

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for the London Borough of Redbridge Council

Electoral review

November 2016

Translations and other formats

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 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.

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

Electoral review

3 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 Redbridge?

4 We have conducted a review of Redbridge as the value of each vote in borough elections varies depending on where you live in Redbridge. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

Our proposals for Redbridge

- Redbridge should be represented by 63 councillors; the same number as there are now.
- Redbridge should have 22 wards, one more than there are now.
- The boundaries of nearly all wards should change, one will stay the same.

5 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements in Redbridge.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament¹.

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)
- Dr. Peter Knight CBE, DL
- Alison Lowton
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Sir Tony Redmond
- Professor Paul Wiles CB

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

1 Introduction

- 8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:
- The wards in Redbridge are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively
 - The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

What is an electoral review?

- 9 Our three main considerations are to:
- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
 - Reflect community identity
 - Provide for effective and convenient local government

10 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

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Redbridge. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
17 November 2015	Number of councillors decided
26 January 2016	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards.
4 April 2016	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
28 June 2016	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
22 August 2016	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
8 November 2016	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in and which other communities are in that ward. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

15 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

16 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2016	2021
Electorate of Redbridge	190,967	226,478
Number of councillors	63	63
Average number of electors per councillor	3,031	3,595

17 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Redbridge will have electoral equality by 2021.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

19 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2021, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2016. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 19% by 2021. This increase is a borough-wide increase because of the impact of IER (Individual Elector Registration) and the Council's drive to increase voter registration.

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

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

21 We received alternative forecasts from two political groups on the Council. Discussion with the Council established that agreement could not be reached on the correct figures. We considered the all information provided and are satisfied that the projected figures provided by the Council are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft and final recommendations.

Number of councillors

22 Redbridge Council currently has 63 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will make sure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 63 councillors – for example, 63 one-councillor wards, 21 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one, two, and three councillor wards.

24 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. This submission did not state a proposed number of councillors and was based on using the population of the borough rather than the electorate as our guiding legislation requires us to do. We have therefore maintained 63 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

25 We received 23 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals: from the Council, and from the Conservative and Liberal Democrat groups on the Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

26 The borough-wide schemes provided mixed warding arrangements of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for the borough. Having carefully considered the proposals received, we were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the borough and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. We based our draft proposals on a combination of the borough-wide schemes with some modifications to provide for better electoral equality and more identifiable boundaries.

27 Our draft recommendations were for three two-councillor and 19 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests.

Draft recommendations consultation

28 We received 75 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included revised proposals in the west of the borough from the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council and jointly from two local residents. The

majority of the other submissions focussed on specific areas, particularly our proposals in South Woodford and Wanstead.

29 We also received a submission for this area and the rest of Redbridge with a proposal to move away from the existing names of the wards. We considered this submission but we are of the view that such a wide scale change of names across the borough would be unnecessary.

30 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in the South Woodford and Wanstead area based on the submissions received. We also make two very minor modifications to the boundaries between Bridge and Churchfield wards and Chadwell and Seven Kings wards.

Final Recommendations

31 Pages 7-12 detail our final recommendations for each area of Redbridge. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

32 Our final recommendations are for 19 three-councillor wards and three two-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

33 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out on page 13 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

West Redbridge



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021
Bridge	3	-4%
Churchfields	3	8%
Monkhams	2	8%
South Woodford	3	-9%
Wanstead Park	2	-8%
Wanstead Village	3	-6%

South Woodford and Wanstead Village

34 Over 80% of the consultation responses we received related to this area. The submission from Councillor Bond of the Liberal Democrat Group on Redbridge Council proposed different boundaries for our proposed wards of South Woodford & Snaresbrook and Wanstead Village. It was argued that our draft boundary between these two wards, the rear of properties on Hermon Hill and Chigwell Road, divided communities. Several respondents commented that the area around the Charlie Brown roundabout did not have any community ties to Wanstead and instead looked towards South Woodford. Conversely it was argued that Snaresbrook's community ties with Wanstead rather than South Woodford.

35 We have used the revised pattern of wards submitted by Councillor Bond to form our final recommendation in this area. As a result of the new boundary we have renamed South Woodford & Snaresbrook ward as South Woodford. We consider these wards reflect the local community.

Wanstead Park

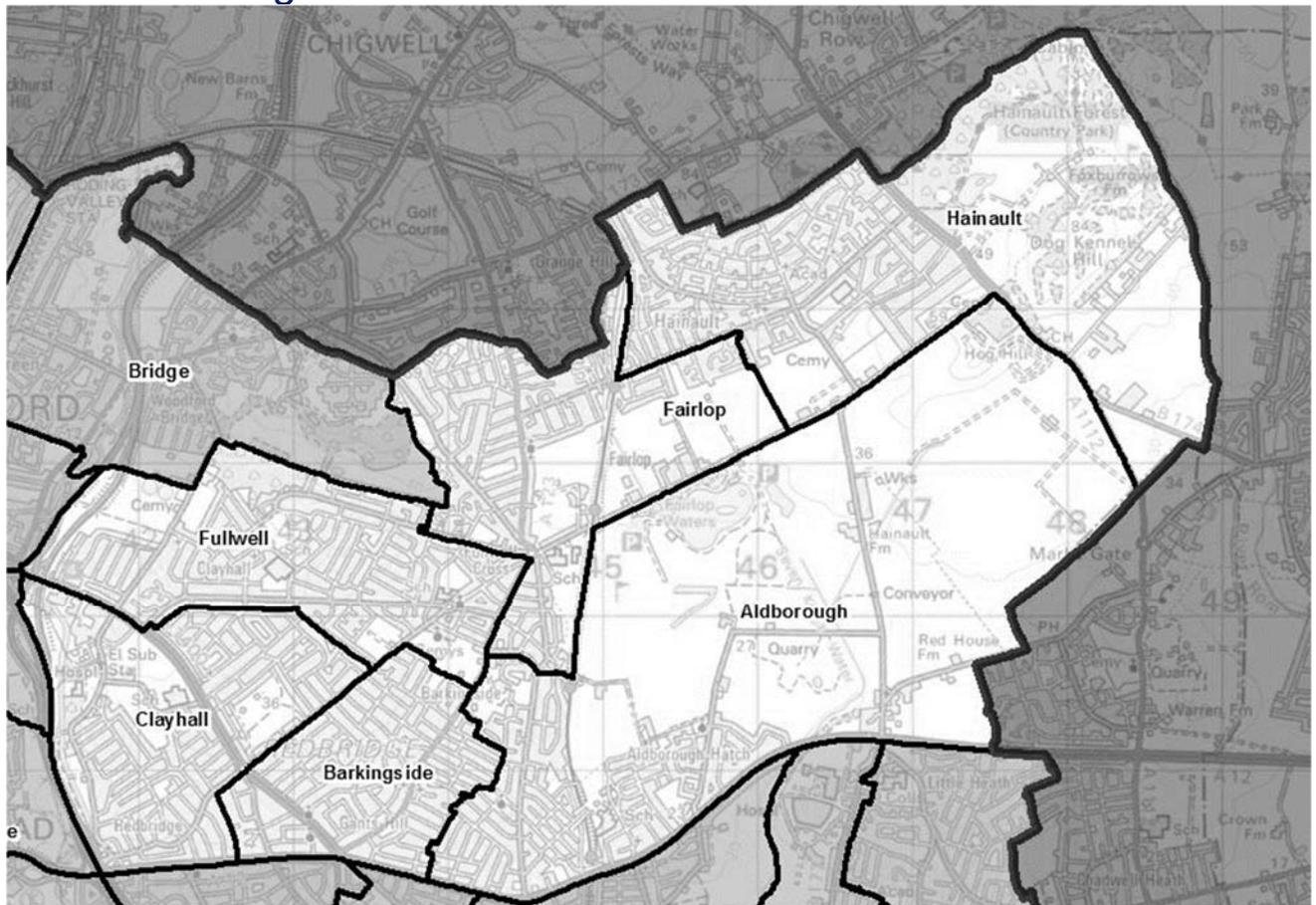
36 We received a number of submissions that stated that the boundary between Wanstead Village and Wanstead Park should run along the A12 or Cambridge Park and that properties to the south of the A12 proposed to be included in Wanstead Park ward should be included in Wanstead Village. We have not adopted this proposal as it would result in poor electoral equality in both wards. We also received a number of alternate ward names for these two wards but we did not consider these suggestions were accompanied with sufficient evidence to justify the proposed changes.

Bridge, Churchfields and Monkams

37 We received no submissions that related directly to Monkams ward and we propose that the draft recommendations are considered as final.

38 We propose a small amendment to the boundary between Bridge ward and Churchfields ward as suggested by Councillor Bond. We have included Chalford Walk and a small number of properties on Broadmead Road in Bridge ward to provide for convenient and effective local government for those electors.

North Redbridge



Ward name	Number of cllrs	Variance 2021
Aldborough	3	2%
Barkingside	3	6%
Clayhall	3	-1%
Fairlop	3	2%
Fullwell	3	8%
Hainault	3	-3%

Fullwell

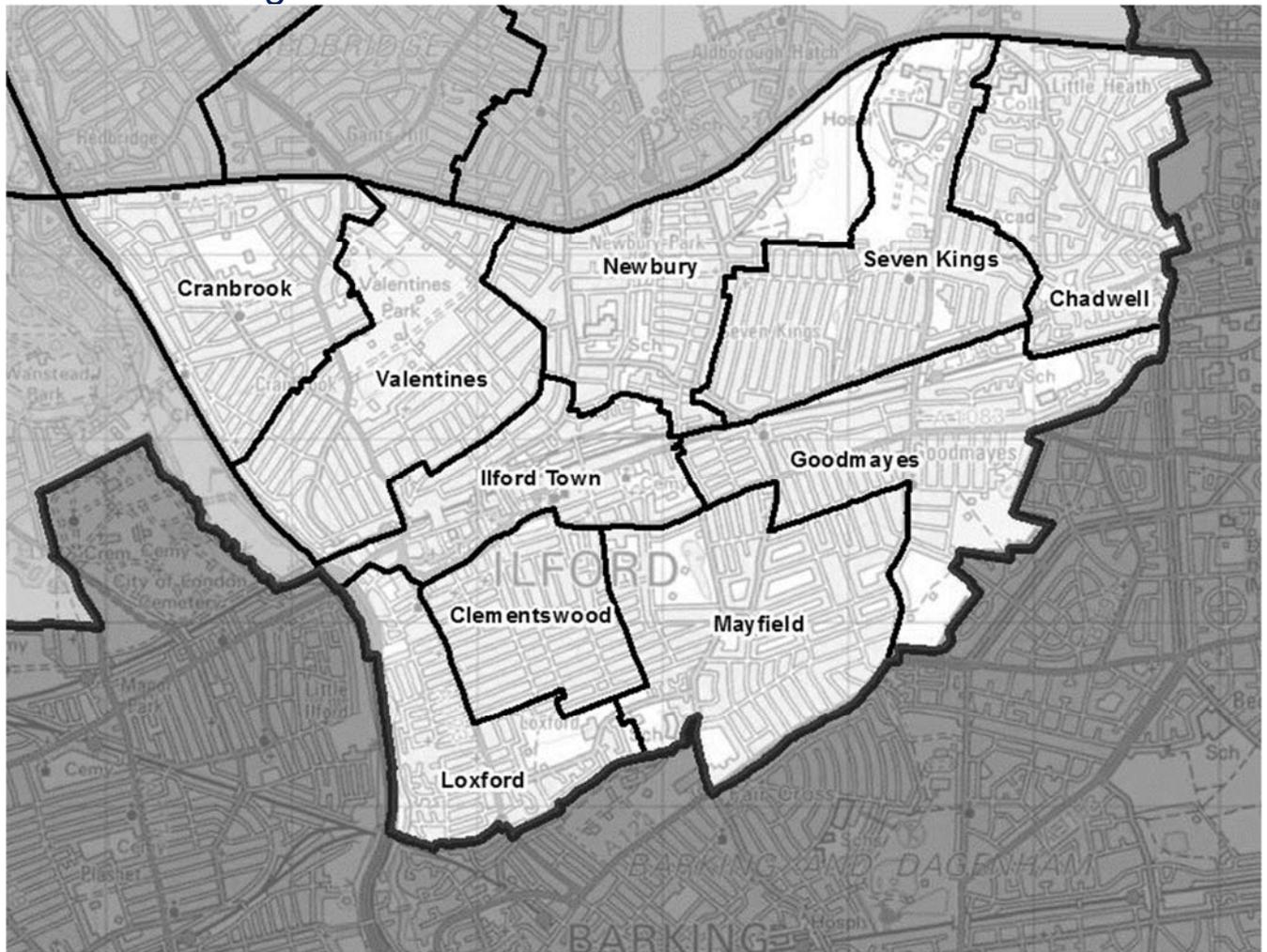
39 We received one submission that directly related to Fullwell ward. This submission stated that area of housing to the north of the A1400 Southend Road and the west of Roding Lane North, referred to in the submission as the Hill Farm Estate, should not be included in this ward. It was suggested that this area looked towards Woodford Bridge, an area within Bridge ward. The submission also stated that the Repton Park area should remain in Fairlop ward. However, we have received support for our proposal to include Repton Park in Bridge ward and we do not propose to return it to Fairlop ward. We considered whether to include the area of the housing referred to as the Hill Farm Estate in Bridge ward but we have concluded that this would not provide convenient and effective local government, nor best reflect the community in the area.

40 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations in North Redbridge as final.

Aldborough, Barkingside, Clayhall, Fairlop and Hainault

41 We received no specific comments relating to these wards.

South Redbridge



Ward name	Number of cllrs	Variance 2021
Chadwell	3	8%
Clementswood	3	1%
Cranbrook	3	-5%
Goodmayes	3	0%
Ilford Town	2	-8%
Loxford	3	-4%
Mayfield	3	0%
Newbury	3	-1%
Seven Kings	3	3%
Valentines	3	2%

Chadwell and Seven Kings

42 We received two submissions relating to these wards. One submission requested that Christie Gardens Park remain in Seven Kings ward. The other submission supported its inclusion in Chadwell. Having considered both submissions we consider it is best included in our Chadwell ward.

43 A submission from the three current Redbridge Council councillors for the Chadwell ward made a suggestion of a minor amendment to the boundary between Chadwell and Seven Kings. This proposed that Strouds Close be included in Chadwell ward to provide for more convenient and effective local government for the electors in the area. We have included this amendment in our final recommendations.

Clementswood, Cranbrook, Goodmayes, Ilford Town, Loxford, Mayfield, Newbury and Valentines

44 We received no specific comments relating to these wards.

45 With the exception to the small change in Chadwell and Seven Kings, we confirm our draft recommendations for South Redbridge as final.

Conclusions

46 The table below shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2016 and 2021 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2016	2021
Number of councillors	63	63
Number of electoral wards	22	22
Average number of electors per councillor	3,031	3,595
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Redbridge Council should be made up of 63 councillors serving 22 wards representing three two-councillor wards and 19 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for the Redbridge. You can also view our draft recommendations for Redbridge on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

3 What happens next?

47 We have now completed our review of the London Borough of Redbridge. 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 2018.

Equalities

48 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

Final recommendations for the London Borough of Redbridge

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Aldborough	3	9,361	3,120	3%	10,949	3,650	2%
2	Barkingside	3	9,841	3,280	8%	11,409	3,803	6%
3	Bridge	3	9,163	3,054	1%	10,377	3,459	-4%
4	Chadwell	3	9,973	3,324	10%	11,597	3,866	8%
5	Churchfields	3	10,166	3,388	12%	11,640	3,880	8%
6	Clayhall	3	9,359	3,120	3%	10,710	3,570	-1%
7	Clementswood	3	8,067	2,689	-11%	10,865	3,622	1%
8	Cranbrook	3	8,613	2,871	-5%	10,234	3,411	-5%
9	Fairlop	3	9,157	3,052	1%	10,950	3,650	2%
10	Fullwell	3	10,153	3,384	12%	11,643	3,881	8%
11	Goodmayes	3	8,894	2,965	-2%	10,758	3,586	0%
12	Hainault	3	9,008	3,003	-1%	10,466	3,489	-3%

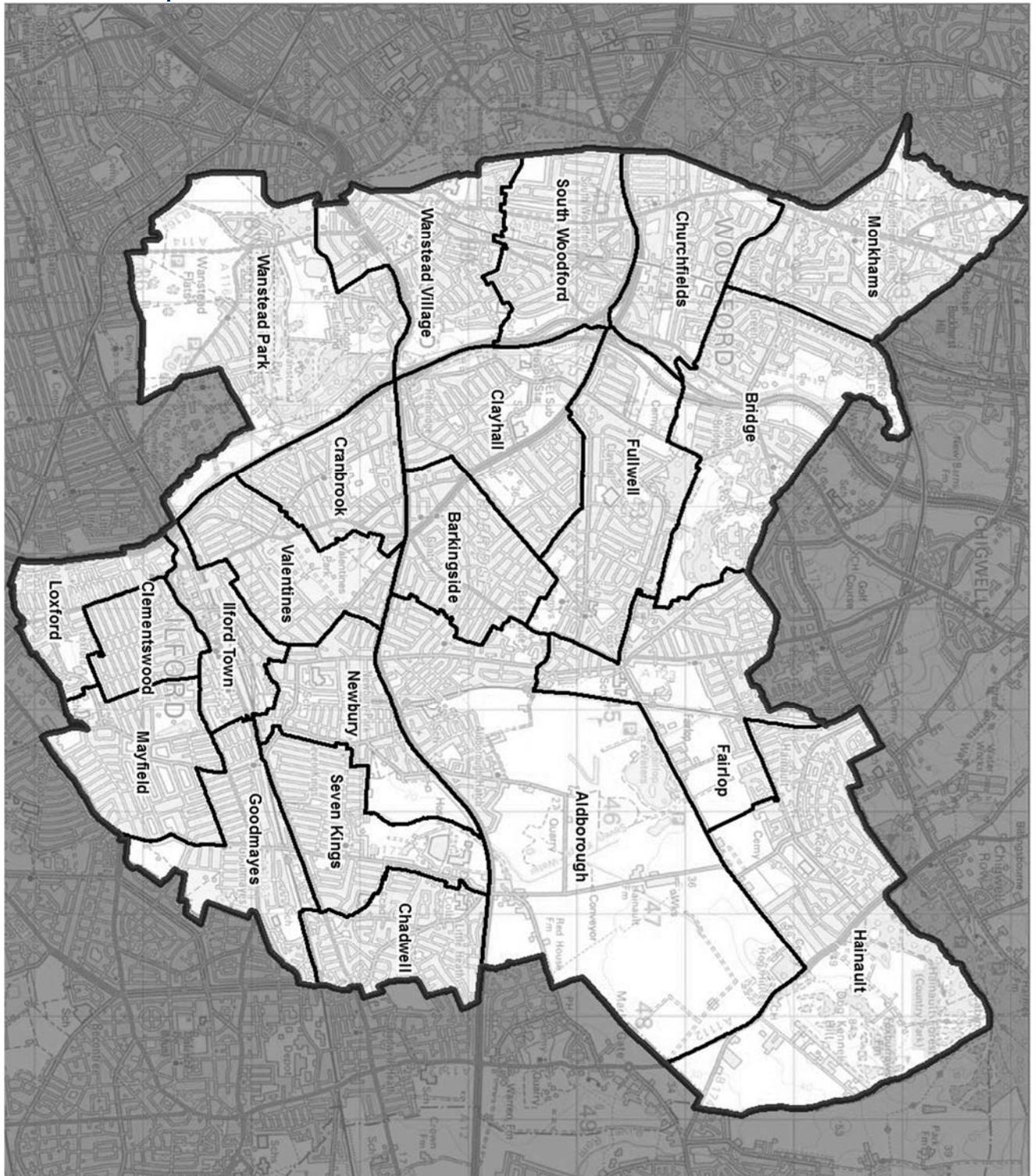
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Ilford Town	2	5,031	2,516	-17%	6,604	3,302	-8%
14 Loxford	3	7,981	2,660	-12%	10,400	3,467	-4%
15 Mayfield	3	9,255	3,085	2%	10,770	3,590	0%
16 Monkams	2	6,952	3,476	15%	7,779	3,890	8%
17 Newbury	3	8,660	2,887	-5%	10,724	3,575	-1%
18 Seven Kings	3	8,910	2,970	-2%	11,078	3,693	3%
19 South Woodford	3	8,659	2,886	-5%	9,786	3,262	-9%
20 Valentines	3	8,880	2,960	-2%	10,984	3,661	2%
21 Wanstead Park	2	5,849	2,925	-4%	6,584	3,292	-8%
22 Wanstead Village	3	9,036	3,012	-1%	10,171	3,390	-6%
Totals	63	190,967	-	-	226,478	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,031	-	-	3,595	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by London Borough of Redbridge 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

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/greater-london>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/greater-london/redbridge>

Councillors

- Councillor S. Bain (Redbridge London Borough Council)
- Councillor I. Bond (Redbridge London Borough Council)
- Councillors A. Choudhury, A. Sachs & N. Zammett (Redbridge London Borough Council)
- Councillor H. Cleaver (Redbridge London Borough Council)
- Councillor G. Deakins (Redbridge London Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Merry (Redbridge London Borough Council)

Local organisations

- Barkingside 21
- Church End Ward Panel
- Marston Area (Tilekiln) Neighbourhood Watch Group & Community Association
- Maybank Community Association
- South Woodford Society
- Wanstead Society

Residents

- 63 local residents

Appendix D

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