

Have your say:

We are now consulting local people on a new pattern of wards for Halton Borough Council. We have an open mind about our final recommendations, and we will consider every piece of evidence we receive from local groups and people, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole council area or just a part of it.

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

Halton Borough Council

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements

We aim to propose a pattern of wards for Halton Borough Council which delivers:

- **Electoral equality:** each 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.

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.

- **Facilities:** does your pattern of wards reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc?
- **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?

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?

Useful tips:

- Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at consultation.lgbce.org.uk.
- We publish all submissions we receive on our website. Go to: www.lgbce.org.uk

Electoral equality:

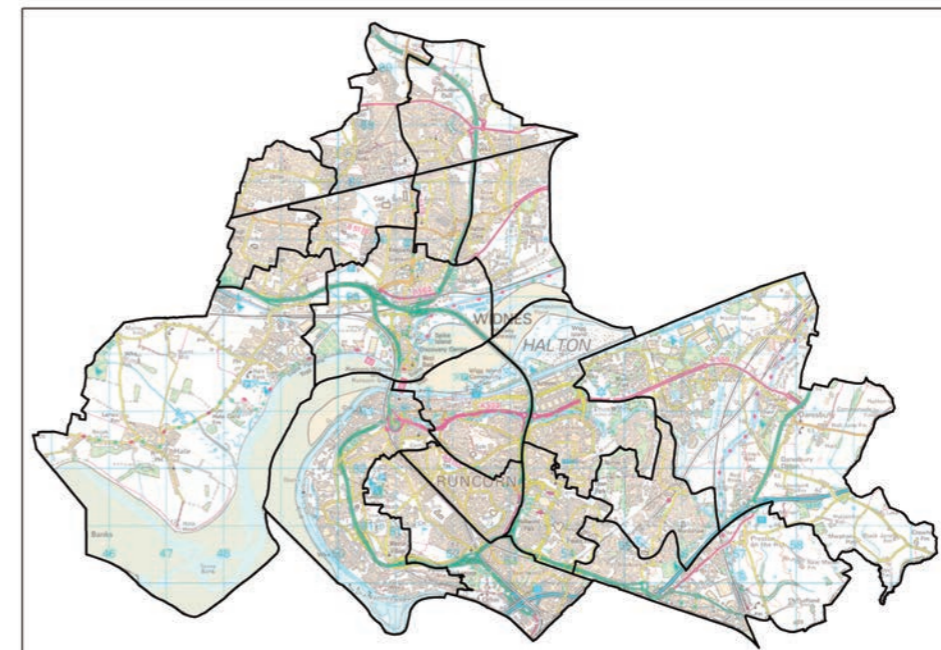
- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in the council area?

Community identity:

- **Transport links:** are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?
- **Community groups:** is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?

Write to:
Review Officer (Halton)
LGBCE
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0TL

Our consultation area:
consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Email:
reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Twitter:
@LGBCE



Who we are:

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England 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.
- Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review:

- An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority, including:
- The total number of councillors representing the council's voters ('council size').
 - The names, number and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
 - The number of councillors for each ward or division.

Why Halton?

- Halton Borough Council currently has high levels of electoral inequality: some councillors represent many more- or many fewer- voters than others
- Therefore the value of your vote, in Halton Borough Council elections, varies depending on where you live in Halton.

Our proposals:

- Halton currently has **56** councillors
- We propose that the council should have **54** councillors in future, representing 18 three-councillor wards across the council area.

You have until 11 February 2019 to have your say on the recommendations

Summary of our recommendations

Our review of Halton's electoral arrangements was triggered by the large amount of housing development in the northern part of Widnes in recent years, which has led to a high level of electoral inequality. We note that in the next few years, Daresbury and Sandymoor will similarly see large numbers of new houses which will, again, have adverse effects on electoral fairness. Our draft recommendations address both the legacy of development in Widnes and the implications of future development south of the river.

In our draft recommendations, we propose that Halton Borough Council should have **54 councillors**. This is a reduction by two from the current total. Although we received proposals for a much lower number of councillors, we were not persuaded that the council could function effectively with the lower numbers suggested. Our proposal for 54 councillors means we can recommend that the borough is divided into **18 three-councillor wards**. This matters because local elections are held in three years out of four, and for a third of the councillors at a time.

Our draft recommendation is that Widnes and the borough's parishes north of the River Mersey will have a total of 27 borough councillors divided into nine wards. Runcorn and the parishes south of the Mersey will have the same total number, also divided into nine wards.

Our recommendations for ward boundaries are based on the proposals we received from the Borough Council and others, together with observations we made when we went around the borough, looking at the suitability of proposed and potential ward boundaries.

An outline of the proposals is shown in the map to the right. A detailed report on the recommendations and interactive mapping is available on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk.

We welcome comments on our draft recommendations, whether you support the proposals or wish to put forward alternative arrangements.

In particular, we welcome proposals for alternative boundaries or ward names which meet the criteria we must follow as part of electoral reviews and which are described in more detail over the page.

Have your say at consultation.lgbce.org.uk:

- view the map of our recommendations down to street level.
- draw your own boundaries online.
- zoom into the areas that interest you most.
- find more guidance on how to have your say.
- read the full report of our recommendations.
- send us your views directly.

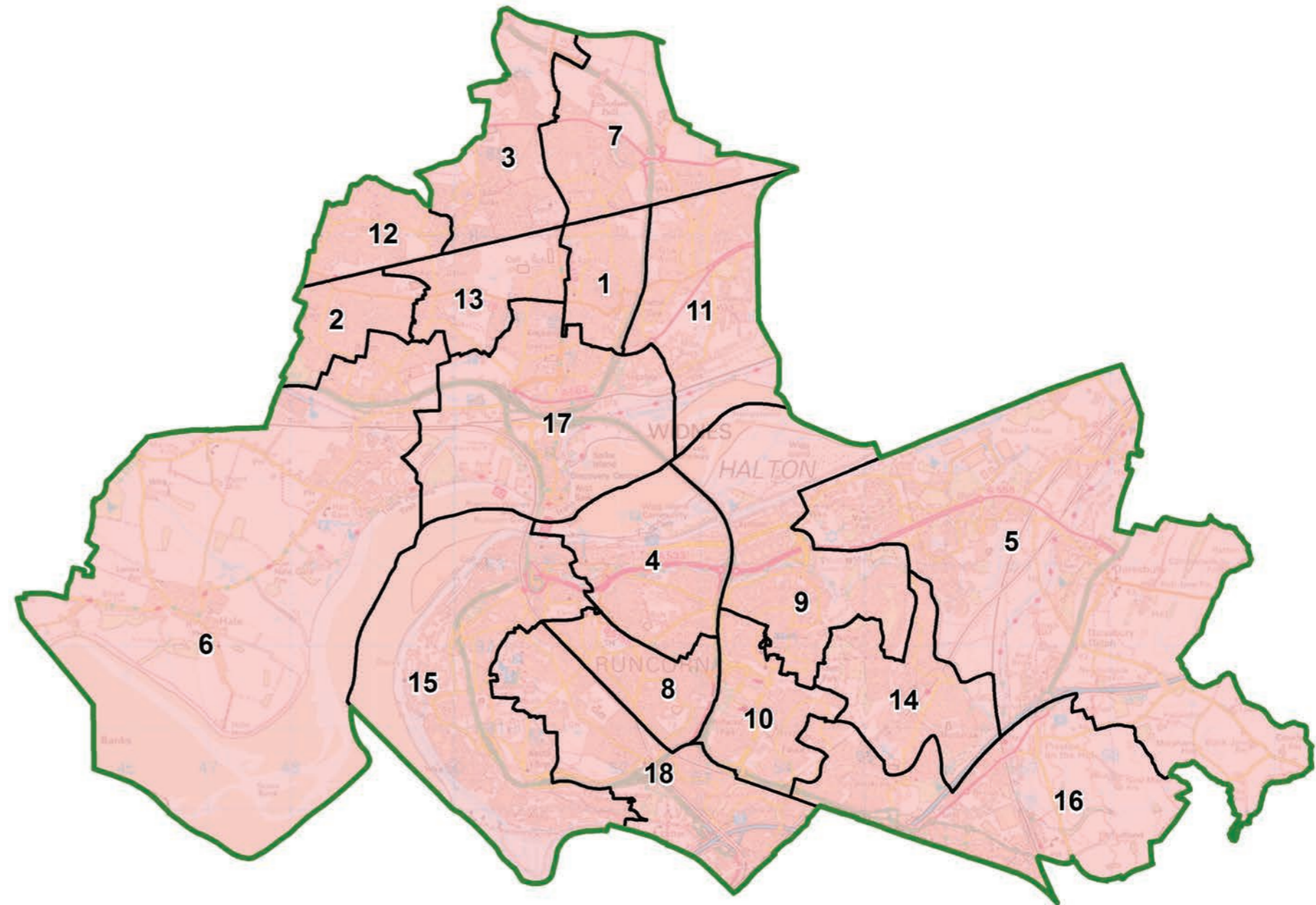
Stage of review	Description
26 June 2018- 3 September 2018	Public consultation on warding arrangements
4 December 2018- 11 February 2019	Public consultation on draft recommendations
26 March 2019	Publication of final recommendations
May 2020	Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at local elections

Overview of draft recommendations for Halton Borough Council

View this map online and draw your own boundaries: consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Follow the review on Twitter: [@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)

If you are viewing this page online, click on the map to go straight to our interactive consultation area.



Key:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Appleton Chadwick | 10. Halton Lea |
| 2. Bankfield | 11. Halton View |
| 3. Birchfield | 12. Hough Green |
| 4. Bridgewater | 13. Kingsway Heath |
| 5. Daresbury, Moore & Sandymoor | 14. Norton |
| 6. Ditton Hale Village & Halebank | 15. Old Town & Weston Point |
| 7. Farnworth | 16. Preston Brook & Vale |
| 8. Grange | 17. Riverside, Town & St Michaels |
| 9. Halton Castle & Windmill Hill | 18. South Runcorn |

Three-councillor ward

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