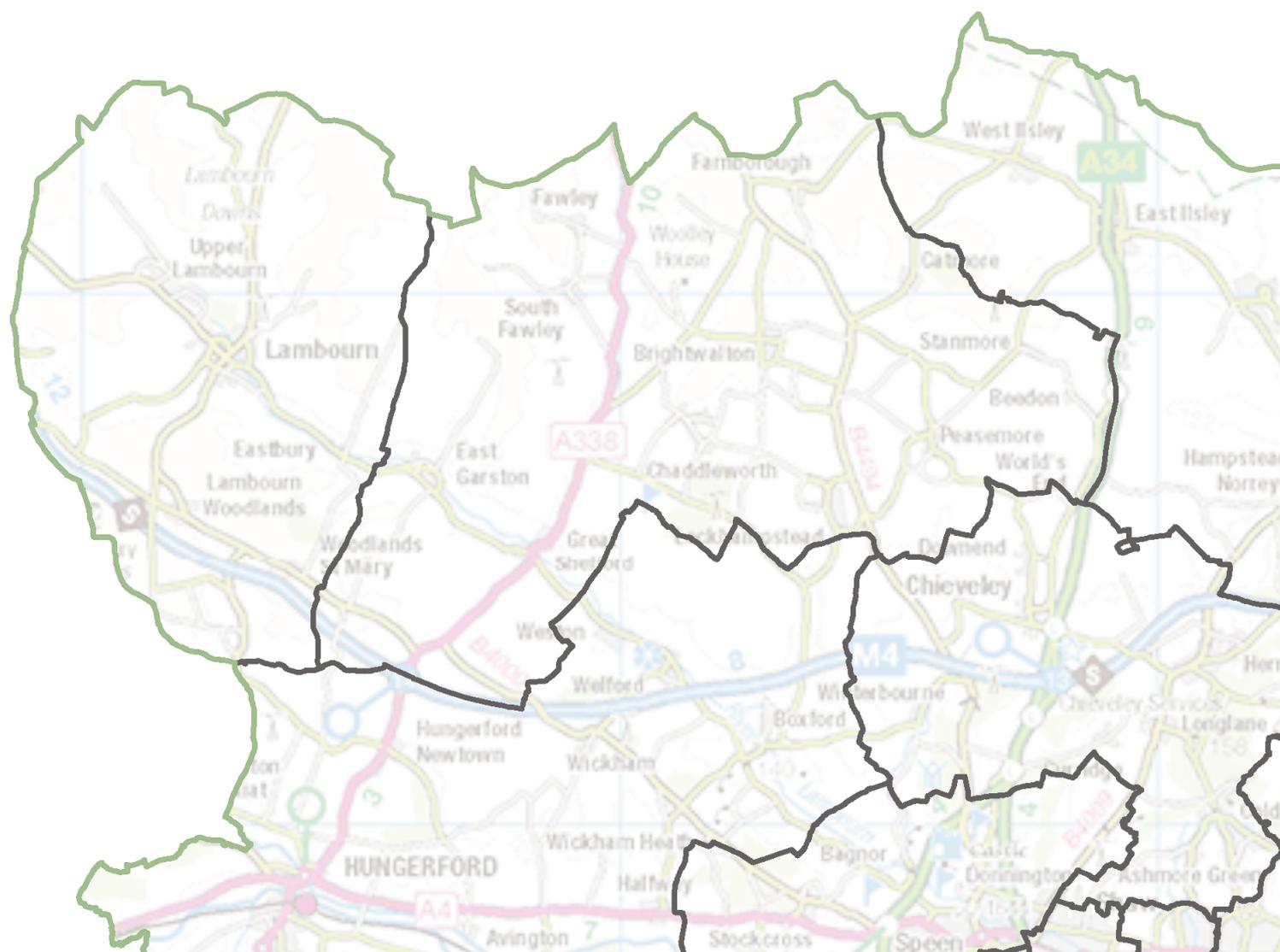


The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England



New electoral arrangements for  
West Berkshire Council  
Final recommendations

January 2018

## 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 West Berkshire?

4 We are conducting a review of West Berkshire Council as a result of a request from the authority in order that the number of councillors elected to the authority could be examined.

## Our proposals for West Berkshire

- West Berkshire should be represented by 43 councillors, nine fewer than there are now.
- West Berkshire should have 24 wards, six fewer than as there are now.
- The boundaries of one ward will stay the same.

**5 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for West Berkshire.**

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Sir Tony Redmond (Deputy Chair)
- Alison Lowton
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Steve Robinson
- Andrew Scallan CBE
  
- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

# 1 Introduction

8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in West Berkshire 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for West Berkshire. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the district. During that consultation, we received a number of submissions challenging the electorate forecasts used. We therefore asked the Council to provide revised figures, which they did, and we undertook a second period of consultation. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
17 January 2017	Number of councillors decided
24 January 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
10 April 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
13 June 2017	Second consultation seeking views on new wards with revised figures
10 July 2017	End of second consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations

29 August 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of third consultation
13 November 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
16 January 2018	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 or town council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

## 2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> 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.

	2017	2023
Electorate of West Berkshire	121,480	130,217
Number of councillors	43	43
Average number of electors per councillor	2,825	3,028

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 West Berkshire will have good electoral equality by 2023.

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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

### Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 7% by 2023.

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<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

21 As noted above, the Council provided updated electoral figures following challenges to the original figures provided. During consultation on our draft recommendations, some respondents queried whether growth, particularly in and around Newbury, would occur at the rates suggested. We recognise the difficulty in projecting figures and have considered the updated electorate forecasts provided by the Council and are satisfied that they are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce both our draft recommendations and final recommendations.

## Number of councillors

22 West Berkshire Council currently has 52 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and initially concluded that decreasing the number of councillors by 10 would make sure the Council could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We therefore invited proposals for a new pattern of wards that would be represented by 42 councillors – for example, 42 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

24 We received nine submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns, some of which were in support of the proposal to reduce, others opposed such a large decrease.

25 We noted the opposition to the reduction in council size but did not consider that there were specific alternatives that were proposed that would be better and therefore considered that a reduction of around 10 was still desirable.

26 However, during the development of our draft recommendations, we could not identify a warding pattern for 42 councillors that had good electoral equality and which would reflect the community evidence we had received across the authority. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 43-member council as we considered this would better facilitate a warding pattern that reflected the statutory criteria. This approach is consistent with our guidance where we state it may be necessary to increase or decrease the council size by one or two members to ensure better boundaries or the better reflection of community identity.

27 We received six submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. The majority of the submissions were supportive of a reduction in the size of the Council from 52 members to 43 members. We have therefore maintained 43 councillors for our final recommendations.

## Ward boundaries consultation

28 As detailed above we undertook two periods of consultation on warding arrangements as a result of updated electorate forecasts. Across both stages we received 76 submissions. We received three district-wide schemes. The district-wide schemes we received from West Berkshire Council (the Council) and the Newbury

and West Berkshire Liberal Democrats (the Liberal Democrats) provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for West Berkshire. We received a submission from an individual, whose district-wide scheme was similar to the Council's proposal.

29 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of the Council's and Liberal Democrats' proposals. In some areas of the district we also incorporated the views of parish councils and local residents where they provided evidence of community links and strong and identifiable boundaries. In some areas, we considered that the proposals received did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of West Berkshire helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

30 The Commission seeks to avoid splitting up areas which share the same community identity. In the rural areas of West Berkshire, we received a lot of submissions that provided evidence of overlapping community interests, whereby some parish councils considered they shared a community of interest with other parishes, but other parish councils gave contrasting views. Accordingly, in some areas we were not able to identify a warding pattern that reflected all the locally proposed schemes and we took the decision to create larger two- and three-member wards that combined parishes together but also included other parishes. We noted that while this resulted in large wards it did not divide communities but linked a number of parishes that may not share common interests.

31 Our draft recommendations were for seven three-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and four one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests.

## Draft recommendations consultation

32 We received 75 submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations. We received four partial district-wide schemes from the Council, the Liberal Democrats, the Newbury Labour Party (the Labour Party) and the West Berkshire Conservative Association (the Conservatives). While these submissions supported the majority of our draft recommendations, they opposed the creation of large rural two and three-member wards. These respondents provided alternative proposals for the areas in and around Aldermaston, Bucklebury, Bradfield, Burghfield, Basildon, Compton, Hungerford, Kintbury, Newbury, Cold Ash and Thatcham. The submission from the Council also provided an alternative warding pattern in Tilehurst and Purley-on-Thames. The Labour Party provided an alternative warding pattern for the Downlands ward.

33 We received a submission from the West Berkshire Green Party which requested that West Berkshire be represented by 43 single-member wards, on the basis that this would provide a more democratic voting system in West Berkshire, but did not provide a specific warding pattern.

34 In total we received 36 submissions that opposed three-member wards, and in particular three-member rural wards. These respondents considered that these wards are too geographically large to represent the distinctly different communities in the area. We received persuasive evidence of community identities in relation to our proposed Aldermaston & Bucklebury ward, Basildon & Compton ward and Thatcham Central & Crookham ward. As part of our final recommendations we have broken these wards down into smaller wards represented by either one or two members. We received proposals to make our proposed Hungerford & Kintbury ward, Burghfield & Mortimer ward and our Newbury wards smaller too. However, we have not amended these wards significantly as we were either not provided with sufficient evidence of community identity or the alternative smaller wards created variances that were significantly higher than the Commission considers is acceptable.

35 We received three submissions that provided general support for our draft recommendations. We also received one submission that provided support for our creation of three-member wards in West Berkshire.

36 We received nine submissions that referred to issues that are outside the scope of the review in relation to issues including parliamentary boundaries and the external boundary of West Berkshire Council. Accordingly, we are unable to take these submissions into consideration.

37 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with alterations to our multi-member wards in Aldermaston & Bucklebury, Basildon & Compton, Thatcham Central & Crookham and a modification to the ward boundaries in Burghfield & Mortimer, Newbury Clay Hill and Chieveley & Cold Ash.

38 We received requests to rename some of the wards so that they would more clearly identify the area. We chose to adopt some of the proposed name changes, mainly in the areas of Newbury, Thatcham, Basildon and Ridgeway.

## Final recommendations

39 Pages 10–29 detail our final recommendations for each area of West Berkshire. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

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

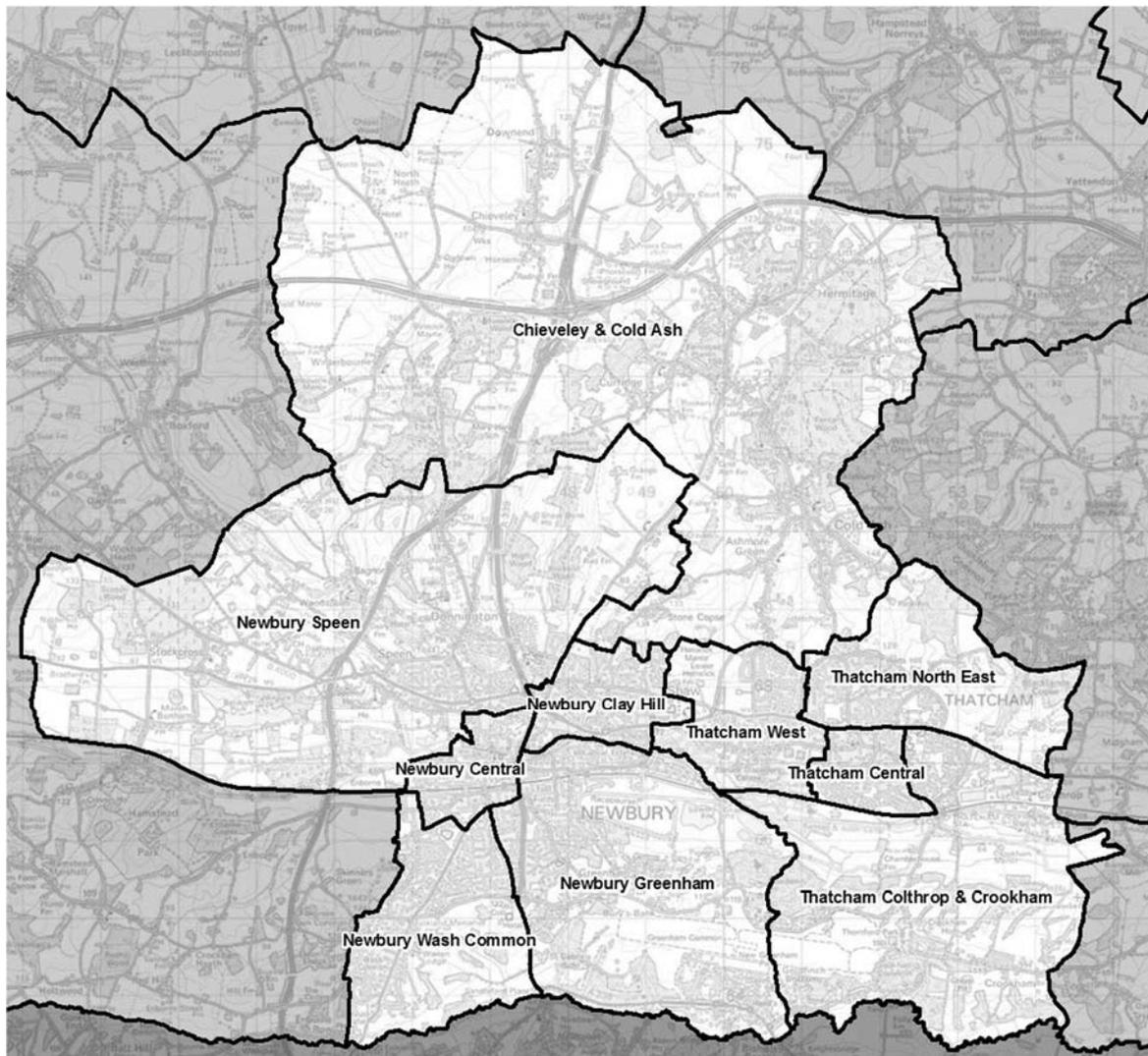
40 Our final recommendations are for five three-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and ten one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during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

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<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

41 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 30 and on the large map accompanying this report.

## Newbury, Thatcham and surrounds



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Chieveley & Cold Ash	2	-8%
Newbury Clay Hill	2	-1%
Newbury Central	2	-1%
Newbury Greenham	3	5%
Newbury Speen	2	2%
Newbury Wash Common	3	4%
Thatcham Central	2	-7%
Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham	1	-9%
Thatcham North East	2	-1%
Thatcham West	2	-3%

### *Chieveley & Cold Ash*

42 We received few representations about the principle of the four parishes to be included in this ward. We did, however, receive a number of representations both in our initial consultation and in our consultation on our draft recommendations about our decision not to include the whole of Cold Ash parish in the ward. As part of our draft recommendations we included three areas of Cold Ash parish in two different wards to the south – we included an area known as Clay Hill in a Newbury ward and two other areas in a Thatcham ward. We did this having considered representations during the initial consultation that suggested that these areas, particularly Florence Gardens and the area which we referred to as Little Copse in our draft recommendations (around Southend, Billington Way and the Heath Lane area), should remain in the same ward as the rest of Cold Ash parish.

43 In response to our draft recommendations, the Council, Thatcham Town Council and a local resident proposed that Florence Gardens be included in the same ward as the majority of Cold Ash parish to the north. Thatcham Town Council and the local resident also requested that that area we referred to as Little Copse in the draft recommendations be included in the Chieveley & Cold Ash ward. The local resident noted that keeping these two areas with the majority of Cold Ash parish would better reflect the community identity of the parish.

44 The Council noted that including Florence Gardens with the rest of the parish would remove the requirement for such a small area to be represented by one parish councillor.

45 The Liberal Democrats supported the draft recommendations for including the area of Florence Gardens within a Thatcham West ward.

46 Hermitage Parish Council requested that the name of this ward be amended to better represent the area of Hermitage, proposing the ward name of 'Chieveley, Hermitage and Cold Ash'.

47 We note the strong views of those who consider that Florence Gardens and the area referred to as Little Copse should be included to the north with the rest of Cold Ash parish and not in Thatcham wards. However, we do not consider that we have received sufficient community identity evidence to move away from our draft recommendations. Our recommendations do not change the parish boundary; this is something that is not the responsibility of the Commission and is entirely a matter for West Berkshire Council.

48 We do acknowledge the view of the Council regarding the parish warding that will be required if Florence Gardens is to be included in a Thatcham ward. While we recognise this is the case, the Commission does not consider this is a reason not to reflect the stronger boundary that we consider our proposed boundary provides.

49 We are confirming our draft recommendations as final in this area with the exception of transferring the development off Stoney Lane into Newbury Clay Hill ward. We acknowledge the views about retaining the whole of Cold Ash parish together in the same ward but note that we have received different views about each of the three different areas and have not received persuasive evidence to justify

retaining any of them in the ward to the north. We are not persuaded by the proposal to rename the ward using three of the four parishes as we consider this would be inconsistent with regards to the fourth parish not being named.

50 Our final recommendations are for a two-member Chieveley & Cold Ash ward that will produce a variance of -8% by 2023.

#### *Newbury Clay Hill*

51 The Liberal Democrats proposed expanding the Newbury Speen ward to include electors in Hutton Close that are currently within the Clay Hill ward. Its proposed wards would produce a two-member Newbury & Speen ward with a variance of -2% and a two-member Clay Hill ward with a variance of -6%. It also proposed that the expected development off Stoney Lane be included in its proposed Clay Hill ward, instead of being included in a Chieveley & Cold Ash ward.

52 A local resident noted that the proposed Clay Hill ward was small and that it should be 'part of the wider/Newbury/Speen ward'.

53 We received a joint submission from Councillor Beck and Councillor Goff, which stated that they both supported our draft recommendations for the area.

54 We considered the proposals made by the Liberal Democrats; however, the decision to expand the ward boundary to include the electors within Hutton Close would create an unviable parish ward in Newbury parish containing only 88 electors. Therefore, we chose not to adopt this boundary alteration.

55 The request from a local resident to include the Clay Hill ward within a larger Newbury ward was not supported by a boundary proposal or any evidence of how this would improve representation in the area, and we have not made any alterations to reflect this request.

56 With regards to the development off Stoney Lane, we did note that this development is likely to look towards the town of Newbury for its facilities rather than Cold Ash parish. If the boundary of the Clay Hill ward was extended to include this development, it would create a two-member Clay Hill ward which would produce a variance of -1% and a two-member Chieveley & Cold Ash ward which would produce a variance of -8%. We are proposing to adopt this suggestion as this creates wards with good variances and keeps the new development within a Newbury ward.

57 The Council requested to apply the prefix of 'Newbury' to the ward names in the area of Newbury. We agree that it does provide clarity and consistency in West Berkshire and are content to support the proposal.

58 We are therefore confirming that our proposed Clay Hill ward will be renamed Newbury Clay Hill and will include the development off Stoney Lane. We are making no other changes to our draft recommendations.

59 Our final recommendations are for a two-member Newbury Clay Hill ward that will produce a variance of -1% by 2023.

### *Newbury Speen*

60 The Liberal Democrats proposed two alterations to the boundaries of the Newbury Speen ward. It proposed that the rural area of Speen (west of the A34) be included with the western area of Enborne parish and the northern area of Kintbury parish (area north of River Kennet and west of Kintbury/A4 crossroads) in order to create a one-member Kintbury ward.

61 It also proposed including the area of Ley Gardens into the Newbury Speen ward, removing it from Newbury Central ward. This would create two-member wards with variances of -4% and -2% respectively.

62 It proposed that the draft recommendations name of 'Newbury & Speen' be changed to 'Speen & Shaw' on the basis this would better reflect the historical parish and county division names in this area.

63 The first alteration proposed by the Liberal Democrats to create a rural Kintbury ward would create an unviable parish ward in Enborne parish. By dividing Enborne parish along the A34, the western part would only contain 87 electors, and this makes an unviable parish ward as it contains too few electors. It would also have significant knock-on effects on the rest of the wards in this area and we do not consider we have evidence to justify this. Accordingly, we have decided not to adopt this proposal. We are not persuaded by the evidence provided to move the area of Ley Gardens from Newbury Central to Newbury Speen and therefore chose not to include this alteration.

64 We support the proposal by the Council to include Newbury as a prefix to all wards in the town and are not proposing to adopt the Liberal Democrats' proposed name change. We are therefore confirming that this ward will be named Newbury Speen.

65 We are confirming our draft recommendations for a two-member Newbury Speen ward as part of our final recommendations. It is forecast to have a variance of 2% by 2023.

### *Newbury Central*

66 We received one submission regarding the proposed Newbury Central ward (see paragraph 63). However, it was part of a wider proposal to make a series of modifications, none of which we are proposing to make. Accordingly, we are confirming our draft recommendations for a Newbury Central ward as final. Our final recommendations are for a two-member Newbury Central ward that will produce a variance of -1% by 2023.

### *Newbury Greenham and Newbury Wash Common*

67 The Council provided an alternative warding arrangement for the wards of Newbury Greenham and Newbury Wash Common. Our draft recommendations used the A339 in the south, and in the town of Newbury followed along Newton Road and the A343. The Council's submission highlighted that Newton Road is the focal point for the area and that the A339 provides a stronger boundary between Newbury Town and the northern area of Greenham. In the southern area between Newbury Town and Greenham, the Council proposed that the boundary be moved off the A339 and

instead follow around the western boundary of the Sandleford development, which would result in the Sandleford development being included in a Greenham ward.

68 It proposed that with these boundary changes in place, the remaining area of Wash Common should be split into two wards. A Newbury St Johns ward to the north would run its southern boundary along Essex Street and behind the properties to the south of Monks Lane. This would create a one-member ward which would produce a 1% variance by 2023. Councillor Pick was in support of this proposed ward. In the south, the Council proposed a Newbury Wash Common ward comprising the area of Wash Common and the parish of Enborne in its entirety. The Council considered that this ward would reflect the separate community identity in this area, as those in Wash Common identify as being separate from Newbury. This would create a two-member ward which would produce a variance of 5% by 2023.

69 The Council provided two warding proposals for the remainder of the Greenham area. The first option retains the area in a three-member Greenham ward, comprising the whole parish of Greenham and the area of Newbury known as East Fields, which lies east of the A339, in between Greenham and Newbury. This ward would have a variance of 15% by 2023. The second option splits the area into two wards: a two-member Greenham ward that comprises Greenham parish in its entirety and produces a variance of -4%; and a one-member East Fields ward that comprises the remaining area and produces a variance of 53%.

70 The Liberal Democrats and a local resident proposed that Enborne parish be split along the A34, with the eastern part being included in a Wash Common ward to the east. The Liberal Democrats opposed our draft recommendations for a three-member ward in this area, with little alternative evidence or clear boundaries, and we have not been persuaded to adopt this proposal.

71 We received a submission from Enborne Parish Council which was in support of our draft recommendations to include Enborne parish within a Hungerford & Kintbury ward.

72 The Conservatives provided support for the Council's proposed St Johns ward, East Fields ward and its Greenham ward on the basis that these wards better reflect the community identity of the areas.

73 The West Berkshire Liberal Democrats did support the Council's recommendation to use the A339 as a clear boundary between Newbury and Greenham in the town as opposed to the draft recommendations boundary. It requested that the area of Greenham and Wash Common should be represented by three two-member wards, with a slight alteration proposed to the Newbury Central boundary.

74 While we note the opposition to our draft recommendations and the alternatives proposed we are confirming our draft recommendations as final in this area. The alternative proposals provide poorer levels of electoral equality and link the Sandleford development with the area to its east while the development itself will have access to the north and we are not persuaded that this will better reflect community identities.

75 The wards of these names will be changing to reflect the Council's request for naming consistency. This will create a three-member Newbury Greenham ward that will produce a variance of 5% by 2023 and a three-member Newbury Wash Common ward with a variance of 4% by 2023.

#### *Thatcham Central and Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham*

76 The Council supported the majority of the draft recommendations for the area of Thatcham; however, it believed that that the Thatcham Central & Crookham ward should be split into two wards to better reflect the community identity of the town. It proposed dividing the ward through the centre, running the boundary south along Stoney Lane and onto Station Road, with its southern boundary running west along the railway, creating a Thatcham Central ward with a variance of -7% by 2023. The remaining area would form a Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham ward with a variance of -9% by 2023.

77 We received support for the Council's proposed Thatcham Central and Thatcham Colthrop & Central ward from the Liberal Democrats, the Conservatives, the West Berkshire Liberal Democrats, Thatcham Town Council, Councillor Boeck and a local resident. The submissions noted that these wards would better reflect the distinctly different community identities of Thatcham town centre and contrasting rural part of Thatcham to the south. The Labour Party also requested that this area of Thatcham be divided into two smaller wards though did not specify boundaries.

78 In addition to its support of the Council's ward alterations, Thatcham Town Council provided alternative names for all of the Thatcham wards. However, it did not provide sufficient evidence to persuade us to adopt its proposed name changes in Thatcham.

79 We have been persuaded by the evidence provided that the three-member Thatcham Central & Crookham ward proposed as part of our draft recommendations should be divided to better reflect the community identity in the area. We are therefore adopting the scheme proposed by the Council and widely supported as we believe this provides better representation of the local communities in the area.

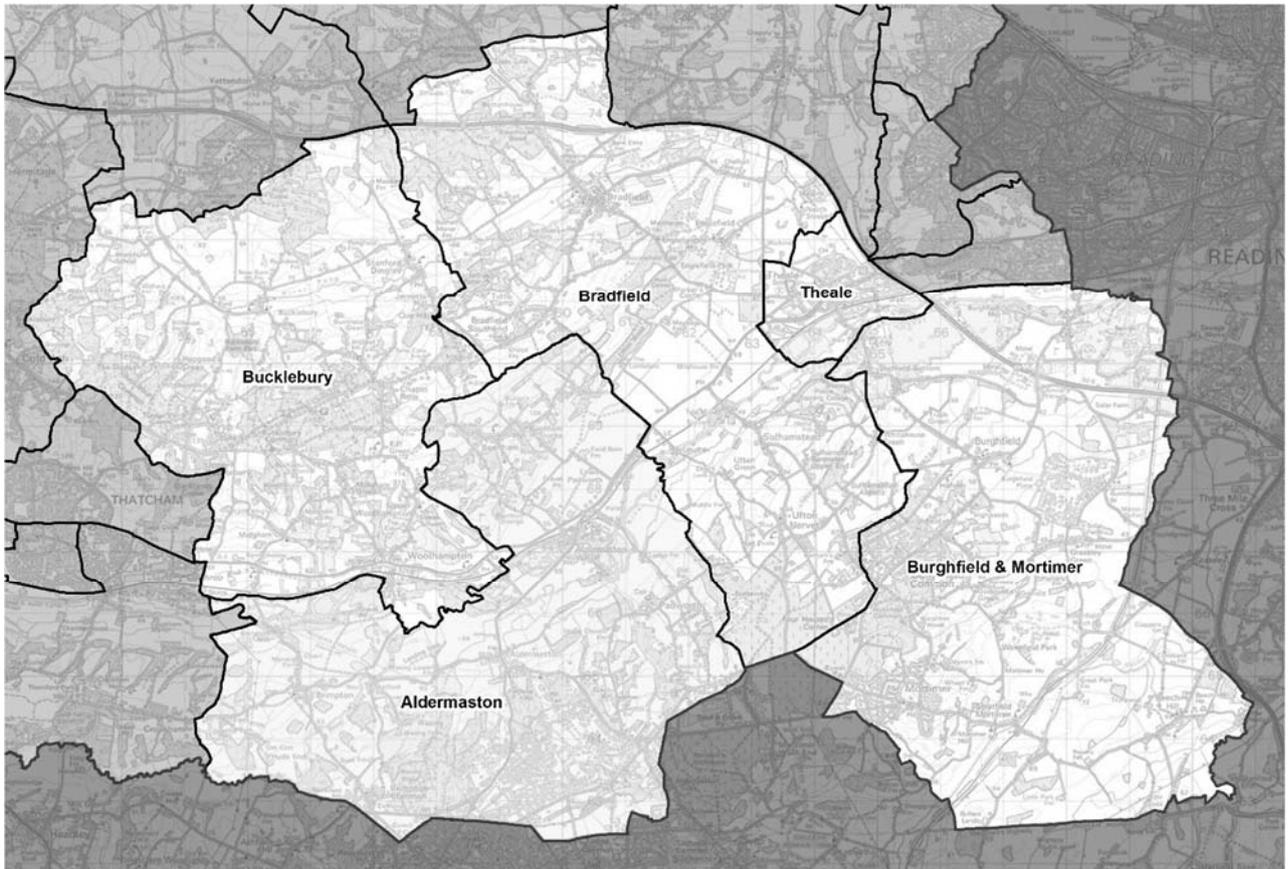
80 We are confirming a two-member Thatcham Central ward that will produce a variance of -7% by 2023 and a one-member Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham ward with a variance of -9% by 2023 as part of our final recommendations.

#### *Thatcham North East and Thatcham West*

81 The only submissions we received for this area referred to the removal of the areas of Florence Gardens and Little Copse from Thatcham wards, see paragraphs 42–50.

82 Accordingly, we are confirming our draft recommendations for a two-member Thatcham North East ward which will produce a variance of -1% by 2023 and a two-member Thatcham West ward which will produce a variance of -3% by 2023, as part of our final recommendations.

## Eastern areas



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Aldermaston	1	4%
Bradfield	1	2%
Bucklebury	1	-1%
Burghfield & Mortimer	3	-1%
Theale	1	3%

### *Aldermaston, Bradfield and Bucklebury*

83 We received 23 submissions regarding our draft recommendations in these areas, the majority of which were in opposition to the creation of multi-member wards. Respondents generally noted their preference for three one-member wards that would better reflect the distinct individual community identities across this area.

84 We received 13 submissions that all opposed the three-member Aldermaston & Bucklebury ward and requested that the ward be divided into smaller wards to reflect the distinctly different communities in this area.

85 Respondents noted that the draft recommendations proposed a ward that was too large geographically, which contained too many parishes. Respondents considered that residents of Aldermaston and Bucklebury look to different areas for their local facilities and are dependent on different transport networks.

86 The Council opposed the draft recommendations on the basis that three councillors would not be able to effectively represent the diverse characteristics of the area. It believed that three councillors would not be able to effectively represent the 15 parishes. Councillor Pask also provided a similar view regarding representation.

87 The Council proposed three single-member wards for the area. It noted that by dividing the area into smaller wards this would better reflect the existing relationships between the parishes. In addition, it noted that the churches in this area work in clusters together and that this was reflected in its proposal.

88 The Council proposed a one-member Aldermaston ward that combined the parishes of Aldermaston, Beenham, Brimpton, Padworth and Wasing, which would produce a variance of 4% by 2023. It noted that these parishes all look towards Aldermaston for their train services and that the Aldermaston church beneficiary included the churches of Beenham, Brimpton and Wasing.

89 The Council proposed a one-member Bradfield ward that combined the parishes of Bradfield, Englefield, Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet, which would produce a variance of 2% by 2023. It noted that that the parishes of Englefield and Bradfield look more towards Theale town for their rail services than towards Aldermaston. As part of its proposal the Council included the whole of Sulhamstead parish in its proposed Bradfield ward instead of the southern part being included with parishes to the north and west.

90 The Council proposed a one-member Bucklebury ward that combined the parishes of Bucklebury, Frilsham, Midgham, Stanford Dingley and Woolhampton which would produce a variance of 7% by 2023. It noted that these parishes look towards Midgham for their train services and that the churches of Midgham & Woolhampton and Bucklebury & Stanford Dingley are closely aligned.

91 We received a joint submission from Councillor Bridgman, Councillor Chopping, Councillor Doerge and Councillor Morrin who provided support for the Council's proposals in this area, noting that the parish of Sulhamstead should not be split

across two wards. The Liberal Democrats, Councillor Pask, the Conservatives, Brimpton Parish Council, Woolhampton Parish Council and Councillor Boeck also all opposed the three-member Aldermaston & Bucklebury ward and proposed or supported the same warding arrangements as those outlined by the Council.

92 A local resident requested that the existing arrangements be maintained in this area; however, those warding arrangements would produce poor variances by 2023 and we are choosing not to adopt that proposal.

93 Frilsham Parish Council requested to be included within the same ward as Yattendon parish, on the basis that Frilsham residents look towards Yattendon for their local facilities and that they share a community identity. It noted that both parishes currently fall within the same ecclesiastical parish and that they have numerous joint sports teams and local trusts.

94 Woolhampton Parish Council requested that the wards in this area be renamed to reflect the largest parish within each ward.

95 On the basis of the evidence received and the strong opposition to our three-member Aldermaston & Bucklebury ward we are proposing to make changes to our draft recommendations. We are proposing to adopt the Council's proposal, with one modification.

96 We note that the Council's proposal unites the whole of Sulhamstead parish in the same ward. In our draft recommendations Sulhamstead parish is divided between wards, with the southern part being included within our proposed Burghfield & Mortimer ward. We acknowledge that the southern part of Sulhamstead parish does seem to form part of Burghfield Common's settlement and this was part of the reason that we proposed this ward as part of our draft recommendations. However, if we excluded this area of Sulhamstead parish from the Council's proposed Bradfield ward, this would create a ward with a poor variance that we do not consider is justified. We also note the support for uniting Sulhamstead parish in the same ward.

97 While we are content to adopt the Council's proposals in this area we are proposing to transfer Frilsham parish out of its proposed Bucklebury ward and into our proposed Ridgeway ward that we have identified as part of our final recommendations. We consider that we have received strong evidence that Frilsham and Yattendon parishes should be included in the same ward. Uniting them in our Ridgeway ward provides better variances than including them both in the Bucklebury ward.

98 As part of our final recommendations we are proposing a one-member Aldermaston ward that will produce a variance of 4% by 2023; a one-member Bradfield ward that will produce a variance of 2% by 2023; and a one-member Bucklebury ward that will produce a variance of -1% by 2023.

#### *Burghfield & Mortimer*

99 Our draft recommendations in this area join Burghfield parish and Stratfield Mortimer parish in one ward which we recognised in our draft recommendation was not locally supported, as the areas have little in common. This was highlighted to us

again in response to our draft recommendations, with a number of respondents making representations that we should divide the two areas.

100 The West Berkshire Liberal Democrats provided evidence that highlighted the two very distinct community identities of Burghfield and Mortimer. It noted that each area has their own shopping facilities, doctors, schools, churches, libraries, sports teams and acknowledged that both areas are identified as separate rural settlements within the West Berkshire Council's Local Plan.

101 A local resident proposed that the southern part of Sulhamstead parish be included within a two-member Burghfield ward, as this would better reflect the community identity in the area. His proposed Bradfield ward would combine the parishes of Burghfield and Sulhamstead into a two-member ward which would produce a variance of 1% and reflect the community identity in the area. However, his proposed Mortimer ward would combine the parishes of Stratfield Mortimer, Beech Hill and Wokefield into a one-member ward which would produce a variance of 28%. The Liberal Democrats provided direct support for this proposal. We are not persuaded to adopt this proposal because of the poor level of electoral equality that it would provide.

102 We received a submission from a local resident who requested that the Burghfield & Mortimer ward be divided into two two-member wards. As mentioned above, if the Mortimer area of the proposal were to be created into a one-member ward this would produce an unacceptable variance of 28%. Under a two-member ward the variance would be worse and we chose not to accept this proposal.

103 Beech Hill Parish Council opposed being represented within a three-member ward. It requested that the existing warding arrangements be retained in this area. However, as this would result in a variance of -36% we are not persuaded to adopt it.

104 We received a submission from a local resident that was in support of our draft recommendations in this area. It supported the requirement to split the parish of Sulhamstead across two wards as this would better reflect the local community identity.

105 Councillor Bridgman's submission was in support of our draft recommendations for Burghfield & Mortimer ward; however, it requested that the southern part of Sulhamstead parish be removed, so that the parish could be kept wholly within another ward.

106 Wokingham Liberal Democrats acknowledged that the southern part of Sulhamstead parish makes up part of the Burghfield Common settlement and considered that all of Sulhamstead parish should be included in a Burghfield ward as this would be the best representation of the local community identity. It also requested that the parishes of Ufton Nervet and Padworth should be represented within a Mortimer ward, as this would provide the best representation of the local community. It also noted that it would prefer that the areas of Burghfield and Mortimer be represented by separate wards.

107 We acknowledge all the evidence that we have received from both periods of consultation that highlight the different communities of Burghfield and Mortimer and the requests that these areas be represented in two different wards. However, our draft recommendation to create a three-member ward and combine these communities was in order to avoid creating a ward that would be significantly under-represented. We acknowledge that this ward does not reflect what communities are telling us about the area, but we have not been able to identify an alternative warding pattern that allows us to do this and which will provide for an acceptable level of electoral equality in both wards. Accordingly, we are continuing to link the two parishes in the same ward.

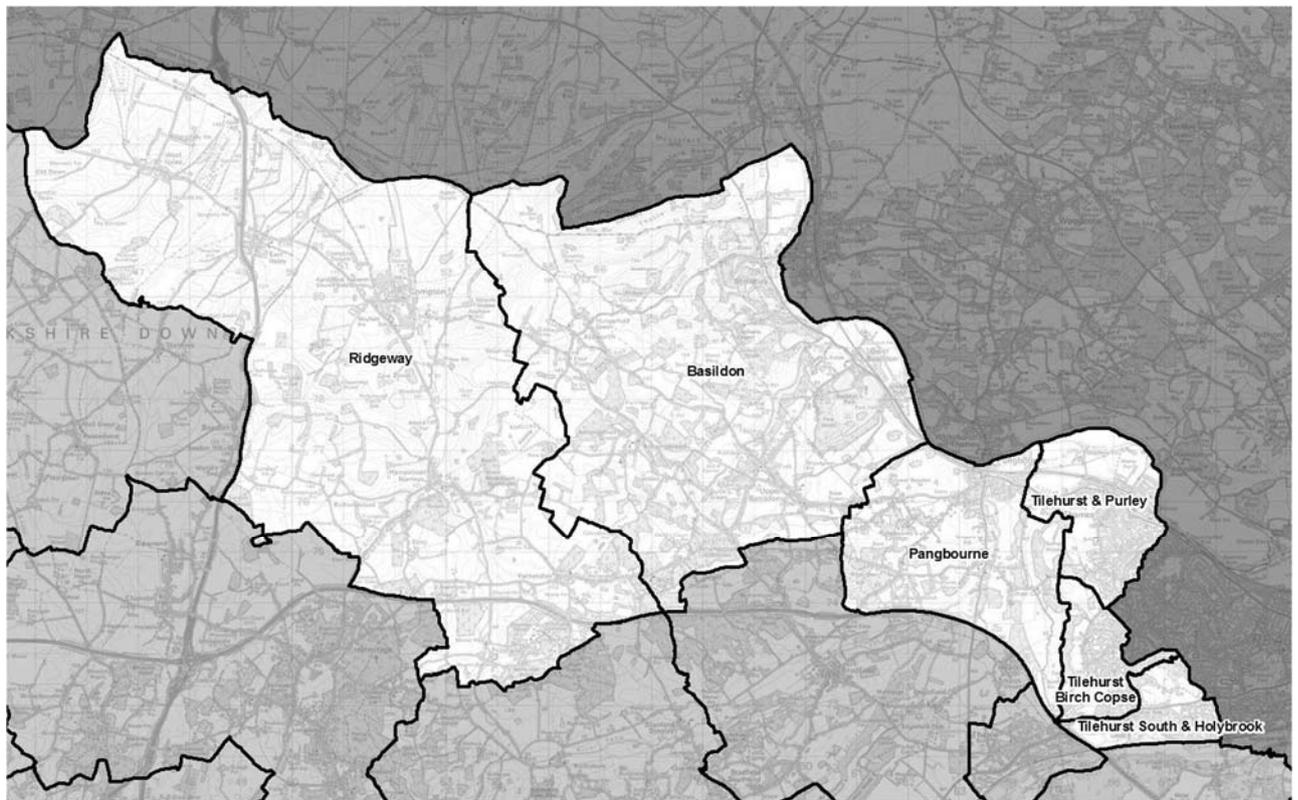
108 We are confirming our draft recommendations in this area with one modification. We are transferring the southern part of Sulhamstead parish out of the ward and including it in our Bradfield ward as this will facilitate a warding pattern that better reflects our criteria in that area. Our final recommendation in this area is for a three-member Burghfield & Mortimer ward that will produce a variance of -1% by 2023.

#### *Theale*

109 We received four submissions in this area from the Liberal Democrats, Councillor Macro, Theale Parish Council and a local resident, which all expressed support for our draft recommendations. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for a one-member Theale ward that will produce a variance of 3% as part of our final recommendations.



## Northern areas



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Basildon	1	-1%
Pangbourne	1	-3%
Ridgeway	1	5%
Tilehurst & Purley	3	-2%
Tilehurst Birch Copse	2	1%
Tilehurst South & Holybrook	2	-4%

### *Basildon and Ridgeway*

110 We received 11 submissions regarding the Basildon and Compton area during the consultation on our draft recommendations. The majority of the submissions objected to the two-member Basildon & Compton ward. The objections received centred around the fact that the parishes in the Basildon area have a distinctly different community identity to the villages in the Compton area and therefore should not be combined within the same ward.

111 The Council proposed that this ward should be divided into two separate one-member wards, to better reflect the different community identities. Its Basildon ward combined the parishes of Basildon, Streatley, Ashampstead and Aldworth and would produce a variance of -1% by 2023. It proposed that the remaining parishes of East Ilsley, West Ilsley, Compton, Hampstead Norreys and Yattendon be combined into another ward named Ridgeway, which would produce a variance of -3% by 2023.

112 The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats supported the ward alterations proposed by the Council. Councillor Boeck also proposed the same warding arrangements as the Council on the basis that it better reflects the community identities in the area.

113 Councillor Law noted support for our draft recommendation in this area, as it retained the link between the existing Basildon ward and the parish of Ashampstead. However, he noted that his preference was to support the Council's proposal as it better reflected the overall community identity in the area. A local resident supported Councillor Law's views.

114 West Ilsley Parish Council did not object to the Basildon & Compton ward but requested that the ward name reflect the inclusion of the Ilsley area.

115 Hampstead Norreys Parish Council provided support for the draft recommendations as it considered it to better reflected its community than if it were included in a Chieveley ward. However, it opposed large three-member wards on principle.

116 We received a submission from a local resident who noted that the areas of Basildon and Compton currently share a common interest in the geography of Pang Valley and are both subject to the same flood risk in the area. He did not provide warding proposals for the area.

117 We received three submissions requesting that our two-member Basildon & Compton ward be divided into two wards, but they did not provide specific proposals.

118 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the evidence we received during the warding consultation, which highlighted that the parish of Ashampstead shared strong community links with both Compton parish and Basildon parish. However, we do acknowledge that the evidence received during our draft recommendation consultation reflects other evidence from our previous consultation, that the parishes of Compton and Basildon represent two separate communities. During the formulation of our draft recommendations we did not receive sufficient evidence to persuade us to divide the area between two wards and we chose to

combine the area into one large two-member ward. We acknowledge the support we did receive for our draft recommendations; however, we have been persuaded by the views put forward that a two-member ward will better reflect the statutory criteria.

119 We would like to note the submission we received from Frilsham Parish Council to include the parish in the same ward as Yattendon parish (see paragraph 93). We were persuaded by the submission to combine both parishes within the same ward. Frilsham Parish Council did not specify which ward it would like both parishes to be included in. We are proposing to include both parishes in our Ridgeway ward as this will provide a better level of electoral equality than including them both in our Bucklebury ward.

120 Our final recommendations will combine the warding pattern outlined by the Council, with the addition of including Frilsham parish into the proposed Ridgeway ward. We have also decided to adopt the Ridgeway ward name proposed by the Council, as it reflects the geography of the area.

121 We are proposing a one-member Basildon ward that will produce a variance of -1% by 2023 and a one-member Ridgeway ward with a variance of 5% by 2023, as part of our final recommendations.

*Pangbourne, Tilehurst & Purley, Tilehurst Birch Copse, Tilehurst South and Holybrook*

122 We received six submissions that focused primarily on the wards in the northern part of the area. The majority of the submissions provided conflicting evidence of what the ward boundaries around Purley-on-Thames parish should be.

123 The Council proposed that our three-member Tilehurst & Purley ward be divided into two smaller wards on the basis that the residents tend to look towards their own parish centre for their local facilities and that the two parishes have different communities. Its proposed two-member Purley ward combined the parish of Purley-on-Thames with the north-eastern corner of Tilehurst parish. The remaining northern part of Tilehurst parish would form a one-member ward. Both of these wards would produce a variance of -2% by 2023.

124 The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats supported the ward alterations proposed by the Council. Councillor Boeck proposed the exact same warding arrangements as the Council on the basis that it reflects the community identities in the area.

125 Councillor Jones noted his opposition to the Commission's draft recommendations for the area, rather than providing support for the Council's original submission in this area, which combined the parishes of Pangbourne and Purley-on-Thames in the same ward. He noted that the Council's original proposal reflected the strong community links between Pangbourne and Purley. Councillor Jones noted that Purley residents look to Pangbourne as their local service hub, for their library, restaurants, GP surgeries and police services, which is supported by a strong bus network. He requested that the parishes of Purley-on-Thames and Pangbourne be combined into a two-member ward.

126 We received a submission from Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council, which supported our recommendation to include their parishes within the same ward as Pangbourne. It believes that these parishes have strong geographical links and face similar issues.

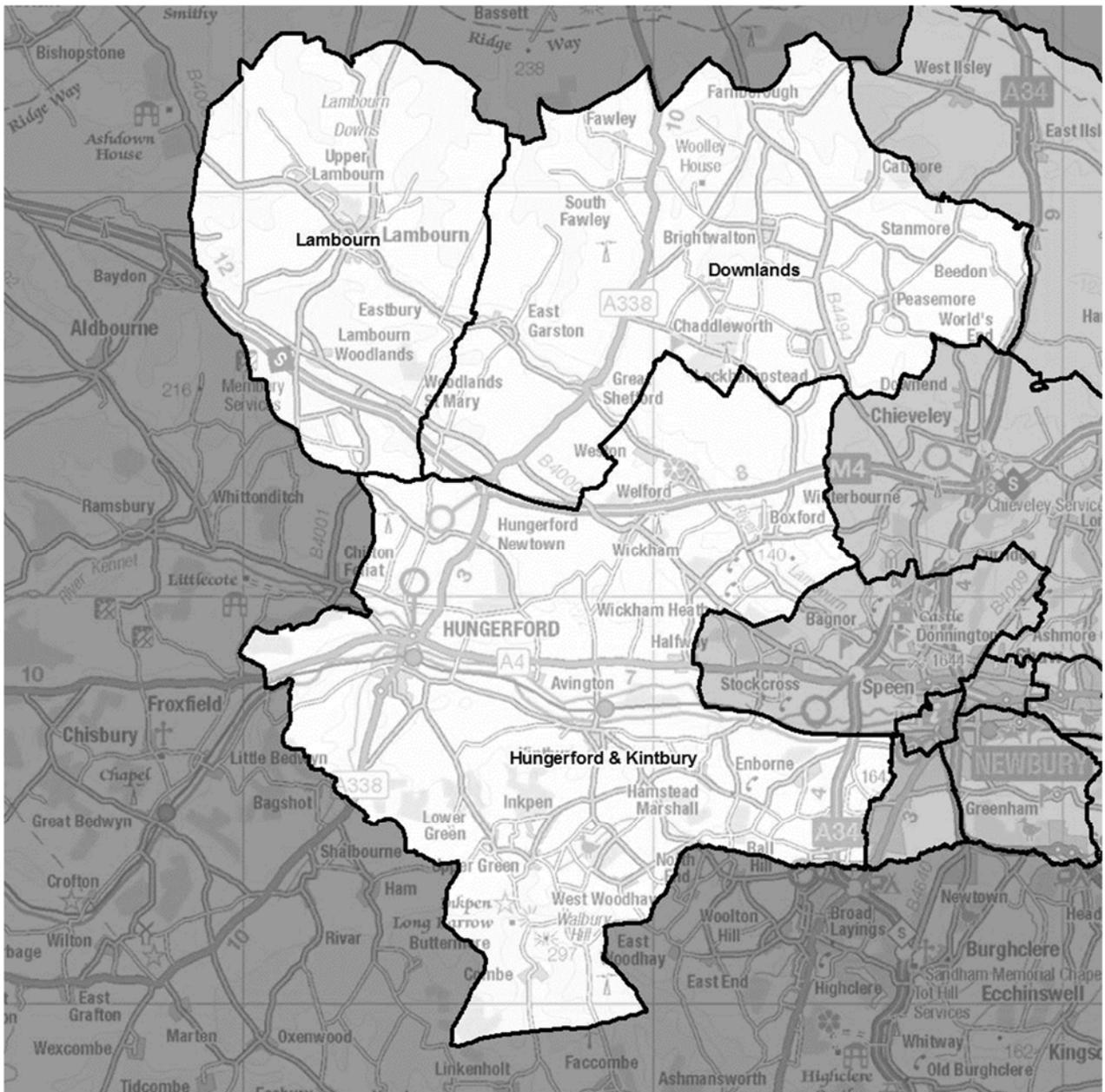
127 Tilehurst Parish Council requested that the ward boundaries in this area should reflect its parish boundaries; however, as noted in our draft recommendations, this would create wards with poor variances and with no additional evidence supplied during this consultation, we chose not to adopt this proposal.

128 When creating warding patterns, we seek to ensure that there are good transport links within the whole of the ward. This enables electors to travel from one side of the ward to the other, without having to cross the ward boundary. The Council's proposed Purley ward does not have any direct road access between the Tilehurst area with the remainder of the ward. We do not consider that this will provide for effective and convenient local government and we are therefore not persuaded to adopt this proposal.

129 Our draft recommendations for our Pangbourne ward were based on evidence that the parishes of Tidmarsh, Sulham and Pangbourne share strong community links and have little in common with the area of Purley. We noted in our draft recommendations that as a result of our warding arrangements in the southern area of Tilehurst, we had to include Purley-on-Thames parish within a Tilehurst ward to create a ward with good variances. We are not persuaded by the evidence provided by Councillor Jones to remove Purley-on-Thames from being included within a Tilehurst ward.

130 We are proposing to confirm our draft recommendations as final in this area. Our final recommendations are for a one-member Pangbourne ward that will produce a variance of -3% by 2023; a three-member Tilehurst & Purley ward that will produce a variance of -2% by 2023; a two-member Tilehurst Birch Copse ward that will produce a variance of 1% by 2023; and a two-member Tilehurst South & Holybrook ward that will produce a variance of -4% by 2023.

## Western areas



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Downlands	1	1%
Hungerford & Kintbury	3	5%
Lambourn	1	10%

*Downlands, Hungerford & Kintbury and Lambourn*

131 The majority of the submissions we received were not in favour of our draft recommendation to create a three-member rural ward in Hungerford & Kintbury. Respondents requested that the urban area of Hungerford be represented in a different ward from the remainder of the area, considering that the ward is too geographically large to effectively represent the diverse characteristics of the area.

132 Councillor Stansfeld provided support for our draft recommendations; however, he noted that 'most locals would prefer' a single-member Kintbury ward.

133 Councillor Cole supported the creation of a three-member ward in this area; however, he expressed concern over the ward outlined in our draft recommendations being too large and considered that the Council's alternative proposal in this area was preferable.

134 A local resident opposed the creation of our three-member ward in this area on the basis that this ward is too large geographically and would not effectively represent the diverse characteristics of its urban and rural areas.

135 The West Berkshire Liberal Democrats requested that the proposed ward be divided into two wards to reflect the distinctly different community identities of the urban area of Hungerford and the rural area of Kintbury. It did not provide a warding scheme; however, if Hungerford parish was included into a ward in its entirety it would create a two-member ward which would produce a variance of -21%. This would result in the remaining area being combined with a one-member Kintbury ward which would produce a variance of 59%. If Enborne parish was then also removed from this rural Kintbury ward it would produce a variance of 37%.

136 The Liberal Democrats proposed excluding the north-western part of Kintbury parish and including it with part of Enborne parish within their proposed Newbury Speen ward (see paragraph 60). As explained above, this proposal would create an unviable parish ward in Enborne parish which we are choosing not to adopt. The Council and the Conservatives proposed removing Enborne parish from the draft recommendations and including it within a Newbury ward. Enborne Parish Council supported our recommendation to include their parish within a Hungerford & Kintbury ward.

137 Inkpen Parish Council opposed our draft recommendations for this area, considering that the proposed ward was too geographically large. They provided support for the existing warding arrangements and proposed that the parishes of Welford and Boxford be excluded from the area. This would create a two-member Hungerford ward which would produce a variance of -21% by 2023 and a two-member Kintbury ward which would produce a variance of -35% by 2023.

138 We received a submission from a local resident, requesting that the parishes of Boxford and Welford be excluded from the proposed Hungerford & Kintbury ward. It stated that these parishes north of the A4 have very little in common with Inkpen parish and the remainder of the proposed ward.

139 The Labour Party opposed our draft recommendations on the basis that they created a ward that was too geographically large. In order to resolve this issue, it proposed removing Welford and Boxford parishes and provided alterations to the proposed Lambourn and Downlands wards, to accommodate these parishes. Its proposed Hungerford ward with the exclusion of Welford and Boxford parishes would create a three-member ward which would produce a variance of -2%. Its proposed two-member Lambourn ward would combine the parishes of Lambourn, Welford, Boxford, East Garston and Great Shefford, which would produce a variance of -9%. Its proposed Downlands ward would combine the parishes of West Ilsley, Beedon, Peasemore, Catmore, Farnborough, Brightwalton, Leckhampstead, Chaddleworth and Fawley, which would produce a variance of -28%.

140 A local resident also proposed that the parish of West Ilsley be included within the proposed Downlands ward, as the parish is currently geographically divided from the Compton area by the A34.

141 We also received a submission from a local resident requesting that East Garston parish be included in the Lambourn ward, as this would provide better representation of their local community. They noted that those in East Garston currently travel to Lambourn for their shops, doctor's surgeries and community facilities.

142 We recognise the opposition to some of the wards outlined in our draft recommendations in this area, notably our Hungerford & Kintbury ward. We have sought to identify alternatives that reflect satisfactory levels of community identity. However, all of the alternatives provided to us during the consultation and alternatives we have considered in light of the evidence result in poor levels of electoral equality, as detailed below.

143 The proposal to remove the parishes of Welford and Boxford from the Hungerford & Kintbury ward would require the parishes to be absorbed by a neighbouring ward. We have considered including them, both together and individually, within the wards of Downlands and Chieveley. However, this would create wards which would produce unacceptably high variances by 2023. In addition to the poor variances it would create, there is very little evidence provided of commonality between these parishes and the neighbouring wards.

144 The Labour Party's proposal to create a two-member Lambourn ward would require the total number of councillors to increase from 43 to 44. We are not persuaded by the evidence provided to adopt this proposal to change council size.

145 We were not persuaded by the evidence to remove West Ilsley parish from our proposed Ridgeway ward. During this consultation we received a submission from West Ilsley Parish Council expressing their support for being included within the same ward as Compton parish.

146 During both consultations we have received evidence requesting that the parish of East Garston be included into the Lambourn ward. If we were to remove the parish from the Downlands ward and include it within the Lambourn ward, this would

create one-member wards which would produce poor variances of -13% and 25% respectively.

147 We are persuaded by the evidence during both consultation periods that the parish of Enborne should be included with rural parishes to its west than including it within a Newbury ward. The West Berkshire Liberal Democrats proposal to divide Enborne parish and include the area west of the A34 would result in an unviable parish ward being created, as it would only represent 87 electors.

148 We acknowledge the opposition to our draft recommendations in this area, which request support for smaller wards that better reflect the contrasting rural and urban areas. However, we were not persuaded by the evidence provided to support the poor variances that would be created if we altered our draft recommendations. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final for our wards in this area.

149 Our final recommendations are for a one-member Downlands ward that will produce a variance of 1% by 2023; a three-member Hungerford & Kintbury ward that will produce a variance of 5% by 2023; and a one-member Lambourn ward that will produce a variance of 10% by 2023.

## Conclusions

150 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2017 and 2023 electorate figures.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	43	43
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	2,825	3,028
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Final recommendation

West Berkshire Council should be made up of 43 councillors serving 24 wards representing 10 single-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and five three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

#### Mapping

**Sheet 1, Map 1** shows the proposed wards for West Berkshire Council. You can also view our final recommendations for West Berkshire on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

### Parish electoral arrangements

151 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 ward 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.

152 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, West Berkshire 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.

153 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Cold Ash parish, Greenham parish, Newbury parish, Thatcham parish and Tilehurst parish.

154 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 Cold Ash parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
Cold Ash Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Cold Ash	7
Florence Gardens	1
Little Copse	1
Manor Park	2

155 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 Greenham parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
Greenham Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Common	10
Sandleford	5

156 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 Newbury parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
Newbury Parish Council should comprise 23 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Clay Hill	5
East Fields	5
Speenhamland	2
Wash Common	6
West Fields	5

157 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 Thatcham parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
Thatcham Parish Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Central	5
Crookham	3
North East	5
West	5

158 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 Tilehurst parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
Tilehurst Parish Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Calcot	1
Central	9
North	8

### 3 What happens next?

159 We have now completed our review of West Berkshire 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

160 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 West Berkshire Council

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Electorate (2017)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>	<b>Electorate (2023)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>
1	Aldermaston	1	3,010	3,010	7%	3,139	3,139	4%
2	Basildon	1	2,893	2,893	2%	3,004	3,004	-1%
3	Bradfield	1	2,913	2,913	3%	3,093	3,093	2%
4	Bucklebury	1	2,940	2,940	4%	2,994	2,994	-1%
5	Burghfield & Mortimer	3	8,336	2,779	-2%	8,952	2,984	-1%
6	Chieveley & Cold Ash	2	5,314	2,657	-6%	5,561	2,780	-8%
7	Downlands	1	2,989	2,989	6%	3,073	3,073	1%
8	Hungerford & Kintbury	3	9,136	3,045	8%	9,560	3,187	5%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
9	Lambourn	1	3,225	3,225	14%	3,342	3,342	10%
10	Newbury Central	2	5,554	2,777	-2%	6,013	3,007	-1%
11	Newbury Clay Hill	2	5,651	2,826	0%	5,986	2,993	-1%
12	Newbury Greenham	3	8,224	2,741	-3%	9,569	3,190	5%
13	Newbury Speen	2	5,578	2,789	-1%	6,174	3,087	2%
14	Newbury Wash Common	3	7,339	2,446	-13%	9,476	3,159	4%
15	Pangbourne	1	2,854	2,854	1%	2,925	2,925	-3%
16	Ridgeway	1	3,107	3,107	10%	3,172	3,172	5%
17	Thatcham Central	2	5,527	2,764	-2%	5,633	2,817	-7%
18	Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham	1	2,743	2,743	-3%	2,768	2,768	-9%
19	Thatcham North East	2	6,011	3,006	6%	6,004	3,002	-1%

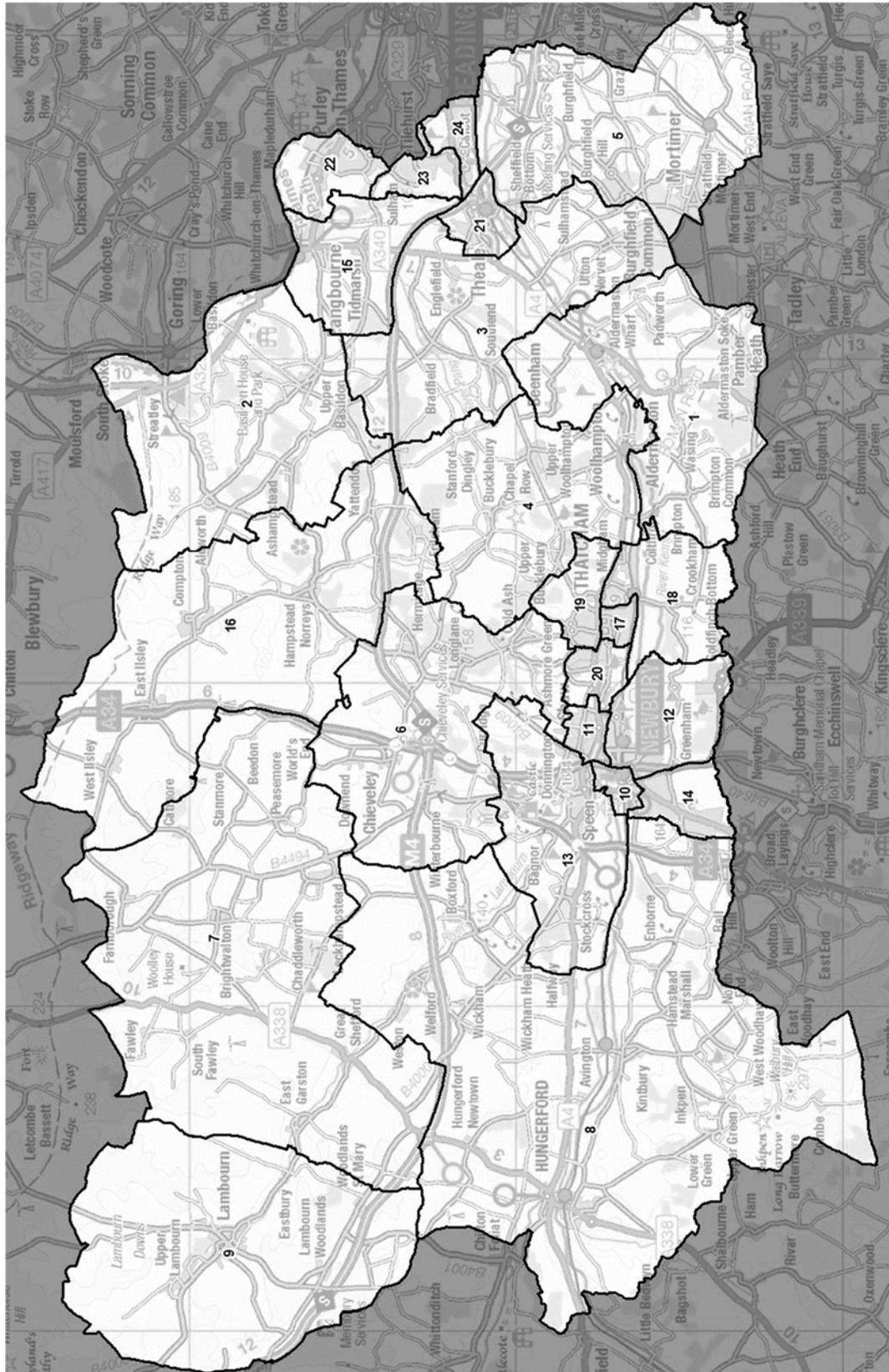
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
20 Thatcham West	2	5,461	2,731	-3%	5,855	2,928	-3%
21 Theale	1	2,313	2,313	-18%	3,118	3,118	3%
22 Tilehurst & Purley	3	8,526	2,842	1%	8,890	2,963	-2%
23 Tilehurst Birch Copse	2	6,110	3,055	8%	6,110	3,055	1%
24 Tilehurst South & Holybrook	2	5,726	2,863	1%	5,809	2,904	-4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>121,480</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>130,217</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,825</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,028</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by West Berkshire.

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/south-east/berkshire/west-berkshire>

## Key

1. Aldermaston
2. Basildon
3. Bradfield
4. Bucklebury
5. Burghfield & Mortimer
6. Chieveley & Cold Ash
7. Downlands
8. Hungerford & Kintbury
9. Lambourn
10. Newbury Central
11. Newbury Clay Hill
12. Newbury Greenham
13. Newbury Speen
14. Newbury Wash Common
15. Pangbourne
16. Ridgeway
17. Thatcham Central
18. Thatcham Colthrop & Crookham
19. Thatcham North East
20. Thatcham West
21. Theale
22. Tilehurst & Purley
23. Tilehurst Birch Copse
24. Tilehurst South & Holybrook

# Appendix C

## Submissions received

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

### Local Authority

- West Berkshire Council

### Political Group

- Newbury & West Berkshire Liberal Democrats
- Newbury Constituency Labour Party
- West Berkshire Conservative Association
- West Berkshire Green Party
- Wokingham Liberal Democrats

### Councillors

- Councillor Beck
- Councillor Boeck
- Councillor Bridgman (2)
- Councillor Cole
- Councillor Jones
- Councillor Law
- Councillor Macro (2)
- Councillor Pask
- Councillor Pick
- Councillor Stansfeld

### Member of Parliament

- Richard Benyon MP

### Parish and Town Council

- Aldermaston Parish Council
- Beech Hill Parish Council
- Beenham Parish Council
- Brimpton Parish Council
- Bucklebury Parish Council
- Compton Parish Council
- Enborne Parish Council
- Frilsham Parish Council
- Hampstead Norreys Parish Council

- Hermitage Parish Council
- Inkpen Parish Council
- Streatley Parish Council
- Thatcham Town Council
- Theale Parish Council
- Tidmarsh & Sulham Parish Council
- Tilehurst Parish Council
- West Ilsley Parish Council
- Woolhampton Parish Council

### **Local Residents**

- 38 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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
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
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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 areas.

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