

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Forest of Dean District Council

Electoral review

August 2017

Translations and other formats

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

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

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

Electoral review

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

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

Why Forest of Dean?

4 We are conducting a review of Forest of Dean as the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in Forest of Dean. 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 Forest of Dean

- Forest of Dean should be represented by 38 councillors, 10 fewer than there are now.
- Forest of Dean should have 21 wards, six fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of all wards should change, none will stay the same.

Have your say

5 We are consulting on our draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 29 August 2017 to 6 November 2017. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new wards – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we received.

6 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

You have until 6 November 2017 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 21 for how to send us your response.

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.¹

8 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Peter Knight CBE, DL
- Alison Lowton
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Sir Tony Redmond

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

9 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Forest of Dean 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 district.

What is an electoral review?

10 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

11 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

12 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Forest of Dean. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

13 This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
21 March 2017	Number of councillors decided
28 March 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 June 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
29 August 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
6 November 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
16 January 2018	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

14 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 council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

15 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.

16 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.

17 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 Forest of Dean	66,941	73,509
Number of councillors	38	38
Average number of electors per councillor	1,762	1,934

18 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 Forest of Dean will have electoral equality by 2023.

19 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district 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

20 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

21 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 10% by 2023. This large growth is driven mainly by significant housing developments in the town of Lydney.

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.

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

Number of councillors

23 Forest of Dean Council currently has 48 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that decreasing by nine would allow the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

24 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 39 councillors – for example, 39 one-councillor wards, 13 three-councillor wards or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

25 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. The submission stated that there should be no reduction in the number of councillors but provided no evidence to support this assertion.

26 Whilst drawing up the draft recommendations for the Forest of Dean we found that it was not possible to create a warding pattern for 39 councillors that had good electoral equality and reflected the community evidence we received. We noted that a 38-councillor warding pattern would better reflect community identities and interests. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 38-member council. This approach is consistent with our guidance where we state it may be necessary to increase or decrease the council size by one or two members to ensure better boundaries or the better reflection of community identity.

Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 31 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included detailed district-wide proposals from Forest of Dean Labour Group, Forest of Dean Conservative Group, Forest of Dean UKIP Group and a local resident. We also received comments covering the entire district and specific areas from a number of other political groups, local councillors, parish and town councils and local residents. All were based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 39 elected members.

28 The district-wide schemes each provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Forest of Dean. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that most of the proposed ward boundaries would have good levels of electoral equality, but each proposed scheme had at least one ward that would have too high an electoral variance for us to consider. We also considered that all of the schemes generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

29 Our draft recommendations are based on a combination of the district-wide proposals that we received. In some areas of the district we have also taken into account local evidence that we received, which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at

the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Forest of Dean helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

30 Our draft recommendations are for five three-councillor wards, seven two-councillor wards and nine one-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

31 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 18 and on the large map accompanying this report.

32 We note that some of our proposed wards are geographically large. We have based these on the evidence received during the ward boundaries consultation. We would be prepared to adopt a pattern containing more single-member wards should we received sufficient evidence to consider them. We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

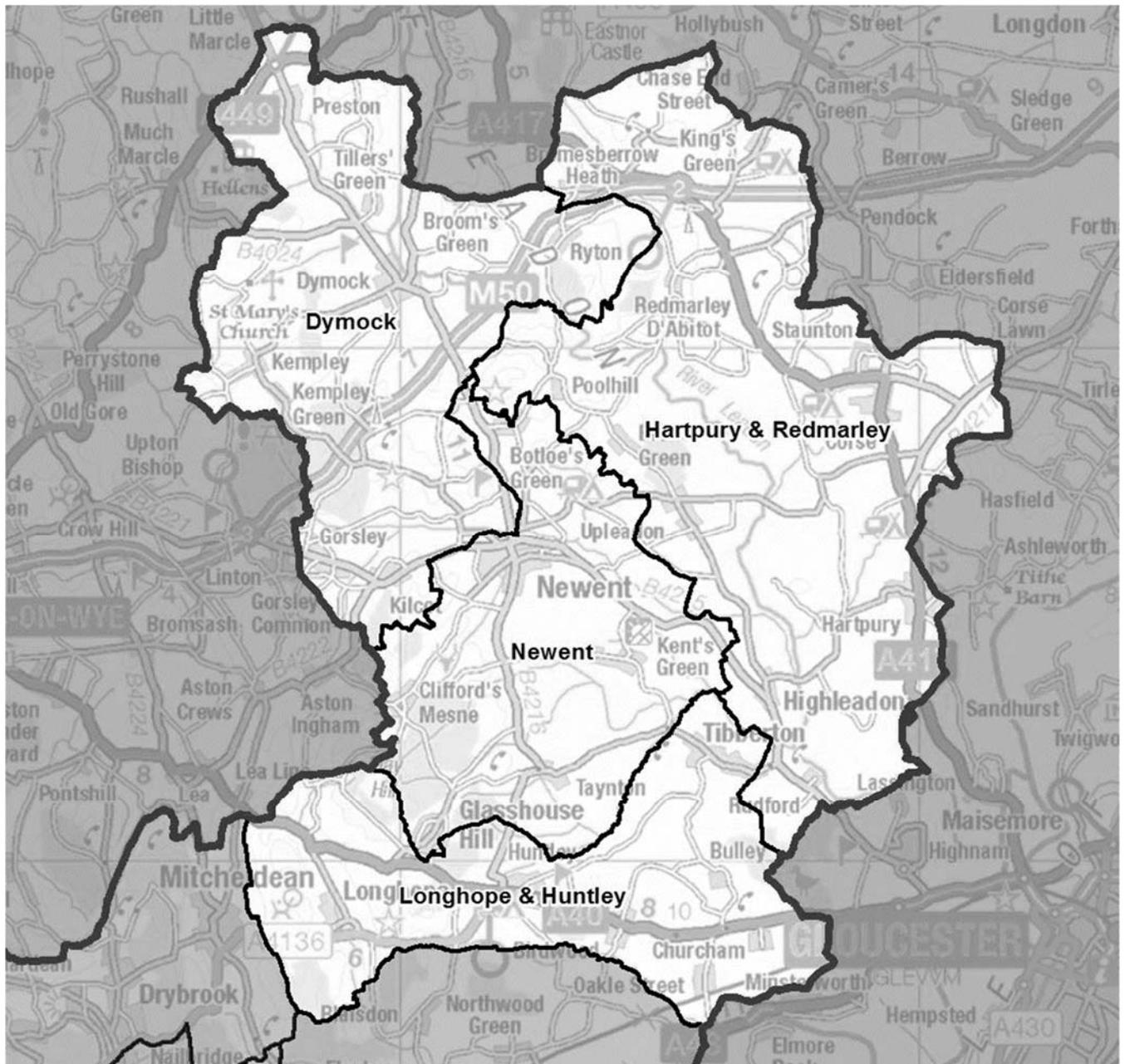
Draft recommendations

33 The tables and maps on pages 8–17 detail our draft recommendations for each area of the Forest of Dean. 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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Newent and surrounding parishes



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Dymock	1	-10%
Hartpury & Redmarley	2	-5%
Longhope & Huntley	2	-10%
Newent	3	-5%

Newent

34 The nine submissions we received for this area proposed significantly different boundaries, with the Labour, Conservative and UKIP warding schemes all proposing that the parish of Newent be divided between four wards. Two wards would represent the town itself with the remainder of the town and the rural part of the parish being covered by two wards containing surrounding parishes. The scheme received from a local resident proposed a three-councillor Newent ward containing the whole of Newent parish and the neighbouring Taynton parish.

35 On visiting the area, we decided that a three-councillor Newent ward would be the most appropriate warding pattern for this area as it represented the best balance of our three statutory criteria. We have therefore based our proposed ward on the submission that suggested this. We consider the ward reflects the local community in Newent and avoids any artificial division of Newent parish as exists currently and in the other proposals for the area.

Dymock and Hartpur & Redmarley

36 We have based our ward on the local resident's scheme in this area, which includes the four parishes of Dymock, Gorsley & Kilcot, Kempley and Oxenhall in a single-councillor Dymock ward. This proposal was supported by the submission from Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council who argued that their parish should be included in a wholly rural ward rather than a ward that contained part of the town of Newent.

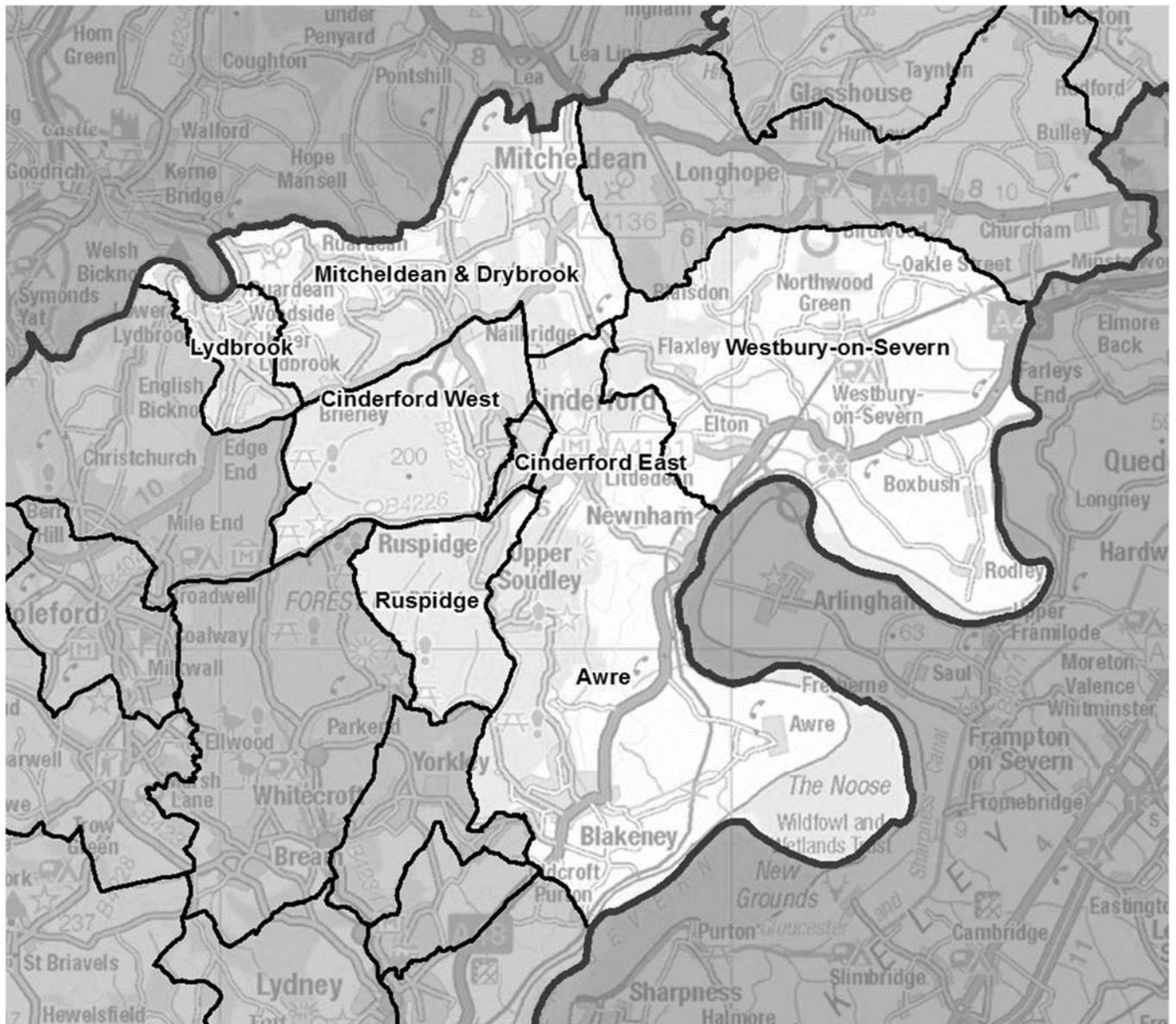
37 All of the submissions we received regarding the parishes to the north-east of Newent proposed two single-councillor ward of Redmarley and Hartpur similar to the existing arrangements. However, we had a number of submissions that emphasised the strong links between the parishes in the area, particularly those of Staunton and Corse, and Hartpur and Rudford & Highleadon.

38 All of the proposed wards for the area included the parishes of Staunton and Corse in different wards. This was opposed by both Staunton North Parish Council and Corse Parish Council, both of which demonstrated the ways in which the two parishes work together. We therefore propose that the two single-councillor wards of Redmarley and Hartpur are combined to allow Staunton and Corse parishes to be in the same ward, a two-councillor Hartpur & Redmarley ward.

Longhope & Huntley

39 In this area we received two suggested wards: a single-councillor ward of Churcham & Huntley containing the parishes of Blaisdon, Churcham and Huntley, and a two-councillor ward also containing Longhope and Tibberton parishes. We visited the area and we came to the decision that a two-councillor Longhope & Huntley ward was most appropriate for the area for a number of reasons. First, we propose to include Blaisdon parish in a Westbury-on-Severn ward, as mentioned below. Also, we concluded that Longhope parish should be included in this ward and not in a ward with Mitcheldean to allow us to develop proposals for other parts of the district. A two-councillor ward in this area allows us to avoid splitting any parishes between wards, which would be necessary to create single-councillor wards. We are particularly interested to hear local views in this area on both our proposed boundaries and the size and names of the proposed wards.

Cinderford and surrounding parishes



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Awre	2	7%
Cinderford East	2	-8%
Cinderford West	2	-5%
Lydbrook	1	-2%
Mitcheldean & Drybrook	3	6%
Ruspidge	1	6%
Westbury-on-Severn	1	-10%

Mitcheldean & Drybrook and Lydbrook

40 The various submissions we received for this area again proposed significantly different boundaries, with the Labour, Conservative and UKIP groups all proposing a ward that included Longhope parish with all or part of Mitcheldean parish, as well as single-councillor wards for Drybrook, Ruardean and Lydbrook. The scheme from the local resident proposed a three-councillor Mitcheldean & Drybrook ward and a single-councillor Lydbrook & Ruardean ward that divided Lydbrook parish between wards. The other schemes all divided Drybrook parish between wards. On visiting the area, we decided that the most appropriate focus here would be wards that did not divide any of the parishes if possible. Our proposals are therefore a combination of the warding patterns received.

41 We propose to include Ruardean parish in a three-councillor Mitcheldean & Drybrook ward with those aforementioned parishes. This allows for the villages of Ruardean and Ruardean Woodside to be in the same ward. We also propose a single-member Lydbrook ward that has the same boundaries as Lydbrook parish, as proposed by the Labour, Conservative and UKIP groups. We consider these wards reflect the local community.

Westbury-on-Severn

42 We have based our ward of Westbury-on-Severn on the proposal from Westbury-on-Severn Parish Council who stated that they considered that the current warding arrangement for the area was inappropriate and that Westbury-on-Severn should be paired in a single-councillor ward with Blaisdon parish.

43 Having considered the evidence received we have concluded that this proposed warding pattern best reflects the community ties in this area and would provide effective and convenient local government for Westbury-on-Severn parish.

Awre and Ruspidge

44 The submissions we received for these wards all proposed that the Ruspidge part of Ruspidge & Soudley parish makes a single-councillor Ruspidge ward and that the Soudley part of the parish be included in a ward with Awre parish. They further proposed that Newnham parish be paired with part of Littledean parish with the remainder of Littledean parish included in a ward with Westbury-on-Severn.

45 As discussed above, we propose that Westbury-on-Severn parish make up a single-councillor ward with Blaisdon. We consider that it would not be appropriate to divide Littledean parish and to include the Pope's Hill area in a Westbury-on-Severn ward as proposed in the Labour, Conservative and UKIP proposals for the area. This view was supported by the submission from Littledean Parish Council.

46 Our proposal is to include Littledean and Newnham in a two-councillor Awre ward along with Awre parish and the Soudley part of Ruspidge & Soudley, as this allows us to propose a ward that does not unnecessarily divide parishes. However, we are particularly interested in views from this area, especially in relation to the proposed ward name of Awre.

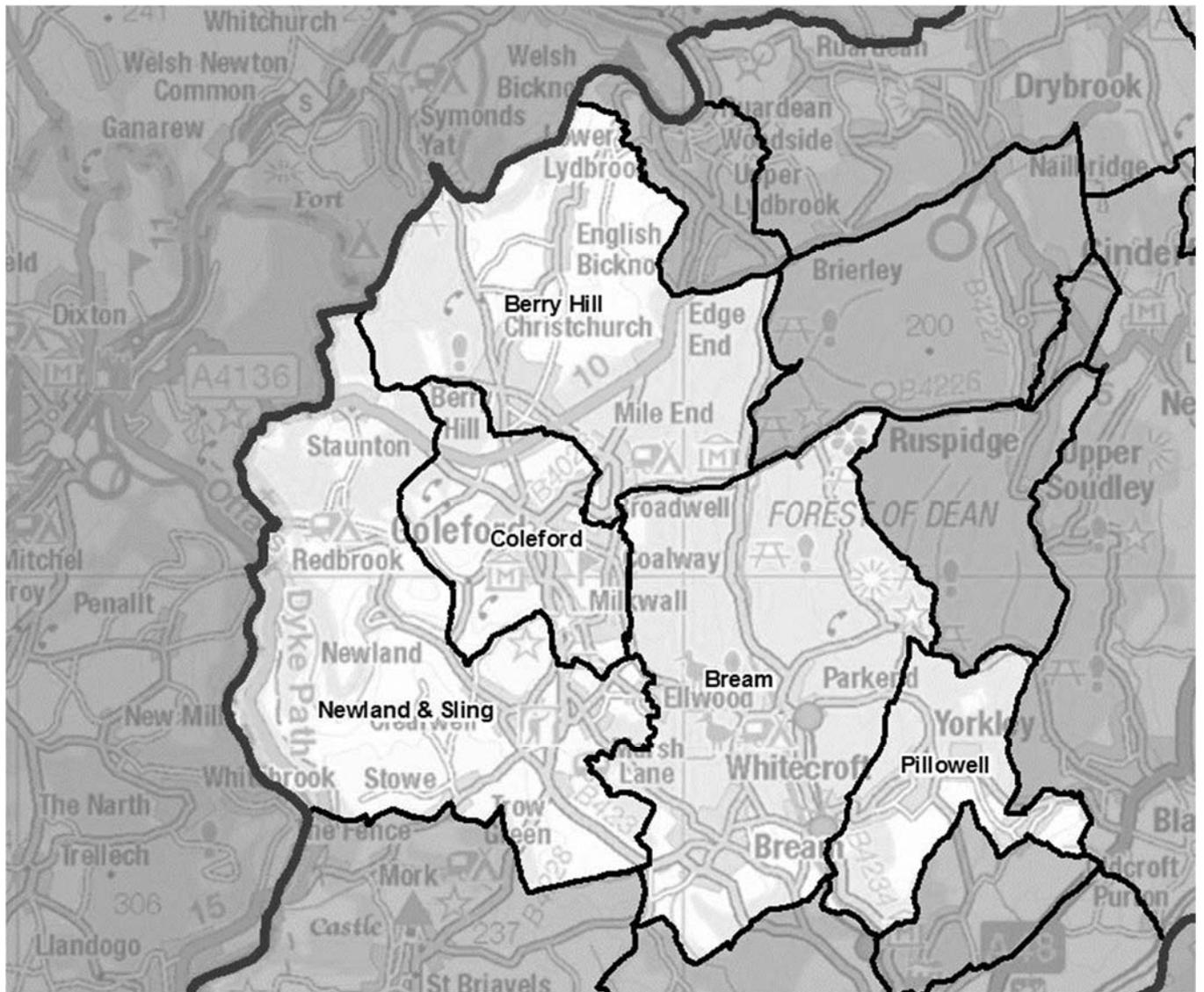
Cinderford East and Cinderford West

47 The submissions we received for Cinderford were for four single-councillor wards as proposed by the Labour, Conservative and UKIP groups and for two two-councillor wards as proposed by the scheme received from a local resident.

48 The single-councillor proposals all contained a ward with a variance of -13%, i.e. it would have 13% fewer electors than the district average by 2023. It would require strong evidence to justify a ward with such poor electoral equality. We do not consider that this evidence has been received. Therefore, we propose that Cinderford is made up of two wards, Cinderford East and Cinderford West. These wards are similar to the wards proposed in the local resident's scheme but with a small amendment to provide a more identifiable boundary.

49 We are particularly interested in hearing evidence from those who have a view on the desirability of single-councillor wards in Cinderford and wish to provide evidence to support that warding pattern.

Coleford and surrounding parishes



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Berry Hill	2	1%
Bream	2	2%
Coleford	3	7%
Newland & Sling	1	6%
Pillowell	1	-4%

Berry Hill and Coleford

50 The submissions in the Berry Hill and Coleford areas again provided a number of alternatives with proposals for Coleford including single-councillor and two-councillor wards. With the exception of the scheme from the local resident, these were all predicated on the acceptance of a two-councillor Berry Hill, English Bicknor & Staunton ward that would have 27% fewer electors than the district average by 2023. It is unlikely that any evidence, however strong, could justify a variance of -27% and that in this case the evidence provided to justify this was not sufficiently detailed. Other than the poor electoral equality the proposed ward used good boundaries and displayed a good recognition of the community ties in the area.

51 We also received a comment from Coleford Town Council regarding the external parish boundaries of the town. However, this is an issue for Forest of Dean District Council and not this review.

52 To provide for acceptable electoral equality in the area we propose that a small part of Coleford parish around Mile End and Broadwell be included in our proposed two-councillor Berry Hill ward. We note that these two areas have a strong road link with the area of Berry Hill as both are on the periphery of Coleford town itself. We have also proposed that the parish of Staunton Coleford not be included in this ward for reasons we discuss below.

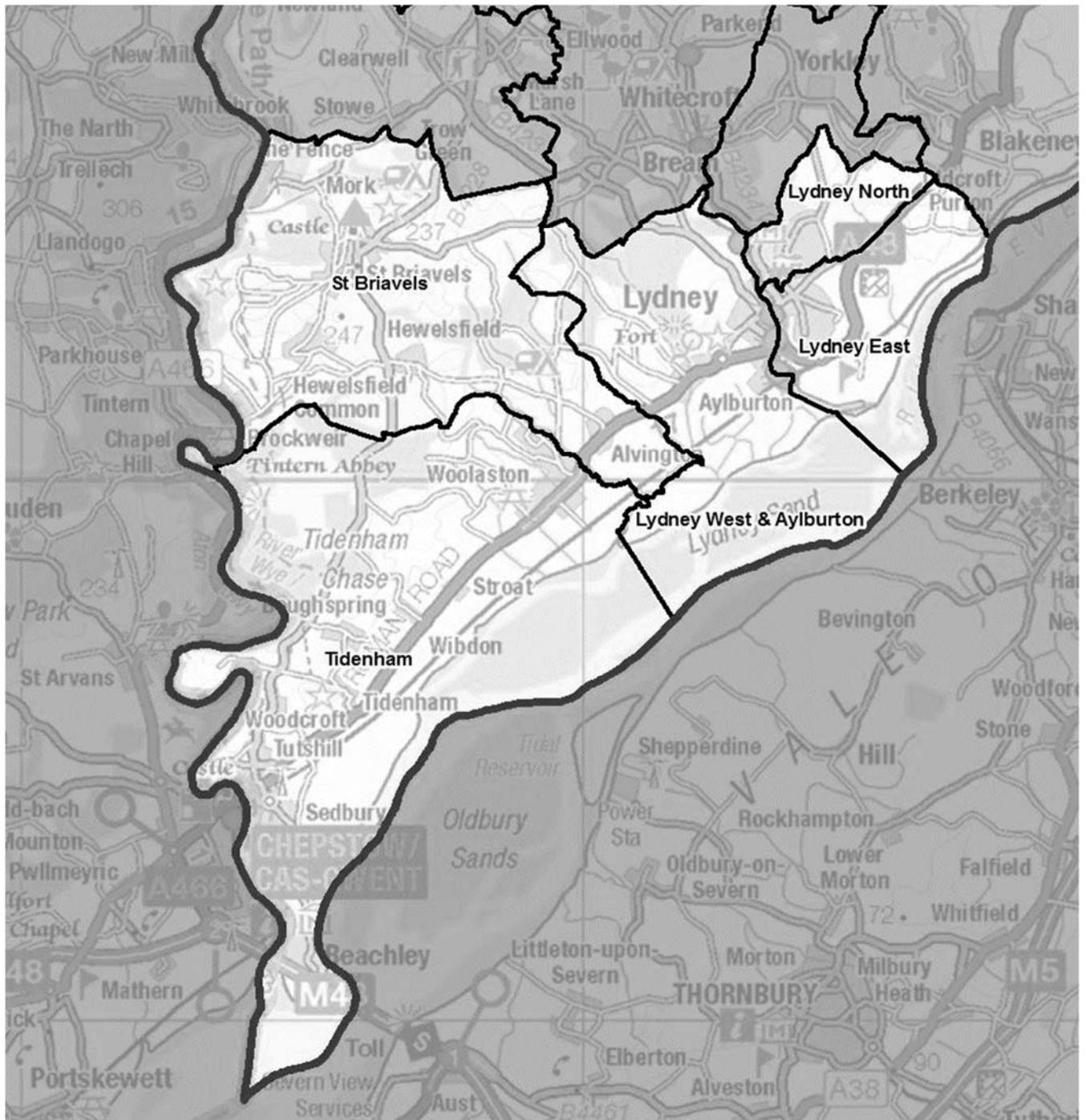
53 As a consequence of our inclusion of part of Coleford parish in a Berry Hill ward, the remainder of Coleford parish cannot be divided into two two-councillor wards with acceptable electoral equality. As a result, we propose that the remainder of the parish form a three-councillor Coleford ward with a variance of 7%. One submission from a local resident supported a three-councillor ward for Coleford. We are eager to hear the view of local people as to whether three single-councillor wards or a two-councillor and a single-councillor ward would be more appropriate for the area, and if so where the boundary should be.

Bream, Newland & Sling and Pillowell

54 In this part of the district we received four distinct proposals. Three of the proposals suggested a single-councillor Newland & Sling ward whilst one suggested a two-councillor Bream & Newland ward with a division of the parish of Newland. We propose a single-councillor Newland & Sling ward as proposed by the Labour, Conservative and UKIP groups. To this we propose to add the parish of Staunton Coleford. We do not propose to include this parish in our Berry Hill ward as we note that there was no road access between the two areas. We also do not propose to include the parish in our Coleford ward due to the poor electoral equality that would result. We note that the parish of Staunton Coleford has road links with the parish of Newland and we consider that this proposal best meets our statutory criteria.

55 Our proposal for the Bream and Pillowell areas is for a two-councillor Bream ward and a single-councillor Pillowell ward. This is as suggested by the Labour Group scheme, which we considered to be the best proposal for the area when weighed against our three statutory criteria.

Lydney and surrounding parishes



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Lydney East	3	5%
Lydney North	1	-8%
Lydney West & Aylburton	1	7%
St Briavels	1	7%
Tidenham	3	3%

Lydney East, Lydney North and Lydney West & Aylburton

56 The schemes for this area all proposed a pattern of a three-councillor and two single-councillor wards for Aylburton and Lydney parishes. The local resident's scheme proposed one three-councillor ward and one two-councillor ward. Having visited the area, and in particular the developments that will see a large increase of electors in the current Lydney East ward, we believe that a pattern of one three-councillor ward and two single-councillor wards will provide the best warding pattern for the town.

57 We propose that Lydney East remain a three-councillor ward as existing but we have made some amendments to the ward to take account of the increasing electorate and to provide for more identifiable boundaries. We also propose that Lydney North remain a single-councillor ward, as at present, subject to the minor amendments mentioned above. Most of the warding pattern submissions we received proposed a single-councillor Lydney West & Aylburton ward. This suggestion, which forms our proposed wards, sees Alvington parish included in St Briavels ward as mentioned below.

St Briavels and Tidenham

58 Proposals in this area included submissions from Hewelsfield & Brockweir Parish Council and Tidenham Parish Council as well as the submissions from the Labour, Conservative and UKIP groups and the local resident's scheme. All schemes except that from the local resident suggested splitting the parish of Tidenham between wards. Tidenham Parish Council argued that Tidenham should continue to have three councillors. We consider that a scheme that does not divide Tidenham parish is preferable to one that does and we therefore propose that Tidenham parish is included in a three-councillor ward with Woolaston parish.

59 Hewelsfield & Brockweir Parish Council suggested that St Briavels should be paired with Hewelsfield & Brockweir rather than Newland parish. All the full warding pattern submissions we received proposed the same ward and we also propose that St Briavels, Hewelsfield & Brockweir and Alvington form a single-councillor ward.

Conclusions

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

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	38	38
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	1,762	1,934
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	5	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Draft recommendation

Forest of Dean should be made up of 38 councillors serving 21 wards representing nine single-councillor wards, seven two-councillor wards and five three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for the Forest of Dean.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Forest of Dean on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

61 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.

62 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, Forest of Dean 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.

63 As a 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 Cinderford, Coleford, Lydney and West Dean.

64 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 Cinderford parish.

Draft recommendation	
Cinderford Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Cinderford East	7
Cinderford North	1
Cinderford West	7

65 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 Coleford parish.

Draft recommendation	
Coleford Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	7
East	7
Mile End & Broadwell	3

66 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 Lydney parish.

Draft recommendation	
Lydney Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Lydney East	10
Lydney North	3
Lydney West	2

67 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 West Dean parish.

Draft recommendation West Dean Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Berry Hill	2
Bream	5
Christchurch	1
Ellwood & Sling	2
Parkend	2
Pillowell	3

3 Have your say

68 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole district or just a part of it.

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

70 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at consultation.lgbce.org.uk

71 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Forest of Dean)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP

72 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for the Forest of Dean which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local 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

73 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

74 Electoral equality:

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

75 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- 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?

76 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?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

77 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices in Millbank (London) and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

78 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

79 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

80 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for the Forest of Dean in 2019.

Equalities

81 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.

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Forest of Dean

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 Awre	2	3,917	1,959	11%	4,125	2,062	7%
2 Berry Hill	2	3,749	1,875	6%	3,898	1,949	1%
3 Bream	2	3,711	1,856	5%	3,935	1,967	2%
4 Cinderford East	2	3,462	1,731	-2%	3,548	1,774	-8%
5 Cinderford West	2	3,192	1,596	-9%	3,667	1,834	-5%
6 Coleford	3	5,772	1,924	9%	6,219	2,073	7%
7 Dymock	1	1,650	1,650	-6%	1,736	1,736	-10%
8 Hartpury & Redmarley	2	3,507	1,754	0%	3,658	1,829	-5%
9 Longhope & Huntley	2	3,226	1,613	-8%	3,476	1,738	-10%
10 Lydbrook	1	1,778	1,778	1%	1,898	1,898	-2%
11 Lydney East	3	4,003	1,334	-24%	6,099	2,033	5%
12 Lydney North	1	1,732	1,732	-2%	1,789	1,789	-8%

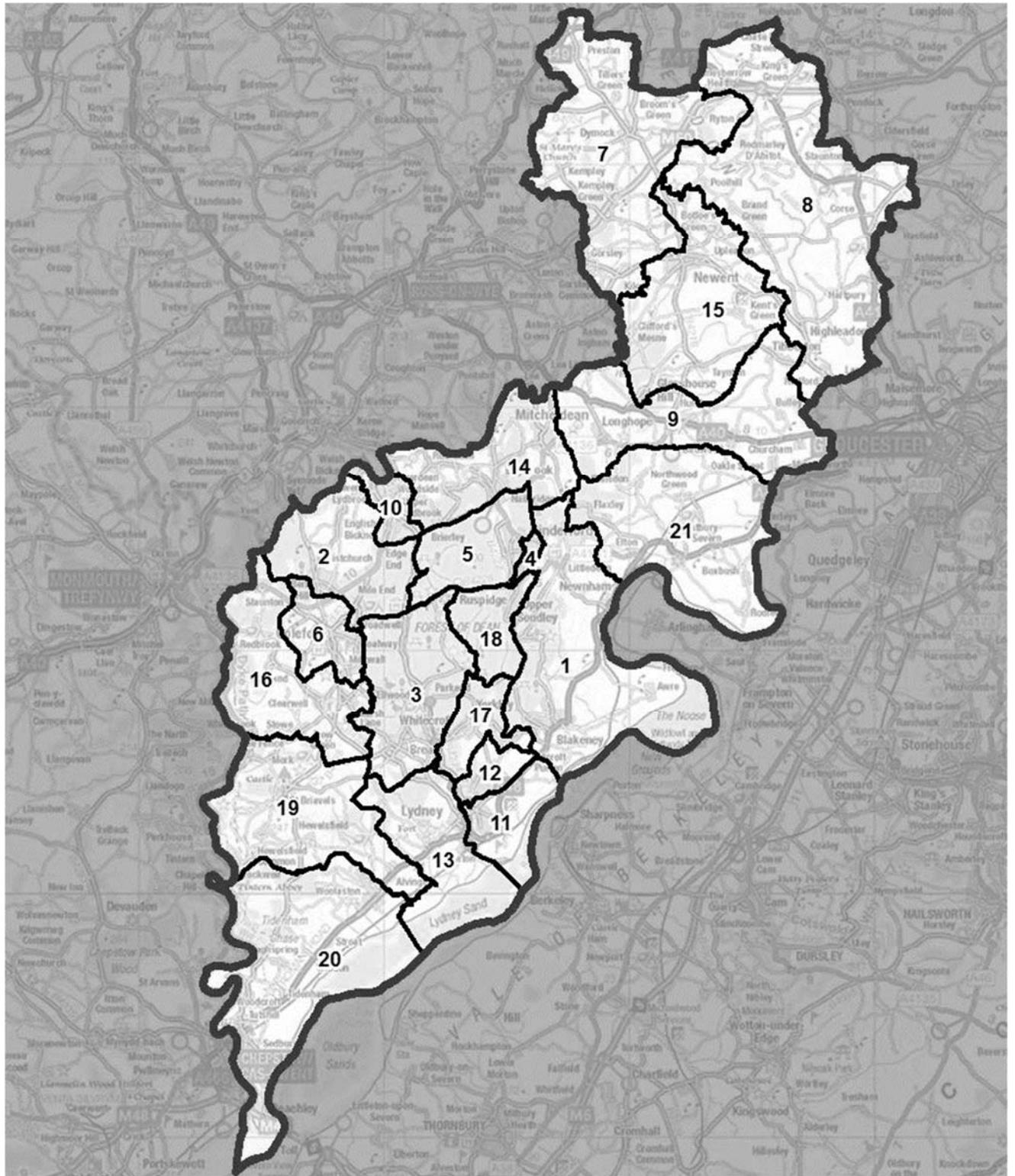
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Lydney West & Aylburton	1	1,981	1,981	12%	2,060	2,060	7%
14 Mitcheldean & Drybrook	3	5,822	1,941	10%	6,135	2,045	6%
15 Newent	3	4,939	1,646	-7%	5,508	1,836	-5%
16 Newland & Sling	1	1,966	1,966	12%	2,055	2,055	6%
17 Pillowell	1	1,790	1,790	2%	1,857	1,857	-4%
18 Ruspidge	1	1,850	1,850	5%	2,059	2,059	6%
19 St Briavels	1	1,970	1,970	12%	2,074	2,074	7%
20 Tidenham	3	5,272	1,757	0%	5,966	1,989	3%
21 Westbury-on-Severn	1	1,652	1,652	-6%	1,749	1,749	-10%
Totals	38	66,941	-	-	73,509	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,762	-	-	1,934	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Forest of Dean.

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 district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Key

1. Awre
2. Berry Hill
3. Bream
4. Cinderford East
5. Cinderford West
6. Coleford
7. Dymock
8. Hartpury & Redmarley
9. Longhope & Huntley
10. Lydbrook
11. Lydney East
12. Lydney North
13. Lydney West & Aylburton
14. Mitcheldean & Drybrook
15. Newent
16. Newland & Sling
17. Pillowell
18. Ruspidge
19. St Briavels
20. Tidenham
21. Westbury-on-Severn

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/current-reviews/south-west/gloucestershire/forest-of-dean>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-west/gloucestershire/forest-of-dean>

Political Group

- Forest of Dean Conservative Group
- Forest of Dean Forest First Group
- Forest of Dean Independent Group
- Forest of Dean Labour Group
- Forest of Dean UKIP Group

Councillors

- Councillor A. Gardiner (Forest of Dean District Council – Lydbrook & Ruardean ward)
- Councillor B. Hogan (Forest of Dean District Council – Lydbrook & Ruardean ward)

Parish and Town Council

- Coleford Town Council
- Corse Parish Council
- English Bicknor Parish Council
- Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council
- Hartpury Parish Council
- Hewelsfield & Brockweir Parish Council
- Littledean Parish Council
- Staunton North Parish Council
- Tidenham Parish Council
- Upleadon Parish Council (two submissions)
- Westbury-on-Severn Parish Council

Local Residents

- 12 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
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