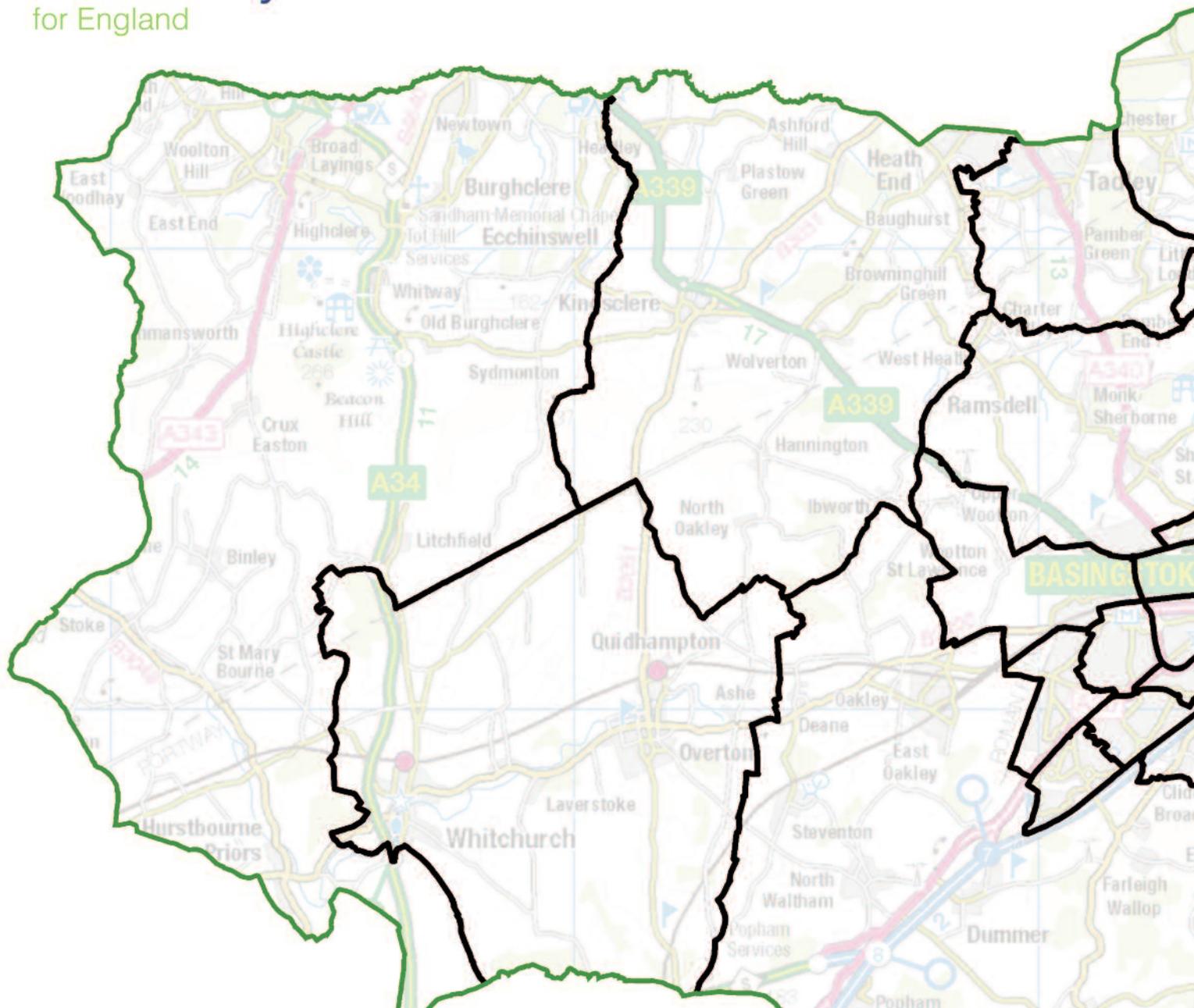


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Final recommendations

March 2019

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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)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Andrew Scallan CBE
- 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 Basingstoke & Deane?

7 We have conducted a review of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Basingstoke & Deane. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Basingstoke & Deane are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

Our proposals for Basingstoke & Deane

9 Basingstoke & Deane should be represented by 54 councillors, six fewer than there are now.

10 Basingstoke & Deane should have 18 wards, 11 fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all but two wards, Chineham and Norden, should change.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Basingstoke & Deane.

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 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 Basingstoke & Deane. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 February 2018	Number of councillors decided
27 February 2018	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
7 May 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
7 August 2018	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
15 October 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
5 March 2019	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.

	2017	2023
Electorate of Basingstoke & Deane	134,263	144,049
Number of councillors	54	54
Average number of electors per councillor	2,486	2,668

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 Basingstoke & Deane will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Submissions received

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

22 Shortly before the scheduled publication of its final recommendations the Commission became aware that, due to an administrative error, two submissions made during public consultation had not been made available to it during its considerations of final proposals.

23 Given the importance of considering every local voice fairly and equally, the Commission has decided to take a fresh look at every submission made during public consultation on the review.

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.

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the originally scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 7% by 2023.

25 A number of respondents to our draft recommendations questioned whether the growth in Manydown would be achieved by 2023. Forecasting is, as our guidance states, an inexact science; however, we discussed the figures for this area with the Council before publishing these final recommendations. The Council has confirmed that the development on the Manydown site has started more slowly than it had originally anticipated, but that it is confident that the development will be realised. Therefore, we consider the information provided to us by the Council supports the continued use of the original forecasts for the purposes of this electoral review.

26 It was brought to our attention that the allocation of electors for an area of development split between our proposed Brookvale & Kings Furlong and Eastrop & Grove wards was incorrect. The draft recommendations split the development proportionately between the wards, whereas the large majority of the development should have been attributed to the Brookvale & Kings Furlong ward. The final recommendations have corrected this allocation of growth.

27 We also received information that a few roads around Trinity Way had been incorrectly allocated on the electoral register to Popley ward when in fact they should have been counted as part of Sherborne St John & Rooksdown ward. The Council has confirmed that there was an error in the forecast that affected 163 electors. The final recommendations have adjusted the forecast and placed these electors in the correct ward. The Council also clarified that the growth in this area should have been attributed to the Trumpet Junction development. The final recommendations correct this and include the growth for this area in Sherborne St John & Rooksdown ward.

28 Respondents argued that the forecast figures for both Sherborne St John & Rooksdown and Popley wards should be adjusted to reflect the reallocation of electors. However, the Council has informed us that its forecast figures were not solely calculated from the base electorate figures, but also took into account the population growth for the area. For this reason, it stated that the forecast figures did not contain the error. The Commission were content with its explanation and are therefore retaining the forecast figures for both Sherborne St John & Rooksdown and Popley wards as presented.

29 We received a number of responses proposing alternative electoral arrangements for Basingstoke & Deane that contained counts of electors based on electoral data taken on a number of different dates or based on either assumed or

approximated electorate figures. Whilst we have examined all these proposals, we have seen no evidence that might persuade us to move away from the electoral data provided by the Council as part of this review and have therefore used the Council's figures throughout the production of these final recommendations.

30 The Commission have considered all responses made and the evidence provided and remain satisfied that that forecast figures, subject to the reallocation of electors as described above, represent the best available figures at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

31 Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council currently has 60 councillors. As Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁴ that the Council has 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.

32 We initially received submissions proposing the retention of the existing council size of 60 or reducing it by six to 54. Having considered the evidence, we concluded that decreasing the number of councillors by six would ensure the Council can continue to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

33 The draft recommendations were based on a 54-councillor council, with a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards.

34 During the draft recommendation consultation, we received a number of comments in respect of council size but no evidence to persuade us to move away from our proposed 54-councillor council. Our final recommendations remained based on a 54-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

35 We received 35 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four detailed borough-wide proposals from Basingstoke & Deane Conservative Group, the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Group all of which proposed a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards that had good electoral equality and used clearly identifiable boundaries. A local resident also submitted a borough-wide scheme; however, 10 of their proposed wards exceeded an electoral variance of 10%. We did not consider that this would represent a good level of electoral equality across the borough, so we were unable to adopt the proposals.

⁴ 'Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c)'.

Basingstoke Conservative Association also put forward a partial scheme for a large part of the borough.

36 We received a number of objections to three-councillor wards, particularly in the south of the borough in the area to the south of the M3, where respondents argued a single-councillor ward of Upton Grey, Mapledurwell & Up Nately would be more appropriate. However, while respondents cited links between rural parishes and highlighted concerns about joining these to more urban parishes to the north of the M3, we concluded that it was not possible to produce a mixed pattern of wards that secures good electoral equality. Therefore, we saw no option other than combining this area in a three-councillor ward with parishes to the south. Although the M3 clearly forms a barrier, we noted on our visit to the area that there are multiple north/south crossing points.

37 A number of respondents, including Ranil Jayawardena MP (North East Hampshire), argued that the proposed ward boundaries should not breach parliamentary boundaries. However, this is not a matter we can take into account when recommending warding patterns. Mr Jayawardena argued that in some instances it might be appropriate to have wards with more than three councillors, stating that some councils already have more than three councillors per ward. While the legislation does not prohibit us from creating such wards, in practice the Commission does not consider that wards of more than three councillors provide for effective and convenient local government and potentially dilute the accountability of elected members to their constituents.

38 A number of respondents proposed minor changes to the external boundaries of parishes or to the borough itself. These cannot be considered as part of this review.

39 Our draft recommendations were based on a mixture of the proposals from the Conservative Group, Labour Group, Liberal Democrat Group and Basingstoke Conservative Association. In some areas we took into account local evidence or proposed our own amendments to further strengthen the warding pattern. We also visited the area in order to look at the different proposals on the ground. This tour of Basingstoke & Deane helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

40 Our draft recommendations were for 18 three-councillor wards.

Draft recommendations consultation

41 We received 115 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included responses from the Basingstoke & Deane Conservative Group ('the Conservatives'); Basingstoke & Deane Labour Group ('the Labour Group'); and Basingstoke & Deane Liberal Democrat Group and Basingstoke & Deane Liberal Democrat Local Party ('the Liberal Democrats').

42 We also received submissions from 10 local councillors, 11 parish and town councils, a local political group, two local organisations and 87 members of the public.

43 There was a mixture of support and objections to our proposals across the borough, as well as a number of suggested name changes to wards.

44 The Conservatives expressed support for the draft recommendations, with limited critical comments. Councillor Miller and 11 members of the public also expressed support for the Conservatives' proposal.

45 The Liberal Democrats and a local resident put forward a number of amendments across much of the borough, including the creation of single- and two-member wards. To counter any objections to a move away from three-member wards, they also proposed a number of alternative proposals based on a uniform three-member pattern. However, we note that these proposals contain very poor levels of electoral equality, with multiple wards with electoral variances of over 10% and, in one instance, a variance of over 20%. We do not consider that these alternative proposals have sufficient evidence to justify such high electoral variances, so we have not considered them further.

46 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to our proposed Brookvale & Kings Furlong and Eastrop & Grove wards and our Sherborne St John & Rooksdown and Popley wards. We also recommend a number of ward name changes.

Final recommendations

47 Our final recommendations are for 18 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.

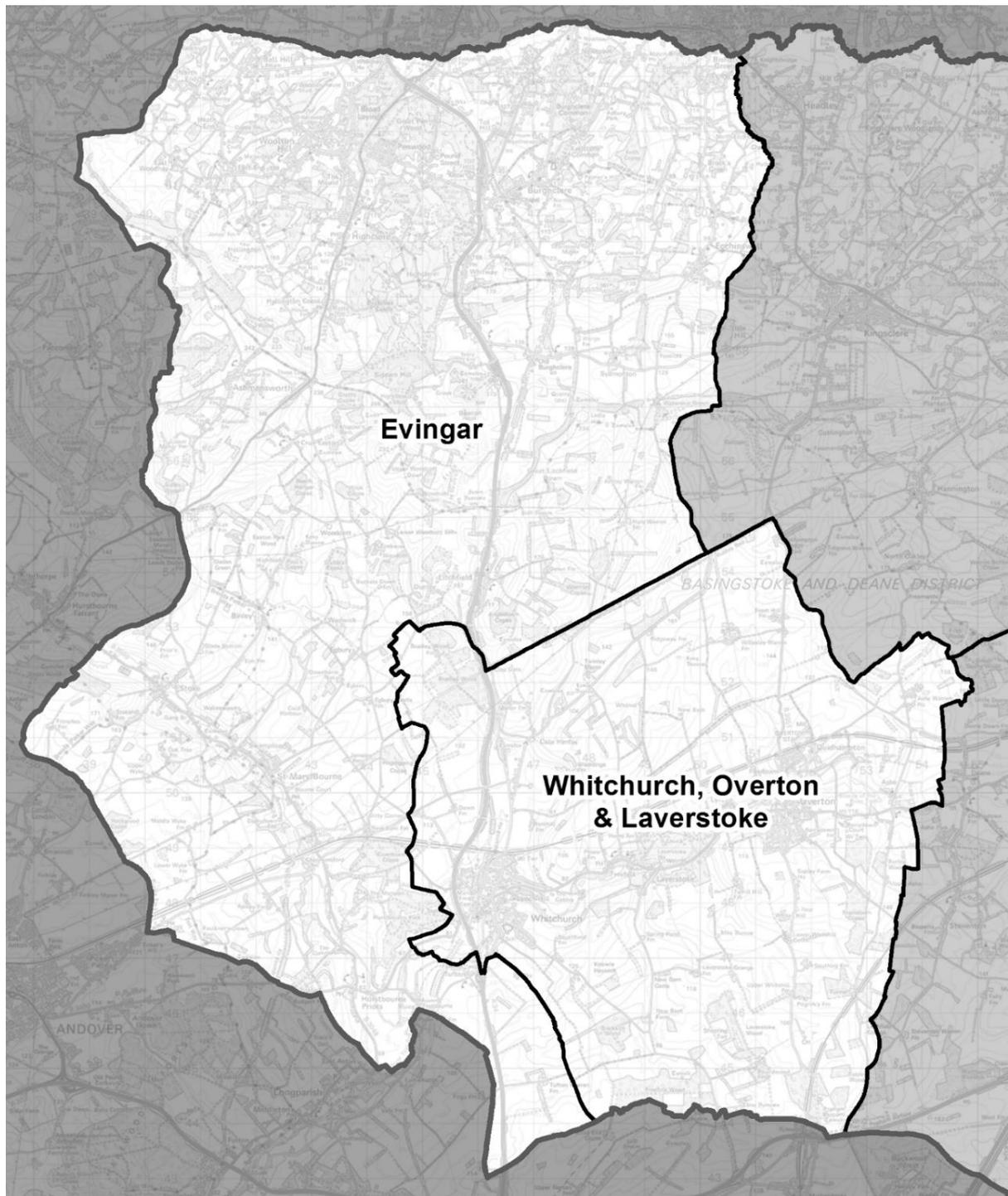
48 The tables and maps on pages 11–26 detail our final recommendations for each area of Basingstoke & Deane. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

49 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Rural west area



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2023
Evingar	3	-7%
Whitchurch, Overton & Laverstoke	3	8%

Whitchurch, Overton & Laverstoke

50 In response to the draft recommendations there were a number of objections to this ward. Councillor Tilbury stated that it would be difficult to get fair representation for the two main communities in a ward with three councillors and also that the electoral equality was poor. Overton Parish Council argued that the proposal combined two very different communities that might be hard to represent. However, they did acknowledge that they share communication links and a secondary school. This view was supported by a number of local residents. Whitchurch Town Council requested the retention of the existing ward. A local resident argued that Steventon parish should be in this ward and that its inclusion would improve electoral equality in neighbouring Oakley & The Candovers ward, while only marginally worsening it in Overton & Whitchurch ward. He also argued that the ward should be called Whitchurch & Overton to reflect the respective sizes of the parishes. The Conservatives expressed support for the ward, but argued that it should be called Test, or Overton, Whitchurch & Laverstoke to reflect all the parishes in the ward.

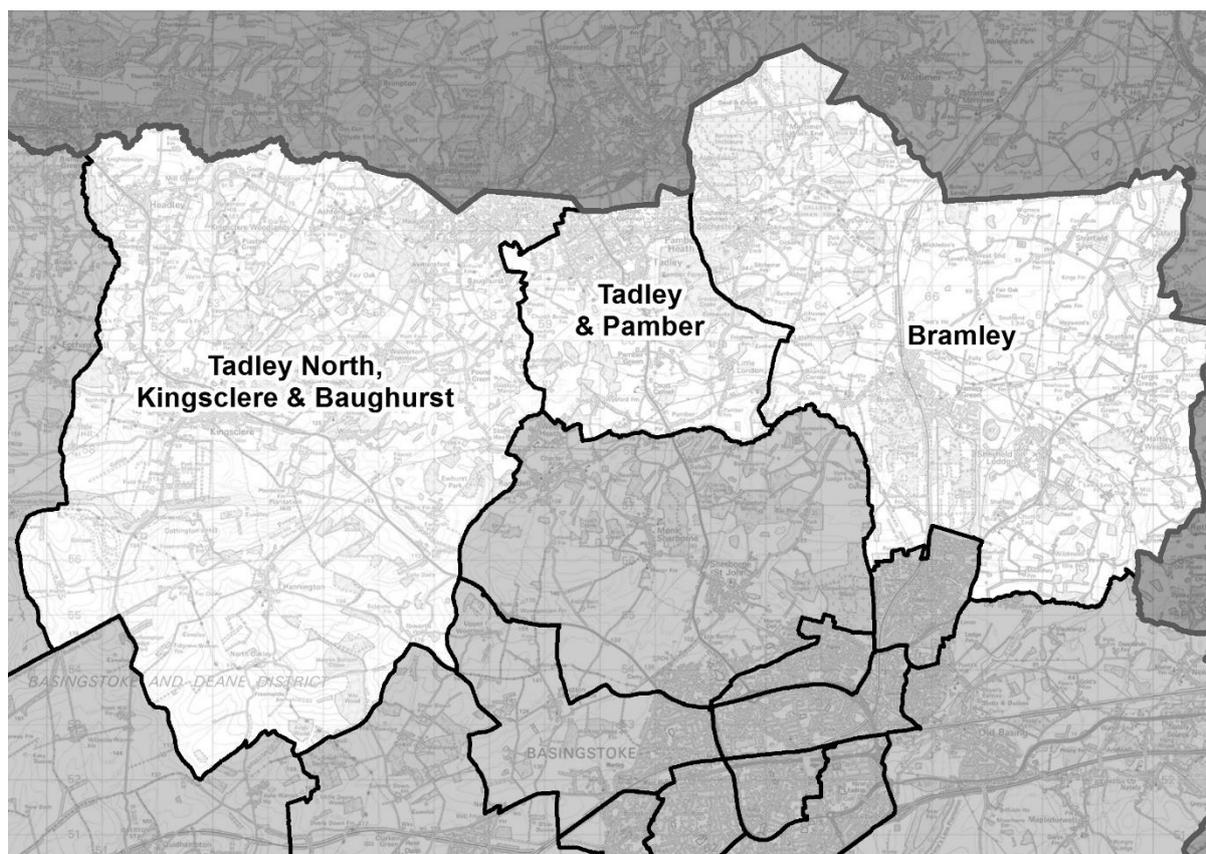
51 We note the objections to the draft recommendations. However, the concerns about representation of the different communities have not persuaded us to move away from a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We are not adopting the suggestion of transferring Steventon parish to this ward, noting that it worsens electoral equality in this ward to 10% and does not appear to have any other support.

52 Finally, we have considered the suggested name changes and, given the small number of parishes in this ward, we are proposing to rename the ward Whitchurch, Overton & Laverstoke. Subject to this name change we are confirming our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Evingar

53 The Conservatives, Councillors Izett and Sanders, East Woodhay and St Mary Bourne parish councils, a Highclere parish councillor and three members of the public argued that Western Parishes ward should be renamed as Evingar, citing references to the Domesday Book. We are adopting this name change as part of our final recommendations for this area.

Tadley and rural north area



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2023
Bramley	3	-4%
Tadley & Pamber	3	9%
Tadley North, Kingsclere & Baughurst	3	7%

Bramley

54 There was a mixture of support and objections to this ward. The Conservatives expressed support for the boundaries but proposed that the ward be named Wellington after the home of the Duke of Wellington in Stratfield Saye. Councillor Robinson also supported naming the ward Wellington, as did a local resident. They all considered that naming the ward Bramley would not be reflective of the other communities in the ward. The Liberal Democrats suggested the ward should be called Bramley, Sherfield & Silchester. We do not propose to change the name of the ward to either suggestion as we consider naming the ward after the largest settlement is more appropriate and identifiable than naming the ward in relation to a single dwelling within the ward or a number of parishes within the ward.

55 In addition to the general support for the ward's boundaries, Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council objected to the increased size of the proposed ward. We also received a number of responses from members of the public who argued that the

developments at Razor's and Cufaude farms should not be in Bramley ward. These submissions stated that they should be included in Chineham ward as these developments would primarily access Chineham for services and would have limited community links to the rural parishes. The submissions from the Liberal Democrats and a local resident proposed transferring both Sherfield on Loddon and Hartley Wespall parishes out of the ward and into a Basing & Sherfield ward.

56 We do not propose to accept the suggestion from the Liberal Democrats and the local resident as these proposals both produced poor electoral equality and wards with limited community links. We note there was no other support for a ward that links the Basing area with Sherfield on Loddon or Hartley Wespall parishes.

57 We note the concerns raised about the areas of development at Razor's and Cufaude farms. However, moving the area of proposed development to the Chineham ward would worsen electoral equality in Bramley ward to 17% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2023 and 14% more in Chineham. We also note that our proposed boundary currently matches the existing parish boundary. The new development in this area is incomplete and currently straddles the proposed ward boundary and existing parish boundary. We were not minded to move the boundary around the existing development and were concerned that to do so would split the new community inappropriately once the site was completed. We consider that a better way to recognise the future community ties within this new development would be for Basingstoke & Deane Council to consider conducting a Community Governance Review in the area once the work is complete.

Tadley North, Kingsclere & Baughurst and Tadley & Pamber

58 We received a number of objections to the draft recommendations in this area, particularly in regard to the proposed extent of the new Tadley ward. The responses received provided good evidence of the strength of community within Tadley parish.

59 Tadley & Baughurst Liberal Democrats argued that Tadley ward should be a three-councillor ward, coterminous with the Tadley Town Council area. This proposal was also backed up by a submission from a local resident who provided evidence relating to the nature of Tadley's community identity and links.

60 Tadley Town Council noted that although Tadley North parish ward is currently within a Tadley North & Baughurst ward the area sees itself as the town centre of Tadley. It also stated that the Town Council has no connection with Kingsclere and only a limited connection with Baughurst in the Baughurst Common area, although it was acknowledged that there are shared facilities such as schools between the areas of Tadley and Baughurst Common. The Town Council also stated that Pamber has its own parish council and is more closely linked with Silchester than Tadley due to their rural nature. Again, however, it did acknowledge that the Pamber Heath area does have some links to Tadley.

61 The Town Council supported the Liberal Democrats in their argument that the internally cohesive nature of Tadley, together with the lack of links with neighbouring rural parishes, would justify a three-councillor ward with an electoral variance of 15% by 2023. Consequentially, it was proposed that Pamber parish should join Bramley ward to reflect its community links, and that this would allow Sherfield on Loddon and Hartley Wespall parishes to be included with Old Basing & Lychpit. The submission also proposed a two-councillor Kingsclere & Baughurst ward comprising Kingsclere, Baughurst and Ashford Hill with Headley parishes. It was proposed that such a ward could include Hannington parish resulting in a 13% electoral variance, or Hannington could be moved to Oakley & The Candovers ward to give a 7% variance.

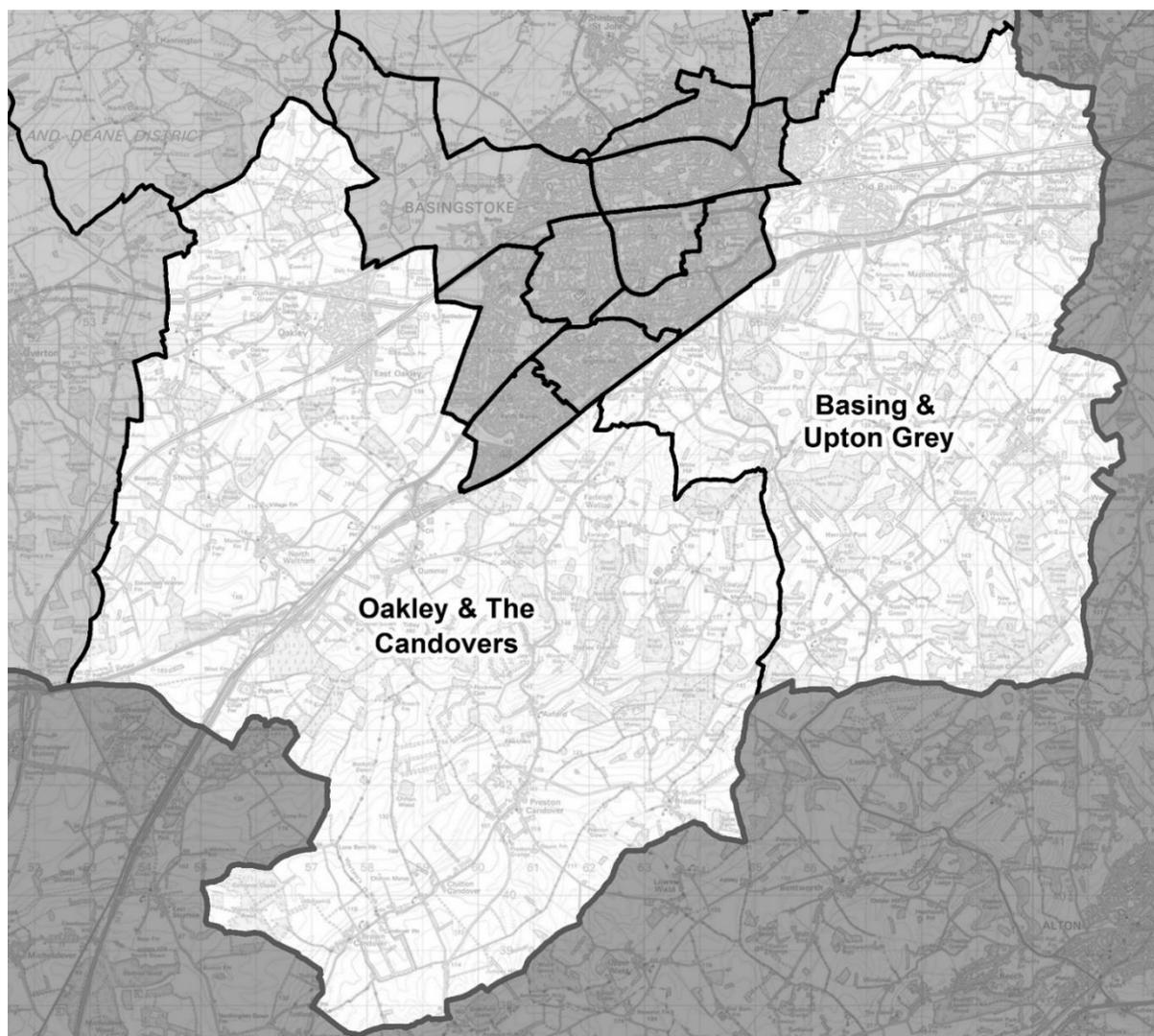
62 We have given a good deal of consideration to the evidence received in these submissions and we accept that while there is some good evidence for Tadley's cohesive nature, there is also some contradictory evidence about its links with neighbouring parishes. We accept that our final recommendations divide Tadley, and while we acknowledge that Tadley may not have particularly strong community links to Kingsclere and the rural parts of Baughurst parish, we do consider that it has strong community ties to the more urban Baughurst Common and Pamber Heath areas.

63 We also note that the alternative proposals outlined above move away from the presumption of a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards and result in poor electoral equality with a Tadley ward having a 15% variance. We do not consider that the evidence we have received to be so compelling as to justify either moving away from a uniform three-councillor warding pattern or the poor electoral equality that would result in Tadley. Similarly, we are not persuaded that these proposals necessarily reflect community links in Hannington parish, which has better links to Kingsclere and Baughurst than it does Oakley & The Candovers ward. We also consider that Sherfield on Loddon and Hartley Wespall parishes have closer links to Bramley than they do to Old Basing & Lychpit. Therefore, we are not adopting these proposals as part of our final recommendations.

64 A number of respondents argued that if we did not adopt a three-councillor ward for Tadley and retained the Tadley North area in a ward with Kingsclere and Baughurst, then this ward should be called Tadley North, Kingsclere & Baughurst, and also that Tadley ward should be renamed Tadley & Pamber. We consider that these changes reflect the communities in the proposed wards, so we are adopting them as part of our final recommendations.

65 We are confirming the ward boundaries as proposed in our draft recommendations as final, subject to the name changes described above.

Rural south area



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2023
Basing & Upton Grey	3	9%
Oakley & The Candovers	3	7%

Basing & Upton Grey and Oakley & The Candovers

66 The majority of submissions we received for these wards were opposed to the draft recommendations and in support of retaining the existing ward of Upton Grey & The Candovers. In particular, Upton Grey Parish Council requested the retention of the existing Upton Grey & The Candovers ward, arguing it has a very different character from the Old Basing area. Herriard Parish Council also pointed out its different character to Old Basing and stated that the M3 represented a significant barrier between the areas. Similar views were expressed by six members of the public who objected to our proposals for this area. One of these respondents argued that Cliddesden parish should be included in Oakley & The Candovers ward, citing shared community links with the other parishes in this ward. Oakley & Deane Parish

Council expressed its concern about the increased size of the proposed Oakley & The Candovers ward.

67 The Liberal Democrats and a local resident proposed a number of amendments for this area, including transferring Hannington parish to a modified three-councillor Oakley & The Candovers ward, while also creating a single-councillor Upton Grey, Mapledurwell & Up Nately ward, comprising Cliddesden, Herriard, Mapledurwell & Up Nately, Newnham, Tunworth, Upton Grey, Weston Corbett, Weston Patrick and Winslade parishes. Finally, they proposed a three-councillor Basing & Sherfield ward comprising Old Basing & Lychpit, Sherfield on Loddon and Hartley Wespall parishes.

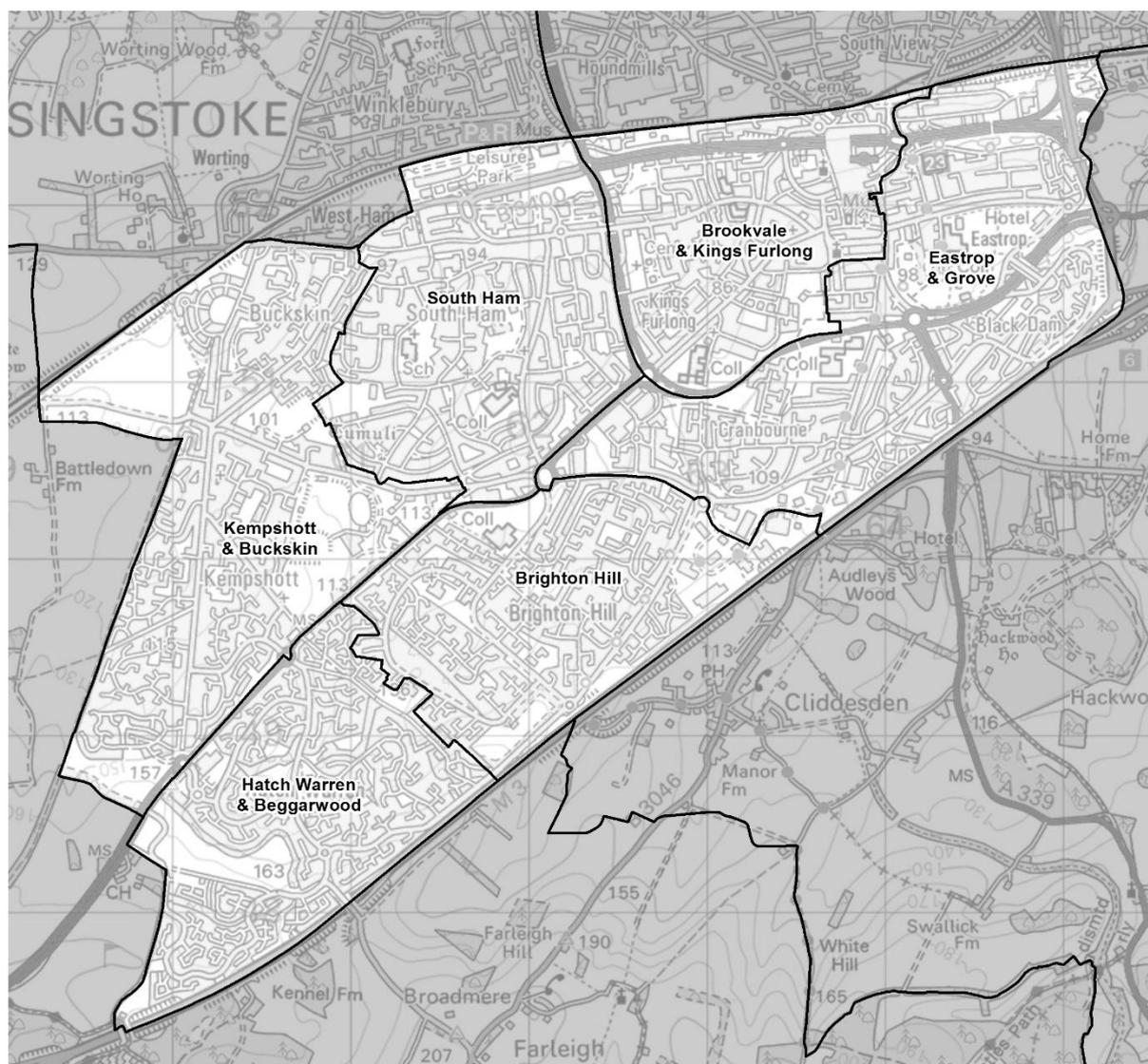
68 The Labour Group, Councillors Grant, Jones and McCormick and a number of local residents argued that the development in the far north of Dummer parish should be in Kempshott ward, not Oakley & The Candovers ward, arguing that this area will be urban in nature and look to Kempshott for facilities and future community ties.

69 We considered the evidence received, but do not consider that we have received sufficient new evidence to persuade us to move away from a pattern of three-member wards in this area. We also considered the request from a member of the public to place Cliddesden parish in Oakley & The Candovers ward but noted that this would worsen electoral equality in Oakley & The Candovers ward to 13% more electors than the borough average by 2023. We do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to justify this high electoral variance.

70 With regards to the Liberal Democrats' proposals and those from the member of the public, as mentioned in paragraph 63, we have concerns about linking Hannington parish to Oakley & The Candovers ward and Basing & Lychpit parish to Sherfield on Loddon and Hartley Wespall parishes and Sherfield on Loddon to Old Basing. These proposals would also require the creation of a single-councillor Upton Grey, Mapledurwell & Up Nately ward and we are not persuaded that we have received sufficient evidence to depart from the presumption of a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We have therefore decided not to adopt this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

71 Regarding the suggestion that the development in the north of Dummer parish should be included in Kempshott ward rather than in our proposed Oakley & The Candovers ward, whilst we accept that these electors will have a more urban outlook, to include them in a Kempshott ward would not be possible without poor electoral equality in this area. We do not consider sufficient evidence has been received to justify this poor electoral equality and we are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.

South Basingstoke



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2023
Brighton Hill	3	-1%
Brookvale & Kings Furlong	3	-5%
Eastrop & Grove	3	-8%
Hatch Warren & Beggarwood	3	-9%
Kempshott & Buckskin	3	4%
South Ham	3	-5%

Kempshott & Buckskin

72 The submissions we received for this ward contained a mixture of support for our proposals but also objections to the inclusion of the Buckskin area within Kempshott ward from the Labour Group and councillors Cooper, Freeman, Grant, Jones and McCormick.

73 All those who objected to our proposed Kempshott & Buckskin ward considered that Buckskin would be better placed in the neighbouring Winklebury & Manydown ward, arguing that the railway line between the areas did not represent a significant barrier. Councillor Cooper also argued that Buckskin has specific issues that Kempshott does not have and as a result Kempshott was likely to dominate the ward.

74 The Labour Group and Councillor McCormick proposed a revised ward based on this reasoning and also their assumption that a lot of the development in the Manydown area would not happen within the forecast period. The Manydown development is discussed further in paragraphs 93–9 of this report. Their alternative proposal suggested that the Buckskin area along Old Kempshott Lane, up to and including Wiltshire Crescent, should remain in Kempshott ward, whilst the rest of the Buckskin area would be transferred to a modified Winklebury ward.

75 Respondents also argued, as discussed in paragraph 68 above, that the development in the north of Dummer parish should be in Kempshott ward not Oakley & The Candovers ward. They argued that the development will be more urban in nature and look toward Kempshott for its facilities. However, to include the Dummer parish development in a Kempshott ward would result in very poor levels of electoral equality for both Kempshott and Oakley & The Candovers ward at 28% and -16% respectively.

76 A number of local residents also wrote in support for the inclusion of Buckskin in a ward with Winklebury and the inclusion of part of Dummer parish in Kempshott ward. However, we were not persuaded by this proposal on the grounds of the evidence received and in the light of the poor resultant variances are not adopting it as part of our final recommendations.

77 It has been suggested that in order to accommodate the inclusion of Buckskin in a ward with Winklebury, some of the Wootton St Lawrence area could be transferred into our proposed Oakley & The Candovers ward. However, to do so would significantly worsen electoral equality in that ward. In addition, we have received good evidence to indicate that the development in this part of Wootton St Lawrence will have links to Winklebury which should be reflected in ward boundaries.

78 We note that the Labour Group's and Councillor McCormick's specific proposal to retain the area off Old Kempshott Lane in a Kempshott ward is achievable in terms of the area's electoral variance; however, we are of the opinion that it does not take into account that the communication and road links exist only via Buckskin along Lowlands Road and Chiltern Way. Our tour of the area revealed that the southern end of Old Kempshott Lane is a dead end for vehicles with only pedestrian access. Therefore, we are not persuaded that separating this area from Buckskin

Lane by placing it in a Kempshott ward would reflect community identities and interests of the electors here.

79 A number of respondents, including the Buckskin Ward Residents' Action Group, argued that if the boundaries of Kempshott ward were not modified as part of the final recommendations, then Buckskin should be reflected in the ward name. Given that Buckskin comprises around 40% of the ward's electorate we agree with this and have decided to rename our proposed ward Kempshott & Buckskin.

80 We are therefore confirming the boundaries for this ward as laid out in our draft recommendations as final but changing the name of the ward from Kempshott to Kempshott & Buckskin, as discussed above.

Brookvale & Kings Furlong and Eastrop & Grove

81 The Conservatives and a number of local residents expressed support for the wards in this area. However, we also received several objections to our proposals.

82 The Liberal Democrats and a local resident both suggested that the town centre should be included in the Eastrop & Grove ward rather than the Brookvale & Kings Furlong ward. They argued that this modification would provide both wards with a shopping centre. They proposed an alternative boundary, running to the west of the town centre, placing all of this area in Eastrop & Grove ward. They also stated that a number of facilities serving the Fairfields community including All Saints' Church, the Carnival Hall and Irish Centre, the latter of which is soon to become a community hall for Fairfields, should be included in Eastrop & Grove ward not Brookvale & Kings Furlong as proposed in our draft recommendations. They did, however, support our proposal to include the high-rise developments to the north of Festival Place in a single ward as this would be more reflective of their future community ties. Their proposals for Brookvale & Kings Furlong and Eastrop & Grove wards would have electoral variances of 10% fewer and 3% fewer respectively.

83 We have considered the evidence provided for these changes. We have concerns that these proposals will worsen electoral equality in Eastrop & Grove ward to 10% fewer electors than the borough average and whilst there is some evidence of community links for the proposed boundary, we do not feel that it is sufficiently strong to justify the resultant increases in the electoral variances. We are not therefore persuaded to adopt a proposal that will worsen electoral equality in an urban area, especially when there is a viable alternative in the draft recommendations.

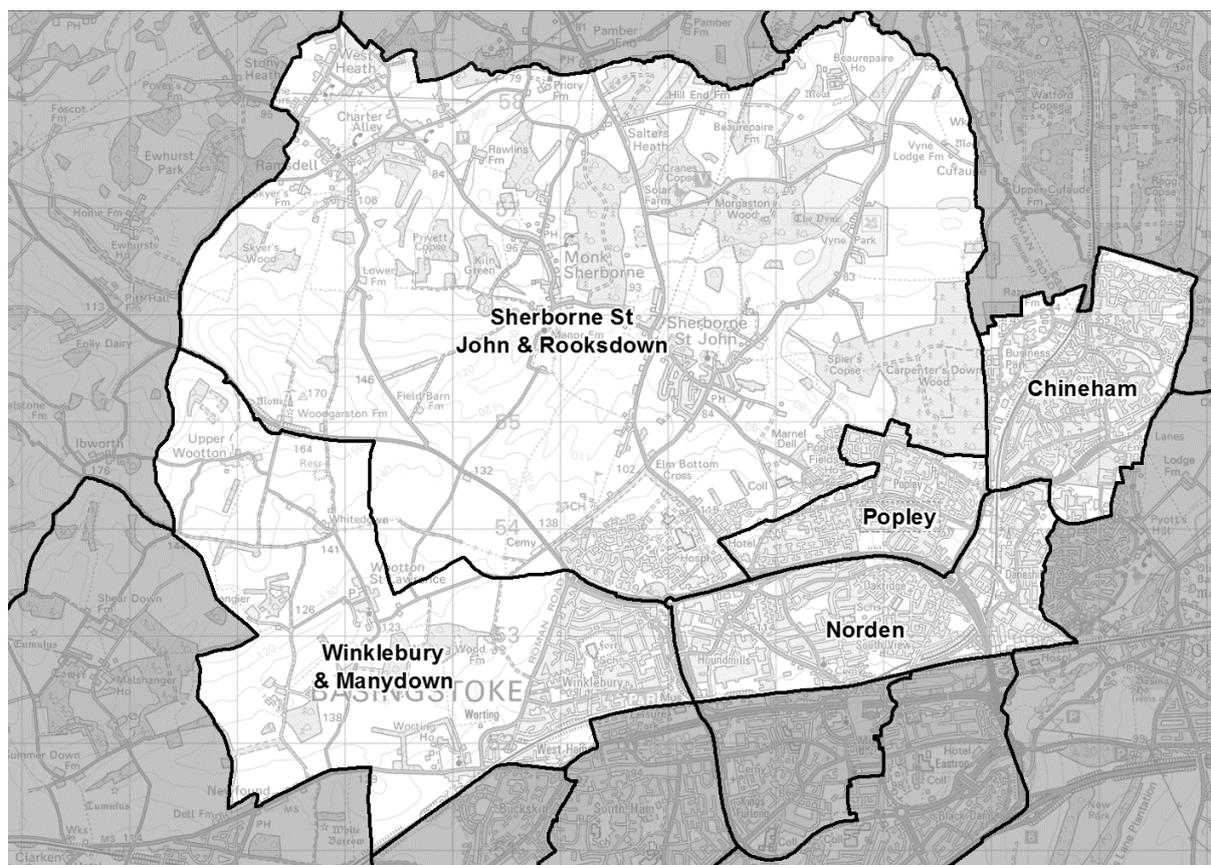
84 We are proposing a minor amendment to the ward boundary to transfer Carnival Hall and the Irish Centre from Brookvale & Kings Furlong to Eastrop & Grove ward. This does not affect any electors. We are also proposing a very minor amendment to ensure that all the electors in Seal Road are in Eastrop & Grove ward.

85 We note that, after clarification with the Council, the draft recommendations misallocated some electors to the Fairfields Road area in our proposed Eastrop & Grove ward, whereas they should have been entirely allocated to Brookvale & Kings Furlong ward. This changes the electoral equality in Eastrop & Grove giving it 8% fewer electors than the borough average by 2023 but improves it in Brookvale & Kings Furlong to 5% fewer.

Brighton Hill, Hatch Warren & Beggarwood and South Ham

86 We received some limited comments in support of these wards and no significant objections. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

North Basingstoke



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2023
Chineham	3	1%
Norden	3	-4%
Popley	3	-3%
Sherborne St John & Rooksdown	3	8%
Winklebury & Manydown	3	-8%

Popley and Sherborne St John & Rooksdown

87 We received a mixture of support and objections to our proposals in this area. The Conservatives and Councillor Robinson expressed support for the draft recommendations, although the Conservatives argued that the name should be changed to The Sherbornes & Rooksdown, to reflect the two 'Sherborne' parishes within the ward. Rooksdown Parish Council also supported the draft recommendations and the inclusion of 'Rooksdown' in the ward name. Having considered the evidence submitted we are proposing to maintain the ward name Sherborne St John & Rooksdown for this area as part of our final recommendations.

88 The Liberal Democrats and a local resident had a number of objections to the draft recommendations. They stated that the Marnel Park development, in Sherborne St John parish, should be placed in a ward with Popley. They argued that the

development does not have access into the proposed Sherborne St John & Rooksdown ward without residents having to travel through Popley ward. However, we understand from our tour of the area that the Marnel Park development will have road access into Sherborne St John & Rooksdown ward via Hutchins Way, Appleton Drive and Chineham Lane. We propose to maintain the division of the Appleton Drive area as it is necessary to include the area to the east of the Marnel Park development in a Popley ward to provide for acceptable electoral equality in both wards.

89 The Liberal Democrats also objected to the Everest Community Academy being placed in Sherborne St John & Rooksdown ward, stating that it was built to serve Popley and should therefore be in Popley ward. This view was supported to varying degrees by a number of local residents. However, amongst the evidence we considered were submissions that indicated that Everest Community Academy serves both Popley and Sherborne St John parishes as well as a number of parishes in Bramley ward.

90 The Liberal Democrats and a number of local residents suggested that the area around Priestley Road should be included in Sherborne St John & Rooksdown ward rather than Popley as per our draft recommendations to reflect their community identity. We note that during earlier consultation, Rooksdown Parish Council argued this area should be in Popley ward. However, we are persuaded by the new evidence received and consider that including the area in our final Sherborne St John & Rooksdown ward will better reflect the community identity of these electors.

91 As mentioned in our discussion on the electorate figures in paragraph 27, the Liberal Democrats and a local resident also informed us that a few roads around Trinity Way had been incorrectly allocated on the electoral register to Popley ward when in fact they should have been counted in Sherborne St John ward. The Council has confirmed to the Commission that there was an error in the electoral figures here that affected 163 electors. We have factored this amendment and the proposed growth in the Squirrel Wood development into our final recommendations. The Liberal Democrats argued that as a result of this error, the Council's forecast figures for the affected areas should be increased/decreased respectively. However, as also mentioned earlier, we have accepted the Council's explanation that due to the way in which the forecasting was carried out, the error was not carried forward and the forecast remains correct.

92 The Liberal Democrats and the local resident based their submission on different electoral data to that agreed for use in the review. We have reworked their various proposals using the agreed electoral dataset and, based on our calculations, their proposed Popley and Sherborne St John & Rooksdown wards would have around 16% more and 11% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2023. We do not consider that the evidence provided is justification enough for

such poor levels of electoral equality. Therefore, we do not propose to make any other changes to our wards and are confirming the draft ward boundaries as final. Both Popley and Sherborne St John & Rooksdown wards will have good levels of electoral equality at -3% and 8% respectively by 2023.

Winklebury & Manydown

93 We received a mixture of support and objections for our proposals in this area. The Conservatives, Councillor Robinson, Wootton St Lawrence Residents' Association and a number of members of the public expressed support for our Winklebury & Manydown ward. Our decision to include the entirety of the Manydown development site in a ward with Winklebury was supported in particular. Respondents agreed with our opinion that, because these areas would be connected, placing them in the same ward would enable them to work together.

94 The Liberal Democrats and a local resident argued that only the development site should be included in the Winklebury & Manydown ward and not Wootton St Lawrence Village. They stated that the development had been designed with a distinct 'green' edge in order to separate it from the rural area and that this should be used as the boundary. However, they acknowledged that at this stage it would not contain sufficient electors to be viable in terms of parish wards.

95 The Labour Group, together with Councillors Tilbury and McCormick, objected to the inclusion of the Manydown development site in a Winklebury ward as they were not content that the development would be complete by 2023 and this would result in poor electoral equality in the proposed ward.

96 We carried out a further tour of this area to help us fully consider the representations regarding the pace of the Manydown development. We also contacted the Council for further information.

97 The Council stated that the phasing of the Manydown development was complex and was always intended to extend beyond the five-year forecast period defined by the review. It acknowledged that the first year of phasing on the development had slipped by a year, meaning that no dwellings were completed on the site in 2018/19. They will, however, be built in 2019/20. It stated that as a consequence of this delay that the number of units completed by 2023 would be slightly lower than proposed in the original estimates. Therefore, based on 2017 estimates, a reduction of around 160 dwellings may be anticipated by 2023. The Council were, however, confident that the rate of development would pick up once the work started.

98 We acknowledge the concerns that respondents have regarding the speed of delivery on the Manydown site. We have considered these concerns in the light of the information provided to us by the Council and sought to balance these against

the fact that legally we are unable to consider electorate figures beyond 2023 for this review. Whilst we accept that this delay may have an impact on the electoral variances in the area by 2023, it was never intended that the site would be complete in the timeframe allowed. Therefore, we do not propose to amend the electoral figures for this area, and we propose to retain the Manydown development in our Winklebury & Manydown ward.

99 In our draft recommendations we proposed to include the village of Wootton St Lawrence together with the northern part of Wootton St Lawrence parish in our Winklebury & Manydown ward. A number of respondents objected to this proposal citing a lack of commonality between the rural parts of the parish and the development. However, the phased development of the Manydown site means that there are not currently enough electors within the development to create a viable parish ward. We estimate that there are currently 20 electors here whereas a viable parish ward would normally require around 100. We are not, therefore, proposing to adopt this modification as part of our final recommendations.

100 We are confirming our draft recommendations for Winklebury & Manydown ward as final.

Chineham

101 We received a mixed response to this ward following consultation. Both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats supported this ward. However, a number of local residents argued that the developments at Razor's and Cufaude farms should be included in here rather than in the Bramley ward as proposed. This is discussed further in paragraph 57. However, as noted, moving this area would worsen electoral equality in Bramley ward to 17% fewer electors than the borough average by 2023 and 14% more in Chineham. We were not persuaded by the evidence received to make such a change. We have therefore decided to confirm our proposed Chineham ward as final.

Norden

102 During consultation we received general support for this ward, therefore we have decided to confirm it as final.

Conclusions

103 The table below provides a summary of the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Basingstoke & Deane, referencing the 2017 and 2023 electorate figures. 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	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	54	54
Number of electoral wards	18	18
Average number of electors per councillor	2,486	2,668
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Final recommendations

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council should be made up of 54 councillors serving 18 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

104 We have now completed our review of Basingstoke & Deane. 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 2020.

Equalities

105 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 Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Basing & Upton Grey	3	8,155	2,718	9%	8,712	2,904	9%
2	Bramley	3	6,034	2,011	-19%	7,717	2,572	-4%
3	Brighton Hill	3	8,147	2,716	9%	7,930	2,643	-1%
4	Brookvale & Kings Furlong	3	7,074	2,358	-5%	7,584	2,528	-5%
5	Chineham	3	7,930	2,643	6%	8,050	2,683	1%
6	Eastrop & Grove	3	7,446	2,482	0%	7,376	2,459	-8%
7	Evingar	3	7,343	2,448	-2%	7,415	2,472	-7%
8	Hatch Warren & Beggardwood	3	7,605	2,535	2%	7,297	2,432	-9%
9	Kempshott & Buckskin	3	8,396	2,799	13%	8,353	2,784	4%
10	Norden	3	6,802	2,267	-9%	7,711	2,570	-4%
11	Oakley & The Candovers	3	6,767	2,256	-9%	8,600	2,867	7%
12	Popley	3	7,920	2,640	6%	7,795	2,598	-3%

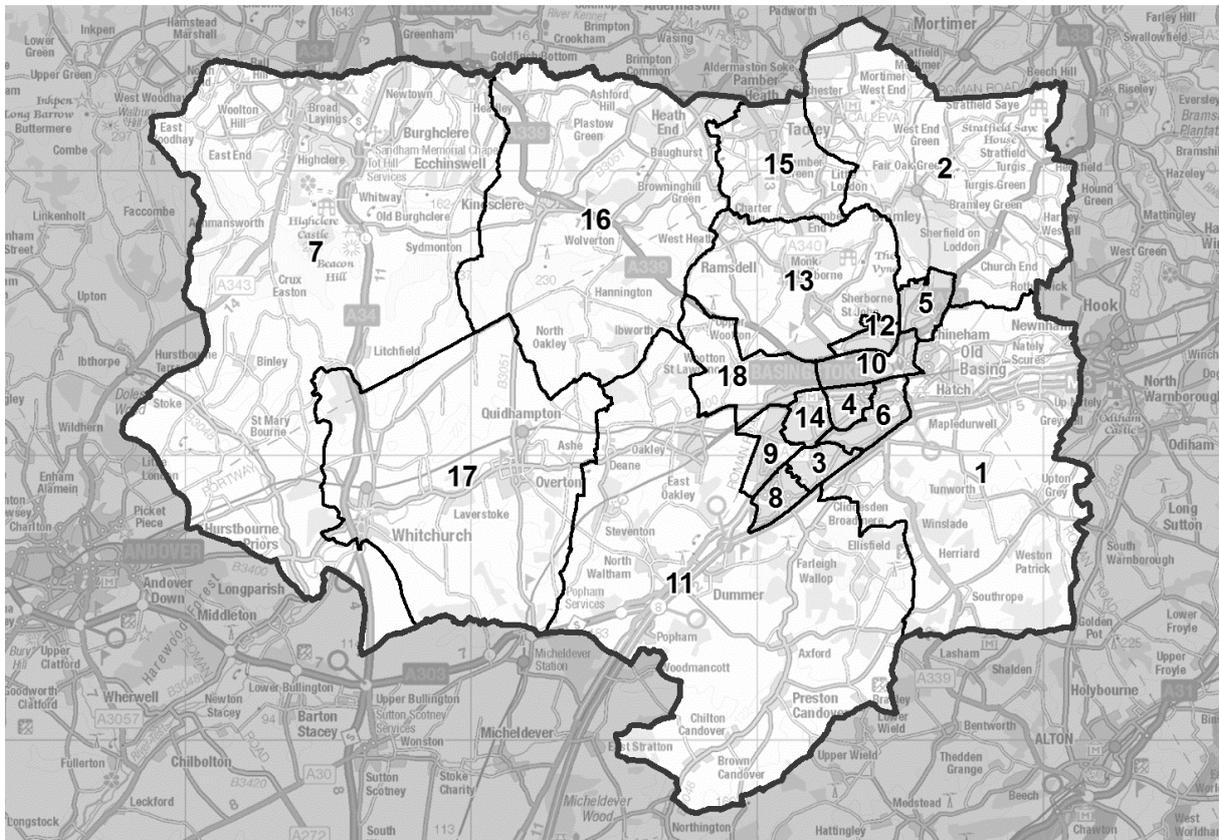
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Sherborne St John & Rooksdown	3	6,172	2,057	-17%	8,628	2,876	8%
14 South Ham	3	7,741	2,580	4%	7,563	2,521	-5%
15 Tadley & Pamber	3	8,968	2,989	20%	8,735	2,912	9%
16 Tadley North, Kingsclere & Baughurst	3	8,585	2,862	15%	8,578	2,859	7%
17 Whitchurch, Overton & Laverstoke	3	7,726	2,575	4%	8,671	2,890	8%
18 Winklebury & Manydown	3	5,452	1,817	-27%	7,335	2,445	-8%
Totals	54	134,263	-	-	144,049	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,486	-	-	2,668	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Basing & Upton Grey
2	Bramley
3	Brighton Hill
4	Brookvale & Kings Furlong
5	Chineham
6	Eastrop & Grove
7	Evingar
8	Hatch Warren & Beggarwood
9	Kempshott & Buckskin
10	Norden
11	Oakley & The Candovers
12	Popley
13	Sherborne St John & Rooksdown
14	South Ham
15	Tadley & Pamber
16	Tadley North, Kingsclere & Baughurst
17	Whitchurch, Overton & Laverstoke
18	Winklebury & Manydown

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/hampshire/basingstoke-and-deane>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can be viewed on our website at:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/hampshire/basingstoke-and-deane>

Political Groups

- Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Conservative Group
- Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Labour Group
- Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group
- Basingstoke & Deane Liberal Democrat Local Party
- Tadley & Baughurst Branch Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor S. Allen (Highclere Parish Council)
- Councillors R. Cooper & A. Freeman (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Grant (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Izett (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)
- Councillor T. Jones (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Miller (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)
- Councillor A. McCormick (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)
- Councillor T. Robinson (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)
- Councillor C. Sanders (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)
- Councillor I. Tilbury (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- East Woodhay Parish Council
- Herriard Parish Council
- Oakley & Deane Parish Council
- Overton Parish Council
- Rooksdown Parish Council
- Sherfield on Loddon Parish Council
- St Mary Bourne Parish Council
- Stratfield Turgis Parish Meeting
- Tadley Town Council
- Upton Grey Parish Council
- Whitchurch Town Council

Local Organisations

- Buckskin Ward Residents' Action Group
- Wootton St Lawrence Residents' Association

Local Residents

- 87 members of the public

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 fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
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. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
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 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

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
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www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
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