



# New electoral arrangements for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Final Recommendations September 2025



## **Translations and other formats:**

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

## **Licensing:**

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: AC 0000807452 2025

## **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.

# Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Sandwell?	2
Our proposals for Sandwell	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Review timetable	3
Analysis and final recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	7
Draft recommendations consultation	7
Final recommendations	8
Smethwick	9
Rowley Regis	12
Oldbury and Tividale	14
West Bromwich	17
Wednesbury	19
Charlemont, Great Barr, Grove Vale and Yew Tree	22
Conclusions	25
Summary of electoral arrangements	25
What happens next?	27
Equalities	29
Appendices	31
Appendix A	31
Final recommendations for Sandwell Council	31
Appendix B	34
Outline map	34
Appendix C	36
Submissions received	36
Appendix D	38





# 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) | • Liz Treacy                     |
| • Andrew Scallan CBE<br>(Deputy Chair)   | • Steve Robinson                 |
| • Amanda Nobbs OBE                       | • Wallace Sampson OBE            |
|  | • 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.

---

<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 the 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 Sandwell?

7 We are conducting a review of Sandwell ('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'.<sup>2</sup>

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Sandwell 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 Sandwell

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

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

11 The boundaries of all wards should change; none will stay the same.

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

## How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

---

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



## Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
21 May 2024	Number of councillors decided
23 July 2024	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
30 September 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
4 March 2025	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
12 May 2025	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
2 September 2025	Publication of final recommendations



## Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation<sup>3</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>4</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.

	2023	2030
Electorate of Sandwell	230,066	240,884
Number of councillors	72	72
Average number of electors per councillor	3,196	3,346

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 but one of our proposed wards for Sandwell (Oldbury) 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 2030, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2025. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 4.6% by 2030.

23 During the initial consultation, we became aware that the Council had based the electorate forecasts for Sandwell off of inaccurate baseline of current electorate figures. We put these concerns to the Council which agreed that the current

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

electorate data that the forecast figures were based on were inaccurate as 30,000 electors had incorrectly been added to the current electorate.

24 We worked with officers at the Council to develop a revised set of electorate figures based on correct current electorate data. These revised figures resulted in a new forecast electorate figure of 240,884 for Sandwell in 2030. This was a reduction from the original forecast of 271,636 electors which was published on our website at the start of the review. This figure resulted in an increase in the electorate of 4.7% over the next five years as opposed to 4.6% under the initial figure.

25 As we developed our draft recommendations 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 were satisfied that the change in the forecast would not, of itself, rule out any of the proposals put forward to us during the initial consultation.

26 During consultation on our draft recommendations, we received no further comments on the revised electorate forecast. We have therefore used this figure to produce our final recommendations.

27 Our mapping tool uses geocoded electoral registers supplied by the Council to locate electors, by associating addresses with specific geographic coordinates. 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 and the electorate figures published in this report. However, these are very minor and do not impact on our recommendations.

## Number of councillors

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

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

30 As Sandwell Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation<sup>5</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,

---

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

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.

31 We received four submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. These respondents stated that the number of councillors should be reduced. One argued each ward should be represented by two councillors. While considering these submissions, we were not persuaded that insufficient evidence was provided to demonstrate how the Council would carry out its role and duties with fewer councillors. Additionally, we were not persuaded that compelling evidence had been provided to justify a departure from the presumption of three-member wards as described above. Therefore, we have based our final recommendations on a 72-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

32 We received 32 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a borough-wide proposal from the Council. We also received a partial scheme for the south-west of the borough from Halesowen Conservative Association. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

33 The borough-wide and partial scheme submitted provided for a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Sandwell. 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.

34 Our draft recommendations were broadly based upon the borough-wide proposals made by the Council. However, in the south-west of the borough, we were persuaded to adopt the Halesowen Conservative Association's proposals, based on 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.

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

## Draft recommendations consultation

36 We received 85 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a partial scheme from the Council. We also

received submissions from MPs, political groups, local organisations and local residents. The majority of the submissions focused on specific areas – particularly our proposals in the Rowley Regis area, where opposition was received relating to our proposed Cradley Heath and Blackheath & Old Hill wards. We also received opposition to our proposal to transfer part of the existing St Pauls ward into our proposed Oldbury ward. The remaining submissions focused on specific areas of the authority.

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

## Final recommendations

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

39 In particular, we have decided to modify our proposed wards in the Rowley Regis area in response to the submissions received. We also make modifications to the boundaries between Bearwood, Old Warley, West Bromwich Central, Newton & Valley, Oldbury and St Pauls wards to better reflect community ties, based on the evidence received. In addition, we also make minor amendments to the boundary between Tipton Green and Princes End wards to better reflect access routes.

40 The tables and maps on pages 9–23 detail our final recommendations for each area of Sandwell. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>6</sup> criteria of:

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

41 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.

---

<sup>6</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Smethwick



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Bearwood	3	5%
Bristnall	3	3%
Langley	3	7%
Old Warley	3	-9%
Smethwick	3	-1%
Soho & Victoria	3	2%

### Langley

42 In response to our draft recommendations, the Council, Smethwick Constituency Labour Party and Gurinder Singh Josan MP opposed our recommendation to place Boundary Avenue within our proposed Langley ward. The submissions argued that this area has a stronger community connection with Blackheath than Langley, utilising the services and amenities located along Blackheath High Street. Gurinder Singh Josan MP noted that this area has no direct footpath access to the neighbouring Harrold Road or to the rest of Langley ward. However, it was noted there is direct footpath access to the neighbouring Regis Heath Estate, included in our proposed Blackheath ward. We were persuaded by the evidence received, and our visit to the area reinforced the argument that community



identities would be best reflected by including Boundary Avenue in our proposed Blackheath ward as part of our final recommendations.

### *Bristnall*

43 The Smethwick Constituency Labour Party expressed support for our proposed Bristnall ward. In contrast, a local resident argued that 'Bristnall' no longer has any meaning as a ward name and that the majority of our proposed Bristnall ward does not include the area that is known as Bristnall. However, no alternative boundaries or names were suggested within this submission. We were therefore not persuaded to make any changes to our proposed Bristnall ward and confirm it as part of our final recommendations.

### *Bearwood and Old Warley*

44 In response to our draft recommendations, we received support for our proposed Bearwood and Old Warley wards from the Smethwick Constituency Labour Party. We also received nine responses from local residents in relation to our proposed Bearwood ward. Many of these submissions expressed satisfaction at our proposed ward name of 'Bearwood' and agreed that it better reflected local identities. However, six local residents opposed our proposal to include the electors west of Woodbourne Road within our proposed Old Warley ward as they argued that this area identifies with Bearwood. Some of these submissions suggested Hurst Road or Pottery Road as alternative boundaries between Bearwood and Old Warley wards which they argued would better reflect community identities and interests.

45 We were persuaded by the community evidence received that transferring the electors east of Pottery Road into Bearwood ward from our proposed Old Warley ward will better reflect communities in this area. We also visited this area on our tour of Sandwell and consider Pottery Road to be a strong and locally identifiable boundary. We also note that it is the current boundary between the existing Abbey and Old Warley wards.

46 A local resident supported our recommendation to retain the name of Old Warley for our proposed ward. One resident argued that Warley Woods should be included within Old Warley ward instead of Bearwood ward as it carries part of the ward name. We did not consider this was sufficient evidence to adopt this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

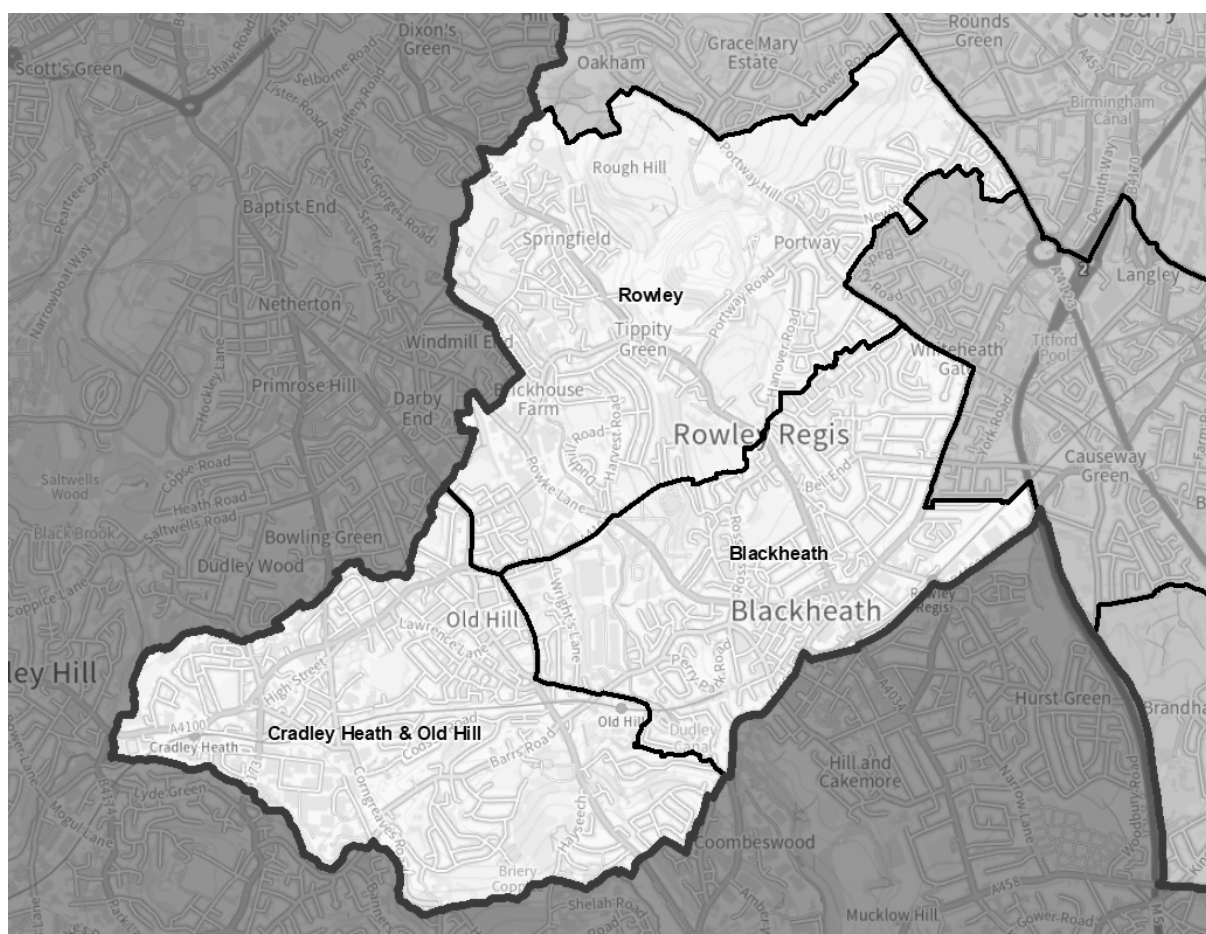
### *Soho & Victoria and Smethwick*

47 The Smethwick Constituency Labour Party and a local resident expressed support for our proposed Soho & Victoria and Smethwick wards; however, the local resident put forward alternative ward names. They suggested our Soho & Victoria ward be renamed Cape Hill as they stated our proposed name was old-fashioned. They also suggested our Smethwick ward be renamed Smethwick Central to differentiate the ward from the Smethwick parliamentary constituency. We decided



not to adopt these suggestions as part of our final recommendations as we do not consider sufficient evidence relating to community identities and interests was provided to justify these ward name changes.

## Rowley Regis



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Blackheath	3	7%
Cradley Heath & Old Hill	3	1%
Rowley	3	2%

### *Cradley Heath & Old Hill and Blackheath*

48 We received a mixture of support and opposition in relation to our proposed Cradley Heath and Blackheath & Old Hill wards. The Halesowen Conservative Association, Sandwell Conservatives, Councillor Dunn, Councillor Phipps and seven resident submissions supported our proposed warding pattern in this area.

49 In contrast, we received opposition to our draft recommendations in this area from the Council, Alex Ballinger MP, Sarah Coombes MP, Gurinder Singh Josan MP, Cradley Heath & Old Hill Labour Party, Smethwick Constituency Labour Party, Halesowen Labour Party, Councillor Smith and nine residents. The submissions expressed concern that transferring Old Hill into a ward with Blackheath would not reflect community identities and adopts 'artificial boundaries'. Cradley Heath and Old Hill were described as a distinct area and a natural community that share services

and amenities alongside a close geographical connection. Many respondents argued that Cradley Heath and Old Hill are directly next to each other whereas there is a 20-minute walk from Old Hill to Blackheath. The Council and Cradley Heath & Old Hill Labour Party submitted identical alternative proposals for Cradley Heath & Old Hill and Blackheath wards which received support from the majority of the above-mentioned submissions. They agreed that these proposed wards better reflected community identities and interests than our draft recommendations.

50 We have carefully considered the evidence received, noting both the support and opposition to our draft recommendations in this area. However, we were persuaded by the compelling community evidence received that adopting the Council's proposed Cradley Heath & Old Hill and Blackheath wards as part of our final recommendations will provide a better balance of our statutory criteria. We visited this area on our tour of Sandwell and consider the Council's proposed boundary of the A459 to be logical, locally identifiable and will therefore promote effective and convenient local government.

#### *Rowley*

51 The majority of the submissions we received in response to our proposed Rowley ward were in relation to our recommendation to transfer the Brickhouse Farm area (currently in Rowley ward) into our proposed Blackheath & Old Hill ward. A local resident expressed support for this proposal and argued that it gives the area 'a longed for identity'. The Sandwell Conservatives and the Halesowen Conservative Association also supported our proposed Rowley ward and argued that the Brickhouse Farm area is in close proximity to Old Hill and Blackheath with which it shares community ties.

52 However, we received opposition from the Council, Gurinder Singh Josan MP, Sarah Coombes MP, Smethwick Constituency Labour Party and Councillor Iqbal in relation to this proposal. The submissions advocated for the Brickhouse Farm area to remain within Rowley ward as they argued it has no community connection with Blackheath and is by 'longstanding association' a part of the Rowley community. Sarah Coombes MP argued that the Brickhouse Farm area is a considerable distance from Blackheath town centre and has no significant transport links.

53 After careful consideration of the evidence received, we have decided to retain the Brickhouse Farm area within Rowley ward as part of our final recommendations as we found the evidence in favour of this proposal strong. We also visited this area on our tour of Sandwell and considered the Brickhouse Farm area a very distinctive community that appeared distant from the towns of Old Hill and Blackheath. In conclusion, we consider this change will better reflect community identities and interests and ultimately provide a better balance of our statutory criteria.

## Oldbury and Tivdale



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Great Bridge	3	7%
Greets Green & Lyng	3	-3%
Oldbury	3	-11%
St Pauls	3	4%
Tivdale	3	-5%

### *Oldbury and St Pauls*

54 Gurinder Singh Josan MP, Sarah Coombes MP, Smethwick Constituency Labour Party, Councillor Jalil and Councillor Choudhry expressed opposition to our proposal to include the area around Crystal Drive and West End Avenue in Oldbury ward. They advocated for the retention of the existing ward boundary in this area which includes Crystal Drive and West End Avenue in St Pauls ward.

55 Their argument was partly based on the fact that our proposed Oldbury and St Pauls wards would not follow the boundary of Smethwick parliamentary constituency. However, as stated in paragraph 14 of this report, our recommendations do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries.



56 Furthermore, the above-mentioned submissions also argued that the existing boundary in this area better reflects community identities and interests as electors look to St Pauls ward for their services and amenities. In addition, it was stated that this area is physically divided from the rest of Oldbury ward by several industrial estates, the M5 and the Birmingham Canal.

57 We visited this area on our tour of Sandwell and agree with the evidence provided that the industrial estates, the M5 and the Birmingham Canal do form a barrier between communities. We were therefore persuaded by the community evidence received to retain the existing ward boundary in this area as part of our final recommendations. This amendment results in Oldbury ward having a forecast electoral variance of -11%. While we acknowledge this is relatively high, we are content that sufficient evidence has been provided to justify this electoral variance and consider that this amendment provides for a better balance of our statutory criteria.

#### *Tividale*

58 We received support from Councillor Dunn, one of the current Tividale ward councillors, for our proposed Tividale ward. They agreed that our proposals better reflected community ties and will make it easier for electors to understand who represents them. Councillor Choudhry also expressed satisfaction at our proposal to move areas currently within Oldbury ward into Tividale ward.

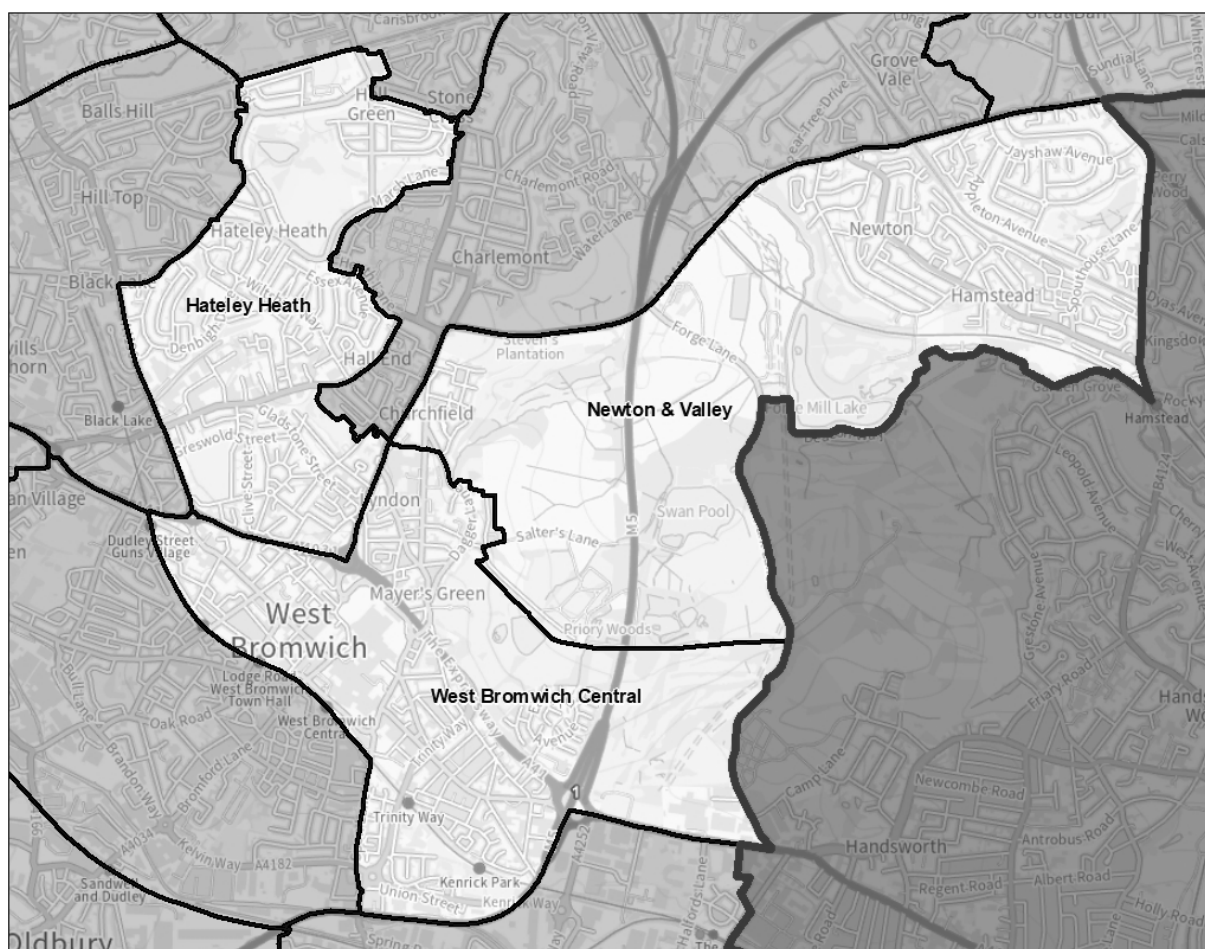
59 However, a local resident stated that Tividale Street should be included within Tividale ward instead of our proposed Tipton Green ward. We have decided not to adopt this proposal as we were not persuaded that there was enough compelling community evidence provided to modify our draft recommendations in this area. We received no further submissions concerning this ward and therefore confirm our proposed Tividale ward as final.

#### *Great Bridge and Greets Green & Lyng*

60 Councillor Gill, the current councillor for Great Bridge, expressed support for our proposed Great Bridge ward. However, the Greets Greeners Community Group objected to our recommendation to amend the boundary between proposed Great Bridge and Greets Green & Lyng wards. They stated that the existing boundary should be retained as the 'community are proud of their name and area'. While acknowledging the views of the Community Group, we were not persuaded to adopt the proposal to retain the existing boundary as we did not consider that sufficient community-based evidence was provided to justify modifying our draft recommendations in this area. We also consider that our boundary along Oldbury Road and the Balls Hill Branch Canal is stronger and more recognisable for local electors.

61 Consequently, we are recommending no changes to our proposed Great Bridge and Greets Green & Lyng wards, confirming them as part of our final recommendations.

## West Bromwich



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Hateley Heath	3	-3%
Newton & Valley	3	-6%
West Bromwich Central	3	0%

### *Newton & Valley and West Bromwich Central*

62 One resident argued that the Churchfields area has no community links with Newton and should therefore be included in our West Bromwich Central ward instead of Newton & Valley ward. However, this amendment would result in an anticipated electoral variance of -14% for our proposed Newton & Valley ward, meaning it would not provide for good electoral equality. We were therefore not persuaded to adopt this particular proposal, as we consider the evidence supplied did not justify this electoral variance.

63 A resident of Belvedere Close argued that it makes 'no sense' that their area be included in Newton & Valley ward as it is under our draft recommendations, due to its proximity to the centre of West Bromwich. We were persuaded by the evidence received that including Belvedere Close and Warstone Drive in our West Bromwich

Central ward would better reflect community identities and interests. As part of our final recommendations, we have adopted this amendment between our Newton & Valley and West Bromwich Central wards, noting that this change still ensures good forecast electoral equality for both wards by 2030.

#### *Hateley Heath*

64 We did not receive any submissions directly relating to our proposed Hateley Heath ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.



## Wednesbury



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Friar Park & Stone Cross	3	-5%
Hill Top	3	2%
Princes End	3	-1%
Tipton Green	3	5%
Wednesbury	3	3%

### *Princes End and Tipton Green*

65 In response to our draft recommendations, Antonia Bance MP expressed satisfaction and support for our proposed wards that fall within the Tipton & Wednesbury Parliamentary Constituency, stating that they provide a good balance of our statutory criteria.

66 One local resident suggested that the Brookshaw Glades Estate should be transferred into Tipton Green ward rather than be retained in Oldbury ward to better reflect community identities. However, this amendment would result in an anticipated electoral variance of -13% for Oldbury ward. We were not persuaded to adopt this

proposal, as we consider the evidence supplied did not justify this electoral variance. We also consider our proposed boundary, which follows the A461, to be strong and identifiable.

67 As part of our final recommendations, we are recommending a minor change to the boundary between our proposed Tipton Green and Princes End wards. This includes the transfer of a few electors south of Brymill Industrial Estate from our proposed Princes End ward into Tipton Green ward. We have also decided to amend the boundary between these wards to include the entirety of Belmont Close within Tipton Green ward. After completing a virtual tour of this area, we considered these minor amendments to better reflect road access links in these areas and will therefore provide for a better balance of our statutory criteria.

#### *Wednesbury and Hill Top*

68 A local resident of Swan Village argued that this area should remain within West Bromwich Central ward instead of being included in our proposed Hill Top ward. We were not persuaded by the evidence provided to adopt this amendment as part of our final recommendations. We consider our proposed boundary, which follows the A41, to be particularly clear and identifiable and will promote effective and convenient local government.

69 Antonia Bance MP and a local resident expressed support for our proposed Wednesbury and Hill Top & Ocker Hill wards. The resident also noted that the proposed ward names were an improvement on the existing ones.

70 However, the Tipton Civic Society and a local resident objected to our proposed Hill Top & Ocker Hill ward as they argued that Hill Top and Ocker Hill were separate communities, physically divided from one another by the River Tame and the Black Country New Road. The local resident added that Ocker Hill is actually within our proposed Great Bridge ward. They went on to propose that Hill Top should be included within our Hateley Heath ward and Ocker Hill within our Princes End ward. While we note the views expressed, we were not persuaded they were supported by sufficient evidence of community identities and interests to justify making significant amendments to the recommended warding pattern in this area.

71 As part of our final recommendations, we have decided to rename our Hill Top & Ocker Hill ward to Hill Top. Based on the evidence received, we consider that this name will better reflect the area and the communities located within the ward. Except for the ward name change, we are confirming our draft recommendations for these two wards as final.

#### *Friar Park & Stone Cross*

72 A local resident of Johnson Road stated that they did not consider this area a part of Friar Park. They also argued that the electors south of the Tame Valley Canal

area would not consider themselves a part of Friar Park or Stone Cross. In the absence of any alternative boundary proposals or supporting evidence of community identities to support this assertion, we were not persuaded to make amendments to our proposed Friar Park & Stone Cross ward and therefore confirm it as final.

## Charlemont, Great Barr, Grove Vale and Yew Tree



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Charlemont & Grove Vale	3	-3%
Great Barr, Tamebridge & Yew Tree	3	-2%

### *Charlemont & Grove Vale and Great Barr, Tamebridge & Yew Tree*

73 A local resident expressed support for our proposed Charlemont & Grove Vale ward. Another local resident argued that Red House Park, Hill Lane and adjacent streets should be included within our proposed Charlemont & Grove Vale ward as this area has more in common with Grove Vale than Great Barr. It was unclear within this submission how much of the area around Red House Park was to be transferred into Charlemont & Grove Vale ward. We also did not consider that sufficient community-based evidence was provided to justify amending our proposals in this area.

74 In addition, a resident of Abbotsford Avenue, which is included within our proposed Great Barr, Tamebridge & Yew Tree ward, argued that they do not identify with Tamebridge or Yew Tree and that these communities are separated from Great Barr by the M6. They therefore suggested we instead include Great Barr and Newton

within a ward. We acknowledge that the M6 presents a significant barrier between these communities. However, achieving good electoral equality in this area is particularly challenging without crossing the M6. We therefore decided not to adopt this proposal as part of our final recommendations as removing Great Barr from our Great Barr, Tamebridge & Yew Tree ward would result in a forecast electoral variance of -29% by 2030.

75 To conclude, we are proposing no modifications to our draft recommendations for these wards and confirm them as final.



## Conclusions

76 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Sandwell, 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	
	2023	2030
Number of councillors	72	72
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	3,196	3,346
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Final recommendations

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

#### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Sandwell Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Sandwell on our interactive maps at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)





## What happens next?

77 We have now completed our review of Sandwell. 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

78 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 Sandwell Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bearwood	3	9,907	3,302	3%	10,527	3,509	5%
2	Blackheath	3	10,910	3,637	14%	10,710	3,570	7%
3	Bristnall	3	10,134	3,378	6%	10,335	3,445	3%
4	Charlemont & Grove Vale	3	9,816	3,272	2%	9,756	3,252	-3%
5	Cradley Heath & Old Hill	3	10,107	3,369	5%	10,154	3,385	1%
6	Friar Park & Stone Cross	3	9,449	3,150	-1%	9,503	3,168	-5%
7	Great Barr, Tamebridge & Yew Tree	3	9,625	3,208	0%	9,868	3,289	-2%
8	Great Bridge	3	10,358	3,453	8%	10,768	3,589	7%
9	Greets Green & Lyng	3	8,805	2,935	-8%	9,742	3,247	-3%
10	Hateley Heath	3	9,333	3,111	-3%	9,715	3,238	-3%
11	Hill Top	3	9,388	3,129	-2%	10,256	3,419	2%

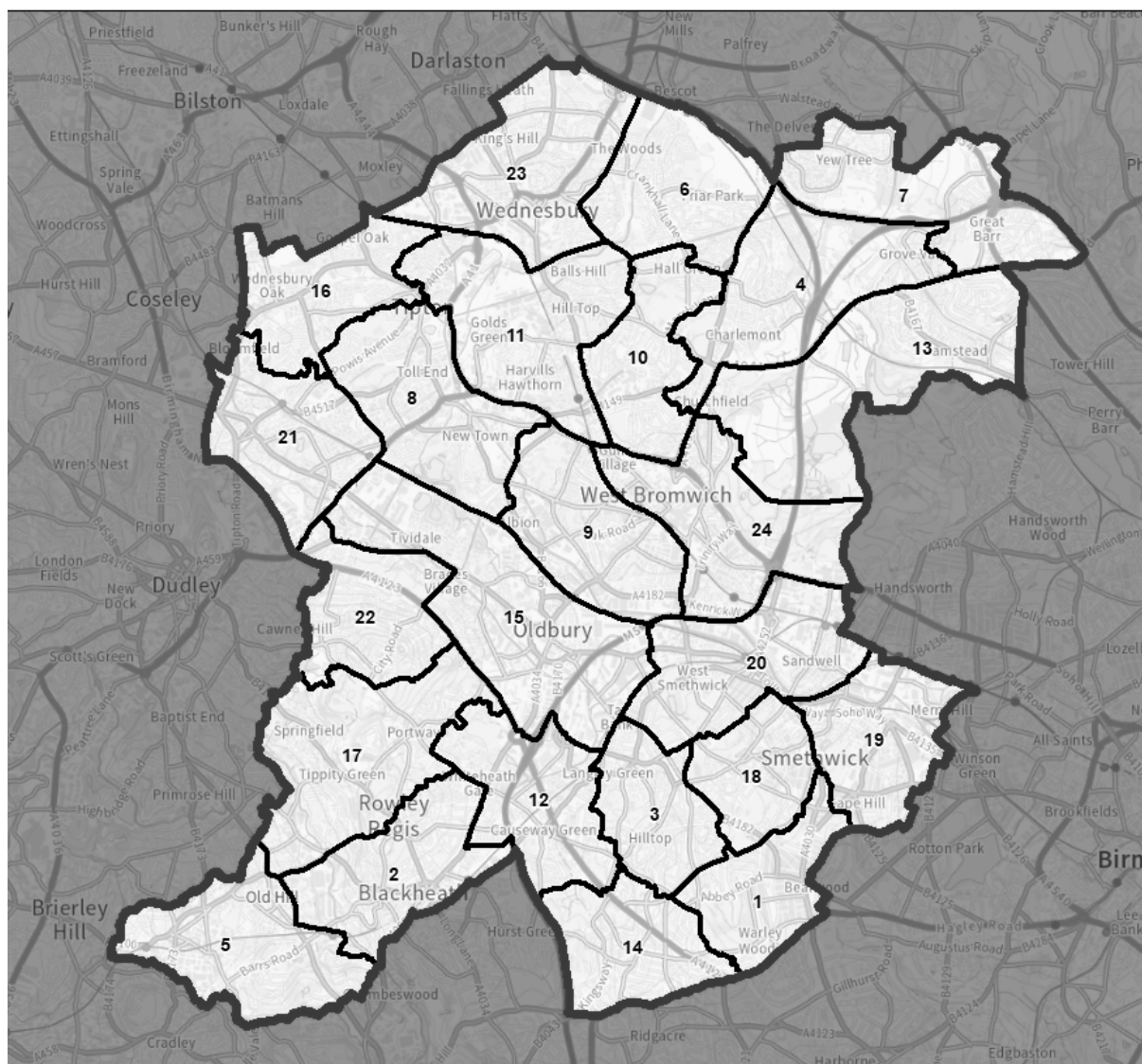
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Langley	3	10,340	3,447	8%	10,760	3,587	7%
13	Newton & Valley	3	9,468	3,156	-1%	9,479	3,160	-6%
14	Old Warley	3	9,234	3,078	-4%	9,156	3,052	-9%
15	Oldbury	3	8,388	2,796	-13%	8,942	2,981	-11%
16	Princes End	3	9,898	3,299	3%	9,903	3,301	-1%
17	Rowley	3	9,851	3,284	3%	10,192	3,397	2%
18	Smethwick	3	9,285	3,095	-3%	9,938	3,313	-1%
19	Soho & Victoria	3	8,557	2,852	-11%	10,228	3,409	2%
20	St Pauls	3	9,069	3,023	-5%	10,460	3,487	4%
21	Tipton Green	3	9,790	3,263	2%	10,571	3,524	5%
22	Tividale	3	9,437	3,146	-2%	9,541	3,180	-5%
23	Wednesbury	3	10,338	3,446	8%	10,381	3,460	3%
24	West Bromwich Central	3	8,579	2,860	-11%	9,999	3,333	0%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>230,066</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>240,884</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,196</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,346</b>	<b>–</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Sandwell 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
1	Bearwood
2	Blackheath
3	Bristnall
4	Charlemont & Grove Vale
5	Cradley Heath & Old Hill
6	Friar Park & Stone Cross
7	Great Barr, Tamebridge & Yew Tree
8	Great Bridge
9	Greets Green & Lyng
10	Hateley Heath
11	Hill Top
12	Langley



13	Newton & Valley
14	Old Warley
15	Oldbury
16	Princes End
17	Rowley
18	Smethwick
19	Soho & Victoria
20	St Pauls
21	Tipton Green
22	Tividale
23	Wednesbury
24	West Bromwich Central

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

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

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

#### *Local Authority*

- Sandwell Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Cradley Heath & Old Hill Branch Labour Party
- Halesowen Conservative Association
- Halesowen Constituency Labour Party
- Sandwell Conservatives
- Smethwick Constituency Labour Party

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor A. Choudhry (Sandwell Council)
- Councillor A. Dunn (Sandwell Council)
- Councillor W. Gill (Sandwell Council)
- Councillor R. Jalil (Sandwell Council)
- Councillor S. Iqbal (Sandwell Council)
- Councillor S. Phipps (Dudley Council)
- Councillor V. Smith (Sandwell Council)

#### *Members of Parliament*

- Alex Ballinger MP (Halesowen)
- Antonia Bance MP (Tipton & Wednesbury)
- Sarah Coombes MP (West Bromwich)
- Gurinder Singh Josan CBE MP (Smethwick)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Greets Greeners Community Group
- Tipton Civic Society

### *Local Residents*

- 66 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

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](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

**Online:** [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

**X:** @LGBCE