

New electoral arrangements for Rossendale Borough Council Draft Recommendations

March 2023

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ 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.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 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 there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Rossendale?

7 We are conducting a review of Rossendale Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2000, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Rossendale are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

Our proposals for Rossendale

9 Rossendale should be represented by 30 councillors, six fewer than there are now.

10 Rossendale should have 10 wards, four fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change.

How will the recommendations affect you?

12 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 cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 7 March to 15 May 2023. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 15 May 2023 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 19 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Rossendale. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 September 2022	Number of councillors decided
27 September 2022	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 December 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
7 March 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
15 May 2023	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 August 2023	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

20 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

21 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2022	2028
Electorate of Rossendale	51,414	55,661
Number of councillors	30	30
Average number of electors per councillor	1,714	1,855

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. Nine of our proposed wards for Rossendale are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2028.

Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2028, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 8% by 2028.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

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.

Number of councillors

26 Rossendale Council currently has 36 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing by six will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 30 councillors.

28 As Rossendale Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁴ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

29 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 30-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 78 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two borough-wide proposals: one from the Rossendale Borough Council Conservative Group in conjunction with Rossendale & Darwen Conservative Association, Jake Berry MP and Sara Britcliffe MP; and one from the Rossendale Labour Party & Rossendale Borough Council Labour Group. In the interests of brevity, these are referred to throughout this report as the Conservative and Labour proposals, respectively. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

31 The two borough-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of three-councillor wards for Rossendale. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

32 Our draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

⁴ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

33 We conducted a detailed virtual tour of Rossendale. This tour of Rossendale helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for 10 three-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

35 The tables and maps on pages 8–16 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Rossendale. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

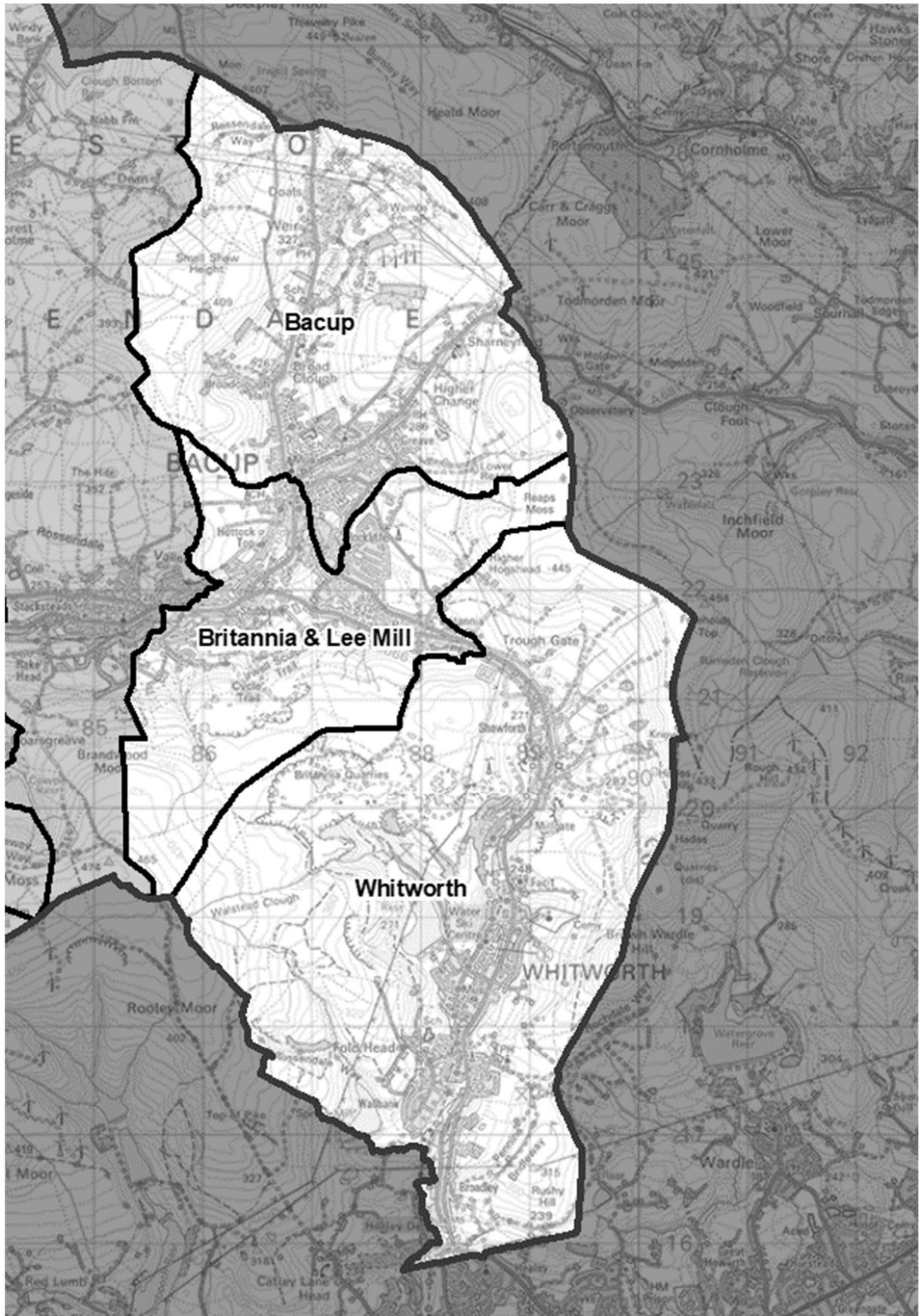
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 25 and on the large map accompanying this report.

37 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Eastern Rossendale



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Bacup	3	-5%
Britannia & Lee Mill	3	-9%
Whitworth	3	11%

Bacup, Britannia & Lee Mill and Whitworth

38 Both full schemes proposed splitting the town of Bacup. The Conservative proposal was for a Bacup West with Weir ward, which was very similar to the existing Greensclough ward, and a Bacup East with Shawforth ward, including the northernmost section of Whitworth parish. In contrast, the Labour proposal was for a ward containing the entirety of Whitworth parish, a single ward named Bacup, and a Britannia & Lee Mill ward between the two.

39 In addition to the borough-wide schemes, we received a large amount of evidence from residents of Whitworth parish, arguing that the parish should be kept together in a single ward, with no part split off into a ward based around Bacup. Much of this evidence of community identity was very persuasive, with examples given of library services, services for both young and older people, and what was considered a natural geographic division between the settlements of Shawforth and Bacup.

40 It is not possible to propose a single, three-member ward covering the entirety of Whitworth parish with good electoral equality – the parish is projected to have 11% more electors than average by 2028. However, given the abundance of evidence provided that splitting the parish between two or more wards would not reflect the community identity of this area, we are persuaded that accepting the poorer variance offers the best available balance of our statutory criteria. We are therefore adopting the Labour proposals for this area as part of our draft recommendations.

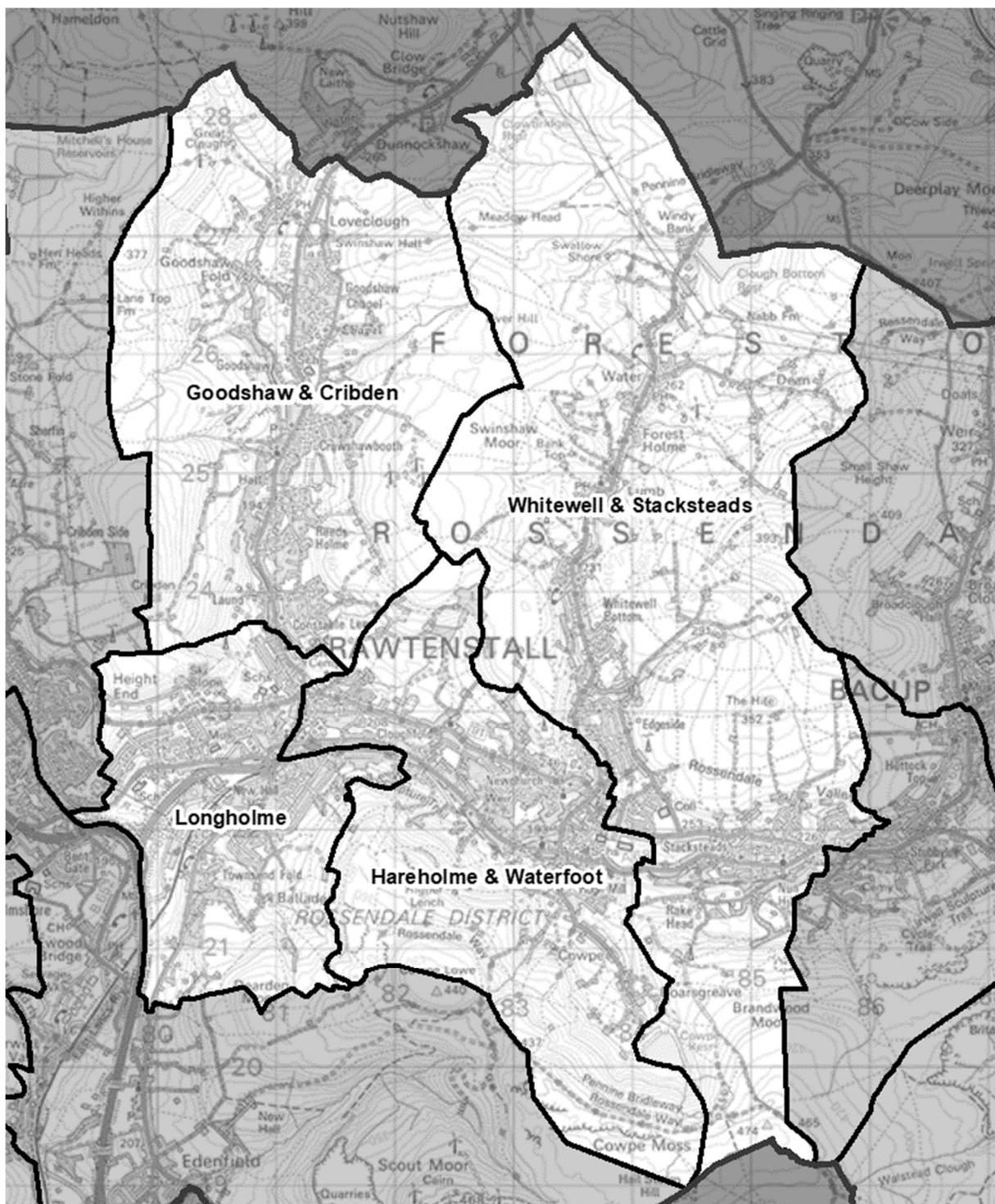
41 We considered placing a relatively small number of electors in the rural area of Whitworth parish to the north of Shawforth into a ward to the north. This would improve both the 11% variance in our proposed Whitworth ward and the -9% variance in Britannia & Lee Mill ward. However, as well as requiring a very small parish ward, we consider that this proposal would not reflect the identity of communities in this area, based on the evidence before us. We would welcome further evidence as to whether this proposal could offer a better reflection of our statutory criteria during consultation on these draft recommendations.

42 Our proposed boundary between the wards of Bacup and Britannia & Lee Mill follows the Labour proposal. This argued that keeping the Penning Road estate within a single ward offered a better reflection of community identity, as well as

providing for acceptable electoral equality for Britannia & Lee Mill ward. In contrast, the Conservatives proposed retaining the northern boundary of the existing Irwell ward, running along and to the south of the A681, suggesting that this was well understood by residents. As well as not offering good electoral equality when combined with our decision with regard to Whitworth, we do not consider that existing boundaries should be retained purely on the grounds that they are currently recognised. We have therefore adopted the Labour proposal for this boundary.

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Central and Northern Rossendale



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Goodshaw & Cribden	3	-1%
Hareholme & Waterfoot	3	6%
Longholme	3	-3%
Whitewell & Stacksteads	3	-3%

Goodshaw & Cribden

43 The Labour and Conservative proposals for this ward were identical, except for the ward name. The Labour proposal was for this ward to be named Goodshaw & Cribden, reflecting the existing wards in this area, while the Conservatives proposed Rawtenstall North with Cribden. Many of the Conservative proposals for ward names included 'with' rather than '&' which they argued promoted greater harmony. We would welcome further evidence as to this proposition, and also whether the areas of Higher Constable, Reeds Holme and Rush Bed can fairly be described as 'Rawtenstall North'.

44 The eastern and western boundaries of these wards follow boundaries of electoral divisions used for Lancashire County Council elections. While we are under no statutory obligation to follow these boundaries in unparished areas, we consider that it is reasonable to do so and is generally helpful where other factors are broadly equal. We are aware of areas, such as Cribden Hill Lane, where small numbers of electors are unable to access the remainder of their ward without travelling through neighbouring wards. We considered amending the boundary in these cases to place electors in wards where they have easy access to the remainder of their ward, but considered that following division boundaries was a better reflection of our statutory criteria. We would welcome further evidence as to whether this lack of access offers a practical problem, which could be cured by a relatively modest shift away from division boundaries.

Hareholme & Waterfoot, Longholme and Whitewell & Stacksteads

45 Again, the Conservative and Labour proposals for these wards were very similar, differing mostly in an area near the centre of Rawtenstall. The Labour proposal was to retain the existing boundary running along Bacup Road, while the Conservatives proposed using Bocholt Way as a boundary. Evidence provided in this area was not particularly strong, with the Conservatives suggesting that their plan corrected 'historic errors within communities' without providing details, while the Labour submission did not discuss this specific boundary.

46 We viewed this area in detail on our virtual tour of Rossendale. We noted that Bacup Road has some elements of a high street, with shops and services on either sides of a relatively narrow street, which we do not consider offers a particularly strong boundary. The A681 Bocholt Way in contrast offers a clearer and stronger boundary with fewer services and dwellings immediately on the road. We have therefore adopted the boundary proposed by the Conservatives in this area.

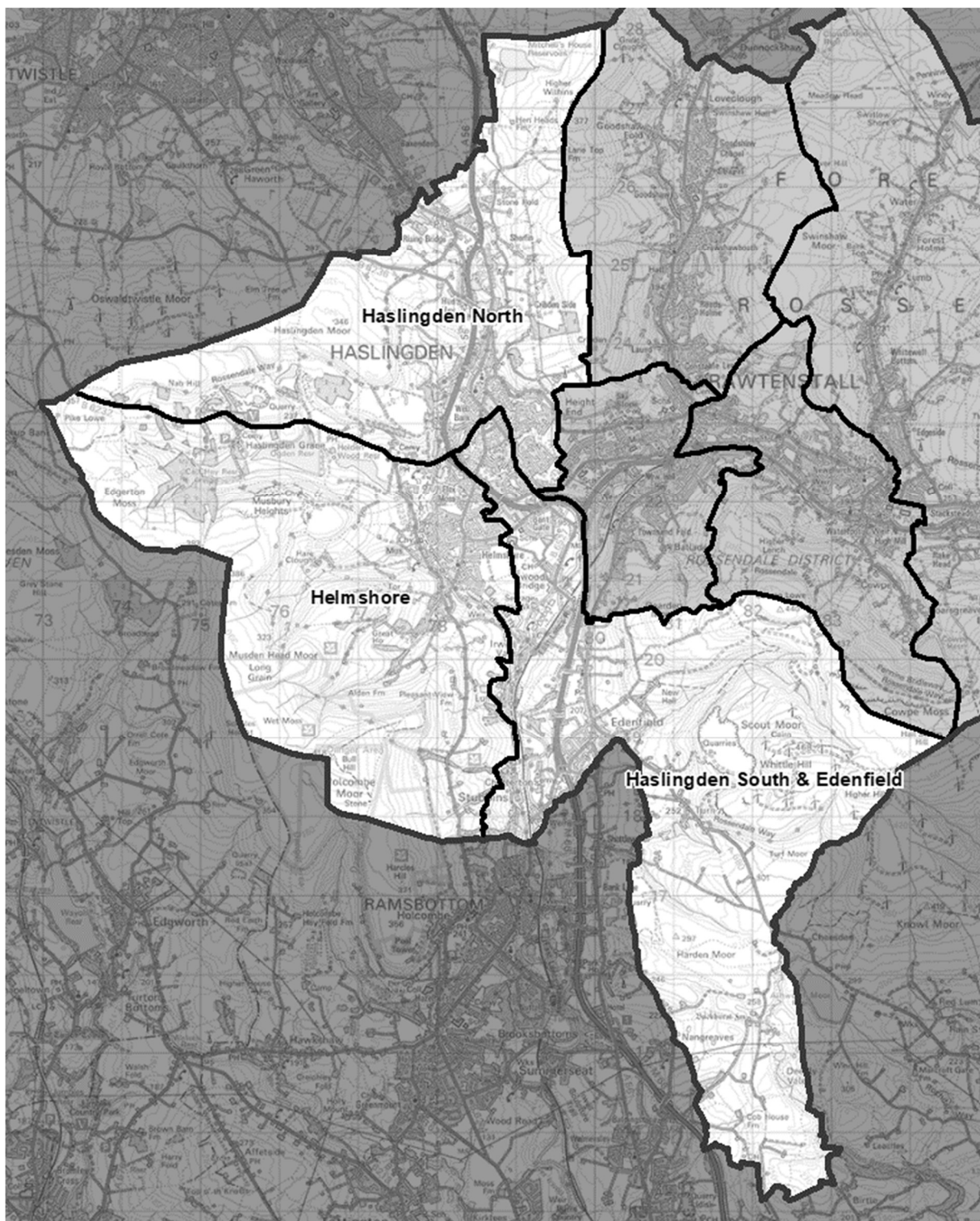
47 Both Labour and the Conservatives proposed retaining the eastern boundary of the existing Whitewell ward, including in an area where the boundary passes through the grounds of Waterfoot Primary School. We do not consider that this promotes effective and convenient local government, and propose adjusting this boundary to clearly place Waterfoot Primary School together with the neighbouring Bacup &

Rawtenstall Grammar School in our proposed Hareholme & Waterfoot ward. As with all aspect of our draft recommendations, we retain an open mind and would welcome further evidence in this area.

48 The Conservatives proposed the names of ‘Rawtenstall East with Waterfoot’ and ‘Rawtenstall West’ for these two wards. As part of our draft recommendations, we have adopted the names proposed by Labour, which offer continuity with the existing, broadly similar wards in this area, but we are aware that this means that Rawtenstall, the largest single settlement within Rossendale, does not feature in the name of any wards. We would welcome further evidence with regard to how residents describe their local communities, and what potential ward names best reflect these.

49 Both Labour and the Conservatives proposed broadly similar wards covering the Whitewell and Stacksteads areas. Labour provided some evidence that their proposal would unity the Fernhill estate within a single ward, but this evidence was limited. The Conservatives noted that their proposed ward was, geographically, relatively large – this is inevitable when proposing wards with good electoral equality for three councillors in predominately rural areas. While we are able to depart from a pattern three-member wards where compelling evidence is provided, we did not receive any proposals to do so, and do not consider that we have sufficient evidence to do so in this case. We have adopted the Labour proposal as part of our draft recommendations, subject to the minor amendment around Waterfoot Primary School detailed above in paragraph 47.

Southern and Western Rossendale



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Haslingden North	3	1%
Haslingden South & Edenfield	3	9%
Helmshore	3	-3%

Haslingden North and Haslingden South & Edenfield

50 Once again, similar proposals for these wards were received from the Labour and Conservative submissions. The only significant difference between the proposals came in the division of Haslingden. The Conservative proposal was for a boundary running to the north of Highfield Road, Victoria Drive and the Richmond Avenue estate. The Labour proposal instead used roads as the boundaries in this area, with the boundary running along Grane Road, Warner Street, Beaconsfield Street, Bury Road and Manchester Road.

51 We have adopted the Labour proposals as part of our draft recommendations, although we consider this decision is particularly finely balanced. We consider that the roads used in the Labour proposal, while by no means all major roads or strong boundaries, are recognisable and clear, whereas the Conservative proposal cuts Helmshore Road in a relatively arbitrary position. We would particularly welcome further evidence from residents as to whether they consider that there is a clear divide within the town of Haslingden, and if so where the boundary should be drawn.

52 Both proposals retained the existing boundary between the wards of Longholme and Greenfield, with the Conservatives suggesting that this was a well-recognised divide between the town of Haslingden and Rawtenstall. Both proposals also joined the southern section of Haslingden with Edenfield and the rural southern area of the borough. We have adopted these proposals, with the exception of a minor modification around Lumb, where the proposals divided this small settlement in a way which we consider is unlikely to reflect community identity. We have adjusted the boundary to place all electors in Lumb within Haslingden South & Edenfield ward.

53 The Labour proposal was for the northernmost of these two wards to be named simply 'Haslingden' and the southern ward to be name 'Greenfield & Eden'. We consider that these names could be improved, particularly the former as the boundaries proposed would mean that many electors in the town of Haslingden are not included in the ward of that name. While we accept that ward names can never perfectly reflect communities, we have broadly adopted the Conservative proposals for ward names in this area as part of our draft recommendations, as they reflect that both wards will contain a significant portion of the town of Haslingden. We would welcome any further suggestions for improvement.

Helmshore

54 Both the Labour and Conservative proposals included identical Helmshore wards. We have modified the proposals only slightly, in the area of Lumb, as detailed above at paragraph 52.

55 One resident suggested that the rural southern and western fringes of the borough could be combined into a single ward, perhaps allowing further wards to be more tightly concentrated around the town of Haslingden. No precise boundaries were proposed for this rural ward, which would inevitably be very large geographically, and would not have good internal access. We are not proposing such a ward as part of our draft recommendations, although we would be interested in more specific suggestions about how a single rural ward might meet our statutory criteria.

Conclusions

56 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Rossendale, referencing the 2022 and 2028 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2022	2028
Number of councillors	30	30
Number of electoral wards	10	10
Average number of electors per councillor	1,714	1,855
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendations

Rossendale Borough Council should be made up of 30 councillors serving 10 wards representing 10 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Rossendale.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Rossendale on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say

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

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

59 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

60 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Rossendale)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE14 9FE

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

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

62 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- 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.

63 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in the borough?

64 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?

65 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 wards? Is there any form of public transport?

66 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at www.lqbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

67 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, 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.

68 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.

69 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 all-out elections for Rossendale in 2024.

Equalities

70 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Rossendale

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bacup	3	4,672	1,557	-9%	5,267	1,756	-5%
2	Britannia & Lee Mill	3	4,556	1,519	-11%	5,038	1,679	-9%
3	Goodshaw & Cribden	3	4,989	1,663	-3%	5,484	1,828	-1%
4	Hareholme & Waterfoot	3	5,522	1,841	7%	5,893	1,964	6%
5	Haslingden North	3	5,457	1,819	6%	5,594	1,865	1%
6	Haslingden South & Edenfield	3	5,307	1,769	3%	6,060	2,020	9%
7	Helmshore	3	5,055	1,685	-2%	5,375	1,792	-3%
8	Longholme	3	4,961	1,654	-4%	5,375	1,792	-3%
9	Whitewell & Stacksteads	3	5,137	1,712	0%	5,387	1,796	-3%
10	Whitworth	3	5,758	1,919	12%	6,188	2,063	11%

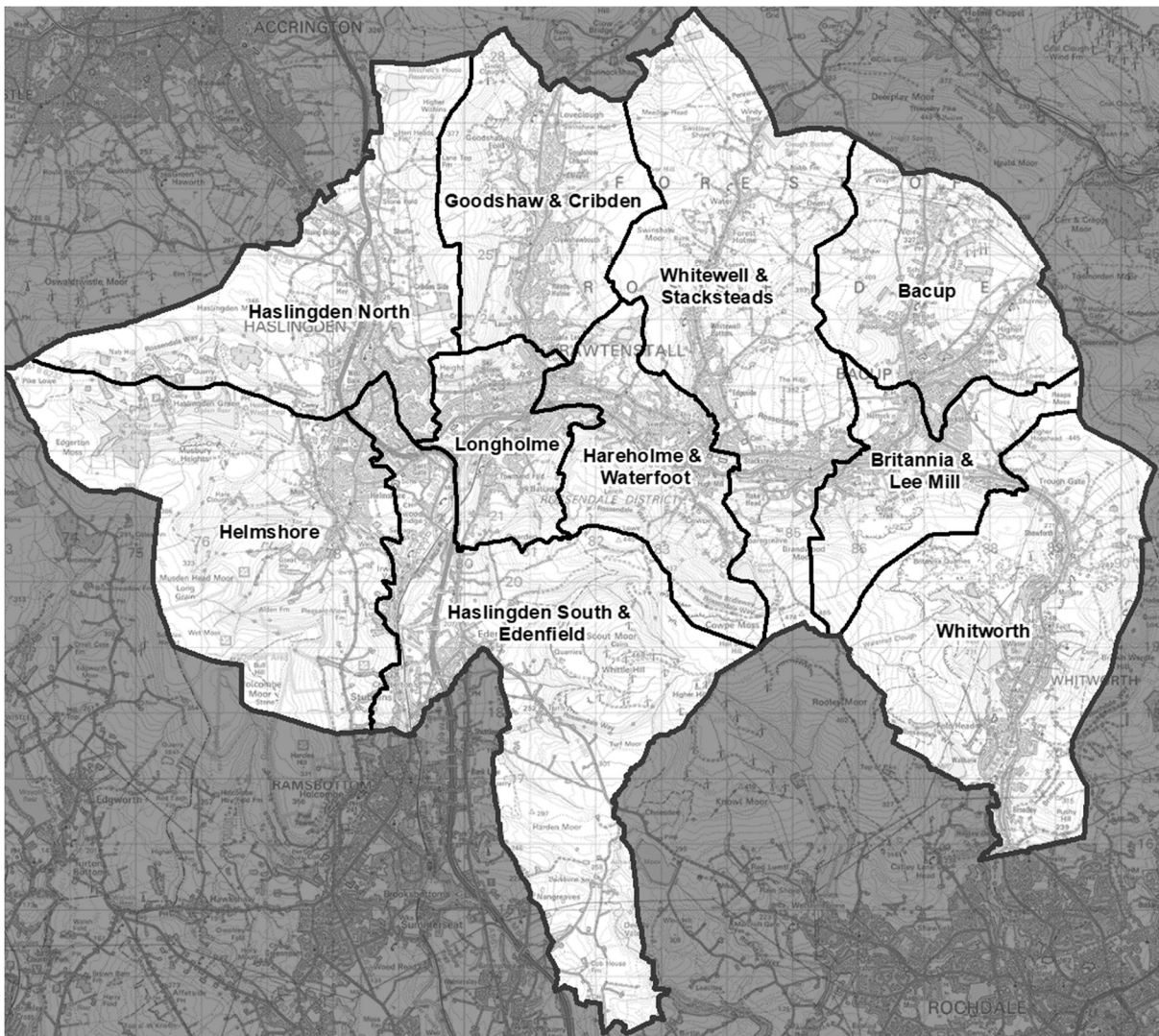
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Totals	30	51,414	-	-	55,661	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,714	-	-	1,855	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Rossendale 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

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/lancashire/rossendale

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/lancashire/rossendale

Political Groups

- Rossendale BC Conservative Group, in conjunction with Rossendale & Darwen Conservative Association, Jake Berry MP & Sara Britcliffe MP
- Rossendale Labour Party & Rossendale BC Labour Group

Councillors

- Councillor G. Baron (Whitworth Town Council)
- Councillor D. Chorlton (Whitworth Town Council)
- Mayor J. Whitehead (Whitworth Town Council)

Local Organisations

- Friends of Whitworth Library Group
- The Women of Whitworth Project
- West Pennines Commoners Association
- Whitworth in Bloom
- Whitworth U3a

Local Residents

- 68 local residents

Appendix D

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 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. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
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 can 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

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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