

New electoral arrangements for Derbyshire Dales District Council Draft Recommendations

February 2021

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

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

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

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

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

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

Why Derbyshire Dales?

7 We are conducting a review of Derbyshire Dales District Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in district elections varies depending on where you live in Derbyshire Dales. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Derbyshire Dales are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

Our proposals for Derbyshire Dales

9 Derbyshire Dales should be represented by 34 councillors, five fewer than there are now.

10 Derbyshire Dales should have 21 wards, four fewer there are now.

11 The boundaries of all but two 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.

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 2 February 2021 to 12 April 2021. 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 12 April 2021 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 26 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 Derbyshire Dales. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 August 2020	Number of councillors decided
25 August 2020	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 November 2020	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 February 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
12 April 2021	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 June 2021	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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.

	2020	2026
Electorate of Derbyshire Dales	58,108	61,392
Number of councillors	39	34
Average number of electors per councillor	1,490	1,806

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Derbyshire Dales will have good electoral equality by 2026.

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 2026, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2021. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6% by 2026.

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.

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

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Number of councillors

26 Derbyshire Dales District Council currently has 39 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council, Councillor Clare Gamble, and Councillor Peter O'Brien, and have concluded that decreasing the number of councillors by five will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 Councillors Gamble and O'Brien both proposed a council size of 37, disputing the Council's assumptions about member workload and arguing that significant planned developments in the Peak District National Park had been omitted from the Council's forecast. However, the alleged omissions principally concerned developments of fewer than 10 dwellings and, as stated above, we are content that the Council's figures represent the best information available at this time.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 34 councillors: for example, 34 one-councillor wards, 17 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

29 We received eight submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. However, we were not persuaded that sufficient evidence was provided to justify an alternative number. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 34-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 51 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included district-wide proposals from the Derbyshire Dales Conservative Group ('the Conservatives') and the Derbyshire Dales Constituency Labour Party ('Labour'). We also received a district-wide scheme that was supported by the Derbyshire Dales Liberal Democrats, four Liberal Democrat councillors, two residents and Labour councillor Peter O'Brien. Green councillor Clare Gamble submitted a variation of this scheme in which Brushfield parish and its 14 electors were moved from one ward to another. She claimed it had the support of the scheme's other backers. It is therefore considered the definitive revision to this scheme for the purposes of this report. Given that this scheme was supported by a range of local political representatives, for the purposes of this report, we have referred to it as the 'multi-party scheme'. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the district.

31 The three district-wide schemes provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Derbyshire Dales. The Conservative scheme, while ostensibly providing for good electoral equality, had a number of issues. Each proposed ward contained two descriptions: one of polling districts, the other of parishes. However, in several places, these descriptions did not match and, in one

case, the same parish had been assigned to two wards. Furthermore, the Conservatives' proposed Hathersage ward contained an exclave (being made up of Hathersage and Abney & Abney Grange parishes), which is irreconcilable with our statutory criteria for community identity and effective and convenient local government. In addition, one polling district was not included in the scheme at all. We have therefore not adopted this scheme, although we have incorporated some elements into our proposals. The Labour scheme submitted was very similar to the multi-party scheme, differing only slightly in the central and southern areas of the district, but contained one ward with a 26% electoral variance. We have therefore not adopted this scheme. We considered that the multi-party scheme contained excellent levels of electoral equality in most areas and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. It therefore formed the basis of our draft recommendations.

32 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 multi-party scheme did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

33 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Derbyshire Dales. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for four three-councillor wards, five two-councillor wards and 12 one-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.

35 The tables and maps on pages 8–22 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Derbyshire Dales. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

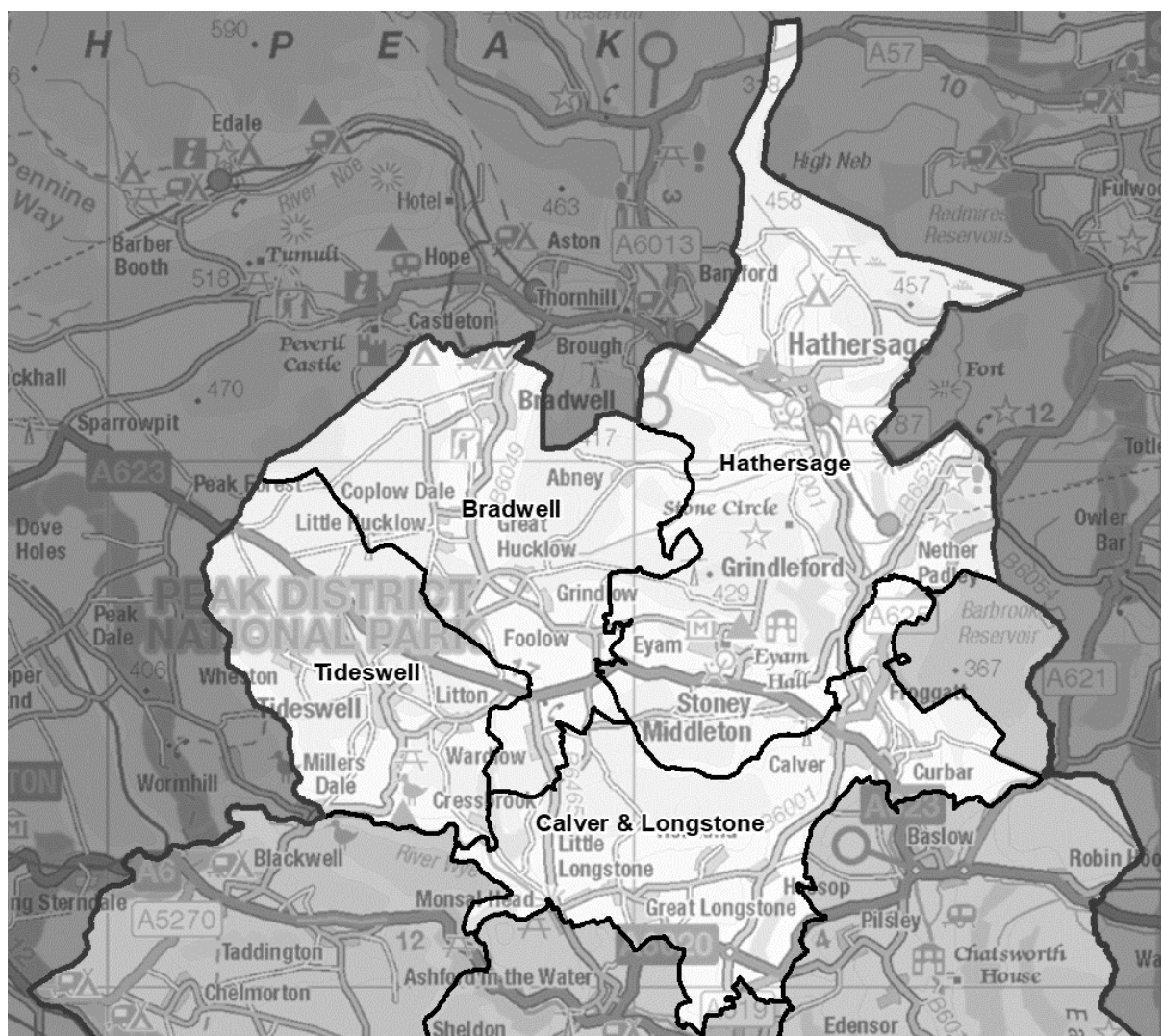
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 30 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

North Derbyshire Dales



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Bradwell	1	-8%
Calver & Longstone	1	2%
Hathersage	2	0%
Tideswell	1	6%

Bradwell

38 Both the Labour and multi-party proposals for Bradwell were based on the boundaries of the existing ward with the addition of Wardlow parish, resulting in a -10% variance. The Conservative scheme added parts of Litton parish to the existing ward but excluded Foolow parish, resulting in a 2% variance. However, it was unclear which parts of Litton parish were to be added to the proposed ward and this proposal appeared incompatible with the description of the group's proposed Tideswell ward. No evidence was presented to support either of the proposals and we received no submissions from the public concerning Bradwell. For the reasons

given above, we did not adopt the Conservative scheme in this area and have therefore adopted the multi-party proposal for Bradwell with the addition of Abney & Abney Grange parish, to reduce the electoral variance in the ward.

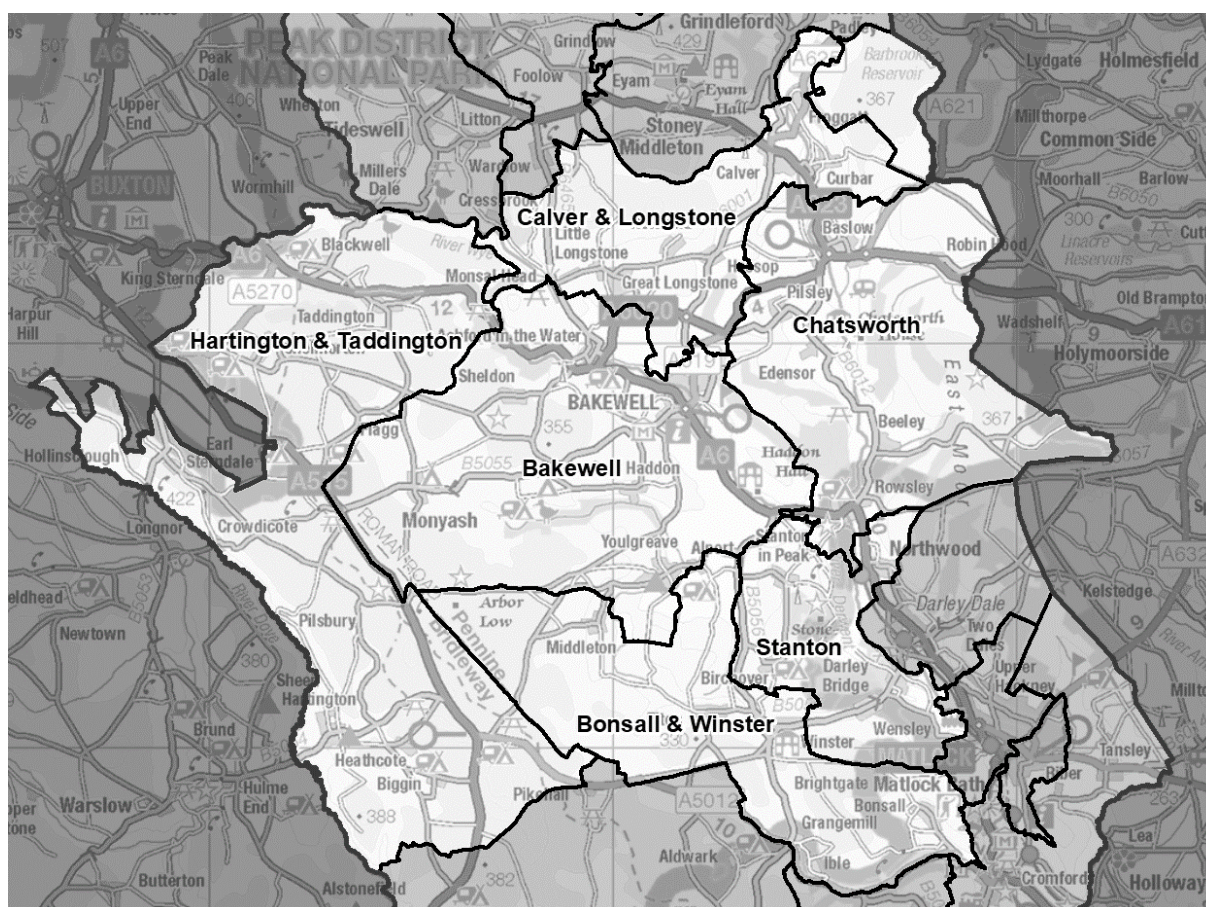
Calver & Longstone, Hathersage and Tideswell

39 The multi-party scheme grouped Great Longstone and Little Longstone parishes in a ward with Calver, Curbar, and Froggatt parishes, as well as Rowland and Hassop parishes. The submission is candid about there being little linking these groups of parishes together, but makes clear there are close links within the groups. The Labour proposal is identical. Brushfield parish, with its 14 electors, was included in Calver & Longstone in the original multi-party submission, but moved to Hartington in Councillor Clare Gamble's submission in the interests of continuity.

40 The Conservative proposals in this area appear to create a ward, Tideswell, with an exclave, Little Longstone parish. Great Longstone was included in the group's proposals for Bakewell ward. We are not persuaded that creating a detached ward will ensure effective and convenient local government and have therefore decided not to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. Based on the evidence received in the multi-party submission about the shared resources and community links between Little Longstone and Great Longstone, we have concluded that splitting these parishes is not reflective of community interests and identities, nor conducive to effective and convenient local government. The multi-party proposal for Tideswell groups Litton, Tideswell, and Wheston parishes. This proposal has similar boundaries to the existing ward with the addition of Litton. The submission gives strong evidence for the inclusion of Litton in the ward, including the listing of Litton amenities in the Tideswell parish welcome pack, both Litton and Tideswell being included in the village magazine, and Tideswell Environmental Group limiting membership to residents of Tideswell and Litton. We have therefore adopted this proposal in our draft recommendations.

41 The Conservative proposals for Hathersage grouped Hathersage and Abney & Abney Grange parishes. However, these parishes are separated by Offerton parish, which was included in the Conservatives' proposed Calver & Eyam ward. As mentioned previously, creating detached wards is incompatible with two of our three statutory criteria, and we have therefore not adopted this proposal. We received no submissions from members of the public in this area.

Mid Derbyshire Dales



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Bakewell	3	-10%
Bonsall & Winster	1	-7%
Chatsworth	1	0%
Hartington & Taddington	1	-3%
Stanton	1	-7%

Bakewell

42 In addition to the three complete schemes, we received three submissions concerning Bakewell: one from Bakewell Town Council and two from residents. The Town Council's submission requested that Bakewell remain a three-councillor ward. A resident from Great Longstone stated that the village ought to be included in Bakewell ward due to its shared amenities, and separated from Litton, with which it had little in common. A resident from Monyash submitted that the village's greatest affinity was with Bakewell, but that it also has close ties with Hartington, Flagg, Chelmorton, and Sheldon.

43 The multi-party proposal for Bakewell was for a two-councillor ward incorporating Ashford in the Water, Bakewell, and Sheldon parishes, with an

electoral variance of -2%. No evidence was offered for this proposal other than that all three are presently within the existing Bakewell ward. The Conservative proposal expanded the existing three-councillor ward to include Youlgrave parish to the south and Hassop, Great Longstone, and Rowland parishes to the north. This proposal would also result in an electoral variance of -2% by 2026.

44 Based on the evidence received, we have adopted the Conservative proposal for Bakewell ward, with some modification. As detailed above, we did not consider it proper to separate the parishes of Great Longstone and Little Longstone, which form the majority of our proposed Calver & Longstone ward. They have therefore been excluded from our proposed ward, which includes Monyash parish, based on locally submitted evidence. We are content that our draft recommendations for this ward will reflect community links while ensuring good electoral equality.

Bonsall & Winster

45 The Conservative and Labour/multi-party submissions differed considerably in this area, with the Conservatives proposing a one-councillor Winster ward incorporating the parishes of Birchover, Elton, Gratton, Harthill, Ivonbrook Grange, Stanton in Peak, and South Darley, with an electoral variance of 4%. However, based on community evidence received, we have included Birchover, Stanton in Peak, and South Darley parishes within a separate Stanton ward in our draft recommendations (see paragraph 49). We have therefore not adopted this proposal.

46 The Labour and multi-party schemes grouped the parishes of Birchover, Bonsall, Elton, Gratton, and Winster in a one-councillor Bonsall ward with an electoral variance of -3%. This has formed the basis of our proposal for a Bonsall & Winster ward. With the inclusion of Birchover in our proposed Stanton ward, we have added the parishes of Harthill, Ible, Ivonbrook Grange, and Middleton & Smerrill. The inclusion of Ible and Ivonbrook Grange was also influenced by a number of submissions, including that from Middleton & Smerrill Parish Council, which requested that parishes within the Peak District National Park not be included with those without, due to the differing characters of the settlements and a separate planning process. Our proposed Bonsall & Winster ward will have an electoral variance of -7% by 2026.

Chatsworth

47 The three complete schemes made identical proposals for a one-councillor Chatsworth ward with a 0% electoral variance. The proposed ward is based on the existing arrangements, subject to the inclusion of Rowsley parish. While the multi-party submission is frank about this being “a numbers and geography addition”, the Conservative submission claims that “The village already considers itself part of Chatsworth with ties to the Duke of Devonshire Estate.” Based on the community evidence received, we considered including Rowsley in our proposed Stanton ward. However, this created a -22% variance for Chatsworth, and 14% for Stanton. We

considered including Curbar parish within Chatsworth ward to minimise electoral variances and to even out the peculiar shape of Big Moor. However, it became evident on closer inspection that Curbar should not be separated from Calver and Froggatt parishes as this would not reflect community identity or provide for effective and convenient local government. We have therefore adopted the submitted proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

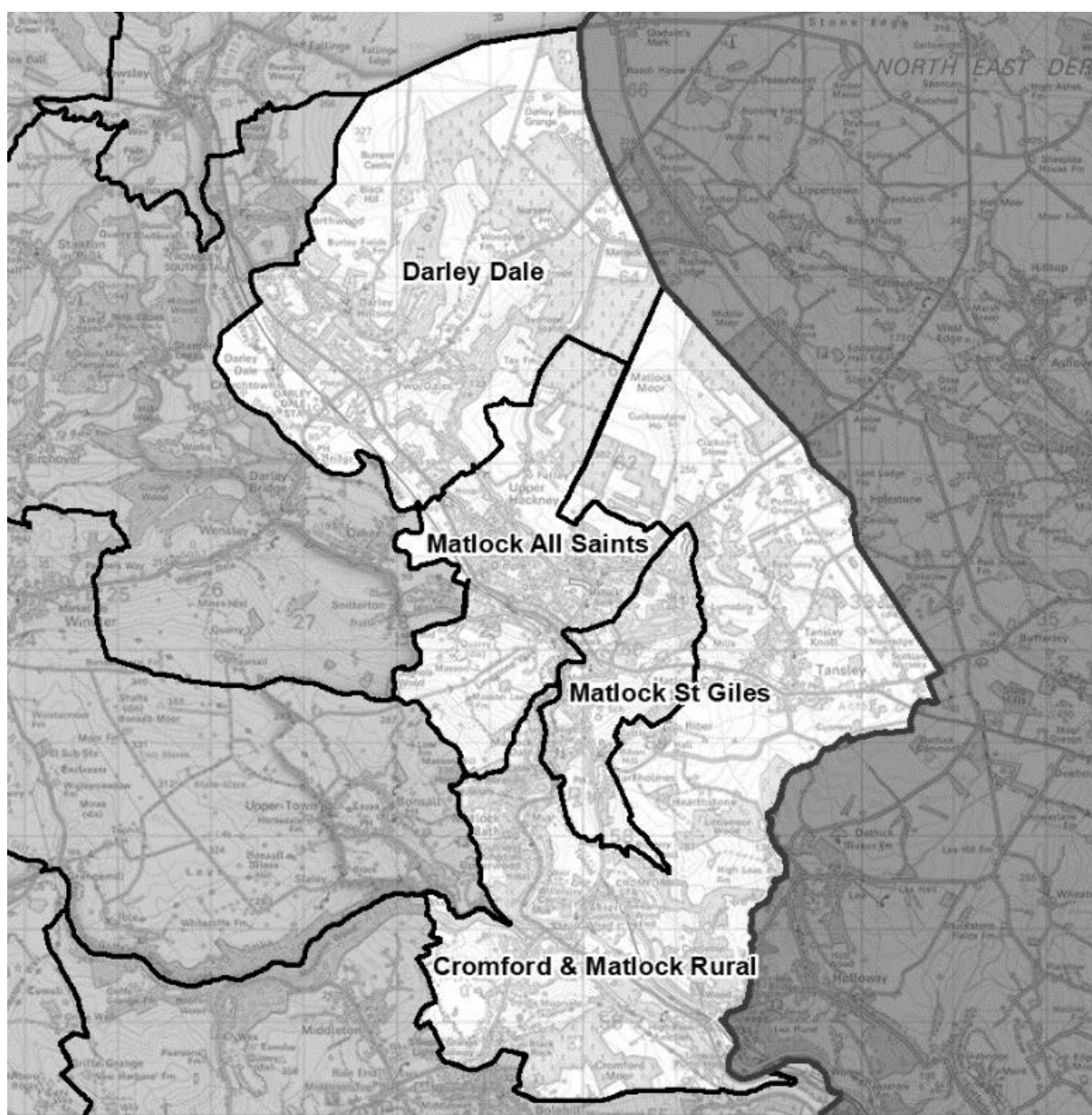
Hartington & Taddington

48 In addition to the three complete schemes, we received one submission, from Taddington Parish Council, for this area. This requested that any enlargement of the existing Hartington & Taddington ward be done south of the River Wye rather than to the north. The Parish Council argued that it had little in common with communities situated to the north. The Conservative, Labour and multi-party proposals were consistent with this request. The Conservative scheme enlarged the existing ward with the inclusion of Monyash parish, creating a one-councillor ward with an electoral variance of -7%. The Labour and multi-party schemes, by contrast, enlarged the existing ward with the addition of Hartington Nether Quarter, forming a one-councillor ward with an electoral variance of -3%. Due to the better electoral variance, and the inclusion of Monyash parish in our proposed Bakewell ward, we have adopted the Labour/multi-party proposal for Hartington & Taddington ward.

Stanton

49 We received a submission from Stanton in Peak Parish Council proposing a ward based around the local quarry and foundry industries. It proposed that this ward include the parishes of Birchover, Northwood & Tinkersley, Rowsley, Stanton in Peak, and South Darley. As mentioned above, we were unable to include Rowsley in the ward, and it would have resulted in an electoral variance of 14%. Our one-councillor ward, based on the parish council's proposal, will have an electoral variance of -7% by 2026.

Cromford, Darley Dale and Matlock



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Cromford & Matlock Rural	2	-6%
Darley Dale	2	-1%
Matlock All Saints	3	8%
Matlock St Giles	2	-2%

Cromford & Matlock Rural, Darley Dale, Matlock All Saints and Matlock St Giles
 50 The three complete schemes we received were broadly similar for Cromford, Darley Dale and Matlock. All the schemes retained the existing boundaries of the three-councillor Matlock St Giles ward, created a one-councillor ward out of the parishes of Cromford and Matlock Bath (this was named 'Masson' in the

Conservative scheme and 'Cromford & Matlock Bath' in the Labour and multi-party schemes), and a three-councillor Darley Dale ward made up of the parishes of Darley Dale and Northwood & Tinkersley. The three schemes differed only in the extent of their three-councillor Matlock All Saints wards. In the Labour and multi-party schemes, this was made up of the existing ward plus South Darley parish in its entirety, while the Conservative Group's ward added only about half of South Darley to the existing ward. These proposed wards all had good electoral equality.

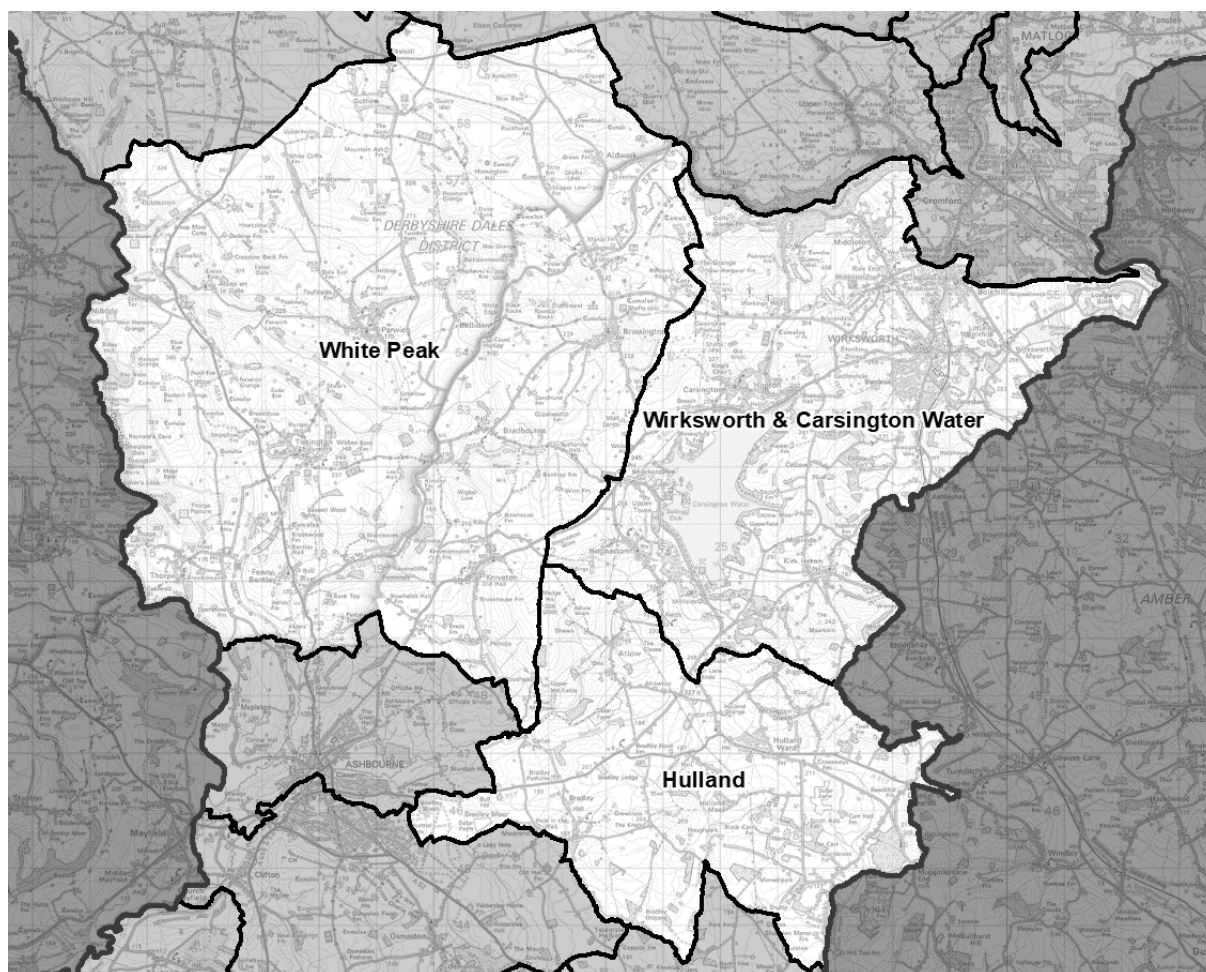
51 As mentioned above, we received submissions requesting that parishes within the Peak District National Park not be included in wards with parishes outside of the park. More generally, a number of parish councils in the district requested that we avoid grouping rural parishes with urban areas. We received a submission from a resident of Old Hackney Lane in Darley Dale parish proposing that this area be included in a Matlock ward, due to its close proximity and the amenities available in Matlock. We also received a submission from Northwood & Tinkersley Parish Council requesting that it remain in a ward with the parishes of Rowsley and Stanton in Peak.

52 We did not consider the grouping of South Darley, in whole or in part, with Matlock All Saints to be desirable. Not only would this group one rural community of 584 electors with an urban community of 4,607, but the Peak District National Park covers about two-thirds of the former, creating potential issues relating to effective and convenient local government. Furthermore, we included South Darley in our Stanton ward. Based on the local evidence received, we therefore expanded the existing Matlock All Saints ward northwards to include the Upper Hackney and Farley areas of Darley Dale parish up to the far edge of the Darley House Estate and Farley Lane. This three-councillor ward will have an electoral variance of 8% by 2026.

53 We received a submission from a resident suggesting that Tansley parish be separated from Matlock St Giles ward and form its own ward. While this would not be possible, because a one-councillor ward with these boundaries would have an electoral variance of -42%, we appreciated that Tansley has a separate community identity from that of neighbouring Matlock. We therefore explored the possibility of placing the remaining urban area of Matlock parish (i.e. that area not in Matlock All Saints ward) in a two-councillor ward, while uniting the rural areas of Matlock parish with Tansley, Cromford, and Matlock Bath parishes. This created a Matlock St Giles ward with an electoral variance of -2% by 2026 and a two-councillor Cromford & Matlock Rural ward with a variance of -6%. We are content that our draft recommendations reflect the pattern of communities in this area but would be particularly interested to receive feedback from residents on this arrangement.

54 Under our draft recommendations, the remaining area of Darley Dale parish (i.e. that not included in Matlock All Saints ward) will form a two-councillor ward that will have a -1% electoral variance by 2026.

Hulland, White Peak and Wirksworth & Carsington Water



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Hulland	1	-7%
White Peak	1	6%
Wirksworth & Carsington Water	3	8%

Hulland, White Peak and Wirksworth & Carsington Water

55 We received three very different proposals for this area and our draft recommendations have been broadly based on the multi-party scheme, albeit with significant amendments. Our proposals were informed first by the principal of uniting Peak District National Park areas and avoiding grouping these with non-National Park areas. We were also persuaded by a submission from a local resident who proposed that all the parishes around the Carsington Water reservoir be brought within the same ward. The reservoir is presently split between the existing Carsington Water and Hulland wards, and would be split between three wards under the Labour and multi-party schemes, and two wards under the Conservative scheme. We are persuaded that the reservoir should be included in one ward because, as a sports, leisure, and learning facility, it provides a focus for the

communities around it, and because it is desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government for one set of councillors to be able to deal with any issues arising.

56 The Labour scheme proposed a three-councillor Wirksworth ward made up of Callow, Middleton, and Wirksworth parishes. It also proposed a one-councillor Hulland ward based on the existing ward, but with the addition of Mercaston and Atlow parishes and the exclusion of Callow parish. Finally, it proposed a one-councillor White Peak ward made up of the existing Dovedale & Parwich and Carsington Water wards, minus the parishes of Hartington Nether Quarter, Thorpe, Fenny Bentley, Mapleton, Kniveton, and Atlow. All of the proposed wards would have electoral variances of less than 10% by 2026.

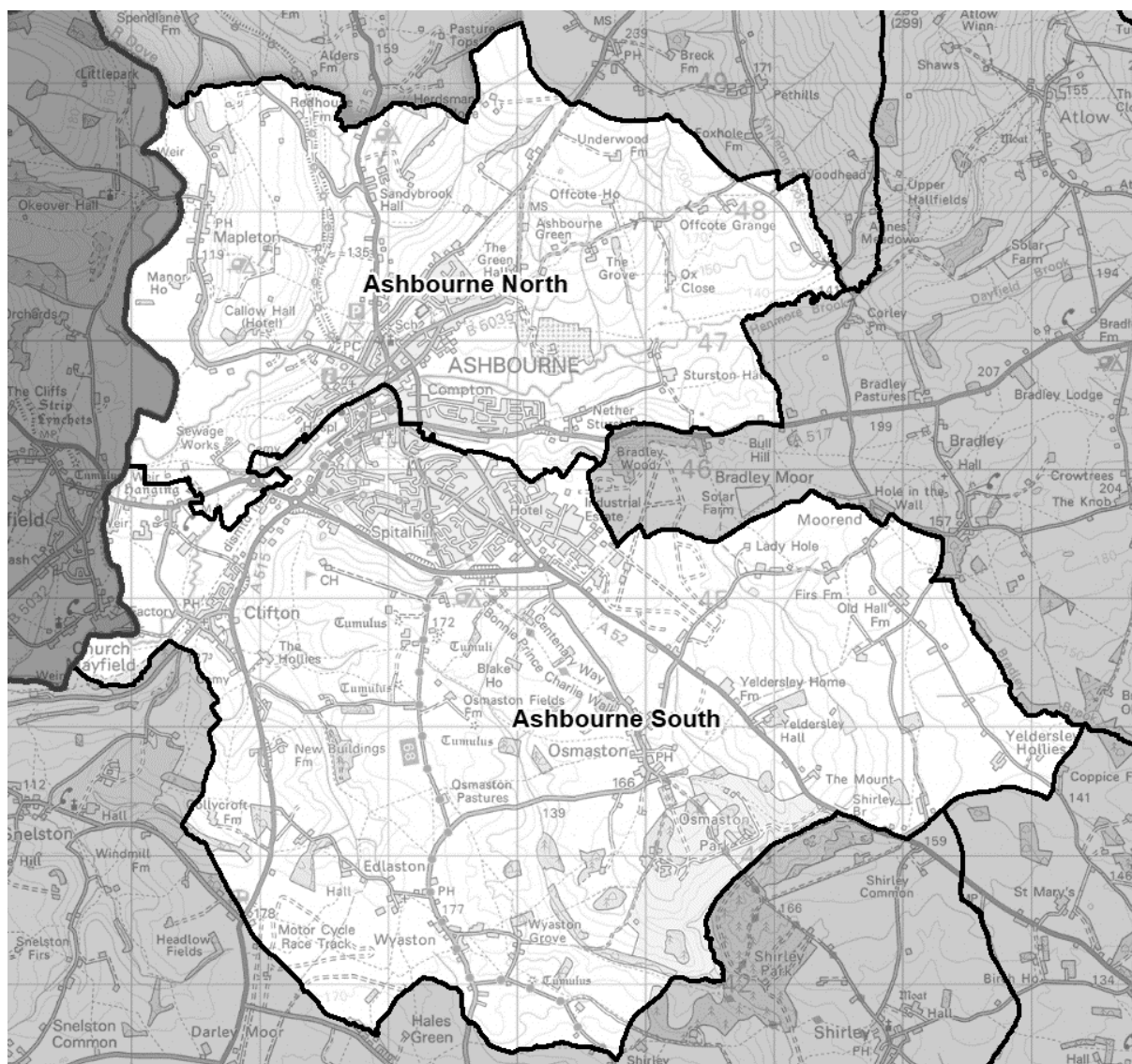
57 The multi-party proposal for White Peak ward is similar to the Labour proposal, but with the addition of Kniveton parish, and would have an electoral variance of 4% by 2026. Likewise, the proposed Wirksworth ward is similar to the Labour proposal but would include Hopton and Carsington parishes. The proposal for Hulland ward is identical to the Labour scheme.

58 The Conservative proposal includes a three-councillor Wirksworth ward made up of the parishes of Wirksworth, Middleton, Hopton, Ible, Brassington, and Aldwark; a one-councillor Dovedale & Parwich ward based on the existing ward with the addition of Ballidon, Bradbourne, and Hognaston parishes; and a one-councillor Hulland ward based on the existing ward, but with the addition of Carsington parish. While all of the proposed wards would have good electoral equality, the proposed Wirksworth and Dovedale & Parwich wards would combine National Park areas with non-National Park areas, including the very odd protrusion of Hognaston parish from the proposed Dovedale & Parwich ward. Furthermore, we are not persuaded that the proposed Wirksworth ward would be conducive to effective and convenient local government as two of the main arterial roads across the proposed ward – Manystones Lane and the B5035 – run out of the ward and then back in, because of Carsington parish's inclusion in the proposed Hulland ward.

59 While we have based our draft recommendations on the multi-party scheme, we have added the parishes of Hognaston and Kirk Ireton to the proposed Wirksworth ward, renaming it Wirksworth & Carsington Water to reflect the inclusion of the communities around the reservoir. We have added Fenny Bentley and Thorpe parishes to the proposed White Peak ward and removed the parish of Ivonbrook Grange. We have also added the parish of Bradley to the proposed Hulland ward while removing Mercaston parish. The addition of Bradley parish to the proposed Hulland ward not only deals with the odd protrusion of Atlow parish from the ward, but also creates a 'spine', allowing the A517 to run from one end of the ward to the other. We believe these proposals better reflect the communities in the area while

ensuring effective and convenient local government. All three wards will have good electoral equality by 2026.

Ashbourne



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Ashbourne North	2	-1%
Ashbourne South	3	-1%

Ashbourne North

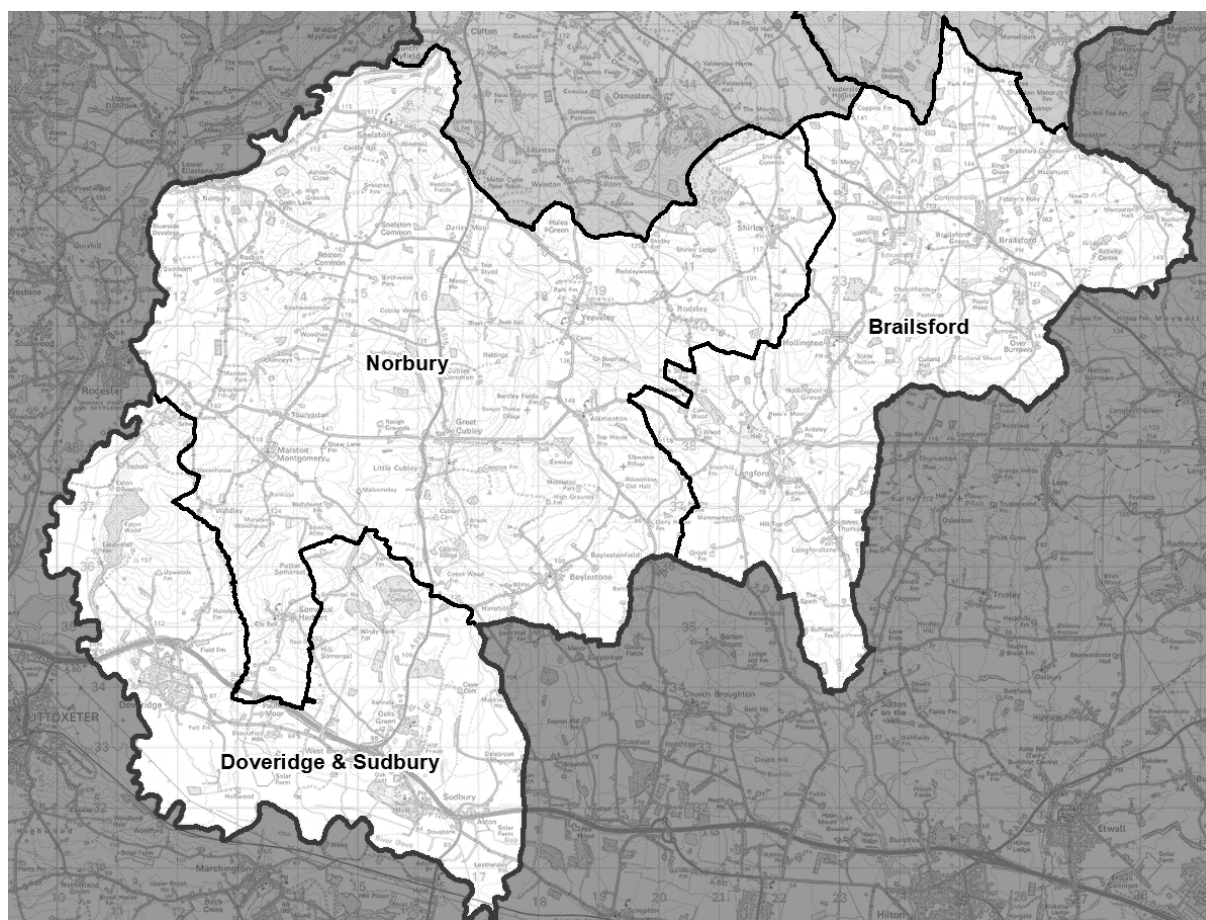
60 The three complete schemes differed considerably in Ashbourne. The Conservative proposal for Ashbourne North was based on the existing ward, subject to the addition of Kniveton parish. It was not clear from the submission in which ward Clifton & Compton parish should be placed. The Labour proposal was similar to this ward but with the addition of Fenny Bentley, Mapleton, and Thorpe parishes, and would have a variance of 5% by 2026. The multi-party proposal was similar to the Labour ward but with the addition of Bradley parish, with a variance of 3%. As detailed above, many of these parishes have been assigned to other wards in our

draft recommendations. Therefore, based on the evidence received, our proposed ward includes Mapleton parish as well as 394 electors from the area between Sturston Road, Park Road, Compton, and the Shawcroft Centre car park. These electors were added to prevent a -12% electoral variance. Our proposed two-councillor ward will therefore have an electoral variance of -1% by 2026.

Ashbourne South

61 All three proposals for Ashbourne South added a councillor to the existing two-councillor ward. The Conservative proposal enlarges the existing ward with the addition of the parishes of Bradley, Osmaston, Shirley, and Yeldersley, and will have an electoral variance of 2%. (Edlaston & Wyaston parish was not included at all in the Conservative scheme but, for the purposes of this report, we have included it in Ashbourne South). The Labour proposal is similar to this but includes Clifton & Compton parish and excludes Shirley parish. This proposed ward would have a variance of 8% by 2026. The multi-party scheme, on which our proposals are based, enlarges the existing ward with the addition of Clifton & Compton, Edlaston & Wyaston, and Osmaston & Yeldersley parishes. The proposed ward will have an electoral variance of 7% by 2026. Our draft recommendations for this ward are identical to this, save for the 394 electors mentioned above, which we have placed in Ashbourne North ward. Under our draft recommendations, Ashbourne South ward will have an electoral variance of -1% by 2026. We are content that our proposed ward follows clearly defined boundaries and reflects local community identities.

South Derbyshire Dales



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Brailsford	1	8%
Doveridge & Sudbury	1	8%
Norbury	1	4%

Brailsford, Doveridge & Sudbury and Norbury

62 The three complete schemes we received from this area were broadly similar, making only minor changes to the existing wards. The only change in the Conservative scheme is Longford parish being moved into Norbury ward. This creates electoral variances of -9% for Brailsford, 8% for Doveridge & Sudbury, and 1% for Norbury. The Labour scheme enlarges Norbury slightly to include Snelston parish, while adding Edlaston & Wyaston to Brailsford and removing Mercaston. This creates electoral variances of 26% for Brailsford, 8% for Doveridge & Sudbury, and -7% for Norbury. Apart from the very high electoral variance, we were not persuaded by the proposed addition to Brailsford of Edlaston & Wyaston parish. In particular, we noted that it is not possible to travel to the parish without leaving the ward, thus it is not conducive to effective and convenient local government, nor likely to be reflective of the local community.

63 The multi-party scheme, which formed the basis of our proposals in this area, added Snelston parish to Norbury ward and removed Mercaston parish from Brailsford ward, creating variances of 4% for Brailsford, 8% for Doveridge & Sudbury, and 4% for Norbury. Our only change to this scheme is the retention of Mercaston parish in Brailsford ward. While this creates poorer electoral equality, with a variance of 8% by 2026, we believe it will better reflect community identities and ensure effective and convenient local government, owing to Mercaston's significant distance from the nearest major settlement in Hlland ward and its close proximity to Brailsford village.

Conclusions

64 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Derbyshire Dales, referencing the 2020 and 2026 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	
	2020	2026
Number of councillors	34	34
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	1,709	1,806
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendations

Derbyshire Dales District Council should be made up of 34 councillors serving 21 wards representing 12 single-councillor wards, five two-councillor wards and four 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 Derbyshire Dales District Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Derbyshire Dales District Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

65 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.

66 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, Derbyshire Dales District 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.

67 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 Ashbourne, Darley Dale, and Matlock town councils.

68 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ashbourne parish.

Draft recommendations

Ashbourne Town Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Belle Vue	3
Compton	1
Hilltop	2
Parkside	4
St Oswalds	3

69 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Darley Dale parish.

Draft recommendations

Darley Dale Town Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Greenaway	1
North	7
South	3

70 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Matlock parish.

Draft recommendations

Matlock Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing 10 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Chesterfield Road East	1
Cuckoostone	1

Highfields	1
Hurst Farm	2
Jackson Tor	1
Lumsdale	1
Matlock Green	1
Riber	1
Smedley Street	2
Starkholmes	1

Have your say

71 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 district or just a part of it.

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

73 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

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

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

75 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Derbyshire Dales District Council which delivers:

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

76 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters.
- 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.

77 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in Derbyshire Dales?

78 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?

79 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?

80 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.

81 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.

82 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.

83 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 Derbyshire Dales in 2023.

Equalities

84 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 Derbyshire Dales District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ashbourne North	2	3,382	3,382	-1%	3,559	1,780	-1%
2	Ashbourne South	3	4,755	4,755	-7%	5,377	1,792	-1%
3	Bakewell	3	4,782	4,782	-7%	4,894	1,631	-10%
4	Bonsall & Winster	1	1,661	1,661	-3%	1,680	1,680	-7%
5	Bradwell	1	1,651	1,651	-3%	1,669	1,669	-8%
6	Brailsford	1	1,539	1,539	-10%	1,950	1,950	8%
7	Calver & Longstone	1	1,817	1,817	6%	1,839	1,839	2%
8	Chatsworth	1	1,777	1,777	4%	1,799	1,799	0%
9	Cromford & Matlock Rural	2	3,205	3,205	-6%	3,409	1,705	-6%
10	Darley Dale	2	3,334	3,334	-2%	3,576	1,788	-1%
11	Doveridge & Sudbury	1	1,634	1,634	-4%	1,948	1,948	8%
12	Hartington & Taddington	1	1,734	1,734	1%	1,754	1,754	-3%

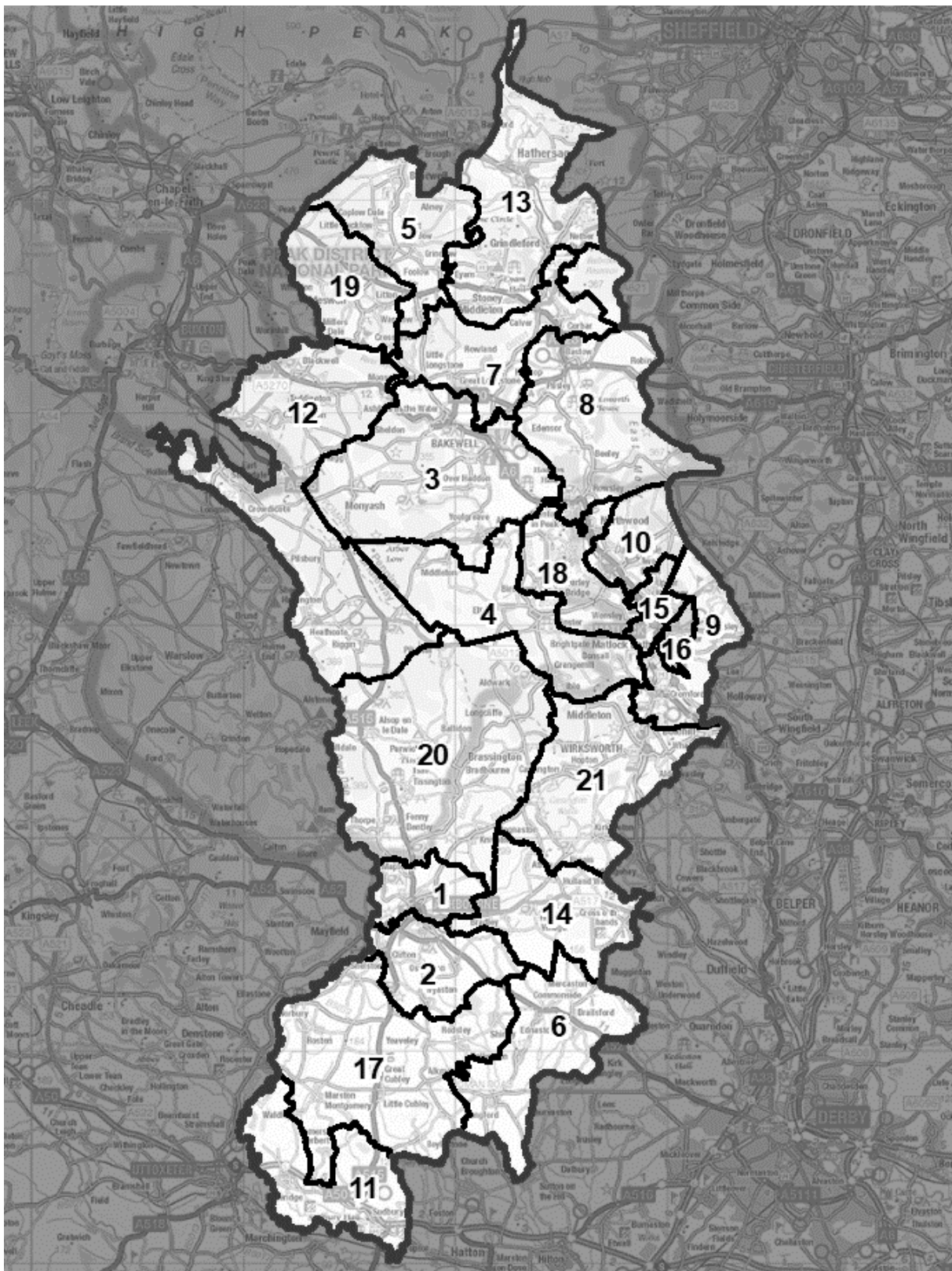
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Hathersage	2	3,578	3,578	5%	3,621	1,811	0%
14 Hlland	1	1,456	1,456	-15%	1,675	1,675	-7%
15 Matlock All Saints	3	5,647	5,647	10%	5,877	1,959	8%
16 Matlock St Giles	2	3,223	3,223	-6%	3,539	1,770	-2%
17 Norbury	1	1,795	1,795	5%	1,886	1,886	4%
18 Stanton	1	1,652	1,652	-3%	1,672	1,672	-7%
19 Tideswell	1	1,894	1,894	11%	1,916	1,916	6%
20 White Peak	1	1,888	1,888	10%	1,912	1,912	6%
21 Wirksworth & Carsington Water	3	5,704	5,704	11%	5,840	1,947	8%
Totals	34	58,108	-	-	61,392	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,709	-	-	1,806	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Derbyshire Dales District Council.

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Ashbourne North
2	Ashbourne South
3	Bakewell
4	Bonsall & Winster
5	Bradwell
6	Brailsford
7	Calver & Longstone
8	Chatsworth
9	Cromford & Matlock Rural
10	Darley Dale
11	Doveridge & Sudbury
12	Hartington & Taddington
13	Hathersage
14	Hulland
15	Matlock All Saints
16	Matlock St Giles
17	Norbury
18	Stanton
19	Tideswell
20	White Peak
21	Wirksworth & Carsington Water

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/east-midlands/derbyshire/derbyshire-dales

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/east-midlands/derbyshire/derbyshire-dales

Political Groups

- Derbyshire Dales Conservative Group
- Derbyshire Dales Constituency Labour Party
- Derbyshire Dales Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor M. Burfoot (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor C. Gamble (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor D. Hughes (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor P. O'Brien (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor S. Wain (Derbyshire Dales District Council)

Local Organisations

- Matlock Civic Association

Parish and Town Councils

- Bakewell Town Council
- Bonsall Parish Council
- Cromford Parish Council
- Hathersage Parish Council
- Middleton & Smerrill Parish Council
- Northwood & Tinkersley Parish Council
- Over Haddon Parish Council
- Stanton in Peak Parish Council
- Taddington Parish Council
- Youlgrave Parish Council

Local Residents

- 32 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 fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
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. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
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 vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
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www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE