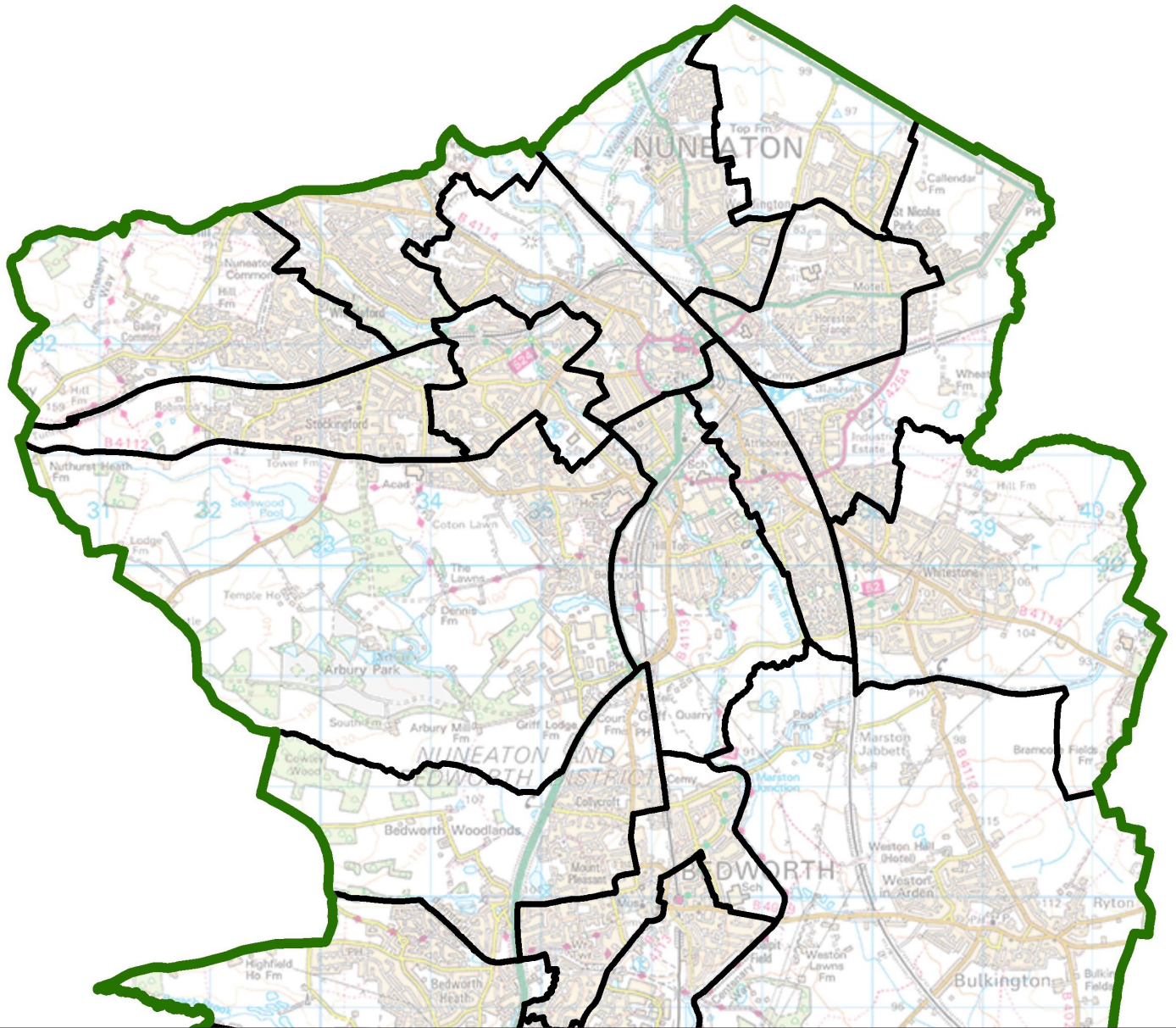


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



**New electoral arrangements for
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Borough Council
Final Recommendations
August 2023**

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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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 Parliament¹. 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
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Liz Treacy
- 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 Nuneaton & Bedworth?

7 We are conducting a review of Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 1999, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² Additionally some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Nuneaton & Bedworth 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 Nuneaton & Bedworth

9 Nuneaton & Bedworth should be represented by 38 councillors, four more than there are now.

10 Nuneaton & Bedworth should have 19 wards, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Nuneaton & Bedworth.

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local

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

taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Nuneaton & Bedworth. 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
23 August 2022	Number of councillors decided
30 August 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
7 November 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
31 January 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
10 April 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 August 2023	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

	2021	2028
Electorate of Nuneaton & Bedworth	99,481	116,109
Number of councillors	38	38
Average number of electors per councillor	2,618	3,056

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 but two of our proposed wards for Nuneaton & Bedworth are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

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 2028, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 17% by 2028.

23 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.

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.

Number of councillors

24 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council currently has 34 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that increasing the number of councillors by four will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 38 councillors.

26 As Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council elects by halves (meaning half its councillors are elected every two years) there is a presumption in legislation⁵ that the Council have a uniform pattern of two-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 five submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. The submissions generally argued against increasing the number of councillors. However, they did not outline sufficient justification to persuade us to reassess our previous decision to propose an increased council size of 38. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 38-councillor council.

28 In response to our draft recommendations, we received one submission on council size expressing discontent with the increase in councillor numbers. However, we were not persuaded that sufficient information was provided to change our previous decision and have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendation for a 38-member council as final.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 29 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals from Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council ('the Council'), Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council Green Group ('the Greens') and Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council Labour Group ('Labour'). The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

30 The three borough-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of two-councillor wards for Nuneaton & Bedworth. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of

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

electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

31 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

32 We conducted a detailed virtual tour of the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

33 Our draft recommendations were for 19 two-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

34 We received 14 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included support for our recommendations from Marcus Jones, MP (Nuneaton) and the Nuneaton Conservative Association. Supportive comments were also received from several members of the public, content that our proposals balanced our statutory criteria. The remainder of the submissions challenged our proposed ward names and a few suggested alternative warding patterns in localised areas of the borough.

Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for 19 two-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

36 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations subject to a number of ward name changes based on evidence received. We also make a minor amendment to the boundary between Bulkington and Whitestone wards to better reflect our statutory criteria.

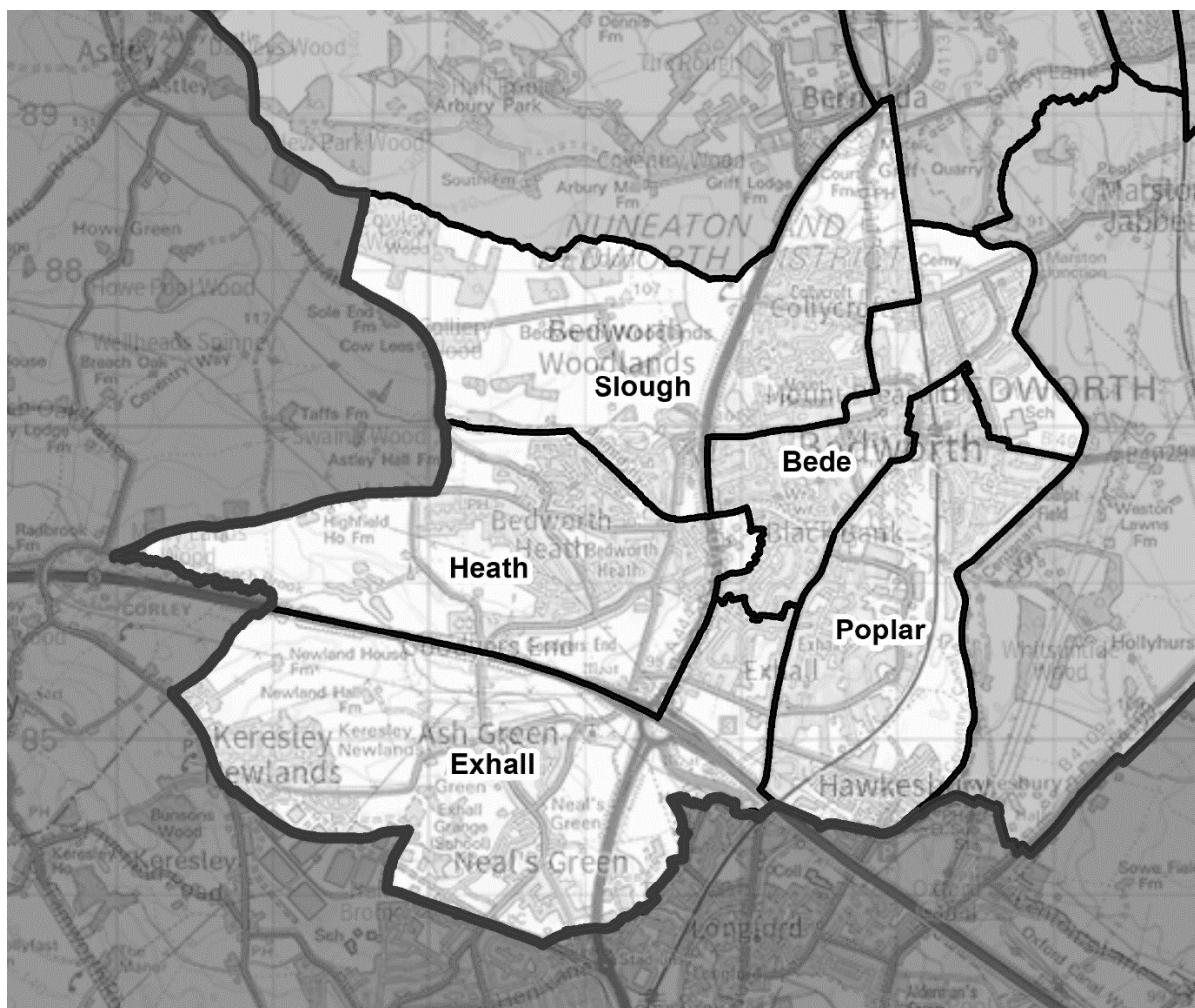
37 The tables and maps on pages 9–16 detail our final recommendations for each area of Nuneaton & Bedworth. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

- 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 23 and on the large map accompanying this report.

Bedworth

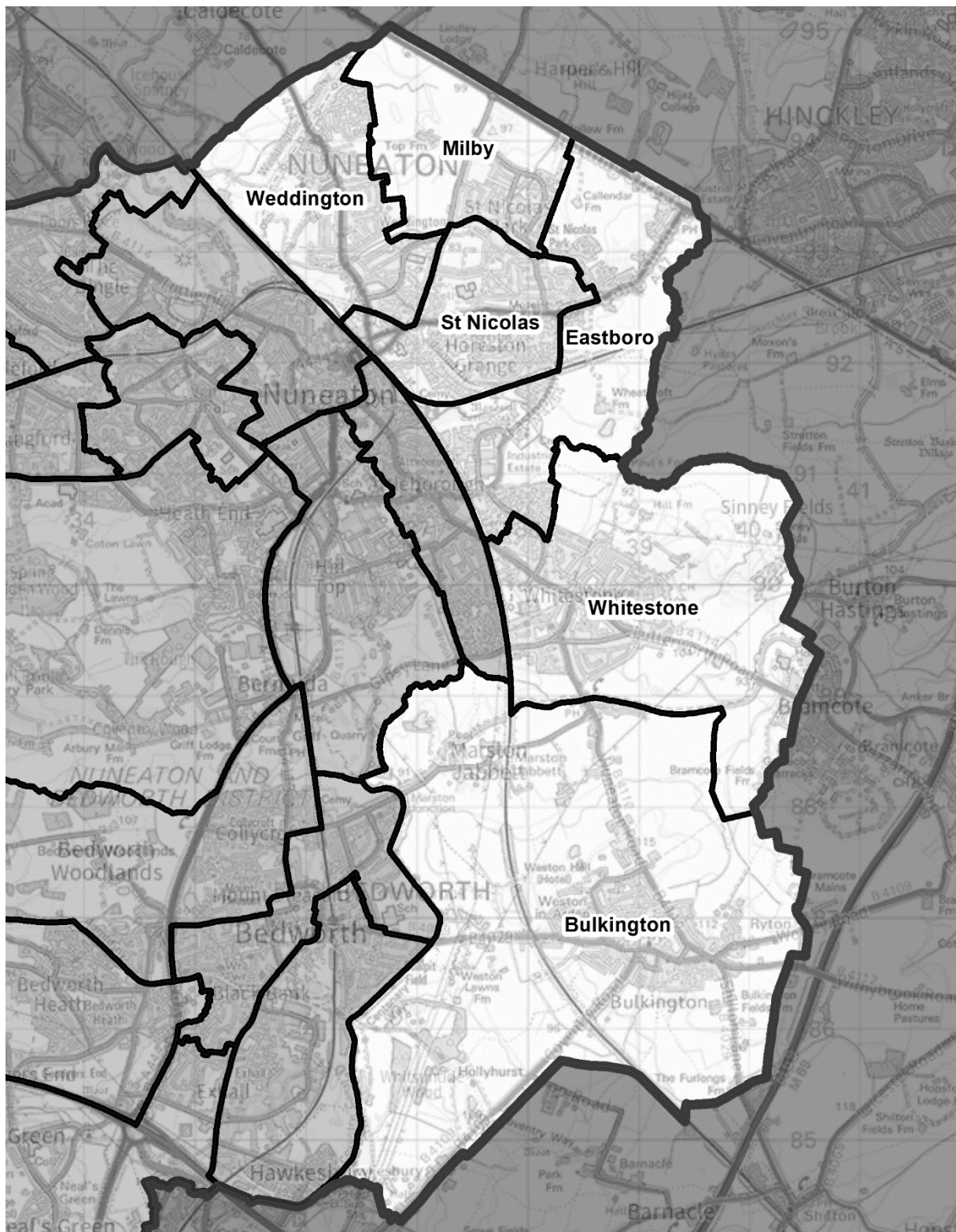


Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bede	2	8%
Exhall	2	-4%
Heath	2	7%
Poplar	2	1%
Slough	2	-2%

Bede, Exhall, Heath, Poplar and Slough

39 We received no submissions objecting to these proposed wards during consultation. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Bede, Exhall, Heath, Poplar and Slough wards as final.

Eastern Nuneaton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bulkington	2	-9%
Eastboro	2	8%

Milby	2	1%
St Nicolas	2	-11%
Weddington	2	-8%
Whitestone	2	12%

Milby and Weddington

40 In response to our draft recommendations, we received support including from a local resident for our proposals for Milby and Weddington wards, acknowledging that they improved electoral equality. Given the support received for the proposals, we consider they provide a good reflection of our statutory criteria and therefore confirm the wards as final.

St Nicolas

41 We received no submissions in objection to this proposed ward during consultation. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for St Nicolas ward as final.

Bulkington, Eastboro and Whitestone

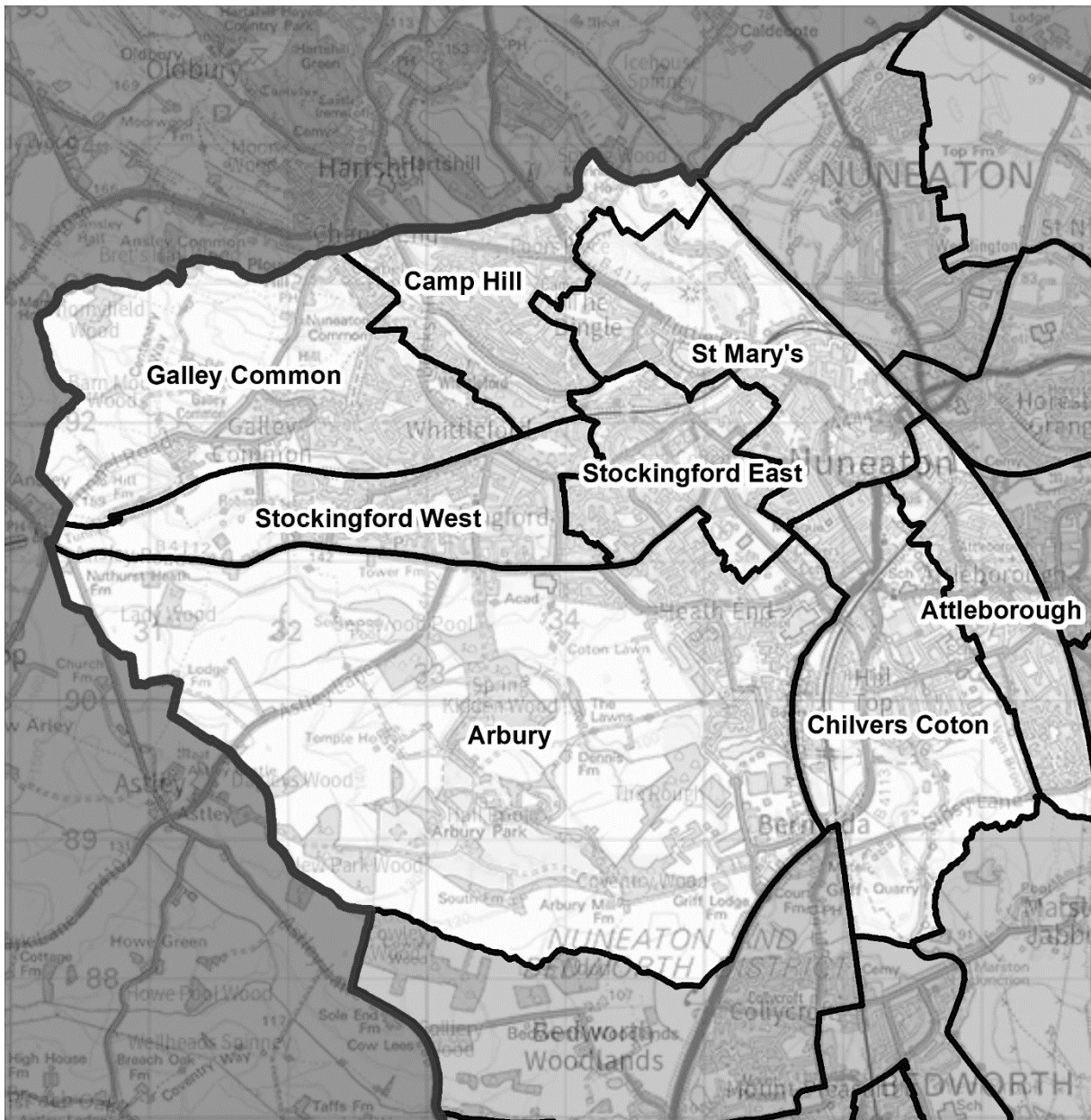
42 In response to the draft recommendations, a local resident expressed concern that the ward name of Eastboro would cause issues related to spelling. They suggested the name 'Etone' would be more appropriate as this was the historical name Nuneaton was founded on. We were not persuaded to adopt this name as we did not deem it more reflective of the communities that comprise this ward than our proposed name of Eastboro. The spelling of the ward name also mirrors the spelling of the main road that runs through this ward – Eastboro Way. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Eastboro ward as final.

43 Two residents stated that the entirety of the Crowhill area should remain a part of Whitestone ward. One resident argued that the most 'realistic' boundary for this ward was along Eastboro Way as this would better reflect community identity. We acknowledged in our draft recommendations that this boundary divided up a continuous area. However, to place the entirety of the Crowhill area into Whitestone ward would increase the forecast electoral variance of this ward to 32% and as a result produce a -12% variance for Eastboro ward. We consider these variances to be unacceptably high and therefore we did not adopt this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

44 We received comments from a resident that it would be more suitable for Quincy Close to be placed in Whitestone ward as 'it has clearer links along Lutterworth Road, than in Bulkington, with which it has few ties.' In light of the evidence received, we have concluded that Quincy Close would be better placed in Whitestone ward due to the area not having strong road access to Bulkington and comparatively direct access to Whitestone. Despite the inclusion of this area

producing a variance of 12% for Whitestone, we are satisfied that this revised boundary better reflects the road links for this area and achieves a better balance of our statutory criteria.

Western Nuneaton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Arbury	2	-3%
Attleborough	2	-5%
Camp Hill	2	-4%
Chilvers Coton	2	-1%
Galley Common	2	6%
St Mary's	2	6%
Stockingford East	2	-6%
Stockingford West	2	3%

Arbury, Attleborough and Galley Common

45 In response to our draft recommendations, we received no submissions in relation to these wards. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Arbury, Attleborough and Galley Common wards as final.

Camp Hill and St Mary's

46 A resident disagreed with our proposed Camp Hill ward as they argued that it detached the South Camp Hill area and placed it in our proposed St Mary's ward. The resident expressed concern that the 'decisions and feelings' of the electors in St Mary's ward would not reflect those in South Camp Hill.

47 We explored amending the boundary of Camp Hill ward to include those electors north of Queen Elizabeth Road. We considered this to be the most identifiable boundary which had potential to reunite Camp Hill into one ward. However, this amendment would produce an electoral variance of 14% for Camp Hill and a -11% variance for St Mary's. Neither of these variances would provide for a good level of electoral equality and therefore we have not adopted this amendment as part of our final recommendations.

48 Furthermore, a submission from a resident objected to our proposed ward name of St Mary's and preferred the retention of the existing name of 'Abbey', due to local people's familiarity with the name. In our draft recommendations, we adopted the Council's proposal to rename the current 'Abbey' ward to St Mary's. The Council justified this proposal by stating that the ward contains St Mary's Church, which is a locally recognised historical landmark. They also noted that 'St Mary's' was a previous name for this ward.

49 We have carefully considered the objection received as well as the justification for the ward name change by the Council. In this case, we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to retain the current name of 'Abbey' for this ward. We are persuaded by the evidence provided by the Council that the name St Mary's refers to a locally recognised landmark and is therefore a suitable name for this ward. Consequently, we confirm our draft recommendations for Camp Hill and St Mary's wards as final.

Chilvers Coton

50 We received a submission from a resident who objected 'in the strongest possible terms' to our proposed ward name of 'Griff & Coton'. They stated that the name is not in use by local residents in any form and argued that the only organisation where the name 'Griff and Coton' is in use is the 'Griff and Coton Sports and Social Club'. They highlighted that this organisation is in our proposed Arbury ward and considered that it would be 'unusual' to name a ward after an organisation that is not contained within it. Furthermore, the resident argued that the area of Griff

is named after the historic Griff Collieries and provided a map to emphasize that the collieries are also located in our proposed Arbury ward.

51 The resident suggested renaming the ward to 'Chilvers Coton' arguing that it is a name used for the area. They supported this proposal with a list of organisations within the ward that bear this name. For example, Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, Chilvers Coton Conservative Club, Chilvers Coton Community School etc. We have carefully considered the evidence provided to us and are persuaded to adopt the name of 'Chilvers Coton' for this ward to better reflect the identity of the local community in this area. We have therefore modified our proposed ward name in our final recommendations.

Stockingford East and Stockingford West

52 In response to the draft recommendations, we received two submissions from residents objecting to our proposed ward name of 'Manor'. One resident argued that the ward should retain the name 'Bar Pool' as local residents are familiar with this name. In this case, we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to retain the current name of 'Bar Pool' for this ward.

53 Furthermore, another resident disagreed with our proposed name of Manor arguing that local people did not associate the area with this name. This name was suggested by the Council and justified by referencing three organisations which contain the name Manor that lie within this ward. These included Manor Park School, Manor Park Stadium and Manor Park Road. However, the resident stated that Manor Park School and Manor Park Stadium are closed, with the stadium having been demolished. In addition, Manor Park Road would not be wholly contained within Manor ward and would extend into our proposed St Mary's ward. On this basis, the resident deemed it unsuitable to name this ward Manor.

54 The resident therefore suggested renaming the proposed ward 'Stockingford East' arguing that the area west of the Coventry Canal is known as Stockingford by local residents. A list of organisations containing the name Stockingford within this ward was provided by the resident to justify this name change. The list included Stockingford Congregational Church and Stockingford Medical Centre. They acknowledged that renaming Manor to 'Stockingford East' would result in having to rename our proposed Stockingford ward. The name 'Stockingford West' was suggested to reflect that the area contained in both of these wards is considered as Stockingford to local people. In light of the strong evidence received, we have decided to change the names of our proposed Manor and Stockingford wards to 'Stockingford East' and 'Stockingford West', respectively, to better reflect the identity of the local community in this area.

55 Our final recommendations are for two-councillor Stockingford East and Stockingford West wards with 6% fewer and 3% more electors than the borough

average by 2028, respectively.

Conclusions

56 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Nuneaton & Bedworth, referencing the 2021 and 2028 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	2028
Number of councillors	38	38
Number of electoral wards	19	19
Average number of electors per councillor	2,618	3,056
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	7	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Final recommendations

Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council should be made up of 38 councillors representing 19 two-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Nuneaton & Bedworth on our interactive maps at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/nuneaton-and-bedworth>

What happens next?

57 We have now completed our review of Nuneaton & Bedworth. 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 2024.

Equalities

58 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 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Arbury	2	5,694	2,847	9%	5,922	2,961	-3%
2 Attleborough	2	5,622	2,811	7%	5,775	2,888	-5%
3 Bede	2	6,454	3,227	23%	6,617	3,309	8%
4 Bulkington	2	5,011	2,506	-4%	5,590	2,795	-9%
5 Camp Hill	2	5,382	2,691	3%	5,887	2,944	-4%
6 Chilvers Coton	2	4,845	2,423	-7%	6,038	3,019	-1%
7 Eastboro	2	3,031	1,516	-42%	6,598	3,299	8%
8 Exhall	2	5,093	2,547	-3%	5,855	2,928	-4%
9 Galley Common	2	5,736	2,868	10%	6,473	3,237	6%
10 Heath	2	5,916	2,958	13%	6,522	3,261	7%
11 Milby	2	2,161	1,081	-59%	6,179	3,090	1%
12 Poplar	2	5,204	2,602	-1%	6,189	3,095	1%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Slough	2	5,910	2,955	13%	6,012	3,006	-2%
14 St Mary's	2	6,039	3,020	15%	6,500	3,250	6%
15 St Nicolas	2	4,934	2,467	-6%	5,449	2,725	-11%
16 Stockingford East	2	5,645	2,823	8%	5,770	2,885	-6%
17 Stockingford West	2	6,137	3,069	17%	6,287	3,144	3%
18 Weddington	2	5,097	2,549	-3%	5,625	2,813	-8%
19 Whitestone	2	5,570	2,785	6%	6,821	3,411	12%
Totals	38	99,480	-	-	116,109	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,618	-	-	3,056	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

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

Appendix B

Outline map



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

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/nuneaton-and-bedworth.

Political Groups

- Nuneaton Conservative Association

Members of Parliament

- Marcus Jones, MP (Nuneaton)

Local Residents

- 12 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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