

# New electoral arrangements for Southampton City Council Draft Recommendations

May 2022

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### **A note on our mapping:**

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do?

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.<sup>1</sup> We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

## What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed?
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division?

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

## Why Southampton?

7 We are conducting a review of Southampton City Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2002, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup> Additionally some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality.' Our aim is to create 'electoral equality,' where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Southampton 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 city.

## Our proposals for Southampton

9 Southampton should be represented by 51 councillors, three more than there are now.

10 Southampton should have 17 wards, one more than there is now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; five (Bassett, Bitterne Park, Coxford, Harefield and Shirley) 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 city or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

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

## Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 10 May 2022 to 18 July 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 18 July 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 23 for how to send us your response.

## Review timetable

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

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 November 2021	Number of councillors decided
23 November 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
31 January 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
10 May 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
18 July 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
4 October 2022	Publication of final recommendations





## Analysis and draft recommendations

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

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

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

	2021	2027
Electorate of Southampton	174,849	183,318
Number of councillors	48	51
Average number of electors per councillor	3,428	3,594

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the wards as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Southampton 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5% by 2027.

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

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

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

## Number of councillors

26 Southampton City Council currently has 48 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that increasing by three councillors to 51 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 51 councillors.

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

29 A number of submissions we received made remarks about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. These almost all consisted of objections to the increase in council size from 48 to 51. None of these submissions proposed alternative council sizes or provided any evidence to back their assertions about the proposed council size for Southampton. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 51-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 107 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a city-wide proposal from Southampton City Council and partial schemes from Southampton Itchen Labour Party and a local resident. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the city.

31 The city-wide scheme provided a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Southampton on the basis that the Council is elected by thirds. We carefully considered the proposal received and were of the view that the proposed pattern of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

32 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.

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

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

## Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for 17 three-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

35 The tables and maps on pages 8–20 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Southampton. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>6</sup> criteria of:

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

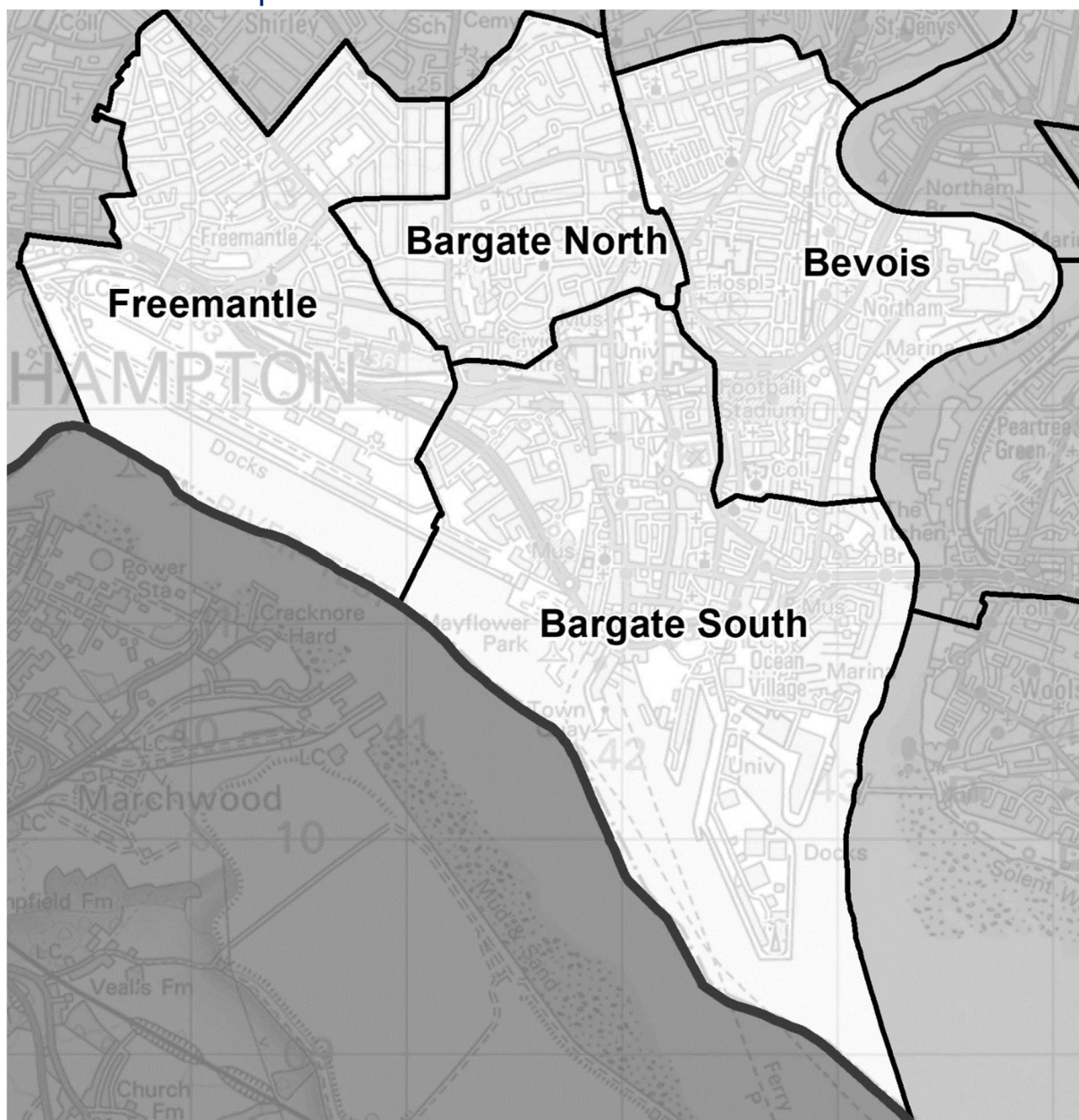
36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 29 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

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

## Central Southampton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bargate North	3	4%
Bargate South	3	-8%
Bevois	3	3%
Freemantle	3	1%

### *Bargate North and Bargate South*

38 The existing Bargate ward is forecast to have extremely poor electoral equality, with the ward predicted to have 46% more electors than the city average by 2027. To address this, the warding pattern submitted by the Council proposed that the existing Bargate ward be divided into two new wards of Bargate North and Bargate South.

Their proposed Bargate South ward would be formed of most of the existing Bargate ward and contain Southampton city centre. The proposed northern boundary of the ward would follow Southbrook Road, Blechynden Terrace, West Park Road, Cumberland Place, Brunswick Place and Charlotte Place. The boundary would then move south from Northam Road and the railway line to Kingsway and Chapel Road to include the area around St Mary's Stadium in Bevois ward (see next section).

39 The Council's proposed Bargate North ward was comprised of communities to the north of the city centre, with the authority arguing that these areas have a shared community identity. These are the parts of the existing Bargate ward to the north of Southampton Central station as well as the streets to the east of Carlton Road/Bedford Place centred around London Road that are currently part of Bevois ward. In addition, they included the Banister's Park area to the north of Archers Road and south of Cemetery Road and the area bounded by Shirley Road, Howard Road and Hill Lane that are currently included in Freemantle ward.

40 We also received a submission from Southampton Itchen Labour Party for the Bargate area that suggested an east-west split, with East Park Terrace, Palmerston Road, Queensway, Briton Street and Orchard Place forming the boundary between their two proposed wards. They stated that this proposal provided for a natural division of the area 'due to the long and wide parks which are an ancient extension of common land ending at the old town walls'. Their proposed Bargate West ward included the Polygon area, with the Council arguing that this area shares common interests with the area around Southampton station and West Quay. The Council's proposed Bargate East ward included the community of Northam that is currently located in Bevois ward.

41 Amongst the 13 other submissions that made specific reference to this area, there was support for a ward that united the area around Bedford Place and London Road as well as for the inclusion of Northam in a ward with the area to its south.

42 As part of our tour of Southampton we visited all of the areas in question and looked carefully at the two submissions, which proposed radically different division of the area. We concluded that the submission made by Southampton City Council best met our three statutory criteria.

43 We have been persuaded that the Council's proposal to unite the areas to the north of the city centre reflects a coherent community, particularly around Bedford Place and London Road. We noted the support for the inclusion of the Northam area with the streets to their south as proposed by the Southampton Itchen Labour Party. However, given our view that a Bargate North ward reflects the community in that area we could not identify a warding pattern that allowed for this and provided electoral equality. We are, however, interested to hear further evidence from the Northam community about their views as to their local community ties. We also did

not consider that the division of the city centre into a Bargate East and Bargate West ward, as proposed by the Southampton Itchen Labour Party, best reflected the community of the electors in the city centre. We are of the view that these electors would benefit from a ward that covered the whole of the city centre, although we would welcome further views on this arrangement.

44 Our proposed draft recommendations for this area are therefore for two three-councillor wards of Bargate North and Bargate South. These wards will have good electoral equality of 4% and -8% by 2027, respectively.

### *Bevois and Freemantle*

45 The submission from the Council proposed two three-councillor wards for Bevois and Freemantle. Their proposed Bevois ward, as discussed above, includes an area around St Mary's Stadium. The Council proposed to incorporate a small area currently in Portswood ward, including Lawn Road and the southern side of Spring Crescent, within Bevois ward. They also proposed to move the boundary between Bevois and Portswood wards from Portswood Road and Westwood Road to Avenue Road.

46 The Council's proposed Freemantle ward amended the boundary of the existing ward and the neighbouring Millbrook ward. The current boundary runs along Foundry Lane, Edward Road, Randolph Street and Beatrice Road. The Council proposed to move the boundary to run behind the rear of the properties on Regents Park Road, before following Waterhouse Way and Waterhouse Lane and to the north of Blighmont Crescent.

47 We also received a proposed warding pattern in this area that suggested that the majority of the existing Millbrook and Freemantle wards be merged into a single ward. However, this ward would require six councillors to provide for electoral equality and we do not consider that any ward should be represented by more than three councillors. We also received a submission that proposed that the existing Freemantle ward remain unchanged, as well as two representations that suggested that Regents Park should have its own ward. However, these two submissions did not suggest what the boundaries should be.

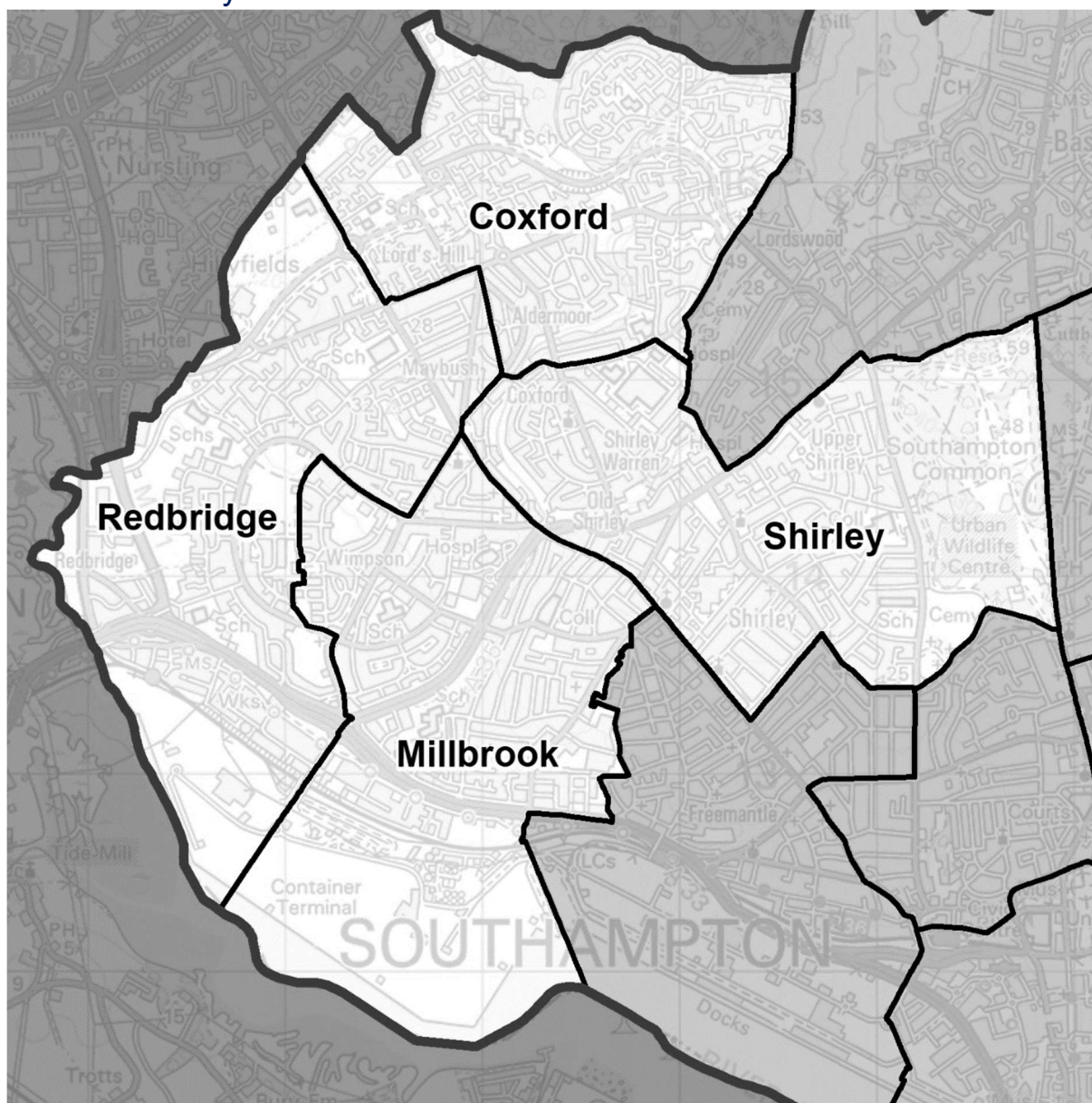
48 We visited both areas on our tour of Southampton and are of the view that the proposal for Freemantle would unite the community around Foundry Way that is currently divided between Millbrook and Freemantle wards. It is not possible to leave the existing ward of Freemantle unchanged and create a new ward in the city centre as we consider is appropriate, and whilst we note the comments regarding the creation of a Regents Park ward, we have not been provided with a specific proposal as to the boundaries of such a ward.

49 We also looked at the community around Alma Road and Gordon Avenue and noted evidence that they had community ties to both Bevois and Portswood wards. Our draft recommendations have included the Council's proposal to include the area in Portswood ward, but we would be particularly interested to hear from electors in this area about their views as to their local community ties.

50 Our proposed draft recommendations for these two wards are for a three-councillor Bevois ward with electoral equality of 3% and a three-councillor Freemantle ward with electoral equality of 1% by 2027.



## West of the city



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Coxford	3	-2%
Millbrook	3	-8%
Redbridge	3	-4%
Shirley	3	3%

### *Millbrook and Redbridge*

51 The Council proposed two three-councillor wards to cover this area. As a result of their proposed amendment to the boundary between Millbrook and Freemantle wards, the Council also proposed a modification the boundary between the existing Millbrook and Redbridge wards. They suggested amending the boundary so that it no longer runs along Wimpson Lane but instead follows Windermere Avenue and



Evenlode Road, before crossing the open ground and running south to Kendal Avenue. This proposal included the entirety of the Wimpson community and did not exclude any of the Millbrook community from the ward. The Council proposed no further changes to Redbridge ward.

52 A submission received from a local resident proposed a Redbridge ward that revised the existing ward's boundaries to follow the A35 and A3057. However, such an arrangement would require the ward to be represented by four councillors. We also received a submission that suggested that electors in Old Redbridge, the area to the west of the A35/M271, should be in a different ward from the rest of Redbridge but did not give a proposal on how this could be achieved.

53 Having visited the area on our tour of Southampton, we support the Council's proposals for these two wards. We consider that these proposed wards reflect the communities in the area. We would, however, be interested to hear more views of the electors in the areas concerned as to where they consider their community ties to be.

54 Our draft recommendations are for a three-councillor Millbrook ward and a three-councillor Redbridge ward. These wards would have electoral equality of -8% and -4%, respectively, by 2027.

#### *Coxford and Shirley*

55 The Council proposed to make no change to the two existing wards as part of their warding arrangements submission.

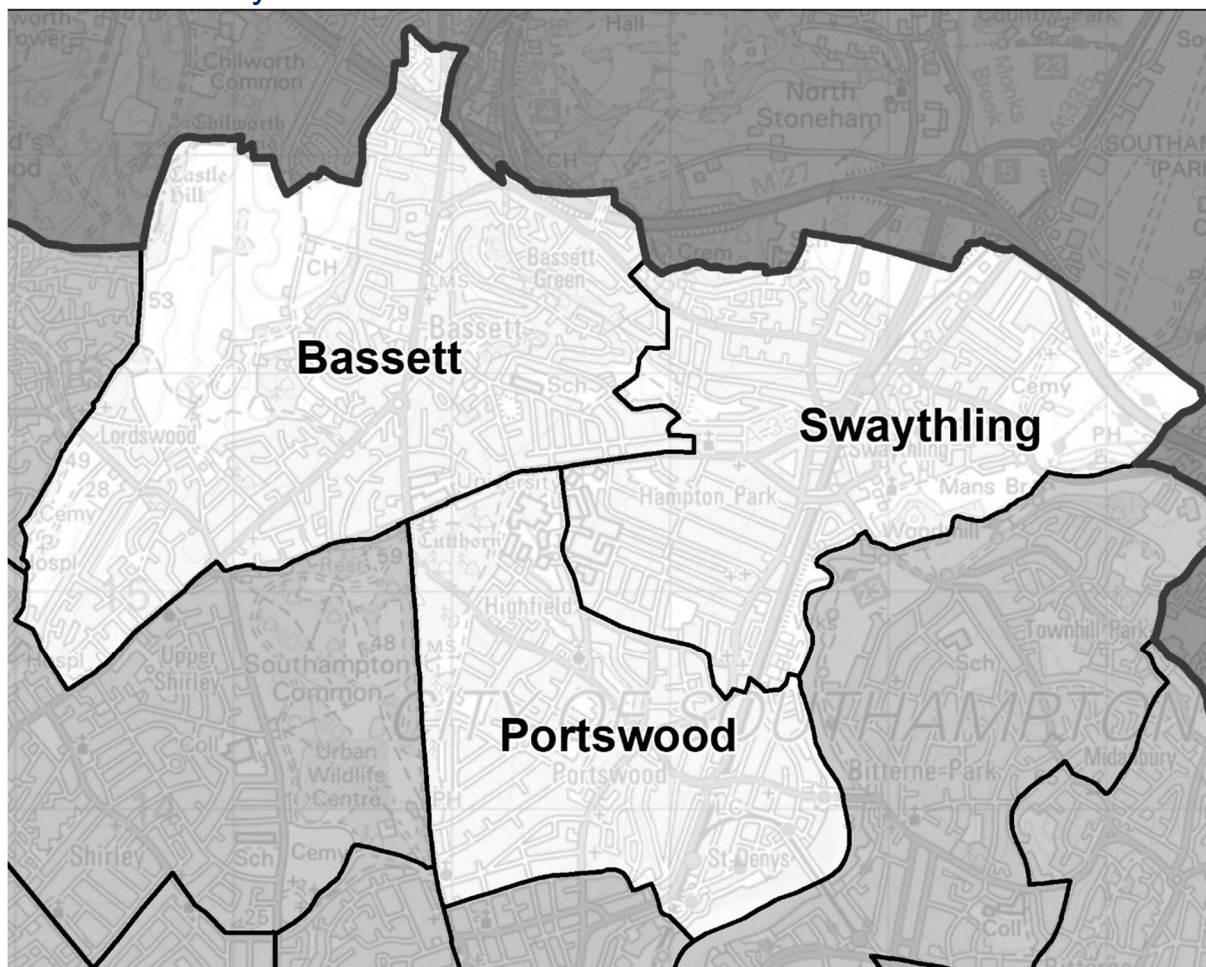
56 We received a handful of submissions that referred to the boundaries of Shirley ward. One suggested that the bulk of the existing Millbrook ward be absorbed into Shirley ward and the ward sub-divided into two or three wards. Another suggested that the Hollybrook area be included in Shirley ward. Another proposed that the area bounded by Upper Brownhill Road, Alder Road and Coxford Road currently in Redbridge ward be moved to Coxford ward.

57 The submission suggesting that Millbrook and Shirley be absorbed into two or three new wards made no suggestion as to where the boundaries should be. It also did not include any supporting evidence regarding the community identity of the electors in question. We have therefore not included this proposal within our draft recommendations. An arrangement which includes the Hollybrook area in Shirley ward would lead to poor electoral equality of 26% in Shirley and -25% in Bassett wards. We also have not incorporated this suggestion within our draft recommendations. Finally, a Coxford ward which included the area bounded by Upper Brownhill Road, Alder Road and Coxford Road would create an electoral imbalance of 11% by 2027, a figure we do not consider has been justified by the

limited evidence offered. We are, however, particularly interested to hear from electors in this area regarding their community identity.

58 Our proposed draft recommendations are therefore for two three-councillor wards of Coxford and Shirley which include no changes from the existing ward boundaries. They have electoral equality of -2% and 3%, respectively, by 2027.

## North of the city



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bassett	3	-4%
Portswood	3	8%
Swaythling	3	-5%

### *Bassett and Swaythling*

59 The Council's suggested warding pattern for these two wards made three significant changes to the existing wards of Bassett and Swaythling. The Council proposed that the boundary between Bassett and Swaythling wards be revised so that the Flowers Estate is wholly included in Swaythling ward. They also proposed to move the Leaside Way Estate from Swaythling ward to Bassett ward. Finally, they suggested moving the existing boundary between Swaythling and Portswood wards south from its current location along Hartley Avenue, Ripstone Gardens and Kitchener Road to University Road, Welbeck Avenue and Arnold Road.

60 We received around 25 submissions that made reference to these wards, a number of which commented on the Council's proposed changes for the Flowers and Leaside Way estates. These submissions supported the proposal to end the division

of the Flowers Estate between Bassett and Swaythling wards. A number of these submissions suggested the estate should be wholly contained in Bassett ward.

61 There was widespread opposition for the proposal to include Leaside Way Estate in Bassett ward. Those that responded stated that this proposal would break significant community ties between the Leaside Way Estate and Ethelburt Avenue, noting the estate's presence in the Bassett Green Conservation Area and Herbert Collins Estates Residents' Association. The submissions provided supporting evidence which demonstrated community ties.

62 Having considered the evidence submitted and visited the area on our tour of Southampton, we agree with the submissions that state that the proposal to include Leaside Way in Bassett ward breaks its community ties with the area to its south. We propose to maintain Leaside Way and surrounding streets in Swaythling ward. We investigated the possibility of also including the Flowers Estate wholly in either Bassett ward or Swaythling ward, but this would create an electoral variance of -15% in the ward from which it was removed.

63 We therefore propose that Bassett ward remain unchanged from the existing ward, an arrangement suggested to us by North East Bassett Residents' Association. Our draft recommendations also include the Council's proposed boundary between Swaythling and Portswood wards. Following our tour, we concluded that this revised boundary was more identifiable than the existing ward boundary in the area. It also allows us to provide electoral equality for both wards.

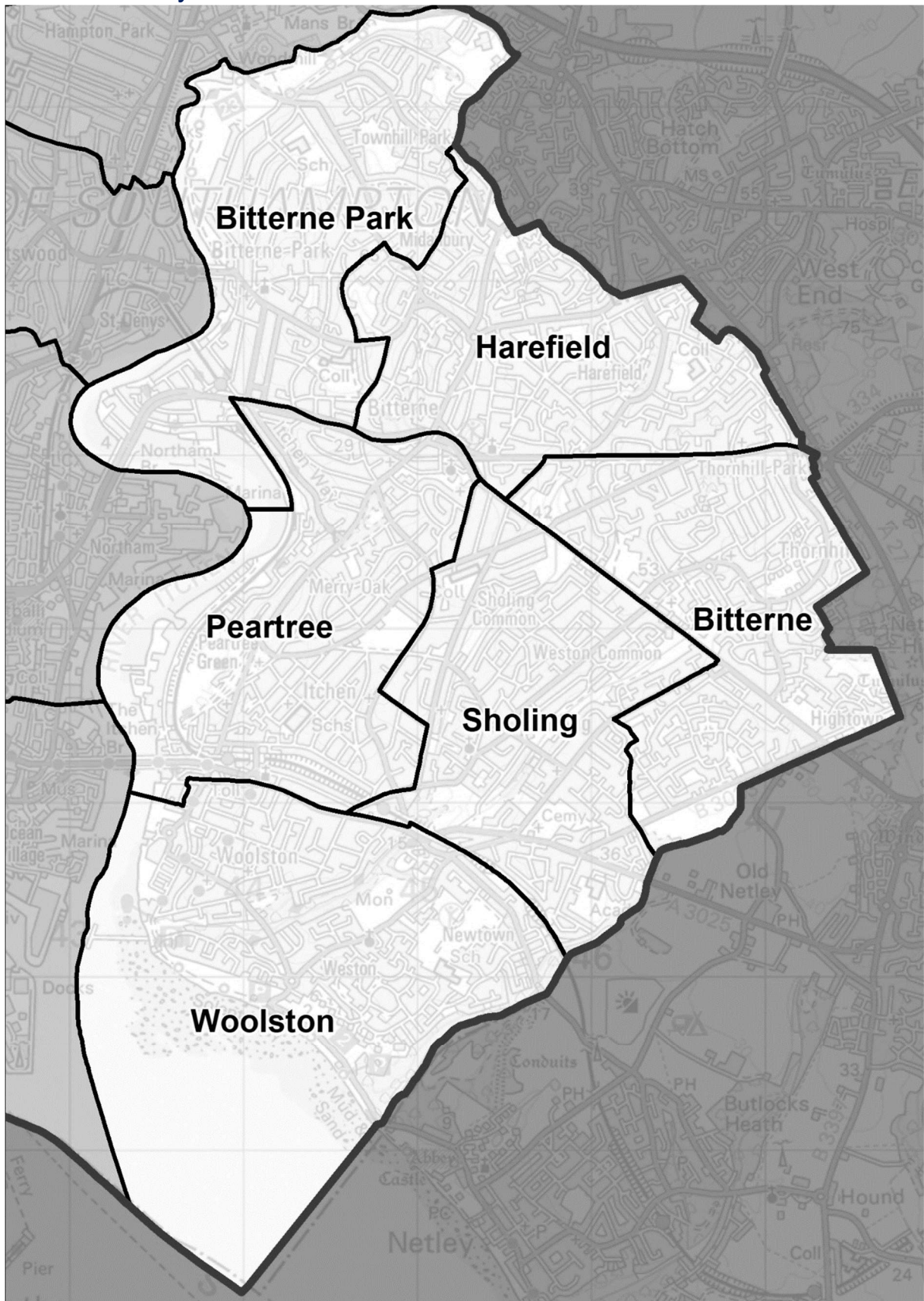
#### *Portswood*

64 We propose to adopt the Council's suggested Portswood ward. We agree that the proposed amendments to the existing boundaries between Portswood, Swaythling and Bevois wards are reflective of the local communities. However, we would welcome further evidence regarding the community identity of electors in these areas.

65 Our proposed draft recommendations for these wards are three three-councillor wards of Bassett, Portswood and Swaythling with good electoral equality of -4%, 8% and -5% by 2027, respectively.



## East of the city and River Itchen



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bitterne	3	-4%
Bitterne Park	3	-1%
Harefield	3	4%
Peartree	3	5%
Sholing	3	1%
Woolston	3	7%

### *Bitterne Park and Harefield*

66 In their submission, the Council proposed no changes to the existing Bitterne Park and Harefield wards. They argued that these wards continue to reflect the communities in the area.

67 We received a submission from a local organisation that stated that the current boundary between Bitterne Park and Harefield wards divides the Townhill Park Estate between wards. The submission from SO18 Big Local stated that the current boundary (which runs along Meggeson Avenue and Wakefield Road) does not reflect the communities in the area. SO18 Big Local proposed the boundary instead should run along Townhill Way and Mousehole Lane. We also received a submission from a local resident that stated that the boundary between Bitterne Park and Harefield wards should run wholly down Mousehole Lane rather than the current boundary along Avon Road and Neva Road. Another local resident suggested that Bitterne Park ward should also include the St Denys area across the River Itchen. Another submission suggested that the A334 should form the entirety of the boundary between Harefield and Bitterne wards, with electors in properties to the south of the A334 and north of Burlesdon and Bath roads included in Bitterne ward. Finally, it was suggested that Dean Road should be included in Bitterne ward rather than Harefield.

68 We visited all of the areas mentioned above as part of our tour of Southampton to help us understand the submissions we received. We concluded that the Council's proposal to make no changes to the existing wards best meets our statutory criteria. We gave detailed consideration to the proposed revised boundary suggested by SO18 Big Local, and we are of the view that Townhill Way and Mousehole Lane is a stronger boundary than the existing boundary. However, adopting this proposed boundary would result in poor electoral equality of 12% in Bitterne Park ward and we did not consider we have received sufficiently strong evidence to justify this level of electoral inequality. We do, however, welcome additional evidence from residents and organisations in this area.

69 We did note that running the boundary straight down Mousehole Lane, as proposed by a local resident, would lead to two wards that provide for good electoral

equality. However, this submission did not include supporting evidence and we have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. Again, however, we would welcome further evidence relating to this proposal. The same applies to the suggestions regarding electors in properties to the south of the A334 and north of Burtlesdon and Bath roads and Dean Road. We would welcome evidence of the communities in this area.

70 Our draft recommendations for these two wards are two three-councillor wards of Bitterne Park and Harefield with good electoral equality of -1% and 4%, respectively.

#### *Bitterne, Peartree, Sholing and Woolston*

71 The warding pattern submitted by the Council for these four wards proposed some small amendments to the existing boundaries between Sholing and Bitterne, Sholing and Woolston, and Peartree and Woolston. The Council proposed to amend the boundary between Sholing and Bitterne wards from the centre of Valentine Avenue and the B3033 Botley Road to instead run to the rear of the properties on Valentine Avenue. This arrangement unites Valentine Avenue wholly in Bitterne ward, whereas the existing wards in this area include Valentine Primary School in Sholing ward.

72 The current ward boundary between Sholing and Woolston wards follows the Sholing to Netley railway line. The Council proposed to move the boundary away from the railway line at a point next to The Gardeners Arms public house and run it along Newtown Road and Wright's Hill and onto the A3025. This proposal moves electors on the north side of Newtown Road, Wright's Hill and the A3025 (as far as Station Road) from Woolston ward to Sholing ward. Furthermore, it moves electors on the north side of the A3025 Portsmouth Road, Fort Road and Porchester Road from Woolston ward to Peartree ward. The Council also proposed to move a number of electors on Wharf Road, as well as the streets off it, from Woolston ward to Peartree ward. A submission from Councillor Payne suggested that, if necessary, the boundary could be revised to follow Newtown Road from the city boundary and that all electors to the north side of that road could be included in Sholing ward.

73 We received a number of other submissions in this area. Some of the submissions suggested that Weston should have its own ward, although none of the representations specified how this should be achieved within a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. A number of submissions suggested that Bitterne ward would be better if it were renamed, with Thornhill or Thornhill Park suggested as alternatives. Other submissions argued that they were part of the Bitterne community but were included in Peartree ward.

74 Having visited this area on our tour of the city we agree that the Council's proposed change to the boundary between Sholing and Bitterne around Valentine

Avenue reflects the community identity of these electors. We have also included the electors around Wharf Road in Peartree ward within our draft recommendations, as proposed by the Council.

75 We have not been persuaded, however, that moving the boundary from the railway line to the A3025 Newtown Road reflects communities in the area. We consider that the railway line forms a more identifiable and stronger boundary here and propose to include electors bounded by the A3025 Portsmouth Road, Station Road, Spring Road and Sholing station in Sholing ward to recognise their ties to the Sholing area. We also propose continuing to use the A3025 Portsmouth Road as the boundary between Woolston and Peartree wards, including Porchester Road in Peartree ward. We consider this arrangement to be reflective of community ties.

76 We considered the name of Bitterne ward and the fact the Bitterne area covers more than one ward, with parts of it in Bitterne, Harefield, Peartree and Sholing wards. We did not consider we received sufficient evidence to justify making any changes to these boundaries, which we view to be strong and identifiable. We also do not consider we have received sufficient evidence to justify the renaming of Bitterne ward, but we are particularly interested to hear further evidence in this area as to the community ties of electors and their views on the names of the wards.

77 Our proposed draft recommendations are for four three-councillor wards of Bitterne, Peartree, Sholing and Woolston. These wards will have good electoral equality of -4%, 5%, 1% and 7% by 2027, respectively.



## Conclusions

78 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Southampton, 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	51	51
Number of electoral wards	17	17
Average number of electors per councillor	3,428	3,594
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	1	0

#### Draft recommendations

Southampton City Council should be made up of 51 councillors representing 17 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 Southampton City Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Southampton City Council on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)



## Have your say

79 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 city or just a part of it.

80 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you do not think our recommendations are right for Southampton, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

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

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

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

83 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Southampton City Council which delivers:

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

84 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.

85 Electoral equality:

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

86 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?

87 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?

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

89 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.

90 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.

91 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 Southampton City Council in 2024.



## Equalities

92 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 Southampton City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bargate North	3	10,167	3,389	-1%	11,170	3,723	4%
2	Bargate South	3	7,842	2,614	-24%	9,914	3,305	-8%
3	Bassett	3	10,143	3,381	-1%	10,371	3,457	-4%
4	Bevois	3	10,198	3,399	-1%	11,057	3,686	3%
5	Bitterne	3	10,250	3,417	0%	10,373	3,458	-4%
6	Bitterne Park	3	10,543	3,514	3%	10,719	3,573	-1%
7	Coxford	3	10,342	3,447	1%	10,541	3,514	-2%
8	Freemantle	3	10,272	3,424	0%	10,860	3,620	1%
9	Harefield	3	10,603	3,534	3%	11,241	3,747	4%
10	Millbrook	3	9,672	3,224	-6%	9,920	3,307	-8%
11	Peartree	3	11,101	3,700	8%	11,309	3,770	5%

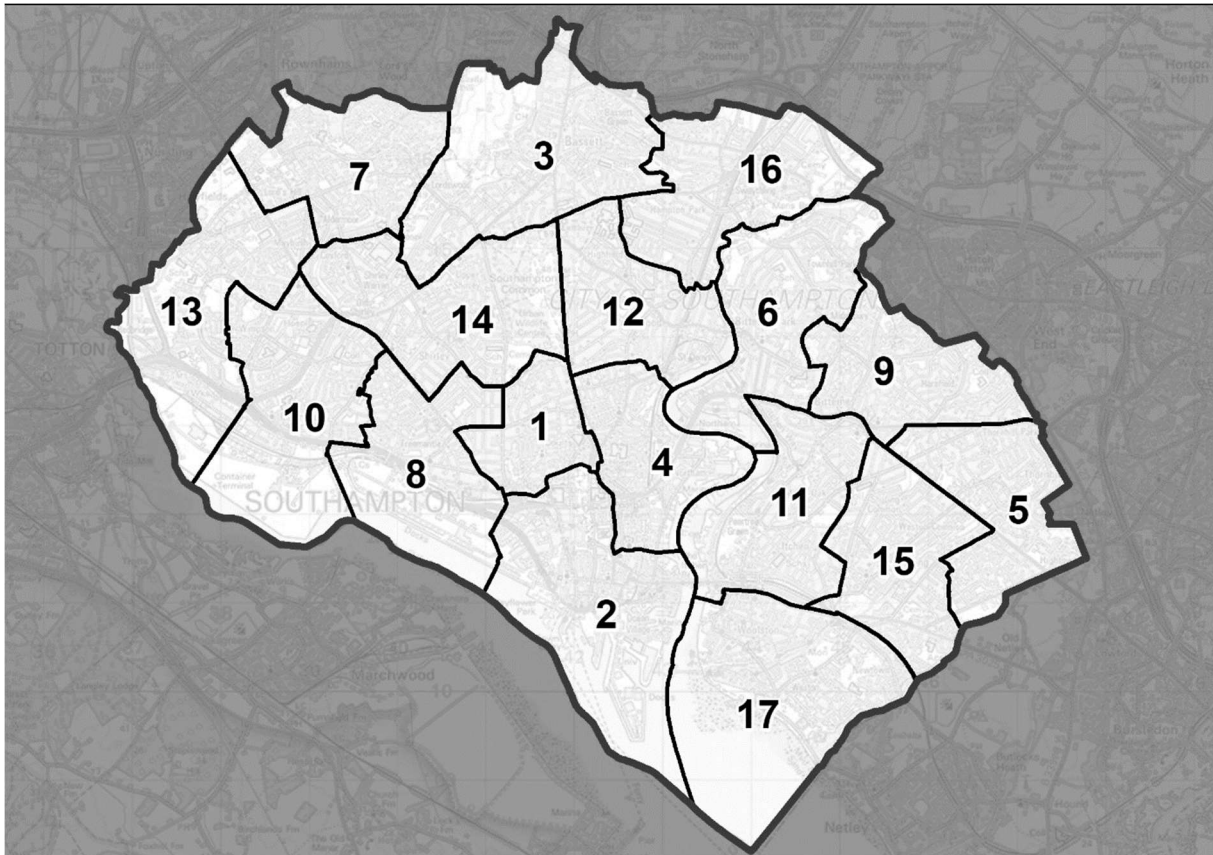
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Portswood	3	11,428	3,809	11%	11,693	3,898	8%
13 Redbridge	3	9,932	3,311	-3%	10,403	3,468	-4%
14 Shirley	3	10,735	3,578	4%	11,083	3,694	3%
15 Sholing	3	10,795	3,598	5%	10,921	3,640	1%
16 Swaythling	3	10,126	3,375	-2%	10,256	3,419	-5%
17 Woolston	3	10,700	3,567	4%	11,487	3,829	7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>174,849</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>183,318</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,428</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,594</b>	<b>–</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Southampton City 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 city. 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	Bargate North
2	Bargate South
3	Bassett
4	Bevois
5	Bitterne
6	Bitterne Park
7	Coxford
8	Freemantle
9	Harefield
10	Millbrook
11	Peartree
12	Portswood
13	Redbridge
14	Shirley
15	Sholing
16	Swaythling
17	Woolston

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/hampshire/southampton-unitary-authority-ua](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/hampshire/southampton-unitary-authority-ua)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/hampshire/southampton-unitary-authority-ua](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/hampshire/southampton-unitary-authority-ua)

#### *Local Authority*

- Southampton City Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Southampton Itchen Labour Party

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor W. Payne (Southampton City Council)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Herbert Collins Estates Limited
- Herbert Collins Estates Residents' Association
- North East Bassett Residents' Association
- Old Netley & Highfield Cricket Club
- SO18 Big Local

#### *Local Residents*

- Ninety-nine local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative, and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names, and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative, and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative, and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

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

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

**Twitter:** @LGBCE