

New electoral arrangements for West Northamptonshire Council Final Recommendations

August 2023

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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
- 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 West Northamptonshire?

7 In 2019, the Secretary of State for the then Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government laid a structural changes order in Parliament which abolished Northamptonshire County Council and each of the districts councils within Northamptonshire. In their place the order established the two new unitary authorities of North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. The Northamptonshire (Structural Changes) Order 2020 provided for a new West Northamptonshire Council to be created in April 2021 which combined the areas previously represented by Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council and South Northamptonshire District Council into a single unitary authority. The boundaries of the wards in place when West Northamptonshire Council was first created were based on the boundaries of the county divisions that existed at that time. This Order passed Parliamentary scrutiny and was made on 13 February 2020.

8 The Commission agreed to undertake an electoral review of the new authority to ensure its electoral arrangements for the future are fit for purpose.

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

- The wards in West Northamptonshire 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 district.

Our proposals for West Northamptonshire

10 West Northamptonshire should be represented by 76 councillors, 17 fewer than there are now.

11 West Northamptonshire should have 35 wards, four more than there are now.

12 The boundaries of all wards should change.

13 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for West Northamptonshire.

How will the recommendations affect you?

14 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.

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

Review timetable

16 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for West Northamptonshire. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

17 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
7 March 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
15 May 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 August 2023	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

18 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.

19 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.

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

	2021	2028
Electorate of West Northamptonshire	299,118	325,511
Number of councillors	76	76
Average number of electors per councillor	3,936	4,283

21 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 West Northamptonshire are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

23 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 9% by 2028.

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.

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.

Number of councillors

25 West Northamptonshire Council currently has 93 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council which proposed there should be 77 councillors in the future and a resident who proposed 85 councillors.

26 The resident calculated the mean value of the lowest and highest sizes (76 and 108) of 10 'comparable' unitary authorities to arrive at their proposed optimum council size of 85 for West Northamptonshire. This proposal was not supported by information about how a council would run with 85 members. The Council set out information and evidence in support of its proposed council size.

27 We looked at evidence provided by the Council and were satisfied that 77 councillors would allow the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively. We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 77 councillors – for example, 77 one-councillor wards or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 When identifying specific wards, we concluded that 76 councillors instead of 77 would best facilitate a warding pattern throughout the district. Our draft recommendations were therefore based on a council size of 76.

29 We received four submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. One stated that a reduction in council size would be welcome. The others were of the view that 76 councillors was too many for the authority. None of the comments included a specific number of councillors that West Northamptonshire Council should have, nor did they provide any evidence to support these views.

30 We have therefore maintained 76 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

31 We received 94 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included five authority-wide proposals. These were from the Council (who submitted two proposals), West Northamptonshire Council Labour Group ('Labour'), West Northamptonshire Liberal Democrats ('Liberal Democrats') and Councillor McCord. These all provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for West Northamptonshire. The remainder of the submissions, including from local organisations, parish councils and residents, provided localised comments for wards arrangements in particular areas of the district.

32 We carefully considered the proposals received and noted that generally the authority-wide proposals that we received would result in good levels of electoral

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

33 Our draft recommendations were based on a mix of the authority-wide proposals that we received. 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.

34 We conducted a detailed virtual tour of West Northamptonshire. We also visited the area in order to look at some of the different proposals on the ground. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

35 Our draft recommendations were for 13 three-councillor wards, 15 two-councillor wards and seven one-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

36 We received 138 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included representations from Council Officers, the Council's Labour Group ('Labour'), West Northamptonshire Liberal Democrats ('Liberal Democrats') and Daventry Constituency Conservative Association ('Daventry Conservatives'). We also received submissions from several councillors and parish councils focusing on specific areas of the district.

37 Labour, several councillors, Northampton Town Council and some residents wanted the existing town council wards for Northampton town to be retained. They argued that the town council was unique, and the parish wards were based on historical communities.

38 While we note the reasons given for this request, the law requires that parish wards reflect district wards and do not cross district ward boundaries. We therefore must create new parish wards as a consequence of the new district wards that we create to ensure that this does not happen. Northampton Town Council has 21 existing parish wards. These cross the new district wards in many places. Even if we were to reinstate those that do not cross the new district ward boundaries, this will necessitate creating many smaller ones around them. Because of the number of parish wards involved, the resulting number of parish wards will exceed the number of town councillors. Therefore, we have created new parish wards which reflect the new district wards.

Final recommendations

39 Our final recommendations are for 13 three-councillor wards, 15 two-councillor wards and seven one-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.

40 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications and consequential ones to Braunston & Crick, Castle, Daventry, Long Buckby, Rural South Northamptonshire, Weston Favell & Abington Vale and Woodford & Weedon wards based on the submissions received. We also rename some of the wards.

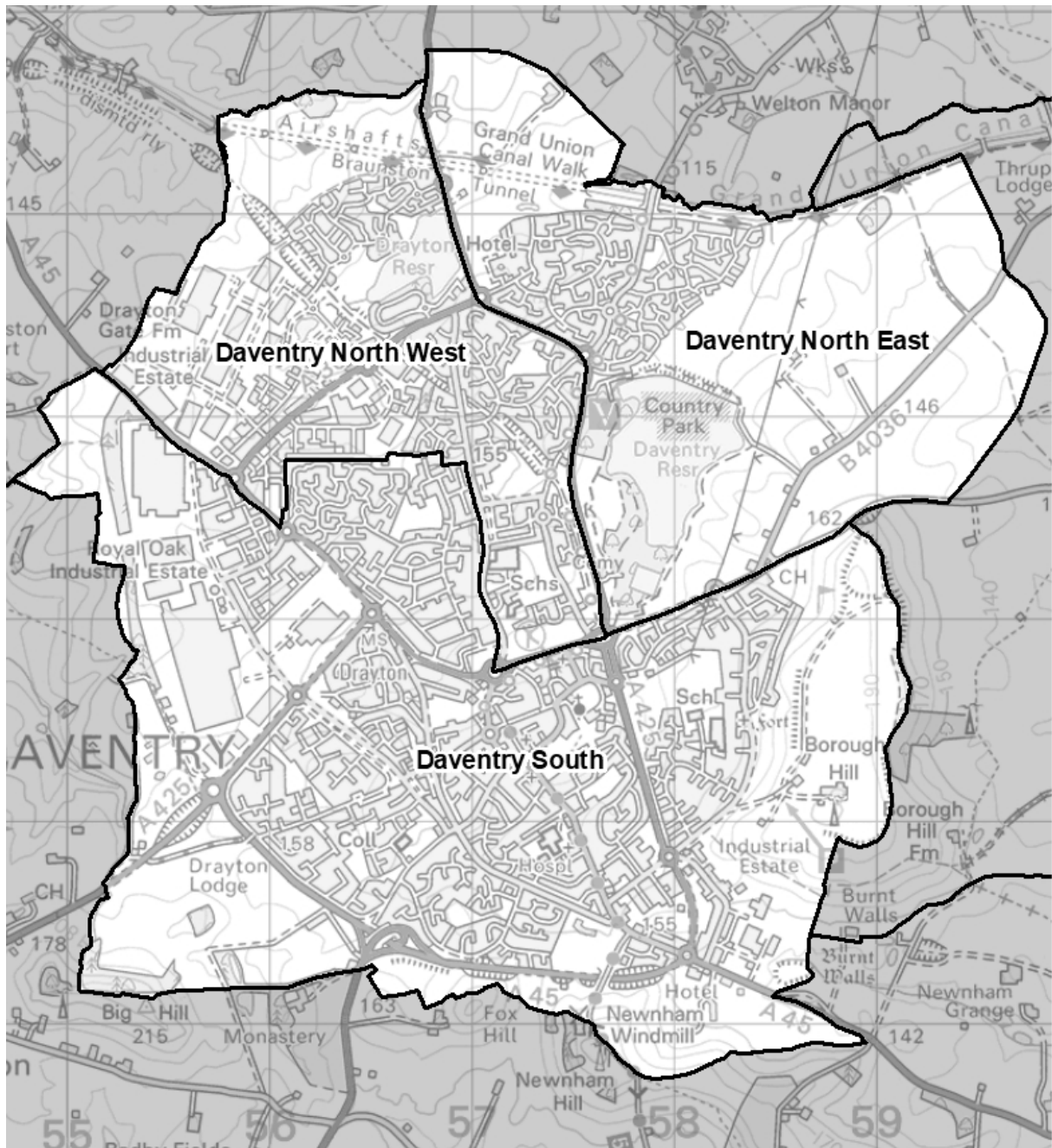
41 The tables and maps on pages 9–36 detail our final recommendations for each area of West Northamptonshire. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

42 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 45 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Daventry Town



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Daventry North East	1	3%
Daventry North West	1	9%
Daventry South	3	7%

Daventry North East, Daventry North West and Daventry South

43 We received submissions from Labour, the Liberal Democrats, Daventry Conservatives, Daventry Town Council, and a resident for this area.

44 Labour, Daventry Conservatives and Daventry Town Council supported our draft recommendations. Daventry Town Council stated that the draft recommendations would allow councillors to focus on and deliver effective local government to communities that had a shared identity.

45 The Liberal Democrats expressed support for the principle of not including any rural parishes in a ward with Daventry but were of the view that splitting Daventry into smaller wards would better reflect communities in the area.

46 The Liberal Democrats and the resident expressed similar views, broadly supporting our draft recommendations for Daventry South, with one proposed modification, and proposing that Daventry North be split into two single-councillor wards.

47 In our draft recommendations report we asked if residents around Timken Way would be better included in Daventry South because of the industrial estate which separates these residents north of Morning Star Road from residents further north of Daventry. This was outlined in Councillor McCord's original proposal.

48 In response, the Liberal Democrats supported our suggested alternative for the area around Morning Star Road in the southern ward along the lines we suggested. This was on community identity grounds and because, in their view, these residents did not share amenities with those to the west of the northern ward. The resident stated that Daventry South would be more 'joined up' if it included the Timken Estate, which they said depended on Headlands for shops. They proposed moving an area east of Ashby Road to the north, which in their view made the northern ward more coherent.

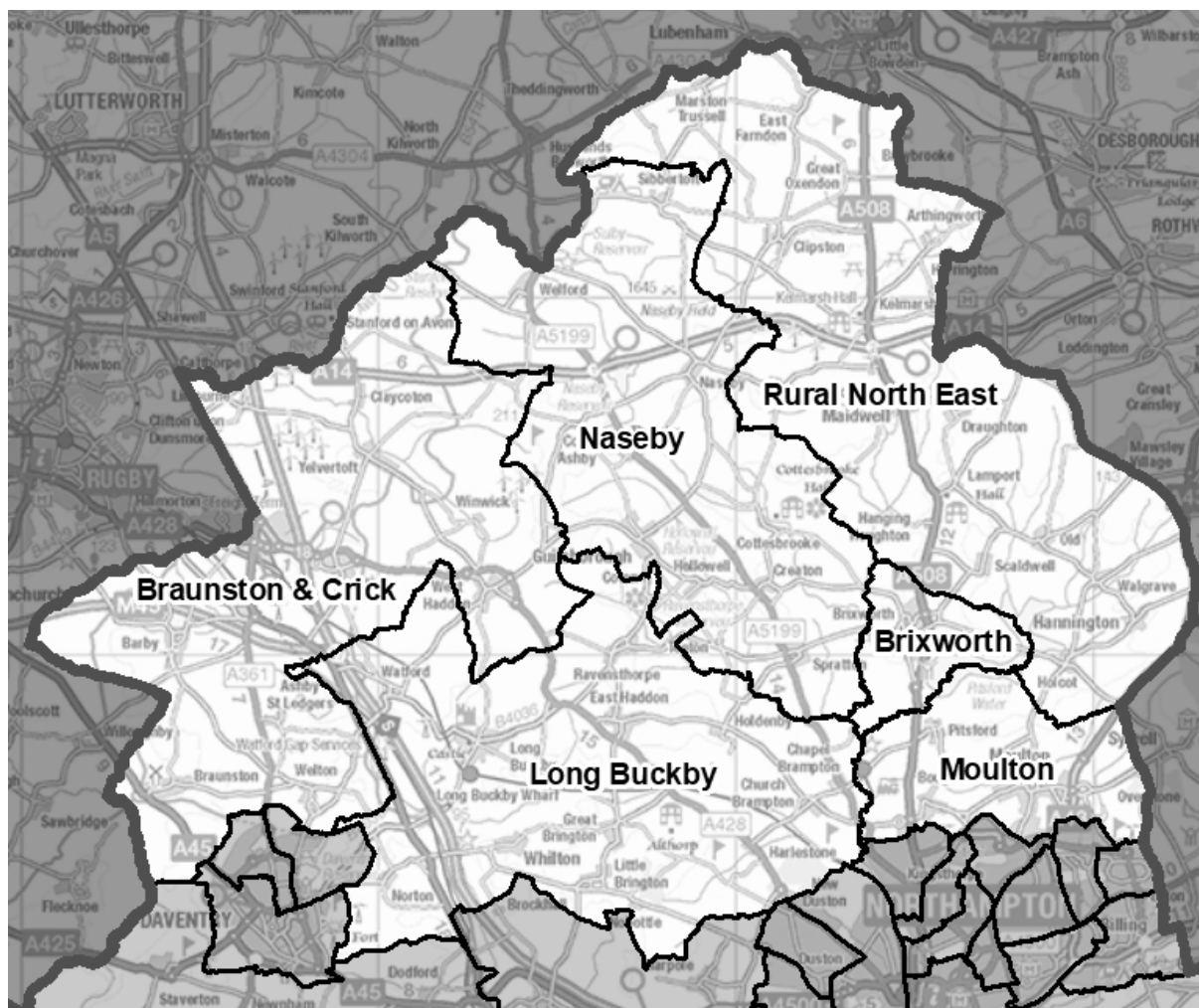
49 Both the Liberal Democrats and the resident proposed that we split Daventry North ward into two single-councillor wards with the boundary between them running along the A361 (Ashby Road) to the A425 (Northern Way).

50 After considering all the submissions received, we note the general support for our draft recommendations, in particular for not including rural parishes in a ward with Daventry town. We also note the comments about the Timken Way area and have been persuaded to include residents here in Daventry South, along the lines proposed by Councillor McCord (at the warding pattern consultation), the Liberal Democrats and the resident. We have also conducted a virtual tour of Northern Way and note the strength of the road as a boundary. We have therefore been persuaded to create two wards in the north of Daventry as part of our final recommendations.

51 Our final recommendations for Daventry are for three wards: Daventry North East, Daventry North West and Daventry South.

52 Daventry North East and Daventry North West wards are both single-councillor wards. They are forecast to have 3% and 9% more electors than the district average by 2028. Daventry South is a three-councillor ward forecast to have 7% more electors than the average for West Northamptonshire by 2028.

North and north central parishes



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Braunston & Crick	2	4%
Brixworth	1	2%
Long Buckby	2	-3%
Moulton	3	0%
Naseby	1	10%
Rural North East	1	-4%

Braunston & Crick and Long Buckby

53 We received submissions from Daventry Conservatives, Councillor Bignell, Councillor Collins, Ashby St Ledgers Parish Meeting, Crick Parish Council, Long Buckby Parish Council, Watford Parish Council, West Haddon Parish Council, Yelvertoft Parish Council and some residents, in response to our draft recommendations in this area.

54 Ashby St Ledgers and Crick parish councils expressed support for our draft recommendations Braunston & Crick ward while a resident supported the changes to Long Buckby ward.

55 Yelvertoft Parish Council expressed the view that its community was with Crick and some of the other parishes in the DIRFT (Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal) area and that it did not support being included in a separate ward to the north. We note that our draft recommendations include this parish in a ward with Crick parish.

56 Daventry Conservatives, Councillor Bignell, Councillor Collins, Long Buckby Parish Council, Watford Parish Council and some residents objected to the exclusion of Watford parish from this ward and its inclusion in a ward to the east on community grounds. Many stated that Watford residents used facilities in Long Buckby and that the parish councils worked together on some issues. Long Buckby Parish Council stated that there was a strong relationship between the villages which it wanted to continue.

57 Some of these representations also proposed that West Haddon parish be included in Long Bucky ward. West Haddon Parish Council stated that it had closer geographical and other links with Long Bucky. To address any electoral imbalance this proposed move might cause, Councillor Bignell and the Daventry Conservatives proposed moving Harlestone Manor parish out of Long Buckby ward into a ward to the south or southeast.

58 We have carefully considered the representations we received and have been persuaded to exclude Watford parish from this ward, on community identity grounds. We note that such a move produces wards with good electoral equality.

59 We also considered excluding West Haddon parish from this ward. However, this produced a Braunston & Crick ward and a Long Buckby ward forecast to have 14% fewer electors and 14% more electors, respectively, than the district average by 2028. Moving Harlestone Manor parish into Duston or Champion wards will not address the poor electoral equality in Braunston & Crick. As we were not persuaded to create a ward with such poor electoral equality, we have not done so. Furthermore, our draft recommendations for Duston received significant support and we have not received persuasive evidence to support the inclusion of Harlestone Manor in that ward or in Champion ward.

60 As part of our final recommendations, Braunston & Crick ward excludes Watford parish which we have included in Long Buckby ward. Both wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Brixworth and Naseby

61 The submissions we received from Labour, Daventry Conservatives and Councillors Irving-Swift and Parker supported our draft recommendations single-councillor Brixworth ward which was coterminous with Brixworth parish. Councillors Irving-Swift and Parker stated that Brixworth was different from the surrounding villages and hamlets and therefore this warding pattern ‘would work well.’ They also expressed support for our draft recommendations Naseby ward.

62 However, the Liberal Democrats expressed the view that a single-councillor Brixworth ward disadvantaged the parish by reducing the opportunity for collaboration and communication with other parishes. They proposed creating a two-councillor Brixworth & Welford ward by merging our draft recommendations Brixworth and Naseby wards. They point out that the resultant ward would have better electoral equality than our draft recommendations Naseby ward.

63 Naseby Parish Council suggested that Naseby ward and Walgrave & East Farndon wards be combined to form a two-councillor ward with better electoral equality than Naseby, which is forecast to have 10% more electors than the average for the district by 2028.

64 After careful consideration of the representations, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final. Firstly, we note the support for a single-councillor Brixworth ward on community and interest grounds, during both consultations. Secondly, we do not consider that being in separate electoral wards stops parishes and district wards from collaborating on shared issues. We consider that Brixworth ward reflects our statutory criteria, including community identity in the area.

65 We have also not been persuaded to combine Naseby and Walgrave & East Farndon wards along the lines proposed by Naseby Parish Council, due to the support we received for the boundaries of our draft recommendations Walgrave & East Farndon ward from those who wrote to us.

66 While we note that Naseby ward is forecast to have 10% more electors than the district average in 2028, we consider that it has good electoral equality and that this is the best balance of our statutory criteria.

67 Therefore, we confirm our draft recommendations Brixworth and Naseby wards as final.

Moulton

68 We received submissions from Councillor Lane, Councillor West, Moulton Parish Council and three residents.

69 Councillor Lane expressed concerns about our draft recommendations Parklands ward. One of the concerns was the exclusion of Moulton Leys from this ward, and its inclusion in Moulton ward. He explained that Moulton Leys was part of Northampton North Parliamentary constituency while Moulton was part of Daventry Parliamentary constituency. Furthermore, he pointed out that Moulton has its own parish council whereas Moulton Leys is part of Northampton Town Council.

70 Moulton Parish Council wrote in support of the inclusion of Moulton Leys in Moulton ward stating that it was distinct from Northampton town and that residents used facilities in Moulton.

71 The residents that wrote to us were of the view that Buckton Fields Estate should be included in Kingsthorpe North ward due to its proximity to Kingsthorpe.

72 We have considered all the submissions we received, including those from the first consultation.

73 Regarding Moulton Leys, we note that during the warding pattern consultation, the Council and some others expressed the view that this area and the community here looked more to Moulton to the north, than Northampton Town to the south. We also note that Boughton Lane and Moulton Lane form strong identifiable boundaries with Moulton Park industrial estate creating a demarcation between Moulton Leys and the rest of Northampton Town. Therefore, we are content that including Moulton Leys in Moulton reflects community interests and represents the best balance of our statutory criteria.

74 With regards to Councillor Lane's comments about Moulton and Moulton Leys being in different parliamentary constituencies, it is important to note that our ward boundaries do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries. The legislation that currently exists states that parliamentary constituencies will use existing district wards as the basis for new parliamentary constituencies.

75 Therefore, we have not been persuaded to include Moulton Leys in Parklands ward.

76 We note the comments from the residents about Buckton Fields' proximity to Kingsthorpe. We also noted this on our tour of the area. However, during the first consultation, we received representations from Labour, the Liberal Democrats, Councillor Hallam, Councillor McCord, Daventry Conservatives, Moulton Parish Council and several residents that stated that the estate was not part of the Kingsthorpe community, and that most residents shared interests and ties with Boughton Village and not with Kingsthorpe.

77 While we note the views of the residents who consider the estate should be included in a ward with Kingsthorpe, we believe that the overwhelming support and evidence is in support of our draft recommendations and we are confirming them as final.

78 Councillor West advocated for more councillors to reflect growth in Overstone parish. However, Moulton ward is forecast to have about the same number of electors per councillor as the district average, by 2028. It is therefore not under-represented.

Rural North East

79 This ward was named Walgrave & East Farndon as part of our draft recommendations. We received support for its boundaries from Daventry Conservatives, Councillor Evans, Councillors Irving-Swift and Parker, Holcot Parish Council, Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council, Walgrave Parish Council, and residents. However, most of them wanted it renamed either because they felt that the name was cumbersome or that it was not representative of all the constituent parishes.

80 Arthingworth Parish Council and Councillor Irving-Swift proposed the name Faxton, this being the name of a church group covering several villages in the area. It was also the name of a 'lost village' between Lamport and Maidwell. A resident suggested Lamport & Maidwell because these were 'better known villages in a more central location'. They suggested that an alternative name would be Rural North East. Another resident wanted a more 'generic' name to take the focus away from specific villages, but did not provide any suggestions, noting that coming up with a satisfactory one would be difficult.

81 East Farndon Parish Council was of the view that the ward was too large and that a single councillor would struggle to engage effectively. Alongside his support for the ward, Councillor Evans also expressed some concern about it only having one councillor.

82 As mentioned in the section on Brixworth and Naseby above, Naseby Parish Council advocated the merger of this ward with the draft recommendations Naseby ward.

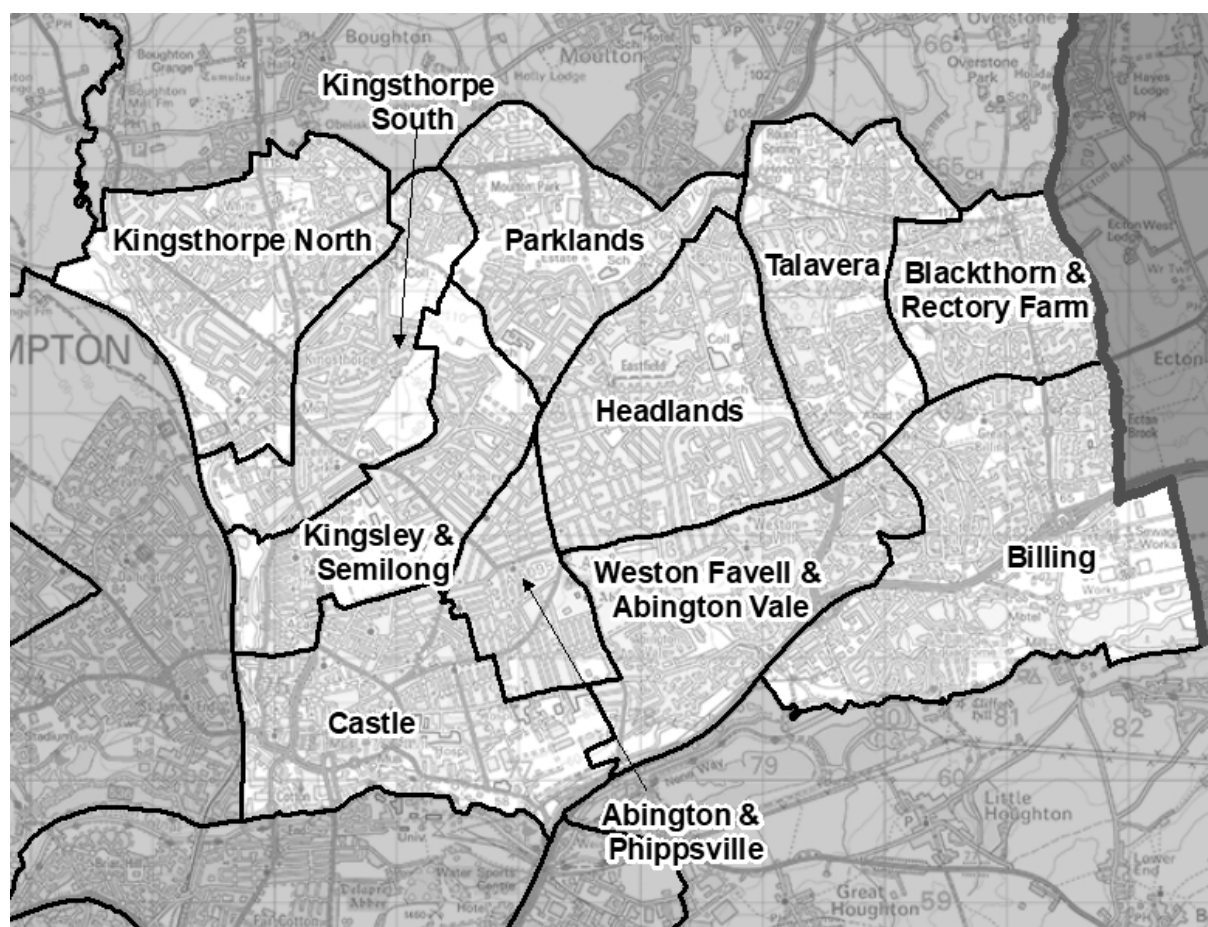
83 In light of the support we received for the boundaries of this ward, we have not been persuaded to modify its boundaries. However, in view of the comments about the name of the ward, we have decided to rename it.

84 We noted the suggestions to name the ward Faxton or Lamport & Maidwell. However, it was unclear if either of these names would have widespread support in the area. Therefore, we have decided to name it Rural North East.

85 If there is a desire locally to change the ward name in the five years following a review, a local authority may seek the Commission's agreement to change the name if this reflects community identity and sentiment. After five years, a local authority may make a change without seeking the agreement of the Commission.

86 Aside from the change of name, we confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Billing, Central and East Northampton, and Kingsthorpe



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Abington & Phippsville	2	6%
Billing	2	-7%
Blackthorn & Rectory Farm	2	-11%
Castle	3	0%
Headlands	3	8%
Kingsley & Semilong	2	3%
Kingsthorpe North	3	-5%
Kingsthorpe South	2	-1%
Parklands	1	-10%
Talavera	2	-4%
Weston Favell & Abington Vale	2	-1%

87 We received several submissions including from the Labour Group, Northampton Town Council, several councillors and residents which proposed that the existing parish wards for the Northampton Town Council area be retained. These existing Northampton Town Council wards are based on the old district wards of Northampton Borough Council before it was abolished.

88 Northampton Town Council stated that it was a unique council, noting it is the largest parish in the country by population. It was of the view that the existing parish wards are based on historical communities and that continuity was important to its residents and that as a new council, it was working hard to establish itself within West Northamptonshire. The Town Council and other respondents pointed to the varying sizes of the draft recommendations parish wards.

89 We note these points and understand that significant change so soon after the creation of West Northamptonshire Council and Northampton Town Council may not be welcomed. As mentioned in paragraphs 7 and 8, we are conducting this review of West Northamptonshire Council because it has been newly established and to ensure that it has the best electoral arrangements going forward. We do this for every newly created or restructured local authority.

90 Accordingly, we are recommending new district wards in Northampton and the rest of the district which we believe reflect the best balance of our statutory criteria at the district ward level. When doing so, we are also required, by law,⁵ to ensure that the Northampton Town Council wards reflect the district warding pattern. This means that when we create district wards that cut across parts of a parish we must create parish wards (i.e. Northampton Town Council wards) for each of those town council wards which are in different district wards.

91 In view of the comments we received, we considered retaining those parish wards that were wholly within the new district wards. However, doing this and creating parish wards that do not cross district ward boundaries as required by legislation, would also involve creating many new and some very small parish wards. This would also result in there being more parish wards than Northampton Town councillors. We do not consider that the Commission should change the total number of parish or town councillors as we believe this is an issue that should be considered at the local level and changed, if appropriate, through a Community Governance Review. Accordingly we have not been persuaded to adopt the proposals of Northampton Town Council in relation to this issue.

Billing

92 The submissions we received from Billing Parish Council, Councillor Hill, Councillor Kilbride and a resident all supported our draft recommendations which united Billing parish in a single West Northamptonshire Council ward. Councillor Hill also supported the use of the A4500 as a strong boundary between this ward and Blackthorn & Rectory Farm ward to the north.

⁵ The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (Schedule 2)
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/20/schedule/2

93 The Council Officers were of the view that it would be difficult to find a suitable site for a polling station in the area between Stockmead Road and Swinford Hollow. We note these comments. However, we note that the access of these residents is to the east towards Billing where we have placed them. Moving this area into another district ward will produce a Billing ward with very poor electoral equality (-15%). We consider our draft recommendations the best balance of our statutory criteria for this area. We also consider that there will be other options available to the Council with regards to the siting of polling stations in the area.

94 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Billing ward as final.

Blackthorn & Rectory Farm and Talavera

95 We received comments about this area from Councillor Hill.

96 As mentioned in the section on Billing ward, Councillor Hill supported our draft recommendations which united Billing parish in a single ward. The councillor was of the view that it made sense for Rectory Farm and Blackthorn to be in a different ward from any part of Billing parish. The councillor also supported the use of the A4500 as a boundary.

97 We did not receive any submissions which objected to either Blackthorn & Rectory or Talavera district wards. Therefore, we are confirming our draft recommendations for these two wards as final.

Abington & Phippsville, Castle and Kingsley & Semilong

98 In addition to the authority-wide comments, we received specific comments from Council Officers and two residents about these wards.

99 The Council Officers were concerned about the southern boundary of Castle ward around Auctioneers Way and the challenges this would present them in finding a polling station.

100 The residents stated that Chipsey Avenue, Cranmere Avenue and Rushmere Avenue shared more community interests with either our draft recommendations Phippsville or Weston wards and that residents on both sides of Rushmere Road ought to be in a single ward. One of the residents stated that Northampton School for Boys separated this area from the rest of Castle ward.

101 We note the strength of the school as a boundary between the wards and on further reflection, we have moved this area into Weston ward. After careful consideration, we have also strengthened the southern boundary of Castle ward by running the boundary entirely along the River Nene. We note that this latter modification produces a ward to the south with 12% fewer electors than the average

for West Northamptonshire; nevertheless, we are content that this warding pattern reflects our statutory criteria.

102 One of the residents proposed renaming Phippsville, Abington. In their view, most residents would identify as living in Abington and that Phippsville covered a smaller area.

103 We note that our draft recommendations for this ward were based on Labour and Councillor's McCord's identical proposals. At the time, Labour proposed naming it Abington & Phippsville while Councillor McCord called his ward, Abington. The Council's proposed ward for this area was named Phippsville.

104 After careful consideration, we have been persuaded that a section of the community in this area identifies with the name Abington and are therefore content to include Abington in the name of the ward. We have renamed it Abington & Phippsville.

105 The resident also proposed renaming St George ward 'some combination or one of Kingsley, Semilong or Kingsthorpe Hollow'. We note that the existing ward is named St George. However, we also note that the Council named its proposed ward in the area Kingsley & Semilong, which is in line with the resident's suggestion. We understand that Kingsley Park and the Semilong area fall within the boundaries of this ward. Therefore, we have renamed St George ward, Kingsley & Semilong.

106 Except for the modifications to Castle ward boundary and the renaming of Phippsville and St George wards as described above, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final. Abington & Phippsville, Castle and Kingsley & Semilong wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality.

Headlands and Parklands

107 We received specific comments from Councillor Hallam, Councillor Lane, Eastfield Residents' Association and two residents about this area.

108 As mentioned in the section on Moulton, Councillor Lane objected to the exclusion of Moulton Leys from the Parklands ward. He advocated for the retention of the existing boundaries of Boothville & Parklands ward except for moving the area south of St Gregory's Road into Headlands ward.

109 Councillor Hallam believed that 'the right recommendation was to retain Parklands as one community'. Eastfield Residents' Association and a resident supported our draft recommendations. In particular, the residents' association expressed support for our use of clear boundaries (e.g., Kettering Road) for Headlands ward.

110 The resident said they supported the proposals put forward by Eastfield Residents' Association and the Friends of Eastfield Park (at this last consultation) on which our draft recommendations were based, stating that the other proposals crossed what residents would consider natural boundaries.

111 The other resident proposed splitting Headlands ward into two single-councillor wards on either an East/West or North/South basis because the ward covered a large geographical area. However, they did not propose specific boundaries and we have not adopted this proposal.

112 With regards to Councillor Lane's proposal, we note that Moulton Leys is separated from the rest of Northampton Town by an industrial estate and because of this, Moulton Lane is a strong boundary. Furthermore, without any changes to the boundaries and number of councillors for the district, the existing Boothville & Parklands ward is forecast to have 12% fewer electors than the district average, by 2028. With the new council size, the forecast for this ward is 28% fewer electors than the average for West Northamptonshire, by 2028. We are not minded to create a ward with such poor electoral equality and we did not adopt this proposal. If we moved more than 400 electors south of St Gregory's Road into Headlands as Councillor Lane proposed, the electoral equality will get poorer.

113 We are therefore adopting our draft recommendations for Headlands and Parklands wards as final.

Kingsthorpe North and Kingsthorpe South

114 We received comments from Council Officers, Councillor Lane, Kingsthorpe Parish Council and several residents in response to our draft recommendations for this area.

115 Councillor Lane supported the draft recommendations for Kingsthorpe North and Kingsthorpe South district wards.

116 Council Officers stated that they would have difficulty in finding a polling station in the Dixon Road Estate area while a resident of the estate objected to being excluded from Moulton ward and felt that as a result, they would not belong to either the Boughton community or the Kingsthorpe community.

117 Kingsthorpe Parish Council's and some residents' comments related to the proposed parish wards. Kingsthorpe parish currently has five parish wards. Our draft recommendations proposed two which were coterminous with the draft recommendation district wards.

118 The parish council stated that the existing five parish wards were recently established and that they represented distinct communities. The parish council was

of the view that due to the diverse nature of the parish, adequate representation of each community could only be ensured by the preservation of the existing ward structure of five separate wards rather than the two bigger ones.

119 As mentioned in the section on Moulton ward, three residents were of the view that Buckton Fields should be included in Kingsthorpe North ward due to its proximity.

120 We have considered all the submissions we received. We remain persuaded that as the Dixon Road area is separated from the rest of Boughton parish by open countryside, it would be well served by being included in a district ward with its closest neighbours in Kingsthorpe. Notwithstanding this, we note that the area remains part of Boughton parish and we have no reason to believe that it will be excluded from the community there.

121 While Buckton Fields is close to Kingsthorpe, we have been persuaded by evidence at the last consultation which pointed to them being separate communities. We note that including Buckton Fields in Moulton ward was proposed by three of the authority-wide proposals and supported by most of those who wrote to us at during the first consultation.

122 We are therefore adopting our draft recommendations for Kingsthorpe North and Kingsthorpe South as final.

123 With regards to the parish wards, the issues are similar to the ones highlighted in relation to Northampton. As mentioned above, by law we must ensure that none of the parish wards cross district ward boundaries. However, we note that some of the existing ones (Kingsthorpe and Spring Park) do not cross them, and we have reinstated them as part of our final recommendations. We have modified the other existing ones to ensure that they do not cross district ward boundaries. This means that Kingsthorpe parish will retain five parish wards, albeit three with different boundaries.

Weston Favell & Abington Vale

124 We received comments from Councillor Kilbride and two residents about our draft recommendations Weston ward.

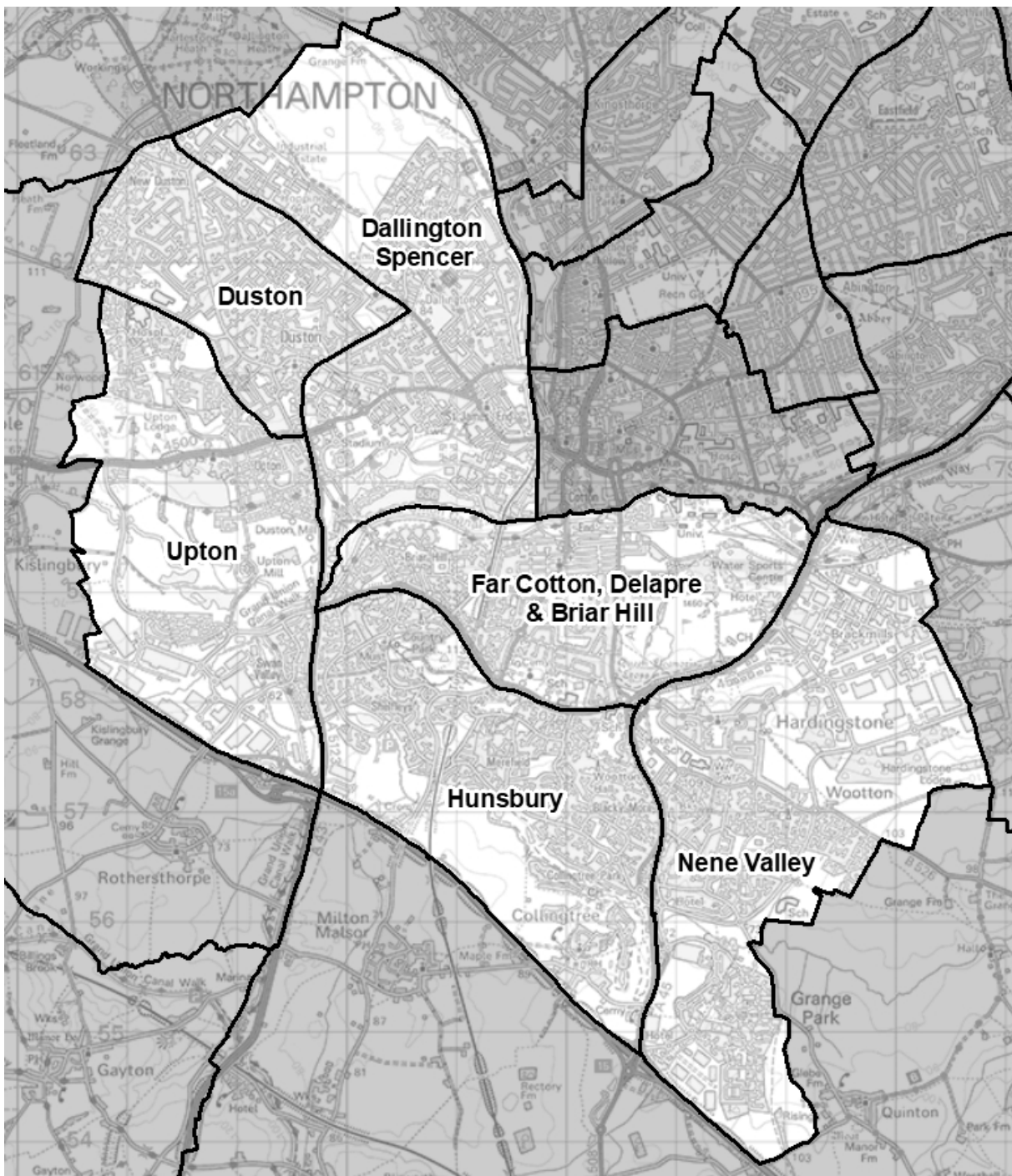
125 As mentioned in the section on Castle ward, the residents advocated that both sides of Rushmere Road ought to be included in the same ward, on community identity grounds. Similarly, they were of the view that the roads east of Northampton School for Boys shared more community interests with our draft recommendations Phippsville and Weston wards.

126 We carefully considered these representations and note that the school separates residents on either side and would therefore form a strong and identifiable boundary.

127 We have therefore moved the area east of Northampton School for Boys in to Weston ward.

128 We also received a comment about the name of the ward. It stated that Weston was not a place and that the ward should be named Weston Favell & Abington Vale. We note that both Weston Favell and Abington Vale are places within the boundaries of this ward and we have therefore renamed the ward accordingly.

West Northampton and parishes



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Dallington Spencer	3	7%
Duston	3	0%
Far Cotton, Delapre & Briar Hill	3	-12%
Hunsbury	3	8%
Nene Valley	3	1%
Upton	2	7%

Dallington Spencer

129 We did not receive any specific comments about our recommendations for this district ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Dallington Spencer as final.

Duston

130 We received specific comments on our draft recommendations for Duston from Daventry Conservatives, Councillor Golby, Councillor Hinch, Duston Parish Council and a resident.

131 Councillors Golby and Hinch, Duston Parish Council and the resident expressed support for our draft recommendations for Duston. Most were of the view that a district ward coterminous with the parish reflected community identity in this area. We consider that uniting the parish in a single ward will promote effective and convenient local government.

132 As mentioned in the section on Long Buckby, Daventry Conservatives and Councillor Bignell suggested that Harlestone Manor parish could be included in this ward to facilitate their proposed warding pattern for West Haddon. However, due to the lack of community identity evidence and the support we have received for this ward, we have not been persuaded to modify the boundaries of this ward.

133 We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Far Cotton, Delapre & Briar Hill

134 We received several submissions about the name of this ward. Far Cotton & Delapre Community Council and many residents wanted Far Cotton included in the name of the ward on community identity grounds. The Community Council and residents who wrote in, suggested Far Cotton, Delapre & Briar Hill. The Community Council said it had shared this name on its Facebook page and it had received support.

135 We have considered these submissions and are content to rename this ward Far Cotton, Delapre & Briar Hill to reflect community identity.

136 Since we did not receive any submissions objecting to the boundaries of our draft recommendations for this district ward, we confirm them as final.

Hunsbury

137 We received comments from the Liberal Democrats and West Hunsbury Parish Council about the draft recommendations in this area.

138 They supported the uniting of West Hunsbury parish in a single ward. However, they expressed concern about the inclusion of East Hunsbury and West Hunsbury

parishes in the same ward. The Liberal Democrats stated that the demographics were different and, therefore, they would have different issues. West Hunsbury Parish Council felt that without having a dedicated district councillor, the new ward could be dominated by issues of concern to East Hunsbury residents.

139 The Liberal Democrats proposed the creation of a single-councillor West Hunsbury ward and a two-councillor East Hunsbury ward. To facilitate good electoral equality in East Hunsbury, they suggested moving Collingtree parish into Nene Valley ward. To deal with the knock-on effect on Nene Valley, they proposed moving an area of Hackleton parish included in our draft recommendations for Nene Valley, into Hackleton & Roade ward and, consequentially, Stoke Bruerne parish from Hackleton & Roade into Deanshanger & Paulerspury ward.

140 We carefully considered this proposal. We note that the creation of an East Hunsbury ward is dependent on making modifications to three other wards for which we have received no community evidence to change. With respect to the area of Hackleton parish included in Nene Valley ward, we heard that these residents look to and identify with Wootton and not Hackleton. We also note that the parish boundary between Hackleton and Wootton parishes in this area is defaced and splits properties, so using the parish boundary as a district ward boundary is not desirable here. For these reasons, we have not been persuaded to change our recommendations for Hunsbury ward.

141 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Hunsbury as final.

Nene Valley

142 In addition to the comments mentioned above, from the Liberal Democrats and West Hunsbury Parish Council, we received submissions about this area from Hardingstone Parish Council and a resident.

143 Hardingstone Parish Council had no objections to our draft recommendations while the resident noted that this ward includes properties accessed from Poppyfield Road that are within the boundaries of Hackleton parish and should therefore be included in Hackleton & Roade ward instead. The resident was concerned that including these properties in Nene Valley ward would increase the number of 'residents' to councillors for Nene Valley ward.

144 As mentioned in the section above, the parish boundary in this area is defaced and splits some properties across different parishes. Also, all the roads east of Lady Hollows Drive and Thrupp Bridge fall within the boundaries of Hackleton parish, not just those accessed from Poppyfield Road. Using the parish boundary as a district ward boundary here will split properties and cul-de-sacs across different district wards. Furthermore, the community evidence we received during the last

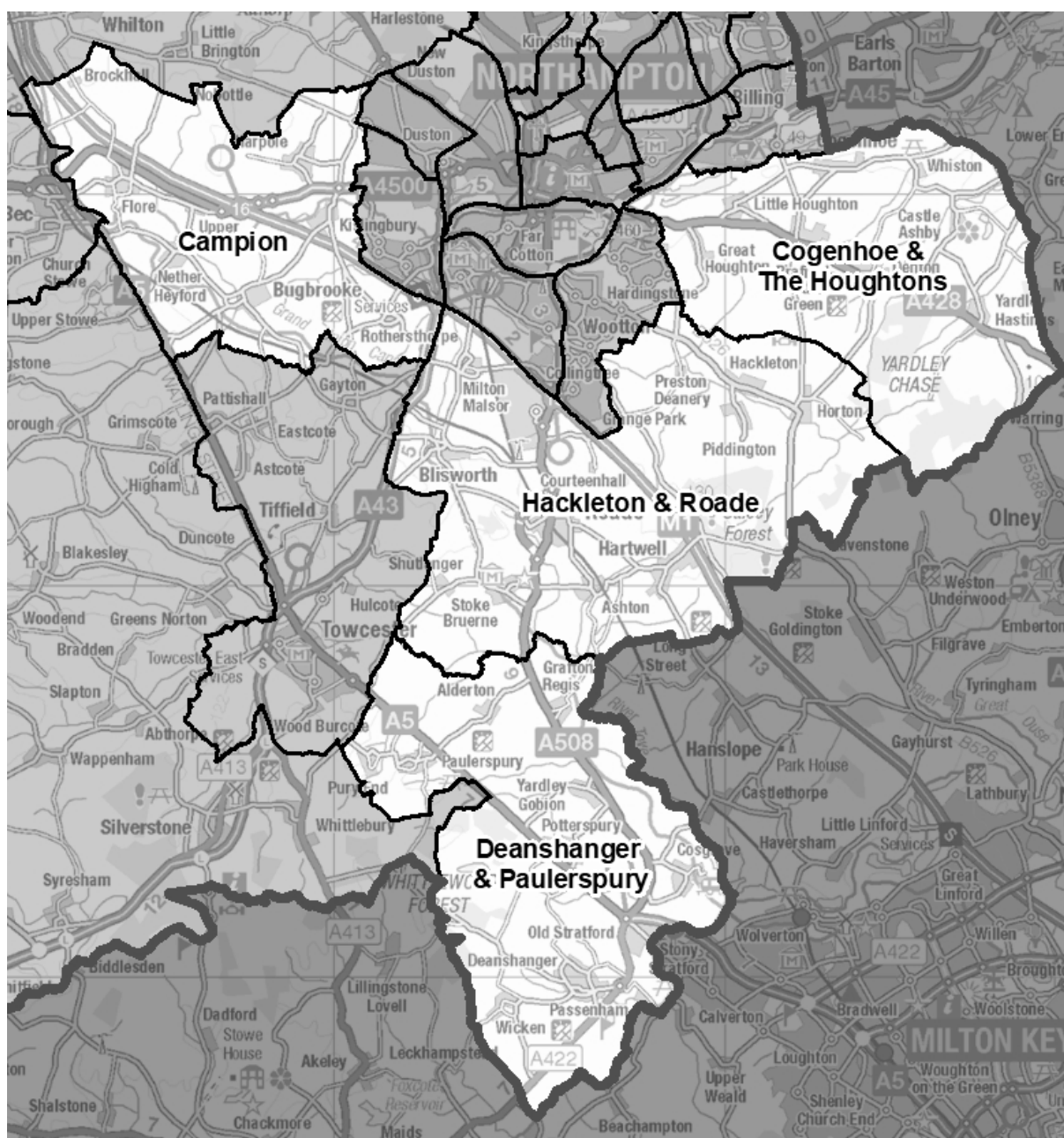
consultation, suggests that these residents share a community of interest with Wootton parish residents.

145 We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Nene Valley ward, as final.

Upton

146 We did not receive any specific comments about our recommendations for this district ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Upton ward as final.

Southeast and central



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Campion	2	-4%
Cogenhoe & The Houghtons	1	-5%
Deanshanger & Paulerspury	2	3%
Hackleton & Roade	2	4%

Campion

147 We received submissions from Councillor Brown and Bugbrooke Parish Council, in addition to the authority-wide comments. They all expressed support for the boundaries of our draft recommendation ward.

148 Councillor Brown was of the view that the ward reflected communities in the area and that it was largely coterminous with the catchment area for Campion School.

149 However, the parish council objected to the name of the ward, stating that 'Campion' was a family name and is the name of the secondary school, but 'not a reflection of the area'. Furthermore, since several other wards had retained their existing names of the ward, it wanted Bugbrooke reinstated as the name of this ward.

150 We carefully considered the comments about the name of the ward. We note that while Bugbrooke remains the largest village within the ward, the boundaries of the new ward are quite different from the existing Bugbrooke ward. We are therefore content to retain the new name for the ward. We consider that it reflects the school that most pupils within the ward will attend.

151 However, in the five years following a review, a local authority may seek the Commission's agreement to change the name of a ward if this reflects community identity and sentiment. After five years, a local authority may make a change without seeking the agreement of the Commission.

152 In light of the support for this ward's boundaries, we confirm our draft recommendations for Campion ward as final.

Cogenhoe & The Houghtons

153 We received comments from Labour, Councillor Clarke and Brafield-on-the-Green and Yardley Hastings parish councils in response to our draft recommendations for this area.

154 Councillor Clarke and Yardley Hastings Parish Council expressed support for the draft recommendations for Cogenhoe & The Houghtons. Yardley Hastings Parish Council stated that the parishes in this ward were grouped along the A428 and had much in common.

155 Brafield-on-the-Green Parish Council supported the boundaries of the ward but was of the view that the ward should have two councillors so that one could provide cover if the other was absent for any reason.

156 We note the comments made by Brafield-on-the-Green Parish Council. However, we note that Cogenhoe & The Houghtons ward is forecast to have 5% fewer electors than the district average, by 2028. A two-councillor ward, as suggested by the parish council, is forecast to have more than 50% fewer electors than the district average. This is very poor electoral equality and we are not minded to create such a ward.

157 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Cogenhoe & The Houghtons as final.

Deanshanger & Paulerspury

158 We received submissions from Deanshanger, Old and Paulerspury parish councils in addition to the comments from Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

159 The Liberal Democrats suggested that we include Stoke Bruerne in this ward to facilitate their proposals for East and West Hunsbury.

160 Old Parish Council supported the draft recommendations in full. Deanshanger Parish Council supported the boundaries of the ward but expressed surprise at the change of ward name from Deanshanger to Deanshanger & Paulerspury. It stated that as Paulerspury was not the second largest village in the ward, the change was not appropriate. Labour made a similar comment about the name of the ward.

161 Paulerspury Parish Council wanted the ward to have three councillors, the same as at present. However, we note that with three councillors, this ward will have 31% fewer electors than the average for the district. We are not minded to create wards with such poor electoral variances and we are not recommending this.

162 We also note that the Liberal Democrats did not provide community interest reasons to support their proposal. In view of the support that we have received for the boundaries of this ward, we have not been persuaded to adopt their proposal to move Stoke Bruerne parish into this ward.

163 We considered the comments made about the name of the ward. We note that the new name was proposed by the Council and Councillor McCord during the last consultation. Councillor McCord was of the view that villages seven miles away from Deanshanger do not feel any association with Deanshanger. The new name reflects two parishes/villages within the ward: one in the north and the other in the south. We are content with this rationale.

164 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this Deanshanger & Paulerspury ward as final.

Hackleton & Roade

165 Labour, the Liberal Democrats, Blisworth, Hackleton and Roade parish councils and a resident commented on our draft recommendations for this area.

166 Labour, Blisworth Parish Council and Roade Parish Council felt that our proposed Hackleton & Roade ward was too big. Blisworth Parish Council's concerns were that it had many rural issues and others relating to developments and

increasing traffic, and that two councillors will not be able to adequately cover such a large area. Roade Parish Council expressed similar views.

167 We note that a two-councillor Hackleton & Roade is forecast to have very good electoral equality by 2028, with 4% more electors than the district average. On the other hand, a three-councillor Hackleton & Roade ward is forecast to have 30% fewer electors than the average for West Northamptonshire. Therefore, we did not increase the number of councillors for this ward.

168 Labour proposed creating a single-councillor Grange Park ward as a potential solution. Our draft recommendations placed Grange Park parish in Nene Valley ward and not Hackleton & Roade. Therefore, creating a single-councillor Grange Park ward would not have any effect on the size of Hackleton & Roade ward.

169 Hackleton Parish Council stated that it would support the creation of Hackleton Urban parish ward if it became part of Wootton parish and Hackleton parish retained the current number of parish councillors. We cannot change parish boundaries. Only West Northamptonshire Council can do that as part of a Community Governance Review.

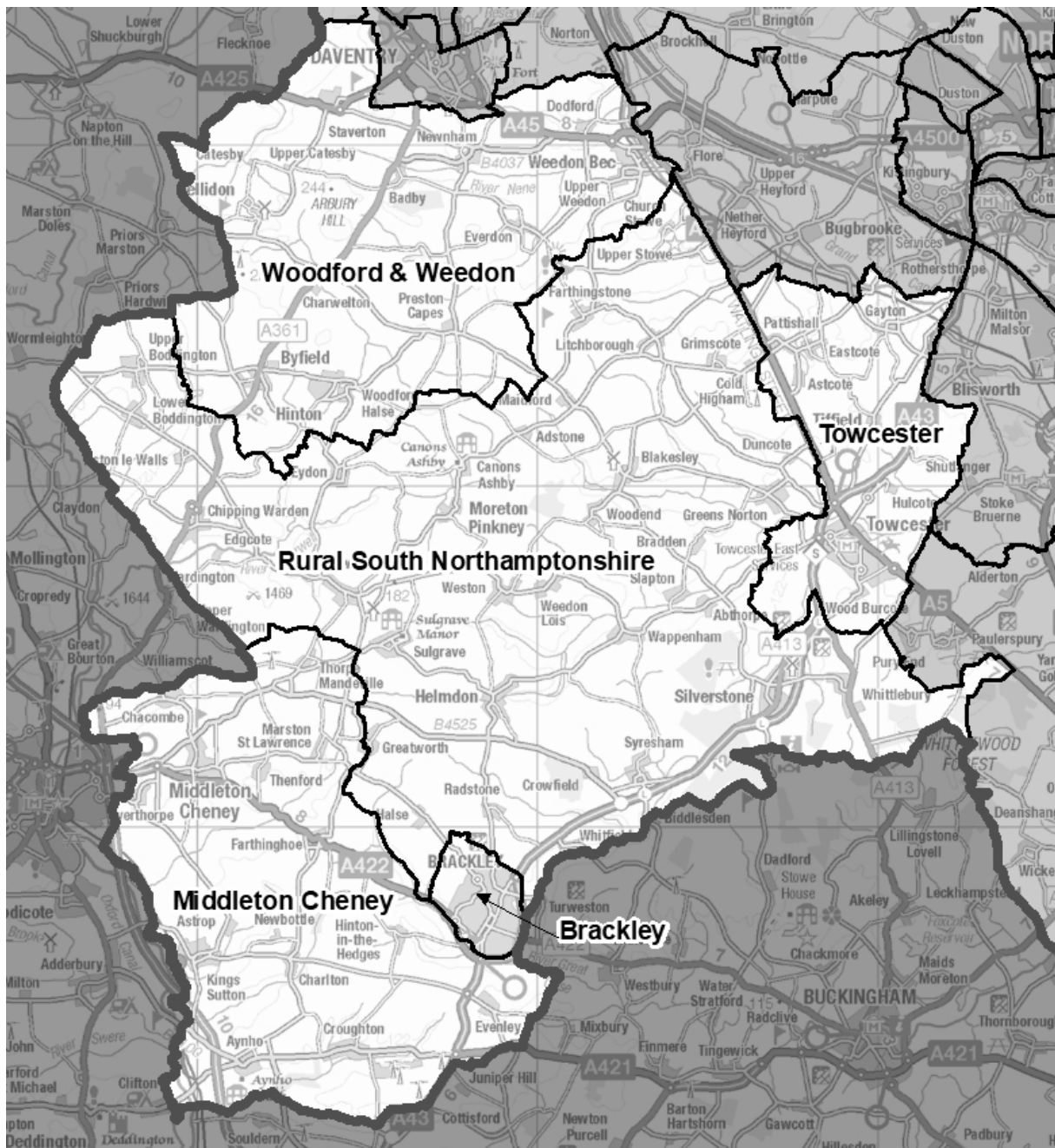
170 As mentioned in the section on Hunsbury, to facilitate their proposals for wards in East Hunsbury and West Hunsbury, the Liberal Democrats proposed moving an area east of Lady Hollows Drive (currently in Hackleton parish) into Hackleton & Roade ward. The resident also suggested doing this to keep all of Hackleton parish in a single ward.

171 However, we note that the boundary between Hackleton and Wootton parishes in this area is defaced. The parish boundary runs through several properties and splits what is a single residential area. We are not minded to use a defaced boundary to create new district wards. Furthermore, during the warding pattern consultation, we heard that these residents look towards Wootton for their community. This was reflected in the Council and Labour proposals at that stage of the review. On community identity grounds we therefore included the area in Nene Valley ward. In accordance with legislation we created a parish ward which we named Hackleton Urban.

172 We consider that this reflects the community in the area and we have not been persuaded to include the area in Hackleton & Roade ward.

173 We are confirming our draft recommendations for Hackleton & Roade as final.

Southwest



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Brackley	3	-3%
Middleton Cheney	2	0%
Rural South Northamptonshire	3	-7%
Towcester	3	-8%
Woodford & Weedon	2	6%

Brackley

174 We did not receive any specific comments about our draft recommendations for Brackley ward. We therefore confirm them as final.

Middleton Cheney

175 Our draft recommendations for this area were for two single-councillor wards. We received comments on them from Councillor Breese, Councillor Herring, Evenley, King's Sutton, and Overthorpe parish councils.

176 Councillors Breese and Herring (the councillors representing the existing ward), and Evenley and Overthorpe parish councils advocated retaining the existing two-councillor ward arrangement by merging the draft recommendation wards. The councillors were of the view that having two councillors facilitated their representational role in a number of ways. For example, making it possible for each councillor to deal with matters that they had the most expertise in.

177 Evenley Parish Council stated that they had strong links to both King's Sutton and Middleton Cheney parishes and that they had lots of shared facilities with Middleton Cheney. Overthorpe Parish Council believed that it would get better service by having two councillors.

178 King's Sutton Parish Council supported our draft recommendations reiterating that this would allow for better accountability and that it reflects our statutory criteria.

179 We have carefully considered these submissions and note the support for a two-councillor ward. We also note the comments from Evenley Parish Council, in the south of the area, that they share facilities with and look to Middleton Cheney for some of their interests. We have therefore been persuaded to combine the wards and create a two-councillor Middleton Cheney ward, as part of our final recommendations.

180 Middleton Cheney is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Rural South Northamptonshire and Woodford & Weedon

181 We received submissions from Councillors Bambridge, Eastwood, Manners, and Price, Labour, Dodford, Preston Capes, Silverstone and Woodford cum Membris parish councils, and several residents.

182 As part of our draft recommendations, we created a three-councillor Silverstone & Rural South Northamptonshire ward and a Woodford & Weedon ward. Because of its geographical size, we outlined a split of the former ward in our draft recommendations report and requested views on this alternative. Labour did not confirm if they thought this split was a good balance of our criteria. The resident proposed splitting it into two or three areas but was unable to specify which parishes

best fit in a ward with each other. Another resident, in their comments on Preston Capes, stated that including Preston Capes in a smaller rural ward in line with our split was better than them being in the Silverstone & Rural South Northamptonshire ward.

183 Councillors Bambridge, Eastwood and Manners, representing the existing Silverstone ward, and Silverstone Parish Council supported our draft recommendations for a Silverstone & Rural South Northamptonshire ward. The councillors did not support the suggestion to split the ward because, in their view, the parishes had similar issues and learning in one area of the ward can be shared with others more effectively. They proposed that Thorpe Mandeville should be included in this ward, but Greatworth & Halse should be included in Middleton Cheney ward instead. They also proposed that the ward be renamed Rural South Northamptonshire to better reflect the ward.

184 Dodford Parish Council and several residents supported the inclusion of Dodford parish in Woodford & Weedon ward. Woodford cum Membris Parish Council also expressed support for the two-councillor Woodford & Weedon ward.

185 Silverstone Parish Council supported the draft recommendations.

186 Preston Capes Parish Council, Councillor Price and several residents objected to the inclusion of Preston Capes in Silverstone & Rural South Northamptonshire ward, on community identity grounds. They stated that they had no shared interests with Silverstone parish and provided details of shared interests with Woodford parish.

187 We have carefully considered the comments we received. We note that while there is some support for creating smaller wards in this area, we did not receive a definitive steer on the best way to do so. We also note the councillors' view that the ward should not be split. In view of the lack of consensus on how best to split the ward, we have decided to retain it as a three-councillor ward.

188 We note the strength of feeling regarding the inclusion of Preston Capes parish in Silverstone & Rural South Northamptonshire ward. We also note the evidence of shared community with Woodford and have been persuaded by this. We are therefore including Preston Capes in Woodford & Weedon ward as part of our final recommendations.

189 We considered moving Thorpe Mandeville into Silverstone & Rural South Northamptonshire ward and also moving Greatworth & Halse into Middleton Cheney ward, in line with the councillors' comments. However, we note that this will create a Silverstone & Rural South Northamptonshire ward with 12% fewer electors than the district average, by 2028. We also note that moving Thorpe Mandeville into this ward

leaves residents of Costow House (in Marston St Lawrence) isolated from the rest of their ward. We have therefore not done so.

190 We have been persuaded to rename the three-councillor ward to Rural South Northamptonshire ward, as proposed by Councillors Bambridge, Eastwood and Manners.

191 Our final recommendations are for a three-councillor Rural South Northamptonshire ward and a two-councillor Woodford & Weedon ward. Both are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Towcester

192 We received comments from Labour and Tiffield Parish Council specifically about our draft recommendations Towcester ward.

193 Labour noted Tiffield Parish Council's expressed views about preferring to be in a ward with other rural parishes but also noted the difficulties we had in finding a viable alternative warding pattern in the area. While Tiffield Parish Council was still of the view that there were advantages in being part of a large rural ward, it was willing to accept the draft recommendations. It stated that its residents had strong links with Towcester and that they had shared concerns (with Towcester and Pattishall parishes) about proposed developments on the A43 and A5.

194 In view of this we are confirming our draft recommendations for Towcester ward as final.

Conclusions

195 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in West Northamptonshire, 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	76	76
Number of electoral wards	35	35
Average number of electors per councillor	3,936	4,283
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	8	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Final recommendations

West Northamptonshire Council should be made up of 76 councillors serving 35 wards representing seven single-councillor wards, 15 two-councillor wards and 13 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 the West Northamptonshire Council. You can also view our final recommendations for West Northamptonshire Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

196 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

197 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, West Northamptonshire Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

198 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Boughton, Daventry, Hackleton, Kingsthorpe and Northampton.

199 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Boughton parish.

Final recommendations

Boughton Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Boughton Village & Buckton Fields	10
Dixon Road	1

200 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Daventry parish.

Final recommendations

Daventry Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Daventry North East	3
Daventry North West	3
Daventry South	10

201 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hackleton parish.

Final recommendations

Hackleton Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hackleton & Piddington	6
Hackleton Urban	5

202 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Kingsthorpe parish.

Final recommendations

Kingsthorpe Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Kingsthorpe	3
Obelisk East	1
Spring Park	3
St David's	4
Sunnyside & Obelisk West	4

203 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Northampton parish.

Final recommendations

Northampton Town Council should comprise 25 councillors, as at present, representing 13 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Abington & Phippsville	2
Billing Aquadrome	1
Blackthorn & Rectory Farm	2
Briar Hill	1
Castle	3
Dallington Spencer	3
Headlands	4
Kingsley & Semilong	2
Moulton Leys	1
Parklands	1
Queens Park	1
Talavera	2
Weston Favell & Abington Vale	2

What happens next?

204 We have now completed our review of West Northamptonshire 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 2025.

Equalities

205 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 West Northamptonshire 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	Abington & Phippsville	2	8,668	4,334	10%	9,089	4,545	6%
2	Billing	2	7,686	3,843	-2%	7,952	3,976	-7%
3	Blackthorn & Rectory Farm	2	7,332	3,666	-7%	7,654	3,827	-11%
4	Brackley	3	11,717	3,906	-1%	12,445	4,148	-3%
5	Braunston & Crick	2	8,637	4,319	10%	8,870	4,435	4%
6	Brixworth	1	4,291	4,291	9%	4,362	4,362	2%
7	Campion	2	7,320	3,660	-7%	8,217	4,109	-4%
8	Castle	3	11,812	3,937	0%	12,789	4,263	0%
9	Cogenhoe & The Houghtons	1	3,856	3,856	-2%	4,052	4,052	-5%
10	Dallington Spencer	3	12,527	4,176	6%	13,769	4,590	7%

	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 %
11	Daventry North East	1	2,825	2,825	-28%	4,425	4,425	3%
12	Daventry North West	1	4,053	4,053	3%	4,672	4,672	9%
13	Daventry South	3	13,030	4,343	10%	13,759	4,586	7%
14	Deanshanger & Paulerspury	2	8,740	4,370	11%	8,836	4,418	3%
15	Duston	3	12,631	4,210	7%	12,894	4,298	0%
16	Far Cotton, Delapre & Briar Hill	3	10,808	3,603	-8%	11,358	3,786	-12%
17	Hackleton & Roade	2	8,704	4,352	11%	8,944	4,472	4%
18	Headlands	3	13,428	4,476	14%	13,852	4,617	8%
19	Hunsbury	3	11,513	3,838	-2%	13,871	4,624	8%
20	Kingsley & Semilong	2	8,522	4,261	8%	8,843	4,421	3%
21	Kingsthorpe North	3	11,935	3,978	1%	12,179	4,060	-5%

	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 %
22	Kingsthorpe South	2	7,463	3,732	-5%	8,508	4,254	-1%
23	Long Buckby	2	7,201	3,601	-9%	8,300	4,150	-3%
24	Middleton Cheney	2	8,354	4,177	6%	8,599	4,299	0%
25	Moulton	3	8,690	2,897	-26%	12,883	4,294	0%
26	Naseby	1	4,655	4,655	18%	4,699	4,699	10%
27	Nene Valley	3	11,298	3,766	-4%	13,030	4,343	1%
28	Parklands	1	3,675	3,675	-7%	3,848	3,848	-10%
29	Rural North East	1	3,986	3,986	1%	4,121	4,121	-4%
30	Rural South Northamptonshire	3	11,481	3,827	-3%	11,941	3,980	-7%
31	Talavera	2	7,982	3,991	1%	8,207	4,104	-4%
32	Towcester	3	10,375	3,458	-12%	11,873	3,958	-8%
33	Upton	2	6,998	3,499	-11%	9,142	4,571	7%
34	Weston Favell & Abington Vale	2	8,231	4,116	5%	8,474	4,237	-1%

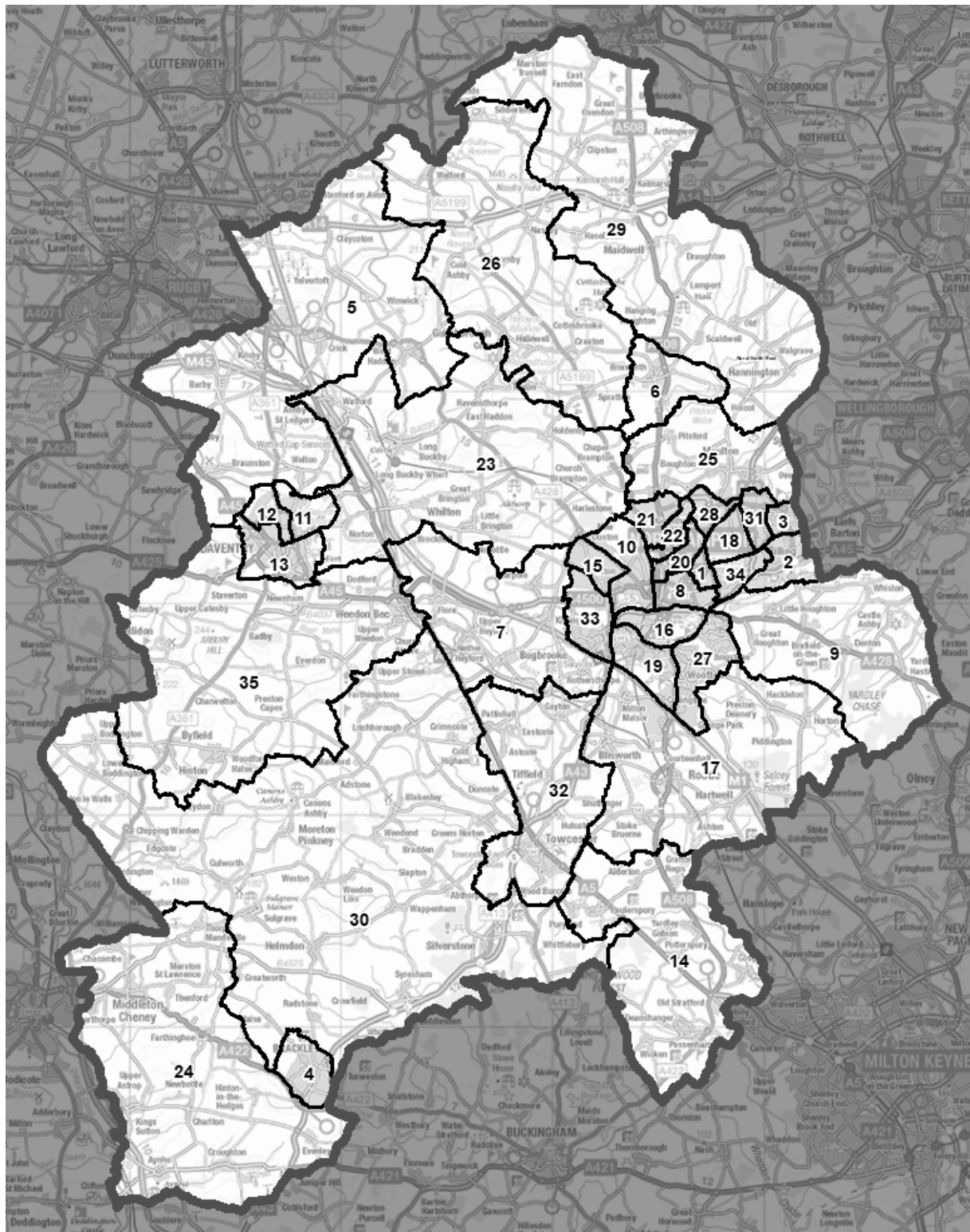
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
35 Woodford & Weedon	2	8,694	4,347	10%	9,053	4,527	6%
Totals	76	299,118	-	-	325,511	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,936	-	-	4,283	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by West Northamptonshire Council.

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Abington & Phippsville
2	Billing
3	Blackthorn & Rectory Farm
4	Brackley
5	Braunston & Crick
6	Brixworth
7	Campion
8	Castle
9	Cogenhoe & The Houghtons
10	Dallington Spencer
11	Daventry North East
12	Daventry North West
13	Daventry South
14	Deanshanger & Paulerspury
15	Duston
16	Far Cotton, Delapre & Briar Hill
17	Hackleton & Roade
18	Headlands
19	Hunsbury
20	Kingsley & Semilong
21	Kingsthorpe North
22	Kingsthorpe South
23	Long Buckby
24	Middleton Cheney
25	Moulton
26	Naseby
27	Nene Valley
28	Parklands
29	Rural North East
30	Rural South Northamptonshire
31	Talavera
32	Towcester
33	Upton
34	Weston Favell & Abington Vale
35	Woodford & Weedon

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/west-northamptonshire

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-northamptonshire

Local Authority

- West Northamptonshire Council Officers

Political Groups

- Daventry Constituency Conservative Association
- West Northamptonshire Council Labour Group
- West Northamptonshire Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillors D. Bambridge, A. Eastwood & C. Manners (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor P. Bignell (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor J. Birch (Northampton Town Council)
- Councillors R. Breese & R. Herring (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor A. Brown (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor S. Clarke (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor P. Collins (Watford Parish Council)
- Councillor B. Evans (Walgrave Parish Council)
- Councillor M. Golby (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor M. Hallam (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor N. Hinch (West Northamptonshire Council) – 2 submissions
- Councillor J. Hill (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor K. Holland-Delamere (Northampton Town Council)
- Councillor C. Irving-Swift (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillors C. Irving-Swift & K. Parker (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor A. Kilbride (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor J. Lane (West Northamptonshire Council)
- Councillor L. Marriott (Northampton Town Council)
- Councillor T. Miah (Northampton Town Council)
- Councillor T. Pateman (Old Stratford Parish Council)
- Councillor M. Price (Preston Capes Parish Council)
- Councillor K. West (Overstone Parish Council)

Local Organisations

- ABILITY (Northants)
- Eastfield Residents' Association

Parish and Town Councils

- Arthingworth Parish Council
- Ashby St Ledgers Parish Council
- Billing Parish Council
- Blisworth Parish Council
- Brafield-on-the-Green Parish Council
- Bugbrooke Parish Council
- Crick Parish Council
- Daventry Town Council
- Deanshanger Parish Council
- Dodford Parish Council
- Duston Parish Council – 2 submissions
- East Farndon Parish Council
- Evenley Parish Council
- Far Cotton & Delapre Community Council
- Hackleton Parish Council
- Hardingstone Parish Council
- Holcot Parish Council
- King's Sutton Parish Council
- Kingsthorpe Parish Council
- Long Buckby Parish Council
- Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council
- Moulton Parish Council
- Naseby Parish Council
- Northampton Town Council
- Old Parish Council
- Old Stratford Parish Council
- Overthorpe Parish Council
- Paulerspury Parish Council
- Preston Capes Parish Council
- Roade Parish Council
- Silverstone Parish Council
- Tiffield Parish Council
- Towcester Parish Council
- Walgrave Parish Council

- Watford Parish Council
- West Haddon Parish Council
- West Hunsbury Parish Council
- Woodford cum Membris Parish Council
- Yardley Hastings Parish Council
- Yelvertoft Parish Council

Local Residents

- 69 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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