Have your say:

We are now consulting local people on a new pattern of wards for West Berkshire. The Commission has an open mind about its final recommendations and will consider every piece of evidence it receives from local groups and people, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole council area or just a part of it.

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

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

- **Electoral equality**: each 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:**

- Transport links: are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?
- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?

**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?

**Useful tips:**

- 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.
- We publish all submissions we receive on our website. Go to: www.lgbce.org.uk

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**Who we are:**

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England 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.

**Our proposals:**

- West Berkshire Council currently has 52 councillors.
- We propose that the council should have 43 councillors in future, representing seven three-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and four one-councillor wards across the council area.

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**Why West Berkshire?**

- West Berkshire Council submitted a formal request to the Commission for an electoral review.

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**Electoral review:**

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority, including:

- The total number of councillors representing the council’s voters (‘council size’).
- The names and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
- The number of councillors representing each ward or division.

You have until 13 November 2017 to have your say on the recommendations.
Summary of our recommendations

We have considered all the representations received in response to our request for warding proposals.

Our draft recommendations propose that West Berkshire's 43 councillors should represent seven three-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and four one-councillor wards across the council area.

An outline of the proposals is shown in the map to the right of this box. A detailed report on the recommendations and interactive mapping is available on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk.

The Commission welcomes comments on these draft recommendations, whether you support the proposals or wish to put forward alternative arrangements. In particular, the Commission welcomes proposals for alternative boundaries or ward names which meet the criteria we must follow as part of electoral reviews and which are described in more detail over the page.

Have your say at consultation.lgbce.org.uk:
- view the map of our recommendations down to street level.
- draw your own boundaries online.
- zoom into the areas that interest you most.
- find more guidance on how to have your say.
- read the full report of our recommendations.
- send us your views directly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage of review</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Jan - 24 April 2017</td>
<td>Public consultation on new ward boundaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 June - 10 July 2017</td>
<td>Further public consultation on new ward boundaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Aug - 13 Nov 2017</td>
<td>Public consultation on draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Jan 18</td>
<td>Publication of final recommendations by the Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at local elections</td>
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