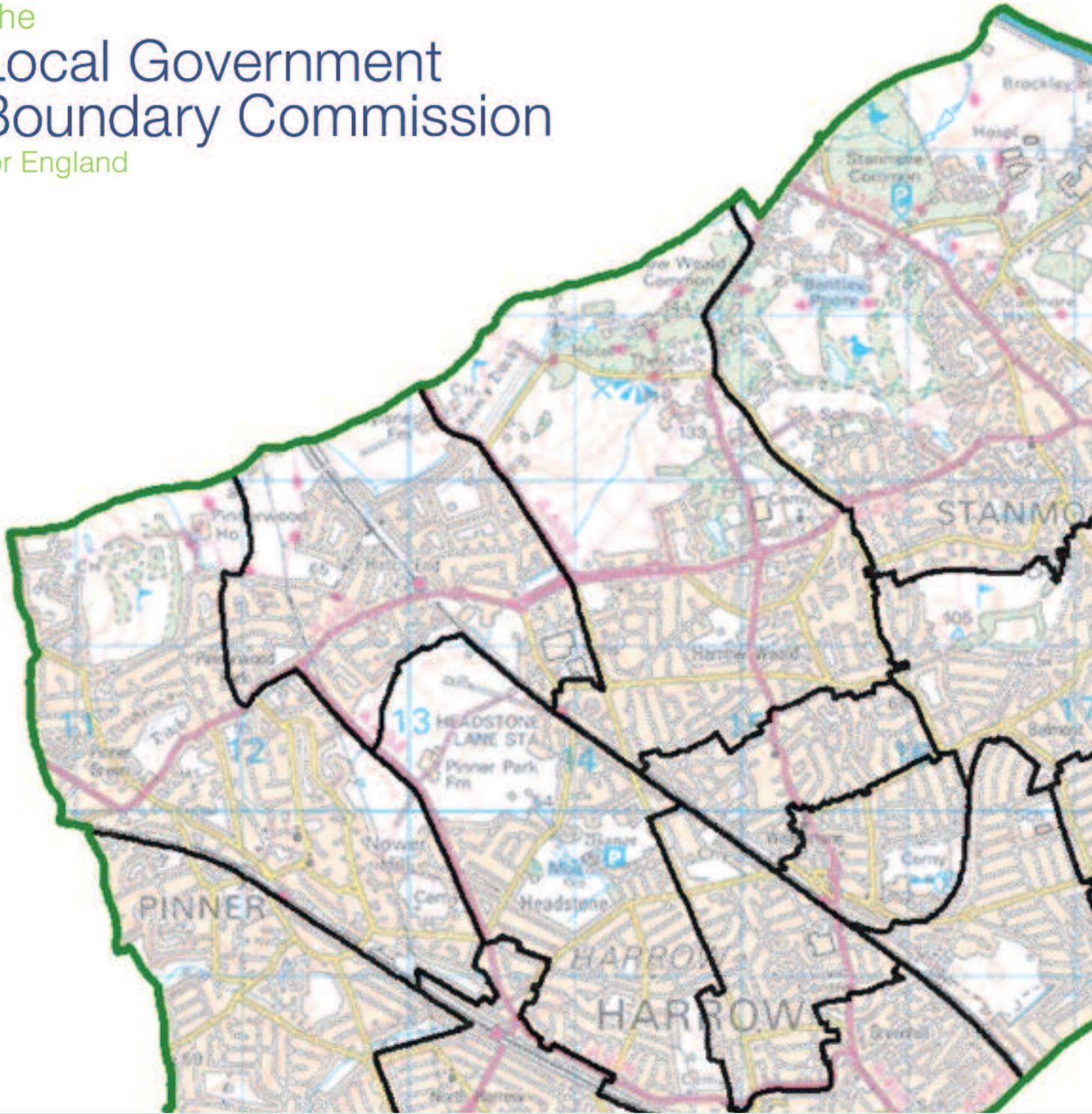


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Harrow Council

Final recommendations

May 2019

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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)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Andrew Scallan CBE
- 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 Harrow?

7 We are conducting a review of Harrow Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 1999 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² In addition, the value of each vote in council elections varies depending on where you live in Harrow. 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 Harrow 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 Harrow

9 Harrow should be represented by 55 councillors, eight fewer than there are now.

10 Harrow should have 22 wards, one more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change; none will stay the same

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

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.

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

² Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider 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 Harrow. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation informed our draft recommendations. We then held a second period of consultation on our draft recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
24 July 2018	Number of councillors decided
31 July 2018	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
8 October 2018	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
4 December 2018	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
11 February 2019	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
2 April 2019	Publication of further recommendations for Harrow Weald and Wealdstone; start four-week period of limited consultation
29 April 2019	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations for Harrow Weald and Wealdstone
28 May 2019	Publication of final recommendations for Harrow

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

	2018	2024
Electorate of Harrow	184,640	193,598
Number of councillors	55	55
Average number of electors per councillor	3,357	3,520

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 Harrow will have good electoral equality by 2024.

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 scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2019. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5% by 2024.

23 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.

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Number of councillors

24 Harrow Council currently has 63 councillors. The Labour Group proposed retaining a council size of 63, while the Conservative Group proposed reducing it to 55. We looked at evidence provided and concluded that decreasing by eight would ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 55 councillors – for example a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 In response to the consultation on warding patterns the Council argued that we should reconsider the decision to reduce council size from 63 to 55, arguing that this would have implications for democratic representation in the future. Five local residents provided a mixture of general objections and support for the reduction in council size

27 We considered the evidence received, particularly the Council's concerns about the impact of a reduction in council size. However, we did not consider there to be any new or compelling evidence to persuade us that Harrow Council would be unable to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively under a council of 55 members. Therefore, our draft recommendations were based on a 55-member council.

28 In response to our draft recommendations we received a number of comments in support of or objecting to the change in council size. However, none of these provided significant new evidence to persuade us to move away from a council size of 55 members. We have therefore retained 55 councillors as part of the final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 32 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included five borough-wide proposals from the Council, the Conservative Group on the Council ('the Conservative Group'), the Harrow Liberal Democrats ('the Liberal Democrats') and from two members of the public. The five borough-wide schemes provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Harrow, with all schemes providing good levels of electoral equality and generally using clearly identifiable boundaries.

30 The remainder of the submissions provided a mixture of general comments about the review and more specific comments about warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 We noted that there was relatively little agreement between most of the borough-wide proposals. Therefore, our starting point was to focus on the treatment of a number of specific boundaries as well as our observations when we visited the borough and viewed the proposals on the ground. This informed how we developed our draft recommendations across the borough. Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

32 Our draft recommendations were for 11 three-councillor wards and 11 two-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

33 We received 47 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included borough-wide comments from the Council, the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats. A local resident also put forward borough-wide comments. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Rayners Lane and Pinner, North Harrow and Headstone, but also across other areas of the borough.

34 The Liberal Democrats proposed a number of changes across the borough, with a particular emphasis that the boundaries should reflect the location of polling stations. While we have given full consideration to its proposals, our guidance states that we should not have specific regard for polling stations. In particular, we note that they may move as a result of our electoral review and that their location is a matter for the local authority to determine subsequent to this review.

35 In some areas we received objections to proposed ward names. These ranged from objections to the inclusion of compass point locations within ward names, or requests for names that reflect local geography or well-known people connected with particular areas. Councillor O'Dell put forward alternative ward names across the borough based on well-known residents associated with particular areas. We acknowledge that ward names are a sensitive issue and we try to reflect local preferences where we can, particularly if there is consensus or strong support for particular names. We have considered all the evidence about ward names received in response to the draft recommendations. However, we note that there has been little consensus or strong support for particular names, with the exception of the Kenton area where there was support for retaining the Kenton East and Kenton West names, despite other objections. Therefore, we are not proposing any ward name changes.

Further limited consultation

36 We undertook a period of further limited consultation on proposals for the Harrow Weald and Wealdstone area. In response, we received six responses which put forward a mixture of support and objections for the further draft proposals.

37 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in Harrow Weald and Wealdstone. We propose a number of more minor modifications elsewhere in the borough to strengthen boundaries in response to the evidence received.

Final recommendations

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

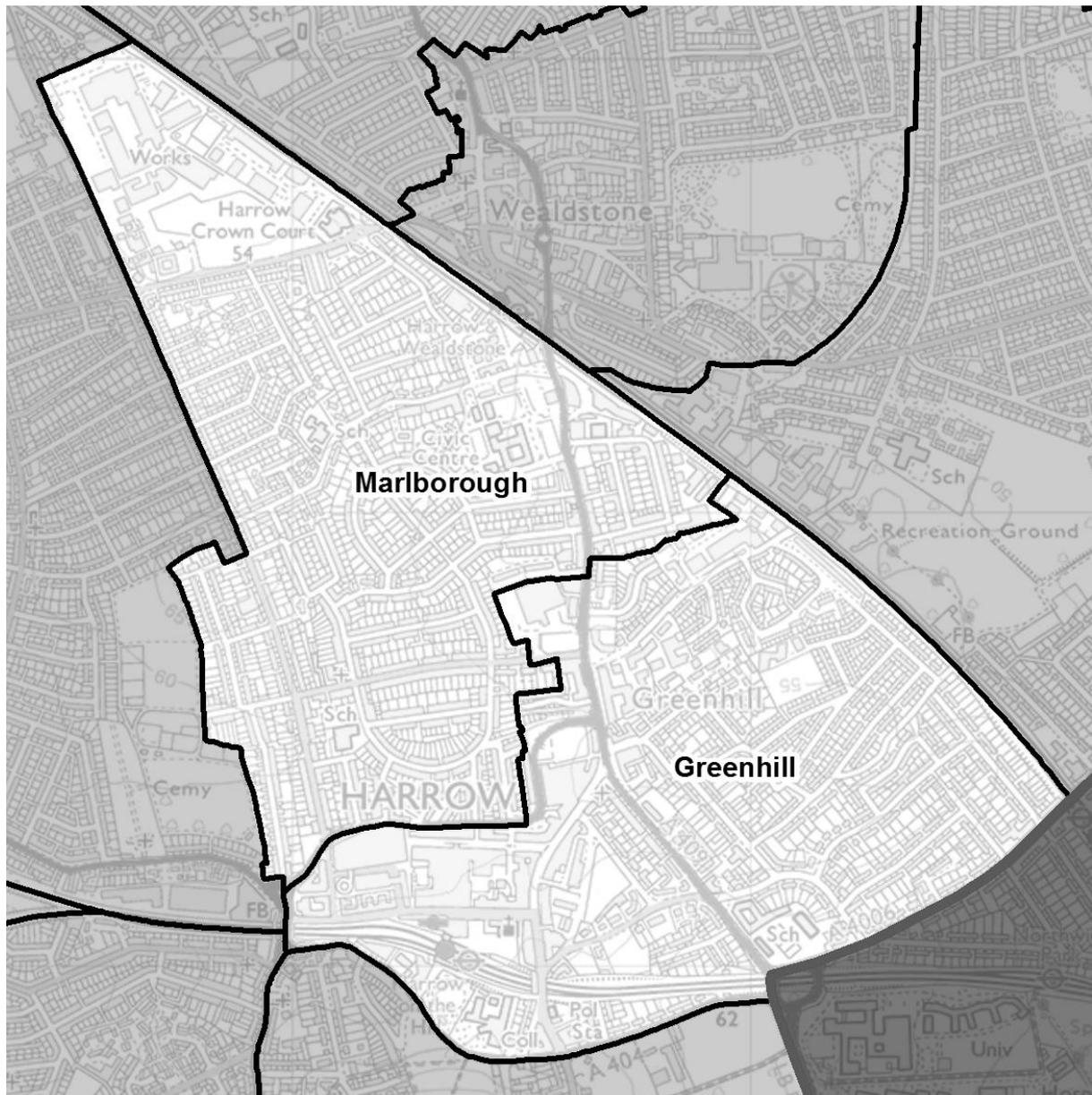
39 The tables and maps on pages 9–35 detail our final recommendations for each area of Harrow. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

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

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Greenhill and Marlborough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Greenhill	3	-2%
Marlborough	3	4%

Greenhill and Marlborough

41 We received general support for these wards in response to our draft recommendations, although a number of respondents proposed minor amendments. The Liberal Democrats proposed transferring Fairholme Road and the west side of Greenhill Way to Marlborough ward citing access to a polling station. As discussed earlier in this report, our proposals are not required to have consideration of polling station locations. We consider that keeping the west side of Greenhill Way in

Marlborough ward provides a stronger boundary, so we are adopting this change. However, the transfer of Fairholme Road does not reflect its access into the Greenhill ward. In addition, it removes part of the commercial area, taking out the shops on Station Road, which we have sought to avoid. Therefore, we are not adopting this amendment.

42 The Council proposed transferring a small area round the Tesco Superstore and Safari Cinema to Greenhill ward. We note that this helps keep the commercial centre in Greenhill ward and consider that this creates a stronger boundary. However, we do not propose transferring the even-numbered houses on Hindes Road as we consider that these are better served by remaining in Marlborough ward with the other houses on Hindes Road.

43 A local resident argued that the boundary between Marlborough and Headstone wards should be amended to include the roads to the east of the Harrow Recreation Ground in Headstone ward, rather than Marlborough ward. The resident argued that, given their proximity to the recreation ground, these roads have a particular interest in it and should therefore be in the same ward. We note these proposals and, while we acknowledge that these residents may have an interest in the recreation ground, we consider that placing them in Headstone ward would leave them isolated from neighbouring properties in Marlborough ward. In addition, this proposal worsens electoral equality and we received no other support for it. Therefore, we are not adopting this amendment.

44 Finally, we note that a number of respondents argued that the Buckingham Road area should be united in a single ward, rather than divided between Headstone and Marlborough wards. We agree with this and are placing the whole of Buckingham Road in Marlborough ward. Subject to these amendments, we are confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

Harrow on the Hill and West Harrow



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Harrow on the Hill	2	5%
West Harrow	2	0%

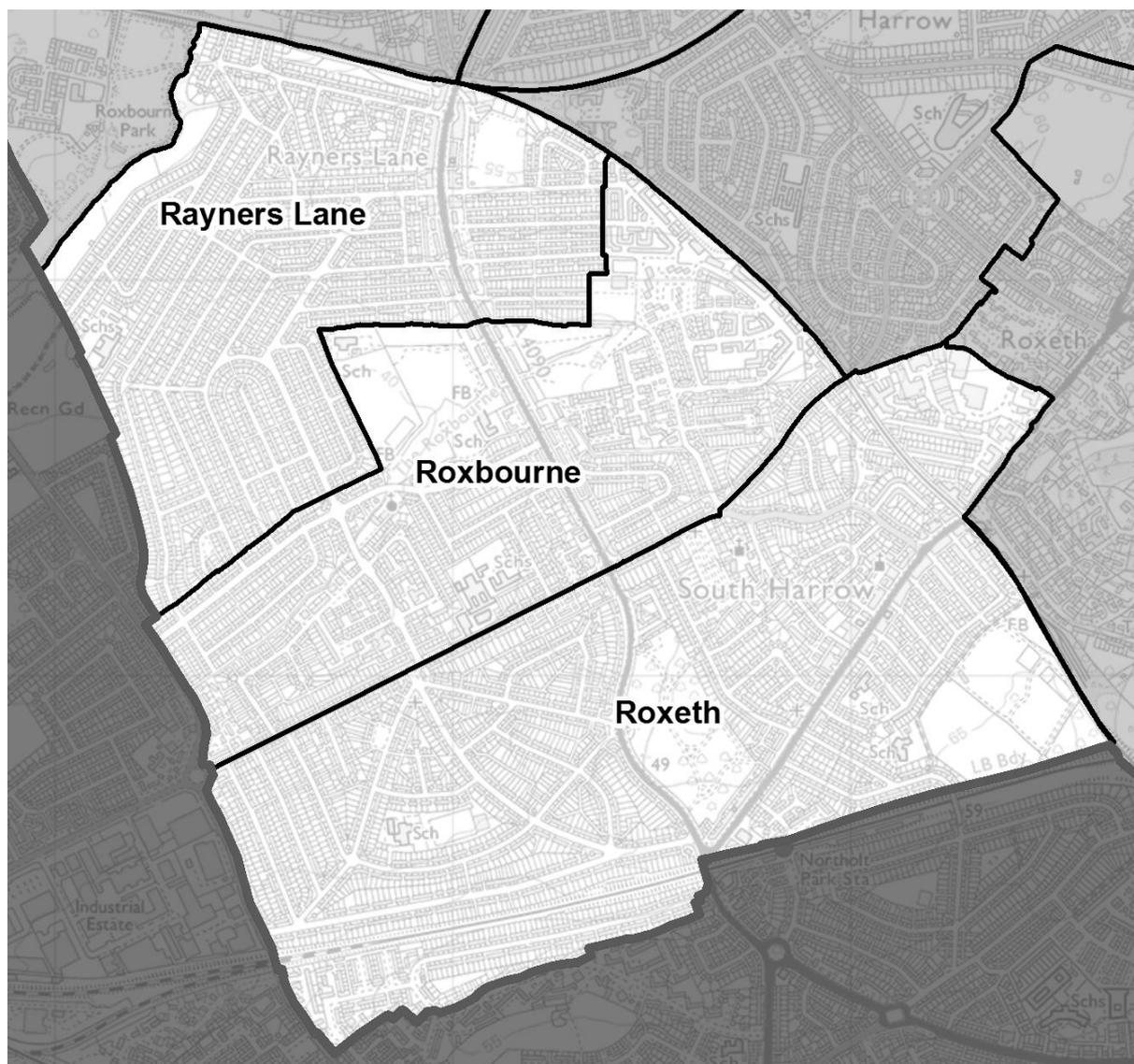
Harrow on the Hill and West Harrow

45 We received general support for these wards in response to our draft recommendations. The Liberal Democrats proposed a small amendment to transfer Whitmore Road and the nearby playing fields to West Harrow ward, citing access to polling stations. As discussed earlier, our proposals do not have regard to the location of polling stations or polling districts. We consider that the draft recommendations use a good boundary and keep the sports playing fields in this area in single ward. In addition, there was general support for the proposed boundaries. Therefore, we are not adopting this amendment.

46 A local resident stated that the roads around Romney Drive should remain in West Harrow ward, rather than North Harrow ward. We note these comments but do not consider there to be strong evidence to justify this change to our draft

recommendations and consider the railway line to be a good boundary between West Harrow and North Harrow wards. Therefore, we are not adopting this amendment and are confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

Rayners Lane, Roxbourne and Roxeth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Rayners Lane	2	1%
Roxbourne	2	-2%
Roxeth	3	2%

Rayners Lane and Roxbourne

47 We received a mixture of support and objections to our proposals for these wards. The Council put forward strong objections to the creation of a two-councillor Rayners Lane ward, requesting that a modified version of its draft proposal for a three-councillor Rayners Lane ward be considered. It also proposed a two-councillor Pinner South ward (discussed below). It argued that the draft recommendations divide the centre of Rayners Lane between three wards. It reinforced its earlier argument that Rayners Lane station and the shops are the centre of the ward and

using the Metropolitan railway line as a boundary does not reflect the extent of this area. It argued that the Harrow Garden Village area to the north of Rayners Lane centre has strong historic links with Rayners Lane and that Yeading Brook to the north is a distinct boundary. While it acknowledged that this area may have links into Pinner, it argued that it has stronger community links with Rayners Lane. It also suggested that the southern end of Imperial Drive and the roads around it have easy access into Rayners Lane. Finally, it suggested that local postcodes as well as exaggeration by estate agents had led to confusion as to the southerly extent of Pinner.

48 To the south, the Council rejected the argument that Newton Park West and Newton Farm Ecology Park disrupt transport links through its proposed Roxbourne ward. It stated that, given socio-economic problems, Roxbourne should be represented by three councillors. The Council also argued that the size of the area means it is inevitable that it has to be split between two wards. Two local residents argued that the Rayners Lane shopping area should be represented in the Rayners Lane ward. Another local resident put forward a similar argument, while also arguing that Yeading Brook formed a strong boundary between Harrow Garden Village and Pinner.

49 The Liberal Democrats argued in support of a three-councillor Rayners Lane ward that crossed the railway line. They also put forward an alternative proposal in the event that the two-councillor Rayners Lane ward was retained. However, this contained only limited evidence of community links, so we have not considered it further.

50 The Conservative Group expressed support for the draft recommendations for these wards and objected to the Council's response to the draft recommendations. It rejected the Council's arguments and put forward its own historic argument to suggest that in the 18th century, Pinner extended as far south as the area of the Newton Farm Ecology Park. It supported our recommended boundary between Rayners Lane and Roxbourne wards and agreed that Newton Park West and the Newton Farm Ecology Park disrupt transport through the ward. The Ruislip, Northwood & Pinner Conservative Association and Councillors Almond and Stevenson expressed support for the Conservative Group's comments on the boundary between Rayners Lane and Pinner South.

51 The Pinner Association expressed support for our proposed boundary between Rayners Lane and Pinner South wards, also objecting to the Council's proposed modifications. It particularly objected to the Council's proposal to include electors along Eastern Avenue, Village Way and the southern part of Cannon Lane in Rayners Lane ward. Two local residents objected to the inclusion of the area around Eastern Avenue and Village Way in Rayners Lane ward.

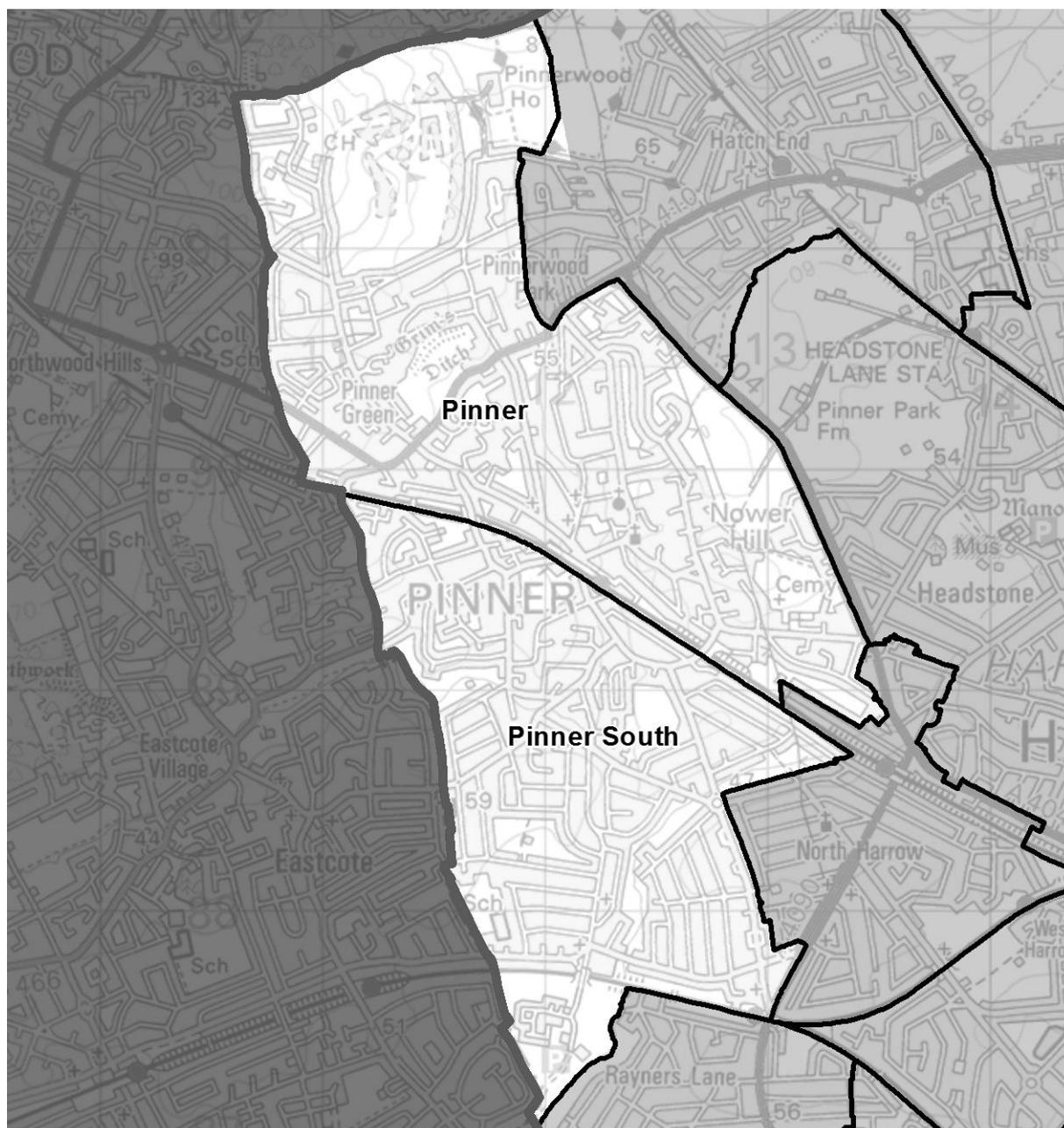
52 We have carefully considered the evidence received and note the difference of views with regard to wards in this area. As with the draft recommendations, the new evidence is contradictory. While we remain concerned about splitting the Rayners Lane commercial area between wards, we are not persuaded that the Council's proposed Rayners Lane ward follows clearly defined boundaries. Our primary concern is with regard to the southern boundary of the ward. It appears to us that the Council's proposals will divide a cohesive area of housing between wards. We remain of the view that our proposed boundary, which runs broadly to the north of Eastcote Lane, is clearer and respects community identities in this area.

53 While we acknowledge that the railway line does not create a strong divide in the area, it does provide a clear feature on which to base ward boundaries. The draft recommendations created two wards that both have access into Rayners Lane, but also a Pinner South ward that reflects transport and pedestrian links into the remainder of Pinner. We have therefore come to the conclusion that the draft recommendations provide the best balance between the statutory criteria. We are therefore confirming them as final.

Roxeth

54 In response to our draft recommendations we received support for this ward. We are therefore confirming it as final.

Pinner



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Pinner	3	-4%
Pinner South	3	8%

Pinner and Pinner South

55 We received a mixture of support and objections to our draft recommendations for these wards. As stated in the Rayners Lane and Roxbourne section above, the Council objected to the creation of a three-councillor Pinner South ward. It reiterated its support for a two-councillor Pinner South ward to facilitate its proposals for

Rayners Lane. It argued that the Harrow Garden Village area to the north of Rayners Lane centre has strong historic links with Rayners Lane and that Yeading Brook to the north is a distinct boundary. While it acknowledged that this area may have links into Pinner, it argued that it has stronger links to Rayners Lane.

56 The Conservative Group, while broadly supporting the draft recommendations for these wards, did propose a number of amendments. It argued that the area to the north of Yeading Brook around Northumberland Road and Mount Drive should be in North Harrow ward. In line with a number of other modifications to North Harrow ward (discussed below), it proposed transferring the Woodlands area from Pinner ward to North Harrow and making amendments between Pinner ward and Hatch End to ensure electoral equality. The Conservative Group's proposals were supported by Councillors Almond and Stevenson and the Ruislip, Northwood & Pinner Conservative Association.

57 The Pinner Association expressed support for the boundary between Rayners Lane and Pinner South wards. It also objected to the Council's proposed modifications. It particularly objected to any proposal to remove electors along Eastern Avenue, Village Way and the southern side of Cannon Lane from Pinner South ward. Two local residents objected to the inclusion of the area around Eastern Avenue and Village Way in Rayners Lane ward. Two other residents expressed general support for our proposed Pinner South and Pinner wards, with one suggesting ward name changes. One resident expressed support for placing the Northumberland Road and Mount Drive area to the north of Yeading Brook in Pinner South ward.

58 The Liberal Democrats put forward a number of options for this area. They proposed amending the boundary between the Pinner and Pinner South wards to create a ward that crosses the railway line. We rejected a boundary that crosses the railway in our draft recommendations and we do not consider that strong additional evidence has been submitted to support a change here. They also proposed that the Anglesmede Crescent area of Pinner ward should be in Headstone ward, arguing it only has limited links into Pinner. We recognise the links are somewhat limited but note that George V Avenue (which forms a dual carriageway in this area) can also be said to form a barrier between this area and Headstone. In addition, transferring this area would worsen electoral equality in both Pinner and Headstone wards.

59 The Liberal Democrats' other proposals were primarily based on access to polling stations, which we do not have regard to when developing our recommendations. The Council will conduct a polling district review based on the new wards once our review is complete. In light of the above, as well as the significant consequential effect on adjoining wards, we have decided not to adopt these proposals as part of our final recommendations.

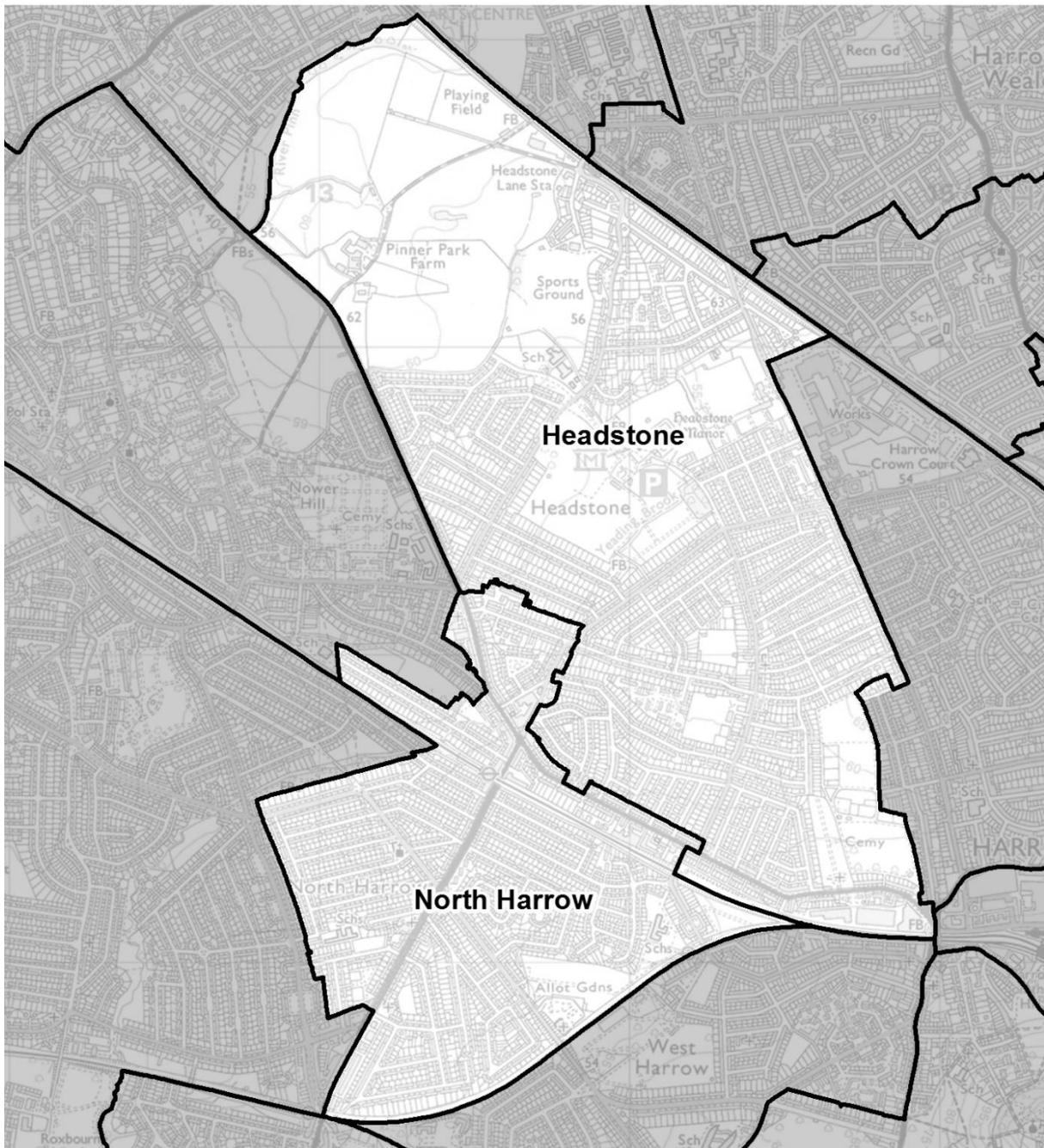
60 We note the Council's proposed amendments to Pinner South ward, particularly as they also relate to its concerns about the creation of a three-councillor Rayners Lane ward. However, as discussed above in the Rayners Lane and Roxbourne section of this report, we note that there were objections to the Council's proposed modifications, with contradictory additional evidence. In light of our decision not to create a three-councillor Rayners Lane ward to the south, we are not adopting the Council's two-councillor Pinner South ward as part of our final recommendations.

61 We also note the Conservative Group's proposed amendments to the wards in this area. It provided only limited evidence for transferring the area to the north of Yeading Brook around Northumberland Road and Mount Drive from Pinner South to North Harrow ward. The Council also proposed transferring this area to North Harrow ward arguing that it has good access into this area. However, as discussed in the North Harrow section below, we only propose limited modifications to North Harrow ward, and transferring this area to North Harrow ward would worsen electoral equality in North Harrow to 12%. Therefore, we are retaining this area in Pinner South ward, noting as we did in the draft recommendations that it also has good access links into this ward.

62 We do not propose adopting the Conservative Group's proposal to transfer the Woodlands area from Pinner ward to North Harrow. To secure good electoral equality, this proposal is contingent on amendments to Hatch End ward (discussed below) which we do not propose adopting.

63 Finally, we received a number of suggestions for alternative ward names, as well as objections to these proposed name changes. In light of the lack of agreement or strong support for a particular name, we are retaining our proposed ward names of Pinner and Pinner South as part of our final recommendations.

Headstone and North Harrow



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Headstone	3	0%
North Harrow	2	-1%

Headstone and North Harrow

64 In response to the draft recommendations, we received a mixture of support and objections to our proposed North Harrow ward. There was support for a ward centred around North Harrow, but objections to those areas either included or

excluded from the ward. The Council, while supporting the creation of a two-member North Harrow ward, proposed a number of amendments. It argued that the area to the north of Yeading Brook around Northumberland Road and Mount Drive should be included in this ward, as well as transferring an area to the south around Imperial Drive to Rayners Lane ward. It also proposed including the 'county roads' of Cumberland Road, Gloucester Road and Westmorland Road in North Harrow ward, arguing that these were built during a different period to the remainder of the 'county roads' and are within walking distance of the centre of North Harrow. It argued that the Salaam Centre, which is currently under construction and will serve as a community facility for the whole area, should be included in North Harrow ward.

65 The Conservative Group also supported a ward centred around North Harrow, but proposed significant amendments, expanding it to a three-member ward, while reducing the neighbouring Headstone ward to two members. It proposed transferring the Woodlands area and the area to the north of Yeading Brook around Northumberland Road and Mount Drive to North Harrow ward, citing links to North Harrow. It also proposed transferring the north part of Headstone ward to North Harrow, arguing that this area has no centre, but rather looks to North Harrow for a large range of facilities. It additionally proposed transferring a section of Pinner Road from North Harrow ward to a two-councillor Headstone ward. Finally, it argued for the inclusion of the Salaam Centre and a number of properties on Station Road in North Harrow ward.

66 As discussed earlier in this report, we are not adopting the Liberal Democrat proposals here as they did not provide sufficient evidence to justify their proposals beyond a description of the component parts of their proposed wards.

67 Councillor Baxter put forward similar proposals to the Conservative Group for the inclusion of parts of our Headstone ward in a revised North Harrow ward, as well as part of Pinner South ward. A local resident argued for transferring the area around Greystoke Avenue from our Headstone ward to North Harrow ward, citing the use of North Harrow facilities. Another local resident proposed transferring the Pinner Road area in North Harrow ward to Headstone ward, arguing it shares concerns about road safety with the rest of Pinner Road. They argued that North Harrow Library serves a much wider area than North Harrow centre and therefore does not need to be placed in North Harrow ward. They also proposed transferring part of Headstone ward around Greystoke Avenue to North Harrow ward. Another resident stated that area around Alfriston Avenue should be in West Harrow ward and not North Harrow ward, arguing that they use West Harrow station and the local allotments.

68 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received about these wards. We note the support for a ward centred around North Harrow. We also note the argument for including other areas in this ward. We have examined the Conservative Group's proposal for expanding North Harrow ward to a three-

councillor ward and taking in parts of Headstone, Pinner and Pinner South wards. While we note the evidence with respect to community links in North Harrow, by our calculations this ward would have 10% more electors than the average by 2024. We do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to justify this relatively high electoral variance.

69 We have also examined the proposals from residents for transferring the Greystoke Avenue area to North Harrow ward, but this would worsen electoral inequality in North Harrow to 18% more electors per councillor by 2024. While the suggestion that transferring the Pinner Road area from North Harrow to Headstone ward would minimise variances, North Harrow ward would still have 12% more electors than the average by 2024. We consider these variances to be too high and not justified by the evidence received.

70 With regards to the Council's proposals, in light of our decision to confirm the draft recommendations for Pinner, Pinner South and Rayners Lane wards as final, we are not adopting its proposal to transfer the area to the north of Yeading Brook around Northumberland Road and Mount Drive to North Harrow ward. This would result in the ward having 12% more electors than the borough average by 2024 which we do not consider can be justified.

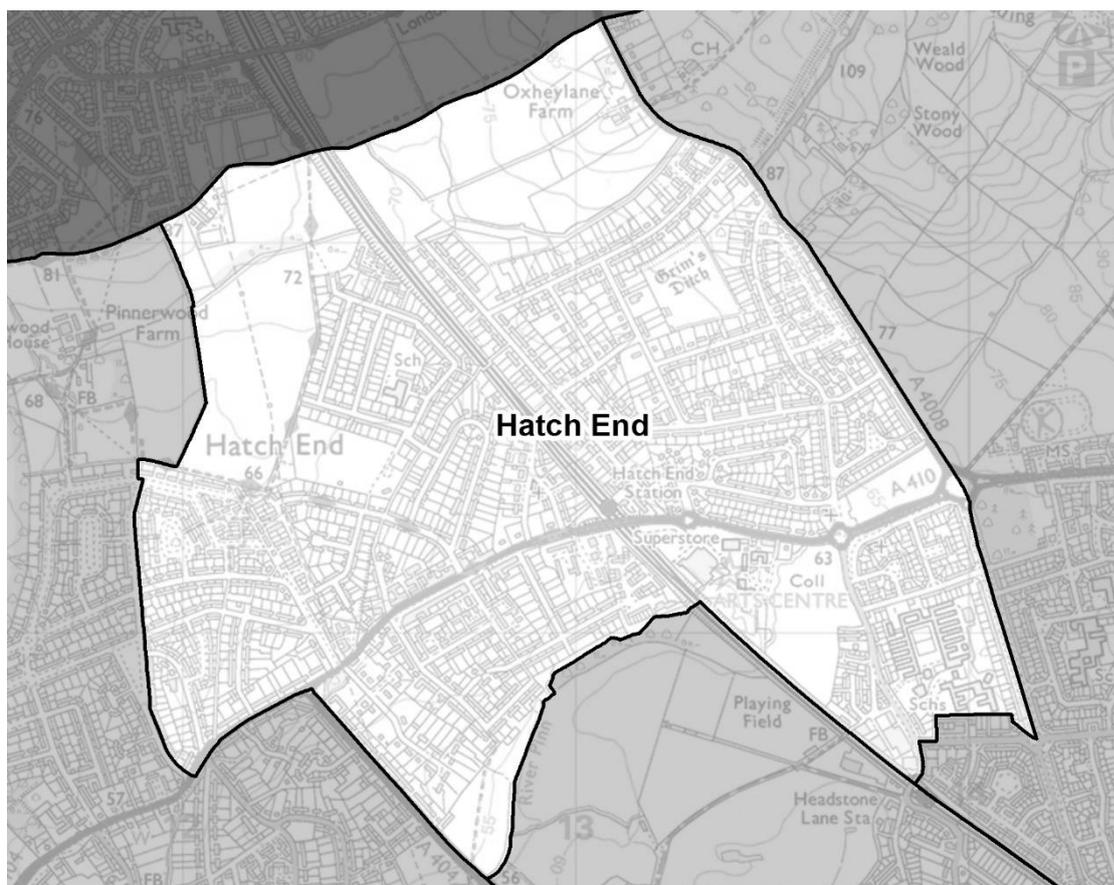
71 We do not consider the Council has provided strong evidence for transferring Cumberland Road, Gloucester Road and Westmorland Road to North Harrow ward. However, we acknowledge its argument and that of the Conservative Group that the Salaam Centre will be an important community facility and should be in this ward. Therefore, we are transferring this and the properties on Station Road to North Harrow ward.

72 We are not adopting the suggestion by a local resident for transferring the Alfriston Avenue area from North Harrow ward to West Harrow ward. We consider that the railway line forms a strong boundary at this point and we have had no other evidence in support of this.

73 Finally, a resident argued that the boundary between Marlborough and Headstone wards should be amended to include the roads to the east of Harrow Recreation Ground in Headstone ward, rather than Marlborough ward. He argued that, given their proximity to the recreation ground, these roads have a particular interest in it and should therefore be in the same ward. While we acknowledge that these residents may have an interest in the recreation ground, we consider that placing them in the same ward as the park would leave them isolated from their neighbouring properties in Marlborough ward. In addition, this proposal increases the electoral variance and we received no other support for it. Therefore, we are not adopting this amendment as part of our final recommendations.

74 We do, however, note that a number of respondents argued that Buckingham Road should be united in a single ward, rather than divided between Headstone and Marlborough wards. We agree with this proposal and are placing the whole of Buckingham Road in Marlborough ward as part of our final recommendations.

Hatch End



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Hatch End	2	1%

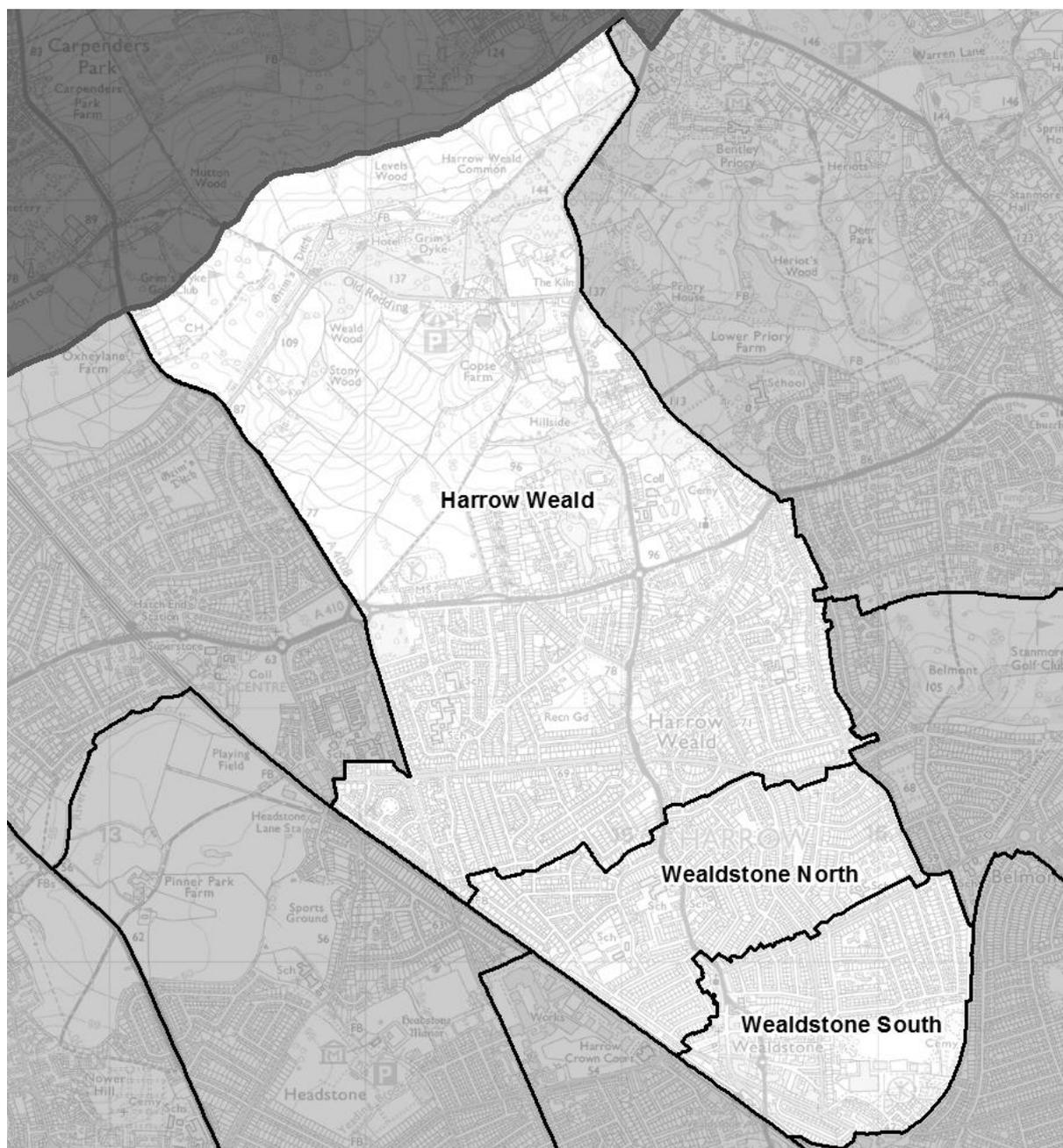
Hatch End

75 In response to our draft recommendations we received general support for this ward. The Council, Hatch End Association and a local resident all expressed support for the proposed ward. The Conservative Group, while stating that it now supported a ward that crosses the railway line, proposed a number of small amendments, primarily to facilitate changes elsewhere in the borough. It proposed retaining the area to the south of Long Elmes and west of Courtenay Avenue in Hatch End ward, arguing this is the existing boundary so residents are familiar with it. It also argued that Courtenay Avenue is a strong boundary, separating the east and west sides. As a result, it proposed an amendment to the boundary with Pinner ward, to ensure electoral equality.

76 We have given consideration to the evidence received and note the support for the proposed ward. We do not consider that the Conservative Group has provided particularly strong evidence for its proposals. The area it proposes transferring to Hatch End ward has good access into the Wealdstone and Harrow Weald areas. In

addition, this proposal is contingent on amending the boundary between wards in Wealdstone and Kenton, which we do not support, as discussed in the Harrow Weald and Wealdstone section below. Therefore, we are not adopting this proposal and are confirming the draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Harrow Weald and Wealdstone



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Harrow Weald	3	-2%
Wealdstone North	2	-6%
Wealdstone South	2	-5%

Harrow Weald, Wealdstone North and Wealdstone South

78 In response to our draft recommendations we received a mixture of support and objections for these wards. The Council expressed support for Harrow Weald ward. It also expressed general support for Wealdstone East and Wealdstone West wards,

but proposed minor amendments between them to ensure the whole of Wealdstone town centre was in a single ward.

79 The Conservative Group and Councillors Greek, Chauhan and Patel all argued that Harrow Weald ward should extend south of Long Elmes to create a three-councillor ward. They argued that Long Elmes is a permeable boundary and that areas to the south have good community connections with areas to the north. They cited numerous examples of the 'Harrow Weald' name on businesses in this area as well as citing a number of community facilities that residents use. They also argued that the draft recommendations would divide the Harrow Weald shopping area. The Conservative Group proposed removing an area of Wealdstone East ward and transferring it to a new three-councillor Kenton West ward, while combining the remainder of Wealdstone into a single three-councillor ward. It argued that the area of Wealdstone had good links into Kenton via Belmont Circle.

80 The Liberal Democrats proposed transferring an area of Belmont ward to the east of Kenton Lane to Harrow Weald ward and then areas of Harrow Weald to Wealdstone West ward. They argued that this area of Belmont ward is isolated from the rest of the ward by Stanmore Golf Club and has poor access via Belmont Circle. They also argued that it has better links into Harrow Weald where residents access facilities.

81 We gave careful consideration to the evidence received for this area. We noted the Council's support for the draft proposals, along with its minor amendments. We concurred that the centre of Wealdstone should not be divided between wards. We also acknowledged the concerns put forward by the Liberal Democrats, but noted that their proposal to amend the boundary with Belmont ward would have a significant knock-on effect across the east of the borough which we have insufficient evidence to justify. Therefore, we decided not to adopt their amendments.

82 We considered that the Conservative Group and local councillors put forward strong evidence of community links for expanding Harrow Weald ward south of Long Elmes. However, we noted that the Conservative Group's proposal was contingent on transferring part of Wealdstone East ward into Kenton West ward. We did not consider that it put forward sufficient evidence to justify transferring this area to Kenton West ward. We remained of the view that the Belmont Trail is a good boundary between these areas.

83 Therefore, we looked to see whether it was possible to create a three-councillor Harrow Weald ward, while limiting consequential amendments to the Wealdstone area. We considered that the southern part of Courtenay Avenue should remain warded with the Harrow Weald/Wealdstone area and placed in a three-councillor Harrow Weald ward. This ward was based on the proposals from the Conservatives and the local councillors. It also ensured that the centre of Harrow Weald is in one

ward. To the south, we amended the two-councillor Wealdstone East and three-councillor Wealdstone West wards to create the two-councillor wards of Wealdstone North and Wealdstone South – the reduction in the number of councillors reflects the fact that we have transferred the northern part of this area to Harrow Weald ward. These wards would be divided along Locket Road, with the whole of the town centre placed in Wealdstone South ward, reflecting the Council’s wish to keep this area in a single ward.

84 We acknowledged that these proposals were a notable departure from our draft recommendations and therefore decided to hold a period of limited further consultation on these wards before finalising our recommendations.

85 We received six responses to this further consultation. The Council stated that it would not put forward a response on these changes. The Conservative Group, while supportive of the proposals, argued that the area to the west of Courtenay Avenue should be transferred to Hatch End ward, arguing that it has stronger links to Hatch End than to Harrow Weald. It added that if this amendment was rejected, the draft recommendations for a two-councillor Harrow Weald ward and the Wealdstone wards should be retained.

86 The Liberal Democrats were broadly supportive of the aims of the revised wards, including keeping the whole of Wealdstone centre in a single ward and much of the proposed boundary between the three-councillor Harrow Weald and two-councillor Wealdstone North ward. However, they expressed concerns that these proposals would worsen electoral equality when compared with the draft recommendations. They argued that the proposals could be improved by transferring The Meadow Way from Harrow Weald ward to Wealdstone North ward, adding that this would reflect the area covered by the Weald Village Tenants’ & Residents’ Association. They also argued that the area of High Road to the south of Weald Lane should be in Harrow Weald ward.

87 A local resident supported the proposal to include the whole of Wealdstone centre in a single ward, but objected to increasing the area covered by Harrow Weald ward. Councillor O’Dell expressed support for the draft recommendations, arguing they used natural boundaries. Finally, a resident put forward general comments about the number of councillors.

88 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the objections to the revised ward from a resident, but also the broad support from the Conservative Group and Liberal Democrats. We also note the Conservative Group’s objection to the inclusion of the area to the west of Courtenay Avenue in Harrow Weald ward. While we consider that it provided some reasonable evidence for transferring this area to Hatch End, we note that this would worsen electoral equality in Hatch End ward to 10% more electors than the borough average by 2024, while

also worsening electoral equality in Harrow Weald ward. We do not consider this can be justified when we also have observed that this area has good links into Harrow Weald via Long Elmes. In light of this and the resulting knock-on effect to Hatch End ward we are not adopting this proposal.

89 The Conservative Group argued that if its modification around Courtenay Avenue was rejected, it would support the retention of the draft recommendations. However, this must be balanced against its good evidence in response to the draft recommendations in favour of a three-councillor Harrow Weald ward. When taken into consideration with the Liberal Democrats' support for the three-member Harrow Weald ward, we are not persuaded to revert to the draft recommendations for this area. We do, however, note the Liberal Democrats concerns about the worsening of electoral equality under our revised wards. Transferring The Meadow Way from Harrow Weald ward to Wealdstone North ward would improve electoral equality in Wealdstone North from -9% to -6%, while only marginally worsening it in Harrow Weald from 0% to -2%. When taken into account with the Liberal Democrats' argument that The Meadow Way is part of the Weald Village Tenants' & Residents' Association we believe this improves our proposals and are therefore adopting it.

90 We also note the Liberal Democrats' proposal to transfer part of the High Road to Wealdstone North ward. However, we are not adopting this as we consider that the whole of this shopping area should be retained in a single ward.

91 Finally, as part of our further limited consultation we requested local views on the ward names. The only response was from the Liberal Democrats who stated that they would support the names Whitefriars for Wealdstone North ward and Wealdstone for Wealdstone South ward. We do not consider there to be compelling evidence to support these revised names. We are therefore retaining names with compass point references, specifically Wealdstone North and Wealdstone South, in our final recommendations.

Kenton East and Kenton West



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Kenton East	3	-2%
Kenton West	2	4%

Kenton East and Kenton West

92 We received a mixture of support and objections to the draft recommendations for these wards. The Council expressed support, but proposed ward name changes. The Conservative Group proposed some significant amendments to these wards. Firstly, as discussed in the Harrow Weald, Wealdstone North and Wealdstone South section above, it proposed transferring an area of Wealdstone to the west of Belmont Trail to Kenton West ward. It also proposed moving the boundary between Kenton East and Kenton West wards to the east of Kenton Lane, while dividing Belmont Circle between Kenton West and Belmont wards. It proposed transferring the Morley Crescent area to Kenton East ward, while transferring the Everton Drive area to a new Chandos ward. Given the scale of the changes, we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been provided in support of these proposals.

93 The Liberal Democrats proposed a minor amendment to Kenton East ward, to retain all of Taunton Way in a single ward, rather than dividing it between Kenton East and Centenary wards.

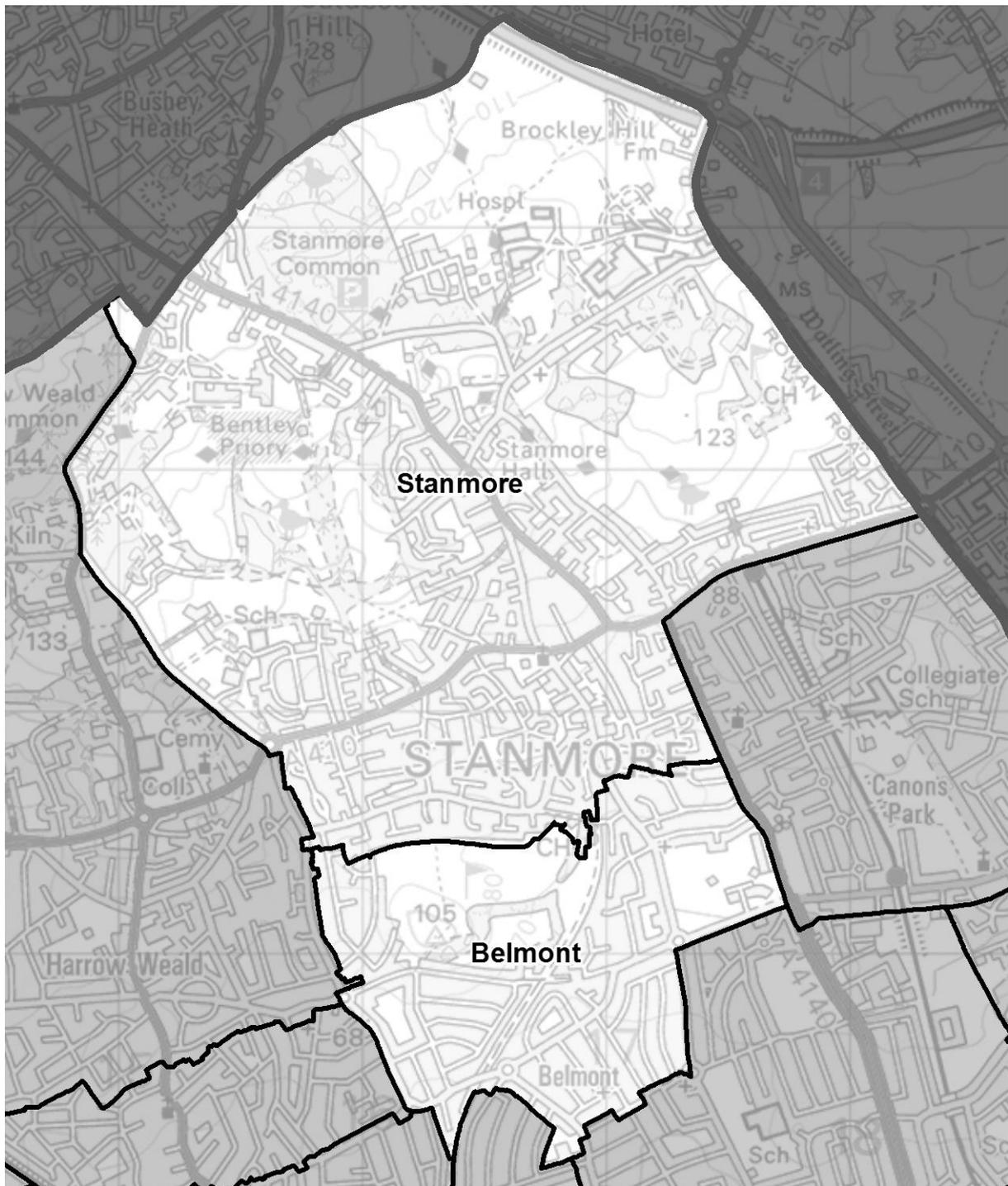
94 Councillor Hirani and a number of local residents objected to any proposal to change the names of Kenton East and Kenton West wards, arguing that they are longstanding and locally recognised.

95 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the support for our draft recommendations. We also note the amendments put forward by the Conservative Group. As stated in the Harrow Weald, Wealdstone East and Wealdstone West section above, we do not consider that it has put forward compelling evidence for transferring an area of Wealdstone to Kenton West ward. We remain of the view that the Belmont Trail is a good boundary between these areas. In addition, its proposals would divide Belmont Circle which we consider is better served in a single ward. Finally, while its amendment around Morley Crescent enables it to remove the Everton Drive area from Kenton East ward (addressing some concerns about breaching Honey Pot Lane), we do not consider that this is a stronger boundary. While Morley Crescent is a cul-de-sac, we consider that it sits better in Centenary ward and that our draft recommendations provide a clearer ward boundary overall.

96 Therefore, we are not adopting the Conservative Group's amendments. However, we do propose adopting the amendment around Taunton Way proposed by the Liberal Democrats. This change will better reflect road and pedestrian access from the affected properties onto Taunton Way into Centenary ward.

97 Finally, we note the concerns about ward names. However, in light of the strong support for retaining the current Kenton East and Kenton West names, we are confirming these as final.

Belmont and Stanmore



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Belmont	2	-5%
Stanmore	3	2%

Belmont and Stanmore

98 In response to the draft recommendations we received a mixture of support and objections to these wards. The Council and Conservative Group expressed support for Stanmore ward. The Council also supported our proposed Belmont ward, while the Conservative Group proposed an amendment around Belmont Circle to facilitate the transfer of an area of Wealdstone East ward to Kenton West ward.

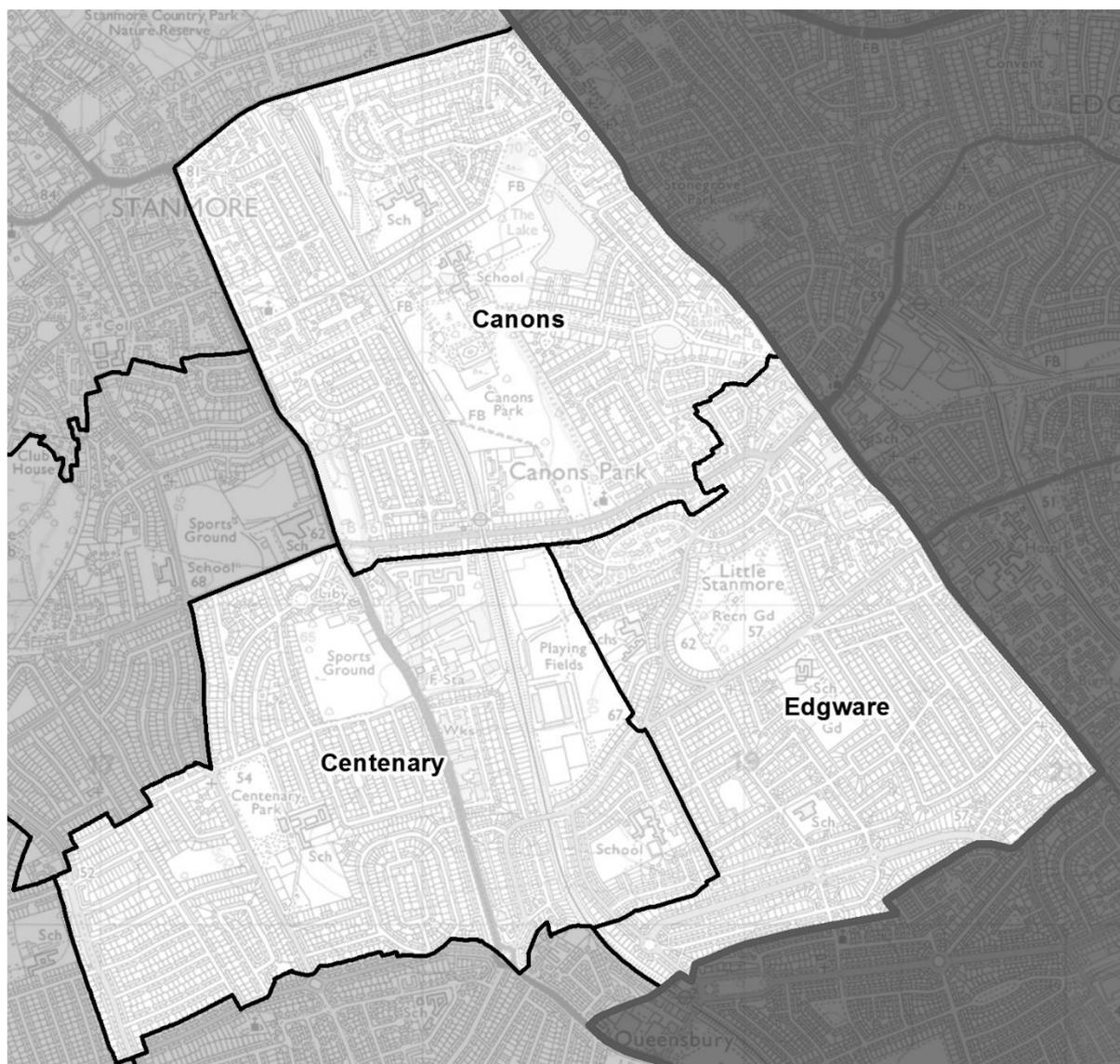
99 The Liberal Democrats proposed amendments to both wards. As discussed above in the Harrow Weald, Wealdstone East and Wealdstone West section, they proposed transferring an area to the east of Kenton Lane from Belmont ward to Harrow Weald. They argued that this area is isolated from the rest of Belmont ward by Stanmore Golf Club and has poor access via Belmont Circle. They proposed offsetting this proposed amendment by transferring part of Centenary ward to Belmont. They also proposed a modification to Stanmore ward by transferring an area round Rees Drive to Canons ward to secure electoral equality as a result of other amendments in Canons. A resident proposed changes to Stanmore ward, using Uxbridge Road as a boundary.

100 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. As stated in the Harrow Weald, Wealdstone East and Wealdstone West section above, we have rejected the Conservative proposal to transfer part of Wealdstone East to Kenton West ward, which means that we are not adopting its amendment to Belmont ward. In addition, this means that the whole of Belmont Circle can be retained in Belmont ward.

101 We also do not propose adopting the Liberal Democrats' amendments. Although they provided some limited community identity evidence to support their proposed amendment between Belmont and Harrow Weald wards, their focus on the remaining changes was primarily to address access to polling stations. We are not required to have consideration to polling station locations when developing our recommendations. In light of this and the lack of community evidence provided, we are not adopting these proposals as part of our final recommendations.

102 We note the proposals for a Stanmore ward put forward by a resident. However, given the overall support for our draft recommendations and the limited evidence supporting the proposed amendment, we are not adopting it as part of our final recommendations. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations for these wards as final.

Canons, Edgware and Centenary



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Canons	2	4%
Centenary	3	-4%
Edgware	3	3%

Canons

103 We received a mixture of support and objections for this ward in response to our draft recommendations. The Council and Conservative Group both expressed support. The Liberal Democrats proposed transferring a larger area to the north of Whitchurch Lane into Edgware ward to address amendments they propose to Edgware ward. Canons Park Residents' Association and a local resident objected to the proposal to place the area to the north of Whitchurch Road in Edgware ward

arguing this area is an integral part of the Canons community and covered by the Canons Park Residents' Association. They proposed retaining this area in Canons ward and offsetting this loss with other amendments to secure electoral equality.

104 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the support for the draft recommendations. We also acknowledge the objections from Canons Park Residents' Association and a resident about the boundary with Edgware ward. However, we do not consider it possible to retain this area in Canons ward and secure good levels of electoral equality without amendments to surrounding wards. We note they suggest transferring an area from Centenary ward and a number of other unspecified changes. Unfortunately, we do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to justify this. In addition, while this area may have links to Canons Park, we note the draft proposals mean the whole of Edgware's commercial area that lies in Harrow borough is retained in a single Edgware ward. Therefore, we are not adopting its proposed amendments.

105 We also note the proposals from the Liberal Democrats, but as with some of their proposals in other areas of the borough, there is little community identity evidence to support them and the primary concern appears to be to address polling station issues which we don't consider when developing our recommendations. In light of this and the lack of community evidence we are not adopting these proposals.

106 Finally, we note that a resident suggested that Canons ward should be renamed Canons Park. However, we do not have supporting evidence from other respondents that suggests a consensus in support of changing our proposed ward name. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Canons ward as final.

Edgware and Centenary

107 We received a mixture of support and objections for these wards in response to our draft recommendations. The Council expressed support for these wards, particularly the use of Centenary as a ward name. It also supported the inclusion of the whole of the Edgware commercial area that lies in Harrow borough in a single Edgware ward.

108 The Conservative Group proposed significant amendments in this area. It proposed moving away from the two three-councillor Centenary and Edgware wards and proposed three two-member wards of Centenary, Chandos and Edgware. Its Chandos ward would take in areas of our proposed Centenary and Edgware wards. Its Centenary ward would also lose areas to the Kenton East and Kenton West wards, including Morley Crescent. The Conservative Group argued that its proposals addressed a number of concerns, including ensuring that Honeypot Lane is used as a ward boundary and that the Everton Drive area is not in Kenton East ward.

109 The Liberal Democrats proposed a number of changes, which, while reflecting some transport links, appeared primarily to address issues of access to polling stations.

110 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. In respect of the Conservative Group's proposals, we are concerned that their Centenary ward would have very poor electoral equality. By our calculations it would contain approximately 20% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2024. In addition to this, although it proposed the use Honeypot Lane as a clear boundary, we have concerns about its boundaries for Centenary ward, particularly around Morley Crescent which we do not consider to be a strong boundary. We also do not consider that its Chandos ward is coherent, combining Little Stanmore with the Everton Drive area, while excluding the Edgware commercial area that lies in Harrow borough from Edgware ward. Therefore, we are not adopting these amendments as part of our final recommendations.

111 We also note the proposals from the Liberal Democrats. As with some of its proposals in other areas of the borough, there is insufficient community identity evidence to support it and the primary concern appears to be to address polling station issues. In light of this we are not adopting these proposals.

112 Finally, we note some concerns over our proposed ward name of Edgware. However, we also note that there was no agreement between respondents over an alternative. Therefore, given that this area does contain the whole of the Edgware commercial area that lies in Harrow borough and is the name of the existing ward, we are retaining Edgware as a ward name. Overall, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

Conclusions

114 The table below provides a summary of the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Harrow, referencing the 2018 and 2024 electorate figures. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2018	2024
Number of councillors	55	55
Number of electoral wards	22	22
Average number of electors per councillor	3,357	3,520
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Final recommendations

Harrow Council should be made up of 55 councillors serving 22 wards representing 11 two-councillor wards and 11 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 the Harrow Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Harrow Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

115 We have now completed our review of Harrow 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 2022.

Equalities

116 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 Harrow Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Belmont	2	6,818	3,409	2%	6,657	3,328	-5%
2	Canons	2	7,139	3,570	6%	7,292	3,646	4%
3	Centenary	3	10,298	3,433	2%	10,092	3,364	-4%
4	Edgware	3	11,153	3,718	11%	10,886	3,629	3%
5	Greenhill	3	6,257	2,086	-38%	10,382	3,461	-2%
6	Harrow on the Hill	2	7,121	3,561	6%	7,398	3,699	5%
7	Harrow Weald	3	10,580	3,527	5%	10,318	3,439	-2%
8	Hatch End	2	7,303	3,652	9%	7,133	3,567	1%
9	Headstone	3	10,529	3,510	5%	10,583	3,528	0%
10	Kenton East	3	10,652	3,551	6%	10,330	3,443	-2%
11	Kenton West	2	7,518	3,759	12%	7,318	3,659	4%
12	Marlborough	3	7,328	2,443	-27%	10,964	3,655	4%

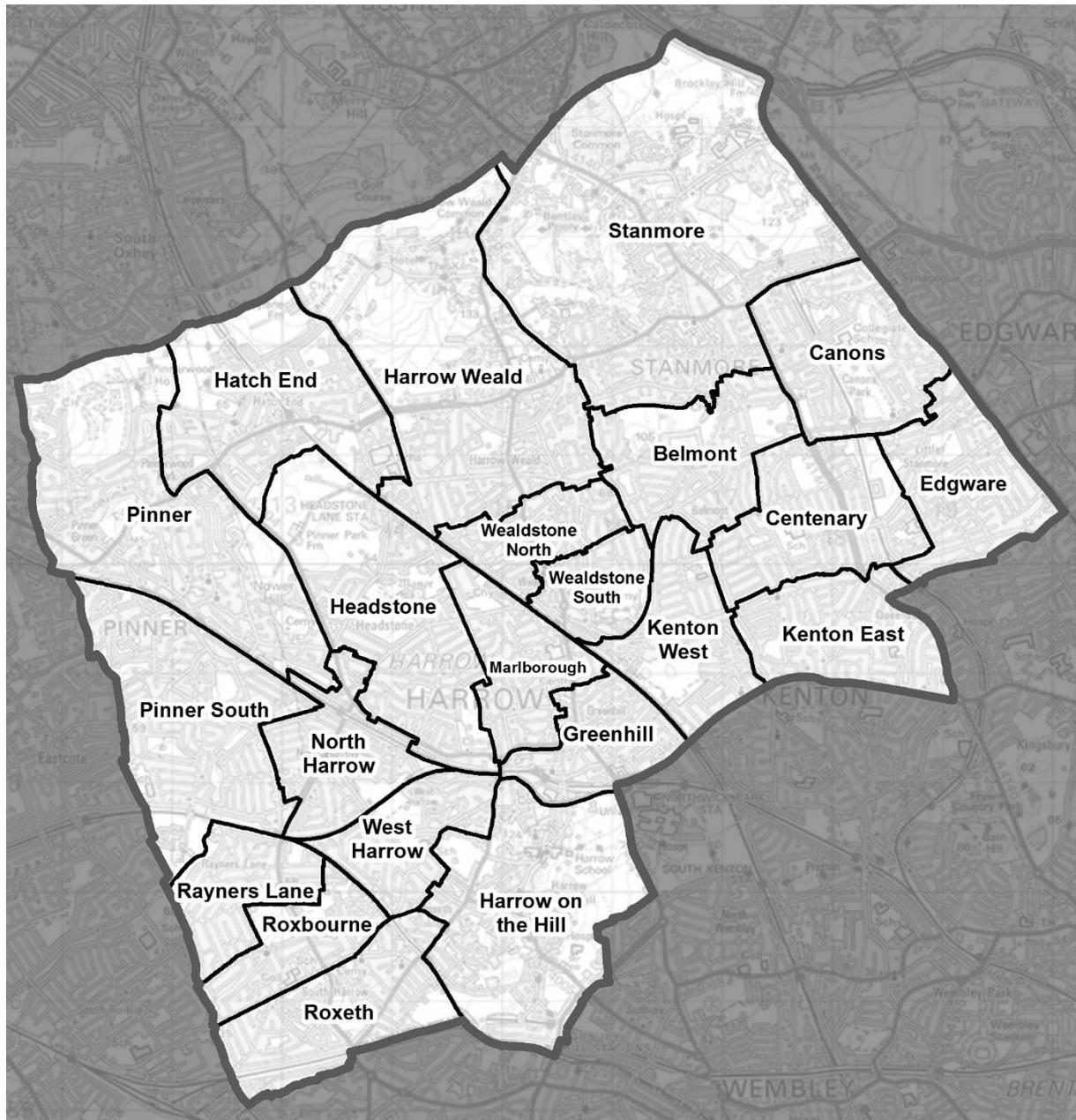
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 North Harrow	2	6,814	3,407	1%	6,974	3,487	-1%
14 Pinner	3	10,269	3,423	2%	10,101	3,367	-4%
15 Pinner South	3	11,402	3,801	13%	11,367	3,789	8%
16 Rayners Lane	2	7,085	3,543	6%	7,113	3,556	1%
17 Roxbourne	2	6,764	3,382	1%	6,889	3,445	-2%
18 Roxeth	3	10,699	3,566	6%	10,775	3,592	2%
19 Stanmore	3	10,125	3,375	1%	10,738	3,579	2%
20 Wealdstone North	2	6,741	3,371	0%	6,595	3,298	-6%
21 Wealdstone South	2	5,042	2,521	-25%	6,663	3,332	-5%
22 West Harrow	2	7,003	3,502	4%	7,029	3,514	0%
Totals	55	184,640	–	–	193,598	–	–
Averages	–	–	3,357	–	–	3,520	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Harrow 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



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

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/harrow>

Local Authority

- Harrow Council

Political Groups

- Harrow Council Conservative Group
- Harrow Liberal Democrats
- Ruislip, Northwood & Pinner Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor R. Almond (Harrow Council)
- Councillor C. Baxter (Harrow Council)
- Councillors S. Greek, R. Chauhan and P. Patel (Harrow Council)
- Councillor N. Hirani (Harrow Council)
- Councillor P. O'Dell (Harrow Council)
- Councillor N. Stevenson (Harrow Council)

Local Organisations

- Canons Park Residents' Association
- Hatch End Association
- Roxborough Residents' Association
- The Pinner Association

Local Residents

- 33 Local residents

Submissions on further limited consultation

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

Local Authority

- Harrow Council

Political Groups

- Harrow Council Conservative Group
- Harrow Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor P. O'Dell

Local Residents

- 2 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.

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