

# New electoral arrangements for Kingston upon Thames Council Final Recommendations

November 2020

### **Translations and other formats:**

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

### **Licensing:**

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

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2020

### **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.



# Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Kingston upon Thames?	5
Our proposals for Kingston upon Thames	5
How will the recommendations affect you?	5
Review timetable	6
Analysis and final recommendations	7
Submissions received	7
Electorate figures	7
Number of councillors	8
Ward boundaries consultation	8
Draft recommendations consultation	9
Final recommendations	10
Canbury Gardens, Coombe Hill, Coombe Vale, Kingston Gate and Tudor	12
Kingston Town, Norbiton and St Mark's & Seething Wells	15
Green Lane & St James, Motspur Park, New Malden and Old Malden	19
Alexandra, Berrylands, Surbiton Hill and Tolworth	24
Chessington, Hook and King George's & Sunray	29
Conclusions	33
Summary of electoral arrangements	33
What happens next?	35
Equalities	37
Appendices	39
Appendix A	39
Final recommendations for Kingston upon Thames	39
Appendix B	41
Outline map	41
Appendix C	42
Submissions received	42
Appendix D	43
Glossary and abbreviations	43



# 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why Kingston upon Thames?

7 We are conducting a review of Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in borough elections varies depending on where you live in Kingston upon Thames. 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 Kingston upon Thames 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 Kingston upon Thames

9 Kingston upon Thames should be represented by 48 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Kingston upon Thames should have 19 wards, three more than there are now.

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

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Kingston upon Thames.

## 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 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 Kingston upon Thames. 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
16 April 2019	Number of councillors decided
3 September 2019	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
18 December 2019	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 March 2020	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
27 March 2020	Pause of second consultation
16 June 2020	Publication of revised draft recommendations; second consultation resumes
27 July 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
3 November 2020	Publication of final recommendations

## Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our 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 Kingston upon Thames	115,480	123,507
Number of councillors	48	48
Average number of electors per councillor	2,406	2,573

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 Kingston upon Thames are forecast to 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2025, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2020. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 7% by 2025.

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.

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

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

## Number of councillors

24 Kingston upon Thames Council currently has 48 councillors. The Council proposed that this number be retained. The Council's Conservative Group ('the Conservatives') and Liberal Democrat Group both supported the Council's proposal. The Kingston upon Thames Labour Party considered that there should be no fewer than 48 members and requested a change back to the pre-2002 council size of 50 because 'those ward boundaries were simpler and stronger'. They also pointed to the increase in members' workload since that time.

25 We looked at all the evidence provided and were not persuaded that an increase in council size was needed. We concluded that keeping the number of councillors the same would ensure the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively. We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 48 councillors – for example, 48 one-councillor wards, 24 two-councillor wards, 16 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. A councillor supported our decision to retain a council size of 48. We received no other representations about the total number of councillors and we therefore based our draft recommendations on a 48-councillor council.

27 We did not receive any submissions specifically about the number of councillors in response to our draft recommendations. We are therefore proposing 48 councillors as part of our final recommendations.

## Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 32 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four borough-wide proposals, from the Council, the Conservative Group on the Council ('the Conservatives'), the Labour Party and a resident. One respondent proposed retaining the existing wards as they considered that changing them would create areas of poverty due to the way funding is distributed across the borough. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments on ward boundaries in particular areas of the borough.

29 The four borough-wide schemes were carefully thought out and all used the A3 as a boundary between wards. They also identified the Hogsmill River as well as the railway lines that run across the borough and used them as boundaries to various extents. The Council's and Conservatives' schemes provided a mixed pattern of two- and three-councillor wards. The Labour Party scheme was for a mixed pattern of

one- and two-councillor wards, while the resident provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-member wards.

30 We also received submissions from the Kingston & Surbiton and the Richmond Park & North Kingston Conservative associations supporting the Conservatives' scheme.

31 We noted that all four borough-wide schemes generally provided for good electoral equality. We also considered that the Council's and the Conservatives' proposals would provide the best levels of community identity and we based our draft recommendations on a combination of their proposals. While we did consider that the Labour Party's and resident's schemes appeared to reflect the statutory criteria in some areas, we noted that they were not supported by any detailed community evidence. Accordingly, we did not base our draft recommendations on their proposals but considered the individual boundaries that they provided throughout the borough.

32 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.

33 We visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Kingston upon Thames helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

34 Our draft recommendations were for 10 three-councillor wards and nine 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

35 We received 48 submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations. These included responses from the Council, the Council's Conservative Group ('the Conservatives'), the Council's opposition parties, Kingston Green Party ('the Green Party') and the Kingston upon Thames Local Campaign Forum ('the Labour Party') covering the entire borough.

36 The Council expressed broad support for our draft recommendations but proposed a different boundary between Norbiton and New Malden West wards and submitted an alternative scheme for Berrylands, Surbiton Hill and Tolworth wards. It also proposed renaming some wards.

37 The Conservatives and the Green Party gave full support to our draft recommendation ward boundaries, although they proposed new names for some wards. As Council opposition parties, they sent in an additional joint submission reiterating their support for the draft recommendations and specifically stating their opposition to the Council's response.

38 The Labour Party expressed some support for our draft recommendations. They proposed modifications to Alexandra, Canbury Gardens, Hook & Chessington North, King George's & Sunray, Kingston Gate and Tolworth wards. They also proposed significant changes in the Motspur Park and Old Malden area. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Old Malden and the name of our Surbiton Town ward.

## Final recommendations

39 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a minor modification to the boundary between Kingston Town and St Mark's & Seething Wells wards. Based on evidence received during consultation, we have also changed the names of five wards, to better reflect community identity. While we were not persuaded to move away from the ward boundaries identified in our draft recommendations, we received proposals for some name changes. We received a number of suggestions for different ward names and, in some areas, more than one suggestion for the same ward. However, we did not receive lots of justification for the proposed names or reasons to move away from our draft recommendations. We have therefore changed ward names where we considered we had been persuaded that the suggested name would better reflect the community and we have also sought to reflect the consensus of those who proposed different names.

40 Our final recommendations are for 10 three-councillor wards and nine 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.

41 The tables and maps on pages 11–30 detail our final recommendations for each area of Kingston upon Thames. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

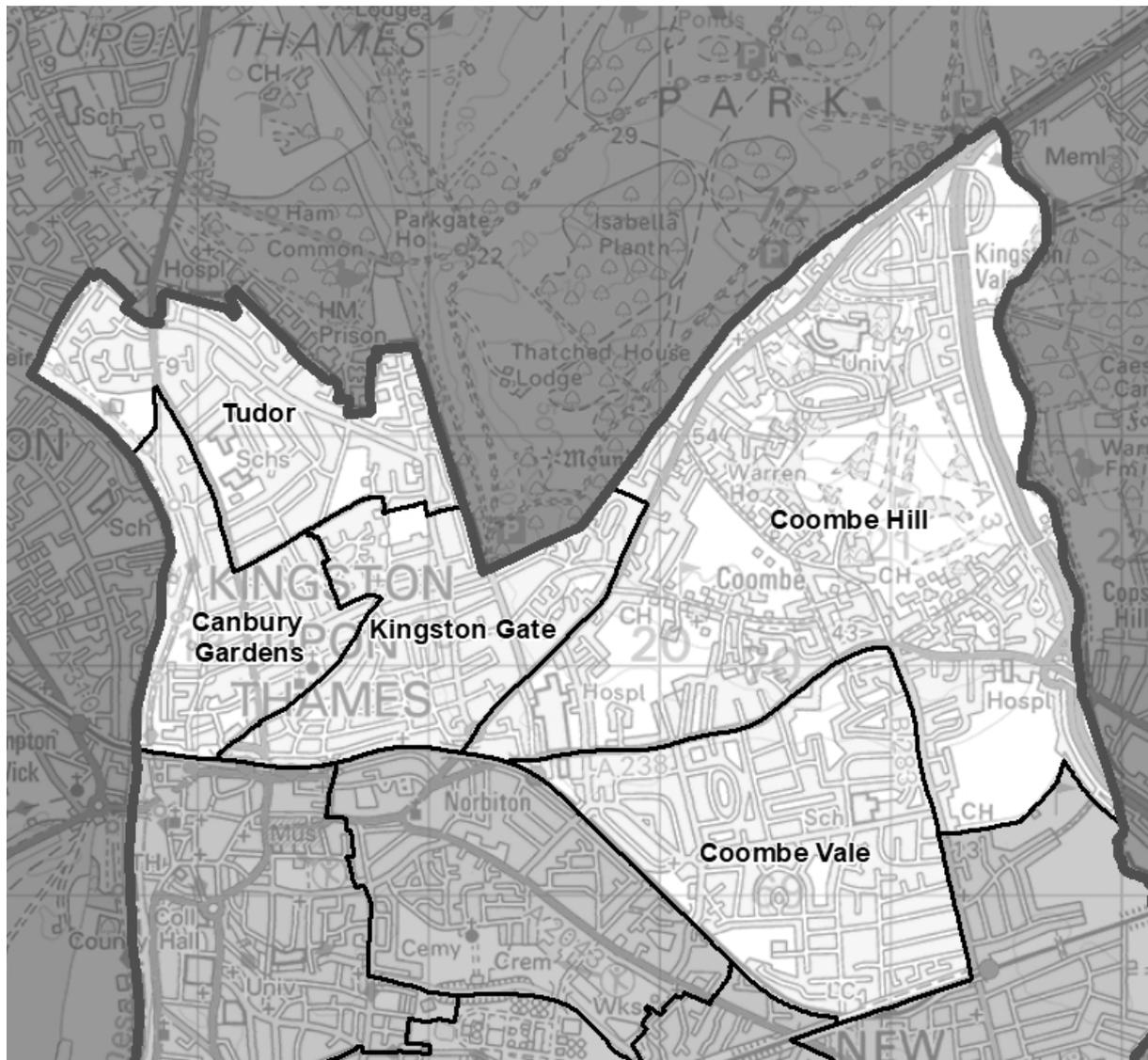
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

---

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

42 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 37 and on the large map accompanying this report.

## Canbury Gardens, Coombe Hill, Coombe Vale, Kingston Gate and Tudor



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Canbury Gardens	2	-1%
Coombe Hill	2	-3%
Coombe Vale	3	-1%
Kingston Gate	3	-3%
Tudor	2	-1%

### *Canbury Gardens, Kingston Gate and Tudor*

43 In addition to the borough-wide comments from the Council and political parties, we received five submissions for this area: from Councillor Davis and four residents.

44 The Council and all the political parties with the exception of the Labour Party expressed full support for the boundaries of our draft recommendations in this area. The Council was satisfied that the wards had strong and identifiable boundaries, took account of community identity and provided for good electoral equality. The Conservatives, although disappointed that we had not adopted their proposals for this area, were pleased that we had incorporated some of their suggestions and that the resident associations had been recognised. Furthermore, they stated that they understood the logic for our Kingston Gate ward. The Green Party also expressed support for our draft recommendations.

45 The Labour Party, although content with Tudor ward, considered that electors within the Kingsgate Road, Sopwith Way and Richmond Road triangle should be moved from Kingston Gate to Canbury Gardens ward because of the proximity of some of them to the Thames and to Canbury Gardens. However, both sides of Richmond Road between Sopwith Way and Kingsgate Road appear to be one community and, on the evidence provided, we have not been persuaded to divide this area across different wards. Furthermore, we consider Kingsgate Road is a strong and identifiable boundary.

46 Councillor Davis objected to Kingston Gate ward crossing the B351 Queen's Road. He stated that this road forms a natural boundary between Coombe Hill and the North Kingston areas of the borough. He suggested that a three-councillor Coombe Hill ward and two-councillor Kingston Gate ward with the B351 as the boundary between the wards would be better. However, we note that doing this will produce poor electoral equality with forecast variances of -13% and 11% for the proposed wards.

47 Two residents expressed support for Kingston Gate ward, one of whom stated that 'it makes a lot of sense in drawing together an area that shares a sense of geographic and demographic identity'. Another resident objected to being moved from the existing Canbury ward to Kingston Gate ward.

48 With regards to Tudor ward, a resident stated that the boundary between the existing Canbury and Tudor wards included electors at the western end of Latchmere Road (between Richmond Road and Earle Gardens) in the same ward as those on the other side of the road. The resident said that they were a 'homogenous community' and requested that they remain in a single ward. When we looked to make this change we noted, however, that this would leave a few electors in 13 properties (numbers 56–80, even numbers only) on that stretch of road isolated in Canbury Gardens ward. We considered including those latter electors in Tudor ward but doing this restricts access of electors in Earle Gardens to the rest of their ward, as does including them in Kingston Gate ward. We are therefore not persuaded to make this modification.

49 After considering all the evidence, including the considerable support our draft recommendations received, we are confirming our draft recommendations in this area as final. Canbury Gardens and Tudor wards will each be represented by two councillors and are both forecast to have 1% fewer electors than the borough average. Kingston Gate is a three-councillor ward, forecast to have 3% fewer electors than the average for the borough by 2025.

50 The Council proposed renaming Kingston Gate ward Parkside, in view of the 'Richmond Park facing nature of the ward'. The Conservatives point out that Coombe Hill and Tudor wards also border the park while the Green Party states that due to the large number of parks in the borough, this is not a distinctive indicator of this ward. Therefore, we have not been persuaded to change the name of the ward.

#### *Coombe Hill and Coombe Vale*

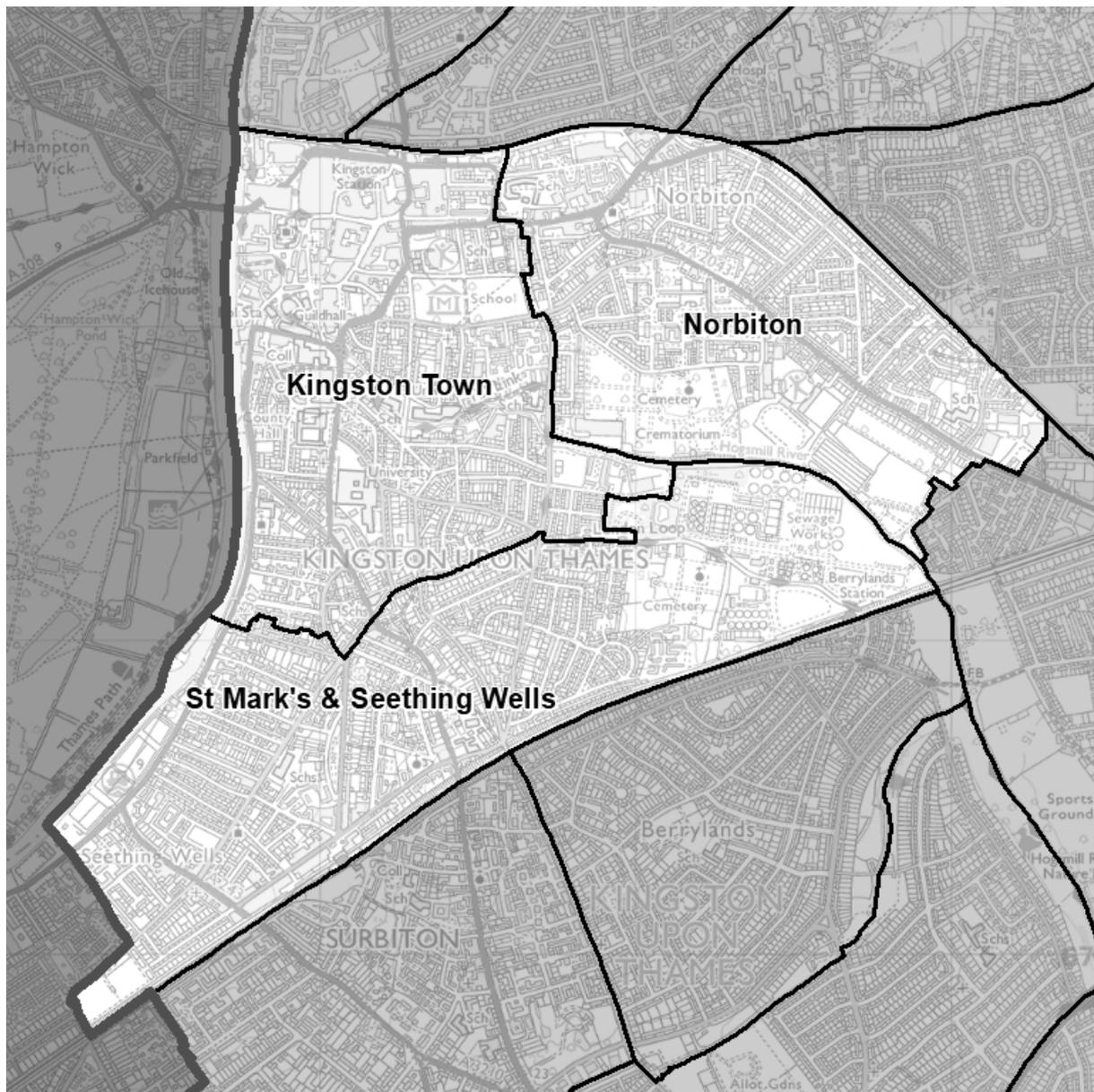
51 We received two submissions about our draft recommendations for Coombe Hill and Coombe Vale wards in addition to the borough-wide comments. These were from Councillors Arora and Davis.

52 With the exception of Councillor Davis, the comments we received were all in support of our draft recommendation for these two wards. As mentioned in paragraph 46 above, Councillor Davis's proposal would result in poor electoral equality for Coombe Hill and Kingston Gate wards and we did not adopt it.

53 The Conservatives proposed renaming Coombe Hill ward Kingston Hill because they stated that it is 'important to recognise Kingston Vale and Kingston Hill parts of the ward who do not identify with living in Coombe Hill'. We are not persuaded by this argument as we cannot be sure that renaming it Kingston Hill will not exclude those who do identify as living in Coombe Hill. Furthermore, Kingston Hill appears to be a geographical area on both sides of the A308 (Kingston Hill), which includes a section in Kingston Gate ward. As we did not receive any other suggestions and our proposed Coombe Hill ward is almost identical to the existing ward, we are not renaming it.

54 Therefore, we confirm our draft recommendations for a two-councillor Coombe Hill and three-councillor Coombe Vale ward as final. The former is forecast to have 3% fewer electors and the latter 1% fewer electors than the borough average, by 2025.

## Kingston Town, Norbiton and St Mark's & Seething Wells



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Kingston Town	3	-1%
Norbiton	3	-3%
St Mark's & Seething Wells	3	3%

### *Kingston Town*

55 In addition to the borough-wide comments, we received four submissions for this ward. The borough-wide comments from the Council, the Conservatives and the Green Party were all in support of the ward boundaries set out in our draft recommendations. The Labour Party stated a preference for residents on both sides of Uxbridge Road to be united in a single ward to the south.

56 With respect to Uxbridge Road, the Council explained that residents north of this road looked towards Kingston while those to the south were Surbiton facing. It also stated that a boundary through Uxbridge Road facilitated the inclusion of Ravens Ait in a single ward. We are content that uniting residents on this residential road is desirable and including them in a ward to the south would not undermine the Council's position in relation to Ravens Ait. Furthermore, the boundary at the eastern end of the road, where there are no residents, will remain unchanged from our draft recommendations. Therefore, we have moved the southern boundary of our Kingston Town ward to run behind the properties on the northern side of Uxbridge Road.

57 A resident asked why residents south of the Hogsmill (between Chapel Mill Road and Lower Marsh Lane) were included in Kingston Town ward while those to the immediate west of the cemetery (Hogsmill Lane, Dawson Road, Kingsworthy Close and part of Villiers Road) were not. The submission stated that Dawson Road and that side of Villiers Road were better placed in Kingston Town ward. However, the respondent did not provide any supporting community evidence to persuade us to make this change.

58 We note that our draft recommendations in this area mostly follow well-established boundaries. We did, however, seek comments and further evidence on whether residents between Chapel Mill Road and Lower Marsh Lane should be included in a different ward. We did not receive any evidence to assure us that we would not be splitting communities if we made any changes in this area. Both the Council and the Labour Party argued against making any changes here on the basis that our draft recommendations provide logical and identifiable boundaries. Therefore, in light of the support for our draft recommendations and the lack of additional community evidence, we have not been persuaded to make changes in this area.

59 A resident asked for clarification about what had happened to Grove ward. We can confirm that our proposed Kingston Town ward broadly comprises most of the existing Grove ward with the exceptions being electors on four roads in the south-west of the ward (Cadogan, Catherine, Grove and Uxbridge roads) and the elector in Coombe Leas (on Lower Marsh Lane) who move into our draft recommendations Surbiton Town ward.

60 Another resident stated a preference for retaining Grove as the name of the ward. However, we note that at warding pattern stage the Council proposed the new name, Kingston Town, 'to provide a more geographically meaningful and recognisable reflection of its town centre location'. The Conservatives also proposed the new name. Their warding pattern submission stated that 'this Town Centre ward

combines the historic and civic communities of the Borough and includes the communities in walking distance of the town centre ...’.

61 We are therefore content to confirm our draft recommendations for Kingston Town ward as final. It is a three-councillor ward forecast to have 1% fewer electors than the borough average by 2025.

### *St Mark’s & Seething Wells*

62 We received 13 submissions for our draft recommendations’ Surbiton Town ward in addition to the borough-wide comments. These were from Councillor Sumner, The Community Brain, Seething Wells Action Group and residents. There was general support for the boundaries of our draft recommendations and the only proposed alteration was from the Labour Party in relation to Uxbridge Road (see paragraphs 55 and 56).

63 The majority of the comments received were with regards to the ward name. A resident asked why the name had been changed from St Mark’s especially since the boundaries were not significantly different from the existing St Mark’s ward. Twelve submissions, including the Green Party’s submission, advocated renaming Surbiton Town ward to include ‘Seething Wells’. Suggestions included Seething Wells, St Mark’s & Seething Wells and Surbiton Town & Seething Wells. The most popular suggestion was St Mark’s & Seething Wells.

64 Respondents pointed out that Seething Wells is a well-established and highly populated area in the south-west of the ward. They explained that as well as having historical significance, a significant number of residents identify as living in Seething Wells. However, they also pointed out that the ward includes residents of roads for which ‘the “Surbiton” name is of little relevance’ and therefore suggested including St Mark’s in the name to better reflect the communities within this ward.

65 We have been persuaded that the communities in this ward better identify as residents of St Mark’s and/or Seething Wells and are therefore content to change the name of the ward to reflect this.

66 St Mark’s & Seething Wells ward is a three-councillor ward forecast to have 3% more electors than the borough average in 2025.

### *Norbiton*

67 We received two submissions for Norbiton ward in addition to the borough-wide ones. One resident questioned the boundary between this ward and Kingston Town ward (see paragraph 57). Another resident pointed out that the ward had ‘a rich and separate history and represents recipients of decisions rather than the decision makers’.

68 The Council resubmitted its proposal at warding pattern stage and requested that it be reconsidered. Under this proposal, King's Oak Primary School would move into our proposed New Malden West ward as would half of the Kingston Road Recreation Ground. The Council argued that at this point, which is more or less equidistant between Norbiton and New Malden stations, residents begin associating with New Malden rather than Norbiton. It also stated that splitting the recreation ground across two wards would recognise its importance as a shared asset. This, it said, was supported by the fact that New Malden Residents' Association initiated the Friends of Kingston Road Recreation Ground. Furthermore, it explained that its proposals would produce a -7% variance for Norbiton, if future developments in the area over the next 12 to 15 years were taken into account.

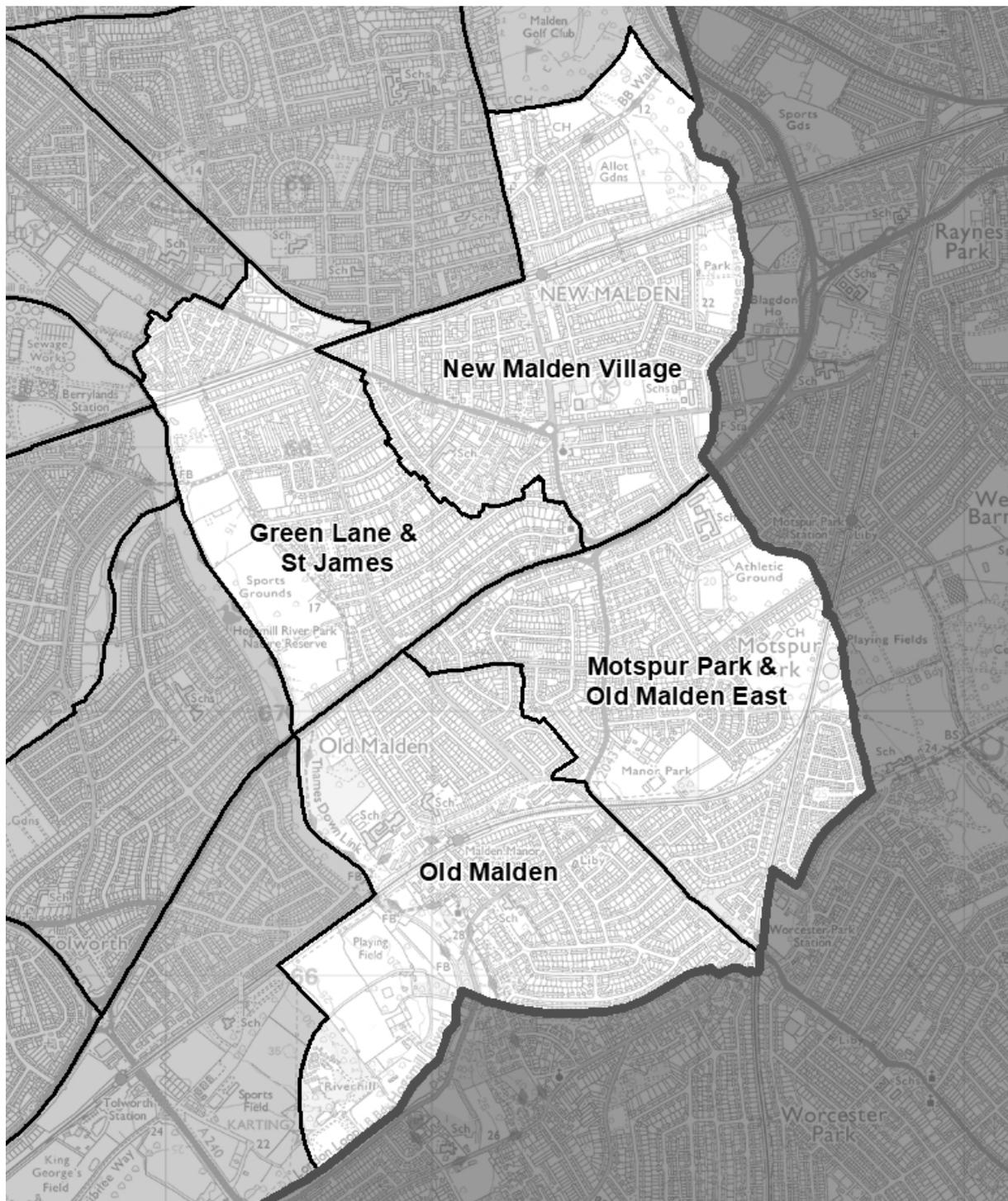
69 The Conservatives and Green Party opposed this proposed change, as explained in their individual submissions and the joint submission from the Kingston Council Opposition parties. The Conservatives pointed out that most pupils of King's Oak School are drawn from Norbiton, that this proposal would separate residents of Kingston Road who have a shared interest in the recreation ground in different wards, and that the relevant housing developments had been factored into the 2025 forecast.

70 The Green Party presented similar arguments about King's Oak Primary School being more appropriately placed in Norbiton ward and expressed concern about splitting the recreation ground between wards 'as this will make decision making for issues concerning it more complex than being in a single ward'.

71 We note from the Mayor of London's Schools Atlas that it appears that King's Oak Primary School has more students from the area contained in our draft recommendations' Norbiton ward than New Malden. We also note that the Council's proposal would place adjacent neighbours on Kingston Road in different wards. Therefore, while we note the Council's arguments, we are not persuaded to change the boundaries of our draft recommendations.

72 In light of this, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Norbiton as final. It is a three-councillor ward forecast to have 3% fewer electors than the borough average, by 2025.

## Green Lane & St James, Motspur Park, New Malden and Old Malden



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Green Lane & St James	2	-5%
Motspur Park & Old Malden East	2	8%
New Malden Village	3	-6%
Old Malden	2	6%

### *Green Lane & St James and New Malden Village*

73 We received four submissions – from Councillor Davis and three residents – in addition to the borough-wide ones for the New Malden area.

74 Our draft recommendations were for two wards named New Malden Town and New Malden West. The Council's only proposed amendment was in relation to the boundary of New Malden West with Norbiton ward, which we are not adopting (see paragraph 68–71). Otherwise it was content with our draft recommendations. The Conservatives and Green Party were in full support of the boundaries of our draft recommendations in this area but proposed alternative names for the wards. The Labour Party said it had no comments.

75 A resident asked if Presburg Road, as one of the 10 conservation areas in the borough, could be included in the New Malden West ward instead of New Malden Town, also stating that this would improve the -10% variance for the New Malden Town ward by adding these residents to New Malden West where the variance is 3%. Firstly, we note that the resident was referring to the 2019 variances for the draft recommendations and not the 2025 forecast variances. Our draft recommendations' wards are forecast to have variances of -6% (New Malden Town) and -5% (New Malden West). Moving Presburg Road as suggested did not improve the forecast variances, which would become -8% and -2%. Secondly, the proposal was not supported by any community evidence, from this or any other submission, of why the conservation area should be in New Malden West. Therefore, we were not persuaded to make this modification.

76 The Conservatives advocated that we rename New Malden Town ward New Malden Village because 'it is a nicer name and reflects the name of the GP surgery on the High Street'. Councillor Davis made a similar proposal and explained that this was the name the area has been given by its residents for generations. He went on to say that this was why the local magazine is called 'The Village Voice'.

77 The Green Party proposed that the ward be called either Beverley or Fountain – Beverley because it includes most of the existing Beverley ward as well as Beverley Park and Brook, and Fountain because 'Fountain roundabout and pub are extremely well-known features'. We note that although this ward includes a substantial part of the existing Beverley ward, it also excludes a significant part of it.

78 In light of Councillor Davis's explanation (above) and the fact that neither of the Green Party's proposed names were supported by any other submission, we have been persuaded to rename this ward New Malden Village.

79 With regards to New Malden West ward, the Conservatives proposed renaming it Green Lane ward after the Green Lane Recreation Ground and because New Malden High Street does not run through this ward. The Green Party also suggested

renaming it either Green Lane ward or Green Lane & St James ward. Councillor Davis proposed calling it Norbiton Park or South Lane ward while all three residents proposed renaming it St James ward.

80 Having considered all the evidence, it is clear that there is some consensus around acknowledging the Green Lane Recreation Ground. At the same time, while we note that the existing St James ward includes a significant area outside of this ward, it is clear that some residents in the new ward still identify with this name. Therefore, we have renamed New Malden West as Green Lane & St James ward in line with one of the Green Party's suggestions and to reflect the evidence we received.

#### *Motspur Park & Old Malden East and Old Malden*

81 We received six submissions for this area in addition to the borough-wide ones. The Council, Conservatives and Green Party supported our draft recommendations for Motspur Park and Old Malden. The Council acknowledged that the Chessington branch railway formed a logical boundary, but that the draft recommendations' east-west split represented the best balance between community identity and the need for electoral equality.

82 The Labour Party presented a revised version of the scheme it submitted for this area at the previous stage of consultation. Its proposals were based on a north-south split and created a Malden Green and a Manor Park ward with the boundary running from the borough boundary westwards along the railway line (existing boundary) until Malden Road. It then ran north on Malden Road and South Lane from where it ran behind the properties on the north side of Sheephouse Way. Although it stated that it was more representative of local communities, it did not submit community evidence to support this.

83 Councillor Davis, a councillor representing the existing Old Malden ward, stated that the draft recommendations represented the 'most equitable solution'. The River Club reiterated a point it raised at the previous round of consultation that properties in Old Malden (Lane) should be in Old Malden ward and not Alexandra ward. This is something that our draft recommendations take into account.

84 A resident expressed support for our draft recommendations but suggested modifying them by moving the boundary between the two wards to run all the way along Malden Road. However, doing this involves moving over 1,400 existing electors between wards and produces forecast variances of more than 30% for Old Malden and -19% for Motspur Park. Therefore, we are not persuaded to make this adjustment.

85 Two residents pointed out that the area around Idmiston Road is considered part of Old Malden and not Motspur Park, which according to one of them was the

responsibility of the neighbouring Merton Council. Another resident claimed that the 'new boundaries lose Worcester Park from the Royal Borough of Kingston to Sutton Borough'. Similarly, a resident stated that Motspur Park was 'a totally different area (served also by a different council – Merton)'.

86 It is worth pointing out that this electoral review does not involve changing or moving the borough boundaries. The Royal Borough of Kingston boundary is at the railway bridge by Worcester Park station. However, Worcester Park as an area extends across both sides of the station and bridge (in two different local authority areas) and the area south of the station has always been in the London Borough of Sutton. Similarly, the area known as Motspur Park straddles the Royal Borough of Kingston and London Borough of Merton. This review relates to areas that fall within the borders of the Royal Borough of Kingston only.

87 The Motspur Park and Old Malden area of the borough is bordered by the A3 in the north, the Hogsmill River (and borough boundary) in the east and the borough boundary in the south. While our proposed Old Malden ward includes an area comprised entirely from the existing Old Malden ward, our proposed Motspur Park ward combines areas from the existing St James and Old Malden wards. Like Old Malden ward, it extends south of the Chessington branch railway line. Its only crossing is along the ward boundary under a pedestrian and vehicular bridge on Malden Road. At the previous consultation, the Council explained that Manor Park and the parade of shops in Plough Green on either side of the bridge provide a shared focal point for the communities north and south of the railway line.

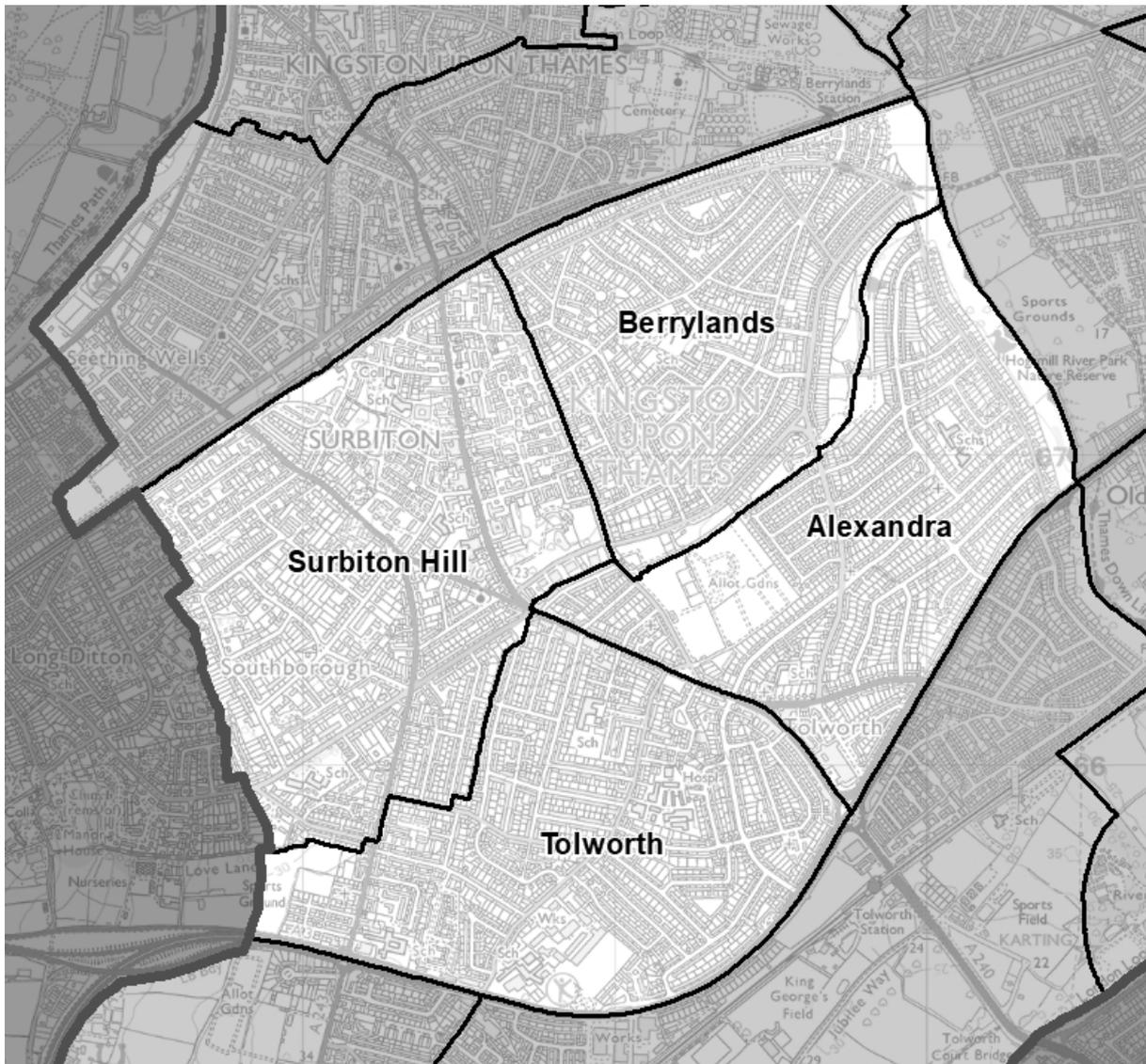
88 We note the Labour Party's proposal to use the railway line and recognise that this would provide a clear and identifiable boundary. However, in order to provide acceptable levels of electoral equality, we note that it has proposed transferring electors around Sheephouse Way into a ward with the population to the south of the railway line. We were not persuaded that these electors have a stronger community of interest with electors in this area than those north of the railway line and we have not been persuaded to move away from our draft recommendations.

89 While we do not propose to make any changes to the boundaries of our draft recommendations, we note the comments made about the area around Idmiston Road identifying as Old Malden and have renamed Motspur Park ward as Motspur Park & Old Malden East ward to better reflect its constituent communities.

90 Although we desire to keep communities in the same ward wherever possible, having decided that the A3 is a clear and identifiable boundary that we consider should not be breached, retaining the existing boundaries of Old Malden ward produces a forecast variance of over 50% for Old Malden and -30% for the residual Motspur Park ward.

91 Motspur Park & Old Malden East and Old Malden are both two-councillor wards respectively forecast to have 8% and 6% more electors than the borough average in 2025.

## Alexandra, Berrylands, Surbiton Hill and Tolworth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Alexandra	2	3%
Berrylands	2	-5%
Surbiton Hill	3	3%
Tolworth	3	1%

### *Alexandra*

92 We received three submissions in addition to the borough-wide ones from the political parties.

93 There was broad support for the draft recommendations. The Council, the Conservatives and the Green Party all supported the boundaries and name of this ward. The Labour Party supported most of the boundaries but added that the triangle

between King Charles', Ewell and Hollyfield roads ought to be included in Tolworth ward, although at the previous stage of consultation, it placed the area in Alexandra ward as do our draft recommendations.

94 Councillor Davis expressed his support for the draft recommendations and noted that the existing boundary along Alexandra Drive was 'less strong' than the Hogsmill River, which our draft recommendations use. Referring to the same boundary, a resident stated that it was a 'very good idea to have Berryland/Alexandra boundary along open space'.

95 We were not persuaded to include the triangle between King Charles', Ewell and Hollyfield roads in a Tolworth ward. Doing so could split some residents with a shared interest and direct access to the recreation ground and we did not receive any additional community evidence in support of this proposal.

96 Councillor Davis suggested that the ward name should be changed to either Hogsmill after the ward boundary or Raeburn after the road that runs along the length of the ward. However, we note that the Hogsmill River runs across a number of wards in the borough. Also, although it is true that Raeburn Road does run from the north-east corner to the south-west of the ward, we received no other supporting evidence from any other submission to confirm that residents identify with this name. We note that Alexandra Millennium Green remains within the boundaries of this ward. We are therefore retaining the name of this ward and confirming our draft recommendations as final.

97 Alexandra ward is forecast to have 3% more electors than the borough average by 2025 and will be represented by two councillors.

#### *Berrylands, Surbiton Hill and Tolworth*

98 We received 12 submissions in response to our draft recommendations for these three wards: the borough-wide comments and seven others. These were from Councillor Davis, Councillor Sumner, Alpha Road Estate Residents' Association and four residents. Many of these submissions referred to the Alpha Road Estate and which wards residents in this area should be included in.

99 The Council submitted a revised scheme under which the Alpha Road Estate would be included in Berrylands ward, as proposed in their earlier submission at the previous stage. However, in contrast to its proposal at the previous stage, it also moved the boundary between Surbiton Hill and Tolworth wards back to the existing boundary along Red Lion and Thornhill roads. It stated that Ewell Road was 'heavily trafficked' and that Alpha Road residents hardly use facilities to the west. It argued that Tolworth Infant and Junior schools were more appropriately placed in Surbiton Hill. It also stated that retaining the existing boundary along Red Lion Road

‘significantly strengthens community identity in both Surbiton Hill and Tolworth wards and corresponds well to the established local sense of place and identity’.

100 The Conservatives and the Green Party both opposed the Council’s proposal and supported our draft recommendations. The Conservatives and the Green Party councillor also made a joint representation reiterating their opposition to the proposals. The Conservatives stated that the wards in this area (i.e. including Alexandra ward) were highly residential and therefore residents used facilities in wards other than their own regardless of where they lived. They pointed out that there were several easy crossing points along Ewell Road which were used by residents to access shops and facilities on either side of the road. Furthermore, they stressed that the catchment area for Tolworth Infant and Junior schools fell predominantly within our Tolworth ward.

101 The Green Party pointed out that the Council’s proposal would move, among other Tolworth facilities, Tolworth Brook, Tolworth Park Road and the rest of the residential area known as ‘Tolworth grid’ (an area bounded by Thornhill, Ellerton, Red Lion and Ewell roads) into a revised Surbiton Hill ward.

102 The Labour Party also supported our draft recommendations and argued that for most purposes, the Alpha Road Estate looked to the west, i.e. Surbiton, explaining that residents did not use many facilities to the east of King Charles’ Road.

103 Councillor Davis, who identified as a resident of the Berrylands and Alexandra area, also supported our draft recommendations listing the King Charles’ Road as the boundary separating Berrylands from ‘greater Surbiton’. He explained that facilities like the library, former Surbiton Town Hall, the fire station and Surbiton Baptist Church on the eastern side of Ewell Road had always been considered part of Surbiton and not Berrylands. Furthermore, he argued that ‘it would be wrong to divide the area down the middle of Ewell Road and thus separate electorally these civic facilities from Surbiton and place them in a residential area such as Berrylands which has its own shopping and community facilities’.

104 Councillor Sumner acknowledged that some residents of Alpha Road Estate had expressed a desire to remain in Berrylands ward. She indicated that she would broadly support this but noted that there had been some difficulty in coming up with a suitable alternative to our draft recommendations ‘which works for the large community of Surbiton, Berrylands and Tolworth’.

105 The Alpha Road Residents’ Association argued that Ewell Road was a barrier to mixing or identifying with Surbiton Hill ward communities. Furthermore, it stressed that its membership extended east of King Charles’ Road but not west of Ewell Road and that the draft recommendations therefore split membership across wards.

106 A Berrylands resident wrote about the need for both sides of a road to be included within the same polling district. Polling districts are the responsibility of the Council and therefore out of the scope of this review.

107 With regards to Tolworth, two residents wrote in support of our draft recommendations. One explained that the needs of Surbiton Town Centre currently took precedence in the existing Surbiton Hill ward, therefore our proposed Tolworth ward 'was a good idea'. The resident, from Douglas Road, also suggested that Tolworth ward be expanded to include Cotterill and Malvern roads because they were thought of as being part of the same area as those to the immediate east of the river and that in future there could be issues considered in one ward that would impact on the neighbouring one. However, we did not receive any other supporting evidence to make this change.

108 We have considered the evidence provided to us. We acknowledge that Red Lion Road is an identifiable boundary but so is our proposed boundary that runs along the Hogsmill River. We also note that the Council's revised proposal includes an area it previously identified as Tolworth, at the warding pattern consultation stage. Furthermore, the Conservatives, the Green Party and a resident also identify the area as being part of Tolworth.

109 We note from the Mayor of London Schools Atlas that pupils of Tolworth Infant and Junior schools are drawn predominantly from within our proposed Tolworth ward. We also note that most of the pupils go on to attend secondary schools within our proposed Tolworth ward.

110 We are not persuaded that it is appropriate to include it in Surbiton Hill ward. Furthermore, at the previous consultation stage, we received submissions which indicated that this area, north of the existing boundary, was more appropriately included in Tolworth ward. Therefore, we are not making any modifications to this ward.

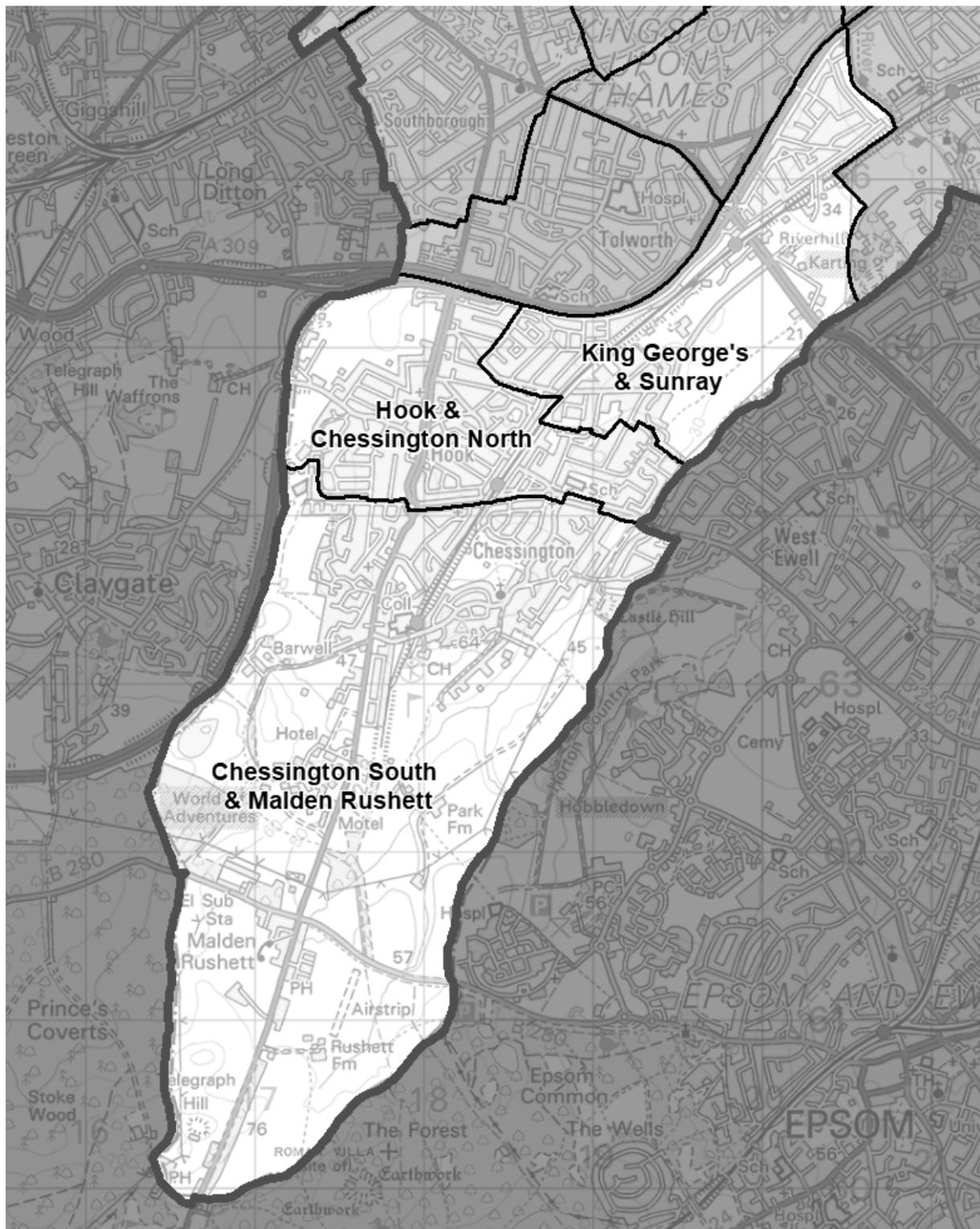
111 We are also not making any adjustments to Berrylands and Surbiton Hill for a number of reasons. We note that the Council's proposals for the Alpha Road Estate was predicated on an expansion of Surbiton Hill and reduction of Tolworth ward. Having decided not to adopt the Council's proposals for Tolworth and not being presented with enough evidence to support alternative boundaries elsewhere in the area, we were not persuaded to include the Alpha Road Estate in Berrylands. Doing so would produce a forecast variance of -24% for a three-councillor or 13% for a two-councillor Surbiton Hill ward.

112 In addition, while we acknowledge that Ewell Road is busy and would make a good boundary, we do not consider it a barrier. On our tour of the area, we observed

people using facilities on both sides of the road. We consider that both sides of the road are Surbiton facing. We are also content that we have not split the Alpha Road Estate across wards.

113 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Berrylands, Surbiton Hill and Tolworth wards as final. Surbiton Hill and Tolworth are three-councillor wards forecast to have 3% and 1% more electors than the borough average respectively. Berrylands is a two-councillor ward forecast to have 5% fewer electors than the borough average by 2025.

## Chessington, Hook and King George's & Sunray



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Chessington South & Malden Rushett	3	-2%
Hook & Chessington North	3	5%
King George's & Sunray	2	4%

### *Chessington South & Malden Rushett*

114 The borough-wide comments we received all supported our draft recommendations for this ward. The Council specifically noted its support for the inclusion of the area around Melford Close in this ward. The Labour Party added that the boundaries were superior to the existing ones.

115 We received two additional submissions for this ward: from a resident who proposed that we combine Hook, Chessington North and Chessington South areas in a single ward to be represented by four councillors and another resident who asked why Mansfield Road and Melford Close were included in this ward instead of Hook & Chessington North.

116 We take the view that wards or divisions returning more than three councillors result in a dilution of accountability to the electorate and we will not normally recommend a number above that figure. There are currently no principal authority wards or divisions in England returning more than three councillors and we have not been persuaded to create one as part of this review.

117 We included Melford Close in this ward in view of the fact that their vehicular access is to the south and not north. With regards to Mansfield Road, which is the boundary between the existing Chessington South and Chessington North & Hook wards, our draft recommendations unite residents on both sides of the road in a single ward. The Council confirms that this also puts access to Lovelace Primary School, via this road, in a single ward.

118 The Council proposed that we rename Chessington South ward to include the name of the distinct community village of Malden Rushett located at the southern end of this ward. We are content to do so as it would better reflect the constituent communities. We have renamed it Chessington South & Malden Rushett in accordance with the Council's suggestion.

119 Other than the name change, we confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final. Chessington South and Malden Rushett ward is a three-councillor ward forecast to have 2% fewer electors than the borough average by 2025.

### *Hook & Chessington North and King George's & Sunray*

120 We received six submissions in addition to the borough-wide comments for these two wards. The Council, the Conservatives and the Green Party supported our draft recommendations. The Labour Party considered that although Hook & Chessington North ward was an improvement on the existing ward, our King George's & Sunray ward 'was flawed' and, therefore, both wards needed to be modified.

121 It considered that the draft recommendations split an area known as Crofts Estate across both wards and proposed that we include a number of roads between Hook Road (A243) and Fullers Way South from Hook & Chessington North into King George's & Sunray ward. We considered doing this but noted it would produce a forecast variance of 15% for King George's & Sunray. Given the support for the ward and the poor variance that this modification would produce, we were not persuaded to make the change.

122 A resident pointed out that Chessington North station should not be included in Chessington South ward. We can confirm that our draft recommendations for Hook and Chessington North included Chessington North station within its boundaries, something that the Council welcomed in its submission.

123 Another resident considered King George's & Sunray ward 'a good idea', explaining that the A3 was a barrier between the two communities in the existing (Alexandra) ward. The resident also welcomed the inclusion of Sunray in the name of the ward.

124 Councillor Davis proposed renaming King George's & Sunray ward Court Farm, after Tolworth Court farm 'that sits in the middle of' this ward. We did not receive any corroborating support for this proposal and are unable to determine if residents identify with this name; therefore, we are not persuaded to adopt it.

125 As part of our draft recommendations, we asked if this ward should be renamed to include Tolworth due to the presence of Tolworth station within its boundaries. The Council's view was that, on balance, it was more appropriate to highlight 'the two distinct but interconnected constituent elements of the ward' and was content with King George's & Sunray. The Labour Party, on the other hand, felt that the term King George's was obscure and proposed renaming the ward Tolworth South & Sunray.

126 While we note the arguments made by the Labour Party, we note that the Conservatives and Green Party also supported the inclusion of King George's in the name and have therefore been persuaded to retain this.

127 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for these two wards as final. The three-councillor Hook & Chessington North ward and two-councillor King George's & Sunray ward are forecast to have 5% and 4% more electors (respectively) than the borough average by 2025.



## Conclusions

128 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Kingston upon Thames, 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	48	48
Number of electoral wards	19	19
Average number of electors per councillor	2,406	2,573
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Final recommendations

Kingston upon Thames should be made up of 48 councillors serving 19 wards representing nine two-councillor wards and 10 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 the Kingston upon Thames. You can also view our final recommendations for Kingston upon Thames on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)



## What happens next?

129 We have now completed our review of Kingston upon Thames. 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

130 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 Kingston upon Thames

	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	Alexandra	2	4,239	2,120	-12%	5,276	2,638	3%
2	Berrylands	2	4,818	2,409	0%	4,912	2,456	-5%
3	Canbury Gardens	2	5,058	2,529	5%	5,115	2,558	-1%
4	Chessington South & Malden Rushett	3	7,344	2,448	2%	7,563	2,521	-2%
5	Coombe Hill	2	5,010	2,505	4%	4,999	2,500	-3%
6	Coombe Vale	3	7,285	2,428	1%	7,634	2,545	-1%
7	Green Lane & St James	2	4,660	2,330	-3%	4,891	2,446	-5%
8	Hook & Chessington North	3	7,853	2,618	9%	8,097	2,699	5%
9	King George's & Sunray	2	4,198	2,099	-13%	5,349	2,675	4%
10	Kingston Gate	3	7,308	2,436	1%	7,455	2,485	-3%

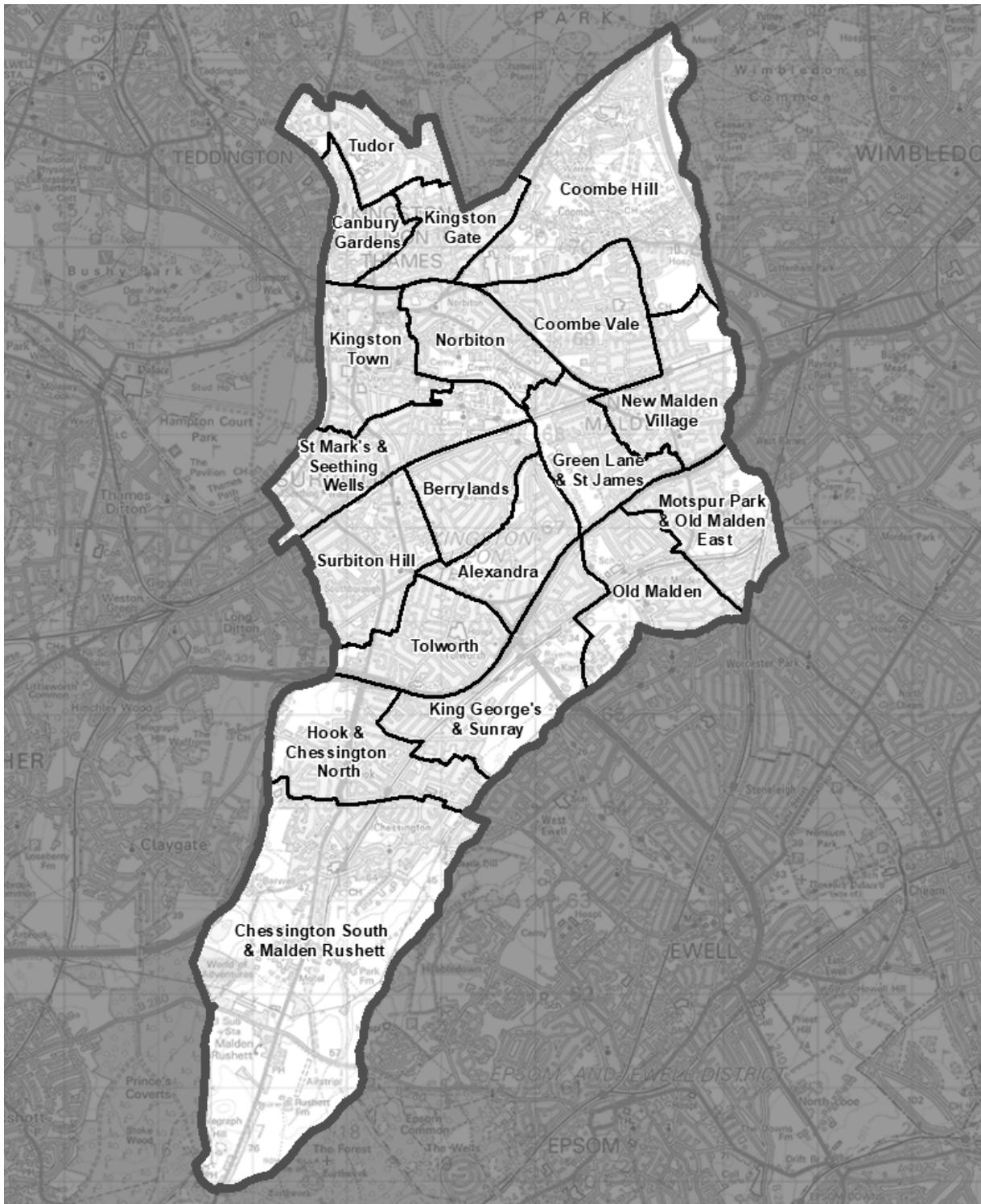
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Kingston Town	3	6,187	2,062	-14%	7,645	2,548	-1%
12 Motspur Park & Old Malden East	2	5,205	2,603	8%	5,579	2,790	8%
13 New Malden Village	3	6,510	2,170	-10%	7,219	2,406	-6%
14 Norbiton	3	6,799	2,266	-6%	7,453	2,484	-3%
15 Old Malden	2	4,997	2,499	4%	5,469	2,735	6%
16 St Mark's & Seething Wells	3	7,869	2,623	9%	7,953	2,651	3%
17 Surbiton Hill	3	7,557	2,519	5%	7,975	2,658	3%
18 Tolworth	3	7,446	2,482	3%	7,805	2,602	1%
19 Tudor	2	5,137	2,569	7%	5,118	2,559	-1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>115,480</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>123,507</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,406</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,573</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Kingston upon Thames.

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: [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/kingston-upon-thames](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/kingston-upon-thames)

## 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/kingston-upon-thames](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/kingston-upon-thames)

#### *Local Authority*

- Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

#### *Political Groups*

- Kingston Council Conservative Group
- Kingston Council opposition parties
- Kingston Green Party
- Kingston upon Thames Local Campaign Forum (Labour Party)

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor R. Arora (Kingston Council)
- Councillor K. Davis (Kingston Council)
- Councillor S. Sumner (Kingston Council)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Alpha Road Estates Residents' Association
- Seething Wells Action Group
- The Community Brain
- The River Club

#### *Local Residents*

- 36 local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

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

**LGBCE**  
**PO Box 133**  
**Blyth, NE24 9FE**

**Telephone:** 0330 500 1525

**Email:** [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

**Online:** [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

**Twitter:** @LGBCE