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Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which 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 Stratford-on-Avon District 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 February 2013. This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
26 February 2013	Consultation on council size
28 May 2013	Invitation to submit proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
6 August 2013	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
29 October 2013	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
7 January 2014	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Submissions received

The Commission received 17 submissions during the consultation on council size from the West Midlands Green Party, three parish councils and one parish meeting, one residents' association, two parish councillors and nine local residents. The Council did not make a further submission. Subsequently, we received 13 submissions on warding patterns including a district-wide scheme from the Council. All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Analysis and draft recommendations

Electorate figures

Stratford-on-Avon District Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2019, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2014. This is prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act'). These forecasts projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 6% over this period. We agreed with the Council's projections for electorate growth of 6% across the district by 2019.

Council size

Stratford-on-Avon District Council currently has a council size of 53. The Council proposed a council size of 36.

We considered that the District Council had made a case for its proposed reduction in the context of the Council's political management and committee structure, as well as taking account of member workload and ensuring local residents were effectively represented. We also note that the Council made its proposal largely on the basis of changes to the Council's working practices that have taken place since the last electoral review of the district. The Council has given adequate consideration to the current and future workloads of front line councillors, particularly in the context of delegation to officers and councillors' approach to their representational role. Having considered the evidence received, we were therefore minded to adopt a council size of 36 elected members as part of our draft recommendations.

General analysis

Having considered the submissions received during consultation on warding arrangements, we have developed proposals based on a combination of the submissions received. In general, we have based our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals. However, we have modified the Council's recommendations in Alcester, Ettington, Kinwarton, Shipston, Southam, Studley, Wellesbourne and Stratford-upon-Avon town in order to take account of recent changes to parish arrangements and to provide for clear and easily identifiable ward boundaries. Our proposals will provide good electoral equality in all but two wards while reflecting community identities and transport links in the district.

What happens next?

There will now be a consultation period, during which we encourage comment on the draft recommendations on the proposed electoral arrangements for Stratford-on-Avon District Council 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 **6 January 2014**. 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
Stratford-on-Avon 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 Stratford-on-Avon District 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 which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Stratford-on-Avon District Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the authority. We also received a formal request from the Council that we conduct an electoral review of the authority.

2 We wrote to Stratford-on-Avon District Council as well as other interested parties inviting the submission of proposals first on council size and then 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 Stratford-on-Avon District Council in spring 2014.

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 Stratford-on-Avon?

6 We decided to conduct this review because a formal request was made by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for an electoral review of Stratford-on-Avon.

How will the recommendations affect you?

7 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.

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

8 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 would therefore like to stress the importance of providing evidence in any comments on our recommendations, rather than relying on assertion. We will be accepting comments and views until 6 January 2014. After this point, we will be formulating our final recommendations which we are due to publish in spring 2014. Details on how to submit proposals can be found on page 22 and more information can be found on our website, www.lgbce.org.uk

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

9 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

10 Before finalising our recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Stratford-on-Avon District Council we invite views on these draft recommendations. We welcome comments relating to the proposed ward boundaries and ward names. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

11 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for Stratford-on-Avon 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 easily identifiable
 - the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties

12 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.

13 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.

14 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Stratford-on-Avon District 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.

15 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different divisions 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.

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

16 Under the 2009 Act, where a council elects by thirds or halves (as opposed to the whole council being elected every four years), there is a presumption that the authority should have a uniform pattern of three-member and two-member wards respectively. We will only move away from this presumption where we receive compelling evidence to do so and where it can be demonstrated that an alternative warding pattern will better reflect our statutory criteria. It should be noted that on 17 December 2012 the Council passed a resolution to move from elections by thirds to whole council elections commencing in 2015. As stated above, the Council formally requested that the review proceed with a presumption in favour of single member wards on 26 February 2013. Consequently, our starting point for this review was that Stratford-on-Avon District Council should have a uniform pattern of single-member wards given its recent change of electoral cycle.

Submissions received

17 Prior to, and during, the initial stage of the review, we visited Stratford-on-Avon District Council ('the Council') and met with members, parish council representatives and officers. It should be noted that during the early stages of this review Stratford-on-Avon District Council requested the Commission undertake this review with the presumption of single-member wards being recommended, as permitted under the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

18 During consultation, we received 17 submissions on council size. These were from the West Midlands Green Party, three parish councils and one parish meeting, one residents' association, two parish councillors and nine local residents. The Council did not make a further submission. Subsequently, we received 13 submissions on warding patterns including a district-wide scheme from the Council. All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

19 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2019, a period of five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2014. This is prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act'). These forecasts projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 6% over this period.

20 In response to the consultation of warding arrangements we received a submission from the Stratford-on-Avon Labour Party arguing that there would be a significant increase in electorate in the Shipston area. We subsequently asked Stratford-on-Avon District Council to look into the matter. The Council informed us that the original planning permission was refused in February 2013. However, in June 2013 it was allowed on appeal for 112 homes.

21 The development in question is situated at the IMI/Norgen site on Campden Road in the south of Shipston. The development is expected to have 112 dwellings (and 207 electors) by 2019.

22 Having considered the evidence received we are satisfied that the revised ward and polling district level forecast data supplied by the Council (taking account of the above development) is the most accurate available at this time. We have therefore

used these figures as the basis of the draft recommendations.

Council size

23 We consulted on a council size of 36 elected members, as proposed by the District Council prior to consultation. In response we received 17 submissions from the West Midlands Green Party, three parish councils and one parish meeting, one residents' association, two parish councillors and nine local residents. The Council did not make a further submission.

24 The West Midlands Green Party and the residents' association supported the current council size of 53. The West Midlands Green Party opposed a reduction in council size. It argued that the resulting increase in councillor workload would skew the demographic of councillors towards wealthy or retired individuals, and that less attention would be given to the scrutiny role of elected members. It also asserted that a reduction in the number of councillors would increase the control of the main political parties. The residents' association was opposed to the reduction in council size, arguing that savings would not offset the reduction in democratic oversight. It also claimed that there was local dissatisfaction with the level of accountability of the Council, citing articles in the *Stratford Herald*.

25 We received representations from three parish councils and a parish meeting. Bidford on Avon Parish Council supported the proposed reduction in council size, but argued that the council size should be an odd number (i.e. 35 or 37) in order to avoid the Chairman having a casting vote. Whitchurch Parish Meeting acknowledged there was some scope for a reduction, but raised concerns that non-attendance of district councillors at planning committee meetings could be exacerbated by a reduction. It also claimed that, where several parishes do not have functioning parish councils, district councillors have more of a responsibility, but are often unresponsive. Wootton Wawen Parish Council did not state a preferred council size, but argued that two district councillors were needed to cover the district ward of which it is currently part. Kinwarton Parish Council stated that it had no views on council size.

26 We received submissions from two parish councillors. Councillor Keeley agreed with the size of reduction proposed stating that committees would be able to make quicker decisions, but suggested that council size should be either 35 or 37 as an odd number would be 'more workable'. Councillor Gerrard agreed with the proposed reduction, but argued that a council size of 35 should be chosen.

27 We received nine submissions from local residents. Five residents supported the proposed reduction. Two residents also argued that too many district councillors were also county councillors. One respondent supported the proposed reduction, but on the condition that councillors would not sit on the County Council. One resident argued that a reduction to 36 councillors would be too great and one resident was not in favour of the proposed reduction, arguing that planning committees were over-worked and that some wards were only represented by one councillor covering five or six parishes.

28 We considered that the District Council had made a case for its proposed reduction in the context of the Council's political management and committee structure, as well as taking account of member workload and ensuring local residents were effectively represented. We also note that the Council made its proposal largely

on the basis of changes to the Council's working practices that have taken place since the last electoral review of the district. We consider that the Council has given adequate consideration to the current and future workloads of front line councillors, particularly in the context of delegation to officers and councillors' approach to their representational role. Having considered the evidence received, we were therefore minded to adopt a council size of 36 elected members and invited proposals for warding arrangements based on this number of councillors.

Electoral fairness

29 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.

30 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we calculate the average number of electors per councillor. The district average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the district (97,855 in 2013 and 104,082 by 2019) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council – 36 under our draft recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our recommendations is 2,718 in 2013 and 2,891 by 2019.

31 Under the draft recommendations, two of our proposed 36 wards will have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for the district by 2019.

General analysis

32 It should be noted that on 17 December 2012 the Council passed a resolution to move from elections by thirds to whole council elections commencing in 2015. As stated above, the Council formally requested that the review proceed with a presumption in favour of single member wards on 26 February 2013.

33 We received 13 submissions during consultation on warding arrangements for Stratford-on-Avon. A representation from the Council proposed a district-wide warding pattern. Submissions were also received from 10 parish and town councils (Bidford-on-Avon and Salford Priors parish councils made a joint submission as did Moreton Morrell and Newbold Pacey & Ashorne parish councils), one councillor, two local residents and the Stratford-on-Avon Labour Party.

34 The Council provided a warding pattern covering the whole district. This district-wide scheme contained nine wards (out of a total of 36) with variances of greater than 10% by 2019, with one ward (Stratford-upon-Avon Avenue) containing 18% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019. We have adopted some of the Council's proposals for the rural areas of the district with modifications in a number of areas to achieve better electoral equality.

35 In the north-west of the district we are recommending a ward (Henley-in-Arden) with an electoral variance of over the 10% given the limited options for alternative warding arrangements in this area. We are also proposing minor amendments to the Council's proposed Studley North ward in order to provide for a more clearly defined

ward boundary in this part of the district.

36 Due to the high electoral variances for wards proposed by the Council for Stratford-upon-Avon town, we propose significant changes to the warding arrangements of the town to achieve better electoral equality by 2019.

37 In the proposed ward of Shipston South, the Stratford-on-Avon Labour Party commented that the Council has omitted a housing development that is expected to add 560 electors to Shipston South by 2019. We asked the Council to look into this matter. The Council has acknowledged that a development on the IMI/Norgen site is anticipated to deliver 112 homes (207 electors) in the proposed ward of Shipston South by 2019. We propose the Commission accept this amendment to the Council's original electorate forecast as part of the draft recommendations.

38 Our draft recommendations would result in 36 councillors representing 36 single-member wards, with two wards having an electoral variance of greater than 10% for the average for the district by 2019. A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 26 – 9) and the map accompanying this report.

39 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly in relation to the parishes that we propose to divide between district wards. We also particularly welcome comments on the ward names we have proposed as part of the draft recommendations.

Electoral arrangements

40 This section of the report details the submissions received, our consideration of them, and our draft recommendations for each area of Stratford-on-Avon. The following areas are considered in turn:

- Stratford-upon-Avon town (pages 9 – 12)
- North West (pages 12 – 13)
- West (pages 13 – 14)
- South (pages 15 – 16)
- East (pages 16 – 17)

41 Details of the draft recommendations are set out in Table A1 on pages 26 – 9 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Stratford-upon-Avon town

42 The historic town of Stratford-upon-Avon is the major settlement sitting in the west of the district. It is best known as the birthplace of William Shakespeare. During the consultation on warding arrangements, we received two submissions relating to the town. The Council proposed that there should be nine single-member wards for the town, which is parished. Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council supported the proposals of the Council.

43 The Council's scheme included three wards which would have electoral variances of greater than 10%, including one, Stratford-upon-Avon Avenue ward, which would have 18% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by

2019. In light of this, we have made significant amendments to the Council's proposed wards for the town in order to reflect our statutory criteria. It is uncertain what impact our amendments would have on community identities in Stratford-upon-Avon given the limited evidence received during consultation. We would therefore particularly welcome comments on our proposals for the town.

44 In the north of the town, our draft recommendations are for a single-member Avenue ward that is bounded to the west by the railway line and to the north by the boundary of Old Stratford & Drayton parish. This parish will be abolished and incorporated into Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council following a community governance review conducted by the Council. The Council proposed that the eastern boundary of Avenue ward should follow the length of Birmingham Road before joining the railway line behind Park Road. When taking account of the development sites at Minstrel Park and the land west of Birmingham Road, the proposed ward would have a high electoral variance by 2019. We therefore propose that 41 electors in the Old Stratford & Drayton area (between the railway line, the A46 road and existing parish boundary, be included in the proposed ward, as well as 57 electors in the more rural area east of Birmingham Road.

45 As a further amendment, we propose the ward boundary include two properties on the east side of Birmingham Road and follow the rear of properties between Ash Grove, Oakleigh Road and Highfield Road. Under our draft recommendations, the proposed single-member Avenue ward would have 10% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

46 We propose a single-member Clopton ward with its western boundary following Birmingham Road and the railway line. To ensure better electoral equality we have also included in our proposed ward an area between Arden Street and Guild Street which the Council proposed is located in a single-member Guildhall ward. Furthermore, on our tour of the town, we viewed a development site next to Stratford-upon-Avon railway station which the Council have suggested will contribute to electorate growth by 2019. In order to secure good levels of electoral equality we propose that this area be included in Clopton ward. We also propose that properties on Kestrel Close, Swallow Close, Swift Road and Martin Close be included in Clopton ward. Under our draft recommendations, Clopton ward would have 10% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

47 We also propose a single-member Welcombe ward with its western boundary broadly formed by Clopton Road. The river Avon would form its eastern boundary with the southern boundary following the centre of Bridgefoot and Guild streets. Under our draft recommendations, the proposed single-member Welcombe ward would have 9% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

48 To the east of the river Avon, our draft recommendations are for the two single-member wards of Bridgetown and Tiddington which we have based on the Council's proposals. Our draft recommendations would result in relatively high electoral variances. However, as noted on our tour of the area, the River Avon provides a strong barrier between communities on either side. In order to reflect community identities we therefore do not propose to recommend wards that would straddle the river. However, we do recommend small modifications to the Council's proposals in order to minimise electoral variances. In particular, our proposed Bridgetown ward would include all properties on Banbury Road as well as the cul-de-sacs of Waterloo Drive, Wellington Drive, Milestone Road, Waterloo Rise, Feldon Way, Neptune Drive

and Saturn Way.

49 Under our draft recommendations, Bridgetown ward would have 10% more electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

50 The remainder of the area east of the River would form a single-member Tiddington ward. Under our draft recommendations a single-member Tiddington ward would have 12% more electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

51 In the central and south of the town, our draft recommendations are for the single-member wards of Guildhall, Hathaway and Shottery. Our proposed Guildhall ward is based on the Council's proposals subject to the area north of Greenhill Street being included on our proposed in Clopton ward to improve electoral equality. Under our draft recommendations, Guildhall ward would have 7% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

52 We propose a Stratford-upon-Avon Shottery ward which would include all electors south of Evesham Road up to the town council boundary. To achieve good electoral equality, we propose that 225 electors from the Old Stratford & Drayton area (which, as stated earlier, will form part of the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council area following the recent community governance review) be included in this ward. The remainder of the ward boundary would be formed by Shottery Brook to the east and Hathaway Lane, Shottery and Tavern Lane.

53 We also propose a single-member Hathaway ward in the south-west of the town. We note that the Council have forecast a large development to the west of the town which will give Hathaway ward good electoral equality by 2019. Under our draft recommendations, the single-member wards of Hathaway and Shottery would have 3% more and 9% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

54 In the west of the town, our draft recommendations are for a single-member Stratford-upon-Avon Bishopton ward. This ward would have a boundary following Alcester Road and Shottery Brook. As a slight amendment to the Council's proposals, we propose moving the ward boundary to follow the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal and Bishopton Lane. The boundary would also follow the railway line and the town boundary. Our proposed single-member Bishopton ward would have 4% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

55 It should be noted that, in developing our draft recommendations, we had some concern as to whether a single-member warding pattern provided the best reflection of our statutory criteria. We considered the possibility of creating multi-member wards for the town, in order to reduce electoral variances and to provide for clearly defined ward boundaries.

56 While we accept the premise that this electoral review should seek to secure a uniform pattern of single-member wards, we reserve the right, should we receive sufficient evidence during consultation, to depart from this presumption if a multi-member warding pattern provides, in our view, a better balance of our statutory criteria. We therefore considered an alternative pattern that would consist of a two-member Clopton & New Town ward comprising the Council's proposed single-member Welcombe and Clopton wards. We also considered the option to combine

the Council's proposed Avenue and Bishopton wards to create a two-member ward of Bishopton & Drayton.

57 We consider that this alternative warding pattern would use strong, identifiable boundaries and provide wards with good internal communication links. However, given the lack of evidence received during consultation, we are not minded in these draft recommendations to depart from a uniform pattern of single-member wards. However, should robust evidence be submitted to us to justify either a departure from a uniform pattern of single-member wards or for an alternative warding pattern for the town, we will give it careful consideration before finalising our proposed electoral arrangements for the district. We would therefore particularly welcome comments supported by evidence on our proposed warding arrangements for this area.

58 Our draft recommendations for Stratford-upon-Avon are for the single-member wards of Avenue, Bishopton, Bridgetown, Clopton, Hathaway, Guildhall, Shottery, Tiddington and Welcombe. One of our proposed wards (Tiddington) would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% by 2019. These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

North West

59 The north-west of Stratford-on-Avon comprises a mixture of rural parishes, and includes the village of Studley and the town of Henley-in-Arden. During consultation on warding arrangements we received two responses relating to this area. The Council put forward warding proposals for the entire area while a local resident made comments specifically relating to the Arden triangle.

60 The Council put forward a warding scheme for this area which would provide for a uniform pattern of single-member wards. All of its proposed wards, with the exception of its proposed Henley-in-Arden ward, would have electoral variances of less than 10% from the average for the district by 2019. We have decided to broadly adopt the Council's scheme for the north-west of the district, subject to minor amendments in part of the rural area and for Studley in order to provide a pattern of wards which meet our statutory criteria.

61 Our draft recommendations are for the single-member wards of Studley North and Studley South. Our proposed Studley North ward would comprise the entire parish of Mappleborough Green and part of the parishes of Sambourne and Studley. Under the Council's proposals, the southern boundary of Studley North ward would follow the A448 road and Station Road. To better reflect access routes between communities in Studley North ward and to provide a more clearly defined ward boundary, we propose the inclusion of the High Street, Marble Alley, Marlborough Mews, Needle Close and Old Vicarage Gardens in Studley North ward. We also propose to include the parishes of Morton Bagot, Oldberrow and Spernall in the proposed ward. Although the Council included these parishes in its proposed Kinwarton ward, it suggested in its submission that including them in Studley North ward would be a viable alternative. The Council stated that these parishes have strong community links and should be included together in a ward.

62 Having considered the evidence received, we consider that these parishes should be included in Studley North ward rather than the Council's large and sparsely populated Kinwarton ward. Our proposed Studley South ward would contain the

remainder of Studley and Sambourne parishes. Under our draft recommendations, the single-member wards of Studley North and Studley South would have 10% more and 4% more electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

63 We also propose the single-member wards of Tanworth-in-Arden and Henley-in-Arden. Tanworth-in-Arden would comprise the parish of the same name. This ward would have 8% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019. Our proposed Henley-in-Arden ward would comprise the parish of the same name, as well as Ullenhall and Beaudesert parishes. We noted that the proposed ward would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% by 2019 and explored alternative warding arrangements for this area such as removing Ullenhall parish and placing it into an adjoining ward. However, given the constraint of achieving good electoral equality and the aim of securing a uniform pattern of single-member wards, we have been unable to identify a viable alternative. Our proposed ward of Henley-in-Arden would have 11% more electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

64 We also recommend the single-member wards of Kinwarton, Wootton Wawen and Snitterfield. Our proposed Wootton Wawen and Snitterfield wards are identical to those proposed by the Council. Our proposed Kinwarton ward would contain the parishes of Aston Cantlow, Coughton, Great Alne, Haselor and Kinwarton. We note that a local resident proposed that the Arden triangle which covers Preston Bagot, Langley, Claverdon, Wolverton and Snitterfield parishes be included in one ward and recognise that this proposal is similar to that proposed by the Council. Our proposed Kinwarton, Snitterfield and Wootton Wawen wards would have 3% fewer, equal to and 4% more electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019, respectively.

65 Overall, our draft recommendations are for the single-member wards of Henley-in-Arden, Kinwarton, Snitterfield, Studley North, Studley South and Tanworth-in-Arden wards. One of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% by 2018. These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

West

66 The west of the district consists of rural parishes. The main town in the area is the old market town of Alcester along with the villages of Bidford and Welford-on-Avon. During consultation on warding arrangements we received four responses relating to this area. The Council put forward warding proposals for the entire area. We also received responses from Bidford-on-Avon, Coughton and Welford-on-Avon parish councils.

67 The Council's scheme provided for a uniform pattern of single-member wards. None of its proposed wards would have electoral variances of greater than 10% from the average for the district by 2019. Our draft recommendations are largely based on the proposals of the Council subject to minor amendments in Alcester and Bidford.

68 Our draft recommendations are for the wards of Alcester Town and Alcester & Rural. Alcester Town ward would comprise Oversley parish ward. The northern boundary would run behind the Arden Business Centre and then turn south along Birmingham Road and Prior Road. To provide for clear and identifiable ward

boundaries, the southern boundary of Alcester Town ward would follow Stratford Road, instead of the River Alne as proposed by the Council. It would then follow the eastern part of the Alcester parish boundary.

69 Alcester & Rural ward is identical to that proposed by the Council comprising the remainder of Alcester parish ward and rural parishes in the west and south. However, we have decided in the interests of brevity to rename the proposed ward Alcester & Rural rather than Alcester South & West. We note that Coughton Parish Council stated that it would prefer to be included in a ward with Alcester rather than Studley. However, to achieve good electoral equality, we have instead included that parish in our proposed Kinwarton ward. Under our draft recommendations, the proposed wards of Alcester Town and Alcester & Rural would have 9% more and 4% more electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019, respectively.

70 We propose to adopt the Council's proposed Bidford East and Bidford West & Salford wards as part of our draft recommendations. We note a joint response from Bidford-on-Avon and Salford Priors parish councils stating that the existing ward (Bidford & Salford) should remain unchanged and instead be represented by two councillors. While we note this comment, in order to ensure reasonable electoral equality, while providing for a uniform pattern of single-member wards, it is not possible to retain the existing warding arrangements for this area.

71 We have made a small amendment to Bidford West & Salford ward by including properties on Jacksons Meadow, as they are closer to adjoining properties in this ward. Our draft recommendations would provide for the single-member wards of Bidford East and Bidford West & Salford which would have 3% more and equal to the average number of electors per councillor for the district by 2019, respectively.

72 Welford-on-Avon Parish Council commented that a revised Welford-on-Avon ward should be expanded to include Long Marston, Barton and Atherstone-on-Stour parishes. The parish further stated that although Luddington parish was 'geographically close' it has little contact with the community. The parish was open to the inclusion of Luddington parish in the proposed ward if a Welford-on-Avon ward was not large enough. We propose to adopt the Council's proposals for this ward which includes Luddington parish. We explored alternatives for this ward by considering the inclusion of Preston-on-Stour parish to provide a more clearly defined warding pattern. However, on balance, we decided that its transportation links appear to be with areas to its south and east and note that it is included in an electoral division with parishes to its east.

73 We have therefore decided not to modify the Council's proposed ward for this area but would welcome submissions on our draft recommendations relating to this alternative. Our draft recommendations are for a single-member Welford-on-Avon ward which would have 8% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

74 Overall, our draft recommendations are for single member Alcester Town, Alcester & Rural, Bidford East, Bidford West & Salford and Welford-on-Avon wards. None of our proposed wards would have a variance greater than 10% by 2019. These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

South

75 The south of the district contains numerous rural parishes with the settlements of Ettington and Shipston as main focal points. The A429 (Roman Fosse Way) is the main corridor that runs through the south of the district. During consultation on warding arrangements, we received three submissions relating to this area. The Council put forward proposals relating to the entire area. We also received responses from the Stratford-on-Avon Labour Party and Shipston-on-Stour Town Council.

76 The Council proposed a uniform pattern of single-member wards, all of which would have electoral variances of less than 10% from the average for the district by 2019. Our draft recommendations are largely based on the proposals of the Council subject to minor amendments in Shipston.

77 We propose to adopt the Council's proposals for Quinton ward. We note that the parishes within this ward have good road connections and that the ward will have good electoral equality. Quinton ward would have 3% more electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

78 The Stratford-on-Avon Labour Party endorsed the proposals put forward by the Council. However, it commented that the Council may have omitted two proposed developments at the IMI/Norgen site from their electorate forecasts leading to an extra 560 electors by 2019. In developing our draft recommendations, we toured the area and contacted the Council regarding the comments by the Labour Party. The Council noted that the developments were not included its original list of housing additions over the next five years but suggested that 112 homes would be built by 2018 which would result in the addition of 207 electors to the Council's original electorate forecast. As noted above, we have decided to take account of the additional 207 electors in the electorate forecast for this area.

79 Shipston-on-Stour Town Council commented that it did not consider the creation of two wards necessary as the town covers too small an area. The Town Council did not put forward an alternative warding arrangement to reflect its preferences. Accordingly, we have decided to base our draft recommendations for this area on the Council's proposals for the single-member wards of Shipston North and Shipston South. However, we have put forward some amendments in order to better reflect community identities as we have interpreted them, given the limited evidence put forward during consultation.

80 As an amendment to the Council's proposals we have decided to include Tidmington and Burmington parishes in Shipston South ward rather than Ettington ward, as proposed by the Council. The road links within both parishes provide clear connections with Shipston and we consider this would provide a more logical warding pattern for this area. The inclusion of these parishes and the IMI/Norgen development site would result in Shipston South ward containing 10% more electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019. Our proposed single-member Shipston North ward would comprise the remainder of Shipston-on-Stour parish and the parish of Tredington. Under our draft recommendations, Shipston North ward would have 2% more electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

81 Subject to the inclusion of Tidmington and Burmington parishes in our proposed Shipston South ward, we have adopted the Council's proposed single-member

Ettington ward. Under our draft recommendations, Ettington ward would have 4% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019. We have also adopted the Council's proposed Brailes & Compton ward as part of our draft recommendations. This ward would have 1% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019.

82 Overall, our draft recommendations are for the single-member wards of Brailes & Compton, Ettington, Shipston North, Shipston South and Quinton. None of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% by 2019. These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

East

83 The east of Stratford-on-Avon is divided by the M40 motorway separating the villages of Wellesbourne and Kineton from Harbury and Southam Town. The rest of the area has a predominately rural character.

84 During consultation on warding arrangements we received six submissions relating to this area. The Council put forward warding proposals for the entire area. We also received responses from Harbury Parish Council, a joint response from Moreton Morrell and Newbold Pacey & Ashorne parish councils, Southam Town Council and a local resident who commented that Hodnell & Wills Pastures parish should not be joined to 'anybody'.

85 The Council's scheme included three wards which would have electoral variances greater than 10% from the average for Stratford-on-Avon by 2019. Our draft recommendations are largely based on the proposals of the Council subject to minor amendments in Wellesbourne and Southam to address these high electoral variances.

86 We note that Moreton Morrell and Newbold Pacey & Ashorne parish councils requested that the existing ward of Wellesbourne should remain a single ward represented by two councillors rather than be divided into two wards. However, in order to ensure good electoral equality we have based our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals for the single-member wards of Wellesbourne North and Wellesbourne South but have modified these proposals in order to minimise electoral variances.

87 The Council's proposed ward boundary between Wellesbourne North and Wellesbourne South wards followed the River Dene. We recommend that electors on Stratford Road, part of Ettington Road, Church Walk and Bridge Street be included in a single-member Wellesbourne North ward. The boundary would run behind Chapel Street and Peacock Court before rejoining the River Dene. While we note that the river would provide a reasonably clear ward boundary, our tour of the area suggested that the river was not a significant barrier between communities on either side. We consider our amendment to the Council's proposals would reflect the statutory criteria. Therefore our draft recommendations are for the two single-member wards of Wellesbourne North and Wellesbourne South which would have 8% more and 5% more electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019 respectively.

88 Southam Town Council proposed a similar warding arrangement to the Council's but put forward the alternative ward names of Southam East and Southam

West. The Parish Council also mentioned that Leamington Spa and Rugby are considered to be places where people in Southam access their facilities. Councillor Ellard (Southam ward) also supported the Council's scheme and ward names.

89 We propose to largely adopt the Council's proposed Southam North and Southam South wards. To reduce the high electoral variance in Southam South we have departed from the Council's proposed boundary which follows the length of the River Stowe to include electors north of the river in Southam South ward. This would include the roads of Manders Croft and Watton's Lane. The boundary would continue along Park Lane, southwards along Market Hill and Warwick Street then rejoin the river. In addition to the access residents in the Watton's Lane area would have to the majority of Southam South ward via Park Lane, we note that there is a small pathway which connects Watton's Lane to areas on the other side of the river.

90 Under our draft recommendations, the single-member wards of Southam North and Southam South would have 9% fewer and 7% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019, respectively. We also propose to adopt the Council's predominantly rural wards of Bishops Itchington, Harbury, Long Itchington & Stockton, Kineton, Napton & Fenny Compton and Red Horse wards as part of our draft recommendations.

91 Harbury Parish Council commented that the most appropriate arrangement for Harbury ward would be to include the parishes of Chesterton & Kingston, Ufton and Ladbroke as Harbury has strong links with these communities. We note that the Council's proposals place Ufton parish in its proposed Long Itchington & Stockton ward (as under the existing warding arrangements). While we note that moving Ufton parish into Harbury ward would not significantly alter the electoral variances between the two wards, on balance, we consider the Council's proposals provide the best overall reflection of community identities in this area.

92 Under our draft recommendations, the single-member wards of Bishops Itchington, Harbury, Long Itchington & Stockton, Kineton, Napton & Fenny Compton and Red Horse would have 3% more, 2% fewer, 8% more, 1% fewer, 9% fewer and 7% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the district by 2019. These proposals can be seen on the large map accompanying this report.

Conclusions

93 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2013 and 2019 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2013	2019
Number of councillors	36	36
Number of wards	36	36
Average number of electors per councillor	2,718	2,891
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	12	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Draft recommendation
 Stratford-on-Avon District Council should comprise 36 councillors serving 36 wards, as detailed and named in Table A1 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Parish electoral arrangements

94 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.

95 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 district 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.

96 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parishes of Alcester, Bidford-on-Avon, Luddington, Shipston-on-Stour, Sambourne, Southam, Stratford-upon-Avon, Studley and Wellesbourne parishes. We would particularly welcome comments on these proposals from the parish councils concerned and local residents during this consultation stage.

97 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 Alcester Parish Council.

Draft recommendation

Alcester Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, representing three wards: Alcester West (representing five members), Oversley (representing 10 members) and Oversley Green (representing one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

98 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 Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council.

Draft recommendation

Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, representing three wards: Bidford East (representing six members), Bidford West (representing three members) and Broom (representing one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

99 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 Luddington Parish Council.

Draft recommendation

Luddington Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, representing two wards: Luddington East (representing three members) and Luddington West (representing four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

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 Shipston-on-Stour Town Council.

Draft recommendation

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council should comprise 13 councillors, representing two wards: Shipston North (representing six members) and Shipston South (representing seven members). 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 Sambourne Parish Council.

Draft recommendation

Sambourne Parish Council should comprise five councillors, representing two wards: Sambourne North (representing two members) and Sambourne South (representing three 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 Southam Town Council.

Draft recommendation

Southam Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, representing four wards: Browns Bridge (representing four members), Merestone (representing two members), Mill Hill (representing five members) and Southam Fields (represented three 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 Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council.

Draft recommendation

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, representing nine wards: Avenue (representing two members), Bishopton (representing two members), Bridgetown (representing two members), Clopton (representing two members), Guildhall (representing two members), Hathaway (representing two members), Shottery (representing two members), Tiddington (representing two members) and Welcombe (representing two 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 Studley Parish Council.

Draft recommendation

Studley Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, representing two wards: Studley North (representing six members) and Studley South (representing six 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 Wellesbourne Parish Council.

Draft recommendation

Wellesbourne Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, representing three wards: Hastings (representing five members), Mountford (representing five members) and Walton (representing one member). 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 10 weeks, during which everyone is invited to comment on the draft recommendations on future electoral arrangements for Stratford-on-Avon District Council contained in this report. We will take into account fully all submissions received by 6 January 2014. Any received after this date may not be taken into account.

107 We have not finalised our conclusions on the electoral arrangements for Stratford-on-Avon and welcome comments from interested parties relating to the proposed ward boundaries, number of councillors, ward names and parish electoral arrangements. We would welcome alternative proposals backed up by demonstrable evidence during consultation on the 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
Stratford-on-Avon Review
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76–86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

reviews@lgbce.org.uk

<http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Submissions can also be made by using the consultation section of our website, www.lgbce.org.uk or by emailing reviews@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 will be placed on deposit locally at the offices of Stratford-on-Avon District 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, no matter who 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 changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the next elections for Stratford-on-Avon District Council in 2015.

4 Mapping

Draft recommendations for Stratford-on-Avon

113 The following maps illustrate our proposed ward boundaries for Stratford-on-Avon District Council:

- **Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

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

Appendix A

Table A1: Draft recommendations for Stratford-on-Avon District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2013)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Alcester Town	1	3,131	3,131	15%	3,155	3,155	9%
2	Alcester & Rural	1	2,992	2,992	10%	2,999	2,999	4%
3	Avenue	1	2,006	2,006	-26%	2,616	2,616	-10%
4	Bidford East	1	2,651	2,651	-2%	2,992	2,992	3%
5	Bidford West & Salford	1	2,714	2,714	0%	2,889	2,889	0%
6	Bishops Itchington	1	2,937	2,937	8%	2,966	2,966	3%
7	Bishopton	1	2,659	2,659	-2%	2,786	2,786	-4%
8	Brailes & Compton	1	2,810	2,810	3%	2,853	2,853	-1%
9	Bridgetown	1	2,945	2,945	8%	3,168	3,168	10%
10	Clopton	1	1,901	1,901	-30%	2,599	2,599	-10%
11	Ettington	1	2,771	2,771	2%	2,784	2,784	-4

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Stratford-on-Avon District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2013)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Guildhall	1	2,669	2,669	-2%	2,684	2,684	-7%
13	Harbury	1	2,721	2,721	0%	2,825	2,825	-2%
14	Hathaway	1	2,295	2,295	-16%	2,977	2,977	3%
15	Henley-in-Arden	1	3,160	3,160	16%	3,209	3,209	11%
16	Kineton	1	2,776	2,776	2%	2,855	2,855	-1%
17	Kinwarton	1	2,112	2,112	-22%	2,818	2,818	-3%
18	Long Itchington & Stockton	1	3,057	3,057	12%	3,111	3,111	8%
19	Napton & Fenny Compton	1	2,576	2,576	-5%	2,642	2,642	-9%
20	Quinton	1	2,278	2,278	-16%	2,978	2,978	3%
21	Red Horse	1	2,676	2,676	-2%	2,685	2,685	-7%
22	Shipston North	1	2,932	2,932	8%	2,937	2,937	2%
23	Shipston South	1	2,890	2,890	6%	3,168	3,168	10%
24	Shottery	1	2,534	2,534	-7%	2,642	2,642	-9%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Stratford-on-Avon District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2013)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25	Snitterfield	1	2,870	2,870	6%	2,900	2,900	0%
26	Southam North	1	2,557	2,557	-6%	2,625	2,625	-9%
27	Southam South	1	2,684	2,684	-1%	2,691	2,691	-7%
28	Studley North	1	3,062	3,062	13%	3,185	3,185	10%
29	Studley South	1	2,938	2,938	8%	2,993	2,993	4%
30	Tanworth-in-Arden	1	2,650	2,650	-3%	2,662	2,662	-8%
31	Tiddington	1	3,105	3,105	14%	3,233	3,233	12%
32	Welcombe	1	2,619	2,619	-4%	2,631	2,631	-9%
33	Welford-on-Avon	1	2,616	2,616	-4%	2,660	2,660	-8%
34	Wellesbourne North	1	3,092	3,092	14%	3,117	3,117	8%
35	Wellesbourne South	1	2,463	2,463	-9%	3,028	3,028	5%
36	Wootton Wawen	1	3,006	3,006	11%	3,019	3,019	4%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Totals	36	97,855	-	-	104,082	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,718	-	-	2,891	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Stratford-on-Avon District 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 district. 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 representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
PER (or periodic electoral review)	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
Political management arrangements	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
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

