

New electoral arrangements for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Final Recommendations

November 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)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- 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 Dudley?

7 We are conducting a review of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2003, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.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 wards in Dudley are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

Our proposals for Dudley

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

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

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

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Dudley.

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local

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

taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

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

Analysis and final recommendations

17 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 wards.

18 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

19 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

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

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Dudley are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

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

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

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.

Number of councillors

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

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

26 As the Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years), there is a presumption in legislation⁵ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. In each review of local authorities that elect by thirds, we will aim to deliver a pattern of three-member wards. However, this consideration will not take precedence over our other statutory criteria, and we will not recommend uniform patterns in the number of councillors per ward if, in our view or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria.

27 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to consultation on our draft recommendations. This submission argued for a reduction in the number of councillors based solely on a presumed reduction in cost to the Council. However, this is not a criteria we consider, and the submission was not backed up by sufficient evidence. We have therefore maintained 72 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

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

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

30 Our draft recommendations were based on the Council's scheme. We also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of

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

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.

31 We undertook a virtual tour of the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

32 Our draft recommendations were for 24 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

33 We received 16 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included submissions from political groups which were broadly supportive of our draft recommendations, but which proposed minor amendments. These were the Dudley Conservative Group, Halesowen & Rowley Regis Conservative Association, Stourbridge Conservative Association and Stourbridge Labour Party. The majority of the other submissions were from councillors and residents and focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in the Stourbridge area of the borough.

Final recommendations

34 Our final recommendations are for 24 three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

35 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with minor modifications to the wards Belle Vale, Cradley North & Wollescote, Hayley Green & Cradley South, Lye & Stourbridge North, Norton and Wollaston & Stourbridge Town, based on the submissions received.

36 The tables and maps on pages 9–19 detail our final recommendations for each area of Dudley. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

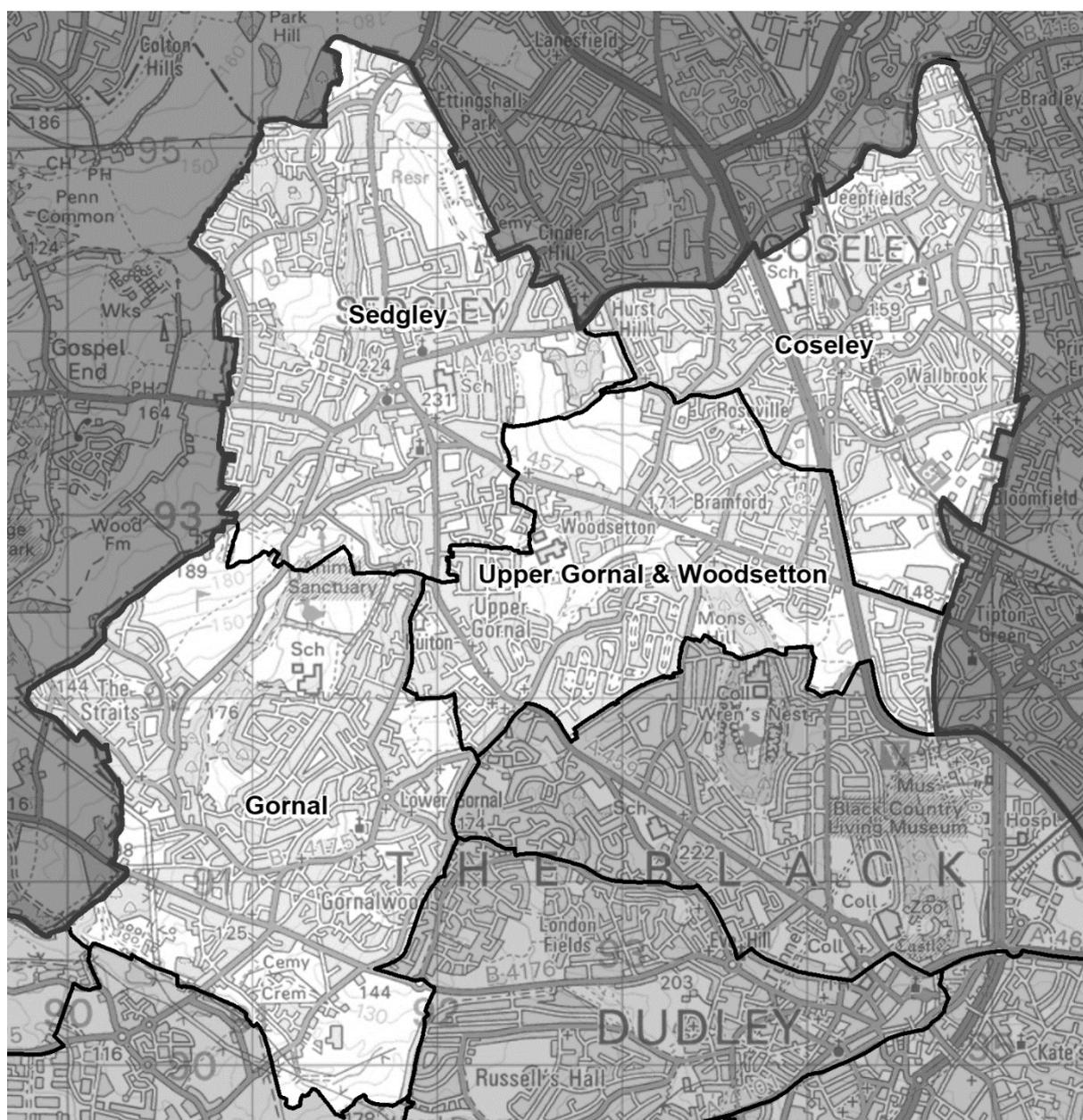
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

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

Coseley, Sedgley and Gornal



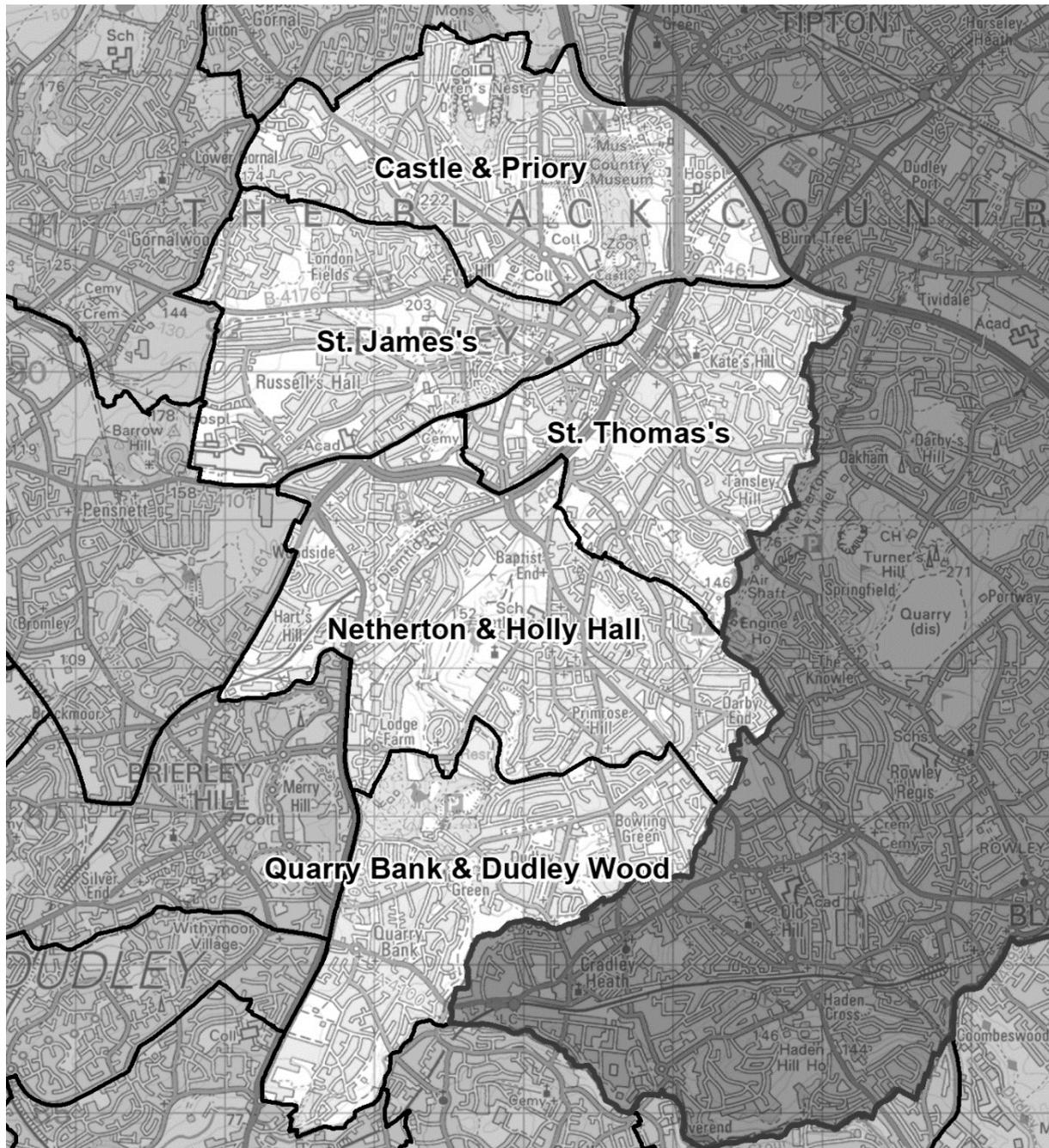
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Coseley	3	-1%
Gornal	3	3%
Sedgley	3	9%
Upper Gornal & Woodsetton	3	1%

Coseley, Gornal, Sedgley and Upper Gornal & Woodsetton

38 We received two submissions in response to our draft recommendations for this area, from a resident and from the Dudley Conservative Group, both of which were supportive of our proposals. The resident, who lives on the Old Park Farm estate, always thought they should be represented in the Upper Gornal & Woodsetton ward

with the rest of the estate, so approved of it being moved from Castle & Priory ward. The Conservative submission fully supported our draft recommendations. We have therefore confirmed our draft recommendations for this area as final.

Dudley Town

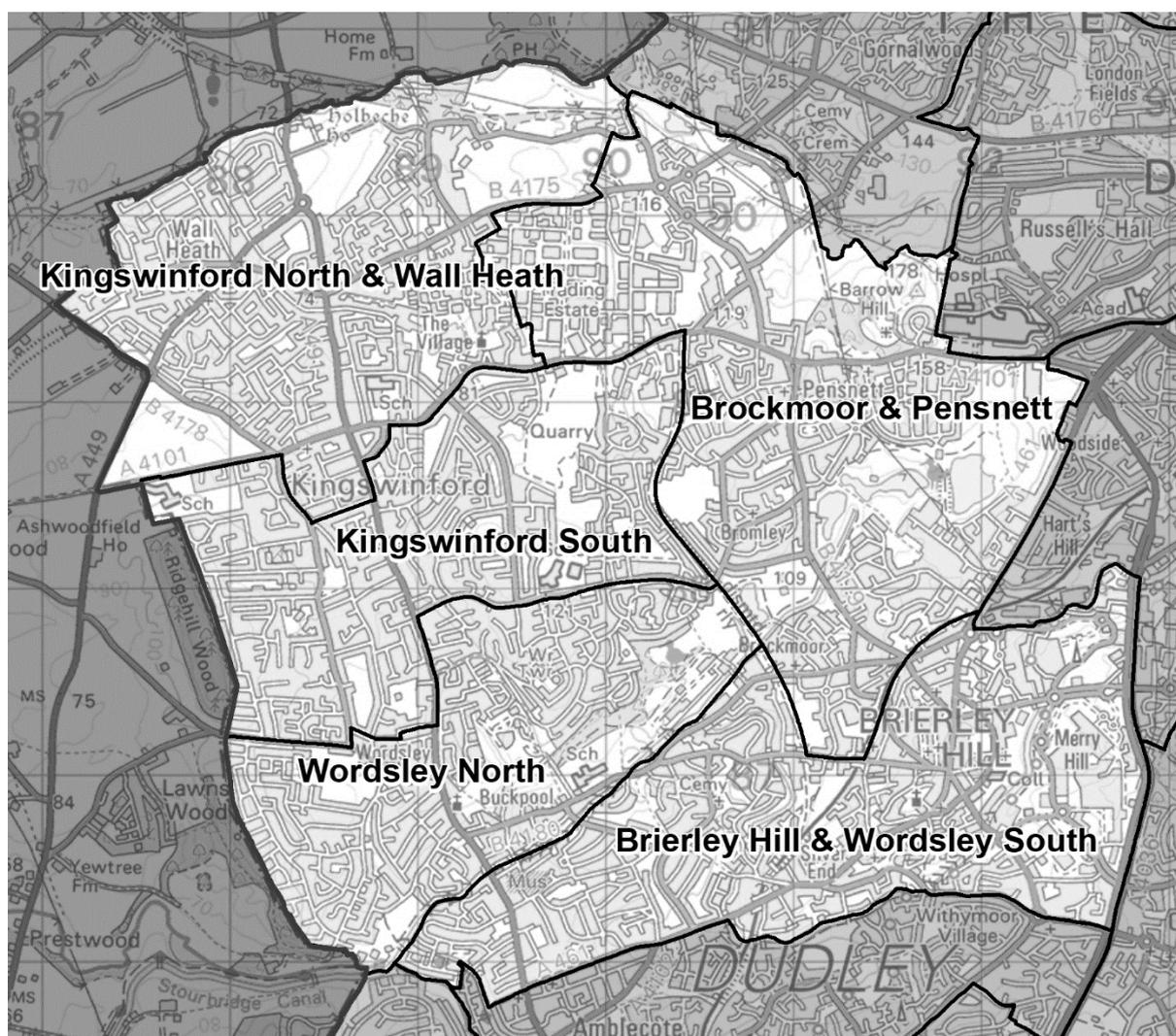


Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Castle & Priory	3	-2%
Netherton & Holly Hall	3	3%
Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood	3	0%
St. James's	3	4%
St. Thomas's	3	6%

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

39 The Dudley Conservative Group endorsed our draft proposals for this area without comment and we received no further submissions. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

West Dudley



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

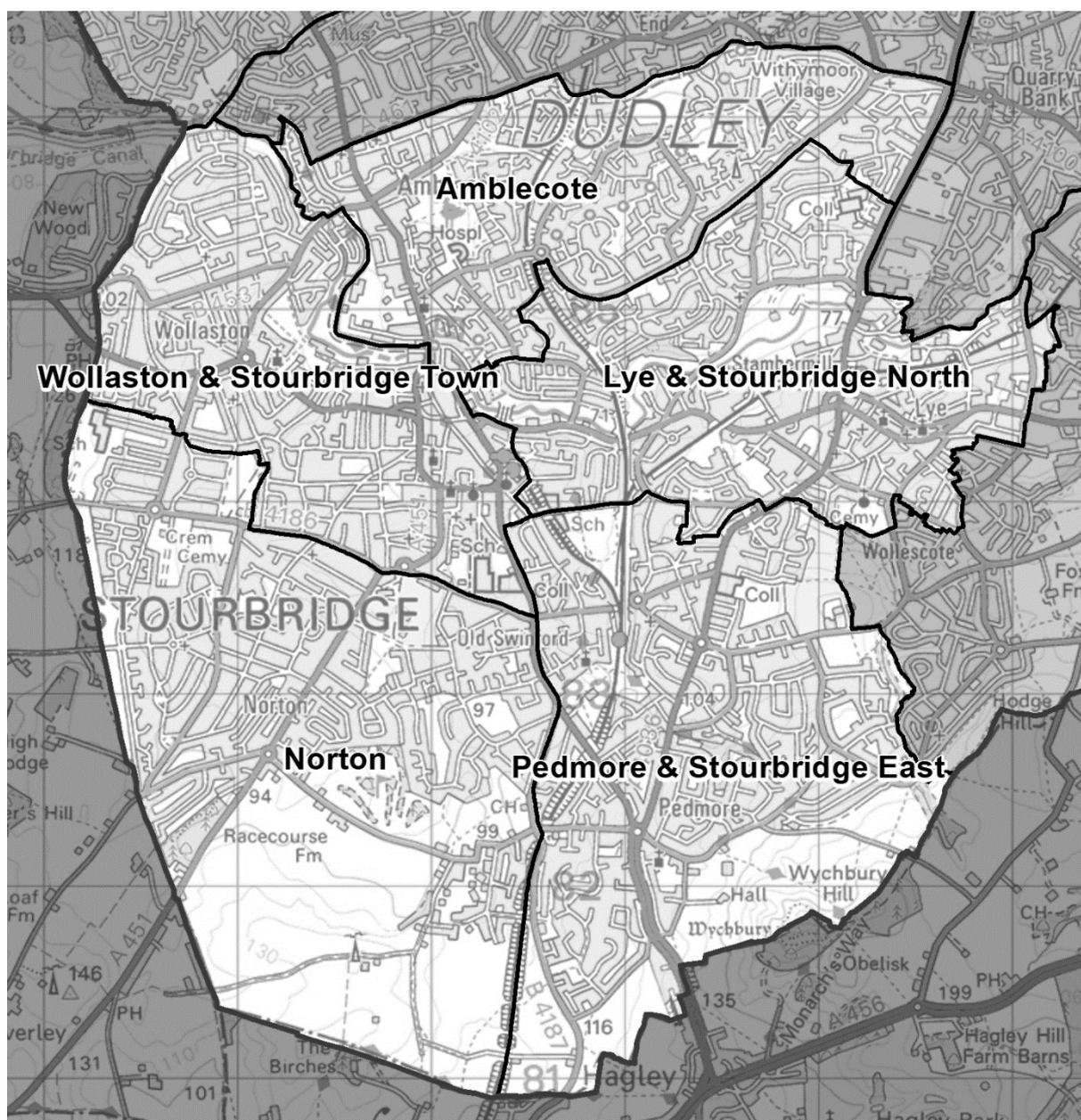
Brierley Hill & Wordsley South, Brockmoor & Pensnett, Kingswinford North & Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley North

40 We received three submissions in response to our draft recommendations for this area, all of which concerned the naming of Brierley Hill ward. Councillors Adam Davies and Wayne Little had suggested changing this to 'Brierley Hill & Wordsley South' in the previous round of consultation and we asked for further community evidence to support this proposal.

41 The councillors shared with us the results of a survey of 101 respondents in their submission, in which 96% supported the change, as well as a selection of comments such as 'I have never liked being part of Brierley Hill Ward. I always thought it should contain Wordsley as I consider myself to live in Wordsley, not in Brierley Hill' and 'I live in Wordsley. I am a 10 min walk from Wordsley Church. I am 30 to 40 minute walk from Brierley Hill church.' This was endorsed by the Dudley Conservative Group, and we also received a submission from a resident who said they were happy with the proposed change.

42 We were content that the evidence provided demonstrated that Brierley Hill ward contains areas of Wordsley and that changing the name of the ward to 'Brierley Hill & Wordsley South' would better represent those electors living there. We have therefore adopted this proposal in our final recommendations. We have also adjusted the name of Wordsley ward to 'Wordsley North' accordingly.

Stourbridge



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Amblecote	3	2%
Lye & Stourbridge North	3	-2%
Norton	3	-7%
Pedmore & Stourbridge East	3	-5%
Wollaston & Stourbridge Town	3	4%

43 We received eight submissions in response to our draft recommendations for this area: from Dudley Conservative Group, Councillor Alan Hopwood, Councillor Ryan Priest, Stourbridge Conservative Association, Stourbridge Labour Party (submitted twice) and two residents.

Amblecote, Norton, Pedmore & Stourbridge East and Wollaston & Stourbridge Town

44 The submissions from Dudley Conservative Group, Councillor Hopwood, Stourbridge Conservative Association and one of the residents concerned our draft proposal to include both sides of Park Road in Norton ward rather than merely the south side, as at present, which was based on a proposal by Stourbridge Labour Party.

45 These submissions argued that Park Road served as a recognised boundary between communities and that its close proximity to amenities in Wollaston Village dictated it should not be included in Norton ward. Stourbridge Conservative Association and the resident argued for the boundary to be retained at its existing position in the middle of Park Road while Dudley Conservative Group and Councillor Hopwood suggested both sides of the road be included in Wollaston & Stourbridge Town ward. We concluded that including both sides of Park Road in a single ward was likely to improve community representation in the area and that, with the extra community evidence provided regarding the road's links with Wollaston Village, this ward should be Wollaston & Stourbridge Town. We have therefore made this change in our final recommendations.

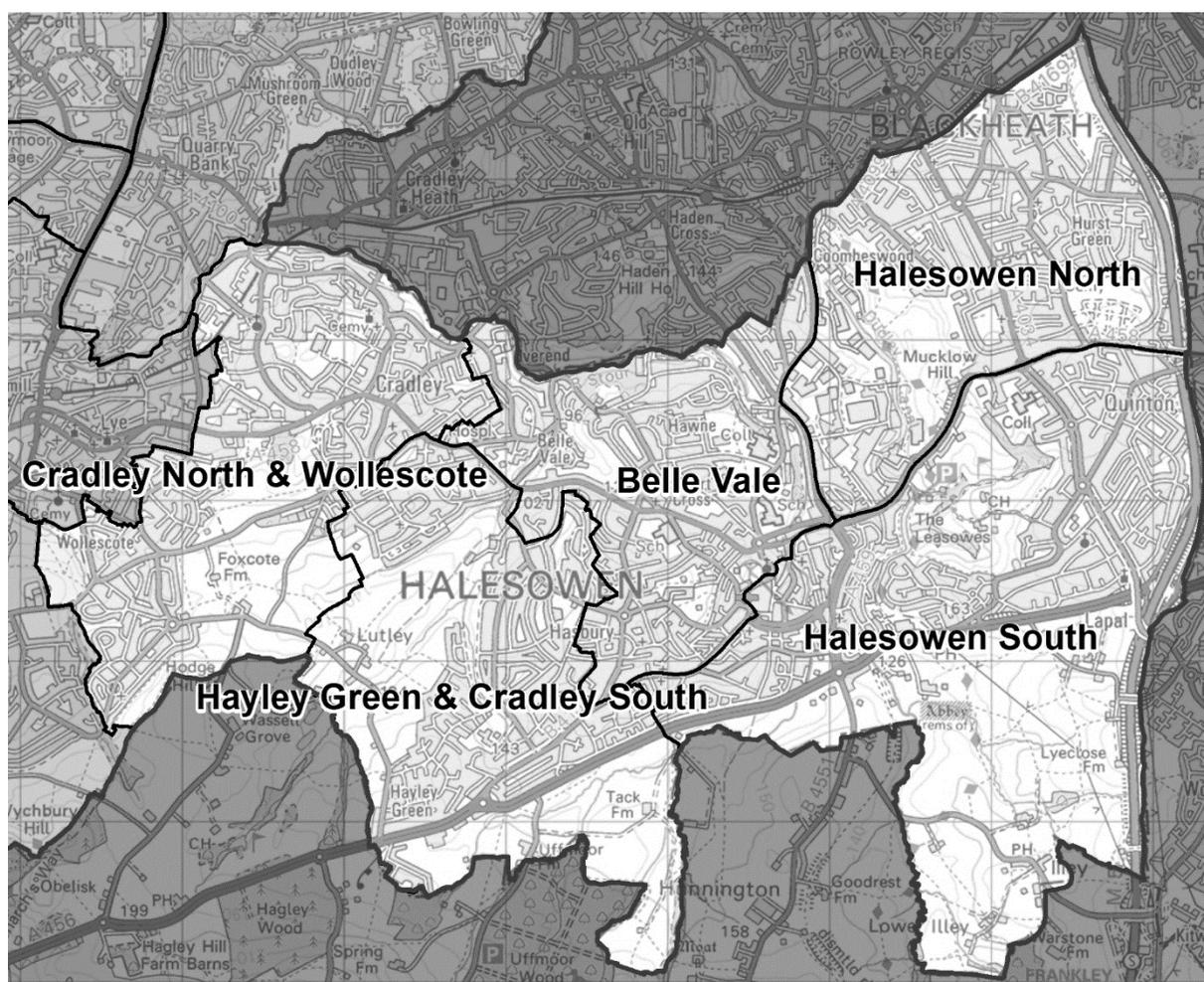
Lye & Stourbridge North

46 Stourbridge Labour Party's submission elucidated its previous proposal to include all of Crabbe Street and the surrounding area in Lye & Stourbridge North ward, rather than in Cradley & Wollescote ward, as in the Council's initial proposal and our draft recommendations. The submission provided greater detail on the boundaries of this area and why this need not affect access to the nearby business park/factory site on Balds Lane and Fletcher Street. The proposal, which was also suggested by Councillor Priest, included Belmont Road, Hill Bank, King Street, Pearson Street and some properties on Crabbe Street in Cradley & Wollescote. This would change the electoral variances from -3% to -5% for Cradley & Wollescote ward and -6% to -2% for Lye & Stourbridge North. As we were open to this proposal in the previous round of consultation, and as our concerns about the factory site have been assuaged, we have included this proposal in our final recommendations.

47 We also received a submission from a resident of Park Street who said they did not consider themselves to live in either Cradley or Wollescote but in Lye, adding they were less than a five-minute walk away from Lye High Street and that their nearest railway station and library were also in Lye. To accommodate this would necessitate including the area between Crabbe Street, Balds Lane and Brook Street in Lye & Stourbridge North ward. We carefully considered this proposal, noting that it

would maintain good electoral equality, with variances of 8% for Cradley & Wollescote and 1% for Lye & Stourbridge North. However, we were mindful of Councillor Priest's description of the boundary between Lye and Wollescote as 'porous' and lacking 'an agreed definition', as well as his consideration that 'the border here will never be perfect'. With this in mind, we considered it prudent to adhere to proposals on which there was some agreement, and have therefore not adopted the resident's suggestion. We consider that our recommended boundary is clear and identifiable, will ensure good electoral equality and reflect the community identities of the wider area.

Halesowen



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Belle Vale	3	1%
Cradley North & Wollescote	3	-5%
Halesowen North	3	-3%
Halesowen South	3	-2%
Hayley Green & Cradley South	3	-8%

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

48 We received four submissions in response to our draft recommendations for this area: from Belle Vale councillors Daniel Bevan, Peter Dobb and Simon Phipps, Halesowen & Rowley Regis Conservative Association, Dudley Conservative Group and Cradley & Wollescote councillor Ryan Priest.

49 Councillor Priest's submission was supportive of our decision to move High Park Road and Barnswood Close into Hayley Green & Cradley South ward but argued that including Whynot Street, Foxcote Lane, Lusbridge Close and the south

side of Oldnall Road and Two Gates went against commonly accepted local identities in the area. Councillor Priest stated the majority of the Cradley part of the ward is made up of the Fatherless Barn estate, which he said has a strong community identity, so those not fitting this description should be excluded. Furthermore, he added that Oldnall Road and Two Gates also had a strong sense of community identity, and the roads provided a clear boundary. Councillor Priest therefore suggested that both sides should be included in Cradley & Wollescote ward, along with Whynot Street, Foxcote Lane and Lusbridge Close.

50 We considered that as Lusbridge Close, Whynot Street, Broadstone Avenue and Havergal Walk are connected to the rest of Cradley & Wollescote via Foxcote Lane and Two Gates – but not anywhere in the Fatherless Barn estate – Councillor Priest’s proposal provided a better reflection of community identities than our draft recommendations. We have therefore adopted this proposal in our final recommendations. This changes the electoral variances from -3% to -5% in Cradley & Wollescote and -6% to -8% in Hayley Green & Cradley South.

51 Councillor Priest also proposed dividing the Bernard Oakley Memorial Gardens between Belle Vale and Cradley & Wollescote wards due to there being entrances on Colman Hill, in Belle Vale ward, and Highfield Crescent, in Cradley & Wollescote ward, adding that both were equally used by local residents. We considered this proposal but decided against adopting it in our final recommendations, as to do so would necessitate including Ashbourne Ridge and Carpenter Glade in Cradley & Wollescote ward, which we do not believe would accurately represent local community identities. On our virtual tour of the area we observed two signs either side of Windmill Hill marking the boundary of Cradley at the approximate location of the existing ward boundary. This, as well as our impression of the area during the tour, suggested to us a clear transition from one community to another.

52 In keeping with our decision to rename Brierley Hill ward ‘Brierley Hill & Wordsley South’ and Wordsley ward ‘Wordsley North’ (paragraph 42), we have chosen to rename Cradley & Wollescote ward ‘Cradley North & Wollescote’ in order to reflect the naming of Hayley Green & Cradley South.

53 The submissions from Belle Vale councillors, Dudley Conservative Group and Halesowen & Rowley Regis Conservative Association pointed out an anomaly in the existing ward boundaries, carried over into our draft recommendations, in which several properties on Tenlands Road are included in Hayley Green & Cradley South ward but accessed from Belle Vale ward. Councillors Bevan, Dobb and Phipps explained that this was not previously considered an issue because the properties were garages at the time of the last review in 2003 but had since been converted into bungalows. Consequently, they proposed moving the three properties into Belle Vale ward. We have adopted this proposal in our final recommendations.

Conclusions

54 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Dudley, referencing the 2022 and 2028 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

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

Final recommendations

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council should be made up of 72 councillors serving 24 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/dudley

What happens next?

55 We have now completed our review of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2024.

Equalities

56 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

Final recommendations for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Amblecote	3	9,874	3,291	1%	10,606	3,535	2%
2	Belle Vale	3	9,848	3,283	1%	10,498	3,499	1%
3	Brierley Hill & Wordsley South	3	10,041	3,347	3%	10,703	3,568	3%
4	Brockmoor & Pensnett	3	9,877	3,292	1%	10,451	3,484	1%
5	Castle & Priory	3	9,608	3,203	-2%	10,212	3,404	-2%
6	Coseley	3	9,367	3,122	-4%	10,301	3,434	-1%
7	Cradley North & Wollescote	3	9,212	3,071	-6%	9,875	3,292	-5%
8	Gornal	3	10,065	3,355	3%	10,679	3,560	3%
9	Halesowen North	3	9,602	3,201	-2%	10,068	3,356	-3%
10	Halesowen South	3	9,477	3,159	-3%	10,173	3,391	-2%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11	Hayley Green & Cradley South	3	9,088	3,029	-7%	9,503	3,168	-8%
12	Kingswinford North & Wall Heath	3	9,659	3,220	-1%	10,166	3,389	-2%
13	Kingswinford South	3	9,998	3,333	2%	10,402	3,467	0%
14	Lye & Stourbridge North	3	9,446	3,149	-3%	10,168	3,389	-2%
15	Netherton & Holly Hall	3	10,037	3,346	3%	10,693	3,564	3%
16	Norton	3	9,232	3,077	-5%	9,687	3,229	-7%
17	Pedmore & Stourbridge East	3	9,380	3,127	-4%	9,905	3,302	-5%
18	Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood	3	9,862	3,287	1%	10,397	3,466	0%
19	Sedgley	3	10,745	3,582	10%	11,348	3,783	9%
20	St. James's	3	9,919	3,306	2%	10,764	3,588	4%
21	St. Thomas's	3	10,354	3,451	6%	10,987	3,662	6%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
22 Upper Gornal & Woodsetton	3	9,857	3,286	1%	10,487	3,496	1%
23 Wollaston & Stourbridge Town	3	10,143	3,381	4%	10,813	3,604	4%
24 Wordsley North	3	9,613	3,204	-2%	10,275	3,425	-1%
Totals	72	234,304	-	-	249,161	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,254	-	-	3,461	-

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

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

6	Coseley
7	Cradley North & Wollescote
8	Gornal
9	Halesowen North
10	Halesowen South
11	Hayley Green & Cradley South
12	Kingswinford North & Wall Heath
13	Kingswinford South
14	Lye & Stourbridge North
15	Netherton & Holly Hall
16	Norton
17	Pedmore & Stourbridge East
18	Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood
19	Sedgley
20	St. James's
21	St. Thomas's
22	Upper Gornal & Woodsetton
23	Wollaston & Stourbridge Town
24	Wordsley North

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/dudley

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Political Groups

- Dudley Conservative Group
- Halesowen & Rowley Regis Conservative Association
- Stourbridge Conservative Association
- Stourbridge Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor D. Bevan (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)*
- Councillor A. Davies (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)**
- Councillor P. Dobb (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)*
- Councillor A. Hopwood (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor W. Little (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)**
- Councillor S. Phipps (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)*
- Councillor R. Priest (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council)

Local Residents

- 8 local residents

* Included in a single submission

** Included in a single submission

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

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