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# Summary

## Who we are

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

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

## Electoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed
- How many wards or electoral divisions should there be, where are their boundaries and what should they be called
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division

## Why Knowsley?

We have conducted an electoral review of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, following a request by the Council in order to consider council size. Knowsley currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more or many fewer voters than others. This means that the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Knowsley. Overall, 29% of wards currently have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the borough and one ward, Longview, has a variance of 23%.

## Our proposals for Knowsley

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council currently has 63 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during the review, we consider that a council size of 45 members will ensure the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively.

## Electoral arrangements

Our final recommendations propose that Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council's 45 councillors should represent 15 three-member wards. None of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Knowsley by 2020.

**We have finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Knowsley.**



# 1 Introduction

1 This electoral review was conducted following our decision to review Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council's electoral arrangements following a request made by the Council and to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

## What is an electoral review?

2 Our three main considerations in conducting an electoral review are set out in legislation<sup>1</sup> and are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

3 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Consultation

4 We wrote to the Council as well as other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals on council size. We then held two periods of consultation: firstly on warding patterns for the Council and secondly on our draft recommendations. The submissions received during our consultations have informed our final recommendations.

This review was conducted as follows:

<b>Stage starts</b>	<b>Description</b>
26 August 2014	Warding pattern consultation
10 February 2015	Draft recommendations consultation
7 April 2015	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
30 June 2015	Publication of final recommendations

## How will the recommendations affect you?

5 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward and, in some instances, which parish council ward 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Members of the Commission are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)  
Professor Colin Mellors (Deputy Chair)  
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL  
Alison Lowton  
Sir Tony Redmond  
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

## 2 Analysis and final recommendations

7 Legislation states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors<sup>2</sup> in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the date of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward at the end of the review.

8 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances and the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum.

9 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors as shown in the table below.

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2020</b>
Electorate of Knowsley Borough	113,590	119,906
Number of councillors	45	45
Average number of electors per councillor	2,524	2,665

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

11 Additionally, in circumstances where we propose to divide a parish between borough wards or county divisions, we are required to divide it into parish wards so that each parish ward is wholly contained within a single borough ward or county division. We cannot make amendments to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

12 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. The proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries, and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

### Submissions received

13 See Appendix B for details of submissions received. All submissions may be inspected at our offices (by appointment). All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

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<sup>2</sup> Electors refer to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

## Electorate figures

14 As prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2020, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2015. These forecasts were broken down to polling district levels and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 5.6% to 2020. Growth is forecast across the authority with the largest increases forecast for Prescott and the west of the authority.

15 Having considered the information provided by the Council, we are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis of our final recommendations.

## Council size

16 Prior to consultation, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council submitted a proposal for a council size of 45. We are content that the Council has sufficiently demonstrated that the authority can operate efficiently and effectively under this council size and ensure effective representation of local residents. We were therefore minded to adopt a council size of 45 as the basis of this electoral review and invited proposals or warding arrangements based on this number of councillors.

17 In response to consultation on warding patterns, a submission from Knowsley & Prescott Liberal Democrats proposed a pattern of wards based on a council size of 36 members. We consider that there was insufficient evidence within the proposal to justify such a large departure from the previously agreed council size, and that the proposal put forward by the Council provided the best case for a new council size for Knowsley.

18 In response to consultation on our draft recommendations we received nine submissions in support of a council size of 45. We have based our final recommendations on a council size of 45 elected members.

## Warding patterns

19 During consultation on warding patterns, we received 66 submissions in total. These included a borough-wide proposal from the Council in addition to the proposal put forward by Knowsley & Prescott Liberal Democrats described in paragraph 17. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

20 Having carefully considered the proposals received, we were of the view that the pattern of wards proposed by the Council resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries, although we did have some concerns with the Council's proposals for Halewood, Prescott and Whiston. The Council's proposals received a significant level of support from members of the public, local organisations and some of the town councils in Knowsley.

21 Our draft recommendations were for 15 three-member wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while

reflecting community identities and interests where we had received such evidence during consultation.

## Draft recommendations

22 We received 72 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These are detailed in Appendix B. The majority of submissions received were in support of our draft recommendations in their entirety, including a submission from Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council. We received localised submissions commenting on areas across the borough, most notably in regard to the areas of Prescott, Whiston, Halewood and Kirkby.

23 Having considered the wealth of evidence gathered during the consultation on our draft recommendations, we have proposed some amendments to our draft recommendations based on the evidence received.

### **Whiston & Cronton**

24 We received 14 submissions that commented on our proposals for this area. Under our draft recommendations we proposed a ward named Whiston, which we have amended to Whiston & Cronton under our final recommendations. We have also made a minor amendment to the boundary between this area and the neighbouring Halewood North ward. Under our final recommendations the boundary runs along the A5300; as a result the area between the A5300 and the A5080 (Cronton Road) is therefore included in our Whiston & Cronton ward.

### **Halewood North and Halewood South**

25 Four submissions were made in regard to Halewood. As per paragraph 24, we have made one minor amendment to the boundary between Halewood and the neighbouring Whiston & Cronton ward. Based on the evidence received we consider that the boundary between our proposed Halewood North and Halewood South wards provides the best balance between our statutory criteria and, subject to the amendment outlined above, we confirm our draft recommendations for Halewood as final.

### **Prescot North and Prescot South**

26 We received five submissions that commented on our draft recommendations for the Prescot area. Based on the evidence received we have made a minor amendment to the boundary between Prescot South ward and the neighbouring Whiston & Cronton ward, so that the boundary between the two runs to the north of Whiston Hospital rather than to the south. Aside from this minor change we confirm our draft recommendations for Prescot North and Prescot South as final.

## Final recommendations

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

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

## East Knowsley

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
<b>Prescot North</b>	3	1%	This ward comprises the parish of Knowsley and the northern part of Prescot parish, bounded by the Liverpool to Wigan railway line to the south.	During consultation on our draft recommendations, we received five submissions that commented specifically on our proposals for Prescot. Based on the evidence received we are content that our proposed Prescot North ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria and we therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Prescot North ward as final.
<b>Prescot South</b>	3	-5%	This ward includes the southern part of Prescot parish and the northern part of Whiston parish. It is bounded by the Liverpool to Wigan railway line to the north and Dragon Lane to the south.	<p>We received five submissions that commented on our draft recommendations for the Prescot area. Based on the evidence received we have made a minor amendment to the boundary between Prescot South ward and the neighbouring Whiston &amp; Cronton ward. Under our draft recommendations the boundary between these two wards ran to the south of Whiston Hospital. As part of our final recommendations we have decided to move this boundary to the north of the hospital, placing the hospital in Whiston &amp; Cronton ward. This change does not affect any electors.</p> <p>Subject to this minor amendment we confirm our draft recommendations for Prescot South ward as final.</p>
<b>Whiston &amp; Cronton</b>	3	3%	This ward comprises the southern part of Whiston parish and the parish of Cronton.	During consultation on our draft recommendations, we received 14 submissions that commented on our proposals for this area. Under our draft recommendations we proposed a ward named Whiston. Nine submissions proposed that we amend the name of the ward to Whiston & Cronton and we have adopted this name as part of our final recommendations.

				<p>Based on the evidence we received during the consultation we have also made a minor amendment to the boundary between this area and the neighbouring Halewood North ward. Under our draft recommendations the boundary between these two wards ran along the Cronton parish boundary. As part of our final recommendations we have moved this boundary to the west so that it instead runs along the A5300. As a result the area between the A5300 and the A5080 (Cronton Road) is therefore included in our Whiston &amp; Cronton ward.</p> <p>We have also made a minor amendment to the boundary between Whiston &amp; Cronton ward and Prescott South ward. Under our draft recommendations the boundary between these two wards ran to the south of Whiston Hospital. As part of our final recommendations we have decided to move this boundary to the north of the hospital, placing the hospital in Whiston &amp; Cronton ward.</p> <p>Subject to these amendments we confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.</p>
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## North Knowsley

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
<b>Cherryfield</b>	3	7%	This ward includes Southdene community as well as Kirkby Golf Course.	We received four submissions that commented on our proposals for the north of the borough during the consultation on our draft recommendations. Under our draft recommendations the north of the borough was divided into four three-member wards. We did not receive any well-evidenced alternative proposals for this area and we therefore confirm our Cherryfield ward as final.
<b>Northwood</b>	3	6%	Northwood ward includes the Northwood community and the Knowsley Industrial Park.	During consultation on our draft recommendations, we received four submissions that commented on our proposals for the north of the borough, which was divided into four wards under our draft recommendations. We did not receive any well-evidenced alternative proposals for this area and we therefore confirm our Northwood ward as final.
<b>Shevington</b>	3	3%	This ward contains the community of Tower Hill and is bounded on three sides by Simonswood Brook, with the railway line providing the southern boundary.	We received four submissions that commented on our proposals for the north of the borough during the consultation on our draft recommendations. Under our draft recommendations the north of the borough was divided into four three-member wards. We did not receive any well-evidenced alternative proposals for this area and we therefore confirm our Shevington ward as final.
<b>Whitefield</b>	3	3%	Whitefield ward contains the communities of Westvale and Kirkby Park and includes Kirkby railway station.	During consultation on our draft recommendations, we received four submissions that commented on our proposals for the north of the borough, which was divided into four wards under our draft recommendations. We did not receive any well-evidenced alternative proposals for this area and we therefore confirm our Whitefield ward as final.

## South Knowsley

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
<b>Halewood North</b>	3	4%	Halewood North comprises the northern part of Halewood parish and part of the unparished rural area of Tarbock, bounded by the A5300 to the east.	<p>During consultation on our draft recommendations, we received four submissions that commented specifically on our proposals for the Halewood area.</p> <p>Based on the evidence we received during the consultation, which included a significant amount of support for our draft recommendations, we are proposing a minor change to the boundary between our Halewood North and Whiston &amp; Cronton wards. Under our draft recommendations the boundary between these two wards followed the Cronton parish boundary. Under our final recommendations we have moved the boundary between Halewood North ward and Whiston &amp; Cronton ward to the west, so that it instead follows the A5300.</p> <p>Whilst there was some support for the Council's original proposal for Halewood that was put forward during the consultation on warding arrangements, we considered the representations received including those opposing and supporting the draft recommendations. We consider that our proposed Halewood North ward has identifiable boundaries and provides the best balance between the statutory criteria. Therefore, subject to the minor amendment described above, we confirm our draft recommendations for Halewood North as final.</p>
<b>Halewood South</b>	3	3%	This ward contains the southern part of Halewood parish.	<p>During consultation on our draft recommendations, we received four submissions that commented specifically on our proposals for the Halewood area.</p>

				<p>As outlined above, we received some submissions opposing our draft recommendations and supporting an alternative proposal. Having considered the representations we consider that our draft recommendations provide for the best balance between the statutory criteria. Therefore, subject to the minor amendment described above, we confirm our draft recommendations for Halewood South as final.</p>
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## West Knowsley

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
<b>Page Moss</b>	3	1%	Page Moss ward comprises the communities of Page Moss, Fincham and Woolfall Heath, bounded by the River Alt to the north.	We received one submission in regard to our proposed Page Moss ward. Based on the evidence received we consider that our proposed ward provides the best balance between our statutory criteria. We have therefore confirmed our draft recommendations for Page Moss ward as final.
<b>Roby</b>	3	-6%	Roby ward incorporates the Roby area of Huyton as well as Court Hey.	We received one submission in regard to our proposed Roby ward. Having considered the evidence received we are content that our proposed ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria. We have therefore confirmed our draft recommendations for Roby ward as final.
<b>St Gabriels</b>	3	-8%	This ward covers the southern part of Huyton, bounded by the M62 to the south.	During consultation on our draft recommendations we did not receive any submissions that commented specifically on our proposals for St Gabriels ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for St Gabriels ward as final.
<b>St Michaels</b>	3	-9%	This ward is located in the north-east of Huyton, bounded by the M57 to the east. It also includes Huyton & Prescott Golf Club and Knowsley Leisure & Culture Park.	We did not receive any submissions that commented specifically on our proposed St Michaels ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for St Michaels ward as final.
<b>Stockbridge</b>	3	3%	Stockbridge ward includes the village of Stockbridge and is bounded by the M57 and the River Alt.	During consultation on our draft recommendations we did not receive any submissions that commented specifically on our proposals for Stockbridge ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Stockbridge ward as final.
<b>Swanside</b>	3	-5%	This ward contains the community of Swanside and is bounded by Liverpool City to the west and the Liverpool to	We did not receive any submissions that commented specifically on our proposed Swanside ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Swanside ward as final.

			Manchester railway line to the south.	
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## Conclusions

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

**Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements**

	Final recommendations	
	2014	2020
Number of councillors	45	45
Number of electoral wards	15	15
Average number of electors per councillor	2,524	2,665
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

### **Final recommendation**

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council should comprise 45 councillors serving 15 three-member wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

### **Mapping**

**Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Knowsley. You can also view our final recommendations for Knowsley on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

## Parish electoral arrangements

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

30 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

31 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Halewood, Knowsley, Prescott and Whiston. We have given consideration to our proposed ward boundaries and the existing ward boundaries, but have not taken into account the existing parish ward boundaries.

32 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Halewood parish.

**Final recommendation**

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

33 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Knowsley parish.

**Final recommendation**

Knowsley Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Knowsley Park (returning four members) and Stockbridge (returning 12 members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

34 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Prescott parish.

**Final recommendation**

Prescott Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Prescott North (returning 10 members) and Prescott South (returning seven members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

35 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Whiston parish.

**Final recommendation**

Whiston Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Whiston North (returning five members) and Whiston South (returning nine members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.



### 3 What happens next?

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

#### Equalities

37 This report has been screened for impact on equalities; with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

## Appendix A

**Table A1: Final recommendations for Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council**

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Electorate (2014)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>	<b>Electorate (2020)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>
1	Cherryfield	3	8,165	2,722	8%	8,516	2,839	7%
2	Halewood North	3	7,812	2,604	3%	8,325	2,775	4%
3	Halewood South	3	7,953	2,651	5%	8,249	2,750	3%
4	Northwood	3	8,112	2,704	7%	8,456	2,819	6%
5	Page Moss	3	7,520	2,507	-1%	8,095	2,698	1%
6	Prescot North	3	7,548	2,516	0%	8,053	2,684	1%
7	Prescot South	3	7,181	2,394	-5%	7,600	2,533	-5%
8	Roby	3	7,387	2,462	-2%	7,479	2,493	-6%
9	Shevington	3	7,399	2,466	-2%	8,197	2,732	3%
10	St Gabriels	3	7,124	2,375	-6%	7,389	2,463	-8%
11	St Michaels	3	6,986	2,329	-8%	7,245	2,415	-9%
12	Stockbridge	3	7,535	2,512	0%	8,194	2,731	3%

**Table A1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council**

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Swanside	3	7,172	2,391	-5%	7,633	2,544	-5%
14 Whiston & Cronton	3	7,633	2,544	1%	8,206	2,735	3%
15 Whitefield	3	8,063	2,688	6%	8,269	2,756	3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>113,590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119,906</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,524</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,665</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each ward varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

# Appendix B

## Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/merseyside/knowsley](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/merseyside/knowsley)

### Local authority

- Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

### Political groups

- Cherryfield Ward Labour Party
- Knowsley & Prescot Liberal Democrats
- Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley Labour Group
- St Michaels Ward Labour Party

### Councillors

- Councillor W.K.T. Cook (Cronton Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Lonergan (Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Moorhead (Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Rostance (Cronton Parish Council)
- Councillor M.J. Sharp (Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Williams (Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council)

### Parish and town councils

- Cronton Parish Council
- Halewood Town Council
- Knowsley Town Council
- Whiston Town Council

### Local organisations

- Delph Residents Action Group
- First for Kirkby
- Kirkby Residents Action Group
- St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- Women for Kirkby's Future

### Residents

- 52 local residents

# Appendix C

## Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
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

