

New electoral arrangements for Islington Council

Final recommendations

January 2020

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

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

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

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

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

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Islington?

7 We are conducting a review of Islington Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Islington. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Islington are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

Our proposals for Islington

9 Islington should be represented by 51 councillors, three more than there are now.

10 Islington should have 17 wards, one more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of almost all wards should change; one (Tufnell Park) will stay the same.

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

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 March 2019	Number of councillors decided
26 March 2019	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
3 June 2019	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
30 July 2019	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
7 October 2019	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
7 January 2020	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

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

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

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

	2019	2025
Electorate of Islington	149,108	168,368
Number of councillors	48	51
Average number of electors per councillor	3,106	3,301

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

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2024, a period five years on from the initial publication date of our final recommendations in 2019. A short delay to the launch of our final recommendations means they will now be published in early 2020. We have discussed this matter with Islington Council and have decided that these forecasts provide a reasonable estimate of electors for 2025 as well as 2024. We will therefore continue to use them as the basis of our recommendations. The forecast were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 13% by 2025.

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.

23 This increase is being driven by major developments in the Bunhill, Caledonian Road, City Road and Clerkenwell areas.

24 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

25 Islington Council currently has 48 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that increasing this number by three will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

26 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 51 councillors – for example, 51 one-councillor wards, 17 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

27 We received six submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. Three were in favour of the proposed increase from 48 to 51 councillors. The submission from the Islington Conservative Federation noted the proposed increase and two submissions did not support an increase but proposed no alternative. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 51-member council.

28 In response to our draft recommendations we received no further submissions on council size. We therefore continue to use a council size of 51 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 24 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two borough-wide proposals from Islington Conservative Federation and Islington Labour Party. The submission from Islington Labour Party stated that it reflects the views of its representatives who make up 47 of the current 48 members on the Council. We also received a submission from Islington Green Party in support of the scheme from Islington Labour Party, with a couple of suggested amendments. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

30 Of the two borough-wide schemes, the proposals from Islington Conservative Federation provided for a mixed pattern of two- and three-councillor wards for Islington. The submission from Islington Labour Party proposed a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards generally used clearly identifiable

boundaries. The submission from Islington Labour Party provided good levels of electoral equality across the authority. However, Islington Conservative Federation's proposals contained wards that had high electoral variances in a number of areas.

31 Our draft recommendations were broadly based on the proposals from Islington Labour Party. Additionally, we took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

32 We visited the borough in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Islington helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

33 Our draft recommendations were for 17 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

34 We received 305 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments on all wards from Islington Council, Islington Labour Party, Islington Liberal Democrats and the Islington Society. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Highbury and Mildmay wards, as well as our proposals for Canalside & St Peter's and St Mary's & St James'. We also received submissions with localised comments on all wards across the borough.

35 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications in Highbury and Mildmay wards, Caledonian and Barnsbury wards and Junction and Hillside wards, based on the submissions received. We make minor modifications to the boundaries between Holloway and Laycock wards, which we rename from Central. We also propose to rename Gillespie ward to Arsenal and Canalside & St Peter's to St Peter's & Canalside.

Final recommendations

36 Our final recommendations are for 17 three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

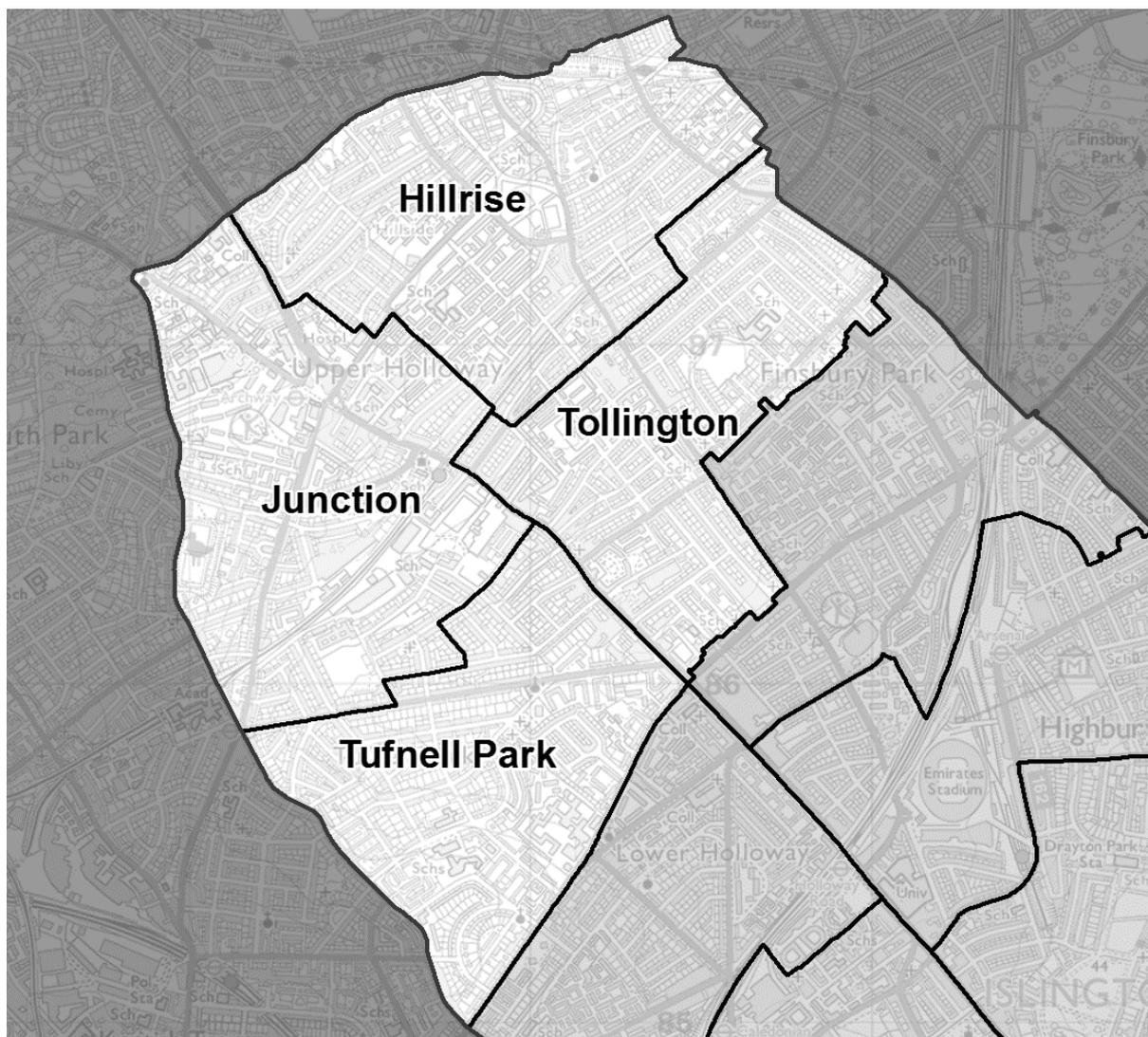
37 The tables and maps on pages 8–20 detail our final recommendations for each area of Islington. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

38 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 27 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North of the borough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Hillrise	3	8%
Junction	3	-3%
Tollington	3	5%
Tufnell Park	3	4%

Junction and Hillrise

39 Islington Labour Party supported these two proposed wards and stated that the inclusion of the area known as the 'Shakespeare Roads' in Junction ward was appropriate as these electors shared interests with those around Navigator Square in Archway. They accepted that this proposed change was the best solution to provide electoral equality. The Labour Party also supported the use of the GOBLIN line as the boundary between Hillrise and Tollington wards in the Crouch Hill area.

40 We also received four submissions that opposed the inclusion of the 'Shakespeare Roads' area in Junction ward. One gave evidence based on the political consequences of the change, which the Commission will not consider. The other three submissions suggested that the draft recommendations would divide the Whitehall Park Conservation Area, separating electors that had a shared sense of community identity. One of these submissions proposed that a boundary along the rear of Miranda Road that includes the Miranda Estate and Henfield Close in Junction ward and the 'Shakespeare Roads' remaining in Hillside ward was more appropriate in terms of community identity.

41 We considered the evidence we received for these wards and we have decided to amend the boundary between Hillrise and Junction along the rear of Miranda Road as suggested to us. We consider that this reflects the community identity of the electors in the 'Shakespeare Roads' by not dividing them from other electors in the Whitehall Park Conservation Area. Our final recommendation means that Hillrise and Junction wards will have acceptable electoral equality of 8% and -3% by 2025, respectively.

Tufnell Park

42 Islington Labour Party supported this proposed ward. They consider that maintaining the existing ward best met the Commission's statutory criteria. They also supported the name of the ward, having consulted members and elected representatives of the area.

43 The submission from Islington Liberal Democrats proposed to move an area around Hilldrop Road and Hilldrop Crescent from Tufnell Park ward to Holloway ward. They also proposed to move the boundary along Mercers Road, between Junction and Tufnell Park wards, to Tytherton Road and Campdale Road to facilitate proposed changes they suggested elsewhere in the borough.

44 We received a number of other submissions relating to this ward, two of which also supported the name change from St George's to Tufnell Park. Another submission opposed the name change as it removes the religious element from the ward name. Two submissions argued that all the electors between Tufnell Park Road and the railway line, particularly those on the north of Tufnell Park Road, should be included in Tufnell Park ward.

45 We carefully considered these submissions and investigated whether the area north of Tufnell Park Road could be included within Tufnell Park ward. However, such an arrangement would have a significantly adverse effect on electoral equality in the area. A ward containing all of the streets identified to us as Tufnell Park would have 24% more electors than the average for the borough by 2025. We consider this level of electoral inequality to be unacceptably high. We are also not persuaded to adopt the changes proposed to this ward by the Liberal Democrats. We do not

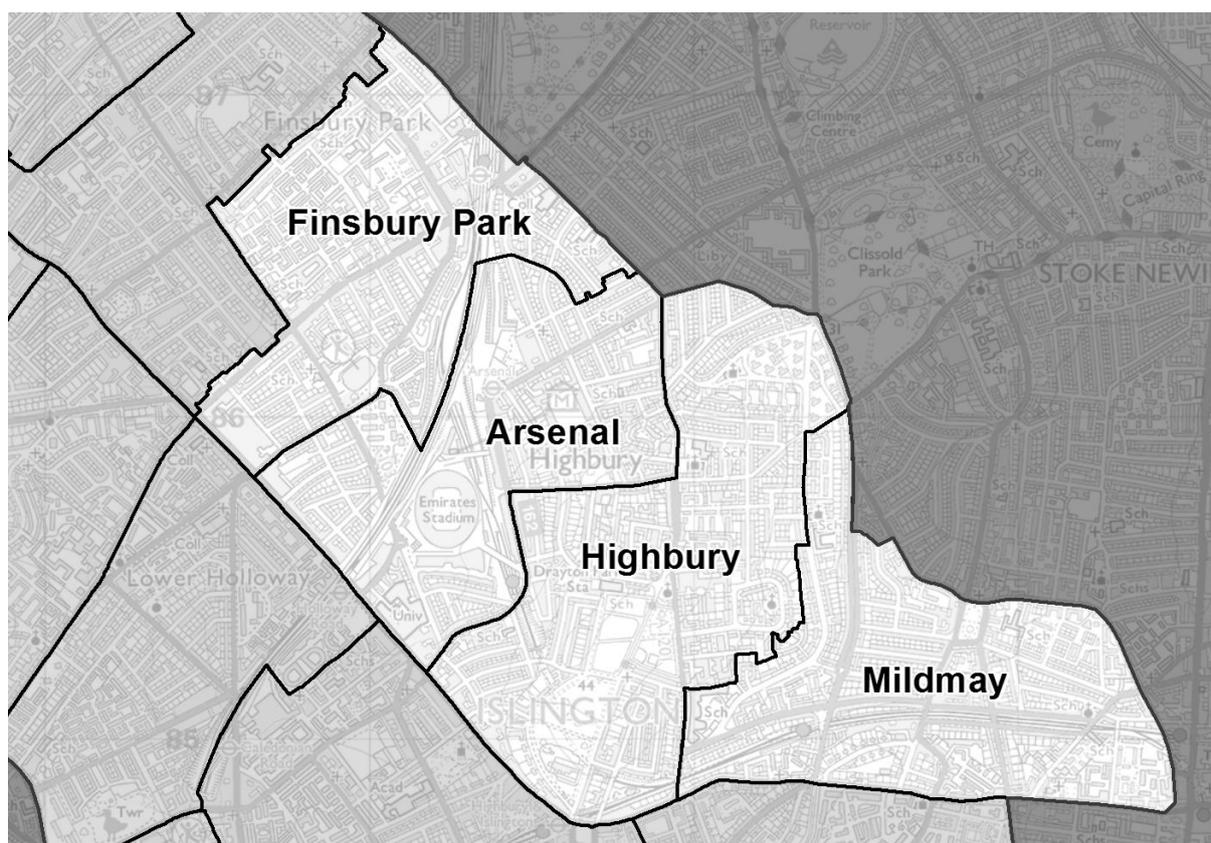
consider that their submission provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate that their proposal provided for a better balance of the Commission's statutory criteria than the draft recommendations. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Tufnell Park ward as final.

Tollington

46 Other than the support from the Labour Party for our proposed boundary between Hillside and Tollington wards along the GOBLIN railway line, we received no other submissions that directly related to Tollington ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Tollington as final.

47 Our proposed wards for the north of the borough provide for good electoral equality having electoral variances of -3%, 8%, 4% and 5% in Junction, Hillrise, Tufnell Park and Tollington wards by 2025, respectively.

East of the borough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Arsenal	3	0%
Finsbury Park	3	0%
Highbury	3	5%
Mildmay	3	2%

Finsbury Park

48 We received two submissions that referred directly to our proposed Finsbury Park ward. One submission objected to our proposal to include a number of streets to the south of Finsbury Park station in Finsbury Park ward. The other submission was in favour of the streets to the south of Finsbury Park station being included in Finsbury Park ward. This submission also proposed that the boundary between our proposed Finsbury Park and Gillespie wards be amended to include Monsell Road wholly in Gillespie ward to recognise the similar issues and community identity those electors have with other electors in our Gillespie ward.

49 Having considered these submissions, we were persuaded by the evidence submitted to us, and we propose to make a minor amendment to the boundary to include Monsell Road wholly in our renamed Arsenal ward.

Highbury and Mildmay

50 Around 220 of the 305 submissions (including a 243 name petition) we received related to this area and in particular our proposals for Highbury and Mildmay. Almost all of the submissions that related to our proposed Mildmay ward were in relation to our proposal to include Baalbec Road, Calabria Road, Corsica Street, Fergus Road, Gallia Road and Liberia Road in our proposed Mildmay ward.

51 These submissions provided a great deal of evidence to illustrate their close community ties with the Highbury area, including schools, leisure centres, churches, community centres and major transport links and their shared issues with traffic and parking.

52 In addition to these submissions, the submission from Islington Liberal Democrats proposed an alternative warding pattern for the area. They proposed that the streets mentioned above be moved back into Highbury ward and that Seaforth Crescent and numbers 25-91 and 66-90 Highbury New Park are returned to Mildmay ward from our proposed Highbury ward. Their reasoning reflected many of the other submissions, arguing that the draft recommendations divide the Highbury Fields community between wards and that the affected electors on Seaforth Crescent and Highbury New Park have longstanding ties to this ward. The Liberal Democrats also proposed a further amendment to include numbers 109-155 Petherton Road, 149-173 Green Lanes, 110a-126 Highbury New Park and the Park View Estate in Mildmay ward. They argued that the junction of Petherton Road and Green Lanes is dense with shops, acts as a community hub, and that these electors gravitate towards Newington Green in Mildmay ward.

53 We received a number of other submissions relating to Highbury ward, including a number of submissions in favour of the proposed ward, albeit with a lack of compelling evidence in support of the proposal. In their response, Islington Labour Party supported the proposed ward but noted that some residents raised concerns about their community identity not being recognised. They also supported the draft recommendation on the basis that a ward centred on the A1201 Highbury Grove was the most appropriate proposal for the area. They further supported the inclusion of Baalbec Road, Calabria Road, Corsica Street, Fergus Road, Gallia Road and Liberia Road in Mildmay ward given their inclusion in that ward prior to 2003 and the absence of an alternative warding pattern that met the Commission's statutory criteria.

54 We considered the submissions we received and are content that the evidence provided does justify an amendment to the draft recommendations. We agree that the electors included in the proposal from the Liberal Democrats, mentioned above, do have community ties to the Newington Green area. We therefore propose to adopt the Liberal Democrat proposal, subject to one

amendment to the proposed boundary to ensure that 42 & 44 Aberdeen Park remain in Highbury ward with the rest of that road.

Arsenal

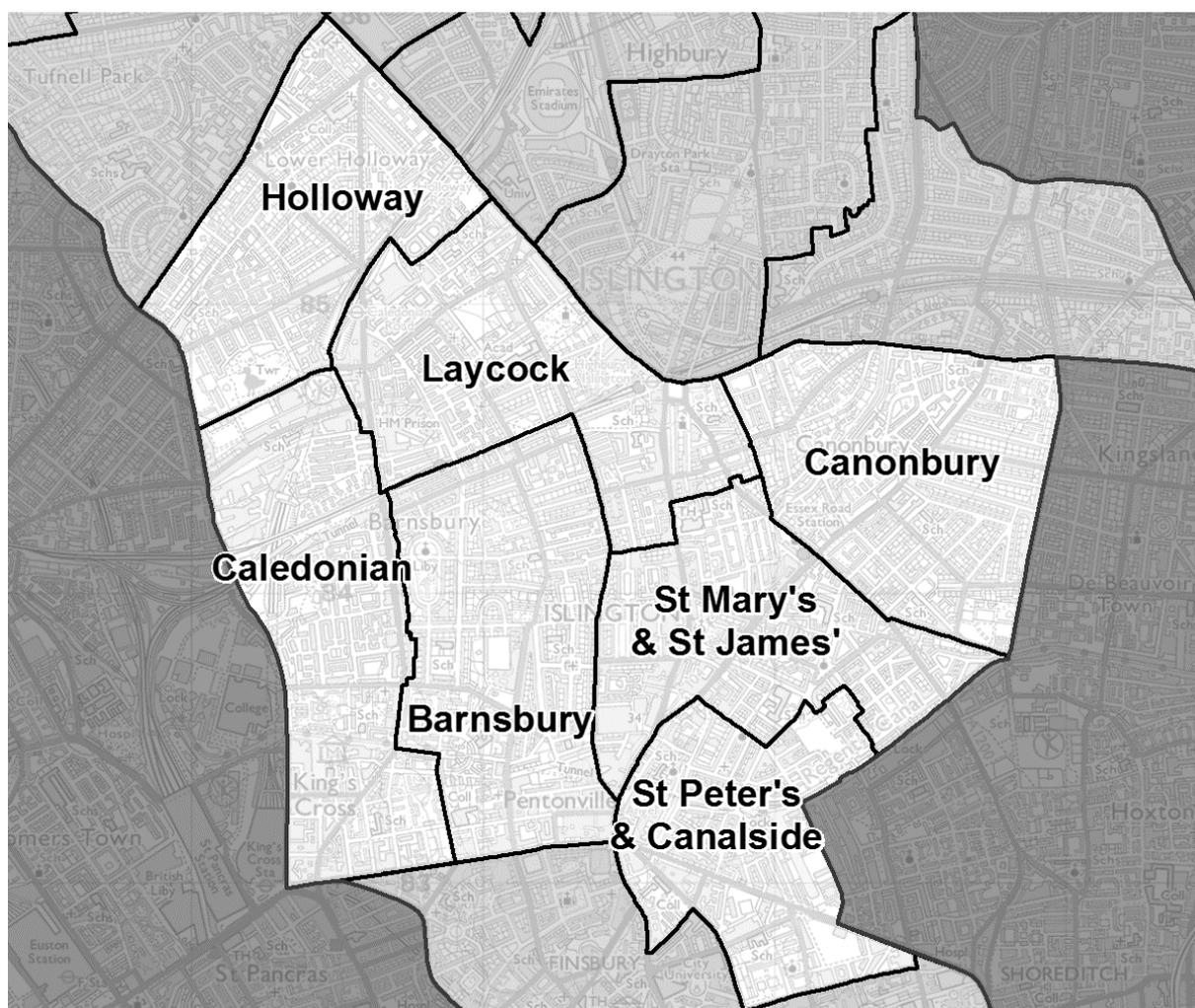
55 In relation to our proposed Gillespie ward, we received a number of submissions from residents on Bryantwood Road to the south of the Emirates Stadium. They stated that their community did not lie within our proposed Gillespie ward but lay within our proposed Highbury ward. The submissions requested that Bryantwood Road be included in Highbury ward to maintain their community identity. In addition, Islington Labour Party supported the draft recommendations, with the exception of a proposed name change from Gillespie to Arsenal to better reflect the area covered by the ward. A few further submissions supported the boundaries of the ward and the name of Gillespie.

56 We noted that the submissions from electors on Bryantwood Road did not contain an alternative proposal above their desire to be included in Highbury. We also note that our draft recommendations maintained Bryantwood Road in a ward centred on the west of Highbury which we proposed to name Gillespie in our draft recommendations.

57 We carefully considered the submissions received and accept the argument made by Islington Labour Party that a ward name of Arsenal would better reflect the community within the ward. We have therefore adopted the name Arsenal as part of our final recommendations. We also looked closely at the submissions relating to Bryantwood Road, but we were unable to identify a warding pattern that would allow us to include Bryantwood Road in Highbury ward whilst providing good electoral equality for the area or provide for convenient and effective local government for these electors. We do propose to make a minor amendment to the boundary between Arsenal and Finsbury Park to ensure Monsell Road remains in Arsenal ward, as mentioned in paragraph 49.

58 Our final recommendations for this area provide good electoral equality with variances of 0%, 8%, -1% and 0% in Arsenal, Highbury, Mildmay and Finsbury Park wards respectively by 2025.

West and centre of the borough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Barnsbury	3	-2%
Caledonian	3	-7%
Canonbury	3	-2%
Holloway	3	-7%
Laycock	3	-2%
St Mary's & St James'	3	0%
St Peter's & Canalside	3	-1%

Holloway and Laycock

59 A number of the submissions relating to these wards were opposed to the name of our proposed Central ward. When proposing this ward, we asked interested parties to suggest names as we accepted our choice of Central may not be the most identifiable name for the area. Islington Labour Party suggested that we name the ward Laycock, a historical name based on a former landowner of the area and

reflected in a street, school, community centre and open space sharing this name. Other names suggested were MacKenzie Road, Paradise Park, Liverpool or Liverpool Road, Magdalene, Highbury Corner, Arundel and Ring Cross. Having balanced the evidence received for these suggestions, we propose to rename the ward Laycock, as suggested by Islington Labour Party, as we consider this was supported by the most compelling evidence.

60 In response to the proposed boundaries of these two wards, we received a submission that suggested that the boundary between Caledonian and Holloway wards should be moved from Market Road to Brewery Road and that the new developments at the Caledonian Road end of Market Road should not be divided between wards. This proposal matched one from Islington Liberal Democrats. They suggested a boundary between Laycock, Holloway and Caledonian wards that follows Caledonian Road and the railway line from the Hillmarton Road/Caledonian Road junction until it meets the A1 Holloway Road. The submission proposed that the electors to the south of the railway line should not be included in Holloway ward. Because of the poor electoral equality that would result in Holloway ward as a consequence of the removal of these electors, the Liberal Democrats proposed to include a number of electors currently in Tufnell Park (as described in paragraph 43) in Holloway ward.

61 A submission from a former local councillor for the area supported the Liberal Democrat view regarding the electors on Eden Grove and Piper Close to the south of the railway line and their lack of community identity with the Holloway area. He went on to state that if it was not possible to include all these electors in our renamed Laycock ward, at least those on Piper Close and in Meakin House should be removed from Holloway ward. He argued that this is because Meakin House is part of the Ring Cross Estate and that including it in our proposed Holloway ward broke its strong community ties with the rest of the estate. He also stated that the newer properties on north side of Piper Close shared a commonality of interest with those on the south side.

62 Finally, we received a couple of submissions that suggested the boundary between Laycock ward and St Mary's & St James' ward should be Islington Park Street rather than Barnsbury Street, as the area around College Cross has strong ties to the south. We do not propose to make this amendment as we do not consider we received sufficient evidence to justify the change, especially as it would considerably worsen the electoral equality for both wards.

63 Having considered all the evidence submitted in these responses, we propose to make an amendment to the boundary between Laycock and Holloway wards. We examined if it was possible to use the railway line as the entire boundary between Laycock and Holloway wards, but this did not provide for electoral equality for either

ward with Holloway and Laycock having an electoral variance of -21% and 13% respectively by 2025.

64 We do, however, propose to use the railway line as far as Carronade Court before running the boundary along Eden Grove. This warding arrangement would include the properties on the north side of Eden Grove in Holloway ward and Meakin House and the properties on Piper Close in Laycock ward. This amendment reflects the suggestion of the former councillor in his submission and our judgement is that this reflects the community identity of the electors moved into Laycock. Given that the electors on Hornsey Street and Eden Grove are more likely to access services around Holloway Road, we consider that they will have greater ties to Holloway ward.

65 We are of the view that we have not received sufficient evidence to adopt the Liberal Democrat proposal for this area, particularly their proposal to include Hilldrop Road and Hilldrop Crescent in Holloway. We also do not propose to use Caledonian Road as the boundary for Laycock, Holloway and Caledonian. We received evidence during an earlier phase of consultation that the current and future electors in the developments on the western side of the A5203 Caledonian Road would have more in common with electors in Laycock ward. We also propose to maintain the Holloway and Caledonian ward boundary on Market Road which we consider is a stronger boundary than Brewery Road.

66 Our final recommendations for Holloway and Laycock wards have good electoral equality with variances of -7% and -2% by 2025, respectively.

Barnsbury and Caledonian

67 In this area, Islington Labour Party supported our draft recommendations, and a local resident supported our proposed Barnsbury ward. Four local residents did not support our proposal to include Thornhill Square and its surrounding area in Caledonian ward. The Thornhill Square area is currently located in Caledonian ward and two of the submissions erroneously thought that the Commission had proposed to move the area during its draft recommendations. The other two submissions argued that the draft recommendations missed an opportunity to restore the area to Barnsbury ward, with which it has longstanding ties.

68 Islington Liberal Democrats proposed an alternative that includes the Thornhill Square area in Barnsbury ward whilst maintaining the properties that face onto Caledonian Road in Caledonian ward. To provide for electoral equality, they proposed to move an area bounded by the Regent's Canal, Muriel and Rodney streets and Pentonville Road into Caledonian ward. They argued that the electors in this area are likely to have community ties to Caledonian ward given their proximity to the services and facilities on the lower end of Caledonian Road.

69 Having carefully considered the evidence provided, we are persuaded that there are close ties between the Thornhill Square area and the remainder of Barnsbury ward. As a consequence, we have adopted the Liberal Democrat alternative as part of our final recommendations.

70 Our final recommendations for Barnsbury and Caledonian will provide good electoral equality for the area with variances of -2% and -7% respectively by 2025.

Canonbury

71 The only submission we received that made reference to Canonbury ward was from Islington Liberal Democrats. They proposed to move a number of electors from our proposed Central ward into Canonbury ward to balance electoral equality elsewhere in their proposed amendments. We did not consider we had received sufficient evidence to make this change, nor did we consider it would reflect the community identity of the electors in question.

72 Our proposed final recommendation for Canonbury ward has good electoral equality with a variance of -2% by 2025.

St Mary's & St James' and St Peter's & Canalside

73 Around 50 of the 305 submissions we received related to our proposed Canalside & St Peter's and St Mary's & St James' wards. Islington Labour Party supported the proposed wards subject to two proposed amendments. The first was to amend the boundary between Canalside & St Peter's and St Mary's & St James' so that electors in the Union Square area are all included in a St Peter's ward. They also proposed to rename the ward St Peter's & Canalside which they state, 'better retains the sense of continued identity of the ward'.

74 The remaining submissions were all opposed to the division of the existing St Peter's ward between our two proposed wards. These submissions contained substantial evidence related to the community ties around the St Peter's area, particularly around Arlington Square and Canalside Square. These submissions were also opposed to the proposed ward crossing the City Road, an area with which they stated they shared no community ties.

75 None of the submissions provided an alternative warding pattern for the area that would allow the retention of St Peter's ward, which most requested.

76 When proposing the draft recommendations, the Commission concluded that it was not possible to propose a warding pattern that did not cross the A501 City Road and provide acceptable levels of electoral equality for the wards to the south of the road. This necessitated a ward that included some areas on both sides of the City Road. The Commission took the view that the ward proposed by Islington

Labour Party, which we named Canalside & St Peter's, was the ward that provided for the best balance in the Commission's statutory criteria.

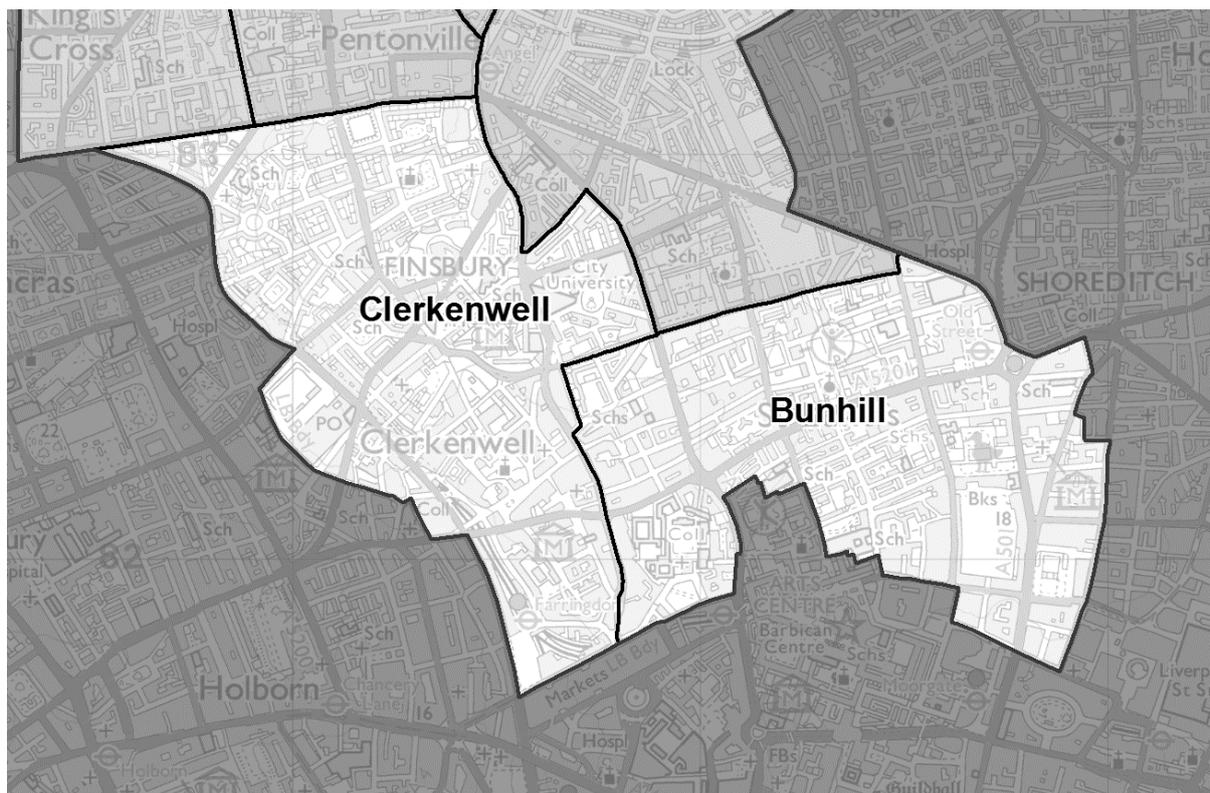
77 We have carefully considered the submissions we have received for this area. We acknowledge that we have received strong evidence for the retention of the existing St Peter's ward and that City Road is a clear boundary. We note the concern expressed in representations that the draft proposals may be detrimental to local community identity.

78 We therefore again investigated whether it would be possible to retain the existing St Peter's ward and use City Road as a boundary. However, such a warding arrangement would result in the wards north and south of City Road having 13% more and -13% fewer electors than the borough average by 2025, respectively. We are of the view that this level of electoral inequality in the areas surrounding St Peter's is unacceptably high. To avoid this would require a substantial and arbitrary re-warding of the surrounding areas without supporting evidence, as well as a departure from a uniform pattern of three-member wards. Evidence from the local authority stated that the Council has developed an effective, devolved decision-making process at ward level that is dependent on three-member wards. We are therefore persuaded that a departure from a uniform pattern of three-member wards would not facilitate effective and convenient local government.

79 To ensure the best balance of the statutory criteria across the whole borough, we have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposals for this area as final, subject to the two proposed amendments suggested by Islington Labour Party which we agreed with. We agree with the view that renaming the ward St Peter's & Canalside better suggested the continuing identity of the ward covering the St Peter's area. We also agree that the Union Square area is better wholly included in St Peter's & Canalside ward to reflect the community identity of those electors.

80 Our proposed St Mary's & St James' and St Peter's & Canalside wards have good electoral quality with variances of 0% and -1% by 2025, respectively.

South of the borough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Bunhill	3	0%
Clerkenwell	3	-3%

Bunhill and Clerkenwell

81 The only submissions we received that referred to these wards were a number of representations that queried the forecast electorate increase for Bunhill ward. These submissions considered that the forecasted electorate for 2025 was an overestimation and would be unlikely to be achieved. As is the Commission's policy, we raised these concerns with Islington Council.

82 Islington Council confirmed that they were content with the electoral forecasts that had been based on the Greater London Authority's housing-led projection, and then transferred into an electorate forecast. They also made us aware that the electoral roll figures in Bunhill are currently low due to under-registration and expected to improve. This had been factored into the forecast figure. Having considered the response from the Council, the Commission is content that the forecast electorate figure for the Bunhill area is the most accurate available and we have continued to use it as part of this review.

83 In the absence of any other submissions relating to these two wards we are confirming our Bunhill and Clerkenwell wards as final. They will have good electoral equality with variances of 0% and -3% respectively by 2025.

Conclusions

84 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Islington, referencing the 2019 and 2025 electorate figures. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2019	2025
Number of councillors	51	51
Number of electoral wards	17	17
Average number of electors per councillor	2,924	3,301
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	7	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Final recommendations

Islington should be made up of 51 councillors serving 17 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

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

What happens next?

85 We have now completed our review of Islington. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2022.

Equalities

86 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Islington Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Arsenal	3	9,381	3,127	7%	9,944	3,315	0%
2	Barnsbury	3	8,601	2,867	-2%	9,748	3,249	-2%
3	Bunhill	3	7,433	2,478	-15%	9,950	3,317	0%
4	Caledonian	3	7,321	2,440	-17%	9,199	3,066	-7%
5	Canonbury	3	9,042	3,014	3%	9,732	3,244	-2%
6	Clerkenwell	3	7,547	2,516	-14%	9,615	3,205	-3%
7	Finsbury Park	3	8,888	2,963	1%	9,924	3,308	0%
8	Highbury	3	10,206	3,402	16%	10,441	3,480	5%
9	Hillrise	3	10,779	3,593	23%	10,708	3,569	8%
10	Holloway	3	8,389	2,796	-4%	9,249	3,083	-7%
11	Junction	3	9,174	3,058	5%	9,595	3,198	-3%

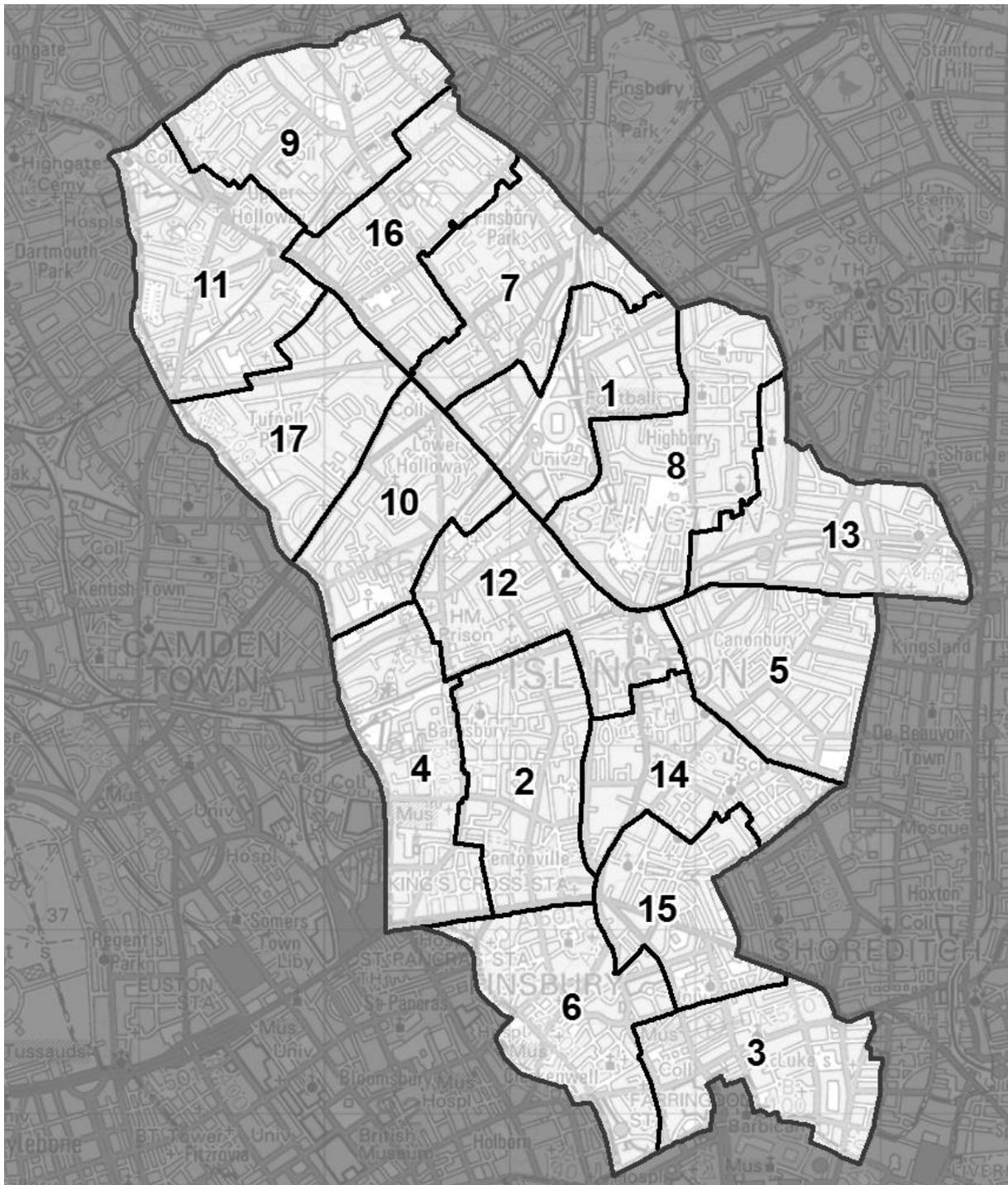
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Laycock	3	8,494	2,831	-3%	9,753	3,251	-2%
13 Mildmay	3	9,748	3,249	11%	10,093	3,364	2%
14 St Mary's & St James'	3	8,255	2,752	-6%	9,861	3,287	0%
15 St Peter's & Canalside	3	6,909	2,303	-21%	9,852	3,284	-1%
16 Tollington	3	10,053	3,351	15%	10,414	3,471	5%
17 Tufnell Park	3	8,888	2,963	1%	10,290	3,430	4%
Totals	51	149,108	-	-	168,368	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,924	-	-	3,301	-

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

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Arsenal
2	Barnsbury
3	Bunhill
4	Caledonian
5	Canonbury
6	Clerkenwell
7	Finsbury Park
8	Highbury
9	Hillrise
10	Holloway
11	Junction
12	Laycock
13	Mildmay
14	St Mary's & St James'
15	St Peter's & Canalside
16	Tollington
17	Tufnell Park

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

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/islington

Local Authority

- Islington Council

Political Groups

- Highbury West Ward Labour Party
- Islington Labour Party
- Islington Liberal Democrats
- St Peter's Ward Labour Party

Members of Parliament

- Jeremy Corbyn MP (Islington North) and Emily Thornberry MP (Islington South & Finsbury) – Joint Submission

Local Organisations

- Angel Association
- Angel.London
- Arlington Association
- Friends of Duncan Terrace & Colebrooke Row Garden
- Highbury Fields Association
- The Islington Society

Local Residents

- 292 local residents

Petitions

- 243 signature petition included with a local resident's submission

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.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0TL

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