

# New electoral arrangements for Blackpool Council Draft Recommendations

February 2022



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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.<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 Blackpool?

7 We are conducting a review of Blackpool Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2001, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup>

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

- The wards in Blackpool 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 Blackpool

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

10 Blackpool should have 21 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of most 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, and which other communities are in that ward. 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 1 February 2022 to 11 April 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 11 April 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 23 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 Blackpool. 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
17 August 2021	Number of councillors decided
24 August 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
1 November 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
1 February 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
11 April 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
5 July 2022	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.

	2021	2027
Electorate of Blackpool	102,354	101,587
Number of councillors	42	42
Average number of electors per councillor	2,437	2,419

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 Blackpool are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

## 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 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted a decrease in the electorate of around 1% by 2027.

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

<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.

## Number of councillors

26 Blackpool 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.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 42 councillors: for example, 42 one-councillor wards, 21 two-councillor wards, 14 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received several submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. These submissions suggested that the Council having significantly fewer than 42 councillors would result in savings, but did not provide any detail as to how the Council could efficiently discharge its business with a significantly reduced number of members. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 42-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 25 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two borough-wide proposals, from Blackpool Conservative Group ('Conservative Group') and Blackpool Labour Group ('Labour Group'), and a partial scheme from Blackpool South Conservative Association ('Conservative Association') covering the southern wards of the borough. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

30 The Labour Group scheme provided a uniform pattern of two-member wards, while the Conservative Group proposed a mixed pattern of two- and three-member wards. 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. Limited evidence of the community identity of the wards proposed was included in the submissions.

31 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.

32 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a detailed 'virtual' tour of Blackpool. This helped clarify issues

raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the draft recommendations.

## Draft recommendations

33 Our draft recommendations are for 21 two-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

34 The tables and maps on pages 8–20 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Blackpool. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>5</sup> criteria of:

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

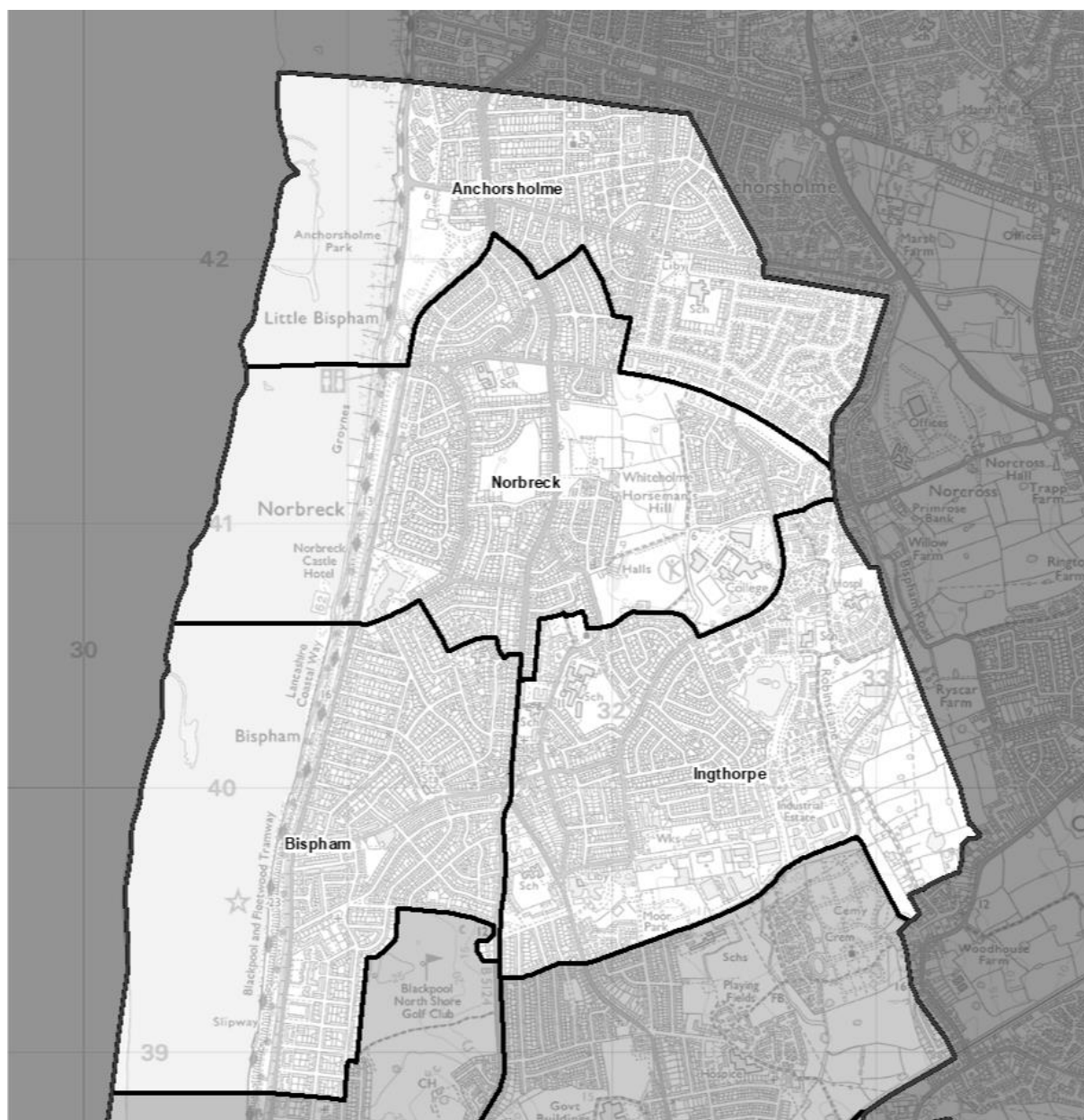
35 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 29 and on the large map accompanying this report.

36 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>5</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Northern Blackpool



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Anchorsholme	2	1%
Bispham	2	1%
Ingthorpe	2	5%
Norbreck	2	1%

### *Anchorsholme and Norbreck*

37 The Conservative and Labour groups' submissions both agreed on retaining the existing wards in this area. Labour referred to Anchorsholme as a well-established community, and cited the Whiteholme Youth & Community Centre and Fleetwood Road Recreation Ground as unifying factors for Norbreck. The

Conservatives described both proposed wards as having a strong identity, and limited forecast growth.

38 We have adopted these proposals, and included them within our draft recommendations. Both wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

#### *Bispham and Ingthorpe*

39 The Labour Group proposal for these wards was again to retain the existing wards, citing a library and community centre in Bispham, and Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre together with GP surgeries and a children's centre as unifying features within the existing and proposed Ingthorpe ward.

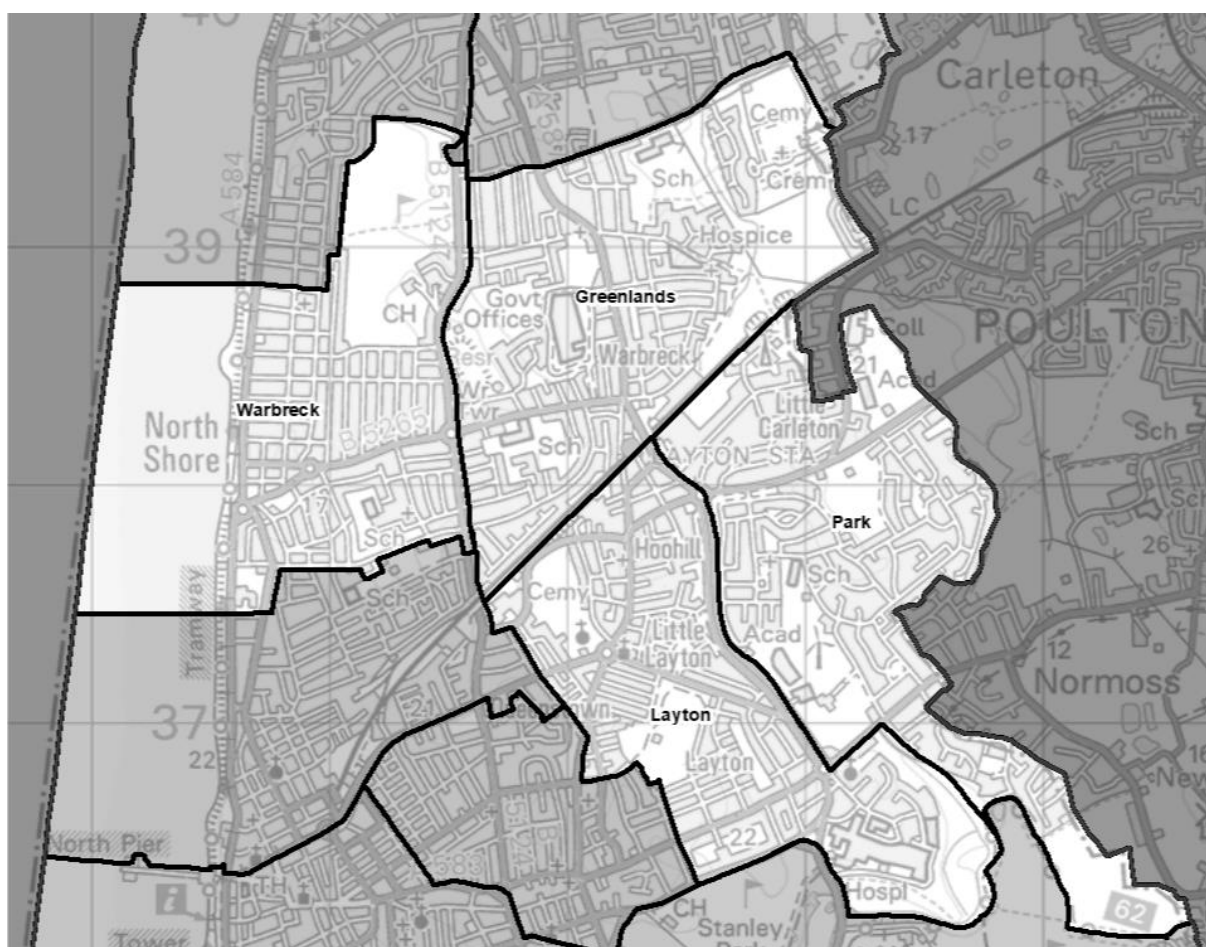
40 The Conservative Group proposed moving the boundary between Bispham and Ingthorpe to the east, to run along All Hallows Road, Blackpool Road and Bispham Road. Evidence was provided suggesting that this area identifies as Bispham, including features such as Bispham Market, Bispham All Hallows Church and Bispham Endowed School.

41 We have carefully considered the proposals in this area. We note that the Conservative proposals would result in an expanded Bispham ward having 13% more electors per councillor than average – beyond the bounds of what we consider to be good electoral equality. Based on the conflicting evidence of community identity, we are not persuaded that this departure from electoral equality is justified in terms of our other statutory criteria. We have therefore adopted the Labour proposals as part of our draft recommendations, with one modification.

42 In order to ensure that the entirety of Blackpool North Shore Golf Club is within a single ward, we propose to adjust the boundary between Bispham and Warbreck wards to place the entire golf course within Warbreck. This change affects very few electors.

43 We would be particularly interested in further evidence as to the community identity of these areas, and whether the names proposed are the best reflections of this identity. Additionally, if Bispham ward were to be expanded to the east of Devonshire Road, we would be interested in evidence or proposals as to corresponding changes which would allow the ward to retain good electoral equality.

## Greenlands, Layton, Park and Warbreck



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Greenlands	2	8%
Layton	2	2%
Park	2	5%
Warbreck	2	-10%

### *Greenlands and Warbreck*

44 The Labour Group proposed no changes to the existing wards in this area, providing evidence of the community identity of the wards in question. The Conservative Group made an alternative proposal, to move the boundary between these wards to the B5124 Devonshire Road. The Conservatives provided evidence that Dudley Avenue, Milford Avenue, Banbury Avenue and Raymond Avenue draw their community identity from Greenlands rather than Warbreck, citing links with Low Moor Community Centre and St Anne's in Greenlands church.

45 With minor modifications relating to Blackpool North Shore Golf Club discussed at para 42, we have adopted the Conservative proposals as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that the evidence provided by the Conservatives as

to community identity is stronger than that provided by Labour, although this decision is a balanced one.

46 We note that these changes leave our proposed Warbreck ward with 10% fewer electors per councillor than average – just within the bounds of good electoral equality. We consider that this is justified by the evidence of community identity provided by the Conservatives, and the fact that Devonshire Road provides a stronger and clearer boundary than that offered by the Labour proposal.

#### *Layton and Park*

47 Both Labour and Conservative groups proposed retaining the existing wards of Layton and Park with no changes. Community facilities such as Layton Community House, Layton Library and the Boathouse Youth Club were cited as providing hubs of community engagement.

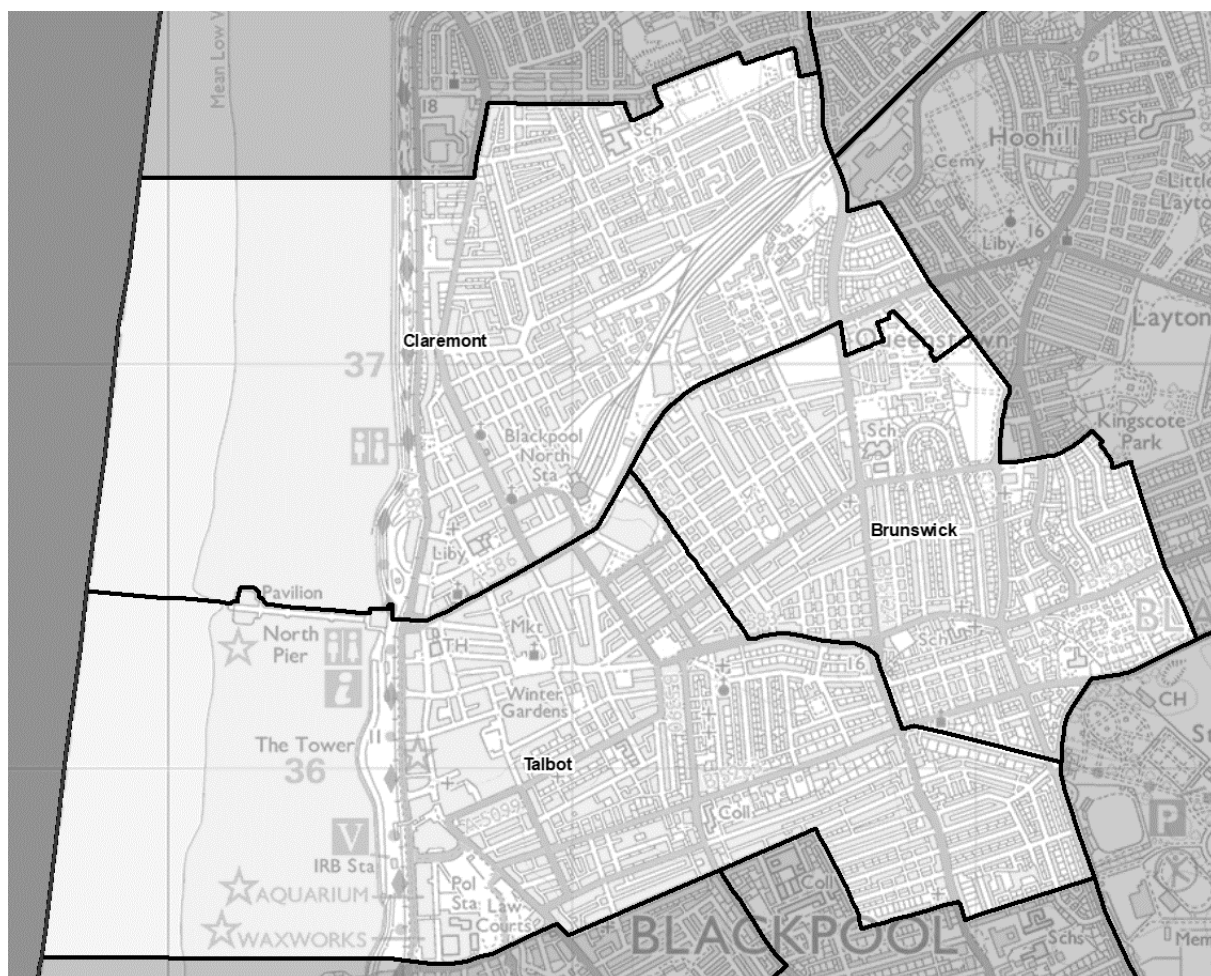
48 A resident, who offered comments on a number of wards across the borough, noted that Park ward was forecast to have an electoral variance of 10%. The resident argued that the only plausible means of improving this variance would be to move Victoria Hospital, and electors to the north of here, into Layton ward.

49 We studied this area in detail on our virtual tour of Blackpool. We consider that, while the A587 East Park Drive undoubtedly represents a strong and clear boundary, there is a distinction between the community of electors along Burwood Drive, Whinney Heys Road and neighbouring streets, and those to the north-east of Dautesey Avenue and Bathurst Avenue. We therefore propose to place the hospital and neighbouring streets in Layton ward, and thus improve the electoral variance of both Layton and Park wards.

50 Subject to the change outlined above, we have adopted the proposals of both Labour and the Conservatives, and propose to retain the remainder of the boundaries of the existing Layton and Park wards as part of our draft recommendations.



## Central Blackpool



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brunswick	2	-8%
Claremont	2	-6%
Talbot	2	-3%

### *Brunswick, Claremont and Talbot*

51 The Conservative and Labour groups' proposals for these wards agreed on the external boundary of the group of wards but offered varying proposals for the internal boundaries between the wards.

52 Labour proposed no changes to the existing wards in this area, providing evidence of the community identity of the wards in question. The Labour proposal cited such community features as Talbot & Brunswick Community Centre, Claremont Park and Westminster Children's Centre.

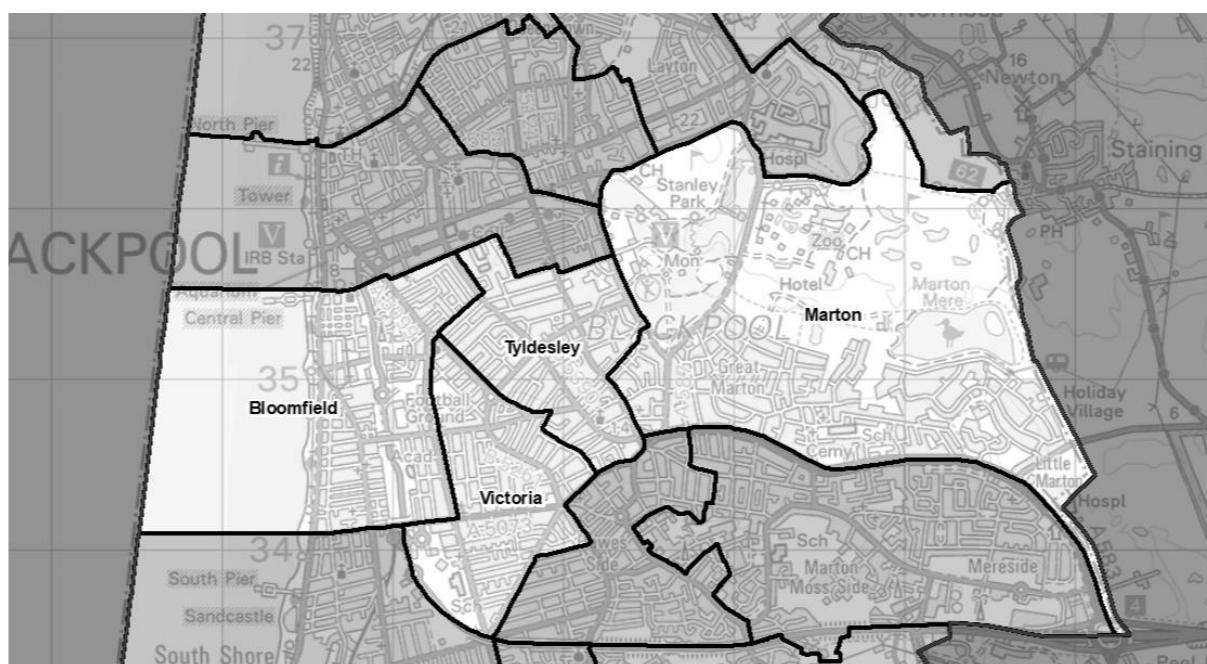
53 The Conservative proposal involved the expansion of Claremont ward to the south, and the merger of the remainder of Talbot and Brunswick wards, under the

Talbot name. The Conservatives argued that uniting all of Blackpool Town Centre within Claremont ward would allow councillors to focus on the needs of this area.

54 The Conservative proposal departs significantly from good electoral equality, with a three-councillor Claremont ward having 13% fewer electors than average, and a two-member Talbot ward having 53% more electors per councillor than average – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality. We note that the proposed Talbot ward would have good electoral equality (2% variance) as a three-councillor ward, but that this change in combination with the rest of the Conservative proposals would result in 43 councillors for the borough as a whole. While we are able to depart from our original ‘minded to’ decision with regard to council size if this would result in a better warding pattern, we are not persuaded that this would be justified based on the evidence available.

55 We have therefore adopted the Labour proposal for these wards, with one modification. Based on the evidence of a resident, and in order to both improve the electoral equality of Brunswick ward (-10% variance on the Labour proposal) and provide a clearer boundary, we propose to move the boundary between Claremont and Brunswick from Boothley Road to Talbot Road, meaning that Hardman Street, Greenhill Place and Henthorne Street will be placed in Brunswick ward. We would welcome further evidence from residents of this area as to whether this proposal accurately reflects their community identity.

## Bloomfield, Marton, Tyldesley and Victoria



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bloomfield	2	-5%
Marton	2	6%
Tyldesley	2	-3%
Victoria	2	-6%

### *Bloomfield*

56 The Conservative and Labour groups' submissions both proposed retaining the existing boundaries of Bloomfield ward, but offered different proposals for the name. The Labour proposal was to retain the existing name, while the Conservatives proposed the name Foxhall, after the historic pub and recent Foxhall village development.

57 We have adopted the combined proposals to retain the boundaries of this ward. In terms of the name, it would be unusual, although not unprecedented, for us to recommend a change of name while retaining the boundaries of an existing ward as we consider that this may lead to confusion among residents who wrongly believe that their ward boundaries have changed. While we propose retaining the existing name as part of our draft recommendations, we would welcome further evidence from residents and others as to whether a name of Bloomfield, Foxhall or some combination of the two best reflects the community identity of this area.

### *Marton*

58 Both Labour and the Conservative groups proposed retaining the existing ward of Marton with no changes. The Labour submission mentioned community facilities such as Marton Mere Nature Reserve and Stanley Park as being important to residents of this area.

59 A resident, who offered comments on a number of wards across the borough, noted that Marton ward was forecast to have an electoral variance of 10%. The resident suggested that, in the area south of Beechfield Avenue, there was no clear distinction between communities, and that this might offer the opportunity to improve the electoral equality of both Tyldesley and Marton wards.

60 While we propose to retain the majority of the existing Marton ward, we have adopted the proposal of the local resident to improve the electoral equality with limited if any impact on community identity. We propose to move the boundary between Marton and Tyldesley wards to Lindsay Avenue, rather than Beechfield Avenue. This change reduces the electoral variance of Marton ward to 6%, and that of Tyldesley to -3%.

### *Tyldesley and Victoria*

61 Once again, the Labour Group proposed retaining the existing wards in this area. Evidence of community identity was offered, with the Labour proposal noting the existence of several community facilities within Victoria ward, such as libraries, a children's centre and a park.

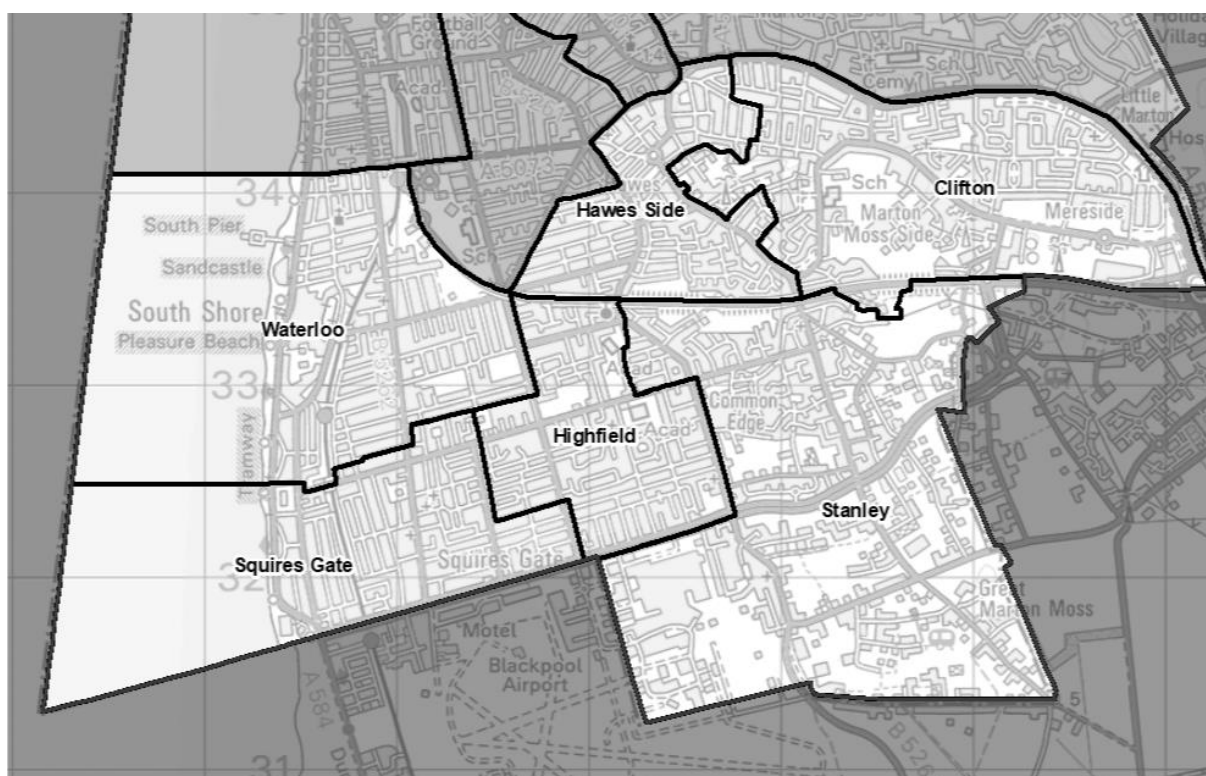
62 The Conservative Group proposal was to adjust the boundary between these wards to run along Bloomfield Road and Kirkham Avenue. The Conservative Group also proposed to name this ward Revoe, noting that as a result of the boundary change, Revoe Park, Revoe Library and Revoe School would be within this ward.

63 The Conservative Group's proposed Revoe ward would be forecast to have an electoral variance of -11%, just outside what we consider to be good electoral equality. The proposed boundary along Kirkham Avenue, a small residential cul-de-sac, would not be a clear and recognisable boundary, although the existing boundary along Boardman Avenue, Stoke Avenue and Fir Grove, which Labour proposes to retain, is not particularly strong either.

64 Blackpool South Conservative Association, supported by Scott Benton MP, proposed adding a number of streets south of the A5073 to Tyldesley ward. Although this would retain good electoral equality, we consider that in this area the A5073 represents a strong and clear boundary. This proposal was also dependent upon a number of proposals for neighbouring wards, which we have not been persuaded to adopt.

65 We have considered all proposals for these wards carefully, and consider that this decision is particularly finely balanced. On balance, we do not consider that the evidence of community identity provided in the Conservative Group's proposals is sufficient to justify the departure from electoral equality in the proposed Revoe ward, and hence we have adopted the Labour proposal to retain the existing wards in this area, with the minor modification to Tyldesley and Marton wards, discussed above (para 59–60). We retain an open mind, and would welcome further evidence in this area, with regard to the community identity of the areas in question, potential boundaries and the names of the wards.

## Southern Blackpool



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Clifton	2	-1%
Hawes Side	2	0%
Highfield	2	7%
Squires Gate	2	2%
Stanley	2	3%
Waterloo	2	1%

### *Clifton and Stanley*

66 The Labour and Conservative groups' submissions both proposed retaining the existing Clifton ward, with the Labour submission providing evidence of community groups, Mereside Park & Garden and Clifton Library as unifying features. Blackpool South Conservative Association, in contrast, proposed moving the southern boundary of Clifton ward to Cherry Tree Road / Clifton Road, with the area south of this road moving into Stanley ward.

67 The Conservative Association indicated that Cherry Tree Road and Clifton Road divided the ward, although little specific evidence was provided. However, under their proposal, electors to the south of this road would be placed in a ward with those significantly to the south, in a manner that we do not consider reflects the community identity of this area. Electors with addresses on the south of Cherry Tree Road, and on Lee Road in particular, would be isolated within the rest of Stanley

ward. We have therefore not adopted these proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

68 We have adopted the proposal of the Conservative Association to adjust the boundary between Clifton and Stanley wards, to run south of Yeadon Way in the area of Whalley Lane, in order to ensure that electors on the latter road have access to the remainder of Clifton ward. We have further modified our proposed Clifton ward, to ensure that electors on Cowley Road and the north side of Vicarage Lane are placed within Hawes Side ward, rather than being isolated within Clifton ward.

69 The existing Stanley ward is forecast to have a variance of 26% by 2027. The Conservative Group proposed retaining the boundaries of this ward, but providing an extra councillor. This would result in a three-councillor ward with a variance of -16%, still well outside the range of good electoral equality. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

70 The Conservative Association's proposal for Stanley ward was dependent upon their proposals for Clifton ward (discussed at para 66–67), and Hawes Side ward (discussed at para 74–75). In addition, a number of electors within the Conservative Association's proposed Stanley ward would be relatively isolated and distant from the bulk of the ward. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

71 The Labour proposal for Stanley ward was based on the existing ward, but with the western boundary running along Henson Avenue, Willowbank Avenue and Common Edge Road. This proposed ward would be forecast to have 11% more electors than average by 2027 – just outside what we consider to be good electoral equality.

72 We propose to modify Labour's proposed Stanley ward, to further improve this variance. We propose that the western boundary of Stanley ward should run along Common Edge Road between Highfield Road and Progress Way. This allows both Stanley and Highfield wards to have good electoral equality and avoids splitting relatively small streets such as Collyhurst Avenue and Willowbank Avenue between different wards.

### *Hawes Side*

73 The Labour Group proposed retaining the existing Hawes Side ward, noting the community hub of the Baines Children's Centre and the links between this and local schools. The Conservative Group did not make an explicit proposal for Hawes Side in their submission, but by implication supported the retention of the existing ward.

74 The Blackpool South Conservative Association proposed significant changes to the existing ward, with the southern boundary moving south of Yeadon Way, to Highfield Road. The Conservative Association argued that the community in this

area was focussed on Aysgarth Court, and that the fact of Yeadon Way being atop an embankment meant that it did not form a barrier between communities.

75 We considered this proposal carefully. We consider that, while Highfield Road could be used as a clear and recognisable boundary, Yeadon Way continues to offer a very strong and clear boundary. Significantly, Yeadon Way offers a barrier to pedestrian as well as vehicular access, with only two pedestrian crossing points in addition to vehicular access at either end of the proposed ward at Vicarage Lane and Hawes Side Lane. We have therefore not been persuaded to adopt this proposal.

76 We are adopting the Labour proposal to retain the existing Hawes Side ward as part of our draft recommendations.

77 We retain an open mind on our draft recommendations and would be particularly interested in further evidence from residents of the area between Yeadon Way and Highfield Road as to where they consider their community identity lies.

#### *Highfield, Squires Gate and Waterloo*

78 The Conservative Group proposed retaining the existing wards in this area, while the Blackpool South Conservative Association did not make a proposal for these wards.

79 The Labour Group proposed retaining the existing Waterloo ward, which was described as having a 'strong community', with Watson Road Park and Thames Children's Centre cited as unifying facilities. The Labour proposal for Highfield and Squires Gate wards closely follow the existing wards, with changes based on the need to shrink the size of Stanley ward (discussed at para 71–72).

80 A resident suggested that Squires Gate ward could expand to the north, to take in the area east of the railway line and south of Watson Road. We note that this proposal would have the effect of dividing Blackpool Pleasure Beach between wards, in a way that we do not consider would be compatible with effective and convenient local government. We have therefore not adopted it.

81 A resident provided evidence that there was no clear divide between communities in Highfield and Squires Gate wards, and that therefore these wards could be amalgamated. While we will not recommend wards of more than three members, we are grateful for the evidence that the community identity of this area is broadly similar on both sides of any potential boundary.

82 We have broadly adopted the Labour proposals, subject to the change to the eastern boundary of Highfield ward described above, and an alteration to the northern boundary of Squires Gate. The Labour proposal was for Squires Gate to have 10% more electors per councillor than average – only just within the bounds of good electoral equality. By moving the northern boundary of this ward southwards, from Horncliffe Road to Bournemouth Road and Swanage Avenue, we are able to



improve the electoral equality of both Squires Gate and Waterloo wards. We would welcome further evidence as to whether this change is compatible with the community identities of this area.

## Conclusions

83 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Blackpool, referencing the 2021 and 2027 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	
	2021	2027
Number of councillors	42	42
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	2,437	2,419
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Draft recommendations

Blackpool Borough Council should be made up of 42 councillors serving 21 two-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 Blackpool Borough Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Blackpool on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

## Have your say

84 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.

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

86 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)

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

**Review Officer (Blackpool)**  
**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**  
**PO Box 133**  
**Blyth**  
**NE24 9FE**

88 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Blackpool 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.

89 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.

90 Electoral equality:

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

91 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?

92 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?

93 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.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

94 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.

95 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.

96 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 Blackpool in 2023.



## Equalities

97 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 Blackpool Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Anchorsholme	2	4,977	2,489	2%	4,900	2,450	1%
2	Bispham	2	4,894	2,447	0%	4,872	2,436	1%
3	Bloomfield	2	4,436	2,218	-9%	4,619	2,309	-5%
4	Brunswick	2	4,627	2,314	-5%	4,473	2,237	-8%
5	Claremont	2	4,755	2,378	-2%	4,539	2,269	-6%
6	Clifton	2	4,803	2,402	-1%	4,787	2,394	-1%
7	Greenlands	2	5,345	2,673	10%	5,230	2,615	8%
8	Hawes Side	2	5,025	2,513	3%	4,849	2,424	0%
9	Highfield	2	5,453	2,727	12%	5,200	2,600	7%
10	Ingthorpe	2	5,060	2,530	4%	5,061	2,530	5%
11	Layton	2	5,056	2,528	4%	4,925	2,462	2%
12	Marton	2	5,016	2,508	3%	5,136	2,568	6%

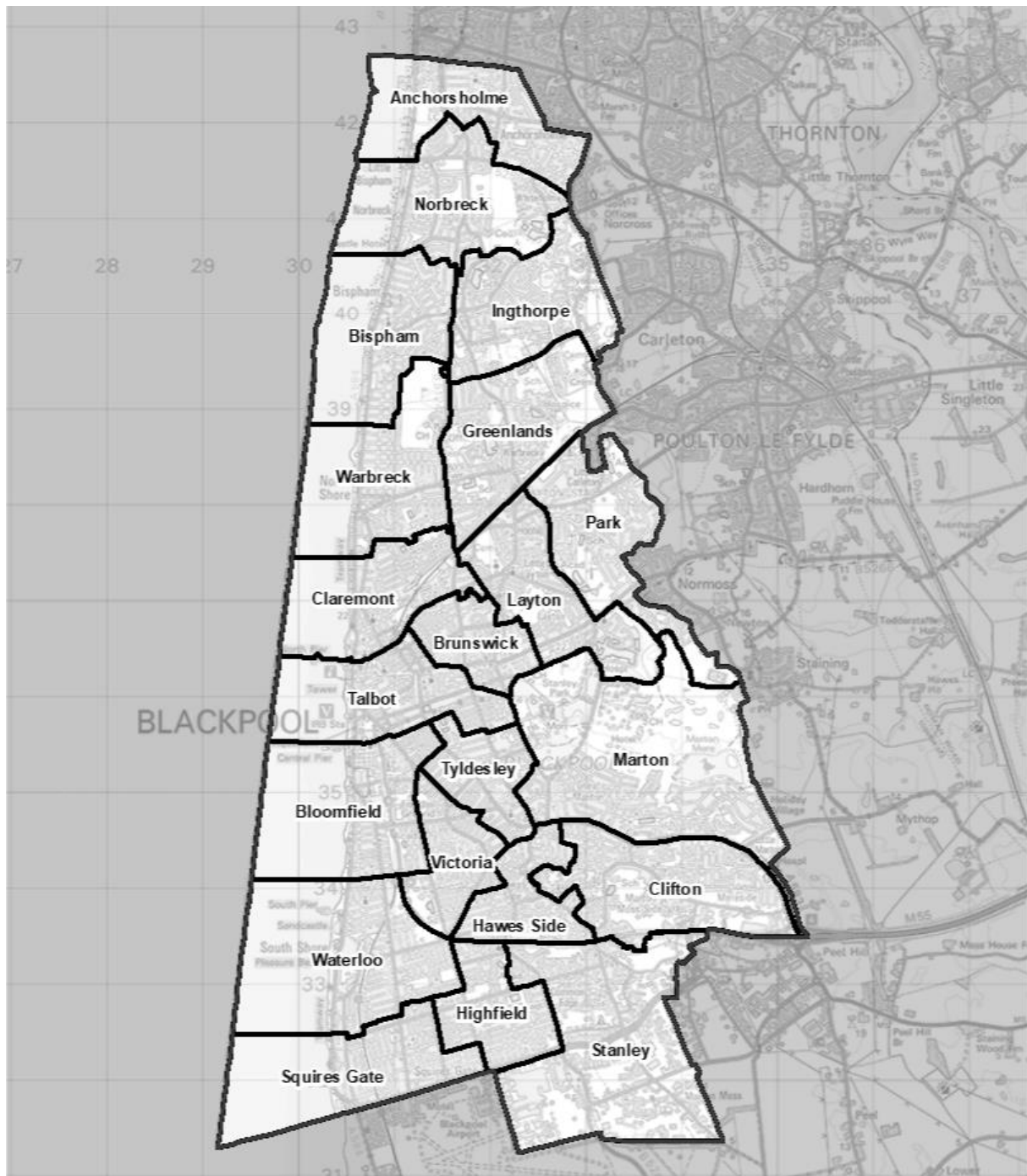
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Norbreck	2	4,890	2,445	0%	4,878	2,439	1%
14 Park	2	4,881	2,441	0%	5,076	2,538	5%
15 Squires Gate	2	4,981	2,491	2%	4,931	2,466	2%
16 Stanley	2	4,152	2,076	-15%	4,964	2,482	3%
17 Talbot	2	4,642	2,321	-5%	4,674	2,337	-3%
18 Tyldesley	2	5,019	2,510	3%	4,668	2,334	-3%
19 Victoria	2	4,585	2,293	-6%	4,541	2,270	-6%
20 Warbreck	2	4,671	2,336	-4%	4,361	2,181	-10%
21 Waterloo	2	5,086	2,543	4%	4,904	2,452	1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>102,354</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101,587</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,437</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Blackpool Borough 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/north-west/lancashire/blackpool](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/lancashire/blackpool)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:  
[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/lancashire/blackpool](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/lancashire/blackpool)

#### *Political Groups*

- Blackpool Council Conservative Group
- Blackpool Council Labour Group
- Blackpool South Conservative Association

#### *Members of Parliament*

- Scott Benton MP (Blackpool South)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Trades Union Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 20 local residents

## 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

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

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

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

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

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