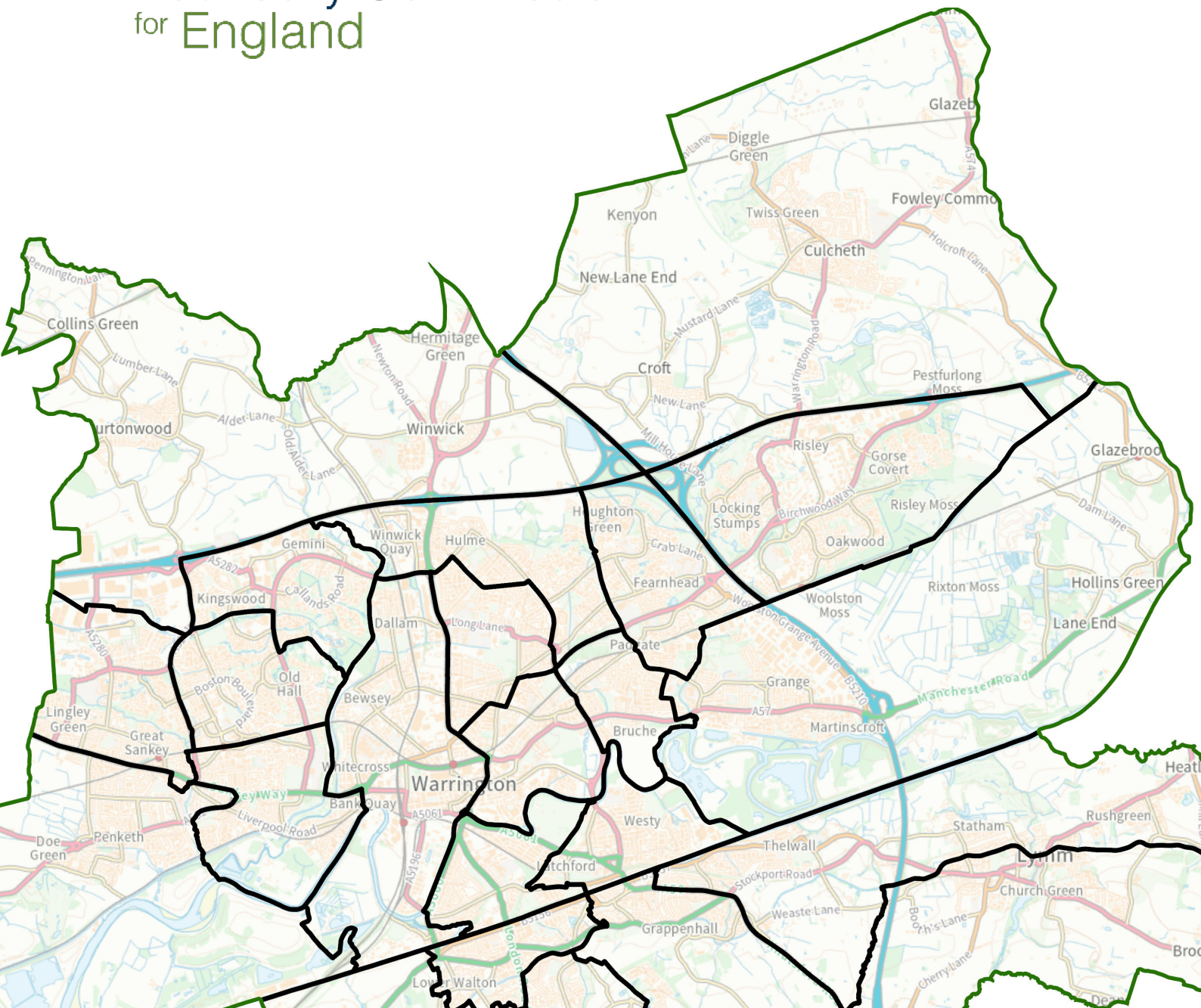


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Warrington Borough Council Draft Recommendations

June 2026

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Bev Smith (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE
(Deputy Chair)
- Dame Gillian Guy
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Janet Waggott
- Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More details regarding the powers that we have, as well as further guidance and information about electoral reviews and the review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Warrington?

7 We are conducting a review of Warrington Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2015, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Warrington 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 authority.

Our proposals for Warrington

9 Warrington should be represented by 61 councillors, three more than there are now.

10 Warrington should have 24 wards, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; 10 will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices or car and house insurance premiums, and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

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

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 30 June 2026 to 7 September 2026. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

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

16 You have until 7 September 2026 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 25 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

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

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 December 2025	Number of councillors decided
6 January 2026	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards.
16 March 2026	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
30 June 2026	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
7 September 2026	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 December 2026	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

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

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

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

	2025	2031
Electorate of Warrington	163,319	172,140
Number of councillors	61	61
Average number of electors per councillor	2,677	2,822

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but one (Stockton Heath & Walton) of our proposed wards for Warrington are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2031.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2031, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2026. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5% by 2031.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have therefore used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

26 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 at the beginning of the review and the electorate figures published in this report. However, these are very minor and do not impact on our recommendations.

Number of councillors

27 Warrington Council currently has 58 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and initially concluded that increasing the number by two councillors to 60 would ensure the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 60 councillors: for example, 60 one-councillor wards, 20 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

29 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. All three submissions objected to an increase from 58 to 60 councillors, but none provided any supporting evidence to evidence their objections nor did any propose an alternative number of councillors.

30 Warrington Council, when submitting its warding pattern to the Commission, concluded that increasing the initially agreed number of councillors from 60 to 61 was necessary to produce a warding pattern that reflected community identities and used strong and identifiable boundaries. Having considered the warding pattern submitted by the Council, we are also of the view that adopting this approach is necessary to provide a warding pattern that both reflects the major boundary formed by the Manchester Ship Canal and ensures good electoral equality. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on 61 councillors.

Ward boundaries consultation

31 We received 37 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a borough-wide proposal from Warrington Council. This submission was agreed by the full council at a meeting in March 2026. It proposes a mixed pattern of two- and three-councillor wards across the borough, with evidence and a narrative provided in support of each ward. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the authority.

32 We carefully considered the borough-wide proposal received and were of the view that the proposed pattern of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

33 Our draft recommendations are therefore based on the Council's proposed warding pattern, with some minor amendments to better reflect community identity, electoral equality and effective and convenient local government.

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

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

Draft recommendations

36 Our draft recommendations are for 13 three-councillor wards and 11 two-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

37 The tables and maps on pages 8–19 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Warrington. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

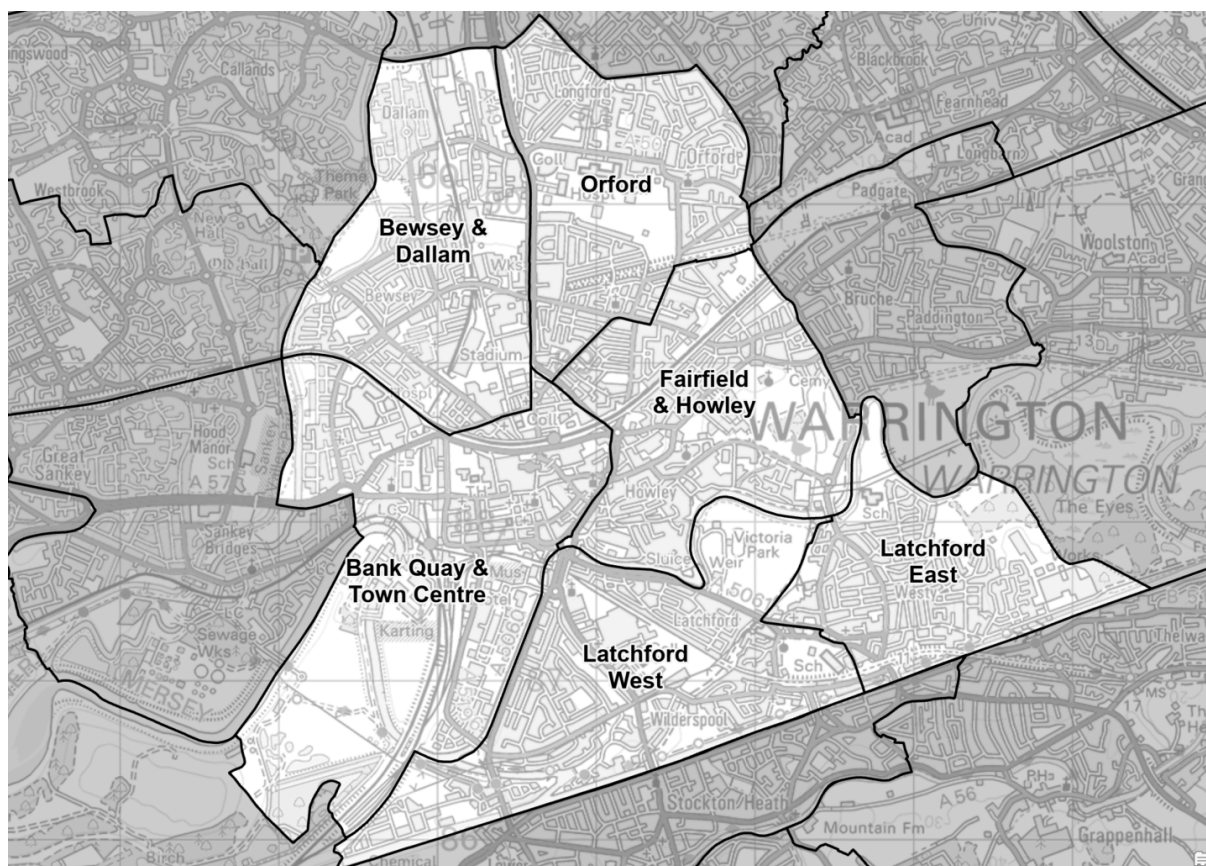
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

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

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

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Central Warrington



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Bank Quay & Town Centre	2	-6%
Bewsey & Dallam	2	-8%
Fairfield & Howley	3	2%
Latchford East	2	4%
Latchford West	3	-5%
Orford	3	5%

Bank Quay & Town Centre and Bewsey & Dallam

40 The current Bewsey & Whitecross ward is forecast to have 31% more electors per councillor than the average for Warrington by 2031. The Council proposed in its submission to divide the current three-councillor ward into the two-councillor wards of Bank Quay & Town Centre and Bewsey & Dallam. The Council's proposal to divide the area into two wards was supported by a local resident in their submission. We received no other warding patterns or submissions that mentioned this area.

41 Having considered the warding arrangements suggested by the Council – and having visited the area on our tour of Warrington – we noted that we could not reconcile the electorate figures cited in the Council's submission for these two wards

with the electorate forecasts we had developed with the Council and published at the start of this review.

42 The difference in the figures was relatively minor, and we noted that, with a small amendment, we could still adopt the two wards as part of the draft recommendations and achieve good electoral equality. The Council had proposed that the boundary between the two wards would follow the main Liverpool to Warrington railway line from where it crosses the Sankey Canal until it passes over the A49. We recommend that the ward boundary instead follow the railway line from the Sankey Canal until Froghall Lane, and then follow that road, Tanners Lane, Winwick Road and the A49. We consider that our proposed change will still reflect the community identity of electors in the town centre.

43 Our draft recommendations are for the two-councillor wards of Bank Quay & Town Centre and Bewsey & Dallam. These wards will have 6% and 8% fewer electors per councillor than the average for Warrington by 2031.

Latchford East and Latchford West

44 The Latchford area is strongly bounded to the south by the Manchester Ship Canal and to the north by the River Mersey. The current Latchford East and Latchford West wards are both represented by two councillors. The Council argued that there was a strong case to treat the Latchford area as a single entity with an existing clear and established identity, with strong boundaries. It stated that any wards that crossed these boundaries would not reflect the community identity of the area. A local resident proposed that Latchford West ward be renamed Wilderspool to better reflect the current communities.

45 Having considered the Council's proposed warding pattern and having visited the area, we noted that proposing two wards for the area with a total of five councillors ensures the best balance of our statutory criteria. In order to reflect the strong local boundaries and ensure good electoral equality, this would mean an increase in the overall number of councillors for Warrington to 61 from 60 as agreed at the start of this review. As stated in our guidance, we are willing to adjust our originally agreed number of councillors if it is clearly demonstrated that a change will provide for a better warding pattern overall. We consider that sufficient evidence has been received to make such a change, and we therefore recommend a two-councillor Latchford East ward and a three-councillor Latchford West ward. These wards will differ slightly from those that were proposed by the Council.

46 We recommend moving those streets in the current Bewsey & Whitecross ward that are separated from other communities in that ward by the River Mersey and Walton Lock into Latchford West. This change was proposed by the Council. The existing Latchford West ward is forecast to have an electoral variance of 18% by 2031 so we also agree with the Council's proposal to move the area around Sir

Thomas Boteler school from Latchford West ward to Latchford East. We have also decided to make a small amendment to the Council's proposals by retaining properties on both sides of Grange Avenue in Latchford East ward. When we visited this area on our tour of Warrington, we noted that the eastern side of Victoria Park constituted a stronger boundary than one running along Grange Avenue. We concluded that it would better reflect the extent of the community here, particularly at the northern end of Grange Avenue.

47 We propose to retain the existing names of these two wards but would welcome further evidence of locally recognised names such as Wilderspool and whether they are more reflective of the area as a whole.

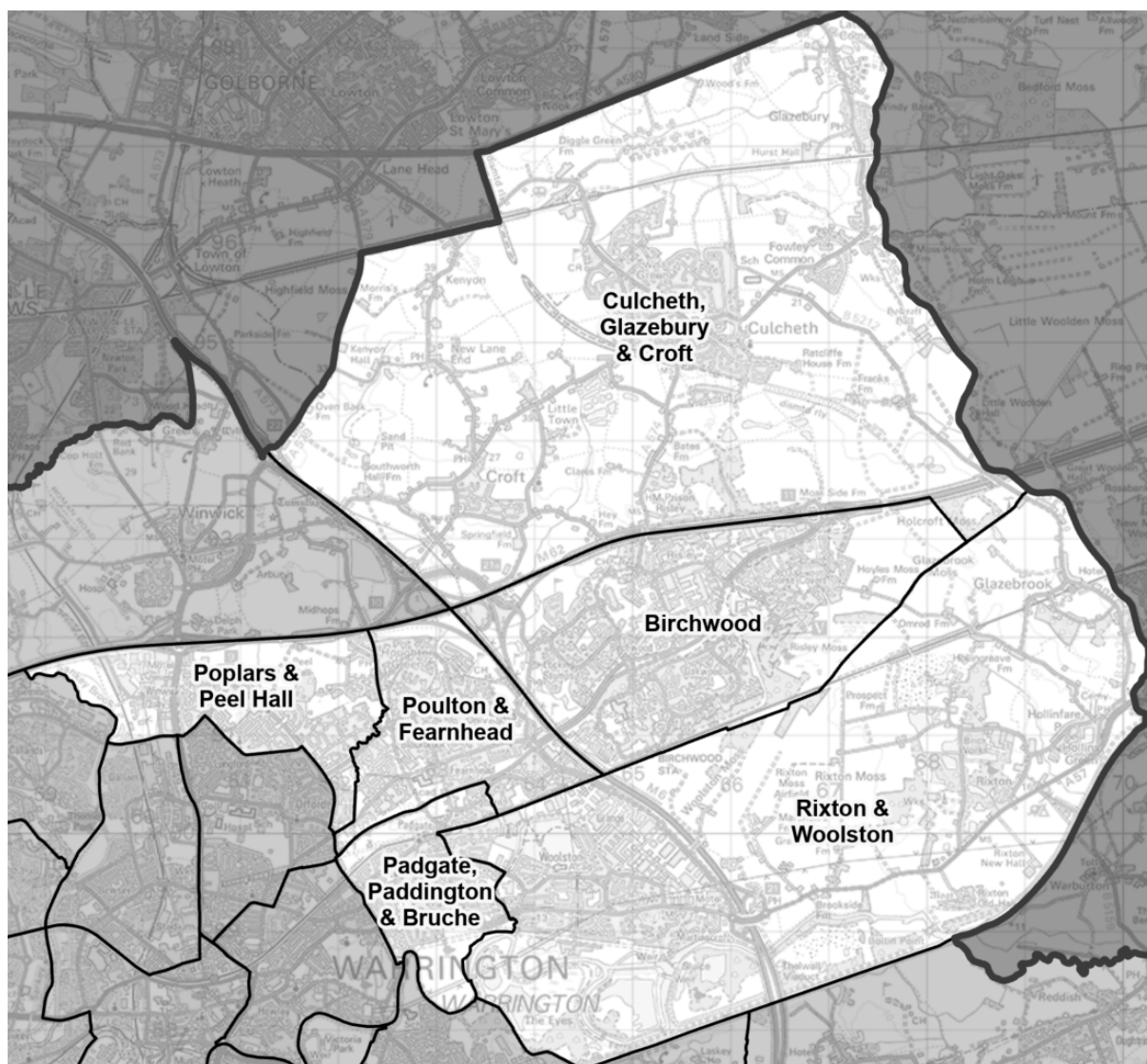
48 Our draft recommendations are for a two-councillor Latchford East ward and a three-councillor Latchford West ward which will have electoral variances of 4% and -5% respectively by 2031.

Fairfield & Howley and Orford

49 The two existing wards of Fairfield & Howley and Orford are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2031. The Council proposed to make no changes to these two wards. We received one submission from a local resident stating a preference for an unchanged Fairfield & Howley ward.

50 We therefore propose to adopt the Council's suggestion to leave these wards unchanged as part of our draft recommendations. These wards will have electoral variances of 2% and 5%, respectively, by 2031.

Eastern and Northeastern Warrington



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Birchwood	3	-2%
Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft	3	9%
Padgate, Paddington & Bruche	2	3%
Poplars & Peel Hall	3	-7%
Poulton & Fearnhead	3	-5%
Rixton & Woolston	3	-5%

Padgate, Paddington & Bruche, Poplars & Peel Hall, Poulton & Fearnhead and Rixton & Woolston

51 In this area, two of the four existing wards have relatively high electoral variances. Poulton South ward is forecast to have 13% fewer electors per councillor and Rixton & Woolston is forecast to have 12% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2031.

52 The Council proposed to make a number of changes to the existing wards to provide for electoral equality and reflect community identity in the area. It proposed to reduce the size of the existing Poplars & Hulme ward by moving the Blackbrook area into Poulton North, which it would rename Poulton & Fearnhead. Poplars & Hulme ward would be renamed Poplars & Peel Hall. The Council proposed that Padgate, Paddington & Bruche ward be renamed Poulton South and include the western half of the Longbarn area. This ward would also include an area around Bruche Community Primary School that is currently in Rixton & Woolston ward. In addition, the Council proposed to move an area bounded by the Warrington to Manchester railway line, Spittle Brook and Green Lane from Poulton & Fearnhead ward into Rixton & Woolston ward. This change was intended to provide electoral equality for both wards.

53 Rixton with Glazebrook Parish Council, in its submission, suggested that the parish should have a single councillor with Woolston forming a separate two- or three-councillor ward.

54 We visited this area and studied the proposed boundaries on the ground. We concluded that, given the number of councillors the area should be allocated and the current location of parish boundaries, it was necessary to include part of Poulton-with-Fearnhead parish in Rixton & Woolston ward. We have therefore made this change as part of our draft recommendations and have broadly based our recommendations for the wider area on the Council's proposals. We would, however, be interested to receive evidence in respect of alternative warding patterns for this area during the current consultation.

55 We carefully considered the comments from Rixton with Glazebrook Parish Council but noted that a single-councillor ward for Rixton would have an electoral variance of -34%, a level of electoral inequality that we do not consider is justified by the evidence received. We propose to make one small change to the four wards put forward by the Council. We note that it proposed that the boundary between Poulton & Fearnhead ward and Poplars & Peel Hall ward follow Capesthorpe Road. We are not persuaded that this boundary would provide for effective and convenient local government, given the legislative requirements relating to parish warding: with the existing parish boundary following Padgate Brook, if we were to use Capesthorpe Road as a ward boundary, we would be required to create several parish wards for Poulton-with-Fearnhead and Winwick parishes that contain no electors. As a

consequence, we recommend that the ward boundary follow the existing parish boundary in this area. Any changes to external parish boundaries would be a matter for Warrington Council to take forward by way of a Community Governance Review.

56 Our draft recommendations are for a two-councillor Padgate, Paddington & Bruce ward and the three-councillor wards of Poplars & Peel Hall, Poulton & Fearnhead and Rixton & Woolston. These wards will have electoral variances of 3%, -7%, -5% and -5%, respectively, by 2031.

Birchwood and Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft

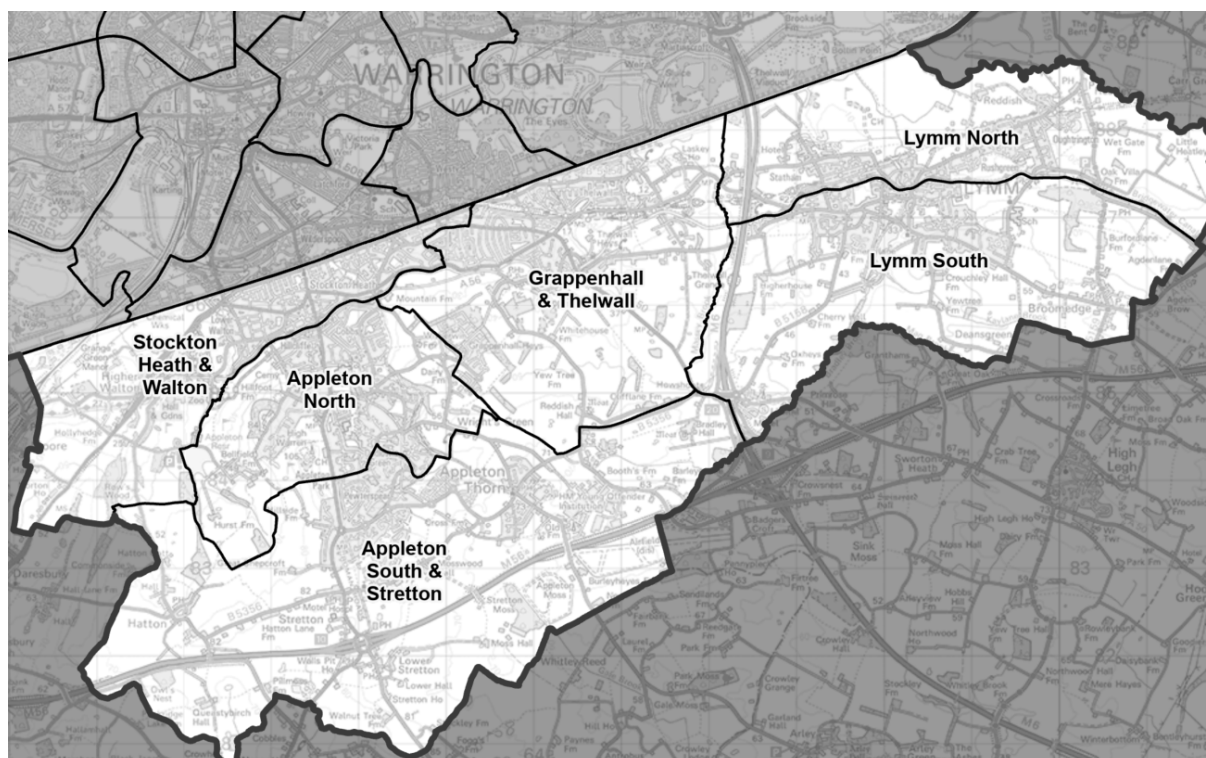
57 The Council proposed retaining the two existing wards in this area. In addition, we received a submission from a member of the public suggesting that Culcheth be moved into the adjoining City of Salford Council.

58 While noting the suggestion relating to the external boundaries of Warrington, making changes of this nature falls outside the scope of this electoral review.

59 As the current wards in this area have good electoral equality and the Council proposed to make no changes, we have decided to retain the existing wards as part of our draft recommendations.

60 As a consequence, our draft recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Birchwood and Culcheth, Glazebrook & Croft. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -2% and 9%, respectively, by 2031.

Southern Warrington



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Appleton North	2	-2%
Appleton South & Stretton	2	-1%
Grappenhall & Thelwall	3	6%
Lymm North	2	-4%
Lymm South	2	-8%
Stockton Heath & Walton	2	12%

61 This area is made up of six wards to the south of the Manchester Ship Canal which forms a strong northern boundary for these wards. Five of the parishes in this area (Appleton, Grappenhall, Lymm, Stockton Heath and Walton) are currently divided between borough wards. Overall, the Council's proposals sought to minimise instances where parishes are split between multiple borough wards.

Appleton North, Appleton South & Stretton and Stockton Heath & Walton

62 The Council proposed that the Appleton area be warded on a north/south orientation rather than the existing east/west split. Appleton, along with the neighbouring parishes of Hatton and Stretton contains enough electors to support two-councillor wards. It proposed an Appleton North ward that would contain the Hillside North area of the parish, which is currently located in Stockton Heath ward. The Council also proposed an Appleton South, Appleton Thorn, Hatton & Stretton ward containing the southern part of Appleton parish as well as the parishes of

Hatton and Stretton. The Council also proposed a two-member Stockton Heath & Walton ward that would contain all of Stockton Heath and Walton parishes. Stockton Heath Parish Council and Councillor Harris both wrote in support of the Council's proposal for Stockton Heath & Walton ward.

63 We visited this area as part of our tour of Warrington and looked at the ward boundaries proposed by the Council on the ground. Overall, we concluded that the Council's proposals represented the best warding pattern for the area when assessed against our three statutory criteria. We looked closely at the Council's proposed boundary between Appleton North and Appleton South, Appleton Thorn, Hatton & Stretton ward which would follow Dudlow Green Road and Longwood Road. While we are content that this constitutes an appropriate boundary for these two wards, we would particularly welcome evidence in support of alternative proposals during the current consultation that would provide for good electoral equality.

64 We visited Walton parish and agree that its inclusion in a ward with Stockton Heath will reflect its community identities and interests and provide for effective and convenient local government. While this ward would have the relatively high electoral variance of 12% by 2031, we are of the view that the strong evidence demonstrating the links between these two areas justifies this approach.

65 We propose two minor changes to the Council's proposals as part of the draft recommendations. We propose renaming the southern ward Appleton South & Stretton, as we considered the proposed name of Appleton South, Appleton Thorn, Hatton & Stretton to be excessively long and unwieldy. We also propose to amend the boundary between Appleton North and Appleton South & Stretton so that it runs to the south of three properties on Park Lane to reflect their road access into Appleton North ward.

66 Our draft recommendations are for the two-councillor wards of Appleton North, Appleton South & Stretton and Stockton Heath & Walton. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -2%, -1% and 12%, respectively, by 2031.

Grappenhall & Thelwall, Lymm North and Lymm South

67 The Council proposed the two-councillor wards of Lymm North and Lymm South, which would cover the parish of Lymm, and a three-councillor Grappenhall & Thelwall ward which wholly covers the parish of the same name. This proposal would mean that the part of Stockton Heath parish in the current Grappenhall ward would be transferred to a Stockton Heath ward. In addition, the Thelwall area would transfer from the existing Lymm North & Thelwall ward into the proposed Grappenhall & Thelwall ward. The overall result of these changes would mean that Stockton Heath and Grappenhall & Thelwall parishes would no longer be divided between borough wards, and Lymm parish, while divided between borough wards,

would not be warded with any adjoining communities. The Council argued that this warding arrangement would better reflect the distinct community identities and interests of this area.

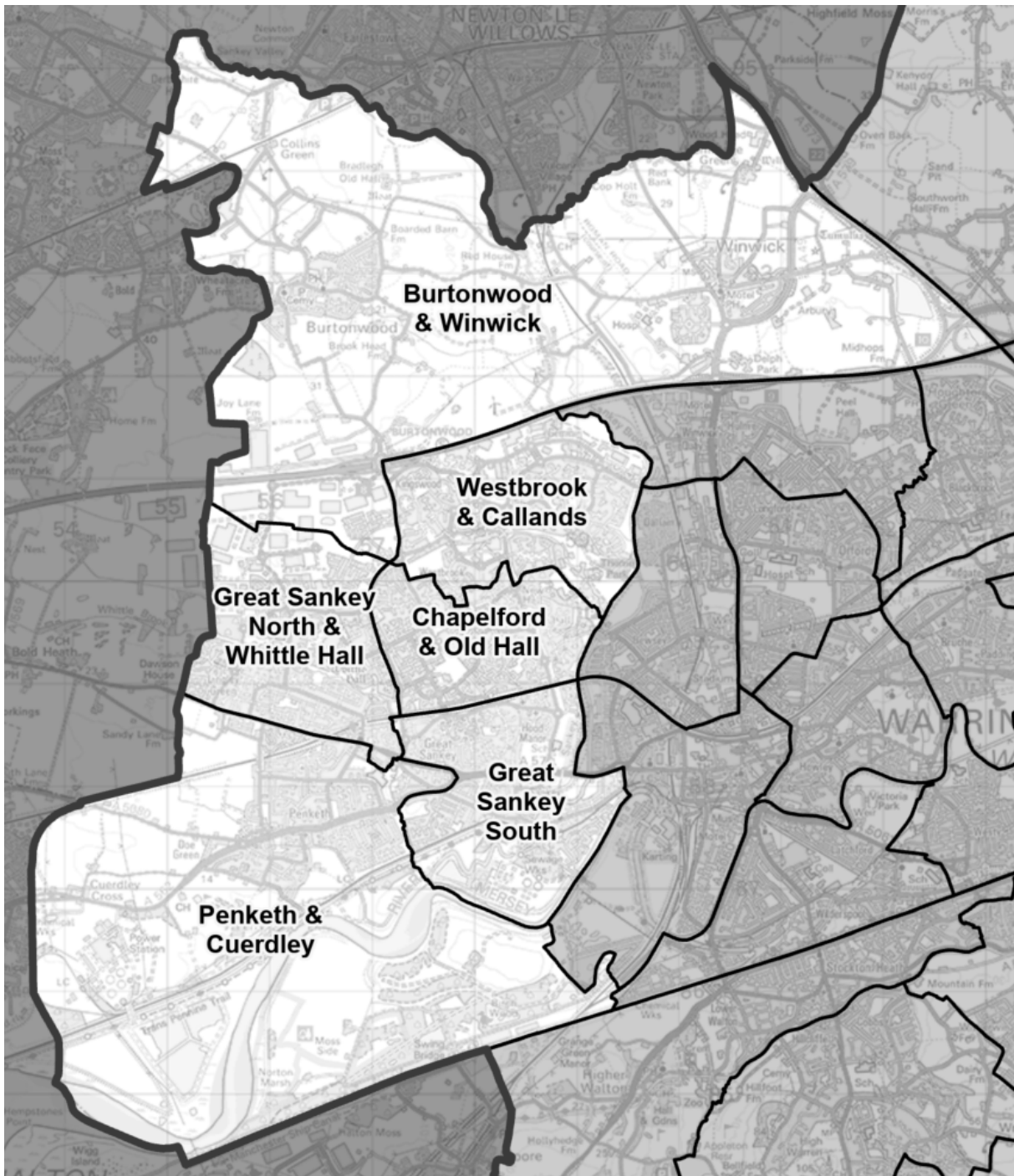
68 We also received a submission from Lymm Parish Council and six local residents. Lymm Parish Council stated that it had voted in favour of supporting a warding pattern that removed Thelwall parish from a Lymm-focused ward. The local residents broadly argued that Lymm should be represented in a single ward, and that the parish council should return to the four parish wards that existed before the last electoral review of Warrington.

69 Having considered the evidence received and following our visit to the area, we have decided to base our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals. We concluded that a pattern which no longer divided Grappenhall & Thelwall parish between wards and divided Lymm parish into two wards provided the best balance of our three statutory criteria.

70 In respect of the Lymm area we cannot recommend a single ward covering the whole parish as this would require a ward represented by four councillors. We do not consider that four-councillor wards provide for effective and convenient local government and potentially dilute the accountability of councillors to their electorate. Additionally, we cannot propose returning to the former parish warding structure for Lymm parish as we can only propose revised parish warding as a direct consequence of our recommendations for borough wards. These matters could potentially be addressed by way of a Community Governance Review overseen by Warrington Council.

71 Our draft recommendations are for a three-councillor Grappenhall & Thelwall ward and the two-councillor wards of Lymm North and Lymm South. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of 6%, -4% and -8%, respectively, by 2031.

Western and northwestern Warrington



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Burtonwood & Winwick	2	10%
Chapelford & Old Hall	3	-2%
Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall	3	3%
Great Sankey South	3	-1%
Penketh & Cuardley	3	1%
Westbrook & Callands	2	1%

Burtonwood & Winwick, Chapelford & Old Hall, Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall and Westbrook & Callands

72 This area of Warrington is forecast to see a significant amount of new housing over the coming years with the Omega development adding a number of electors to the existing Burtonwood & Winwick ward. The Council proposed a pattern of wards for this area which takes account of that new development. In particular, it proposed that the new development site be divided between Burtonwood & Winwick and Westbrook & Callands wards, with the boundary between the former and Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall ward moved to accommodate this.

73 The Council also proposed to make some changes to the boundary between Westbrook & Callands and Chapelford & Old Hall wards to reflect the community identity of electors in that area. Specifically, this would see the transfer of the Westbrook Centre from Chapelford & Old Hall ward into a Westbrook-based ward.

74 We received three submissions from local residents regarding the location of the Westbrook Centre and supporting the proposal that it be included in a Westbrook ward. One local resident specifically supported changing the name of the existing Westbrook ward to Westbrook & Callands, as put forward by the Council. Councillor Cameron supported making no changes to the existing Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall ward.

75 We visited the area, and in particular the Omega development site. We noted that a number of properties were already completed and occupied. These are currently located in Burtonwood & Winwick ward (and parish). We also noted that the remaining development sites would be contained in the Council's proposed Westbrook & Callands ward.

76 However, having carefully considered the submissions received, we have concluded that it is not possible to adopt the Council's proposals unchanged. Given the location of parish boundaries in this area, to adopt these proposals would require the creation of parish wards that would contain no electors at present. Furthermore, only one such parish ward would contain electors under the five-year electorate forecast. As stated earlier in this report, a parish ward with no electors will not provide effective and convenient local government. Any issues with rationalising parish boundaries can be resolved by Warrington Council by means of a Community Governance Review.

77 We do agree with the Council that the Westbrook Centre should be included in a Westbrook ward, and propose to adopt that aspect of the Council's proposals in order to better reflect community identities and interests in the area.

78 We propose to include almost all of the new housing development at the Omega site in Burtonwood & Winwick ward with a small section located in Great

Sankey North & Whittle Hall ward. We do this by using the existing boundary between Burtonwood & Winwick and Great Sankey parishes as the ward boundary. This change removes the risk of creating unviable parish wards.

79 Our draft recommendations are for the two-councillor wards of Burtonwood & Winwick and Westbrook & Callands, and the three-councillor wards of Chapelford & Old Hall and Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall. These wards will have electoral variances of 10%, 1%, -2% and 3%, respectively, by 2031.

Great Sankey South and Penketh & Cuerdley

80 As part of its submission the Council proposed to make no changes to these wards, which it stated still reflected the extent of communities in this area. We received no further submissions regarding these wards.

81 Having considered the evidence submitted by the Council and having visited the area, we agree with the Council's proposal to retain the existing wards as part of our draft recommendations.

82 Our draft recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Great Sankey South and Penketh & Cuerdley. These wards have forecast electoral variances of -1% and 1%, respectively, by 2031.

Conclusions

83 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Warrington, referencing the 2025 and 2031 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

	Draft recommendations	
	2025	2031
Number of councillors	61	61
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	2,677	2,822
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Draft recommendations

Warrington Council should be made up of 61 councillors serving 24 wards: 11 two-councillor wards and 13 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 Warrington. You can also view our draft recommendations for Warrington on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

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

85 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, Warrington 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.

86 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 Appleton, Burtonwood & Westbrook, Great Sankey and Poulton-with-Fearnhead.

87 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Appleton parish.

Draft recommendations

Appleton Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Appleton North	7
Appleton Park & Thorn	6

88 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Burtonwood & Westbrook parish.

Draft recommendations

Burtonwood & Westbrook Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Burtonwood	7
Old Hall	1
Westbrook	8

89 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Great Sankey parish.

Draft recommendations

Great Sankey Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Blackshaw	1
Central	4
Liverpool Road	1
North	4
South	4
South West	1

90 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Poulton-with-Fearnhead parish.

Draft recommendations

Poulton-with-Fearnhead Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Blackbrook	2
Brook	1
Houghton Green	1
Longbarn, Fearnhead & Cinnamon Brow	6
Padgate & Bruche	5

Have your say

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

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

93 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

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

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

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

96 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Warrington 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.

97 A good pattern of wards should:

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

98 Electoral equality:

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

99 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?

100 Effective local government:

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

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

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

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

104 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 Warrington in 2028.

Equalities

105 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

Draft recommendations for Warrington

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Appleton North	2	5,063	2,532	-5%	5,507	2,754	-2%
2	Appleton South & Stretton	2	5,136	2,568	-4%	5,607	2,804	-1%
3	Bank Quay & Town Centre	2	3,999	2,000	-25%	5,306	2,653	-6%
4	Bewsey & Dallam	2	5,057	2,529	-6%	5,193	2,597	-8%
5	Birchwood	3	8,219	2,740	2%	8,267	2,756	-2%
6	Burtonwood & Winwick	2	5,127	2,564	-4%	6,236	3,118	10%
7	Chapelford & Old Hall	3	8,214	2,738	2%	8,300	2,767	-2%
8	Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft	3	8,597	2,866	7%	9,214	3,071	9%
9	Fairfield & Howley	3	8,537	2,846	6%	8,599	2,866	2%
10	Grappenhall & Thelwall	3	7,858	2,619	-2%	8,973	2,991	6%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11	Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall	3	8,750	2,917	9%	8,750	2,917	3%
12	Great Sankey South	3	8,368	2,789	4%	8,413	2,804	-1%
13	Latchford East	2	5,806	2,903	8%	5,858	2,929	4%
14	Latchford West	3	7,269	2,423	-10%	8,060	2,687	-5%
15	Lymm North	2	4,890	2,445	-9%	5,433	2,717	-4%
16	Lymm South	2	5,121	2,561	-4%	5,189	2,595	-8%
17	Orford	3	8,757	2,919	9%	8,890	2,963	5%
18	Padgate, Paddington & Bruche	2	5,792	2,896	8%	5,801	2,901	3%
19	Penketh & Cuerdley	3	8,017	2,672	0%	8,586	2,862	1%
20	Poplars & Peel Hall	3	6,979	2,326	-13%	7,893	2,631	-7%
21	Poulton & Fearnhead	3	8,017	2,672	0%	8,063	2,688	-5%
22	Rixton & Woolston	3	7,777	2,592	-3%	8,019	2,673	-5%
23	Stockton Heath & Walton	2	6,287	3,144	17%	6,301	3,151	12%

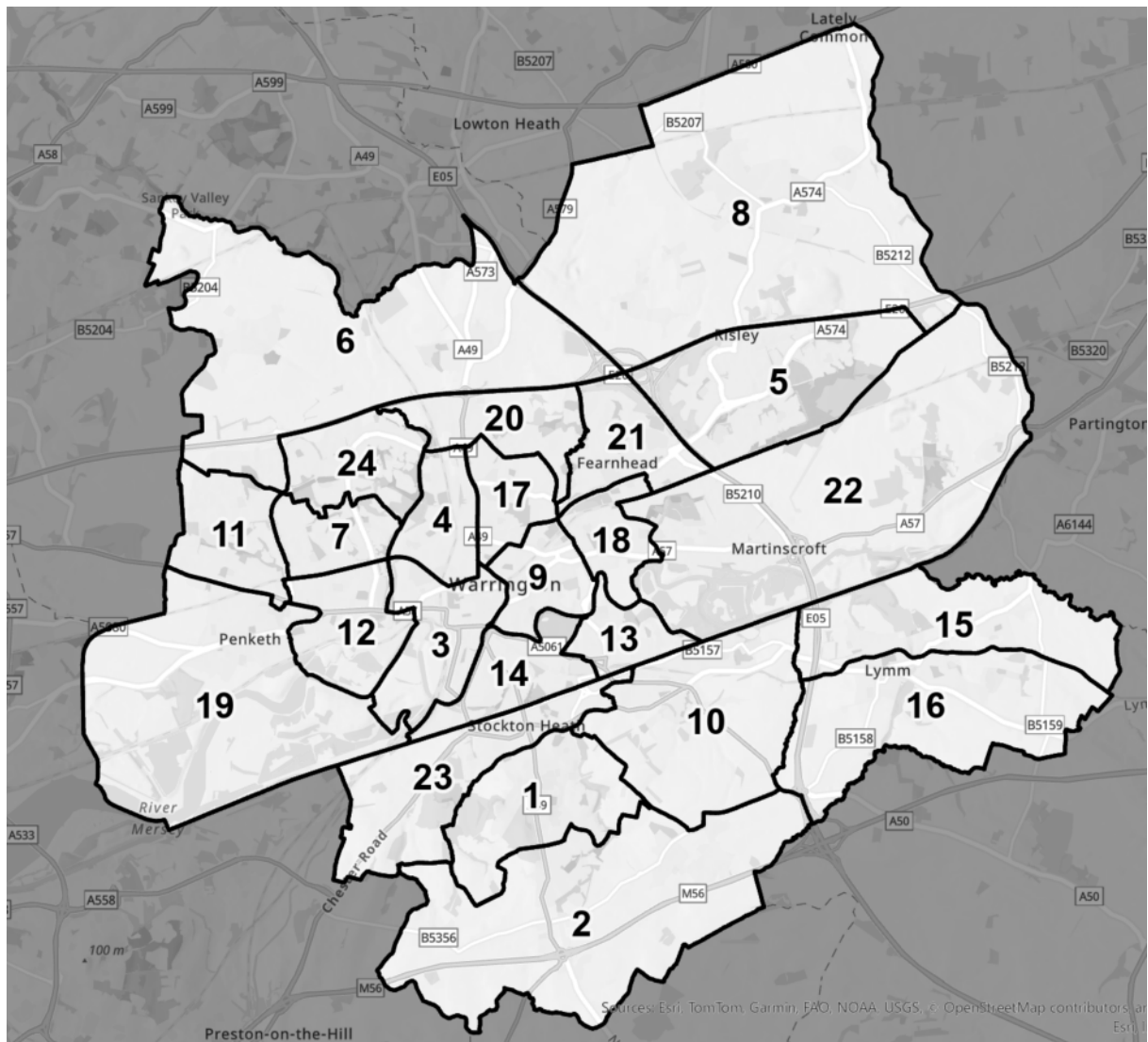
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
24	Westbrook & Callands	2	5,682	2,841	6%	5,682	2,841	1%
	Totals	61	163,319	–	–	172,140	–	–
	Averages	–	–	2,677	–	–	2,822	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Warrington 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	Appleton North
2	Appleton South & Stretton
3	Bank Quay & Town Centre
4	Bewsey & Dallam
5	Birchwood
6	Burtonwood & Winwick
7	Chapelford & Old Hall
8	Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft
9	Fairfield & Howley
10	Grappenhall & Thelwall
11	Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall
12	Great Sankey South

13	Latchford East
14	Latchford West
15	Lymm North
16	Lymm South
17	Orford
18	Padgate, Paddington & Bruche
19	Penketh & Cuerdley
20	Poplars & Peel Hall
21	Poulton & Fearnhead
22	Rixton & Woolston
23	Stockton Heath & Walton
24	Westbrook & Callands

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/warrington

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

Local Authority

- Warrington Borough Council

Councillors

- Councillor M. Cameron (Warrington Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Harris (Warrington Borough Council)

Local organisations

- Save Woolston Hub Committee

Parish and Town Councils

- Lymm Parish Council
- Rixton with Glazebrook Parish Council
- Stockton Heath Parish Council

Local residents

- 30 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 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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