

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Gloucestershire County Council

Electoral review

October 2023

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.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 wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

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

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

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

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 Gloucestershire?

7 We are conducting a review of Gloucestershire County Council ('the Council') as 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 Gloucestershire 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 Gloucestershire

9 Gloucestershire County Council should be represented by 55 councillors, two more than there are now.

10 Gloucestershire should have 55 divisions, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 41 divisions should change; 14 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.

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 Gloucestershire. 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 |
|------------------|---|
| 21 March 2023 | Number of councillors decided |
| 28 March 2023 | Start of consultation seeking views on new divisions |
| 5 June 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 |
| March 2024 | Publication of final recommendations |

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our 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 Gloucestershire | 485,812 | 522,747 |
| Number of councillors | 55 | 55 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 8,833 | 9,504 |

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'. 50 of our proposed divisions for Gloucestershire 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 8% by 2029. The district and borough councils provided information to the County Council in support of these forecasts.

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

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

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

Number of councillors

26 Gloucestershire County Council currently has 53 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that increasing by two will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 At the beginning of the review the Council requested that this review be conducted as a ‘single-member division’ review.⁴ The Commission agreed to this request, and we invited proposals for divisions that would each be represented by one councillor.

28 We received a small number of submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on division patterns, including two which advocated for a size of 63. Our draft recommendations are based on a council size of 55, as originally suggested by the Gloucestershire County Council Conservative Group.

Councillor allocation and coterminosity

29 A council size of 55 provides the following allocation between the district and borough 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/borough boundary. Secondly, we must have regard for the district/borough wards that exist within each area. Where possible we try to use the district/borough wards to form the boundaries of the county divisions. The table below shows the percentage of district/borough wards that are wholly contained within our proposed divisions. We refer to this as coterminosity.

| District/Borough | Allocation of councillors | Coterminosity |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Cheltenham | 10 | 45% ⁵ |
| Cotswold | 8 | 59% |
| Forest of Dean | 8 | 71% |
| Gloucester | 10 | 72% |
| Stroud | 11 | 70% |
| Tewkesbury | 8 | 63% |

⁴ Section 57 of Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁵ New ward boundaries for Cheltenham have been finalised, and are due to be implemented as part of the next election in 2024. Coterminosity of divisions, as recommended in this report, with these new borough wards would be 100% if implemented.

Division boundaries consultation

30 We received 39 submissions in response to our consultation on division boundaries. We received no county-wide proposals; however, the Gloucestershire County Council Liberal Democrat Group ('Liberal Democrat Group') did submit a proposal for five of six districts in the county. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for division arrangements in particular areas of the county.

31 Our draft recommendations are broadly based on the scheme proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group, with the exception of Cheltenham, where we have adopted proposals from the Cheltenham Constituency Labour Party ('Cheltenham CLP'). 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.

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

Draft recommendations

33 Our draft recommendations are for 55 single-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.

34 The tables and maps on pages 8–28 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Gloucestershire. They detail how the proposed division arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

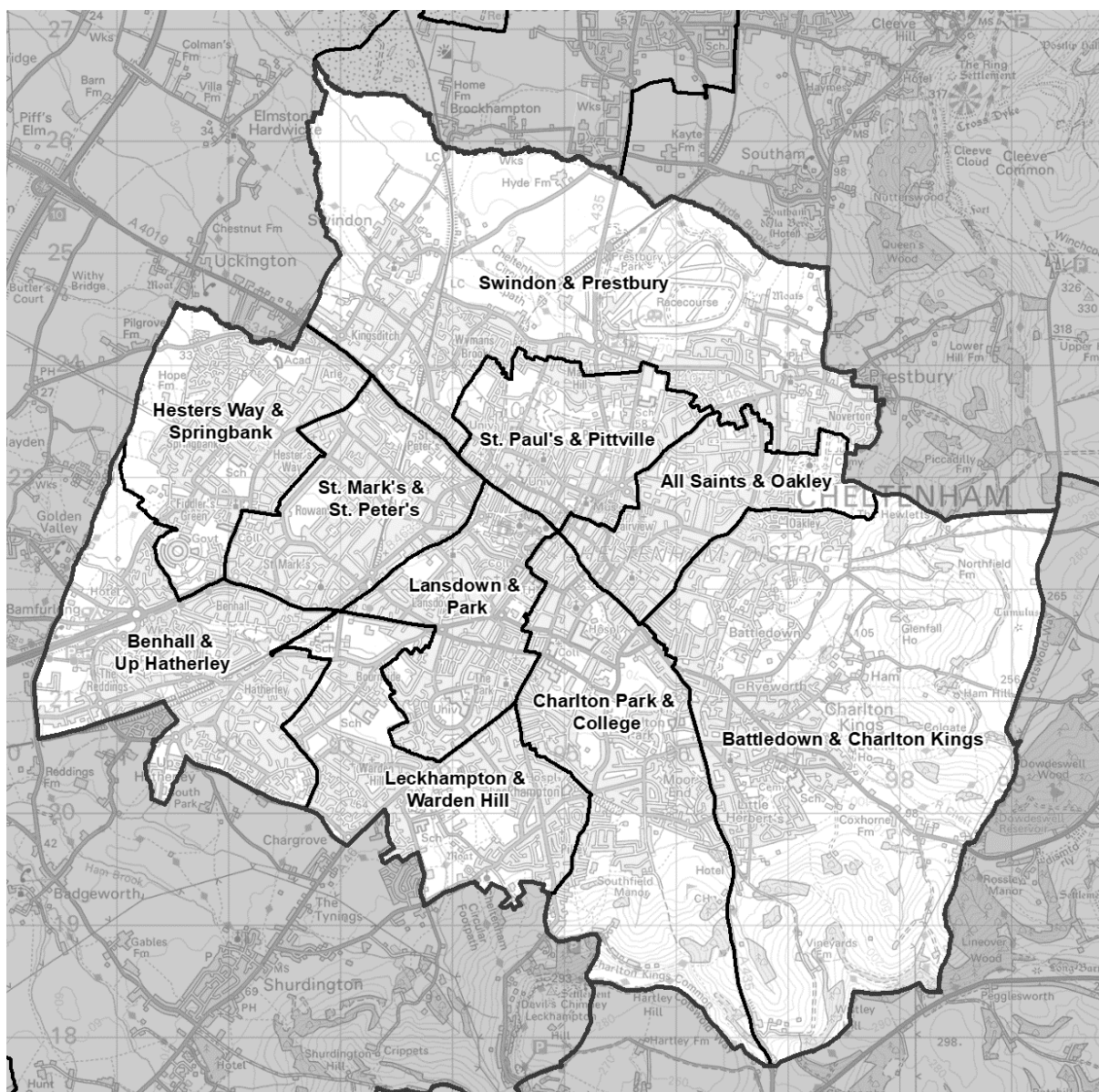
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

35 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.

36 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.

Cheltenham



| Division name | Number of councillors | Variance 2029 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| All Saints & Oakley | 1 | -4% |
| Battledown & Charlton Kings | 1 | -2% |
| Benhall & Up Hatherley | 1 | 6% |
| Charlton Park & College | 1 | -9% |
| Hesters Way & Springbank | 1 | 7% |
| Lansdown & Park | 1 | -2% |
| Leckhampton & Warden Hill | 1 | -9% |
| St. Mark's & St. Peter's | 1 | 2% |
| St. Paul's & Pittville | 1 | -6% |
| Swindon & Prestbury | 1 | -7% |

37 Under a Council size of 55, Cheltenham has been allocated 10 councillors, with each councillor representing on average -2% fewer electors than the county average.

38 We received proposals for the borough from the Liberal Democrat Group and the Cheltenham CLP. Both proposals were for 10 divisions covering the borough.

39 The Liberal Democrat Group's proposal was for all existing divisions to be retained, with boundaries adjusted only to reflect new ward boundaries in Cheltenham which have been confirmed (but not yet implemented in an election).

40 The proposal from the Cheltenham CLP similarly advocated for a retention of existing divisions with adjusted boundaries corresponding to new wards, with one amendment. It recommended two alternative division pairings, specifically suggesting a St. Paul's & Pittville division and Swindon & Prestbury division instead of the existing Swindon & St. Paul's and Pittville & Prestbury divisions. Notably, this pattern prevents a Swindon & St. Paul's division with a -14% variance by 2029.

All Saints & Oakley, Battledown & Charlton Kings and Charlton Park & College

41 The two submissions noted above proposed retaining the existing divisions in this area, with minor adjustments to align with new ward boundaries. The suggested names are the same as at present, comprising the constituent ward names that are paired together in each division.

42 We received no other submissions regarding these divisions.

43 As part of our draft recommendations, we are adopting this proposal in the east of the borough, as it provides for good electoral equality and, in our view, also provides for convenient and effective local government by facilitating coterminosity with the new ward boundaries in Cheltenham.

Benhall & Up Hatherley, Hesters Way & Springbank and Leckhampton & Warden Hill

44 Both detailed proposals in Cheltenham proposed retaining the existing divisions in this area, with minor adjustments to align with new ward boundaries. Consistent with the new warding structure, this division pattern links the Fiddler's Green neighbourhood with Benhall and The Reddings, as opposed to including it with Hesters Way. The suggested names are the same as at present, comprising the constituent ward names that are paired together in each division.

45 We received a small number of local submissions in the south and southeast of the borough, including two from residents suggesting that Leckhampton and Warden Hill wards do not fit well with each other in one division. We note that the A46 does represent something of a boundary between the two communities as suggested; however, we are not convinced that there is a better pattern of divisions in Cheltenham to accommodate separating these areas and none were put forward in

the submissions we received. We would welcome such suggestions in response to the consultation on these draft recommendations.

46 As part of our draft recommendations, we are adopting the proposal of the Liberal Democrat Group and Cheltenham CLP in the south and southeast of the borough, as it provides for good electoral equality and, in our view, also provides for convenient and effective local government by facilitating coterminosity with the new ward boundaries in Cheltenham.

Lansdown & Park and St. Mark's & St. Peter's

47 The two comprehensive Cheltenham submissions noted above proposed retaining the existing divisions in this area, with minor adjustments to align with new ward boundaries. The suggested names are the same as at present, comprising the constituent ward names that are paired together in each division.

48 We received no other submissions regarding these divisions.

49 We are adopting these proposals in the centre of the borough as part of our draft recommendations, as they provide for good electoral equality and, in our view, also provide for convenient and effective local government by facilitating coterminosity with the new ward boundaries in Cheltenham.

St. Paul's & Pittville and Swindon & Prestbury

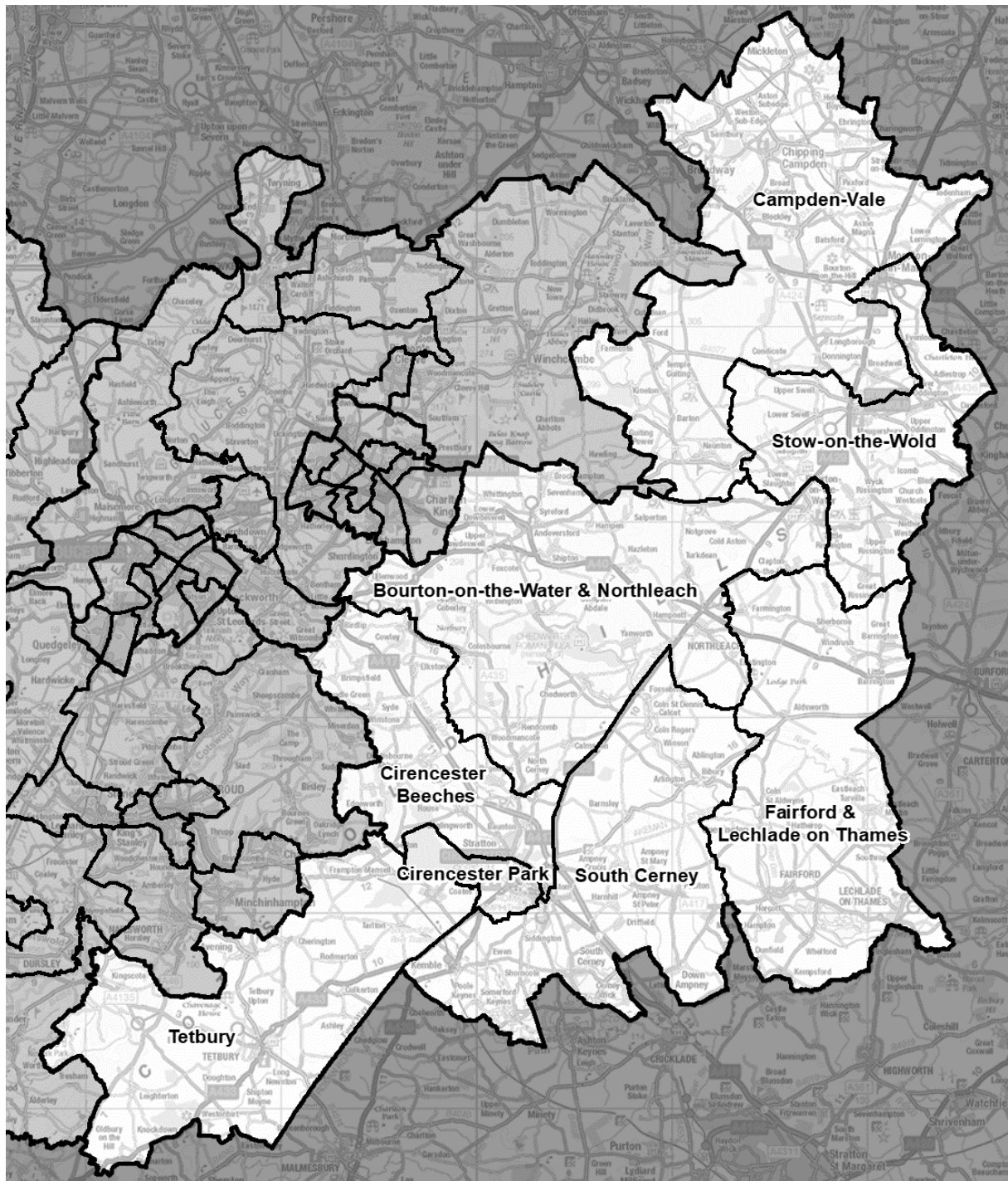
50 The proposals from the Liberal Democrat Group and Cheltenham CLP differed regarding the pattern for these two divisions. The former proposed, as it did throughout the borough, retaining the existing divisions (Pittsville & Prestbury and St. Paul's & Swindon) while reflecting the new ward boundaries. The latter proposed a revised pattern, pairing the St. Paul's and Pittville wards for a more central division, along with an 'outer Cheltenham' division comprising the Swindon Village and Prestbury wards.

51 We visited this area on our tour of Gloucestershire and considered that the links between the Swindon and Prestbury communities, and between St. Paul's and Pittsville neighbourhoods, are sufficiently strong that divisions made up of their respective pairings would be satisfactory.

52 We are also persuaded that this arrangement allows for better electoral equality by 2029 than the alternative, with St. Paul's & Pittville (-6% variance) and Swindon & Prestbury (-7%) both providing for good electoral variances as opposed to the Liberal Democrat Group suggestion of St. Paul's & Swindon and Pittville & Prestbury (with variances of -14% and 1%, respectively).

53 We are therefore adopting the divisions proposed by the Cheltenham CLP in the north of the borough as part of our draft recommendations.

Cotswold



| Division name | Number of councillors | Variance 2029 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Bourton-on-the-Water & Northleach | 1 | 2% |
| Campden-Vale | 1 | 12% |
| Cirencester Beeches | 1 | 3% |
| Cirencester Park | 1 | 2% |
| Fairford & Lechlade on Thames | 1 | -3% |

| | | |
|------------------|---|-----|
| South Cerney | 1 | 9% |
| Stow-on-the-Wold | 1 | 11% |
| Tetbury | 1 | 1% |

54 Under a Council size of 55, Cotswold has been allocated eight councillors, with an average variance of 5% compared to the county average.

55 We received proposals for the district from the Liberal Democrat Group and from a local independent district councillor, Councillor Chris Twells. Both proposals were for eight divisions covering the district. We received no other relevant submissions for any areas in Cotswold.

56 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed to retain six of the eight divisions unchanged, with minor changes suggested between the Campden-Vale and Stow-on-the-Wold divisions.

57 The proposal from the independent councillor advocated for a number of changes to the existing pattern across the district to achieve a greater level of coterminosity with the district wards. This included a reconfiguration around Cirencester in the south of the district and an alternative arrangement for Moreton-in-Marsh in the north of the district.

Campden-Vale and Stow-on-the-Wold

58 The Liberal Democrat Group suggested a small change in the boundary between these divisions, transferring the northern parts of the Bourton Vale ward (including Naunton and Temple Guiting) from Stow-on-the-Wold into Campden-Vale. This results in a 12% variance for Campden-Vale and an 11% variance for Stow-on-the-Wold.

59 The independent councillor's proposal is for a greater degree of change. This proposal divides the town of Moreton-in-Marsh in line with local district ward boundaries, combining Moreton West ward with Chipping Campden and settlements in the far north of the district and Moreton East ward with Stow-on-the-Wold and its surrounding area. This proposed arrangement results in a 10% variance for the proposed Campden & Moreton West division and a 13% variance for the Stow & Moreton East division by 2029.

60 We visited the town of Moreton-in-Marsh to assess the different proposals here. While we acknowledge that the rail line which serves as the boundary between Moreton East and Moreton West wards does represent a distinction in character, we believe that keeping the entire town together in one division provides a better reflection of local community identities and interests. Our draft recommendations are therefore consistent with the proposal from the Liberal Democrat Group. As noted

above, this proposed arrangement does result in two divisions with variances above 10%, as opposed to only one as in the independent councillor's proposal, but at this stage our view is that the higher variances are justified to ensure that the town of Moreton-in-Marsh is not split between divisions. We would particularly welcome additional submissions from this area.

Bourton-on-the-Water & Northleach, Fairford & Lechlade on Thames and South Cerney

61 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed no changes to these three divisions, which all have variances under 10% by 2029.

62 The independent councillor scheme proposed changes in the centre of the district, again operating on the principle of greater coterminosity with district wards. The resulting divisions are named as Bourton & Northleach, Cerney & Thames and Fairford & Lechdale.

63 The only local submission we received in these divisions was from Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council, which requested no changes to the existing arrangements in the area.

64 Our draft recommendations in this area are consistent with the Liberal Democrat Group. While we acknowledge that the independent councillor proposal would allow for greater coterminosity with district wards (specifically the Coln Valley and Northleach wards), we believe that there is a lack of local commentary to justify this alteration from the existing division pattern. We would particularly welcome additional submissions from this area to complement the existing submission from Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council.

Cirencester Beeches, Cirencester Park and Tetbury

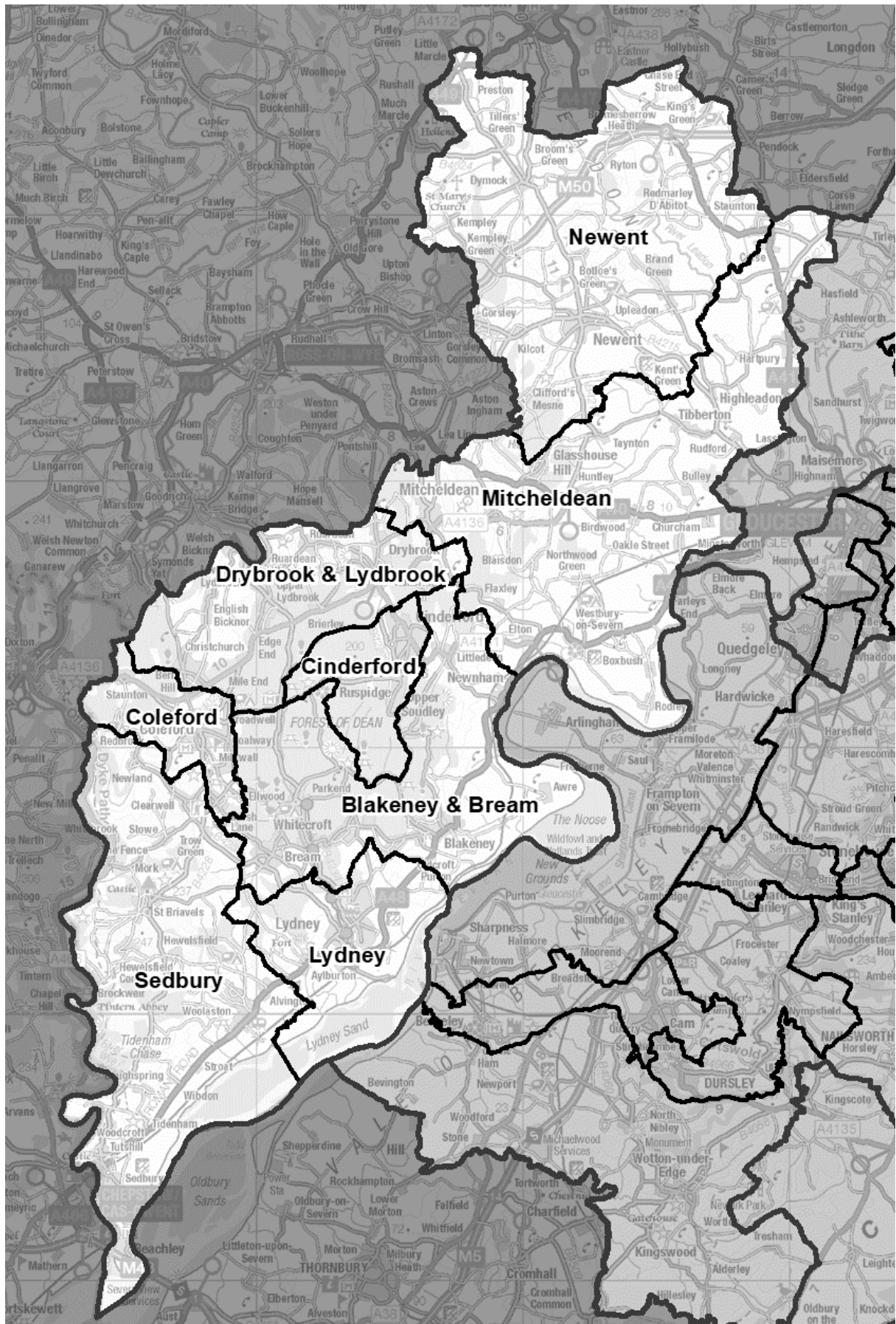
65 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed no changes to these three divisions, which all have variances under 10% by 2029.

66 The independent councillor scheme proposed a reconfiguration of the Cirencester area, advocating for a Cirencester North and Cirencester South orientation where the New Mills ward is included in a built-up southern division and The Beeches ward is included in a largely rural northern division.

67 Our draft recommendations are for unchanged divisions in the south of the district, in line with the proposals made by the Liberal Democrat Group. A division which includes the majority of the built-up area of Cirencester would have an electoral variance of 12% by 2029; in our view, this is an unacceptably high variance for a division which does not include the entirety of the built-up area of Cirencester. In this context, we consider an arrangement based upon the existing pattern of

divisions better reflects community identity and provides for better electoral equality. Specifically, we feel that it is unreasonable to include The Beeches ward as the lone element of built-up Cirencester in a large, rural Cirencester North division as proposed by the independent councillor. Under the existing arrangement, where Cirencester Beeches and Cirencester Park have electoral variances of 3% and 2%, respectively, the two wards of The Beeches and New Mills form a consistent community buffered by the A429 (Burford Road) and are included within the same division.

Forest of Dean



| Division name | Number of councillors | Variance 2029 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Blakeney & Bream | 1 | 4% |
| Cinderford | 1 | -10% |
| Coleford | 1 | -4% |
| Drybrook & Lydbrook | 1 | -8% |
| Lydney | 1 | 4% |
| Mitcheldean | 1 | -8% |
| Newent | 1 | 1% |
| Sedbury | 1 | -9% |

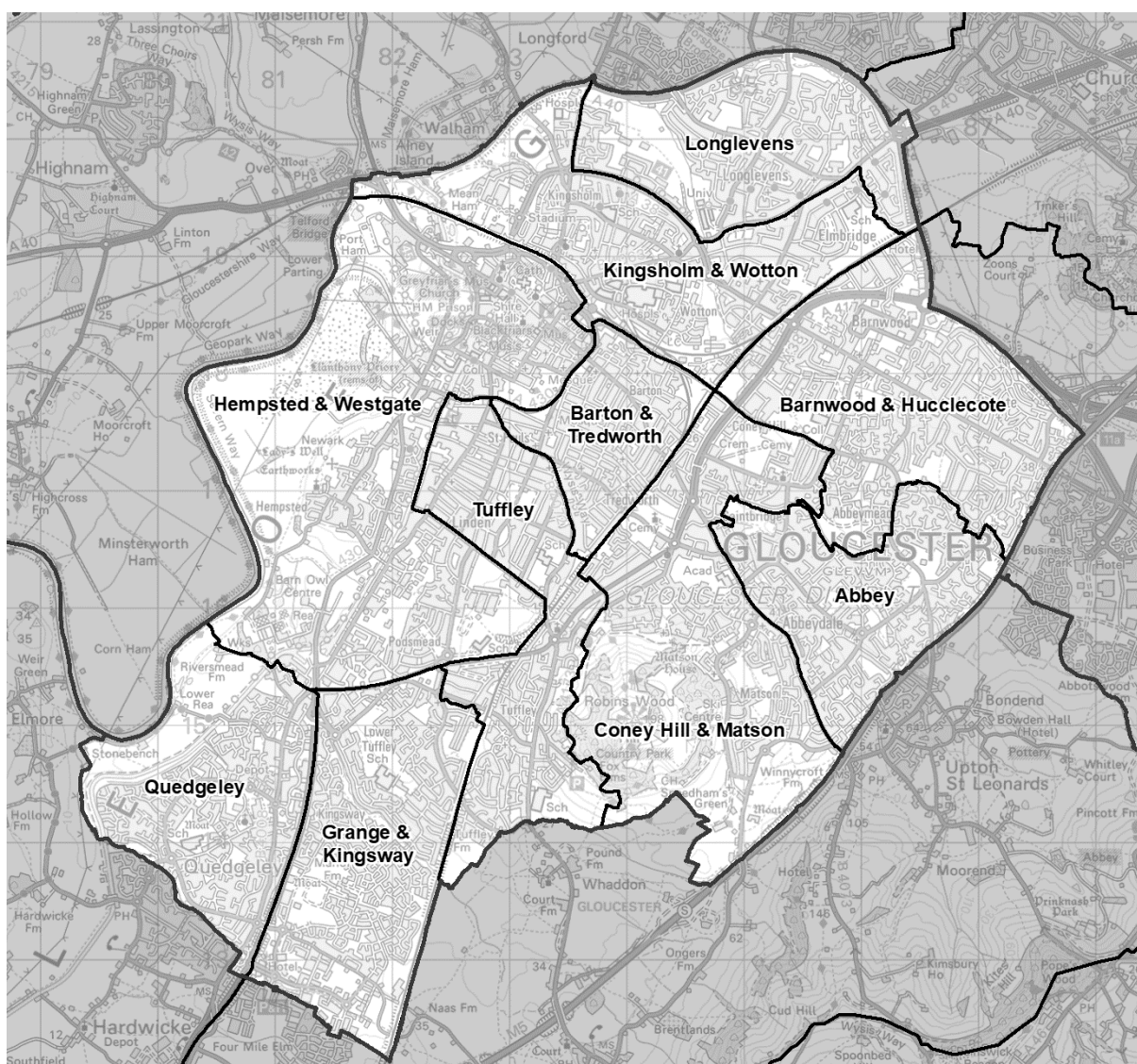
68 Under a Council size of 55, Forest of Dean has been allocated eight councillors, with an average variance of -4% compared to the county average.

69 We received no proposals for this district, and one relevant submission on division boundaries. This submission, from the county councillor for Sedbury division, argued that the current arrangements are 'manageable and reasonable'.

Blakeney & Bream, Cinderford, Coleford, Drybrook & Lydbrook, Lydney, Mitcheldean, Newent and Sedbury

70 As mentioned above, we received no detailed proposals or submissions concerning the division boundaries (or names) in Forest of Dean district, other than one supporting the current arrangement. All of the existing divisions are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2029. As such, we are proposing to retain the existing divisions as part of our draft recommendations and would welcome local submissions on this proposed arrangement.

Gloucester



| Division name | Number of councillors | Variance 2029 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Abbey | 1 | 4% |
| Barnwood & Hucclecote | 1 | 9% |
| Barton & Tredworth | 1 | -5% |
| Coney Hill & Matson | 1 | 4% |
| Grange & Kingsway | 1 | 11% |
| Hempsted & Westgate | 1 | -4% |
| Kingsholm & Wotton | 1 | 0% |
| Longlevens | 1 | -10% |
| Quedgeley | 1 | -5% |
| Tuffley | 1 | -1% |

71 Under a Council size of 55, Gloucester has been allocated 10 councillors, with an average variance essentially in line with the county average.

72 We received proposals for the district from the Liberal Democrat Group. This proposal was for 10 divisions covering the district. We received a number of other relevant submissions for local areas in Gloucester.

73 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed to retain one of the 10 divisions unchanged, operating on the principle of 'tidying up' with small changes suggested across almost the entire district. This proposal divides only three wards in the city.

Kingsholm & Wotton and Longlevens

74 In the northwest of the city, electorate forecasts mean that one of either Kingsholm & Wotton or Longlevens divisions will have an electoral variance in excess of -10% by 2029 if using whole polling districts as building blocks.

75 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed dividing PD E1 in the Elmbridge ward (this ward is already divided between the two divisions under the existing arrangement), using Sir Thomas Rich's School grounds as its suggested boundary.

76 We visited this area on our tour of Gloucestershire and felt that, while E1 is the correct polling district to split between these two divisions, the specific boundary put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group unnecessarily divided adjacent houses and a local rugby club. Our draft recommendations for this area therefore propose an alternative boundary between Kingsholm & Wotton and Longlevens, following Horsbere Brook between the B4063 (Cheltenham Road East) and the train line. This results in variances of 0% and -10% by 2029, respectively.

Abbey, Barnwood & Hucclecote, Barton & Tredworth and Coney Hill & Matson

77 The Liberal Democrat Group suggested a number of small changes to the existing divisions, with the exception of Barton & Tredworth, which it proposed maintaining entirely unchanged. In the other three divisions (Abbey, Barnwood & Hucclecote and Coney Hill & Matson), which are each comprised of two city wards, it proposed adjustments to bring division boundaries in line with new city ward boundaries and achieve better coterminosity.

78 We agree with the proposals put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group in the north and east of the city, noting the improved coterminosity, and we propose a set of draft recommendations matching those suggestions.

Hempsted & Westgate and Tuffley

79 The Liberal Democrat Group proposal in Tuffley division maintains the existing split of Moreland ward along the Stroud Road, linking the Linden neighbourhood with Tuffley ward south of the A38. It also proposed including an undivided Podsmead ward in the Hempsted & Westgate division. The submission suggested new names for both of these divisions: Linden & Tuffley and Westgate & Podsmead.

80 We received a submission from the Podsmead Big Local Partnership which provided persuasive evidence for keeping the Podsmead ward undivided within one division. We additionally received a submission from a resident requesting that Reservoir Road not be divided between divisions; however, this is difficult to realise as it forms the ward boundary between Matson & Robinswood and Tuffley wards.

81 We visited this area on our tour of Gloucestershire and found that while there is some difference in character between the northern and southern communities of the proposed Linden & Tuffley division, in our view they still form a reasonable partnership and any alternative arrangement would require a greater degree of change for neighbouring divisions. We similarly see logic in adjusting the existing Hempsted & Westgate division to include all of Podsmead.

82 At this stage, we have adopted the Liberal Democrat Group proposals in this area as part of our draft recommendations. We are not, however, convinced by the suggested name changes. In Tuffley, it appears that the Linden neighbourhood extends across both Moreland and Podsmead wards and therefore could provide confusion for residents, and in Hempsted & Westgate we feel the existing name reflects that the division is proposed with largely unchanged boundaries. We would welcome additional submissions on the suitability of these names. We therefore propose a Hempsted & Westgate division and Tuffley division with revised boundaries in line with the Liberal Democrat Group proposal but with unchanged names.

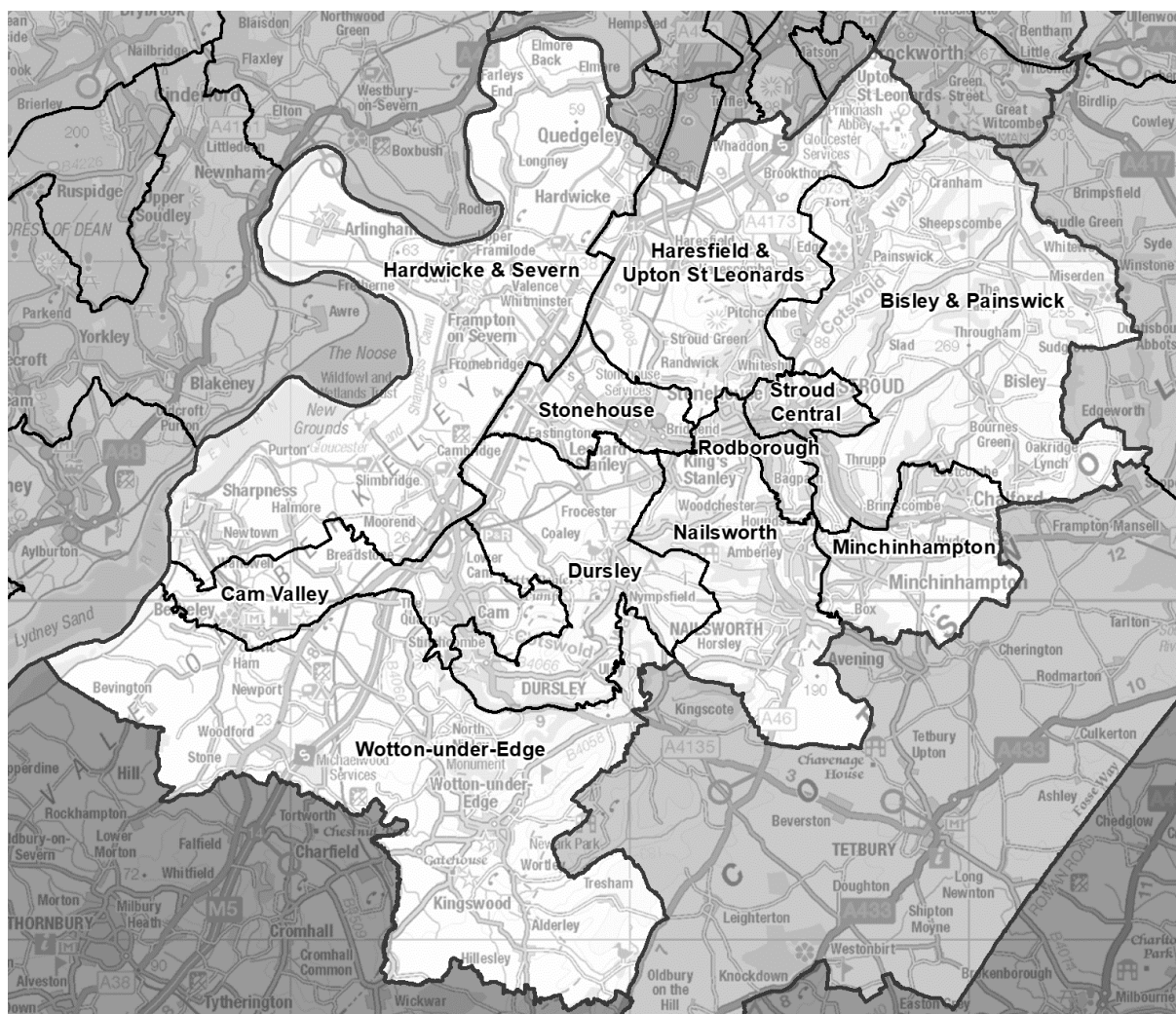
Grange & Kingsway and Quedgeley

83 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed shifting one polling district, QFC3 in the Quedgeley Fieldcourt ward, from Grange & Kingsway division to Quedgeley division. This transfer has the dual benefit of achieving greater coterminosity with city wards and providing for more balanced variances, with Grange & Kingsway at 3% and Quedgeley at 10%.

84 We visited PD QFC3 on our tour of Gloucestershire and considered that the new developments in this polling district felt significantly far from the rest of the residential areas in Quedgeley Fieldcourt ward (and therefore the rest of the Quedgeley division) and that they represented a continuous community with the southernmost residential roads of the Kingsway ward.

85 We therefore propose a set of draft recommendations with an unchanged Grange & Kingsway division which includes the QFC3 polling district, as we feel that it is essentially connected to the division. This results in an 11% variance for Grange & Kingsway by 2029, as well as a slightly reduced coterminosity; it additionally results in an unchanged Quedgeley division with a -5% variance by 2029.

Stroud



| Division name | Number of councillors | Variance 2029 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Bisley & Painswick | 1 | -4% |
| Cam Valley | 1 | 9% |
| Dursley | 1 | -6% |
| Hardwicke & Severn | 1 | -3% |
| Haresfield & Upton St Leonards | 1 | -8% |
| Minchinhampton | 1 | -4% |
| Nailsworth | 1 | -6% |
| Rodborough | 1 | 3% |
| Stonehouse | 1 | -1% |
| Stroud Central | 1 | -9% |
| Wotton-under-Edge | 1 | -10% |

86 Under a Council size of 55, Stroud has been allocated 11 councillors, with an average variance of -3% less than the county average. Forecast electorate growth in Stroud accounts for the increase of one councillor over the existing 10.

87 We received identical proposals for the district from the Liberal Democrat Group and the Gloucestershire County Council Labour Group ('Labour Group'). Both of these proposals were for 11 divisions covering the district. We received a number of other relevant submissions for local areas in Stroud.

88 The proposals submitted by both the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups proposed to retain one of the 10 existing divisions unchanged.

Haresfield & Upton St Leonards, Rodborough and Stonehouse

89 The Labour and Liberal Democrat groups both suggested that, in order to reflect projected electorate growth in the north of the district, the extra division allocated to Stroud should be a Stroud North division stretching from Upton St Leonards to the Westrip area at the edge of the Stroud built-up area.

90 South of this division, they proposed a condensed Stonehouse division focused more tightly on the town of Stonehouse itself, and a Rodborough division which would lose its northernmost polling districts to Stroud North and extend westwards to include more of the Cainscross ward (specifically the Ebley community).

91 We visited this area on our tour of Gloucestershire, and although we agree that Stroud North is the right area in the district in which to allocate a new division, particularly due to planned developments identified by the Council, we do not feel that the boundary or name as suggested in the proposal provide for the best available balance of our statutory criteria.

92 We received a submission from Rodborough Parish Council requesting that the whole of Rodborough be within one division. Our draft recommendations keep the entirety of the Rodborough ward in the proposed division; however, polling district TA, which is in Rodborough parish but the Thrupp ward, is included in Bisley & Painswick.

93 In our draft recommendations, we propose to adopt the suggestions of the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups in principle, but with adjustments which in our view better reflect local community ties. Specifically, we propose that polling districts CE and RWRA (the Westrip and northern Cashes Green areas) are retained in Rodborough, not transferred to Stroud North. Additionally, we propose that the streets of the RWRB polling district directly adjacent to Rodborough are also included in the Rodborough division. We propose to otherwise adopt the suggestions described above, although we believe the name Haresfield & Upton St Leonards (the

two largest population centres) better reflects the new division than Stroud North, as our proposals mean that none of the built-up areas of Stroud are within the division.

Bisley & Painswick, Minchinhampton and Stroud Central

94 As a consequence of the new Haresfield & Upton St Leonards division absorbing some of the electors previously included in the Bisley & Painswick division, the two county council groups proposed that the latter division should include the Stroud Trinity and Thrupp wards (which are respectively included in the existing Stroud Central and Minchinhampton divisions) as a southwestern extension. They also proposed calling the division Stroud East.

95 We acknowledge that this division pattern is not ideal, as it includes a dense Stroud ward in an otherwise largely rural division which encompasses a significant area of the northeastern part of the district which stretches over the River Frome. However, at this stage we are of the view that there is no better alternative which allows both Bisley & Painswick and Haresfield & Upton St Leonards to maintain a reasonable variance of forecast electors. We do feel that maintaining the existing name of Bisley & Painswick is sufficiently representative of the area. We therefore agree with the proposals described above, including for Minchinhampton and Stroud Central divisions, and our draft recommendations reflect those proposals.

Cam Valley and Hardwicke & Severn

96 Projected electorate growth in the Cam Valley division is sufficiently high that the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups proposed transferring the northern elements of the Berkeley Vale ward (including Brookend, Halmore and Sharpness) to the Hardwicke & Severn division. At the north of Hardwicke & Severn, they proposed transferring the areas of the Hardwicke ward east of the A430 and M5 (including Brookthorpe, Haresfield and Hunts Grove) into the new division.

97 We agree with these proposals and are of the view that the A430/M5 boundary at the north of Hardwicke & Severn is a sensible one. In the south of this area, we propose a slight alteration to the boundary between Cam Valley and Hardwicke & Severn, dividing the BVE polling district such that the division boundary runs along the Slimbridge Lane (later Tyndale Road) at Priorswood Farm by Gilgal Brook for internal accessibility reasons.

98 We note that the boundary between the Hardwicke & Severn and Haresfield & Upton St Leonards divisions as proposed by the two groups divides the Haresfield Parish in such a way as to create an unviable parish ward around Hiltmead Lane; we have therefore amended the boundary in this area to align with the parish boundary (which crosses the M5 motorway) as part of our draft recommendations.

99 We received a submission from a member of the public suggesting that Cam and Dursley should be within the same division; however, these two towns have a combined electorate too great to combine without exceeding an acceptable variance.

100 We therefore propose Cam Valley and Hardwicke & Severn divisions in line with the proposals from the county council groups, with a minor amendment as detailed above, as our draft recommendations.

Dursley, Nailsworth and Wotton-under-Edge

101 Wotton-under-Edge has a projected electorate greater than -10% by 2029 and therefore the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups proposed including the parish of Owlpen in this division to bring it within acceptable range. They suggested no changes to the Dursley division other than the transfer of Owlpen, and proposed a completely unchanged Nailsworth division.

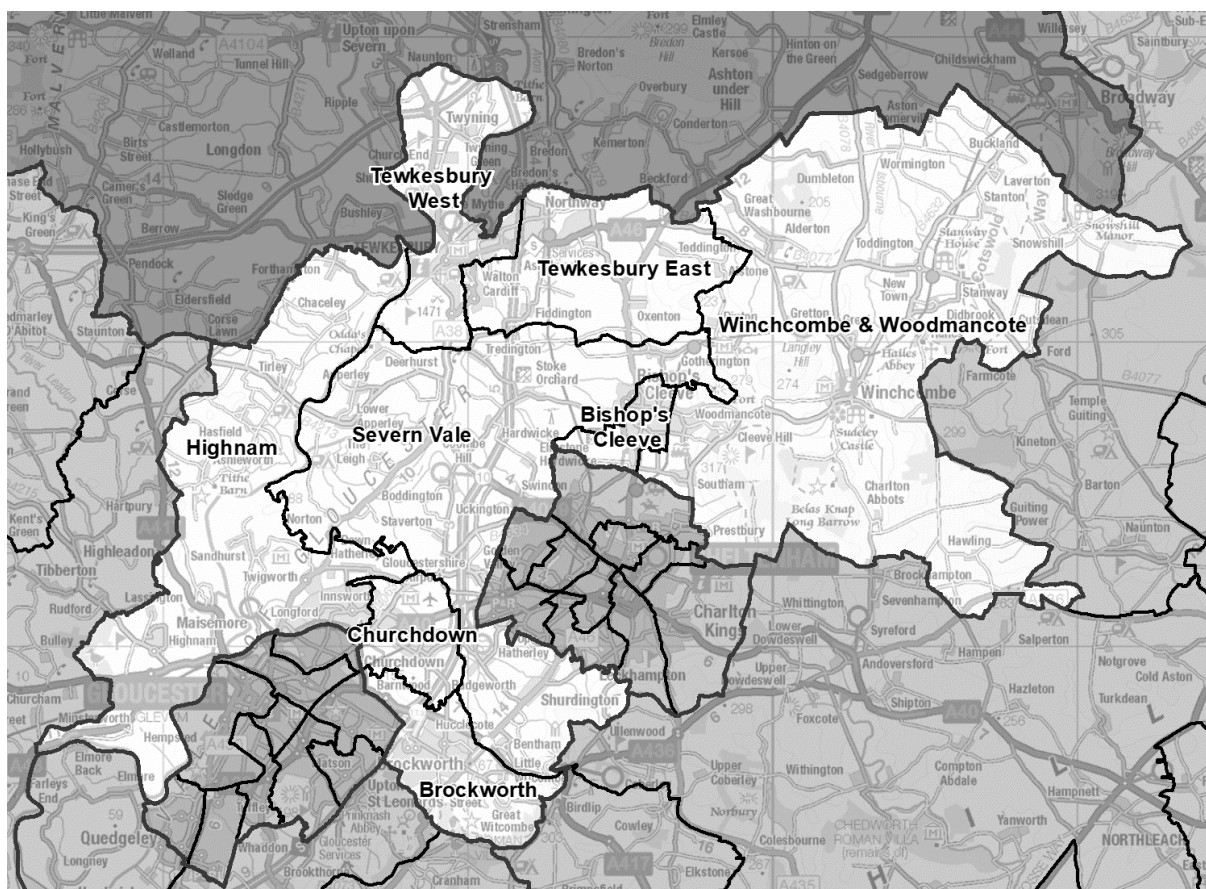
102 We received a submission from Kingswood Parish Council which preferred an arrangement with minimal or no change.

103 We received a submission from a member of the public in Leonard Stanley who argued that the settlement had limited connections to Dursley, and that it would be better included in the same division as its neighbour King's Stanley. We acknowledge that these communities, which are in the same district ward (The Stanleys), do share greater commonality. However, we have been unable to identify an arrangement which links both areas and provides for good levels of electoral equality, without significant changes to the surrounding divisions.

104 We received a submission from the Gloucestershire Science & Technology Park which suggested that the science and technology park (located at the former Berkeley Power Station) should be included in Cam Valley. We believe that, as the area in question contains no electors, such an arrangement would create an unviable parish ward in Ham & Stone parish and we are therefore not proposing it as part of our draft recommendations.

105 At this stage, our draft recommendations are consistent with the suggestions from the two political groups. We welcome further submissions regarding this area.

Tewkesbury



| Division name | Number of councillors | Variance 2029 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Bishop's Cleeve | 1 | -3% |
| Brockworth | 1 | 10% |
| Churchdown | 1 | -3% |
| Highnam | 1 | 9% |
| Severn Vale | 1 | 11% |
| Tewkesbury East | 1 | 8% |
| Tewkesbury West | 1 | 8% |
| Winchcombe & Woodmancote | 1 | 12% |

106 Under a Council size of 55, Tewkesbury has been allocated eight councillors, with an average variance of 6% higher than the county average. Forecast electorate growth in Tewkesbury accounts for the increase of one councillor over the existing seven.

107 We received two proposals for the district, one from the Liberal Democrat Group and one from Innsworth Parish Council. Both of these proposals were for eight divisions covering the district. We received a number of other relevant submissions for local areas in Tewkesbury.

108 The proposal submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group keeps two of the seven existing divisions unchanged and the Innsworth Parish Council proposal retains one unchanged.

Bishop's Cleeve, Severn Vale and Winchcombe & Woodmancote

109 The Liberal Democrat Group, and Innsworth Parish Council, proposed a Bishop's Cleeve division comprised of the three 'core' Cleeve wards west of the steam railway line: Cleeve Grange, Cleeve St. Michael's and Cleeve West. This would result in a 19% variance of forecast electorate for the division. The Liberal Democrats suggested that this is a clear community which should not be divided even with a high variance.

110 The Liberal Democrats proposed that the new division in Tewkesbury should be Severn Vale, a large division encompassing a number of small settlements along the M5 from Badgeworth to Stoke Orchard. Innsworth Parish Council suggested a similar division, with the inclusion of Innsworth itself (subsequently leaving Highnam to include elements of Tewkesbury South ward).

111 We accept the principle of a Severn Vale division, and agree with the sense in its composition of similar communities between the large population centres of Cheltenham and Gloucester. The nature of this area of Tewkesbury, which includes a number of proposed housing developments identified by the Council, means that there are no other viable options which account for the electorate spread in the middle of the division; as such we support a Severn Vale arrangement.

112 Both proposals suggest an unchanged Winchcombe & Woodmancote division, which has a variance of 12% by 2029. Winchcombe & Woodmancote is only bordered by two divisions: it is our assessment that Bishop's Cleeve is separated from Woodmancote by a steam railway line which seems to keep the two communities distinct from one another and Tewkesbury East, with a variance of 8% by 2029, we do not feel is particularly well suited to include rural parishes along the division boundary.

113 We visited this area on our tour of Gloucestershire. As part of our draft recommendations, we have amended the Liberal Democrats' proposed Severn Vale to include all of Highnam with Haw Bridge ward in the Highnam division (for greater coterminosity with district wards), and we have additionally included part of Cleeve West ward. Specifically, our draft recommendations include the new developments on the western edge of Bishop's Cleeve (west of the A435) in the Severn Vale division; we assess that these residential developments feel sufficiently distant from the rest of Bishop's Cleeve, and would not be out of place amongst other recently built residential areas in Severn Vale, including neighbouring Stoke Orchard. We propose that the southern boundary of Severn Vale is the A417 between Bentham

and Little Witcombe. This results in an 11% variance for Severn Vale, which we consider acceptable considering the difficulty in the high projected growth across Tewkesbury.

114 We agree with the suggestion to retain an unchanged Winchcombe & Woodmancote division. We considered dividing the Cleeve Hill ward to include part of polling district WDM in Bishop's Cleeve; however, after visiting the area we assessed that it would be an unreasonable split of a coherent community and that a 12% variance is tolerable.

Brockworth, Churchdown and Highnam

115 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed retaining Churchdown division wholly unchanged. They proposed a Brockworth division consisting of the two Brockworth district wards, plus the southern two polling districts of the Badgeworth ward and the HCC1 polling district of the Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote ward. They proposed a Highnam division more focused on the town of Highnam. Innsworth Parish Council proposed combining Highnam with areas further north, as noted above.

116 We received a submission from Churchdown Parish Council asserting the importance that Churchdown is not split between multiple divisions. The county councillor for Churchdown division also advised that the area should not be divided. Our draft recommendations propose that Churchdown Parish is entirely within a single division, and only the Hucclecote elements of the Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote ward are included in the Brockworth division.

117 We received a submission from Brockworth Parish Council, asserting that Brockworth is composed of areas east of the M5 and south of the A417.

118 We visited this area on our tour of Gloucestershire, and agree with Brockworth Parish Council about the natural extents of the Brockworth community. In particular, we felt that the HCC2 polling district, which contains a consistent element of the Hucclecote neighbourhood, must be included in the Brockworth division. We have therefore proposed a set of draft recommendations where all of Hucclecote is included in Brockworth, and that the northern boundary east of the town should be the A417.

119 We propose an unchanged Churchdown division in line with the Liberal Democrat Group, and a Highnam division incorporating the entirety of the Highnam with Haw Bridge ward, the entirety of the Innsworth ward, and polling districts DHY and SND (corresponding to the settlements of Down Hatherley and Sandhurst) from Severn Vale South ward.

Tewkesbury East and Tewkesbury West

120 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed minor changes to the two Tewkesbury divisions to keep them both within an acceptable variance. Specifically, it suggested including part of Tewkesbury East ward in Tewkesbury, and the OXT polling district (Oxenton) from Isbourne ward in Tewkesbury East. Innsworth Parish Council proposed a different arrangement, pairing Tewkesbury North & Twyning ward with Tewkesbury East ward in one division, and the surrounding wards in another.

121 Ashchurch Parish Council suggested that the status quo for the Tewkesbury divisions should be maintained.

122 We agree with the proposal of the Liberal Democrat Group in this area because we feel that it accounts for local community identity and allows for effective and convenient local government in line with local parish boundaries, and as such our draft recommendations match its suggestions. We propose changing the name of Tewkesbury to 'Tewkesbury West' to account for the balance of the electorate in the town.

Conclusions

123 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Gloucestershire, 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 | 55 | 55 |
| Number of electoral divisions | 55 | 55 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 8,833 | 9,504 |
| Number of divisions with a variance more than 10% from the average | 6 | 5 |
| Number of divisions with a variance more than 20% from the average | 1 | 0 |

Draft recommendations

Gloucestershire County Council should be made up of 55 councillors serving 55 divisions representing 55 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 the Gloucestershire County Council.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Gloucestershire on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

124 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.

125 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 districts and boroughs across Gloucestershire 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.

126 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 Badgeworth, Bishop’s Cleeve, Cirencester, Hamfallow and Randwick & Westrip.

127 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Badgeworth parish.

Draft recommendations

Badgeworth Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Badgeworth | 6 |
| Bentham | 1 |
| Little Witcombe | 2 |

128 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bishop’s Cleeve parish.

Draft recommendations

Bishop’s Cleeve Parish Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Cleeve Central | 4 |
| Cleeve Grange | 4 |
| Cleeve St Michael’s | 8 |
| Cleeve West | 4 |

129 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Cirencester parish.

Draft recommendations

Cirencester Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Abbey | 1 |
| Chesterton | 2 |
| Four Acres | 2 |
| New Mills | 2 |
| St Michael's | 2 |
| Stratton | 2 |
| The Beeches | 2 |
| Watermoor | 2 |
| Whiteway | 1 |

130 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hamfallow parish.

Draft recommendations

Hamfallow Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Hamfallow North | 5 |
| Hamfallow South | 4 |

131 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Randwick & Westrip parish.

Draft recommendations

Randwick & Westrip Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Randwick | 3 |
| South East | 3 |
| South West | 3 |

Have your say

132 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.

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

134 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

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

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

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

137 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of divisions for Gloucestershire 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.

138 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.

139 Electoral equality:

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

140 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?

141 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?

142 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.

143 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.

144 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.

145 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 Gloucestershire County Council in 2025.

Equalities

146 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 Gloucestershire 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 % |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| CHELTENHAM | | | | | | | |
| 1 | All Saints & Oakley | 8,799 | 8,799 | 0% | 9,160 | 9,160 | -4% |
| 2 | Battledown & Charlton Kings | 9,128 | 9,128 | 3% | 9,337 | 9,337 | -2% |
| 3 | Benhall & Up Hatherley | 9,827 | 9,827 | 11% | 10,069 | 10,069 | 6% |
| 4 | Charlton Park & College | 8,376 | 8,376 | -5% | 8,611 | 8,611 | -9% |
| 5 | Hesters Way & Springbank | 9,664 | 9,664 | 9% | 10,130 | 10,130 | 7% |
| 6 | Lansdown & Park | 9,073 | 9,073 | 3% | 9,287 | 9,287 | -2% |
| 7 | Leckhampton & Warden Hill | 8,444 | 8,444 | -4% | 8,675 | 8,675 | -9% |
| 8 | St. Mark's & St. Peter's | 9,726 | 9,726 | 10% | 9,684 | 9,684 | 2% |
| 9 | St. Paul's & Pittville | 8,734 | 8,734 | -1% | 8,973 | 8,973 | -6% |

| 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 % |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10 Swindon & Prestbury | 1 | 8,633 | 8,633 | -2% | 8,821 | 8,821 | -7% |
| COTSWOLD | | | | | | | |
| 11 Bourton-on-the-Water & Northleach | 1 | 8,628 | 8,628 | -2% | 9,667 | 9,667 | 2% |
| 12 Campden-Vale | 1 | 9,473 | 9,473 | 7% | 10,657 | 10,657 | 12% |
| 13 Cirencester Beeches | 1 | 8,801 | 8,801 | 0% | 9,819 | 9,819 | 3% |
| 14 Cirencester Park | 1 | 8,129 | 8,129 | -8% | 9,728 | 9,728 | 2% |
| 15 Fairford & Lechlade on Thames | 1 | 8,552 | 8,552 | -3% | 9,215 | 9,215 | -3% |
| 16 South Cerney | 1 | 8,561 | 8,561 | -3% | 10,344 | 10,344 | 9% |
| 17 Stow-on-the-Wold | 1 | 9,255 | 9,255 | 5% | 10,552 | 10,552 | 11% |
| 18 Tetbury | 1 | 8,610 | 8,610 | -3% | 9,634 | 9,634 | 1% |
| FOREST OF DEAN | | | | | | | |
| 19 Blakeney & Bream | 1 | 9,316 | 9,316 | 5% | 9,915 | 9,915 | 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 % |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 20 Cinderford | 1 | 8,160 | 8,160 | -8% | 8,516 | 8,516 | -10% |
| 21 Coleford | 1 | 8,473 | 8,473 | -4% | 9,164 | 9,164 | -4% |
| 22 Drybrook & Lydbrook | 1 | 8,236 | 8,236 | -7% | 8,703 | 8,703 | -8% |
| 23 Lydney | 1 | 8,486 | 8,486 | -4% | 9,904 | 9,904 | 4% |
| 24 Mitcheldean | 1 | 8,477 | 8,477 | -4% | 8,750 | 8,750 | -8% |
| 25 Newent | 1 | 8,703 | 8,703 | -1% | 9,596 | 9,596 | 1% |
| 26 Sedbury | 1 | 8,262 | 8,262 | -6% | 8,625 | 8,625 | -9% |
| GLOUCESTER | | | | | | | |
| 27 Abbey | 1 | 9,553 | 9,553 | 8% | 9,909 | 9,909 | 4% |
| 28 Barnwood & Hucclecote | 1 | 9,910 | 9,910 | 12% | 10,354 | 10,354 | 9% |
| 29 Barton & Tredworth | 1 | 8,920 | 8,920 | 1% | 9,063 | 9,063 | -5% |
| 30 Coney Hill & Matson | 1 | 8,929 | 8,929 | 1% | 9,839 | 9,839 | 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 % |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 31 Grange & Kingsway | 1 | 10,380 | 10,380 | 18% | 10,541 | 10,541 | 11% |
| 32 Hempsted & Westgate | 1 | 7,938 | 7,938 | -10% | 9,110 | 9,110 | -4% |
| 33 Kingsholm & Wotton | 1 | 9,202 | 9,202 | 4% | 9,488 | 9,488 | 0% |
| 34 Longlevens | 1 | 8,090 | 8,090 | -8% | 8,562 | 8,562 | -10% |
| 35 Quedgeley | 1 | 8,664 | 8,664 | -2% | 9,049 | 9,049 | -5% |
| 36 Tuffley | 1 | 9,274 | 9,274 | 5% | 9,441 | 9,441 | -1% |
| STROUD | | | | | | | |
| 37 Bisley & Painswick | 1 | 8,737 | 8,737 | -1% | 9,135 | 9,135 | -4% |
| 38 Cam Valley | 1 | 9,254 | 9,254 | 5% | 10,400 | 10,400 | 9% |
| 39 Dursley | 1 | 9,055 | 9,055 | 3% | 8,893 | 8,893 | -6% |
| 40 Hardwicke & Severn | 1 | 8,923 | 8,923 | 1% | 9,218 | 9,218 | -3% |
| 41 Haresfield & Upton St Leonards | 1 | 6,518 | 6,518 | -26% | 8,722 | 8,722 | -8% |
| 42 Minchinhampton | 1 | 8,819 | 8,819 | 0% | 9,106 | 9,106 | -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 % |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 43 Nailsworth | 1 | 8,972 | 8,972 | 2% | 8,969 | 8,969 | -6% |
| 44 Rodborough | 1 | 9,571 | 9,571 | 8% | 9,832 | 9,832 | 3% |
| 45 Stonehouse | 1 | 8,036 | 8,036 | -9% | 9,436 | 9,436 | -1% |
| 46 Stroud Central | 1 | 8,672 | 8,672 | -2% | 8,670 | 8,670 | -9% |
| 47 Wotton-under-Edge | 1 | 8,520 | 8,520 | -4% | 8,578 | 8,578 | -10% |
| TEWKESBURY | | | | | | | |
| 48 Bishop's Cleeve | 1 | 8,611 | 8,611 | -3% | 9,186 | 9,186 | -3% |
| 49 Brockworth | 1 | 9,134 | 9,134 | 3% | 10,422 | 10,422 | 10% |
| 50 Churchdown | 1 | 8,348 | 8,348 | -5% | 9,232 | 9,232 | -3% |
| 51 Highnam | 1 | 7,996 | 7,996 | -9% | 10,377 | 10,377 | 9% |
| 52 Severn Vale | 1 | 9,373 | 9,373 | 6% | 10,532 | 10,532 | 11% |
| 53 Tewkesbury East | 1 | 7,917 | 7,917 | -10% | 10,255 | 10,255 | 8% |

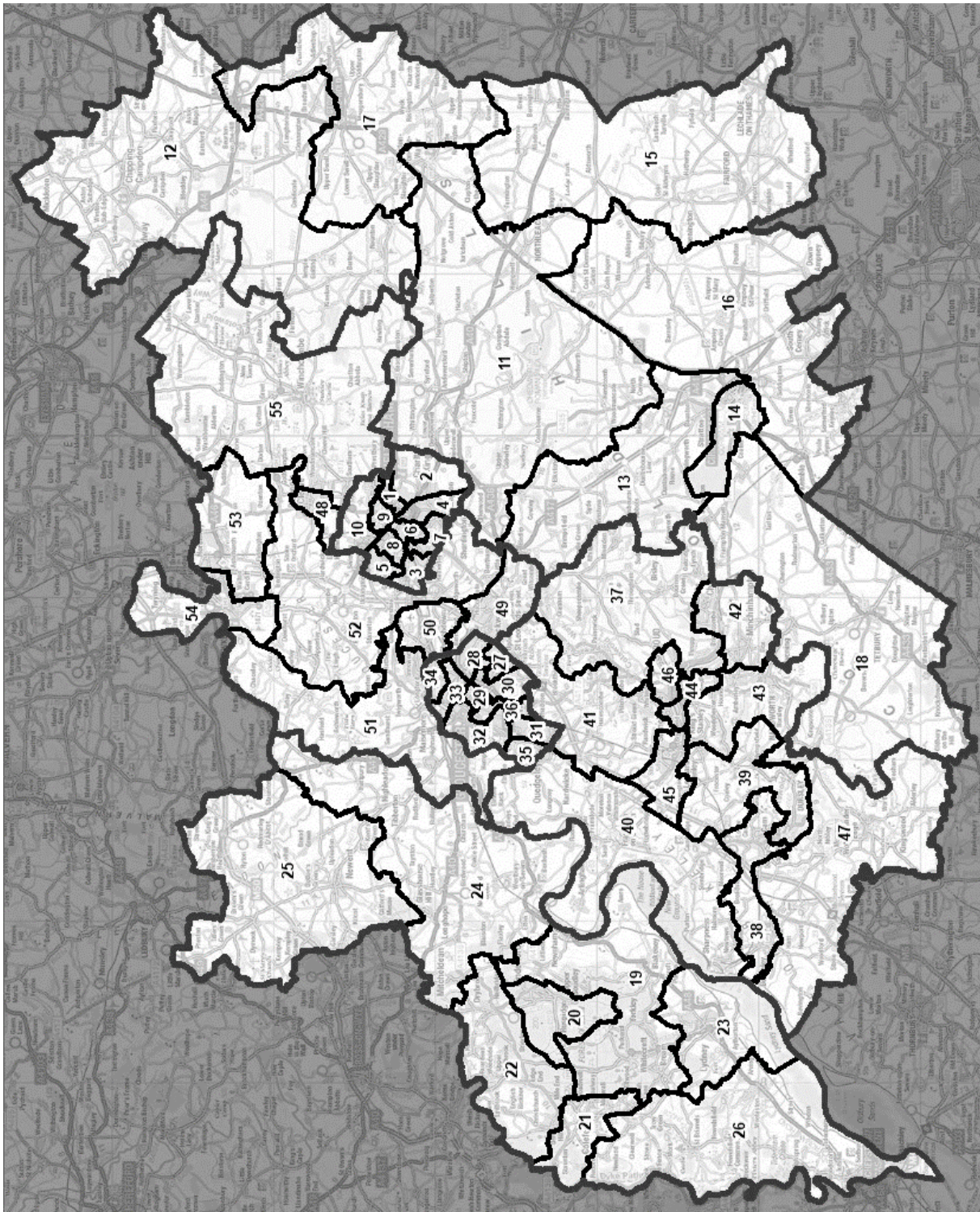
| Division name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2023) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2029) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 54 Tewkesbury West | 1 | 9,794 | 9,794 | 11% | 10,293 | 10,293 | 8% |
| 55 Winchcombe & Woodmancote | 1 | 10,176 | 10,176 | 15% | 10,599 | 10,599 | 12% |
| Totals | 55 | 485,812 | - | - | 522,747 | - | - |
| Averages | - | - | 8,833 | - | - | 9,504 | - |

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Gloucestershire 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 |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | All Saints & Oakley |
| 2 | Battledown & Charlton Kings |
| 3 | Benhall & Up Hatherley |

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 4 | Charlton Park & College |
| 5 | Hesters Way & Springbank |
| 6 | Lansdown & Park |
| 7 | Leckhampton & Warden Hill |
| 8 | St. Mark's & St. Peter's |
| 9 | St. Paul's & Pittville |
| 10 | Swindon & Prestbury |
| 11 | Bourton-on-the-Water & Northleach |
| 12 | Campden-Vale |
| 13 | Cirencester Beeches |
| 14 | Cirencester Park |
| 15 | Fairford & Lechlade on Thames |
| 16 | South Cerney |
| 17 | Stow-on-the-Wold |
| 18 | Tetbury |
| 19 | Blakeney & Bream |
| 20 | Cinderford |
| 21 | Coleford |
| 22 | Drybrook & Lydbrook |
| 23 | Lydney |
| 24 | Mitcheldean |
| 25 | Newent |
| 26 | Sedbury |
| 27 | Abbey |
| 28 | Barnwood & Hucclecote |
| 29 | Barton & Tredworth |
| 30 | Coney Hill & Matson |
| 31 | Grange & Kingsway |
| 32 | Hempsted & Westgate |
| 33 | Kingsholm & Wotton |
| 34 | Longlevens |
| 35 | Quedgeley |
| 36 | Tuffley |
| 37 | Bisley & Painswick |
| 38 | Cam Valley |
| 39 | Dursley |
| 40 | Hardwicke & Severn |
| 41 | Haresfield & Upton St Leonards |
| 42 | Minchinhampton |
| 43 | Nailsworth |
| 44 | Rodborough |
| 45 | Stonehouse |

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| 46 | Stroud Central |
| 47 | Wotton-under-Edge |
| 48 | Bishop's Cleeve |
| 49 | Brockworth |
| 50 | Churchdown |
| 51 | Highnam |
| 52 | Severn Vale |
| 53 | Tewkesbury East |
| 54 | Tewkesbury West |
| 55 | Winchcombe & Woodmancote |

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/current-reviews/south-west

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Political Groups

- Cheltenham Constituency Labour Party
- Gloucestershire County Council Liberal Democrats Group
- Gloucestershire County Council Labour Group

Councillors

- Councillor B. Evans (Churchdown division, Gloucestershire CC)
- Councillor C. McFarling (Sedbury division, Gloucestershire CC)
- Councillor C. Twells (Tetbury with Upton ward, Cotswold DC)

Local Organisations

- Gloucestershire Science & Technology Park
- Podsmead Big Local Partnership
- Springbank Neighbourhood Forum

Parish and Town Councils

- Ashchurch Parish Council
- Brockworth Parish Council
- Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council
- Churchdown Parish Council
- Deerhurst Parish Council
- Innsworth Parish Council
- Kingswood Parish Council
- Rodborough Parish Council
- Westbury-on-Severn Parish Council

Local Residents

- 21 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Council size | The number of councillors elected to serve on a council |
| Electoral Change Order (or Order) | A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority |
| Division | A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council |
| Electoral 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 |

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|---|--|
| 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 |