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Summary

Who we are

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.

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

Electoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements 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 Birmingham?

We are conducting a review of Birmingham City Council following a recommendation by Sir Bob Kerlake (now Lord Kerlake) in his review of the governance and organisational capabilities of Birmingham City Council. That review followed on from concerns about the effectiveness of current operational arrangements in the Council. We subsequently agreed to undertake such a review, stimulated by Kerlake's objective of improving effective and convenient local government in Birmingham.

Our proposals for Birmingham

Birmingham City Council currently has 120 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, we considered that a reduction in council size to 100 members will ensure the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively. In developing the draft recommendations for Birmingham we identified that a council size of 101 members would provide for a better warding pattern across the city. Our draft recommendations are therefore based on a council size of 101.

Electoral arrangements

In May 2018 Birmingham City Council will move to all-out elections. As the whole Council will be elected, it is not a requirement to produce a uniform pattern of three-member wards. Our draft recommendations therefore propose that Birmingham City Council's 101 councillors should represent 53 single-member wards and 24 two-member wards across the city. None of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Birmingham by 2021.

You have until 8 February 2016 to have your say on the recommendations. See page 35 for how to have your say.

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Birmingham City Council's ('the Council's') electoral arrangements to ensure that the wards provide for effective and convenient local government and that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the city.

What is an electoral review?

2 Our three main considerations in conducting an electoral review are set out in legislation¹ and are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

3 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

4 We wrote to the Council inviting the submission of proposals on council size. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the city. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
14 July 2015	Council size decision
21 July 2015	Invitation to submit proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
28 September 2015	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
15 December 2015	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation
8 February 2016	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
17 May 2016	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

5 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

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

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?

6 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)
Alison Lowton
Sir Tony Redmond
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

7 Legislation² states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors³ 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.

8 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.

9 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors as shown on the table below.

	2015	2021
Electorate of Birmingham	728,730	813,401
Number of councillors	101	101
Average number of electors per councillor	7,215	8,053

10 Under our draft recommendations, none of our proposed wards will have electoral variances of greater than 10% from the average for the city by 2021. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for Birmingham.

11 Additionally, in circumstances where we propose to divide a parish between district wards or county divisions, we are required to divide it into parish wards so that each parish ward is wholly contained within a single district ward or county division. We cannot make amendments to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

12 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Birmingham City Council or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. There is no evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

13 See Appendix B for details of submissions received. All submissions may be inspected at our offices and can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

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.

Electorate figures

14 As prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2021, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2016. These forecasts were broken down to polling district levels and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 10.2% to 2021. The growth will be driven by growth in the electorate across the authority but most notably in the city centre and in Edgbaston.

15 Having considered the information provided by the Council, we are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis of our draft recommendations.

Council size

16 In making our recommendation for a new council size for Birmingham City Council we had regard to the comments on council size contained in Sir Bob Kerslake's (now Lord Kerslake) review of the governance and organisational capabilities of Birmingham City Council. Whilst the report did not propose a specific new council size for Birmingham, it judged the current council size of 120 as 'not sustainable'. The report also suggests the creation of 100, mainly single-member, wards.

17 Prior to consultation on warding arrangements, Birmingham City Council submitted a proposal to us proposing a council size of 'no fewer than' 120 councillors. After receiving the submission from the City Council, we met with the Leadership of the Council to discuss council size. Following this meeting the political groups on the Council were given the opportunity to submit further evidence in relation to council size.

18 Subsequently, the Leader and Executive and the Council's Conservative Group each made further submissions. Both submissions provided a vision for the future governance arrangements for the Council. We noted that the Leader and Executive considered that its vision could be achieved with 100 councillors and that the Conservative Group proposed a council size between 110–120.

19 In addition to the Kerslake report and these proposals from the Council, we considered some further pieces of evidence when determining a new council size for Birmingham. We received a letter from the Birmingham Independent Improvement Panel regarding Birmingham's future council size. The Council had also published an Improvement Plan which outlines how it will take forward the recommendations in the Kerslake report and this was also taken into account during our deliberations.

20 Having considered the evidence we took the view that a council size of 100 is the most appropriate for Birmingham on the grounds of effective and convenient local government. We considered that this council size marked a change from current arrangements, encouraged the new vision being developed for the Council and provided scope for the new ways of working being envisaged for such an important city.

21 We therefore invited proposals for warding patterns based on Birmingham having a council size of 100 members. We explained to all interested parties from the outset that the council size figure adopted at this stage of the review provided context for local stakeholders to submit their views on the wider electoral arrangements and that this council size figure could be slightly adjusted in order to provide for warding patterns that provide a better balance between the statutory criteria.

22 In response to the consultation on warding patterns we received city-wide proposals based on council sizes of 99, 100 and 101. In developing the draft recommendations we considered that a council size of 101 would provide for a pattern of wards that provided for good levels of electoral equality, would reflect communities and provide for clear and identifiable boundaries. Therefore, our draft recommendations for Birmingham are based on a council size of 101 members.

Warding patterns

23 During consultation on warding patterns, we received a total of 115 submissions. This included four detailed city-wide proposals from the Council's Conservative and Labour groups and from two local residents. The Conservative Group submission was based on a council size of 101, while the Labour Group's submission was based on a council size of 99. The two city-wide submissions from local residents were both based on a council size of 100.

24 We also received a detailed proposal for the Sutton Coldfield area from the Sutton Town Council Referendum Group. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the city.

25 The four city-wide schemes each provided for a mixed pattern of wards for the city. As stated in paragraph 23, not all of the city-wide schemes were based on the same council size. Of the four schemes, two proposed a pattern of wards based on 100 councillors. One of the city-wide schemes proposed a pattern of wards based on a council size of 99 whilst another proposed a pattern of wards based on a council size of 101.

26 Having carefully considered the proposals received, we were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards largely resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the city and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. We also considered that much of the localised evidence we received was invaluable in helping us to identify communities.

27 Our draft recommendations are based on a combination of the city-wide proposals that we received. In many areas of the city we have also taken into account the localised evidence that we received which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not necessarily provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and we have therefore identified alternative warding arrangements in some parts of the city with the assistance of localised evidence and with regard to our statutory criteria. In formulating our draft recommendations we also visited the city in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Birmingham has also informed our decision-making.

28 When considering the evidence received during the consultation and in formulating our draft recommendations it became apparent that a council size of 101 would provide a better allocation of councillors across the city and allow us to strike a better balance between our statutory criteria in some areas. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a council size of 101.

29 Our draft recommendations are for 53 single-member wards and 24 two-member 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.

30 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 37–43) and on the large map accompanying this report.

31 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations. We also welcome comments on the ward names we have proposed as part of the draft recommendations.

Draft recommendations

32 The tables on pages 9–32 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Birmingham. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

City centre and surrounding area

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Aston	2	-3%	This ward is bounded by the Birchfield Road (A34) to the west, the Aston Expressway (A38) to the south-west and the M6 to the north. The ward includes Aston Hall and Aston Park.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received five proposals for the Aston area as well as some localised evidence. Having considered the evidence received we consider that our proposed Aston ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Birchfield	1	-5%	Birchfield ward is bounded by Handsworth Park to the west, Wellington Road (A4040) to the north and Birchfield Road to the east (A34).	We received five submissions regarding the Birchfield area, including a number of different proposals for ward boundaries. One submission proposed combining this area with neighbouring Handsworth in a two-member ward. Having considered this proposal as well as the other localised evidence, and having visited the area during our tour of the city, we consider that a single-member Birchfield ward would provide a good reflection of community identity and allow for effective and convenience local government whilst also providing for a good level of electoral equality.
Bordesley & Highgate	1	-8%	This ward includes the Bordesley and Highgate communities and is bounded by the Birmingham loop railway line to the north.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four submissions that commented on this part of Birmingham. Our proposed Bordesley & Highgate ward is based on one of the proposals we received. We are content that the ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria and, having visited the area on our tour of the city, that it uses clear and identifiable boundaries.
Bordesley Green	1	-7%	Bordesley Green is bounded by the B4128 to the north and comprises the Bordesley Green community.	We received four different proposals for the Bordesley Green area during our consultation on warding arrangements. Having considered the evidence received we have based our single-member Bordesley Green ward on one of the

				proposals that we received subject to a minor amendment to the southern boundary to improve the electoral equality of the ward. We consider that our proposed Bordesley Green ward strikes a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Edgbaston	2	-7%	This ward comprises the community of Edgbaston and the Birmingham University campus.	We received seven submissions during the consultation on warding arrangements in regard to this part of the city. We received four detailed proposals for the warding arrangements in this area and we have based our Edgbaston ward on a combination of these proposals, with some minor amendments to provide a better reflection of our statutory criteria.
Handsworth	1	-3%	This ward is bounded by Soho Road to the south, Rookery Road to the west and Church Lane to the north. The eastern boundary is marked by Hamstead Road and the railway line that runs through Handsworth Park.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received eight submissions that commented on the Handsworth area including four detailed proposals for this part of the city. Having considered the evidence received we have based our Handsworth ward on a combination of the proposals that were made. We consider that our single-member Handsworth ward uses very clear boundaries and reflects community identity.
Handsworth Wood	2	-2%	Handsworth Wood ward is bounded by the A4040 to the south, by the Birmingham-Walsall railway line to the east and by the authority boundary to the north and west.	We received eight submissions that commented on the Handsworth area during the consultation on warding arrangements, including four detailed proposals for this part of the city. Having considered the evidence received we have based our Handsworth Wood ward on one of the proposals we received subject to a minor amendment to the eastern boundary of the ward. This slight amendment places the eastern end of Wellington Road and Celine Grove in the neighbouring Birchfield ward. We consider that our two-member Handsworth Wood ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria and uses clear and identifiable boundaries.

Harborne	2	0%	This ward incorporates the Harborne area of Birmingham and is bounded by the A456 to the north, the authority boundary to the north-west and Bourn Brook to the south.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received eight submissions that commented on the Harborne area, including four detailed proposals for this part of the city. The other submissions included some support for the inclusion of the Beech Lanes area in the Harborne ward. Our two-member Harborne ward is based on one of the proposals that we received. We are content that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries, reflects community identity and provides a good level of electoral equality.
Holyhead	1	-4%	Holyhead ward is bounded by the A4040 to the north, Rookery Road to the east and by the authority boundary to the south and west.	We received five submissions that commented on this part of the city during our consultation on warding arrangements. Having considered the evidence received we have based our single-member Holyhead ward on one of the proposals we received for the ward. We consider that the proposal provided a good balance between our statutory criteria and has clearly identifiable boundaries.
Ladywood	2	-4%	This ward incorporates much of Birmingham City Centre, running from Edgbaston Reservoir in the west to New Street railway station in the east.	We received four detailed proposals for this part of the city in addition to some submissions which commented on specific parts of the city centre. Some of the proposals were for a single-member Ladywood ward whilst others were for a two-member ward. On balance, we consider that one of the proposals for a two-member Ladywood ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria and we have included it as part of our draft recommendations.
Lozells	1	-2%	This ward comprises the Lozells community and is bounded by Soho Hill in the west and Birchfield Road to the east.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received nine submissions that commented on the Lozells area, including a number of detailed proposals. As part of our draft recommendations we have proposed a single-member ward bounded by Soho Hill in the west and Birchfield Road to the east. We consider that our single-member Lozells ward provides a good balance between our

				statutory criteria and would facilitate effective and convenient local government for this part of Birmingham.
Nechells	1	7%	Nechells ward is bounded by the Aston Expressway (A38) to the west and railway lines to the south and east.	We received five submissions that commented on the Nechells area during our consultation on warding arrangements. In proposing a single-member Nechells ward we have combined elements of these submissions to create a ward that we consider provides the best balance between our statutory criteria. We consider that our proposed Nechells ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and would provide for effective and convenient local government.
Newtown	1	-4%	This ward comprises the Newtown community to the north and south of New John Street West, which runs through the middle of the ward.	During our consultation on warding arrangements we received five submissions that commented on this area. Our proposed Newtown ward is based closely on a detailed proposal that we received during the consultation. We consider that this ward reflects community identity in this part of Birmingham and provides a good balance between our statutory criteria. However, we would particularly welcome comments on the name of this ward during the consultation on our draft recommendations.
Summerfield	2	-1%	Summerfield ward is bounded by the Birmingham Canal to the north and the authority boundary to the west.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received eight submissions that commented on this part of the city, including four detailed proposals for this area. Having considered the evidence received we have based our proposed Summerfield ward on a combination of the proposals that were made. We consider that our single-member Summerfield ward uses easily identifiable boundaries and reflects community identity evidence received.
Winson Green	2	-7%	Winson Green ward incorporates part of Birmingham City Centre and	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four detailed proposals for this part of the city in addition to some localised evidence that commented on particular parts of the city centre. Our two-member Winson

			the community of Winson Green.	Green ward is based on one of the detailed proposals that we received. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries, reflects community identity and provides a good level of electoral equality. However, we would particularly welcome submissions on the name of this ward during the consultation on our draft recommendations.
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East of city centre

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Alum Rock	1	8%	Alum Rock ward is bounded by the Birmingham Loop railway line to the north and Alum Rock Road to the south.	During the consultation we received four proposals for warding arrangements in this area. Having considered the evidence received we did consider whether the Alum Rock area should be included in our proposed Saltley ward to the south. However, we have taken the view that a single-member Alum Rock ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria and that the boundaries used are clear and identifiable. We particularly welcome any comments on our proposals for this area and on the proposed name.
Bromford & Hodge Hill	2	-6%	This ward is bounded by Bromford Lane to the west, the M6 to the north and the River Cole to the South. It contains the communities of Bromford and Hodge Hill.	We received four detailed proposals for this area of the city. Our proposed Bromford & Hodge Hill ward is based on one of those proposals. We consider that this ward provides a good reflection of local community ties whilst also providing a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Garrett's Green	1	0%	Garrett's Green ward includes the communities of Lea Hall and Garrett's Green and is bounded by the Birmingham Loop railway line to the north.	In response to our consultation on warding arrangements we received four proposals for this part of Birmingham. We have based our proposed Garrett's Green ward on a submission that we received; we consider that this ward reflects community identity and uses identifiable boundaries.

Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	2	6%	This ward includes the communities of Glebe Farm, Kitt's Green and Tile Cross, bounded by the Birmingham Loop railway line to the south and the River Cole to the north.	We received five submissions that commented on this area of Birmingham, including four detailed proposals for warding arrangements. The proposals that we received for this area differed quite significantly. In considering our draft recommendations for this we visited this part of the city in order to observe the evidence received. As part of our deliberations we examined whether we could identify two single-member wards of Glebe Farm and Tile Cross. However, we could not identify a sufficiently clear boundary between the two areas that would provide an acceptable level of electoral equality. Accordingly, we propose a two-member Glebe Farm & Tile Cross ward based on one of the submissions that we received. We consider that this ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria in terms of both reflecting community identity and providing a good level of electoral equality, while also allowing for effective and convenient local government.
Heartlands	1	0%	Heartlands ward is bounded by Hob Moor Road to the south, the River Cole to the east and the Birmingham Loop railway line to the north.	Our proposed Heartlands ward is based on a detailed proposal for this area that we received during our consultation on warding arrangements. Having considered the evidence received we are content that this ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria and uses clear and identifiable boundaries.
Saltley	1	9%	Saltley ward is bounded by the Birmingham Loop railway line to the south and west and by Alum Rock Road to the north.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four proposals for warding arrangements in this area. Having considered the evidence received we considered combining this area with our proposed Alum Rock ward to the north, in line with one of the proposals that we received. However, we have taken the view that a single-member Saltley ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria and that the boundaries used are clear and

				identifiable. We would particularly welcome any comments on our proposals for this area and on the proposed name.
Shard End	1	8%	This ward comprises the community of Shard End and is bounded by the River Cole to the south and the authority boundary to the north and east.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four detailed proposals for this part of the city. Having considered the evidence received we have proposed a single-member Shard End ward based on one of the submissions that we received. We consider that our single-member Shard End ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria and would facilitate effective and convenient local government for this part of the city.
Sheldon	2	-3%	Sheldon ward includes the areas of Sheldon, Gilbertstone and Lyndon Green and is bounded by the authority boundary to the south and east.	We received four submissions that commented on this area of Birmingham, most of which were broadly similar with some minor differences. We have based our two-member Sheldon ward on the evidence that we received during our consultation and we consider that this ward provides a good reflection of local community ties whilst also providing a good balance between our other statutory criteria.
Small Heath	2	-8%	This ward is bounded by Muntz Street, Coventry Road and Wordsworth Road to the west and the River Cole to the east.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four detailed submissions for this area. Based on the evidence received we have proposed a two-member Small Heath ward that is based on one of the proposals that we received. We have made a minor amendment to the northern boundary of this ward, so that properties on both sides of Green Lane are included in the neighbouring Bordesley Green ward, which we consider provide a better balance between our statutory criteria. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and will facilitate effective and convenient local government for this part of Birmingham.
Sparkbrook	2	0%	This ward includes the community of Sparkbrook and is bounded by the Birmingham	We received over 11 submissions that commented on this area, including a number of different detailed proposals. Our proposed Sparkbrook ward is based on an amalgamation of

			to Stratford railway line in the north and east and by the A435 and the A4540 to the west.	the proposals we received taking into account all of the evidence that we received during the consultation. We consider that our proposed two-member Sparkbrook ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and will result in a good level of electoral equality.
Stechford East	1	-3%	This ward includes part of Stechford and is bounded by the Birmingham Loop railway line to the north and by Station Road and Stoney Lane to the west.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received five submissions that commented on the Stechford area including several detailed proposals for this part of the city. Based on the evidence received we initially considered a two-member Stechford ward as proposed in one of the submissions. Having considered the evidence and having visited this area during our tour of the city, we consider that the boundary between our two Stechford wards, following Station Road and Stoney Lane, represents a clear and identifiable boundary. Furthermore, we have taken the view that two single-member wards in this area would facilitate effective and convenient local government. We are therefore of the view that our single-member Stechford East ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria.
Stechford West	1	0%	This ward includes part of Stechford and is bounded by the Birmingham Loop railway line to the north, by Station Road and Stoney Lane to the east, the River Cole to the west and by Hob Moor Road to the south.	We received five submissions that commented on the Stechford area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including several detailed proposals for this part of the city. Based on the evidence received we initially considered a two-member Stechford ward as proposed by one of the submissions that we received. Having considered the evidence and having visited this area during our tour of the city, we consider that the boundary between our two Stechford wards, following Station Road and Stoney Lane, represents a clear and identifiable boundary. Furthermore, we have taken the view that two single-member wards in this area would facilitate effective and convenient local

				government. We therefore decided to include a single-member Stechford West ward in our draft recommendations.
Ward End	1	7%	This ward is bounded by the Birmingham Loop railway line to the north and west and by Bromford Lane to the east.	In response to our consultation on warding arrangements we received four proposals for this area. Having considered the evidence received we have proposed a single-member Ward End ward based on one of the submissions made to us. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries in following railway lines and main roads, and that it provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Yardley East	1	-3%	Yardley East ward includes part of Yardley and is bounded by the authority boundary to the east, Hob Moor Road to the north and by Holder Road, Wash Lane and the Grand Union Canal to the west.	We received five submissions that commented on the Yardley area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including some detailed warding proposals for this part of the city. Based on the evidence received we initially considered a two-member Yardley ward based on one of the submissions that we received. Having considered the evidence and having visited this area during our tour of the city, we consider that the boundary between our two proposed Yardley wards, following Holder Road, Wash Lane and the Grand Union Canal, represents a clear and identifiable boundary. Furthermore, we have taken the view that two single-member wards in this area would facilitate effective and convenient local government. We therefore consider that our Yardley East ward provides a good balance between the statutory criteria.
Yardley West	1	1%	Yardley West ward includes part of Yardley and is bounded by Hob Moor Road to the north, by Holder Road, Wash Lane and the Grand Union Canal to the east and by the	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received five submissions that commented on the Yardley area, including several detailed proposals for this part of the city. Based on the evidence received we initially considered a two-member Yardley ward as proposed by one of the submissions that we received. Having considered the evidence and having visited this area during our tour of the

			Chiltern Main Line to the south.	city, we consider that the boundary between our two Yardley wards, following Holder Road, Wash Lane and the Grand Union Canal, represents a clear and identifiable boundary. Furthermore, we consider that a single-member Yardley West ward would provide for effective and convenient local government. We therefore consider that our Yardley West ward provides a good balance between the statutory criteria.
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North of city centre

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Castle Vale	1	-8%	This ward includes the Castle Vale community and is bounded by Sutton Coldfield to the east, the A38 to the north and the authority boundary to the south.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received five submissions in total that commented on this area of Birmingham, including three near-identical proposals for a single-member Castle Vale ward. We have based our single-member ward on these three proposals – we consider that the ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and provides a clear reflection of community identity in this area.
Erdington	1	3%	Erdington ward is bounded by Chester Road to the north and Kingsbury Road to the south.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received five submissions for this area. Based on the evidence received we have proposed a single-member Erdington ward that is based on one of the proposals that was put to us. We have made a minor amendment to the eastern boundary of this ward to avoid dividing Woodcote Road, placing the entirety of that road in neighbouring Pype Hayes ward. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and would provide for effective and convenient local government for the Erdington area of Birmingham.

Kingstanding	2	-4%	This ward is bounded by Kingstanding Road to the west and the A453 to the south.	We received five submissions that commented on this area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including some detailed warding proposals for this part of the city. We have based our two-member Kingstanding ward on one of the detailed proposals that we received for the area subject to one minor amendment to place Gailey Croft and the Century Industrial Estate in the neighbouring Oscott ward. We consider that this ward provides a good reflection of local community ties whilst also providing a good balance between our other statutory criteria.
Oscott	2	-3%	This ward includes the community of Oscott, bounded by the M6 to the west and by Kingstanding Road to the east.	We received 13 submissions in total that commented on the Oscott area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including some detailed warding proposals for this part of the city. Whilst there was clear support locally for the retention of the existing ward boundaries, an Oscott ward based on the existing boundaries would have an electoral variance of -19% with three councillors or a variance of 22% with two councillors. In either case this would be an unacceptably high level of inequality. We therefore investigated alternative warding patterns that would provide for better levels of electoral equality. We have based our two-member Oscott ward on one of the detailed proposals that we received for this area. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries, provides a good level of electoral equality and would provide for effective and convenient local government for this part of Birmingham.
Perry Beeches	1	-5%	Perry Beeches ward is bounded by the M6 to the east and by Walsall Road to the west.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received six submissions for this area. Based on the evidence received we have proposed a single-member Perry Beeches ward that is based on one of the proposals that we

				received. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and strikes a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Perry Common	1	1%	This ward includes the Perry Common area and is bounded by College Road (A453) to the north.	We received six submissions that commented on this area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including some detailed warding proposals for this part of the Birmingham. We have based our single-member Perry Common ward on one of these detailed proposals. We consider that this ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria and uses clear boundaries.
Perry Hall	1	-1%	This ward is bounded by Walsall Road to the east and by the Chase railway line to the west.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received six submissions for this area. Based on the evidence received we have proposed a single-member Perry Hall ward that is based on one of the proposals that we received. We are content that this ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria and that it uses clear and identifiable boundaries.
Pype Hayes	1	-5%	This ward includes the Pype Hayes area and is bounded by Kingsbury Road (A38) to the south and by Plants Brook to the north.	We received four detailed proposals for this area of the city during our consultation on warding arrangements. Our proposed Pype Hayes ward is based on one of those proposals subject to a minor amendment to the boundary with neighbouring Erdington ward, to ensure that the whole of Woodcote Road is included in our Pype Hayes ward and not divided between two wards. We consider that this ward provides a good reflection of local community ties whilst also providing a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Short Heath	1	1%	Short Heath ward is bounded by the Cross-City railway line to the east and by the Perry Common to the west.	In response to our consultation on warding arrangements we received four proposals for this part of Birmingham. Our Short Heath ward is based on one of these proposals. We consider that this ward uses identifiable boundaries and strikes a good balance between our statutory criteria.

Stockland Green	2	-9%	Stockland Green ward is bounded by the M6 to the west, by Gravelly Hill to the east and by Short Heath Road to the north.	We received five submissions that commented on the Stockland Green area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including some detailed warding proposals for this part of the Birmingham. We have based our two-member Stockland Green ward on one of the detailed proposals that we received. We consider that this ward appears to provide a good reflection of local community ties whilst also providing for a reasonable level of electoral equality.
Tyburn	1	4%	Tyburn ward is bounded by the M6 to the south, by Gravelly Hill to the west and by Kingsbury Road to the north.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four detailed proposals for this part of the city. Our single-member Tyburn ward is based on one of the detailed proposals that we received. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries, reflects community identity and provides a good level of electoral equality.

South-east of city centre

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Acocks Green	2	9%	Acocks Green ward is bounded by the Chiltern Main Line to the north, the authority boundary to the east and by School Road and Lakey Lane to the south.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received 12 submissions that commented on the Acocks Green area, including a number of detailed proposals for this part of the city. The submissions that were made demonstrated clear local support for a two-member Acocks Green ward. Our proposed two-member Acocks Green ward is based on one of the proposals that we received. We are content that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries, reflects community identity in this area and provides a reasonable level of electoral equality.

Balsall Heath & Cannon Hill	2	-5%	This ward includes the communities of Balsall Heath and Cannon Hill Park and is bounded by the A4540 to the north and by Highbury Park to the south.	We received seven submissions that commented on this area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including some detailed warding proposals for this part of Birmingham. Having considered all of the evidence we received in regard to this area we have taken the view that the detailed proposals appeared to divide some of the local communities. We therefore decided to explore alternative warding arrangements for this area and we are proposing a two-member Balsall Heath & Cannon Hill ward. We consider that our proposed ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria in this area.
Billesley	2	-9%	This ward is bounded by Alcester Road South to the west and by the Dingles to the east.	In response to our consultation on warding arrangements we received four proposals for the Billesley area. Having considered the evidence received we have proposed a two-member Billesley ward based on one of the submissions made to us, subject to a minor amendment to the eastern boundary so that it follows the River Cole. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and that it provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Brandwood	1	9%	This ward is bounded by Alcester Road South to the east and by the A4040 to the north.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four detailed proposals for this part of the city. Our single-member Brandwood ward is based on one of the detailed proposals that we received, subject to some minor amendments to the northern and southern boundaries of the ward to provide for an improved reflection of our statutory criteria. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries, reflects community identity and provides a good level of electoral equality.
Hall Green North	1	7%	Hall Green North ward is bounded by York Road and School Road to the north, the authority boundary to the east	We received eight submissions in total that commented on the Hall Green area during consultation, including some detailed warding proposals for this part of the city. There was some support locally for the retention of the existing ward

			and the North Warwickshire railway line to the west.	<p>boundaries. However, a Hall Green ward based on the existing boundaries would have an electoral variance of -12% with three councillors or a variance of 31% with two councillors. In either case this would be an unacceptably high level of inequality.</p> <p>Having considered the evidence received and having visited the area during our tour of the city, we have decided to propose a pattern of two single-member wards for this area. We consider that our proposed Hall Green North ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and provides for a good level of electoral equality.</p>
Hall Green South	1	6%	Hall Green South ward is bounded by the authority boundary to the south and east and the River Cole to the west.	<p>We received eight submissions in total that commented on the Hall Green area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including some detailed proposals for this part of the city. There was some support locally for the retention of the existing ward boundaries. However, a Hall Green ward based on the existing boundaries would have an electoral variance of -12% with three councillors or a variance of 31% with two councillors. In either case this would be an unacceptably high level of inequality.</p> <p>Having considered the evidence received and having visited the area during our tour of the city, we have decided to propose a pattern of two single-member wards for this area. We are content that our proposed Hall Green South ward provides a good level of electoral equality and has identifiable boundaries.</p>
Highter's Heath	1	6%	This ward contains the community of Highter's Heath, bounded by the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal to the north	<p>During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four detailed proposals for this part of the city. Our single-member Highter's Heath ward is based on two of the detailed proposals that we received, which were broadly</p>

			and Alcester Road South to the west, with the authority boundary to the east and south.	similar. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries, reflects community identity and provides a good level of electoral equality.
King's Heath	1	8%	This ward contains the community of King's Heath and the park of that name and is bounded by the A4040 to the south.	We received nine submissions in total that commented on this area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including some detailed warding proposals for this part of Birmingham. Having considered all of the evidence we received in regard to this area we have taken the view that the detailed proposals that we received appeared to divide communities in King's Heath. We therefore decided to explore alternative warding arrangements for this area and we are proposing a single-member King's Heath ward that appears to be more reflective of community identity. We consider that our proposed ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria in this area.
Monyhull	1	2%	Monyhull ward is bounded by Alcester Road South to the east and by Broad Meadow Lane, with the authority boundary to the south.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four detailed proposals for this part of the city. Our single-member Monyhull ward is based on one of the detailed proposals that we received, subject to one minor amendment to the northern boundary of the ward to avoid dividing Monyhull Hall Road between two different wards and to provide an improved balance between our statutory criteria. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries, reflects community identity and provides a good level of electoral equality.
Moseley	1	-6%	This ward is bounded by Yardley Wood Road to the east and by Brighton Road and Taunton Road to the north.	We received nine submissions in total that commented on this area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including several detailed proposals for Moseley. Having considered all of the evidence we received in regard to this area we have taken the view that the detailed proposals that we received appeared to divide communities in Moseley. We

				therefore decided to explore alternative warding arrangements for this area, taking into account the localised evidence received and with regard to our statutory criteria. Accordingly, we are proposing a single-member Moseley ward. We consider that our proposed ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria in this area.
Sparkhill North	1	7%	Sparkhill North ward is bounded by Yardley Wood Road to the west and by the River Cole to the east.	During our consultation on warding arrangements we received five submissions in total that commented on this area, including some detailed warding proposals for this part of Birmingham. Having considered the detailed proposals we considered that they appeared to divide communities in this area. We therefore decided to explore alternative warding arrangements for this area. As a result we are proposing a single-member Sparkhill North ward that we consider provides a good balance between our statutory criteria. We would, however, particularly welcome any comments on the name of this ward.
Sparkhill South	1	7%	Sparkhill South ward is bounded by Sparkhill Park to the north, by the River Cole to the east and by Yardley Wood Road to the west.	We received five submissions in total that commented on this area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including several detailed proposals for this area. Having considered all of the evidence we received in regard to this area and having visited the area on our tour of the city, we have taken the view that the detailed proposals that we received appeared to divide communities in this part of the city. We therefore decided to explore alternative warding arrangements for this area with regard to our statutory criteria. Accordingly, we are proposing a single-member Sparkhill South ward. We consider that our proposed ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria in this area.
Tyseley	1	4%	This ward is bounded by the River Cole to the west and by	During our consultation on warding arrangements we received eight submissions in total that commented on this

			the North Warwickshire railway line to the east.	area, including some detailed warding proposals. Having considered the detailed proposals we considered that they appeared to divide communities in this area. We therefore decided to explore alternative warding arrangements for this area. As a result we are proposing a single-member Tyseley ward that we consider provides a good balance between our statutory criteria and uses clear and identifiable boundaries.
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South-west of city centre

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Allens Cross	1	0%	Allens Cross ward is bounded by the A38 to the east and by Shenley Lane to the north.	During our consultation on warding arrangements we received six submissions in total regarding this part of the city. We propose a single-member Allens Cross ward that is based on one of the detailed proposals that we received, subject to one minor amendment to the northern boundary of the ward to avoid dividing Manor Farm Park between two wards. The park is instead placed in the neighbouring Weoley ward in its entirety. We consider that this ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries, reflects community identity and provides a good level of electoral equality.
Bartley Green	2	3%	This ward contains the Bartley Green community and is bounded by Bourn Brook to the north and by Shenley Lane and Barnes Hill to the east. The authority boundary lies to the south and east.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four detailed proposals for this part of the city. Three of these submissions made broadly similar proposals for a two-member Bartley Green ward and we have used these submissions as the basis for our ward. We consider that our proposed Bartley Green ward provides a good reflection of community identity in this area and that it uses clear and identifiable boundaries.
Bournbrook & Selly Park	2	3%	Bournbrook & Selly Park is bounded by Bourn Brook to	We received six submissions in total that commented on this area during our consultation on warding arrangements,

			the north, by the Cross-City railway line to the west and by the River Rea to the east.	including four detailed proposals for this area. As part of our draft recommendations we propose a two-member Bournbrook & Selly Park ward that is based on one of the detailed proposals that we received, subject to one minor amendment to the north-western boundary of the ward to provide a more identifiable boundary. We are content that our proposed Bournbrook & Selly Park ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Bournville & Cotteridge	2	-1%	This ward contains the communities of Bournville and Cotteridge and is bounded by the A38 to the west and by the Cross-City railway line to the east and south.	During our consultation on warding arrangements we received six submissions in total that commented on this part of the city, including a number of detailed warding proposals for this area. As part of our draft recommendations we propose a two-member Bournville & Cotteridge ward that is based on one of the detailed proposals that we received, subject to some minor amendments in the north and south of the ward to provide a better reflection of our statutory criteria. We consider that this ward provides a good level of electoral equality and uses boundaries that are clear and identifiable.
Frankley	1	8%	This ward includes the entirety of the parish of Frankley and some additional residential areas to the south and east of the parish.	We received four detailed proposals for this part of the city during our consultation on warding arrangements including a number of broadly similar proposals for a single-member Frankley ward. We have based our Frankley ward on one of these submissions and we consider that it provides a good reflection of community identities in this area.
Hawkesley	1	0%	Hawkesley ward includes the community of Hawkesley and is bounded by the authority boundary to the south and east with Parson's Hill to the north.	We received four submissions that commented on this area of Birmingham. Our proposed Hawkesley ward is based on an amalgamation of the proposals we received, taking into account all of the evidence that we received during the consultation. We consider that our proposed single-member Hawkesley ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.

King's Norton	1	1%	This ward includes the community of King's Norton and is bounded by the Cross-City railway line to the north.	We received four detailed proposals for the King's Norton area during our consultation on warding arrangements. Three of the four proposals were for a two-member King's Norton ward. However, having considered the evidence received we have taken the view that the proposal we received for a single-member King's Norton ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria, subject to some amendments to the southern boundary of the ward. As part of our draft recommendations we are therefore proposing a single-member King's Norton ward.
Northfield East	1	-4%	This ward is bounded by the Cross-City railway line to the west and by West Heath park to the east.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received four detailed proposals for this part of the city. As part of our draft recommendations we are proposing a single-member ward that we consider reflects community identity in this area, uses clear and identifiable boundaries and would provide for effective and convenient local government. However, we would particularly welcome comments on the name of this ward and the neighbouring Northfield West ward.
Northfield West	1	2%	This ward is bounded by the Cross-City railway line to the east and Callow Brook to the south.	We received four detailed proposals for this area during our consultation on warding arrangements. We have based our single-member Northfield West ward on one of these proposals subject to a minor amendment to the eastern boundary. We consider that our proposed single-member Northfield West ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and provides a good balance between our statutory criteria. However, we would particularly welcome comments on the name of this ward and the neighbouring Northfield East ward.
Quinton	2	-2%	Quinton ward is bounded by the authority boundary to the north and west and by	During our consultation on warding arrangements we received six submissions in total that commented on the Quinton area, including a number of detailed warding

			Woodgate Valley Country Park to the south.	proposals for this area. Based on the evidence received we propose a two-member Quinton ward as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that this ward provides a good level of electoral equality and uses boundaries that are clear and identifiable.
Rednal & Rubery	1	2%	This ward is at the southern edge of the authority, bounded by Callow Brook to the north.	We received four detailed proposals for this area during our consultation on warding arrangements and we have based our single-member Rednal & Rubery ward on one of these proposals. We consider that our proposed single-member Rednal & Rubery ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Stirchley	1	7%	Stirchley ward is bounded by Cannon Hill to the north with the Cross-City railway line to the west.	We received five submissions in total that commented on this area during our consultation on warding arrangements, including several detailed proposals for Stirchley. Based on the evidence received we propose a single-member Stirchley ward as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that this ward provides a good level of electoral equality and uses boundaries that are clear and identifiable.
Weoley	2	7%	This ward is bounded by Shenley Lane and Barnes Hill to the west, by Bourn Brook to the north and by the A38 to the east.	During our consultation on warding arrangements we received six submissions in total that commented on this part of the city, including a number of detailed warding proposals for this area. As part of our draft recommendations we propose a two-member Weoley ward that is based on one of the detailed proposals that we received, subject to some minor amendments in the north and south of the ward to provide a better reflection of our statutory criteria. We consider that this ward provides a good level of electoral equality and uses boundaries that are clear and identifiable.
West Heath	1	-4%	West Heath ward is bounded by the Cross-City railway line	We received four detailed proposals for this area during our consultation on warding arrangements. We have based our single-member West Heath ward on one of these proposals

			to the west and by King's Park West to the east.	subject to a minor amendment to the eastern boundary. We consider that our proposed single-member West Heath ward uses clear and identifiable boundaries and provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
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Sutton Coldfield

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Sutton Boldmere	1	9%	This ward comprises the Boldmere area of Sutton Coldfield, bounded by the Cross-City railway line to the east and Sutton Park Nature Reserve to the north.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received over 30 submissions that commented on the Sutton Coldfield area. Having considered the evidence received and having toured the area, we are of the view that our proposed Sutton Boldmere ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria and that the boundaries used are clear and identifiable.
Sutton Four Oaks	1	1%	This ward includes the Four Oaks area of Sutton Coldfield as well as the Sutton Park Nature Reserve.	We received over 30 submissions regarding the Sutton Coldfield area, including a number of different proposals for Four Oaks. We have proposed a single-member Sutton Four Oaks ward which we consider reflects local community ties whilst providing for a good level of electoral equality.
Sutton Maney	1	3%	This ward comprises Sutton Coldfield town centre as well as the Maney area of the town.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received over 30 submissions that commented on the Sutton Coldfield area, including several detailed proposals for this part of the town. Having considered the evidence received and having toured the area, we have proposed a single-member Sutton Maney ward that combines elements of the proposals we received. We consider that our single-member Sutton Maney ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria and would provide for effective and convenient local government.

Sutton Mere Green	1	4%	This ward comprises the Mere Green area of Sutton Coldfield.	We received over 30 submissions regarding the Sutton Coldfield area, including a number of different proposals for the Mere Green area. Some of the proposals identified a coherent Mere Green community and others proposed that this area be included in a ward with neighbouring Four Oaks. Based on the evidence received we have proposed a single-member Sutton Mere Green ward which we consider, provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Sutton Parkside	1	0%	This ward comprises the Banners Gate and New Oscott communities. It is bounded by Sutton Park Nature Reserve to the north and by Kingstanding to the south.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received over 30 submissions that commented on the Sutton Coldfield area, including several detailed proposals for this part of the town. Based on the evidence received we have proposed a single-member Sutton Parkside ward that combines elements of the proposals we received. Whilst some submissions suggested joining this area with neighbouring Boldmere, we consider that our single-member Sutton Parkside ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria, particularly in providing for a good level of electoral equality.
Sutton Reddicap	1	7%	This ward comprises the Reddicap area of Sutton Coldfield.	We received over 30 submissions regarding the Sutton Coldfield area, including a number of different proposals for this part of the town. Some of the proposals suggested that this area should be combined with the Roughley area to the north whilst one submission suggested that Reddicap is a self-contained community. Based on the evidence received and having visited the area during our tour of Birmingham we propose a single-member Sutton Reddicap ward. We consider that this ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Sutton Roughley	1	7%	This ward contains the Roughley area of Sutton Coldfield as well as the	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received over 30 submissions that commented on the Sutton Coldfield area, including several detailed proposals for this

			residential area to the north of Whitehouse Common.	part of the town. Some of the proposals suggested that this area should be combined with the Reddicap area to the north whilst one submission suggested that Roughley itself is a self-contained community. Based on the evidence received and having visited the area during our tour of Birmingham we propose a single-member Sutton Roughley ward. We consider that our proposal provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Sutton Walmley & Minworth	2	5%	This ward comprises the Sutton Coldfield communities of Walmley and Minworth.	We received over 30 submissions regarding Sutton Coldfield, including four broadly similar proposals for a two-member ward in this area. Based on the evidence received and having visited the area during our tour of Birmingham we propose a two-member Sutton Walmley & Minworth ward. We consider that our proposed ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
Sutton Wylde Green	1	-2%	This ward contains the Wylde Green area of Sutton Coldfield, bounded by the Cross-City railway line to the west and Maney Hill Road to the north.	During the consultation on warding arrangements we received over 30 submissions that commented on the Sutton Coldfield area, including several detailed proposals for Wylde Green. Some proposals suggested that this area should be combined with the Maney area and the town centre to the north to form a two-member ward. We also received a proposal that Wylde Green should be combined with Boldmere, again to form a two-member ward. Having visited this area during our tour of Birmingham and having taking into account all of the evidence received we consider that Wylde Green is a clearly defined community. We are therefore proposing a single-member Sutton Wylde Green as part of our draft recommendations.

Conclusions

33 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2015 and 2021 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2015	2021
Number of councillors	101	101
Number of electoral wards	77	77
Average number of electors per councillor	7,215	8,053
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	15	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Draft recommendation

Birmingham City Council should comprise 101 councillors serving 77 wards representing 53 single-member wards and 24 two-member wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Birmingham City Council.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Birmingham on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lqbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

34 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.

35 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, Birmingham City 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.

36 On the basis of Birmingham City Council making a Reorganisation of community governance order in December 2015 establishing a town council in Sutton Coldfield and 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 Sutton Coldfield. We have given consideration to our proposed ward boundaries and the existing ward boundaries, but have not taken into account the existing parish ward boundaries. We therefore welcome comments on these parish arrangements.

37 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 the new Sutton parish.

Draft recommendation

Sutton Coldfield Town Council should comprise 24 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards: Boldmere (returning three members), Four Oaks (returning two members), Maney (returning two members), Mere Green (returning two members), Parkside (returning two members), Reddicap (returning three members), Roughley (returning three members), Walmley & Minworth (returning five members) and Wylde Green (returning two members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 Have your say

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

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

40 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

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

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

The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Birmingham 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

A good pattern of wards should:

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

Electoral equality:

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

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?

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 ward? 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 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.

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 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.

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 Birmingham City Council in 2018.

Equalities

46 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

Table A1: Draft recommendations for Birmingham City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Acocks Green	2	16,128	8,064	12%	17,524	8,762	9%
2	Allens Cross	1	7,664	7,664	6%	8,018	8,018	0%
3	Alum Rock	1	7,695	7,695	7%	8,714	8,714	8%
4	Aston	2	14,133	7,067	-2%	15,576	7,788	-3%
5	Balsall Heath & Cannon Hill	2	13,034	6,517	-10%	15,239	7,619	-5%
6	Bartley Green	2	15,476	7,738	7%	16,662	8,331	3%
7	Billesley	2	13,997	6,999	-3%	14,736	7,368	-9%
8	Birchfield	1	6,491	6,491	-10%	7,688	7,688	-5%
9	Bordesley & Highgate	1	6,803	6,803	-6%	7,393	7,393	-8%
10	Bordesley Green	1	6,898	6,898	-4%	7,470	7,470	-7%
11	Bournbrook & Selly Park	2	12,951	6,476	-10%	16,600	8,300	3%
12	Bournville & Cotteridge	2	14,545	7,273	1%	15,971	7,985	-1%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Birmingham City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Brandwood	1	7,932	7,932	10%	8,784	8,784	9%
14	Bromford & Hodge Hill	2	14,008	7,004	-3%	15,162	7,581	-6%
15	Castle Vale	1	6,740	6,740	-7%	7,408	7,408	-8%
16	Edgbaston	2	10,096	5,048	-30%	14,966	7,483	-7%
17	Erdington	1	6,787	6,787	-6%	8,309	8,309	3%
18	Frankley	1	7,826	7,826	8%	8,670	8,670	8%
19	Garrett's Green	1	7,371	7,371	2%	8,065	8,065	0%
20	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	2	15,227	7,614	6%	17,041	8,521	6%
21	Hall Green North	1	8,182	8,182	13%	8,615	8,615	7%
22	Hall Green South	1	7,911	7,911	10%	8,523	8,523	6%
23	Handsworth	1	7,145	7,145	-1%	7,851	7,851	-3%
24	Handsworth Wood	2	13,837	6,919	-4%	15,755	7,878	-2%
25	Harborne	2	14,606	7,303	1%	16,177	8,088	0%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Birmingham City Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
26 Hawkesley	1	8,024	8,024	11%	8,070	8,070	0%
27 Heartlands	1	7,036	7,036	-2%	8,079	8,079	0%
28 Highter's Heath	1	8,152	8,152	13%	8,503	8,503	6%
29 Holyhead	1	7,022	7,022	-3%	7,761	7,761	-4%
30 King's Heath	1	7,866	7,866	9%	8,675	8,675	8%
31 King's Norton	1	7,681	7,681	6%	8,150	8,150	1%
32 Kingstanding	2	14,289	7,145	-1%	15,456	7,728	-4%
33 Ladywood	2	12,310	6,155	-15%	15,389	7,695	-4%
34 Lozells	1	6,364	6,364	-12%	7,903	7,903	-2%
35 Monyhull	1	7,944	7,944	10%	8,199	8,199	2%
36 Moseley	1	7,019	7,019	-3%	7,606	7,606	-6%
37 Nechells	1	5,945	5,945	-18%	8,617	8,617	7%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Birmingham City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
38	Newtown	1	5,844	5,844	-19%	7,763	7,763	-4%
39	Northfield East	1	7,076	7,076	-2%	7,725	7,725	-4%
40	Northfield West	1	7,708	7,708	7%	8,248	8,248	2%
41	Oscott	2	14,757	7,379	2%	15,629	7,815	-3%
42	Perry Beeches	1	6,893	6,893	-4%	7,621	7,621	-5%
43	Perry Common	1	7,116	7,116	-1%	8,169	8,169	1%
44	Perry Hall	1	7,500	7,500	4%	7,957	7,957	-1%
45	Pype Hayes	1	7,502	7,502	4%	7,674	7,674	-5%
46	Quinton	2	14,564	7,282	1%	15,751	7,875	-2%
47	Rednal & Rubery	1	7,494	7,494	4%	8,180	8,180	2%
48	Saltley	1	7,766	7,766	8%	8,780	8,780	9%
49	Shard End	1	8,443	8,443	17%	8,663	8,663	8%
50	Sheldon	2	14,187	7,094	-2%	15,637	7,818	-3%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Birmingham City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
51	Short Heath	1	7,393	7,393	2%	8,112	8,112	1%
52	Small Heath	2	12,793	6,397	-11%	14,773	7,387	-8%
53	Sparkbrook	2	14,652	7,326	2%	16,136	8,068	0%
54	Sparkhill North	1	7,546	7,546	5%	8,620	8,620	7%
55	Sparkhill South	1	7,513	7,513	4%	8,637	8,637	7%
56	Stechford East	1	7,360	7,360	2%	7,786	7,786	-3%
57	Stechford West	1	7,323	7,323	1%	8,075	8,075	0%
58	Stirchley	1	7,891	7,891	9%	8,623	8,623	7%
59	Stockland Green	2	13,952	6,976	-3%	14,725	7,363	-9%
60	Summerfield	2	13,244	6,622	-8%	15,903	7,951	-1%
61	Sutton Boldmere	1	8,287	8,287	15%	8,807	8,807	9%
62	Sutton Four Oaks	1	7,660	7,660	6%	8,129	8,129	1%
63	Sutton Maney	1	7,347	7,347	2%	8,286	8,286	3%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Birmingham City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
64	Sutton Mere Green	1	8,046	8,046	12%	8,384	8,384	4%
65	Sutton Parkside	1	7,653	7,653	6%	8,069	8,069	0%
66	Sutton Reddicap	1	7,996	7,996	11%	8,649	8,649	7%
67	Sutton Roughley	1	8,488	8,488	18%	8,638	8,638	7%
68	Sutton Walmley & Minworth	2	13,187	6,594	-9%	16,891	8,445	5%
69	Sutton Wylde Green	1	7,343	7,343	2%	7,911	7,911	-2%
70	Tyburn	1	7,525	7,525	4%	8,350	8,350	4%
71	Tyseley	1	7,002	7,002	-3%	8,336	8,336	4%
72	Ward End	1	7,562	7,562	5%	8,640	8,640	7%
73	Weoley	2	15,869	7,935	10%	17,214	8,607	7%
74	West Heath	1	7,449	7,449	3%	7,700	7,700	-4%
75	Winson Green	2	13,131	6,566	-9%	14,980	7,490	-7%
76	Yardley East	1	7,237	7,237	0%	7,792	7,792	-3%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Birmingham City Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
77 Yardley West	1	7,296	7,296	1%	8,113	8,113	1%
Totals	101	728,730	-	-	813,401	-	-
Averages	-	-	7,215	-	-	8,053	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Birmingham City 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 city. 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 <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/west-midlands/west-midlands/birmingham>

Political groups

- Birmingham City Council Conservative Group
- Birmingham City Council Labour Group
- Sutton Coldfield & Erdington Liberal Democrats
- UKIP Sutton Coldfield

Councillors

- Councillors S. Anderson & P. Tilley (Birmingham City Council)
- Councillor A. Hardie (Birmingham City Council)
- Councillor R. Harmer (Birmingham City Council)
- Councillor J. Hunt (Birmingham City Council)
- Councillor R. Pocock (Birmingham City Council)
- Councillor M. Ward (Birmingham City Council)

Local organisations

- Acocks Green Focus Group
- Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum
- Acocks Green Village BID Co. Ltd.
- Acocks Green Village Partnership
- Balsall Heath Forum
- Banners Gate Neighbourhood Forum
- Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Form
- CAN DO 4:13
- Care of the Elderly
- Castle Vale Tenants & Residents' Alliance Ltd.
- Community Partnership for Selly Oak
- Fox Hollies Green Neighbourhood Forum
- Friends of Black Patch Park
- Friends of the Queslett Nature Reserve
- Harborne Society
- Heathfield Neighbourhood Forum
- Heathfield Youth Project
- Moseley Forum, Moseley Society, Moseley ReGen Group, Moseley Community Development Trust & Moseley Businesses (joint submission)
- Neighbourhood Police Initiative Oscott Ward
- North Neighbourhood Watch
- Oscott Elderly Residents' Group
- Oscott Residents' Association
- Perry Hall Community Association
- Sikh Community & Youth Service UK

- Sparkbrook CIC
- Still Waters Community in Harborne
- Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum
- St Paul's Community Development Trust
- Sutton Town Council Referendum Group
- Tudor Hill Area Residents' Association
- Walmley Residents' Association
- West Midlands Fire Service
- Wylde Green Neighbourhood Forum

Residents

- 72 local residents

Appendix C

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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