

New electoral arrangements for Oxfordshire County Council Draft Recommendations

October 2023

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Oxfordshire County Council

Electoral review

October 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 Oxfordshire?

7 We are conducting a review of Oxfordshire 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 Oxfordshire 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 Oxfordshire

9 Oxfordshire County Council should be represented by 69 councillors, six more than there are now.

10 Oxfordshire should have 69 divisions, eight more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 66 divisions should change; three 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 3 October 2023 to 11 December 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 11 December 2023 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 33 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 Oxfordshire. 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
8 February 2023	Number of councillors decided
28 February 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new divisions
8 May 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 October 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
11 December 2023	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
12 March 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.

	2023	2029
Electorate of Oxfordshire	521,890	582,977
Number of councillors	69	69
Average number of electors per councillor	7,564	8,449

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 five of our proposed divisions for Oxfordshire are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

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 2029, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2024. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 12% by 2029. The district and city councils provided information to the County Council in support of these forecasts.

25 During the division consultation we noticed several discrepancies between the Council's forecast and the mapping data provided, particularly regarding 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.

allocation of future housing developments to polling districts. This issue featured most prominently in Cherwell district but was also present to varying degrees in other Oxfordshire districts. We contacted the Council, which supplied us with an updated forecast to accurately reflect new developments in the forecast. This affected the variances for a number of divisions in the schemes submitted and we made adjustments accordingly.

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

Number of councillors

27 Oxfordshire County Council currently has 63 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that increasing by six would ensure that the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 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.

29 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on division patterns. However, we are not persuaded that we have received sufficient further evidence to move away from our decision on the number of councillors, and our draft recommendations are based on a council size of 69.

Councillor allocation and coterminosity

30 A council size of 69 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.

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

District	Allocation of councillors	Coterminosity
Cherwell ⁶	16	50%
Oxford ⁷	13	63%
South Oxfordshire ⁸	15	50%
Vale of White Horse ⁹	14	50%
West Oxfordshire ¹⁰	11	70%

Division boundaries consultation

31 We received 44 submissions in response to our consultation on division boundaries. These included two county-wide proposals from the Council and the Labour & Co-operative Group ('Labour'). The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for division arrangements in particular areas of the county.

32 The two county-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of one-councillor divisions for Oxfordshire. The Labour scheme supported the Council's in most respects but made several amendments with the aim of improving community representation and electoral equality while respecting natural boundaries. These amendments were primarily around Banbury, Oxford and Yelford in the Cherwell, Oxford and West Oxfordshire districts, respectively. The Council's proposals for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts were accepted in full.

33 We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that a number of the amendments proposed by Labour did indeed better reflect community identity and improve electoral equality. We have detailed where these were adopted in the main part of the report below. However, we also made a number of our own amendments, as many of the divisions proposed in both schemes had relatively high electoral imbalances due to inconsistencies in the Council's initial forecast. In our judgement both schemes also had low coterminosity in most districts. In particular, the Council's scheme had coterminosity levels of 38% for Cherwell and Vale of White Horse, which we considered to be relatively low.

34 Our draft recommendations are broadly based on the Council and Labour schemes. They 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. Our recommendations in this respect were informed by the evidence we received and

⁶ Coterminosity based on the district wards implemented at the 2016 elections.

⁷ Coterminosity based on the district wards implemented at the 2022 elections.

⁸ Coterminosity based on the district wards implemented at the 2015 elections.

⁹ Coterminosity based on the district wards implemented at the 2015 elections.

¹⁰ Coterminosity based on the district wards implemented at the 2014 elections.

built upon the proposals submitted to us during consultation. This was particularly the case in Cherwell district, with more minor changes made in Oxford, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire.

35 We visited the area in order to look at the various proposals on the ground. This tour of Oxfordshire helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

36 Our draft recommendations are for 69 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.

37 The tables and maps on pages 9–25 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Oxfordshire. They detail how the proposed division arrangements reflect the three statutory¹¹ criteria of:

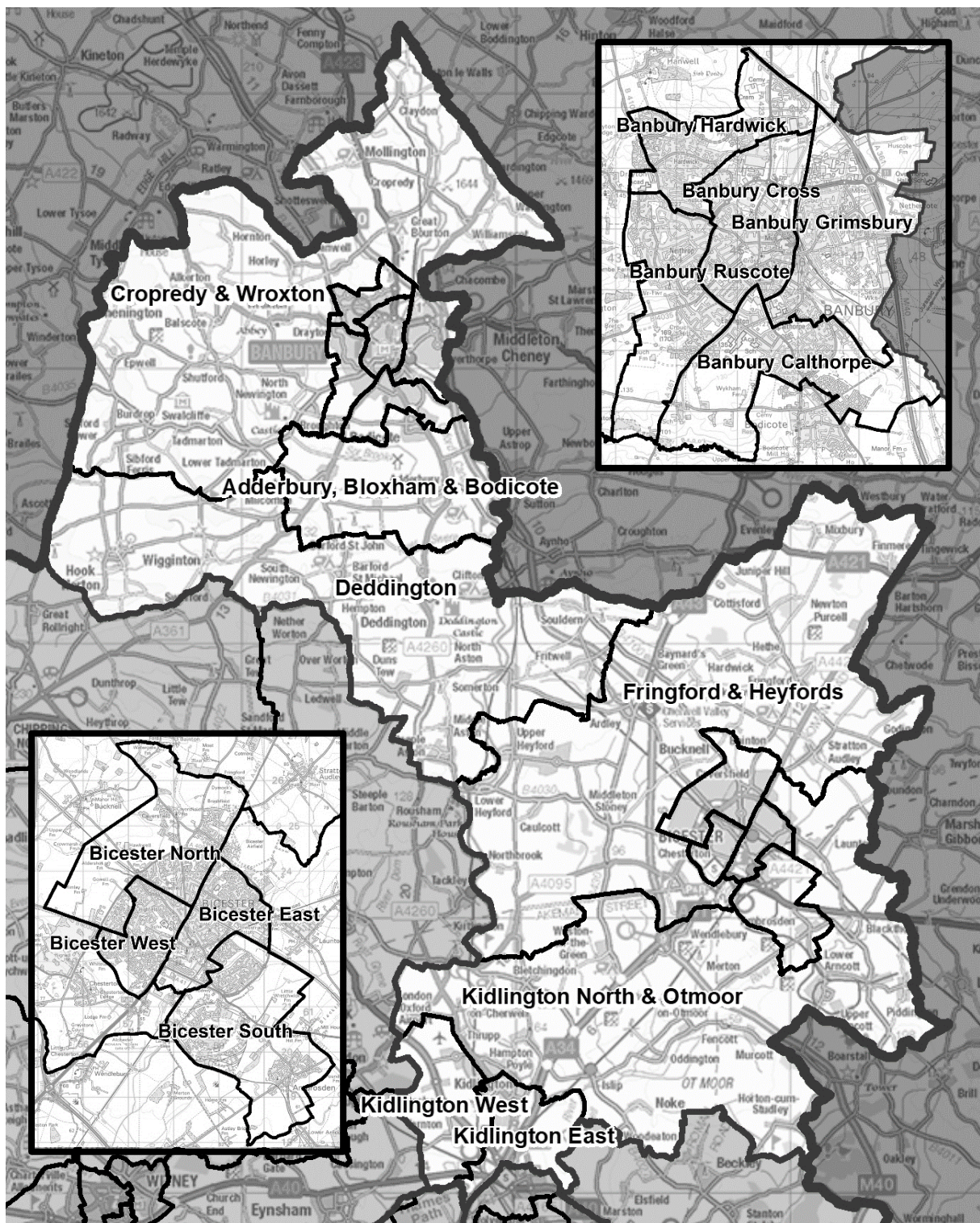
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

38 A summary of our proposed new divisions is set out in the table starting on page 39 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

¹¹ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Cherwell



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote	1	-5%
Banbury Calthorpe	1	4%
Banbury Cross	1	6%

Banbury Grimsbury	1	-9%
Banbury Hardwick	1	-8%
Banbury Ruscote	1	2%
Bicester East	1	-8%
Bicester North	1	2%
Bicester South	1	-8%
Bicester West	1	3%
Cropredy & Wroxton	1	-11%
Deddington	1	-10%
Fringford & Heyfords	1	4%
Kidlington East	1	6%
Kidlington North & Otmoor	1	3%
Kidlington West	1	6%

40 Under a council size of 69, Cherwell District Council will have 16 councillors, with each councillor representing on average 1% fewer electors than the county average.

41 As discussed in paragraph 25, some inconsistencies in the electorate forecast were made in Cherwell district which, once corrected, resulted in relatively high electoral variances in several divisions in both the Council and Labour schemes. Furthermore, both schemes did not secure a reasonable level of coterminosity, and our attempts to improve electoral equality in the schemes reduced coterminosity to 4%. Given the challenges this presented, we decided to build up these proposals, modifying them further, particularly in Banbury and Bicester.

42 As Cherwell is entitled to 16 county councillors in this single-councillor review, and the district itself has 16 three-member wards, we drew upon the existing district warding pattern for Cherwell, thus maximising coterminosity while incorporating the basic framework of community identity and effective and convenient local government from the district review in 2015. Where appropriate we have retained the Council's proposed division names. We would particularly welcome public feedback on these proposals during the current consultation process. In particular we would welcome alternative proposals, supported by evidence, that perhaps reflect community identities better than these draft recommendations while still providing for reasonable levels of electoral equality.

Adderbury, Boxham & Bodicote, Banbury Calthorpe, Banbury Cross, Banbury Grimsbury, Banbury Hardwick, Banbury Ruscote and Cropredy & Wroxton

43 As well as the Council and Labour schemes, we received two submissions from Councillor Mark Cherry and a member of the public from Banbury. Councillor Cherry noted that parts of Warwick Road were in different divisions and should be consolidated into Banbury Ruscote. We observed that parts of this very long road

were in two existing divisions and is placed in multiple divisions under the proposals received.

44 We considered Councillor Cherry's observation, noting that the division boundaries along Warwick Road are already coterminous with the ward boundaries, and were satisfied that the length and breadth of the road, as well as its changing character along its length, lent itself well to be split across divisions. This area is the only part of Banbury parish in which we have departed from the district ward boundaries. We have run the boundary between Banbury Cross and Banbury Ruscote divisions down the middle of Woodgreen Avenue – including Beatrice Drive, Bird Close, Boxhedge Square, Deacon Way, Gillett Close, Goodrington Close, Hilton Road, Reid Close, Spring Gardens, Tithe Court, Townsend, Union Street and Wimborne Avenue in Banbury Cross division rather than Banbury Ruscote. This was done primarily for the sake of electoral equality, as including these streets in Banbury Ruscote would result in a variance of 14% for that division. However, we also believe this offers a clearer boundary than others put forward during consultation.

45 A resident suggested including Bodicote parish in Banbury Calthorpe division, arguing it had effectively become part of the town, as well as Easington. Our proposed Banbury Calthorpe division includes Easington, as it is entirely coterminous with the Banbury, Calthorpe & Easington district ward. However, we noted that including Bodicote parish would result in the very high electoral variances of 27% for Banbury Calthorpe division and -30% for Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote. We have not, therefore, adopted this suggestion in our draft recommendations.

46 Both the Council and Labour schemes included the newer properties in Drayton parish west of Warwick Road, which accessed via Greville Road and Walker Road, in Banbury Hardwick division. It was also proposed that it include the 250 planned properties at Drayton Lodge Farm. We understood this reasoning, as the developments are clearly an outgrowth of Banbury, but doing so would result in an electoral variance of -16% for Cropredy & Wroxton division in both schemes, and would also reduce coterminosity for the district. We therefore concluded that, on balance, it would be more fitting for the existing and planned developments to be included in Cropredy & Wroxton division, which would have a variance of -11%.

Bicester East, Bicester North, Bicester South and Bicester West

47 The Council and Labour schemes for Bicester were similar to the existing division arrangements, most notably moving Bucknell Parish from Bicester North to Fringford & Heyfords division, moving the planned North-West Bicester Eco-town area from Bicester North to Bicester East division, and incorporating some outlying areas of Launton and Blackthorn parishes in Bicester South division. As in other parts of the Cherwell scheme, however, none of the proposed divisions were coterminous with district wards, while Bicester East and Bicester West divisions had

relatively high electoral variances of -12% and 13%, respectively.

48 As elsewhere in Cherwell, we based our proposed divisions on the existing district wards, departing from their boundaries to improve electoral equality. We have done this in Bicester North and Bicester West divisions by moving the area west of Howes Lane and Shakespeare Drive from Bicester West to Bicester North division (Bicester North & Caversfield ward). We had initially considered using the existing division boundary, maintained in the Council and Labour schemes, which runs down the back alley ways of Graham Road, The Oval and West Street. However, this resulted in an 11% variance for Bicester North, and we observed that Shakespeare Road offered an excellent boundary, due its length and breadth and the fact that few houses faced into the road. Those which do – numbers 1 and 3 – have been included in Bicester North. We recognise, however, that the area to the west of Shakespeare Road is somewhat distant from the rest of the Bicester North division and would particularly welcome local comments on this decision.

49 Our Bicester South division also differs from the Bicester South & Ambrosden ward in that we have included the area south of Middleton Stoney Road and west of Oxford Road in Bicester West division, to which it is much better connected. Additionally, we have included Bicester Village between the London Road allotments, Oxford Road and the designated building land south of Lakeview Drive in Bicester East division. We believe this divides Bicester into four distinct areas with good electoral equality while reflecting the district ward boundaries where possible.

Deddington and Fringford & Heyfords

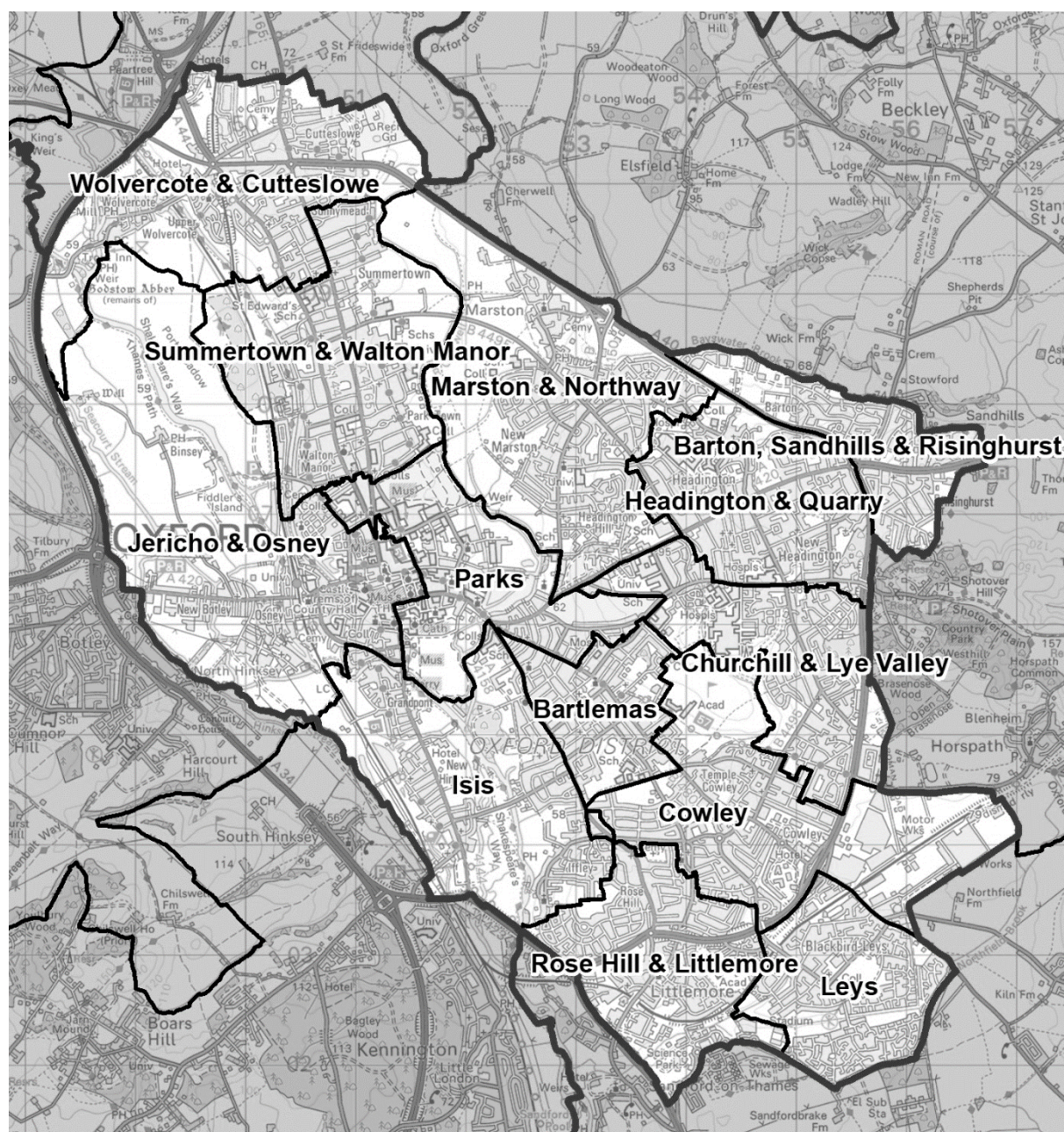
50 We closely followed the Council and Labour proposals for these divisions, making adjustments to improve coterminosity, which included moving Milcombe parish into Deddington division. We also made the proposed Fringford & Ardley division more coterminous with the Fringford & Heyfords district ward, as well as uniting all the Heyfords, by including Ardley and Upper Heyford parishes in Fringford & Heyfords division. However, we were unable to achieve full coterminosity here owing to Fringford & Heyfords district ward bisecting Heyford Park parish, which was created in 2019. The northern part of this area may only contain one elector by the time of the next parish elections in 2027. As we would be required to make arrangements for parish wards here, this would entail creating a parish ward for an area which currently has only one elector, which would not be viable.

Kidlington East, Kidlington North & Otmoor and Kidlington West

51 Our proposed divisions in this area are almost identical to those proposed by the Council and Labour, which themselves closely follow the existing district ward boundaries in the area. The notable exception is the inclusion in all three schemes of the northern area of Kidlington West ward, between Banbury Road, High Street and The Moors, in Kidlington North & Otmoor division. This is because, to make Kidlington West division entirely coterminous with Kidlington West district ward would

result in variances of 32% for Kidlington West division and -21% for the remainder of Kidlington North & Otmoor division.

Oxford



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Bartlemas	1	9%
Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst	1	-9%
Churchill & Lye Valley	1	1%
Cowley	1	7%
Headington & Quarry	1	0%
Isis	1	-7%
Jericho & Osney	1	4%
Leys	1	8%

Marston & Northway	1	9%
Parks	1	0%
Rose Hill & Littlemore	1	6%
Summertown & Walton Manor	1	6%
Wolvercote & Cutteslowe	1	-4%

52 Under a council size of 69, Oxford City Council will have 13 councillors, with each councillor representing on average 2% more electors than the county average.

53 The Labour scheme for Oxford mostly followed the Council's, though with some significant alterations to the boundaries between Wolvercote & Cutteslowe, Summertown & Walton Manor and Parks divisions. Most divisions in both schemes had good electoral equality; however, we calculated the variance for the proposed Headington & Quarry division to be -16%. The Council's scheme had 54% coterminosity and Labour's had 38%. Our proposals, which modified the submitted schemes to improve electoral equality and coterminosity, raised this to 54%.

Jericho & Osney, Parks, Summertown & Walton Manor and Wolvercote & Cutteslowe

54 The Council scheme moved the lower part of the existing Wolvercote & Cutteslowe division south of South Parade into an enlarged St Margaret's division renamed Summertown & Walton Manor. It also added the Park Town area from the existing University Parks division, which was itself renamed Parks and enlarged to include Christ Church and Merton colleges as well as the Morrell Avenue and St Clement's street areas. To Jericho & Osney division was added Adelaide Street and Observatory Street. Labour's scheme largely preserved the existing boundaries between Wolvercote & Summertown, St Margaret's and Parks divisions, arguing this better represented local communities, though we calculated their proposed Parks division would have an 18% electoral variance.

55 We mostly adopted the Council scheme in our draft recommendations, as we considered it to have a greater degree of coterminosity and electoral equality in the area, though we also made amendments to the proposals. In order to improve coterminosity, we included the colleges around Broad Street between Magdalen Street, Cornmarket Street, High Street and Cattle Street in Jericho & Osney division. On our tour of the area, we also observed that this better preserved the unity of the local shopping district. We noted that the Council scheme split the main thoroughfare of Cornmarket Street down the middle.

56 Our tour of the area also led us to look sympathetically upon the Council's placement of Adelaide Street and Observatory Street in Jericho & Osney division. This was principally because we observed the parallel stretch of Walton Street to be a local community hub with coffee shops, bistros and a local cinema, which is split

down the middle in the existing division arrangements and in the Labour proposals. However, owing to our inclusion of the Broad Street area in the division, including Adelaide Street and Observatory Street in Jericho & Osney division would result in a variance of 21% and -20% for Parks. In order to unite this community hub within one division, we have included numbers 96 to 118 Walton Street in Jericho & Osney division, leaving Adelaide Street and Observatory Street in Parks division. However, we would welcome public feedback on this decision, particularly over whether we have got the balance right in including the Broad Street area in Jericho & Osney division over Adelaide Street and Observatory Street.

Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst, Churchill & Lye Valley, Headington & Quarry and Marston & Northway

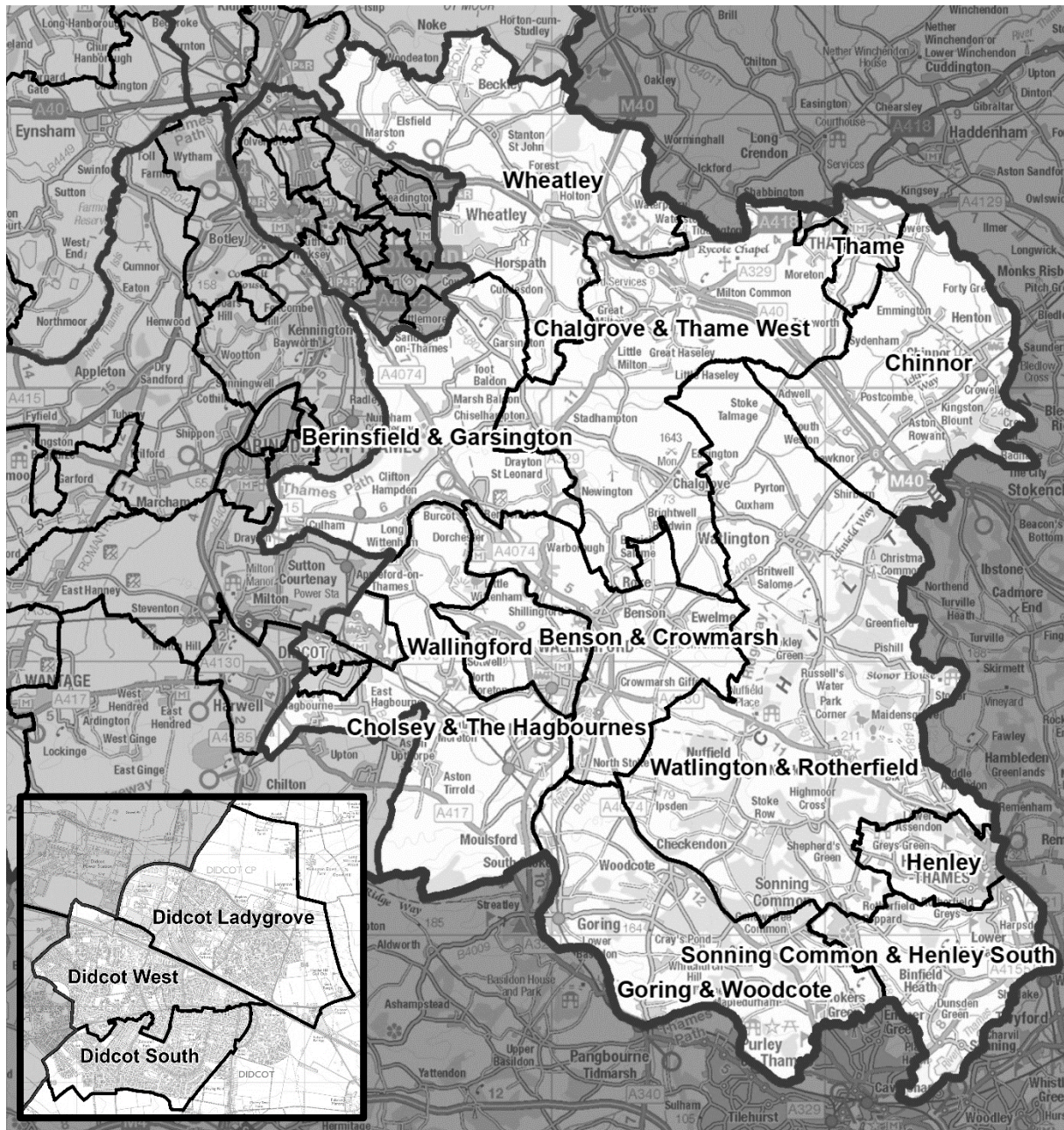
57 The Council and Labour schemes largely followed the existing division pattern in this area, with minor alterations. These included moving the area between the B4150, B4495, Franklin Road, Headington Road, John Garne Way and William Street from the existing Headington & Quarry division into Marston & Northway and moving the North Place and Barton Lane areas of Headington & Quarry division into Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst. This did, however, result in an electoral variance of -16% for Headington & Quarry division by our calculations.

58 In order to improve electoral equality in the area we moved the area between London Road, North Way and Old High Street from the Council's proposed Barton, Sandhurst & Risinghurst division into Headington & Quarry, leaving Barton, Sandhurst & Risinghurst division entirely east of North Way. This changed electoral equality in the divisions from -16% in Headington & Quarry to 0% and 7% in Barton, Sandhurst & Risinghurst to -9%. Coterminality is also improved, as Headington ward is entirely contained with Headington & Quarry division.

Bartlemas, Cowley, Isis, Leys and Rose Hill & Littlemore

59 The Council scheme made numerous changes to the existing divisions in this area which were uncontested by Labour. A notable change was the division of Iffley Fields & St Mary's and St Clement's & Cowley Marsh between Isis, Cowley and a new Bartlemas division. We have adopted the scheme in this area in its entirety.

South Oxfordshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Benson & Crowmarsh	1	0%
Berinsfield & Garsington	1	2%
Chalgrove & Thame West	1	-4%
Chinnor	1	-7%
Cholsey & The Hagbournes	1	4%
Didcot Ladygrove	1	-1%
Didcot South	1	-5%
Didcot West	1	-8%

Goring & Woodcote	1	-3%
Henley	1	-3%
Sonning Common & Henley South	1	-2%
Thame	1	7%
Wallingford	1	6%
Watlington & Rotherfield	1	-6%
Wheatley	1	-4%

60 Under a council size of 69, South Oxfordshire District Council will have 15 councillors, with each councillor representing on average 2% fewer electors than the county average.

61 We have adopted the Council's and Labour's proposals for South Oxfordshire in full, save for a minor alteration in Didcot to ensure the creation of viable parish wards. The divisions are coterminous with 50% of South Oxfordshire District Council wards. All divisions have good electoral equality.

Berinsfield & Garsington, Chalgrove & Thame West, Chinnor, Thame and Wheatley

62 Our proposed Berinsfield & Garsington division includes the parishes of Berinsfield, Clifton Hampden, Drayton St Leonard, Garsington, Marsh Baldon, Nuneham Courtenay, Sandford-on-Thames and Toot Baldon. Our proposed Chalgrove & Thame West division includes the parishes of Berrick Salome, Brightwell Baldwin, Chalgrove, Great Haseley, Great Milton, Little Milton, Newington, Stadhampton, Tetsworth, Tiddington-with-Albury and Thame between Oxford Road, High Street, Rooks Lane and Windmill Road. Our proposed Chinnor division includes the parishes of Adwell, Aston Rowant, Chinnor, Crowell, Lewknor, Sydenham, Towersey and Wheatfield.

63 Our proposed Thame division is made up of the areas of Thame parish not included in Chalgrove & Thame West division, while our proposed Wheatley division includes the parishes of Beckley & Stowood, Cuddesdon & Denton, Elsfield, Forest Hill with Shotover, Holton, Horspath, Waterperry with Thomley, Waterstock, Wheatley and Woodeaton.

Benson & Crowmarsh, Cholsey & The Hagbournes, Wallingford and Watlington & Rotherfield

64 Our proposed Benson & Crowmarsh division includes the parishes of Benson, Ewelme and Crowmarsh. A resident wrote to us to say that Benson parish should be grouped with both Ewelme and Roke, the latter of which is in Berrick Salome parish. We considered this but decided against it, as to do so would worsen coterminosity with district wards. Our proposed Cholsey & The Hagbournes division includes the parishes of Aston Tirrold, Aston Upthorpe, Cholsey, East Hagbourne, Little Wittenham, Long Wittenham, Moulsoford, North Moreton, South Moreton and West

Hagbourne, as well as Didcot east of Western Avenue.

65 Our proposed Wallingford district includes the parishes of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and Wallingford, while our proposed Watlington & Rotherfield division includes the parishes of Bix & Assendon, Britwell Salome, Checkendon, Cuxham with Easington, Highmoor, Ipsden, Nettlebed, Pishill with Stonor, Pyrton, Rotherfield Peppard, Shirburn, Stoke Talmage, Swyncombe and Watlington.

Didcot Ladygrove, Didcot South and Didcot West

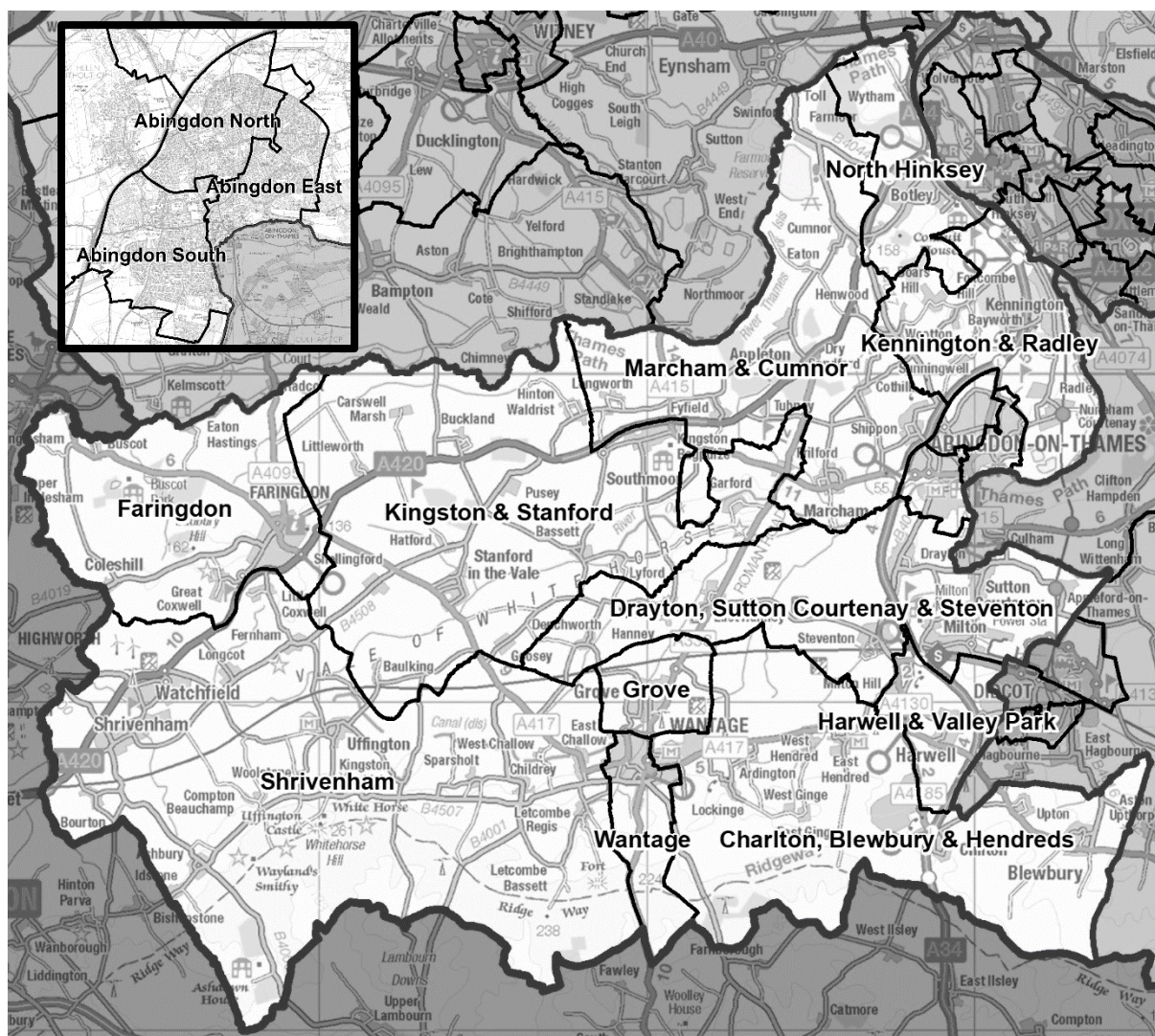
66 The Council's proposed divisions in Didcot maintained the existing boundaries for Didcot Ladygrove. However, they also include the south side of Broadway in Didcot West as far as Newlands Avenue. They proposed to add the remainder of the existing division south of Broadway and Wantage Road in a Didcot South division, except Barleyfields, Elbourne, Woodlands Road, Ernest Road, Fairacres Road, Oatland Road and Samor Way. Also added to Didcot South is the remainder of the existing Didcot East & Hagbourne division as far as Western Avenue. We have decided to make a minor alteration to this scheme by including the south side of Wantage Road between number 91 and the junction of Drake Avenue. This was in order to create a viable parish ward south of Wantage Road.

67 A resident wrote to us to say that the boundary A34 should form the boundary between Harwell and Didcot. However, this would require redrawing the boundary between South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts, which is beyond the scope of this review.

Goring & Woodcote, Henley and Sonning Common & Henley South

68 Our proposed Goring & Woodcote division includes the parishes of Goring Heath, Goring-on-Thames, Kidmore End, Mapledurham, South Stoke, Whitchurch-on-Thames and Woodcote. Our proposed Henley division includes the parishes of Henley – except Newtown between Park Road, St Andrew's Road, Belle Vue Road and Drawback Hill – and Rotherfield Greys. Our proposed Sonning Common & Henley South division includes the parishes of Binfield Heath, Eye & Dunsden, Harpsden, Shiplake, Sonning Common and part of Henley.

Vale of White Horse



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Abingdon East	1	2%
Abingdon North	1	9%
Abingdon South	1	2%
Charlton, Blewbury & Hendreds	1	4%
Drayton, Sutton Courtenay & Steventon	1	11%
Faringdon	1	-9%
Grove	1	6%
Harwell & Valley Park	1	-6%
Kennington & Radley	1	5%
Kingston & Stanford	1	-14%
Marcham & Cumnor	1	-12%
North Hinksey	1	-9%
Shrevenham	1	13%

69 Under a council size of 69, Vale of White Horse District Council will have 14 councillors, with each councillor representing about the same number of electors as the county average.

70 The Council scheme for Vale of White Horse, which was not contested by Labour, had good electoral equality for all the proposed divisions but relatively low coterminosity with district wards at only 38%. Consequently, we made alterations to the scheme which increased coterminosity to 50% but increased electoral inequality in four divisions to between -14% and 13%. However, we are satisfied that this offers the best balance of our statutory criteria for the district.

Abingdon East, Abingdon North and Abingdon South

71 Our proposed divisions for Abingdon mostly follow the existing division pattern for the town. However, we propose that Culham Close, Dorchester Crescent, Galley Field, Hendred Way, Norman Avenue, Radley Road, Rutherford Close, St Johns Road, Swinburne Road and Warwick Close be transferred from Abingdon North division to Abingdon East. The proposed divisions are coterminous with the parish boundary.

Drayton, Sutton Courtenay & Steventon, Kennington & Radley, Marcham & Cumnor and North Hinksey

72 A resident wrote to us to say that the villages in the north of the existing Sutton Courtney & Marcham division – Marcham, Shippon and Dry Sandford – have almost nothing in common with those in the south – Drayton, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford-on-Thames. Our proposed Drayton, Sutton Courtenay & Steventon division includes the parishes of Appleford-on-Thames, Drayton, East Hanney, Denchworth, Drayton, Milton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay. Our proposed Kennington & Radley division includes the parishes of Kennington, South Hinksey, Sunningwell, Radley and Wootton.

73 Our proposed Marcham & Cumnor division includes the parishes of Appleton-with-Eaton, Besselsleigh, Cumnor west of the A420 and Stimpson's Cottages, Fyfield & Tubney, Longworth, Marcham and St Helen Without. This differs from the Council's proposal, which also included Frilford and Garford parishes. Although this increases electoral inequality from -8% to -12%, it increases coterminosity in the district, which we consider will better provide for effective and convenient local government in this area. Our proposed North Hinksey division includes the area of Cumnor not included in Marcham & Cumnor division, as well as the parishes of North Hinksey and Wytham.

Faringdon, Kingston & Stanford and Shrivenham

74 Our proposed Faringdon division includes the parishes of Buscot, Coleshill, Eaton Hastings, Great Coxwell and Great Faringdon. Our proposed Kingston & Stanford division, which differs slightly from that proposed by the Council, includes the parishes of Baulking, Buckland, Charney Bassett, Goosey, Hatford, Hinton Waldrist, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Littleworth, Lyford, Pusey, Shellingford and Stanford in the Vale. The Council's proposed division also included the parishes of Frilford, Garford, Denchworth, East Challow and West Challow; however, these were not included in our proposed division in order to improve coterminosity in the district. Although this increases the electoral variance in the division from -4% to -14%, we consider that this provides the best balance of our statutory criteria in this area.

75 Our proposed Shrivenham division includes the parishes of Ashbury, Bourton, Childrey, Compton Beauchamp, Fernham, Kingston Lisle, Letcombe Bassett, Letcombe Regis, Little Coxwell, Longcot, Shrivenham, Sparsholt and Woolstone. It also includes East Challow and West Challow, which were included in the Council's proposed Kingston & Stanford division, but which we have included in Shrivenham to improve coterminosity with district wards. This increases electoral inequality in the proposed division from 0% to 13% but we consider that this provides the best balance of our statutory criteria in this area.

Charlton, Blewberry & Hendreds, Grove, Harwell & Valley Park and Wantage

76 Our proposed Charlton, Blewberry & Hendreds division includes the parishes of Ardington, Blewberry, Chilton, East Hendred, Lockinge, Upton, the Charlton area of Wantage and West Hendred. Our proposed Grove division is made up of Grove parish only, while our proposed Harwell & Valley Park division includes the parishes of Harwell and Milton, south of the A34. Our proposed Wantage division includes the parish of Wantage save for Charlton area, which is included in Charlton, Blewberry & Hendreds division. These proposals are identical to those of the Council.

West Oxfordshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Bampton & Carterton South	1	9%
Brize Norton & Carterton East	1	-8%
Burford & Carterton West	1	8%
Charlbury & Wychwood	1	4%
Chipping Norton	1	8%
Eynsham	1	-2%

Hanborough & Hailey	1	-6%
Witney North & East	1	6%
Witney South & Central	1	1%
Witney West & Ducklington	1	-6%
Woodstock	1	7%

77 Under a council size of 69, West Oxfordshire District Council will have 11 councillors, with each councillor representing on average 2% more electors than the county average.

78 The Council scheme for West Oxfordshire provided for good electoral equality across the district, as well as good levels of coterminosity with district wards, at 59%. The Labour scheme made one slight amendment to the Council scheme, including Hardwick-with-Yelford parish in Bampton & Carterton South division rather than Eynsham, arguing that this improved community representation. We have adopted this proposal and also made minor amendments elsewhere to increase coterminosity to 70%.

Charlbury & Wychwood, Chipping Norton, Hanborough & Hailey and Woodstock

79 Our proposed Charlbury & Wychwood division includes the parishes of Ascott-under-Wychwood, Bruern, Chadlington, Charlbury, Chilson, Churchill, Cornbury & Wychwood, Fawler, Fifield, Finstock, Idbury, Kingham, Lyneham, Milton-under-Wychwood, Sarsden, Shipton-under-Wychwood and Spelsbury. Our proposed Chipping Norton division includes the parishes of Chastleton, Chipping Norton, Cornwell, Enstone, Great Tew, Heythrop, Little Tew, Over Norton, Rollright, Salford and Swerford.

80 Our proposed Hanborough & Hailey division includes the parishes of Freeland, Hailey, Hanborough and North Leigh. Our proposed Woodstock division includes the parishes of Bladon, Blenheim, Combe, Glympton, Kiddington with Asterleigh, Rousham, Sandford St Martin, Steeple Barton, Stonesfield, Tackley, Wootton, Woodstock and Worton. These are all identical to the Council scheme.

Bampton & Carterton South, Brize Norton & Carterton East, Burford & Carterton West and Eynsham

81 Our proposed Bampton & Carterton South division includes the parishes of Alvescot, Aston, Cote, Shifford & Chimney, Bampton, Black Bourton, Broadwell, Clanfield, Filkins & Broughton Poggs, Grafton & Radcot, Hardwick-with-Yelford, Kelmscott, Kencot, Langford, Little Faringdon and Standlake. This differs from the Council's proposal, which also included Lew parish, though we considered it more appropriate to include Lew in Witney West & Ducklington division in order to improve coterminosity, including the whole of Ducklington district ward in Witney West & Ducklington division.

82 We were also persuaded to adopt Labour's proposal that Hardwick-with-Yelford parish be included in Bampton & Carterton South division, rather than Eynsham, as in the Council's scheme. Labour suggested the River Windrush would make a more appropriate division boundary and claimed Hardwick-with-Yelford had more in common with the parishes on the west side of the river. On our tour of the area, we were satisfied that this was an appropriate boundary, particularly as the river is also used as a boundary for the Witney divisions and the rest of Bampton & Carterton South division. Furthermore, we were satisfied that the parish was sufficiently connected to the neighbouring villages.

83 Our proposed Brize Norton & Carterton East division includes the parishes of Brize Norton and part of Carterton. Our proposed Burford & Carterton West division includes the parishes of Asthall, Burford, the area of Carterton not included in Brize Norton & Carterton East division, Crawley, Fulbrook, Holwell, Leafield, Minster Lovell, Ramsden, Shilton, Swinbrook & Widford, Taynton and Westwell. These are identical to the Council's proposals.

84 Our proposed Eynsham division includes the parishes of Cassington, Eynsham, Northmoor, South Leigh and Stanton Harcourt. As described above, this differs from the Council's scheme in that we have adopted Labour's proposal to include Hardwick-with-Yelford parish in Bampton & Carterton South division.

Witney North & East, Witney South & Central and Witney West & Ducklington

85 The Council's scheme made minor adjustments to the existing division boundaries for Witney North & East and Witney South & Central divisions. It proposed transferring Bridge Street, Mill Mews, New Bridge Street, Priory Mill Lane and the east side of Bridge Street from Witney North & East to Witney South & Central division, as well including Burwell Meadow and its associated streets in Witney South & Central. The Council's proposed Witney West & Ducklington division includes the remainder of Witney parish, as well as the parishes of Curbridge and Ducklington. As mentioned above, we decided to include Lew parish in the ward, both because this improves coterminosity in the district and because Lew is in a parish grouping with Curbridge.

Conclusions

86 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Oxfordshire, referencing the 2023 and 2029 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	
	2023	2029
Number of councillors	69	69
Number of electoral divisions	69	69
Average number of electors per councillor	7,564	8,449
Number of divisions with a variance more than 10% from the average	25	5
Number of divisions with a variance more than 20% from the average	4	0

Draft recommendations

Oxfordshire County Council should be made up of 69 councillors serving 69 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 Oxfordshire County Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Oxfordshire on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

87 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 and ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

88 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, Oxfordshire County Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

89 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 Abingdon on Thames, Banbury, Bicester, Didcot, Henley-on-Thames, Thame, Wantage and Witney.

90 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Abingdon Town Council.

Draft recommendations

Abingdon on Thames Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Abbey	2
Caldecott	4
Dunmore	4
Fitzharris Ock	2
Fitzharris Wildmore	1
Northcourt	1
Peachcroft	4
Rush Common	1

91 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Banbury Town Council.

Draft recommendations

Banbury Town Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing 14 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Calthorpe North	1
Calthorpe South	2
Easington North	1
Easington South East	2
Easington South West	1
Grimsbury	3

Hardwick East	1
Hardwick West	3
Neithrop North	1
Neithrop South	1
Park Road	1
Ruscote	3
Town Centre	1
Woodgreen	1

92 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bicester Town Council.

Draft recommendations

Bicester Town Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	5
Greenwood	1
North	4
South	4
South West	3
Village	1
West	4

93 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Didcot Town Council.

Draft recommendations

Didcot Town Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
All Saints	5
Broadway	1
Jubilee	1
Ladygrove	6
Millbrook	1
Northbourne	3
Orchard	1
Park	3

94 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Henley-on-Thames Town Council.

Draft recommendations

Henley-on-Thames Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Henley North	8
Henley South	5
Newtown	3

95 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Thame Town Council.

Draft recommendations

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

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Thame North	8
Thame South East	6
Thame South West	2

96 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Wantage Town Council.

Draft recommendations

Wantage Town Council should comprise 29 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Charlton	9
Segsbury	11
Wantage	9

97 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Witney Town Council.

Draft recommendations

Witney Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Witney Burwell	1
Witney Central	3
Witney East	4
Witney Leys	1

Witney North	2
Witney South	2
Witney West	3
Witney Windrush	1

Have your say

98 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.

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

100 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

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

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

Review Officer (Oxfordshire)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth NE24 9FE

103 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of divisions for Oxfordshire 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.

104 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.

105 Electoral equality:

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

106 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?

107 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?

108 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.lqbce.org.uk. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

109 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.

110 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.

111 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 Oxfordshire County Council in 2025.

Equalities

112 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 Oxfordshire County Council

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
CHERWELL							
1	Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote	7,619	7,619	1%	8,017	8,017	-5%
2	Banbury Calthorpe	6,811	6,811	-10%	8,806	8,806	4%
3	Banbury Cross	8,465	8,465	12%	8,977	8,977	6%
4	Banbury Grimsbury	7,137	7,137	-6%	7,716	7,716	-9%
5	Banbury Hardwick	7,548	7,548	0%	7,803	7,803	-8%
6	Banbury Ruscote	8,115	8,115	7%	8,607	8,607	2%
7	Bicester East	7,349	7,349	-3%	7,801	7,801	-8%
8	Bicester North	8,144	8,144	8%	8,637	8,637	2%
9	Bicester South	5,909	5,909	-22%	7,641	7,641	-8%
10	Bicester West	8,079	8,079	7%	8,685	8,685	3%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11	Cropredy & Wroxton	1	6,990	6,990	-8%	7,481	7,481	-11%
12	Deddington	1	7,461	7,461	-1%	7,629	7,629	-10%
13	Fringford & Heyfords	1	7,182	7,182	-5%	8,801	8,801	4%
14	Kidlington East	1	7,043	7,043	-7%	8,953	8,953	6%
15	Kidlington North & Otmoor	1	8,475	8,475	12%	8,732	8,732	3%
16	Kidlington West	1	4,829	4,829	-36%	8,966	8,966	6%
OXFORD								
17	Bartlemas	1	8,213	8,213	9%	9,172	9,172	9%
18	Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst	1	6,163	6,163	-19%	7,717	7,717	-9%
19	Churchill & Lye Valley	1	7,765	7,765	3%	8,502	8,502	1%
20	Cowley	1	8,404	8,404	11%	9,055	9,055	7%
21	Headington & Quarry	1	8,009	8,009	6%	8,460	8,460	0%
22	Isis	1	7,530	7,530	0%	7,874	7,874	-7%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
23	Jericho & Osney	1	7,803	7,803	3%	8,800	8,800	4%
24	Leys	1	8,272	8,272	9%	9,147	9,147	8%
25	Marston & Northway	1	7,956	7,956	5%	9,212	9,212	9%
26	Parks	1	6,100	6,100	-19%	8,420	8,420	0%
27	Rose Hill & Littlemore	1	8,297	8,297	10%	8,975	8,975	6%
28	Summertown & Walton Manor	1	8,217	8,217	9%	8,958	8,958	6%
29	Wolvercote & Cutteslowe	1	7,065	7,065	-7%	8,129	8,129	-4%
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE								
30	Benson & Crowmarsh	1	7,380	7,380	-2%	8,449	8,449	0%
31	Berinsfield & Garsington	1	5,862	5,862	-22%	8,646	8,646	2%
32	Chalgrove & Thame West	1	7,268	7,268	-4%	8,084	8,084	-4%
33	Chinnor	1	7,690	7,690	2%	7,880	7,880	-7%
34	Cholsey & The Hagbournes	1	8,616	8,616	14%	8,779	8,779	4%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
35 Didcot Ladygrove	1	6,192	6,192	-18%	8,373	8,373	-1%
36 Didcot South	1	8,012	8,012	6%	8,025	8,025	-5%
37 Didcot West	1	7,071	7,071	-7%	7,782	7,782	-8%
38 Goring & Woodcote	1	7,975	7,975	5%	8,169	8,169	-3%
39 Henley	1	7,806	7,806	3%	8,170	8,170	-3%
40 Sonning Common & Henley South	1	7,799	7,799	3%	8,298	8,298	-2%
41 Thame	1	8,771	8,771	16%	9,061	9,061	7%
42 Wallingford	1	7,711	7,711	2%	8,976	8,976	6%
43 Watlington & Rotherfield	1	7,539	7,539	0%	7,971	7,971	-6%
44 Wheatley	1	7,021	7,021	-7%	8,131	8,131	-4%
VALE OF WHITE HORSE							
45 Abingdon East	1	8,398	8,398	11%	8,614	8,614	2%
46 Abingdon North	1	7,896	7,896	4%	9,186	9,186	9%
47 Abingdon South	1	8,587	8,587	14%	8,598	8,598	2%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
48 Charlton, Blewbury & Hendreds	1	7,320	7,320	-3%	8,781	8,781	4%
49 Drayton, Sutton Courtenay & Steventon	1	8,634	8,634	14%	9,373	9,373	11%
50 Faringdon	1	7,086	7,086	-6%	7,701	7,701	-9%
51 Grove	1	6,509	6,509	-14%	8,983	8,983	6%
52 Harwell & Valley Park	1	4,467	4,467	-41%	7,931	7,931	-6%
53 Kennington & Radley	1	8,448	8,448	12%	8,851	8,851	5%
54 Kingston & Stanford	1	7,053	7,053	-7%	7,244	7,244	-14%
55 Marcham & Cumnor	1	6,314	6,314	-17%	7,433	7,433	-12%
56 North Hinksey	1	7,578	7,578	0%	7,703	7,703	-9%
57 Shrivenham	1	8,878	8,878	17%	9,520	9,520	13%
58 Wantage	1	7,754	7,754	3%	7,805	7,805	-8%

WEST OXFORDSHIRE

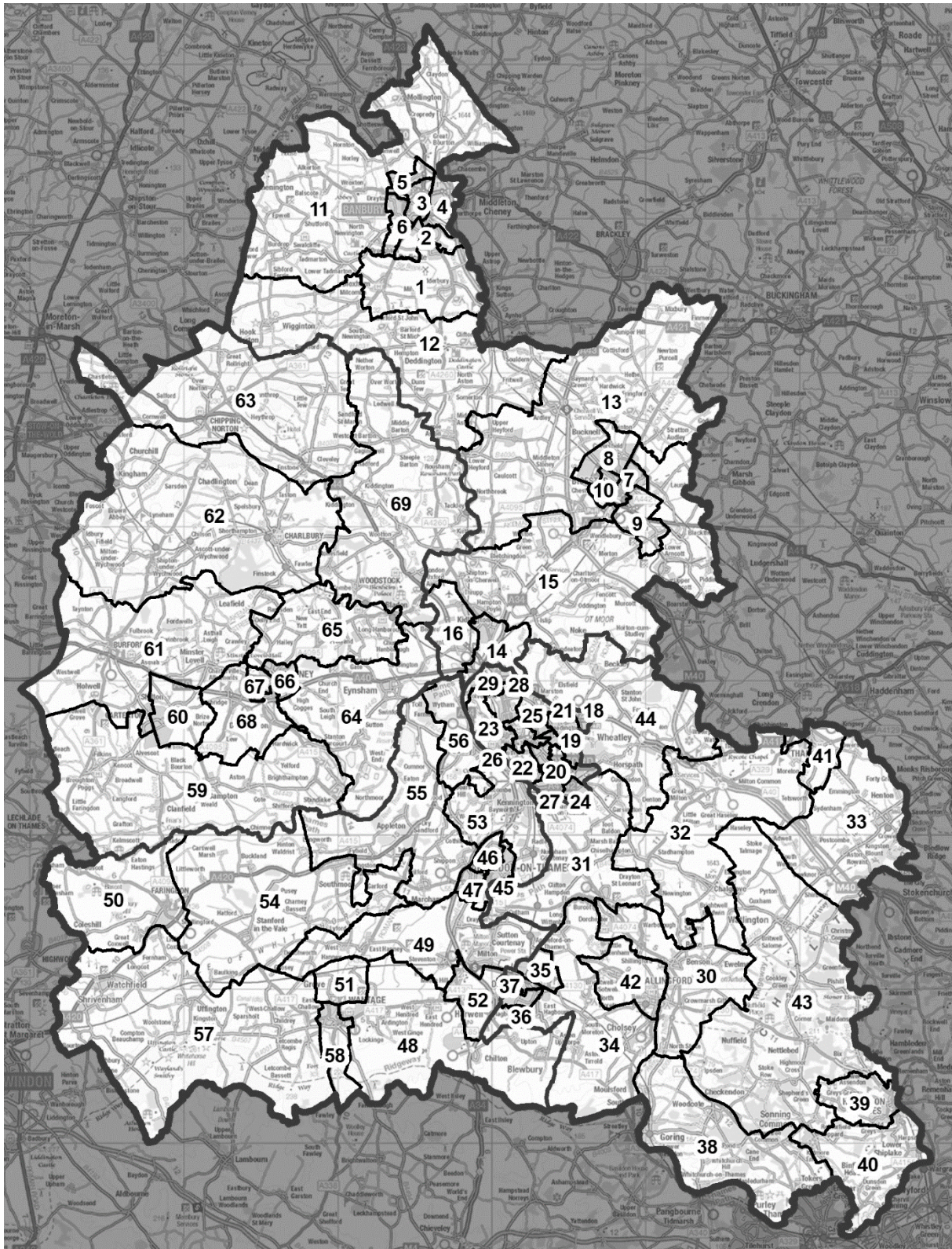
59	Bampton & Carterton South	1	8,868	8,868	17%	9,169	9,169	9%
60	Brize Norton & Carterton East	1	6,776	6,776	-10%	7,805	7,805	-8%
61	Burford & Carterton West	1	8,877	8,877	17%	9,167	9,167	8%
62	Charlbury & Wychwood	1	8,763	8,763	16%	8,776	8,776	4%
63	Chipping Norton	1	8,208	8,208	9%	9,091	9,091	8%
64	Eynsham	1	6,297	6,297	-17%	8,287	8,287	-2%
65	Hanborough & Hailey	1	6,785	6,785	-10%	7,901	7,901	-6%
66	Witney North & East	1	8,335	8,335	10%	8,976	8,976	6%
67	Witney South & Central	1	8,468	8,468	12%	8,569	8,569	1%
68	Witney West & Ducklington	1	7,524	7,524	-1%	7,922	7,922	-6%
69	Woodstock	1	8,404	8,404	11%	9,008	9,008	7%
Totals		69	521,890	-	-	582,977	-	-
Averages		-	-	7,564	-	-	8,449	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Oxfordshire 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.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Division name	Number	Division name
1	Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote	36	Didcot South
2	Banbury Calthorpe	37	Didcot West
3	Banbury Cross	38	Goring & Woodcote
4	Banbury Grimsbury	39	Henley
5	Banbury Hardwick	40	Sonning Common & Henley South
6	Banbury Ruscote	41	Thame
7	Bicester East	42	Wallingford
8	Bicester North	43	Watlington & Rotherfield
9	Bicester South	44	Wheatley
10	Bicester West	45	Abingdon East
11	Cropredy & Wroxton	46	Abingdon North
12	Deddington	47	Abingdon South
13	Fringford & Heyfords	48	Charlton, Blewbury & Hendreds
14	Kidlington East	49	Drayton, Sutton Courtenay & Steventon
15	Kidlington North & Otmoor	50	Faringdon
16	Kidlington West	51	Grove
17	Bartlemas	52	Harwell & Valley Park
18	Barton, Sandhills & Risinghurst	53	Kennington & Radley
19	Churchill & Lye Valley	54	Kingston & Stanford
20	Cowley	55	Marcham & Cumnor
21	Headington & Quarry	56	North Hinksey
22	Isis	57	Shrivenham
23	Jericho & Osney	58	Wantage
24	Leys	59	Bampton & Carterton South
25	Marston & Northway	60	Brize Norton & Carterton East
26	Parks	61	Burford & Carterton West
27	Rose Hill & Littlemore	62	Charlbury & Wychwood
28	Summertown & Walton Manor	63	Chipping Norton
29	Wolvercote & Cutteslowe	64	Eynsham
30	Benson & Crowmarsh	65	Hanborough & Hailey
31	Berinsfield & Garsington	66	Witney North & East
32	Chalgrove & Thame West	67	Witney South & Central
33	Chinnor	68	Witney West & Ducklington

34	Cholsey & The Hagbournes	69	Woodstock
35	Didcot Ladygrove		

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/oxfordshire

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Local Authority

- Oxfordshire County Council

Political Groups

- Labour & Co-operative Group

Councillors

- Councillor M. Cherry (Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council)
- Councillor S. Gawrysiak (Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council)

Local Residents

- 40 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.

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

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE