



New electoral arrangements for City of York 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 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 the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why City of York?

7 We are conducting a review of City of York 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

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

- The wards in York 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 city.

Our proposals for York

9 York should be represented by 48 councillors, one more than there is now.

10 York should have 23 wards, two more than there are now.

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

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

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

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

Review timetable

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

16 The review has been 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 York	156,099	170,054
Number of councillors	48	48
Average number of electors per councillor	3,252	3,543

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but one of our proposed wards for York 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 9% by 2031.

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

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

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

24 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

25 City of York Council currently has 47 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and initially concluded that keeping this number the same would ensure the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

26 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 47 councillors: for example, 47 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

27 We received no submissions offering specific evidence about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. However, when developing our draft recommendations, and taking into account the evidence received during consultation, we considered that a 48-councillor warding pattern offered a better balance of our statutory criteria than a 47-councillor pattern. In particular, we considered this change would ensure our recommended wards used clear and identifiable boundaries that reflected the pattern of local communities. Our draft recommendations were therefore based on 48 councillors.

28 During consultation on our draft recommendations, we received a submission from the Green Party which argued that the council should have an odd number of councillors in order to minimise the prospect of tied votes and decisions being made on the casting vote of the Lord Mayor. We do not consider the political implications of our recommendations and note that tied votes can happen even with an odd number of councillors, owing to absences or abstentions. We have therefore maintained 48 councillors as part of our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 66 submissions in response to our initial consultation on ward boundaries. These included city-wide proposals from the Liberal Democrat Group and the York Conservatives. A third was made on behalf of York Labour Party, York Labour Councillors, David Skaith (York & North Yorkshire Mayor), Luke Charters MP (York Outer) and Rachael Maskell MP (York Central). The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the city.

30 The city-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for York. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

31 Our draft recommendations were based primarily on the Labour proposals in the north and centre of York, and the Liberal Democrat proposals to the south and west of the city. Both the Liberal Democrats and Labour provided substantive evidence in support of their proposals.

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

33 Our draft recommendations were for 10 three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and six 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

34 We received 338 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from four political parties (Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat) as well as from the Council itself. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in the Derwenthorpe and Poppleton areas.

Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for 10 three-councillor wards, five two-councillor wards and eight 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.

36 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in the Derwenthorpe and Heworth areas based on the submissions received. We have also divided our proposed two-member Derwent ward into two single-member wards and make minor modifications to the boundaries between Rural West York and Acomb West wards.

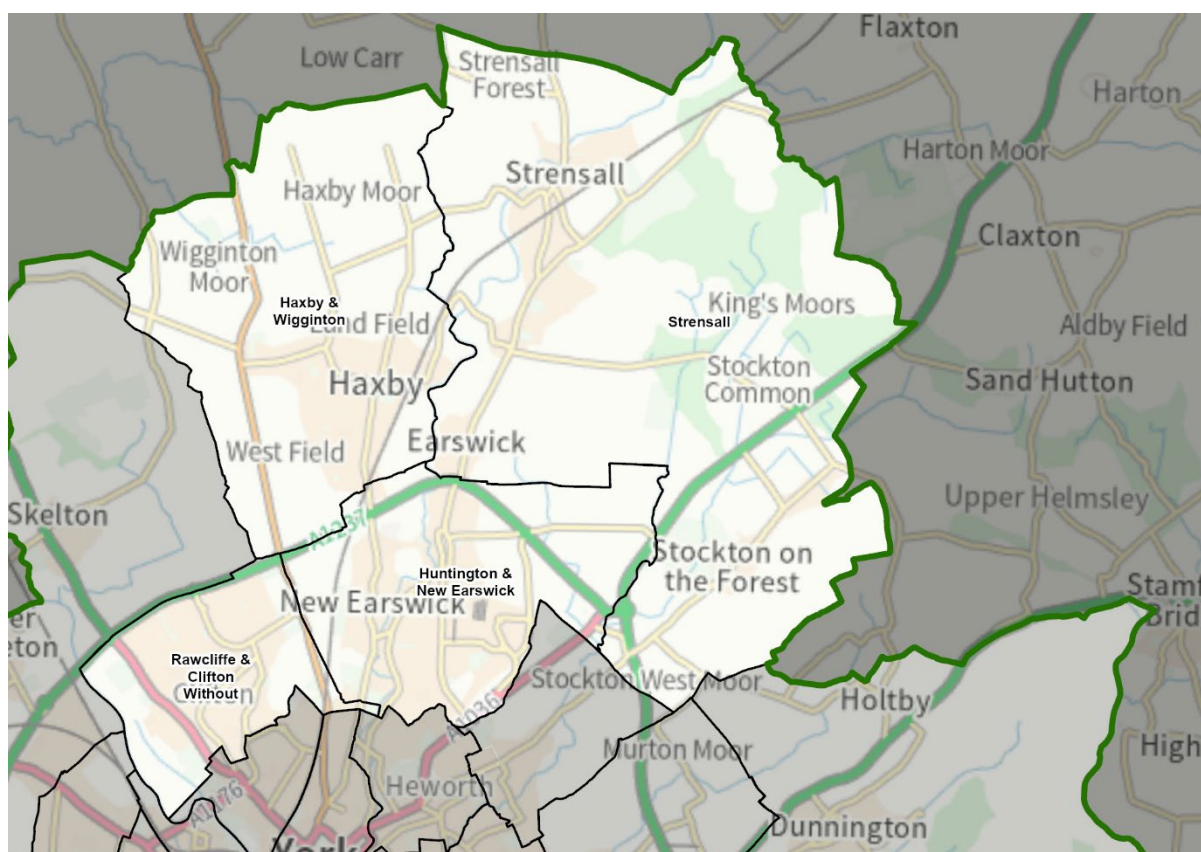
37 The tables and maps on pages 9–26 detail our final recommendations for each area of York. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

38 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 27 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Northern York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Haxby & Wigginton	3	-6%
Huntington & New Earswick	3	10%
Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	3	-5%
Strensall	2	-8%

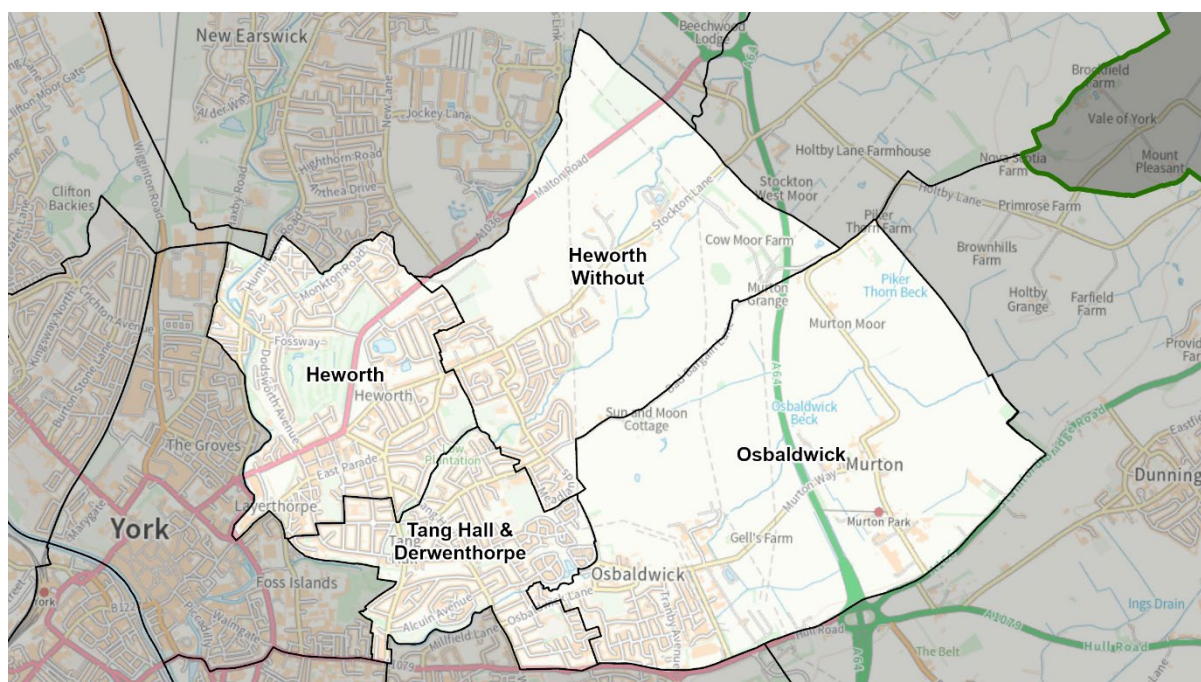
Haxby & Wigginton, Huntington & New Earswick, Rawcliffe & Clifton Without and Strensall

39 We received few submissions related to these wards, which were explicitly supported by the Labour and Conservative parties. One resident suggested adding Stockton-on-the-Forest parish to Heworth Without ward, based on the rurality of the latter area. This would leave the remaining area of Strensall with 22% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the city, and we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence had been provided to justify this level of electoral inequality.

40 Cllr J. Rose suggested that the boundary between Huntington & New Earswick and Strensall wards could be amended to ensure that Hopgrove Lane was entirely within a single ward. Making this change would require the creation of a very small parish ward which we do not consider would promote effective and convenient local

government. We have therefore not adopted this proposal and instead confirm our draft recommendations for these three wards as final.

Eastern York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Heworth	3	-9%
Heworth Without	1	-10%
Osbaldwick	1	3%
Tang Hall & Derwenthorpe	2	2%

41 We received a significant number of comments on these wards, with many of the proposals having consequential implications for neighbouring wards. While the weight of evidence was supportive of the broad principle of our draft recommendations, many submissions suggested uniting the Derwenthorpe estate within a single ward and making various changes to the boundary between Heworth and Heworth Without wards.

Heworth and Heworth Without

42 The main focus of submissions for these wards specifically related to the boundary between them. Several residents and the Liberal Democrats proposed either that the existing boundary should be retained in full, or that the entire area north of Stockton Lane should be placed in Heworth Without ward.

43 Cllr N. Ayre argued that Hempland Primary school and Christ Church formed a central part of the Heworth Without community, and provided extensive evidence of the links between the areas in question, focusing on school catchment areas and ecclesiastical parish links.

44 Retaining all of the existing Heworth Without ward would leave the ward with an electoral variance of 15% – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality. It would also have significant knock-on implications for neighbouring wards of Osbaldwick and Tang Hall & Derwenthorpe.

45 Given our decision to unite Derwenthorpe within a single ward (discussed below at paragraph 49), there is a need to expand the Heworth Without ward proposed in our draft recommendations. If the only change to this proposed ward was the removal of Meadlands Mews from Derwenthorpe, this would leave Heworth Without ward with an electoral variance of -18%.

46 Labour and the Conservatives proposed an alternative which would expand Heworth Without ward, but only to take in Lawnway, Greenfield Park Drive and properties to the north of Stockton Lane. This was also supported by a number of residents, but opposed by the Liberal Democrats, who suggested that there was little significant difference in community identity between this area and the remaining sections of the existing Heworth Without ward.

47 We have carefully considered all the submissions for this area. On balance, we are persuaded to amend our draft recommendations, and place the Greenfield Park Drive and Lawnway area within Heworth Without ward. This allows both Heworth Without and Heworth wards to have relatively good electoral equality and means that Christ Church is no longer in a different ward from its neighbouring and associated residences.

Osbaldwick and Tang Hall & Derwenthorpe

48 With the exception of the Derwenthorpe area, our draft recommendations for Tang Hall & Derwenthorpe were broadly welcomed. One resident noted that Tang Hall was more commonly parsed as two words rather than one, and we have adjusted the name of this ward to match.

49 Our draft recommendations divided the Derwenthorpe estate between three wards, based primarily on road access, with Derwent Mews joined to Osbaldwick village, and Meadlands Mews combined with the older Meadlands estate within our proposed Heworth Without ward. A number of local residents, Cllr J. Moroney and the Derwenthorpe Governance Group, and Derwenthorpe Residents' Association argued that the estate had a single community identity and should be kept together in a single ward rather than being split across multiple wards. A number of residents asserted that relatively few Derwenthorpe residents relied primarily on cars for transport, meaning that road access was a less relevant consideration than in other areas.

50 Cllr M. Warters and Osbaldwick Parish Council argued against any changes to the existing Osbaldwick & Derwent ward and suggested that the entire review should

be postponed until a full review of parish boundaries had been conducted by City of York Council. While we note this view, we have a statutory duty to periodically conduct reviews of all local authorities in England from time to time and this, in our view, is an appropriate point at which to conduct a review of York given the time that has elapsed since the last review.

51 Cllr Warters' submission made a number of points regarding the electoral cycle of the city. This is not a matter for us and any modification to the electoral cycle would be for the Council itself to consider. He also suggested that all wards across the city should be single-member. The Council has not formally requested that this be a single-member ward review, where we would seek to secure a uniform pattern of single-member wards. In light of this, we have the flexibility in the current review to recommend both single- and multi-member wards depending on the evidence we receive for specific areas. Cllr Warters made several comments regarding the political implications of our recommendations – we do not consider these matters and act in an entirely politically independent manner when we conduct our work.

52 Cllr Warters and Osbaldwick Parish Council agreed with the principle of moving Derwenthorpe into a ward based on Tang Hall, but suggested that Meadlands, Worcester Drive, and Ribstone Grove should remain within an Osbaldwick ward. While this area is within Osbaldwick parish (along with Derwenthorpe), it would be somewhat isolated geographically within an Osbaldwick city ward.

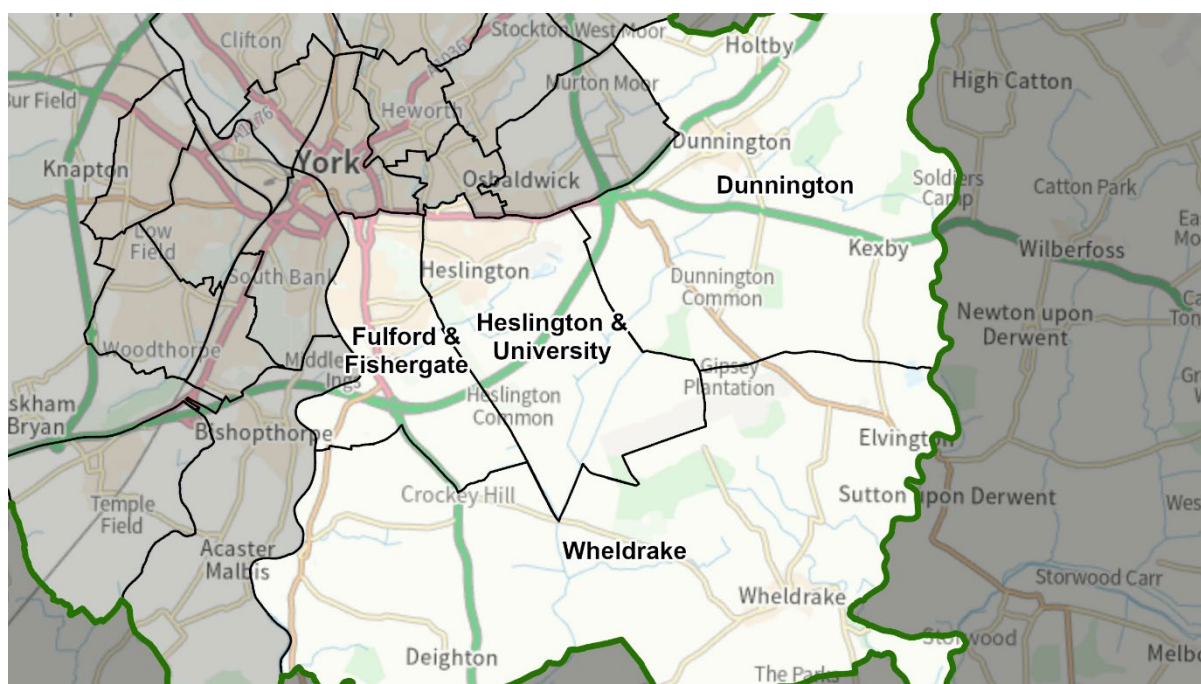
53 Osbaldwick Parish Council supported our decision to place electors on Redbarn Drive, Cavendish Grove and the southern end of Tranby Avenue in our proposed Osbaldwick ward. Murton Parish Council provided a submission arguing that there were clear community links between Murton and Osbaldwick, specifically in terms of a shared parochial church council and social links.

54 We have carefully considered all the submissions received for this area and are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations. We recognise the clear evidence and consensus that the Derwenthorpe estate should be within a single ward and have expanded the boundaries of Tang Hall & Derwenthorpe to accommodate this. We have retained the decision from our draft recommendations to place the Meadlands area within Heworth Without ward, both to ensure acceptable electoral equality for this ward, and because we received little specific evidence as to the community identity of this area.

55 We are also modifying our draft recommendations based on the evidence from Cllr Warters, Osbaldwick Parish Council, and Murton Parish Council. We are recommending that Murton parish be contained within an Osbaldwick-based ward, given the evidence of community links between these two areas. This also obviates the need to create parish wards for Murton parish, which will promote effective and convenient local government

56 These changes leave both Tang Hall & Derwenthorpe and Osbaldwick wards with excellent electoral equality, as well as reflecting the evidence of community identities received during consultation.

South Eastern York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Dunnington	1	-10%
Fulford & Fishergate	3	10%
Heslington & University	2	-2%
Wheldrake	1	11%

Dunnington and Wheldrake

57 Our draft recommendations for this area were for a two-member Derwent ward containing parishes from Murton to Naburn, and covering most of the rural areas to the southeast of the urban area of the city. This proposal attracted limited support.

58 Cllr C. Vassie argued that villages at either end of our proposed ward shared very little in common, with differing transport links, amenities and shops. This viewpoint was supported by a number of local residents, Dunnington Parish Council, Cllr S. Nelson, as well as the Conservative and Labour parties. The Green party submission did not comment in detail but described our proposed Derwent ward as 'oversized'. Comments from residents referred to the different nature of Dunnington from the rest of the proposed ward, and cultural and community events such as Britain in Bloom which, it was suggested, could be impacted by our decision.

59 While we have decided to place all of Murton parish within Osbaldwick ward (see above at paragraph 50–55), we recognise that the remainder of our recommended Derwent ward would still cover a large area. In view of this, we are

persuaded to alter our draft recommendations and are proposing two single-member wards as part of our final recommendations.

60 We are therefore proposing a Dunnington ward comprising the parish of this name together with Holtby and Kexby parishes, and a Wheldrake ward unchanged from the existing ward in this area. This second ward comprises Naburn, Deighton, Wheldrake, and Elvington parishes. These wards will have, respectively, electoral variances of 10% and -11%.

61 We considered alternatives to allow for improved electoral equality, but do not consider that these would offer a better overall balance of our criteria. It would be possible to split Elvington parish, moving the northern section of the parish into Dunnington ward and thereby improving the equality of both Dunnington and Wheldrake wards. However, this would address only one criterion – we have no evidence that this would reflect the community identity of this area, and it would require the creation of parish wards for Elvington parish. Equally, we do not consider that moving a small number of electors from either Naburn, Deighton, or Wheldrake parishes into a neighbouring ward based on the urban centre of York would reflect the community identity of this area.

62 We have therefore accepted relatively high electoral variances for these wards to reflect the community identities of the rural area and to reflect existing parish boundaries.

Fulford & Fishergate and Heslington & University

63 Our draft recommendations were for a three-member ward covering the parish of Fulford together with the Fishergate area to the north; and a two-member ward covering the parish of Heslington (which includes the University of York campus) and an area around Hull Road. We received mixed views on these wards. As always with neighbouring wards, we cannot take decisions in isolation but must attempt to produce a coherent warding pattern for the entire area.

64 Heslington Parish Council and Heslington Village Trust made a combined submission objecting to our draft recommendations, noting that the existing Fulford & Heslington ward offered good electoral equality on the current (2025) electorate figures. They also asserted that the community identity of the ‘permanent’ residents of Heslington was different from that of the University and student population, with disagreements over recent planning proposals specifically mentioned. The submission suggested that it might be difficult for councillors to adequately represent both the village and the university.

65 The joint submission from Heslington Parish Council and Heslington Village Trust did not offer any specific alternative proposals for warding arrangements in this

area. We note that the existing Fulford & Heslington ward is projected to have an electoral variance of 18% by 2031 – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality and not justified on the evidence received. We also note that the Parish Council provided a submission to the initial consultation requesting amendments to the existing warding arrangements in order to bring the entire village within a single ward.

66 Other submissions in this area were split – some residents welcomed our proposals for Heslington & University ward, while others objected, citing the potential increase in traffic and historical school links. The latter point is not one which we can consider – catchment areas for local schools are a matter for City of York Council, and there is no requirement that these be aligned with ward boundaries.

67 Our proposed Heslington & University ward was supported by the Labour Party, the Conservative Party, and the Liberal Democrats. The latter submission suggested that the ward be re-named ‘Heslington, Hull Road & University’, to reflect the northern section of this ward. We considered this alternative name but, given the community evidence received that some residents as far north as Millfield Lane consider themselves closely linked to the university, we are not persuaded to amend this ward name.

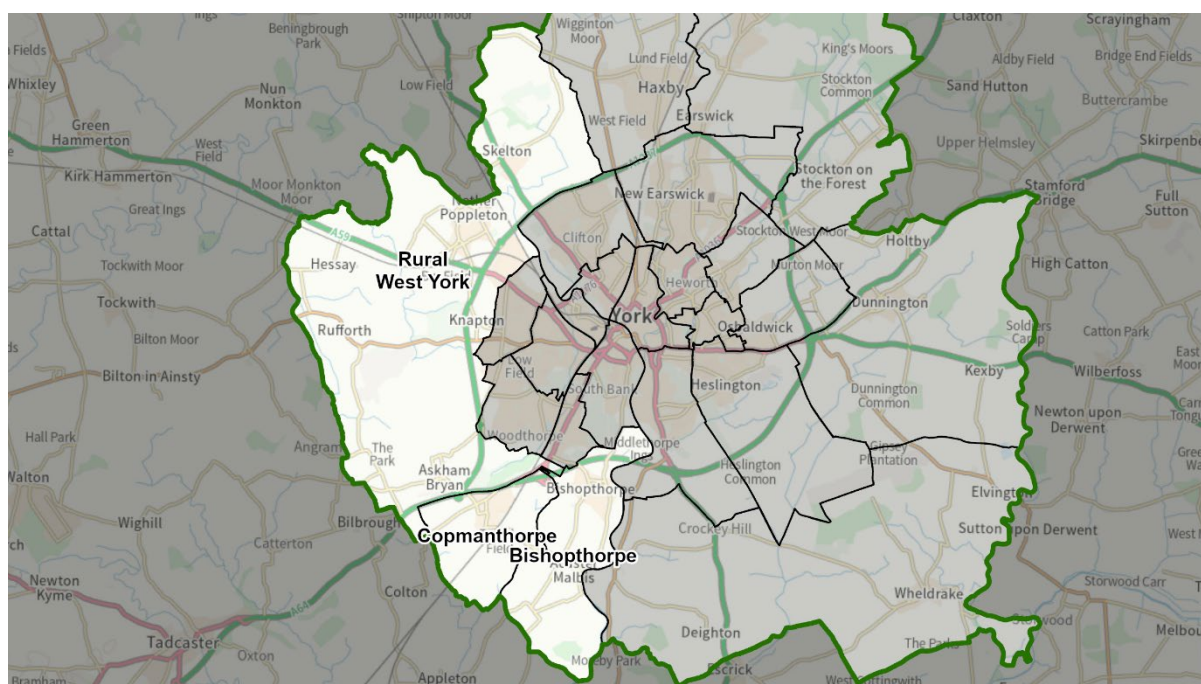
68 Comments on our proposed Fulford & Fishergate ward were similarly mixed. Some residents suggested that the communities of Fulford and Fishergate were closely integrated to the point of being a single community, while others argued that there was a clear distinction in identity. We accept that there is a distinction of identity between the southern, rural sections of Fulford parish and the urban areas of Fishergate. However, based on our observations during our visit to York, we do not consider that either the existing ward boundary, or the northern boundary of Fulford parish, offers a clear distinction between different communities.

69 The Green Party proposed the retention of the existing Fulford & Heslington ward, while the Conservative Party suggested a single-member Fulford ward and a separate two-member Fishergate ward. Based on the existing boundary, this latter ward would have an electoral variance of 15%, and we do not consider that there is a clear and recognisable boundary to divide the area around Broadway into distinct wards.

70 In conclusion, having carefully considered all the submissions received for this area we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations. Our recommendations received a broad (although not unanimous) degree of support, and we note that no alternative proposals were put forward that achieved good electoral equality and reflected community identities and interests. While we acknowledge that there may be a difference of community identity between the village of Heslington and the neighbouring university, it is not unusual for two

neighbouring and distinct areas to be combined within a single ward especially when, as is the case here, Heslington parish includes most if not all of the university campus. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Heslington & University and Fulford & Fishergate wards as final.

Western and South Western York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Bishopthorpe	1	-2%
Copmanthorpe	1	8%
Rural West York	2	-2%

Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe

71 We received few comments on these wards during consultation on our draft recommendations. Cllr M. Nicholls supported the draft recommendations for Bishopthorpe ward, as did the Conservative Party. Cllr J. Rose noted the complex boundary between Bishopthorpe and Rural West York, which follows the boundary between Askham Bryan and Bishopthorpe parishes. Should a Community Governance Review led by City of York Council alter the parish boundary, we can subsequently consider whether to amend the ward to match revised parish boundaries.

72 We confirm our draft recommendations for Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe wards as final.

Rural West York

73 Submissions in this area concentrated very heavily on our proposal to place relatively small areas of Upper Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton parishes in Acomb West ward.

74 We received many submissions containing information not relevant to the electoral review, such as claims that our recommendations would affect property prices or have a direct impact upon school catchment areas. As stated in our Draft Recommendations report, there is no evidence to suggest that changes to ward boundaries affect house prices. School catchment areas vary year on year and are based on many factors. Furthermore, it is a matter for City of York Council as to the factors considered when determining which school pupils are offered places at. As with every ward across York, we have considered only factors and evidence relevant to our statutory criteria in determining our final recommendations.

75 Cllr A. Hook, Cllr E. Knight, and Upper Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton parish councils argued that the entirety of Upper Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton parishes should remain in Rural West York ward. They cited long-standing parish representation, and residents' use of facilities in the relevant villages rather than the urban centre of York and Acomb. Cllr Hook also cited historical links to Rufforth airfield and the inclusion of the Langley Gate area in parish magazine distribution.

76 In contrast, Cllr J. Rose supported our draft recommendations, suggesting that the more common destination for bus rides from the Langley Gate area was towards Acomb rather than Poppleton. Cllr Rose also noted that the area is covered by the existing catchment area for York High School, situated in Acomb.

77 Many residents of Upper Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton parishes indicated that they considered their community identity lay towards the rural areas of the parishes, as opposed to the more urban areas of Acomb. Residents stated that they tended to use transport and community facilities within the conjoined villages of Nether Poppleton and Upper Poppleton.

78 Some respondents argued that the removal of electors in Langley Gate and the neighbouring areas would result in poor electoral equality, noting that our recommended Rural West York ward would have 9% fewer electors per councillor than average. However, with the changes proposed, Acomb West ward would have an electoral variance of -10%, still within the bounds of good electoral equality, but at the edge of that range.

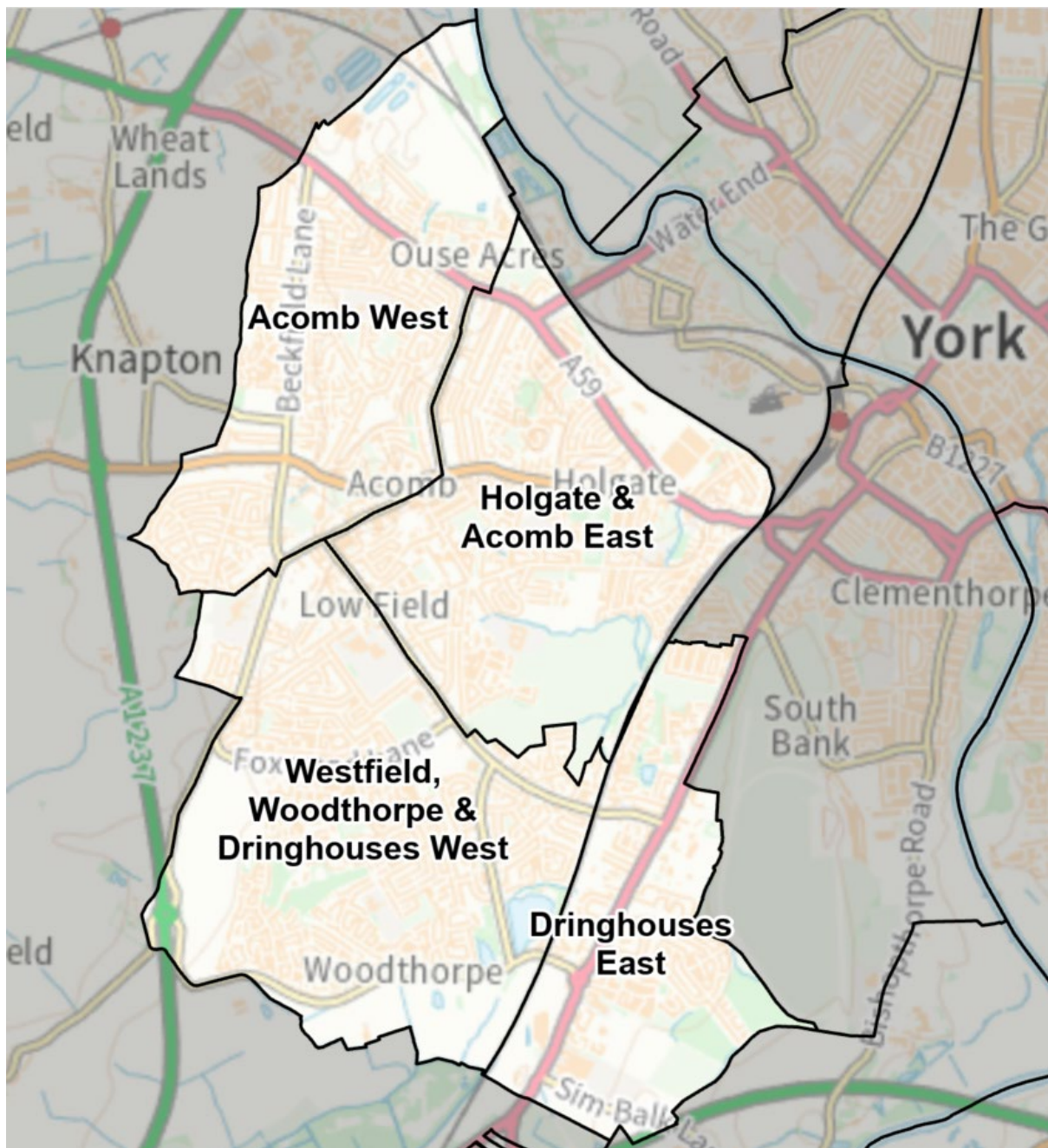
79 We conducted a second visit to York, specifically to look at this area and consider the alternative proposals. We formed the view that, travelling along the A59 Boroughbridge Road, there is some distinction of community identity between the fully urbanised area of Acomb and the Langley Gate area, although the parish boundaries in this area are not particularly clear on the ground.

80 We have carefully considered all the relevant evidence for this area and recognise that the decision is finely balanced. We considered undertaking a period of

further consultation but, given the volume and quality of evidence received, are satisfied that we have enough information on which to base our final recommendations.

81 We have been persuaded to alter our draft recommendations and have decided to place the entirety of Rufforth with Knapton and Upper Poppleton parishes in Rural West York ward. While some of the material submitted to us was not relevant to the review, it is clear that the bulk of the relevant evidence demonstrates the areas in question share community identities and interests with Poppleton rather than Acomb. We are satisfied that our final recommendations for this area will provide an effective balance of our statutory criteria.

Western Urban York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Acomb West	3	-10%
Dringhouses East	1	3%
Holgate & Acomb East	3	6%
Westfield, Woodthorpe & Dringhouses West	3	3%

Acomb West and Holgate & Acomb East

82 Other than evidence relating to Upper Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton parishes (which is addressed in paragraphs 73–81 of this report), we received relatively few comments on our proposals for wards in Acomb. Gateway Church objected to our draft recommendations arguing that changes to ward boundaries would result in areas of high deprivation being split between different wards, which might lead to difficulties in accessing funding. Matters relating to funding for specific areas of the city is not something we can consider when developing our recommendations. This would be for the City Council and other relevant bodies to consider once our review is complete.

83 The Lowfields Action Group argued for a single-member ward covering the area surrounding Lowfields Drive, Dijon Avenue, and Front Street. Precise boundaries for this proposed ward were not suggested, and the specific roads covered by the action group contain roughly 1,000 electors – well below the number required to allow for a single-member ward with good electoral equality. The submission also suggested that the Council revert to annual elections rather than whole-council elections every four years. Changes to electoral cycles is not a matter for us and can only be changed at the initiation of the City Council. On the basis of the evidence received, we are not persuaded to amend our recommendations for this area.

84 Our draft recommendations were supported by Cllr J. Rose and a number of residents, several of whom provided evidence that there was no clear distinction of community identity between the eastern areas of Acomb and Holgate, and that Front Street provided the strongest and clearest available boundary. The Liberal Democrats proposed an alternative, retaining smaller Holgate and Westfield wards which are similar to the existing wards in this area. We considered this carefully but consider that the specific evidence in support of retaining the draft recommendations is stronger than that in favour of a change, and we are not persuaded to amend our recommendations for these wards.

Dringhouses East and Westfield, Woodthorpe & Dringhouses West

85 We received mixed views on our draft recommendations for these wards, which mostly focused on the question of whether the community of Dringhouses extended to the west of the railway line. Some residents in the Thanet Road area considered themselves to live in Dringhouses, but many others supported the use of the railway line as a clear and recognisable boundary.

86 Cllr S. Fenton, and the Liberal Democrats, suggested that residents in the area of North Lane, Eason View, West Thorpe, and Thanet Road considered themselves to be living in Dringhouses and provided a photograph of a ‘Dringhouses Residents’

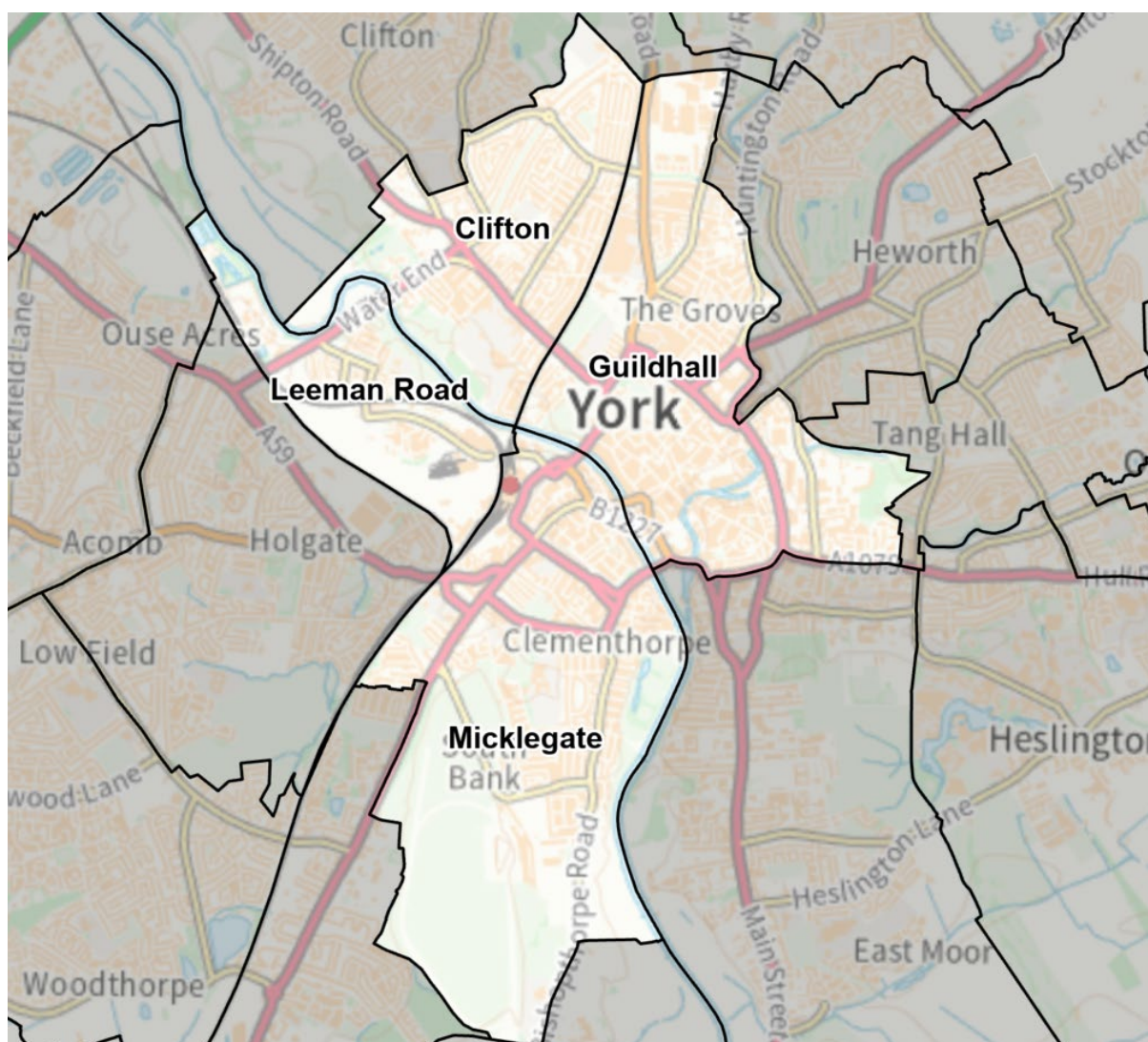
Association' noticeboard in the affected area. A resident also provided supporting information on the historical nature of the area.

87 We have considered the evidence received for this area carefully. Moving the area around Thanet Road into Dringhouses ward would involve the transfer of roughly 1,000 electors, increasing the electoral variances of both Dringhouses, and Westfield, Woodthorpe & Westhorpe wards, as well as resulting in the loss of a clear and recognisable boundary in the railway line.

88 However, we are persuaded that this area is better described as the western portion of Dringhouses rather than as 'Westhorpe'. We are therefore recommending that the ward to the east of the railway line be re-named Dringhouses East and that the other ward in this area be named Westfield, Woodthorpe & Dringhouses West.

89 We received relatively few comments specifically in relation to our proposed Westfield, Woodthorpe & Westhorpe ward. A small number of residents objected to the existing Westfield ward being divided, but did not offer an alternative proposal, or substantive evidence as to how the existing ward represents a clear and distinctive community. The Conservative Party proposed a single-member Woodthorpe ward covering the southern portion of our proposed ward. However, such a ward would not offer good electoral equality (11% more electors than average), nor were we persuaded that it would have particularly strong and clear boundaries. We have therefore not adopted this proposal and confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final, subject to the name change mentioned above.

Central York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Clifton	2	9%
Guildhall	3	-2%
Leeman Road	1	-6%
Micklegate	3	5%

Leeman Road and Micklegate

90 Our decision to create a single-member Leeman Road ward, largely covering the site of the new York Central development, was broadly supported. However, the Liberal Democrats objected on the grounds that this ward would have significantly fewer electors than the average for the city at its initial election in 2027. While we recognise this, it is important to stress that we are required to have regard to the five-year forecast of electors and seek to ensure that the wards we recommend have some durability. This would not be possible if we focused only on the current electorate numbers before the York Central development is completed.

91 We received very few comments on our proposed Micklegate ward, which is broadly the same as the existing ward in this area. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Leeman Road and Micklegate wards as final.

Clifton and Guildhall

92 We received few comments regarding these wards. The Bootham South Residents' Association suggested that the Marygate area could be moved into Clifton ward, noting that in their opinion Clifton ward councillors were more likely to respond to issues than Guildhall ward councillors. The relative performance of councillors for particular wards is not a matter which we can consider. Additionally, we note that adding this area to Clifton ward would result in an electoral variance of 13% and we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been provided to amend our draft recommendations in this way. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

Conclusions

93 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in York, 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	48	48
Number of electoral wards	23	23
Average number of electors per councillor	3,252	3,543
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Final recommendations

City of York Council should be made up of 48 councillors serving 23 wards representing eight single-councillor wards, five two-councillor wards and 10 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for City of York Council.

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

Parish electoral arrangements

94 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.

95 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, City of York 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.

96 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 Osbaldwick parish.

97 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Osbaldwick parish.

Final recommendations

Osbaldwick Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Derwenthorpe	3
Meadlands	1
Village	11

What happens next?

98 We have now completed our review of City of York 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

99 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 City of York 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	Acomb West	3	9,185	3,062	-6%	9,602	3,201	-10%
2	Bishopthorpe	1	3,413	3,413	5%	3,481	3,481	-2%
3	Clifton	2	7,479	3,740	15%	7,693	3,847	9%
4	Copmanthorpe	1	3,395	3,395	4%	3,812	3,812	8%
5	Dringhouses East	1	3,632	3,632	12%	3,646	3,646	3%
6	Dunnington	1	3,024	3,024	-7%	3,189	3,189	-10%
7	Fulford & Fishergate	3	9,714	3,238	0%	11,664	3,888	10%
8	Guildhall	3	9,841	3,280	1%	10,432	3,477	-2%
9	Haxby & Wigginton	3	9,835	3,278	1%	10,011	3,337	-6%
10	Heslington & University	2	6,113	3,057	-6%	6,930	3,465	-2%
11	Heworth	3	8,362	2,787	-14%	9,713	3,238	-9%
12	Heworth Without	1	2,474	2,474	-24%	3,179	3,179	-10%

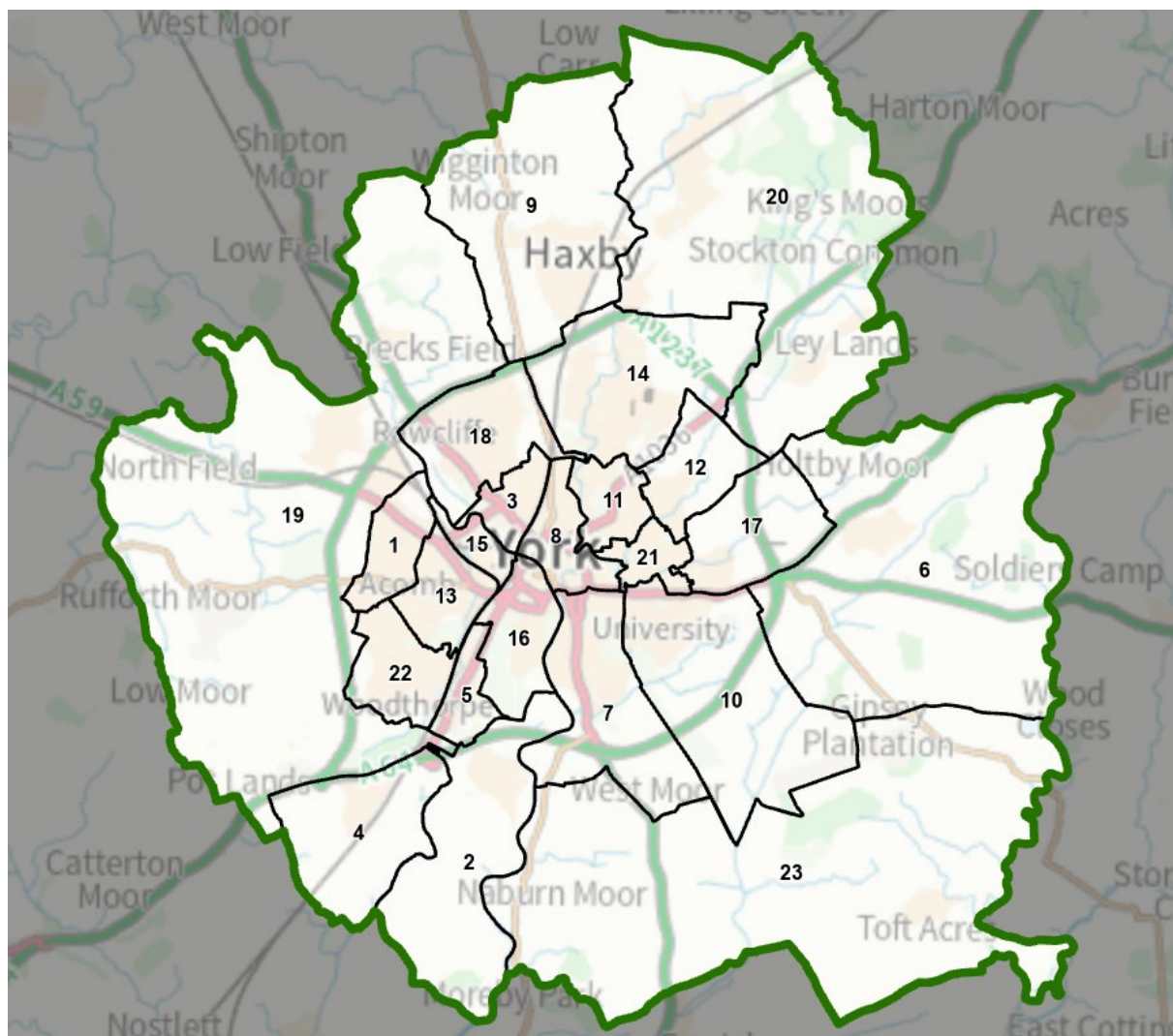
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Holgate & Acomb East	3	10,732	3,577	10%	11,246	3,749	6%
14	Huntington & New Earswick	3	9,920	3,307	2%	11,657	3,886	10%
15	Leeman Road	1	2,087	2,087	-36%	3,328	3,328	-6%
16	Micklegate	3	10,391	3,464	7%	11,127	3,709	5%
17	Osballdwick	1	2,622	2,622	-19%	3,641	3,641	3%
18	Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	3	9,851	3,284	1%	10,114	3,371	-5%
19	Rural West York	2	6,521	3,261	0%	6,965	3,483	-2%
20	Strensall	2	6,420	3,210	-1%	6,534	3,267	-8%
21	Tang Hall & Derwenthorpe	2	6,971	3,486	7%	7,205	3,602	2%
22	Westfield, Woodthorpe & Dringhouses West	3	10,761	3,587	10%	10,945	3,648	3%
23	Wheldrake	1	3,356	3,356	3%	3,930	3,930	11%
Totals		48	156,099	–	–	170,054	–	–
Averages		–	–	3,252	–	–	3,543	–

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Acomb West
2	Bishopthorpe
3	Clifton
4	Copmanthorpe
5	Dringhouses East
6	Dunnington
7	Fulford & Fishergate
8	Guildhall
9	Haxby & Wigginton
10	Heslington & University
11	Heworth
12	Heworth Without
13	Holgate & Acomb East

14	Huntington & New Earswick
15	Leeman Road
16	Micklegate
17	Osballdwick
18	Rawcliffe & Clifton Without
19	Rural West York
20	Strensall
21	Tang Hall & Derwenthorpe
22	Westfield, Woodthorpe & Dringhouses West
23	Wheldrake

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/york

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Local Authority

- City of York Council

Political Groups

- The Conservative Party
- York Green Party
- York Labour
- York Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor N. Ayre (City of York Council)
- Councillor S. Fenton (City of York Council)
- Councillor A. Hook (City of York Council) (2 submissions)
- Councillor E. Knight (City of York Council)
- Councillor J. Moroney (City of York Council)
- Councillor S. Nelson (Wheldrake Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Rose (City of York Council) (3 submissions)
- Councillor M. Nicholls (City of York Council)
- Councillor C. Vassie (City of York Council)
- Councillor M. Warters (City of York Council)

Local Organisations

- Bootham South Residents' Association
- Derwenthorpe Governance Group
- Derwenthorpe Residents' Association
- Gateway Church
- Heslington Village Trust (Joint submission with Heslington Parish Council)
- Lowfields Action Group
- New Visuality

Parish and Town Councils

- Murton Parish Council
- Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council
- Osbaldwick Parish Council
- Heslington Parish Council (Joint submission with Heslington Village Trust)
- Dunnington Parish Council
- Upper Poppleton Parish Council (2 submissions)
- Elvington Parish Council

Local Residents

- 306 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

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

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