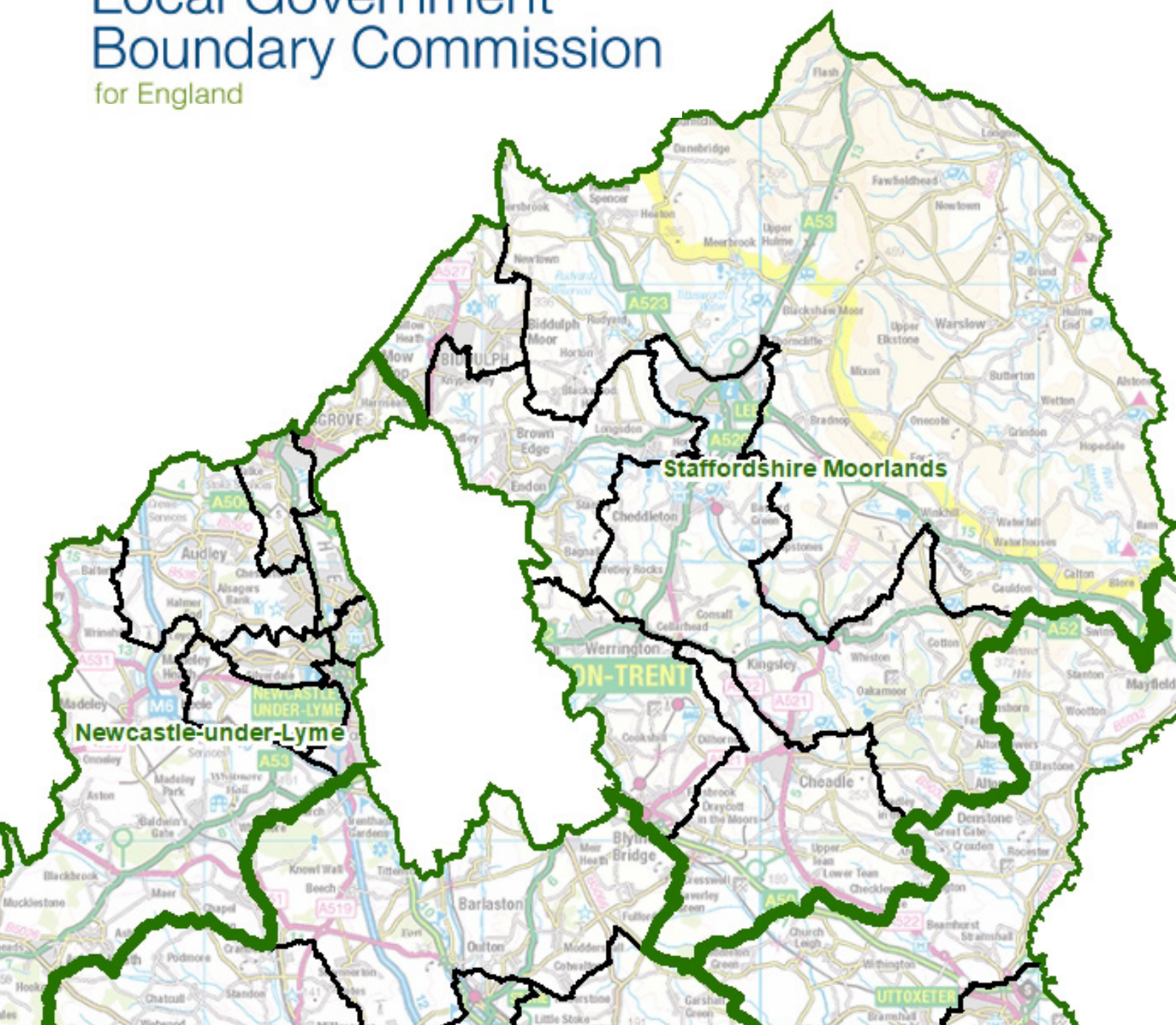


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Staffordshire County Council Draft Recommendations

August 2023

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- 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 county council electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each division.

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

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

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

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

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

Why Staffordshire?

7 We are conducting a review of Staffordshire County Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2012, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² 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 divisions in Staffordshire 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 county.

Our proposals for Staffordshire

9 Staffordshire County Council should be represented by 62 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Staffordshire should have 62 divisions, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 49 divisions should change; 11 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 division you vote in, which other communities are in that division, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your division name may also change.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the county 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.

² 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 8 August to 16 October 2023. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed divisions 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 divisions to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 16 October 2023 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 51 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 Staffordshire. We then held a period of consultation with the public on division patterns for the county. 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
10 January 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new divisions
20 March 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
8 August 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
16 October 2023	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
30 January 2024	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ 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 divisions.

20 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create divisions 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 Staffordshire	666,097	720,225
Number of councillors	62	62
Average number of electors per councillor	10,744	11,617

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a division is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the division as having 'good electoral equality'. All but four of our proposed divisions for Staffordshire 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

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. This review is now scheduled to be completed in 2024 rather than 2023 as originally planned. However, we (and the Council) remain content that the five-year forecast agreed with the Council at the start of the review remains the best available and can be regarded as a reasonable forecast of electors for early 2029. We have therefore used it when developing these draft recommendations. The

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

district and borough councils provided information to the County Council in support of these forecasts.

Number of councillors

25 Staffordshire Council currently has 62 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.

26 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of divisions that would be represented by 62 councillors.

27 At the beginning of the review the Council requested that this review be conducted as a 'single-member division' review.⁵ The Commission agreed to this request, and we invited proposals for divisions that would each be represented by one councillor.

28 We received five submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on division patterns. One was under the impression that we had decided that the county should have 65 councillors and that this was too many. Two residents advocated for a reduction in council size, but they gave no supporting evidence. Finally, another resident was of the view that 62 councillors would create an 'additional burden' on the Council.

29 As none of these suggested an alternative number of councillors, nor did they provide evidence to support how the Council would carry out its duties with fewer councillors, we were not persuaded to move away from our decision on the number of councillors and our draft recommendations are based on a council size of 62.

Councillor allocation and coterminosity

30 A council size of 62 provides the following allocation between the district councils in the county. When conducting reviews of two-tier county councils there are a number of rules that we must follow. Firstly, we must not recommend any divisions that cross the district boundary. Secondly, we must have regard for the district wards that exist within each district. Where possible we try to use the district wards to form the boundaries of the county divisions. The table below shows the percentage of district wards that are wholly contained within our proposed divisions. We refer to this as coterminosity.

District	Allocation of councillors	Coterminosity
Cannock Chase	7	67%

⁵ Section 57 of Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

East Staffordshire	9	63%
Lichfield	8	73%
Newcastle under Lyme	9	71%
South Staffordshire	8	75%
Stafford	9	70%
Staffordshire Moorlands	7	96%
Tamworth	5	80%

Division boundaries consultation

31 We received 107 submissions in response to our consultation on division boundaries. These included one county-wide proposal from the Council and three district-wide submissions, one each for Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire and Stafford. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for divisions arrangements in particular areas of the county.

32 The county- and district-wide schemes provided a uniform pattern of one-councillor divisions for Staffordshire. For the most part, the schemes had good electoral equality. The towns in Staffordshire almost all had too many electors to be represented by just one councillor and too few to be represented by two. This meant that an area of these towns had to be included in divisions with rural parishes.

33 In Cannock Chase we received a district-wide submission from Cannock Chase Constituency Labour Party and Cannock Chase District Council's Labour Group of councillors ('Labour'). The proposals shared several similarities with the Council's proposal but differed in an area south of Rugeley Town station and also near Cannock.

34 In East Staffordshire, we received a district-wide proposal from a resident. It proposed different boundaries to the Council's scheme.

35 In Stafford we received proposals from Stone Constituency Labour Party ('Stone Labour'). We considered that they reflected communities and had good electoral equality.

36 Our draft recommendations are based on the Council's scheme in most areas. In Cannock Chase, they are based on a combination of the Council and the Labour proposals. In Stafford, except for Stafford North division, they are based on Stone Labour's proposals.

37 Our draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the

best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

Draft recommendations

38 Our draft recommendations are for 62 one-councillor divisions. 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.

39 The tables and maps on pages 9–44 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Staffordshire. They detail how the proposed division arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

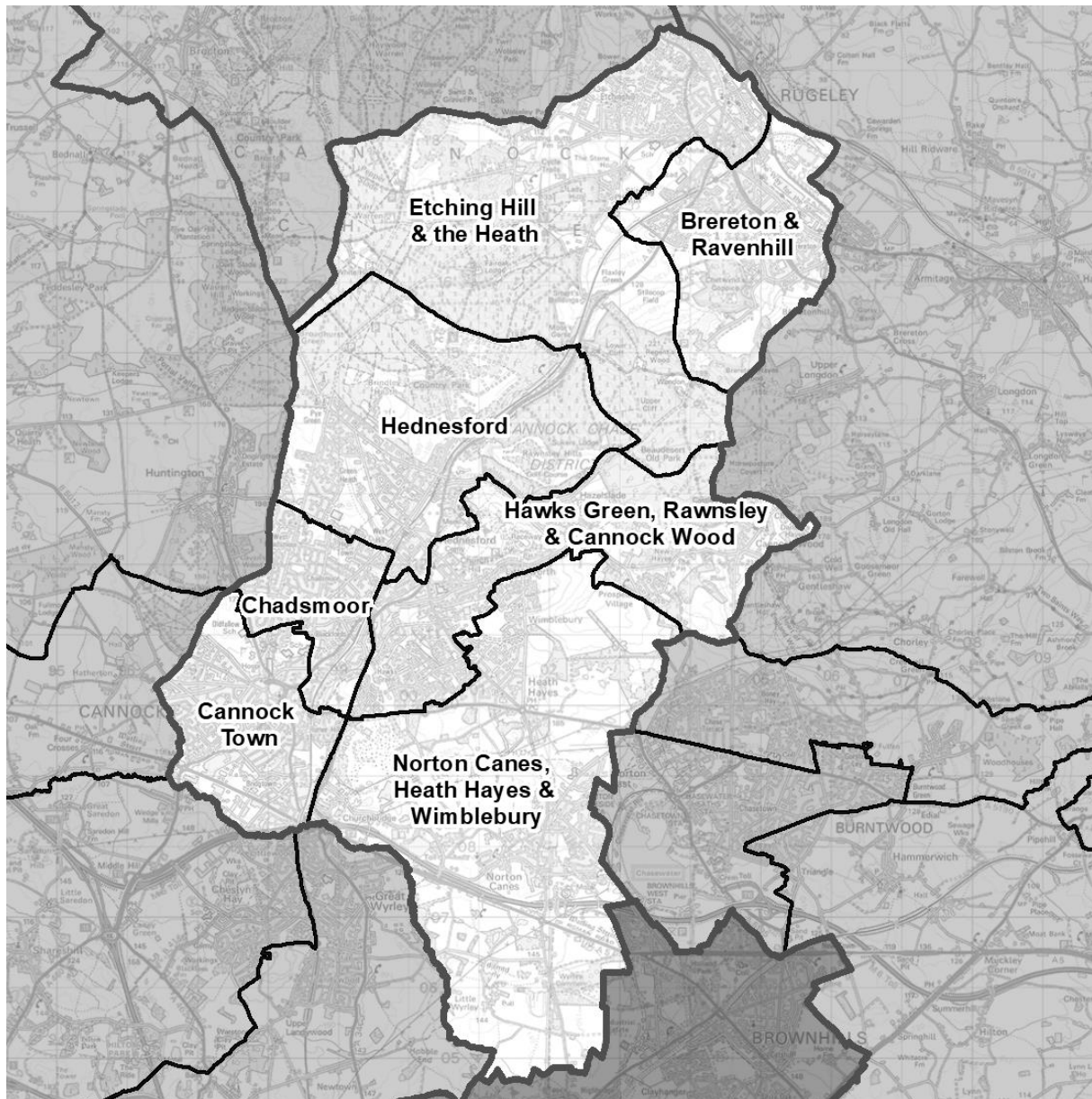
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

40 A summary of our proposed new divisions is set out in the table starting on page 57 and on the large map accompanying this report.

41 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the division boundaries, and the names of our proposed divisions.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Cannock Chase



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Brereton & Ravenhill	1	-7%
Cannock Town	1	4%
Chads Moor	1	-3%
Etching Hill & the Heath	1	-8%
Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood	1	7%
Hednesford	1	9%
Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	1	6%

42 Under a council size of 62, Cannock Chase District Council will have seven county councillors, with each councillor representing on average 1% more electors than the county average.

43 In addition to the Council's county-wide proposal, we received a district-wide proposal from Labour. Both proposals had many shared boundaries, and our draft recommendations are based on a combination of both.

Brereton & Ravenhill and Etching Hill & The Heath

44 The district-wide proposals from the Council and Labour proposed a different boundary between the two divisions. The proposals both include Etching Hill & The Heath ward and most of Western Springs ward in a single division. The main difference was how they divided Hagley district ward. The Council included the Burnt Hill Lane area in its Etchinghill & Heath division while Labour included it in Brereton & Ravenhill in the south.

45 Also, while the Council and Labour both move an area of Rugeley from Brereton & Ravenhill into Etching Hill & Heath to the north, Labour propose moving a larger part of this area.

46 We carefully considered both proposals. We note that the vehicular access to the roads around Burnthill Lane is from Sandy Lane (A460). We are therefore of the view that it is likely that these residents share some community with those in the Ravenhill and Brereton areas. Furthermore, we note that the Labour proposal uses the brook east of Hagley Park as a boundary. This is the district ward boundary and is therefore likely to be recognisable to the community. We also consider Labour's proposed boundary to the east, along Horse Fair and the railway line, is stronger and more identifiable than the Council's proposed one along Upper Brook Street and Market Street.

47 We have, therefore, based our draft recommendations for this area on Labour's proposals. However, we have modified them slightly so that the boundary runs along the railway line that bisects Power Station Road and the A51. This is also a parish boundary and using it avoids the creation of an unviable parish ward (with very few electors) between Leathermill Lane and the railway line.

48 We have also adopted the name Etching Hill & The Heath in place of Etching Hill & Heath as suggested by Labour, to bring it in line with the district ward name like several other divisions.

49 Brereton & Ravenhill and Etching Hill & The Heath divisions are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

50 We received a submission from a resident who advocated changes to the boundary between Brereton & Ravenhill division and Lichfield Rural West in Lichfield district. However, this review cannot consider the boundaries between districts. A county electoral review relates to areas that fall within each district within the county. We are therefore unable to modify the boundaries between different districts as part of this electoral review.

Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood, Hednesford and Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury

51 The proposals from the Council and Labour were similar.

52 Both proposed two single-councillor divisions in place of the existing two-councillor Hednesford & Rawnsley division in the north of the area. One division comprised Hednesford Green Heath and Hednesford North wards and a small area of Hednesford South ward. The other included Hawks Green and Rawnsley wards and a small part of Hednesford South.

53 To the south, they proposed a division comprised of Heath Hayes East & Wimblebury and Norton Canes wards with a small area of Hednesford South.

54 We also received submissions from Brindley Heath Parish Council and three residents. The parish council stated that they did not have any specific comments at this stage. One of the residents advocated for the retention of the existing Hednesford & Rawnsley division. However, the Council requested, and we agreed to, a single-councillor review in which we aim to recommend divisions represented by one councillor across the county.

55 Another resident stated that Burgoyne Street and Dovedale should be excluded from Chadsmoor division and included in a Hednesford division. The resident did not provide any community evidence and we note that neither the Council nor Labour included them in a division in Hednesford. We also note that these roads are not included in Hednesford Green Heath district ward and we were not persuaded to adopt their proposal. The other resident did not want Norton Canes 'subsumed by Cannock'. We note that neither the Council, nor Labour, proposed including Norton Canes parish in a division with the unparished town of Cannock.

56 The main difference between the Council and Labour proposals was around Kensington Place. The Council included residents on this road in a division with Norton Canes parish to the south, while Labour used the A5190 as a boundary and included them in a division to the north. There were two other differences that do not affect electors. Firstly, Labour split an industrial area on Keys Park Road across two divisions. The Council, on the other hand, included the entire industrial estate in a single division.

57 Secondly, the other difference was where the open space between Cannock Road, Prospect Village, Wimblebury Road and the district boundary was included. Labour included it in a division with Norton Canes to the south, while the Council placed it in a division with Rawnsley to the north.

58 After careful consideration we note that the boundaries of the Council's Hednesford and Labour's Hednesford South & Hawks Green divisions are near identical, and we are basing our draft recommendations for this division on both proposals. We have adopted the Council's proposal for Kensington Place and include it in a division with Norton Canes because the Council's proposal utilises the district ward boundary in that area.

59 Around Keys Park Road we consider that uniting the industrial area in a single division will facilitate effective and convenient local government and we have also adopted the Council's boundary in this area. We have adopted Labour's proposed boundary around Hednesford Hills Common and for the open space between Cannock Road, Prospect Village, Wimblebury Road and the district boundary because it reflects the district warding pattern in this area.

60 We have adopted the names proposed by the Council, but welcome comments on whether they ought to be renamed in line with Labour's proposals. Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood, Hednesford and Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Cannock Town and Chadsmoor

61 Both the Council and Labour proposed divisions that were modifications of the existing ones in this area. The main difference between their proposals was around Calving Hill and Cannock Chase Hospital. The Council moved a small area south of Old Fallow Road into its Chadsmoor division to the north. Labour, on the other hand, moved a much bigger area (i.e., the Calving Hill area and as far south as Cannock Chase Hospital) into its proposed Cannock North & Chadsmoor division.

62 The Council said it considered moving a larger area into its northern division but did not do so for community identity reasons. It was of the view that the lower part of Chenet Way and the estates off it would consider themselves part of Cannock Town.

63 Labour stated that it moved the boundary southwards to address the electoral imbalance between the two divisions.

64 We have carefully considered both proposals. We note that Labour was seeking to address the relative size of the two divisions. However, the Council's proposal, which it says reflects the community identity of residents, also produces

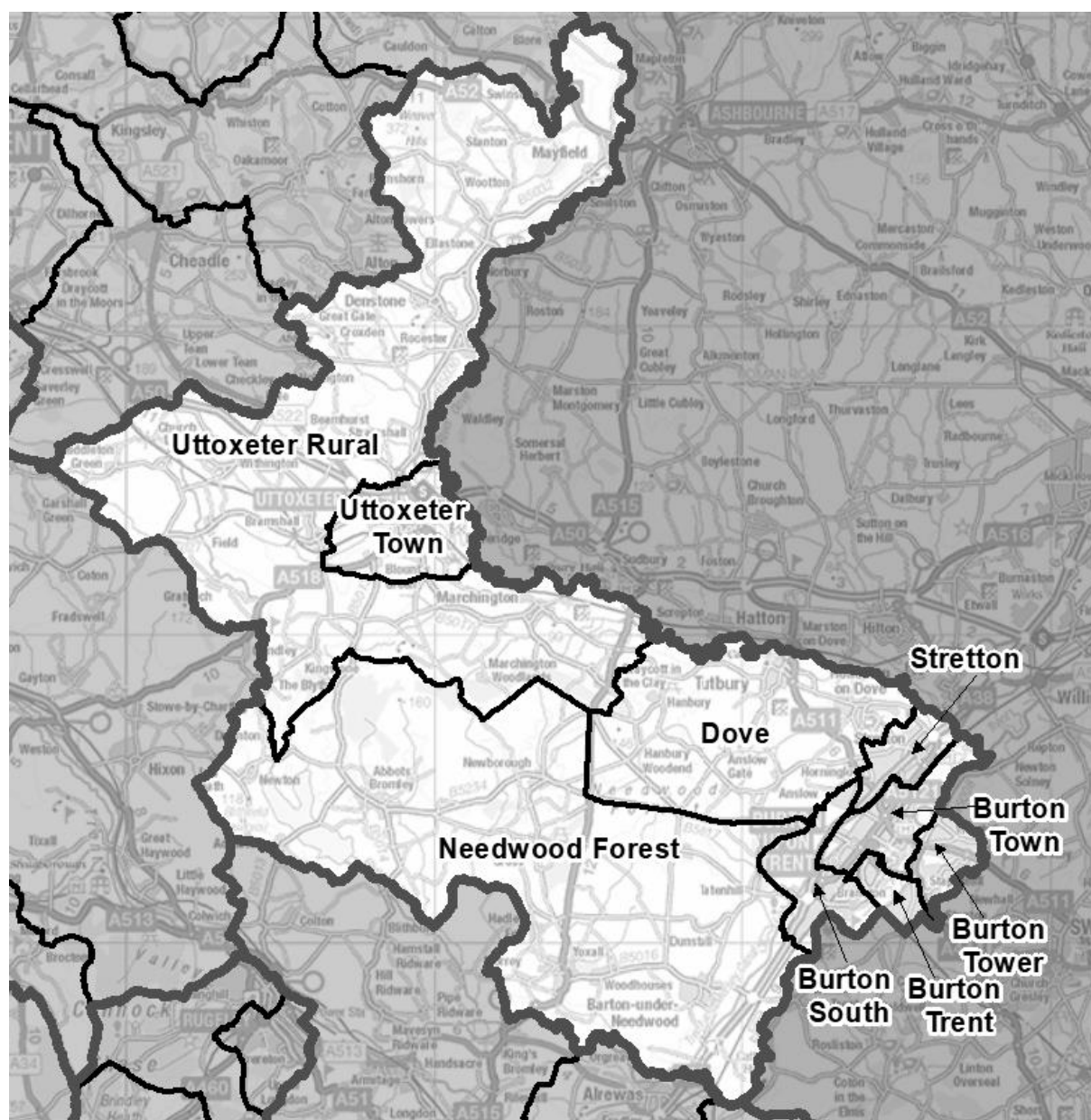
divisions with good electoral equality. Therefore, we have been persuaded to base our draft recommendations on the Council's proposal.

65 We have made three minor modifications to the proposal. Firstly, Labour proposed that The Crescent, located off Stafford Road, be included in a division with their closest neighbours on Stafford Road. We consider that this will reflect the community of these residents and we have adopted this proposal.

66 Secondly, we modify the northern boundary and retain numbers 71–97 Old Fallow Road (odd numbers) in Cannock Town division. Finally, we make very minor modifications along Belt Road to make that stretch of the boundary coterminous with the new district ward boundary in the area.

67 Cannock Town and Chadsmoor divisions are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

East Staffordshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Burton South	1	0%
Burton Tower	1	0%
Burton Town	1	13%
Burton Trent	1	-9%
Dove	1	-8%
Needwood Forest	1	-9%
Stretton	1	5%
Uttoxeter Rural	1	-5%
Uttoxeter Town	1	9%

68 Under a council size of 62, East Staffordshire District Council will have nine county councillors, with each councillor representing on average 1% fewer electors than the county average.

69 Uttoxeter Town has too many electors for two councillors and too few for three, so to provide for an acceptable level of electoral equality in this area, part of the town has to be included in a division with neighbouring rural parishes. The challenge was identifying which part of Uttoxeter should be included in a more rural division.

70 We received a district-wide proposal from a resident in addition to the Council's proposals for East Staffordshire. However, our draft recommendations are based on the Council's proposals.

71 The two proposals had some similarities in the Burton area. However, the proposals for Uttoxeter and the rest of the district were different. The Council placed most of Uttoxeter Town in a single division while the resident proposed splitting it across two divisions. On careful consideration, we noted that the resident's proposals also split Marchington and Uttoxeter rural parishes across divisions and their Dove & Horninglow division was forecast to have 17% more electors than the average for Staffordshire County. Considering this and evidence from other residents in support of keeping most of Uttoxeter town in a single division, we did not adopt the resident's proposals. Having taken this decision in Uttoxeter, we were unable to adopt the resident's boundaries elsewhere.

Burton South, Burton Tower, Burton Town, Burton Trent and Stretton

72 The county- and district-wide proposals were the only submissions we received for this area.

73 The Council's and resident's proposals for three of the four Burton divisions were similar and only differed in one area: the southern boundary of Burton Tower and Burton Town. The resident used Spring Terrace Road from where the boundary ran west from River Trent to Fleet Street and then Dale Street. The Council used St Peter's Bridge and St Peter's Street as its southern boundary. Both stated that their proposals for Burton Tower were based on the district wards. The two proposals for Stretton also had many similarities and only differed to the south of the proposed division.

74 Unlike the Council, the resident did not propose a Burton South division. Instead, the area was split across their Dove & Horninglow and Needwood Forest divisions.

75 We note that the Council's Burton Tower division is based on the new district wards implemented at the 2023 elections for East Staffordshire, while the resident's proposed division is based on the district wards that existed before then. We note

that using the new wards as the building blocks for the divisions will provide for a better level of coterminosity and we have adopted the Council's proposals. The division has strong boundaries, good electoral equality and Brizlincote and Winshill district wards are fully coterminous with this division.

76 With regards to Burton Trent and Burton Town divisions, we note that both proposals place the Shobnall area in Burton Trent division, for electoral equality reasons. However, we consider the railway line a strong boundary between Burton Trent and Burton Town divisions. Using this as a boundary means that four district wards will be coterminous with these divisions. We note that this produces a Burton Town ward with 13% more electors than the average for the county but consider that this provides the best balance of our statutory criteria in this area.

77 As mentioned above, the resident's proposed Dove & Horninglow division had very poor electoral equality and we did not adopt it. Instead, we based our draft recommendations for Burton South and Stretton on the Council's proposals.

78 We considered including Branston parish in its entirety in Burton South division so that the district ward would not be split across county divisions, but this would result in a rural division to the southwest which is forecast to have 21% fewer electors than the average for the county. We consider this poor electoral equality and were therefore not persuaded to do this.

79 We also considered including the area around St Modwen's Catholic Primary School as well as Beaconsfield Road in a Stretton division. However, this would result in Stretton and the rural division to the west having 17% fewer and 14% more electors, respectively, than the average for the county by 2028. Therefore, we did not do this.

80 Burton South, Burton Tower, Burton Trent and Stretton divisions are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028. Burton Town is forecast to have 13% more electors than the average for the county by 2028.

Uttoxeter Rural and Uttoxeter Town

81 We received nine submissions about Uttoxeter Town and the surrounding parishes, in addition to the area-wide submissions. Most were from residents who advocated for the existing Uttoxeter Town division to be retained. One of the residents listed the shared facilities within the town. We note that the existing division is coterminous with the parish boundaries.

82 Croxden and Uttoxeter Rural parish councils confirmed that they did not have any comments at this stage. Councillor Hawkins wanted The Heath and Town district ward boundaries in Uttoxeter Town to be retained. It may be helpful to note that this

review is about county divisions and not district wards which will remain unchanged by this process.

83 The Council proposed a Uttoxeter Town division which comprises most of Uttoxeter parish. It excluded an area of new development in the northwest, around Kiddlestitch Road, which it included in Uttoxeter Rural division. This was for electoral equality reasons. Its rationale for including this area in a rural division and not another part of the town is that the development is on the edge of town and is not closely aligned to the existing Uttoxeter Town community. Its proposed Uttoxeter Rural division was based on the existing one but excluded Abbots Bromley and Blithfield parishes. As mentioned above, the resident's district-wide proposal split Uttoxeter town across two divisions, combining all parts of the town with rural areas of the district, rather than just one.

84 We note that Uttoxeter, like many of the towns in Staffordshire, has more electors than required for one division – with 17% more electors than the average – but not enough electors for two councillors if the divisions were to have an acceptable level of electoral equality.

85 We have adopted the Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations in Uttoxeter. This keeps most of the town in a single division where their community lies. It is true that residents of the new development may also look towards Uttoxeter Town for their community, but with more than 1,000 additional electors forecast, they may develop their own community as well. We consider that this development is the most appropriate area to include in a division outside of the town.

86 Our Uttoxeter Rural division is comprised of rural parishes as well as this part of Uttoxeter Town and we are content to adopt this proposal.

87 Uttoxeter Rural and Uttoxeter Town divisions are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

88 One resident suggested that Uttoxeter and the surrounding villages be moved into Staffordshire Moorlands district. However, this review does not involve changing district boundaries. A county electoral review relates to areas that fall within each district within the county. We are therefore unable to modify the boundaries between different districts as part of this electoral review.

Dove and Needwood Forest

89 We received additional submissions from Rolleston on Dove and Tatenhill & Rangemore parish councils for this area of East Staffordshire.

90 Rolleston on Dove Parish Council advocated for the retention of the existing boundaries and Tatenhill Parish Council wanted its parish to remain in a rural division.

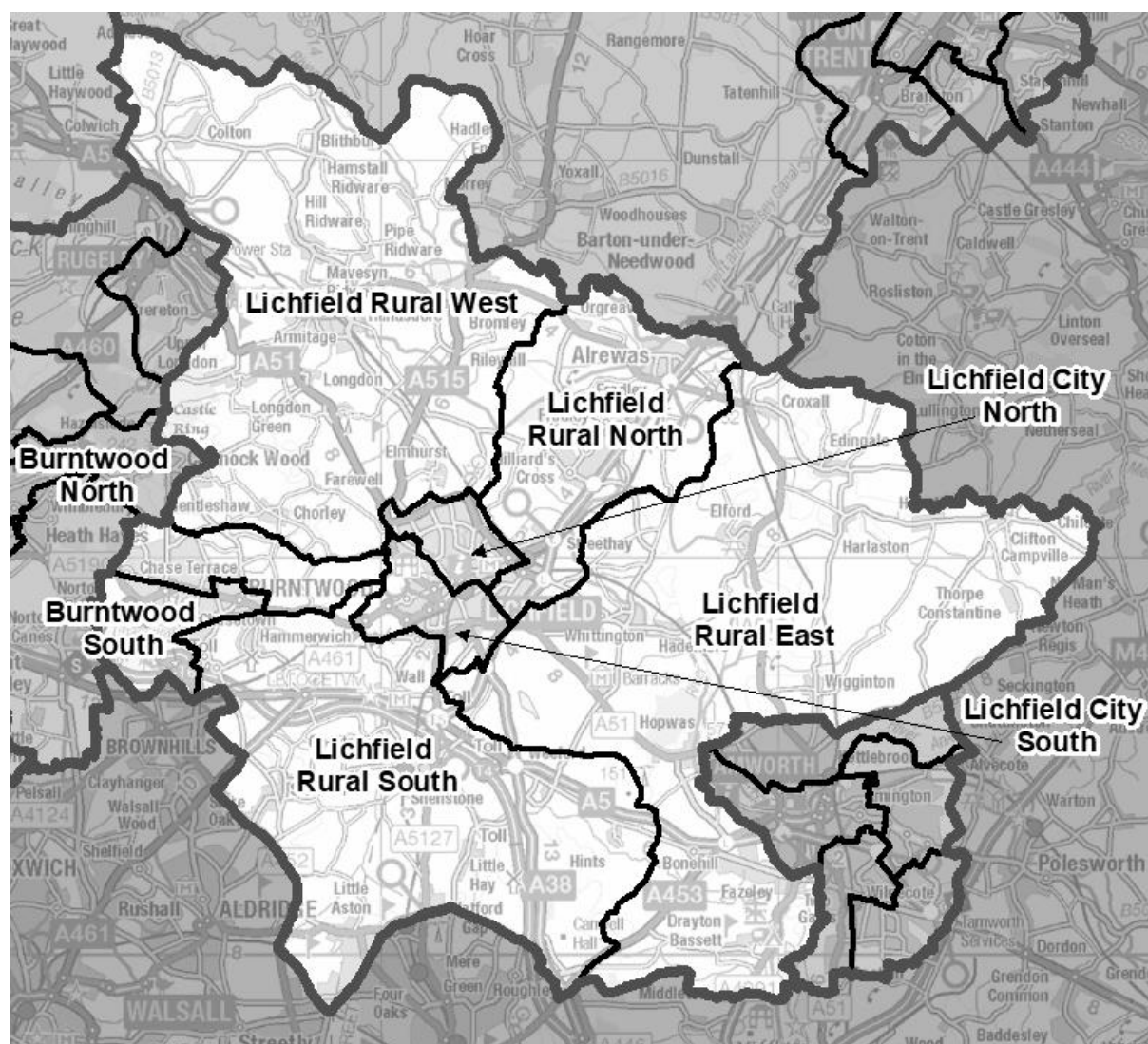
91 The Council explained that its proposed Dove division had short journey times and good transport routes within it. It was also of the view that community links between several of the parishes were strong and that they shared services and had other ties. It also stated that they face similar issues.

92 The Council said it proposed a Needwood Forest division, which was predominantly rural, with many of the communities within it already having strong links. Most of the parish councils were members of the existing Needwood Forest division forum and therefore had links and shared interests.

93 We note that the Council's proposed Needwood Forest division is based on the existing division but with the addition of Abbots Bromley and Blithfield parishes and a different part of Branston parish. We note that there appear to be good road networks linking Abbots Bromley in the west to the rest of the division via Newborough and Hoar Cross. We also note that aside from changes to its eastern and southeastern boundaries, Dove division is also based on the existing one.

94 We have been persuaded of the community identity in this area, and we are adopting the Council's proposals for these two divisions. Dove and Needwood Forest divisions are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Lichfield



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Burntwood North	1	-8%
Burntwood South	1	-9%
Lichfield City North	1	4%
Lichfield City South	1	7%
Lichfield Rural East	1	1%
Lichfield Rural North	1	7%
Lichfield Rural South	1	-8%
Lichfield Rural West	1	-10%

95 Under a council size of 62, Lichfield District Council will have eight county councillors, with each councillor representing on average 2% fewer electors than the county average.

96 Lichfield City has too many electors for two councillors and too few for three. The same applies to Burntwood town (including an area of Hammerwich parish north of Highfields and Hospital roads). Therefore, it is inevitable that parts of these urban areas will need to be included in rural divisions, to reflect our statutory criteria. The challenge was to determine which areas were best included in these divisions, while reflecting community identity and links.

Burntwood North and Burntwood South

97 We received submissions from Councillor Ennis and Councillor Woodward, in addition to the Council's submission.

98 The Council proposed two changes to the existing divisions in Burntwood. One which moves an area – Woodhouses – around St Matthew's Road, which is in Burntwood parish, from Lichfield Rural West into Burntwood North division. The other is a minor modification along Cannock Road. It stated that the first modification was to reflect community identity in the area.

99 Councillor Woodward suggested that the Burntwood divisions should be reconfigured on an east and west basis, rather than the existing north and south divisions. She did not suggest any specific boundaries and, without additional community evidence pointing to where the boundaries should be, we were not persuaded to adopt this proposal.

100 Councillor Ennis was of the view that the residents of Woodhouses and the area around St Matthew's Road should be included in Burntwood North division. They also considered that Burntwood South division should extend to the southern end of Hospital Road because these areas are understood to be part of Burntwood town though we note that they are actually part of Hammerwich parish. We note that Councillor Ennis' proposal around St Matthew's Road is the same as the Council's proposals.

101 We recognise that the area between Highfields Road and Hospital Road appears to be part of the Burntwood community even though it is in a Hammerwich parish. We considered including it in Burntwood South division in line with Councillor Ennis' proposal. However, this produced a Lichfield Rural South division forecast to have 24% fewer electors than the county average by 2028. We considered this very poor electoral equality and did not do this. While we recognise that the parish boundary may not reflect the community of the town, we have retained the existing division boundary.

102 The Council modified the existing boundary between the two divisions so that it runs along Cannock Road. We consider that this is a stronger boundary than the existing one. We are content to adopt the Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

103 Our Burntwood North and Burntwood South divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Lichfield City North and Lichfield City South

104 The Council's submission was the only one we received with specific proposals for this area.

105 Its proposed Lichfield City North division is coterminous with three district wards, which will facilitate effective and convenient local government. For the most part, its boundaries are the parish boundary, a railway line and a road.

106 It proposed a Lichfield City South division that excludes an area of new development around Claypit Lane, south of Falkland Road, for electoral equality reasons. It is of the view that being predominantly new developments, the residents do not have a strong community identity linked to Lichfield city.

107 We have carefully considered the Council's proposal. We note that the built-up area of Lichfield has too many electors for two county councillors and too few for three. Therefore, some of the city must be included in a neighbouring division. We note that including the development referred to in the paragraph above in Lichfield City South will produce a division forecast to have 14% more electors than the average for Staffordshire by 2028. The neighbouring Lichfield Rural South division will have 16% fewer electors than the county average by the same year. We consider it to be a better balance of our statutory criteria to include this development in the Lichfield Rural South division as this will provide better levels of electoral equality in two divisions and we do not think this development must stay within a city ward.

108 Based on the evidence we received, we consider the Council's proposal the best balance of our statutory criteria. We have therefore adopted its proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

109 Lichfield City North and Lichfield City South divisions are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Lichfield Rural East and Lichfield Rural South

110 In addition to the Council's proposals, we received submissions from four residents.

111 The Council proposed retaining the existing Lichfield Rural East division and made one change to the existing Lichfield Rural South division. As mentioned in the section above, a part of Lichfield City around Claypit Lane, south of Falkland Road, is included in Lichfield Rural South division under the Council's proposal. This was to address poor electoral quality.

112 Two residents advocated for the retention of the existing boundaries of Lichfield Rural South. Another resident was of the view that if the division was to be expanded, then it should be by including additional rural areas and not urban ones, as proposed by the Council, due to these areas having different issues from rural ones.

113 A resident advocated for Lichfield Rural East to be split. They were of the view that Drayton Bassett, Fazeley and Mile Oak should no longer be included in a division with more rural areas.

114 We have noted the comments that we received. While it is true that rural and urban areas mostly have different issues of concern, without the inclusion of the area around Claypit Lane in Lichfield Rural South, the division is forecast to have 16% fewer electors than the county average, by 2028. The city ward will also have a high electoral variance. We did not receive any strong evidence of which other areas would best fit in this rural division, without having a knock-on effect on other divisions.

115 With regards to the comments about Drayton Bassett and Fazeley, we note that excluding these parishes from Lichfield Rural East will produce a division forecast to have 38% fewer electors than the average for Staffordshire by 2028. This is very poor electoral equality, and we were not persuaded to adopt any divisions that would have such poor variances.

116 Furthermore, these parishes are on the border of the district. The Council noted in its proposals that Fazeley looks to and identifies with Tamworth. However, we are unable to move district boundaries as part of this review, and we have retained this area in its existing division. We note that they are both in separate district wards which reflect their separate community identities. However, county divisions, covering larger geographic areas than district wards, are more likely to be comprised of more than one community.

117 We have adopted the Council's proposals for these wards as part of our draft recommendations. Lichfield Rural East and Lichfield Rural South are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Lichfield Rural North and Lichfield Rural West

118 The Council's proposals were the only ones we received about the boundaries of these divisions.

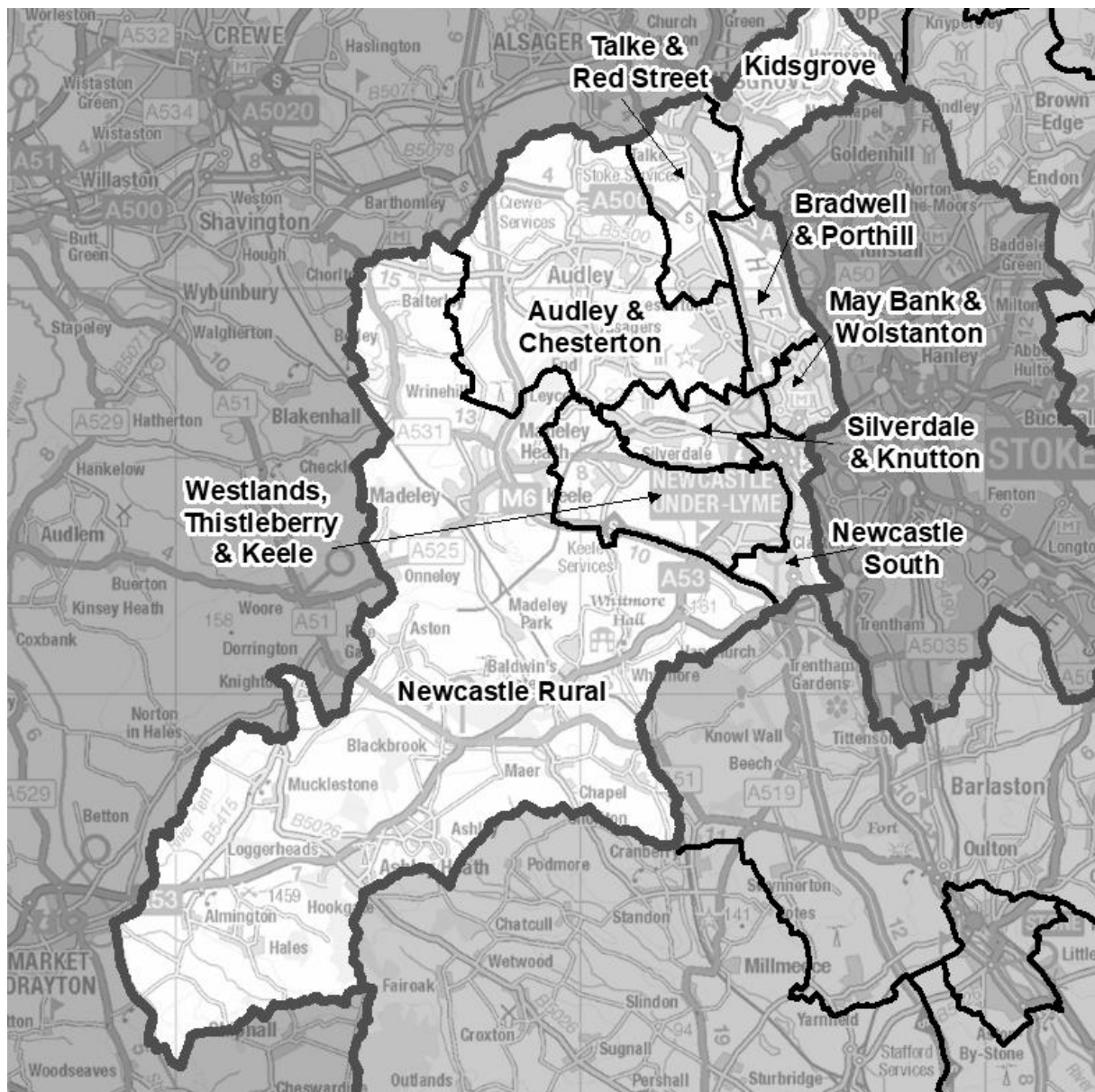
119 Its proposals included two changes to the existing divisions. Firstly, while it retained Boley Park in Lichfield Rural North division, it included an area between Trent Valley Road and the western end of Roman Way, in Lichfield City North. This change improves the coterminosity in Lichfield City North division.

120 Secondly, as mentioned in the section on Burntwood North, it moved the St Matthew's Road area into Burntwood North division, on community identity grounds.

121 We note the proposed divisions and consider that they are a good reflection of our statutory criteria. We have adopted these proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

122 Both divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Newcastle under Lyme



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Audley & Chesterton	1	-4%
Bradwell & Porthill	1	-13%
Kidsgrove	1	2%
May Bank & Wolstanton	1	-8%
Newcastle Rural	1	-5%
Newcastle South	1	-6%
Silverdale & Knutton	1	-5%
Talke & Red Street	1	2%
Westlands, Thistleberry & Keele	1	-7%

123 Under a council size of 62, Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council will have nine county councillors with each councillor representing on average 5% fewer electors than the county average.

124 The Council's submission included the only borough-wide proposal. In addition to this, we received three submissions for the entire borough. Two were about Newcastle Rural and one was out of the scope of this review. We have based our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals, with modifications to achieve a better balance of our statutory criteria.

Audley & Chesterton, Kidsgrove and Talke & Red Street

125 The Council proposed two modifications affecting the existing Audley & Chesterton and Talke & Red Street divisions. It proposed retaining the existing boundaries of Kidsgrove division.

126 Its Kidsgrove division included all of Newchapel & Mow Cop and most of Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe borough wards. The Council explained that it considered including the whole of Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe ward in Kidsgrove division and making it coterminous with two borough wards, but that this had implications for the options in other divisions. So, it included them in Talke & Red Street division.

127 The Council also split Crackley & Red Street borough ward across Audley & Chesterton and Talke & Red Street divisions. Furthermore, its proposals placed an area of Holditch & Chesterton borough ward around London Road (B5500) and the industrial estate to its west in Bradwell & Porthill division to the east.

128 On careful consideration, we note that uniting Kidsgrove borough ward in one division produces good electoral equality for that division. We also note that in the Crackley area, the borough ward boundary appears to better reflect the communities there and using it will also facilitate convenient and effective local government. We also consider that the residents to the north of London Road and the roads off it, plus the industrial estate, are better situated in Audley & Chesterton division.

129 Therefore, we have modified the Council's proposal accordingly.

130 Our draft recommendations for this area include an Audley & Chesterton division which is comprised of Audley and Holditch & Chesterton borough wards. Kidsgrove division is coterminous with Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe and Newchapel & Mow Cop borough wards, while Talke & Red Street division is comprised of Crackley & Red Street and Talke & Butt Lane borough wards.

131 All three divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Bradwell & Porthill and May Bank & Wolstanton

132 The Council's proposals placed Bradwell borough ward in a division with a small area in the north and northeast of Wolstanton ward and the north of Cross Heath ward. The Council stated that the Bradwell and Porthill community had been in the same county division for many years and that they share a bus service, local shopping areas and community facilities.

133 Its May Bank & Wolstanton division is comprised of May Bank, most of Wolstanton and the east of Cross Heath borough wards. It stated that both May Bank and Wolstanton wards share the Wolstanton Marsh as their main recreational space, and that these areas share a bus service and are part of a common neighbourhood policing area.

134 As mentioned in the section on Audley & Chesterton division, geographically and for community reasons we consider that the residents of the roads off the northern end of London Road should be included in Audley & Chesterton division and not in Bradwell & Porthill. While this has implications for the electoral variance, we consider that this better reflects the community in the area and we have therefore excluded them and the neighbouring industrial estate from this division. However, we welcome comments as to whether we should include the industrial estate in this division instead.

135 Therefore, our draft recommendations are based on the Council's proposals but with one modification as described above.

136 Bradwell & Porthill division is forecast to have 13% fewer electors than the average for Staffordshire by 2028. May Bank & Wolstanton division is forecast to have 8% fewer electors than the average for the county by 2028.

Newcastle Rural

137 We received two submissions from Betley, Balterley & Wrinehill Parish Council and a resident, in addition to the Council's proposals.

138 The Council's proposed division is coterminous with three borough wards and retains the boundaries of the existing division.

139 Betley, Balterley & Wrinehill Parish Council and a resident also favoured the retention of the boundaries of the existing Newcastle Rural division.

140 We note that this rural ward is coterminous with borough wards and parishes in the south and southwest of the borough. Therefore, it will most likely reflect the communities in the area. It is also in line with the views expressed in the two submissions we received. Furthermore, it has good electoral equality.

141 Therefore, we have adopted the proposal as part of our draft recommendations. Newcastle Rural division is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Newcastle South, Silverdale & Knutton and Westlands, Thistleberry & Keele

142 The Council's proposals place all of Clayton and Westbury Park & Northwood borough wards and most of Town ward in Newcastle South division. It pointed to the good level of coterminosity which will facilitate effective and convenient local government.

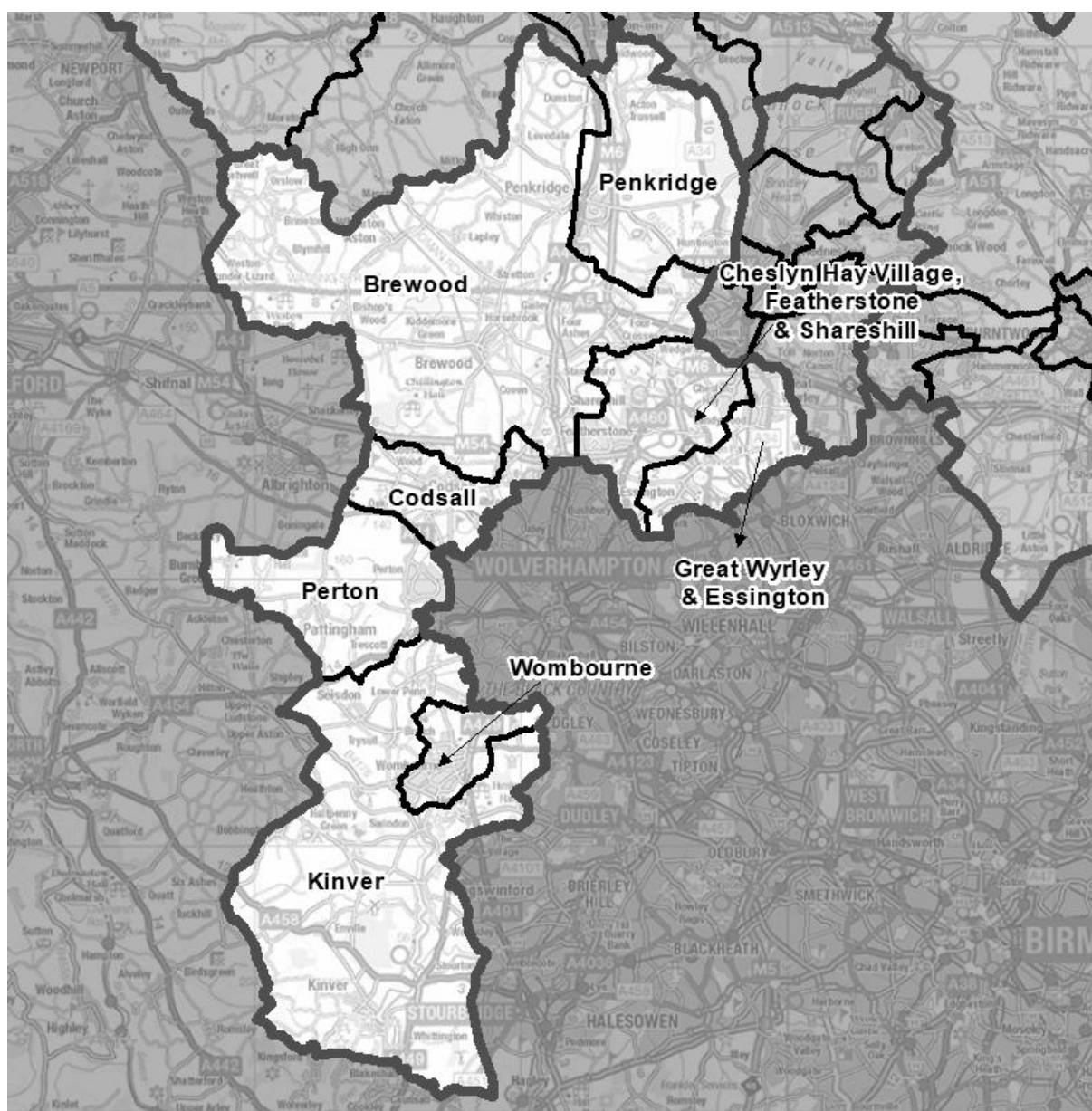
143 Its proposed Silverdale & Knutton division included communities north of the A525 including Knutton, Poolfields, Silverdale and an area around Ashfield Brook. The Council states that residents share community services including GP services, have common demographics and have similar issues.

144 The Council also proposed a Westlands, Thistleberry & Keele division which comprised all of Keele borough ward, the south of Thistleberry ward and most of Westlands ward. The Council states that there are good transport links between Keele, Westlands and Thistleberry. It expressed the view that Westlands and Thistleberry share shopping facilities and that there is a common interest in the fact that it is a commuter area with many working in Keele University and Science & Innovation Park, among other places.

145 We have carefully considered the Council's proposals and have adopted them as part of our draft recommendations. In Newcastle South we note that Clayton Road is the route that links one end of the division to the other. We also note the road connections in Silverdale & Knutton division. We have therefore been persuaded that each of the divisions have adequate transport links and road connections within them, and that there is a good level of shared community.

146 The three wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

South Staffordshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Brewood	1	-10%
Cheslyn Hay Village, Featherstone & Shareshill	1	-4%
Codsall	1	-10%
Great Wyrley & Essington	1	8%
Kinver	1	-5%
Penkridge	1	-1%
Perton	1	-13%
Wombourne	1	0%

147 Under a council size of 62, South Staffordshire District Council will have eight county councillors, with each councillor representing on average 4% fewer electors than the county average.

148 The Council noted that the geography and electorate distribution across the district makes identifying divisions which reflect the statutory criteria challenging.

149 We received 19 submissions in addition to the Council's proposals. Eleven of these were from those who wanted Perton parish to form a county division on its own. However, Perton has too few electors to form a single-member division with good electoral equality. A Perton division based on the parish would have 29% fewer electors than the county average.

Brewood, Codsall and Penkridge

150 We received two submissions from Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council and a resident in addition to the Council's proposals for this area of South Staffordshire district. Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council was concerned that due to the size of rural divisions like Brewood, relationships with councillors may be lost. The resident advocated for Wheaton Aston and Lapley villages to remain in Brewood division.

151 The Council did not propose any changes to the existing divisions in this area. Two of the divisions are forecast to have 10% fewer electors than the average for the county. Penkridge is forecast to have 1% fewer electors than the average for the county.

152 The Council stated that it considered improving its electoral equality by moving an area of Bilbrook parish (in Brewood division) into Codsall division, but this split a parish community and reduced coterminosity at the same time.

153 The Council also considered moving an area of Penkridge into Brewood for electoral equality reasons.

154 We received no alternative proposals in this area. We recognise that the Council's proposal to retain the existing divisions will result in acceptable electoral variances and is broadly based on parishes. We did consider uniting all of Penkridge parish in Penkridge division. However, this would result in Brewood division having 14% fewer electors than the county average. Therefore, we are satisfied on the basis of the evidence received that retaining the existing arrangement provides the best balance of our statutory criteria.

155 Brewood, Codsall and Penkridge divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

156 A resident was of the view that parish ward election arrangements in Bilbrook parish were not effective. This is outside the scope of the review and is a matter for the district council.

Cheslyn Hay Village, Featherstone & Shareshill and Great Wyrley & Essington

157 The Council proposed two single-councillor divisions to replace the existing two-councillor division in the area.

158 Its proposed Cheslyn Hay Village, Featherstone & Shareshill division is comprised of Cheslyn Hay Village and Featherstone, Shareshill & Saredon district wards in their entirety as well as the area of Westcroft, which is in Essington district ward. Including Westcroft in this division would facilitate its proposed Great Wyrley & Essington division having good electoral equality. Its proposed Great Wyrley & Essington division includes Great Wyrley Town and Great Wyrley Landywood district wards, and the remainder of Essington district ward.

159 The Council states that there are good transport links from Cheslyn Hay to Featherstone and Shareshill villages, and that the entire area including Westcroft is well served by its transport links. It is also of the view that the communities of Great Wyrley and Essington have similarities and common interests.

160 We carefully considered the Council's proposal for this area. We note that both divisions mostly include whole parishes and that they will most likely reflect the communities in that area. They have a good degree of coterminosity and will facilitate effective and convenient local government. We have therefore adopted the Council's proposals, but welcome comments on its inclusion of Westcroft parish in a Great Wyrley & Essington division to the south as this would improve coterminosity, noting that this division would have 12% more electors than the average for the county.

161 Both divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Kinver and Perton

162 The Council propose retaining the boundaries of the existing Kinver and Perton divisions because Kinver would have good electoral equality and Perton division reflects the community identities of the two main populated areas within it. The Council advocated for the retention of Perton division even though it is forecast to have 13% fewer electors than the average for Staffordshire.

163 We received a submission from one resident who was of the view that the existing Kinver division was too large, and that Lower Penn and Himley parishes should be included in a division with Wombourne. Although the resident did not support their proposal with any further evidence, we noted the proximity of these parishes to Wombourne, and we considered doing this. However, this produced a

Kinver division which would have 21% fewer and a Wombourne division with 16% more electors than the county average by 2028.

164 As mentioned in paragraph 150, we received several submissions that advocated for Perton parish to be in a county division on its own, i.e., without the inclusion of Pattingham & Patshull parish. They pointed to our 2022 Electoral Review of South Staffordshire when we concluded that Pattingham & Patshull should be in a separate district ward from Perton. They advocated for Pattingham & Patshull to be in a division with Trysull and surrounding areas.

165 We have carefully considered the points they raise. However, because a county division is generally larger in size (both geographically and in terms of the number of electors), especially when compared to a single- or two-councillor district ward, it is reasonable to expect that they will include different communities.

166 Furthermore, we note that a Perton ward comprised of Perton parish alone is forecast to have 29% fewer electors than the county average. We consider this very poor electoral equality, and we did not adopt this proposal.

167 We are therefore adopting the Council's proposals for Kinver and Perton divisions as part of our draft recommendations. Kinver is forecast to have 5% fewer electors than the average for the county.

168 Perton is forecast to have 13% fewer electors than the average for the county. We could not identify an alternative pattern of wards that would provide a better balance of our statutory criteria.

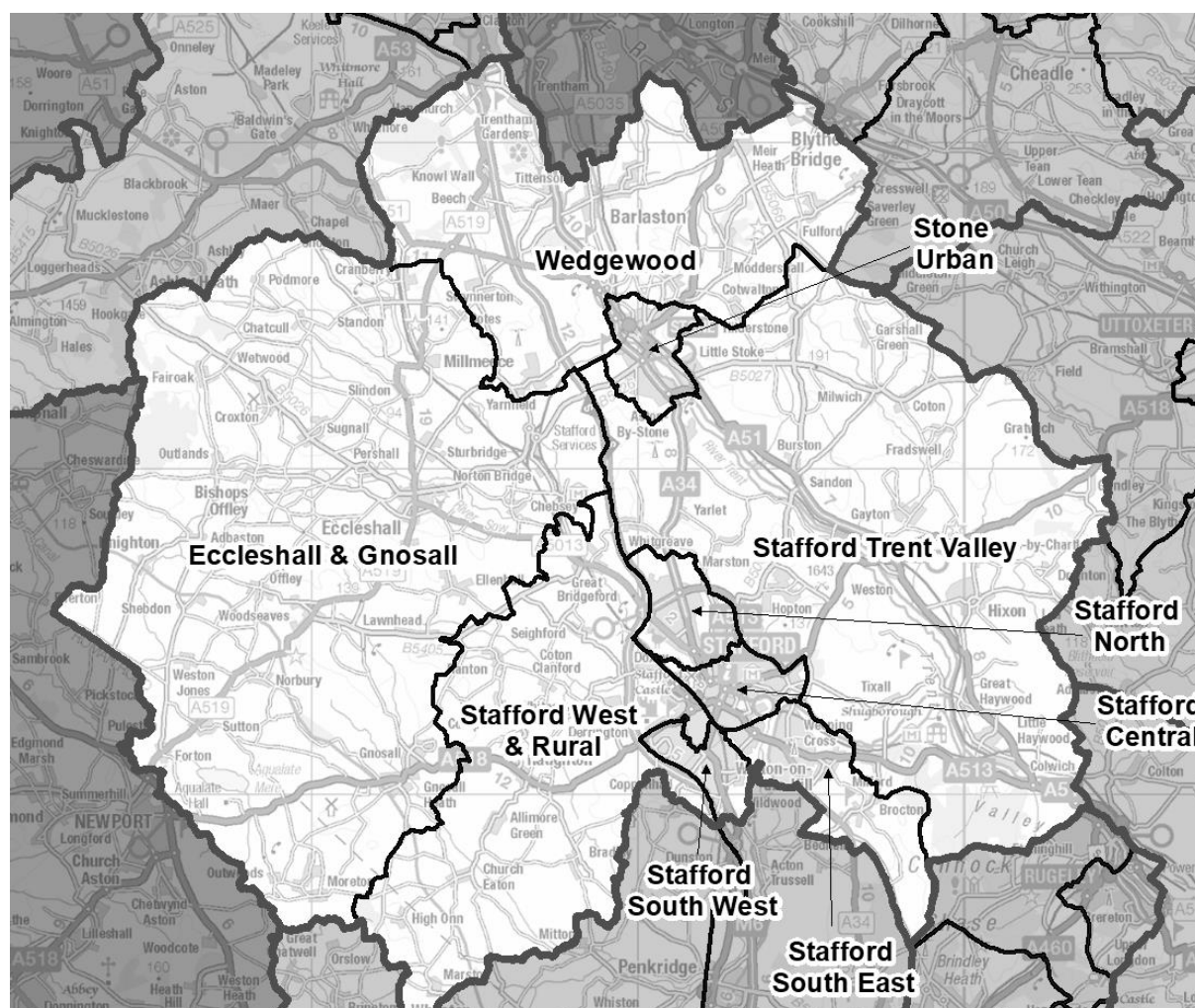
Wombourne

169 The Council proposed the retention of this division's existing boundaries. It explained that the area has a main resident's group, Wombourne & District Community Association, which is the umbrella organisation for all the smaller ones in the area. The division shares medical and shopping facilities.

170 We note that this proposed division is coterminous, not only with Wombourne North and Wombourne South district wards but also with Wombourne parish. We consider that this will facilitate effective and convenient local government. It is forecast to have good electoral equality and has well-established and recognised boundaries.

171 We are therefore content to adopt this division as part of our draft recommendations. Wombourne division is forecast to have about the same number of electors as the county average by 2028.

Stafford



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Eccleshall & Gnosall	1	-3%
Stafford Central	1	8%
Stafford North	1	6%
Stafford South East	1	9%
Stafford South West	1	3%
Stafford Trent Valley	1	4%
Stafford West & Rural	1	-6%
Stone Urban	1	6%
Wedgewood	1	6%

172 Under a council size of 62, Stafford Borough Council will have nine county councillors, with each councillor representing on average 4% more electors than the county average.

173 Identifying a pattern of wards around Stone and Stafford was challenging. Stone has too many electors for one councillor and too few for two if it is to have an acceptable level of electoral equality. Therefore, we considered that an area of Stone should be included in a more rural ward. Similarly, Stafford town has too many electors for four councillors and too few for five if the divisions will also provide for a good level of electoral equality.

174 We received a district-wide proposal from Stone Constituency Labour Party ('Stone Labour') in addition to the Council's proposals. This was supported by Councillor Pardesi.

175 The Council based its proposal on the existing divisions. Stone Labour proposed new boundaries. It was of the view the housing developments on the edge of Stafford were better included in urban wards.

176 Both schemes had merit, including good electoral equality. However, the boundaries of the divisions proposed were very different across the majority of the borough and it was not possible to adopt divisions proposed by one respondent in one area and those proposed by the other in the neighbouring area given the significant difference in their respective boundaries. Accordingly, we have used the scheme we considered provided the best balance of our statutory criteria.

177 In view of the additional evidence we received from others, in relation to the Eccleshall, Gnosall, Stone, Swynnerton, Barlaston and Fulford areas, we have based our draft recommendations on Stone Labour's proposals. We note that the Council's proposals were based primarily on existing divisions. We recognise that existing divisions may reflect community identities; however, we do not assume this and consider that generally the evidence of community identity in support of Stone Labour's scheme was stronger.

Eccleshall & Gnosall and Wedgewood

178 We received submissions from Councillor Reid, Eccleshall Parish Council and some residents, in addition to the district-wide proposal from the Council and Stone Labour.

179 The Council proposed retaining the existing divisions of Eccleshall and Gnosall & Doxey. It was of the view that given the geography of the Gnosall and Doxey area, its proposal for that division achieved the best electoral equality while maintaining communities.

180 Stone Labour proposed an Eccleshall & Gnosall division and a Wedgewood division to the north. Councillor Reid was of the view that Eccleshall division should include Woodseaves and Ellenhall, which are part of the 'Eccleshall economic area'. He objected to the inclusion of Marston Grange on community identity grounds.

181 Eccleshall Parish Council stated that the district ward of Eccleshall should be combined with the ward of Gnosall & Woodseaves, together with Ellenhall parish, to form a new county division. In its view, these areas are similar rural communities far from a major town and yet dependent on Stafford or Newport in similar ways.

182 The councillor and parish council also proposed that the parish of Swynnerton could be combined with the rest of Swynnerton and Oulton borough ward, and with Barlaston and Fulford wards, to create a single division and a strong voice for 'these rural areas attached to the city of Stoke'.

183 These views from Councillor Reid and the parish council were supported by Councillor Pardesi and several residents. One pointed out that Eccleshall residents used the same local facilities for shopping, work and social activities as those in Ellenhall, High Offley and Woodseaves villages. Another one was of the view that the communities in the north of the existing division should be in a different division. Another resident questioned why the new developments at the northern edge of Stafford town were included in Eccleshall division, while one resident of Doxey advocated being in a ward which looked to Stafford and not to Gnosall.

184 We have carefully considered the comments we received and have been persuaded to include Gnosall ward in a division with Eccleshall, as proposed by Stone Labour and others, on community identity grounds. We note that the new Eccleshall & Gnosall division has good road links and a good level of coterminosity, which will facilitate effective and convenient local government.

185 We consider that Barlaston, Fulford, Swynnerton and other rural communities at the northern edge of the borough will have shared issues and community and have included them in a single division, as proposed by Stone Labour, Councillor Pardesi and some residents. We have adopted Wedgewood as its name as proposed to us. We invite comments on the name of the division as well as the boundaries.

186 Eccleshall & Gnosall and Wedgewood divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Stafford North

187 Both the Council and Stone Labour proposed similar boundaries for a Stafford North division. They both proposed the inclusion of an area north of the A513, which the Council says is on community identity grounds. The only difference being around Edison Road, which the Council included but Stone Labour excluded.

188 On carefully considering the boundaries of this division, we note that the access to Edison Road is to the north in line with the Council's proposals. Therefore, we have based our draft recommendations on them.

189 Stafford North is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Stafford Central and Stafford West & Rural

190 We received submissions from two residents in addition to the district-wide schemes. One pointed out that the existing division boundary, just east of Kensington Drive, split an estate in two divisions. The other stated that they were content with the boundaries of the existing divisions.

191 There were similarities between the two main proposals for a Stafford Central division. However, the Council included the Castlefields area of Stafford in this division while Stone Labour included an area to the east of Stafford, north and south of Tixall Road, instead.

192 The Council stated that this is an urban area with good transport links, which service the local communities around the town centre.

193 Stone Labour's Stafford West & Rural division was comprised of Rowley borough ward and most of Doxey & Castletown and Seighford & Church Eaton borough wards.

194 We carefully considered both proposals. We note that the boundary by Kensington Drive is a defaced parish boundary and we sought to move the division boundary away from it. We considered that moving the boundary to the west and including those residents in Stafford Trent division to the east would not reflect the community identity of the residents. Rather, we are of the view that the residents in that area of Tixall Road up to the junction with Blackheath Lane looked towards urban Stafford for their community. Therefore, we adopted the proposals from Stone Labour as part of our draft recommendations. Adopting the western boundary proposed by the Council around the Castlefields area would have produced a Stafford Central division forecast to have 19% more electors than the county average, by 2028, and we were not persuaded to do this.

195 For this reason, and because of decisions made elsewhere with regards to Eccleshall and Gnosall areas, we also adopted Stone Labour's proposals for a Stafford West & Rural division. We note that this division includes the Doxey and Castlefields areas as well as an area of substantial development in a single division. It also includes several rural parishes which will most likely look to Stafford for some of their facilities.

196 We have made a modification to avoid creating an unviable parish ward in Whitgreave, to the east of the M6. We have therefore not included any part of this parish in Stafford West & Rural.

197 Stafford Central and Stafford West & Rural are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Stafford Trent Valley & Stone Urban

198 We received three submissions in addition to the borough-wide ones. These were about Stone Town from Stone Town Council, and two residents.

199 The town council and a resident advocated for the Walton area to be included in Stone Urban division on community identity grounds. They were of the view that these residents used health and social services in Stone and did not share any community with Milwich, Hilderstone, Fulford or Barlaston.

200 The Council proposed including all of St Michael's & Stonefield ward in its Stone Urban division but split Walton ward across this and its proposed Stone Rural division to ensure that both divisions had good electoral equality. It stated that it kept Manor Rise Estate together but placed Udall Grange with the ongoing developments in the rural ward. Its Stafford Trent Valley division was almost identical to the existing division, only that it included a smaller part of Stone Town than at present.

201 Stone Labour on the other hand united Walton in Stone Urban but included the Mercer Avenue/Saddler Avenue area east of the railway line in its proposals for Stafford Trent Valley division. Its Stafford Trent Valley includes parishes to the east of the borough.

202 As mentioned earlier, Stone Town has more electors than needed for one county councillor and too few for two if it is to have good electoral equality. Therefore, a part of the town will have to be included in a ward with neighbouring parishes. After careful consideration, we have been persuaded that in Walton, the existing residents of Udall Grange share some community with their neighbours in Manor Rise Estate. Furthermore, we note that there is a railway crossing which Stone Labour proposed as a boundary and we consider this a strong and identifiable boundary. We have therefore placed the residents east of the crossing in Stafford Trent Valley division. We did consider including them in Stone Urban division, but this produced a division forecast to have 18% more electors than the average for Staffordshire, which we consider poor electoral equality.

203 Therefore, our draft recommendations are based on Stone Labour's proposals. We include all of Whitgreave parish in Stafford Trent Valley.

204 Stafford Trent Valley and Stone Urban divisions are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Stafford South East and Stafford South West

205 We did not receive any additional submissions for this area.

206 The Council's Stafford South East division used district and parish boundaries and the railway line as identifiable boundaries. It was fully coterminous with three borough wards.

207 Its Stafford West division was based on the existing one with the addition of properties on the north side of Castle Bank/Newport Road (A518). It was of the view that this division should remain an entirely urban area and not include any rural parishes.

208 Stone Labour included Walton-on-the-Hill village and the whole of Brockton parish in its Stafford South East division. It excluded an area of Penkside borough ward between Meadow Road/Pioneer Way and the railway line from this division and included it in its proposed Stafford South West division.

209 We note that both proposals for the division to the west have merit and use either railway lines, existing ward boundaries or other clear identifiable boundaries.

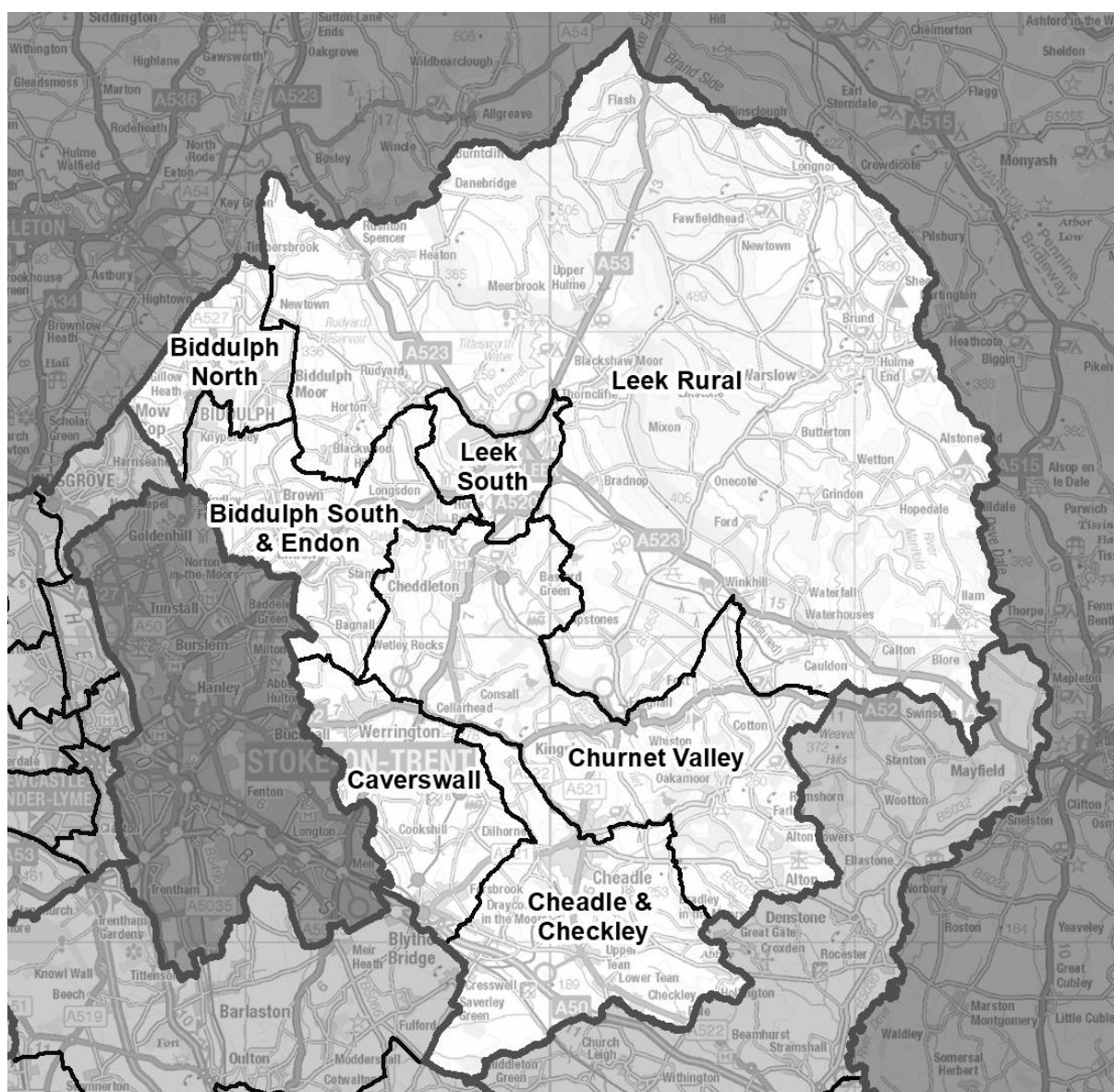
210 We also noted Walton-on-the-Hill's proximity to Stafford. We considered that these residents will most likely look there for some of their community and their amenities and were persuaded that they should be included in Stafford South East division, as proposed by Stone Labour.

211 Because of this and decisions we have made elsewhere, we have adopted the proposals put forward by Stone Labour for our draft recommendations. We have modified the boundary between the divisions east of Silkmore Primary Academy & Children's Centre and west of Meadow Road.

212 Both divisions have a good degree of coterminosity and are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

213 We note that Brockton has good road links into Stafford but also welcome comments on whether it is better included in Stafford Trent Valley division, notwithstanding the fact that this would result in a 12% variance for the division.

Staffordshire Moorlands



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Biddulph North	1	-11%
Biddulph South & Endon	1	7%
Caverswall	1	1%
Cheadle & Checkley	1	9%
Churnet Valley	1	3%
Leek Rural	1	-2%
Leek South	1	7%

214 Under a council size of 62, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council will have seven councillors, with each councillor representing on average 2% more electors than the county average.

215 Biddulph and Leek towns each have too many electors for one county councillor and too few for two councillors if there is to be a good level of electoral equality. Therefore, part of the town must be included in a division with rural parishes, to provide a good balance of our statutory criteria.

Biddulph North and Biddulph South & Endon

216 The Council's scheme was the only proposal we received for this area of Staffordshire Moorlands.

217 It proposed a small modification to the existing boundary between these two divisions, which would move the area north of Well Street, Princess Street and St John's Road into Biddulph North division from Biddulph South & Endon. It was of the view that the existing boundary caused an 'unnatural separation' along John Street and Congleton Road.

218 It also included Longsdon parish and an area of Leek parish in a Biddulph South & Endon division. It stated that Longsdon had strong connections with Endon.

219 After carefully considering this proposal, we noted that the boundary along Well Street, Princess Street and St John's Road did not appear as identifiable as the existing one, both along John Street/Congleton Road and along the brook and open space between Thames Drive and Moorland Road. We consider that the existing boundary along the brook and public park is strong and identifiable. Furthermore, we note that the southern end of John Street is retained as a boundary under the Council's proposals and the existing boundary that continues along that road is easily identifiable. Therefore, although it has an impact on the electoral equality of Biddulph North, we consider this a better balance of our statutory criteria.

220 We also note that the parish boundary between Leek and Longsdon parishes splits Mollatts Wood Road. We consider that we should unite these residents in a single division and note that doing so improves the variance of Leek South division from 11% to 7%. Therefore, we are content to adopt the Council's proposal for Biddulph South & Endon division.

221 We welcome comments with community evidence on these boundaries.

222 Biddulph North and Biddulph South & Endon divisions are forecast to have 11% fewer and 7% more electors than the county average by 2028.

Caverswall, Cheadle & Checkley and Churnet Valley

223 We received two submissions about the Cheadle & Checkley area, in addition to the Council's proposals.

224 One resident of Tean wanted to remain in Cheadle & Checkley division. The other resident's comments were about Tean district ward and therefore outside the scope of this review of Staffordshire County Council's electoral divisions.

225 The Council's proposals included modifications to the boundaries of the existing divisions. One was to exclude Birchall, Cheddleton Heath and Leekbrook villages from Churnet Valley division and place them in Leek South, which it said was on community identity grounds. It also moved an area of Draycott in the Moors into Caverswall division from Cheadle & Checkley.

226 The Council was of the view that its proposed Churnet Valley had a strong community identity based around the Churnet Valley railway. Although it stated that residents of Draycott tended to shop in Cheadle or outside the district, they were of the view that because there was a community centre there, the community was independent.

227 We have carefully considered the points made by the Council. We have been persuaded by its proposals for Churnet Valley. However, we have not been persuaded to move Draycott in the Moors from Cheadle & Checkley division where they have some community interests.

228 Our draft recommendations are based on the Council's with modifications as described above.

229 Caverswall, Cheadle & Checkley and Churnet Valley are forecast to have good electoral equality.

Leek Rural and Leek South

230 As mentioned above, Leek has too many electors for one county councillor and too few for two.

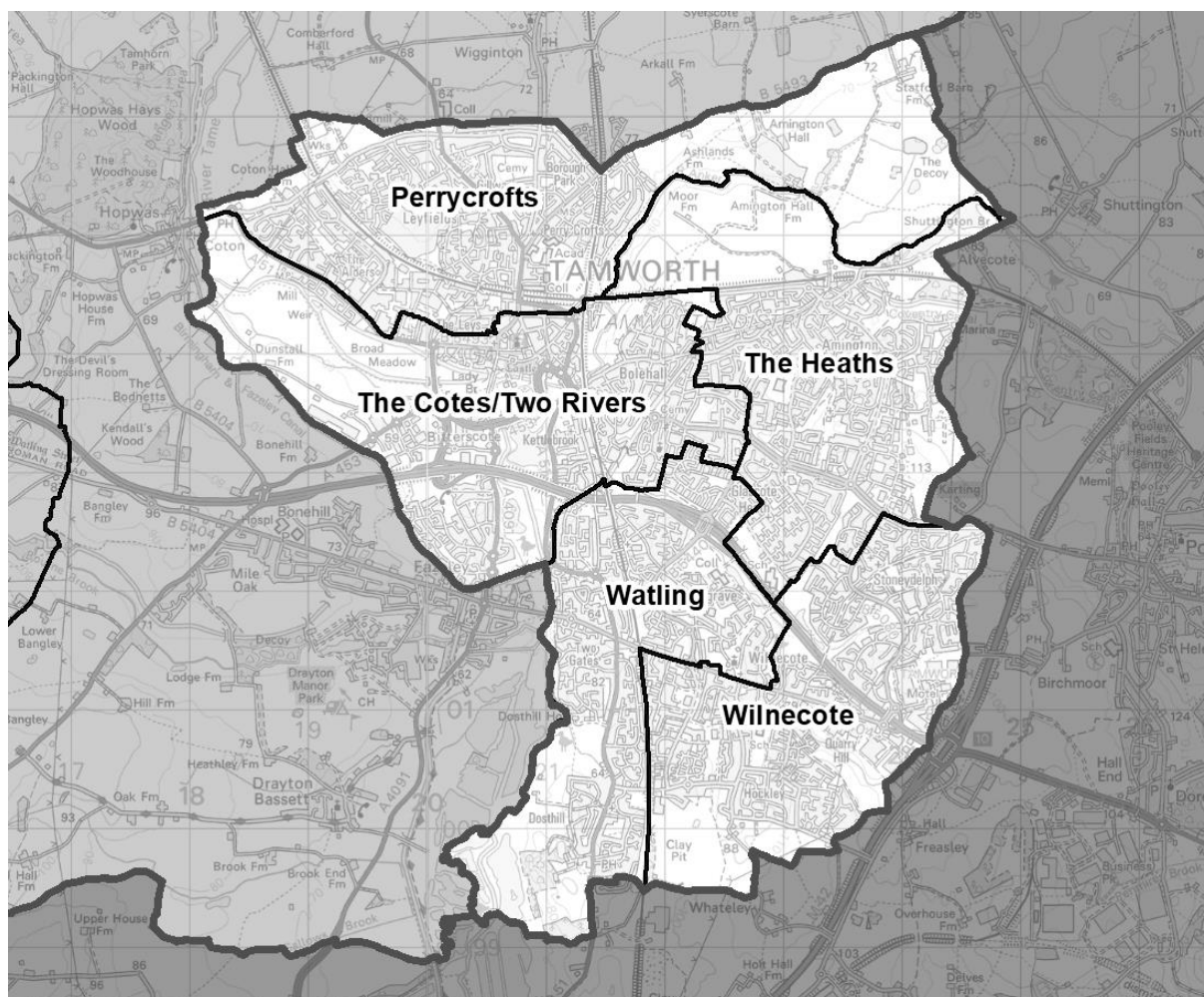
231 The Council's proposals exclude Longdon from Leek Rural division, otherwise retaining the existing division boundaries. It includes Birchall, Cheddleton and Leekbrook in Leek South on community identity grounds, stating that many residents already assumed that they were in Leek South as they looked to Leek for their community. It also excluded an area in the southwest of Leek parish from its Leek South division.

232 The Council explained that as Leek Rural covered a very large geographical area with 23 parishes, the distances and limited transport links between some of the parishes meant that they stayed independent. Nevertheless, it was of the view that the urban and rural parts of Leek Rural division fit well together despite their differences and diverse needs.

233 We are content to adopt the Council's proposals for Leek Rural and Leek South divisions. As mentioned in the section on Biddulph South & Endon, we have moved away from using the parish boundary around Longsdon as a division boundary to unite Mollatts Wood Road residents in the same division.

234 Leek Rural and Leek South are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Tamworth



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Perrycrofts	1	8%
The Cotes/Two Rivers	1	9%
The Heaths	1	9%
Watling	1	10%
Wilnecote	1	8%

235 Under a council size of 62, Tamworth Borough Council will have five councillors, with each councillor representing on average 9% more electors than the county average.

236 However, its average electorate per councillor is slightly higher than that of the county and therefore some under-representation is to be expected.

237 We did not receive any submissions with specific comments about Tamworth other than the Council's. We have adopted the Council's proposals as our draft recommendations. We note that this new pattern of divisions has a good level of

coterminosity with the existing borough wards. However, we note that these wards have been in place for some time and may no longer be entirely representative of the communities in the area. We welcome comments on whether there is a different pattern of divisions that will better reflect the communities that exist in Tamworth today.

Perrycrofts and The Cotes/Two Rivers

238 The Council stated that its proposed divisions were coterminous with Bolehall, Castle, Mercian and Spital borough wards and described the shared facilities in each of these two divisions.

239 We considered whether to include residents of Oxbridge Way in Perrycrofts division instead of The Cotes/Two Rivers because they appear separated from the rest of their proposed division by the River Tame. We note that this will produce a Perrycrofts division with 12% more electors than the county average. We did not do so at this time and have adopted the Council's proposals.

240 However, we welcome comments as to whether modifying the proposals as part of our final recommendations will better reflect communities in the area.

241 Both Perrycrofts and The Cotes/Two Rivers divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

The Heaths, Watling and Wilnecote

242 The Council states that each of these three divisions have good transport links between the communities within them. It states that its proposals include all of Amington borough ward and most of Glascote ward in The Heaths division. Its Watling division includes both Belgrave and Trinity wards and small areas of Glascote and Wilnecote wards. Its Wilnecote division is comprised of Stonydelph ward and most of Wilnecote ward.

243 We note that its proposals exclude an area east of the cemetery from Wilnecote division on electoral equality grounds. We consider that the cemetery and adjacent playing field form an identifiable boundary and are content to adopt this proposal.

244 We also note that it excluded some streets, north of the A5 and east of Marlborough Way, from The Heaths, again for electoral equality reasons. We note that including them in The Heaths produces a division forecast to have 13% more electors than the county average. We are content to adopt the Council's proposals at this stage, but we welcome comments and community evidence from residents as to where best to place these residents.

245 We have adopted the Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations. All the divisions are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Conclusions

246 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Staffordshire, referencing the 2022 and 2028 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and divisions. 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	62	62
Number of electoral divisions	62	62
Average number of electors per councillor	10,744	11,617
Number of divisions with a variance more than 10% from the average	14	4
Number of divisions with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Draft recommendations

Staffordshire County Council should be made up of 62 councillors representing 62 single-councillor divisions. 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 divisions for Staffordshire County Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Staffordshire on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

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

248 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, the district and borough councils within Staffordshire have powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

249 As a 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 Berkswich, Branston, Burntwood, Creswell, Hednesford, Hopton & Coton, Horninglow & Eton, Leek, Lichfield, Outwoods, Rugeley, Stone Urban and Uttoxeter.

250 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Berkswich parish.

Draft recommendations

Berkswich Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Milford	2
Walton-on-the-Hill	8

251 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Branston parish.

Draft recommendations

Branston Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Branston	8
Henhurst North	2
Henhurst South	1

252 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Burntwood parish.

Draft recommendations

Burntwood Town Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Boney Hay & Central	5
Chase Terrace	4
Chasetown North	1
Chasetown South	4

Gorstey Ley	1
Highfield	1
Hunslet	1
Summerfield & All Saints	5

253 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Creswell parish.

Draft recommendations

Creswell Parish Council should comprise five councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Creswell East	4
Creswell West	1

254 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hednesford parish.

Draft recommendations

Hednesford Town Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Green Heath	3
Hawks Green	1
Hednesford Hills	1
Keys Park East	1
Keys Park West	1
Pye Green	3

255 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hopton & Coton parish.

Draft recommendations

Hopton & Coton Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hopton & Coton	3
Tixall Road	4

256 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Horninglow & Eton parish.

Draft recommendations

Horninglow & Eton Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Beaconsfield Road	1
Eton	6
Horninglow East	6
Horninglow West	2

257 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Leek parish.

Draft recommendations

Leek Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Birchall	1
Leek Brook	1
Leek East	2
Leek North	3
Leek South East	2
Leek South West	1
Leek West	2

258 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Lichfield parish.

Draft recommendations

Lichfield City Council should comprise 28 councillors, as at present, representing 10 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Boley Park	3
Burton Old Road	1
Chadsmead	3
Curborough	3
Garrick Road	1
Leomansley	5
Pentire Road	1
St John's East	6
St John's West	1
Stowe	4

259 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Outwoods parish.

Draft recommendations

Outwoods Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	5
North	2
South East	3
South West	1

260 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Rugeley parish.

Draft recommendations

Rugeley Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Etchinghill	9
Hagley West	3
Pear Tree	2
Western Springs North	3
Western Springs South	2

261 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Stone parish.

Draft recommendations

Stone Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
St Michael's East	2
St Michael's West	3
Stonefield & Christchurch	6
Walton North	3
Walton South	4

262 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Uttoxeter parish.

Draft recommendations

Uttoxeter Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Heath	8
Rural	1
Town	7

Have your say

263 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 county or just a part of it.

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

265 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

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

267 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

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

268 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of divisions for Staffordshire County 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.

269 A good pattern of divisions 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.

270 Electoral equality:

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

271 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?

272 Effective local government:

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

273 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 A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

274 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.

275 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.

276 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 Staffordshire County Council in 2025.

Equalities

277 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 Staffordshire County Council

Division name		Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Cannock Chase								
1	Brereton & Ravenhill	1	8,535	8,535	-21%	10,824	10,824	-7%
2	Cannock Town	1	11,458	11,458	7%	12,075	12,075	4%
3	Chadsmoor	1	10,853	10,853	1%	11,301	11,301	-3%
4	Etching Hill & The Heath	1	10,318	10,318	-4%	10,742	10,742	-8%
5	Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood	1	11,981	11,981	12%	12,432	12,432	7%
6	Hednesford	1	11,397	11,397	6%	12,619	12,619	9%
7	Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	1	11,793	11,793	10%	12,345	12,345	6%
East Staffordshire								
8	Burton South	1	8,035	8,035	-25%	11,566	11,566	0%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
9	Burton Tower	1	11,015	11,015	3%	11,575	11,575	0%
10	Burton Town	1	11,271	11,271	5%	13,144	13,144	13%
11	Burton Trent	1	10,007	10,007	-7%	10,568	10,568	-9%
12	Dove	1	8,763	8,763	-18%	10,638	10,638	-8%
13	Needwood Forest	1	9,795	9,795	-9%	10,586	10,586	-9%
14	Stretton	1	11,776	11,776	10%	12,245	12,245	5%
15	Uttoxeter Rural	1	8,425	8,425	-22%	11,006	11,006	-5%
16	Uttoxeter Town	1	10,549	10,549	-2%	12,695	12,695	9%
Lichfield								
17	Burntwood North	1	10,784	10,784	0%	10,744	10,744	-8%
18	Burntwood South	1	10,469	10,469	-3%	10,623	10,623	-9%
19	Lichfield City North	1	11,564	11,564	8%	12,096	12,096	4%
20	Lichfield City South	1	10,709	10,709	0%	12,403	12,403	7%
21	Lichfield Rural East	1	10,060	10,060	-6%	11,702	11,702	1%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
22	Lichfield Rural North	1	9,993	9,993	-7%	12,439	12,439	7%
23	Lichfield Rural South	1	9,821	9,821	-9%	10,672	10,672	-8%
24	Lichfield Rural West	1	9,685	9,685	-10%	10,498	10,498	-10%
Newcastle under Lyme								
25	Audley & Chesterton	1	10,461	10,461	-3%	11,122	11,122	-4%
26	Bradwell & Porthill	1	9,422	9,422	-12%	10,099	10,099	-13%
27	Kidsgrove	1	11,213	11,213	4%	11,823	11,823	2%
28	May Bank & Wolstanton	1	10,005	10,005	-7%	10,688	10,688	-8%
29	Newcastle Rural	1	10,080	10,080	-6%	11,053	11,053	-5%
30	Newcastle South	1	10,027	10,027	-7%	10,928	10,928	-6%
31	Silverdale & Knutton	1	10,021	10,021	-7%	11,060	11,060	-5%
32	Talke & Red Street	1	11,233	11,233	5%	11,809	11,809	2%

Division name		Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
33	Westlands, Thistleberry & Keele	1	9,644	9,644	-10%	10,751	10,751	-7%
South Staffordshire								
34	Brewood	1	10,141	10,141	-6%	10,501	10,501	-10%
35	Cheslyn Hay Village, Featherstone & Shareshill	1	10,676	10,676	-1%	11,162	11,162	-4%
36	Codsall	1	9,951	9,951	-7%	10,465	10,465	-10%
37	Great Wyrley & Essington	1	11,625	11,625	8%	12,559	12,559	8%
38	Kinver	1	10,615	10,615	-1%	11,058	11,058	-5%
39	Penkridge	1	11,163	11,163	4%	11,482	11,482	-1%
40	Perton	1	9,691	9,691	-10%	10,071	10,071	-13%
41	Wombourne	1	11,231	11,231	5%	11,583	11,583	0%
Stafford								
42	Eccleshall & Gnosall	1	11,133	11,133	4%	11,304	11,304	-3%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
43	Stafford Central	1	11,577	11,577	8%	12,597	12,597	8%
44	Stafford North	1	11,399	11,399	6%	12,266	12,266	6%
45	Stafford South East	1	12,608	12,608	17%	12,645	12,645	9%
46	Stafford South West	1	11,916	11,916	11%	11,984	11,984	3%
47	Stafford Trent Valley	1	11,393	11,393	6%	12,108	12,108	4%
48	Stafford West & Rural	1	9,383	9,383	-13%	10,877	10,877	-6%
49	Stone Urban	1	11,960	11,960	11%	12,312	12,312	6%
50	Wedgewood	1	12,103	12,103	13%	12,262	12,262	6%
Staffordshire Moorlands								
51	Biddulph North	1	9,917	9,917	-8%	10,350	10,350	-11%
52	Biddulph South & Endon	1	11,911	11,911	11%	12,477	12,477	7%
53	Caverswall	1	10,792	10,792	0%	11,677	11,677	1%
54	Cheadle & Checkley	1	11,311	11,311	5%	12,712	12,712	9%
55	Churnet Valley	1	10,807	10,807	1%	11,991	11,991	3%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
56 Leek Rural	1	10,896	10,896	1%	11,366	11,366	-2%
57 Leek South	1	11,470	11,470	7%	12,378	12,378	7%
Tamworth							
58 Perrycrofts	1	11,616	11,616	8%	12,579	12,579	8%
59 The Cotes/Two Rivers	1	11,779	11,779	10%	12,680	12,680	9%
60 The Heaths	1	11,363	11,363	6%	12,627	12,627	9%
61 Watling	1	12,344	12,344	15%	12,743	12,743	10%
62 Wilnecote	1	12,164	12,164	13%	12,537	12,537	8%
Totals	62	666,097	–	–	720,225	–	–
Averages	–	–	10,744	–	–	11,617	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Staffordshire County Council.

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

Outline map



Number	Division Name	Number	Division Name
Cannock Chase		32	Talke & Red Street
1	Brereton & Ravenhill	33	Westlands, Thistleberry & Keele
2	Cannock Town	South Staffordshire	
3	Chadsmoor	34	Brewood
4	Etching Hill & The Heath	35	Cheslyn Hay Village, Featherstone & Shareshill
5	Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood	36	Codsall
6	Hednesford	37	Great Wyrley & Essington
7	Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	38	Kinver
East Staffordshire		39	Penkridge
8	Burton South	40	Perton
9	Burton Tower	41	Wombourne
10	Burton Town	Stafford	
11	Burton Trent	42	Eccleshall & Gnosall
12	Dove	43	Stafford Central
13	Needwood Forest	44	Stafford North
14	Stretton	45	Stafford South East
15	Uttoxeter Rural	46	Stafford South West
16	Uttoxeter Town	47	Stafford Trent Valley
Lichfield		48	Stafford West & Rural
17	Burntwood North	49	Stone Urban
18	Burntwood South	50	Wedgewood
19	Lichfield City North	Staffordshire Moorlands	
20	Lichfield City South	51	Biddulph North
21	Lichfield Rural East	52	Biddulph South & Endon
22	Lichfield Rural North	53	Caverswall
23	Lichfield Rural South	54	Cheadle & Checkley
24	Lichfield Rural West	55	Churnet Valley
Newcastle under Lyme		56	Leek Rural
25	Audley & Chesterton	57	Leek South
26	Bradwell & Porthill	Tamworth	
27	Kidsgrove	58	Perrycrofts
28	May Bank & Wolstanton	59	The Cotes/Two Rivers
29	Newcastle Rural	60	The Heaths
30	Newcastle South	61	Watling
31	Silverdale & Knutton	62	Wilnecote

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

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/staffordshire

Local Authority

- Staffordshire County Council

Political Groups

- Cannock Chase Constituency Labour Party and Cannock Chase District Council's Labour Group
- Stone Constituency Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor R. Cox (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor D. Ennis (Lichfield District Council)
- Councillor P. Harvey (Heathylee Parish Council)
- Councillor R. Hawkins (Uttoxeter Town Council)
- Councillor V. Kelly (Penkridge Parish Council)
- Councillor G. Pardesi (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor A. Reid (Eccleshall Parish Council)
- Councillor S. Woodward (Burntwood Town Council)

Local Organisations

- Peak District National Park

Parish and Town Councils

- Adbaston Parish Council
- Betley, Balterley & Wrinchill Parish Council
- Bilbrook Parish Council
- Brindley Heath Parish Council
- Croxden Parish Council
- Eccleshall Parish Council
- Hammerwich Parish Council
- Ipstones Parish Council
- Lapley, Stretton & Wheaton Aston Parish Council

- Rolleston on Dove Parish Council
- Stone Rural Parish Council
- Stone Town Council
- Tatenhill & Rangemore Parish Council
- Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council

Local Residents

- 81 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 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.

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