

Solihull

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Please see attached submission from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

Attached Documents:

- LGBCE - Solihull Review - SMBC Submission on Warding Patterns v2.pdf

OCTOBER 2023 (V2)

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Introduction

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) have commenced a periodic [electoral review](#)¹ of Solihull which includes the size of the Council and its pattern of wards.
2. Following submissions on the size of the Council, the Commission have recently indicated that they are minded to retain the size of the Council at 51 Members with 3 Members per ward. **This will retain the number of wards at 17.**
3. The next stage in the review process is to consider revisions to the pattern of wards to ensure that each ward contains approximately the same number of electorate. The Commission have commenced a [public consultation](#) on this part of the review and have invited submissions to be made on what respondents believe to be an appropriate warding pattern. The consultation is open until 30th October 2023. At this stage the Commission have **not** set out a preferred option.
4. The next stage in the review will then be for the Commission to publish and consult upon their proposed warding pattern. This is expected to take place in January – April 2024. This current consultation is an opportunity to help shape or influence what the Commission may publish in January 2024. This document represents the Council's submission on what it believes to be an appropriate and justified warding pattern and it invites the Commission to adopt it as their preferred option for consultation as part of the next stage in the review.
5. The Council's proposed warding pattern was considered by the authority's Governance Committee on 26th September 2023. The Committee resolved that it be recommended that Full Council approves the proposed pattern of new wards set out in the report to Committee as its response to the LGBCE consultation.
6. At Full Council on 10th October 2023 it was agreed that the proposed warding pattern considered by Governance Committee be formally approved as the Council's submission to the present consultation. This document sets out the proposed new warding pattern and the justification for it.

Electorate Data

7. Accurate information (down to property level) is available on the scale and distribution of the Borough's electorate as at 2023. However, the Commission base their reviews on the scale and distribution of the electorate that is forecast to exist 5 years on from when the Commission publish their final recommendations. This means that it is the electorate as at 2029 that will shape the pattern of wards.
8. The Commission have published the [2029 electorate forecasts](#) to [polling district level](#). This has been used to consider the new warding pattern. The 2029 forecasts take into the scale and distribution of new housing developments² that are expected to result in completions between 2023 and 2029.

Electorate Parity

9. The Borough wide electorate forecast for 2029 is 179,197 which equates to an average of 10,541 per ward. Ten percent³ either way from this average gives a range of 9,487 to 11,595 (ie +/- 1,054). The aim is to have wards as close as possible to the average to achieve electorate parity.
10. When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, the Council will consider the ward as having '**good electoral equality**'.
11. As Solihull elects its Council by thirds, all of its wards are represented by three members each. This submission compares the electorate number per ward as this allows a consistent basis for comparison, and more convenient when considering what changes ought to be pursued. As wards

¹ The previous reviews for the Borough were completed in 2003 and 1977.

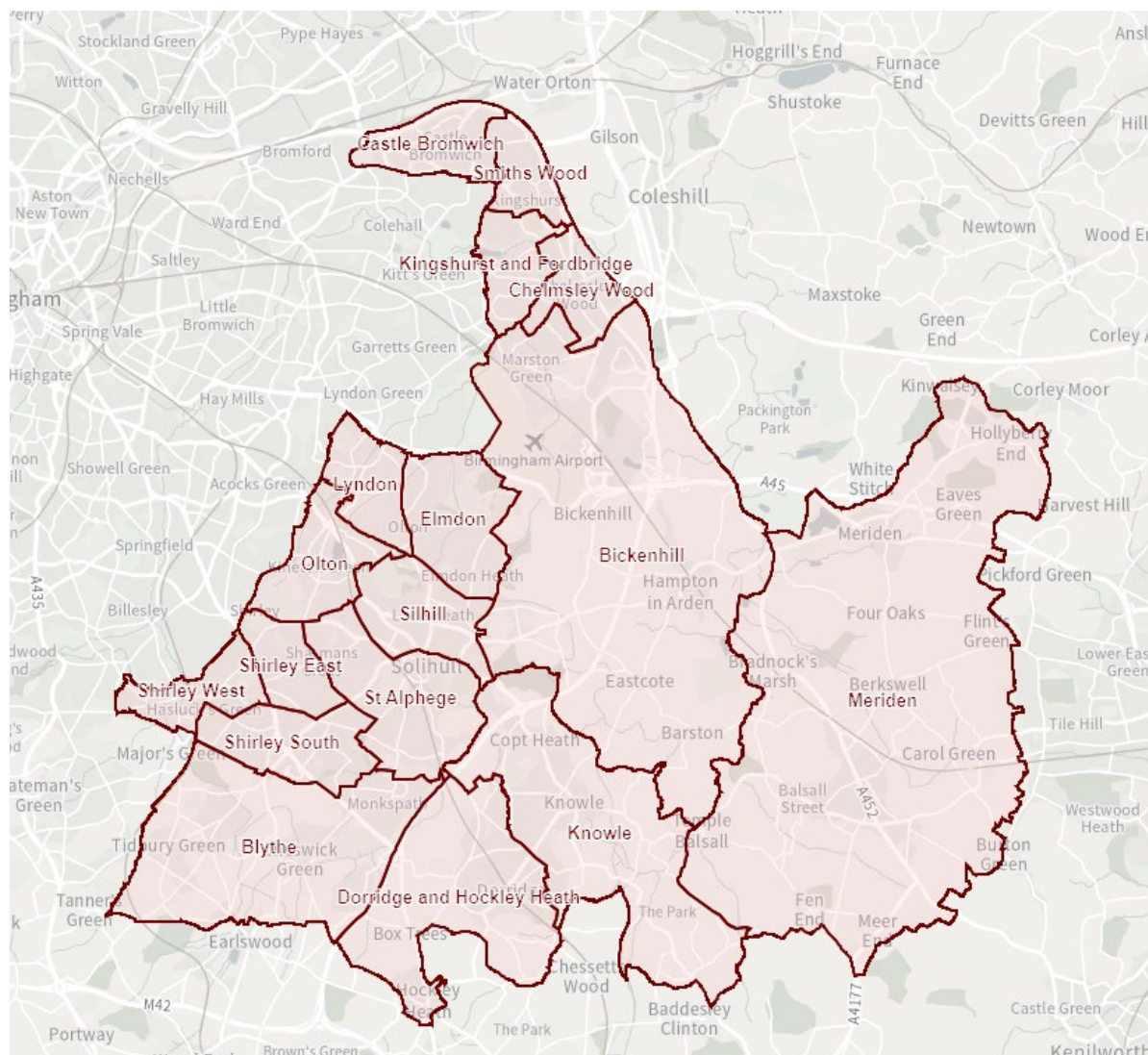
² This is based on monitoring data from planning applications, sites under construction and evidence on the housing trajectory presented to the on-going Local Plan examination.

³ If any wards show a significant departure from the average, then it will be expected that these are justified by an evidenced argument. The greater the departure, the stronger the argument will need to be.

have a consistent number of Members, the target would result in Members representing an electorate average of 3,514 each.

Existing Warding Pattern

12. The map below indicates the current warding pattern.



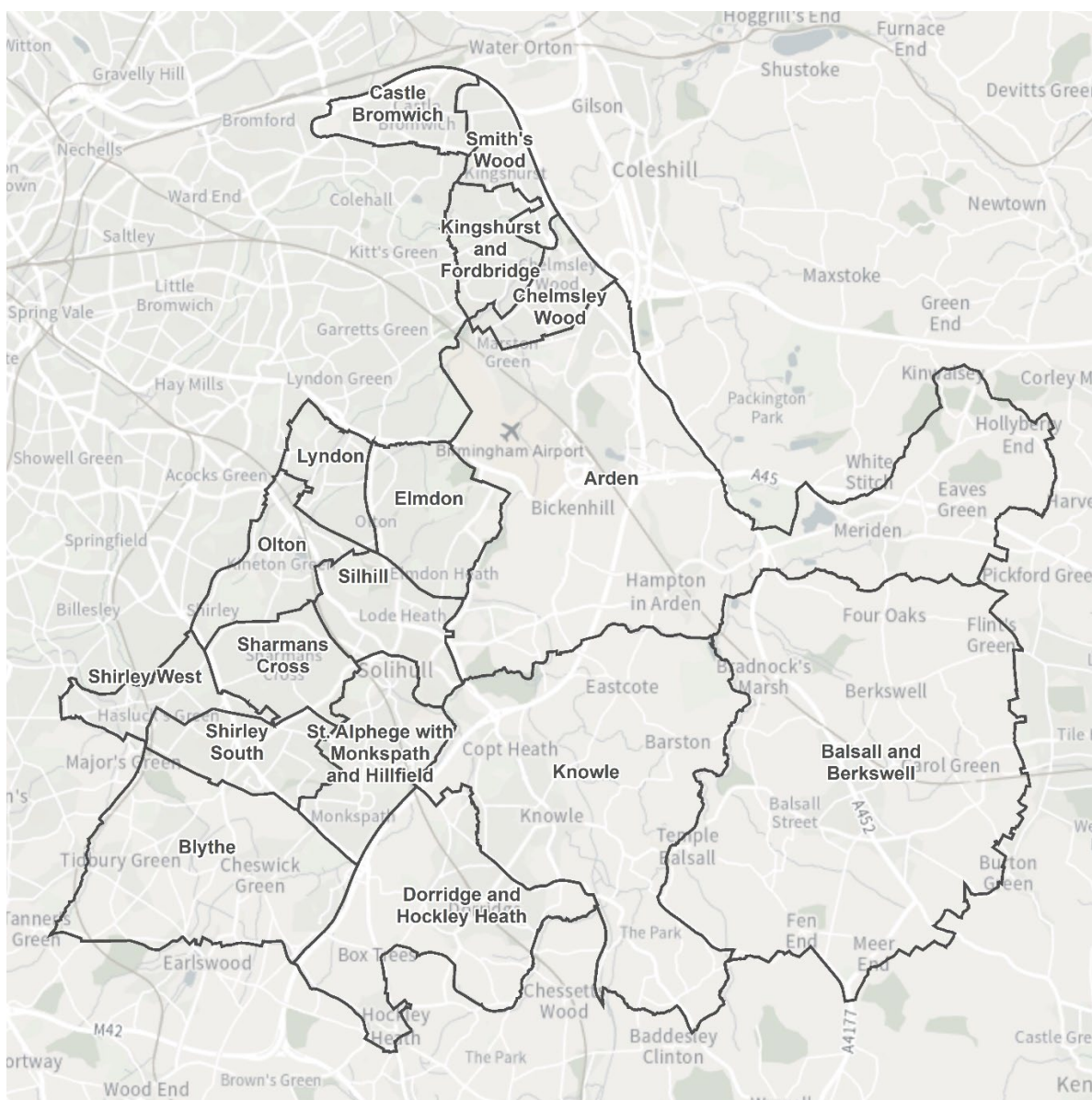
13. Based on the existing warding pattern, the Commission have identified the following variances from the ward average based on both the 2023 electorate and 2029 electorate. The table below highlights those wards that depart from the variance by more than 10% (in yellow) or by more than 20% (in red). **Based on the 2029 forecasts, 8 wards will depart from the average by more than 10%.**

Ward	2023		2029	
	Electorate ⁴	Variance	Electorate	Variance
Urban North				
Castle Bromwich	8,997	-5%	9,428	-11%
Chelmsley Wood	8,997	-5%	9,996	-5%
Kingshurst and Fordbridge	8,978	-6%	9,514	-10%
Smith's Wood	8,495	-11%	9,030	-14%
Urban West				
Elmdon	9,287	-2%	9,774	-7%
Lyndon	10,020	5%	10,557	0%
Olton	9,924	4%	10,387	-1%
St Alphege	10,354	9%	11,625	10%
Shirley East	8,888	-6%	9,287	-12%
Silhill	9,458	0%	10,088	-4%
Shirley South	9,656	2%	10,734	2%
Shirley West	9,809	3%	10,384	-1%
Rural Area				
Bickenhill	9,651	2%	12,234	16%
Blythe	12,006	26%	14,678	39%
Dorridge and Hockley Heath	8,772	-8%	9,415	-11%
Knowle	8,337	-12%	9,788	-7%
Meriden	9,945	5%	12,276	16%

⁴ The average would be 9,504.

Proposed New Warding Pattern

14. As the 2029 forecasts are available at the polling district level, polling districts⁵ have been used as a basis for determining what potential changes to wards ought to take place to arrive at a pattern of wards that is closer to electorate parity than currently exists. In a small number of cases a polling district has been sub-divided, and 2023 electorate data has been used to provide an estimate of the electorate split. However, the polling district when aggregated conforms to the 2029 electorate forecast.
15. The map below indicates the proposed new warding pattern. An interactive version of the map can also be found [here](#).



⁵ An interactive map that includes polling districts can be found on the LGBCE web site [here](#).

16. The table below sets out the Council's recommendation on a new schedule of wards, and their names.

Ward	Electorate	Variance (no.)	Variance (%)
Urban North			
Castle Bromwich	9,428	-1,113	-10.6%
Chelmsley Wood	11,051	510	4.8%
Kingshurst and Fordbridge	10,971	430	4.1%
Smith's Wood	10,261	-280	-2.7%
Urban West			
Elmdon	9,797	-744	-7.1%
Lyndon	10,557	16	0.2%
Olton	11,218	677	6.4%
Sharmans Cross	11,591	1,050	10.0%
Shirley South	10,734	193	1.8%
Shirley West	11,489	948	9.0%
Silhill	10,491	-50	-0.5%
St Alphege with Monkspath and Hillfield	11,458	917	8.7%
Rural Area			
Arden	10,771	230	2.2%
Balsall and Berkswell	9,506	-1,035	-9.8%
Blythe	10,202	-339	-3.2%
Dorridge and Hockley Heath	9,525	-1,016	-9.6%
Knowle	10,145	-396	-3.8%

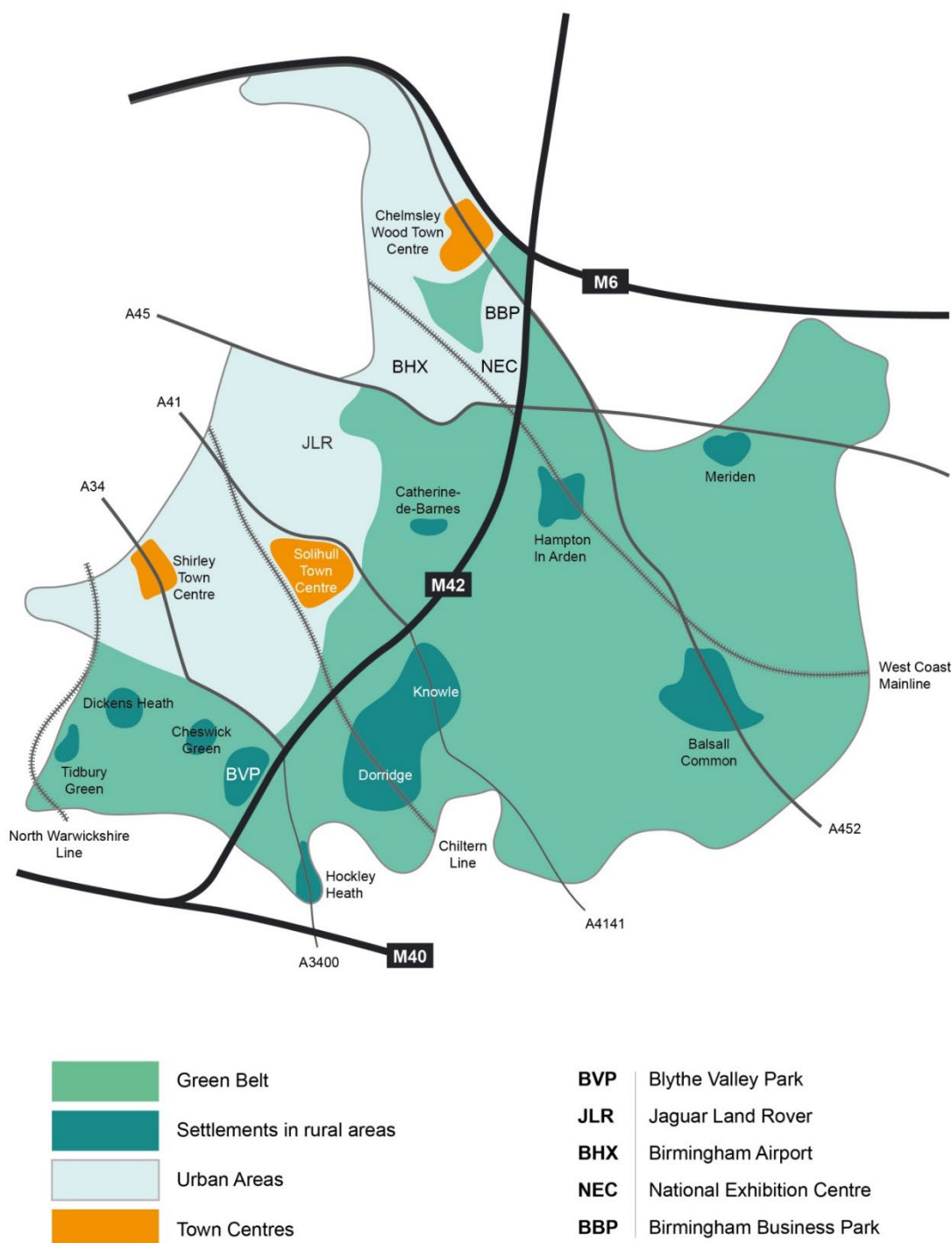
17. The table above uses new names for 4 wards as follows:
- Arden – a ward largely based on the former Bickenhill ward.
 - Balsall and Berkswell – a ward largely based on the former Meriden ward.
 - Sharmans Cross – a ward based on the former Shirley East ward.
 - St Alphege with Monkspath & Hillfield – a ward largely based on the former St Alphege ward.
18. The revised ward pattern would result in only one ward being more than 10% away from the average, and this would be only fractionally so⁶. **This reduces the number of wards more than 10% away from the average from 8 to 1.** None of the new wards would be more than 20% away from the average.
19. Later in the document there are ward profiles which set out the rationale for the new warding pattern, but before this is set out in detail it is helpful to give a brief portrait of the Borough to set the context for the reasoning.

Our Borough

20. Solihull Metropolitan Borough is located on the southern edge of the West Midlands conurbation, between Birmingham and the Black Country to the west and Coventry to the east. It is bound to the north by the rural area of North Warwickshire and to the south, by rural Bromsgrove, Stratford and Warwick. The Borough is renowned for its key economic assets (including the NEC and Jaguar Land Rover) and strategic transport infrastructure both of regional and national significance (including Birmingham Airport); its attractive environment and quality of life; aspirational housing and excellent schools. All of which mean that Solihull is a desirable place in which to live, work and invest. Together,

⁶ By 59 electorate.

these elements combine to establish Solihull's character of 'town in country' living up to the Borough's motto: "**Urbs in Rure**".



Historical Development

21. The development of Solihull was highly influenced by the arrival of the railway stations and the 20th Century expansion of Birmingham south-eastwards. The area now known as Solihull Borough was predominantly rural with small historic towns and villages of medieval origin or earlier at Solihull, Meriden, Berkswell, Barston, Hampton-in-Arden, Knowle and Bickenhill until the end of the 19th Century, when Birmingham began to expand into rural Olton, with houses overlooking Olton Mere. Shirley originally developed from a scattered heathland settlement serving the road from

Birmingham to Winchester via Oxford. Development of the Grand Union and Stratford-Upon-Avon canals and the railways also occurred during the Georgian and early Victorian periods, respectively.

22. The Rural Area once formed part of a huge area of wood pasture and ancient farm lands known as Arden and evidence of previous woodland, commons and heaths are often shown in local place names. There were also a number of manor houses and halls associated with large parks situated within the Rural Area, for example, parkland associated with Berkswell Hall was once part of a medieval deer park. Much of the woodland has now been cleared and the landscape character is predominantly agricultural, characterised by a variety of fieldscapes from older, irregular piecemeal enclosure to larger planned enclosure and very large post-war fields.
23. Large settlement expansion from Birmingham into Solihull occurred between 1900 and 1955, particularly during the inter-war period. This resulted in the development of semi-detached housing estates at Lyndon, Olton, Elmdon and Shirley stretching towards Solihull and, to a lesser degree, at Castle Bromwich. Detached housing development was more predominant around Solihull. Small settlement expansion also occurred in the Rural Area at Hampton-in-Arden, Marston Green, Hockley Heath, Meriden and on part of Balsall Common. During the inter-war period, large industrial areas relating to the automotive industry developed, such as the Land Rover motor works and the early example of a research and development campus at Shirley, latterly owned by TRW. Birmingham Airport was also developed at this time, opening in 1939 as a municipal airport.
24. After 1945, there was a huge wave of predominantly terraced and multi-storey residential development in the north-west part of the Borough from Castle Bromwich southwards. Residential development at Kingshurst was followed in the 1960s by overspill development from Birmingham into Smiths Wood and Chelmsley Wood. At the same time, Dorridge expanded from a small settlement that was focussed around Dorridge railway station. Development at Shirley, Olton, Lyndon and Elmdon towards Solihull continued and by 1955, thus closing the gap between Solihull and Birmingham.
25. Since the mid 20th Century, most residential development has occurred at Monkspath and Hillfield, Balsall Common, Cheswick Green, Meriden, Knowle and Dorridge, and most recently, since the late 1990s, at Dickens Heath. Most large-scale commercial development occurred at the National Exhibition Centre in the 1970s, Birmingham Business Park since the late 1980s, Blythe Valley Park since the late 1990s, and more recently, the Touchwood Shopping Centre in Solihull Town Centre.

The Borough Now

26. Solihull is one of the least deprived local authorities in the West Midlands, but incomes are unequal across the Borough as is poverty, unemployment and life expectancy. A significant proportion of the North Solihull population live in the most deprived 10% of areas in England. People living in the least deprived areas of Solihull can expect to live 10 years longer than those living in the most deprived areas.
27. Whereas around 75% of the population live in the urban area, around two thirds of Solihull's 17,800 hectares is countryside and designated Green Belt, which separates the West Midlands conurbation from surrounding settlements. The vital strategic gap between Birmingham/Solihull and Coventry is known as the Meriden Gap. This area is predominantly rural, characterised by a series of settlements, historic villages, hamlets, scattered farmsteads and dwellings set within attractive countryside.
28. Work is currently under way to accommodate the HS2 rail line which will connect Birmingham to London. The first station outside of London is to be built in Solihull on land adjacent to the NEC. This area will see significant change as in addition to the HS2 interchange station, the area will accommodate significant new commercial and residential development as a new mixed use community is created as part of the UK Central initiative.

Rationale for New Warding Pattern - Borough Wide

29. In developing the proposed pattern of warding, the Council has considered the three statutory criteria that the LGBCE are required to take into account, namely:
- There should be equality of electorate across all wards (meaning Councillors in each ward should represent approximately the same number of voters).
 - Ward patterns should, as far as possible, reflect community interests and identities and boundaries should be identifiable.
 - Electoral arrangements should promote effective and convenient local government.
30. It is noted that there may be circumstances when such criteria may be in conflict with each other, and therefore a balance will need to be struck. Another point worth noting is that in some parts of the urban area any difference between community interests and identities can be clinal. That is to say that any differences are not always marked by a step change in the character of an area and the next. Differences can be more subtle as they occur more gradually over a greater area, for example as distance from one centre and proximity to another increases and decreases accordingly.
31. A key aim of the Council's approach has been to create, as far as possible, a warding pattern that has wards that recognise the clearly distinguishable split in character between urban areas and rural areas. Under the current warding pattern this is already largely achieved, but both Bickenhill and Blythe have mixed urban and rural components to them, which doesn't necessarily reflect shared identities and interests.
32. The last electoral review of Solihull concluded in 2003 and it set the current warding pattern based on similar criteria to those set out above. In this regard **the starting position is that the existing warding pattern does, as far as possible, reflect community interests and identities**; unless changes have been so significant in the last 20 years that community interests and identities have been lost. Of course, since the last review there has been significant residential development taken place in the Borough, and whilst this has had a significant effect on electorate parity, its impact on community interests and identities has been less significant as most new development has been assimilated into the host areas. For these reasons the Council's approach has been to start with the existing warding pattern and seek to amend it to accommodate achieve electoral parity where this has deviated over the past 20 years.
33. Most wards remain largely unchanged or are only accommodating a small change (the addition or removal of a polling district or two) and as such the preference has been to retain the wards existing name. It is recommended that changes are so significant to 4 wards that justify a change in the name of the ward, otherwise the remaining 13 wards are proposed to retain their existing name. The rationale for the 4 wards that will see a change of name is set out in the ward profiles provided later in this document.
34. The next sections in this submission set out the rationale at sub area and individual ward level in the following sequence:
- Urban North (4 wards)**
- Castle Bromwich
 - Chelmsley Wood
 - Kingshurst & Fordbridge
 - Smith's Wood
- Urban West (8 wards)**
- Elmdon
 - Lyndon

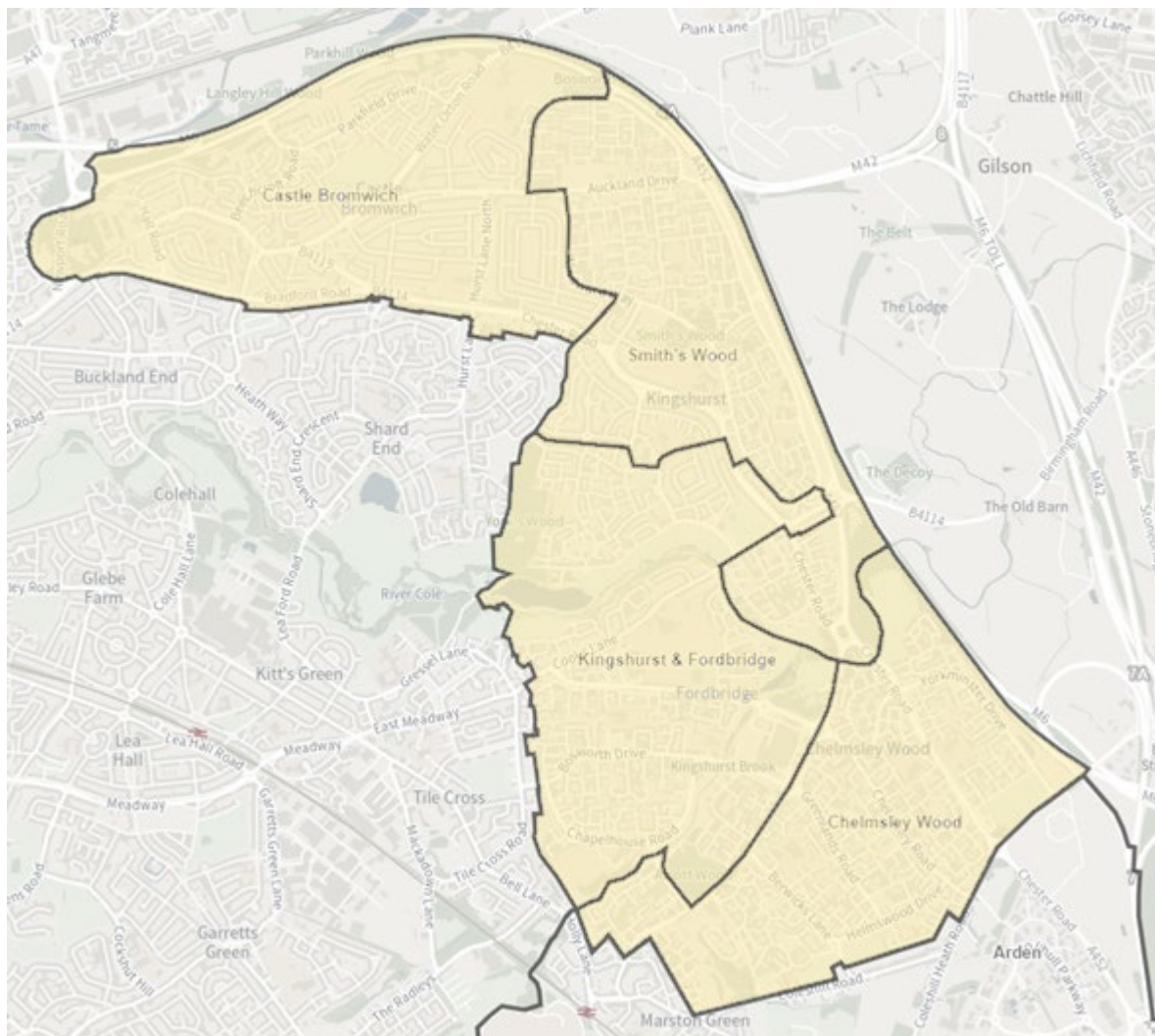
- Olton
- Sharmans Cross
- Shirley South
- Shirley West
- Silhill
- St Alphege with Monkspath and Hillfield

Rural Area (5 wards)

- Arden
- Balsall & Berkswell
- Blythe
- Dorridge & Hockley Heath
- Knowle

Rationale for New Warding Pattern - Urban North (4 wards)

- Castle Bromwich
- Chelmsley Wood
- Kingshurst & Fordbridge
- Smith's Wood



35. All of the four wards in the urban north would have an electorate below the Borough average. Taking all four wards together, they would be 4,196⁷ electorate short of the Borough average, or 9.95%. Therefore, to achieve electoral parity in the urban north, electorate from a nearby ward need to be moved into these wards.
36. The wards in this area are effectively surrounded on 3 sides by land in other local authority areas. The only boundary these wards share with another ward in Solihull is the one Chelmsley Wood shares with Bickenhill. Therefore, to achieve electoral parity, areas currently within Bickenhill would need to be moved into the urban north. And this is what forms the basis of the Council's submission for this part of the Borough.
37. All of the urban north of the Borough is also administered by parish councils. In the 2003 electoral review of Solihull, the number of wards in the north of the Borough was reduced from 5 to 4 with the main change occurring with the combining of Kingshurst and Fordbridge wards into a single ward.

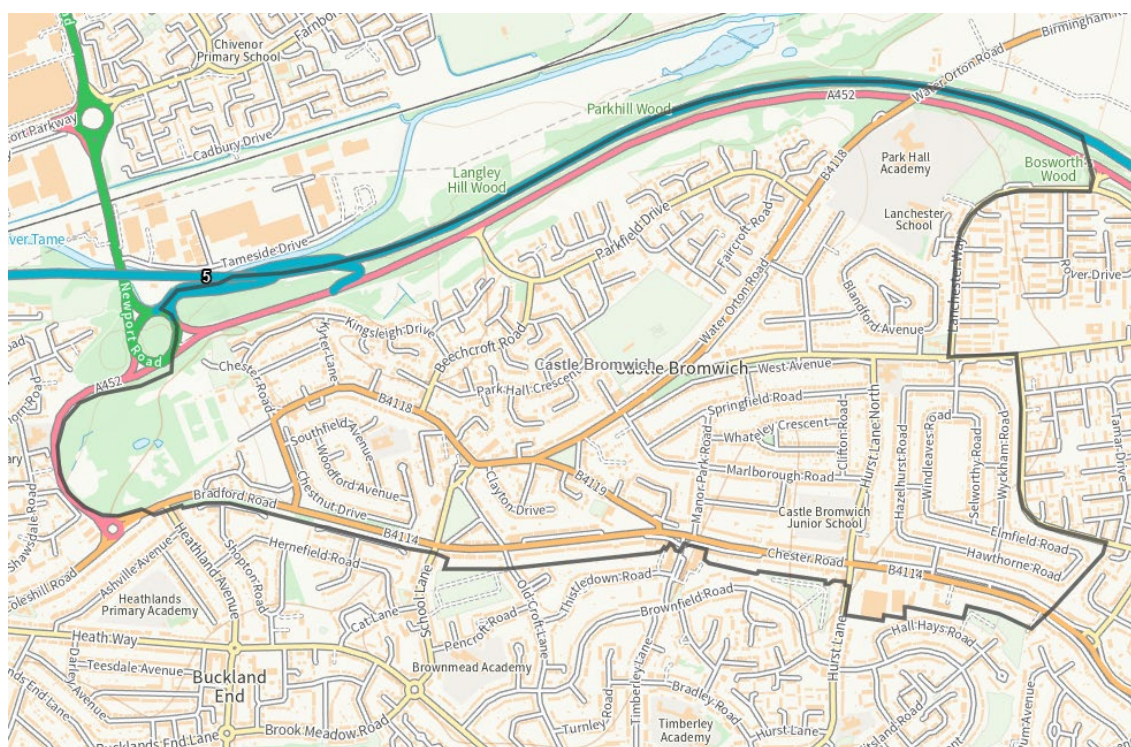
⁷ Four wards at the Borough average of 10,541 electorate would result in 42,164 to achieve electoral parity. Based on the existing warding pattern the 4 wards in the urban north would have 37,968 electorate as at 2029.

This necessitated some movement of other areas which is why the current warding and parish arrangements are not aligned, whereas previously the 5 wards precisely matched the 5 parishes. This meant that some parishes had to straddle ward boundaries. The detail of where this occurs, including all the parishes in the Borough is set out in an appendix.

38. Were it to be argued that the urban north should return to 5 wards to follow parish boundaries, then the electoral parity would be considerably worse than the existing position with 4 of the potential wards being more than 10% away from average and 3 being more than 20% away from the average⁸.

⁸ Castle Bromwich Parish Council 9,428 (-10.6%), Chelmsley Wood Town Council 10,241 (-2.8%), Fordbridge Town Council 6,265 (-40.6%), Kingshurst Town Council 5,907 (-44.0%) and Smith's Wood Parish Council 7,603 (-27.9%).

Castle Bromwich

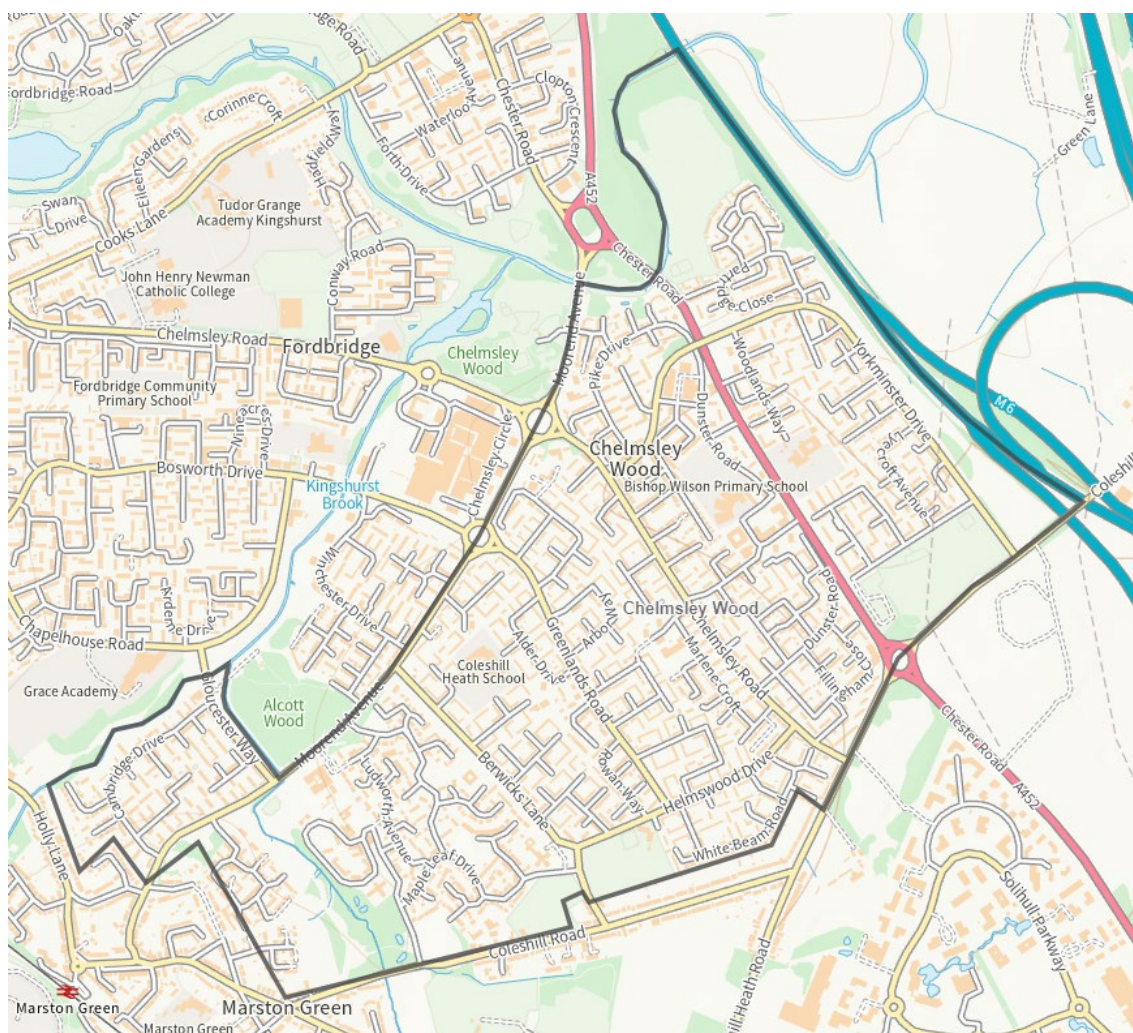


Polling districts to remain in the ward	CB01 – North of Bradford Road CB02 – West of Water Orton Road CB03 – East of Water Orton Road CB04 – North of Chester Road (west) CB05 – North of Chester Road (east)		
Polling districts to be added to the ward	None		
Poling districts to be removed from the ward	None		
Parish(es)	The whole parish of Castle Bromwich falls within this ward – indeed the ward and parish boundaries would be conterminous.		
Electorate⁹:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	8,997	9,428	9,428
• Variance (no.)	-507	-1,113	-1,113
• Variance (%)	-5.3%	-10.6%	-10.6%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	This ward is not recommended for any changes. It exceeds the variance by fractionally more than 10% and to reduce this it would be necessary to add additional areas to the ward. However, the ward is essentially surrounded on 3 sides by Birmingham CC and the only opportunity would be to move PDs (or part of) from Smith's Wood. However, this would break the sense of identity and shared character these PDs have with Smith's Wood.		

⁹ In all of the ward profiles, the electorate figures that are given relate to a comparison between the current warding pattern as at 2023 (2023 – C), the forecast for 2029 using the current warding pattern (2029 – C), and the forecast for 2029 using the proposed new warding pattern (2029 – P). The variances are from the relevant averages – 9,504 for 2023 and 10,541 for 2029.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflecting community interests and identities	The existence of Castle Bromwich Parish Council (the boundary of which matches the existing ward) is an illustration of the community identity the area has.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will remain a relatively compact urban ward that allows easy movement within it and contains only one parish council.

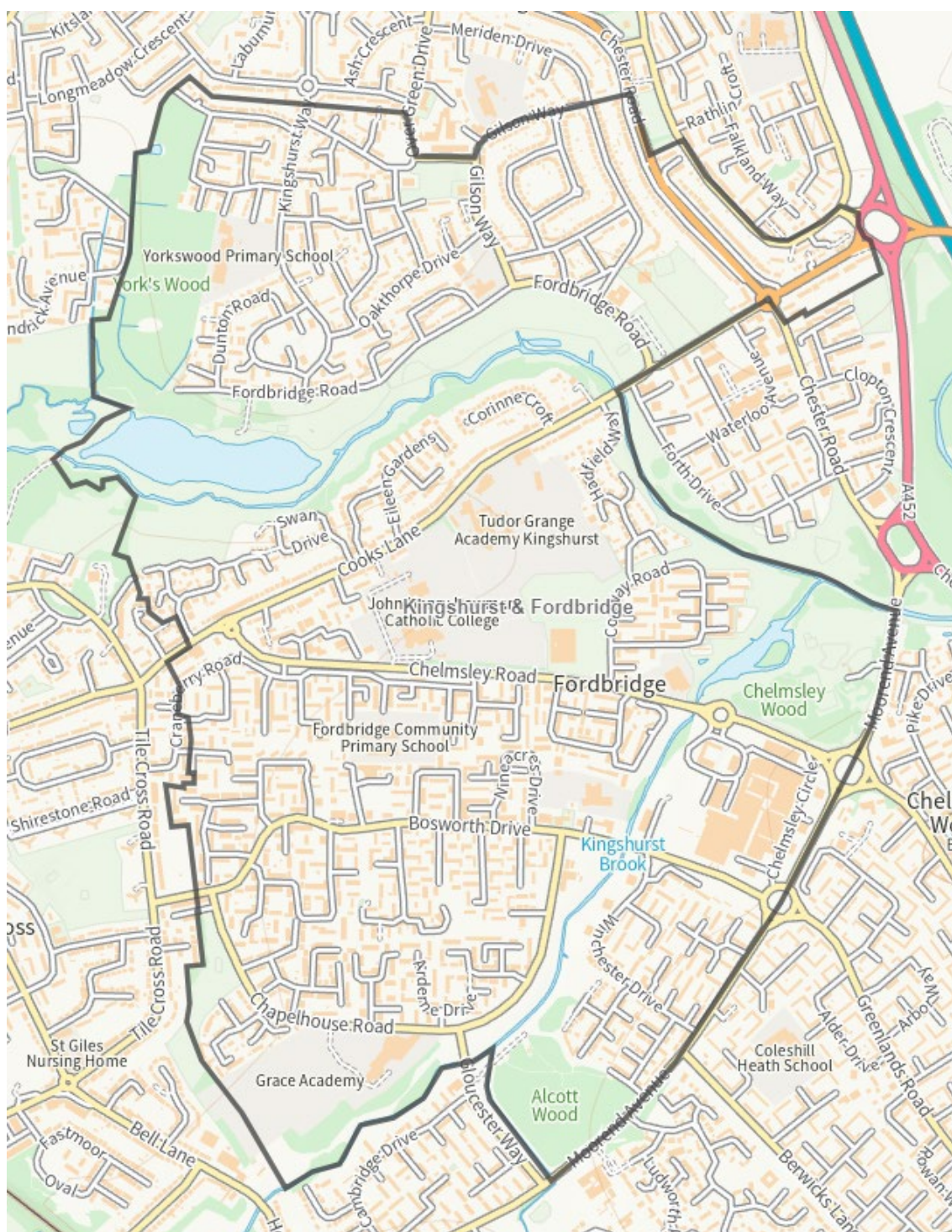
Chelmsley Wood



Polling districts to remain in the ward	CW02 – Northeast of Chester Road CW03 – Southwest of Chester Road CW04 – Southwest of Chelmsley Road		
Polling districts to be added to the ward	BH01 – Northeast of Berwicks Lane BH02 – North of Coleshill Road and areas off Moorend Avenue)		
Poling districts to be removed from the ward	CW01 - Forth Drive, Waterloo Avenue and Clopton Crescent CW05 - Chelmsley Wood town centre & Winchester Drive		
Parish(es)	Presently four PDs within Chelmsley Wood Town Council and one PD within Fordbridge Town Council fall within Chelmsley Wood ward. Under the proposed warding pattern thee PD within Chelmsley Wood Town Council and two PDs from Bickenhill and Marston Green Parish Council would fall within Chelmsley Wood ward.		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	8,997	9,996	11,051
• Variance (no.)	-507	-545	510
• Variance (%)	-5.3%	-5.2%	4.8%

Justification:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality of representation 	<p>Being located on the southern edge of the urban north (which collectively is below average) this ward is best placed to accommodate electorate from the former Bickenhill ward which is located immediately to the south and has an electorate number significantly above the average. This is the driver for adding BH01 (Berwicks Lane and roads off it) & BH02 (North of Coleshill Road and areas off Moorend Avenue) to Chelmsley Wood.</p> <p>CW01 (Forth Drive, Waterloo Avenue and Clopton Crescent) and CW05 (Chelmsley Wood town centre & Winchester Drive) are recommended to be removed from the ward to maintain electoral parity with the addition of the PDs noted above.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflecting community interests and identities 	<p>Bickenhill started at being over the ward average by 16%, and even with the above changes it would still be above average, and therefore</p> <p>Moving PDs BH01 and BH02 from the former Bickenhill ward is an opportunity to address the rural/urban split that current occurs in the ward. It is one of two current wards that has a significant element of both rural and urban areas, thus mixing identities and interests. This is achieved by moving BH01 (Berwicks Lane and roads off it) and BH02 (North of Coleshill Road and areas off Moorend Avenue) into Chelmsley Wood. BH01 is currently bounded on three sides by Chelmsley Wood and it shares a greater sense of identity with the PDs in that ward. BH02 is a mixed character PD which has differing identities that could be argued are more closely aligned with Marston Green, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood.</p> <p>CW01 shares a similar identity and interests as nearby PDs in both Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood and it could be argued that either could accommodate the move from Chelmsley Wood. CW05 contains Chelmsley Wood town centre (which serves all three nearby wards) and moving this PD into Kingshurst & Fordbridge would move the boundary between the wards from Kingshurst Brook to Moorend Avenue. Whilst neither of these features provide a significant barrier to movement, they are recognisable features.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing for convenient and effective local government 	<p>The ward will remain a relatively compact urban ward that allows easy movement within it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes regarding ward name. 	<p>Whilst no changes to the name of the ward are proposed, it is worth noting that moving CW05 from the ward would see the town centre of Chelmsley Wood no longer being located within the ward. However, it is recognised that the town centre serves the wider area, not just the ward, and the residential area known as Chelmsley Wood is to remain within the ward.</p>

Kingshurst & Fordbridge



Polling districts to remain in the ward

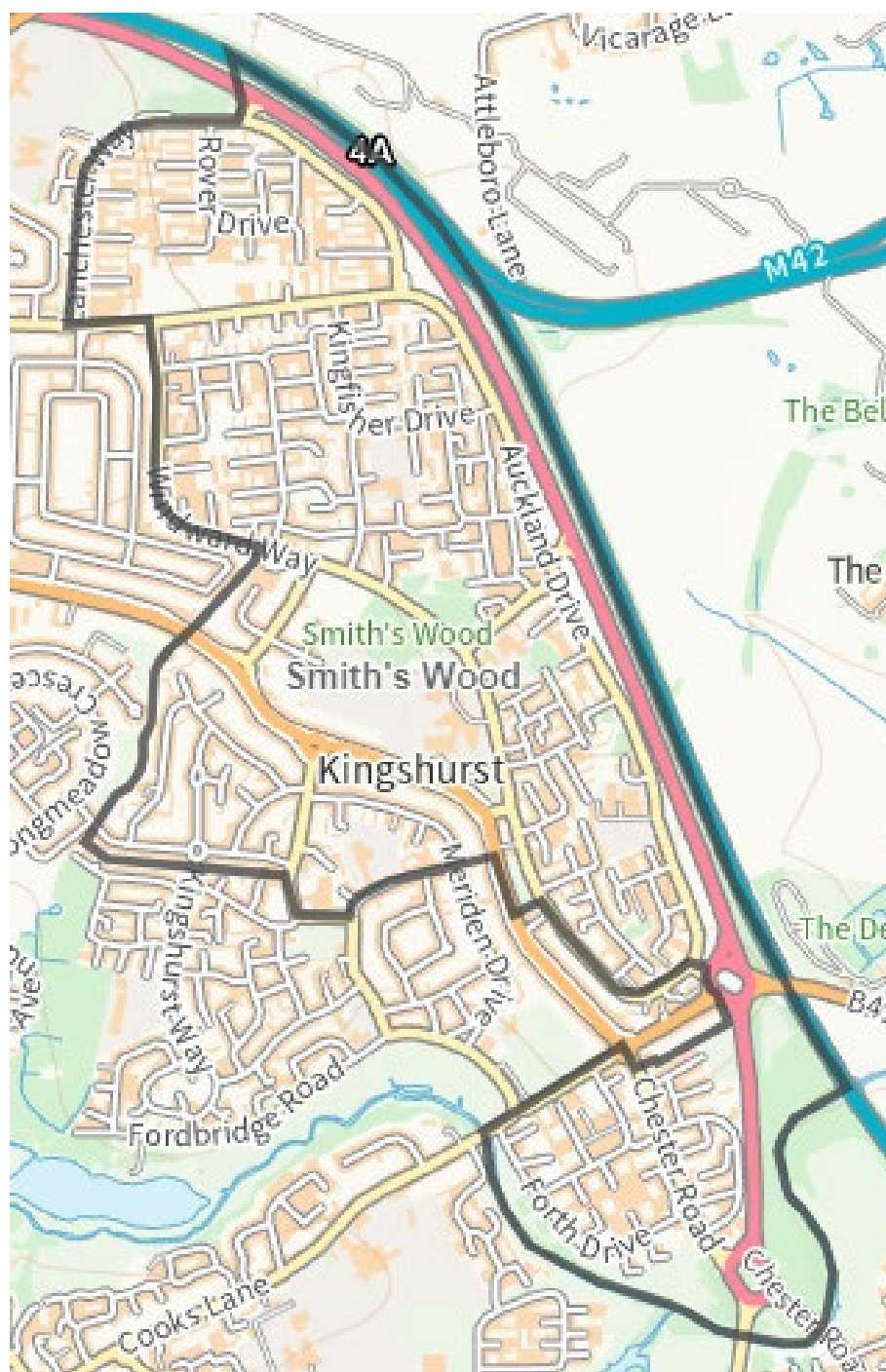
KF01 – Kingshurst Way
 KF02 – North of Cooks Lane
 KF03 – Between Chelmsley Road and Bosworth Drive
 KF04 – South of Bosworth Drive
 KF05 – South and east of Gilson Way
 KF06 – Conway Road

Polling districts to be added to the ward

CW05 - Chelmsley Wood town centre & Winchester Drive

Poling districts to be removed from the ward	None		
Parish(es)	<p>Presently three PDs within Kingshurst Parish Council and three PDs within Fordbridge Town Council fall within Kingshurst and Fordbridge ward.</p> <p>Under the proposed warding pattern three PDs within Kingshurst Parish Council, three PDs within Fordbridge Town Council and one PD of Chelmsley Wood Town Council would fall within Kingshurst and Fordbridge ward.</p>		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	8,978	9,514	10,971
• Variance (no.)	-526	-1,027	430
• Variance (%)	-5.5%	-9.7%	4.1%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	Moving CW05 into this ward is a consequence of Chelmsley Wood needing to accommodate electorate from the ward to the south, and then needing to redistribute electorate within the urban north wards to achieve an overall electorate parity.		
• Reflecting community interests and identities	CW05 contains Chelmsley Wood town centre (which serves all three nearby wards) and moving this PD into Kingshurst & Fordbridge would move the boundary between the wards from Kingshurst Brook to Moorend Avenue. Whilst neither of these features provide a significant barrier to movement, they are recognisable features.		
• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will remain a relatively compact urban ward that allows easy movement within it.		
• Rationale for proposed name change	NA		

Smith's Wood



Polling districts to remain in the ward

SM01 – Lanchester Way
 SM02 – Kingfisher Drive
 SM03 – Tamar Drive
 SM04 – West of Auckland Drive (south)
 SM05 – South of Chester Road

Polling districts to be added to the ward

CW01 - Forth Drive, Waterloo Avenue and Clopton Crescent

Poling districts to be removed from the ward

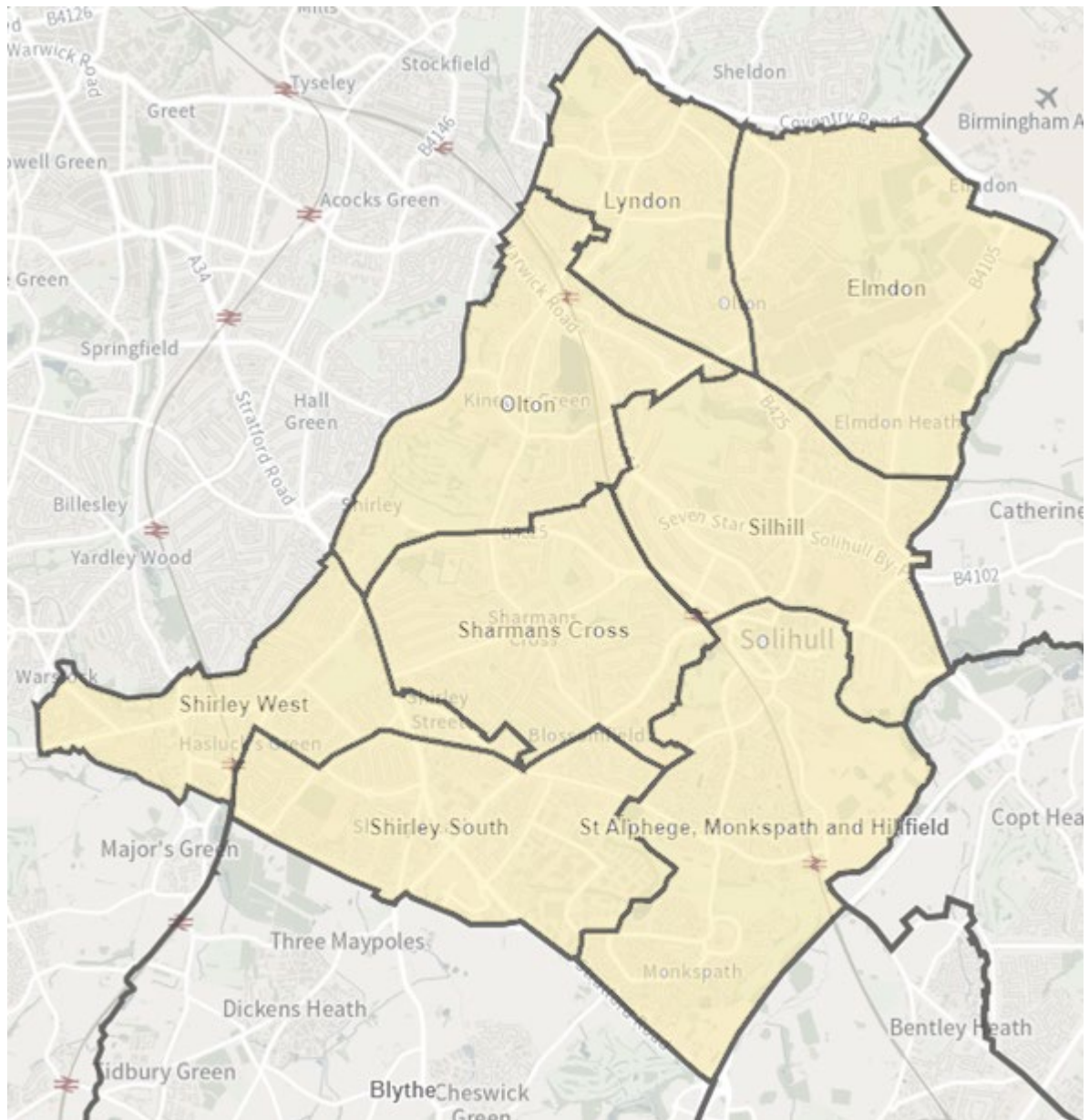
None

Parish(es)	<p>Presently all four PDs of Smith's Wood Parish Council and 1 PD of Kingshurst Parish fall within Smith's Wood ward.</p> <p>Under the proposed warding pattern all four PDs of Smith's Wood Parish Council, 1 PD of Kingshurst Parish Council and 1 PD of Fordbridge Town Council would fall within Smith's Wood ward.</p>		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	8,495	9,030	10,261
• Variance (no.)	-1,009	-1,511	-280
• Variance (%)	-10.6%	-14.3	-2.7%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	Moving CW01 into this ward is a consequence of Chelmsley Wood needing to accommodate electorate from the ward to the south, and then needing to redistribute electorate within the urban north wards to achieve an overall electorate parity.		
• Reflecting community interests and identities	<p>CW01 shares a similar identity and interests as nearby PDs in both Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood and it could be argued that either could accommodate the move from Chelmsley Wood.</p> <p>The village centre of Kingshurst falls within Smith's Wood (PD SM05), but this represents the current position.</p>		
• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will remain a relatively compact urban ward that allows easy movement within it. Although by adding CW01 to the ward creates quite a long ward with a slightly unusual shape, it should be noted that the additional area has a number of bus services ¹⁰ that connect it to the north and the wider area of Smith's Wood.		

¹⁰ For instance, services 94, 95 and 96.

Rationale for New Warding Pattern - Urban West (8 wards)

- Elmdon
- Lyndon
- Olton
- Sharmans Cross
- Shirley South
- Shirley West
- Silhill
- St Alphege with Monkspath and Hillfield



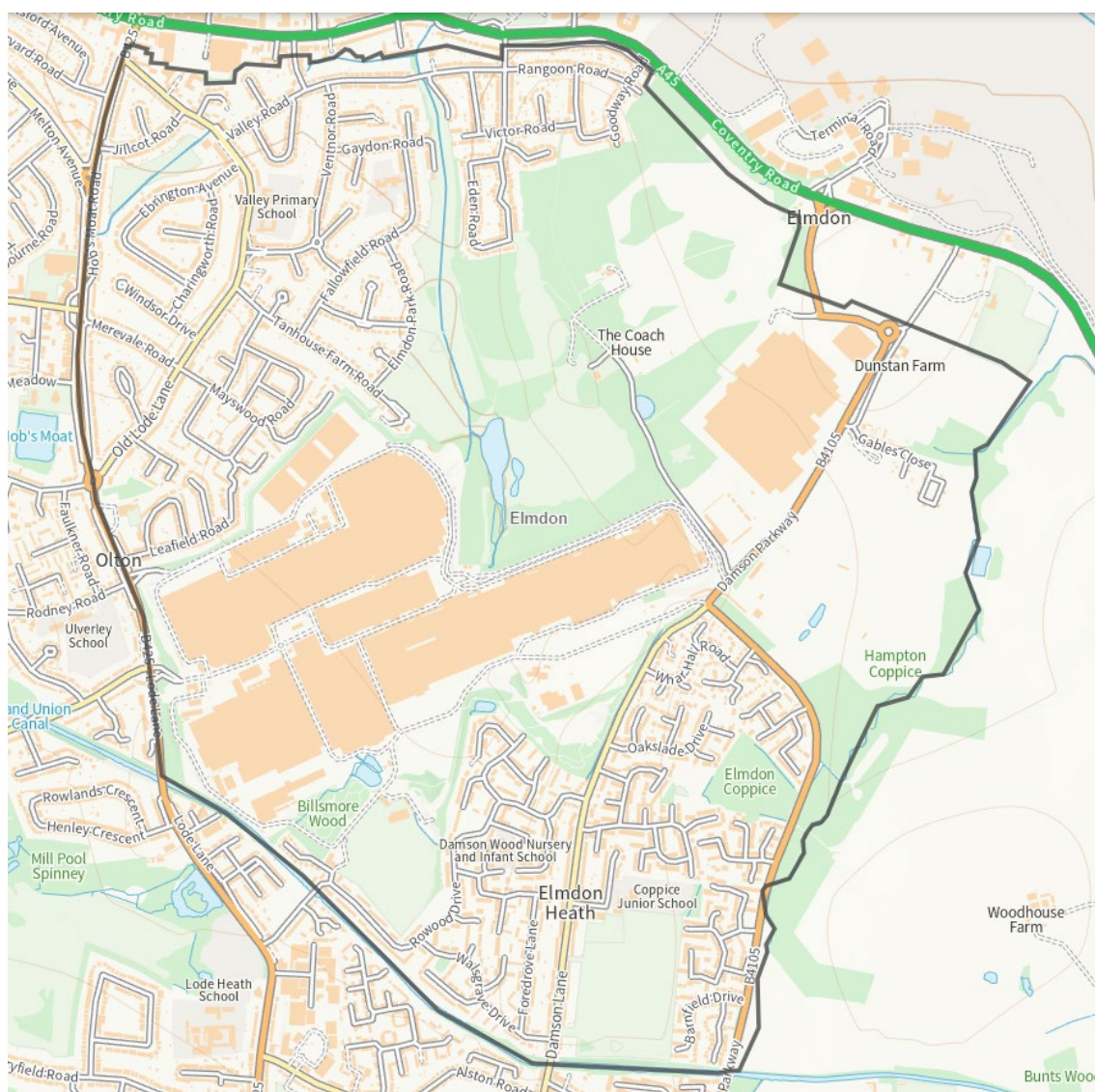
39. For the most part, the 8 existing wards in the urban west are fairly well balanced based on the 2029 electorate forecast. Apart from Shirley East (-12%) and St Alphege (10%), the remaining 6 wards vary

from the average by less than 7%, indeed 5¹¹ are all within 4% of the average. This suggests there is less need to adjust these ward boundaries to achieve electoral parity.

40. However, immediately to the south of the urban west is the largely rural ward of Blythe. Due to the significant residential development that has taken place in this ward since the 2003 review, this ward is currently 26% above average and this is projected to reach 39% above average by 2029. To achieve electoral parity for Blythe it must significantly reduce its electorate – i.e. adjacent wards should accommodate some of its electorate. There is little scope for this to occur across the M42 (by Dorridge & Hockley Heath taking on some of Blythe's electorate) as the motorway acts as a barrier and there would be little shared community identity and interest between the two areas. Therefore, it will be necessary to look at the edge of the urban area west of the M42.
41. As the existing Blythe ward is a mixed urban and rural ward, it would appear to suit community identities and interests best by seeking to accommodate the area of the Blythe ward with an urban character (the Monkspath area) within the urban area. This move is what then triggers the need to adjust some of the other wards in the urban west.
42. None of the urban west is also administered by parish councils.

¹¹ Lyndon (0%), Olton (-1%), Silhill (-4%), Shirley South (2%) and Shirley West (-1%)

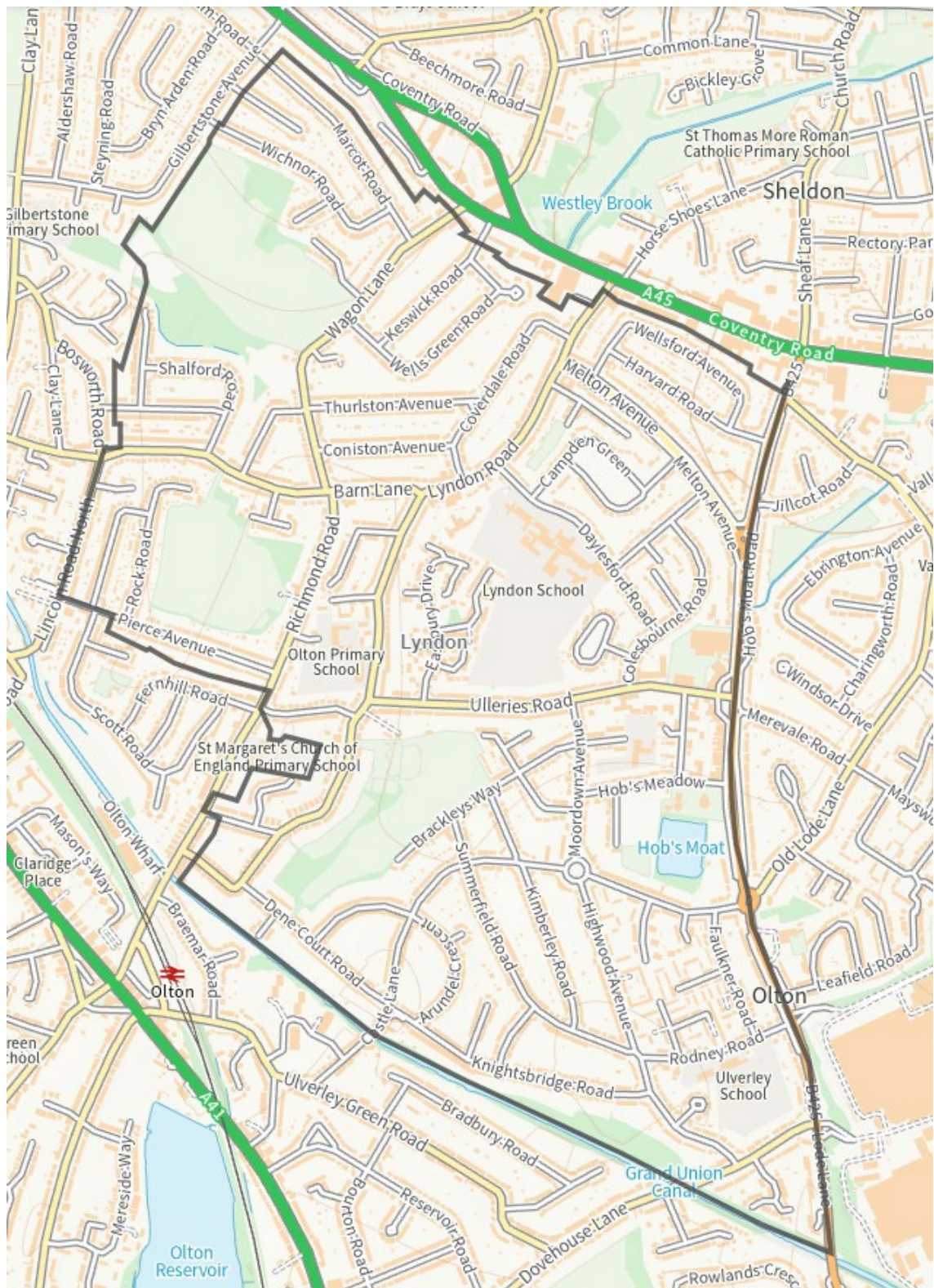
Elmdon



Polling districts to remain in the ward	<p>EL01 – Old Lode Lane</p> <p>EL02 – Valley Road, Fallowfield Road and roads off them</p> <p>EL03 – JLR and Damson Parkway north</p> <p>EL04 – Damson Parkway south</p>
Polling districts to be added to the ward	BH09 - Gables Close and land off Damson Parkway
Polling districts to be removed from the ward	None
Parish(es)	<p>None of the new ward would be administered by a parish council.</p> <p>The area beyond the proposed new boundary north of Dunstan Farm and south of the Coventry Road is located within Bickenhill and Marston Green Parish Council. Were this to also be incorporated into the new ward boundary then the parish council would straddle two wards which the Council have sought to avoid.</p>

Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	9,287	9,774	9,797
• Variance (no.)	-217	-767	-744
• Variance (%)	-2.3%	-7.3%	-7.1%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	No significant changes to this ward are required to achieve electoral parity. The incorporation of PD BH09 into the ward sees a small increase in electorate of only 23 as the PD is sparsely populated, instead it is dominated by the commercial nature of the area.		
• Reflecting community interests and identities	The only change recommended for this ward is to incorporate BH09 from Bickenhill. This is a small PD located on the edge of the urban area. It only has a small resident population (Gables Close) and is predominantly occupied by the JLR despatch area which has strong functional and physical connections with the main JLR site which is located within Elmdon. The change would also result in most of the UK2 allocation in the emerging Local Plan being located within Elmdon.		
• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will remain a relatively compact urban ward that allows easy movement within it.		

Lyndon



Polling districts to remain in the ward

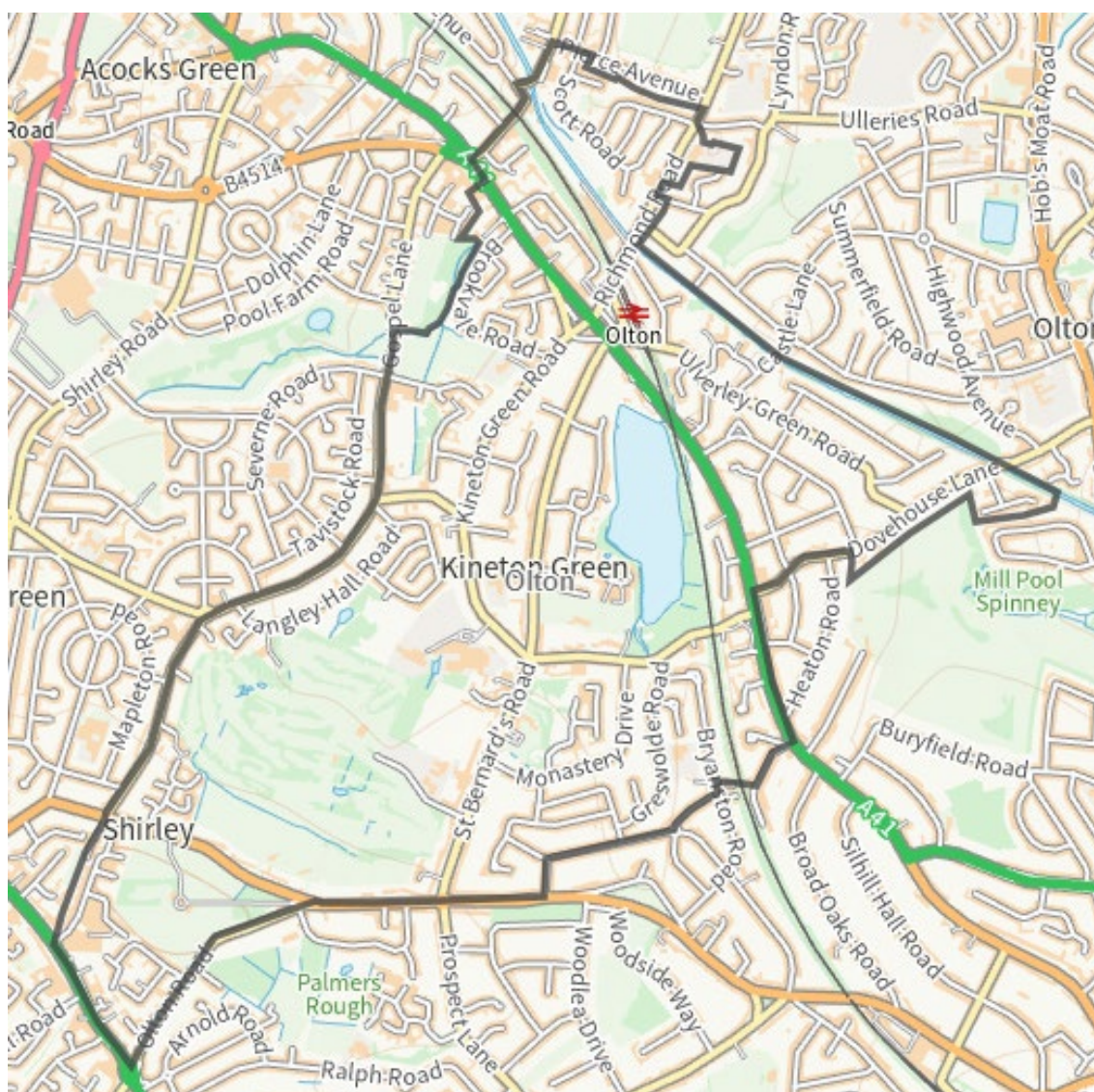
LY01 – Wagon Lane and Barn Lane
 LY02 – Melton Avenue and Daylesford Road
 LY03 – Area between Ulleries Road and Castle Lane
 LY04 – South of Castle Lane and west of Lode Lane.

Polling districts to be added to the ward

None

Poling districts to be removed from the ward	None		
Parish(es)	None of the new ward would be administered by a parish council.		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	10,020	10,557	10,557
• Variance (no.)	516	16	16
• Variance (%)	5.4%	0.2%	0.2%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	No changes are proposed for Lyndon.		
• Reflecting community interests and identities	No significant changes have occurred since 2003 that impact upon the ward's community interests and identities.		
• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will remain a relatively compact urban ward that allows easy movement within it.		

Olton

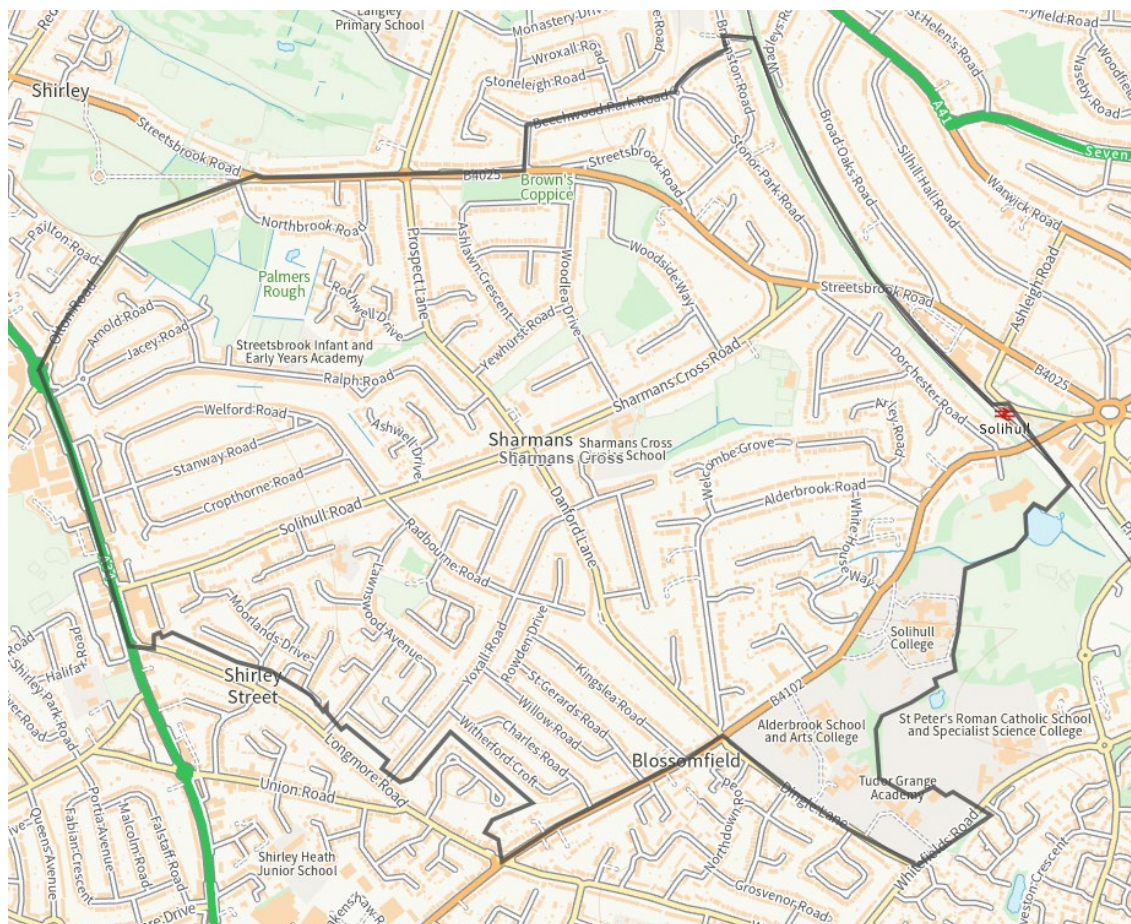


Polling districts to remain in the ward	OL01 – Ulverley Green Road and Scott Road OL02 – St Bernard's Road north and Kineton Green Road OL03 – St Bernard's Road south and Langley Hall Road OL04 – Greswolde Road		
Polling districts to be added to the ward	SE01 - Northeast of Stratford Road and northwest of Olton Road		
Polling districts to be removed from the ward	None		
Parish(es)	None of the new ward would be administered by a parish council.		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	9,924	10,387	11,218
• Variance (no.)	420	-154	677
• Variance (%)	4.4%	-1.5%	6.4%

Justification:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality of representation 	The only change recommended for this ward is the addition of PD SE01 (the area northeast of Stratford Road and northwest of Olton Road). This will help achieve electoral parity in the adjacent ward of Shirley East which would otherwise be above variance by more than 10%.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflecting community interests and identities 	The PD to be moved would be located at a greater distance from the facilities in Olton and there would not be a strong case for doing so purely on grounds that reflect a sense of identity or shared interests.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing for convenient and effective local government 	The addition of the PD to the southwest corner of the ward does stretch the ward further away from the commercial centre of Olton, which is in the north of the ward. However, it is easily reached by car and public transport ¹² .

¹² Bus services 4A and A12 which run in a north/south direction.

Sharmans Cross

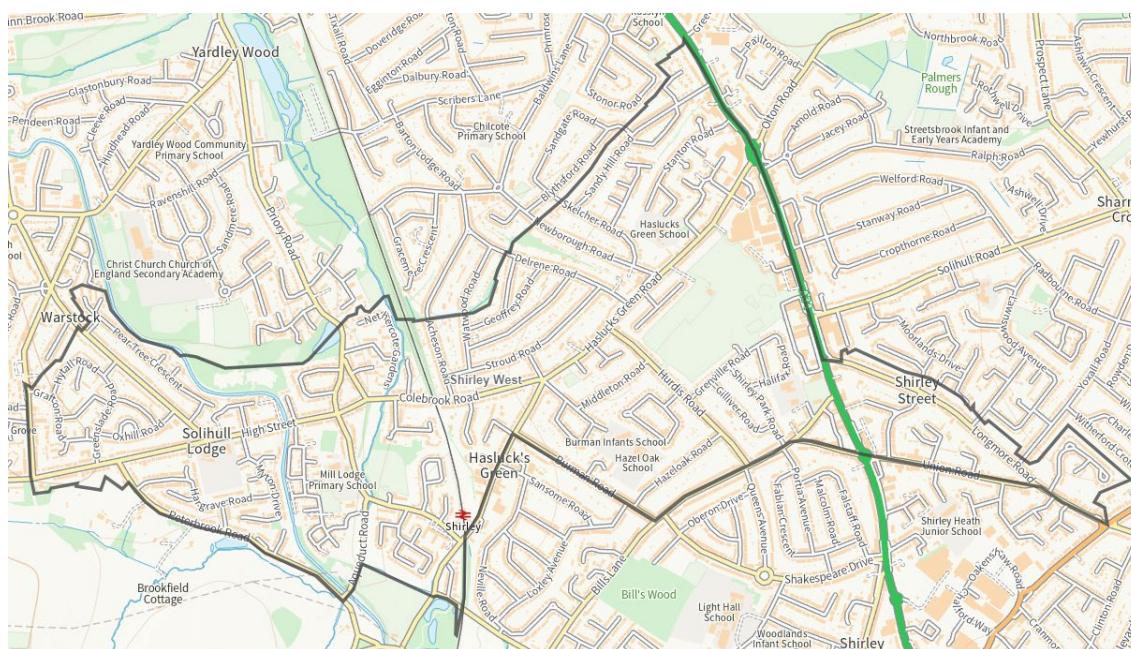


Polling districts to remain in the ward	SE02 – Ralph Road, Stanway Road and Roads off them SE03 – Yoxall Road and roads off it.		
Polling districts to be added to the ward	SA02 - Sharmans Cross Road & Woodlea Road SA04 - Blossomfield Road/Alderbrook Road SA05 - North of Streetsbrook Road		
Poling districts to be removed from the ward	SE01 - Northeast of Stratford Road and northwest of Olton Road SE04 - Longmore Road and north of Union Road		
Parish(es)	None of the new ward would be administered by a parish council.		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	8,888	9,287	11,591
• Variance (no.)	-616	-1,254	1,050
• Variance (%)	-6.5%	-11.9%	10.0%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	<p>Without any changes to Shirley East it would be 12% below the ward average and would need to be considered for additional areas to be moved into the ward to help achieve electoral parity.</p> <p>Moving SA02, SA04 and SA05 into Shirley East helps to balance the above average nature of St Alphege and the below average nature of Shirley East.</p>		

	<p>Moving SE01 to Olton again assists in achieving electoral parity for the new ward. SE01 only has a small number of electorate, which is in contrast to the higher numbers in SA02 and SA04.</p> <p>As a result of the above changes Shirley East would be more than 10% above the ward average and therefore consideration needs to be given to moving another PD out of the ward, this relates to SE04.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting community interests and identities 	<p>SA02 (Sharmans Cross Road & Woodlea Road areas) are closest to Shirley East and they are as close to Shirley town centre as Solihull town centre and share similar identities to the PDs in Shirley East. If SA02 were to move into Shirley East, this would isolate SA05 (north of Streetsbrook Road) from the rest of St Alphege. SA05 shares a similar identity to SA02 and so it too could be moved to Shirley East. Whilst SA04 (Blossomfield Road/Alderbrook Road) has a closer proximity to Solihull town centre than Shirley town centre, it would be the only residential area within the ward west of Tudor Grange park and the nearby educational establishments, and so it too could be accommodated in Shirley East to achieve electoral parity.</p> <p>SE04 (Longmore Road and north of Union Road) is located at a point where all three Shirley wards meet. There is little community identity that <u>separates</u> the three Shirley wards from each other, rather they all have a strong community identity and shared interest in Shirley town centre and the Stratford Road that runs south from the town centre. In this respect, given that SE04 is close to all three wards it could be argued that it would not sever any community ties whichever of the Shirley wards it was to be placed within. By including it within Shirley West in enables the new Shirley East ward to be within 10% of the ward average</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing for convenient and effective local government 	<p>The ward will remain a relatively compact urban ward that allows easy movement within it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationale for proposed name change 	<p>As this ward has undergone quite significant changes, the opportunity has been taken to review its name. Given the location of the PDs added to the ward, and their distance away from Shirley town centre, the reference to Shirley in the ward name becomes less relevant, but not necessarily totally obsolete. The new PDs are in the east of the new ward and the new centre of the ward is focussed upon the crossroads formed by Prospect Lane, Solihull Road, Sharmans Cross Road and Danford Lane. This crossroads is known as Sharmans Cross, and it contains a small number of retail facilities which provide services to the local areas off these roads. Under the current warding pattern, this crossroads forms the boundary between Shirley East and St Alphege, but now that the ward has effectively extended eastwards it is appropriate to use the name of the crossroads as the ward name.</p>

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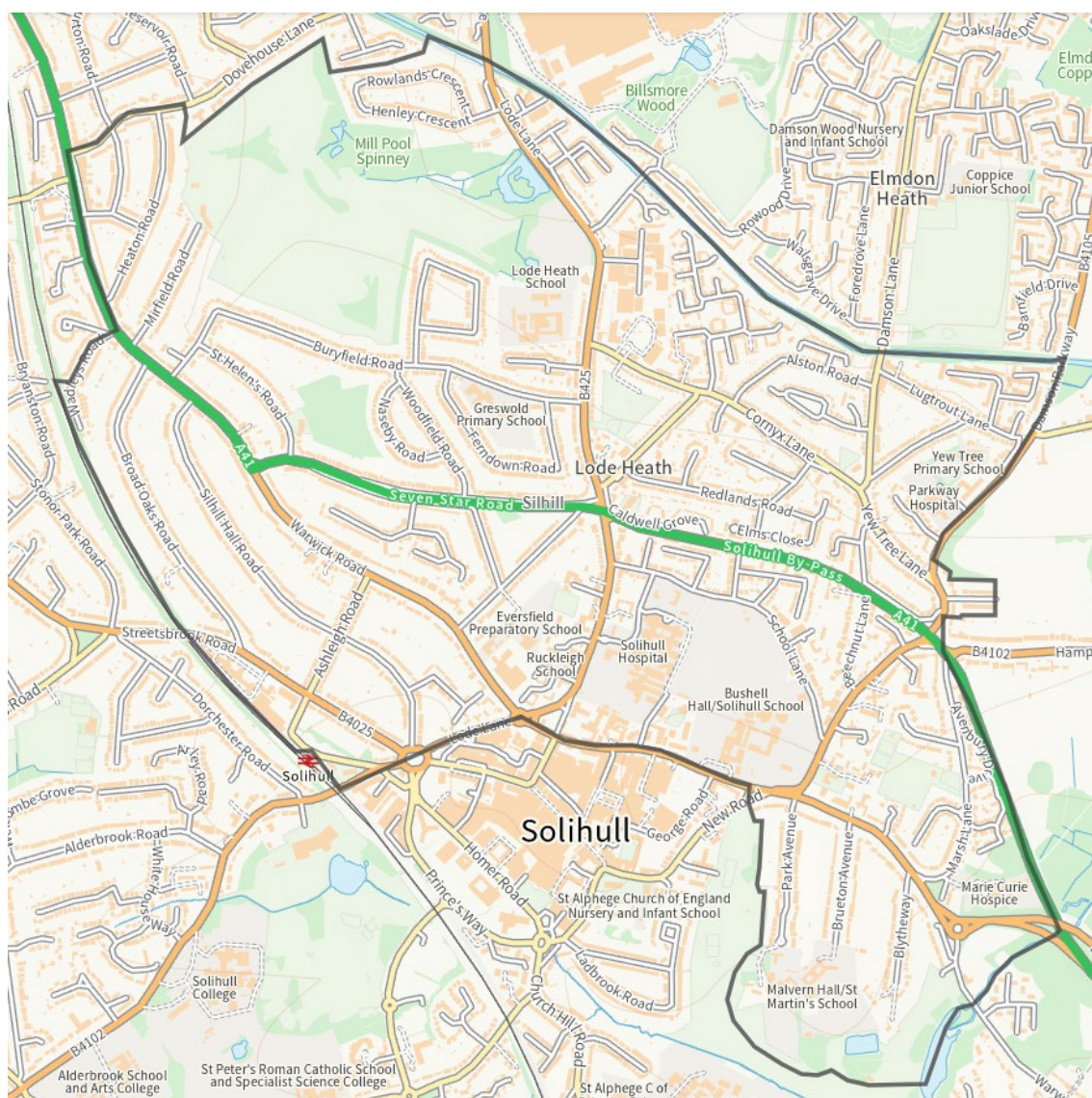
Shirley West



Polling districts to remain in the ward	SW01 – Solihull Lodge SW02 – Hurdis Road and north of Burman Road SW03 – Haslucks Green Road north and Sandy Hill Road SW04 – Shirley Park Road and roads of it SW05 – Colebrook Road west and roads of it		
Polling districts to be added to the ward	SE04 - Longmore Road and north of Union Road		
Poling districts to be removed from the ward	None		
Parish(es)	None of the new ward would be administered by a parish council.		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	9,809	10,384	11,489
• Variance (no.)	305	-157	948
• Variance (%)	3.2%	-1.5%	9.0%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	The only change to Shirley West is the incorporation of SE04 (Longmore Road and north of Union Road) into the ward. This is to assist with achieving electoral parity in the new Shirley East ward.		
• Reflecting community interests and identities	SE04 (Longmore Road and north of Union Road) is located at a point where all three Shirley wards meet. There is little community identity that separates the three Shirley wards from each other, rather they all have a strong community identity and shared interest on Shirley town centre and the Stratford Road that runs south from the town centre. In this respect, given that SE04 is close to all three wards it could be argued that it would not sever any community ties whichever of the Shirley wards it was to be placed within. By including it within Shirley West in enables the new Shirley East ward to be within 10% of the ward average		

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will remain a relatively compact urban ward that allows easy movement within it.
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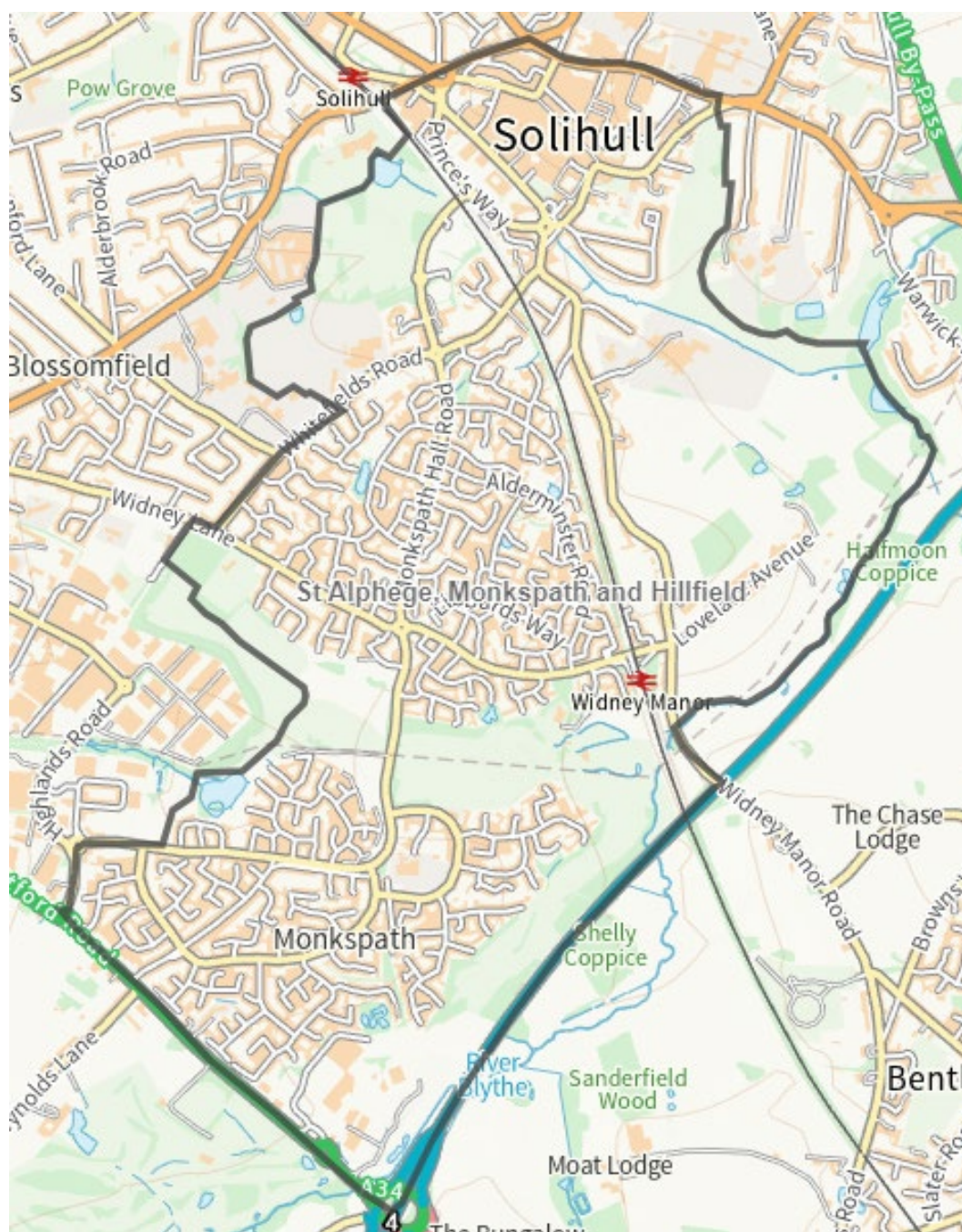
Silhill



Polling districts to remain in the ward	SH01 – North of Seven Star Road SH02 – Ashleigh Road and roads of it SH03 – Load Lane south and Moat Lane SH04 – Corynx Lane SH05 – Area between Warwick Road and Solihull by-pass		
Polling districts to be added to the ward	SA01 (in part) - Park Avenue, Brueton Avenue and Blythway		
Poling districts to be removed from the ward	None		
Parish(es)	None of the new ward would be administered by a parish council.		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	9,458	10,088	10,491
• Variance (no.)	-46	-453	-50
• Variance (%)	-0.5%	-4.3%	-0.5%

Justification:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equality of representation	The only change to Silhill is the incorporation of a small area of SA01 (the area south of Warwick Road containing the roads Park Avenue, Brueton Avenue and Blythway into the ward) and this is to assist with achieving electoral parity in St Alphege.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflecting community interests and identities	The roads of Park Avenue, Brueton Avenue and Blythway are separated from the other residential areas of the ward and could be described as having a closer sense of identity and shared interests with other residential roads located off the Warwick Road which currently forms the boundary between St Alphege and Silhill.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will remain a relatively compact urban ward that allows easy movement within it.

St Alphege with Monkspath and Hillfield

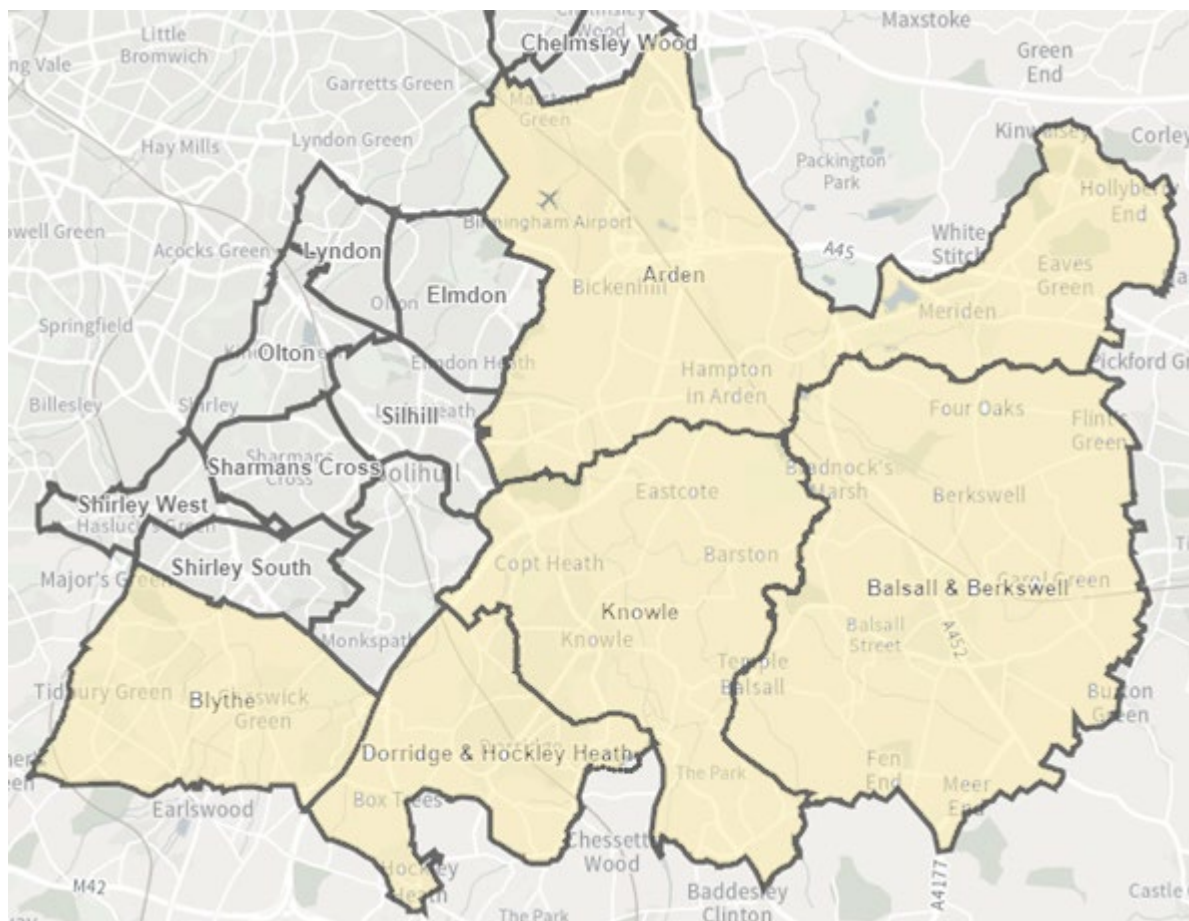


Polling districts to remain in the ward	SA01 (in part) – Solihull town centre SA03 – Hillfield east SA06 – Hillfield west
Polling districts to be added to the ward	BL02 - Monkspath
Poling districts to be removed from the ward	SA01 (in part) - Park Avenue, Brueton Avenue and Blythway SA02 - Sharmans Cross Road & Woodlea Road SA04 - Blossomfield Road/Alderbrook Road SA05 - North of Streetsbrook Road
Parish(es)	None of the new ward would be administered by a parish council.

Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	10,354	11,625	11,458
• Variance (no.)	850	1,084	917
• Variance (%)	8.9%	10.3%	8.7%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	<p>Without BL02 being moved into the ward, it was already at 10% above average and this therefore creates a need to look at what areas of St Alphege could be moved to an adjacent ward, particularly one that was below average in electorate numbers. The addition of BL02 to the ward heightens this need. Shirley East shares a boundary with St Alphege and its variance is -12% from average and so could accommodate PDs from St Alphege.</p> <p>A small part of SA01 is proposed to be moved to an adjacent ward (Silhill). This relates to the area south of Warwick Road containing the roads Park Avenue, Brueton Avenue and Blythway). The prime reason for doing so is to reduce the resulting variance in St Alphege (after the other changes outlined in this section have taken place) to be below 10%.</p>		
• Reflecting community interests and identities	<p>St Alphege's proximity to BL02 (Monkspath) makes it a prime location to accommodate that PD within the ward. Monkspath shares a similar identity and interest to the Hillfield area of the ward, and both are accessible to Solihull town centre.</p> <p>SA02 (Sharmans Cross Road & Woodlea Road areas) are closest to Shirley East and they are as close to Shirley town centre as Solihull town centre and share similar identities to the PDs in Shirley East. If SA02 were to move into Shirley East, this would isolate SA05 (north of Streetsbrook Road) from the rest of St Alphege. SA05 shares a similar identity to SA02 and so it too could be moved to Shirley East. Whilst SA04 (Blossomfield Road/Alderbrook Road) has a closer proximity to Solihull town centre than Shirley town centre, it would be the only residential area within the ward west of Tudor Grange park and the nearby educational establishments, and so it too could be accommodated in Shirley East to achieve electoral parity.</p> <p>The roads of Park Avenue, Brueton Avenue and Blythway are separated from the other residential areas of the ward and could be described as having a closer sense of identity and shared interests with other residential roads located off the Warwick Road which currently forms the boundary between St Alphege and Silhill.</p>		
• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will remain a relatively compact urban ward that allows easy movement within it.		
• Rationale for proposed name change	The proposed name for the new ward retains an appropriate reference to one of the 3 components of the ward – the town centre (which is where St Alphege church is located), and then adds Hillfield and Monkspath – both residential estates built in the 1980s/90s.		

Rationale for New Warding Pattern - Rural Area (5 wards)

- Arden
- Balsall & Berkswell
- Blythe
- Dorridge & Hockley Heath
- Knowle



43. The wider context for changes to the Blythe ward are explained in the earlier chapter dealing with the urban west.
44. The rural areas of both Bickenhill and Meriden are above average, and both will need to be reduced. There is some scope for this to be rebalanced with Knowle/Dorridge & Hockley Heath, but this would not be sufficient, and again the urban area will need to be considered to accommodate electorate numbers from Bickenhill and Meriden.
45. Most of the rural area is also administered by parish councils, except for Knowle and Dorridge. However, this conjoined settlement is within a designated neighbourhood planning area and is covered by the Knowle, Dorridge and Bently Neighbourhood Forum.
46. The resultant electorate numbers at 2029 for 4 out of the 5 rural wards are all below average, but within a 10% variance. However, it is worth noting that these areas are where most of the significant residential allocations are located in the emerging local plan that are expected to accommodate growth in the period after 2029.

This map shows the Birmingham area, including the city center and surrounding suburbs. Key locations labeled include Birmingham Airport, Edgbaston, Selly Oak, Meriden, and various other towns and villages. The M6 Toll is highlighted in blue, and the A45 and A46 are shown in green. The map also depicts the city's boundaries, major roads, and geographical features like the River Sever and the M6.

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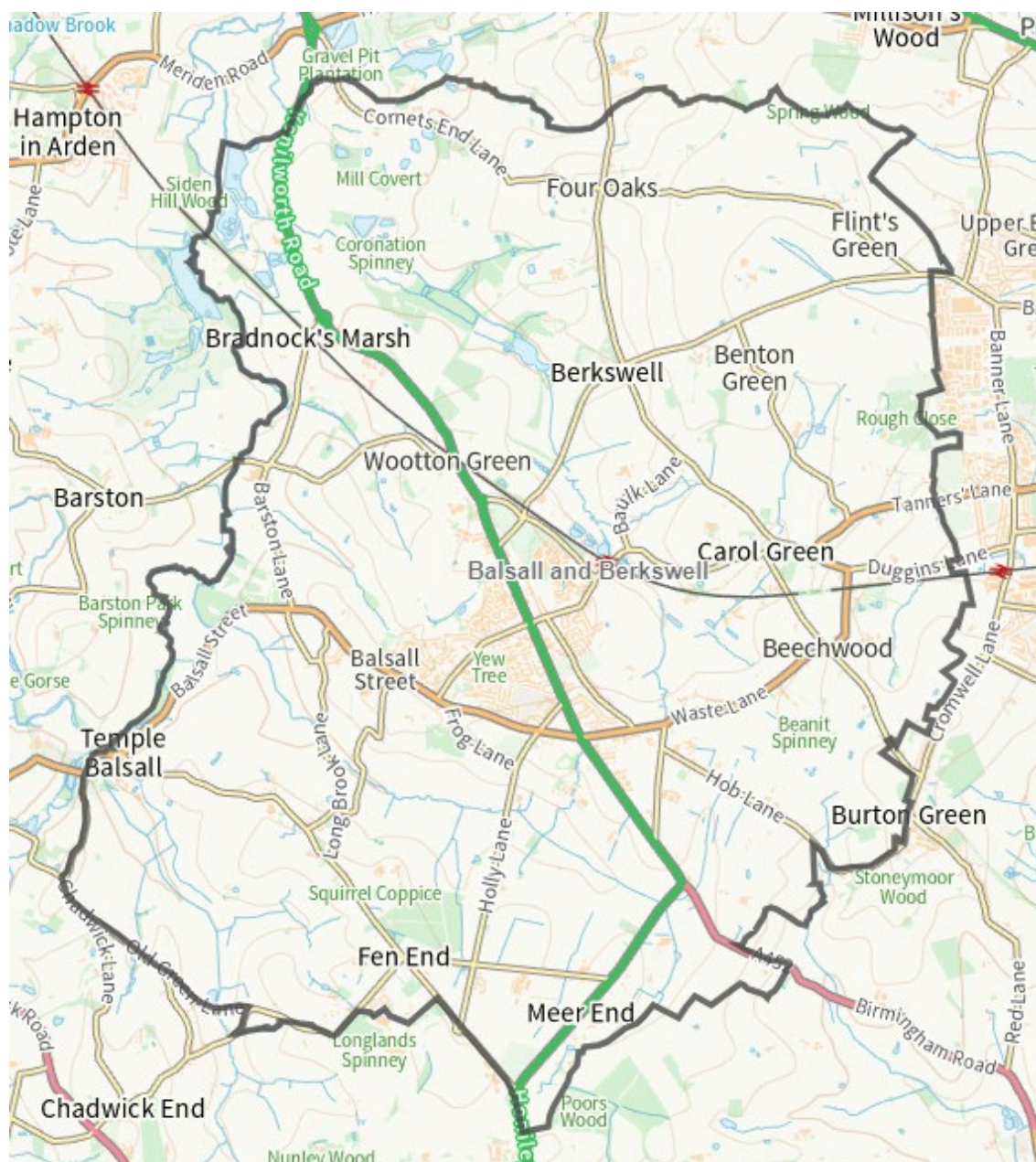
Justification:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality of representation 	<p>Bickenhill ward would be 16% above variance at 2029 with no changes to it. It therefore needs to have its electorate reduced. However, the ward is adjacent to Meriden which is also above variation and needs to redistribute some of its electorate. For reasons relating to community interests and identities¹³, the only practical way Meriden could reduce its electorate would be to move PD ME01 (the whole parish of Meriden) out of the ward. As the PD only shares another boundary (within Solihull MB) with Bickenhill, then there is little alternative scope other than for Bickenhill to accommodate ME01.</p> <p>Based on this change, and the others set out below, this new ward would achieve electoral parity as a result of the cumulative effect of the changes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflecting community interests and identities 	<p>Bickenhill started at being over the ward average by 16%, and even with the above changes it would still be above average, and therefore there is further opportunity to address the rural/urban split that current occurs in the ward. It is one of two current wards that has a significant element of both rural and urban areas, thus mixing identities and interests. This is achieved by moving BH01 (Berwicks Lane and roads off it) and BH02 (North of Coleshill Road and areas off Moorend Avenue) into Chelmsley Wood. BH01 is currently bounded on three sides by Chelmsley Wood and it shares a greater sense of identity with the PDs in that ward. BH02 is a mixed character PD which has differing identities that could be argued are more closely aligned with Marston Green, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood.</p> <p>BH09 (a small sparsely populated PD on the edge of the urban area) is to be accommodated within Elmdon. The PD only has a small resident population (Gables Close) and is predominantly occupied by the JLR despatch area which has strong functional and physical connections with the main JLR site which is located within Elmdon. The change would also result in most of the UK2 allocation in the emerging Local Plan being located within Elmdon.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing for convenient and effective local government 	<p>The proposed ward does have a rather contrived shape, but it should be recognised that much of its northern and eastern boundary is with areas outside of Solihull Borough. The addition of ME01 (Meriden) does create a ward with a width of some 11km. However, it is worth noting that the existing Meriden ward is some 12km tall, so having a rural ward with such a dimension is not unprecedented. Public transport across the ward tends to operate in an east/west direction¹⁴ and so Meriden is actually better connected with the rest of the ward in the west than it was to Balsall Common, where there was no public transport running in a north/south direction connecting Meriden to Balsall Common.</p> <p>To avoid the new ward having a disproportionate number of parish councils within it (in whole or in part), the addition of Meriden into the ward is to be balanced by the removal of Barston parish from the ward. This will help provide for convenient and effective local government by</p>

¹³ Set out in the ward profile for Balsall & Berkswell (the ward based on the former Meriden ward)

¹⁴ For example, bus services X1 and 82

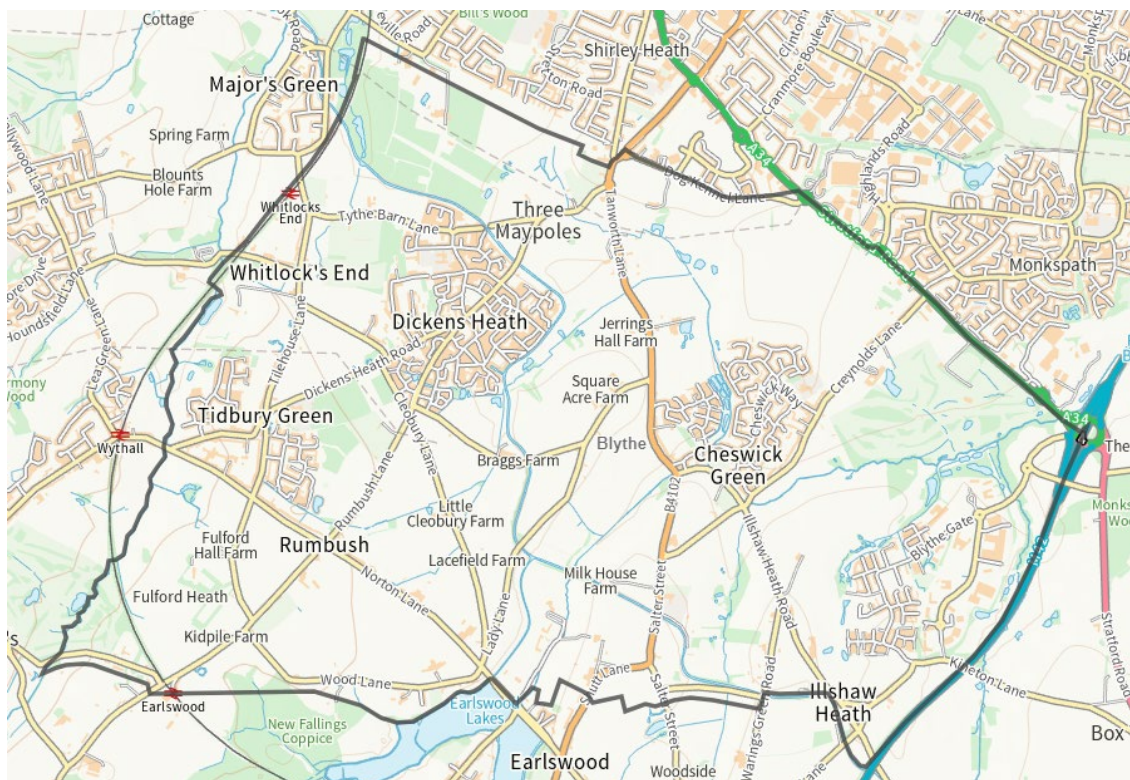
	avoiding the need for Members in this ward having to maintain relationships with 4 parish councils.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rationale for proposed name change	<p>The new ward contains the settlements/areas of Catherine-de-Barnes, Hampton in Arden, Marston Green, Meriden and UK Central Hub (the collection of economic assets and growth potential afforded by Birmingham airport, the NEC and Arden Cross (which incorporates the HS2 Interchange station). Even if just the traditional settlements were incorporated into the new ward name, then listing 4 names would make the name too long. Using the name of Arden unites these settlements are area.</p> <p>The Arden Forest covered much of this area, and the wider area, principally in Warwickshire. Whilst much of the forest has been lost, its name can be found in many areas. Indeed, a village (Hampton in Arden) within the ward has the name as a suffix. There is also a direct connection to Meriden which is being moved into the ward as an exclusive society of archers (the Woodmen of the Ancient Forest of Arden) was founded in Meriden in 1758.</p>

Balsall & Berkswell



Polling districts to remain in the ward	ME02 - Berkswell ME03 – Balsall Common west ME04 – Temple Balsall and Fen End ME05 – Balsall Common east
Polling districts to be added to the ward	None
Polling districts to be removed from the ward	ME01 - Meriden
Parish(es)	The parishes of Balsall and Berkswell would be wholly contained within the ward.

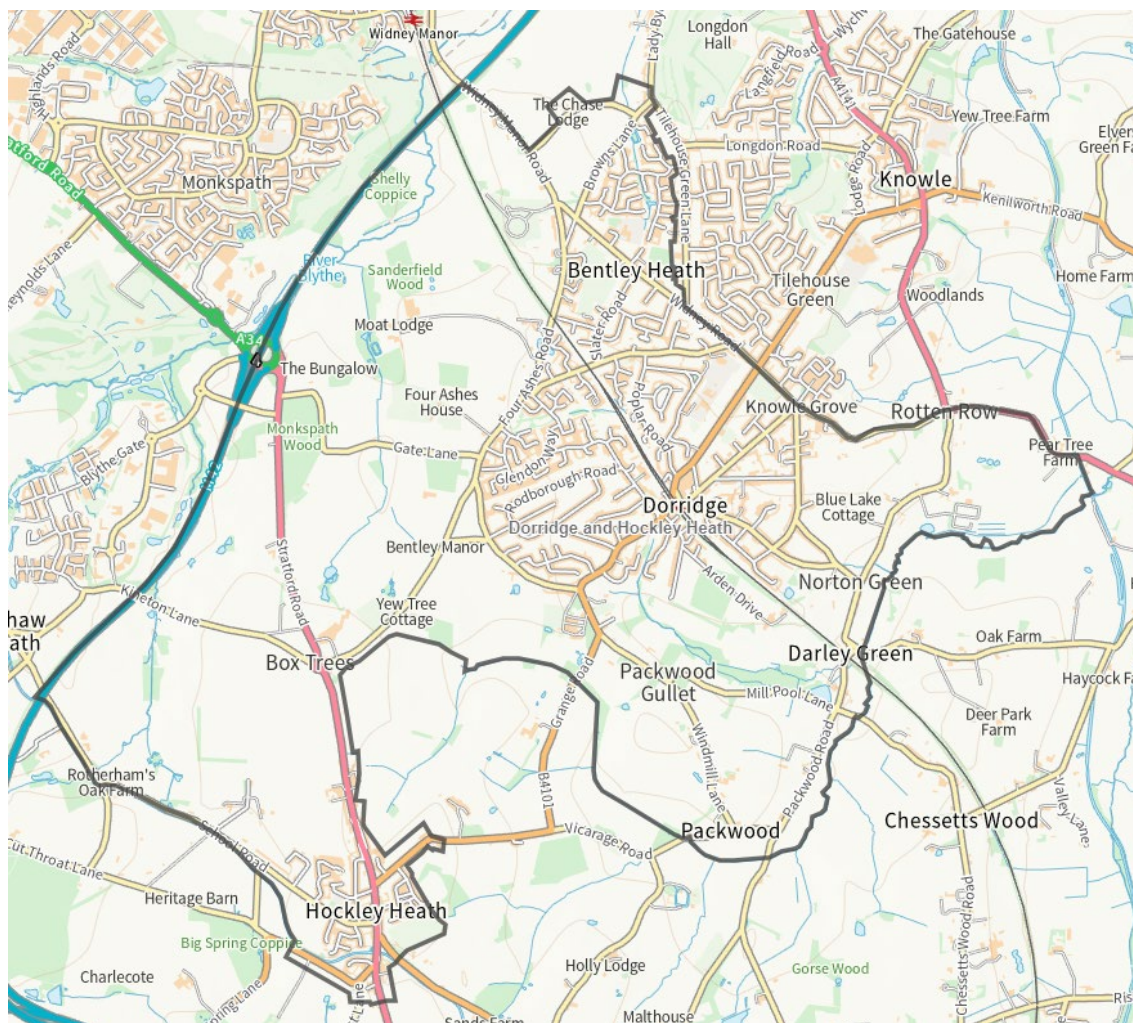
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	9,945	12,276	9,506
• Variance (no.)	441	1,735	-1,035
• Variance (%)	4.6%	16.5%	-9.8%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	Without any changes to this ward, it would be above variance by 16% and therefore it needs to be reduced. By removing ME01 from the ward it reduces its variance to -9.8%.		
• Reflecting community interests and identities	The ward is currently covered by 3 parishes, namely Balsall, Berkswell and Meriden. Balsall and Berkswell effectively straddle the main settlement in the ward (Balsall Common) and both are functionally strongly related to the settlement, albeit they also have their own sense of identity in the more rural areas of the parishes. Meriden as a settlement is less strongly related to Balsall Common due to the distance from it and that Meriden has a greater level of self-sufficiency. Were any of the other PDs be considered for removal from the ward, this would break a stronger sense of identity and functional relationship that they have to Balsall Common and each other. This recommendation also preserves the integrity of the parish boundaries in that the 3 parishes would all remain in their entirety within one ward, albeit for Meriden parish it would be a different ward.		
• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will become a more compact rural ward that allows easy movement within it.		
• Rationale for proposed name change	As ME01(Meriden) is to be moved out of the ward it would be nonsensical for the ward to retain the name of Meriden. Alternatives would be either Balsall Common (which would be the principal settlement in the ward) or Balsall and Berkswell which reflects the names of the two parishes which will now make up the entirety of the ward. The latter name is favoured as it recognises that the ward is wider than just the settlement of Balsall Common and the names capture the more rural character of the ward as a whole.		

Blythe

Polling districts to remain in the ward	BL01 – Dickens Heath BL03 – Cheswick Green BL04 – Tidbury Green		
Polling districts to be added to the ward	None		
Polling districts to be removed from the ward	BL02 - Monkspath		
Parish(es)	The ward would contain the whole parishes of Cheswick Green, Dickens Heath and Tidbury Green		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	12,006	14,678	10,202
• Variance (no.)	1,465	4,137	-339
• Variance (%)	26%	39.2%	-3.2%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	The existing ward is significantly above average and would need to be reduced. By removing BL02 the variance is reduced from +26% to -3.2% - ie within 10% of the average.		
• Reflecting community interests and identities	The PD being removed from the ward is BL02 which relates to the Monkspath area which is urban in nature and has a stronger functional relationship with Solihull and the town centre than it does to the rest of the rural area of Blythe. The Monkspath area is very different in character and identity from the remaining areas of the ward which are characterised by the rural settlements of Cheswick Green parish, Dickens Heath parish and		

	Tidbury Green parish, separated from each other and the urban area by open countryside. The Monkspath area doesn't have any strong connections with the rural settlements, and it functions as part of the urban area. The ward now becomes entirely rural in character.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will remain a relatively compact rural ward that allows easy movement within it.

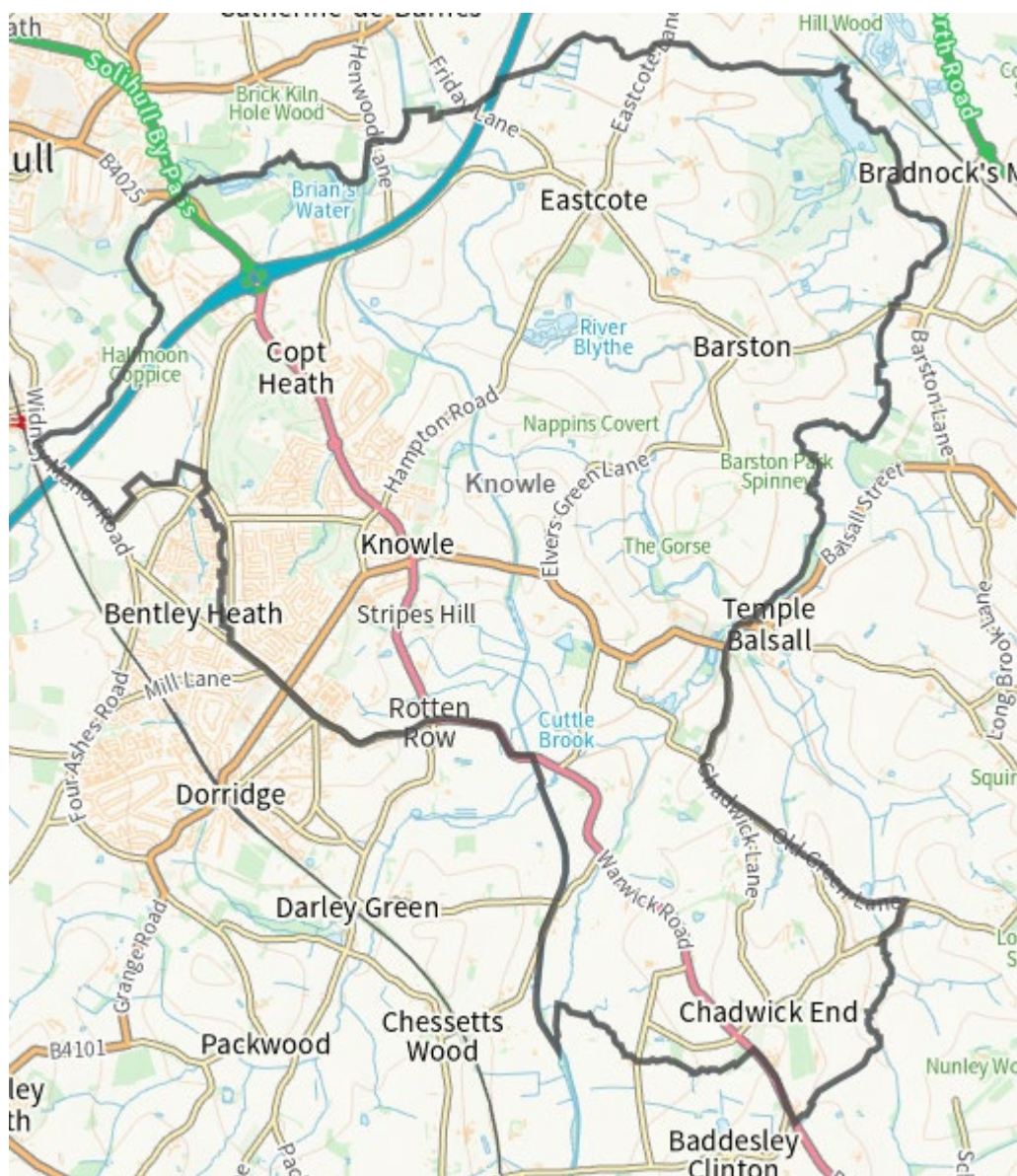
Dorridge & Hockley Heath



Polling districts to remain in the ward	DH01 – Bentley Heath DH02 – Northeast of village centre DH03 – Southwest of village centre DH04 – Hockley Heath		
Polling districts to be added to the ward	KN02 (part of) - Norton Green Lane and area south of Grove Road		
Polling districts to be removed from the ward	None		
Parish(es)	The whole parish of Hockley Heath falls within this ward, but other parts of the ward (Dorridge) are not administered by a parish council.		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	8,772	9,415	9,525
• Variance (no.)	-732	-1,126	-1,016
• Variance (%)	-7.7%	-10.7%	-9.6%
Justification:			
• Equality of representation	The only change recommended for this ward relates to a small area in the south of KN02. This relates to Norton Green Lane and the area south of Grove Road, and by moving it into Dorridge it would reduce the variance to be below 10%.		

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflecting community interests and identities	This Norton Green area is more closely related to the centre of Dorridge rather than Knowle.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing for convenient and effective local government	The ward will remain a relatively compact rural ward that allows easy movement within it.

Knowle



Polling districts to remain in the ward	KN01 – Copt Heath KN02 (part of) – Station Road (north) KN03 – Chadwick End KN04 – Village centre		
Polling districts to be added to the ward	BH08 - Barston and Eastcote		
Poling districts to be removed from the ward	KN02 (part of) - Norton Green Lane and area south of Grove Road		
Parish(es)	The parishes of Barston and Chadwick End would be wholly within the ward.		
Electorate:	2023 - C	2029 - C	2029 - P
• Number	8,337	9,788	10,145
• Variance (no.)	-1,167	-753	-396
• Variance (%)	-12.3%	-7.1%	-3.8%

Justification:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality of representation 	<p>The ward achieves electoral parity at 2029.</p> <p>However, to achieve electoral parity in Dorridge and Hockley Heath, some electorate could be moved from the Knowle ward to facilitate this. This would then be balanced by accommodating BH08 into the ward.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflecting community interests and identities 	<p>The principal change is the addition of BH08 into the ward. This relates to the whole parish of Barston (which also includes Eastcote) and has been incorporated for reasons of providing convenient and effective local government in Arden¹⁵. The settlements in this PD are midway between the higher order settlements of Knowle, Hampton in Arden, Catherine-de-Barnes and Balsall Common and an argument could be made that the PD could be associated with any of these. In the absence of a strong sense of connection with any of these alternatives, placing the PD within Knowle does reflect its closer proximity to the services available in Knowle and it does help achieve electoral parity as Knowle is below the electorate average and the other wards are significantly above average.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing for convenient and effective local government 	<p>The ward will remain a relatively compact rural ward that allows easy movement within it.</p>

¹⁵ As explained in the Arden ward profile.

Conclusion

47. The Council's submission for a new warding pattern to address the lack of electoral parity as at 2029 has been based on using the existing warding pattern as far as possible. Under the 2029 forecasts, based on the existing warding pattern there would be 8 wards that depart from the average electorate by more than 10%. Under the proposed warding pattern this is reduced to a single occurrence of a variance of more than 10%, and this is only marginally so.
48. Where changes have been required the Council believes that the **subsequent pattern of wards achieves a fair balance between electoral parity; arrangements that reflect community interests and identities; and arrangements that promote effective and convenient local government.**
49. The LGBCE is invited to adopt the new pattern of warding set out in this submission as its preferred option for consultation in January 2024.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Warding Pattern Prior to 2003 Review



KEY	
EXISTING WARD BOUNDARY	—————
EXISTING PARISH BOUNDARY	- - - - -

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Key to Wards

1 Bickenhill	7 Knowle	13 Shirley East
2 Castle Bromwich	8 Lyndon	14 Shirley South
3 Chelmsley Wood	9 Meriden	15 Shirley West
4 Elmdon	10 Olton	16 Silhill
5 Fordbridge	11 Packwood	17 Smith's Wood
6 Kingshurst	12 St Alphege	

Appendix B – Electorate Numbers per Polling District

The table below indicates all existing polling districts (listed in the first column) grouped by existing wards. The other columns represent the new wards and which by reading the table vertically, the polling districts to be accommodated within the new ward can be identified.

		POTENTIAL NEW WARD COMPOSITION BASED ON EXISTING POLLING DISTRICTS																
PD	Elect'e	AR	BL	CB	CW	DH	EL	KF	KN	LY	BB	OL	SA	SC	SH	SM	SS	SW
BH01	1,476	2,762			1,476 2,267													
BH02	2,267																	
BH03	2,762																	
BH04	633																	
BH05	969																	
BH06	1,917																	
BH07	1,720																	
BH08	467																	
BH09	23																	
BL01	4,736		4,736															
BL02	4,476												4,476					
BL03	3,994		3,994															
BL04	1,472		1,472															
CB01	2,305			2,305														
CB02	2,480																	
CB03	1,237																	
CB04	1,636																	
CB05	1,770																	
CW01	1,231															1,231		
CW02	2,392				2,392													
CW03	2,314				2,314													
CW04	2,602				2,602													
CW05	1,457							1,457										
DH01	2,083					2,083												
DH02	2,409																	
DH03	3,147																	
DH04	1,777																	
EL01	2,943						2,943											
EL02	2,886																	
EL03	1,786																	
EL04	2,159																	
KF01	1,885							1,885										
KF02	1,194																	
KF03	1,810																	
KF04	2,148																	
KF05	1,401																	
KF06	1,076																	
KN01	4,169					110			4,169									
KN02	4,609																	
KN03	595																	
KN04	416																	
LY01	3,657									3,657								
LY02	2,286																	
LY03	1,030																	
LY04	2,276																	
LY05	1,308																	
ME01	2,770	2,770																
ME02	1,120																	
ME03	5,601										1,120							
ME04	240										5,601							
ME05	2,546										240							
											2,546							
OL01	3,066											3,066						
OL02	3,193																	
OL03	2,259																	
OL04	1,868																	
SA01	2,524												2,121	1,743	403			
SA02	1,743																	
SA03	3,024																	
SA04	1,729																	
SA05	768																	
SA06	1,837																	
SE01	832											832		3,537				
SE02	3,537																	
SE03	3,814																	
SE04	1,105																	
SH01	2,072														2,072			
SH02	2,309																	
SH03	1,973																	
SH04	2,156																	
SH05	1,578																	
SM01	2,084															2,084		
SM02	1,827																	
SM03	2,017																	
SM04	1,675																	
SM05	1,427																	
SS01	3,476																3,476	
SS02	1,204																	
SS03	4,131																	
SS04	1,923																	
SW01	2,447																	2,447
SW02	3,288																	
SW03	2,143																	
SW04	638																	
SW05	1,868																	
Ward total		10,771	10,202	9,428	11,051	9,525	9,797	10,971	10,145	10,557	9,506	11,218	11,458	11,591	10,491	10,261	10,734	11,489
Target ave		10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541	10,541
Variance (no.)		230	-339	-1,113	510	-1,016	-744	430	-396	16	-1,035	677	917	1,050	-50	-280	193	948
Variance (%)		2.2%	-3.2%	-10.6%	4.8%	-9.6%	-7.1%	4.1%	-3.8%	0.2%	-9.8%	6.4%	8.7%	10.0%	-0.5%	-2.7%	1.8%	9.0%

Appendix C – Parish Boundaries

The table below sets out the potential implications for the parish/town councils in the Brough. The appendix then contains plans showing the boundaries of the parishes.

Parish	Current Warding Pattern	Proposed Warding Pattern
Balsall Parish Council	Wholly located within the Meriden ward	Wholly located within the Balsall & Berkswell ward
Barston Parish Council	Wholly located within the Bickenhill ward	Wholly located within the Knowle ward
Berkswell Parish Council	Wholly located within the Meriden ward	Wholly located within the Balsall & Berkswell ward
Bickenhill and Marston Green Parish Council	Wholly located within the Bickenhill ward	Split between the Arden and Chelmsley Wood wards
Castle Bromwich Parish Council	Wholly located within the Castle Bromwich ward	Wholly located within the Castle Bromwich ward
Chadwick End Parish Council	Wholly located within the Knowle ward	Wholly located within the Knowle ward
Chelmsley Wood Town Council	Split between the Chelmsley Wood and Bickenhill wards	Split between the Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge, and Arden wards
Cheswick Green Parish Council	Wholly located within the Blythe ward	Wholly located within the Blythe ward
Dickens Heath Parish Council	Wholly located within the Blythe ward	Wholly located within the Blythe ward
Fordbridge Town Council	Split between the Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood wards	Split between the Kingshurst & Fordbridge, Smith's Wood and Chelmsley Wood wards
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	Wholly located within the Bickenhill ward	Wholly located within the Arden ward
Hockley Heath Parish Council	Wholly located within the Dorridge and Hockley Heath ward	Wholly located within the Dorridge and Hockley Heath ward
Kingshurst Parish Council	Split between the Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood wards	Split between the Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood wards
Meriden Parish Council	Wholly located within the Meriden ward	Wholly located within the Arden ward
Smith's Wood Parish Council	Wholly located within the Smith's Wood ward.	Wholly located within the Smith's Wood ward.
Tidbury Green Parish Council	Wholly located within the Blythe ward	Wholly located within the Blythe ward

For those parish/town councils that are split or straddle a ward boundary (either under the current arrangements or proposed arrangements), the following table indicates which PD/parish wards are affected.

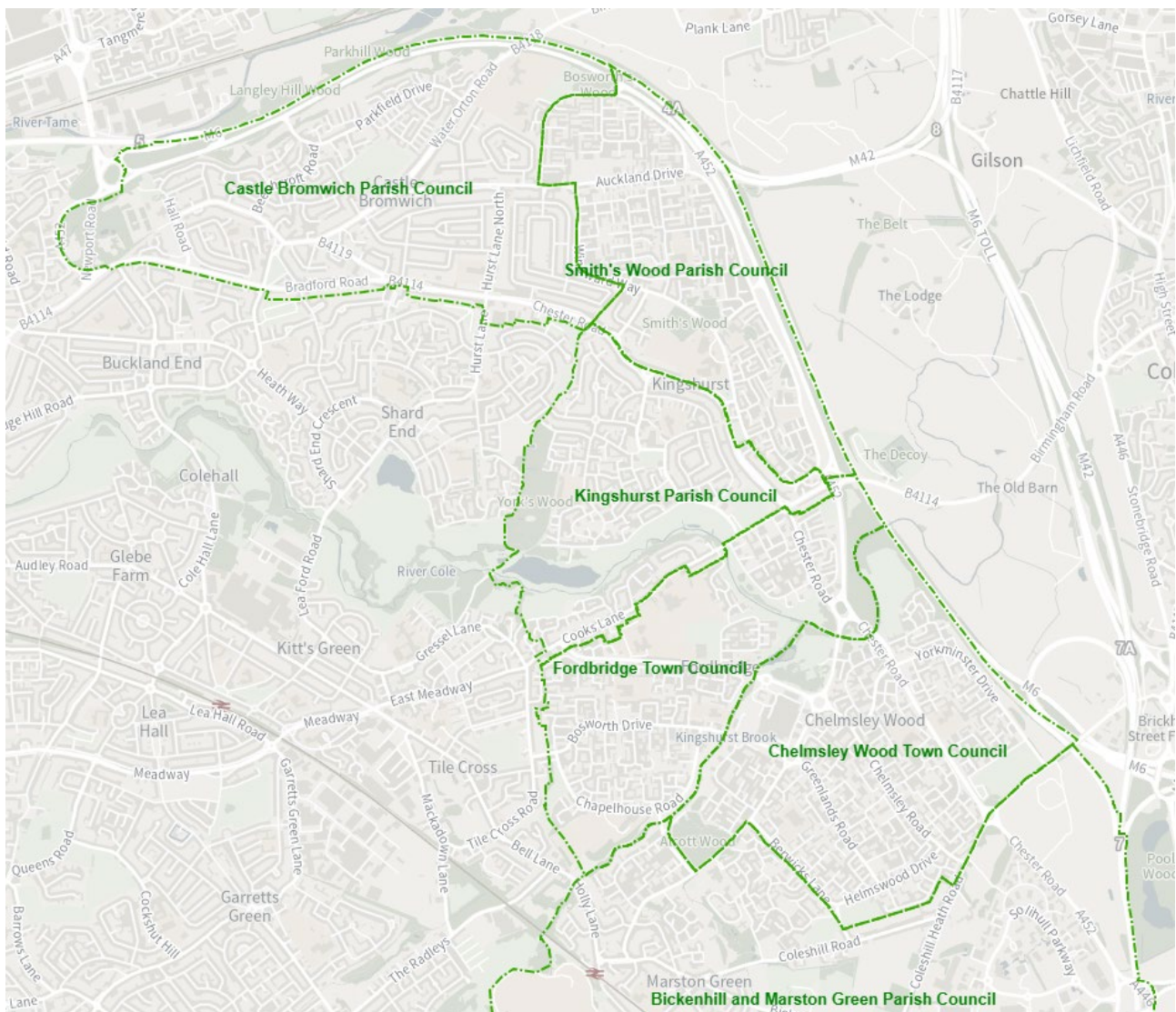
Parish and Ward	Current SMBC Ward	Proposed SMBC Ward
Bickenhill and Marston Green Parish Council		
Bickenhill – BH05	Bickenhill	Arden
Blackfirs – BH04	Bickenhill	Arden
Marston Green – BH03	Bickenhill	Arden
Merstone – BH02	Bickenhill	Chelmsley Wood
Chelmsley Wood Town Council		
Alcott – CW05	Chelmsley Wood	Kingshurst & Fordbridge
Arbor – CW03	Chelmsley Wood	Chelmsley Wood
Chelmsley – CW04	Chelmsley Wood	Chelmsley Wood
Hall – BH01	Bickenhill	Chelmsley Wood
Heath – CW02	Chelmsley Wood	Chelmsley Wood
Fordbridge Town Council		
Bennett' Well – KF03	Kingshurst & Fordbridge	Kingshurst & Fordbridge
Bennett's Well – KF06	Kingshurst & Fordbridge	Kingshurst & Fordbridge
Cole – CW01	Chelmsley Wood	Smith's Wood
Hatchford – KF04	Kingshurst & Fordbridge	Kingshurst & Fordbridge
Kingshurst Parish Council		
Kingshurst north – SM05	Smith's Wood	Smith's Wood
Kingshurst south – KF01	Kingshurst & Fordbridge	Kingshurst & Fordbridge
Kingshurst south – KF02	Kingshurst & Fordbridge	Kingshurst & Fordbridge
Kingshurst south – KF05	Kingshurst & Fordbridge	Kingshurst & Fordbridge

The map displays the following local authorities and civil parishes within the Birmingham area:

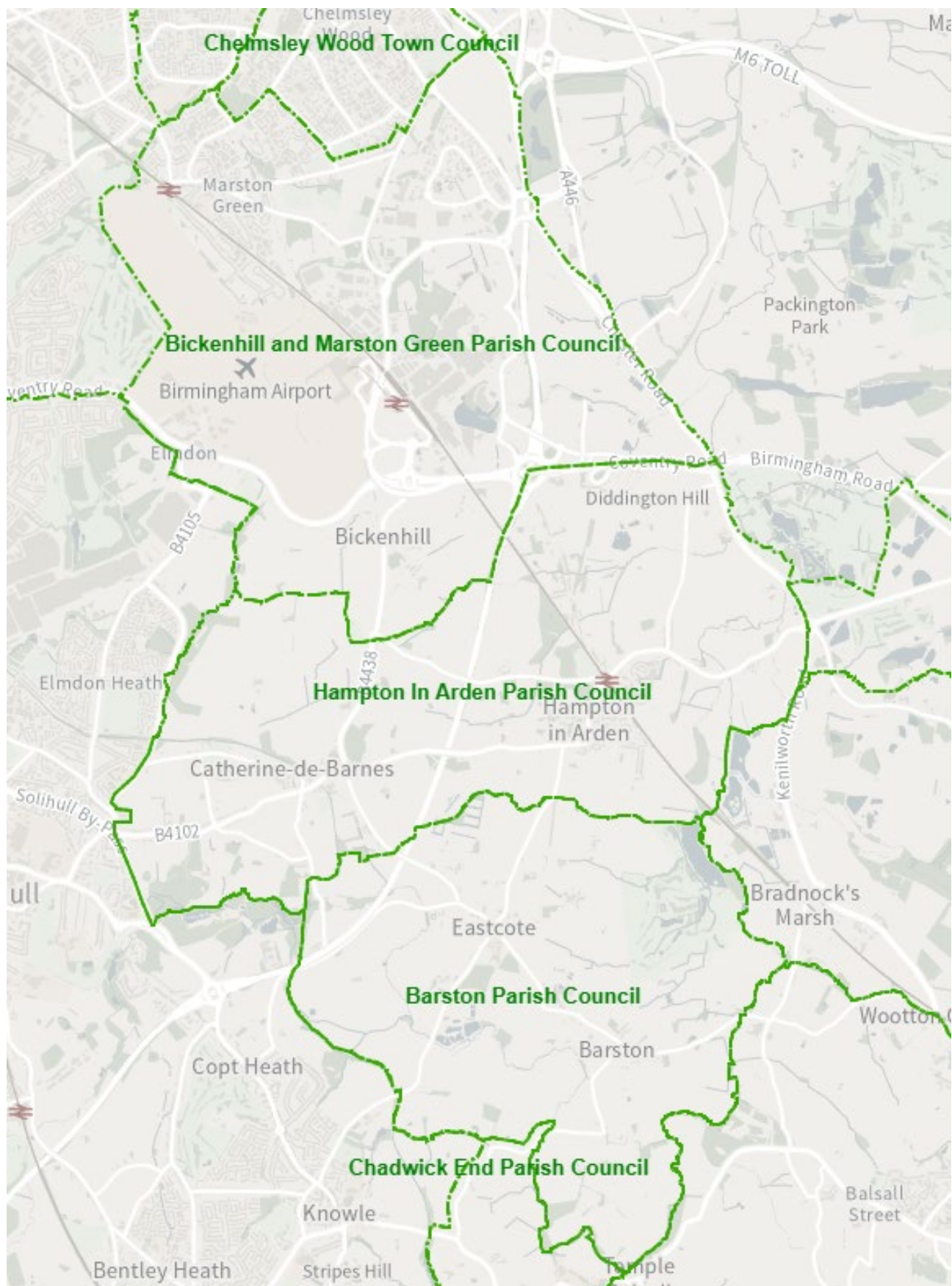
- Castle Bromwich Parish Council
- Smith's Wood Parish Council
- Kingshurst Parish Council
- Fordbridge Town Council
- Chelmsley Wood Town Council
- Bickenhill and Marston Green Parish Council
- Hampton In Arden Parish Council
- Barston Parish Council
- Barkswell Parish Council
- Balsall Parish Council
- Chadwick End Parish Council
- Hockley Heath Parish Council
- Cheswick Green Parish Council
- Tidbury Green Parish Council
- Dickens Heath Parish Council
- Non-Civil Parish Or Community
- Meriden Parish Council

Other locations and roads shown include: Gravelly Hill, Shustoke, Devitts Green, Gilson, Coleshill, Maxstoke, Green End, Kinvaerse, Corley, Hollyberry End, White Stret, Faves Green, Meriden, Pickford Green, Flint's Green, Four Oaks, Berkswell, Carol Green, Burton Green, Fen End, Meer End, A4177, Baddesley Clinton, Chessett Wood, The Park, Dorridge, Knowle, Copt Heath, Barston, Eastcote, Bradnock's Marsh, in Arden, Lode Heath, Elmdon Heath, Olton, Birmingham Airport, Bickenhill, A45, Packington, Marston Green, Garretts Green, Kitts Green, Coleham, Kingshurst, Brommton, Ward End, Saltley, Little Bromwich, Hay Mills, Lyndon Green, Acocks Green, Springfield, Billesley, Shirley, Sharmans Cross, Solihull, Haslucks Green, Major's Green, Monkspath, Tiddbury Green, Earlswood, Box Trees, Hockley Heath, M42, and May.

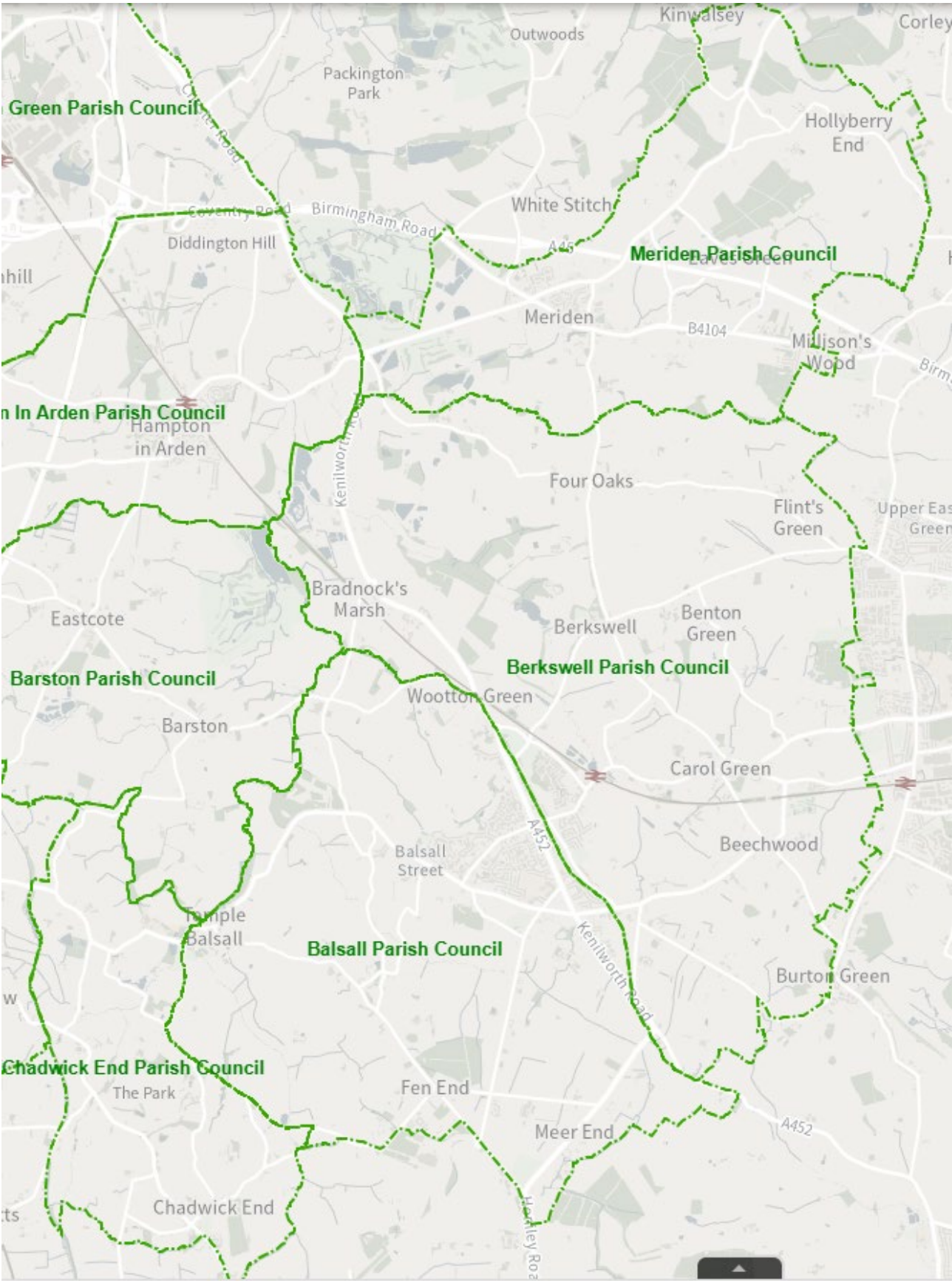
Parish/Town Councils in the north of the Borough:



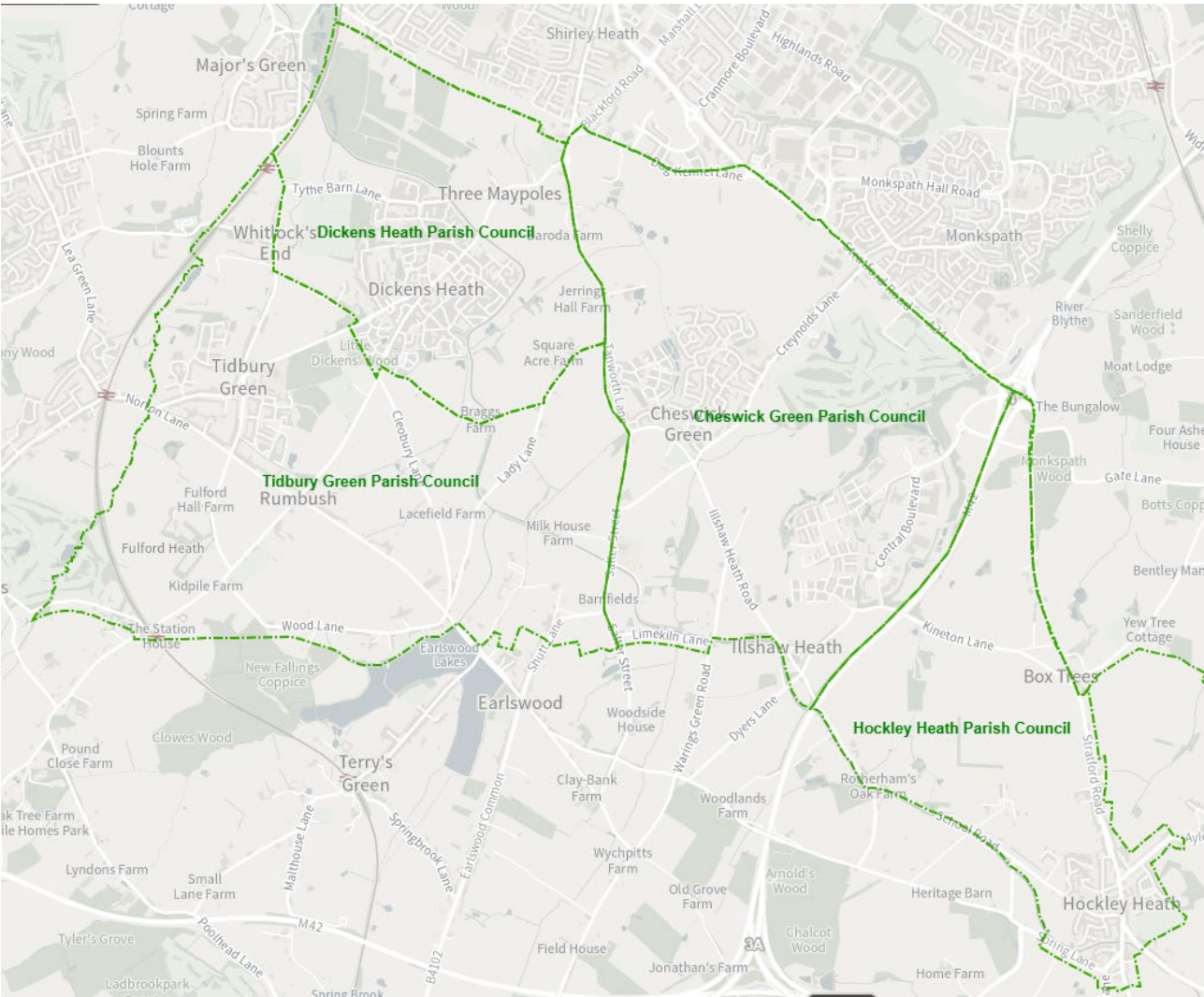
Parish Councils in the central rural area:



Parish councils in the eastern rural area:



Parish councils in the southwest of the rural area:



Appendix D – A Larger Scale Borough Wide Map at a Larger Scale

