

# **New electoral arrangements for East Staffordshire Borough Council Final Recommendations**

March 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<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 East Staffordshire?

7 We are conducting a review of East Staffordshire Borough Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in borough elections varies depending on where you live in East Staffordshire. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters 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 East Staffordshire are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

## Our proposals for East Staffordshire

9 East Staffordshire should be represented by 37 councillors, two fewer than at present.

10 East Staffordshire should have 16 wards, five fewer than there are now.

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

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for East Staffordshire.

## 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 constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

## Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for East Staffordshire. 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                                                                              |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 October 2019  | Number of councillors decided                                                            |
| 22 October 2019  | Start of consultation seeking views on new wards                                         |
| 24 February 2020 | End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations    |
| 30 June 2020     | Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation                       |
| 7 September 2020 | End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations    |
| 1 December 2020  | Publication of further draft recommendations for the rural south and west of the borough |
| 11 January 2021  | End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and confirming final recommendations |
| 30 March 2021    | Publication of final recommendations                                                     |





## Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

|                                           | 2019   | 2026   |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Electorate of East Staffordshire          | 86,785 | 91,392 |
| Number of councillors                     | 39     | 37     |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,225  | 2,470  |

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 East Staffordshire will have good electoral equality by 2026.

## Submissions received

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

## Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2025, a period five years on from the originally scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2020. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5% by 2026.

23 Owing to the further round of consultation on new draft recommendations, our final recommendations are now scheduled to be published in 2021. We are therefore now working to a 2026 electoral forecast and are content that the Council's original

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

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

forecast represents a reasonable estimate of the number of electors for the borough by 2026. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

## Number of councillors

24 East Staffordshire Borough Council currently has 39 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that decreasing by two would ensure the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 37 councillors: for example, 37 one-councillor wards or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. The submission presented evidence for reducing the number of councillors by two.

27 However, once we began to consider our draft recommendations for East Staffordshire, it became clear that a council size of 36 councillors would offer the best electoral arrangements for the borough in terms of electoral equality, community identity, and effective and convenient local government. This was particularly so as we developed our recommendations for the east of Burton upon Trent, where we found that allocating six councillors to this area provided a more coherent warding pattern. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 36-councillor council.

28 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. These submissions were from Staffordshire County Councillors Philip Atkins, Connor Wileman, and Philip White. The submissions from Councillors Atkins and Wileman expressed concerns over the possibility of 'hung' councils resulting from elections held with 36 councillors, in which the mayor's vote may be required as a tie-breaker. However, the Commission does not consider the political implications of electoral arrangements. Councillors Atkins and White argued that a council size of 37 could enable Outwoods parish to become its own ward. However, Outwoods would already be an oversized ward in a 36-member council, with 11% more electors than the borough average, and would have 14% more under a 37-member scheme. In addition, a group of Conservative politicians describing themselves as community leaders ('Community Leaders') repeated their preference for a 37-member council.

29 We had initially planned to maintain a council size of 36 councillors for our final recommendations. However, upon attempting to resolve issues surrounding our proposed Branston & Needwood ward (see paragraphs 55–59), we found we were able to make further improvements to ward boundaries in this area were we to

increase the number of councillors by one to 37. We have therefore based our final recommendations on a 37-member council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 28 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four borough-wide proposals from the Council – one of which was based on a model for 36 councillors – and one from the Community Leaders. We also received a borough-wide submission from Staffordshire County Council, which was submitted in almost identical form by Staffordshire County Councillor Philip Atkins. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 The six borough-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for East Staffordshire. The Council's schemes were developed by officers and presented to councillors. However, as there was no majority for any of the schemes, all were submitted. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards generally used clearly identifiable boundaries, though all the proposals contained several wards which did not result in good levels of electoral equality. Nonetheless, on the basis of the evidence received and our observations when we digitally visited the authority, a majority of our recommendations are based on the Community Leaders' proposals. The scheme submitted by Staffordshire County Council argued for a council size of 41. A proforma table, featuring 23 wards and 42 councillors, was provided but detailed descriptions of the wards were not included. Furthermore, the scheme resulted in poor electoral equality; 10 wards with a variance above 10%, including four above 20%, and one at -40%. This scheme did not therefore form the basis of our recommendations.

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

33 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of East Staffordshire. 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 six three-councillor wards, eight two-councillor wards and two 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 119 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two borough-wide proposals from the Community Leaders and the Burton Labour Party Executive & Group ('Labour'). The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough, notably our proposals for Branston & Needwood, which received 74 submissions.

36 The two borough-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for East Staffordshire. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the Community Leaders' proposed pattern of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. This scheme was similar to our draft recommendations in rural wards and Uttoxeter but made substantial changes in the urban Burton upon Trent area. The Labour scheme made substantial changes to several areas of our draft recommendations but used inaccurate voter counts which resulted in poor electoral variances of between -14% and 151%. We were not persuaded to adopt the Labour proposals given the high electoral variances that would result.

37 In respect of the Community Leaders' proposals, while we recognised that they would provide for good electoral equality, we were not persuaded that they were supported by sufficient evidence. We concluded that our proposals for the wider Burton area provided for clear and identifiable ward boundaries that would reflect local community identities.

38 In light of the evidence received, we decided to undertake another round of consultation on our recommendations for the rural south and west of the borough given the evidence we received concerning our proposed Branston & Needwood ward.

## Further draft recommendations

39 As stated above, we undertook a period of further limited consultation on our new draft recommendations for the rural south and west of the borough.

40 We received 30 submissions in response to this consultation. Several suggestions were made as how to improve these recommendations further, some of which have been adopted in our final recommendations. We are particularly grateful to residents of Blithfield for making known their strong attachment to Abbots

Bromley, as we had not received this information in any of the previous stages of consultation.

41 Our final recommendations for the borough are therefore based on the draft recommendations. However, in response to the submissions received, we have proposed significant changes to the draft recommendations in the rural south and west of the borough, with modifications to the Branston & Needwood, Barton & Yoxall, Bagots, and Abbey & Weaver wards. We have also recommended revised warding arrangements for Uttoxeter town.

## Final recommendations

42 Our final recommendations are for seven three-councillor wards, seven two-councillor wards and two 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.

43 The tables and maps on pages 10–27 detail our final recommendations for each area of East Staffordshire. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

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

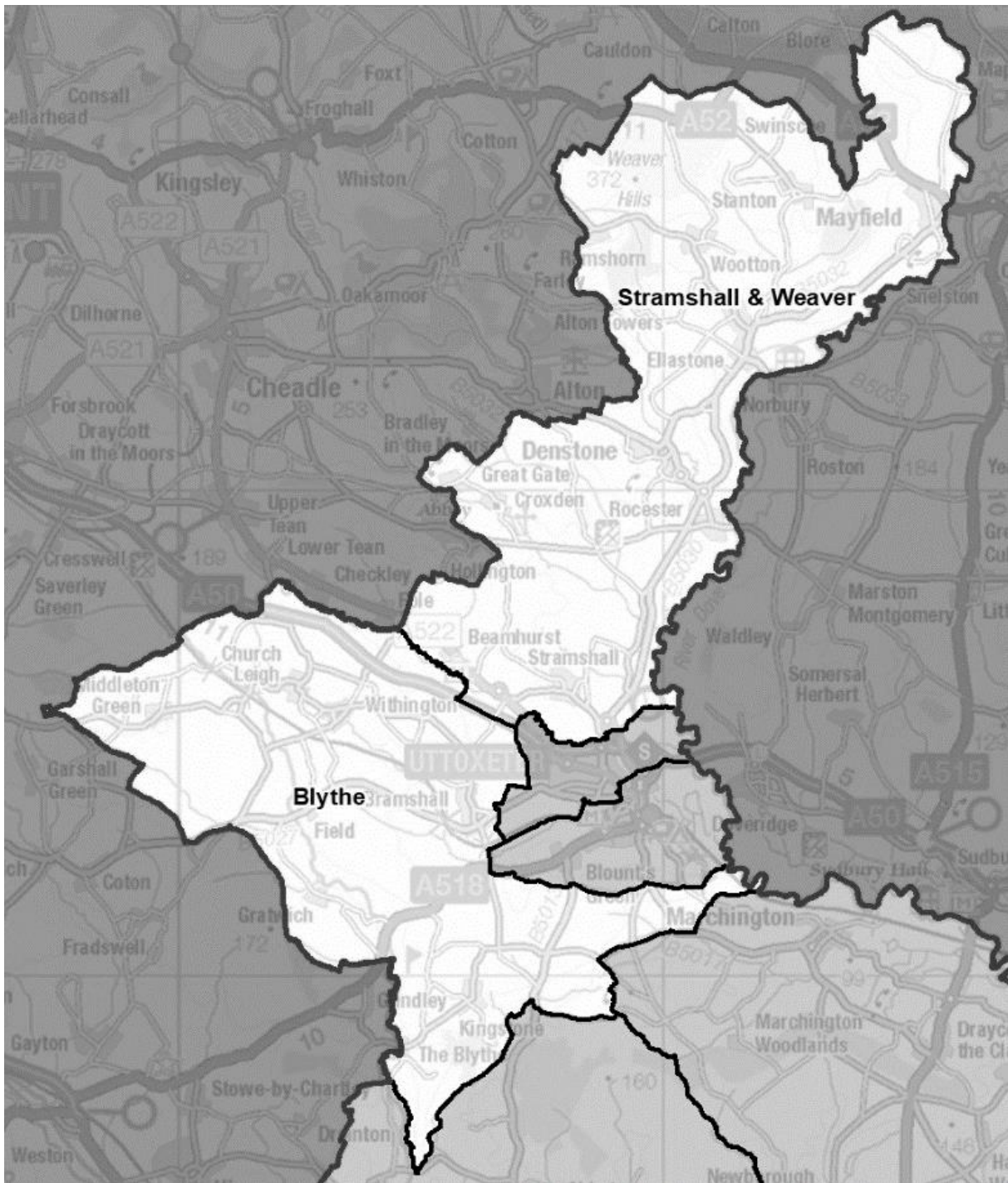
44 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 37 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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



## North East Staffordshire



| Ward name           | Number of councillors | Variance 2026 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Blythe              | 1                     | -9%           |
| Stramshall & Weaver | 2                     | -4%           |

### *Blythe*

45 Our further draft recommendations proposed an Abbey ward similar in geographical size to the existing ward, albeit 'pointing' south rather than north. This

ward was made up of the parishes of Leigh, Uttoxeter Rural minus Stramshall, Kingstone, and Blithfield. This one-councillor ward had only five fewer electors to councillors than the borough average.

46 We were particularly interested to hear from residents of Kingstone and Blithfield parishes in response to these proposals, as we had not received submissions from the existing Bagots ward at any stage of the review. Consequently, we did not have detailed information on the relationship between these two parishes and that of Abbots Bromley, and where they looked to for their amenities. Kingstone Parish Council responded that it was happy to be placed in the ward, but responses from Blithfield made it very clear that the parish was very closely linked with Abbots Bromley, which we had placed in the proposed Bagots & Needwood ward. We received six submissions in opposition to this, pointing out that amenities used by Blithfield, including doctors surgeries, schools and a sports club, were in Abbots Bromley. As the electoral variance for the ward remains within  $\pm 10\%$  without Blithfield parish, we have modified our recommendations to include Blithfield in Bagots & Needwood ward instead. A number of respondents noted that Croxden Abbey – which gave Abbey ward its name – was now in Stramshall & Weaver ward, so Abbey ward should be renamed Blythe after the river. We were happy to adopt this as part of our final recommendations.

#### *Stramshall & Weaver*

47 We consulted further on this area because a number of respondents opposed our draft recommendations for an Abbey & Weaver ward which combined the existing wards of Weaver and Churnet with the parishes of Croxden and Leigh. This proposal was put forward to avoid placing Denstone and Rocester parishes in separate wards, as many respondents told us in the first round of consultation that they should not be separated due to their close community links, shared amenities, and the presence of a major local employer – JCB International Headquarters – on the boundary of the two parishes. A borough-wide scheme by a group of Conservative politicians calling themselves ‘Community Leaders’ proposed a one-councillor Weaver ward made up of the existing Churnet and Weaver wards, and a one-councillor Abbey ward made up of Croxden and Leigh parishes. However, as this proposal places Denstone and Rocester in different wards, it has not been adopted in our final recommendations.

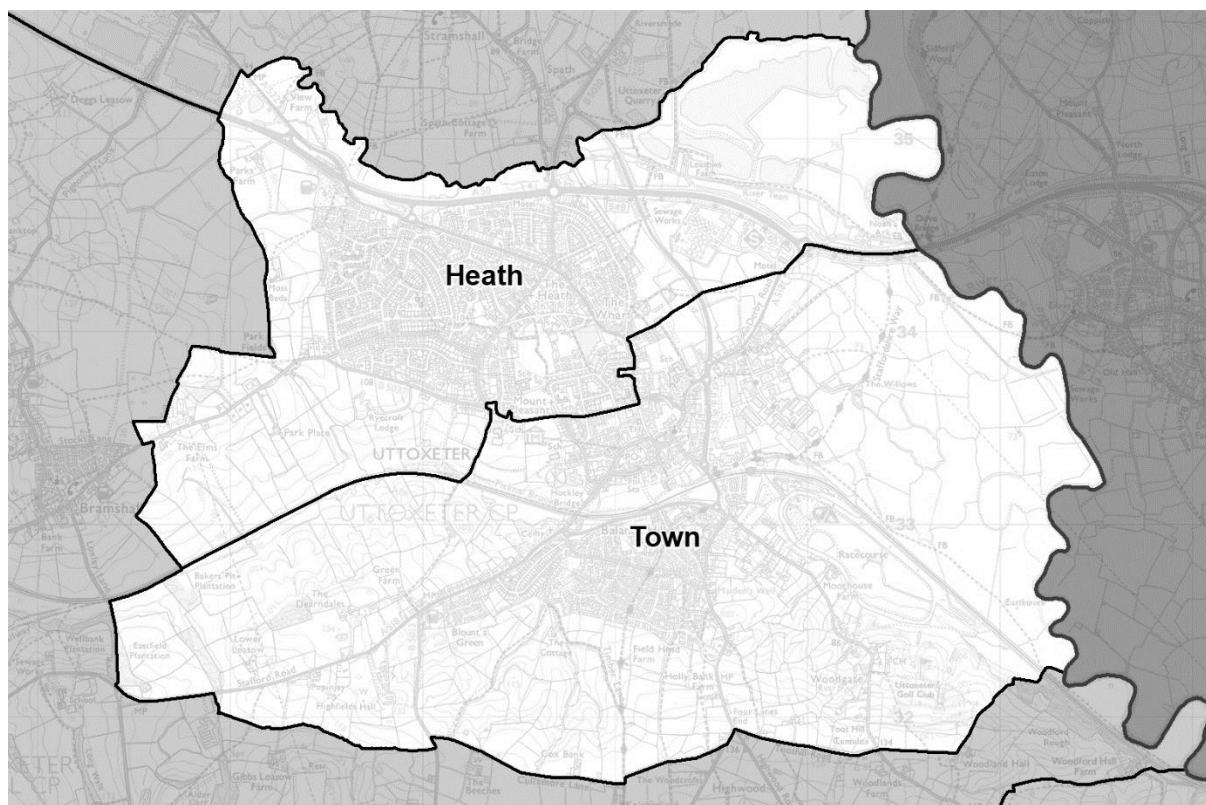
48 Our proposed Abbey & Weaver ward was considered by Denstone Parish Council, Croxden Parish Council, Councillor Steve Sankey, and two residents to be too geographically large. They believed it would not be conducive to effective and convenient local government and risked diluting the representation of some communities. We also received six submissions which were opposed to Uttoxeter Rural parish being placed in Uttoxeter town wards due to their respective rural and urban interests.

49 However, reverting back to a 37-councillor scheme enabled us to create two wards within the boundaries of Uttoxeter town with good electoral variances. Accordingly, we proposed a ward geographically smaller than Abbey & Weaver made up of the existing Churnet and Weaver wards, Croxden parish, and the Stramshall area of Uttoxeter Rural parish up to the A50. This ward has good electoral equality, with 4% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average, and we consider the ward to better reflect the local community while providing more effective and convenient local government through its smaller geographic size.

50 We received four submissions in response to our further draft recommendations consultation. Submissions from Croxden Parish Council and a resident were supportive. Rocester Parish Council was broadly supportive in its submission, though suggested that Croxden parish be moved into Blythe ward to allow Blithfield parish to remain with Abbots Bromley parish. The parish council also suggested renaming Stramshall & Weaver 'Dove Valley'. It was not necessary to move Croxden in order to move Blithfield, so we did not adopt this suggestion. Furthermore, we did not consider 'Dove Valley' to be an appropriate ward name, given we are recommending a Dove ward in another part of the borough, and this could cause confusion. Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council objected to the parish being split on the basis that they would be required to liaise with three borough councillors (two from Stramshall & Weaver and one from Blythe) rather than one. However, we did not consider this a compelling reason. We have therefore adopted the further draft recommendations for Stramshall & Weaver in our final recommendations.



## Uttoxeter



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2026 |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Heath     | 3                     | -9%           |
| Town      | 2                     | -10%          |

### *Heath and Town*

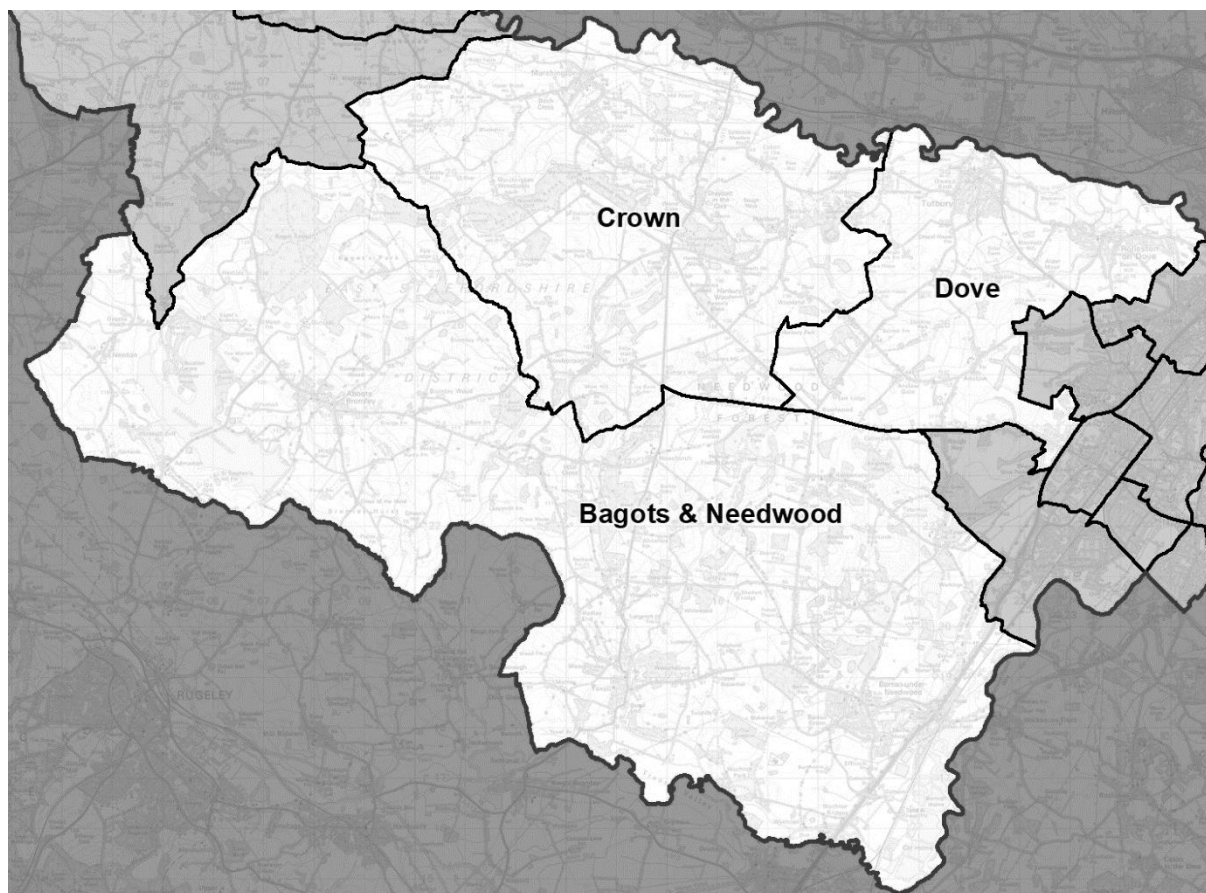
51 We received six submissions in response to our draft proposals for Uttoxeter: two from Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council, one from Uttoxeter Town Council, one each from Councillors George Allen and Colin Whittaker, and one from a resident. In addition, the area formed part of the two borough-wide schemes received from Labour and the Community Leaders. Of these, only Councillor Allen and the Community Leaders supported our draft recommendations.

52 While the resident's submission asked why Uttoxeter needed to be in two separate wards, the remaining critical submissions argued against the inclusion of Uttoxeter Rural parish in Uttoxeter North and Uttoxeter South wards, on the basis that Bramshall, Stramshall, Loxley and Willslock constituted distinctly rural communities whose concerns were at risk of being overlooked in favour of those of Uttoxeter town. This was countered by Councillor Allen's support for the proposals as merely administrative boundaries which would not and could not affect the distinct identity and character of communities within them, adding he would have no issues in representing the entire Uttoxeter South, were he to be elected.

53 Had the Commission maintained a proposed council size of 36 members for East Staffordshire, we would have confirmed our draft proposals for Uttoxeter North and Uttoxeter South, as it was not possible to create wards with good electoral equality within the boundaries of Uttoxeter Town Council. However, the reversion to a proposed council size of 37 has allowed the division of the Uttoxeter Town Council area into Heath and Town wards, both with good electoral equality. Overall, we have been persuaded by the evidence that the Uttoxeter Rural area has community identities that are distinct from those of Uttoxeter town and should be warded separately. As discussed earlier in this report, we propose that the Uttoxeter Rural area be placed in our proposed Blythe and Stramshall & Weaver wards.

54 The boundary dividing the recommended Heath and Town wards runs west to east along the railway line before rising north to meet Holly Road then continuing along the B5027 Stone Road/Smithfield Road and rising up the non-pedestrianised half of the High Street. The boundary then turns east along Gas Street before meeting Derby Road and continuing along the A50 to the borough boundary. This will result in electoral variances of -9% for Heath ward and -10% for Town ward.

## Central East Staffordshire



| Ward name         | Number of councillors | Variance 2026 |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Bagots & Needwood | 3                     | 7%            |
| Crown             | 1                     | -3%           |
| Dove              | 3                     | 5%            |

### *Bagots & Needwood*

55 We received 74 submissions in response to our draft recommendations for Branston & Needwood and Barton & Yoxall wards. Most of these submissions came from residents of the parishes of Dunstall and Tatenhill & Rangemore, representing more than 10% of their total electorate. There were two principal arguments in these submissions. First, that the two rural parishes had no relationship with and entirely different interests to Branston, which was a growing suburb of Burton upon Trent. At only 10% of the total electorate of the proposed ward, they feared they would not be represented by their councillors. Second, that the two parishes have strong community links with Barton-under-Needwood parish, where they also look to for their schools, healthcare, shops, and local post office. Submissions also pointed out that Barton-under-Needwood has little to no relationship with Yoxall and that there are no public transport links between the two parishes.

56 We had great difficulty in addressing all of these concerns. It was possible to create a three-councillor Branston ward coterminous with the parish boundaries, as well as a two-councillor Needwood ward and a one-councillor Bagots ward using the same boundaries as the existing wards, all with good electoral equality. However, this left out Yoxall and Hoar Cross parishes. Grouped into a one-councillor ward, they would have very poor electoral equality, with 31% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average. Even with the addition of Newborough parish, as in the existing ward, there would still be 16% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average, while also leaving Crown ward with poor electoral equality.

57 It became clear that the only way to address the issue with a council size of 36 was to create a larger combined ward. This could be done by moving Dunstall and Tatenhill & Rangemore parishes into Dove ward. However, this ward would have poor electoral equality with 11% more electors than the borough average, while also not addressing the parishes' links with Barton-under-Needwood. The alternative was to combine the existing Bagots and Needwood wards with Yoxall and Hoar Cross parishes to create a three-councillor Bagots & Needwood ward. This would ensure that the new ward maintained a rural character and kept the Needwood parishes together. However, this also had an electoral variance of 11% while creating another geographically large ward. The response to our proposed Abbey & Weaver ward suggested this would not be well received. The only other possible option would be to split Yoxall parish between Bagots and Needwood wards. We did not consider this possibility, as splitting a community in this way would go against our statutory requirements by arbitrarily splitting a cohesive community.

58 Given these challenges, we investigated whether improvements could be made with a 37-councillor scheme. We were confronted by the same challenges as in the 36-councillor scheme, particularly over Yoxall and Hoar Cross being 'left out', with a three-councillor Bagots & Needwood ward again presenting itself as the only viable solution. However, due to the larger council size, we were able to make this ward smaller by moving Kingstone and Blithfield parishes into Blythe ward. This created a Bagots & Needwood ward with good electoral equality, with only 4% more electors per councillor than the borough average, which could be crossed by road from Barton-under-Needwood to Abbots Bromley, via Yoxall, in less than 20 minutes. We therefore adopted this proposal in our further draft recommendations.

59 In doing so, we were mindful that the three communities included in this proposed ward may prefer to be represented by three one-councillor wards. However, given this is not possible, we believed this proposal best reflected local communities while providing good electoral equality and the most effective and convenient local government under the circumstances. We decided to further consult on this proposal and received 19 submissions in response, eight of which were supportive of the proposals. While some of these submissions were unequivocally supportive, some, like that of Barton-under-Needwood Parish Council, supported the

proposals as ‘a great improvement on the original’, while stressing that they still considered the ward too large. However, it was clear that, faced with the only possible options of the large rural ward, or a smaller ward dominated by urban Branston, the preference was for the former. Although we have added Blithfield to the proposed ward in our final recommendations, in order to reflect the strong community ties between Blithfield and Abbots Bromley, we do not believe this significantly exacerbates concerns over the ward’s size (see paragraphs 45–46). Bagots & Needwood will have an electoral variance of 7% by 2026.

### *Crown*

60 We received seven submissions in response to our draft proposals for Crown ward, including borough-wide schemes from the Community Leaders and Labour. The other submissions were from a resident, Councillor Philip Hudson, and one each from Draycott in the Clay Parish Council, Hanbury Parish Council, and Newborough Parish Council. All were broadly supportive of the proposals. While Newborough Parish Council expressed a preference for remaining in a ward with Yoxall parish, it was noted by the clerk of the council that there were ‘no strong objections’ to joining Crown ward. As removing Newborough parish from our proposed Crown ward would result in an electoral variance of -19%, we have confirmed our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

### *Dove*

61 We received 13 submissions in response to our draft proposals for Dove ward, including borough-wide schemes from the Community Leaders and Labour. These also included six submissions from residents; one each from Anslow Parish Council, Rolleston on Dove Parish Council, and Tutbury Parish Council; one from Councillor Dave Morris of Tutbury Parish Council; and one from the Rolleston Civic Trust. The Community Leaders’ scheme made minor changes to the Dove ward, while the Labour scheme moved Anslow parish into a large Anslow & Needwood ward.

62 Only one submission, from a resident, was supportive of the proposals. This resident agreed with the grouping of Anslow, Tutbury, and Rolleston on Dove parishes in a ward. They argued that it was an improvement on the current grouping of Anslow and Outwoods, as Anslow’s concerns had more in common with those of rural Tutbury and Rolleston than with the suburban Outwoods area. This view formed the basis of our draft recommendations and the Community Leaders’ scheme on which it was based.

63 Anslow Parish Council’s submission argued that the parish should either remain in the existing Tutbury & Outwoods ward or be grouped with Outwoods parish in a new ward owing to ‘developments and other issues’ which affect the parish. However, this ran contrary to submissions received from residents in both stages of consultation which suggested that being grouped with Outwoods would not



reflect community interests owing to its suburban, rather than rural, nature.

64 Rolleston on Dove Parish Council is presently coterminous with a one-councillor ward which has an electoral variance of 24%. It objected to the draft recommendations on the basis that up to three borough councillors may begin attending its parish council meetings and that these councillors may not have the same relationship with the parish council as the current one. Rolleston Civic Trust also expressed concerns that 'some areas could receive the majority of attention whilst others are neglected'. However, none of these concerns meet our statutory criteria, and it should be noted that Rolleston on Dove is the largest parish by electorate included in our proposed Dove ward.

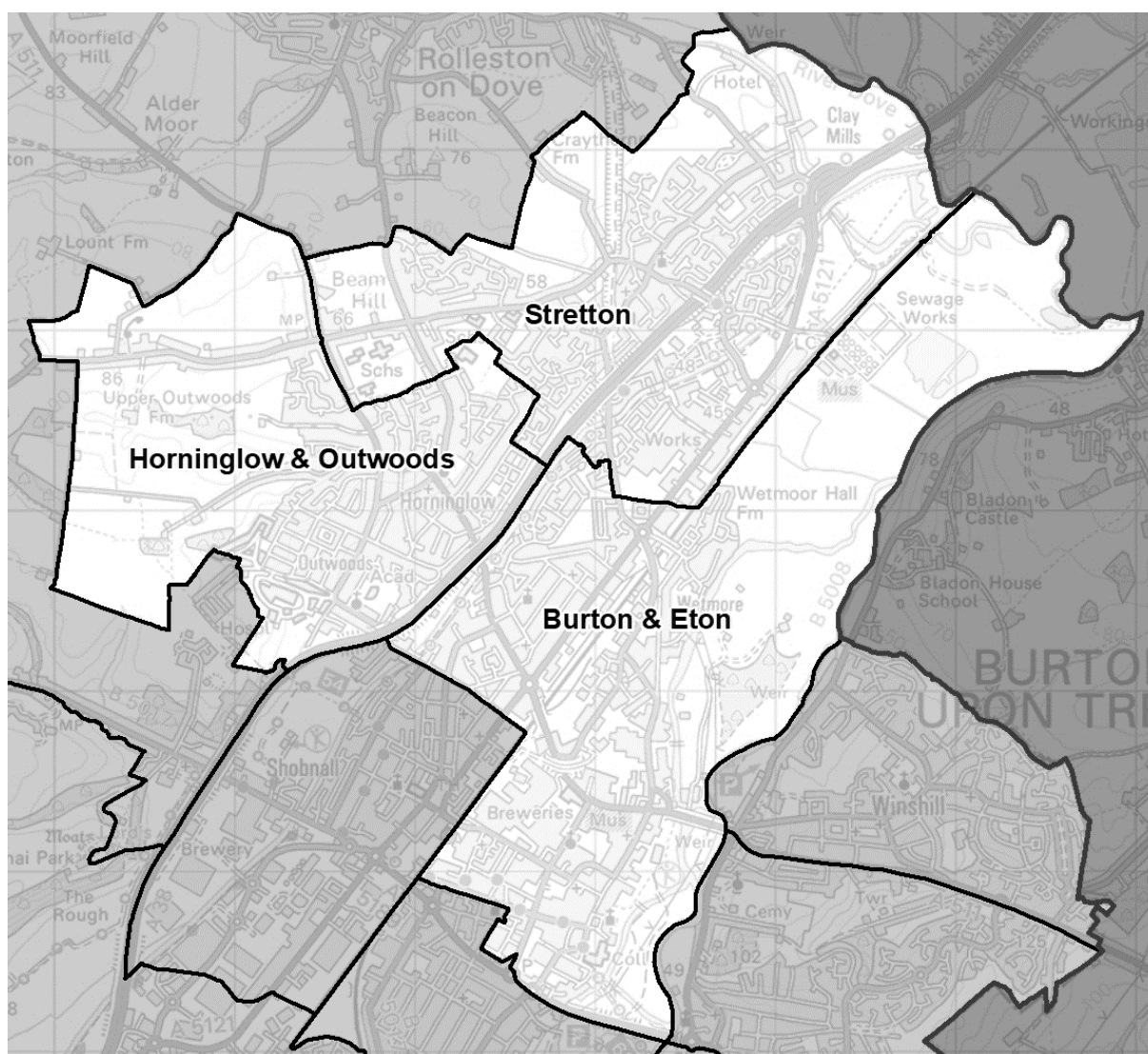
65 Tutbury Parish Council opposed being grouped in a ward with Anslow and Rolleston on Dove parish councils and suggested that each parish council be allocated a one-councillor ward instead. However, this would create large electoral variances of -75% in Anslow, 17% in Tutbury and, as mentioned above, 24% in Rolleston on Dove. This would essentially reduce the value of a vote in Tutbury and Rolleston on Dove, relative to the rest of the borough, while greatly magnifying those cast in Anslow. It should be noted that borough councillors do not merely represent their locality in the council chamber, but are also expected to vote on matters which will affect residents across East Staffordshire, as well as those which may not directly affect their own voters. It is therefore important that each individual vote is of broadly equal weight no matter where in East Staffordshire it is placed, and we are content that our proposals achieve this.

66 A number of submissions received from residents questioned the concept of multi-member wards, with one describing them as 'confusing' and another claiming that 'all wards with more than one councillor are too large'. However, most local authorities in rural as well as urban areas make use of multi-member wards, and we are not persuaded that our recommendations will hinder the effective representation of communities in this area.

67 The Community Leaders' scheme made minor changes to our proposed Dove ward by including an area of Outwoods parish between Lount Lane, Longhedge Lane, Main Road/Beamhill Road and Newgatefield Lane track. They also proposed transferring the areas of Shobnall parish in our proposed Dove ward and Outwoods parish between Forest Road and the University of Wolverhampton campus to adjoining wards. They justified this on the basis that it would make use of natural boundaries while creating 'an electorate count slightly below average; future proofing the ward against another review'. However, on our calculations, their proposed Dove ward would have an electoral variance significantly below the borough average, at -12%. We have therefore not adopted this proposal in our final recommendations.

68 The Labour scheme transferred Anslow and Outwoods parishes in their entirety to a one-councillor Needwood & Anslow ward. Although the submission indicates that this proposed ward will have an electorate of 2,568 by 2026 and an electoral variance of 0%, this total electorate is actually smaller than the electorate of Outwoods, which will be 2,809 by 2026. Labour's proposed ward would actually have an electorate of 6,365 by 2026 which, with one councillor, gives it an electoral variance of 151%. The scheme also suggests assigning a councillor each for the parishes of Tutbury and Rolleston on Dove. However, as mentioned in paragraph 65, this creates wards with very poor electoral equality, and also leaves the scheme one councillor short. We have therefore not adopted this proposal and instead confirm our draft recommendations as final.

## North-Central Burton upon Trent



| Ward name             | Number of councillors | Variance 2026 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Burton & Eton         | 3                     | -6%           |
| Horninglow & Outwoods | 3                     | 7%            |
| Stretton              | 3                     | -1%           |

### *Burton & Eton*

69 We received four submissions in response to our draft recommendations for Burton & Eton, two of which were from residents, and two of which were borough-wide schemes from the Community Leaders and Labour. The submissions from residents disputed the difference in elector numbers between Burton & Eton ward and other three-councillor wards, arguing this demonstrated electoral inequality. However, while it is the case that there is a difference of 818 electors between Burton & Eton and, as mentioned by one of the residents, Dove ward, both wards



have electorates which are within 10% of the borough average, which we consider to be good electoral equality.

70 The Labour scheme made no changes to our proposed Burton & Eton ward. However, the Community Leaders' scheme created a three-councillor Burton ward with an electoral variance of 2% composed of Burton and Anglesey parishes. While this offers good electoral equality and combines two town centre parishes, we were not persuaded that this proposal was supported by sufficient supporting evidence. It is also incompatible with our recommendations for the adjoining Horninglow area. We have therefore not adopted this proposal in our final recommendations.

### *Horninglow & Outwoods*

71 We received six submissions in response to our draft recommendations for Horninglow & Outwoods ward, including borough-wide schemes from the Community Leaders and Labour. We received one submission from a resident, one each from Staffordshire County Councillors Philip Atkins and Philip White, and one from East Staffordshire Liberal Democrats. Only the resident's submission was supportive, agreeing that 'separating Tutbury from Outwoods makes sense because Outwoods parish is closer and more similar to Horninglow'.

72 Councillors Atkins and White expressed similar concerns about Outwoods parish being split between three wards and took exception to the possibility of nine borough councillors attending parish council meetings. Both also expressed their support for a 37-member council, adding that this may enable Outwoods to remain its own ward. However, as mentioned in paragraph 28, Outwoods' population is too large for a one-councillor ward under both 36-councillor and 37-councillor schemes.

73 The Community Leaders' scheme created a one-councillor Outwoods ward with an electoral variance of 0% using the majority of the parish but excluding the area between Lount Lane, Longhedge Lane, Main Road/Beamhill Road and Newgatefield Lane track, and a large area between the B5017 Henhurst Hill/Forest Lane and Outwoods Lane. However, this produces poor electoral equality in Dove ward and is contingent on a scheme for Horninglow for which there was no evidence provided. This was to create a Horninglow West and a Horninglow East ward, each with two councillors and electoral variances of -4% and 8%, respectively. The two wards are contained within the Horninglow & Eton parish boundaries with an internal boundary running down Rolleston Road, Horninglow Road North, and the A38. While these wards have good electoral equality, no community evidence was provided, so we were unable to determine whether these boundaries unite or divide communities. Having carefully considered the evidence received, we have decided not to adopt these proposals as part of our final recommendations.

74 As discussed in paragraph 68, the Labour scheme included Outwoods in a Needwood & Anslow ward with an electoral variance of 151%. This adjustment

created a three-councillor Horninglow ward which, like our Horninglow & Outwoods ward, had the A38 as its eastern boundary but with an electoral variance of -14%. We have therefore not adopted these proposals and confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

### *Stretton*

75 We received three submissions in response to our proposals for Stretton ward, which included one from a resident and the two borough-wide schemes. All three submissions concern the A511 Tutbury Road which forms the western boundary of the ward. All of the respondents favoured using the Stretton parish boundary, which follows Rolleston Road, as the ward boundary here. The area between these two roads is a part of Outwoods parish and was chosen for inclusion in Stretton ward due to the greater clarity of the A511 as a ward boundary as well as to minimise the electoral variances in this area. If this area was included in Stretton ward, it would create a 12% variance in the adjoining Horninglow & Outwoods ward. Given this, we remain convinced that the A511 offers the clearest boundary between Stretton and Horninglow & Outwoods wards and will ensure good electoral equality for both wards.

## East Burton upon Trent



| Ward name   | Number of councillors | Variance 2026 |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Brizlincote | 2                     | 10%           |
| Stapenhill  | 2                     | 4%            |
| Winhill     | 2                     | 9%            |

### *Brizlincote, Stapenhill and Winshill*

76 We received 11 submissions in response to our draft proposals for Brizlincote, Stapenhill, and Winshill wards. In addition to the borough-wide schemes, these were from four residents, East Staffordshire Borough Councillors Rebecca Brady and Mike Metcalfe, Staffordshire County Councillor Conor Wileman, Brizlincote Parish Council and Winshill Parish Council. Four of these submissions – three from residents and one from Brizlincote Parish Council – were supportive of our draft proposals.

77 The three residents explicitly supported an enlarged Brizlincote ward, with one explaining that the inclusion of the area of Stapenhill parish east of the A444 Stanton Road was sensible, as residents of both Stapenhill and Brizlincote parishes had a shared interest in the agricultural land between them. The resident also supported St Peter's Street as a boundary between the two wards and Ashby Road as the boundary between Brizlincote and Winshill ward, on the basis that they were both more natural boundaries. One resident explicitly supported the retention of three wards.

78 Councillor Brady asked that Stapenhill ward not be reduced in size geographically, though this submission focussed on issues concerning the creation of Brizlincote parish in areas hitherto considered Stapenhill, which is beyond the scope of this review. Winshill Parish Council and Councillor Wileman argued against Ashby Road as a boundary between Winshill and Brizlincote wards, believing this to be confusing for residents, and that the area to the south ought to be included in Winshill ward. However, even including only residents on the south side of Ashby Road up to Tower Road and the Scalpcliffe Road area creates a 20% variance for Winshill. We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

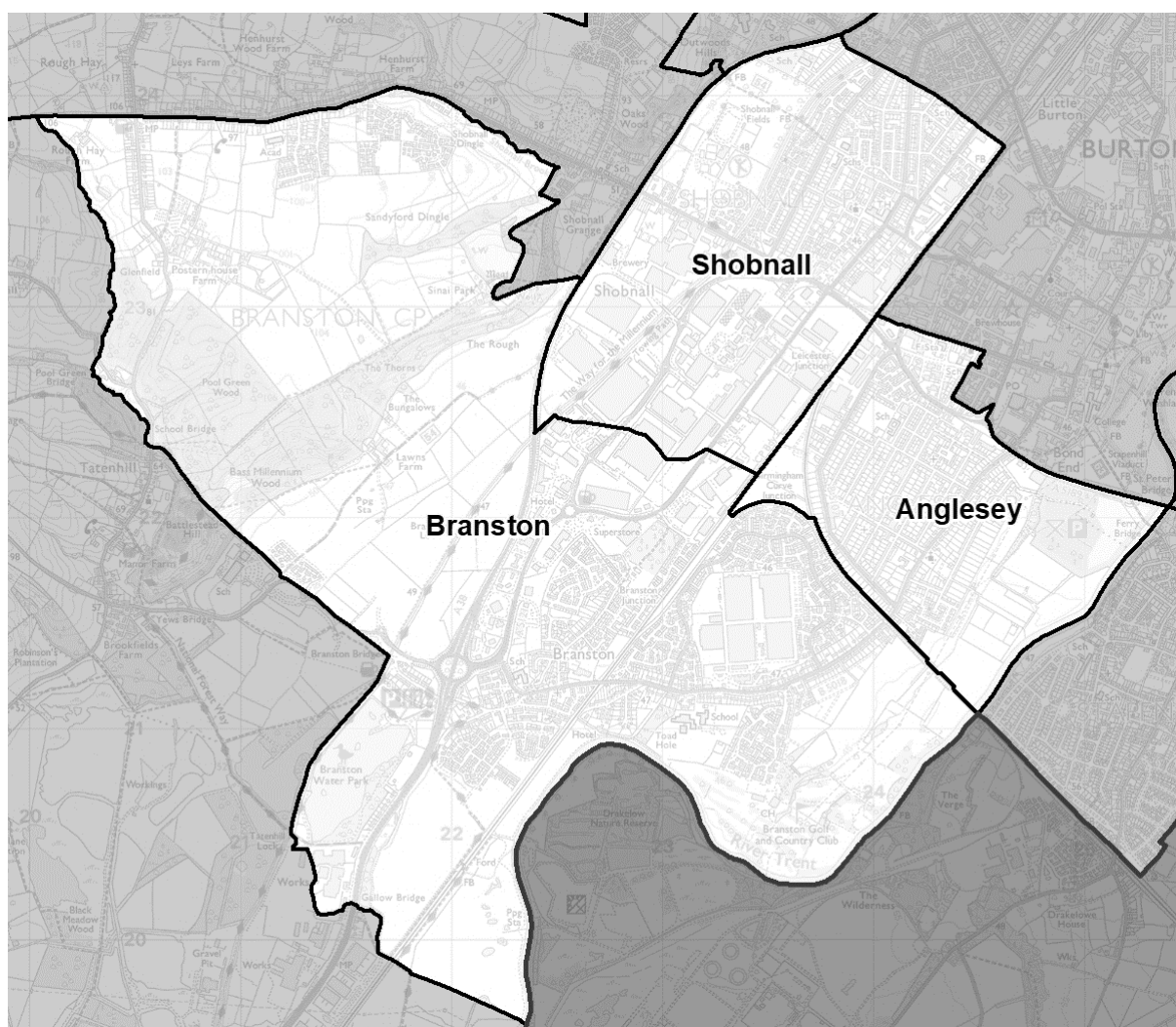
79 The Community Leaders' scheme, which was endorsed by Councillor Metcalfe, split the area into two three-councillor Winshill and Stapenhill wards, with the boundary along the north side of Stapenhill Cemetery, down Burton Road to Grafton Road, then along the rear of Claymills Road to the borough boundary. We have not adopted this proposal because we explored the possibility of this boundary when preparing our draft recommendations, but rejected it due to its weak boundary through Beaufort Road, which, in our view, arbitrarily split a community. The Labour scheme also recommended bringing the area south of Ashby Road into Winshill ward, seemingly with the exclusion of Tower Road, but this also resulted in poor electoral equality in Winshill ward, which would have a variance of 17%. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Brizlincote, Stapenhill, and Winshill wards as final.

80 One resident expressed concern that our draft recommendations included two parish wards named St Peter's within close proximity to each other, one in Stapenhill parish and one in Burton & Eton. It was argued that this could cause administrative problems during elections. The resident suggested renaming the parish ward in

Stapenhill as Ferry after the Victorian footbridge, which we have adopted in our final recommendations.



## Branston and South Burton upon Trent



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2026 |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Anglesey  | 2                     | -6%           |
| Branston  | 3                     | 0%            |
| Shobnall  | 2                     | -3%           |

### *Anglesey*

81 We received three submissions in response to our draft recommendations for Anglesey. In addition to the borough-wide schemes from the Community Leaders and Labour, Anglesey Parish Council's submission approved of the proposed ward, and asked that the parish boundaries be moved so that the two are contiguous. The changing of external parish boundaries is beyond the scope of this review and can only be changed by way of a Community Governance Review conducted by the Borough Council.

82 Of the two borough-wide schemes, Labour's made no changes to our draft recommendations, while the Community Leaders', which we have not adopted, is detailed in paragraph 70.

### *Branston*

83 Excluding the two borough-wide schemes, we received 74 submissions in response to our proposed Branston & Needwood ward, none of which were supportive of the recommendations. This constituted 62% of the submissions received and more than 10% of the electorate of Tatenhill & Rangemore and Dunstall parishes, from which the majority of the submissions came. Many of these submissions argued strongly against the two rural parishes being grouped with the suburban Branston parish, which will have more than 10 times their combined electorate by 2026, out of a concern that their community identities and interests would not be represented.

84 The Community Leaders' scheme supported our draft recommendations for Branston & Needwood. Labour proposed a two-councillor Branston ward which excluded the parished area west of the A38 while including the area of Dunstall parish east of the A38. This created a ward with an electoral variance of 9%. However, due to the extremely poor variance in their neighbouring Needwood & Anslow ward, we have not adopted this proposal.

85 We recognise that the electorate of Branston parish amounts to almost exactly the average number of electors per councillor for a three-councillor ward, with a variance of 0%, and so are content to include this ward in our final recommendations. Tatenhill & Rangemore and Dunstall parishes have instead been allocated to Bagots & Needwood ward, based on the strong community evidence provided during the previous rounds of consultation.

### *Shobnall*

86 We received only the two borough-wide schemes in response to our draft recommendations for Shobnall. The Labour scheme made no changes to our draft recommendations, while the Community Leaders' scheme included the area of Shobnall parish west of the A38, thus making the ward boundaries contiguous with those of the parish. While this produces a 1% electoral variance for the two-councillor ward under a 36-councillor scheme, the exclusion of the area west of the A38 from Dove ward has contributed to the latter's poor electoral equality in the Community Leaders' scheme. We have therefore confirmed our draft recommendations for Shobnall ward as final.





## Conclusions

87 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in East Staffordshire, referencing the 2019 and 2026 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 |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|                                                                | 2019                  | 2026  |
| Number of councillors                                          | 37                    | 37    |
| Number of electoral wards                                      | 16                    | 16    |
| Average number of electors per councillor                      | 2,346                 | 2,470 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average | 8                     | 0     |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average | 1                     | 0     |

#### Final recommendations

East Staffordshire Borough Council should be made up of 37 councillors serving 16 wards representing two single-councillor wards, seven two-councillor wards and seven 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 East Staffordshire Borough Council. You can also view our final recommendations for East Staffordshire Borough Council on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

88 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.

89 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, East Staffordshire 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.

90 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 Burton Parish Council, Outwoods Parish Council, Shobnall Parish Council, Stapenhill Parish Council, Uttoxeter Town Council, and Winshill Parish Council.

91 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Burton parish.

**Final recommendations**

Burton Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| St Peter's  | 1                            |
| Town        | 8                            |

92 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Outwoods parish.

**Final recommendations**

Outwoods Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Central     | 6                            |
| North       | 1                            |
| South       | 4                            |

93 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Shobnall parish.

**Final recommendations**

Shobnall Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Canal       | 10                           |
| Oaks Wood   | 1                            |

94 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Stapenhill parish.

**Final recommendations**

Stapenhill Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

| Parish ward  | Number of parish councillors |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Ferry        | 1                            |
| Stanton Road | 1                            |
| Village      | 9                            |

95 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Uttoxeter parish.

**Final recommendations**

Uttoxeter Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Heath       | 10                           |
| Town        | 6                            |

96 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Winshill parish.

**Final recommendations**

Winshill Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Village     | 10                           |
| Waterloo    | 1                            |



## What happens next?

97 We have now completed our review of East Staffordshire 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

98 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 East Staffordshire Borough Council

|    | Ward name             | Number of councillors | Electorate (2019) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2026) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1  | Anglesey              | 2                     | 4,801             | 2,401                             | 2%                      | 4,656             | 2,328                             | -6%                     |
| 2  | Bagots & Needwood     | 3                     | 8,167             | 2,722                             | 16%                     | 7,940             | 2,647                             | 7%                      |
| 3  | Blythe                | 1                     | 2,028             | 2,028                             | -14%                    | 2,260             | 2,260                             | -9%                     |
| 4  | Branston              | 3                     | 5,518             | 1,839                             | -22%                    | 7,390             | 2,463                             | 0%                      |
| 5  | Brizlincote           | 2                     | 5,448             | 2,724                             | 16%                     | 5,447             | 2,724                             | 10%                     |
| 6  | Burton & Eton         | 3                     | 6,126             | 2,042                             | -13%                    | 6,964             | 2,321                             | -6%                     |
| 7  | Crown                 | 1                     | 2,467             | 2,467                             | 5%                      | 2,393             | 2,393                             | -3%                     |
| 8  | Dove                  | 3                     | 7,306             | 2,435                             | 4%                      | 7,782             | 2,594                             | 5%                      |
| 9  | Heath                 | 3                     | 6,310             | 2,103                             | -10%                    | 6,760             | 2,253                             | -9%                     |
| 10 | Horninglow & Outwoods | 3                     | 7,395             | 2,465                             | 5%                      | 7,941             | 2,647                             | 7%                      |
| 11 | Shobnall              | 2                     | 4,776             | 2,388                             | 2%                      | 4,777             | 2,389                             | -3%                     |
| 12 | Stapenhill            | 2                     | 5,212             | 2,606                             | 11%                     | 5,149             | 2,575                             | 4%                      |

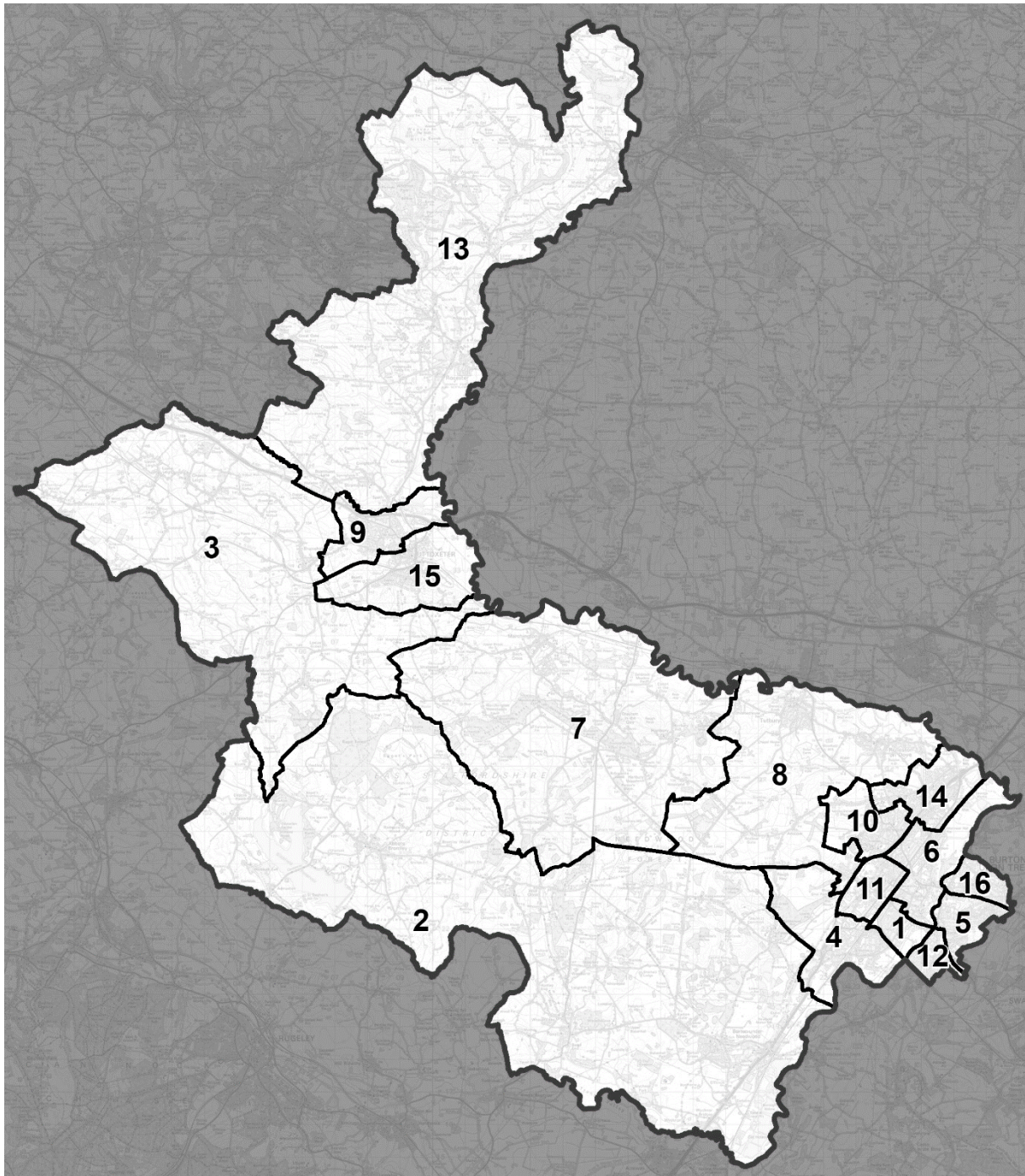
| Ward name              | Number of councillors | Electorate (2019) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2026) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 13 Stramshall & Weaver | 2                     | 4,614             | 2,307                             | -2%                     | 4,734             | 2,367                             | -4%                     |
| 14 Stretton            | 3                     | 7,272             | 2,424                             | 3%                      | 7,340             | 2,447                             | -1%                     |
| 15 Town                | 2                     | 3,811             | 1,906                             | -19%                    | 4,461             | 2,231                             | -10%                    |
| 16 Winshill            | 2                     | 5,534             | 2,767                             | 18%                     | 5,398             | 2,699                             | 9%                      |
| <b>Totals</b>          | <b>37</b>             | <b>86,785</b>     | <b>-</b>                          | <b>-</b>                | <b>91,392</b>     | <b>-</b>                          | <b>-</b>                |
| <b>Averages</b>        | <b>-</b>              | <b>-</b>          | <b>2,346</b>                      | <b>-</b>                | <b>-</b>          | <b>2,470</b>                      | <b>-</b>                |

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by East Staffordshire 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



| Number | Ward name         |
|--------|-------------------|
| 1      | Anglesey          |
| 2      | Bagots & Needwood |
| 3      | Blythe            |
| 4      | Branston          |
| 5      | Brizlincote       |
| 6      | Burton & Eton     |

|    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 7  | Crown                 |
| 8  | Dove                  |
| 9  | Heath                 |
| 10 | Horninglow & Outwoods |
| 11 | Shobnall              |
| 12 | Stapenhill            |
| 13 | Stramshall & Weaver   |
| 14 | Stretton              |
| 15 | Town                  |
| 16 | Winshill              |

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/staffordshire/east-staffordshire](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/staffordshire/east-staffordshire)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

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

### **Draft Recommendations:**

#### *Political Groups*

- Burton Labour Party Executive & Group
- Community Leaders (Conservatives)
- East Staffordshire Liberal Democrats

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor G. Allen (East Staffordshire Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Atkins (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor R. Brady (East Staffordshire Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Hudson (East Staffordshire Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Jones (East Staffordshire Borough Council)
- Councillor M. Metcalfe (East Staffordshire Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Morris (Tutbury Parish Council)
- Councillor S. Sankey (East Staffordshire Borough Council)
- Councillor C. Wileman (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor P. White (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor C. Whittaker (East Staffordshire Borough Council)

#### *Members of Parliament*

- Michael Fabricant MP (Lichfield)\*

#### *Local Organisations*

- Rangemore Hall Mews Management Co. Ltd.
- Rolleston Civic Trust
- Tatenhill & Rangemore Community Group

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Anglesey Parish Council
- Anslow Parish Council

- Barton-under-Needwood Parish Council
- Brizlincote Parish Council
- Croxden Parish Council
- Denstone Parish Council
- Draycott in the Clay Parish Council
- Dunstall Parish Council
- Hanbury Parish Council
- Newborough Parish Council
- Rolleston on Dove Parish Council
- Tatenhill & Rangemore Parish Council
- Tutbury Parish Council
- Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council\*
- Uttoxeter Town Council
- Winshill Parish Council
- Yoxall Parish Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 82 local residents

\* Made two submissions

#### **Further Draft Recommendations:**

##### *Councillors*

- Councillor P. Atkins (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor D. Brookes (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor J. Jessell (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor J. Jones (East Staffordshire Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Sankey (East Staffordshire Borough Council)

##### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Abbots Bromley Parish Council
- Barton-under-Needwood Parish Council
- Croxden Parish Council
- Kingstone Parish Council
- Rocester Parish Council
- Tatenhill & Rangemore Parish Council
- Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council
- Uttoxeter Town Council

- Yoxall Parish Council

*Local Residents*

- 16 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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>                                                                                                 |
| Under-represented                               | Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Variance (or electoral variance)                | How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average                                                                                                                                                                |
| Ward                                            | A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council |

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

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SW1H 0TL

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

**Twitter:** @LGBCE