

New electoral arrangements for Bromley Council Final Recommendations

November 2020

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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 Bromley?

7 We are conducting a review of Bromley Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 1999, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² In addition, the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Bromley. 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 is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Bromley 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 Bromley

9 Bromley should be represented by 58 councillors, two fewer than there are now.

10 Bromley should have 22 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change; none will stay the same.

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

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

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

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 Bromley. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough and a period of further consultation in the Orpington area. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 June 2019	Number of councillors decided
25 June 2019	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 September 2019	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
29 October 2019	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
17 February 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
16 June 2020	Publication of further draft recommendations for the Orpington area
27 July 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and confirming final recommendations
3 November 2020	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.

	2019	2025
Electorate of Bromley	242,615	249,189
Number of councillors	60	58
Average number of electors per councillor	4,044	4,296

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 our proposed wards for Bromley will have good electoral equality by 2025.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2025, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2020. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 3% by 2025. Housing developments due to take place predominantly in Bromley town centre will contribute to this increase in electorate.

23 During our consultation on warding patterns, a borough councillor queried the electorate forecast we had agreed with the Council. The councillor specifically

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.

questioned the rationale behind the forecast electorate for 12 polling districts being over 10% below the current electorate.

24 Regarding the decrease in certain polling districts, both populations and electorates change over time. They may increase or decrease, and they may change gradually or by periods of rapid change, followed by periods of relative stability. We are content that the Council's methodology and forecast is underpinned by reasonable evidence, using the Greater London Authority projections that have been widely used by other London boroughs.

25 We also received a joint submission from Councillor Botting, Councillor Huntington-Thresher and Councillor Tunnicliffe (the current Orpington ward councillors) during our consultation on the further draft recommendations. They proposed a revised pattern of wards in the Orpington area that contained 2,000 extra electors in a proposed three-councillor Orpington ward. This increase in electors was not included within the originally agreed forecast. As a matter of course, we do not normally revisit the electorate figures throughout a review, particularly without compelling evidence. In this context, while we note the comments, we remain satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have therefore used the original forecast figures to produce our final recommendations. We have nonetheless considered the revised pattern of wards submitted by the current Orpington ward councillors, irrespective of the extra 2,000 electors.

Number of councillors

26 Bromley Council currently has 60 councillors. The Labour Group proposed reducing the council size to 58, while the Council, the Conservative Group, the Independent Group and a local resident submitted proposals to increase councillor numbers by two to 62. We looked at all the evidence provided and considered the Labour Group provided the best evidence regarding councillor numbers for Bromley. In particular, the Labour Group provided strong evidence that highlighted the changes to the Council's decision-making and scrutiny processes since the last electoral review of Bromley.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 58 councillors – for example, 58 one-councillor wards, 29 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received several responses which objected to this reduction in both rounds of consultation. However, we were not persuaded by the arguments put forward for retaining or increasing the total number of councillors and are satisfied that a council size of 58 will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively in the future.

29 The submission received from the current Orpington councillors during our consultation on the further draft recommendations suggested we change the total number of councillors for the borough to 59 in order to create a three-councillor Orpington ward. However, as discussed in detail later in this report, we were not persuaded to adopt this ward as part of our final recommendations and have consequently maintained a council size of 58 for the borough.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 72 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included five borough-wide proposals. These came from the Conservative Group, the Labour Group, and two local residents. The Council did not make a submission, but the fifth borough-wide scheme we received came from the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for the Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments regarding warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 The proposals made by the Conservative Group, the Labour Group and the ERO provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for 58 councillors. One local resident proposed a mixed pattern based on 61 councillors. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that all these proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

32 Another local resident suggested a warding pattern for 62 councillors, comprising 38 wards. This scheme did not provide any community-based evidence relating to the proposals. Given we received multiple borough-wide proposals supported by strong community evidence and good electoral equality, and the significantly different nature of this scheme, which contained a substantial number of single-councillor wards, we were not persuaded to adopt these proposals.

33 We also received a submission from a local resident that suggested we adopt a warding pattern comprising 29 wards, each represented by two councillors. We were not persuaded to adopt these proposals as no community evidence was provided, and it was not clear what the proposals outside the Penge & Beckenham area would entail.

34 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of the warding schemes received, all of which contained various proposals that reflected our statutory criteria. Our draft recommendations also reflected more localised evidence, which provided further information of community links and locally recognised boundaries. Furthermore, in some areas, we considered that the proposals did not

provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria, so we identified alternative boundaries.

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

36 Our draft recommendations were for 15 three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and one single-councillor ward. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

37 We received over 500 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from various political groups, several borough councillors and local organisations and 503 local residents. The majority of submissions focused on specific areas. In particular, we received a large number of objections to our draft recommendations from the Sundridge and Knoll communities. Therefore, considering the evidence received, we decided to undertake another round of consultation on our recommendations for the Orpington area.

38 We also recommended several further modifications elsewhere in the borough to strengthen boundaries in response to the evidence received. We have made changes to our warding proposals in the areas of Beckenham, Chislehurst, Cray Valley, Plaistow, Sundridge and Mottingham to better reflect community identities. For the remainder of the borough, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Further draft recommendations

39 In response to this consultation, we received 55 representations which were predominantly supportive of the further draft proposals. The majority of submissions commented on our proposals for the Knoll and Grosvenor Road areas. Nevertheless, we also received objections to our proposed two-councillor Orpington ward, resulting in a revised pattern of wards for the area being received from the current Orpington ward councillors.

40 Based on the evidence received during this consultation, we have decided to confirm the further draft recommendations for the Orpington area as final, bar two minor amendments.

Final recommendations

41 Our final recommendations are for 15 three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and one single-councillor ward. 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.

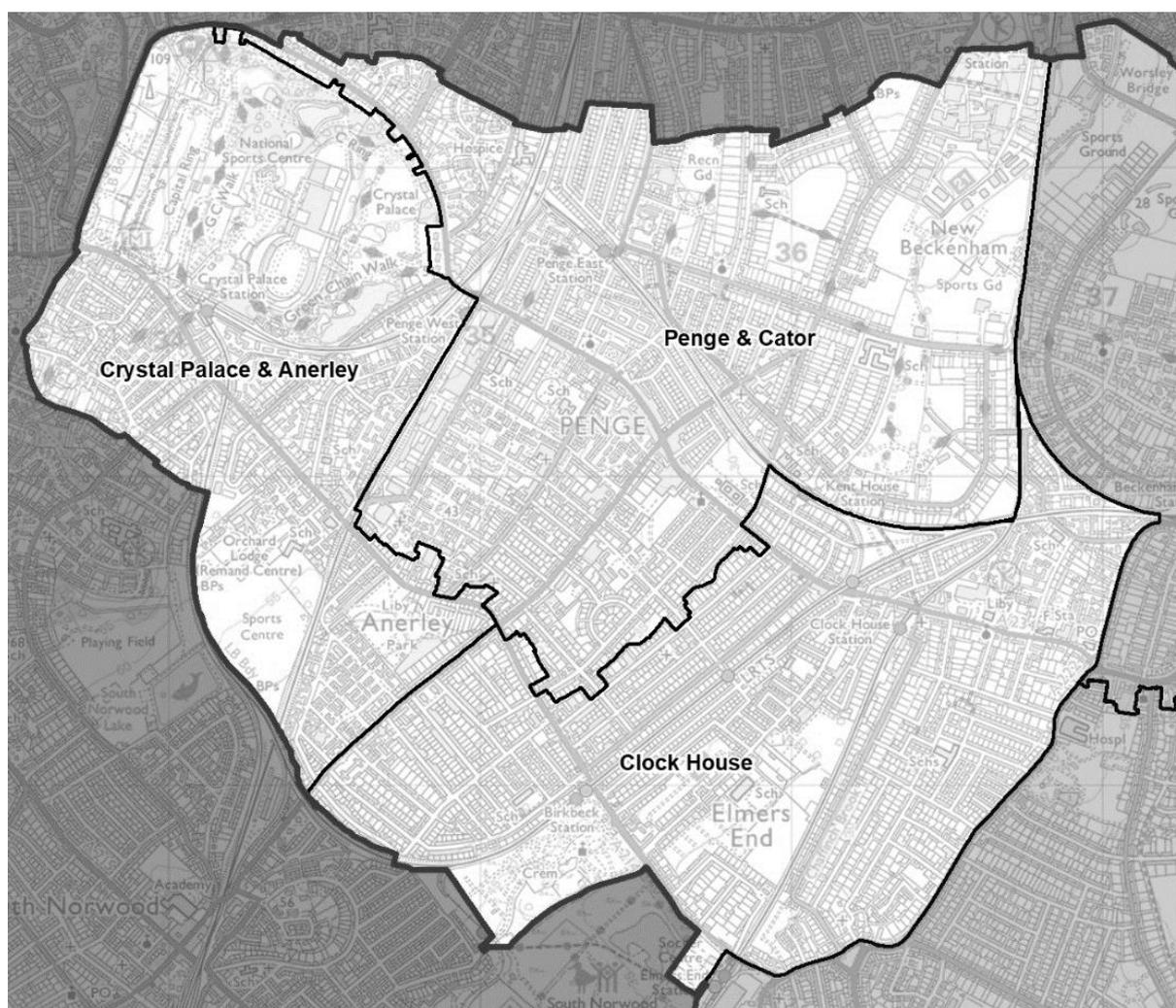
42 The tables and maps on pages 10–30 detail our final recommendations for each area of Bromley. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

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

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Penge



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Clock House	3	-3%
Crystal Palace & Anerley	2	-2%
Penge & Cator	3	3%

Clock House

44 Several submissions expressed concern at our proposal to transfer the area containing Beckenham Library, the Leisure Centre and Venue 28 into our proposed Beckenham Town & Copers Cope ward. Bromley Labour, Bromley Liberal Democrats, West Beckenham Residents' Association, Copers Cope Area Residents' Association, three borough councillors and one local resident provided strong evidence that this area is a focal point of the Clock House community, with Rectory Road providing a strong boundary in the east. We were persuaded by the evidence received that our draft recommendations would have divided the Clock House community and have therefore placed this area in our Clock House ward.

45 We also received conflicting evidence in relation to our decision to include the area containing the Elmers End Free Church and the Elmers End Cafe within our Clock House & Elmers End ward. While the West Beckenham Residents' Association and the Lewisham West & Penge Conservative Association supported this decision, we received opposition from Bromley Labour, three borough councillors and four local residents. These opposing submissions strongly argued that our draft recommendations did not reflect community identity, where Croydon Road acts as a significant barrier between communities in the area. The respondents suggested that this area has more in common with communities in our proposed Kelsey & Eden Park ward, where good connectivity for the current ward exists along Upper Elmers End Road. It was also stressed that Marian Vian Primary School should be in the same ward as Eden Park High School. We found this argument to be persuasive, so as part of our final recommendations we have transferred this area into our Kelsey & Eden Park ward. We consider that this warding arrangement will better reflect local communities and provide for effective and convenient local government.

46 The West Beckenham Residents' Association, Councillor Dunn and Councillor Allen welcomed our draft recommendations to bring the area between Kent House Station and Chaffinch Road into Clock House & Elmers End ward. We therefore confirm this change as final.

47 We also received submissions that proposed alternative names for this ward. The Lewisham West & Penge Conservative Association suggested that this ward be renamed 'West Beckenham & Elmers End', stating that the name Clock House is not something that the local community always identifies with. However, we decided not to adopt this proposal. We consider removing Clock House from the ward name would not be reflective of local communities, as we received good evidence that a strong Clock House community identity exists within this part of the borough. Alternatively, Councillor Dunn requested that the ward be renamed 'Clock House & Birkbeck'. However, we have not adopted this name change, due to the lack of supporting evidence. Given the various amendments made to this ward as part of our final recommendations, we consider 'Clock House' to be the most representative name for this ward.

48 One local resident suggested a small amendment that transferred a few properties from Clock House ward to Penge & Cator ward, based on postcode boundaries. We did not adopt this proposal as no further community evidence was supplied.

49 Another local resident suggested our Clock House ward should reflect historical ecclesiastical parish boundaries. We were not persuaded by this argument, as we consider ward boundaries should be instead guided by current community identities and interests.

50 We therefore recommend a Clock House ward that is projected to have an electoral variance of -3% by 2025.

Crystal Palace & Anerley

51 We received several submissions in relation to our Crystal Palace & Anerley ward. Councillor Harris, Councillor Tickner, Lewisham West & Penge Conservative Association and three local residents stated that Crystal Palace & Anerley ward should be extended towards the Wimbledon to Beckenham Junction Tramlink line, arguing that this area forms part of the Anerley community. However, we have not adopted this proposal as we consider that not enough tangible community evidence was provided to justify a -12% electoral variance, if the ward was instead represented by three councillors, rather than two.

52 The Bromley Liberal Democrats also proposed some minor amendments, firstly suggesting that Minden Road and Anerley Station Road be included in Crystal Palace & Anerley ward, stating that electors here are more likely to use the facilities in Anerley than Penge. Secondly, it was suggested that properties on the A213 (Croydon Road) be transferred into Clock House ward to keep the whole road within one ward. We decided not to adopt these proposals, as we considered that the community evidence not strong enough to do so.

53 Lewisham West & Penge Conservative Association also requested that the name of this ward be amended to 'Anerley & Crystal Palace Park'. It noted that the wider Crystal Palace community is divided between multiple boroughs, with Crystal Palace village sitting predominantly in the London Borough of Croydon. It argued that the inclusion of the word 'Park' would help distinguish between the two areas. We have decided not to adopt this name change, as we consider that local electors in this area do not overtly identify with just the park, but with the whole of the area and are likely to regard themselves as living in Crystal Palace.

54 Given we have decided not to adopt any of these alternative proposals for this ward, we therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Crystal Palace & Anerley ward as final.

Penge & Cator

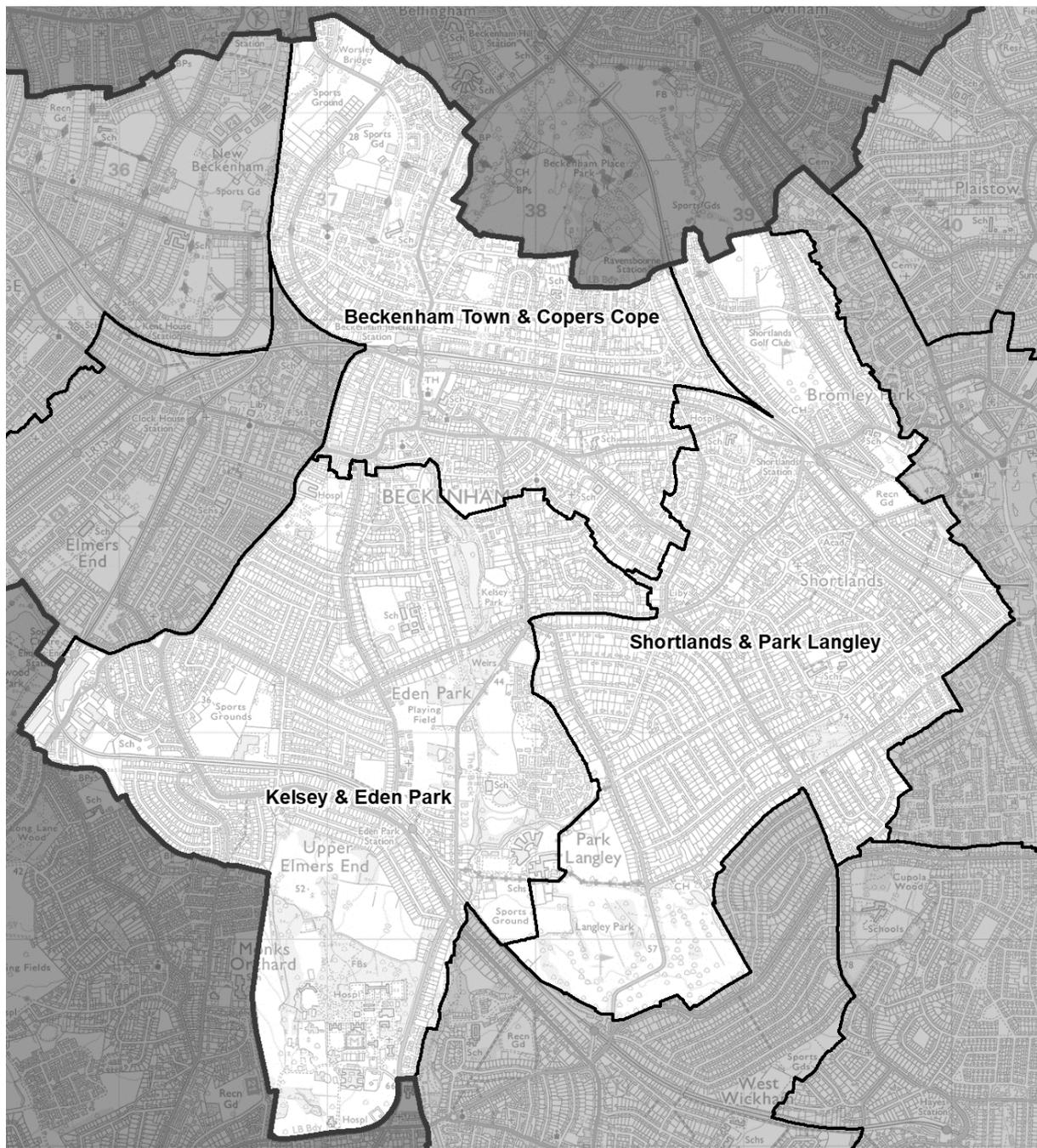
55 While Bromley Labour supported our recommendations to transfer the Lawrie Park triangle into Penge & Cator ward, Bromley Liberal Democrats opposed this decision, stating that electors here use Crystal Palace Park and Crystal Palace station for daily commuting and leisure activities. However, we were not persuaded by the evidence received. As noted in our draft recommendations report, we consider that placing the Lawrie Park triangle in our Penge & Cator ward will better reflect community identities given its road access into Penge High Street, Penge East railway station and other local amenities in Penge.

56 Lewisham West & Penge Conservative Association supported our draft Penge & Cator ward. However, they suggested that the Wimbledon to Beckenham Junction Tramlink line would represent a stronger boundary than Ravenscroft Road. While we acknowledge that this boundary may be more identifiable to local electors, we note that moving this boundary would result in the transfer of nearly 2,000 electors into Penge & Cator ward, which would not be possible without significant alteration of other ward boundaries in the area in order to provide for good electoral equality. We therefore did not adopt this proposal as part of our final recommendations for Penge & Cator ward.

57 Lewisham West & Penge Conservative Association also suggested that the ward be renamed 'Penge & Cator Park', stating that this name would be more suitable as Cator Park is what electors within the ward identify with. We decided not to adopt this name change as we concluded that the current ward name already effectively represents the communities that reside within this ward.

58 Therefore, after carefully considering the submissions we received for this area, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Penge & Cator ward as final.

Beckenham and Shortlands



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Beckenham Town & Copers Cope	3	-6%
Kelsey & Eden Park	3	-7%
Shortlands & Park Langley	3	-3%

Beckenham Town & Copers Cope

59 We received four submissions directly relating to our draft recommendations for Beckenham Town & Copers Cope ward. Bromley Labour, Bromley Liberal

Democrats, Councillor Dunn and Copers Cope Area Residents' Association broadly supported the ward, but proposed that the boundary that followed Manor Road be moved southwards so that properties on Bevington Road, Burnhill Road, Downs Road, Kelsey Park Road, Manor Grove and Stanmore Terrace be included in Beckenham Town & Copers Cope ward. It was argued that these streets form part of the town centre community, where electors generally look towards Beckenham rather than the Kelsey Park and Eden Park areas for community facilities.

60 We were persuaded by the evidence received and have broadly adopted the proposal made by the Bromley Liberal Democrats, who proposed that the ward boundary follow Manor Way and Court Downs Road, while also including the entirety of Limes Road and Crescent Road within Beckenham Town & Copers Cope ward. We consider that this proposal provides for a clear and identifiable ward boundary. Under the final recommendations, our proposed Beckenham Town & Copers Cope ward will have a variance of -6% by 2025.

Kelsey & Eden Park

61 One local resident opposed the decision to place the Langley Waterside development within this ward, suggesting that it does not share the same community interests as the rest of the ward, with South Eden Park Road forming a significant boundary. However, placing the development into Shortlands & Park Langley ward results in an electoral variance of -13% for Kelsey & Eden Park ward. We do not consider the evidence received is sufficient to justify this variance, so we have not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

62 As stated in paragraphs 45 and 59, we have amended the western and northern boundaries of this ward to better reflect community identities and to provide for more identifiable boundaries. Apart from these amendments, we are confirming our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Shortlands & Park Langley

63 We received broad support for our proposed Shortlands ward from the Bromley Liberal Democrats, Shortlands Ward Conservatives, Councillor Cooke, and two local residents. The respondents all agreed with our proposal to create a larger three-councillor Shortlands ward that encompassed the whole of the Shortlands community. Nonetheless, these submissions suggested some further amendments to ensure that the ward better reflected our statutory criteria.

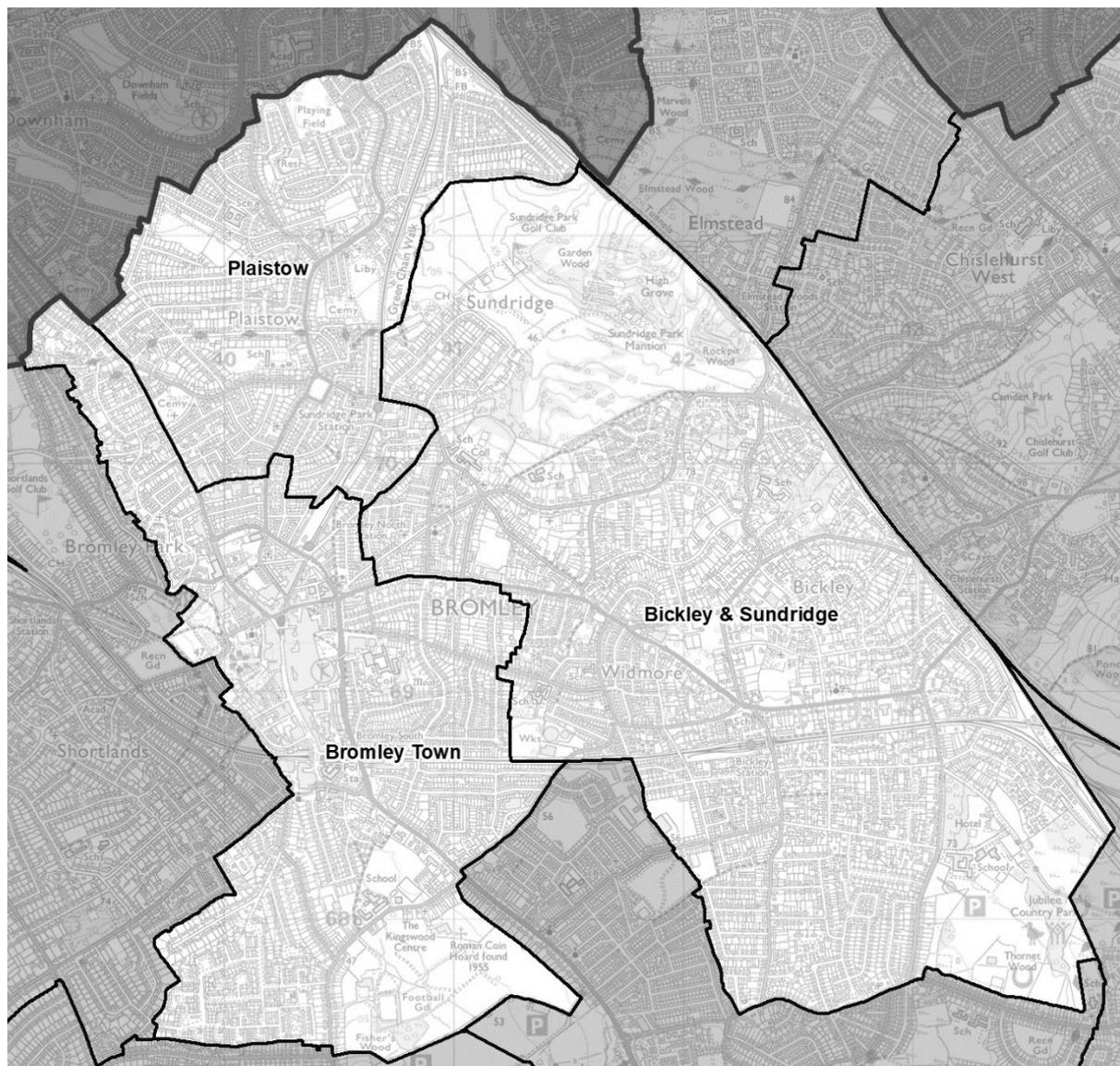
64 We are adopting the proposal that the ward should be renamed 'Shortlands & Park Langley'. We were persuaded by the evidence provided that the Park Langley community is distinct from Shortlands and including this community in the ward name will better reflect the communities that comprise our proposed ward.

65 We have also decided to adopt a proposal to include St Dunstan's Lane, part of Hawksbrook Lane and Langley Park Golf Club within our Shortlands & Park Langley ward. We were persuaded by the argument made that this would help aid effective and convenient local government, with this alteration providing for a clear and identifiable boundary for local electors.

66 However, we decided not to adopt the proposal to include the St Mark's Square development within this ward. We consider that not enough community evidence had been received to adopt this modification. We were similarly not persuaded to adopt this suggestion made by the Park Langley Residents' Association to place the Shortlands Village area into our Bromley Town ward. We maintain the view that this area, east of the railway line, which contains Shortlands Golf Club, Shortlands Tavern and the Shortlands village high street, should be contained within our Shortlands & Park Langley ward.

67 Apart from these amendments, we are confirming our draft recommendations for this ward as final. Our Shortlands & Park Langley ward will have an electoral variance of -3% by 2025.

Bromley Town, Bickley & Sundridge and Plaistow



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Bickley & Sundridge	3	7%
Bromley Town	3	7%
Plaistow	2	6%

Bickley & Sundridge and Plaistow

68 We received approximately 200 submissions that objected to our proposed Bickley and Plaistow & Sundridge wards. There was a strong preference amongst respondents who reside within the area covered by the Sundridge Residents' Association to remain part of Bickley ward, rather than being transferred to our proposed Plaistow & Sundridge ward. Many of these respondents argued that the

Sundridge community shares much more in common with the Bickley community than it does with Plaistow, with the Sundridge Park Golf Club acting as a barrier between communities. We also received representations that provided good evidence that the Plaistow community is distinct from the Sundridge community. Therefore, despite support for our recommendations from Bromley Liberal Democrats, Councillor Allatt, Councillor Terry and some local residents, we examined an alternative proposal made by Bromley Labour and a local resident to see if we could establish a warding pattern that would take account of these objections.

69 This warding arrangement proposed a two-councillor ward comprising mainly the Plaistow community, using Burnt Ash Lane as the central focus of the ward. This proposed ward included several streets close to Sundridge Park station in order to achieve good electoral equality. Both of these submissions proposed a three-councillor ward that placed the Sundridge community back into a ward with the Bickley community.

70 We consider that this proposal addresses the objections to our draft recommendations and will effectively reflect local communities. We have therefore adopted these wards as part of our final recommendations. We decided not to adopt a suggestion made by a local resident to place the boundary along Sundridge Avenue, as we consider this boundary would split the Sundridge community between wards.

71 We have opted to name these wards 'Bickley & Sundridge' and 'Plaistow' as proposed by the local resident. We consider that these ward names reflect the communities within each ward and will be recognisable to local electors. Our proposed Bickley & Sundridge and Plaistow wards will have good electoral equality, with variances of 7% and 6% respectively by 2025.

Bromley Town

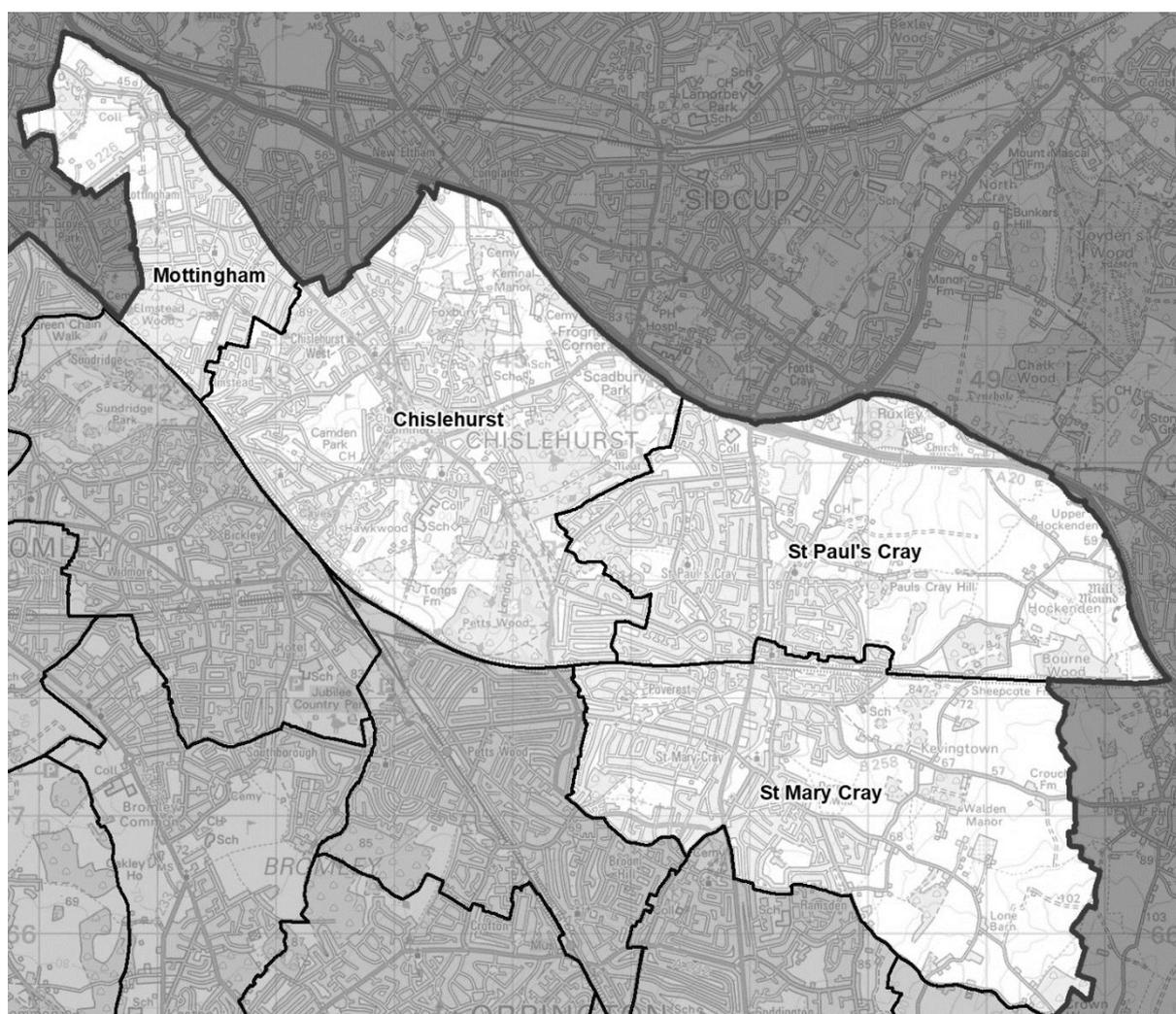
72 We received four submissions that referred to our proposed Bromley Town ward. One of these came from Beadon Road Residents' Association, which supported our decision to keep Beadon Road within a Bromley Town ward. Another supportive submission was received from Councillor Terry, who agreed with our decision to incorporate Hayesford Park Estate in Bromley Town ward, in addition to maintaining the town centre within a single ward.

73 Bromley Liberal Democrats proposed a significantly different warding arrangement for this area. Instead of a single three-councillor ward for the town, it was argued that the town centre could be better represented by a two-councillor Bromley North ward and a two-councillor Bromley South ward. This proposal would subsequently result in an extra councillor for the borough.

74 Given that this proposal is substantially different to our draft recommendations for Bromley Town ward, we very carefully considered the evidence provided within this submission. However, we were not persuaded that enough compelling evidence had been received for us to move away from our draft recommendations. We remain of the view that our proposed Bromley Town ward provides the best balance of our statutory criteria. We maintain the view that keeping the town together as one ward will effectively represent the community identities and interests of the town area. We also considered that insufficient evidence had been provided to justify an increase in the total number of councillors for the borough.

75 We have also adopted a minor change suggested by the Council's Electoral Registration Officer, who proposed a small number of electors residing on D'Arcy Place and Whitehaven Close be included in Bromley Town ward. We have adopted this proposal as we concur that electors here would be more effectively represented in a Bromley Town ward.

Chislehurst, Mottingham and the Cray Valley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Chislehurst	3	-8%
Mottingham	2	-8%
St Mary Cray	3	2%
St Paul's Cray	3	-4%

Chislehurst and Mottingham

76 We received 16 submissions that directly related to our proposed wards in the Chislehurst and Mottingham areas. These objected to our proposal to extend the existing Mottingham & Chislehurst North ward towards Red Hill Primary School in order to achieve good electoral equality. These submissions all provided good evidence that this proposed ward boundary would be detrimental to community identity.

77 Therefore, in order to better reflect community identities and interests, we examined two broadly similar alternative proposals for this area from Councillor

Rowlands and Councillor Terry. Councillor Rowlands suggested that we revert to the existing ward boundary along Oakdene Avenue, but then incorporate the entirety of Elmstead Lane, including Wood Drive (and its branch roads), within a Mottingham ward. Alternatively, Councillor Terry suggested that we should transfer part of Elmstead Lane and Walden Road, and the entirety of Downs Avenue, Melanda Close, Fosters Close and Hallam Close, into a Mottingham ward.

78 We were persuaded by the evidence received from Councillor Rowlands in particular, that placing the boundary along Elmstead Lane would better reflect the community identities of both the Chislehurst and Mottingham areas. However, we have based our final recommendations on elements of both councillors' proposals. In particular, we have decided to include Elmstead Lane, Wood Drive (and its branch roads), Downs Avenue, Melanda Close, Fosters Close and Hallam Close in our Mottingham ward. We could not adopt Councillor Rowlands' proposal to also include electors on Walden Road, Elmlee Close, Sylvester Avenue and South Hill in Mottingham ward as doing so would result in an electoral variance of -12% for Chislehurst ward by 2025.

79 As a result of this boundary change, we have changed the name of our proposed ward from Mottingham & Chislehurst North to Mottingham. We concluded that this ward name will be more representative of the community that resides within the ward.

St Mary Cray and St Paul's Cray

80 We received 20 submissions relating to these wards. A joint submission from the Broomwood Junction Neighbourhood Watch and the Normanhurst, Kelsey, Pleasance Roads & St Mary's Close Neighbourhood Watch, in addition to submissions from Councillor Terry and a local resident, opposed our recommendations for St Mary Cray and St Paul's Cray wards. They argued that the existing wards provided a better reflection of the Cray Valley community.

81 After carefully considering these submissions, we decided not to significantly alter our boundaries in the Cray Valley. We were not persuaded that enough compelling evidence had been received for us to move away from our draft recommendations. We were also not persuaded to change our warding proposals here given that Bromley Labour, Bromley Liberal Democrats, Councillor Bear, Star Lane Residents' Association and several local residents all broadly supported our draft recommendations for these wards.

82 Nonetheless, these submissions requested that the boundary between the two wards be altered so that St Mary Cray parish church, cemetery and village hall be included within a St Mary Cray ward. We agreed that these form a significant part of the St Mary Cray community and we have decided to adopt Councillor Bear's

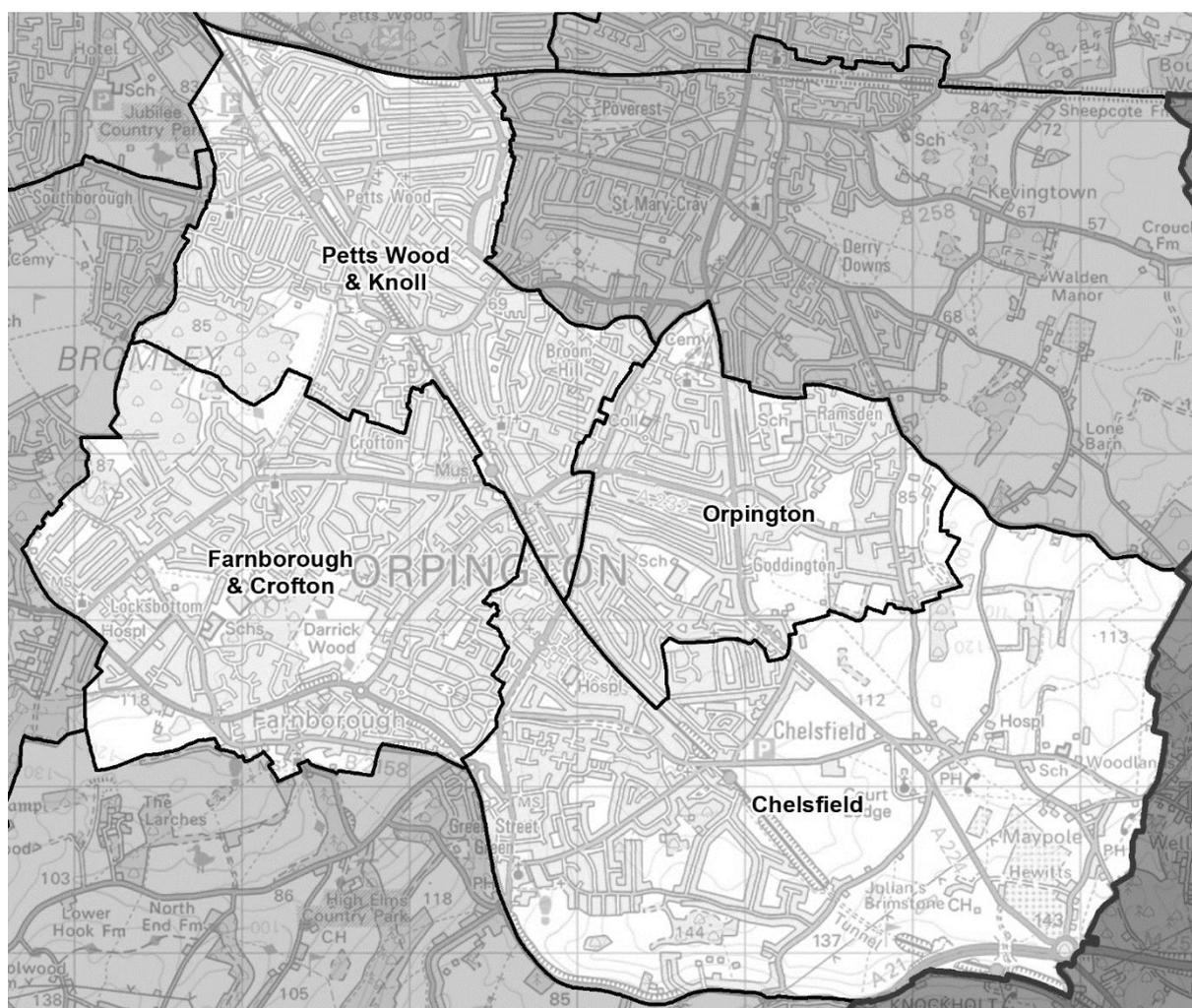
proposed boundary, thereby including electors on Station Road, High Street and Star Lane in our proposed St Mary Cray ward.

83 Bromley Liberal Democrats proposed that the boundary between our proposed Chislehurst and St Paul Cray wards be amended so that Clarendon Way (and its associated branch roads), Kevington Drive, Ravensbury Road and Leasons Hill are all included within Chislehurst ward. However, we did not adopt this proposal as we considered the community evidence provided was not strong enough to warrant the transfer of approximately 800 electors.

84 Consequently, apart from our ward boundary amendment to St Mary Cray ward, we confirm our St Mary Cray and St Paul's Cray wards as final. They will have an electoral variance of 2% and -4% respectively by 2025.

85 Although this area was not subject to further consultation, Councillor Ellis submitted a representation that argued that following Sevenoaks Way as a boundary provided a better reflection of the Cray Valley community. We noted this comment, but we maintain the view that the draft recommendations for this area provide the best reflection of our statutory criteria.

Chelsfield, Farnborough, Crofton, Orpington and Petts Wood



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Chelsfield	2	5%
Farnborough & Crofton	3	7%
Orpington	2	10%
Petts Wood & Knoll	3	3%

Orpington and Petts Wood & Knoll

86 As set out in the further draft recommendations, we gave careful consideration to the evidence received during the consultation on our original draft recommendations. On the balance of the evidence we received, we proposed a three-councillor Petts Wood & Knoll ward and a two-councillor Orpington ward.

87 We received 21 submissions that supported our decision to transfer the Knoll area into a Petts Wood & Knoll ward. Several of these submissions, including representations from current Petts Wood & Knoll ward councillors and the Knoll

Residents' Association, stated that the proposed ward would better reflect the community identity of the Knoll area, while also maintaining good electoral equality.

88 We also received several submissions that opposed our proposed two-councillor Orpington ward. These respondents argued that the ward requires an additional councillor given the presence of Orpington town centre within the ward, suggesting this creates a larger workload. This would result in the borough being represented by 59 councillors. In addition, the current Orpington ward councillors proposed various boundary amendments that would form part of an expanded three-councillor Orpington ward. As discussed in paragraph 25, we decided to examine these proposals on the agreed electorate forecast.

89 The current Orpington ward councillors suggested that the area bounded by the railway line, Station Road and Sevenoaks Road, in addition to Elm Grove, Hill View Road, Oakhill Road and The Maltings, be included in a three-councillor Orpington ward, stating that the area shares closer links to the communities of Goddington and Charterhouse. This view was shared by two local residents, who both argued that the area bounded by the railway line, Station Road and Sevenoaks Road should remain part of Orpington ward.

90 We have very carefully considered the submissions received in relation to this area. However, we have decided to confirm as final our proposed boundary between our Petts Wood & Knoll and Orpington wards. We consider that insufficient evidence has been received to justify this change, particularly on the grounds of community identities and interests. We are of the view, based on the evidence received throughout the three rounds of consultation, that our proposals here will offer the best balance of the statutory criteria. In particular, they reflect the weight of evidence we have received throughout the review relating to community links and identification. Moreover, we are not persuaded that there is sufficient evidence to modify our proposed council size of 58 members for Bromley.

91 We nonetheless examined placing the area bounded by the railway line, Station Road and Sevenoaks Road in a two-councillor Orpington ward, but this resulted in an electoral variance of 19% for Orpington ward. We consider that such a variance would not provide for sufficient electoral equality. Consequently, we have not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

92 We received both support and objections to our further draft proposals in relation to Grosvenor Road, which we had placed in Petts Wood & Knoll ward. Sixteen submissions from local residents supported this decision, with all submissions stating a preference for the road to be warded with the Petts Wood community. However, the Orpington Conservative Association, Councillor Ellis, Councillor Terry and Councillor Stevens opposed this decision, arguing that Chislehurst Road acts a strong, identifiable boundary between the Petts Wood and

Poverest communities. After considering the evidence received, we have decided not to amend our proposed boundary here. We consider that Grosvenor Road and the eastern side of Chislehurst Road form a strong and identifiable ward boundary that reflects community identities in this area.

93 Councillor Fawthrop proposed that the boundary which follows Sevenoaks Road should also include the electors on the eastern side of the road, suggesting it could be better for administrative purposes. We decided not to adopt this change as we feel the boundary proposed as part of our further draft recommendations, which was also supported by Councillor Owen, is clearer and more identifiable.

94 Councillor Fawthrop, with the support of Councillor Michael, also suggested a minor amendment to the boundary between Petts Wood & Knoll and Bromley Common & Holwood wards, in order to place the entirety of Chesham Avenue within Petts Wood & Knoll ward. We agree that this change will facilitate effective and convenient local government and have adopted this modification as part of our final recommendations.

95 We have also adopted a minor change proposed by Councillor Terry to modify the boundary between Petts Wood & Knoll and Chislehurst wards near Chislehurst Junction, as we were persuaded this would help promote effective and convenient local government. This amendment will affect no electors.

96 Therefore, except for the two minor ward boundary amendments outlined above, we confirm our Orpington and Petts Wood & Knoll wards as final. They will have electoral variances of 10% and 3% respectively by 2025.

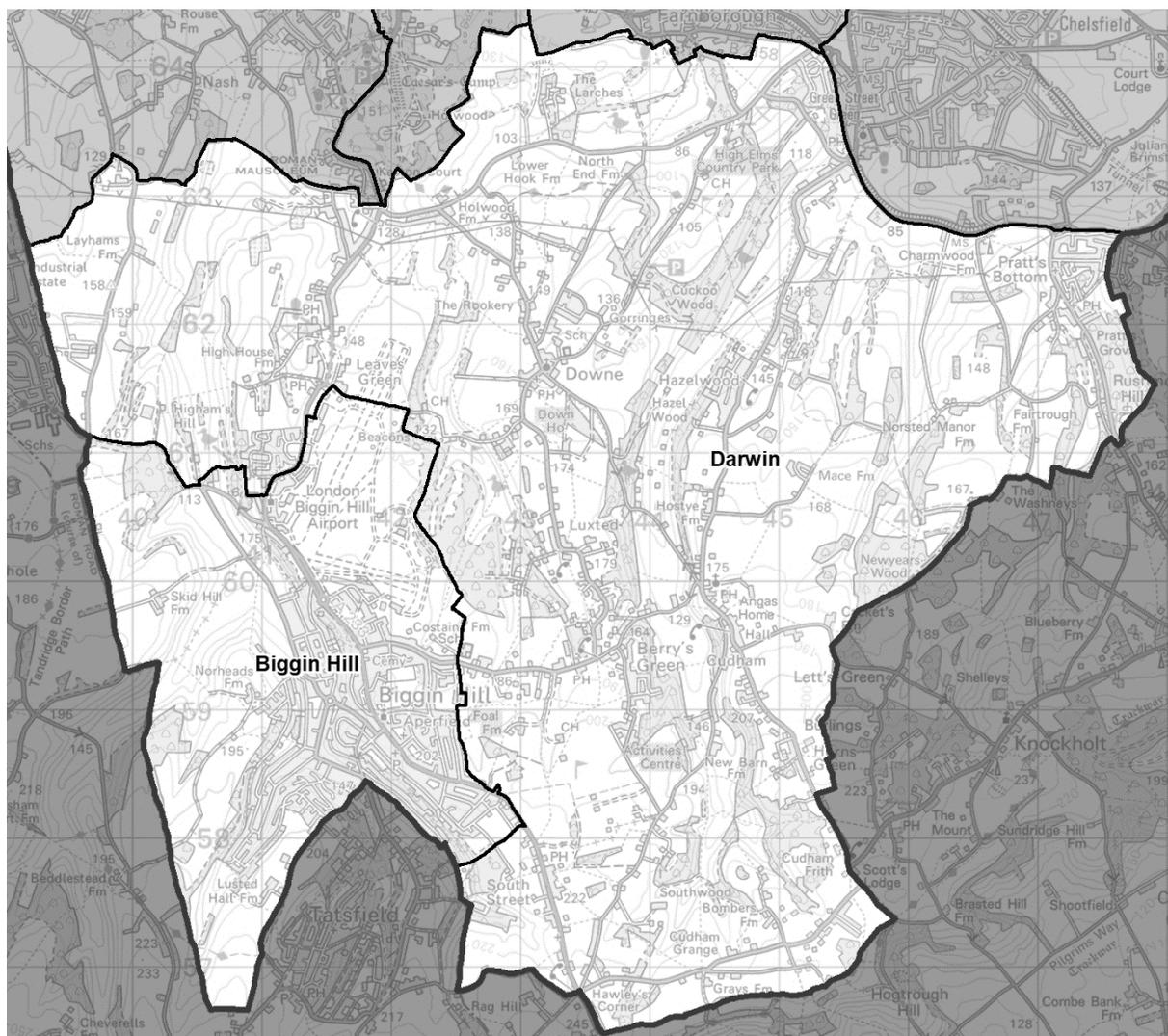
Chelsfield and Farnborough & Crofton

97 We received two submissions during the further recommendations consultation that related to the boundary between our proposed Chelsfield and Orpington wards. The Orpington ward councillors opposed our decision to include electors on Abingdon Way and its attached roads (Malvern Road, Stowe Road and Winchester Road) in Chelsfield ward, arguing they more closely identify with the Charterhouse community in Orpington ward. A local resident opposed the decision to transfer Malvern Road to Chelsfield ward.

98 The Orpington ward councillors proposed that we transfer the above-mentioned roads into a three-councillor ward. However, given our decision not to adopt a three-councillor Orpington ward, we instead examined how this modification would work within a two-councillor Orpington ward. We decided not to adopt this proposal as it would increase the electoral variance of Orpington ward to 24%. We consider this too high and it would not provide for good electoral equality. As a consequence of this, we have decided to confirm our further draft recommendations for Chelsfield ward as final.

99 We received one submission in relation to Farnborough & Crofton ward during the consultation on our further draft recommendations. The Orpington ward councillors suggested we transfer a substantial number of electors, who reside on the eastern side of Crofton Lane and St Thomas Drive and its connected roads, from Farnborough & Crofton ward into Petts Wood & Knoll ward. While this change would continue to ensure good electoral equality, we decided not to adopt this proposal as we considered the community evidence provided was not strong enough to warrant such substantial changes to the further draft recommendations. We have therefore decided to confirm our further draft Farnborough & Crofton ward as final.

Biggin Hill and Darwin



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Biggin Hill	2	1%
Darwin	1	-1%

Biggin Hill and Darwin

101 Seven submissions were received in relation to our wards in the south of the borough. Four of these submissions supported our decision to expand the existing Biggin Hill ward. Our proposed changes resulted in the transfer to Biggin Hill ward of several hundred electors on Aperfield Road, Jail Lane and a larger area in the southern part of Biggin Hill from the existing Darwin ward. However, two respondents opposed our decision to transfer the southern part of Biggin Hill from the existing Darwin ward.

102 We were not persuaded to amend our draft recommendations here. We agree with the view that electors on Aperfield Road, Jail Lane and the southern part of

Biggin Hill are part of the Biggin Hill community and should thus be placed in Biggin Hill ward.

103 Bromley Liberal Democrats opposed our proposed two-councillor Biggin Hill and single-councillor Darwin wards. They proposed instead a three-councillor Biggin Hill, Cudham & Downe ward on the basis that this would promote effective and convenient local government and better reflect community identities.

104 While we have carefully considered this proposal, we remain of the view that the more densely populated Biggin Hill area is distinct from the rural villages that surround it and that combining the Biggin Hill community in a ward with these rural villages would not reflect community identities. Therefore, we were not persuaded by the Bromley Liberal Democrats' proposal to create a three-councillor ward here.

105 We have therefore concluded that our draft recommendations provide the best balance of our statutory criteria and have decided to confirm them as final.

Bromley Common & Holwood, Hayes and West Wickham



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Bromley Common & Holwood	3	6%
Hayes & Coney Hall	3	-5%
West Wickham	3	-7%

Bromley Common & Holwood

106 We received one submission from Bromley Liberal Democrats in relation to our Bromley Common & Holwood ward. Bromley Liberal Democrats broadly supported this ward, but argued that the area bounded by Homesdale Road, Bromley Common, Southlands Road and Baths Road should be transferred to their proposed Bromley South ward, suggesting that electors here look towards the Bromley town centre for employment, travel and amenities.

107 However, given our decision to not adopt Bromley Liberal Democrats' proposed Bromley South ward, we would have been unable to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations without heavily modifying our recommended Bromley Town ward to achieve good electoral equality. We are not persuaded we have received evidence to justify this. Furthermore, as detailed in our draft recommendations report, we maintain the view that Homesdale Road, as a by-pass around the town centre, is a stronger boundary than Southlands Road. We have thus decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Hayes & Coney Hall

108 We received two submissions that related directly to Hayes & Coney Hall ward, both agreeing with our draft recommendations. Bromley Liberal Democrats supported the ward boundaries proposed, while Keston Village Residents' Association were supportive of our decision to incorporate Keston village into an expanded Hayes & Coney Hall ward.

109 Both submissions argued that Keston village should be incorporated within the ward name. Bromley Liberal Democrats suggested 'Hayes & Keston', while Keston Village Residents' Association proposed 'Hayes, Coney Hall & Keston Village'. However, we are content that our ward name best reflects the communities that reside within it. For this reason, we are not persuaded to rename our proposed ward. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Hayes & Coney Hall ward as final.

West Wickham

110 We received a submission from Bromley Liberal Democrats who supported our draft recommendations for this ward. We have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for West Wickham ward as final.

Conclusions

111 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Bromley, referencing the 2019 and 2025 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	
	2019	2025
Number of councillors	58	58
Number of electoral wards	242,615	249,189
Average number of electors per councillor	4,183	4,296
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Bromley Council should be made up of 58 councillors serving 22 wards, representing 15 three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and one single-councillor ward. 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 Bromley Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Bromley Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

112 We have now completed our review of Bromley 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 2022.

Equalities

113 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 Bromley Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Beckenham Town & Copers Cope	3	11,779	3,926	-6%	12,064	4,021	-6%
2	Bickley & Sundridge	3	13,276	4,425	6%	13,791	4,597	7%
3	Biggin Hill	2	8,535	4,268	2%	8,721	4,361	1%
4	Bromley Common & Holwood	3	13,799	4,600	10%	13,691	4,564	6%
5	Bromley Town	3	10,776	3,592	-14%	13,819	4,606	7%
6	Chelsfield	2	8,667	4,334	4%	8,993	4,497	5%
7	Chislehurst	3	11,566	3,855	-8%	11,822	3,941	-8%
8	Clock House	3	12,489	4,163	0%	12,553	4,184	-3%
9	Crystal Palace & Anerley	2	7,954	3,977	-5%	8,381	4,191	-2%
10	Darwin	1	4,165	4,165	0%	4,259	4,259	-1%
11	Farnborough & Crofton	3	13,533	4,511	8%	13,791	4,597	7%
12	Hayes & Coney Hall	3	12,176	4,059	-3%	12,226	4,075	-5%

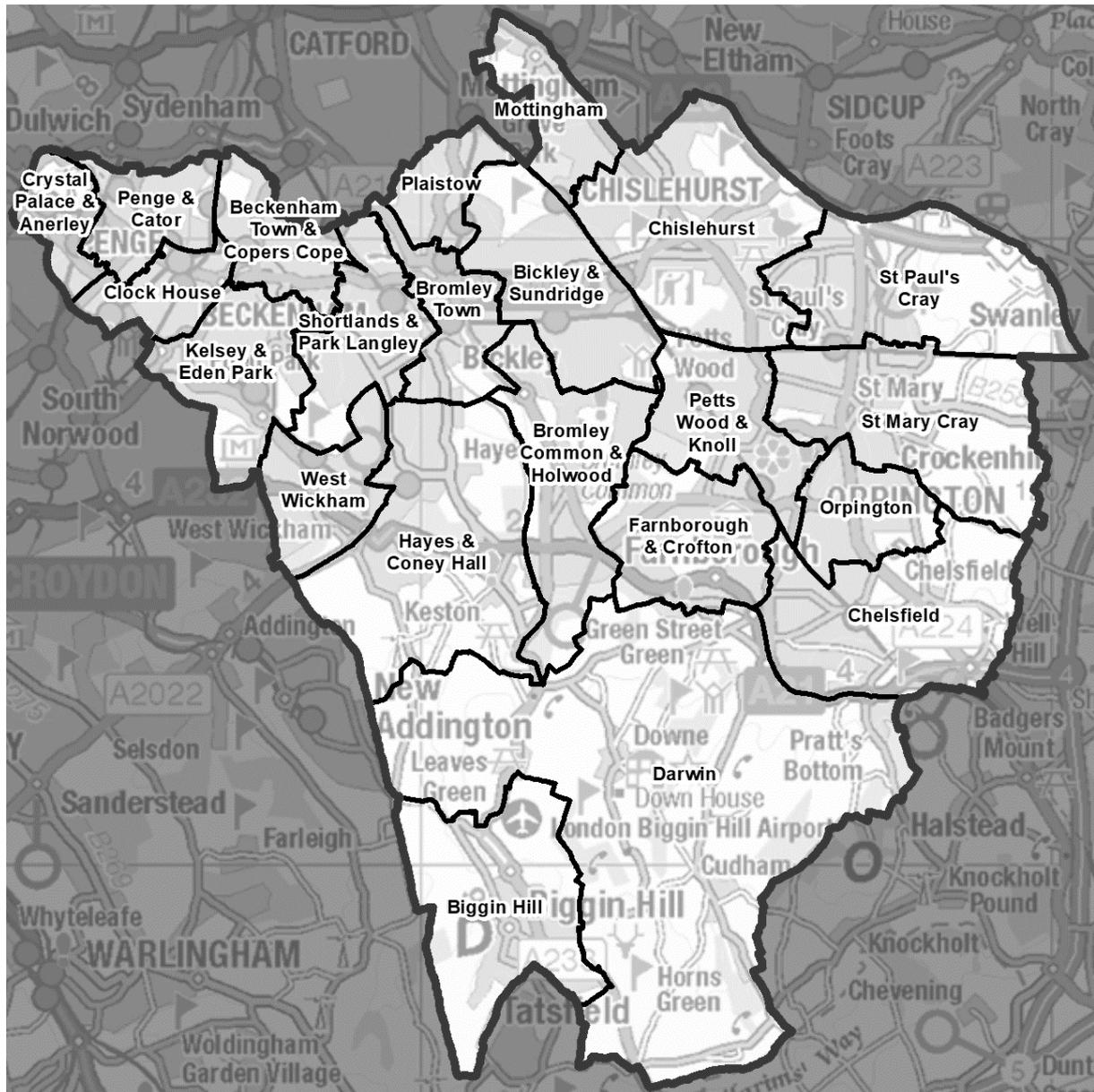
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Kelsey & Eden Park	3	11,824	3,941	-6%	11,974	3,991	-7%
14 Mottingham	2	7,906	3,953	-5%	7,878	3,939	-8%
15 Orpington	2	9,218	4,609	10%	9,485	4,743	10%
16 Penge & Cator	3	13,301	4,434	6%	13,307	4,436	3%
17 Petts Wood & Knoll	3	13,022	4,341	4%	13,271	4,424	3%
18 Plaistow	2	9,436	4,718	13%	9,135	4,568	6%
19 Shortlands & Park Langley	3	12,527	4,176	0%	12,445	4,148	-3%
20 St Mary Cray	3	13,347	4,449	6%	13,208	4,403	2%
21 St Paul's Cray	3	11,568	3,856	-8%	12,328	4,109	-4%
22 West Wickham	3	11,751	3,917	-6%	12,047	4,016	-7%
Totals	58	242,615	–	–	249,189	–	–
Averages	–	–	4,183	–	–	4,296	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Bromley Council.

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

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/greater-london/bromley

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/greater-london/bromley

Draft recommendations: Submissions received

Political Groups

- Bromley Labour
- Bromley Liberal Democrats
- Lewisham West & Penge Conservative Association
- Orpington Conservative Association
- Petts Wood and Knoll Conservatives
- Shortlands Ward Conservatives

Councillors

- Councillor G. Allatt (Bromley Council)
- Councillor V. Allen (Bromley Council)
- Councillor Y. Bear (Bromley Council)
- Councillor K. Botting (Bromley Council)
- Councillor M. Cooke (Bromley Council)
- Councillor I. Dunn (Bromley Council)
- Councillor S. Fawthrop (Bromley Council)
- Councillor C. Harris (Bromley Council)
- Councillor C. Joel (Bromley Council)
- Councillor J. King (Bromley Council)
- Councillor K. Onslow (Bromley Council)
- Councillor T. Owen (Bromley Council)
- Councillor W. Rowlands (Bromley Council)
- Councillor K. Terry (Bromley Council)
- Councillor M. Tickner (Bromley Council)

Local Organisations

- Beadon Road Residents' Association
- Broomwood Junction Neighbourhood Watch, Normanhurst, Kelsey, Pleasance Roads and St. Mary's Close Neighbourhood Watch
- Copers Cope Area Residents' Association
- Crofton Place and Sparrows Drive Residents' Association

- Ingleby Way Residents' Association
- Keston Village Residents' Association
- Knoll Residents' Association
- Park Langley Residents' Association
- Penge Forum
- Star Lane Residents' Association x2
- Sundridge Residents' Association x2
- West Beckenham Residents' Association

Local Residents

- 503 local residents

Further draft recommendations: Submissions received

Political Groups

- Orpington Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor K. Botting, Councillor W. Huntington-Thresher, Councillor P. Tunnicliffe (Bromley Council)
- Councillor J. Ellis (Bromley Council)
- Councillor S. Fawthrop (Bromley Council) x2
- Councillor A. Michael (Bromley Council)
- Councillor K. Onslow (Bromley Council)
- Councillor T. Owen (Bromley Council)
- Councillor G. Stevens (Bromley Council)
- Councillor K. Terry (Bromley Council)

Local Organisations

- Knoll Residents' Association
- Sundridge Residents' Association
- Orpington 1st BID

Local Residents

- 42 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 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 (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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