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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 Erewash Borough 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 May 2013.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
4 June 2013	Consultation on council size
3 September 2013	Invitation to submit proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
12 November 2013	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
12 February 2014	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
29 April 2014	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Submissions received

The Commission received 98 submissions during its initial consultation on council size. These submissions proposed council sizes of between 26 and 51, with the majority proposing council sizes of 43 and 47. During Stage One, we received 31 submissions including borough-wide schemes from the Erewash Conservative Group and the Erewash Labour Group. All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Analysis and draft recommendations

Electorate figures

Erewash Borough Council ('the Council') submitted electorate forecasts for 2019, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2014. These forecasts projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 3.2% over this period. This represents a moderate level of growth. We are content that the forecasts are the most accurate available at this time and have used these figures as the basis of our draft recommendations.

Council size

Erewash Borough Council currently has a council size of 51. The Council originally proposed a council size of 47. It argued that fewer members are involved in day-to-day decision making as a result of the adoption of the Strong Leader model, reducing

the governance workload for members. It also highlighted that the Council could continue to meet its representational duties with a slightly smaller council size. However, it expressed concern that a large reduction in council size would lead to insufficient councillor capacity to carry out its workload and representational functions.

The Labour Group proposed a council size of 43. It argued that governance workload was relatively low, with councillors often being underworked and the system inefficient, with 10% of total council meetings in the last civic year being cancelled due to lack of business, and several others lasting for less than half an hour. It outlined a proposed streamlined committee system with which a council size of 43 would be accommodated. It also argued that a more streamlined committee system would provide councillors with more time to carry out representational duties.

During consultation, we received arguments for council sizes of both 43 and 47. Those arguing for a council size of 47 expressed concern as to whether councillors would be able to carry out their representational duties with a council size of 43. We considered this represented the strongest argument, and therefore have adopted a council size of 47 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 Conservative Group and Labour Group schemes. We have made amendments to these, notably in Ilkeston, Kirk Hallam and Sandiacre, in order to provide for a pattern of wards which better reflects our statutory criteria. Our proposals will provide good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and transport links in the borough.

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 Erewash Borough 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 **28 April 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
Erewash 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 Erewash Borough 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 Erewash Borough Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the authority.

2 We wrote to Erewash Borough 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 Erewash Borough Council in summer 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 Erewash?

6 Based on December 2012 electorate data, 36% of the borough's wards currently have a variance of more than 10%.

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 28 April 2014. After this point, we will be formulating our final recommendations which we are due to publish in summer 2014. Details on how to submit proposals can be found on page 18 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 Erewash Borough Council we invite views on these draft recommendations. We welcome comments relating to the proposed ward boundaries, ward names and parish or town council electoral arrangements. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

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

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

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 equality 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 equality over a five-year period.

14 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.

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

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

Submissions received

16 Prior to, and during, the initial stages of the review, we visited Erewash Borough Council ('the Council') and met with members and officers. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance. We received 31 submissions during the consultation on warding patterns, including a borough-wide scheme from the Council. All of the submissions may be inspected at both our offices and those of the Council. All representations received can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

17 The 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 were broken down to polling district level and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 3.2% to 2019. The forecasts provided by the Council took into account planned developments across the borough, as well as population forecasts made by the Office for National Statistics. On the basis of the information provided, we are content to adopt the Council's electorate forecasts as the basis of our draft recommendations.

Council size

18 Erewash Borough Council currently has 51 councillors elected from 22 borough wards. During the preliminary stage of the review, we met with Group Leaders and Full Council. The Council subsequently made a proposal for a council size of 47, a reduction of four. In support of its proposal, the Council argued that a reduction of four was most appropriate as it reflected the declining backbench workload following the adoption of the Strong Leader model. However, it argued that a greater reduction would jeopardise the Council's ability to perform its regulatory and scrutiny functions, and for individual councillors to adequately represent their constituents.

19 Erewash Labour Group made a proposal for a council size of 43, a reduction of eight. It argued that a reduction to 43 was desirable to reflect the low regulatory workload. The Labour Group also proposed an alternative scrutiny and committee structure to accommodate 43 members.

20 Having considered the evidence received, we considered that the Council had made a strong case for a council size of 47 and consulted publicly on this council size. This consultation ended on 16 July 2013. In response, we received 98 submissions. Of these, 72 were from members of the public, nine were from parish and town councils, 14 were from local councillors, two were from political groups and one was from a local organisation.

21 We carefully considered the information provided during the consultation period. A number of respondents argued that a reduction to a council size below 47 endangered the ability of councillors to carry out their representational duties. They also expressed concern that an increased workload might impact upon the diversity of people wishing to stand as councillors. Respondents arguing for 43 cited the

cancellation of council meetings due to lack of business as evidence that council size could be reduced further.

22 We considered that the arguments for a council size of 47, particularly those relating to the representational role of councillors, represented the strongest body of evidence on council size. We were therefore minded to adopt a council size of 47 elected members as the basis of this electoral review.

Electoral fairness

23 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 will provide for electoral fairness, reflect communities in the area, and provide for effective and convenient local government.

24 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor. The borough average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the borough (86,221 in 2013 and 88,954 by 2019) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council, 47 under our draft recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our draft recommendations is 1,834 in 2013 and 1,893 by 2019.

25 Under our draft recommendations, none of the proposed wards will have electoral variances of more than 10% from the average for the borough by 2019. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral equality for Erewash.

General analysis

26 During the consultation on warding patterns, we received 31 submissions, including borough-wide schemes from Erewash Conservative Group and Erewash Labour Group. The remainder of the submissions provided comments for council size or on warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

27 We have based our draft recommendations on a combination of the Erewash Conservative and Labour groups' schemes, with some amendments to provide wards which better reflect our statutory criteria, particularly in Long Eaton and Ilkeston.

28 Our draft recommendations would result in 10 two-member wards and nine three-member wards. We consider our proposals provide for good levels of electoral equality while reflecting our understanding of community identities and interests in Erewash.

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

Electoral arrangements

30 This section of the report details the proposals we have received, our consideration of them, and our draft recommendations for each area of Erewash. The following areas of the authority are considered in turn:

- Long Eaton (pages 9–11)
- Ilkeston (pages 11–13)
- North Rural (pages 13–15)
- South Rural (pages 15–16)

31 Details of the draft recommendations are set out in Table A1 on pages 22–3 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Long Eaton

32 Long Eaton is a large town located in the south-east of Erewash borough. It is mostly unparished; however, the urban area of Long Eaton also incorporates the parish of Sawley.

33 The existing wards for this area are the two-member Derby Road East ward, and the three-member Derby Road West, Long Eaton Central, Nottingham Road, Sawley and Wilsthorpe wards. These wards are forecast to have 6% more, 8% fewer, 5% fewer, 3% fewer, 2% more and 13% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019.

34 The Conservative Group proposed the two-member wards of Long Eaton East and Long Eaton North, and the three-member wards of Long Eaton Central, Long Eaton West, Sawley and Wilsthorpe. The Labour Group proposed the two-member wards of College Street East, College Street West, Long Eaton Central, Long Eaton East and Long Eaton South, and the three-member wards of Long Eaton West and Sawley.

35 Both Conservative and Labour groups proposed to place the area east of East Midlands Parkway-Langley Mill railway line in a two-member ward, and both proposed that the parish of Sawley should comprise a three-member ward.

36 The Conservative Group proposed a Wilsthorpe ward bordered by Shilling Way, the southern edge of West Park and Tamworth Road. The Labour Group proposed that Wilsthorpe ward should include areas on Derby Road and some areas on both sides of Tamworth Road. East of Wilsthorpe, the Conservative Group's proposed three-member Long Eaton Central ward was bordered by the Erewash Canal, Derby Road and the railway line to the east. In the same area, the Labour Group proposed a two-member ward using Oakleys Road and Main Street as northern boundaries, with areas further north included in a Long Eaton Central ward with properties on and to the north of Derby Road.

37 In the north of Long Eaton, the Conservative and Labour groups proposed broadly similar Derby Road East and West wards, albeit with slightly different boundaries. The Labour Group proposed that the boundary should run between Breedon Street and Curzon Street, while the Conservative Group proposed that it should run down the centre of College Street.

38 Elsewhere in Long Eaton, we received five submissions relating specifically to this area. Of these, four were from members of the public, and one was from Councillor Walton (Sawley ward).

39 Councillor Walton, along with two members of the public, argued that Sawley parish was a coherent unit and that it should continue to solely comprise a borough ward. The members of the public said that it is distinct from the rest of Long Eaton, as well as from the rural parishes to the west.

40 Sawley parish has strong boundaries, with the M1 to the west, railway lines to the north and east, and the borough boundary to the south. We note the unanimous support for a ward solely comprising Sawley parish. Similarly, we note that such a ward would have good electoral equality. As such, we are adopting the proposal for a three-member Sawley ward comprising Sawley parish as part of our draft recommendations.

41 In Wilsthorpe, we noted that the Conservative and Labour groups disagreed as to whether to include the Eaton Grange Drive area in Wilsthorpe ward. Although Derby Road to its north provides a strong boundary, we note that Eaton Grange Drive accesses onto Derby Road, rather than south towards the remainder of Wilsthorpe ward. We therefore propose to draw the boundary to the south of Eaton Grange Drive. To the south-east of Wilsthorpe, we propose a minor amendment to the Conservative proposal, to draw the boundary along the Erewash Canal rather than Tamworth Road, as properties on Cedar Avenue and Oakland Avenue access west towards Wilsthorpe.

42 To the east of Wilsthorpe, we note that the Conservative Group's proposed Long Eaton Central and Long Eaton East wards use strong boundaries, such as Derby Road, railway lines and the Erewash Canal. We consider that these proposals provide for coherent wards with strong boundaries and have therefore adopted them as part of our draft recommendations, subject to the small amendment proposed to the boundary between Wilsthorpe and Long Eaton Central wards.

43 In north Long Eaton, we note that there are no features which would provide for obvious ward boundaries on and to the north of Derby Road. We received a submission from a member of the public proposing that the existing Derby Road East and Derby Road West wards be combined, as they are part of the same community. However, such a ward would have too large an electorate to justify a three-member ward and, as such, would provide for poor levels of electoral equality. The Conservative proposal in this area was to draw the boundary down the centre of College Street. This provides for a better level of electoral equality than the Labour Group's proposal. We propose one amendment to this boundary, to include Elm Avenue and the roads to its east in Derby Road East ward. We consider these properties share community identities and interests with adjoining areas to the east along Derby Road towards Wellington Street.

44 In the north of this area, we also propose to include part of Sandiacre parish, around Springfield Avenue, in Derby Road West ward. This is discussed in more detail in paragraph 82 along with the other issues concerning the Sandiacre parish area.

45 We have also proposed alternative ward names to the Conservative and Labour groups' schemes across Long Eaton. In the north, we propose the ward names of Derby Road East and Derby Road West. These reflect the existing ward names in this area, as well as the name of the main road running through it. We propose to rename the ward east of the railway line Nottingham Road. Again this reflects the existing ward name in this area, as well as the name of the main road running through it. We have adopted the Conservative Group's proposed Long Eaton Central, Wilsthorpe and Sawley ward names, as we consider these accurately reflect the communities which they represent.

46 Our draft recommendations for Long Eaton are therefore for the two-member wards of Derby Road East and Nottingham Road, and the three-member wards of Derby Road West, Long Eaton Central, Sawley and Wilsthorpe. These wards are forecast to have 3% more, equal to, equal to, 1% fewer, 6% fewer and 5% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019.

Ilkeston

47 Ilkeston is a large town located in the north-east of Erewash borough. It is entirely unparished.

48 The existing wards for this area are the two-member wards of Abbotsford, Cotmanhay, Hallam Fields, Ilkeston Central, Ilkeston North, Little Hallam and Old Park. These wards are forecast to have 28% more, 2% fewer, 23% more, 1% more, 9% fewer, 5% fewer and 12% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019.

49 The Conservative Group proposed the two-member wards of Hallam Fields, Ilkeston North, Ilkeston Station, Little Hallam and Shipley View, and a three-member Larklands ward. The Labour Group proposed the two-member wards of Abbotsford, Cotmanhay, Ilkeston North, Ilkeston South and Ilkeston West, and a three-member Ilkeston East ward.

50 Elsewhere in Ilkeston, we received two submissions from members of the public, one regarding ward names, and one requesting that ward boundaries follow the rear of houses rather than the centre of roads across the town.

51 In the south of Ilkeston, the Labour Group proposed a two-member Ilkeston South ward using Little Hallam Hill, Cavendish Road and Nottingham Road as its northern boundaries. The Conservative Group proposed to divert the boundary from Little Hallam Hill to run part way up Inglefield Road.

52 We consider that the Labour Group's proposal provided stronger ward boundaries, and as such we are adopting the northern boundary of their proposed Ilkeston South as part of our draft recommendations. The Conservative Group proposed to include a segment from the south-east of Kirk Hallam in a ward covering this area of Ilkeston. We consider this would divide the community of Kirk Hallam between wards, as well as creating a ward in south Ilkeston which does not represent a coherent community. We propose to adopt the Conservative Group's proposed ward name of Hallam Fields, as this more accurately represents the area covered by the ward.

53 In east Ilkeston, the Conservative and Labour groups proposed a near identical three-member ward, albeit with a different name. Both groups proposed a ward using Bath Street and Market Street as a western boundary, and Station Road as a northern boundary.

54 We note that a short distance to the east of Bath Street and Market Street is Chalons Way, a dual carriageway which acts as a strong boundary between areas either side of it. The groups' proposed western boundary would mean that properties between Chalons Way and Bath Street are disconnected from those to their east. In the north, we note that both Station Road and Millership Way provide relatively strong ward boundaries. However, properties to the north of Station Road access south. As such, we are amending the groups' proposals as part of our draft recommendations to use Station Road as a northern boundary of the proposed ward. We propose to adopt the Conservative Group's proposed ward name of Larklands, which more accurately reflects the area covered by this ward.

55 To the west of Larklands, the Conservative and Labour groups proposed identical two-member wards, named Little Hallam and Ilkeston West respectively. They proposed to use Little Hallam Hill as a southern boundary, Market Street and Heanor Road as an eastern boundary, and proposed that the northern boundary run to the north of houses on Peveril Drive and Rose Avenue.

56 We consider that this proposal broadly reflects community identities. However, we propose to make amendments to this ward to better reflect our statutory criteria. As discussed in paragraph 54, we consider that Chalons Way provides a stronger boundary than Market Street. As a result of knock-on effects to electoral equality, we propose that the Peveril Drive area, and the development immediately to its south centred on Grey Meadow Road, are included in a ward with areas to their north-east. We propose to name this ward Little Hallam, in line with Little Hallam Lane, which runs along the southern edge of this ward.

57 To the north of Little Hallam, we propose to adopt the political groups' proposed two-member ward covering the Shipley View estate with one small amendment. In order to improve electoral equality in this and neighbouring wards, we propose to include the area around Wardlow Road and Broadway in a ward with the Shipley View estate. We also note that access from this area is west towards the estate. We propose to name this ward Shipley View, due to evidence provided by a member of the public and by the Conservative Group that this is an area used by local residents, notably as it overlooks Shipley Park.

58 The Conservative and Labour groups again proposed an identical two-member ward for the area east of Heanor Road. This ward would have Heanor Road as a western boundary, and the allotment gardens, Bright Street and Vernon Street as a northern boundary. As discussed in paragraph 54, we propose that the southern boundary of this ward should be Millership Way. We also consider that the Peveril Drive and Grey Meadow Road area (paragraphs 55–56) should be included in this ward, as access from it is directly onto and across Heanor Road. This both improves electoral equality and creates a ward containing a recognisable community.

59 The ward names proposed by the Conservative and Labour groups – Ilkeston Station and Ilkeston North – do not, in our view, adequately represent the area covered by the ward. Ilkeston Station refers to a railway station that no longer exists, and as there are further areas of Ilkeston town to the north of this area, Ilkeston North

does not seem appropriate. As such, we propose to name this ward Awsworth Road, reflecting the main road running through the centre of this ward.

60 In the far north of Ilkeston, both Labour and Conservative groups proposed a two-member ward covering the area centred on the Cotmanhay estate. We are adopting this ward as part of our draft recommendations, with the proposed ward name Cotmanhay, which reflects the geographical area covered by this ward.

61 Our draft recommendations for Ilkeston are therefore for the two-member wards of Awsworth Road, Cotmanhay, Hallam Fields, Little Hallam and Shipley View, and the three-member Larklands ward. These wards are forecast to have 5% more, 2% more, 2% more, 5% fewer, 2% more and 8% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019.

North Rural

62 The rural north of Erewash covers Little Eaton and Breadsall in the west, through to West Hallam, Kirk Hallam and Stanton-by-Dale in the east. It is mostly parished, with the majority of the Kirk Hallam estate located in the unparished area bordering Ilkeston.

63 The existing wards for this area are the single-member Stanley ward, the two-member wards of Little Eaton & Breadsall, and the three-member wards of Kirk Hallam and West Hallam & Dale Abbey. These wards are forecast to have 3% more, 14% fewer, 9% fewer and 20% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019.

64 The Conservative Group proposed the two-member wards of Kirk Hallam and Little Eaton & Stanley, and a three-member West Hallam & Stanley Common ward. It also proposed that Stanton-by-Dale be included in a ward with parishes to its south-west. The Labour Group proposed the single-member wards of Little Eaton and Stanley & Stanley Common, a two-member West Hallam ward and a three-member Kirk Hallam & Stanton ward. It also proposed to include the parishes of Breadsall, Dale Abbey and Morley in a ward with parishes to the south.

65 Elsewhere in the north rural area of Erewash, we received submissions from Breadsall and Stanton-by-Dale parish councils, one from Councillor Broughton (West Hallam & Dale Abbey ward) and two from members of the public.

66 Councillor Broughton and a member of the public both argued that Stanley parish could be divided between wards, as it comprised two distinct settlements, Stanley village and Stanley Common, which look towards different parts of the borough. Stanton-by-Dale Parish Council also argued that its parish looks towards the neighbouring parishes of Dale Abbey and Risley.

67 In the far west of the borough, the Conservative Group proposed a two-member Little Eaton & Stanley ward, comprising the parishes of Breadsall, Little Eaton and Morley, along with the Stanley village portion of Stanley parish. The Labour Group proposed a single-member Little Eaton ward comprising the parish of Little Eaton, and that the Breadsall and Morley areas, along with Dale Abbey parish, be included in a ward with Draycott and Hopwell in the south of Erewash.

68 Although a single-member ward could be provided for Little Eaton parish, the consequential impact on electoral equality across the remainder of rural Erewash means that it is not a viable option. The Labour Group's proposal would leave a two-member Breadsall, Draycott & Dale Abbey ward connected by a narrow strip of land between Dale Abbey and Hopwell. Such a ward would not be a reasonable representation of communities, nor would it be a coherent ward with good internal access or strong communication links.

69 Therefore, we are adopting the Conservative Group's proposed two-member Little Eaton & Stanley ward as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that the arguments made concerning links between Stanley village and parishes to its west are convincing. We also note that such a ward reflects Breadsall Parish Council's submission arguing for the parish of Breadsall to be wholly contained within a two-member ward.

70 In West Hallam, the Conservative Group's proposal for a three-member ward comprising West Hallam, Stanley Common and Dale Abbey represents a coherent ward uniting communities with established links. West Hallam and Stanley Common are nearly contiguous settlements along the A609, meaning that they access predominantly towards each other.

71 Councillor Broughton highlighted shared interests between the two settlements, including traffic issues and ecclesiastical links. However, the Conservative Group also proposed to include in this ward a section of the Kirk Hallam estate centred on Sunningdale Drive and Wyndale Drive. This section would have no internal vehicular access to the remainder of the ward, and would be separated from the community of which it is part. Therefore, we propose to adopt the Conservative Group's ward in this area, amended to exclude the aforementioned section of the Kirk Hallam estate. We propose to name this ward West Hallam & Dale Abbey, as this more accurately reflects its geography.

72 As previously discussed, we consider that the Kirk Hallam estate represents one community with no clear way of dividing it between wards. We therefore sought to create a warding pattern with the estate entirely contained within one ward. The Kirk Hallam estate has too many electors to comprise a two-member ward, but too few to solely comprise a three-member ward. The Labour Group's proposal therefore was to include Kirk Hallam in a three-member ward with Stanton-by-Dale. This ward would provide for an acceptable level of electoral equality as well as reflecting communication and transport links, as the two settlements are linked along Sowbrook Lane and Littlewell Lane.

73 We received submissions arguing that the current arrangement for Stanton-by-Dale parish – in a ward with Draycott and Risley – provides for the best representation of community links. Stanton-by-Dale Parish Council argued that it shared rural issues with Draycott and Risley. The Conservative Group echoed this, adding that the parishes are 'used to being represented by the same two Councillors'. We note that a Draycott & Stanton-by-Dale ward would not have coherent communication links – the road that links Risley and Stanton-by-Dale travels through neighbouring Sandiacre parish for approximately 0.7 miles. We try to avoid creating wards with no internal access between communities where acceptable alternatives exist, and in this case a Kirk Hallam & Stanton-by-Dale ward represents a strongly viable solution. As such, we propose to adopt the Labour Group's proposed Kirk Hallam & Stanton-by-Dale ward.

74 Our draft recommendations for rural north Erewash are therefore for a two-member Little Eaton & Stanley ward, and the three-member wards of Kirk Hallam & Stanton-by-Dale and West Hallam & Dale Abbey. These wards are forecast to have 4% fewer, 9% fewer and 6% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019.

South Rural

75 The rural south of Erewash covers the large villages of Ockbrook, Borrowash, Draycott and Breaston, as well as the town of Sandiacre, which is part of the same urban area as Long Eaton.

76 The existing wards in this area are the two-member Breaston, Draycott & Stanton-by-Dale, Sandiacre North and Sandiacre South wards, and the three-member Ockbrook & Borrowash ward.

77 The Conservative Group proposed to retain the existing warding arrangements in this area, albeit with a small change to the boundary between Sandiacre North and Sandiacre South wards. The Labour Group proposed the two-member wards of Breaston, Sandiacre North and Sandiacre South, and a three-member Ockbrook & Borrowash ward. As described in paragraph 67, it proposed to include Draycott and Hopwell in a ward with parishes to their north and north-west.

78 Elsewhere in the rural south of Erewash, we received submissions from Breaston, Draycott & Church Wilne and Ockbrook & Borrowash parish councils, Councillor Clare, Councillor D Orchard (both Draycott & Stanton-by-Dale ward), Councillor M Orchard (Breaston ward), and six members of the public. These submissions focused predominantly on Ockbrook & Borrowash, and on the Draycott and Risley area.

79 Both political groups proposed that Ockbrook & Borrowash parish should solely comprise a three member-ward, a position echoed by all other submissions concerning this area. Similarly, both groups, along with Breaston Parish Council and Councillor M Orchard, proposed that Breaston parish should solely comprise a two-member ward. Both these parishes represent coherent communities, and as such, we are adopting these proposed wards as part of our draft recommendations.

80 As discussed in paragraphs 72–73, we propose to include Stanton-by-Dale in a ward with Kirk Hallam. Without the parish of Stanton-by-Dale, the remainder of the existing Draycott & Stanton-by-Dale ward would have 17% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019. In the absence of strong community evidence supporting such an arrangement, we would not normally propose a ward with such a high electoral variance. As such, it is necessary to seek alternative warding arrangements for this area.

81 Having visited the area, we note that in the west of Sandiacre parish the M1 acts as a strong boundary, with houses to its west sharing community identities and interests with Bostock's Lane and Risley rather than the remainder of Sandiacre. Bostock's Lane itself, although marking the boundary between Sandiacre and Risley parishes, does not, in our view, provide a strong boundary, and properties on either side of it are of a relatively similar character. We therefore propose to include areas

of Sandiacre parish west of the M1 in a two-member ward with Draycott, Hopwell and Risley.

82 As mentioned in paragraph 44, we also propose to include the Springfield Avenue area of Sandiacre parish in Derby Road West ward. The Springfield Avenue area has the strongest access to Long Eaton of any part of Sandiacre parish, and such an arrangement provides for improved electoral equality in both wards. Were we to include the Springfield Avenue area in Sandiacre ward, it would leave a three-member Sandiacre ward with 18% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019. Without receiving strong community evidence supporting such an arrangement, we would not normally propose a ward with such a poor level of electoral equality.

83 We also note that there is a small section of Lock Lane outside the parish of Sandiacre which only has access to areas within Sandiacre parish. We propose to include this small area in a ward with the remainder of Sandiacre parish. We therefore propose a three-member Sandiacre ward comprising the whole parish less the Springfield Avenue area and properties west of the M1.

84 Our draft recommendations for the rural south of Erewash are for the two-member wards of Breaston and Draycott & Risley, and the three-member wards of Ockbrook & Borrowash and Sandiacre. These wards would have 1% more, 8% fewer, 4% more and 8% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2019.

Conclusions

85 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	47	47
Number of electoral wards	19	19
Average number of electors per councillor	1,834	1,893
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

Draft recommendation

Erewash Borough Council should comprise 47 councillors serving 19 wards as detailed and named in Table A1 and illustrated on the large map(s) accompanying this report.

Parish electoral arrangements

86 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.

87 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, Erewash 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.

88 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parishes of Sandiacre and Stanley & Stanley Common.

89 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 Sandiacre parish.

Draft recommendation

Sandiacre Parish Council should return 14 parish councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Sandiacre North (returning seven members), Sandiacre South (returning five members), Sandiacre West (returning one member) and Springfield Park (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

90 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 Stanley & Stanley Common parish.

Draft recommendation

Stanley & Stanley Common Parish Council should return 10 parish councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Stanley Common (returning six members) and Stanley Village (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 What happens next?

91 There will now be a consultation period of 12 weeks, during which everyone is invited to comment on the draft recommendations on future electoral arrangements for Erewash Borough Council contained in this report. We will take into account fully all submissions received by 28 April 2014. Any received after this date may not be taken into account.

92 We have not finalised our conclusions on the electoral arrangements for Erewash 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 the consultation on our draft recommendations. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

93 Express your views by writing directly to:

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

Submissions can also be made by using the consultation section of our website, <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk> or by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk

94 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 received during the consultation on our draft recommendations will be placed on deposit locally at the offices of Erewash Borough 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.

95 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.

96 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.

97 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 Erewash Borough Council in 2015.

4 Mapping

Draft recommendations for Erewash

98 The following maps illustrate our proposed ward boundaries for Erewash Borough Council:

- **Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Erewash Borough Council.

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

Appendix A

Table A1: Draft recommendations for Erewash

	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	Awsorth Road	2	3,500	1,750	-5%	3,979	1,990	5%
2	Breaston	2	3,724	1,862	1%	3,811	1,906	1%
3	Cotmanhay	2	3,736	1,868	2%	3,845	1,923	2%
4	Derby Road East	2	3,843	1,922	5%	3,907	1,954	3%
5	Derby Road West	3	5,584	1,861	1%	5,678	1,893	0%
6	Draycott & Risley	2	3,285	1,643	-10%	3,468	1,734	-8%
7	Hallam Fields	2	3,623	1,812	-1%	3,870	1,935	2%
8	Kirk Hallam & Stanton-by-Dale	3	5,087	1,696	-8%	5,154	1,718	-9%
9	Larklands	3	6,024	2,008	9%	6,122	2,041	8%
10	Little Eaton & Stanley	2	3,555	1,778	-3%	3,642	1,821	-4%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Erewash

	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 %
11	Little Hallam	2	3,489	1,745	-5%	3,581	1,791	-5%
12	Long Eaton Central	3	5,352	1,784	-3%	5,627	1,876	-1%
13	Nottingham Road	2	3,588	1,794	-2%	3,798	1,899	0%
14	Ockbrook & Borrowash	3	5,782	1,927	5%	5,883	1,961	4%
15	Sandiacre	3	5,996	1,999	9%	6,131	2,044	8%
16	Sawley	3	5,237	1,746	-5%	5,313	1,771	-6%
17	Shipley View	2	3,795	1,898	3%	3,848	1,924	2%
18	West Hallam & Dale Abbey	3	5,234	1,745	-5%	5,331	1,777	-6%
19	Wilthorpe	3	5,787	1,929	5%	5,966	1,989	5%
	Totals	47	86,221	-	-	88,954	-	-
	Averages	-	-	1,834	-	-	1,893	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Erewash 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

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 or division, expressed in parishes or existing wards or divisions, 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

