

New electoral arrangements for Newham Council Final Recommendations

November 2020

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Newham?

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

9 Newham should be represented by 66 councillors, six more than there are now.

10 Newham should have 24 wards, four more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 19 of the existing wards should change; one (West Ham) will stay the same.

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

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. 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 Newham. We then held three 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
21 May 2019	Number of councillors decided
4 June 2019	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
12 August 2019	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
29 October 2019	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
17 February 2020	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions
3 March 2020	Start of extended consultation on draft recommendations
14 April 2020	End of extended consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 September 2020	Publication of further draft recommendations; start of limited further consultation in specific areas
12 October 2020	End of further limited consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
18 November 2020	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

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

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

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

	2018	2025
Electorate of Newham	206,653	258,056
Number of councillors	60	66
Average number of electors per councillor	3,444	3,910

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 Newham 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

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 25% 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 recognise that there is significant growth in Newham and consider that the figures we are using are based on a forecast that the Council has identified using reasonable assumptions in

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

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

light of the huge levels of growth expected in the borough. We recognise that forecasting is an inexact science, but we are satisfied that these figures should be used as the basis for identifying our recommendations.

Number of councillors

24 Newham Council currently has 60 councillors. The Council originally proposed increasing this to 72 councillors, partly based on the significant increase in the forecast electorate. We asked for additional information in support of such a significant increase. The Council subsequently submitted a revised proposal for a council size of 66. We have looked at all the evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that increasing the number of councillors by six will 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 66 councillors – for example, 66 one-councillor wards, 22 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 We received five submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. All were opposed to an increase. Three requested a reduction in the number of councillors, primarily on cost grounds. One submission stated that any increase in councillor numbers should be accompanied by a reduction in the number of councillors per ward, to ensure that there was no increase in costs. The submissions did not propose a specific council size, nor did they provide any evidence to support a reduction. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 66-councillor council.

27 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. These submissions did not support any increase to the current council size on performance and cost grounds. The submissions did not provide any detailed evidence to support retaining the status quo. We have therefore based our final recommendations on 66 councillors.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 25 submissions in response to our first public consultation on ward boundaries. These included one borough-wide pattern of wards from the Council. The Council's scheme provided a mixed pattern of two- and three-councillor wards that was broadly similar to the existing warding pattern. The Council pointed out that it had used two clear boundaries running from east to west within the borough: the A13, which forms a very clear strong boundary with very few crossing points; and the District Line, which although clear and identifiable can be crossed in a number of places.

29 We also received a submission from a local resident which provided comments on specific wards and also made suggestions on how to approach warding across the borough. For example, the submission highlighted specific barriers that they intended should be used, including the A13. The resident also considered that new developments should be included in the same ward and advocated a mixed pattern of warding with a combination of one-, two- and three-member wards.

30 We received a submission from the Newham Conservatives which could not be opened due to the file being corrupted. Despite repeated attempts to reach them, they were unable to resolve the issue in time for the draft recommendations report. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments about ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

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

32 Our draft recommendations were for 18 three-councillor wards and six 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 112 submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations. These included borough-wide comments from the Council and a resident. The Council expressed broad support for the draft recommendations, with the exception of the north-west of the borough where it resubmitted its original proposal for the Stratford and Forest Gate areas. The Council also asked the Commission to keep the Docklands area and an area around Gallions Reach station under active review. Furthermore, the Council suggested that we consider proposals from the Manor Park community despite the impact these may have on the variances of neighbouring wards.

34 The resident expressed disappointment that we had not adopted a more mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards but expressed support for the principle of our Olympic East Village and Maryland wards. The submission also included other specific comments on a number of boundaries, including the boundary between Forest Gate North and Manor Park wards.

35 A resident (supported by another) submitted a new borough-wide scheme which proposed 18 two-councillor and 10 three councillor wards. While we did consider that this scheme appeared to reflect the statutory criteria in some areas, we note that there were a number of proposed wards with poor electoral equality not supported by the requisite detailed community evidence for us to create them.

Accordingly, we have not based our final recommendations on these proposals but have considered the individual boundaries that they have suggested throughout the borough.

36 We also received proposals and comments on specific wards from councillors, the Canning Town North & Plaistow South Labour Parties (CTN&PS Labour), Stratford & New Town Labour Party and a resident. CTN&PS Labour – supported by residents – proposed a number of wards around the Canning Town and Plaistow area. These included a Canning Town West ward based entirely around new developments and Canning Town North and South wards based on the remaining existing ward boundaries.

37 The Stratford & New Town Labour Party argued in support of the Council's proposed wards in the Stratford area.

38 The remainder of the submissions, including one from the Newham, Barking & Dagenham Liberal Democrats, provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

Further draft recommendations

39 In response to our draft recommendations we received a large number of objections from the Manor Park community. We also received significant comments on our draft recommendations for the Forest Gate and Maryland area. Many respondents provided evidence describing their community to substantiate their opposition to our proposals. Accordingly, we were persuaded to amend our proposals and publish further draft recommendations in the north of the borough.

40 Our further draft recommendations were based on our draft recommendations with modifications and consequential adjustments to some wards in the north of the borough – in Forest Gate, Green Street, Manor Park, Little Ilford and Plashet.

41 In response to this consultation we received 75 submissions, mainly from residents of Chaucer, Gower, Sylvan and Wyatt roads and MacArthur Close who objected to being excluded from Forest Gate South ward. This view was echoed in the submission from the existing Forest Gate South ward councillors.

42 We also received submissions from the Council, councillors, local organisations and residents.

43 The Council was broadly supportive of our further draft recommendations but proposed two minor modifications to the boundary of our Maryland ward and two ward name changes.

44 We received a joint submission from two residents who supported our Forest Gate North and Maryland wards but proposed significantly different boundaries for the other six wards. However, they were not supported by sufficient evidence of community identity that would justify moving away from the further draft recommendations so significantly.

45 The remainder of the submissions, including one from Manor Park ward councillors, provided localised comments on specific wards.

Final recommendations

46 Our final recommendations are for 18 three-councillor wards and six two-councillor wards. They are based on the further draft recommendations in the north and our draft recommendations in the rest of the borough, with modifications and consequential ones to Forest Gate North, Forest Gate South, Green Street West, Maryland and Stratford Olympic Park wards

47 We also made minor modifications to the boundaries between Boleyn and East Ham South wards as well as Royal Albert and Royal Victoria wards. Our final recommendations also include four ward name changes.

48 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.

49 The tables and maps on pages 9-26 detail our final recommendations for each area of Newham. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

50 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Forest Gate, Maryland, Stratford and West Ham



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Forest Gate North	2	2%
Forest Gate South	3	4%
Maryland	2	10%
Stratford	3	-1%
Stratford Olympic Park	2	1%
West Ham	3	-8%

Forest Gate North and Maryland

51 As set out in the further draft recommendations, we gave careful consideration to the evidence received during the consultation on our original draft recommendations. On the balance of the evidence we received, we proposed a two-councillor Forest Gate North, a three-councillor Forest Gate South and a two-councillor Maryland ward as part of our further draft recommendations. These new sets of recommendations excluded the area around Grove Crescent Road and an area east of Water Lane from our Maryland ward.

52 We received 14 submissions for this area in response to our further draft recommendations. The Council proposed two modifications to our Maryland ward. While welcoming the fact that we had moved the boundary between Forest Gate North and Maryland further west, the Council proposed moving it further to St James' Road on community identity grounds. The Council and a resident also proposed that the north-western boundary should continue along Leyton Road, west of Parkway Crescent. The Council argued that our boundary from Leyton Road to Major Road, east of Parkway Crescent, would make it difficult for the Travellers and Gypsy community on Parkway Crescent to gain admission to Colegrave Primary School if they were in different wards.

53 The Maryland Community Group's submission reiterated the reasons it advocated the creation of a Maryland ward, including the existence of 'a thriving commercial area centred on Maryland roundabout and Leytonstone Road'.

54 A number of residents welcomed the boundaries, including Maryland's new boundary with Forest Gate North ward. However, like the Council, three residents argued that the boundary ought to be moved even further west. One proposed that the boundary should be on St James' Road on the other side of Forest Lane Park and Magpie Close. Another explained that Magpie Close and the woodlands were an important marker for Forest Gate because the Old Forest Gate Hospital used to be located there. A further resident suggested moving St James' and Alfred roads into Forest Gate North.

55 We have been persuaded to move the boundary between Forest Gate North and Maryland west of Forest Lane Park and Magpie Close. We consider that this boundary, which runs along the border of the park and behind the properties on the eastern side of St James' Road, better reflects the community in this area and is a strong and identifiable boundary.

56 Some residents argued that a number of roads south of Maryland station should be reinstated in our Maryland ward. One resident proposed the inclusion of Cedars, Louise and Keogh roads due in part to their proximity to Maryland station and the shops and facilities on Leytonstone Road and them being much further away from the centre of Forest Gate. Another resident proposed that a much wider area extending south of the roads mentioned above, including the University of East London, should sit within Maryland ward.

57 We note that the roads in question were part of Maryland ward in our original draft recommendations. We have been persuaded to modify the boundary between Maryland and Forest Gate South wards to include residents of Cedars, Louise and Keogh roads in Maryland. We have also included residents of two buildings at the end of Louise Road – i.e. Jacamar House and the adjacent building (82 to 92 Louise Road) – because their access is via Louise Road. However, we have not been persuaded to include the area south of Cedars Road. We are content that a

boundary to the immediate north of the University is a strong and identifiable one. We also note that the boundary on the western side of Water Lane, which runs between Manbey Street and Sarah Bonnell School, is also a strong one.

58 We are also making two other minor modifications. We are including residents in numbers 180 to 204 The Grove in Maryland ward. During the last consultation we received evidence that supported placing The Grove in Maryland. However, because doing so would mean that residents of Grove Crescent Road would not have direct access to the rest of their ward, we ran the boundary down the middle of the road. The modification we are making now places all of Maryland Point in Maryland ward. We are doing this because we were persuaded that this road is part of the Maryland community. This maintains the access of the residents of Grove Crescent Road to the rest of their ward. We have also moved the Manbey Street Games Court to the south-west of Sarah Bonnell School into Maryland ward because its access is on Manbey Street and it is a separate facility from the school.

59 However, we have not been persuaded to extend the north-western boundary of Maryland ward by including the residents of Parkway Crescent in the ward. We note that their main access is via Leyton Road towards the west and there is a brick wall running behind the properties. We also note the Council and resident's argument about them being separated from Colegrave Primary School. We have reviewed the Council's school admission policy and the policy makes no reference to children being unable to be placed in a school that is in a different ward from the one in which they live.

60 We received suggestions from the Council and a resident that Maryland ward should be renamed New Town because of the name's possible links to a prominent figure in the colonial governments of North America. The Council is also planning to ask Transport for London to consider renaming the railway station. Other evidence casts doubt on the origins of the name and points to earlier place name derivations. The Council acknowledges that there is uncertainty about the matter.

61 Whilst recognising that this may be a sensitive local matter, it is clear that there is a community that identifies itself as living in Maryland. Maryland Community Group's persuasive submission used the prevalence of the name across schools, parks and transport infrastructure to demonstrate community identity. The name was also used by others making submissions. By contrast, New Town only comprises a portion of the proposed new ward rather than the totality of the ward's community.

62 Accordingly, by naming this ward Maryland, we are simply reflecting the community, as we understand it, that exists today. However, in the five years following a review, a local authority may seek the Commission's agreement to change the name of a ward if this reflects community identity and sentiment. After five years, a local authority may make a change without seeking the agreement of the Commission.

63 Our Forest Gate North and Maryland wards will each be represented by two councillors and are forecast to have 2% and 10% (respectively) more electors than the borough average by 2025.

Forest Gate South

64 As part of our further draft recommendations, we proposed a three-councillor Forest Gate South ward. This was a change from our original draft recommendations when we proposed a two-councillor ward in this area. The revised ward included the eastern end of Claremont, Osborne and Windsor roads but excluded Chaucer, Gower, Sylvan and Wyatt roads and MacArthur Close, which we united with Dunbar and Skelton roads in our proposed Forest Gate Green Street ward to the immediate south-east.

65 We noted that uniting them in our further draft recommendations Forest Gate South ward would produce variances of 13% and -13% for Forest Gate South and the residual Green Street West wards respectively. We also noted that retaining the existing boundary produced variances of 8% and -8%, but because residents of Dunbar and Skelton roads in the existing and our draft recommendations Green Street West ward proposed that they be united with the roads to their immediate north, we decided to do so in that ward. We renamed the ward Forest Gate Green Street to reflect the inclusion of an area considered to be Forest Gate.

66 We received submissions from the Council, Forest Gate South ward councillors, the Quwwat-ul-Islam Society and residents of Chaucer, Gower, Sylvan and Wyatt roads and MacArthur Close. Of the 46 submissions we received about this area, 43 of them – from the councillors, the Quwwat-ul-Islam Society and almost all residents – opposed these roads being excluded from Forest Gate South. The submissions included a petition signed by 182 residents of the affected roads. We heard that this community had strong ties with Forest Gate South and the area around Woodgrange Road. Respondents were resolute that they did not share a community with the existing Green Street West ward whose centre is further east.

67 With the modifications we have made to the north-western boundary of Forest Gate South (see paragraphs 56 & 57), moving these roads, including Dunbar and Skelton roads, into Forest Gate South ward produces an acceptable variance of 8%. However, it produces a variance of -13% for the residual Green Street West ward. We explored using Upton Lane as a boundary as suggested in the joint area-wide representation from the residents. Under this scheme, Forest Gate South would have a variance of 9% but Green Street West was still forecast to have a variance of -12%. Therefore, we have moved the boundary back to the well-established existing one which runs along the back of properties on the northern side of Dunbar Road. In order to unite residents of all the roads in question in a single ward, we would have to make changes to neighbouring wards for which we have not received any evidence.

68 Our three-councillor Forest Gate South ward is forecast to have 4% more electors than the borough average by 2025.

Stratford and Stratford Olympic Park

69 We have based our wards in this area on our draft recommendations with a minor modification to Stratford ward in response to submissions received with respect to Maryland where we propose to move the Manbey Street Games Court and certain electors on The Grove into Maryland ward (paragraph 58).

70 In response to our draft recommendations, the Council, two councillors, Stratford & New Town Labour Party and some residents expressed support for the Council's original proposal and objected to the creation of our Olympic East Village ward. The Council's submission included arguments that the Liberty Bridge Road Practice, part of the Sir Ludwig Guttmann Health and Wellbeing Centre, served a wider community than those who reside within the borders of our Olympic East Village ward. A resident raised concerns that residents of this ward would, in time, not consider themselves an integral part of Newham and also stated that the facilities within the ward were used by residents in the wider Stratford area.

71 The draft recommendations received support from the Liberal Democrats and some residents. The submissions reiterated the strength of the community within the Olympic Park and the Liberal Democrats drew our attention to their original submission at warding pattern stage. The new borough-wide scheme we received also supported the boundaries of our Olympic East Village ward. The eastern boundary along Leyton Road was also supported by submissions in response to the creation of Maryland ward.

72 We note that there is no dispute about the existence of a vibrant and cohesive community within the Olympic Park. We also note that the facilities there will be used by communities outside of the immediate ward boundaries, regardless of where those boundaries are. We are not persuaded that the creation of this ward will somehow lead to the residents feeling separate from the wider Newham community, regardless of their demographics.

73 On balance, we consider that this ward and the adjoining Stratford ward reflect our statutory criteria. However, we accept that 'East Village' refers to a specific development within the ward. One resident suggested it should be called Olympic Park ward. The borough-wide scheme proposed Stratford Olympic Park. We note that the Council's proposals included Stratford in the names of both of its wards for this area. We have therefore renamed this ward Stratford Olympic Park ward. We have also modified the boundaries of the neighbouring Stratford ward to include Grove Crescent and Oxford roads. This is to reflect the changes made to Maryland ward based on the evidence we received.

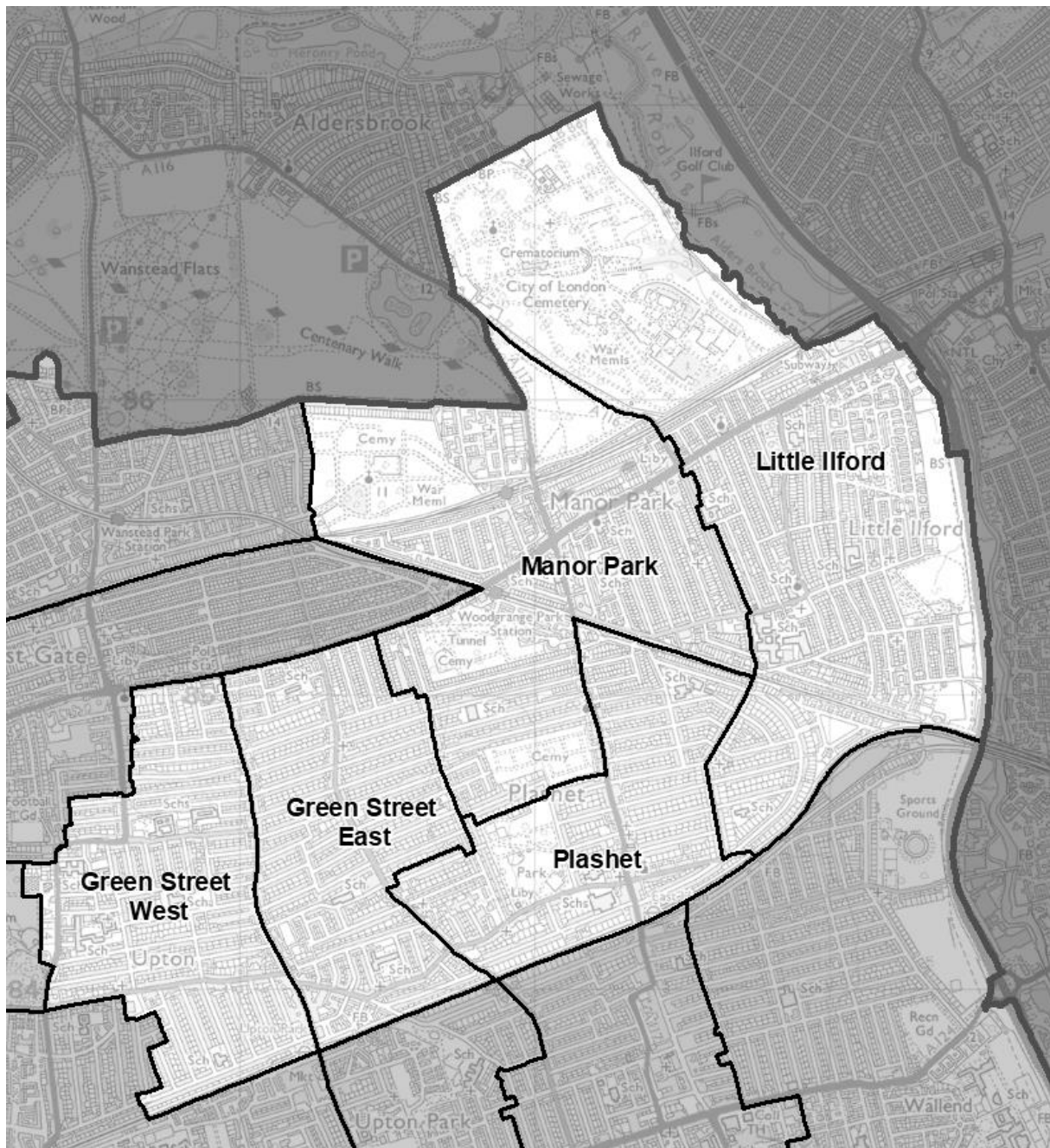
74 Our final recommendations are for a three-councillor Stratford ward and a two-councillor Stratford Olympic Park ward forecast to have -1% and 1% electoral variances respectively.

75 The Stratford & New Town Labour Party pointed out differences between the development figures we used for this area and those of the Council. We can confirm that the development figures we used were provided to us by the Council and we are unaware of any other figures.

West Ham

76 Other than the Council's comments in support of our draft recommendations for West Ham ward, the only other substantive comments we received were part of the resident's borough-wide proposal. This scheme proposed splitting our proposed West Ham ward across two wards and including West Ham Park in a Stratford ward. As we have already adopted different boundaries for Stratford that we view as providing the best balance between our statutory criteria, we are not persuaded to adopt this proposal. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations in this area as final. West Ham ward is a three-councillor ward and is forecast to have 8% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2025.

Green Street, Little Ilford, Manor Park and Plashet



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Green Street East	3	-7%
Green Street West	3	-8%
Little Ilford	3	5%
Manor Park	3	-5%
Plashet	2	2%

Green Street East, Little Ilford, Manor Park and Plashet

77 As part of our further draft recommendations we proposed four wards, three of which would be represented by three-councillors. Our Plashet ward would have two councillors. In response to the consultation, we received nine submissions, from the Council, Manor Park councillors, the Manor Park Islamic Cultural Centre and residents.

78 The Council was content with all four wards. Manor Park ward councillors, the Manor Park Islamic Cultural Centre and most residents expressed their support for our revised boundaries for Manor Park ward. In their joint submission, the councillors stated that they had consulted with residents and that they believed the new boundaries 'would enable the retention of key identities and provide for effective local government ...'. A resident stated that the boundaries better reflected their 'understanding of where residents off Romford Road near the boundary, think of themselves as living'.

79 However, the joint area-wide submission from two residents proposed significantly different boundaries and names for four wards in this area. For example, their proposed Manor Park Plashet ward excluded the area north of Manor Park station and the railway line but extended south all the way to East Ham station. Their scheme also created a Manor Park Little Ilford ward to the north and east of this ward splitting the existing and our proposed Little Ilford ward into two. Furthermore, one of the boundaries between these two wards was to the west of properties on First Avenue; a boundary which the community did not support at draft recommendations stage and one of the reasons we published further draft recommendations. We did not consider that the residents provided persuasive evidence of community identity that would persuade us to move away from our further draft recommendations.

80 Due to the explicit support we had for our Manor Park ward and implied support for the other three wards, we have not been persuaded to adopt the boundaries proposed by the two residents. We therefore confirm our further draft recommendations for these four wards as final. They are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2025.

Green Street West

81 As part of our further draft recommendations, we proposed a three-councillor Forest Gate Green Street ward which included residents of Chaucer, Gower, Sylvan and Wyatt roads and MacArthur Close, uniting them with residents of Dunbar and Skelton roads. As mentioned in paragraph 66, we received very little support for this. The community represented by these roads stated that their community was focused around Woodgrange Road in Forest Gate and not Green Street.

82 We have therefore moved back to our original draft recommendations for this ward, including the name. We note that in response to our further draft

recommendations, the Council, the joint resident scheme and a resident proposed renaming what was Forest Gate Green Street ward either Forest Gate Upton or Upton. However, as we are not confirming the boundaries of our further draft recommendations and it is unclear if the proposed new names would be appropriate for this ward with the amended boundaries, we have not adopted either of the suggested names.

83 Green Street West is a three-councillor ward forecast to have 8% fewer electors than the borough average by 2025.

Boleyn, East Ham and Wall End



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Boleyn	3	-7%
East Ham	3	-2%
East Ham South	3	-1%
Wall End	3	-1%

Boleyn, East Ham, East Ham South and Wall End

84 The Council supported our draft recommendations for this area of the borough, which were based on its proposals at warding pattern stage. However, it proposed that the existing name Wall End be retained for that ward, rather than the name Burges it had proposed during the original consultation. We have been persuaded to make this change.

85 The borough-wide scheme proposed a very different warding pattern for this area, creating five wards, four of which were named after East Ham. However, we

did not receive detailed community evidence, including from residents and local organisations, to support the creation of these wards. Therefore, we have not been persuaded to adopt them as part of our final recommendations. Furthermore, one of the proposed wards, East Ham Brampton, was forecast to have 11% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2025.

86 We received three resident submissions for this area. One resident explained that they had spoken with a number of residents who wanted electors on both sides of Haldane Road retained in Boleyn ward, and not split across different wards. The resident described being part of Boleyn and not East Ham South. We have made this change as part of our final recommendations and the boundary now runs behind properties 2–124 Haldane Road. We note that residents on Haldane Road east of Geoffrey Gardens and Buxton Road have never been part of Boleyn ward, and they therefore have not been included in this modification.

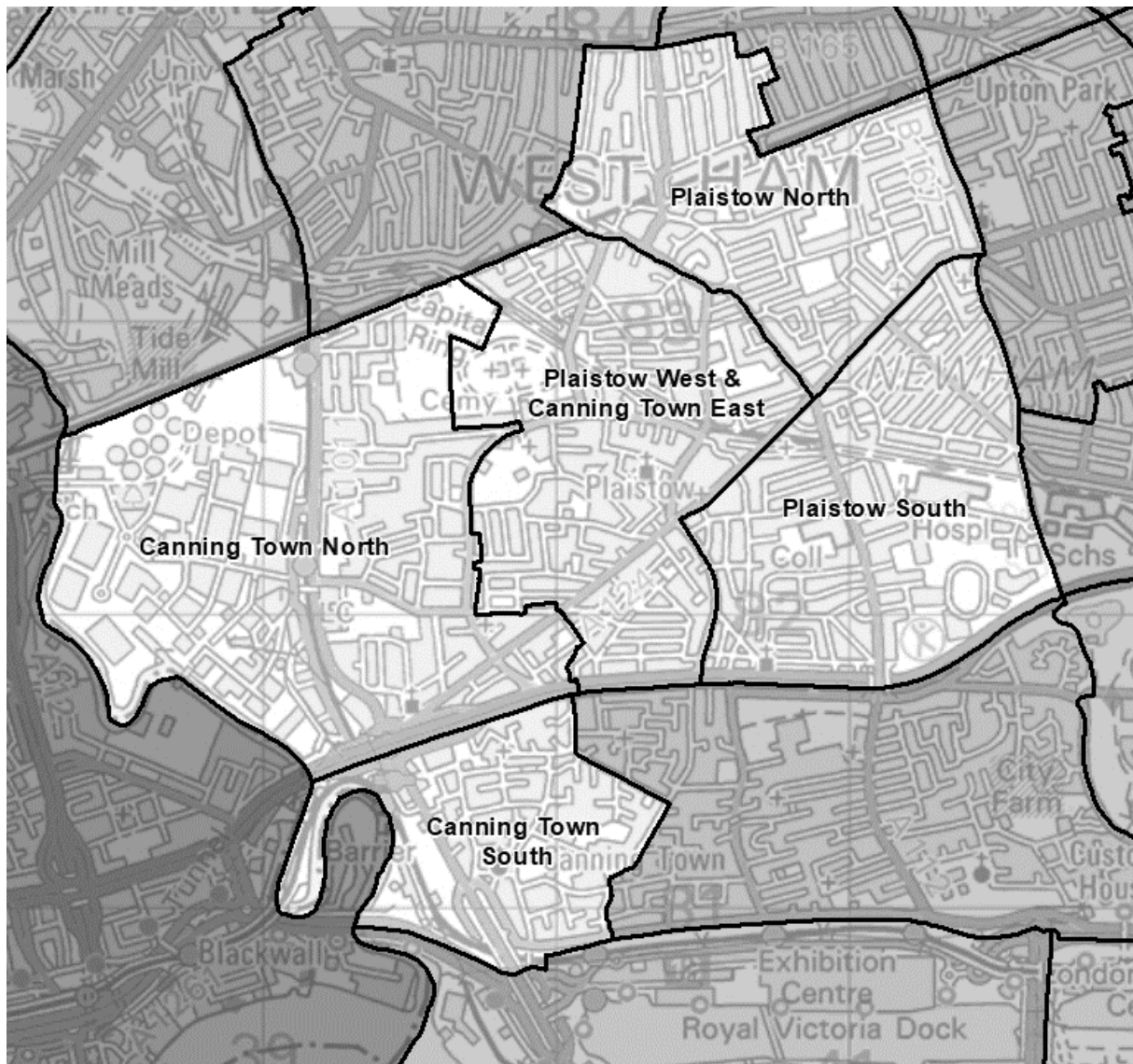
87 Another resident was unconvinced that Burges ward extended beyond Barking Road. While we note that the borough-wide scheme uses this as a boundary between two of its wards, as mentioned above we did not receive local evidence to support the other boundaries in that proposal for this area. Modifying our proposed Burges ward to incorporate Barking Road as a boundary would create a Burges ward with 26% fewer electors per councillor and an East Ham South ward with 24% more electors per councillor. In our view, this level of electoral inequality is unacceptably high.

88 Another resident raised a concern about the Keppel Road boundary between Burges and East Ham wards because of issues with traffic and the prospect of discussions around traffic-calming measures and planning for the road requiring ‘cross-councillor’ collaboration. The resident did not provide any suggestions as to which of the two wards residents should be united within.

89 Therefore, with the exception of the modification described in paragraph 86 and changing the name of Burges ward back to Wall End, we are confirming our draft recommendations for this area as final.

90 Boleyn, East Ham, East Ham South and Wall End wards are all three-councillor wards, forecast to have good electoral equality by 2025.

Canning Town and Plaistow



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Canning Town North	3	6%
Canning Town South	3	8%
Plaistow North	3	-4%
Plaistow South	3	-3%
Plaistow West & Canning Town East	3	-1%

Canning Town North and Canning Town South

91 In addition to borough-wide comments, we received five submissions about our draft recommendations in this area. These were from CTN&PS Labour and residents.

92 While the Council supported our draft recommendations, the resident's borough-wide scheme and CTN&PS Labour proposed significantly different boundaries for this area.

93 The borough-wide scheme shared some boundaries with our draft recommendations. However, its proposed Canning Town Hallsville ward extended across both sides of the A13 and used the A124 Barking Road as a boundary. Moreover, the proposal included the new developments in the Limmo Peninsula area in a ward with residents immediately south of Victoria Dock Road.

94 CTN&PS Labour's submission was made jointly with residents and covered both Canning Town and Plaistow areas. They objected to our draft recommendations and were concerned that existing residents would be displaced by those in new developments who had not yet developed a sense of community identity. The submission objected to the fact that under our draft recommendations a significant part of the existing Canning Town North ward would be in a Plaistow ward. They stated that their proposed warding pattern allowed for a number of additional developments which have passed pre-planning stage.

95 Under this proposal, Canning Town West ward is carved out of the existing Canning Town North and Canning Town South wards. The boundary between the proposed Canning Town West ward and Canning Town North and South wards is Manor Road and Silvertown Way. The rest of the existing boundaries for Canning Town North and South wards are maintained, including the latter's boundary with Custom House ward. This ward extends across the A13. We note that the proposed Canning Town West ward will have 14 existing electors based on the 2018 register.

96 A resident proposed a similar boundary along Manor Road and Silvertown Way for a ward based on the new developments all the way to Stratford. They argued that Canning Town did not have a relationship with either Plaistow North or Plaistow South wards. Another resident argued for Canning Town North ward to retain a number of roads south of Bethell Avenue and Chargeable Lane. The resident suggested that as addresses with E16 postcodes, these roads ought to remain within their original Canning Town North ward. However, postcodes are a tool used to facilitate mail delivery and do not necessarily depict communities or strong and identifiable boundaries. Furthermore, this proposal will produce an unacceptable variance of 20% for our Canning Town North ward. It would also result in a less identifiable boundary.

97 We note the thought that has gone into both the resident's and CTN&PS Labour's proposals for this area. We also acknowledge that the proposed wards produce acceptable electoral variances for 2025. However, at the previous stage, we had representations about the A13 being a very clear obstacle and a strong and identifiable boundary. We agree with this view and are not persuaded to create wards that cross it. Furthermore, we are not minded to create a ward with so few

existing electors at this time. Therefore, we do not propose to make any changes to our draft recommendations for this area.

98 With regards to future housing developments included in our forecast figures, we note that this was also raised by a resident. However, we are guided by the legislation that states that we must take into consideration new developments and possible elector occupancy within the five-year period following the publication of our final recommendations.

99 A resident pointed out that our draft recommendations for Canning Town ward do not extend north of the A13 or Barking Road A124 and should therefore be renamed Canning Town South. Furthermore, we note that this ward comprises a significant part of the existing Canning Town South ward and we are therefore content to change the name of Canning Town ward to Canning Town South.

100 Our final recommendations are for two three-councillor wards. Canning Town North ward is forecast to have 6% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2025 while Canning Town South ward is forecast to have 8% more electors per councillor.

Plaistow North, Plaistow South and Plaistow West & Canning Town East

101 We received one submission – from the Plaistow Christian Fellowship – in addition to the borough-wide comments and those that provided joint proposals for Canning Town and Plaistow.

102 The Council and Plaistow Christian Fellowship supported our draft recommendations for Plaistow. The latter expressed pleasure at being included in a Plaistow ward instead of a Canning Town ward as is currently the case.

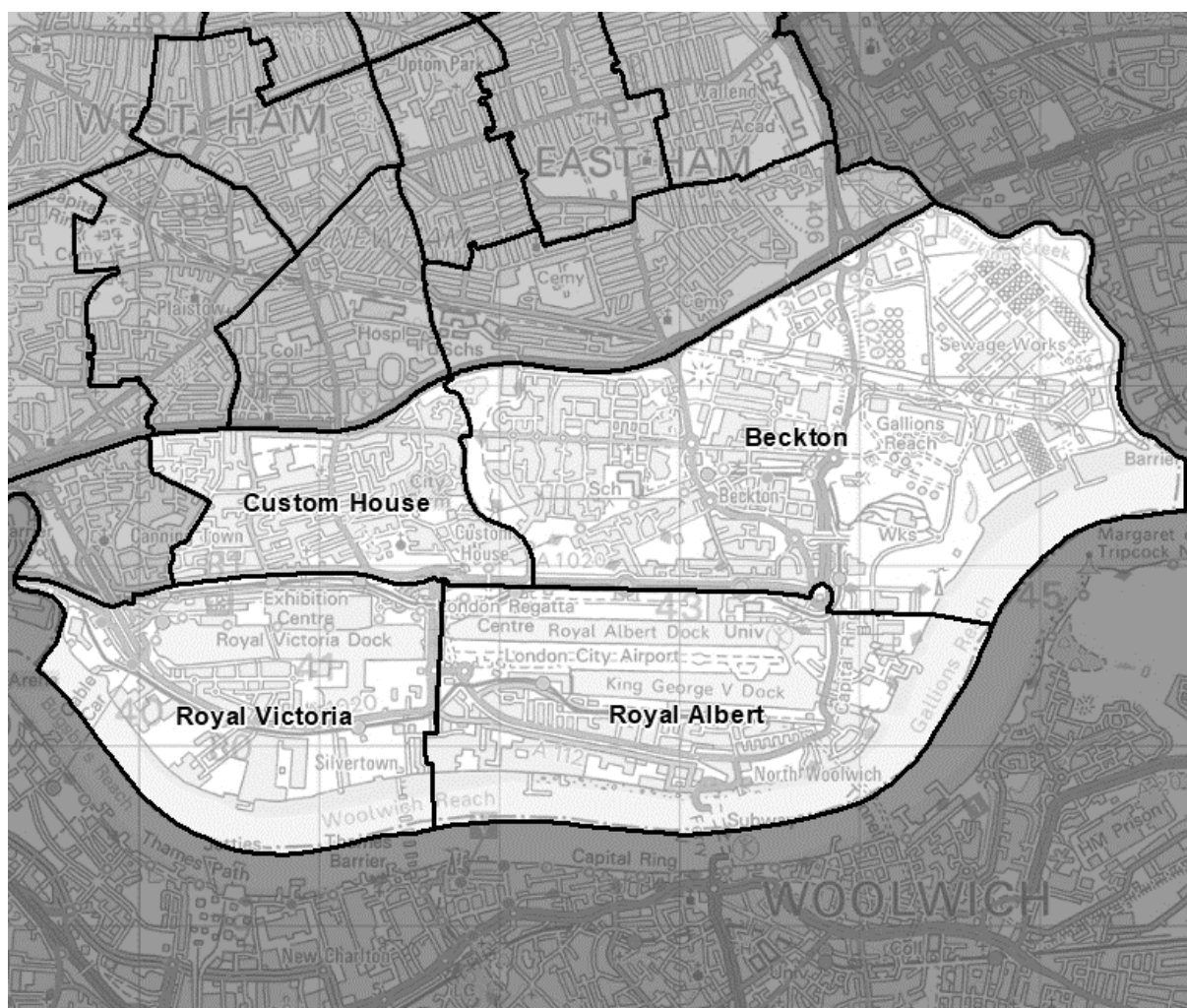
103 The borough-wide scheme from the resident proposed four wards in this area, including a Plaistow College ward which was forecast to have 13% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2025. CTN&PS Labour's proposed Plaistow South ward also produced poor electoral equality with 13% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2025.

104 For this reason, and as a consequence of decisions made in Canning Town, we are not adopting either of these proposals as part of our final recommendations. We therefore confirm the boundaries of our draft recommendations for this area as final. However, we note that some representations pointed out that our draft recommendations for Plaistow West ward included an area previously included in a Canning Town ward. Therefore, as part of our final recommendations, we are renaming this ward Plaistow West & Canning Town East ward.

105 Plaistow North and Plaistow South wards are forecast to have 4% and 3% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average, respectively. Plaistow West

& Canning Town East will have 1% fewer electors than the borough average per councillor in 2025. Each of these wards will be represented by three councillors.

Beckton, Custom House, Royal Albert and Royal Victoria



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Beckton	3	5%
Custom House	3	5%
Royal Albert	2	-3%
Royal Victoria	2	9%

Beckton, Royal Albert and Royal Victoria

106 We received seven submissions in addition to the borough-wide comments for this area. Two were in relation to our draft recommendations for Beckton and five were about Royal Albert and Royal Victoria wards.

107 A resident supported our draft recommendations which moved a number of electors west of Linton Gardens into Beckton ward. Another resident expressed concern about the effects of the new developments and population growth on the availability of resources and number of councillors for Beckton.

108 The Council expressed broad support for our ward boundaries and names in this area, noting the constraints and challenges presented by the A13, the docks and the River Thames, and in determining the level of development and electorate growth. It wanted us to keep the area ‘under active monitoring with a view to a further view before the next scheduled review’.

109 The resident’s borough-wide scheme welcomed the creation of a two-councillor ward around Royal Albert Dock although proposed a different name. The scheme included two wards broadly similar to our Beckton and Royal Albert wards, with a couple of differences. Under this proposal, all the developments south of Atlantis Avenue are united in the same ward by running the boundary from Royal Albert Way across the roundabout to Atlantis Avenue. The resident explained that the proposed scheme would ensure that residents to the south of this road do not have to cross into Beckton ward to access other parts of their ward. This is a valid consideration which we take into account when drawing up wards. However, we note that this change involves moving 1,280 electors into Royal Albert ward, producing poor electoral equality. Even with the adjustment we propose making to this ward (paragraph 111), this would still produce a ward with around 13% more electors per councillor than the average for Newham Council.

110 We also consider that the closest transport link for residents in this south-eastern corner of the borough is Gallions Reach station just outside this ward in Beckton ward. We view it to be likely that regardless of which ward they are in, electors here will look to use that station. Therefore, on balance, we consider that the boundary for Royal Albert ward creates a ward that reflects our statutory criteria.

111 The borough-wide proposal also amended the boundary between Royal Albert and Royal Victoria wards. Like the Royal Docks Residents’ Association and a number of residents, it pointed out that our draft recommendations split the Waterside Park residential development across Royal Albert and Royal Victoria wards. All argued that these developments were one community and as such should be represented by the same councillors. We have been persuaded by this view and have adopted the boundary proposed by the resident. This boundary unites the residential development in a single ward and also keeps the Thames Road Industrial Estate united in a ward.

112 The resident also proposed two wards to the west of our Royal Albert ward: a West Silvertown ward and a Royal Victoria & Limmo Peninsula ward. The later included the northern part of our Royal Victoria ward as well as the area west of Silvertown Way for which we had received evidence to include it in a Canning Town ward. Therefore, we did not adopt the proposal for these wards.

113 The Royal Docks Residents’ Association and a couple of residents asked that we rename Royal Albert and Royal Victoria wards Royal Docks East and Royal Docks West respectively. The Residents’ Association argued that this would be in

line with the names of the Newham residents Parking Zones and the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone. We note that these are names based on the existing Royal Docks ward and not the future wards.

114 The resident proposed Royal Albert ward be named King George V, stating that this dock is more central than Royal Albert Dock or station. We note that many stations after which wards are named are not necessarily centrally placed. We are satisfied that Royal Albert is sufficiently well known and identified in the area and therefore do not propose any changes to the name of the ward.

115 Therefore, we confirm our draft recommendations for Beckton ward as final. It is a three-councillor ward forecast to have 5% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2025. Our Royal Albert and Royal Victoria wards both have two-councillors forecast to have 3% fewer and 9% more electors per councillor respectively, by 2025.

Custom House

116 Aside from borough-wide proposals and comments, we did not receive any additional submissions which specifically referred to our draft recommendations for Custom House.

117 With regards to borough-wide comments, we received support for our draft recommendations from the Council. The resident's scheme proposed a ward with similar boundaries, but it reinstated the existing western boundary which ran all the way along Butchers Road. This produced a 22% forecast variance for our Canning Town South ward; therefore, we were unable to adopt this boundary as part of our final recommendations.

118 The only other submissions which impacted on this ward were those relating to Canning Town, the boundaries of which we have not adopted (paragraphs 94-95).

119 Therefore, we confirm our draft recommendations for Custom House ward as final. It is a three-councillor ward forecast to have 5% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2025.

Conclusions

120 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Newham, referencing the 2018 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	
	2018	2025
Number of councillors	66	66
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	3,131	3,910
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	13	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Final recommendations

Newham should be made up of 66 councillors serving 24 wards representing six two-councillor wards and 18 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 Newham. You can also view our final recommendations for Newham on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

121 We have now completed our review of Newham. 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

122 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 Newham

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Beckton	3	9,713	3,238	3%	12,321	4,107	5%
2	Boleyn	3	8,096	2,699	-14%	10,905	3,635	-7%
3	Canning Town North	3	6,636	2,212	-29%	12,403	4,134	6%
4	Canning Town South	3	4,130	1,377	-56%	12,633	4,211	8%
5	Custom House	3	11,113	3,704	18%	12,327	4,109	5%
6	East Ham	3	9,194	3,065	-2%	11,495	3,832	-2%
7	East Ham South	3	10,581	3,527	13%	11,666	3,889	-1%
8	Forest Gate North	2	7,036	3,518	12%	7,943	3,972	2%
9	Forest Gate South	3	11,012	3,671	17%	12,170	4,057	4%
10	Green Street East	3	9,698	3,233	3%	10,947	3,649	-7%
11	Green Street West	3	9,503	3,168	1%	10,787	3,596	-8%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Little Ilford	3	10,982	3,661	17%	12,294	4,098	5%
13 Manor Park	3	9,864	3,288	5%	11,193	3,731	-5%
14 Maryland	2	7,796	3,898	24%	8,573	4,287	10%
15 Plaistow North	3	10,248	3,416	9%	11,293	3,764	-4%
16 Plaistow South	3	8,091	2,697	-14%	11,365	3,788	-3%
17 Plaistow West & Canning Town East	3	10,161	3,387	8%	11,646	3,882	-1%
18 Plashet	2	7,091	3,546	13%	7,957	3,979	2%
19 Royal Albert	2	5,519	2,760	-12%	7,565	3,783	-3%
20 Royal Victoria	2	5,840	2,920	-7%	8,548	4,274	9%
21 Stratford	3	9,259	3,086	-1%	11,660	3,887	-1%
22 Stratford Olympic Park	2	5,016	2,508	-20%	7,914	3,957	1%
23 Wall End	3	10,333	3,444	10%	11,610	3,870	-1%
24 West Ham	3	9,741	3,247	4%	10,841	3,614	-8%

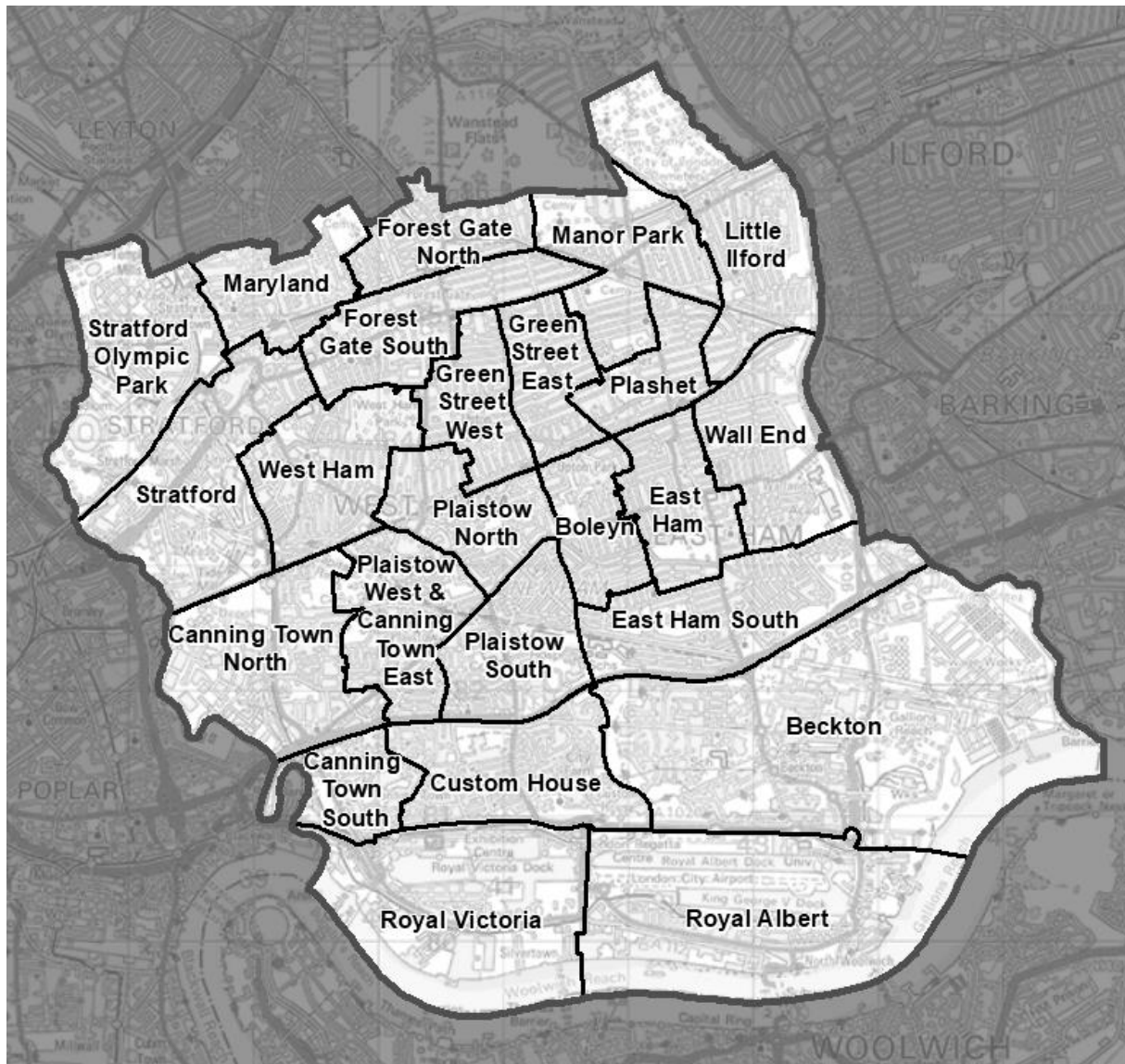
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Totals	66	206,653	-	-	258,056	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,131	-	-	3,910	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Newham.

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/newham

Appendix C

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

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

Submissions received in response to our draft recommendations

Local Authority

- Newham Council

Political Groups

- Canning Town North & Plaistow South Labour Party
- Newham, Barking & Dagenham Liberal Democrats
- Stratford & New Town Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor K. Clark, Councillor M. Dawood & Councillor S. Patel (Newham Council)
- Councillor A. Griffiths (Newham Council)
- Councillor W. Vaughan (Newham Council)

Members of Parliament

- Stephen Timms MP (East Ham)

London Assembly

- Unmesh Desai AM (City & East)

Local Organisations

- Manor Park Islamic Cultural Centre
- Maryland Community Group (2)
- Plaistow Christian Fellowship
- Royal Docks Residents' Association (2)
- Save Manor Park Campaign

Local Residents

- 92 local residents

Petitions

- Dunbar Road residents
- Monega Road residents
- Skelton Road residents
- Woodgrange Estate (Claremont, Hampton, Osborne and Windsor roads) residents

Submissions received in response to our further draft recommendations

Local Authority

- Newham Council

Councillors

- Councillor K. Clark, Councillor M. Dawood & Councillor S. Patel (Newham Council)
- Councillor M. Patel, Councillor T. Rahman & Councillor W. Vaughan (Newham Council)

Local Organisations

- Quwwat-ul-Islam Society
- Manor Park Islamic Cultural Centre
- Maryland Community Group

Local Residents

- 68 local residents

Petitions

- Residents of Chaucer, Gower, Sylvan & Wyatt roads & MacArthur Close

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 (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.

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