

New electoral arrangements for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Final recommendations

July 2018

Translations and other formats

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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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 Windsor and Maidenhead?

4 We are conducting a review of Windsor and Maidenhead at the request of the Council in order to examine the appropriate number of councillors to represent the area. The value of each vote in borough elections varies depending on where you live in Windsor and Maidenhead. 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 Windsor and Maidenhead

- Windsor and Maidenhead should be represented by 41 councillors, 16 fewer than there are now.
- Windsor and Maidenhead should have 19 wards, four fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of all but five of the existing wards will change.

5 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Windsor and Maidenhead.

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 Windsor and Maidenhead 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 borough.

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 Windsor and Maidenhead. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 September 2017	Number of councillors decided
26 September 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
4 December 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
6 March 2018	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
7 May 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
10 July 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.

	2017	2023
Electorate of Windsor and Maidenhead	108,893	118,838
Number of councillors	41	41
Average number of electors per councillor	2,656	2,898

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 Windsor and Maidenhead will have good electoral equality by 2023.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough 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 9% by 2023.

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 At the end of the consultation on warding arrangements, we noted that the forecast figures used by the Council did not appear to reflect the previously agreed forecast numbers by polling district. Specifically, while the overall forecast figure for the borough remained the same, when we examined each polling district, we found there had been a significant reallocation of electors between polling districts by the Council.

22 Following discussions with the authority, significant differences were noted. For example, in polling district SA (which is in the Maidenhead area), the Council forecasted a decline of approximately 800 electors over the five years to 2023, whereas in the originally agreed forecast, this area was forecast to see an increase in electors of approximately 300. We understood that the Council had estimated the overall number of houses (including new developments) in each of its proposed wards and applied the average 1.7 electors per household ratio for the borough in every polling district. The application of this ratio resulted in many differences when compared with the originally agreed forecast.

23 We had reservations about this approach, particularly given that the revised forecasts were not grounded in the current electorate per polling district. We also had some reservations in respect of applying the elector per household ratio in the way described by the Council. We concluded that the Council's original electorate forecast agreed at the start of the review was the soundest basis on which to proceed.

24 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, the Council disagreed with our view that they had deviated from the agreed electoral forecasts and considered that the difference in methodology was the reason for the discrepancies in forecast electorate figures. However, we remain of the view that the forecasts agreed at the beginning of the review should be used to formulate our recommendations. Therefore, while we used the Council's scheme as a basis for our recommendations in many places, we have made some significant alterations in certain wards to create a warding pattern that provided for good electoral equality across the borough.

Number of councillors

25 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead currently has 57 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council, and by Hurley Parish Council. We concluded that decreasing the number of councillors by 14 to 43 would make sure that the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

26 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 43 councillors – for example, 43 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

27 When we developed our draft recommendations for Windsor and Maidenhead, we found that a 42-councillor pattern would ensure a more even spread of councillors across the borough than 43 councillors. Therefore, our draft recommendations were based on a 42-councillor council.

28 We received several submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on the draft recommendations. Some submissions disagreed with the reduction in the size of the council, while others proposed alternative council sizes in order to create wards which better reflected community identity. However, during the formulation of our final recommendations, we received strong evidence for us to adopt a 41-councillor warding pattern. In particular, this would enable us to recommend a warding pattern that would ensure improved electoral equality in the south of the borough. Therefore, our final recommendations are based on a 41-councillor council. This approach is consistent with our guidance where we explain that it may be necessary to make a small alteration to council size to secure better and more clearly identifiable boundaries.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 55 submissions to our consultation on wards boundaries. This included one detailed borough-wide proposal from the Council, which was based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 43 elected councillors. We also received partial schemes from the Windsor Conservative Association, Windsor Labour Party, and a local resident. Localised submissions were received from various parish councils, political groups, residents' associations, and local residents.

30 When we formulated our draft recommendations, we decided to use the Council's submission as a basis for our new warding pattern for the area. This was the only full borough-wide scheme we received during the consultation and was supported by evidence of community identities. However, as stated previously, it had become apparent that the Council had used different electorate forecasts to those agreed at the beginning of the review and published online. This meant that the Council's warding pattern did not produce acceptable variances in certain wards. Therefore, while we had used the Council's scheme as a basis for our draft recommendations warding pattern, we made some significant alterations in certain wards to ensure good electoral equality across the borough.

31 In some areas of the borough, we considered alternative proposals received, which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. We also visited the area to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Windsor and Maidenhead helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

32 Our draft recommendations were for four three-councillor wards and 15 two-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we had received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

33 We received 169 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from the Council, political groups, local organisations, parish councils and local residents. The majority of the submissions focused on specific areas – particularly our proposals in Old Windsor. Localised

submissions were made in relation to our Eton and Windsor wards, as well as our proposed wards for the south of the borough.

34 Our final recommendations are broadly based on the draft recommendations with significant modifications to the wards in Old Windsor and the south of the borough. We have also proposed minor modifications to the wards in Maidenhead town to ensure they follow more identifiable boundaries. We have also made minor amendments to some wards to reflect ground detail.

Final recommendations

35 Pages 10–25 detail our final recommendations for each area of Windsor and Maidenhead. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

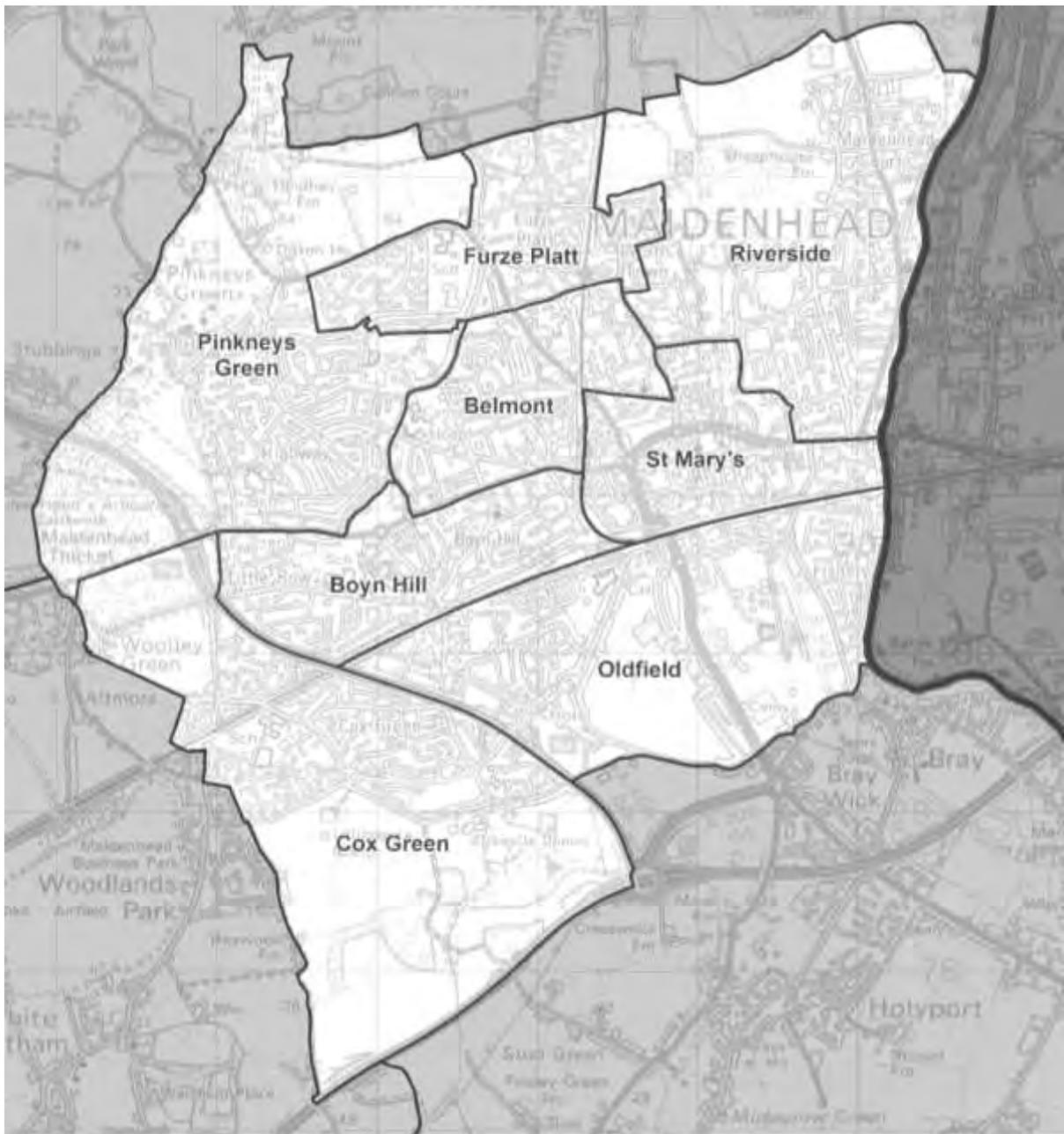
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

36 Our final recommendations are for 16 two-councillor wards and three three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where possible.

37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 26 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Maidenhead town



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Belmont	2	-4%
Boyn Hill	2	-5%
Cox Green	2	4%
Furze Platt	2	5%
Oldfield	2	4%
Pinkneys Green	2	2%
Riverside	2	5%
St Mary's	2	-7%

Belmont, Riverside and St Mary's

38 The Council accepted our Belmont, Riverside and St Mary's wards in their entirety. However, we received two submissions in relation to these proposed wards, from Councillors Love and Mills, and a local resident. Both submissions similarly argued that the area east of the B4447 would be better placed within Riverside ward, as the industrial estate west of the B4447 acts as a barrier to any community attachment between the North Town community and the rest of the Belmont ward. We agree that the B4447 acts as a strong ward boundary for Belmont ward and have adopted this change as part of our final recommendations, meaning that the North Town community and Riverside Primary School will be in Riverside ward.

39 We have also adopted the proposals for a revised St Mary's ward, where we have run the boundary along Ray Mill Road West rather than Kennet Road, to maintain electoral equality between the three wards. In addition, we have adopted the suggestion that the St Mary's ward boundary follows Blackamoor Lane. This will mean electors on Moorfield Terrace would be moved from Riverside ward to St Mary's ward to create a more identifiable boundary.

40 The Maidenhead Labour Party and a local resident suggested that the Riverside and St Mary's wards be named St Mary's North (without) and St Mary's South (within) respectively. We decided to not adopt these ward name changes as we consider the names proposed in our draft recommendations to be more representative of each ward's character.

Boyn Hill

41 Both the Council and a local resident supported our decision to place Boyn Grove Park within Boyn Hill ward. The Council also supported our decision to place Grenfell Park and its surrounding roads within St Mary's ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Boyn Hill ward as final.

Cox Green, Furze Platt and Pinkneys Green

42 The Council supported our draft recommendations for these wards. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Cox Green, Furze Platt and Pinkneys Green as final.

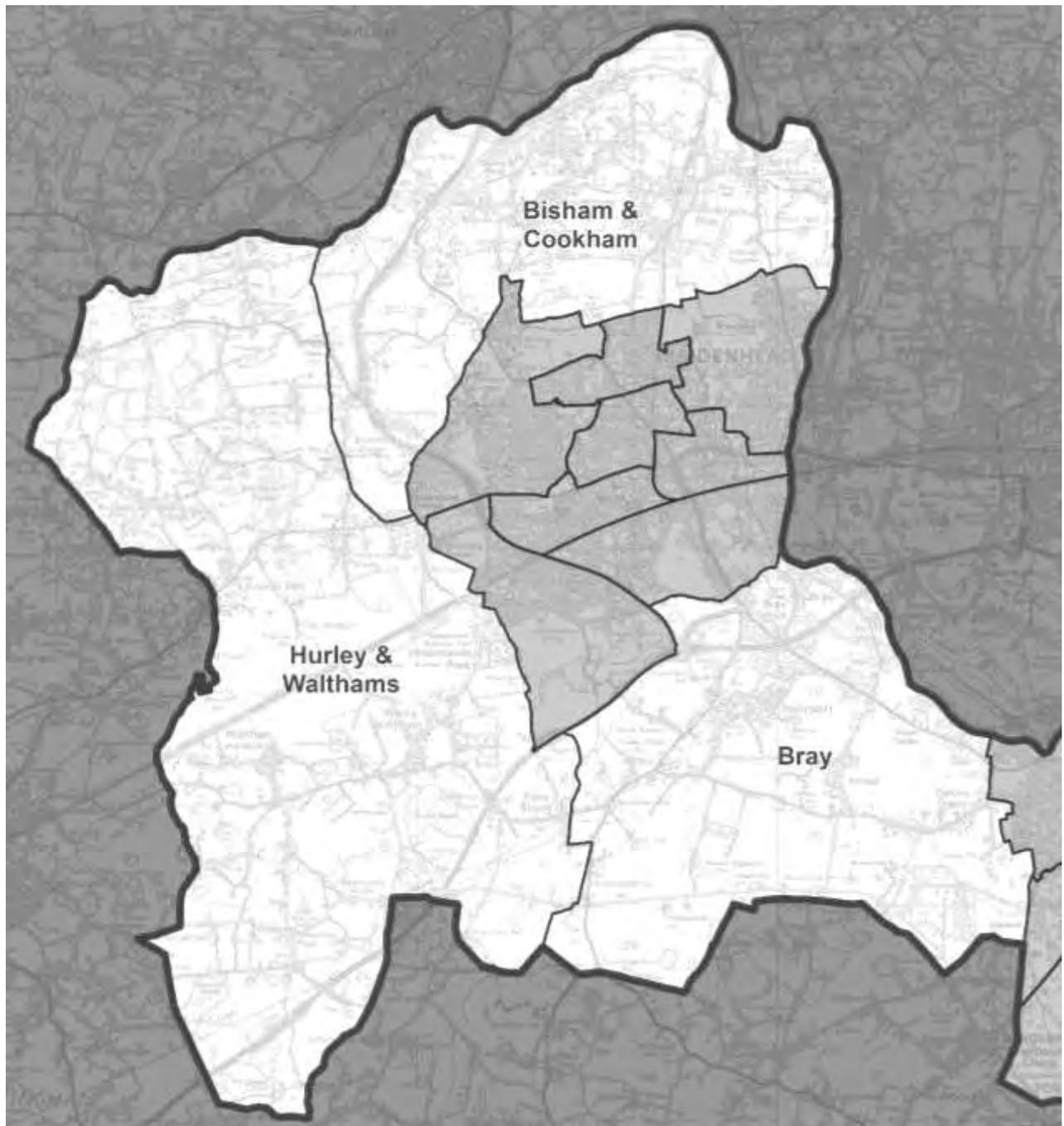
Oldfield

43 We received three submissions that related directly to Oldfield ward. Councillors Hill, Majeed and Wilson resubmitted their previous submission, which requested the Oldacres and Farthingales area be placed within Oldfield ward. While we note that local councillors requested that this area remain in Oldfield ward, we remain of the view that the railway line forms a strong and identifiable ward boundary. Furthermore, by placing this area into Oldfield ward, our proposed St Mary's ward would have an electoral variance of -13%. We do not consider the evidence received is sufficient to justify an electoral variance above 10% here.

44 A local resident suggested that Oldfield ward should be split into three single-councillor wards. This proposal, however, provided unacceptably high electoral variances and lacked community-based evidence. We have therefore decided not to adopt this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

45 A submission from a local resident argued that Oldfield ward would be the most under-represented ward in the borough. Our Oldfield ward will have an electoral variance of 4% by 2023, demonstrating that the ward will have good electoral equality. In view of this, we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Maidenhead rural



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Bisham & Cookham	2	2%
Bray	2	6%
Hurley & Walthams	2	-10%

Bisham & Cookham

46 We received one submission from a local resident in relation to this ward. The submission claimed that the parishes of Bisham and Cookham do not have a shared community identity and that under the existing warding arrangements, Cookham parish receives more representation than Bisham parish from borough councillors. The local resident suggested that the two parishes could be represented by their own individual borough ward, where two councillors could represent a Cookham ward and one councillor could represent a Bisham ward. We have decided not to adopt this change as Bisham parish does not have enough electors to form a single-councillor ward with good electoral equality. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Bray and Hurley & Walthams

47 We received several submissions relating to Bray ward. Bray Parish Council, the Fisheries Residents' Association and a local resident argued that the Fisheries estate, which has recently transferred into Bray parish as part of a community governance review, should also be placed within an enlarged Bray ward. We have carefully considered the evidence received and have decided to not adopt this change. On our visit to the area, we considered that the Fisheries area is more closely associated with Maidenhead town. In addition, submissions from local councillors and the Council supported keeping the Fisheries within Oldfield ward, arguing that this arrangement provides for effective local governance at both levels.

48 Bray Parish Council again requested that the borough ward boundary should be coterminous with the parish boundary in the east of the ward, stating that the residents in the eastern end of the parish have requested the ward boundary should be the same as the parish boundary. Moving these electors from our proposed Clewer & Dedworth West ward would result in a Bray ward with an electoral variance of 23%, which is unacceptably high. On our tour of the borough, we considered the area in question to be more closely affiliated with that of the Clewer and Dedworth area than with Bray parish.

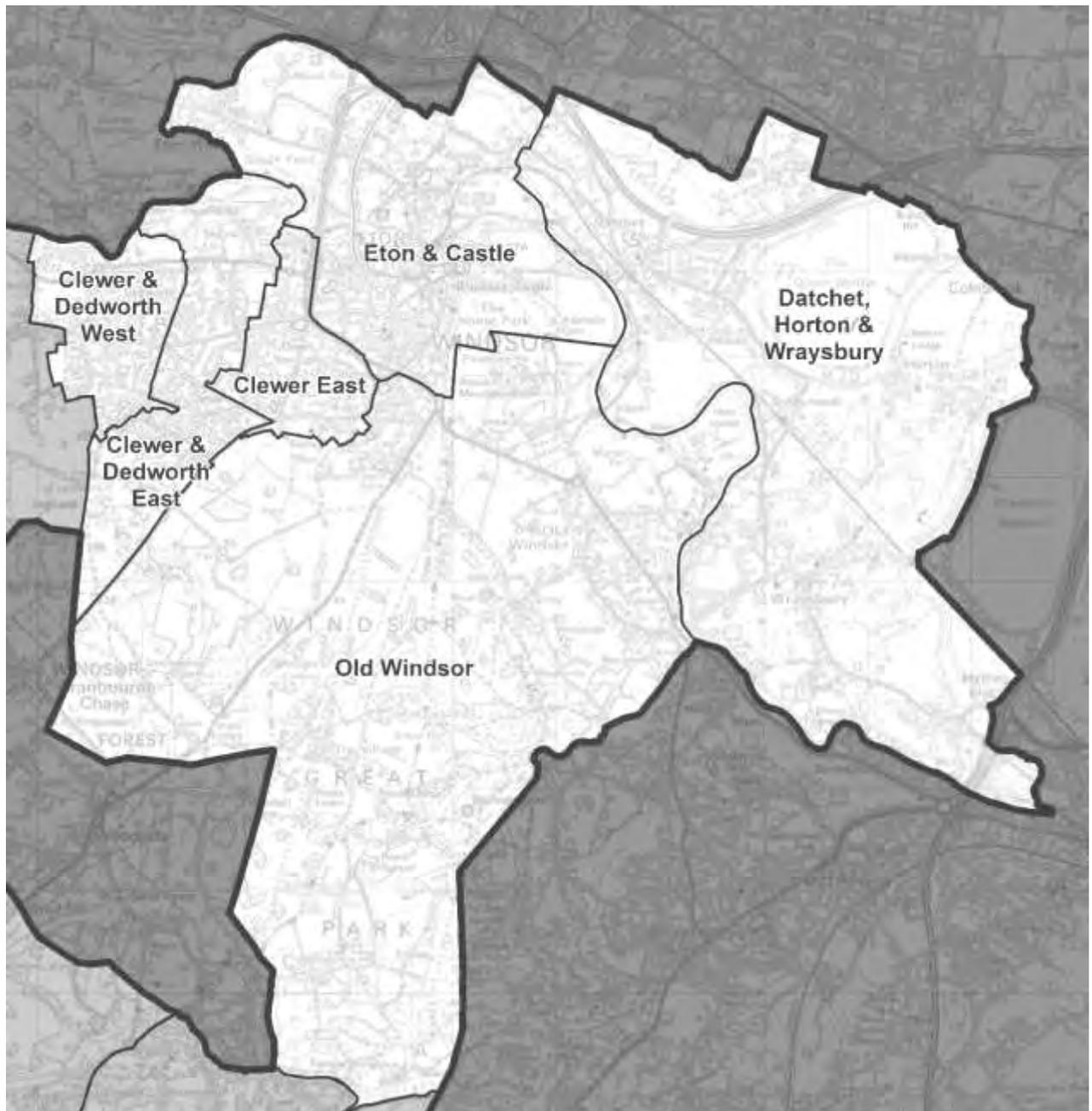
49 Bray Parish Council also requested that the number of parish councillors be increased by one from 15 to 16. We will not normally vary the number of parish councillors as part of an electoral review, as it is not a change directly resulting from our proposed borough ward boundaries. In the case of increasing or decreasing parish councillors, we consider that this issue would be more appropriately resolved via a community governance review.

50 A local resident resubmitted a partial scheme which proposed that the existing ward of Bray be split into three single-councillor wards, creating a Holyport village ward, a Bray St Michael ward named after the Bray village church, and a Hurley ward. Whilst the electoral variances for these wards were good, we consider our proposed Bray and Hurley & Walthams wards better reflect the community identity of the area and that to create three single-councillor wards may divide communities rather than reflect them. We have therefore not adopted these proposals as part of our final recommendations.

51 A submission from a local resident opposed Hurley & Walthams ward being represented by two councillors, with a preference for a three-councillor arrangement

due to the large geographical size of the ward. The local resident further suggested that if the area had to be represented by two councillors, it should be split into two separate single-councillor wards across either the A4 road or the railway line, to create smaller, more manageable wards. However, adopting these changes would result in unacceptably high variances, of over 30%, which we cannot accept. In consideration of this, we confirm our draft recommendations for Hurley and Walthams as final.

Windsor town



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Clewer & Dedworth East	2	-2%
Clewer & Dedworth West	2	2%
Clewer East	2	-6%
Datchet, Horton & Wraysbury	3	-2%
Eton & Castle	3	4%
Old Windsor	2	2%

Clewer East, Clewer & Dedworth East and Clewer & Dedworth West

52 We received both support and opposition to our proposed Clewer & Dedworth East and Clewer & Dedworth West wards. The proposed boundaries between the wards run vertically via Smiths Lane and Wolf Lane, rather than east to west across Dedworth Road. The Council supported our amended Clewer & Dedworth West ward, which included Washington Drive. In addition, Councillor Wilson supported the warding pattern for the area on account of it enabling ward councillors to complete projects for specific parts of Dedworth Road. Opposition to this warding pattern came from five local residents, a parish councillor, and the Windsor Labour Party. However, we were not persuaded that sufficient community-based evidence had been received to justify changing the entire warding pattern for this area.

53 We received opposition from Councillor Da Costa and a local resident in regard to our Clewer & Dedworth East ward. Both argued that the St Leonard's Hill area should not be part of Clewer & Dedworth East ward due to the difference in demographics between the area and the rest of the ward. Consequently, Councillor Da Costa suggested that electors on Mill Lane, Parsonage Lane and Hatch Lane would be better placed in a proposed Clewer-St Leonards ward, which would be similar to our Clewer East ward. However, by placing the St Leonard's Hill area into an enlarged Clewer East ward would produce a variance of -17%. We do not consider there is sufficient evidence to justify an electoral variance above 10% in this case.

54 Councillor Rankin was supportive of the ward boundaries proposed for the Clewer and Dedworth wards but felt that the ward names were confusing and unhelpful. Councillor Rankin suggested that Clewer & Dedworth West ward be renamed 'Victoria', Clewer & Dedworth East be renamed 'Albert' and Clewer East be renamed 'St Andrew & St Agnes'. One local resident suggested that Clewer & Dedworth West ward be renamed 'Alexander', Clewer & Dedworth East be renamed 'Edward' and Clewer East be renamed 'Imperial'. Another local resident also suggested we rename Clewer & Dedworth West ward 'West Windsor'. However, as part of our final recommendations, we have decided not to adopt any of these name changes as we consider that the names proposed by the Commission to be more representative of the communities contained in each of our proposed wards.

55 Several submissions suggested that four wards could compromise Windsor town. Two of these wards could be bounded by the A332 and B3024 and named Clewer West and Clewer East. These would be similar to our proposed Clewer & Dedworth East and Clewer & Dedworth West wards. In addition, the area east of the A332 would be represented by two two-councillor wards, based on the existing Park and Castle Without wards. While these wards provided for good electoral variances, we could not adopt this pattern in full because of the substantial consequential effects of it would have on our proposals for the wider area.

56 These submissions also suggested that a Clewer West ward should extend to the B3024. This approach was followed in our draft recommendations for our proposed Clewer & Dedworth West ward. However, these submissions also stated that the Bray parish boundary should run along the B3024. Given that we have no power to change parish boundaries, a community governance review conducted by

the Borough Council would be the most appropriate starting point for addressing this issue.

57 One local resident suggested that the whole of the Legoland Estate and a small collection of dwellings which are located on a branch road on St Leonard's Hill should be placed within a Windsor ward. We could not adopt this change as it would create a parish ward with fewer than 100 electors, which we consider would not be conducive to effective and convenient local government. Councillor Da Costa also requested that a town council for Windsor be created. This also falls outside the scope of this current electoral review.

58 Therefore, after carefully considering the submissions we received for this area, and for the reasons outlined above, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Clewer East, Clewer & Dedworth East and Clewer & Dedworth West wards as final.

Datchet, Horton & Wraysbury

59 We received six submissions that related to Datchet, Horton & Wraysbury ward, all agreeing with our draft recommendations. The submissions, which came from the Council, Datchet and Horton parish councils, the Riverside BLP Windsor Labour Party, the Windsor Labour Party and two local residents, were supportive of our decision to incorporate the three parishes into a three-councillor ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

Eton & Castle

60 We received both support and opposition to our proposed Eton & Castle ward during consultation. The Eton Community Association, the Eton Wick Village Association and eight local residents were supportive of the ward on the basis that both Eton and Windsor are two similar areas in terms of history, culture, tourism and geographic proximity. It was also argued that the recommendations provided a better fit than the Council's proposed Datchet & the Etons ward.

61 Submissions that argued against the ward stated that it would have poor transport links, given that only means of transport between the two areas are via the A332 and the pedestrian-only Windsor Bridge. Several submissions felt the River Thames represented a strong ward boundary between the two communities. The primary alternative proposal suggested splitting our proposed three-councillor Eton & Castle ward into two, creating a single-councillor Eton & Eton Wick ward, with a variance of 11%, and a two-councillor Central Windsor ward, with a variance of 3%. Councillor Rankin suggested a two-councillor Etons & Castle ward, which merged the existing Eton & Castle and Eton Wick wards, and a two-councillor Central Windsor ward. These wards produced unacceptably high electoral variances of -40% and 26% respectively.

62 We do not consider that there is sufficient evidence to justify an electoral variance above 10% here, given the general support we received for our proposed ward during consultation. For this reason, we are confirming the draft recommendations for Eton & Castle ward as final.

Old Windsor

63 We received over 100 submissions that objected to our draft recommendations for this ward. There was a strong preference amongst respondents for the Boltons area to remain part of a more urban Windsor-centric ward and for Windsor Great Park to remain part of Old Windsor ward, rather than being transferred to our proposed Ascot & Sunninghill ward. Many, including the Council, felt that our draft recommendations for this ward did not fully take into account our criteria of community identity and effective and convenient local government. Despite support for our recommendations from the Windsor Labour Party and a local resident, we carefully examined a number of different alternative proposals to see if we could create a warding pattern that would take account of the objections received.

64 A large number of submissions received were supportive of Old Windsor Parish Council's submission, which argued that the ward should encompass all of the Crown Estate, which runs up to edge of Windsor town, and the area including Windsor Castle, up to the River Thames. However, this ward would result in an electoral variance of -22% under a 41-councillor warding pattern. Councillor Rankin and Councillor Wilson both argued that a ward with a large variance could be an exception to the rule given it would better reflect community identity in the area. However, given that we have an obligation to ensure that electors in Windsor & Maidenhead have a vote of broadly equal weight, we considered that this variance would not provide for sufficient electoral equality. We could therefore not adopt this proposal.

65 The Council suggested two alternative proposals for the area. The first proposal involved placing the Boltons in their entirety into Clewer East ward. While this may reflect community identity, these wards would provide for electoral variances of -30% and 21% for Old Windsor and Clewer East respectively. These variances would also not provide for sufficient electoral equality, and we decided not to adopt this proposal as part of our final recommendations. The Council's second option, which ran the boundary through Bolton Road, provided for variances of 11% and -15%. While this proposal provided for reduced electoral variances, they were still above 10%. Furthermore, we considered that the boundaries proposed were rather arbitrary and do not resolve the general issue of dividing communities.

66 We were nonetheless persuaded by the evidence received to move the Great Park back into Old Windsor ward, meaning that the whole of Old Windsor parish will remain within Old Windsor borough ward. We agree with the submissions received that this ward configuration would provide a better reflection of community identity and follow clearer ward boundaries.

67 An alternative submission from a local resident, which was based largely on existing polling districts, placed the Boltons area back into Clewer East ward and moved VB polling district (which comprises a suburban area around St Leonard's Hill) into a proposed Great Park & Old Windsor ward. It was argued that this arrangement would delineate the urban and rural communities of the town and minimise parish governance disruption. We decided, however, not to adopt this warding pattern as it appeared that the St Leonard's Hill area, which is contiguous with the Windsor/Clewer built-up area, has even less direct transport links with Old Windsor than the Boltons.

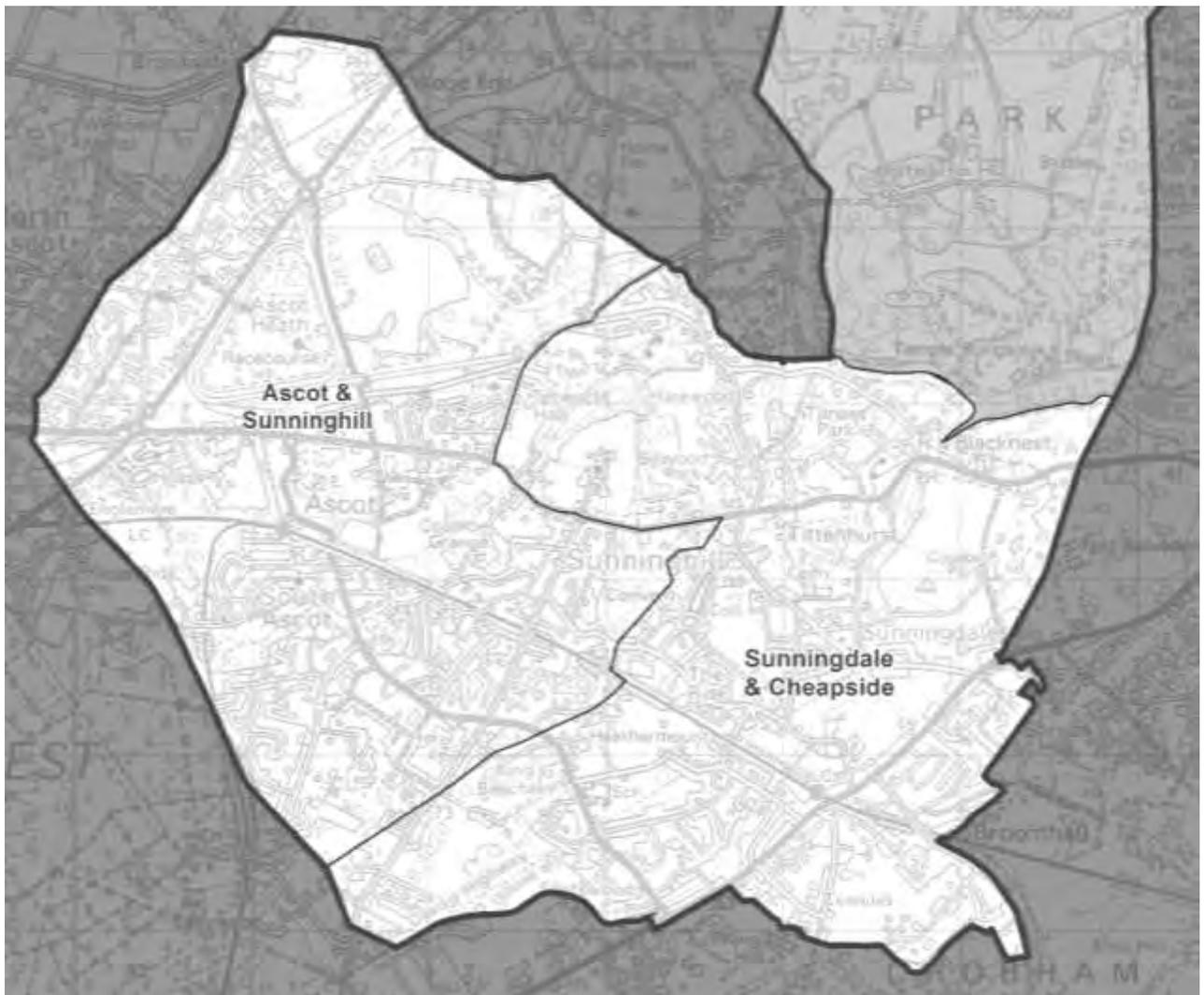
68 We also received submissions from two local residents who suggested that the southern part of Datchet village could be incorporated into an Old Windsor & Riverside ward, running the boundary along the railway line. While this provided good electoral equality, we were not persuaded to accept this suggestion, given it would break up our proposed Datchet, Horton & Wraysbury ward, for which we received support during consultation.

69 Amongst our own alternative solutions was to merge the two existing Old Windsor and Park wards into a single three-councillor ward. While this did provide for good electoral equality, we considered that this ward would still not resolve the issue of combining Old Windsor with parts of the built-up area and have concluded it will be less reflective of community identity than our proposed Old Windsor ward. We have therefore decided not to adopt this ward as part of our final recommendations.

70 We also revisited the Council's proposed Old Windsor & Wraysbury ward during the formulation of our final recommendations. Again, we considered that this ward would not be reflective of community identity and would not provide for convenient local government, given the lack of transport links or shared facilities between the two parishes.

71 In conclusion, despite expanding Old Windsor ward to encompass the Park as part of our final recommendations, we were unable to identify a warding pattern that would satisfy all three of our criteria without including the Boltons in Old Windsor ward. While accepting that our recommendations for this area may be contentious, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final, subject to the inclusion of the whole of Windsor Great Park. None of the alternatives we considered provided a better reflection of our three statutory criteria. Additionally, we are further constrained by the distribution of settlements in this area as well as the proximity of the borough boundary which reduced our scope for considering alternative warding patterns. Our final recommendations provide for a two-councillor Old Windsor ward which would have an electoral variance of 2% by 2023.

Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Ascot & Sunninghill	3	5%
Sunningdale & Cheapside	2	-9%

Ascot & Sunninghill and Sunningdale & Cheapside

72 We proposed significantly different boundaries for this area of the borough in consideration of the submissions received. Submissions from the Ascot Labour Party, Windsor Labour Party, a local resident and a parish councillor provided strong evidence for us to adopt a 41-councillor warding scheme for the borough. This would allow for us to create a five-councillor warding pattern for the area that would better represent community identities and also provide for good electoral equality – more so than the six-councillor warding pattern adopted as part of our draft recommendations.

73 The submissions we received for this area generally suggested the areas of North Ascot, South Ascot and Sunninghill could each have their own single-councillor wards, while Sunningdale and Cheapside could be represented by a two-councillor ward. These submissions argued that the areas of North Ascot, South Ascot and Sunninghill were distinct communities, deserving of their own ward, while Sunningdale and Cheapside shared enough in common to form a two-councillor ward.

74 We have, however, decided, as part of our final recommendations, a variation of this warding pattern. We have decided to recommend a three-councillor Ascot & Sunninghill ward and a two-councillor Sunningdale & Cheapside ward. We have adopted a three-councillor ward in this case, as the three single-councillor ward solution would have required parish warding arrangements which were unclear and would not be have been conducive to effective and convenient local government.

75 We consider that our final recommendations are an improvement on our draft recommendations for this area. We have also taken into account various submissions which stated that Larch Avenue, part of Kings Road, Silwood Road and London Road should be placed within a Sunningdale ward, and a submission from a local resident which stated that South Ascot should remain in an Ascot ward, both on the basis of community identity.

76 A local resident suggested two wards, each consisting of three councillors. One ward would consist of the areas of Sunningdale and Sunninghill, while the other ward would comprise of Ascot and the village of Cheapside. The submission suggested this warding pattern on the basis that the areas of Sunningdale and Sunninghill had an increasingly shared community identity. We did not, however, adopt this warding arrangement as it did not provide for good electoral equality, with electoral variances of -13% and -17% for the suggested Ascot & Cheapside and Sunninghill & Sunningdale wards respectively.

77 Sunningdale Parish Council requested the existing ward boundaries should be kept in place. We could not adopt this proposal, however, as the electoral variances would be far too high to accept.

78 Our final recommendations in this area provide for a three-councillor Ascot & Sunninghill and a two-councillor Sunningdale & Cheapside ward with electoral variances of 5% and -9% by 2023.

Conclusions

79 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2017 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	41	41
Number of electoral wards	19	19
Average number of electors per councillor	2,656	2,898
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

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead should be made up of 41 councillors serving 19 wards representing 16 two-councillor wards and three 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 Windsor and Maidenhead.

You can also view our final recommendations for Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

80 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.

81 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, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead 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.

82 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bray Parish Council and Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council.

83 As 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 Bray parish.

Final recommendation	
Bray Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bray	5
Dedworth	2
Holyport	6
Oakley Green & Fifield	1
The Fisheries	1

84 As 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 Sunninghill & Ascot parish.

Final recommendation	
Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ascot	6
Cheapside	1
Sunninghill & South Ascot	9

3 What happens next?

85 We have now completed our review of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. 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

86 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 the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ascot & Sunninghill	3	8,311	2,770	4%	9,168	3,056	5%
2	Belmont	2	5,241	2,621	-1%	5,589	2,795	-4%
3	Bisham & Cookham	2	5,353	2,677	1%	5,912	2,956	2%
4	Boyn Hill	2	5,102	2,551	-4%	5,532	2,766	-5%
5	Bray	2	5,702	2,851	7%	6,144	3,072	6%
6	Clewer & Dedworth East	2	5,256	2,628	-1%	5,700	2,850	-2%
7	Clewer & Dedworth West	2	5,569	2,785	5%	5,912	2,956	2%
8	Clewer East	2	5,135	2,568	-3%	5,443	2,722	-6%
9	Cox Green	2	5,695	2,848	7%	6,038	3,019	4%
10	Datchet, Horton & Wraysbury	3	7,812	2,604	-2%	8,481	2,827	-2%
11	Eton & Castle	3	8,441	2,814	6%	9,038	3,013	4%
12	Furze Platt	2	5,739	2,870	8%	6,083	3,042	5%

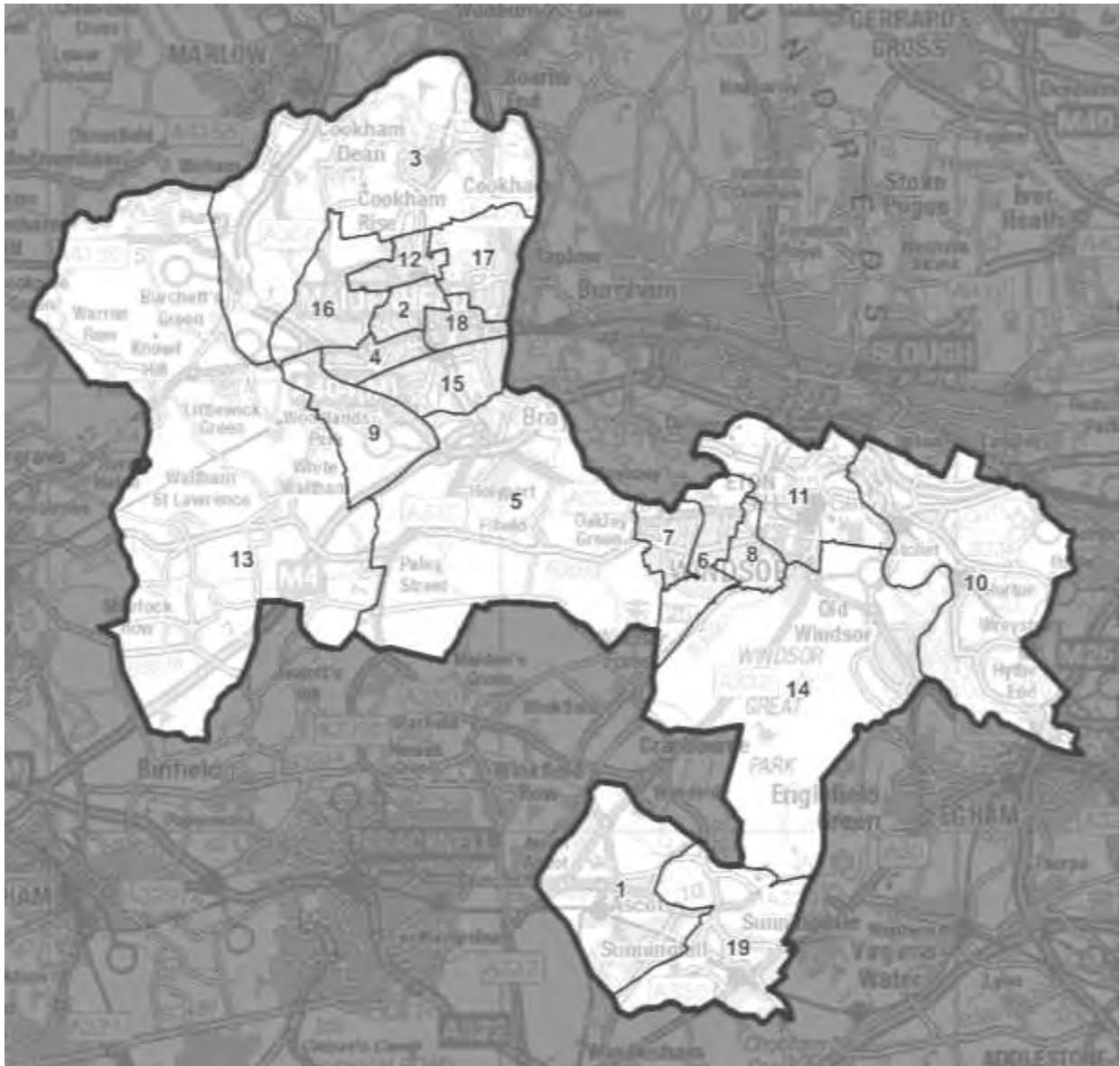
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Hurley & Walthams	2	4,828	2,414	-9%	5,190	2,595	-10%
14 Old Windsor	2	5,519	2,760	4%	5,905	2,953	2%
15 Oldfield	2	4,943	2,472	-7%	6,006	3,003	4%
16 Pinkneys Green	2	5,596	2,798	5%	5,931	2,966	2%
17 Riverside	2	5,518	2,759	4%	6,094	3,047	5%
18 St Mary's	2	4,502	2,251	-15%	5,389	2,695	-7%
19 Sunningdale & Cheapside	2	4,631	2,316	-13%	5,283	2,642	-9%
Totals	41	108,893	-	-	118,838	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,656	-	-	2,898	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead at the start of the review.

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 borough. 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: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/berkshire/windsor-and-maidenhead>

Key

1. Ascot & Sunninghill
2. Belmont
3. Bisham & Cookham
4. Boyn Hill
5. Bray
6. Clewer & Dedworth East
7. Clewer & Dedworth West
8. Clewer East
9. Cox Green
10. Datchet, Horton & Wraysbury
11. Eton & Castle
12. Furze Platt
13. Hurley & Walthams
14. Old Windsor
15. Oldfield
16. Pinkneys Green
17. Riverside
18. St Mary's
19. Sunningdale & Cheapside

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/berkshire/windsor-and-maidenhead>

Local Authority

- The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Political Group

- Ascot Labour Party
- Maidenhead Labour Party
- Riverside Windsor Labour Party
- Windsor Labour Party (1)
- Windsor Labour Party (2)

Councillors

- Councillor M. Beer (Old Windsor ward)
- Councillor W. Da Costa (Clewer North ward)
- Councillor D. Hilton (Ascot and Cheapside ward)
- Councillor L. Jones (Old Windsor ward)
- Councillors P. Love and Cllr M. Mills (Belmont ward)
- Councillor J. Rankin (Castle Without ward)
- Councillor S. Shelim (Castle Without ward)
- Councillor D. Wilson (Oldfield ward)
- Councillor E. Wilson (Clewer South ward)

Local Organisations

- Eton Community Association
- Eton Wick Village Association
- Fisheries Residents' Association
- Old Windsor Residents' Association
- West Windsor Residents' Association

Parish and Town Council

- Bray Parish Council
- Datchet Parish Council
- Horton Parish Council
- Old Windsor Parish Council
- Sunningdale Parish Council

Local Residents

- 144 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 (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 areas.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0TL

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Online: www.lgbce.org.uk or
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Twitter: @LGBCE