



New electoral arrangements for Amber Valley Borough Council Final Recommendations

January 2022

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.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 Amber Valley?

7 We are conducting a review of Amber Valley Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 1998 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Amber Valley 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 Amber Valley

9 Amber Valley should be represented by 42 councillors, three fewer than there are now.

10 Amber Valley should have 18 wards, five fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Amber Valley.

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

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

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 Amber Valley. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

| Stage starts | Description |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 February 2021 | Number of councillors decided |
| 23 February 2021 | Start of consultation seeking views on new wards |
| 3 May 2021 | End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations |
| 3 August 2021 | Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation |
| 11 October 2021 | End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations |
| 18 January 2022 | Publication of final recommendations |

Analysis and final recommendations

17 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.

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

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

| | 2021 | 2027 |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Electorate of Amber Valley | 100,965 | 106,532 |
| Number of councillors | 42 | 42 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,404 | 2,536 |

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 our proposed wards for Amber Valley will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period five years 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 6% by 2027.

23 We received one submission during the first consultation that challenged the electoral figures put forward by the Council. The submission, made by the Amber Valley Conservative Association & the Conservative Group ('the Conservatives'), requested that a recently approved development for approximately 600 houses in

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.

Mackworth parish be included with the forecast. We noted the information provided by the Conservatives and requested further clarification from the Council. While the Council agreed that this development was likely to contain electors by 2027, we decided that a line must be drawn and that the forecasts provided at the beginning of a review are those that should be used as the base forecast throughout. This is because it ensured that all who wish to make a submission to us could use the same base forecast figures.

24 We therefore determined that the electoral forecasts provided at the beginning of the review should be used and we used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

25 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, the Conservatives resubmitted their proposal for a two-councillor Alport & South West Parishes ward, stating that the new development, in Mackworth parish, would result 'in a ward with an electorate substantially in excess of the average and possibly even over 30% in excess before the 2027 election'. We re-examined the planning application for this development, noting that the outline planning application was taken to a Planning Board meeting in March 2021. This was after we had agreed to the forecast in January 2021. Furthermore, we note that the Decision Notice for the agreed full planning application and Section 106 agreement was only published in December 2021, after the close of the consultation on our draft recommendations.

26 We concluded that the original forecast is in line with our guidance on forecasting, in that local authorities should be cautious when developing their forecast regarding outline permissions. Indeed, we ask for a reasonable degree of certainty that any developments included will be built within five years after the review has finished. Nonetheless, we have given careful thought regarding the impact this development will have upon our warding proposals. This is discussed in further detail in the 'Alport & South West Parishes and Duffield & Quarndon' section on page 22.

27 We remain satisfied that the Council's overall forecast for the borough is underpinned by reasonable evidence and follows our guidance on electorate forecasting. We have therefore used the electoral forecasts agreed at the beginning of the review to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

28 Amber Valley Borough Council currently has 45 councillors. A submission was developed by officers at the Council and was presented to Full Council on 25 November 2020, recommending a reduction of three councillors to 42. A vote took place on a motion not to endorse the reduction of three, but to retain 45 councillors. The result of the vote was 26 councillors in favour and nine against.

29 On 4 January 2021, Councillor Buttery and 10 other Conservative councillors made a brief submission that endorsed and provided further justification to reduce the council size by three.

30 We carefully considered the potential council sizes of 42 and 45 and all the evidence provided to us. We concluded that the proposal to reduce councillor numbers by three was supported by the best evidence. We were persuaded that a 42-councillor authority would have enough capacity to manage both current and future challenges, as well as an increasing electorate.

31 Currently, Amber Valley Borough Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years). There is a presumption in legislation⁵ that if a Council elects by thirds, it should have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. However, the Council agreed unanimously in November 2019 to move to a cycle of whole council elections once every four years from 2023 (when this review will be implemented). When a council elects with this electoral cycle, there is more flexibility for the Commission to recommend a mixed pattern of wards for the authority with a combination of one-, two- and three-member wards. Therefore, we invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 42 councillors – for example, 42 one-councillor wards, 21 two-councillor wards, 14 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

32 We received five submissions concerning the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations, from Heanor & Loscoe Town Council, Somercotes Parish Council, the Somercotes, Riddings & Ironville Labour Party branch and two parish councillors. These submissions opposed our decision to reduce the number of councillors of the authority by three. The Somercotes, Riddings & Ironville Labour Party branch argued that this would result in Amber Valley having a higher councillor to elector ratio than similar-sized local authorities in Derbyshire and would reduce the likelihood of it being able to attract a diversity of councillors. Heanor & Loscoe Town Council argued that the reduction in councillors for the borough would harm local representation for their area, given the allocation of borough councillors for the town council area had been reduced from six to five as a result of our draft recommendations. Councillor C. Emma-Williams, of Codnor Parish Council, opposed a reduction on the grounds of a growing population, an increasing number of houses being built in the area and a larger councillor workload arising from the Vision Derbyshire partnership with neighbouring councils. A local resident opposed Councillor Buttery's and the 10 other Conservative councillors' argument that the Council had been operating effectively for a considerable time with essentially 40 councillors, as a result of three vacancies and two long-term absences. They also stressed that any financial savings from this reduction were not

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

large enough to warrant a decrease in councillor numbers for the authority. Somercotes Parish Council opposed a 'cut (in) the number of councillors'.

33 We very carefully considered the submissions received. However, we were not persuaded by the arguments presented that a reduction of three councillors would have a significantly negative impact upon the Council's ability to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively in the future. In particular, we are not persuaded that an increase in population/electorate automatically requires more councillors and we consider that ensuring a diversity of candidates for election to the Council is primarily a matter for political parties. We have therefore decided to confirm our decision to have Amber Valley represented by 42 councillors as final.

34 Heanor & Loscoe Town Council and Somercotes Parish Council both expressed disappointment at the alleged lack of transparency and communication provided by Council concerning their submission on councillor numbers. However, this issue is not a matter for the Commission and is something each town council would need to raise separately with the Council.

Ward boundaries consultation

35 We received 31 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals from the Council, the Conservatives, and a joint submission from the Amber Valley Labour Group and Amber Valley Liberal Democrats ('Labour & Liberal Democrats'). Codnor Parish Council also submitted the Labour & Liberal Democrats' scheme. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

36 The proposals made by the Council and the Conservatives provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for 42 councillors. The Labour & Liberal Democrats proposed a mixed pattern based on 43 councillors. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

37 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of all the schemes we received, all of which contained various proposals that reflected our statutory criteria. Our draft recommendations also considered more localised submissions 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, so we identified alternative boundaries.

38 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Amber Valley. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the draft recommendations.

39 Our draft recommendations were for six three-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and two single-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

40 We received 16 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included borough-wide responses from the Amber Valley Conservatives and the Green Party. Councillor C. Emmas-Williams resubmitted the Labour & Liberal Democrats' scheme for 43 councillors. We carefully re-examined these proposals but were content that we had achieved the best balance of our statutory criteria in either adopting or rejecting parts of this scheme when we formulated our draft recommendations. The remainder of the submissions focused on specific areas, with several submissions opposing our draft recommendations for Codnor, Langley Mill & Aldercar ward.

41 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations, with modifications to the rural wards in the west of the borough, based on a submission made by the Conservatives.

Final recommendations

42 Our final recommendations are for six three-councillor wards and 12 two-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.

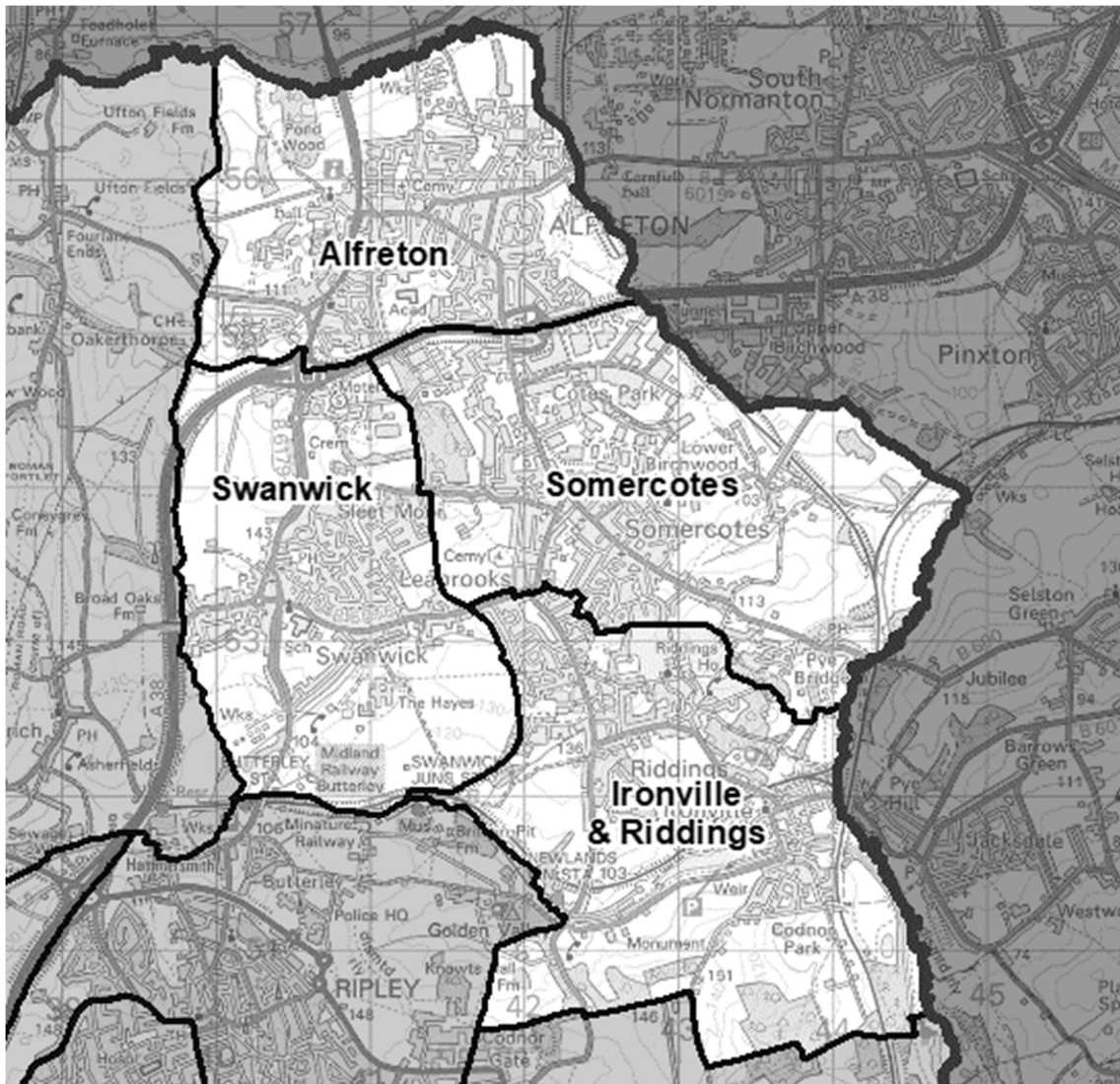
43 The tables and maps on pages 13–25 detail our final recommendations for each area of Amber Valley. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

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

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

Alfreton, Ironville & Riddings, Somercotes and Swanwick



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Alfreton | 3 | -5% |
| Ironville & Riddings | 2 | -2% |
| Somercotes | 2 | 0% |
| Swanwick | 2 | -6% |

Alfreton and Swanwick

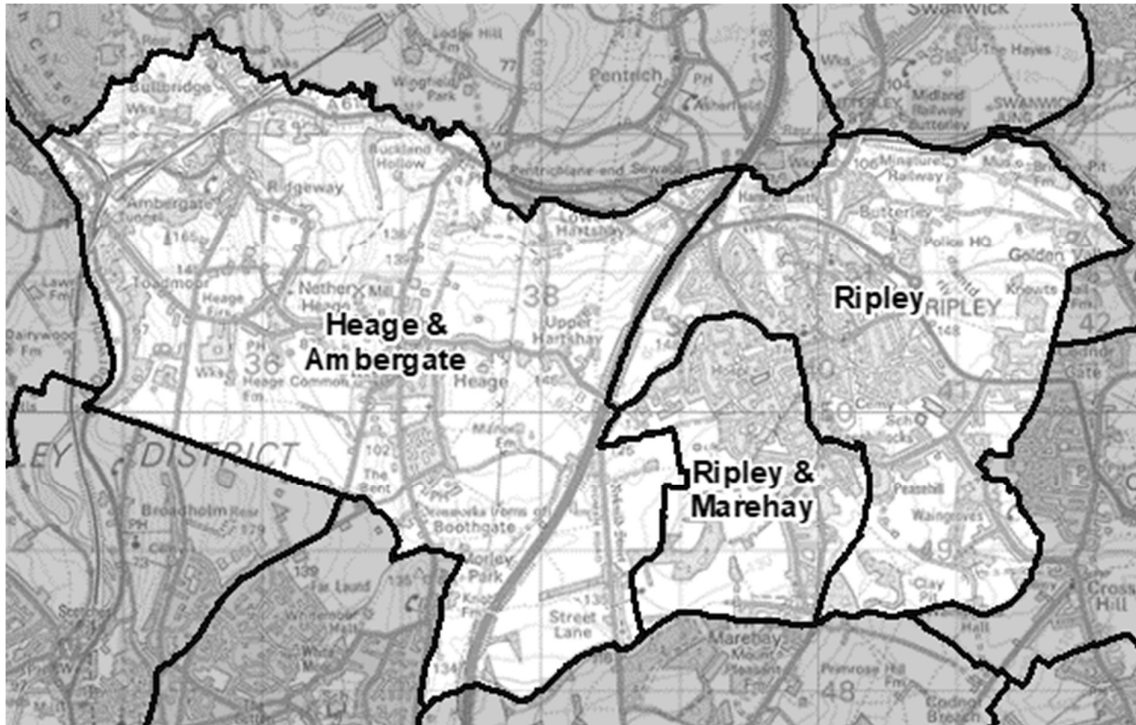
45 The Conservatives and the Green Party supported our draft recommendations for Alfreton and Swanwick wards. We received no further submissions relating to the warding proposals in this area. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for these two wards as final.

Ironville & Riddings and Somercotes

46 We received four submissions that related to our proposed Ironville & Riddings and Somercotes wards. The Conservatives supported our draft recommendations, stating that our proposals would contribute to effective and convenient local government. They also agreed with our decision to adopt their proposal to incorporate electors residing on the southern part of Park Side within Somercotes ward. The Somercotes, Riddings & Ironville Labour Party branch and Somercotes Parish Council opposed the warding proposals made by the Council in the previous stage of consultation, which split the existing Ironville & Riddings and Somercotes wards into four single-councillor wards. While the Green Party were supportive of our Somercotes ward, they opposed our decision to not adopt the Council's proposal of splitting the current Ironville & Riddings ward into two single-councillor wards.

47 After careful consideration, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Ironville & Riddings and Somercotes wards as final. We determined that, based on the evidence received throughout the two rounds of consultation, insufficient evidence had been supplied to demonstrate how dividing these wards would better reflect our statutory criteria and, in particular, better reflect local community identities and interests. Under the final recommendations, our proposed Ironville & Riddings and Somercotes wards will have forecast electoral variances of -2% and 0%, respectively, by 2027.

Heage & Ambergate, Ripley and Ripley & Marehay



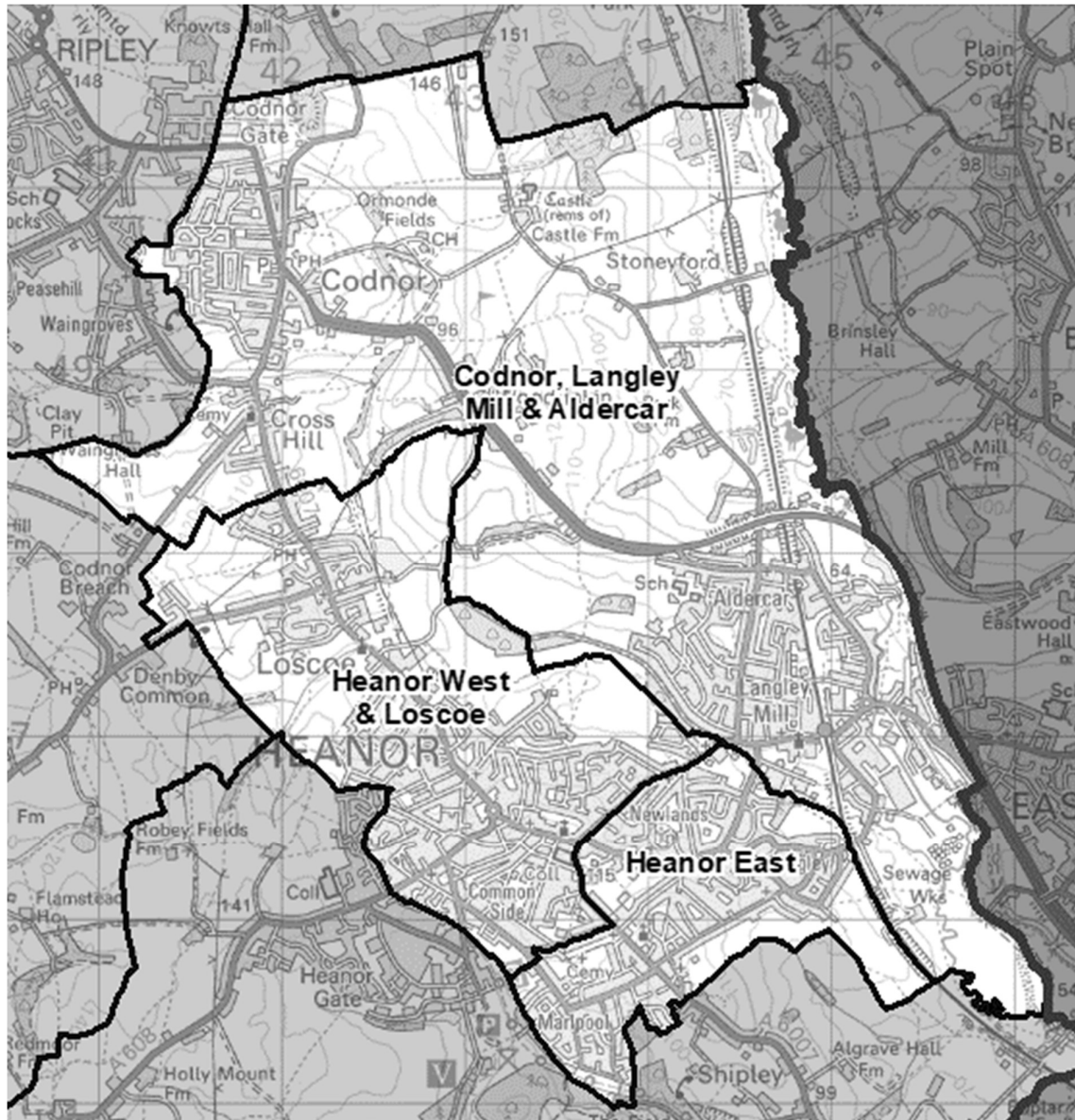
| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Heage & Ambergate | 2 | -7% |
| Ripley | 3 | 8% |
| Ripley & Marehay | 2 | 6% |

Heage & Ambergate, Ripley and Ripley & Marehay

48 The Conservatives and the Green Party endorsed our draft recommendations for the Ripley area, with the Conservatives expressing support for the boundaries between the three wards, as well as our decision to incorporate the Waingroves area within Ripley ward, which means the proposed borough wards in the Ripley area are fully coterminous with the town council boundary.

49 A local resident requested that both sides of Heage Road be incorporated in Ripley & Marehay ward. We decided not to adopt this proposal as we consider that following the division boundary, which follows the A38 and Heage Road, is more identifiable and will promote effective and convenient local government. With no further submissions received, we are confirming our draft recommendations for the wards in the Ripley area as final.

Codnor, Langley Mill & Aldercar, Heanor East and Heanor West & Loscoe



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Codnor, Langley Mill & Aldercar | 3 | 0% |
| Heanor East | 2 | 8% |
| Heanor West & Loscoe | 3 | 10% |

Codnor, Langley Mill & Aldercar

50 We received several submissions that objected to our draft Codnor, Langley Mill & Aldercar ward. It was broadly argued that this ward did not take account of

community identity, placing two distinct communities with little in common within the same ward.

51 Some respondents supported the existing warding arrangement that links Codnor parish in a ward with the Waingroves area within Ripley parish. We could not adopt this proposal as the forecast electoral variance of this ward would be -14% by 2027, which we consider too high to accept.

52 The Conservatives suggested that we adopt their proposal made during the previous consultation, which linked Codnor parish with Loscoe in a two-councillor ward and placed Aldercar & Langley Mill parish in a ward with Mapperley and Shipley parishes. This proposal had the support of the Green Party if their own proposal was not adopted. However, we decided not to adopt this warding arrangement as part of our final recommendations. This is because we remained concerned about the lack of direct road access between Aldercar & Langley Mill, Mapperley and Shipley parishes. We also considered there to be a lack of evidence that suggested better community links between these parishes than between Codnor and Aldercar & Langley Mill parishes.

53 We also examined the Green Party's proposal to similarly create a two-councillor Codnor & Loscoe ward and a two-councillor Langley Mill & Aldercar ward. We decided not to adopt a two-councillor Langley Mill & Aldercar ward as it would have a forecast variance of -13%. Given the need to ensure each elector has a vote of broadly equal weight, we considered this variance too high to accept.

54 Consequently, while we note the concerns regarding this ward, we consider that our Codnor, Langley Mill & Aldercar ward provides the best reflection of the statutory criteria and have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for the ward as final. In our view, none of the alternatives we considered provided a better reflection of our three statutory criteria. Additionally, we are further constrained by the distribution of settlements in this area as well as the proximity of the borough boundary which reduced our scope for considering alternative warding patterns. In any case, we consider it preferable to combine distinct communities in the same ward in order to ensure good electoral equality than divide communities between wards.

Heanor East and Heanor West & Loscoe

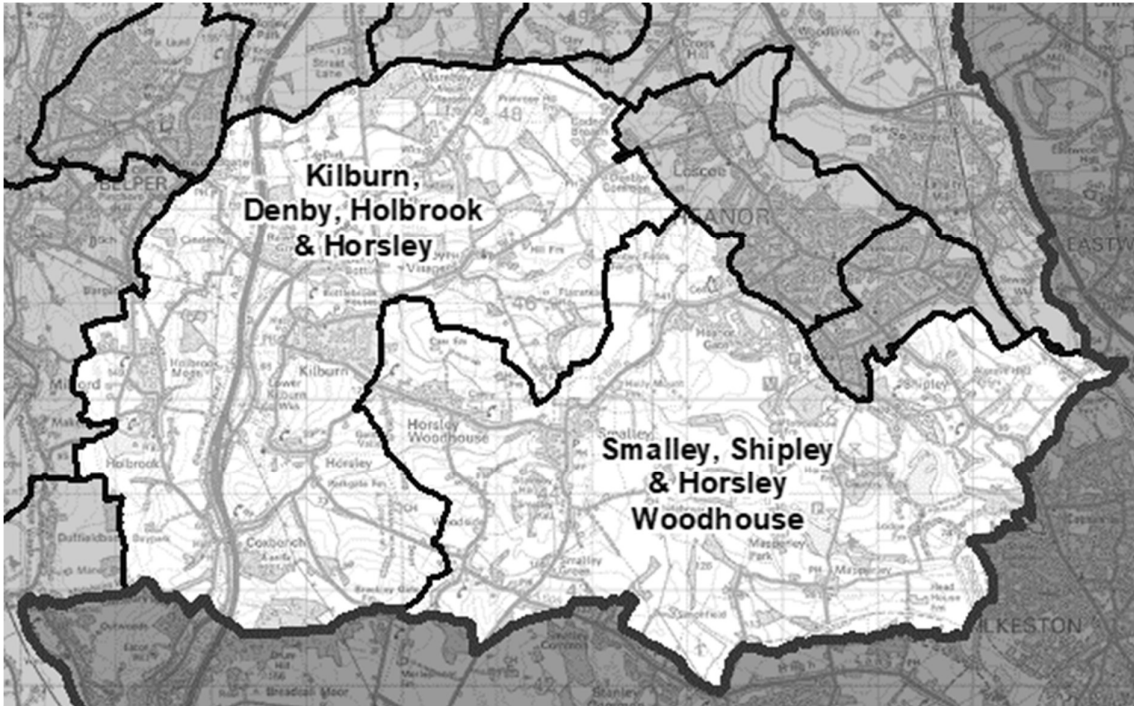
55 Three submissions related to our wards for Heanor & Loscoe parish. The Conservatives were broadly supportive of the boundary between the two wards. They understood our decision to retain the boundary along Lockton Avenue, recognising how it would be more conducive to effective and convenient local government by following the division boundary. However, they opposed our decision not to adopt their proposed Codnor & Loscoe ward. While we note the evidence provided for this ward, we could not adopt this proposal as a result of the wider

warding arrangements we would have to accept as a consequence – wards that we deemed to not effectively satisfy our statutory criteria. For example, if we were to propose this ward, we would also have to adopt their Langley Mill & Aldercar, Mapperley & Shipley and Smalley, Denby & Horsley Woodhouse wards. Our justification for not adopting the former ward is detailed further in paragraph 52. The decision to not adopt the latter ward was outlined in our draft recommendations, where we determined the proposal to link the parishes of Smalley and Horsley Woodhouse to Denby parish would not be conducive to effective and convenient local government, again due to a lack of direct road links between the communities in the proposed ward.

56 The Green Party suggested a two-councillor Heanor West ward and two-councillor Heanor East ward, in conjunction with their Codnor & Loscoe ward. We could not accommodate this proposal given our decision not to not adopt the proposed Codnor & Loscoe ward as part of final recommendations, as described in the previous paragraph.

57 As outlined earlier in this report, Heanor & Loscoe Town Council opposed a reduction in councillors for the borough as they considered it to harm local representation for the parish, given the allocation of borough councillors for the town council area had been reduced from six to five. However, allocating five councillors provides for good electoral equality, so we were not persuaded to amend the allocation of councillors for Heanor & Loscoe parish as part of our final recommendations.

Kilburn, Denby, Holbrook & Horsley and Smalley, Shipley & Horsley Woodhouse

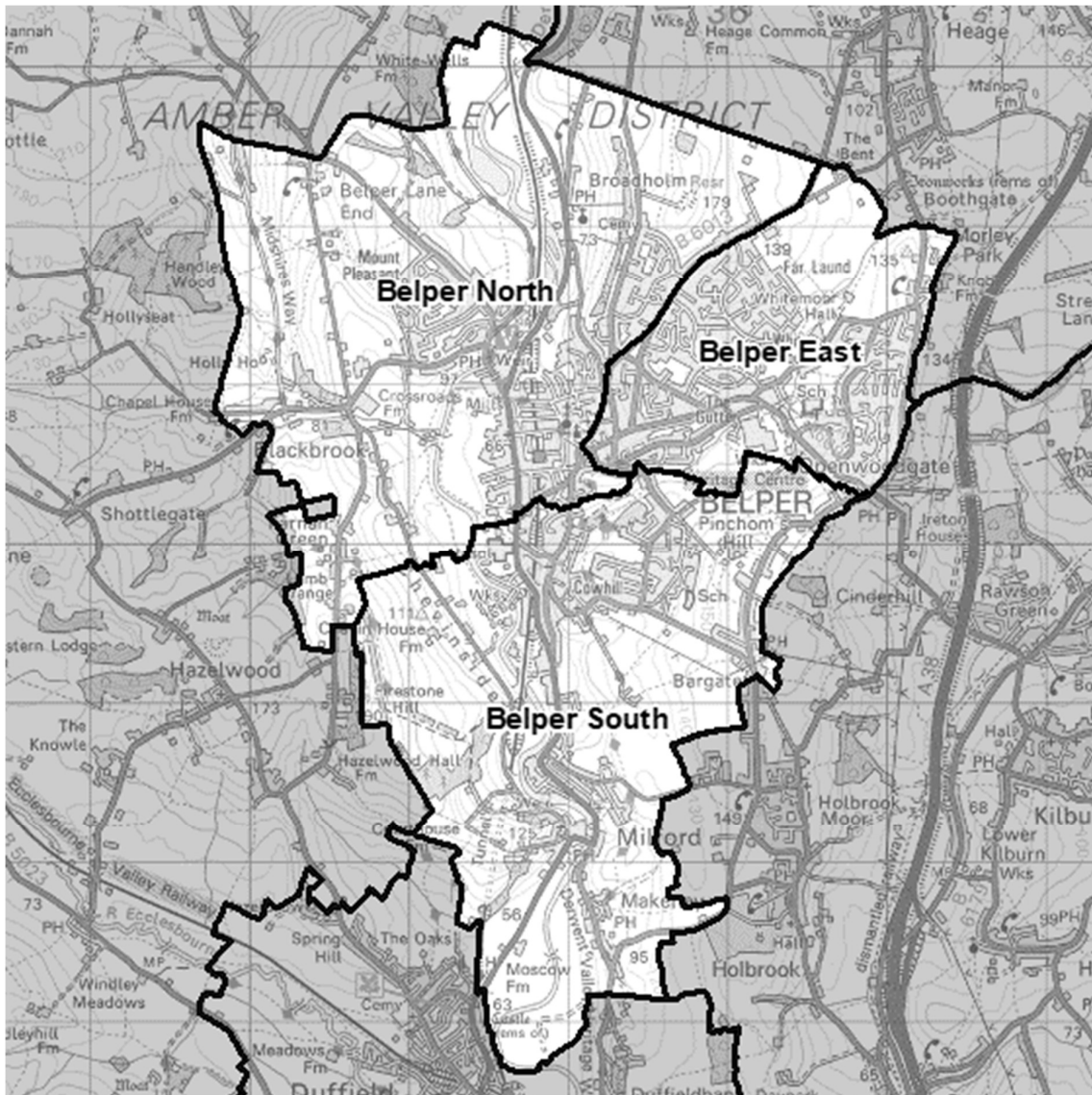


| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Kilburn, Denby, Holbrook & Horsley | 3 | -8% |
| Smalley, Shipley & Horsley Woodhouse | 2 | -4% |

Kilburn, Denby, Holbrook & Horsley and Smalley, Shipley & Horsley Woodhouse

58 The only submissions received in relation to these two wards were the borough-wide responses from the Conservatives and the Green Party. The Conservatives were supportive of our warding arrangement here, irrespective of our decision to adopt their suggested Langley Mill & Aldercar, Mapperley & Shipley ward. The Green Party were similarly supportive of the boundaries proposed but suggested renaming both wards. They proposed Kilburn, Denby, Holbrook & Horsley ward be renamed as Bottle, after the brook that runs through the ward, while Smalley, Shipley & Horsley Woodhouse ward could be renamed as Shipley Park, as it is the 'dominant local feature which the villages of the ward surround'. We decided not to adopt these ward name changes, as we consider that the proposed ward names better represent the constituent communities that comprise each ward.

Belper East, Belper North and Belper South



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Belper East | 3 | 9% |
| Belper North | 2 | -1% |
| Belper South | 2 | -8% |

Belper East, Belper North and Belper South

59 We received two submissions that related to our wards for Belper town. The Conservatives supported our draft recommendations here, stating our ward boundaries were an improvement on the proposals made by themselves during the previous consultation.

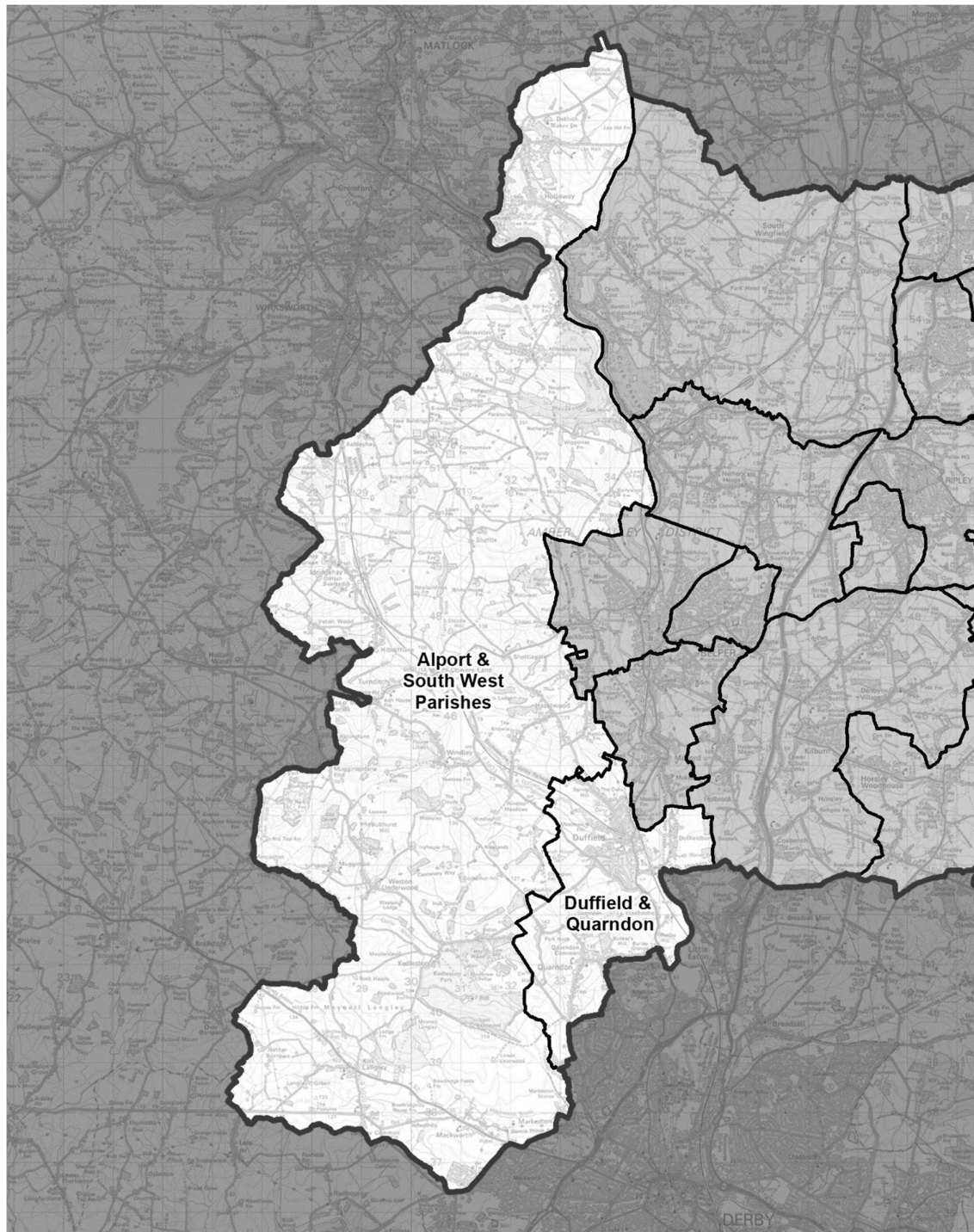
60 The Green Party did not oppose our draft recommendations for Belper but questioned why we provided for a Belper Central parish ward for Belper Town Council if we were not recommending a Belper Central borough ward. The reason for this is due to the county division boundary. If a parish is to be divided between different district wards, we are legally required to divide the parish into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single district ward. In recommending revised parish warding arrangements, we are also required to reflect existing county division boundaries.

61 The county division boundaries between Alport & Derwent and Belper divisions are coterminous with the existing Belper Central borough ward, which follows the River Derwent, part of Bridge Street, Joseph Street, Green Lane, Church Lane and the Coppice Brook. By following Short Lands, Lander Lane and Parkside as the borough ward boundary between Belper East and Belper North wards, we are legally obligated to create a parish ward that is bounded by these roads, in order to create a parish ward that lies wholly within a single district ward and county division.

62 We are also unable to adopt the Green Party's suggestion to adopt a single-councillor Belper Central ward that follows the parish ward. This is because this ward would result in a forecast electoral variance of -62%, which would be unacceptably high. While we do consider the number and distribution of electors within a parish ward when providing for revised parish electoral arrangements, it should be noted that, when creating parish wards, there is no statutory requirement for us to provide for electoral equality.

63 With no further submissions received for this area, we are confirming our draft recommendations for the wards of Belper town as final.

Alport & South West Parishes and Duffield & Quarndon



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Alport & South West Parishes | 2 | -5% |
| Duffield & Quarndon | 2 | 8% |

Alport & South West Parishes

64 We received two submissions that related to the warding arrangements for the rural western parishes. The Green Party was supportive of the warding arrangements, stating both wards adequately represent the rural communities within each ward. Conversely, the Conservatives requested we reconsider their previous proposal of combining the two single-councillor wards into a larger two-councillor ward. They argued that a two-councillor ward for this area would provide for better long-term electoral equality than two single-councillor wards, if we were to take into account the recently agreed residential development in Mackworth parish (our section on Electorate figures on pages 7–8 provides for further detail).

65 We have carefully considered the proposals for this area and are acutely aware that substantial residential development within the single-councillor South West Parishes ward could have a significant effect upon electoral equality in the future. We also acknowledge that a two-councillor ward in this area could potentially mitigate the risk of a very high electoral variance. Balanced against this is our concern that the proposed two-member warding option proposed by the Conservatives would result in a relatively large ward geographically and contain widely dispersed rural communities. We ultimately decided, as part of our final recommendations, to adopt the Conservatives' proposed two-councillor Alport & South West Parishes ward. While we acknowledge that this ward is geographically large, we consider that it will effectively represent the interests of the similar rural parishes on the western fringe of the district that comprise the proposed ward. We are also satisfied that our final recommendations here are more likely to secure better electoral equality in the long term than our draft recommendations.

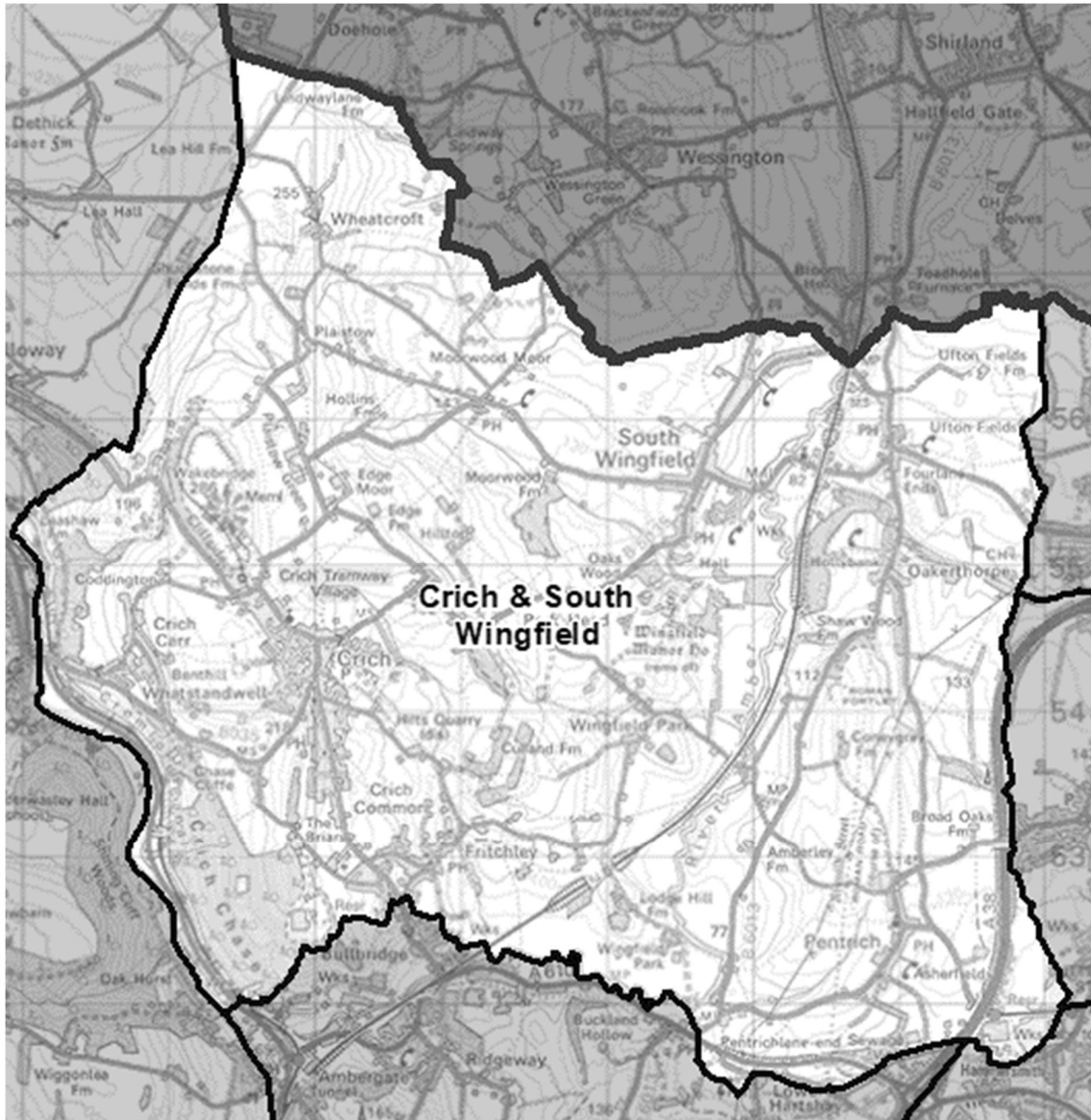
66 We also received a submission from a local resident who supported our South West Parishes ward but suggested Mackworth parish be incorporated into Derby City Council. However, changing the external boundaries between local authorities falls outside the scope of this electoral review.

Duffield & Quarndon

67 The Conservatives and the Green Party supported our proposals for Duffield & Quarndon ward. Councillor Splisbury, of Duffield Parish Council, opposed this warding arrangement. They argued that Duffield parish should be warded with Hazelwood parish, suggesting it shares stronger community links with Hazelwood parish rather than with Quarndon. We decided not to adopt this proposal as a ward comprising Duffield and Hazelwood parishes would have a forecast electoral variance of -14% by 2027, which we consider too high to accept, based on the evidence received.

68 In the absence of any further submissions relating to this ward, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Duffield & Quarndon ward as final.

Crich & South Wingfield



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2027 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Crich & South Wingfield | 2 | -10% |

Crich & South Wingfield

69 The Conservative Group expressed support for our draft Crich & South Wingfield ward during consultation. The Green Party was supportive of the boundaries proposed, but queried whether the ward should be named Crich. We decided not to adopt this ward name change as we consider our proposed ward name will best reflect the communities that make up the proposed ward.

70 A local resident suggested that merging the existing single-councillor Crich and Wingfield wards into a larger two-councillor ward would result in a loss of local representation. However, by merging Crich and Wingfield wards, we can achieve improved electoral equality, where our Crich & South Wingfield ward will have an electoral variance of -10% by 2027. In contrast, the existing Wingfield ward would have a forecast electoral variance of -19% by 2027. We consider this variance too high and it would not provide for good electoral equality. We are therefore confirming our draft Crich & South Wingfield ward as final.

Conclusions

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

Summary of electoral arrangements

| | Final recommendations | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| | 2021 | 2027 |
| Number of councillors | 42 | 42 |
| Number of electoral wards | 18 | 18 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,404 | 2,536 |
| 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 |

Final recommendations

Amber Valley Borough Council should be made up of 42 councillors serving 18 wards representing six three-councillor wards and 12 two-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 Amber Valley. You can also view our final recommendations for Amber Valley on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

72 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.

73 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, Amber Valley 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.

74 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 Belper, Heanor & Loscoe and Ripley.

75 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Belper parish.

Final recommendations

Belper Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Belper Central | 1 |
| Belper East | 7 |
| Belper North | 4 |
| Belper South | 4 |

76 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Heanor & Loscoe parish.

Final recommendations

Heanor & Loscoe Town Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Heanor Central | 1 |
| Heanor East | 7 |
| Heanor West | 6 |
| Loscoe | 7 |

77 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ripley parish.

Final recommendations

Ripley Town Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing 10 wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Ambergate | 3 |
| Butterley | 2 |
| Heage | 3 |
| Peasehill | 1 |
| Ripley Central | 2 |
| Ripley East | 4 |
| Ripley Elms | 2 |
| Ripley Marehay | 1 |
| Ripley North | 2 |
| Waingroves | 1 |

What happens next?

78 We have now completed our review of Amber Valley 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

79 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 Amber Valley Borough Council

| | Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2021) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2027) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Alfreton | 3 | 6,674 | 2,225 | -7% | 7,192 | 2,397 | -5% |
| 2 | Alport & South West Parishes | 2 | 4,532 | 2,266 | -6% | 4,813 | 2,407 | -5% |
| 3 | Belper East | 3 | 8,254 | 2,751 | 14% | 8,290 | 2,763 | 9% |
| 4 | Belper North | 2 | 4,980 | 2,490 | 4% | 5,013 | 2,507 | -1% |
| 5 | Belper South | 2 | 4,471 | 2,236 | -7% | 4,677 | 2,339 | -8% |
| 6 | Codnor, Langley Mill & Aldercar | 3 | 7,537 | 2,512 | 5% | 7,611 | 2,537 | 0% |
| 7 | Crich & South Wingfield | 2 | 4,101 | 2,051 | -15% | 4,576 | 2,288 | -10% |
| 8 | Duffield & Quarndon | 2 | 4,845 | 2,423 | 1% | 5,493 | 2,747 | 8% |
| 9 | Heage & Ambergate | 2 | 4,045 | 2,023 | -16% | 4,712 | 2,356 | -7% |
| 10 | Heanor East | 2 | 5,412 | 2,706 | 13% | 5,458 | 2,729 | 8% |
| 11 | Heanor West & Loscoe | 3 | 8,192 | 2,731 | 14% | 8,405 | 2,802 | 10% |
| 12 | Ironville & Riddings | 2 | 4,712 | 2,356 | -2% | 4,963 | 2,482 | -2% |

| Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2021) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2027) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 13 Kilburn, Denby, Holbrook & Horsley | 3 | 6,928 | 2,309 | -4% | 7,006 | 2,335 | -8% |
| 14 Ripley | 3 | 7,638 | 2,546 | 6% | 8,241 | 2,747 | 8% |
| 15 Ripley & Marehay | 2 | 5,035 | 2,518 | 5% | 5,365 | 2,683 | 6% |
| 16 Smalley, Shipley & Horsley Woodhouse | 2 | 4,552 | 2,276 | -5% | 4,857 | 2,429 | -4% |
| 17 Somercotes | 2 | 4,697 | 2,349 | -2% | 5,081 | 2,541 | 0% |
| 18 Swanwick | 2 | 4,360 | 2,180 | -9% | 4,779 | 2,390 | -6% |
| Totals | 42 | 100,965 | - | - | 106,532 | - | - |
| Averages | - | - | 2,404 | - | - | 2,536 | - |

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Amber Valley 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



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/amber-valley

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Political Groups

- Amber Valley Conservative Association & the Conservative Group
- Amber Valley Green Party
- Somercotes, Riddings & Ironville Labour Party branch

Councillors

- Councillor C. Emmas-Williams (Codnor Parish Council)
- Councillor M. Spilsbury (Duffield Parish Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Heanor & Loscoe Town Council
- Somercotes Parish Council

Local Residents

- Nine local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parish council | A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council' |
| Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements | The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward |
| Parish ward | A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council |
| Town council | A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at 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 (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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