

# New electoral arrangements for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council - Draft Recommendations

July 2023

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### **A note on our mapping:**

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

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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

## What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

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

## Why Dudley?

7 We are conducting a review of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2003, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Dudley are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

## Our proposals for Dudley

9 Dudley should be represented by 72 councillors, the same as there are now.

10 Dudley should have 24 wards, the same as there are now.

11 The boundaries of nine wards should change; 15 will stay the same.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

12 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 council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

13 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 consider any representations which are based on these issues.

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<sup>2</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

## Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 4 July 2023 to 11 September 2023. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 11 September 2023 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 21 for how to send us your response.

## Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Dudley. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

| Stage starts      | Description   |
|-------------------|---|
| 13 December 2022  | Number of councillors decided   |
| 5 January 2023    | Start of consultation seeking views on new wards                                      |
| 15 March 2023     | End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations |
| 4 July 2023       | Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation                    |
| 11 September 2023 | End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations |
| 28 November 2023  | Publication of final recommendations  |





## Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation<sup>3</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>4</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

20 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.

21 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.

|   | 2022    | 2028    |
|---|---------|---------|
| Electorate of Dudley                      | 234,304 | 249,161 |
| Number of councillors                     | 72      | 72      |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 3,254   | 3,461   |

22 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 Dudley are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

## Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2028, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6% by 2028.

25 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 draft recommendations.

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

## Number of councillors

26 Dudley currently has 72 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 72 councillors.

28 As the Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation<sup>5</sup> that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

29 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 72-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 23 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one borough-wide proposal from the Council which was amended slightly in submissions by Dudley Labour Group ('the Labour Group'), Stourbridge Labour Party, and Belle Vale ward councillors Daniel Bevan, Peter Dobb and Simon Phipps. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 The Council's borough-wide scheme provided a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Dudley which made minor changes to the existing warding pattern. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

32 Our draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries.

33 We examined the area virtually in order to look at the various proposals on the ground. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

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<sup>5</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c)

## Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for 24 three-councillor wards. We consider that our draft 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 8–17 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Dudley. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>6</sup> criteria of:

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

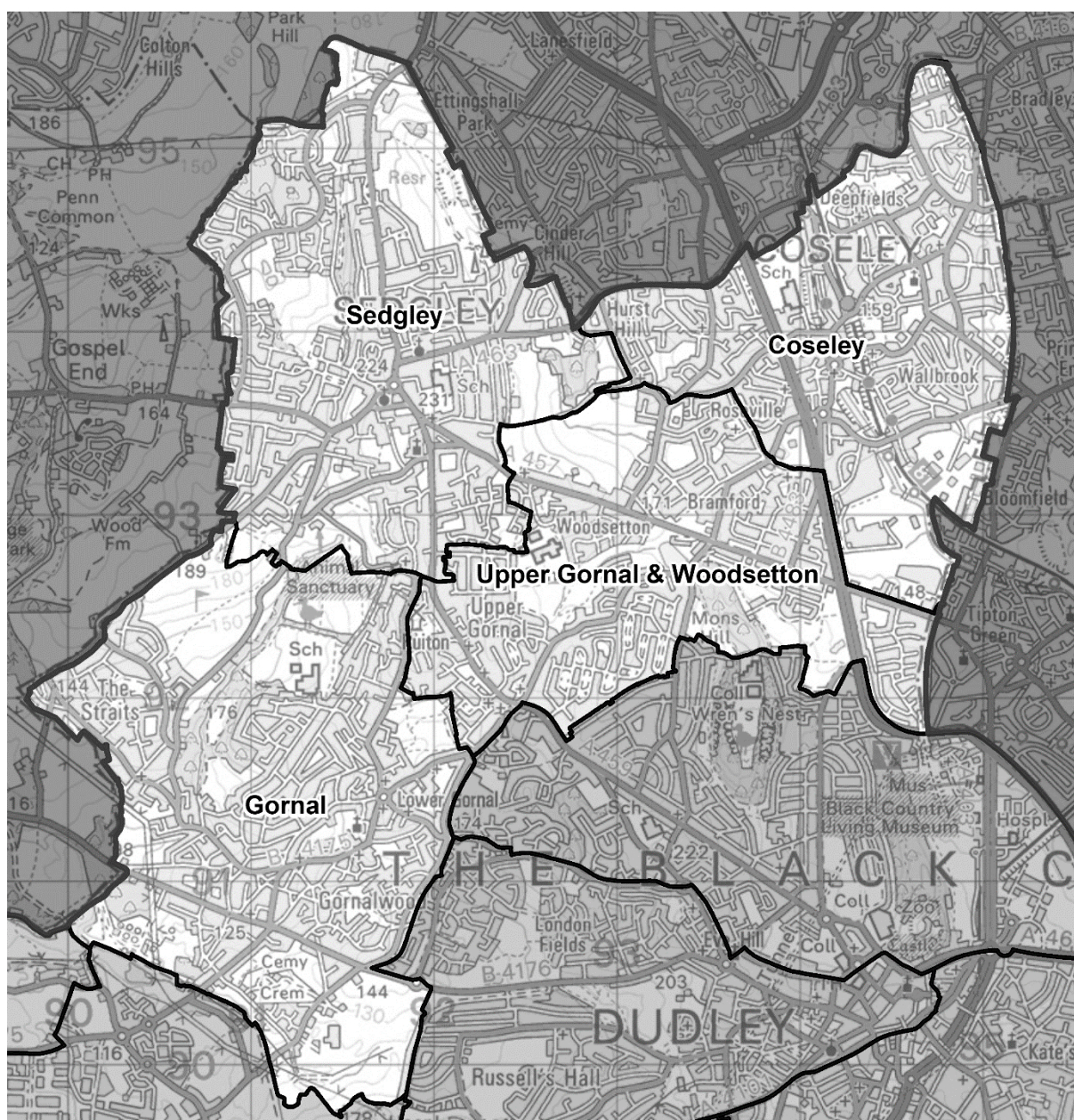
36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 27 and on the large map accompanying this report.

37 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

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<sup>6</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Coseley, Sedgley and Gornal



| Ward name                 | Number of councillors | Variance 2028 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Coseley                   | 3                     | -1%           |
| Gornal                    | 3                     | 3%            |
| Sedgley                   | 3                     | 9%            |
| Upper Gornal & Woodsetton | 3                     | 1%            |

### *Coseley, Gornal, Sedgley and Upper Gornal & Woodsetton*

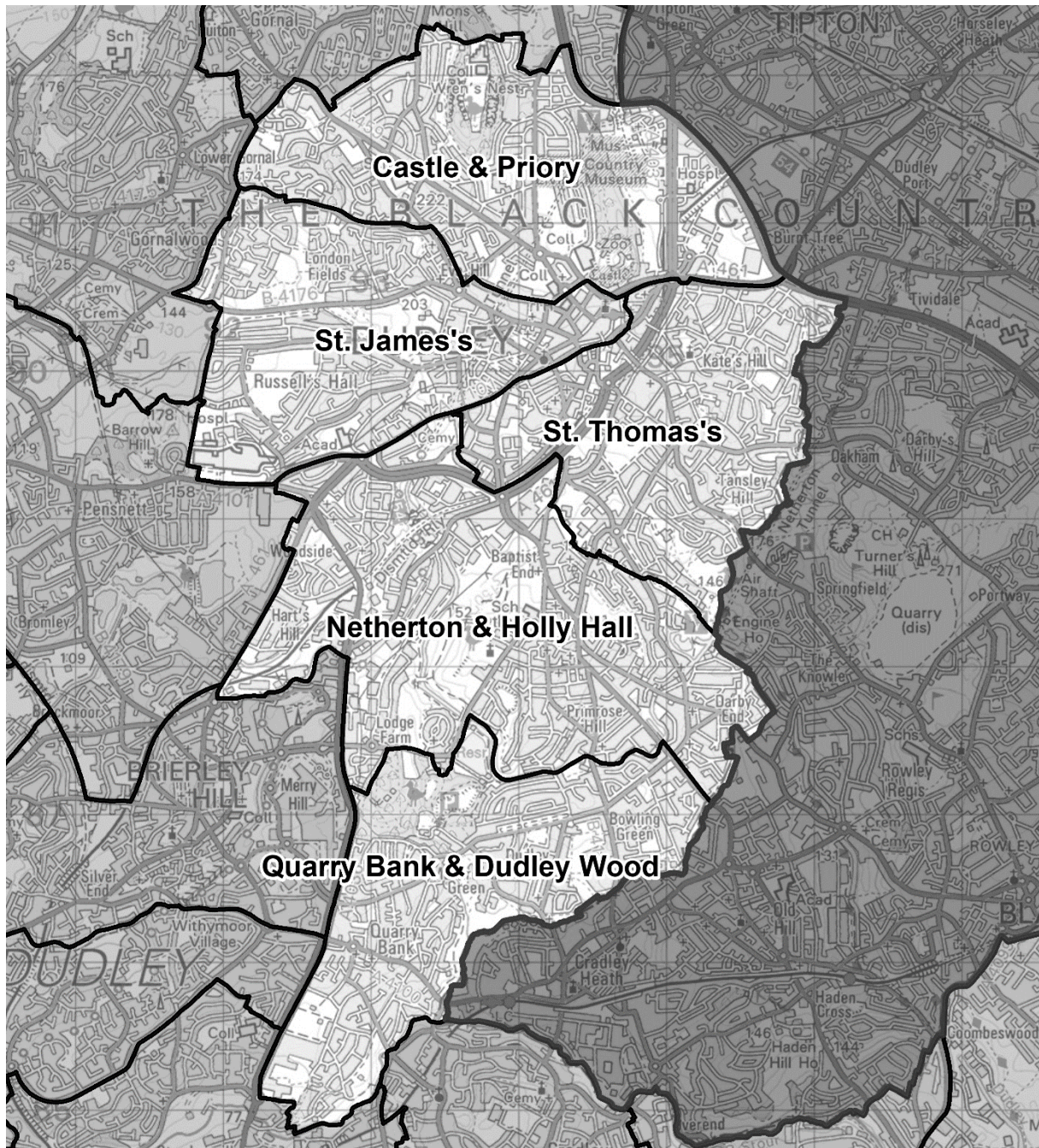
38 The changes we propose for this area reflect those presented in the Council scheme, which were primarily motivated by the need to reduce the existing electoral variance of 16% in Castle & Priory ward. This was achieved by moving the Foxyards

Estate out of the ward, creating a new northern boundary along Birmingham New Road and Priory Road, thus reducing the ward's electoral variance to -2%. The Council proposed relocating the majority of this area, south of Sedgley Road, into Upper Gornal & Woodsetton ward. However, as the area north of Sedgley Road overlaps with a planned development of 148 new homes, the other half being in Coseley ward, it is proposed that this area be moved to Coseley ward. This increases the electoral variances in Upper Gornal & Woodsetton and Coseley wards to 6% from -1% and -1% from -4%, respectively. A resident proposed moving the entire Foxyards Estate area into Coseley East ward, citing a greater affinity than with Castle & Priory. However, this would increase the variance of the former to 9%, creating greater electoral inequality than in the Council's proposal.

39 When considering this proposal, we noted planned access points for the new development along both Sedgley Road to the south and Bean Road to the north, both of which are joined with Birmingham New Road to the west. We noted that the large industrial estate to the north of the planned development may separate it from housing in the rest of Coseley ward. We therefore considered whether it might be more desirable for the area to be included in Upper Gornal & Woodsetton ward also, to which it is connected via Sedgley Road, Tipton Road and Birmingham New Road. However, we noted this would increase the electoral variance of the ward to 10% by 2028, so concluded the Council's proposal offers the best balance between our statutory criteria in this area. The Labour Group proposed renaming Coseley East ward Coseley, on the basis that this is what the area is commonly known as, and would be more inclusive given projected new developments. As this is the only ward in the borough with 'Coseley' in its name, we have adopted this proposal in our draft recommendations.

40 The Council scheme also proposed moving an area of the existing Upper Gornal & Woodsetton ward into Sedgley ward to avoid poor electoral equality in the former. This proposal moves the streets off Dudley Road, Gate Street and Tipton Road, as well as both sides of Dudley Road, into Sedgley ward. We noted this leaves Arcal Street, Downfield Drive and their associated streets outside the ward, despite access being from Dudley Road. Consequently, we decided to also include these streets in Sedgley ward. Although this pushes up the electoral variance of the ward to 9%, we believe this offers the best balance between our statutory criteria. Although the ward boundary also crosses the access from Dudley Road to Valley Road in Upper Gornal & Woodsetton ward, we note Valley Road is still accessible from the rest of the ward, which cannot be said of Arcal Street and Downfield Drive.

## Dudley Town



| Ward name                 | Number of councillors | Variance 2028 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Castle & Priory           | 3                     | -2%           |
| Netherton & Holly Hall    | 3                     | 3%            |
| Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood | 3                     | 0%            |
| St. James's               | 3                     | 4%            |
| St. Thomas's              | 3                     | 6%            |

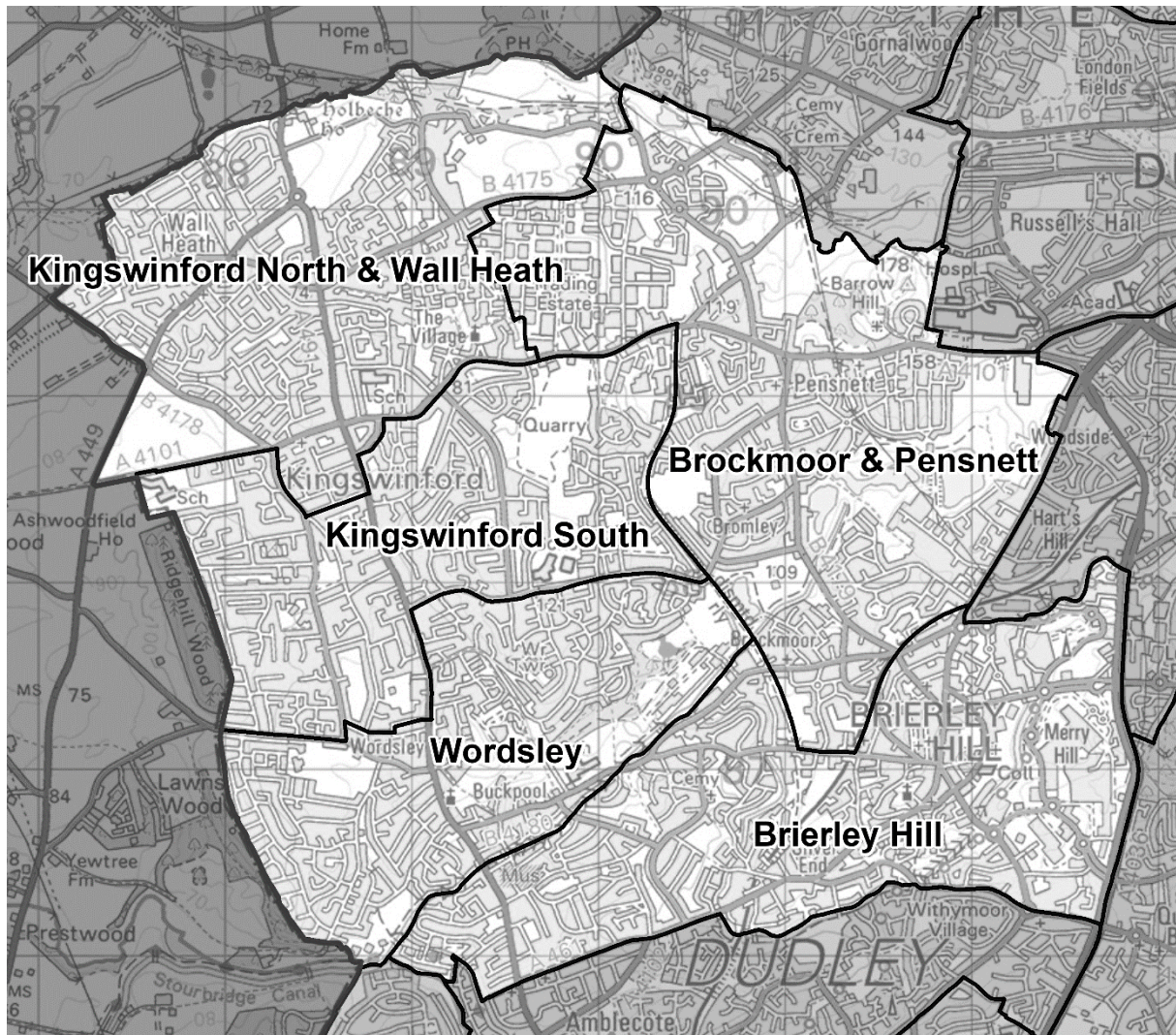
*Castle & Priory, Netherton & Holly Hall, Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood, St. James's and St. Thomas's*

41 Save for the modifications to Castle & Priory ward, detailed above, the Council did not propose any further changes in this area. However, the Labour Group scheme proposed one further modification to the boundaries between Castle & Priory and Upper Gornal & Woodsetton wards. This was to move Ash Green, Beech Green, Blackthorne Road (and Close), Cherry Green, Mulberry Green, Oak Green and Sycamore Green into Upper Gornal & Woodsetton. Presently, Ash Green, Blackthorne Road, Elm Green and Oak Green are split between the two wards, while access to Blackthorne Close and Cherry Green is presently on the other side of the ward boundary. The scheme instead proposes that the boundary between the two wards should follow the rear of houses on Old Park Road. This was also proposed by a resident as a way of reuniting the Old Park Farm Estate in a single ward while bringing down the variance of Castle & Priory. Consequently, we have adopted the proposal in our draft recommendations.

42 A resident proposed extending the eastern boundary of Gornal ward as far as Kent Street to incorporate Jew's Lane. However, the proposal did not provide any objective evidence, only that the resident personally felt more of a connection to Gornal and that the currently closest polling station was inconveniently located. Because of this, we did not adopt this proposal in our draft recommendations but would be interested to receive evidence from residents in the area during this consultation, particularly those living between Hill Street, Holloway Street, Jew's Lane and Kent Street.

43 The Labour Group scheme also proposed that Netherton, Woodside & St. Andrews ward be renamed Netherton & Holly Hall, claiming this relates more to the location and its community identity. As this also results in a more concise ward name, we have adopted it in our draft recommendations, but would be interested to hear from residents about whether they agree with the Labour Group that it better represents them than the existing ward name.

## West Dudley



| Ward name                       | Number of councillors | Variance 2028 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Brierley Hill                   | 3                     | 3%            |
| Brockmoor & Pensnett            | 3                     | 1%            |
| Kingswinford North & Wall Heath | 3                     | -2%           |
| Kingswinford South              | 3                     | 0%            |
| Wordsley                        | 3                     | -1%           |

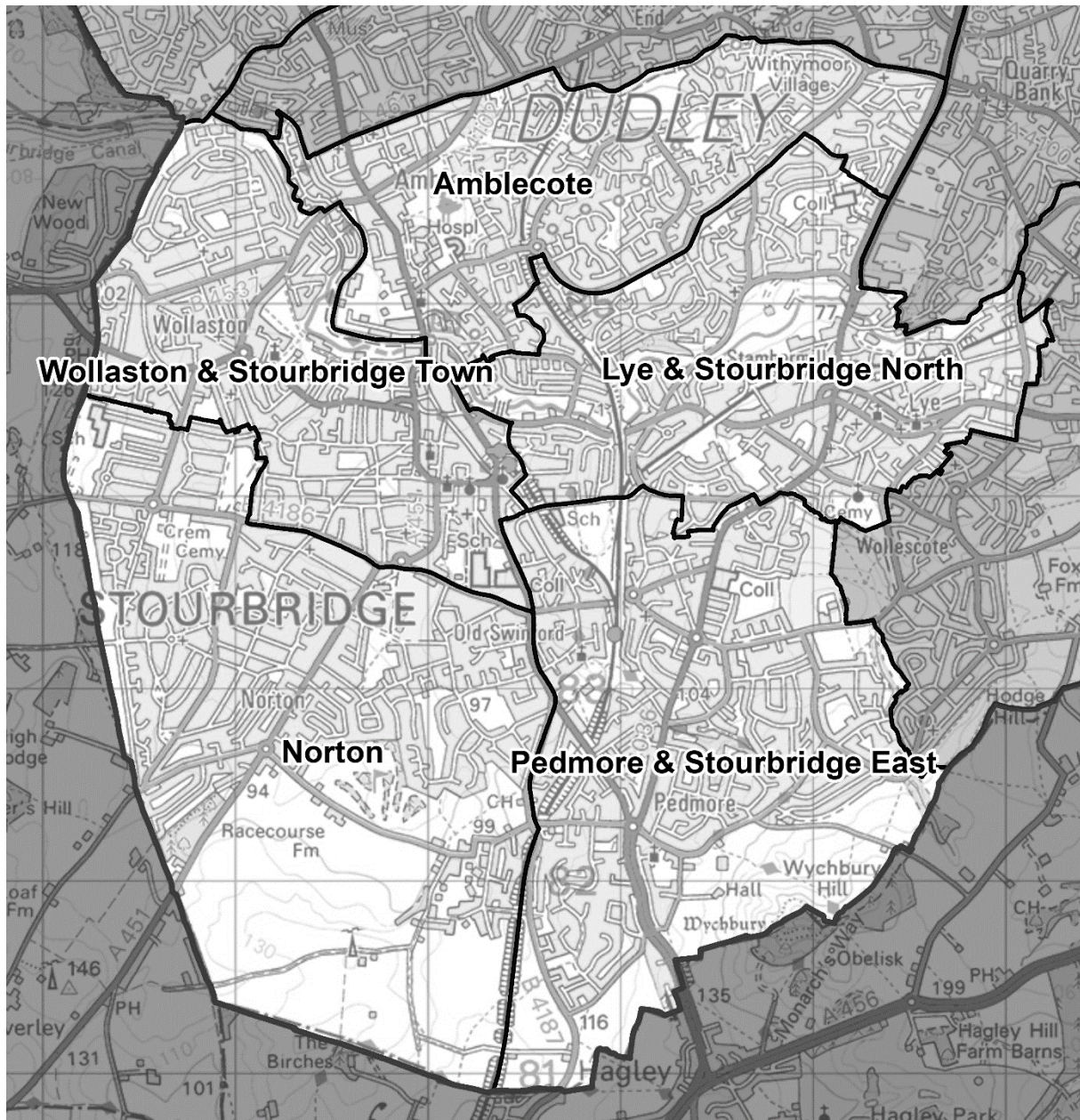
*Brierley Hill, Brockmoor & Pensnett, Kingswinford North & Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley*

44 We received two submissions for this area, from the Council and Councillor Adam Davies. The Council proposed maintaining the existing boundaries, and we have therefore adopted the existing boundaries in our draft recommendations, noting that they continue to provide for good electoral equality.



45 Councillor Davies proposed renaming Brierley Hill ward 'Brierley Hill & Wordsley South', with the existing Wordsley ward renamed 'Wordsley North', arguing that this would reflect the reality of Wordsley making up about a third of the ward and citing the confusion and frustration of residents. While we are open to making this change, we would welcome further evidence from the community about the identity of the area during the current consultation before making such a decision.

## Stourbridge



| Ward name                    | Number of councillors | Variance 2028 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Amblecote                    | 3                     | 2%            |
| Lye & Stourbridge North      | 3                     | -6%           |
| Norton                       | 3                     | -5%           |
| Pedmore & Stourbridge East   | 3                     | -5%           |
| Wollaston & Stourbridge Town | 3                     | 3%            |

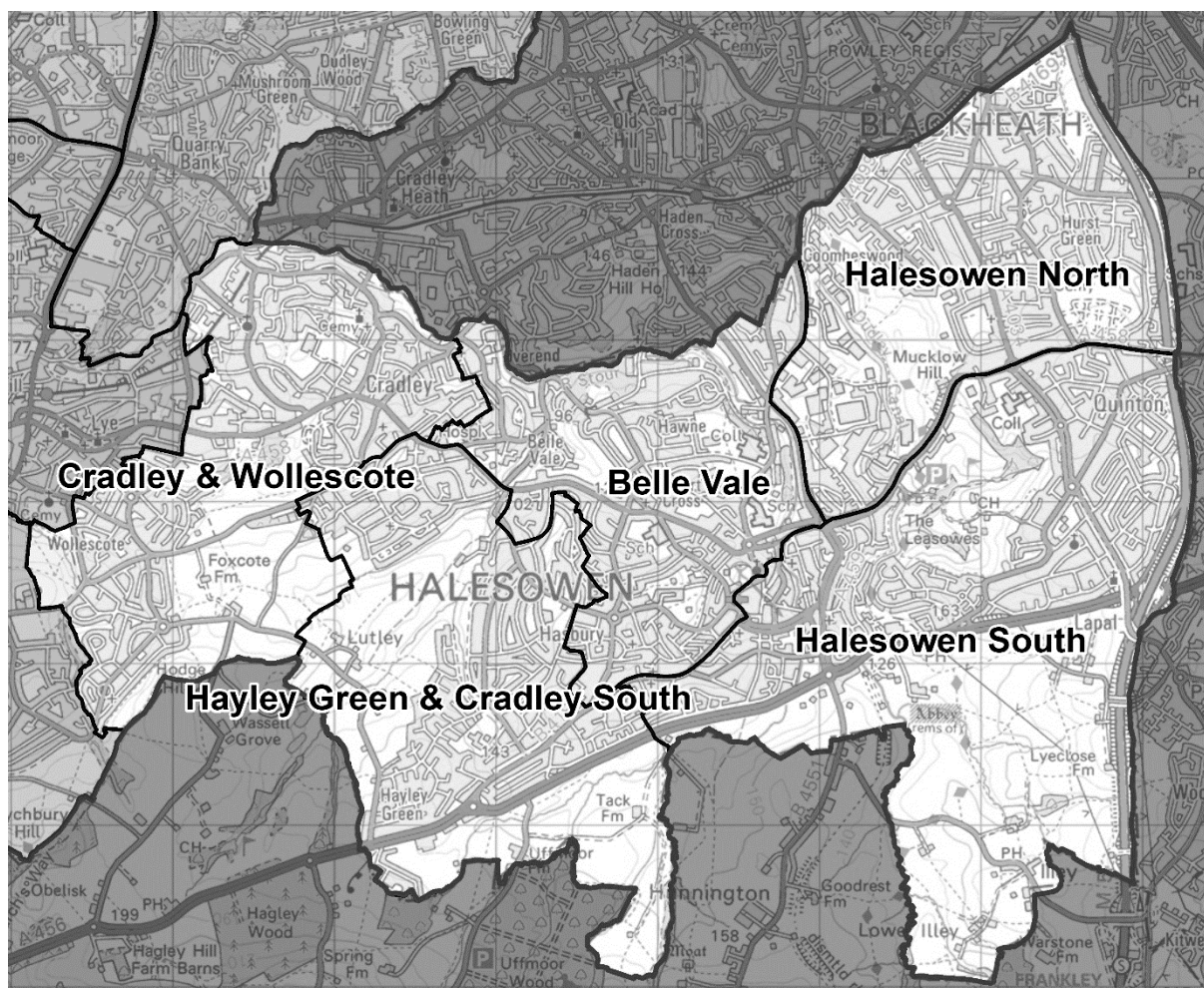
*Amblecote, Lye & Stourbridge North, Norton, Pedmore & Stourbridge East and Wollaston & Stourbridge Town*

46 The Council proposed maintaining the existing ward boundaries in this area. However, we also received a proposal from the Stourbridge Labour Party which made minor alterations to the boundary between Norton and Wollaston & Stourbridge Town wards. One of these moved the boundary from the middle of Park Road to the rear of houses on the north side of the street, bringing all of Park Road into Norton ward, and 24–32 Highpark Avenue from Norton ward into Wollaston & Stourbridge Town. This proposal also reunited 31–35 Swan Street in Norton ward with the rest of Swan Street in Wollaston & Stourbridge Town ward. We considered these proposals to improve community identity in the area and have adopted them in our draft recommendations.

47 Stourbridge Labour Party also proposed changes to the boundaries between Lye & Stourbridge North and Cradley & Wollescote wards, primarily to reunite the two ends of Crabbe Street which, with King Street and Pearson Street, it was said had more of an affinity with the nearby Lye High Street than Cradley & Wollescote. This position was supported by a King Street resident, who pointed out all her local amenities were less than five minutes' walk away in Lye, whereas those in Cradley & Wollescote were 20 minutes away on foot.

48 We carefully considered this proposal but, on our virtual tour of the area, did not consider it offered the best balance between our statutory criteria with the currently available evidence. This is because any inclusion of Crabbe Street in Lye & Stourbridge North ward would necessitate the inclusion of the various business parks off Crabbe Street and Bald's Lane, to which there are entrances on both streets. It is our opinion that including the entire business park area would not offer effective and convenient local government, as this would involve the ward boundary crossing the entrance from Bald's Lane. Furthermore, splitting the development so only those buildings facing onto Crabbe Street were included in Lye & Stourbridge North ward would negatively affect both local community identity and effective and convenient local government, not least because we are not at this time able to ascertain whether some or all of the buildings have a single operator. We have therefore not adopted this proposal in our draft recommendations.

## Halesowen



| Ward name                    | Number of councillors | Variance 2028 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Belle Vale                   | 3                     | 1%            |
| Cradley & Wollescote         | 3                     | -3%           |
| Halesowen North              | 3                     | -3%           |
| Halesowen South              | 3                     | -2%           |
| Hayley Green & Cradley South | 3                     | -6%           |

### *Belle Vale, Cradley & Wollescote, Halesowen North, Halesowen South and Hayley Green & Cradley South*

49 Belle Vale councillors Daniel Bevan, Peter Dobb and Simon Phipps proposed changes to the boundary between Belle Vale and Cradley & Wollescote wards. These were to include both sides of Banners Street in Belle Vale ward and both sides of Highfield Road, with Highfield Crescent, in Cradley & Wollescote ward. The councillors claimed the existing ward boundaries cause unnecessary confusion among residents, who would be better served with both sides of the same street being included in the same ward. We agreed and are satisfied that the councillors' proposals improve both community identity and effective and convenient local

government in the wards, so have adopted the proposals in our draft recommendations.

50 We received a detailed submission from a resident exploring possible ward boundaries for the area, starting from first principles to get the electoral variance as close to 0% as possible. The resident concluded that much of the existing warding pattern followed clear geographical boundaries such as main roads but that some, such as those between Belle Vale, Cradley & Wollascote and Hayley Green & Cradley South, appeared arbitrary. One suggestion made by the resident was to move the south side of Two Gates Lane along with Barnswood Close, High Park Road, Lusbridge Close and Whynot Street (referred to, collectively, as polling district T07 in the submission) from Cradley & Wollescote ward to Hayley Green & Cradley South. This has the effect of improving the electoral variance in the latter from -9% to -6%, while moving the former from 0% to -3%. This also has the effect of including both sides of Meres Road, as well as Barnswood Close, in one ward, as well as reuniting both ends of High Park Road. As we believe this is conducive to community identity and effective and convenient local government, while also improving electoral equality, we have adopted the proposal in our draft recommendations.

51 We also received submissions from three residents suggesting a wider reorganisation of ward boundaries in this area, for example uniting Cradley in a single ward, rather than between Cradley & Wollescote and Hayley Green & Cradley South as now, joining the Lye and Wollescote areas in a single ward, and including Wollescote in a Stourbridge ward. However, these submissions did not include examples of community evidence, which we would welcome during the current consultation before considering our final recommendations.



## Conclusions

52 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Dudley, referencing the 2022 and 2028 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

|  | Draft recommendations |       |
|--|-----------------------|-------|
|  | 2022                  | 2028  |
| Number of councillors  | 72                    | 72    |
| Number of electoral wards                                      | 24                    | 24    |
| Average number of electors per councillor                      | 3,254                 | 3,461 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average | 0                     | 0     |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average | 0                     | 0     |

#### Draft recommendations

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council should be made up of 72 councillors serving 24 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 Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)





## Have your say

53 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole borough or just a part of it.

54 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Dudley, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

55 Our website is the best way to keep up to date with progress on the review and to have your say [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

56 Each review has its own page with details of the timetable for the review, information about its different stages and interactive mapping.

57 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Dudley)**  
**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**  
**PO Box 133**  
**Blyth**  
**NE24 9FE**

58 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

59 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

60 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in Dudley?

61 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

62 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

63 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

64 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

65 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

66 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council in 2024.



## Equalities

67 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

### Draft recommendations for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

|    | Ward name                    | Number of councillors | Electorate (2022) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2028) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1  | Amblecote                    | 3                     | 9,874             | 3,291                             | 1%                      | 10,606            | 3,535                             | 2%                      |
| 2  | Belle Vale                   | 3                     | 9,848             | 3,283                             | 1%                      | 10,498            | 3,499                             | 1%                      |
| 3  | Brierley Hill                | 3                     | 10,041            | 3,347                             | 3%                      | 10,703            | 3,568                             | 3%                      |
| 4  | Brockmoor & Pensnett         | 3                     | 9,877             | 3,292                             | 1%                      | 10,451            | 3,484                             | 1%                      |
| 5  | Castle & Priory              | 3                     | 9,608             | 3,203                             | -2%                     | 10,212            | 3,404                             | -2%                     |
| 6  | Coseley                      | 3                     | 9,367             | 3,122                             | -4%                     | 10,301            | 3,434                             | -1%                     |
| 7  | Cradley & Wollescote         | 3                     | 9,394             | 3,131                             | -4%                     | 10,064            | 3,355                             | -3%                     |
| 8  | Gornal                       | 3                     | 10,065            | 3,355                             | 3%                      | 10,679            | 3,560                             | 3%                      |
| 9  | Halesowen North              | 3                     | 9,602             | 3,201                             | -2%                     | 10,068            | 3,356                             | -3%                     |
| 10 | Halesowen South              | 3                     | 9,477             | 3,159                             | -3%                     | 10,173            | 3,391                             | -2%                     |
| 11 | Hayley Green & Cradley South | 3                     | 9,283             | 3,094                             | -5%                     | 9,709             | 3,236                             | -6%                     |

| Ward name                          | Number of councillors | Electorate (2022) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2028) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 12 Kingswinford North & Wall Heath | 3                     | 9,659             | 3,220                             | -1%                     | 10,166            | 3,389                             | -2%                     |
| 13 Kingswinford South              | 3                     | 9,998             | 3,333                             | 2%                      | 10,402            | 3,467                             | 0%                      |
| 14 Lye & Stourbridge North         | 3                     | 9,069             | 3,023                             | -7%                     | 9,773             | 3,258                             | -6%                     |
| 15 Netherton & Holly Hall          | 3                     | 10,037            | 3,346                             | 3%                      | 10,693            | 3,564                             | 3%                      |
| 16 Norton                          | 3                     | 9,353             | 3,118                             | -4%                     | 9,814             | 3,271                             | -5%                     |
| 17 Pedmore & Stourbridge East      | 3                     | 9,380             | 3,127                             | -4%                     | 9,905             | 3,302                             | -5%                     |
| 18 Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood       | 3                     | 9,862             | 3,287                             | 1%                      | 10,397            | 3,466                             | 0%                      |
| 19 Sedgley                         | 3                     | 10,745            | 3,582                             | 10%                     | 11,348            | 3,783                             | 9%                      |
| 20 St. James's                     | 3                     | 9,919             | 3,306                             | 2%                      | 10,764            | 3,588                             | 4%                      |
| 21 St. Thomas's                    | 3                     | 10,354            | 3,451                             | 6%                      | 10,987            | 3,662                             | 6%                      |
| 22 Upper Gornal & Woodsetton       | 3                     | 9,857             | 3,286                             | 1%                      | 10,487            | 3,496                             | 1%                      |
| 23 Wollaston & Stourbridge Town    | 3                     | 10,022            | 3,341                             | 3%                      | 10,686            | 3,562                             | 3%                      |



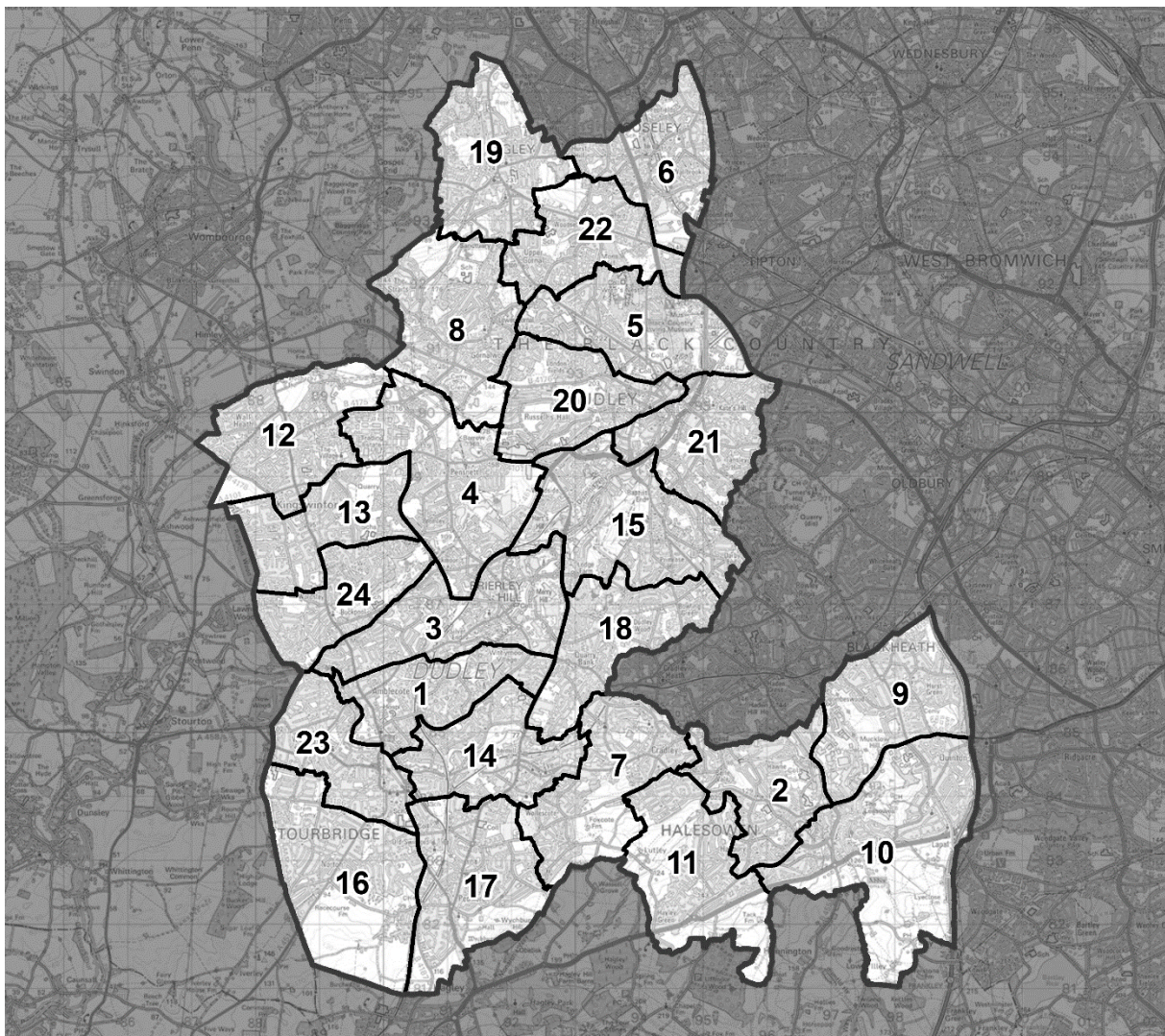
| Ward name       | Number of councillors | Electorate (2022) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2028) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 24 Wordsley     | 3                     | 9,613             | 3,204                             | -2%                     | 10,275            | 3,425                             | -1%                     |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>72</b>             | <b>234,304</b>    | <b>–</b>                          | <b>–</b>                | <b>249,161</b>    | <b>–</b>                          | <b>–</b>                |
| <b>Averages</b> | <b>–</b>              | <b>–</b>          | <b>3,254</b>                      | <b>–</b>                | <b>–</b>          | <b>3,461</b>                      | <b>–</b>                |

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Dudley Metropolitan Borough 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



| Number | Ward name                       |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1      | Amblecote                       |
| 2      | Belle Vale                      |
| 3      | Brierley Hill                   |
| 4      | Brockmoor & Pensnett            |
| 5      | Castle & Priory                 |
| 6      | Coseley                         |
| 7      | Cradley & Wollescote            |
| 8      | Gornal                          |
| 9      | Halesowen North                 |
| 10     | Halesowen South                 |
| 11     | Hayley Green & Cradley South    |
| 12     | Kingswinford North & Wall Heath |

|    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 13 | Kingswinford South           |
| 14 | Lye & Stourbridge North      |
| 15 | Netherton & Holly Hall       |
| 16 | Norton                       |
| 17 | Pedmore & Stourbridge East   |
| 18 | Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood    |
| 19 | Sedgley                      |
| 20 | St. James's                  |
| 21 | St. Thomas's                 |
| 22 | Upper Gornal & Woodsetton    |
| 23 | Wollaston & Stourbridge Town |
| 24 | Wordsley                     |

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

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/dudley>

#### *Local Authority*

- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Dudley Labour Group
- Stourbridge Labour Party

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor D. Bevan\* (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Davies (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Dobb\* (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Hughes (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor B. Pearson (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Phipps\* (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)

\*Included in a single submission

#### *Local Residents*

- 16 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 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. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.  |
| 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 can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council                                |
| Town council                                    | A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>   |
| Under-represented                               | Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average  |
| Variance (or electoral variance)                | How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average  |
| Ward  | A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council |

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

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

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