

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Harborough District Council

Electoral review

July 2017

Translations and other formats

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

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

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

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

Why Harborough?

4 We are conducting a review of Harborough as the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in Harborough. 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. The Council also requested a review as an opportunity to examine the number of councillors the authority needed for decision making and to effectively represent local people.

Our proposals for Harborough

- Harborough should be represented by 34 councillors, three fewer than there are now.
- Harborough should have 19 wards, six fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of all but one ward will change.

5 **We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Harborough.**

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)
- Peter Knight CBE, DL
- Alison Lowton
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Sir Tony Redmond

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Harborough 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 district.

What is an electoral review?

9 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

10 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Harborough. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 October 2016	Number of councillors decided
25 October 2016	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
9 January 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
14 March 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
8 May 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
4 July 2017	Publication of final recommendations

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 or town council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ 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.

15 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.

16 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.

	2016	2022
Electorate of Harborough	68,492	74,460
Number of councillors	34	34
Average number of electors per councillor	2,014	2,190

17 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but one of our proposed wards for Harborough will have electoral variances within 10% of the average for the authority by 2022.

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

Submissions received

19 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2017. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 9% by 2022.

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

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

21 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

22 Harborough District Council currently has 37 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that decreasing the number of councillors by three would enable the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We therefore invited proposals for a new pattern of wards that would be represented by 34 councillors – for example, 34 one-councillor wards, 17 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards. Our draft recommendations are based on a 34-member council.

24 We did not receive any submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 34 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

25 We received 10 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a district-wide proposal from the Council based on 34 members and a partial district proposal from Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council. Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council's warding pattern did not include proposals for Broughton Astley, Lutterworth and Market Harborough or areas to the west of the A5199 road. We also received localised submissions from local residents and parish councils and meetings across Harborough.

26 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council's proposals, the District Council's proposals and our own proposals for Broughton Astley and Lutterworth. In Broughton Astley and Lutterworth, we considered that the proposals of the Council did not provide for the best balance of our statutory criteria and recommended alternative ward boundaries for these areas. We also visited the district to look at the different proposals on the ground.

27 Our draft recommendations were for three three-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and seven one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

28 We received 16 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from Harborough District Council, district councillors, parish councils and several local residents. The majority of submissions related to the town of Lutterworth and the parish of Stoughton in the north of the district.

29 Our final recommendations are different from our draft recommendations for two wards. After considering the local evidence received, we have modified the ward boundaries for Glen ward and Thurnby & Houghton ward. As explained in the North Harborough section of this report, our modification will result in Thurnby & Houghton ward having an electoral variance of 11% more electors per councillor than the district average. When considering our final recommendations, we gave careful consideration to the option of single-member warding patterns for Broughton Astley and Lutterworth. However, we were unable to identify a warding pattern that ensured good electoral equality, reflected local community identities, and used clearly identifiable boundaries. We also did not receive an alternative single-councillor warding pattern from respondents. In these circumstances, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Broughton Astley and Lutterworth as final.

Final recommendations

30 Pages 8–13 detail our final recommendations for each area of Harborough. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

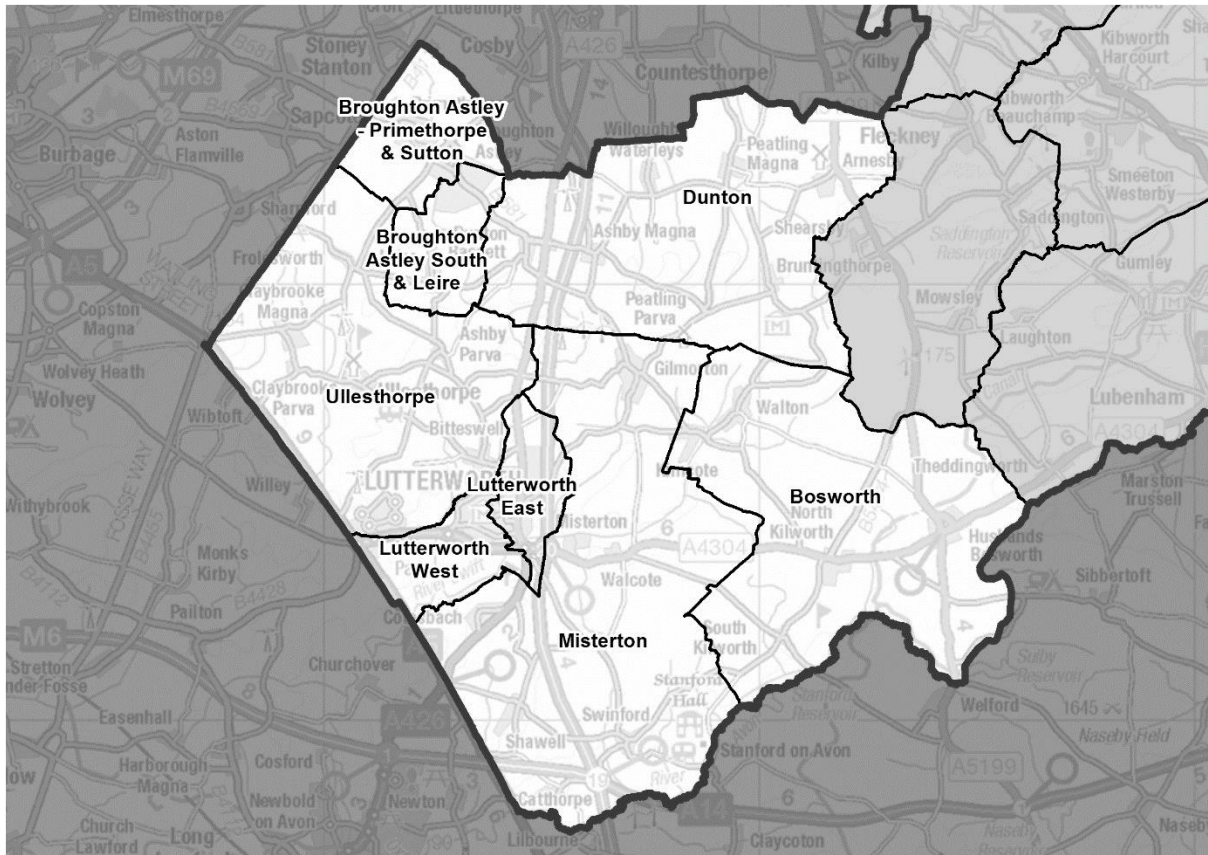
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

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

32 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 14 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Broughton Astley, Lutterworth and West Harborough



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Bosworth	1	10%
Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton	2	-9%
Broughton Astley South & Leire	2	-5%
Dunton	1	-1%
Lutterworth East	2	-9%
Lutterworth West	2	-9%
Misterton	1	0%
Ullesthorpe	1	5%

Broughton Astley South & Leire and Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton

33 We received a submission from a local resident which proposed four single-councillor wards for Broughton Astley. However, the local resident did not provide an alternative warding pattern with evidence in support of this option. As stated earlier, for both Broughton Astley and Lutterworth, we gave careful consideration to a single-member warding pattern. We were unable to identify an alternative that would meet our statutory criteria. In particular, there was no alternative that both provided good electoral equality and would follow clearly defined boundaries that reflected communities. We are content that the two-member warding pattern reflects communities and follows logical boundaries. Therefore, in the absence of further submissions and evidence, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton ward and Broughton Astley South & Leire ward as final.

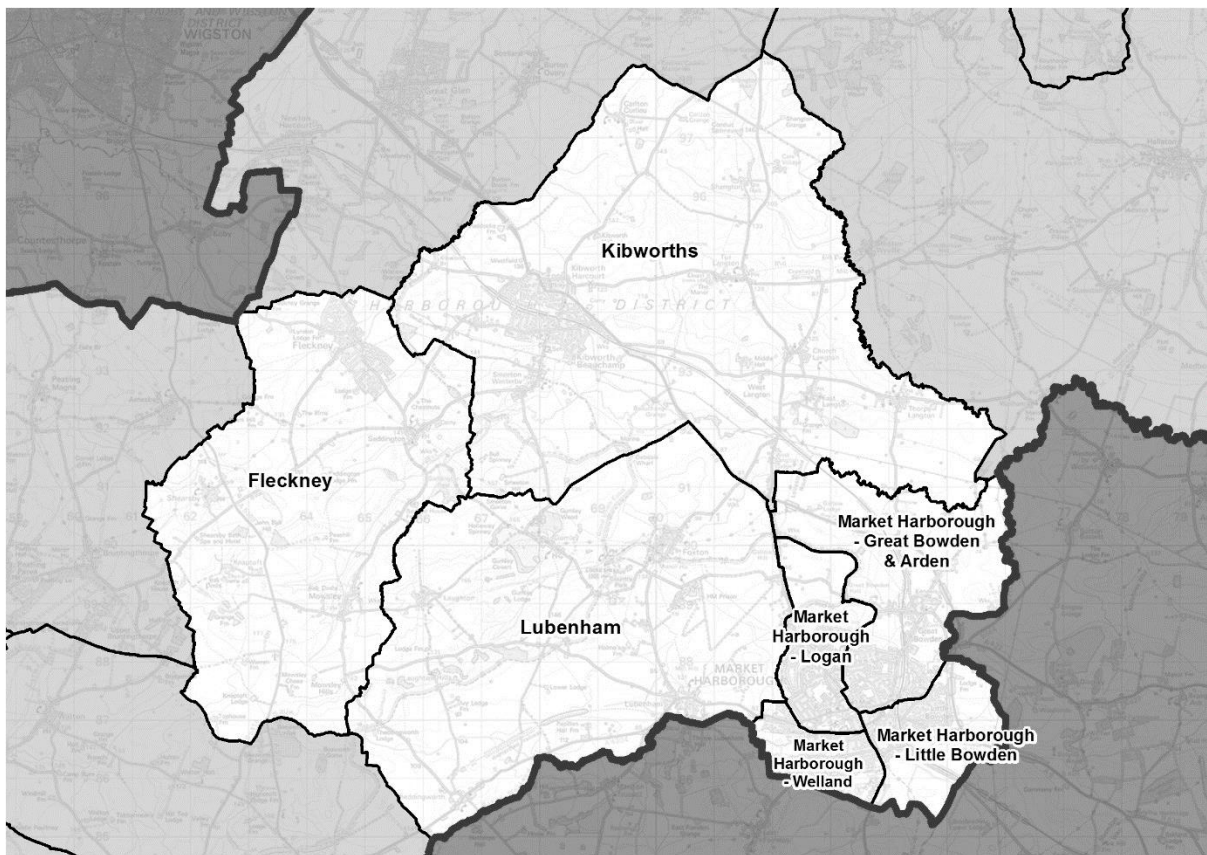
Lutterworth East and Lutterworth West

34 We received five submissions which related to the market town of Lutterworth. The District Council (two submissions), Lutterworth Town Council, a district councillor and a local resident all objected to our draft recommendations for two two-councillor wards. It was proposed that Lutterworth should have four single-councillor wards. While there was clear objection to our draft recommendations, we did not receive an alternative pattern for four single-councillor wards with evidence in support. We are unable to make changes to our draft recommendations without evidence. Given this, and for the reasons outlined in the previous paragraph, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for a two-councillor Lutterworth East ward and two-councillor Lutterworth West ward as final.

Bosworth, Dunton, Misterton and Ullesthorpe

35 Ashby Parva Parish Meeting supported our draft recommendations for Ullesthorpe ward. We did not receive submissions that related directly to Bosworth, Dunton and Misterton wards. Therefore, we have decided to confirm our proposed Bosworth, Dunton, Misterton and Ullesthorpe wards as final.

Market Harbourough and Central Harbourough



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Fleckney	2	2%
Kibworths	3	-3%
Lubenham	1	-6%
Market Harbourough - Great Bowden & Arden	2	4%
Market Harbourough - Little Bowden	2	4%
Market Harbourough - Logan	2	6%
Market Harbourough - Welland	3	-3%

Market Harborough

36 The District Council supported our draft recommendations for three two-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward for Market Harborough. Therefore, we confirm our draft recommendations for Market Harborough as final.

Kibworths

37 We received two submissions that related to Kibworths ward. Thorpe Langton Parish Council and a local resident supported our draft recommendations. Therefore, we confirm Kibworths ward as final.

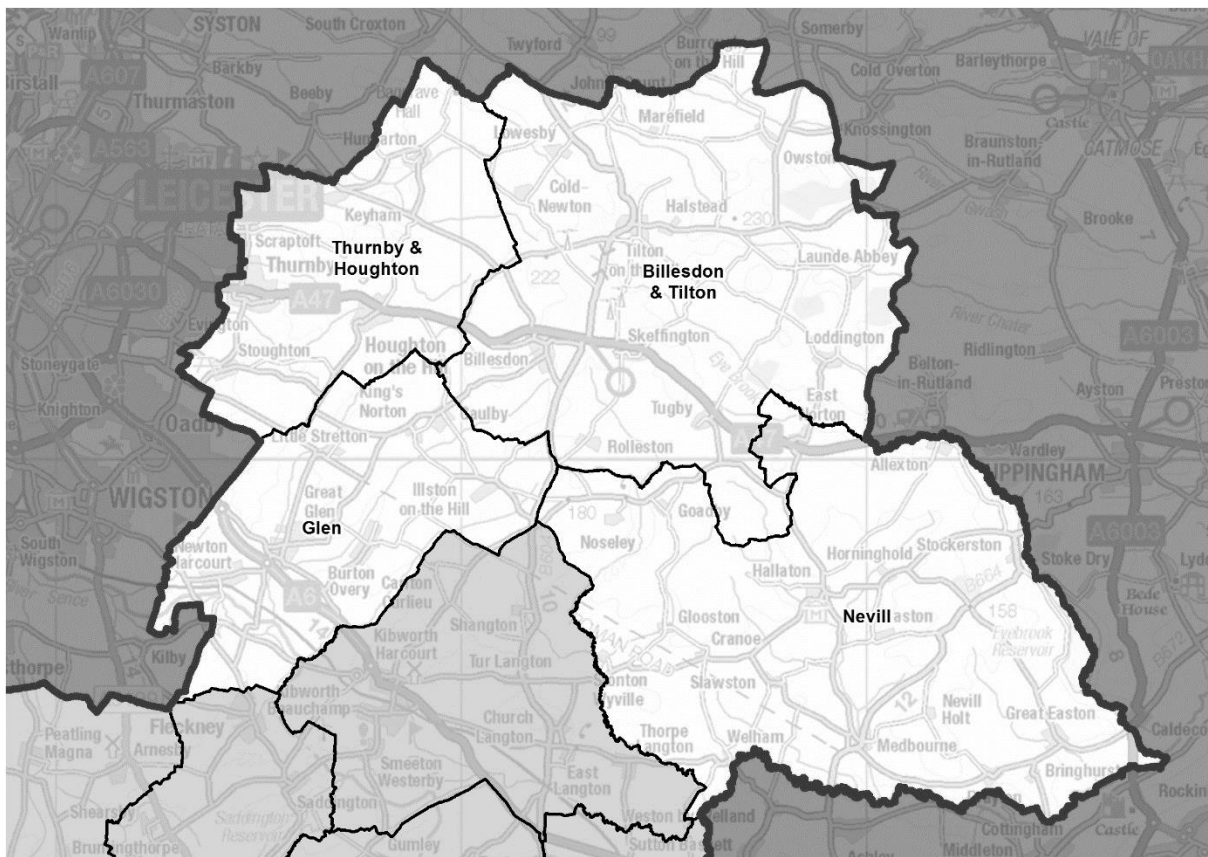
Fleckney and Lubenham

38 We received two submissions that related to Fleckney and Lubenham wards. Mowsley Parish Meeting objected to being grouped in Fleckney ward. The Parish Meeting argued that as a rural parish, it has closer community identities with parishes in Bosworth ward than with the village of Fleckney. The Parish Meeting proposed it be included in Bosworth ward.

39 After considering the proposal of Mowsley Parish Meeting, we have decided not to make this modification. To transfer Mowsley parish to Bosworth ward would result in an electoral variance of 19% more electors than the district average and the evidence received does just not justify such a high electoral variance.

40 A local resident proposed that Mowsley parish be transferred to Lubenham ward. While this change would result in good electoral equality for Fleckney and Lubenham wards, there is no persuasive evidence that this change would reflect community identities. Therefore, we have decided not to make changes to our draft recommendations and confirm Fleckney ward and Lubenham ward as final.

North Harborough



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Billesdon & Tilton	1	5%
Glen	2	0%
Nevill	1	8%
Thurnby & Houghton	3	11%

Billesdon & Tilton and Nevill

41 Tugby & Keythorpe Parish Council objected to our proposals to include the parish in Billesdon & Tilton ward. However, the Parish Council did not provide an alternative warding pattern. We did not receive any submissions which related to Nevill ward. Therefore, we confirm our draft recommendations for Billesdon & Tilton ward and Nevill ward as final.

Thurnby & Houghton and Glen

42 We received four submissions which related to Thurnby & Houghton ward. Stoughton Parish Council objected to being included in Glen ward. The parish provided evidence that it has strong community links with Houghton on the Hill and Thurnby & Bushby parishes and co-operates closely on a range of local issues. The evidence received from Stoughton parish was supported by a district councillor, Scraftoft Parish Council and Thurnby & Bushby Parish Council. All four respondents proposed that Stoughton parish be included in Thurnby & Houghton ward.

43 We have considered the evidence received and have decided to modify our draft recommendations. The proposal to include Stoughton parish in Thurnby & Houghton ward would result in 11% more electors than the district average. However, there is very strong evidence to justify this and we are persuaded that it will better reflect community identities and ensure effective and convenient local government. We include this change as part of our final recommendations. The electoral variance of Glen ward also improves by removing Stoughton parish and will be 0% by 2022.

Conclusions

44 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2016 and 2022 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2016	2022
Number of councillors	34	34
Number of electoral wards	19	19
Average number of electors per councillor	2,014	2,190
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Final recommendation

Harborough District Council should be made up of 34 councillors serving 19 wards representing seven single-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and three three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Harborough District Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Harborough District Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

45 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.

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

47 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Broughton Astley and Lutterworth.

48 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 Broughton Astley parish.

Final recommendation	
Broughton Astley Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Astley	4
Broughton North	1
Broughton South	4
Primethorpe	4
Sutton	3

49 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 Lutterworth parish.

Final recommendation	
Lutterworth Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brookfield	4
Orchard	4
Springs	4
Swift	4

3 What happens next?

50 We have now completed our review of Harborough District 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 2019.

Equalities

51 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Harborough District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Billesdon & Tilton	1	2,088	2,088	4%	2,289	2,289	5%
2	Bosworth	1	2,233	2,233	11%	2,406	2,406	10%
3	Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton	2	3,210	1,605	-20%	4,005	2,003	-9%
4	Broughton Astley South & Leire	2	3,998	1,999	-1%	4,149	2,074	-5%
5	Dunton	1	2,125	2,125	5%	2,169	2,169	-1%
6	Fleckney	2	4,394	2,197	9%	4,464	2,232	2%
7	Glen	2	4,048	2,024	0%	4,362	2,181	0%
8	Kibworths	3	5,944	1,981	-2%	6,343	2,114	-3%
9	Lubenham	1	1,567	1,567	-22%	2,068	2,068	-6%
10	Lutterworth East	2	3,628	1,814	-10%	3,975	1,987	-9%
11	Lutterworth West	2	3,791	1,896	-6%	4,005	2,002	-9%

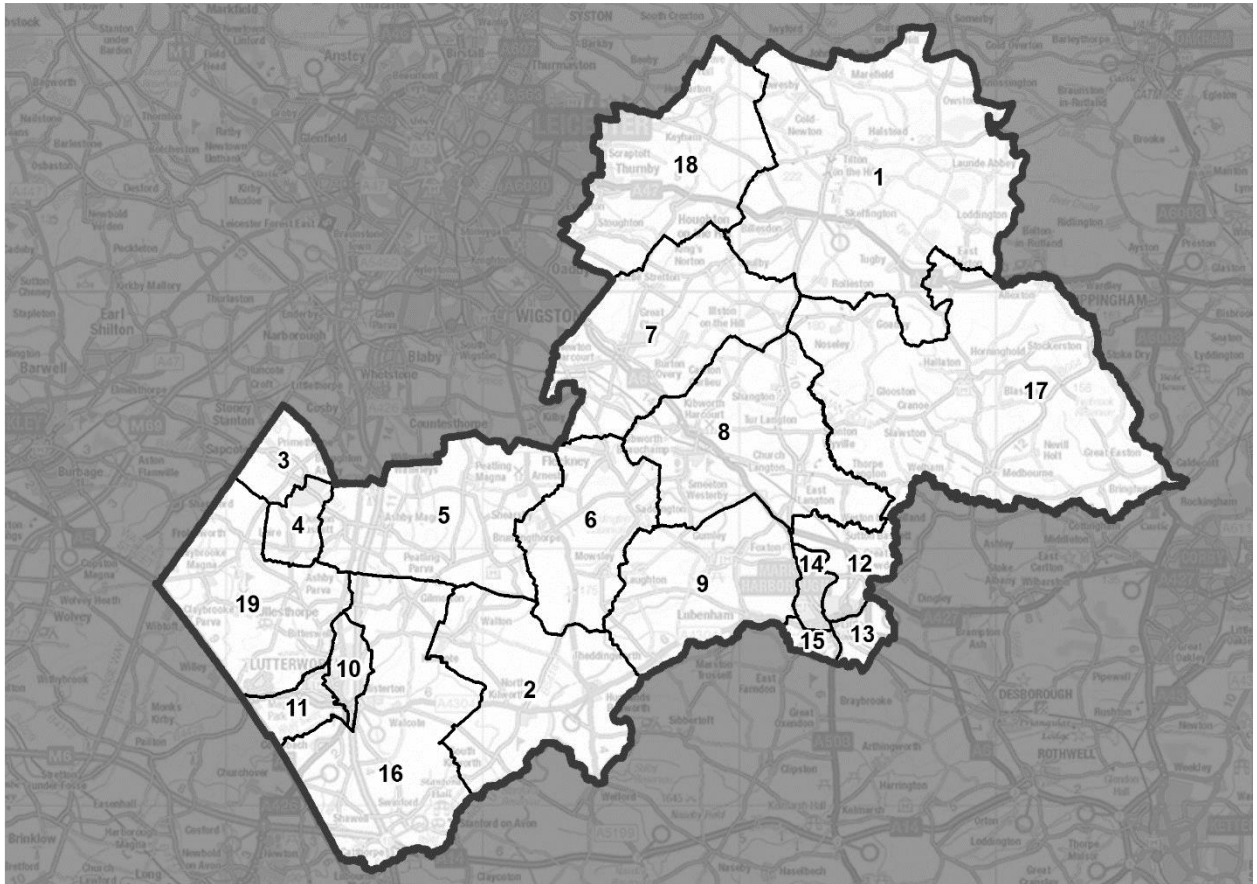
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Market Harborough - Great Bowden & Arden	2	4,417	2,209	10%	4,545	2,272	4%
13 Market Harborough - Little Bowden	2	4,316	2,158	7%	4,551	2,276	4%
14 Market Harborough - Logan	2	4,308	2,154	7%	4,634	2,317	6%
15 Market Harborough - Welland	3	5,874	1,958	-3%	6,369	2,123	-3%
16 Misterton	1	2,093	2,093	4%	2,180	2,180	0%
17 Nevill	1	2,275	2,275	13%	2,365	2,365	8%
18 Thurnby & Houghton	3	6,037	2,012	0%	7,285	2,428	11%
19 Ullesthorpe	1	2,146	2,146	7%	2,297	2,297	5%
Totals	34	68,492	-	-	74,460	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,014	-	-	2,190	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Harborough District Council.

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

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/east-midlands/leicestershire/harborough>

Key

1. Billesdon & Tilton
2. Bosworth
3. Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton
4. Broughton Astley South & Leire
5. Dunton
6. Fleckney
7. Glen
8. Kibworths
9. Lubenham
10. Lutterworth East
11. Lutterworth West
12. Market Harborough - Great Bowden & Arden
13. Market Harborough - Little Bowden
14. Market Harborough - Logan
15. Market Harborough - Welland
16. Misterton
17. Nevill
18. Thurnby & Houghton
19. Ullesthorpe

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/east-midlands/leicestershire/harborough>

Local Authority

- Harborough District Council (two submissions)

Councillors

- Councillor S. Galton (Harborough District Council)
- Councillor G. Robinson (Harborough District Council)

Parish and Town Council

- Ashby Parva Parish Meeting
- Lutterworth Town Council
- Mowsley Parish Meeting
- Scraftoft Parish Council
- Stoughton Parish Council
- Thorpe Langton Parish Council
- Thurnby & Bushby Parish Council
- Tugby & Keythorpe Parish Council

Local Residents

- Four local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

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

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average

Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council
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