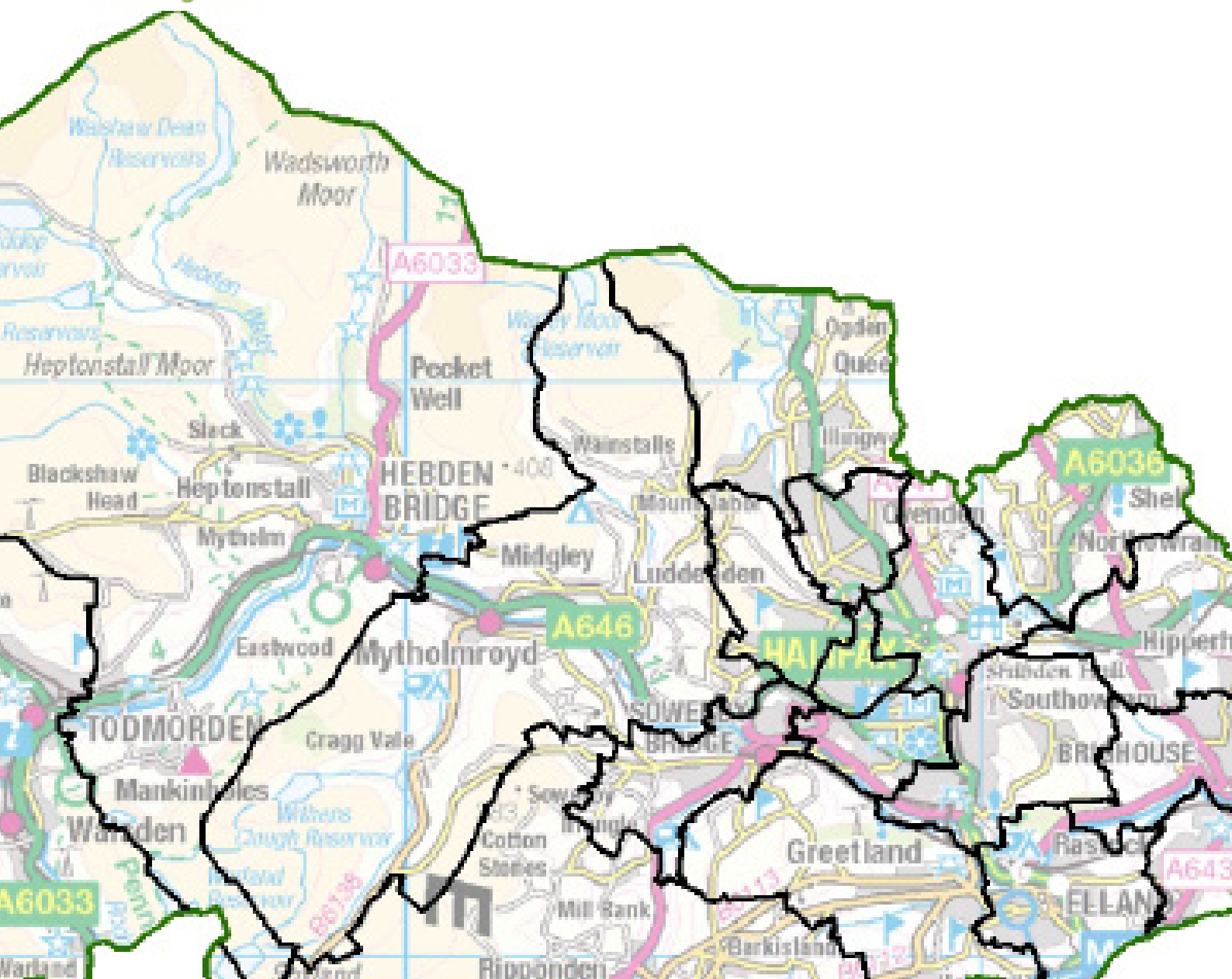


The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England



**New electoral arrangements for Calderdale  
Metropolitan Borough Council**

**Draft Recommendations**

October 2023

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The  
Local Government  
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for England

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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# Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Calderdale Council

Electoral review

October 2023



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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.<sup>1</sup> 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)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- 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 there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward.

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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why Calderdale?

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

9 Calderdale should be represented by 54 councillors, three more than there are now.

10 Calderdale should have 18 wards, one more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 16 wards should change; one will stay the same.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

12 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.

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

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

## Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 12-week period, from 31 October 2023 to 22 January 2024. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 22 January 2024 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 27 for how to send us your response.

## Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Calderdale. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 May 2023	Number of councillors decided
23 May 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
31 July 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
31 October 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
22 January 2024	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
26 March 2024	Publication of final recommendations



## Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation<sup>3</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>4</sup> 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.

20 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.

21 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.

	2023	2029
Electorate of Calderdale	151,041	160,016
Number of councillors	54	54
Average number of electors per councillor	2,797	2,963

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but one of our proposed wards for Calderdale are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029. Rastrick ward is forecast to have 13% more electors than the average for the borough, by 2029.

## Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2029, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2024. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6% by 2029.

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

25 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 draft recommendations.

## Number of councillors

26 Calderdale Council currently has 51 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that increasing this number by three will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 54 councillors. As Calderdale Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation<sup>5</sup> that the Council has a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

28 We received 13 submissions, including one from the Council's Conservative Group ('the Conservatives') about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. The residents and Conservatives questioned and objected to the increase in council size. Several residents objected on the grounds of affordability of the increase. The Conservatives were of the view that 51 councillors and 17 wards continue to work well for Calderdale. Among other things they believed that there is uncertainty around the local plan and therefore the forecast on which the wards are based may not be accurate.

29 We considered these submissions. However, we note that the local plan has been approved, and although we recognise that development plans may change, we remain persuaded that the evidence submitted by the Council is reasonable and therefore increasing the council size to 54 is appropriate for Calderdale Council. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 54-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 50 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals which were from the Conservatives, the Council's Labour Group ('the Labour Group') and a resident. These borough-wide schemes all provided a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Calderdale.

31 Although the borough-wide submissions gave us a description of their proposed wards, on the whole they did not include detailed evidence of community links within

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

the individual wards. We therefore relied on evidence received from other submissions, as well as the strength of boundaries, in drawing up our draft recommendations.

32 The Conservatives' submission focused on the number of councillors for Calderdale Council. And although it included proposed ward boundaries for the borough, it did not include direct evidence to support those boundaries.

33 The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

34 Our draft recommendations also take 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.

35 We carried out a detailed virtual tour of Calderdale and also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Calderdale helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

36 We received a number of submissions about the provision of services and about the external boundaries of the borough. These are both outside the remit of an electoral review.

## Draft recommendations

37 Our draft recommendations are for 18 three-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

38 The tables and maps on pages 9–24 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Calderdale. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>6</sup> criteria of:

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

39 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

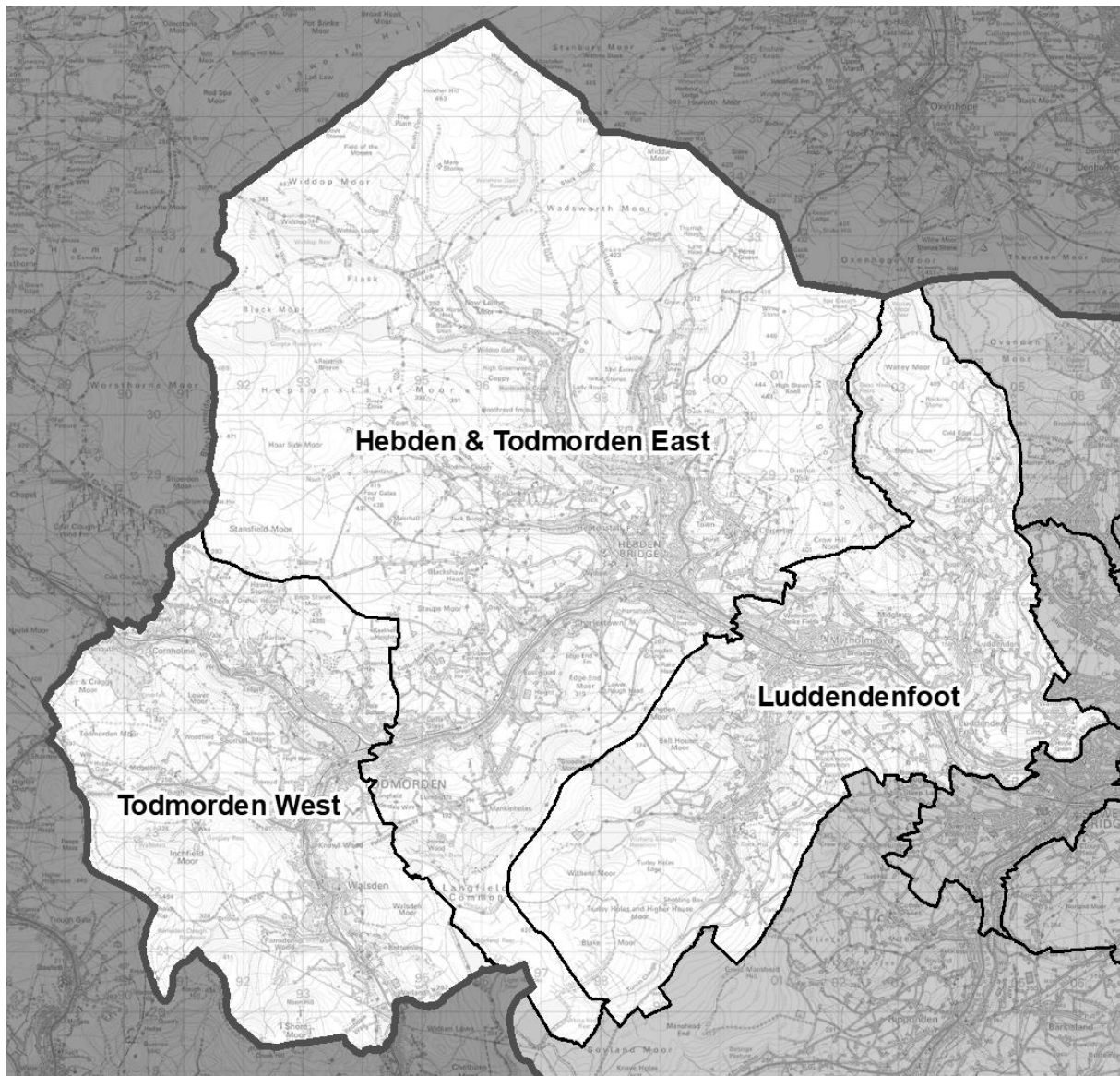
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<sup>6</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

40 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.



## Hebden Bridge, Luddendenfoot and Todmorden



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Hebden & Todmorden East	3	5%
Luddendenfoot	3	-6%
Todmorden West	3	3%

### *Hebden & Todmorden East, Luddendenfoot and Todmorden West*

41 In addition to the borough-wide proposals we received submissions from some residents for this area of the borough.

42 All three-borough wide submissions proposed retaining the boundaries of the existing Todmorden ward which comprised the west of Todmorden parish. However, a Council Officer and most residents who wrote in advocated for a Todmorden ward

coterminous with Todmorden parish boundaries, on community interests and identity grounds.

43 One resident was of the view that that Todmorden and other civil parishes in the Upper Calder Valley, including Hebden Bridge town, shared community and history and so wherever possible, their 'representation should be kept together'.

44 We agree that uniting Todmorden parish in a single ward is desirable and would reflect community identity and we considered doing this. However, this produced a ward forecast to have 33% more electors than the average for the borough by 2029. We considered that this was too high and were not persuaded that adopting such a high variance would be a good reflection or balance of our statutory criteria. Even with the existing number of councillors, it was still forecast to have a high level of electoral inequality at 26%. Therefore, we did not adopt this proposal. Instead, we have adopted the identical borough-wide proposals and retained the existing boundaries of Todmorden ward as part of our draft recommendations.

45 However, we have renamed it Todmorden West in line with Labour's proposal, to reflect the reality that it only includes the western part of Todmorden parish.

46 The borough-wide proposals for the rest of this area, covering the existing Calder and Luddendenfoot wards, had many boundaries in common.

47 The Labour Group excluded Chiserley, Old Town and Pecket Well settlements in Wadsworth parish from its warding for the existing Calder ward area. Instead it included them in a ward to the east to address elector numbers in that ward. The Labour Group stated that these settlements 'strongly resemble' settlements in the existing Luddendenfoot ward and that all of them were at the edge of Midgley Moor. Two residents also suggested that Luddendenfoot ward should take in some of the existing Calder ward to increase elector numbers. Labour named its proposed wards Hebden & Todmorden East and Mytholmroyd & Midgley Moor.

48 One of the above residents proposed that Wainstalls be moved out of Luddendenfoot ward into a new 'Halifax ward' to compensate for the inclusion of these settlements in Luddendenfoot. The resident did not specify any boundaries for the new Halifax ward or where they considered the boundaries of Wainstalls were. They also did not provide any supporting community interest evidence and we did not adopt this proposal.

49 The Conservatives and the resident's borough-wide proposals retained the boundaries of the existing Calder ward which is made up of Blackshaw, Erringden, Heptonstall and Wadsworth parishes, the eastern part of Todmorden parish, and Hebden Bridge town. Except for a small modification which placed Mount Skip

Hebden Bridge Golf Club in Luddendenfoot, the Conservatives also proposed retaining the boundaries of the existing Luddendenfoot ward.

50 Under the resident's borough-wide proposal, Warley Town was included in Luddendenfoot ward. Another resident also suggested doing this. In their view, Warley Town had little in common with the areas of dense housing in its current ward. This resident suggested that including Warley Town in a ward with areas like Luddenden, Mount Tabor or Wainstalls would provide for more effective representation by local councillors due to the common needs of the communities they would be representing.

51 On our tour of the area, we noted that the road network and proximity suggests that it was more likely that residents of Chiserley and Old Town looked to Hebden Bridge for community and amenities than to Mytholmroyd. We consider that this will also be the case for residents of Pecket Well.

52 We also noted that Warley Town appeared more rural and very different in character from Norton Tower and the areas further north. It was also distinct from the areas to the south in Sowerby Bridge.

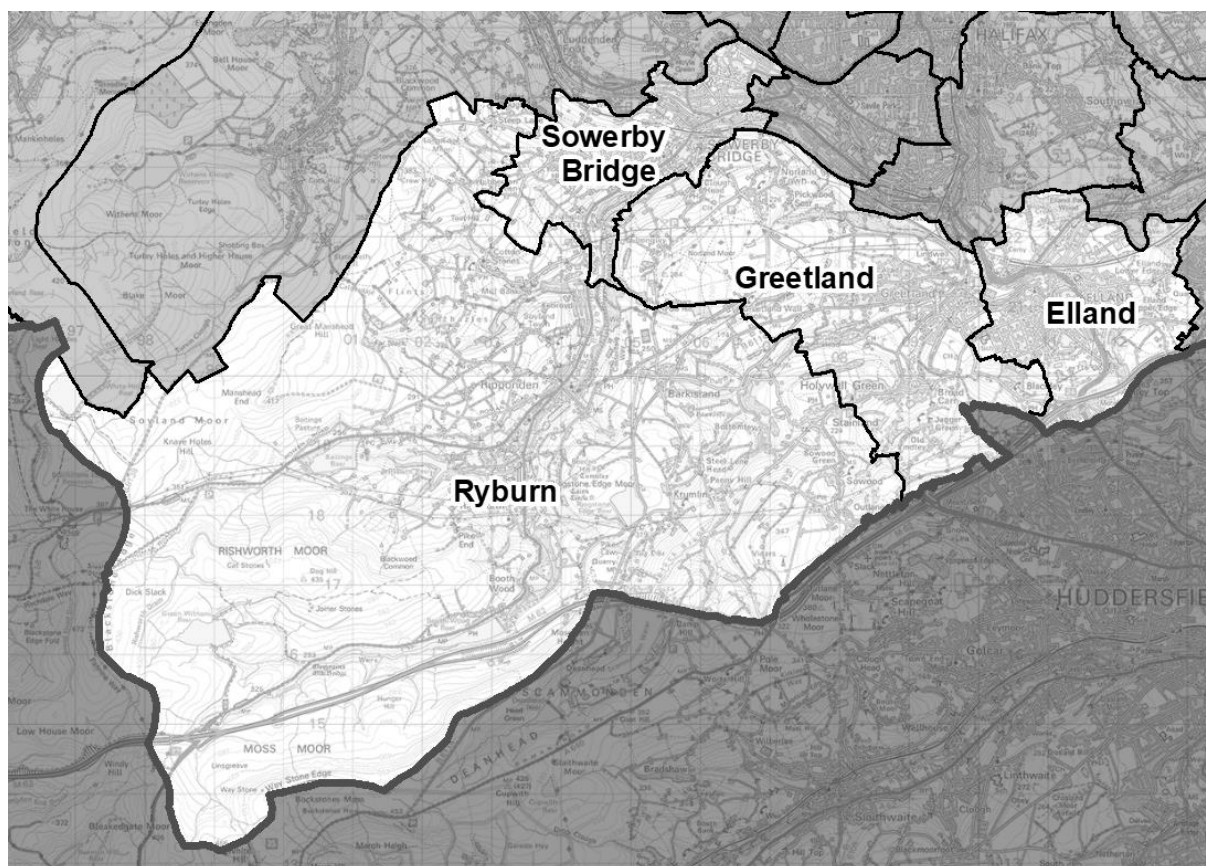
53 After careful consideration, we have not been persuaded to exclude Chiserley, Old Town and Pecket Well from a ward with Hebden Bridge, with which we believe they share community and amenities. At the same time we have been persuaded to include Warley Town in Luddendenfoot ward.

54 As part of our draft recommendations, we create a Hebden & Todmorden East ward. While the name was suggested by the Labour Group, it is based on the boundaries proposed by the Conservatives and the resident. Our draft recommendations for Luddendenfoot ward are based on the resident's proposals. In both wards, we make minor modifications to the proposals, including one to improve the electoral equality of the neighbouring Ryburn ward to the south. To do this we exclude an area between Steep Lane and Shaws Lane from Luddendenfoot and include it in a ward to the south, in line with the Labour Group proposals.

55 However, we do not go as far north as the Labour Group proposal and we include the area around Broad Lane, Hollins Gate and Bull Green Farm in Luddendenfoot ward. We welcome views with community evidence on whether this area should be excluded from this ward.

56 Hebden & Todmorden East and Todmorden West wards are forecast to have 5% and 3% more electors than the average for Calderdale, respectively, by 2029. Luddendenfoot is forecast to have 6% fewer electors than the average for the borough.

## South Calderdale and Sowerby Bridge



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Elland	3	-7%
Greetland	3	-9%
Ryburn	3	-9%
Sowerby Bridge	3	8%

57 For the areas around Elland, Greetland and Ryburn there are fewer electors than average per councillor. We have sought to create wards based on locally proposed boundaries. We recognise that our draft recommendations for Elland, Greetland and Ryburn wards have variances which are just within 10% and this has made it harder to adjust due to the impact on electoral equality.

### *Elland and Greetland*

58 We received submissions from residents, in addition to the borough-wide proposals for this area.

59 The Conservatives retained the boundaries of the existing Greetland & Stainland ward. They proposed two modifications to Elland ward: one which moved electors north of Halifax Road/Park Road into a ward to the north, and the other which excluded electors from Elland Upper Edge, south of New Hey Road and east

of Dewsbury Road from this ward. They stated that residents in the Elland Upper Edge area 'consider themselves more aligned with Rastrick than Elland'.

60 The Labour Group retained a lot of the boundaries of the existing wards but moved the western boundaries of both wards eastwards. It stated that it retained the urban 'core' of central Elland including The Brooksbank School within Elland ward but moved the remainder of the suburbs into the adjacent ward to the west. The Group stated that it considered excluding electors in Elland Upper Edge from Elland ward on community identity grounds. However, it decided against this for electoral equality reasons. To the west, it proposed moving Stainland and Sowood settlements into an adjacent ward to the west (Ryburn) because in its view, it made that ward a more cohesive one of rural and semi-rural communities.

61 The resident's borough-wide proposal also retained many existing boundaries and, like the Labour Group, moved Stainland and Sowood into a ward to the west. The proposals differed in that the resident's proposed boundary between two wards in this area ran through the built-up area of Elland. To reflect this, they proposed naming one of the wards Greetland & Elland West, in acknowledgement that a significant part of what is known as Elland is included there.

62 Two residents advocated for the retention of a number of facilities in Elland ward. They were of the view that residents of Elland used these facilities.

63 A resident of the area around the Rastrick Fire Station did not want to be included in Elland ward as they considered their identity is with Rastrick. Another resident stated that 'Greetland' makes sense and appeared to advocate for the retention of the existing arrangements.

64 We considered the submissions very carefully. In Elland we recognise that to create a ward to reflect the entire community we would have to create a ward that has a variance outside of 10%. This would not facilitate a good warding pattern to the west of Elland because there would be too few electors to create wards with acceptable variances.

65 In the absence of community identity evidence, to move the area north of Halifax Road/Park Road into what will be a Halifax town-based ward, we have not adopted the Conservatives' boundary in that area.

66 Regarding the eastern boundary of Elland, the Labour Group acknowledged that some residents in Upper Elland Edge identify as living in Rastrick and not Elland, notwithstanding what the area is called. This is in line with the Conservatives' and a resident's comments. In view of this, we have been persuaded to exclude an area of Elland Upper Edge from Elland ward.

67 We have been persuaded to base our draft recommendations on the Labour Group's western boundary for Elland, with a modification to unite residents on both sides of Victoria Road in a single ward. We consider that keeping the built-up area of Elland together in one ward is better than splitting the community along Savile Road, as proposed by the resident. We recognise that this still separates some of the facilities that the residents advocated to be included in Elland ward. However, we considered this to be the best balance of our statutory criteria. We welcome further views and proposals on how to address any knock-on effects on the wards to the west.

68 In doing this, we have also adopted the Labour Group's and the resident's proposal to include Stainland and Sowood settlements in Ryburn ward to the immediate west.

69 Elland and Greetland wards are forecast to have 7% and 9% fewer electors than the average for Calderdale, by 2029.

#### *Ryburn and Sowerby Bridge*

70 We received submissions from residents in addition to the borough-wide submissions for this area.

71 The Conservatives retained most of the existing boundaries for these two wards.

72 The Labour Group's proposed Ryburn ward shared many boundaries with the resident's Ripponden & Stainland ward. The only difference was the inclusion of an area between Steep Lane and Clunters Lane in the Labour Group's proposed ward. The Group stated that its proposed Ryburn ward is a cohesive ward of rural and semi-rural areas with Ripponden as the largest settlement.

73 It also proposed creating a Sowerby & Warley ward which included Norton Tower, Sowerby, Sowerby Bridge and Warley Town. The resident's Sowerby Bridge ward differed from this in that it did not include Warley Town and the Norton Tower area to the north. Instead, the ward included an area between Wood Nook Lane and Rochdale Road, using Crow Wood Park as part of its boundary. Like the Labour Group, the proposed ward included the Sowerby and Triangle areas, both of which the resident stated, 'are historically associated with Sowerby Bridge, and in the case of Sowerby, contiguous with the town'.

74 Two residents opposed the inclusion of Sowerby in a ward with Sowerby Bridge because they were of the view that these areas would have very different issues. They advocated for Sowerby to be included with rural areas in Ryburn ward. However, another resident expressed the view that Sowerby Bridge ward could

include the Triangle area as they felt it was part of Sowerby Bridge with shared property characteristics different from those in Ripponden parish.

75 On our tour of the area, we noted that the Norton Tower area around Roils Head Road appears to have more community links with the area to its east and not to the south towards Sowerby Bridge. We therefore excluded it from Sowerby Bridge ward. As discussed in the section on Luddendenfoot ward, we have also excluded Warley Town from a ward with Sowerby Bridge.

76 We also considered that the Conservatives' proposed boundary along Richmond Avenue, cutting across Orchard Rise and Brockwell Lane, split that area in a way that the western and southern boundaries of the Labour Group's and the resident's proposed wards for the Sowerby & Warley/Sowerby Bridge area did not.

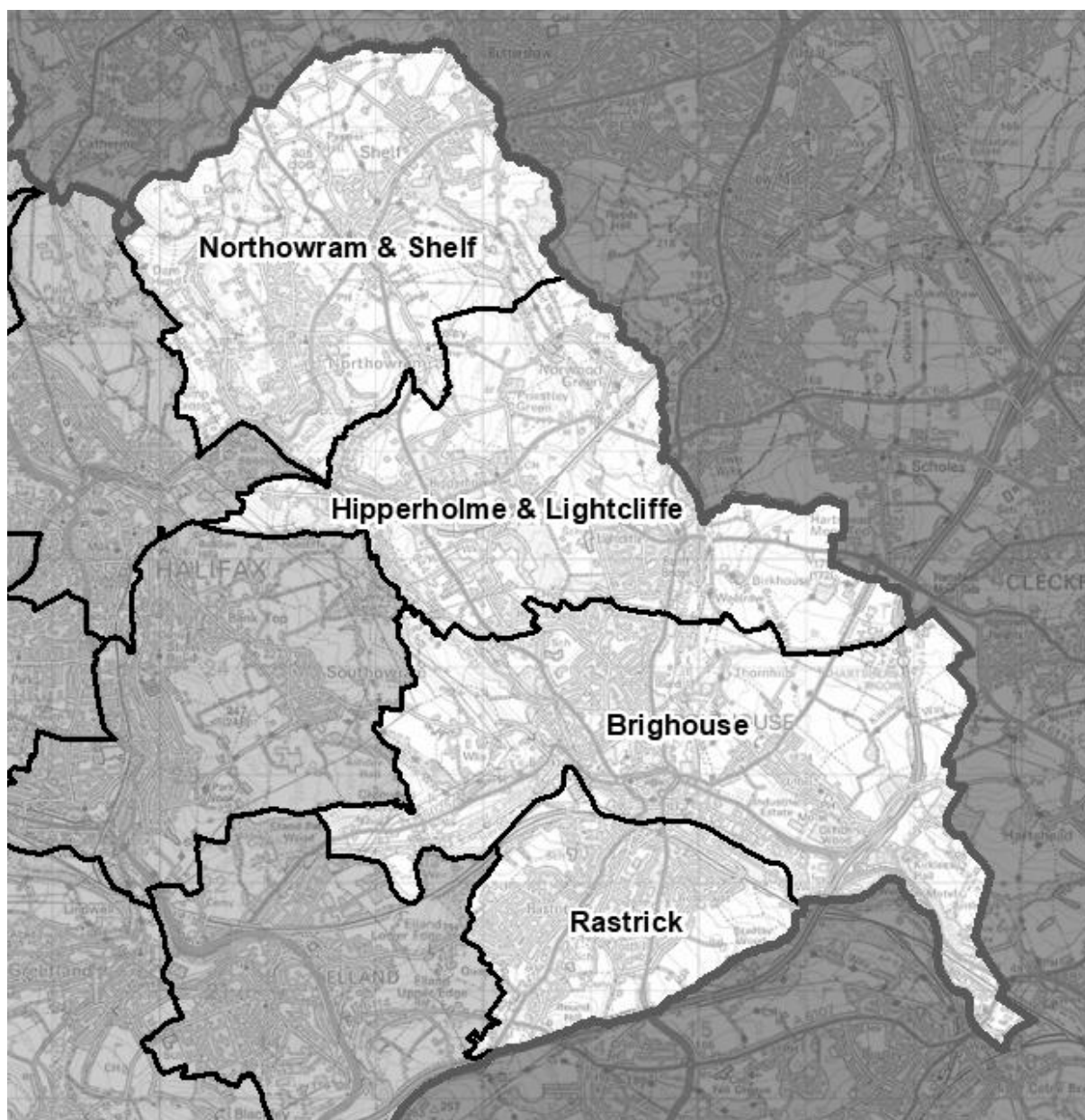
77 While the Conservatives did not explicitly give any evidence in support of their wards, they mentioned that there was an argument to include 'sections of Sowerby, White Windows or Triangle from Ryburn' in a Sowerby ward based on local interests.

78 We have been persuaded to base our draft recommendations for Sowerby Bridge on the resident's proposals, with two minor modifications around Holly Drive and Water Hill Lane. We note that Sowerby and Sowerby Bridge may have some different issues, but we have been persuaded that they also have some shared interests and including them together provides a good balance of the statutory criteria and facilitates a good pattern of wards throughout the area.

79 Our draft recommendations also include a Ryburn ward based on the Labour Group's and the resident's proposals, with modifications to the northern boundary. This ward excludes an area north of Moor Bottom Lane and Stanhope Plantation on New Lane. The resident suggested naming this ward Ripponden & Stainland. Although we have not adopted this as part of our draft recommendations, we welcome comments on whether this name will be more reflective of the communities that live there.

80 Ryburn and Sowerby Bridge wards are forecast to have 9% fewer and 8% more than the average for the borough, by 2029.

## East Calderdale



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Brighouse	3	3%
Hipperholme & Lightcliffe	3	6%
Northowram & Shelf	3	-2%
Rastrick	3	13%

### *Brighouse and Hipperholme & Lightcliffe*

81 In addition to the borough-wide proposals for this area, we received submissions from residents.



82 The Conservatives suggested including Bryden Close, Lower Finkil Street, Newton Park and Well Grove in Brighouse ward. They also moved an area west of Brookfoot from Brighouse into their proposed Town South ward to the west.

83 The Labour Group proposed retaining the boundaries of the existing wards stating that the boundaries were appropriate. It stated that it considered moving Hove Edge into Brighouse because many of the residents used facilities in Brighouse. This was in line with comments we received from two residents, one of whom said that the current boundaries cut Hove Edge in half. The Labour Group decided against proposing this because moving more than 900 electors into Brighouse would produce a ward forecast to have 10% more electors than the borough average. The Group considered that this was too high in light of the scale of future housing development in the area.

84 In their borough-wide proposals, the resident retained the boundaries for Brighouse ward but proposed moving Norwood Green and an area around Coley into Northowram & Shelf ward from Hipperholme & Lightcliffe. They were of the view that this would make Northowram & Shelf more connected.

85 We note that Norwood Green has good road links into Hipperholme via both Rookes Lane and Shutts Lane and we are not persuaded to exclude Norwood Green from Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward.

86 We considered the comments about the community around Hove Edge. We understand the Labour Group's reason for not making any changes in the area. At the same time, we note that the Conservatives suggest making a smaller change and moving four discrete roads into Brighouse. We consider that doing this will reflect the community identity interests of residents of these streets and we are content to adopt this proposal, with minor modifications, as part of our draft recommendations.

87 We have not received any community evidence to support moving the area west of Brookfoot out of Brighouse ward and we have not been persuaded to do so at this stage. We welcome comments on this.

88 Our draft recommendations for Brighouse and Hipperholme & Lightcliffe wards are based on all three borough-wide proposals. The northern boundary of Hipperholme & Lightcliffe is based on the Conservative and Labour Group boundaries, with a minor modification which places St John's View in a ward to the north. The boundary between the two wards is based on the Conservatives' proposals with a modification which places Crow Hurst Gardens and Crow Wood View in Brighouse ward.

89 Brighthouse and Hipperholme & Lightcliffe wards are forecast to have 3% and 6% more electors than the average for the borough, by 2029.

#### *Northowram & Shelf*

90 We received submissions from Councillor Hey and a resident in addition to the borough-wide proposals.

91 All the borough-wide proposals moved the western boundary of this ward eastwards placing the Claremount area of the existing ward into an urban Halifax ward instead of Northowram & Shelf ward. The Labour Group say that the housing in Claremount runs into the Boothtown area of Town ward. The resident also considered the Claremount area as being 'more urban Halifax'. This was in line with comments made by a resident of Boothtown Road who advocated to be included in Town ward like his neighbours and not in Northowram & Shelf ward.

92 This was the only change to the existing ward proposed by the Conservatives and Labour Group. As mentioned in the section on Hipperholme & Lightcliffe, the resident proposed an additional change moving Norwood Green and an area around Coley from Hipperholme & Lightcliffe into this ward, which we have not adopted.

93 Councillor Hey advocated for a smaller area to be moved into Town ward, on community identity grounds. The area in question was the northwestern end of Claremount Road and residents south of New Bank (A58). However, he was of the view that the southeastern end of Claremount Road was connected with the rest of Northowram & Shelf ward, given its proximity to Shibden Park.

94 After careful consideration, we have adopted the identical proposal put forward by the Labour Group and Conservatives as part of our draft recommendations. It excludes residents south of New Bank (A58), in line with Councillor Hey's comments, but includes the southeastern part of Claremount Road because we consider that these residents' main access is to the west and north and will have connections to Boothtown. As mentioned in the section on Hipperholme & Lightcliffe, we make one minor modification around St John's View.

95 Northowram & Shelf is forecast to have 2% fewer electors than the average for Calderdale in 2029.

#### *Rastrick*

96 We received one submission in addition to the borough-wide proposals, about Rastrick. This was from a resident who lived near Rastrick Fire Station who stated that they lived in Rastrick and not Elland.

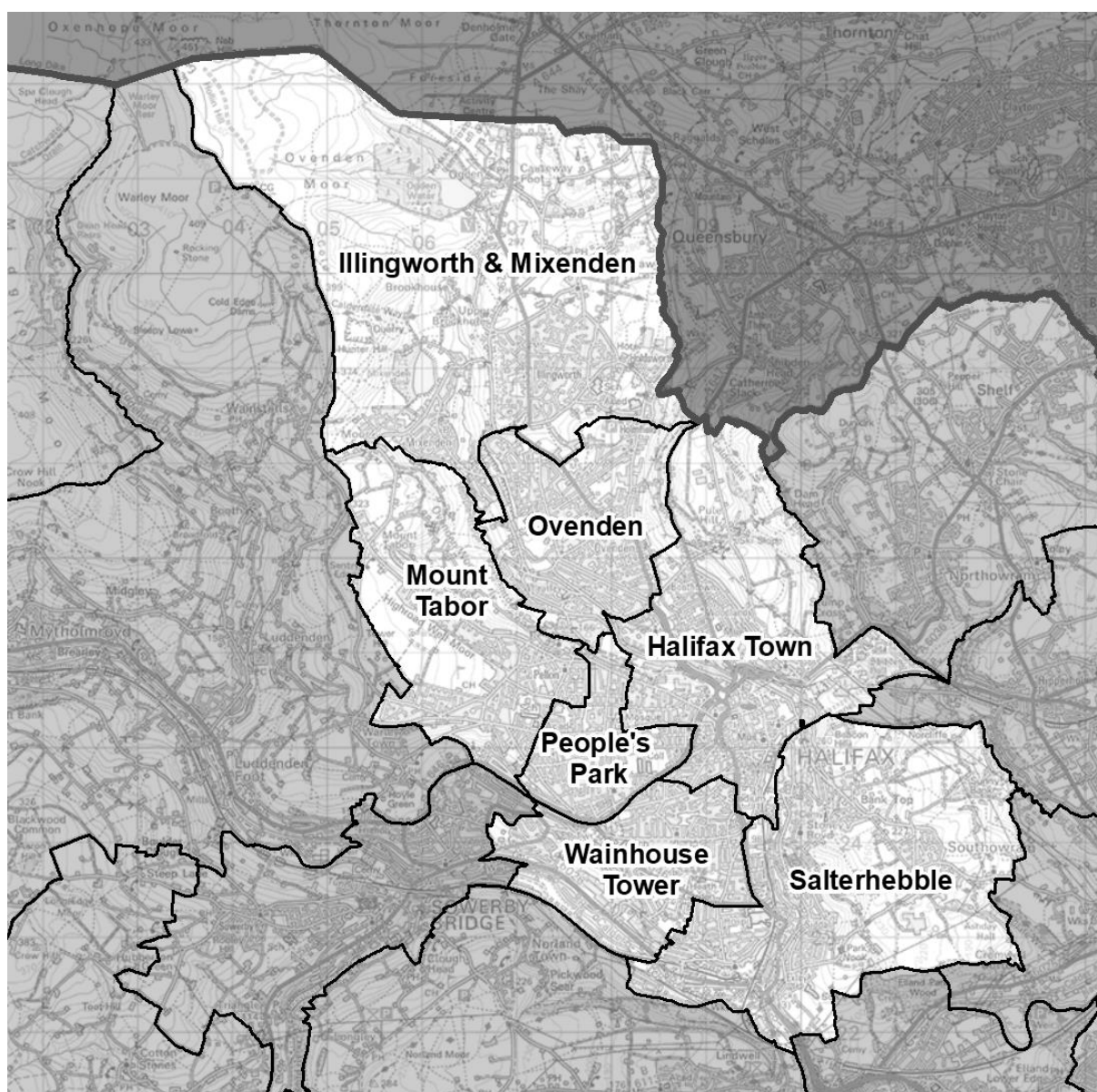
97 As mentioned in the section on Elland ward, the Labour Group and resident's borough-wide proposals retained the existing boundaries of Rastrick ward. The

Labour Group acknowledged that there were residents in Elland Upper Edge who looked more to Rastrick than Elland but did not propose making any changes for electoral equality reasons. The Conservatives moved the area into Rastrick ward. The resulting Rastrick ward was forecast to have 14% more electors than the average for the borough, by 2029.

98 After careful consideration and a virtual tour of the area, we have been persuaded that residents on both sides of New Hey Road will likely share community interests with Rastrick ward. We have adopted the Conservatives' boundary for this ward, with some modification, which retains all Dewsbury Road-facing properties west of Badger Hill in Elland ward. We note that the variance will be above 10% but we consider that this is the best balance of our statutory criteria.

99 Rastrick ward is forecast to have 13% more electors than the average for the borough, by 2029.

## Halifax



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Halifax Town	3	-5%
Illingworth & Mixenden	3	2%
Mount Tabor	3	-7%
Ovenden	3	7%
People's Park	3	-1%
Salterhebble	3	3%
Wainhouse Tower	3	-4%

100 With the exception of Illingworth & Mixenden, the borough-wide proposals for Halifax and Sowerby Bridge were very different. It was not possible to adopt wards proposed by one respondent in one area and the wards proposed by another in the

neighbouring area given the differences in their respective boundaries. We also note that being mostly a built-up area, there are places where there are no clear distinctions between communities and therefore hard to identify where the ward boundaries should be.

*Halifax Town, People's Park, Salterhebble and Wainhouse Tower*

101 In addition, to the borough-wide submissions, we received submissions from residents.

102 The Conservatives proposed Town North and Town South wards covering much of the area covered by the existing Town ward as well as the Claremount and Wheatley areas. They also proposed Park and Skircoat wards based on the existing wards of the same names. However, their proposed Town North and Skircoat wards are forecast to have 23% fewer and 14% more electors than the average for the borough by 2029, and we did not adopt these proposals.

103 The Labour Group's Town ward included Southowram but not Siddal, which it placed in its proposed Hebble ward with Salterhebble, Copley and a significant part of the existing Skircoat ward. It was of the view that the areas are either side of a major link road (A629) and that many children from Siddal attended school in Salterhebble and the neighbouring Copley. It created a Wainhouse ward to the east of its Hebble ward and also proposed changes to the western side of Park ward.

104 The resident's borough-wide submission included a Halifax Town ward which excluded Bank Top, Siddal and Southowram. These communities were included in a new ward with Salterhebble, and part of the existing Skircoat ward. They also proposed a People's Park ward based on the existing Park ward. In addition, they proposed a Wainhouse Tower ward which included the eastern part of the existing Skircoat ward and Pye Nest.

105 A resident questioned why Southowram and Siddal were included in a ward with the 'town centre', stating that they were 'somewhat distanced' from the town. They wanted these two villages to make up a ward on their own. They proposed keeping Boothtown in Town ward and including Park ward in it if needed.

106 Another resident also wanted Southowram moved out of Town ward. They advocated for it to be included in Brighouse while at the same time placing Wheatley in Town.

107 Two other residents of an area east of Skircoat Moor Road, south of Aachen Way and north of Free School Lane, advocated being included in Skircoat ward and not Sowerby Bridge, as at present, on community identity grounds.

108 On considering the evidence we received, we noted that there were similarities and overlaps between the Labour Group's proposed Hebble and Wainhouse wards and the resident's Salterhebble and Wainhouse Tower wards. At the same time, there were also significant differences between their wards covering the town centre regarding the inclusion or exclusion of the eastern end of Pellon Lane and the Southowram area.

109 We noted that there was a view that Southowram and Siddal are different from Halifax Town Centre and therefore should not be included in the same ward with it. Therefore, we visited Southowram on our tour of Calderdale. This visit persuaded us that Bank Top and Southowram were some distance away and very different in character from the centre of Halifax. We also noted that the northern area of the existing Park ward, especially the eastern side of Pellon Lane, was a mix of residential and non-residential properties, and there seemed to be no obvious demarcation between this area and the town centre.

110 Accordingly, we have based our draft recommendations for the wards in this area on the resident's proposals, with modifications. These modifications include adopting the Labour Group boundary along Savile and Swires roads and adopting the Conservatives' boundary and part of the Labour Group's boundary to the east of the existing Park ward. We make a few other minor modifications.

111 We note that the area around Lee Mount Road, south of Wheatley Lane, appears cut off from the rest of the proposed Halifax Town ward. We considered including this area in Ovenden ward to the north, but this would create wards with poor electoral equality. We decided to adopt this locally proposed boundary and include it here to facilitate a Halifax Town and an Ovenden ward with good electoral equality. We note that the Conservatives also include some of the area in a town centre ward.

112 However, we welcome alternative proposals, with community evidence. One option we considered was whether to include this area in Ovenden while moving the area south of Ramsden Street out of Ovenden. This proposal will also involve moving residents south of Battinson Road and east of Dyson Road into Halifax Town ward.

113 Our draft recommendations are for Halifax Town, People's Park, Salterhebble and Wainhouse Tower wards which are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

114 Although we have adopted the names proposed by the resident, along with the boundaries, we welcome comments with supporting evidence on whether the alternative names proposed by the Labour Group better reflect the communities in those wards.

### *Illingworth & Mixenden*

115 The borough-wide submissions proposed identical boundaries for this ward. To bring the existing ward within the range of what is considered good electoral equality, they moved the area north of Holly Park Way and Ovenden Park into Ovenden ward.

116 A resident expressed concern that with future housing development plans, individual properties could straddle some of the existing boundaries. They proposed three modifications which used various roads as boundaries in three specific places instead of running the boundaries behind properties. To the west, they proposed Balkram Edge and Cold Edge Road as a boundary. In the south, they suggested that a part of the boundary should run from Raw Lane to Wrigley Hill and on to Keighley Road (A629). They also advocated that Holly Park Way should be a boundary.

117 We considered these proposals. With regards to the areas highlighted by the resident, we note that the existing boundaries which the borough-wide submissions propose retaining unite residents across the roads in question in the same ward. From the evidence provided to us on housing developments, we could see no instance where there was a danger of a property straddling two wards. We note that using the roads will create identifiable boundaries; however, we have not been persuaded to adopt this proposal at this time. We welcome comments, including from residents of the roads in question, on whether using those roads as boundaries would better reflect their communities.

118 Another resident suggested that Illingworth & Mixenden should be split into two separate wards. They did not propose any boundaries or provide any community evidence in support of this proposal. Furthermore, Calderdale elects by thirds and there is a presumption in law that each ward will have three councillors. We would only depart from this if there was compelling evidence to do so. Therefore, we did not pursue this suggestion.

119 Our draft recommendations are based on the borough-wide proposals. Illingworth & Mixenden ward is forecast to have 2% more electors than the average for Calderdale by 2029.

### *Mount Tabor and Ovenden*

120 The borough-wide proposals were the only submissions we received with specific boundaries for this area and they had some similarities. All proposed an Ovenden ward with identical northern, northeastern and northwestern boundaries but with differences to the south. They also proposed another ward based on the existing Warley ward which again differed in the south.

121 The Conservatives proposed moving Wheatley into their proposed Town North ward. This appeared to be supported by a resident, but neither provided any community interest evidence to support this.

122 The Labour Group, on the other hand, were of the view that the Wheatley area had more links with Pellon than Ovenden and proposed moving it into its proposed Pellon ward which included Mount Tabor but excluded Norton Tower. However, they too did not provide any community interest information to evidence the link between Wheatley and Pellon. Labour included the Lee Mount Road area in its proposals for Ovenden.

123 The resident included the Wheatley area in Ovenden, as at present, but excluded Lee Mount Road. Their proposed Mount Tabor ward included Norton Tower. They too did not provide further information to support these proposals.

124 As mentioned in the section on Sowerby Bridge, on our tour of the area, we were persuaded to include Warley Town in Luddendenfoot to the east. We are also of the view that residents in Norton Tower will share more community with those to the east and north of Court Lane than those in Sowerby Bridge. Furthermore, from our tour, we have not been persuaded that the Wheatley area shares more community with Pellon than with Ovenden.

125 For these reasons, and in view of decisions made elsewhere, we have not adopted the Labour Group's proposals as part of our draft recommendations. Instead, we have based our draft recommendations on the resident's proposals.

126 Nevertheless, as mentioned in paragraph 111, we note that residents of Lee Mount Road, and the area to its immediate south, might be better placed in Ovenden. Doing this produces an oversized Ovenden ward and an undersized Halifax Town ward. We welcome views on this and whether modifying the proposals, as detailed in paragraph 112, will better reflect communities here.

127 Mount Tabor and Ovenden wards are forecast to have 7% fewer and 7% more electors than the average for Calderdale, by 2029.

128 We note that Mount Tabor ward has many similarities to the Labour Group's Pellon ward. We welcome comments about which name better reflects the communities in this area.



## Conclusions

129 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Calderdale, referencing the 2023 and 2029 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

	Draft recommendations	
	2023	2029
Number of councillors	54	54
Number of electoral wards	18	18
Average number of electors per councillor	2,797	2,963
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Draft recommendations

Calderdale Council should be made up of 54 councillors serving 18 wards representing 18 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 Calderdale Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Calderdale on our interactive maps at [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/calderdale](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/calderdale)

### Parish electoral arrangements

130 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.

131 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, Calderdale 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.

132 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 Hebden Royd and Stainland & District.

133 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hebden Royd parish.

#### Draft recommendations

Hebden Royd Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Birchcliffe	3
Caldene	3
Cragg Vale	4
Fairfield	3
West End	2
White Lee	3

134 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Stainland & District parish.

#### Draft recommendations

Stainland & District Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Holywell Green	4
Sowood	2
Stainland	3

## Have your say

135 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole borough or just a part of it.

136 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for area, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

137 Our website is the best way to keep up to date with progress on the review and to have your say [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

138 Each review has its own page with details of the timetable for the review, information about its different stages and interactive mapping.

139 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Calderdale)**  
**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**  
**PO Box 133**  
**Blyth**  
**NE24 9FE**

140 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Calderdale which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

141 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

142 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in Calderdale?

143 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

144 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

145 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

146 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

147 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

148 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Calderdale Council in 2026.



## Equalities

149 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

### Draft recommendations for Calderdale Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Brighouse	3	8,572	2,857	2%	9,130	3,043	3%
2	Elland	3	7,382	2,461	-12%	8,295	2,765	-7%
3	Greetland	3	7,316	2,439	-13%	8,106	2,702	-9%
4	Halifax Town	3	8,012	2,671	-5%	8,409	2,803	-5%
5	Hebden & Todmorden East	3	9,245	3,082	10%	9,354	3,118	5%
6	Hipperholme & Lightcliffe	3	8,747	2,916	4%	9,441	3,147	6%
7	Illingworth & Mixenden	3	8,235	2,745	-2%	9,037	3,012	2%
8	Luddendenfoot	3	8,355	2,785	0%	8,373	2,791	-6%
9	Mount Tabor	3	8,101	2,700	-3%	8,256	2,752	-7%
10	Northowram & Shelf	3	7,671	2,557	-9%	8,742	2,914	-2%
11	Ovenden	3	8,696	2,899	4%	9,542	3,181	7%

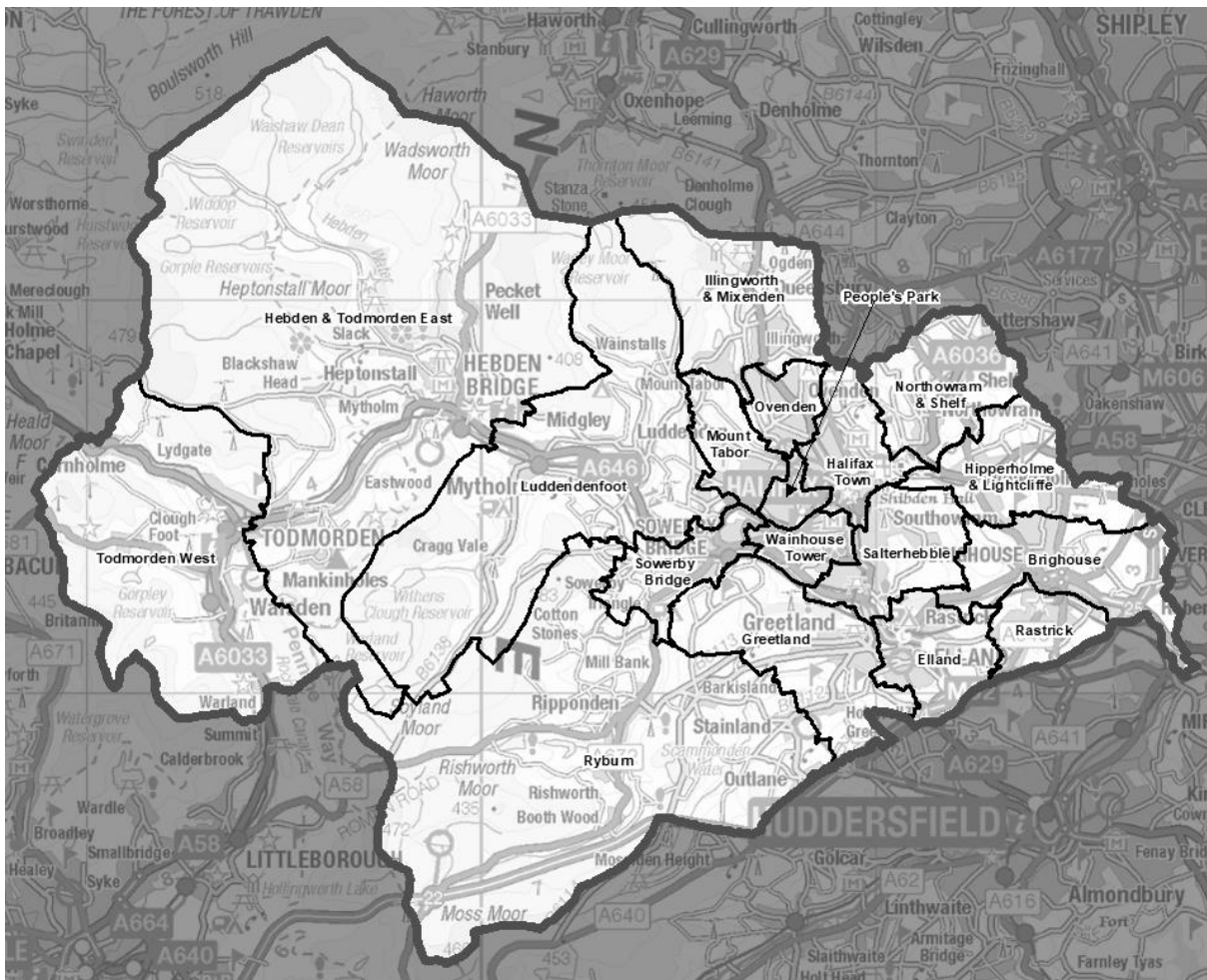
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 People's Park	3	8,470	2,823	1%	8,787	2,929	-1%
13 Rastrick	3	9,145	3,048	9%	10,064	3,355	13%
14 Ryburn	3	8,011	2,670	-5%	8,073	2,691	-9%
15 Salterhebble	3	8,696	2,899	4%	9,135	3,045	3%
16 Sowerby Bridge	3	9,153	3,051	9%	9,584	3,195	8%
17 Todmorden West	3	9,001	3,000	7%	9,128	3,043	3%
18 Wainhouse Tower	3	8,233	2,744	-2%	8,560	2,853	-4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>151,041</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>160,016</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,797</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,963</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Calderdale 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/calderdale](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/calderdale)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/calderdale](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/calderdale)

#### *Political Groups*

- Calderdale Council Conservative Group
- Calderdale Council Labour Group

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor M. Hey (Calderdale Council)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Jah Light Community Project

#### *Local Residents*

- 46 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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
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