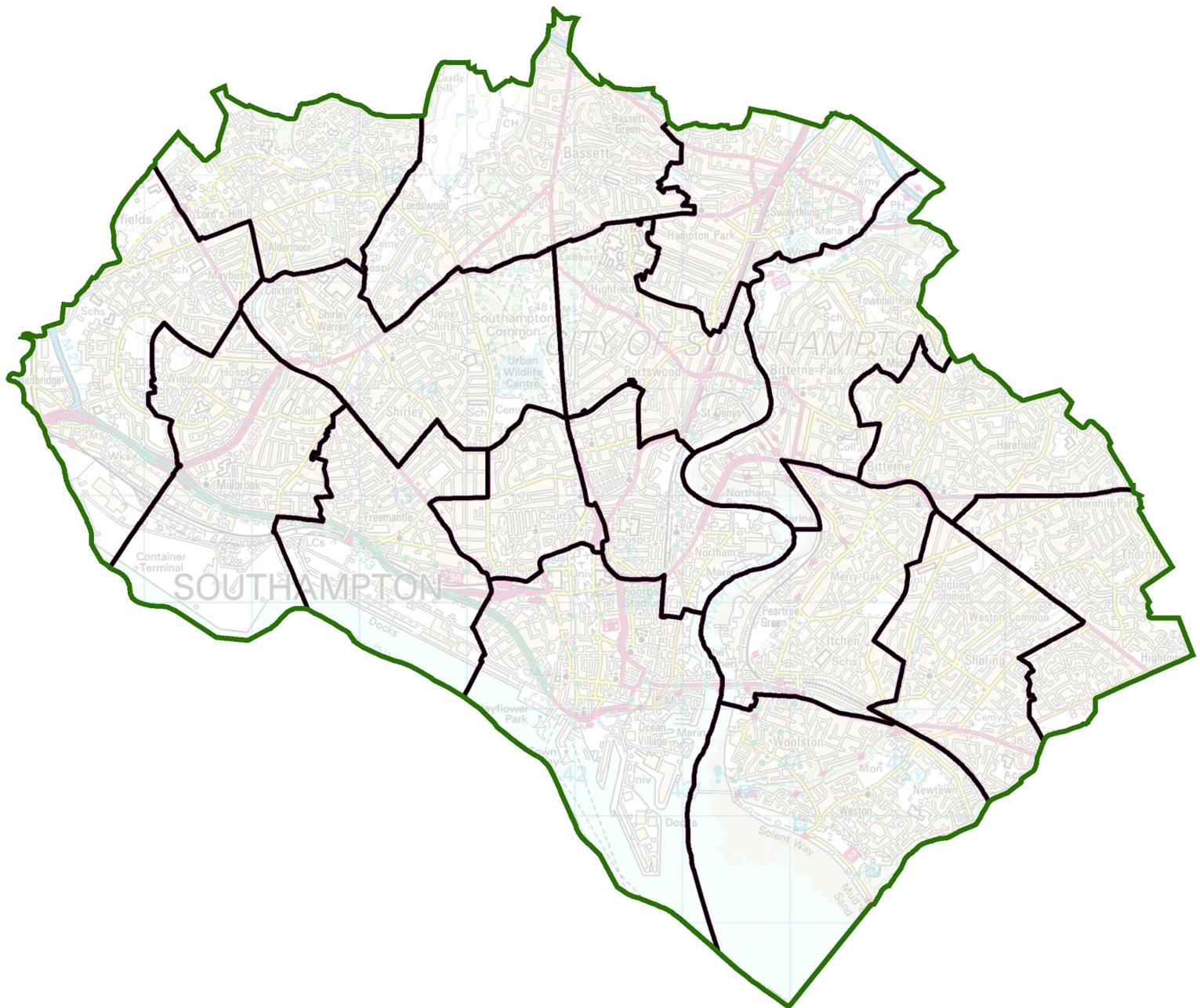


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Southampton City Council Final Recommendations

November 2022

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Southampton?

7 We are conducting a review of Southampton City Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2002, 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 Southampton 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 Southampton

9 Southampton should be represented by 51 councillors, three more than there are now.

10 Southampton should have 17 wards, one more than there is now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; two wards (Coxford and Shirley) will stay the same.

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

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 and which other communities are in that ward. 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 consider any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Southampton. We then held two 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
16 November 2021	Number of councillors decided
23 November 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
31 January 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
10 May 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
18 July 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 November 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 Southampton	174,849	183,318
Number of councillors	51	51
Average number of electors per councillor	3,428	3,594

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Southampton 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 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.

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.

Number of councillors

24 Southampton City Council currently has 48 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that increasing by three councillors to 51 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 51 councillors.

26 As the Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁵ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

27 We received four submissions that mentioned the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. Three of these submissions stated that 51 councillors was too many but did not detail why they considered this, nor propose an alternative number, while one submission suggested the Council should have 34 councillors but again did not suggest how this number would work for the Council as a whole. We have therefore maintained 51 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 107 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a city-wide proposal from the Council and partial schemes from Southampton Itchen Labour Party and a local resident. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the city.

29 The city-wide scheme provided a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Southampton on the basis that the Council is elected by thirds. We carefully considered the proposal received and were of the view that the proposed pattern of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

30 Accordingly, we based our draft recommendations on the Council's city-wide scheme. 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

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

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 Southampton helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

32 Our draft recommendations were for 17 three-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 142 submissions in response to our consultation on the draft recommendations. These submissions generally provided localised comments for warding arrangements across the city with a focus on the proposals in the city centre, to the north of the city centre and to the east of the River Itchen.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to the wards in the city centre and to the boundaries of Portswood and Bevois and Portswood and Swaythling wards. We also made a modification to the boundary between Bassett and Swaythling wards, Harefield and Bitterne Park wards and in the Woolston area. These proposed changes are based on the submissions received.

Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for 17 three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

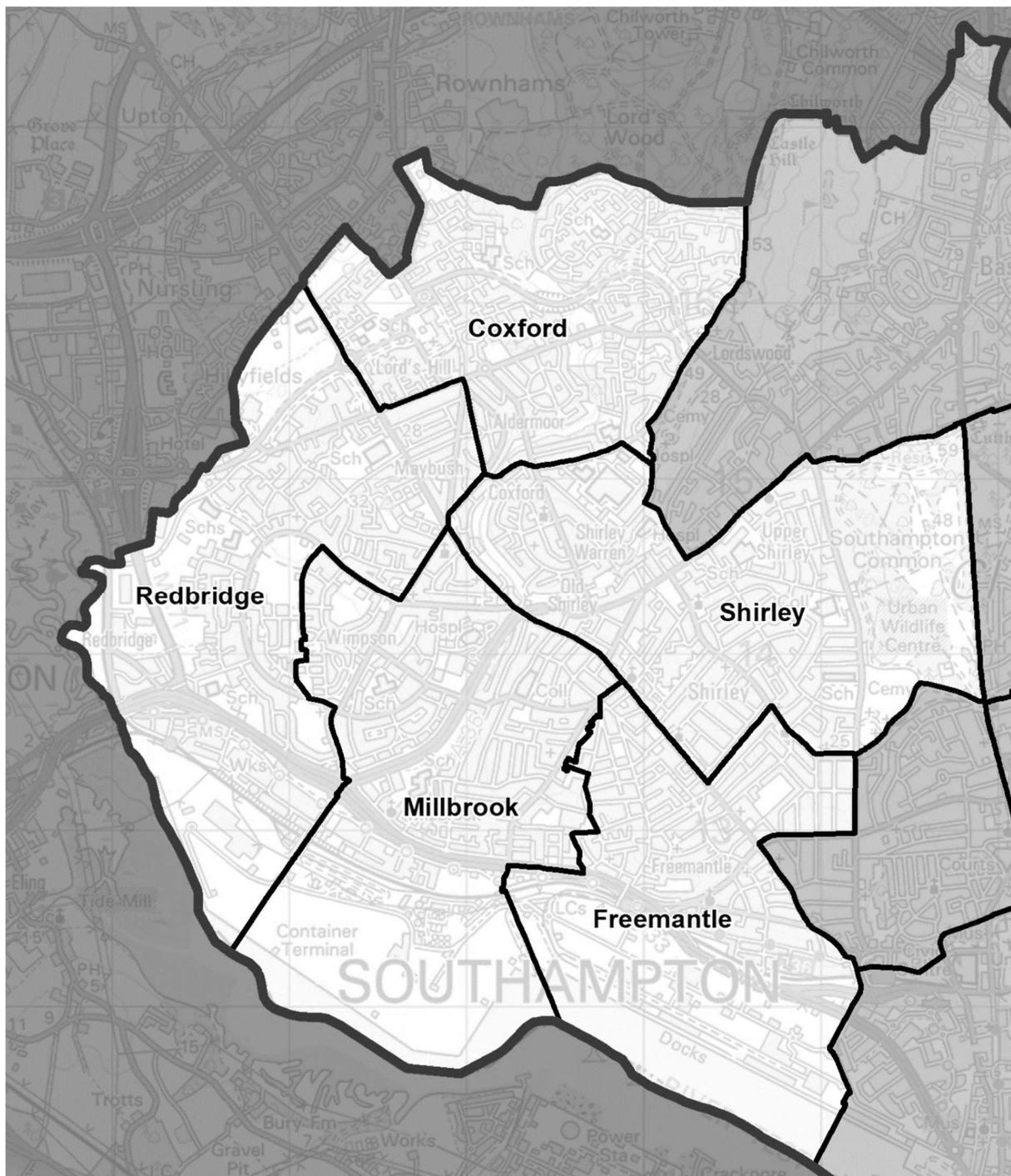
36 The tables and maps on pages 8–21 detail our final recommendations for each area of Southampton. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

- 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 29 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

West Southampton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Coxford	3	-2%
Freemantle	3	1%
Millbrook	3	-8%
Redbridge	3	-4%
Shirley	3	3%

Redbridge and Coxford

38 We received relatively few submissions for these two wards, as outlined in our draft recommendations, with only one submission referring to the boundaries of Coxford. This submission suggested that the northern boundary of Coxford ward should be Lords Hill Way and the electors to the north of this road should be included in Bassett ward. A further submission suggested that Coxford ward be renamed Lordswood & Lordshill. We received no submissions that commented on the boundaries of Redbridge ward.

39 We do not propose to make any changes to the draft recommendations for these two wards. Transferring the electors to the north of Lords Hill Way as suggested by a local resident in a submission would result in extremely poor electoral equality of -39% in Coxford ward and 33% in Bassett ward. We also do not propose to rename the wards as we did not consider the suggested name change was well evidenced.

40 Our final recommendations for these wards are as per our draft recommendations of two three-councillor wards of Coxford and Redbridge with variances of -2% and -4% respectively.

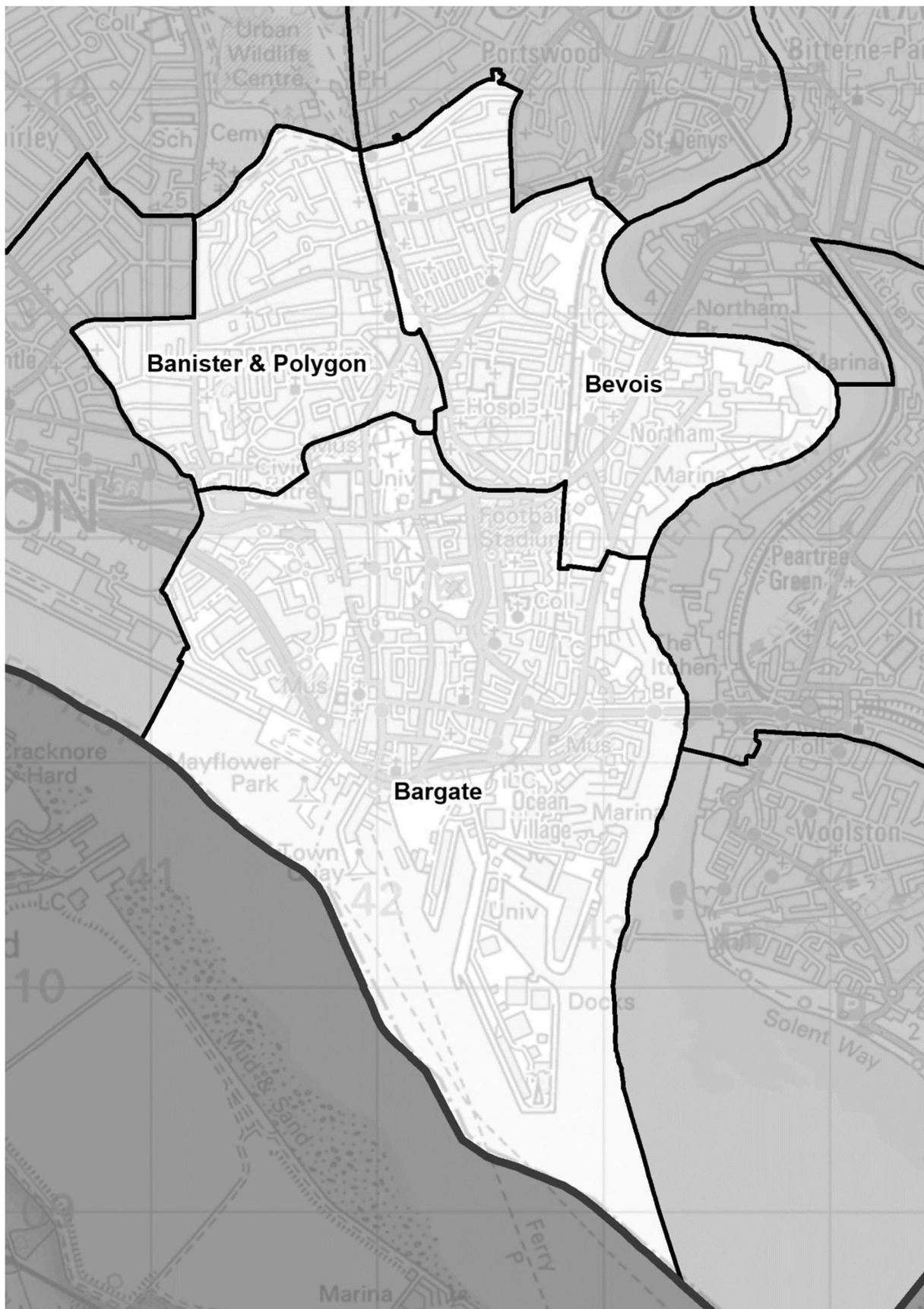
Freemantle, Millbrook and Shirley

41 A small number of submissions made comments on these three wards. Two submissions mentioned the desirability of a ward containing the whole of the Millbrook Estate in a Millbrook ward, whilst another submission proposed that Millbrook ward be named Millbrook & Regent's Park. A local resident wrote in support of the inclusion of the Foundry Lane area in Freemantle ward. Another local resident suggested that Shirley Park be moved from Millbrook ward to Shirley ward. Comments on our proposed Freemantle ward included those from a local resident who suggested that all roads west of Shirley Road should be included in Shirley ward.

42 We considered these submissions, but we noted that including Shirley Park in Shirley ward would provide extremely poor electoral equality of 30% in Shirley ward and -25% in Millbrook ward and including all the roads to the west of Shirley Road in Shirley ward would provide extremely poor electoral equality of -26% in Freemantle and 23% in Shirley ward. In addition, we are content that our Millbrook ward covers the entire Millbrook community. We do not propose to rename the ward to Millbrook & Regent's Park as we do not consider we received sufficient evidence to make this change.

43 Our proposed final recommendations are as per our draft recommendations with three three-councillor wards of Freemantle, Millbrook and Shirley with forecast electoral equality of 1%, -8% and 3% respectively by 2027.

Southampton City Centre and surrounding area



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Banister & Polygon	3	4%
Bargate	3	8%
Bevois	3	1%

Banister & Polygon

44 We received a number of submissions regarding this ward, including a submission from Southampton Itchen Conservative Association who supported the proposed ward boundaries outlined in our draft recommendations. These submissions were mostly in reference to the name of Bargate North and most pointed out that whilst this ward is made up of part of the northern portion of the present Bargate ward, it does not contain the Bargate itself and this means that the name of Bargate North was inaccurate.

45 We received many suggestions for what the ward should be called including, Archers, Ascupart, Asylum Green, Avenue, Bedford Place, Courts, Mayflower, Rollesbrook, St Anne's and Stag Gates. The most common suggestions, however, were Banister Park, Banister, Polygon or Banister & Polygon, which all respondents stated reflected the areas covered by the ward. Having considered the various name suggestions we propose to name the ward Banister & Polygon which we consider is an appropriate name that covers the communities within this ward. We propose to make no changes to the boundaries of the ward.

Bargate and Bevois

46 The submissions we received that mentioned our proposed Bargate South were concerned with both the name of the ward and its boundary with Bevois. We also received submissions that commented on the boundaries of Bevois ward with Portswood ward to its north. The comments about the name of Bargate South all suggested the 'South' be dropped and the ward renamed Bargate. These suggestions were mostly made alongside suggestions to rename Bargate North, as discussed above. Southampton Itchen Conservative Association also wrote in support of the proposed boundaries of Bargate South ward and suggested the South be dropped from its name.

47 Councillors Bogle and Noon, current councillors for Bargate South ward, both made submissions with regards to the boundaries of Bargate South ward. Councillor Noon stated that the draft recommendations for this ward separate the community in the St Mary Street area from its natural community in the city centre and with the Kingsland Place. Councillor Bogle stated the same view and suggested revised boundaries for Bargate North, Bargate South and Bevois wards. Councillor Bogle suggested that the natural boundaries in the St Mary's area are the railway line to the east and north and the Six Dials road junction, which also forms a major

boundary. Councillor Bogle stated that residents in the Chapel, Holyrood and Kingsland areas use St Mary Street as their local high street, particularly via a heavily used pedestrian walkway from the Kingsland Estate into St Mary's via Craven Walk.

48 Councillor Bogle suggested a revised set of boundaries for the area so that the boundary between Bargate North and Bargate South move southwards to run along the railway line as it passes underneath Civic Centre Road and New Road. They also proposed that the boundary between Bargate North and Bevois moves westwards to include London Road in Bevois ward. We received around 10 submissions from local residents who reiterated the ties of the St Mary Street area to the city centre and Kingsland Place.

49 In addition, we received several submissions with views on the proposed boundary between Bevois ward and Portswood ward. These submissions all shared the view that the Commission's proposed boundary along Avenue Road and Spring Crescent divided the community in Bevois Mount. They also stated that the Bevois Mount Estate was created over 300 years ago and that the housing had developed in the last 150 years in such a way that it formed an area with a strong historical identity. This area it was stated, in a submission from the Outer Avenue Residents' Association (OARA), was bounded by The Avenue to the west, Lodge Road to the south, Portswood Road to the east and Gordon Avenue to the north. The OARA submission also stated that Avenue Road was a much weaker boundary than other roads in the area such as Lodge Road. They considered Lodge Road a much more identifiable boundary due to its use as a main arterial traffic route. OARA also included a leaflet with their submission with evidence of the community activities carried out within the area.

50 The submission from OARA was supported by a number of local residents in their own submissions as well as by a submission from the Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church. Councillor Mitchell, one of the councillors for Portswood ward, agreed that the Outer Avenue area should not be divided but proposed it be included in Portswood ward. We also received a submission from a local resident who objected to our boundary along Spring Crescent which they considered was not reflective of the community in that part of Bevois Valley.

51 Having considered these submissions as well as those from previous consultations, alongside the information we gathered from our tour of the city, we propose to amend the boundaries of both Bargate South and Bevois wards.

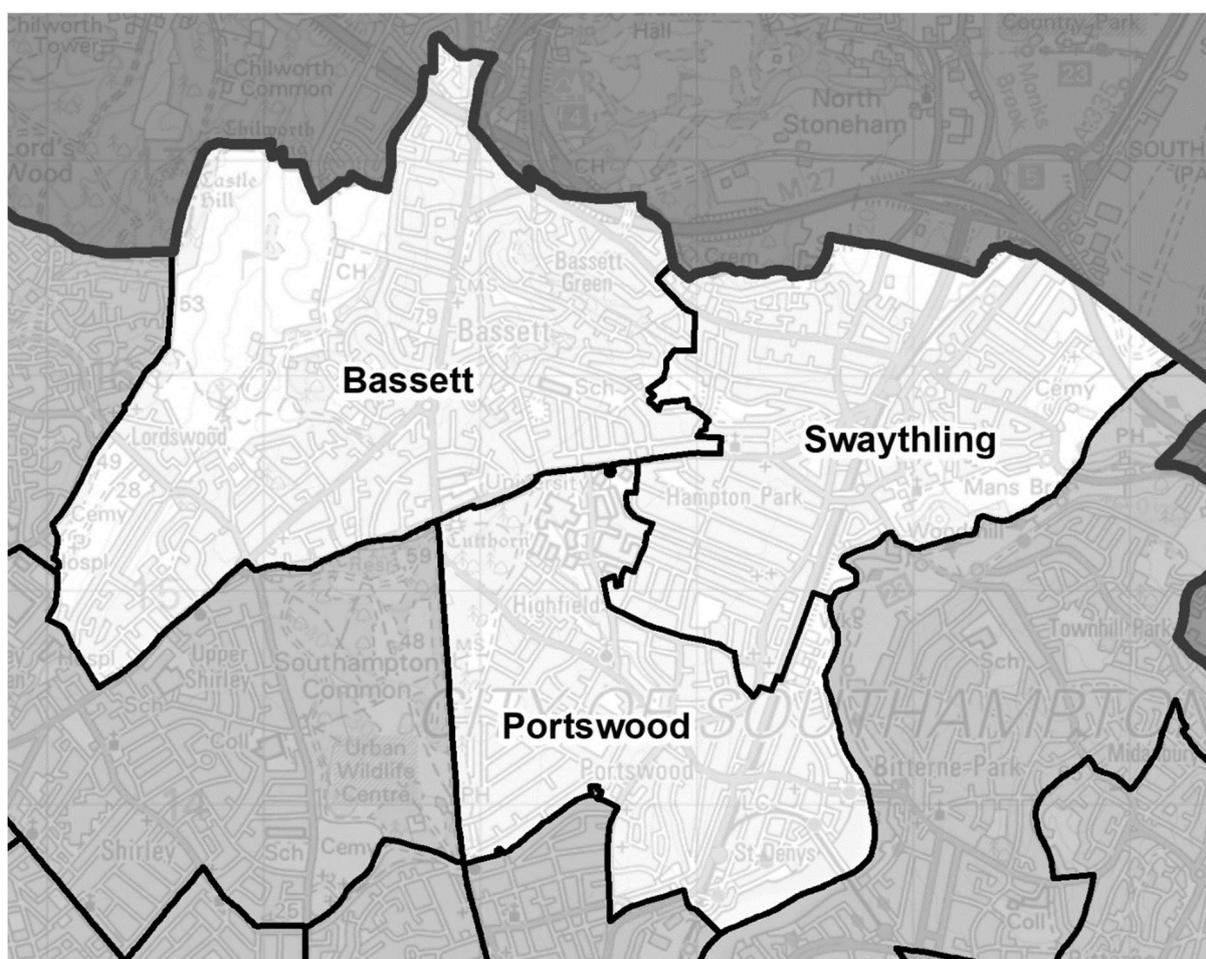
52 We propose to amend the boundary between Bargate ward (our proposed new name for Bargate South ward) and Bevois ward to include the St Mary's area in Bargate ward to restore its ties to the city centre and Kingsland Estate. We were persuaded by the community evidence offered to make this change. We considered

using the boundary proposed by Councillor Bogle, but this would have made a change to Bargate North ward (which we rename Banister & Polygon), and we did not consider we had the evidence to justify this given the support for this ward's boundaries in other submissions. We propose to use the existing boundary in the area along the A3024 Northam Road and the railway line then to the south of St Mary's Stadium as we consider this to be a more identifiable boundary.

53 We also propose to amend the boundary between Bevois and Portswood to reflect the strong community evidence we received from OARA and other local residents in this area. We propose to revert to the existing boundary between Portswood and Bevois wards from the River Itchen until Gordon Avenue. We then propose to run the boundary along the rear of the properties on the north side of Gordon Avenue and the south side of Westwood Road. We consider this boundary better reflects the community identity of electors on Westwood Road than a boundary that runs down the centre of that road; it also allows us to provide better electoral equality for Portswood ward. Our use of the existing boundary from the River Itchen to Gordon Avenue also means that Portswood Park, Spring Crescent and Lawn Road are returned to Portswood ward. We consider this is more reflective of their community identity and was proposed by a local resident. We looked at whether the Outer Avenue area could be included in Portswood ward as suggested by Councillor Mitchell, but this would produce poor electoral equality of 13% in Portswood and -18% in Bevois so we were not persuaded to do this.

54 Our proposed final recommendations will mean this area is covered by three three-councillor wards of Banister & Polygon, Bargate and Bevois, which we consider reflect the communities across the area, and have forecast electoral equality of 4%, 8% and 1% respectively by 2027.

North of the city centre



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bassett	3	-3%
Portswood	3	-6%
Swaythling	3	-5%

Portswood

55 As detailed in the previous section, we propose to make changes to the southern boundary of Portswood ward where it borders Bevois ward. This section will detail the submissions that related to the boundary between Portswood ward and Bassett and Swaythling wards.

56 A number of submissions noted that the University of Southampton campus was divided between our proposed Portswood and Swaythling wards and that it would be better if the campus were included in a single ward. Some of the submissions suggested that the university campus should be wholly included in Portswood ward due to its higher student population. A number of submissions objected to our use of Welbeck Avenue and Arnold Road as a boundary between Portswood ward and Swaythling ward stating that its use did not reflect the

community in the area. These submissions mostly considered that the existing boundary along Ripstone Gardens and Kitchener Road should be retained.

57 Amongst the other submissions in this area, a local resident suggested that the industrial area and sewage works off Kent Road should be included in Portswood ward. This is to reflect its access off that road and its associated traffic issues with Kent Road, which currently fall within the remit of the Portswood ward councillors. Another local resident suggested that electors at 70–84 Burgess Road (currently in Portswood ward) and 126–140 Burgess Road (currently in Swaythling ward) be moved to Bassett ward to unite them with other electors on Burgess Road already in Bassett ward.

58 Having considered these submissions, we proposed to make a number of small changes to the Portswood ward boundaries. We agree with the suggestion from a local resident that the industrial area off Kent Road be included in Portswood ward. We also agree that the division of the university campus between wards would not provide for effective and convenient local government. We propose to move the boundary away from University Road and onto the eastern boundary of the university campus so that the entire campus is in Portswood ward. Neither of these proposed amendments affect any electors.

59 We also propose to adopt a local resident's proposed amendment that 70–84 and 126–140 Burgess Road move to Bassett ward. We consider that they likely have stronger community ties to that ward than their existing wards. This proposal means that the electors on this part of Burgess Road are only divided between two wards (Bassett and Swaythling) rather than three wards (Bassett and Swaythling and Portswood).

60 We do not propose to amend the boundary between Portswood ward and Swaythling ward away from Welbeck Avenue and Arnold Road. Whilst we understand there were strong views that this boundary divides the community, we note the proposed boundary is, in our view, more identifiable, using a larger and busier road as a boundary, than the existing boundary. We also noted that whilst reverting to the existing boundary would provide electoral equality of 9% in Portswood ward, it would produce a variance of -19% in Swaythling ward. We consider this to be too high to be justified by the evidence we have received, and we noted that other than requests to keep the existing boundary no other alternative boundaries were suggested.

Bassett and Swaythling

61 In our draft recommendations we decided to maintain the existing boundary between Bassett and Swaythling wards, which submissions received during our initial consultation stated divided the Flowers Estate. The warding pattern scheme we received from the Council proposed to include the Flowers Estate wholly in

Swaythling ward and to move the Leaside Way Estate to Bassett ward, which other submissions stated broke up the Bassett Green Conservation Area and Herbert Collins Estates Residents' Association communities.

62 When determining the draft recommendations, we concluded the stronger evidence pointed towards not dividing the Bassett Green Conservation Area and Herbert Collins Estates Residents' Association communities. We decided it was more appropriate to maintain an existing area divided between wards than to divide a previous undivided area. When making this decision we stated we were interested in further community evidence from both wards.

63 We received further submissions from two local residents and Romsey & Southampton North Constituency Labour Party supporting the Council's initial proposal. We received a submission from Councillor Kaur supporting the Council's initial proposals. We also received a number of submissions from local residents including members of the Herbert Collins Estates Residents' Association supporting the draft recommendations and the decision not to include Leaside Way in Bassett ward. In addition, we received a submission from a local resident that proposed minor amendments to the boundary between Bassett and Swaythling as it runs through the Flowers Estate.

64 We also received a submission from Councillor A. Bunday, one of the councillors for Bitterne Park ward. They suggested that the boundary between Swaythling and Bitterne Park move from the A27 to the Itchen Navigation to include The White Swan pub and the Itchen Valley Country Park in Bitterne Park ward. Their reasoning was that all issues regarding conservation, green space, access, planning, licensing and transport for this area are linked to Bitterne Park ward. They added that the Country Park is linked to Riverside Park in Bitterne Park ward and is an important wildlife corridor. For these reasons Councillor Bunday stated that it was convenient and effective local government for a single set of ward councillors to have responsibility for the area rather than it being divided between wards.

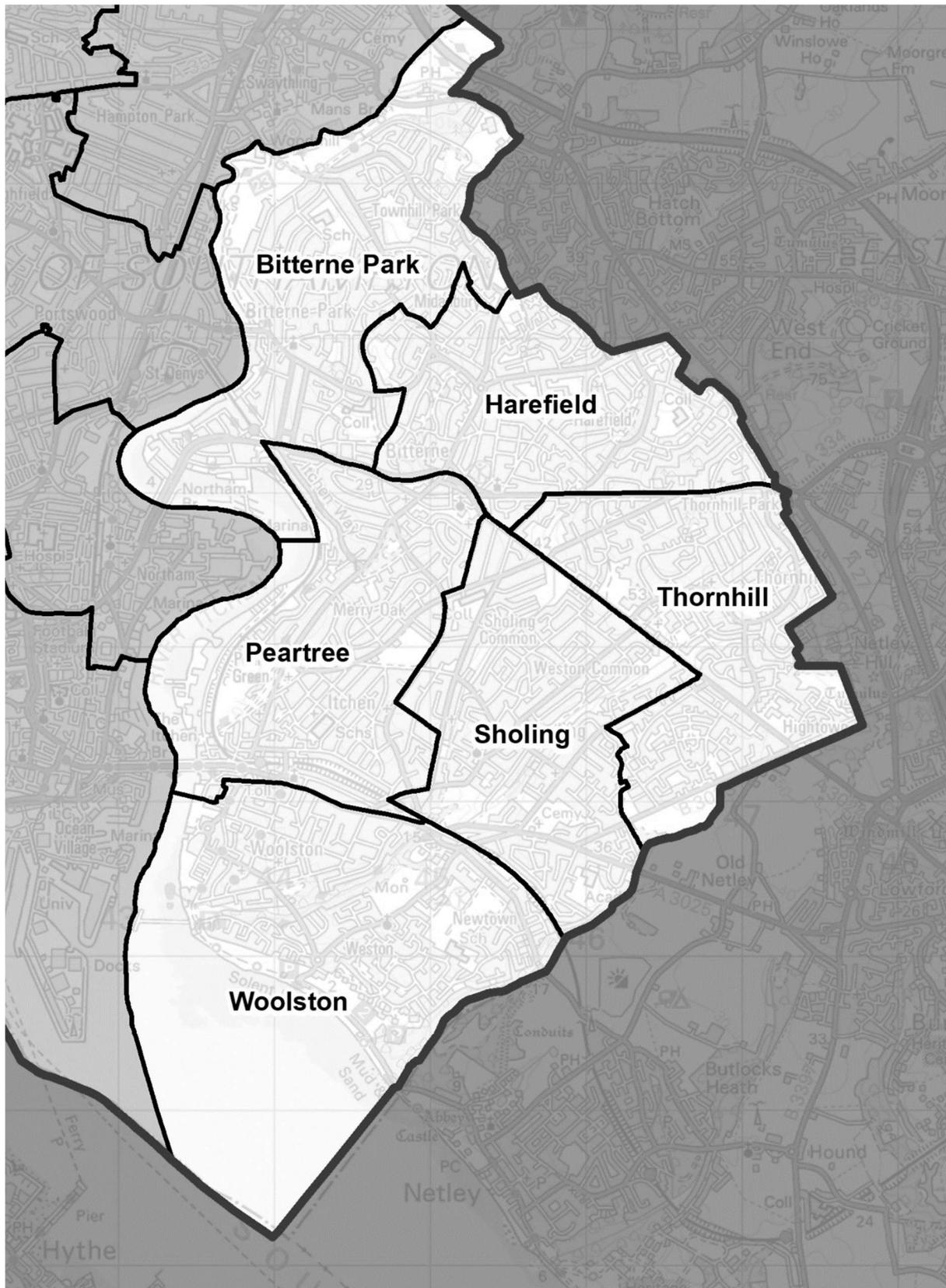
65 The submissions at this stage did offer additional community evidence that was not offered during the previous consultation. However, we fully considered submissions from both consultations and looked if it was possible to adopt the Council's proposed ward boundary at this stage. Whilst we noted that the Flowers Estate could wholly be included in Swaythling ward and provide electoral equality, this was only possible if we were to change the boundary between Swaythling ward and Portswood ward. This, we noted, would leave Bassett ward with extremely poor electoral equality of -15% by 2027. We consider this figure to be too large given the evidence we have received. We could not identify a pattern of wards that would reflect our statutory criteria that did not divide either the Flowers Estate or the Bassett Green Conservation Area and Herbert Collins Estates. All of the options that we explored in this area would result in poor levels of electoral equality in at least

one ward that we were not persuaded we could adopt. We therefore proposed to maintain a warding pattern that contains part of the Flowers Estate in Bassett ward and part in Swaythling ward.

66 We do, however, propose to make some small amendments to the boundary between the two wards as suggested by a local resident to ensure that no street, other than Honeysuckle Road, is divided between wards. We propose to run the boundary to the rear of properties on Bluebell Road and Daisy Road to ensure that all electors on both roads are included in Bassett ward. We also propose to adopt the suggestion of Councillor Bunday to move the Swaythling ward boundary with Bitterne Park ward from the A27 to the Itchen Navigation for the reasons detailed in paragraph 64.

67 Our final recommendations for this area are for three three-councillor wards of Bassett, Portswood and Swaythling with forecast electoral equality of -3%, -6% and -5% respectively by 2027.

East of the River Itchen



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bitterne Park	3	6%
Harefield	3	-2%
Peartree	3	6%
Sholing	3	0%
Thornhill	3	-4%
Woolston	3	7%

Bitterne Park and Harefield

68 During the drawing up of the draft recommendations we considered but did not adopt a proposal from SO18 Big Local to amend the boundaries in the Townhill Park area to ensure it was not divided between wards. We came to the conclusion that we had not received sufficient evidence to justify the electoral equality of 12% that resulted in Bitterne Park ward. We stated in our report that we were happy to consider further proposals and evidence in support of proposals in the Townhill Park area.

69 In response to the consultation on the draft recommendations, SO18 Big Local made a second submission with a different proposed boundary between Bitterne Park and Harefield. This proposal suggested that the boundary run along Townhill Way before heading to the rear of properties on Middleton Close, Onibury Close, Onibury Road and Roundhill Close before re-joining our proposed boundary on Wakefield Road.

70 Southampton Itchen Conservative Association and three local residents wrote in support of our proposed Bitterne Park ward. Another local resident wrote to propose that the southern boundary of Harefield ward be moved eastwards from Bath Road so that all of Bath Road as well as Exleigh Close, Keynsham Road and Nursery Gardens be included in Harefield. This local resident also proposed that Kootenay Avenue, Priestwood Close and Woodland Close be moved from Harefield ward to Bitterne ward. One local resident suggested that the A334 reflect the whole southern boundary of Harefield Road as opposed to the current and proposed boundary which follows a small section of Burlesdon Road and Bath Road. Finally, a local resident suggested that Rossington Avenue be included in Bitterne Park ward.

71 We considered all of these submissions and we propose to adopt the revised boundary suggested by SO18 Big Local which provides for electoral equality in both wards and reflects the extent of the Townhill Park area including the remaining housing development site. We do not propose to make any other amendments to these two wards as we do not consider the other suggestions were supported by sufficient evidence given other submissions we received in support of the proposals.

72 Our final recommendations for this area are for two three-councillor wards of Bitterne Park and Harefield with forecast variances of 6% and -2% respectively by 2027.

Thornhill

73 The majority of the submissions we received for this area commented on the proposed name outlined in our draft recommendations, which made no change to the existing name of Bitterne. These submissions stated that Bitterne was an inappropriate name as none of the ward covers any area identified as Bitterne. Most of these submissions proposed that the ward should be named Thornhill.

74 A number of submissions commented on the proposed boundary with Sholing where we had proposed a small amendment to the existing boundary suggested by the Council in their warding pattern. The Council's proposal had moved the boundary from Valentine Avenue and Botley Road to run down the rear of the properties who face onto Valentine Avenue and the roads off it. This ensured that Valentine Avenue and Orpen Road were no longer divided between wards and Finzi Close was included in a ward with the road it branches off. Another local resident suggested that all electors east of Butts Road be included in Bitterne ward.

75 We considered these submissions, and we remain content that the boundary we proposed mostly reflects effective and convenient local government for these electors. We propose to make one very minor amendment to better reflect convenient and effective local government. We propose to run the boundary around the rear of 1–4 Whistler Close to ensure it remains in Sholing ward with Whistler Road from where it has its access. We did consider whether we could use Butts Road as the western boundary of the ward as suggested by a local resident, but this would produce extremely poor electoral equality of 36% in this ward and -40% in Sholing ward.

76 We propose to adopt the name Thornhill for this ward as we agree it better reflects the area covered by the ward. Our Thornhill ward is forecast to have electoral equality of -4% by 2027.

Peartree, Sholing and Woolston

77 The submissions we received for these wards made reference to our proposals for the area around Porchester Road and the area immediately to the south of Sholing station, as outlined in our draft recommendations. We included the former in our proposed Peartree ward and the latter in our proposed Sholing ward. This allowed us to provide a good level of electoral equality for Woolston ward which would have 7% more than the average. We received 12 submissions opposed to this proposal including a submission from Councillor Payne, one of the councillors for Woolston ward, and two submissions in support of it, one from Southampton Itchen Conservative Association.

78 The submissions in opposition stated that this area was a community with strong ties to Woolston and should be included in Woolston ward. None of these submissions proposed an alternative arrangement that would provide an acceptable level of electoral equality for Woolston if as suggested we move this area back to Woolston ward, nor did we consider these submissions contained strong enough evidence to justify the poor electoral equality we mention below.

79 If we moved this area back to Woolston ward it would have an electoral variance of 12%, which the Commission considers is not justified by the evidence. We looked to see if there was any other warding pattern that could allow this area to be included in Woolston, but we were unable to identify one, and none of the submissions we received proposed one. In light of this we have not been persuaded to include this area in Woolston. Given that the submissions received stated that all of the properties to the north of Portsmouth Road that we had included in either Peartree or Sholing ward shared community ties, we propose to move the electors on Fern Road, numbers 2–24 Station Road and 151–219 Portsmouth Road from our proposed Sholing ward to our proposed Peartree ward so that these electors are not split between two wards.

80 Our final recommendations for this area are for three three-councillor wards of Peartree, Sholing and Woolston with forecast electoral variances of 6%, 0% and 7% by 2027 respectively.

Conclusions

81 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Southampton, 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	51	51
Number of electoral wards	17	17
Average number of electors per councillor	3,428	3,594
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Southampton City Council should be made up of 51 councillors serving 17 wards representing 17 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 Southampton City Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Southampton City Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

82 We have now completed our review of Southampton 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

83 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 Southampton 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	Banister & Polygon	3	10,167	3,389	-1%	11,170	3,723	4%
2	Bargate	3	9,218	3,073	-10%	11,655	3,885	8%
3	Bassett	3	10,234	3,411	0%	10,462	3,487	-3%
4	Bevois	3	10,353	3,451	1%	10,872	3,624	1%
5	Bitterne Park	3	11,048	3,683	7%	11,410	3,803	6%
6	Coxford	3	10,342	3,447	1%	10,541	3,514	-2%
7	Freemantle	3	10,272	3,424	0%	10,860	3,620	1%
8	Harefield	3	10,099	3,366	-2%	10,551	3,517	-2%
9	Millbrook	3	9,672	3,224	-6%	9,920	3,307	-8%
10	Peartree	3	11,194	3,731	9%	11,406	3,802	6%
11	Portswood	3	9,860	3,287	-4%	10,100	3,367	-6%

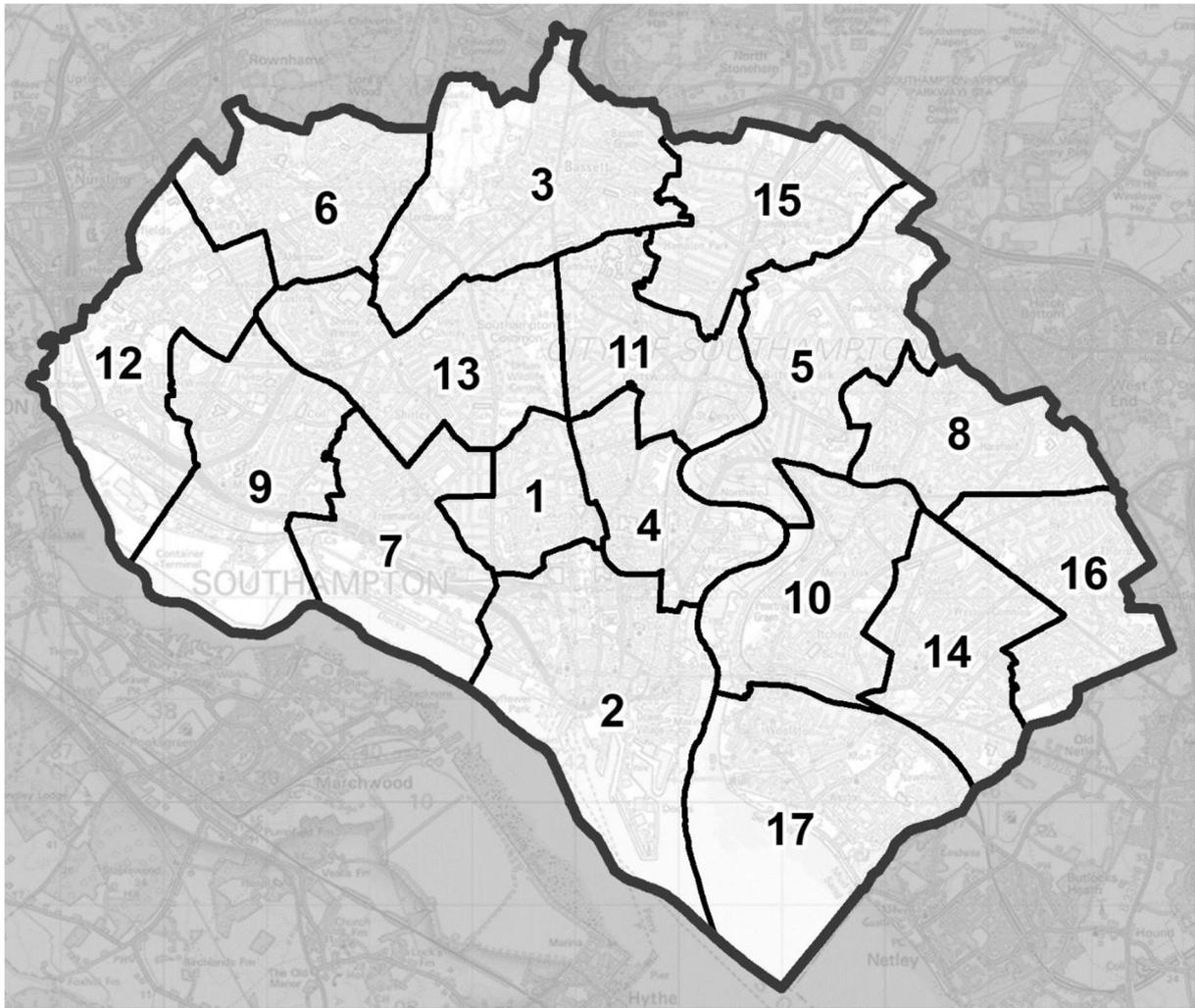
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Redbridge	3	9,932	3,311	-3%	10,403	3,468	-4%
13 Shirley	3	10,735	3,578	4%	11,083	3,694	3%
14 Sholing	3	10,708	3,569	4%	10,830	3,610	0%
15 Swaythling	3	10,071	3,357	-2%	10,201	3,400	-5%
16 Thornhill	3	10,244	3,415	0%	10,367	3,456	-4%
17 Woolston	3	10,700	3,567	4%	11,487	3,829	7%
Totals	51	174,849	–	–	183,318	–	–
Averages	–	–	3,428	–	–	3,594	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Southampton 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	Banister & Polygon
2	Bargate
3	Bassett
4	Bevois
5	Bitterne Park
6	Coxford
7	Freemantle
8	Harefield
9	Millbrook
10	Peartree
11	Portswood
12	Redbridge
13	Shirley
14	Sholing

15	Swaythling
16	Thornhill
17	Woolston

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/hampshire/southampton-unitary-authority-ua

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/hampshire/southampton-unitary-authority-ua

Political Groups

- Romsey & Southampton North Constituency Labour Party
- Southampton Itchen Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor A. Bunday (Southampton City Council)
- Councillor S. Bogle (Southampton City Council)
- Councillor S. Kaur (Southampton City Council)
- Councillor L. Mitchell (Southampton City Council)
- Councillor J. Noon (Southampton City Council)
- Councillor W. Payne (Southampton City Council)

Local Organisations

- Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church
- Outer Avenue Residents' Association
- SO18 Big Local

Local Residents

- 131 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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