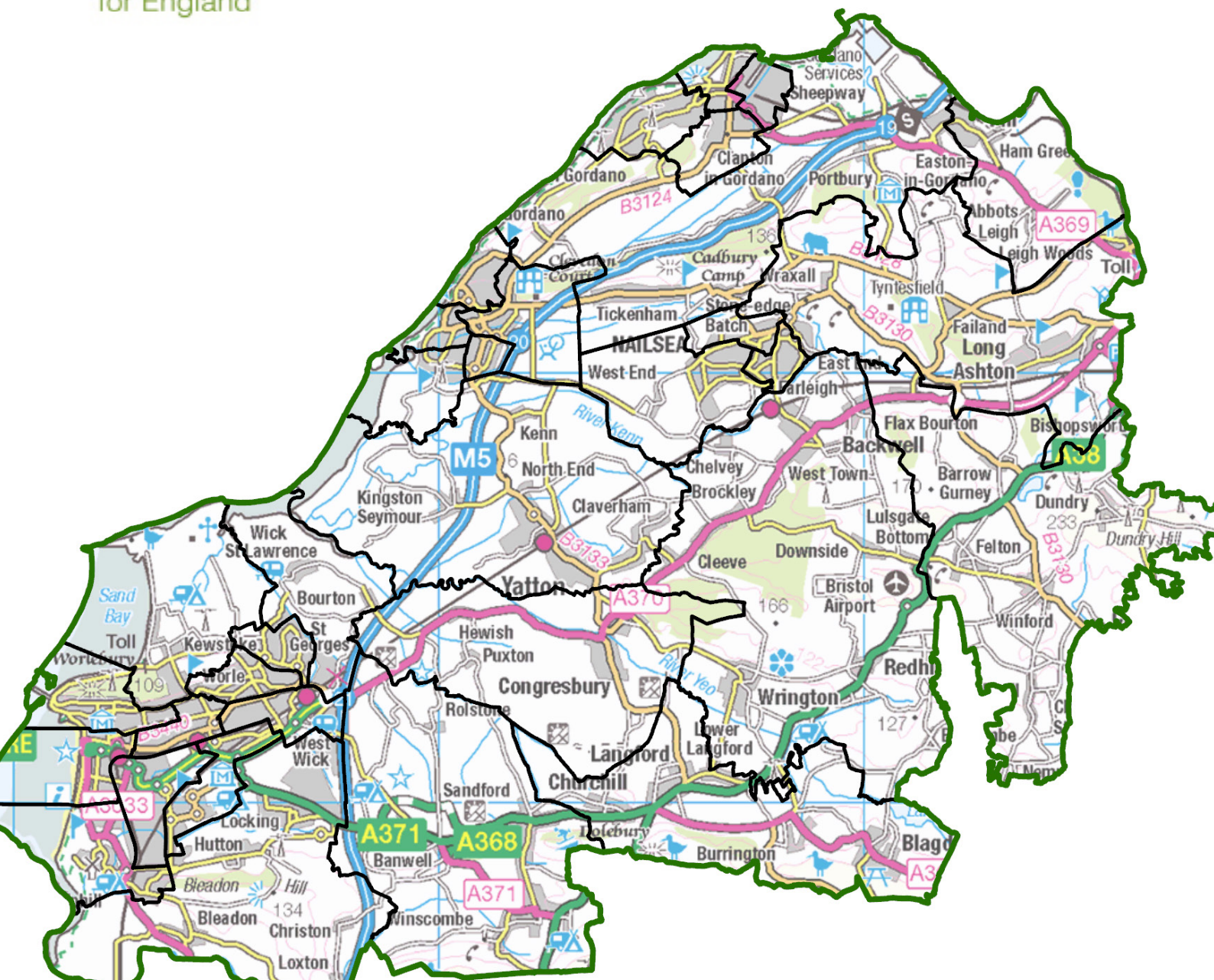




New electoral arrangements for North Somerset Council Final Recommendations

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)
- 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 there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward.

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 North Somerset?

7 We are conducting a review of North Somerset 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'. 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 North Somerset 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 North Somerset.

Our proposals for North Somerset

9 North Somerset should be represented by 51 councillors, one more than there is now.

10 North Somerset should have 33 wards, two fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 18 wards will stay the same, while 17 will change.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for North Somerset.

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 North Somerset Council 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.

Review timetable

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

16 The review was 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 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ 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 in the table below.

	2025	2031
Electorate of North Somerset	173,529	183,269
Number of councillors	51	51
Average number of electors per councillor	3,403	3,594

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 two of our proposed wards for North Somerset 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 around 6% by 2031.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and were satisfied that the projected figures were the best available. We used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

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

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

24 In response to our draft recommendations we received a number of comments raising questions about the electorate forecasts, particularly in relation to proposed housing developments in areas including Nailsea, Kewstoke and Wolverhill. We sought clarification from the Council regarding these developments and they advised that they were not sufficiently certain to be included in the electorate forecasts used for this review. We are satisfied that the forecasts submitted by the Council remain the best information available at the present time and have therefore based our final recommendations on those figures.

25 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

26 North Somerset Council currently has 50 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and initially concluded that keeping this number the same would ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for patterns of wards that would be represented by 50 councillors: for example, 50 one-councillor wards or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 In response to our warding patterns consultation, we received a proposal from a member of the public who argued that the addition of one councillor would enable a warding pattern that broadly reflected the existing wards, while also addressing poor electoral equality in the Banwell & Winscombe and Hutton & Locking areas. We considered this proposal and examined district-wide options based on the current council size of 50 councillors. We concluded that a 50-member council would not facilitate a strong warding pattern or provide a better balance of the statutory criteria than a pattern with 51 members. We therefore decided to include an additional councillor, and our draft recommendations were based on a 51-member council.

29 In response to our draft recommendations we received a number of general comments on the number of councillors, including the decision to alter the number on the basis of a single submission. However, we have not received persuasive evidence against this, or suggestions for alternatives. We have therefore retained 51 councillors as the basis of the final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 26 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. The majority of these provided localised comments on warding arrangements in particular areas of North Somerset. These were received from members of the public, parish and town councils, and elected members.

31 The proponent of the 51-member proposal put forward warding changes across a number of areas and proposed retaining the existing wards in the remaining areas.

32 We developed our draft recommendations taking account of the submissions received and assessing them against the statutory criteria. We used a mixture of the existing wards, our own proposals and those put forward during the consultation, balancing them against the statutory criteria.

33 A number of respondents referred to North Somerset Council's recent Community Governance Review (CGR). The CGR, which was undertaken under a different legislative framework to the review discussed in the draft recommendations report and this report, considered governance arrangements for parishes in North Somerset. This included consideration of parish boundaries, parish electoral arrangements (such as parish warding), and the number of parish (or town) councillors to be elected in parishes. Our draft recommendations took into account the outcome of the CGR, including a small boundary change between Backwell and Nailsea parishes and changes to the parish electoral arrangements in some parishes.

34 Where our draft recommendations included parts of a parish in a different district ward to the rest of the parish, we created a parish ward for each part. Where we proposed creating new parish wards this was outlined clearly in the 'Parish electoral arrangements' section of our draft recommendations report. In a number of areas we proposed to include parts of more rural parishes within towns. While we recognised that the CGR in these areas did not make recommendations to change the parish boundary, the legislation that we have to consider is different to the legislation that governs a CGR and we considered that this approach better reflected our statutory criteria.

35 We also received a number of comments that would require amendments to the external boundary of the district. However, changes to a district's external boundary fall outside the scope of this electoral review and can only be made through a Principal Area Boundary Review, which is a separate process.

36 In addition, we received a number of comments relating to proposals for North Somerset to join the West of England Combined Authority. These proposals were

the subject of a separate consultation by another organisation and are not related to the warding arrangements considered as part of this review.

37 We visited the area to consider the submissions received and the potential ward boundaries on the ground. This helped to inform our judgement where representations proposed alternative boundaries or highlighted issues of community identity and accessibility.

38 Our draft recommendations were for one three-councillor ward, 15 two-councillor wards and 18 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

39 We received 179 submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a large number concerning our proposal to include The Elms area in a Nailsea ward. In total, 147 submissions commented on this proposal, with 136 objecting and 11 supporting it. The remaining submissions provided a mix of support for and objections to our proposals elsewhere in the district, particularly in Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke, Backwell & Wrington and Banwell & Winscombe.

40 We also received a submission from North Somerset Council's Electoral Services team. The submission raised a number of points relating to the implementation of our draft recommendations, including the impact on polling districts, polling places, electoral administration and elector awareness. While our recommendations must be based on the statutory criteria for electoral reviews, we note these comments and have discussed with the Council what information we can provide to support implementation of the review's outcomes. The submission also highlighted concerns regarding our proposal to transfer The Elms area from Long Ashton ward into a Nailsea ward, which we discuss in the Nailsea and Long Ashton sections below.

Final recommendations

41 Our final recommendations are for one three-councillor ward, 16 two-councillor wards and 16 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.

42 Our final recommendations are based on our draft recommendations, with modifications in the Nailsea area, Long Ashton ward and Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke and Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle wards following consideration of the

evidence received during consultation. We have also made a minor amendment to the boundary between Weston-super-Mare South and Weston-super-Mare Winterstoke wards.

43 Where the North Somerset Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2026 makes provision that differs from the parish electoral arrangements set out in our final Order, the arrangements in our Order will apply for the purposes of elections to North Somerset Council. Our proposals reflect the changes to council size in Portishead and Weston-super-Mare parishes as a result of the CGR.

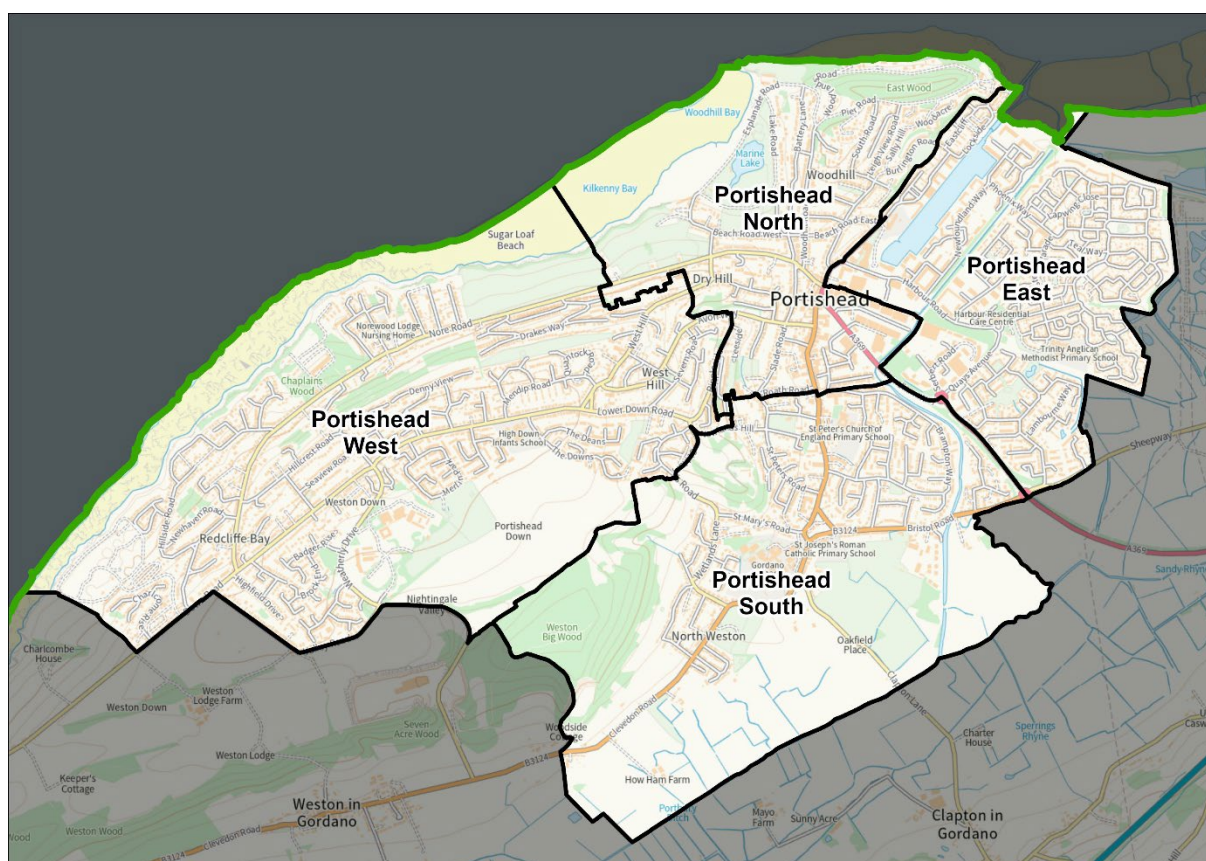
44 The tables and maps on pages 10–25 detail our final recommendations for each area of North Somerset. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

45 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 35 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Portishead



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Portishead East	2	-1%
Portishead North	1	-7%
Portishead South	1	-5%
Portishead West	2	4%

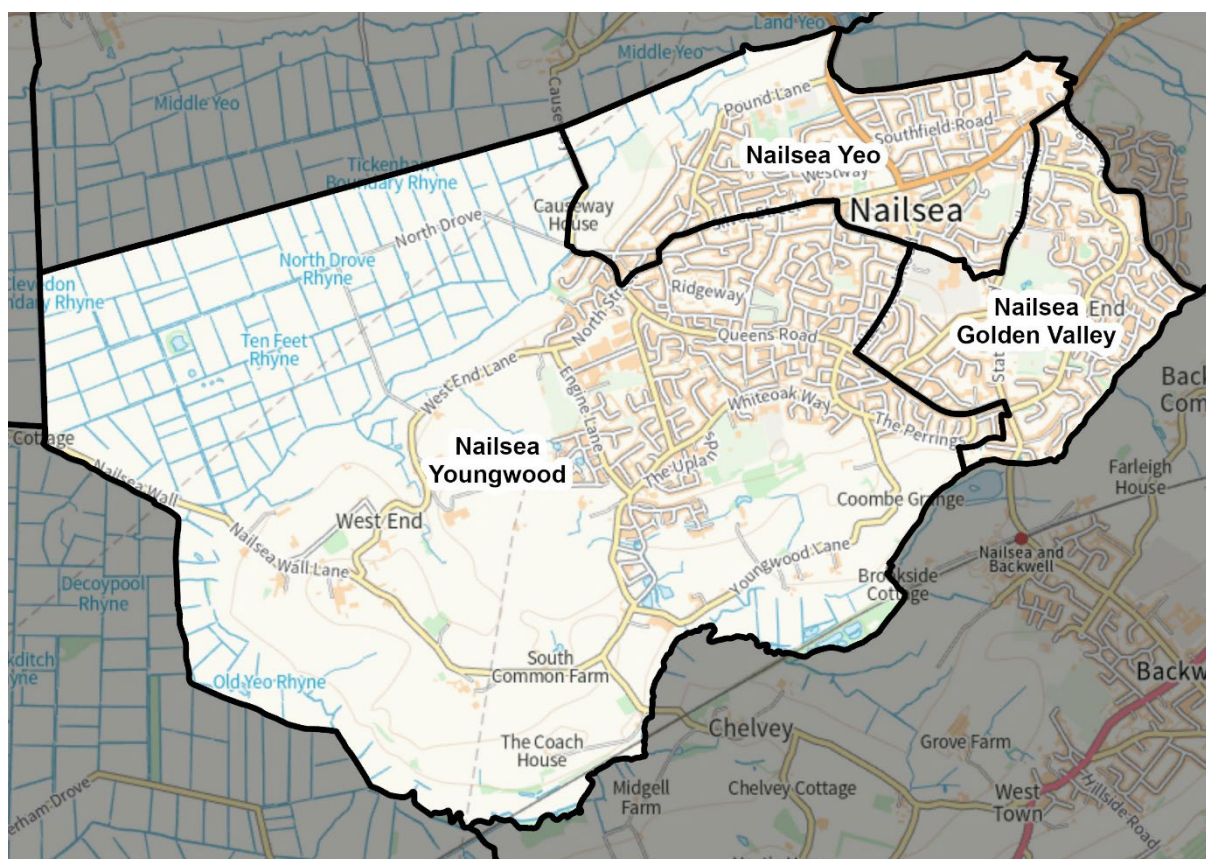
Portishead East, Portishead North, Portishead South and Portishead West

46 In response to our draft recommendations for Portishead, a member of the public argued that the town would be better served by six single-councillor wards rather than the proposed mix of single- and two-councillor wards. We received no other significant comments regarding our draft recommendations for wards in Portishead. While we note the comment that was received from the member of the public, they did not propose specific boundaries or provide evidence demonstrating how an alternative pattern would better reflect community identities or secure effective and convenient local government. In light of the limited evidence received, we are confirming our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

47 Our final recommendations for Portishead provide for one-councillor Portishead North and Portishead South wards, and two-councillor Portishead East and

Portishead West wards, with electoral variances of 7% fewer, 5% fewer, 1% fewer and 4% more electors than the district average respectively by 2031.

Nailsea



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Nailsea Golden Valley	1	-3%
Nailsea Yeo	1	4%
Nailsea Youngwood	2	-4%

Nailsea Golden Valley, Nailsea Yeo and Nailsea Youngwood

48 We received around 150 responses commenting on our draft recommendations for Nailsea, with the vast majority focused on our proposal to include The Elms area of Wraxall & Failand parish in a Nailsea Golden Valley ward. Over 92% of the responses objected to this, while the rest supported it.

49 Wraxall & Failand Parish Council, North Somerset Council Councillors Cartman and Dunn, Wraxall & Failand Parish Council Councillors Malpas, Robinson and Sheppard, and a large number of residents argued that The Elms forms part of the Wraxall & Failand community and should remain in Long Ashton ward.

50 They put forward arguments including links to parish organisations, the church, the primary schools, community events and local facilities. Many also referred to the recent Community Governance Review and associated consultation, noting that

residents had expressed a clear preference to remain with the rest of Wraxall & Failand parish in Long Ashton ward.

51 A number of respondents challenged our assessment of community identity, arguing that the use of services and facilities in Nailsea does not in itself demonstrate that The Elms identifies with Nailsea. Others argued that they use services in other places. Many described The Elms as forming part of a rural or semi-rural community and argued that its interests are more closely aligned with those of Wraxall & Failand than those of the urban area of Nailsea.

52 We also received comments regarding effective and convenient local government. Respondents argued that transferring The Elms to a Nailsea ward would divide Wraxall & Failand parish between district wards and create a more complex pattern of representation. A number of submissions also noted that residents of The Elms are currently represented by two councillors in Long Ashton ward and expressed concern that a transfer into a single-member Nailsea ward would weaken representation. They also noted that the level of electoral equality was worse under our draft recommendations than the existing Long Ashton ward.

53 Nailsea Town Council expressed general support for the draft recommendations. Eleven members of the public expressed support for the inclusion of The Elms in Nailsea Golden Valley ward. These respondents generally argued that The Elms is physically and functionally linked to Nailsea, noting its proximity to the town, similar residential character and the use of Nailsea's shops, services and amenities by residents. They considered that The Elms forms a more natural part of Nailsea than the rural areas of Wraxall & Failand.

54 Councillor Bird reiterated comments made during our earlier consultation regarding proposed development to the north of Nailsea and argued that, following the submission of an outline planning application, it should be included in the forecast figures. We noted in our draft recommendations that the development had not received planning approval and was not reflected in the electorate forecasts used for the review period. Having consulted North Somerset Council, we understand that while an outline planning application has now been submitted, the development remains a proposed allocation and was not included in the electorate forecasts used for this review. We have therefore not taken this development into account in reaching our final recommendations.

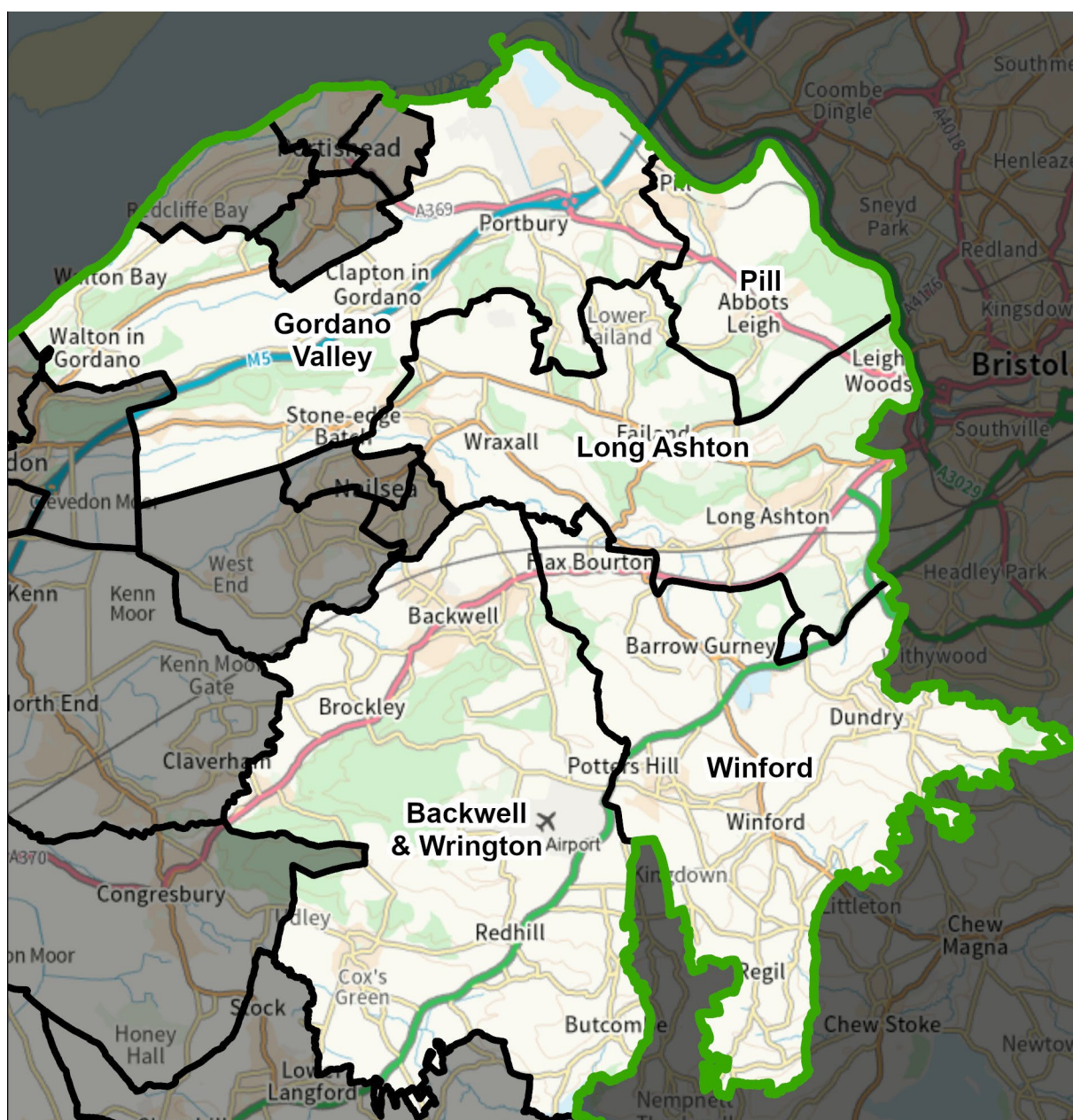
55 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. While we remain of the view that The Elms has physical links to Nailsea and shares some characteristics with neighbouring residential areas in Nailsea, we have been persuaded by the evidence received that there are strong community links between The Elms and Wraxall & Failand parish, including civic, social and community connections. We also note concerns regarding the creation of a parish ward and the impact on effective and convenient local government. We have therefore been persuaded to retain The Elms within Long Ashton ward and avoid dividing Wraxall & Failand parish.

56 However, this decision has implications for our proposals elsewhere in Nailsea. Under our draft recommendations, we proposed transferring the Ash Hayes Road area from Nailsea Golden Valley ward to Nailsea Youngwood ward to facilitate the inclusion of The Elms in Nailsea Golden Valley while maintaining good electoral equality. Retaining The Elms in Long Ashton ward necessitates restoring Ash Hayes Road to Nailsea Golden Valley. Without this adjustment, Nailsea Golden Valley would have 25% fewer electors than the district average by 2031.

57 Returning Ash Hayes Road to Nailsea Golden Valley would result in our draft recommendations Nailsea Youngwood ward having 18% fewer electors than the district average by 2031. We examined a number of options to address this poor level of electoral equality. On balance, we concluded that combining the existing single-councillor Nailsea Youngwood and Nailsea West End wards into a two-councillor Nailsea Youngwood ward provides the best balance of our statutory criteria. This approach secures good electoral equality while combining communities within a larger ward, rather than requiring further boundary amendments to maintain separate wards.

58 Our final recommendations are for single-councillor Nailsea Golden Valley and Nailsea Yeo wards with 3% fewer and 4% more electors and a two-councillor Nailsea Youngwood ward with 4% fewer electors than the district average by 2031 respectively.

Rural east



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Backwell & Wroughton	2	12%
Gordano Valley	1	2%
Long Ashton	2	2%
Pill	1	2%
Winford	1	5%

Gordano Valley and Pill

59 We received no significant comments in response to our draft recommendations for Gordano Valley and Pill wards. We are therefore confirming

them as final.

60 Our final recommendations are for single-councillor Gordano Valley and Pill wards without amendment, each of which is forecast to have 2% more electors than the district average by 2031.

Long Ashton

61 We received a significant number of submissions regarding our draft recommendation to include The Elms area of Wraxall & Failand parish within Nailsea Golden Valley ward. As discussed in detail the Nailsea section above, many respondents argued that The Elms forms part of the Wraxall & Failand community and should remain within Long Ashton ward. We also received a smaller number of submissions supporting our draft recommendation and arguing that The Elms has stronger links with Nailsea.

62 For the reasons set out in the Nailsea section above, we have been persuaded to include The Elms within Long Ashton ward. This avoids dividing Wraxall & Failand parish between two wards, retaining it all in Long Ashton ward where residents have detailed that their community has links. In addition, it improves electoral equality in Long Ashton from 8% fewer electors than the district average by 2031 to 2% more.

63 Our final recommendations are for a two-councillor Long Ashton ward, comprising the existing ward boundaries. The ward is forecast to have 2% more electors than the district average by 2031.

Backwell & Wrington and Winford

64 We received a number of comments on this area. Backwell Parish Council and several members of the public objected to our draft recommendations for Backwell & Wrington and Winford. They argued that Backwell and Wrington are distinct communities with different service catchments, facilities and transport links, and that Backwell has stronger links with Brockley, Flax Bourton and Cleeve. Backwell Parish Council proposed an alternative two-councillor ward comprising Backwell, Brockley and Flax Bourton and potentially Cleeve. Some members of the public cited similar links between these parishes.

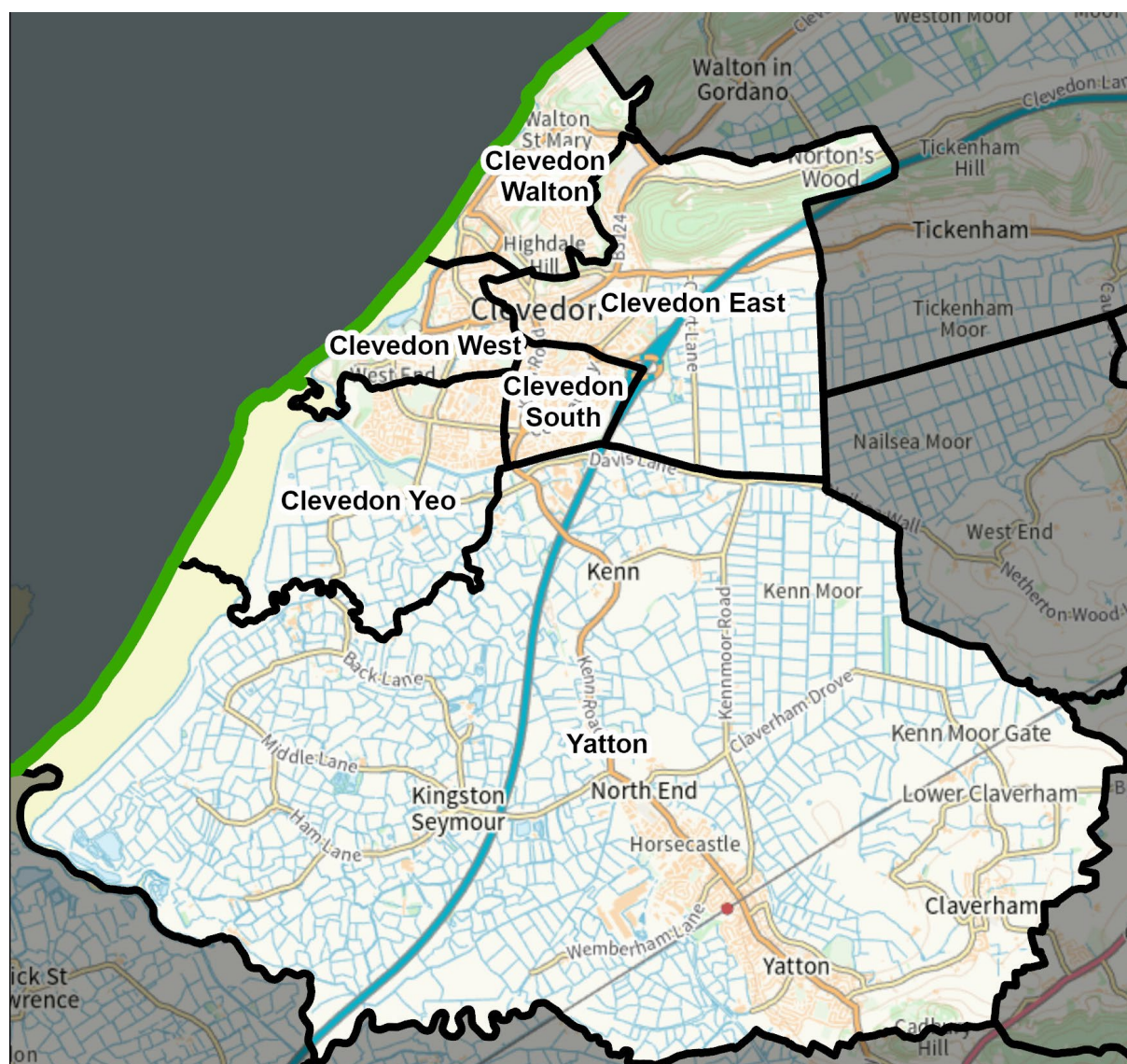
65 Councillor Petty expressed support for our draft recommendations, arguing that Backwell and Wrington share concerns relating to Bristol Airport and that the proposed ward secures good electoral equality. They also argued that both areas comprise larger villages and surrounding smaller rural communities, share similar semi-rural characteristics and face common issues relating to transport and local services.

66 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received and the alternative proposals. However, a two-councillor ward comprising Backwell, Brockley

and Flax Bourton would have 26% fewer electors than the district average by 2031, a level of electoral equality that we would not be prepared to accept. Adding Cleeve to the proposed Backwell ward would improve electoral equality in that ward to 16% fewer electors than the district average. However, this worsens electoral equality in the revised Wroughton ward to 28% fewer electors than the district average. We are therefore not persuaded that the alternatives put forward would provide a better balance of our statutory criteria than our draft recommendations, and are confirming our draft recommendations for Backwell & Wroughton and Winford as final.

67 Our final recommendations are for a two-councillor Backwell & Wroughton ward and a single-councillor Winford ward, with 12% more and 5% more electors than the district average by 2031 respectively.

Clevedon and Yatton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Clevedon East	1	2%
Clevedon South	1	-3%
Clevedon Walton	1	3%
Clevedon West	1	-6%
Clevedon Yeo	1	-3%
Yatton	2	10%

Clevedon East, Clevedon South, Clevedon Walton, Clevedon West and Clevedon Yeo

68 In response to the draft recommendations, we received one comment requesting no change to the existing wards. We did not receive any comments on the ward boundaries for the Clevedon area. Our draft recommendations for

Clevedon retained the existing wards boundaries. In light of the comments received, we are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final, without amendment.

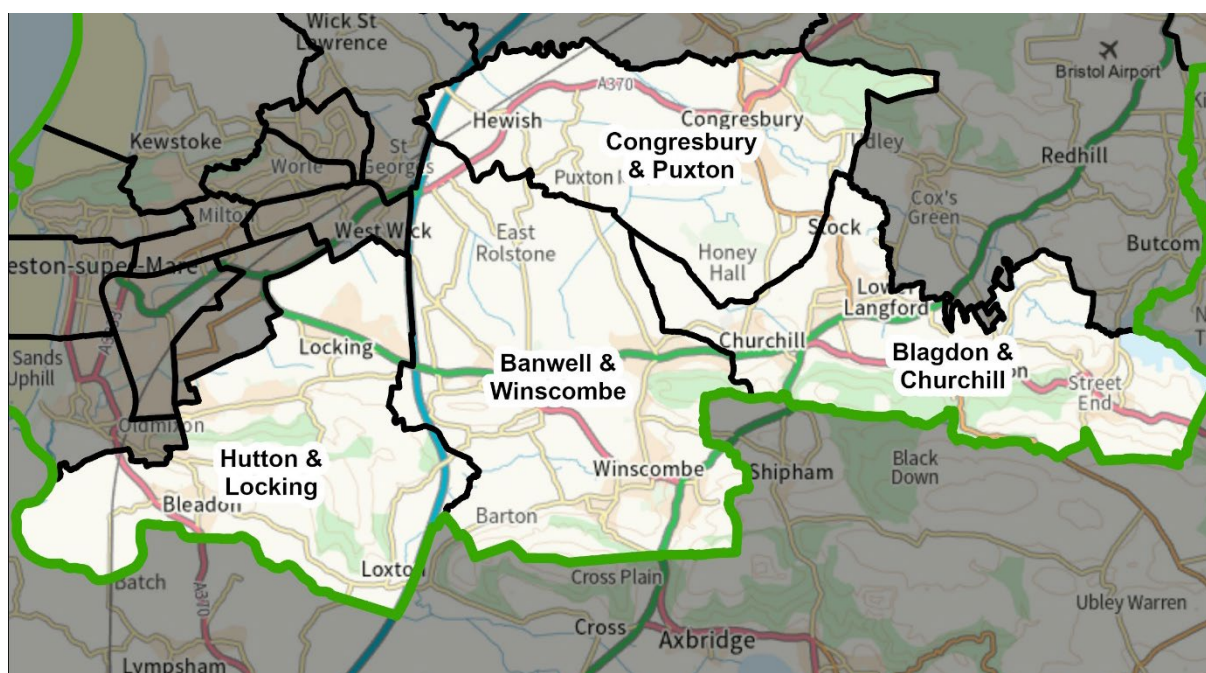
69 Our final recommendations for Clevedon are for single-councillor Clevedon East, Clevedon South, Clevedon Walton, Clevedon West and Clevedon Yeo wards, with 2% more, 3% fewer, 3% more, 6% fewer and 3% fewer electors than the district average by 2031 respectively.

Yatton

70 In response to the draft recommendations, we did not receive any comments on the ward boundaries for the Yatton ward. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final, without amendment.

71 Our final recommendations are for a two-councillor Yatton ward which would have 10% more electors than the district average by 2031.

Rural South West



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Banwell & Winscombe	2	-4%
Blagdon & Churchill	1	6%
Congresbury & Puxton	1	-4%
Hutton & Locking	3	-8%

Banwell & Winscombe and Hutton & Locking

72 We received a number of comments in response to our draft recommendations for this area. Banwell Parish Council and a member of the public objected to the transfer of the Mead Fields area of Banwell parish to the Hutton & Locking ward. They argued that Mead Fields forms part of the Banwell community and should remain in the same ward as the remainder of the parish. They also expressed concern that dividing Banwell parish between wards would make local governance less effective and argued that any changes should be considered alongside a future Community Governance Review. Councillor Tristram stated that he understood the logic of using the M5 as a ward boundary and including Mead Fields in Hutton & Locking, but raised concerns about future development in Banwell and the effect of differing parish and district ward boundaries.

73 We have carefully considered the evidence received. We acknowledge the concerns raised regarding the relationship between parish and district ward boundaries, and the argument that transferring Mead Fields would result in residents of Banwell parish being represented by councillors from different district wards.

However, we note that Mead Fields is physically separated from the remainder of Banwell parish by the M5 motorway.

74 Returning Mead Fields to Banwell & Winscombe would significantly worsen electoral equality, resulting in Banwell & Winscombe having 14% more electors than the district average by 2031 and Hutton & Locking having 21% fewer. We do not consider that the evidence received regarding community identity and effective and convenient local government justifies this deterioration in electoral equality. We remain of the view that the M5 provides a strong and identifiable boundary and that including Mead Fields in Hutton & Locking provides a good balance of our statutory criteria.

75 We also note Councillor Tristram's concerns regarding the proposed Wolvershill development and the effect it may have on future electoral equality in Banwell & Winscombe. Following consultation with the Council, we understand that the proposed development was not included in the electorate forecasts used for this review as planning applications remain undetermined and there was insufficient certainty regarding delivery during the forecast period. We have therefore not taken the proposed development into account when formulating our recommendations.

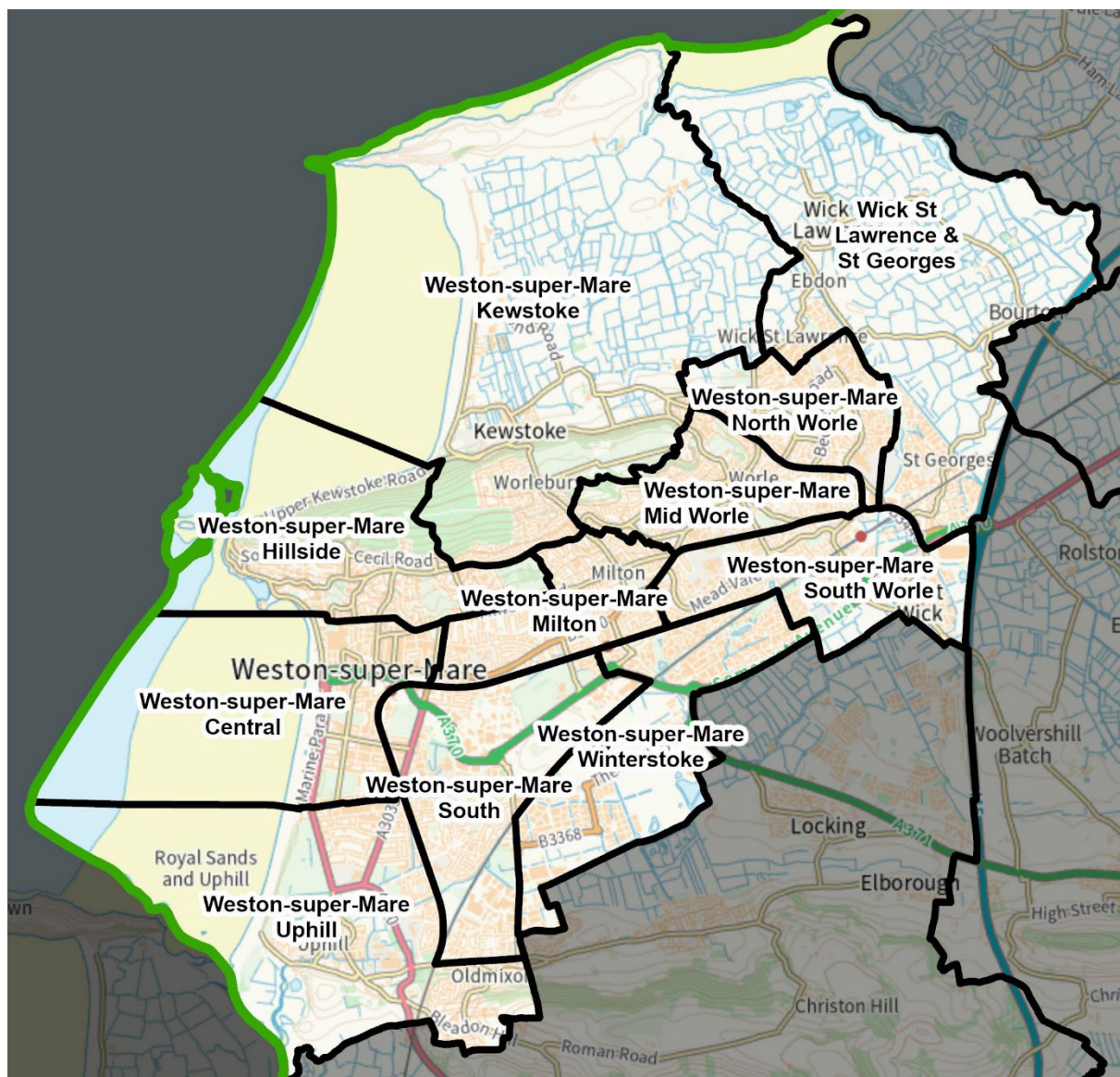
76 Our final recommendations are for a two-councillor Banwell & Winscombe and three-councillor Hutton & Locking ward as proposed in our draft recommendations, with 4% fewer and 8% fewer electors than the district average by 2031 respectively.

Blagdon & Churchill and Congresbury & Puxton

77 We received no significant comments in response to our draft recommendations for Blagdon & Churchill and Congresbury & Puxton wards. As we received no evidence that would lead us to reconsider our draft recommendations, we are confirming them as final.

78 Our final recommendations are for single-councillor Blagdon & Churchill and single-councillor Congresbury & Puxton wards with 6% more and 4% fewer electors than the district average respectively by 2031.

Weston-super-Mare



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Weston-super-Mare Central	2	0%
Weston-super-Mare Hillside	2	-1%
Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke	1	12%
Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle	2	-8%
Weston-super-Mare Milton	2	4%
Weston-super-Mare North Worle	2	-10%
Weston-super-Mare South	2	-3%
Weston-super-Mare South Worle	2	1%
Weston-super-Mare Uphill	2	-4%
Weston-super-Mare Winterstoke	2	7%
Wick St Lawrence & St Georges	1	4%

Weston-super-Mare Central, Weston-super-Mare South, Weston-super-Mare Uphill, and Weston-super-Mare Winterstoke

79 We received a small number of submissions in response to our draft recommendations in this area. Councillor Cronnelly supported our proposal to transfer the Puttingthorpe Drive area out of Weston-super-Mare Winterstoke ward but did not support its inclusion in Weston-super-Mare South ward. He instead proposed including the area in a Weston-super-Mare Milton ward and also suggested transferring the commercial area around Aisecome Way to Weston-super-Mare South ward. We also received a proposal from Councillor Thornton to rename Weston-super-Mare Uphill ward as Weston-super-Mare Windwhistle.

80 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. However, we are not persuaded that Councillor Cronnelly's suggestion of transferring the Puttingthorpe Drive and Hutton Moor Lane area to Weston-super-Mare Milton ward would improve our draft recommendations. This worsens electoral equality and would result in a ward that crosses the railway line, which we observed on our visit to the area and regard as a strong and clearly identifiable boundary. Therefore, we are not adopting this amendment.

81 We do, however, consider that transferring the commercial area around Aisecome Way from Weston-super-Mare Winterstoke to Weston-super-Mare South provides an improvement to our draft recommendations. This area contains no electors and is separated from the residential parts of Weston-super-Mare Winterstoke by the A370 and the railway. We therefore consider its inclusion in Weston-super-Mare South provides a more logical ward boundary without adversely affecting electoral equality.

82 We note Councillor Thornton's proposal to rename Weston-super-Mare Uphill ward as Weston-super-Mare Windwhistle. However, given we have received no other support for this name, on balance, we are not persuaded that there is sufficient evidence to depart from our draft recommendation.

83 Our final recommendations are therefore for the two-councillor wards of Weston-super-Mare Central, Weston-super-Mare South, Weston-super-Mare Uphill and Weston-super-Mare Winterstoke, subject only to the amendment described above. These wards would have variances of 0%, 3% fewer, 4% fewer and 7% more electors than the district average respectively by 2031.

Weston-super-Mare Hillside, Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle, Weston-super-Mare Milton, Weston-super-Mare North Worle and Weston-super-Mare South Worle

84 We received a number of submissions regarding our draft recommendations in this area. Most related to our proposal to include part of Kewstoke parish within Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle ward. While two respondents supported our draft recommendations, six respondents objected to this proposal.

85 Kewstoke Parish Council and a number of residents opposed the inclusion of part of Kewstoke parish within a Weston-super-Mare ward. They argued that the area has formed part of Kewstoke parish for many years and maintains strong social and community links with Kewstoke village. Respondents also argued that the proposal would create a more complex pattern of representation by dividing the parish between district wards. Some also raised concerns that future housing development could strengthen the area's links with Kewstoke and that our draft recommendations would divide an emerging community.

86 A number of respondents also argued that there was no need to transfer the area from Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke ward, noting that the existing ward already secures acceptable electoral equality. One respondent questioned the reduction in representation from two councillors to one councillor under our draft recommendations, while another queried the wider impact of the proposed changes.

87 Those supporting our draft recommendations argued that they would provide a more coherent warding pattern in the Worle area. One respondent supported the creation of a Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle ward, arguing that the existing arrangements divide the area and that there is little sense of connection between parts of Worle and Kewstoke. Another respondent expressed general support for our draft recommendations in the area, although they proposed alternative names for Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke ward and the associated parish wards.

88 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. While our draft recommendations provided a coherent pattern of wards in the area, we note that the area proposed for transfer maintains community ties with Kewstoke. We also note concerns regarding the division of Kewstoke parish between district wards and the impact this would have on effective and convenient local government.

89 While we also note submissions relating to potential future development in the area, having consulted the Council, we understand that this development falls outside the forecast period for the review and is therefore not included in the electorate forecasts. As a result, we have not given weight to assumptions about development beyond the review period.

90 We recognise that retaining this area within Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke ward results in a ward with 12% more electors than the district average by 2031 – noting that it is not possible to retain the existing two-councillor Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke ward given our proposals to unite mid Worle. However, on balance, we consider this level of electoral equality to be acceptable in this instance. While we recognise the benefits of a more coherent Worle warding pattern, retaining the area within Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke ward better reflects community identity and provides a more coherent pattern of representation. We are therefore retaining this area in our single-councillor Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke ward.

91 We also note the suggestions to rename Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke ward and the associated parish wards, together with a proposal to rename the Worle West & Worlebury parish ward. However, we received little supporting evidence for these alternatives and are not persuaded that there is sufficient justification to depart from our draft recommendations.

92 Our final recommendations are for a single-councillor Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke ward and two-councillor Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle, Weston-super-Mare Milton, Weston-super-Mare Hillside, Weston-super-Mare North Worle and Weston-super-Mare South Worle wards, with electoral variances of 12% more, 8% fewer, 4% more, 1% fewer, 10% fewer and 1% more electors than the district average respectively by 2031.

Wick St Lawrence & St Georges

93 We received no significant comments in response to our draft recommendations for Wick St Lawrence & St Georges. As we received no evidence that would lead us to reconsider our draft recommendations, we are confirming them as final.

94 Our final recommendations are for a single-councillor Wick St Lawrence & St Georges with 4% more electors than the district average by 2031.

Conclusions

95 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in North Somerset, 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	51	51
Number of electoral wards	33	33
Average number of electors per councillor	3,403	3,594
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Final recommendations

North Somerset Council should be made up of 51 councillors representing 33 wards: 16 single-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward. 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 North Somerset Council. You can also view our final recommendations for North Somerset on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

96 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.

97 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, North Somerset 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.

98 North Somerset Council has recently completed a Community Governance Review (CGR) and published final recommendations for its review. These recommendations include a minor amendment to change the parish boundary between Backwell and Nailsea parishes and changes to the number of councillors in some other parishes.

99 These recommendations have now been confirmed by the making of the North Somerset Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2026. Our proposals reflect the changes to the number of parish councillors in Portishead and Weston-super-Mare parishes that the CGR recommended.

100 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 Banwell, Nailsea, Portbury, Portishead and Weston-super-Mare.

101 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Banwell Parish Council.

Final recommendations

Banwell Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	8
West	4

102 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Nailsea Town Council.

Final recommendations

Nailsea Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Golden Valley	5
West End	6
Yeo	5
Youngwood	4

103 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Portbury Parish Council.

Final recommendations

Portbury Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	7
West	1

104 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Portishead Town Council. The total number of parish councillors that we are proposing for Portishead Town Council reflects the North Somerset Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2026. However, we have allocated a different number of parish councillors to each Portishead Town Council ward to reflect the forecast electorate in each area.

Final recommendations

Portishead Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, reflected in the North Somerset Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2026, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	5
North	2
South	3
West	5

105 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Weston-super-Mare Town Council. The total number of parish councillors that we are proposing for Weston-Super-Mare Town Council reflects the North Somerset Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2026. We have also used the same parish ward names identified in this Order. However, we have allocated a different number of parish councillors to each Weston-Super-Mare Town Council ward to reflect the forecast electorate in each area.

Final recommendations

Weston-super-Mare Town Council should comprise 29 councillors, as reflected in the North Somerset Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2026, representing 10 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	3
Hillside	3
Mid Worle	3
Milton	3
North Worle	3
South	3
South Worle	3
Uphill	3
Winterstoke	4
Worle West & Worlebury	1

What happens next?

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

Equalities

107 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 North Somerset Council

	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	Backwell & Wrington	2	7,249	3,625	7%	8,035	4,017	12%
2	Banwell & Winscombe	2	6,729	3,365	-1%	6,866	3,433	-4%
3	Blagdon & Churchill	1	3,489	3,489	3%	3,821	3,821	6%
4	Clevedon East	1	3,548	3,548	4%	3,671	3,671	2%
5	Clevedon South	1	3,342	3,342	-2%	3,486	3,486	-3%
6	Clevedon Walton	1	3,509	3,509	3%	3,704	3,704	3%
7	Clevedon West	1	3,275	3,275	-4%	3,384	3,384	-6%
8	Clevedon Yeo	1	3,357	3,357	-1%	3,493	3,493	-3%
9	Congresbury & Puxton	1	3,376	3,376	-1%	3,462	3,462	-4%
10	Gordano Valley	1	3,546	3,546	4%	3,671	3,671	2%
11	Hutton & Locking	3	7,886	2,629	-23%	9,884	3,295	-8%

	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 %
12	Long Ashton	2	7,098	3,549	4%	7,323	3,662	2%
13	Nailsea Golden Valley	1	3,312	3,312	-3%	3,481	3,481	-3%
14	Nailsea Yeo	1	3,611	3,611	6%	3,755	3,755	4%
15	Nailsea Youngwood	2	6,169	3,085	-9%	6,934	3,467	-4%
16	Pill	1	3,530	3,530	4%	3,660	3,660	2%
17	Portishead East	2	6,974	3,487	2%	7,098	3,549	-1%
18	Portishead North	1	3,247	3,247	-5%	3,354	3,354	-7%
19	Portishead South	1	3,230	3,230	-5%	3,399	3,399	-5%
20	Portishead West	2	7,167	3,584	5%	7,473	3,737	4%
21	Weston-super-Mare Central	2	7,139	3,570	5%	7,202	3,601	0%
22	Weston-super-Mare Hillside	2	7,011	3,506	3%	7,142	3,571	-1%
23	Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke	1	3,836	3,836	13%	4,037	4,037	12%
24	Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle	2	6,325	3,163	-7%	6,621	3,311	-8%
25	Weston-super-Mare Milton	2	7,227	3,614	6%	7,488	3,744	4%

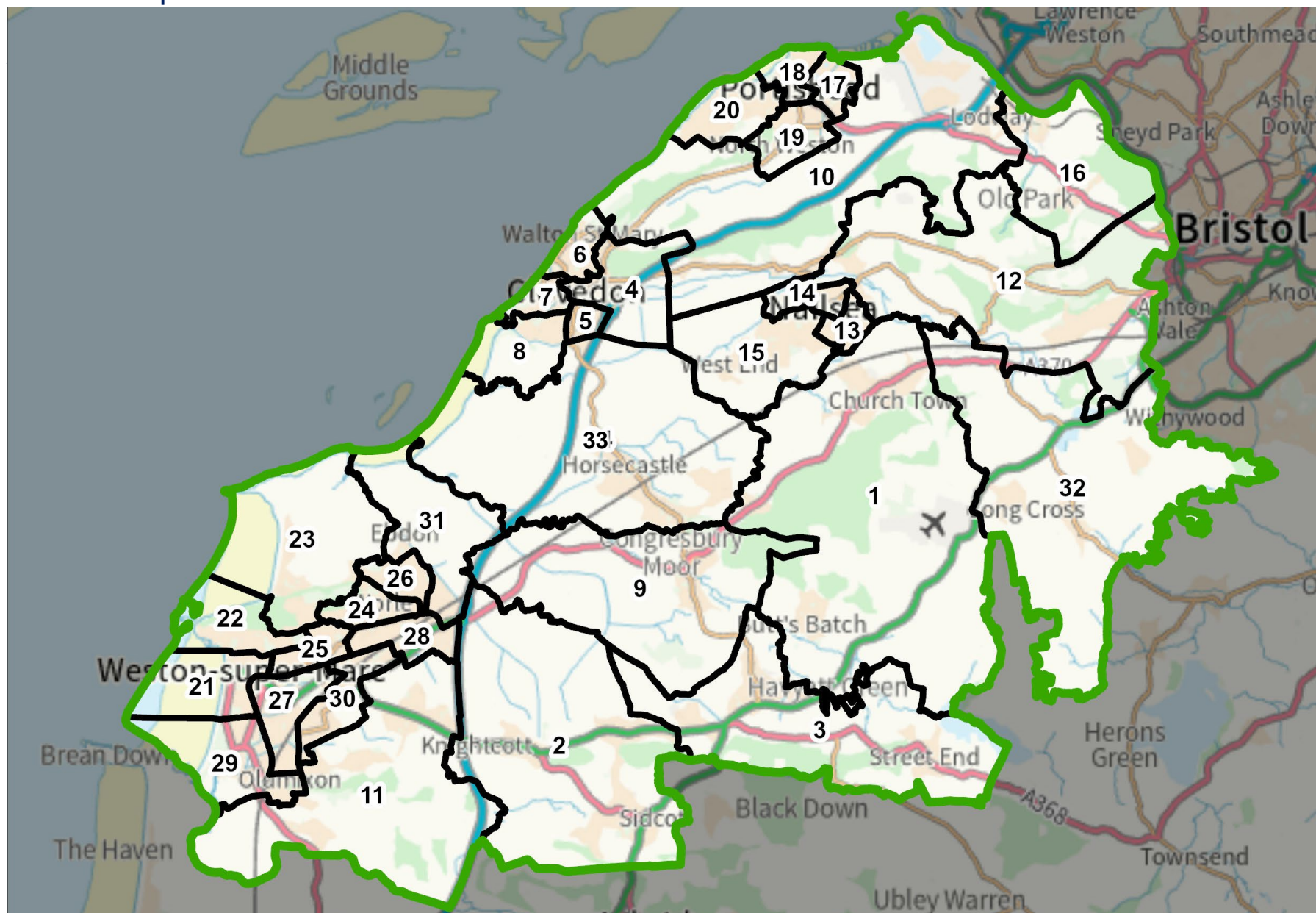
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
26	Weston-super-Mare North Worle	2	6,271	3,136	-8%	6,495	3,247	-10%
27	Weston-super-Mare South	2	6,815	3,408	0%	6,996	3,498	-3%
28	Weston-super-Mare South Worle	2	7,117	3,559	5%	7,251	3,626	1%
29	Weston-super-Mare Uphill	2	6,726	3,363	-1%	6,920	3,460	-4%
30	Weston-super-Mare Winterstoke	2	6,698	3,349	-2%	7,722	3,861	7%
31	Wick St Lawrence & St Georges	1	3,608	3,608	6%	3,743	3,743	4%
32	Winford	1	3,630	3,630	7%	3,761	3,761	5%
33	Yatton	2	7,482	3,741	10%	7,938	3,969	10%
Totals		51	173,529	–	–	183,269	–	–
Averages		–	–	3,403	–	–	3,594	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by North Somerset 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 North Somerset. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



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/north-somerset

Number	Ward name
1	Backwell & Wrington
2	Banwell & Winscombe
3	Blagdon & Churchill
4	Clevedon East
5	Clevedon South
6	Clevedon Walton
7	Clevedon West
8	Clevedon Yeo
9	Congresbury & Puxton
10	Gordano Valley
11	Hutton & Locking
12	Long Ashton
13	Nailsea Golden Valley
14	Nailsea Yeo
15	Nailsea Youngwood
16	Pill
17	Portishead East
18	Portishead North
19	Portishead South
20	Portishead West
21	Weston-super-Mare Central
22	Weston-super-Mare Hillside
23	Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke
24	Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle
25	Weston-super-Mare Milton
26	Weston-super-Mare North Worle
27	Weston-super-Mare South
28	Weston-super-Mare South Worle
29	Weston-super-Mare Uphill
30	Weston-super-Mare Winterstoke
31	Wick St Lawrence & St Georges
32	Winford
33	Yatton

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-somerset

Local Authority

- North Somerset Council

Councillors

- Councillor M. Bird (North Somerset Council)
- Councillor A. Cartman (North Somerset Council)
- Councillor C. Cronnelly (North Somerset Council)
- Councillor M. Dunn (North Somerset Council)
- Councillor I. Malpas (Wraxall & Failand Parish Council)
- Councillor B. Petty (North Somerset Council)
- Councillor D. Robinson (Wraxall & Failand Parish Council)
- Councillor R. Sheppard (Wraxall & Failand Parish Council)
- Councillor H. Thornton (North Somerset Council)
- Councillor J. Tristram (North Somerset Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Backwell Parish Council
- Kewstoke Parish Council
- Banwell Parish Council
- Nailsea Town Council
- Wraxall & Failand Parish Council

Local residents

- 163 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Councillor Numbers	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change 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

Translations and other formats:

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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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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