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Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body that conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. The broad purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors, and the names, number and boundaries of wards or divisions – for a specific local authority. We are conducting an electoral review of Herefordshire Council to provide improved levels of electoral equality across the authority.

The review aims to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same. The Commission commenced the review in 2011.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
27 March 2012	Consultation on council size
20 June 2012	Invitation to submit proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
29 August 2012	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
13 November 2012	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
8 January 2013	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Single-member ward review request

In September 2012 the Council wrote to the Commission informing us that members had passed a resolution for a single-member ward review. There is a presumption in legislation that the Commission should agree to such requests and seek to provide a uniform pattern of single-member wards across the authority. The Commission agreed to the request and we have provided for such a pattern of wards as part of our draft recommendations.

Analysis and draft recommendations

Electorate figures

Herefordshire Council has forecast an increase in electorate of approximately 4% across the authority by 2018. The Council indicated some significant growth in electorate for the Hereford, Leominster, Ross-on-Wye, Holmer & Shelwick and Hampton Bishop areas. We are broadly satisfied that the electoral forecasts supplied are the best available at this time and these form the basis of our draft recommendations for Herefordshire.

Council size

Herefordshire Council currently has a council size of 58 councillors. We received 54 submissions during our consultation on council size. The Council proposed a council size of 54. Hereford & South Herefordshire Conservatives supported this proposal.

The It's Our County group on the Council proposed an increase in council size to 70. We also received representations supporting council sizes of 52, 60 and the existing council size of 58.

We considered that sufficient evidence had been provided by the Council in support a council size of 54. Therefore, we invited representations on warding arrangements based on a 54-member council. We later refined this to 53 councillors, in order to provide for a warding pattern across the authority which results in a better balance between the statutory criteria.

General analysis

During our information gathering stage, we received 92 submissions on warding arrangements. Three of these submissions – those of Herefordshire Conservatives and two local residents – were authority-wide proposals. The Council did not submit a warding proposal. However, we did have sight of the warding pattern considered by members. We also received a number of localised comments which covered areas of the authority, including Hereford, Leominster, Ledbury, Bromyard and Ross-on-Wye. We have largely based our draft recommendations for Herefordshire on a combination of the warding pattern considered by Herefordshire Council, that proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives and the proposal from one of the local residents. However, in some areas of the authority we have put forward our own proposals to better reflect our statutory criteria.

Our draft recommendations provide for a 53-member council representing 53 single-member wards. Our recommendations result in only one ward being forecast to have an electoral variance of more than 10% from the council average by 2018.

What happens next?

There will now be a consultation period, during which time we encourage comments on the draft recommendations contained in the report. **We take this consultation very seriously and it is therefore important that all those interested in the review should let us have their views and evidence, whether or not they agree with these draft proposals.** We will take into account all submissions received by **7 January 2013**. Any received after this date **may** not be taken into account. We would particularly welcome local views backed up by demonstrable evidence. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations. Express your views by writing directly to us at:

Review Officer (Herefordshire Review)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76–86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG
reviews@lgbce.org.uk

The full report is available to download at www.lgbce.org.uk

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

1 Introduction

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body that conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review the electoral arrangements of Herefordshire Council, to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the authority. Additionally, Herefordshire Council requested the Commission undertake a single-member ward review.

2 We wrote to Herefordshire Council and other interested parties inviting the submission of proposals on warding arrangements for the Council. The submissions received during these stages of the review have informed our draft recommendations.

3 We are now conducting a full public consultation on the draft recommendations. Following this period of consultation, we will consider the evidence received and will publish our final recommendations for the new electoral arrangements for the Council in early 2013.

What is an electoral review?

4 The main aim of an electoral review is to try to ensure 'electoral equality', which means that all councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors. Our objective is to make recommendations that will improve electoral equality, while also trying to reflect communities in the area and provide for effective and convenient local government.

5 Our three main considerations – equalising the number of electors each councillor represents; reflecting community identity; and providing for effective and convenient local government – are set out in legislation¹ and our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why are we conducting a review in Herefordshire?

6 We decided to conduct this review as the latest electorate data shows that 30% of Herefordshire wards have electoral variances of more than 10% from the average for the authority. Of these, the largest variance is in Hollington ward which has a variance of -34%.

7 Additionally, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 allows a local authority that hold whole-council elections every four years to request an electoral review with the presumption of delivering single-member wards or divisions.

8 Herefordshire Council submitted a request to the Commission to undertake this single-member ward review. The Commission agreed to the request. The legislation makes clear that, when conducting such a review, the Commission must continue to have regard to the statutory criteria that governs all electoral reviews, outlined in

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

Chapter Two. This, in effect, means that the Commission is not required to recommend single-member wards or divisions if to do so would conflict with the statutory criteria.

How will the recommendations affect you?

9 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve in the authority. They will also decide which ward you vote in and 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.

10 It is therefore important that you let us have your comments and views on the draft recommendations. We encourage comments from everyone in the community, regardless of whether you agree with the draft recommendations or not. The draft recommendations are evidence based and we therefore stress the importance of providing evidence in any comments on our recommendations, rather than relying on assertion. We will accept comments and views until 7 January 2013. After this point, we will be formulating our final recommendations, which we are due to publish in early 2013. Details on how to submit proposals can be found on page 21 and more information can be found on our website, www.lgbce.org.uk. You can also view our draft recommendations for the Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

11 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
Sir Tony Redmond
Dr Colin Sinclair CBE
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill
Director of Reviews: Archie Gall

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

12 Before finalising our recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Herefordshire Council we invite views on these draft recommendations. We welcome comments relating to the proposed ward boundaries, ward names and parish or town council electoral arrangements. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

13 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for Herefordshire is to achieve a level of electoral fairness – that is, each elector’s vote being worth the same as another’s. In doing so we must have regard to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009,² with the need to:

- secure effective and convenient local government
- provide for equality of representation
- reflect the identities and interests of local communities, in particular
 - the desirability of arriving at boundaries that are easily identifiable
 - the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties

14 Legislation also states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the date of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward at the end of the review.

15 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum. We therefore recommend strongly that in formulating proposals for us to consider, local authorities and other interested parties should also try to keep variances to a minimum, making adjustments to reflect relevant factors such as community identity and interests. As mentioned above, we aim to recommend a scheme which provides improved electoral fairness over a five-year period.

16 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.

17 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Herefordshire 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.

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

Submissions received

18 Prior to, and during, the initial stages of the review, we visited Herefordshire Council and met with members, officers and parish councils. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance. We received 54 submissions relating to council size and 92 submissions at our information gathering stage, all of which may be inspected at both our offices and those of the Council. All representations received can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

19 As part of this review, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2018, projecting an increase in electorate of approximately 4%.

20 Forecast electorate growth varied by area but was particularly high in the areas of Hereford, Leominster, Ross-on-Wye, Holmer & Shelwick and Hampton Bishop. We are broadly satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis for our draft recommendations for Herefordshire.

Council size

21 The Council currently has 58 councillors elected from 27 single-member wards, eight two-member wards and five three-member wards. At the beginning of the electoral review, we met Council officers and elected members to discuss council size. The Council made a submission for a council size of 54, four fewer than the existing council size. Having considered the evidence received, we consulted on the basis of reducing the council size to 54 members.

22 During the consultation on council size we received 54 submissions. These included a submission from Hereford & South Herefordshire Conservatives supporting the council size of 54, and a submission from the It's Our County (IOC) group on the Council proposing a council size of 70. The other representations proposed council sizes ranging from 52 to 60.

23 The IOC group supported an increase in council size to 70. The Group considered that the existing workloads of members were too high which had an impact on possible candidates considering standing at election. Additionally, the group considered that an increase in council size would provide more flexibility when filling Council Committee places.

24 Hereford & South Herefordshire Conservatives supported a reduction in council size to 54 members. They considered that such a reduction would not have a large impact on the workload of non-Cabinet members, particularly with regard to involvement on committees and working groups. A reduction in council size to 54 was also supported by a Herefordshire Council member, six parish councils and 14 local residents.

25 We also received submissions from two Herefordshire Council members, four parish councils and four local residents who supported the existing council size of 58.

These submissions were concerned that a reduction in council size would have a significant impact on member workloads. Councillor Robertson was particularly concerned that a reduction in council size would impact on the overview and scrutiny function of the Council and that the implications of Localism had not been fully considered.

26 A submission was also received from Leominster and North Herefordshire Green Party which proposed either a reduction in council size to 30 or 40 with 'councillors being paid properly to do a full time job' or an increase to 60 due to workload pressures. However, the group considered that neither council size was likely to result as part of the review and supported the existing number being retained.

27 Having considered the evidence received we were minded to adopt a council size of 54 and invited proposals for warding patterns based on this number of councillors.

28 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. We also explained that this council size figure could be slightly adjusted in order to provide for warding patterns that secure a better balance between the statutory criteria.

29 In the development of our draft recommendations we noted that all submissions for Hereford were based on an allocation of 15 councillors. Under a council size of 54, this would lead to the remainder of the authority being allocated 39 councillors. However, given the number of electors living in Hereford, 16 councillors should be allocated to the City and 38 to the remainder of the authority under a council size of 54. However, this allocation of members in Hereford is difficult to achieve given the significant barrier of the River Wye dividing the City. When looking at the allocation of councillors north and south of the river, the number of electors results in the part of the City south of the river being allocated four councillors and the part of the City to the north of the river 11. Therefore, to allocate the City 16 councillors would require wards that crossed the river. We do not consider that wards crossing the River Wye in the City would represent a good balance between our criteria.

30 Additionally, the authority-wide schemes based on a council size of 54 proposed that the remainder of the authority be allocated 39 councillors. However, under a council size of 54 the remainder of the authority should only be allocated 38 councillors. Having considered the allocation of members between Hereford and the remainder of the authority, we propose reducing the council size to 53 members. This results in 15 councillors being allocated to Hereford and 38 councillors to the remainder of the authority. This enables a scheme for Hereford and the remainder of the authority which provides for good levels of electoral equality.

31 We are of the view that such a council size would not impact adversely on councillor workload or councillors' representational role. Therefore, our draft recommendations for Herefordshire Council are based on a council size of 53.

Electoral fairness

32 Electoral fairness, in the sense of each elector in a local authority having a vote of equal weight when it comes to the election of councillors, is a fundamental democratic principle. It is expected that our recommendations should provide for electoral fairness whilst ensuring that we reflect communities in the area, and provide for effective and convenient local government.

33 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we calculate the average number of electors per councillor. The authority average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the authority (142,114 in 2012 and 148,055 by 2018) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council – 53 under our draft recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our draft recommendations is 2,681 in 2012 and 2,793 by 2018.

34 Under the draft recommendations, only one of our proposed 53 wards will have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for the authority by 2018. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness under our draft recommendations for Herefordshire.

General analysis

35 We received 92 submissions during the information gathering stage, including three authority-wide schemes from Herefordshire Conservatives and two local residents. Herefordshire Council did not formally submit a warding proposal. However, we did have sight of what was considered by members, since it was published on the Council's website. We also received localised submissions from several Herefordshire councillors, 29 parish/town councils and 47 local residents.

36 The warding pattern proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives was broadly identical to the warding pattern considered by the Council, but proposed some modifications to wards in Hereford. The warding pattern considered by the Council was based on 54 single-member wards. Having investigated this submission it would result in some wards with poor levels of electoral equality and some wards without complete internal access.

37 As noted above, we also received authority-wide warding patterns from two local residents. One of the residents proposed a uniform pattern of three-member wards. We have not adopted any of these proposals as part of our draft recommendations as they were based on the principle of three-member wards rather than evidencing against our statutory criteria explaining why a three-member ward pattern would better meet our criteria than a single-member ward pattern. The other local resident proposed a pattern of wards for the rural area. All the wards proposed by this resident were single-member and were constructed on the principle of keeping parishes which have joint working arrangements together in the same ward. Some of the wards proposed by this local resident were identical to those considered by the Council. However, one of the wards proposed would have a variance of 16% by 2018.

38 We also received localised submissions which covered other parts of the authority. These included Hereford, Ledbury, Leominster, Ross-on-Wye, Bromyard

and parts of the rural area. A number of these submissions opposed a uniform pattern of single-member wards covering the authority. Some of the submissions proposed alternative warding arrangements based on multi-member wards. These representations are detailed in the relevant part of the report.

39 As noted in paragraph 8, the Council submitted a formal request that the Commission recommend a uniform pattern of single-member wards covering the authority. In light of this request we have sought to propose a uniform pattern of single-member wards for Herefordshire.

40 Our draft recommendations would result in 53 councillors representing 53 single-member wards. A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 25 —29) and the map accompanying this report.

41 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations and would encourage interested parties from all parts of the authority to respond. As well as the pattern of warding arrangements proposed, we welcome comments on the ward names we have proposed as part of the draft recommendations.

Electoral arrangements

42 This section of the report details the submissions received, our consideration of them, and our draft recommendations for each area of Herefordshire. The following areas are considered in turn:

- Hereford (pages 9 —11)
- Ledbury (pages 11 —12)
- Bromyard (page 12)
- Leominster (pages 12 —13)
- Ross-on-Wye (pages 13 —14)
- Rural Herefordshire (pages 14 —17)

43 In Hereford we have broadly based our draft recommendations on the warding pattern considered by the Council, with a modification to improve electoral equality. We have based our draft recommendations for the rest of the authority on a combination of the proposals considered by the Council, those submitted by Herefordshire Conservatives, and the local resident who proposed a single-member warding pattern for the rural area. Given our proposal to change the council size to 53, we have made a number of modifications to the proposals received in order to achieve a better balance between the statutory criteria.

44 Details of the draft recommendations are set out in Table A1 on pages 25-29 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Hereford

45 The City of Hereford is an urban conurbation comprising a large proportion of the population and electorate of the authority. Hereford is completely parished and represented by a City Council.

46 The warding pattern considered by the Council resulted in 15 single-member wards for Hereford. As discussed in paragraphs 29-30, this pattern was based on the City being allocated 11 councillors north of the River Wye and four councillors to its south. The proposed warding pattern from Herefordshire Conservatives was identical to that considered by the Council south of the river but they proposed different proposals for the wards of City, Eign Hill, Aylestone Hill and Holmer.

47 Herefordshire Conservatives considered that the boundary between the wards of City and Eign Hill should completely follow the railway line. This boundary was also suggested by the IOC group on the Council. In order to balance electoral equality, Herefordshire Conservatives suggested that the western boundary of Eign Hill follow Folly Lane and that Aylestone Hill should include the area of Victoria Park to its north, with the Roman Road as its northern boundary. However, the proposal did not suggest how electoral equality in Holmer ward could be balanced, as the ward would have a variance of -26% by 2018. We investigated whether it was possible to improve electoral equality in Holmer ward under the Conservatives' proposal. We concluded this was not possible as it would result in a number of wards with poor levels of electoral equality.

48 We also investigated whether the parish of Holmer & Shelwick could be included in a ward with the rural area. This was suggested by the parish council, which proposed a ward that included the parishes of Pipe cum Lyde and Burghill. However, this ward would have a variance of 18% by 2018. In light of the above investigations we consider it is not possible to follow the railway line completely as the boundary between the wards of City and Eign Hill since it would result in wards in the northern part of Hereford with poor levels of electoral equality.

49 We therefore based our draft recommendations for the northern part of Hereford on the proposals considered by the Council. We propose a small modification between Eign Hill and Tupsley wards in order to improve electoral equality in our Eign Hill ward. We propose the boundary run along the backs of properties on Winchester Avenue. This modification results in the wards of Eign Hill and Tupsley having variances of -3% and -4% by 2018, respectively.

50 To the south of the River Wye our draft recommendations are largely based on those considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives. We propose a small modification to the southern boundary of the Hinton & Hunderton ward in order to slightly widen the bottleneck between the A469 and A49. Our first impressions were that the east-west configuration of this ward looked anomalous. However, we have toured the area and noted that the communities in Hinton and Hunderton are of a similar nature with similar housing. Additionally, we considered that crossing at the junction where the A469 and A49 meet was significantly easier than it may appear on a map. Our draft recommendations for Hereford, south of the River Wye, would result in no ward having a variance of more than 10% by 2018.

51 We also received submissions for Hereford which proposed multi-member wards in parts of the City. These submissions argued that single-member wards would divide communities. We examined the representations and consider that it is possible to provide for a good balance between the statutory criteria while achieving a uniform pattern of single-member wards for the City. We have therefore not

proposed any multi-member wards for Hereford as part of our draft recommendations.

52 Our draft recommendations for Hereford would result in 15 single-member wards, with no ward having a variance of greater than 10% by 2018.

Ledbury

53 Ledbury is a large market town situated in the south-east corner of the authority. Currently, Ledbury is represented by a three-member ward that covers the town and includes the parishes of Eastnor and Donnington.

54 The pattern of wards considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives was based on three single-member wards for Ledbury and included the parishes of Eastnor and Donnington in a ward with the parishes of Wellington Heath and Colwall. We had a number of concerns with these proposals and noted in particular that the proposed Ledbury North ward would have a variance of -17% by 2018. Furthermore, the parishes of Eastnor & Donnington would have no internal communication links with the parishes to their north in the same ward. The direct road links from these parishes are to Ledbury or to outside the authority.

55 To reflect the communication links in the area we propose that the parishes of Eastnor and Donnington be included in a ward with part of Ledbury. Additionally, in order to provide for wards with good electoral equality we also propose that Wellington Heath parish be included in a ward with Ledbury. All these parishes have direct road access into Ledbury.

56 Under our draft recommendations we have decided that the parishes of Eastnor and Donnington be included in a Ledbury South ward. The northern boundary of this ward would follow Little Marcle Road, the disused railway line and New Street. This ward would have an electoral variance of 1% by 2018.

57 We have decided that Wellington Heath parish be included in a Ledbury North ward. The boundary between the wards of Ledbury North and Ledbury West would largely follow the disused railway line. However, in order to provide for wards with good levels of electoral equality it is not possible to follow the railway line in its entirety. We therefore propose that our Ledbury North ward include an area of housing on Long Acres, Woodleigh Road and Queens Court. We have observed this boundary on the ground and consider it sensible as it reflects local communication and transport links. This would result in the wards of Ledbury North and Ledbury West having electoral variances of -6% and -5% by 2018, respectively.

58 We received 14 further submissions covering Ledbury. These included a joint representation from Councillors Harvey, Watts and Bettington who currently represent the existing Ledbury ward, and Ledbury Town Council. All these respondents proposed that a three-member ward be retained for the area. We do not propose a three-member ward covering Ledbury as we consider it is possible to provide a single member warding pattern for the area which provides a good balance between the statutory criteria.

59 Our draft recommendations for Ledbury would result in three single-member wards with no ward having a variance of more than 10% by 2018.

Bromyard

60 Bromyard is a small market town located in the east of the authority. It is bounded on its east by the River Frome. Bromyard is currently represented by a two-member ward. The scheme considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives was for two single-member wards for this area (Bromyard East and Bromyard West), which would have electoral variances of -13% and 13% by 2018, respectively. The eastern part of Bromyard would be included in a rural ward to its east.

61 We received an alternative proposal for this area from Bromyard & Winslow Town Council. The town council proposed a single-member ward for this area which was centred on Bromyard. This ward would be bounded to its east by the River Frome and to its west by Pannier's Lane and Upper Hardwick Lane. It would result in a Bromyard ward with an electoral variance of 28% by 2018.

62 We investigated both of the warding patterns proposed for Bromyard. We considered that to achieve good levels of electoral equality for Bromyard and the surrounding area it was necessary to include part of Bromyard in a ward with the adjoining rural area. We considered that the scheme considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives to include the eastern part of the town was sensible, particularly as it has a good road link of the A44 running east. The parishes that are included in our Bromyard East ward are all members of either the Brockhampton group of parishes or the North Bromyard Group Parish Council. However, we do propose a modification to the boundary between the proposed Bromyard East and Bromyard West wards to provide for improved electoral equality.

63 We propose the boundary runs along the backs of properties on Stonehill Drive and Highwell Avenue. We observed this boundary on the ground and consider it is clearly defined and reflects community identities. This modification would result in the wards of Bromyard East and Bromyard West having electoral variances of -4% and 0% by 2018, respectively.

Leominster

64 Leominster is a market town located in the northern part of the authority. The River Lugg runs through the northern part of the town. Leominster is currently represented by two, two-member wards. The scheme considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives was for a pattern of four single-member wards covering Leominster. We investigated these proposals and noted they would result in three wards with electoral variances of greater than 14% including a -22% variance.

65 We also received four other representations covering this area. These were from Leominster Town Council, Leominster and North Herefordshire Green Party and Councillors Norman, Jones, Hunt and McCall who currently represent the Leominster wards. All these respondents proposed that Leominster retain multi-member wards and argued that single-member wards would not provide a good balance between

the statutory criteria. We investigated warding patterns for Leominster and consider it is possible to provide for a uniform pattern of single-member wards which will reflect local community identities. We therefore do not recommend any multi-member wards for Leominster as part of our draft recommendations.

66 In order to achieve good levels of electoral equality in Leominster and the surrounding area it is necessary to include part of Leominster town in a ward with neighbouring parishes. We propose that the area of Leominster north of Kenwater Weir be included in a single-member Kimbolton ward with the surrounding rural area. We visited the area and considered the weir provided an easily identifiable boundary. Also included in this ward are the parishes which form part of the Brimfield & Little Hereford Group Parish Council and the Middleton-on-the-Hill and Leysters Group Parish Council. Our proposed Kimbolton ward would have a variance of 7% by 2018.

67 To the south of the weir we propose three single-member wards covering the rest of Leominster. We propose a Leominster East ward which is bounded by the town council boundary to the east and South Street/Hereford Road to the west. This ward would have a variance of 8% by 2018. We also recommend a Leominster South ward which includes the parish of Monkland & Stretford and is bounded to its north by Barons Cross Road/Bargates. This ward would have a variance of 0% by 2018. We also propose a Leominster West ward which is bounded to its south by Barons Cross Road/Bargates Road. This ward would have a variance of 6% by 2018.

68 Our draft recommendations for Leominster and Kimbolton would result in four single-member wards with no ward having a variance of more than 10% by 2018.

Ross-on-Wye

69 Ross-on-Wye is a market town located in the south of the authority. The River Wye is a dominant feature in the town. The area of Ross is currently represented by four councillors. The town council is bounded by the A449 and A40 and surrounded by Ross Rural Parish Council, which includes the communities of Greytree and Hildersley.

70 The proposal considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives suggested three single-member wards covering Ross Town but included Ross Rural parish in a rural Old Gore ward to its north-east. We received 11 representations covering this area. These included representations from Ross-on-Wye Town Council and Ross Rural Parish Council. All the representations suggested that the communities of Greytree and Hildersley should be included in a warding pattern with Ross Town.

71 In light of the representations received we investigated whether it was possible to propose a warding pattern for Ross-on-Wye which included the communities of Greytree and Hildersley. We consider that it is possible to include these communities in wards with Ross Town and propose three single-member wards covering Ross Rural and Ross-on-Wye. Our draft recommendations would result in a Ross East ward which includes the community of Hildersley and would have a variance of 5% by 2018. Under our draft recommendations we propose that the Greytree community be included in our Ross North ward. This would result in the ward having a variance of 6% by 2018. To the west, our draft recommendations are for a Ross West ward

which would be bounded by the River Wye, the A40, a dismantled railway line and Welford Road. This ward would have a variance of 1% by 2018. On our visit to the area, we considered the disused railway line was easily identifiable and provided for a good boundary.

72 Our draft recommendations for Ross-on-Wye would result in three single-member wards with no ward having a variance of more than 10% by 2018.

Rural Herefordshire

73 Given our proposed warding patterns for the market towns and to ensure that the rural area has the correct allocation of councillors our proposals for the rural area are different in parts to that considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives. We have also tried, where possible, to reflect the community identity evidence received during consultation.

74 In developing a warding pattern for the rural area we have based our proposals on the principle of not dividing parishes which have joint working arrangements. This principle was also a key feature in the warding pattern considered by the Council and that proposed by a local resident.

North Rural Herefordshire

75 This area covers the villages of Leintwardine, Wigmore and Shobdon in the north; Kingsland and Orleton in the east; and Kington in the west. The current wards covering this area each return a single elected member.

76 Our draft recommendations are for single-member wards of Mortimer, Kingsland, Kington and Pembridge covering this part of the authority. Our Mortimer and Kingsland wards are identical to those considered by the Council, and would both have electoral variances of 4% by 2018.

77 We received a representation from Councillor Bowen who proposed that the parish of Richards Castle should be included in the Kingsland ward, rather than Mortimer ward. Councillor Bowen identified the links Richards Castle has with Orleton and Luston. The local resident made a similar proposal. Including Richards Castle in the proposed Kington ward would result in an electoral variance of 13% by 2018. We do not consider that sufficient evidence has been received to justify such a variance.

78 Our proposed Kington and Pembridge wards are different to those considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives. Under our draft recommendations these wards would have variances of -5% and 6% by 2018, respectively. Our Kington ward is identical to that proposed by the local resident. We also received a representation from Titley & District Group Parish Council which opposed the scheme considered by the Council for this part of the authority. The Parish Council did not want to be included in a ward with Kington, as would be the case under the warding pattern considered by the Council. The Parish Council supported being included in Pembridge ward and cited evidence of shared shopping facilities, as well as religious, educational and community service activities. Under our draft recommendations, Titley & District Group Parish Council would be included in our Pembridge ward.

East Rural Herefordshire

79 This area covers the villages of Eardisley and Clifford on the western boundary of the authority and borders the Brecon Beacons National Park. The current wards covering this area each return a single elected member.

80 Our draft recommendations are for the single-member wards of Eardisley, Golden Valley South and Golden Valley North. Our Golden Valley South and Golden Valley North wards are identical to those considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives. These wards would have variances of -5% and -11% by 2018, respectively. Our Eardisley ward is identical to that proposed by the local resident and would have a variance of -10% by 2018. We received no other representations covering this part of the authority.

81 We investigated whether it was possible to improve the electoral variance of our proposed Golden Valley North ward. However, the rural geography, natural boundaries, spread of electors and communication links in the area do not make this possible. In addition, to improve electoral equality would also require the separation into different wards parishes that have existing working relationships.

South Rural Herefordshire

82 This area is bounded to its south by the River Wye and Monmouth and covers the villages of Llangrove and Whitchurch. The current wards in this area are all represented by a single member.

83 Our draft recommendations are for the single-member wards of Birch, Llangarron, Walford, Penyard and Much Marcle. Our Birch, Llangarron, Walford and Penyard wards are identical to those considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives. These wards would have electoral variances of -10%, -2%, -6% and -2% by 2018, respectively. Our Penyard ward was put forward by a local resident. We received no other representations covering this part of the authority. Our proposals would ensure that each ward had internal communication links and that the working relationships between parishes are reflected.

84 Our proposed Much Marcle ward is different to that considered by the Council. This is largely due to the modification to include Ross Rural parish in a ward with Ross-on-Wye. Additionally, this ward has been modified to take into account evidence of community identities received regarding our proposed Fownhope ward (discussed in paragraph 94).

West Rural Herefordshire

85 This area of the authority is bounded on its west by the Malvern Hills and covers the villages of Bodenham, Westfield and Colwall Stone. The current wards in this area are a mixture of single- and two-member wards.

86 Our draft recommendations are for the single-member wards of Bodenham, Ashperton, Colwall and Bishops Frome. These wards would have electoral variances of 2%, 0%, 4% and -7% by 2018, respectively. Our proposed wards for this part of the authority are different to those considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives. This is mainly due to our proposed wards covering Leominster, Bromyard and Ledbury, as in these areas we have included adjoining

rural parishes in wards with the market towns. Our Bodenham ward is identical to that suggested by the local resident.

87 All these wards have complete internal transport links and reflect the joint working arrangements between parishes.

Hereford Hinterland

88 This area of the authority covers the villages surrounding Hereford. Many of them look to the City due to the communication links in the area. The current wards are a mixture of single- and three-member wards.

89 To the east of Hereford our draft recommendations are for the single-member wards of Credenhill, Clehonger, Kingstone and Belmont Rural. These wards are identical to those considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives and would have variances of -10%, 2%, 2% and 3% by 2018, respectively. We received a representation for this area from Clehonger Parish Council suggesting it be included in a ward with parishes on the same side of the River Wye. Under our draft recommendations we have been able to accommodate Clehonger Parish Council's request.

90 We did investigate whether it was possible to reduce the variance of -10% in our Credenhill ward. However, in order to do so would necessitate the splitting of parishes that have joint working arrangements. This is something that we have sought to avoid throughout Herefordshire.

91 Our proposed Belmont Rural ward is based on the boundaries of Belmont Rural parish. We received representations for this area which did not support a single-member ward and suggested the parish be included in a multi-member ward with Hereford. The parish is currently included in a three-member ward with part of Hereford. As detailed earlier in the report, we consider it is possible to propose a uniform pattern of single-member wards covering Hereford which provides a good balance between the statutory criteria. We therefore do not propose including Belmont Rural in a ward with adjoining wards in the City. Our draft recommendation is for a Belmont Rural ward which is based on the boundaries of Belmont Rural parish.

92 To the north of Hereford our draft recommendations are for the single-member wards of Weobley, Burghill and Sutton Walls. These wards would have electoral variances of 5%, 0% and -8% respectively. The wards are different to those considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives. We received representations from the parishes of Sutton, Moreton-on-Lugg and Marden all of which supported being included in the same ward. Under the scheme considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives the parishes would be split between wards. Under our draft recommendations all these parishes would be included in our single-member Sutton Walls ward.

93 To the east of our Sutton Walls ward our draft recommendation is for a single-member Burghill ward, which is again configured on the basis of parishes that have joint working arrangements. This ward would not have complete internal communication links because the A49 leaves the proposed ward for a short stretch between Wellington and Hope under Dinmore parishes. We investigated alternative

warding patterns for the area which would have complete internal communication links. However, the alternatives would result in poor electoral equality and would require parishes that have joint working arrangements being in different wards. We have toured the area and consider that the indirect transport links in the proposed ward would not inhibit effective and convenient local government. We consider this proposal would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities.

94 To the west of Hereford our draft recommendations are for the single-member wards of Fownhope and Lugwardine, with electoral variances of -3% and 9% by 2018, respectively. These wards are different to those considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives. The local resident proposed an identical Lugwardine ward to that included in our draft recommendations. We received representations in this area which opposed Hampton Bishop parish being included in a ward with Lugwardine parish, as would be the case under the scheme considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives. We were also concerned with the configuration of the ward considered by the Council and proposed by Herefordshire Conservatives as Hampton Bishop parish would have no internal communication links with Lugwardine and that the two areas are split by the River Lugg. Under our draft recommendations we propose that Hampton Bishop parish be included in a single-member Fownhope ward with communities to its west. This ward is similar to the existing electoral arrangements but does not include the parish of Weston Beggard. This parish is divided from other parishes in this ward by the River Frome.

95 To the south of Hereford our draft recommendations are for a single-member ward of Dinedor, with a variance of 3% by 2018. This ward is identical to that considered by the Council. We were initially concerned that the southern part of the Dinedor ward has a bottleneck. We investigated whether this could be widened by including the parish to the west of Harewood. However, this would worsen electoral equality in our Birch ward to -11% and also divide the Llanwarne & District Group Parish Council, of which Harewood is part. We toured the area, observed the bottleneck and do not consider it to be an issue on the ground. The north of our Dinedor ward includes what appears to be part of Hereford. This area of Hereford is actually part of Lower Bullingham parish and we have again observed on the ground the good communication links this area shares with the parishes to its south.

Conclusions

96 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2011 and 2018 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2012	2018
Number of councillors	53	53
Number of wards	53	53
Average number of electors per councillor	2,681	2,793
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	5	1

Draft recommendation
 Herefordshire Council should comprise 53 councillors serving 53 wards, as detailed and named in Table A1 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Parish electoral arrangements

97 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between divisions or wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division or ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

98 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make such changes as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority division arrangements. However, the respective principal authority (the district or borough council in the area) 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.

99 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parishes of Hereford, Leominster, Ledbury, Bromyard & Winslow, Ross-on-Wye and Ross Rural. We would particularly welcome comments on these proposals from both the parish councils concerned and local residents during this consultation stage.

100 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 propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Hereford parish.

Draft recommendation

Hereford City Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing 16 wards: Aylestone Hill (returning one member), Bobblestock (returning one member), Broomy Hill (returning one member), City (returning one member), College (returning one member), Eign Hill (returning one member), Grove Farm (returning one member), Hinton & Hunderton (returning two members), Kings Acre (returning one member), Newton Farm (returning two members), Racecourse (returning one member), Red Hill (returning one member), Tupsley (returning one member), Victoria Park (returning one member), Whitecross (returning one member) and Widemarsh (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

101 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 propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Leominster parish.

Draft recommendation

Leominster Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Leominster East (returning four members), Leominster North (returning four members), Leominster South (returning four members) and Leominster West (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

102 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 propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Ledbury parish.

Draft recommendation

Ledbury Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Ledbury North (returning six members), Ledbury South (returning six members) and Ledbury West (returning six members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

103 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 propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Bromyard & Winslow parish.

Draft recommendation

Bromyard & Winslow Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Bromyard East (returning four members) and Bromyard West (returning 14 members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

104 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 propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Ross-on-Wye parish.

Draft recommendation

Ross-on-Wye Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Ross East (returning four members), Ross North (returning four members) and Ross West (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

105 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 propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Ross Rural parish.

Draft recommendation

Ross Rural Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Greytrees (returning five members) and Hildersley (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 What happens next?

106 There will now be a consultation period of eight weeks, during which everyone is invited to comment on the draft recommendations on future electoral arrangements for Herefordshire Council contained in this report. We will fully take into account all submissions received by 7 January 2013. Any submissions received after this date may not be taken into account.

107 We have not finalised our conclusions on the electoral arrangements for Herefordshire and welcome comments from interested parties relating to the proposed ward boundaries, number of councillors, ward names and parish electoral arrangement. We would welcome alternative proposals backed up by demonstrable evidence during our consultation on these draft recommendations. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

108 Express your views by writing directly to:

Review Officer
Herefordshire Review
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76–86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Submissions can also be made by using the consultation section of our website, consultation.lgbce.org.uk

109 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 made during consultation will be placed on deposit locally at the offices of Herefordshire Council and at our offices in Layden House (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.

110 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, irrespective of whom they are from.

111 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.

112 After the publication of our final recommendations, the review will be implemented by order subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. When made, the draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the next elections for Herefordshire Council in 2015.

113 These draft recommendations have 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.

4 Mapping

Draft recommendations for Herefordshire

114 The following map illustrates our proposed ward boundaries for Herefordshire Council:

- **Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed ward boundaries for Herefordshire.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Herefordshire on our interactive maps at consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Appendix A

Table A1: Draft recommendations for Herefordshire Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ashperton	1	2,743	2,743	2%	2,782	2,782	0%
2	Aylestone Hill	1	2,670	2,670	0%	2,739	2,739	-2%
3	Belmont Rural	1	2,819	2,819	5%	2,872	2,872	3%
4	Birch	1	2,467	2,467	-8%	2,523	2,523	-10%
5	Bishops Frome	1	2,532	2,532	-6%	2,598	2,598	-7%
6	Bobblestock	1	2,746	2,746	2%	2,832	2,832	1%
7	Bodenham	1	2,796	2,796	4%	2,849	2,849	2%
8	Bromyard East	1	2,647	2,647	-1%	2,687	2,687	-4%
9	Bromyard West	1	2,558	2,558	-5%	2,795	2,795	0%
10	Broomy Hill	1	2,828	2,828	5%	2,947	2,947	5%
11	Burghill	1	2,695	2,695	1%	2,802	2,802	0%
12	City	1	2,505	2,505	-7%	2,672	2,672	-4%
13	Clehonger	1	2,794	2,794	4%	2,842	2,842	2%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Herefordshire Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14	College	1	2,887	2,887	8%	2,952	2,952	6%
15	Colwall	1	2,837	2,837	6%	2,910	2,910	4%
16	Credenhill	1	2,488	2,488	-7%	2,523	2,523	-10%
17	Dinedor	1	2,794	2,794	4%	2,883	2,883	3%
18	Eardisley	1	2,478	2,478	-8%	2,521	2,521	-10%
19	Eign Hill	1	2,630	2,630	-2%	2,710	2,710	-3%
20	Fownhope	1	2,306	2,306	-14%	2,712	2,712	-3%
21	Golden Valley North	1	2,399	2,399	-11%	2,491	2,491	-11%
22	Golden Valley South	1	2,612	2,612	-3%	2,654	2,654	-5%
23	Grove Farm	1	2,861	2,861	7%	2,938	2,938	5%
24	Hinton & Hunderton	1	2,904	2,904	8%	2,998	2,998	7%
25	Holmer	1	2,371	2,371	-12%	2,966	2,966	6%
26	Kimbolton	1	2,887	2,887	8%	2,981	2,981	7%
27	Kings Acre	1	2,719	2,719	1%	2,794	2,794	0%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Herefordshire Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28	Kingsland	1	2,842	2,842	6%	2,914	2,914	4%
29	Kingstone	1	2,757	2,757	3%	2,837	2,837	2%
30	Kington	1	2,589	2,589	-3%	2,644	2,644	-5%
31	Ledbury North	1	2,484	2,484	-7%	2,626	2,626	-6%
32	Ledbury South	1	2,724	2,724	2%	2,809	2,809	1%
33	Ledbury West	1	2,651	2,651	-1%	2,651	2,651	-5%
34	Leominster East	1	2,881	2,881	7%	3,023	3,023	8%
35	Leominster South	1	2,686	2,686	0%	2,804	2,804	0%
36	Leominster West	1	2,388	2,388	-11%	2,956	2,956	6%
37	Llangarron	1	2,692	2,692	0%	2,746	2,746	-2%
38	Lugwardine	1	2,940	2,940	10%	3,036	3,036	9%
39	Mortimer	1	2,836	2,836	6%	2,909	2,909	4%
40	Much Marcle	1	2,577	2,577	-4%	2,630	2,630	-6%
41	Newton Farm	1	2,932	2,932	9%	2,997	2,997	7%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Herefordshire Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
42 Pembridge	1	2,884	2,884	8%	2,958	2,958	6%
43 Penyard	1	2,682	2,682	0%	2,725	2,725	-2%
44 Red Hill	1	2,918	2,918	9%	2,958	2,958	6%
45 Ross East	1	2,923	2,923	9%	2,935	2,935	5%
46 Ross North	1	2,659	2,659	-1%	2,961	2,961	6%
47 Ross West	1	2,714	2,714	1%	2,809	2,809	1%
48 Sutton Walls	1	2,496	2,496	-7%	2,567	2,567	-8%
49 Tupsley	1	2,611	2,611	-3%	2,677	2,677	-4%
50 Walford	1	2,558	2,558	-5%	2,612	2,612	-6%
51 Weobley	1	2,840	2,840	6%	2,930	2,930	5%
52 Whitecross	1	2,691	2,691	0%	2,735	2,735	-2%
53 Widemarsh	1	2,186	2,186	-18%	2,633	2,633	-6%
	53	142,114	-	-	148,055	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,681	-	-	2,793	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Herefordshire 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 authority. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Glossary and abbreviations

AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)	A landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it
Constituent areas	The geographical areas that make up any one ward, expressed in parishes or existing wards, or parts of either
Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral imbalance	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Local Government Boundary Commission for England or LGBCE	The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for undertaking electoral

	reviews. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England assumed the functions of the Boundary Committee for England in April 2010
Multi-member ward or division	A ward or division represented by more than one councillor and usually not more than three councillors
National Park	The 13 National Parks in England and Wales were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 and can be found at www.nationalparks.gov.uk
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

	<p>representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council</p>
<p>PER (or periodic electoral review)</p>	<p>A review of the electoral arrangements of all local authorities in England, undertaken periodically. The last programme of PERs was undertaken between 1996 and 2004 by the Boundary Commission for England and its predecessor, the now-defunct Local Government Commission for England</p>
<p>Political management arrangements</p>	<p>The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enabled local authorities in England to modernise their decision making process. Councils could choose from two broad categories; a directly elected mayor and cabinet or a cabinet with a leader</p>
<p>Town council</p>	<p>A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk</p>
<p>Under-represented</p>	<p>Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average</p>
<p>Variance (or electoral variance)</p>	<p>How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average</p>
<p>Ward</p>	<p>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</p>

