

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Harrogate Borough Council

Electoral review

June 2016

Translations and other formats

For information on obtaining this publication in another language or in a large-print or Braille version please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

The mapping in this report is reproduced from OS mapping by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2016

Contents

Summary	1
1 Introduction	3
2 Analysis and draft recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	6
Council size	6
Warding patterns	6
Draft recommendations	7
Rural West	8
Rural East	10
Harrogate	13
Knaresborough	18
Ripon	20
Conclusions	21
Parish electoral arrangements	21
3 Have your say	23

Appendices

A Table A1: Draft recommendations for Harrogate Borough Council	25
B Submissions received	29
C Glossary and abbreviations	30

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 Harrogate?

We are conducting an electoral review of Harrogate Borough Council as the Council 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 Harrogate. Overall, 31% of wards currently have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the borough. Claro ward currently has 18% more electors than the average for Harrogate.

Our proposals for Harrogate

Harrogate Borough Council currently has 54 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, we consider that a reduction in council size by 14 to 40 members will ensure the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively.

Electoral arrangements

As Harrogate Borough Council will elect by whole-council elections from 2018, the Commission can produce a pattern of mixed-member wards. Our draft recommendations therefore propose that Harrogate Borough Council's 40 councillors should represent 40 single-member wards across the borough. None of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Harrogate by 2021.

You have until 22 August 2016 to have your say on the recommendations. See page 23 for how to have your say.

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Harrogate Borough Council's ('the Council's') electoral arrangements 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 legislation¹ 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

Consultation

4 We wrote to the Council inviting the submission of proposals on council size. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 Jan 2016	Council size decision
26 Jan 2016	Invitation to submit proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
5 April 2016	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
28 June 2016	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation
23 August 2016	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
8 November 2016	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 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.

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:

Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)

Alison Lowton

Peter Maddison

Sir Tony Redmond

Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

7 Legislation² states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors³ 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 in 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 on the table below.

	2015	2021
Electorate of Harrogate	121,681	128,921
Number of councillors	40	40
Average number of electors per councillor	3,042	3,223

10 Under our draft recommendations, none of our proposed wards will have electoral variances of greater than 10% from the average for the borough by 2021. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for Harrogate.

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 Harrogate Borough Council or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. There is no evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums 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 and can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

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

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

Electorate figures

14 As prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2021, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our draft recommendations in 2016. These forecasts were broken down to polling district levels and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 6% to 2021. The growth will largely be driven by development in the Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon areas.

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 draft recommendations.

Council size

16 Prior to consultation, Harrogate Borough Council submitted a proposal to us to reduce the existing council size of 54 members. The Council proposed a council size of 40, a reduction of 14. During the preliminary period we received one other proposal with regard to council size. This was from a borough councillor, suggesting a smaller reduction in council size.

17 We carefully considered the representations received during consultation. We consider that the Council's original submission proposing a council of 40 is supported by persuasive evidence to justify a reduction in the existing council size. 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.

18 The respondent who proposed a smaller reduction did not, in our view, adequately justify as a better solution their preferred number of 48 councillors in the context of the size and geographical nature of the borough. We therefore consulted on electoral arrangements for the borough based on a council size of 40 members. We have consequently based our draft recommendations on a council size of 40 elected members.

Warding patterns

19 During consultation on warding patterns, we received 11 submissions, including one borough-wide proposal from the Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

20 The Council's borough-wide scheme provided a warding arrangement of 40 single-member wards for the borough. Having carefully considered the proposals received, we were of the view that the proposed pattern of wards generally resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the borough and used clearly identifiable boundaries. There are areas in which we have made alterations to improve electoral equality.

21 Our draft recommendations are for 40 single-member wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting

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

22 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 25–8) and on the large map accompanying this report.

23 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations. We also welcome comments on the ward names we have proposed as part of the draft recommendations.

Draft recommendations

24 The tables on pages 8–20 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Harrogate. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Rural West

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Fountains & Ripley	1	2%	This ward comprises the parishes of Aldfield, Azerley, Bishop Thornton, Clint cum Hamlets, Eavestone, Grantley, Lindrick with Studley Royal & Fountains, Littlethorpe, Markenfield Hall, Markington with Wallerthwaite, Ripley, Sawley, Skelding, South Stainley with Cayton, Studley Roger, Warsill and Winksley.	In addition to the Council's proposal, we received one submission relating to this ward. The submission related to the parish of Littlethorpe, and requested that it remain with rural parishes, rather than grouped with Ripon. This was also put forward as part of the Council's warding pattern in this area. The proposals made by the Council for Fountains & Ripley provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and we are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Killinghall & Hampsthwaite	1	-6%	This ward comprises the parish of Hampsthwaite and part of the parish of Killinghall.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Killinghall & Hampsthwaite reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Masham & Kirkby Malzeard	1	-9%	This ward comprises the parishes of Burton-on-Yore, Colsterdale, Ellingstring, Ellington High & Low, Fearby, Grewelthorpe, Healey, Ilton-cum-Pott, Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton, Masham and Swinton with Warthermarske.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Masham & Kirkby Malzeard reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Nidd Valley	1	-1%	This ward comprises the parishes of Birstwith, Dacre,	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Nidd Valley provide

			Darley & Menwith, Felliscliffe, and Hartwith cum Winsley.	for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale Moors	1	-6%	This ward comprises the parishes of Bewerley, Fountains Earth, High & Low Bishopside, Stonebeck Down, Stonebeck Up, Thornthwaite with Padside and Thruscross.	In addition to the proposal received from the Council, we received one submission relating to this ward, from a town council. This submission provided evidence requesting that the parishes to the south of Pateley Bridge (Bewerley, Thornthwaite with Padside and Thruscross) be included in the ward. As this was also put forward as part of the Council's warding pattern for the area, which provides for good adherence to the statutory criteria, we are including it as part of our draft recommendations.
Washburn	1	10%	This ward comprises the parishes of Askwith, Beckwithshaw, Blubberhouses, Castley, Denton, Farnley, Fewston, Great Timble, Haverah Park, Leathley, Lindley, Little Timble, Middleton, Nesfield with Langbar, Newall with Clifton, North Rigton, Norwood, Stainburn, Weetley and Weston.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Washburn provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Rural East

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Bishop Monkton & Newby	1	-4%	This ward comprises the parishes of Bishop Monkton, Cundall with Leckby, Ellenthorpe, Givendale, Humberton, Kirby Hill, Langthorpe, Marton-le-Moor, Milby, Newby with Mulwith, Norton-le-Clay, Roecliffe, Skelton-on-Ure, Thornton Bridge and Westwick.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Bishop Monkton & Newby provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Boroughbridge	1	-3%	This ward comprises the parish of Boroughbridge.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we received one submission from a town council. The submission suggested that the proposed Boroughbridge ward be enlarged to take in some of the surrounding parishes, but made no suggestions as to which parishes in particular were linked with Boroughbridge. In the absence of persuasive evidence, we are not inclined to move away from the Council's proposals in this area. The Boroughbridge ward provides for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and we are therefore including it as part of our draft recommendations.
Claro	1	-8%	This ward comprises the parishes of Allerton Mauleverer with Hopperton, Arkendale, Brearton, Burton Leonard, Coneythorpe & Clareton, Copgrove, Farnham, Ferrensby, Flaxby,	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Claro provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

			Goldsborough, Scotton, Staveley and Walkingham Hill with Occaney.	
Marston Moor	1	1%	This ward comprises the parishes of Bilton-in-Ainsty with Bickerton, Cattal, Great Ribston with Walshford, Hunsingore, Kirk Hammerton, Long Marston, Thornville, Tockwith, Wighill and Wilstrop.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We did receive one submission referring to the Ribston parishes, but this concerned parliamentary constituency boundaries, which are not part of this review. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Marston Moor provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Ouseburn	1	7%	This ward comprises the parishes of Dunsforths, Great Ouseburn, Green Hammerton, Kirby Hall, Little Ouseburn, Marton cum Grafton, Moor Monkton, Nun Monkton, Thorpe Underwoods and Whixley.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we received one submission directly regarding this ward. However, this was regarding the external boundary of the borough of Harrogate, which does not fall under this review. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Ouseburn provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale	1	-6%	This ward comprises the parishes of Follifoot, Kearby with Netherby, Kirk Deighton, Kirkby Overblow, Little Ribston, North Deighton, Plompton, Sicklinghall and Spofforth with Stockeld.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We did receive one submission referring to the Ribston parishes, but this concerned parliamentary constituency boundaries, which are not part of this review. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Wathvale	1	1%	This ward comprises the parishes of Asenby, Baldersby, Bridge Hewick, Copt Hewick, Dishforth, Hutton Conyers, Melmerby, Middleton Quernhow, North Stainley with Sleningford, Norton Conyers, Rainton with Newby, Sharow and Wath.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Wathvale reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
-----------------	---	----	---	---

Harrogate

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Harrogate Bilton Grange	1	2%	This ward comprises the area east of Knox Hill, north of Roberts Crescent and south of Knox Lane.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Bilton Grange reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Bilton Woodfield	1	1%	This ward comprises the Woodfield Road area to the north of the railway line and east of Skipton Road.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Bilton Woodfield provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Central	1	-5%	This ward comprises the central area of Harrogate, including Low Harrogate, and the area south of Springfield Avenue and Park View, west of Park Parade and north of The Stray.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Central reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Coppice Valley	1	-1%	This ward comprises the area north of Springfield Avenue, west of Skipton Road, south of Roberts Crescent and east of Ripon Road.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Coppice Valley provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Harrogate Duchy	1	2%	This ward comprises the area south of the golf course and Oak Beck and north of Valley Gardens, along with the properties on Penny Pot Lane and Killinghall Moor.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Duchy provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Fairfax	1	3%	This ward comprises the area south of Knaresborough Road, east of (and including) Harrogate District Hospital, north of Wetherby Road and west of Woodlands Drive.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Fairfax provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Harlow	1	0%	This ward comprises the area south of Oakdale, east of Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens and west of Pannal Ash Road.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Harlow reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate High Harrogate	1	7%	This ward comprises the High Harrogate area south of the railway line, west of the rugby ground and north of (and including) Church Square.	Apart from the Council's proposals, we did not receive any submissions regarding this ward. The ward as proposed by the Council had an electoral variance of 11%, and persuasive evidence was not provided to justify such a high variance in this ward. As a result of this, and as a result of our visit to the area, we propose that Granby Park, Highgate Park and Granby Court become part of the proposed Harrogate Kingsley ward (see section below). This provides for better adherence to the statutory criteria for both wards in question, and we are therefore proposing this amended ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Harrogate Hookstone	1	-7%	This ward comprises the area east of Hookstone Beck, north of the River Crimple, south of Hookstone Drive, Woodlands Drive and the railway line, and west of Forest Moor.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Hookstone reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Kingsley	1	-6%	This ward comprises the area north of Knaresborough Road, west of the railway line, south of Kingsley Farm and east of (and including) Granby Park.	Apart from the Council's proposals, we did not receive any submissions regarding this ward. The ward as proposed by the Council had an electoral variance of -9%, and the neighbouring Harrogate High Harrogate ward had a variance of 11%. Persuasive evidence was not provided to justify such a differentiation in variances between these two wards. As a result of this, and as a result of our visit to the area, we propose that Granby Park, Highgate Park and Granby Court become part of the proposed Harrogate Kingsley ward. This provides for better adherence to the statutory criteria for both wards in question, and we are therefore proposing this amended ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate New Park	1	-5%	This ward comprises the New Park area of Harrogate, west and south of Knox Hill, north of (and including) Oakdale Avenue and east of (and including) Newby Crescent.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate New Park reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Oatlands	1	7%	This ward comprises the area north of Stone Rings Beck, west of Hookstone Beck and south of Hookstone Road.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Oatlands provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Harrogate Old Bilton	1	-7%	This ward comprises the Old Bilton area of Harrogate, along with the area of Bilton north of Knox Lane and Hill Top Avenue.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Old Bilton provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Pannal	1	-8%	This ward comprises the Pannal, Pannal Ash and Rossett Green areas of Harrogate.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Pannal reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Saltergate	1	-7%	This ward comprises the Jennyfield area around Cow Dyke Beck. Skipton Road lies to the north, and the southern boundary is formed by Killinghall Moor Country Park and the golf course. Part of Killinghall parish lies in this ward.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Saltergate reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate St Georges	1	7%	This ward comprises the area south of Otley Road, east of Pannal Ash Road and west of Leeds Road.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate St Georges reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Starbeck	1	-6%	This ward comprises the Starbeck area of Harrogate, east of the railway line.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Starbeck provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are

				therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Stray	1	6%	This ward comprises the area north of Hookstone Drive, west of Wetherby Road and east of Leeds Road. It includes The Stray.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Stray provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Harrogate Valley Gardens	1	9%	This ward comprises the area to the west of Parliament Street, south of Valley Gardens and north of Otley Road.	Apart from the Council's proposal, we did not receive any submissions directly regarding this ward. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Harrogate Valley Gardens provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Knareborough

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Knareborough Aspin & Calcutt	1	1%	This ward comprises the southern part of Knareborough, south of the railway line and the A59.	In addition to the Council's proposal, we received one submission regarding this area, from the town council, which supported the wards proposed by the Council. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Knareborough Aspin & Calcutt reflect the statutory criteria, and are therefore including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Knareborough Eastfield	1	7%	This ward comprises the area east of Manor Road and north of York Road.	In addition to the Council's proposal, we received one submission regarding this area, from the town council, which supported the wards proposed by the Council. We consider that the proposals made by the Council for Knareborough Eastfield reflect the statutory criteria. To improve electoral equality, we are proposing to include houses on both sides of Manor Road in this ward. Subject to this minor alteration, we are including this ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Knareborough Scriven	1	9%	This ward comprises the area north of the railway line, and includes New Scriven and the parish of Scriven.	In addition to the Council's proposals, we received two submissions relating to this area. The first, as mentioned above, was from the town council and supported the Council's proposals. The second submission, from a parish council, referred to the parish of Scriven and recommended that it be included with Knareborough, as proposed by the Council. However, simply adding the parish to the Council's proposed ward would result in an electoral variance of 15%. We did investigate alternative patterns but were persuaded by the evidence of the parish council and our observations during our visit to the area. We have therefore proposed an

				amended version of the Council's warding pattern here, to create a ward that sits north of the railway line and encompasses both Scriven parish and the New Scriven area. The proposed ward provides for reasonable electoral equality and allows for the maintenance of community links in this area.
Knareborough Tentergate	1	7%	This ward comprises the Gates Hill, Tentergate and Castle areas.	In addition to the Council's proposals, we received two submissions relating to this area. The first, as mentioned above, was from the town council and supported the Council's proposals. The second submission, from a parish council, referred to the parish of Scriven and recommended that it be included in the proposed Knareborough Scriven & Tentergate ward, as originally proposed by the Council. However, this would result in a variance of 15%. As a result of the amended Knareborough Scriven ward, as described above, the Knareborough Tentergate ward encompasses the area south of the B6165 and west of Briggate. We consider that the warding pattern across Knareborough, amended as described above, allows for the maintenance of community identities that were evidenced in submissions received.

Ripon

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Ripon Minster	1	-1%	This ward comprises the area around Ripon Minster, along with the Bondgate area. Harrogate Road forms the western boundary.	In addition to the Council's scheme, we received one submission referring to this area, from a city council. This submission preferred that the Gallows Hill area be included in the Ripon Moorside ward. This was also proposed by the Council. We consider that this ward provides for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including it as part of our draft recommendations.
Ripon Moorside	1	4%	This ward comprises the area to the west of Harrogate Road, south of the River Skell and north of the Ripon Bypass. It also includes the Gallows Hill area.	In addition to the Council's scheme, we received one submission referring to this ward, from a city council. This submission preferred that the Gallows Hill area be included in this ward. This was also proposed by the Council, and provides for good electoral equality. We consider that this ward provides for good adherence to the statutory criteria, and are therefore including it as part of our draft recommendations.
Ripon Spa	1	1%	This ward comprises the area north of the River Skell, west of Fishergate and College Road.	In addition to the Council's scheme for Ripon, we received one submission in support of the Council's warding patterns. We consider that this ward, as proposed by the Council, provides for good adherence to the statutory criteria and are therefore including it as part of our draft recommendations.
Ripon Ure Bank	1	1%	This ward comprises the northern part of Ripon, north of the Minster, Fisher Green, and College Road.	In addition to the Council's scheme for Ripon, we received one submission in support of the Council's warding patterns. We consider that this ward, as proposed by the Council, provides for good adherence to the statutory criteria and are therefore including it as part of our draft recommendations.

Conclusions

25 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2015 and 2021 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2015	2021
Number of councillors	40	40
Number of electoral wards	40	40
Average number of electors per councillor	3,042	3,223
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Draft recommendation

Harrogate Borough Council should comprise 40 councillors serving 40 single-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 Harrogate.

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

Parish electoral arrangements

26 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.

27 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, Harrogate 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.

28 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 Killinghall, Knaresborough and Ripon parishes.

29 As 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 Killinghall parish.

Draft recommendation

Killinghall Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Killinghall Oakdale (returning two members), Killinghall Rural (returning five members) and Killinghall Saltergate (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

30 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 Knaresborough parish.

Draft recommendation

Knaresborough Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Knaresborough Aspin & Calcutt (returning three members), Knaresborough Eastfield (returning four members), Knaresborough Scriven (returning four members) and Knaresborough Tentergate (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

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 Ripon parish.

Draft recommendation

Ripon City Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Ripon Minster (returning three members), Ripon Moorside (returning four members), Ripon Spa (returning four members) and Ripon Ure Bank (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 Have your say

32 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole borough or just a part of it.

33 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Harrogate, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

34 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at [**consultation.lgbce.org.uk**](http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

35 Submissions can also be made by emailing [**reviews@lgbce.org.uk**](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

Review Officer (Harrogate)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Harrogate which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of voters
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively

A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government

Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in the council area?

Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?

36 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 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.

37 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.

38 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.

39 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 Harrogate Borough Council in 2018.

Equalities

40 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: Draft recommendations for Harrogate Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bishop Monkton & Newby	1	2,857	2,857	-6%	3,107	3,107	-4%
2	Boroughbridge	1	2,775	2,775	-9%	3,140	3,140	-3%
3	Claro	1	2,886	2,886	-5%	2,963	2,963	-8%
4	Fountains & Ripley	1	3,232	3,232	6%	3,291	3,291	2%
5	Harrogate Bilton Grange	1	3,276	3,276	8%	3,289	3,289	2%
6	Harrogate Bilton Woodfield	1	3,263	3,263	7%	3,266	3,266	1%
7	Harrogate Central	1	2,967	2,967	-2%	3,074	3,074	-5%
8	Harrogate Coppice Valley	1	3,177	3,177	4%	3,181	3,181	-1%
9	Harrogate Duchy	1	2,390	2,390	-21%	3,292	3,292	2%
10	Harrogate Fairfax	1	3,305	3,305	9%	3,305	3,305	3%
11	Harrogate Harlow	1	2,854	2,854	-6%	3,229	3,229	0%
12	Harrogate High Harrogate	1	2,980	2,980	-2%	3,458	3,458	7%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Harrogate Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Harrogate Hookstone	1	3,002	3,002	-1%	3,009	3,009	-7%
14	Harrogate Kingsley	1	3,044	3,044	0%	3,044	3,044	-6%
15	Harrogate New Park	1	2,928	2,928	-4%	3,051	3,051	-5%
16	Harrogate Oatlands	1	3,415	3,415	12%	3,438	3,438	7%
17	Harrogate Old Bilton	1	3,011	3,011	-1%	2,990	2,990	-7%
18	Harrogate Pannal	1	2,741	2,741	-10%	2,964	2,964	-8%
19	Harrogate Saltergate	1	3,178	3,178	4%	2,994	2,994	-7%
20	Harrogate St Georges	1	3,316	3,316	9%	3,448	3,448	7%
21	Harrogate Starbeck	1	2,876	2,876	-5%	3,014	3,014	-6%
22	Harrogate Stray	1	3,417	3,417	12%	3,430	3,430	6%
23	Harrogate Valley Gardens	1	3,265	3,265	7%	3,520	3,520	9%
24	Killinghall & Hampsthwaite	1	2,136	2,136	-30%	3,022	3,022	-6%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Harrogate Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25	Knareborough Aspin & Calcutt	1	3,251	3,251	7%	3,263	3,263	1%
26	Knareborough Eastfield	1	2,557	2,557	-16%	3,460	3,460	7%
27	Knareborough Scriven	1	3,186	3,186	5%	3,526	3,526	9%
28	Knareborough Tentergate	1	3,421	3,421	12%	3,433	3,433	7%
29	Marston Moor	1	2,993	2,993	-2%	3,253	3,253	1%
30	Masham & Kirkby Malzeard	1	2,855	2,855	-6%	2,923	2,923	-9%
31	Nidd Valley	1	3,075	3,075	1%	3,185	3,185	-1%
32	Ouseburn	1	3,191	3,191	5%	3,463	3,463	7%
33	Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale Moors	1	2,927	2,927	-4%	3,033	3,033	-6%
34	Ripon Minster	1	3,197	3,197	5%	3,180	3,180	-1%
35	Ripon Moorside	1	3,166	3,166	4%	3,366	3,366	4%
36	Ripon Spa	1	2,963	2,963	-3%	3,240	3,240	1%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Harrogate Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
37	Ripon Ure Bank	1	3,105	3,105	2%	3,251	3,251	1%
38	Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale	1	2,941	2,941	-3%	3,018	3,018	-6%
39	Washburn	1	3,351	3,351	10%	3,552	3,552	10%
40	Wathvale	1	3,211	3,211	6%	3,256	3,256	1%
	Totals	40	121,681	–	–	128,921	–	–
	Averages	–	–	3,042	–	–	3,223	–

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

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

Appendix B

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/yorkshire-and-the-humber/north-yorkshire/harrogate>

Local authority

- Harrogate Borough Council

Parish, city, and town councils

- Boroughbridge Town Council
- Knaresborough Town Council
- Pateley Bridge Town Council
- Ripon City Council
- Scriven Parish Council

Residents

- Five 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 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