

New electoral arrangements for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Draft Recommendations

October 2021

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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 Epsom & Ewell?

7 We are conducting a review of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Epsom & Ewell. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Epsom & Ewell 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 Epsom & Ewell

9 Epsom & Ewell should be represented by 35 councillors, three fewer than there are now.

10 Epsom & Ewell should have 14 wards, one more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all but one ward should change; Stoneleigh will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 5 October 2021 to 13 December 2021. 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 13 December 2021 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 Epsom & Ewell. 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
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
5 October 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
13 December 2021	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 March 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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 Epsom & Ewell	59,262	64,889
Number of councillors	35	35
Average number of electors per councillor	1,693	1,854

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 Epsom & Ewell will 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

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 an increase in the electorate of around 9% 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.

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

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

Number of councillors

26 Epsom & Ewell Council currently has 38 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing by three 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 35 councillors representing a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received several submissions that referenced the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. These submissions included a warding pattern based on 39 councillors submitted by the Epsom & Ewell Conservative Association ('the Conservatives'), and a proposal by Epsom & Ewell Constituency Labour Party ('Labour') based on 40 councillors. The other submissions we received expressed a mixture of general satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the proposed reduction. None of these submissions proposed any alternative council size numbers or offered any further evidence to support their views.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 45 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals from the Council, Epsom & Ewell Conservative Association and Epsom & Ewell Constituency Labour Party. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

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

31 As noted above, however, the submissions from the Conservatives and Labour were based on councillor sizes of 39 and 40, respectively. The Conservatives argued that the increase in the electorate across the borough justified an increase in council size. This would allow councillors to have a balanced caseload and be effective. The Labour submission gave no evidence to support their proposed increase to 40 councillors.

32 We do not consider we have received persuasive evidence to move away from our proposed council size of 35 councillors for Epsom & Ewell. Our draft recommendations are therefore based on 35 councillors.

33 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.

34 Given the travel and social distancing restrictions, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Epsom & Ewell. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

Draft recommendations

35 Our draft recommendations are for seven three-councillor wards and seven 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.

36 The tables and maps on pages 8–20 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Epsom & Ewell. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

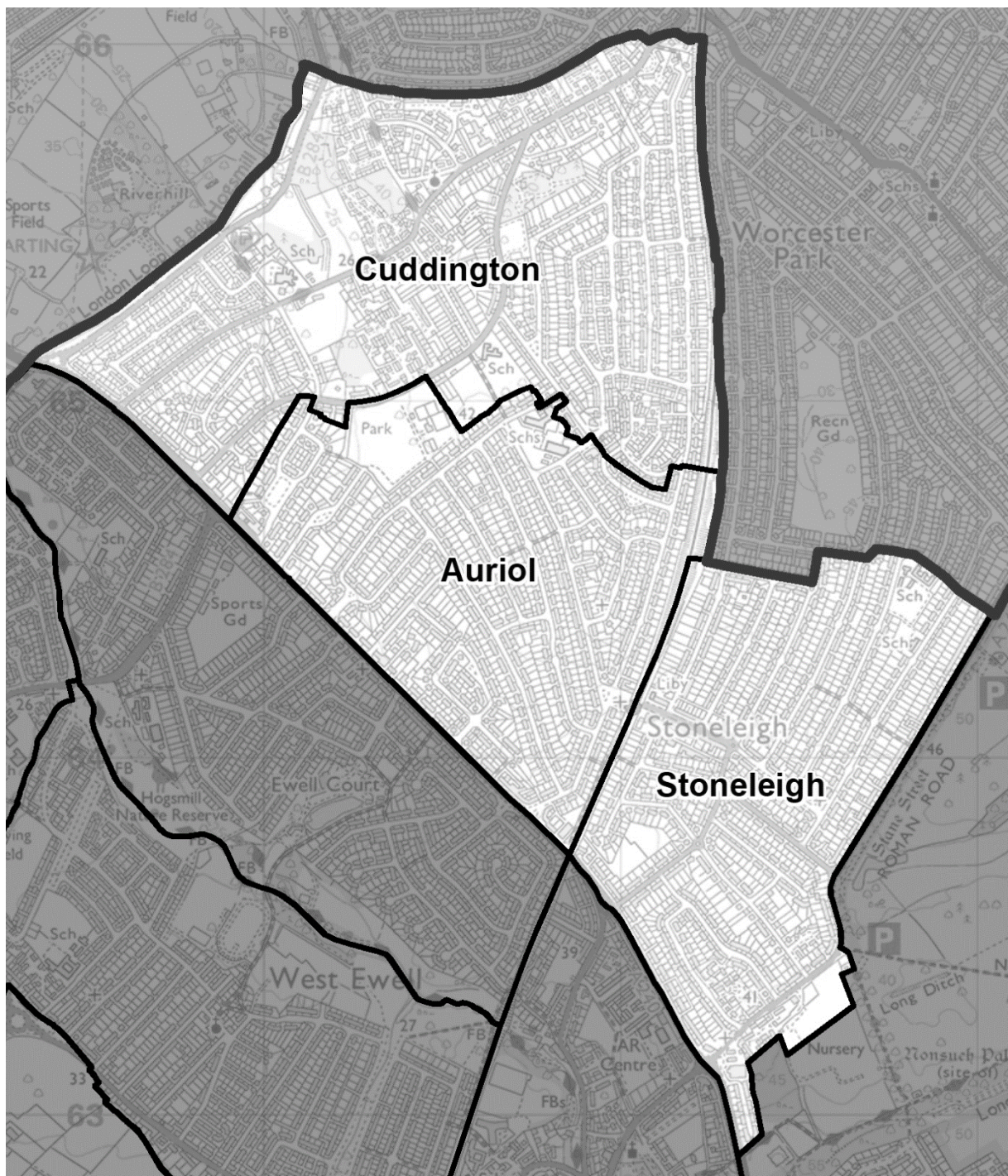
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

37 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.

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Auriol, Cuddington and Stoneleigh



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Auriol	2	-1%
Cuddington	3	-2%
Stoneleigh	2	9%

Auriol and Cuddington

39 Of the three district-wide submissions we received for these two wards, the Council proposed to make two small amendments to the existing boundary between Auriol and Cuddington wards to include all of Cuddington Avenue and Barn Elms Close in Cuddington ward. They also proposed to move the western boundary of Cuddington ward to the A240 so that all the electors on the northern side of the road, currently in Ewell Court ward, would be included in Cuddington ward. The schemes from the Conservatives and Labour both proposed to leave both wards unchanged.

40 Under the proposals from the Council, a two-councillor Auriol ward and a three-councillor Cuddington ward would have electoral variances of -12% and 5%, respectively, by 2027. If the wards were left unchanged, as proposed by the Conservatives and Labour, both would have electoral variances of -10% under a 35-councillor council.

41 We also received a number of submissions from local residents, some of which argued that the area should be moved to either the London Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames or the London Borough of Sutton. As part of this review, we are unable to consider any changes to the external boundary of the borough.

42 Of the other submissions, one supported the Council's proposal to move the western boundary of Cuddington ward to the A240. Another supported the retention of the railway line as the boundary between Auriol and Stoneleigh wards.

43 Councillor Webb objected to the merging of Auriol and Stoneleigh wards to make a four-councillor ward covering both areas. We did not receive any such proposal by any respondent in response to our consultation. Councillor Webb also suggested that electors north of the A240 could be more evenly split between Cuddington and Auriol wards, rather than including them all in Cuddington ward as proposed by the Council.

44 Cuddington Residents' Association asked if Cuddington Community Primary School and Rowe Hall could be included in Cuddington ward to reflect their links to the Cuddington community and their access onto Salisbury Road.

45 Having considered the evidence submitted, we agree that the A240 provides for a strong boundary between Ewell Court ward and Cuddington and Auriol wards. However, we do not consider that we received sufficient evidence to justify the poor electoral equality in the Council's proposed Auriol ward. Moreover, we agree with Councillor Webb that the electors to the north of the A240 can be more equally divided between Cuddington and Auriol wards. We also agree with the submission from the Cuddington Residents' Association that Cuddington Community Primary School and Rowe Hall should be included in Cuddington ward.

46 Our proposed boundary between Cuddington and Auriol wards includes all of Salisbury Road in Cuddington ward, running to the rear of properties on Timbercroft, then along the rear of Salisbury Road properties to Barn Elms Close before moving to the south of Cuddington Community Primary School and the rear of properties on Cuddington Avenue. Our proposed Cuddington ward is represented by three councillors and has an electoral variance of -2%. Our proposed Auriol ward is represented by two councillors and has an electoral variance of -1%.

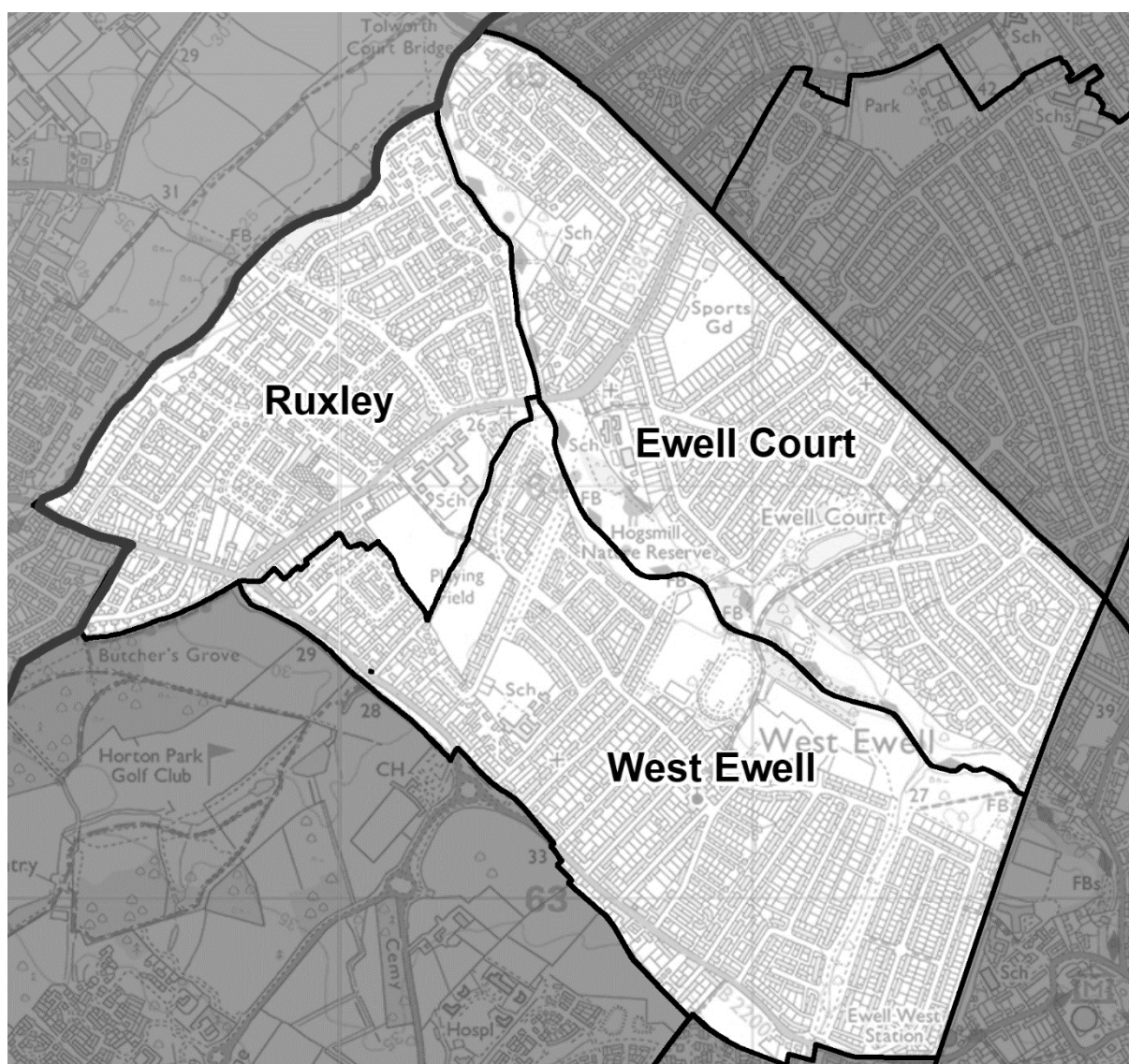
Stoneleigh

47 Of the three district-wide schemes we received both the Council and Labour proposed to make no change to the existing ward boundaries. The Conservatives proposed to amend the boundary to include electors on the Ewell By-Pass, Bluegates and Beaufort Way in Ewell ward.

48 While the Council and Labour both proposed to maintain the existing boundaries, Labour proposed that the ward should retain three councillors. The Council proposed the ward be represented by two councillors. Under a 35-member council, a Stoneleigh ward with three councillors would have poor electoral equality of -17% compared with a two-councillor ward which would have improved electoral equality of 9%.

49 Having considered the evidence submitted, we are of the view that retaining the existing boundaries best reflects the community in the Stoneleigh area. We therefore propose a two-councillor Stoneleigh ward with an electoral variance of 9% by 2027.

Ewell Court, Ruxley and West Ewell



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ewell Court	2	6%
Ruxley	2	8%
West Ewell	3	-5%

Ewell Court, Ruxley and West Ewell

50 All three of the district-wide submissions we received proposed the same Ewell Court ward. This proposal retained the existing ward, with the exception of electors to the north of the A240, which are included in Cuddington and Auriol wards (paragraphs 39–46).

51 The Council proposed to move a number of electors currently in Ruxley ward to West Ewell ward. These electors included those living on Chessington Close, Larch Crescent, Nightingale Drive, Oak Tree Close and Poplar Crescent located just off the

B284 Chessington Road. This arrangement facilitates the Council's proposed Ruxley and Horton wards (discussed in paragraphs 57–61).

52 The Council's proposed boundary between West Ewell and Ruxley ward would run along the rear of Ruxley Lane properties, following the boundary of Epsom & Ewell High School before running across the school grounds to the north of a new housing development proposed to be built on the south of the school grounds. The Council argued that this development should be included in West Ewell ward to recognise that the access for the new development will be onto Scotts Farm Road within West Ewell ward. The Council also proposed to amend the existing southern boundary of West Ewell ward to move Gibraltar Crescent and the surrounding streets to Court ward to the south. This proposal would provide good electoral equality for a two-councillor Ruxley ward and a three-councillor West Ewell ward, with electoral variances of 8% and -5% by 2027, respectively.

53 The Conservatives, Labour and Councillor Mason (Ruxley ward) proposed that those electors in the area just off the B284 Chessington Road (as described in paragraph 51) should remain in Ruxley ward.

54 Having considered the evidence received, we have adopted the Council's proposals for these three wards subject to a small amendment to the boundary between West Ewell and Court wards. We share the Council's view that communities in the area would be best reflected by an arrangement that includes the properties off Chessington Road and the future housing development in a West Ewell ward. An arrangement which retains this area in Ruxley ward would not provide electoral equality for the ward under a 35-member council, with a variance of 28% as a two-councillor ward and -15% as a three-councillor ward by 2027.

55 We are also of the view that the remaining boundaries proposed by the Council for Ruxley and Ewell Court wards are strong and easily identifiable, particularly the main London–Epsom railway line, Hogsmill River and the A240.

56 We propose one amendment to the Council's suggested southern boundary for West Ewell ward. While we agree that Gibraltar Crescent and the surrounding streets should be included in Court ward to the south, we propose to also include Brook Close and Revere Way in this ward. This amendment facilitates a warding arrangement that provides for good electoral equality in Court ward (discussed in paragraph 61).

Court and Horton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Court	3	-6%
Horton	2	0%

Court and Horton

57 All three of the district-wide schemes proposed the creation of a new two-councillor ward that would contain the areas of Clarendon Park, Livingstone Park, Manor Park and The Meadows. The ward was proposed to be named either Horton or Horton Park. While the exact boundaries of the proposed wards differed slightly, the general proposal for a new ward covering these areas was supported by three submissions from local residents.

58 Under a 35-member council, the Horton/Horton Park wards proposed by the Council and Labour would have had poor electoral equality, with variances of -16% and -20%, respectively, by 2027. The Horton ward proposed by the Conservatives would have good electoral equality of 0% by 2027. This proposal included the Parkview Way area within their suggested Horton ward.

59 Having considered the evidence received, we consider that the Horton ward proposed by the Conservatives best reflects our statutory criteria. While the ward

provides for good electoral equality, we also consider that it recognises the community identity of electors in properties along the B284 Hook Road, avoiding dividing them between wards.

60 Our decision to include the Parkview Way area in Horton ward means that Court ward would have poor electoral equality of -12% if it was left unchanged. As discussed in paragraph 52, the Council proposed to include the Gibraltar Crescent area in Court ward. The Council also proposed to include Miles Road and the lower end of Hook Road, north of the railway line, in their proposed Court ward.

61 We are of the view that the Council's proposed Court ward best reflects the community in the area. However, we propose to make a small amendment to the Council's proposals to provide for electoral equality. We have included Brook Close and Revere Way in Court ward. While we acknowledge these properties lie close to Ewell West station and are currently in West Ewell ward, it is necessary to include them in Court ward to provide for electoral equality in Court ward. Given this decision, we are particularly interested to hear views from electors in this area as to where their community ties lie.

62 A local resident proposed that Court Farm Gardens and numbers 1–23 Manor Green Road be moved from Court ward to Stamford ward, citing interactions with the Council. This would result in an electoral variance of 11% in Stamford ward. Having considered this proposal, we are of the view that the evidence submitted does not justify this level of electoral inequality. We also received a submission that suggested the inclusion of properties on the south side of Pound Lane in Town ward. However, this submission did not provide supporting evidence and the proposal would leave electors on Pound Lane divided between three wards (Court, Stamford and Town) rather than just two wards (Court and Stamford) as under our draft recommendations. We would, however, welcome further community evidence for this area.

63 Our proposed wards for this area are for a three-councillor Court ward and a two-councillor Horton ward with variances of -6% and 0% by 2027, respectively.

Ewell Village and Nonsuch



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ewell Village	2	-4%
Nonsuch	3	2%

Ewell Village and Nonsuch

64 We received four submissions that contained a proposal for Ewell Village. Labour, the Conservatives and Ewell Village Residents' Association all proposed that the area be represented by three councillors. All three of these submissions proposed that Ewell/Ewell Village ward includes electors to the south of the A24 Ewell By-Pass/Epsom Road, as the ward currently does. The Conservatives also proposed to include electors from the north side of the A24 Ewell By-Pass that are currently in Stoneleigh ward (discussed in paragraphs 47–48). Labour proposed that the existing Ewell ward remain unchanged.

65 The submission we received from Ewell Village Residents' Association supported our proposed council size for Epsom & Ewell, as well as three councillors for the Ewell area. They proposed to revise the boundary between the existing Ewell and Town wards to run to the rear of properties on Chuters Grove. They also proposed to include the Sycamore Gardens estate within their suggested Ewell Village ward.

66 Having considered these submissions, we have not adopted any of these suggested wards in their entirety as part of our draft recommendations. Under a 35-member council, the proposal made by Labour for a three-councillor Ewell ward would have a variance of -15% by 2027. The three-councillor Ewell Village ward proposed by Ewell Village Residents' Association would have a variance of -16% by 2027. While the proposal from the Conservatives would have good electoral equality, we do not consider a ward that crosses the A24 Ewell By-Pass would reflect the community identity of electors in the area.

67 The Council's proposal for this area was for a two-councillor Ewell ward that generally uses the existing boundaries of the current ward until the Reigate Road/A24 roundabout, where the boundary then follows the rear of properties on Epsom Road.

68 We have based our draft recommendations for Ewell Village on this proposal, subject to an amendment to the boundary to run wholly along the A24 Epsom Road/Ewell By-Pass. We consider this to be a stronger and more identifiable boundary.

69 As a consequence of our proposal to use the A24 Epsom Road/Ewell By-Pass as a boundary, electors to the south of this road currently in Ewell ward are transferred to neighbouring wards. We propose to include electors in Windmill

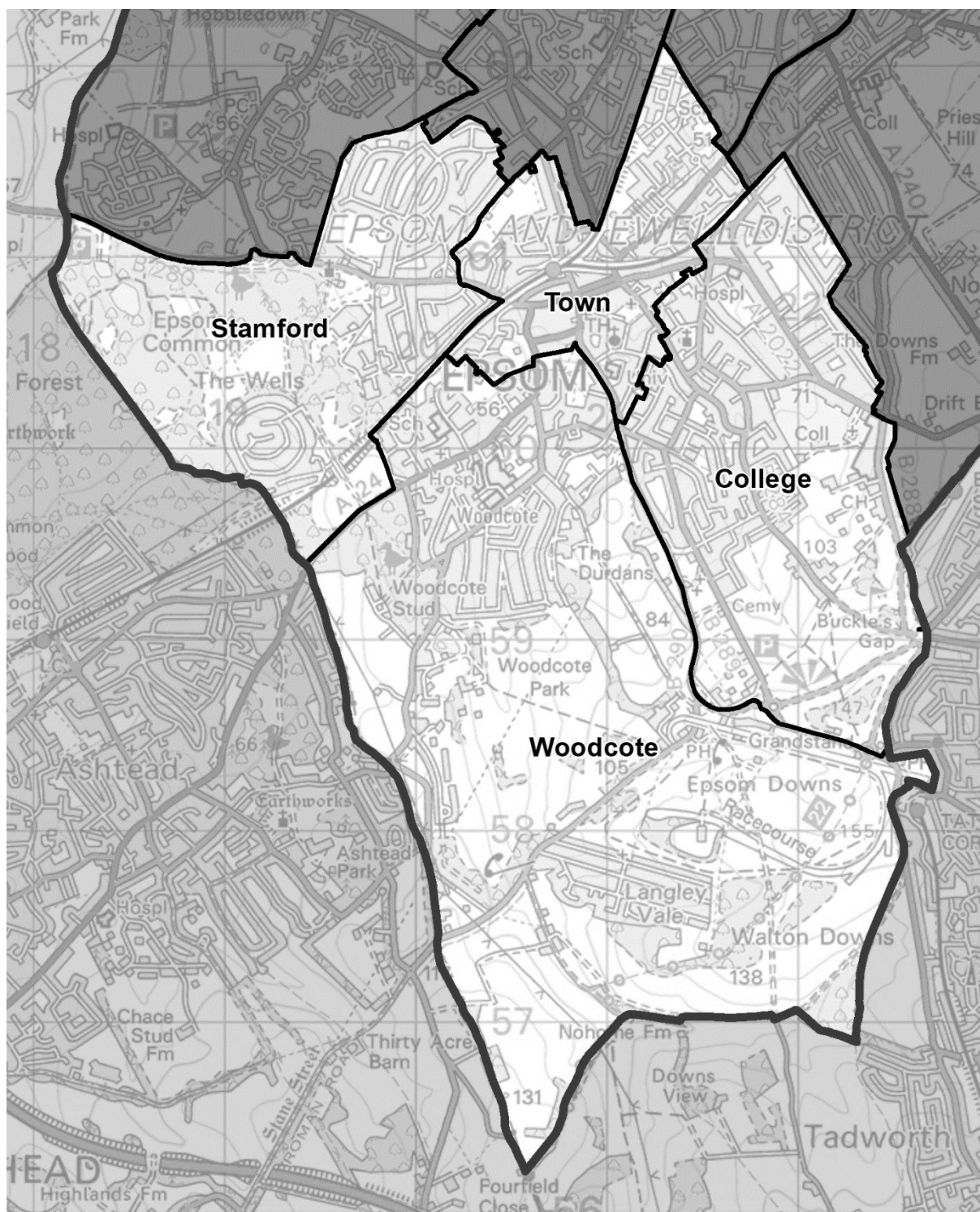
Avenue, Park Hill Road, Langton Avenue, Hampton Grove, St James Avenue and Beech Walk in Nonsuch ward. Having visited this area on our virtual tour, we identified that these streets were of a similar character to neighbouring properties in Nonsuch ward. We would, however, welcome views from electors in this area with evidence as to where their community ties are located.

70 Other than the addition of these electors, we propose to retain the existing boundaries of Nonsuch ward, given its existing strong and identifiable boundaries.

71 We propose to rename the Ewell ward to Ewell Village, as suggested by a local resident. We consider this name better reflects the community in the area.

72 Our draft recommendations for this area are for a two-councillor Ewell Village ward and a three-councillor Nonsuch ward, with variances of -4% and 2% by 2027, respectively.

Epsom Town and surrounding area



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
College	3	-6%
Stamford	2	8%
Town	3	5%
Woodcote	3	-5%

College, Stamford, Town and Woodcote

73 Of the three submissions we received for these wards, the Labour Party proposed no change to the existing wards. The Conservatives proposed no change to the existing College and Woodcote wards but proposed that the northern boundary of Town ward should follow the main London to Epsom railway line, including electors to the north of the railway line in Court or Stamford wards. As the warding patterns received from Labour and the Conservatives were not based on a 35-councillor council, they did not provide for electoral equality in College or Town wards.

74 The Council's proposed warding pattern proposed a number of amendments to Town ward to take account of the increasing electorate in the ward. They proposed to move the Hook Road area to Court ward (as discussed in paragraph 60), as well as including Church Road and surrounding streets in College ward and Worple Road and surrounding streets in Woodcote ward. They also proposed to include Dalmeny Way, the area at the southern end of West Hill and the Dirdene Gardens area within Town ward.

75 Two local residents supported the inclusion of Dirdene Gardens in Town ward, providing evidence that the area has a stronger relationship with electors in the Town ward.

76 Having considered the submissions received, we are of the view that the Council's proposal provides for good electoral equality for these wards and generally uses clear and identifiable boundaries. However, we propose to make an amendment to strengthen the boundaries in the area. We propose to continue to use the B290 Ashley Road as the boundary between College, Town and Woodcote wards. We consider this to be a clearly identifiable boundary between the three areas. As a result of this proposal, we have included the Worple Road area in Town ward and retained the St Martin's Avenue area in College ward.

77 We have also adopted the Council's proposal to include Dirdene Gardens in Town ward. However, we have amended the proposed boundary to run along Windmill Lane, which we consider a more identifiable boundary. We also propose to use the railway line as the northern boundary of College ward.

78 We received two other submissions that mentioned these four wards. One suggested the Reigate Road be used as the boundary between College ward and Nonsuch ward. However, this proposal would leave Nonsuch ward with an electoral variance of -25%. The other submission stated that The Wells should not be included in Stamford ward and should be transferred to Woodcote ward. However, its inclusion in Woodcote ward would result in electoral variances of -21% in Stamford ward and 15% in Woodcote ward. We do not consider that the evidence provided justifies this level of electoral inequality.

79 Our draft recommendations for this area are for three three-councillor wards of College, Town and Woodcote and a two-councillor ward of Stamford. These wards would have electoral variances of -6%, 5%, -5% and 8%, respectively, by 2027.

Conclusions

80 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Epsom & Ewell, 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	35	35
Number of electoral wards	14	14
Average number of electors per councillor	1,693	1,854
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

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council should be made up of 35 councillors serving 14 wards representing seven two-councillor wards and seven 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 Epsom & Ewell. You can also view our draft recommendations for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say

81 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.

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

83 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

84 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Epsom & Ewell)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

85 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Epsom & Ewell 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.

86 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.

87 Electoral equality:

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

88 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?

89 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?

90 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. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

91 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.

92 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.

93 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 Epsom & Ewell in 2023.

Equalities

94 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 Epsom & Ewell

	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	Auriol	2	3,414	1,707	1%	3,689	1,845	-1%
2	College	3	4,979	1,660	-2%	5,215	1,738	-6%
3	Court	3	4,855	1,618	-4%	5,222	1,741	-6%
4	Cuddington	3	4,952	1,651	-3%	5,445	1,815	-2%
5	Ewell Court	2	3,659	1,830	8%	3,927	1,964	6%
6	Ewell Village	2	3,258	1,629	-4%	3,559	1,780	-4%
7	Horton	2	3,537	1,769	4%	3,702	1,851	0%
8	Nonsuch	3	5,284	1,761	4%	5,652	1,884	2%
9	Ruxley	2	3,700	1,850	9%	3,990	1,995	8%
10	Stamford	2	3,746	1,873	11%	4,019	2,010	8%
11	Stoneleigh	2	3,689	1,845	9%	4,029	2,015	9%
12	Town	3	5,161	1,720	2%	5,836	1,945	5%

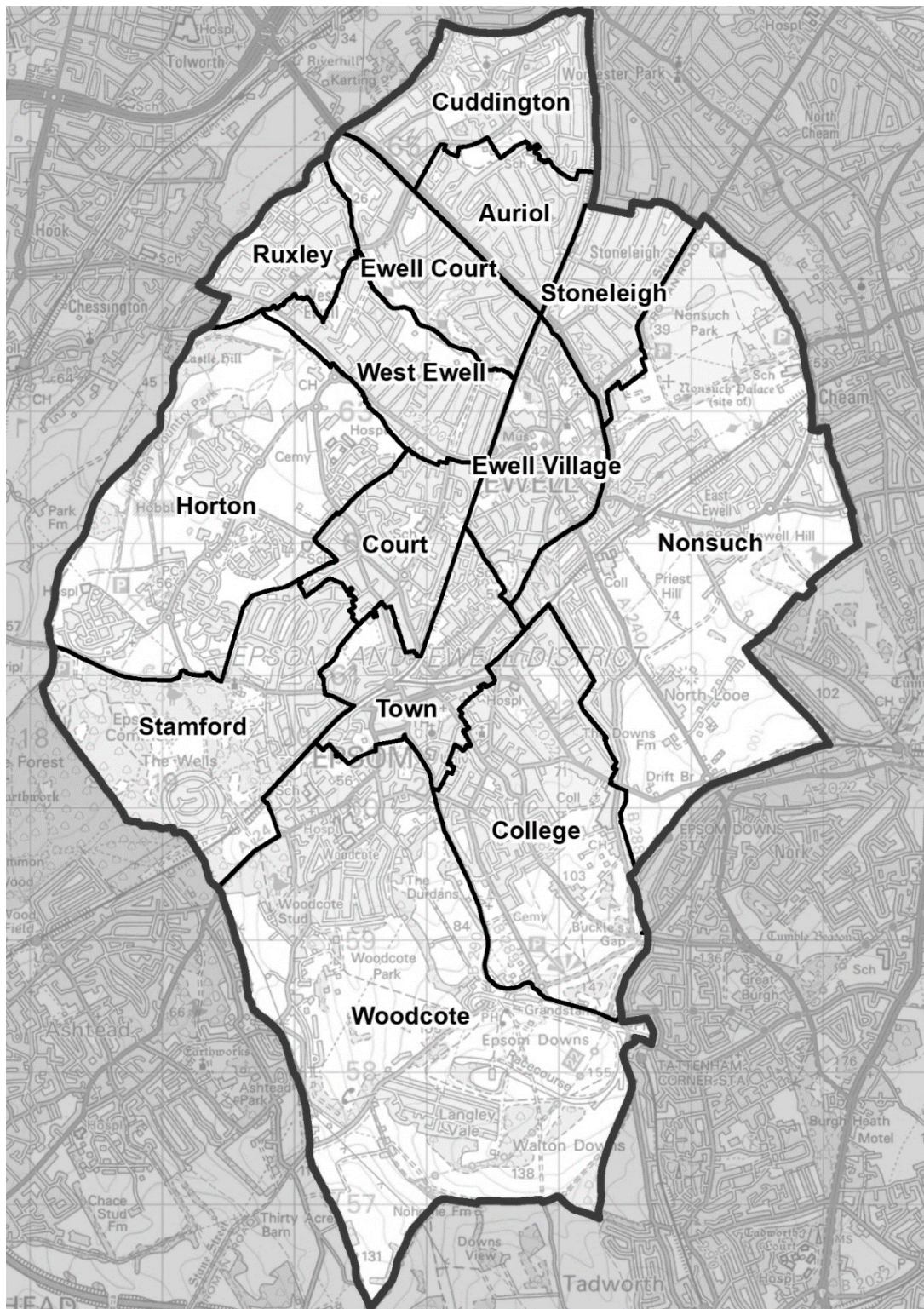
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 West Ewell	3	4,580	1,527	-10%	5,305	1,768	-5%
14 Woodcote	3	4,448	1,483	-12%	5,299	1,766	-5%
Totals	35	59,262	–	–	64,889	–	–
Averages	–	–	1,693	–	–	1,854	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Epsom & Ewell 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/south-east/surrey/epsom-and-ewell

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/surrey/epsom-and-ewell

Local Authority

- Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

Political Groups

- Epsom & Ewell Conservative Association
- Epsom & Ewell Constituency Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor C. Frost (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Mason (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council)
- Councillor C. Woodbridge (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Webb (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council)

Local Organisations

- Cuddington Residents' Association
- Stamford Ward Residents' Association
- Ewell Village Residents' Association

Local Residents

- 35 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 fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
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. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
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 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

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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