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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.<sup>1</sup> 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:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why Basildon?

7 We are conducting a review of Basildon Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2000, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup> 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 Basildon 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 borough.

## Our proposals for Basildon

9 Basildon should be represented by 42 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Basildon should have 14 wards, two fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of eight wards should change; six will stay the same.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

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

## Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 4 October to 12 December 2022. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

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

16 You have until 12 December 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 27 for how to send us your response.

## Review timetable

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

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
25 April 2022	Number of councillors decided
10 May 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
18 July 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
4 October 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
12 December 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
28 February 2023	Publication of final recommendations



## Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation<sup>3</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>4</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

	2022	2028
Electorate of Basildon	138,769	142,805
Number of councillors	42	42
Average number of electors per councillor	3,304	3,400

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Basildon will have good electoral equality by 2028.

## Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2028, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 3% by 2028.

25 Basildon Council Labour Group ('the Labour Group') and Councillor McGeorge questioned the electorate forecasts for the centre of Basildon, arguing that they did not take into account all the development and that there were developments subject to planning appeals. We sought clarification from the Council who confirmed that

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

there are areas subject to planning appeal. However, since these appeals have not been decided they cannot be included in the forecast figures.

26 Councillor Smith questioned the Council's forecast figures in the Westley Green area. We have examined these and it appears that the authority misallocated growth of around 800 electors to neighbouring Lee Chapel South, rather than Westley Green. We queried this with the Council, who confirmed the error. We have used revised figures for considering the proposals we received. This adjustment has had a knock-on effect, altering the levels of electoral equality in some of the proposed wards.

27 We amended the figures to reflect the discrepancy between Westley Green and Lee Chapel South, but otherwise are satisfied that the Council's figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these modified figures to produce our draft recommendations.

## Number of councillors

28 Basildon Council currently has 42 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

29 As Basildon Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation<sup>5</sup> that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

30 We received no significant comments on the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. The borough-wide submissions from the Council, the Labour Group and a resident were all based on 42 members and proposed a uniform pattern of three-member wards. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 42-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

31 We received 63 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included borough-wide proposals from the Council, the Labour Group and a local resident, all of which proposed uniform patterns of three-member wards.

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<sup>5</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

32 To the north of the A127, the Council and resident put forward an identical warding pattern, while to the south they put forward identical proposals for Laindon, Langdon Hills and Lee Chapel North and broadly similar proposals for Pitsea. The Labour Group put forward a significantly different warding pattern, including a Laindon North ward that crosses the A127. None of these respondents included strong community evidence to support their proposals. We note that the Labour Group's proposals, using the modified forecast figures as set out above, proposed four wards with variances over 10% from the average by 2028, while the Council's submission contained three wards over 10% and the resident's representation contained two over 10%.

33 We received a number of general objections to the review and requests for no change to the existing ward boundaries. A number of other respondents made general observations about the number of councillors specific wards should have, including splitting large areas and expanding smaller ones, while one suggested reducing some wards from three councillors to two.

34 These comments reflect the very nature of an electoral review, which is to ensure each ward represents roughly the same number of electors. This can therefore require changes, expanding some areas while reducing others. However, it is also important to note that since Basildon elects by thirds, as discussed in paragraph 29, we must have a presumption of a uniform three-member warding pattern, only moving away where we are unable to achieve this while reflecting the statutory criteria.

35 A resident argued that Billericay should be removed from the borough. However, this does not fall within the remit of this review and could only be achieved by a Principal Area Boundary Review, which is a separate process to this one.

36 Finally, a number of respondents questioned the allocation of councillors in the north and south of the borough, arguing that the north has too many councillors, while noting that the largest developments are occurring in the south.

37 We have considered these comments, noting that if the A127 is taken as a north/south dividing line, as it is under the current arrangements, then respondents are correct that the north has slightly fewer councillors under the existing electorate and will continue to do so by 2028. Under the forecasts, in 2028 the northern wards would on average have 4% fewer electors, while the south would have 3% more. However, any shift of councillors from north to south, while using three-member wards and the A127 as a boundary, would result in the north having too many electors – for example, moving three councillors to the south of the A127 would result in the northern area wards on average having 16% by 2028, while the southern area wards would have 9% fewer electors.



38 We have considered the Labour Group proposal, which provides a different allocation north and south, including a ward which crosses the A127. Beyond our concerns about the poor level of electoral equality of a number of their proposed wards, we note that their allocation provides worse average electoral equality for the northern and southern areas, with the northern wards having 7% more, while the southern have 6% fewer. On balance, we consider that the A127 provides a clear boundary and the best allocation of councillors north and south.

39 We are therefore not basing the draft recommendations on the Labour Group proposals. We do, however, propose using the proposals from the Council and resident in the northern area, while using elements of their proposals in the south, subject to a number of modifications to improve electoral equality or provide clearer boundaries.

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

## Draft recommendations

41 Our draft recommendations are for 14 three-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

42 The tables and maps on pages 9–24 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Basildon. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>6</sup> criteria of:

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

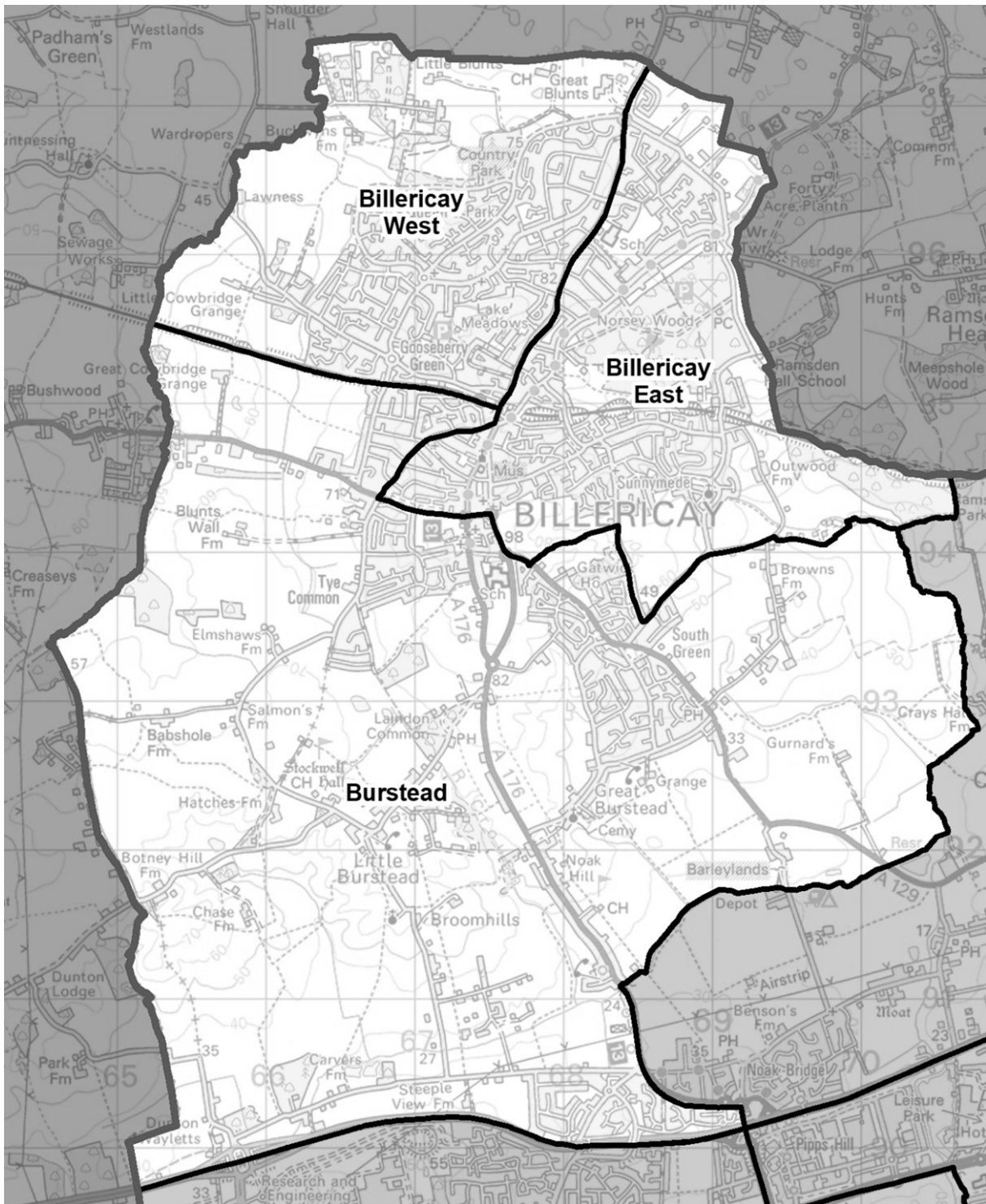
43 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

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<sup>6</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Billericay and Burstead



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Billericay East	3	-8%
Billericay West	3	-6%
Burstead	3	7%

### *Billericay East, Billericay West and Burstead*

45 The Council and a local resident proposed identical proposals for this area. They suggested the retention of the existing Billericay wards, as well as a modification to the existing Burstead ward by including the Steeple View area. These respondents provided only limited evidence to support these proposals. Their three-councillor Billericay East, Billericay West and Burstead wards would have 8% fewer, 6% fewer and 7% more electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively.

46 The Labour Group proposed modifications to the existing Billericay wards and a Burstead & Crouch ward comprising Great Burstead & South Green, Little Burstead, Noak Bridge, Ramsden Bellhouse and Ramsden Crays parishes. They provided only limited evidence to support these proposals. The Group's suggested Billericay East, Billericay West and Burstead & Crouch wards would have 7% more, 14% more and 7% more electors than the borough average by 2028. Their proposals would also see the creation of a ward that crosses the A127, with Noak Bridge and Steeple View transferred to a Laindon Park ward – this is discussed in more detail in the Laindon Park, Langdon Hills and Lee Chapel North section (below). Councillor Harrison put forward similar proposals for a Burstead & Crouch ward. A resident supported the inclusion of Steeple View in a Laindon Park ward.

47 Councillor Schrader put forward identical proposals to the Council, stating that the A127 makes a 'natural southern boundary' for the Burstead ward and that Steeple View has good links to Burstead. Councillor Wingfield also supported the inclusion of Steeple View in Burstead ward, objecting to any ward that would breach the A127. Two residents requested no change to the existing wards, while another stated small changes to ensure electoral equality would be acceptable. Another resident argued that the Billericay wards should be combined, while another stated that Queen's Park should be a ward on its own and that South Green is 'part of' Billericay, not Burstead.

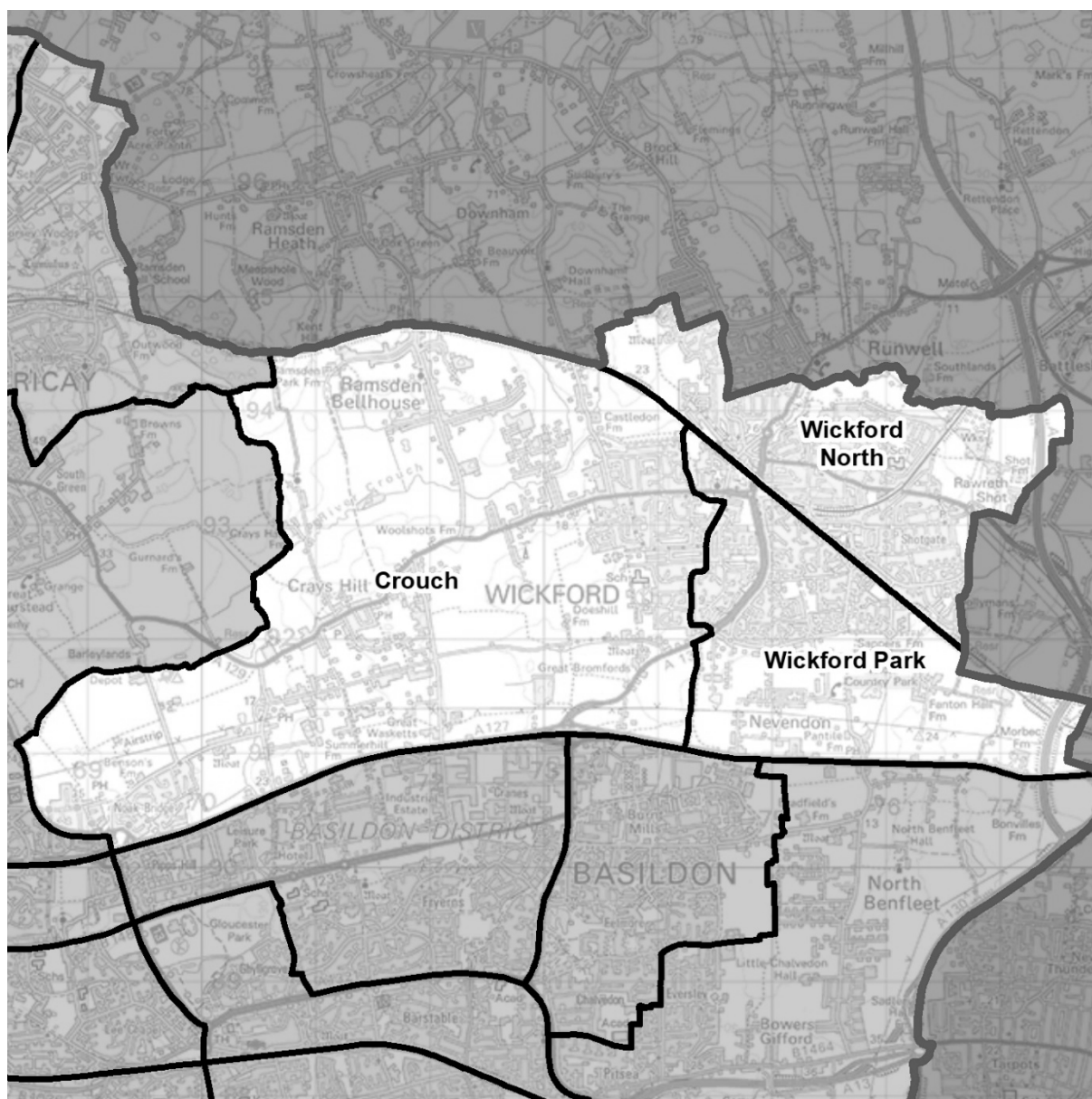
48 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. As discussed in the Ward boundaries consultation section (above), we consider that the A127 provides a clear boundary, which was supported by proposals from the Council, Councillors Schrader and Wingfield and a resident. We note that proposals from the Labour Group and Councillor Harrison breach this road. In addition, their creation of a Burstead & Crouch ward creates a large ward that crosses most of the borough from east to west. We also note that the Labour Group's proposed Billericay West ward has a poor level of electoral equality. On balance, given our concerns about breaching the A127, the size of the Burstead & Crouch ward and the poor electoral equality, we are not adopting their proposals.

49 We also note the comments from the resident about Queen's Park and South Green, but they did not provide detailed proposals and it is not possible to reflect these comments in a pattern of three-councillor wards. Finally, we note that there

was some agreement over retaining the existing Billericay wards and modifying Burstead ward. These wards secure good electoral equality and use clear boundaries. We are therefore adopting the proposals from the Council and resident. Our Billericay East, Billericay West and Burstead wards would have 8% fewer, 6% fewer and 7% more electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively



## Wickford and Crouch



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Crouch	3	-10%
Wickford North	3	4%
Wickford Park	3	-9%

### *Crouch, Wickford North and Wickford Park*

50 The Council and a local resident proposed the same three-councillor Crouch, Wickford North and Wickford Park wards. They provided only limited evidence to support these proposals. Their suggested three-councillor Wickford North ward would have 4% more electors than the borough average by 2028. However, we noted that their proposals for Crouch and Wickford Park contained an error with a misallocation of electors in the Bromfords area. As a result, the proposed Crouch

and Wickford Park wards would have 5% fewer and 14% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively, rather than 11% fewer and 7% fewer. The Crouch ward would comprise Noak Bridge, Ramsden Bellhouse and Ramsden Crays parishes and the western area of Wickford. Wickford North ward would comprise the area to the north of the railway line, while Wickford Park would comprise the remaining area of Wickford to the south of the railway line.

51 Councillor Wingfield put forward the same proposals as the Council, adding that the proposals abolish the two-councillor Wickford Castledon ward, transferring parts to Crouch and Wickford Park wards so they can become three-councillor wards. Councillor Schrader also put forward the same proposals, but argued that Crouch ward should be named Castledon & Crouch, while Wickford Park should be named Wickford South.

52 A resident suggested that to improve electoral equality, part of Wickford North ward, around Runwell Road, could be transferred south, with the resident arguing that there are road and pedestrian crossings of the railway in this area. Another resident stated that Wickford should have one ward centred on the town. Two other residents stated that the boundary should follow Golden Jubilee Way so that the Cedar Avenue area is in a Castledon ward.

53 The Labour Group put forward a significantly different warding pattern, proposing three-councillor Wickford North and Wickford South wards with 4% more and 3% more electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively. As described in the Billericay and Burstead section (above), their Burstead & Crouch ward would include a number of the parishes included in the Council and resident's Crouch ward. They provided only limited evidence to support these proposals.

54 We have given careful consideration the evidence received. Although the Labour Group proposals for this area secure good electoral equality, we are unable to consider them further given our decision not to adopt their Burstead & Crouch ward, which has a knock-on effect to their Wickford South ward.

55 We note that the proposals from the Council and resident use clear boundaries. While their suggested Crouch and Wickford North wards have good levels of electoral equality, we have sought to improve the -14% variance in their proposed Wickford Park ward.

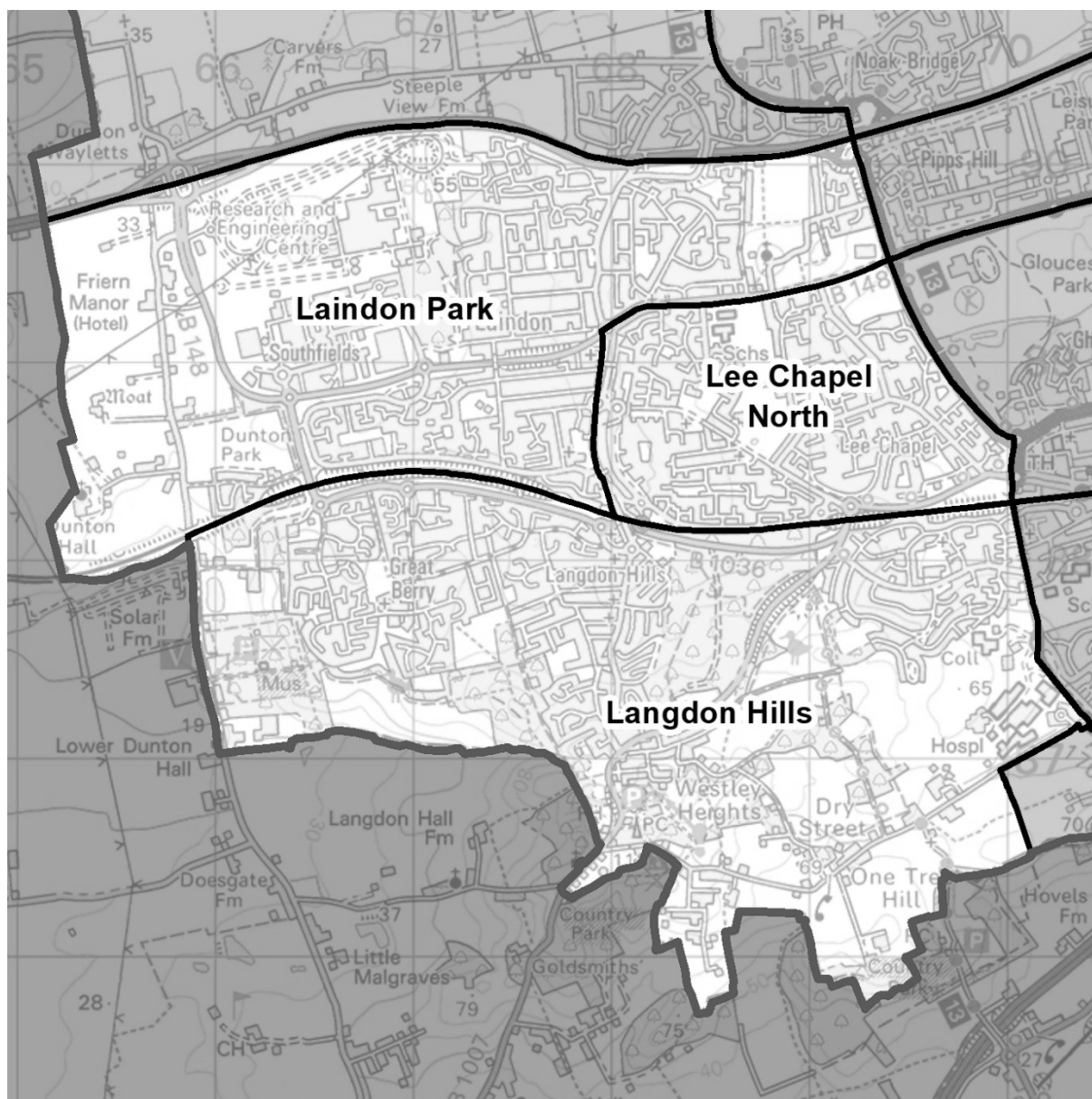
56 We note that it is not possible to transfer the Cedar Drive area to Crouch ward, as suggested by two residents, as this would worsen electoral equality in Wickford Park further. We also considered transferring an area of Wickford North to Wickford Park, as suggested by a resident. While there are crossing points over the railway line, we consider that the railway provides a clear boundary and should not be breached. We therefore propose transferring an area around Wickford High Street

from Crouch ward to Wickford Park ward, using the River Crouch as a boundary. This area is well connected into Wickford Park and improves electoral equality in Wickford Park ward to 9% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028, while Crouch ward would have 10% fewer electors.

57 We did give consideration to Councillor Schrader's proposals to rename Crouch and Wickford Park wards, but given no other support for these names, we are not adopting them. However, we would welcome local views on the best names for our proposed wards. Our three-councillor Crouch, Wickford North and Wickford Park wards would have 10% fewer, 4% more and 9% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively.



## Laindon Park, Langdon Hills and Lee Chapel North



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Laindon Park	3	-1%
Langdon Hills	3	10%
Lee Chapel North	3	2%

### *Laindon Park, Langdon Hills and Lee Chapel North*

58 In response to the warding patterns consultation, the Council and a local resident proposed the same three-councillor Laindon Park, Langdon Hills and Lee Chapel North wards. They provided only limited evidence to support these proposals. These would have 1% fewer, 3% fewer and 2% more electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively. These proposals retain the existing Laindon

Park and Lee Chapel North wards, while Langdon Hills takes in part of the existing Nethermayne ward.

59 Councillors Wingfield and Schrader put forward identical proposals to the Council. Councillor Wingfield stated that Laindon Park and Lee Chapel North match with 'residents perception of where their communities sit'. Councillor Schrader proposed that the modified Langdon Hills ward be named Langdon Hills & Lee Chapel South, reflecting the separate identities of the areas. A resident also supported the inclusion of Lee Chapel South in Langdon ward.

60 Another resident argued that Lee Chapel South should remain linked to the Kingswood area as it is in the current Nethermayne ward. They also stated that Langdon Hills and Lee Chapel North should include parts of Laindon but offered no supporting evidence.

61 The Labour Group proposed three three-councillor wards for this area: Laindon North, Langdon Hills and Lee Chapel North, with 10% more, 0% and 2% more electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively. They provided only limited evidence to support these proposals. Councillor Harrison proposed a similar Laindon ward that crosses the A127. Councillor Harrison also proposed splitting Lee Chapel North, stating that some parts look to Laindon and others to Basildon and that this should be reflected in the warding arrangement. A resident supported the inclusion of Steeple View in a Laindon Park ward, but did not state why. Another resident argued that Laindon Park is too large.

62 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. As discussed in the Ward boundaries consultation section (above), we consider that the A127 provides a clear boundary, which was supported by proposals from the Council, Councillors Schrader and Wingfield and a resident. We note that the proposals from the Labour Group and Councillor Harrison breach this road. In addition, the Labour Group proposals require the transfer of part of Laindon Park to Langdon Hills ward. This area is separated by the railway line and, while there is a crossing point, we do not consider this arrangement reflects local communities. Indeed, we note that there is evidence for retaining the existing Laindon Park and Lee Chapel North wards.

63 Therefore, we have not been persuaded to adopt the Labour Group proposals in this area. We note the comments from a resident about splitting Lee Chapel North, but can see no evidence to support this. We also note the argument from a resident that Lee Chapel South should remain linked with Kingswood in Nethermayne ward; however, this area contains nearly 3,000 electors and would significantly worsen electoral equality in Langdon Hills and Nethermayne wards. Therefore, we are not adopting this proposal.

64 We consider that the proposals to retain the existing Laindon Park and Lee Chapel North wards provide the strongest warding pattern, using clear boundaries and securing good electoral equality. We are therefore adopting them as part of the draft recommendations.

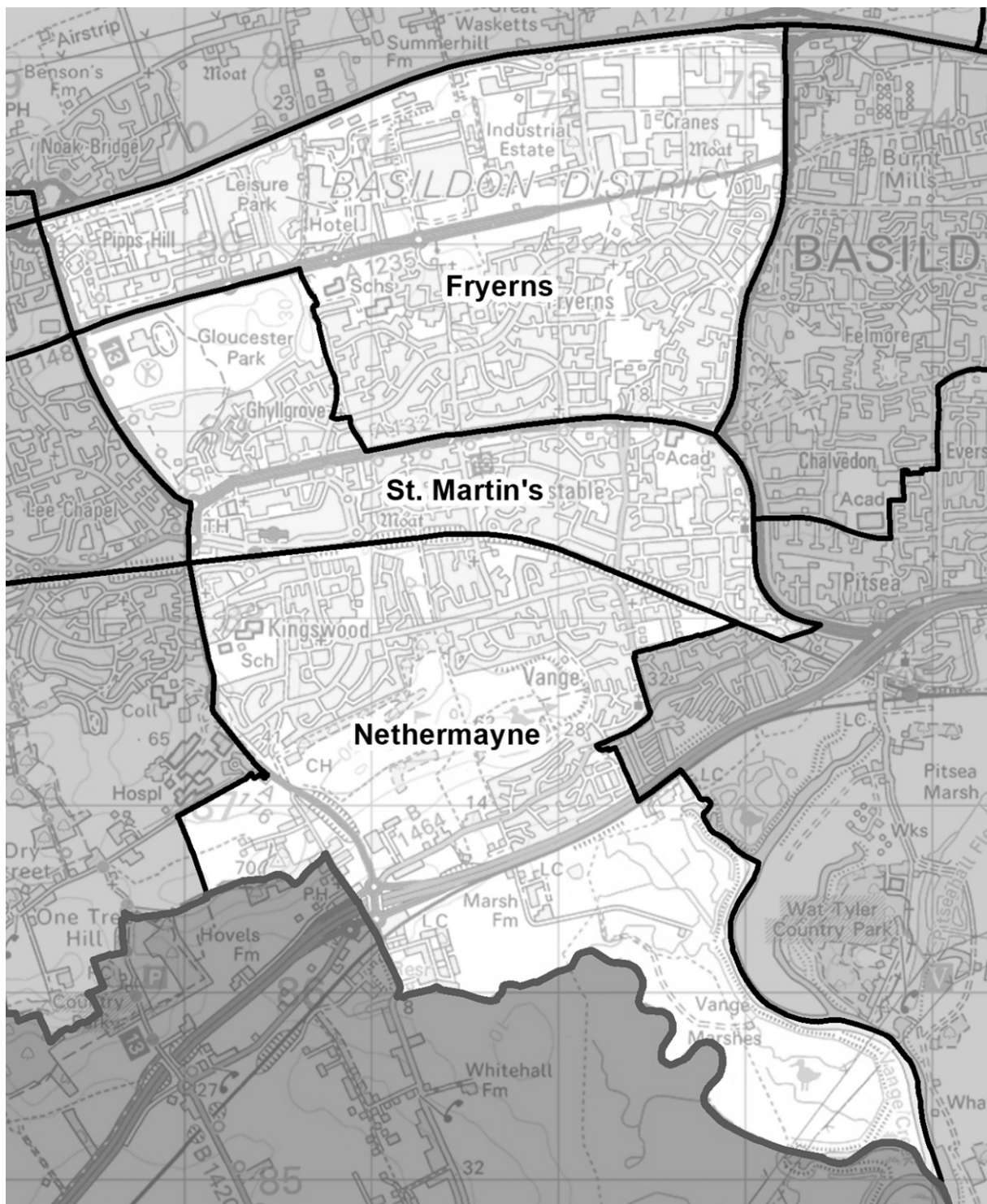
65 As discussed in the Electorate figures section (above), we noted an error in the Council's forecast figures in its Langdon Hills ward. It included growth of around 816 electors in the Lee Chapel South area, whereas the growth is actually occurring in the Westley Green area around Basildon University Hospital to the south. The inclusion of an additional 816 electors in the Nethermayne ward worsens electoral equality in that area.

66 On balance, we consider that the Westley Green area should be in the Langdon Hills ward as it helps us create a stronger ward boundary for the Nethermayne ward (discussed in the section below). As a result, Langdon Hills ward would have 10% more electors than the average by 2028. We examined options to see if the boundaries could be amended to improve this relatively high variance, but this would require us to move away from the clear boundary of Nethermayne. Therefore, we have concluded that this area should be included in Langdon Hills ward.

67 Finally, we note the comment from Councillor Schrader that Langdon Hills ward should be called Langdon Hills & Lee Chapel South, but given no other support for this name we are not adopting it. However, we would welcome local views on the correct name for this ward.

68 Our three-councillor Laindon Park, Langdon Hills and Lee Chapel North wards would have 1% fewer, 10% more and 2% more electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively.

## Central Basildon



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Fryerns	3	9%
Nethermayne	3	2%
St Martin's	3	8%



### *Fryerns, Nethermayne and St Martin's*

69 The Council proposed three-councillor wards for this area named Nethermayne, St Martin's and Vange. These would have 14% more, 26% more and 1% more electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively. They provided only limited evidence to support these proposals.

70 Councillors Schrader and Wingfield put forward the same proposals as the Council. Councillor Wingfield stated that the enlarged Basildon wards might need renaming to reflect the new configuration, but did not propose names. Councillor Schrader proposed a number of alternative names for the Council's proposed wards. He questioned why 'none of the new town wards contain the name Basildon'. He therefore suggested renaming Nethermayne ward as Basildon Town South or Basildon Town South & Vange, as Nethermayne is 'derived' from a local road but does not have a clear local identity. He suggested that the Council's St Martin's ward is given the 'placeholder' name Basildon Town North, adding that it could be called Fryerns, but that there is no distinct Fryerns identity. Finally, he proposed renaming the Council's Vange ward as Basildon Town East.

71 A resident put forward proposals for three-councillor Barstable, Clay Hill and Fryerns wards. These would have 7% more, 9% more and 11% more electors than the average for the borough by 2028, respectively. They stated that their Clay Hill ward covered parts of the existing Nethermayne ward, but should be named to reflect the road that 'traverses the whole ward rather than the Nethermayne road which is now on the western edge of the ward'. The resident also stated that their proposals for Barstable reflected an earlier ward and, as such, this would be a better name than St Martin's.

72 The Labour Group proposed four three-member wards for this area, reflecting their different allocation of councillors north and south as a result of wards crossing the A127. They proposed three-councillor Fryerns, Nethermayne, St Martin's and Vange wards with 3% fewer, 3% more, 29% fewer and 11% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively. It should be noted that the variance of -29% for St Martin's reflects the correct forecast figures, as discussed in the Electorate figures section above, and not the Labour Group's assumption of greater growth in this area as a result of planning applications under appeal.

73 Councillor Harrison stated that the Long Riding area should be in a Vange ward as it identifies with Vange and Pitsea. Councillor Ademuyiwa requested no change to the existing St Martin's ward. Councillor Smith argued that the St Chad's area should be transferred from the Council's proposed Nethermayne ward to its Vange ward, arguing that it is a main civic point in Vange. As stated in the Electorate figures section (above), he also questioned the Council's forecast figures for the Westley Green area of its suggested Nethermayne ward.

74 Another resident put forward comments that appeared to reflect the borough-wide proposals from the resident in this area. They stated that while it would be regrettable to lose Vange ward, the existing ward covers less than half of the area considered Vange, locally. He proposed transferring parts of the existing Vange ward to a modified Nethermayne ward, as both the Council and resident proposed. The resident also proposed that another area of Vange could be transferred to Pitsea South East to improve electoral equality there. Finally, he suggested that the Barstable East area of Vange could be transferred to St Martin's ward, joining it with Barstable West.

75 Another resident expressed support for the existing Vange ward. A further resident stated that Barstable East should be a ward in its own right. However, this area does not contain sufficient electors to provide for a three-member ward with a good level of electoral equality.

76 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. As stated above, with the correct figures, the Labour Group proposals include a ward with 29% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028. Given this poor level of electoral equality and our decision to adopt the proposals from the Council and resident to the west of this area, we do not propose adopting the Labour Group proposals here.

77 We also note that the Council's proposed St Martin's ward would have poor electoral equality, with 26% more electors than the borough average by 2028. We do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to accept this poor level of electoral equality. Given the constraints of neighbouring areas we do not consider it possible to rectify this high variance with minor adjustments. We are therefore not adopting the Council's proposals for this area.

78 We note that the proposals from the resident secure better levels of electoral equality, with only their Fryerns ward having a variance over 10%. We consider that these proposals generally use clear boundaries, although we acknowledge that they divide the Vange area. However, given the high levels of growth in this area, we have been unable to identify a warding pattern that secures good electoral equality while keeping the Vange area together. We are therefore basing the draft recommendations on the resident's proposals, but subject to modifications.

79 As stated in the Laindon Park, Langdon Hills and Lee Chapel North and Electorate figures sections, we noted an error in the Council's forecast figures in its Langdon Hills ward and proposed including the Westley Green area in Langdon Hills. In rectifying this error and correctly allocating the growth, we are able to address a concern about one of the boundaries included in the resident's proposed Clay Hill ward. We noted that their proposed boundary around Swanstead would cut somewhat arbitrarily through the housing to the east of Vange Hill. We therefore propose running the boundary along Clay Hill Road and London Road. We

acknowledge that this goes against Councillor Smith's argument for putting this area in a Vange ward. However, given that we have not been able to retain a Vange ward, we consider it preferable to use a clearer boundary in this area. This also improves electoral equality in Pitsea South East ward – discussed below.

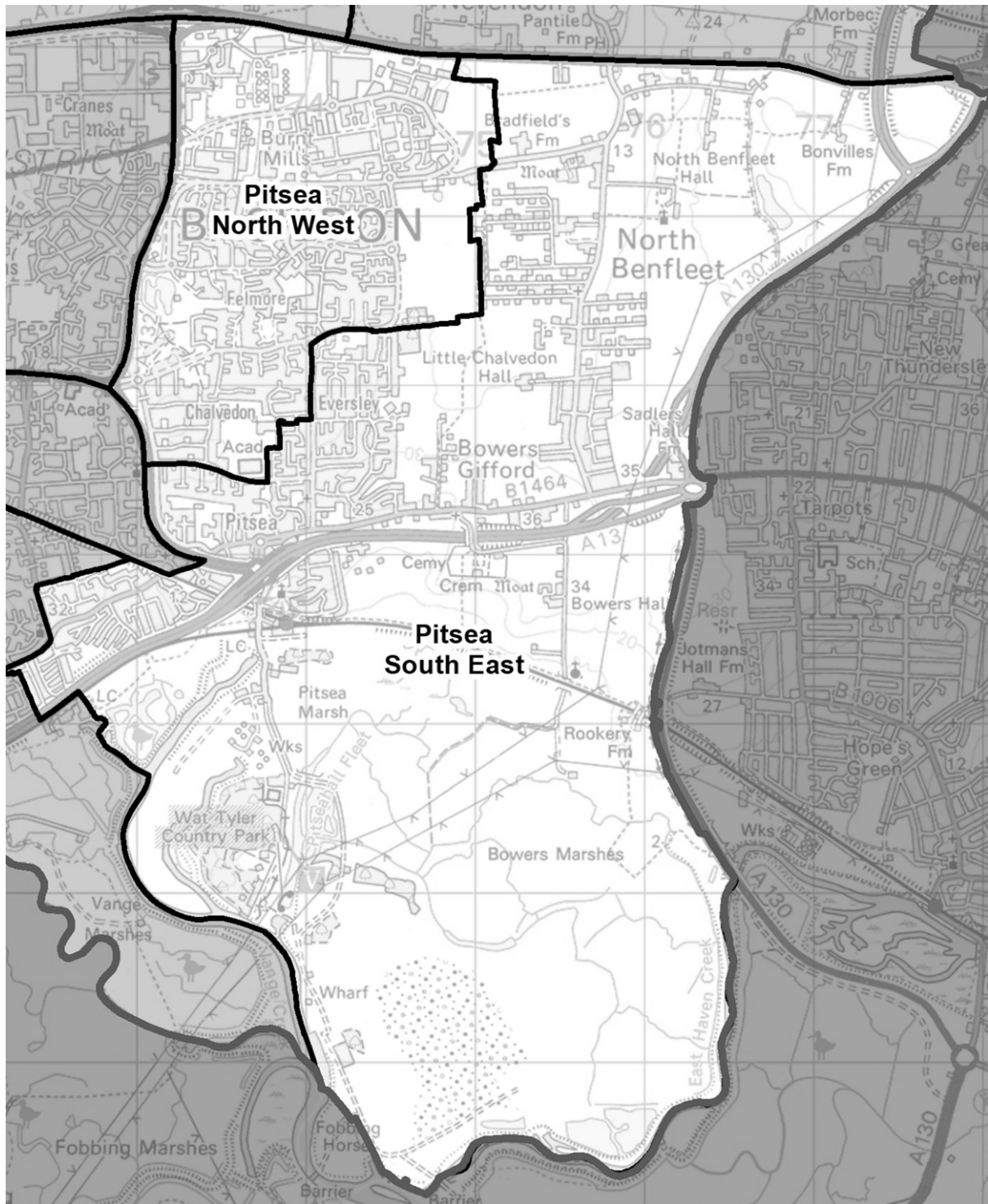
80 We also propose transferring a small area around Honeypot Lane from the resident's Fryerns ward to Barstable ward. This improves electoral equality in Fryerns ward in 2028 from 11% more to 9% more, while Barstable worsens slightly from 7% more to 8% more.

81 Finally, we note that there were a number of options for proposed ward names in this area. However, in light of the lack of agreement, we propose retaining the existing ward names and are therefore renaming the resident's Barstable ward as St Martin's and their Clay Hill ward as Nethermayne. However, we would welcome local views on the most appropriate names for these wards.

82 Our proposed three-councillor Fryerns, Nethermayne and St Martin's wards would have 9% more, 2% more and 8% more electors than the borough average by 2028.



# Pitsea



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Pitsea North West	3	-7%
Pitsea South East	3	-2%

### *Pitsea North West and Pitsea South East*

83 The Council and a local resident proposed the retention of the existing Pitsea North West ward. This ward would have 7% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028. They put forward similar proposals for Pitsea South East ward, with the Council retaining the existing ward, while the resident proposed transferring an area of the existing Vange ward to improve electoral equality. The Council's proposed Pitsea South East ward would have 10% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028, while the resident's would have 4% more.

84 The Council and the resident provided only limited evidence to support these proposals, although the resident argued that his proposals would enable the whole of the High Road in Vange to remain in a single ward. Councillors Schrader and Wingfield proposed no change to the existing wards, like the Council.

85 The Labour Group put forward different proposals for two three-councillor Pitsea Town and Pitsea North & Bowers wards. These would have 7% more and 14% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively. They provided only limited evidence to support these proposals

86 Councillor Harrison stated that the existing Pitsea South East ward is too large and contains a diverse range of housing and estates. He stated that the existing ward included areas that should be in Vange and that a North Benfleet & Bowers Gifford ward should be formed. A resident supported the view that North Benfleet & Bowers Gifford should be separated from Pitsea.

87 Two residents stated that Nethermayne ward should extend to the A13, but that the area to the south should be in Pitsea South East.

88 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the proposals from the Labour Group. While their proposals reflect the A13 boundary that a number of respondents referred to, they also include the Barstable East area that is incorporated into our proposed St Martin's ward. Removing Barstable East from our St Martin's ward would leave it with 18% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028. When taken into consideration with the relatively poor electoral equality of their Pitsea South East ward, we are not persuaded to adopt these proposals.

89 We also note the comments about the creation of a North Benfleet & Bowers Gifford ward. However, this area does not contain sufficient electors to create a viable three-councillor ward and we did not receive sufficient evidence to persuade us to move away from three-councillor wards in this area.

90 We note that the proposals from the Council and resident are broadly similar. The Pitsea North West ward secures electoral equality and uses clear boundaries,

so we are adopting this as part of the draft recommendations. We are also adopting a modified version of the resident's proposals for Pitsea South East ward, adding the area to the north London Road and west of Clay Hill Road to our Nethermayne ward. We consider that this provides a clearer boundary. It also improves electoral equality in Pitsea South East ward. This ward would have 2% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028.

## Conclusions

91 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Basildon, referencing the 2022 and 2028 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2022	2028
Number of councillors	42	42
Number of electoral wards	14	14
Average number of electors per councillor	3,304	3,400
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	1	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Draft recommendations

Basildon Council should be made up of 42 councillors serving 14 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 Basildon Council.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Basildon Council on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

## Parish electoral arrangements

92 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 wards. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

93 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, Basildon 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.

94 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 Wickford Parish Council.

95 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Wickford parish.

### Draft recommendations

Wickford Parish Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Wickford Castledon	4
Wickford North	7
Wickford Park	9

## Have your say

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

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

98 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

99 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Basildon)**  
**LGBCE**  
**PO Box 133**  
**Blyth**  
**NE24 9FE**

100 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Basildon Council which delivers:

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

101 A good pattern of wards should:

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

102 Electoral equality:

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

103 Community identity:

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

104 Effective local government:

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

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

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

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

108 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft



Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Basildon Council in 2024.



## Equalities

109 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.



# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Draft recommendations for Basildon Council

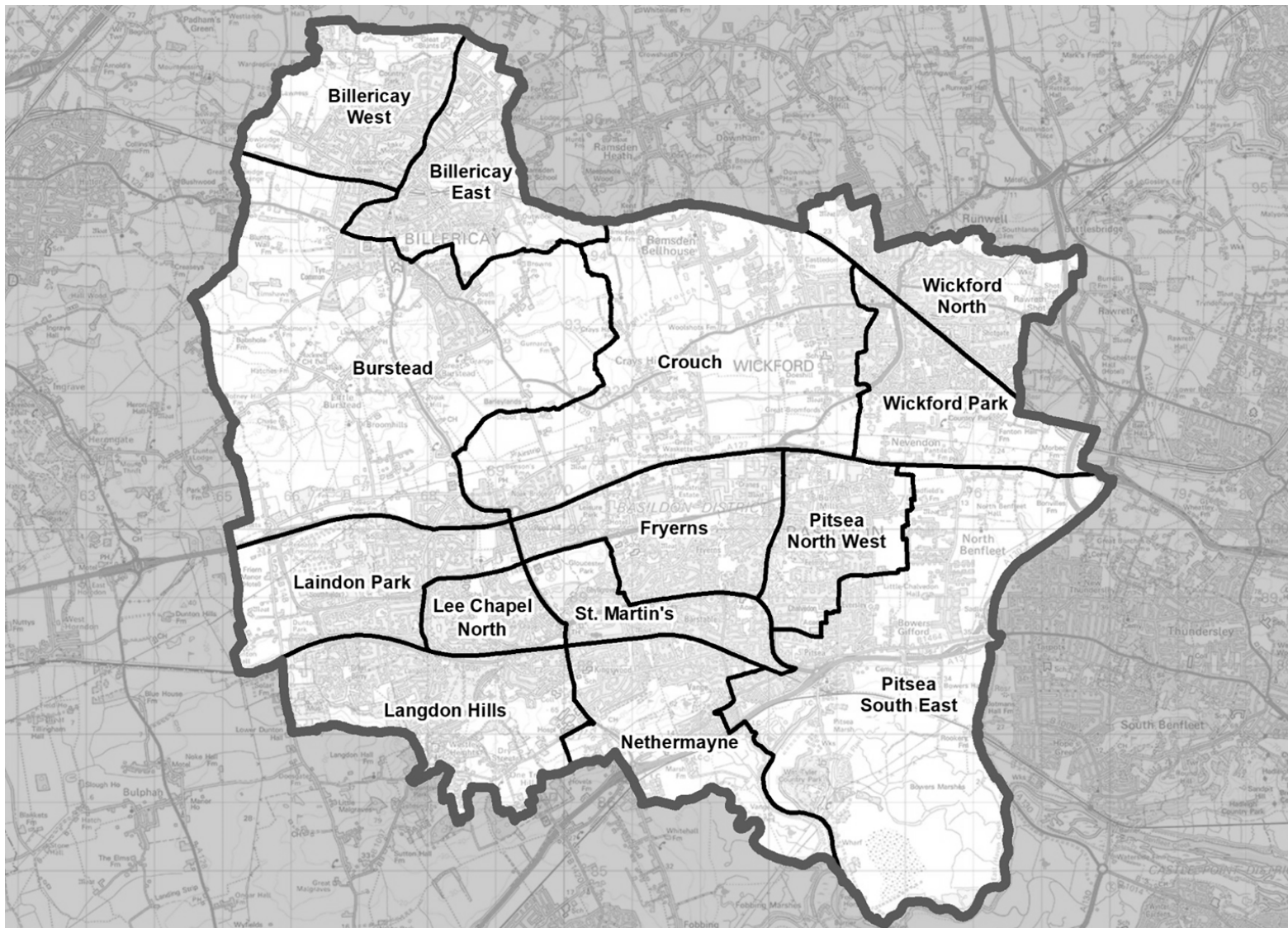
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Billericay East	3	9,433	3,144	-5%	9,419	3,140	-8%
2	Billericay West	3	9,427	3,142	-5%	9,616	3,205	-6%
3	Burstead	3	11,018	3,673	11%	10,964	3,655	7%
4	Crouch	3	9,271	3,090	-6	9,230	3,077	-10%
5	Fryerns	3	10,369	3,456	5%	11,115	3,705	9%
6	Laindon Park	3	9,959	3,320	0%	10,100	3,367	-1%
7	Langdon Hills	3	10,449	3,483	5%	11,229	3,743	10%
8	Lee Chapel North	3	10,076	3,359	2%	10,410	3,470	2%
9	Nethermayne	3	10,230	3,410	3%	10,435	3,478	2%
10	Pitsea North West	3	9,412	3,137	-5%	9,445	3,148	-7%
11	Pitsea South East	3	10,012	3,337	1%	9,963	3,321	-2%
12	St Martin's	3	9,780	3,260	-1%	11,054	3,685	8%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Wickford North	3	10,400	3,467	5%	10,577	3,526	4%
14 Wickford Park	3	8,993	2,978	-10%	9,248	3,083	-9%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>138,769</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>142,805</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,304</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>–</b>

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

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

## Appendix B Outline map



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/eastern/essex/basildon](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/basildon)



## Appendix C

### Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:  
[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/basildon](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/basildon)

#### *Local Authority*

- Basildon Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Basildon Council Labour Group

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor D. Ademuyiwa (Basildon Council)
- Councillor A. Harrison (Basildon Council)
- Councillor M. McGeorge (Basildon Council)
- Councillor A. Schrader (Basildon Council)
- Councillor K. Smith (Basildon Council)
- Councillor K. Wingfield (Basildon Council)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Northland Park Residents' Association
- Pitsea North West Residents' Association

#### *Local Residents*

- 53 local residents

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## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	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

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/eastern/essex/basildon](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/basildon)

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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
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

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/eastern/essex/basildon](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/essex/basildon)

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[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

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