

New electoral arrangements for Kirklees - Huddersfield and Dewsbury Further Draft Recommendations

July 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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Analysis and further draft recommendations in the areas of Huddersfield and Dewsbury

1 Following our consultation on the draft recommendations for Kirklees Council, the Commission has decided to hold a period of consultation on further draft recommendations in the areas of Huddersfield and Dewsbury, prior to publication of its final recommendations. The Commission believes it has received sufficient evidence relating to the rest of the borough to finalise its recommendations, so this consultation is focused on only Huddersfield and Dewsbury.

2 During consultation on the draft recommendations, which were published on 27 February 2024, we received 155 representations, including borough-wide proposals from the Kirklees Labour Group ('the Labour Group'). We also received proposals from Kirklees Liberal Democrats ('the Liberal Democrats'), which focused specifically on the Huddersfield and Dewsbury areas of the borough, and the Kirklees Green Group ('the Green Group'), which submitted alternative ward names for the Huddersfield area. These submissions opposed our draft recommendations and provided a significant amount of evidence describing their communities to substantiate this opposition.

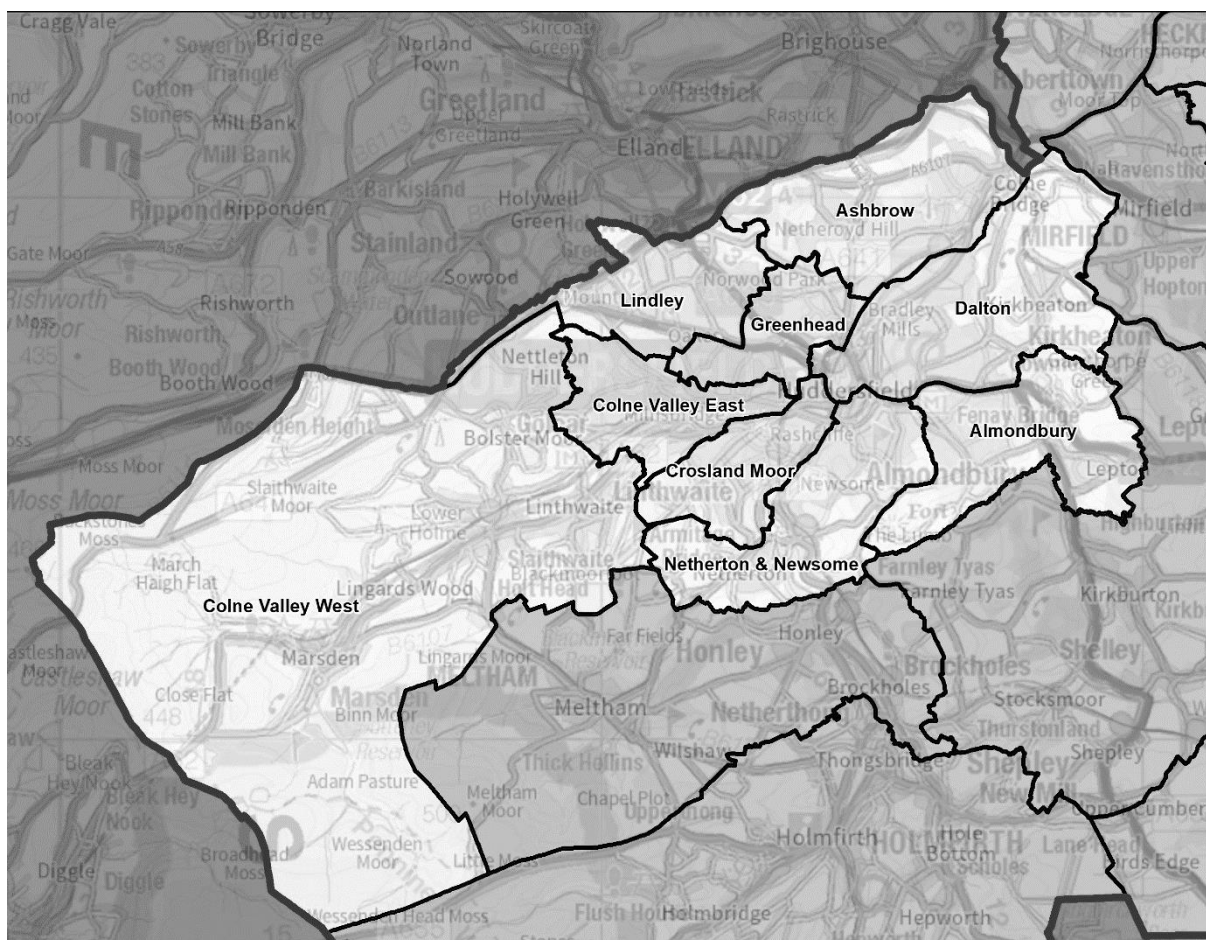
3 Accordingly, we have been persuaded to amend our proposals and publish further draft recommendations for Huddersfield and Dewsbury. We are now inviting further views in these areas.

4 We welcome all comments on these proposals, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries and the names of our proposed wards. This stage of consultation begins on 30 July 2024 and closes on 10 September 2024. Please see page 11 for more information on how to send us your response.

5 The tables and maps on pages 2–9 detail our further draft recommendations for Huddersfield and Dewsbury. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

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

Huddersfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Almondbury	3	-5%
Ashbrow	3	9%
Colne Valley East	3	4%
Colne Valley West	3	-5%
Crosland Moor	3	-3%
Dalton	3	4%
Greenhead	3	1%
Lindley	3	6%
Netherton & Newsome	3	-6%

Colne Valley East, Colne Valley West and Greenhead

6 The Labour Group proposed a 'Colne Valley West' ward and a 'Colne Valley East' ward to reflect that the Colne Valley area is considered by local people to also include the communities within our proposed Golcar ward. The group stated that the name Golcar only reflects one of the villages located within the ward and that the electors of this area consider themselves to live within Colne Valley. We were persuaded by the evidence received that these ward names will better reflect local

community identities and interests in this area, and have therefore adopted the ward names of Colne Valley East and Colne Valley West as part of these recommendations. We particularly welcome local views on this change.

7 Under our draft recommendations, the Paddock area is located within Huddersfield West ward. The Labour Group opposed this on the basis that it divides the community between two wards. The group therefore proposed that it be included in Colne Valley East ward, which it shares more community connections with. Similarly, the Liberal Democrats also opposed our draft recommendations for this area. However, they proposed to retain Paddock within Greenhead ward and include the Royds Hall area, arguing that Paddock has 'little affinity' with our proposed Colne Valley East ward. These proposals were supported by a local resident who also opposed Paddock being included in what they deemed to be a predominantly rural ward. After careful consideration of the evidence received, we have been persuaded by the evidence put forward by the Labour Group and have therefore included Paddock within our proposed Colne Valley East ward as part of our further draft recommendations. On the basis of the evidence received so far, we are content that this will better reflect community identities and interests.

8 The Liberal Democrats proposed to amend the boundary between our proposed Colne Valley and Golcar wards to include the electors of Bolster Moor and Scapegoat Hill within Golcar ward, on the basis that these areas have Golcar postal addresses. We were not persuaded to adopt this proposal as we consider insufficient community evidence had been supplied and our statutory criteria does not require us to consider postcodes or addresses when determining warding arrangements.

9 The Labour Group proposed a Greenhead ward encompassing the communities centred around Greenhead Park which it argued was a focal point for community events. Many local residents as well as the Labour Group opposed our draft recommendations for this area on the basis that it divided the community of Marsh between our proposed Huddersfield West and Lindley wards. The Labour Group argued that its proposed Greenhead ward unites the community of Marsh within a single ward and also includes the Reinwood area which it considered to better reflect community ties. Alternatively, the Liberal Democrats proposed to include the Reinwood area in Lindley ward. We were not persuaded to adopt the Liberal Democrats' proposal as we did not consider that sufficient evidence was provided to justify this change. However, we considered the evidence supplied to us by the Labour Group to be convincing and we have therefore adopted its proposal as part of our further draft recommendations. We consider this arrangement to better reflect communities identities and interests.

Lindley

10 The Labour Group proposed to include the village of Outlane within Lindley ward and argued that this area is physically divided from the rest of the Colne Valley

area by the M62. Furthermore, the group argued that the residents of Outlane travel into Salendine Nook for shopping and other services. The Labour Group also included examples of Facebook community groups that Outlane shares with other communities in our proposed Lindley ward. We visited this area on tour of the authority and noted the clear access routes the village had into Lindley ward. However, we did not consider the Labour Group's proposed boundary to be strong and locally recognisable and, to better reflect community identities and interests in this area, we propose to amend the boundary of Lindley to include the electors of Outlane by following the M62. We consider the M62 to be a strong and locally recognisable boundary that will help to promote effective and convenient local government. However, we particularly welcome local input on this proposal during this consultation.

11 In our original draft recommendations, we moved the Birchencliffe area from Lindley ward to Huddersfield North ward to improve electoral equality. We received opposition to this proposal from the Labour Group, the Liberal Democrats and several local residents who provided strong community-based evidence of this area's reliance on the amenities and services located in Lindley ward. It was therefore proposed that this area be retained in Lindley ward. Furthermore, it was argued that our original draft recommendations for this area divided the Lindley Park Estate between Lindley and Huddersfield North wards which attracted opposition from many local residents. The submissions similarly shared the sentiment that the estate should remain within Lindley ward to reflect community identities and interests.

12 We have been persuaded by the convincing local evidence received to adopt the proposal to retain the existing boundary between Lindley and Ashbrow wards and therefore to include the Birchencliffe community and the Lindley Park Estate in Lindley ward. We are persuaded that this change will provide a better balance of our statutory criteria.

Almondbury, Ashbrow and Dalton

13 Our original draft recommendations for north-east Huddersfield provided for the three-member wards of Huddersfield North and Huddersfield East. However, we received strong opposition to this recommendation from the Labour Group, the Liberal Democrats, Ashbrow Labour Party and a number of local residents.

14 Our proposals included the communities of Deighton and Fartown in Huddersfield East ward. The Labour Group submitted strong community-based evidence to demonstrate the close connection between these communities and the communities within our proposed Huddersfield North ward. It also argued that the Huddersfield Narrow Canal provides a strong and identifiable boundary between the residential area of Deighton to the north and the industrial area south of the canal. Ashbrow Labour Party reflected the arguments of the Labour Group and also provided an example of a Facebook community group with over 2,000 members that

includes the residents of Deighton and Fartown and the other communities within our proposed Huddersfield North ward.

15 We consider the evidence received particularly convincing and have therefore been persuaded to propose the retention of the existing ward of Ashbrow as part of our further draft recommendations. We consider this proposal to better reflect our statutory criteria and will ensure a more effective warding pattern for the wider area.

16 The Green Group proposed to rename this ward to Bradley & Brackenhall to reflect the largest communities within this ward. The Labour Group and the Ashbrow Labour Party, however, proposed to retain the name for this ward as Ashbrow and argued that the existing name was more identifiable and widely used by the local community. We also noted on our tour of the area that the Ashbrow name lends itself to many roads, schools and businesses within the ward. Based on the evidence received and our experience on visiting the area, we propose to retain the existing name of Ashbrow as part of our further draft recommendations.

17 Similarly, the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrats opposed our proposed Huddersfield East ward and suggested retaining the existing Dalton ward subject to including Huddersfield Town Centre to improve electoral equality. Our draft recommendations for this area amended the existing boundary to follow the Kirkburton parish boundary and move the village of Kirkheaton into Almondbury ward. The Labour Group argued that Kirkheaton has nothing in common with Almondbury ward and presented examples of community groups such as Dalton Together and other Facebook groups to emphasize Dalton as a close-knit community that includes Kirkheaton.

18 A local resident also argued that Wakefield Road should be retained as the boundary between Dalton and Almondbury wards as it is a locally recognisable boundary. We propose to adopt the suggestions put forward to us by the Labour Group and Liberal Democrats in this area, based on the strong community evidence received. We also consider that Wakefield Road and the ring road around Huddersfield Town Centre will provide strong and identifiable boundaries based on our tour of this area. We propose to also adopt the suggestion to retain the name of Dalton for this ward as the evidence received demonstrates the name is widely used within the community. We note that the Green Group also agree with this proposed ward name which reaffirmed our decision to adopt this name as part of our further draft recommendations.

19 Councillor Taylor expressed support for our draft recommendation to include Kirkheaton within Almondbury as it results in Kirkburton parish split across two wards instead of three under the existing arrangements. Councillor Taylor considered this will help to promote effective and convenient local government. He also argued that Kirkheaton has much more in common with the Lepton and Almondbury villages

rather than the urban Dalton ward.

20 We acknowledge the support from Councillor Taylor for our proposals in this area and, whilst we attempt to respect the boundaries of each parish by not dividing them between wards where possible, we consider that the evidence received during consultation indicates that doing so will better reflect community identities and interests in this instance. Overall, we consider that our further draft recommendations for these wards represent an improvement on our draft recommendations, but we strongly welcome comments and evidence, whether in support or in opposition, to our proposals during the current consultation.

Crosland Moor and Netherton & Newsome

21 The Labour Group and Liberal Democrats proposed two new wards in opposition to our proposed Huddersfield West and Huddersfield South wards. They proposed a Crosland Moor ward and a Netherton & Newsome ward. These are divided by the River Holme and Lockwood Road, which they state is the main arterial road that connects Huddersfield Town Centre to Holme Valley.

22 Furthermore, we received opposition from Councillor Lawson and many local residents to separating South Crosland from Netherton. The submissions shared the sentiment that these communities had always been a 'joint entity' that shared many services and amenities. They also noted that South Crosland Junior School is located within Netherton to further demonstrate the close community connection between these areas.

23 The Labour Group and Liberal Democrats stated that our proposal to split Netherton from Crosland Moor had some merit though they supported the above-mentioned submissions to retain South Crosland within a ward with Netherton. Councillor Lawson suggested using Thewlis Lane as the boundary between our proposed Huddersfield West and Huddersfield South wards. However, the Liberal Democrats, Labour Group and the Conservative Group in their initial submission, all suggested the boundary should run north of Crosland Moor Airfield. We considered the evidence provided to us by the groups convincing and were therefore persuaded to adopt this boundary as part of our further draft recommendations to better reflect communities' identities and interests in this area.

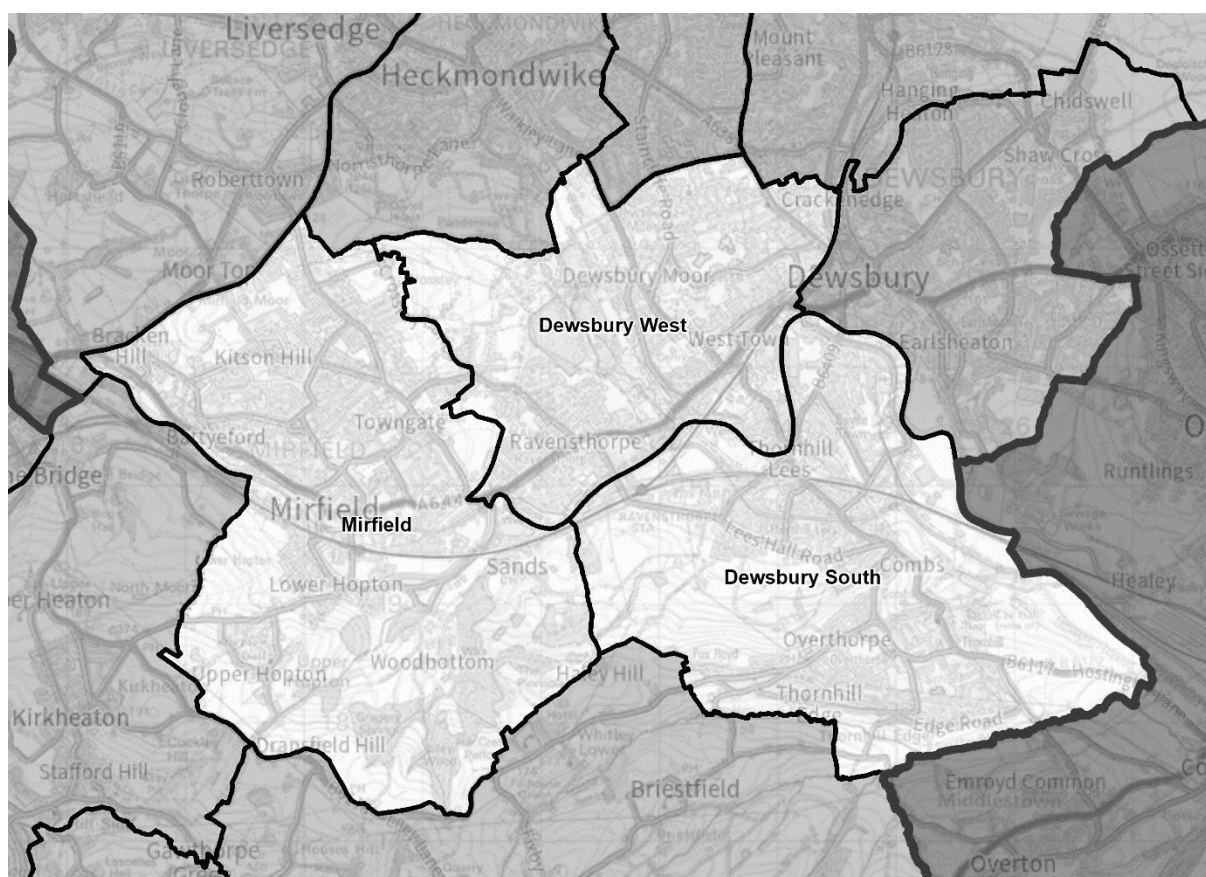
24 Councillor Lawson also argued that our draft recommendations divided Lockwood and Thornton Lodge which she stated are a close-knit community. Councillor Lawson therefore suggested the boundary to run along Albert Street and St Thomas Road. The Labour Group and Liberal Democrats suggested following the River Holme and Lockwood Road as the boundary between their proposed wards. On our tour of the area, we considered the River Holme would form a strong and locally identifiable boundary between these wards. We have therefore decided to adopt the Labour Group's and Liberal Democrats' suggestions for this area;

however, we propose to continue the boundary between these wards along the River Holme up to Chapel Hill to bring electors on Albert Street into our proposed Crosland Moor ward. We consider this proposal to provide the best balance of our statutory criteria.

25 We also propose to adopt the names proposed by the Labour Group, the Liberal Democrats and the Green Group of Crosland Moor and Netherton & Newsome as we consider them to be more reflective of the communities that comprise these wards, based on the evidence received so far.

26 We received submissions from local residents that shared the sentiment that the boundary of Holme Valley North ward should be extended to include Netherton. However, as stated as part of our draft recommendations, this would result in an exceptionally high forecast electoral variance for Holme Valley North ward. To ensure good electoral equality for this area, we were therefore not persuaded to adopt this proposal as part of our further draft recommendations.

Dewsbury



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Dewsbury South	3	-2%
Dewsbury West	3	10%
Mirfield	3	6%

Dewsbury South, Dewsbury West and Mirfield

27 In response to our draft recommendations, the Labour Group and Liberal Democrats opposed our proposals for Dewsbury South and Dewsbury West wards. Our proposals extended Dewsbury South ward to include the community of Ravensthorpe and moved Savile Town and Thornhill Lees into Dewsbury West ward to improve electoral equality. However, the Labour Group strongly opposed these proposals and argued for the existing arrangements to be retained in relation to this area of Dewsbury. They argued that the River Calder provides a strong, identifiable boundary between Dewsbury South, Dewsbury West and Dewsbury East and stated that there are no public transport links between the Ravensthorpe area and our proposed Dewsbury South ward. Instead, they referenced the direct public transport links between Dewsbury town centre and Savile Town and Thornhill Lees.

28 On our tour of this area, we also considered the River Calder as a strong and locally identifiable boundary. In light of the evidence received and our experience of

visiting this area, we propose to retain Ravensthorpe within Dewsbury West ward and Savile Town and Thornhill Lees within Dewsbury South ward as part of our further draft recommendations to reflect community identities and interests.

29 Furthermore, the Labour Group and Liberal Democrats also proposed to extend Dewsbury West ward to follow Shillbank Lane and Crossley Lane. The group argued that this amendment used strong boundaries to bring electors into Dewsbury West ward and would result in the entirety of Dewsbury Country Park being contained within a single ward.

30 The group stated that its proposals would also result in the Spring Place Gardens estate being wholly contained within Dewsbury West ward. Under our draft recommendations, this estate is split between our proposed Dewsbury West and Mirfield wards. This received opposition from a handful of local residents, the majority of which argued for this area to be moved into Mirfield ward as they have Mirfield postcodes. We do not consider postcodes as part of our statutory criteria when drawing up a pattern of new wards and we were therefore not persuaded to adopt this suggestion as part of our further draft recommendations. However, we have adopted the proposal made by the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrats to unite the estate within Dewsbury West ward to better reflect community identities and promote effective and convenient local government.

Parish electoral arrangements

31 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

32 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Kirklees Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

33 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Mirfield.

34 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Mirfield parish.

Further draft recommendations

Mirfield Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Battyeford	5
Crossley	3
East Thorpe	3
Hopton	2
Northorpe North East	1
Northorpe South West	2

Have your say

35 The Commission has an open mind about its further 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.

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

37 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/kirklees

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

Review Officer (Kirklees)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
7th Floor
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

39 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Kirklees 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

40 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

41 Electoral equality:

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

42 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?

43 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?

44 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.

45 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as 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.

46 In the light of representations received, we will review our further 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 further draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

47 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 Kirklees in 2026.

Equalities

48 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

Further draft recommendations for Huddersfield and Dewsbury areas in Kirklees

	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	Almondbury	3	13,441	4,480	-2%	14,463	4,821	-5%
2	Ashbrow	3	14,194	4,731	3%	16,544	5,515	9%
3	Colne Valley East	3	14,648	4,883	6%	15,807	5,269	4%
4	Colne Valley West	3	13,131	4,377	-5%	14,448	4816	-5%
5	Crosland Moor	3	12,438	4,146	-10%	14,671	4,890	-3%
6	Dalton	3	13,958	4,653	1%	15,758	5,253	4%
7	Dewsbury South	3	12,991	4,330	-6%	14,780	4,927	-2%
8	Dewsbury West	3	15,077	5,026	10%	16,655	5552	10%
9	Greenhead	3	14,371	4,790	4%	15,307	5,102	1%
10	Lindley	3	14,772	4,924	7%	16,052	5,351	6%
11	Mirfield	3	15,171	5,057	10%	16,061	5,354	6%
12	Netherton & Newsome	3	13,050	4,350	-5%	14,189	4,730	-6%

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Kirklees 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

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/kirklees.

Political Groups

- Ashbrow Labour Party
- Batley West Labour Party
- Golcar Labour Party
- Holme Valley South Branch Labour Party
- Kirklees Green Group
- Kirklees Labour Group
- Kirklees Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor I. Barnett (Holme Valley Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Bellamy (Kirklees Council)
- Councillor K. Fernandes (Holme Valley Parish Council)
- Councillor E. Firth (Kirklees Council)
- Councillor C. Greaves (Kirklees Council)
- Councillor J. Lawson (Kirklees Council)
- Councillor P. Moore (Kirklees Council)
- Councillor C. Scott (Kirklees Council)
- Councillor J. Taylor (Kirklees Council)

Local Organisations

- Chickenley Community Centre
- Our Community Works

Local Residents

- 139 local residents

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

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

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row,
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

X: @LGBCE