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Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body that conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. The broad purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors, and the names, number and boundaries of wards or divisions – for a specific local authority. We are conducting an electoral review of South Ribble Borough Council ('the Council') to provide improved levels of electoral equality across the authority.

The review aims to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same. The Commission commenced the review in February 2013. This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
26 February 2013	Consultation on council size
28 May 2013	Submission of proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
6 August 2013	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
15 October 2013	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
7 January 2014	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Draft recommendations

We proposed a council size of 50 members comprising 19 two-member and four three-member wards. During the consultation period on a warding pattern for South Ribble, we received eight submissions. We received borough-wide submissions from South Ribble Borough Council and the Labour Group on the Council. We also received submissions from three local residents and three borough councillors. All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Our draft recommendations for South Ribble sought to reflect the evidence of community identities received while ensuring good electoral equality and providing for effective and convenient local government.

Submissions received

During the consultation on the draft recommendations for South Ribble, we received 18 submissions. These included submissions from South Ribble Borough Council, the Labour Group on the Council, the Labour group on Penwortham Town Council, South Ribble Liberal Democrats, three borough councillors, two parish and town councils, a group of town councillors (which sent in two submissions) and seven members of the public.

All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Analysis and final recommendations

Electorate figures

South Ribble Borough Council ('the Council') submitted electorate forecasts for 2019, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2014. This is prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act'). These forecasts projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 9% over this period. This growth was largely due to developments across the borough.

Following publication of our draft recommendations, we did not receive any comments on the electorate figures. Having considered the information provided by the Council, we are content that the Council's projected figures are the best available at the present time. These figures form the basis of the final recommendations.

General analysis

We have considered all submissions received during the consultation on our draft recommendations. As a result, we have amended some of our proposed wards in Farington, Walton-le-Dale, Bamber Bridge and Leyland. We have also made three changes to ward names in the borough.

Our final recommendations for South Ribble are that the Council should have 50 members representing 19 two-member and four three-member wards. None of the wards will have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the borough by 2019. Having taken into account the evidence we have received during consultation, we believe that our final recommendations will ensure good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and providing for effective and convenient local government.

What happens next?

We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for South Ribble Borough Council. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament and will be implemented subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. The Order will provide for new electoral arrangements which will come into force at the next elections for South Ribble Borough Council in 2015.

We are grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to the review through expressing their views and advice. The full report is available to download at www.lgbce.org.uk

You can also view our final recommendations for South Ribble Borough Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

1 Introduction

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review South Ribble Borough Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the authority.

2 We wrote to South Ribble Borough Council as well as other interested parties inviting the submission of proposals on warding arrangements for the Council. The submissions received during the consultation on warding patterns informed our *Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for South Ribble Borough Council*, which were published on 15 October 2013. Consultation on our draft recommendations took place until 6 January 2014.

What is an electoral review?

3 The main aim of an electoral review is to try to ensure 'electoral equality', which means that all councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors. Our objective is to make recommendations that will improve electoral equality, while also trying to reflect communities in the area and provide for effective and convenient local government.

4 Our three main considerations – equalising the number of electors each councillor represents; reflecting community identity; and providing for effective and convenient local government – are set out in legislation¹ and our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why are we conducting a review in South Ribble?

5 We decided to conduct this review because based on December 2011 electorate data provided by the Council, 33% of the borough's wards currently have a variance of more than 10%. Of these, Farington East ward has an electoral variance of -26%.

How will the recommendations affect you?

6 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward and, in some instances, which parish or town council wards you vote in. Your ward name may change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. If you live in a parish, the name or boundaries of that parish will not change as a result of our recommendations.

¹ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

7 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Members of the Commission are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)
Professor Colin Mellors (Deputy Chair)
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
Sir Tony Redmond
Dr Colin Sinclair CBE
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill
Director of Reviews: Archie Gall

2 Analysis and final recommendations

8 We have now finalised our recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for South Ribble Borough Council.

9 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for South Ribble is to achieve a level of electoral fairness – that is, each elector’s vote being worth the same as another’s. In doing so we must have regard to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009,² with the need to:

- secure effective and convenient local government
- provide for equality of representation
- reflect the identities and interests of local communities, in particular
 - the desirability of arriving at boundaries that are easily identifiable
 - the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties

10 Legislation also states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the date of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward at the end of the review.

11 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum. We therefore recommend strongly that in formulating proposals for us to consider, local authorities and other interested parties should also try to keep variances to a minimum, making adjustments to reflect relevant factors such as community identity and interests. As mentioned above, we aim to recommend a scheme which provides improved electoral fairness over a five-year period.

12 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different divisions or wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division or ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

13 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of South Ribble Borough Council or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. The proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries and we are not therefore able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

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

Submissions received

14 Prior to, and during, the initial stages of the review, we visited South Ribble Borough Council ('the Council') and met with members and officers. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance. We received 18 submissions during the consultation on the draft recommendations, including a borough-wide scheme from the Council. The submission from South Ribble Liberal Democrats also referred to all areas of the borough. We also received submissions from South Ribble Labour Group, two parish and town councils, a group of parish councillors (which sent two submissions), three borough councillors and seven local residents.

15 All of the submissions may be inspected at both our offices and those of the Council. All representations received can also be viewed on our website at www.lqbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

16 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2019, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2014. This is prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act'). These forecasts were broken down to polling borough level and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 9% to 2019.

17 The Council and Labour Group had both proposed warding patterns using slightly different electorate forecasts to those originally compiled. The original electorate forecasts suggested a total electorate by 2019 of 93,825. The forecasts used for compiling both borough-wide warding patterns suggested an electorate of 93,910 by 2019. When investigating the differences between the warding patterns, it was evident that the forecasts used by the Council in compiling its warding pattern were more accurate as they had not only broken the forecasts down by polling district but also by individual streets.

18 Having considered the information provided by the Council, we are satisfied that the projected figures used in compiling the borough-wide warding patterns are the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis of our final recommendations.

Council size

19 South Ribble Borough Council currently has 55 councillors elected from 27 borough wards. During the preliminary stage of the review, we met with Group Leaders and Full Council. The Council subsequently made a proposal for a council size of 50, a reduction of five. In support of its proposal, the Council argued that it sought to retain the current governance arrangements and considered this would be sustainable under a council size of 50. The Council considered each area of its governance arrangements and was of the view that a larger decrease or any increase could not be justified. The Council also considered that a council size of fewer than 50 would not enable members to be effective in undertaking the representational role, particularly the envisaged workloads resulting from the My

Neighbourhood Areas.

20 Having considered the evidence presented by the Council, we were of the view that the evidence supported the case that the number of councillors could be reduced to 50. We determined to consult publicly on this council size. This consultation ended on 8 April 2013.

21 We received 19 submissions during the consultation on council size. These were from the Borough Council, Hutton Parish Council and 17 residents.

22 We carefully considered the information provided during the consultation period. The submissions received largely favoured a reduction in council size and many supported a council size of 50. We received two proposals for alternative council sizes of 25 and 27. However, little evidence was provided to support these alternative council sizes.

23 We were therefore minded to adopt a council size of 50 elected members as the basis of this electoral review. A consultation on warding arrangements began on 28 May 2013 and ended on 5 August 2013.

24 During the consultation on warding arrangements, we received no representations relating to council size. Therefore, our draft recommendations for South Ribble Borough Council were based on a council size of 50.

25 During consultation on the draft recommendations we received no submissions concerning council size. We therefore confirm that our final recommendations are based on a council size of 50.

Electoral fairness

26 Electoral fairness, in the sense of each elector in a local authority having a vote of equal weight when it comes to the election of councillors, is a fundamental democratic principle. It is expected that our recommendations will provide for electoral fairness, reflect communities in the area, and provide for effective and convenient local government.

27 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor. The borough average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the borough (86,045 in 2012 and 93,910 by 2019) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council, 50 under our final recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our final recommendations is 1,721 in 2012 and 1,878 by 2019.

28 Under our final recommendations, all of our proposed wards will have electoral variances of less than 10% from the average for the borough by 2019. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for South Ribble.

General analysis

29 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, we received 18 submissions. Two of the submissions covered the whole borough. These were from South Ribble Borough Council and the South Ribble Liberal Democrats. The remainder of submissions focused on specific parts of the borough.

30 The Council agreed with our draft recommendations in some areas of the borough, but proposed several amendments to ward boundaries, most notably in Leyland, Walton-le-Dale and Bamber Bridge. These amendments were to provide for better electoral equality and to reflect proposed housing developments. The Council also proposed changes to ward names in some areas.

31 We also received submissions from South Ribble Labour Group and South Ribble Liberal Democrats. South Ribble Labour Group generally agreed with our draft recommendations, but proposed some minor boundary amendments between Leyland and Farington, as well as supporting the Council's proposed amendment to the boundary between the Bamber Bridge East and Coupe Green & Gregson Lane wards. They also suggested some changes to ward names in Leyland.

32 The South Ribble Liberal Democrats supported our recommendations throughout the borough, but agreed with the Council's proposals to amend the boundary between our proposed wards of Farington East and Turpin Green. They also suggested some ward name changes in Leyland, Bamber Bridge and in the Western Parishes area.

33 The Labour Group of councillors on Penwortham Town Council supported our proposed wards for the town, but suggested amendments to the ward names. The Group also opposed the Borough Council's proposal for a fifth borough ward in Penwortham.

34 Our final recommendations propose amendments to ward boundaries in Walton-le-Dale and Bamber Bridge, as well as between Farington and Leyland. We have also decided to change three ward names.

35 Our final recommendations would result in four three-member wards and 19 two-member wards. We consider our proposals provide for good levels of electoral equality while reflecting our understanding of community identities and interests in South Ribble. None of the wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the district average.

Electoral arrangements

36 This section of the report details the submissions we have received, our consideration of them, and our final recommendations for each area of South Ribble. The following areas of the authority are considered in turn:

- Leyland (pages 9–10)
- Central (page 11)

- Eastern (pages 11–12)
- Penwortham (pages 12–13)
- Western Parishes (page 13)

37 Details of the final recommendations are set out in Table A1 on pages 20–2 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Leyland

38 Our draft recommendations for Leyland were largely based on the proposals put forward by the Labour Group on the Council. Our proposed Buckshaw ward was different from the Labour Group's. Our proposed wards in Leyland were two-member Bannister Brook, Broadfield, Buckshaw & Worden, Earnshaw Bridge, Moss Side, Turpin Green and Wade Hall wards. These wards would have 3% more, 4% more, 2% fewer, 4% more, equal to the average, 5% fewer and 1% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019, respectively.

39 In our draft recommendations report, we invited comments on our proposed Buckshaw & Worden ward as our proposed ward was different from those promoted by the Council and Labour Group. In response to the consultation, the submissions from the Council and the Labour Group both supported our proposed ward in this area. Therefore, we have decided to adopt it as part of our final recommendations.

40 The Council's submission suggested some changes to our proposed wards in Leyland. The Council proposed amendments to the boundaries in the north of Leyland, in order to reflect a new housing development off Carr Lane, and to provide more identifiable boundaries between wards in Leyland and Farington.

41 The Council identified that our proposed boundary between the wards of Bannister Brook and Turpin Green with Farington East ward would run through the middle of a proposed housing development. It suggested amending the boundary to run along the southern edge of this development, and include it in Farington East ward to reflect the proposed road access that this development would have. It was also argued that including all of the development in one ward would better reflect community identity. We consider that this is a sensible amendment to make to our draft recommendations and so we are adopting it as part of our final recommendations.

42 The Council also proposed that a second, smaller development adjacent to the development referred to above be included in its proposed St Ambrose ward (we had named this ward as Turpin Green as part of our draft recommendations). We understand that this development will be accessed from Northgate. After discussions with the Council, we determined that this development is unlikely to be fully occupied by the time of elections in May 2015. In order to include this development in St Ambrose ward, it would be necessary to create a parish ward as the development is being built in Farington parish. We were concerned that including this development in a ward with Leyland would result in creating a parish ward that is likely to have a very small number or potentially no electors by the time of elections in 2015. We consider this would not provide for effective and convenient local government. Therefore, we

have decided to include this area in Farington East ward as part of our final recommendations.

43 To the east of these developments, we are adopting another of the Council's proposals as part of our final recommendations. This is to include Convent Close in Farington East ward. Convent Close is off Lever House Lane, which we had included in Farington East ward as part of our draft recommendations. Including Convent Close in this ward would reflect the communication links in the area. The Labour Group and South Ribble Liberal Democrats also supported this proposal.

44 The Council proposed amending our proposed boundary between Farington West ward and the Leyland wards of Earnshaw Bridge and Broadfield. The Council proposed that the ward follow the River Lostock and, further to the east, would run north to include Parish Gardens in its proposed Leyland Central ward (named Bannister Brook in our draft recommendations). Given the location of the parish boundary, the Council's proposal would require the creation of a parish ward with only 46 electors. We consider that this is too low a number of electors for this parish ward to be viable. Therefore, we have decided not to adopt the Council's suggested boundary here.

45 Following our decision to modify the northern boundaries of some of the wards in Leyland, in order to provide for good electoral equality, we are proposing to amend the boundary between our Turpin Green and Bannister Brook wards. The amendment means that the boundary would run along Golden Hill Lane, and include Rothwell Court, Pearfield and Hill Walk in Turpin Green ward. This would result in our wards of Bannister Brook and Turpin Green having 2% fewer and 8% fewer electors than the average for the borough by 2019, respectively.

46 We have chosen not to adopt the Council's other proposals in Leyland, which split our proposed Earnshaw Bridge ward in to two single-member wards. We considered that the Council's proposal to run a boundary along Leyland Lane would divide the community.

47 We are confirming as final our proposed Moss Side ward, which was supported by the Council. The Council did suggest amending the name for this ward to Moss Side & Midge Hall, but we are confirming the name Moss Side as final.

48 However, we have decided to make some amendments to ward names in Leyland. These changes are based on submissions received during the consultation and would better reflect communities. Our proposed Bannister Brook, Turpin Green and Wade Hall will instead be named Leyland Central, St Ambrose and Seven Stars, respectively.

49 In summary, our final recommendations for Leyland are the two-member wards of Broadfield, Buckshaw & Worden, Earnshaw Bridge, Leyland Central, Moss Side, Seven Stars and St Ambrose. These wards would have 4% more, 2% fewer, 4% more, 2% fewer, equal to the average, 1% more and 8% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019, respectively.

Central

50 Our draft recommendations for this area were for two-member Farington East and Farington West wards, and a three-member Lostock Hall ward. These wards would have 5% fewer, 1% fewer and 7% more electors per councillor than the district average by 2019, respectively.

51 As mentioned above in paragraph 41, we are proposing an amendment to the boundary of Farington East to reflect the location of a housing development. We are not making any changes to our proposed Farington West ward and are adopting this ward as part of our final recommendations.

52 The Council suggested an amendment to the boundary between our proposed Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale West wards. The Council proposed that the area of housing development off The Cawsey be included in Walton-le-Dale West ward. It suggested that this area 'would have a closer relationship with Walton-le-Dale than Lostock Hall'. The Council also said that a road linking this new development with Lostock Hall has been given planning approval, and so would provide a link to the area.

53 The Council proposed another change to the boundary between these wards. It suggested that the area of housing off Todd Lane North, including Highfield Avenue and Lyndale Avenue, should be included in Lostock Hall ward. The Council's submission included the views of Councillor Hughes (Tardy Gate) who argued that this area is 'integral' to the Lostock Hall area. Councillor O'Hare (Walton-le-Dale) also supported this amendment to the draft recommendations.

54 We believe that there is a strong case to amend our draft recommendations in this area, and are therefore adopting the Council's proposed amendments as part of our final recommendations. We consider that these modifications would better reflect community identities. Our Farington East, Farington West, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale West wards would have 2% more, 1% fewer, 5% more and 2% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019, respectively.

Eastern

55 Our draft recommendations for this area were for two-member Bamber Bridge East, Bamber Bridge West, Coupe Green & Gregson Lane, Samlesbury & Walton, Walton-le-Dale East wards. The wards would have 5% more, 9% fewer, 3% more, 8% fewer, and 7% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019, respectively.

56 The Council proposed several amendments to our draft recommendations in this area. The Council noted in its submission that our proposed Coupe Green & Gregson Lane ward did not take into account a development in this area. We had understood that this development was taking place to the west of the M6 and had included it in our Bamber Bridge East ward. During consultation on the draft recommendations, the Council notified us that the development was going to be built to the east of the M6. Accordingly, this would result in our Coupe Green & Gregson

Lane ward having a variance greater than 10% from the borough average by 2019.

57 The Council reiterated its proposed ward boundary between Coupe Green & Gregson Lane and Bamber Bridge East. The boundary would run south down the M6, east along the railway line, and then south down the M61. In the northern part of its proposed Bamber Bridge East ward, the Council proposed that the boundary should run along School Lane, before going south down Brindle Road to move Walton-le-Dale Arts College and High School out of the Bamber Bridge East ward and include this area in the Walton-le-Dale East ward. Councillor Ball (Bamber Bridge North) stated that she agreed with the proposed amendments in this area.

58 The Council also proposed an amendment to the boundary between Walton-le-Dale East and Walton-le-Dale West. It proposed that Chorley Lane and Hunters Lodge be included in the Walton-le-Dale East ward. This modification improves electoral equality in both the wards. We are adopting the Council's proposals in this area as part of our final recommendations.

59 The final amendment proposed by the Council in this area was to include Danes Drive and Danesway, and some properties on Duddle Lane, in Bamber Bridge West rather than Walton-le-Dale East ward in order to provide for a more recognisable boundary in this area. We consider this boundary would be clearly identifiable and have decided to adopt the proposal as part of our final recommendations.

60 We recognise that we have proposed several changes in this area. However, we consider that the modified warding pattern provides for a good balance between the statutory criteria, particularly as the modifications reflect the evidence received relating to community identity and provide for good electoral equality.

61 Our final recommendations for this area are for two-member Bamber Bridge East, Bamber Bridge West, Coupe Green & Gregson Lane, Samlesbury & Walton and Walton-le-Dale East wards. These wards would have 6% more, 4% fewer, 2% more, 8% fewer, and 5% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average, respectively.

Penwortham

62 Our draft recommendations for Penwortham were for two-member Broad Oak and Charnock wards, and three-member Howick & Priory and Middleforth wards. These wards would have 2% more, 3% more, 4% more and 5% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019, respectively.

63 The Council reiterated its proposal for a single-member Kingsfold ward and a two-member Middleforth ward. Under our draft recommendations, these areas were included in the three-member Middleforth ward. The Council argued that Kingsfold is a distinct community and ought to have its own representative.

64 The Labour Group on Penwortham Town Council supported our proposal for four wards in Penwortham, but did suggest some name changes. Councillors Martin and Patten (both Kingsfold ward) supported our proposals for the wards in this area,

and each also proposed different ward names from those proposed as part of our draft recommendations.

65 We are confirming as final our ward boundaries in Penwortham. We do not consider that dividing our Middleforth ward would better reflect community identities. We have also decided not to amend the ward names proposed as part of our draft recommendations for the Penwortham area. We consider that the evidence received was not persuasive to suggest why an alternative ward name would better reflect community identity. Therefore, we have decided to confirm our ward names in this part of the district as final.

66 Our final recommendations for Penwortham are for two-member Broad Oak and Charnock wards, and three-member Howick & Priory and Middleforth wards. These wards would have 2% more, 3% more, 4% more and 5% more electors per councillor than the district average by 2019, respectively.

Western Parishes

67 Our draft recommendations for this area were for two-member Hoole and New Longton & Hutton East wards, and a three-member Longton & Hutton West ward. These wards would have 6% fewer, 5% more and 7% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2019, respectively.

68 We adopted the Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations in this part of the district, with the exception of a boundary change between Longton & Hutton West and New Longton & Hutton East. In response to the consultation on our draft recommendations, the Council stated that it accepted this amendment. We received no other submissions commenting on the warding pattern in this part of the district. We therefore confirm these wards as final.

69 The Council suggested that we re-name our proposed Hoole ward as Little Hoole & Much Hoole, reflecting the names of the parishes comprising the ward. This change was also supported by a local resident. Having considered the evidence we are not persuaded that evidence of sufficient weight has been received to include this ward name as part of our final recommendations.

70 Our final recommendations in the Western Parishes area are for two-member Hoole and New Longton & Hutton East wards, and a three-member Longton & Hutton West ward. These wards would have 6% fewer, 5% more and 7% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019, respectively.

Conclusions

71 Table 1 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2012 and 2019 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2012	2019
Number of councillors	50	50
Number of electoral wards	23	23
Average number of electors per councillor	1,721	1,878
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	7	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

South Ribble Borough Council should comprise 50 councillors serving 23 wards as detailed and named in Table A1 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Parish electoral arrangements

72 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

73 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, South Ribble Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

74 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parish of Farington.

Final recommendation

Farington Parish Council should return eight parish councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Farington Central (returning four members), Farington East (returning three members) and Farington West (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

75 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parish of Hutton.

Final recommendation

Hutton Parish Council should return seven parish councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Hutton East (returning three members) and Hutton West (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

76 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parish of Longton.

Final recommendation

Longton Parish Council should return 12 parish councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Longton East (returning four members) and Longton West (returning eight members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

77 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parish of Penwortham.

Final recommendation

Penwortham Parish Council should return 18 parish councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Broad Oak (returning four members), Charnock (returning four members), Howick & Priory (returning five members) and Middleforth (returning five members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 What happens next?

78 We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for South Ribble Borough Council. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements which will come into force at the next elections for South Ribble Borough Council in 2015.

Equalities

79 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

4 Mapping

Final recommendations for South Ribble

80 The following map illustrates our proposed ward boundaries for South Ribble Borough Council:

- **Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for South Ribble Borough Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for South Ribble Borough Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Appendix A

Table A1: Final recommendations for South Ribble Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bamber Bridge East	2	3,323	1,662	-3%	3,973	1,987	6%
2	Bamber Bridge West	2	3,700	1,850	8%	3,595	1,798	-4%
3	Broad Oak	2	3,826	1,913	11%	3,830	1,915	2%
4	Broadfield	2	3,611	1,806	5%	3,904	1,952	4%
5	Buckshaw & Worden	2	3,222	1,611	-6%	3,679	1,840	-2%
6	Charnock	2	2,994	1,497	-13%	3,882	1,941	3%
7	Coupe Green & Gregson Lane	2	3,629	1,815	5%	3,813	1,907	2%
8	Earnshaw Bridge	2	3,717	1,859	8%	3,908	1,954	4%
9	Farington East	2	3,016	1,508	-12%	3,824	1,912	2%
10	Farington West	2	3,039	1,520	-12%	3,707	1,854	-1%

Table A1 (cont.): Final recommendations for South Ribble Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11	Hoole	2	3,303	1,652	-4%	3,547	1,774	-6%
12	Howick & Priory	3	5,842	1,947	13%	5,865	1,955	4%
13	Leyland Central	2	3,793	1,897	10%	3,682	1,841	-2%
14	Longton & Hutton West	3	4,790	1,597	-7%	5,217	1,739	-7%
15	Lostock Hall	3	5,093	1,698	-1%	5,919	1,973	5%
16	Middleforth	3	5,760	1,920	12%	5,925	1,975	5%
17	Moss Side	2	3,270	1,635	-5%	3,752	1,876	0%
18	New Longton & Hutton East	2	3,734	1,867	8%	3,943	1,972	5%
19	Samlesbury & Walton	2	3,252	1,626	-6%	3,450	1,725	-8%
20	Seven Stars	2	3,333	1,667	-3%	3,787	1,894	1%
21	St Ambrose	2	3,275	1,638	-5%	3,453	1,727	-8%
22	Walton-le-Dale East	2	2,843	1,422	-17%	3,573	1,787	-5%

Table A1 (cont.): Final recommendations for South Ribble Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
23	Walton-le-Dale West	2	3,680	1,840	7%	3,682	1,841	-2%
	Totals	50	86,045	-	-	93,910	-	-
	Averages	-	-	1,721	-	-	1,878	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by South Ribble Borough Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each 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

Glossary and abbreviations

AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)	A landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it
Constituent areas	The geographical areas that make up any one ward or division, expressed in parishes or existing wards or divisions, or parts of either
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 imbalance	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

Local Government Boundary Commission for England or LGBCE	The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for undertaking electoral reviews. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England assumed the functions of the Boundary Committee for England in April 2010
Multi-member ward or division	A ward or division represented by more than one councillor and usually not more than three councillors
National Park	The 13 National Parks in England and Wales were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 and can be found at www.nationalparks.gov.uk
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
PER (or periodic electoral review)	A review of the electoral arrangements of all local authorities in England, undertaken periodically. The last programme of PERs was undertaken between 1996 and 2004 by the Boundary Commission for England and its predecessor, the now-defunct Local Government Commission for England
Political management arrangements	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enabled local authorities in England to modernise their decision making process. Councils could choose from two broad categories; a directly elected mayor and cabinet or a cabinet with a leader
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 borough 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 borough or borough council
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