

# New electoral arrangements for Charnwood Borough Council Final Recommendations

February 2022

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

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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 Charnwood?

7 We have conducted a review of Charnwood Borough 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 was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Charnwood are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

## Our proposals for Charnwood

9 Charnwood should be represented by 52 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Charnwood should have 24 wards, four fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 26 should change; two will stay the same. Wards retaining their current boundaries are Anstey and Quorn & Mountsorrel Castle.

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

## How will the recommendations affect you?

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

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary

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

constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we were 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 Charnwood. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 March 2021	Number of councillors decided
23 March 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
31 May 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
31 August 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
8 November 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 February 2022	Publication of final recommendations





## Analysis and final recommendations

17 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.

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.

	2020	2027
Electorate of Charnwood	140,047	157,019
Number of councillors	52	52
Average number of electors per councillor	2,693	3,020

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

## Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](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 12% by 2027.

23 A particular feature of the forecasts was the impact of major housing developments to the north-west of Loughborough, to the north of Birstall and to the east of Thurmaston. These developments form part of the Council's strategic plans to meet housing need in the borough. The electorate forecasts take account of the

<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 new homes which can be expected to be built and occupied by the end of the forecast period, notwithstanding that building is likely to continue beyond that period. A consequence of this consideration is that there may initially be relatively low numbers of electors per councillor in some wards that we propose, but that by 2027, these figures will be close to the average for the borough as a whole.

24 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.

### Number of councillors

25 Charnwood Borough Council currently has 52 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure that the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

26 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 52 councillors: for example, 52 one-councillor wards, 26 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

27 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. One resident implied that the number of councillors might be too high but did not provide detailed evidence for an alternative number. Another argued that there should be fewer councillors but similarly did not offer evidence for an alternative. A third resident commented that it may be necessary to add to council size by a small number in order to facilitate ward boundaries which would reflect community identities. This reflects the approach we adopt in conducting reviews. However, in developing our proposals for individual wards, we did not identify a need to increase the number of councillors and therefore based our draft recommendations on a 52-councillor council.

28 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 52 councillors for our final recommendations.

### Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 86 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a borough-wide proposal from the Conservative Group on the Council ('the Conservatives'). The proposal was echoed by the Loughborough Conservative Association. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

30 The borough-wide scheme provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Charnwood. We carefully considered this proposal 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.

31 The Council drew our attention to some issues that it wished us to consider in formulating our recommendations. Those issues arose from a Community Governance Review undertaken by the Borough Council in 2018. The Community Governance Review altered the boundaries of some parishes, created new parishes of Hamilton Lea and Stonebow Village, and altered the number of councillors to sit on some parish councils. Those provisions came into effect on 1 April 2019. While our recommendations reflect the outcome of the Community Governance Review, we have no power to alter parish boundaries and therefore, in making our recommendations, treated them as fixed.

32 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 we had received did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

33 Under the conditions of the travel restrictions, and the social distancing arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Charnwood. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

34 Our draft recommendations were for seven three-councillor wards, 14 two-councillor wards and three 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

35 We received 61 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a commentary on the draft recommendations for the whole borough from officers of the Council ('the Officers'), including those responsible for the administration of elections. The Conservatives also commented on the proposals for the whole borough. Whilst they offered a broad degree of support for the draft recommendations, they put forward alternative proposals for parts of Loughborough and for the Wreake Valley ward. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Dishley, east Loughborough and Mountsorrel.

36 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modification to the wards in the Loughborough, Thurmaston and Wreake Valley areas based on the submissions received.

## Final recommendations

37 Our final recommendations are for nine three-councillor wards, 10 two-councillor wards and five single-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.

38 The tables and maps on pages 9–29 detail our final recommendations for each area of Charnwood. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>5</sup> criteria of:

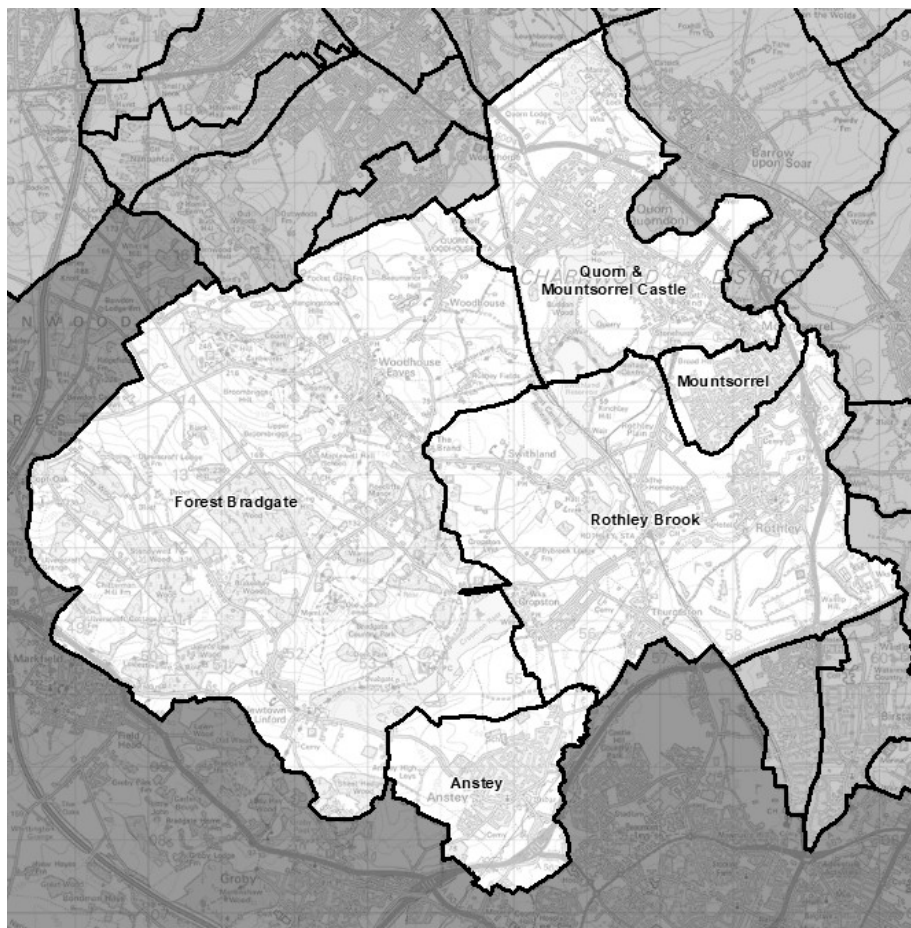
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

39 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 37 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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<sup>5</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Charnwood central and west



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Anstey	2	1%
Forest Bradgate	1	-8%
Mountsorrel	2	2%
Quorn & Mountsorrel Castle	2	3%
Rothley Brook	3	-9%

### *Anstey and Forest Bradgate*

40 The current single-councillor Forest Bradgate and two-councillor Anstey wards are forecast to show modest changes in the number of electors in the period up to 2027 and to retain good levels of electoral equality. The Conservatives initially

proposed that the two wards be combined to form a three-councillor ward. In doing so, they described the function of Anstey as a shopping, health and education centre for nearby Newtown Linford. They cited local bus services as features of the relationship between Anstey and the Forest Bradgate villages.

41 The Loughborough & Charnwood Liberal Democrats ('the Liberal Democrats') proposed that the parishes of Swithland and Thurcaston & Cropston be added to Forest Bradgate ward, with the ward being represented by two councillors. The Liberal Democrats cited characteristics in common with those of the parishes which currently form Forest Bradgate ward. We noted, however, that the Liberal Democrats' proposal would not offer good electoral equality in either Forest Bradgate or Rothley.

42 Both Newtown Linford and Woodhouse parish councils argued that the current Forest Bradgate ward should be retained to keep the focus on the issues that they have in common. Their rural nature raises issues of traffic, tourism and conservation. They also cited the close working relationships between the two parish councils. Councillor Snartt expressed similar views.

43 We were not persuaded that the combination of the two wards to form a three-councillor ward would aid the Council in addressing the specific and collective issues facing the communities in this area. We therefore proposed, as part of our draft recommendations, that Anstey and Forest Bradgate wards should remain as separate entities.

44 The implementation of the Community Governance Review in 2019 had the effect of encompassing a number of houses on Alan Turing Road in the unparished area of Loughborough. Two residents argued that, notwithstanding this, those houses should remain part of Forest Bradgate ward. One resident and the Haddon Way Residents' Association took a different view, arguing that the whole of Alan Turing Road should be represented in a single ward.

45 The houses on Alan Turing Road lie at the edge of a substantial area of recent housing development and the road itself forms part of, and is accessed by, the layout of roads serving this housing area. The current ward boundary crosses the curtilages of several houses in this part of the area.

46 We were not persuaded that the houses in part of Alan Turing Road are separate and distinguishable from other houses on that road. We therefore included all the properties on Alan Turing Road in our Loughborough Shelthorpe Grange ward. In a similar vein, our draft recommendations reflected changes to the boundary between Newtown Linford and Thurcaston & Cropston parishes.

47 In response to our draft recommendations, Woodhouse Parish Council noted that our draft recommendations reflect the changes to the boundary of their parish. One resident argued that Swithland parish could be included in the Forest Bradgate ward and suggested other changes to the north-west of Newton Linford. Those changes would require us to create new parish wards for Ulverscroft and Newtown Linford parishes. In the case of Ulverscroft, the entire parish has fewer than 100 electors. We consider parish wards to be unviable as electoral areas when they have fewer than 100 electors. Therefore to divide that parish into wards would require exceptionally strong evidence to justify such a change. We have not received substantive evidence to justify parish warding for Ulverscroft and are therefore unwilling to do so, or to make the related parish warding of Newton Linford parish.

48 We therefore confirm as final, our recommendations for Anstey and Forest Bradgate wards.

#### *Mountsorrel and Quorn & Mountsorrel Castle*

49 The current Mountsorrel and Quorn & Mountsorrel Castle wards are each represented by two councillors and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality. The Conservatives proposed that Quorn & Mountsorrel Castle ward be retained and that Mountsorrel ward be amended only to reflect the change to the boundary of Mountsorrel parish at Baum Drive, which was brought into effect in 2019.

50 The Mountsorrel Castle area is part of Mountsorrel parish. The Liberal Democrats and several residents argued that the parish in its entirety should form a single ward. Whilst some cited the change in the number of electors arising from current and anticipated housing development, a two-councillor ward embracing the whole parish would have 21% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough, whilst a three-councillor ward for the parish would have 20% fewer. In either case, we are not prepared to recommend such degrees of electoral inequality.

51 We therefore accepted the proposals made by the Conservatives for Mountsorrel and Quorn & Mountsorrel Castle wards as part of our draft recommendations.

52 In response to our draft recommendations, the Liberal Democrats and four residents argued that, notwithstanding consequential electoral inequality, Mountsorrel should be represented as a ward matching the boundaries of the parish.

53 Our consideration of electoral equality is clear and is a statutory obligation. We do exercise a degree of tolerance when considering departures from absolute electoral equality. However, as stated above, we are not persuaded that we have received sufficient evidence to justify the electoral variances that would result from

this proposal. We therefore confirm as final, our recommendations for Mountsorrel and Quorn & Mountsorrel Castle wards.

#### *Rothley Brook*

54 The electorate of the current Rothley & Thurcaston ward is expected to increase by over 1,000 from its 2020 baseline by 2027. The impact would be to notably increase the current level of electoral inequality for the ward.

55 The Conservatives proposed that the current ward be expanded to include that part of Wanlip parish which lies to the north of the A46. Such an expansion would include the site of Broadnook, a 'garden suburb' development which will span the boundary between Rothley and Wanlip parishes. The development will be completed with around 2,000 dwellings, but in the forecast period to 2027 is expected to house around 1,500 electors. This increase, added to other housing developments in Rothley village, would raise the electorate of the Conservatives' proposed Rothley Brook ward to over 8,250 by 2027. One resident argued that Broadnook specifically should be placed in one ward rather than split between wards along the line of the Wanlip parish boundary. Establishing a three-councillor ward would give the area a 9% variance from the average number of electors per councillor.

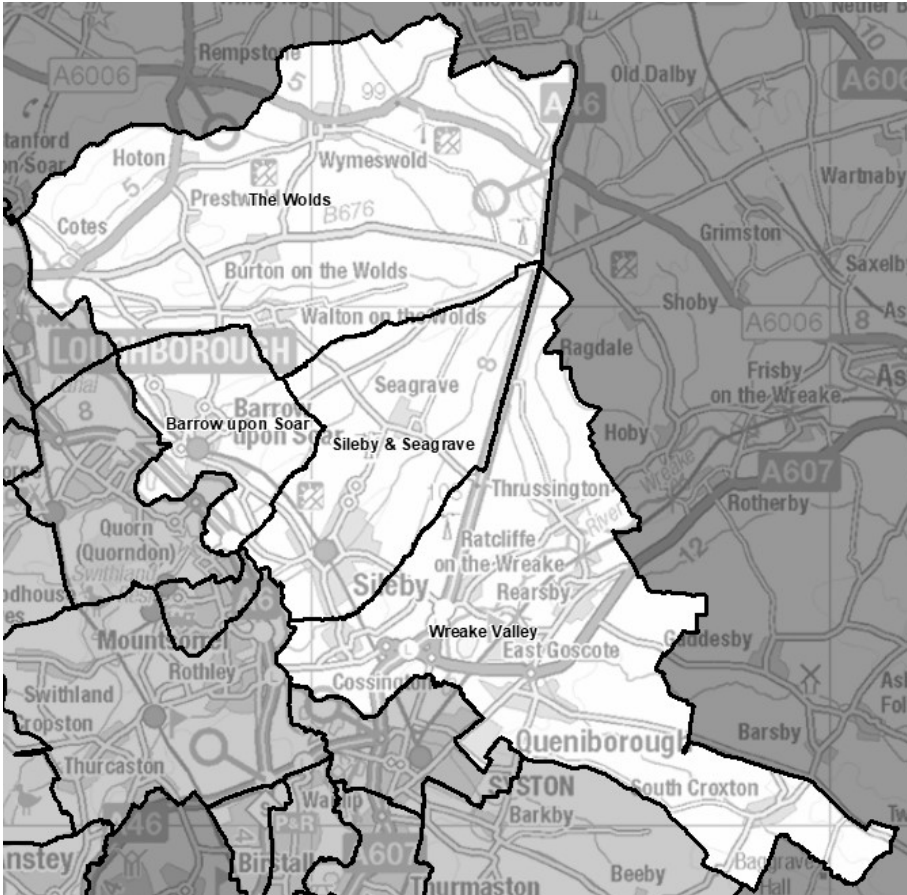
56 The Liberal Democrats proposed that Wanlip parish be added to the current Wreake Villages ward. Whilst the A46 connects Wanlip to that ward via Syston ward, we were not persuaded that the Liberal Democrats' proposal would provide for effective representation of the proposed Broadnook garden suburb or the village of Wanlip, given its proximity to Birstall.

57 We noted that the Conservatives' proposal provides the opportunity to retain the village of Wanlip, lying to the south of the A46, in a ward with Birstall. We considered that both this aspect of the Conservatives' proposal and its provisions for the garden suburb would provide appropriate electoral arrangements for this part of the borough. Therefore, we included the Conservatives' proposed Rothley Brook ward as part of our draft recommendations.

58 In response to our draft recommendations, one resident asked us to retain the whole of Wanlip parish in a ward with Birstall or with Rothley, whilst other responses supported our draft recommendations. We consider that our proposals will respect both the relationship between Wanlip village and Birstall and the interests of those who will form the Broadnook garden suburb community as it develops across the parish boundary. Accordingly, we confirm our Rothley Brook ward as part of our final recommendations.



Charnwood east



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Barrow upon Soar	2	-3%
Sileby & Seagrave	3	-7%
The Wolds	1	-7%
Wreake Valley	3	4%

*Barrow upon Soar and The Wolds*

59 The electoral review completed in June 2002 combined Barrow upon Soar parish with part of Sileby parish to form a two-councillor ward with good electoral equality. In proposing a Barrow upon Soar ward coterminous with the boundaries of the parish, the Conservatives cited changes in the number of electors since the last review. We noted that the Conservatives' proposed ward provided for good electoral

equality. We also noted that there is no dissent from the Conservatives' proposal and included it as part of our draft recommendations.

60 The Wolds ward brings together six parishes at the north-eastern edge of the borough. The ward has good electoral equality. The Conservatives proposed the retention of the existing ward, citing the shared community facilities in the ward's larger settlements, Burton on the Wolds and Wymeswold.

61 Noting that no alternative warding proposal was put forward for this area, we confirmed The Wolds ward as part of our draft recommendations. However, we drew attention to difference between our recommended ward and the current ward by the inclusion of two small areas added to Cotes parish from Loughborough as a consequence of the recent Community Governance Review. In 2020 these small areas together held only four electors.

62 In response to our draft recommendations, we received support for, and no objection to, our proposals for these wards, which we confirm as final.

#### *Sileby & Seagrave and Wreake Valley*

63 One resident asked that Syston and Wreake Valley villages be taken from Charnwood and added to Melton borough. Such a change would be beyond the scope of this review.

64 The provision of a ward coterminous with the boundaries of Barrow upon Soar also provides the opportunity for the whole of Sileby to be represented in a single ward. This would be consistent with the expressed wishes of Sileby Parish Council and two residents who responded to our initial consultation. However, a ward containing Sileby parish alone would not offer good electoral equality either now or by 2027. The Conservatives proposed to resolve this by combining Sileby and Seagrave parishes to form a three-councillor ward, citing the closeness of the two villages and the use of services located in Sileby. The Conservatives noted that both parishes lie within the county electoral division of Sileby & The Wolds.

65 We noted that the village of Cossington lies even closer to Sileby than does Seagrave and, like Seagrave, is separated from other villages in the current Wreake Villages ward by the A46. Notwithstanding that Cossington forms part of the Syston Fosse electoral division, we proposed in our draft recommendations that Cossington forms part of the Sileby & Seagrave ward. However, we particularly sought views about that aspect of our draft recommendations. We also included in our draft recommendations the Conservatives' proposal to change the name of name the Wreake Villages ward to Wreake Valley

66 Cossington Parish Council, the Conservatives and one resident took up our invitation to comment, arguing that Cossington's character and identity would be

better reflected as part of the Wreake Valley ward. We respect those views and note that including Cossington in Wreake Valley ward would not result in wards with substantial electoral inequality. Accordingly, we have modified our proposal for Sileby & Seagrave by excluding Cossington.

67 The Conservatives proposed that the Syston Fosse county electoral division forms a three-councillor ward, having good electoral equality. The division and our Wreake Valley ward includes the Syston St Peter's East parish ward, which lies in the Syston Fosse county electoral division. This is because a ward which embraces the whole of Syston parish would have 24% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2027, a degree of electoral equality we are not prepared to recommend.

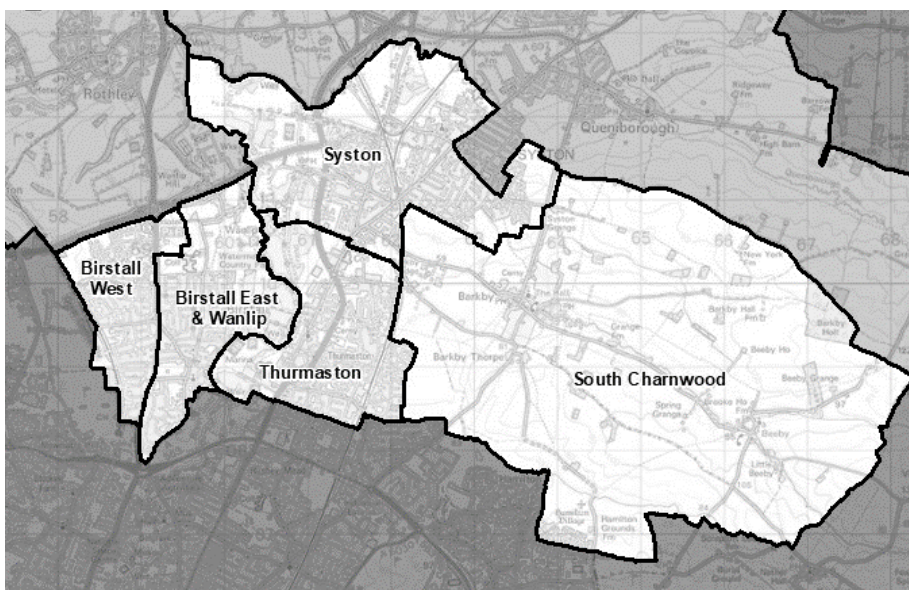
68 The parish of East Goscote also lies in the electoral division but currently forms a single-councillor ward with significant current and forecast electoral inequality. East Goscote Parish Council and Councillor Needham both proposed that the East Goscote ward be retained in our draft recommendations. They referred to proposals for future housing development to argue that good electoral equality would be achieved within the span of our forecast period. While we have given this proposal careful consideration, we have not been persuaded that the Council's forecasts of electoral change are inappropriate. This means that a single-councillor ward for East Goscote parish would result in a high level of electoral inequality not only in East Goscote, but also in all the other parishes of our recommended Wreake Valley ward.

69 Responding to our draft recommendations, East Goscote Parish Council and one resident argued that the Wreake Valley ward would be a poor outcome for East Goscote and asked us to retain the existing ward, without addressing issues of electoral equality throughout Wreake Valley. Councillor Grimley described the proposed Wreake Valley ward as covering a very large geographical area containing settlements with very distinct and separate identities and argued that we should reconsider our Wreake Valley proposal.

70 Whilst we are recommending that Wreake Valley ward includes Cossington parish, we are making a further change to our draft recommendations. In order to respond to objections to our recommendations for Thurmaston and South Charnwood whilst also providing for good electoral equality, we are recommending that South Croxton parish be included in Wreake Valley ward. Whilst South Croxton currently forms part of Queniborough ward, Councillor Grimley stated that South Croxton residents are on the edge of Charnwood and associate themselves with Melton. Thurmaston children go to schools in Thurmaston whereas South Croxton children use the schools in Melton. Furthermore, Thurmaston residents in the main have no association with farming and agriculture. We note therefore that links between South Croxton and South Charnwood may be limited and that including the

parish in our Wreake Valley ward avoids creating a South Charnwood ward with a high degree of electoral inequality.

### Charnwood south



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Birstall East & Wanlip	2	-5%
Birstall West	2	-1%
South Charnwood	1	6%
Syston	3	2%
Thurmaston	3	-10%

#### *Birstall East & Wanlip and Birstall West*

71 Two current wards together cover Birstall and Wanlip parishes. The Conservatives initially proposed a Birstall West ward comprising the Birstall Goscote and Birstall Greengate parish wards. Coupled with this was a proposed Birstall & Wanlip ward comprising the Birstall Netherhall, Riverside and Stonehill parish wards together with the part of Wanlip parish lying to the south of the A46.

72 One resident suggested that Birstall either be represented in a single ward or be split into two wards by a ward boundary running east to west. To provide for electoral equality, Birstall should be represented by four councillors. We do not consider that wards represented by more than three councillors provide appropriate or effective representation and therefore did not accept that suggestion. Nor were we

persuaded that a ward boundary dividing the northern part of Birstall from the southern part would enhance the representation of people in Birstall.

73 We have described in paragraphs 55–58 the impact of the Broadnook garden suburb development, which lies partly within Wanlip parish, and our proposal to include the part of that parish in Rothley Brook ward. Given that proposal, we accepted as part of our draft recommendations the Conservatives' suggestion that Wanlip village be combined in a ward with the eastern part of Birstall. For clarity, we proposed that the resultant ward be named Birstall East & Wanlip.

74 One resident responding to our draft recommendations asked us to join Wanlip as a whole with either Birstall or Rothley. However, as we have described, we consider that our draft recommendations provided for appropriate representation for current and future electors in Wanlip parish and we confirm our recommendations for Birstall East & Wanlip and Birstall West wards as final.

#### *South Charnwood and Thurmaston*

75 This area lies at the southern edge of the borough, where the boundary with Leicester constrains the options for configuring wards. A major consideration in this area is the expected impact of the proposed Thorpebury development, the site of major housing and infrastructure growth which is expected to give rise to over 2,000 additional electors by 2027 and many more in the years after that.

76 Thurmaston parish forms a three-councillor ward which, whilst it currently has fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough, would have 14% more electors per councillor as a result of the development of Thorpebury.

77 The Conservatives initially proposed that Thurmaston parish be split between two wards, each represented by two councillors. Thurmaston would comprise the western parts of the parish; South Charnwood Villages would comprise principally the part of Thurmaston lying to the east of the main railway line together with the rural parishes of Barkby, Barkby Thorpe, Beeby and South Croxton. Hamilton Lea parish, newly created following the Community Governance Review, would also be included.

78 Councillor Khayer similarly proposed Thurmaston East and West wards but, whilst including Hamilton Lea, would exclude other parishes.

79 Whilst we considered that the Conservatives' proposal would provide for appropriate representation of Thurmaston and reflect any impact of a major development on adjacent parishes, we noted that their proposed boundary would result in a ward having 11% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough. It would also leave the Colby Drive area without any direct road access to the rest of the ward. We proposed to resolve those aspects of the Conservatives'

proposal by including Charnwood Avenue, Eastfield Road, Highway Road, Red Hill Lane and the Earls Way industrial area in South Charnwood Villages ward. This would consolidate the area around the Eastfield Primary School into a single ward, whilst providing the desired direct road access between all parts of the proposed ward. Responding to our draft recommendations, the Conservatives offered their support subject to a preference that the ward to the east of Thurmaston be named 'South Charnwood'.

80 Thurmaston Parish Council took a different view. It argued that the railway line should form the electoral boundary between Thurmaston and South Charnwood. In examining this proposal, we note that, whilst the Parish Council's proposal would not provide good electoral equality, by combining all of the area to the west of the railway with the existing built-up area around Colby Drive, we can recommend a three-councillor ward with 10% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2027. In our view, this would constitute a reasonable electoral variance for this area.

81 Our recommendation for Thurmaston requires that we recommend a parish ward for the part of Thurmaston which includes Phase 1 of the Thorpebury development. Without that development, a parish ward for that part of Thurmaston parish would not have been considered as electorally viable. However, we have taken account of the Council's expectations of the degree of housebuilding which will take place at Thorpebury before the next parish council elections and are now satisfied of the viability of a parish ward.

82 We note Councillor Grimley's description of the rural nature of Barkby, Barkby Thorpe and Beeby parishes but are of the view that those parishes are likely to be significantly affected by the major development on their doorstep. We have concluded that the issues arising will be best addressed by representation of the development and its immediate locality in a single ward. We therefore recommend a three-councillor Thurmaston ward and a single-councillor South Charnwood ward.

83 Our final recommendations mean that we must make appropriate arrangements for elections to Thurmaston Parish Council so that no parish ward extends beyond a single borough ward or county electoral division. We have been advised by the Council that at the time of the next parish council elections in May 2023, the development of Thorpebury will have progressed sufficiently for some houses in the first phase of development to be occupied. We are therefore able to provide for a parish ward for that part of the parish which lies within our recommended South Charnwood ward with representation appropriate to the number of houses expected to be occupied in May 2023. We acknowledge that the Council may wish to re-visit the parish electoral arrangements for Thorpebury to reflect the level of development and consequential increase in the number of electors prior to parish elections which occur in four-year cycles after 2023.

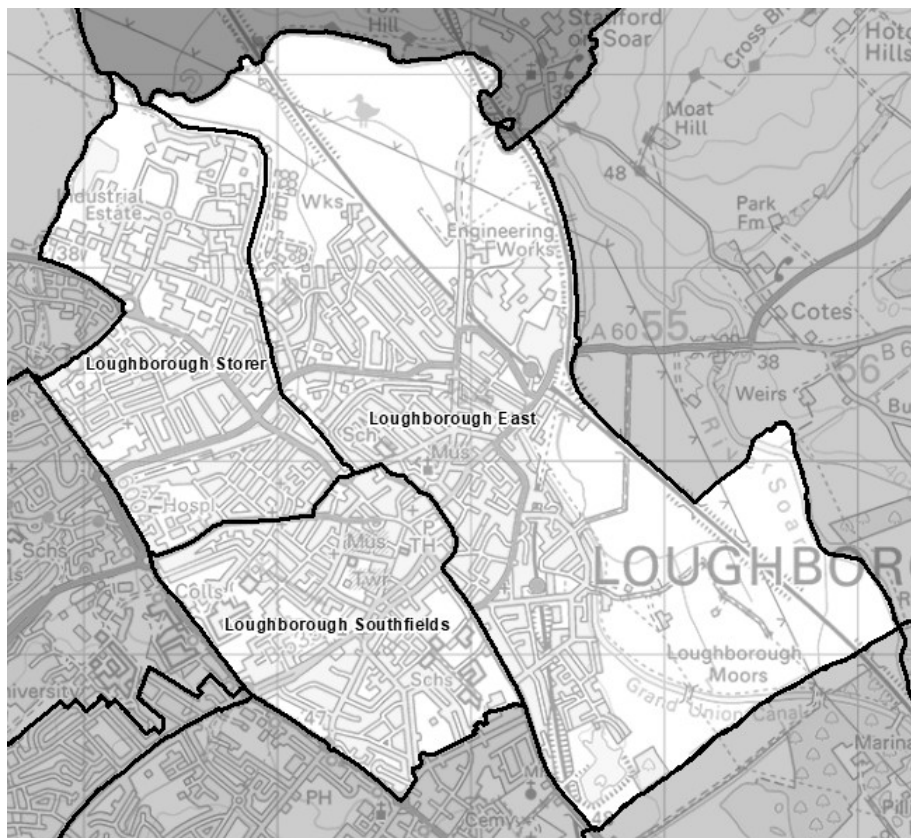
### *Syston*

84 Whilst the current Syston East and Syston West wards have good forecast electoral equality, we could not recommend their retention if we are to provide for electoral equality both in Syston and in surrounding areas. This is similarly true of a proposal to merge the two Syston wards to form a single ward coterminous with the parish boundaries.

85 The Conservatives initially proposed that the Syston St Peter's East parish ward be included in a Wreake Valley ward together with parishes which similarly are part of the Syston Fosse county electoral division. The remaining parish wards would form a single borough ward named Syston. We considered that the Conservatives' proposal for Syston was the only one we received which addressed all of our statutory criteria and therefore included it as part of our draft recommendations.

86 We received no objections to our draft recommendations for this area and therefore confirm them as final.

## Loughborough east



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Loughborough East	3	3%
Loughborough Southfields	2	-1%
Loughborough Storer	2	1%

### *Loughborough East*

87 Charnwood Labour Group initially proposed that the current two-councillor Loughborough Hastings and Loughborough Lemyngton wards be retained. The Group described the wards as ethnically diverse and sharing a distinctive character. The Conservatives offered a different approach. They proposed a three-councillor Loughborough Canal ward which would take the main A6 road as a ward boundary from the southern edge of the town northwards to its junction with Belton Road. From that point, the boundary would follow the Grand Union Canal northwards until it met the River Soar at the borough's northern edge.



88 Upon looking at the town, we noted the points made by the Conservatives and the Council's Labour Group with regard to housing and community buildings serving a diverse faith community. We also noted areas of terraced housing and community facilities serving a diverse community. However, there are many instances of modern housing and areas of mixed commercial and residential land uses and these characteristics are present throughout the area bounded by the A6 and the Grand Union Canal.

89 We noted that the Conservatives' proposal would place the Kings Avenue area in their Loughborough Storer ward. We considered that the housing in this area is closer physically and in character to housing in the Knightthorpe Road area than to that along the eastern end of Belton Road. Furthermore, we found that the addition of the Kings Avenue area to the current Loughborough Storer ward would resolve the high degree of electoral inequality forecast in that ward. We also noted that the scheme provides for the town centre to be represented in a single ward rather than be divided between three wards as is currently the case. With a substantial increase in town-centre living represented in the electorate forecast, we consider this to be beneficial.

90 Accepting the Conservatives' view of the Kings Avenue and town centre area meant that Loughborough Canal ward would have good electoral equality if it were represented by three councillors, rather than four as is the case in the current Hastings and Lemyngton wards. The submissions we received provided us with no evidence to divide this area but rather encouraged our view that the area should be united in a three-councillor ward.

91 In accepting the broad merits of the Conservatives' proposal, we put forward a modification to it. We considered that the Edward Street area and Regent Wharf Place should be included in Loughborough Storer ward as it is more closely related and accessible to the area to the west of Derby Road than to the area east of the Loughborough Navigation.

92 The Council's Labour Group and Councillor Draycott both referred to the references to Loughborough's history in the names of the town's eastern wards. We sought views on the naming of wards in Loughborough in general and of the draft recommendations' Loughborough Canal ward in particular.

93 Responding to our draft recommendations, one resident argued that representation for the area should be retained with four councillors. This would, however, result in a high degree of electoral inequality, having around 20% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2027.

94 One resident opposed the creation of a single ward for the eastern part of Loughborough, but did not provide supporting evidence for this view. Another argued

that a ward as large as that proposed would be marginalised, but was unable to say how this effect would materialise.

95 A third resident argued that a block of properties bounded by Barrow Street, Moira Street, King Street and Leicester Road should be included in Loughborough Southfields ward. We have looked at this area and conclude that the boundary proposed in our draft recommendations is both logical and clear. We consequently are not persuaded to adopt this amendment in our final recommendations.

96 The name 'Loughborough Canal' attracted more comment than did the proposed boundaries. The Conservatives reconsidered their initial proposal and suggested the name 'Loughborough Grand Union'. The Labour Group proposed that we name the ward either 'Loughborough Limehurst' or 'Loughborough Hastings & Limehurst'. Councillor Miah also suggested 'Loughborough Limehurst'. Meanwhile, the Council Officers suggested that 'Loughborough North East' could be a suitable name. Two residents of the area proposed that the ward be named 'Loughborough East'. We consider that to be an unambiguous name which would reflect the entirety of the ward and have therefore adopted it as part of our final recommendations.

#### *Loughborough Southfields and Loughborough Storer*

97 Whilst Loughborough Southfields ward currently has good electoral equality, the Council's electorate forecast shows that it is expected to have 11% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2027. The Council's Labour Group proposed that this be addressed by extending Loughborough Southfields ward to the west of Epinal Way, although no specific boundary revision was described.

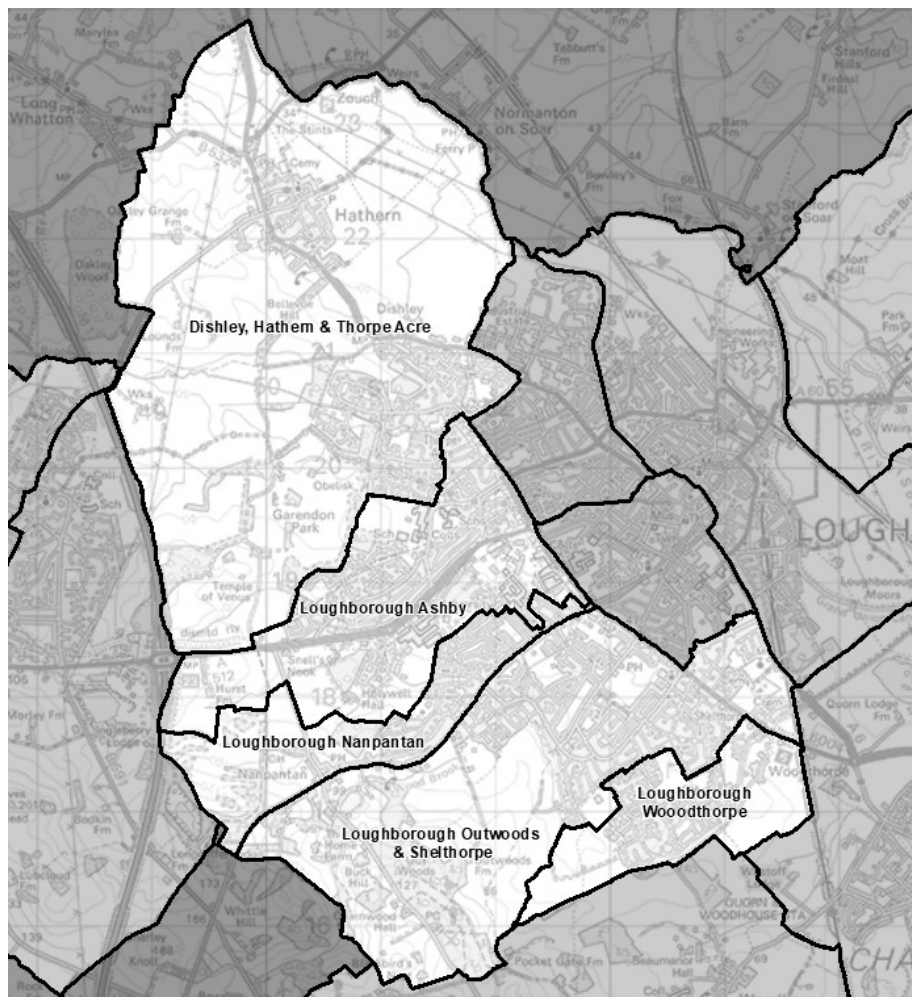
98 Loughborough Storer ward is similarly expected to show a high electoral variance over the forecast period with 18% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2027. The Labour Group would address this by adding part of Loughborough Southfields ward.

99 The Conservatives proposed that the whole of the town centre be included in Loughborough Southfields ward and that the Kings Avenue area be included in Loughborough Storer ward. Included in the proposed town centre area are specific sites for housing development expected to add nearly 600 electors by 2027. Together with current town centre residents, this additional electorate would resolve electoral inequality in Loughborough Southfields. The addition of the Kings Avenue area to Loughborough Storer ward also resolves electoral inequality in that ward.

100 Our draft recommendations modified the Conservatives' scheme by including Edward Street and Regent Wharf Place in Loughborough Storer ward. Whilst this attracted no opposition, our proposal to include the Castledine Street Extension, Edelin Road and part of Park Road in Loughborough Shelthorpe ward was opposed

by the Conservatives and by four local residents. The Conservatives maintained their original proposal that Shelthorpe Road form a ward boundary, with one of the residents agreeing. The other residents who wrote on this issue focused on their own streets. To reflect the evidence received, we are modifying our draft recommendations with the effect of including the Castledine Street Extension, Edelin Road and part of Park Road in Loughborough Southfields ward. This allows us to continue to reflect the Labour Group's initial proposal that properties of similar character on both sides of Shelthorpe Road should be included in Loughborough Shelthorpe ward.

## Loughborough west



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Dishley, Hathern & Thorpe Acre	3	4%
Loughborough Ashby	3	3%
Loughborough Nanpantan	1	6%
Loughborough Outwoods & Shelthorpe	3	-2%
Loughborough Woodthorpe	1	10%

*Dishley, Hathern & Thorpe Acre*

101 The parish of Hathern lies to the north of Loughborough. Its northern boundary is also the borough boundary. One resident proposed that the parish should become a distinct borough ward. Even as a single-councillor ward, however, Hathern would have 33% fewer electors than the average number per councillor by 2027, which is a level of electoral inequality we are not prepared to recommend. The Conservatives initially proposed that the parish be combined with part of the site of a major housing development at Garendon Park to form a single-councillor ward having good electoral equality by 2027. They suggested that at a future date, it would be appropriate to establish a ward to encompass the whole of the Garendon Park development.

102 The implementation of the Community Governance Review in 2019 established Stonebow Village parish which encompasses the whole of the Garendon Park development area. The Council asked that we reflect this in our recommendations and that we consider including it within a single ward.

103 In formulating our draft recommendations, we noted that the Garendon Park development is expected to add over 600 electors in polling district G2 by 2027. The Conservatives would not include these electors in Hathern & Stonebow ward but in a Loughborough Thorpe Acre ward. We also noted, however, that the Garendon Park Masterplan indicates that access to this area will be via the Phase 1 area in the Conservatives' proposed Hathern & Stonebow ward, with no access to the Loughborough Thorpe Acre ward at Lindisfarne Drive.

104 We therefore proposed a two-councillor Hathern & Stonebow and a single-councillor Loughborough Thorpe Acre ward. However, we expressly asked to hear whether local people consider a three-councillor ward, combining our proposed Hathern & Stonebow and Loughborough Thorpe Acre wards, would be preferable to our draft recommendations.

105 The Council's Labour Group and Councillors Hunt and Ward supported the creation of a three-councillor ward, combining Hathern, Stonebow and Thorpe Acre, whilst some residents objected to the splitting of the Dishley area between wards. One resident feared that such a ward would result in a loss of identity for Hathern. For the reasons given in paragraph 101, we are not prepared to establish a ward exclusively comprising Hathern parish but do consider that its identity is distinguished by its parish boundaries and representation by the parish council.

106 Most of the comments about this area related to the loss of the Dishley area from our proposed ward names, with individual residents and the Dishley Residents' Association asking for the name of their area to be retained.

107 We acknowledge that sufficient evidence has been received to justify combining the two wards put forward in our draft recommendations. We have therefore adopted the Labour Group's proposal that our final recommendation be for a three-councillor ward named Dishley, Hathern & Thorpe Acre.

*Loughborough Ashby, Loughborough Nanpantan, Loughborough Outwoods & Shelthorpe and Loughborough Woodthorpe*

108 The development at Garendon Park and the need to address its impact on electoral equality has a consequential effect on ward boundaries in the western part of Loughborough. However, forecast electoral variances of 29% and 18% in the current Loughborough Nanpantan and Outwoods wards, respectively, point to a further need to address electoral inequality, notwithstanding that some residents said that we should retain those wards in our recommendations.

109 The Conservatives initially proposed that Loughborough Nanpantan ward be abolished, with the northern part added to Loughborough Ashby, to form a two-councillor ward. They proposed that the southern part be added to Loughborough Outwoods, which they would name Loughborough Forest and make a three-councillor ward.

110 We proposed in our draft recommendations to modify the Conservatives' proposal for Loughborough Ashby ward by adding the areas immediately to the north of Alan Moss Road and Old Ashby Road to produce a three-councillor ward. The ward would include the whole of the campus of Loughborough University. Responding to this aspect of our draft recommendations, the Council Officers said that our proposal would simplify polling arrangements and make it clearer to students where they should vote in elections.

111 Councillor Bradshaw proposed a more radical approach to the University campus, suggesting that Loughborough Ashby should be a stand-alone ward with one councillor and that the University plus the residential student area in Nanpantan form a separate University ward. We note that this approach would require a two-member Loughborough Ashby ward, having a level of electoral equality within our normal range of tolerance. One resident also opposed the combination of university campus and residential areas. It would, however, leave a single-member University ward with 21% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough. This is a degree of electoral inequality we are not prepared to recommend.

112 Responding to our draft recommendations, the Conservatives altered their initial approach for Nanpantan. They proposed the retention, with minor alterations, of the current Nanpantan ward, to be represented by one councillor. The Nanpantan Residents' Group and one resident also wrote to express this view, although the Residents' Group proposed greater changes to the current ward than did the

Conservatives. We are persuaded by the evidence presented that the principle of a single-councillor Nanpantan ward has merit.

113 The Residents' Group also asked that we provide for a Loughborough Outwoods ward to include Outwoods Cottage and Outwoods Farm. In order to do this, whilst ensuring the proposed ward is coherent in terms of accessibility, we have to adopt the Conservatives' proposal for that ward. That proposal therefore becomes the basis of our final recommendation for Loughborough Nanpantan ward.

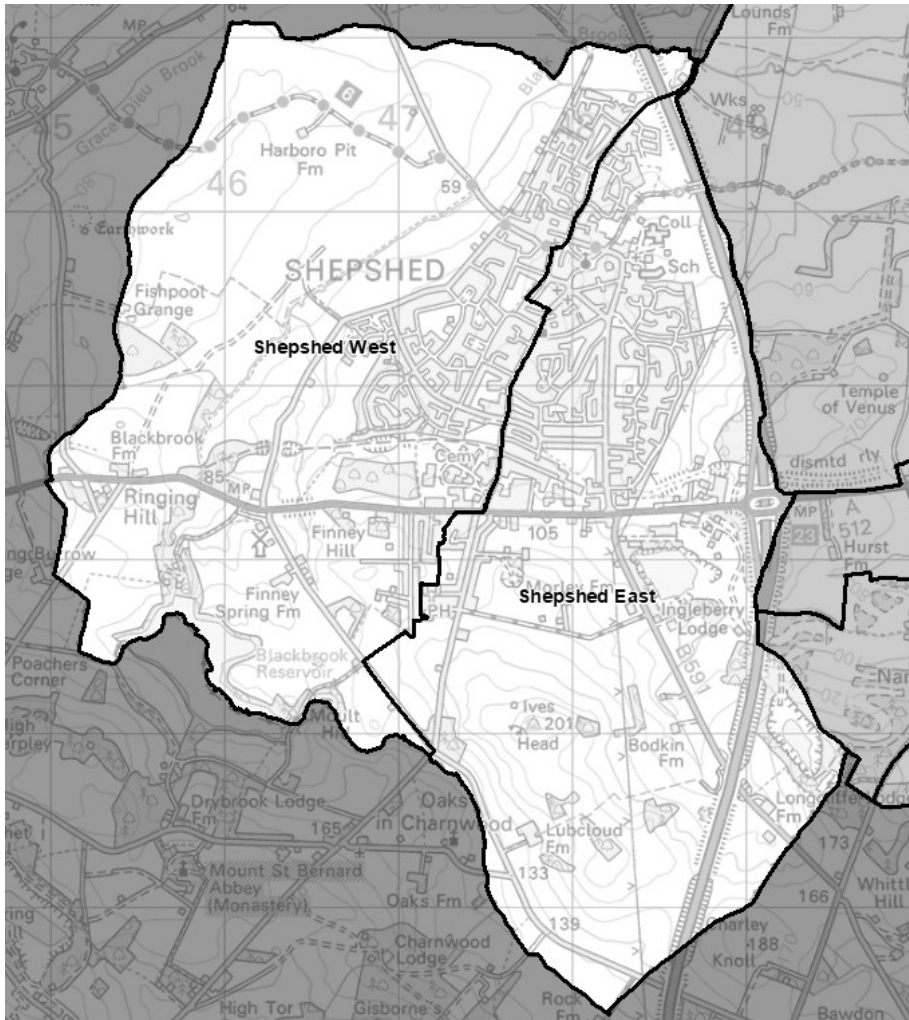
114 This approach leaves the area currently covered by the two-councillor Loughborough Outwoods and Loughborough Shelthorpe wards. The Council's electorate forecasts show that by 2027, Loughborough Outwoods is forecast to have 18% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough and Loughborough Shelthorpe 17% more. In our draft recommendations, we sought to resolve these variances by including the Nanpantan area in a three-councillor Loughborough Forest ward and two-councillor Shelthorpe Grange ward.

115 Whilst this proposal attracted support from one resident who argued that the whole of Parklands Drive should be included in a ward with the Loughborough Outwoods area, it attracted opposition from the Haddon Way Residents' Association and residents of the Grange Park estate which would be split between wards in our draft recommendations. Opposition was also expressed to the split of the Hazel Road area between wards.

116 It is clear to us from the submissions received that there are distinct communities of Outwoods, Shelthorpe and Grange Park. Whilst it might be considered desirable to reflect each of these areas in their entirety in distinct wards, it has not been possible to do this and ensure good electoral equality. We are able to provide a single-councillor ward for Grange Park which embraces the whole of that area, without splitting the Outwoods and Shelthorpe areas between wards. We have therefore decided to put this warding pattern forward as part of our final recommendations.

117 To avoid splitting the Outwoods and Shelthorpe communities between wards, we are recommending that, together, they form a three-councillor ward. This echoes the approach we were asked to take in the Hathern and Thorpe Acre areas. It also reflects our preference to combine whole communities in a larger ward rather than dividing one or more in order to reflect our statutory considerations. Our Loughborough Outwoods & Shelthorpe ward incorporates the modification to our draft recommendations to the north of Shelthorpe Road described in paragraph 100.

## Shepshed



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Shepshed East	2	8%
Shepshed West	2	8%

### *Shepshed East and Shepshed West*

118 Shepshed currently has two two-councillor wards. The town has, both now and in the Council's forecast, enough electors to warrant four borough councillors,



notwithstanding the changes to the boundaries of the town following the Community Governance Review.

119 In response to our initial consultation, we received a number of representations from local people making a diverse range of proposals. One resident proposed that we remove Shepshed from Charnwood borough – a proposal which we cannot put forward as part of this electoral review. Another resident proposed that we make no changes to the electoral arrangements despite the forecast electoral inequality in Shepshed East ward. One resident argued for fewer councillors to represent Shepshed whilst another argued for more. Two residents argued for the re-drawing of ward boundaries in Shepshed to provide for three wards – North, West and South – but did not suggest where those boundaries might lie. One resident proposed a four-councillor ward to include the whole of Shepshed.

120 The Council's Labour Group acknowledged the issue of electoral inequality but took the view that modifying existing ward boundaries could result in a restoration of equality between the town's east and west wards. We agreed with the essence of the approach suggested by both the Labour Group and the Conservatives but modified the detailed proposals we received to give both Shepshed East and Shepshed West 8% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2027.

121 In response to the consultation on our draft recommendations, the Conservatives supported our proposals for Shepshed. One resident offered comments about the longer-term effect of development on the electoral requirements for the town. However, this would take us beyond the five-year forecast period we are able to consider. In the absence of further comment, we are confirming as final our recommendations for Shepshed.



## Conclusions

122 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Charnwood, referencing the 2020 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2020	2027
Number of councillors	52	52
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	2,693	3,020
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	7	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

#### Final recommendations

Charnwood Borough Council should be made up of 52 councillors serving 24 wards representing five single-councillor wards, 10 two-councillor wards and nine three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

#### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Charnwood borough. You can also view our final recommendations for Charnwood Borough Council on our interactive map at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

123 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.

124 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, Charnwood Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

125 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 Shepshed and Thurmaston.

126 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Shepshed parish.

**Final recommendations**

Shepshed Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Shepshed East	8
Shepshed West	7

127 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Thurmaston parish.

**Final recommendations**

Thurmaston Parish Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Thorpebury	1
Thurmaston Central	5
Thurmaston East	8
Thurmaston North	2
Thurmaston South	3

## What happens next?

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



## Equalities

129 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 Charnwood Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Anstey	2	5,883	2,942	9%	6,125	3,063	1%
2	Barrow Upon Soar	2	5,289	2,645	-2%	5,858	2,929	-3%
3	Birstall East & Wanlip	2	5,379	2,690	0%	5,732	2,866	-5%
4	Birstall West	2	5,679	2,840	5%	5,966	2,983	-1%
5	Dishley, Hathern & Thorpe Acre	3	7,114	2,371	-12%	9,423	3,141	4%
6	Forest Bradgate	1	2,567	2,567	-5%	2,792	2,792	-8%
7	Loughborough Ashby	3	9,058	3,019	12%	9,317	3,106	3%
8	Loughborough East	3	8,539	2,846	6%	9,329	3,110	3%
9	Loughborough Nanpantan	1	3,011	3,011	12%	3,207	3,207	6%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
10 Loughborough Outwoods & Shelthorpe	3	8,396	2,799	4%	8,906	2,969	-2%
11 Loughborough Southfields	2	5,537	2,769	3%	5,974	2,987	-1%
12 Loughborough Storer	2	5,862	2,931	9%	6,099	3,050	1%
13 Loughborough Woodthorpe	1	3,168	3,168	18%	3,321	3,321	10%
14 Mountsorrel	2	5,686	2,843	6%	6,171	3,086	2%
15 Quorn & Mountsorrel Castle	2	5,677	2,839	5%	6,230	3,115	3%
16 Rothley Brook	3	6,084	2,028	-25%	8,265	2,755	-9%
17 Shepshed East	2	5,915	2,958	10%	6,527	3,264	8%
18 Shepshed West	2	5,474	2,737	2%	6,516	3,258	8%
19 Sileby & Seagrave	3	7,105	2,368	-12%	8,454	2,818	-7%
20 South Charnwood	1	949	949	-65%	3,191	3,191	6%

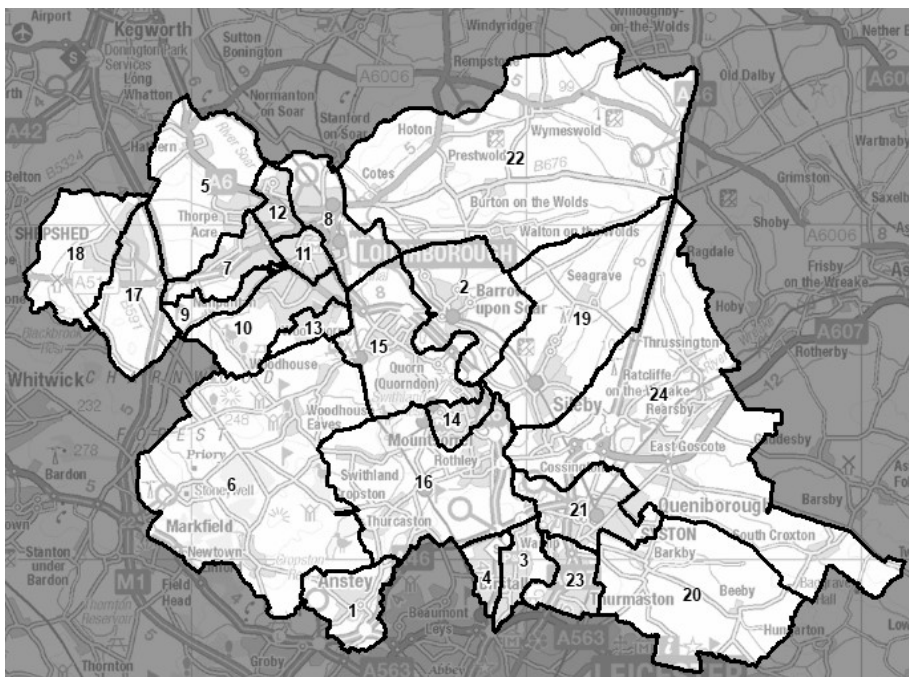
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
21 Syston	3	8,653	2,884	7%	9,256	3,085	2%
22 The Wolds	1	2,635	2,635	-2%	2,796	2,796	-7%
23 Thurmaston	3	7,613	2,538	-6%	8,136	2,712	-10%
24 Wreake Valley	3	8,774	2,925	9%	9,428	3,143	4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>140,047</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>157,019</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,693</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

## Appendix B

### Outline map



Ward name	Ward name
1 Anstey	13 Loughborough Woodthorpe
2 Barrow Upon Soar	14 Mountsorrel
3 Birstall East & Wanlip	15 Quorn & Mountsorrel Castle
4 Birstall West	16 Rothley Brook
5 Dishley, Hathern & Thorpe Acre	17 Shepshed East
6 Forest Bradgate	18 Shepshed West
7 Loughborough Ashby	19 Sileby & Seagrave
8 Loughborough East	20 South Charnwood
9 Loughborough Nanpantan	21 Syston
10 Loughborough Outwoods & Shelthorpe	22 The Wolds
11 Loughborough Southfields	23 Thurmaston
12 Loughborough Storer	24 Wreake Valley

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/east-midlands/leicestershire/charnwood](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/leicestershire/charnwood)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:  
[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/leicestershire/charnwood](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/leicestershire/charnwood)

#### *Local Authority*

- Charnwood Borough Council (Officers)

#### *Political Groups*

- Charnwood Borough Council Conservative Group
- Charnwood Borough Council Labour Group
- Loughborough & Charnwood Liberal Democrats
- Loughborough Labour Party

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor J. Bradshaw (Charnwood Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Grimley (Charnwood Borough Council)
- Councillor M. Hunt (Leicestershire County Council)
- Councillor J. Miah (Charnwood Borough Council)
- Councillor E. Ward (Charnwood Borough Council)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Dishley Residents' Association
- Haddon Way Residents' Association
- Nanpantan Residents' Group

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Cossington Parish Council
- East Goscote Parish Council
- Thurmaston Parish Council
- Woodhouse Parish Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 44 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.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
1st Floor, Windsor House  
50 Victoria Street, London  
SW1H 0TL

**Telephone:** 0330 500 1525

**Email:** [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

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

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

**Twitter:** @LGBCE