

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Norwich City Council

Electoral review

November 2018

Translations and other formats

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. 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.

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

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

Why Norwich?

4 We are conducting a review of Norwich City Council as the value of each vote in city council elections varies depending on where you live in Norwich. 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.

Our proposals for Norwich

- Norwich should be represented by 39 councillors, the same number as there are now.
- Norwich should have 13 wards, the same number as there are now.
- The boundaries of 12 wards should change; Sewell will stay the same.

5 **We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Norwich.**

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹

7 The members of the Commission are:

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

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Norwich 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 city.

What is an electoral review?

9 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

10 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Norwich. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the city. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
23 January 2018	Number of councillors decided
30 January 2018	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
9 April 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 July 2018	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
10 September 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
6 November 2018	Publication of final recommendations

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 or town council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 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.

15 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.

16 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.

	2018	2023
Electorate of Norwich	101,380	109,823
Number of councillors	39	39
Average number of electors per councillor	2,599	2,816

17 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 Norwich will have good electoral equality by 2023.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the city 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.

Submissions received

19 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 8% by 2023. This increase is due to development taking place in Mancroft and Thorpe Hamlet wards.

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.

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

Number of councillors

22 Norwich City Council currently has 39 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will make sure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We received a submission on the number of councillors from the Green Party Group. They proposed that Norwich would be best served by 39 councillors. However, their submission was mainly concerned with changing the electoral cycle for Norwich from thirds to four-yearly all-out elections which we are unable to consider in the scope of this review.

24 As Norwich City Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁴ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that applying such a pattern in a particular area of the authority would be inconsistent with satisfying the statutory criteria.

25 During our consultation on the draft recommendations we received identical submissions from both a local resident and a local organisation about the number of councillors in Norwich. This submission proposed to delay the council elections in 2019 and re-start the review, thereby allowing us to consider a change in the number of councillors. We are unable to adopt this proposal.

26 We have maintained a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards represented by 39 councillors as part of our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 30 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four detailed city-wide proposals from the Norwich City Council Labour Group ('the Labour Group'), Norwich City Council Green Party Group ('the Green Party Group'), Norwich Conservatives and a local resident. The scheme from the Labour Group was supported by a local MP. It also had support from the Norwich City Council Liberal Democrat Group ('the Liberal Democrat Group'), with the exception of some minor amendments in Thorpe Hamlet, Sewell and Crome. All were based on a pattern of 13 wards to be represented by 39 elected members.

28 During the course of formulating our draft recommendations, we encountered some small anomalies between the electoral register supplied by the Council and the electorate proforma across each polling district. After consulting the Council, they confirmed that the discrepancies were registered electors that lived overseas or did

⁴ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

not have fixed addresses. The electoral forecast was therefore amended, with the Council's agreement, so that the figures in each polling district only took into account electors that were of fixed address within the polling district. Each of the schemes and submissions that we received at that stage were re-considered against the amended electoral forecast.

29 Also, ahead of publishing our draft recommendations, we received a number of submissions regarding the forecast electorate around the University of East Anglia campus area, particularly with regards to the polling district UN2. The respondents felt that the current electorate figure of 141 was too low, and instead proposed that either a variable figure based on monthly fluctuations in the student population or that a figure of around 1,000 electors would be more appropriate.

30 We accept that forecasting is an inexact science, however, we will always endeavour to use the best figures available to us at the time. We discussed the electorate figures at length with the Council, who were confident that those published were accurate and fit for purpose based on the timeline we made available. We are therefore not proposing to alter the electorate figures for the polling district UN2.

31 The city-wide schemes received from the political groups on the Council and Norwich Conservatives each provided for a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Norwich. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that the proposed ward boundaries would mainly have good levels of electoral equality. We also considered that they generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. The scheme from the local resident did not use the agreed electorate figures and subsequently did not have good electoral equality.

32 Our draft recommendations were based therefore on a combination of the city-wide proposals that we received. In some areas of the city we took into account local evidence that we received, describing established community links and locally recognised boundaries. However, where we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria, we identified alternative boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Norwich helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

33 Our draft recommendations were for 13 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

34 We received 82 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included responses from the Council and its political groups: the Labour Group, the Green Party Group and the Liberal Democrat Group. In addition, we received submissions from an MP, who supported the Labour Group's response, Norwich Conservatives and 67 local residents. Almost half of the submissions that we received opposed our draft recommendations for the boundary

between Town Close and Lakenham wards. Other submissions focussed on specific areas, particularly our proposals for the St Augustines area of Mancroft.

35 A local resident and a local organisation made identical submissions that proposed a uniform pattern of 14 three-councillor wards across the city, based on 42 councillors. We did not feel that sufficient evidence was provided to increase the number of councillors from our minded-to decision of 39–42 and therefore did not adopt this proposal. As an alternative to this proposal, the submissions proposed a mixed pattern of 18–20 two- and three-councillor wards based solely on local communities. As discussed in paragraph 24, as Norwich elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria. We were not minded to adopt this proposal based on the evidence received, but did, where possible, draw from the community-based evidence the submissions provided in making our final recommendations.

36 A local resident made a representation that all city council wards proposed as part of this electoral review should remain wholly coincident with Norfolk County Council's electoral divisions so that residents voting in one city council ward do not vote in a different county council division. However, due to increases in the electorate across the city, it has not been possible to retain coterminous boundaries. We have, however, tried to reflect the county divisions as closely as possible.

37 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations but with modifications to the boundaries in Catton Grove, Crome, Mancroft, Mile Cross, Sewell and Thorpe Hamlet wards. Also, to the boundaries of Town Close, Lakenham and Eaton wards. We are proposing some further minor modifications to the boundaries between Eaton and Town Close and University and Nelson. All changes reflect the evidence received.

Final recommendations

38 Pages 10–21 detail our final recommendations for each area of Norwich. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

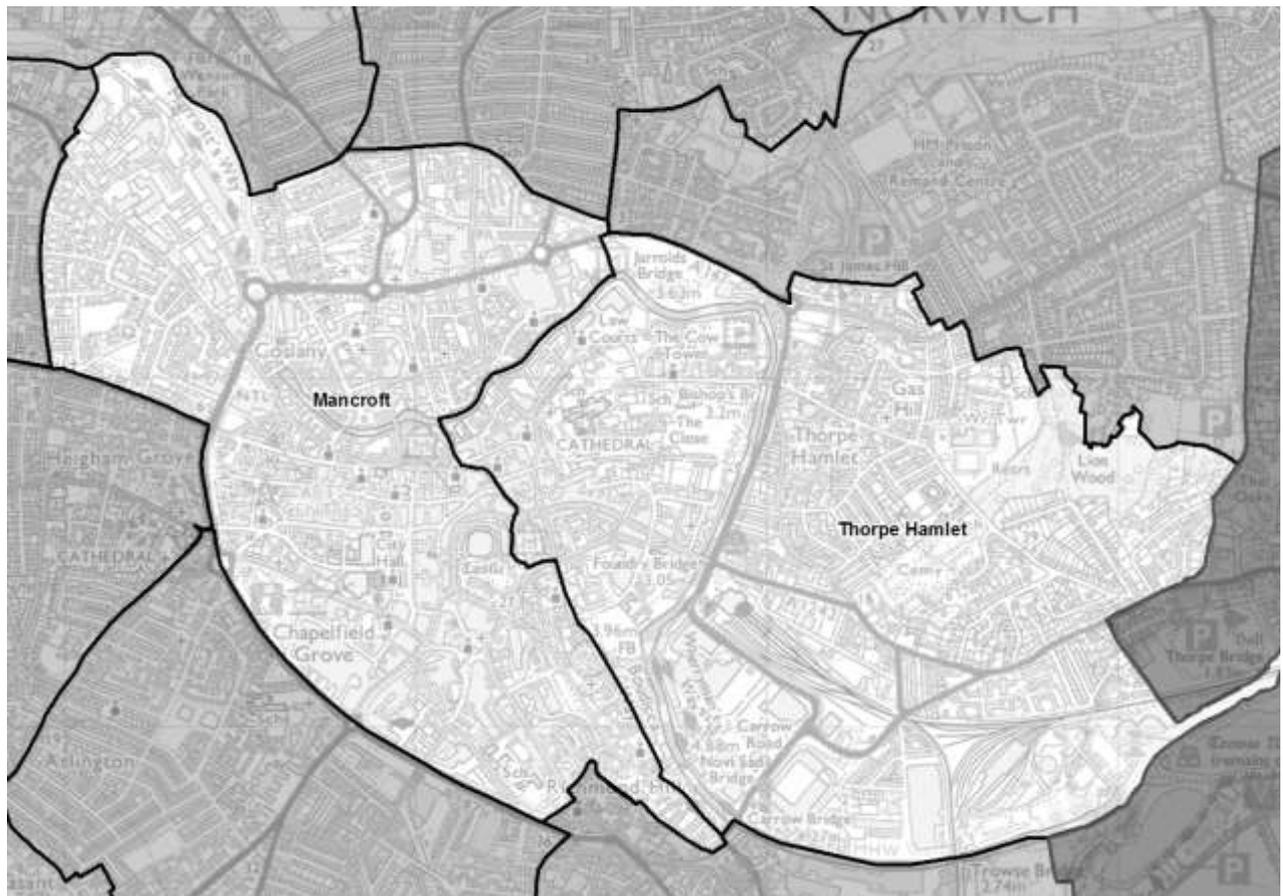
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

39 Our final recommendations are for 13 three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

40 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 24–5 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Mancroft and Thorpe Hamlet



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Mancroft	3	3%
Thorpe Hamlet	3	9%

Mancroft and Thorpe Hamlet

41 Mancroft and Thorpe Hamlet wards in their current form are forecast to have significantly higher than the average electors per councillor for Norwich, at 22% and 36% respectively. We therefore need to move some electors out of these wards to secure a better level of electoral equality for the future.

42 Our draft recommendations in Mancroft proposed to move the northern boundary south to St Crispins Road. Electors south of St Martins At Oak Wall Lane, west of St Augustines Street and east of the River Wensum were moved into our draft Mile Cross ward. This had been suggested by both the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups on the Council. We also proposed to move electors south of Magpie Road and Bull Close Road, east of St Augustines Street into our draft Sewell ward to improve electoral equality in Mancroft.

43 We received 22 submissions regarding this area following our consultation on the draft recommendations. These were from the Council, the political groups on the council, Clive Lewis MP, Cathedral Magdalen & St Augustine's Forum, Mile Cross Community Festival Committee, the Mancroft Ward Branch of Norwich Labour Party and 13 local residents. We also received notification of a petition started by the St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association. All of the submissions strongly opposed the draft recommendations outlined above.

44 They cited strong evidence that the area around St Augustines Street should not be split across two wards. Evidence was given as to a strong and coherent community identity, arguing that the area within the gyratory and St Augustine's Church Hall should remain within the same ward, as these serve as local community facilities. The respondents stated that our draft recommendations not only split a community but also moved it out of a ward with which it has historic links. Electors around St Augustines are culturally, economically and socially orientated towards the city centre and not the more suburban wards of Mile Cross and Sewell. Lastly, the respondents argued that the current ward boundary which follows the line of the medieval city wall has always been the historic boundary between the city and its outlying suburbs.

45 Based on the evidence received, we are persuaded that our draft boundary in the northern area of our Mancroft ward does not offer the best balance of our statutory criteria. We are therefore proposing to retain the current ward boundary with Mile Cross and Sewell, retaining all electors in St Augustines in the Mancroft ward.

46 The electoral variances in Mile Cross and Sewell wards move from 3% and 9% to -3% and -3% respectively. However, moving this northern boundary of Mancroft results in poor electoral equality for this ward at 25%, so we looked at alternative proposals to reduce the number of electors.

47 The submission from the Labour Group on the Council stated that they supported moving electors in Bargate Court, the eastern side of Charlton Road and a small number of houses on the southern side of Bull Close Road into Sewell ward, from Mancroft. The submission did not provide any evidence to support this. Based

on the evidence received in other submissions stating that the historic city wall is a strong and identifiable boundary, we are not minded to adopt this proposal.

48 We received submissions from the Labour Group and Mancroft Ward Branch of Norwich Labour Party that suggested moving electors in the southern part of the ward around Finkelgate, Ber Street, Golden Ball Street, Rouen Road and Music House Lane from Mancroft ward into Lakenham ward. They argued that electors living here likely shared a common identity with electors in a more suburban ward like Lakenham than with a city centre ward such as Mancroft. They also argued that this area was part of Lakenham ward prior to the previous electoral review in 2002.

49 While moving electors in this area would result in fair electoral equality in Mancroft at 9%, we were of the opinion, based on evidence received in other submissions, that electors in this area considered themselves to be more city-centre oriented and were not persuaded to move them into a Lakenham ward. We do, however, propose to move the electors south of Finkelgate and Mariners Lane, in the Carrow Hill area, and Paper Mill Yard into a Lakenham ward. This proposal was also supported by the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups on the Council during our consultation on warding patterns. Moving electors in the Carrow Hill area still means that Mancroft ward would have an estimated 19% more electors than the average for Norwich by 2023.

50 In order to improve the electoral imbalance in Mancroft, we are proposing to move the eastern ward boundary from the river onto King Street between Rose Lane in the north and Carrow Road to the south. The electors in this area will move from our draft Mancroft ward to our final Thorpe Hamlet ward. This proposal was supported by the Liberal Democrat Group response to our draft recommendations. They argued that the river does not represent a strong boundary here with both road and footbridge crossings and that a significant number of residents here use the shopping facilities around Carrow Road. Electors in Argyle Street, Stuart Road and Alan Road that access the rest of their ward via Rouen Road and King Street are proposed to remain in Mancroft ward.

51 We had previously received some limited evidence that electors in this area might consider themselves to be part of the city centre. We did not receive any further feedback following consultation but have tried to minimise the extent of the changes here, basing our proposals on evidence received.

52 We received one submission from a local resident who objected to our proposal to retain the industrial estate located north of Heigham Street in a Mancroft ward. It was argued that the potential for housing development in this area may lead to significant electoral inequality in Mancroft in the future. Development proposed for beyond 2023 is outside the scope of this review and we are therefore proposing to keep this area in our final Mancroft ward.

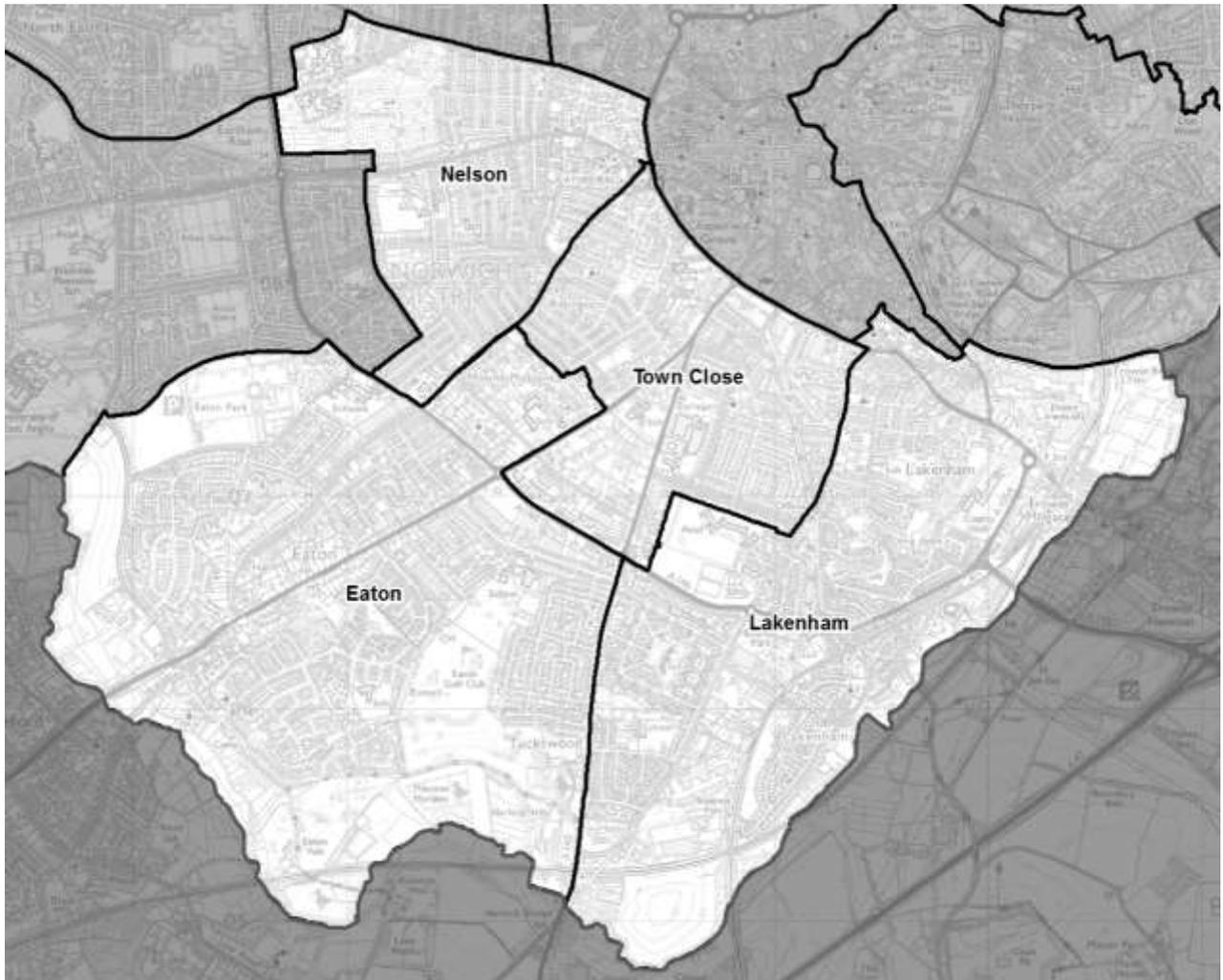
53 We received two submissions proposing a minor amendment to the boundary between our draft Thorpe Hamlet and Crome wards from the Labour Group and a local resident. They both argued that the south-western boundary between Crome and Thorpe Hamlet should run along Barrack Street and not the river. The Labour Group suggested this on the basis that the electors between the river and Barrack

Street share similar characteristics to electors in Thorpe Hamlet ward as well as sharing a secondary shopping area at Riverside Road. In addition, the local resident argued that this area has very little in common with electors north of Barrack Street. This amendment was opposed by a local resident who felt that electors north of Barrack Street would be better represented in Thorpe Hamlet ward. On balance, we are persuaded by the evidence received to use Barrack Street as the boundary between Crome and Thorpe Hamlet, as opposed to the river.

54 The local resident also suggested that electors in this area should be moved from polling district TH1 to polling district TH4. We are unable to propose changes to the polling district boundaries as part of this review.

55 Mancroft and Thorpe Hamlet wards will both have good electoral equality by 2023.

Eaton, Lakenham, Nelson and Town Close



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Eaton	3	-2%
Lakenham	3	-3%
Nelson	3	5%
Town Close	3	0%

Eaton, Town Close and Lakenham

56 Our draft recommendations for Town Close ward proposed to move the eastern boundary from Hall Road onto Brazen Gate and Lakenham Way footpath. We received conflicting evidence as to the best boundary in this area and, following our tour of the area, acknowledged that either presented a reasonable solution. We therefore asked for feedback on our proposals.

57 Norwich Conservatives and two local residents supported our draft recommendations. However, we also received 42 submissions from a city councillor, a county councillor, the Town Close branch of Norwich Labour Party and 39 local residents that strongly objected to the proposed boundary.

58 Respondents argued that Hall Road was a stronger and more distinguishable boundary than the Lakenham Way footpath, which did not form a natural boundary. It was also argued that the area between Lakenham Way and Hall Road that would become part of Lakenham under our draft recommendations, is organically connected to the rest of Town Close ward, with residents using shops in Grove Road, having children attend schools in Town Close ward, as well as using amenities in the wider Town Close ward.

59 Considering the evidence received, we are persuaded that to use Lakenham Way as a boundary would effectively split the Town Close community. We therefore propose to retain the existing boundary between Town Close and Lakenham along Hall Road, which is clear, visible and makes sense to electors in the local community.

60 We also received representations regarding the Mount Pleasant area of Town Close ward during our consultation. Our draft recommendations had retained the existing ward boundary between Town Close and Eaton wards along Christchurch Road. We received 14 submissions that were in favour of moving the Mount Pleasant and Arlington Lane areas into Eaton ward. The respondents argued that the housing and demographics of Mount Pleasant are more closely aligned with Eaton than Town Close. They also argued that Unthank Road and Newmarket Road already act as strong boundaries either side of this area and that moving electors south of Mount Pleasant into Eaton would make the ward more coherent, as well as improving electoral equality. Town Close would move from an electoral variance of -6% to 0% with Eaton moving from an electoral variance of -8% to -2%, by 2023. We received four objections to the proposal to move electors in Mount Pleasant into Eaton ward. The respondents predominantly argued against the inclusion of further electors in Eaton on the basis that the ward was already geographically large.

61 We visited both Christchurch Road and Mount Pleasant on our tour of Norwich and felt that both proposals offered a strong boundary. However, based on the evidence received, we feel that using Mount Pleasant as a boundary offers a better balance of our statutory criteria.

62 We received 43 submissions in response to our draft Lakenham ward, predominantly responding to our draft recommendations for the boundary with Town Close. We are also proposing to make a slight amendment to the northern boundary, where it meets Mancroft ward. We received evidence, as discussed further in

paragraph 48, to include the electors south of Finklegate and Mariners Lane around Lily Terrace and Foulgers Opening in a Lakenham rather than Mancroft ward. This unites The Wilderness open space in a single ward. We also propose to include the electors around the Paper Mill Yard area in a Lakenham ward for reasons of access and to provide for a clearer boundary.

63 Eaton, Town Close and Lakenham wards will all have good electoral equality by 2023.

Nelson

64 We received a submission regarding this ward from a local resident who suggested that we reverse our proposal in the north-west of the ward to include electors in Bond Street, Merton Road and Holly Drive in Nelson, arguing that these roads fit more logically with Wensum. However, to move these electors into Wensum would lead to poor electoral equality in Wensum at 13%. We are therefore not recommending this proposal.

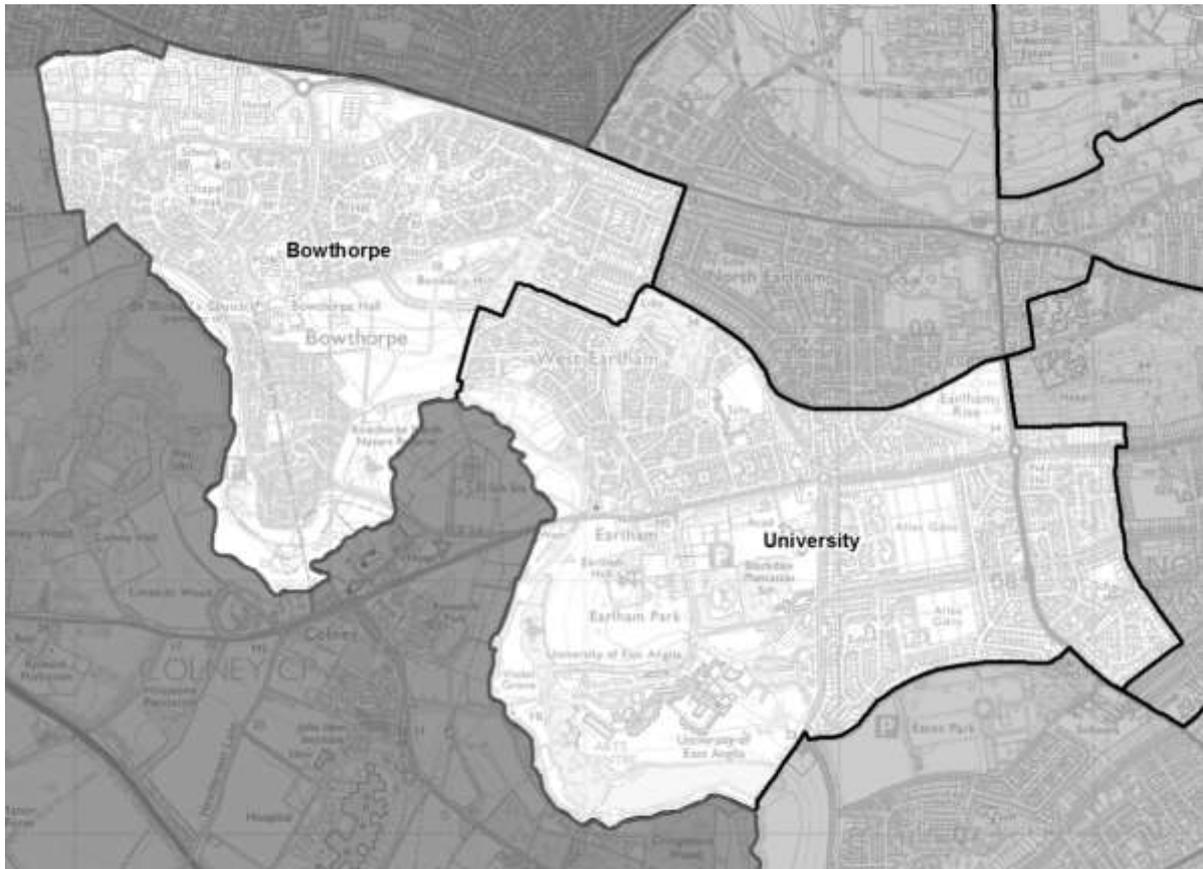
65 We are proposing to make a small modification to part of the western boundary between Nelson and University. The modification will move the electors at 195–223C Earlham Road from University ward back into Nelson. This was supported by the responses from the Green Party Group, the Labour Group and three local residents. The respondents argued that the community here is distinctly part of Nelson ward and uses Earlham shopping centre and post office regularly. Similarly, they argued that electors here have little in common with the wider University ward.

66 We also received a detailed submission from a local resident that suggested an amendment to the south-western ward boundary between Nelson and University. The submission argued that our proposals in our draft recommendations to include electors in the Highland Road and Muriel Road area in University rather than Nelson ward did not accurately reflect the community identity here. The submission stated that residents in this area have much more in common with Nelson, with similar Victorian terraced housing. It also argued that there was a distinction between electors here and those in the neighbouring roads of Meadow Rise Avenue, Meadow Rise Close and Meadow Rise Road who should remain in University ward as they look more towards the shops and amenities on Colman Road.

67 The resident's submission also objected to the inclusion of the electors in the Heigham Grove area in Nelson ward. It argued that they should be in Mancroft. However, to do so would lead to poor electoral equality in Mancroft at 16%. We are not persuaded by the evidence to adopt such a high variance for Mancroft and do not propose to amend the boundary accordingly. Heigham Grove will remain in our final Nelson ward.

68 Nelson ward will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Bowthorpe and University



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Bowthorpe	3	-10%
University	3	-8%

Bowthorpe

69 Our draft Bowthorpe ward was based on the proposal submitted by Norwich Conservatives, with a small modification to include Bunker's Hill. Most of the submissions that we received expressed support for our draft Bowthorpe ward, which would have a projected electoral variance of -10% by 2023.

70 The Labour Group noted that they were concerned that Bowthorpe would have 20% fewer voters than our draft Sewell ward, which had a projected electoral variance of 10%. They argued that to have such extreme variance in electors might be viewed as poor electoral equality, a view which was echoed in a submission from a local resident.

71 The Commission, however, considers any wards that have an electoral variance of within $\pm 10\%$ of the average for the authority to have good electoral equality. We are content that our proposed boundaries in Bowthorpe offer the best balance of our statutory criteria. Our final recommendations for Sewell are such that the ward will have a lower electoral variance than proposed at draft, at -3%.

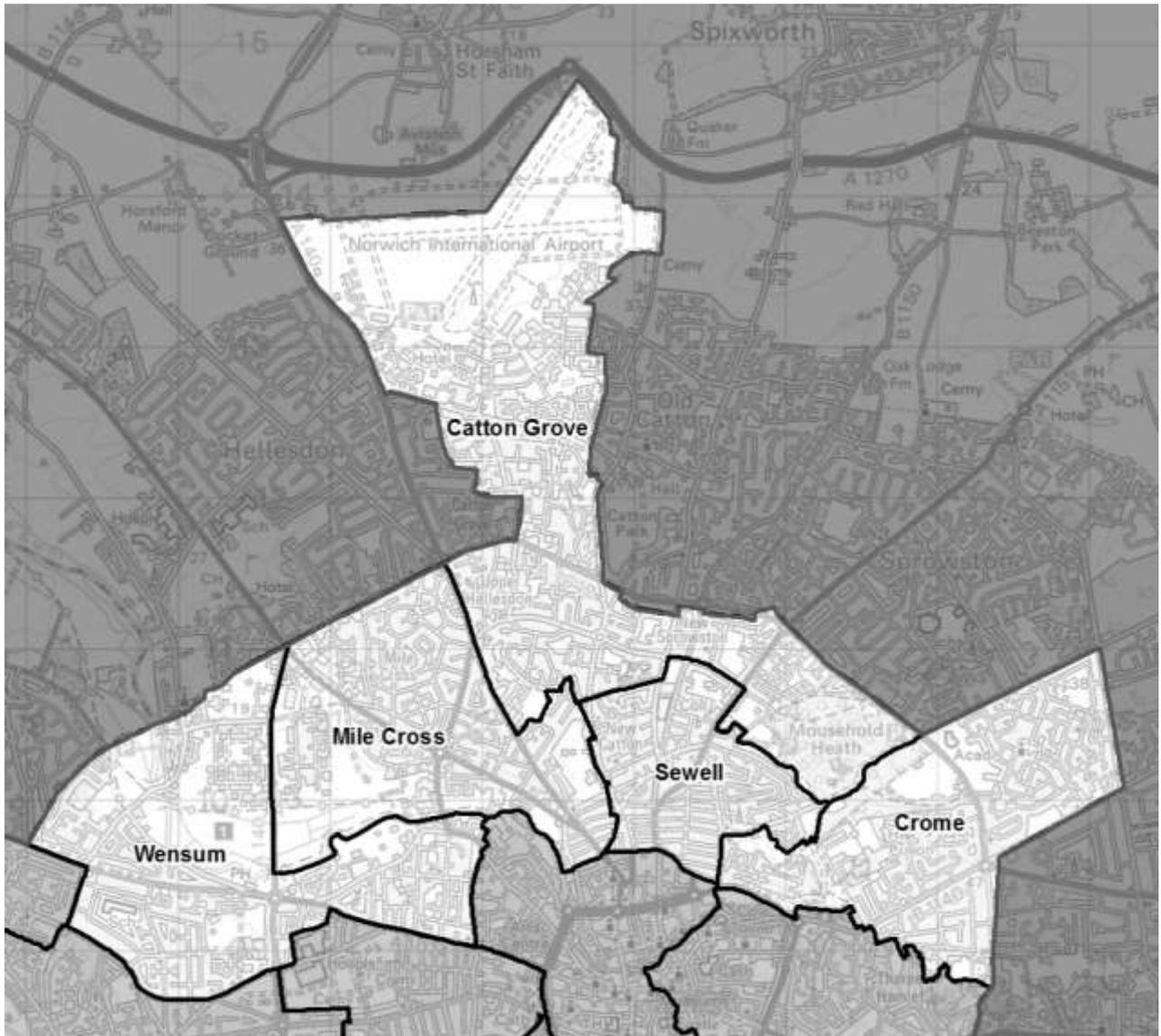
72 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations in Bowthorpe as final.

University

73 We received general support for our University ward and as such our final recommendations are based on our draft recommendations, with two amendments to the eastern boundary between University and Nelson as discussed above in paragraphs 65–6.

74 University will have good electoral equality by 2023.

North Norwich



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Catton Grove	3	2%
Crome	3	3%
Mile Cross	3	-3%
Sewell	3	-3%
Wensum	3	7%

Catton Grove, Mile Cross and Sewell

75 As a consequence of retaining the St Augustines area in Mancroft, our final recommendations in Sewell are to retain the existing ward boundaries.

76 We received a submission from the Labour Group, proposing to include electors in Bargate Court, the eastern side of Charlton Road and a small number of houses on the southern side of Bull Close Road in Sewell ward. As discussed in paragraph 47, we believe retaining the existing ward boundary following the medieval city wall to be both strong and identifiable. We are therefore not adopting this proposal.

77 The Council's response to our draft recommendations suggested two minor amendments to the boundary of Mile Cross and Catton Grove wards, to include all electors in Eglington Mews and Boston Street within Mile Cross ward, for reasons of access. We have adopted this proposal.

78 We received no other submissions relating to the boundaries of Catton Grove.

79 Sewell, Mile Cross and Catton Grove wards will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Wensum

80 We received general support for our draft Wensum ward, particularly our proposal to bring electors in Armes Street, Northumberland Street, Nelson Street and the surrounding roads into one ward.

81 We received a submission from a local resident who suggested that we reverse our proposal to move electors in Bond Street, Merton Road and Holly Drive from Wensum into Nelson. As discussed in paragraph 64, we are not adopting this proposal as it would lead to poor electoral equality in Wensum.

82 We therefore confirm our draft Wensum ward as final. Wensum will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Crome

83 Our Crome ward continues to reflect our draft recommendations, but with a minor amendment to the south-eastern boundary. Respondents argued that the area south of Barrack Street should be moved to a Thorpe Hamlet ward. This is discussed further in paragraph 53.

84 Crome will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Conclusions

85 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2018 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2018	2023
Number of councillors	39	39
Number of electoral wards	13	13
Average number of electors per councillor	2,599	2,816
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Norwich City Council should be made up of 39 councillors serving 13 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Norwich.

You can also view our final recommendations for Norwich on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

3 What happens next?

86 We have now completed our review of Norwich. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2019.

Equalities

87 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.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Norwich City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bowthorpe	3	6,895	2,298	-12%	7,601	2,534	-10%
2	Catton Grove	3	8,168	2,723	5%	8,599	2,866	2%
3	Crome	3	8,382	2,794	7%	8,720	2,907	3%
4	Eaton	3	7,813	2,604	0%	8,242	2,747	-2%
5	Lakenham	3	7,756	2,585	-1%	8,202	2,734	-3%
6	Mancroft	3	6,808	2,269	-13%	8,667	2,889	3%
7	Mile Cross	3	7,873	2,624	1%	8,235	2,745	-3%
8	Nelson	3	8,413	2,804	8%	8,851	2,950	5%
9	Sewell	3	7,842	2,614	1%	8,211	2,737	-3%
10	Thorpe Hamlet	3	7,124	2,375	-9%	9,211	3,070	9%
11	Town Close	3	8,174	2,725	5%	8,482	2,827	0%
12	University	3	7,559	2,520	-3%	7,796	2,599	-8%

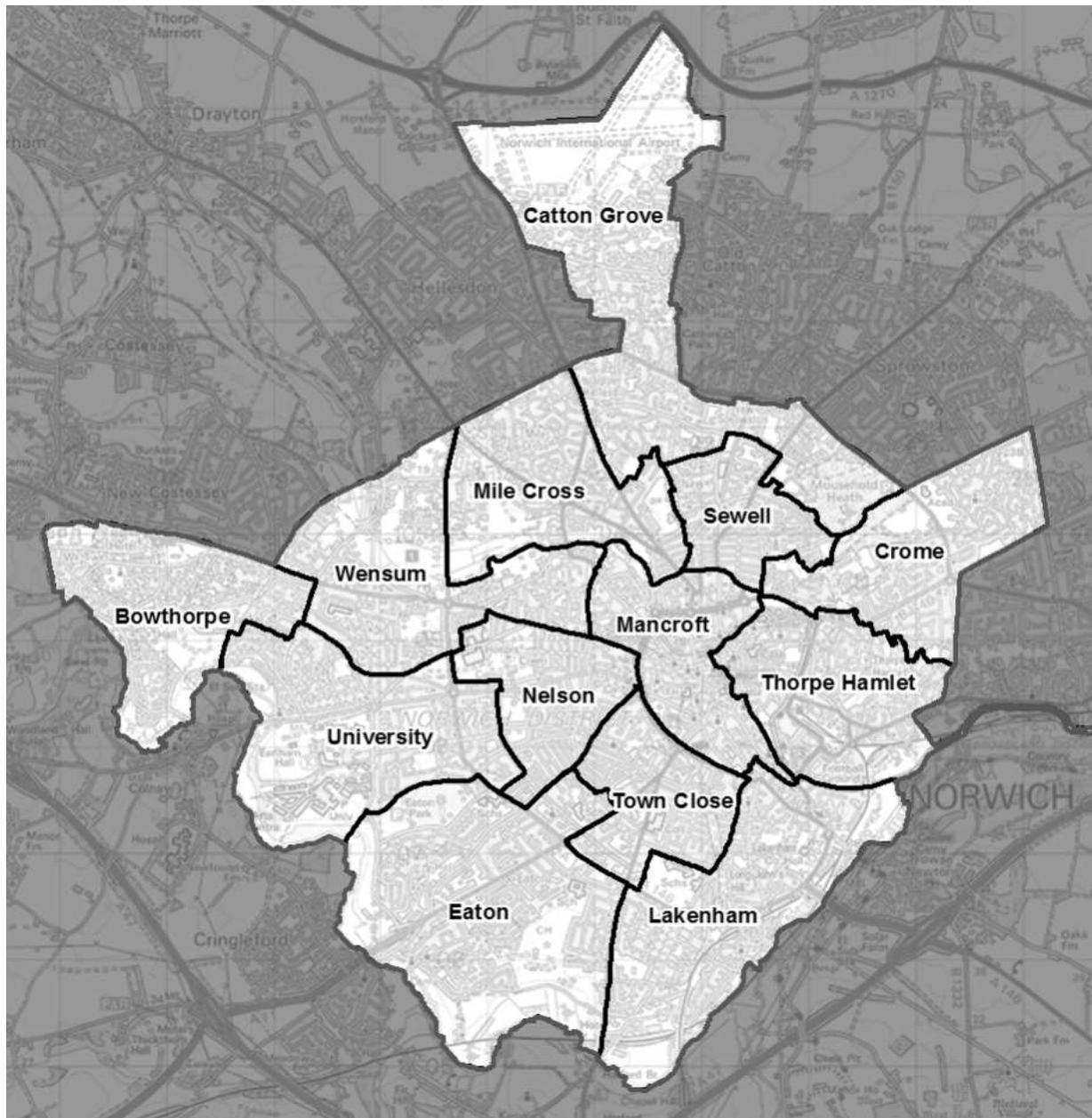
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Wensum	3	8,573	2,858	10%	9,006	3,002	7%
Totals	39	101,380	-	-	109,823	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,599	-	-	2,816	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Norwich City 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 city. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/norfolk/norwich

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/norfolk/norwich

Local Authority

- Norwich City Council

Political Groups

- Norwich Conservatives
- Norwich City Council Labour Group
- Norwich City Council Liberal Democrat Group
- Norwich City Council Green Party Group
- Norwich Labour Party
- Norwich Labour Party – Mancroft Ward Branch
- Norwich Labour Party – Town Close Branch

Councillors

- Councillor I. Stutely (Norwich City Council)
- Councillor E. Corlett (Norfolk County Council)

Member of Parliament

- Clive Lewis MP (Norwich South)

Local Organisations

- Cathedral Magdalen & St Augustine's Forum
- Norfolk Constabulary
- Mile Cross Community Festival

Local Residents

- 67 local residents

Petition

- St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association

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
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