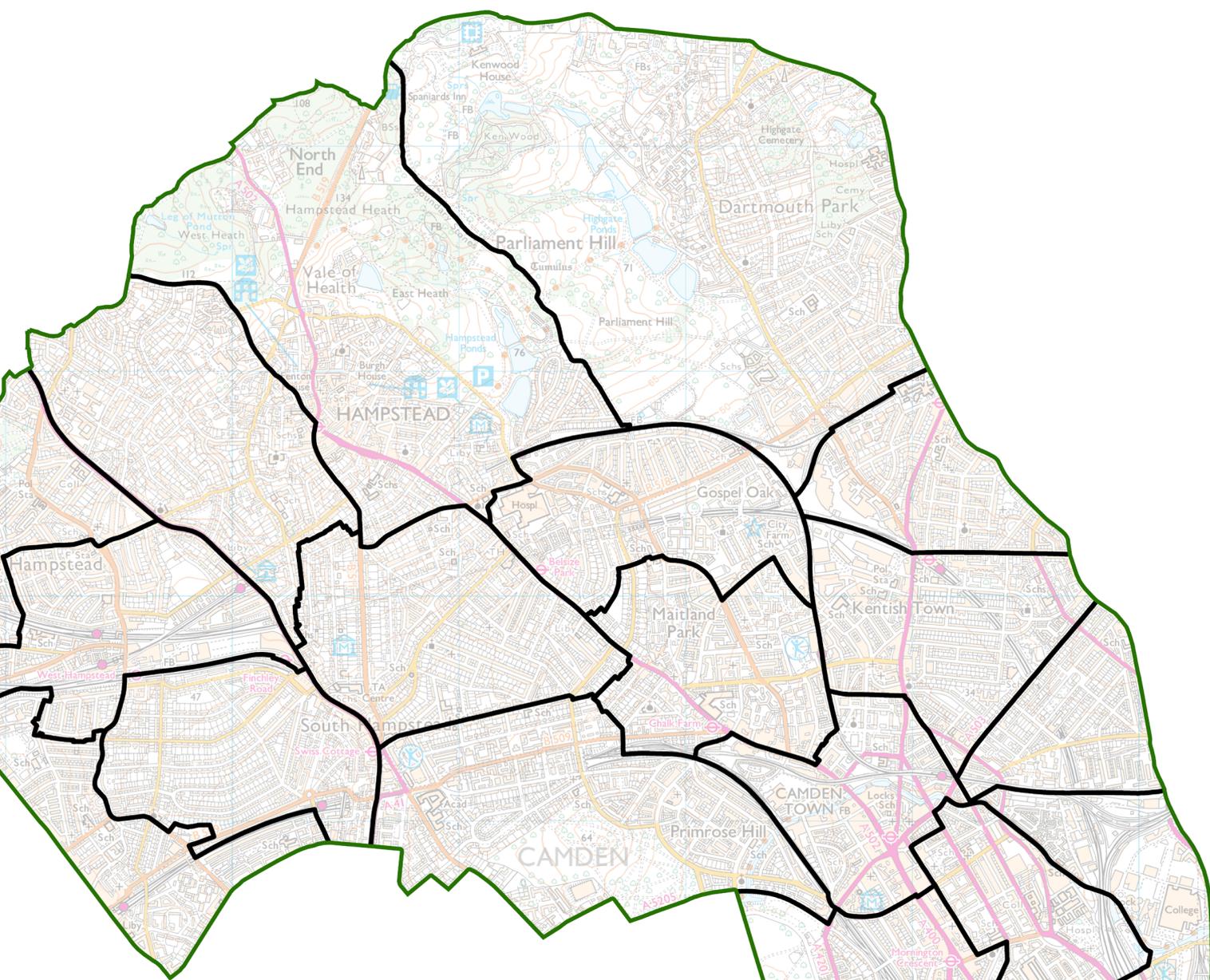


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Camden

Final Recommendations

February 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 there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward.

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 Camden?

7 We are conducting a review of Camden Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Camden. 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 Camden 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 Camden

9 Camden should be represented by 55 councillors, one more than there is now.

10 Camden should have 20 wards, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change with the exception of Regent's Park which will stay the same.

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

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Camden. We then held three periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 November 2018	Number of councillors decided
27 November 2018	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
4 March 2019	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
28 May 2019	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
5 August 2019	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 October 2019	Publication of new draft recommendations; start of third consultation
4 February 2020	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

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

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

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

	2018	2025
Electorate of Camden	156,173	163,785
Number of councillors	54	55
Average number of electors per councillor	2,892	2,978

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Camden will have good electoral equality by 2025.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2024, a period five years on from the original scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2019. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5% by 2024. Due to the Commission's decision to carry out an additional round of consultation, the review will now conclude in 2020. We used these figures to produce our new draft recommendations subject to some small amendments after discussions with Camden Council and Camden Conservatives. This sees a small

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

reduction in the overall number of electors. We are content that these figures can be regarded as a realistic forecast of local electors by 2025.

23 We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

24 Camden Council currently has 54 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same would ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

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

26 We did not receive any further submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. However, when formulating our draft recommendations, we found that increasing the number of councillors by one would allow for better electoral equality across the borough whilst also facilitating boundaries that reflected the evidence received during the consultation period. We received no further evidence during consultation and therefore based our new draft recommendations on a 55-councillor council.

27 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our new draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 55 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 42 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals from the Council, Camden Conservatives and the Camden Liberal Democrat Group. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of Camden.

29 The full scheme submitted by the Council provided for a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards across the authority. The Liberal Democrat Group submitted a scheme with a mixed pattern of two- and three-councillor wards, and the Conservatives' scheme provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

30 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised

boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. Our draft recommendations combined elements from each of the three full schemes that we received. We considered that each of them had strengths in different areas which were reflected in the evidence received from residents, councillors and local organisations.

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

Draft recommendations consultation

32 We received 244 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included responses from the Council, Camden Conservatives and the Camden Liberal Democrat Group. We also received a significant number of responses from councillors, local organisations and residents. The submissions from Camden Council, Camden Conservatives and Camden Liberal Democrat Group made comments on the proposals for the whole of Camden. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Hampstead Town, Belsize and Frognal, and the Highgate and Dartmouth Park area.

33 A number of the submissions we received proposed significantly different boundaries from those that we had proposed in our draft recommendations. We found that several of the alternative proposals submitted to us were well-evidenced and we were persuaded to consider significant changes to our original draft recommendations. As a result of this, and the fact that a number of our proposed changes had not been the subject of consultation, we decided to publish new draft recommendations and consult on them for six weeks.

34 Our new draft recommendations were based on the draft recommendations with significant modifications to the wards in the Camden Town, Haverstock and Primrose Hill areas. We also proposed significant changes in the Highgate and Dartmouth Park areas. We made a number of minor modifications to the boundaries in the Fortune Green, Gospel Oak, Kilburn, Kings Cross/St Pancras and South Hampstead areas.

New draft recommendations

35 Our new draft recommendations were for 14 three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and one one-councillor ward. We considered our new draft recommendations provided good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

New draft recommendations consultation

36 We received 326 submissions during consultation on our new draft recommendations. These included responses from Camden Council, Camden Labour Party, Camden Conservatives, Camden Liberal Democrat Group and a joint response from Jeremy Corbyn MP and Emily Thornberry MP. We also received a significant number of responses from councillors, local organisations and residents. The submissions from Camden Council and Jeremy Corbyn MP and Emily Thornberry MP noted the new draft recommendations.

37 The submissions from Camden Labour Party and Camden Conservatives commented on all wards across the borough and the Camden Liberal Democrat Group submission made comments on the proposals for the north-west of Camden. The submission from Camden Labour Party objected to the new draft recommendations in the South Hampstead and Kilburn, Highgate and Dartmouth Park, Primrose Hill and Camden Town, and West Hampstead and Fortune Green areas. The Conservatives supported the new draft recommendations with a few suggested minor amendments. Camden Liberal Democrats supported the proposals in the Primrose Hill area but opposed the proposals in the Fortune Green and West Hampstead and Kilburn and South Hampstead areas.

38 Most of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in the South Hampstead and Kilburn, Highgate and Dartmouth Park, Primrose Hill and Camden Town, and West Hampstead and Fortune Green areas.

Final recommendations

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

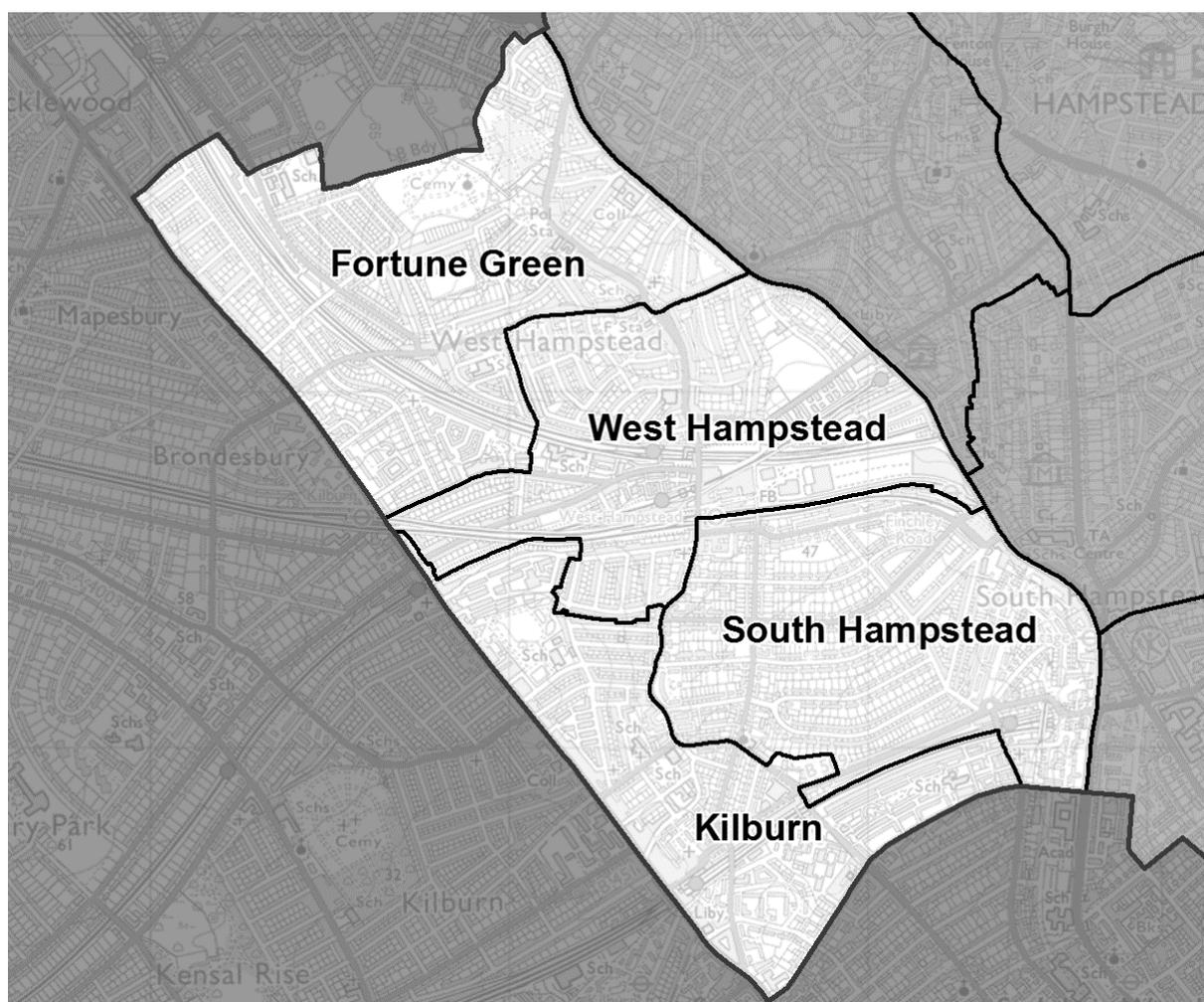
40 The tables and maps on pages 9–23 detail our final recommendations for each area of Camden. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

41 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 30 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North West Camden



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Fortune Green	3	4%
Kilburn	3	2%
South Hampstead	3	0%
West Hampstead	3	0%

Fortune Green and West Hampstead

42 In our new draft recommendations for this area, we made a few amendments to our draft recommendations in response to evidence we received during the consultation on those recommendations. In response to this, we received 63 submissions from local residents, councillors and local organisations that related to these four wards. All these submissions were opposed to the changes we had proposed under our new draft recommendations.

43 The Conservative Group supported the new draft recommendations for Fortune Green and West Hampstead as being reflective of the communities in the area. They

proposed one further amendment to the boundary between Kilburn and West Hampstead, suggesting that Netherwood Street and Linstead Street should be wholly included in Kilburn ward, with Hemstal Road in West Hampstead ward, to recognise the community ties of these electors.

44 Camden Labour Group opposed the proposals for Fortune Green and West Hampstead, arguing that they would undermine effective and convenient local government in the area. They argued that the new draft recommendations were based on the incorrect premise that Fortune Green and West Hampstead had distinctly different identities. In their submission, the Group stated that residents of both wards would consider themselves to be living in West Hampstead and that there is no recognisable West End Green community. They argued that the boundary along West End Green and Mill Lane, as exists currently, remains the most appropriate boundary in the area and should be retained. Camden Liberal Democrat Group also opposed the proposal to include the area around the southern part of Fortune Green Road in West Hampstead ward, arguing that the existing ward boundary is the more natural boundary.

45 In the west of the Fortune Green and West Hampstead area, the new draft recommendations proposed a boundary between Fortune Green and Kilburn along the Jubilee line, and between Fortune Green and West Hampstead along Ariel Road. The Labour Group accepted that this proposal was aimed at retaining Kilburn High Road in a single ward, but argued that this arrangement divided Loveridge Road between two wards and Iverson Road between three wards, badly splitting this community and its residents' association, MILAM (Maygrove, Iverson, Loveridge, Ariel and Medley). The evidence submitted by the Labour Group pointed out that the Jubilee line was elevated in this area and that the roads divided by the proposal are connected by running beneath it. They also pointed out that the new proposals would divide business properties in the railway arches between wards and that this would not reflect effective and convenient local government. These comments were similar to those submitted by local residents who all opposed our new draft recommendations.

46 The Labour Group did support our proposal to place all of Broomsleigh Street in Fortune Green ward.

47 The Liberal Democrat Group supported the proposal to wholly include Kilburn High Road in Kilburn ward but also recognised the concerns of the MILAM Residents' Association. However, they proposed the area covered by the MILAM Residents' Association should be included in Kilburn ward given their transport links to Kilburn Underground Station.

48 The Labour Group proposed that the boundary should revert to the existing boundary running along Maygrove Road and the London Overground line, and that Iverson Road and Loveridge Road be included in West Hampstead ward. They

proposed a slight revision of the Kilburn boundary to include 328–358 Kilburn High Road in Kilburn ward to ensure that all of Kilburn High Road is included in Kilburn ward.

49 Having considered all the submissions received, we accept the Labour Group argument, backed by submissions from local residents, that the new draft recommendations divided the community covered by MILAM Residents' Association and split business properties between wards. We agree that the existing warding pattern and the initial draft recommendations provide for a better reflection of local communities and deliver convenient and effective local government in the area by keeping businesses together.

50 We therefore propose to revert to the initial draft recommendations for Fortune Green and West Hampstead, subject to two small amendments. Firstly, we have adopted the Labour Group's proposed amendment to include 328–358 Kilburn High Road in Kilburn ward as we agree that Kilburn High Road should be wholly in Kilburn ward. Secondly, we propose to accept the amendment proposed by the Conservatives to amend the boundary between Kilburn and West Hampstead as mentioned in paragraph 43. This amendment moves the boundary between Kilburn and West Hampstead to include 91–105 and 60–62 Netherwood Street and all of Linstead Street in Kilburn ward. We agree with the argument put forward by the Conservative Group that this recognises the community identity of the electors in question.

51 Our final recommendations for Fortune Green and West Hampstead will provide for good electoral equality. By 2025, the proposed wards will have electoral variances of 4% and 0% respectively.

Kilburn and South Hampstead

52 Our new draft recommendations for these two wards amended the initial draft recommendations to include the Hilgrove Estate in Kilburn ward alongside the Alexandra and Ainsworth Estate. We also moved the boundary from the West Midlands railway line to the north of the Alexandra Estate to run along Belsize Road, and we proposed to move Cotleigh and Dynham Roads from Kilburn to South Hampstead.

53 In response, we received 22 submissions from local residents, organisations and councillors opposing the proposal to include the Hilgrove Estate in Kilburn ward. These responses included a 196-name petition from residents of the estate.

54 The Conservative Group supported the new draft recommendations, suggesting a small amendment to include 124–134 Abbey Road and St Mary's Church in Kilburn ward. They suggest that the six houses and church have more in common with Kilburn ward than South Hampstead ward where we include them.

55 The Labour Group strongly opposed the new draft recommendations for South Hampstead on the basis that they divided the Hilgrove Estate between wards. They stated that they believed that the new draft recommendations had been based on a misunderstanding of the layout of the Hilgrove Estate. The Hilgrove Estate is divided by Hilgrove Road with seven blocks to the south of the road and nine blocks to the north. Under the new draft recommendations, these blocks would be split between Kilburn and South Hampstead wards. The Labour Group stated that this would be detrimental to community ties in the area by splitting the Tenants' and Residents' Association (TRA) across two wards and six councillors.

56 The Labour Group also contended the argument that the Hilgrove Estate has close community ties to the Alexandra and Ainsworth Estate. They pointed out that the Hilgrove Estate TRA uses community facilities elsewhere in South Hampstead ward rather than Kilburn ward. They further illustrated that the Hilgrove Estate has strong transport and community links with the rest of the South Hampstead area, including schooling, shopping and medical practices. The Group proposed that the boundary revert to the initial draft recommendations and that the Hilgrove Estate should be wholly included in South Hampstead ward. They also proposed that the boundary should be moved back to the West Midlands railway line as opposed to the centre of Belsize Road. They argued that despite the south of Belsize Road being outside the Combined Residents' Association of South Hampstead's (CRASH) area, the railway line forms a much more significant boundary.

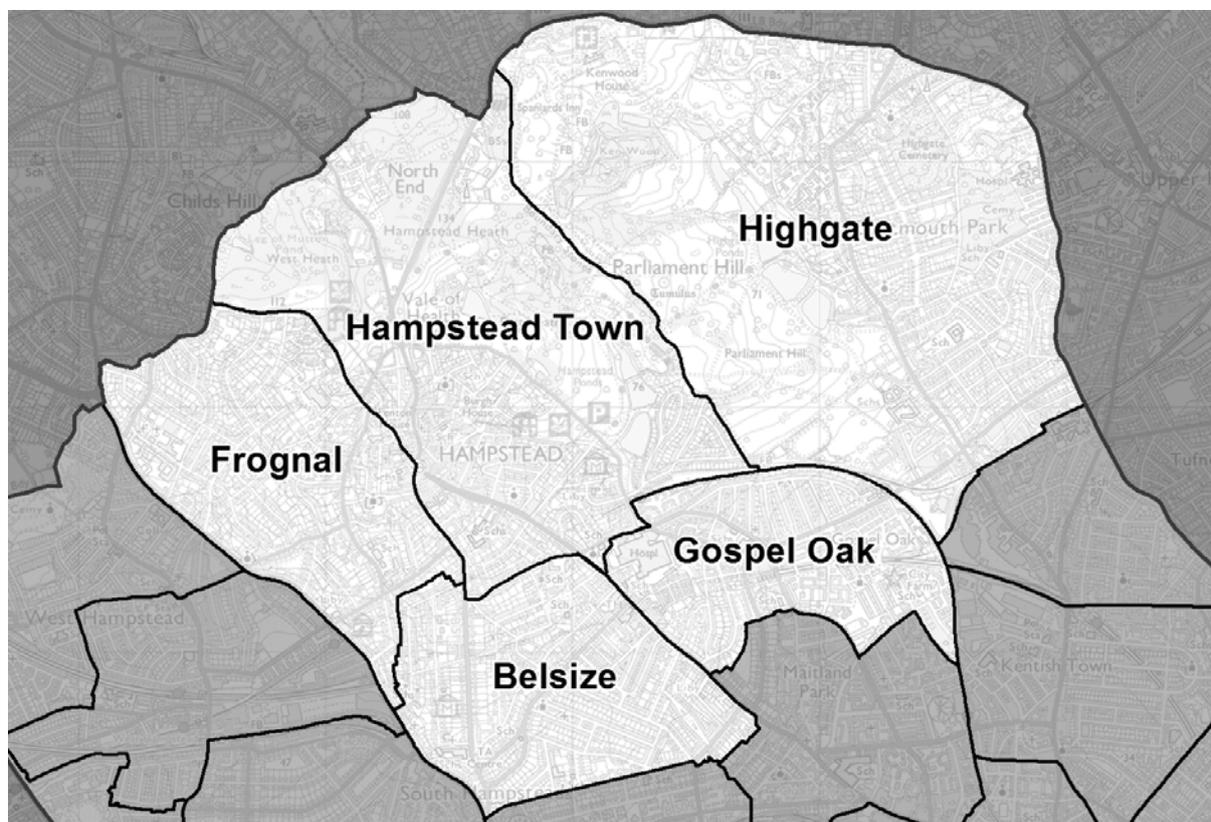
57 The Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Group opposed the inclusion of Dynham Road and Cotleigh Road in South Hampstead ward. The groups argued that these roads do not have a strong connection to the South Hampstead area, as they are neither part of the South Hampstead Conservation Area, as claimed by the Conservative Group, nor part of CRASH. The Labour Group stated that whilst the South Hampstead Conservation Area includes properties on both sides of West End Lane, the boundary should follow West End Lane given that it is a difficult road to cross and therefore acts as a significant boundary.

58 Having considered the evidence submitted we are persuaded by the evidence provided by the Labour Group that the new draft recommendations badly divided the Hilgrove Estate and therefore broke significant community ties in that area. We were also persuaded by the evidence submitted by the Labour Group regarding the inclusion of Dynham Road and Cotleigh Road in South Hampstead and the boundary along Belsize Road.

59 We therefore propose to revert to the initial draft recommendations for these two wards, subject to the small amendments to Kilburn ward discussed in paragraph 43.

60 Our proposed final recommendations for this area are for the three-councillor wards of Kilburn and South Hampstead, with electoral equality of 2% and 0% respectively by 2025.

North East Camden



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Belsize	3	2%
Frognal	2	0%
Gospel Oak	3	5%
Hampstead Town	2	6%
Highgate	3	-6%

Belsize, Frognal, Gospel Oak and Hampstead Town

61 We received 18 submissions that supported our new draft recommendations for Belsize and Frognal wards. We proposed to revise the boundary between the two wards to wholly include Maresfield Gardens and Netherhall Gardens in Belsize ward.

62 We also received support from the Belsize Society for Belsize ward and Councillor Adams for Belsize and Gospel Oak wards. Both submissions stated that the new draft recommendations fully recognised the communities within the ward.

63 We received two submissions that objected to Winchester Road and Adelaide Road being removed from Belsize ward. However, neither of the representations

provided an alternative proposal that would retain the approximately 3,000 electors in Belsize ward and still provide for acceptable levels of electoral equality.

64 In addition, we received 15 submissions that supported our new draft recommendations for Hampstead Town and Gospel Oak wards. We proposed to revise the boundary to include Maryon Mews, Hampstead Hill Gardens and Pond Street in Hampstead Town ward.

65 The Conservative Group proposed a small amendment to the southern boundary of Belsize ward. They proposed to run the boundary down the centre of Eton Avenue as opposed to our new draft recommendations, which used the rear of the properties on the south side of the street as the boundary. The Group argued that Eton Avenue is a clear and identifiable boundary, is unrepresented by a residents' association and shares similar characteristics to Belsize and the south side with Primrose Hill. The Group also stated that their proposal would improve the electoral equality of both wards.

66 Having carefully considered the evidence provided, we agree that the boundary proposed by the Conservative Group is a more identifiable boundary and improves electoral equality. We therefore propose to make this small amendment to Belsize ward. We also propose to make a minor amendment to Hampstead Town ward to include the South End Green water fountain in Hampstead Town ward. This amendment recognises the fountain's status as a community asset to that ward.

Highgate

67 Our draft recommendations for the Highgate area proposed a three-councillor Highgate ward. Our new draft recommendations took into account evidence submitted by the Conservative Group and proposed a single-councillor Highgate ward and a two-councillor Dartmouth Park ward.

68 In response to our new draft recommendations, we received 78 submissions from local residents, local organisations and local councillors. Thirty-six submissions were in favour of a single-councillor Highgate ward and 42 submissions were opposed to it. The Conservative Group supported the new draft recommendations, providing further evidence in support of separate communities of Highgate and Dartmouth Park, in particular the strength of the community institutions that cater solely for Highgate, the lack of transport connections and the natural boundary they state exists between the two areas.

69 Camden Labour Group strongly opposed the new draft recommendations and reiterated their support for a three-councillor ward. The Group argued that our new proposals divided communities in the area. They argued that the existing three-councillor ward has included Dartmouth Park and Highgate in the same ward for over 100 years and that there had been no changes to geography or population to

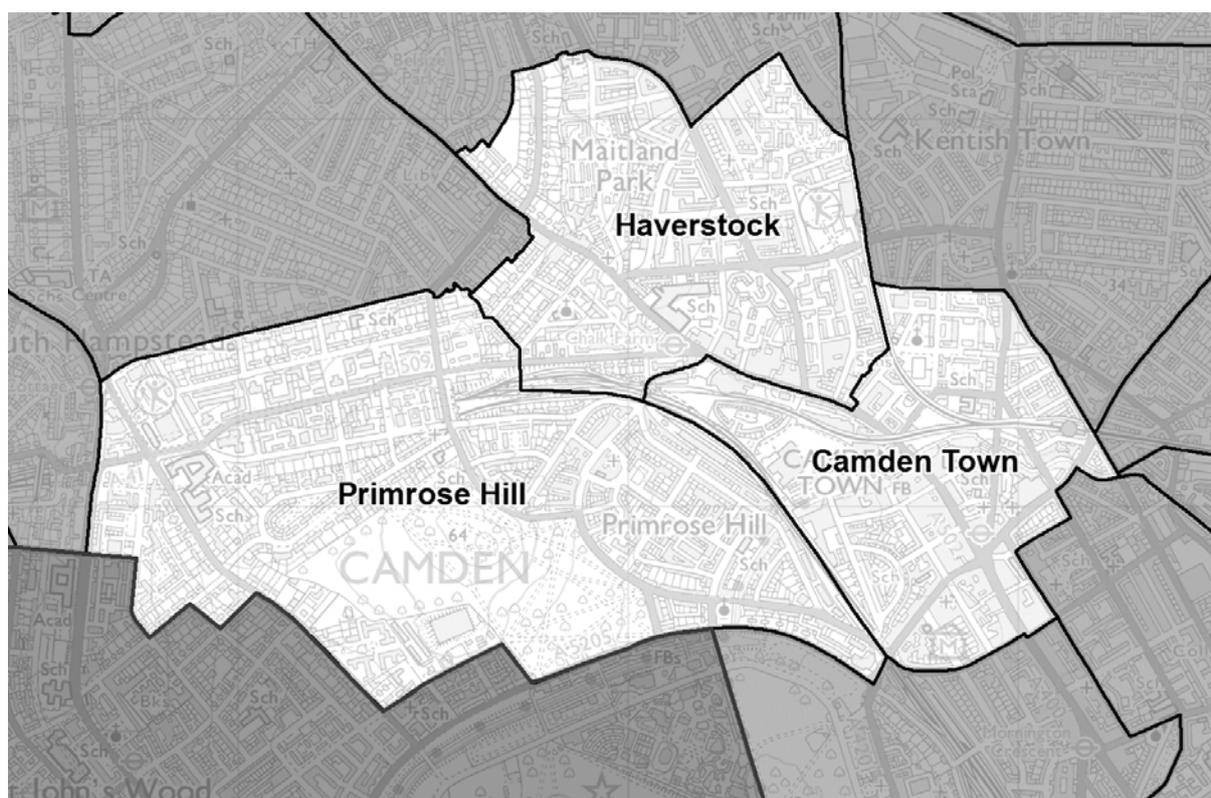
necessitate any changes. The Group argued that Dartmouth Park should not be considered a fixed area and that there is no established Highgate/Dartmouth Park boundary. They stated that the proposed boundary divided the community on St Albans Road and that no suitable boundary exists in this area. The Group also suggested that our new proposals divided the Holly Lodge Estate from the neighbouring Highgate Newtown Estate, arguing that these two areas share much in terms of services and community ties, with one example given that the Highgate Newtown Community Centre hosts activities in the Holly Lodge Community Centre. In addition, the Group stated that the new draft recommendations divided a controlled parking zone in the area that was chosen by a working group of residents. The residents had agreed that the zone should cover the existing ward given the movement of residents across the whole area.

70 The Labour Group also contended that it was incorrect to say that the proposed Dartmouth Park ward would have comparable shopping facilities to Highgate and that local residents would still predominately use the facilities outside of the ward. In addition, they attested that three schools support the whole area and unify the community. They also demonstrated that the new draft recommendations divided the Dartmouth Park Neighbourhood Forum area into three different wards, whereas the existing ward does not. The Group additionally stated that they would support the three-councillor ward being named Dartmouth Park & Highgate if the Commission considered it appropriate. Finally, they stated their general opposition to single-councillor wards. They argued that such wards have never been present in Camden, and while they do exist in other areas of London, they do so to demarcate areas with little in common with their surroundings. In the Labour Group's view, this is not the case in Highgate and Dartmouth Park. Moreover, they argued that single-councillor wards do not facilitate local accountability.

71 Having considered all the evidence submitted, we are proposing to revert to our originally proposed three-councillor Highgate ward. We accept the argument advanced by Camden Labour Group that our proposed division of the area divided communities and would not reflect local ties and identity. We do not propose to change the name of our three-councillor ward from Highgate to Dartmouth Park & Highgate, as we consider that the existing name accurately reflects the area.

72 Our final recommendations are therefore for three three-councillor wards of Belsize, Gospel Oak and Highgate and the two-councillor wards of Frognal and Hampstead Town. By 2025, these wards will have electoral variances of 2%, 5%, -6%, 0% and 6% respectively.

Central Camden



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Camden Town	2	-4%
Haverstock	3	5%
Primrose Hill	3	1%

Camden Town, Haverstock and Primrose Hill

73 Our new draft recommendations for this area were for a two-councillor Camden Town ward and three-councillor Haverstock and Adelaide & Primrose Hill wards. Our initial draft recommendations proposed the three-councillor wards of Camden Town with Primrose Hill and Haverstock, and a two-councillor Chalk Farm ward. When drawing up our initial proposals in this area we had been unable to identify a warding pattern that fully met our statutory criteria in Chalk Farm, and so we drew our own proposals for that area.

74 During the consultation on the initial draft recommendations we received an alternative warding pattern from the Conservative Group, which formed the basis of our new draft recommendations.

75 In response to this proposal we received 122 submissions from local residents, organisations and local councillors as well as comments from Camden Labour Group and Camden Conservative Group. Of the 122 submissions, 80 were in favour of Primrose Hill being included with the Adelaide Road area. Forty submissions were

opposed to this proposal and argued for Primrose Hill remaining in a ward with Camden Town. On both sides of the argument, we received strong evidence relating to community identity and effective and convenient local government.

76 The Conservative Group supported the new draft recommendations. They considered that a ward that paired Primrose Hill with the Adelaide Road area reflected their view that the latter considers itself to be part of Primrose Hill. To that end, the Conservative Group proposed the ward be simply named Primrose Hill. They also argued that the West Coast Main Line divided Primrose Hill from Camden Town and that the railway line represented the strongest boundary within the borough. The Group argued that the only crossing point between the two areas for 1.4 kilometres is a pedestrian crossing. They stated that a ward that crosses the railway line makes it more difficult to provide services such as ward-based policing. The Group argued that separating the two communities would lead to more effective and convenient local government.

77 The Conservative Group supported the boundaries for Camden Town and Haverstock wards, arguing that they reflected communities and provided for convenient and effective local government. They did propose one small amendment to the boundary between Camden Town and Haverstock wards to avoid Hartland Road being divided between the wards, contending that these electors are part of the Camden Town community.

78 Camden Liberal Democrats also supported our proposed Adelaide & Primrose Hill ward, reflecting many of the arguments made by the Conservative Group, noting the unifying factor of Primrose Hill Park as well as contending that the existing parking zone and community magazine reflected the proposed boundaries. The Group also noted that prior to the previous review Camden Town and Primrose Hill were in different wards and that the new proposals better reflected their separate community identities.

79 Camden Labour Group opposed the new draft recommendations, arguing that Camden Town and Primrose Hill have longstanding community ties that have developed since being placed in the same ward in 2002. They argued that the two areas have similar issues regarding transport, in particular issues surrounding the HS2 rail project as well as shared community facilities.

80 We have carefully considered the submissions we received and welcome the representations made to the Commission. While we acknowledge that strong arguments have been made in favour of including the Primrose Hill area in a ward with Camden Town, on balance we were persuaded by the evidence that argued that Primrose Hill's stronger ties were with areas to its west around Adelaide Road. Having balanced the evidence against our three statutory criteria, we are of the view that our proposed final recommendations provide for improved electoral equality for the area, recognise the

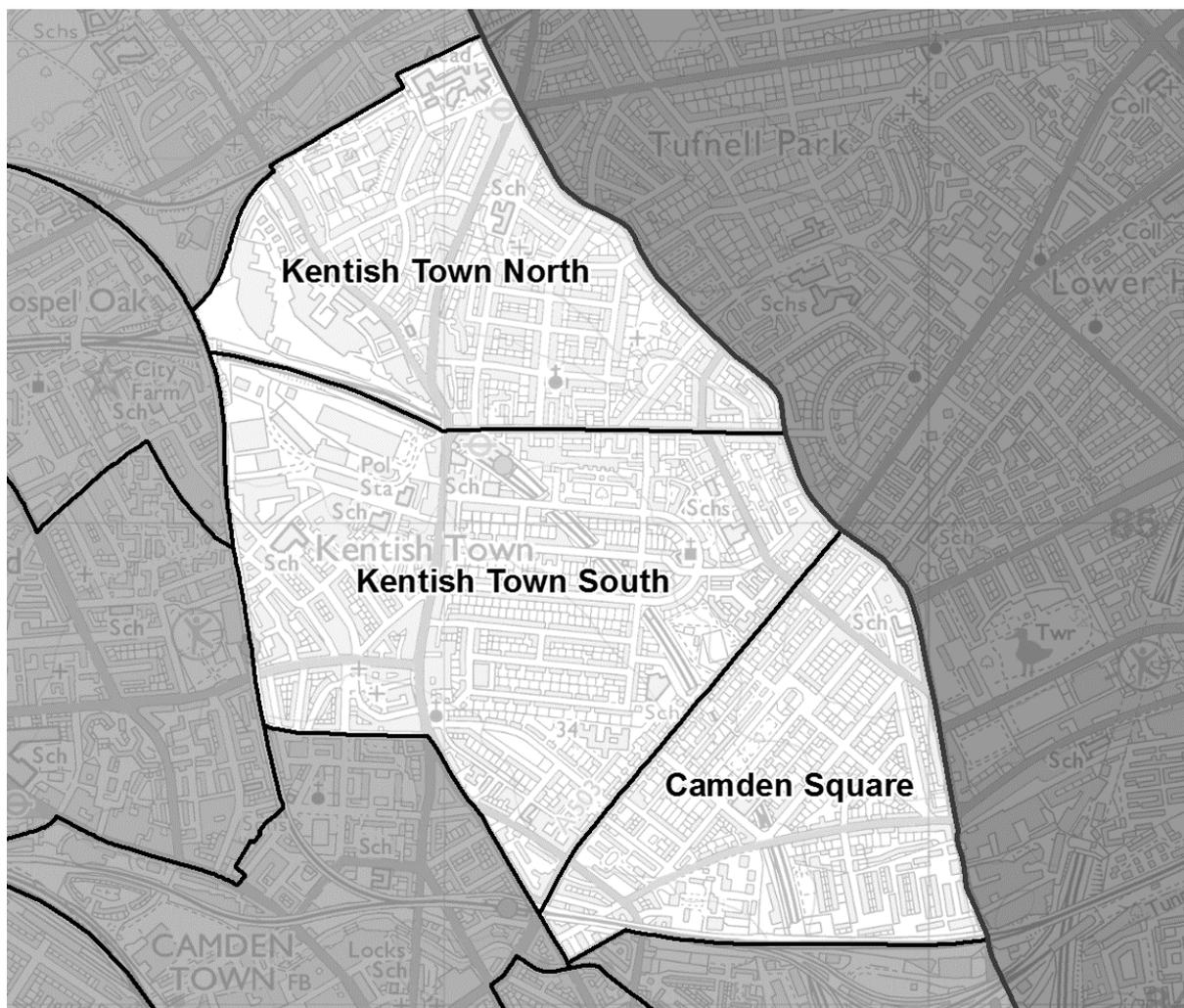
persuasive community ties of Primrose Hill to the Adelaide Road area and, in using the West Coast Main Line as the boundary, provide a strong and identifiable boundary between Primrose Hill and Camden Town.

81 We therefore confirm the boundaries of our new draft recommendations in this area as final, subject to two minor amendments. Firstly, we acknowledge that electors on Hartland Road are part of the Camden Town community and have therefore included the entirety of this road in Camden Town ward as part of our final recommendations. Secondly, we have accepted the amendment proposed for the northern boundary of our proposed Primrose Hill ward (as described in paragraph 65) to run along Eton Avenue.

82 As part of our final recommendations, we have also renamed our proposed Adelaide & Primrose Hill ward to Primrose Hill, as we accept the argument put forward by the Conservative Group that the majority of electors in our proposed ward consider themselves to live in Primrose Hill.

83 Our final recommendations for this area are for a two-councillor Camden Town ward with a variance of -4% by 2025. We also recommend the three-councillor wards of Primrose Hill and Haverstock which are forecast to have electoral variances of 1% and 5% respectively by 2025.

Kentish Town



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Camden Square	2	-2%
Kentish Town North	2	4%
Kentish Town South	3	-2%

Kentish Town North and Kentish Town South

84 In this area, we received submissions from a local resident and the Conservative Group that supported the two proposed Kentish Town wards. We have therefore made no further changes here and confirm these as final.

Camden Square

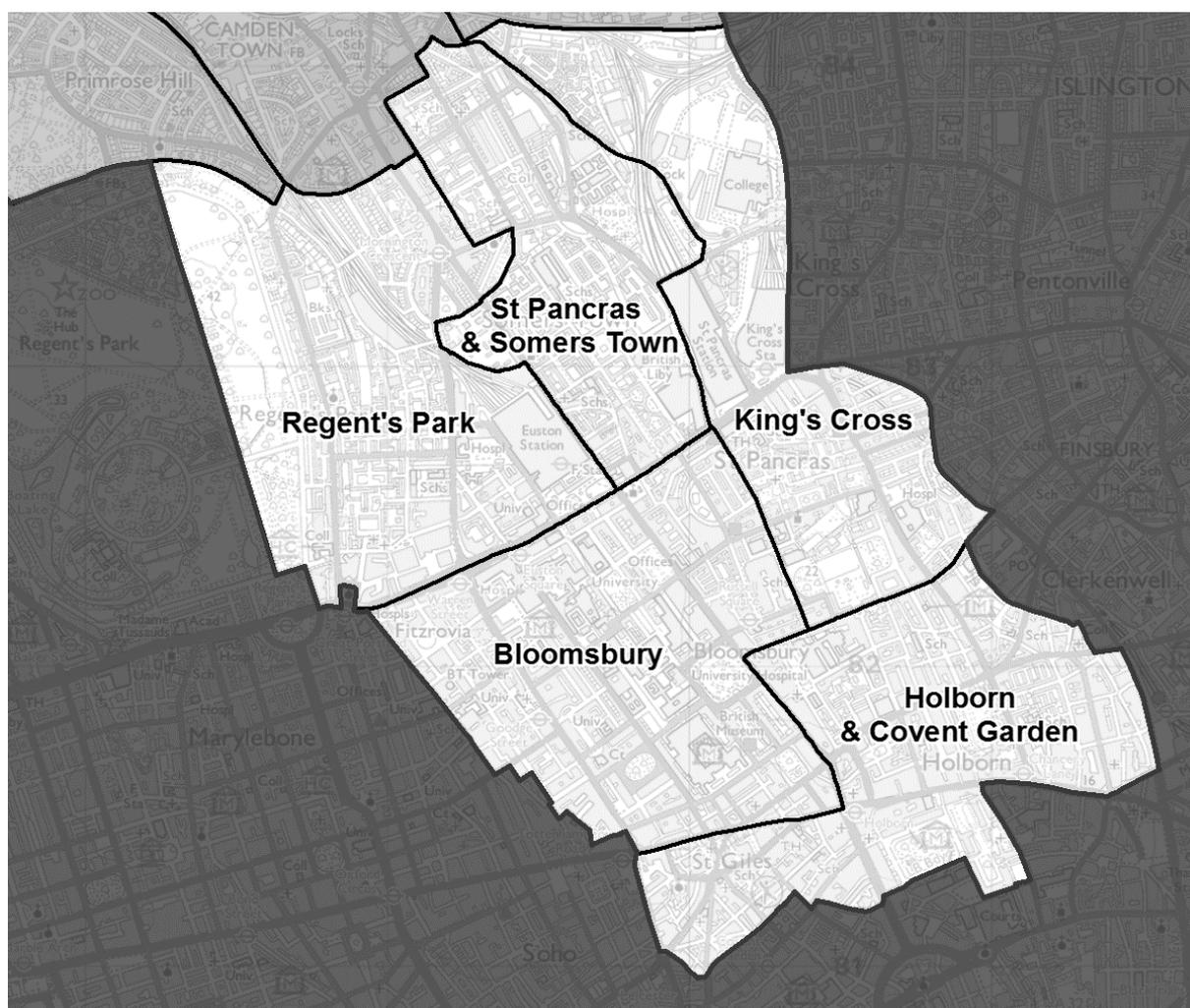
85 We received seven submissions that objected to the proposed name change from Canteloves to Camden Square. Of these submissions, the majority supported the proposed boundaries of the ward. Two submissions suggested that the area around Camden Road should be included in a Canteloves ward but did not suggest how this could be achieved while providing electoral equality for the Camden Town area. The

Conservative Group supported the proposals for Camden Square, including the proposed name change. Camden Liberal Democrats also supported the proposed name change.

86 Several of the submissions suggested that the ward be renamed Camden New Town, as this was the name the area was developed under initially. We concluded that this name would be unnecessarily confusing with the neighbouring ward of Camden Town. Considering the argument advanced during the previous consultation that Canteloves Gardens (after which the current Canteloves ward is named) was no longer within the ward, we proposed to rename the ward Camden Square and we have not been persuaded to reverse this decision.

87 We therefore propose the three wards of Camden Square, Kentish Town North and Kentish Town South as final. They have electoral variances of -2%, 4% and -2% respectively by 2025.

South Camden



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Bloomsbury	3	-4%
Holborn & Covent Garden	3	-7%
King's Cross	3	-5%
Regent's Park	3	-1%
St Pancras & Somers Town	3	4%

Bloomsbury, Holborn & Covent Garden, King's Cross and St Pancras & Somers Town

88 Of the submissions we received for these wards, Councillor Harrison, the councillor for Bloomsbury ward, wrote in support of Bloomsbury, Holborn & Covent Garden and King's Cross wards. These submissions argued that the proposals successfully reflected the community identity of the area, particularly around King's Cross. A number of other submissions were in favour of the proposals for the King's Cross ward and the proposal to keep the new developments around St Pancras Square and Coal Drop Yard together in a single ward.

89 Councillor Simpson, councillor for King's Cross, also wrote in continued support of the proposed King's Cross ward, and the recognition of the changing nature of the community to the north of the station. The Conservative Group noted the new draft recommendations for King's Cross and Bloomsbury wards and supported the new draft recommendations for St Pancras & Somers Town.

90 As a result of the support for our new draft recommendations, we propose to make no changes and confirm these wards as final.

Regent's Park

91 We received one submission in favour of our proposed ward which is unchanged from the existing arrangements. We therefore propose to make no change to this ward as part of our final recommendations.

92 Under our final recommendations, we propose the three-councillor wards of Bloomsbury, Holborn & Covent Garden, King's Cross, Regent's Park and St Pancras & Somers Town. These wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2025 with electoral variances of -4%, -7%, -5%, -1% and 4% respectively.

Conclusions

93 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Camden, referencing the 2018 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	
	2018	2025
Number of councillors	55	55
Number of electoral wards	20	20
Average number of electors per councillor	2,840	2,978
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

Camden Council should be made up of 55 councillors serving five two-councillor wards and 15 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

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

What happens next?

94 We have now completed our review of Camden. 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

95 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 Camden Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Belsize	3	8,999	3,000	6%	9,097	3,032	2%
2	Bloomsbury	3	8,318	2,773	-2%	8,541	2,847	-4%
3	Camden Square	2	5,652	2,826	0%	5,854	2,927	-2%
4	Camden Town	2	4,792	2,396	-16%	5,709	2,854	-4%
5	Fortune Green	3	9,190	3,063	8%	9,247	3,082	4%
6	Frognaal	2	5,300	2,650	-7%	5,965	2,983	0%
7	Gospel Oak	3	8,978	2,993	5%	9,344	3,115	5%
8	Hampstead Town	2	6,214	3,107	9%	6,328	3,164	6%
9	Haverstock	3	9,115	3,038	7%	9,355	3,118	5%
10	Highgate	3	8,249	2,750	-3%	8,415	2,805	-6%
11	Holborn & Covent Garden	3	7,802	2,601	-8%	8,341	2,780	-7%

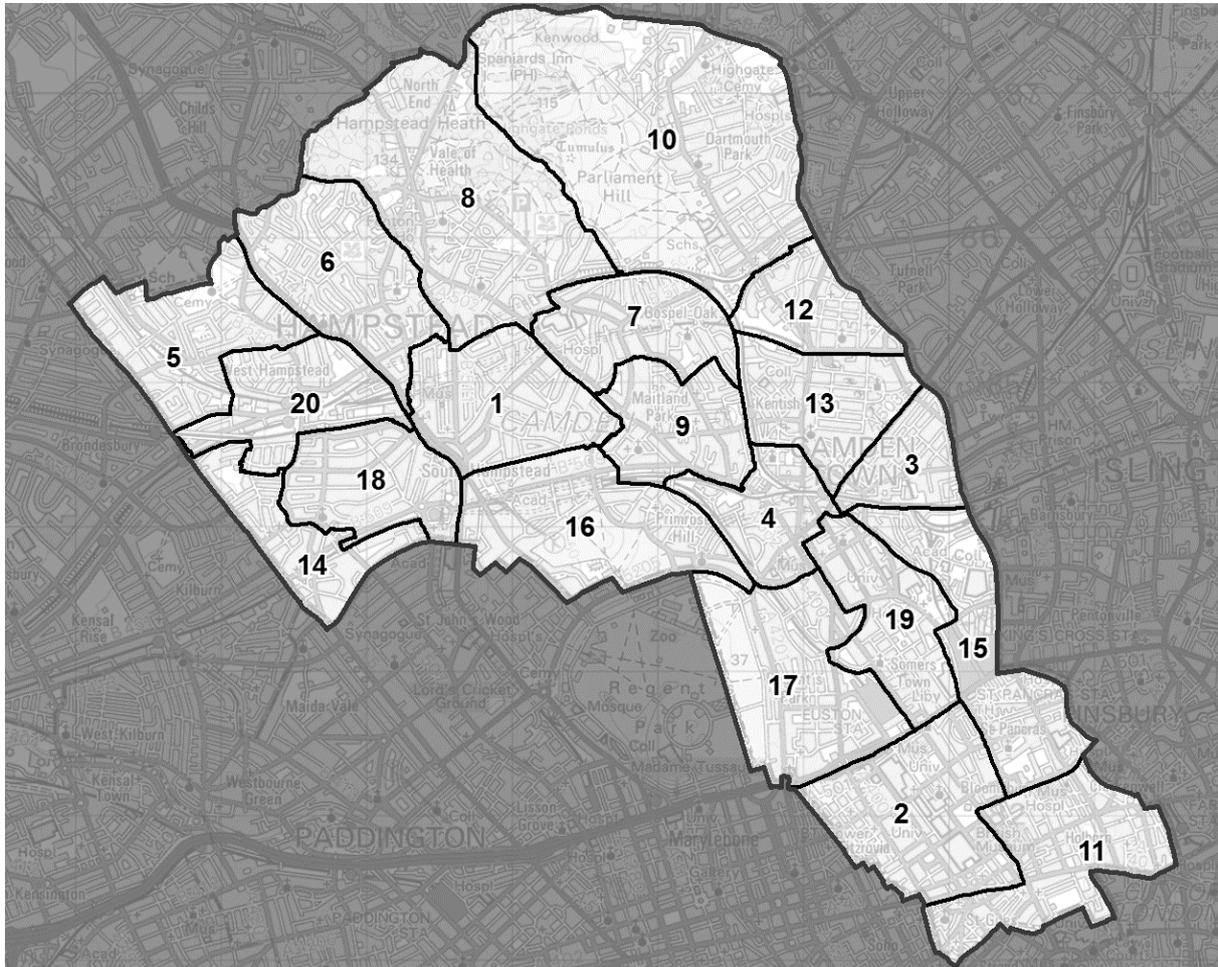
12	Kentish Town North	2	5,936	2,968	5%	6,205	3,103	4%
13	Kentish Town South	3	7,841	2,614	-8%	8,750	2,917	-2%
14	Kilburn	3	8,548	2,849	0%	9,111	3,037	2%
15	King's Cross	3	7,274	2,425	-15%	8,459	2,820	-5%
16	Primrose Hill	3	8,982	2,994	5%	9,049	3,016	1%
17	Regent's Park	3	8,959	2,986	5%	8,830	2,943	-1%
18	South Hampstead	3	8,904	2,968	5%	8,927	2,976	0%
19	St Pancras & Somers Town	3	8,798	2,933	3%	9,332	3,111	4%
20	West Hampstead	3	8,322	2,774	-2%	8,926	2,975	0%
Totals		55	156,173	-	-	163,785	-	-
Averages		-	-	2,840	-	-	2,978	-

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

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Belsize
2	Bloomsbury
3	Camden Square
4	Camden Town
5	Fortune Green
6	Frognal
7	Gospel Oak
8	Hampstead Town
9	Haverstock
10	Highgate
11	Holborn & Covent Garden
12	Kentish Town North
13	Kentish Town South
14	Kilburn
15	King's Cross

16	Primrose Hill
17	Regent's Park
18	South Hampstead
19	St Pancras & Somers Town
20	West Hampstead

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

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/camden

Local Authority

- Camden Council

Political Groups

- Camden Conservatives
- Camden Council Liberal Democrat Group
- Camden Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor S. Adams (Camden Council)
- Councillor D. Beales (Camden Council)
- Councillor L. Cassarani (Camden Council)
- Councillor R. Cotton (Camden Council)
- Councillor A. Harrison (Camden Council)
- Councillor A. Kelly (Camden Council)
- Councillor A. Mason (Camden Council)
- Councillor R. Olszewski (Camden Council)
- Councillor S. Pearson (Camden Council)
- Councillor N. Rahman (Camden Council)
- Councillor F. Rea (Camden Council)
- Councillor J. Simpson (Camden Council)
- Councillor P. Taheri (Camden Council)
- Councillor S. Tiwari (Camden Council)

Local Organisations

- Albert Street North Residents' Association
- Belsize Society
- Bisham Gardens Residents' Association
- Camden Broadway Conservation Area Advisory Committee
- Camden Combined Residents' Association of South Hampstead
- Combined Residents' Association of South Hampstead
- Elsworthy Residents' Association
- Emmanuel Church West Hampstead

- Holly Lodge Residents' Association
- Maryon Mews Residents' Association
- MILAM Residents' Association
- Netherhall Neighbourhood Association
- Pond Street Residents' Association
- St Mary the Virgin Church

Local Residents

- 294 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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