

New electoral arrangements for Wakefield Council Draft Recommendations

May 2024

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Wakefield Council

Electoral review

May 2024

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- 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 or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

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

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

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

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

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

Why Wakefield?

7 We are conducting a review of Wakefield 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'.² Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Wakefield 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 Wakefield.

Our proposals for Wakefield

9 Wakefield should be represented by 63 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Wakefield should have 21 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change.

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

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

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 7 May 2024 to 15 July 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 15 July 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 Wakefield. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the authority. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
14 November 2023	Number of councillors decided
21 November 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
29 January 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
7 May 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
15 July 2024	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 October 2024	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

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

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 Wakefield	262,168	288,649
Number of councillors	63	63
Average number of electors per councillor	4,161	4,582

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 'electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Wakefield are forecast to have electoral equality 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

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 10%.

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.

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

Number of councillors

26 Wakefield Council currently has 63 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 63 councillors. As Wakefield Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁵ 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 or division if, in our view or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria.

28 We considered that a proposal made by a local resident that wards in the district each be represented by a single councillor was not supported by strong enough evidence to move away from a uniform three-member warding pattern.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 22 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a district-wide proposal from the Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the authority.

30 The Council's proposal provided for a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Wakefield. We carefully considered this proposal and were of the view that the proposed pattern of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

31 Our draft recommendations are therefore based on the Council's proposals. 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 we received did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria, so we identified alternative boundaries.

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

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

Draft recommendations

33 Our draft recommendations are for 21 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.

34 The tables and maps on pages 8–23 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Wakefield. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

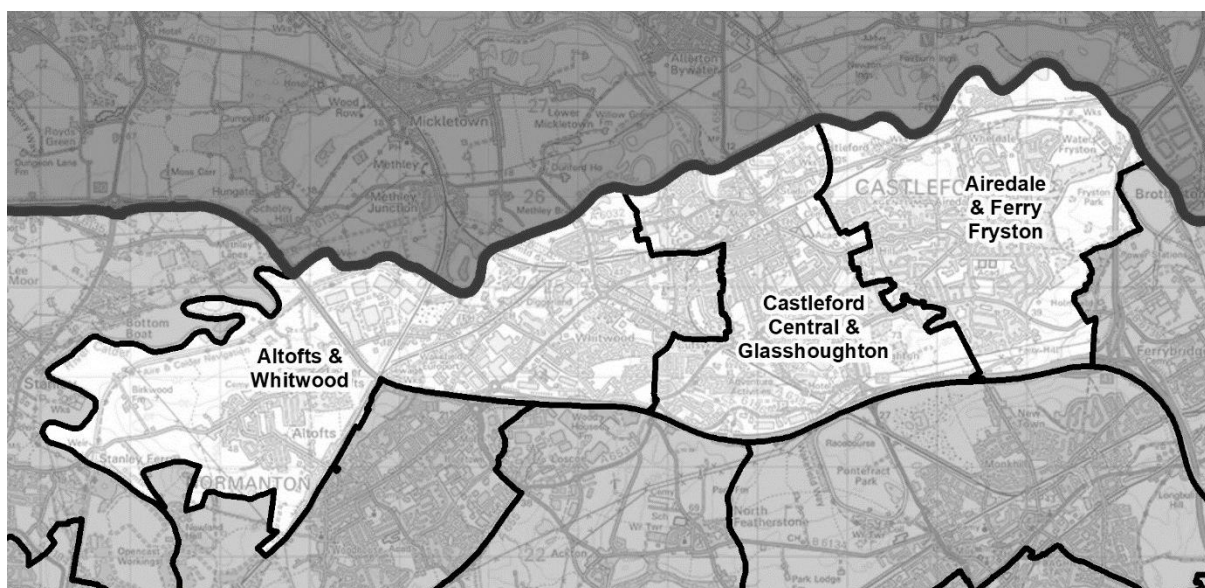
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

35 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.

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

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Castleford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Airedale & Ferry Fryston	3	-2%
Altofts & Whitwood	3	4%
Castleford Central & Glasshoughton	3	6%

Airedale & Ferry Fryston

37 During consultation, we received one submission, from the Council, regarding Airedale & Ferry Fryston ward. The Council proposed transferring electors residing on Healdfield Road and its connected roads, east of Castleford Cemetery, from the current Castleford Central & Glasshoughton ward into its proposed Airedale & Ferry Fryston ward. This change was proposed to address the relatively high electoral variance expected for Airedale & Ferry Fryston ward.

38 We carefully examined this proposal. We note that placing the ward boundary along the eastern edge of Castleford Cemetery would separate electors in the Healdfield Road area from Castleford Central & Glasshoughton ward, which they currently have clear and direct road links into. However, we note that electors in this area do have footpath access into Airedale & Ferry Fryston ward, and that these footpaths will be retained as part of the Aire River Growth Corridor Masterplan, which includes plans for residential development in the area immediately east of the Healdfield Road area. We therefore consider this proposed modification to be appropriate, particularly given the need to secure good electoral equality. We propose to incorporate this change into our draft recommendations. We nevertheless encourage comments with regard to our proposals here during the current consultation.

Altofts & Whitwood and Castleford Central & Glasshoughton

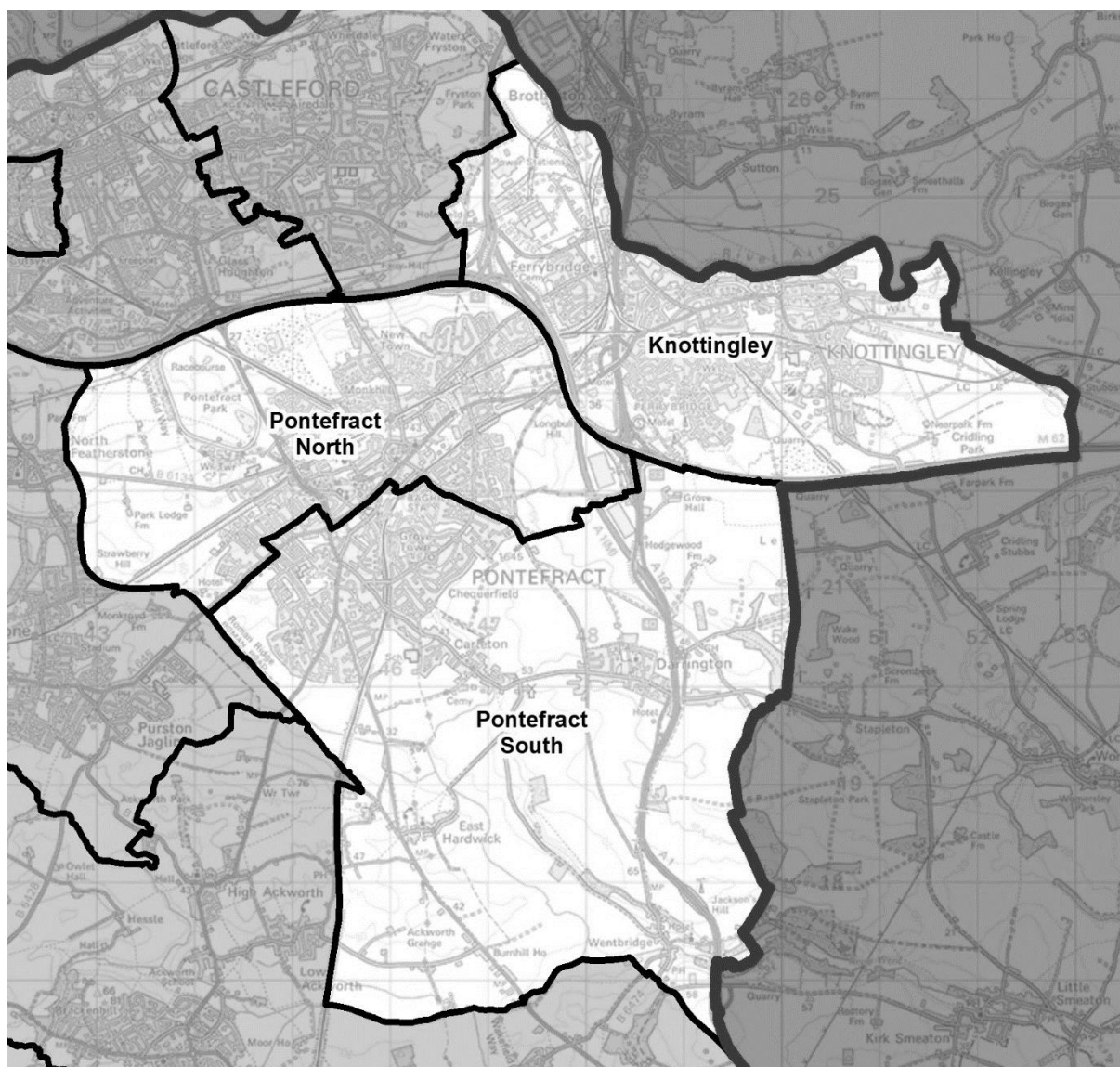
39 The current Altofts & Whitwood ward is forecast to be underrepresented by 2029, which means the ward requires change to ensure a good level of electoral equality. The Council proposed to transfer several hundred electors that reside near the Normanton Altofts Junior School into Normanton ward. Alternatively, a joint submission from Councillors Speight, Hepworth and Pritchard suggested that electors residing in recently developed housing adjacent to Bruce Smeaton Way, and near the Recycling Centre, be transferred into Castleford Central & Glasshoughton ward. The councillors argued that electors in this area ‘view themselves as living in Glasshoughton’.

40 We carefully examined both proposals during our virtual tour of Wakefield. After thorough consideration, we have decided to adopt the proposal made by Councillors Speight, Hepworth and Pritchard. We believe this warding arrangement better aligns with our statutory criteria as it establishes clear and strong ward boundaries, when compared to the Council’s proposal. However, we particularly encourage feedback on this decision during the current consultation.

41 We have nonetheless modified the boundary between the Altofts & Whitwood and Normanton wards so that it follows the railway line, as opposed to the Ashfield Beck. We consider the railway line to be a more identifiable boundary. This change also ensures that the entirety of Greenfield Road is contained within a single ward. As a consequence, we are required to recommend new parish electoral arrangements for Normanton & Altofts parish, which is detailed paragraph 88.

42 A local resident requested that the entirety of Wheldon Road should be placed in Castleford Central & Glasshoughton ward, stating that the existing arrangement, which place the road across multiple wards, prevents residents from raising concerns regarding ‘industrial fumes or waste that contaminate the air land etc’ in the ward. We decided not to adopt this proposal as we consider that the community identity-based evidence received for the proposed change was insufficient.

Knottingley and Pontefract



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Knottingley	3	-10%
Pontefract North	3	5%
Pontefract South	3	8%

Knottingley and Pontefract North

43 We received three submissions regarding Knottingley and Pontefract North wards. The Council and Councillor Hames proposed transferring the southern portion of the existing Pontefract North ward, which includes Pontefract Hospital, to Pontefract South ward. This adjustment was proposed to address the anticipated high electoral variance forecast for the former ward.

44 Councillor Hames also proposed transferring three other areas between Knottingley, Pontefract North and Pontefract South wards. This involved moving a substantial number of electors from Pontefract South ward to Knottingley ward to improve the electoral variance of the latter ward, which is anticipated to have a variance of -10% by 2029. Councillor Hames suggested that if this proposal was adopted, the ward should be named 'Knottingley and Pontefract East'.

45 In addition, a local resident requested that a substantial portion of electors in the area bounded by Holmfield Lane, Darkfield Lane, Stumpcross Lane and Sowgate Lane be transferred from Pontefract North ward to a Ferrybridge ward. It was argued that electors from this area share closer links with the Ferrybridge locality, which is in Knottingley ward, than with the broader Pontefract area.

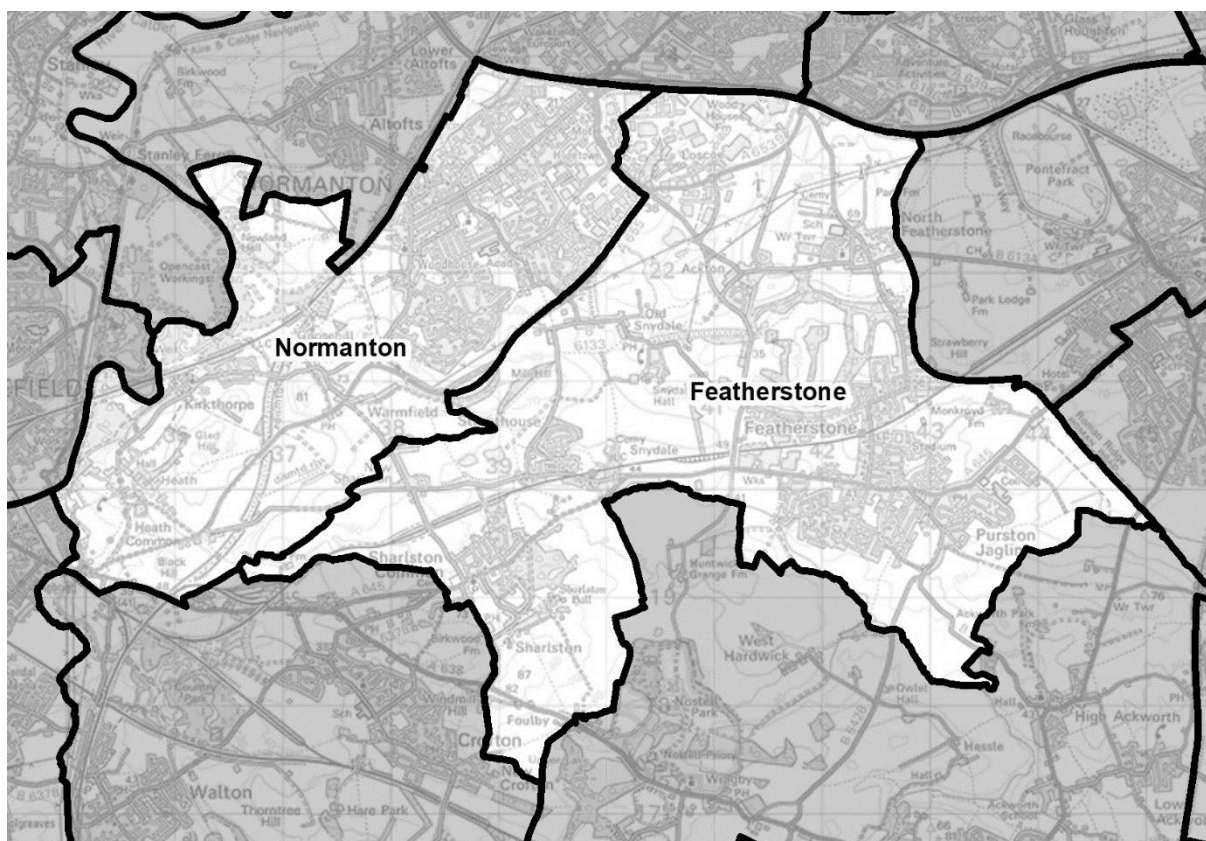
46 We studied these various proposals on our virtual tour of the district. After thorough consideration, we have decided to adopt the proposal made by the Council, and part of the proposal from Councillor Hames. Specifically, we have decided to transfer part of the current Pontefract North ward, which includes Pontefract Hospital, into our proposed Pontefract South ward.

47 With respect to other proposals made by Councillor Hames, and the local resident, we considered that the M62 motorway serves as a clear and identifiable boundary between communities. We consider that a warding arrangement that intersects the motorway would not adequately reflect our statutory criteria. In particular, we were not persuaded that it would provide for a sufficiently clear and identifiable ward boundary or necessarily reflect community identities and interests.

Pontefract South

48 As a result of a recent Community Governance Review carried out by the Council, the parishes of East Hardwick and Wentbridge are currently split between the wards of Pontefract South and Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton. We received nine submissions from local residents which requested that the parish of Wentbridge be unified within a single ward, stating that this arrangement would better serve the Wentbridge community and aid effective and convenient local government. In their respective submissions, the Council and Councillor Hames placed the entirety of East Hardwick and Wentbridge parishes in a Pontefract South ward. We agree that uniting each parish in a single ward will effectively balance our statutory criteria and have therefore adopted the proposals submitted by the Council and Councillor Hames for this area as part of our draft recommendations.

Featherstone and Normanton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Featherstone	3	6%
Normanton	3	1%

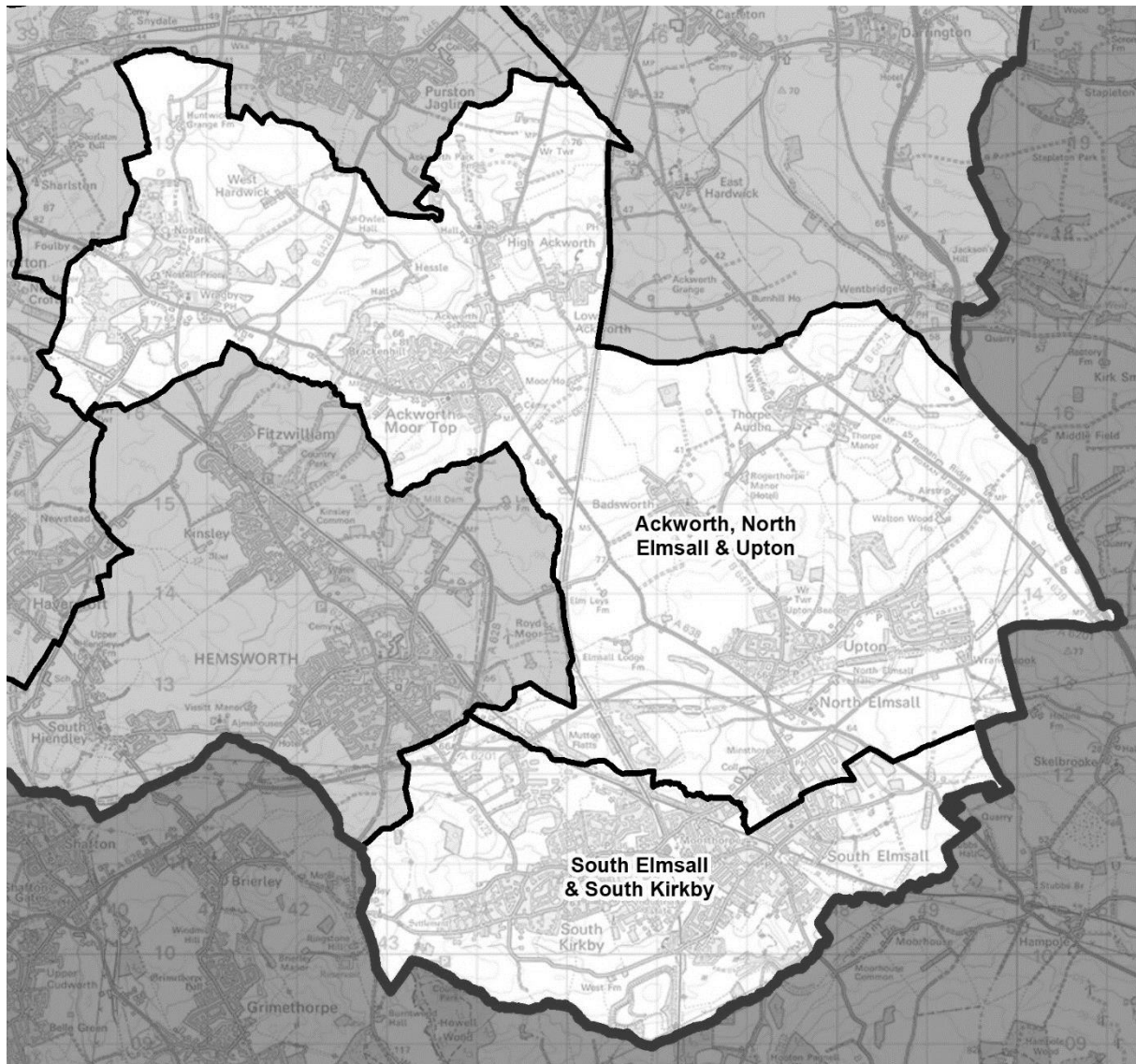
Featherstone

49 We are adopting the Council's relatively minor amendments to the current Featherstone ward. These changes will make the Featherstone ward boundary coterminous with the revised Normanton and Sharlston parish boundaries, following the recent Community Governance Review carried out by the Council. These changes will aid effective and convenient local government.

Normanton

50 As detailed in the Altofts & Whitwood and Castleford Central & Glasshoughton section, we were not persuaded by the Council's proposal to transfer electors that reside near the Normanton Altofts Junior School into Normanton ward. However, we have decided to adopt the Council's minor amendment to the boundary between Normanton and Wakefield South wards, which places the boundary along the Wakefield Eastern Relief Road (Neil Fox Way). We agree this road represents a distinct boundary between our proposed Normanton and Wakefield South wards.

Ackworth, South Elmsall, South Kirkby & Upton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton	3	4%
South Elmsall & South Kirkby	3	7%

Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton and South Elmsall & South Kirkby

51 Councillor Marshall of Ackworth Parish Council requested that the parish of Ackworth form a ward with its own district councillor, stating that the parish has a distinct history, identity and community. They argued that, similarly, Upton & North Elmsall parish also has its own distinctive identity and should therefore have its own district councillor. They further stated that the current arrangement of Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton ward sharing three district councillors had resulted in poor representation for the wider area at district level.

52 We carefully considered the evidence provided. However, as stated in paragraph 27, there is a presumption in legislation that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. In this case, we consider that the evidence received was not strong enough for us to deviate from this presumption. We are therefore not subdividing this ward into smaller single-councillor wards as part of our draft recommendations.

53 As detailed in the Pontefract South section, we are placing the entirety of East Hardwick and Wentbridge parishes in a Pontefract South ward. These parishes are currently split between Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton and Pontefract South wards, and this change will better reflect our statutory criteria. Specifically, it will provide for effective and convenient local government for the parishes concerned.

54 We have also adopted the Council's proposal to transfer electors residing at Westwinds from Featherstone ward to Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton ward. This cul-de-sac was incorporated into Ackworth parish following the Council's recent Community Governance Review. This change aligns district ward boundaries with the revised parish boundaries, which will also contribute to effective and convenient local government.

55 The Council proposed retaining the current South Elmsall & South Kirkby ward, which is anticipated to maintain a good level of electoral equality by 2029. However, we propose to transfer electors on Ash Grove (part), Lincoln Crescent, Trinity Walk, Winchester Way and York Close from South Elmsall & South Kirkby ward to Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton ward. The current boundary between the two wards cuts across properties and an industrial estate and we consider our proposed boundary to be clearer and more identifiable. As a result, we are required to propose new parish warding arrangements for South Elmsall parish. These are outlined at page 25 of this report.

Crofton, Hemsworth, Ryhill and Walton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Crofton, Ryhill & Walton	3	-8%
Hemsworth	3	-2%

Crofton, Ryhill & Walton

56 We received three submissions regarding Crofton, Ryhill & Walton ward – from the Council, Councillor Ahmed and a local resident. The latter two submissions requested that Walton parish should be incorporated into Wakefield South ward. They argued that Walton parish has a stronger connection to the communities within the existing Wakefield South ward. Additionally, the local resident emphasised that Walton parish has poor geographical connections with the parishes of Crofton and Ryhill.

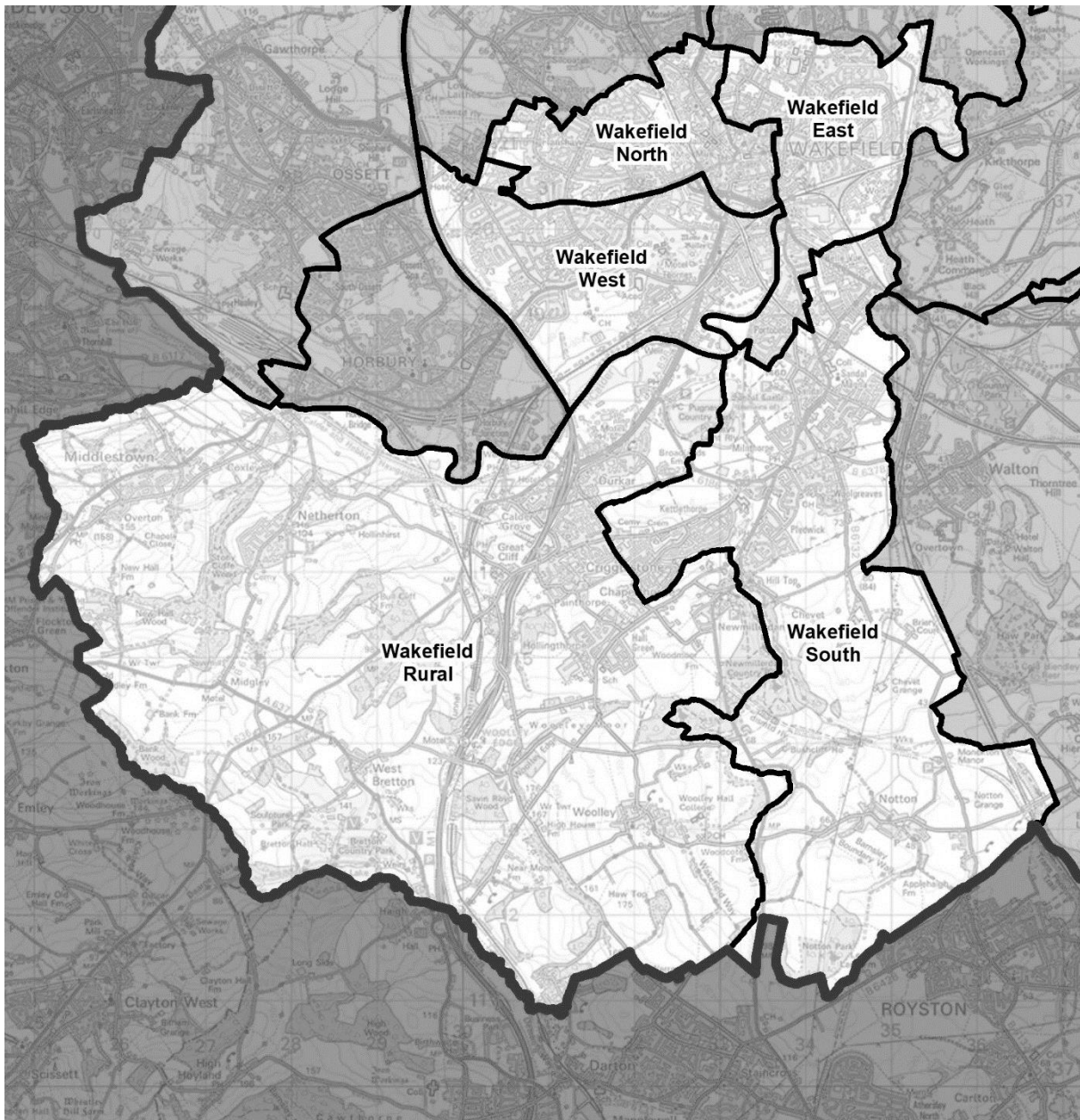
57 We examined the possibility of incorporating Walton parish in our Wakefield South ward. However, removing Walton parish from Crofton, Ryhill & Walton ward would result in the ward having a forecast electoral variance of -30%. We consider this too high to accept, based on the evidence received, and have not adopted it as part of our draft recommendations.

58 To achieve electoral equality for Wakefield South ward we have adopted the Council's proposal to transfer Chevet and Notton parishes from Crofton, Ryhill & Walton ward to Wakefield South ward. This change is explained in more detail in the Wakefield South section.

Hemsworth

59 We have based our Hemsworth ward on the proposals outlined by the Council, which provided for a minor modification to the boundary with Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton ward in the Royd Moor area. This will make the ward boundaries coterminous with parish boundaries in this area, which will contribute to effective and convenient local government.

Wakefield city



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Wakefield East	3	-6%
Wakefield North	3	-4%
Wakefield Rural	3	8%
Wakefield South	3	-6%
Wakefield West	3	-8%

Wakefield East

60 The Council proposed to retain the existing Wakefield East ward, which is forecast to have an electoral variance of -5% by 2029.

61 A local resident expressed concern about the City Fields development being in a Wakefield East ward, rather than their ward which is Stanley & Outwood East. They stated that issues ‘regarding the construction and loss of amenities have not involved our councillors because it belongs to another ward’. However, we note that the perimeter of the City Fields development is large and spans the current Stanley & Outwood East, Wakefield East and Wakefield South wards. In any case, it is not possible to incorporate the entirety of the development in a single ward and ensure good electoral equality.

62 Another local resident suggested that Wakefield East ward incorporate the City Fields development, and that the Portobello and Belle Isle areas transfer into Wakefield South ward. However, we decided not to adopt these proposals because, as outlined above, placing the entirety of the City Fields development in a single ward while ensuring a good level of electoral equality is not achievable. Furthermore, we consider there to be insufficient community evidence to support the local resident’s proposal to transfer over 2,000 electors in the Portobello and Belle Isle areas between wards.

63 Therefore, the only changes we propose to Wakefield East ward are to move electors residing on Burkwood Drive into Stanley & Outwood East ward. We propose this change in order to reflect road access routes, as access onto this road is via Victoria Close, which is currently in Stanley & Outwood East ward. We have also adjusted the boundary near the Aire and Calder Navigation to more accurately reflect ground detail.

Wakefield North and Wakefield West

64 To address anticipated electoral inequality in Wakefield West ward, the Council proposed to transfer several hundred electors residing in a relatively new residential development, which is accessed via Foreman Road, from Wakefield North ward to Wakefield East ward.

65 We examined this proposal on our virtual tour of the area. We agree with the Council that this proposed modification would not significantly disrupt community identities. We consider that, as a relatively new residential development, electors in the area are unlikely to have long-standing community ties to the rest of Wakefield North ward. We also note that the electors in this new housing development currently have limited links to the rest of Wakefield North ward, given that it only has access via Foreman Road onto the A683. We are therefore adopting the Council’s proposal as part of our draft recommendations, content that it will contribute to an effective balance of our statutory criteria.

Wakefield Rural and Wakefield South

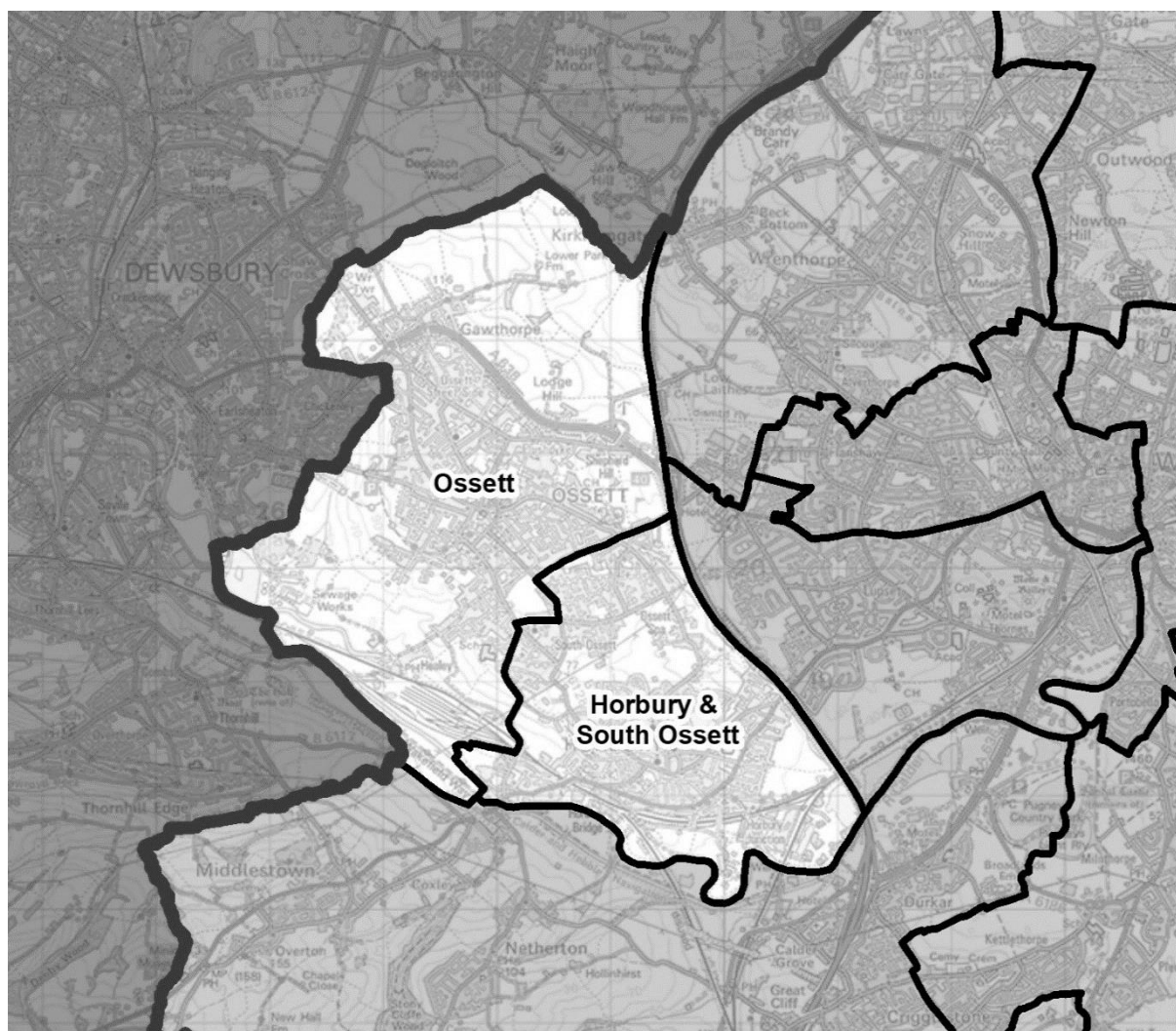
66 We received three submissions in relation to these two wards. The Council proposed to transfer the parishes of Chevet and Notton from the current Crofton,

Ryhill & Walton ward to Wakefield South ward in order to remedy the anticipated electoral inequality in the latter. Based on our virtual tour of the area, we are content that this proposal will adequately reflect our statutory criteria, with the two villages sharing reasonable road connectivity to the rest of Wakefield South ward via Chevet Lane. We are adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations, along with minor adjustments to the boundary along Neil Fox Way, as outlined in the Normanton section, and the Broad Cut area south of the River Calder, as detailed in the Horbury & South Ossett section.

67 As detailed above, a local resident proposed that the Portobello and Belle Isle areas transfer into Wakefield South ward. The local resident also proposed that the Kettlethorpe area move from Wakefield South ward to Wakefield Rural ward. However, with no supporting community evidence to justify the proposals submitted, we were not persuaded to adopt them as part of our draft recommendations.

68 Another local resident also requested that we respect the community identity and interests of Crigglestone parish. We are not proposing to move Crigglestone parish between wards, keeping the entirety of the parish in our Wakefield Rural ward. We consider that maintaining this arrangement will effectively reflect our statutory criteria and, in particular, the community identities of Crigglestone parish.

Horbury and Ossett



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Horbury & South Ossett	3	-8%
Ossett	3	-2%

Horbury & South Ossett

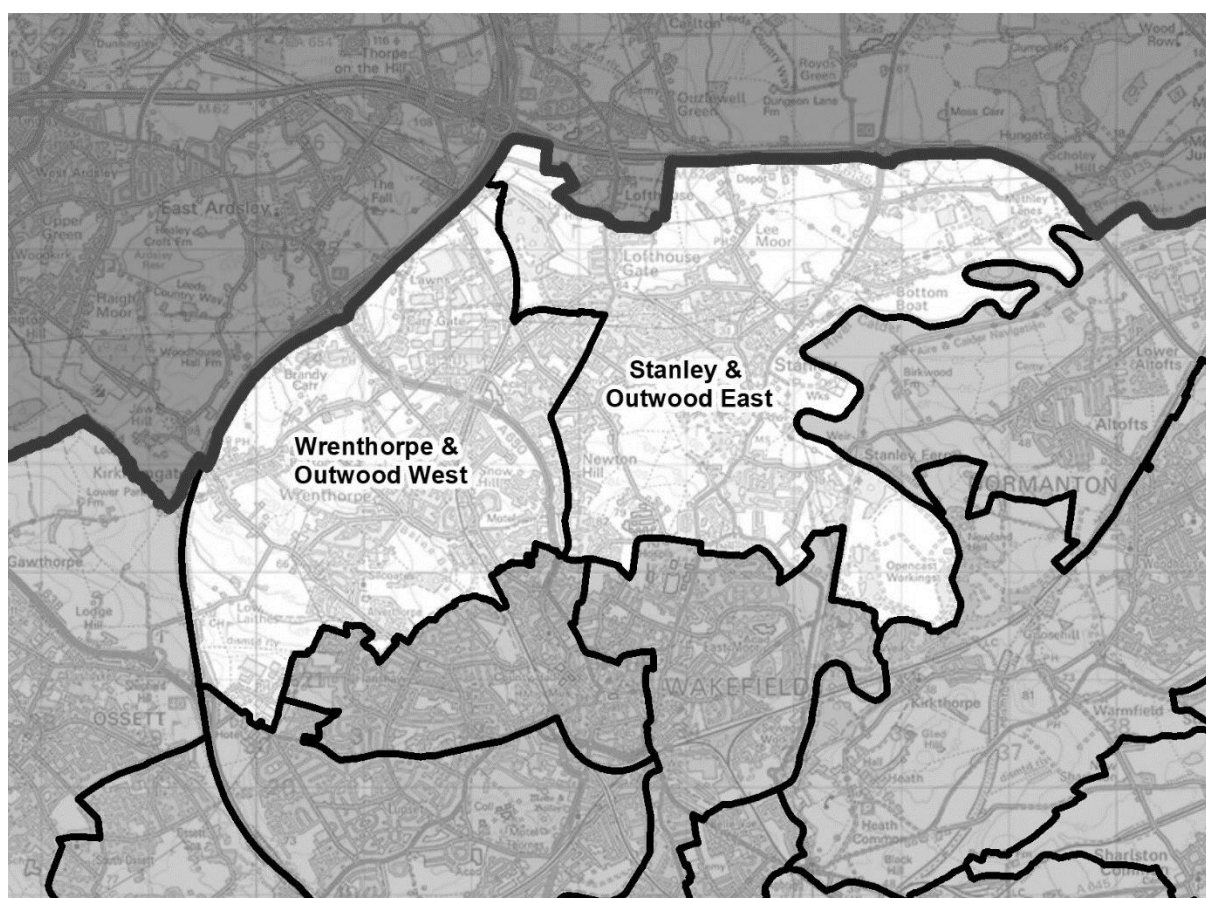
69 A local resident expressed concern that the South Ossett area is 'being forgotten' and 'overlooked'. They requested that the South Ossett area be incorporated into Ossett ward. However, we decided not to adopt this proposal as a ward that incorporates the entirety of the Ossett area would necessitate four councillors to achieve good electoral equality. We consider that a ward represented by more than three councillors does not aid effective and convenient local government, and potentially dilutes the accountability of elected councillors to the electorate. We also consider the evidence supplied was not persuasive enough for us to depart from the presumption that the district be represented by a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards.

70 We are therefore adopting the Council's proposed Horbury & South Ossett ward as part of our draft recommendations, which largely retains the existing ward boundaries. However, we have adopted their minor amendment and transferred the Broad Cut area to the south of the River Calder into Wakefield South ward. This change reflects road access routes in the area, and we consider that this relatively minor adjustment to the ward boundary will better reflect our statutory criteria.

Ossett

71 The current Ossett ward is projected to maintain a good level of electoral equality by 2029. The Council proposed to retain the ward as part of their district-wide proposals. We therefore propose no changes to the existing Ossett ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Stanley, Outwood and Wrenthorpe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Stanley & Outwood East	3	5%
Wrenthorpe & Outwood West	3	2%

Stanley & Outwood East

72 The Council proposed to retain the existing Stanley & Outwood East ward, which is forecast to have good electoral equality. We propose to largely retain the ward in our draft recommendations, subject to some minor modifications. We propose a slight adjustment to the boundary around the Newton Hill roundabout and the Aire and Calder Navigation, to reflect ground detail. These changes will affect no electors. Furthermore, as detailed in the Wakefield East section, we propose to incorporate electors on Burkwood Drive into this ward.

Wrenthorpe & Outwood West

73 The Council proposed that we largely retain the existing Wrenthorpe & Outwood West ward, which is similarly anticipated to have good electoral equality by 2029. The Council did nonetheless suggest that 8 Hault Court, which currently falls within Wakefield North ward, should transfer to the Wrenthorpe & Outwood West ward. However, upon investigation of this modification, we consider it appropriate to

instead place the entirety of Houlton Court in Wakefield North ward. This is because the cul-de-sac has road access into Wakefield North ward. We nonetheless welcome local views on this modification during the current consultation.

Conclusions

74 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Wakefield, 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	63	63
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	4,161	4,582
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	1	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendations

Wakefield Metropolitan District Council should be made up of 63 councillors serving 21 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

You can also view our draft recommendations for Wakefield Metropolitan District Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

75 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.

76 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, Wakefield 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.

77 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 Normanton & Altofts.

Draft recommendations

Normanton & Altofts Town Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Altofts	6
Central & South	5
East	6
North & West	5

78 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 South Elmsall.

Draft recommendations

South Elmsall Town Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Minsthorpe	2
South Elmsall	11

Have your say

79 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 of the authority or just a part of it.

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

81 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

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

83 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

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

84 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Wakefield 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.

85 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.

86 Electoral equality:

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

87 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?

88 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?

89 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 A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

90 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.

91 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.

92 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 the Council in 2026.

Equalities

93 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 Wakefield 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	Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton	3	13,319	4,440	7%	14,353	4,784	4%
2	Airedale & Ferry Fryston	3	12,354	4,118	-1%	13,463	4,488	-2%
3	Altofts & Whitwood	3	13,154	4,385	5%	14,256	4,752	4%
4	Castleford Central & Glasshoughton	3	13,080	4,360	5%	14,559	4,853	6%
5	Crofton, Ryhill & Walton	3	11,428	3,809	-8%	12,645	4,215	-8%
6	Featherstone	3	13,145	4,382	5%	14,511	4,837	6%
7	Hemsworth	3	12,044	4,015	-4%	13,427	4,476	-2%
8	Horbury & South Ossett	3	11,618	3,873	-7%	12,639	4,213	-8%
9	Knottingley	3	10,436	3,479	-16%	12,435	4,145	-10%
10	Normanton	3	12,724	4,241	2%	13,867	4,622	1%
11	Ossett	3	12,461	4,154	0%	13,492	4,497	-2%
12	Pontefract North	3	13,108	4,369	5%	14,481	4,827	5%

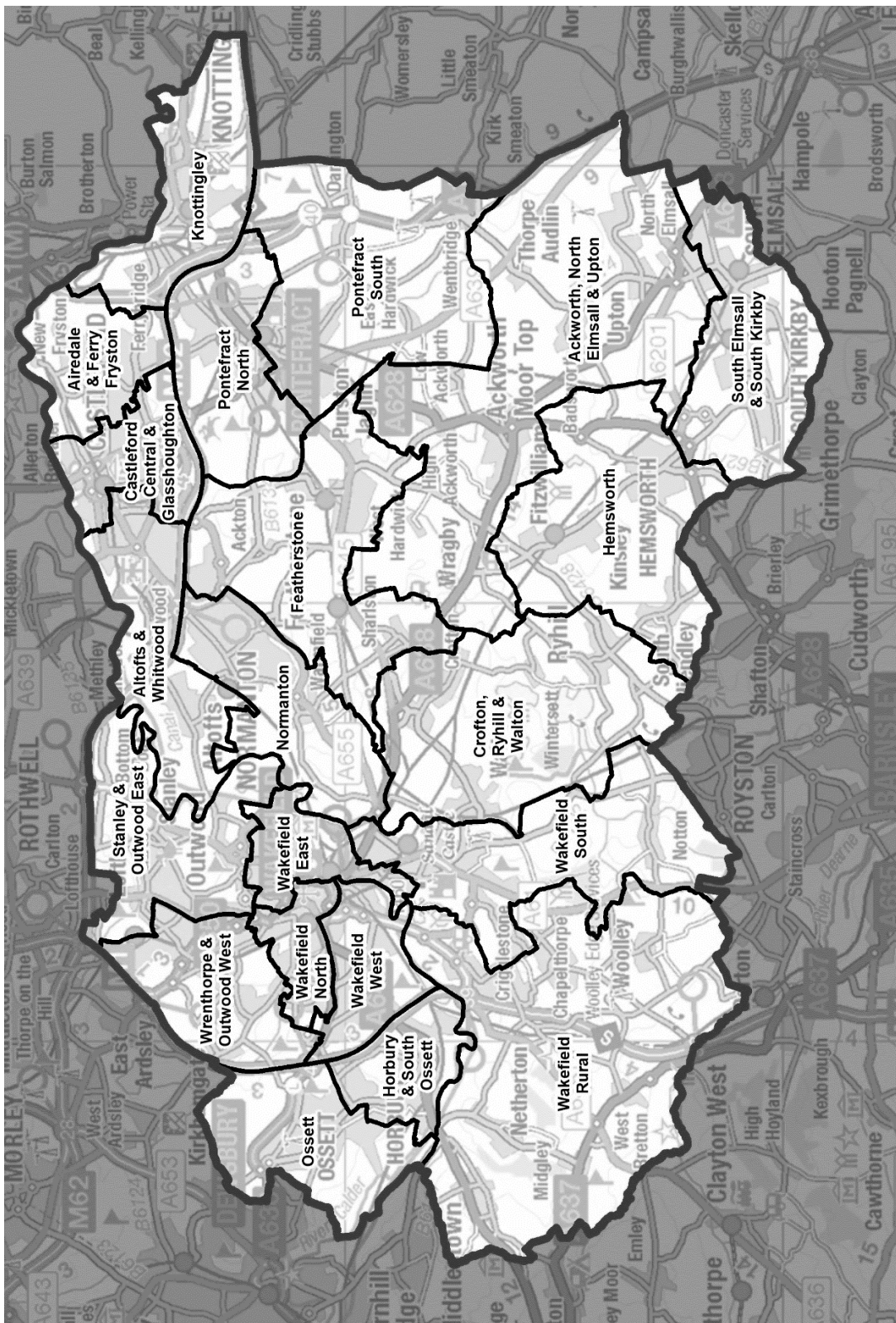
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Pontefract South	3	13,249	4,416	6%	14,822	4,941	8%
14 South Elmsall & South Kirkby	3	13,505	4,502	8%	14,746	4,915	7%
15 Stanley & Outwood East	3	13,267	4,422	6%	14,438	4,813	5%
16 Wakefield East	3	11,643	3,881	-7%	12,878	4,293	-6%
17 Wakefield North	3	11,669	3,890	-7%	13,159	4,386	-4%
18 Wakefield Rural	3	13,657	4,552	9%	14,810	4,937	8%
19 Wakefield South	3	11,599	3,866	-7%	12,967	4,322	-6%
20 Wakefield West	3	11,790	3,930	-6%	12,651	4,217	-8%
21 Wrenthorpe & Outwood West	3	12,918	4,306	3%	14,050	4,683	2%
Totals	63	262,168	-	-	288,649	-	-
Averages	-	-	4,161	-	-	4,582	-

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

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

Appendix B

Outline map



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/wakefield

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Local Authority

- Wakefield Council

Councillors

- Councillor N. Ahmed (Wakefield Council)
- Councillor T. Hames (Wakefield Council)
- Councillor G. Marshall (Ackworth Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Speight, J. Hepworth and J. Pritchard (Wakefield Council)

Local Residents

- 17 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