. Eade
- Councillor A. England
- Councillor V. Fletcher
- Councillor J. Gorse
- Councillor J. Greenaway
- Councillor D. Hopkins (5 submissions)
- Councillor A. Jhawar
- Councillor L. Jinks
- Councillor J. Latter
- Councillor A. Lowe
- Councillor A. McClements
- Councillor R. Mehta
- Councillor K. Middleton
- Councillor L. Murray
- Councillor G. Offland
- Councillor R. Overton
- Councillor S. Parr (2 submissions)

- Councillor J. Pierce
- Councillor G. Reynolds
- Councillor S. Reynolds
- Councillor P. Scott
- Councillor J. Seymour
- Councillor M. Smith
- Councillor B. Tomlinson
- Councillor K. Tomlinson
- Councillor D. Wright
- Oakengates Independent Town Councillors

Local Organisations

- 2nd Wombridge Scouts
- Friends of Hartshill Park
- Friends of the Cockshutt
- Ketley Bank Residents' Group
- Lightmoor Village Voice Committee
- Oakengates Town Council 0–19 Group
- Oakengates & District Royal British Legion
- Oakengates & Wrockwardine Wood Residents' Group
- Sutton Hill Community Trust (2 submissions)
- The Leegate Centre CIC
- Trench Lock Safer Roads Group
- Vicar – East Telford Benefice
- Vicar – Oakengates & Ketley Bank

Parish and Town Councils

- Dawley Hamlets Parish Council
- Donnington & Muxton Parish Council
- Ercall Magna Parish Council
- Great Dawley Town Council
- Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council
- Ketley Parish Council
- Oakengates Town Council
- Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council

Local Residents

- 242 local residents

Petitions

- Three Oakengates 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.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0TL

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE