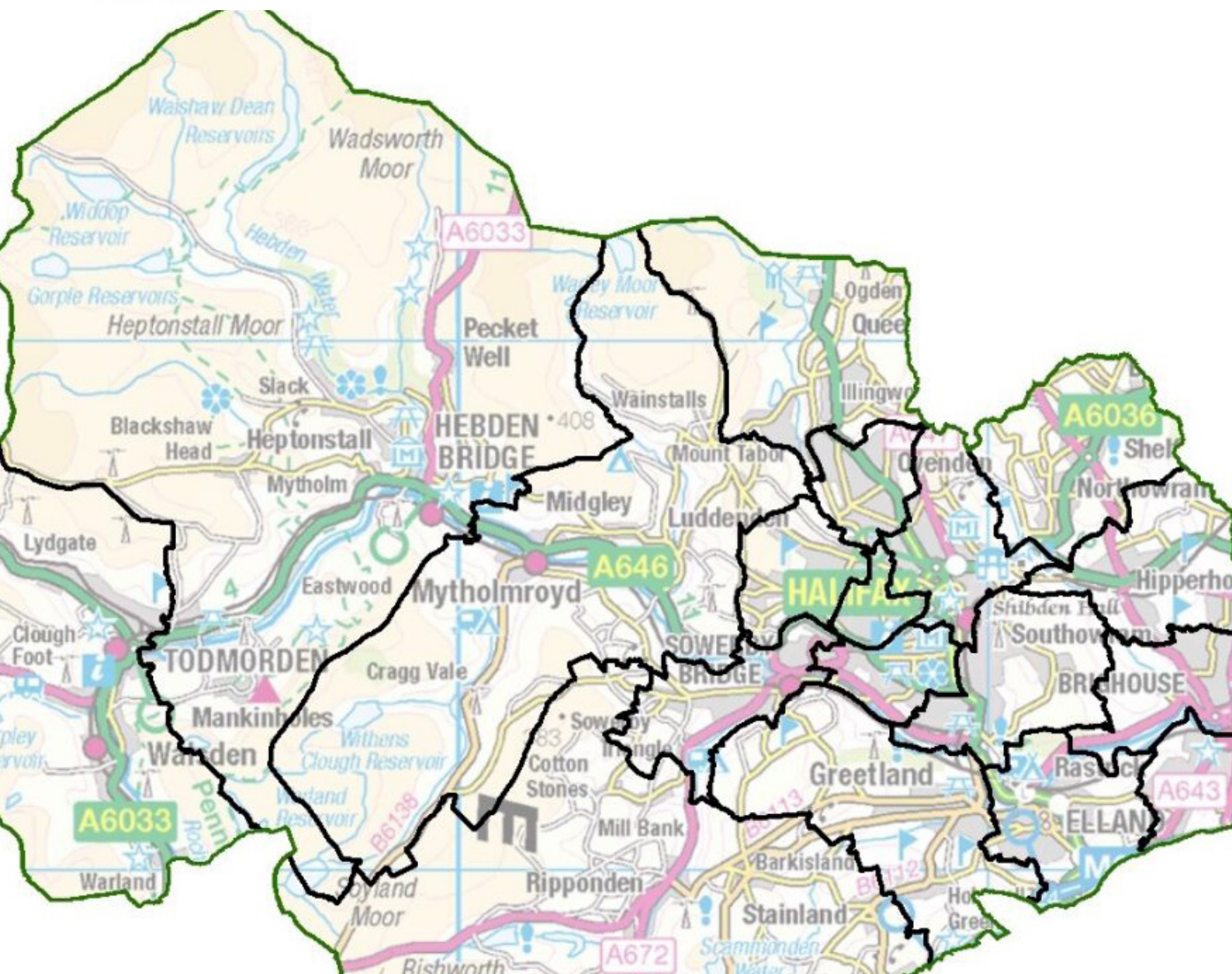


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Calderdale Council Final Recommendations

May 2024

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Electoral review

May 2024

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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 Commission² are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Ailsa Irvine (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 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.

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

² Jolyon Jackson CBE was present during Board meetings where draft recommendations were discussed and agreed. He ceased his role as Chief Executive on 31 December 2023.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as further guidance and information about electoral reviews and the review process in general, can be found on our website at 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'.³ 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.

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

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

³ Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 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 began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
7 May 2024	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation⁴ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁵ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

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

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

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 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.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

⁴ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁵ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Number of councillors

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

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 54 councillors. As Calderdale Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁶ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. In each review of local authorities that elect by thirds, we will aim to deliver a pattern of three-member wards. However, in all cases this consideration will not take precedence over our other statutory criteria, and we will not recommend uniform patterns in the number of councillors per ward if, in our view or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria.

26 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. Amongst 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. We noted that the local plan had been approved, and that while we recognised that development plans may change, we remained persuaded that the evidence submitted by the Council was reasonable and that increasing the council size to 54 was therefore appropriate for Calderdale Council. We consequently based our draft recommendations on a 54-councillor council.

27 In response to our draft recommendations, we received five submissions, including one from the Conservatives, about the number of councillors. The residents' submissions pointed to an increase in costs. The Conservatives raised three objections to the increase in councillor numbers.

28 Firstly, they objected to increasing the costs of councillors while making cuts and redundancies to staff. Secondly, they felt that Calderdale had a lower elector to councillor ratio than a number of other local authorities in West Yorkshire. Finally, they were of the view that the difference in variances between some of the proposed wards meant that some councillors would be representing significantly more electors than others.

⁶ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

29 We considered the issues raised but note that they did not provide any further evidence relating to the governance of the Council, its scrutiny functions and partnerships or the representational role of councillors, which are the main considerations when we make decisions on councillor numbers.

30 We have therefore maintained 54 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

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

32 We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

33 We 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 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.

35 Our draft recommendations were for 18 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

36 We received 95 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included borough-wide comments from the Conservatives, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposed Greetland, Luddendenfoot, Mount Tabor and Ryburn wards.

37 The Conservatives were mostly content with the draft recommendations and considered that they were a fair reflection of the evidence we received. The Liberal Democrats also supported most of the draft recommendations but put forward alternative proposals for the Greetland/Stainland, Sowerby Bridge and Mount

Tabor/Warley areas. The proposals provided for good electoral equality and kept most of Stainland & District parish in a single ward. However, it split Sowerby Bridge in a way that we did not have community evidence to support doing. Therefore, we did not adopt this proposal.

38 The Labour Group also proposed changes (and consequential ones) to a number of wards including our draft recommendations for Halifax Town, Hebden Bridge & Todmorden East, Mount Tabor, People's Park, Salterhebble and Wainhouse Tower wards. However, a number of the proposals had poor electoral equality. For this and other reasons explained in the report, we did not adopt them.

Final recommendations

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

40 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to Luddendenfoot and the Mount Tabor area based on the submissions received. We also make minor modifications to the boundaries between Greetland and Salterhebble, and Hipperholme & Lightcliffe and Northowram & Shelf wards.

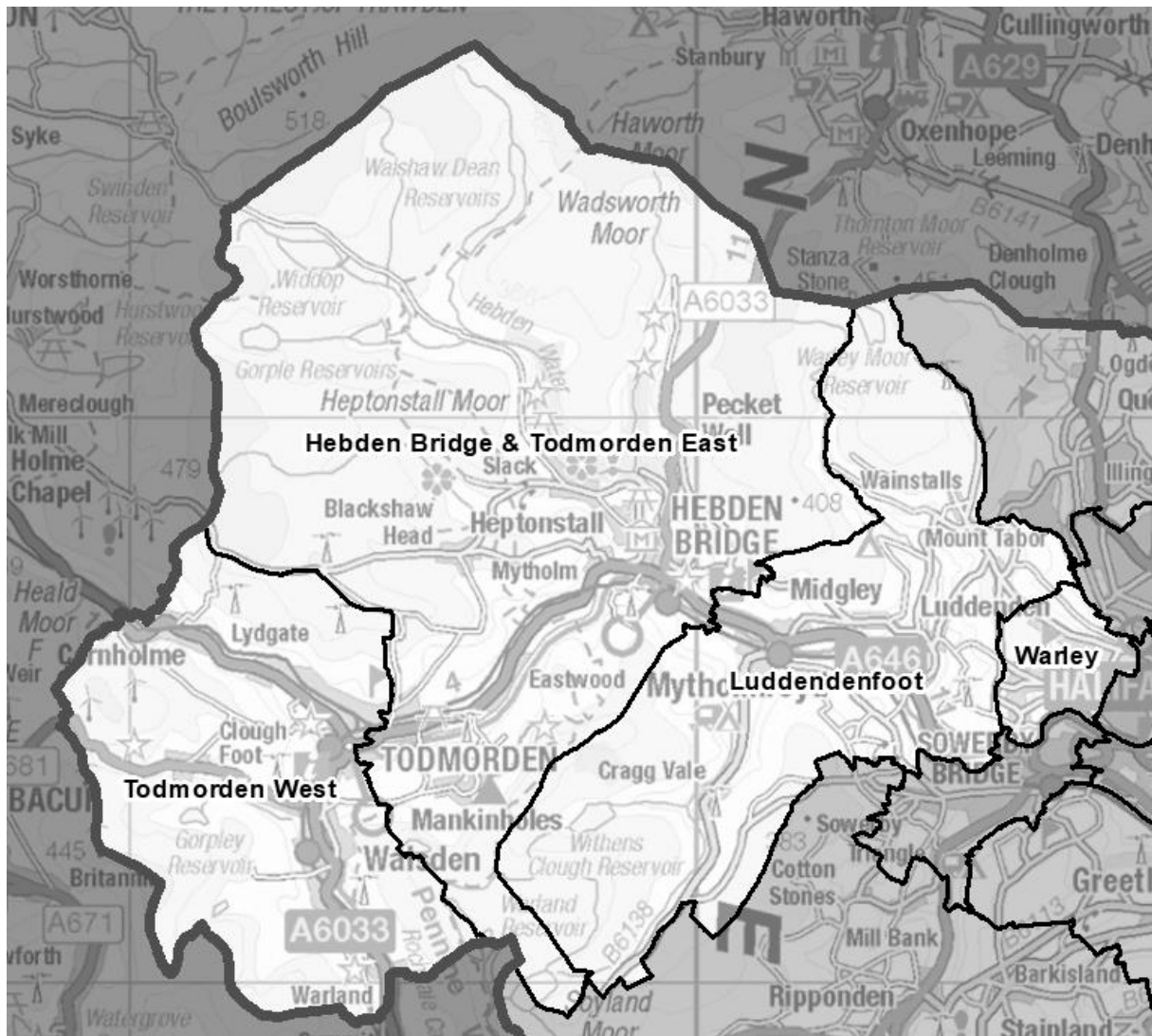
41 The tables and maps on pages 9–23 detail our final recommendations for each area of Calderdale. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁷ criteria of:

- 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 31 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁷ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Hebden Bridge, Luddendenfoot, Todmorden and Warley



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Hebden Bridge & Todmorden East	3	5%
Luddendenfoot	3	-7%
Todmorden West	3	3%
Warley	3	-6%

Hebden Bridge & Todmorden East and Todmorden West

43 In addition to the borough-wide comments, we received four submissions about this area, from Councillor Parsons-Hulse and from residents.

44 The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats both supported our draft recommendations for this area. The Labour Group supported Todmorden West ward but reiterated its proposal to exclude Chiserley, Old Town and Pecket Well from a ward with Hebden Bridge and instead place them in Luddendenfoot ward. It reiterated its comments during the first consultation that these settlements had

similar characteristics. In its view they had shared interests with those in Luddendenfoot ward. However, it acknowledged that it could not test this proposal or provide 'concrete community evidence' to support it.

45 Councillor Parsons-Hulse also proposed that to balance population figures, Luddenden should spread 'into the natural connected Wadsworth polling district'. In other words, 'Old Town, Pecket Well and up to the Bradford Board'. She stated that there were stronger links with Hebden Bridge, more so as people from Hebden Bridge used the Arts Centre in Wainsgate Chapel (in Old Town) on a daily basis.

46 Two of the residents wanted all of Todmorden united in a Todmorden ward on community identity grounds, rather than some of the parish being in a ward with Hebden Bridge.

47 We considered the submissions carefully. With regards to Todmorden, we agree that uniting Todmorden in a single parish would reflect the community identity of the residents, and we considered doing this as part of our draft recommendations. However, it resulted in a ward with very poor electoral equality. Such a ward is forecast to have 33% more electors than the average for the borough in 2029. Even if we retained the existing number of councillors for Calderdale, it is still forecast to have a high level of electoral inequality, at 26%. We considered this level of electoral inequality too high and not the best balance of our statutory criteria. We therefore retained the boundaries of the existing Todmorden ward as proposed and supported by all the borough-wide proposals and comments we received.

48 We consider that this is still the best balance of our statutory criteria and have not been persuaded to make any changes to Todmorden West ward.

49 With regards to the Labour Group's proposal to exclude Chiserley, Old Town and Pecket Well from a ward in this area, we remain persuaded that residents of these settlements look to Hebden Bridge for their community and amenities, and not to Mytholmroyd in Luddendenfoot. We also believe that while advocating for Old Town and the neighbouring villages to be included in Luddendenfoot ward, some of the evidence provided by Councillor Parsons-Hulse supports them being included in a ward with Hebden Bridge. Therefore, we have not been persuaded to make any changes to the boundaries of our draft recommendations for Hebden & Todmorden East ward.

50 However, a resident was of the view that it would be more appropriate to name this ward Hebden Bridge & Todmorden East ward because the town in this ward is Hebden Bridge while Hebden is a town in North Yorkshire. We are content to do so, on the grounds that it better reflects the identity of the communities in the ward and will avoid any confusion with Hebden in North Yorkshire.

51 Aside from this change of name, we confirm our draft recommendations for these two wards as final. Both Hebden Bridge & Todmorden East and Todmorden West wards are forecast to have good electoral equality.

Luddendenfoot and Warley

52 Our draft recommendations for this area included a Mount Tabor ward based on the existing Warley ward, except that it excluded Warley Town and the area west of Winterburn Lane and Workhouse Lane. We had included these areas in Luddendenfoot ward.

53 We received over 50 submissions – from Councillor Parsons-Hulse, Mount Tabor Community Association (MTCA), St John, Warley & St Hilda, Wainstalls Community Association, Warley Community Association and residents – in addition to the area-wide comments from the political groups.

54 The Conservatives supported our draft recommendations. Labour and the Liberal Democrats did not, and neither did a significant number of the other respondents.

55 The Labour Group proposed modifications which moved Warley Town and an area north of Burnley Road into a Warley or Pellon ward with Mount Tabor Village and Pellon. It placed the area west of Winterburn Lane and Workhouse Lane in Luddendenfoot ward. It stated that Warley was semi-rural like Mount Tabor, and that both communities looked towards Halifax. It was of the view that it was unlikely that residents of these communities looked to Mytholmroyd for their shopping and amenities. The parish priest for St John, Warley & St Hilda expressed similar views, as did Warley Community Association, who stated that they would lose their links with their existing support groups and councillors. It also advocated for the retention of a ward named 'Warley'. A significant number of Warley residents also advocated for Warley to be included in a ward with Norton Tower and Highroad Well.

56 The Liberal Democrats were also of the view that Warley Town residents looked towards Halifax. In their view the residents had community links with Mount Tabor, Norton Tower and Highroad Well. They believed that Wainstalls should be included in a 'Warley/Mount Tabor' ward. Nevertheless, they proposed retaining the boundaries of the existing Warley ward which excluded Wainstalls. Under this proposal, Luddendenfoot and Warley wards are forecast to have 12% and 1% fewer electors, respectively, than the average for Calderdale by 2029.

57 Councillor Parsons-Hulse also proposed that Warley Town remain in a ward with Mount Tabor because they were linked through community activities. She too was of the view that Wainstalls should be included in a ward with Warley and Mount Tabor instead of in Luddendenfoot ward. To make up for the removal of Wainstalls from Luddendenfoot, she proposed the inclusion of Old Town, Pecket Well and an area 'up to Bradford Board' in Luddendenfoot ward. However, as mentioned in the

section on Hebden Bridge & Todmorden East, we were not persuaded to include these settlements in Luddendenfoot ward.

58 MTCA was of the view that Mount Tabor Village shared similar rural and semi-rural characteristics with Warley Town, Luddenden and Wainstalls and that it had little in common with the more urban part of its current ward. It believed that being included in Luddendenfoot ward would provide for more effective representation by local councillors due to the common needs of the communities they would be representing. This view was shared by the Mount Tabor residents who responded to the consultation. They felt that the draft recommendations placed them in a ward with an area of high density with different priorities from those of their community. Some explicitly stated that the area 'below Highroad Well' should be included in a separate ward.

59 The MTCA proposed two options for revised boundaries. Option one modified the draft recommendations by including residents north of Broadley Road in Luddendenfoot ward. Option two moved the boundary further north to exclude Broadley Avenue, Park Close, Park Fields and Woodlesford Crescent from this ward. Under these options, Luddendenfoot ward was forecast to have a variance of either 1% or -1% by 2029 while the residual 'Pellon' ward was forecast to have 14% or 12% fewer electors than the average for the borough, by 2029.

60 Wainstalls Community Association was content that its community remained in Luddendenfoot ward. This view was shared by a resident who stated that Wainstalls was similar to the other settlements in Luddendenfoot ward. They felt that it was important that they continued to work together on issues like flood prevention and water pollution. However, the Association noted that the draft recommendations placed Balkram Edge in Mount Tabor ward away from their community in Wainstalls.

61 We considered all the information we received over the course of both consultations carefully. We note and appreciate the time and consideration given to the draft recommendations by the communities, organisations and residents in this area.

62 Although a significant number of respondents stated that Mount Tabor and Warley should be included in the same ward, we note that views differ as to which ward that should be. Mount Tabor residents and MTCA want to be included in Luddendenfoot ward to the east, while Warley Community Association and Warley Town residents state that their community ties and amenities are towards Halifax and with Highroad Well and Norton Tower.

63 We also note that some submissions advocated for Wainstalls to be included in a ward with Mount Tabor on accessibility and community interest grounds.

64 We initially considered including Mount Tabor, Warley and Wainstalls in an enlarged Warley ward based on the existing ward. However, this resulted in a

Luddendenfoot ward forecast to have 16% fewer electors than the average for Calderdale in 2029. We considered this variance too high and did not adopt this proposal.

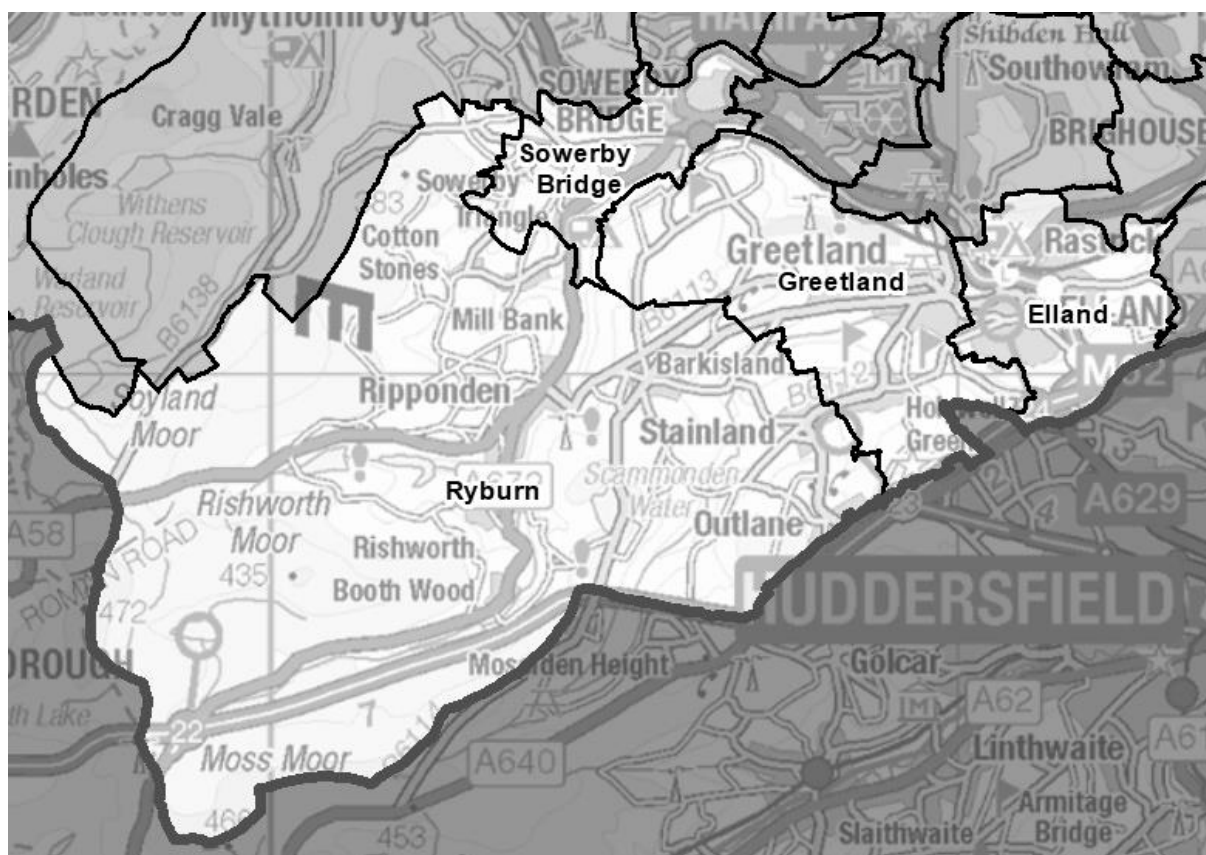
65 We then considered including these three semi-rural communities in Luddendenfoot ward, as proposed by MTCA and Mount Tabor residents. This placed the more urban areas of Highroad Well, Norton Tower and Pellon in a separate ward, in line with MTCA's second option. Although we may have been prepared to accept a Pellon ward forecast to have 12% fewer electors, this would not reflect the evidence we received from Warley Town respondents i.e., that they share community with the more densely populated areas of Highroad Well and Norton Tower and look towards Halifax.

66 After careful consideration, and having recognised that we cannot reflect all the proposals that we have received in light of the fact that people have different views about how the communities in this area should be combined, we have decided to include Mount Tabor with Luddenden and Wainstalls in Luddendenfoot ward, and place Warley Town in a Warley ward with Highroad Well, Norton Tower and Pellon. We consider this reflects the identity of Warley residents and organisations who say that their community is with Highroad Well and Norton Tower. It also reflects the views of the Mount Tabor community who were clear that they had more in common with other similar communities to the east.

67 The Labour Group also proposed a modification to the boundary of Warley ward and Sowerby Bridge ward. It advocated the inclusion of Friendly Avenue and the neighbouring roads north of the A646 Burnley Road in Warley ward. The Labour Group was of the view that the Friendly area was the gateway to the Upper Valley, after which the landscape becomes more rural. While we agree that the landscape becomes rural after this area, we did not receive evidence that the Friendly area itself looked northwards. Therefore, we have not been persuaded to make this modification.

68 Luddendenfoot and Warley wards are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

South Calderdale and Sowerby Bridge



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

69 For the areas around Elland, Greetland and Ryburn there are fewer electors than the average per councillor for the borough. Our draft recommendations were based on locally proposed boundaries, with variances which are just within 10%. This made it harder to adjust due to the impact on electoral equality.

Elland

70 We received two submissions about Elland ward in addition to the borough-wide comments from the political groups.

71 The borough-wide comments were mainly supportive of this ward. The Labour Group suggested that we consider including the areas south of Dewsbury Road/Clough Lane in Elland ward, as at present, to improve the variance of the neighbouring Rastrick ward. At the same time it noted that we had already considered doing this and acknowledged that the residents concerned were 'likely to share community interests with Rastrick ward'.

72 As the Labour Group noted, we excluded this area from Elland ward on community interest grounds, and we consider that this is still the best balance of our statutory criteria.

73 A resident stated that our draft recommendations placed two houses on Hullen Road in Greetland rather than Elland. However, our draft recommendations place all the properties on Hullen Road in Greetland ward. The boundary runs behind the properties that face on to Victoria Road.

74 One resident objected to the inclusion of Blackley Village, Broad Carr and an area west and north of Blackley Road, Hammerstones Road and Hullen Edge Road in Greetland ward instead of Elland. We considered doing this as part of our draft recommendations. However, as described in paragraph 69, the distribution of electors in this area of the borough means that any adjustment causes neighbouring wards (to the east) to have poor electoral equality. In this case, moving these areas into Elland ward would leave Greetland ward with at least 14% fewer electors than the average for the borough. Trying to address this would leave Ryburn with at least 16% fewer electors than the average for Calderdale. We were not, therefore, persuaded to change the draft recommendations.

75 We are confirming our draft recommendations for Elland ward as final.

Greetland, Ryburn and Sowerby Bridge

76 In addition to the borough-wide submissions, we received just over 20 submissions for this area. These were from Councillor Greenwood, Stainland & District Parish Council and residents.

77 The Conservatives supported our draft recommendations in this area. The Labour Group also supported our draft recommendations for Greetland and Ryburn wards. It proposed a minor modification which moved the north-eastern boundary of Greetland ward from south of North Dean Business Park to Elland Wood Bottom on the grounds that this industrial estate is more part of Greetland ward.

78 It also proposed a small modification to the boundary between Sowerby Bridge and the ward to its north. As explained in the section on Warley ward, we did not receive persuasive community evidence to adopt this modification.

79 The Liberal Democrats objected to our draft recommendations which split Stainland & District parish across district wards.

80 The Liberal Democrats proposed an alternative warding pattern that placed most of the parish in a ward with Greetland. As part of this proposal, Norland Town and the western edge of Stainland & District parish were placed in Ryburn ward, as

was the area of Sowerby Bridge east of Dean Lane. They expressed the view that the draft recommendations would be splitting a farming community.

81 Stainland & District Parish Council also objected to being split across borough wards. It was of the view that the road links were poor and that Ripponden was not a natural local centre for residents of Stainland and Sowood. It was concerned that being split over two borough wards would negatively impact community participation and that, being a relatively new parish, it was not resourced to address the impacts of this split. Several residents also raised objections.

82 We considered the Liberal Democrats' proposal, especially in light of the parish council's comments. We noted that the proposed wards had good electoral equality. However, we also noted that while it united most of Stainland & District parish, it split another area and community, Sowerby Bridge, without the requisite community evidence to support the proposed boundaries in that area. Therefore, we did not adopt this proposal.

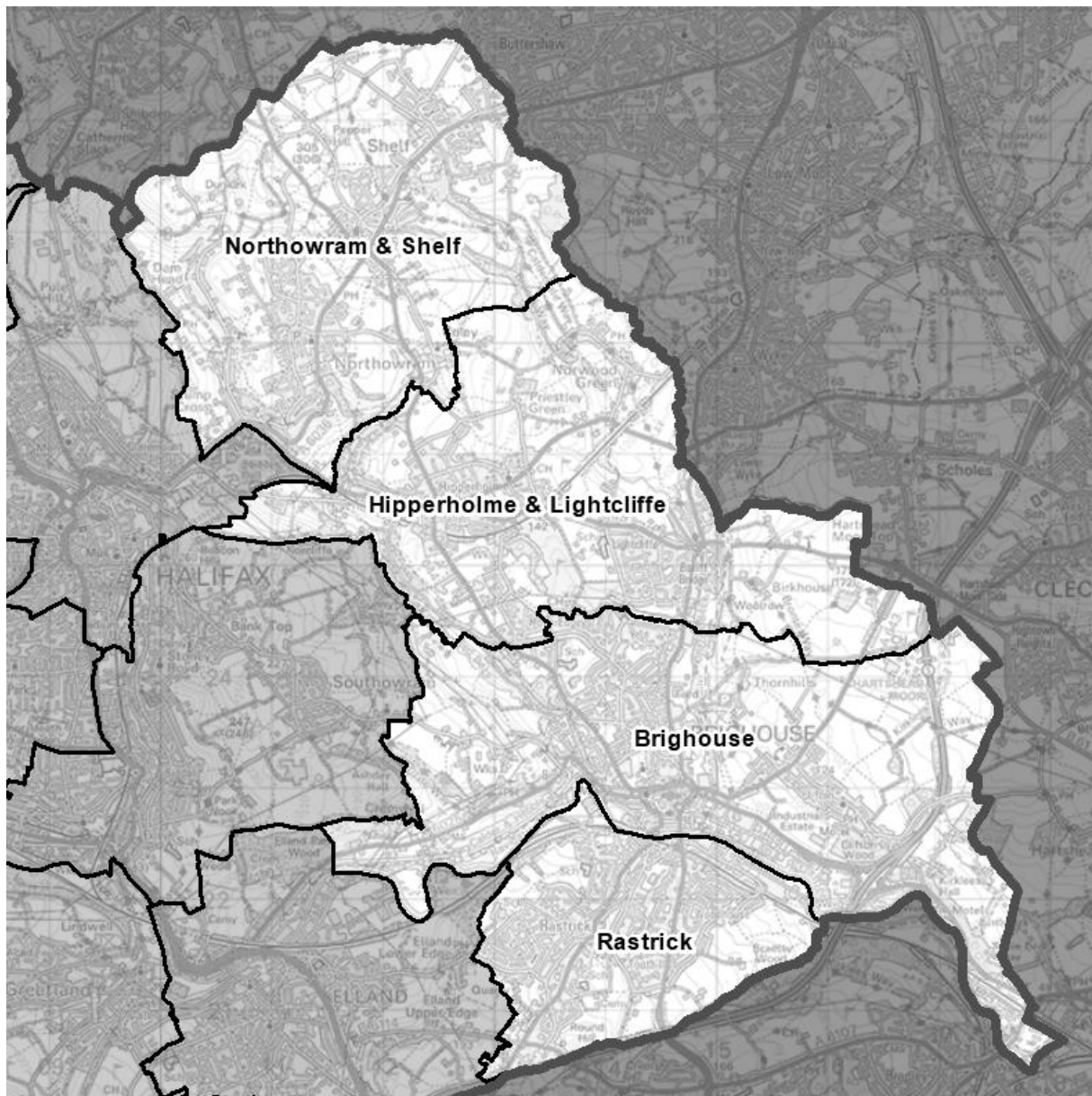
83 We also considered including a larger area of the parish in Greetland ward. This entailed moving Stainland into Greetland ward with Holywell Green but retaining Sowood Village in Ryburn. However, this produced a Ryburn ward forecast to have 21% fewer electors than the borough average. We considered this poor electoral equality and so did not do this.

84 Councillor Greenwood supported the draft recommendations for these three wards. She was of the opinion that it made a lot of sense for Stainland, Stainland Dean and Sowood to join Barkisland, Ripponden and Rishworth in a new Ryburn ward, being semi-rural villages with similar issues.

85 A resident advocated transferring an area below the junction of Harper Royd Lane and Spark House Lane into Sowerby Bridge ward. Failing this, they suggested that we move Norland Town into Sowerby Bridge. Making either of these changes would worsen the electoral equality of Greetland ward, and we did not adopt these suggestions.

86 We agree that keeping Stainland & District parish in a borough ward is desirable. However, in the absence of a workable alternative that does not split another community, and considering that there is some support for the draft recommendations, we have decided to confirm them as final with one minor modification which places the North Dean Business Park in Greetland ward.

East Calderdale



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

Brighouse

87 The borough-wide comments were the only ones we received about Brighouse. These all supported our draft recommendations. We therefore confirm them as final.

Hipperholme & Lightcliffe and Northowram & Shelf

88 The borough-wide submissions were the only ones we received for this area of Calderdale.

89 As part of our draft recommendations we did not adopt a proposal to include all of Norwood Green and Coley in Northowram & Shelf, but we did include St Johns View and the southern end of Coley Road in this ward. This was because we were persuaded that the existing boundary that placed neighbouring properties like Coley Dale and Soaper House in different wards was not logical. The existing boundary also placed The Brown Horse Public House and neighbouring property (The Gatehouse) in two different wards.

90 The Conservatives and Labour both questioned the inclusion of St John's View in Northowram & Shelf ward instead of Hipperholme & Lightcliffe ward. The Conservatives felt that moving this area into Northowram & Shelf ward, in the Halifax Parliamentary constituency, would affect effective and convenient local government and make 'life more difficult' for residents in this area.

91 The Labour Group also stated that it would be confusing for the residents concerned to vote for a Calder Valley MP but 'Halifax' area ward councillors. However, it noted that we do not consider Parliamentary constituencies when drawing up ward boundaries, which is correct. Our new ward boundaries will form the basis of the next review of Parliamentary boundaries.

92 Nevertheless, we considered the merits of both the existing and our draft recommendations boundaries in the area. We remain persuaded that our draft recommendations provide for a more logical boundary than the existing boundary proposed by the Conservatives and Labour Group. In both instances referred to in paragraph 89, we are persuaded that these neighbouring properties ought to be in the same ward.

93 However, we made one minor modification to the draft recommendations. This is to include Stonehill House on Denholme Gate Road in Northowram & Shelf ward, with its closest neighbours with whom they will most likely share community interest.

94 With the exception of this minor modification, we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Rastrick

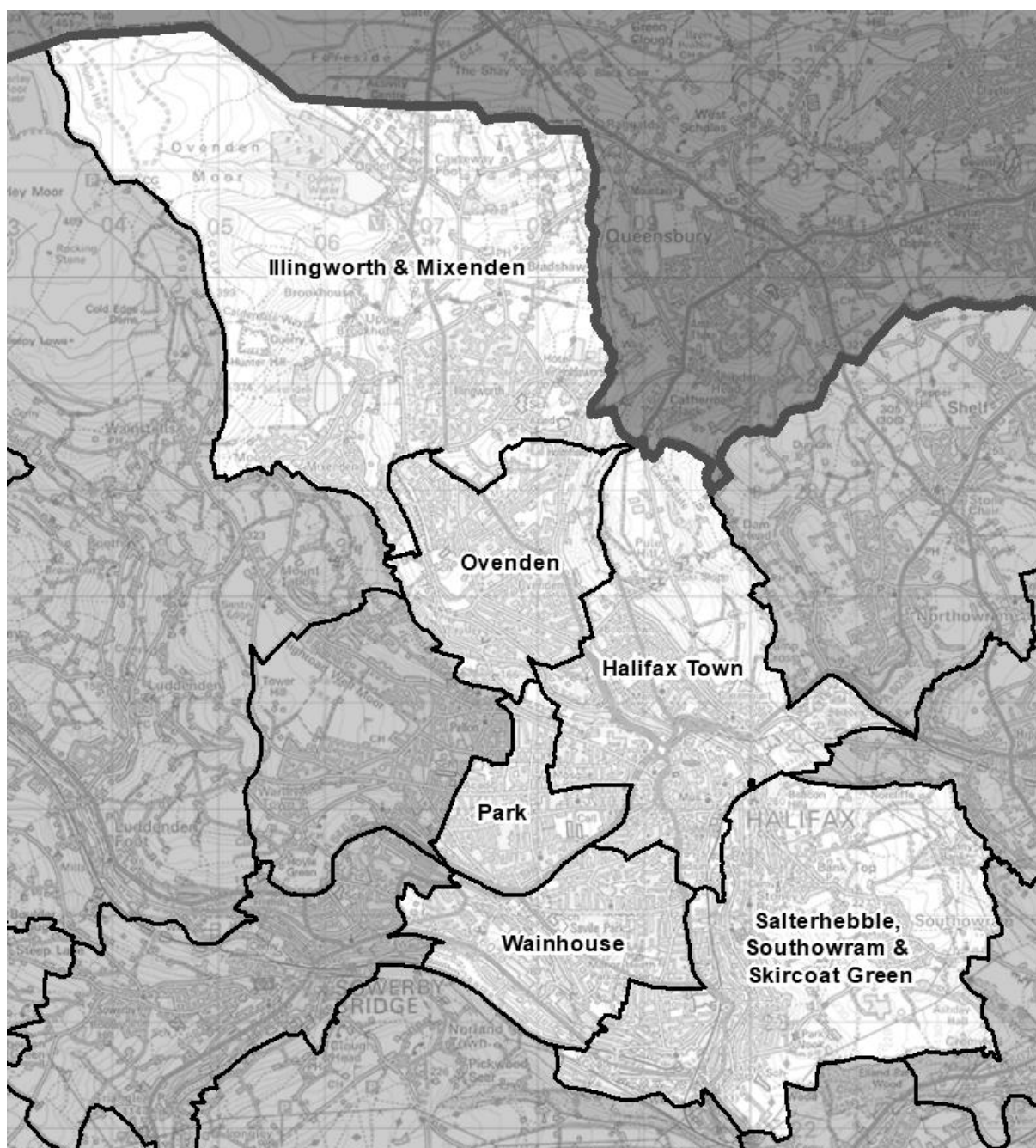
95 The borough-wide comments were the only ones with specific comments about this area.

96 The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats both supported the draft recommendations.

97 Labour noted that this ward had an electoral equality outside of 10% from the average for the borough. Although it intimated that we could consider retaining the area south of Dewsbury Road/Clough Lane in Elland, it acknowledged that we had considered this option when drawing up the draft recommendations and that these residents are likely to share community interests with Rastrick ward.

98 We included this area in Rastrick ward to reflect community evidence and we are content that our draft recommendations still represent the best balance of our statutory criteria. We therefore confirm them as final.

Halifax



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Halifax Town	3	-5%
Illingworth & Mixenden	3	2%
Ovenden	3	7%
Park	3	-1%
Salterhebble, Southowram & Skircoat Green	3	3%
Wainhouse	3	-4%

99 The Conservatives expressed support for the draft recommendations while noting that the Halifax area would see the most substantial changes. The Liberal Democrats were also content with the draft recommendations.

100 The Labour Group proposed significant changes to the draft recommendations in this area. It requested that we modify the boundaries between our draft recommendations for Halifax Town, Wainhouse Tower and Salterhebble wards and that we restore the north-western boundary of the existing Park ward. It also proposed that we make modifications to the boundary between Halifax Town and Ovenden wards with consequential ones to Illingworth & Mixenden ward.

101 While we noted that some of the proposed boundaries, specifically between Salterhebble and Wainhouse Tower and between Halifax Town and People's Park wards, were strong and identifiable, these proposals produced wards with poor electoral equality. For instance, the resulting Salterhebble and Wainhouse Tower wards were forecast to have 36% fewer and 14% more electors than the average for Calderdale by 2029.

Halifax Town, Illingworth & Mixenden, Ovenden and Park

102 In addition to the borough-wide comments, we received a submission from a resident.

103 The Labour Group proposed the exclusion of Lee Mount from Halifax Town ward and its inclusion in Ovenden ward on the grounds that this area is separate from the rest of Halifax Town. We noted this when putting together the draft recommendations and it was something we had considered doing. However, it produced an Ovenden ward forecast to have 15% more electors than the average for Calderdale by 2029, which we considered too high.

104 To facilitate an Ovenden ward with good electoral equality, the Labour Group proposed that we restore the existing boundary for Illingworth & Mixenden by excluding the Holmfield area from Ovenden ward.

105 It also proposed that we restore the existing north-eastern boundary of Park ward along Ovenden Road (A629) and Shroggs Road. At the same time, it suggested moving an area around Arden Road and Well Head Lane from Wainhouse Tower into Halifax Town.

106 Under these proposals, three wards have variances outside what we consider good electoral equality. Halifax Town, Illingworth & Mixenden and Park wards are forecast to have 12% fewer, 12% more and 18% more electors, respectively, than the borough average by 2029.

107 With regards to Illingworth & Mixenden, we also note that the Holmfield area south of Beechwood Park is separated from the rest of the ward, which may explain

why all the borough-wide proposals we received during the first consultation included them in Ovenden ward to the south instead of Illingworth & Mixenden. Therefore, on balance, we were not persuaded to change the draft recommendations to place them in Illingworth & Mixenden in order to include Lee Mount in Ovenden.

108 In relation to the draft recommendations for People's Park ward, as mentioned in our draft recommendations report, on our visit to Calderdale we noted that the eastern end of Pellon Road was a mix of residential and non-residential properties in close proximity and with seamless access to the town centre. When considered together with what we consider a high variance of 18%, we decided not to adopt the Labour Group's proposal. We consider that including the north-eastern part of the existing Park ward in Halifax Town ward is the best balance of our statutory criteria. We also note the support we received as part of the other borough-wide comments.

109 The Labour Group requested that we rename Halifax Town to Town ward to avoid confusion with the football club named Halifax Town. We are not convinced that anyone would confuse an electoral ward with a football club, even if they shared the same name, and have not been persuaded to change it.

110 A resident suggested that People's Park ward be renamed Crossley ward, after the Francis Crossley who constructed both Crossley House and People's Park. The Labour Group advocated that we rename this ward Park, as it is currently called, on the basis of it being a recognised community name. While we have no evidence that Crossley will be widely accepted or recognised by residents of the ward, we are content to rename it Park ward in line with Labour's suggestion.

111 With the exception of the name change, we confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

Salterhebble, Southowram & Skircoat Green and Wainhouse

112 In addition to the borough-wide comments, we received submissions from eight residents.

113 One resident supported the draft recommendations for Salterhebble ward, while the others objected to Copley and Skircoat Green being included in a ward with Southowram and Siddal. Some cited the A629 as a strong boundary between the communities. Others stated that Copley and Skircoat should be in a ward with Saville Park.

114 As mentioned earlier, Labour proposed some modifications using the A629 as a strong boundary between these wards. However, this produced a Southowram & Hebble ward with 36% fewer electors than the average for Calderdale. This was very poor electoral equality and we did not accept it.

115 A resident also proposed a Wainhouse ward bounded by the A629, Hebble Brook, Scarr Bottom Road, Aachen Way and Haugh Shaw Road. However, this too produced wards with very poor electoral equality. Under these proposals, Wainhouse ward is forecast to have 20% more electors than the average for Calderdale, while the resultant Salterhebble ward would have 40% fewer electors. Under these proposals, Sowerby Bridge to the west of Wainhouse is forecast to have 12% more electors per councillor by 2029. We therefore did not adopt this proposal.

116 In view of this, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final, with a minor modification around North Dean Business Park, which we explain in the section on Greetland. We accept that Southowram and Siddal communities are distinct from Copley and Skircoat Green communities. However, in order to achieve a balance of our criteria, we sometimes have to include different communities in the same ward. We are content that this locally proposed warding pattern is the best balance of our statutory criteria. We have renamed Salterhebble ward, Salterhebble, Southowram & Skircoat Green to reflect the constituent communities within it.

Conclusions

117 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final 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

	Final 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

Final recommendations

Calderdale Council should be made up of 54 councillors 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 the Calderdale Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Calderdale Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

118 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.

119 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.

120 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.

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

Final 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

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

Final 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

What happens next?

123 We have now completed our review of Calderdale 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 2026.

Equalities

124 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 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 Bridge & Todmorden East	3	9,245	3,082	10%	9,354	3,118	5%
6	Hipperholme & Lightcliffe	3	8,744	2,915	4%	9,438	3,146	6%
7	Illingworth & Mixenden	3	8,235	2,745	-2%	9,037	3,012	2%
8	Luddendenfoot	3	8,366	2,789	0%	8,303	2,768	-7%
9	Northowram & Shelf	3	7,674	2,558	-9%	8,745	2,915	-2%
10	Ovenden	3	8,696	2,899	4%	9,542	3,181	7%
11	Park	3	8,470	2,823	1%	8,787	2,929	-1%

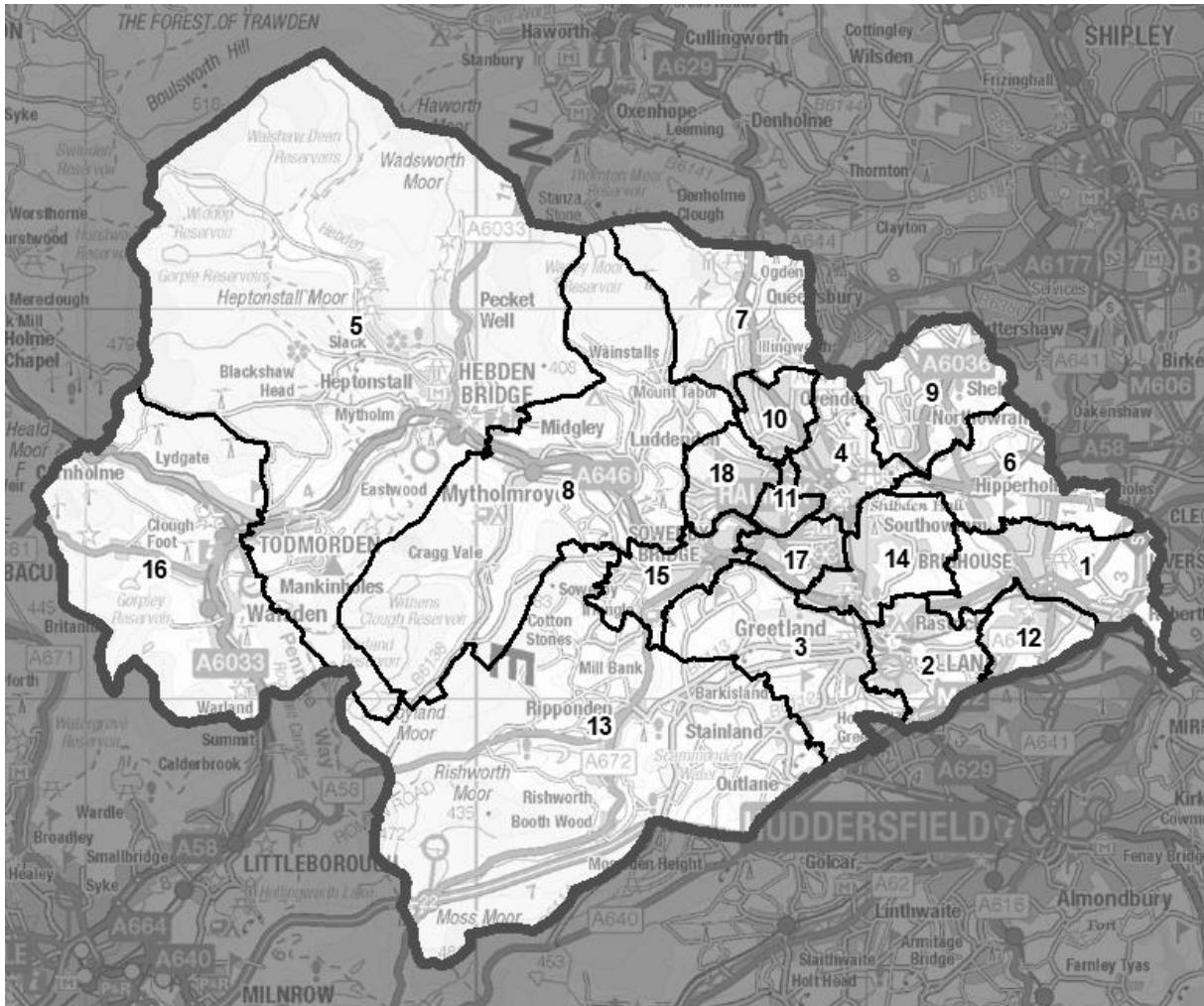
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Rastrick	3	9,145	3,048	9%	10,064	3,355	13%
13 Ryburn	3	8,011	2,670	-5%	8,073	2,691	-9%
14 Salterhebble, Southowram & Skircoat Green	3	8,696	2,899	4%	9,135	3,045	3%
15 Sowerby Bridge	3	9,153	3,051	9%	9,584	3,195	8%
16 Todmorden West	3	9,001	3,000	7%	9,128	3,043	3%
17 Wainhouse	3	8,233	2,744	-2%	8,560	2,853	-4%
18 Warley	3	8,090	2,697	-4%	8,326	2,775	-6%
Totals	54	151,041	-	-	160,016	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,797	-	-	2,963	-

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



Number	Ward name
1	Brighouse
2	Elland
3	Greetland
4	Halifax Town
5	Hebden Bridge & Todmorden East
6	Hipperholme & Lightcliffe
7	Illingworth & Mixenden
8	Luddendenfoot
9	Northowram & Shelf
10	Ovenden
11	Park
12	Rastrick
13	Ryburn
14	Salterhebble, Southowram & Skircoat Green
15	Sowerby Bridge

16	Todmorden West
17	Wainhouse
18	Warley

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

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/calderdale

Political Groups

- Calderdale Council Conservative Group
- Calderdale Council Labour Group
- Calderdale Council Liberal Democrat Group

Councillors

- Councillor A. Greenwood (Ripponden Parish Council)
- Councillor A. Parsons-Hulse (Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council)

Local Organisations

- Mount Tabor Community Association (MTCA)
- St John, Warley & St Hilda, Halifax
- Wainstalls Community Association
- Warley Community Association (x2)

Parish and Town Councils

- Stainland & District Parish Council

Local Residents

- 84 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

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

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

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