Helping you to have your say:

We are now consulting local people on a new pattern of council wards for Birmingham. The Commission has an open mind about its final recommendations and will consider every piece of evidence we receive from local groups and people. Every representation will be considered, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole city or just a part of it.

If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don’t think our recommendations are right for Birmingham, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards. The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Birmingham which delivers:

- **Electoral equality**: each councillor represents a similar number of voters.
- **Community identity**: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- **Effective and convenient local government**: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

**Electoral equality:**

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

**Community identity:**

- **Transport links**: are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?
- **Community groups**: is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?
- **Facilities**: does your pattern of wards reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc.?
- **Interests**: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- **Identifiable boundaries**: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

**Effective local government:**

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?

**Useful tips:**

- Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk.
- We publish all submissions we receive on our website so you can follow what other people and organisations have told us. Go to: www.lgbce.org.uk
- Follow us on Twitter: @LGBCE

Have your say by writing to:

Review Officer (Birmingham)
LGBCE
14th floor, Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP

Through our consultation area:

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

or by email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

The full report and interactive maps are available to view at www.lgbce.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter: @LGBCE

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Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Birmingham City Council

Summary report

Read the full report, view detailed maps and have your say at: [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

Find out more at: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

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**Who we are**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

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

**Electoral review**

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority’s electoral arrangements are:

- The number of councillors representing each ward.
- The names, number and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
- The total number of councillors representing the council’s voters (‘council size’).
- The names, number and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
- The number of councillors representing each ward or ward.

**Why Birmingham?**

The Commission decided to conduct its electoral review following publication of Lord Kerslake’s report on the governance and organisational capabilities of Birmingham City Council. The report recommended that an electoral review should be conducted ‘to help the council produce an effective model of representative governance.’

**Our proposals**

Birmingham City Council currently has 120 city councillors. We propose that the council should have 101 councillors in future. The Commission believes that a council size of 101 will ensure the authority can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively and provides for a ward pattern that meets our statutory criteria.

**Electoral arrangements**

Our draft recommendations propose that Birmingham’s 101 councillors should represent 53 single-member wards and 24 two-member wards across the city.

**You have until 8 February 2016 to have your say on the recommendations**

**Stage of review** | **Description**
--- | ---
21 Jul - 28 Sep 2015 | Public consultation on new ward boundaries
15 Dec 2015 - 8 Feb 2016 | Public consultation on draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements
17 May 2016 | Publication of final recommendations by the Commission
May 2018 | Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at city elections
Summary of our recommendations

Our draft recommendations propose that Birmingham’s 101 councillors should represent 77 electoral wards across the city.

Before drawing up the draft recommendations, the Commission carried out a public consultation inviting proposals for a new pattern of wards for Birmingham. We have considered all of the submissions we received during that phase of consultation.

The Commission believes the draft recommendations meet its obligations – which are set out in law – to:
• Deliver electoral equality for voters
• Reflect local community interests and identities
• Promote effective and convenient local government

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

The Commission welcomes comments on these draft recommendations whether you support the proposals or if you wish to put forward alternative arrangements. In particular, the Commission welcomes proposals for alternative boundaries or ward names which meet the criteria we must follow as part of electoral reviews and which are described in more detail over the page.