

New electoral arrangements for Telford and Wrekin Council Draft Recommendations

November 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 Telford & Wrekin?

7 We are conducting a review of Telford & Wrekin Council ('the Council') at the request of the Council. The Council requested this review in order to ensure that the warding pattern across the borough reflected the significant amount of development which is occurring, and to ensure that arrangements are fit for purpose.

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

- The wards in Telford & Wrekin 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 Telford & Wrekin

9 Telford & Wrekin should be represented by 54 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Telford & Wrekin should have 33 wards, three more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change; none 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 30 November 2021 to 7 February 2022. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

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

16 You have until 7 February 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 33 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 Telford & Wrekin. 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
18 May 2021	Number of councillors decided
25 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 August 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
30 November 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
7 February 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
3 May 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.

	2020	2027
Electorate of Telford & Wrekin	133,071	147,064
Number of councillors	54	54
Average number of electors per councillor	2,464	2,723

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 Telford & Wrekin are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

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 10% 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 Telford & Wrekin Council currently has 54 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 54 councillors: for example, 54 one-councillor wards, 18 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns, and therefore based our draft recommendations on a 54-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 43 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included borough-wide proposals from the Council and from Cllr Nigel Dugmore. We also received a proposal from Telford Conservative Association ('the Conservatives') proposing arrangements covering the majority of the built-up area of Telford. Cllr Dugmore's scheme was very similar to that proposed by the Conservatives in the built-up areas of Telford. Outside this area, it proposed splitting a number of villages in a manner which we do not consider would effectively represent the community identity of these areas. We have therefore not adopted Cllr Dugmore's proposals.

30 The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 The borough-wide scheme, and the partial scheme, provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Telford & Wrekin. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards from the Council and the Conservatives resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

32 Our draft recommendations are based on both the Council and Conservative proposals in different areas of the borough and also take into account other 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.

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

Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for four three-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and 16 one-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.

35 The tables and maps on pages 8–25 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Telford & Wrekin. 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.

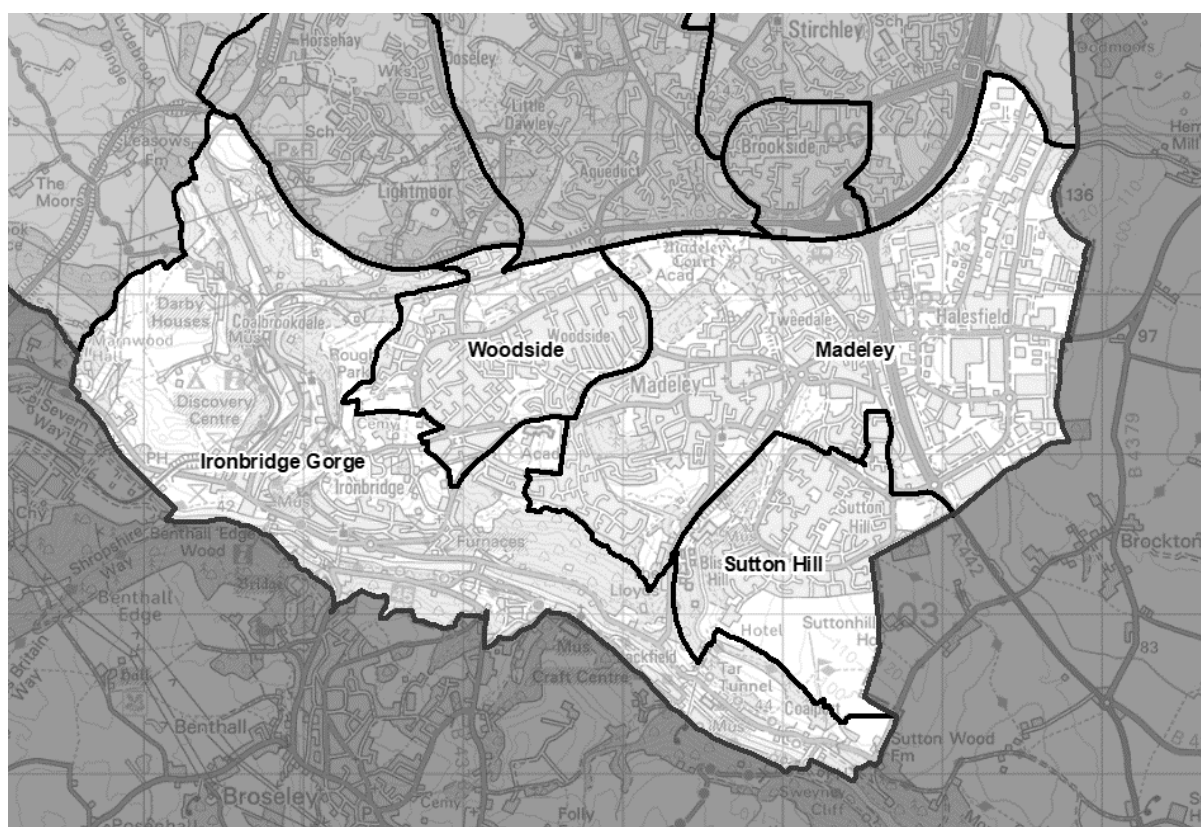
36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 39 and on the large map accompanying this report.

37 As a result of our draft recommendations, we are required to make a significant number of changes to parish warding arrangements across the borough. A number of parishes within the Telford area are relatively large, and are necessarily divided between borough wards, requiring parish warding arrangements to be put in place. While we cannot amend the external boundaries of a parish as part of this review, the borough council can do so through a community governance review.

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.

Southern Telford & Wrekin



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ironbridge Gorge	1	-4%
Madeley	2	-7%
Sutton Hill	1	9%
Woodside	2	-6%

Ironbridge Gorge and Woodside

39 We received proposals for these wards, from the Council and Conservatives, with Cllr Dugmore's proposal duplicating the latter. Both proposals offered a broadly similar Ironbridge Gorge ward, comprising the entire The Gorge parish south of the A4169, together with additional areas to the south of Woodside ward.

40 The Conservatives proposed retaining the existing Woodside ward, while the Council proposed expanding it to the north and south, in order to provide for better electoral equality. The Conservatives argued that Woodside had a distinct community identity which did not fit with neighbouring areas, but provided limited evidence to support this.

41 We have adopted the Council's proposal for Woodside, and hence Ironbridge Gorge ward. We consider that the evidence of a separate community provided does

not justify the high electoral variance (13% fewer electors than average) proposed by the Conservatives.

42 We would be particularly interested in further evidence from residents of Nightingale Walk, and neighbouring streets, as to whether they consider that their community identity is towards Woodside to the south, or towards the north across the A4169.

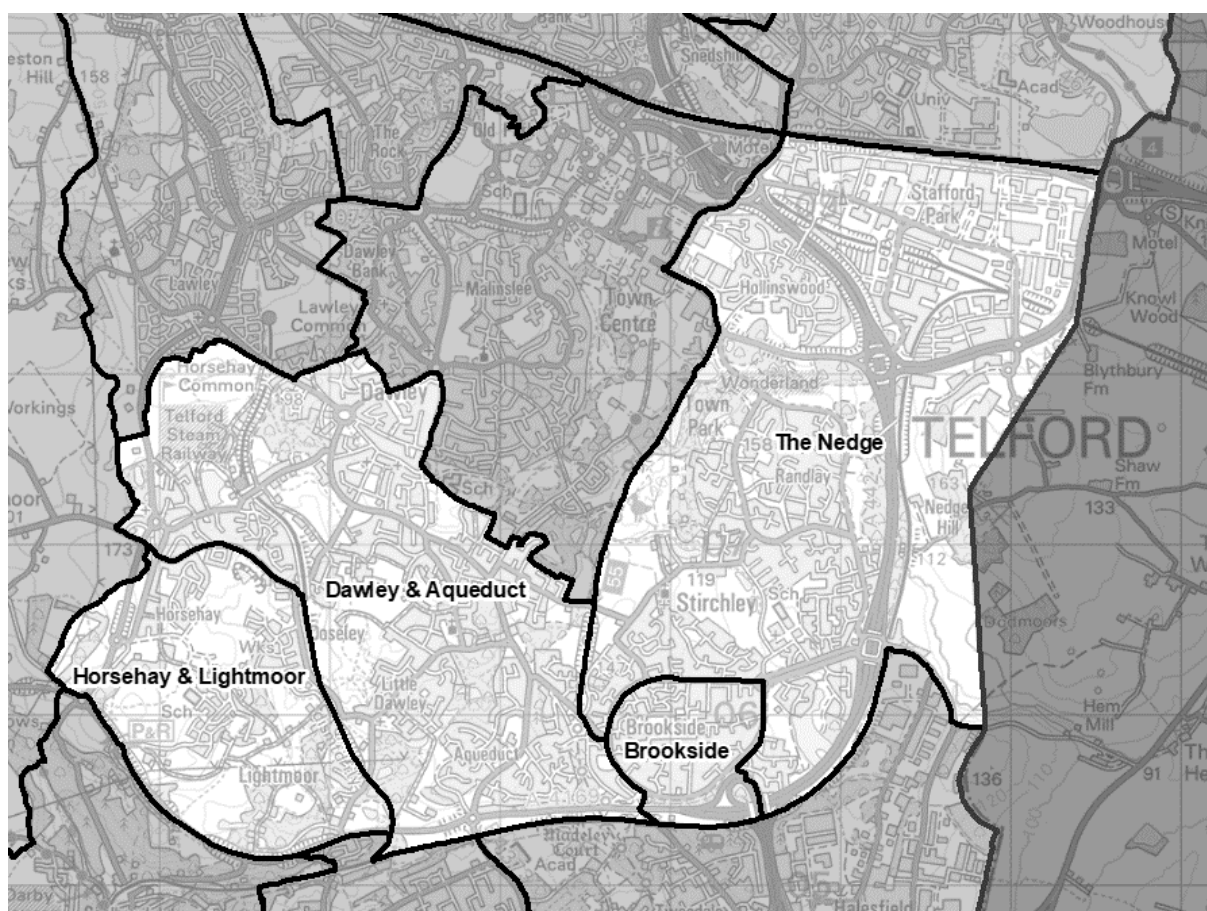
Madeley and Sutton Hill

43 The Council proposed retaining the existing three-member ward in this area, while the Conservatives proposed separate wards, with a single-member ward for Sutton Hill and a two-member ward covering the remainder of Madeley. The Conservatives provided evidence that Sutton Hill was a separate community from the remainder of Madeley, with residents looking to shops and the community centre within Sutton Hill, and should therefore be represented separately.

44 We visited this area of Telford & Wrekin and consider that there is a clear distinction between the community identities of Madeley and Sutton Hill, and that separate wards for this area are plausible while retaining good electoral equality.

45 We have therefore based our draft recommendations on the Conservatives' proposal, and extended their proposed Sutton Hill ward to the north, where our observations on tour led us to the conclusion that Stebbings, Stanwyck and Singleton, but not Madebrook Close, share a greater community identity with Sutton Hill than with the remainder of Madeley. This additional area can be included within our proposed Sutton Hill ward, and retain an acceptable, albeit relatively high variance, with 9% more electors per councillor than average.

Southern Telford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brookside	1	2%
Dawley & Aqueduct	3	5%
Horsehay & Lightmoor	1	4%
The Nedge	3	10%

Brookside and The Nedge

46 Both the Council and Conservatives proposed a single-member ward focussed on the Brookside estate. The Conservative proposal, and that of Cllr Dugmore, which places all electors outside the Brookside Avenue ring road into alternative wards, offered good electoral equality, while the Council proposal placed Lake End Drive, Cygnet Drive and neighbouring streets within Brookside ward, which would have a variance of 11% more electors than average.

47 We visited this area on our tour of Telford & Wrekin. We consider that although somewhat isolated on a map from other electors within a non-Brookside ward, electors on Lake End Drive and Cygnet Drive share access to Holmer Lake with those on Tadorna Drive, Holmer Lane and other streets to the north. This is reinforced by footpath access between these areas.

48 We have therefore adopted the Conservatives' proposal for Brookside ward, which also offers better electoral equality than the Council's proposal, and placed Lake End Drive and Cygnet Drive into The Nedge ward. We would particularly welcome further evidence from residents of this area as to whether this reflects their community identity, or if being placed in Brookside ward would be a better reflection of this identity.

49 The Conservatives proposed two two-member wards for the remainder of this area, with separate wards based on Hollinswood & Randlay parish, and the Stirchley area. The former of these would be forecast to have 16% fewer electors per councillor than average by 2027 – well beyond what we consider to be good electoral equality. We have therefore adopted the Council's proposal for a three-Councillor ward, named The Nedge, closely following the existing ward of this name. This ward is projected to have 10% more electors per councillor than average by 2027.

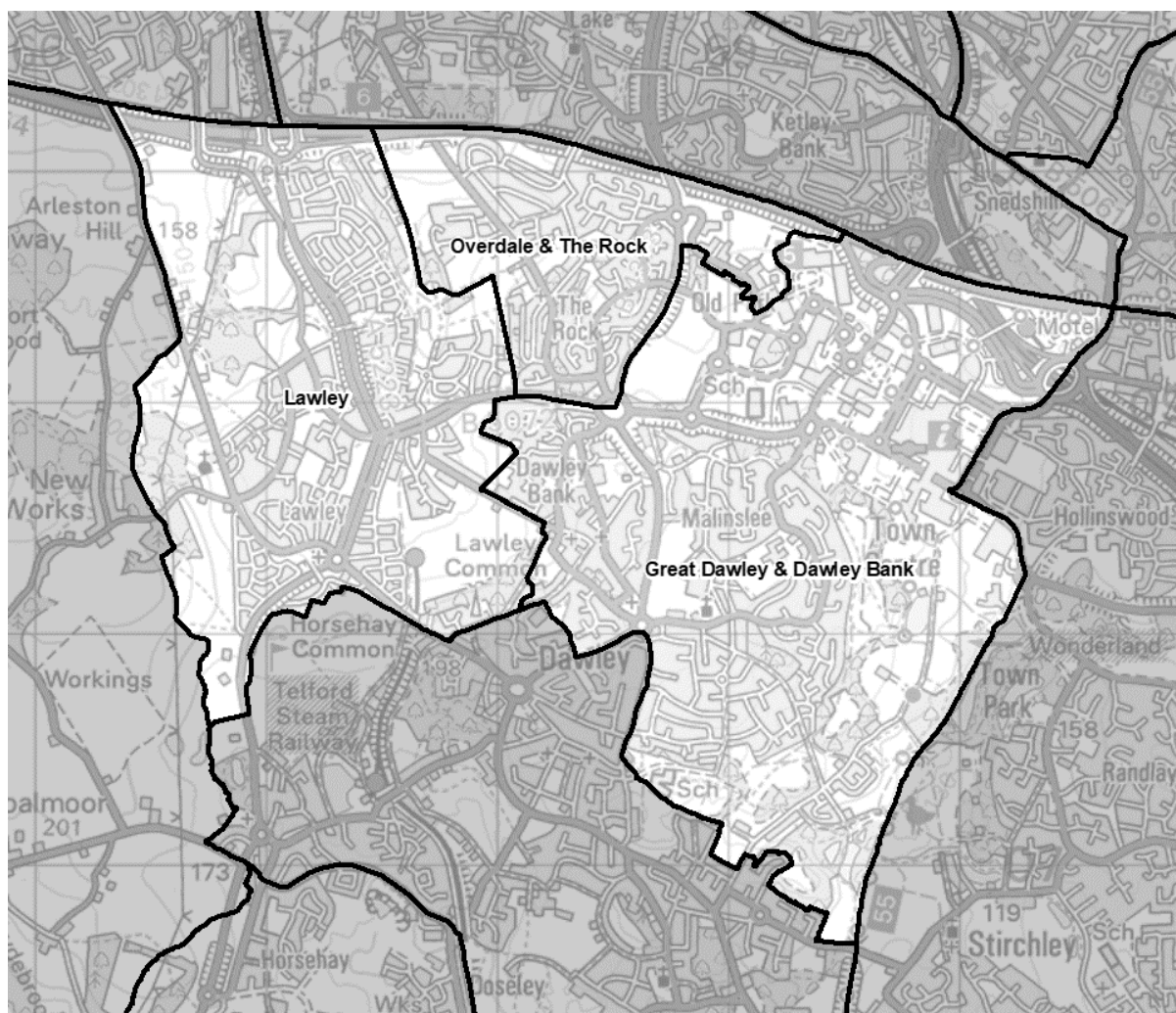
Dawley & Aqueduct and Horsehay & Lightmoor

50 We have adopted the Council's proposal for Horsehay & Lightmoor ward. The Conservatives' and Cllr Dugmore's proposal in this area was for a relatively geographically large Lightmoor & Aqueduct ward ranging from Stirchley Lane to the southern section of Horsehay. Where plausible alternatives exist, we do not consider that including such widely separated areas is compatible with effective & convenient local government, or reflective of community identity.

51 We are proposing a Dawley & Aqueduct ward, linked by the 'spine' of the B4373 Springhill Road/Southall Road/Castlefields Way. This is based on the Council's proposal in this area, but also includes the southern section of the Council's proposed Lawley ward, in order to ensure that this ward (discussed in more detail at paragraph 55–57) retains good electoral equality.

52 We also propose to extend this ward to the north of the Council's proposed boundary, broadly following the Conservatives' proposed boundary in the area of Telford Langley School. This is to ensure that both Dawley & Aqueduct and Great Dawley & Dawley Bank wards have good electoral equality, in contrast to the Council's proposals in this area which did not offer good electoral equality in their unmodified form.

Central Telford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Great Dawley & Dawley Bank	2	5%
Lawley	3	1%
Overdale & The Rock	1	8%

Great Dawley & Dawley Bank

53 Our proposed ward is based on the Council's proposal, which provided evidence of the community links between the towns in this area. We have adjusted the proposed southern boundary in order to ensure good electoral equality – the Council's proposal was for a three-member ward with an electoral variance of -12%, whereas we are proposing a two-member ward with a variance of 5%.

54 We received several representations from residents of Cambridge Close, noting that the existing ward boundary placed them in a different ward from neighbouring areas to the south of Park Road. The existing ward boundary in this area is based on the parish boundary between Lawley & Overdale and Great Dawley parishes. While

we do not have the power to alter the parish boundaries in this (or any other) area, we propose to ward the parishes in order to allow residents of Cambridge Close to be placed in a Dawley-based borough ward.

Lawley and Overdale & The Rock

55 The Lawley area is expected to undergo significant development over the period of the electorate forecast. The Council proposed a single, three-councillor ward for this area, while the Conservatives proposed two two-member wards, named Lawley East and Lawley West & Newdale, with a boundary along Lawley Drive.

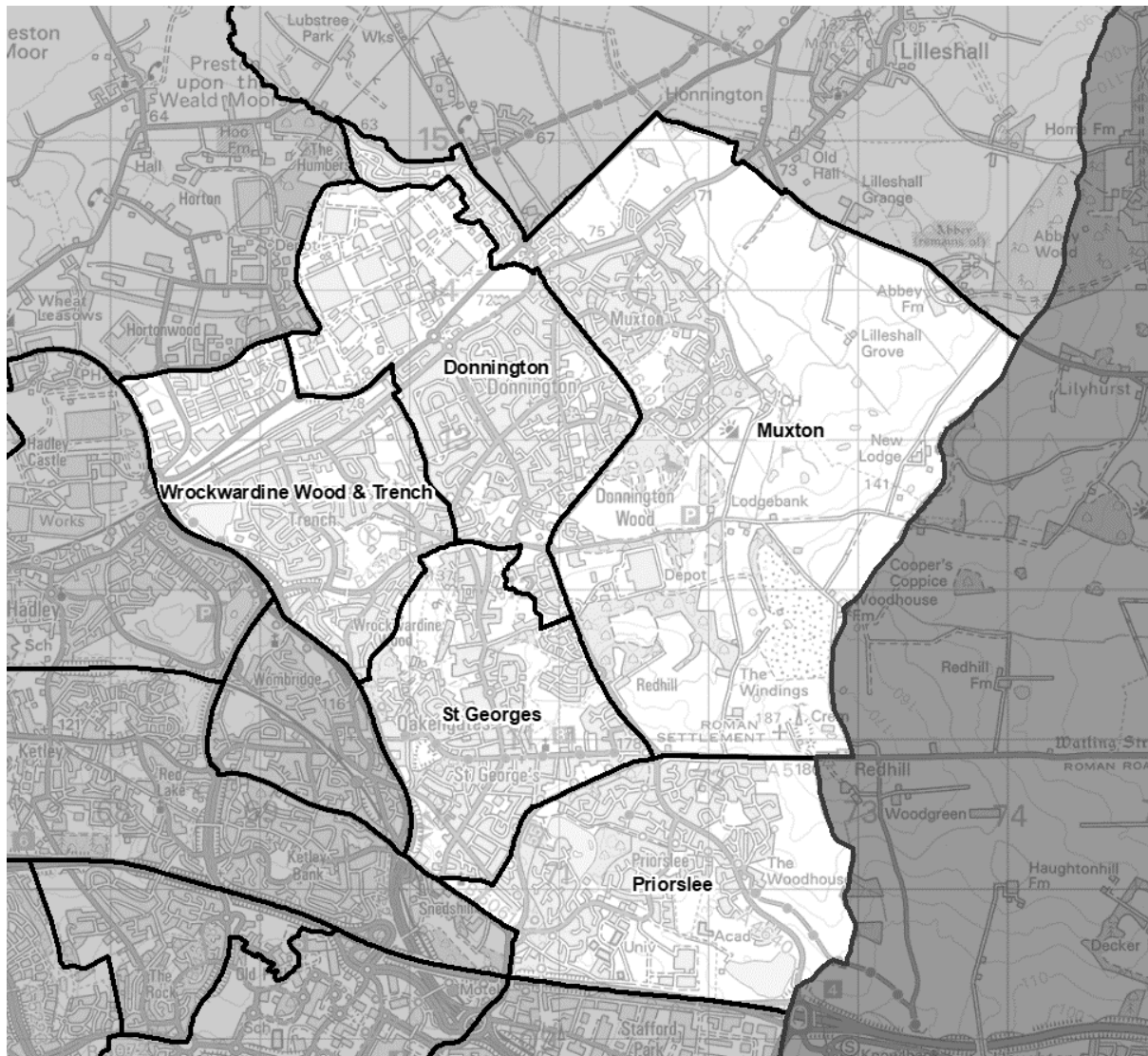
56 We visited this area on our tour of Telford & Wrekin. We considered that while Lawley Drive represents a clear potential boundary, the shopping facilities and community amenities in and around Barrack Close are likely to attract residents from both sides of Lawley Drive, meaning that the Conservatives' proposed boundary could divide a community which we would prefer not to do.

57 We have therefore adopted the majority of the Council's proposal for a single Lawley ward. The Council proposed a large ward with 14% more electors per councillor than average – beyond what we consider good electoral equality. We have therefore modified the Council's proposal, adopting the southern boundary proposed by the Conservatives, in order to ensure good electoral equality for Lawley ward and provide a clear divide between the communities of Lawley and Horsehay.

58 The Conservatives, Cllr Dugmore and the Council all proposed a single-councillor ward for Overdale & The Rock. We visited this area and considered that Rock Road would not provide for an effective boundary, as it would leave electors in Marlborough Way and Charlecote Park isolated from other electors within their ward. In conjunction with our decision regarding Lawley, this led us to adopt the Council's proposal for Overdale & The Rock.

59 The Conservative/Cllr Dugmore proposal placed Telford Town Centre within this ward, while the Council's proposal placed it within Great Dawley & Dawley Bank ward. As the Town Centre area has very few electors, the implications for electoral equality are negligible, and we would be particularly interested in further evidence about which ward the Town Centre should be included in, and why.

North Eastern Telford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Donnington	2	9%
Muxton	2	-6%
Priorslee	2	2%
St Georges	2	5%
Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	2	6%

Donnington and Muxton

60 Our draft recommendations in these areas are based on the Council's proposals, which in turn closely mirror the existing wards in this area. The Conservatives did not make a proposal in this area, while Cllr Dugmore proposed wards broadly following the Council's proposal, but with a boundary running along the length of Donnington Wood Way.

61 A resident provided evidence that the Donnington Wood area is more closely linked to Donnington than to Muxton, in terms of schools, shops, community centres and places of worship. We have adjusted the Council's proposed boundary accordingly, using the A4640 Donnington Wood Way as a clear boundary. This offers slightly poorer electoral equality than the Council's proposal, but we consider that in addition to the clearer boundary it offers a better reflection of community identity.

62 The Council proposed that the Humber Way area, to the south of Humber Lane, should be placed into Church Aston & Lilleshall ward. We consider that there would be considerable advantages to this in terms of community identity; however, as this area is within Donnington & Muxton parish, it would require the creation of a very small parish ward in this area. We do not consider that this would be compatible with effective & convenient local government, and therefore propose to retain this area within Muxton ward.

Priorslee and St Georges

63 The Council, the Conservatives and Cllr Dugmore proposed a two-councillor ward centred on the Priorslee area. Councillors Ian Fletcher and Veronica Fletcher proposed a Priorslee ward comprising only the area within the A5 Telford Way, while the full schemes suggested expanding the ward in different areas.

64 We have adopted the Council's proposal, which places a portion of the Snedshill area within Priorslee ward. The Council noted that not only does this allow the inclusion of some of Priorslee Road within the ward of the same name, but also that it brings St Peter's Church, Priorslee within Priorslee ward.

65 The smaller Priorslee ward, proposed by Councillor Ian Fletcher and Councillor Veronica Fletcher, offers good electoral equality and a strong and clear boundary. However, proposing this ward would, in the absence of any other changes, leave St Georges ward with 11% more electors per councillor than average – beyond what we consider to be good electoral equality.

66 Except for the southern boundary with Priorslee, both the Conservatives and Council proposed identical St Georges wards, with a boundary running to the north west of the Wrockwardine Wood/Cockshutt green space. The Council proposed including 'Wrockwardine Wood South' in the name of this ward, but we consider that retaining the name of St Georges, as proposed by the Conservatives, is likely to provide an effective reflection of the community identity of this area.

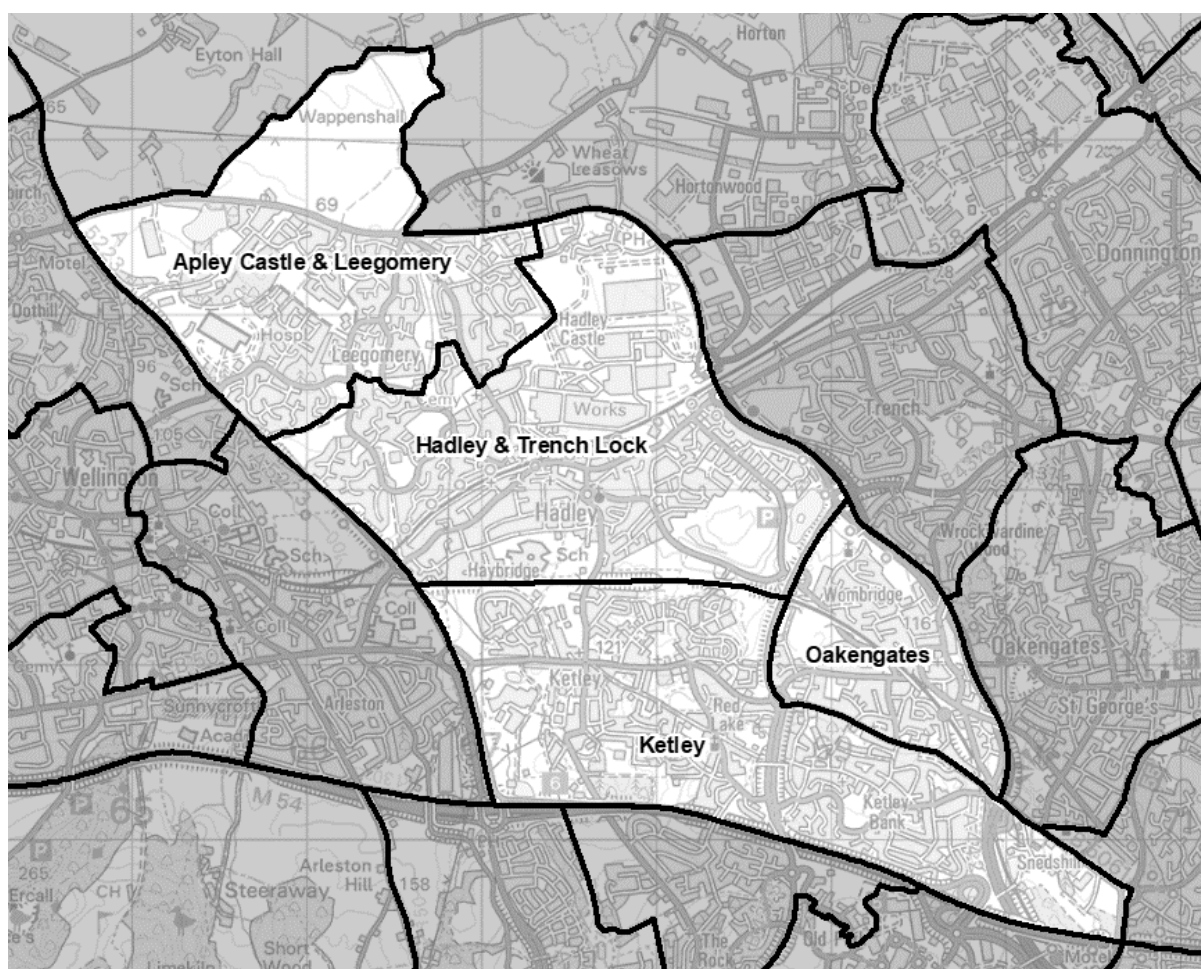
Wrockwardine Wood & Trench

67 The Council proposed retaining the existing ward in this area, while the Conservatives and Cllr Dugmore proposed including the area south of the B4373

Wrockwardine Wood Way within this ward. The Council proposed retaining this area, bounded by the B4737 and the A442, within the existing Oakengates & Ketley Bank ward which crosses the A442.

68 We visited this area and, based on our observations, we consider that the A442 is a considerably stronger boundary than the B4373. In addition, the Conservatives provided evidence of community links across the latter road, citing the Telford Priory School and shopping facilities. Accordingly, we have adopted the Conservative proposal for this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

North Central Telford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Apley Castle & Leegomery	2	-6%
Hadley & Trench Lock	3	-9%
Ketley	2	10%
Oakengates	1	-8%

69 We have adopted the Conservative proposals for Ketley and Oakengates wards in this area, as discussed below. We were persuaded that these wards would better reflect the communities in this area and have clear and identifiable boundaries. However, as the Conservatives' scheme did not make proposals for the Hadley & Leegomery area to the north, we have based our draft recommendations for this area on the Council's proposals with some modifications to facilitate the Ketley and Oakengates wards. We welcome views on the boundaries that we have identified.

Apley Castle & Leegomery and Hadley & Trench Lock

70 We received a proposal from the Council for these wards, as well as that from Cllr Dugmore which, as discussed above (paragraph 29), we have not adopted. We have modified the Council's proposal significantly in order to provide what we consider is a better reflection of our statutory criteria for both these and neighbouring wards.

71 The Council proposed that a significant development on the site of the former Maxell factory should be placed within Shawbirch ward, citing the relative difficulty of access from this area to the remainder of Apley Castle. However, given the configuration of parishes in this area, this would require the creation of a parish ward specifically for this development, as it would be within Hadley & Leegomery parish. We consider that because there would be no electors currently within this parish ward, this would not provide for effective and convenient local government and we are not persuaded to adopt this suggestion. Instead, we propose to place this development within Apley Castle ward.

72 In order to provide for a better warding pattern in the Oakengates and Ketley areas (discussed below at paragraphs 75–76), we have further expanded Apley Castle ward to take in the Leegomery area. We would be particularly interested in further evidence from residents of the streets adjoining Hadley Park Road and Okehampton Road as to whether this reflects their community identity or whether residents of these streets consider that their community identity lies towards the Hadley area.

73 The Council's proposed Hadley & Leegomery ward extended northwards to take in the entire northern section of Hadley & Leegomery parish, including the rural-facing electors along Horton Lane. As discussed below (paragraph 85), we have modified the Council's proposed Ercall Magna ward to include this area and moved the northern boundary of this ward to the A442 Queensway.

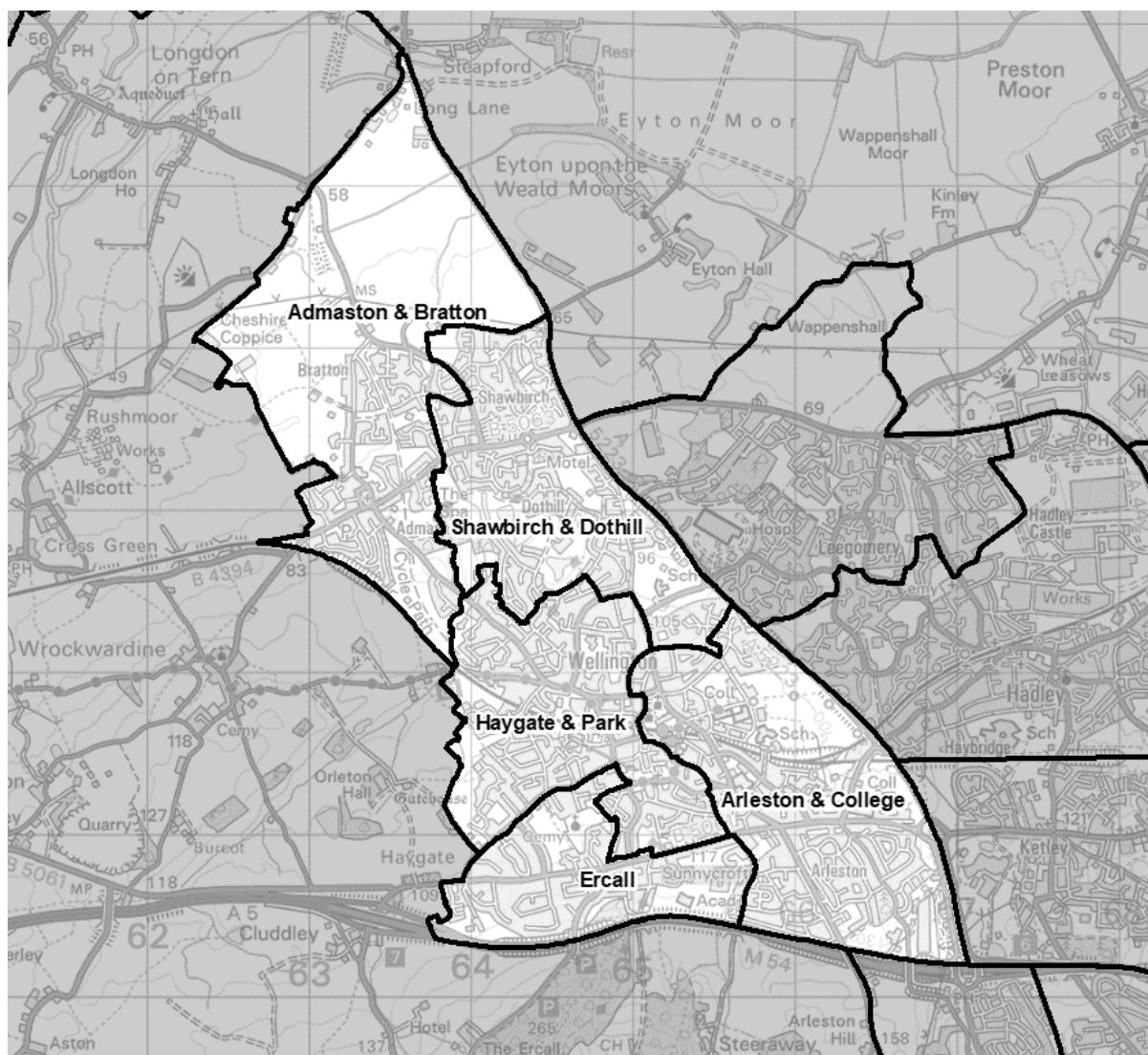
74 Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council requested that no changes be made to the warding arrangements across the borough. No evidence was provided as to why the existing arrangements continued to reflect our statutory criteria, and we have not adopted this proposal.

Ketley and Oakengates

75 We have adopted the Conservatives' proposals for these wards. The Council proposed a relatively large, three-member Oakengates & Ketley Bank ward, stretching from the Trent Lock area to Snedshill, and including the portion of Wrockwardine Wood to the east of the A442. While we note that this is broadly similar to the existing ward in this area, limited evidence was provided as to how this ward reflects community identity.

76 We were persuaded by the Conservative proposal for a compact single-member Oakengates ward, and a Ketley ward that provides good access throughout along the B5061 Holyhead Road. The Conservatives provided evidence that Oakengates is a self-contained community, and that there are few links between this area and Trench Lock.

North Western Telford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Admaston & Bratton	1	-5%
Arleston & College	2	-2%
Ercall	1	-10%
Haygate & Park	2	2%
Shawbirch & Dothill	2	-9%

Admaston & Bratton and Shawbirch & Dothill

77 The Council proposed three single-member wards in this area, with Shawbirch, and Dothill being separate wards. Given the decision that we made with regard to the development on the former site of the Maxell factory (paragraph 71), the remainder of the Council's proposal for Shawbirch ward would have 16% fewer electors per councillor than average – well beyond what we consider to be good electoral equality.

78 We considered retaining the existing boundary between Admaston & Bratton and Shawbirch wards, following the boundary of Wrockwardine and Wellington parishes. This would leave both wards in question with -11% variances, slightly outside what we consider to be good electoral equality.

79 We therefore propose to combine the Council's proposed Dothill ward with the remainder of Shawbirch, to offer a two-councillor ward with acceptable electoral equality, and strong boundaries. We would be particularly interested in further evidence from residents of this area with regard to whether these communities have common interests and amenities.

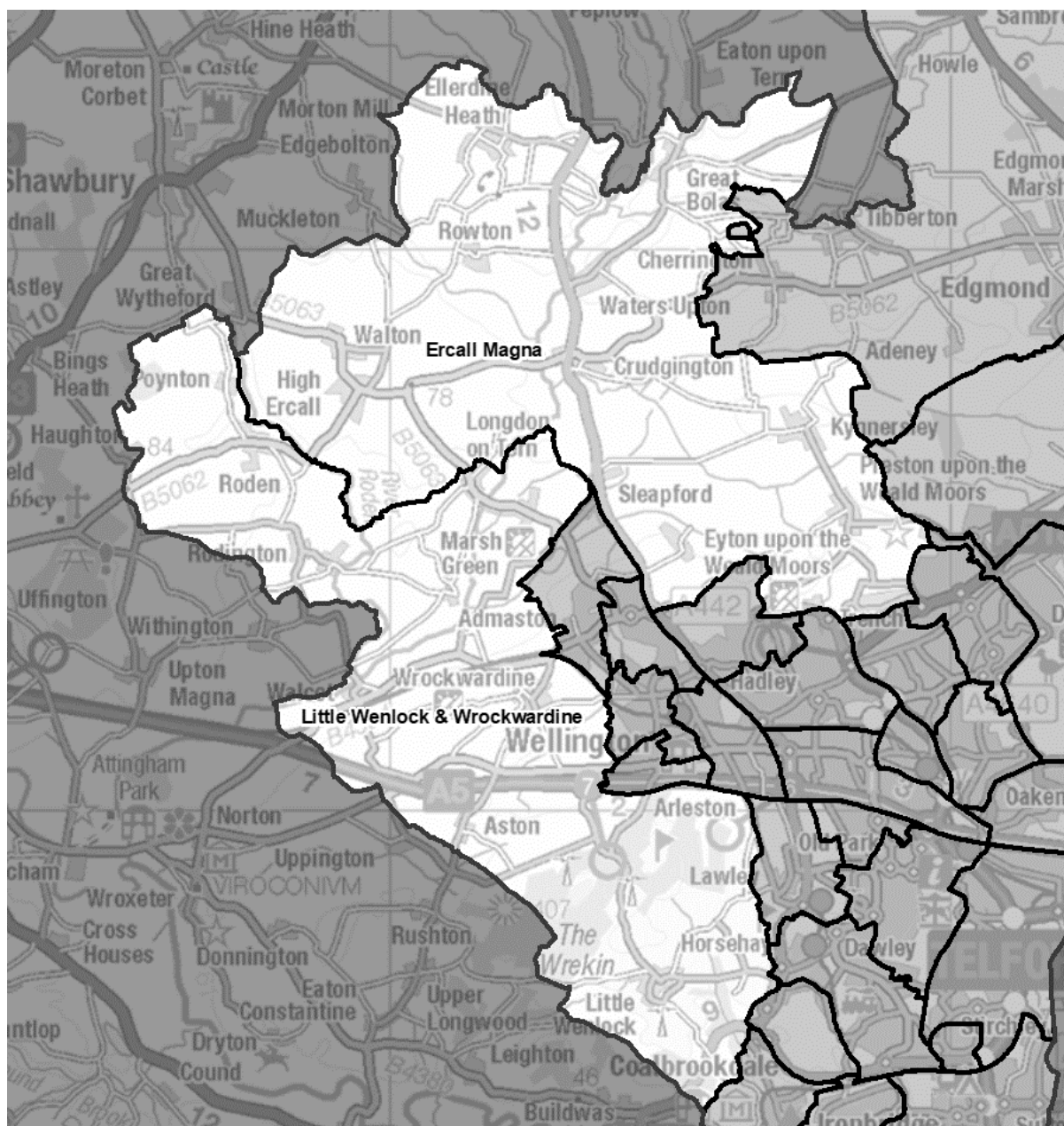
Arleston & College, Ercall and Haygate & Park

80 We received no evidence in this area other than that from the Council. We have adopted the Council's proposals for Arleston & College and Ercall wards.

81 We note that electors on Barn Farm Drive do not have convenient access by car to the remainder of Ercall ward; but note that this mirrors existing arrangements, and that the inclusion of these electors is necessary in order to ensure that Ercall has acceptable electoral equality. We would welcome any alternative proposals in this area that might offer a better balance of our statutory criteria.

82 We proposed to expand the Council's proposed Haygate & Park ward, in order to ensure that electors along Lewis Crescent and neighbouring streets are together in a ward with the neighbouring residential areas. We consider that the parish boundary in this area, which the Council proposed to follow, is not likely to be reflective of community identities with a number of these electors being in the primarily rural Wrockwardine parish.

Rural Western



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ercall Magna	1	7%
Little Wenlock & Wrockwardine	1	-8%

Ercall Magna, and Little Wenlock & Wrockwardine

83 We have adjusted the Council's proposal for these wards, in order to provide a better reflection of community identity in neighbouring wards. The Council's proposal for Ercall Magna and Wrockwardine wards was based on entire parishes, with variances of 10% and -10% respectively – just within the bounds of good electoral

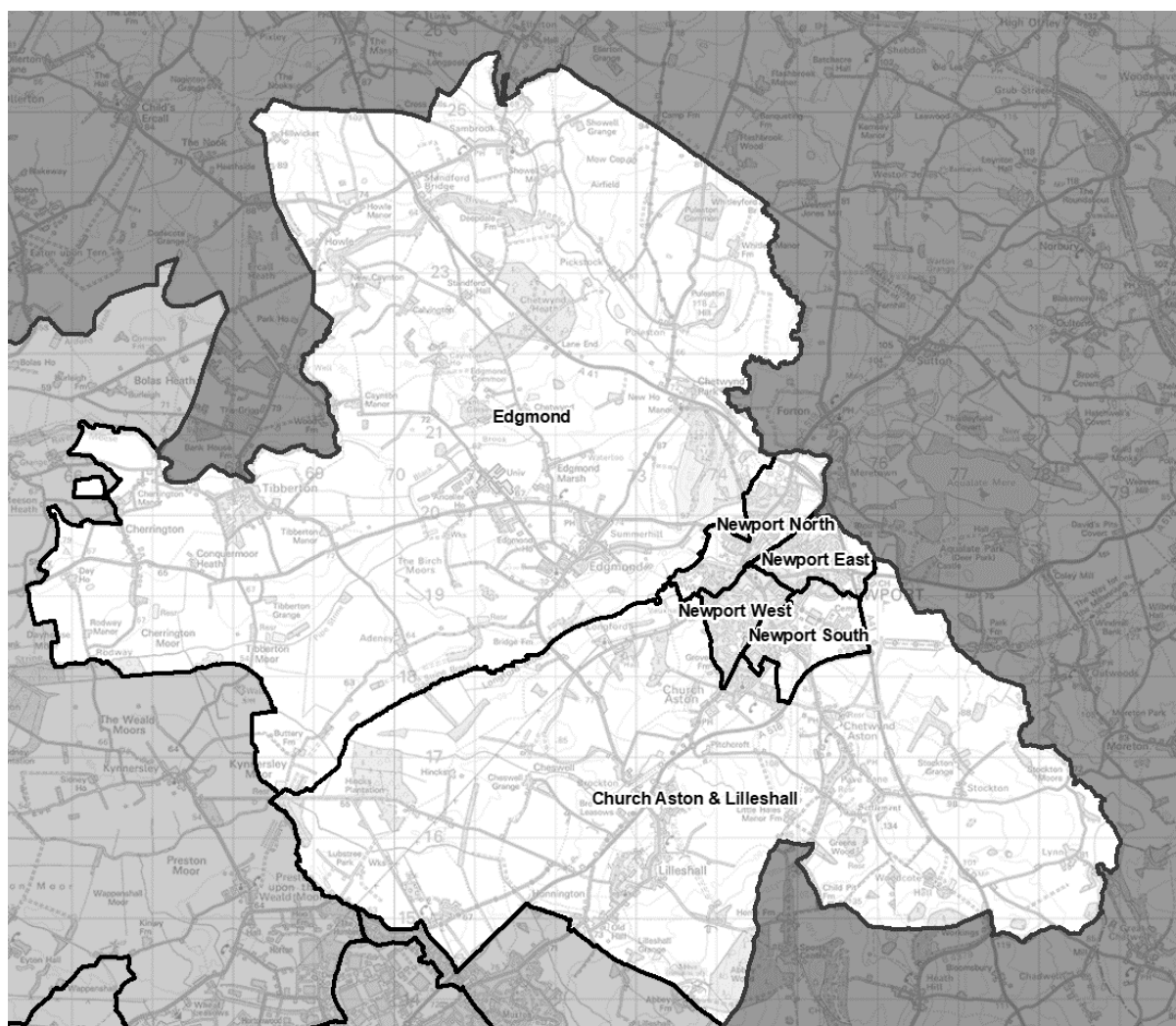
equality. Cllr Dugmore's proposal split the village of High Ercall, in a manner we do not consider would reflect community identity.

84 We propose a boundary between these two wards that follows the parish boundary between Ercall Magna and Rodington parishes as far as the River Roden, and then follows the river north to the borough boundary. This means that roughly 200 electors in the Roden and Poynton Green areas will move into Little Wenlock & Wrockwardine ward, while remaining in Ercall Magna parish.

85 This adjustment allows the flexibility to offer additional changes to both wards, while retaining good electoral equality. We propose to move electors along Lewis Crescent into Haygate & Park ward, as discussed above at paragraph 82; and electors in the Horton area of Hadley & Leegomery parish into Ercall Magna ward (discussed at paragraph 73). We consider that each of these changes improve the community identity of the wards in question, and they would not be possible within the bounds of electoral equality without the change in the Roden area.

86 Councillor J. Seymour suggested that it would be helpful if the name of the existing Wrockwardine ward could be modified, suggesting that there was confusion between this ward and Wrockwardine Wood in another part of the borough. We propose to remedy this by including Little Wenlock in the name of this ward. We would welcome further evidence from residents of this area as to whether this name is appropriate and reflects the identity of communities.

Rural Eastern and Newport



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Church Aston & Lilleshall	1	-1%
Edgmond	1	-9%
Newport East	1	-4%
Newport North	1	-2%
Newport South	1	-8%
Newport West	1	2%

Church Aston & Lilleshall and Edgmond

87 We received no proposals other than that of the Council and Cllr Dugmore in this area and have adopted the Council's proposal for these wards, with one amendment. Church Aston Parish Council provided evidence that the Wallshead area, currently within Newport South ward, had closer community links to Church Aston village. We are persuaded by this evidence and have altered the Council's proposed wards to place this area within Church Aston ward. This leaves Newport

South with 8% fewer electors per councillor than average – still within the bounds of good electoral equality.

88 One resident requested that Edgmond be moved into North Shropshire. We are unable to alter the external boundaries of Telford & Wrekin as a part of this electoral review.

Newport East, Newport North, Newport South and Newport West

89 Except for the Wallshead area as discussed above (paragraph 87), we have adopted the Council's proposals for these wards. We visited Newport on our tour of Telford & Wrekin and consider that the Council's proposed boundaries are as clear as is possible within the town and offer good electoral equality.

90 Newport Town Council wrote to us, requesting that the boundary of Newport parish be adjusted to match those of the borough wards, particularly in the south where the A518 forms an effective southern boundary to the built-up area of Newport. While we recognise that the parish boundary may not reflect the existing community in this area, we do not have the power to adjust the boundaries of parishes during this review – this would be a matter for a Community Governance Review led by Telford & Wrekin Council.

Conclusions

91 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Telford & Wrekin, referencing the 2020 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	
	2020	2027
Number of councillors	54	54
Number of electoral wards	33	33
Average number of electors per councillor	2,464	2,723
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	13	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Draft recommendations

Telford & Wrekin Borough Council should be made up of 54 councillors serving 33 wards representing 16 single-councillor wards, 14 two-councillor wards and four 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 Telford & Wrekin. You can also view our draft recommendations for Telford & Wrekin on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

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

93 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Telford & Wrekin Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

94 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote, Dawley Hamlets, Donnington & Muxton, Ercall Magna, Hadley & Leegomery, Lawley & Overdale, Madeley, Newport, Oakengates, St Georges & Priorslee, Stirchley & Brookside, Wellington, Wrockwardine and Wrockwardine Wood & Trench.

95 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote parish.

Draft recommendations

Chetwynd Ashton & Woodcote Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Chetwynd Aston	4
Station Road	3

96 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Dawley Hamlets parish.

Draft recommendations

Dawley Hamlets Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Aqueduct	3
Horsehay	2
Horsehay Pool	2
Lawley South	1
Nightingale Walk	1

97 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Donnington & Muxton parish.

Draft recommendations

Donnington & Muxton Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Donnington East	2
Donnington West	5
Muxton	5
The Humbers	1

98 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ercall Magna parish.

Draft recommendations

Ercall Magna Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
High Ercall	11
Roden	2

99 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hadley & Leegomery parish.

Draft recommendations

Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Apley Castle	7
Hadley Castle	1
Hadley Manor	3
Horton	1
Leegomery	3
Trench Lock	1

100 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Lawley & Overdale parish.

Draft recommendations

Lawley & Overdale Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Lawley Common	1
Lawley West	1
Lawley East	3
Overdale & The Rock	2
Town Centre	1

101 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Madeley parish.

Draft recommendations

Madeley Parish Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Academy	1
Cuckoo Oak	1
Madeley Village	5
Sutton Hill	4
Woodside	6

102 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Newport parish.

Draft recommendations

Newport Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Newport East	3
Newport North	3
Newport South	3
Newport West	3

103 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Oakengates parish.

Draft recommendations

Oakengates Town Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Holyhurst	1
Ketley Bank	4
North	3
Middle Pool	1
Oakengates & Wombridge	4

104 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for St Georges & Priorslee parish.

Draft recommendations

St Georges & Priorslee Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
St Georges East	1
St Georges West	4
Snedshill	1
Priorslee	5

105 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Stirchley & Brookside parish.

Draft recommendations

Stirchley & Brookside Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brookside	5
Holmer Lake	1
Stirchley	7

106 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Wellington parish.

Draft recommendations

Wellington Parish Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Arleston	3
College	3
Dothill	3
Ercall	3
Haygate	4
Meadows	1
Park	2
Shawbirch	2

107 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Wrockwardine parish.

Draft recommendations

Wrockwardine Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Admaston & Bratton	6
Lewis Crescent	1
Wrockwardine	3

108 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements Wrockwardine Wood & Trench parish.

Draft recommendations

Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Kenwray Drive	1
Trench	8
Wrockwardine Wood East	1
Wrockwardine Wood West	1

Have your say

109 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.

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

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

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

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

113 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Telford & Wrekin 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.

114 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.

115 Electoral equality:

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

116 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?

117 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?

118 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.

119 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.

120 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.

121 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 Telford & Wrekin in 2023.

Equalities

122 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 Telford & Wrekin

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Admaston & Bratton	1	2,463	2,463	0%	2,579	2,579	-5%
2	Apley Castle & Leegomery	2	4,549	2,275	-8%	5,128	2,564	-6%
3	Arleston & College	2	4,780	2,390	-3%	5,337	2,669	-2%
4	Brookside	1	2,722	2,722	10%	2,780	2,780	2%
5	Church Aston & Lilleshall	1	2,600	2,600	6%	2,709	2,709	-1%
6	Dawley & Aqueduct	3	8,062	2,687	9%	8,567	2,856	5%
7	Donnington	2	5,743	2,872	17%	5,916	2,958	9%
8	Edgmond	1	2,369	2,369	-4%	2,468	2,468	-9%
9	Ercall	1	2,394	2,394	-3%	2,459	2,459	-10%
10	Ercall Magna	1	2,551	2,551	4%	2,906	2,906	7%
11	Great Dawley & Dawley Bank	2	5,458	2,729	11%	5,713	2,857	5%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Hadley & Trench Lock	3	7,123	2,374	-4%	7,403	2,468	-9%
13	Haygate & Park	2	5,266	2,633	7%	5,535	2,768	2%
14	Horsehay & Lightmoor	1	1,959	1,959	-21%	2,843	2,843	4%
15	Ironbridge Gorge	1	2,328	2,328	-6%	2,620	2,620	-4%
16	Ketley	2	5,752	2,876	17%	5,991	2,996	10%
17	Lawley	3	5,002	1,667	-32%	8,263	2,754	1%
18	Little Wenlock & Wrockwardine	1	2,101	2,101	-15%	2,516	2,516	-8%
19	Madeley	2	4,870	2,435	-1%	5,069	2,535	-7%
20	Muxton	2	4,594	2,297	-7%	5,128	2,564	-6%
21	Newport East	1	2,508	2,508	2%	2,601	2,601	-4%
22	Newport North	1	2,497	2,497	1%	2,670	2,670	-2%
23	Newport South	1	1,876	1,876	-24%	2,516	2,516	-8%
24	Newport West	1	2,743	2,743	11%	2,787	2,787	2%
25	Oakengates	1	2,375	2,375	-4%	2,519	2,519	-8%
26	Overdale & The Rock	1	2,787	2,787	13%	2,954	2,954	8%

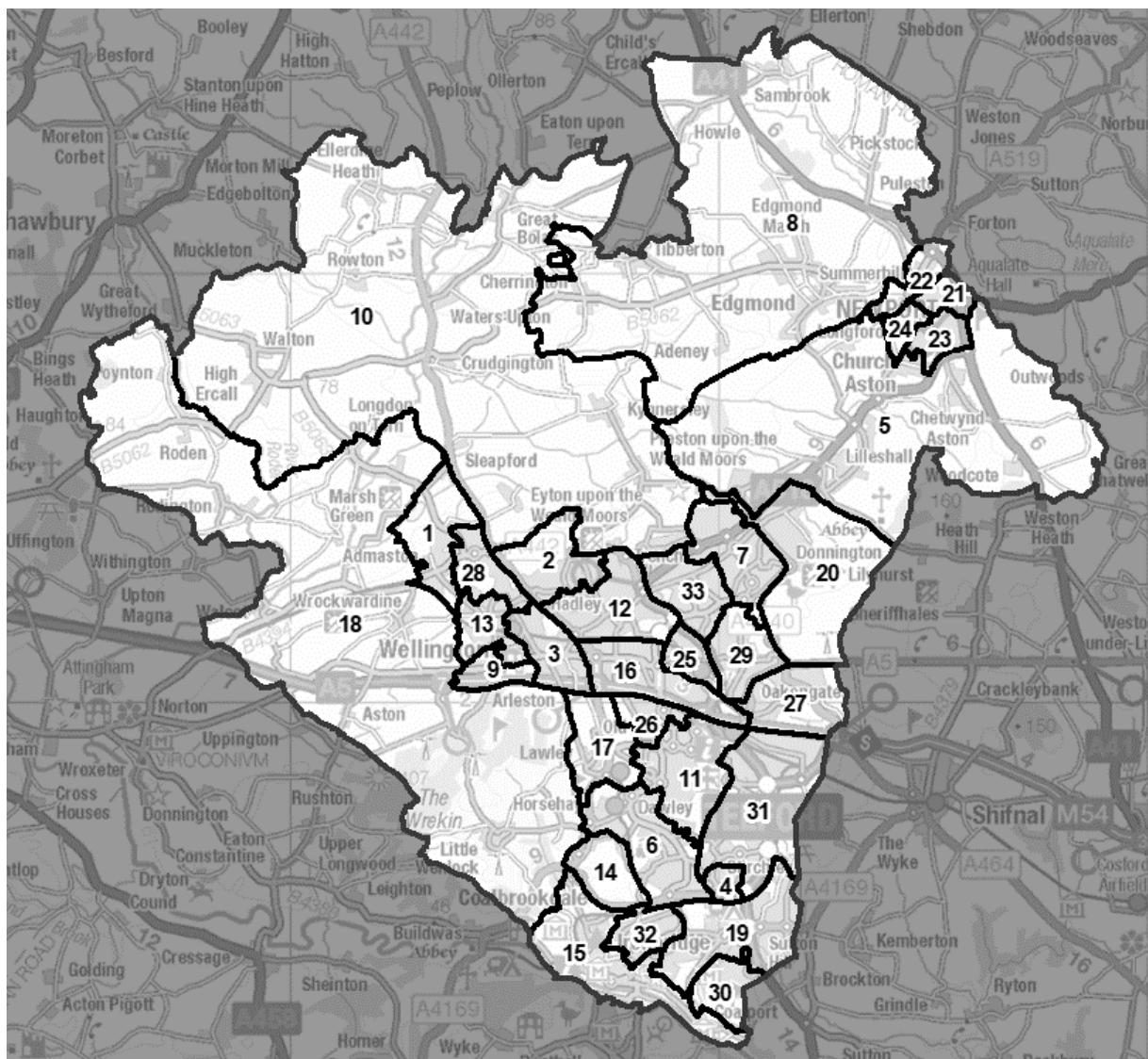
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
27 Priorslee	2	4,148	2,074	-16%	5,536	2,768	2%
28 Shawbirch & Dothill	2	4,385	2,193	-11%	4,977	2,489	-9%
29 St Georges	2	5,376	2,688	9%	5,693	2,847	5%
30 Sutton Hill	1	2,843	2,843	15%	2,975	2,975	9%
31 The Nedge	3	8,557	2,852	16%	8,965	2,988	10%
32 Woodside	2	4,911	2,456	0%	5,142	2,571	-6%
33 Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	2	5,379	2,690	9%	5,799	2,900	6%
Totals	54	133,071	-	-	147,064	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,464	-	-	2,723	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Telford & Wrekin 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



Number	Ward name
1	Admaston & Bratton
2	Apley Castle & Leegomery
3	Arleston & College
4	Brookside
5	Church Aston & Lilleshall
6	Dawley & Aqueduct
7	Donnington
8	Edgmond
9	Ercall
10	Ercall Magna
11	Great Dawley & Dawley Bank

12	Hadley & Trench Lock
13	Haygate & Park
14	Horsehay & Lightmoor
15	Ironbridge Gorge
16	Ketley
17	Lawley
18	Little Wenlock & Wrockwardine
19	Madeley
20	Muxton
21	Newport East
22	Newport North
23	Newport South
24	Newport West
25	Oakengates
26	Overdale & The Rock
27	Priorslee
28	Shawbirch & Dothill
29	St Georges
30	Sutton Hill
31	The Nedge
32	Woodside
33	Wrockwardine Wood & Trench

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/west-midlands/shropshire/telford-and-wrekin

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/shropshire/telford-and-wrekin

Local Authority

- Telford & Wrekin Council

Political Groups

- Telford Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor N. Dugmore (Telford & Wrekin Council)
- Councillor I. Fletcher (Telford & Wrekin Council)
- Councillor V. Fletcher (Telford & Wrekin Council)
- Councillor J. Seymour (Telford & Wrekin Council)
- Councillor G. Sinclair (Stirchley & Brookside Parish Council)

Local Organisations

- Church Aston & Chetwynd Aston Village Hall

Parish and Town Councils

- Church Aston Parish Council
- Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council
- Newport Town Council

Local Residents

- 32 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 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.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
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www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE