

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council

Electoral review

March 2013

Translations and other formats

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Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body that conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. The broad purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors, and the names, number and boundaries of wards or divisions – for a specific local authority. We conducted an electoral review of Warwick District Council at the request of the authority.

The review aimed to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same. The Commission commenced the review in January 2012.

This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
14 February 2012	Submission of proposals of ward arrangements to the LGBCE
4 May 2012	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
23 October 2012	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
7 January 2013	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Draft recommendations

Our draft recommendations were for a council size of 46 members comprising two single-member wards, 19 two-member wards and two three-member wards. Our proposals were based on a submission from the Council, but with a number of significant amendments to reflect our statutory criteria. In Kenilworth we amended the Council's proposal to create a three-member Abbey ward. As a result we also proposed changes to the wards for the rural areas of Cubbington, Radford Semele and Stoneleigh. In Warwick town, we proposed modifications in the Bishop's Tachbrook, Heathcote and Myton areas. Elsewhere we proposed a number of minor modifications to improve electoral equality, strengthen boundaries and address parish warding issues. All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Submissions received

During the consultation on the draft recommendations for Warwick we received 322 submissions, including a submission from the Council. The majority of the submissions related to the proposals in the Bishop's Tachbrook, Heathcote and Whitnash areas to the south of Leamington Spa. We also received comments on other areas in the district. All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Analysis and final recommendations

Electorate figures

Warwick District Council has forecast an increase in electorate of just over 5% across the district by 2018. During the consultation on our draft recommendations, a number of submissions queried the electorate forecasts, citing the 2011 census. It was also argued that the review should be halted while the Council completed its Local Plan, stating that this would enable more accurate projections.

We note the concerns over the projected electorate figures. Although the census data may be indicative of certain trends, this review is based on electorate and we are reliant on the Council keeping accurate data on this. We also note the concerns about the Local Plan, but are only able to work with the data available at the time of the review. We remain broadly satisfied the Council's projected electorate figures for 2018 are the best available at the present time.

General analysis

We have considered all submissions received during the consultation on our draft recommendations. We note that some of the evidence received was contradictory, and respondents argued that the Heathcote area of Warwick looked towards either Warwick town or Whitnash, while other respondents argued that parts of the area looked to Bishop's Tachbrook. On balance, we consider it is best to base the ward boundaries in this area on the existing parish boundaries. We therefore propose a single-member Bishop's Tachbrook ward, a three-member Whitnash ward and a two-member Myton & Heathcote ward, comprising the area of Heathcote that falls within Warwick parish.

In the Kenilworth area we received support for our three-member Abbey ward and a request to revert to the existing three-member Park Hill and St John's wards in Kenilworth. We note these wards are locally supported and secure good electoral equality. We are therefore adopting them as part of our final recommendations. In the remainder of the district we received a mixture of support and objections. On balance, and given the evidence received, we do not propose any other changes and are confirming our draft recommendations as final.

What happens next?

We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament and will be implemented subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements which will come into force at the next elections for Warwick District Council, in 2015.

We are grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to the review through expressing their views and advice. The full report is available to download at www.lgbce.org.uk

You can also view our final recommendations for Warwick on our interactive maps at consultation.lgbce.org.uk

1 Introduction

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. This electoral review is being conducted following a request from the Council to review Warwick District Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the authority.

2 We wrote to Warwick District Council inviting the submission of proposals on warding arrangements for the Council. The submissions received during the consultation on warding patterns informed our *Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council*, which were published on 23 October 2012. Consultation on our draft recommendations took place until 7 January 2013.

What is an electoral review?

3 The main aim of an electoral review is to try to ensure 'electoral equality', which means that all councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors. Our objective is to make recommendations that will improve electoral equality, while also trying to reflect communities in the area and provide for effective and convenient local government.

4 Our three main considerations – equalising the number of electors each councillor represents; reflecting community identity; and providing for effective and convenient local government – are set out in legislation¹ and 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

Why are we conducting a review in Warwick?

5 We decided to conduct this review because, based on the December 2010 electorate figures, 35% of the existing wards have 10% more or fewer electors per councillor than the district average. The Council had also formally requested that a review take place in order to reduce the current electoral variances.

How will the recommendations affect you?

6 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 instances, which parish or town council wards you vote in. Your ward name may change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. If you live in a parish, the name or boundaries of that parish will not change as a result of our recommendations.

¹ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

7 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Members of the Commission are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)
Professor Colin Mellors (Deputy Chair)
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
Sir Tony Redmond
Dr Colin Sinclair CBE
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill
Director of Reviews: Archie Gall

2 Analysis and final recommendations

8 We have now finalised our recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council.

9 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for Warwick is to achieve a level of electoral fairness – that is, each elector’s vote being worth the same as another’s. In doing so we must have regard to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009,² with the need to:

- secure effective and convenient local government
- provide for equality of representation
- reflect the identities and interests of local communities, in particular
 - the desirability of arriving at boundaries that are easily identifiable
 - the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties

10 Legislation also states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the date of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward at the end of the review.

11 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum. We therefore recommend strongly that in formulating proposals for us to consider, local authorities and other interested parties should also try to keep variances to a minimum, making adjustments to reflect relevant factors such as community identity and interests. As mentioned above, we aim to recommend a scheme which provides improved electoral fairness over a five-year period.

12 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 divisions or wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division or ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

13 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Warwick District Council or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. The proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries and we are not therefore able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

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

Submissions received

14 Prior to, and during, the initial stage of the review, we visited Warwick District Council ('the Council') and met with members, parish council representatives and officers. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance. We received two submissions from the Council, one on council size and one during information gathering on warding arrangements.

15 We received 322 submissions in response to our draft recommendations, all of which may be inspected both at our offices and those of the Council. All representations received can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

16 As part of the electoral review, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for the six-year period 2012 – 18.

17 The Council initially forecast very high growth of 21% based on a number of large developments it considered would occur during the forecast period. On a tour of the district we examined all the major growth sites identified by the Council and noted that work had yet to commence on most of the sites identified. The Council confirmed that many sites had not yet been granted planning permission. We therefore asked it to review its forecast figures and provide a stronger rationale for them.

18 The Council provided revised electorate forecasts showing growth of a little over 5%. Having considered the information provided by the Council, we were satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time and these figures formed the basis of our draft recommendations.

19 During the consultation on our draft recommendations we received a number of representations that questioned the Council's electorate forecasts. Some of these submissions questioned whether the review should be halted in light of the Council's current work on its new Local Plan, arguing that more accurate forecast figures would be available once this work was complete. Some submissions also questioned the electorate forecasts in light of the 2011 census, suggesting the data showed inaccuracies in the Council's forecasts. Finally, we received a small number of objections relating to development figures for specific areas.

20 In terms of the Council's current work devising a new Local Plan, we note these concerns but are only able to work with the information available at the time of the review. On that basis, the Commission does not consider it necessary to halt the electoral review. We acknowledge that there were a few questions over development forecasts in specific areas, but do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to contradict the Council's revised figures.

21 Lastly, we note the concerns relating to census inaccuracies. However, this review is concerned with electorate figures only and we are reliant on the Council maintaining an accurate register of electors. We remain broadly satisfied the Council's projected electorate figures for 2018 are the best available at the present time and these form the basis of our final recommendations.

Council size

22 Warwick District Council currently has 46 members elected from 20 wards, comprising five single-member, four two-member and 11 three-member wards.

23 The Council requested an electoral review primarily to reduce existing electoral variances. During preliminary discussions on council size, the Council submitted proposals for a council size of between 44 and 48 members, outlining key responsibilities on issues of governance and strategic management for the area. It also outlined the engagement model between members and cabinet, and issues of elector representation. We sought further information from the Council in a meeting with its council size working group. The group outlined members' ward work and the impact of the Localism Act. It argued that any proposal to reduce council size could force councillors to become full time. It also outlined the planning workload for members. Finally, it highlighted the importance of the Council's Community Forums, stating that as it was trying to increase community engagement, a reduction in council size would be to the detriment of this.

24 We were persuaded that councillor workload is unlikely to reduce, particularly as a result of the impact of the Localism Act and the Council's drive to maximise engagement with the local community. In light of the evidence received, we consider that the Council has provided evidence to justify the retention of 46 elected members. Our draft recommendations were therefore based on a council size of 46 members.

25 A number of respondents put forward general comments or assertions about council size during consultation on our draft recommendations. However, none of these were sufficiently strong or well evidenced to persuade us to move away from a 46-member council for the final recommendations.

Electoral fairness

26 As discussed in the introduction to this report, the prime aim of an electoral review is to achieve electoral fairness within a local authority.

27 Electoral fairness, in the sense of each elector in a local authority having a vote of equal weight when it comes to the election of councillors, is a fundamental democratic principle. It is expected that our recommendations will provide for electoral fairness, reflect communities in the area, and provide for effective and convenient local government.

28 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor. The district average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the district (101,047 in 2012 and 106,385 by 2018) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council, 46 under our final recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our final recommendations is 2,197 in 2012 and 2,313 by 2018.

29 Under our draft recommendations, all of our proposed 23 wards had electoral variances of less than 10% from the average for the district by 2018. Under our final recommendation we are moving away from electoral equality in the Bishop's Tachbrook ward where we propose a ward with 12% fewer electors than the district average by 2018.

General analysis

30 During the consultation on warding patterns, we received one submission from the Council on warding arrangements. The Council submitted a district-wide proposal based on a council size of 46, which was supported by some evidence of community identity.

31 These proposals were for a uniform pattern of two-member wards, although there was no rationale for this pattern. In many areas of Warwick, notably Kenilworth and Bishop's Tachbrook, our draft recommendations moved away significantly from the Council's proposals to better reflect our statutory criteria.

32 During the consultation on our draft recommendations we received 322 submissions. A large number of these related to our proposals for the Bishop's Tachbrook, Whitnash, Heathcote (also known as Warwick Gates) and Myton areas. In some areas the evidence provided was conflicting, particularly about the nature of the Heathcote area and its community linkages. We have therefore sought to balance these conflicting views to produce coherent final recommendations for this area.

33 We also received some objections to the creation of a number of small but viable parish wards. Given the pattern of the electoral division boundaries and our need to reflect these in our consequential parish electoral arrangements, the creation of these parish wards has been unavoidable.

34 A number of respondents also misinterpreted the layout of our draft recommendations report and understood the discussion of the Myton and Heathcote area under the Leamington Spa town – south section to suggest that these areas were to now be considered part of Leamington Spa town. This is not the case and is reflected in this final recommendations report.

35 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 20–21) and the large map accompanying this report.

Electoral arrangements

36 This section of the report details the submissions we have received, our consideration of them, and our final recommendations for each area of Warwick. The following areas of the authority are considered in turn:

- West rural area (page 9)
- Leamington Spa – south and southern area (pages 9–11)
- Leamington Spa – north (pages 11–12)
- Warwick town (pages 12–13)
- Kenilworth town and east rural area (pages 13–14)

37 Details of our draft recommendations are set out in Table A1 on pages 20–21 and illustrated the large map accompanying this report.

West rural area

38 This area covers the rural parishes to the west of the district. We adopted the Council's proposals for this area without amendment as part of our draft recommendations. Our draft recommendations were for two-member Arden and Budbrooke wards with 5% fewer and 7% more electors respectively than the district average by 2018.

39 During the consultation on our draft recommendations we received limited comments on our proposals for this area. The Council did, however, put forward a significant amendment relating to Bishop's Tachbrook parish. The Council proposed transferring Bishop's Tachbrook parish to the rural Budbrooke ward in order to address the concerns of Bishop's Tachbrook being in a three-member ward with Heathcote and Myton. It stated that Bishop's Tachbrook had historically been in a ward with the parishes comprising Budbrooke ward. This proposal was supported by the Labour and Liberal groups on the Council.

40 We have given consideration to the evidence received but note that this proposal was not explicitly supported by Bishop's Tachbrook Parish Council or in any of the other representations received relating to this area. In addition, this would result in a large and unwieldy ward which would not address the concerns of Bishop Tachbrook parish. We are not persuaded therefore to make such a radical change to our draft recommendations. We confirm our proposals for Arden and Budbrooke wards as final without amendment. Our two-member Arden and Budbrooke wards would have 5% fewer and 7% more electors respectively than the district average by 2018.

41 Our final recommendations for Bishop's Tachbrook will be discussed in detail below.

42 Our draft recommendations for this area can be seen on Table A1 (on pages 20–21) and on the large map accompanying this report.

Leamington Spa – south and southern area

43 This area covers the south of Royal Leamington Spa parish and Bishop's Tachbrook and Whitnash parishes.

44 Our draft recommendations report for this area also included the Myton and Heathcote areas of Warwick Town Council. They were discussed in this section for ease of understanding and not because there was any intention to move either area out of Warwick. However, in this final recommendations report these areas are discussed in the Warwick section below.

45 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a mixture of the Council's proposals and our own amendments to provide a better reflection of our statutory criteria. We adopted the Council's proposed Briar Hill, Brunswick, Leam and Sydenham wards without amendment. We made significant amendments in the Bishop's Tachbrook area, creating a three-member ward that included the Heathcote area of Warwick town. Our draft recommendations were for a single-member Myton ward with 6% fewer electors than the district average by 2018, two-member Briar Hill, Brunswick, Leam, and Sydenham wards with 6% more, 3% more, 3% fewer and 9%

more electors respectively and finally a three-member Heathcote & Bishop's Tachbrook ward with 6% fewer electors.

46 Leamington Spa Town Council supported our draft recommendations in this area but highlighted concerns over the establishment of what it considered to be a number of small parish wards. We have therefore decided to amend the boundary between Brunswick and Leam wards to follow the railway line and division boundary to improve coterminosity in this area. With the exception of this minor change, we are confirming our Brunswick, Leam and Sydenham wards as final.

47 In the remainder of this area we received strong objections to our draft recommendations for Briar Hill and Heathcote & Bishop's Tachbrook wards. A large number of submissions objected to the basic omission of the Whitnash name at the expense of Briar Hill. There were also strong objections to the boundary between Briar Hill and Heathcote & Bishop's Tachbrook wards, arguing that it split a central part of Whitnash around Landor Road. Many of these submissions stressed the importance of the work of the parish council in supporting the Whitnash community.

48 A large number of submissions objected to the inclusion of Bishop's Tachbrook parish in a three-member ward that included Heathcote and the western part of Whitnash parish. Many of these submissions stated that Bishop's Tachbrook should become a single-member ward. Others cited links between Bishop's Tachbrook village and the small section of the urban Heathcote area that falls within the parish.

49 The Council proposed numerous amendments to our draft recommendations in this area, notably for Bishop's Tachbrook and Myton. In Briar Hill and Heathcote the Council re-submitted its original proposals. As discussed above (paragraph 39) the Council also proposed transferring Bishop's Tachbrook parish to Budbrooke ward, creating a large three-member rural ward. As evidence, the Council stated that these parishes had previously been in a ward together. Finally, the Council proposed that the Europa Way area of our Heathcote & Bishop's Tachbrook ward should be transferred to a revised Myton ward.

50 In light of the evidence received we have re-examined our draft recommendations for this area. We note the strong objections to the name of Briar Hill ward, which was based on the Council's original proposals. However, given the weight of evidence against this we are content to reinstate the name Whitnash ward.

51 The evidence of community identities for Bishop's Tachbrook, Heathcote and Whitnash was in some ways contradictory, notably with opposing representations that argued that Heathcote shared community ties with either Bishop's Tachbrook or Whitnash. However, we were persuaded that our draft recommendations split Whitnash in the area around Landor Road and so we propose moving away from our draft recommendations in this area.

52 We are therefore amending our draft recommendations for Briar Hill ward to include the whole of Whitnash parish with the exception of the new development in the east of the parish that comprised part of Sydenham ward in our draft recommendations. As noted in paragraph 50 above, this will now be called Whitnash ward. This three-member ward would have 2% fewer electors than the district average by 2018. We are also content to include a single-member Bishop's Tachbrook ward comprising the whole of Bishop's Tachbrook parish, as part of our final recommendations. This ward would have 12% fewer electors than the average

for the district by 2018. While this is a higher variance than we would normally be prepared to accept, this ward lies at the edge of the district and alternative options are limited. We are persuaded that the evidence relating to community identities justifies this variance in this instance.

53 Our final recommendations for the remainder of Heathcote are discussed in the Warwick section of the report below.

54 Our final recommendations for this area are for a single-member Bishop's Tachbrook with 12% fewer electors than the district average by 2018 and two-member Brunswick, Leam and Sydenham wards with 6% more, 6% fewer and 9% more electors respectively and a three-member Whitnash ward with 2% fewer electors than the district average by 2018. Our final recommendations for this area can be seen on Table A1 (on pages 20–21) and on the large map accompanying this report.

Leamington Spa – north

55 This area covers the north of Royal Leamington Spa parish and Blackdown and Old Milverton parishes. Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the Council's proposals subject to a minor amendment to avoid creating a number of unviable parish wards in Milverton parish. Our draft recommendations were for two-member Clarendon, Crown, Manor, Milverton and Newbold wards with 3% more, 1% more, equal to the average, 7% more and 1% more electors respectively than the district average by 2018.

56 The Council proposed a minor amendment to our draft recommendations, transferring a school site that will be subject to redevelopment from Milverton ward into Manor ward. Otherwise it supported our draft recommendations in this area. Leamington Spa Town Council supported our draft recommendations for this area but objected to the number of parish wards that were created as a consequence of our proposals.

57 In addition, we received four submissions arguing that Old Milverton and Blackdown parishes should be transferred to a rural ward and cited links to some of the parishes in the rural Stoneleigh & Cubbington ward.

58 We have given consideration to the evidence received and note the general level of support for our draft recommendations in the Leamington Spa – north area. We have examined the option of transferring Old Milverton and Blackdown parishes into Stoneleigh & Cubbington ward. While we acknowledge that this slightly improves electoral equality in Stoneleigh & Cubbington ward we consider the resulting ward would be large and unwieldy. Old Milverton and Blackdown have good links into this part of Leamington Spa and part of Old Milverton parish is overspill from the Leamington town area. On balance, we are not persuaded to adopt this amendment as part of our final recommendations.

59 We also note the Council's proposed amendment between Milverton and Manor wards. Unfortunately, this would result in the creation of a parish ward with insufficient electors to be viable. We are therefore not adopting this amendment and confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

60 Our final recommendations are for two-member Clarendon, Crown, Manor, Milverton and Newbold wards with 3% more, 1% more, equal to the average, 7% more and 1% more electors respectively than the district average by 2018. Our final recommendations for this area can be seen on Table A1 (on pages 20–21) and on the large map accompanying this report.

Warwick town

61 This area covers the Warwick Town Council area of the district. Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the Council's proposals subject to an amendment between Woodloes and Aylesford wards to improve electoral equality. We also proposed an amendment in the Myton area. Our draft recommendations produced a single-member Myton ward with 6% fewer electors than the district average by 2018 and two-member Aylesford, Emscote, Saltisford and Woodloes with 6% fewer, 2% more, 5% more and 6% fewer electors.

62 While generally supportive of our proposals, the Council put forward a number of amendments for the Warwick area. The Council argued that the development site on Europa Way should be in Myton ward as it was likely to access towards Myton, rather than Heathcote. It also proposed that the Mallory Drive area should be transferred from Woodloes ward to Aylesford ward.

63 Warwick Town Council suggested that the Heathcote area looks towards Warwick town, contradicting the evidence from other respondents who argued that parts of Heathcote looks towards Bishop's Tachbrook and Whitnash (discussed in paragraph 48). In addition, it stated that the area around Archery Fields should be transferred to the Aylesford ward, arguing this would improve electoral equality. Finally, it proposed that the Mallory Drive area should be transferred to the Saltisford ward. A number of other representations also supported the transfer of Mallory Drive, citing difficult communication links across the railway line and river between the area and Woodloes ward.

64 We have given consideration to the evidence received. As discussed in paragraph 51, we note that the evidence on community ties for Heathcote is contradictory. On balance we are persuaded that the area of Heathcote within Warwick Town Council looks more towards Warwick than anywhere else. We are also persuaded by the evidence suggesting that the development site on Europa Way would be better served being in a ward with Myton. We are therefore proposing to transfer the Warwick Town Council area of Heathcote and the Europa Way development site into Myton ward. We do not propose transferring the Archery Fields area out of this ward as it does not have direct road access into Aylesford ward. The revised Myton & Heathcote ward would contain a large part of Heathcote and keep the Europa Way development site in the same ward as Myton, all within the Warwick Town Council area. Our two-member Myton & Heathcote ward would have 1% more electors than the district average by 2018.

65 We have considered the evidence for the Mallory Drive area. We note that there was no consensus as to where this area should go, with the Council suggesting it should be transferred to Aylesford ward while Warwick Town Council and other respondents argued it should be in Saltisford ward. We have considered the evidence and, as stated in our draft recommendations, note that both of these amendments would worsen electoral equality in Woodloes to 11% fewer electors

and/or 11% more electors in Aylesford or Saltisford. We remain satisfied that the road links under the railway and across the river are satisfactory and do not warrant worsening electoral equality in two wards. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for the remainder of the Warwick town area as final.

66 Our final recommendations are for two-member Aylesford, Emscote, Myton & Heathcote and Saltisford and Woodloes with 6% fewer, 2% more, 1% more, 5% more and 6% fewer electors respectively than the district average by 2018. Our final recommendations for this area can be seen on Table A1 (on pages 20–21) and on the large map accompanying this report.

Kenilworth town and east rural area

67 This area covers Kenilworth parish and the rural parishes to the north and west of Kenilworth and Leamington Spa. Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a mixture of the Council's proposals and a number of our own modifications to improve electoral equality and provide for stronger boundaries. Our draft recommendations were a single-member Radford Semele ward with 9% fewer electors, two-member Park Hill, St John's, Stoneleigh & Cubbington and Windy Arbour wards with 5% more, equal to the average, 9% fewer and 8% fewer electors and a three-member Abbey ward with 3% more electors the district average by 2018, respectively.

68 In Kenilworth, the Council supported the inclusion of Burton Green in a three-member Abbey ward. As a result of the creation of this three-member ward it requested that the remaining three two-member wards of Park Hill, St John's and Windy Arbour be converted to two three-member wards of Park Hill and St John's based almost entirely on the existing wards of these names – the only difference being a small amendment between Abbey and St John's.

69 Kenilworth Town Council and a number of other respondents also supported the creation of a three-member Abbey ward and requested the retention of the existing two three-member wards. They argued that the existing wards have good electoral equality and are established and recognised by the local communities.

70 We have given consideration to the evidence received. We note the support for our draft recommendations for Abbey ward and confirm this ward as final. We also note that there was support for reverting to the existing three-member Park Hill and St John's wards, subject to the minor boundary modification between Abbey and St John's as put forward in the draft recommendations. While this amendment represents a fairly significant departure from our draft recommendations, we acknowledge that they are already well supported and recognised by local people. We are therefore content to adopt them as part of our final recommendations.

71 With the exception of submissions relating Old Milverton and Blackdown parishes discussed in paragraph 57 above, we received no further submissions relating to our draft recommendations for Stoneleigh & Cubbington ward. We therefore confirm this ward as final.

72 Our final recommendations are for a single-member Radford Semele ward with 9% fewer electors and a two-member Stoneleigh & Cubbington ward with 9% fewer and three-member Abbey, Park Hill and St John's wards with 3% more, 2% fewer

and 1% fewer electors than the district average by 2018, respectively. Our final recommendations for this area can be seen on Table A1 (on pages 20–21) and on the large map accompanying this report.

Conclusions

73 Table 1 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2012 and 2018 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2012	2018
Number of councillors	46	46
Number of electoral wards	22	22
Average number of electors per councillor	2,197	2,313
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	1	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Warwick District Council should comprise 46 councillors serving 22 wards, as detailed and named in Table A1 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Parish electoral arrangements

74 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.

75 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, Warwick District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

76 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parishes of Cubbington, Kenilworth, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwick and Whitnash.

77 Cubbington Parish Council is currently represented by 12 parish councillors and is divided into three wards. As a result of our proposed district ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Cubbington parish.

Final recommendations

Cubbington Parish Council should return 12 parish councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Cubbington (returning seven members) and New Cubbington (returning five members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

78 Kenilworth Town Council is currently represented by 17 parish councillors representing three parish wards. As a result of our proposed district ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Kenilworth parish.

Final recommendations

Kenilworth Town Council should return 17 parish councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Abbey (returning four members); Park Hill (returning six members); Queen’s (returning one member); and St John’s (returning six members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

79 Royal Leamington Spa Town Council is currently represented by 16 parish councillors, representing six parish wards. As a result of our proposed district ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Leamington Spa parish.

Final recommendations

Royal Leamington Spa Town Council should return 16 parish councillors, as at present, representing 11 wards: Arlington (returning two members); Brunswick North (returning two members); Brunswick South (returning one member); Clarendon (returning one member); Leam (returning two members); Lillington (returning two members); Lime (returning one member); Milverton (returning two members); Northumberland (returning one member); Sydenham (returning one member); and Victoria Park (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

80 Warwick Town Council is currently represented by 15 members, representing three parish wards. As a result of our proposed district ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Warwick parish.

Final recommendations

Warwick Town Council should return 15 parish councillors, as at present, representing 10 wards: Aylesford (returning two members); Bridge End (returning one member); Cliffe (returning one member); Emscote (returning two members); Heathcote (returning two members); Myton (returning one member); Saltisford (returning two members); Saltisford Common (returning one member); St Nicholas

(returning one member); and Woodloes Park (returning two members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

81 Whitnash Town Council is currently represented by 15 members, representing three parish wards. As a result of our proposed district ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Whitnash parish.

Final recommendations

Whitnash Town Council should return 15 parish councillors, as at present, representing four wards: East (returning one members); North (returning five members); South (returning five members); and West (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 What happens next?

82 We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements which will come into force at the next elections for Warwick District Council in 2015.

Equalities

83 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

4 Mapping

Final recommendations for Warwick

84 The following map illustrates our proposed ward boundaries for Warwick District Council:

- **Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Warwick District Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Warwick on our interactive maps at consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Appendix A

Table A1: Final recommendations for Warwick District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Abbey	3	6,565	2,188	0	7,164	2,388	3
2	Arden	2	4,299	2,150	-2	4,391	2,196	-5
3	Aylesford	2	4,148	2,074	-6	4,370	2,185	-6
4	Bishop's Tachbrook	1	1,924	1,924	-12	2,044	2,044	-12
5	Brunswick	2	4,692	2,346	7	4,886	2,443	6
6	Budbrooke	2	4,662	2,331	6	4,945	2,473	7
7	Clarendon	2	4,663	2,332	6	4,784	2,392	3
8	Crown	2	4,480	2,240	2	4,694	2,347	1
9	Emscote	2	4,509	2,255	3	4,699	2,350	2
10	Leam	2	4,140	2,070	-6	4,358	2,179	-6
11	Manor	2	4,508	2,254	3	4,627	2,314	0
12	Milverton	2	4,795	2,398	9	4,967	2,484	7
13	Myton & Heathcote	2	4,149	2,075	-6	4,694	2,347	1

Table A1 (cont): Final recommendations for Warwick District Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14 Newbold	2	4,498	2,249	2	4,676	2,338	1
15 Park Hill	3	6,532	2,177	-1	6,827	2,276	-2
16 Radford Semele	1	2,032	2,032	-7	2,102	2,102	-9
17 Saltisford	2	4,615	2,308	5	4,858	2,429	5
18 St John's	3	6,666	2,222	1	6,890	2,297	-1
19 Stoneleigh & Cubbington	2	4,063	2,032	-8	4,202	2,101	-9
20 Sydenham	2	4,441	2,221	1	5,022	2,511	9
21 Whitnash	3	6,485	2,162	-2	6,824	2,275	-2
22 Woodloes	2	4,181	2,091	-5	4,361	2,181	-6
Totals	46	101,047	-	-	106,385	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,197	-	-	2,313	-

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

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

Appendix B

Glossary and abbreviations

AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)	A landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it
Constituent areas	The geographical areas that make up any one ward, expressed in parishes or existing wards, or parts of either
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 imbalance	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

Local Government Boundary Commission for England or LGBCE	The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for undertaking electoral reviews. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England assumed the functions of the Boundary Committee for England in April 2010
Multi-member ward or division	A ward or division represented by more than one councillor and usually not more than three councillors
National Park	The 13 National Parks in England and Wales were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 and can be found at www.nationalparks.gov.uk
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
PER (or periodic electoral review)	A review of the electoral arrangements of all local authorities in England, undertaken periodically. The last programme of PERs was undertaken between 1996 and 2004 by the Boundary Commission for England and its predecessor, the now-defunct Local Government Commission for England
Political management arrangements	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enabled local authorities in England to modernise their decision-making process. Councils could choose from two broad categories; a directly elected mayor and cabinet or a cabinet with a leader
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 district, 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 borough or district council
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