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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 Warrington?

We are conducting an electoral review of Warrington Borough Council as the Council currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more or many fewer voters than others. This means that the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Warrington. Overall, 41% of wards currently have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the borough.

Our proposals for Warrington

Warrington Borough Council currently has 57 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, we consider that an increase in council size by one to 58 members will ensure the Council can perform its roles and responsibilities effectively.

Electoral arrangements

In March 2015, Warrington Borough Council resolved to conduct all-out elections, having previously elected by thirds. Our draft recommendations propose that Warrington Borough Council's 58 councillors should represent eight two-member wards and 14 three-member wards across the borough. None of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Warrington by 2020.

You have until 19 October 2015 to have your say on the recommendations. See page 21 for how to have your say.

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Warrington Borough Council's ('the Council's') electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

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 a submission of proposals on council size. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during our consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

This review is being conducted as follows:

| Stage starts | Description |
|---------------------|---|
| 21 April 2015 | Decision on council size |
| 12 May 2015 | Warding pattern consultation |
| 25 August 2015 | Draft recommendations consultation begins |
| 20 October 2015 | Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations |
| 3 December 2015 | 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. The names or boundaries of parishes will not change as a result of our recommendations.

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

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)
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
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 | 2020 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Electorate of Warrington Borough | 163,079 | 168,901 |
| Number of councillors | 58 | 58 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,812 | 2,912 |

10 Under our draft recommendations, none of our proposed wards will have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for the borough by 2020. We are satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for Warrington.

11 Additionally, in circumstances where we propose to divide a parish between borough wards or county divisions, we are required to divide it into parish wards so that each parish ward is wholly contained within a single borough 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 Warrington Borough 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

Electorate figures

14 As prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and

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.

Construction Act 2009, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2020, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2015. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 4% to 2020.

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 Prior to consultation, Warrington Borough Council submitted a proposal to increase the council size from 57 to 58 members. We also received a submission from the Liberal Democrat Group on Warrington Borough Council proposing to retain the existing council size of 57.

17 We considered that the Council's submission provided stronger evidence to justify an increase. We are also satisfied that the Council had sufficiently demonstrated that the authority could operate efficiently and effectively under a council size of 58 and ensure effective representation of local residents.

18 During consultation on warding patterns, we received a submission which objected to the reduction in council size and proposed that we reduce the existing council size of 57. However, we consider that the evidence submitted to be insufficient to justify reducing the existing council size. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a council size of 58 elected members.

Warding patterns

19 During consultation on warding patterns, we received 15 submissions, including two borough-wide proposals. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in Lymm, Great Sankey, Birchwood, Poulton and Woolston.

20 One of the borough-wide schemes provided for a mixed pattern of single- two- and three-member wards for the borough. The other borough-wide scheme provided for a mixed pattern of two- and three-member wards. Having carefully considered the proposals received, we were of the view that both of the proposed patterns of wards mostly resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the borough and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

21 We have based our draft recommendations broadly on a combination of the two borough-wide schemes. We have made some amendments to improve electoral equality, and provide for stronger boundaries in some areas. We also took into account the localised submissions to inform our draft recommendations.

22 Our draft recommendations are for eight two-member wards and 14 three-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.

23 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 23–4) and on the large map accompanying this report.

24 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.

Detailed wards

25 The tables on pages 8–16 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Warrington. 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.

South Warrington

| Ward name | Number of Cllrs | Variance 2020 | Description | Detail |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|--|
| Appleton | 3 | 8% | This ward comprises part of the parish of Appleton, the community of Cobbs, and the parish of Walton. | Our proposed ward is different from those put forward by both of the borough-wide schemes. We consider that our ward has reasonable electoral equality, and largely follows recognisable boundaries. The western and southern boundaries of the ward follow the borough's external boundaries, and part of the northern boundary follows the Manchester Ship Canal. |
| Grappenhall | 2 | 7% | This ward comprises the majority of Grappenhall, part of Appleton parish, and the community of Thorn. | <p>Our proposed Grappenhall ward is based on one of the borough-wide schemes we received. We have made some amendments to the proposed ward, to improve electoral equality both in this ward and in the neighbouring Lymm North & Thelwall ward.</p> <p>The northern boundary of the ward will be the Manchester Ship Canal, and the western boundary will run along the backs of houses on Montclare Crescent, then follow the Bridgewater Canal before following the parish boundary as far as Lumb Brook Road and then joining Dodd's Brook. The eastern boundary, with our proposed Lymm North & Thelwall ward, will follow Cross Lane before turning south along Knutsford Road and joining Massey Brook.</p> |
| Lymm North & Thelwall | 3 | 8% | This ward comprises the northern half of Lymm, as well as most of Thelwall and part of Grappenhall. | <p>We received three submissions relating to Lymm, and we are proposing to split Lymm between two wards to provide for an acceptable level of electoral equality.</p> <p>This ward will include part of Lymm, Thelwall, and part of Grappenhall. The ward's northern boundary will be the Manchester Ship Canal, while its western boundary will follow Cross Lane before turning south along Knutsford Road and joining Massey Brook.</p> |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----|--|---|
| | | | | We consider that there are strong road connections within this ward, despite the ward covering both sides of the M6. |
| Lymm South | 2 | -7 | This ward comprises the southern half of Lymm, which is situated in the south-eastern corner of the borough. | <p>One of the borough-wide schemes proposed a three-member ward based on the parish of Lymm, which would replicate the existing boundaries for Lymm ward. This proposal was supported by a parish council and a local resident. This ward would have had 19% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2020. The other borough-wide scheme proposed splitting Lymm between two two-member wards. We do not consider that there is sufficient evidence to justify a ward with 19% more electors than the average.</p> <p>In order to provide for good electoral equality, we have split Lymm between this ward and the three-member Lymm North & Thelwall ward. The northern boundary for this ward is the Bridgewater Canal, while to the west the boundary is Massey Brook.</p> |
| Stockton Heath | 2 | 2% | This ward comprises Stockton Heath and Lower Walton. | <p>Our proposed Stockton Heath ward is broadly based on one of the borough-wide schemes we received. We have proposed a different boundary from the borough-wide scheme between this ward and Appleton, to provide for better electoral equality.</p> <p>The northern boundary of this ward follows the Manchester Ship Canal. The southern boundary follows the Bridgewater Canal from east to west, before following London Road, and running west along the backs of houses on Delphfields Road and Warren Road.</p> |

West Warrington

| Ward name | Number of Cllrs | Variance 2020 | Description | Detail |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---|--|
| Bewsey & Whitecross | 3 | 1% | This ward covers the town centre of Warrington, and the communities of Bewsey and Whitecross. | Our proposed ward is based on a ward proposed in one of the borough-wide schemes we received. We consider that this ward has good electoral equality, and strong, recognisable boundaries which reflect communities on the ground. |
| Chapelford & Old Hall | 3 | 2% | This ward comprises the communities of Old Hall and Chapelford. | <p>In addition to the two borough-wide schemes, we also received another submission proposing a ward in this area.</p> <p>Our proposed ward is partly based on a ward proposed in one of the borough-wide schemes, but given the high level of electoral inequality in a ward to the north of this ward, we have proposed an alternative boundary. The northern boundary of our proposed ward follows Westbrook Way and Whittle Avenue. We consider that this ward has strong and clearly identifiable boundaries, and that it has good electoral equality.</p> |
| Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall | 3 | -6% | This ward comprises the area of Whittle Hall, and the northern part of Great Sankey. | <p>Two of the three proposals we received relating to this area proposed a two-member and a single-member ward, and the other proposal put forward a ward with an unacceptably high electoral variance.</p> <p>We are proposing a three-member ward, which mainly uses Sankey Way as its southern boundary, and follows the borough's external boundary in the west and Whittle Avenue and Burtonwood Road in the east up to the M62.</p> <p>A two-member ward and a single-member ward here would each have had worse electoral equality than our proposed three-member ward. We consider that having a three-member ward here provides good electoral equality, while also retaining strong community links.</p> |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|---|---|
| Great Sankey South | 3 | -4% | This ward comprises the southern part of Great Sankey, and Sankey Bridges. | Our proposed ward is identical to the one proposed in one of the borough-wide schemes. We consider that this ward has strong boundaries, with the River Mersey in the south and a railway line in the north. This ward also includes Sankey Bridges, which we considered ought to be in this ward to reflect community identities in this area. |
| Penketh & Cuerdley | 3 | -1 | This ward comprises the parishes of Penketh and Cuerdley, as well as an area south of Liverpool Road. | <p>In addition to the two borough-wide schemes, we also received a submission which proposed a scheme of wards in the west of the borough, as well as a submission focusing on this ward.</p> <p>Our proposed Penketh & Cuerdley ward is similar to the wards put forward in all four proposals we received for this area. We have departed from the three schemes by taking into account a submission which argued that Highfield Avenue should be in a ward with the area to the north of Sankey Way. Our proposed northern boundary for this ward largely follows Sankey Way, with this small exception, which we consider reflects community identities in the area.</p> <p>We are proposing that this ward's southern boundary follows the Manchester Ship Canal, before following the River Mersey and Whittle Brook on its eastern boundary.</p> |

North Warrington

| Ward name | Number of Cllrs | Variance 2020 | Description | Detail |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|--|
| Burtonwood & Winwick | 2 | -10% | This ward is in the north-west corner of the borough and comprises the communities of Burtonwood and Winwick. | <p>Apart from the two borough-wide schemes, we did not receive any submissions relating to this part of the borough.</p> <p>Our proposed Burtonwood & Winwick ward is identical to the existing ward in this area. We considered including electors from south of the M62, from our proposed Poplars & Hulme ward, in this ward to improve electoral equality, which was proposed in one of the borough-wide schemes. However, we considered that the motorway provides a clear and identifiable boundary for that part of the ward.</p> <p>We have had to use the Burtonwood & Westbrook parish boundary in the south-west of the ward to avoid creating a parish ward which would have had no electors living in it.</p> |
| Orford | 3 | 3% | This ward comprises the communities of Orford and Longford. | <p>Apart from the two borough-wide schemes, we did not receive any submissions relating to this part of the borough.</p> <p>We are adopting a ward proposed in one of the borough-wide schemes as part of our draft recommendations. Our proposed ward uses Winwick Road as its western boundary, with its southern boundary following Orford Lane, Marsh House Lane and O'Leary Street.</p> <p>We consider that our proposed ward has good electoral equality, and has strong boundaries.</p> |
| Poplars & Hulme | 3 | 3% | This ward sits to the south of the M62 and comprises the communities of Blackbrook, Hulme and Poplars. | <p>Apart from the two borough-wide schemes, we did not receive any submissions relating to this part of the borough.</p> <p>One of the two borough-wide schemes proposed including some electors from this area in Burtonwood & Winwick ward,</p> |

| | | | | |
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| | | | | <p>as mentioned above. However, we are adopting the ward proposed in the other borough-wide scheme as part of our draft recommendations.</p> <p>We consider that the ward has good electoral equality, and strong and easily identifiable boundaries.</p> |
| Westbrook | 2 | -2% | This ward comprises the communities of Kingswood, Callands and Westbrook. | <p>Apart from the two borough-wide schemes, we did not receive any submissions relating to this part of the borough.</p> <p>Both borough-wide schemes proposed very similar wards here. The ward we have adopted has strong boundaries, with the M62 as its northern boundary, and main roads for the majority of its other boundaries.</p> <p>This proposed ward also is forecast to have good electoral equality.</p> |

Central Warrington

| Ward name | Number of Cllrs | Variance 2020 | Description | Detail |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|--|
| Fairfield & Howley | 3 | -1% | This ward comprises an area to the east of the centre of Warrington town, and contains the community of Howley and part of the community of Fairfield. | <p>Apart from the two borough-wide schemes, we did not receive any submissions relating to this part of the borough.</p> <p>Both borough-wide schemes proposed very similar wards here. Our proposed ward, which is based on one of the two proposed schemes, has a strong southern boundary, which follows the River Mersey. The western boundary follows the A49, before heading north on Orford Lane, and then O'Leary Street. Its eastern boundary follows Orford Road.</p> <p>We consider that this ward has good electoral equality, and has strong, easily identifiable boundaries.</p> |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----|---|--|
| Latchford East | 2 | 10% | This ward comprises an area between the Manchester Ship Canal and the River Mersey, and contains the community of Westy. | <p>Apart from the two borough-wide schemes, we did not receive any submissions relating to this part of the borough.</p> <p>We are adopting the ward put forward in one of the borough-wide schemes.</p> <p>We considered whether it was possible to reduce the relatively high electoral variance in this ward, but we did not consider that there was a better boundary between this ward and our proposed Latchford West ward that would provide a better balance of the statutory criteria.</p> |
| Latchford West | 2 | 6% | This ward comprises an area between the Manchester Ship Canal and the River Mersey, and contains the communities of Latchford and Wilderspool. | <p>Apart from the two borough-wide schemes, we did not receive any submissions relating to this part of the borough.</p> <p>Our proposed ward is largely based on a ward proposed in one of the borough-wide schemes. We have proposed a slightly different ward to improve electoral equality, and as a result of our proposed wards to the west of this ward.</p> <p>Latchford West has strong northern and southern boundaries, in the form of the River Mersey and the Manchester Ship Canal, and we consider that this ward has good electoral equality.</p> |
| Poulton North | 3 | -9% | This ward comprises an area to the north-east of the town centre, situated between the M6 and the M62. It contains the communities of Cinnamon Brow, Longbarn and Houghton Green. | <p>As well as the two borough-wide schemes, we received two submissions relating to this area, one in relation to the Longbarn area, and one which opposed the Poulton wards put forward in one of the borough-wide schemes.</p> <p>We have partially adopted the ward put forward in one of the borough-wide schemes. We have included Longbarn, and an area south of the railway line, bound by Spittle Brook and Green Lane, in this ward. We have not included the area between Birchwood Way and Padgate Lane in this ward. We did not consider that there was sufficient evidence to</p> |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----|---|--|
| | | | | demonstrate that this area would have shared community links with the rest of Poulton North ward. |
| Poulton South | 2 | -7% | This ward comprises an area between the River Mersey and Birchwood Way. | <p>In addition to the two borough-wide schemes, we received one submission relating to this area, which opposed the Poulton wards put forward in one of the borough-wide schemes.</p> <p>We have based our proposed Poulton South ward on one put forward in one of the borough-wide schemes. However, given the unacceptably high electoral variance in that proposed ward, we have proposed a different boundary between it and Rixton & Woolston ward. Our proposed boundary includes the area of houses east of Seymour Drive and Birchdale Road in neighbouring Rixton & Woolston ward. This is to ensure acceptable levels of electoral equality in both wards. As mentioned above, we have included the area between Padgate Lane and Birchwood Way in this ward.</p> |

East Warrington

| Ward name | Number of Cllrs | Variance 2020 | Description | Detail |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Birchwood | 3 | -2% | This ward comprises the communities of Birchwood, Gorse Covert and Oakwood. | <p>In addition to the two borough-wide schemes, we received one submission relating to this area. One of the borough-wide schemes favoured retaining the existing ward boundaries here, as did the localised submission.</p> <p>We are proposing to retain the existing ward boundaries in this area. The ward has strong boundaries, and is forecast to have good electoral equality.</p> |
| Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft | 3 | 7% | This ward comprises the communities of Glazebury, Culcheth and Croft, and is | In addition to the two borough-wide schemes, we received one other submission relating to this area. One of the |

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|------------------------------|---|-----|---|---|
| | | | situated in the north-east corner of the borough. | <p>borough-wide schemes favoured retaining the existing ward boundaries here, as did the localised submission.</p> <p>We are proposing to retain the existing ward boundaries in this area. The ward has strong boundaries, and has reasonable electoral equality.</p> |
| Rixton & Woolston | 3 | -9% | This ward comprises the community of Rixton and a largely rural area to the east of the M6, as well as the community of Woolston. | <p>In addition to the two borough-wide schemes, we also received two other submissions in relation to this area. All four submissions expressed a preference for retaining the existing warding arrangements here.</p> <p>Our proposed ward is largely based on a ward proposed in one of the borough-wide schemes. As mentioned above, we have proposed an amendment to that scheme's proposed boundary with Poulton South ward. We consider that this ward has very strong boundaries, with a railway in the north and the Manchester Ship Canal in the south, and has reasonable electoral equality.</p> |

Conclusions

26 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2015 and 2020 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

| | Draft recommendations | |
|--|-----------------------|-------|
| | 2015 | 2020 |
| Number of councillors | 58 | 58 |
| Number of electoral wards | 22 | 22 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,812 | 2,912 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average | 2 | 0 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average | 0 | 0 |

Draft recommendation

Warrington Borough Council should comprise 58 councillors serving eight two-member wards and 14 three-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 Warrington. You can also view our draft recommendations for Warrington on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

27 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 divisions 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.

28 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, Warrington 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.

29 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 Appleton, Burtonwood & Westbrook, Grappenhall, Great Sankey, Lymm, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Stockton Heath, Walton and Winwick.

30 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 Appleton parish.

Draft recommendation
Appleton Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Cobbs & Hillcliffe (returning 10 members), Hillcliffe North (returning one member) and Thorn (returning two members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

31 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 Burtonwood & Westbrook parish.

Draft recommendation
Burtonwood & Westbrook Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Burtonwood (returning six members), Old Hall (returning one member) and Westbrook (returning nine members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

32 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 Grappenhall & Thelwall parish.

Draft recommendation
Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Thelwall (returning eight members) and Grappenhall (returning eight members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

33 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 Great Sankey parish.

Draft recommendation
Great Sankey Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing five wards: Central (returning five members), Liverpool Road (returning one member), North (returning four members), South (returning four members) and South West (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

34 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 Lymm parish.

Draft recommendation

Lymm Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Lymm North (returning six members) and Lymm South (returning six members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

35 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 Poulton-with-Fearnhead parish.

Draft recommendation

Poulton-with-Fearnhead Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Blackbrook (returning two members), Bruche (returning five members), Longbarn, Fearnhead & Cinnamon Brow (returning seven members) and Paddington (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

36 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 Stockton Heath parish.

Draft recommendation

Stockton Heath Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: East (returning three members) and West (returning 12 members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

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 Walton parish.

Draft recommendation

Walton Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Lower Walton (returning seven members) and Walton West (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

38 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 Winwick parish.

Draft recommendation

Winwick Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Houghton Green (returning four members), Peel Hall (returning three members) and Winwick (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 Have your say

39 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 borough or just a part of it.

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

41 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**](http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

42 Submissions can also be made by emailing [**reviews@lgbce.org.uk**](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

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

The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Warrington 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?

43 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 at Millbank Tower (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.

44 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.

45 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.

46 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 next elections for Warrington Borough Council in 2016.

Equalities

47 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 Warrington Borough Council

| | Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2015) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2020) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|----|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Appleton | 3 | 8,850 | 2,950 | 5% | 9,462 | 3,154 | 8% |
| 2 | Bewsey & Whitecross | 3 | 8,636 | 2,879 | 2% | 8,856 | 2,952 | 1% |
| 3 | Birchwood | 3 | 8,565 | 2,855 | 2% | 8,576 | 2,859 | -2% |
| 4 | Burtonwood & Winwick | 2 | 5,228 | 2,614 | -7% | 5,240 | 2,620 | -10% |
| 5 | Chapelford & Old Hall | 3 | 8,436 | 2,812 | 0% | 8,892 | 2,964 | 2% |
| 6 | Culcheth, Glazebury & Croft | 3 | 9,168 | 3,056 | 9% | 9,352 | 3,117 | 7% |
| 7 | Fairfield & Howley | 3 | 8,202 | 2,734 | -3% | 8,633 | 2,878 | -1% |
| 8 | Grappenhall | 2 | 5,634 | 2,817 | 0% | 6,248 | 3,124 | 7% |
| 9 | Great Sankey North & Whittle Hall | 3 | 7,174 | 2,391 | -15% | 8,169 | 2,723 | -6% |
| 10 | Great Sankey South | 3 | 8,368 | 2,789 | -1% | 8,386 | 2,795 | -4% |
| 11 | Latchford East | 2 | 6,035 | 3,017 | 7% | 6,425 | 3,212 | 10% |
| 12 | Latchford West | 2 | 5,978 | 2,989 | 6% | 6,188 | 3,094 | 6% |

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Warrington Borough Council

| | Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2015) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2020) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|----|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 13 | Lymm North & Thelwall | 3 | 9,327 | 3,109 | 11% | 9,407 | 3,136 | 8% |
| 14 | Lymm South | 2 | 5,374 | 2,687 | -4% | 5,401 | 2,701 | -7% |
| 15 | Orford | 3 | 8,945 | 2,982 | 6% | 9,032 | 3,011 | 3% |
| 16 | Penketh & Cuerdley | 3 | 8,551 | 2,850 | 1% | 8,649 | 2,883 | -1% |
| 17 | Poplars & Hulme | 3 | 8,752 | 2,917 | 4% | 9,010 | 3,003 | 3% |
| 18 | Poulton North | 3 | 7,992 | 2,664 | -5% | 7,993 | 2,664 | -9% |
| 19 | Poulton South | 2 | 5,040 | 2,520 | -10% | 5,425 | 2,712 | -7% |
| 20 | Rixton & Woolston | 3 | 7,895 | 2,632 | -6% | 7,921 | 2,640 | -9% |
| 21 | Stockton Heath | 2 | 5,809 | 2,905 | 3% | 5,944 | 2,972 | 2% |
| 22 | Westbrook | 2 | 5,121 | 2,560 | -9% | 5,691 | 2,846 | -2% |
| | Totals | 58 | 163,079 | - | - | 168,901 | - | - |
| | Averages | - | - | 2,812 | - | - | 2,912 | - |

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Warrington 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

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/cheshire/warrington-unitary-authority-ua>

Local authority

- Warrington Borough Council

Political parties

- Warrington North Conservatives

Local organisations

- Longbarn Residents' Association
- Warrington Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Councillors

- Councillor G. Friend (Warrington Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Heaver & Councillor D. Price (joint submission) (Warrington Borough Council)
- Councillor G. Settle (Warrington Borough Council)

Parish councils

- Rixton with Glazebrook Parish Council
- Lymm Parish Council
- Woolston Parish Council

Residents

- Five 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 |

