

# Final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for Broxbourne Borough Council

Electoral review

October 2011

## **Translations and other formats**

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Tel: 020 7664 8534

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# Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. The broad purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors and the names, number and boundaries of wards or divisions – for a specific local authority. We are conducting an electoral review of Broxbourne Borough Council to provide improved levels of electoral equality across the authority.

This review was conducted as follows:

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Stage starts</b>	<b>Description</b>
Council Size	14 September 2010	Submission of proposals for council size to the LGBCE
One	30 November 2010	Submission of proposals of warding arrangements to the LGBCE
Two	22 February 2011	LGBCE's analysis and deliberation
Three	24 May 2011	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
Four	2 August 2011	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

## Draft recommendations

The Commission proposed a council size of 30 members and a pattern of ten three-member wards. The proposals were broadly based on Broxbourne Borough Council's and the Labour Group's proposals with some modifications. The draft recommendations would provide good levels of electoral equality.

## Submissions received

During Stage Three, the Commission received 167 submissions, including a submission from Broxbourne Borough Council. The majority of submissions related to the draft recommendations for the Goffs Oak and Hammond Street area. Some alternative proposals to the draft recommendations in the north and south-east of the borough were also put forward. All submissions can be viewed on our website: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Analysis and final recommendations

### Electorate figures

Broxbourne Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2016, a date five years on from the scheduled publication of our recommendations in 2011. These forecasts projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 4% over this period.

During Stage One, we noted a minor anomaly between the electorate forecast submitted by the Council and that used by the Labour Group. However, having

clarified this with both the Council and the Labour Group, we decided to adopt the figures used by the Labour Group as the basis for the draft recommendations. We also noted that the anomaly did not affect the overall electoral equality in either the Council's or the Labour Group's proposed warding patterns.

During Stage Three, we did not receive any comments regarding the electorate forecasts. We are therefore content to accept the electorate forecasts as the basis for our final recommendations

## General analysis

In addition to borough-wide comments, we received 160 submissions specifically opposed to our proposed Goffs Oak & Bury Green ward. Respondents argued that the proposed ward would comprise two disparate communities of Goffs Oak and Bury Green, adding that poor transport links exist between the constituent areas. Having toured this area, we agree with the comments received during Stage Three.

Consequently, we consider the Council's proposed warding pattern in this area to provide a better reflection of community identities and have broadly adopted them as part of our final recommendations. We have also made a minor modification in the south-east of the borough. Elsewhere in the borough we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Our final recommendations for Broxbourne are that the Council should have 30 members elected from 10 three-member wards. We consider our proposals will provide good electoral equality while providing an accurate reflection of community identities and interests. No ward would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% by 2016.

## What happens next?

We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Broxbourne Borough Council. The changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Parliament can either accept or reject our recommendations. If accepted, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the next elections for Broxbourne Borough Council, in 2012.

We are grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to the review through expressing their views and advice. The full report is available to download at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

# 1 Introduction

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Broxbourne Borough Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the authority.

2 We wrote to Broxbourne Borough Council as well as other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals first on the council size and then on warding arrangements for the Council.

3 The submissions received during Stage One of this review informed our *Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Broxbourne Borough Council*, which were published on 24 May 2011. We have now reconsidered the draft recommendations in light of the further evidence received and decided whether or not to make modifications to them.

## What is an electoral review?

4 The main aim of an electoral review is to try to ensure 'electoral equality', which means that all councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors. Our objective is to make recommendations that will improve electoral equality, while also trying to reflect communities in the area and provide for effective and convenient local government.

5 Our three main considerations – equalising the number of electors each councillor represents; reflecting community identity; and providing for effective and convenient local government – are set out in legislation<sup>1</sup> and our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why are we conducting a review in Broxbourne?

6 We decided to conduct this review because, based on the December 2009 electorate figures, 31% of wards in the borough have electoral variances of over 10% from the average. Most notably, the existing Wormley & Turnford ward has 23% more electors per councillor than the borough average.

## How will our recommendations affect you?

7 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.

## What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

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<sup>1</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

8 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Members of the Commission are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)  
Professor Colin Mellors (Deputy Chair)  
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL  
Sir Tony Redmond  
Dr Colin Sinclair CBE  
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill  
Director of Reviews: Archie Gall



## 2 Analysis and final recommendations

9 We have now finalised our recommendations for the electoral arrangements for Broxbourne Borough Council.

10 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for Broxbourne is to achieve a level of electoral fairness – that is, each elector’s vote being worth the same as another’s. In doing so we must have regard to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009<sup>2</sup> with the need to:

- secure effective and convenient local government
- provide for equality of representation
- reflect the identities and interests of local communities, in particular
  - the desirability of arriving at boundaries that are easily identifiable
  - the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties

11 Legislation also requires that our recommendations are not based solely on the existing number of electors in an area, but reflect estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the end of the review. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward.

12 The achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum. In all our reviews we therefore recommend strongly that, in formulating proposals for us to consider, local authorities and other interested parties should also try to keep variances to a minimum, making adjustments to reflect relevant factors such as community identity and interests. We aim to recommend a scheme which provides improved electoral fairness over a five-year period.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Broxbourne or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that our recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. Our proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

14 Under the 2009 Act, where a council elects by thirds or halves (as opposed to the whole council being elected every four years), there is a presumption that the authority should have a uniform pattern of three-member and two-member wards respectively. We will only move away from this presumption where we receive compelling evidence to do so and where it can be demonstrated that an alternative warding pattern will better reflect our statutory criteria. Consequently, our starting point for this review was that Broxbourne Borough should have a uniform pattern of three-member wards given its electoral cycle at this time.

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<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Submissions received

15 Prior to and during the initial stages of the review, members and officers of the Commission visited Broxbourne and met with members and officers of the Council. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance. Two representations were received during Stage One and 167 during Stage Three, all of which may be inspected at both our offices and those of the Broxbourne Borough Council. All representations received can also be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

16 We take the evidence received during consultation very seriously and the submissions received were carefully considered before we formulated our final recommendations. Officers from the Commission have also been assisted by officers at Broxbourne Borough Council who have provided relevant information throughout the review. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance.

## Electorate figures

17 As part of this review, Broxbourne Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2016, projecting an increase in the electorate of approximately 4% over the period from 2009 to 2016.

18 During Stage One, we noted a slight anomaly between the projected electorate totals used by the Council and the Labour Group. Consequently, we queried this anomaly with both the Council and the Labour Group.

19 The Labour Group provided a breakdown of the sites identified for assumed growth by 2016 and we invited the Council to provide further information to contest the Labour Group's breakdown. However, the Council did not provide any information to contest the Labour Group's estimate.

20 Given the detail and robustness of the forecast figures provided by the Labour Group, and the relatively small difference in the number of electors between the forecast figures used by the Council and the Labour Group, we decided to adopt the figures used by the Labour Group as the basis for our draft recommendations for Broxbourne. This anomaly did not affect the overall electoral equality of either the Council's or the Labour Group's proposed warding patterns.

21 During Stage Three, we did not receive further comments on the electorate figures. We are therefore content to accept the electorate forecasts as the basis for our final recommendations

## Council size

22 Broxbourne Borough Council currently has 38 councillors elected from 13 borough wards. During our initial consultation, we received 14 submissions on council size. With the exception of the Council, respondents proposed retaining the existing council size of 38, or an increase to 39 given the presumption of three-member wards as discussed in paragraph 14. The Council proposed a council size of 30, a reduction of eight members.

23 In support of a reduced council size, the Council cited reduced housing responsibilities given the transfer of its housing stock to a housing association and reduced highways responsibilities following the end of a Highways Agency agreement with Hertfordshire County Council. The Council also said it was consulting on a change in its political management structure from the committee system to leader and cabinet and argued that, if adopted, it would be 'consistent with reduced councillor numbers'. We note that the Council has indeed now moved to a leader and cabinet model.

24 We requested further information from the Council to explain how its reduced responsibilities could lead to a reduction in members as it was unclear how the Council arrived at a council size of 30. In response, it outlined the how it would operate under that council size by illustrating the allocation of members' commitments under both the committee system it operated at the time and that of a leader and cabinet.

25 The main proponents for a council size of 39 were the Labour Group and Councillor Richard Greenhill (Waltham Cross). Both respondents argued that contrary to the Council's submission, member workload had in fact increased in recent years and would increase further due to geographically larger wards and an increase in the number of committees on which each member would serve. However, both respondents provided limited evidence in support of this view. The Labour Group and Councillor Greenhill also expressed concerns that fewer members would reduce councillors' ability to provide effective scrutiny.

26 The Labour Group provided further information and argued that the Council had not considered how its proposed council size would provide for an effective opposition. However, the potential political composition of the Council is not a matter for us; that is a matter for the electorate.

27 On balance, we concluded that the areas of reduced responsibility cited by the Council pointed towards a reduction in council size and were therefore minded to adopt a council size of 30, as proposed by the Council. Accordingly, during Stage One we invited proposals for warding patterns based on a council size of 30.

28 During Stage One, the Labour Group and the Council submitted proposals based on a council size of 30. During Stage Three, we did not receive any comments in relation to council size.

29 Based on the evidence received during the review, we have decided to confirm a council size of 30 elected members for Broxbourne Borough Council as part of our final recommendations. We are of the view that a council size of 30 members would provide for effective and convenient local government in the context of the Council's internal political management structure and will effectively facilitate the representational role of councillors.

## Electoral fairness

30 Electoral fairness, in the sense of each elector in a local authority having a vote of equal weight when it comes to the election of councillors, is a fundamental democratic principle. It is expected that our recommendations will provide for electoral fairness, reflect communities in the area, and provide for effective and convenient local government.

31 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor. The borough average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the borough (69,538 in 2009 and 72,083 by December 2016) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council, 30 under our final recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our final recommendations is 2,318 in 2009 and 2,403 by 2016.

32 Under our final recommendations, there will be no wards in which the number of electors per councillor will vary by more than 9% from the average across the borough by 2016. Overall, we are satisfied that we have achieved very good levels of electoral fairness under our final recommendations for Broxbourne.

## General analysis

33 Our draft recommendations were based broadly on the proposals of the Council and the Labour Group, with some modifications. These modifications sought to better reflect apparent communities and the geography of the borough in using man-made and natural boundaries. A number of modifications were also made to improve access routes within wards. The Council's and the Labour Group's proposals were identical in several areas but differed significantly in the south-west of the borough and to a lesser degree in Hoddesdon town.

34 During Stage Three, we received 167 submissions. Borough-wide and general comments were received from the Council, the Broxbourne Parliamentary Conservative Association and a joint submission from Councillor Richard Clemerson (Cheshunt North) and Councillor Mrs Judith Clemerson (Cheshunt Central). Broadly speaking, both the Broxbourne Parliamentary Conservative Association and Councillors Richard and Judith Clemerson supported the Council's proposals. The Council's submission largely reinstated its Stage One proposal in the south-west of the borough with minor modifications proposed in the south-east of the borough.

35 The majority of submissions received during Stage Three opposed the proposed warding pattern in the Goffs Oak and Hammond Street area and, instead, endorsed the Council's proposals in the south-west of the borough.

36 Respondents were wholly opposed to our proposed Goffs Oak & Bury Green ward on the basis that it comprised the respective communities of Goffs Oak and Bury Green. Respondents argued these are two very different communities connected by poor transport links. A number of respondents added that Goffs Oak should be warded with Hammond Street to its north, as proposed by the Council during Stage One and again during Stage Three.

37 Having considered the evidence of community identity in support of an alternative warding pattern in this area, we have adopted the Council's proposals in

the south-west of the borough with minor modifications. Elsewhere in the borough, we have also made a minor modification in the Cheshunt area and a ward name change in Hoddesdon town.

38 Our final recommendations are for a pattern of 10 three-member wards. We consider our recommendations to provide good electoral equality while providing an accurate reflection of community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

39 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table C1 (on pages 26–7) and Map 1.

## Electoral arrangements

40 This section of the report details the submissions we have received, our consideration of them, and our final recommendations for each area of Broxbourne. The following areas of the authority are considered in turn:

- Hoddesdon Town and Broxbourne (pages 9–10)
- Goffs Oak and Hammond Street (pages 10–13)
- Cheshunt and Waltham Cross (pages 13–14)

41 Details of the final recommendations are set out in Table C1 on pages 26–7 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

### Hoddesdon Town and Broxbourne

42 Hoddesdon is the most northern settlement in the borough with Broxbourne to its immediate south. The respective settlements are bounded by the A10 to the west and the railway to the east, while the A1170 runs through the urban conurbation. With the exception of the northern section of Hoddesdon town, which is subject to some future development, the electorate in this area is forecast to remain reasonably static in the five-year period following the end of the review.

43 As discussed in paragraph 33, we developed draft proposals which were broadly based on the borough-wide schemes from the Council and the Labour Group. The proposed Hoddesdon North and Hoddesdon Town & Rye Park wards were based on the Council's Stage One proposals with minor modifications. In the remainder of this area, the Council and the Labour Group proposed identical warding patterns which we also adopted subject to a number of minor modifications.

44 During Stage Three, we received three submissions in relation to this area from two local residents and the Broxbourne Parliamentary Conservative Association.

45 One resident proposed an alternative warding pattern based on the existing warding arrangements. The resident proposed merging the existing Hoddesdon Town and Hoddesdon North wards, subject to a transfer of electors to Rye Park ward to provide electoral equality. Alternatively, the resident proposed using Cock Lane as the southern boundary to his proposed Hoddesdon ward. However, given the size of the electorate in Hoddesdon town, neither proposal would provide a viable warding pattern.

46 The Broxbourne Parliamentary Conservative Association and a local resident argued that the proposed warding pattern in Hoddesdon town would not fully reflect the Hoddesdon community. The resident said that under the draft recommendations, the south of Hoddesdon town, including the Hoddesdon conservation area and part of Hoddesdon town centre, would be in the proposed Broxbourne ward rather than the proposed Hoddesdon North or Hoddesdon Town & Rye Park wards. The resident proposed that Hoddesdon town be fully included in these latter two wards. However, if this proposal would not provide electoral equality, he considered that the proposed Broxbourne ward should be renamed Hoddesdon South & Broxbourne or Broxbourne & Hoddesdon South.

47 We acknowledged the resident's concerns. We therefore explored the possibility of transferring this area to the proposed Hoddesdon North ward. However, given the number of electors involved, implementing this proposal would result in poor electoral equality.

48 Consequently, we have instead adopted the resident's proposed ward name of Broxbourne & Hoddesdon South for the proposed Broxbourne ward. Given this ward contains areas locally identified as Hoddesdon town, we consider this ward name to better reflect the constituent communities.

49 We received no further comments on the draft recommendations for Hoddesdon town and Broxbourne during Stage Three. We have therefore decided to confirm the remainder of the draft recommendations for this area as final.

50 Table C1 (on pages 26–7) provides details of the electoral variances of the final recommendations for wards in Hoddesdon town and Broxbourne. The final recommendations are shown on Map 1 and Map 2 accompanying this report.

## Goffs Oak and Hammond Street

51 This area is mostly rural and lies to the west of the A10, comprising the settlement of Goffs Oak to the west and the adjacent communities of Hammond Street, Rosedale, Flamstead End and Bury Green to the east. With the exception of the Flamstead End area, which is subject to some future development, the electorate in this area is forecast to remain reasonably static in the five-year period following the end of this review.

52 During Stage One the Council and the Labour Group proposed differing warding patterns in this area of the borough. We considered the merits of each in the context of the geography and the apparent communities. While both the Council's and the Labour Group's proposals would provide good electoral equality and used the A10 as a strong and clear boundary, we had some concerns over the Council's proposed warding pattern.

53 The Council's proposed warding pattern would split the Hammond Street area between its proposed Goffs Oak and Flamstead End wards respectively. However, in the absence of evidence to suggest the contrary, we considered the Hammond Street area to be a seemingly cohesive community and sought to avoid a split of this area.

54 In contrast, the Labour Group's proposed warding pattern would wholly comprise the properties centred on Hammond Street within a single ward. The Labour Group's proposed warding pattern would also split the Rosedale community to a lesser degree than under the Council's proposals.

55 We therefore considered that the Labour Group's warding pattern in this area would provide the best reflection of the statutory criteria and decided to broadly adopt its proposals in this area. Consequently, we also adopted the Labour Group's proposed wards of Goffs Oak & Bury Green, Hammond Street and Rosedale & Flamstead End, with a number of minor modifications.

56 During Stage Three, we received 160 representations, including a petition signed by approximately 300 residents, in relation to the proposed Goffs Oak & Bury Green ward. The Council and the Broxbourne Parliamentary Conservative Association and Councillors Richard and Judith Clemerson also opposed the draft recommendations in this area.

57 Respondents provided good evidence of community identity within Goffs Oak. They informed us of community groups, local services and amenities, societies, clubs, churches and medical facilities in support of a shared community identity within Goffs Oak. Respondents argued that Goffs Oak was a rural village in contrast to the urban area of Bury Green ward and that the two areas were separated by the Lieutenant Ellis Way dual-carriageway.

58 Respondents argued that the two areas were linked by poor transport routes via minor roads which would not provide reasonable pedestrian access. Nor were there direct public transport links. A number of respondents also cited socio-economic factors in support of the asserted lack of shared identity between Goffs Oak and Bury Green.

59 Conversely, many respondents from Goffs Oak referred to their links to the Hammond Street area and endorsed the Council's Stage One and Stage Three submission to ward Goffs Oak with Hammond Street. A number provided evidence of shared community identity between these areas. A resident stated that the 'Goffs Oak library, Doctor's surgery, local shops and post office are all used by residents of the Hammond Street area'. Another resident stated that St James's Church in Goffs Oak is the parish church for Goffs Oak and Hammond Street. A number of respondents said that Goffs Oak and Hammond Street also shared good transport links including a direct bus route.

60 A local resident said that residents in the Hammond Street area have a 'local shop, a children's nursery, a playing field with changing facilities, two children's play areas and a recycling point but we rely on Goffs Oak village for our nearest primary school, health centre, library, churches, village hall and pharmacy as well as other facilities including a pub, restaurant, laundrette and garage'.

61 We toured this area and observed the links between Goffs Oak and Bury Green and latterly Goffs Oak and Hammond Street. We also observed the Council's proposed split of Hammond Street.

62 We noted that there are indeed poor transport links between Goffs Oak and Bury Green. The two areas are connected via Barrow Lane and Halstead Hill. Both are narrow roads, largely without pedestrian access. The Lieutenant Ellis Way dual-

carriageway also provides a clear boundary between Goffs Oak and Bury Green. The distinct identity of Goffs Oak was also apparent while touring the area.

63 In contrast, there are clear and direct transport links between Goffs Oak and Hammond Street, mainly via Newgatestreet Road and Crouch Lane to the north of the village.

64 We carefully considered the split of Hammond Street as proposed by the Council and supported by a number of respondents during Stage Three. Under the Council's proposed warding pattern, the boundary would run via a stretch of Hammond Street Road, comprising the area south of Hammond Street Road within its proposed Goffs Oak ward. This reflects the geography of the Hammond Street area as a number of streets south of Hammond Street Road look toward Goffs Oak via Crouch Lane and latterly Newgatestreet Road.

65 We noted that the respective areas north and south of Hammond Street Road are distinct in character. Conversely, as observed while touring the area and evidenced by a number of respondents, Goffs Oak and the area south of Hammond Street Road possesses a shared character and an apparent shared focus based on Goffs Oak village.

66 Based on the evidence of community identity received and our observations in touring the area, we acknowledge that Hammond Street is not the cohesive community we initially considered it to be. Consequently, we are of the view that the Council's proposals would not present an arbitrary split of Hammond Street. The Council's proposals would in fact reflect local community identities and the local geography.

67 We have therefore decided to adopt the Council's proposed Goffs Oak ward, subject to minor modifications.

68 Consequently, we have also adopted the Council's proposed Flamstead End and Rosedale & Bury Green wards which lie adjacent to the proposed Goffs Oak ward. We note that Councillor Paul Seeby (Flamstead End) supported the Council's proposed warding pattern in this area on the basis that it would unite the Flamstead End community within a single ward.

69 The Council's Stage Three submission included a minor modification to its Stage One proposed warding pattern in this area. The Council proposed that the boundary between the proposed Goffs Oak and Rosedale & Bury Green wards follow the Lieutenant Ellis Way dual-carriageway, rather than using field lines, as it proposed its Stage One submission. We consider the dual-carriageway to provide a strong and clear boundary between Goffs Oak and Bury Green and we have adopted this as part of our final recommendations.

70 We propose a further modification in this area. Where the boundary between the proposed Goffs Oak and Flamstead End wards follows Peakes Lane, we propose a modification to include Coleridge Close and the adjacent properties on Dig Dag Hill within the proposed Goffs Oak ward. This modification will reflect access routes via Peakes Lane for these properties.

71 We also propose the boundary between the proposed Flamstead End and Wormley & Turnford wards follow the Wormleybury Brook. This modification provides



a clearer boundary than following field lines as proposed by the Council and has no impact on electoral equality.

72 During Stage Three, we received one submission from a local resident in relation to the Council's proposed Rosedale & Bury Green ward. The resident broadly supported the Council's proposed warding pattern, subject to transferring an area of the proposed Goffs Oak ward, west of the Lieutenant Ellis Way dual-carriageway, to the proposed Rosedale & Bury Green ward. The resident argued this would 'keep some balance to the urban/rural mix' within the proposed ward. However, given that we have adopted the Lieutenant Ellis Way dual-carriageway as a strong and clear boundary between the respective settlements, we have therefore decided not to adopt this proposal.

73 The local resident also proposed a further area of Hammond Street be included within the proposed Goffs Oak ward. However, the local resident made socio-economic arguments in support of her proposal which we cannot take into consideration. The local resident did not provide any evidence of community identity to suggest shared identities between the respective areas and we are therefore not minded to adopt this modification.

74 Our final recommendations in this area would result in Flamstead End, Goffs Oak and Rosedale & Bury Green wards with 3% fewer, 3% fewer and 4% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2016, respectively.

75 Table C1 (on pages 26–7) provides details of the electoral variances of the final recommendations for wards in the Goffs Oak and Hammond Street area. The final recommendations are shown on Map 1 and Map 3 accompanying this report.

## Cheshunt and Waltham Cross

76 The Cheshunt and Waltham Cross area lies east of the A10 and north of London. The area is part of the London commuter belt. Experiencing modest inward migration, the area is subject to some future development during the five-year period following the end of this review.

77 As discussed in paragraph 33, we developed draft proposals which were broadly based on the borough-wide schemes from the Council and the Labour Group. The Council and the Labour Group proposed identical warding patterns in this area which, broadly speaking, would provide clear boundaries while reflecting apparent communities.

78 During Stage Three, the Council, the Broxbourne Parliamentary Conservative Association and Councillors Richard and Judith Clemerson all proposed minor modifications in this area.

79 They proposed a minor modification between the proposed Cheshunt South & Theobalds and Waltham Cross wards. Under the draft recommendations, the boundary between these wards would largely follow the railway, deviating to follow the High Street and Winston Churchill Way. Consequently, Cedar Avenue, Hedworth Avenue and Lambton Avenue would be included within the proposed Cheshunt South & Theobalds ward.

80 We toured this area and noted the character and focus of the streets mentioned above. Cedar Avenue, Hedworth Avenue and Lambton Avenue shared a similar character and focus to the south, supporting their inclusion within the proposed Waltham Cross ward. We also considered the railway to provide a stronger boundary. We have therefore adopted this modification as part of our final recommendations. Consequently, the proposed Cheshunt South & Theobalds and Waltham Cross wards would have 4% fewer and 6% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2016, respectively.

81 Further north, the Council and Councillors Richard and Judith Clemerson proposed a further modification between the proposed Cheshunt North and Cheshunt South & Theobalds wards. During Stage One, both the Council and the Labour Group proposed that the western boundary between these wards follow Church Lane. However, the draft recommendations proposed the boundary follow the backs of properties on Cottage Gardens to reflect the access route.

82 During Stage Three, the Council and Councillors Richard and Judith Clemerson argued the access route for properties on Cottage Gardens was no different to that of the adjacent Hobbs Close (within the proposed Cheshunt North ward). Properties on Hobbs Close access onto Church Lane and Kilsmore Lane, the latter also within the proposed Cheshunt North ward. Councillors Richard and Judith Clemerson argued that using Church Lane, rather than following the backs of properties on Cottage Gardens, would be 'a clearly defined and easily recognisable boundary between the 2 wards'.

83 We toured this area and noted that the access route for properties on Cottage Gardens is directly and exclusively via Church Lane. We acknowledge Church Lane would provide a clear boundary. However, in providing effective and convenient local government, we must consider access routes when developing warding patterns. We have therefore decided not to adopt this modification as part of our final recommendations.

84 Table C1 (on pages 26–7) provides details of the electoral variances of the final recommendations for wards in Cheshunt and Waltham Cross. The final recommendations are shown on Map 1 and Map 3 accompanying this report.

## Conclusions

85 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Table C1 on pages 26–7, and illustrated on the large maps we have produced. The outline map which accompanies this report shows our final recommendations for the whole authority. It also shows a box for where we have produced a detailed map. These maps are also available to be viewed on our website.

86 Table 1 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2009 and 2016 electorate figures.

**Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements**

	<b>Final recommendations</b>	
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2016</b>
Number of councillors	30	30
Number of electoral wards	30	30
Average number of electors per councillor	2,318	2,403
Number of electoral wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of electoral wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

**Final recommendation**

Broxbourne Borough Council should comprise 30 councillors serving 10 wards, as detailed and named in Table C1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.



### 3 What happens next?

87 We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Broxbourne Borough Council. The changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Parliament can either accept or reject our recommendations. If accepted, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the next elections for Broxbourne Borough Council in 2012.



## 4 Mapping

### Final recommendations for Broxbourne

88 The following maps illustrate our proposed ward boundaries for Broxbourne Borough Council:

- **Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Broxbourne.
- **Sheet 2, Map 2** illustrates the proposed wards in North Broxbourne.
- **Sheet 3, Map 3** illustrates the proposed wards in South Broxbourne.





# Appendix A

## Glossary and abbreviations

AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)	A landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it
Constituent areas	The geographical areas that make up any one ward, expressed in parishes or existing wards, or parts of either
Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve 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 ward 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 imbalance	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

Multi-member ward or division	A ward or division represented by more than one councillor and usually not more than three councillors
National Park	The 13 National Parks in England and Wales were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 and can be found at <a href="http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk">www.nationalparks.gov.uk</a>
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 ward 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

PER (or periodic electoral review)	A review of the electoral arrangements of all local authorities in England, undertaken periodically. The last programme of PERs was undertaken between 1996 and 2004 by the Boundary Committee for England and its predecessor, the now-defunct Local Government Commission for England
Political management arrangements	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enabled local authorities in England to modernise their decision making process. Councils could choose from two broad categories; a directly elected mayor and cabinet or a cabinet with a leader
Town Council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or ward than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or ward 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

## Appendix B

### Code of practice on written consultation

The Cabinet Office's *Code of Practice on Consultation* (2008) (<http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf>) requires all government departments and agencies to adhere to certain criteria, set out below, on the conduct of public consultations. Public bodies, such as the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, are encouraged to follow the Code.

The Code of Practice applies to consultation documents published after 1 November 2008, which should reproduce the criteria, give explanations of any departures, and confirm that the criteria have otherwise been followed.

**Table B1: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's compliance with Code criteria**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Compliance/departure</b>
Timing of consultation should be built into the planning process for a policy (including legislation) or service from the start, so that it has the best prospect of improving the proposals concerned, and so that sufficient time is left for it at each stage.	We comply with this requirement.
It should be clear who is being consulted, about what questions, in what timescale and for what purpose.	We comply with this requirement.
A consultation document should be as simple and concise as possible. It should include a summary, in two pages at most, of the main questions it seeks views on. It should make it as easy as possible for readers to respond, make contact or complain.	We comply with this requirement.
Documents should be made widely available, with the fullest use of electronic means (though not to the exclusion of others), and effectively drawn to the attention of all interested groups and individuals.	We comply with this requirement.
Sufficient time should be allowed for considered responses from all groups with an interest. Twelve weeks should be the standard minimum period for a consultation.	We consult at the start of the review and on our draft recommendations. Our consultation stages are a minimum total of 16 weeks.

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Responses should be carefully and open-mindedly analysed, and the results made widely available, with an account of the views expressed, and reasons for decisions finally taken.

We comply with this requirement.

Departments should monitor and evaluate consultations, designating a consultation coordinator who will ensure the lessons are disseminated.

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We comply with this requirement.

## Appendix C

**Table C1: Final recommendations for Broxbourne Borough Council**

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Electorate (2009)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>	<b>Electorate (2016)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>
1	Broxbourne & Hoddesdon South	3	7,264	2,421	4%	7,460	2,487	3%
2	Cheshunt North	3	6,734	2,245	-3%	6,767	2,256	-6%
3	Cheshunt South & Theobalds	3	6,772	2,257	-3%	6,901	2,300	-4%
4	Flamstead End	3	6,379	2,126	-8%	7,017	2,339	-3%
5	Goffs Oak	3	6,930	2,310	0%	6,967	2,322	-3%
6	Hoddesdon North	3	7,386	2,462	6%	7,565	2,522	5%
7	Hoddesdon Town & Rye Park	3	6,682	2,227	-4%	6,997	2,332	-3%
8	Rosedale & Bury Green	3	6,821	2,274	-2%	6,900	2,300	-4%
9	Waltham Cross	3	7,180	2,393	3%	7,648	2,549	6%

**Table C1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Broxbourne Borough Council**

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Electorate (2009)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>	<b>Electorate (2016)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>
10	Wormley & Turnford	3	7,390	2,463	6%	7,861	2,620	9%
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>69,538</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,083</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Broxbourne 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.