



New electoral arrangements for St Helens Council Final Recommendations

June 2021

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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 there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward.

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 St Helens?

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

9 St Helens should be represented by 48 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 St Helens should have 18 wards, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; one (Billinge & Seneley Green) will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for St Helens.

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, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

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

Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 August 2020	Number of councillors decided
25 August 2020	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 November 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 February 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
12 April 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 June 2021	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

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

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

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

	2019	2026
Electorate of St Helens	140,381	144,813
Number of councillors	48	48
Average number of electors per councillor	2,925	3,017

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 but one of our proposed wards for St Helens are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2026, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2021. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 3% by 2026.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

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.

Number of councillors

24 St Helens Council currently has 48 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same 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 48 councillors: for example, 48 one-councillor wards, 16 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 St Helens Council currently elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years). However, the Council has passed a motion under Section 35 of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to move to all-out elections, starting in 2022 and electing the whole council every four years thereafter. In an all-out cycle, we can recommend wards of one, two, or three members, in order to best reflect the statutory criteria. We are recommending 13 three-councillor wards, four two-councillor wards and one one-councillor ward.

27 We received no submissions providing evidence about the overall number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 48-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 47 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one borough-wide proposal from the St Helens Borough Labour Group. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

29 The borough-wide scheme submitted to us provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for St Helens. We carefully considered this pattern of wards, and considered that it provided for good level of electoral equality in most areas of the authority, and generally used clear and identifiable boundaries. We used this borough-wide scheme as the basis of our draft recommendations.

30 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received from other respondents who provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals received did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

31 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a detailed 'virtual' tour of St Helens. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the draft recommendations.

Draft recommendations consultation

32 We received 68 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a significant number of submissions objecting to our proposals for the boundary between Rainford and Windle wards. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Sutton, and our proposals for the names of various wards across the borough.

33 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to the wards in the Windle and Rainford areas based on the submissions received. We also make changes to the boundaries between Thatto Heath, Eccleston and West Park wards together with changes to our proposed names for three wards.

Final recommendations

34 Our final recommendations are for 13 three-councillor wards, four two-councillor wards and one one-councillor ward. 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.

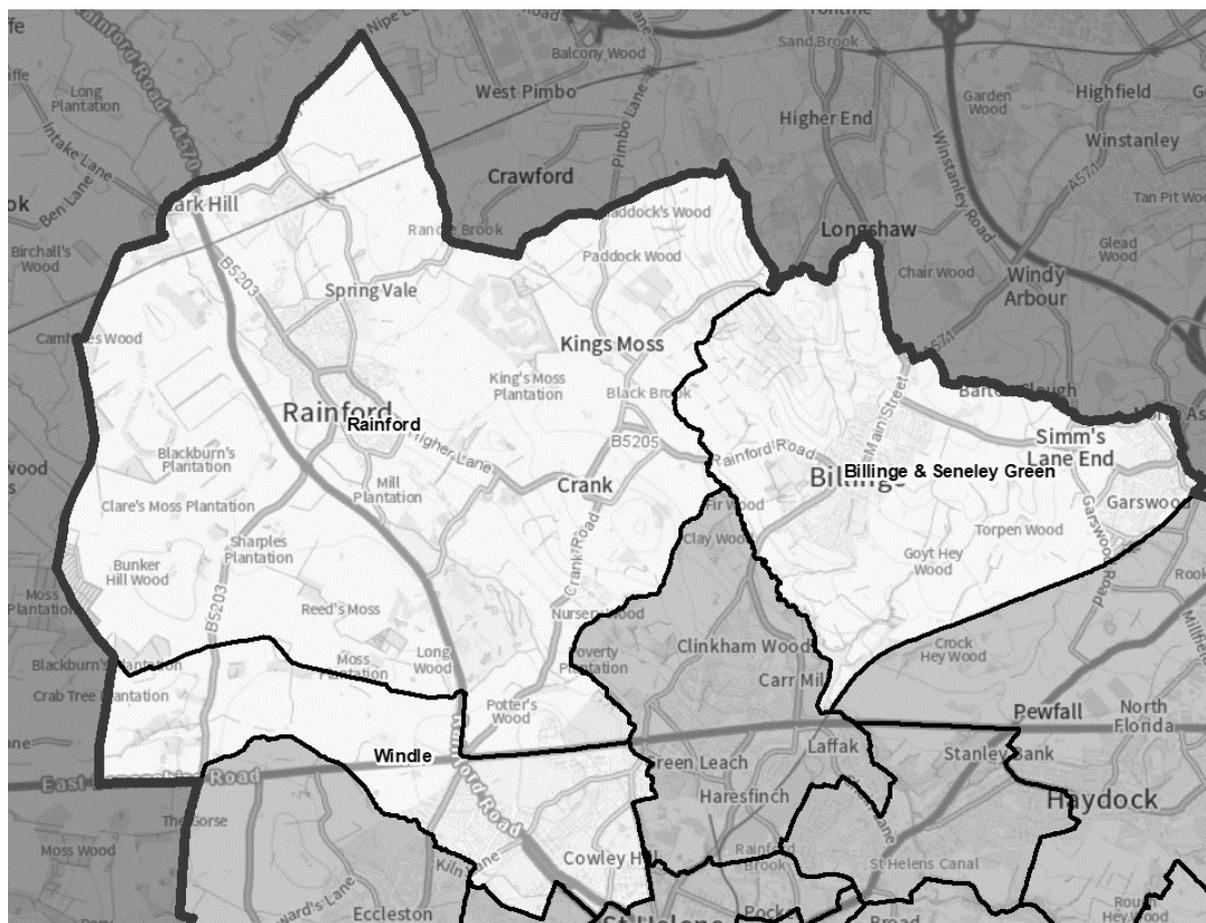
35 The tables and maps on pages 8–20 detail our final recommendations for each area of St Helens. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Northern St Helens



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Billinge & Seneley Green	3	0%
Rainford	2	14%
Windle	3	-4%

Billinge & Seneley Green

37 We received no submissions specifically discussing our proposals for this ward, which is the same as the existing ward and comprises Billinge and Seneley Green parishes. The ward offers excellent electoral equality, and we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Rainford and Windle

38 We received a large number of submissions objecting to our proposal to move a section of Rainford parish, along St Helens Road, into Windle ward. Councillor David Baines, Councillor Allan Jones, Rainford Parish Council and a number of local residents all objected to this proposal that we had recommended as part of our draft recommendations in order to improve the level of electoral equality in Rainford ward. A significant number of submissions made it clear that the community identity of this

area lay towards Rainford, rather than Windle. This view was supported by councillors from both of the wards in question, and by Rainford Parish Council.

39 Residents in this area cited features such as ‘an incredibly strong village identity’, ‘a village where we are actively involved’, and that ‘children and grandchildren have become involved in local associations’. Some submissions from residents also cited factors, such as the potential effect on property prices, insurance premiums, or the inconvenience of changing address, which are not matters that we can consider.

40 We have carefully considered the submissions in this area, mindful of the fact that restoring the St Helens Road area to Rainford ward would result in Rainford ward having 14% more electors per councillor than the average across the borough – beyond what we consider to be good electoral equality.

41 We considered moving the boundary between these two wards to the Rainford parish boundary east of the A570 Rainford by-pass. However, this would result in a few electors on either side of Crank Road being placed in a ward across the A580 East Lancashire Road in a way that we do not consider reflects community identity, while not making a meaningful improvement to the electoral equality. We therefore have not adopted this possibility.

42 We also considered reverting to the existing ward boundary, which places the rural section of Windle parish, north of the A580 in Rainford ward. However, this does not offer better electoral equality, leaving Rainford with 17% more electors than average as a two-member ward, or 21% fewer electors than average as a three-member ward. We have therefore rejected this possibility.

43 Given the strength of the evidence of community identity provided, we are persuaded to change our draft recommendations, and place the St Helens Road area within Rainford ward. We consider that the clear gains in community identity outweigh the poorer electoral equality which will result from this alteration.

44 Rainford Parish Council provided suggestions for the revision of parish warding arrangements within Rainford. However, as our final recommendations are not altering or creating any borough arrangements within Rainford parish, we cannot make consequential parish warding arrangements as part of this review. Any changes to the parish warding are a matter for a Community Governance Review (CGR), undertaken by St Helens Council.

45 We received no representations raising any other issues with our draft recommendations for Rainford or Windle wards, and we confirm these recommendations as final.

46 Billinge & Seneley Green and Windle wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026. Rainford ward, as discussed above, is forecast to have 14% more electors than the average but we consider this is justified by the improved reflection of community identity.

Western St Helens



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Eccleston	3	-3%
Rainhill	3	7%
Thatto Heath	3	9%
West Park	3	1%

Eccleston and Thatto Heath

47 We received one submission specifically discussing Eccleston ward. This submission, from a resident, suggested that the Foxwood estate did not share a community identity with the remainder of Eccleston ward, and felt more a part of Thatto Heath. The resident noted that they visited Thatto Heath on a daily basis, and that the estate's position in Eccleston ward made participation in elections more difficult.

48 We have considered this suggestion carefully and are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations in this area. We note that, during the initial consultation on warding patterns, the councillors for Eccleston ward noted that the southern section of the existing ward, from the Foxwood estate south, was a less integral part of Eccleston ward, and that the residents in this area did not fully understand why they were part of Eccleston. We also consider significant the fact that residents of the Foxwood estate and areas further south have no internal access to the remainder of Eccleston ward.

49 The Foxwood estate, and other areas that we are placing in Thatto Heath ward, will remain part of Eccleston parish, as we have no power to alter the external boundaries of parishes. Such a power lies with St Helens Council, after a CGR, which is a matter for the Council itself.

50 We received no further submissions on the boundaries of Eccleston and confirm the remainder of our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

51 We received one submission regarding the northern boundary of Thatto Heath ward, which is discussed in more detail below (paragraphs 53–54).

Rainhill

52 We received no submissions specifically discussing our draft recommendations for this ward, and we are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.

West Park

53 We received one submission regarding this ward, from a resident living near Thatto Heath Dam. The submission argued that our proposed boundary would not provide for effective and convenient local government, as Thatto Heath Park, the dam itself, and other neighbouring facilities were used by residents of West Park ward.

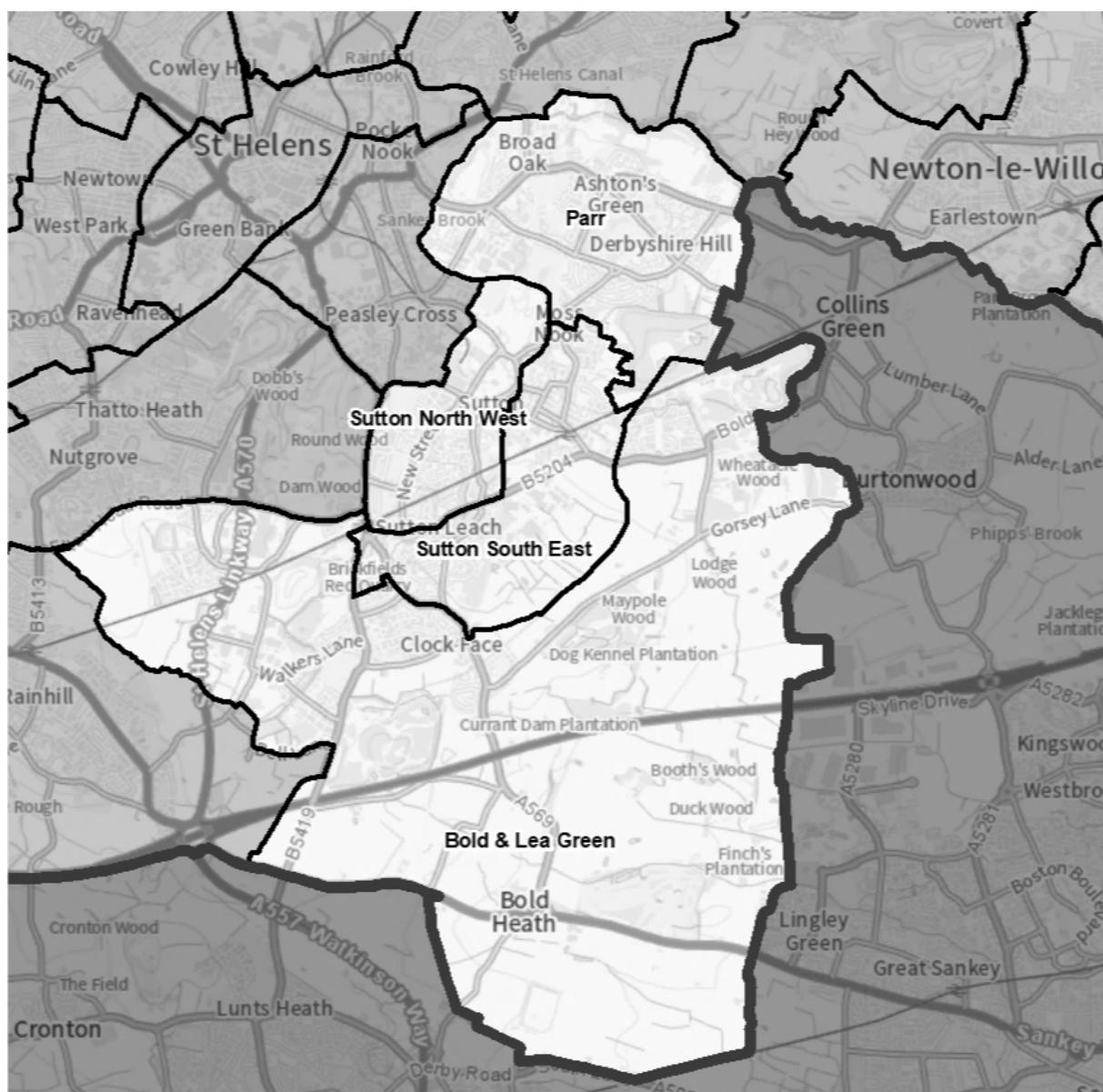
54 We have modified our proposed boundary in this area, to run down Thatto Heath Road, rather than behind the dam and reservoir. This has a minor impact upon electoral equality, while providing a clearer and more recognisable boundary. We consider that this offers a better balance of our statutory criteria, while accepting

that Thatto Heath Park remains a valued community asset for residents of both wards in question.

55 We received no further submissions with regard to our draft recommendations for West Park ward and confirm these as final.

56 Eccleston, Rainhill, Thatto Heath and West Park wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026.

Southern St Helens



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Bold & Lea Green	3	-1%
Parr	3	-4%
Sutton North West	2	-8%
Sutton South East	2	-5%

Bold & Lea Green and Parr

57 One resident, as part of a series of comments on wards across the borough, stated that Bold & Lea Green ward was 'too big geographically'. We noted in our draft recommendations report that we would welcome suggestions for whether this ward reflected community identities and provided for effective & convenient local government, but we received no alternative proposals.

58 We considered whether to split this proposed ward, with Bold parish becoming a single-member ward and the remainder becoming a two-councillor ward. Although this would offer good electoral equality, we consider that this would split the village of Clock Face, with the portion south of Gartons Lane going into a separate ward. In the absence of local evidence, we are not persuaded to change our draft recommendations in this area.

59 We received no submissions commenting on our draft recommendations for Parr ward, and we confirm these, together with Bold & Lea Green ward, as final.

Sutton North West and Sutton South East

60 We received five submissions discussing this area. None commented on the external boundaries of the wards, with three suggesting that Sutton was a single community that should be represented within a single ward.

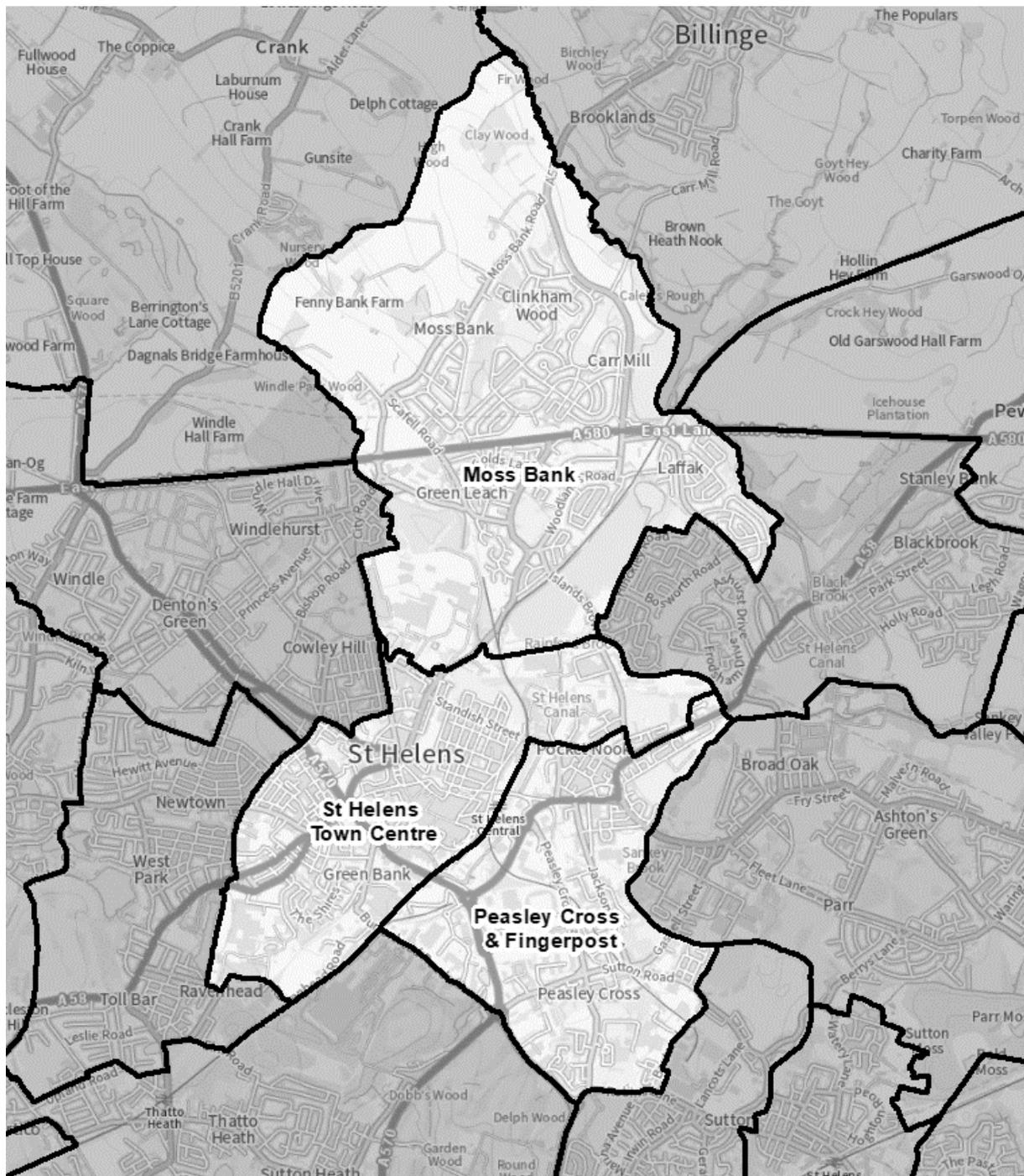
61 We consider that the area between St Helens Junction railway station and Reginald Road, currently in the existing Bold ward, is a part of the Sutton community, as laid out in the Labour Group's warding pattern consultation submission. Once this area is included, the Sutton community is too large to be represented by a single ward while retaining good electoral equality – as a matter of policy, we will not recommend wards of more than three members, as we consider that this lessens and dilutes democratic accountability.

62 We have therefore not been persuaded to modify our draft recommendations for the boundaries of these wards. However, we do propose to modify the names of the wards. One resident noted that our proposed names of 'Sutton North' and 'Sutton South' did not present the full geographic relationship of the wards in question. We agree and have therefore renamed the wards to 'Sutton North West' and 'Sutton South East' respectively.

63 With the exception of these name changes, we confirm our draft recommendations for the two Sutton wards as final.

64 Bold & Lea Green, Parr, Sutton North West and Sutton South East wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026.

Central St Helens



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Moss Bank	3	-5%
Peasley Cross & Fingerpost	1	-8%
St Helens Town Centre	2	-9%

Moss Bank

65 We received three submissions discussing our draft recommendations for this ward. One resident suggested that Haresfinch is a separate community from Moss Bank and should therefore be in a separate ward. We considered this carefully, but have not adopted this suggestion, as the evidence provided of community identity was not sufficiently strong, and no plausible split of this ward would result in good electoral equality.

66 A resident suggested that the Gerard's Bridge area in this ward would likely see a significant amount of housing development and should therefore be placed in the Town Centre ward. As this housing development is not forecast to be completed and occupied before 2026, which is the date of the electorate forecast provided by the Council, we cannot consider it as part of this review. However, as Moss Bank is forecast to have 5% fewer electors per councillor than average by 2026, there is room for this ward to grow without exceeding the bounds of good electoral equality.

67 One resident suggested, without proposing specific boundaries, that the Laffak area, including Hinckley Road and Chain Lane, should be represented in a single ward, rather than being split between Moss Bank and Blackbrook wards. We considered this carefully, but noted that moving the area to the south-east of the railway line into Blackbrook ward would result in Blackbrook ward having 14% more electors than average and Moss Bank 21% fewer electors than average without further changes. We do not consider that the evidence provided is sufficiently strong to justify this departure from electoral equality, or to justify the significant consequential changes across the borough which would be required to bring the wards within the bounds of good equality.

68 We have not been persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for Moss Bank ward, and we confirm them as final.

St Helens Town Centre and Peasley Cross & Fingerpost

69 Other than the suggestion regarding Gerard's Bridge, discussed above (paragraph 66), we received no comments on the external boundary of this pair of wards.

70 Two residents made comments regarding the potential political consequences of our proposals, and the possible results of elections in this area. We cannot consider the potential political outcomes of our recommendations.

71 One resident suggested, without providing substantive evidence, that the Pocket Nook area should be placed in Peasley Cross & Fingerpost ward, rather than the Town Centre ward. We considered this, but noted that the proposed change would leave the Town Centre ward with 17% fewer electors than the borough average, well beyond what we consider good electoral equality.

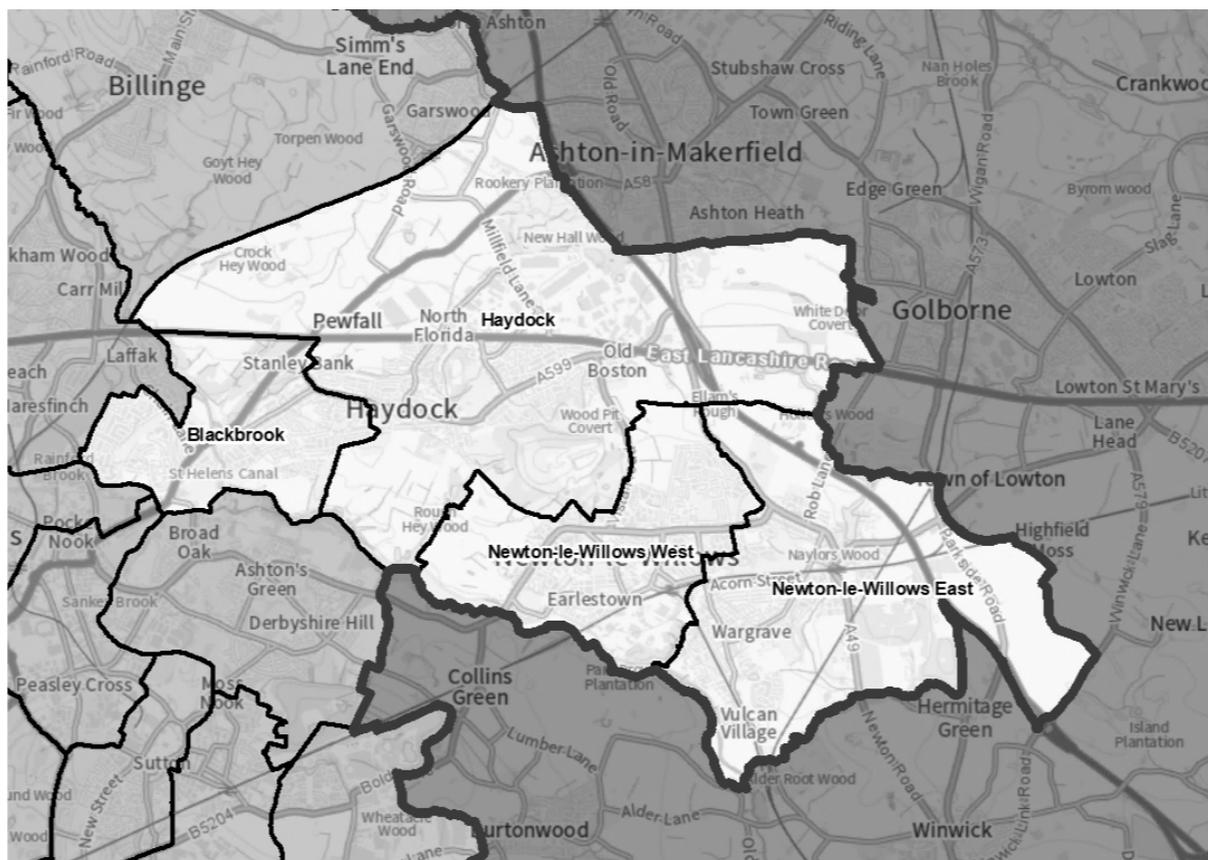
72 The same resident commented on the potential problems arising from only having a single-councillor Peasley Cross & Fingerpost ward if the elected councillor were unable to fulfil their role for a period of time. We consider that this locally proposed ward reflects community identity in this area, and we are not persuaded to adopt a multi-member ward without evidence that community identity would be better reflected.

73 Five residents suggested that our draft recommendation for the name of the Town Centre ward could lead to confusion with the other major town in the borough, Newton-le-Willows. We agree and propose to name this ward as 'St Helens Town Centre' in order to ensure clarity.

74 This name change apart, we confirm our draft recommendations for Peasley Cross & Fingerpost and St Helens Town Centre wards as final.

75 Moss Bank, Peasley Cross & Fingerpost and St Helens Town Centre wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026.

South Eastern St Helens



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Blackbrook	3	-5%
Haydock	3	-2%
Newton-le-Willows East	3	8%
Newton-le-Willows West	3	6%

Blackbrook

76 Other than the proposal concerning Laffak (discussed above at paragraph 67), we received no comments regarding our draft recommendations for this ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Haydock

77 One resident asserted that this ward was 'far too big geographically' but did not provide a specific alternative proposal. We received no other submissions commenting on the boundaries of this ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Newton-le-Willows

78 Other than one resident requesting that the town of Newton-le-Willows be placed in Warrington Borough Council, we received no comments on the boundaries for these proposed wards. While we note that the primary means of access from Newton-le-Willows to the rest of the borough, along the A572, involves leaving the borough we are not able to alter the external boundaries of St Helens Borough as part of this review.

79 We received several submissions regarding the names of the two wards covering the town. Opinion was divided, with some submissions regretting the loss of the name 'Earlestown', while others supported the proposed names, noting that this prevented one area being seen as 'proper Newton-le-Willows'.

80 We considered the matter carefully but, on balance, are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations regarding the names of these wards. We considered both the 'Earlestown' name as well as a hybrid of, for example, 'Newton-le-Willows West & Earlestown', but consider that the evidence available to us does not support such a change. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Newton-le-Willows East and Newton-le-Willows West wards as final.

81 Blackbrook, Haydock, Newton-le-Willows East and Newton-le-Willows West wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2026.

Conclusions

82 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in St Helens, referencing the 2019 and 2026 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2019	2026
Number of councillors	48	48
Number of electoral wards	18	18
Average number of electors per councillor	2,925	3,017
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

St Helens Council should be made up of 48 councillors serving 18 wards representing one single-councillor ward, four two-councillor wards and 13 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 St Helens Council.

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

Parish electoral arrangements

83 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.

84 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, St Helens 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.

85 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Eccleston parish.

Draft recommendations

Eccleston Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	3
Ellerslie	1
Foxwood	1
Eccleston Park	3
West	4

What happens next?

86. We have now completed our review of St Helens. 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

87 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 St Helens Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Billinge & Seneley Green	3	8,689	2,896	-1%	9,051	3,017	0%
2	Blackbrook	3	8,406	2,802	-4%	8,642	2,881	-5%
3	Bold & Lea Green	3	8,624	2,875	-2%	8,940	2,980	-1%
4	Eccleston	3	8,622	2,874	-2%	8,798	2,933	-3%
5	Haydock	3	8,648	2,883	-1%	8,879	2,960	-2%
6	Moss Bank	3	8,405	2,802	-4%	8,583	2,861	-5%
7	Newton-le-Willows East	3	9,492	3,164	8%	9,767	3,256	8%
8	Newton-le-Willows West	3	9,345	3,115	7%	9,603	3,201	6%
9	Parr	3	8,610	2,870	-2%	8,695	2,898	-4%
10	Peasley Cross & Fingerpost	1	2,798	2,798	-4%	2,784	2,784	-8%
11	Rainford	2	6,564	3,282	12%	6,905	3,452	14%
12	Rainhill	3	9,422	3,141	7%	9,641	3,214	7%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Sutton North West	2	5,091	2,546	-13%	5,537	2,769	-8%
14 Sutton South East	2	5,257	2,629	-10%	5,757	2,878	-5%
15 Thatto Heath	3	9,506	3,169	8%	9,836	3,279	9%
16 St Helens Town Centre	2	5,310	2,655	-9%	5,507	2,753	-9%
17 West Park	3	9,021	3,007	3%	9,176	3,059	1%
18 Windle	3	8,571	2,857	-2%	8,712	2,904	-4%
Totals	48	140,381	-	-	144,813	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,925	-	-	3,017	-

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

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

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/merseyside/st-helens

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/merseyside/st-helens

Councillors

- Councillor D. Baines (St Helens Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Jones (St Helens Borough Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Rainford Parish Council

Local Residents

- 64 local residents

Anonymous

- 1 anonymous submission

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

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

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

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (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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