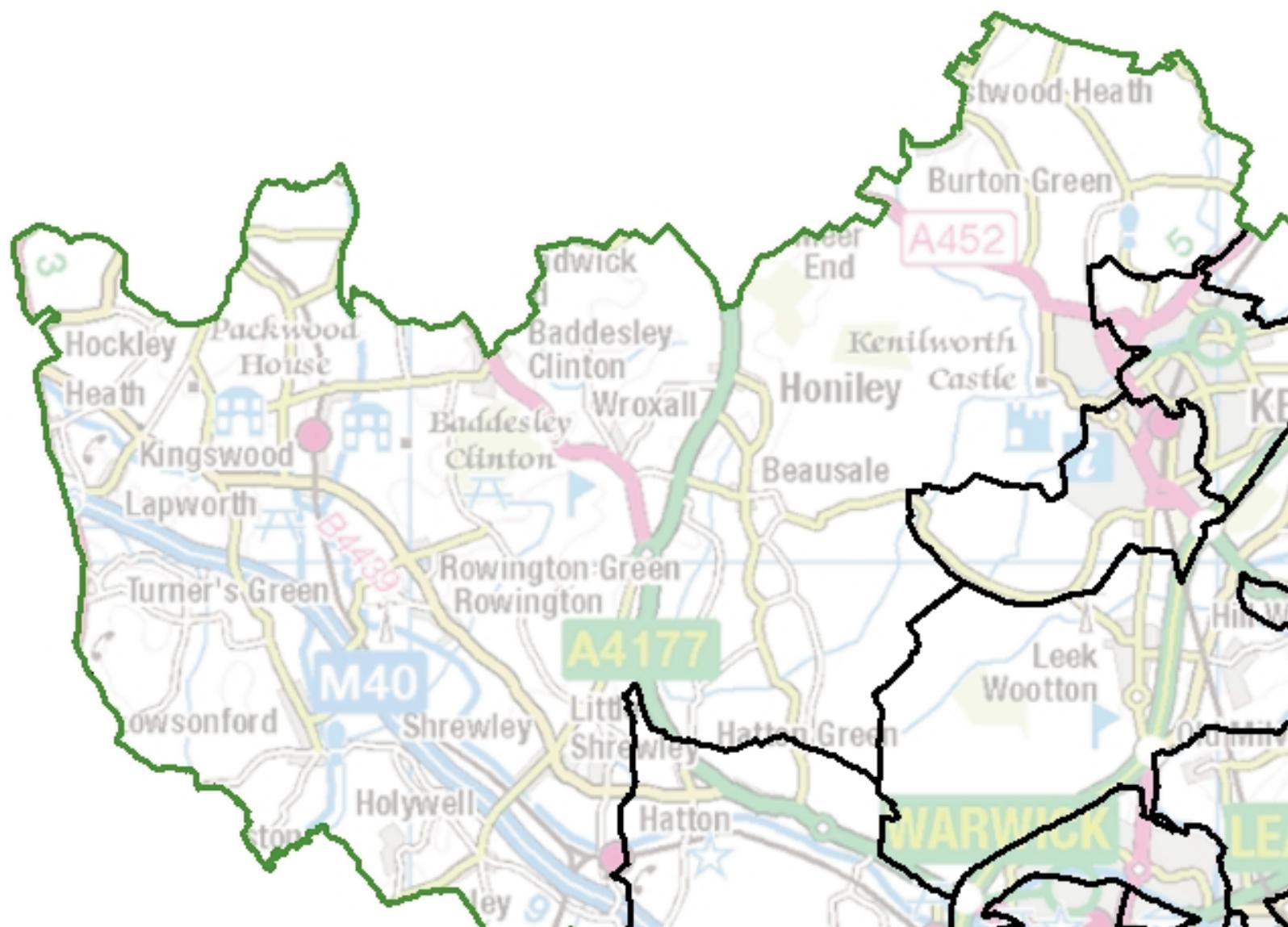


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for
Warwick District Council
Final recommendations

August 2018

Translations and other formats

For information on obtaining this publication in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. 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.

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

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

Why Warwick?

4 We are conducting a review of Warwick District Council ('the Council') following a request it made to us. Firstly, it wanted to address the reduced level of coterminosity between district wards and county divisions following the review of Warwickshire County Council ('the County Council'). Secondly, Warwick district is going through a period of considerable growth and the Council wanted its wards reviewed before electoral inequality became too high.

5 It is also the case that the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in Warwick. 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.

Our proposals for Warwick

- Warwick should be represented by 44 councillors, two fewer than there are now.
- Warwick should have 17 wards, five fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of all wards should change, none will stay the same.

6 **We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Warwick.**

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.¹

8 The members of the Commission are:

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

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

9 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Warwick 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 district.

What is an electoral review?

10 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

11 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

Consultation

12 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Warwick. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

13 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
21 November 2017	Number of councillors decided
28 November 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 February 2018	End of consultation, we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 April 2018	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
11 June 2018	End of consultation, we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
7 August 2018	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

14 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 cases, which parish or town council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

15 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.

16 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.

17 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.

	2017	2023
Electorate of Warwick	109,155	123,335
Number of councillors	44	44
Average number of electors per councillor	2,481	2,803

18 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 Warwick will have good electoral equality by 2023.

19 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district 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.

Submissions received

20 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

21 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 13% by 2023.

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.

22 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.

Number of councillors

23 Warwick District Council currently has 46 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and Warwick District Council Labour Group ('the Labour Group') and have concluded that decreasing the number of councillors by two will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

24 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 44 councillors – for example, 44 one-councillor wards, 22 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two-, and three-councillor wards.

25 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. We have therefore based our final recommendations on a 44-member council.

Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received 19 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three detailed district-wide proposals from the Council; Warwick District Council Green, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Whitnash Residents Association Groups ('the opposition groups'); and Warwick & Leamington Conservatives. The Council and Warwick & Leamington Conservatives both proposed 20 wards represented by 44 councillors. The opposition groups proposed 17 wards to be represented by 44 councillors. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

27 Having carefully considered the proposals received, we were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in some areas of the district and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. We based our draft proposals on a combination of the district-wide schemes with some modifications to provide for better electoral equality and more identifiable boundaries.

28 Our draft recommendations were for one one-councillor, five two-councillor and 11 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests.

Draft recommendations consultation

29 We received 43 submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations. These included district-wide comments from the Council, the Labour Group and South Warwickshire Conservatives ('the Conservatives'). Warwick & Leamington Liberal Democrats expressed general agreement with all our proposed boundaries in Warwick and Leamington. The majority of the other

submissions focused on specific areas, particularly the boundary we proposed between our Leamington Milverton and Leamington North wards.

30 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to the boundaries of Leamington Milverton, Leamington North (renamed Leamington Lillington) and Cubbington & Leek Wootton wards. We have also proposed modifications to our Warwick Aylesford and Warwick Saltisford wards. Additionally, we have decided to rename our proposed Lapworth & West Kenilworth ward Kenilworth Abbey & Arden and Warwick Woodloes ward Warwick All Saints & Woodloes.

31 A key driver for this review has been the desire of the Council and others for more district wards to be coterminous with county divisions. This was discussed in several of the submissions we received in response to our draft recommendations. As noted in our draft recommendations report, we consider that coterminosity can aid effective and convenient local government and we have taken account of this in producing our final recommendations. Ten of our 17 wards (59%) are either coterminous with or wholly inside a county division. We consider that this represents the best balance of our criteria across the district. Of Warwick's current 22 wards, seven (32%) are wholly inside a division; none of the current wards and divisions are coterminous.

Final recommendations

32 Pages 8-19 detail our final recommendations for each area of Warwick. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

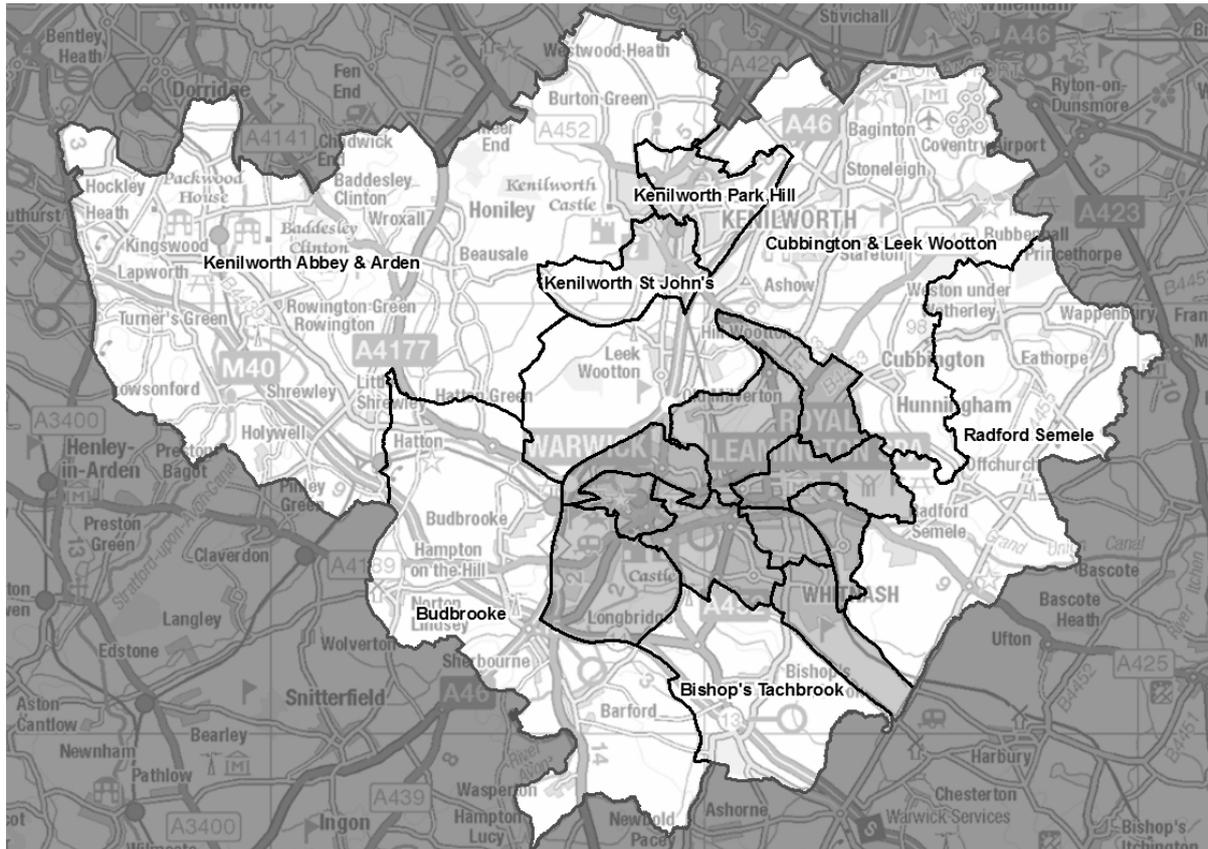
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

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

34 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 27-28 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Kenilworth and rural Warwick



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Bishop's Tachbrook	2	-2%
Budbrooke	2	1%
Cubbington & Leek Wootton	2	4%
Kenilworth Abbey & Arden	3	4%
Kenilworth Park Hill	3	9%
Kenilworth St John's	3	-3%
Radford Semele	1	8%

Kenilworth Abbey & Arden, Kenilworth Park Hill and Kenilworth St John's

35 We received seven submissions that referred to one of these wards. The Council, the Conservatives, Kenilworth Town Council, Kenilworth Cricket Club and a councillor supported the boundaries we proposed. However, the Council and the Conservatives argued that our Lapworth & West Kenilworth ward should be renamed 'Kenilworth Abbey & Arden' as it was not coterminous with the Lapworth & West Kenilworth division. They felt that it would be confusing to have a ward and a division with the same name but different boundaries. 'Arden' would also be more reflective of the entire rural area in the ward, rather than just one parish.

36 The Conservatives and the councillor supported Shrewley parish being in Lapworth & West Kenilworth ward, rather than Budbrooke, as they argued it had stronger connections with the other communities in this ward.

37 There were four objections to our Lapworth & West Kenilworth ward from Kenilworth & Southam Liberal Democrats and three local residents. These submissions all objected to combining part of urban Kenilworth with a relatively large rural area.

38 Kenilworth & Southam Liberal Democrats proposed a two-councillor ward consisting of west Kenilworth and Burton Green and a single-councillor rural ward. However, the former would have an electoral variance of -14% and the latter a variance of 39%. We do not consider this level of electoral inequality to be acceptable.

39 A resident also stated that the A4177 was the locally recognised boundary for the wider Kenilworth area. However, dividing our Lapworth & West Kenilworth ward along the A4177 would lead to an electoral variance over 20% in the ward west of the A4177 but would also require us to create a parish ward of Beausale, Haseley, Honiley & Wroxall Parish Council with fewer than 100 electors. We do not consider a parish council ward of such a small size to meet our criterion in relation to effective and convenient local government.

40 Therefore, in the absence of an alternative proposal that has good electoral equality, we propose to make no changes to the boundary of our Lapworth & West Kenilworth ward. In relation to its name, we accept the argument of the Council and Conservatives that it would be confusing to have a ward and a division with the same name but different boundaries. We are therefore renaming our Lapworth & West Kenilworth ward 'Kenilworth Abbey & Arden', noting that it has similar boundaries to the current Abbey and Arden wards. Subject to that change of name, we confirm our Kenilworth Abbey & Arden, Kenilworth Park Hill and Kenilworth St John's wards as final.

Bishop's Tachbrook and Budbrooke

41 We received five submissions that referred to these wards. The Council, the Conservatives and a district councillor supported the draft recommendations for both wards. Budbrooke Parish Council supported the draft recommendations for Budbrooke ward.

42 Hampton-on-the-Hill Residents' Association objected to our proposed Budbrooke ward, arguing that it was too large and its northern and southern parts had little in common.

43 While we have noted the objection, it contained relatively little evidence and did not describe how the two-councillor Budbrooke ward could be divided into single-councillor wards or which other communities it could be joined with. Conversely, the supportive submissions provided some evidence of links between the parishes in our Budbrooke ward. Therefore, we confirm our Bishop's Tachbrook and Budbrooke wards as final without amendment.

Cubbington & Leek Wootton

44 We received five submissions that referred to this ward. The Council and the Conservatives supported the draft recommendations. Old Milverton & Blackdown Joint Parish Council objected to the draft recommendations, arguing that its two parishes should be part of Leamington district wards. We have discussed this in more detail below in the section relating to Leamington Lillington and Leamington Milverton wards starting at paragraph 49.

45 Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Council and a local resident objected to the ward arguing that Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe parish has little or no relationship with Cubbington and they face very different issues as the former is rural and the latter is an extension of Leamington. However, while it was stated that Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe parish shares common interests with parishes such as Lapworth, Hatton and Budbrooke, no evidence was provided as to what these interests are. Neither submission made an alternative proposal for the warding pattern in this part of the district.

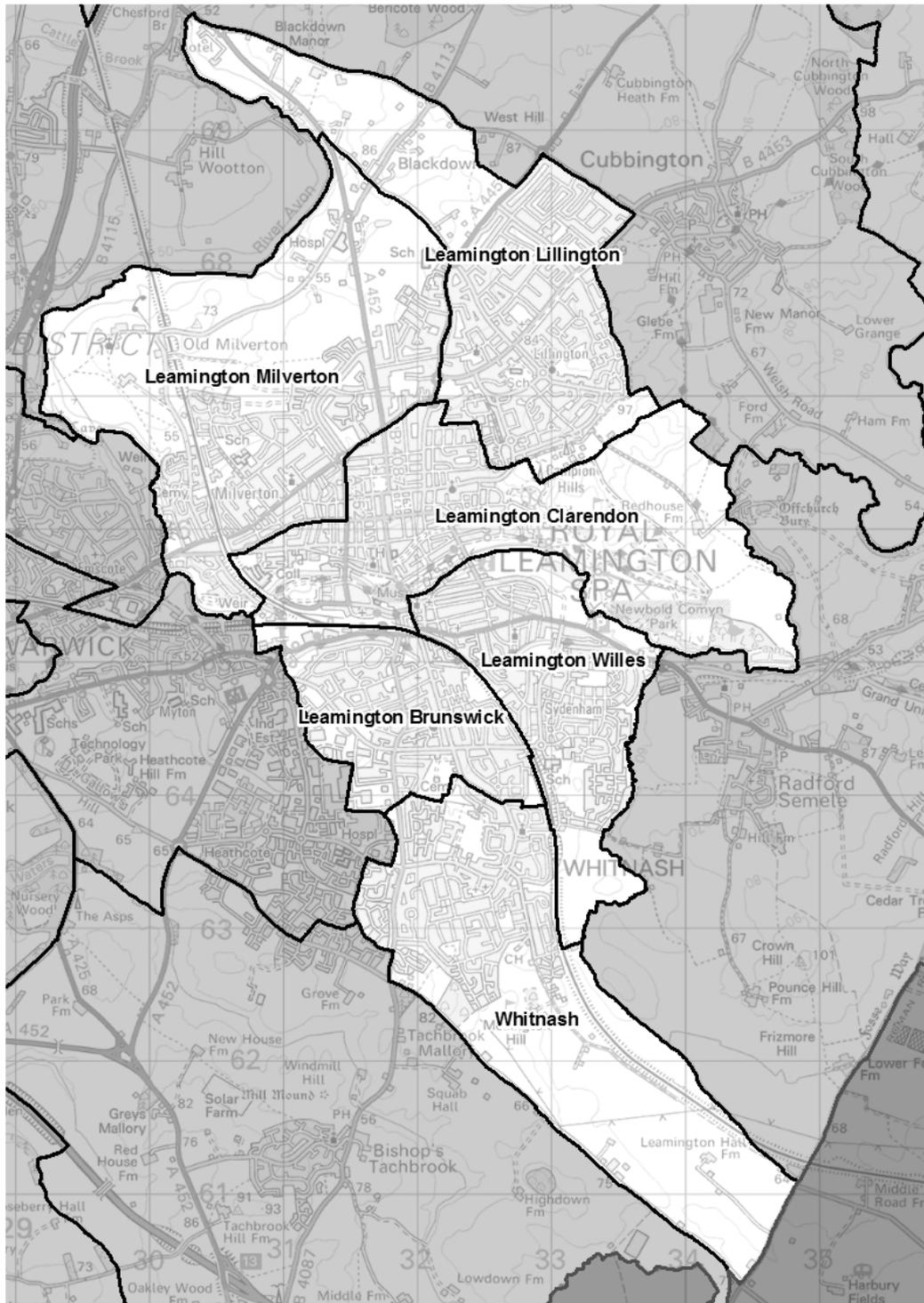
46 We have carefully considered the objections to our Cubbington & Leek Wootton ward and are amending our draft recommendations in the Blackdown and Old Milverton areas, as discussed in more detail below. We propose to make no further changes to the ward.

47 While we have noted the comments regarding Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe parish, there was very little detailed information in the submissions about what alternative grouping of parishes would better reflect local community interests. We are unwilling to make major changes to our warding pattern in this part of the district without more persuasive and detailed evidence. We have also noted that the submissions mentioned links between Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe parish and parishes in our Budbrooke ward but, as noted above, four of the five submissions we received regarding our Budbrooke ward were supportive. Therefore, subject to the amendment discussed in more detail in paragraphs 49-57 below, we confirm our Cubbington & Leek Wootton ward as final.

Radford Semele

48 The only submission that explicitly referred to this ward was the Council's and it supported the draft recommendation. Therefore, in the absence of any objections, we confirm our Radford Semele ward as final without amendment.

Royal Leamington Spa and Whitnash



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Leamington Brunswick	3	-4%
Leamington Clarendon	3	2%
Leamington Lillington	3	9%
Leamington Milverton	3	-8%
Leamington Willes	3	8%
Whitnash	3	-9%

Leamington Lillington and Leamington Milverton

49 We received 20 submissions that referred to one of these wards. The Council supported the boundaries of both wards but argued that Leamington North should be renamed 'Leamington Manor & Crown'. The Conservatives broadly supported the draft recommendations but proposed a small amendment to put all of Arlington Avenue in Leamington Clarendon ward. The Labour Group argued in favour of coterminous ward and division boundaries across Leamington and also that Leamington North ward should be renamed either 'Leamington Crown & Manor' or 'Leamington Lillington'. A councillor suggested that Leamington Milverton should be renamed 'Leamington Milverton & Lillington Village' to reflect the inclusion of part of Lillington in the ward. Royal Leamington Spa Town Council argued in favour of coterminous ward and division boundaries across the town.

50 Two residents supported parts of the draft recommendations. Lillington Parish Church Council and eleven local residents objected to the draft recommendations. They argued that the boundary that ran along Elm Road and behind Lime Avenue and Cedar Close was hard to understand on the ground and was not tied to an obvious geographical feature. It also split Lillington with part of the old village area, which includes St Mary Magdalene's Church, being placed in our Leamington Milverton ward. There were also objections to the name 'Leamington North' as locally this was considered to mean both Lillington and Milverton. Its use in relation to just one of these areas would be confusing to local residents. It was proposed that the ward was renamed 'Leamington Lillington'.

51 To resolve the objections, a resident proposed that the boundary between Leamington Milverton and Leamington North wards was moved west to Lillington Road. As this would lead to an electoral variance of -11% in Leamington Milverton ward, he also proposed that a small area south of Warwick Place was placed in Leamington Milverton ward rather than Leamington Clarendon ward. He justified this on the basis that this area was similar in character to the adjoining part of Leamington Milverton ward. However, he provided no other evidence.

52 Old Milverton & Blackdown Joint Parish Council also objected to being included in our Cubbington & Leek Wootton ward. It argued that while both parishes are rural, they are a gateway to Leamington. Residents from the neighbouring towns, including Leamington, use leisure facilities in the parishes, such as for walking and cycling in the countryside. This created a close and mutually dependent relationship between the two parishes and the urban area. It was also pointed out that both parishes are currently warded with parts of Leamington and this worked well for their residents. The Joint Parish Council therefore proposed that Blackdown parish was included in Leamington North ward and Old Milverton parish form part of Leamington Milverton ward.

53 We have carefully considered all the submissions in relation to this area and have decided to amend our draft recommendations. We are persuaded that our proposals would split the Lillington area and are therefore moving the boundary between our Leamington Milverton and Leamington North wards to Lillington Road, as proposed by the resident. We note that the ward would no longer be coterminous with Leamington North division but consider that strong evidence has been provided in relation to community identity that justifies the loss of coterminosity.

54 We are also persuaded by the argument of Old Milverton & Blackdown Joint Parish Council that its two parishes should be part of Leamington wards. We note that doing this will ensure good electoral equality in both Leamington Milverton and Leamington North wards.

55 However, given the limited evidence supplied by the resident, we are not persuaded to put the area south of Warwick Place in Milverton ward. We also note that, having made the changes described above, putting all of Arlington Avenue in Leamington Clarendon ward, as proposed by the Conservatives, would lead to an electoral variance of -12% in Leamington Milverton ward. We do not consider that the evidence received was sufficiently strong to justify this level of electoral inequality.

56 Finally, we accept the argument of residents and others that Leamington North is a potentially confusing ward name that is not an accurate reflection of its community, especially with the loss of coterminosity with the Leamington North division. We are therefore renaming this ward Leamington Lillington.

57 Subject to the changes set out above, we confirm our Leamington Lillington and Leamington Milverton wards as final.

Leamington Brunswick and Leamington Clarendon

58 Excluding the submissions discussed above in relation to the boundary between Leamington Clarendon and Leamington Milverton wards, we received seven submissions regarding our Leamington Brunswick and Leamington Clarendon wards.

59 The Council supported our draft recommendations but regretted the loss of coterminosity. As stated above, Royal Leamington Spa Town Council supported coterminous wards and divisions across the town.

60 The Labour Group proposed that the boundary between our Leamington Brunswick and Leamington Clarendon wards should run down Avenue Road. This would reunite the Old Town area, whose facilities were used by some residents south of Avenue Road.

61 The Conservatives, Manor Court (Leamington) Ltd and a local resident supported our use of the railway line as the boundary between the wards. They argued that residents between the railway line and the River Leam associate with the town centre in Leamington Clarendon ward and consider themselves to be part of the wider town centre community. The Conservatives specifically objected to the use of Avenue Road as a boundary as they felt there is a natural and established community on both sides of the road.

62 The final submission was from a councillor who proposed that Leamington Clarendon ward was divided into a town centre ward and a suburban ward. However, both of the wards he proposed would have electoral variances greater than -15% and we do not consider this level of electoral inequality to be acceptable.

63 In relation to the boundary between our Leamington Brunswick and Leamington Clarendon wards, we find the evidence in support of our draft recommendations to be more persuasive. When we visited the area, we considered the railway line to be a strong and logical boundary, whereas Avenue Road did not strike us as a natural boundary. Therefore, we confirm our Leamington Brunswick and Leamington Clarendon wards as final without amendment.

Leamington Willes and Whitnash

64 We received five submissions in relation to these wards. The Council supported our draft recommendations. As stated above, Royal Leamington Spa Town Council supported coterminous wards and divisions across the town.

65 The Conservatives argued that our Leamington Willes ward contained two distinct communities and their preference would be to split it, running the boundary to the north of Sydenham Primary School and Ryland Close. However, on their calculation, this would lead to an electoral variance of 11% in their two-councillor Leamington Willes ward. The Conservatives then pointed out that putting the southernmost part of the ward (the Whitnash East ward of Whitnash Town Council) in Whitnash ward would lead to good electoral equality.

66 Whitnash Residents Association also argued that all of Whitnash parish should be in Whitnash ward. They pointed out that the Whitnash East area not only had historic links with Whitnash but was part of the current Whitnash community. Champion School, which is in Whitnash East, is the preferred secondary school for children living in Whitnash.

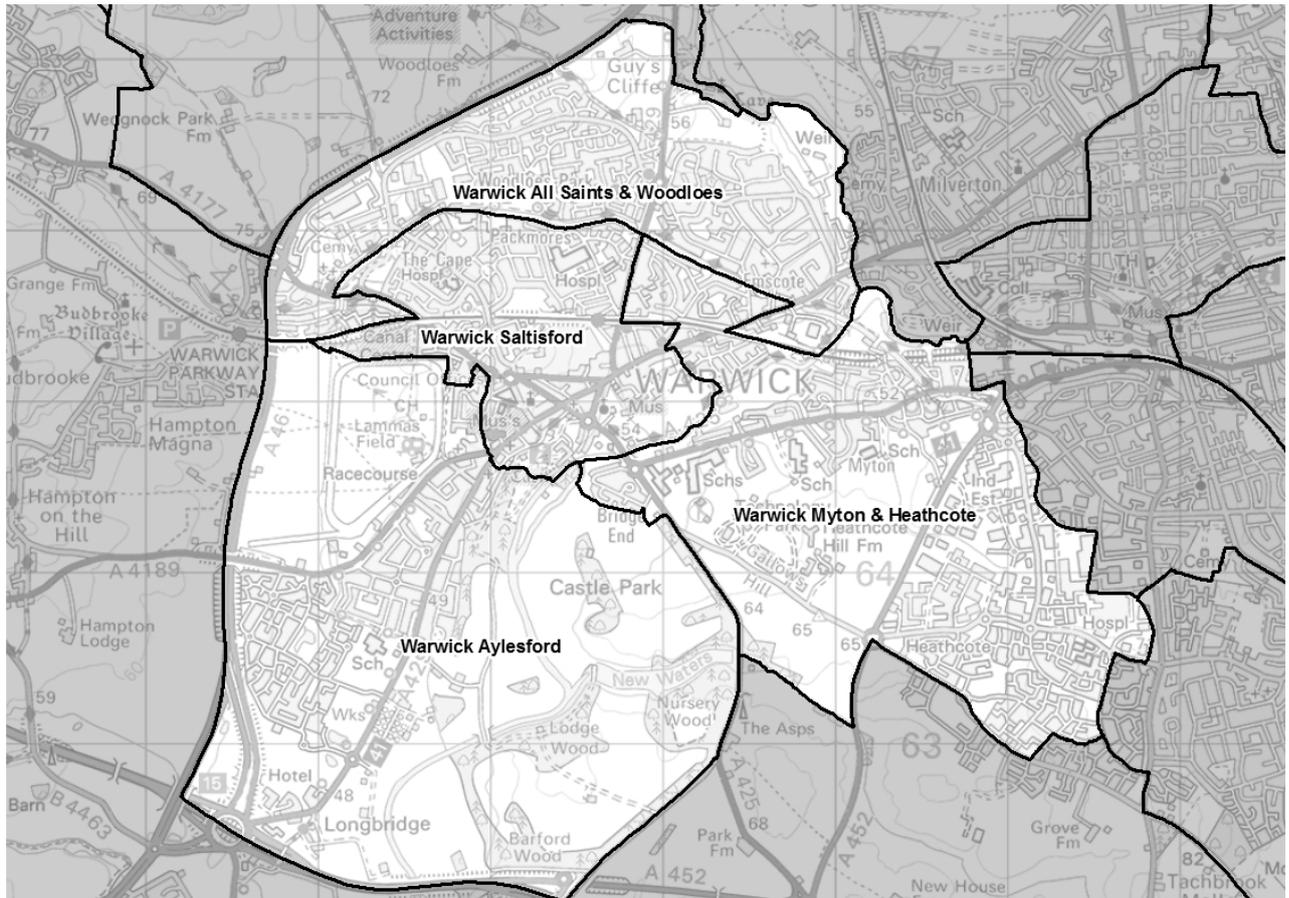
67 The Labour Group supported the draft recommendations for Leamington Willes ward. They pointed out that not only is the ward coterminous with the Willes division but residents across it share shops and services. These included ASDA in Sydenham, the SYDNI Centre, SYDNI shops and the pubs on either side of the canal. There are strong road links through the ward and bus services run through the ward from its north-west to its south-east.

68 We have carefully considered all the submissions and are making no changes to our draft recommendations. We find the Labour Group's submission to be the most convincing and also the most detailed in relation to how local residents interact in this part of the district. Based on the evidence provided by the Labour Group and from our tour of the area, we remain concerned that the boundary proposed by the Conservatives north of Sydenham Primary School will split the community in this area.

69 While Whitnash Residents Association's proposal would put all of Whitnash parish in one ward and improve electoral equality, it would also lead to the loss of coterminosity between two wards and divisions. We note that their submission contained little evidence regarding the current community identity of residents in Whitnash East. We also note that Champion School's priority area covers not just Whitnash but all of our proposed Leamington Willes ward as well as the Victoria Park area of Leamington and Radford Semele. Finally, until the completion of the substantial new developments at Whitnash East, we are concerned about the limited access between that area and the rest of Whitnash ward.

70 Therefore, we confirm our Leamington Willes and Whitnash wards as final without amendment.

Warwick



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Warwick All Saints & Woodloes	3	-6%
Warwick Aylesford	2	-7%
Warwick Myton & Heathcote	3	-2%
Warwick Saltisford	2	0%

Warwick Aylesford, Warwick Myton & Heathcote and Warwick Saltisford

71 We received eight submissions that referred to these wards. The Council commented that it was unable to propose an alternative warding pattern for this part of the town. Warwick Town Council supported the draft recommendations. A councillor proposed that Warwick Saltisford was renamed 'Warwick Central' as 'Saltisford' did not mean much to local residents.

72 In relation to our Warwick Myton & Heathcote and Whitnash wards the Conservatives, supported by a councillor, proposed that Tachbrook Road was used as the boundary between these wards. They argued that residents in the Warwick Gates development to the west of Tachbrook Road see themselves as being from Warwick rather than Whitnash, with children from the area mainly attending secondary schools in Warwick. However, it was accepted that this change would lead to poor electoral equality unless the Whitnash East area was included in Whitnash rather than Leamington Willes ward. This is discussed in more detail above.

73 Warwickshire County Council objected to the boundary between our Warwick Aylesford and Warwick Myton & Heathcote wards, pointing out that these wards were not coterminous with the divisions in the area. It was argued that county councillors would need to work with five or more district councillors. However, the Conservatives, the Labour Group and a district councillor supported the boundary between these wards as it kept the Stratford Road area in the same ward.

74 The Labour Group objected to the boundary between our Warwick Myton & Heathcote and Warwick Saltisford wards, arguing that there is little in common between the areas north and south of the river and that the parkland between them is a major community divider. They proposed that we should instead consider two two-councillor wards north and south of the river but did not specify what further changes should be made to the Warwick Saltisford and Warwick Woodloes wards to ensure good electoral equality. A councillor also argued that residents living north of Emscote Road do not relate to Warwick Myton & Heathcote ward. She proposed that the area around Cliffe Way became part of Warwick Saltisford ward and the area east of Wharf Street became part of Warwick Woodloes ward.

75 Finally, the Conservatives argued that the Mallory Drive area was separated from the rest of our Warwick Aylesford ward by both a Sainsbury's Superstore and Warwick Racecourse. They stated that this area relates more to the rest of our Warwick Saltisford ward.

76 We have carefully considered all the points made in relation to these wards. We consider that Tachbrook Road is potentially a strong boundary between Whitnash and Warwick Myton & Heathcote wards. However, putting the Warwick Gates area in Myton & Heathcote ward will lead to poor electoral equality in Whitnash, particularly given our decision not to put Whitnash East in Whitnash ward. In addition, while we have noted the argument made by the Conservatives about the community identity of residents in this area, we are also aware that the parish boundary was changed by the Council in 2017 and matches the division boundary. We consider that identical parish, ward and division boundaries in this area will help them become better known locally which will contribute to effective and convenient local government in the area.

77 We note that our proposed Warwick Aylesford and Warwick Myton & Heathcote wards were supported by both the Conservatives and the Labour Group. We are of the view that the County Council did not address what we consider to be the key issue in this part of the town, which is the potential split of the Stratford Road community. Therefore, we propose to make no changes to our draft recommendations in this area.

78 In relation to the two alternative proposals for the Emscote Road area, we note that both would lead to very high electoral inequality. Under the Labour Group's proposal, a two-councillor Warwick Myton & Heathcote ward would have an electoral variance of -22% and, without additional unspecified changes to the Warwick Saltisford and Warwick Woodloes wards, a single-councillor ward north of the river would have a variance of -40%. We do not consider this level of electoral inequality to be acceptable.

79 The councillor's proposal for the northern boundary of Warwick Myton & Heathcote ward to run along Emscote Road would lead to an electoral variance of -16% in Warwick Myton & Heathcote ward. Without more compelling evidence we are unwilling to accept that level of electoral inequality, particularly as the electoral forecast for Warwick Myton & Heathcote ward is dependent on a high level of growth in the area south of the river. Should developments be delayed, the electoral variance could potentially be much higher than -16% in 2023.

80 We are proposing to make one small change to our draft recommendations and that is to the boundary between our Warwick Aylesford and Warwick Saltisford wards. When we visited the Mallory Drive area we noted that it is quite isolated, but we accept the Conservatives' argument that it is separate from the rest of the Warwick Aylesford ward and should instead be warded with the nearest residential properties in Warwick Saltisford ward.

81 In relation to the name of our Warwick Saltisford ward, we note that it has broadly similar boundaries to the current ward of the same name and from the perspective of continuity we consider that there are benefits in retaining the current name.

82 Therefore, subject to the amendment discussed above, we confirm our Warwick Aylesford, Warwick Myton & Heathcote and Warwick Saltisford wards as final.

Warwick All Saints & Woodloes

83 We received eight submissions that related to this ward. Warwick Town Council, a councillor and the Conservatives supported our draft recommendations. The Council, supported by a local resident, proposed that the name of the ward be changed to 'Warwick All Saints & Woodloes' as this better reflected the area it covered. A second resident suggested the name 'Warwick Woodloes & Emscote'. A councillor proposed the name 'Warwick North' to match the division name. The Labour Group objected to our proposals for the reasons set out in the previous section.

84 Given our conclusions in relation to the other wards in Warwick town, we do not propose to change the boundaries of our Warwick Woodloes ward. However, we agree with the Council's submission that adding 'All Saints' to the ward's name is a better description of the area that it covers. We are not adopting the councillor's alternative name of 'Warwick North' as the ward is not coterminous with Warwick North county division. We therefore confirm our renamed Warwick All Saints & Woodloes ward as final.

Conclusions

85 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2017 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	44	44
Number of electoral wards	17	17
Average number of electors per councillor	2,481	2,803
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Final recommendation

Warwick District Council should be made up of 44 councillors serving 17 wards representing one single-councillor ward, five two-councillor wards and 11 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Warwick.

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

Parish electoral arrangements

86 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.

87 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, Warwick District 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.

88 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Kenilworth Town Council, Royal Leamington Spa Town Council and Warwick Town Council.

89 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Kenilworth parish.

Final recommendation	
Kenilworth Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Abbey	2
Park Hill	8
St John's	7

90 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Royal Leamington Spa parish.

Final recommendation	
Royal Leamington Spa Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brunswick	3
Clarendon	2
Lillington	3
Lillington Village	1
Maltings	1
Milverton	2
Victoria Park	1
Willes	3

91 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Warwick parish.

Final recommendation	
Warwick Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Aylesford	2
Castle	1

Leaffield	1
Myton & Heathcote	4
Saltisford	2
Wilmhurst	1
All Saints & Woodloes	4

3 What happens next?

92 We have now completed our review of Warwick. 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 2019.

Equalities

93 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.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Warwick District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bishop's Tachbrook	2	2,289	1,145	-54%	5,475	2,738	-2%
2	Budbrooke	2	4,964	2,482	0%	5,670	2,835	1%
3	Cubbington & Leek Wootton	2	4,656	2,328	-6%	5,817	2,909	4%
4	Kenilworth Abbey & Arden	3	7,032	2,344	-6%	8,707	2,902	4%
5	Kenilworth Park Hill	3	7,980	2,660	7%	9,155	3,052	9%
6	Kenilworth St John's	3	7,825	2,608	5%	8,160	2,720	-3%
7	Leamington Brunswick	3	7,843	2,614	5%	8,034	2,678	-4%
8	Leamington Clarendon	3	8,015	2,672	8%	8,611	2,870	2%
9	Leamington Lillington	3	9,196	3,065	24%	9,196	3,065	9%
10	Leamington Milverton	3	7,569	2,523	2%	7,730	2,577	-8%
11	Leamington Willes	3	8,037	2,679	8%	9,083	3,028	8%
12	Radford Semele	1	2,602	2,602	5%	3,030	3,030	8%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Warwick All Saints & Woodloes	3	7,385	2,462	-1%	7,922	2,641	-6%
14	Warwick Aylesford	2	5,144	2,572	4%	5,206	2,603	-7%
15	Warwick Myton & Heathcote	3	5,675	1,892	-24%	8,228	2,743	-2%
16	Warwick Saltisford	2	5,557	2,779	12%	5,627	2,814	0%
17	Whitnash	3	7,386	2,462	-1%	7,684	2,561	-9%
	Totals	44	109,155	-	-	123,335	-	-
	Averages	-	-	2,481	-	-	2,803	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Warwick District 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 district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Key

1. Bishop's Tachbrook
2. Budbrooke
3. Cubbington & Leek Wootton
4. Kenilworth Abbey & Arden
5. Kenilworth Park Hill
6. Kenilworth St John's
7. Leamington Brunswick
8. Leamington Clarendon
9. Leamington Lillington
10. Leamington Milverton
11. Leamington Willes
12. Radford Semele
13. Warwick All Saints & Woodloes
14. Warwick Aylesford
15. Warwick Myton & Heathcote
16. Warwick Saltisford
17. Whitnash

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/warwickshire/warwick>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/warwickshire/warwick>

Local Authority

- Warwick District Council
- Warwickshire County Council

Political Groups

- Kenilworth & Southam Liberal Democrats
- South Warwickshire Conservatives
- Warwick & Leamington Liberal Democrats
- Warwick District Council Labour Group
- Whitnash Residents Association

Councillors

- Councillor M. A. Grainger (Warwick District Council)
- Councillor T. Morris (Warwick District Council)
- Councillor P. Phillips (Warwick District Council)
- Councillor A. Stevens (Warwick District Council)
- Councillor A. Thompson (Warwick District Council)

Local Organisations

- Hampton-on-the-Hill Residents' Association
- Kenilworth Cricket Club
- Lillington Parish Church Council
- Manor Court (Leamington) Ltd

Parish and Town Councils

- Budbrooke Parish Council
- Kenilworth Town Council
- Leamington Town Council
- Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Council
- Old Milverton & Blackdown Joint Parish Council
- Warwick Town Council

Local Residents

- 21 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

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

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average

Ward

A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0TL

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Online: www.lgbce.org.uk or
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Twitter: @LGBCE