

New electoral arrangements for Stockport Council Final Recommendations

April 2022

Translations and other formats:

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Licensing:

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2022

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.

Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Stockport?	2
Our proposals for Stockport	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Review timetable	3
Analysis and final recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	6
Draft recommendations consultation	7
Final recommendations	8
The Heatons and Reddish	9
Brinnington, Edgeley and Stockport town centre	11
Cheadle & Heald Green	13
Bramhall and Woodford	19
Hazel Grove and Norbury & Woodsmoor	21
Cale Green, Davenport, Offerton and Manor	23
Bredbury and Romiley	25
Marple and High Lane	26
Conclusions	27
Summary of electoral arrangements	27
What happens next?	29
Equalities	31
Appendices	33
Appendix A	33
Final recommendations for Stockport Council	33
Appendix B	35
Outline map	35
Appendix C	36

Submissions received	36
Appendix D	37
Glossary and abbreviations	37

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.

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

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

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 Stockport?

7 We are conducting a review of Stockport Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2003, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² 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 Stockport 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 Stockport

9 Stockport should be represented by 63 councillors, the same number as present.

10 Stockport should have 21 wards, the same number as present.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; five will stay the same.

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

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.

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

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 March 2021	Number of councillors decided
25 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 August 2021	End of the consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 November 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of the second consultation
10 January 2022	End of the consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
5 April 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 local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown in the table below.

	2021	2027
Electorate of Stockport	222,726	237,272
Number of councillors	63	63
Average number of electors per councillor	3,535	3,766

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 Stockport 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 7% by 2027.

23 We received a submission from the Heald Green Ratepayers' Association during our consultation on warding arrangements that challenged the electoral figures put forward by the Council. The submission argued that the forecast for the existing Heald Green ward was too low. After discussing the matter with the Council,

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.

we were satisfied that the Council's forecast for Heald Green was underpinned by reasonable evidence and the level of development in the area was expected to continue at the rate originally forecast at the start of the review. We remained satisfied that the projected figures were the best available at the time and used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

24 We received several submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations which suggested that the forecast electorate for the Woodford area was too low. We carefully examined the information provided. However, while we do acknowledge that population and development trends are dynamic, we consider 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 forecast throughout the entire review. This is because it ensures that all who wish to make a submission to us are using the same base forecast figures. We therefore used the current forecasts to formulate our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

25 Stockport Council currently has 63 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

26 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 63 councillors. As Stockport Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁵ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

27 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. This submission suggested a reduction to 45 councillors, arguing that it would allow for significant cost savings. However, the local resident did not provide detailed evidence as to how a council size of 45 would allow the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively. We have therefore decided to confirm our decision that Stockport be represented by 63 councillors as final.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 102 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two borough-wide proposals. One was submitted by the

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

Stockport Council Liberal Democrat Group ('Liberal Democrats'), while the other was submitted by several Stockport Labour-affiliated individuals, who included Navendu Mishra MP (Stockport) and two borough councillors. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

29 The two borough-wide schemes provided for a uniform pattern of 21 three-councillor wards for Stockport. While the scheme submitted by several Labour-affiliated individuals resulted in wards with good levels of electoral equality and generally used identifiable boundaries, the proposals did not contain sufficient evidence relating to community identities and interests. The Liberal Democrats' scheme contained some community evidence, retaining all but two of the existing wards. However, some of their proposed wards would have poor forecast electoral equality by 2027, as a result of the proposals being based on the 'next' election, rather than a forecast of electors five years after the final recommendations are published.

30 Therefore, our draft recommendations were based predominantly on the local evidence that we received, which provided good evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas, we considered that the submissions received did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

31 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, we carried out a detailed virtual tour of Stockport. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the draft recommendations.

32 Our draft recommendations were for 21 three-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

33 We received 982 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from various political groups, several borough councillors and 962 local residents. The majority of submissions focused on specific areas. In particular, we received a large number of objections to our draft recommendations from local residents living in the Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme areas.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to our wards in the Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme areas. We have also

altered the boundaries between our draft Heald Green, Cheadle West & Gatley, Brinnington & Central and Davenport & Cale Green wards based on the evidence we have received. We also recommend several ward name changes because of these boundary amendments.

Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for 21 three-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.

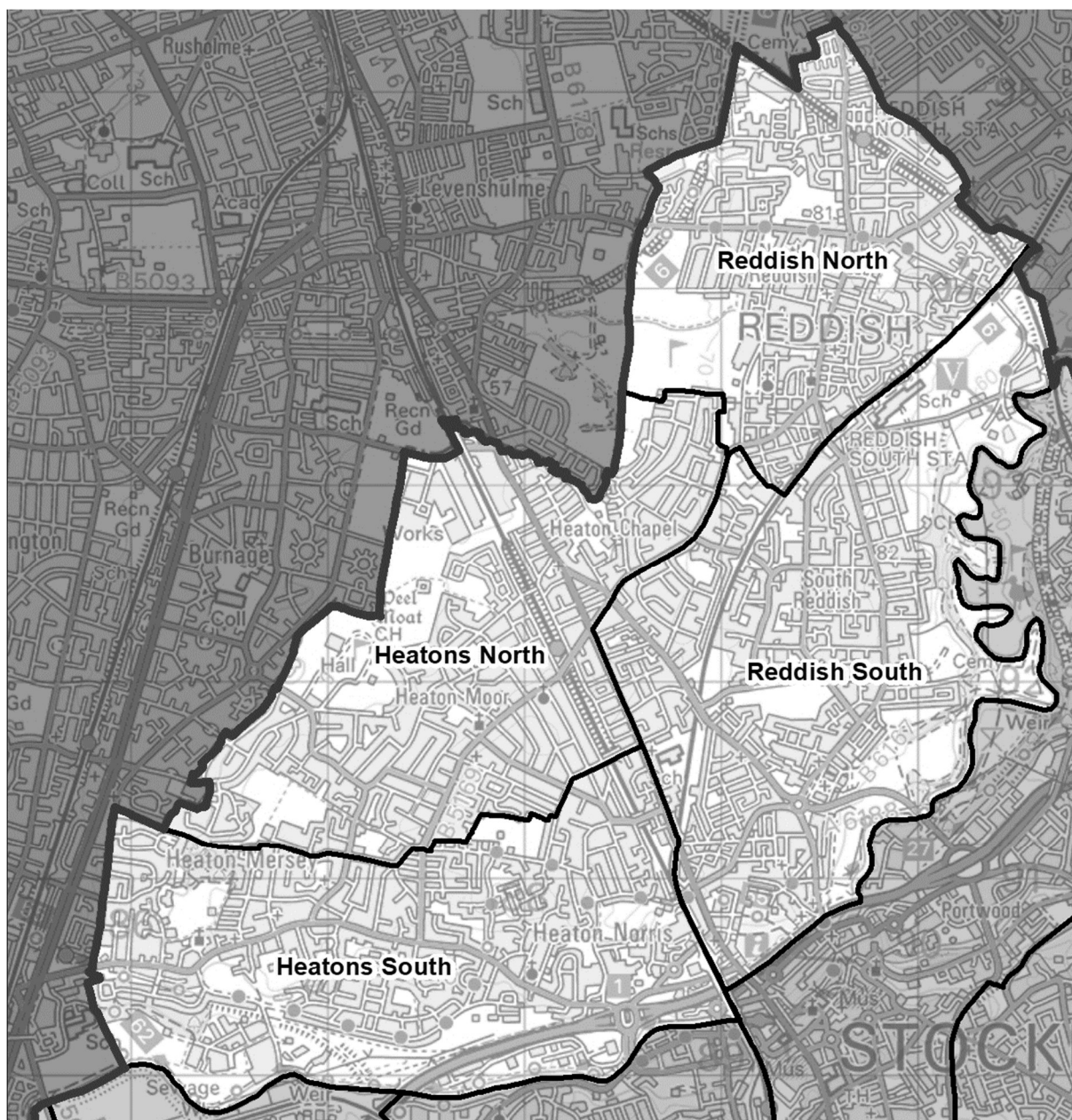
36 The tables and maps on pages 9–26 detail our final recommendations for each area of Stockport. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

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

37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 26 and the large map accompanying this report.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

The Heatons and Reddish



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Heatons North	3	2%
Heatons South	3	1%
Reddish North	3	6%
Reddish South	3	3%

Heatons North and Heatons South

38 We received three submissions relating to these wards. The Liberal Democrats supported our recommendations in full. A local resident supported the retention of the existing Heatons North ward, while another local resident requested that the boundary between our proposed Heaton North and Reddish South wards follow the

railway line, as opposed to Broadstone Road. We could not adopt this proposal as it would result in a Reddish South ward with a forecast electoral variance of -22%, which would not provide for good electoral equality.

39 In the absence of any further submissions relating to our proposed Heatons North and Heatons South wards, we are confirming our draft recommendations for both wards as final.

Reddish North and Reddish South

40 The Liberal Democrats supported our draft recommendations for these wards. A local resident opposed our decision to move the current southern boundary of Reddish South ward from Belmont Way and Tiviot Way to the M60 motorway. However, we were not persuaded to amend our draft recommendations, as we remain of the view that the motorway represents a strong and more identifiable boundary. In addition, as outlined in our draft recommendations, following the M60 motorway also results in better forecast electoral equality between our proposed Reddish South and Brinnington & Central wards. We therefore confirm our draft Reddish North and Reddish South wards as final.

Brinnington, Edgeley and Stockport town centre



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Brinnington & Stockport Central	3	-4%
Edgeley	3	0%

Brinnington & Stockport Central

41 The Liberal Democrats supported this ward in full. We also received four submissions from local residents who opposed the inclusion of the Shaw Heath area in our proposed Brinnington & Central ward, providing evidence that the area should be included in a Davenport & Cale Green ward. We were persuaded by the evidence received that the Shaw Heath area has closer links with the communities that

comprise our proposed Davenport & Cale Green ward and have therefore included the area in Davenport & Cale Green ward.

42 Another local resident suggested that this ward be renamed 'Brinnington & Stockport Central', stating that the exclusion of Stockport in the name resulted in an ambiguous ward name that was not recognisable to local electors who reside in Stockport town centre. We agree that the name Brinnington & Stockport Central better reflects the communities that reside in this ward and we have adopted this ward name change as part of our final recommendations.

Edgeley

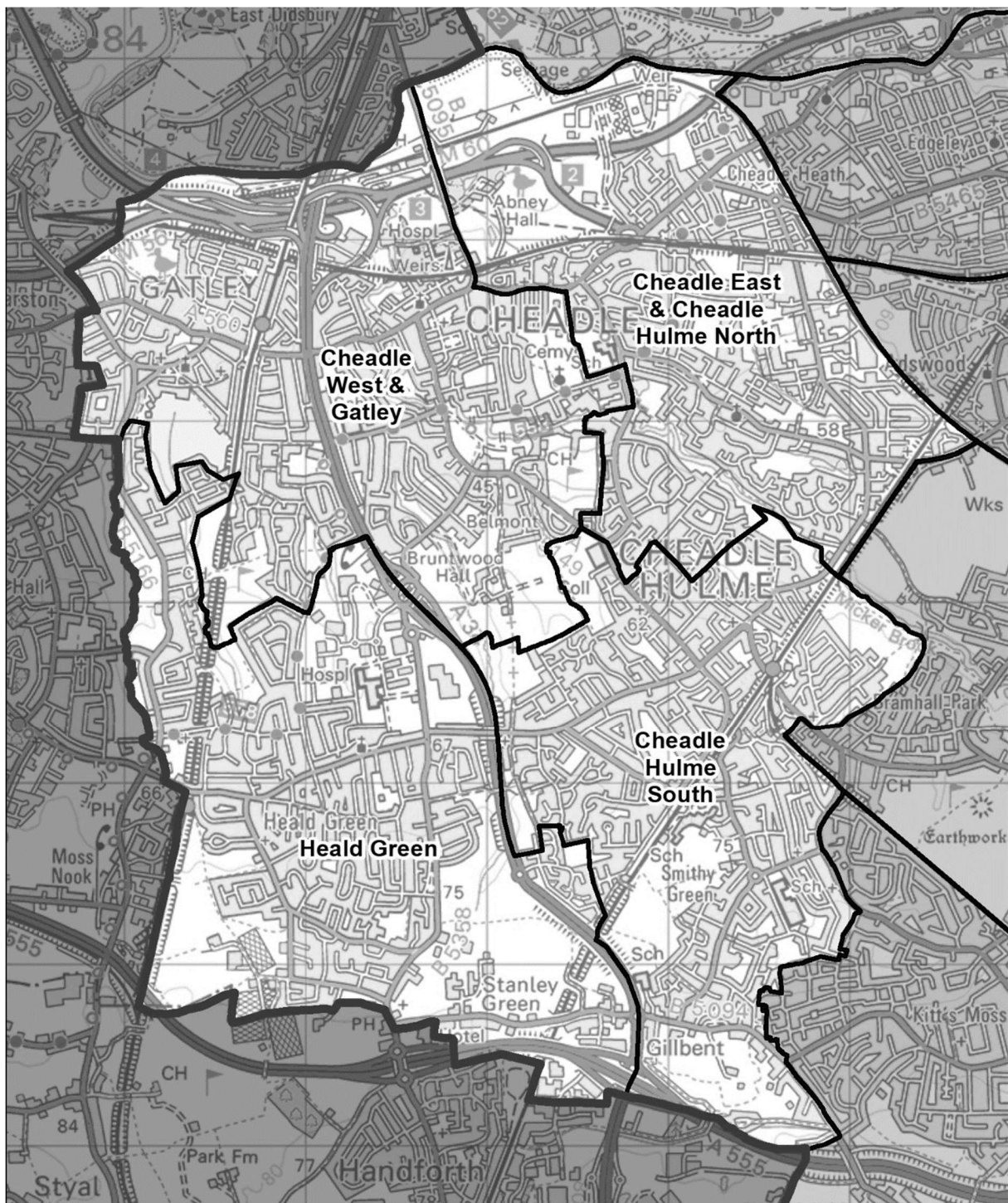
43 We received several submissions relating to our proposed Edgeley ward, with four local residents supportive of our decision to transfer the area bounded by the Sykes Reservoir and the railway line from the current Davenport & Cale Green ward.

44 One local resident opposed the western boundary, which followed the railway line, instead suggesting the boundary should follow St Lesmo Road. We decided not to adopt this proposal as we consider that the railway line represents a stronger and more identifiable boundary. Another local resident opposed the division of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath between wards, arguing that they share a common community identity. However, including Cheadle Heath in a ward with Edgeley would result in a ward with a forecast electoral variance of 25% by 2027, which we consider to be unacceptably high.

45 The Labour Group suggested that Edgeley ward be renamed 'Edgeley & Alexandra Park'. We decided not to adopt this ward name change as no community evidence was provided to support this proposal.

46 With no further submissions received for this area, we are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Edgeley ward as final.

Cheadle & Heald Green



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Cheadle East & Cheadle Hulme North	3	8%
Cheadle Hulme South	3	9%
Cheadle West & Gatley	3	6%
Heald Green	3	3%

Cheadle East & Cheadle Hulme North

47 We received over 200 submissions that opposed our draft Cheadle East & Cheadle Heath ward. These submissions were predominantly received from electors residing on Meadway Road, Crossefield Road, Ladybridge Road, the Ladybridge estate and the Calderbrook estate. They opposed the inclusion of their area within our proposed Cheadle East & Cheadle Heath ward. They provided community evidence that they should remain within a Cheadle Hulme-centric ward.

48 We therefore examined the alternative warding arrangements received. The Liberal Democrats suggested that the Cheadle Heath part of the proposed ward remain within Edgeley ward, as at present. They also stated that the junction of Ladybridge Road, Adswood Road and Bird Hall Road would represent a strong ward boundary. We could not adopt this proposal because, as outlined in paragraph 42, placing Cheadle Heath in a ward with Edgeley would result in a ward with a forecast electoral variance of 25% by 2027, which we consider to be unacceptably high.

49 We determined that the Conservative proposal, which kept electors on Meadway Road, Crossefield Road and Ladybridge Road within a Cheadle East & Cheadle Heath ward, would not reflect community identities, based on the evidence we had received during the consultation, so we did not adopt their proposal.

50 An alternative proposal was also made by residents of Crossefield Road and Meadway Road. They suggested that the boundary of our proposed Cheadle Hulme ward move northwards to follow the Micker Brook in its entirety, while also transferring electors on Ravenoak Road, Park Road, Hylton Drive and Manor Close from our proposed Cheadle Hulme ward into Bramhall North ward. They also suggested that the electors residing on Europa Way and its adjacent roads be included within our proposed Cheadle East & Cheadle Heath ward. They argued that such a proposal would reflect communities and achieve good electoral equality between wards.

51 While this proposal, in isolation, would provide for good electoral equality, it does not account for changes we have made to adjacent wards in response to strong community evidence we received during the consultation on our draft recommendations. When proposing new warding arrangements, we must also have regard to the consequential effects that any proposal will have upon the wider communities of the borough. Having very carefully considered the evidence received, we have decided not to adopt these proposals as part of the final recommendations.

52 We nonetheless recognise that electors residing on Meadway Road, Crossefield Road, Ladybridge Road, the Ladybridge estate and the Calderbrook estate have a strong affinity to the Cheadle Hulme community and wish to remain within a Cheadle Hulme-centric ward. We therefore developed our own warding

pattern that would provide the best reflection of statutory criteria while also taking into account various boundary changes in neighbouring wards.

53 We have decided to recommend a Cheadle East & Cheadle Hulme North ward, adopting the ward name suggestion submitted by the Liberal Democrats. We found that when devising a pattern of wards for the Cheadle Hulme area, it was not possible to retain a single Cheadle Hulme ward that incorporates the whole of Cheadle Hulme if we are to achieve good electoral equality. We therefore consider it appropriate, to an extent, to return to the existing arrangement which divided the Cheadle Hulme area between two wards on a north and south basis, thus better reflecting the composition of communities in the area. Such an arrangement was advocated by numerous local residents. Our final recommendations for Cheadle East & Cheadle Hulme North ward places electors residing on the part of Ladybridge Road north of the Micker Brook, the Ladybridge estate and the Calderbrook estate within our Cheadle East & Cheadle Hulme North ward, and those residing on Meadway Road, Crossefield Road and the part of Ladybridge Road south of the Micker Brook within a Cheadle Hulme South ward.

54 We received a submission from a local resident who lives in the Bird Hall Road area, which supported our decision to move this area from Davenport & Cale Green ward, agreeing that the railway line forms a strong and identifiable boundary. This submission strengthened our view that our recommendations for this ward will effectively reflect community identities and interests.

Cheadle Hulme South

55 Our final Cheadle Hulme South ward is predominantly composed of our draft Cheadle Hulme ward, subject to the transfer of the Gillbent area from our proposed Bramhall South & Woodford ward to our Cheadle Hulme South ward based on the evidence received during consultation. The Conservatives and several local residents had opposed our decision to include this area in Bramhall South & Woodford ward, providing strong community evidence that this area shares much closer links with the Cheadle Hulme community. They argued that placing focal points of the Cheadle Hulme community, such as the All Saints Parish Church, Cheadle Hulme High School and Cheadle Hulme Cricket Club, within a Bramhall South & Woodford ward, would not effectively represent community identities or interests.

56 We have been persuaded by the evidence received. Consequently, as part of our final recommendations, we have reverted to the existing boundary between the current Cheadle Hulme South and Bramhall South & Woodford wards, thereby placing the Gillbent area within our proposed Cheadle Hulme South ward.

Cheadle West & Gatley

57 We received 10 submissions from local residents residing on Bulkeley Road who opposed our decision to transfer the road from the current Cheadle West & Gatley ward into our proposed Cheadle East & Cheadle Heath ward. They argued that Bulkeley Road, and the adjacent streets of New Hey Road, Newbould Road and Frances Street, have stronger links with communities in our proposed Cheadle West & Gatley ward. We were persuaded by the evidence received and have placed these roads in Cheadle West & Gatley ward as part of our final recommendations. For this reason, we decided not to adopt the Conservative proposition, which kept these electors within a Cheadle East & Cheadle Heath ward, as a result of their proposal to follow the Micker Brook as a boundary.

58 The Conservatives' proposals for the Cheadle and Cheadle Hulme area also included roads north of Turves Road in their proposed Cheadle West & Gatley ward, suggesting electors here have close links with Bruntwood Park and the Cheadle community towards the north of the ward. We were not persuaded to adopt this proposal as we consider this area to have closer links with Cheadle Hulme, with community identities and interests best served by retaining both sides of Turves Road in a Cheadle Hulme South ward.

59 We have adopted a local resident's suggestion to include the entirety of Brooklands Road in our proposed Cheadle West & Gatley ward. We consider placing the entirety of the road in a single ward will contribute to effective and convenient local government. This minor amendment will also slightly improve electoral equality between wards.

60 The Liberal Democrats also agreed with our decision to change the ward name from Cheadle & Gatley to Cheadle West & Gatley. We are therefore recommending this ward name as part of our final recommendations.

61 Some local residents also queried why Cheadle had to be split into two wards on an east and west basis. However, given that Stockport elects a third of its councillors each year, there is a presumption in law that it will have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. Therefore, it is necessary to place parts of Cheadle with either Gatley to the west, or the northern part of Cheadle Hulme to the east, to achieve good electoral equality and maintain a three-member warding pattern. In this case, we considered the evidence provided was not compelling enough to move away from this pattern of wards.

Heald Green

62 The Liberal Democrats, the Heald Green Ratepayers' Association, Councillor Charles-Jones (a current Heald Green ward councillor) and several local residents supported our proposed Heald Green ward, which retained the boundaries of the current ward. However, while we acknowledge the support received for our draft

Heald Green ward, we found that potentially expanding the ward would allow for a better reflection of the statutory criteria for adjacent wards. This was observed by the Conservatives, Councillor Bagnall, Councillor Hurleston and a local resident, all of whom noted the relatively low forecast electoral variance of -7% for our proposed Heald Green ward, in comparison to the relatively high electoral variances of adjacent wards. The Conservatives thereby suggested various boundary modifications that would expand our Heald Green ward, which would consequently help reconfigure wards in the Cheadle and Cheadle Hulme areas to better reflect our statutory criteria.

63 The Conservatives proposed to extend the ward northwards, on the western side, incorporating electors along Styal Road. They also proposed to incorporate the Eden Point area and the Stanley Green Business Park area within an enlarged Heald Green ward. The latter proposal was also suggested by a local resident who argued the A34 represented a stronger boundary than the railway line in this part of the borough.

64 We are broadly adopting the modifications suggested by the Conservatives as part of our final recommendations. We have incorporated electors along Styal Road, up to the junction of Hollyhedge Road, as opposed to the Conservative suggestion which placed the boundary further north, reaching the junction of Altrincham Road. We consider this to be a stronger boundary and we determined electors bounded by Altrincham Road, Hollyhedge Road, Styal Road and the borough boundary to share closer links with Gatley. This proposal allows us to include Bulkeley Road and its adjacent roads within Cheadle West & Gatley ward, as detailed in paragraph 57, while also ensuring good electoral equality between wards.

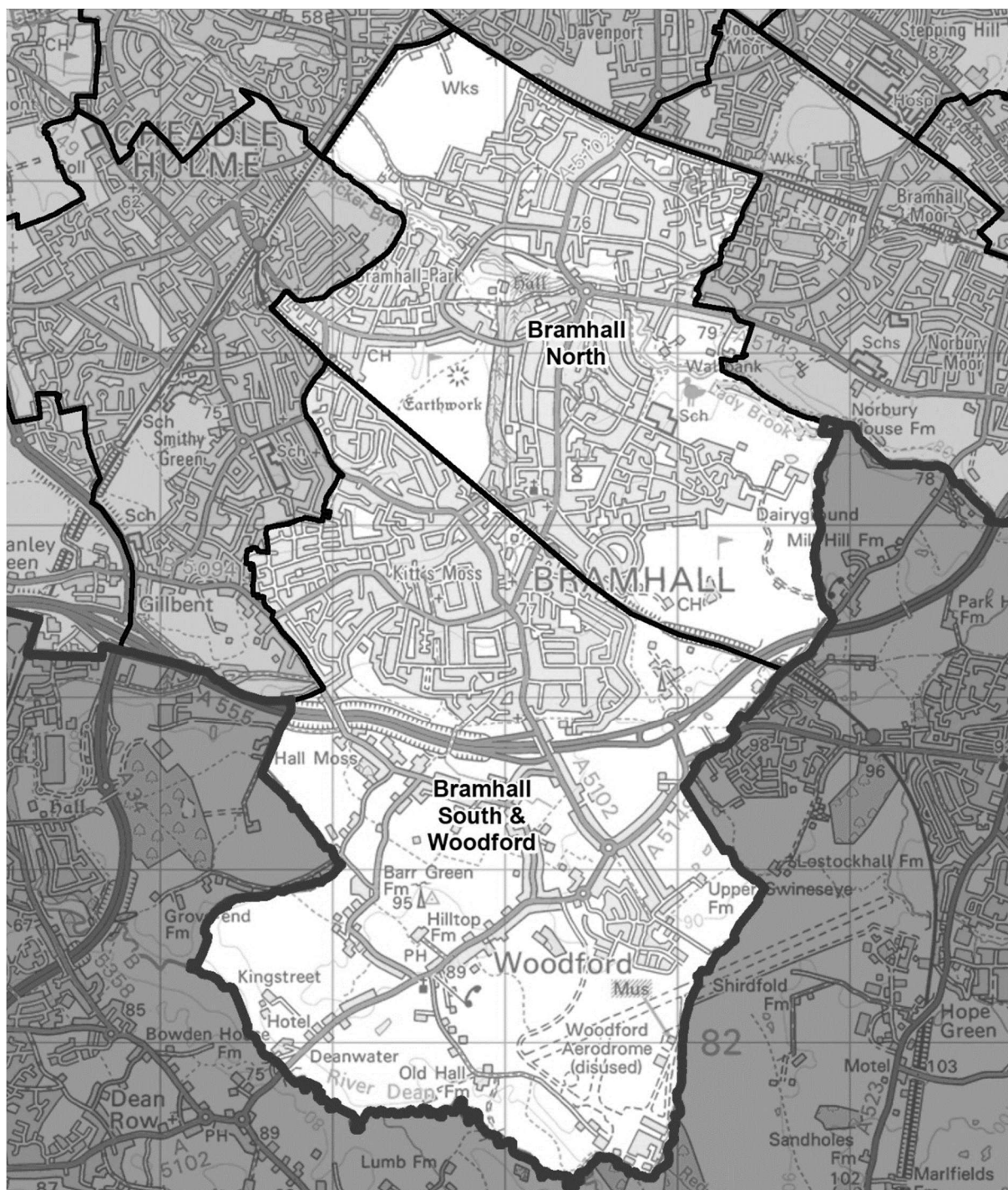
65 We have adopted the proposal to include electors residing at Eden Point and the Stanley Green Business Park in a Heald Green ward in full. We were persuaded by the evidence received that the Eden Point area is somewhat isolated from the Cheadle Hulme community and has stronger road and community links with the Heald Green community, despite the presence of the A34. We also agree that the Stanley Green Business Park area shares closer road and community links with Heald Green. Adopting this proposal also means our proposed Cheadle Hulme South ward is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027 – including these two areas within a Cheadle Hulme South ward would have resulted in a forecast electoral variance of 13%.

66 While we have moved away from our draft recommendations for Heald Green ward, which received a measure of support during consultation, we consider these modifications to provide the best reflection of the statutory criteria for Heald Green ward and its adjacent wards. Our final recommendations provide for a three-councillor Heald Green ward which would have a forecast electoral variance of 3% by 2027.

67 Two local residents requested the electors residing in the area between Wilmslow Road and the A34 be transferred to a Cheadle Hulme or Bramhall South & Woodford ward. We did not adopt this proposal as insufficient community evidence was provided to support this boundary change.

68 A local resident requested that Moss Nook be incorporated into Stockport borough from Manchester City Council. However, changing the external boundaries between Stockport and neighbouring local authorities falls outside the scope of the current electoral review, so no changes of this nature can be made.

Bramhall and Woodford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bramhall North	3	-7%
Bramhall South & Woodford	3	0%

Bramhall North

69 We received over 500 submissions that objected to our draft recommendations for Bramhall North ward, from electors who predominantly reside in the area

bounded by the railway line, Bramhall Lane South, Bridge Lane and Fred Perry Way. They argued that they should remain warded in a Bramhall North ward, rather than be placed in our proposed Norbury ward. We received strong evidence from electors in this area that they form an integral part of the Bramhall community and placing them in a Norbury ward would be harmful to their community identities and interests.

70 The Conservatives and several local residents suggested the boundary move eastwards from Bramhall Lane South to Fred Perry Way, thereby including this area in a Bramhall North ward. We have adopted this proposal, as we were persuaded that this modification will better reflect community identities.

71 We have also included electors in the Park Road and Manor Road area in our proposed Bramhall North ward, as put forward by the Conservatives. A similar suggestion was also made by local residents of Crossefield Road and Meadway Road, who suggested transferring electors on Ravenoak Road, Park Road, Hylton Drive and Manor Close from our proposed Cheadle Hulme ward to Bramhall North ward. We agree that electors in this area share close links with the Bramhall community and placing them within our Bramhall North ward will reflect community identities and improve electoral equality between wards.

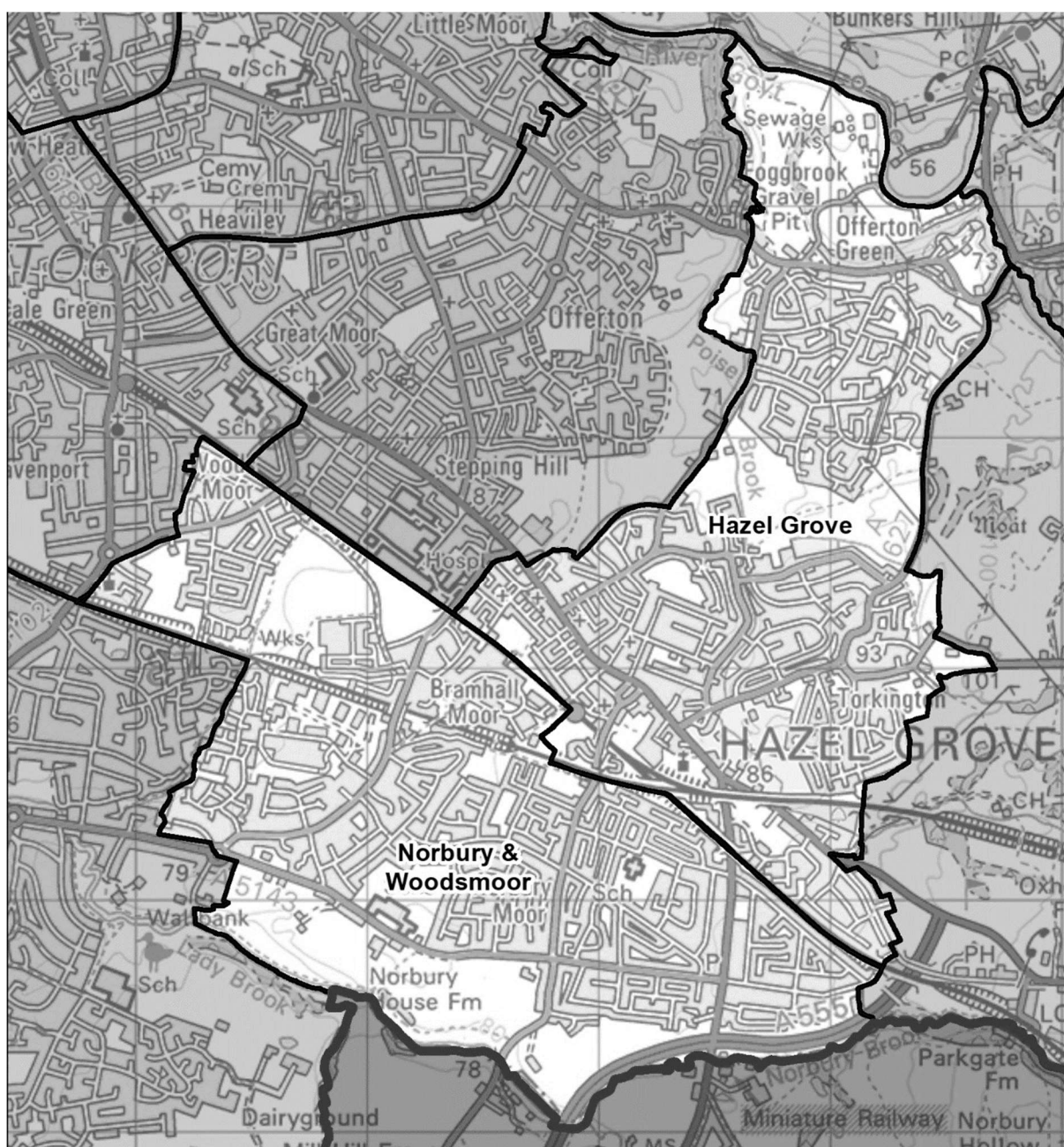
Bramhall South & Woodford

72 Over 100 submissions were received during the consultation on the draft recommendations, which opposed the boundaries of our Bramhall South & Woodford ward. These focused on our decision to follow Ack Lane East and Ack Lane West as the boundary between our proposed Bramhall South & Woodford and Bramhall North wards, as opposed to the current boundary which follows the railway line. It was argued that placing the boundary along the road would unnecessarily divide Bramhall Village between wards, which would not contribute to effective and convenient local government. Several submissions also stressed the close links the Woodford community has with the south of Bramhall, opposing our draft recommendations that linked Woodford in a ward with the Gillbent area of Cheadle Hulme and placed the Little Australia area in Bramhall North ward.

73 We carefully considered the evidence provided and have decided to revert to the existing Bramhall South & Woodford ward as part of our final recommendations. We were persuaded that doing so will result in a better reflection of community identities and result in clearer ward boundaries.

74 Four local residents requested that the Woodford area become its own ward. We could not adopt this proposal as a three-councillor ward would have a forecast electoral variance of -78% by 2027, which is unacceptably high.

Hazel Grove and Norbury & Woodsmoor



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Hazel Grove	3	-3%
Norbury & Woodsmoor	3	-5%

Hazel Grove

75 We received several submissions relating to Hazel Grove ward, with a mixture of support and opposition to our proposals. The Conservatives and two local residents opposed our decision to include the Bosden Farm area within Hazel Grove ward, while three other local residents supported this decision. The Liberal

Democrats supported this ward, stating that producing coherent wards in this area of the borough was a difficult task.

76 Despite receiving some opposition to this ward, no alternative warding proposal that would adequately reflect our statutory criteria was submitted. Therefore, we are confirming our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

77 A local resident asked why Vaudrey Drive was not included in our proposed Norbury ward. We decided to place this area in Hazel Grove ward as we determined keeping Hazel Grove station and Hazel Grove Cricket Club within a Hazel Grove ward would better reflect community identities.

78 A local resident suggested that this ward be renamed Torkington. We did not adopt this proposal as insufficient community evidence was provided to support this ward name change.

Norbury & Woodsmoor

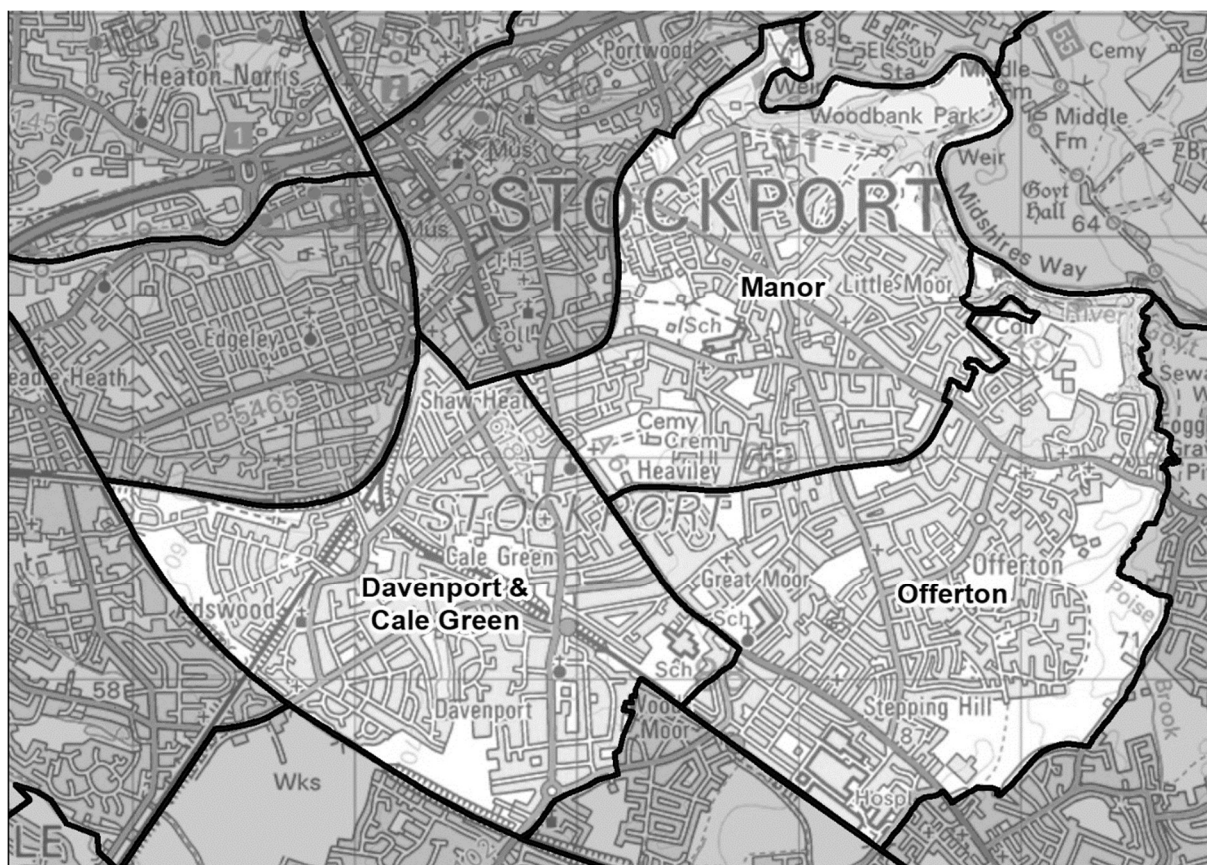
79 While we received over 500 submissions from residents predominantly residing in the area bound by the railway line, Bramhall Lane South, Bridge Lane and Fred Perry Way who opposed being included in our proposed Norbury ward, we did receive several submissions from those who reside in the remainder of the proposed ward who supported our proposed ward. These submissions indicated that the ward provided a good reflection of community identities and interests across the area.

80 While the Conservatives were not fully persuaded by the creation of a Norbury ward, they understood the reasoning behind our recommendations. The Conservatives nonetheless presented some modifications to our proposed Norbury ward, which, in their view, would result in a ward that would better reflect our statutory criteria. They suggested that we move the western boundary towards Woodsmoor Lane, thereby including the Woodsmoor community within this ward. This proposal was also supported by a local resident, who argued that the Woodsmoor area should become part of a Norbury & Woodsmoor ward.

81 We have decided to adopt these proposals as part of our final recommendations. We also consider that renaming the ward Norbury & Woodsmoor will recognise the distinct communities that will comprise this ward.

82 A local resident suggested that Norbury ward be renamed Hazel Grove. We did not adopt this proposal as insufficient community evidence was provided to support this ward name change.

Cale Green, Davenport, Offerton and Manor



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Davenport & Cale Green	3	3%
Manor	3	-7%
Offerton	3	3%

Davenport & Cale Green

83 We received three submissions relating to Davenport & Cale Green ward. One local resident supported the ward configuration – particularly our decision to adopt their proposal made during the previous consultation, which requested that we place both sides of Bramhall Lane within the ward. The Liberal Democrats supported this ward, stating that producing coherent wards in this area of the borough was a difficult task.

84 Another local resident suggested that the area between Stockport Grammar School, Stepping Hill Hospital and south of the A6 be included in our Davenport & Cale Green ward, while also transferring Adswood into an Edgeley ward. We decided not to adopt this proposal as it would result in a vastly under-represented three-councillor Edgeley ward.

85 Nonetheless, we have modified our draft Davenport & Cale Green ward based on evidence received during consultation. As detailed in paragraph 45, we have transferred the Shaw Heath area into this ward to reflect community identities and interests. Furthermore, as justified in paragraph 80, we have also transferred the Woodsmoor area into our proposed Norbury & Woodsmoor ward. Apart from these changes, we recommend no further changes to this ward. We consider our final recommendations for Davenport & Cale Green ward to provide a good reflection of the statutory criteria, with the ward forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027.

Manor

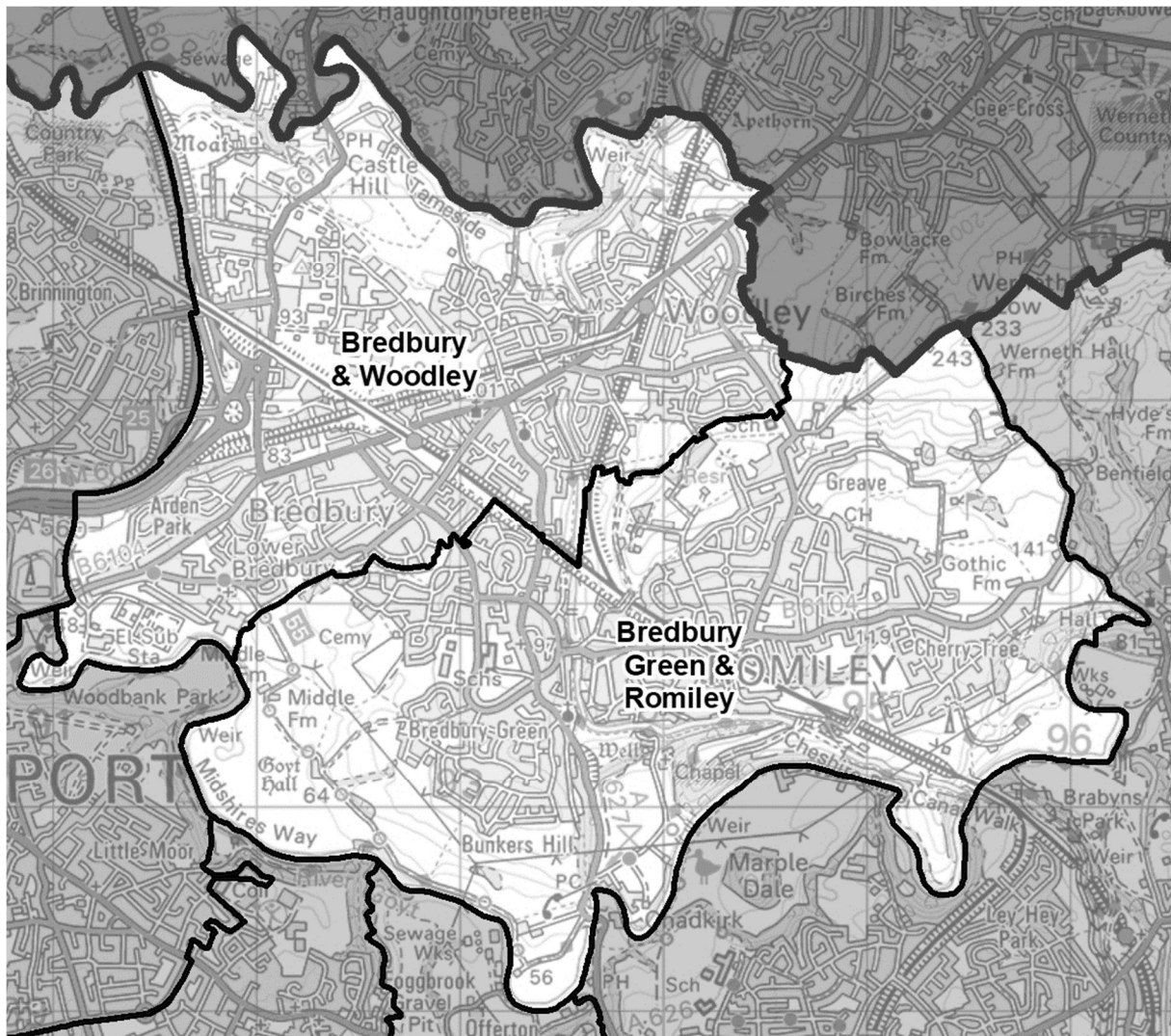
86 The Liberal Democrats supported this ward, stating that producing coherent wards in this area of the borough was a difficult task. We also received two submissions from local residents that related to Manor ward. One requested that Elizabeth Avenue and several adjacent streets be included in Manor ward rather than Brinnington & Central ward and that Edward Street/Waterloo Road or Wellington Street form the northern boundary of Manor ward. We decided not to adopt this proposal as we consider that, as a main road, St Mary's Way represents an identifiable and strong boundary between communities in the town centre and communities within Manor ward.

87 The other local resident requested the ward name change to either 'Little Moor (after the area it is focused on) or Woodbank after the park'. However, we have decided not to adopt either suggestion made by the local resident. We were not persuaded that sufficient community evidence had been provided to warrant making changes to the ward name. We also note the opposition received during the previous consultation to the potential renaming of the ward to Little Moor. We are therefore confirming our proposed Manor ward as final.

Offerton

88 We received five submissions that related to this ward. The Liberal Democrats supported this ward. Five local residents opposed the inclusion of Great Moor within the ward. In consideration, we examined whether we could transfer the Great Moor area into any of the adjacent wards. However, doing so would result in an Offerton ward with a forecast electoral variance of -12%, which would not provide for good electoral equality. We therefore did not adopt this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

Bredbury and Romiley

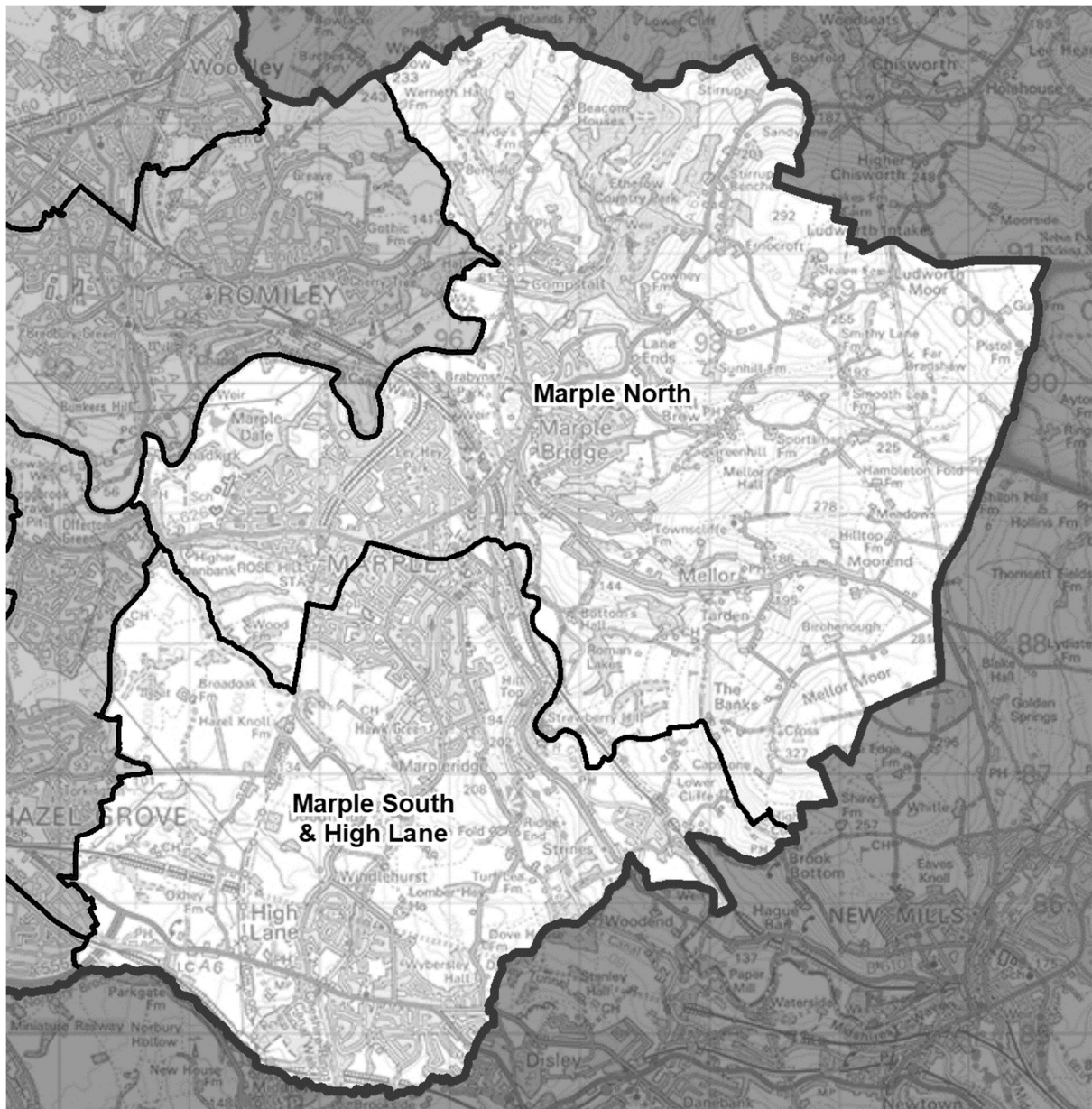


Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bredbury & Woodley	3	2%
Bredbury Green & Romiley	3	-2%

Bredbury & Woodley and Bredbury Green & Romiley

89 The Liberal Democrats supported these two wards in full. We received no further submissions that related directly to these wards. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

Marple and High Lane



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Marple North	3	-10%
Marple South & High Lane	3	-8%

Marple North and Marple South & High Lane

90 The Liberal Democrats supported these two wards in full. We received one submission from a local resident who supported the retention of the existing Marple North ward. With no further submissions received that related to the wards in the east of the borough, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Conclusions

91 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Stockport, referencing the 2022 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 in Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2022	2027
Number of councillors	63	63
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	3,535	3,766
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Stockport Council should be made up of 63 councillors serving 21 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 Stockport. You can also view our final recommendations for Stockport on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

92 We have now completed our review of Stockport 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

93 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 Stockport Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bramhall North	3	10,019	3,340	-6%	10,497	3,499	-7%
2	Bramhall South & Woodford	3	10,139	3,380	-4%	11,302	3,767	0%
3	Bredbury & Woodley	3	11,092	3,697	5%	11,555	3,852	2%
4	Bredbury Green & Romiley	3	10,596	3,532	0%	11,040	3,680	-2%
5	Brinnington & Stockport Central	3	8,692	2,897	-18%	10,831	3,610	-4%
6	Cheadle East & Cheadle Hulme North	3	11,630	3,877	10%	12,187	4,062	8%
7	Cheadle Hulme South	3	11,907	3,969	12%	12,360	4,120	9%
8	Cheadle West & Gatley	3	11,574	3,858	9%	11,937	3,979	6%
9	Davenport & Cale Green	3	11,158	3,719	5%	11,694	3,898	3%
10	Edgeley	3	8,885	2,962	-16%	11,307	3,769	0%
11	Hazel Grove	3	10,494	3,498	-1%	10,922	3,641	-3%

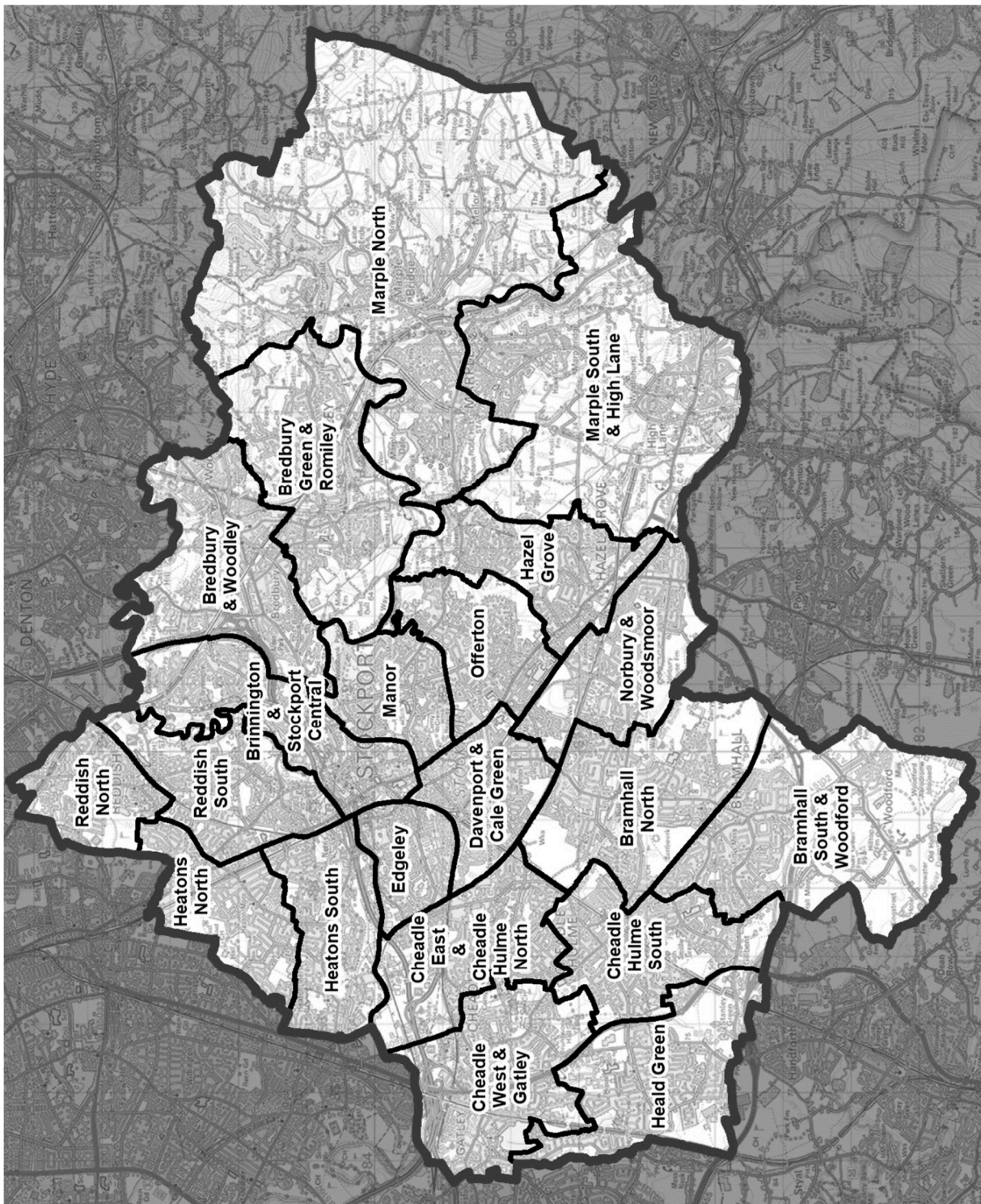
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Heald Green	3	11,138	3,713	5%	11,659	3,886	3%
13 Heatons North	3	11,035	3,678	4%	11,540	3,847	2%
14 Heatons South	3	10,844	3,615	2%	11,403	3,801	1%
15 Manor	3	10,086	3,362	-5%	10,553	3,518	-7%
16 Marple North	3	9,707	3,236	-8%	10,133	3,378	-10%
17 Marple South & High Lane	3	9,930	3,310	-6%	10,341	3,447	-8%
18 Norbury & Woodsmoor	3	10,181	3,394	-4%	10,678	3,559	-5%
19 Offerton	3	11,141	3,714	5%	11,628	3,876	3%
20 Reddish North	3	11,378	3,793	7%	12,017	4,006	6%
21 Reddish South	3	11,100	3,700	5%	11,689	3,896	3%
Totals	63	222,726	-	-	237,272	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,535	-	-	3,766	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Stockport 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/north-west/greater-manchester/stockport

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/greater-manchester/stockport

Political Groups

- Stockport Council Conservative Group
- Stockport Council Labour Group
- Stockport Council Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor B. Bagnall (2 submissions) (Stockport Council)
- Councillor A. Charles-Jones (Stockport Council)
- Councillor L. Holt (Stockport Council)
- Councillor M. Hurleston (Stockport Council)
- Councillors T. Morrison and J. Julian (Stockport Council)

Local Organisations

- Bramhall in Bloom
- Cheadle Hulme High School – Laurus Trust
- Heald Green Ratepayers' Association
- I Love Communities
- The Mounting Stone Public House
- Wain Estates
- Woodford & Bramhall Royal British Legion
- Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

Local Residents

- 962 local residents

Petitions

- Residents of Meadway Road and Crossefield Road
- Ladybridge Park Estate Residents' Petition
- Petition to stop the implementation of the draft electoral arrangements for the Norbury and Bramhall North wards
- Residents of Walmer Drive

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 that 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.

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

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE