

New electoral arrangements for Barnsley Council Draft Recommendations

May 2024

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Electoral review

May 2024

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Ailsa Irvine (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 Barnsley?

7 We are conducting a review of Barnsley ('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 Barnsley 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 Barnsley

9 Barnsley should be represented by 63 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Barnsley should have 21 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; four (Darton East, Dearne North – renamed Thurnscoe & Goldthorpe North – Dearne South – renamed Bolton & Goldthorpe Green – and Old Town) will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

12 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which 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.

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

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

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 7 May 2024 to 15 July 2024. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 15 July 2024 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 31 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Barnsley. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
17 October 2023	Number of councillors decided
7 November 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
12 February 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
7 May 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
15 July 2024	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 October 2024	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

20 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.

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

	2023	2029 (Initial Figures)	2029 (Revised Figures) *
Electorate of Barnsley	184,406	214,901	193,614
Number of councillors	63	63	63
Average number of electors per councillor	2,927	3,411	3,073

* see below for information

22 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 Barnsley are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2029, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2024. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 16% by 2029.

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.

25 This projected increase was driven by a large amount of housing development in Cudworth, Dodworth and Monk Bretton areas. We considered the information provided by the Council and were initially satisfied that the projected figures were sound. We published these figures on our website when starting our consultation on warding patterns.

26 During this consultation we received a submission that challenged the electorate forecasts for Barnsley, arguing that an increase of 30,495 electors was unrealistic and not supported by growth trends in population or housing development. We put these concerns to the Council which agreed that the initial forecast figure was too high. This was due to an error in the calculation of forecast housing development up to and beyond the five-year period we have regard for under legislation.

27 We worked with officers at the Council to develop a revised set of electorate figures. These revised figures will see a revised forecast electorate figure of 193,614 for Barnsley in 2029. This is a reduction from the original forecast of 214,901 electors. This figure would see an increase in the electorate of 5% over the next five years as opposed to 16% under the initial figure.

28 The Commission is content that this revised figure is a more realistic forecast for Barnsley, and we have used this figure to produce our draft recommendations.

29 It should be noted that, when assessing the various different proposals received for the borough, we measured these against the revised forecast figure, rather than the original forecast under which they were developed. We are satisfied that the change in the forecast would not, of itself, rule out any of the proposals put forward to us during consultation.

Number of councillors

30 Barnsley Council currently has 63 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.

31 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 63 councillors.

32 As Barnsley 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

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

by thirds, we will aim to deliver a pattern of three-member wards. However, in all cases 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 or division if, in our view or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria.

33 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 63-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

34 We received 141 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals from the Council, Barnsley Council Liberal Democrat Group and a local resident. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough. Of these submissions, 112 were from local residents in Silkstone Common in response to a proposal that had been made by the Council in its submission.

35 The three borough-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of three-councillor wards for Barnsley. All three submissions were based on the original electorate forecasts; however, as stated above, we have applied the revised electorate figures to these schemes as part of our consideration of them. We carefully considered all 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.

36 Our draft recommendations are based on a combination of all three submissions where we considered they best met our statutory criteria. They also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

37 We conducted a virtual tour of Barnsley in order to look at the various different proposals. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

38 Our draft recommendations are for 21 three-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

39 The tables and maps on pages 9–28 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Barnsley. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

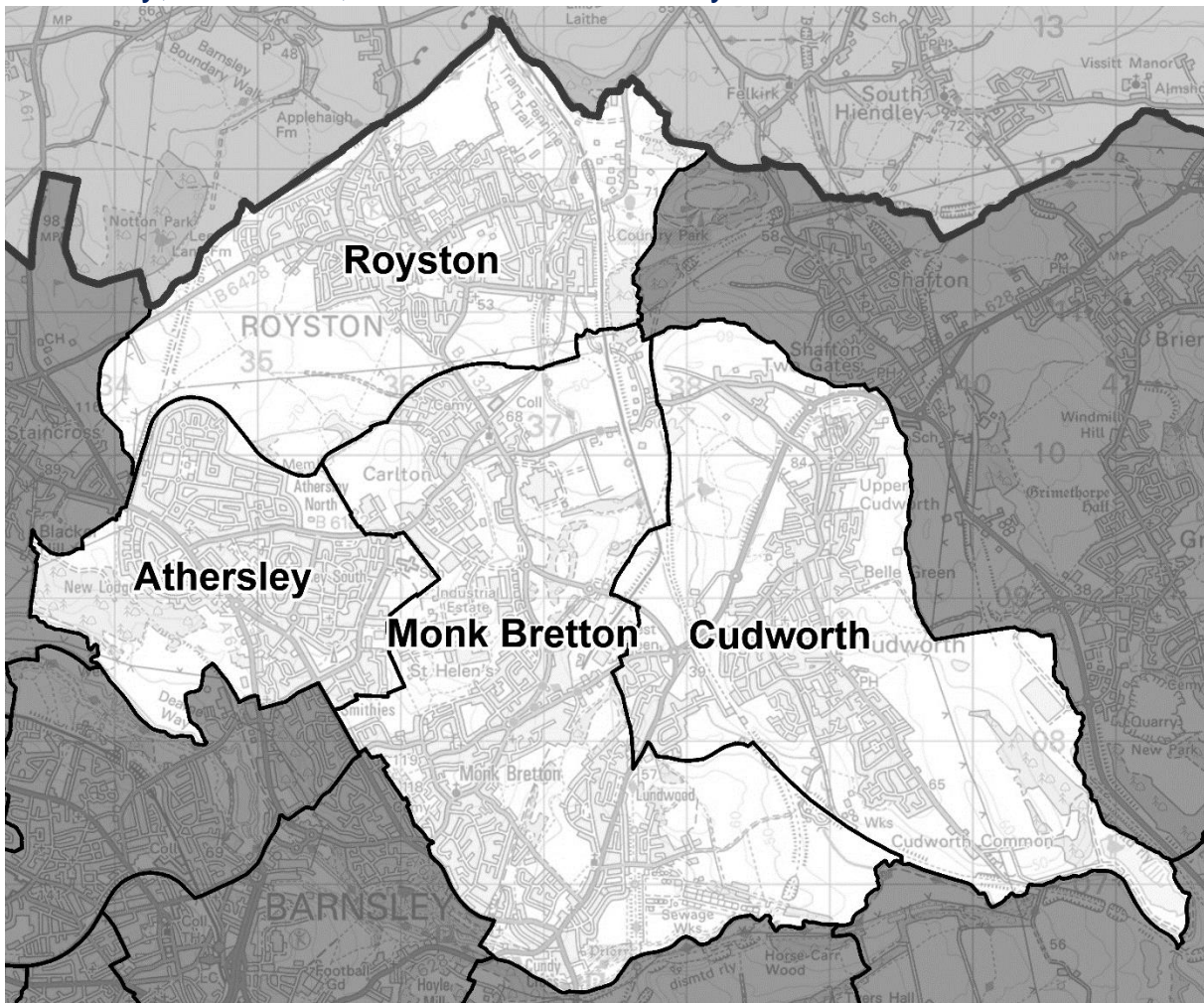
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

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

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

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Athersley, Cudworth, Monk Bretton and Royston



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Athersley	3	-6%
Cudworth	3	-8%
Monk Bretton	3	8%
Royston	3	-8%

Athersley, Cudworth, Monk Bretton and Royston

42 In this area, the existing St Helen's ward has 11% fewer forecast electors than the average for the borough by 2029. In addition, there is a significant housing development in the north-east of Monk Bretton ward that will see an additional 300 electors present by 2029.

43 We received a submission from a local resident and Carlton Village Community Group concerning the current division of the village between Monk Bretton, Royston and St Helen's wards. These submissions stated the village has community ties to Royston for shopping and other facilities.

44 The three borough-wide schemes we received proposed a number of different options for the area. The Council proposed to retain the existing Royston ward except for a minor change to its boundary with Darton East ward. The Council proposed to include the remainder of Carlton village in St Helen's ward to provide for good electoral equality in that ward. It also proposed to move the West Green area from Cudworth ward to Monk Bretton ward and made some minor amendments to the St Helen's and Monk Bretton ward boundary around two small housing developments.

45 The Liberal Democrats proposed to include all of Carlton village in an Athersley & Carlton ward, which was based on the existing St Helen's ward. This proposal also involved transferring electors in an area bounded by the A61 Wakefield Road and A633 Rotherham Road from St Helen's to their proposed Oakwell & Smithies ward. They proposed to leave Cudworth ward unchanged. The scheme from the member of the public was identical to the Liberal Democrat scheme except for a revised boundary between Cudworth and Monk Bretton wards which provided improved electoral equality for Monk Bretton ward.

46 We carefully considered all of the submissions received and examined the area closely on our virtual tour of Barnsley. We noted that, when the revised electorate forecasts were taken into account, the Council's proposed Cudworth ward has 17% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2029. In addition, the Liberal Democrat Group's proposed Monk Bretton ward has 13% fewer electors by 2029. Notwithstanding this, we agree with the suggestion put forward by some respondents that Carlton village should be wholly contained in a single ward to reflect its community ties and to provide for effective and convenient local government.

47 We therefore sought to propose a warding pattern that provided the best balance of our three statutory criteria. We were concerned that the proposal to include the area bounded by the A61 Wakefield Road and A633 Rotherham Road in a ward to its south would divide the Athersley South community and so we propose to retain this area in a ward that we rename Athersley. We consider that this name better reflects the communities in this ward.

48 We examined whether all of Carlton village could be contained in either Royston ward or Athersley ward, but this would result in electoral variances of 16% in Athersley ward and 14% in Royston ward. We concluded that insufficient evidence had been received to justify this relatively poor level of electoral equality. As stated above, we do propose to include all of Carlton village in a single ward, and have concluded that this should be Monk Bretton ward in order to ensure that electoral variances are kept to a minimum. The village will not be divided between wards which we consider will provide electors with more effective and convenient local government.

49 We also propose to amend the boundary between Cudworth and Monk Bretton wards. We were of the view that the existing boundary along Fish Dam Lane that includes electors along Burton Road in Cudworth ward was unlikely to reflect the community ties of these electors. We therefore propose to adopt the boundary suggested by the member of the public in their borough-wide scheme that retains West Green in Cudworth ward and moves the electors on Burton Road to Monk Bretton ward. This also allows us to ensure good electoral equality for both wards.

50 We are interested to hear local views about our recommendations for this area, in particular our proposed ward name of Athersley, the inclusion of Carlton village in Monk Bretton ward, and our boundary between Cudworth and Monk Bretton wards.

51 Our proposed draft recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Athersley, Cudworth, Monk Bretton and Royston. These wards will have electoral variances of -6%, -8%, 8% and -8%, respectively, by 2029.

Central Barnsley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Central	3	-7%
Kingstone	3	-10%
Old Town	3	-5%

Central and Old Town

52 The Council proposed to retain the current Central and Old Town wards, stating that the wards had good electoral equality and did not need to be revised to allow for ward boundary changes in adjoining areas.

53 Both the Liberal Democrats and the member of the public proposed to make changes to both Central and Old Town wards in their borough-wide schemes. The Liberal Democrats proposed a Pogmoor & Old Town ward that includes Pogmoor, which is currently in Dodworth ward, and an Oakwell & Smithies ward containing part of the town centre. They placed the remainder of the town centre in their proposed Kingstone ward. The member of the public proposed adding the Gawber area to Old Town ward and transferring an area to the south of the Barnsley to Penistone railway line to Kingstone ward. They also proposed to include all of the town centre in a Oakwell & Smithies ward. A further local resident also raised the issue of the Gawber and Pogmoor communities being divided between a number of wards but did not propose an alternative warding pattern to resolve this.

54 Having considered the submissions received, we propose to retain the existing wards of Central and Old Town. We noted the proposal from the Liberal Democrats to include all of the Pogmoor community in a Pogmoor & Old Town ward. To allow this arrangement, the Liberal Democrats divided the town centre between their proposed Central and Oakwell & Smithies wards and included an area to the north of the B6132 in Oakwell & Smithies ward. We were concerned that this proposal would divide both the Town Centre and Athersley South communities between wards. Overall, we were not persuaded that sufficient evidence had been submitted to demonstrate how this proposal better reflected those communities than does the existing warding pattern, which the Council proposed be retained. We also considered the scheme proposed by the member of the public, but note that this would result in high electoral variances in the neighbouring wards of Dodworth (15%) and Kingstone (-15%).

55 We are, however, eager to hear further views from local people across Central Barnsley as to what their community ties are and how these can be reflected in a warding pattern that also ensures good electoral equality.

56 Our draft recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Central and Old Town that are similar to the existing wards, with the exception of a small amendment to the boundaries between Central ward and Kingstone ward discussed in the section below. Both wards have good electoral equality of -7% and -5%, respectively, by 2029.

Kingstone

57 The existing Kingstone ward has 14% fewer electors per councillor than the average for Barnsley by 2029. The three borough-wide schemes we received proposed different solutions to improve the electoral equality for this ward.

58 The Council proposed to move electors to the east of the M1 from Dodworth ward to Kingstone ward and proposed to move the Worsbrough Common area to Worsbrough ward. This proposal improves electoral equality in Worsbrough ward

which is forecast to have 17% fewer electors than the average by 2029. The Council's proposal also relies on the inclusion of Silkstone Common in Dodworth ward which we discuss later in this report.

59 The Liberal Democrats proposed to improve electoral equality in Kingstone ward by including electors from the existing Central ward. Their proposed boundary results in the inclusion of the south of the town centre in Kingstone ward, and then follows the A61 Sheffield Road and A6133 Cemetery Road. The electors to the west and south of these roads would move from Central ward to Kingstone ward. The borough-wide scheme from the member of the public used the A628 Dodworth Road/West Way and main railway line as the northern boundary of Kingstone ward. Their proposed Kingstone ward would have 15% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2029.

60 We have carefully considered all of these proposals, and have decided to develop our own recommendations for this area. We accepted that there was some evidence to support the Council's proposal to include electors to the east of the M1 in Kingstone rather than Dodworth ward. However, this proposal was predicated on the inclusion of Silkstone Common in Dodworth ward to provide electoral equality. We do not consider that including Silkstone Common in Dodworth ward reflects local community identities or will provide for effective and convenient local government. Our recommendations with regard to Silkstone Common are discussed more fully in the next section of this report.

61 The schemes from the Liberal Democrats and member of the public both included a significant amount of the existing Central ward in Kingstone ward. This in turn allowed both schemes to provide for an Oakwell & Smithies ward. As discussed earlier, we considered that the evidence received did not support an Oakwell & Smithies ward, and instead favoured the Council's proposal to leave Central and Old Town wards broadly unchanged.

62 In light of our decision to broadly retain the existing Central and Old Town wards, Kingstone ward would have an electoral variance of 14%. To improve this, we have decided to retain the existing Kingstone ward, subject to a minor change to the boundary with Central ward. The current boundary between Central ward and Kingstone ward follows the northern end of Warren Quarry Lane, Cope Street and Mount Vernon Road. We propose to move this boundary to follow the A6133 Park Road and A61 Sheffield Road/Upper Sheffield Road. This proposal would see a Kingstone ward with an electoral variance of -10% by 2029. We are eager to hear evidence from local people during the current consultation to assist us when we prepare our final recommendations.

63 Our draft recommendations are for a three-councillor Kingstone ward with an electoral variance of -10% by 2029.

Darton and Dodworth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Darton East	3	3%
Darton West	3	-3%
Dodworth	3	5%

Darton East and Darton West

64 The existing Darton West and Darton East wards lay either side of the main railway line which runs north out of the town centre. The Council proposed to make some amendments to the existing wards. It proposed to include the parish of High Hoyland and part of the parish of Cawthorne in Darton West ward. It also proposed to amend the boundary between Darton West and Dodworth to follow the A635 Barugh Green Road. This proposal includes all of the new housing development to the south of Barugh Green Road in Dodworth ward. The Council also proposed that a small change be made to the boundary between Darton East and Royston to include the housing development on the former William Freeman factory site in Royston ward.

65 The Liberal Democrats proposed that the properties to the east of the railway line that lie on the streets off Station Road are moved from Darton East to a renamed Darton West & Redbrook ward. They proposed no other changes to the existing wards. The member of the public proposed that the Gawber and Wilthorpe areas be moved into Old Town ward and that Higham be transferred into Darton West ward. A local resident suggested that Mapplewell and Staincross form a single ward and another resident supported the suggestion that Wilthorpe be removed from Darton West ward. A ward covering the Mapplewell and Staincross communities would require a single-councillor ward, and we do not consider that sufficient evidence has been received to move away from the presumption of a uniform three-councillor warding pattern for the borough.

66 As part of our draft recommendations, we propose to maintain the existing wards of Darton East and Darton West, subject to adopting the Council's proposal to include all of the new housing development in Dodworth ward. We are not adopting the Council's proposal to include High Hoyland parish in Darton West as we received two submissions that objected to this proposal, stating that the parish has strong ties to the rural parishes to its south in the current Penistone East ward. Furthermore, we were not persuaded to include part of Cawthorne parish in Darton West ward, as suggested by the Council. This part of Cawthorne parish contains nine electors and if it were included in Darton West ward, we would be required to provide a parish ward in Cawthorne for these nine electors. Our view is that a parish ward of less than 100 electors will not normally provide for effective and convenient local government. In addition, we do not propose to adopt the Council's revised boundary for Darton East and Royston. Whilst the housing development has not yet begun, to our knowledge,

the planning for the development suggests that its road access will be onto the A61 Wakefield Road. We also consider that it is separated from Royston ward by the old railway line. For this reason, we propose to retain this area in Darton East ward.

67 We do not propose to adopt the Liberal Democrats' proposals or those from the member of the public. We did not consider that the Liberal Democrats had provided sufficient evidence to justify moving away from the strong and identifiable boundary between Darton East and Darton West wards which is provided by the railway line. The member of the public stated that Higham is contiguous with the Barugh Green area in justification for its inclusion in Darton West ward. We accept this is the case, however, including Higham in Darton West ward would result in poor electoral equality of 12% in Darton West ward and -11% in Dodworth ward. We would welcome further evidence of community ties in this area to assist us in developing our final recommendations. We would also welcome further evidence of community identities and interests in Darton itself before we make our final recommendations for the area. Finally, we would welcome alternative warding patterns that illustrate how the area of Wilthorpe can be excluded from a Darton-orientated ward whilst ensuring good electoral equality for the wider area.

68 Our draft recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Darton East and Darton West. These two wards will have electoral equality of 3% and -3%, respectively, by 2029.

Dodworth

69 The existing Dodworth ward will be subject to a considerable amount of housing development with over 1,000 more electors forecast to be in place by 2029. The Council's proposed ward was based on the original forecast which has been revised downwards. The Council proposed to include the Silkstone Common area of Silkstone parish in Dodworth ward arguing that this was needed to resolve poor electoral equality in Penistone. It also argued that Silkstone Common was distinct from Silkstone and related well to Dodworth town. The Council further proposed to include electors to the east of the M1 in Kingstone ward.

70 As discussed earlier in the report, the Liberal Democrats proposed to amend Dodworth ward to include the Pogmoor area in a ward with Old Town. In the borough-wide scheme from the member of the public, it was proposed that the Higham area be included in Darton West ward.

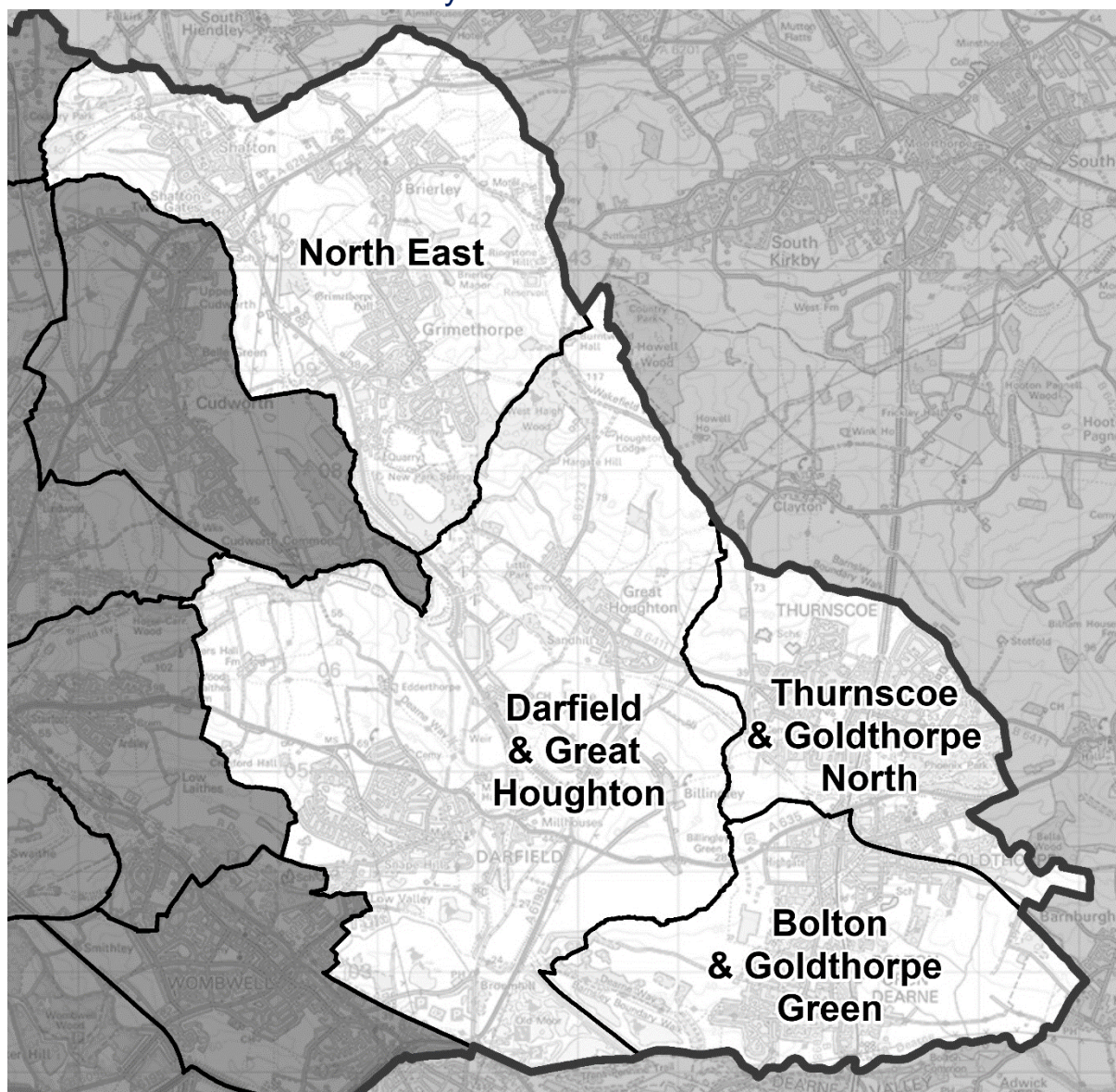
71 In addition to the above, we received a further 121 submissions that related to this ward. These were from Miriam Cates MP (Penistone and Stocksbridge), Councillor Barnard (Barnsley Council – Penistone East ward), councillors Leech and Bell from Silkstone Parish Council, and 117 local residents. These submissions all objected to the Council's proposal to include Silkstone Common in Dodworth ward, arguing that the Silkstone area should be included in a single borough ward.

72 We have carefully considered the submissions received and recognise the clear view expressed with respect to the Council's proposed ward boundary between Dodworth and Penistone East. We also note the evidence offered in these submissions of the strong community ties between Silkstone and Silkstone Common and the view that there are more limited ties to the town of Dodworth.

73 For the reason that it maintains Silkstone Common and Silkstone in Penistone East ward, and the reasons offered earlier in respect of Darton West and Kingstone wards, we propose to maintain the existing ward subject to a small amendment as suggested by the Council to include all of the new housing development in Dodworth ward. We consider that our proposed ward demonstrates that we have listened to the views of the local community in Silkstone and Silkstone Common.

74 Our draft recommendation are for a three-councillor Dodworth ward with an electoral variance of 5% by 2029.

East and North East Barnsley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Bolton & Goldthorpe Green	3	5%
Darfield & Great Houghton	3	10%
North East	3	-7%
Thurnscoe & Goldthorpe North	3	-1%

Darfield & Great Houghton and North East

75 In the east and north-east of Barnsley, the current North East ward has 15% more electors than the average for the borough by 2029. The three borough-wide schemes we received proposed different boundaries for these two wards.

76 The Council proposed that the poor electoral equality in North East ward should be resolved by transferring part of Great Houghton parish to Darfield ward. It

proposed to divide the parish along the B6411 Thurnscoe Lane and B6273 High Street, with electors to the north and east of this boundary remaining in North East ward. The remaining electors would be included in Darfield ward with no other suggested changes to that ward.

77 The schemes from the Liberal Democrats and the member of the public both proposed that all of Great Houghton parish be included in Darfield ward and that some part of the existing Darfield ward be moved to Wombwell ward. The Liberal Democrats proposed that electors south of the River Dove and west of Park Hill and the sewage works be moved to Wombwell ward. The member of the public expanded this to include all electors south of the River Dove, including the settlement of Broomhill. The Liberal Democrats also proposed that the parish of Billingley be included in Dearne North ward.

78 Councillors Coates and Pearson of Great Houghton Parish Council both wrote in support of Great Houghton parish remaining in North East ward stressing its ties to the Grimethorpe and Shafton communities that had been developed over the years. Great Houghton Youth Group and a local resident also wrote in support of Great Houghton remaining in North East ward.

79 We carefully considered the submissions received for this area and looked at the proposed boundaries on our virtual tour. We did not consider that sufficient evidence had been received to support the forecast electoral variance of 15% in North East ward. As such, we examined the most appropriate way to reduce the variance in this ward and to provide for good electoral equality. The ward is made up of the parishes of Great Houghton and Shafton and the unparished area of Grimethorpe and Brierley. We considered whether we could move Shafton parish from this ward, but could not identify a warding pattern that both included Shafton in a ward with Cudworth and provided for good electoral equality.

80 All three borough-wide schemes we received proposed moving some or all of the parish of Great Houghton. We considered that it was better to move the whole of the parish rather than part of it. Moving part of the parish would likely break the community ties of electors across the parish. We therefore propose to include all of Great Houghton parish in Darfield ward. We noted the submissions from the parish councillors, youth group and local resident stressing the parish's ties to Grimethorpe. However, to effectively balance all three of our statutory criteria, it is necessary to move the parish from North East ward. We noted that the parish has strong road links to both Darfield and Thurnscoe, and those road links are actually more direct than those to Grimethorpe. We also noted that this proposal would unite the Great Houghton and Little Houghton areas in the same ward, reinforcing the ties between those communities.

81 Including Great Houghton parish in Darfield ward results in Darfield ward having 13% more electors than the average for the borough by 2029. To resolve this level of electoral inequality it is necessary to modify the boundary between Darfield and neighbouring wards. We do not propose to move Billingley parish to Dearne North as suggested by the Liberal Democrats as we consider that the small parish of Billingley has strong ties to Darfield. We do, however, propose to adopt the change to the boundary between Darfield ward and Wombwell ward suggested by the Liberal Democrats, subject to a minor amendment.

82 We propose that electors along the B6096 Stonyford Road/Station Road, south of the River Dove and west of Park Hill and the sewage works, are moved from Darfield ward to Wombwell ward. This proposal will provide good electoral equality for Darfield ward. We do not propose to extend this boundary further to include Broomhill in Wombwell ward as proposed by the member of the public. However, we are eager to hear the views of interested parties in both areas to help inform our final recommendations. We propose that Darfield ward be renamed Darfield & Great Houghton to reflect the fact that the parish forms a substantial part of the new ward.

83 Our draft recommendations are for the two three-councillor wards of Darfield & Great Houghton and North East. These wards will have electoral variances of 10% and -7%, respectively, by 2029.

Bolton & Goldthorpe Green and Thurnscoe & Goldthorpe North

84 The existing Dearne North and Dearne South wards are forecast to have good electoral equality in five-years' time. In its submission the Council proposed a minor amendment to the boundary between the two wards. It proposed to move the boundary between both wards away from the railway line and onto Barnburgh Lane for a short section. This will result in a future housing development being included in Dearne North ward.

85 As discussed above, the Liberal Democrats proposed to include Billingley parish in Dearne North ward but suggested no other changes. The member of the public proposed no changes to the boundaries of either ward but suggested that the ward names were changed from Dearne North to Thurnscoe & Goldthorpe North and from Dearne South to Bolton & Goldthorpe Green.

86 We propose to make no changes to the boundaries of the existing Dearne North and Dearne South wards. We do not propose to adopt the minor modification proposed by the Council as this would appear, based on the site plan, to isolate the development in a ward to the north when its vehicular access will be to the south.

87 We do propose to adopt the names suggested by the member of the public as we consider the proposed names of Bolton & Goldthorpe Green and Thurnscoe &

Goldthorpe North to better reflect the communities that will make up the proposed wards.

88 Our draft recommendations are for the two three-councillor wards of Bolton & Goldthorpe Green and Thurnscoe & Goldthorpe North with electoral variances of 5% and -1%, respectively, by 2029.

Hoyland, Stairfoot, Wombwell and Worsbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Hoyland Milton	3	7%
Stairfoot	3	1%
Wombwell	3	9%
Worsbrough	3	-1%

Hoyland Milton and Wombwell

89 The existing Wombwell ward is forecast to have 11% more electors per councillor than the average for Barnsley by 2029. The Council sought to address this variance by proposing to transfer a number of electors from Wombwell to Hoyland Milton. It proposed to move the ward boundary from the A6195 and Woodhead Lane to the Barnsley to Elsecar railway line. This would move around 400 electors on the B6096 Wood Walk, Hemingfield Road and Dovecliffe Road from Wombwell ward to

Hoyland Milton ward. The Council proposed no other changes to Hoyland Milton ward.

90 The Liberal Democrats proposal in respect of electors that could be added to Wombwell ward is discussed in paragraph 82. In addition, they proposed that Hoyland Milton ward be renamed Hoyland & Elsecar. The member of the public, as part of their borough-wide warding scheme, proposed to include a part of Wombwell in the neighbouring Stairfoot ward, and that ward be renamed Stairfoot & Wombwell Aldham. They proposed no changes to the boundaries of Hoyland Milton ward but also proposed it be renamed Hoyland & Elsecar.

91 We propose to adopt the Council's suggested wards in this area as part of our draft recommendations. We agree that its proposal for the Wombwell Wood area will provide the best balance of our statutory criteria and provides for good electoral equality in both wards. The Liberal Democrat proposal for Wombwell would see a 13% electoral variance by 2029 and the Stairfoot & Wombwell Aldham ward proposed by the member of the public would have a variance of 14%, both of which are relatively high. We propose to retain the ward name of Hoyland Milton, as we have made limited changes to the existing ward. However, we would be interested in views as to whether Hoyland Elsecar would be a more appropriate ward name.

92 Our draft recommendations for this area are for the two three-councillor wards of Hoyland Milton and Wombwell, which will have electoral variances of 7% and 9% respectively, by 2029.

Stairfoot and Worsbrough

93 The current Worsbrough ward is forecast to have 17% fewer electors per councillor than the average for Barnsley by 2029. The Council proposed to move the Worsbrough Common area, which lies to the north of Worsbrough, from Kingstone ward to Worsbrough ward. The Liberal Democrats and the member of the public proposed to add the Birdwell area to their proposed Worsbrough & Birdwell wards. All three borough-wide schemes proposed to make no changes to the existing Stairfoot ward.

94 Having considered the different proposals, we have decided to increase the electorate of Worsbrough ward by moving its southern boundary further south. We considered the inclusion of the Worsbrough Common area in Worsbrough ward but concluded that, given our decision regarding Kingstone ward, we would not be able to provide good electoral equality for both Kingstone and Worsbrough wards were we to include the area in Worsbrough ward.

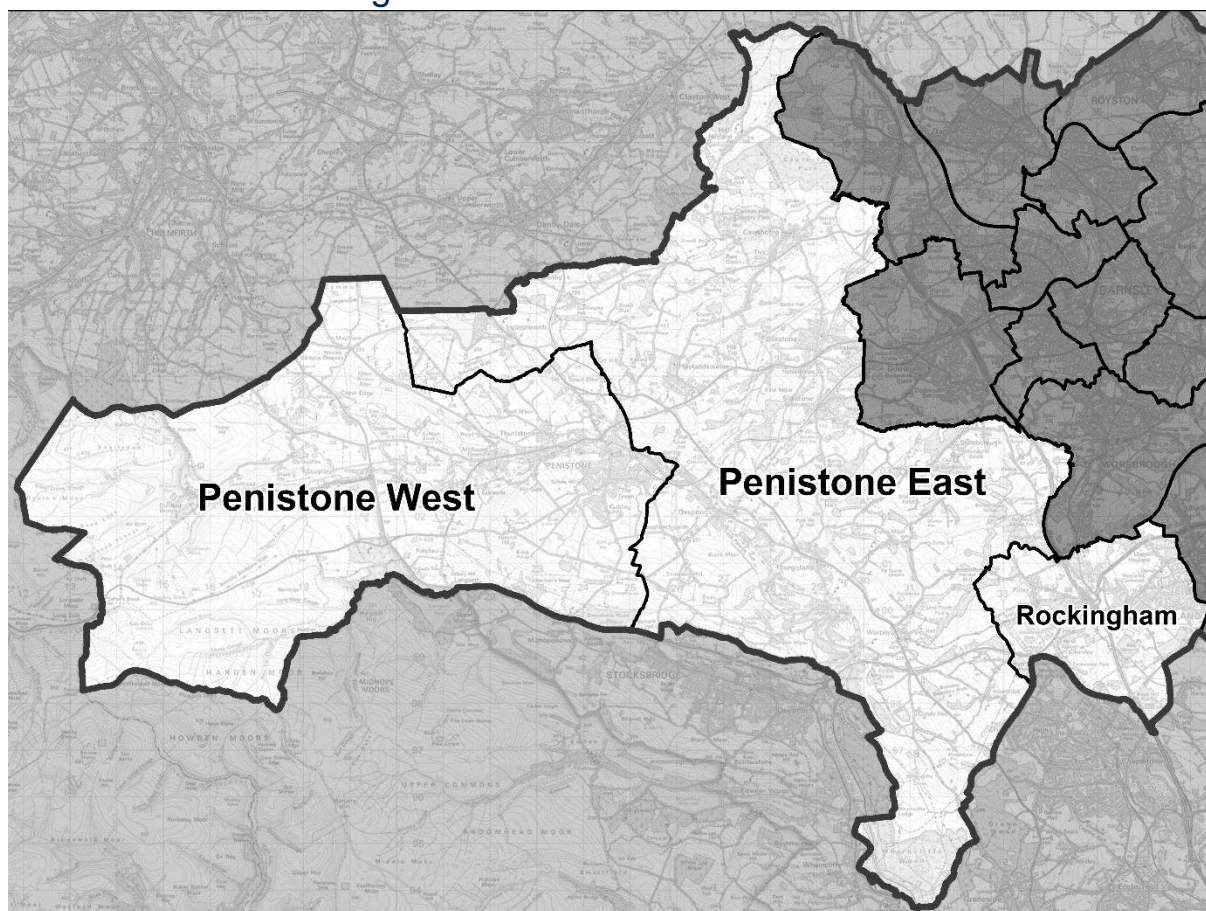
95 We noted that including all of Birdwell in a Worsbrough ward would result in the ward having a forecast variance of 13% more electors per councillor. We were not persuaded that we had received sufficient evidence to justify this level of electoral inequality.

96 We propose to include Birdwell in Worsbrough ward but to retain Birdwell Common in Rockingham ward. This proposal provides good electoral equality for both wards as Rockingham (discussed in the next section) would have an electoral variance of 16% if we were to remove Birdwell Common from the ward. We propose to name this ward Worsbrough but would be interested to hear if respondents consider that Worsbrough & Birdwell would be a more appropriate name.

97 The only change we propose to make to Stairfoot ward is a small amendment which affects no electors. This change reflects the fact that the existing ward boundary runs straight through Barnsley Academy which has opened since the last electoral review of the authority. Our revised boundary runs to the south of the school reflecting its main access north onto Farm Road in Stairfoot ward.

98 Our draft recommendation for this area are for the two three-councillor wards of Stairfoot and Worsbrough with electoral variances of 1% and -1%, respectively, by 2029.

Penistone and Rockingham



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Penistone East	3	0%
Penistone West	3	10%
Rockingham	3	-1%

Penistone East, Penistone West and Rockingham

99 The existing Penistone West ward is forecast to have 16% more electors per councillor than the average for Barnsley by 2029. The Council proposed to reduce this electoral inequality by moving the Spring Vale area of Penistone town from Penistone West ward to Penistone East ward. The Council proposed that the revised ward boundary follow the railway line through the town until it reaches the borough boundary in Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth parish. This proposal would mean that Gunthwaite would move to Penistone East ward and Ingbirchworth would remain in Penistone West ward.

100 As mentioned in the section for Darton and Dodworth, the Council also proposed that High Hoyland parish move to Darton West, Cawthorne parish be divided between Darton West and Penistone East wards, and Silkstone parish be divided between Dodworth and Penistone East wards. In addition to this the Council

proposed that Tankersley parish be divided, with Tankersley and Upper Tankersley village included in Rockingham ward and the Pilley community included in Penistone East ward.

101 The Liberal Democrats and the member of the public both proposed the same pattern for these wards. They proposed to keep all of Penistone town in Penistone West ward and transfer all of Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth parish to Penistone East ward. They also proposed that all of Tankersley parish be transferred to Rockingham ward. Councillor Barnard stated in his submission that moving Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth parish to Penistone East ward would be preferable to further dividing Penistone town, but he did not support moving all of Tankersley parish into Rockingham ward.

102 We have examined the various options in detail and have decided to base our draft recommendations on the proposals of the Liberal Democrats and the member of the public, subject to a small change. We were not persuaded to adopt the Council's proposals for a number of reasons. Firstly, we have already discussed the recommendations for the parishes of Cawthorne, High Hoyland and Silkstone in the Darton and Dodworth section above. Secondly, we noted that the Council's proposal to divide the parish of Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth would necessitate the creation of an unviable parish ward in the Gunthwaite area which would contain only 51 electors. We are not persuaded that the creation of such a small parish ward would provide for effective and convenient local government. Finally, we did not consider the proposal to divide the parish of Tankersley between wards, or further divide Penistone town by moving Spring Vale to Penistone West ward, would reflect local community ties and identities in this area.

103 Our draft recommendations do not divide Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth or Tankersley parish between wards, nor do they add an additional parish ward of Spring Vale to Penistone Town Council. In order to provide for an effective warding pattern, we consider it is preferable to move whole parishes between wards rather than divide them between wards. We noted that part of Tankersley parish is already included in Rockingham ward with the M1 forming the current boundary. Whilst this is undoubtedly a strong boundary, we also noted that all three borough-wide schemes proposed to breach the motorway for borough warding purposes. Having studied the area on our virtual tour, we are content that there are sufficient internal road links within this area to move away from using the M1 as a boundary. By moving the whole parish into Rockingham ward, we consider that this is more likely to provide for effective and convenient local government, as opposed to dividing the parish between wards.

104 As mentioned in paragraph 96 to provide for good electoral equality in Rockingham and Worsbrough wards, we propose to include Birdwell Common in Rockingham ward with Birdwell being included in Worsbrough ward. We propose to retain the name of Rockingham for this ward, but we received a suggestion that the ward could be named Hoyland Common. We would welcome local views on this alternative ward name during the current consultation.

105 Our draft recommendations are for the three three-councillor wards of Penistone East, Penistone West and Rockingham with electoral variances of 0%, 10% and -1%, respectively, by 2029.

Conclusions

106 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Barnsley, referencing the 2023 and 2029 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

	Draft recommendations	
	2023	2029
Number of councillors	63	63
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	2,927	3,073
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

Draft recommendations

Barnsley Council should be made up of 63 councillors serving 21 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 Barnsley Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Barnsley Council on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/barnsley

Have your say

107 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole borough or just a part of it.

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

109 Our website is the best way to keep up to date with progress on the review and to have your say www.lgbce.org.uk

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

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

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

112 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Barnsley Council which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

113 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.

- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

114 Electoral equality:

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

115 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

116 Effective local government:

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

117 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

118 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

119 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

120 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Barnsley in 2026.

Equalities

121 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Barnsley Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Athersley	3	8343	2781	-5%	8,664	2,888	-6%
2	Bolton & Goldthorpe Green	3	9217	3072	5%	9,663	3,221	5%
3	Central	3	8360	2787	-5%	8,607	2,869	-7%
4	Cudworth	3	8129	2710	-7%	8,506	2,835	-8%
5	Darfield & Great Houghton	3	9627	3209	10%	10,160	3,387	10%
6	Darton East	3	8828	2943	1%	9,522	3,174	3%
7	Darton West	3	8777	2926	0%	8,920	2,973	-3%
8	Dodworth	3	8374	2791	-5%	9,713	3,238	5%
9	Hoyland Milton	3	9549	3183	9%	9,869	3,290	7%
10	Kingstone	3	8077	2692	-8%	8,255	2,752	-10%
11	Monk Bretton	3	9353	3118	7%	9,924	3,308	8%

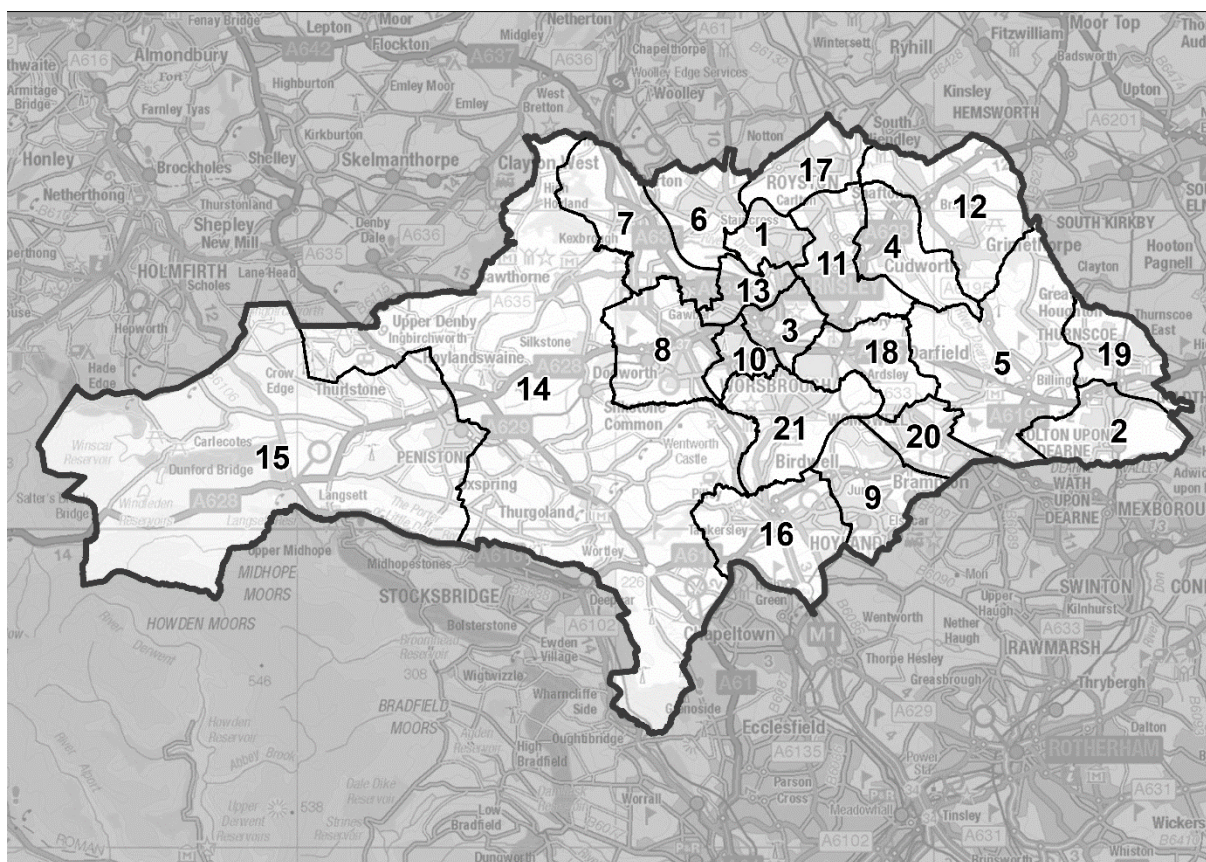
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 North East	3	8283	2761	-6%	8,589	2,863	-7%
13 Old Town	3	8587	2862	-2%	8,790	2,930	-5%
14 Penistone East	3	8955	2985	2%	9,175	3,058	0%
15 Penistone West	3	9491	3164	8%	10,099	3,366	10%
16 Rockingham	3	8383	2794	-5%	9,107	3,036	-1%
17 Royston	3	8179	2726	-7%	8,524	2,841	-8%
18 Stairfoot	3	8923	2974	2%	9,308	3,103	1%
19 Thurnscoe & Goldthorpe North	3	8548	2849	-3%	9,096	3,032	-1%
20 Wombwell	3	9634	3211	10%	10,018	3,339	9%
21 Worsbrough	3	8789	2930	0%	9,106	3,035	-1%
Totals	63	184,406	-	-	193,614	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,927	-	-	3,073	-

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name	Number	Ward name
1	Athersley	12	North East
2	Bolton & Goldthorpe Green	13	Old Town
3	Central	14	Penistone East
4	Cudworth	15	Penistone West
5	Darfield & Great Houghton	16	Rockingham
6	Darton East	17	Royston
7	Darton West	18	Stairfoot
8	Dodworth	19	Thurnscoe & Goldthorpe North
9	Hoyland Milton	20	Wombwell
10	Kingstone	21	Worsbrough
11	Monk Bretton		

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/barnsley

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Local Authority

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Political Groups

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group

Councillors

- Councillor R. Barnard (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Bell (Silkstone Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Coates (Great Houghton Parish Council)
- Councillor R. Leech (Silkstone Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Pearson (Great Houghton Parish Council)
- Councillor C. Wray (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council)

Members of Parliament

- Miriam Cates MP (Penistone and Stocksbridge)

Local Organisations

- Carlton Village Community Group
- BMBC – 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service
- Great Houghton Youth Group

Parish and Town Councils

- Silkstone Parish Council

Local Residents

- 129 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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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.

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

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