

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Bolsover District Council

Electoral review

August 2017

Translations and other formats

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 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.

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

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

Why Bolsover?

4 We are conducting a review of Bolsover District Council as the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in Bolsover. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

Our proposals for Bolsover

- Bolsover should be represented by 37 councillors, the same number as there are now.
- Bolsover should have 17 wards, three fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of four wards will stay the same.

5 **We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements in Bolsover.**

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.¹

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors (Chair) OBE
 - Peter Knight CBE, DL
 - Alison Lowton
 - Peter Maddison QPM
 - Sir Tony Redmond
-
- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

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

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

What is an electoral review?

9 Our three main considerations are to:

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

10 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

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Bolsover. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
15 November 2016	Number of councillors decided
22 November 2016	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
30 January 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
11 April 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
19 June 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 August 2017	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 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.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 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.

15 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.

16 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.

	2016	2022
Electorate of Bolsover	59,480	62,097
Number of councillors	37	37
Average number of electors per councillor	1,608	1,678

17 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'. All of our proposed wards for Bolsover will have good electoral equality by 2022.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district 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 take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

19 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five year on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2017. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 4% by 2022. This increase is due to a number of new developments and the overall number of electors increasing across the district.

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.

21 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 final recommendations

Number of councillors

22 Bolsover District Council currently has 37 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will make sure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 37 councillors – for example, 37 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

24 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our warding patterns. Bolsover District Council and North Derbyshire Conservative Group supported a council size of 37. However, Bolsover District Council Labour Group (the Labour Group) proposed 38 councillors, with the extra councillor being allocated to Tibshelf.

25 We did not receive any submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 37 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received 31 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two district-wide proposals: The Labour Group proposed a pattern of 21 wards to be represented by 38 elected members; the Conservative Group proposed a pattern of 37 wards to be represented by 37 elected members.

27 The majority of the other submissions focused on the creation of a new ward that would reflect the boundaries of the recently created Langwith Parish Council. We received a number of other proposals regarding other areas of the district.

28 Our draft recommendations were for one one-councillor, 12 two-councillor and four three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests.

Draft recommendations consultation

29 We received nine submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. We did not receive a submission from the District Council. Three submissions argued against the western area of Clowne known as 'New Barlborough' being included with the proposed Barlborough ward, stating that this area has stronger community links with the rest of Clowne.

30 Two submissions focused on the community identities in the South Normanton and Pinxton areas, providing alternative schemes for the warding arrangements and one of the submissions providing additional suggestions for new parish wards in South Normanton.

31 Ault Hucknall Parish Council were largely in favour of our draft recommendations for its area, noting its support for being in a different ward from Tibshelf Parish Council. However, Tibshelf Parish Council requested that the existing ward boundaries for Tibshelf be retained; this included the parishes of Tibshelf and Ault Hucknall. There was also one submission received which supported the new boundaries in Shirebrook.

32 We received one submission that opposed our draft recommendations on the basis that new parish electoral arrangements had to be created in Old Bolsover as a result of new district ward boundaries.

33 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations, with only one change to the warding arrangements in South Normanton parish.

Final recommendations

34 Pages 8–15 detail our final recommendations for each area of Bolsover. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

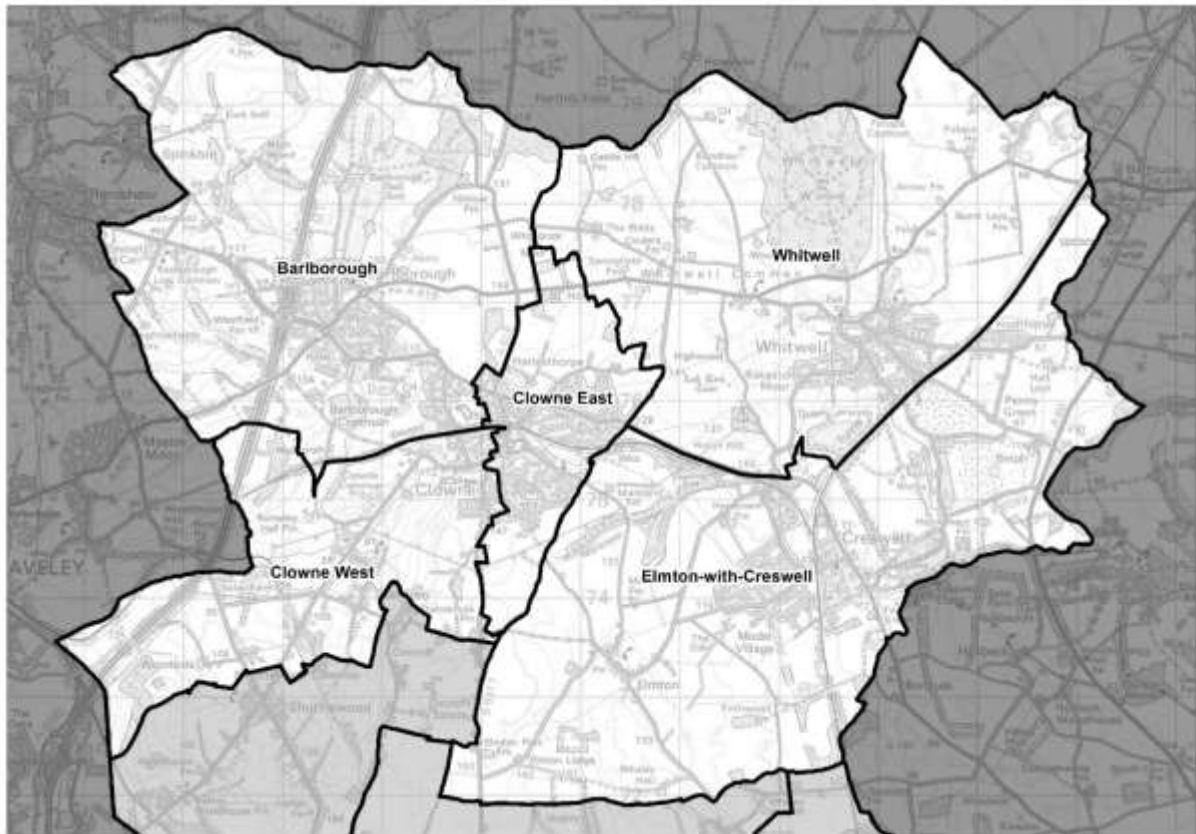
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

35 Our final recommendations are for four three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and one one-councillor ward. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 16 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Bolsover North



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Barlborough	2	8%
Clowne East	3	-10%
Clowne West	1	0%
Elmton-with-Creswell	3	-1%
Whitwell	2	-8%

Barlborough, Clowne East and Clowne West

37 We received three submissions opposing the inclusion of the 'New Barlborough' area from Clowne into our proposed Barlborough ward. The submissions argued that 'New Barlborough' is better linked with the rest of Clowne parish and provided evidence that Clowne and Barlborough have two separate community identities. We considered that the information and evidence that the residents provided regarding the differences between the two areas was good and we looked at different options so that we did not have to divide Clowne between two wards. We also recognised that including part of Clowne parish was not ideal when devising our draft recommendations. However, Barlborough parish is too small to be a ward on its own as it would have 15% fewer electors than the average for the district, which we do not consider is acceptable. Therefore, we have had to include a neighbouring area and could not find any more suitable place than the 'New Barlborough' area to ensure good levels of electoral equality in the future. We recognise that that is not ideal but neither ourselves nor the respondents could identify alternative proposals that would provide an acceptable level of electoral equality. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for the Barlborough ward, Clowne East ward and Clowne West ward as final.

Elmton-with-Creswell and Whitwell

38 We did not receive any submissions regarding the proposed Elmton-with-Creswell ward and Whitwell ward. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.

Bolsover Town



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Bolsover East	2	-8%
Bolsover North & Shuttlewood	2	-9%
Bolsover South	2	0%

Bolsover East, Bolsover North & Shuttlewood and Bolsover South

39 Old Bolsover Town Council requested that the existing district wards for the parish of Old Bolsover be maintained as they are satisfied they work well. They opposed the draft recommendations which included parts of Scarcliffe parish and Clowne parish being included with Old Bolsover parish.

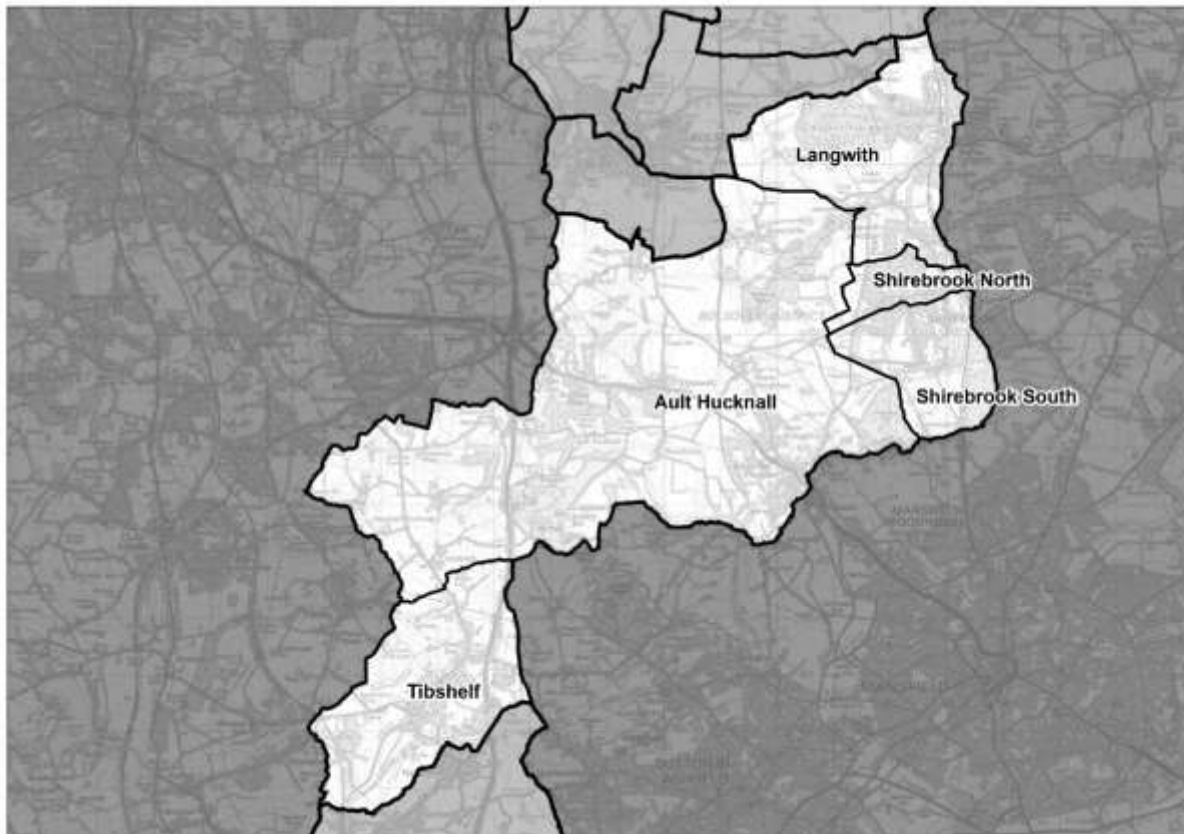
40 We recognise the desirability of Old Bolsover parish being solely comprised in Old Bolsover wards. However, in order to provide for acceptable levels of electoral equality we need to combine other areas with Old Bolsover. On our tour of Bolsover, we noted that the properties near Stanfree are better connected with Clowne than Bolsover, so to facilitate electoral equality we chose to include this area of Old Bolsover parish in our proposed Clowne West district ward.

41 The reason why we included a part of Scarcliffe parish with Bolsover is because we considered that the properties in the Hillstown area are overspill from Bolsover and are more closely linked with the town than the remainder of Scarcliffe parish. We are not persuaded that this part of Scarcliffe should be included in a different ward.

42 We recognise the opposition to the proposed creation of an Old Bolsover Central parish ward. However, in an effort to improve the electoral equality of the Bolsover North & Shuttlewood ward, while avoiding splitting up the town centre, we have had to extend the southern boundary of the ward. When touring Bolsover we considered that the area around Langwith Road and the High Street junction shared the closest community interest with the rest of the ward and therefore included it. Due to the existence of the county division boundary which crosses this area we must create a parish ward for this area.

43 Therefore, we are satisfied that our draft recommendations provide for good electoral arrangements for Bolsover and confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Bolsover Central



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Ault Hucknall	3	-4%
Langwith	2	4%
Shirebrook North	2	7%
Shirebrook South	2	4%
Tibshelf	2	1%

Shirebrook North and Shirebrook South

45 We received one submission for this area from Thickley Close Estate Neighbourhood Watch/Sport who were in support of the proposed district wards for the Shirebrook area. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for the Shirebrook North ward and Shirebrook South ward as final.

Tibshelf and Ault Hucknall

46 Ault Hucknall Parish Council's submission was largely in favour of our draft recommendations for the proposed Ault Hucknall district ward. It acknowledged that while the parish has little connection with the other parishes in this ward they were in support of being in a separate ward from Tibshelf parish.

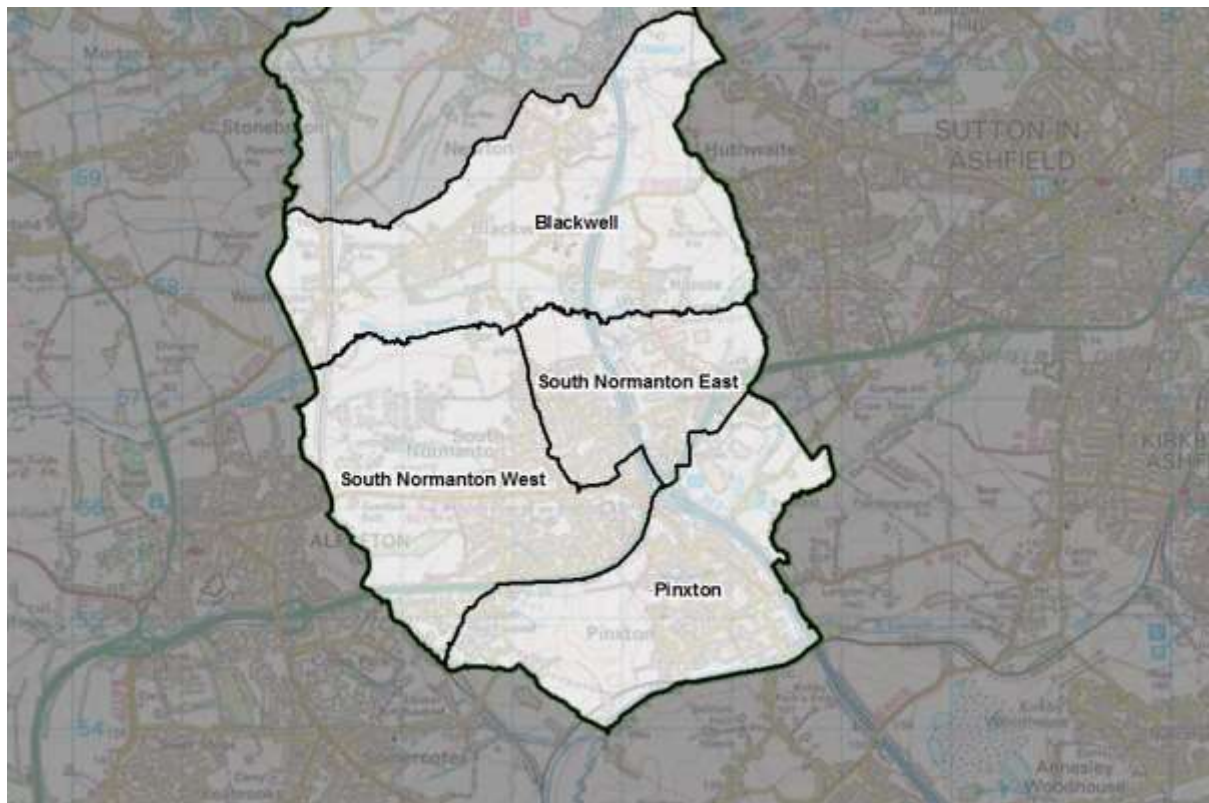
47 We received a submission from Tibshelf Parish Council requesting that the existing Tibshelf ward be retained. This currently includes the parishes of Tibshelf and Ault Hucknall. Tibshelf Parish Council also requested that this district ward be represented by three councillors, one more than at present. This would create a district ward with a variance of -13%. Unfortunately, there was no evidence supplied to support this poor level of electoral inequality and we are not persuaded to adopt it, especially in light of the view of Ault Hucknall Parish Council which considered Tibshelf and Ault Hucknall parishes should not be included in the same ward.

48 We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Tibshelf ward and Ault Hucknall ward as final.

Langwith

49 We did not receive any submissions regarding the proposed Langwith ward. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.

Bolsover South



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Blackwell	2	7%
Pinxton	2	-1%
South Normanton East	2	7%
South Normanton West	3	7%

Blackwell and Pinxton

50 We did not receive any submissions regarding the proposed Blackwell district ward. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.

South Normanton East and South Normanton West

51 We received submissions from two local residents that explained how the community of South Normanton is better represented by the existing ward boundaries, which create an East and West divide of South Normanton. Our draft recommendations proposed to divide South Normanton on a North/South basis using the B6019, which we considered having toured the area provided a strong natural boundary within South Normanton. However, we believe that the evidence provided to retain the existing ward boundaries is acceptable and provides for good levels of electoral equality in this area and we are therefore moving away from our draft recommendations in this area.

52 A local resident proposed an alternative parish warding scheme and district warding scheme which were based on our draft recommendation for this area. The submission requested that the area known as the 'Broadmeadows Estate' would be better reflected within its own parish ward and, if possible, an additional district ward should be created in South Normanton to reflect this community area. The area of 'Broadmeadows Estate' that is included within the South Normanton ward is too small to provide an acceptable level of electoral equality and therefore we are not persuaded to create an additional district ward in this area. Because we will be maintaining the existing district warding arrangements for this area, we are unable to amend the parish warding arrangements to create their proposed 'Broadmeadows ward'. This is because the legislation only provides for us to make changes to parish electoral arrangements as a direct consequence of any new district ward boundaries. Because we are not making any changes to the district ward boundaries in this area, we are not able to change the parish ward boundaries.

53 We received no other proposals in this area. As a result of the evidence set out above, we propose to retain the existing district wards.

Conclusions

54 The table below shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2016 and 2022 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2016	2022
Number of councillors	37	37
Number of electoral wards	17	17
Average number of electors per councillor	1,608	1,678
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Bolsover District Council should be made up of 37 councillors serving 17 wards representing one single-councillor ward, 12 two-councillor wards and four 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 ward for Bolsover District Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Bolsover District Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

55 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.

56 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, Bolsover District 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.

57 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 Clowne, Old Bolsover, Scarcliffe and Shirebrook.

58 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 Clowne parish.

Final recommendation	
Clowne Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Clowne East	8
Clowne North	2
Clowne West	2

59 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 Old Bolsover parish.

Final recommendation	
Old Bolsover Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Old Bolsover East	4
Old Bolsover Central	1
Old Bolsover North with Shuttlewood	3
Old Bolsover South	3
Old Bolsover with Stanfree	1

60 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 Scarcliffe parish.

Final recommendation	
Scarcliffe Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Scarcliffe North	4
Scarcliffe South	4

61 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 Shirebrook parish.

Final recommendation

Shirebrook Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Shirebrook & Langwith	2
Shirebrook North	7
Shirebrook South	7

3 What happens next?

62 We have now completed our review of Bolsover District Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2019.

Equalities

63 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

Final recommendations for Bolsover District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ault Hucknall	3	4,762	1,587	-1%	4,832	1,611	-4%
2	Barlborough	2	3,314	1,657	3%	3,621	1,811	8%
3	Blackwell	2	3,544	1,772	10%	3,583	1,792	7%
4	Bolsover East	2	2,816	1,408	-12%	3,095	1,548	-8%
5	Bolsover North & Shuttlewood	2	3,046	1,523	-5%	3,062	1,531	-9%
6	Bolsover South	2	3,308	1,654	3%	3,349	1,675	0%
7	Clowne East	3	4,488	1,496	-7%	4,551	1,517	-10%
8	Clowne West	1	1,441	1,441	-10%	1,672	1,672	0%
9	Elmton-with-Creswell	3	4,718	1,573	-2%	4,993	1,664	-1%
10	Langwith	2	3,476	1,738	8%	3,493	1,747	4%
11	Pinxton	2	3,302	1,651	3%	3,323	1,662	-1%
12	Shirebrook North	2	3,586	1,793	12%	3,602	1,801	7%

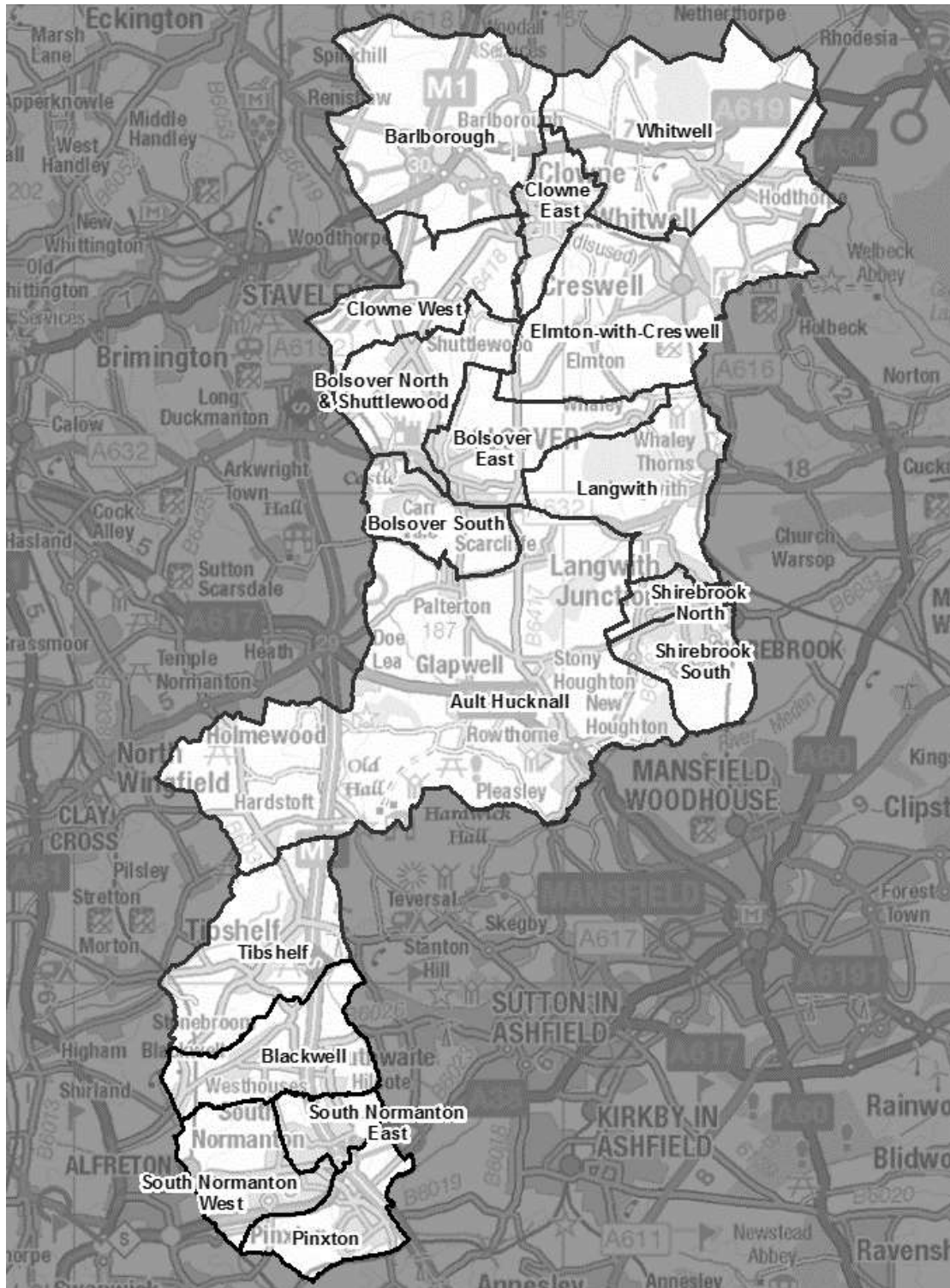
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Shirebrook South	2	2,968	1,484	-8%	3,475	1,738	4%
14 South Normanton East	2	3,564	1,782	11%	3,586	1,793	7%
15 South Normanton West	3	5,041	1,680	5%	5,364	1,788	7%
16 Tibshelf	2	3,024	1,512	-6%	3,395	1,698	1%
17 Whitwell	2	3,082	1,541	-4%	3,101	1,551	-8%
Totals	37	59,480	-	-	62,097	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,608	-	-	1,678	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Bolsover District 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 district. 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: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/east-midlands/derbyshire/bolsover>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/east-midlands/derbyshire/bolsover>

Political Group

- Bolsover Constituency Labour Party

Local Organisations

- Thickey Close Estate Neighbourhood Watch/Sports

Parish and Town Council

- Ault Hucknall Parish Council
- Old Bolsover Town Council
- Tibshelf Parish Council

Local Residents

- Four 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 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