

# Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Milton Keynes City Council

Electoral review

June 2025



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## A note on our mapping:

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

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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.<sup>1</sup> 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<br>(Chair) | • Steve Robinson                 |
| • Andrew Scallan CBE<br>(Deputy Chair)   | • Wallace Sampson OBE            |
| • Amanda Nobbs 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why Milton Keynes?

7 We are conducting a review of Milton Keynes City Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2014, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup> 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 Milton Keynes 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 city.

## Our proposals for Milton Keynes

9 Milton Keynes should be represented by 60 councillors, three more than there are now.

10 Milton Keynes should have 21 wards, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all but one ward should change.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Milton Keynes.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

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

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the city 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 take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

## Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
12 March 2024	Number of councillors decided
7 May 2024	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
9 September 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 December 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
24 February 2025	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
3 June 2025	Publication of final recommendations



## Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

	2024	2030
Electorate of Milton Keynes	202,170	219,993
Number of councillors	60	60
Average number of electors per councillor	3,370	3,667

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Milton Keynes are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

## Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2029, a period five years on from the originally 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 9% by 2029.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations. Owing to delays caused by the 2024

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<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

UK General Election, the publication of our final recommendations has been delayed until 2025. After discussion with the Council, we are satisfied that the forecast originally produced for 2029 will stand as the best available estimate for 2030.

24 Our mapping tool uses geocoded electoral registers supplied by the Council to locate electors, by associating addresses with specific geographic co-ordinates. It considers each elector's location to produce precise elector counts for each ward. There can be very slight differences between the electorate figures published on our website at the beginning of the review and the electorate figures published in this report. However, these are very minor and do not impact on our recommendations.

## Number of councillors

25 Milton Keynes City Council currently has 57 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that increasing this number by three will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

26 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 60 councillors.

27 As the Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation<sup>4</sup> that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. In each review of local authorities that elect by thirds, we will aim to deliver a pattern of three-member wards. However, 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.

28 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. This submission suggested that a significantly lower number of councillors would save on expenses, but offered no evidence as to how the Council could effectively discharge its duties with a significantly smaller number of members. We have therefore maintained 60 councillors for our final recommendations.

## Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 65 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four city-wide proposals: from the Conservative Group (two proposals), Milton Keynes Labour Party and the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council.

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<sup>4</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

30 The four city-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of three-councillor wards for Milton Keynes. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

31 Our draft recommendations were based on the proposals of the Liberal Democrats. We also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

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

33 Our draft recommendations were for 20 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

## Draft recommendations consultation

34 We received 115 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from the Liberal Democrat, Labour, and Conservative Groups on the Council. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in the Woughton area, and our proposals for a ward in the north west of the council area incorporating both urban and rural areas.

## Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for 19 three-councillor wards, one two-councillor ward and one single-councillor ward. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

36 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations subject to a split of our proposed Hanslope & New Bradwell ward based on the submissions received. We also make minor modifications to the boundaries between Ouzel Valley and Woughton & Fishermead wards, and Walnut Tree and Danesborough wards.

37 The tables and maps on pages 9–22 detail our final recommendations for each area of Milton Keynes. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>5</sup> criteria of:

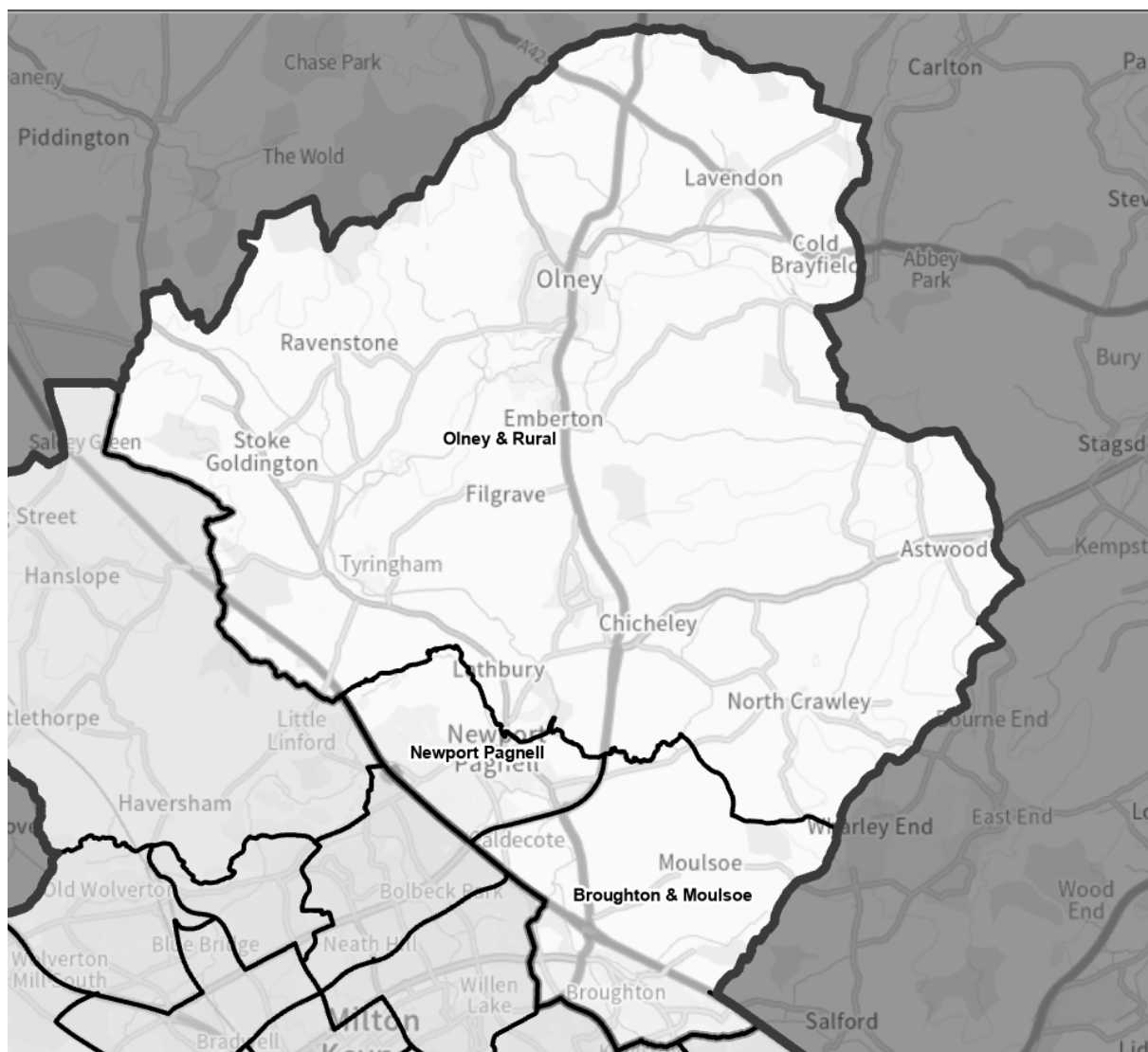
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

38 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 31 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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<sup>5</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## North Eastern Milton Keynes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Broughton & Moulsoe	3	4%
Newport Pagnell	3	4%
Olney & Rural	3	-4%

### *Broughton & Moulsoe and Olney & Rural*

39 Responses to consultation on our draft recommendations for these wards focused on the boundary between the two wards, and specifically the position of the village of Moulsoe. The Conservative submission suggested adding Stoke Goldington and Gayhurst parishes to a ward based around Hanslope – this is discussed in more detail below (paragraphs 74–83).

40 In our draft recommendations, we specifically invited responses on the question of whether the village of Moulsoe should be included in a rural ward to the north, or

whether the entire parish should be retained together, with the village remaining in the same ward as the large “MK East” development currently under construction. Opinion on this question was divided, with some feeling that the rural nature of Moulsoe village made it a more natural fit with a ward based on Olney, while others felt that the village would benefit from being included in a ward with urban neighbours. One resident suggested that Moulsoe was more aligned with Newport Pagnell than with Broughton – as discussed below, we are not persuaded to amend our proposed warding arrangements for Newport Pagnell.

41 Moulsoe Parish Council argued for the village to be retained in a rural-based ward, providing community evidence of links between Moulsoe and Olney in terms of schools and churches. This was supported by the Labour Party, which noted links between North Crawley and Lathbury parishes, in terms of school and transport links. However, the Labour Party and others noted that, given the current stage of development of MK East, it was not possible to provide a precise boundary as to where a dividing road will go.

42 One of several residents supporting our draft recommendations suggested that, if Moulsoe parish were to be split, it would impair the effectiveness of the Parish Council itself. We note that, were we to propose a split of Moulsoe parish, we would be obliged to put in place parish warding arrangements which would allocate the majority of parish councillors to the MK East area, with likely only one councillor allocated to the rural area of Moulsoe village. The ongoing development of MK East means that there may be relatively few electors in place by the time of the next parish elections. Given this, we are not persuaded that warding the parish in this way would promote effective and convenient local government.

43 We have carefully considered all of the evidence relating to this area and consider the decision to be finely balanced. However, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations and are placing the entirety of Moulsoe parish in Broughton & Moulsoe ward as part of our final recommendations. As part of our recommendations, we must specify the precise location of all ward boundaries, and no precise boundary for separating the MK East development from the remainder of Moulsoe parish is available – those submissions which suggested the boundary road accept that the exact location is not yet known. If Milton Keynes City Council decides to alter the boundary of Moulsoe parish through a Community Governance Review, we can then consider whether to adjust city ward boundaries to match the revised parish boundaries.

44 A number of submissions, including those of Emberton Parish Council and the Conservative Group, commented on the name of our proposed Olney ward, noting that the ward itself extended considerably beyond the village of Olney. The names suggested included “Ouse Valley”, which we consider might cause confusion with our proposed “Ouzel Valley” ward. We are therefore proposing the name “Olney &

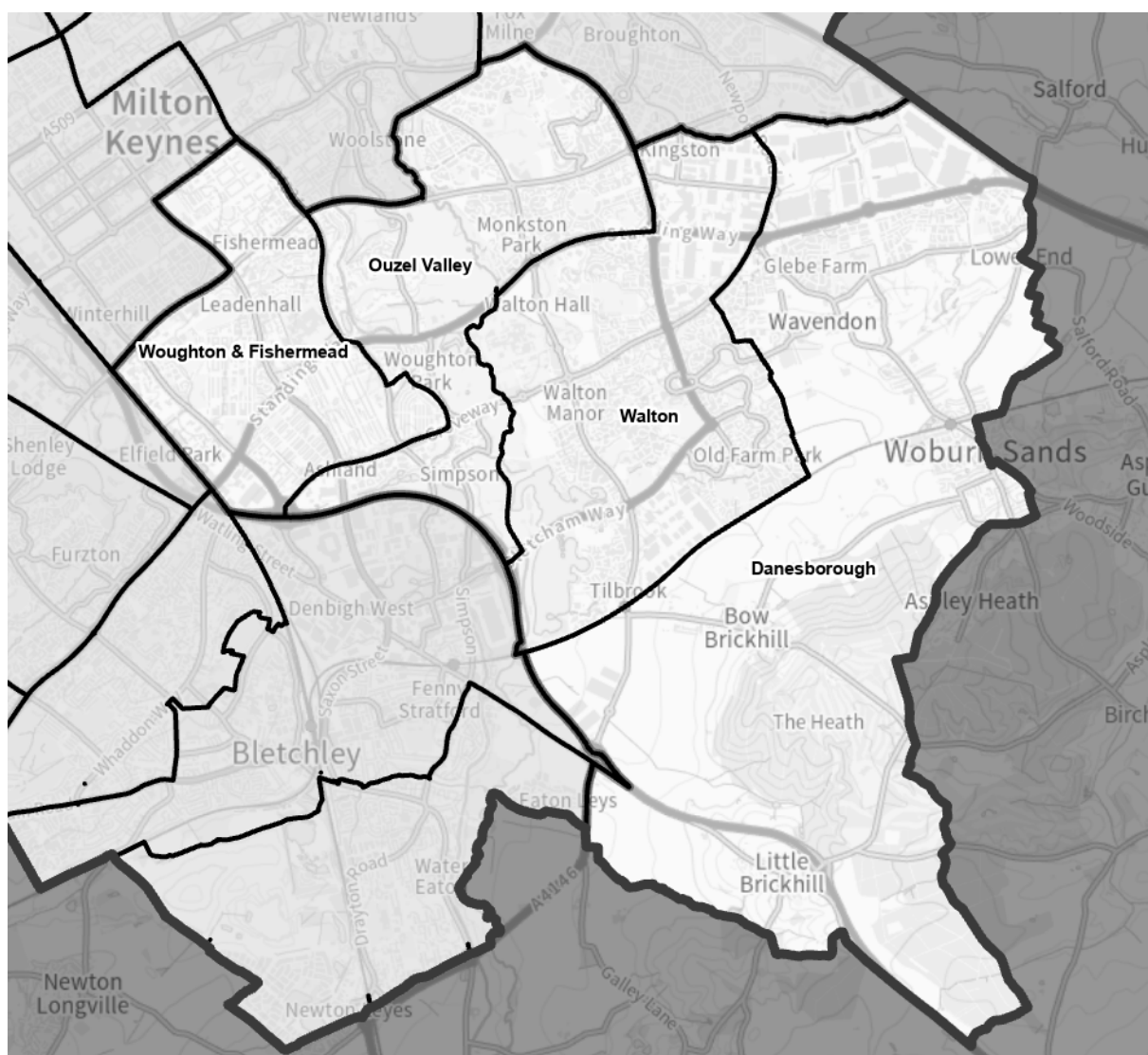


Rural” for this ward as part of our final recommendations, retaining the name of the largest settlement, while also acknowledging the wider geographic extent of the ward.

#### *Newport Pagnell*

45 Our draft recommendations were for a single ward covering the town of Newport Pagnell, in contrast with the existing arrangements, which see the town split between two wards. This was broadly welcomed, especially by Newport Pagnell Town Council. We received no proposals suggesting we retain the split of Newport Pagnell between wards, and we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

## South Eastern Milton Keynes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Danesborough	3	-2%
Ouzel Valley	3	-10%
Walton	3	1%
Woughton & Fishermead	3	2%

### *Danesborough and Walton*

46 Our draft recommendations for these wards were broadly welcomed, with support from Cllr T. Bailey in particular, who described our proposed Danesborough ward as keeping natural communities and their associated parish councils together. There was also broad support for our proposed wards from Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

47 The submissions of Cllr Bailey, Cllr J. Ferrans, the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups, and Walton Community Council did propose one change to the boundary between Danesborough and Walton wards. In our draft recommendations we used the boundary between Walton and Wavendon parishes as our ward boundary, splitting Elmswell Road, Sulman Grove, Garner Lane, and Balderstone Road between wards. The submissions in this area all suggested moving the boundary to run along Ortensia Drive and Groveway, allowing the Glebe Farm estate to be united in a single ward.

48 We have considered the proposal carefully and are persuaded to amend our draft recommendations. This change has a marginal impact upon electoral equality, with both wards continuing to offer minimal variances. The change requires us to create a relatively small parish ward in Walton parish, which is forecast to contain roughly 180 electors. However, we are content that this does not outweigh the benefit of uniting the Glebe Farm estate in a single ward and using the strong and clear boundary of Ortensia Drive and Groveway.

49 Walton Community Council also proposed adding a section of Wavendon parish based on the Church Farm development into a ward based on Walton. This would require the creation of a parish ward of Wavendon parish with no current electors, which we do not consider is compatible with effective and convenient local government. We have therefore not made the change proposed, but we can consider a related alteration to ward boundaries if the parish boundaries in this area subsequently change via a Community Governance Review.

50 Walton Community Council also suggested that the name of our proposed ward should be altered from “Walnut Tree” to “Walton”. We note that “Walnut Tree” is the name of a single estate within the ward, and are content to amend our draft recommendations, accordingly, proposing the name “Walton” as part of our final recommendations.

#### *Ouzel Valley and Woughton & Fishermead*

51 A significant number of residents, as well as Woughton Community Council, Cllr A. Rennie, the Tinkers Bridge Residents’ Association, and the Labour and Conservative proposals opposed our draft recommendation to place the Tinkers Bridge estate in Ouzel Valley ward. Many of these submissions noted that Tinkers Bridge did not share a community identity with the rest of Ouzel Valley ward, but did share an identity with the remainder of Woughton parish. Cllr C. Marsh expressed a preference for there to be no changes to the existing wards, but did not offer evidence to support this.

52 The Conservative submission suggested that, in addition to Tinkers Bridge, the Peartree Bridge area could be added to our proposed Woughton & Fishermead ward. This was supported by Cllr P. Glasgow, who noted that the current chair of

Woughton Community Council was from this area, and that if the area was moved from Woughton parish, this might have implications for the chair's continued service. We do not consider the political impact upon individuals when developing our recommendations. In any event, we do not have the power to amend the external boundaries of parishes – this power lies with Milton Keynes City Council via a Community Governance Review.

53 Labour and the Conservatives suggested that Woolstone could move into Ouzel Valley ward in order to compensate for the loss of electors from Tinkers Bridge and/or Peartree Bridge, and to ensure that Ouzel Valley retains good electoral equality. We are of the view that insufficient evidence was provided in support of a shared community identity between Woolstone and the remainder of Ouzel Valley. The information that was provided was mostly historical in nature, rather than relating to the current nature of the communities in this area.

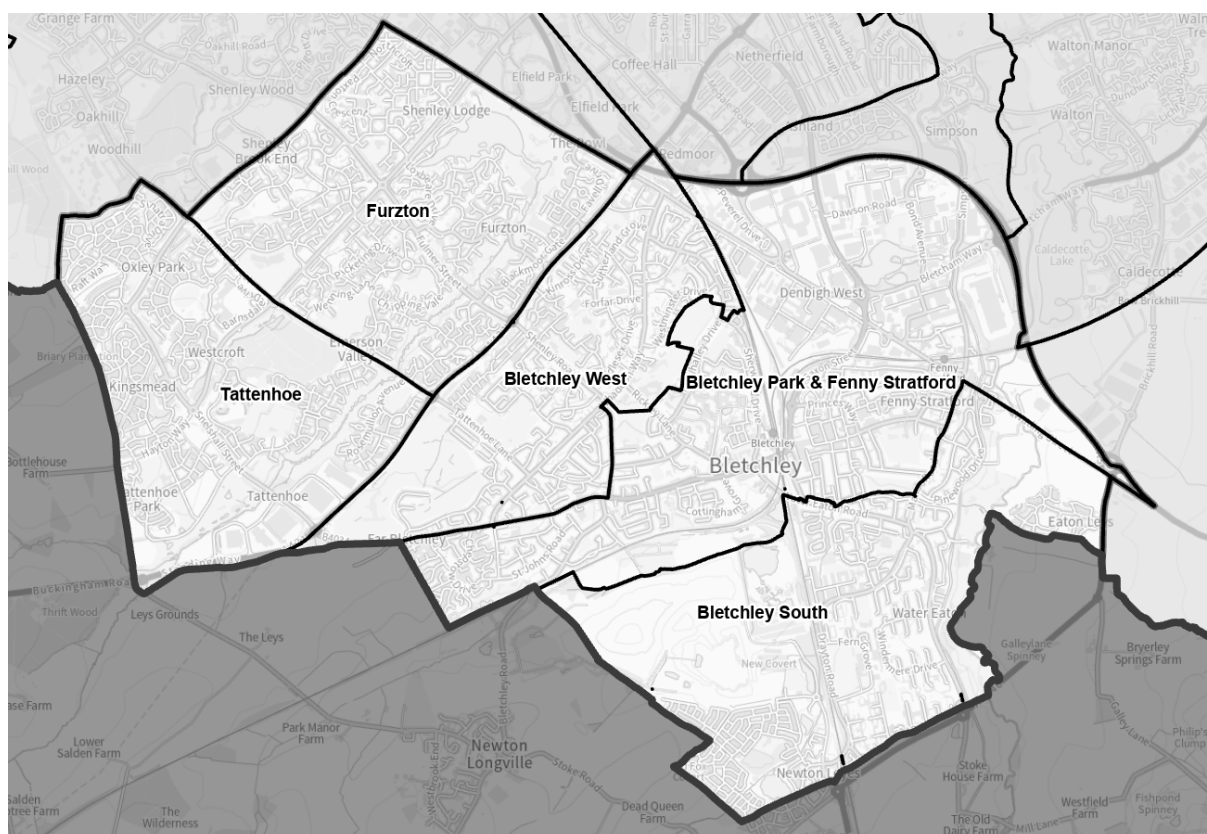
54 We have carefully considered all of the evidence received in this area. On balance, we are persuaded to amend our draft recommendations, to place Tinkers Bridge, but not Peartree Bridge, in Woughton & Fishermead ward.

55 This change leaves Ouzel Valley with 10% fewer electors per councillor than the average across Milton Keynes – just within the bounds of good electoral equality. We considered the proposal to move Woolstone into Ouzel Valley in order to compensate. While this would improve the electoral equality it would also mean that Campbell Park parish would be split between four different city council wards. Given the relative lack of evidence supporting the change on the grounds of community identity, we do not consider it would provide an effective balance of our statutory criteria.

56 One resident commented on the “community-driven” nature of the existing Campbell Park & Old Woughton ward and argued for its retention. No specific evidence was provided as to a shared community identity between areas such as Bolbeck Park and Simpson & Ashland, and we have therefore decided not to revert to the existing ward as part of our final recommendations.

57 Simpson & Ashland Parish Council supported our draft recommendations, including the name of “Ouzel Valley” for the ward covering the parish. In contrast, Old Woughton Parish Council, while supporting the boundaries proposed for the ward, suggested that the name be expanded to include an explicit reference to Old Woughton, citing historical evidence. We considered this carefully but consider that it would be disproportionate to include “Old Woughton” specifically in the name of the ward, especially as it contributes fewer electors to the ward than the areas to the east of the River Ouzel. We are not persuaded to change our draft recommendations with regard to the name of Ouzel Valley ward and confirm the name as final.

## Bletchley and South Western Milton Keynes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Bletchley Park & Fenny Stratford	3	4%
Bletchley South	3	-1%
Bletchley West	3	-9%
Furzton	3	10%
Tattenhoe	3	0%

### *Bletchley Park & Fenny Stratford, Bletchley South, and Bletchley West*

58 Our draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Bletchley were broadly welcomed. Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council suggested that the boundaries were “well expressed on the ground”.

59 In our draft recommendations report, we asked for further information on the community identity of the Eaton Leys development and whether it would be better placed in Danesborough ward rather than in Bletchley South. One resident supported it being placed in Danesborough ward, while acknowledging that the development had yet to develop a strong community identity of its own. In contrast, Labour and (by implication) Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council supported Eaton Leys remaining within a Bletchley-based ward, as well as Bletchley & Fenny Stratford parish. We have adopted this proposal, and are not persuaded to amend

our draft recommendations, preferring to retain Eaton Leys within Bletchley South ward.

60 We did receive several comments regarding the names of our proposed wards covering Bletchley. Our draft recommendations were for symmetric names of Bletchley North and Bletchley South, surrounding a central “Bletchley Park” ward.

61 Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council, and the Labour Group, suggested that the name of the central ward did not adequately describe the area, with Bletchley Park referring to the heritage location of that name, in West Bletchley parish. We are content to amend our draft recommendations with regard to the name of the ward, expanding it to “Bletchley Park & Fenny Stratford”.

62 The same submissions suggested that we amend the name of “Bletchley North” ward, to reflect both the name of West Bletchley parish and the existing ward of Bletchley West. While we do not consider that existing ward names must always be retained, particularly in instances such as this where there are significant boundary changes, we are persuaded to amend our draft recommendations and re-name this ward as “Bletchley West” as part of our final recommendations.

#### *Furzton and Tattenhoe*

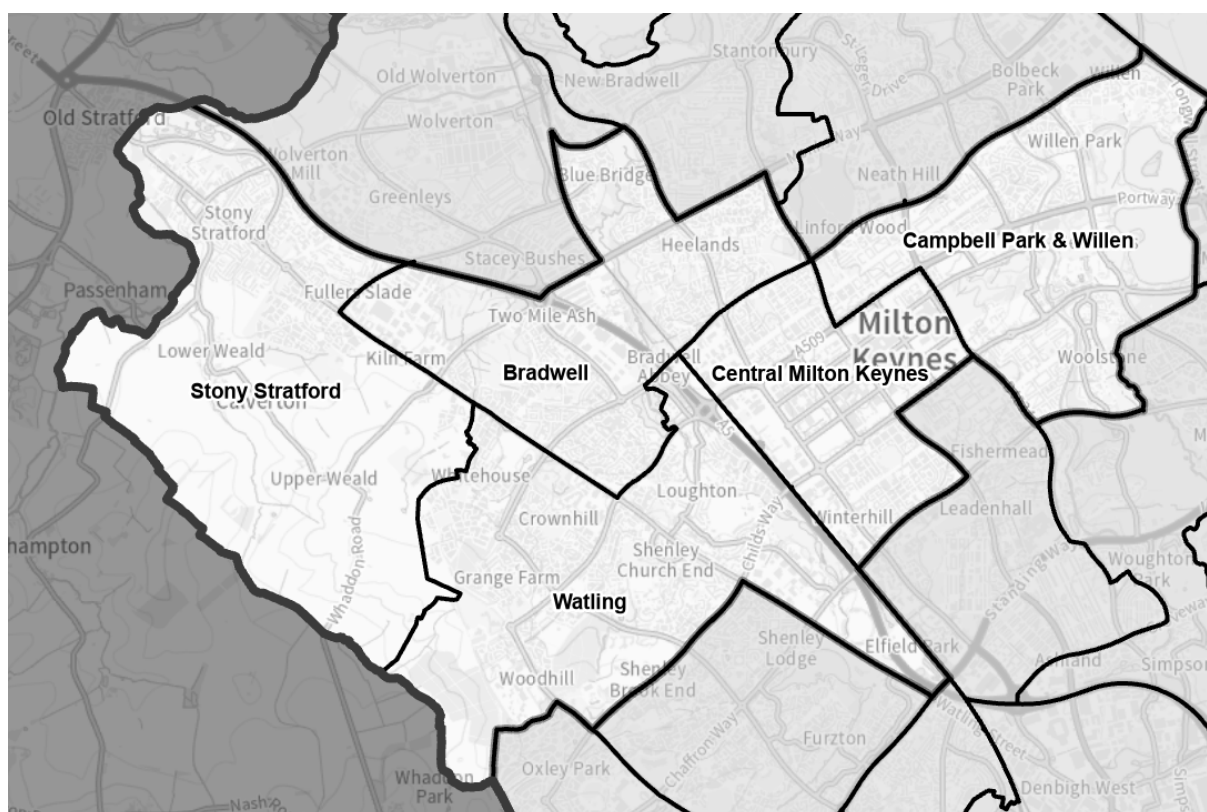
63 We received few comments on the wards in this area. Cllr K. Clay, while welcoming the boundaries proposed, suggested amending the name of Furzton ward to “Shenley Brook End”. We considered this but note that the legal name of the parish in this area is Shenley Brook End. We are also concerned that it might cause confusion for a ward covering roughly half of the parish to carry the same name.

64 Cllr Clay also suggested amending the boundaries of the “Bletchley & Buckingham” Parliamentary constituency, to match the revised ward boundaries in this area. We do not have the power to amend the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies, and do not consider these when conducting electoral reviews.

65 We received no other specific proposals or comments on our draft recommendations for Furzton and Tattenhoe wards, and we confirm these as final.



## Central and Western Milton Keynes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Bradwell	3	-1%
Campbell Park & Willen	3	4%
Central Milton Keynes	3	3%
Stony Stratford	3	3%
Watling	3	8%

### *Bradwell, Campbell Park & Willen, and Central Milton Keynes*

66 Bradwell Parish Council provided a submission arguing for a significant reconfiguration of wards across the central and northern areas of the city, and more widely, in order to bring Bradwell parish and others within a single ward. We considered this but note that the warding pattern suggested by Bradwell Parish Council includes multiple wards with detached parts; with Redhouse Park placed in a ward with the majority of Stantonbury parish, and Stony Stratford joined to Hanslope without the inclusion of Wolverton. We will only recommend wards with detached parts in exceptional circumstances, and we do not consider that these circumstances exist in Milton Keynes. We have therefore not adopted the proposal of Bradwell Parish Council.

67 A number of residents suggested alternative names for Bradwell ward, combining various elements of Abbey Hill, Great Holm, and Two Mile Ash. Given the

variety of names suggested, and the lack of consensus as to any change, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations as to the name of Bradwell ward.

68 Other than the discussion around Woolstone (paragraphs 53–56), we received no proposals to alter the boundaries of Central Milton Keynes or Campbell Park & Willen wards on their own merits, as opposed to consequential changes based on other areas. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Bradwell, Campbell Park & Willen, and Central Milton Keynes wards as final.

### *Stony Stratford and Watling*

69 We received various comments regarding these wards, specifically regarding the boundary between Stony Stratford and Watling (formerly Loughton) wards. This boundary, which follows existing roads through the developing Whitehouse Estate, splits Whitehouse parish. This was opposed by Whitehouse Community Council and the Labour Group. Councillors M. Legg, S. Mahendran, and L. Montague all offered comments on Loughton/Watling ward as well. Whitehouse Community Council objected in particular to the warding of its parish. It should be noted that we are required under the legislation to recommend parish wards when we divide a parish between city wards. This is so the parish ward boundaries reflect those of city ward boundaries in order to provide for effective and convenient local government.

70 We have considered all of the submissions in this area very carefully. While we accept that, taken strictly in isolation, the boundary proposed through Whitehouse ward is an imperfect reflection of the developing community identity in this area, we have a responsibility to put forward the best available pattern of wards to reflect all three of our statutory criteria, and across the whole of the City. Placing all of Whitehouse parish in either Stony Stratford or Watling ward would result in very high electoral variances (23% in Stony Stratford, or 33% in Watling), with corresponding extreme negative variances in the other ward. While we will, in appropriate circumstances, depart from strict electoral equality in order to achieve good outcomes with respect to our other criteria, these figures are beyond what we would consider in anything but the most extreme of circumstances. We have concluded that the evidence has not been provided to justify these variances.

71 We received proposals, including those from Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council, to move the Great Holm estate (located in the north-west of the parish) back into a ward with the remainder of the parish. This would partly compensate for the loss of the portion of Whitehouse within Watling ward; but would require consequential changes to at least five other wards. Under this proposal Stony Stratford ward would have a 23% electoral variance which, given its position at the edge of the City Council area, could only be remedied by splitting Stony Stratford itself, with an arbitrary portion placed in Wolverton ward. We have no evidence that this would offer a better overall reflection of the communities across the western part

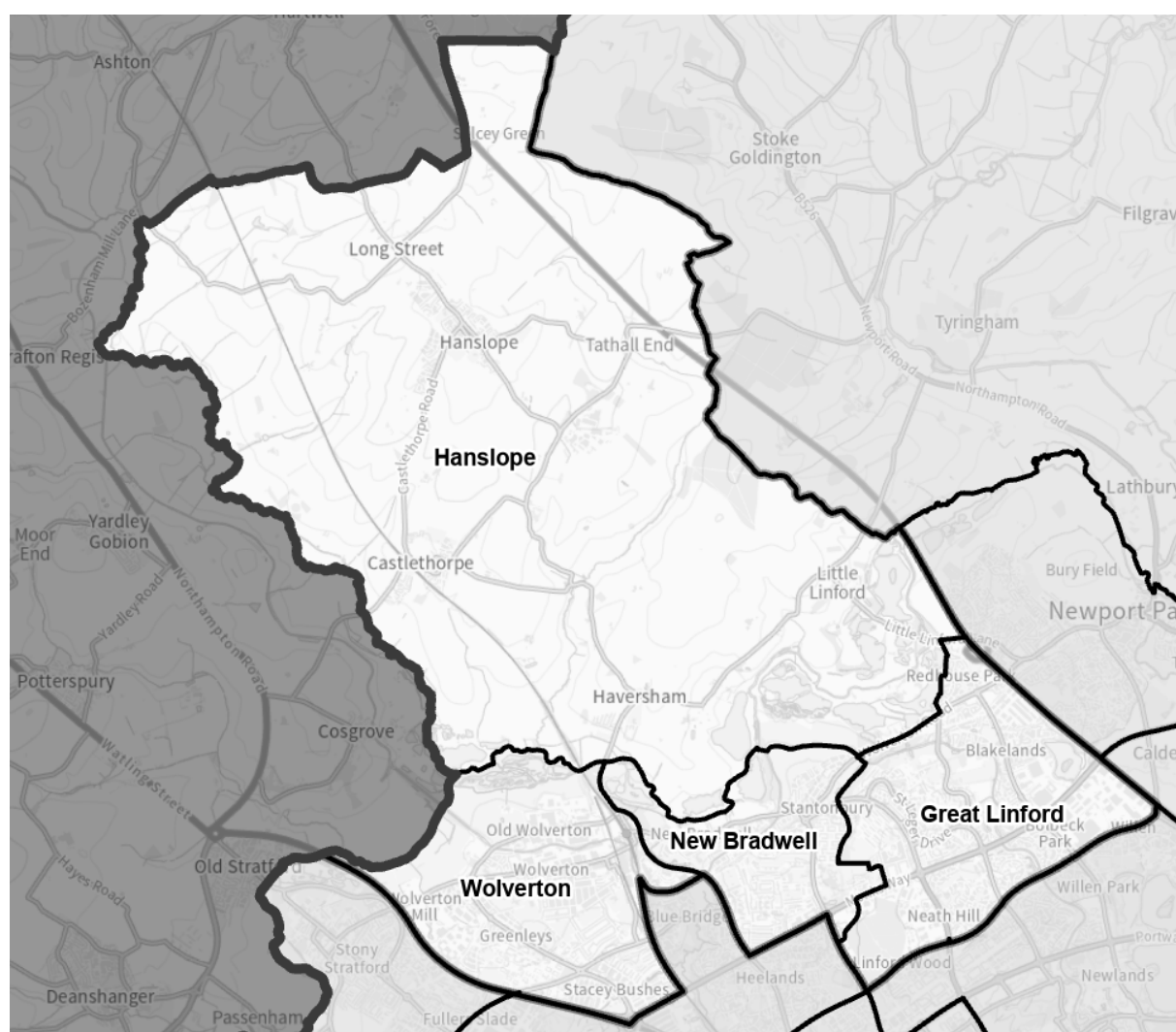


of Milton Keynes, and we are therefore not persuaded to adopt it as part of our final recommendations.

72 The Labour submission implicitly acknowledged the difficulties in this area, by accepting that a change here would require a significant re-casting of multiple wards across the western half of the city. No specific proposal for such a change was offered. Given the broad support for many other of our proposed wards across the city, we consider that the best available balance of our criteria is served by confirming our draft recommendations in this specific area as final. Our recommendations will facilitate a pattern of wards in the wider area which reflect communities, as well as offering good electoral equality and providing for effective and convenient local government.

73 Cllrs Mahendran and Montague suggested that, even if the proposed boundaries were retained, the name of our proposed Loughton ward could be improved to be reflective of the multiple communities within the ward. We have adopted this proposal, along with their proposed name of Watling, reflecting this ward's position on either side of Watling Street, as part of our final recommendations.

## Northern Milton Keynes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Great Linford	3	-6%
Hanslope	1	7%
New Bradwell	2	-2%
Wolverton	3	-10%

*Great Linford, Hanslope, and New Bradwell*

74 Our draft recommendations were for two three-member wards, with a Hanslope and New Bradwell ward covering the two named parishes, as well as Castlethorpe, Haversham-cum-Little Linford, and the northern section of Stantonbury parish.

75 This proposal did not attract widespread support. Hanslope, Castlethorpe, Haversham-cum-Little Linford, and New Bradwell Parish Councils all opposed our draft recommendations together with Cllr K. Smith. These submissions argued that there was no shared community identity between the rural areas of our proposed

ward, and the urban area of New Bradwell. The Green Party, while supporting the bulk of the draft recommendations, also opposed our draft recommendations in this area noting that the evidence of transport and suggested employment links between Hanslope and New Bradwell were not as strong as previously indicated.

76 Hanslope Parish Council, Castlethorpe Parish Council, and Haversham-cum-Little Linford Parish Council put forward a “re-balancing exercise”, proposing significant changes to warding arrangements across Milton Keynes. This proposal would see the parishes in question placed in a largely rural ward which would extend to Olney. It would also result in a mixed urban/rural ward, with electors in Great Linford and Campbell Park parishes placed in a ward with Lavendon, Warrington, and Cold Brayfield parishes. No evidence was offered of a shared community identity across these areas, and we do not consider that this offers an overall improvement to our draft recommendations.

77 Great Linford Parish Council provided a submission welcoming the draft recommendations, and particularly the fact that the parish is split between only two city wards, as opposed to five under the existing arrangements.

78 Cllr V. Bamisile, Cllr N. Khan, Cllr S. Brown, and a number of residents commented on the position of the Redhouse Park estate in the north of Great Linford parish. They suggested that Redhouse Park could be added to our proposed Hanslope & New Bradwell ward, citing links between Redhouse Park and Oakridge Park, and that Redhouse Park neighbours the Linford Lakes area.

79 Stantonbury Parish Council and Cllr S. Kennedy argued against our draft recommendations, suggesting instead that we create a ward based around Stantonbury parish. No specific proposals as to what areas this ward would comprise, or what the implications would be for neighbouring wards, were offered. We also note that a ward comprising only Stantonbury parish would have 27% fewer electors per councillor than average across Milton Keynes. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

80 We have considered all the evidence relating to this area carefully and are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations. The distribution of electors across the City Council area means that the rural areas of the authority are, broadly, entitled to four councillors with good electoral equality. There is no way to retain a uniform pattern of three-member wards with good electoral equality without at least one ward comprising components from both the urban and rural areas. While other areas with mixed urban and rural wards have attracted support, the evidence from the five parish councils contained in our proposed Hanslope & New Bradwell ward makes it clear that this is not the case here – none of the parish councils had anything other than strong objections to our draft recommendations.

81 Given the constraints of geography and the strong evidence provided, we are persuaded to depart from the principle of three-member wards here. We are satisfied that it is not possible to achieve an effective balance of our statutory criteria under a uniform three-member warding pattern in this area. Therefore, as part of our final recommendations, we are proposing a single-member ward covering Hanslope, Castlethorpe, and Haversham-cum-Little Linford parishes, and a two-member ward covering New Bradwell parish, and the central section of Stantonbury parish. In order to ensure that this latter ward has good electoral equality, we are amending the boundary proposed in our draft recommendations so that Stantonbury Campus, and electors west of this site, are placed in New Bradwell ward.

82 Given the transfer of electors from the central Stantonbury area into New Bradwell ward, we are retaining the Redhouse Park area in Great Linford ward. This is necessary to ensure good electoral equality for both Hanslope and Great Linford wards but also ensures that Great Linford Parish Council is split between only two, rather than three, City Council wards.

83 Given that our revised, single-member Hanslope ward has an electoral variance of 7%, it is not possible to add any additional rural parishes to this ward and retain good electoral equality. We therefore have not adopted the Conservatives' proposal to add Stoke Goldington and Gayhurst parishes to this ward.

### *Wolverton*

84 As with other areas across the city, we received few comments on the boundaries of Wolverton ward specifically, other than in the context of accommodating changes in other areas. New Bradwell Parish Council noted the existing links between New Bradwell and Wolverton in the existing ward. However, even with the removal of the Blue Bridge estate, Wolverton & Greenleys and New Bradwell parishes are forecast to have too many electors to offer good electoral equality if joined in the same ward.

85 One resident, from the Bancroft Park estate, objected to moving this estate from Wolverton ward to Bradwell, suggesting that this may be a precursor to the elimination of Stantonbury parish. We have no power to abolish parish councils and note that, if Blue Bridge and Bancroft Park were placed in Wolverton ward, this would result in Stantonbury parish being divided between four City Council wards, rather than three, which would not provide for effective and convenient local government. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

86 We are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for Wolverton ward and confirm them as final.

## Conclusions

87 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Milton Keynes, referencing the 2023 and 2030 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found in Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2024	2030
Number of councillors	60	60
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	3,370	3,667
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	10	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

#### Final recommendations

Milton Keynes City Council should be made up of 60 councillors serving 21 wards representing one single-councillor ward, one two-councillor ward and 19 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 Milton Keynes City Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Milton Keynes on our interactive maps at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

88 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.

89 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, Milton Keynes City 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.

90 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 Bletchley & Fenny Stratford, Broughton & Milton Keynes, Kents Hill & Monkston, Stantonbury, Walton, and Whitehouse parishes.

91 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bletchley & Fenny Stratford parish.

#### Final recommendations

Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central Bletchley	1
Eaton North	3
Eaton South	2
Fenny Stratford	3
Granby	1
Manor North & Eaton Leys	2
Manor South	3
Newton Leys	4
Queensway & Denbigh West	2

92 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Broughton & Milton Keynes parish.

#### Final recommendations

Broughton & Milton Keynes Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Broughton & Atterbury	9
Village	3

93 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Kents Hill & Monkston parish.

**Final recommendations**

Kents Hill & Monkston Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Kents Hill & Kingston	4
Monkston	5
Monkston Park	2

94 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Stantonbury parish.

**Final recommendations**

Stantonbury Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bancroft	1
Blue Bridge	1
Bradville & Stantonbury	6
Linford Wood	3
Oakridge Park	2

95 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Walton parish.

**Final recommendations**

Walton Community Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Browns Wood & Old Farm Park	2
Caldecotte	1
Glebe Farm	1
Walnut Tree & Walton Park	4
Wavendon Gate	2

96 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Whitehouse parish.

#### Final recommendations

Whitehouse Community Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	3
West	4



## What happens next?

97 We have now completed our review of Milton Keynes City Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2026.



## Equalities

98 The Commission is satisfied that it complies with its legal obligations under the Equality Act and that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.



# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Final recommendations for Milton Keynes City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bletchley Park & Fenny Stratford	3	10,899	3,633	8%	11,401	3,800	4%
2	Bletchley South	3	9,989	3,330	-1%	10,900	3,633	-1%
3	Bletchley West	3	10,423	3,474	3%	10,021	3,340	-9%
4	Bradwell	3	11,172	3,724	11%	10,846	3,615	-1%
5	Broughton & Moulsoe	3	8,733	2,911	-14%	11,478	3,826	4%
6	Campbell Park & Willen	3	10,625	3,542	5%	11,146	3,815	4%
7	Central Milton Keynes	3	8,464	2,821	-16%	11,350	3,783	3%
8	Danesborough	3	7,351	2,450	-27%	10,742	3,581	-2%
9	Furzton	3	12,254	4,085	21%	12,059	4,020	10%
10	Great Linford	3	10,082	3,361	0%	10,300	3,433	-6%
11	Hanslope	1	3,870	3,870	15%	3,941	3,941	7%

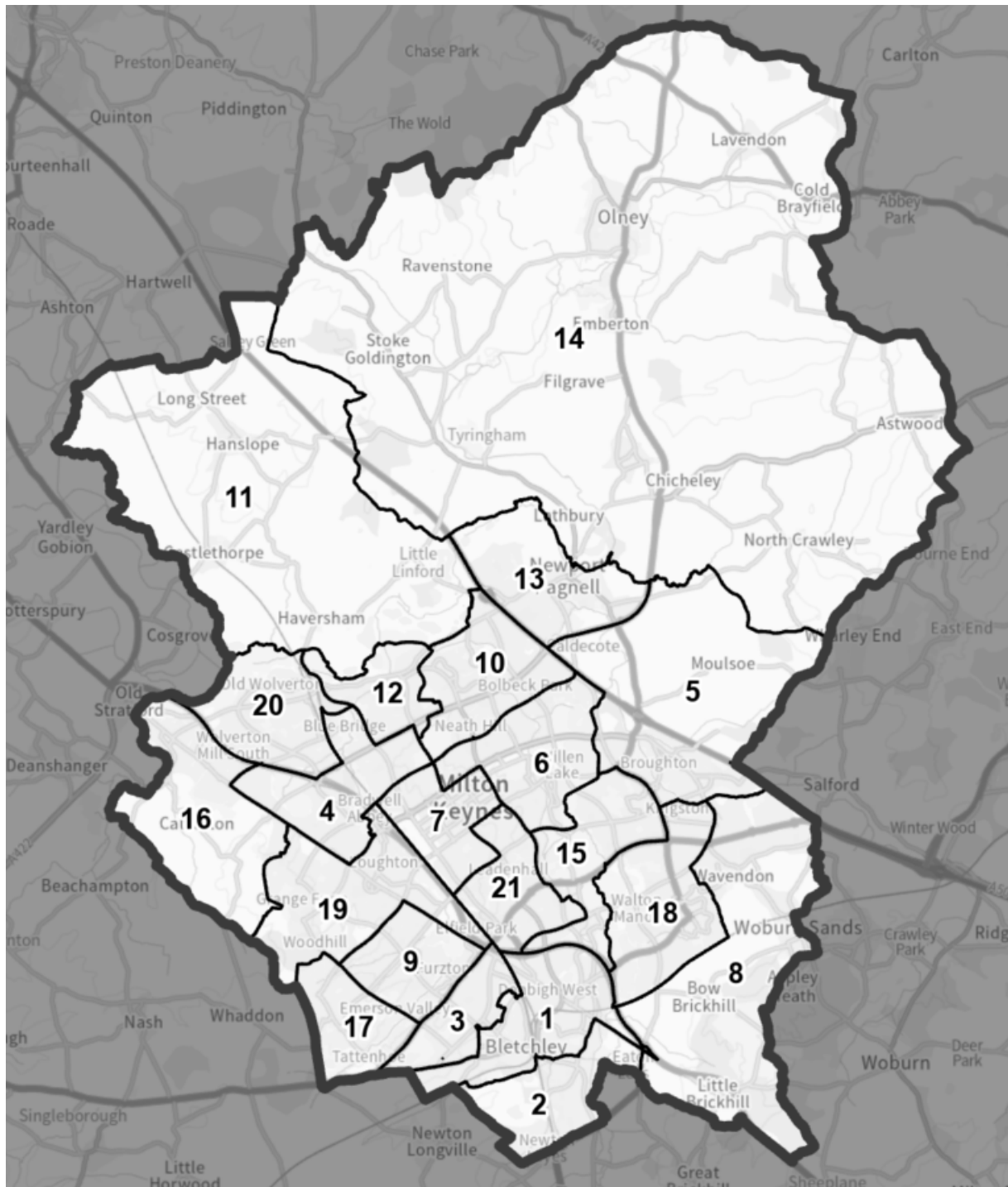
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	New Bradwell	2	7,147	3,574	6%	7,165	3,582	-2%
13	Newport Pagnell	3	11,282	3,761	12%	11,421	3,807	4%
14	Olney & Rural	3	10,238	3,413	1%	10,607	3,536	-4%
15	Ouzel Valley	3	9,617	3,206	-5%	9,943	3,314	-10%
16	Stony Stratford	3	7,863	2,621	-22%	11,277	3,759	3%
17	Tattenhoe	3	9,029	3,010	-11%	10,977	3,659	0%
18	Walton	3	10,486	3,495	4%	11,146	3,715	1%
19	Watling	3	12,036	4,012	19%	11,832	3,944	8%
20	Wolverton	3	9,732	3,244	-4%	9,933	3,311	-10%
21	Woughton & Fishermead	3	10,878	3,626	8%	11,212	3,737	2%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>202,170</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>219,993</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,370</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,667</b>	<b>–</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Milton Keynes City 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 city. 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
1	Bletchley Park & Fenny Stratford
2	Bletchley South
3	Bletchley West
4	Bradwell
5	Broughton & Moulsoe
6	Campbell Park & Willen
7	Central Milton Keynes
8	Danesborough
9	Furzton
10	Great Linford
11	Hanslope
12	New Bradwell
13	Newport Pagnell
14	Olney & Rural
15	Ouzel Valley
16	Stony Stratford
17	Tattenhoe
18	Walton
19	Watling
20	Wolverton
21	Woughton & Fishermead

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/milton-keynes](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/milton-keynes)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/milton-keynes](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/milton-keynes)

### *Political Groups*

- Milton Keynes City Council Conservative Group
- Milton Keynes Green Party
- Milton Keynes Labour Party
- Milton Keynes Liberal Democrats

### *Councillors*

- Councillor Dr T. Bailey (Milton Keynes City Council) (2 submissions)
- Councillor V. Bamisile (Milton Keynes City Council)
- Councillor S. Brown (Milton Keynes City Council)
- Councillor K. Clay (Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Ferrans (Milton Keynes City Council)
- Councillor P. Glasgow (Woughton Community Council)
- Councillor S. Kennedy (Milton Keynes City Council & Stantonbury Parish Council)
- Councillor N. Khan (Milton Keynes City Council)
- Councillor P. Lee (Stantonbury Parish Council)
- Councillor M. Legg (Milton Keynes City Council)
- Councillor S. Mahendran (Milton Keynes City Council)
- Councillor C. Marsh (Woughton Community Council)
- Councillor L. Montague (Milton Keynes City Council)
- Councillor A. Rennie (Woughton Community Council)
- Councillor K. Smith (Stantonbury Parish Council)

### *Local Organisations*

- Bradville Residents' Association
- Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association

### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council
- Bradwell Parish Council
- Castlethorpe Parish Council
- Emberton Parish Council
- Great Linford Parish Council
- Hanslope Parish Council
- Haversham-cum-Little Linford Parish Council
- Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council
- Moulsoe Parish Council
- New Bradwell Parish Council
- Newport Pagnell Town Council
- Old Woughton Parish Council
- Simpson & Ashland Parish Council
- Stantonbury Parish Council
- Walton Community Council
- Whitehouse Community Council
- Woughton Community Council

### *Local Residents*

- 76 local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Changes 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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
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