



New electoral arrangements for Stoke-on-Trent City Council Final Recommendations

November 2021

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Stoke-on-Trent?

7 We are conducting a review of Stoke-on-Trent City Council ('the Council') as some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors is as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Stoke-on-Trent 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 city.

Our proposals for Stoke-on-Trent

9 Stoke-on-Trent should be represented by 44 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Stoke-on-Trent should have 34 wards, three fewer than there are now.

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

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Stoke-on-Trent.

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

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Stoke-on-Trent. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the city. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

16 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
14 December 2020	Number of councillors decided
6 January 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
16 March 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
1 June 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
9 August 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
30 November 2021	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 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.

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.

	2020	2026
Electorate of Stoke-on-Trent	175,529	185,426
Number of councillors	44	44
Average number of electors per councillor	3,989	4,214

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 Stoke-on-Trent will have good electoral equality by 2026.

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 2026, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2021. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5.6% by 2026.

23 The increased electorate is driven by housing developments across the city include in the Meir, Penkhull and Trentham areas as well as the city centre.

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.

24 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

25 Stoke-on-Trent Council currently has 44 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 44 councillors: for example, 44 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

27 During this consultation we received no further submissions about the exact number of councillors. We have therefore based our final recommendations on a 44-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 163 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three city-wide proposals from Stoke-on-Trent City Council ('the Council'), Stoke-on-Trent City Council Labour Group ('the Labour Group') and a local resident. Councillor Brown also made an individual submission in support of the Council's proposals. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the city.

29 The Council proposed a mixed warding pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Stoke-on-Trent. The Labour Group proposed a pattern with three two-councillor wards and 39 single-councillor wards for a total of 45 councillors. The local resident's scheme proposed 44 single-councillor wards. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the submission from the Council resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. The other two proposals, from the Labour Group and a local resident, also generally used clearly identifiable boundaries but did not provide for electoral equality in all areas.

30 Consequently, we generally based our draft recommendations on the proposals from the Council, subject to modifications in some areas to provide clearer boundaries and reflect evidence of community identity received from other local residents and organisations. In some areas we considered that the proposals we 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, there was a detailed virtual tour of Stoke-on-Trent. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

32 Our draft recommendations were for one three-councillor ward, four two-councillor wards and 33 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

33 We received 179 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included submissions from Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Stoke Labour Group, as well as from local residents, with comments and alternative warding patterns across the city. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals to the west of the West Coast Main Line and in the Hanford and Trentham area.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a number of modifications to the wards to the west of the West Coast Main Line, where we propose to adopt the Labour Group proposal with some small amendments based on the submissions received from a number of local residents and local organisations. We also propose to make a number of changes in the Meir Hay and Weston Coyney area to reflect the submissions we received.

35 We have also made minor modifications to the boundaries between Goldenhill & Sandyford and Tunstall and we propose to combine the single-councillor wards of Hanley Park & Shelton and Joiner's Square to form a two-councillor Hanley Park, Joiner's Square & Shelton ward. We also propose to combine the single-councillor wards of Moorcroft and Sneyd Green to make a two-councillor Moorcroft & Sneyd Green ward. Finally, we propose to combine the two-councillor Hanford & Trentham ward and the single-councillor Trentham Lakes & Newstead ward to make a three-councillor Hanford, Newstead & Trentham ward.

Final recommendations

36 Our final recommendations are for two three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and 26 single-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

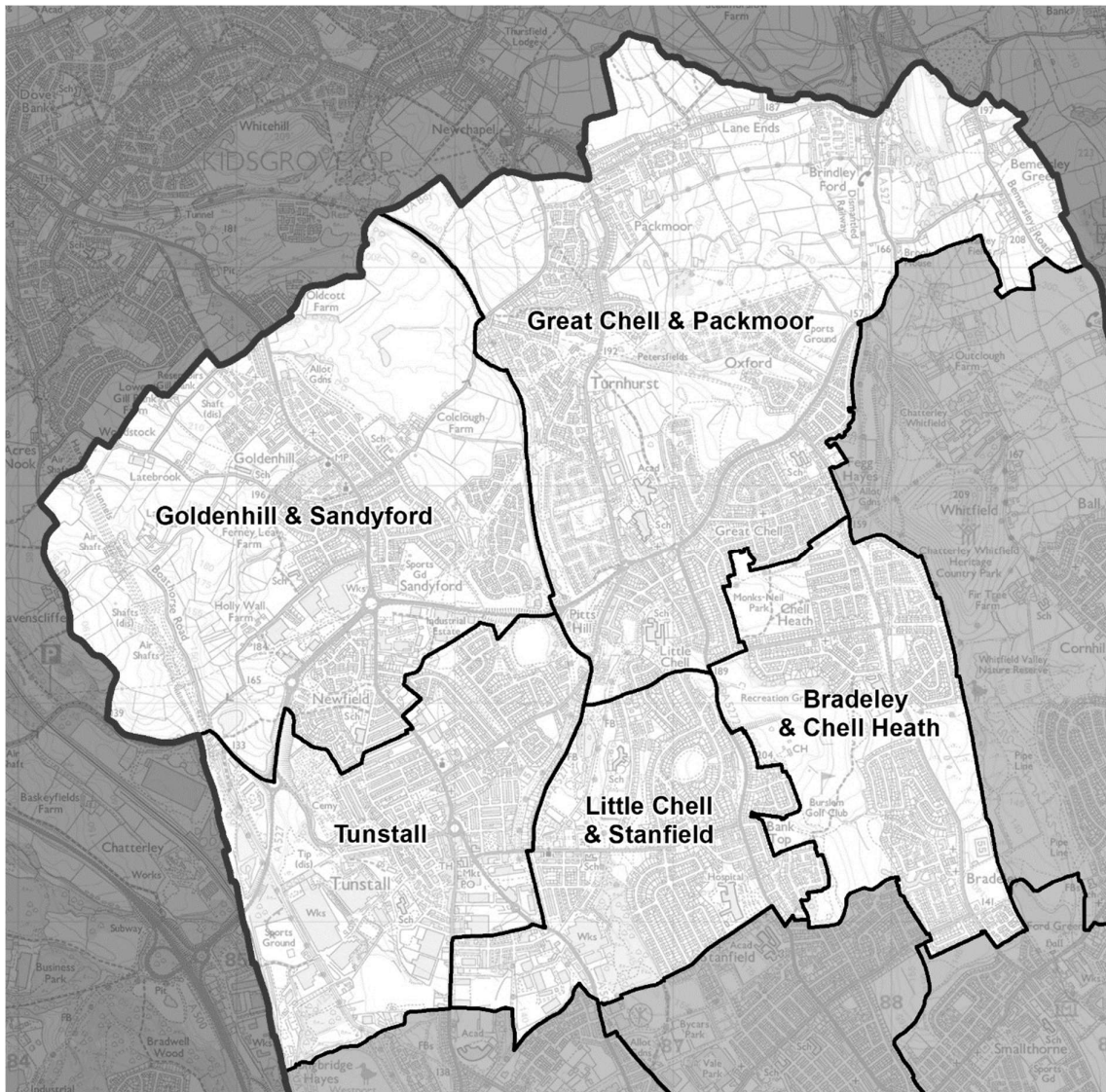
37 The tables and maps on pages 9–34 detail our final recommendations for each area of Stoke-on-Trent. They detail how the proposed arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North West Stoke-on-Trent



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Bradeley & Chell Heath	1	-9%
Goldenhill & Sandyford	1	7%
Great Chell & Packmoor	2	-5%
Little Chell & Stanfield	1	-6%
Tunstall	1	2%

Goldenhill & Sandyford and Tunstall

39 We received nine submissions that referred directly to these two wards. Sandyford & Goldenhill Residents' Association stated their opposition to our draft recommendation to include Adams Avenue and the upper part of High Street (Sandyford) in our proposed Tunstall ward. They did support the inclusion of Bond

Street, Hardy Street, Newfield Street and Smith Child Street in Tunstall ward, as we proposed in our draft recommendations. We did, however, receive several submissions that objected to the inclusion of these streets in Tunstall ward citing their community links to Goldenhill & Sandyford.

40 In other submissions we received support for the inclusion of Botham Grove in Tunstall ward, as well as requests that we consider including the properties at 93–103 The Boulevard and 1–171 Victoria Park Road in Tunstall ward to reflect the community identity of those electors.

41 Having considered the submissions received, we agree that the evidence presented in terms of community links supports the inclusion of 93–103 The Boulevard and 1–171 Victoria Park Road in Tunstall ward. We also propose to return both the Adams Avenue and High Street (Sandyford) and the Bond Street areas from Tunstall ward to Goldenhill & Sandyford ward as part of our final recommendations.

42 Our proposed final recommendations for these two wards are for a single-councillor Goldenhill & Sandyford ward with a forecast electoral variance of 7% and a single-councillor Tunstall ward with a forecast variance of 2%.

Bradeley & Chell Heath, Great Chell & Packmoor and Little Chell & Stanfield

43 Of the submissions received for these wards, the Labour Group asked that we move the roads of Barnett Grove and Stross Avenue and the north side of Little Chell Lane back into Little Chell & Stanfield ward on the basis they have closer ties to the area to the south. The submission from the Council supported our proposal not to divide the two-councillor Great Chell & Packmoor ward into two single-councillor wards.

44 At the previous stage of consultation, a local resident submitted a full warding pattern based on a single-councillor warding pattern across the city. This resident made another submission during the consultation on our draft recommendations. This submission again argued that Stoke-on-Trent should not contain any wards with multiple councillors on the basis that single-councillor wards provide better representation for electors. During the earlier development of our draft recommendations, we considered that resident's proposed division of the Great Chell and Packmoor areas into two wards split coherent communities between wards.

45 The resident's revised proposal again divided the area into two single-councillor wards, although in a different configuration. At the last stage of consultation they proposed to include the areas of Great Chell and Turnhurst in one ward and Packmoor in the other. During this consultation, they proposed to pair Packmoor with Turnhurst in one ward and Great Chell and Fegg Hayes in the other.

46 Three local residents also made submissions in this area. Two wrote in support of the two-councillor Great Chell & Packmoor ward and one in favour of the Bradeley & Chell Heath ward.

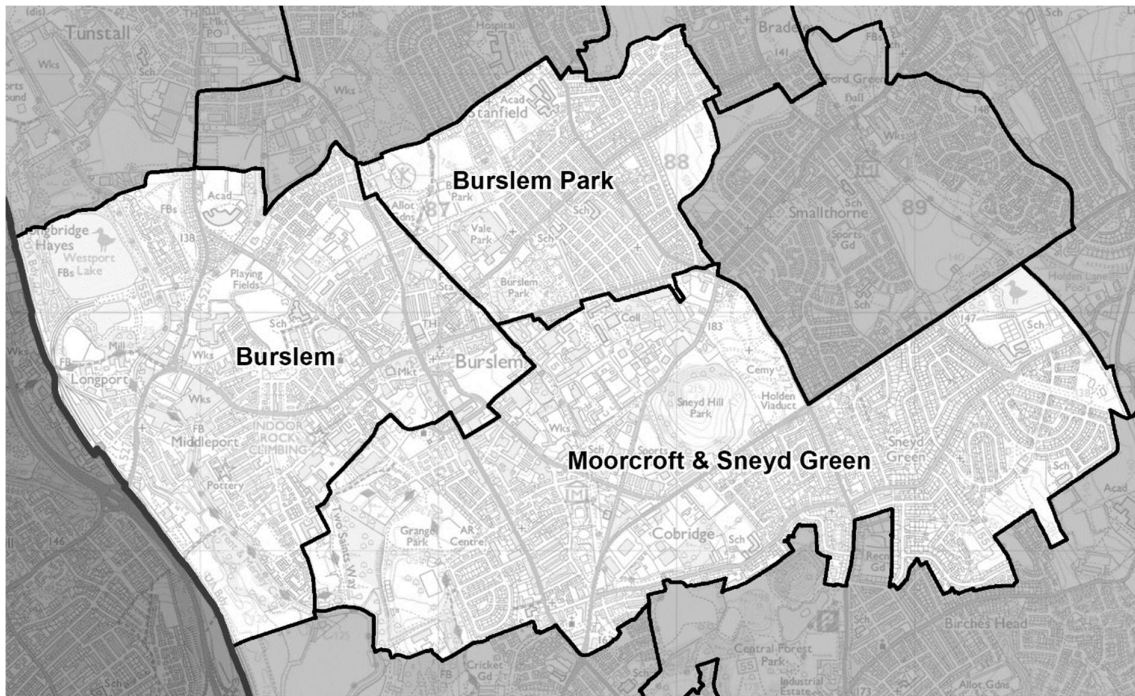
47 Having considered the submissions we have received, we propose to make no changes to our proposals for these wards, with the exception of a minor amendment to move the boundary between Tunstall and Little Chell & Stanfield wards to run along the centre of the A5271 Victoria Park Road (as discussed in paragraphs 40–41).

48 We understand that political parties, local organisations and residents will have differing views as to whether single-councillor or multi-councillor wards work better for councillors and electors. Our role is to propose a pattern of wards that, in our view, provides for the strongest balance in our statutory criteria based on the evidence submitted during our consultation periods. Having considered the proposal from the local resident to divide our proposed Great Chell & Packmoor ward into two single-councillor wards, we are of the view that the revised suggestion would divide coherent communities. In making this decision we noted the support for the proposed two-councillor ward from some local residents and also the Council.

49 We also propose to maintain the centre of Little Chell Lane as the boundary between Great Chell & Packmoor ward and Little Chell & Stanfield ward. We have therefore retained Barnett Grove and Stross Avenue in Great Chell & Packmoor ward. We consider the community evidence we received during our first consultation to be persuasive, with these submissions supporting the inclusion of the two streets in Great Chell & Packmoor ward.

50 Our proposed final recommendations are for a two-councillor Great Chell & Packmoor ward with a forecast electoral variance of -5%, as well as two single-councillor wards of Bradeley & Chell Heath and Little Chell & Stanfield with electoral variances of -9% and -6%, respectively.

North of the City Centre



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Burslem	1	4%
Burslem Park	1	-2%
Moorcroft & Sneyd Green	2	-6%

Burslem and Burslem Park

51 We received relatively few comments on these two wards. The Labour Group objected to the inclusion of the St John's estate (Leonora Street, Cotterill Grove, Pleasant Street and streets off them) in the neighbouring Moorcroft ward, stating their identification with Burslem and the lack of vehicular access to Moorcroft ward. In addition, a local resident wrote in support of Burslem ward.

52 Having considered the submissions received we propose to make no changes to the boundaries between Burslem and Burslem Park wards. Our draft recommendations included St John's estate in Moorcroft ward on the basis of the persuasive evidence we received during our first consultation. We remain of the view that it is appropriate to include this area in Moorcroft ward. We note that the area does have vehicular access onto Waterloo Road via Cross Hill and Woodbank Street. We do, however, propose to make a separate change to the Moorcroft ward, detailed below.

53 Our proposed final recommendations are for two single-councillor wards of Burslem and Burslem Park. Both wards have good electoral equality by 2026 with variances of 4% and -2%, respectively.

Moorcroft & Sneyd Green

54 The Crossways Residents' Association and a local resident wrote to object to the inclusion of the area bounded by Hanley Road, the A53 Leek New Road and Central Forest Park in Moorcroft ward rather than Sneyd Green ward. The representations stated that the current boundary between Sneyd Green ward and Moorcroft ward, which runs along Hanley Road, is an artificial barrier that divides the Sneyd Green community. They added that electors living on both sides of this boundary use the same schools, as well as faith, leisure and shopping facilities.

55 Having considered all of the submissions received across both consultation periods, we agree that the current boundary divides the Sneyd Green community. We looked at whether it was possible to include the area mentioned above in the existing Sneyd Green ward, but this would produce electoral variances of 31% in Sneyd Green and -44% in Moorcroft ward. These levels of electoral inequality are very high. We therefore considered whether an alternative warding pattern would provide for a stronger balance in our statutory criteria. We noted that combining the wards of Moorcroft and Sneyd Green into a two-councillor ward would provide for electoral equality for the area, as well as enable Sneyd Green to be united in a single ward. This ward would contain all of the area identified to us as Sneyd Green as well as the area along the A50 Waterloo Road which comprises part of the Cobridge community. While this proposal includes two areas that may not share close community ties, we consider that it is better to include two such areas together in a ward than to divide a coherent community in Sneyd Green.

56 We propose to name this two-councillor ward Moorcroft & Sneyd Green and it will have good electoral equality by 2026 with a variance of -6%.

North East Stoke-on-Trent



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Baddeley, Milton & Norton	3	6%
Ford Green & Smallthorne	1	4%

Baddeley, Milton & Norton and Ford Green & Smallthorpe

57 We received six submissions relating to Baddeley, Milton & Norton ward. Councillor Evans wrote in support of our proposed three-councillor ward, which is unchanged from the existing ward, stating that the current ward reflects the community of a number of settlements on the periphery of the city. The councillor

argued that these community ties justify maintaining Baddeley, Milton & Norton as Stoke-on-Trent's only three-councillor ward. Two other local residents also wrote in support of the proposed ward.

58 Three local residents wrote to oppose the proposed ward, stating it is too large. Two of these submissions proposed no alternative suggestion. The third local resident reiterated a proposal they had made at the previous stage of consultation for three single-councillor wards, with a small amendment to provide for improved levels of electoral equality.

59 We carefully considered this alternative proposal for single-member wards in the area. As at the previous stage, however, we were not convinced that sufficient evidence was offered to justify splitting the area and its communities into three single-councillor wards, particularly when balanced with the strong support and evidence we received regarding the proposed three-councillor ward during both our consultations.

60 We therefore propose to confirm the draft recommendation for this ward as final.

61 We received two submissions relating to Ford Green & Smallthorne ward. Both submissions were in support of the proposed ward, which is unchanged from the current ward. One of the submissions proposed that the ward be renamed Norton Heights & Smallthorne. We do not propose to adopt this name change. We consider the name of Ford Green & Smallthorne to be reflective of the communities in this ward. We were also unable to identify the precise boundaries of the area referred to as Norton Heights.

62 Our final recommendations are for a three-councillor Baddeley, Milton & Norton ward with a forecast variance of 6%, and one single-councillor ward of Ford Green & Smallthorne with a forecast variance of 4%.

Hanley and surrounding area



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Birches Head & Northwood	2	-6%
Etruria & Hanley	1	2%
Hanley Park, Joiner's Square & Shelton	2	-6%

Etruria & Hanley and Birches Head & Northwood

63 We received no submissions that related to the Etruria & Hanley ward and one that related to Birches Head & Northwood ward. A local resident proposed a revised proposal to divide the ward into two single-councillor wards, using a different boundary to the one they had proposed at the previous stage of consultation.

64 We considered this revised proposal but continue to be of the view that the division of this area into two single-councillor wards would split coherent communities. We therefore propose to make no changes to our draft recommendations for this ward or Etruria & Hanley ward.

65 Our proposed final recommendations are for a single-councillor ward of Etruria & Hanley and a two-councillor ward of Birches Head & Northwood. These wards are forecast to have variances of 2% and -6% by 2026, respectively.

Hanley Park, Joiner's Square & Shelton

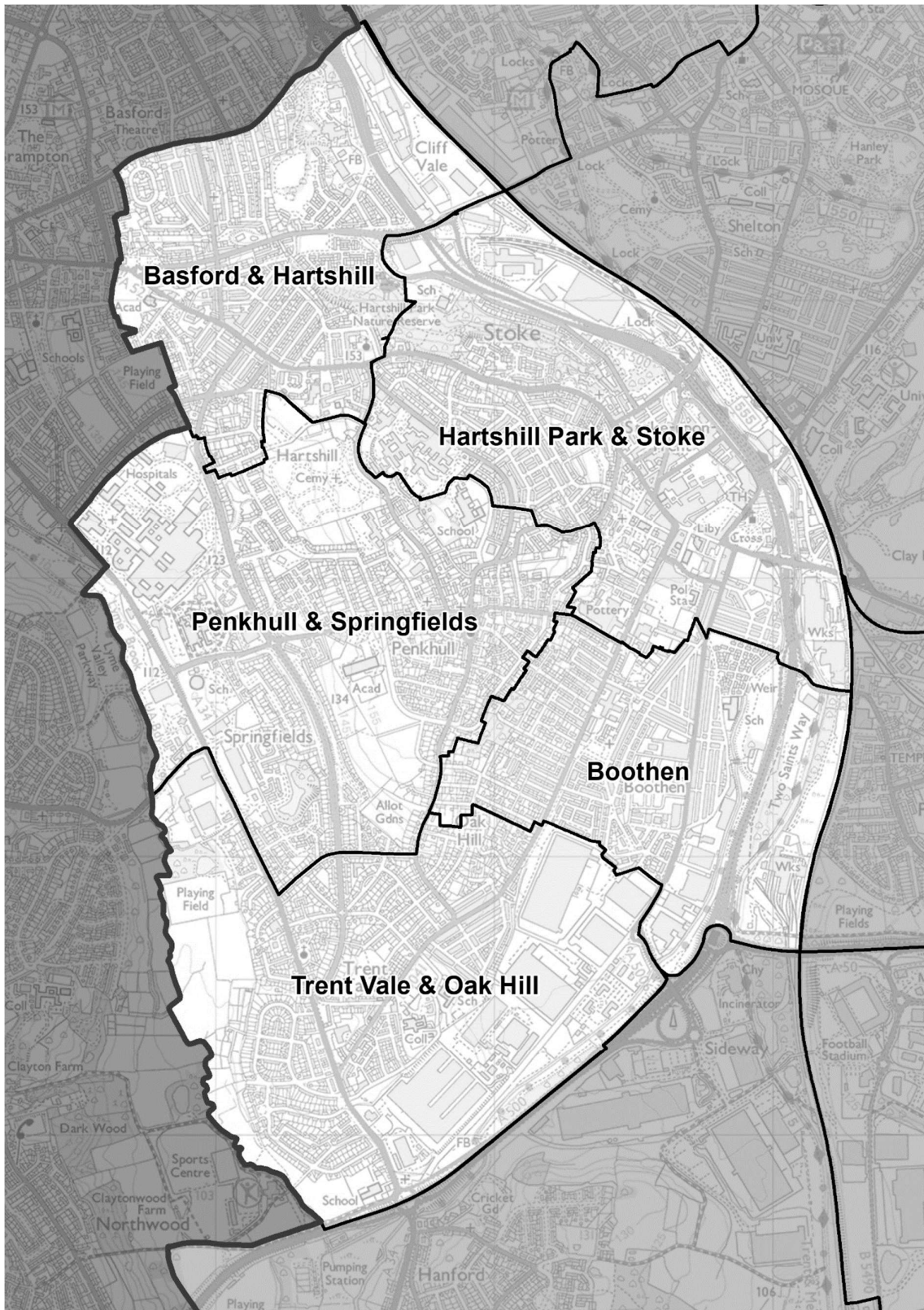
66 As part of our draft recommendations for this area we proposed two single-councillor wards of Hanley Park & Shelton and Joiner's Square. In our report on the draft recommendations for Stoke-on-Trent, we asked for local views as to whether a two-councillor ward would better reflect community interests and ties.

67 We received 21 submissions that commented on some aspect of these two wards. The submission from the Council stated that the Council supported the proposal for two single-councillor wards as the two areas are 'discrete and recognisable with different communities and demographics and that the current representative functions are effective'. The Labour Group was also in agreement with the single-councillor wards but suggested a small change to the boundary to run down the centre of Harding Road rather than Houghton Street. Councillor Watson, the current councillor for Joiner's Square, also supported the Labour Group views. One local resident supported two single-councillor wards.

68 Eighteen submissions, including from Hanley Park Residents' Association, wrote in support of combining the two single-councillor wards into a two-councillor ward. These submissions cited a number of examples of the close links between the two wards, including the City Central mosque used by electors in both wards as well as a YMCA and Hanley Park itself. The Residents' Association also pointed out that they have members drawn from both wards.

69 Having carefully considered the evidence we received, our final recommendations merge the two single-councillor wards into a two-councillor Hanley Park, Joiner's Square & Shelton ward. We consider this ward meets our objective of not dividing communities between wards. Our proposed two-councillor ward would have an electoral variance of -6% from the average for Stoke-on-Trent by 2026.

North of the A500 and West of the West Coast Main Line



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Basford & Hartshill	1	-5%
Boothens	1	-10%
Hartshill Park & Stoke	1	-8%
Penkhull & Springfields	1	-2%
Trent Vale & Oak Hill	1	-9%

Whole area

70 We received 54 submissions that directly related to one or more of the five wards in this area. Councillor Platt and the Labour Group both made submissions during this consultation that reiterated their earlier submissions and suggested that there were a number of communities that should be brought together within wards. These were: Trent Vale and Oak Hill; Penkhull and Springfields; Hartshill Park and Stoke town centre; and Boothens and Stoke (including the area to the south-west of Stoke town centre). These two submissions supported the proposed Hartshill & Basford ward but suggested it be renamed Basford & Hartshill. Councillor Platt suggested the same groupings in their submission and gave further evidence to support this proposal.

71 The remaining submissions made references to individual wards in this area

Penkhull & Springfields and Hartshill Park & Stoke

72 Of the 54 submissions we received, 45 were in response to the proposals for Penkhull and Stoke wards. A number of the submissions related to our proposed boundary between Penkhull and Stoke wards, particularly the area around Princes Road, Quarry Road and Yoxall Avenue and its separation from the Penkhull area. There was also widespread opposition to the proposed division of the area between the A52 Hartshill Road and Princes Road.

73 In their submission, the Labour Group set out their consideration of the communities in this area. They stated that Penkhull is a historical village within Stoke-on-Trent and has a core centred around St Thomas Church, Manor Court Street and Newcastle Lane. They argued that Penkhull is bounded in the west by The Croft green space and Lodge Road Park, which it shares with the Springfield area. The Group also pointed out that the proposed draft recommendations would leave Hartshill Church in Stoke ward and divide Yoxall Avenue from its community in Penkhull and Hartshill. They added that the Springfields/Harpfield area has developed over the last 70 years and is very different in character to Trent Vale to the south, with which it was paired under our draft recommendations. The Group argued that this area is better linked to Penkhull with which they share much stronger community ties and facilities such as The Croft green space and Lodge Road Park.

74 The Labour Group's consideration of communities in the Penkhull area was supported by the submissions we received from local residents. These stated that the draft recommendations divided the Lodge Road community and excluded part of it from its community with Penkhull Village.

75 The Labour Group also argued that the area around North Street is isolated. Their view was that its location to the north of Hartshill Park suggested it should be included in a ward with other electors that share a community identity with Hartshill Park open space. The Labour Group argued that this community is focused on Lower Hartshill Road, the area of Hartshill South and streets such as Mount, Quarry, West and Yoxall Avenues, as well as the area around Oxford Street and Richmond Street. They considered these areas to be of similar character to each other, while being of a different character to the centre of Penkhull and particularly Penkhull Village. The Labour Group proposed to pair the community around Hartshill Park with the area around Stoke town centre, with this arrangement reflecting their perceived connections between the two areas along the A52 Hartshill Road.

76 Having carefully considered the submissions we received, we are proposing to revise our recommendations in this area. We propose to base our final recommendations on the warding arrangement suggested by the Labour Group, subject to several amendments.

77 We have been persuaded by the view that our draft recommendations for Stoke ward brought together two areas with little or no community ties running from Hartshill Park all the way down to Boothern. However, we note that it is not possible to propose a ward that comprises only the area around Stoke town centre and also has good electoral equality. Having considered the arguments made by local people, we are of the view that a ward that pairs Stoke town centre with electors around Hartshill Park provides for the best balance in our statutory criteria in this area.

78 We are also of the view that the Labour Group's proposals for a Penkhull & Springfields ward best reflects the community ties in this area and therefore provides for the strongest balance in our statutory criteria.

79 We did consider alternatives for this area. We investigated whether we could include the area around Mount, Quarry, West and Yoxall Avenues in a ward with Penkhull & Springfields. However, such an arrangement would produce an electoral variance of 38% in Penkhull & Springfields ward by 2026. We also considered whether we could propose a two-councillor ward comprising Hartshill Park, Penkhull, Springfields and Stoke. This ward would provide for good levels of electoral equality. However, given the evidence we received regarding the lack of community identity with Stoke town centre, as well as the size of the ward, we did not consider a two-member ward would provide for the strongest balance in our criteria based on the evidence we received.

80 We also noted that there is a significant planned development on the site of the former North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary in Hartshill. Without including these future electors in our proposed Hartshill Park & Stoke ward, we could not provide electoral equality for the area.

81 Having concluded that the Labour Group's suggested warding arrangement provided for a better reflection of communities in the area, we noted that their proposed Hartshill Park & Stoke ward had poor electoral equality of -14% by 2026.

82 To resolve this poor electoral equality, we propose to include around 300 electors in an area bounded by Boothen Road, Woodhouse Street, Queensway and the rear of Selwyn Street into Hartshill Park & Stoke ward. We consider that electors in this area are likely to have community ties to Stoke town centre.

83 Our final recommendations for these wards are for two single-councillor wards of Penkhull & Springfields with a forecast variance of -2% and Hartshill Park & Stoke with a forecast variance of -8%.

Basford & Hartshill

84 We received two submissions that related to this area. The Labour Group and Councillor Platt supported the proposed ward but suggested the name be changed to Basford & Hartshill. We have been persuaded that this name would better reflect the communities in the ward.

85 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final, subject to the name change outlined above. This ward would have a variance of -5% by 2026.

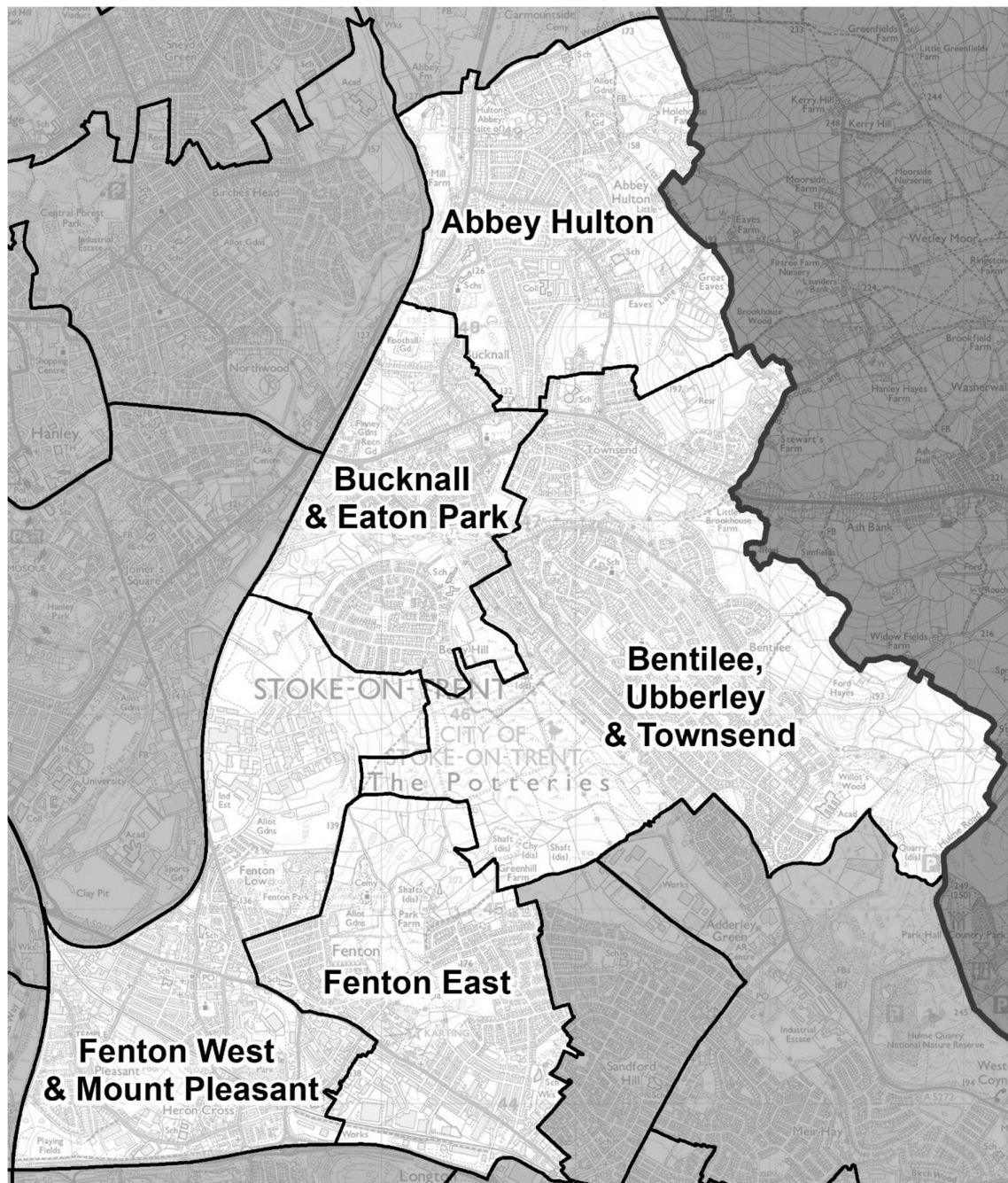
Boothen and Trent Vale & Oak Hill

86 The two submissions we received for this area were from the Labour Group and Councillor Platt. Both stated that the Trent Vale area had strong community ties with the Oak Hill area, but that our draft recommendations divided the Trent Vale community between two wards. The submissions also stated that the draft recommendations divided the Boothen community between Boothen and Stoke wards again to the detriment of the community.

87 We carefully considered the submissions we received. We have been persuaded that our draft proposals split local communities in this area. We therefore propose to adopt the warding pattern from the Labour Group as part of our final recommendations, subject to an amendment to the northern boundary of Boothen boundary (as discussed in paragraph 82). This change is facilitated by our decisions for the Penkhull & Springfields and Hartshill Park & Stoke areas, outlined above.

88 Our final recommendations for this area are for a single-councillor Boothern ward with a forecast variance of -10% and a single-councillor Trent Vale & Oak Hill ward with a forecast variance of -9%.

East Stoke-on-Trent



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Abbey Hulton	1	8%
Bentilee, Ubbertley & Townsend	2	5%
Bucknall & Eaton Park	1	1%
Fenton East	1	2%
Fenton West & Mount Pleasant	1	2%

Abbey Hulton, Bentilee, Ubbberley & Townsend and Bucknall & Eaton Park

89 We received three submissions that referred to the Bentilee, Ubbberley & Townsend ward. A local resident was concerned that Birchgate, Birchgate Grove and the surrounding streets were included in the same ward as the Bentilee estate. The resident expressed concern about the ability of a councillor to represent both areas. They proposed that all of the area of Townsend on both sides of the A52 Werrington Road be included in Bucknall & Eaton Park ward.

90 A local resident proposed a single-councillor Bentilee & Townsend ward and a single-councillor Ubbberley ward, splitting the Bentilee, Ubbberley and Townsend area. This was a revised proposal to the one suggested by the resident at the previous stage of consultation. The proposed division between these wards would be along Dawlish Drive, Bargrave Street and to the rear of properties on Hamble Way and Chadwell Way.

91 The Council, in its own submission, stated that it supported a proposal to include all of Park Hall Country Park in Meir Hay & Adderley Green ward. This proposal was made by the three MPs for Stoke-on-Trent at the previous stage of consultation.

92 We received no submissions that directly referred to Abbey Hulton or Bucknall & Eaton Park wards.

93 Having carefully considered the submissions we have received, we have been persuaded to include all of Park Hall Country Park in the ward to the south of Bentilee, Ubbberley & Townsend, as suggested by the Council based on the earlier proposal by the three MPs for Stoke-on-Trent. This affects no electors and we discuss this fully in paragraph 104, below.

94 We do not propose to move the Townsend area to Bucknall & Eaton Park as proposed by a local resident. Such a warding arrangement would result in poor levels of electoral equality, with variances of -20% in Bentilee, Ubbberley & Townsend and 51% in Bucknall & Eaton Park by 2026.

95 We also do not propose to divide Bentilee, Ubbberley & Townsend ward into two single-councillor wards. We consider this would divide the Bentilee community between wards.

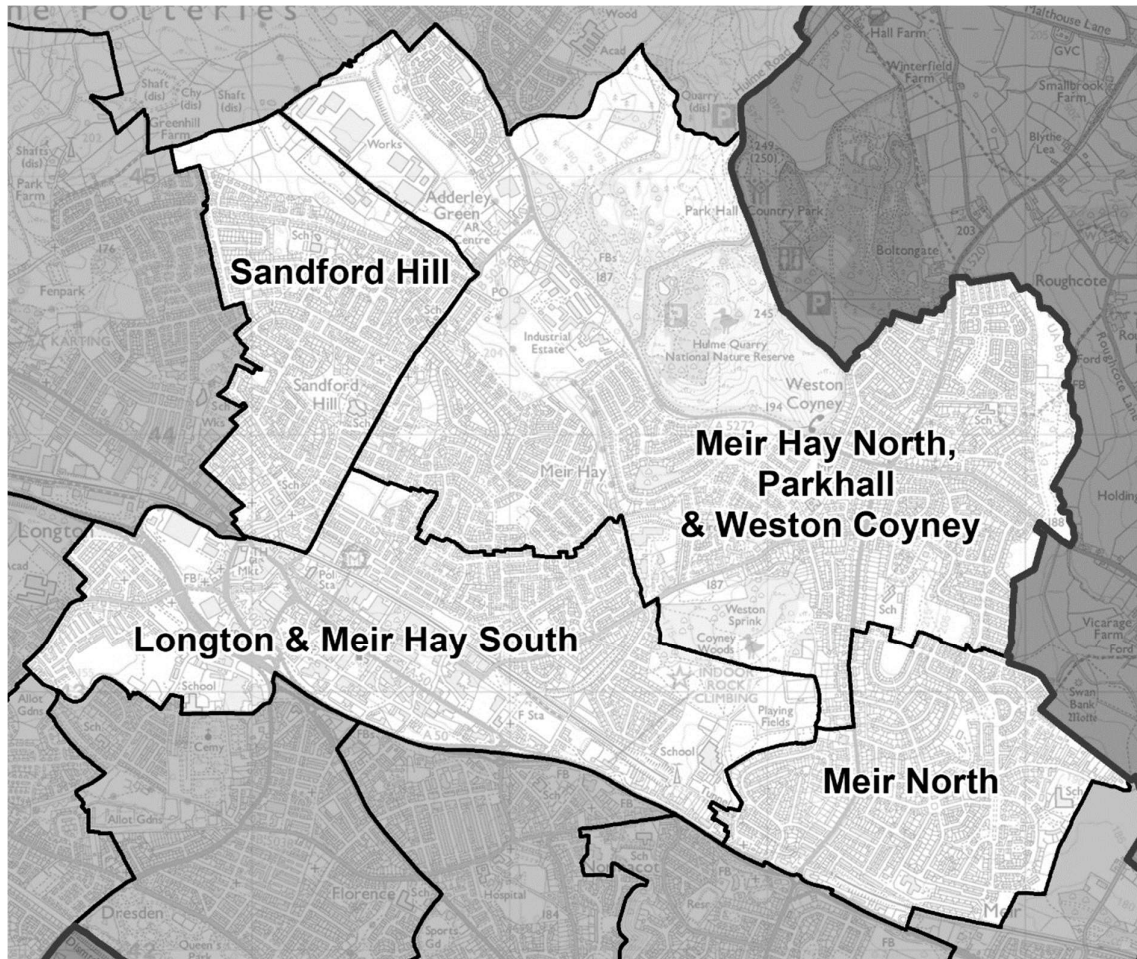
96 Our final recommendations for this area are for a two-councillor Bentilee, Ubbberley & Townsend ward with a forecast variance of 5% and two single-councillor wards of Abbey Hulton and Bucknall & Eaton Park with forecast variances of 8% and 1%, respectively.

Fenton East and Fenton West & Mount Pleasant

97 Our draft proposals for Fenton East and Fenton West & Mount Pleasant wards were unchanged from the existing wards, reflecting the views expressed during the previous consultation. We received one further submission in support of Fenton East during this consultation period. We also received a submission that suggested that Fenton West & Mount Pleasant ward was too large but proposed no alternative.

98 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations in this area as final. These are for two single-councillor wards of Fenton East and Fenton West & Mount Pleasant, both of which have good electoral equality of 2% by 2026.

North of the A50



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Longton & Meir Hay South	1	-3%
Meir Hay North, Parkhall & Weston Coyney	2	9%
Meir North	1	9%
Sandford Hill	1	2%

Longton & Meir Hay South, Meir Hay North, Parkhall & Weston Coyney and Meir North

99 We received 19 submissions relating to this area. In particular, we received views regarding our proposals in the Forrister Street area, as well as for the Park Hall estate.

100 A number of submissions suggested that the current wards in the Park Hall area divided the estate between two wards (Meir Hay/Weston Coyney) and that the draft recommendations continued to divide the area between Meir Hay & Adderley

Green and Weston Coyney & Parkhall South. These submissions argued that the community would be much better reflected if the whole estate was included in a ward with Weston Coyney.

101 Other submissions argued that our draft recommendations divided the Broadway community, which was already isolated within its current Broadway & Longton East ward, between Longton & Broadway and Meir North. The submissions argued that the proposed boundary between Longton & Broadway and Meir North divided the road of Broadway between wards and separated Broadway, Hazel Grove, Lombardy Grove and Oak Place from nearby streets.

102 We also received a few submissions that suggested the current wards and the draft recommendations divided the Forrister Street area between wards. The respondents argued that the community identity of electors in this area is to the south, as they look towards Longton for their amenities and facilities. A number of submissions also opposed the inclusion of the area to the south-west of the A50 (around Heathcote Road) in a ward with Longton but did not suggest any alternative warding patterns.

103 Finally, a couple of submissions argued that the proposed boundary between Meir North and Weston Coyney & Parkhall South did not reflect the community in the area. The submissions suggested that the northern boundary of Meir North should be to the north of Lansbury Grove and Brookwood Drive, and that the streets off Valley Road are part of the Weston Coyney community. Respondents also pointed out our draft recommendations included Weston Coyney Junior School in Meir North ward and not in a Weston Coyney ward.

104 Finally, as discussed in paragraph 93, the Council supported a proposal from the three MPs for Stoke-on-Trent to move Park Hall Country Park out of Bentilee, Ubbertley & Townsend and into a ward with Meir Hay to reflect the usage of the country park.

105 Having carefully considered all of the submissions we received, we agree that our draft recommendations divide a number of communities in this area. To resolve this, we propose a number of changes to the draft recommendations.

106 Firstly, we propose to combine our wards of Meir Hay & Adderley Green and Weston Coyney & Parkhall South into a two-councillor Meir Hay North, Parkhall & Weston Coyney ward. This proposed arrangement ensures that the Park Hall estate is not divided between wards in future. As part of our final recommendations, we have also included the Park Hall Country Park in this ward, as suggested by the three MPs for Stoke-on-Trent and supported by the Council. We consider that this proposal reflects the usage of the country park.

107 Our second change to our draft recommendations in this area is to amend the boundary between Meir North and Meir Hay North, Parkhall & Weston Coyney. Our proposed boundary will now run to the north of properties on Lansbury Grove and Brookwood Drive. This will mean that Axon Crescent and Valley Road, as well as the streets that lead off them, are included in Meir Hay North, Parkhall & Weston Coyney ward. Weston Coyney Junior School will also be included in this ward. We consider that this arrangement reflects the community of those electors as detailed in the submissions we received.

108 We also propose to amend our Longton & Broadway ward to reflect the evidence we received from electors on Forrister Street. These respondents stated that their community lay to the south and that our draft recommendations divided the street and their community between wards. We therefore propose to run the boundary around the backs of the properties on Forrister Street, thus including the entire street in a Longton & Meir Hay South ward. This proposal also moves Neath Close and Fleckney Avenue into Longton & Meir Hay South, an arrangement we consider will better reflect their community identity and, in our opinion, a more identifiable ward boundary. We are of the view that our proposed ward name for the revised ward – Longton & Meir Hay South – best reflects the communities in the ward.

109 Finally, we propose to include all of the Broadway area in Meir North to reflect the submissions we received that stated that our draft proposals had divided the community between wards. Our proposed new boundary runs behind the properties on Broadway, Cherry Hill Avenue, Elstree Close, Hazel Grove, Lombardy Grove and Oak Place to include them all in Meir North ward, reflecting evidence we received that this area had close ties to the Meir area.

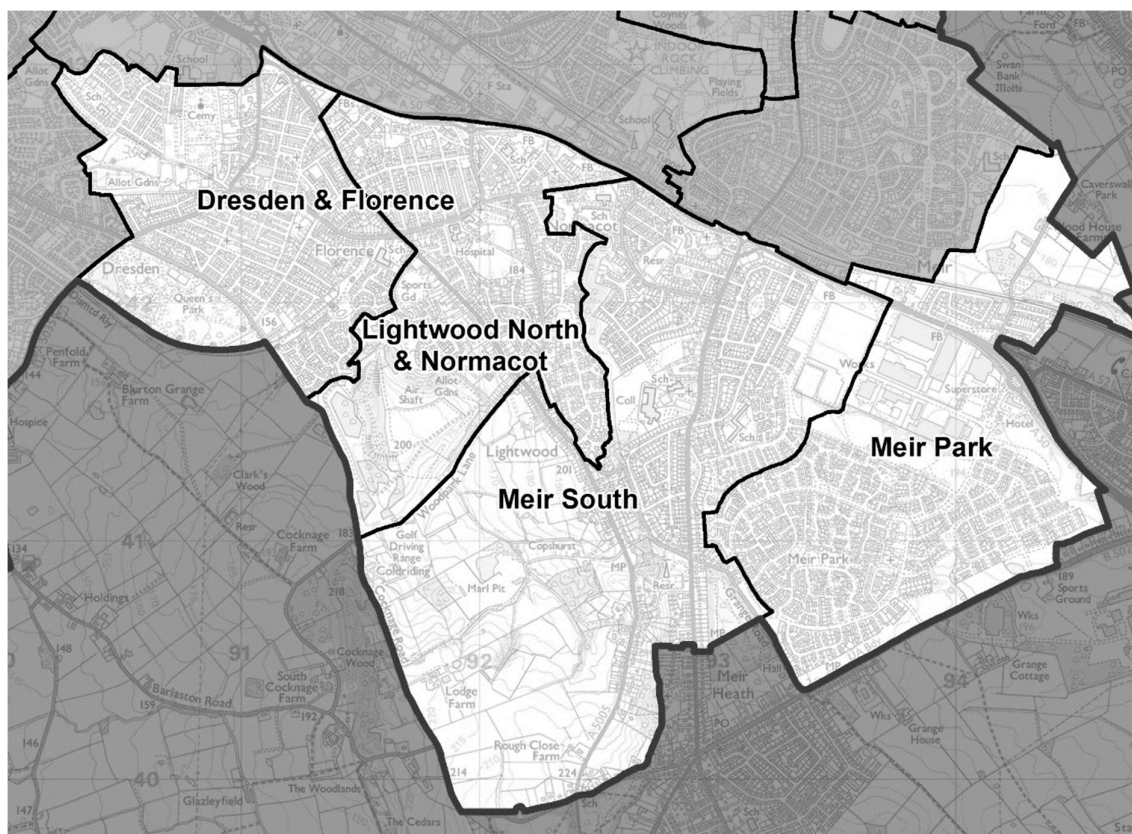
110 Our final recommendations are for a single-councillor Meir North ward with a forecast variance of 9%, a single-councillor Longton & Meir Hay South ward with a forecast variance of -3% and a two-councillor Meir Hay North, Parkhall & Weston Coyney ward with a forecast variance of 9%.

Sandford Hill

111 We received no submissions that related to Sandford Hill ward and we therefore confirm our draft recommendation for this ward as final.

112 Our proposed final recommendation is for a single-councillor ward of Sandford Hill with a forecast variance of 2%.

South East of the A50



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Dresden & Florence	1	4%
Lightwood North & Normacot	1	-6%
Meir Park	1	-5%
Meir South	1	-4%

Dresden & Florence, Lightwood North & Normacot, Meir Park and Meir South

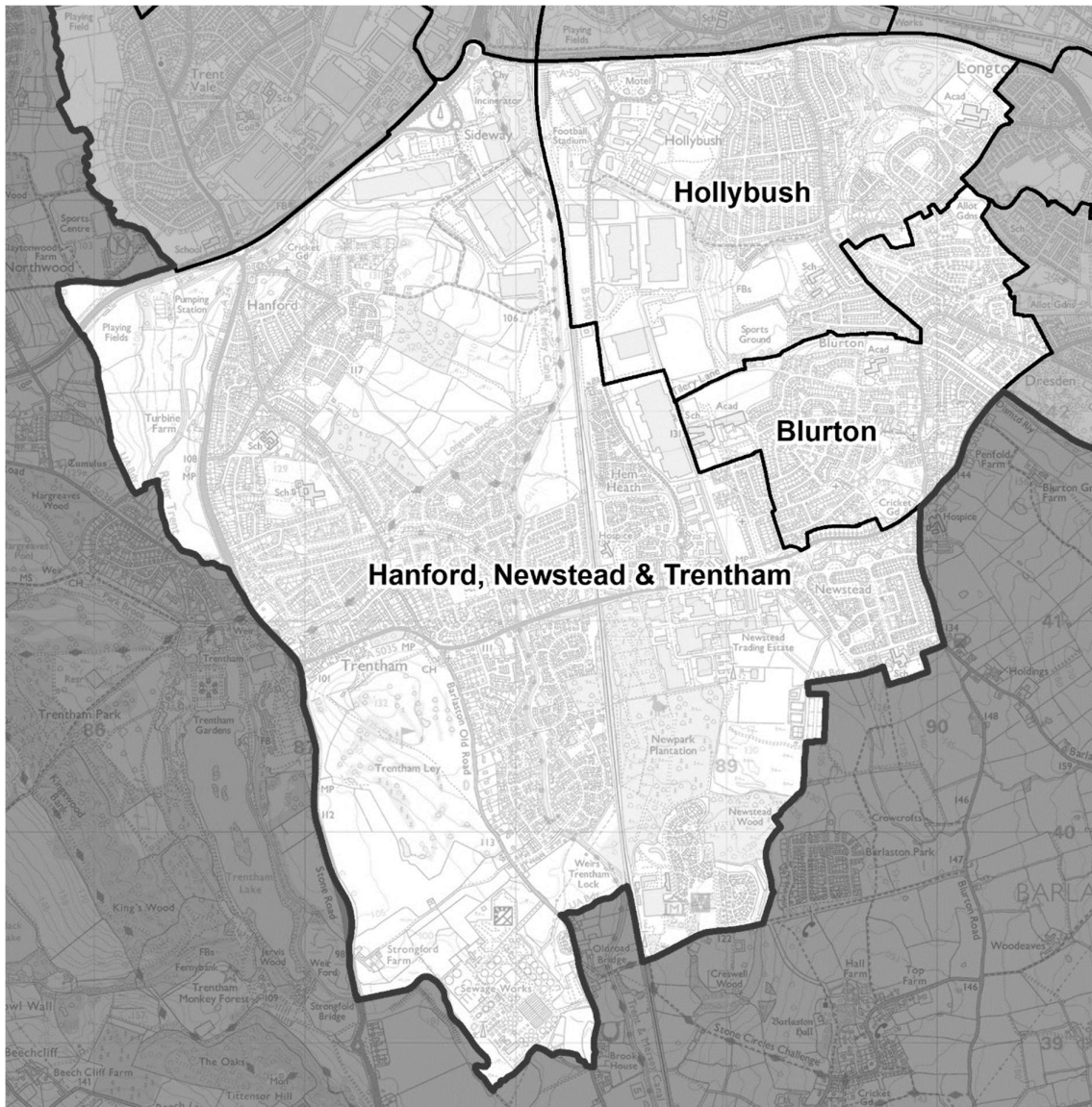
113 We received 21 submissions that referred to this area. Seventeen of those submissions referred to our proposed boundary between Lightwood North & Normacot and Meir South, particularly relating to our decision to include the area covered by Hillside Residents' Association in Meir South ward. All 17 were in support of this proposal.

114 Of the other submissions received one respondent did not support the increase of 150 electors to the Dresden & Florence ward and the perceived impact on councillor workloads. An additional representation did not support the inclusion of Goms Mill Road in Dresden & Florence ward. Another submission suggested that St Gregory's Catholic Academy be moved into Dresden & Florence ward.

115 Having carefully considered the submissions received, we do not propose to make any changes to our draft proposals in this area. Our proposed Dresden & Florence ward will have good electoral equality when compared to the average number of electors per councillor for Stoke-on-Trent. We also do not propose to move St Gregory's Catholic Academy into Dresden & Florence ward. We received strong support for the inclusion of Goms Mill Road in Dresden & Florence ward across both consultations and we consider that our boundary along Spring Garden Road continues to be the most identifiable boundary for the area.

116 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final of four single-councillor wards of Dresden & Florence, Lightwood North & Normacot, Meir Park and Meir South. These wards are forecast to have variances of 4%, -6%, -5% and -4%, respectively.

South West of the A50



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Blurton	1	6%
Hanford, Newstead & Trentham	3	4%
Hollybush	1	3%

Hanford, Newstead & Trentham

117 We received 32 submissions that referred to our proposed Hanford & Trentham and Trentham Lakes & Newstead wards. The existing ward councillors for Hanford & Trentham, Councillors Jellyman and Kelsall, supported the draft recommendations, stating that the proposed wards reflected the strong community ties in the area. Councillor Kelsall also stated that they had canvassed local opinion and found the vast majority of local residents to be supportive of the proposals, specifically praising

the inclusion of the Wedgwood estate in the ward given its access points and the fact that residents of the estate share the same facilities as other electors in Hanford & Trentham. Councillor Jellyman argued that the two-councillor ward was, in his opinion, the most sensible approach to providing electoral equality for the area. He stated that the inclusion of the Meadow Lane estate in Trentham Lakes & Newstead was the best way to achieve both electoral equality and retain community identity. Hanford Village and Trentham Central Residents' Associations responded to the submission with a joint submission supporting the proposed Hanford & Trentham ward.

118 The remaining 29 submissions opposed some aspect of the proposals for Hanford & Trentham and Trentham Lakes & Newstead wards. The respondents raised two main issues: the inclusion of the Meadow Lane estate in Trentham Lakes & Newstead and the decision not to propose two single-councillor wards for Hanford and Trentham. A couple of submissions opposed the inclusion of the Wedgwood estate in Hanford & Trentham as a result of the railway line that divides it from that ward.

119 The Labour Group opposed a two-councillor Hanford & Trentham ward and submitted a suggested division of the area (slightly different from the arrangement the Group proposed during the first consultation) into two single-councillor wards. A local resident who submitted the single-councillor warding pattern during the first consultation submitted a revised proposal to divide the area into two single-councillor wards, using a different boundary to the one they had proposed at the previous stage of consultation. The revised proposal was very similar to the Labour Group's suggestion. The remaining submissions that preferred two single-councillor wards did not advance any alternative warding patterns.

120 The submissions that opposed the inclusion of the Meadow Lane estate in Trentham Lakes & Newstead argued that removing the area from Hanford & Trentham broke significant community ties, including residents' use of local shopping facilities, GPs, schools, and locations for socialising. The respondents also cited the railway line as a strong barrier between these areas and the remainder of Trentham Lakes & Newstead, with which all respondents felt they had little or no ties.

121 When we proposed our draft recommendations for this area, we were of the view that two single-councillor wards would break the strong community ties between Hanford & Trentham demonstrated in the submissions we had received during the first consultation. Having considered the various proposals in developing our draft recommendations, we could not find a way to propose a ward that had good electoral equality and contained all of the electors to the west of the railway line and the Wedgwood estate. We also noted the significant housing development planned either side of the railway line to the north and east of the Meadow Lane estate. As a result of all of these elements, we proposed a two-councillor Hanford & Trentham

ward and a single-councillor Trentham Lakes & Newstead ward, adopting the Council's suggested arrangement. We were of the view that this proposal provided for the strongest balance in our statutory criteria.

122 Having carefully considered all of the submissions for this area, we remain of the view that an arrangement which divides the Hanford & Trentham area into two single-member wards would not recognise the strong community ties those two areas have developed. We also continue to support the inclusion of the Wedgwood estate in a ward with Hanford & Trentham. Our view is that this is clearly reflective of the community ties of that estate.

123 We do, however, recognise that the draft recommendations did not reflect the community ties between electors on the Meadow Lane estate and Trentham. As a result, we propose that the two-councillor Hanford & Trentham ward and single-councillor Trentham Lakes & Newstead ward be combined into a three-councillor Hanford, Newstead & Trentham ward. We are of the view that this proposal ensures that coherent communities are not split between wards.

124 Our final recommendation for this area is therefore for a three-councillor Hanford, Newstead & Trentham ward with a forecast variance of 4%

Blurton and Hollybush

125 We received one submission that made reference to these two wards. One local resident objected to the inclusion of their area (Oakwood Road/Ballinson Road) in Hollybush ward but did not provide an alternative that provided for good levels of electoral equality for both wards.

126 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final. They provide a single-councillor Blurton ward with a forecast variance of 6% and a single-councillor Hollybush ward with a forecast variance of 3% from the average for Stoke-on-Trent by 2026.

Conclusions

127 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Stoke-on-Trent, referencing the 2021 and 2026 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2021	2026
Number of councillors	44	44
Number of electoral wards	34	34
Average number of electors per councillor	3,989	4,214
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

Stoke-on-Trent City Council should be made up of 44 councillors serving 34 wards representing 26 single-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and two 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 Stoke-on-Trent City Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Stoke-on-Trent City Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

128 We have now completed our review of Stoke-on-Trent City 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

129 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 Stoke-on-Trent City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Abbey Hulton	1	4,317	4,317	8%	4,541	4,541	8%
2	Baddeley, Milton & Norton	3	12,974	4,325	8%	13,370	4,457	6%
3	Basford & Hartshill	1	3,972	3,972	0%	4,022	4,022	-5%
4	Bentilee, Ubberley & Townsend	2	8,437	4,219	6%	8,827	4,413	5%
5	Birches Head & Northwood	2	7,457	3,729	-7%	7,920	3,960	-6%
6	Blurton	1	4,298	4,298	8%	4,458	4,458	6%
7	Boothen	1	3,445	3,445	-14%	3,808	3,808	-10%
8	Bradeley & Chell Heath	1	3,695	3,695	-7%	3,841	3,841	-9%
9	Bucknall & Eaton Park	1	4,117	4,117	3%	4,262	4,262	1%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
10 Burslem	1	3,952	3,952	-1%	4,376	4,376	4%
11 Burslem Park	1	3,885	3,885	-3%	4,147	4,147	-2%
12 Dresden & Florence	1	4,244	4,244	6%	4,394	4,394	4%
13 Etruria & Hanley	1	4,005	4,005	0%	4,318	4,318	2%
14 Fenton East	1	4,127	4,127	3%	4,290	4,290	2%
15 Fenton West & Mount Pleasant	1	3,870	3,870	-3%	4,294	4,294	2%
16 Ford Green & Smallthorne	1	4,234	4,234	6%	4,391	4,391	4%
17 Goldenhill & Sandyford	1	4,285	4,285	7%	4,514	4,514	7%
18 Great Chell & Packmoor	2	7,681	3,841	-4%	7,981	3,991	-5%
19 Hanford, Newstead & Trentham	3	12,253	4,084	2%	13,202	4,401	4%
20 Hanley Park, Joiner's Square & Shelton	2	7,247	3,624	-9%	7,961	3,981	-6%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
21	Hartshill Park & Stoke	1	3,188	3,188	-20%	3,882	3,882	-8%
22	Hollybush	1	4,148	4,148	4%	4,292	4,292	2%
23	Lightwood North & Normacot	1	3,863	3,863	-3%	3,974	3,974	-6%
24	Little Chell & Stanfield	1	3,770	3,770	-5%	3,957	3,957	-6%
25	Longton & Meir Hay South	1	3,910	3,910	-2%	4,098	4,098	-3%
26	Meir Hay North, Parkhall & Weston Coyney	2	8,892	4,446	11%	9,212	4,606	9%
27	Meir North	1	4,433	4,433	11%	4,580	4,580	9%
28	Meir Park	1	3,530	3,530	-12%	4,024	4,024	-5%
29	Meir South	1	3,925	3,925	-2%	4,061	4,061	-4%
30	Moorcroft & Sneyd Green	2	7,538	3,769	-6%	7,885	3,942	-6%
31	Penkhull & Springfields	1	3,842	3,842	-4%	4,113	4,113	-2%

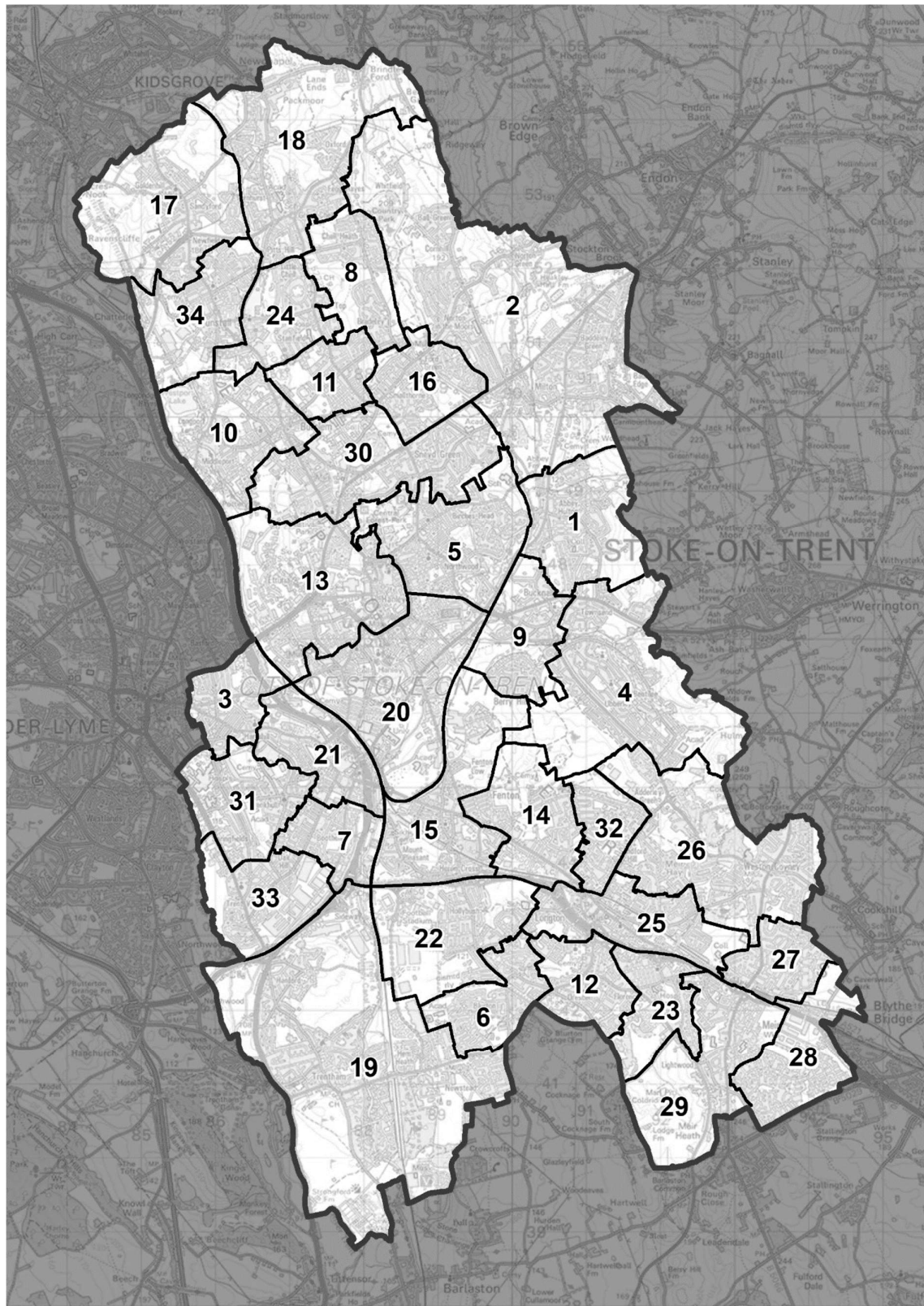
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
32 Sandford Hill	1	4,159	4,159	4%	4,297	4,297	2%
33 Trent Vale & Oak Hill	1	3,755	3,755	-6%	3,821	3,821	-9%
34 Tunstall	1	4,081	4,081	2%	4,315	4,315	2%
Totals	44	175,529	-	-	185,426	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,989	-	-	4,214	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Stoke-on-Trent City 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 city. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Abbey Hulton
2	Baddeley, Milton & Norton
3	Basford & Hartshill
4	Bentilee, Ubbberley & Townsend
5	Birches Head & Northwood
6	Blurton
7	Boothern
8	Bradeley & Chell Heath
9	Bucknall & Eaton Park
10	Burslem
11	Burslem Park
12	Dresden & Florence
13	Etruria & Hanley
14	Fenton East
15	Fenton West & Mount Pleasant
16	Ford Green & Smallthorne
17	Goldenhill & Sandyford
18	Great Chell & Packmoor
19	Hanford, Newstead & Trentham
20	Hanley Park, Joiner's Square & Shelton
21	Hartshill Park & Stoke
22	Hollybush
23	Lightwood North & Normacot
24	Little Chell & Stanfield
25	Longton & Meir Hay South
26	Meir Hay North, Parkhall & Weston Coyney
27	Meir North
28	Meir Park
29	Meir South
30	Moorcroft & Sneyd Green
31	Penkhull & Springfields
32	Sandford Hill
33	Trent Vale & Oak Hill
34	Tunstall

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lqbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/staffordshire/stoke-on-trent

Local Authority

- Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Political Groups

- Stoke Labour Group

Councillors

- Councillor D. Evans (Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
- Councillor F. Hussain (Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
- Councillor D. Jellyman (Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
- Councillor R. Kelsall (Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
- Councillor A. Platt (Stoke-on-Trent City Council)
- Councillor A. Watson (Stoke-on-Trent City Council)

Local Organisations

- Crossways Residents' Association
- Hanford Village Residents' Association
- Hanley Park Residents' Association
- Hillside Residents' Association
- Longton Matters Association
- Middleport Matters Association
- Penkhull Residents' Association
- Sandyford & Goldenhill Residents' Association

Local Residents

- 163 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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