

Further draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements in the Finchley, Golders Green and Hendon areas of Barnet Council

Electoral review

October 2019

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Analysis and further draft recommendations in the areas of Finchley, Golders Green and Hendon

1 Following our consultation on the draft recommendations for Barnet Council, the Commission has decided to hold a period of consultation on further draft recommendations in the areas of Finchley, Golders Green and Hendon, prior to the publication of its final recommendations. The Commission believes it has received sufficient evidence relating to the rest of the borough to finalise its recommendations.

2 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, which were published on 5 March 2019, we received 171 representations. We received a number of objections to our wards in Finchley, with the Labour Group on Barnet Council putting forward significantly amended proposals for this area. In light of the evidence received, we also propose significant amendments in the Golders Green and Hendon areas.

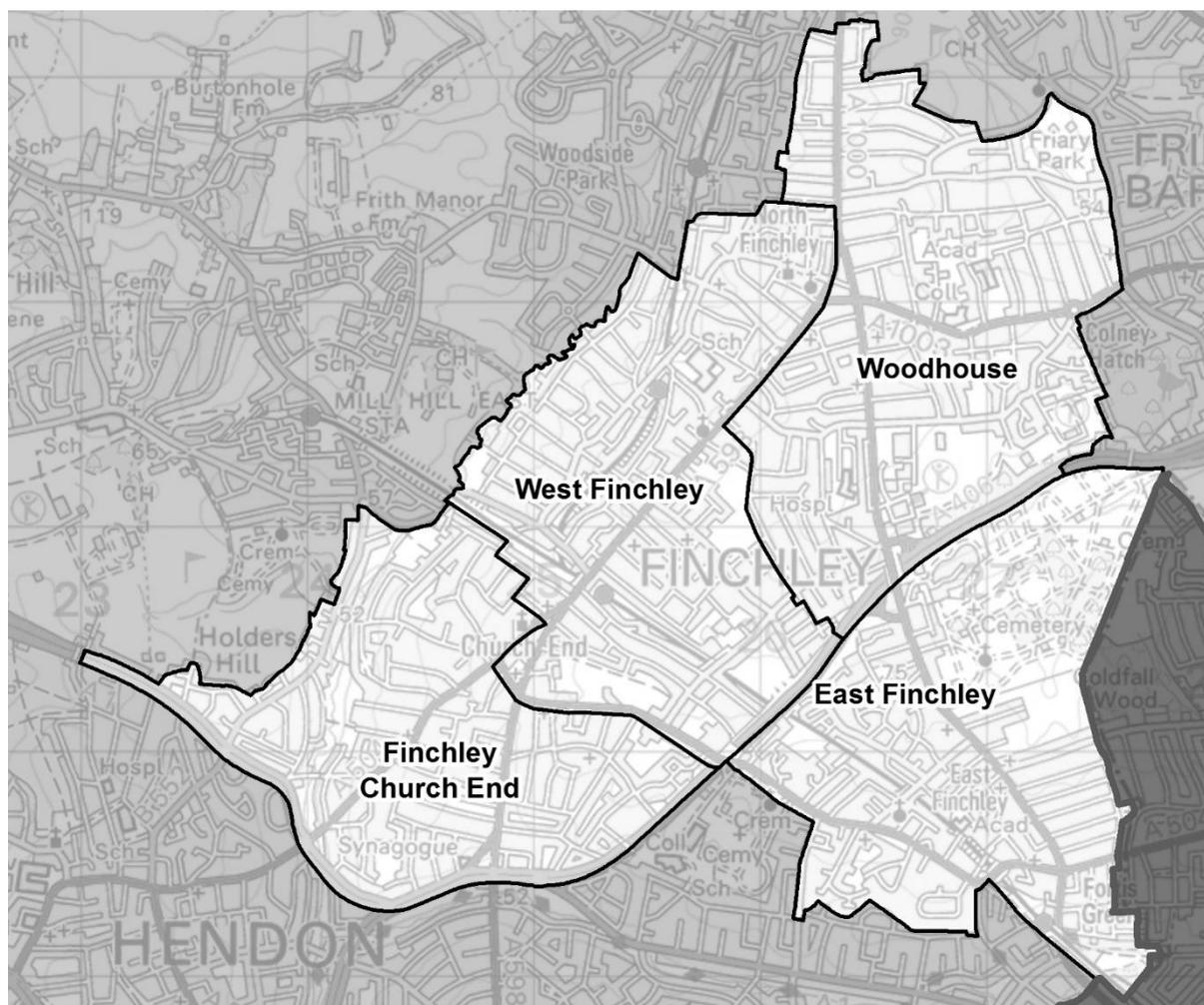
3 Our original draft recommendations for the Finchley and Golders Green areas were based primarily on our own proposals. This was to address the poor levels of electoral equality in the proposals we received during consultation. Given the new evidence we have received during our most recent consultation, we have been persuaded to amend our proposals and publish further draft recommendations for these areas, along with Hendon. We are now inviting further views on our proposed warding pattern in these areas.

4 We welcome all comments on these proposals, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries and the names of our proposed wards. This stage of consultation begins on 1 October and closes 12 November 2019. Please see page 10 for more information on how to send us your response.

5 The tables and maps on pages 2-11 detail our further draft recommendations for Finchley, Golders Green and Hendon. They detail how the proposed ward arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

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

Finchley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
East Finchley	3	-11%
Finchley Church End	2	8%
West Finchley	3	0%
Woodhouse	3	5%

East Finchley

6 We are proposing an amendment to our East Finchley ward. The Labour Group proposed moving the boundary to the North Circular, arguing that this was a strong boundary that should not be breached, and that electors to the north look to West Finchley. To ensure electoral equality it proposed amendments to the boundary with our Garden Suburb ward. A number of residents also objected to the draft recommendation to transfer an area to the north of the North Circular to West Finchley ward.

7 We also received a mixture of support and objections to our proposed boundary between East Finchley and Garden Suburb wards, with a number of residents specifically rejecting the original Conservative Group proposal to include the area around East End Road in Garden Suburb ward. Mike Freer MP (Finchley & Golders Green) and Councillor Grover expressed support for the original Conservative Group proposal. They argued that this proposal would enable Garden Suburb ward to take in a small number of roads of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust area that were omitted from the ward in the draft recommendations. It would also take in the area to the south of East End Road that, while not part of the Trust area, considers itself to be within the Garden Suburb ward. A number of other residents proposed small amendments between East Finchley and Garden Suburb ward to transfer specific roads between wards.

8 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the objections to the boundary between East Finchley and West Finchley wards and accept that the north circular should be used as a boundary in this area. However, although there was some support for the original Conservative proposal for the boundary between East Finchley and Garden Suburb wards, we also note the support for keeping the area around East End Road in East Finchley ward. We acknowledge that our original recommendations excluded a few roads that sit within the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust area, but to include them all, would worsen electoral equality in Garden Suburb ward to 13% more electors than the borough average by 2024. In addition, although the Labour Group proposal would improve electoral equality in East Finchley ward, we consider that its proposed boundary removes more roads from Garden Suburb ward that sit in the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust area. Therefore, we do not propose amending the boundary between East Finchley and Garden Suburb ward.

9 In using the north circular as a ward boundary, East Finchley would have 11% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2024. We consider this acceptable given its location at the edge of the borough and the limitations imposed by the north circular as a strong boundary in this area.

Finchley Church End, West Finchley and Woodhouse

10 We are proposing significant changes to our draft recommendations for these wards. The Labour Group proposed a number of significant amendments which it argued would provide a stronger warding pattern. Some of its amendments reflect other objections that we received to our proposals in this area. The Council Officers proposed changes to West Finchley and Woodhouse wards, primarily to ensure the ward boundaries reflect the Parliamentary constituency boundaries. However, when conducting electoral reviews we do not have regard to parliamentary boundaries and we have therefore not taken account of them as we have developed our

recommendations. Consequently, we have not adopted the Council Officers' proposals here.

11 The Labour Group objected to the proposed Woodhouse and West Finchley wards, arguing that Woodhouse ward is centred around North Finchley town centre, High Road and Woodhouse Road. It argued that our proposals to include roads either side of the High Road in West Finchley ward did not reflect community or local transport links, with residents looking to north Finchley for schools and services. It proposed transferring these areas to Woodhouse ward.

12 It also proposed transferring an area of our proposed Finchley Church End ward to West Finchley ward, arguing that residents here access Finchley Central underground station and services along Ballards Lane. A number of local residents also argued that these roads have clear access onto Ballards Lane. Finally, the Labour Group proposed transferring the Westbury Road and Court House Road areas from Totteridge & Woodhouse ward to West Finchley ward, arguing that residents here use facilities in West Finchley. This was also proposed by the West Finchley Residents Association and a number of local residents, who cited their links to West Finchley.

13 Two local residents argued that the area around Hutton Grove should be in the Woodhouse ward, citing links there.

14 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. Our original proposals for this area were based primarily on our own boundaries in order to address the poor levels of electoral equality in the proposals received during the original consultation.

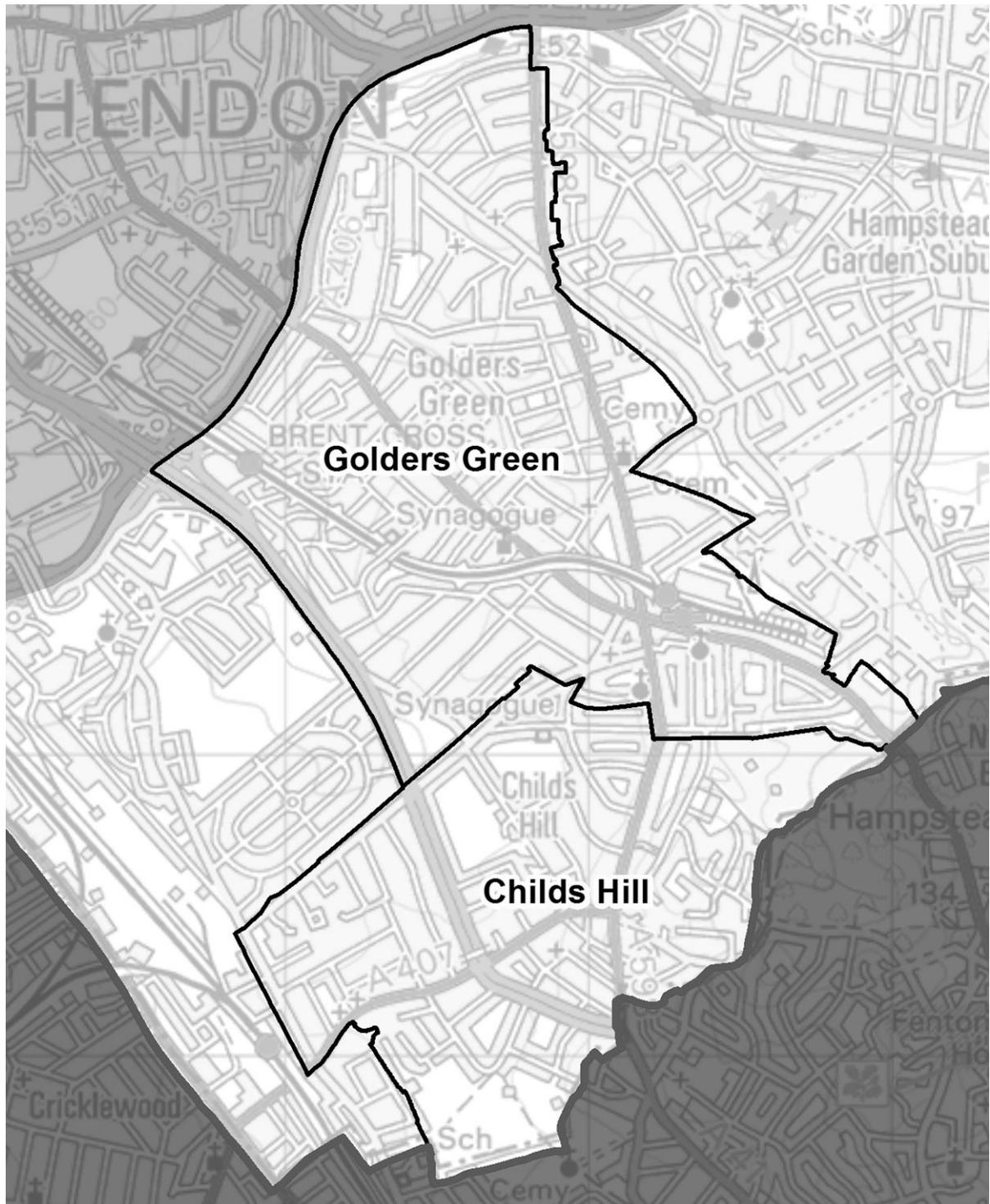
15 As stated in the East Finchley section above, we accept that the North Circular should be retained as a boundary in this area, with the Labour Group and residents arguing that the area to the north considers this to be a strong boundary between communities. In addition, the Labour Group has put forward good evidence to justify a Woodhouse ward based around the High Road and Woodhouse Road. We note that this proposal is dependent on an amendment to the boundary between West Finchley and Finchley Church End wards around Finchley Central underground station.

16 Our original proposals for a Finchley Church End ward sought to reflect the evidence received during the consultation for retaining the commercial area along Regent's Park Road in a Church End ward. However, in light of the new evidence received we propose to transfer this area to the West Finchley ward. Our earlier visit to the area highlighted that there is a good road link across the underground track from Regent's Park Road to Ballards Lane.

17 We consider the evidence to justify the transfer of Westbury Road and Court House Road to West Finchley ward to be strong. Therefore, we are adopting this amendment. However, we are not adopting the proposal from local residents to transfer the Hutton Grove area to Woodhouse ward as this would worsen electoral equality to 12% fewer electors per councillor by 2024 in West Finchley ward and 16% more in Woodhouse ward. We do not consider there to be the evidence to support such high electoral variances.

18 Finally, a local resident suggested that West Finchley ward covers North Finchley and should be named as such. However, in light of the proposed changes to ward boundaries and a lack of further supporting evidence, we have not adopted this name.

Golders Green



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Childs Hill	3	0%
Golders Green	3	-6%

Childs Hill and Golders Green

19 We are proposing amendments to our original proposals for these wards. The Labour Group proposed an alternative configuration, moving to a three-councillor Golders Green ward and two-councillor Childs Hill ward, arguing that Childs Hill is distinct from Golders Green and that its proposal would reflect this. It also argued that its proposed Golders Green ward would follow clear boundaries centred around Golders Green town centre. A submission from Lord Palmer also argued that Golders Green should be a three-councillor ward and a two-councillor Childs Hill ward. We also received significant objections to our draft recommendations for the boundary between Golders Green South and Cricklewood wards, as well as some support.

20 We have given consideration to the evidence received. We note that there were a significant number of concerns about the boundary between Golders Green South and Cricklewood wards, although we also note the broad support for Golders Green South ward. As stated in the draft recommendations, because of the location at the edge of the borough the options are limited.

21 A number of residents questioned why an area of Cricklewood was being transferred to Golders Green South ward. They argued that part of the Childs Hill area (located in our proposed Golders Green South ward) should be added to Cricklewood ward. As stated in the draft recommendations, we considered it would be necessary to include a very small section of the Childs Hill area around Finchley Road and Cricklewood Lane in Cricklewood ward to minimise electoral variances. We did not consider this would reflect community identity. We have no significant new evidence to justify this change, so we are not adopting it as part of our further draft recommendations.

22 A number of residents, as well as the Cricklewood Community Forum and the Railway Terraces Residents' Association argued that Hendon Way and Cricklewood Road are stronger boundaries and the area to the west and north of should be transferred to Cricklewood ward, rather than Golders Green South ward, along with a third councillor. However, the resulting ward would have an electoral variance by 2024 of 22%, which we do not consider has been justified, so we are not adopting this proposal in our further draft recommendations.

23 The Golders Green Estate Residents Association and a number of residents argued that the Golders Green Estate would be better served in a Golders Green ward. However, another resident argued that it is better placed in a Cricklewood ward. We recognise these arguments, but note that transferring the estate would leave Cricklewood ward with 24% fewer electors than the borough average by 2024, which we do not consider can be justified on the evidence received, so we are not adopting this.

24 We received conflicting evidence about the area around Hocroft Avenue, with one resident arguing that this area and the area to the north are part of Cricklewood and use the facilities on Cricklewood Lane near Farm Avenue, which are an essential part of Cricklewood. Other residents expressed support for the area around Hocroft Avenue being in Golders Green South ward. We note the concern of the resident about the shops on Cricklewood Lane, but while the shops might serve other areas of Cricklewood, they also serve the area transferred to Golders Green South ward. Since it is not possible to secure good electoral equality by using Hendon Way as a boundary and, given we have rejected transferring a small area of Childs Hill to an enlarged Cricklewood ward, we did consider whether the shops on Cricklewood Lane near Farm Avenue should be placed in the Cricklewood ward. However, we have concluded that it would produce a weaker boundary and not reflect the fact that these facilities are also used by the area around Hocroft Avenue. Therefore, we are retaining them in a Golders Green ward.

25 We received a large number of objections to the draft recommendations which split The Vale between Cricklewood and Golders Green South wards, with most arguing that it should be included in Golders Green South ward. We amended this boundary to improve electoral equality in Cricklewood ward. However, we note the evidence received and have decided to transfer the whole of The Vale from Cricklewood ward. While this worsens electoral equality in Cricklewood from 7% to 9% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2024, we consider the evidence justifies this.

26 Councillor Zinkin and a number of local residents expressed support for the draft proposals, although a number of respondents argued that Golders Green South ward should include Childs Hill in the name.

27 We note the argument that Rotherwick Road should be in Garden Suburb ward as it is part of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust area. However, while we have sought to include most of the Trust area in Garden Suburb ward, it is not possible to include the whole area without creating poor levels of electoral equality. We note that Rotherwick Road has good access into the Golders Green South ward, so we are retaining it in this ward.

28 As stated above, our original recommendations for these wards were based on our own proposals that sought to address poor levels of electoral equality in the proposals received during consultation. Having assessed the evidence received during the most recent consultation, we consider that the Labour Group's proposals provide clear boundaries, creating a more compact two-member ward around Childs Hill, while avoiding the division of the Golders Green area along Golders Green Road. The proposals also keep Golders Green town centre in a single ward.

29 Therefore, subject to a small amendment to improve electoral equality we are adopting these wards. We note that there were a range of arguments for alternative ward names for the Golders Green South ward, with Childs Hill being a dominant suggestion. Therefore, we are calling the two-member ward Childs Hill, while calling the three-member ward to the north Golders Green.

Hendon



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Hendon	3	-8%
West Hendon	3	9%

Hendon and West Hendon

30 The Labour Group expressed general support for these wards. Councillor Richman and a local resident argued that the Shirehall Estate and Cheyne Walk area have strong links into West Hendon, citing cultural, social and religious connections, along with the use of Brent Cross shopping area. We note that this proposal would worsen electoral equality in both wards. However, we are persuaded by the evidence received and are transferring this area to West Hendon ward as part of our final recommendations. As a result, Hendon and West Hendon wards would

have 8% fewer and 9% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2024.

31 Councillor Richman also objected to the inclusion of the southern area of Colindale in West Hendon ward stating that the areas have no shared community identities and interests. We note that retaining this area in Colindale South ward would worsen electoral equality there to 11% more electors per councillor than the borough average. Unlike the East Finchley area, we do not consider there to be a strong justification for this high electoral variance and we note that this area has road links into the West Hendon area along the A5. Therefore, we are not adopting this amendment in our further draft recommendations.

32 We also note that the Council Officers proposed a small amendment between West Hendon and Colindale South wards, using the middle of Silkfield Road as the boundary. However, beyond arguing that it is a clearer boundary, it did not provide any further evidence. While the centre of a road may appear to be a clearer boundary, it does not necessarily mean it is a better one in terms of community identity and there are other areas of the borough where boundaries run to the rear of properties. On the basis of the evidence received, we are not changing this boundary as part of our further draft recommendations.

Have your say

33 The Commission has an open mind about its further draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from.

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

35 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

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

Review Officer (Barnet)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

37 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Barnet Council 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

38 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

39 Electoral equality:

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

40 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?

41 Effective and convenient 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?

42 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 Westminster (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.

43 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.

44 In the light of representations received, we will review our further 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 further draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

45 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 Barnet Council in 2022.

Equalities

46 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendix A

Further draft recommendations for the Finchley, Golders Green and Hendon areas of Barnet Council.

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Childs Hill	2	8,346	4,173	5%	8,699	4,349	0%
2	East Finchley	3	11,306	3,769	-5%	11,545	3,848	-11%
3	Finchley Church End	2	9,032	4,516	14%	9,350	4,675	8%
4	Golders Green	3	12,387	4,129	4%	12,267	4,089	-6%
5	Hendon	3	11,730	3,910	-2%	11,949	3,983	-8%
6	West Finchley	3	12,438	4,146	4%	12,982	4,327	0%
7	West Hendon	3	12,059	4,020	1%	14,133	4,711	9%
8	Woodhouse	3	13,419	4,473	13%	13,687	4,562	5%

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Barnet 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

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/barnet>

Local Authority

- Barnet Council Officers

Political Groups

- Barnet Council Labour Group

Councillors

- Councillor R. Grover (Barnet Council)
- Councillor H. Richman (Barnet Council)
- Councillor P. Zinkin (Barnet Council)

Members of Parliament

- Mike Freer MP (Finchley & Golders Green)

Local Organisations

- Warden & Freemen of Malmesbury
- All Saints Church, Child's Hill
- Cricklewood Community forum
- Golders Green Estate Residents Association
- Love Whetstone
- Mill Hill Neighbourhood Forum
- Railway Terraces Residents Association
- Torrington Park Residents Association
- West Finchley Residents Association
- Woodside Park Garden Suburb Residents Association

Local Residents

- 155 local residents