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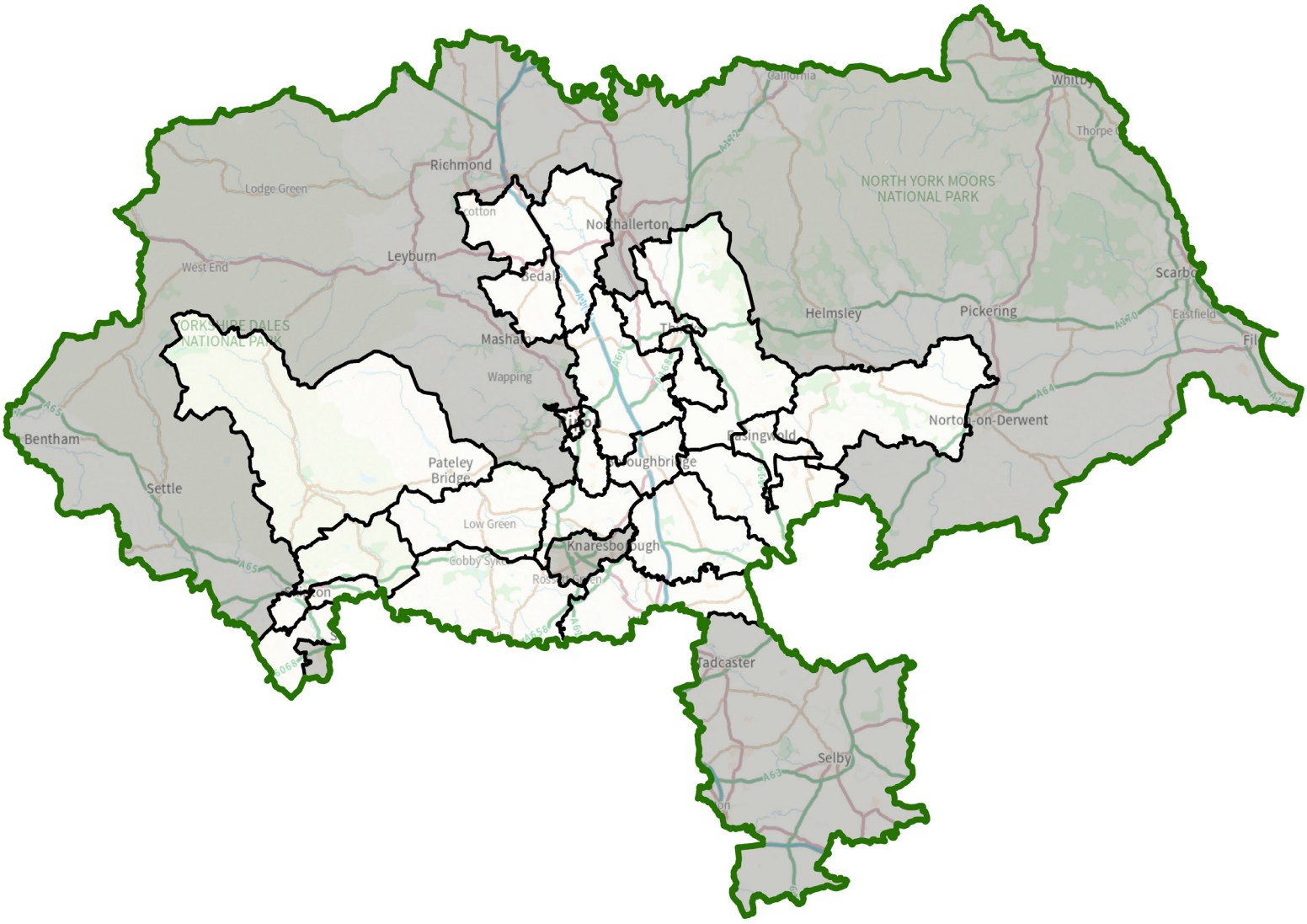

New electoral arrangements for North Yorkshire Council

Further Draft Recommendations

September 2025

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Contents

Analysis and further draft recommendations in the central and western areas of North Yorkshire

1 Following consultation on the draft recommendations for North Yorkshire, the Commission has determined to undertake a further period of consultation focused on the central and western areas of the council area before finalising its recommendations. The Commission considers that it has received sufficient evidence regarding the remainder of North Yorkshire to finalise its recommendations in those areas; therefore, this additional consultation is limited to 24 divisions in the central and western areas of the authority.

2 During the consultation on the draft recommendations, published on 1 April 2025, we received 195 representations across the whole of the authority. These included a mixture of support and objections, particularly concerning proposals affecting the Wharfedale and Nidderdale areas. We also received opposition to proposals relating to several divisions in the central part of North Yorkshire. In response, the Commission has amended its proposals and is now publishing further draft recommendations for 24 divisions within the central and western areas of the authority.

3 We conducted an in-person tour of North Yorkshire in July 2025 to look at some of the areas where we received strong evidence and feedback. This visit helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

4 We consider that these further draft recommendations offer a good balance of the statutory criteria, but we are seeking further views to ensure that these proposals – especially in areas where notable changes have been made – are properly tested with communities and reflect local views. We welcome comments on these further draft recommendations, particularly on the proposed division boundaries and division names.

5 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, we received a detailed submission from the North Yorkshire Labour Party ('Labour'). This submission emphasised the importance of creating divisions that did not cross parliamentary constituencies, arguing that such arrangements can cause confusion for electors and weaken community identity. It expressed concern that our recommendations increased the number of divisions that crossed parliamentary constituencies. It stated that creating divisions that did not cross parliamentary constituencies should be considered part of providing for effective and convenient local government.

6 We note these concerns. However, the consideration of parliamentary constituencies does not, of itself, form part of our criteria, and we do not consider the creation of divisions that straddle parliamentary boundaries to be in breach of our

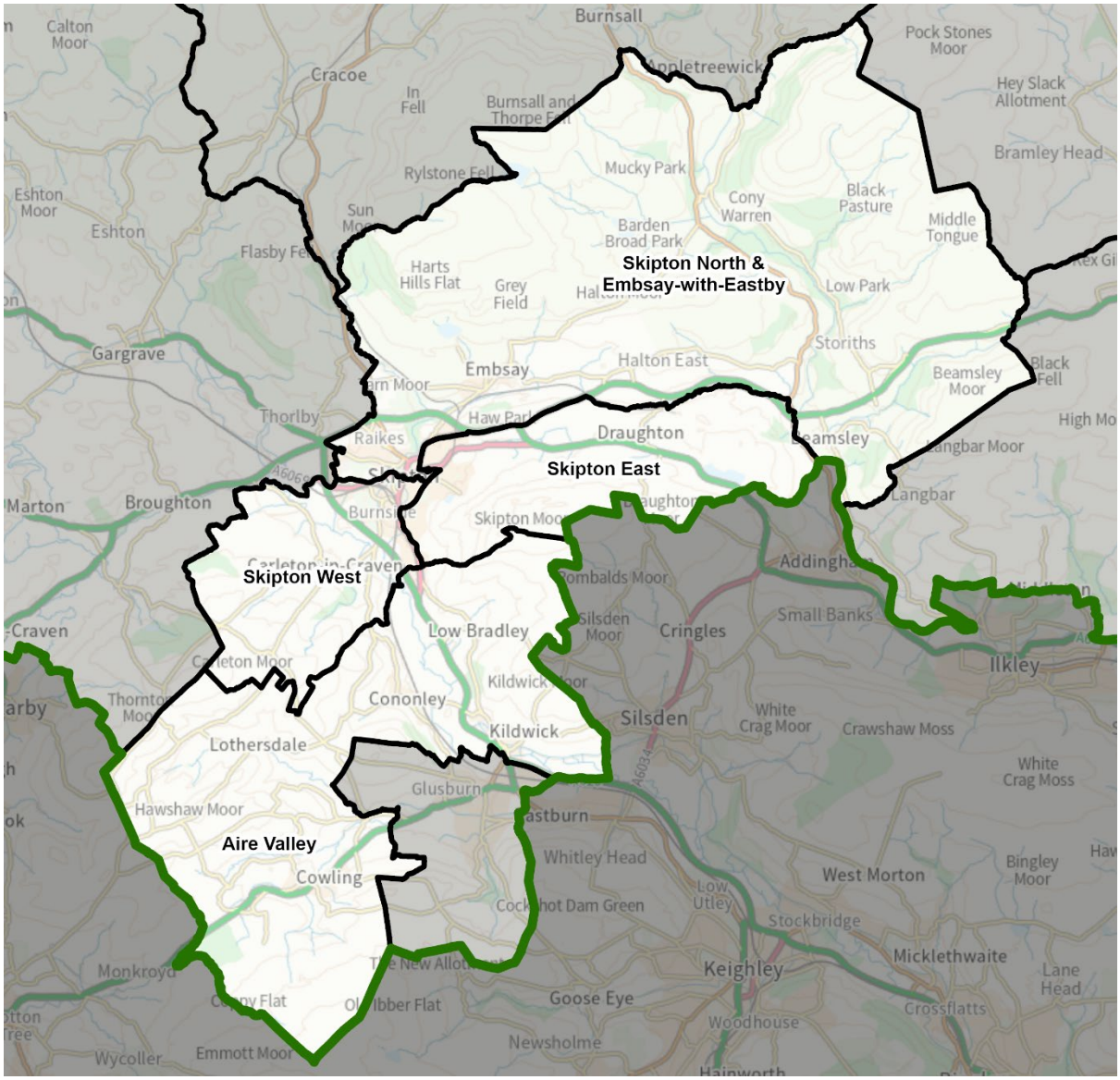
criteria. Therefore, we do not consider evidence relating solely to parliamentary boundaries to be persuasive. Nonetheless, we carefully considered the alternative proposals submitted and assessed them against our statutory criteria. Where we consider those alternatives to better reflect community identity or improve electoral equality while supporting effective and convenient local government, we have been prepared to adopt them.

7 This stage of consultation begins on 2 September 2025 and closes on 14 October 2025. Please see page 25 for more information on how to send us your response.

8 The tables and maps on pages 3–24 detail our further draft recommendations. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

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

Skipton



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Aire Valley	1	-11%
Skipton East	1	-6%
Skipton North & Embsay-with-Eastby	1	-6%
Skipton West	1	-2%

Aire Valley and Skipton West

9 We received several submissions in relation to our proposed Aire Valley division. These came from North Yorkshire Council ('the Council'), the North Yorkshire Conservative Party ('the Conservatives'), the North Yorkshire Green Councillors' Group ('the Greens'), Carleton-in-Craven Parish Council, Councillor Solloway and a local resident. All of these submissions opposed the inclusion of Carleton parish within the Aire Valley division, providing community-based evidence

that the parish shares closer links with Skipton. We did, however, receive a submission from Councillor A. Brown supporting the inclusion of Carleton parish in Aire Valley division. Cononley Parish Council also supported the proposed boundaries for this division.

10 After consideration, we have decided to transfer Carleton parish into our proposed Skipton West division. We were persuaded by the evidence received that the parish shares strong links with Skipton and that local community identities and interests would be better reflected by this modification. While this change results in a forecast electoral variance of -11% for Aire Valley division, we consider this to be acceptable when balanced against the need to reflect community identities and interests. We also note that, given the location of the division in the south-western corner of North Yorkshire, options to improve this variance are limited unless we include parts of parishes, such as Glusburn & Cross Hills, which would split them across more than one division. This, in our view, would not support effective and convenient local government.

Skipton East and Skipton North & Embsay-with-Eastby

11 The Council, the Conservatives, the Greens and Councillor A. Brown all opposed the inclusion of Broughton, Elslack, Stirton with Thorlby and Thornton-in-Craven parishes within our proposed Skipton North & Embsay-with-Eastby division. They broadly agreed that these parishes do not share particularly close links with Skipton and that their community identities and interests would be better reflected by their inclusion in our proposed Mid Craven division. The Council also stated within their submission that Thornton-in-Craven Parish Council supported this view.

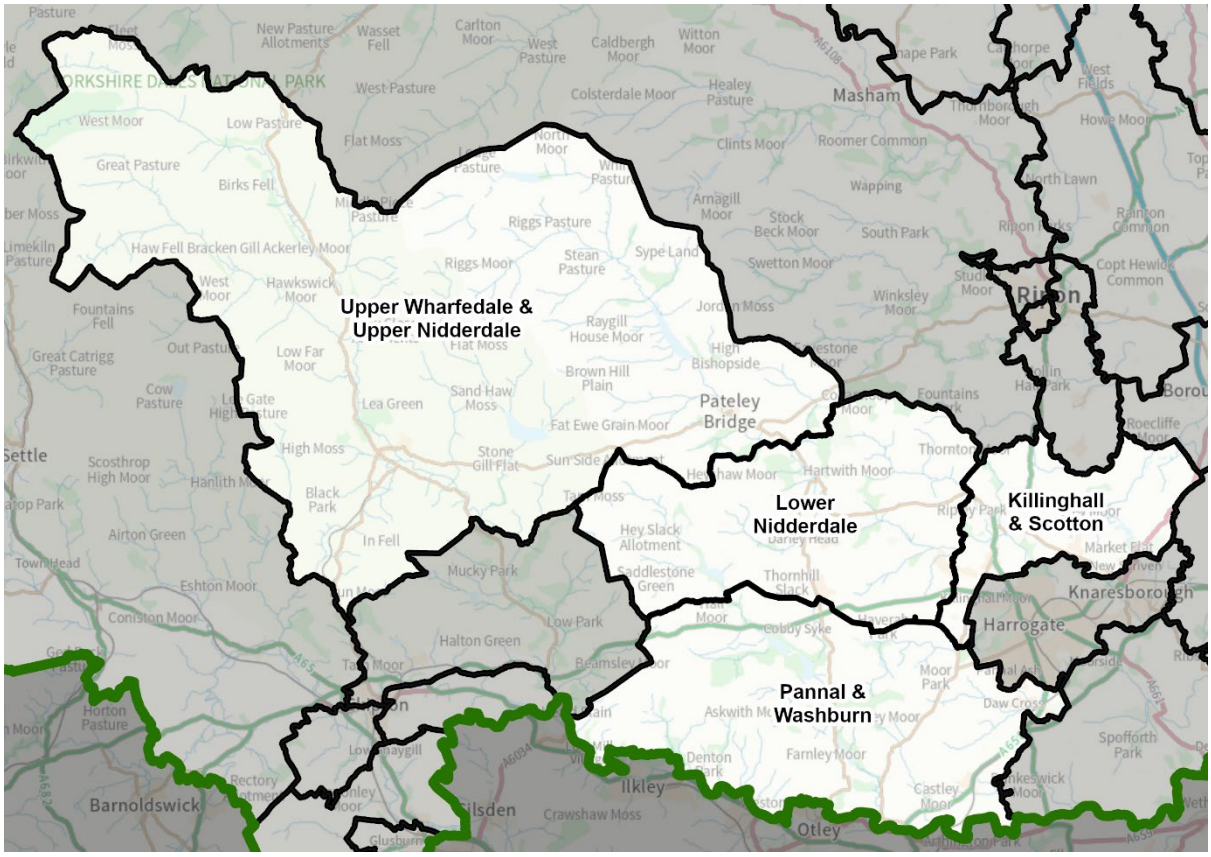
12 We have been persuaded by the evidence received and have therefore decided to transfer Broughton, Elslack, Stirton with Thorlby and Thornton-in-Craven from our proposed Skipton North & Embsay-with-Eastby division.

13 The removal of these parishes would result in an undersized Skipton North & Embsay-with-Eastby division. To address this, we have included the parishes of Barden, Beamsley, Bolton Abbey, Halton East and Hazlewood with Storiths in this division, all of which lie to the east of Skipton. We are satisfied that this modification better reflects community identities and interests. In particular, we have noted the evidence from the Conservatives that parishes located along the A59 corridor share stronger links with Embsay, Eastby, and other communities to the north of Skipton, rather than with the communities that formed part of our originally proposed Wharfedale division.

14 As a result of these modifications, our further draft recommendations for Skipton and the surrounding rural parishes now largely mirror the Council's proposals submitted during the previous consultation. This includes the Council's proposed arrangements in the centre of Skipton, which we have adopted in order to

ensure good levels of electoral equality across the three divisions that include parts of the town. Its previous proposal also placed Draughton parish in a Skipton East division. We have adopted this change, moving the parish from our proposed Wharfedale division. We also note a submission from a local resident indicating that Draughton shares good links with Skipton.

Nidderdale, Washburn and Wharfedale



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Killinghall & Scotton	1	-11%
Lower Nidderdale	1	-3%
Pannal & Washburn	1	3%
Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale	1	9%

Killinghall & Scotton

15 The Council, the Conservatives, the Harrogate & Knaresborough Conservative Association and a local resident all opposed our draft Lower Nidderdale division. These respondents broadly argued that the division did not reflect community identities. The Harrogate & Knaresborough Constituency Labour Party also expressed concern that rurality was the only unifying feature of the division, and that its constituent parishes had stronger connections to either Harrogate or Knaresborough rather than to one another.

16 Having carefully considered these representations, we are now proposing further draft recommendations for this part of North Yorkshire. However, we do not recommend significant changes to this division. Making substantial modifications would require the inclusion of the whole of Killinghall parish and the creation of a third Knaresborough division that linked the town with surrounding rural parishes to

achieve good electoral equality. We remain of the view that Killinghall parish should continue to be divided between divisions, and that two urban-focused Knaresborough divisions should be maintained.

17 However, we acknowledge that the name Lower Nidderdale is no longer appropriate, as it does not sufficiently reflect the division's geography and constituent communities. We therefore recommend renaming the division Killinghall & Scotton, based on the larger settlements contained in the proposed division.

18 We also propose the inclusion of Copgrove, Staveley and Walkingham Hill with Occaney parishes in Killinghall & Scotton division. These parishes were previously included in our draft Hammerton division. However, we were persuaded by the evidence from the Council, the Conservatives and a local resident that they have limited links with communities in the Hammerton and Ouseburn areas. We therefore consider their inclusion in Killinghall & Scotton division to provide a better reflection of local community identities.

19 In addition, we propose transferring Hampsthwaite parish to the adjacent and renamed Lower Nidderdale division. This change allows for good electoral equality in that division. However, under these revised proposals Killinghall & Scotton division would have a forecast electoral variance of -11%. While this is relatively high, we consider this variance acceptable given the geographical constraints in this area, our decision not to include parts of the Jennyfield area and the lack of viable alternatives that would improve electoral equality without undermining community identities elsewhere.

Lower Nidderdale, Pannal & Washburn and Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale

20 During our first consultation, we received local opposition to the Council's initial proposals for the Nidderdale and Wharfedale area, particularly regarding the division of Pateley Bridge and the inclusion of Upper Nidderdale within a Wharfedale division. Respondents, which included local parish and town councils, community groups and residents, argued that these arrangements would not reflect established and ongoing community ties. We therefore based our draft recommendations on the North Yorkshire Liberal Democrats' ('Liberal Democrats') proposals for Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale and Wharfedale divisions. We also adopted the Liberal Democrats' proposed Pannal & Birstwith division, which we considered to contain a coherent and relatively well-connected group of communities on the outskirts of Harrogate.

21 In response to our draft recommendations, we received a mixture of support and opposition. Bewerley Parish Council, Darley & Menwith Parish Council, Pateley Bridge Town Council, Councillor Broadbank, Councillor Murday and a local resident expressed support for the proposed Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale division. Another resident welcomed the inclusion of Hartwith cum Winsley parish in this division. The

Harrogate & Knaresborough Constituency Labour Party also expressed support for the Pannal & Birstwith division.

22 However, several respondents opposed the draft arrangements, including the Council, the Conservatives, Councillor Hull, Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Council and a local resident. Concerns were raised about the geographic size of the proposed Wharfedale division, while Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Council objected to the removal of Birstwith and Felliscliffe parishes from a Nidderdale-focused division. The Council, the Conservatives, Councillor Hull, the Harrogate & Knaresborough Conservative Association, Pannal & Burn Bridge Parish Council, Birstwith Parish Council, Haverah Park with Beckwithshaw Parish Council and three local residents also objected to the Pannal & Birstwith division. They argued that it combined distinct and disconnected communities. One resident acknowledged that while the division was not ideal, it represented a workable compromise.

23 We carefully considered all evidence received during both consultations, alongside our findings from our visit to the area. As a result, we are recommending a revised pattern of divisions that incorporates elements of the Council's original proposals, and which are similar to Councillor Hull's proposals. Specifically, we propose an Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale division, linking Pateley Bridge and the surrounding upper Nidderdale area with upper Wharfedale. While we previously noted the presence of extensive moorland between these areas, we observed during our visit that the B6265 road provides reasonable vehicular access. We also note that, during the previous consultation, Buckden Parish Council argued that the most logical way to achieve electoral equality in Upper Wharfedale was to group it with Upper Nidderdale.

24 We consider this Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale division to be preferable to the draft Wharfedale division, which stretched from Buckden parish in the north to Farnley parish in the south. We agree with respondents who argued that this division covered too large a geographic area and linked disparate communities with limited connection. We also agree that the southern parishes in our original Wharfedale division are more likely to share community identities and interests with nearby towns – both within and outside North Yorkshire – rather than with the more remote northern part of upper Wharfedale. We concur with the Council's view that upper Wharfedale and upper Nidderdale share common features in terms of landscape, economy and local issues. Furthermore, our Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale division avoids splitting High and Low Bishopside parish between divisions, a concern raised by Pateley Bridge Town Council during the previous consultation.

25 We are also recommending a Pannal & Washburn division, which brings together Pannal & Burn Bridge with parishes in the Washburn Valley. The parishes situated between our Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale and Pannal &

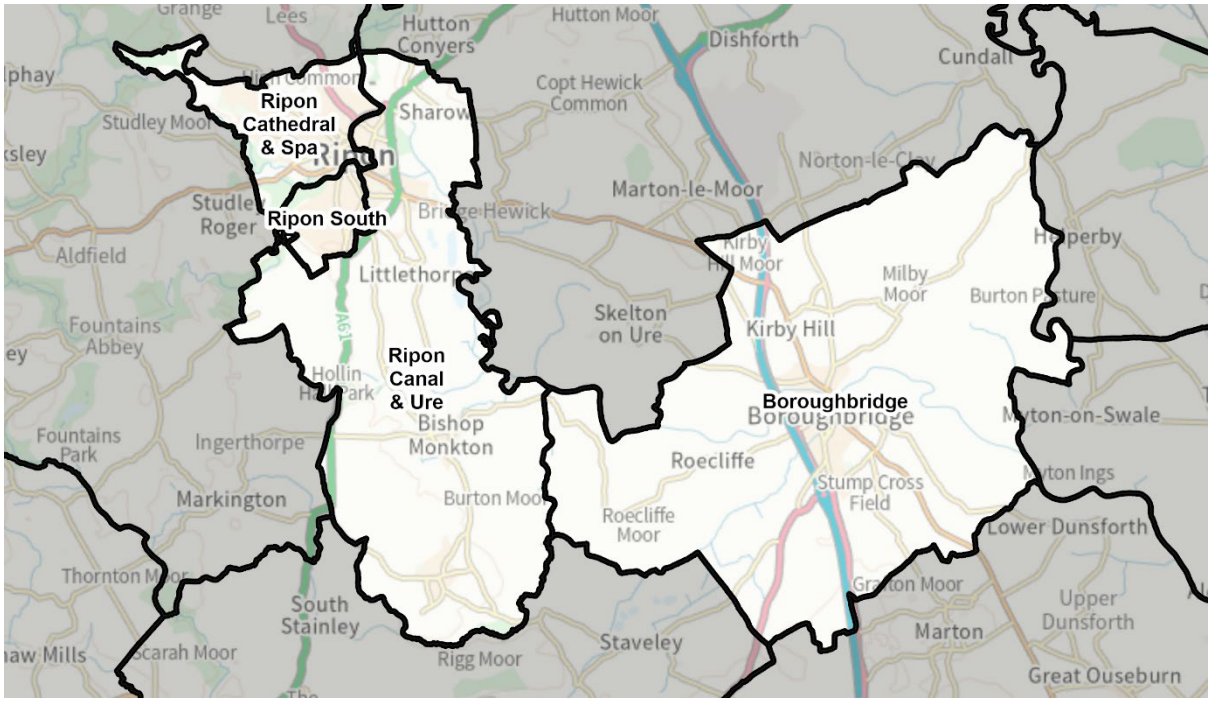
Washburn divisions, such as Birstwith, Dacre, Bishop Thornton and Shaw Mills & Warsill, will form a new Lower Nidderdale division. While this results in the Nidderdale area being split across two divisions, we note that such a split has existed previously at ward level under the former Harrogate Borough Council. We consider that our revised Lower Nidderdale division more accurately reflects the identity and extent of the communities that identify as part of lower Nidderdale, while our Pannal & Washburn division contains the communities which see themselves as part of the Washburn Valley.

26 We acknowledge the support received for elements of our draft recommendations and recognise that our further draft recommendations represent a significant departure from them. However, we must recommend division patterns that balance all three of the statutory criteria and this is particularly challenging in sparsely populated areas with complex topography. Taking into account the further evidence received, alongside our own observations, we consider our revised proposals offer a better balance of our statutory criteria across the entirety of the Nidderdale, Wharfedale and Washburn Valley areas.

27 Weeton Parish Council did not object to the boundaries of the draft Birstwith & Pannal division but suggested including ‘Almscliffe’ in the name to better reflect the southern part of the division. However, as we are instead recommending a revised Pannal & Washburn division, we are not adopting this suggestion. We consider this name to accurately reflect the geography and communities contained in the proposed division.

28 We received a submission from a local resident noting that the term Lower Nidderdale is already used to describe an ecclesiastical parish covering Hunsingore, Kirk Hammerton and Nun Monkton, and therefore suggested that our proposed division name could cause confusion. They proposed that Mid Nidderdale might be a more appropriate alternative. While we acknowledge this concern, we are not adopting the suggested name change. We consider that Lower Nidderdale accurately describes the area covered by this division and is consistent with how local communities refer to this part of the dale.

Ripon and Boroughbridge



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Boroughbridge	1	-1%
Ripon Canal & Ure	1	-5%
Ripon Cathedral & Spa	1	-10%
Ripon South	1	-6%

Boroughbridge

29 We received support from the Conservatives, the Greens and two local residents for our proposed Boroughbridge division. They agreed that linking communities on both sides of the River Ure was a suitable arrangement that reflected local connections.

30 Roecliffe & Westwick Parish Council and Councillor N. Brown opposed the division of the grouped parish council across divisions. Our draft recommendations had placed Roecliffe parish in Boroughbridge division and Westwick parish in Ripon Canal & Ure division. We were persuaded by the evidence received that dividing the grouped parish council in this way would not support effective and convenient local government. We have therefore transferred Westwick parish into a revised Boroughbridge division to reunite it with Roecliffe parish.

31 Kirby Hill & District Parish Council, which comprises the parishes of Ellenthorpe, Humberton, Thornton Bridge, Milby and Kirby Hill, raised similar concerns. Our draft recommendations had placed Ellenthorpe, Humberton and Thornton Bridge parishes in the proposed Dishforth & Dalton division, while the

parishes of Milby and Kirby Hill were placed in Boroughbridge division. Councillor N. Brown also supported keeping the grouped parish council together. We agree that splitting this grouped parish council would not be conducive to effective and convenient local government. We have therefore agreed to adopt their request to include all five parishes in a revised Boroughbridge division.

Ripon Canal & Ure, Ripon Cathedral & Spa and Ripon South

32 As acknowledged in the draft recommendations, the city of Ripon is too large to be represented solely by two single-councillor divisions and part of the city must be included in a division with surrounding areas to ensure good electoral equality across this area. Our draft recommendations were based on the Liberal Democrats' proposals, where we were persuaded that a division focused on the eastern part of Ripon and nearby rural parishes was logical, given their shared proximity to the Ripon Canal and River Ure. We were not persuaded to adopt the Council's alternative suggestion of placing the Clotherholme area in a Masham & Fountains division.

33 We received a mix of responses to our draft recommendations in Ripon. The Council, the Conservatives, Ripon City Council, Councillor Williams and Councillor Horton opposed our recommendations. In particular, they criticised the Ripon Ure & Canal division, arguing that it linked urban parts of Ripon with rural parishes to the south, which they argued would not reflect local community identities. It was also argued that the proposed division boundaries would divide the historical centre of the city in an illogical manner. These respondents favoured the Council's earlier proposals, which placed the Clotherholme area in a Masham & Fountains division, suggesting this would better reflect community identities and avoid splitting the city centre between divisions.

34 In contrast, we received support for our draft recommendations from Councillor Brodigan, Councillor Broadbank and four local residents. Councillor Brodigan provided evidence supporting the inclusion of the Clotherholme area in Ripon Cathedral & Spa division, citing its strong connections with Ripon through local services, infrastructure and the planned redevelopment of the former barracks. Councillor Cunliffe-Lister, Councillor Broadbank and a local resident also agreed with the inclusion of Clotherholme in this division. Additionally, Councillor Brodigan supported the proposed Ripon Canal & Ure division, highlighting existing community links between Ripon and nearby rural areas, including local partnerships such as the Uredale Partnership.

35 Labour proposed a revised division pattern for the Ripon area. Its proposal included transferring Baldersby, Dishforth, Hutton Conyers, Melmerby and Rainton with Newby into a Ripon Ure & East division and Burton Leonard into a Lower Nidderdale division. Labour also proposed that Bishop Monkton, Westwick, Givendale and Newby with Mulwith be included in a Brafferton & Bransby Arc

division. Labour additionally proposed including Middleton, Norton Conyers and Wath parishes in a Ripon Cathedral & North division.

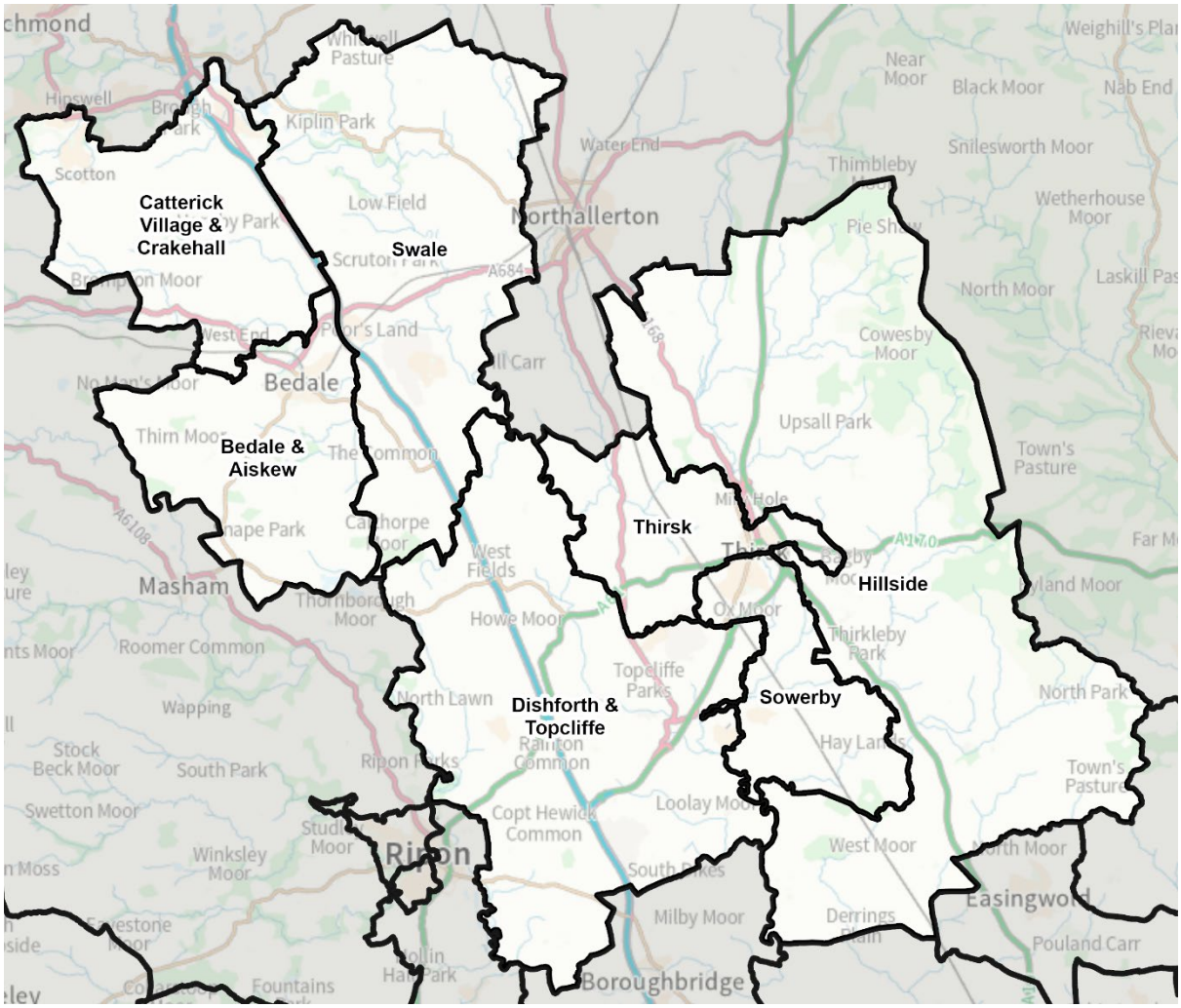
36 We have decided not to adopt the Labour proposal, as we were concerned that the one of the divisions would be geographically detached; Middleton, Norton Conyers and Wath are separated from Ripon by the parishes of Melmerby, Hutton Conyers and Sharrow. We consider that detached divisions do not support effective and convenient local government. Furthermore, as outlined in the Hillside section below, we were not persuaded that the proposed Brafferton & Bransby Arc division reflected strong or coherent community links.

37 Having carefully considered all the evidence received, we have decided to broadly maintain our draft recommendations for Ripon, subject to some amendments. We are persuaded by the evidence submitted during both rounds of consultation, as well as the observations made during our visit to the city, that the Clotherholme area shares strong ties with the rest of Ripon and should remain within a Ripon-centric division. We are broadly satisfied, based on our visit, that the proposed Ripon Canal & Ure division provides a reasonable reflection of community identity while also having good electoral equality.

38 However, we have decided to recommend some changes to Ripon Canal & Ure division. We recommend including the Ure Bank area, which we had placed in Ripon Cathedral & Spa division, in order to use the River Ure as a clearer and more identifiable boundary. We also propose transferring the parishes of Bridge Hewick, Copt Hewick, Givendale and Newby with Mulwith from Ripon Canal & Ure division into the Dishforth & Topcliffe division, for reasons outlined in the section of this report relating to that division.

39 The Conservatives, Ripon City Council, Councillor Williams, Councillor Horton, and a local resident requested that we include the new residential development adjacent to West Lane in Ripon South division. We had previously not adopted this proposal due to concerns that it would require the creation of a parish ward with very few electors by the time of the first parish election in 2027. However, having received further evidence, we now consider it appropriate to include this area in our proposed Ripon South division to reflect the likely urban character of this area and provide for a more sustainable long-term division arrangement.

Central North Yorkshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Bedale & Aiskew	1	-7%
Catterick Village & Crakehall	1	-3%
Dishforth & Topcliffe	1	-10%
Hillside	1	-7%
Sowerby	1	0%
Swale	1	-8%
Thirsk	1	-1%

Bedale & Aiskew

40 The Council, the Conservatives and Aiskew & Leeming Bar Parish Council all opposed our draft recommendations for Aiskew & Bedale division, which united the Aiskew and Leeming Bar areas. While these communities form part of the same parish, these three respondents argued that Leeming Bar is a distinct settlement, dominated by industrial activity and physically separated from Aiskew and Bedale by the A1(M). They also noted that Aiskew and Leeming Bar have historically been

located in different electoral divisions, parliamentary constituencies and district council areas. Keeping them separate, they argued, would enable a more coherent division pattern for the wider area. Accordingly, the Conservatives and Aiskew & Leeming Bar Parish Council supported the Council's previous proposal, which places communities east of the A1(M) within a Swale division and villages to the south of Aiskew and Bedale within a Bedale & Aiskew division, as better reflecting local identity and community links.

41 After careful consideration of the evidence received, we have decided to recommend a revised Bedale & Aiskew division that is identical to the one proposed by the Council during the previous consultation. During our tour of the area, we observed that while Bedale and Aiskew are closely linked by geographic proximity and shared facilities, Leeming Bar is notably more distant and physically separated from these two communities by the A1(M). We had previously proposed uniting Aiskew & Leeming Bar parish in the same division under the assumption that this would aid effective and convenient local government and reflect community identity. However, we accept that, based on the further evidence received, our revised proposal offers a better reflection of community identity and ensures more effective local representation. We invite further comments on this revised proposal, to ensure it reflects our statutory criteria.

Catterick Village & Crakehall and Swale

42 We received objections to our draft Swale division from the Council, the Conservatives, Scotton Parish Council and a local resident. They broadly argued that the proposed division grouped together communities with limited shared identity and interests. It was noted that the division covered a geographically large and fragmented area, with communities on either side of the A1(M) likely to look towards different towns and villages for services and amenities.

43 The Conservatives supported the Council's previously proposed Catterick Village & Crakehall and Swale divisions. This proposal, which was submitted at the previous consultation stage, broadly used the A1(M) as a boundary between the divisions. It was argued that they would form more coherent divisions with stronger internal road connections and a greater degree of shared community interest.

44 We examined these alternative proposals during our visit to North Yorkshire and recognised their merit. In particular, we noted that they better reflected local road access and community links between villages. We have therefore decided to base our further draft recommendations on these proposals.

45 Our proposed Catterick Village & Crakehall division is almost identical to the version previously proposed by the Council. We also note the evidence supplied by Labour which indicated that Crakehall parish does not have particularly strong links

with either Aiskew or Bedale and that their inclusion in a division with surrounding settlements was appropriate.

46 However, we do not propose to adopt the Council's Swale division in full, which extended from Whitwell parish in the north to Sutton with Howgrave in the south. Instead, we propose that the southern boundary of Swale division be drawn along the southern edge of Burneston, Carthorpe and Gatenby parishes. This amendment results in a division that is more compact and geographically coherent, while also delivering good levels of electoral equality for both this division and the adjacent Dishforth & Topcliffe division.

Dishforth & Topcliffe and Sowerby

47 We received objections to our proposed Dishforth & Dalton division from North Yorkshire Council, the Conservatives, Labour and the North Yorkshire Labour Party Local Government Committee. It was argued that the division did not reflect the natural geography of the area. In particular, parishes in the east of the division, such as Dalton and Sessay, were said to have poor links with those in the west, due to physical barriers including the River Swale and the East Coast Main Line. Based on our visit to the area, we noted that the internal connectivity between communities in the division was relatively weak and we therefore decided to consider alternative proposals.

48 The Conservatives supported the Council's earlier proposal for a Bishop Monkton & Wathvale division. However, we were unable to adopt this proposal, as we have included Bishop Monkton parish in our Ripon Canal & Ure division. In any case, we consider that Bishop Monkton has limited connections with the remainder of the proposed division, being separated by the River Ure.

49 Labour proposed a significantly different pattern of divisions that sought coterminosity with parliamentary constituencies. This involved splitting the draft Dishforth & Dalton division across four other divisions, notably placing several parishes in a proposed Brafferton & Bransby Arc division. However, we have not adopted this proposal, for reasons outlined in the Hillside section later in this report.

50 In light of the evidence received and our own observations, we have developed an alternative division pattern for this area. We recommend a Dishforth & Topcliffe division, structured on a north–south axis. Where possible, we use the River Swale and River Ure as natural eastern and western boundaries, only crossing them where clear road connections exist, such as at Topcliffe and Asenby, and at Baldersby and Skipton-on-Swale.

51 This division includes Topcliffe parish, which we had previously placed in a Sowerby & Topcliffe division. However, we consider that including Topcliffe with nearby parishes such as Asenby, Catton and Dishforth better reflects the statutory

criteria. We were guided by evidence from Councillor Miles, who highlighted ties between Asenby and Topcliffe. We also note evidence from the Council that indicated links between Catton, Skipton-on-Swale and Topcliffe. Labour also indicated that Topcliffe could be placed in a division with the parishes to the west.

52 Our proposed Dishforth & Topcliffe division also reflects evidence in relation to the placement of Skelton-cum-Newby, Melmerby & Middleton Quernhow and Hewick & Hutton parish councils. These grouped parish councils had been split across divisions in our draft recommendations. We now propose to include the entire areas of each within a single division to promote effective and convenient local government. While we note that Skelton-cum-Newby and Hewick & Hutton parish councils separately requested to be in a Ripon Canal & Ure division, we are unable to accommodate this as it would not provide for good electoral equality for Dishforth & Topcliffe division.

53 We received alternative names for this division, including 'Vale', 'Vale of Mowbray' and 'Vale of York'. However, we consider that these names describe broader areas than the division encompasses and may therefore be misleading. We are content that the name Dishforth & Topcliffe adequately reflects the main communities in this division.

54 As a result of transferring Topcliffe parish out of our draft Sowerby & Topcliffe division, we recommend including Dalton, Eldmire with Crakehill, Hutton Sessay and Sessay parishes in a revised Sowerby division. The Council, the Conservatives and Labour all indicated that these parishes share good links with Sowerby. We also note evidence received during the previous consultation from Sessay Parish Council which indicated it shares good community links with Sowerby. We are therefore satisfied that this revised arrangement offers a better balance of our statutory criteria but seek views on the boundaries and names of these two divisions, to ensure the best reflection of community identities and effective governance is achieved.

Thirsk

55 We received some opposition to our draft Thirsk division. This came from the Council, the Conservatives, Labour and two local residents, who argued that it was inappropriate for the division to exclude Carlton Miniott parish. Evidence was provided demonstrating the parish's strong links with Thirsk town, including the location of Thirsk railway station within Carlton Miniott parish, as well as shared amenities and local schools.

56 We have been persuaded by the evidence received that Carlton Miniott parish shares close ties with Thirsk town and have therefore included it within our revised Thirsk division. In addition, we recommend the inclusion of Kirby Wiske, Newsham with Breckenbrough and Sandhutton parishes, thereby reflecting a local resident's

submission that these communities also have good connections with Thirsk in terms of road access, services and community identity.

57 We also propose the removal of several rural parishes north of Thirsk that were included in our draft Thirsk division. During our visit to the area, we considered that these parishes share stronger community and geographic links with neighbouring rural settlements, and would be better placed in Hillside division. In our view, these changes result in divisions that are more geographically coherent and better reflect the distinction between the urban area of Thirsk and the surrounding rural hinterland. It will also reflect the submission made by Councillor Davis, who opposed the inclusion of Thornton le Beans & Crosby with Cotcliffe Parish Council in a Thirsk division, arguing that it should be placed in a division with other rural parishes.

58 Labour suggested the boundary between Thirsk and Sowerby divisions could be altered to reflect access routes south of Station Road. We did not adopt this change, as we consider that following the parish boundary will better support effective and convenient local government by avoiding the parish warding arrangements for Sowerby that would be needed if we were to follow the proposed boundary.

Hillside

59 The Conservatives opposed our draft Hillside division, arguing that its span from Northallerton to the outskirts of York made it too large to be effectively represented. The Conservatives reiterated support for the Council's earlier proposal for a Hillside & Raskelf division. We were persuaded by these arguments and recommend a revised Hillside division that more closely reflects the existing division but excludes Myton-on-Swale and Tholthorpe parishes. Accordingly, we recommend transferring several rural parishes from our draft Thirsk division into our revised Hillside division, satisfied that they will be better represented in a predominantly rural division. We also recommend moving the southernmost parishes from our draft Hillside division into either the Howardian or Huby & Tollerton divisions, where they are more likely to share closer community ties. With the division now extending no further south than Easingwold, we consider it to be more geographically coherent and easier to represent.

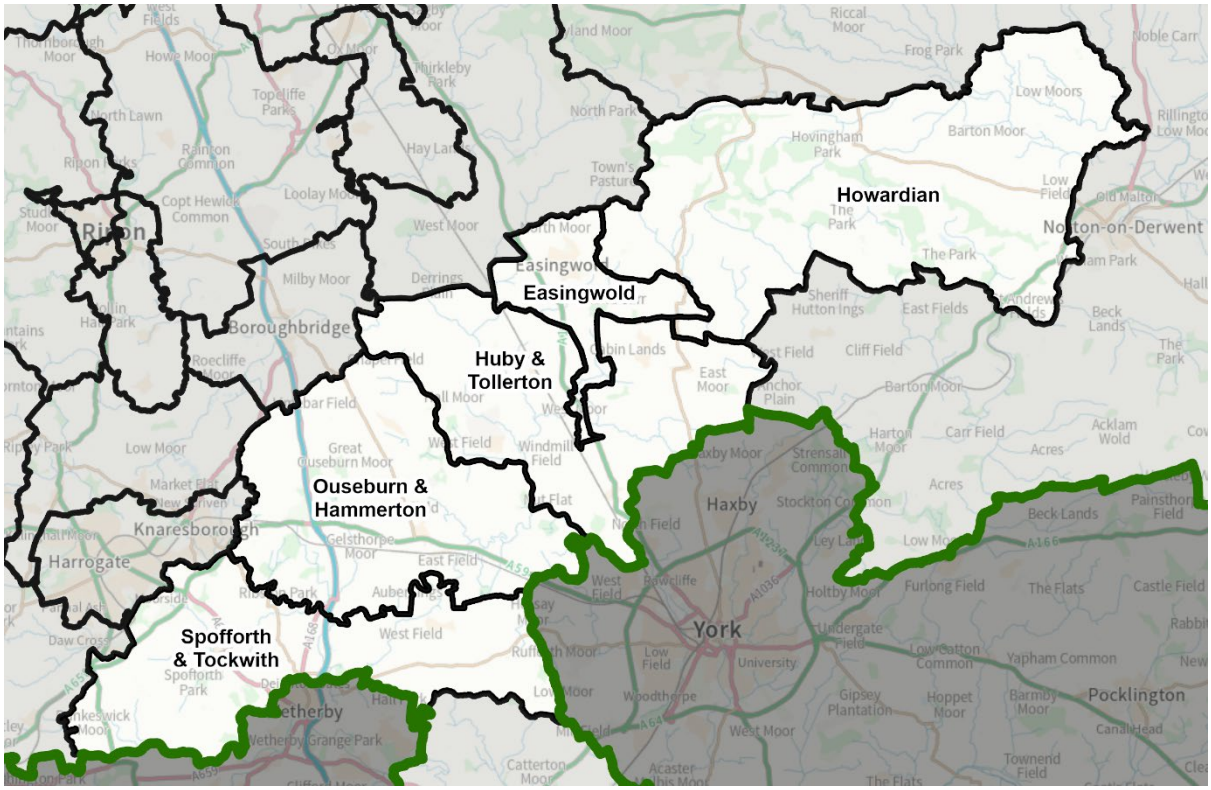
60 We did receive alternative arrangements for the Hillside division area from Labour, which proposed that the division could be reconfigured as a Helmsley & Hillside division, linking much of the Brafferton & Bransby Arc. This would form an arc-shaped division that would include parishes from our draft Dishforth & Dalton and Ripon Canal & Ure divisions in the west with parishes in the south of our draft Hillside division, such as Sutton-on-the-Forest. However, we were not persuaded that the Brafferton & Bransby Arc division would reflect community identities and interests. For example, we saw no clear evidence of links between Bishop Monkton

and Sutton-on-the-Forest. We therefore did not adopt this proposal as part of our further draft recommendations.

61 Labour suggested that several rural parishes in the north of the division could be transferred to either a Vale of Mowbray division or a Helmsley & Hillside division. The first of these options would link our draft South Swale Villages division with rural parishes located north of Thirsk. We did not adopt this proposal as it would join distinct communities on either side of the River Swale in a single division. This runs counter to both the evidence we have received and our own observations, which indicate that the River Swale forms a strong and clear boundary between communities. We were also not persuaded to adopt the alternative proposal involving the Helmsley & Hillside division, as we remain of the view that this would group together disparate communities separated by significant geographic features.

62 Our revised Hillside division also unites the grouped parish council area of Siltons, Kepwick and Landmoth-cum-Catto. A local resident requested that this area be kept within a single division. Our draft recommendations had split these parishes across divisions, and we agree that this would not provide for effective and convenient local government. We therefore include the entire grouped parish council area within Hillside division.

Easingwold



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Easingwold	1	-4%
Howardian	1	-10%
Huby & Tollerton	1	-3%
Ouseburn & Hammerton	1	-2%
Spofforth & Tockwith	1	0%

Easingwold

63 The Conservatives proposed that the parishes of Husthwaite and Thornton-on-the-Hill be included in Easingwold division rather than in our draft Hillside division. They argued that these two parishes share community links with the town of Easingwold and that their inclusion would reduce the geographic size of the Hillside division. After careful consideration, we have not adopted this proposal. We consider that these parishes are more appropriately placed in our significantly altered Hillside division. In particular, we consider that their inclusion in Hillside division reflects the broader evidence received and is necessary to secure good levels of electoral equality across this area.

64 However, we are proposing modifications to this division. We have adopted the suggestion made by Labour to include the nearby parish of Stillington and to transfer Huby parish to a Huby & Tollerton division. These changes support a division pattern for the wider Easingwold area that reflects the statutory criteria, based on the

evidence received. A local resident objected to Huby parish being separated from Sutton-on-the-Forest parish. Our recommendations will unite these two parishes in a single division. We consider that Stillington has stronger community links with Easingwold than Huby does, with a direct road connection and regular public transport services between the two settlements. These links support Stillington's inclusion in this division and would appear to reflect established community relationships.

Howardian

65 We recommend that Bulmer, Welburn, Westow and Whitwell-on-the-Hill be transferred from our draft Howardian division to reflect community identities and interests. To compensate for the loss of these parishes, we propose to include the parishes of Bransby-cum-Stearsby, Crayke, Dalby-cum-Skewsby, Farlington, Marton-cum-Moxby, Whenby and Yearsley from our originally proposed Hillside division. Some of these parishes form part of the Howardian Hills AONB and are therefore more likely to share community interests with other parishes in our division which also form part of the AONB. We invite comments during the current consultation on whether these changes appropriately reflect community ties and interests.

66 Labour suggested moving the parishes of Harome, Nunnington, Stonegrave, and Oswaldkirk from Helmsley & Ampleforth division, and including the parishes of Edstone, Salton, Sinnington, Marton and Normanby from Kirkbymoorside & Dales division. We were not persuaded to adopt these proposals, as they were reliant on adopting Labour's wider proposals for either a Vale of Mowbray or Helmsley & Hillside division, which we were not persuaded to adopt, for reasons outlined in the Hillside section above.

67 The Council and the Conservatives questioned the use of the name Howardian for this division. The Council stated that Howardian is not a term used by people, although they recognised that the Howardian Hills are clearly a recognised area within the division. While the North Yorkshire Conservative Party agreed with the boundaries of the proposed division, they suggested changing the name to Amotherby & Hovingham.

68 We do not recommend renaming this division as part of our further draft recommendations. We consider Howardian to be an appropriate name that reflects the geography of the division as a whole. The Howardian Hills AONB is a well-established and widely recognised landscape feature that covers much of the division. In contrast, we consider that the suggested alternative name of Amotherby & Hovingham refers to only two specific villages and does not adequately represent the broader area encompassed by the division. We nonetheless welcome views on the division name and whether it suitably reflects the area covered.

Huby & Tollerton and Ouseburn & Hammerton

69 In our draft recommendations, we proposed the creation of Hammerton and Tollerton & Ouseburn divisions. While Newton-on-Ouse Parish Council stated that they had no comments to make with regard to the recommendations, we received a number of representations objecting to these proposals. The Council and the Conservatives stated that the proposed Tollerton & Ouseburn division was unsuitable, as it linked communities located on opposite sides of the Rivers Ure and Ouse. They noted that the only crossing point within the division is a privately owned toll bridge, which they argued would not provide sufficient or appropriate access across the division. The Council reaffirmed its earlier proposals, which used the rivers as natural boundaries between divisions. This approach was also supported by the Conservatives. The Council expressed concern about the division name of Hammerton, stating that it was not widely recognised as representing the area.

70 Green Hammerton Parish Council, Kirk Hammerton Parish Council, Whixley Parish Council and a local resident also objected to the proposed Hammerton division. They argued that the area functions more naturally along a north–south axis and that stronger links exist between the Ouseburn area, the Hammerton area and Tockwith. These parishes supported a counter-proposal from the Greens that would place them in a single division.

71 Another local resident requested that Marton-cum-Grafton parish remain linked in a division with the areas of Ouseburn, Hammerton and Whixley, reflecting long-established community ties.

72 We have carefully considered these submissions, including the Greens' alternative proposal, which suggested the creation of three divisions: Spofforth & Ouseburn, Hammerton & Tockwith and Tollerton & Monkton. While this pattern reflected some of the community links identified during consultation, particularly between the Hammerton area and Tockwith, we were not persuaded that the connections between Ouseburn and Spofforth were particularly strong. As a result, we have decided not to adopt this alternative in our further draft recommendations.

73 However, we acknowledge that the Rivers Ure and Ouse represent significant physical boundaries in this area. We agree that placing the Ouseburn area in a division with parishes on the opposite side of the river would not effectively balance our statutory criteria. We therefore propose to include the Ouseburn area in a revised Ouseburn & Hammerton division. To accommodate the loss to this division of the Ouseburn area, we recommend that Huby and Sutton-on-the-Forest parishes be included in a reconfigured division and renamed Huby & Tollerton division, alongside Tollerton and its neighbouring parishes. We consider that these parishes share reasonable community links and note that this grouping shares some similarities to the Council's earlier proposal for the area. We invite further comments

on these revisions, particularly regarding the boundaries, division names, and the use of rivers as natural dividing lines.

74 Labour also proposed some relatively minor amendments to our draft Tollerton & Ouseburn and Hammerton divisions as part of its wider scheme. However, in light of the more substantial changes we have made to these divisions in our recommendations, we were unable to incorporate these specific amendments.

Spofforth & Tockwith

75 Our proposed Spofforth & Tockwith division received support from the Conservatives. However, as outlined in the previous section, the Greens proposed an alternative arrangement that would group Spofforth in a division with the Ouseburn area and Hammerton in a division with Tockwith. However, we did not adopt this proposal, as we were not persuaded that there were sufficiently strong community links between the Ouseburn area and Spofforth.

76 We are therefore broadly confirming our originally proposed Spofforth & Tockwith division, subject to one modification: the inclusion of Long Marston parish. We received evidence from two local residents who noted that Long Marston is separated from the Hammerton area by the River Nidd. We agree that, due to this physical separation, the parish is likely to share closer ties with the other parishes located south of the river. We therefore consider the River Nidd to form a clear and appropriate northern boundary for this division.

Parish electoral arrangements

77 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 divisions it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

78 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, North Yorkshire 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.

79 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 Haverah Park with Beckwithshaw, Killinghall, Littlethorpe, Ripon and Skipton parishes.

80 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Haverah Park with Beckwithshaw parish.

Further draft recommendations	
Haverah Park with Beckwithshaw Parish Council should comprise five councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	**Number of parish councillors**
Beckwithshaw	4
Harlow Hill Grange	1

81 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Killinghall parish.

Further draft recommendations	
Killinghall Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	**Number of parish councillors**
Rural	4
Urban	6

82 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Littlethorpe parish.

Further draft recommendations	
Littlethorpe Parish Council should comprise five councillors representing two wards:	
Parish ward	**Number of parish councillors**
Fountains Walk	1
Littlethorpe	4

83 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ripon parish.

Further draft recommendations	
Ripon City Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:	
Parish ward	**Number of parish councillors**
East	2
North	2
South	5
West	3

84 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Skipton parish. Councillor Solloway queried the allocation of two councillors to Skipton South and six councillors to Skipton West, noting that both areas are of broadly similar size. They suggested reverting to the existing pattern of four councillors per ward. In addition, they proposed reducing the overall number of councillors on Skipton Town Council to 12, with three councillors per ward, based on comparisons with other market towns in North Yorkshire. However, our policy is to allocate the current number of total councillors to each parish ward based on the five-year electorate forecast. We also consider that changing the total number of councillors for a parish is a matter best resolved locally via a Community Governance Review.

Further draft recommendations	
Skipton Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:	
Parish ward	**Number of parish councillors**
East	4
North	4
South	2
West	6

Have your say

85 The Commission has an open mind about its further draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from.

86 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for these parts of North Yorkshire, we want to hear compelling arguments for alternative proposals for a different pattern of divisions.

87 Our website is the best way to keep up to date with progress on the review and to have your say www.lgbce.org.uk Each review has its own page with details of the timetable for the review, information about its different stages and interactive mapping.

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

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

89 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of divisions for North Yorkshire which delivers:

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

90 A good pattern of divisions should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government

91 Electoral equality:

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

92 Community identity:

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

93 Effective local government:

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

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

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

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

97 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which

brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for North Yorkshire Council in 2027.

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

Further draft recommendations for divisions in North Yorkshire Council

	Division 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	Aire Valley	1	4,999	4,999	-8%	5,196	5,196	-11%
2	Bedale & Aiskew	1	5,028	5,028	-7%	5,382	5,382	-7%
3	Boroughbridge	1	5,477	5,477	1%	5,733	5,733	-1%
4	Catterick Village & Crakehall	1	5,420	5,420	0%	5,655	5,655	-3%
5	Dishforth & Topcliffe	1	5,133	5,133	-6%	5,239	5,239	-10%
6	Easingwold	1	5,258	5,258	-3%	5,577	5,577	-4%
7	Hillside	1	5,169	5,169	-5%	5,392	5,392	-7%
8	Howardian	1	4,913	4,913	-10%	5,232	5,232	-10%
9	Huby & Tollerton	1	5,394	5,394	-1%	5,629	5,629	-3%
10	Killinghall & Scotton	1	4,940	4,940	-9%	5,182	5,182	-11%
11	Lower Nidderdale	1	5,504	5,504	1%	5,672	5,672	-3%
12	Ouseburn & Hammerton	1	5,234	5,234	-4%	5,715	5,715	-2%
13	Pannal & Washburn	1	5,414	5,414	0%	5,981	5,981	3%
14	Ripon Canal & Ure	1	5,198	5,198	-4%	5,522	5,522	-5%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
15	Ripon Cathedral & Spa	1	4,809	4,809	-11%	5,228	5,228	-10%
16	Ripon South	1	5,147	5,147	-5%	5,486	5,486	-6%
17	Skipton East	1	4,703	4,703	-13%	5,453	5,453	-6%
18	Skipton North & Embsay-with-Eastby	1	5,199	5,199	-4%	5,494	5,494	-6%
19	Skipton West	1	5,323	5,323	-2%	5,727	5,727	-2%
20	Sowerby	1	5,606	5,606	3%	5,794	5,794	0%
21	Spofforth & Tockwith	1	5,487	5,487	1%	5,798	5,798	0%
22	Swale	1	4,985	4,985	-8%	5,337	5,337	-8%
23	Thirsk	1	5,442	5,442	0%	5,771	5,771	-1%
24	Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale	1	6,081	6,081	12%	6,365	6,365	9%
	Totals	**89**	**483,562**	**–**	**–**	**517,784**	**–**	**–**
	Averages	**–**	**–**	**5,433**	**–**	**–**	**5,818**	**–**

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by North Yorkshire Council.

Note: The ‘variance from average’ column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral division varies from the average for North Yorkshire. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Submissions received

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

Local Authority

- North Yorkshire Council

Political Groups

- Harrogate & Knaresborough Conservative Association
- Harrogate & Knaresborough Constituency Labour Party
- North Yorkshire Conservative Party
- North Yorkshire Green Councillors' Group
- North Yorkshire Labour Party
- North Yorkshire Labour Party Local Government Committee
- Richmond & Northallerton Green Party
- Richmond & Northallerton Liberal Democrats
- Scarborough & Whitby Constituency Labour Party
- Skipton & Ripon Constituency Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor P. Barrett (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor N. Brown (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor A. Brown (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor P. Broadbank (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor B. Brodigan (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor F. Cunliffe-Lister (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor G. Critchlow (Skelton-cum-Newby Parish Council)
- Councillor G. Davis (Thornton le Beans & Crosby with Cotcliffe Parish Council)
- Councillor M. Donohue-Moncrieff (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor K. Foster (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor D. Goodall (Harrogate Town Council)
- Councillor J. Harris (Richmond Town Council)
- Councillor P. Horton (Ripon City Council)
- Councillor N. Hull (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor D. Knowles (Scarborough Town Council)
- Councillor F. Matthews (Selby Town Council)

- Councillor E. Metcalfe (Harrogate Town Council)
- Councillor T. Miles (Asenby Parish Council)
- Councillor A. Murday (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor R. Packham (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor Y. Peacock (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor K. Poskitt (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor J. Proud (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor G. Scully (Rylstone Parish Meeting)
- Councillor R. Swiers (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor A. Solloway (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor J. Spillings (Skelton cum Newby Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Staveley (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor A. Tant-Brown (Sherburn in Elmet Town Council)
- Councillor A. Timothy (North Yorkshire Council)
- Councillor H. Westmancoat (Knaresborough Town Council)
- Councillor A. Williams (North Yorkshire Council)

Members of Parliament

- Baroness Harris of Richmond
- Tom Gordon MP (Harrogate & Knaresborough)

Local organisations

- Richmondshire Branch of the Yorkshire Local Council Associations
- Upper Wharfedale Rural Watch

Parish and Town Councils

- Aiskew & Leeming Bar Parish Council
- Bewerley Parish Council
- Bilsdale Midcable Parish Council
- Birstwith Parish Council
- Carperby-cum-Thoresby Parish Council
- Carleton-in-Craven Parish Council
- Clapham-cum-Newby Parish Council
- Cononley Parish Council
- Constable Burton & Finghall Parish Council
- Darley & Menwith Parish Council
- East Ayton Parish Council
- Glusburn & Cross Hills Parish Council
- Green Hammerton Parish Council

- Hartwith cum Winsley Parish Council
- Harrogate Town Council
- Haverah Park with Beckwithshaw Parish Council
- Hewick & Hutton Parish Council
- Hetton cum Bordley Parish Meeting
- Hunmanby Parish Council
- Kirby Hill & District Parish Council
- Kirk Hammerton Parish Council
- Knaresborough Town Council
- Malton Town Council
- Melmerby & Middleton Quernhow Parish Council
- Moulton Parish Meeting
- Newton-on-Ouse Parish Council
- Norton-on-Derwent Town Council
- Pannal & Burn Bridge Parish Council
- Pateley Bridge Town Council
- Ribble Banks Parish Council
- Richmond Town Council
- Ripon City Council
- Roecliffe & Westwick Parish Council
- Rudby Parish Council
- Rylstone Parish Meeting
- Scorton Parish Council
- Scotton Parish Council
- Seamer Parish Council
- Selby Town Council
- Sherburn in Elmet Town Council
- Skelton-cum-Newby Parish Council
- St Martin's Parish Council
- Stutton cum Hazlewood Parish Council
- Sutton-in-Craven Parish Council
- Tadcaster Town Council
- Weeton Parish Council
- Whitby Town Council
- Whixley Parish Council

Local residents

- 100 local residents

Appendix C

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 www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

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

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