

New electoral arrangements for Chesterfield Borough Council Draft Recommendations

November 2021

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

Why Chesterfield?

7 We are conducting a review of Chesterfield Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was carried out in 1998 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² Some councillors also currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Chesterfield 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 Chesterfield

9 Chesterfield should be represented by 40 councillors, eight fewer than there are now.

10 Chesterfield should have 16 wards, three fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change; none will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

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

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 2 November 2021 to 10 January 2022. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

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

16 You have until 10 January 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 27 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

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

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 April 2021	Number of councillors decided
11 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
19 July 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 November 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
10 January 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 March 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

	2021	2027
Electorate of Chesterfield	78,395	84,219
Number of councillors	40	40
Average number of electors per councillor	1,960	2,105

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

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

24 The Council initially submitted electorate forecasts for 2030, a period eight 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 8%. However, Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act states that we should take into account any changes to the number and distribution of electors that are likely to take place within the five years following the end of a review. In Chesterfield's case, the time period we are able to consider is up to 2027. This means that we are unable to take account of growth in the period between 2027 and 2030.

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

25 This discrepancy was noted during our assessment of the proposals received from the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups on the Council. We subsequently asked the Council to provide forecasts for 2027. These revised figures predicted an increase in the electorate of around 7% and these have been used as the basis of our draft recommendations.

26 We also noted that the Council appeared to have allocated an area of growth in Staveley incorrectly. Its original figures showed the growth in the Inkersall area, while mapping provided by the Council showed the growth as occurring in the Middlecroft/Staveley area. Having clarified this discrepancy with the Council, the growth has been confirmed as forecast for the Middlecroft/Staveley area. This had a knock-on effect to some of the levels of electoral equality for the proposals received.

Number of councillors

27 Chesterfield Borough Council currently has 48 councillors. The Council put forward evidence for reducing its council size to 40, while Chesterfield Liberal Democrats ('Liberal Democrats') proposed a reduction to 38. Both proposals put forward good evidence for a significant reduction in council size. However, on balance, we considered that the Council put forward the best balance of evidence and concluded that decreasing council size by eight would ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 40 councillors, for example, 40 single-councillor wards, or a mix of single-, two- and three-councillor wards.

29 We received a number of general comments on council size in response to our consultation on wards patterns. However, we received no significant new evidence. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 40-councillor council.

Wards boundaries consultation

30 We received 17 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a borough-wide proposal from the Labour Group on the Council and a partial scheme from the Liberal Democrats on the Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for wards arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 We received a number of general comments about the review process. A resident argued that all wards only required a single councillor, but did not provide strong evidence or specific proposals. A number of other respondents argued that three-councillor wards should be reduced to two councillors, but did not put forward strong evidence.

32 A resident argued that Calow should be added to Chesterfield, but we are unable to amend the external boundary of the borough as part of this review. Another resident stated that the level of representation should take into account the level of deprivation in a community. We acknowledge the concerns that deprivation may bring in terms of representation and workload. However, when we consulted on our policies and procedures, some people said that urban areas should have proportionately more councillors than rural areas because urban areas present the more complex issues. Others argued that rural areas should have proportionately more councillors because rural populations are more dispersed, and therefore harder to contact. There is no provision in legislation for such proportionality. Therefore, we cannot have specific regard for these issues.

33 A number of respondents also put forward comments referring to the impact of borough wards on the formulation of Parliamentary boundaries. However, we cannot take account of the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies as part of an electoral review.

34 The Labour Group's borough-wide scheme and the Liberal Democrats partial scheme provided mixed patterns of two- and three-councillor wards for Chesterfield. We carefully considered the proposals received, noting that the Labour Group proposed a number of wards with poor electoral equality, with variances of over 10%. Our draft recommendations are based on elements of the Labour Group and Liberal Democrat proposals. However, 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.

35 As a result of the unprecedented circumstances related to the outbreak of COVID-19, we were unable to conduct a visit to the area to look at the various different proposals on the ground. However, we were able to conduct a detailed, virtual tour of Chesterfield. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

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

37 The tables and maps on pages 9–24 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Chesterfield. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

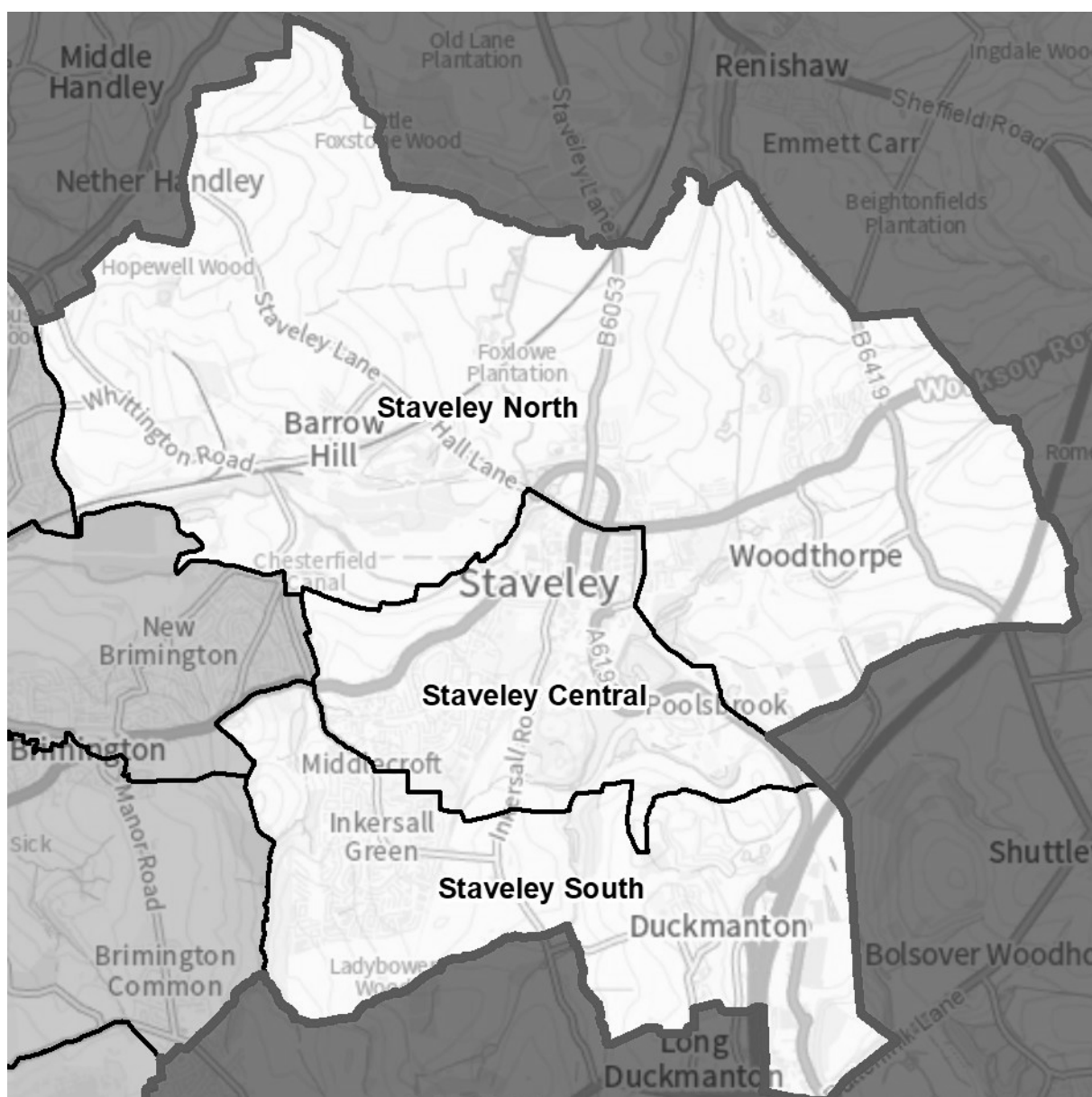
⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

38 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

Staveley



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Staveley Central	2	5%
Staveley North	2	9%
Staveley South	2	6%

Staveley Central, Staveley North and Staveley South

40 The Labour Group proposed three two-councillor wards for this area. These were based on the existing wards, but subject to modifications. It proposed a Staveley North ward which would include Barrow Hill. The Group acknowledged that Barrow Hill is geographically isolated, but that it is within Staveley parish and covered by the Staveley Town deal. It also stated that there are a range of national and local economic growth projects that will strengthen Barrow Hill's links to

Staveley. The Group also proposed transferring a small area of Staveley North to its Staveley Central ward to improve electoral equality. Finally, it proposed a Staveley South ward, comprising Inkersall and Duckmanton. Its Staveley Central, Staveley North and Staveley South wards would have 5% more, 9% more and 6% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

41 The Liberal Democrats proposed the retention of the existing Lowgates & Woodthorpe ward, stating that electoral equality for this ward could only be improved by creating an artificial boundary. They proposed including Barrow Hill in their Barrow Hill, Hollingwood & Inkersall ward. They argued that the link between Barrow Hill and New Whittington should be broken to facilitate the links between New Whittington and Old Whittington. They stated that Barrow Hill's only other links are to Hollingwood. However, they did not provide any argument to support including these areas in a ward with Inkersall Green. They also did not provide any evidence to support their Middlecroft, Poolsbrook & Duckmanton ward.

42 Councillor Mann stated that Barrow Hill should be added to 'Lowgates ward' as a consequence of the reduction in council size.

43 A resident argued that Barrow Hill should not be in a ward with New Whittington and that Barrow Hill has historical, social and cultural links with Hollingwood. They also added that Barrow Hill and Hollingwood both sit in Staveley parish and future development would link the areas further. Another resident made a number of suggestions, including a proposal that incorporated Duckmanton into a ward with Middlecroft and Poolsbrook, as well as arguing that Barrow Hill should be in a single-councillor ward with Hollingwood. They also stated that 'Inkersall' should be reduced to two-councillors. The resident did not provide any evidence to support these proposals. A further resident argued that Barrow Hill should not be in a ward with New Whittington as New Whittington's links are to Old Whittington, adding that they share bus links, a library, a park, shops and a secondary school.

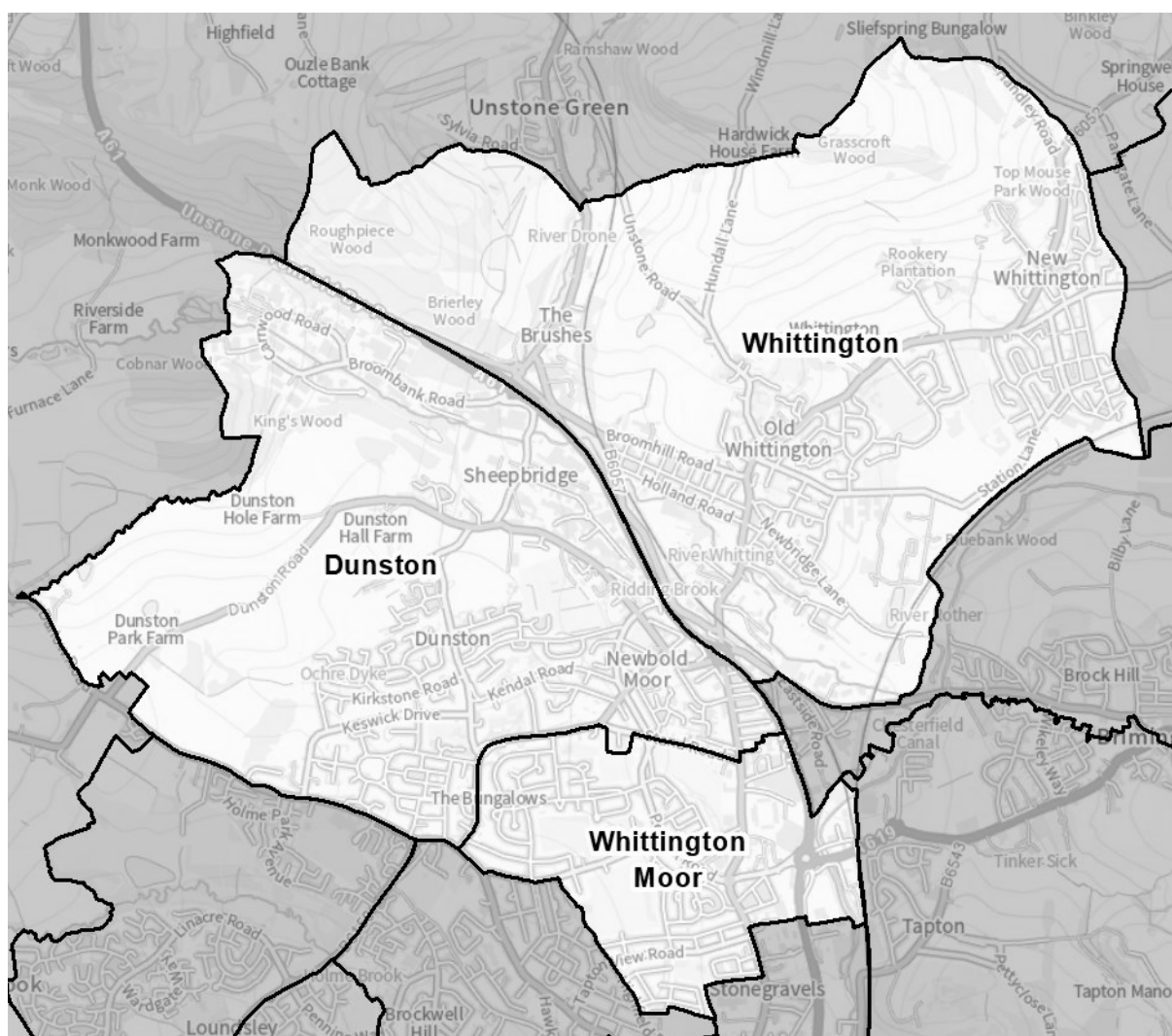
44 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the proposals from the Labour Group and Liberal Democrats. We note that there is agreement that Barrow Hill should not be in a ward with New Whittington, but not agreement on where it should go. We acknowledge the evidence for links between Barrow Hill and Hollingwood and that the Liberal Democrats' proposals reflect these links. However, we have concerns that their proposal also includes Inkersall in the proposed Barrow Hill, Hollingwood & Inkersall ward, with no supporting evidence provided of links between Inkersall and Hollingwood or Barrow Hill.

45 Although Barrow Hill is more remote from the Lowgates area under the Labour Group's Staveley North ward, we note that there are road links between the two areas. We also note that while Barrow Hill has links to Hollingwood, Hollingwood also has good links into Brimington (paragraphs 57–61), with the two areas

effectively running into each other. Although the Liberal Democrats' proposal reflects a resident's suggestion that Duckmanton should be in a ward with Poolsbrook, there was no evidence to support this proposition.

46 On balance, given our concerns related to Inkersall under the Liberal Democrat proposals, we consider that the Labour Group's proposal provides for a more coherent warding pattern for this area, while securing good electoral equality. We did consider an arrangement which included Duckmanton in a ward with Poolsbrook, but in the absence of community evidence it was not possible to identify a way of achieving this with acceptable levels of electoral equality. We would welcome local views on this proposal, along with alternative suggestions for this area. We are adopting the Labour Group proposals for two-councillor Staveley Central, Staveley North and Staveley South wards, without amendment.

Dunston and Whittington



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Dunston	3	-3%
Whittington	3	7%
Whittington Moor	2	5%

Dunston, Whittington and Whittington Moor

47 The Labour Group proposed minor modifications to the existing three-councillor Dunston ward. This ward would have 17% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027. The Group acknowledged that this was poor electoral equality, but that future development would improve the variance over time.

48 As discussed in the Staveley section (paragraphs 40–46), there was agreement for breaking the existing link between Barrow Hill and New Whittington. The Labour Group proposed the creation of a two-councillor New Whittington ward, comprising New Whittington and a small area of Old Whittington. While this

arrangement improved electoral equality in its proposed ward, the Group acknowledged that this was 'not ideal'. Its proposed ward would have 6% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027. Finally, the Group proposed a three-councillor Whittington Moor ward, comprising the remainder of Old Whittington and the Whittington Moor area. It argued that residents in Old Whittington use the Whittington Moor area for a range of facilities and that there are bus links and footbridges and underpasses across the A61. Its Whittington Moor ward would have 25% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

49 The Liberal Democrats proposed combining Old Whittington and New Whittington into a three-member ward, which would have 8% more electors than the borough average by 2027. They provided good evidence of community links between these areas, including the high street, a secondary school, churches and a range of community groups. They added that the A61, railway and River Rother provided good boundaries to the area. They acknowledged that a small area to the south around Eastside Road might be better placed in the existing Moor ward, but that its links there are limited. As discussed in the Brimington section (paragraphs 57–61), the Labour Group proposed transferring the Eastside Road area to its Brimington North ward to improve electoral equality in that ward and reflect the fact that the A61 is a significant barrier in this area.

50 The Liberal Democrats did not provide any proposals for the Dunston area or the Whittington Moor area of the Labour Group's proposed Whittington Moor ward.

51 A local resident expressed general support for the existing Moor ward, but proposed minor amendments by adding more of Newbold Moor around Racecourse Road to Moor ward. As discussed in paragraph 43 above, a number of residents argued that Barrow Hill should not be in a ward with New Whittington as New Whittington's links are to Old Whittington, adding that they share bus links, a library, a park, shops and a secondary school.

52 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. As stated in paragraphs 40–46 above, we note that there is agreement that Barrow Hill should not be in ward with New Whittington. We note that the Liberal Democrat proposals provide a ward reflecting the links between New Whittington and Old Whittington, while using strong boundaries and securing good electoral equality.

53 We have concerns about the Labour Group proposals. Firstly, we are not persuaded that the proposed arrangement would reflect communities, given that it includes a small area of Old Whittington in its New Whittington ward. However, we are also concerned that the proposal for a Whittington Moor ward would have 25% more electors than the borough average by 2027. In addition, while there may be some community links across the A61, we consider that this is a significant boundary

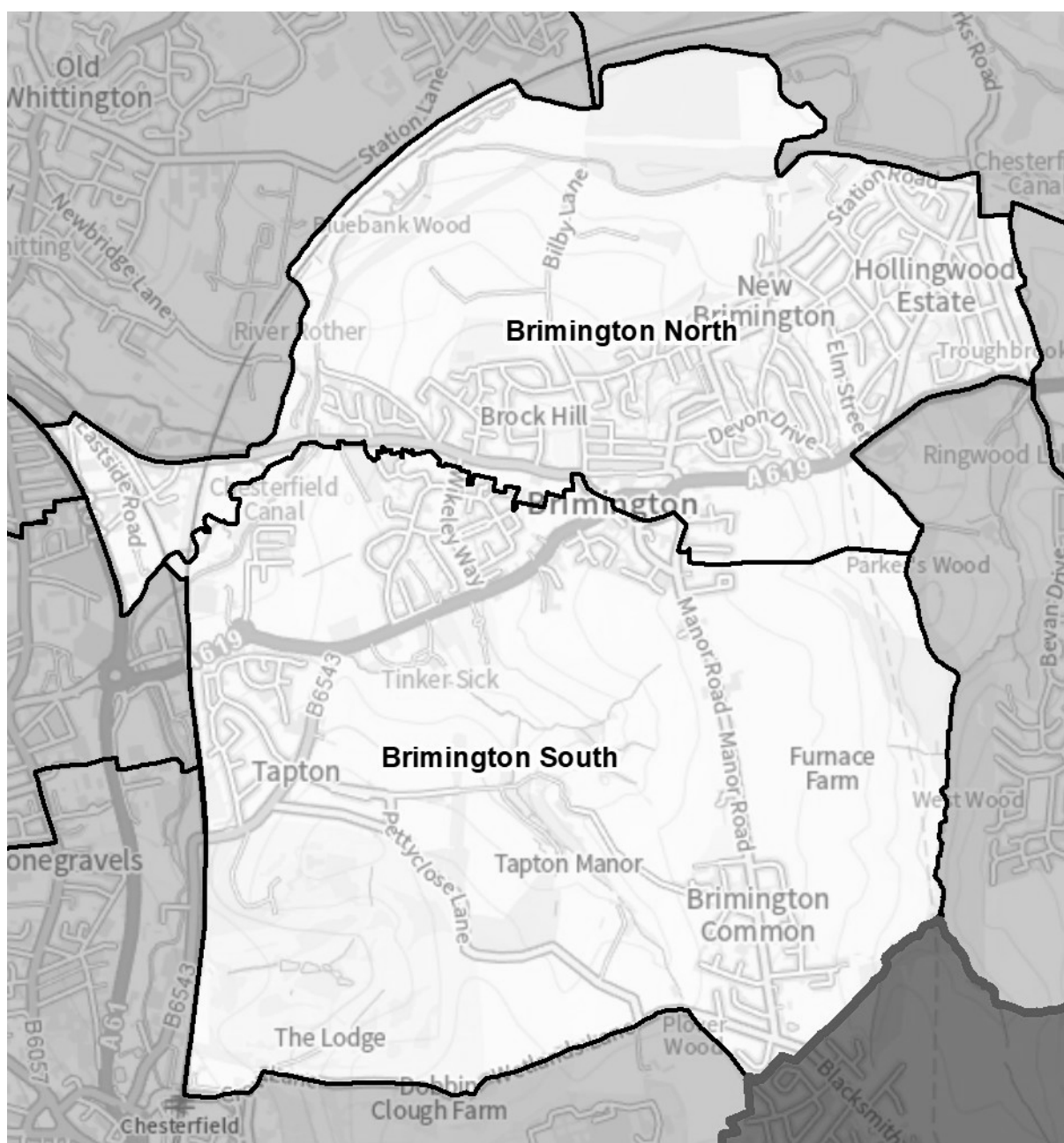
in the area. We are therefore adopting the Liberal Democrats' proposal for a three-councillor Whittington ward in this area.

54 However, we do propose a minor modification to transfer the small area at the south around Eastside Road to the Brimington North ward, noting that it has limited links north into the Whittington ward or across the A61. It has marginally better links into Brimington via Brimington Road North. However, we would welcome further local comments on proposals for this area, particularly from local residents. Our three-councillor Whittington ward would have 7% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

55 To the south of the A61, we are basing our draft recommendations on the Labour Group's Dunston ward. We note its argument that future growth will improve electoral equality in its proposed ward, but we have not been persuaded to adopt a ward with this level of electoral inequality in 2027. To improve electoral equality, we are therefore transferring an area to the north of the Stand Road to Dunston ward. This would unite the area around Racecourse Road, as suggested by a local resident. This modified three-councillor Dunston ward would have 3% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

56 Finally, in light of our decision not to adopt the Labour Group's Whittington Moor ward and the lack of proposals from the Liberal Democrats in this area, we are proposing our own Whittington Moor ward. This is based on the remainder of the Labour Group's Whittington Moor ward, to the south of the A61, less the area transferred to Dunston ward. We are also adding the Dukes Drive area and the Taptan View Road area towards Sheffield Road. This ward would have 5% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

Brimington



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brimington North	3	-9%
Brimington South	2	7%

Brimington North and Brimington South

57 The Labour Group proposed a three-councillor Brimington North ward comprising the north of Brimington and Hollingwood. This ward would have 8% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027. It argued that the gap between these areas has decreased as developments have grown, which is reflected in the county division boundary. It added that there are good transport links between the areas.

The Group also proposed including Ringwood Park and Ringwood Hall in the ward, to 'compensate' for the largely urban nature of the ward. It also added that the Hollingwood Residents' Association uses the area. Finally, as discussed in paragraphs 49 and 54 above, the Group proposed adding a small area around Eastside Road into the Brimington North ward, arguing that it lies on the Brimington side of the A61. It also proposed adding the Tapton Lock Hill area, which also lies on the Brimington side of the A61. It stated that adding both these areas would also improve electoral equality in its proposed Brimington North ward.

58 The Labour Group also proposed a two-councillor Brimington South ward, stating that this comprises the south of Brimington parish and the Tapton area of Chesterfield, which also lies within the parish. The Group argued that there are good connections within the ward. Finally, it stated that it considered transferring part of Brimington South to Brimington North to improve electoral equality. However, it rejected this, arguing that Station Road provides a clear boundary. The Group's proposed Brimington South ward would have 7% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

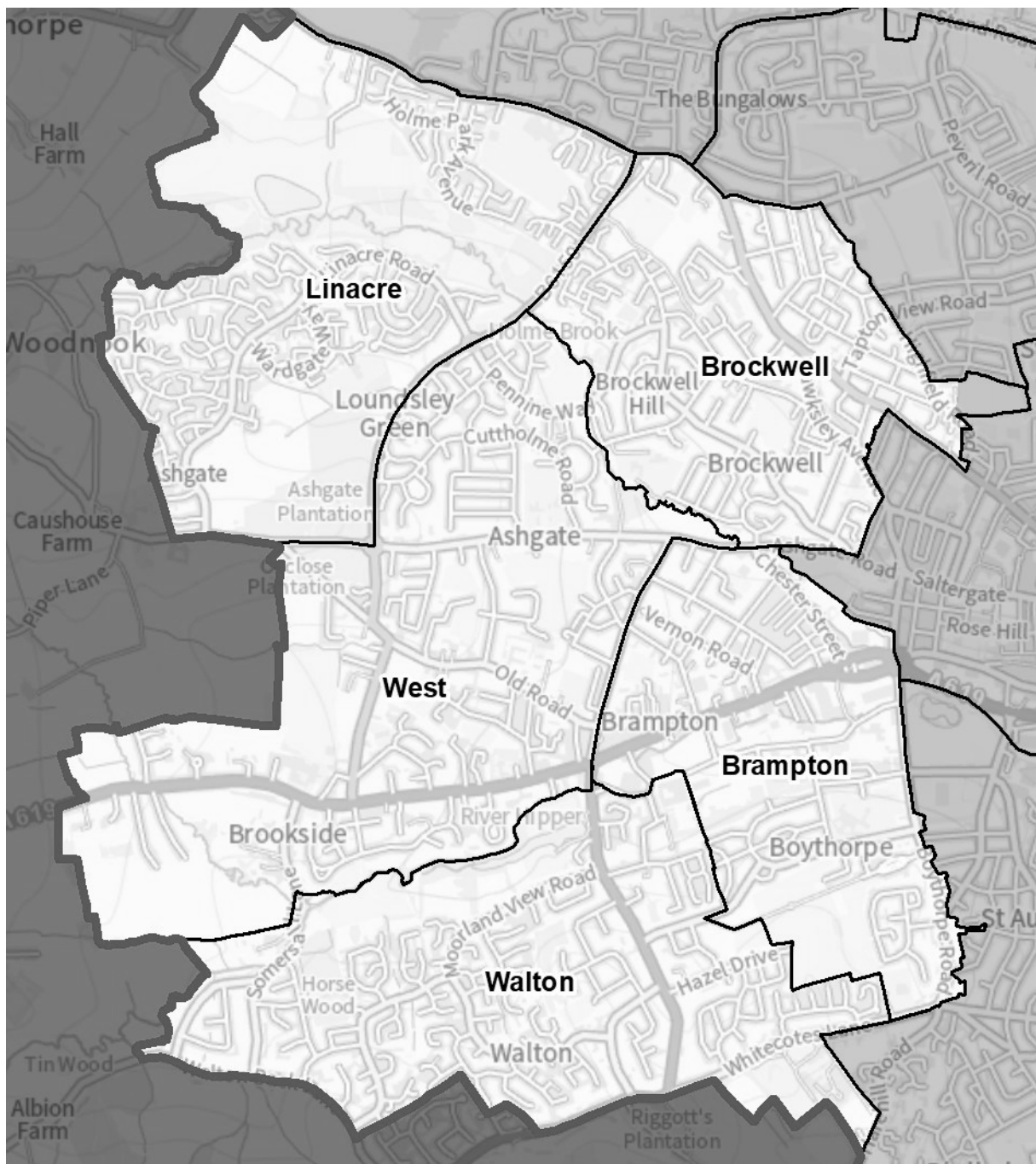
59 The Liberal Democrats put forward proposals for two-councillor Brimington Common and two-councillor New Brimington & Tapton wards. Their Brimington Common ward would comprise Brimington Common and the eastern area of the current Brimington North ward. They stated that these areas are linked by Manor Road. The areas in their proposed New Brimington & Tapton ward would be linked by the A619. The Liberal Democrats also suggested that the Tapton Lock Hill area could be transferred to New Brimington & Tapton ward, noting that while it is separated from Tapton by the railway, the River Rother and the A61 more significant barriers. These proposed wards would have 3% fewer and 1% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively.

60 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the proposals from the Liberal Democrats, but have concerns about their proposed Brimington Common ward. Although there are good links via Manor Road between Brimington Common and the east part of Brimington, we are persuaded by the Labour Group's argument that the eastern part of Brimington should be linked to Hollingwood. We also consider that the north-south split proposed by the Labour Group provides a stronger warding pattern.

61 However, we propose a small modification to the Labour Group's proposed warding arrangements in the area. We note that the Tapton Lock Hill area has no direct links into Brimington North ward. We therefore propose transferring it to Whittington Moor ward, as it has good links across the A61 via Lockoford Lane. This slightly worsens electoral equality in Brimington North ward to 9% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027. As discussed in paragraph 54 we consider that the Eastside Road area has marginally better links into Brimington via Brimington

Road North and Station Road. However, we would welcome local comments on this proposal. Finally, we also considered whether the boundary between Brimington North and Brimington South wards could be strengthened by running it down Cotterhill Lane and transferring the area to the north and Manor Drive to Brimington North. This would also improve electoral equality in Brimington North and Brimington South wards. However, we are of the view that the Labour Group's proposal for this boundary provides for an identifiable boundary. Again, we would welcome local comments on this proposal. Our proposed Brimington North and Brimington South wards would have 9% fewer and 7% more electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively.

West Chesterfield



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brampton	2	-10%
Brockwell	2	7%
Linacre	2	5%
Walton	3	-9%
West	3	-8%

Brockwell and Linacre

62 The Labour Group put forward proposals for this whole area, while the Liberal Democrats put forward partial proposals.

63 The Labour Group proposed a three-councillor Brockwell & Linacre and a two-councillor Loundsley Green ward. These wards would have 6% fewer and 9% more electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively. The Labour Group stated that its proposed Brockwell & Linacre ward reflected Linacre's links with the western area of Brockwell that had been recognised by the county division arrangements, while also citing the socio-economic status of the areas within the proposed ward. The Group stated that its proposed Loundsley Green ward comprised the Loundsley Green, Holme Hall and Green Farm housing estates, which cover areas of significant deprivation, and that these are 'different' from the surrounding areas. It stated that its proposals recognise the 'identity' of electors on either side of Linacre Road. The Group acknowledged that the B6150 divides the ward, but that there are pedestrian underpasses and bus links.

64 The Liberal Democrats put forward proposals for a two-councillor Linacre ward, but did not put forward proposals for the Brockwell area. They did not provide any evidence to support their proposed Linacre ward.

65 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note that the Labour Group's proposals seek to reflect the socio-economic make-up of the area. However, we have concerns about the boundaries, particularly for its Brockwell & Linacre ward. We note that there are constrained links between the Linacre and Brockwell areas, with the Group's proposed Loundsley Green sitting between the areas and disrupting the links. While the Group argued that the areas either side of Linacre Road have a different socio-economic composition, we consider that the Liberal Democrats' proposal to use the B6150 provides for a much stronger boundary and therefore a clearer warding pattern. We have therefore adopted the Liberal Democrats' proposals for a two-councillor Linacre ward as part of our draft recommendations.

66 However, we propose a small amendment in the western part of the ward to follow the B6150 along its length, rather than transferring the School House Way area to the ward. This improves electoral equality from 7% more electors than the borough average in 2027 to 5%.

67 As stated above, the Liberal Democrats did not provide proposals for the Brockwell area. However, our decision to adopt the Liberal Democrats' proposal for Linacre has meant that we have necessarily come up with our own suggestion for this area.

68 We are proposing a two-councillor Brockwell ward. This is constrained to the north by our proposals for Dunston and Whittington Moor wards. To the east, we propose following part of the Labour Group proposals for Spire ward (paragraphs 75–80), but we are also transferring the Edinburgh Road area to ensure electoral equality. To the south, we propose drawing the boundary between Brockwell and West wards along Holme Brook. In our view, the brook is a natural dividing line and creates a Brockwell ward with Brockwell Lane at its centre. Our proposed two-councillor Brockwell ward would have 7% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

Brampton, Walton and West

69 The Labour Group and Liberal Democrats put forward proposals for this area. The Labour Group proposed two-councillor Brampton and Walton East & Boythorpe wards and a three-councillor Walton, West & Brookside ward. These wards would have 4% fewer, 12% fewer and 2% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively.

70 The Labour Group stated that its proposed Brampton ward was based around the A619 Chatsworth Road which leads from Chesterfield town centre to the Peak District. Chatsworth Road is the commercial focus of the area, with a range of local shops, cafes and restaurants. The Group also stated that its proposed Brampton ward would break the ‘false association’ between Brampton and Boythorpe created by the existing Holmebrook ward. The Group also stated that its proposed Walton East & Boythorpe ward was a compact ward comprising Boythorpe and the area of Walton to the east of Walton Road. Finally, the Labour Group stated that its proposed Walton, West & Brookside ward is the most ‘affluent’ in the borough. It argued that Walton Road is a natural dividing line and that the proposed ward would reunite electors at the southern end of Somersall Lane with Walton. The Group added that it had included a few roads around Ashgate Avenue in the north to improve electoral equality.

71 The Liberal Democrats proposed a two-councillor Holmebrook ward and three-councillor Walton and West wards. These wards would have 3% fewer, 6% fewer and 7% more electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively. They did not put forward any evidence to support their Holmebrook or West wards, but did put forward arguments for their Walton ward. This was supported by identical arguments from Councillors Kellman, Redihough and Snowden. They argued that Walton ward proposed by the Liberal Democrats would unite the whole of Somersby Avenue in a single ward, rather than dividing it as under the current arrangement. They also proposed including the area to the west of Somersby Avenue, around the south end of Somersall Lane, in their Walton ward, arguing that Horsewood and Somersall playing fields form a natural boundary to the north, using clear geographical features. Finally, they argued that the area around Fenland Way would sit better in Walton

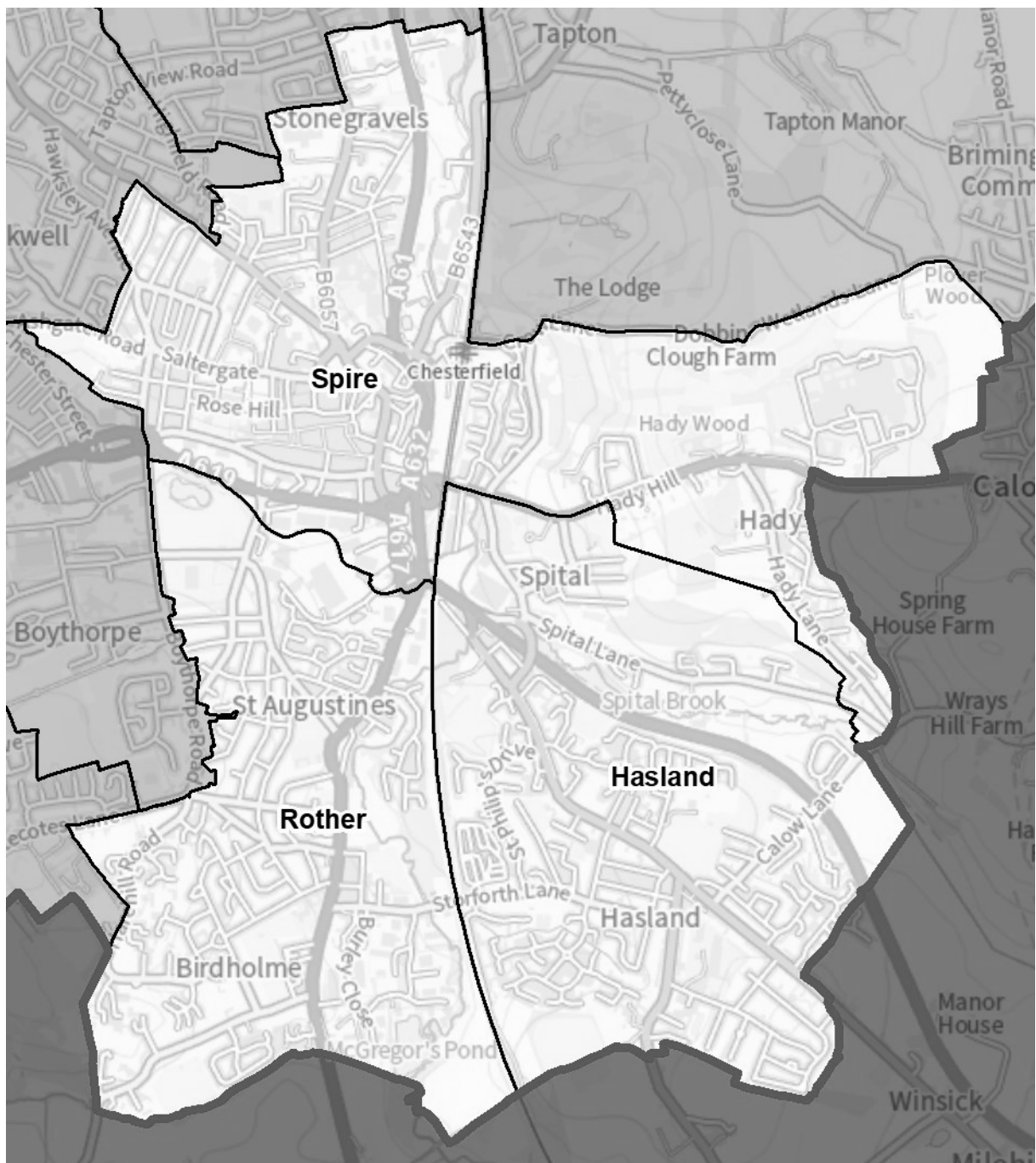
ward, adding that Whitecotes Primary School had recently been renamed Walton Peak Flying High Academy.

72 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. The Labour Group put forward good evidence for its proposed Brampton ward and we note the argument that Brampton should be separated from Boythorpe. However, we had concerns about the Group's proposed Walton, West & Brookside ward, noting that it crosses the Horsewood and Somersall playing fields area that the Liberal Democrats described as a natural boundary. We concur with the Liberal Democrat argument that this area should be used as a boundary. We also support the Liberal Democrats' proposal for a Walton ward and consider that the areas around the south end of Somersall Lane and Sombersby Avenue would be best served in the Walton ward. As discussed in paragraphs 62–68, we have also adopted the Liberal Democrats' proposal for Linacre ward and made our own suggestion for Brockwell ward. These have knock-on effects to our considerations further south. On balance, we are therefore adopting the Liberal Democrats' proposals for this area, subject to some amendments discussed below. We also propose renaming their Holmebrook ward as Brampton, to reflect the argument put forward by the Labour Group.

73 Firstly, we propose reducing the area covered by Brampton ward to help facilitate a stronger warding pattern for the Hasland and Rother area, discussed below (paragraphs 75–80). We propose using Boythorpe Road as the eastern extent of the ward, transferring the Park Road area to Rother ward. We are amending the boundary with West ward around Old Hall Road, to also improve the warding pattern across the wider area. In our view this proposal also provides for a clearer boundary, using Old Hall Road and Ashgate Road. We also propose to run the boundary between West and Brockwell wards along Holme Brook. Although we could move away from this to improve electoral equality in West ward, it is a natural dividing line and creates a Brockwell ward with Brockwell Lane running through its centre.

74 Our two-councillor Brampton ward and three-councillor Walton and West wards would have 10% fewer, 9% fewer and 8% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively. These proposals facilitate a warding pattern that enables the railway line to be used between Rother and Hasland. If we were to move away from that boundary, it would be possible to provide slightly better levels of electoral equality.

South Chesterfield



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Hasland	3	4%
Rother	3	-9%
Spire	3	6%

Hasland, Rother and Spire

75 The Labour Group put forward proposals for three-councillor Hasland, Rother and Spire wards for this area. These wards would have 4% fewer, 13% fewer and 15% more electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively. The Labour Group argued that its proposed Hasland ward would bring together Hasland village, citing a range of community links and facilities. It stated that the inclusion of the Spital Lane area in the ward was 'not ideal', but that this was necessary to improve electoral equality in its Spire ward. The Group also stated that children on Spital Lane attended Hasland schools.

76 The Labour Group also argued that its proposals would re-establish the railway as a boundary between Hasland and Rother wards. The Group noted that it did consider transferring a small area close to the railway from Hasland ward to Rother ward to improve electoral equality, but rejected this option as it was 'loathe to recreate' problems with the current ward. The Group stated that its proposed Rother ward would lie either side of the A61, citing a range of community links within the ward. Finally, the Group argued that its proposed Spire ward created a ward with the town centre as its focus, uniting areas previously divided between wards.

77 A local resident argued for the inclusion of Spital Lane in Hasland ward and also for using the railway line for its boundary with Rother ward. We did not receive any other significant comments for this area.

78 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. The Labour Group has provided good evidence for its proposals, particularly the creation of a ward focused around the town centre and the use of the railway line as a boundary between Hasland and Rother wards. However, we have concerns about the poor levels of electoral equality in its proposed Rother and Spire wards. We therefore looked for options to improve these variances. We gave serious consideration to transferring the estate accessing from Jepson Road to the Rother ward. This would improve electoral equality there, but would then require us to also transfer an area of Spire to Hasland ward, to improve electoral equality in Spire and to offset the loss of the Jepson Road area. This arrangement would link areas either side of the railway line.

79 On balance, we have been persuaded by the evidence to retain the railway line between Hasland and Rother wards and we therefore considered other options for improving electoral equality in the area. As stated in paragraphs 69–74 above, we proposed a number of changes between Brampton, Walton and West wards in order to transfer electors around Park Road to the Rother ward. These changes would leave Rother ward with 9% fewer electors than the borough average and would facilitate a warding arrangement that uses the railway line as the boundary between Hasland and Rother wards.

80 To address the poor electoral equality in Spire ward, we are transferring the Spital area to Hasland ward. We acknowledge the that this may not fully reflect community links, but we note that there are road connections via St Leonards Drive, and this helps improve electoral equality in Spire ward to 6% more electors than the borough average by 2027. Our proposed Hasland ward would have 4% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

Conclusions

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

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2021	2027
Number of councillors	40	40
Number of electoral wards	16	16
Average number of electors per councillor	1,960	2,105
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	5	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendations

Chesterfield Borough Council should be made up of 40 councillors serving 16 wards representing eight two-councillor wards and eight 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 Chesterfield. You can also view our draft recommendations for Chesterfield Borough Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

82 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 wards. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

83 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, Chesterfield 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.

84 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 Brimington Parish Council and Staveley Town Council.

85 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Brimington parish.

Draft recommendations

Brimington Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brimington North	5
Brimington South	5

86 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Staveley Town Council.

Draft recommendations

Staveley Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Barrow Hill	2
Duckmanton	2
Hollingwood	2
Inkersall Green	2
Lowgates North	1
Lowgates South	1
Middlecroft	4
Poolsbrook	1
Woodthorpe	2

Have your say

87 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole borough or just a part of it.

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

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

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

Review Officer (Chesterfield)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

91 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Chesterfield which delivers:

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

92 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

93 Electoral equality:

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

94 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

95 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

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

97 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

98 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

99 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Chesterfield Borough Council in 2023.

Equalities

100 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Chesterfield Borough Council

	Wards 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	Brampton	2	3,605	1,802	-8%	3,785	1,892	-10%
2	Brimington North	3	5,597	1,866	-5%	5,726	1,909	-9%
3	Brimington South	2	4,185	2,093	7%	4,520	2,260	7%
4	Brockwell	2	4,479	2,240	14%	4,502	2,251	7%
5	Dunston	3	5,284	1,761	-10%	6,140	2,047	-3%
6	Hasland	3	6,559	2,186	12%	6,583	2,194	4%
7	Linacre	2	4,096	2,048	4%	4,408	2,204	5%
8	Rother	3	5,720	1,907	-3%	5,720	1,907	-9%
9	Spire	3	5,038	1,679	-14%	6,674	2,225	6%
10	Staveley Central	2	3,810	1,905	-3%	4,407	2,203	5%
11	Staveley North	2	3,650	1,825	-7%	4,575	2,288	9%
12	Staveley South	2	3,937	1,969	0%	4,445	2,223	6%

Wards name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Walton	3	5,562	1,854	-5%	5,751	1,917	-9%
14 West	3	5,831	1,944	-1%	5,801	1,934	-8%
15 Whittington	3	6,639	2,213	13%	6,764	2,255	7%
16 Whittington Moor	2	4,404	2,202	12%	4,420	2,210	5%
Totals	40	78,395	-	-	84,219	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,960	-	-	2,105	-

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

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

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/derbyshire/chesterfield

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/derbyshire/chesterfield

Political Groups

- Chesterfield Borough Council Labour Group
- Chesterfield Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillors T. Snowden, M. Kellman and N. Redihough (Chesterfield Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Mann (Staveley Town Council)

Local Residents

- 13 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

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

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

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

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

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
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50 Victoria Street, London
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www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE