

Contents

Summary	1
1 Introduction	2
2 Analysis and final recommendations	4
Submissions received	4
Electorate figures	5
Council size	5
Warding patterns	6
Draft recommendations	6
Final recommendations	6
Detailed wards	8
Rural north	9
Rural south	10
North Colchester	11
Central Colchester	13
South Colchester	14
Conclusions	16
Parish electoral arrangements	16
3 What happens next?	18

Appendices

A Table A1: Final recommendations for Colchester Borough Council	19
B Submissions received	21
C Glossary and abbreviations	22

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 Colchester?

We are conducting an electoral review of Colchester 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 city council elections varies depending on where you live in Colchester. Based on December 2012 electorate data, 26% of the city's wards currently have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the borough. Of these, one ward – Copford & West Stanway – has an electoral variance of -30%.

Our proposals for Colchester

Colchester Borough Council currently has 60 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, we consider that decreasing the council size to 51 members will ensure the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively.

Electoral arrangements

Our final recommendations propose that Colchester Borough Council's 51 councillors should represent 17 three-member wards. None of our proposed 17 wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Colchester by 2020.

We have finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Colchester.

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Colchester 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 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 as well as other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals on council size. We then held three periods of consultation, first on council size, second on warding patterns for the Council and finally on our draft recommendations. The submissions received during our consultations have informed our final recommendations.

This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
4 March 2014	Council size consultation
27 May 2014	Warding pattern consultation
4 August 2014	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
21 October 2014	Draft recommendations consultation
12 January 2015	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
23 March 2015	Publication of final recommendations

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

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 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)
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
Alison Lowton
Sir Tony Redmond
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

2 Analysis and final recommendations

7 Legislation states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors² 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.

	2014	2020
Electorate of Colchester Borough	130,550	144,964
Number of Councillors	51	51
Average number of electors per councillor	2,560	2,842

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

11 Additionally, in circumstances where we propose to divide a parish between wards or county divisions, we are required to divide it into parish wards so that each parish ward is wholly contained within a single 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 Colchester Borough Council or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. The proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries, and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

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

² Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Electorate figures

14 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 levels and projected an increase in the electorate of 11% 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 final recommendations.

Council size

16 Prior to consultation on council size we received a number of proposals from the political groups on the Council. The Liberal Democrat Group proposed retaining the existing council size of 60 members. Submissions from the Conservative, Labour and Highwoods & Stanway Independent groups all proposed a reduction in council size by nine to 51 elected members. On the basis of the evidence received, we considered that there were strong arguments in favour of reducing the council size to 51 based on the Council's decision-making structure and the representative role of elected members. We therefore decided to consult on a council size of 51. During consultation, we did not receive persuasive evidence in support of any other council size for Colchester. We therefore adopted a council size of 51 as part of our draft recommendations.

17 In response to the consultation on council size, we received 56 submissions. These were from three borough councillors, one MP, two parish councils and 50 members of the public. The Council did not submit further comments during this consultation period. Of the submissions received, 26 supported a council size of 51, 13 supported maintaining a council size of 60, and one proposed a reduction of between the two numbers. Three submissions proposed a council size of 30, eight submissions proposed a council size of 42 or 45. A further three submissions proposed non-specific reductions and two proposed an increase in council size.

18 Those supporting a council size of 51 argued that such a reduction would not impair the decision-making functions of the authority and may lead to a more streamlined council. Respondents proposing to retain a council size of 60 expressed concern about the potential loss of representation under a reduced council size. The most common argument for the retention of a council size of 60 was the forecast population growth for Colchester. Respondents considered that, given the high rates of growth forecast by 2020 and beyond, reducing the number of councillors would damage the ability of councillors to represent and govern. This argument was echoed by those proposing an increase in council size.

19 Those proposing a reduction in council size to 45 or fewer expressed general dissatisfaction with the running of the council. Respondents suggested that the governance and representational functions of members could be performed with significantly fewer councillors.

20 Having carefully considered the evidence received, we are of the view that the original submissions made by the Conservative, Labour, and Highwoods & Stanway Independent groups were corroborated by evidence that emerged during consultation. Those supporting a council size of 51 echoed the arguments that a more streamlined council under the Cabinet system could effectively carry out the Council's governance roles. We therefore consulted on warding arrangements based on a council size of 51 members.

21 In response to consultation on warding patterns we received one submission on council size. In light of this we decided that persuasive evidence had not been received to modify our decision on council size. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a council size of 51. In response to consultation on draft recommendations we again received one submission on council size, but this submission did not provide persuasive evidence to modify our decision. We have decided to base our final recommendations on a council size of 51.

Warding patterns

22 We received 24 submissions during consultation on warding arrangements for Colchester. These included borough-wide proposals from the Colchester Conservative Group, the Labour Group and the Highwoods & Stanway Independent Group. We also received representations from the Witham Constituency Labour Group, Sir Bob Russell MP, one community group, eight parish and town councils and eight local residents.

Draft recommendations

23 We received 55 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. The majority of these submissions focused on the boundary between the proposed Highwoods and St Anne's & St John's wards, and the proposed Christ Church ward. There were also multiple submissions referring to the proposed warding patterns to the south and east of the urban centre.

Final recommendations

24 The majority of submissions received related to three areas: the eastern boundary of the proposed Highwoods ward, the proposed Christ Church ward, and the proposed Lexden & Braiswick ward.

Rural North

25 We received three submissions that referred to the proposed warding of the rural northern part of the borough of Colchester. Two of these objected to the warding pattern and favoured a pattern of two wards, each with three councillors. One submission restated the perceived necessity for the ward to remain entirely rural. In order to achieve good electoral equality throughout the entire borough, we do not propose to make any changes in this area. We have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

Rural South

26 We received two submissions relating to the proposed Tiptree ward, both of which supported our proposal. We are not proposing any changes to our proposals.

27 We received one submission in support of the proposed Marks Tey & Layer ward, and two submissions requesting that an amendment be made to move the parishes of Great Wigborough, Little Wigborough, Salcott and Virley to the proposed Mersea & Pyefleet ward. However, we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to justify any changes. As such, we have decided to confirm our recommendations for this area as final.

North Colchester

28 We received 11 submissions objecting to the boundary between the proposed Highwoods and St Anne's & St John's wards, one of which was a petition with 21 signatories. These submissions provided evidence regarding the use of Ipswich Road as a preferred boundary, as well as evidence about the way in which the St John's community use the facilities in the St John's Close area. Taking this evidence into account, we have decided to alter the proposed boundary between Highwoods and St Anne's & St John's. The amended proposals use Ipswich Road as a strong and identifiable boundary between the two wards.

29 In tandem with the above modification, in order to maintain good electoral equality in the proposed Highwoods ward, we have altered the north-western boundary to include the Oxley Parker Drive area, the Mill Road Sports Ground and the houses between Mill Road and Axial Way. This also modifies the north-eastern boundary of the proposed Mile End ward.

30 We received four submissions relating to the proposed Mile End ward, all of which opposed the exclusion of parts of the Braiswick area. Two of these submissions referred specifically to the New Braiswick Park area, and provided good evidence of its community links to Mile End. On the basis of the evidence received, and taking into account the parish boundary, we have decided to alter the proposed boundary of the Mile End ward to include the New Braiswick Park area.

31 We received seven submissions regarding the proposed Lexden & Braiswick ward. One of the submissions was fully in support of the proposed warding pattern, and six opposed it. Two of these referred specifically to the New Braiswick Park area, which has been included in the proposed Mile End ward. One submission put forward an alternative warding scheme for the rural northern part of the whole borough. However, in order to achieve good electoral equality throughout the borough, we are not minded to make any amendments to the northern boundary of this ward.

32 To improve electoral equality, we are making a minor amendment to the south-eastern boundary of the proposed Lexden & Braiswick ward, aligning the proposed boundary with the current ward boundary which runs along The Avenue. We are not minded to make any other amendments to this ward.

Central Colchester

33 In the proposed Castle ward, we propose a minor amendment to the western boundary in order to align with the county division boundary, following The Chase Way to Baker's Bridge.

34 In the proposed Stanway and Prettygate wards, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.

35 We received two submissions that referred to the proposed Greenstead ward. One of these provided an alternative boundary for the south of the ward, using the river as a strong and identifiable boundary. On the basis of the strong evidence put forward in the submission, we have decided to modify the proposed boundary to follow the river as proposed.

36 On the basis of good evidence received from a submission, we propose a minor amendment to the northern boundary of the Wivenhoe ward, to run the boundary along Salary Brook.

South Colchester

37 We received 13 submissions that referred, entirely or in part, to the proposed warding of the New Town and Christ Church areas. Submissions focused on the strong community identity inherent within New Town, and put forward compelling evidence for amendments. On the strength of evidence received, we have modified the southern boundary of the ward to include the Canterbury Road area and the area around St George's school in the Christ Church ward. We are also proposing to change the ward name to New Town & Christ Church.

38 Twelve submissions received referred to the proposed Old Heath ward, and all commented on the inclusion of the area known as The Hythe. The submissions provided strong evidence of community identity, and in order to reflect this, we are proposing to change the ward name to Old Heath & The Hythe.

39 We received one submission that referred to the Shrub End ward, and strong evidence was provided as to the community's engagement with the archaeological park that lies to the south of the ward. On the basis of the evidence received, we are proposing to amend the boundary to include the park, and the ward's southern boundary will now follow the current ward boundary.

Detailed wards

40 The tables on pages 9–15 detail our final recommendations for each area of Colchester. Where we have moved away from our draft recommendations, we have outlined how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

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

Rural North

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Rural North	3	5%	This ward comprises the northern rural area of the borough, bounded in the south by the A12 and including the parishes of Dedham, Langham, Boxted, Great Horkesley, Little Horkesley, Wormingford, Fordham, Mount Bures, Wakes Colne, Chappel and Great Tey.	We received three submissions that referred specifically to the proposed Rural North, two of which requested that we move away from our proposed ward pattern. We are, however, not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to justify modifying our recommendations. We consider that our draft recommendations for this area provide for good electoral equality, whilst still reflecting communities within the ward. Furthermore, it is not possible for us to recommend a different pattern of wards in this area and still ensure good electoral equality across the borough. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Rural South

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Marks Tey & Layer	3	2%	This ward comprises the rural area to the south-west of Colchester. It is bounded in the north-west by the A12 and in the south-east by the Abberton Reservoir. The Roman River forms the northern boundary.	We received three submissions specifically relating to this area, two of which requested that an amendment be made to move the parishes of Great Wigborough, Little Wigborough, Salcott and Virley to the proposed Mersea & Pyefleet ward. However, we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to justify any changes. We consider that our draft recommendations for this area provide for good electoral equality, whilst still reflecting communities within the ward. As such, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.
Mersea & Pyefleet	3	2%	This ward comprises Mersea Island along with the parishes of Peldon, Abberton, Langenhoe and Fingringhoe.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Tiptree	3	-2%	This ward comprises the entire parish of Tiptree.	We received two submissions relating to this ward, both of which were fully in support of our proposals. We have therefore decided to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.

North Colchester

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Highwoods	3	-9%	This ward lies to the north of the centre of Colchester, with Ipswich Road forming its eastern boundary and High Woods Country Park forming a boundary to the west. It is bounded in the north by the A12.	We received 11 comments relating to this ward, all of which objected to the eastern boundary. Due to the strength of evidence suggesting that Ipswich Road divides the Highwoods and St John's communities, we have decided to modify the boundary between the proposed Highwoods and St Anne's & St John's wards so that it now follows Ipswich Road. We have also amended the north-eastern boundary to include the housing on either side of Mill Road Sports Ground. We consider this will provide a reasonable level of electoral equality while reflecting the community identities of these areas. Subject to these modifications, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.
Lexden & Braiswick	3	-7%	This ward comprises the parishes of Eight Ash Green and West Bergholt, as well as the areas of Braiswick and Lexden.	We received seven submissions regarding the proposed Lexden & Braiswick ward. One of the submissions was fully in support of the proposed warding pattern, and six opposed it. Two of these referred specifically to the New Braiswick Park area, which has been moved into the proposed Mile End ward. One submission put forward an alternative warding scheme for the rural northern part of the whole borough. However, in order to achieve good electoral equality throughout the borough, we are not minded to make any amendments to the northern boundary of this ward. To improve electoral equality, we are making a minor amendment to the south-eastern boundary of the proposed Lexden & Braiswick ward. We have decided to align the proposed boundary with the current ward boundary which runs along The Avenue.

Mile End	3	5%	This ward comprises the area to the east of High Woods Country Park and to the west of Braiswick, and includes New Braiswick Park in the south.	We received four submissions relating to the proposed Mile End ward. The evidence received demonstrated that the New Braiswick Park area has strong community links to the Mile End area, as well as being in Myland parish. As such, we propose to move away from our draft recommendation for this area. We have decided that the area of New Braiswick Park be included in our proposed Mile End ward. To achieve good electoral equality, we have amended the north-eastern boundary to include the housing on either side of Mill Road Sports Ground into the proposed Highwoods ward. Subject to these amendments, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.
St Anne's & St John's	3	7%	This ward comprises the area to the east of Ipswich Road and to the north of Porters Brook and Welsh Wood.	We received 11 submissions relating to the proposed boundary between this ward and the proposed Highwoods ward, all of which provided evidence of the boundary formed by Ipswich Road. Due to the strength of evidence received, we have decided to modify the boundary to follow Ipswich Road. Based on other evidence received during consultation, we have also made amendments in the south of the ward. We have included the Greenstead Road area into our proposed Greenstead ward. These modifications provide for good electoral equality and strong, identifiable boundaries, whilst maintaining community identity.

Central Colchester

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Castle	3	1%	This ward comprises the city centre, north of Southway and bounded in the north and east by the railway line.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We propose a minor amendment to the western boundary in order to align with the county division boundary, following The Chase Way to Baker's Bridge. Subject to this minor amendment, we propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Greenstead	3	8%	This ward comprises the area between Salary Brook and Porters Brook.	We received two submissions that referred to the proposed Greenstead ward; one of these provided an alternative boundary for the south of the ward, using the river as a strong and identifiable boundary. On the basis of evidence put forward in the submission, we are minded to alter the proposed boundary to follow the river as suggested.
Prettygate	3	-2%	This ward comprises the area bounded by Lexden Dyke and Gryme's Dyke. London Road forms the northern boundary.	We received no submissions specifically relating to this ward. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Stanway	3	-1%	This ward comprises the area west of Gryme's Dyke and north of the Roman River.	We received one submission specifically relating to this ward, in support of the recommendations. We therefore propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
Wivenhoe	3	-4%	This ward comprises the area south of Salary Brook and east of the River Colne.	We received one submission specifically relating to this ward, proposing an amendment to the northern boundary to run along Salary Brook. This provides for a strong boundary for Wivenhoe. Subject to this minor change, we propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.

South Colchester

Ward Name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Berechurch	3	-9%	This ward comprises the area to the west of Mersea Road and to the east of Berechurch Road.	We received six submissions that related to Berechurch, all of which referred to the northern area and the boundary with the proposed New Town & Christ Church ward. On the strength of evidence received regarding community identity in the area, we have modified the northern boundary of the ward to include the Canterbury Road area and the area around St George's School in the proposed New Town & Christ Church ward. These modifications will allow for the maintenance of community identity whilst still providing electoral equality.
New Town & Christ Church	3	4%	This ward comprises the area to the south of the railway line and to the north of Drury Road and Bourne Road.	We received 13 submissions that referred, entirely or in part, to the proposed warding of the New Town and Christ Church areas. Submissions focused on the strong community identity inherent within New Town, and put forward compelling evidence for amendments. On the strength of evidence received, we have modified the southern boundary of the ward to include the Canterbury Road area and the area around St George's school in the Christ Church ward. We are also proposing to change the ward name to New Town & Christ Church. These modifications will allow for the maintenance of community identity whilst still providing good electoral equality.
Old Heath & The Hythe	3	6%	This ward comprises the area to the north of the Roman River, to the east of Mersea Road and to the west of the River Colne. It includes the parish of East Donyland.	We received 12 submissions that referred to the proposed Old Heath ward, and all commented on the inclusion of the area known as The Hythe. The submissions provided strong evidence of community identity, and in order to reflect this, we are proposing to change the ward name to Old Heath & The Hythe. We also propose a minor amendment to the northern boundary to include the recreation ground north of Recreation Road.

Shrub End	3	-6%	This ward lies to the east of Shrub End Road and west of Layer Road, and sits to the south of Circular Road South.	We received one submission that referred to the Shrub End ward, and strong evidence was provided as to the community's engagement with the archaeological park that lies to the south of the ward. On the basis of the evidence received, we are proposing to modify the boundary to include the park, and the ward's southern boundary will now follow the current ward boundary. Subject to this amendment, we propose to confirm this ward as part of our final recommendations.
------------------	---	-----	--	---

Conclusions

41 Table 1 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2014 and 2020 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2014	2020
Number of councillors	51	51
Number of electoral wards	17	17
Average number of electors per councillor	2,560	2,842
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Colchester Borough Council should comprise 51 councillors serving 17 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 Colchester. You can also view our final recommendations for Colchester on our interactive maps at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

42 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.

43 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, Colchester 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.

44 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 Myland parish

Final recommendation

Myland Community Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Myland (returning 13 members) and Myland East (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 What happens next?

45 We have now completed our review of Colchester Borough Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in May 2016.

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: Final recommendations for Colchester Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Berechurch	3	7,426	2,475	-3%	7,747	2,582	-9%
2	Castle	3	7,615	2,538	-1%	8,654	2,885	1%
3	Greenstead	3	8,576	2,859	12%	9,233	3,078	8%
4	Highwoods	3	7,505	2,502	-2%	7,721	2,574	-9%
5	Lexden & Braiswick	3	7,513	2,504	-2%	7,958	2,653	-7%
6	Marks Tey & Layer	3	6,883	2,294	-10%	8,677	2,892	2%
7	Mersea & Pyefleet	3	8,216	2,739	7%	8,674	2,891	2%
8	Mile End	3	6,756	2,252	-12%	8,963	2,988	5%
9	New Town & Christ Church	3	8,106	2,702	6%	8,884	2,961	4%
10	Old Heath & The Hythe	3	8,032	2,677	5%	9,053	3,018	6%
11	Prettygate	3	8,067	2,689	5%	8,333	2,778	-2%
12	Rural North	3	8,585	2,862	12%	8,943	2,981	5%

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

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Shrub End	3	7,328	2,443	-5%	7,978	2,659	-6%
14 St Anne's & St John's	3	8,393	2,798	9%	9,157	3,052	7%
15 Stanway	3	6,489	2,163	-16%	8,414	2,805	-1%
16 Tiptree	3	7,369	2,456	-4%	8,376	2,792	-2%
17 Wivenhoe	3	7,691	2,564	0%	8,199	2,733	-4%
Totals	51	130,550	–	–	144,964	–	–
Averages	–	–	2,560	–	–	2,842	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Colchester 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/eastern/essex/colchester-fer>

Local authority

- Colchester Borough Council (two submissions)

Political parties

- Colchester Borough Council Liberal Democrats Group (two submissions)
- Colchester Conservative Group
- Colchester Labour Group
- Mile End Liberal Democrats
- St John's Liberal Democrats
- Witham Constituency Labour Party

MPs

- B Russell MP

Councillors

- Councillor Gerard Oxford (Colchester Borough Council)
- Councillor Paul Smith (Colchester Borough Council)
- New Town Ward councillors

Local organisations

- Hythe Forward CLT
- SOURCE Anglican Community
- St John's Residents' Association

Town and parish councils

- 15 town and parish councils

Residents

- 24 local residents (including one petition)

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