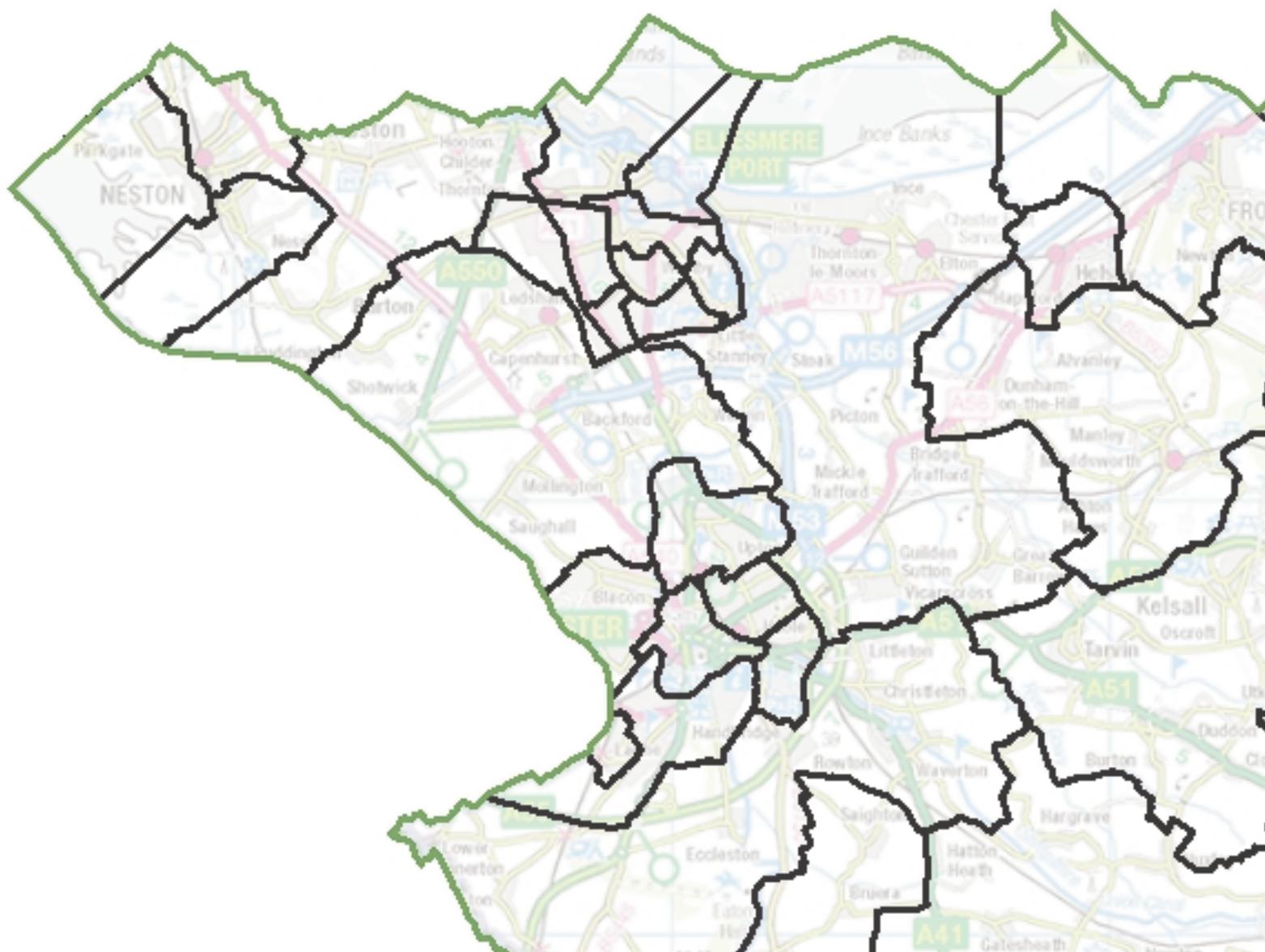


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Final recommendations

March 2018

Translations and other formats

For information on obtaining this publication in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

© The Local Government Boundary Commission for England 2018

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2018

Table of Contents

Summary.....	1
Who we are and what we do	1
Electoral review	1
Why Cheshire West & Chester?	1
Our proposals for Cheshire West & Chester.....	1
What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?.....	2
1 Introduction	3
What is an electoral review?	3
Consultation.....	3
How will the recommendations affect you?.....	4
2 Analysis and final recommendations.....	5
Submissions received.....	5
Electorate figures.....	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	6
Draft recommendations consultation	6
Further limited consultation.....	7
Final recommendations	7
Northern rural wards	10
Southern rural wards	14
Chester	16
Ellesmere Port.....	22
Neston	26
Northwich.....	30
Winsford and Tarporley	34
Conclusions.....	36
Summary of electoral arrangements.....	36
Parish electoral arrangements	36
3 What happens next?	39
Equalities.....	39
Appendix A.....	40
Final recommendations for Cheshire West & Chester	40
Appendix B.....	44
Outline map	44
Appendix C.....	46
Draft recommendations submissions received	46
Appendix C.....	49

Further limited consultation submissions received.....	49
Appendix D.....	50
Glossary and abbreviations	50

Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. 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.

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

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

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

Why Cheshire West & Chester?

4 We are conducting a review of Cheshire West & Chester Council as the Council requested that a review take place to examine the number of councillors that should be elected to the authority. Furthermore, the value of each vote in borough elections also varies depending on where you live in Cheshire West & Chester. 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.

Our proposals for Cheshire West & Chester

- Cheshire West & Chester Council should be represented by 70 councillors, five fewer than there are now.
- Cheshire West & Chester should have 45 wards, one fewer than there is now.
- The boundaries of most wards should change; six – Farndon, Helsby, Lache, Malpas, Shakerley and Winsford Over & Verdin – will stay the same.

5 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Cheshire West & Chester.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Sir Tony Redmond (Deputy Chair)
- Alison Lowton
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Steve Robinson
- Andrew Scallan CBE

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Cheshire West & Chester 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.

What is an electoral review?

9 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

10 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

Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Cheshire West & Chester. We then held three periods of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
21 March 2017	Number of councillors decided
28 March 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 June 2017	End of consultation, we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
29 August 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
6 November 2017	End of consultation, we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
9 January 2018	Start of further limited consultation in part of Chester
5 February 2018	Close of further limited consultation
6 March 2018	Publication of final recommendations

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 or town council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 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.

15 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.

16 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.

	2016	2023
Electorate of Cheshire West & Chester	264,815	281,890
Number of councillors	70	70
Average number of electors per councillor	3,783	4,027

17 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 but one of our proposed wards for Cheshire West & Chester will have good electoral equality by 2023.

18 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.

Submissions received

19 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

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6% by 2023.

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.

21 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

22 Cheshire West & Chester Council currently has 75 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by three political parties and a councillor and concluded that decreasing the number of councillors by six would ensure the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 69 councillors – for example, 69 one-councillor wards, 23 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards. However, during the development of our draft recommendations we found that 70 councillors allowed us to create a warding pattern that better reflected the community evidence we received and had better electoral equality.

24 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultations on warding patterns or our draft recommendations. Therefore, we confirm our recommendation for a 70-councillor council as final.

Ward boundaries consultation

25 We received 110 submissions during our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals from Chester West & Chester Conservative Group (the Conservative Group), Cheshire West Labour and Cheshire West & Chester Liberal Democrats (the Liberal Democrats). The Conservative Group proposed a pattern of 41 wards to be represented by 69 councillors. Cheshire West Labour proposed 66 wards to be represented by 69 councillors. The Liberal Democrats proposed 61 wards to be represented by 73 councillors.

26 The three borough-wide schemes proposed mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for the borough. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that some of the proposed wards would have good levels of electoral equality and in some places used clearly identifiable boundaries. We based our draft proposals on a combination of the borough-wide schemes with some modifications to provide for better electoral equality and more identifiable boundaries.

27 Our draft recommendations were for 24 one-councillor, 11 two-councillor and eight three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests based on the evidence we received.

Draft recommendations consultation

28 We received 382 submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations, many of which referred to more than one ward. These included

borough-wide submissions from the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats. Cheshire West & Chester Labour Group and Local Campaign Forum (the Labour Group) commented on 21 of the 43 wards we proposed. The majority of the other submissions focussed on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Chester and our Neston & Parkgate and Tarporley wards.

29 We received submissions that expressed a preference in principle for single-councillor or multi-councillor wards either in specific areas or across the borough as a whole. While we have noted these submissions, our three statutory criteria express no preference for single-councillor or multi-councillor wards and we consider that good arguments can be made both for and against these warding patterns. Therefore, we have based our recommendations solely on the evidence we received for each specific area of the borough.

Further limited consultation

30 We proposed major changes to some of our wards in Chester. Due to the number of electors affected by these changes and as no one had proposed them before, we conducted a short period of further limited consultation relating to our Blacon, Chester City & the Garden Quarter and Boughton Heath wards only.

31 We received 56 submissions in relation to our further limited consultation. The vast majority of these were supportive of our changes to the Garden Quarter. The rest made comments about different aspects of our proposals.

32 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations and the alternative proposals for Chester in our further limited consultation. We have made modifications to the boundaries of the following wards when compared to our draft recommendations: Blacon, Boughton Heath, Chester City, Great Sutton, Neston & Parkgate, Newton & Hoole, Overleigh, Strawberry & Sutton, Upton and Vicars Cross. We also made amendments affecting no electors between our renamed Goway Rural and Westminster and Wolverham wards.

33 We also changed the names of the following wards: Eddisbury Hill to Tarvin & Kelsall, Elton & Mickle Trafford to Goway Rural, Manley to Sandstone, Northwich Winnington to Northwich Winnington & Castle, Overpool & Grange to Central & Grange, Whitby Groves to Whitby Park and Whitby Heath to Whitby Groves.

Final recommendations

34 Pages 10–35 detail our final recommendations for each area of Cheshire West & Chester. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

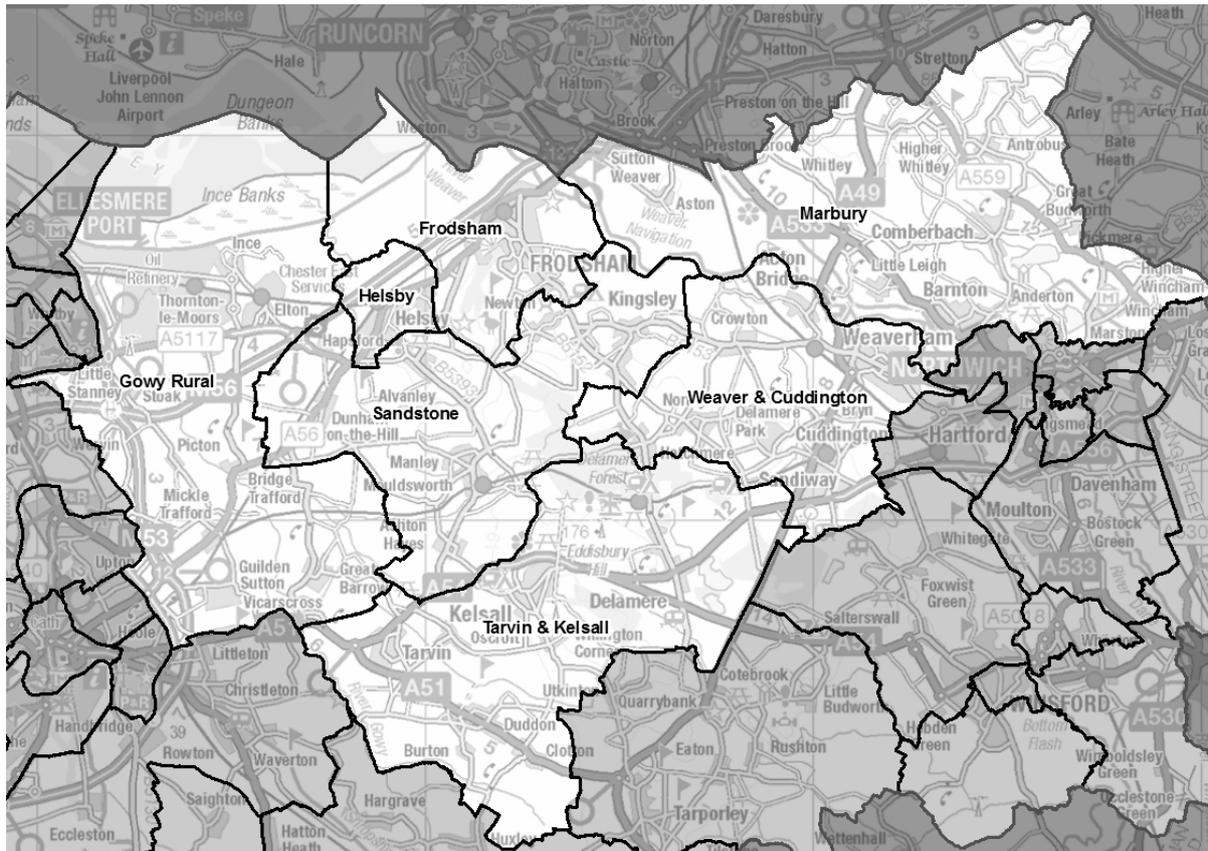
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

35 Our final recommendations are for six three-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and 26 one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 40–43 and on the large map accompanying this report.

Northern rural wards



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Frodsham	2	-5%
Gowy Rural	2	-8%
Helsby	1	9%
Marbury	3	-9%
Sandstone	1	2%
Tarvin & Kelsall	2	-2%
Weaver & Cuddington	3	-2%

Goway Rural, Marbury, Sandstone and Weaver & Cuddington

37 Our Elton & Mickle Trafford ward was referred to in 29 submissions in addition to the borough-wide comments. These were from Justin Madders MP (Ellesmere Port & Neston), three borough councillors, four parish councillors, seven parish councils, Ellesmere Port & Neston Constituency Conservative & Unionist Association and 13 local residents.

38 Eleven submissions supported the boundaries we proposed, arguing that they represented the best balance of our criteria in the area and that all the parishes in the ward have similar concerns in relation to transport and rural isolation. It was also argued that all the villages in the ward generally looked more to Chester than to Ellesmere Port. Seven of these submissions proposed that the ward be called “Goway Rural” to avoid giving the larger communities too much prominence.

39 Eighteen submissions objected to this ward. Their main objection was that the northern and southern parts of the ward are entirely separate communities with poor transport links between them. They also argued that the northern parishes are largely rural with some industrial developments, primarily the Stanlow refinery; most children in them attend Elton Primary School; and they have shared transport services.

40 It was proposed that our ward was split in half, retaining the current Elton ward with the possible addition of Dunham-on-the-Hill & Hapsford parish to improve electoral equality. There were also objections to the inclusion of Barrow parish in Elton & Mickle Trafford ward as respondents argued that it had few connections with the rest of the ward. Finally, a borough councillor proposed that the western boundary of Elton should be moved to the M53 so that the entire Stanlow complex and its surrounding industry is in one ward. He argued that this would ensure better liaison between industry and local residents.

41 Seven submissions referred to our Manley ward. These were from Cheshire West & Chester Green Party, four parish councils, a borough councillor and a local resident. Alvanley, Ashton Hayes & Horton-cum-Peel and Dunham-on-the-Hill & Hapsford parish councils all argued that the ward should be renamed “Sandstone” as this name would not give over-prominence to one parish. Dunham-on-the-Hill & Hapsford and Barrow parish councils, and the borough councillor, also proposed the inclusion of Barrow parish in this ward. The local resident and Cheshire West & Chester Green Party argued that Kingsley parish should be warded with Crowton and Norley.

42 Fifteen submissions referred to our Marbury and Weaver & Cuddington wards. These were from two borough councillors, Cheshire West & Chester Green Party, seven parish councils and five local residents. Ten of these supported the draft recommendations, stating that the three parishes added to the current ward are all rural communities whose residents accessed facilities in the current Marbury ward such as churches, and healthcare in Barnton. Five submissions, including that of Dutton Parish Council, objected arguing that the eastern and western parts of the ward have little in common.

43 The Conservative Group supported our Marbury and Weaver & Cuddington wards and proposed that our Elton & Mickle Trafford ward be renamed “Gowy Rural” and that our Manley ward be renamed “Sandstone”. The Labour Group supported our Manley ward. However, it proposed our Elton & Mickle Trafford ward be divided into two single-councillor wards. It also proposed that our Marbury ward be divided into a single-councillor Barnton ward and a two-councillor ward incorporating all the other parishes plus Action Bridge from Weaver & Cuddington. The Liberal Democrats supported our Weaver & Cuddington ward. However, they proposed that Manley ward be renamed “Kingsley & Ashton Hayes” and that Elton & Mickle Trafford be split into two single-councillor wards. They also proposed that Marbury ward be divided to create a single-councillor Barnton ward.

44 In our previous report we noted the complexity of the warding pattern in this part of the borough and we also stressed the importance of receiving alternative proposals that take into account the effect on neighbouring wards. Not all the submissions did this. However, in light of the evidence we received we have decided to make some changes to our draft recommendations.

45 We have noted the conflicting views in relation to our Elton & Mickle Trafford ward but are not persuaded that the proponents of two single-councillor wards have made a sufficiently strong case to justify an electoral variance of -13% in Elton. There is evidence that the northern and southern parts of the ward share some issues and concerns and we consider it preferable to have a two-councillor ward with good electoral equality and which encompasses more than one community than to accept a variance of -13%. While we have noted the arguments for including Barrow in our Manley ward, doing so would lead to an electoral variance of over 20% in Manley ward. We do not consider that level of electoral inequality to be acceptable. However, we do agree that having the Stanlow industrial area in one ward will lead to clearer ward boundaries. Therefore, we are proposing to amend the ward’s western boundary so that it follows the M53.

46 We noted the lack of support for the name “Elton & Mickle Trafford”. Given the River Gowy is a central feature of the ward, we consider the proposed alternative of “Gowy Rural” to be reasonable and have changed the name accordingly.

47 In respect of Manley ward, we accept there is little support for the ward name we proposed so we have decided to rename it “Sandstone” in our final recommendations as suggested by the three parish councils and the Conservative Group.

48 In relation to our Marbury and Weaver & Cuddington wards, we note the objections from Dutton Parish Council, the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrats. However, all of the alternative proposals would lead to a ward with high electoral inequality which we did not consider was justified by the limited evidence that was provided. Conversely, there was support for our Marbury ward from the other six parish councils that submitted their views. Therefore, we propose that our Marbury and Weaver & Cuddington wards are approved as final without amendment.

Frodsham and Helsby

49 We received four submissions in relation to these wards in addition to the borough-wide comments. Two borough councillors supported our Frodsham ward; Mike Amesbury MP (Weaver Vale) and Helsby Parish Council supported our Helsby ward.

50 All three borough-wide submissions supported our Helsby ward. The Conservative Group supported our Frodsham ward, but the Liberal Democrats argued that it should be divided into two single-councillor wards based on the wards of Frodsham Town Council.

51 We consider there is insufficient evidence to amend our proposed Frodsham ward. We find the evidence provided at the last stage of the review in relation to town-wide facilities, clubs and societies as well as the lack of natural boundaries to be much more persuasive. This suggests to us that Frodsham is a cohesive community that should be served by a single ward represented by two councillors.

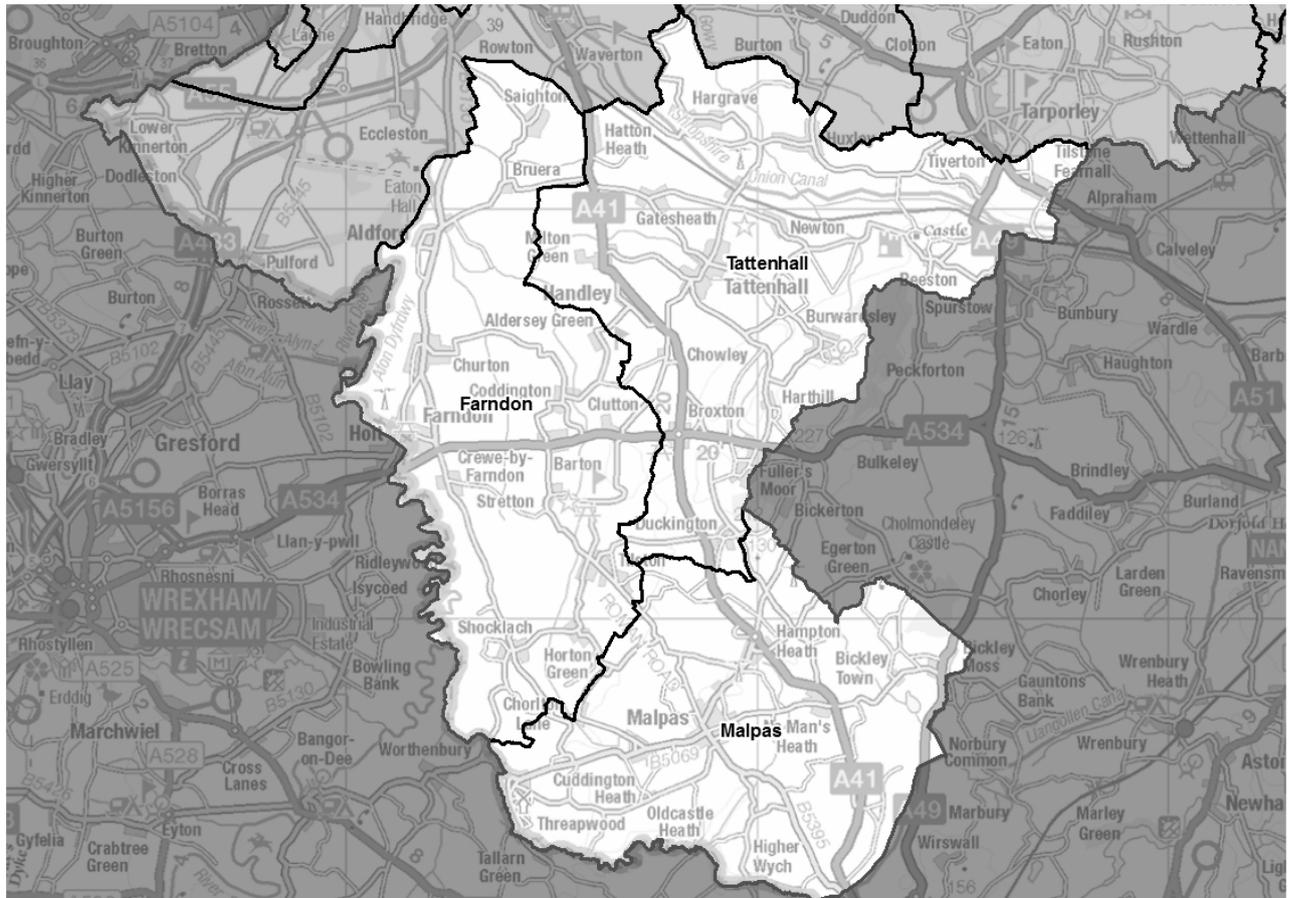
52 Therefore, we propose that our Frodsham and Helsby wards are confirmed as final without amendment.

Tarvin & Kelsall

53 We received five submissions in relation to this ward in addition to the borough-wide comments, all of which were in relation to its name. Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council supported the name “Eddisbury Hill”. One resident proposed the name “Tarvin & Delamere”. A borough councillor, two local residents, as well as the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats proposed the name “Tarvin & Kelsall”. They argued that Eddisbury Hill itself isn’t well known and that, as the ward’s boundaries are almost identical to the current Tarvin & Kelsall ward, a change of name is unnecessary.

54 Having considered the evidence received, we accept that a new ward name for this area is unnecessary and potentially confusing to voters. Therefore, we have changed the ward’s name from “Eddisbury Hill” to “Tarvin & Kelsall” in our final recommendations.

Southern rural wards



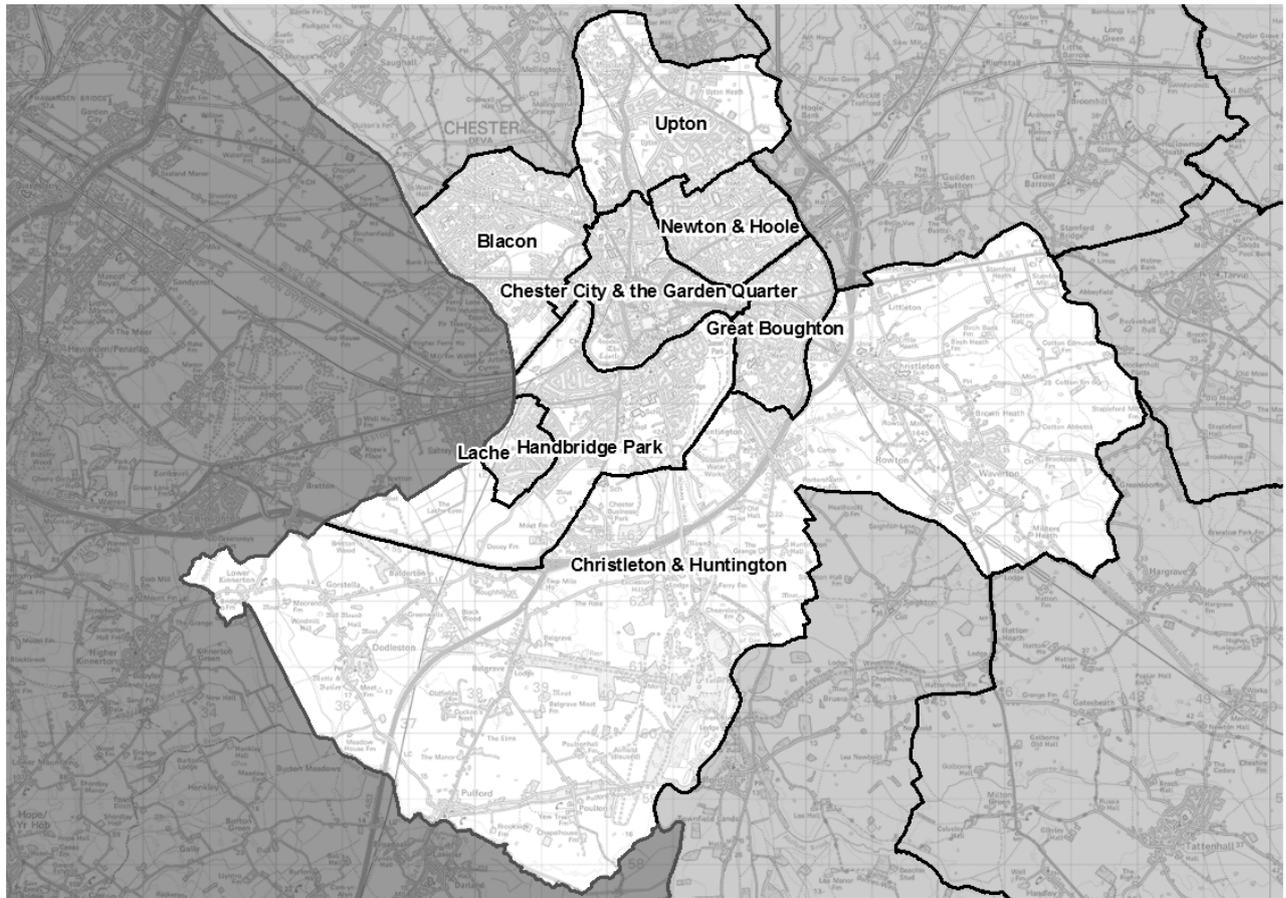
Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Farndon	1	-6%
Malpas	1	1%
Tattenhall	1	3%

Farndon, Malpas and Tattenhall

55 We received five submissions in relation to these wards, in addition to the borough-wide comments. Malpas Parish Council, No Mans Heath & District Parish Council and two members of the public supported our Malpas ward. The Conservative Group and Cheshire West & Chester Liberal Democrats supported all three wards. One member of the public stated that our proposals divided Fuller's Moor. However, there was little detail in this submission and it appeared to relate to the Council's external boundary, which is not being considered in this review.

56 Given the support for our Malpas ward and the lack of objection to our Farndon and Tattenhall wards, we propose that all three are confirmed as final without amendment.

Chester



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Blacon	3	-15%
Chester City & the Garden Quarter	3	10%
Christleton & Huntington	2	6%
Great Boughton	2	10%
Handbridge Park	2	2%
Lache	1	-3%
Newton & Hoole	3	-5%
Upton	2	-4%

Blacon, Chester City & the Garden Quarter and Great Boughton

57 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, our proposed Blacon and Chester City wards were referred to in 143 submissions, six of which supported the draft recommendations. The submissions were from Chris Matheson MP (City of Chester); three borough councillors; two parish councillors; Chester West & Chester Green Party; five local organisations, including the Garden Quarter Association; and 131 local residents.

58 The supportive submissions argued that our draft recommendations were the best scheme that could be achieved given the constraints of geography and the distribution of electors. Our wards also had good electoral equality. It was also pointed out that the Garden Quarter has a large, transitory student population and is not as cohesive as the objectors claimed. Any alternative proposal that reunited the Garden Quarter would potentially split Blacon.

59 Fourteen of the objections argued that the Saddlery Way area has no connection with Blacon and should be warded with the city centre. Four objections argued that the Parkgate Road area also had little in common with Blacon and should be included in our proposed Upton ward with the canal being used as the boundary. A councillor objected to there being a three-councillor city centre ward but did not provide an alternative proposal.

60 The other 118 objections argued that our draft recommendations split the Garden Quarter between the Blacon and Chester City wards. Their key points were: the Garden Quarter is one community whose residents come together at the many social events and other activities they organise; the canal is not only a poor boundary as it is crossed by four bridges within approximately a kilometre of each other but is also where many events take place; the two parts of the Garden Quarter would become peripheral in their wards and risked becoming marginalised; the Garden Quarter has nothing in common with Blacon, from which it is physically separated by roads, a retail park and open space.

61 Our proposed Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross wards were referred to in 20 submissions. These were from Chris Matheson MP, three borough councillors, two parish councillors, Cheshire West & Chester Green Party, Great Boughton Parish Council and 12 local residents.

62 Ten submissions supported our proposed Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross wards, arguing that the two areas are distinct communities. The other ten submissions argued the opposite, questioning the need to split Great Boughton parish between wards. Three submissions, including that of Great Boughton Parish Council, also argued that the boundary between Boughton Heath and Chester City wards divided the businesses in that area and should be moved west to include the Cherry Road area.

63 The Conservative Group proposed our Chester City ward was renamed "Chester City & Boughton" to reflect both its communities; Blacon was renamed "Blacon & Sealand"; and that the Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross wards were merged.

64 The Labour Group supported our Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross wards but made no comments regarding Blacon or Chester City.

65 The Liberal Democrats supported our Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross wards. To deal with the issues raised by residents in relation to the Garden Quarter, they proposed that the current Blacon and Garden Quarter wards were retained, with the remaining area forming a Chester City ward. However, not only would this add a councillor, but it would result in variances of -15% in Blacon and -16% in Chester City. We did not consider this level of electoral inequality to be acceptable.

66 The Garden Quarter Association proposed an alternative warding pattern made up of three two-councillor wards: Blacon, Garden Quarter & University and City & Boughton. However, when we analysed these wards, we found the electoral variances were: Blacon 22%, Garden Quarter & University -11% and City & Boughton -13%. We also do not consider this level of electoral inequality to be acceptable.

67 Having rejected the proposals of the Liberal Democrats and the Garden Quarter Association we then investigated what other alternative warding arrangements there were. The key issue is that the current Blacon ward is forecast to have 600 too few electors to provide good electoral equality in a three-councillor ward (or 3,000 too many for a two-councillor ward). To improve electoral equality the current ward needs to expand. Given the constraints of the local geography, which include the Welsh border and an unbridged section of the River Dee, we considered that the only way Blacon could expand was for it to include part of the current Garden Quarter ward.

68 However, that resulted in dividing the Garden Quarter and the evidence we received persuaded us that that was unacceptable. As more than 100 residents told us, the Garden Quarter is one community and should be wholly within the same ward. Due to the strength and logic of those arguments we consider that this is a genuinely exceptional case where an electoral variance of -15% in Blacon is acceptable. We concluded it is preferable to accept this variance than to divide the Garden Quarter between wards.

69 We therefore made several changes to our draft recommendations. Firstly, to avoid splitting Blacon or one of its neighbouring communities we proposed to retain the current Blacon ward with a variance of -15%. While we noted the comments of residents from the Parkgate Road area, we were not prepared to reduce Blacon's electorate any further and so proposed to make no change to the boundary there.

70 We proposed to include all of the Garden Quarter in our new three-councillor Chester City & the Garden Quarter ward. While we accepted that many residents wanted a single-councillor Garden Quarter ward, others argued that adding all of the Garden Quarter to our Chester City ward was preferable to our draft recommendations. We considered that this proposal also satisfied the concerns of residents from the Saddlery Way area. We have included "the Garden Quarter" in the ward's name as this seemed to be important to many residents.

71 However, simply adding all of the Garden Quarter to our Chester City ward lead to a variance of 14% and we were not persuaded to recommend two wards with variances over 10% next to each other. As noted above, Great Boughton Parish Council and others argued that the boundary of our city centre ward should be moved westwards to include the Cherry Road area. This is a boundary that we considered for our draft recommendations but rejected due to the high electoral variance that would have resulted in Boughton Heath ward. However, combining our Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross wards and then moving the boundary to Challinor Street meant our new Chester City & the Garden Quarter and Great Boughton wards would both have acceptable electoral equality. We were conscious of the arguments in relation to a single-councillor Vicars Cross ward but accepted the argument that splitting Great Boughton parish between wards is potentially confusing to residents. We also noted that a combined ward allowed us to create a better pattern of wards across the city.

72 Given the scale of the changes we proposed to this part of the city, there was a short period of further limited consultation in this area only. We received a further 56 submissions. These were from Chris Matheson MP (City of Chester); four borough or parish councillors; the Conservative Group; the Liberal Democrats; Chester West & Chester Green Party; the Garden Quarter Association; and 47 local residents.

73 Forty-two submissions supported our proposals, with 38 of these specifically in relation to Chester City & the Garden Quarter ward. The main reason for supporting the recommendations was that they kept the Garden Quarter in one ward, with some residents also referencing the Garden Quarter's links to the city centre and the Liverpool Road area. The submissions also supported "the Garden Quarter" being included in the ward's name.

74 The objections primarily related to the boundary between Chester City & the Garden Quarter and Great Boughton, arguing that it was arbitrary, or that we should retain the single-councillor Vicars Cross and Boughton Heath wards we had proposed in our draft recommendations.

75 We have carefully considered all the additional submissions received and have decided to move away from our draft recommendations. We propose to adopt the alternative warding proposals that were consulted on during the limited further consultation. While we have noted that some respondents favoured single-councillor Vicars Cross and Boughton Heath wards, using the canal as the boundary would lead to very poor electoral equality in Boughton Heath, which was not justified by the strength of the evidence received. The only way to resolve this would be to move some electors south of the canal into Vicars Cross but we did not receive a clear alternative proposal for this. Conversely, we noted that Vicars Cross and Boughton Heath are covered by the same parish council and share concerns in relation to transport and air quality. Also, while there were some objections our boundary on Challinor Street, none of these proposed alternatives that led to good electoral equality.

76 Therefore, we have adopted our alternative proposals for Blacon, Chester City & the Garden Quarter and Great Boughton wards as part of our final recommendations.

Handbridge Park and Lache

77 We received 36 submissions that referred to this area. These were from Chris Matheson MP (City of Chester), three borough councillors, two parish councillors, Cheshire West & Chester Green Party, three local organisations and 26 local residents.

78 Twelve submissions supported the draft recommendations, arguing that Lache is part of a wider community south of the Dee that shares schools, shops and recreational facilities with other parts of our proposed Overleigh ward.

79 Twenty-four submissions objected to the draft recommendations. They argued that, other than its outer fringes, Lache is entirely separate from the rest of our proposed ward, with many residents using shops and services in Saltney (in Flintshire) rather than other parts of Chester. The submissions stated that Lache residents do not use shops in Westminster Park and, given their relatively low car ownership, will find it difficult to access the new facilities around Wrexham Road. Finally, it was argued that there is considerable deprivation in Lache which would be hidden if it was part of a larger, more affluent ward and that this would breach our criterion in relation to effective and convenient local government.

80 The Conservative Group supported the draft recommendations. The Labour Group and the Liberal Democrats both argued in favour of a single-councillor Lache ward.

81 We have considered the submissions carefully and have concluded that we should amend our draft recommendations in this area. We consider that we have now received good evidence that explains the separate community identities of Lache and Handbridge Park. Therefore, we intend to retain the current single-councillor Lache ward in our final recommendations and to expand the current Handbridge Park ward to include the new development at Wrexham Road. We consider that these new wards will better reflect community identities in this part of Chester and will both have good electoral equality.

Newton & Hoole and Upton

82 Excluding comments in relation to the boundary between Upton and Blacon, which are discussed above, our Upton and Newton & Hoole wards were referred to in 26 submissions. These were from Chris Matheson MP, four borough councillors, three parish councillors, Upton-by-Chester & District Parish Council (two submissions), Cheshire West & Chester Green Party and 15 local residents.

83 Four submissions wholly supported our proposed Upton ward, arguing that it is a cohesive community that should be warded together. The nine objections related to the boundary with Newton & Hoole and specifically to the unparished area of Chester that we included in the ward. Some stated that none of this area should be included in Upton as it would be confusing for residents. Others, while broadly supporting the draft recommendations, argued that residents in the Queensway area look more to Newton, whereas those in Whitton Drive and Horrocks Road use the facilities in Upton that are within walking distance of their homes. It was argued that placing the boundary at the junction of Newton Lane, Plas Newton Lane and Wealstone Lane, known locally as Newton Corner, would lead to a clearer boundary.

84 One submission wholly supported our Newton & Hoole ward arguing that the areas are closely aligned and easily linked with a bus serving both areas. Overall, it was argued that many Newton residents use facilities in Hoole and vice versa. The eight objections argued that Newton and Hoole have few connections, with residents using different facilities. It was therefore argued that they should be warded separately.

85 The Conservative Group broadly supported both wards but proposed that the boundary between them be moved to Newton Corner. The Liberal Democrats expressed reluctant support for our Upton ward. They objected to our Newton & Hoole ward, arguing that it contains two separate communities. They proposed a two-councillor Hoole ward and a single-councillor Newton ward, the former having an electoral variance of -11%.

86 Having considered all of the submissions received, we note there are clear differences of opinion as to the connectivity between Newton and Hoole. The only alternative proposal we received was from the Liberal Democrats and this included a Hoole ward with relatively high electoral inequality. Given the conflicting evidence at both stages of the review, we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to justify this level of electoral inequality.

87 In relation to the boundary between Upton and Newton & Hoole, we accept that Whitton Drive and Horrocks Road were cut off from the rest of Newton & Hoole in our draft recommendations and that it would be more appropriate to include them in our Upton ward. Equally, we agree that using Newton Corner as the southern boundary of Upton ward will lead to a clearer boundary. We have amended our recommendations accordingly. Subject to those changes we confirm our Newton & Hoole and Upton wards as final.

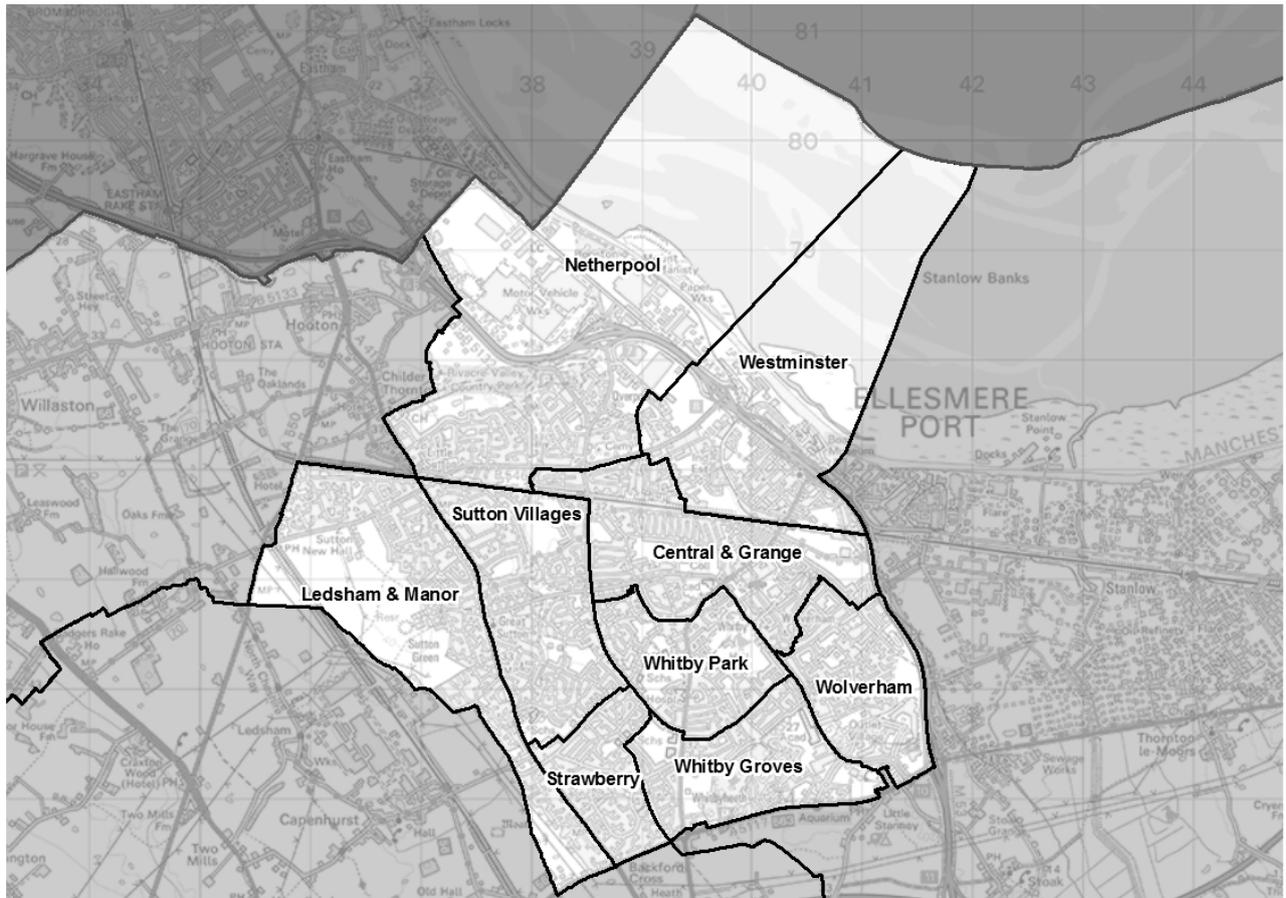
Christleton & Huntington

88 We received eight submissions that referred to this ward in addition to the borough-wide submissions. These were from three parish councils, one borough councillor, two parish councillors and two local residents.

89 Christleton, Littleton and Rowton parish councils, a borough councillor, a parish councillor and the Conservative Group supported the draft recommendations. They argued that the parishes in the proposed ward all look to Chester while sharing a similar rural identity. A second parish councillor (from Dodleston parish) and two local residents objected to the draft recommendations arguing that the parishes in the ward are not one community. They argued that two single-councillor wards, with the boundary running between Huntington and Rowton parishes, would be a better reflection of residents' identities. The final submission proposed that "Dodleston" was added to the ward's name but we consider that this would make the name too long.

90 We have considered all the submissions received and, as noted in our draft recommendations report, a single-councillor Dodleston & Huntington ward would have an electoral variance of 12%. We do not consider the evidence received is sufficiently strong to justify this level of electoral inequality. Therefore, we propose that our recommendations for Christleton & Huntington ward are confirmed as final.

Ellesmere Port



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Central & Grange	2	6%
Ledsham & Manor	2	7%
Netherpool	1	2%
Strawberry	1	9%
Sutton Villages	2	5%
Westminster	1	0%
Whitby Groves	1	-7%
Whitby Park	1	3%
Wolverham	1	-1%

Netherpool, Strawberry and Sutton Villages

91 We received 11 submissions that referred to one of these wards in addition to the three borough-wide submissions. These were from Justin Madders MP (Ellesmere Port & Neston), Ellesmere Port & Neston Constituency Conservative & Unionist Association, Ellesmere Port & Neston Liberal Democrats and eight local residents.

92 Both Conservative submissions supported the draft recommendations. Both Liberal Democrat submissions, the Labour Group, Justin Madders MP and a local resident argued that as our proposed Great Sutton ward included parts of Little Sutton, it should be renamed. The Liberal Democrats and the resident proposed “Rivacre”; the Labour Group and Justin Madders MP proposed “Sutton Villages”.

93 The other seven local residents objected to the draft recommendations. They argued that both the Great and Little Sutton areas were being split between wards, whereas the Hope Farm estate in the south of our two-councillor Strawberry & Sutton ward looks more to the Strawberry and Groves areas than Sutton. While no alternative boundary was suggested between Netherpool and Great Sutton wards, a resident proposed moving the boundary of Great Sutton ward south to Hope Farm Road to create a two-councillor ward to the north and a single-councillor ward to the south. He argued that this would unite Great Sutton in one ward and better reflect community identities.

94 We received very little community evidence in relation to this area during our first consultation, basing our wards on proposals from the political groups and our tour of the area. Having considered all the evidence from both periods of consultation, we are persuaded by the arguments of the residents and agree that an alternative pattern will better reflect community identities in this part of Ellesmere Port. Therefore, we have moved the boundary between our proposed Great Sutton and Strawberry & Sutton wards south to run north of Hope Farm Road, creating a two-councillor ward to the north and a single-councillor ward to the south. We have named the northern ward Sutton Villages as it contains part of Great and Little Sutton and named the southern ward Strawberry.

95 As no clear alternative boundary was proposed between our Sutton Villages and Netherpool wards, we propose that no changes are made to the latter and confirm our Netherpool ward as final without amendment.

Whitby Groves and Whitby Park

96 We received five submissions that referred to these wards in addition to the borough-wide submissions. The Conservative Group and Ellesmere Port & Neston Constituency Conservative & Unionist Association supported the draft recommendations. The other submissions, as well as the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrats in their borough-wide submission, argued that both these wards were wrongly named in our draft recommendations as the Groves area was in our proposed Whitby Heath ward and parts of Whitby Heath, including Whitby Heath Primary School, were in our Whitby Groves ward.

97 The Labour Group, Justin Madders MP and a resident proposed that the names were simply reversed. Both Liberal Democrat submissions and a resident proposed

Whitby Groves should become “Whitby Park” after its most prominent feature and that Whitby Heath should become “Whitby Groves” or “Whitby South”.

98 We are persuaded by the argument that both wards were wrongly named and are changing our draft recommendations. We have called the northern of the two wards “Whitby Park” as it does appear to be a prominent local feature. While we note the Liberal Democrats’ argument that the Groves area only covers part of the southern ward, we prefer to avoid the use of north/south in ward names where there is a viable alternative which we consider to be the case here. Therefore, we have named the ward “Whitby Groves” in our final recommendations.

Central & Grange, Wolverham and Westminster

99 We received five submissions that referred to one of these wards in addition to the borough-wide submissions. Justin Madders MP stated his support for the comments of the Labour Group set out below. Ellesmere Port & Neston Constituency Conservative & Unionist Association supported the draft recommendations for Westminster and Wolverham. A local resident questioned why Newnham Drive was not in Wolverham ward but did not provide any other evidence. A borough councillor proposed that the boundaries of the Westminster and Wolverham wards were moved westwards so that the Stanlow complex is entirely in a ward with Elton. This is discussed in more detail in paragraphs 40 and 45 (above). Finally, a borough councillor proposed that Westminster ward be renamed “Rossmore & Westminster” as it reflects both communities in the area.

100 The Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats supported our draft recommendations for all three wards. The Labour Group supported our proposed Westminster ward but suggested that our Wolverham ward be renamed “Wolverham & Stanney Grange”. They objected to our proposed Overpool & Grange ward, arguing that there is little to unite its communities other than their relatively high levels of deprivation. However, they did not make an alternative proposal. If no changes were made to the ward, they proposed that it was renamed “Central & Grange” as it contains all of the town centre but only part of Overpool. Finally, the Labour Group proposed that our proposed Wolverham ward be renamed “Wolverham & Stanney Grange”.

101 While we have noted the objections to our proposed Overpool & Grange ward, in the absence of an alternative proposal we do not intend to amend its boundaries. However, we accept the argument of the Labour Group that the ward name does not appropriately reflect its communities so have called it “Central & Grange” in our final recommendations.

102 In relation to Wolverham ward, in the absence of more detailed evidence from the Labour Group we are not persuaded to change the name of this ward and therefore propose that our Wolverham ward is confirmed as final, subject to the amendments to its eastern boundary with Gowy Rural ward discussed earlier.

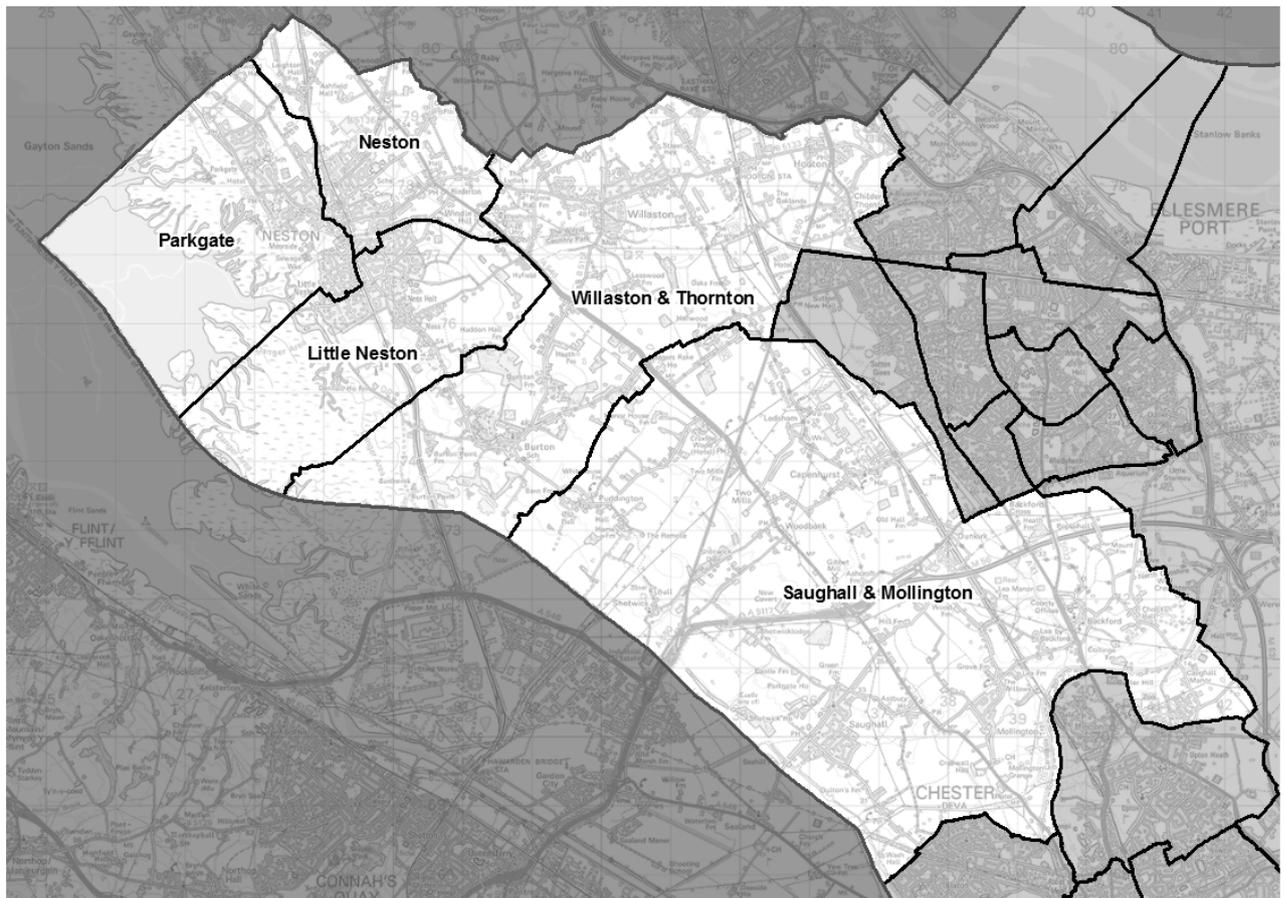
103 In relation to our Westminster ward, we have noted that Westminster is the predominant community so propose to make no change to the name of the ward. However, we have altered the ward’s eastern boundary with Gowy Rural ward, as discussed earlier. Subject to that change, we confirm our Westminster ward as final.

Ledsham & Manor

104 Three submissions from residents mentioned this ward, in addition to the three borough-wide submissions. The Conservative Group supported the draft recommendations, while the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrats commented on the length of the ward but did not make alternative proposals.

105 Two residents objected to the ward's boundaries arguing that wards in the area should cross the A41, but neither made an alternative proposal. The third resident supported our draft recommendations but proposed the ward be called "Backford Cross & West Suttons". While we have noted that Ledsham village itself will not be in this ward, we consider that as our proposed ward is similar to the existing one and that there is benefit in retaining the current name. Therefore, we propose no change to our draft recommendations.

Neston



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Little Neston	1	6%
Neston	1	4%
Parkgate	1	3%
Saughall & Mollington	1	7%
Willaston & Thornton	1	10%

Little Neston, Neston, Parkgate and Willaston & Thornton

106 We received 44 submissions in relation to this area in addition to the borough-wide submissions. These were from Justin Madders MP (Ellesmere Port & Neston), Neston Town Council, one local organisation, four borough councillors, Ellesmere Port & Neston Constituency Conservative & Unionist Association, Ellesmere Port & Neston Liberal Democrats (two submissions) and 34 local residents.

107 Two borough councillors, Ellesmere Port & Neston Constituency Conservative & Unionist Association and a local resident supported the draft recommendations. They argued that Neston is the administrative centre of the area, with residents travelling into the town to shop or use its other facilities. People also regularly travelled to all parts of the town for social events. Any attempt to divide the town risked creating wards with artificial boundaries.

108 The remaining 40 submissions objected to the draft recommendations, arguing in favour of single-councillor wards as Little Neston, Neston and Parkgate are entirely separate communities. They pointed out that Little Neston is largely residential with relatively few facilities, Neston is an old market town with most residents living in or around the town centre and Parkgate is an old port with a strong tourist trade.

109 Three submissions also argued that Burton should not be in the same ward with any part of Neston as it is an entirely separate community with its own facilities and has no public transport connections to Neston. It was also pointed out that residents in Burton use shops and medical facilities in Willaston, rather than those in Neston.

110 Neston Town Council restated its support for the three single-councillor wards it proposed at the previous stage of the review, pointing out that they all had good electoral equality. Several residents, a borough councillor, Justin Madders MP and the Parkgate Society indicated their support for the Town Council's proposals in their submissions.

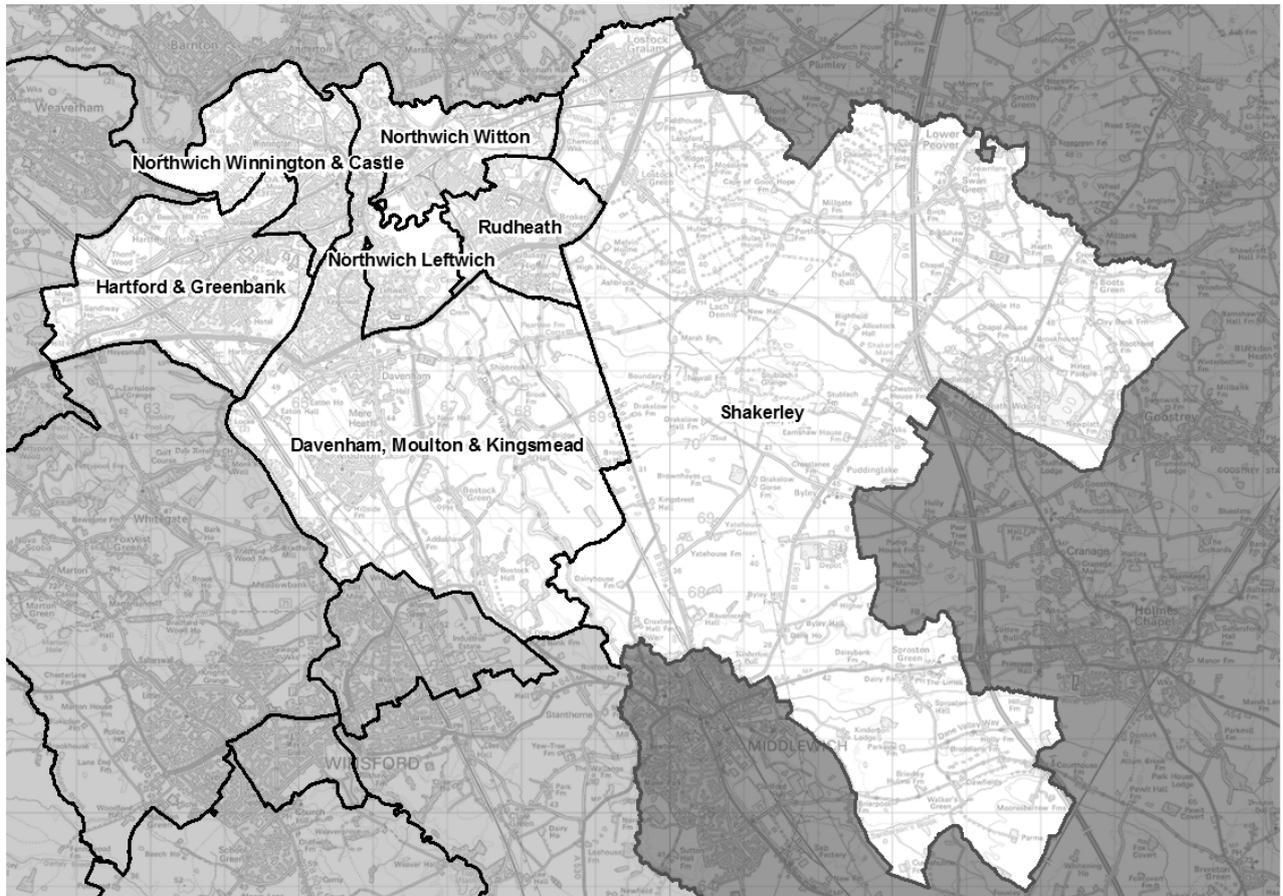
111 The Conservative Group supported the draft recommendations. The Labour Group objected to the draft recommendations, stating that it supported the boundaries proposed by Neston Town Council. The Liberal Democrat Group proposed three single-councillor wards that also included Burton; however, they had relatively poor electoral equality.

112 We have carefully considered all the submissions and have decided to change our draft recommendations, adopting the three single-councillor wards proposed by Neston Town Council, with Burton being added to our proposed Willaston & Thornton ward. While we note that the submissions in support of the draft recommendations accord with what we saw when we visited the area, such visits can only be relatively fleeting and we note the wealth of knowledge about the area in the 40 objections we received. We are persuaded that Neston is made up of several separate communities and that these would be better served by three single-councillor wards. We also accept the arguments that Burton has more in common with Willaston than with Neston and have warded it accordingly. This also ensures all our wards in this area have good electoral equality.

Saughall & Mollington

113 Puddington Parish Council, a borough councillor and a parish councillor supported our draft recommendations, as did the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats. Therefore, we propose that our Saughall & Mollington ward is confirmed as final without amendment.

Northwich



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	2	6%
Hartford & Greenbank	2	-9%
Northwich Leftwich	1	1%
Northwich Winnington & Castle	2	-8%
Northwich Witton	1	8%
Rudheath	1	4%
Shakerley	1	2%

Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead and Northwich Leftwich

114 We received 12 submissions in relation to these wards. These were from Mike Amesbury MP (Weaver Vale), Kingsmead Parish Council, Northwich Town Council, three borough councillors and six local residents. Northwich Town Council and Mike Amesbury MP supported the draft recommendations arguing that, due to the high level of deprivation in Leftwich, a single-councillor ward reflected the local community and would ensure the area was given the focus it needed. The other submissions objected to the draft recommendations, arguing that the two wards should be merged. Their reasoning was that that residents from Leftwich use facilities in Kingsmead and Davenham, whereas children living in Davenham and Kingsmead attend Leftwich Primary School.

115 The Labour Group and the Liberal Democrats supported the draft recommendations for similar reasons to those of the Town Council. The Conservative Group objected for similar reasons to those set out above.

116 We have carefully considered all the submissions received and, on balance, are satisfied that the Leftwich area is sufficiently distinct in terms of community interests that it should form its own ward. Therefore, we propose that our Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead and Northwich Leftwich wards should be confirmed as final without amendment.

Northwich Winnington & Castle

117 The Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats supported the draft recommendations. The Labour Group and Northwich Town Council supported the draft recommendations but proposed that the ward was called “Northwich Winnington & Castle” to reflect both its communities. We consider this to be a logical alternative that is more reflective of the community, so have adopted the name “Northwich Winnington & Castle” in our final recommendations.

118 In its submission, Northwich Town Council expressed concern about our proposal for an eight-councillor Winnington Town Council ward. While we have noted these concerns, we do not consider that this ward is so large that it will adversely affect local electoral arrangements, particularly given that the current Town Council ward of Bridge elects seven councillors.

Hartford & Greenbank

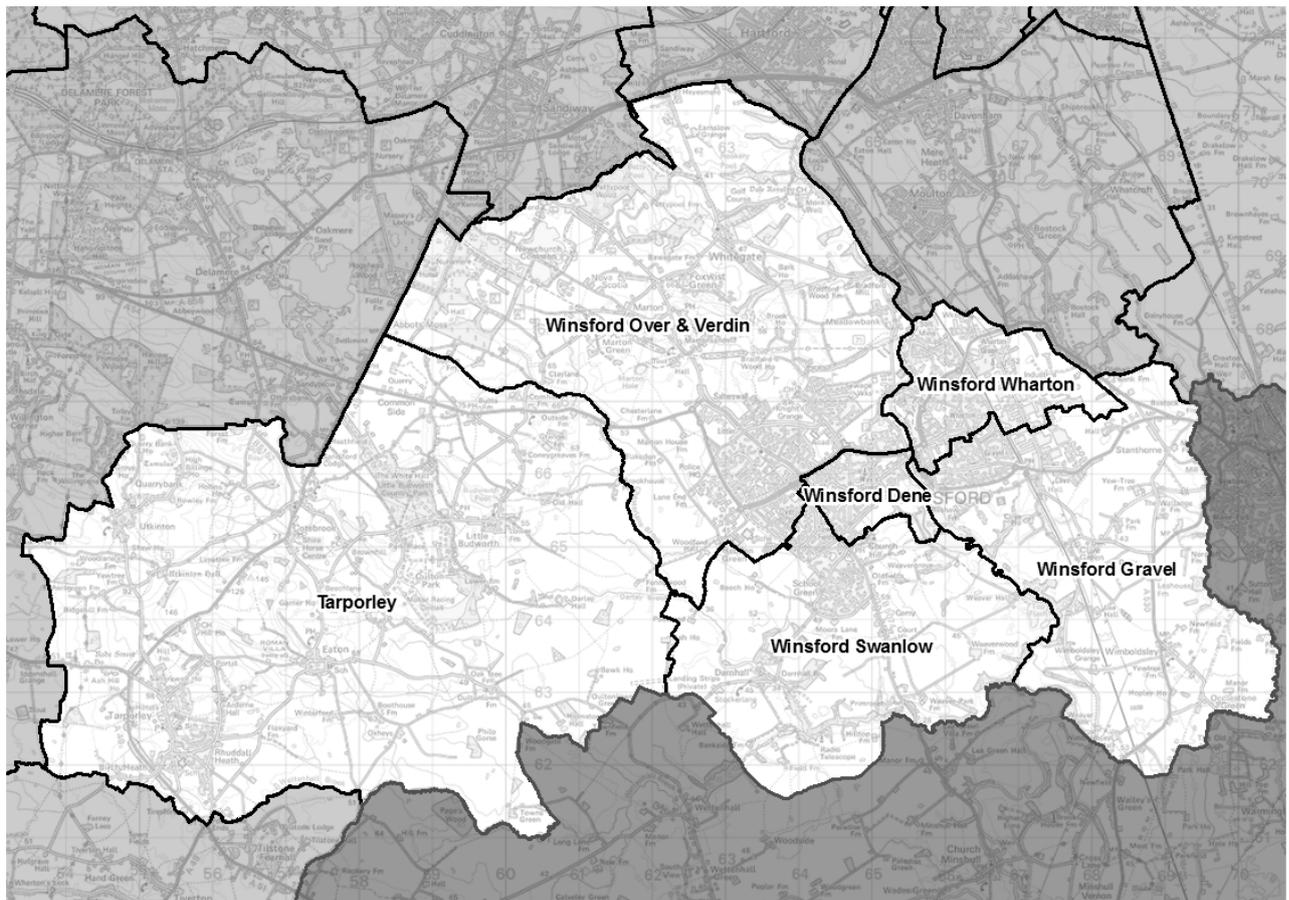
119 We received five submissions in relation to this ward from Hartford Parish Council, a borough councillor and three local residents. The Parish Council, the councillor and a local resident supported the draft recommendations, as did the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats. One resident proposed adding a third councillor to this ward and the other argued that the Pippins estate should be part of our Winnington ward. We consider that both proposals would lead to very poor electoral equality and have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Hartford & Greenbank ward as final.

Northwich Witton, Rudheath and Shakerley

120 Northwich Town Council supported our Northwich Witton ward; Mike Amesbury MP (Weaver Vale) and the three borough-wide submissions supported all three

wards. Therefore, we propose that our Northwich Witton, Rudheath and Shakerley wards are confirmed as final without amendment.

Winsford and Tarporley



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Tarporley	1	5%
Winsford Dene	1	-7%
Winsford Gravel	1	4%
Winsford Over & Verdin	3	-4%
Winsford Swanlow	1	-5%
Winsford Wharton	1	5%

Winsford Dene and Winsford Swanlow

121 We received eight submissions in relation to these wards in addition to comments from the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats. These were from two town councillors, two borough councillors and four local residents. Three submissions, all of which were Winsford-wide, supported the draft recommendations. The Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats supported the draft recommendations with the latter stressing the difference between the Dene and Swanlow areas and the strong sense of identification in the Dene area. Five objections argued that Winsford Dene and Winsford Swanlow are one community and should not be divided between wards.

122 We have carefully considered the submissions received but have decided to make no changes to our draft recommendations. We consider that there is a lack of detail and evidence in the objections received and have borne in mind that our draft recommendations were very similar to the wards proposed by all three political parties at the previous stage. Therefore, we propose that our Winsford Dene and Winsford Swanlow wards are confirmed as final without amendment.

Winsford Gravel, Winsford Over & Verdin and Winsford Wharton

123 We received four submissions in relation to these wards in addition to comments from the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats. These were from Whitegate & Marton Parish Council, a town councillor, a borough councillor and a local resident. The only objection came from the parish councillor who argued that Whitegate & Marton parish associates itself more with Northwich than Winsford. Given the lack of an alternative proposal for this area and as Whitegate & Marton Parish Council have told us they “accept the recommendation”, we propose to make no change to our draft recommendations. Therefore, we propose that our Winsford Gravel, Winsford Over & Verdin and Winsford Wharton wards are confirmed as final without amendment.

Tarporley

124 We received 37 submissions in relation to our Tarporley ward in addition to comments from the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats. These were from Little Budworth Parish Council, which made two submissions, and 35 local residents. As all these submissions supported our draft recommendations, we propose that our Tarporley ward is confirmed as final without amendment.

Conclusions

125 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2016 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2016	2023
Number of councillors	70	70
Number of electoral wards	45	45
Average number of electors per councillor	3,783	4,027
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	12	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Final recommendation

Cheshire West & Chester Council should be made up of 70 councillors serving 45 wards representing 26 single-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and six three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Cheshire West & Chester Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Cheshire West & Chester on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

126 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different ward it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

127 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Cheshire West & Chester Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

128 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Dodleston Parish Council, Neston Town Council, Northwich Town Council and Winsford Town Council.

129 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Dodleston parish.

Final recommendation	
Dodleston Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Dodleston	9
Lache Lane	1

130 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Neston parish.

Final recommendation	
Neston Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Little Neston	6
Neston	6
Parkgate	5

131 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Northwich parish.

Final recommendation	
Northwich Town Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Northwich Belmont	1
Northwich Greenbank	2
Northwich Leftwich	5
Northwich Winnington & Castle	8
Northwich Witton	5

132 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Winsford parish.

Final recommendation	
Winsford Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Winsford Dene	2
Winsford Gravel	2
Winsford Over	3
Winsford Swanlow	2
Winsford Verdin	3
Winsford Wharton	3

3 What happens next?

133 We have now completed our review of Cheshire West & Chester. 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 2019.

Equalities

134 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Cheshire West & Chester

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Blacon	3	10,309	3,436	-9%	10,263	3,421	-15%
2	Central & Grange	2	7,617	3,809	1%	8,524	4,262	6%
3	Chester City & the Garden Quarter	3	12,417	4,139	9%	13,323	4,441	10%
4	Christleton & Huntington	2	7,767	3,884	3%	8,533	4,267	6%
5	Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead	2	7,814	3,907	3%	8,501	4,251	6%
6	Farndon	1	3,482	3,482	-8%	3,766	3,766	-6%
7	Frodsham	2	7,554	3,777	0%	7,619	3,810	-5%
8	Gowy Rural	2	7,421	3,711	-2%	7,417	3,709	-8%
9	Great Boughton	2	8,945	4,473	18%	8,890	4,445	10%
10	Handbridge Park	2	7,501	3,751	-1%	8,241	4,121	2%
11	Hartford & Greenbank	2	6,251	3,126	-17%	7,331	3,666	-9%
12	Helsby	1	4,078	4,078	8%	4,381	4,381	9%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Lache	1	3,953	3,953	4%	3,923	3,923	-3%
14 Ledsham & Manor	2	7,574	3,787	0%	8,657	4,329	7%
15 Little Neston	1	4,272	4,272	13%	4,273	4,273	6%
16 Malpas	1	3,515	3,515	-7%	4,085	4,085	1%
17 Marbury	3	10,526	3,509	-7%	10,986	3,662	-9%
18 Neston	1	4,183	4,183	11%	4,197	4,197	4%
19 Netherpool	1	4,105	4,105	9%	4,121	4,121	2%
20 Newton & Hoole	3	11,607	3,869	2%	11,507	3,836	-5%
21 Northwich Leftwich	1	3,735	3,735	-1%	4,049	4,049	1%
22 Northwich Winnington & Castle	2	5,817	2,909	-23%	7,445	3,723	-8%
23 Northwich Witton	1	4,055	4,055	7%	4,366	4,366	8%
24 Parkgate	1	4,119	4,119	9%	4,163	4,163	3%
25 Rudheath	1	4,166	4,166	10%	4,175	4,175	4%
26 Sandstone	1	4,085	4,085	8%	4,125	4,125	2%
27 Saughall & Mollington	1	4,221	4,221	12%	4,308	4,308	7%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28 Shakerley	1	3,731	3,731	-1%	4,098	4,098	2%
29 Strawberry	1	4,450	4,450	18%	4,400	4,400	9%
30 Sutton Villages	2	8,446	4,223	12%	8,445	4,223	5%
31 Tarporley	1	3,949	3,949	4%	4,241	4,241	5%
32 Tarvin & Kelsall	2	7,171	3,586	-5%	7,893	3,947	-2%
33 Tattenhall	1	3,701	3,701	-2%	4,150	4,150	3%
34 Upton	2	7,599	3,800	0%	7,752	3,876	-4%
35 Weaver & Cuddington	3	11,530	3,843	2%	11,842	3,947	-2%
36 Westminster	1	3,271	3,271	-14%	4,011	4,011	0%
37 Whitby Groves	1	3,775	3,775	0%	3,733	3,733	-7%
38 Whitby Park	1	4,194	4,194	11%	4,149	4,149	3%
39 Willaston & Thornton	1	4,122	4,122	9%	4,421	4,421	10%
40 Winsford Dene	1	3,385	3,385	-11%	3,740	3,740	-7%
41 Winsford Gravel	1	3,388	3,388	-10%	4,180	4,180	4%
42 Winsford Over & Verdin	3	9,988	3,329	-12%	11,590	3,863	-4%

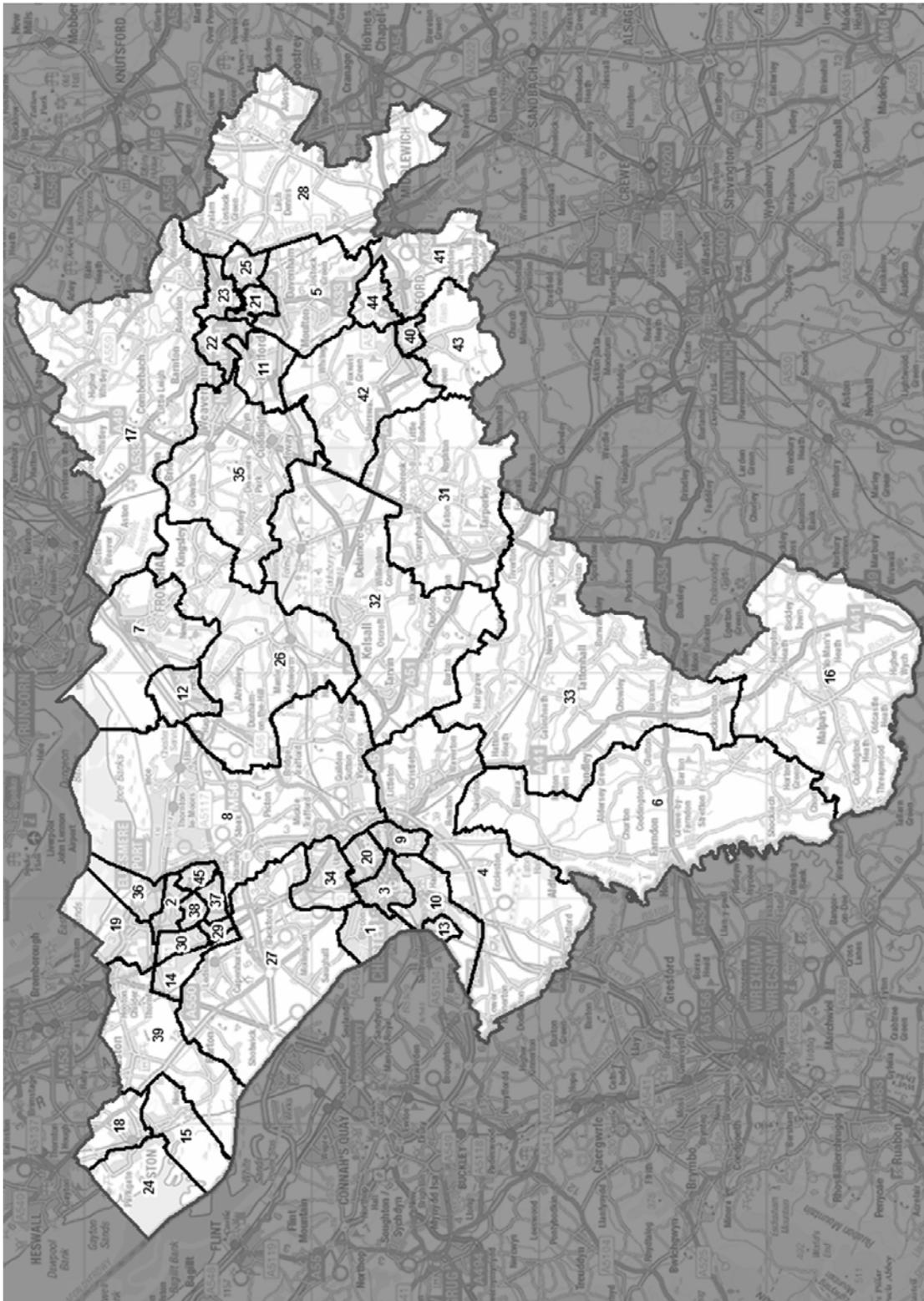
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
43 Winsford Swanlow	1	3,535	3,535	-7%	3,842	3,842	-5%
44 Winsford Wharton	1	3,710	3,710	-2%	4,248	4,248	5%
45 Wolverham	1	3,781	3,781	0%	3,986	3,986	-1%
Totals	70	264,815	-	-	281,890	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,783	-	-	4,027	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Cheshire West & Chester.

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

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/cheshire/cheshire-west-and-chester>

Key

1. Blacon
2. Central & Grange
3. Chester City & the Garden Quarter
4. Christleton & Huntington
5. Davenham, Moulton & Kingsmead
6. Farndon
7. Frodsham
8. Gowy Rural
9. Great Boughton
10. Handbridge Park
11. Hartford & Greenbank
12. Helsby
13. Lache
14. Ledsham & Manor
15. Little Neston
16. Malpas
17. Marbury
18. Neston
19. Netherpool
20. Newton & Hoole
21. Northwich Leftwich
22. Northwich Winnington & Castle
23. Northwich Witton
24. Parkgate
25. Rudheath
26. Sandstone
27. Saughall & Mollington
28. Shakerley
29. Strawberry
30. Sutton Villages
31. Tarporley
32. Tarvin & Kelsall
33. Tattenhall
34. Upton
35. Weaver & Cuddington
36. Westminster
37. Whitby Groves
38. Whitby Park
39. Willaston & Thornton
40. Winsford Dene
41. Winsford Gravel
42. Winsford Over & Verdin
43. Winsford Swanlow
44. Winsford Wharton
45. Wolverham

Appendix C

Draft recommendations submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/cheshire/cheshire-west-and-chester>

Political Groups

- Cheshire West & Chester Conservative Group
- Cheshire West & Chester Green Party
- Cheshire West & Chester Labour Group and Local Campaign Forum
- Cheshire West & Chester Liberal Democrats
- Ellesmere Port & Neston Constituency Conservative and Unionist Association
- Ellesmere Port & Neston Liberal Democrats (two submissions)
- Malpas Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor M. Baynham (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor R. Beacham (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor K. Board (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor S. Burns (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor B. Crowe (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor R. Daniels (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor A. Dawson (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor S. Dixon (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor S. Eardley (Upton-by-Chester & District Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Evans (Upton-by-Chester & District Parish Council)
- Councillor L. Gibbon (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor L. Gittins (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor P. Hall (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor M. Hogg (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor J. Houlbrook (Cheshire West & Chester Council) (two submissions)
- Councillor C. Jakeman (Thornton-Le-Moors Parish Council)
- Councillor E. Johnson (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor N. Jones (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor M. Kennedy (Winsford Town Council)
- Councillor J. Leather (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor J. Mercer (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor P. Merrick (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor G. Nicholas (Mickle Trafford & District Parish Council)
- Councillors M. and S. Parker (Cheshire West & Chester Council) (joint submission)
- Councillor P. Parkes (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor C. Parkinson (Winsford Town Council)

- Councillor J. Pearson (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor L. Riley (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor B. Rudd (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor G. Sinar (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor S. Smith (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor N. Sullivan (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor K. Vaughan (Upton-by-Chester & District Parish Council)
- Councillor C. Ward (Dodleston Parish Council)
- Councillor G. Watson (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor H. Weltman (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor A. Williams (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor M. Williams (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor N. Wright (Cheshire West & Chester Council)

Members of Parliament

- Mike Amesbury MP (Weaver Vale)
- Justin Madders MP (Ellesmere Port & Neston)
- Chris Matheson MP (City of Chester)

Local Organisations

- Chester Blue Coat CE Primary School
- Chester Students' Union
- Garden Quarter Association
- Handbridge Residents' Council
- Lache Primary School
- Parkgate Society
- St Clare's Catholic Primary School (two submissions)
- St Thomas of Canterbury Church
- The Goat and Munch

Parish and Town Councils

- Alvanley Parish Council
- Anderton with Marbury Parish Council
- Antrobus Parish Council
- Ashton Hayes & Horton-cum-Peel Parish Council
- Barrow Parish Council
- Christleton Parish Council
- Comberbach Parish Council
- Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council
- Dunham-on-the-Hill & Hapsford Parish Council
- Dutton Parish Council
- Elton Parish Council
- Great Boughton Parish Council
- Great Budworth Parish Council
- Guilden Sutton Parish Council

- Hartford Parish Council
- Helsby Parish Council
- Ince Parish Council
- Kingsmead Parish Council
- Little Budworth Parish Council (two submissions)
- Little Leigh Parish Council
- Little Stanney & District Parish Council
- Littleton Parish Council
- Malpas Parish Council
- Mickle Trafford & District Parish Council (two submissions)
- Neston Town Council
- No Mans Heath & District Parish Council
- Northwich Town Council
- Puddington Parish Council
- Rowton Parish Council
- Tilston Parish Council
- Upton-by-Chester & District Parish Council (two submissions)
- Whitegate & Marton Parish Council
- Whitley Parish Council

Local Residents

- 285 local residents

Appendix C

Further limited consultation submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/cheshire/cheshire-west-and-chester>

Political Groups

- Cheshire West & Chester Conservative Group
- Cheshire West & Chester Green Party
- Cheshire West & Chester Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor K. Board (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor P. Hall (Cheshire West & Chester Council)
- Councillor I. Huffer (Great Boughton Parish Council)
- Councillor B. Rudd (Cheshire West & Chester Council)

Member of Parliament

- Chris Matheson MP (City of Chester)

Local Organisation

- Garden Quarter Association

Local Residents

- 47 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

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 areas.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
14th floor, Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Online: www.lgbce.org.uk or
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Twitter: @LGBCE