



# New electoral arrangements for Wychavon District Council Final Recommendations

September 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 Wychavon?

7 We are conducting a review of Wychavon Council ('the Council') following a request from the Council. Additionally, 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'. Further, 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 Wychavon 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 district.

## Our proposals for Wychavon

9 Wychavon should be represented by 43 councillors, two fewer than there are now.

10 Wychavon should have 27 wards, five fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; eight will stay the same.

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

## How will the recommendations affect you?

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

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district 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 take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

## Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 January 2021	Number of councillors decided
13 July 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
20 September 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
11 January 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
21 March 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming further recommendations
5 July 2022	Publication of further draft recommendations; start of third consultation
8 August 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
16 September 2022	Publication of final recommendations





## Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</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.

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

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

	2021	2027
Electorate of Wychavon	102,010	109,474
Number of councillors	43	43
Average number of electors per councillor	2,369	2,546

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

## Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

22 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 7% by 2027.

23 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 final recommendations.

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

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

## Number of councillors

24 Wychavon Council currently has 45 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing by two will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 43 councillors – for example, 43 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft or further draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 43 councillors for our final recommendations.

## Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 43 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included district-wide proposals from Wychavon Liberal Democrats, and the Council's Conservative Group who submitted two schemes, noting that one of them was their preferred option. The Council did not make a proposal to us. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

28 The three district-wide schemes provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Wychavon. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

29 Our draft recommendations were mostly based on the proposal from Wychavon Liberal Democrats, with modifications to reflect other evidence received, and provide for a better balance of our statutory criteria

30 Our draft recommendations also took 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.

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

32 Our draft recommendations were for two three-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and 11 one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft

recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

## Draft recommendations consultation

33 We received 176 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from the Council and Mid-Worcestershire Liberal Democrats, covering the majority of areas in the district. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Peopleton and the Comberton areas.

34 Having carefully considered the submissions received, we decided to undertake a period of further consultation in the south of the district. We considered that we had sufficient evidence in most other areas of the district to propose a robust set of final recommendations.

35 In the south of the district, we received several proposals for changes to our draft recommendations, with our proposed wards covering Drakes Broughton and the Comberton villages receiving relatively little support. We also proposed significant changes to the warding pattern covering the town of Evesham. We therefore decided to publish further draft recommendations, and an additional period of consultation, in this area.

## Further draft recommendations

36 In response to this further consultation, we received 184 submissions regarding the south and west of Wychavon. As a result, we were persuaded to amend our further draft recommendations in order to provide a better balance of our statutory criteria.

37 In response to various pieces of evidence, we proposed changes to wards covering Drakes Broughton and Peopleton, in order to better reflect our understanding of the community identity of these areas. We also proposed placing Great Comberton and Little Comberton in Fladbury ward, with Wick parish moving into Pershore ward.

38 Our final recommendations are based on the draft and further draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in the Comberton area, and several larger proposed wards being split into two smaller wards, based on the submissions received. We also make minor modifications to the boundaries between other wards.

## Final recommendations

39 Our final recommendations are for two three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and 13 one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

40 The tables and maps on pages 9–26 detail our final recommendations for each area of Wychavon. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

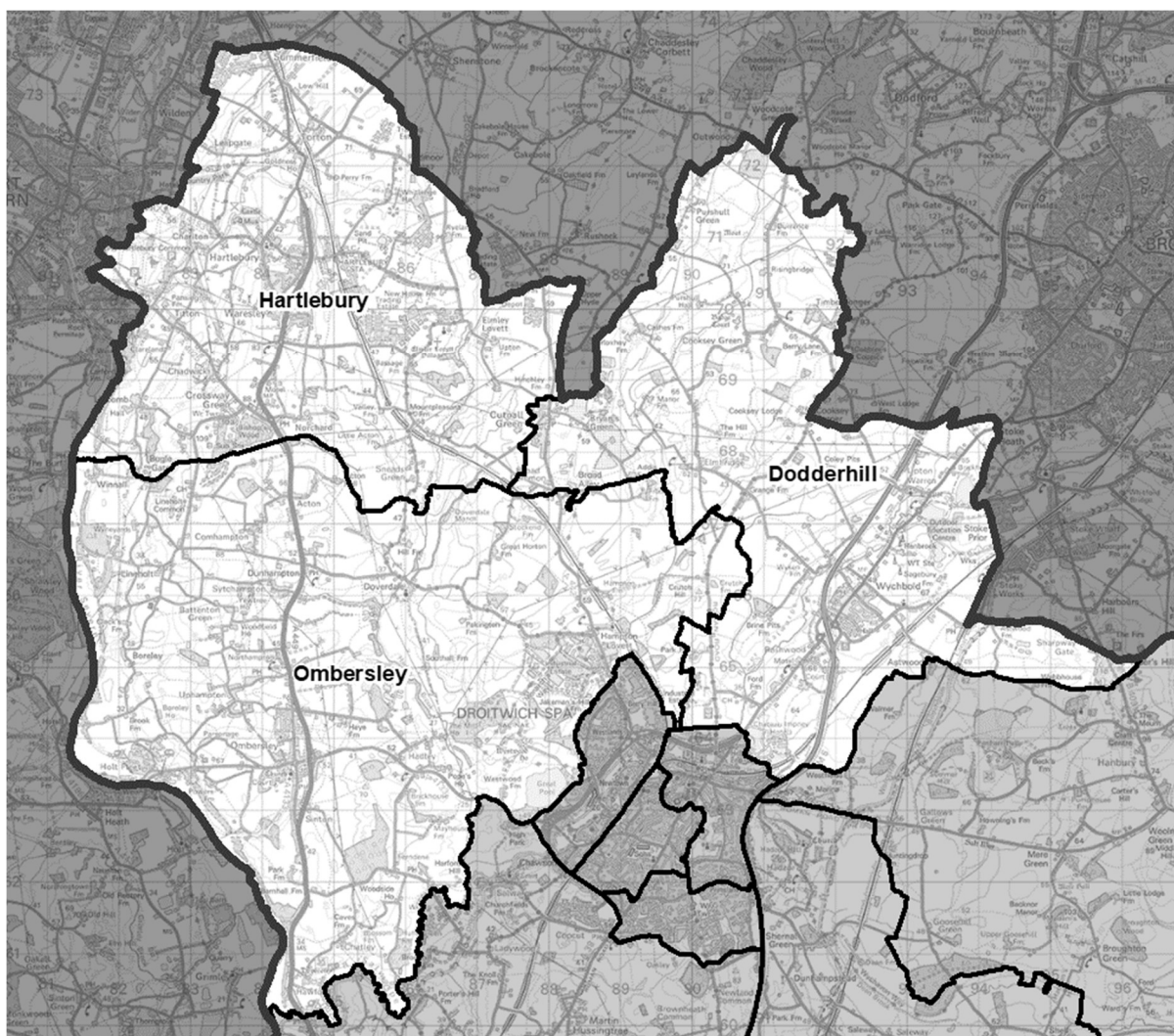
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

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

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<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Northern Wychavon



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Dodderhill	1	12%
Hartlebury	1	1%
Ombersley	1	-3%

### *Dodderhill and Hartlebury*

42 Our draft recommendation for this area was for a two-councillor ward, which offered good electoral equality while also ensuring that the village of Cutnall Green, which is divided between Elmley Lovett and Elmbridge parishes, was not split between wards.

43 We received little support for this proposal. The Council, the Conservative Group, the Mid-Worcestershire Liberal Democrats, Hartlebury Parish Council, Cllrs A. Aston, R. Morris, T. Miller and S. Bateman, and a number of residents provided evidence that there was little community identity between Hartlebury and Dodderhill,

with the Council also noting that a ward of this geographic size might be difficult to represent effectively.

44 Elmbridge Parish Council did not offer evidence on whether a two-member or two single-member wards would offer more effective and convenient government, but did note that they agreed with our principle of maintaining Cutnall Green within a single ward.

45 We are persuaded by the evidence provided that splitting Dodderhill and Hartlebury into separate, single-member wards offers a better reflection of community identity, and effective and convenient local government, than retaining our draft recommendations. Given our desire to retain Cutnall Green within a single ward, this means that we are unable to recommend wards with good electoral equality – whichever ward includes Cutnall Green will inevitably have more than 10% more electors per councillor than the district-wide average.

46 We received little evidence as to whether the community identity of Cutnall Green looked towards Hartlebury or Dodderhill, and hence whether the village should be placed in Hartlebury or Dodderhill ward. If Cutnall Green were placed in Hartlebury ward, this ward would have 15% more electors than average, whereas placing the village in Dodderhill ward, together with the change to Impney Way (para 49) results in a variance of 12%. We have therefore preferred this option, and propose to place Cutnall Green village in Dodderhill ward, together with the remainder of Elmbridge, Upton Warren and Dodderhill parishes. Our revised Hartlebury ward comprises the parish of the same name, together with the area of Elmley Lovett parish outside of Cutnall Green.

### *Ombersley*

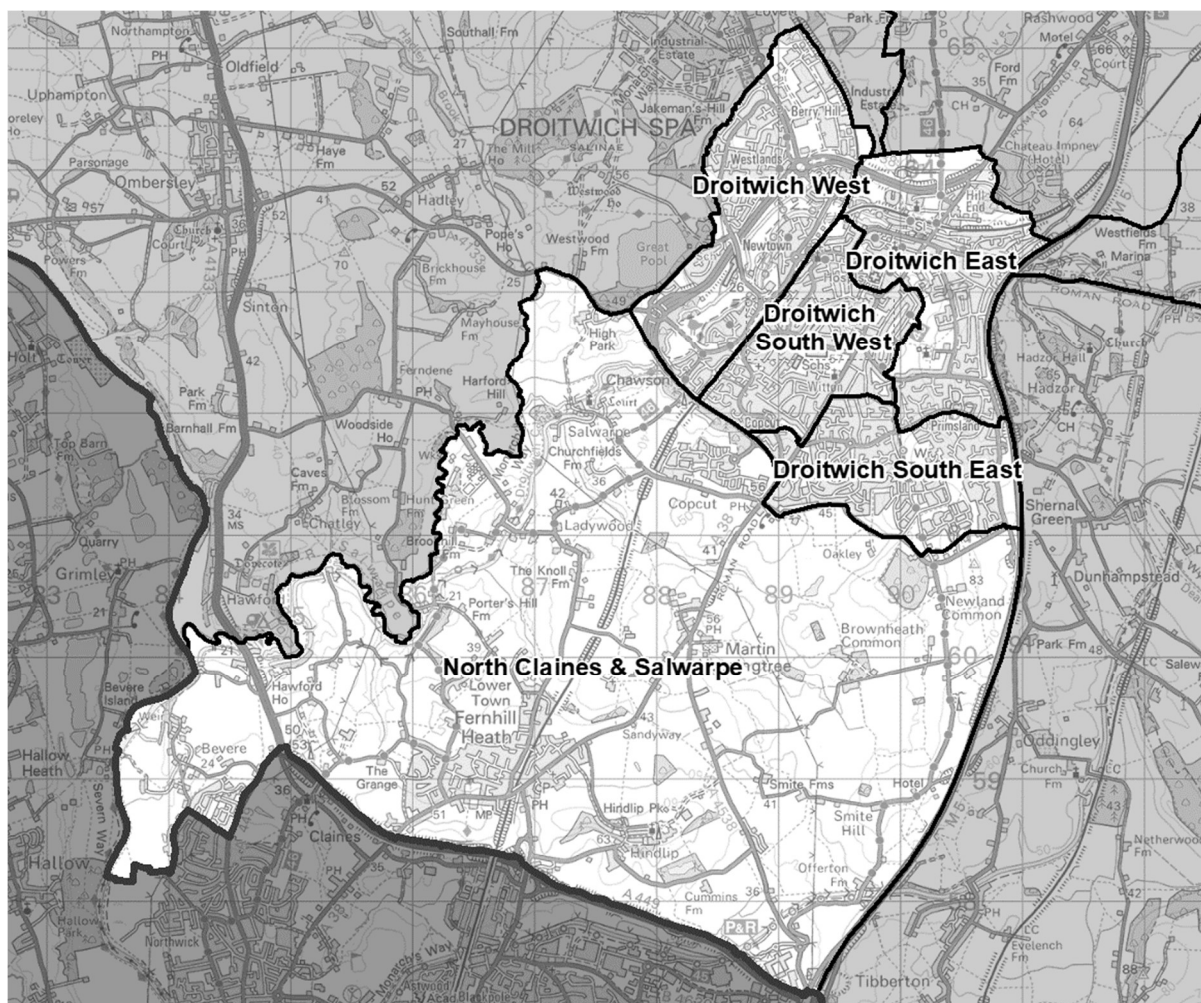
47 We received multiple representations regarding our proposal to place the Doverdale Park area within a Droitwich-based ward. A number of residents, together with the Doverdale Park Residents' Association, Mid-Worcestershire Labour Party, Cllrs N. Wright, C. Ellson-Evans and T. Miller, and Ombersley Parish Council provided evidence that Doverdale Park had a rural community identity, which would not be reflected by placing it within a Droitwich-based ward. In contrast, our proposal was supported by the Liberal Democrats. The Council and Conservative Group did not comment on this specific proposal.

48 We have carefully considered all the submissions received in this area. We note that, without the addition of Doverdale Park, our proposed Droitwich West ward would not have good electoral equality, with 11% fewer electors per councillor than average. However, we consider that this deviation from electoral equality is justified by the strong evidence that the community identity of Doverdale Park looks towards

the remainder of Hampton Lovett parish. We therefore propose to place Doverdale Park in Ombersley ward, which now contains the entirety of Ombersley, Doverdale, Westwood and Hampton Lovett parishes.



## Droitwich



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Droitwich East	2	-5%
Droitwich South East	2	5%
Droitwich South West	2	9%
Droitwich West	2	-11%
North Claines & Salwarpe	2	4%

### *Droitwich East and Droitwich West*

49 We are proposing minor changes to our draft recommendations for these wards, in order to improve community identity. A resident suggested that the Impney Way area of Dodderhill parish should be included within Droitwich East, as this area is seen as part of Droitwich. We have adopted this proposal, which also improves the electoral equality of both Droitwich East and Dodderhill wards.

50 As discussed above (paras 47–48) we have decided to move the Doverdale Park area out of Droitwich West into Ombersley ward. This leaves Droitwich West

with 11% fewer electors per councillor than average for the district – slightly beyond what we consider to be good electoral equality.

51 We considered various options to improve this variance. We received no evidence supporting moving any of the rural areas adjoining Droitwich West into this ward. We considered moving electors on Vines Lane and Kidderminster Road into Droitwich West, but this would require the creation of a very small parish ward which would not promote effective and convenient local government for Droitwich Spa parish. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

52 The Liberal Democrats supported our draft recommendations for all of Droitwich, including the use of the railway line as ‘a distinctive boundary between areas of different periods and designs’.

53 The Mid-Worcestershire Labour Party proposed the retention of a Droitwich Central ward, arguing that the central area of the town faced unique issues which deserved specific representation. However, the proposed wards were well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality, with a proposed Droitwich Central single-member ward with 33% more electors per councillor than average, and a Droitwich West two-member ward (in the absence of any additional changes) with 22% fewer electors than average. While we appreciate that the centre of Droitwich may have issues which differ from the outskirts, we do not consider that these justify such a significant departure from the principles of electoral equality, and we have therefore not adopted this proposal.

#### *Droitwich South East, Droitwich South West and North Claines & Salwarpe*

54 We propose to retain our draft recommendations in this area, with no amendments. The draft recommendations were supported by the Liberal Democrats, while the Council did not propose any changes.

55 The Conservatives, and a joint submission from Droitwich councillors, suggested that the Copcut Rise area, to the south of the A38 Roman Way, could be included within a Droitwich-based ward. These submissions argued that residents in this area used services and infrastructure within Droitwich, and that the primary means of access to this area was along the A38.

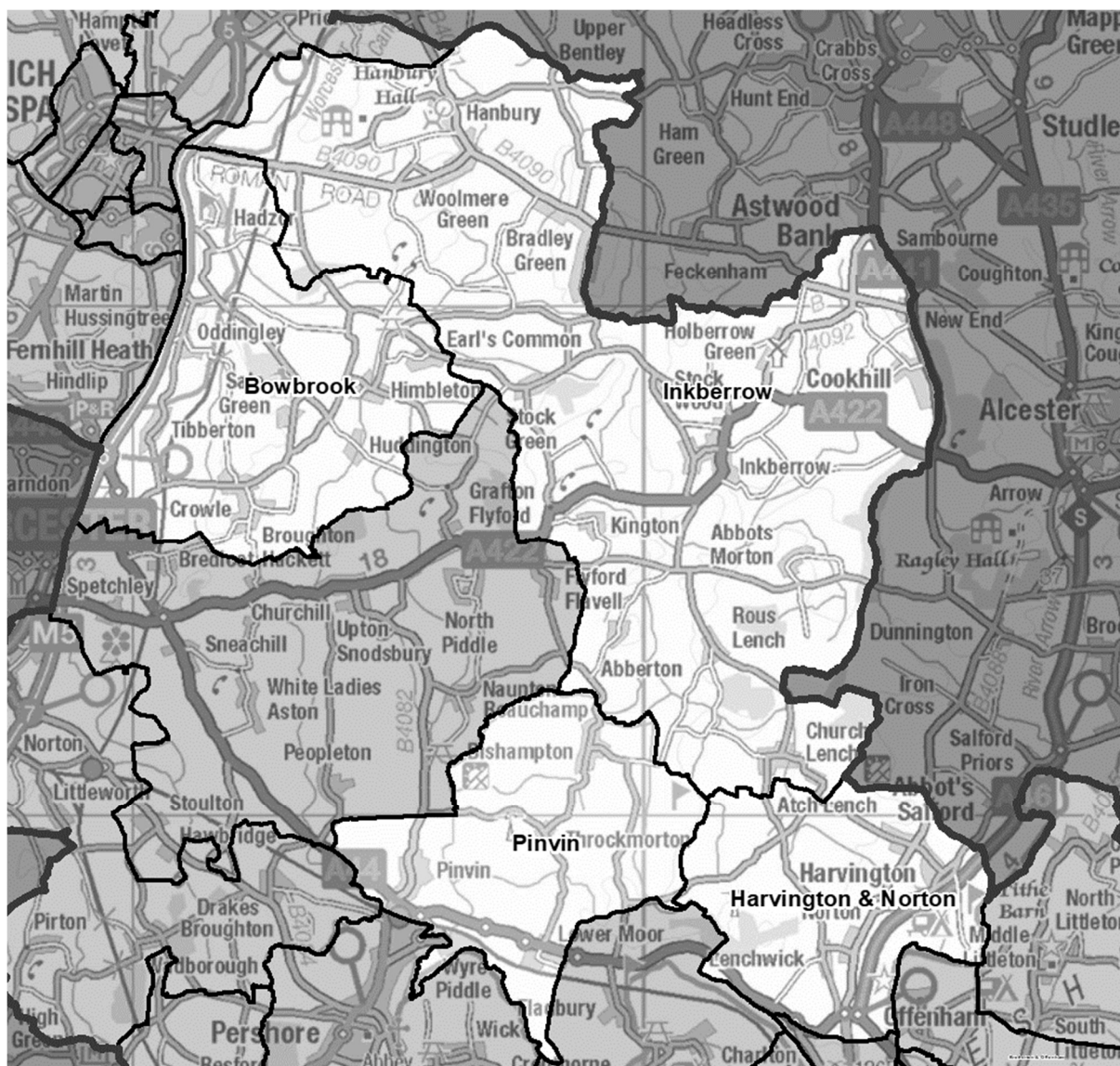
56 In contrast, Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree & Salwarpe Parish Council argued for Copcut Rise to remain with North Claines & Salwarpe ward, noting that the parish council was undertaking numerous activities to integrate the relatively new development into the life and community of the parish. The Labour proposal for Droitwich also did not include the Copcut Rise area within a Droitwich ward.

57 Cllr J. Grady suggested that the boundaries of Droitwich Spa parish should be extended to incorporate various neighbouring areas. As with other parishes, we have no power to alter the boundaries of Droitwich Spa parish – this is a matter for Wychavon Council following a Community Governance Review.

58 We have carefully considered all the submissions in this area. While no specific proposals were received for which Droitwich ward Copcut Rise should be placed in, we note that it would be possible to place this area into Droitwich with the town retaining eight councillors across several wards with good equality. However, the removal of the Copcut Rise area from North Claines & Salwarpe ward would, in the absence of any consequential changes, leave this ward with 19% fewer electors per councillor than average – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality. We considered various options to mitigate this inequality, but these would all involve significant disruption to neighbouring wards which were supported widely.

59 In light of the significant disruption which it would cause to neighbouring wards, and the mixed evidence regarding the community identity of Copcut Rise, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for this area. We received no other comments on our proposed North Claines & Salwarpe ward, and we confirm our draft recommendations for Droitwich South East, Droitwich South West and North Claines & Salwarpe as final.

## Central & Eastern Wychavon



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bowbrook	1	-2%
Harvington & Norton	1	-7%
Inkberrow	2	6%
Pinvin	1	0%

### *Bowbrook*

60 The Liberal Democrats supported our proposals for Bowbrook ward. We received no other comments on our draft recommendations for this ward, and we confirm them as final.

### *Harvington & Norton and Inkberrow*

61 We propose to retain our draft recommendations in this area, with no amendments. The draft recommendations were broadly supported by the Liberal Democrats, who noted that they would have preferred Charlton parish be added to Harvington & Norton ward. We considered this at the draft recommendation stage of our review, but noted that the access from Charlton to the remainder of Harvington & Norton involves a significant detour, in a way that might make effective representation difficult.

62 One resident commented on the proposal to place the southern portion of South Lenches parish into Harvington & Norton ward. This resident supported the proposal, on the understanding that the district councillor for Harvington & Norton would attend meetings of South Lenches Parish Council. We do not have the power to mandate an arrangement of this type.

63 One resident of Kington parish noted that they were closer to Inkberrow than Upton Snodsbury, used GP and shopping facilities in Inkberrow, and welcomed the inclusion of this parish in an Inkberrow ward. In contrast, the parish council of Kington and Dormston noted that they preferred to remain in an Upton Snodsbury ward, citing shared issues along the A422 road, and the relatively rural nature of these parishes compared to Inkberrow itself. The parish council did, however, note that residents looked towards Inkberrow for healthcare facilities.

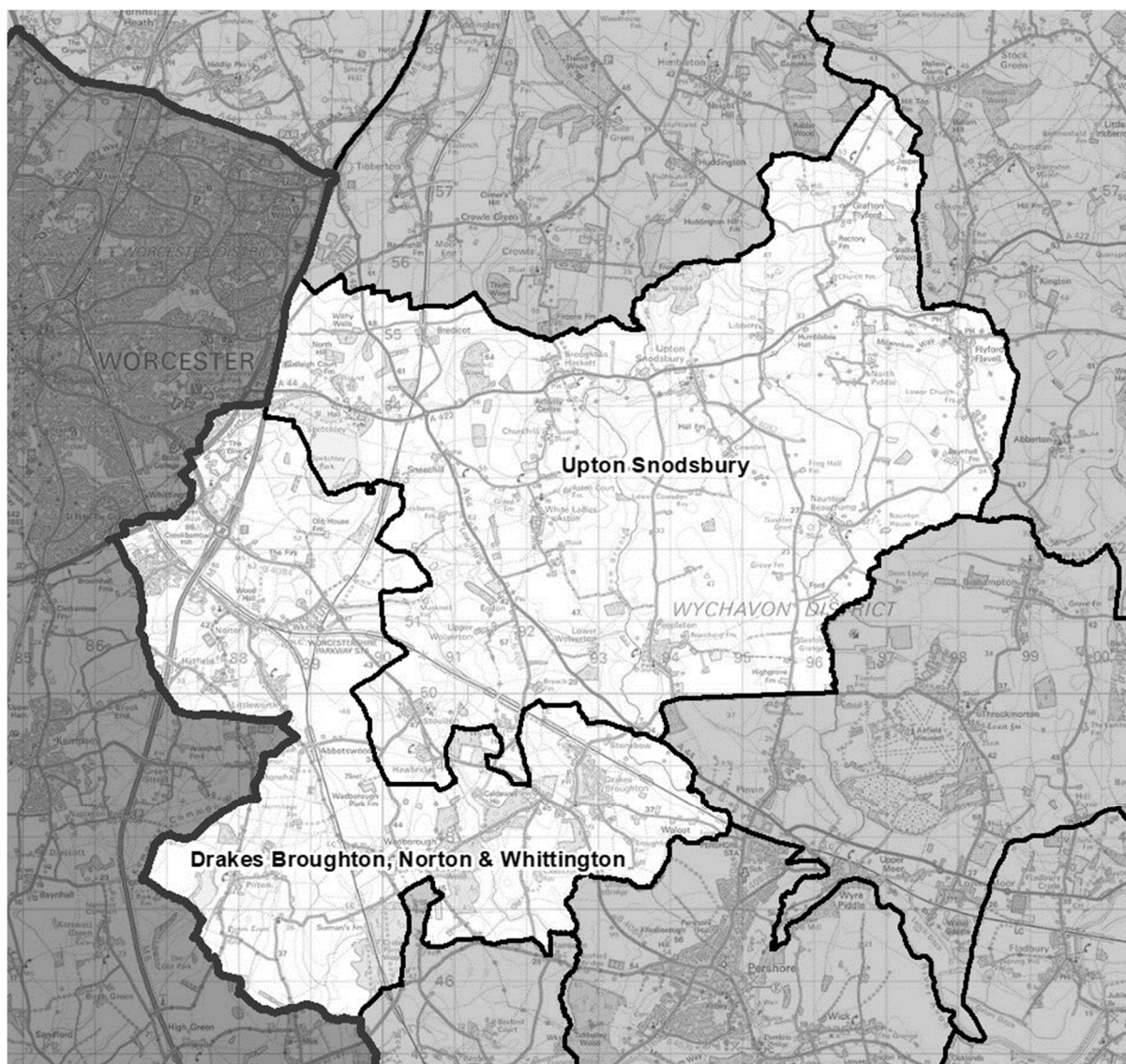
64 We considered these submissions carefully, together with other proposals for Upton Snodsbury ward, discussed at paras 67–73. On balance, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for Inkberrow ward. We consider that evidence of links between Kington and Inkberrow supports these areas being placed in the same ward, and the relatively large size of Inkberrow ward mitigates against the possibility that the concerns of the town will outweigh those of the rural areas. We also note that, in combination with our other proposals for Upton Snodsbury ward, the addition of Kington and Dormston parishes would leave Upton Snodsbury with 9% more electors than average – at the outer limits of good electoral equality.

### *Pinvin*

65 We received support for our draft recommendations from Cllrs D. Boatright and L. Tucker, as well as the Liberal Democrats.

66 We received no other comments on our draft recommendations for these wards, and we confirm them as final.

## Western Wychavon



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Drakes Broughton, Norton & Whittington	2	7%
Upton Snodsbury	1	-7%

### *Drakes Broughton, Norton & Whittington and Upton Snodsbury*

67 Our original draft recommendations were for three single-councillor wards; a ward linking Whittington and Upton Snodsbury, a ward containing Norton juxta Kempsey and Stoulton, and a Drakes Broughton ward including Peopleton and Pirton parishes. We received little support for these, with residents of Peopleton in particular noting that they felt that they had little in common with Drakes Broughton, which was thought of as a small town rather than a rural village.

68 We consequently proposed further draft recommendations, linking Drakes Broughton to Norton and Whittington parishes on the edge of Worcester; while placing Peopleton in an Upton Snodsbury ward substantively similar to the existing ward of this name.

69 We received a mixed response to our further draft recommendations. Responses from residents in Peopleton, Peopleton Parish Council, and from Cllr L. Robinson and Cllr T. Mason, welcomed our proposal to split Peopleton from Drakes Broughton.

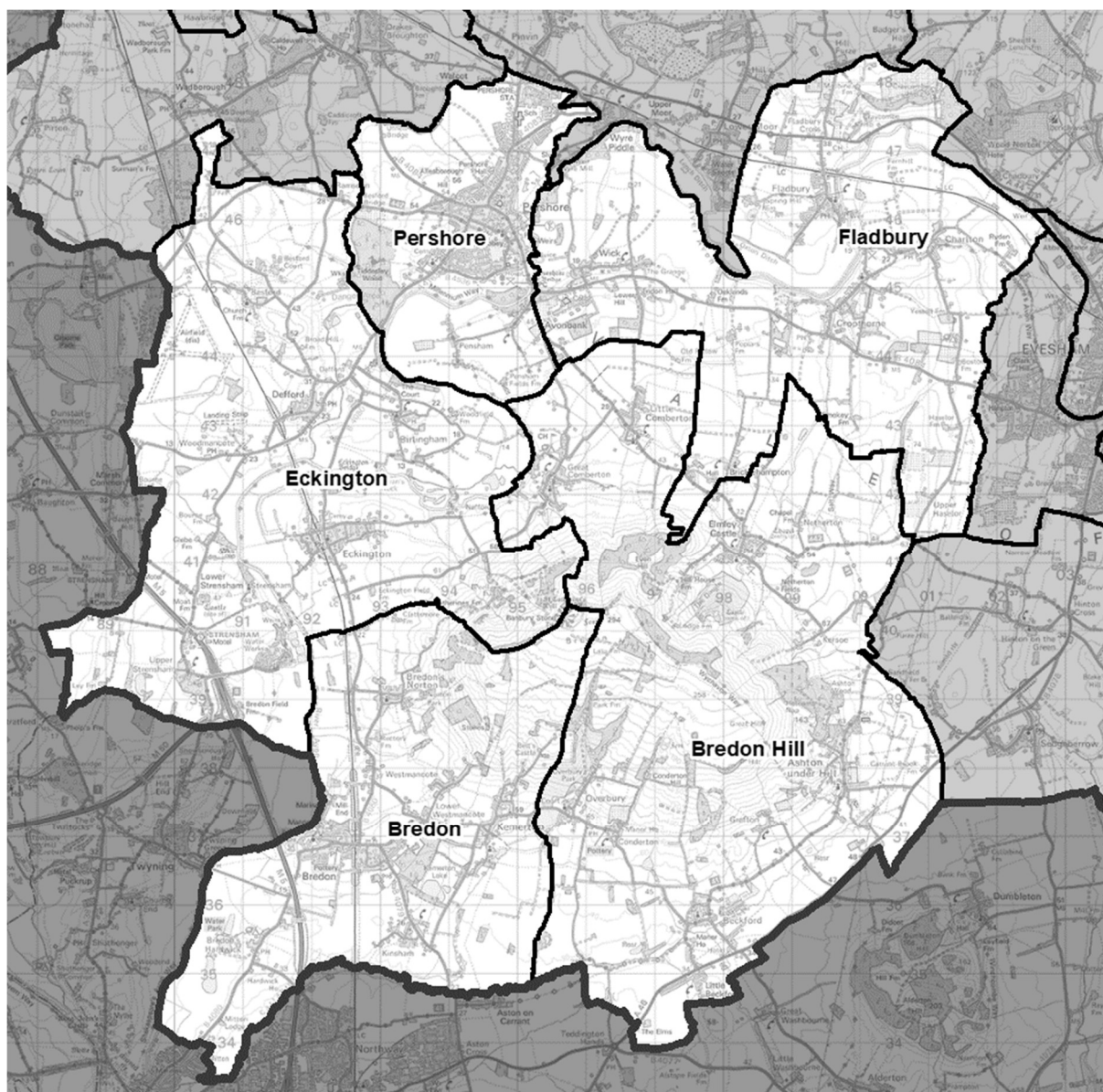
70 In contrast, the majority of submissions from residents of Drakes Broughton, and Drakes Broughton & Wadborough with Pirton Parish Council suggested that they considered Drakes Broughton to be a rural village, which had little in common with the suburban areas of Norton and Whittington on the edge of Worcester. Several submissions suggested that Drakes Broughton's links to Pershore were at least as strong with those of Worcester, a point which was reinforced by Cllr L. Tucker.

71 The Conservative Group offered mixed comments with regard to this proposal, noting the good electoral equality offered but suggesting that Drakes Broughton and Pirton look towards Pershore rather than Worcester. The Liberal Democrats, on whose proposals our original draft recommendations were based, opposed our further draft recommendations, noting that Drakes Broughton remained parished and did not have a strongly urban character.

72 In contrast, Whittington Parish Council and Cllr R. Adams supported our further draft recommendations, with Cllr Adams further supporting Stoulton parish being placed in Upton Snodsbury ward, and arguing that the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review supported our proposals.

73 We have carefully considered all the submissions in this area, and consider that the decision is finely balanced. On balance, we are not persuaded to alter our further draft recommendations, and we confirm them as final. While we accept that Drakes Broughton is geographically closer to Pershore than Worcester, and that it has less of an urban identity than Whittington and Norton juxta Kempsey parishes, we note the opposition (discussed in paras 80–82 below) to any neighbouring parish being joined to Pershore ward. Equally, given that the forecast electorate numbers for Whittington and Norton parishes require that these be either joined to a neighbouring area as part of a two-member ward, or artificially split as two single-member wards, we consider that joining them with the sizable settlement of Drakes Broughton, as opposed to bringing a number of other small villages into this ward, offers the best possible reflection of community identity across the wards of Upton Snodsbury and Drakes Broughton, Norton & Whittington.

## South Western Wychavon



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bredon	1	10%
Bredon Hill	1	-2%
Eckington	1	-5%
Fladbury	1	-6%
Pershore	3	-5%

### *Bredon, Bredon Hill and Eckington*

74 Our initial draft recommendations separated Great Comberton and Little Comberton, with the former placed in a ward with Eckington. Our further draft recommendations for this area placed Great Comberton and Little Comberton



parishes in a ward with Fladbury, with Elmley Castle and Netherton parishes placed in a ward with Childswickham. These proposals attracted limited support.

75 We received several submissions from residents, as well as Great Comberton, Little Comberton and Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton & Netherton Parish Councils and Cllrs K. Collingwood and A. Darby, arguing that the strong community links between the Combertons and Elmley Castle justified them being placed in the same ward. Cllr Darby also suggested that the links between the Combertons and Elmley Castle and villages and parishes to the south of Bredon Hill were stronger than those with Sedgeberrow, which was not associated with Bredon Hill. This suggestion was reinforced by the Liberal Democrats, while the Conservatives suggested that the Combertons should remain aligned with Bredon without providing specific evidence.

76 Evidence was provided of links between playgroups, social clubs and religious organisations across the Combertons and Elmley Castle, together with links through the Church of England parish in this area.

77 We have adopted the proposal of Cllr A. Darby, and revised our further draft recommendations accordingly. We now propose a Bredon Hill ward, comprising the parishes of Great Comberton, Little Comberton, Elmley Castle, Netherton, Ashton under Hill, Beckford, Conderton and Overbury. We propose that Kemerton parish moves into Bredon ward, in order to retain good electoral equality – without this change our proposed Bredon Hill ward would have 11% more electors per councillor than average.

78 We considered adding Bricklehampton parish to this ward, but note that this would mean Wick being detached from the Fladbury ward where evidence (see para 81 below) suggests it should be placed. We therefore propose to retain the existing arrangement with Bricklehampton in a ward with Wick, Fladbury and other neighbouring villages.

79 We received no specific proposals for changes to our further draft recommendations for Eckington ward, and confirm them as final.

### *Fladbury and Pershore*

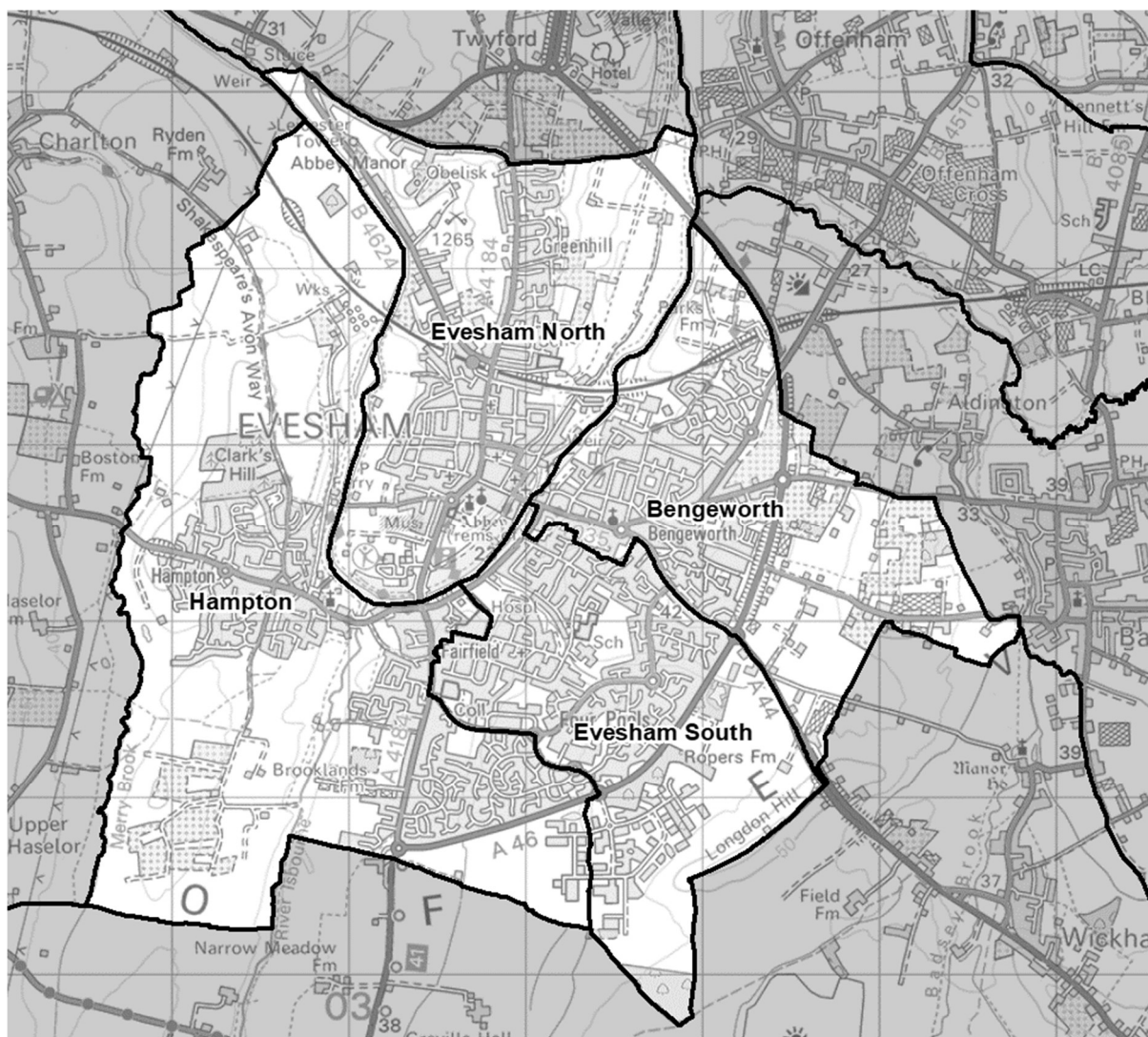
80 Our initial draft recommendations retained the existing Pershore ward, consisting solely of the parish of the same name, with Little Comberton added to Fladbury ward. Our further draft recommendations placed Wick parish in a ward with Pershore, with Great and Little Comberton parishes in Fladbury ward (see paras 74–77 above). The decision to place Wick in a ward with Pershore attracted significant criticism.

81 Both Pershore Town Council and Wick Parish Council, together with Cllrs L. Raymer, C. Smith, T. Rowley, M. Meikle, C. Tucker and D. Boatright, and a significant number of residents, argued for Wick to remain in Fladbury ward, rather

than be placed in a ward with Pershore. Evidence was provided regarding the differing natures of the town of Pershore and the village nature of Wick. Wick was described as sharing issues with other villages in Fladbury ward, specifically rural crime, issues around river crossings, and fly-tipping.

82 We are persuaded that the communities of Wick and Pershore are sufficiently different, with differing interests and community identities, that they should not be placed in the same ward. In conjunction with our final recommendations for Bredon Hill ward (paras 74–77), we therefore propose to place Wick within Fladbury ward, which will remain unchanged from the existing ward.

## Evesham



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bengeworth	2	3%
Evesham North	2	-2%
Evesham South	2	-8%
Hampton	3	-8%

### *Bengeworth and Evesham North*

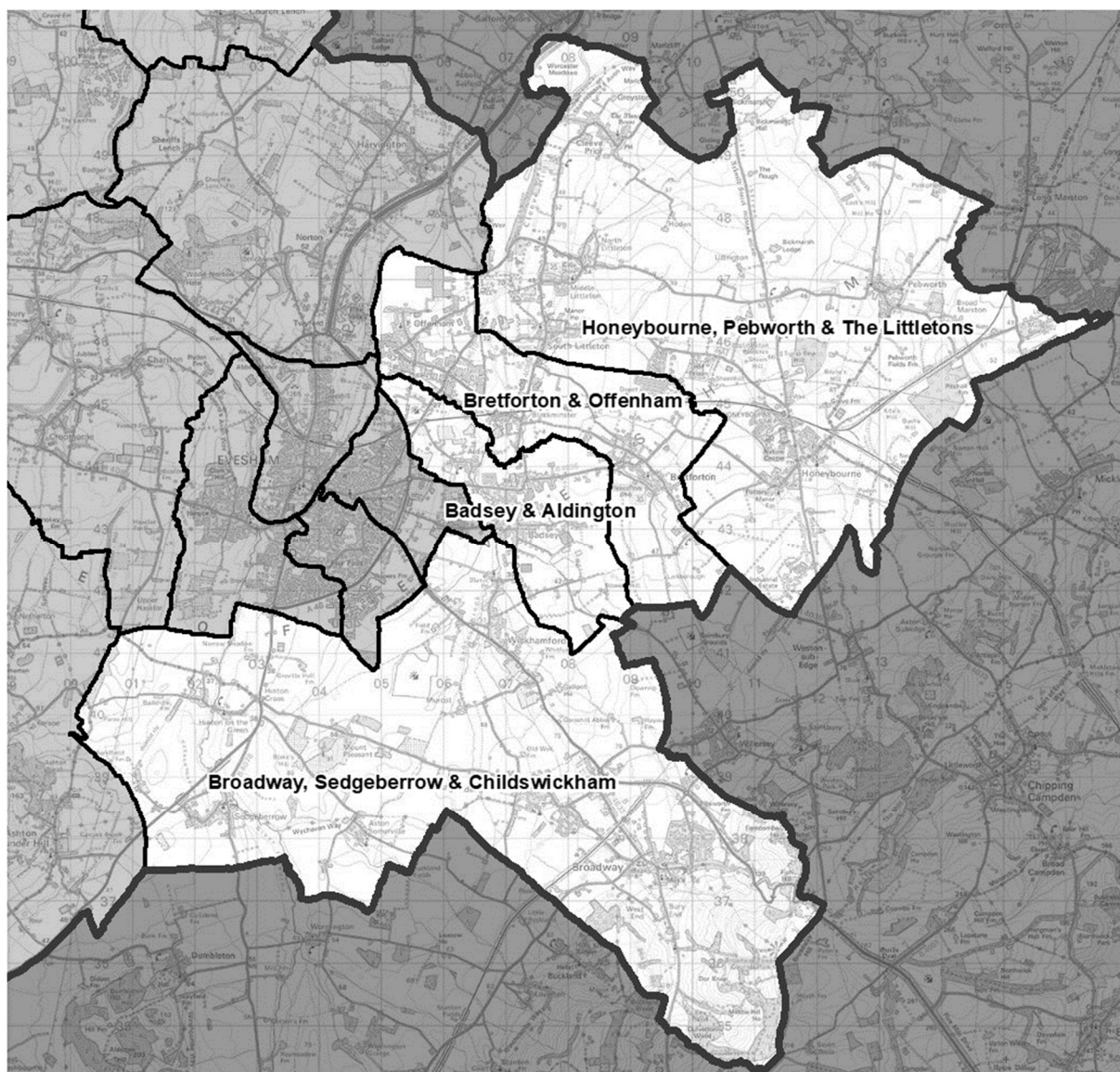
83 We received support from the Conservative Group and Council for our further draft recommendations for these wards, which attracted no other comments. We therefore confirm our further draft recommendations as final.

### *Evesham South and Hampton*

84 Our initial draft recommendations for these wards were for a three-councillor Evesham South ward, including the Thistledown and Charity Crescent areas, and a boundary between Fairfield Road and Battleton Road. We modified these proposals for our further draft recommendations.

85 We received broad support for these further draft recommendations from the Council, Liberal Democrats, Conservative Group and a number of local residents, who particularly welcomed our proposal to name a ward 'Hampton', as opposed to 'The Hamptons', which was part of our initial draft recommendations. We confirm our further draft recommendations for these wards as final.

## South Eastern Wychavon



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Badsey & Aldington	1	-4%
Bretforton & Offenham	1	-4%
Broadway, Sedgeberrow & Childswickham	2	9%
Honeybourne, Pebworth & The Littletons	2	9%

### *Badsey & Aldington, Bretforton & Offenham and Honeybourne, Pebworth & The Littletons*

86 Comments for these wards focused on our proposals for Honeybourne, Pebworth & The Littletons. The Conservative Group opposed our further draft

recommendations for this ward, arguing that the settlements of Honeybourne and Pebworth had relatively few links to the Littletons and Cleeve Prior. The Green Party expressed a preference for our original draft recommendations, which linked Offenham with Pebworth and the Littletons, with Honeybourne being placed in a single-member ward with Bretforton. The Green Party submission provided evidence of transport links, and footpaths which were described as ‘historic’ links between villages. While we accept the points made, we consider that there is good access across all potential wards in this area, and we do not consider that internal transport links are likely to be a significant problem.

87 Offenham Parish Council reiterated their submission from the consultation on our initial draft recommendations that they supported the retention of their existing ward, linking Offenham parish with Bretforton.

88 We have carefully considered all the submissions for these wards, but are not persuaded to alter our further draft recommendations. While we accept that links between Honeybourne, Pebworth and the Littleton villages are not particularly strong, it is not unusual for us to place neighbouring but separate areas in the same ward where alternatives would not meet the statutory criteria. In this case, a split of the ward into two single-member wards with good electoral equality would require Pebworth parish and village to be split between different wards, in a way that we do not consider would reflect the community identity of this area.

89 We received broad support for our further draft recommendations for Badsey & Aldington ward. A small number of residents argued that the southern section of Badsey parish, around Bowers Hill, should be placed in either Wickhamford parish, or the ward including Wickhamford. We do not have the power to alter parish boundaries as part of this review, and do not consider that it would promote effective and convenient local government to split Badsey parish between wards. We are therefore not persuaded to alter our further draft recommendations for the district wards in this area, and confirm them as final.

#### *Broadway, Sedgeberrow & Childswickham*

90 Our decision to place the Comberton villages and Elmley Castle within a Bredon Hill ward (see paras 74–79) means that Sedgeberrow parish cannot remain within this ward while retaining good electoral equality. We have therefore decided to place Sedgeberrow in a ward with the neighbouring parishes of Hinton on the Green and Aston Somerville.

91 Retaining a single-councillor ward with good electoral equality in this area is not possible. We considered a single-councillor ward comprising the parishes of Sedgeberrow, Hinton on the Green, Aston Somerville, Childswickham and Wickhamford, together with a portion of Broadway parish. This would involve either a very high variance (14% or greater) for a Sedgeberrow & Childswickham ward, or splitting the housing estate off Childswickham Road in Broadway parish in a way which we do not consider would reflect the community identity of this area. We have therefore rejected these options.

92 We propose to revert to our original draft recommendations for a two-member ward covering the parishes listed above and the entirety of Broadway parish. We acknowledge that we moved away from this plan at further draft recommendations stage, based on evidence of differing community identities and concerns that the ward might be challenging to represent effectively. However, given the additional evidence of community identity in the Bredon Hill area, and the consequential changes required, we consider that this ward offers the best available balance of our statutory criteria.

## Conclusions

93 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Wychavon, referencing the 2021 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2021	2027
Number of councillors	43	43
Number of electoral wards	27	27
Average number of electors per councillor	2,369	2,546
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Final recommendations

Wychavon Council should be made up of 43 councillors serving 27 wards representing 13 single-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and two 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 Wychavon. You can also view our final recommendations for Wychavon on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)



## Parish electoral arrangements

94 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.

95 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, Wychavon District 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.

96 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 Badsey & Aldington, Dodderhill, Droitwich Spa, Elmley Lovett, Evesham and South Lenches parishes.

97 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Badsey & Aldington parishes.

### Final recommendations

Badsey & Aldington Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Aldington Village	1
Badsey	9
Blackminster	1
Bowers Hill	1
Orchards	1

98 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Dodderhill parish.

### Final recommendations

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

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Dodderhill	12
Impney	1

99 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Droitwich Spa parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Droitwich Spa Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Droitwich Central	1
Droitwich Chawson	2
Droitwich Copcut	3
Droitwich East	4
Droitwich Tagwell	2
Droitwich West	4
Droitwich Witton	2

100 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Elmley Lovett.

**Final recommendations**

Elmley Lovett Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Cutnall Green	4
Elmley Lovett	3

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

**Final recommendations**

Evesham Town Council should comprise 24 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Abbey	1
Bengeworth	5
Evesham Avon	2
Evesham South	5
Evesham Twyford	2
Fairfield	1
Great Hampton	3
Little Hampton	5

102 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for South Lenches parish.

**Final recommendations**

South Lenches Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Church Lench	6
Sheriff's Lench	1

## What happens next?

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



## Equalities

104 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

### Final recommendations for Wychavon 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	Badsey & Aldington	1	2,396	2,396	1%	2,452	2,452	-4%
2	Bengeworth	2	4,894	2,447	3%	5,236	2,618	3%
3	Bowbrook	1	2,395	2,395	1%	2,501	2,501	-2%
4	Bredon	1	2,690	2,690	13%	2,809	2,809	10%
5	Bredon Hill	1	2,389	2,389	1%	2,499	2,499	-2%
6	Bretforton & Offenham	1	2,315	2,315	-2%	2,450	2,450	-4%
7	Broadway, Sedgeberrow & Childswickham	2	5,244	2,622	11%	5,566	2,783	9%
8	Dodderhill	1	2,672	2,672	13%	2,841	2,841	12%
9	Drakes Broughton, Norton & Whittington	2	4,763	2,382	0%	5,443	2,722	7%
10	Droitwich East	2	4,379	2,190	-8%	4,835	2,418	-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 %
11	Droitwich South East	2	5,066	2,533	7%	5,337	2,669	5%
12	Droitwich South West	2	5,375	2,688	13%	5,547	2,774	9%
13	Droitwich West	2	4,350	2,175	-8%	4,520	2,260	-11%
14	Eckington	1	2,302	2,302	-3%	2,414	2,414	-5%
15	Evesham North	2	4,466	2,233	-6%	5,005	2,503	-2%
16	Evesham South	2	4,500	2,250	-5%	4,709	2,355	-8%
17	Fladbury	1	2,295	2,295	-3%	2,387	2,387	-6%
18	Hampton	3	6,482	2,161	-9%	7,058	2,353	-8%
19	Hartlebury	1	2,499	2,499	5%	2,581	2,581	1%
20	Harvington & Norton	1	2,291	2,291	-3%	2,362	2,362	-7%
21	Honeybourne, Pebworth & The Littletons	2	4,730	2,365	0%	5,532	2,766	9%
22	Inkberrow	2	5,231	2,616	10%	5,394	2,697	6%
23	North Claines & Salwarpe	2	4,592	2,296	-3%	5,299	2,650	4%

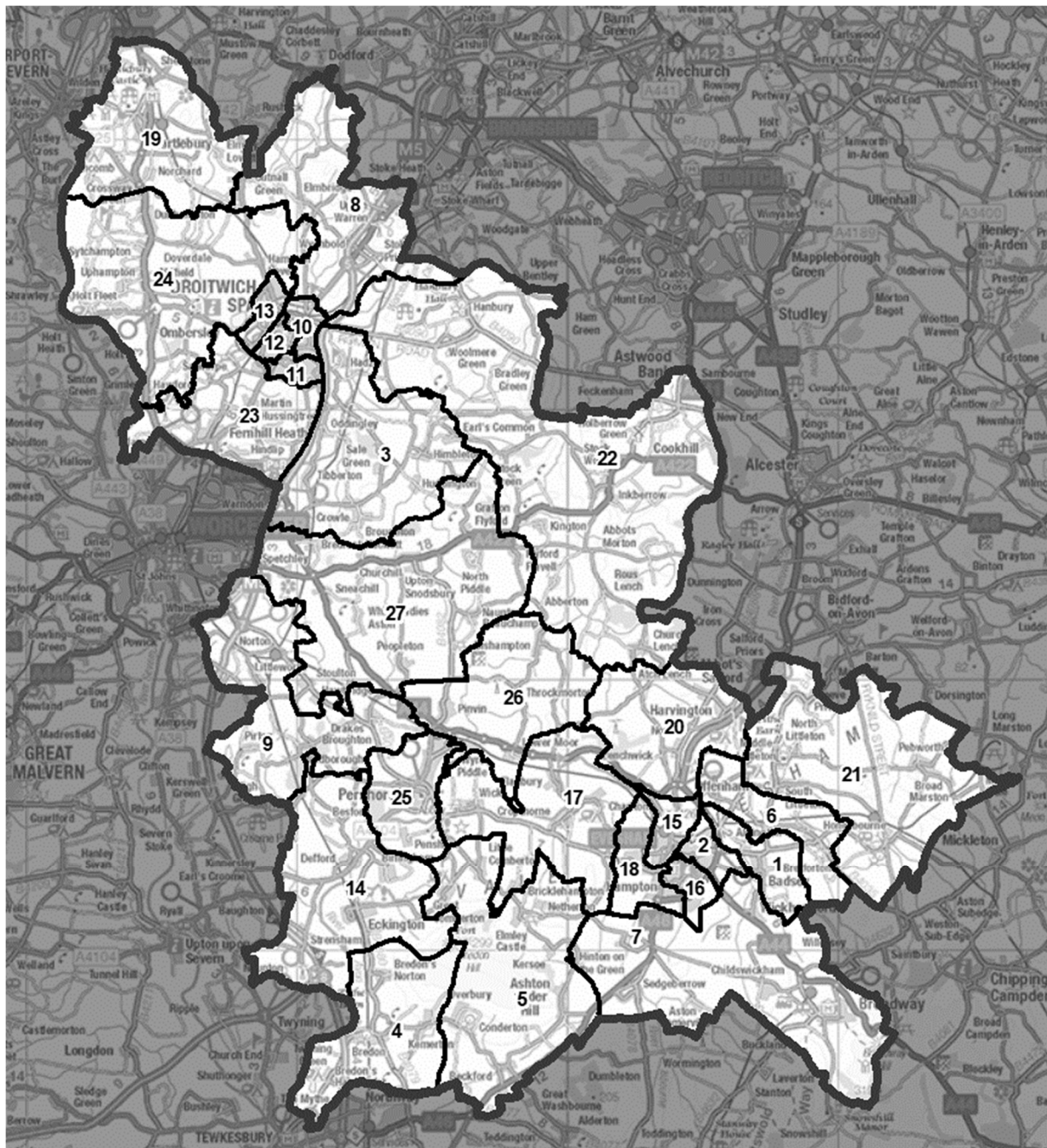
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
24 Ombersley	1	2,380	2,380	0%	2,481	2,481	-3%
25 Pershore	3	6,560	2,187	-8%	7,284	2,428	-5%
26 Pinvin	1	2,506	2,506	6%	2,557	2,557	0%
27 Upton Snodsbury	1	2,248	2,248	-5%	2,375	2,375	-7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>102,010</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>109,474</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,369</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,546</b>	<b>–</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Wychavon 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 district. 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	Badsey & Aldington
2	Bengeworth
3	Bowbrook
4	Bredon
5	Bredon Hill
6	Bretforton & Offenham
7	Broadway, Sedgeberrow & Childswickham

8	Dodderhill
9	Drakes Broughton, Norton & Whittington
10	Droitwich East
11	Droitwich South East
12	Droitwich South West
13	Droitwich West
14	Eckington
15	Evesham North
16	Evesham South
17	Fladbury
18	Hampton
19	Hartlebury
20	Harvington & Norton
21	Honeybourne, Pebworth & The Littletons
22	Inkberrow
23	North Claines & Salwarpe
24	Ombersley
25	Pershore
26	Pinvin
27	Upton Snodsbury

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/worcestershire/wychavon](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/worcestershire/wychavon)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/worcestershire/wychavon](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/worcestershire/wychavon)

#### Local Authorities

105 Wychavon District Council

#### Member of Parliament

106 Harriett Baldwin MP (West Worcestershire)

#### Political Groups

- Droitwich Liberal Democrats
- Mid-Worcestershire Labour Party
- Mid-Worcestershire Liberal Democrats
- Mid-Worcestershire & The Vale Green Party
- Wychavon Conservative Group

#### Councillors

- Councillor R. Adams
- Councillor A. Aston
- Councillor S. Bateman
- Councillor D. Boatright
- Councillor C. Ellson-Evans
- Councillor M. Goodge
- Councillor J. Grady
- Councillor M. Hughes
- Councillor A. Mathias
- Councillor T. Miller
- Councillor R. Morris
- Councillor S. Rees
- Councillor L. Robinson
- Councillor L. Tucker
- Councillor N. Wright
- Collective District Councillors of the Droitwich wards

## Local Organisations

- Doverdale Park Residents' Association

## Parish & Town Councils

- Bredon & Bredon's Norton Parish Council
- Broadway Parish Council
- Eckington Parish Council
- Elmbridge Parish Council
- Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton & Netherton Parish Council
- Evesham Town Council
- Great Comberton Parish Meeting
- Hampton Lovett & Westwood Parish Council (2 submissions)
- Hartlebury Parish Council
- Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree & Salwarpe Parish Council
- Hinton on the Green & Aston Somerville Parish Council
- Honeybourne Parish Council
- Kington & Dormston Parish Council
- Little Comberton Parish Council
- Naunton Beauchamp Parish Council
- Norton juxta Kempsey Parish Council
- Offenham Parish Council
- Ombersley Parish Council
- Sedgeberrow Parish Council
- Stoulton Parish Council
- Upton Snodsbury Parish Council
- Whittington Parish Council

## Petition

- 163 signatures, submitted by Peopleton Parish Council

## Anonymous Submissions

- 2 anonymous submissions

## Local Residents

- 126 local residents

## Submissions received in response to further draft recommendations

### Local Authorities

107 Wychavon District Council

108

### Political Groups

- Mid-Worcestershire & The Vale Green Party
- Wychavon Conservative Group
- Wychavon Liberal Democrats

### Councillors

- Councillor R. Adams
- Councillor D. Boatright
- Councillor K. Collingwood
- Councillor A. Darby
- Councillor T. Mason
- Councillor M. Meikle
- Councillor L. Raymer (2 submissions)
- Councillor L. Robinson
- Councillor T. Rowley
- Councillor C. Smith
- Councillor C. Tucker
- Councillor L. Tucker

### Local Organisations

- Doverdale Park Residents' Association (2 submissions)
- Friends of St Mary's Church & Wick Wives

### Parish & Town Councils

- Abbots Morton Parish Council
- Drakes Broughton & Wadborough with Pirton Parish Council
- Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton & Netherton Parish Council

- Great Comberton Parish Meeting
- Kington & Dormston Parish Council (2 submissions)
- Little Comberton Parish Council
- Offenham Parish Council
- Peopleton Parish Council
- Pershore Town Council
- Wick Parish Council
- Whittington Parish Council

#### Local Residents

- 152 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 (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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