

# Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for North East Derbyshire 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 North East Derbyshire?

4 We are conducting a review of North East Derbyshire as the value of each vote in the district council elections varies depending on where you live in the district. 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 North East Derbyshire

- North East Derbyshire should be represented by 53 councillors, the same number as there are now.
- North East Derbyshire should have 24 wards, two fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of 15 wards should change. Eleven will remain the same.

**5 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for North East Derbyshire.**

# 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)
  - Peter Knight CBE, DL
  - Alison Lowton
  - Peter Maddison QPM
  - Sir Tony Redmond
- 
- 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 North East Derbyshire 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 North East Derbyshire. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft 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 or town council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.



## 2 Analysis and final recommendations

15 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.

14 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 North East Derbyshire	79,660	81,682
Number of councillors	53	53
Average number of electors per councillor	1,503	1,541

15 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 North East Derbyshire will have electoral equality by 2022.

16 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

17 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

17 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five years 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 2.5% by 2022.

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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.

18 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

18 North East Derbyshire District Council currently has 53 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same will make sure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

19 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 53 councillors.

20 We received no significant comments on council size during our consultation on warding patterns and therefore based our draft recommendations on a 53-member council.

19 We received no significant comments on the number of councillors in response to our consultation on the draft recommendations. We have therefore based our final recommendations on a 53-member council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

21 We received nine submissions in response to our consultation on warding patterns. The Labour Group on the Council and North Derbyshire Conservative Association (the Conservative Association) provided district-wide proposals based on 53 councillors. We also received comments from Derbyshire County Conservatives, Eckington & Killamarsh Branch Labour Party, Dronfield Town Council, Grassmoor, Hasland & Winsick Parish Council, Pilsley Parish Council, Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service and a local resident.

22 We noted that the Labour Group proposed limited changes to the existing wards, while improving electoral equality and generally using strong boundaries. The Conservative Association proposed more significant changes, and in a number of areas we had concerns that its proposals joined areas with limited links, used weaker boundaries, and created potentially unnecessary parish wards. The remaining submissions made more localised comments, with a number of submissions reflecting support for the Labour Group or Conservative Association proposals.

23 On balance, we considered that the Labour Group's proposals provide a stronger basis for our draft recommendations. However, in the Tupton and Grassmoor areas we had concerns that its proposals created a ward with no internal road links between the constituent areas. We therefore looked at alternatives to address this.

24 Our draft recommendations were for 10 three-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and five one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft

recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests

## Draft recommendations consultation

20 We received seven submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group expressed general support for the draft recommendations. Unstone Parish Council expressed support for the draft recommendations, while Clay Cross Parish Council made general comments about reflecting communities. Dronfield Town Council proposed amendments to the ward boundaries, but did not provide any evidence to support its amendments. Eckington Parish Council requested amendments to the parish ward names. A local resident put forward amendments to the south area of the district to address concerns about the links within the Pilsley & Morton ward. Another local resident requested an amendment to the boundary with Chesterfield borough.

21 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations. We note the request for an amendment to the boundary between North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield districts. However, we are unable to amend the external boundary of districts as part of an electoral review. This can only be done by a Principle Area Boundary Review, which is a separate process.

22 We have not adopted the amendments put forward by Dronfield Town Council as we do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to support its proposals. We are also not adopting the proposals put forward by a local resident for the south area. While we acknowledge that these proposals have some community identity evidence and secure good electoral equality, we do not consider that dividing Shirland & Higham parish would reflect communities. We are, however, adopting the name changes put forward by Eckington Parish Council.

## Final recommendations

23 Pages 8–17 detail our final recommendations for each area of North East Derbyshire. 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

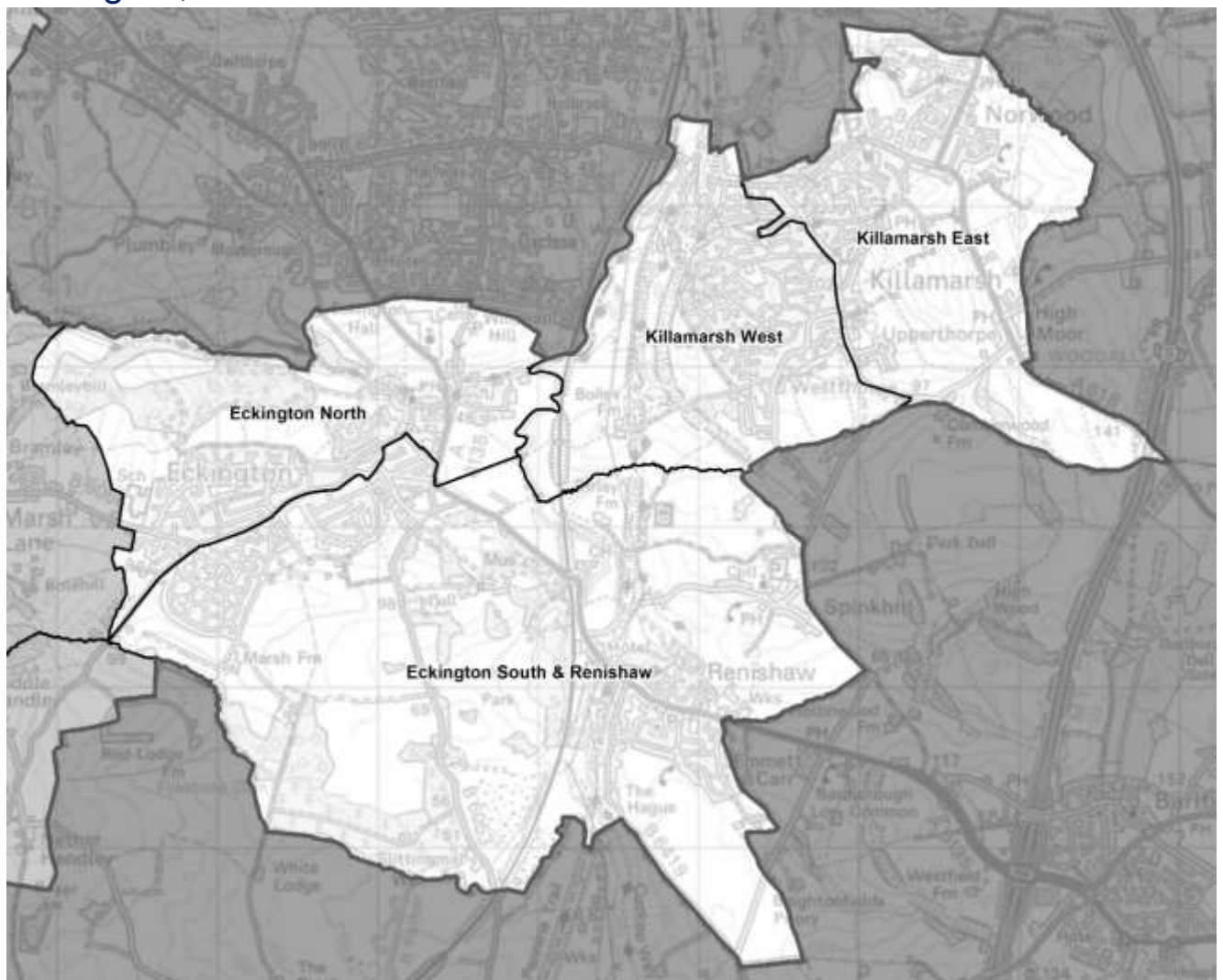
24 Our final recommendations are for 10 three-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and five one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

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

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

## Eckington, Killamarsh and Renishaw



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Eckington North	2	3%
Eckington South & Renishaw	3	3%
Killamarsh East	2	0%
Killamarsh West	3	-4%

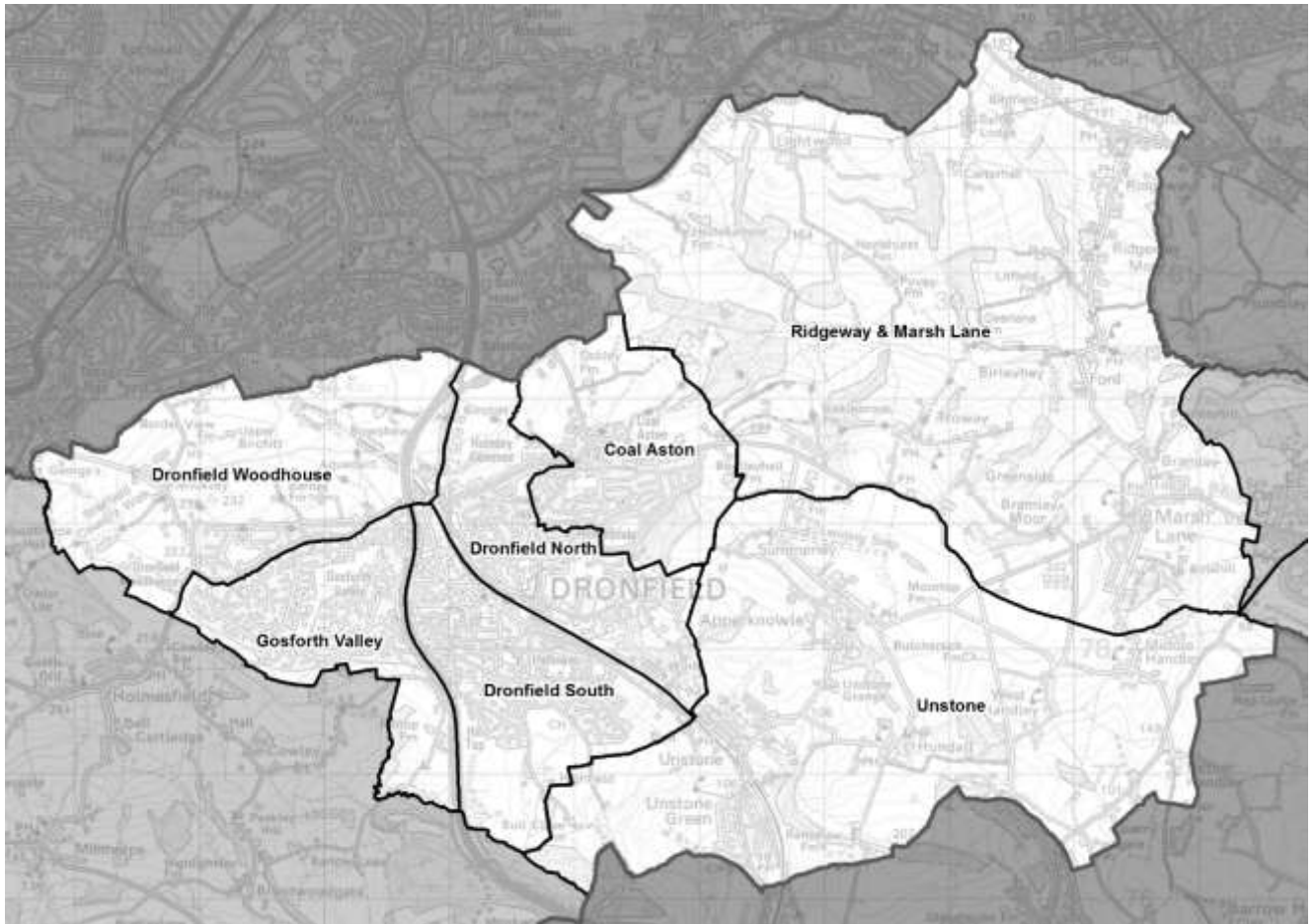
### *Killamarsh*

25 We received no significant comments on our draft recommendations for this area, although there was general support for the draft recommendations from the North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final.

### *Eckington and Renishaw*

26 Eckington Parish Council put forward name changes for the parish wards. These are discussed in the parish section below. We received no other significant comments on our draft recommendations for this area, although there was general support for the draft recommendations from the North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final.

## Dronfield



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Coal Aston	2	1%
Dronfield North	2	-4%
Dronfield South	3	7%
Dronfield Woodhouse	1	0%
Gosforth Valley	3	4%
Ridgeway & Marsh Lane	1	-6%
Unstone	1	-3%

### *Dronfield*

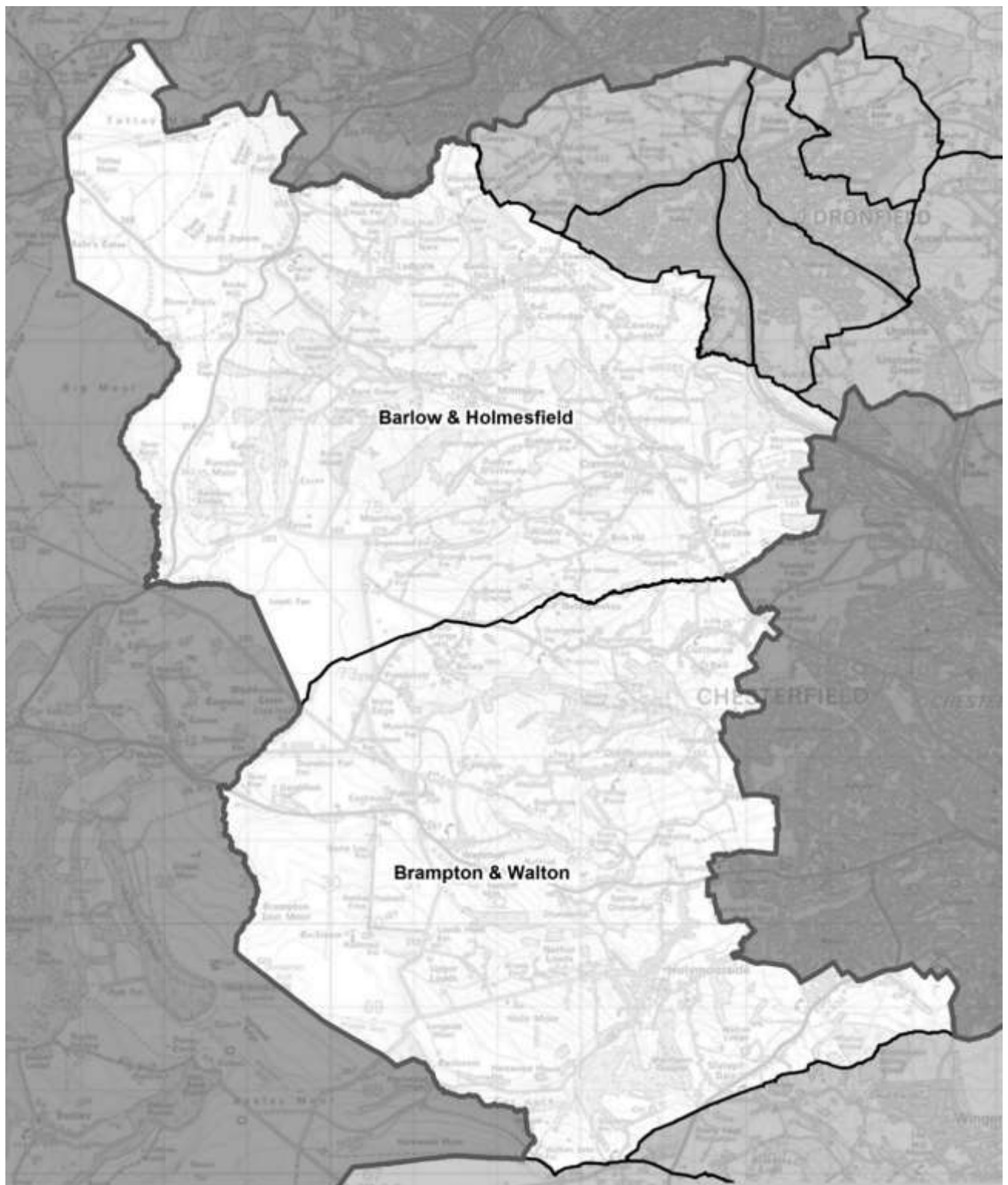
39 In response to our draft recommendations, Dronfield Town Council proposed a number of changes to the wards in Dronfield. It proposed transferring an area of Dronfield North ward to Coal Aston ward in exchange for an area of Coal Aston ward being transferred to Dronfield North ward. This would worsen electoral equality in Coal Aston from 1% to 3% and in Dronfield North from -4% to -6%. The Council did not provide any evidence to explain this amendment. It also proposed transferring an area of the three-councillor Gosforth Valley ward to single-councillor Dronfield Woodhouse ward, to create a two-councillor Gosforth Valley ward and a two-councillor Dronfield Woodhouse ward. It did not provide any evidence to explain these amendments.

40 We did not receive any other comments on these wards beyond the general support from the North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group. We have considered the proposals put forward by Dronfield Town Council, but we are concerned about the lack of supporting evidence to explain the rationale for the amendments. Although there was only general support for the draft recommendations, we do not propose adopting the amendments from Dronfield Town Council because there was no evidence to explain why they would better reflect communities than the draft recommendations. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Dronfield as final.

### *Unstone and Marsh Lane*

27 Unstone Parish Council expressed support for the draft recommendations. We received no other significant comments on our draft recommendations for this area, although there was general support for the draft recommendations from the North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final.

## Barlow, Brampton, Holmesfield and Walton



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Barlow & Holmesfield	1	5%
Brampton & Walton	2	-7%



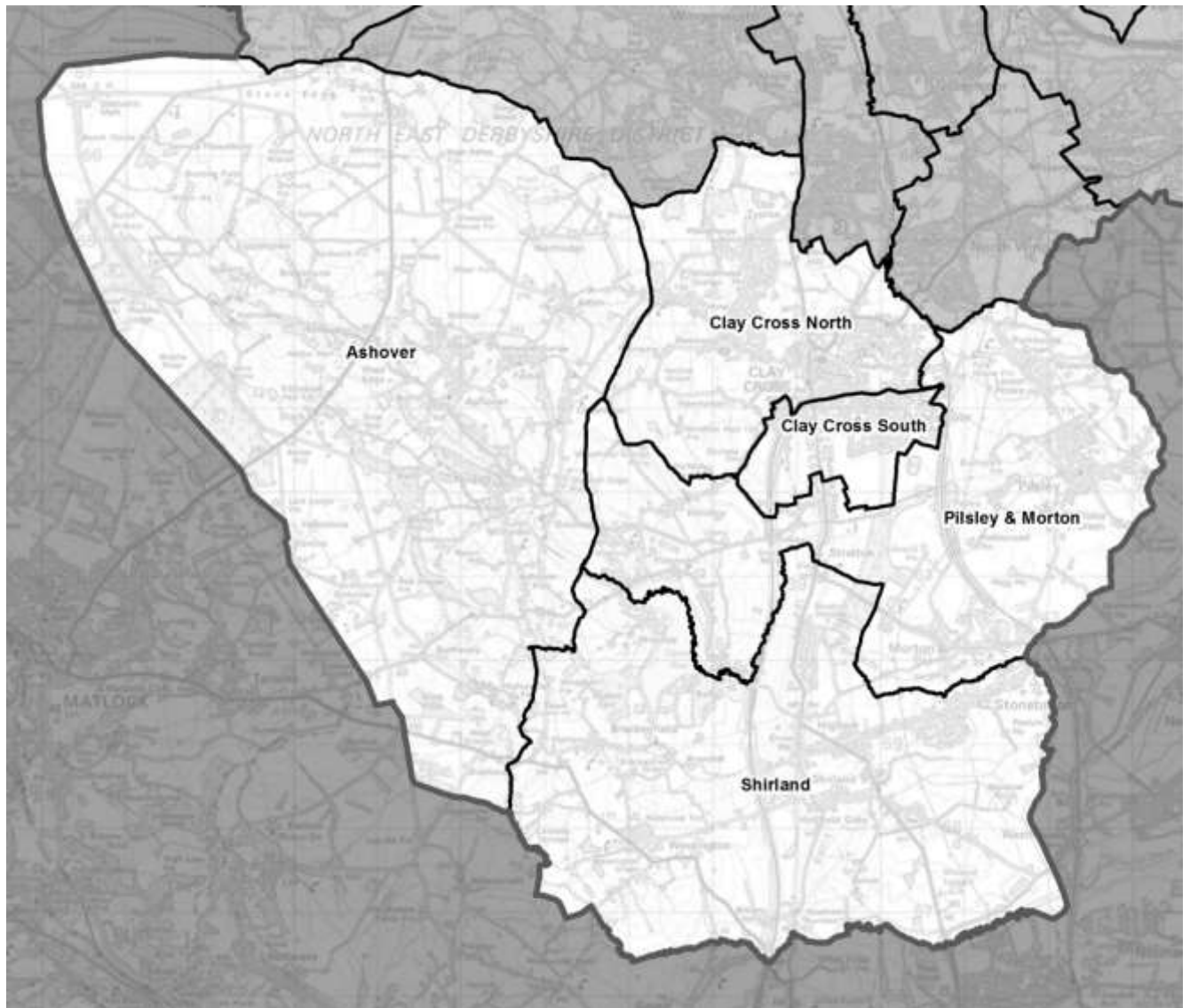
*Barlow & Holmesfield*

28 We received no significant comments on our draft recommendations for this area, although there was general support for the draft recommendations from the North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final.

*Brampton & Walton*

29 We received no significant comments on our draft recommendations for this area, although there was general support for the draft recommendations from the North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final.

## Ashover, Clay Cross, Pilsley and Shirland



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Ashover	1	4%
Clay Cross North	3	6%
Clay Cross South	2	-7%
Pilsley & Morton	3	-8%
Shirland	3	1%

### *Ashover, Pilsley & Morton and Shirland*

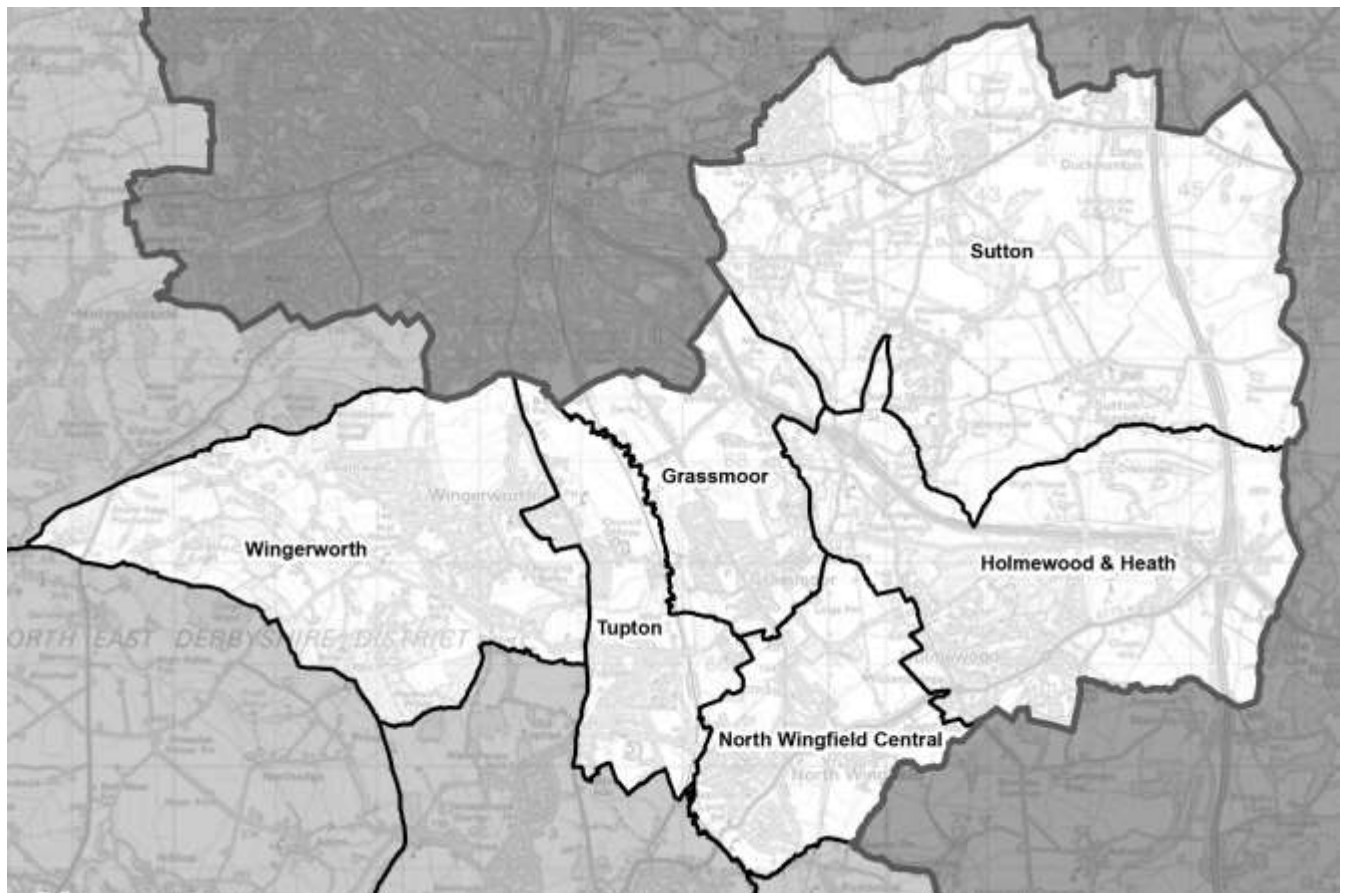
41 A local resident put forward significant amendments for this area. The resident cited concerns about the draft recommendations, particularly the links within the Pilsley & Morton ward between Pilsley and Morton parishes and Stretton parish. The resident proposed transferring Stretton parish to the Ashover ward, citing community and transport links. In addition, to secure electoral equality they proposed transferring Brackenfield and Wessington parishes to the Ashover ward, citing a similar rural nature. This would create a two-councillor Ashover ward. The resident acknowledged that this proposal would have a knock-on effect to the proposals for Shirland and the remainder of the Pilsley & Morton ward. They therefore proposed transferring the Mickley area of Shirland & Higham parish to the remainder of the Pilsley & Morton ward, to create a three-councillor ward. The remainder of Shirland & Higham parish would become a two-councillor ward. The resident acknowledged that this proposal would require Shirland & Higham parish to be divided, but argued that Mickley has links to Morton and Pilsley and shares similar characteristics.

42 We received no other specific comments on our proposals for this area. We have considered the proposals put forward by the local resident. We note that while they secure good electoral equality and some evidence of community identity was provided, we are concerned about the proposals to divide Shirland & Higham parish. We do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to suggest that this would be locally supported. We also have some concerns about the proposal to transfer parishes to create a larger two-councillor Ashover ward. On balance, we are not persuaded to adopt these amendments and are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final.

### *Clay Cross*

30 Clay Cross Parish Council made general comments about the need to reflect communities. We received no other significant comments on our draft recommendations for this area, although there was general support for the draft recommendations from the North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final.

## Grassmoor, Holmewood & Heath, North Wingfield, Tupton, Sutton and Wingerworth



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Grassmoor	2	6%
Holmewood & Heath	2	-1%
North Wingfield Central	3	4%
Sutton	2	6%
Tupton	3	-7%
Wingerworth	3	-2%

*Grassmoor, Tupton and Wingerworth*

43 We received no significant comments on our draft recommendations for this area, although there was general support for the draft recommendations from the North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final.

*Holmewood & Heath, North Wingfield and Sutton*

31 We received no significant comments on our draft recommendations for this area, although there was general support for the draft recommendations from the North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations as final.

## Conclusions

26 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	53	53
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	1,503	1,541
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	1	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Final recommendation

North East Derbyshire should be made up of 53 councillors serving 24 wards representing five single-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and 10 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in the table and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

#### Mapping

**Sheet 1, Map 1** shows the proposed wards for North East Derbyshire.

You can also view our final recommendations for North East Derbyshire on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

### Parish electoral arrangements

44 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.

45 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, North East Derbyshire 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.

27 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Dronfield, Eckington, North Wingfield and Wingerworth parishes.

46 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 Dronfield parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
Dronfield Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Bowshaw	1
Coal Aston	3
Dronfield North	3
Dronfield South	5
Dronfield Woodhouse	1
Dyche	1
Gosforth Valley	4
Summerfield	1

28 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 Eckington parish.

29 In response to the draft recommendations, Eckington Parish Council requested name changes to the parish wards. It requested that North be renamed Eckington North; Renishaw renamed Renishaw & Spinkhill; Ridgeway renamed Marsh Lane, Ridgeway & Troway; and South renamed Eckington South. We are adopting these revised names as part of the final recommendations.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
Eckington Parish Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Eckington North	6
Eckington South	5
Marsh Lane, Ridgeway & Troway	3
Renishaw & Spinkhill	3

47 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 North Wingfield parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
North Wingfield Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Central	4
East	1
West	5

48 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 Wingerworth parish.

<b>Final recommendation</b>	
Wingerworth Parish Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Adlington	2
Hardwick Wood	1
Longedge	1
Wingerworth	9
Woodthorpe	1



### 3 What happens next?

30 We have now completed our review of North East Derbyshire 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

31 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 North East Derbyshire

	<b>Ward name</b>	<b>Number of councillors</b>	<b>Electorate (2016)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>	<b>Electorate (2022)</b>	<b>Number of electors per councillor</b>	<b>Variance from average %</b>
1	Ashover	1	1,610	1,610	7%	1,607	1,607	4%
2	Barlow & Holmesfield	1	1,618	1,618	8%	1,615	1,615	5%
3	Brampton & Walton	2	2,858	1,429	-5%	2,853	1,427	-7%
4	Clay Cross North	3	4,755	1,585	5%	4,882	1,627	6%
5	Clay Cross South	2	2,848	1,424	-5%	2,874	1,437	-7%
6	Coal Aston	2	3,115	1,558	4%	3,110	1,555	1%
7	Dronfield North	2	2,955	1,478	-2%	2,948	1,474	-4%
8	Dronfield South	3	4,967	1,656	10%	4,956	1,652	7%
9	Dronfield Woodhouse	1	1,541	1,541	3%	1,538	1,538	0%
10	Eckington North	2	3,168	1,584	5%	3,162	1,581	3%
11	Eckington South & Renishaw	3	4,612	1,537	2%	4,750	1,583	3%
12	Gosforth Valley	3	4,822	1,607	7%	4,811	1,604	4%
13	Grassmoor	2	2,787	1,394	-7%	3,260	1,630	6%

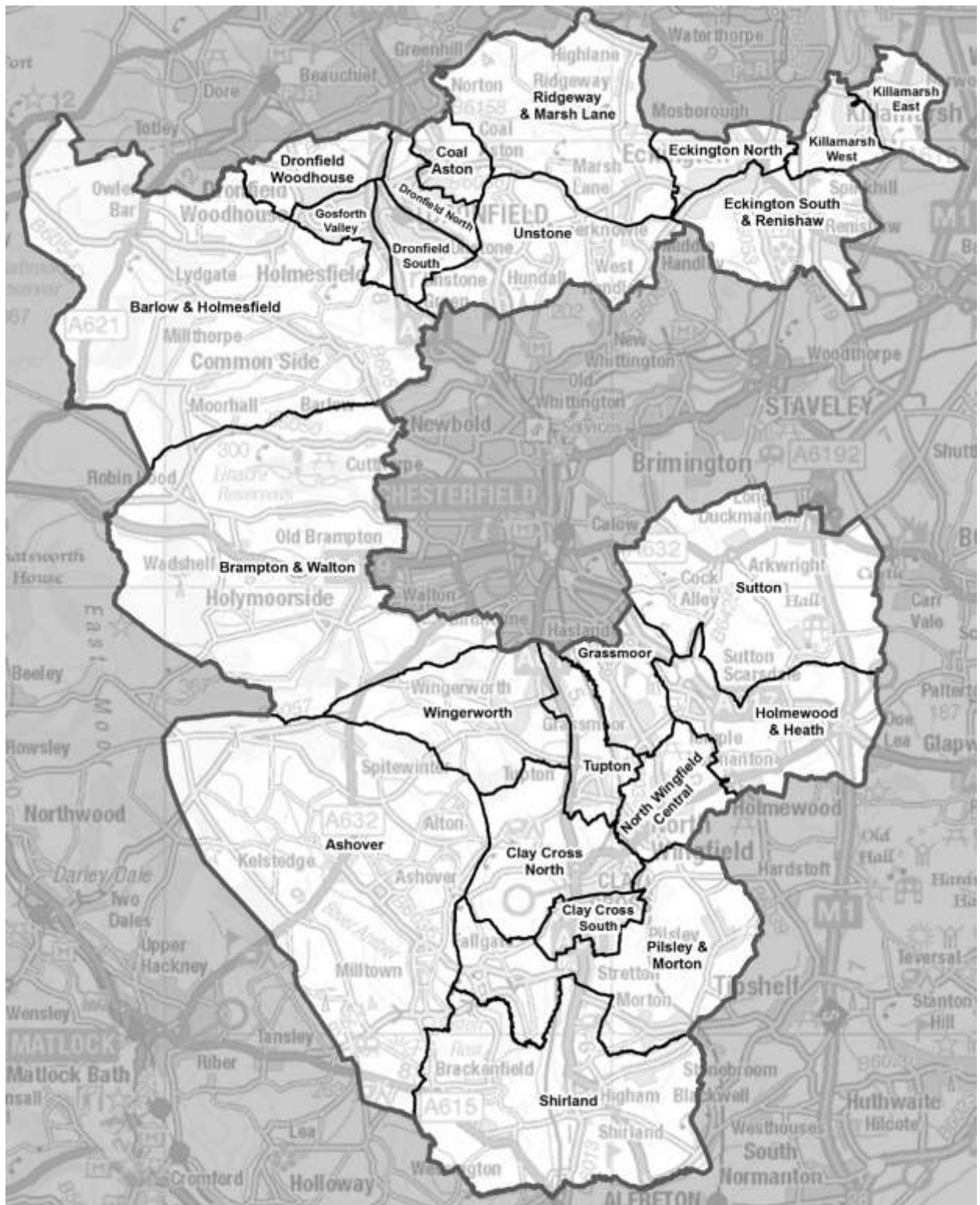
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14	Holmewood & Heath	2	2,838	1,419	-6%	3,046	1,523	-1%
15	Killamarsh East	2	3,032	1,516	1%	3,067	1,534	0%
16	Killamarsh West	3	4,407	1,469	-2%	4,425	1,475	-4%
17	North Wingfield Central	3	4,776	1,592	6%	4,818	1,606	4%
18	Pilsley & Morton	3	4,250	1,417	-6%	4,271	1,424	-8%
19	Ridgeway & Marsh Lane	1	1,429	1,429	-5%	1,448	1,448	-6%
20	Shirland	3	4,584	1,528	2%	4,665	1,555	1%
21	Sutton	2	3,212	1,606	7%	3,267	1,634	6%
22	Tupton	3	3,655	1,218	-19%	4,281	1,427	-7%
23	Unstone	1	1,495	1,495	-1%	1,492	1,492	-3%
24	Wingerworth	3	4,326	1,442	-4%	4,536	1,512	-2%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>79,660</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81,682</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by North East Derbyshire 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/north-east-derbyshire>

# 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/north-east-derbyshire>

### Political Group

- North East Derbyshire District Council Labour Group

### Parish and Town Council

- Clay Cross Parish Council
- Dronfield Town Council
- Eckington Parish Council
- Unstone Parish Council

### Local Residents

- Two 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