

# Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Chichester District Council

Electoral review

December 2016

## **Translations and other formats**

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

## Why Chichester?

4 We are conducting an electoral review of Chichester District Council following a request by the Council in order to consider a reduction in council size.

## Our proposals for Chichester

- Chichester should be represented by 36 councillors, 12 fewer than at present.
- Chichester should have 21 wards, eight fewer than now.
- The boundaries of all of the existing wards should change.

## Have your say

**5 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements in Chichester.**

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)
  - Peter Knight CBE, DL
  - Alison Lowton
  - Peter Maddison QPM
  - Sir Tony Redmond
- 
- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

# 1 Introduction

8 This electoral review was being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in the district of Chichester 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 district.

## 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Chichester. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 January 2016	Number of councillors decided
26 January 2016	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
4 April 2016	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
16 August 2016	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
10 October 2016	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
6 December 2016	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 and which other communities are in that ward and, in some instances, which parish council wards you vote in. Your ward name may also change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. The names or boundaries of parishes will not change as a result of our recommendations.

## 2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> 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 ward.

15 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create ward 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.

	2015	2021
Electorate of Chichester	92,617	98,780
Number of councillors	36	36
Average number of electors per councillor	2,573	2,744

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 Chichester will have electoral equality by 2021, with only Harting ward having a variance of over 10%, with 11% more electors than the district average by 2021.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

### Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2021, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2016. These forecasts were broken down to polling district levels and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6.6% to 2021. We considered the information provided by the

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

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

Council and were satisfied that the projected figures were the best available at the time and used them to produce our draft recommendations.

21 In response to our draft recommendations, West Sussex County Council and a local resident queried the Council's forecast figures, particularly in the Oving and Tangmere areas. They argued that the delay in the review meant that additional properties would be built within the forecast period and that development in the areas was happening at a faster pace than predicted.

22 We note the queries over the forecast figures and raised these with the Council. The Council stated that the argument that development was moving at a faster rate than predicted was based on developers' forecast, which they believed to be overly optimistic. The Council remained satisfied that its own forecasts in this area remain the most accurate. We also note the argument that the delays in the review would mean that additional properties would be built before the end of the review.

23 In both cases, while we acknowledge that there may have been scope for some changes, our guidance is clear that while population and development trends are dynamic, it is important to draw a line and that unless there are exceptional circumstances, the figures agreed at the beginning of the review should be used throughout. Therefore, while there may have been some minor changes to the forecasts since the start of the review, we remain satisfied with the original forecasts and have used these as the basis of the final recommendations.

## Number of councillors

24 Chichester currently has 48 councillors. The Council provided evidence for reducing the number of councillors to 36. We have looked at this evidence and have concluded that, despite the reduction, the Council will be able to continue to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 36 councillors.

26 In response to our consultation on warding patterns, a number of respondents argued that 35 or 34 members would enable a better pattern of wards, particularly in the south of the district around Selsey. We examined these options in formulating our draft recommendations. While reducing the council size to 35 enabled an alternate pattern in the Selsey area, elsewhere it had a consequential effect that produced a pattern of wards that secured poor electoral equality. In addition, we did not consider there to be any compelling argument to reduce council size to 34, particularly given that our recommendation for 36 councillors already reduces council size by 12 councillors.

27 In response to our draft recommendations there were no significant comments against a council size of 36 councillors. We are therefore recommending 36 councillors as the basis of the final recommendations.

## Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 12 submissions during our consultation on ward boundaries, including a district-wide proposal from the Council based on 36 councillors. This provided a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Chichester.

29 Our draft recommendations were based on the district-wide proposal that we received. However, in some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Chichester helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed. Our draft recommendations were for eight single-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and two three-councillor wards.

## Draft recommendations consultation

30 We received 52 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. Around half of the submissions objected to our proposal to include Elsted & Treyford parish in the Midhurst ward, citing its links to parishes within the Harting ward. A number of other submissions expressed concern about the proposals to the south of Chichester, particularly the Bosham & Donnington ward. We also received objections to the inclusion of Sidlesham parish in the Selsey North & Sidlesham ward and objections to the creation of a some of the small parish wards in Chichester city. Finally, there were a number of suggestions for ward name changes.

31 Our final recommendations are based on our draft recommendations with modifications to our Harting and Midhurst wards and Chichester Central, Chichester East and Chichester South wards, based on the submissions received.

## Final recommendations

32 Pages 8–13 detail our final recommendations for each area of Chichester. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

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

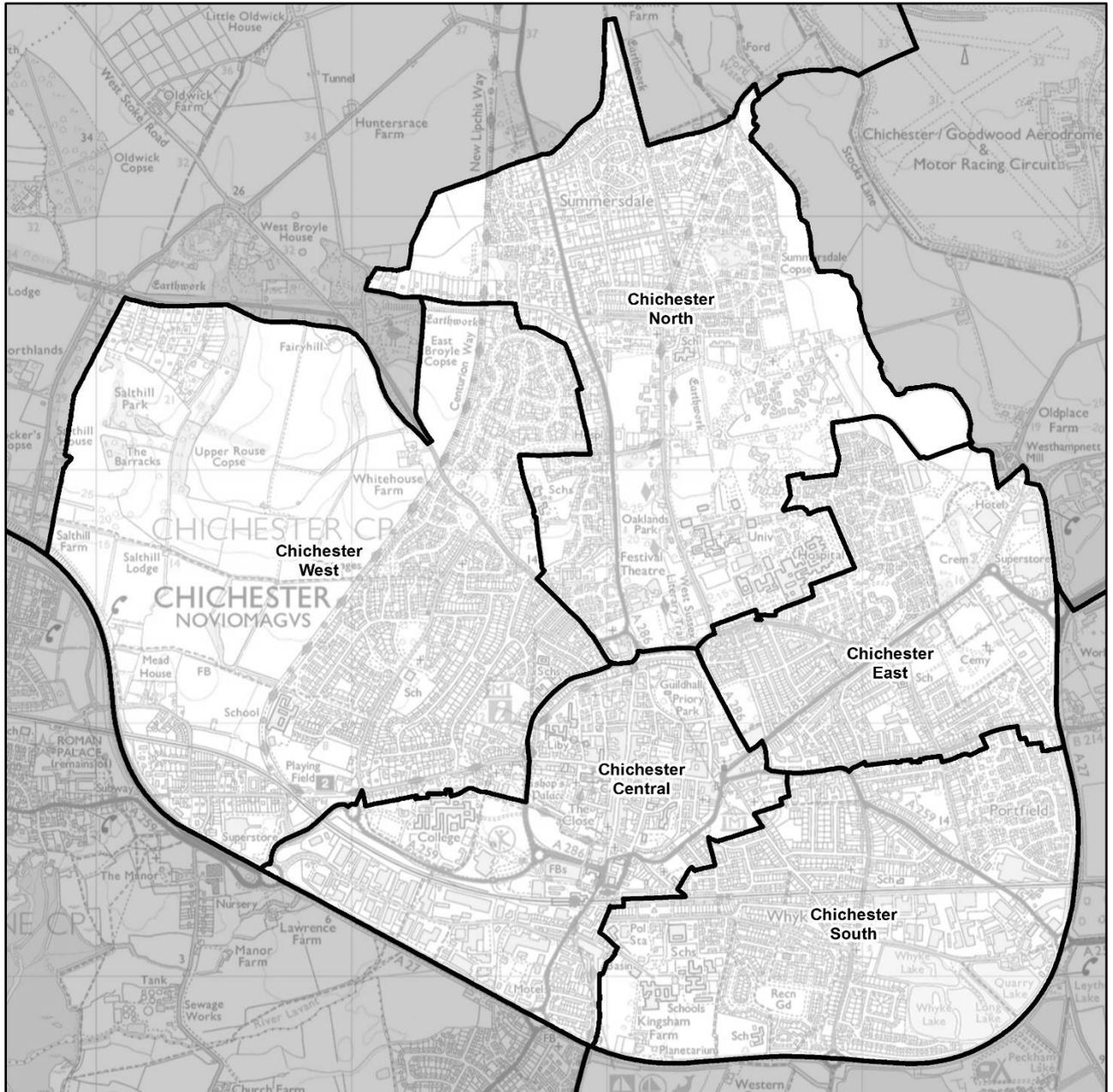
33 Our final recommendations are for two three-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and eight single-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

34 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 18–19 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

# Chichester city



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021
Chichester Central	1	-9%
Chichester East	2	-10%
Chichester North	2	-7%
Chichester South	2	-1%
Chichester West	2	-4%

## *Chichester*

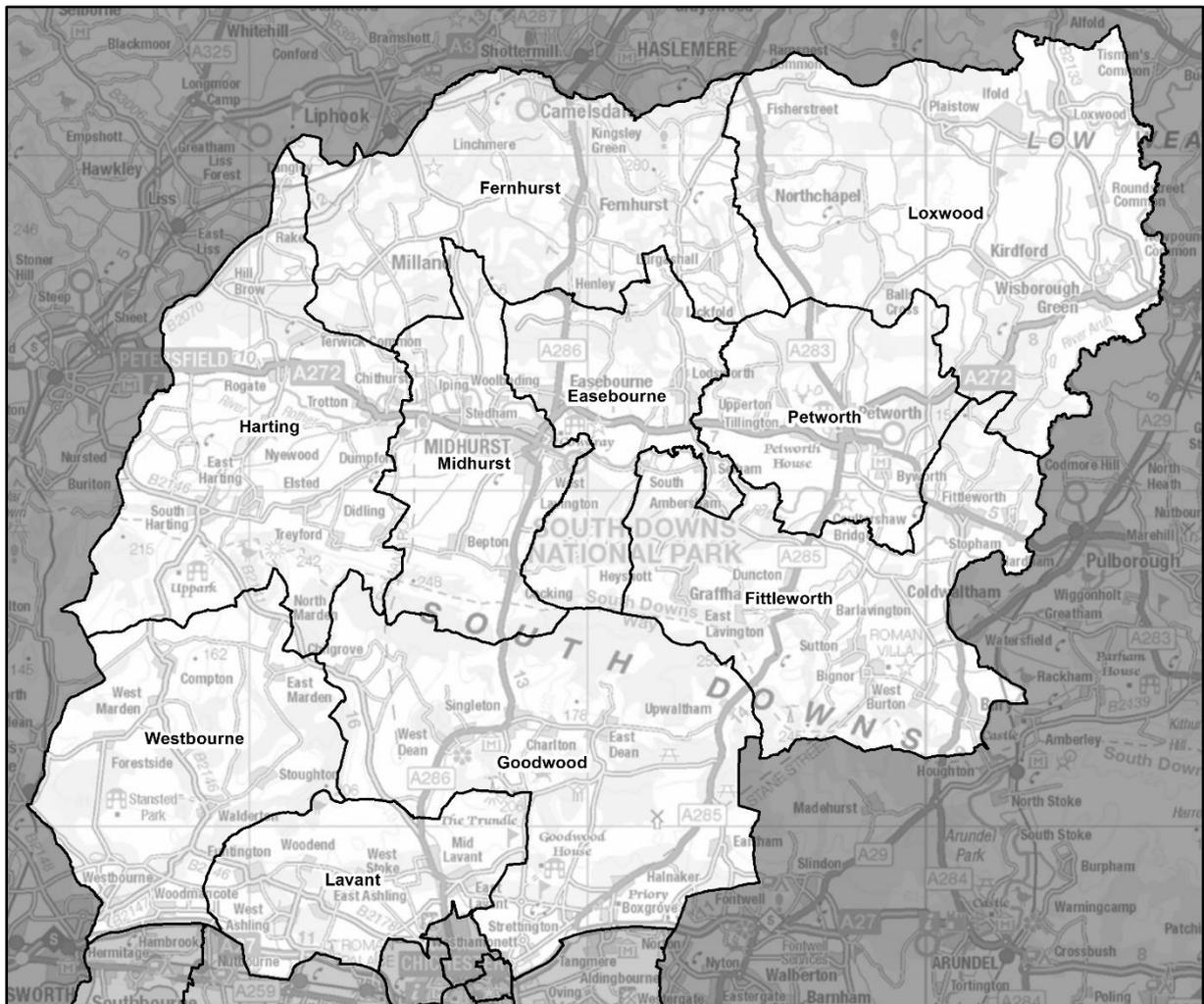
35 The Council and Chichester City Council expressed concerns with our draft recommendations, particularly about the creation of small parish wards. They proposed removing the Pound Farm parish ward and transferring this to Chichester East ward. In addition, they proposed amending the boundary between Chichester Central and Chichester South wards arguing that some properties around Velyn Avenue have links with the Whyke area and should therefore remain in Chichester South ward. A member of the public also proposed the same amendment to the boundary between Chichester Central and Chichester South ward. Finally, they proposed renaming Chichester Portfield parish ward as Chichester Arundel Park parish ward, arguing this better reflected the area.

36 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received and note the objections to our draft recommendations for Chichester Central, Chichester East and Chichester South wards. Removing Pound Farm parish ward and transferring this area to Chichester East would worsen electoral equality in Chichester East to 10% fewer electors than the district average. However, it would have the advantage of removing the smallest parish ward in Chichester and using the recently proposed county division boundary. On balance, although this worsens electoral equality, we think this is justified given the improvement in coterminosity with the county division boundary.

37 We also note the argument for retaining part of the Velyn Avenue area in Chichester South ward. This would worsen electoral equality in Chichester Central ward from 5% fewer electors than the district average in 2021 to 9% fewer, but improve it in Chichester South ward (taking into account the transfer of the Pound Farm ward described above) from 3% fewer electors than the district average in 2021 to 1% fewer. On balance, we are persuaded to adopt this amendment as part of our final recommendations.

38 Finally, as detailed in the parish warding section, we are renaming the Chichester Portfield parish ward as Chichester Arundel Park parish ward.

## North area



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021
Easebourne	1	1%
Fernhurst	2	-1%
Fittleworth	1	1%
Goodwood	1	5%
Harting	1	11%
Lavant	1	-1%
Loxwood	2	4%
Midhurst	2	4%
Petworth	1	6%
Westbourne	1	3%

### *Goodwood, Lavant and Westbourne*

39 We received no significant comments on these wards in response to our draft recommendations. A member of the public argued that our Lavant ward should be renamed Lavant & Funtington. However, there was very little evidence to support this and no evidence that it would be supported locally. We are therefore confirming out draft recommendations for these wards as final.

### *Easebourne, Fernhurst, Fittleworth, Loxwood and Petworth*

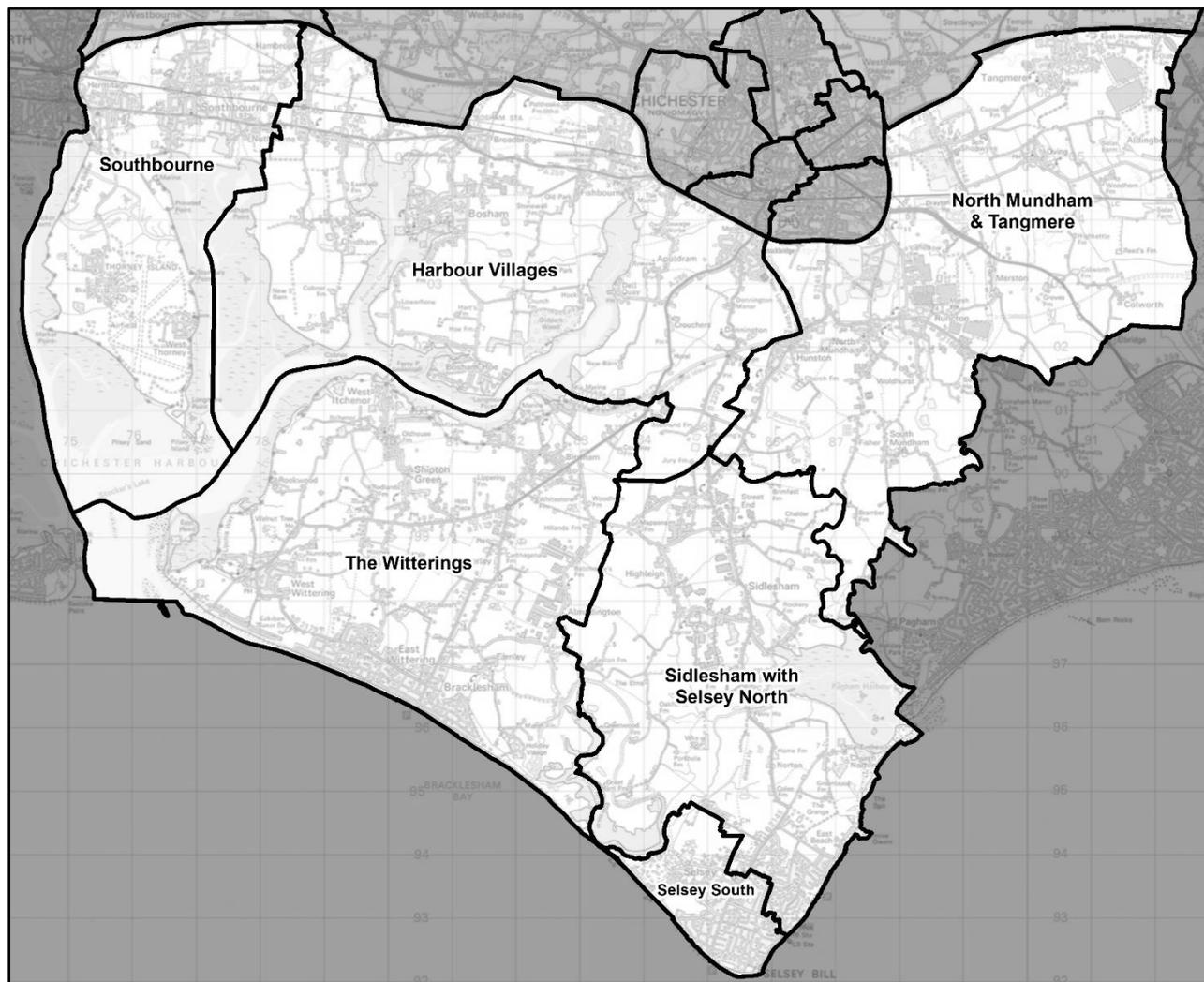
40 We received no significant comments on these wards in response to our draft recommendations. A member of the public argued that the Fernhurst, Fittleworth and Loxwood wards should be renamed as Camelsdale, Fittleworth & Graffham and Northchapel, Loxwood & Wisborough wards, respectively. We note the alternative names, but also note that there was very little evidence to support them and no evidence that it would be supported locally. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

### *Harting and Midhurst*

41 We received over 25 submissions objecting to our proposal to place Elsted & Treyford parish in Midhurst ward in order to secure good electoral equality. Respondents argued that Elsted & Treyford parish has strong community identity links to a number of parishes within our proposed Harting ward. They also argued against the inclusion of this rural parish in a more urban Midhurst ward. A number of respondents argued that any worsening in electoral equality could be justified given the strong community identity evidence.

42 We have given consideration to the evidence received and note the objections to our draft recommendations for these wards. We acknowledge that the evidence shows that Elsted & Treyford parish has close community links to parishes within our Harting ward. In addition, the inclusion of Elsted & Treyford in this ward would only marginally worsen electoral equality to over 10%, creating a Harting ward with 11% more electors than the district average by 2021. On balance, we are persuaded by the evidence and are transferring Elsted & Treyford parish to our Harting ward.

## South area



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021
Harbour Villages	3	1%
North Mundham & Tangmere	2	4%
Selsey South	2	-7%
Sidesham with Selsey North	2	-5%
Southbourne	2	5%
The Witterings	3	3%

### *Bosham, Southbourne and Fishbourne*

43 We received a number of objections to the proposals to create a three-member Bosham & Donnington ward, with a number of respondents arguing the three-member ward joined several communities with limited social links and limited geographical links from east to west. Although a number of respondents argued that alternative proposals should be explored, none were put forward. There were also objections to the proposed name of Bosham & Donnington, arguing that this was only representative of some of the constituent parishes. There was general agreement that the name 'Harbour Villages' would reflect the location and nature of the parishes, without requiring all to be named. Chichester District Council supported the ward, but proposed that it be renamed Harbour. There were no specific objections to the Southbourne ward.

44 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received and note the ongoing concerns over the proposed Bosham & Donnington ward, including its name. We have received no new evidence for an alternative configuration of wards in this area and are confirming our Bosham & Donnington and Southbourne wards as final. However, we are adopting the name Harbour Villages ward in place of Bosham & Donnington ward.

### *Wittering, Selsey and Oving*

45 We received a number of objections to our draft recommendations for Selsey South and Sidelsham & Selsey North wards; however, no alternative proposals were submitted. The objections expressed concern about the inclusion of Sidlesham parish in a ward with part of Selsey, arguing electors in Sidlesham would not have sufficient voice and that Selsey had different needs to Sidlesham. However, we do not consider there to be any new evidence and are therefore confirming these wards as final.

46 As outlined in the electorate figures section above, West Sussex County Council and a local resident questioned the rate of growth in the Oving and Tangmere areas in our proposed North Mundham & Tangmere ward, arguing that the growth was faster than the Council predicted and this would enable alternative warding arrangements to be put forward. However, as outlined in paragraphs 20–3, we remain satisfied with the forecast figures. We are therefore confirming the Tangmere & North Mundham ward as final. We also note that the Council objected to the ward name and argued that the ward should be called Tangmere, reflecting its desire for simple names. While we acknowledge the Council's request, no other respondent supported it and we are not persuaded that it would receive local support. We are therefore confirming the name as North Mundham & Tangmere.

47 Finally, in this area we received no significant comments on The Witterings ward and are therefore confirming this as final.

## Conclusions

48 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2015 and 2021 electorate figures.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2015	2021
Number of councillors	36	36
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	2,573	2,744
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

#### **Final recommendation**

Chichester District Council should be made up of 36 councillors serving 21 wards representing eight single-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and two 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 ward for the Chichester District Council. **You can also view our final recommendations for Chichester on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>**

### Parish electoral arrangements

49 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.

50 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, Chichester District 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.

51 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 Chichester City Council.

52 In response to our draft recommendations Chichester District Council and Chichester City Council both objected to the creation of Chichester Pound Farm parish ward, arguing that it contained too few electors to make it viable and should therefore be removed and the area retained in Chichester South ward. They also objected to the name Chichester Portfield parish ward, arguing that it should be called Chichester Arundel Park. Finally, they proposed a minor amendment to the ward boundary between Chichester Central and Chichester South wards which would mean a minor amendment to the parish wards of the same name.

53 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received and, as noted in the Chichester City section above, we are removing the Chichester Pound Farm parish ward and placing this area in Chichester South ward. We are also adopting the minor modification to the boundary between Chichester Central and Chichester South wards, which has a small knock-on effect to the parish wards of the same names. Finally, we are renaming Chichester Portfield parish ward as Chichester Arundel Park.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
Chichester City Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Chichester Arundel Park	1
Chichester Central	2
Chichester East	4
Chichester East Broyle	1
Chichester North	4
Chichester Priory	1
Chichester South	3
Chichester West	4

54 As a 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 Selsey Town Council.

55 In response to our draft recommendations, Selsey Town Council objected to the allocation of councillors between the Selsey North and Selsey South parish wards, requesting the retention of the existing allocation.

56 We note the comments from Selsey Town Council, but it provided no argument for retaining the existing allocation. The boundary between the two parish wards is amended as a result of the revised ward boundary. As a result, the allocation of six councillors to Selsey North parish ward and eight councillors to Selsey South parish ward reflects these changes. We are therefore confirming them as final.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
Selsey Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Selsey North	6
Selsey South	8

### 3 What happens next?

57 We have now completed our review of Chichester District Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2019.

#### Equalities

58 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 Chichester District Council

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Electorate (2015)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>	<b>Electorate (2021)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>
1	Chichester Central	1	2,416	2,416	-6%	2,489	2,489	-9%
2	Chichester East	2	4,756	2,378	-8%	4,948	2,474	-10%
3	Chichester North	2	4,004	2,002	-22%	5,113	2,557	-7%
4	Chichester South	2	5,162	2,581	0%	5,440	2,720	-1%
5	Chichester West	2	5,078	2,539	-1%	5,286	2,643	-4%
6	Easebourne	1	2,258	2,258	-12%	2,778	2,778	1%
7	Fernhurst	2	5,387	2,694	5%	5,431	2,716	-1%
8	Fittleworth	1	2,757	2,757	7%	2,780	2,780	1%
9	Goodwood	1	2,432	2,432	-5%	2,881	2,881	5%
10	Harbour Villages	3	7,924	2,641	3%	8,355	2,785	1%
11	Harting	1	3,028	3,028	18%	3,054	3,054	11%

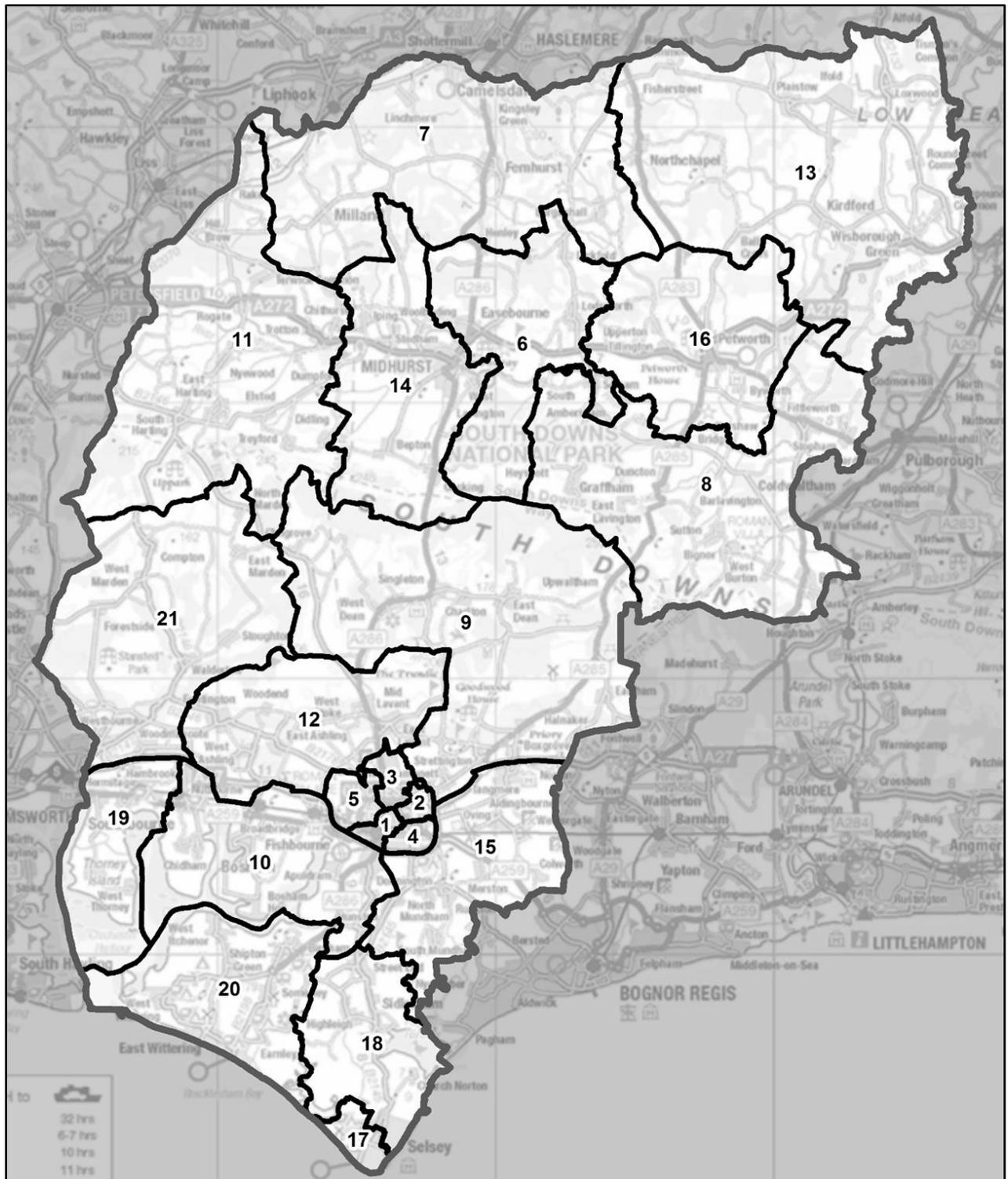
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Lavant	1	2,661	2,661	3%	2,726	2,726	-1%
13 Loxwood	2	5,593	2,797	9%	5,727	2,864	4%
14 Midhurst	2	5,515	2,578	7%	5,690	2,845	4%
15 North Mundham & Tangmere	2	4,821	2,411	-6%	5,734	2,867	4%
16 Petworth	1	2,768	2,768	8%	2,899	2,899	6%
17 Selsey South	2	5,070	2,535	-1%	5,124	2,562	-7%
18 Sidlesham with Selsey North	2	4,718	2,359	-8%	5,198	2,599	-5%
19 Southbourne	2	5,269	2,635	2%	5,789	2,895	5%
20 The Witterings	3	8,203	2,734	6%	8,518	2,839	3%
21 Westbourne	1	2,797	2,797	9%	2,820	2,820	3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>92,617</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98,780</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,573</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,744</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by the Chichester District 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 district. 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/south-east/west-sussex/chichester>

## Key

1. Chichester Central
2. Chichester East
3. Chichester North
4. Chichester South
5. Chichester West
6. Easebourne
7. Fernhurst
8. Fittleworth
9. Goodwood
10. Harbour Villages
11. Harting
12. Lavant
13. Loxwood
14. Midhurst
15. North Mundham & Tangmere
16. Petworth
17. Selsey South
18. Sidlesham with Selsey North
19. Southbourne
20. The Witterings
21. Westbourne

# Appendix C

## Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/west-sussex/chichester>

### Local Authority

- Chichester District Council
- West Sussex County Council

### Councillors

- Councillor Shaxon (Harting ward)

### Parish and Town Councils

- Bosham Parish Council
- Chichester City Council
- Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council
- Elsted & Treyford Parish Council
- Fishbourne Parish Council
- Harting Parish Council
- Midhurst Town Council
- Selsey Town Council
- Sidlesham Parish Council
- Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council
- Wisborough Green Parish Council

### Parish and Town Councillors

- Councillor J. Fortin (Elsted & Treyford Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Radley (Fishbourne Parish Council)
- Councillor A. Sharp (Chichester City Council)

### Local Residents

- 35 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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or 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