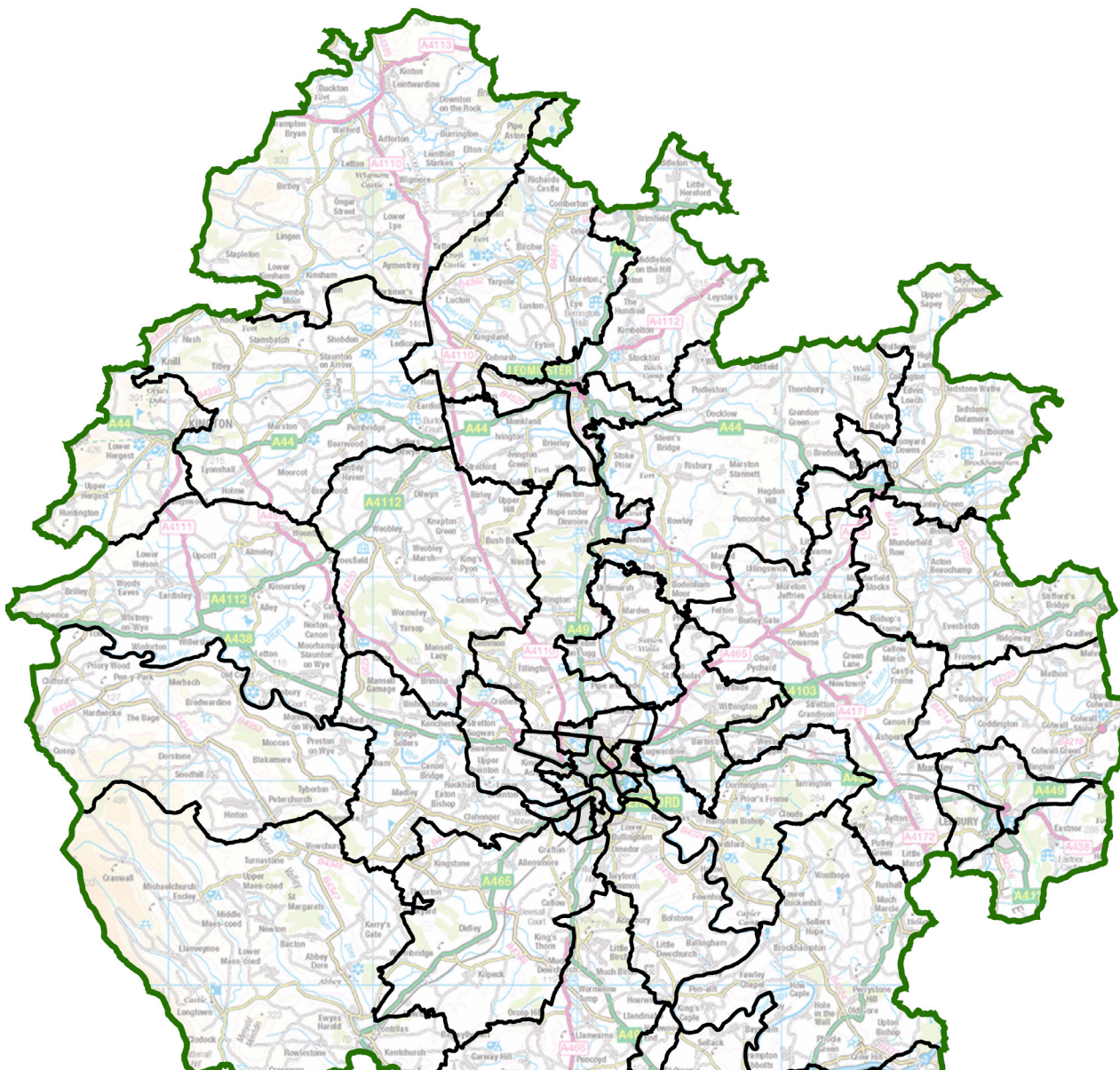




New electoral arrangements for Herefordshire Council Final Recommendations

September 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) | • Liz Treacy |
| • Andrew Scallan CBE
(Deputy Chair) | • Janet Waggott |
| • Dame Gillian Guy | • Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive) |
| • Wallace Sampson OBE | |

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 detail 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 Herefordshire?

7 We are conducting a review of Herefordshire Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2014, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.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 Herefordshire 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 Herefordshire

9 Herefordshire should be represented by 53 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Herefordshire should have 53 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of 17 wards should change; 36 will stay the same.

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

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

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

taxes, house prices or car and house insurance premiums, and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Herefordshire. We then held a period of public consultation on warding patterns for the Council. The submissions received during the consultations have informed our draft and final recommendations.

16 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 November 2025	Number of councillors decided
25 November 2025	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 February 2026	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
28 April 2026	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
6 July 2026	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 September 2026	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 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.

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

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

	2025	2031
Electorate of Herefordshire	147,603	160,081
Number of councillors	53	53
Average number of electors per councillor	2,785	3,020

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but four of our proposed wards (Bircher, Hagley, Ledbury West and Old Gore) for Herefordshire are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2031.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 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 8.5% by 2031.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and were satisfied that the projected figures were the best available at the start of this review. During our warding arrangements consultation we received a submission from Councillor

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

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

Harvey, writing as a member of the public, who expressed some concerns with the forecasts provided by the Council. We discussed these concerns with officers at the Council who stated that the queries related to developments that are beyond the scope of this review because construction is not expected to start within the five-year forecasting period.

24 We considered the information provided by the Council and were satisfied that the projected figures were the best available at that time. These figures were therefore used to produce our draft recommendations.

25 During consultation on our draft recommendations, Herefordshire Council advised that forecast electors had been redistributed between Ledbury South and Ledbury West wards to reflect a revised boundary proposal. As this does not alter the overall electorate forecasts, we remain satisfied that the agreed forecasts represent the best available information and have used them to inform our final recommendations.

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 Herefordshire Council currently has 53 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same would ensure the authority can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We received several submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. The submission from Herefordshire Council reiterated its support for 53 councillors representing 53 wards. The remaining submissions were from local residents who argued for a reduction in the proposed number of councillors. One respondent specified a reduction of five or six councillors while the remainder did not suggest an alternative number. While carefully considering the submissions received, we were not persuaded that sufficient evidence was provided to justify an alternative number of councillors. On this basis, we based our draft recommendations on a 53-councillor council.

29 Prior to the start of the review, Herefordshire Council passed a resolution requesting that this be a single-member ward review. If a review is conducted on this basis, there is a presumption in legislation that the Council will have a uniform pattern of single-councillor wards. Accordingly, we will aim to deliver a pattern of

single-member wards. However, in all cases this consideration will not take precedence over our other statutory criteria, and we will not recommend a uniform pattern of single-member wards if, in our view or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria.

30 In their response to the draft recommendations the Council reiterated their support for 53 single-councillor wards. We received no other submissions about the number of councillors and have therefore retained 53 councillors in our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

31 We received 28 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These did not include any authority-wide proposals. The Council decided at that stage not to make a warding pattern proposal. The Council stated that it had asked councillors to respond to the Commission directly regarding the areas they represent. We received five submissions from local councillors, four submissions from parish and town councils and one submission from a political group. The remainder of submissions were from local residents.

32 Our draft recommendations were based on the existing electoral arrangements with a number of amendments made to wards to provide for electoral equality. The lack of a council-wide warding proposal meant that we received relatively limited community evidence across Herefordshire with only certain areas represented in the evidence received. We took into account the local evidence received, particularly where it provided information relating to community links and locally recognised boundaries.

33 We conducted a detailed virtual tour of the area prior to publishing our draft recommendations. This virtual tour of Herefordshire helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed. As detailed elsewhere in this report, we later visited Herefordshire in person to examine the proposed boundaries on the ground before formulating our final recommendations.

34 Our draft recommendations were for 53 one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

35 We received 27 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a submission from Herefordshire Council with comments on a number of wards. We also received submissions from 16 parish,

town and district representatives, and 10 local residents. The majority of the submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals for Bircher and Mortimer wards, and for Hagley and Three Crosses wards.

Final recommendations

36 Our final recommendations are for 53 one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

37 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to Bircher and Mortimer wards, Bishops Frome & Cradley, Hagley and Three Crosses wards, and Llangarron and Old Gore wards. We also recommend changes to the wards in the Ledbury area and to Whitecross and Widemarsh wards in central Hereford.

38 We have had regard to our duty under Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (as amended by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023), which requires public bodies to seek to further the purposes of National Landscapes. In relation to the designated landscapes within Herefordshire, including the Wye Valley National Landscape and the Malvern Hills National Landscape, we are satisfied that our recommended wards provide councillors with a coherent geographic framework through which they can understand and discharge their responsibilities in respect of these protected landscapes.

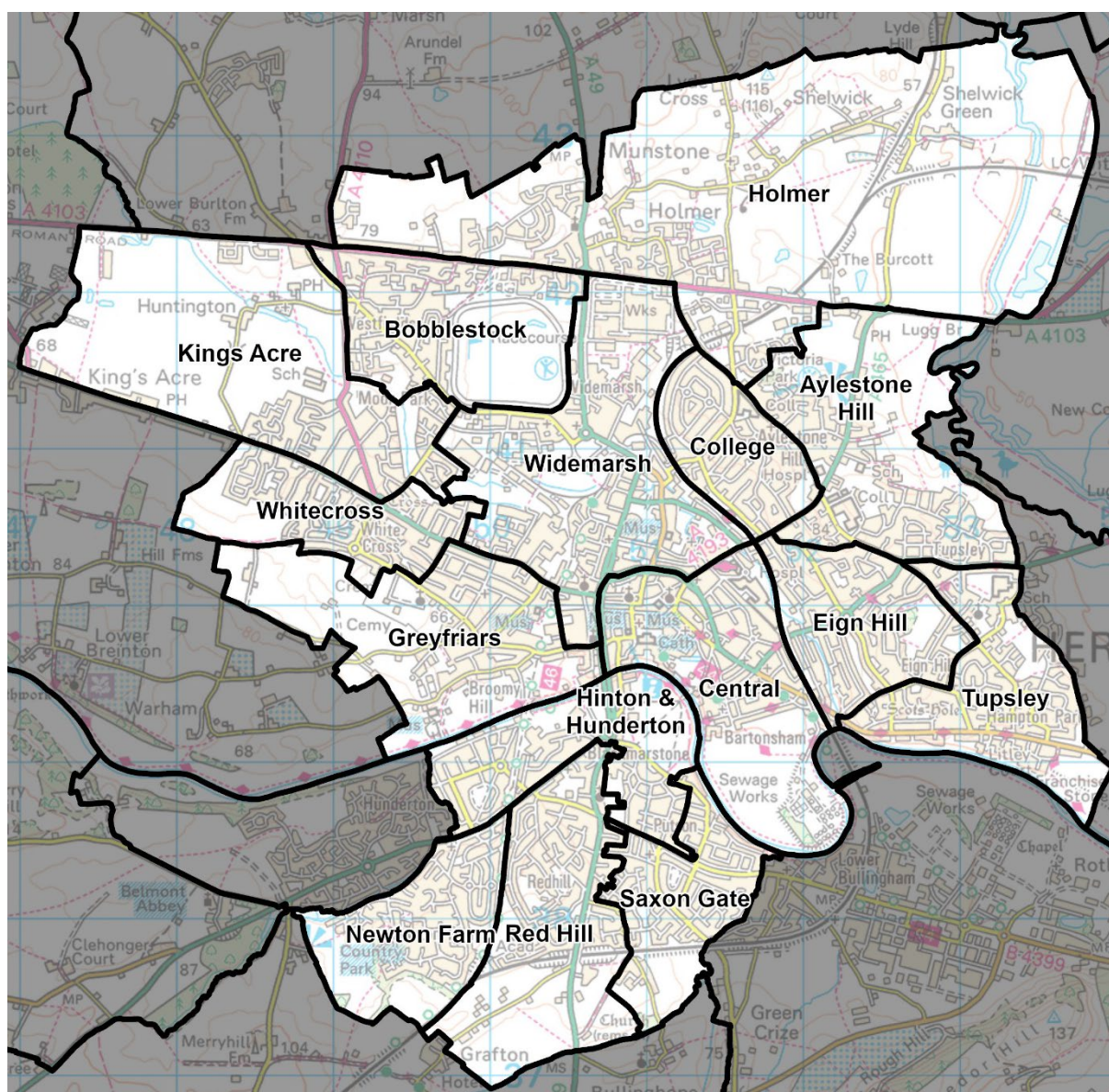
39 The tables and maps on pages 9–24 detail our final recommendations for each area of Herefordshire. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

40 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 32 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Hereford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Aylestone Hill	1	-9%
Bobblestock	1	-2%
Central	1	3%
College	1	-4%
Eign Hill	1	-3%
Greyfriars	1	-10%
Hinton & Hunderton	1	4%
Holmer	1	5%
Kings Acre	1	-8%
Newton Farm	1	8%
Red Hill	1	2%

Saxon Gate	1	1%
Tupsley	1	-9%
Whitecross	1	-5%
Widemarsh	1	-6%

Hereford – North of the River Wye (Aylestone Hill, Bobblestock, Central, College, Eign Hill, Greyfriars, Holmer, Kings Acre, Tupsley, Whitecross and Widemarsh)

41 Our final recommendations for this part of Hereford are based on the draft recommendations, subject to a small amendment to the boundary between Whitecross and Widemarsh wards. This change is based on the evidence received during consultation and on evidence gathered during our visit to the area.

42 We received seven submissions that mentioned wards in this part of the city. Herefordshire Council did not support our recommended boundary between Greyfriars and Widemarsh wards. It argued that the proposed boundary, which follows Barton Road and Barton Yard rather than Eign Street, did not reflect the identities and interests of the community in this area. The Council did not put forward an alternative to our recommended boundary. Our boundary was intended to balance the three statutory criteria of ensuring good electoral equality, reflecting community identities and interests and promoting effective and convenient local government. If the ward boundary followed Eign Street, this would result in an electoral variance of 14% for Widemarsh ward.

43 Councillor Andrews (Widemarsh ward) argued that the current boundary of Eign Street provided a strong and obvious boundary that divided two wards with little community connections. They stated that, if it was considered necessary to include more electors in the ward, the part of Whitecross Road from Vowles Close up to and including Baggallay Street would be a more appropriate area, given that the small housing estate at the end of Baggallay Street is already in Widemarsh ward. Councillor Toynbee (Greyfriars ward) stated that, while our recommendations made Greyfriars ward less coherent, they understood the need to provide for electoral equality in both wards. Councillor Foxton, who represents Eign Hill ward, wrote in support of our draft recommendations for that ward.

44 A local resident argued that including the more affluent properties to the west of the A465 Aylestone Hill road in Aylestone Hill ward would create a social imbalance and not accurately reflect their connection to Victoria Park. They suggested that the area in question be included in Victoria Park ward. They also proposed that Netherwood Close, which is currently in Backbury ward and Hampton Bishop parish, be added to Aylestone Hill ward. Two local residents suggested that the Mantella Drive area be included in a Hereford-based ward. This area is also currently in Backbury ward and Hampton Bishop parish. We also received some suggested name changes to wards in Hereford, with a local resident suggesting Elgar for

Central ward, adding Edgar Street to the name of Widemarsh ward, Tom Spring for Backbury ward and adding Hill to the name of College ward.

45 We visited this part of Hereford on our tour of the authority to examine the proposed changes put forward to us during consultation. As a consequence, we propose to make some amendments to the boundary between Whitecross and Widemarsh wards. We visited the small housing estate mentioned by Councillor Andrews and concluded that all of this estate should be moved from Widemarsh to Whitecross ward. In our view, it is currently isolated from adjoining communities in Widemarsh with no direct road access to the rest of the ward. We have decided not to adopt the suggestion to move Baggallay Street into Widemarsh ward as we are not persuaded that this would reflect the community identities and interests of electors in this area.

46 We have decided to confirm our draft recommendations to change the boundary between Greyfriars and Widemarsh wards as final. While we note the view that Eign Street provides a strong ward boundary, we were not persuaded that sufficient evidence had been provided to justify the electoral variance of 14% that would result if our recommended change were not made.

47 We do not propose to make any changes to Aylestone Hill ward based on the submissions received. In particular, the relative affluence or otherwise of a specific area does not, of itself, justify its transfer to an adjoining ward. Additionally, we do not propose to change the boundaries of Aylestone Hill ward to include Netherwood Close or Tupsley ward to include the Mantella Drive area. Whilst we accept that these areas are likely to consider themselves part of Hereford, they are currently part of Hampton Bishop parish. To include these electors in either Aylestone Hill or Tupsley wards would require the creation of small parish wards for Hampton Bishop parish, which would contain relatively few electors. We are not persuaded that this approach would promote effective and convenient local government for Hampton Bishop parish. We considered the name changes suggested for the wards in and around Hereford but we do not propose to make any changes to what we consider are long-established and well recognised names.

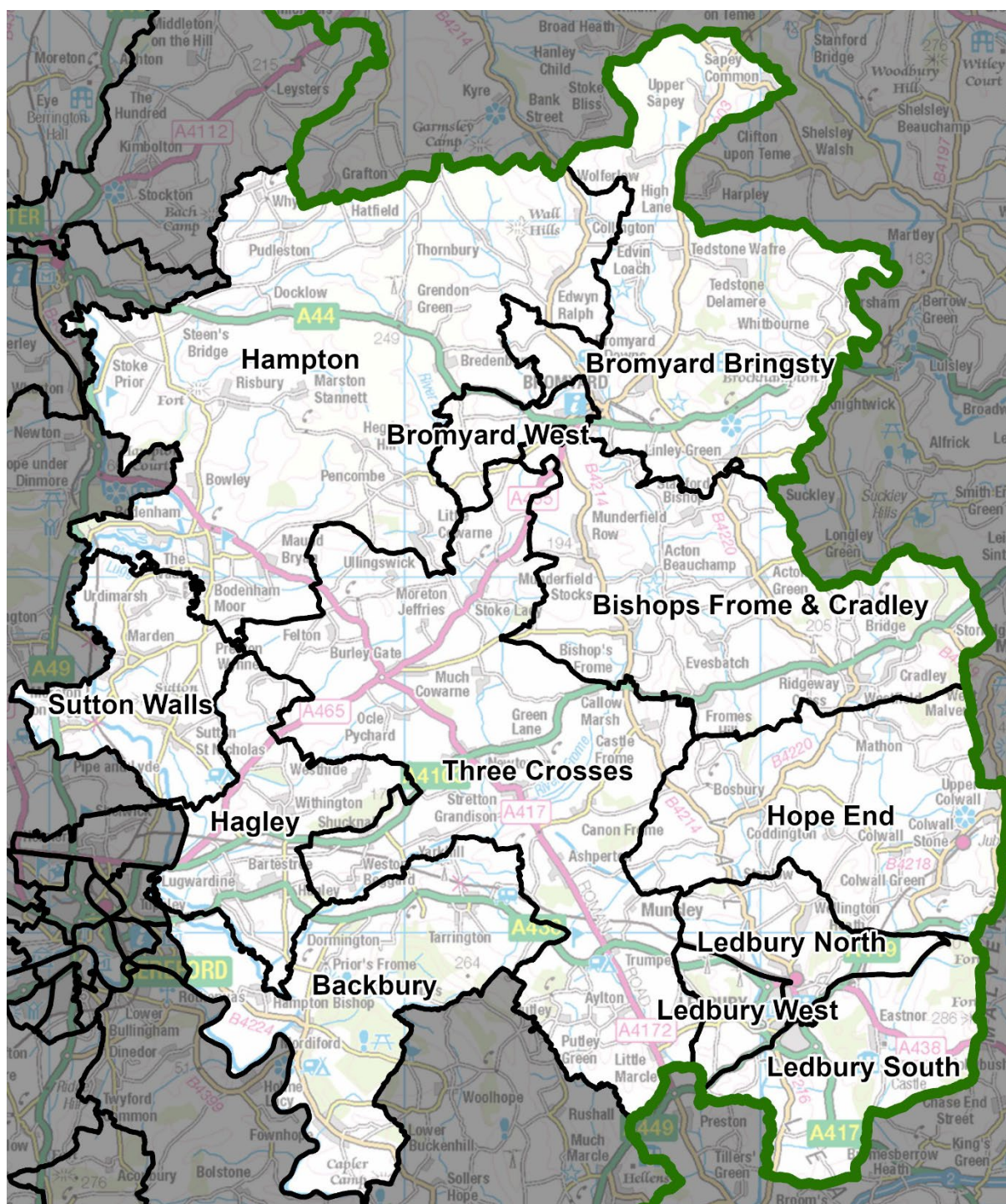
48 Other than the change to the boundary between Whitecross and Widemarsh wards, we propose to confirm our draft recommendations for the remainder of the wards in this area as final. We are content that our recommendation effectively balances our three statutory criteria and will ensure that all of the recommended wards will have good forecast electoral equality by 2031.

Hereford – South of the River Wye (Hinton & Hunderton, Newton Farm, Red Hill and Saxon Gate)

49 We received no submissions that mentioned these four wards during either consultation. We are satisfied that our recommended wards will effectively balance

our three statutory criteria and note that they are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2031. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final. Our recommended wards are forecast to have electoral variances of 4%, 8%, 2% and 1% respectively, by 2031.

North East Herefordshire



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Backbury	1	-1%
Bishops Frome & Cradley	1	-6%
Bromyard Bringsty	1	8%
Bromyard West	1	-9%
Hagley	1	14%

Hampton	1	1%
Hope End	1	6%
Ledbury North	1	8%
Ledbury South	1	3%
Ledbury West	1	12%
Sutton Walls	1	-5%
Three Crosses	1	4%

Backbury, Bromyard Bringsty, Bromyard West, Hampton, Hope End and Sutton Walls

50 In our draft recommendations, we retained the existing electoral arrangements for this area. We received no submissions that referred to these wards during the consultation on our draft recommendations. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

51 Our final recommendations are for the six wards of Backbury, Bromyard Bringsty, Bromyard West, Hampton, Hope End and Sutton Walls. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -1%, 8%, -9%, 1%, 6% and -5% respectively, by 2031.

Bishops Frome & Cradley, Hagley and Three Crosses

52 The existing Hagley ward was forecast to have 14% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2031. To reduce this level of electoral inequality, as part of our draft recommendations we proposed to move the parishes of Preston Wynne and Westhide from Hagley ward to Three Crosses ward. This would have reduced the electoral variance in Hagley ward from 14% to 8% by 2031.

53 In response to our draft recommendations, we received a number of submissions in objection. Herefordshire Council objected to our recommendations for all three wards on the basis that they did not reflect community ties in the area. It stated that Stoke Lacy parish did not have strong links to Bishops Frome but did have strong community ties to Much Cowarne and the Ocle group of parishes, which reflected a 'longstanding social, charitable, ecclesiastical and cultural relationship'.

54 The Council added that Westhide and Preston Wynne parishes should not be excluded from Hagley ward as they form part of a grouped parish council with Withington. The Council therefore argued that these communities share governance structures, interests and close community relationships, and a warding pattern that separated these parishes would break those ties. It added further evidence that both Westhide and Preston Wynne look to Withington for their community facilities such as Withington Village Hall which is used by residents in all three communities. The Council argued that the improvement in electoral equality under our draft

recommendations was at the expense of reflecting community links across the three wards.

55 Councillor Lester (Three Crosses ward), Councillor Powell (Hagley ward), Stoke Lacy Parish Council and Withington Group Parish Council all opposed the draft recommendations for these wards and gave similar community evidence to that submitted by the Council.

56 Having carefully considered the submissions received, we have decided to revert to the existing warding pattern as part of our final recommendations for this area. This will retain the parishes of Preston Wynne and Westhide in Hagley ward, and Stoke Lacy parish in Three Crosses ward.

57 Our final recommendations will mean that Hagley ward will be forecast to have 14% more electors per councillor than the average for Herefordshire by 2031. However, we are persuaded that the evidence offered in the submissions justifies this relatively high electoral variance in order to reflect community identities and interests. We are satisfied that the strong community ties shared between Preston Wynne and Westhide parishes and Withington parish, as well as those shared between Stoke Lacy and Much Cowarne parish, will be reflected in our final recommendations.

58 Our final recommendations are for the wards of Bishop Frome & Cradley, Hagley and Three Crosses. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -6%, 14% and 4% respectively by 2031.

Ledbury North, Ledbury South and Ledbury West

59 Our draft recommendations for Ledbury were based on proposed modifications submitted by Ledbury Town Council. We made some further modifications to these proposals to provide for electoral equality.

60 We received two submissions in response to our draft recommendations for this area. Herefordshire Council proposed a revised boundary between Ledbury South and Ledbury West wards based on a small recalculation of the housing development forecasts in the area. These recalculations did not change the overall forecast but changed the number of forecast electors between Ledbury South and Ledbury West wards by a small amount. The Council's revised boundary would follow New Street, then the A449 before turning north onto Lilly Hall Lane. Ledbury Town Council supported the Council's revised proposal.

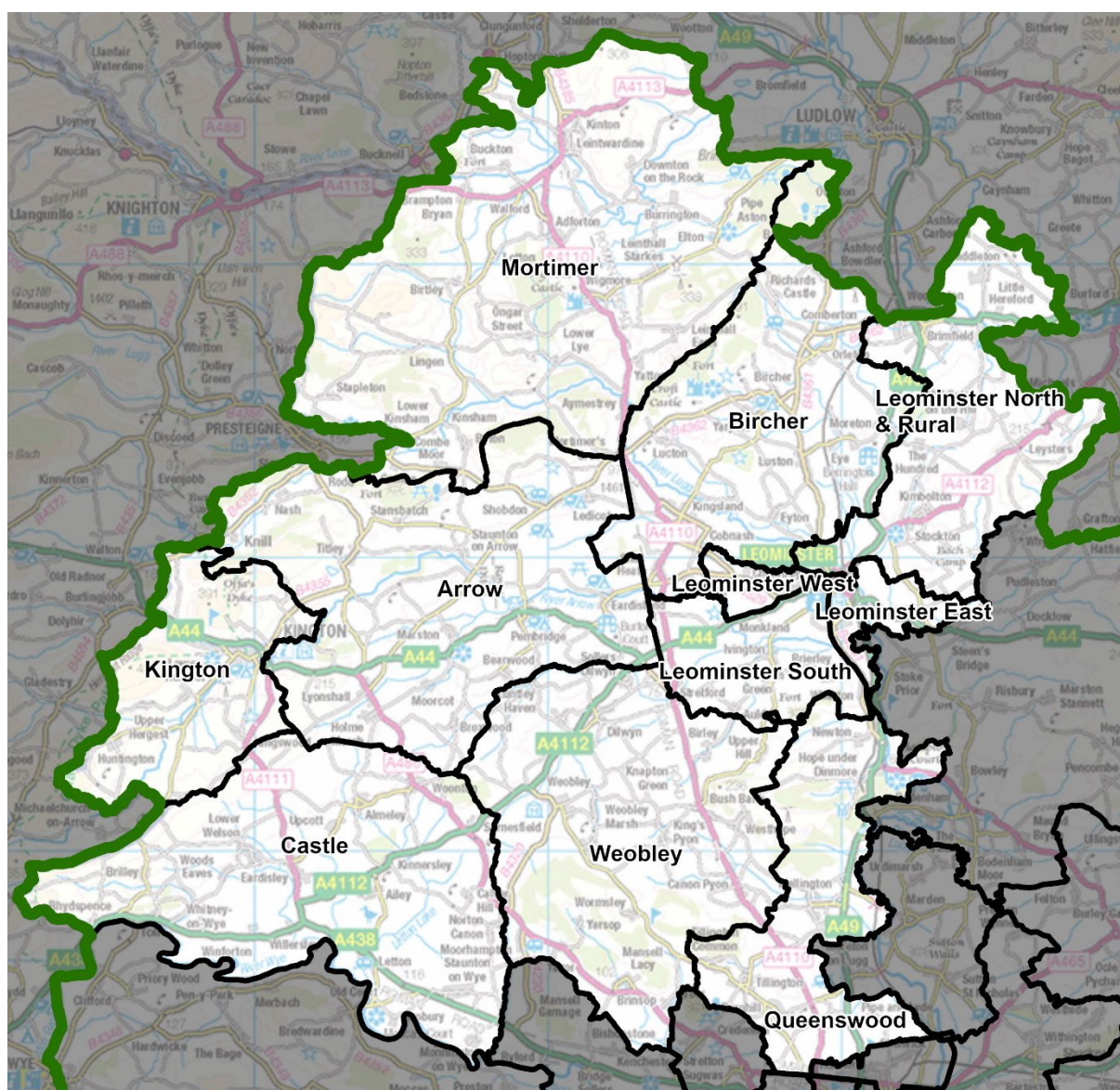
61 Having considered the submissions received and having visited the area as part of our tour of Herefordshire, we propose to adopt the changes put forward by Herefordshire Council as part of our final recommendations, subject to a small amendment. We propose that the boundary between Ledbury South and Ledbury

West follow New Street and then the A449 to the county boundary. However, we do not recommend that the boundary follow Lilly Hall Lane as we consider that using the A449 will provide for a clearer and more identifiable ward boundary.

62 Under the final recommendations Ledbury West ward would have an electoral variance of 12%. While this is relatively high, we consider it is justified by the evidence provided that the proposed changes will promote effective and convenient local government and reflect local community ties in Ledbury.

63 Our final recommendations are for the three wards of Ledbury North, Ledbury South and Ledbury West. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of 8%, 3% and 12% respectively, by 2031.

North West Herefordshire



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Arrow	1	6%
Bircher	1	15%
Castle	1	-8%
Kington	1	-9%
Leominster East	1	4%
Leominster North & Rural	1	9%
Leominster South	1	-8%
Leominster West	1	-8%
Mortimer	1	-3%
Queenswood	1	-3%
Weobley	1	3%

Bircher and Mortimer

64 As part of our draft recommendations, we moved the parish of Richards Castle from Bircher ward to Mortimer ward. We proposed this as the existing Bircher ward was forecast to have 15% more electors per councillor than the average for Herefordshire by 2031. Our view was that no evidence had been received to justify retaining the existing ward with this high electoral variance.

65 In response to our draft recommendations, we received eight submissions that mentioned these wards. These were from Councillor Hurcomb (Bircher ward), Councillor Atkins (Richards Castle parish), Councillor O'Sullivan (Yarpole Group Parish Council), Orleton Parish Council, Richards Castle Parish Council, Wigmore Group Parish Council, Yarpole Group Parish Council and a local resident. The submission from the local resident requested a change to the parish boundaries in the area.

66 The respondents objected to the inclusion of Richards Castle parish in Mortimer ward. They stressed that Richards Castle has strong ties with parishes to its south, in particular Orleton parish and the Yarpole group of parishes. They argued that there were no direct links between Richards Castle parish and the remainder of Mortimer ward. In particular, they noted there was no direct road link between the two areas which are predominantly hilly and heavily wooded. It was also stated that Richards Castle looks to Orleton for a number of its community and leisure facilities, and that the two parishes share a neighbourhood plan.

67 Having considered the submissions received and having visited the area as part of our tour of Herefordshire, we propose to modify our draft recommendations and place Richards Castle parish in Bircher ward. This will mean that Bircher ward and Mortimer ward will retain their existing boundaries. It will also mean that Bircher ward will have an electoral variance of 15% more electors per councillor by 2031. While this variance is relatively high, we consider that sufficient evidence has been received to justify it. In particular, we found the evidence relating to the community ties between Richards Castle parish and the rest of Bircher ward to be persuasive. We also consider our recommended change will promote effective and convenient local government by better reflecting local road links.

68 We did consider whether the high electoral variance in Bircher ward could be avoided by recommending a two-councillor Bircher & Mortimer ward. While this option would result in an electoral variance of 6%, we did not consider that evidence had been received to justify moving away from a uniform pattern of single-member wards, particularly given that Herefordshire Council has formally requested that this be a single-councillor ward review. Whilst we reserve the right to recommend multi-member wards should we be unable to effectively balance our statutory criteria, we are content that our criteria are reflected in a single-councillor pattern for this area, in spite of the relatively high electoral variance.

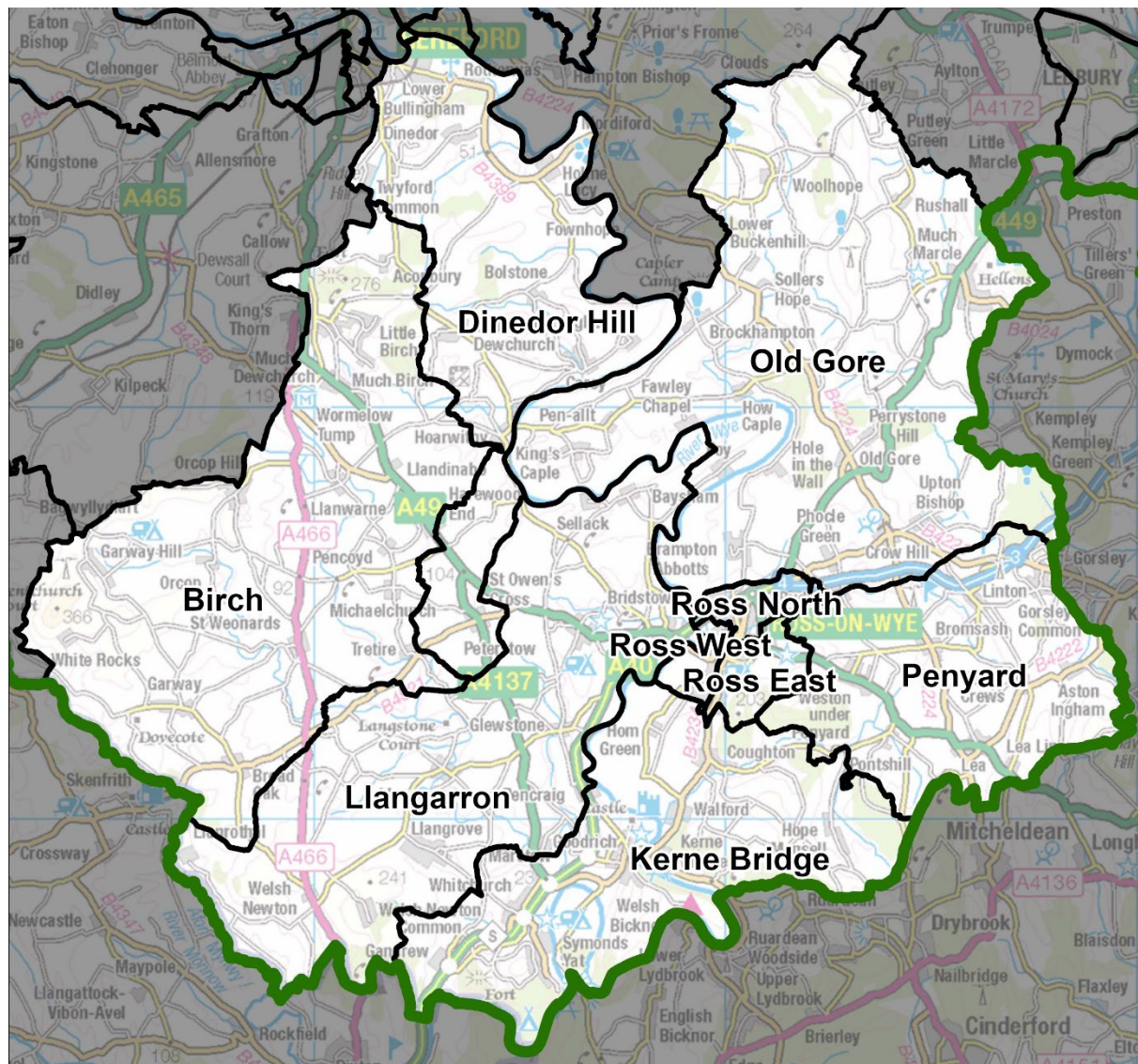
69 Our final recommendations are for the two wards of Bircher and Mortimer which are forecast to have electoral variances of 15% and -3% respectively, by 2031.

Arrow, Castle, Kington, Leominster East, Leominster North & Rural, Leominster South, Leominster West, Queenswood and Weobley

70 We received no submissions relating to these nine wards as part of the consultation on our draft recommendations. All nine of these wards were unchanged from their existing boundaries under our recommendations.

71 We therefore propose to confirm our draft recommendations as final for this area. We propose the nine wards of Arrow, Castle, Kington, Leominster East, Leominster North & Rural, Leominster South, Leominster West, Queenswood and Weobley. These wards will have forecast electoral variances of 6%, -8%, -9%, 4%, 9%, -8%, -8%, -3% and 3% respectively, by 2031.

South East Herefordshire



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Birch	1	-6%
Dinedor Hill	1	6%
Kerne Bridge	1	0%
Llangarron	1	3%
Old Gore	1	-12%
Penyard	1	4%
Ross East	1	1%
Ross North	1	9%
Ross West	1	10%

Birch, Dinedor Hill, Kerne Bridge, Llangarron, Old Gore and Penyard

72 We received three submissions in relation to this area. Two of the submissions (both from local residents) related to the inclusion of Hope Mansell parish in Kerne Bridge ward. The other submission, also from a local resident, related to the inclusion of Sellack parish in Old Gore ward. Of the two submissions relating to Hope Mansell parish, one was in support of its inclusion in Kerne Bridge ward. The other submission opposed this stating that the parish did not have the same characteristics as the other parishes in the ward, noting it was not named as part of the same area in the Domesday Book. It was also noted that the parish was not part of the Wye Valley National Landscape or a River Wye adjacent parish. The submission relating to Sellack parish stated that it should remain in Llangarron ward so that the River Wye remained the northern boundary of Llangarron ward.

73 We have carefully considered the submissions received and visited the area as part of our tour of Herefordshire. We have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Kerne Bridge and Penyard wards as final as we are satisfied that including Hope Mansell parish in Kerne Bridge ward provides the best balance of our statutory criteria. In particular, it provides for electoral equality for both wards and whilst it is outside the Wye Valley National Landscape, that is also true of parts of the neighbouring parish of Walford, which we identified Hope Mansell parish as sharing characteristics with.

74 In respect of Llangarron and Old Gore wards, we have decided to depart from our draft recommendations and revert to the existing warding arrangements for this area, with Sellack parish remaining in Llangarron ward. When we visited Sellack parish we noted that it had no connections to Old Gore ward and that the River Wye formed a significant barrier between the two areas. This proposal results in Old Gore ward having 12% fewer electors per councillor than the average for Herefordshire by 2031. However, we consider this relatively high variance is justified given the community links between Sellack parish and Llangarron ward, and the strength of the River Wye as a barrier. We received no submissions that mentioned Birch and Dinedor Hill wards, and we therefore confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

75 Our final recommendations are for the six wards of Birch, Dinedor Hill, Kerne Bridge, Llangarron, Old Gore and Penyard. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -6%, 6%, 0%, 3%, -12% and 4% respectively, by 2031.

Ross East, Ross North and Ross West

76 We received three submissions that referenced wards in Ross-on-Wye. A local resident had interpreted the draft recommendations for Ross-on-Wye as having the town represented by a single councillor, which they supported. However, our draft recommendations were for three single-member wards for the town. Another local resident suggested that Brampton Abbots parish be included in Ross North ward but

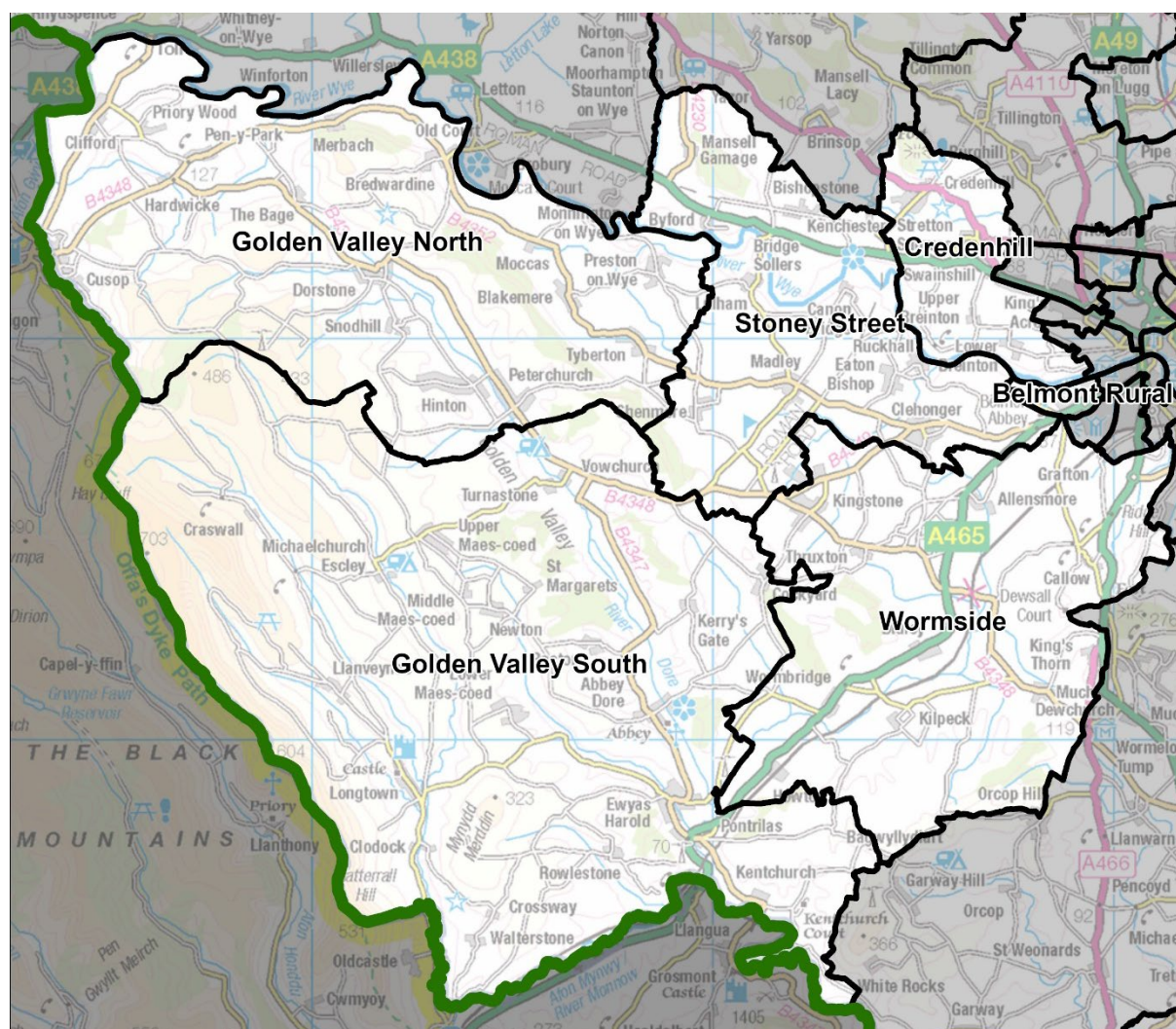
did not propose how this could be achieved while ensuring good electoral equality. It should be noted that this proposal would result in electoral variances of 19% in Ross North ward and -22% in Old Gore ward. We also received a submission from Councillor Delves of Ross-on-Wye Town Council who proposed some changes to ward boundaries in the south of the town. Specifically, this related to open space to the south of Redwood Close and Watling Street, which they stated is subject to planning for a residential development. They also stated that it would be preferable to have the town centre represented by more than a single district councillor.

77 We have carefully considered the submissions received but propose to make no changes to our draft recommendations for wards in Ross-on-Wye. As mentioned above, the parish of Brampton Abbots cannot be included in Ross North ward as it will result in poor electoral equality. We also note that, under our recommendations, the town centre of Ross-on-Wye is represented by three Herefordshire councillors and not one, as implied in the resident's submission.

78 In respect of Councillor Delves submission, it should be noted that the southern boundary of our proposed Ross West ward follows an existing parish boundary. To amend Herefordshire ward boundaries in this area would necessitate the creation of a parish ward for Walford parish and, based on the five-year electorate forecasts received from Herefordshire Council, the site in question is not subject to any development within this five-year period. Therefore, to adopt this proposal would require the creation of a parish ward that would contain no electors. This arrangement would therefore not provide for effective and convenient local government for Walford parish, and we have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this specific area as final.

79 Our final recommendations for Ross-on-Wye are for the three wards of Ross East, Ross North and Ross West, which are forecast to have electoral variances of 1%, 9% and 10% respectively, by 2031.

South West Herefordshire



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Belmont Rural	1	-3%
Credenhill	1	-9%
Golden Valley North	1	-8%
Golden Valley South	1	-6%
Stoney Street	1	4%
Wormside	1	7%

Belmont Rural, Credenhill, Golden Valley North, Golden Valley South, Stoney Street and Wormside

80 We received no submissions during consultation that referred to these wards. Our draft recommendations for this area retained the existing boundaries of all six wards. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

81 Our final recommendations are for the wards of Belmont Rural, Credenhill, Golden Valley North, Golden Valley South, Stoney Street and Wormside. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -3%, -9%, -8%, -6%, 4% and 7% respectively, by 2031.

Conclusions

82 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Herefordshire, 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

	Final recommendations	
	2025	2031
Number of councillors	53	53
Number of electoral wards	53	53
Average number of electors per councillor	2,785	3,020
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	9	4
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Final recommendations

Herefordshire should be made up of 53 councillors serving 53 single-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 Herefordshire Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Herefordshire Council on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

83 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.

84 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, Herefordshire 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.

85 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 Hereford, Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye.

86 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hereford parish.

Final recommendations

Hereford City Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing 15 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hereford Aylestone Hill	1
Hereford Bobblestock	1
Hereford Central	2
Hereford College	1
Hereford Eign Hill	1
Hereford Greyfriars	1
Hereford Hinton & Hunderton	2
Hereford Kings Acre	1
Hereford Newton Farm	2
Hereford Red Hill	1
Hereford Saxon Gate	1
Hereford Tupsley	1
Hereford Victoria Park	1
Hereford Whitecross	1
Hereford Widemarsh	1

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

Final recommendations

Ledbury Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ledbury North	6
Ledbury South	6
Ledbury West	6

88 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ross-on-Wye parish.

Final recommendations

Ross-on-Wye Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ross-on-Wye East	6
Ross-on-Wye North	6
Ross-on-Wye West	6

What happens next?

89 We have now completed our review of Herefordshire. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2027.

Equalities

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

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Herefordshire

	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	Arrow	1	2,975	2,975	7%	3,187	3,187	6%
2	Aylestone Hill	1	2,583	2,583	-7%	2,759	2,759	-9%
3	Backbury	1	2,594	2,594	-7%	3,000	3,000	-1%
4	Belmont Rural	1	2,712	2,712	-3%	2,919	2,919	-3%
5	Birch	1	2,618	2,618	-6%	2,850	2,850	-6%
6	Bircher	1	3,262	3,262	17%	3,478	3,478	15%
7	Bishops Frome & Cradley	1	2,625	2,625	-6%	2,828	2,828	-6%
8	Bobblestock	1	2,768	2,768	-1%	2,972	2,972	-2%
9	Bromyard Bringsty	1	3,059	3,059	10%	3,247	3,247	8%
10	Bromyard West	1	2,388	2,388	-14%	2,752	2,752	-9%
11	Castle	1	2,495	2,495	-10%	2,793	2,793	-8%
12	Central	1	2,915	2,915	5%	3,103	3,103	3%
13	College	1	2,705	2,705	-3%	2,886	2,886	-4%

	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 %
14	Credenhill	1	2,598	2,598	-7%	2,742	2,742	-9%
15	Dinedor Hill	1	2,805	2,805	1%	3,203	3,203	6%
16	Eign Hill	1	2,787	2,787	0%	2,942	2,942	-3%
17	Golden Valley North	1	2,515	2,515	-10%	2,783	2,783	-8%
18	Golden Valley South	1	2,664	2,664	-4%	2,841	2,841	-6%
19	Greyfriars	1	2,547	2,547	-9%	2,707	2,707	-10%
20	Hagley	1	3,259	3,259	17%	3,452	3,452	14%
21	Hampton	1	2,888	2,888	4%	3,052	3,052	1%
22	Hinton & Hunderton	1	2,927	2,927	5%	3,130	3,130	4%
23	Holmer	1	2,789	2,789	0%	3,176	3,176	5%
24	Hope End	1	3,032	3,032	9%	3,198	3,198	6%
25	Kerne Bridge	1	2,853	2,853	2%	3,032	3,032	0%
26	Kings Acre	1	2,632	2,632	-5%	2,787	2,787	-8%
27	Kington	1	2,594	2,594	-7%	2,743	2,743	-9%
28	Ledbury North	1	2,419	2,419	-13%	3,249	3,249	8%
29	Ledbury South	1	2,903	2,903	4%	3,101	3,101	3%

	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 %
30	Ledbury West	1	3,198	3,198	15%	3,368	3,368	12%
31	Leominster East	1	2,949	2,949	6%	3,133	3,133	4%
32	Leominster North & Rural	1	3,102	3,102	11%	3,298	3,298	9%
33	Leominster South	1	2,609	2,609	-6%	2,792	2,792	-8%
34	Leominster West	1	2,112	2,112	-24%	2,772	2,772	-8%
35	Llangarron	1	2,927	2,927	5%	3,106	3,106	3%
36	Mortimer	1	2,702	2,702	-3%	2,930	2,930	-3%
37	Newton Farm	1	3,046	3,046	9%	3,264	3,264	8%
38	Old Gore	1	2,506	2,506	-10%	2,670	2,670	-12%
39	Penyard	1	2,845	2,845	2%	3,126	3,126	4%
40	Queenswood	1	2,751	2,751	-1%	2,934	2,934	-3%
41	Red Hill	1	2,896	2,896	4%	3,072	3,072	2%
42	Ross East	1	2,747	2,747	-1%	3,047	3,047	1%
43	Ross North	1	3,083	3,083	11%	3,296	3,296	9%
44	Ross West	1	3,147	3,147	13%	3,327	3,327	10%
45	Saxon Gate	1	2,870	2,870	3%	3,046	3,046	1%

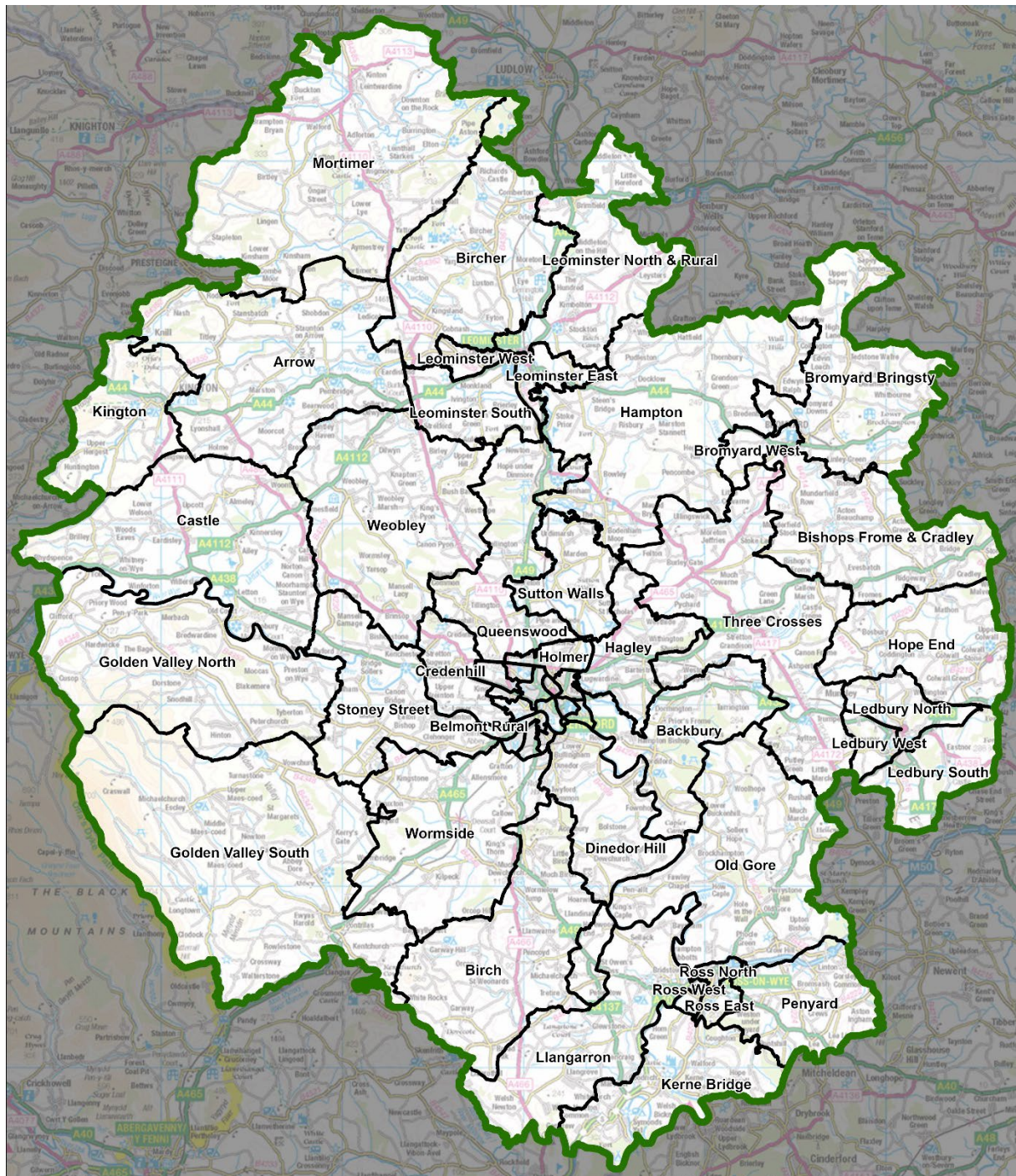
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
46 Stoney Street	1	2,858	2,858	3%	3,133	3,133	4%
47 Sutton Walls	1	2,599	2,599	-7%	2,883	2,883	-5%
48 Three Crosses	1	2,909	2,909	4%	3,153	3,153	4%
49 Tupsley	1	2,592	2,592	-7%	2,743	2,743	-9%
50 Weobley	1	2,898	2,898	4%	3,113	3,113	3%
51 Whitecross	1	2,695	2,695	-3%	2,884	2,884	-5%
52 Widemarsh	1	2,596	2,596	-7%	2,839	2,839	-6%
53 Wormside	1	3,055	3,055	10%	3,240	3,240	7%
Totals	53	147,603	–	–	160,081	–	–
Averages	–	–	2,785	–	–	3,020	–

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

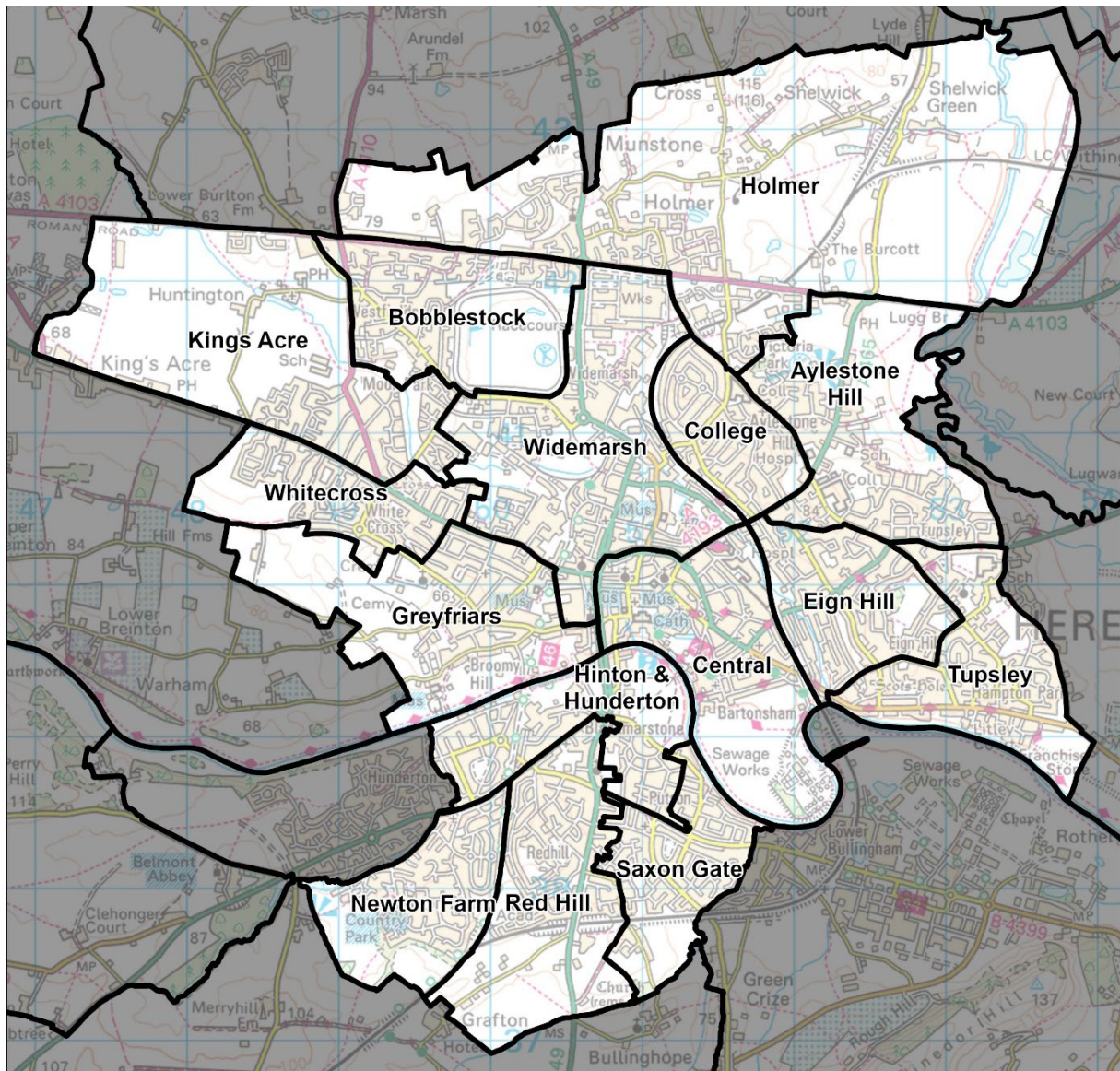
Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the authority. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower-than-average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole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

Appendix B

Outline map



Hereford



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/herefordshire

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/herefordshire

Local Authority

- Herefordshire Council

Councillors

- Councillor P. Andrews (Herefordshire Council)
- Councillor M. Atkins (Richards Castle Parish Council)
- Councillor L. Delves (Ross-on-Wye Town Council)
- Councillor E. Foxton (Herefordshire Council)
- Councillor D. Hurcomb (Herefordshire Council)
- Councillor J. Lester (Herefordshire Council)
- Councillor M. O'Sullivan (Yarpole Group Parish Council)
- Councillor I. Powell (Herefordshire Council)
- Councillor D. Toynbee (Herefordshire Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Ledbury Town Council
- Orleton Parish Council
- Richards Castle Parish Council
- Stoke Lacy Parish Council
- Wigmore Group Parish Council
- Withington Group Parish Council
- Yarpole Group Parish Council

Local Residents

- 11 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Councillor Numbers	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

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

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