

New electoral arrangements for Chesterfield Borough Council Final Recommendations

August 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.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- 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.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Chesterfield?

7 We are conducting a review of Chesterfield Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was carried out in 1998 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² Some councillors also currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Chesterfield 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 Chesterfield

9 Chesterfield should be represented by 40 councillors, eight fewer than there are now.

10 Chesterfield should have 16 wards, three fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 18 wards should change; one will stay the same.

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

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the 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

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

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

Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 April 2021	Number of councillors decided
11 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
19 July 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 November 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
10 January 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 March 2022	Publication of further draft recommendations; start of limited consultation
9 May 2022	End of limited consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
2 August 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

	2021	2027
Electorate of Chesterfield	78,395	84,307
Number of councillors	40	40
Average number of electors per councillor	1,960	2,108

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Chesterfield will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council initially submitted electorate forecasts for 2030, a period eight years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 8%. However, Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act states that we should take into account any changes to the number and distribution of electors that are likely to take place within the five years following the end of a review. In Chesterfield's case, the time period we are able to consider is up to 2027. This means that we are unable to take account of growth in the period between 2027 and 2030.

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

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

23 This discrepancy was noted during our assessment of the proposals received from the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups on the Council. We subsequently asked the Council to provide forecasts for 2027. These revised figures predicted an increase in the electorate of around 7% and these were used as the basis of our draft recommendations.

24 We also noted that the Council appeared to have allocated an area of growth in Staveley incorrectly. Its original figures showed the growth in the Inkersall area, while mapping provided by the Council showed the growth as occurring in the Middlecroft/Staveley area. Having clarified this discrepancy with the Council, the growth has been confirmed as forecast for the Middlecroft/Staveley area. This had a knock-on effect to some of the levels of electoral equality for the proposals received.

25 In response to the draft recommendations, the Labour Group questioned why the electorate in West ward was projected to decrease. We queried this with the Council which identified that one polling district projected to decline by 58 electors, would actually grow by 31. As a result, our recommendations for West ward would see a small increase in electorate by 2027. We have incorporated this revised figure into our final recommendations.

26 We received no other significant new comments on electoral forecasts in response to the draft recommendations. Subject to the amendment identified above, we are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

27 Chesterfield Borough Council currently has 48 councillors. The Council put forward evidence for reducing its council size to 40, while Chesterfield Liberal Democrats ('Liberal Democrat Group') proposed a reduction to 38. Both proposals put forward good evidence for a significant reduction in council size. However, on balance, we considered that the Council put forward the best balance of evidence and concluded that decreasing council size by eight would ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 40 councillors, for example, 40 single-councillor wards, or a mix of single-, two- and three-councillor wards.

29 We received a number of general comments on council size in response to our consultation on ward patterns. However, we received no significant new evidence. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 40-councillor council.

30 We received no significant comments on the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. We therefore based our final recommendations on a 40-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

31 We received 17 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a borough-wide proposal from the Labour Group on the Council and a partial scheme from the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

32 We received a number of general comments about the review process. A resident argued that all wards only required a single councillor, but did not provide strong evidence or specific proposals. A number of other respondents argued that three-councillor wards should be reduced to two councillors but did not put forward strong evidence.

33 A resident argued that Calow should be added to Chesterfield, but we are unable to amend the external boundary of the borough as part of this review. Another resident stated that the level of representation should take into account the level of deprivation in a community. We acknowledged the concerns that deprivation may bring in terms of representation and workload. However, when we consulted on our policies and procedures, some people said that urban areas should have proportionately more councillors than rural areas because urban areas present the more complex issues. Others argued that rural areas should have proportionately more councillors because rural populations are more dispersed, and therefore harder to contact. There is no provision in legislation for such proportionality. Therefore, we cannot have specific regard for these issues.

34 A number of respondents also put forward comments referring to the impact of borough wards on the formulation of Parliamentary boundaries. However, we cannot take account of the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies as part of an electoral review.

35 The Labour Group's borough-wide scheme and the Liberal Democrats' partial scheme provided mixed patterns of two- and three-councillor wards for Chesterfield. We carefully considered the proposals received, noting that the Labour Group proposed a number of wards with poor electoral equality, with variances of over 10%. Our draft recommendations are based on elements of the Labour Group and Liberal Democrat proposals. However, 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.

36 As a result of the unprecedented circumstances related to the outbreak of COVID-19, we were unable to conduct a visit to the area at this point to look at the different proposals on the ground. However, we were able to conduct a detailed, virtual tour of Chesterfield. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

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

Draft recommendations consultation

38 We received 43 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included borough-wide comments from the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups on the Council and Toby Perkins MP. We received a mixture of support and objection for the proposals across the borough, including a significant number of objections to our proposals to transfer Hollingwood to Brimington North ward. Councillor Catt and four local residents put forward general objections to the proposals. A resident stated that there should be 13 three-councillor wards but did not provide strong evidence or specific proposals. Another resident questioned the external boundary of Brimington parish. However, we are unable to amend the external boundaries of parishes as part of this review.

39 Having considered the representations received, we considered that we should undertake a period of further consultation in the Dunston and Whittington Moor and central Chesterfield areas. Accordingly, we published 'Further draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements in Dunston, Whittington Moor and central Chesterfield areas of Chesterfield Borough Council' where we detailed an alternative pattern of wards to those outlined in the draft recommendations. In the remainder of the borough our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations, subject to a change between Brimington North and Staveley South wards, around Hollingwood. We proposed a further minor change between Rother and Walton wards.

Further draft recommendations consultation

40 We received 24 submissions in response to the further draft recommendations, including comments from Chesterfield Borough Council Labour Group and Chesterfield Liberal Democrats. We also received comments from Loundsley Green Community Trust and 21 local residents. Respondents put forward a mixture of support and objection to our further proposals, as well as a number of new suggestions.

41 Following receipt of the submissions, we visited the areas subject to further consultation in order to look at the various proposals on the ground. This visit helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

42 We received a number of responses on areas not put forward as part of our further draft recommendations. We have been unable to consider these comments as we were not seeking further information on these areas, and it would be unfair to other people who may have wished to comment but did not because they did not realise comments would be considered.

Final recommendations

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

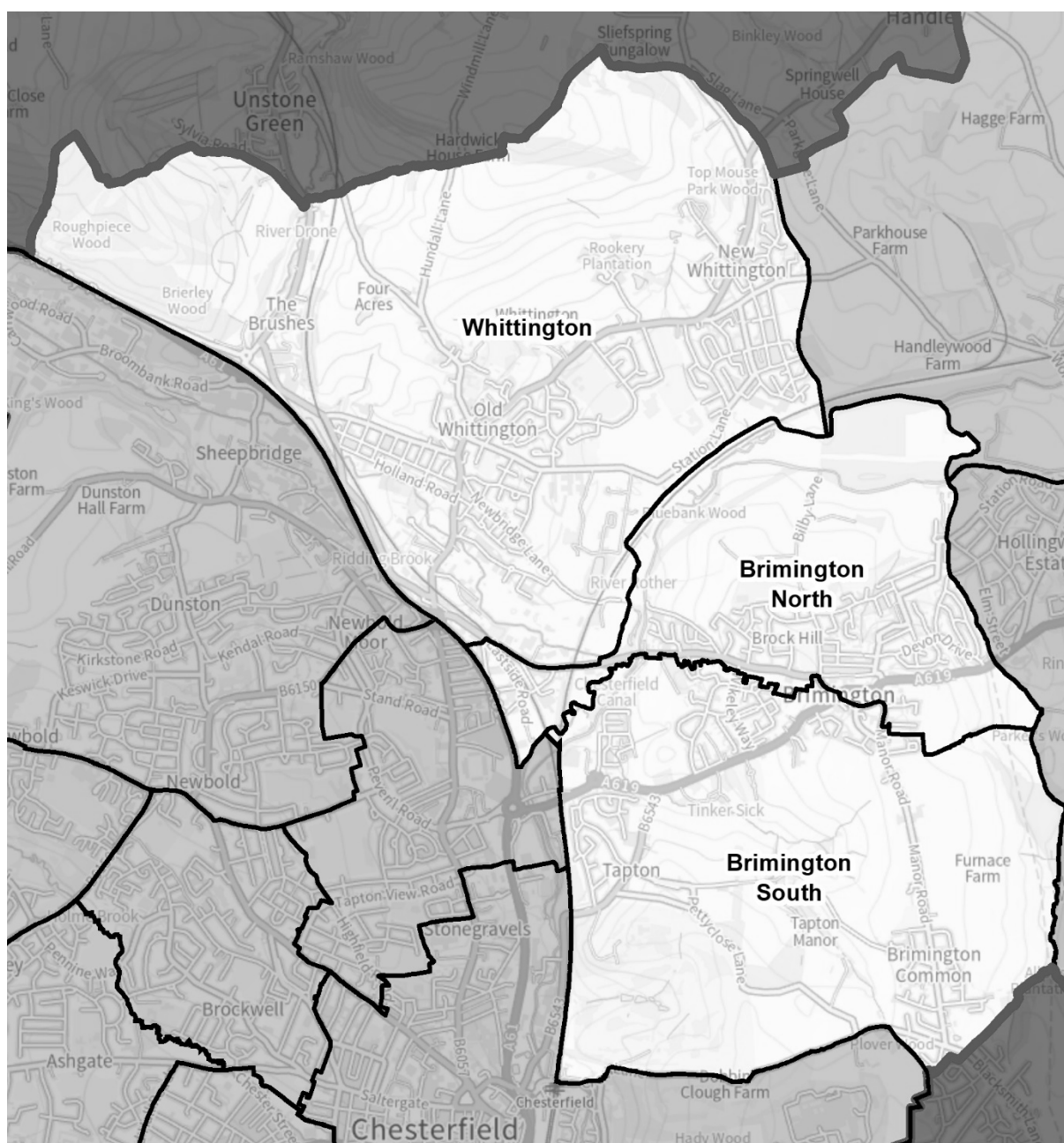
44 The tables and maps on pages 10–24 detail our final recommendations for each area of Chesterfield. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

45 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 25 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Brimington and Whittington



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brimington North	2	-10%
Brimington South	2	7%
Whittington	3	7%

Brimington North and Brimington South

46 In response to the draft recommendations there was a mixture of support and objection to the proposals for these wards. The Labour Group and Toby Perkins MP expressed support for the draft recommendations. They rejected any argument that by placing Hollingwood in a ward with Brimington it would lose its involvement in the

Staveley Town Deal or indeed with Staveley Town Council. They also stated that the county division includes Hollingwood in a division with Brimington and that the county councillor attends parish meetings in Brimington and Staveley and covers casework for residents in both areas. They argued that a borough councillor would do the same, covering both areas. They reiterated that Hollingwood is closer to Brimington, rather than being linked to Inkersall Green and Duckmanton. Finally, the Labour Group expressed support for the boundary between Brimington North and Brimington South wards, particularly as it leaves the village green accessible to all residents.

47 The Liberal Democrat Group objected to the draft recommendations. They objected to the inclusion of Hollingwood in a ward with Brimington, arguing that it is part of Staveley Town Council. They also restated Hollingwood's links to Barrow Hill to the north in Staveley parish, adding that the links between them would be strengthened when the former Staveley Works site is developed for housing. They therefore reiterated support for their original proposal for two two-councillor Brimington wards, with Hollingwood in a Staveley ward. They also argued that the Eastside Road area to the west of Brimington North ward should be transferred to the Whittington ward, arguing that the boundary looks 'strange' and that it is closer to the houses in that ward.

48 Councillors Mann and Bagshaw stated that Hollingwood should not be in a ward with Brimington, but rather remain in the existing ward with Inkersall. They stated that they had canvassed local support and received overwhelming support for retaining the existing ward – however, while they stated that they had delivered a survey to 1,110 homes and had received 93% support for the existing ward, they did not state how many responses they had received.

49 Hollingwood Residents' Association and around 15 local residents also objected to the inclusion of Hollingwood in a Brimington ward, expressing links to Staveley. The Residents' Association argued that the draft recommendation would separate it from Ringwood Park, which lies in Staveley, and in which they had recently donated money for the creation of a BMX track. They expressed concern that if they were no longer in a Staveley ward it may be harder to help develop the park.

50 We have given careful consideration to the evidence, noting the support and objection to the draft recommendations. We note the concerns about separating Hollingwood from Staveley. While we accept the argument from the Labour Group and Toby Perkins MP that a councillor would be able to cover an area of Staveley parish and that the area would not lose access to the Staveley Town Deal, we acknowledge the concerns about the involvement in Staveley as cited by the Residents' Association around Ringwood Park. In addition, we have had no support from residents for the inclusion of Hollingwood in a Brimington ward.

51 We note that it is possible to retain Hollingwood in Staveley South ward by increasing the ward to three councillors, while reducing Brimington North to a two-councillor ward. As a two-councillor ward, Brimington North would have 10% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027. While this could be improved by transferring electors from Brimington South ward, we believe this would weaken the boundary, noting the support from the Labour Group. On balance, we are persuaded to transfer Hollingwood to Staveley South ward (discussed in more detail below), while reducing Brimington North to two councillors.

52 Finally, we note the comments from the Liberal Democrat Group that the Eastside Road area should be transferred to Whittington ward. However, this was the only comment we received and, since it would further worsen electoral equality in the two-councillor Brimington North ward to -11%, we have not been persuaded to amend our draft recommendations here. Under our final recommendations, our two-councillor Brimington North and Brimington South wards would have 10% fewer and 7% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

Whittington

53 In response to the draft recommendations, we received general support for this ward, reflecting the links between Old Whittington and New Whittington. A number of respondents supported the rejection of a ward that crosses the A61. Given the support for the proposals, we are confirming the three-councillor Whittington ward as final.

Staveley



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Staveley Central	2	5%
Staveley North	2	9%
Staveley South	3	1%

Staveley Central, Staveley North and Staveley South

54 In response to draft recommendations we received a mixture of support and objections for the wards in this area. As discussed in detail in the Brimington section (paragraphs 46–52), the evidence has persuaded us that Hollingwood should be retained in a Staveley ward.

55 We note the support for our draft proposals for Staveley from the Labour Group and Toby Perkins MP. Toby Perkins MP expressed support for the Staveley Central and Staveley North wards, stating that the boundary could be stronger but acknowledging the need to secure electoral equality. Finally, he expressed support for the ward names, arguing that the existing ward names excluded certain village names, creating ‘unhappiness’.

56 The Liberal Democrat Group objected to the draft recommendations. They objected to the inclusion of Hollingwood in a ward with Brimington, arguing that it is part of Staveley Town Council (as discussed in paragraph 47). They therefore reiterated support for their original proposal, including transferring Duckmanton to Staveley Central, restating that it is closer to Poolsbrook than Inkersall Green. They also objected to the boundary between the Staveley Central and Staveley North wards, arguing that they divide the Lowgates area, while adding Barrow Hill to the north ward.

57 A local resident stated that Barrow Hill should be in a ward with Hollingwood or Whittington, but not with Mastin Moor or Woodthorpe in the Staveley North ward.

58 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. As already discussed in the previous section, we have been persuaded that Hollingwood should be retained in a Staveley ward and we propose putting Hollingwood in the Staveley South ward with Inkersall Green. To accommodate Hollingwood, this ward would be increased to three councillors.

59 We also note the Liberal Democrat Group proposals for wards based on their original submission, including placing Barrow Hill in a ward with Hollingwood. While they have restated evidence of the links between Hollingwood and Barrow Hill, we remain unpersuaded by including Barrow Hill in a ward that stretches to Inkersall Green. It is our understanding that any development of the Staveley Works site would happen outside the forecast period of this review. In addition, as stated in the draft recommendations, this proposal would also require Duckmanton to be transferred to Staveley Central ward and require further amendments to Staveley Central to secure electoral equality. While the Liberal Democrat Group suggested one possible amendment would be to retain electors in the Lowgates area in Staveley North ward, therefore avoiding the division of this area, we would also have to transfer electors to Staveley South ward to secure electoral equality. The Liberal Democrat Group had previously suggested transferring an area around Cromford Drive, but their original boundary did not have good internal road access. We have concluded that we would need to transfer a larger area to secure electoral equality. The only possible option we have identified would be an area around Fern Avenue, but we consider this would divide this residential area.

60 Therefore, given our concerns about a ward containing Barrow Hill and Inkersall Green and the need to divide the Fern Avenue area, we are not proposing any further amendments. We are confirming our draft recommendations for two-councillor Staveley Central and Staveley North wards as final, while confirming our revised Staveley South ward as a three-councillor ward, containing Hollingwood.

61 Finally, we note the support from Toby Perkins MP for the proposed ward names. We are confirming the proposed names as final.

Dunston and Whittington Moor



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Dunston	3	4%
Whittington Moor	2	7%

Dunston and Whittington Moor

62 As set out in our further draft recommendations report, we gave careful consideration to the evidence received for this area during the consultation on the draft recommendations. On the balance of the evidence received, we proposed modifications to the Dunston and Whittington Moor wards.

63 In response to the further draft recommendations, we received support for our amended wards. The Labour Group expressed support, stating that the proposals united the Whittington Moor community. However, they objected to our proposal not to include the whole of the Tapton View Road and Edinburgh Road area in Whittington Moor, reiterating that their proposed amendment would create a clearer

boundary and avoid splitting Tapton View Road between wards. The Liberal Democrats stated that while the Ringwood Avenue area has never been part of Dunston, it does have 'links in that direction'. However, they added that the secondary school on Highfield Avenue serves parts of Moor ward.

64 Three residents expressed support for the changes, arguing that our proposal created a Whittington Moor ward focused around the services and community on Sheffield Road. One of the residents also argued that Dunston ward should be named Dunston & Newbold, citing the 'Newbold' name in Outwood Academy Newbold and the inclusion of shops and houses from Newbold village in the ward. However, another resident objected to this suggestion, arguing that the proposals divided the Newbold area and it would either be confusing to have the area named in two wards, or divisive to only name it in one ward.

65 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the broad support for our further draft recommendations. On that basis, we are broadly adopting these wards as part of our final recommendations. However, we have made an amendment to the Whittington Moor ward in the Tapton View Road area.

66 The further draft recommendations rejected the transfer of this area to Whittington Moor ward, stating that this would disrupt the link along Newbold Road in our three-councillor Brockwell ward. However, as discussed below, our final recommendations retain the area to the west of the town centre in Spire ward, thus reverting to a two-councillor Brockwell ward in this area. Our concern about the links along Newbold Road therefore no longer apply. In addition, our visit to the area suggested that Tapton View Road should not be split between wards and that the Edinburgh Road area has good links into Whittington Moor via Highfield Road and Tapton View Road.

67 Finally, we note that there was support and objections to the inclusion of 'Newbold' in the Dunston ward name. However, the evidence is inconclusive and we note the concerns that including 'Newbold' in only one ward name may not accurately reflect the geography across the areas. Therefore, we are not amending the Dunston ward name.

68 Subject to the amendment around Tapton View Road, we are confirming our further draft proposals for a three-councillor Dunston and two-councillor Whittington Moor ward as final. These wards would have 4% more and 7% more electors than the district average by 2027.

West Chesterfield



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brampton East & Boythorpe	2	-10%
Brampton West & Loundsley Green	3	-7%
Linacre	2	5%
Rother	3	-10%
Walton	3	-9%

Linacre

69 In response to the draft recommendations we received general support for this ward. The Labour Group stated that it still considered that its original proposal created a strong ward, but accepted the argument that Loundsley Green Road is a natural boundary and therefore supported the draft recommendations. The Liberal Democrat Group also expressed support for Linacre ward, arguing it is a more coherent ward.

70 In light of the support for the proposed Linacre ward, we are confirming it as final.

Brampton East & Boythorpe and Brampton West & Loundsley Green

71 In response to the draft recommendations for our Brampton and West wards we received support for some elements, but also objections. While the Labour Group and Toby Perkins MP accepted that Somersall Park is a distinct boundary between West ward and Walton ward, they objected to the inclusion of the area to the north of Old Hall Road in West ward, arguing that this is part of Brampton and should be in the Brampton ward. They stated that local people were opposed to this proposal and Councillor Gilby provided evidence of community engagement that universally objected to the inclusion of the area in West ward, instead arguing it should be in Brampton ward. A local resident also supported the inclusion of Old Hall Road in Brampton, citing links to facilities there.

72 The Labour Group argued that even with this amendment, parts of Brampton would be excluded. They therefore proposed renaming the revised wards as Brampton East & Boythorpe and Brampton West & Loundsley Green, reflecting the constituent areas in the wards. Finally, the Labour Group expressed concern that the draft recommendations predicted that the electorate of West ward would fall between 2021 and 2027, arguing that correct level of development had not been allocated.

73 The Liberal Democrat Group expressed support for the West ward, noting that it used clear boundaries, although they also argued that the whole of Old Hall Road should perhaps be included in Brampton ward. Otherwise, the Group expressed general support for the Brampton ward, including the inclusion of Boythorpe in a single ward. However, they did suggest that Brampton ward should be renamed Brampton & Boythorpe to reflect the constituent areas in the ward.

74 A resident expressed support for the inclusion of Chatsworth Road in West ward. Another resident supported the inclusion of Old Road in West ward.

75 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting that there is some support for the draft recommendations. However, we acknowledge the concerns about Brampton, particularly around Old Hall Road. We note that the

proposal from the Labour Group would improve electoral equality in Brampton ward, although it stated that it would also worsen it in West ward to 13% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027. As stated in the Electorate figures section above, we acknowledged the Labour Group argument that the forecast figures in West ward did not include growth that should be attributed to the area. The Council have revised their forecast figures in this area. However, under the revised figures the Labour Group's West ward would have 14% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

76 Although we acknowledge the concerns about Brampton, we do not consider there to be sufficient evidence of community links to justify a ward with 13% or 14% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027. Indeed, we note that the Labour Group argued that even with this amendment, areas of Brampton would remain outside of Brampton ward. We therefore explored whether there were any further areas that could be transferred to West ward to improve electoral equality there. However, given the ward's position at the edge of the borough and the number of clear boundaries that have received support, including Loundsley Green Road, Somersall Park and Holme Brook, we have been unable to identify an area to transfer. We also consider that Old Hall Road provides a clear boundary. We therefore have not amended our proposed boundary between Brampton and West wards.

77 However, in order to reflect the argument that elements of Brampton are divided between wards, we are adopting the proposed names of Brampton East & Boythorpe and Brampton West & Loundsley Green, noting that these reflect the constituent areas within the proposed wards.

78 Our Brampton East & Boythorpe and Brampton West & Loundsley Green wards would have 10% fewer and 7% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

Rother and Walton

79 In response to the draft recommendations for our Rother and Walton wards we received some general support, but also suggestions for a number of small amendments. The Labour Group expressed qualified support for these wards, while reiterating support for elements of their original proposals. The Group expressed support for including Whitecotes Lane in Walton, using the railway line between Rother and Hasland wards, and transferring areas of the existing St Leonard's ward to Rother ward. They did propose a minor amendment, transferring Fisher Close from Walton ward to Rother, arguing that this reflects the road's access. Toby Perkins MP also expressed support for these wards.

80 The Liberal Democrat Group also expressed support for these wards, although they argued that the south side of Whitecotes Lane near the hospital should be in Walton ward as it has more in common with Walton. Three residents from the

Holbeach Drive area expressed support for their inclusion in Walton ward, rather than Rother.

81 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the broad support for these wards. We note the suggestion from the Liberal Democrat Group for including the south side of Whitecotes Lane in Walton ward. However, this arrangement would worsen electoral equality in Rother ward to 11% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027. Given that this part of Whitecotes Lane has good access into Rother ward, we have not been persuaded to amend our draft recommendations in this area, given the worsening in electoral equality. We are, however, adopting the proposal to transfer Fisher Close from Walton ward to Rother ward. We note that this road has no internal access into Walton ward and that transferring it does not worsen electoral equality. Therefore, subject to this amendment, we are confirming our draft recommendations for our three-councillor Rother and Walton wards as final. These wards would have 10% fewer and 9% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

South Chesterfield



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brockwell	2	-1%
Hasland	3	-4%
Spire	3	10%

Brockwell, Hasland and Spire

82 As set out in our further draft recommendations report, we gave careful consideration to the evidence received for this area during the consultation on the draft recommendations. On the balance of the evidence received, we proposed modifications to the Brockwell, Hasland and Spire wards.

83 In response to the further draft recommendations, we received a mixture of support and objections for our amended wards. The Labour Group objected to the proposals for this area. They objected to the inclusion of either Hady or Spital in a Hasland ward, arguing that both areas look to the town centre for services. They also stated that there are strong links between Spital and Hady and that they should not be separated. They asked that we reconsider their original Hasland ward, submitted in response to the warding patterns consultation.

84 The Labour Group also objected to the further draft recommendations for Brockwell and Spire wards, stating that the proposal to include the area to the west of the town centre in Brockwell ward did not reflect communities. They rejected the evidence that supported our further draft proposals, instead stating that this area looks towards the town centre, while the remainder of Brockwell ward, which includes Loundsley Green, is more suburban. They also argued the proposals divided the Stonegravels area, which they stated identifies with the town centre, looking there for services. As with the area to west of the town, they objected to the inclusion of part of this area in Brockwell ward. Finally, as stated in the Dunston and Whittington Moor section (above), the Labour Group argued that the Tapton View Road area should be included in the Whittington Moor ward as this would provide clearer boundaries. They therefore proposed reverting to a three-councillor Spire ward focused on the town centre, as well as a two-councillor Brockwell ward focused on the more suburban area to the west of the town.

85 The Liberal Democrats expressed support for the further draft recommendations for Brockwell and Spire, reiterating their previous argument and adding that was 'illogical' to include the area to the west of the town centre in a ward with the area to the 'other side of the town centre'. They also supported the inclusion of Spital in Spire ward.

86 Two residents expressed support for the inclusion of the area to the west of the town centre in our revised Brockwell ward. One of these residents argued that they look to the proposed ward for a range of facilities. Seven residents rejected the argument that this area looks to Brockwell, instead arguing that they look to the town centre and expressing support for the Labour Group proposal. The residents argued that this area is in walking distance of the town centre where they look for essential services, leisure and cultural facilities. They also reiterated the argument that the area further west is much more suburban, while they have a strong sense of community with the town centre.

87 Six residents objected to the inclusion of Spital and Hady in a ward with Hasland, arguing that they look to the town centre for services, including shopping and GPs. They also argued that children from the two areas attend the same primary school and have other shared community facilities and should therefore not be

separated. Another resident put forward similar arguments, but added that the Hasland bypass should be considered as this is a 'natural boundary'.

88 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We moved away from the draft recommendations given evidence that suggested that the area to the west of the town centre looks to Brockwell. While we have received some evidence to support this view, we have now received evidence that contradicts it. Our visit to the area highlighted that it does have good links into the town centre. In addition, we acknowledge the concerns from the Labour Group that our proposals divided the Stonegravels area. Again, our visit suggested that this area should not be split and has good links into the town centre via Sheffield Road. We also note the strong evidence against placing either Hady or Spital in Hasland ward, with good evidence of their links to each other and also the town centre.

89 Having considered all this evidence together, we have been persuaded to move away from the further draft recommendations to a modified version of the original draft recommendations. We consider the evidence for reverting to a three-councillor Spire ward is strong and that the area to the west of the town centre would be best served in this ward, along with the whole of the Stonegravels area. This arrangement also enables us to place Hady and Spital in the Spire ward, which we consider reflects the evidence received. This modified Spire ward would have 10% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

90 It should be noted that the Spital Lane area cannot be included in Spire ward without significantly worsening electoral equality in Spire and Hasland wards to 20% more and 13% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027. Our final recommendations therefore retain this area in a three-councillor Hasland ward, less Hady and the rest of Spital. This modified Hasland ward would have 4% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

91 Finally, our final recommendations revert to a modified version of the two-councillor Brockwell ward proposed as part of the original draft recommendations. Our visit to the area suggested that Tapton View Road should not be divided between wards and that the Edinburgh Road area has good links into Whittington Moor ward via Highfield Road and Tapton View Road. The further draft recommendations rejected the transfer of this area to Whittington Moor ward, stating that this would disrupt the link along Newbold Road in our three-councillor Brockwell ward. However, since we now propose retaining the area to the west of the town centre in Spire ward, our concern about the links along Newbold Road no longer apply. The two-councillor Brockwell ward would have 1% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

Conclusions

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

	Final recommendations	
	2021	2027
Number of councillors	40	40
Number of electoral wards	16	16
Average number of electors per councillor	1,960	2,108
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

Final recommendations

Chesterfield Borough Council should be made up of 40 councillors serving 16 wards representing eight two-councillor wards and eight 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 Chesterfield. You can also view our final recommendations for Chesterfield on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

93 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

94 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, Chesterfield Borough 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.

41 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 Brimington Parish Council and Staveley Town Council.

42 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Brimington parish.

Final recommendations

Brimington Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brimington North	5
Brimington South	5

43 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Staveley Town Council.

Final recommendations

Staveley Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Barrow Hill	2
Duckmanton	2
Hollingwood	2
Inkersall Green	2
Lowgates North	1
Lowgates South	1
Middlecroft	4
Poolsbrook	1
Woodthorpe	2

What happens next?

44 We have now completed our review of Chesterfield Borough Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2023.

Equalities

45 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.

Unproofed Draft

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Chesterfield Borough Council

	Wards 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	Brampton East & Boythorpe	2	3,605	1,802	-8%	3,786	1,892	-10%
2	Brampton West & Loundsley Green	3	5,831	1,944	-1%	5,890	1,963	-7%
3	Brimington North	2	3,769	1,884	-4%	3,798	1,899	-10%
4	Brimington South	2	4,185	2,093	7%	4,520	2,260	7%
5	Brockwell	2	4,080	2,040	4%	4,159	2,070	-1%
6	Dunston	3	5,710	1,903	-3%	6,582	2,194	4%
7	Hasland	3	6,067	2,022	3%	6,094	2,031	-4%
8	Linacre	2	4,096	2,048	4%	4,408	2,204	5%
9	Rother	3	5,720	1,907	-3%	5,720	1,907	-10%
10	Spire	3	5,419	1,806	-8%	6,978	2,326	10%

Wards name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Staveley Central	2	3,810	1,905	-3%	4,407	2,203	5%
12 Staveley North	2	3,650	1,825	-7%	4,575	2,288	9%
13 Staveley South	3	5,765	1,922	-2%	6,372	2,124	1%
14 Walton	3	5,562	1,854	-5%	5,751	1,917	-9%
15 Whittington	3	6,639	2,213	13%	6,764	2,255	7%
16 Whittington Moor	2	4,489	2,244	15%	4,504	2,252	7%
Totals	40	78,395	-	-	84,307	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,960	-	-	2,108	-

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

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral wards 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: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/derbyshire/chesterfield>

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/derbyshire/chesterfield

Political Groups

- Chesterfield Borough Council Labour Group
- Chesterfield Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group

Councillors

- Councillor M. Bagshaw (Chesterfield Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Catt (Chesterfield Borough Council)
- Councillor K. Caulfield (Chesterfield Borough Council)
- Councillor T. Gilby (Chesterfield Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Mann (Chesterfield Borough Council)

Member of Parliament

- Toby Perkins MP (Chesterfield)

Local Organisations

- Hollingwood Residents' Association

Local Residents

- 34 local residents

Submissions received in response to the further draft recommendations

Political Groups

- Chesterfield Borough Council Labour Group
- Chesterfield Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group

Local Organisations

- Loundsley Green Community Trust

Local Residents

- 21 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 www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

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

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