

New electoral arrangements for Derbyshire Dales District Council New Draft Recommendations

August 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.

Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Derbyshire Dales?	2
Why are we publishing new draft recommendations?	2
Our proposals for Derbyshire Dales	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Have your say	3
Review timetable	3
Analysis and new draft recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	6
Draft recommendations consultation and initial final recommendations	7
New draft recommendations	8
North Derbyshire Dales	10
Mid Derbyshire Dales	12
Darley Dale, Masson, and Matlock	14
Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington, Hlland, and Wirksworth & Carsington Water	18
Ashbourne	21
South Derbyshire Dales	23
Conclusions	25
Summary of electoral arrangements	25
Parish electoral arrangements	25
Have your say	27
Equalities	31
Appendices	33
Appendix A	33
New draft recommendations for Derbyshire Dales District Council	33
Appendix B	36

Outline map	36
Appendix C	38
Submissions received	38
Glossary and abbreviations	40

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 council 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.

Why are we publishing new draft recommendations?

9 Following publication of our final recommendations on 29 June 2021 our attention was drawn to a miscalculation in the electorate for the wards of Brailsford, Wirksworth & Carsington Water, Ashbourne North, and Hlland. The electoral variances in the last two of these wards were such that we considered it necessary to revisit our recommendations. By law, we cannot simply revoke our original final recommendations and republish – we must first publish this set of new draft recommendations and seek representations on them. Once we have consulted on these, we will consider the representations received and publish a new set of final recommendations in January 2022.

Our proposals for Derbyshire Dales

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

11 Derbyshire Dales should have 20 wards, five fewer than there are now.

12 The boundaries of 17 wards should change; one will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are

in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

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

Have your say

15 We will consult on the new draft recommendations for an eight-week period, from 31 August 2021 to 26 October 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.

16 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.

17 You have until 26 October 2021 to have your say on the new draft recommendations. See page 27 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

18 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Derbyshire Dales. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our new draft recommendations.

19 The review was 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 began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 June 2021	Publication of original final recommendations

31 August 2021	Publication of new draft recommendations; start of third consultation
26 October 2021	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
11 January 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and new draft recommendations

20 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.

21 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.

22 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 District Council	58,108	61,392
Number of councillors	34	34
Average number of electors per councillor	1,709	1,806

23 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

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

Electorate figures

25 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.

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.

26 In March 2021, we were informed by the Council that forecast housing developments for two polling districts in Ashbourne, which corresponded to the parish wards of Hilltop and St Oswalds, had been misallocated. This was corrected.

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

Number of councillors

28 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 by five will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

29 Councillors Gamble and O'Brien 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.

30 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.

31 We received two submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. These submissions supported the reduction in councillors. We have therefore maintained 34 councillors for our new draft recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

32 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 ('the 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 this had the support of the scheme's other backers. We therefore considered this the definitive revision to this scheme. Given that this scheme was supported by a range of local political representatives, we referred to it as the 'multi-party scheme' for the

purposes of the report. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

33 The three district-wide schemes provided a mixed pattern of one-, two-, and three-councillor wards for Derbyshire Dales. The Conservative scheme provided for good electoral equality. Each proposed ward contained two descriptions: one of polling districts, the other of parishes. However, in several places, these descriptions did not match. Furthermore, the proposed Hathersage ward contained an exclave (being made up of Hathersage and Abney & Abney Grange parishes), which, in our view, would not provide an effective balance of our statutory criteria for community identity and effective and convenient local government. While we did not adopt this scheme, we have incorporated some elements into our proposals. The Labour scheme was very similar to the cross-party scheme, differing only slightly in the central and southern areas of the district, but contained one ward with a 26% electoral variance. We considered that the cross-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.

34 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries.

35 Our draft recommendations were for four three-councillor wards, five two-councillor wards, and 12 one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

36 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 consultation and initial final recommendations

37 We received 201 submissions in response to our consultation on the draft recommendations. These included one district-wide proposal submitted by both Labour and the Liberal Democrats. This submission had the support of seven Liberal Democrat, three Labour, two Independent, and one Green councillors and made modifications to our draft recommendations. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

38 The district-wide scheme provided a mixed pattern of one-, two-, and three-councillor wards for Derbyshire Dales. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. In our final recommendations report, we stated that the scheme included non-contiguous wards in the Matlock area. However, this was an error, caused by the misallocation of Matlock parish wards on our mapping. We also stated that the ward variance for the proposed Darley Dale ward was -17%; this was a misinterpretation of the ward description.

39 Our initial final recommendations were based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in the Darley Dale, Matlock, and Masson areas, in response to submissions received. We also made three modifications to the boundaries between Bradwell and Hathersage, Bradwell and Calver & Longstone, and Hlland and Wirksworth & Carsington Water wards.

New draft recommendations

40 Following publication of our final recommendations on 29 June 2021 our attention was drawn to a miscalculation in the electorate for the wards of Brailsford, Wirksworth & Carsington Water, Ashbourne North, and Hlland. The electoral variances in the last two of these wards were such that we considered it necessary to revisit our recommendations. By law, we cannot simply revoke our original final recommendations and republish – we must first publish this set of new draft recommendations and seek representations on them. Once we have consulted on these, we will consider the representations received and publish a new set of final recommendations in January 2022.

41 Our new draft recommendations are for four three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards, and 10 one-councillor wards. A minor change has been made to the proposed boundary between Ashbourne North and Ashbourne South wards, and Mercaston parish has been transferred from Brailsford ward to Hlland ward. This is to rectify the high electoral variances that would have resulted from the errors in our initial final recommendations. We consider that our new draft recommendations will provide an effective balance of our three statutory criteria by ensuring good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

42 We welcome submissions on these new draft recommendations during the current consultation, and are open to amending them should we receive evidence to do so.

43 We did not provide parish warding arrangements in our original final recommendations, as the proposed district wards followed existing parish and parish ward boundaries. However, the changes to the boundary between Ashbourne North

and Ashbourne South wards have necessitated minor changes to the arrangement of parish wards in Ashbourne parish, further details of which can be found on pages 26.

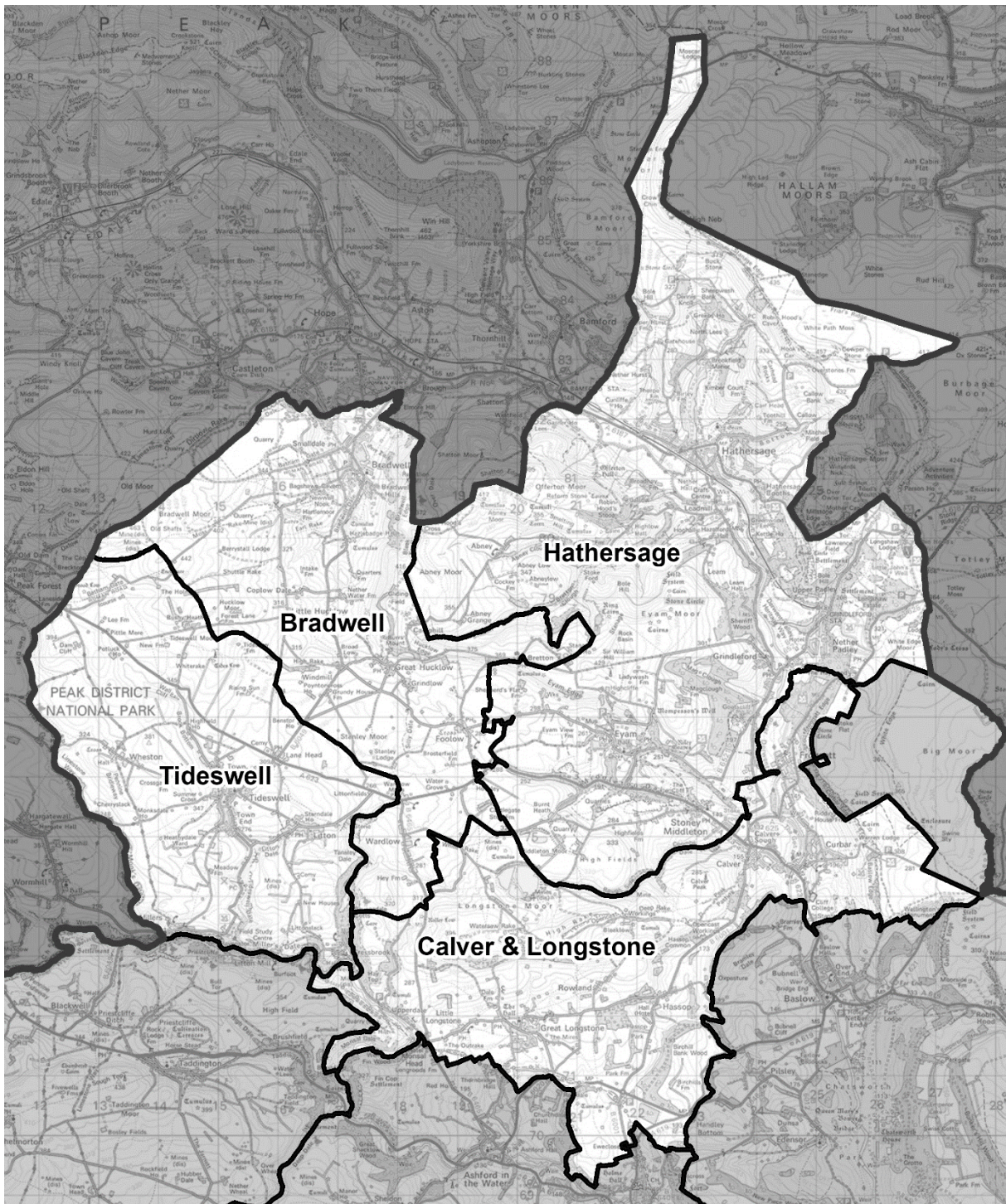
44 The tables and maps on pages 10–23 detail our new draft recommendations for each area of Derbyshire Dales. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

45 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.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North Derbyshire Dales



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Bradwell	1	-10%
Calver & Longstone	1	2%
Hathersage	2	1%
Tideswell	1	6%

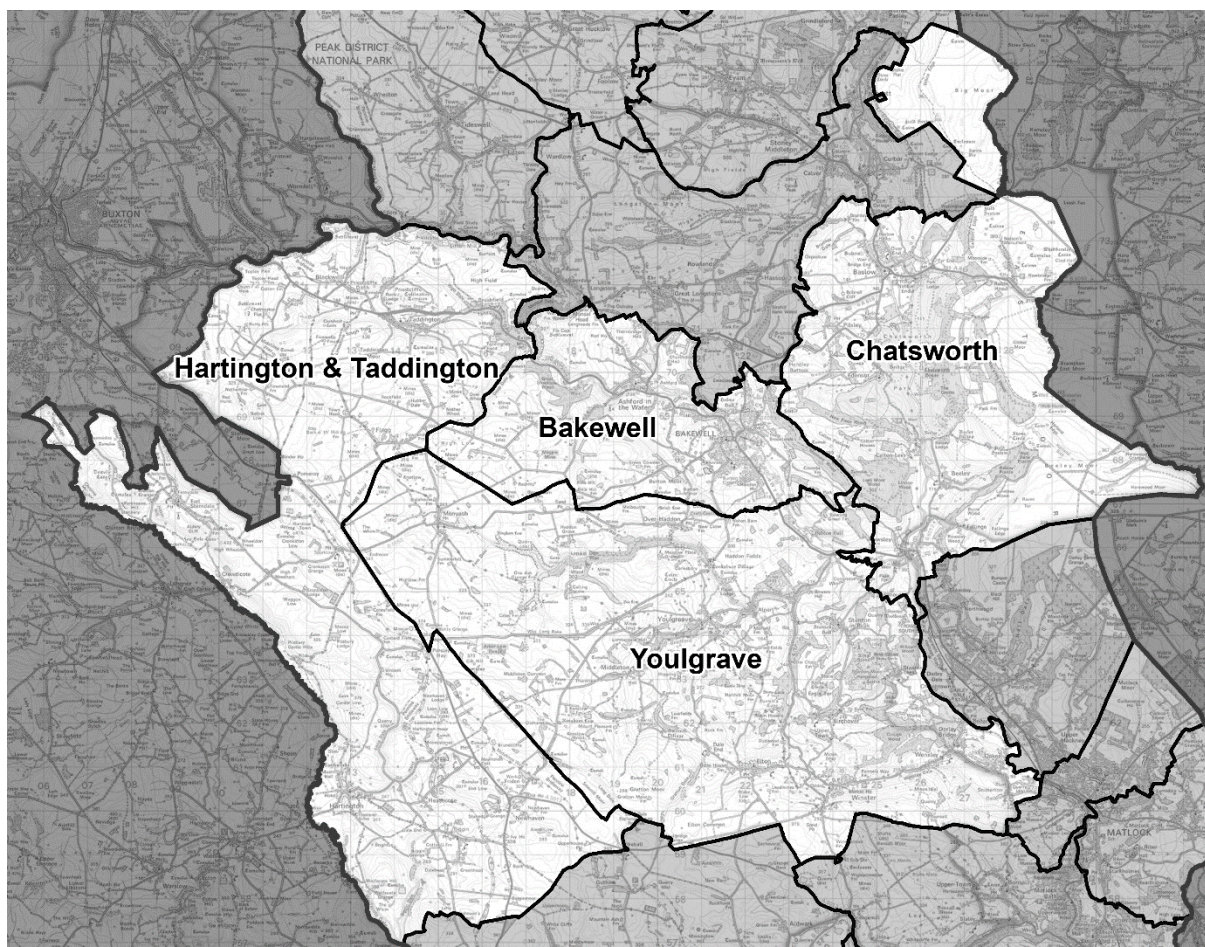
Bradwell, Calver & Longstone, Hathersage, and Tideswell

46 We received 25 submissions for this area, most of which concerned the placement of the parishes of Abney & Abney Grange and Wardlow within the boundaries of our proposed Bradwell ward. These submissions were from Councillor Alasdair Sutton, Abney & Abney Grange, Highlow & Offerton Parish Meeting, Grindleford Parish Council, Hathersage Parish Council, Stoney Middleton Parish Council, and 20 residents. The submissions made clear that these communities had no links to Bradwell, and that their commonly used amenities were located elsewhere, specifically Hathersage for Abney & Abney Grange and Tideswell and Longstone for Wardlow.

47 Based on this evidence, we have moved Abney & Abney Grange parish into our proposed Hathersage ward, which now has an electoral variance of 1%. However, moving Wardlow parish into Tideswell would result in a 12% variance for that ward, as well as a -16% variance for Bradwell. We considered a -16% variance too high to provide an effective balance of our statutory criteria. We have therefore kept Wardlow parish in Bradwell ward, which will have a -10% electoral variance by 2026.

48 Of these 25 submissions, six concerned our placement of Stoney Middleton within the proposed Hathersage ward, arguing closer links to Calver and the lack of a bus route between Stoney Middleton and Hathersage. We attempted to accommodate this suggestion to include Stoney Middleton parish within Calver & Longstone ward. However, this would result in variances of -11% for Hathersage and 25% for Calver & Longstone. Given the very high electoral variance that would result, we have decided not to adopt this proposal as part of our new draft recommendations.

Mid Derbyshire Dales



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Bakewell	2	-2%
Chatsworth	1	0%
Hartington & Taddington	1	-3%
Youlgrave	2	-4%

Bakewell and Youlgrave

49 We received 64 submissions in response to our proposed Bakewell ward, the majority of which concerned our decision to include Youlgrave parish within the ward, thereby separating Youlgrave from the neighbouring parishes of Middleton & Smerrill and Harthill. In particular, these submissions emphasised the close links of the latter two with the former. The submissions were from Councillors Graham Elliott and Alasdair Sutton, Harthill Parish Meeting, Over Haddon Parish Council, and Youlgrave Parish Council, as well as 59 residents.

50 Many of the submissions made the distinction between Youlgrave and its neighbouring parishes' small size and rural concerns, in contrast to Bakewell's much larger electorate and tourist industry, pointing to the markedly different characters

between the two areas and their differing interests. We were therefore persuaded to reduce the size of the proposed Bakewell ward from three councillors to two, and to make Youlgrave parish the focus of a separate ward. This was reflected in the multi-party scheme, which maintained the boundaries of the existing Bakewell ward as well as reducing the number of councillors to two. The scheme also grouped the parishes of Youlgrave, Monyash, Harthill, Middleton & Smerrill, Gratton, Birchover, and Stanton in a one-councillor Youlgrave ward. While our new draft recommendations are based on this scheme, we have made alterations.

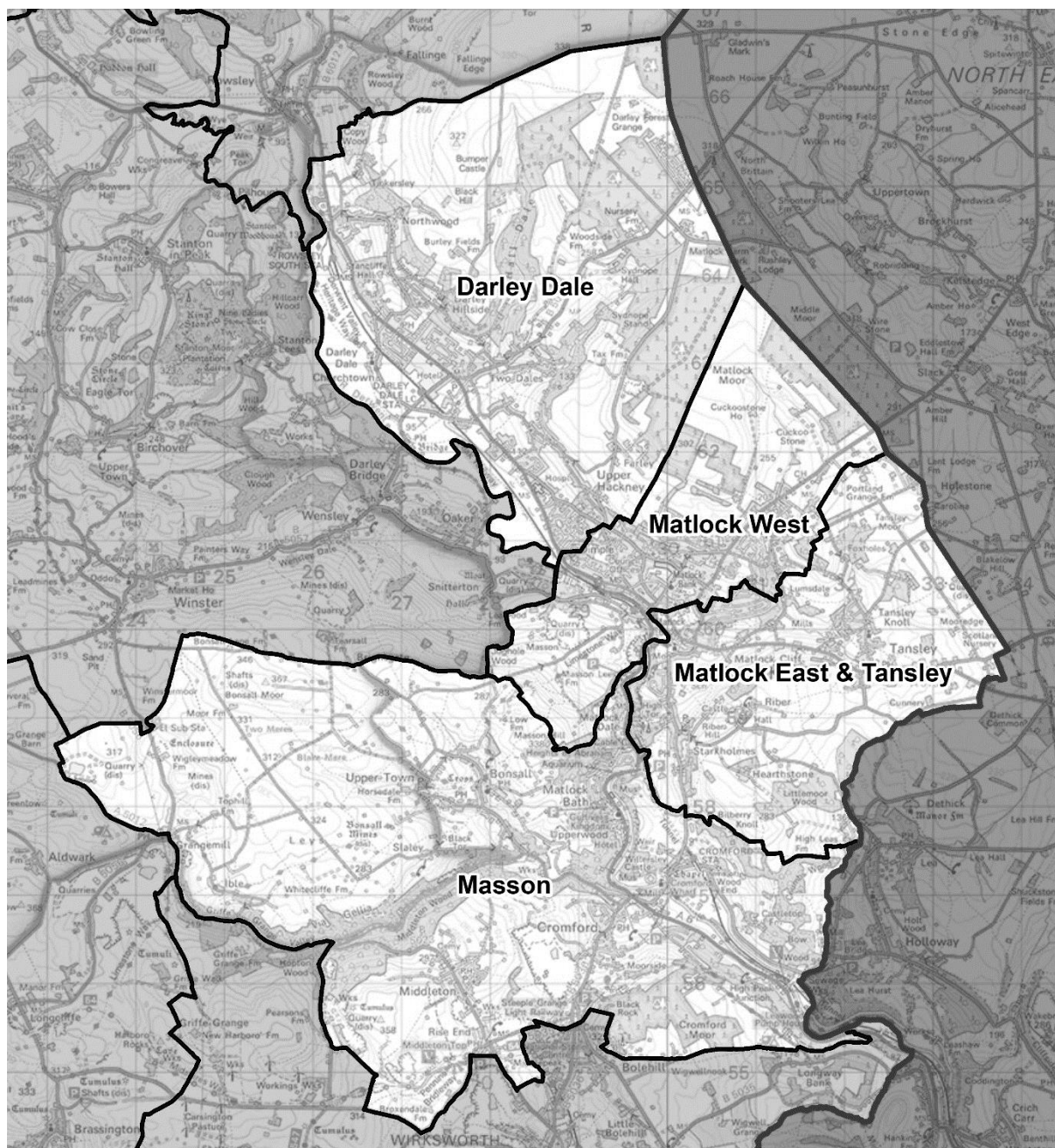
51 We noted that many of the submissions we received provided evidence on the relationships between various parishes which reinforced the existing ward boundaries of Lathkill & Bradford, Stanton, and Winster & South Darley. However, as none of these wards would have good electoral variances under the proposed council size, we have instead proposed to combine them in a single two-councillor Youlgrave ward. This is with the exception of Rowsley parish, which is included in Chatsworth ward, and Northwood & Tinkersley parish, which is included in Darley Dale ward.

52 We also received several submissions noting that Over Haddon and Nether Haddon parishes had been included in Bakewell ward following the conclusion of the last boundary review in 1998, but had not welcomed this and continue to prefer being included in a ward with Youlgrave parish given their shared community identities and interests. We have therefore included these parishes in our proposed Youlgrave ward.

Chatsworth and Hartington & Taddington

53 We received one submission from a resident against our proposed Hartington & Taddington ward. The resident argued that Chelmorton – a parish forecast to have an electorate of 270 by 2026 – was ‘already a small voice’, and that enlarging the existing ward would have the effect of ‘diluting’ this further. However, the addition of Hartington Nether Quarter’s 348 forecast electors to the existing Hartington & Taddington ward was necessary to avoid a -22% electoral variance. We have therefore not modified our recommendations for the ward. We received one submission regarding Chatsworth. However, this concerned the visibility of Rowsley parish on an unspecified map, rather than the ward boundaries. The multi-party scheme did not make changes to our recommendations.

Darley Dale, Masson, and Matlock



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Darley Dale	3	2%
Masson	2	-10%
Matlock East & Tansley	2	4%
Matlock West	3	8%

Darley Dale

54 We received three submissions in response to our original draft recommendations for Darley Dale ward. One, from Northwood & Tinkersley Parish

Council, reiterated its desire to remain in a ward with Stanton and/or Rowsley parishes, citing shared rural interests in contrast to the 'urban focus' of Darley Dale. While we were sympathetic to this position, it was not possible to pair Northwood & Tinkersley parish with either Rowsley or Stanton parishes. First, it has proven necessary to include Rowsley within Chatsworth in order to maintain good electoral equality in that ward, but the addition of Northwood & Tinkersley parish would create a poor electoral variance of 28%. Second, we are not persuaded to include it with Stanton parish in Youlgrave ward, as one cannot travel between the two parishes without leaving the ward. Furthermore, we note that Northwood & Tinkersley shares clear and direct transport links with Darley Dale. Having carefully considered the evidence, we have therefore decided to keep Northwood & Tinkersley parish within Darley Dale ward in our new draft recommendations.

55 We also received two submissions from residents in response to our inclusion of part of Darley Dale parish around Old Hackney Lane, Hackney Road, Ameycroft Lane, Farley Hill and part of Bakewell Road in Matlock All Saints ward. One argued the Hooleys estate had always been part of Darley Dale and should not be in a Matlock ward. The other submitted that it was locally acknowledged that Darley Dale began at the Premier Inn on Bakewell Road and that Whitworth Hospital should also remain within the Darley Dale ward. While the resident acknowledged that Old Hackney Lane, Hackney Road, and Farley identified more with Matlock, our changes to the two Matlock wards (see below) meant it was no longer possible to include this area. Consequently, our new draft recommendations for Darley Dale ward comprise the parishes of Darley Dale and Northwood & Tinkersley in their entirety, represented by three councillors – one more than in our draft recommendations.

56 The multi-party scheme was similar to our draft recommendations, albeit with the Morledge estate from Darley Dale parish included in their proposed Matlock West ward. While we recognise this was a refinement of our original draft recommendations – based on evidence that electors in the area felt closer to Matlock than to Darley Dale – we found we were unable to incorporate this proposal given our recommendations for Masson ward. To include the Morledge estate in Matlock West would require transferring 1,221 electors in the Chesterfield Road East parish ward to Matlock East & Tansley, which would then need to increase to a three-councillor ward. This would effectively add an extra councillor to the scheme, as our proposed arrangement of four councillors representing the Youlgrave and Masson wards cannot be split between three councillors without again separating Bonsall parish from Cromford and Matlock Bath. As described below, we have sought to avoid this situation in response to local feedback from residents, so we have not included Morledge estate in our Matlock West ward.

Masson

57 We made significant changes to our original draft recommendations in this area in response to 58 submissions opposing our Bonsall & Winster and Cromford &

Matlock Rural wards. The latter divided the rural areas surrounding Matlock from the town itself, based on submissions we had received from elsewhere in the district requesting that this distinction be made. In response to our draft proposals, we received evidence that residents in Tansley parish relied upon Matlock for many of their amenities. Many of the submissions that we received also commented that the dominance of the tourist industry in Cromford and Matlock Bath made these parishes a poor match for Tansley, Riber, and Cuckoostone.

58 Several submissions were also strongly opposed to Bonsall parish being separated from the parishes of Cromford and Matlock Bath. These were on the basis that the three share many local amenities and have a similar character, while Bonsall had little relationship to and limited transport links with Winster parish or any of the other parishes grouped into our draft Bonsall & Winster ward. This presented a significant challenge. While Cromford and Matlock Bath could be grouped together in a single-councillor ward with a 0% electoral variance, as in the multi-party scheme, the addition of Bonsall as per the existing Masson ward would create an electoral variance of 37% for a single-councillor ward or -28% for a two-councillor ward.

59 Two residents, when listing parishes which would be better suited to Bonsall than Winster, suggested Middleton as well as Cromford and Matlock Bath. We decided to adopt this suggestion after careful consideration as, with the addition of Ible and Ivonbrook Grange parishes, it was possible to create a two-councillor ward with an electoral variance of -10%. We are mindful that the full name of Middleton parish is Middleton by Wirksworth and that, together with its present pairing with Wirksworth town in the existing Wirksworth ward, this may be indicative of a close relationship between the two. However, we have not received evidence regarding Middleton to date, save for these two submissions. Conversely, we have observed that Middleton shares the rural character of these parishes, and is well-connected to them through the Via Gellia. We would therefore be very interested to hear from residents of Middleton by Wirksworth and the parish council about our recommendations for the area.

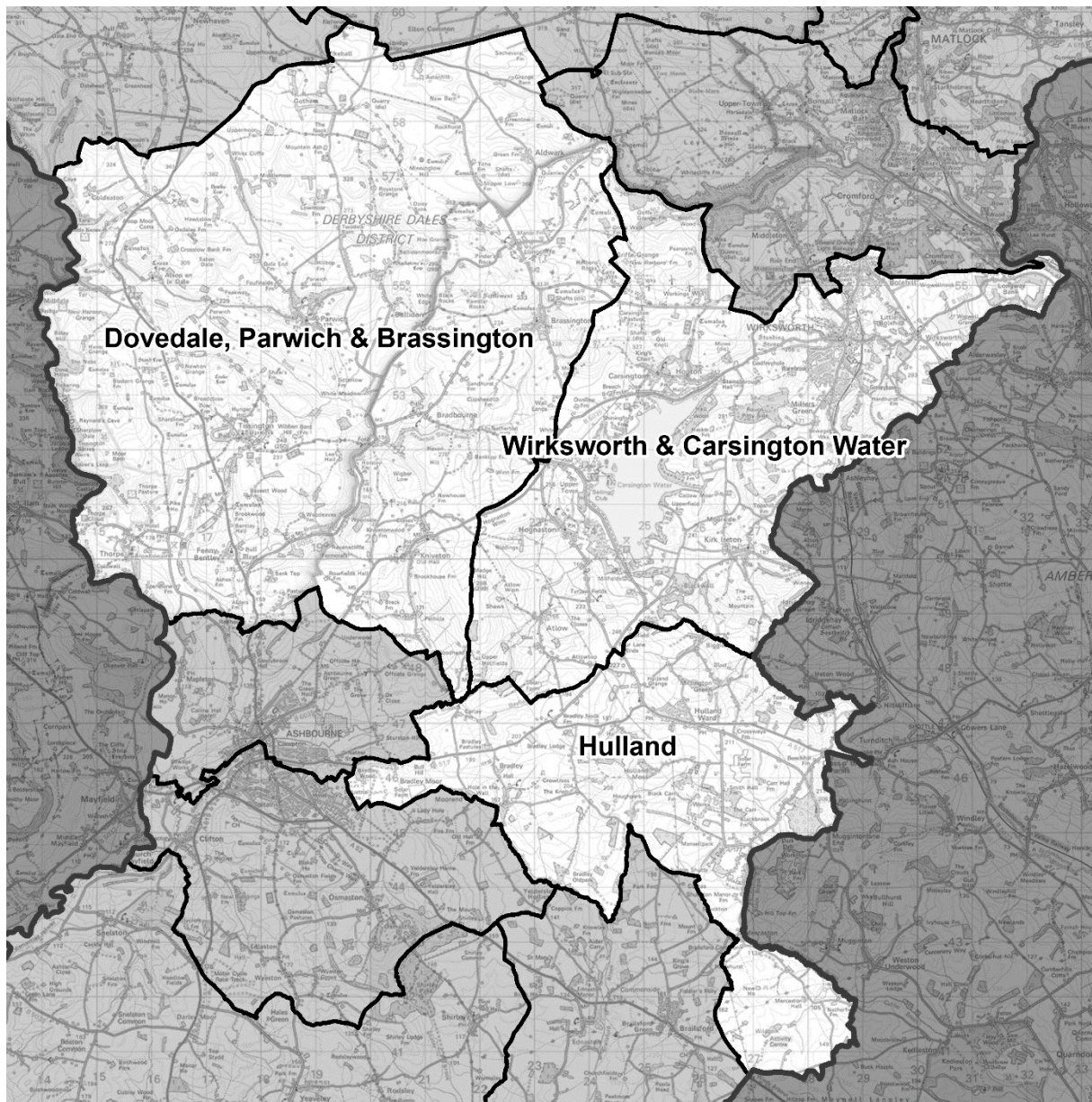
Matlock East & Tansley and Matlock West

60 As noted previously, our recommended Cromford & Matlock Rural ward was not well received, and the evidence submitted suggested amendments to the existing Matlock wards would be more appropriate. For reasons discussed in paragraph 56, we did not adopt the multi-party scheme in this area, although we recognise the merits of the proposals. We agreed, however, that it was appropriate to rename the wards, substituting Matlock West for Matlock All Saints and Matlock East & Tansley for Matlock St Giles.

61 In dividing the area, we have largely followed the boundaries of the existing wards, save for the parish ward of Chesterfield Road East, which has been moved from the existing Matlock St Giles ward into a three-councillor Matlock West ward

with an electoral variance of 8%. The remainder of the existing Matlock St Giles ward will be a two-councillor Matlock East & Tansley ward with an electoral variance of 4%.

Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington, Hulland, and Wirksworth & Carsington Water



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington	1	6%
Hulland	1	-9%
Wirksworth & Carsington Water	3	-4%

Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington

62 We received five submissions in response to our White Peak ward, from Ballidon & Bradbourne Parish Council, Fenny Bentley Parish Council, Thorpe Parish Council, Tissington & Lea Hall Parish Council, and a resident. All these submissions objected to naming the ward White Peak, arguing that this was inappropriate

because the White Peak area of the Peak District National Park extended beyond the boundaries of the ward, both within and outside the district, and that large areas of the ward were not within the National Park. Most suggested renaming the ward Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington, while Tissington & Lea Hall Parish Council suggested Tissington, Parwich & Brassington. As Dovedale covers a larger area of the ward than Tissington, we have named the ward Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington in our new draft recommendations.

Hulland and Wirksworth & Carsington Water

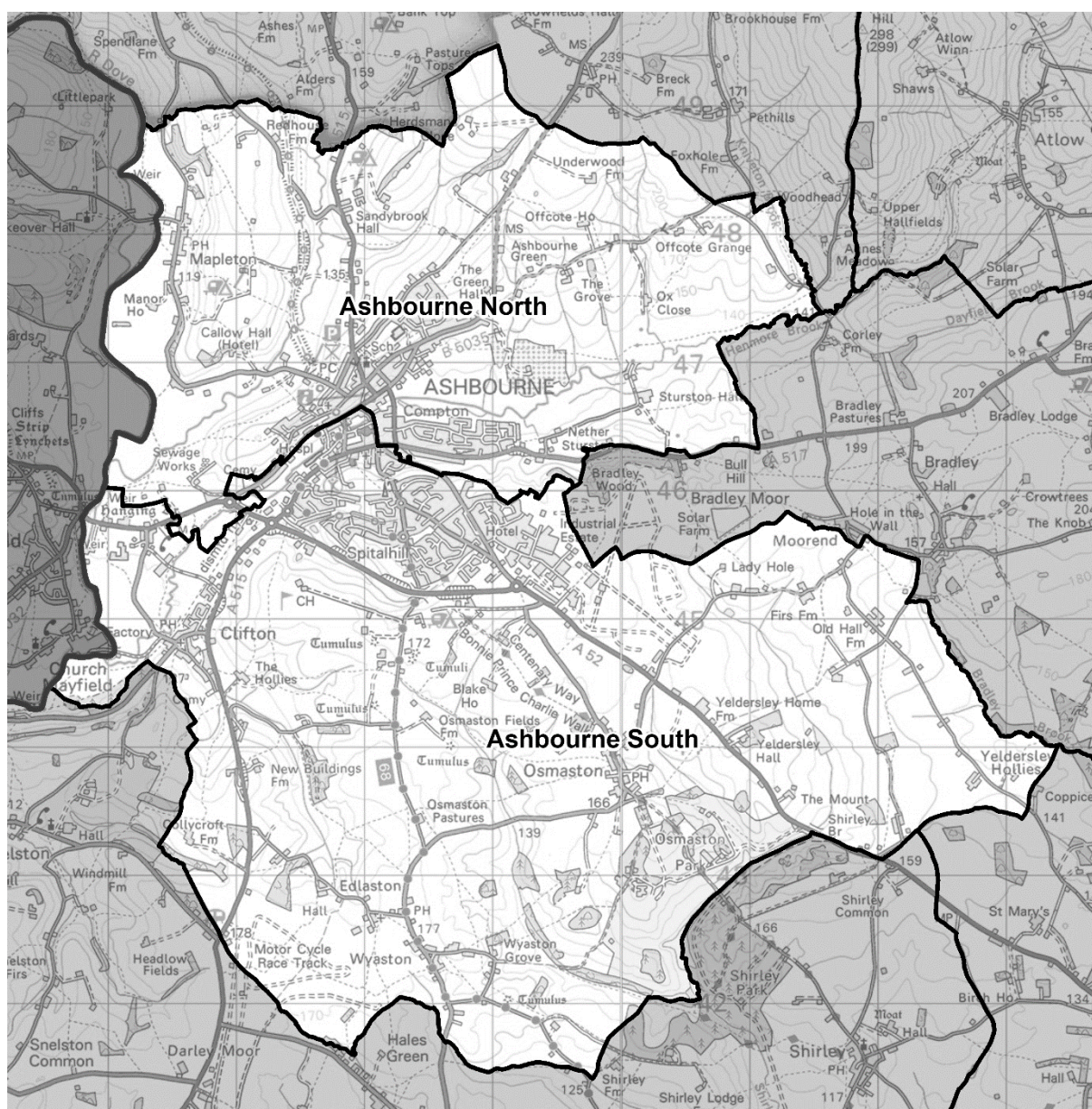
63 We received eight submissions in response to our original draft recommendations for these wards, in addition to the multi-party scheme, which made minor changes. These were from Middleton Parish Council and seven residents. The multi-party scheme objected to our grouping of the parishes around the Carsington Water reservoir in the same ward. It suggested that the sparsely populated parishes should not be grouped with Wirksworth. We carefully considered the evidence received. However, we weren't persuaded that the submissions negated the logic of including this popular leisure destination in a single ward represented by one set of councillors. While it was proposed that Kirk Ireton parish be moved into Hulland ward given the suggestion that they share community identities, this would result in a high electoral variance with the transfer of Middleton parish into Masson ward.

64 The multi-party scheme also moved Bradley parish from our proposed Hulland ward into Ashbourne North ward, on the basis that the airfield housing development being built on the boundary between Bradley parish and Ashbourne town will eventually include some 1,500 homes. It is helpful to be aware of the development envisaged beyond the five years that we are required to use as the basis of our electoral forecasts. However, we can only take account of electorate growth in that five-year period, when only a relatively small amount of the total development will be completed. Furthermore, we cannot include only the development area in Ashbourne North ward, as this would entail creating a parish ward in Bradley with a very small number of electors. We do not consider this would provide for effective and convenient local government for the electors of the parish.

65 The scheme also suggested altering the boundaries of Bradley parish to include this area in Ashbourne town. However, this is not within the scope of this review, and would be for the Council to decide once our review is completed via a Community Governance Review. We are therefore not convinced by this proposal and have maintained Bradley parish within Hulland ward. The multi-party scheme also included Atlow parish as a promontory of their proposed Hulland ward, connected only by a short stretch of Brick Kiln Lane. We did not consider this conducive to effective and convenient local government and instead included Atlow in our proposed Wirksworth & Carsington Water ward. This was primarily to ensure the ward had good electoral equality, although we note Atlow presently shares a ward with neighbouring Hognaston.

66 Mercaston parish had been accidentally calculated into our total for Hlland ward, rather than Brailsford, in our original final recommendations report. Consequently, the actual variance for Hlland in our final recommendations was -13%. We have therefore incorporated Mercaston into our new draft Hlland ward, as in the initial Labour and Liberal Democrat schemes, to reduce the electoral inequality here. This will ensure that Hlland ward will have an electoral variance of -9% by 2026.

Ashbourne



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Ashbourne North	2	-3%
Ashbourne South	3	0%

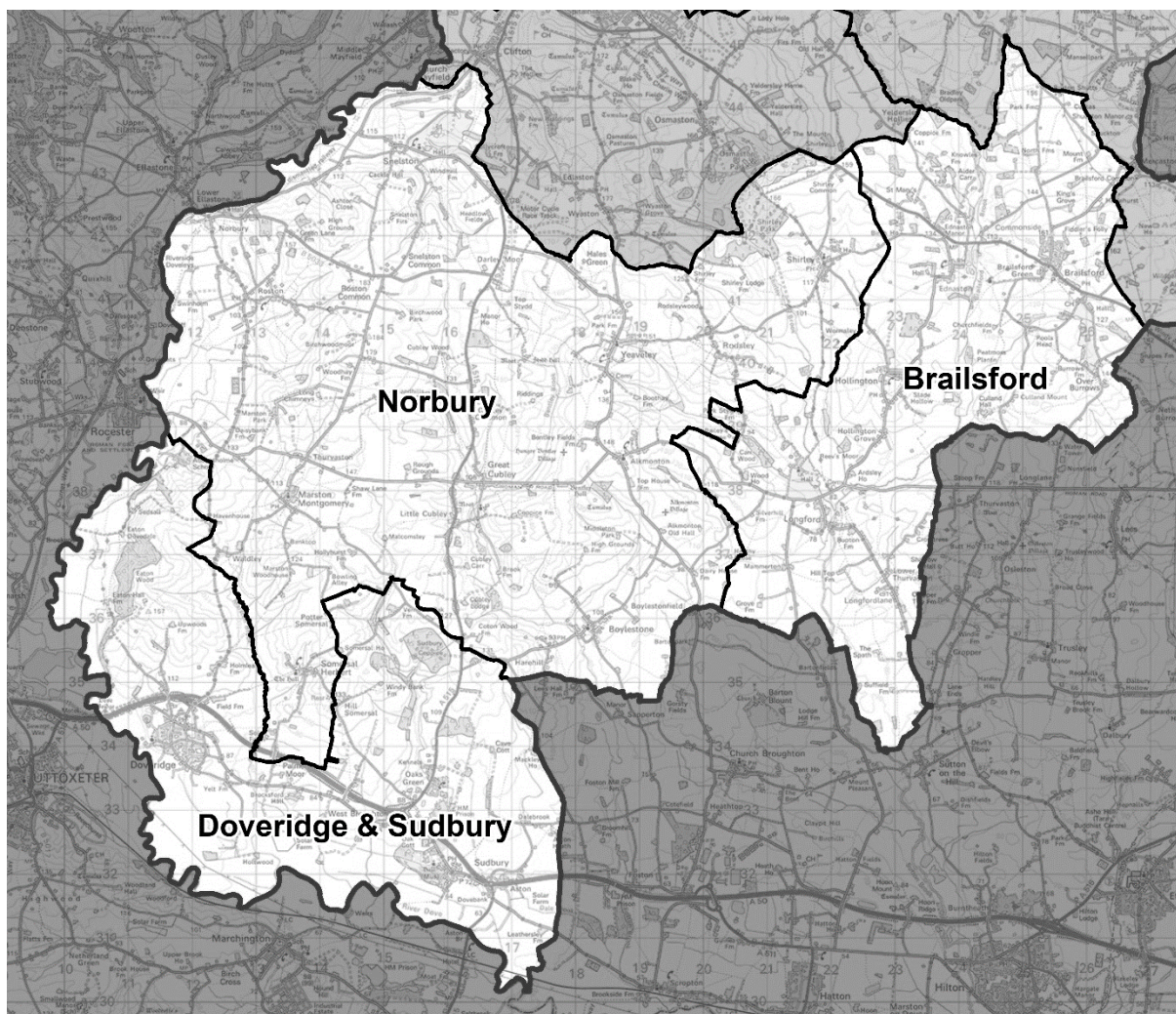
Ashbourne North and Ashbourne South

67 We received six submissions in response to our recommendations for Ashbourne, from Ashbourne Town Council, Edlaston & Wyaston Parish Council, Osmaston & Yeldersley Parish Council, and three residents. We were also alerted by the Council to an error in its electorate forecast with regard to the allocation of housing growth between two polling districts in Ashbourne, which was corrected.

68 Our final recommendations report stated that this correction negated the need to transfer the area between Sturston Road, Compton Street, Park Road, and the Shawcroft Centre car park from Ashbourne South to Ashbourne North, as in our draft recommendations. However, this was not the case, as Thorpe and Fenny Bentley parishes had accidentally been calculated into the total for Ashbourne North ward in our final recommendations report. The actual variance for Ashbourne North in our original final recommendations was -12%. We consider this too high a variance and have therefore reverted to our original draft boundary between Ashbourne North and Ashbourne South wards.

69 Almost identical submissions were made by Edlaston & Wyaston and Osmaston & Yeldersley parish councils objecting to their inclusion in the proposed Ashbourne South ward, on the basis that they are rural parishes and Ashbourne is urban. While we note these objections, neither council suggested an alternative, and the inclusion of these parishes in the neighbouring Norbury ward would create an unacceptably high electoral variance of 38%. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our new draft recommendations.

South Derbyshire Dales



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

Brailsford, Doveridge & Sudbury, and Norbury

70 We received one submission from a resident in response to our original draft recommendations for this area, which supported our proposals, particularly the inclusion of Snelston parish in Norbury ward. The multi-party scheme proposed no changes to our recommendations. However, as discussed in paragraph 66, we have moved Mercaston parish to Hlland ward in our new draft recommendations in order to minimise electoral variances in this area of the district.

Conclusions

71 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our new 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

	New draft recommendations	
	2020	2026
Number of councillors	34	34
Number of electoral wards	20	20
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

New draft recommendations

Derbyshire Dales District Council should be made up of 34 councillors serving 20 wards representing 10 single-councillor wards, six 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 new draft recommendations for Derbyshire Dales District Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

72 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.

73 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.

74 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.

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

New 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	5
Parkside	2
St Oswalds	2

Have your say

76 The Commission has an open mind about its new 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.

77 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.

78 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

79 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

80 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.

81 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.

82 Electoral equality:

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

83 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?

84 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?

85 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.

86 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.

87 In the light of representations received, we will review our new 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.

88 After the publication of our final recommendations in January 2022, 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

89 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

New 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	1,691	-1%	3,495	1,748	-3%
2	Ashbourne South	3	4,755	1,585	-7%	5,441	1,814	0%
3	Bakewell	2	3,441	1,721	1%	3,538	1,769	-2%
4	Bradwell	1	1,610	1,610	-6%	1,628	1,628	-10%
5	Brailsford	1	1,473	1,473	-14%	1,883	1,883	4%
6	Calver & Longstone	1	1,817	1,817	6%	1,839	1,839	2%
7	Chatsworth	1	1,777	1,777	4%	1,799	1,799	0%
8	Darley Dale	3	5,258	1,753	3%	5,523	1,841	2%
9	Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington	1	1,888	1,888	10%	1,912	1,912	6%
10	Doveridge & Sudbury	1	1,634	1,634	-4%	1,948	1,948	8%

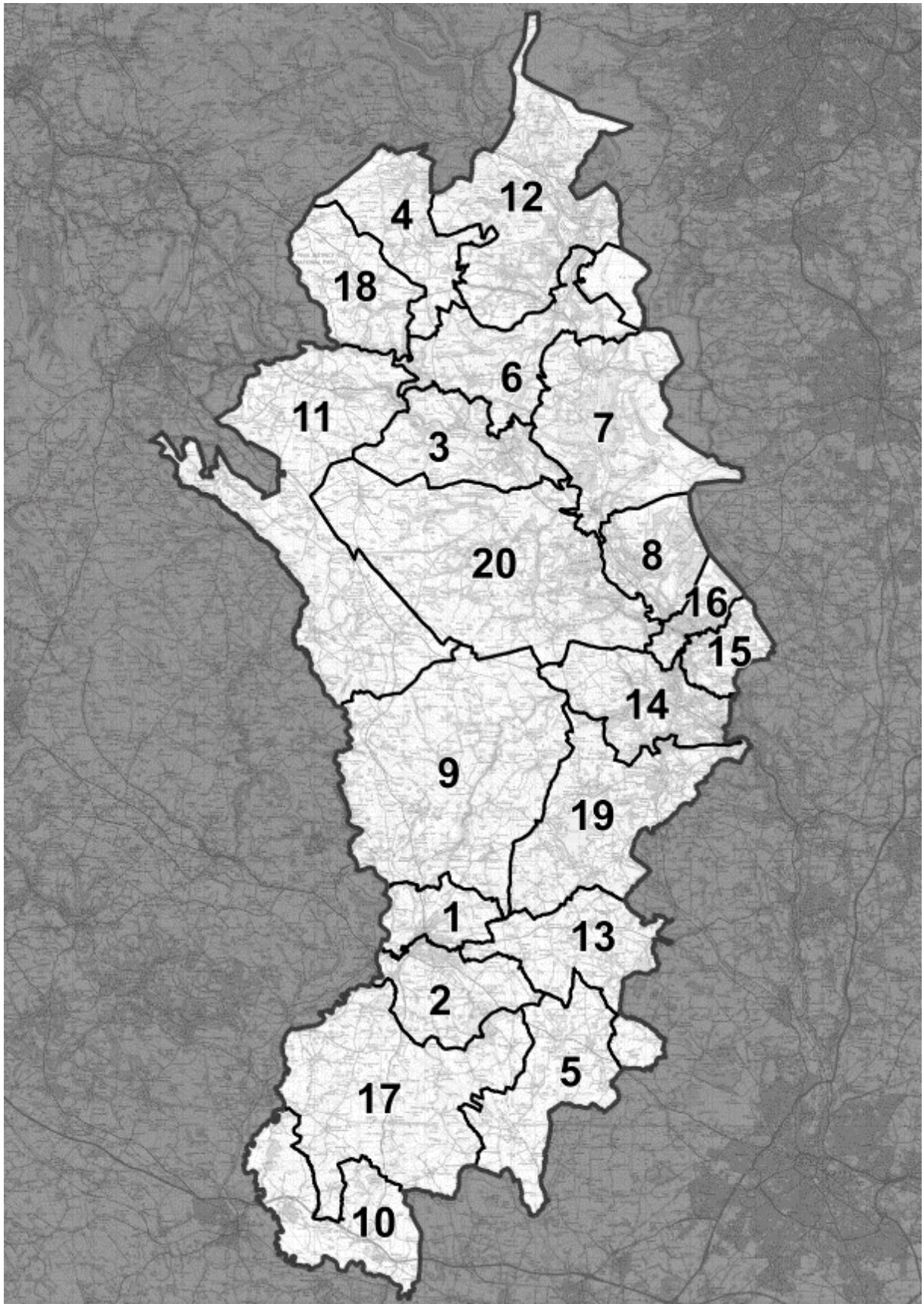
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11	Hartington & Taddington	1	1,734	1,734	1%	1,754	1,754	-3%
12	Hathersage	2	3,619	1,810	6%	3,662	1,831	1%
13	Hulland	1	1,419	1,419	-17%	1,638	1,638	-9%
14	Masson	2	3,221	1,611	-6%	3,259	1,630	-10%
15	Matlock East & Tansley	2	3,553	1,777	4%	3,765	1,883	4%
16	Matlock West	3	5,328	1,776	4%	5,828	1,943	8%
17	Norbury	1	1,795	1,795	5%	1,886	1,886	4%
18	Tideswell	1	1,894	1,894	11%	1,916	1,916	6%
19	Wirksworth & Carsington Water	3	5,078	1,693	-1%	5,206	1,735	-4%
20	Youlgrave	2	3,432	1,716	0%	3,472	1,736	-4%
	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	Bradwell
5	Brailsford
6	Calver & Longstone
7	Chatsworth
8	Darley Dale
9	Dovedale, Parwich & Brassington
10	Doveridge & Sudbury
11	Hartington & Taddington
12	Hathersage
13	Hulland
14	Masson
15	Matlock East & Tansley
16	Matlock West
17	Norbury
18	Tideswell
19	Wirksworth & Carsington Water
20	Youlgrave

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 Constituency Labour Party
- Derbyshire Dales Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor M. Burfoot (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor G. Elliott (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor S. Flitter (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor C. Gamble (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor P. O'Brien (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor K. Potter (Rowlsey Parish Council)
- Councillor G. Purdy (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor P. Slack (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor A. Sutton (Derbyshire Dales District Council)
- Councillor R. Webster (Beeley Parish Council)
- Councillor S. Wain (Derbyshire Dales District Council)

Local Organisations

- Matlock Civic Association

Parish and Town Councils

- Abney & Abney Grange, Highlow & Offerton Parish Meeting
- Ashbourne Town Council
- Ballidon & Bradbourne Parish Council
- Bonsall Parish Council
- Edlaston & Wyaston Parish Council
- Fenny Bentley Parish Council
- Grindleford Parish Council
- Harthill Parish Meeting
- Hathersage Parish Council
- Matlock Town Council
- Middleton Parish Council

- Middleton & Smerrill Parish Council
- Northwood & Tinkersley Parish Council
- Osmaston & Yeldersley Parish Council
- Over Haddon Parish Council
- Rowsley Parish Council
- South Darley Parish Council
- Stoney Middleton Parish Council
- Tansley Parish Council
- Thorpe Parish Council
- Tissington & Lea Hall Parish Council
- Youlgrave Parish Council

Local Residents

- 165 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
England
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50 Victoria Street, London
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