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## Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which 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 are conducting an electoral review of Corby Borough Council to provide improved levels of electoral equality across Corby.

The review aims to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same. The Commission commenced the review in August 2012. This review is being conducted as follows:

<b>Stage starts</b>	<b>Description</b>
26 March 2013	Consultation on council size
16 July 2013	Invitation to submit proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
24 September 2013	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
21 January 2014	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
15 April 2014	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

## Draft recommendations

We proposed a council size of 29 members, comprising a pattern of one single-member ward, five two-member wards and six three-member wards. Our draft recommendations for Corby sought to reflect the evidence of community identities received while ensuring good electoral equality and providing for effective and convenient local government.

## Submissions received

During the consultation on our draft recommendations, the Commission received nine submissions. These included submissions from Corby Borough Council, Corby Labour Group, three borough councillors, Cottingham Parish Council and three local residents. All submissions can be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Analysis and final recommendations

### Electorate figures

Corby Borough Council ('the Council') submitted electorate forecasts for 2019, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations. We noted that the electorate figures supplied by the Council for the Weldon area showed a significant increase in electorate by 2019. We asked the Council to confirm whether this projection was accurate as the Weldon Park development had not received planning approval. The Council subsequently submitted revised electorate

figures and confirmed that the Weldon Park development is not included in its new forecast for 2019.

## General analysis

Throughout the review process, the primary consideration has been to achieve good electoral equality, while seeking to reflect community identities and securing effective and convenient local government. Having considered the submissions received during the consultation on our draft recommendations, we have sought to reflect community identities and improve the levels of electoral fairness. As a result, we have proposed boundary changes to our single-member Rural West ward and two-member Rowlett ward.

Our final recommendations for Corby are that the Council should have 29 members comprising a pattern of one single-member, five two-member and six-three member wards. One ward would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% by 2019.

## What happens next?

We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Corby Borough 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 Corby Borough 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

**You can also view our final recommendations for Corby Borough Council on our interactive maps at <http://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 our decision to review Corby Borough 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 Corby Borough Council as well as other interested parties inviting the submission of proposals first on council size and then on warding arrangements for the Council. The submissions received during these stages of the review have informed our draft recommendations. We then undertook a period of consultation which ended on 14 April 2014.

## 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 legislation<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why are we conducting a review in Corby?

5 We decided to conduct this review because 40% of wards in Corby have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the borough. Stanion & Corby Village ward currently has 32% fewer electors than the borough average.

## 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 council wards you vote in. Your ward name may also change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. The names or boundaries of parishes will not change as a result of our recommendations.

## What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

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<sup>1</sup> Schedule 2 to The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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  
Alison Lowton  
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 for the electoral arrangements for Corby Borough Council ('the Council').

9 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for Corby 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,<sup>2</sup> (the 2009 Act) 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 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Corby Borough 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.

13 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in 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. Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make such changes as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority ward arrangements.

14 We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review. However, principal councils have powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct Community

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<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Governance Reviews to effect changes to parish boundaries and electoral arrangements.

## Submissions received

15 Prior to, and during, the initial stage of the review, we visited Corby Borough Council ('the Council') and met with members and officers. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance.

16 We received nine submissions during our consultation on council size. These were from Corby Borough Council and eight local residents. Subsequently, we received two submissions on the consultation on warding patterns which included a borough-wide scheme from the Council and a submission from one borough councillor. During the consultation on the draft recommendations we received nine submissions. All submissions can be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

17 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2019, a period approximately five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations. This is prescribed in the 2009 Act. These forecasts projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 11% over this period.

18 We noted that the electorate figures supplied by the Council for the Weldon area showed a significant increase in electorate by 2019. We asked the Council to confirm whether this projection was accurate as the Weldon Park development had not received planning approval. The Council subsequently submitted revised electorate figures and confirmed that the Weldon Park development is not included in its new forecast for 2019.

19 We are satisfied the Council's revised forecasts provide a more realistic projection of growth in Corby and have used these as the basis of our final recommendations.

## Council size

20 We received nine submissions during our consultation on council size. These were from eight local residents and the Council.

21 The Council presented evidence in its submission that, having considered the future decision-making and representational arrangements for Corby, 29 members would provide 'efficient and effective representation to the public'.

22 Two local residents proposed a large reduction in council size for Corby. A reduction to between 10–15 councillors was put forward by one of the residents. The submission suggested 29 councillors were too many and not efficient. The other local resident suggested an even larger reduction to seven councillors. The respondent argued that this figure would reduce the length of meetings, would be less confusing for the electorate and provide for greater accountability.

23 Another local resident proposed a more modest reduction to 21 councillors. The respondent stated that the ward boundaries should be reorganised so that one

councillor can be 'the dedicated representative for each area'.

24 Of the five remaining submissions from local residents, three supported a reduction in council size but made no specific comments as to the number they would prefer. One of the submissions supported a slight increase or that Corby should remain with its existing council size. However, the respondent did not make further specific comments as to a preferred number. Another local resident stated that the Oakley Vale area should have its own councillor rather than be included in a ward with Danesholme because the issues that affect Oakley Vale are different. The submission made no specific comments on council size.

25 We agreed that the Council's proposal to retain the existing council size would ensure both effective and convenient local government and the effective representation of local residents. We considered that a more substantial reduction could affect the Council's ability to discharge its statutory functions effectively. We therefore consulted on warding arrangements based on a council size of 29 members.

## Electoral fairness

26 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 should provide for electoral fairness whilst ensuring that we reflect communities in the area, and provide for effective and convenient local government.

27 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we calculate the average number of electors per councillor. The district average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the district (47,341 in 2012 and 52,717 by 2019) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council – 29 under our final recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our final recommendations is 1,632 in 2012 and 1,818 by 2019.

28 Under the final recommendations, one of our proposed 12 wards will have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for the borough by 2019.

## General analysis

29 During consultation on our draft recommendations, we received nine submissions. The majority of respondents objected to our draft recommendations for Rural West ward

30 The Council were generally supportive of the draft recommendations but raised concerns over our proposals to transfer three urban streets in the north of Corby into Rural West ward. The Council's concerns were supported by seven further submissions which specifically objected to our proposals for Rural West ward. These respondents proposed that these three urban streets be transferred into either Rowlett or Lodge Park wards. This proposal if adopted, would lead to high levels of electoral inequality for Rural West ward.

31 Despite the limited evidence received to amend our draft recommendations we consider that the three urban streets have a stronger community identity with wards

in Corby town. We have therefore modified our draft recommendations for Rural West and Rowlett wards to achieve a better balance of the statutory criteria in this area.

32 We received a ward name suggestion for Central ward. We have, however, adopted as part of our final recommendations the names proposed in our draft recommendations.

33 Our final recommendations would result in one single-member ward, five two-member wards and six three-member wards. One of our proposed 12 wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Corby by 2019.

## Electoral arrangements

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

- Rural west (pages 8–9)
- Weldon and Gretton (page 9)
- Stanion and Corby village (pages 9–10)
- Corby north (page 10)
- Corby south (page 11)

35 Details of the final recommendations are set out in Table A1 on pages 15–16 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

### Rural west

36 As part of our draft recommendations in the rural west of Corby, we proposed a single-member Rural West ward. In particular, we decided to include three streets from the urban area of Corby, namely Hooke Close, Watson Close and White Post Court into Rural West ward.

37 During consultation on the draft recommendations we received six submissions for the rural west area. These included comments from the Council, the Corby Labour Group, three borough councillors and Cottingham Parish Council.

38 The Council broadly welcomed the draft recommendations for Corby but expressed concern at our proposals for Rural West ward. The Council stated that the parishes which make up the proposed ward, namely Cottingham, East Carlton, Middleton and Rockingham have a distinct rural identity and have no association with the three urban streets. The Council's views were also echoed by Councillor McKellar (Weldon & Gretton ward) who also objected to our proposed Rural West ward. Councillor McKellar proposed that electors in Hooke Close, Watson Close and White Post Court should be included in either Lodge Park or Rowlett wards where he suggested they would receive 'better representation'. This was supported by two local residents. We also received similar objections from the Corby Labour Group, Councillors Lilley and Heggs (Stanion & Corby Village ward) and Cottingham Parish Council. All of these respondents proposed that Rural West ward should comprise only the parishes mentioned above. To adopt this change would result in Rural West ward having 15% fewer electors per councillor than the average for Corby by 2019.

39 We have carefully considered the evidence received. While we note that a 15% variance is somewhat higher than we would normally wish to recommend, we consider that Hooke Close, Watson Close and White Post Court share stronger community identities with housing estates to the south than the rural west of Corby. On visiting the area, we noted that these three streets are cul-de-sacs with no access to the north. There is also a distance of 1.5 miles from the nearest settlement in Rural West ward which is the village of Rockingham. Therefore we propose to modify our draft recommendations for Rural West and transfer these three urban streets into Rowlett ward. We also propose that the ward boundary in this area follow the electoral division boundary which runs around the industrial estate.

40 Our final recommendations for the rural west of Corby are for a single-member Rural West ward. This ward is projected to have 15% fewer electors than the average for Corby by 2019. These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

## Weldon and Gretton

41 As part of our draft recommendations for the Weldon and Gretton areas we proposed a three-member Weldon & Gretton ward. Our proposed ward comprised the parishes of Weldon and Gretton and an industrial estate in the unparished area of Corby. The industrial estate is significant in that it provides a link between the two parishes which do not share a direct boundary. During the consultation on the draft recommendations, we received a single submission from Councillor McKellar (Weldon & Gretton ward) who made comments relating to this area.

42 Councillor McKellar supported the draft recommendations for Weldon & Gretton ward and the addition of a third councillor to the ward. We received no further comments or alternative warding patterns for the Weldon and Gretton area. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final. We are satisfied that the Priors Hall housing development in the north of Weldon parish will be completed within five years of the completion of the Corby review. The warding arrangements also provide for good electoral equality and reflect access routes between communities via the industrial estate.

43 Our final recommendations for Weldon and Gretton are for a three-member Weldon & Gretton ward. This ward is projected to have 5% fewer electors than the average for Corby for 2019. These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

## Stanion and Corby village

44 As part of our draft recommendations for the Stanion and Corby village areas, we proposed a two-member Stanion & Corby Village ward. Our proposed ward comprised the parish of Stanion and the unparished area of Corby Village.

45 We did not receive specific comments or alternative warding patterns for the Stanion and Corby village areas. In the absence of any evidence, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final. We remain satisfied that the housing developments on the land west of the village of Stanion will ensure that the ward secures good electoral equality by 2019. The ward also has good road links

with the urban part of Corby.

46 Our final recommendations for Stanion and Corby village are for a two-member Stanion & Corby Village ward. This ward is projected to have 8% fewer electors than the average for Corby by 2019. These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

## Corby north

47 As part of our draft recommendations for Corby north, we proposed the two-member wards of Central and Rowlett and the three-member wards of Lloyds and Lodge Park. During the consultation on the draft recommendations, we received four submissions from Councillor McKellar (Weldon & Gretton ward) and three local residents.

48 Councillor McKellar supported the draft recommendations for Lloyds ward. We also received a name change proposal from a local resident who suggested that the actual centre of the borough is Lloyds and Rowlett wards and not our proposed Central ward. He proposed that Central ward be renamed Corporation ward based on a park within the ward of the same name. During the development of our final recommendations, we contacted the Council regarding the name of the park and whether Corporation Park is the correct name. We now understand that the correct name is Coronation Park. The other two local residents objected to the draft recommendations and proposed that Rowlett ward should include Hooke Close, Watson Close and White Post Court which are proposed to be included in Rural West ward.

49 We have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Central, Lloyds and Lodge Park wards as final and modify our draft recommendations for Rowlett ward to include the three streets mentioned in paragraph 39 along with part of the industrial estate. We are satisfied that Central, Lloyds and Lodge Park wards will provide for good electoral equality and use clear and identifiable ward boundaries. We consider our modification to Rowlett ward will better reflect community identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

50 The proposal to rename Central ward is not supported by sufficient evidence. We consider the name Central ward is a better reflection of the geographical location of the ward. It also contains the administrative centre of the town and the shopping centre.

51 Our final recommendations for Corby north are for the two-member wards of Central and Rowlett and the three-member wards of Lloyds and Lodge Park. These wards are projected to have 2% fewer, 10% more, 3% more and 2% more electors per councillor than the average for Corby by 2019, respectively. These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

## Corby south

52 As part of our draft recommendations for Corby south, we proposed the two-member wards of Danesholme and Oakley North and three-member wards of Beanfield, Kingswood & Hazel Leys and Oakley South. During the consultation on the draft recommendations, we received a single submission from Councillor McKellar (Weldon & Gretton ward) who made comments relating to this area.

53 Councillor McKellar supported the draft recommendations for Beanfield and Danesholme ward, and the proposed ward name of Kingswood & Hazel Leys. We received no further comments or alternative warding patterns for this area. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final. We are satisfied that the ongoing housing development in the Oakley Vale area will be completed within five years of the completion of the Corby review. The warding arrangements also provide for good electoral equality and reflect our understanding of community identities in this area.

54 Our final recommendations for Corby south are for the two-member wards of Danesholme and Oakley North and three-member wards of Beanfield, Kingswood & Hazel Leys and Oakley South. These wards are projected to have 7% fewer, equal to, 5% more, 2% fewer and 7% more electors per councillor than the average for Corby by 2019, respectively. These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

## Conclusions

55 Table 1 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2012 and 2019 electorate figures.

**Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements**

	Final recommendations	
	2012	2019
Number of councillors	29	29
Number of wards	12	12
Average number of electors per councillor	1,632	1,818
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	8	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

### **Final recommendation**

Corby Borough Council should comprise 29 councillors serving 12 wards, as detailed and named in Table A1 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

## Parish electoral arrangements

56 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 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.

57 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make such changes as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority ward arrangements. However, the respective principal authority (Corby Borough 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.

58 Our final recommendations do not result in any parish being divided between wards. Therefore, consequential parish electoral arrangements are not required in any part of Corby.

### 3 What happens next?

59 We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Corby. 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 Corby Borough Council in 2015.

#### Equalities

60 This report has been screened for impact on equalities with due regard being given to the general equalities duty 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 Corby

61 The following maps illustrate our proposed ward boundaries for Corby Borough Council:

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

You can also view our final recommendations for Corby Borough Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

## Appendix A

**Table A1: Final recommendations for Corby Borough Council**

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Electorate (2012)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>	<b>Electorate (2019)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>
1	Beanfield	3	5,534	1,845	13%	5,701	1,900	5%
2	Central	2	3,487	1,744	7%	3,552	1,776	-2%
3	Danesholme	2	3,312	1,656	1%	3,398	1,699	-7%
4	Kingswood & Hazel Leys	3	5,157	1,719	5%	5,355	1,785	-2%
5	Lloyds	3	5,276	1,759	8%	5,617	1,872	3%
6	Lodge Park	3	5,450	1,817	11%	5,569	1,856	2%
7	Oakley North	2	2,806	1,403	-14%	3,632	1,816	0%
8	Oakley South	3	5,664	1,888	16%	5,842	1,947	7%
9	Rowlett	2	4,017	2,009	23%	4,017	2,009	10%
10	Rural West	1	1,457	1,457	-11%	1,544	1,544	-15%
11	Stanion & Corby Village	2	2,334	1,167	-28%	3,334	1,667	-8%

**Table A1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Corby Borough Council**

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Weldon & Gretton	3	2,847	949	-42%	5,156	1,719	-5%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>47,341</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,717</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,818</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Corby Borough 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 <a href="http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk">www.nationalparks.gov.uk</a>
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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
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

