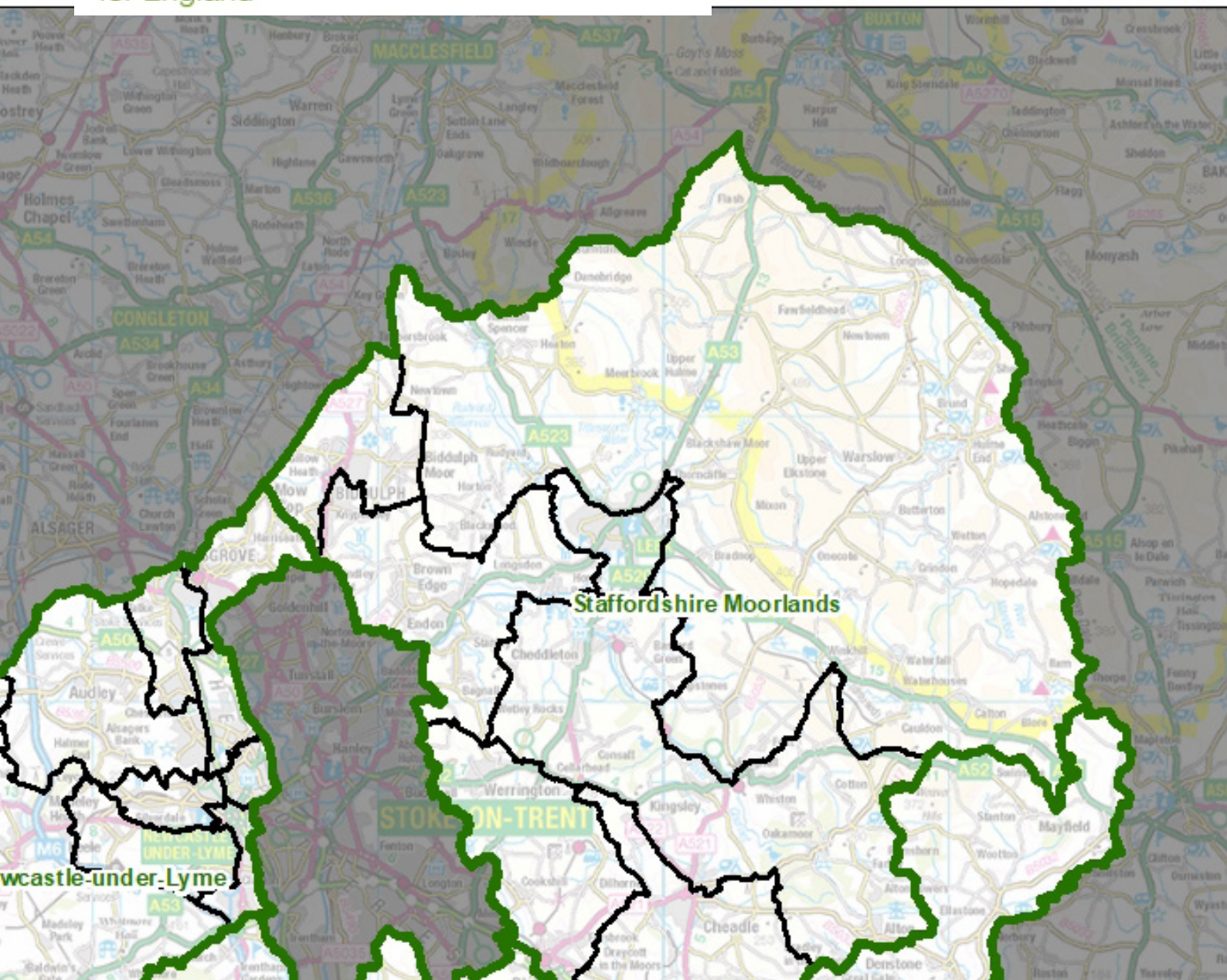


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Staffordshire Council Final Recommendations

May 2024

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Staffordshire County Council

Electoral review

May 2024

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission² are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

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

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

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

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

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

² Jolyon Jackson CBE was present during Board meetings where draft recommendations were discussed and agreed. He ceased his role as Chief Executive on 31 December 2023.

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

Why Staffordshire?

7 We are conducting a review of Staffordshire County Council ('the County Council') as its last review was completed in 2012, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.³ Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

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

Our proposals for Staffordshire

9 Staffordshire should be represented by 62 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Staffordshire should have 62 divisions, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 49 of the existing divisions should change; 11 will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Staffordshire.

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the County Council. They will also decide which division you vote in, which other communities are in that division, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your division name may also change.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the county or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local

³ Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

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.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the County Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Staffordshire. We then held three periods of consultation with the public on division patterns for the county. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
13 December 2022	Number of councillors decided
10 January 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new divisions
20 March 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
8 August 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
16 October 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
30 January 2024	Publication of further draft recommendations; start of limited consultation
12 March 2024	End of limited consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
14 May 2024	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation⁴ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁵ 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 divisions.

18 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create divisions 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 county council as possible.

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

	2022	2029
Electorate of Staffordshire	666,097	720,225
Number of councillors	62	62
Average number of electors per councillor	10,744	11,617

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a division is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the division as having 'good electoral equality'. All but seven of our proposed divisions for Staffordshire are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The County Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2028, a period five years on from the original scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate. The district and borough councils provided information to the County Council in support of these forecasts.

23 This review is now scheduled to be completed in 2024 rather than 2023 as originally planned. However, we (and the County Council) remain content that the five-year forecast agreed with the County Council at the start of the review remains

⁴ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁵ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

the best available and can be regarded as a reasonable forecast of electors for early 2029. We have therefore used it when developing our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

24 Staffordshire County Council currently has 62 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the County Council and concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the it can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of divisions that would be represented by 62 councillors.

26 At the beginning of the review the County Council requested that this review be conducted as a 'single-member division' review.⁶ The Commission agreed to this request, and we invited proposals for divisions that would each be represented by one councillor. If a review is conducted as a single-member review there is a presumption in legislation that the County Council have a uniform pattern of single-councillor divisions. Accordingly, we will aim to deliver a pattern of single-member divisions. However, in all cases this consideration will not take precedence over our other statutory criteria, and we will not recommend a uniform pattern of single-member divisions if, in our view, or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria. In Staffordshire we are recommending a uniform pattern of single-member divisions.

27 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. This submission expressed support for the County Council's proposal to retain the existing size of the council, which we based our draft recommendations on. We have therefore maintained 62 councillors for our final recommendations.

Councillor allocation and coterminosity

28 A council size of 62 provides the following allocation between the district councils in the county. When conducting reviews of two-tier county councils there are a number of rules that we must follow. Firstly, we must not recommend any divisions that cross the district boundary. Secondly, we must have regard for the district wards that exist within each district. Where possible we try to use the district wards to form the boundaries of the county divisions. The table below shows the percentage of district wards that are wholly contained within our proposed divisions. We refer to this as coterminosity.

District	Allocation of councillors	Coterminosity
Cannock Chase	7	67%

⁶ Section 57 of Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

East Staffordshire	9	63%
Lichfield	8	77%
Newcastle under Lyme	9	71%
South Staffordshire	8	75%
Stafford	9	70%
Staffordshire Moorlands	7	96%
Tamworth	5	80%

Division boundaries consultation

29 We received 107 submissions in response to our consultation on division boundaries. These included one county-wide proposal from the County Council and three district-wide submissions, one each for Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire and Stafford. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for division arrangements in particular areas of the county.

30 The county-wide and district-wide schemes provided a uniform pattern of one-councillor divisions for Staffordshire. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of divisions resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

31 Our draft recommendations were based on the County Council's scheme in most areas. In Cannock Chase, they were based on a combination of the County Council and the Labour Group proposals. In Stafford, except for Stafford North division, they were based on Stone Labour's proposals.

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

33 Our draft recommendations were for 62 one-councillor divisions. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

34 We received 71 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included county-wide comments from the County Council, and detailed district-wide comments from Cannock Chase Green Party, Lichfield Constituency Labour Party and Lichfield City Council.

35 The County Council expressed support for our draft recommendations except for those in Stafford Borough Council, where they were based on proposals from the Stone Constituency Labour Party. It requested that we adopt the proposals it submitted during the division pattern consultation.

36 Cannock Chase Green Party proposed a different set of divisions for Cannock Chase district. Lichfield Constituency Labour Party and Lichfield City Council (that represents the parish of Lichfield within the district of Lichfield) also submitted identical proposals for an alternative division pattern in Lichfield.

37 The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Lichfield and Stafford.

Further draft recommendations

38 In response to our draft recommendations, we received several submissions about Lichfield district, including a new proposal as mentioned above. We considered that this alternative division pattern had merit and should be explored further.

39 Our further draft recommendations were based on the proposals put forward by the Lichfield Constituency Labour Party and Lichfield City Council.

40 We received 31 submissions in response to the further draft recommendations, including from the County Council, councillors, Hammerwich Parish Council and residents.

41 The County Council opposed the further draft recommendations and supported the original draft recommendations, as did Hammerwich Parish Council, some councillors and residents of the Highfield area of the district. Respondents from Lichfield city on the other hand supported our further draft recommendations.

42 Many of those who objected to our further draft recommendations pointed to two of the divisions which had forecast variances outside of 10% from the county average. Other raised concerns about two county councillors representing the Hammerwich parish area.

Final recommendations

43 Our final recommendations are for 62 one-councillor divisions. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

44 Our final recommendations are based on the further draft recommendations in Lichfield and the draft recommendations in the rest of the county, with some minor modifications in each of Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire and Stafford districts.

45 We visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Staffordshire helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

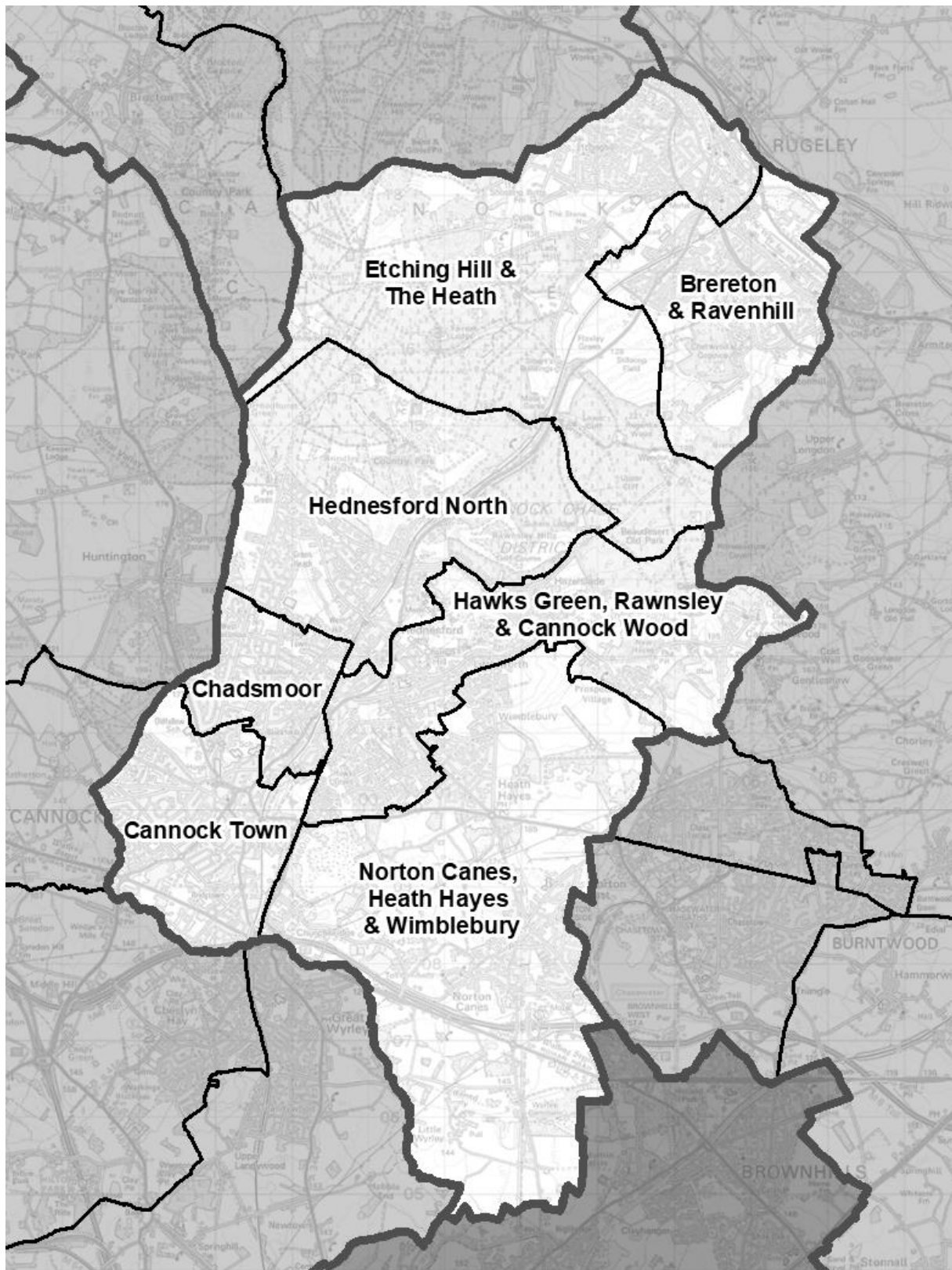
46 The tables and maps on pages 10–38 detail our final recommendations for each area of Staffordshire. They detail how the proposed division arrangements reflect the three statutory⁷ criteria of:

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

47 A summary of our proposed new divisions is set out in the table starting on page 49 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁷ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Cannock Chase



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Brereton & Ravenhill	1	-7%
Cannock Town	1	4%
Chadsmoor	1	-3%
Etching Hill & the Heath	1	-8%
Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood	1	7%
Hednesford North	1	9%
Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	1	6%

48 We received comments from the County Council, Cannock Chase Green Party, Cannock Chase Constituency Labour Party & Labour Group ('Cannock Chase Labour'), West Midlands Green Party and district councillors about our draft recommendations for Cannock Chase district. The County Council supported our draft recommendations. Cannock Chase Green Party proposed a different pattern of divisions for the area south of Etching Hill & the Heath division. Cannock Chase Labour supported the draft recommendations, but proposed modifications to the boundary between Cannock and Chadsmoor divisions. The councillors who responded all wrote in support of the Cannock Chase Green Party's proposals.

Brereton & Ravenhill and Etching Hill & the Heath

49 The County Council and Cannock Chase Labour both expressed support for the draft recommendations for Brereton & Ravenhill and Etching Hill & the Heath divisions. Cannock Chase Labour was of the view that the draft recommendations ensured an appropriate balance between the two divisions, once the Rugeley Power Station development was completed.

50 As these were the only submissions we received for these divisions, and in view of their support, we are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Brereton & Ravenhill and Etching Hill & the Heath as final.

Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood, Hednesford North and Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury

51 The County Council and Cannock Chase Labour supported our divisions in this area. Although Cannock Chase Green Party supported the proposal to split the existing Hednesford & Rawnsley division into two single-councillor ones, it proposed a different division pattern for this area. Its proposals were supported by the West Midlands Green Party, Councillors Bishop and Boyer, Councillors Elson and Muckley and Councillor Mawle.

52 Cannock Chase Green Party was not content that the Hednesford and Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood divisions in our draft recommendations were

forecast to have 9% and 7% more electors than the average for the district. It pointed out that these were the highest positive variances in the district and put forward the view that this area should not be under-represented in this way. It also suggested that Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood division included too many different communities.

53 It proposed a Hawks Green & Green Heath division and a Hednesford & Rawnsley division instead. Its proposed Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury division included Hill Street (north of Hayes Way) and the area around Ansty Drive, Badgers Way, Millers Vale and Woodford Way, making it coterminous with the new Heath Hayes & Wimblebury and Norton Canes district wards.

54 Its proposed Hawks Green & Green Heath division stretched from the area between Broadhurst Green/Green Heath Road and Belt Road in the north, to a section of the A5190 in the south and included Rumer Hill. Its Hednesford & Rawnsley division included most of the recently created Hednesford Pye Green and Hednesford Hills & Rawnsley ward.

55 We considered the new proposals carefully, including on our tour of Cannock Chase. We noted that Green Heath Road was an identifiable boundary. However, we were not convinced that residents to the west of Green Heath Road had more in common with those in Rumer Hill or north of Lichfield Road, than with their neighbours on the east side of Green Heath Road. For instance, Rumer Hill in the south seemed somewhat separate and different from the north of the area.

56 We had considered creating a Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury division coterminous with the new Heath Hayes & Wimblebury and Norton Canes district wards. However, we noted that it produced a division forecast to have 18% more electors than the average for Cannock Chase and accordingly we were not persuaded to include it as part of our draft recommendations. The Green Party's proposed Hawks Green & Green Heath division is forecast to have 25% more electors than the average for the county, by 2029. We consider this very poor electoral equality, and are not adopting it as part of our final recommendations.

57 The draft recommendations' Hednesford division includes the new district wards of Hednesford Green Heath and Hednesford Pye Green in their entirety, thereby improving coterminosity while also having good electoral equality.

58 On our tour we noted that Rumer Hill has access to the rest of Cannock Town division to the west, via Rumer Hill Road. We are therefore content to exclude it from a division with any part of Hednesford. We consider the draft recommendation boundary along a section of the A460 Eastern Way a strong boundary, especially as the properties off it, to the south of Hayes Way, do not face on to the A460 and are separated by a verge.

59 Therefore, we consider our draft recommendations a better balance of our statutory criteria than Cannock Chase Green Party proposals. We are therefore confirming them as final.

60 We note the comments from Cannock Chase Green Party about the names of Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood and Hednesford divisions. With regards to Hednesford division, we have been persuaded that as it does not include all of Hednesford, renaming it Hednesford North will be a better reflection of the area. This will also reflect comments made by Labour. We are content to do so.

61 However, with regards to Hawks Green, Rawnsley & Cannock Wood division, we have not received enough evidence to determine if their suggested alternative has widespread support and have therefore not been persuaded to change it. However, in the five years following a review, a local authority may seek the Commission's agreement to change the name of a division if this reflects community identity and sentiment. After five years, a local authority may make a change without seeking the agreement of the Commission.

62 With the exception of the renaming of Hednesford division to Hednesford North, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final.

Cannock Town and Chadsmoor

63 Our draft recommendations for these two divisions were fully supported by the County Council and broadly supported by Cannock Chase Labour. Cannock Chase Green Party proposed significant modifications to the draft recommendations.

64 It proposed excluding Rumer Hill and the area east of Old Hednesford Road from Chadsmoor and Cannock Town divisions, instead including them in a division to the east of this area. As mentioned in the previous section, doing this produced a division with a forecast variance of 25%. As we considered this very poor electoral equality, we did not adopt the proposal.

65 Cannock Chase Labour proposed a couple of modifications to the boundary between these two divisions. It was of the view that residents at the southern end of Hednesford and Old Hednesford roads identify as living in Cannock Town, and therefore proposed moving a number of streets south of Stoney Lea Road into that division. At the same time, it suggested that the south of Pye Green Road and residents on the south-eastern side of Stafford Road be moved into Chadsmoor division.

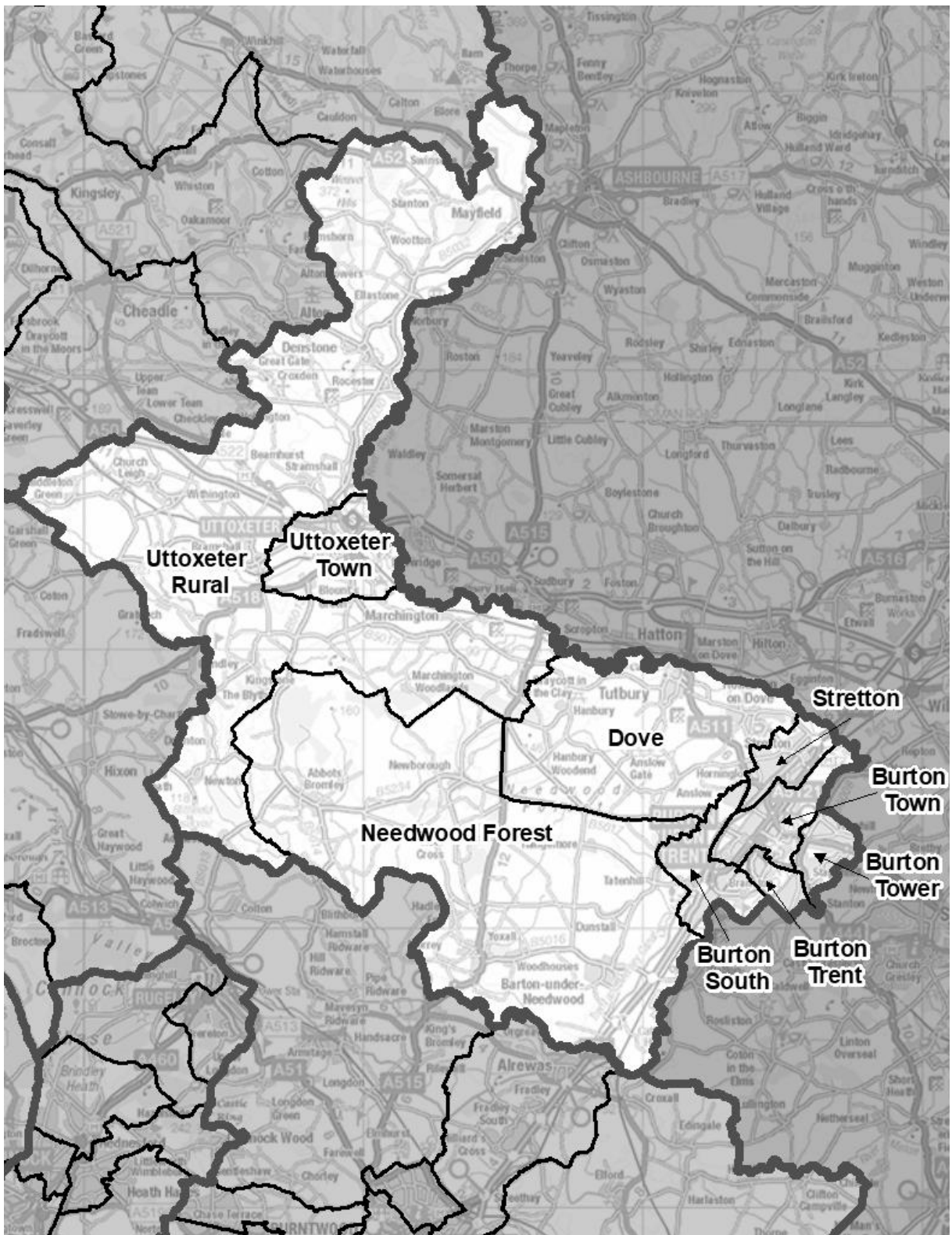
66 On our tour of Cannock Chase, we noted that the properties at the southern end of Hednesford Road, including those around Hollies Avenue, are adjacent to and look towards Cannock Town Centre. However, we noted that access to Stoney Lea Road is further north on Old Hednesford Road.

67 After careful consideration, we have been persuaded to partially adopt Labour's proposal. We are including Hollies Avenue, Hollies Court, Hollies Park Road and Hollyoak Way in Cannock Town division. We have retained Stoney Croft, Stoney Lea Road and Woottons Court in Chadsmoor division to reflect their access.

68 We have not been persuaded to make the changes around Pye Green Road and Stafford Road because we did not receive the community evidence to do so. However, we have made one modification which unites Westbourne Avenue in Chadsmoor division.

69 With the exception of these two modifications, we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

East Staffordshire



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Burton South	1	0%
Burton Tower	1	0%
Burton Town	1	13%
Burton Trent	1	-9%
Dove	1	-8%
Needwood Forest	1	-11%
Stretton	1	5%
Uttoxeter Rural	1	-3%
Uttoxeter Town	1	9%

70 The County Council's comments expressing broad support for the draft recommendations were the only submission we received for East Staffordshire district.

Burton South, Burton Tower, Burton Town, Burton Trent, Dove and Stretton

71 The County Council expressed support for the draft recommendations in this area. In particular, it noted that the draft recommendations for Burton Town and Burton Trent divisions were coterminous with the new district ward boundaries, and that they used the railway line as a strong, natural boundary.

72 In view of the support, and no other comments, we confirm our draft recommendations for these divisions as final.

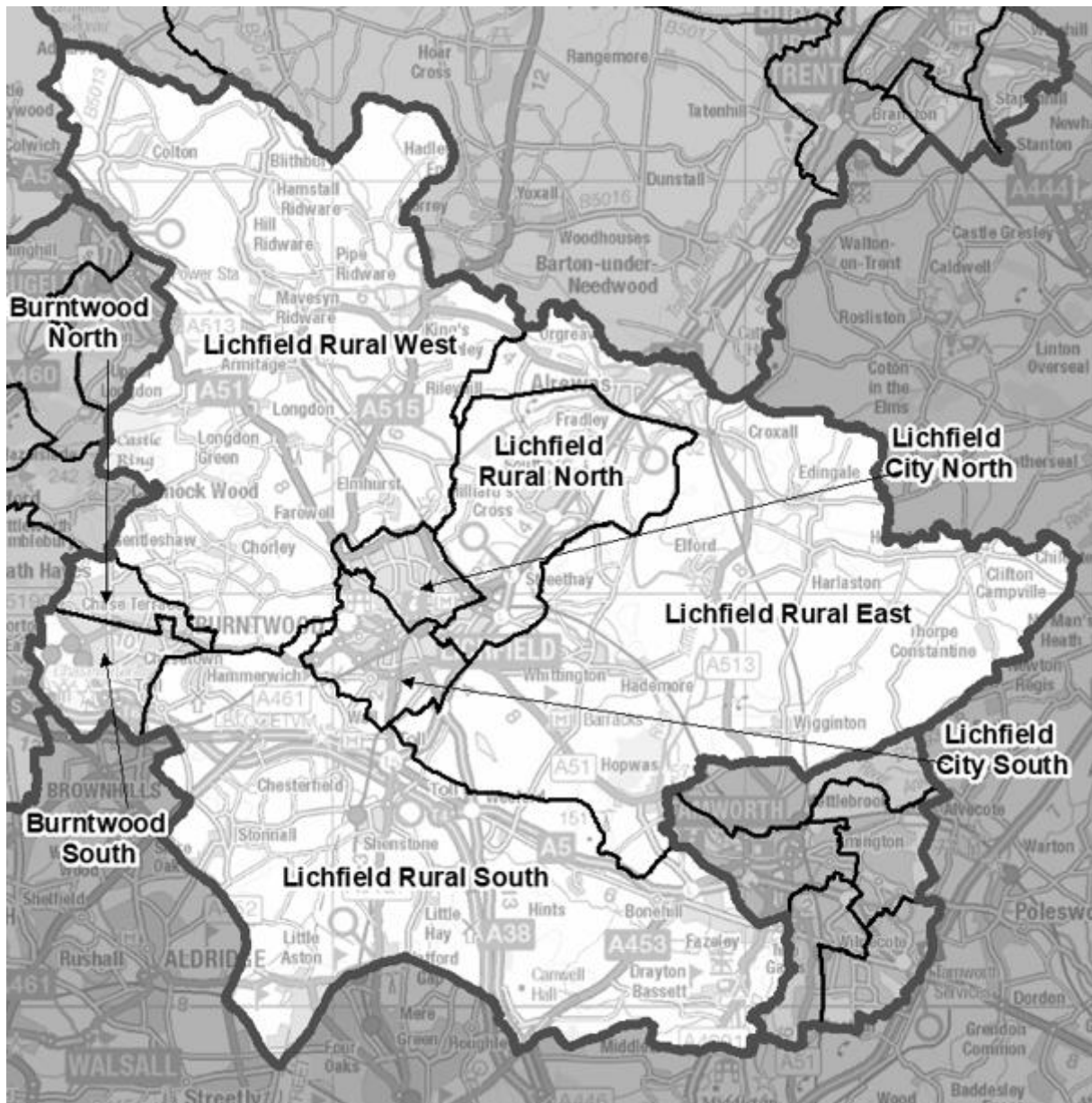
Needwood Forest, Uttoxeter Rural and Uttoxeter Town

73 The County Council's only comment on this area was a request that we consider including Blithfield parish in Uttoxeter Rural division. In its view, the draft recommendations left the parish isolated from other main communities in Needwood Forest.

74 We note that a significant number of Blithfield residents are located in the north of the parish towards Uttoxeter Rural division. The rest of the parish is close to the border of the district and county, and may look outside of Staffordshire for their community. We are therefore content to include Blithfield parish with Uttoxeter Rural division instead of Needwood Forest division. While we note that this produces a Needwood Forest division with 11% fewer electors than the average for the county, we consider that this is a better reflection of the communities, and a better balance of our statutory criteria.

75 We make no further changes to the divisions in this area, and we confirm our draft recommendations for Uttoxeter Town as final.

Lichfield



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Burntwood North	1	-5%
Burntwood South	1	-6%
Lichfield City North	1	4%
Lichfield City South	1	10%
Lichfield Rural East	1	-14%
Lichfield Rural North	1	-12%
Lichfield Rural South	1	7%
Lichfield Rural West	1	1%

76 Our further draft recommendations for Lichfield district placed all of Lichfield city, with the exception of Boley Park district ward, in two Lichfield city divisions. They also united Highfields Road and the area to its east up to Hospital Road in Burntwood South division. The further draft recommendations retained the Woodhouses area of Burntwood parish in its existing division of Lichfield Rural West, but we asked for views on whether the area is better placed in Burntwood North division.

77 We received submissions from the County Council, councillors, Hammerwich Parish Council and residents in response to the further draft recommendations. A significant number of the comments were about the area of Hammerwich parish which we included in Burntwood South division.

78 The County Council intimated that it had considered proposals identical to the further draft recommendations as part of its earlier work to come up with a set of proposals. It had discounted them because the variances of some of the divisions were outside our recommended tolerance levels.

79 As such it was advocating for the adoption of the original draft recommendations, in particular with regards to Lichfield City South, Lichfield Rural East and Lichfield Rural South.

80 Three respondents commented on district boundaries outside the remit of this electoral review which pertains to electoral divisions within the existing district boundaries in the county.

Burntwood North, Burntwood South, Lichfield City South, Lichfield Rural East, Lichfield Rural North, Lichfield Rural South and Lichfield Rural West

81 The County Council, some councillors, Hammerwich Parish Council and most residents objected to the further draft recommendations in this area.

82 The County Council wanted the additional area of Hammerwich parish we included in Burntwood South division (between Highfields Road and Hospital Road) to remain in Lichfield Rural South division and expressed the view that Hammerwich parish residents identify more closely with 'Rural than with Burntwood' and advocated that we adopt the draft recommendations instead.

83 With regards to the area south of the A461 (Falkland Road) and west of the A5127 (Birmingham Road) towards the edge of Lichfield city, the County Council states that it is an area of predominantly new housing development with close geographical ties to Lichfield Rural South division, and while not ideal it is the best fit to be included in that division in order to balance out electoral variances. It also believed that using the Lichfield Southern Bypass to separate Lichfield City South from Lichfield Rural South will preserve the distinctive character from those in the city division, whereas the newer estates would have a more urban style.

84 Finally, it appeared to object to the 10% variance of our Lichfield City South ward, on the grounds that this could represent a larger than normal workload for the councillor especially if there were more housing developments in Lichfield city in the future.

85 Councillor Silvester-Hall and Councillor Fox objected to the further draft recommendations stating that the Woodhouses area was better placed in Burntwood North division, for effective and convenient local government reasons, and that elsewhere in the district two of the proposed divisions had variances outside our recommended 10%. Councillor Greatorex also pointed to the same variances.

86 Councillor King also opposed the further draft recommendations, stating that Pool parish ward 'would be dramatically reduced almost to extinction'. Hammerwich Parish Council was of the impression that the further draft recommendations would 'remove a significant part from Hammerwich Parish Council'. It also objected on the grounds that the parish would be represented by two different county councillors.

87 Councillor Smith raised similar concerns about two county councillors representing the parish. He supported our exclusion of the area south of the A461 (Falkland Road) and west of the A5127 (Birmingham Road) from, and the inclusion of Drayton Bassett parish in, Lichfield Rural South division. However, he suggested that we unite the whole of Bourne Vale district ward in the division. To facilitate a division with good electoral equality, he proposed that we split Fazeley district ward across divisions by including the Mile Oak area of this ward in Lichfield Rural South division while leaving the rest of that ward in Lichfield Rural East. He did not state why it was better to split Fazeley ward instead of Bourne Vale ward. Neither did he provide specific boundaries for the Mile Oak area.

88 Councillor Bragger and Councillor Fox supported the further draft recommendations as they pertained to Lichfield City wards. Councillor Woodward also supported the proposals stating that they reflect the local communities, especially those in the Burntwood area.

89 Most residents appeared to object to Highfields Road or the area around it being moved from 'Hammerwich into Burntwood'. Some believed that the further draft recommendations moved the area into Burntwood parish itself. Some specifically referred to the area between Highfields and the M6 toll area, while others seemed to imply that the further draft recommendations moved Pool parish ward of Hammerwich parish into Burntwood parish.

90 After carefully considering all the submissions we received, we believe it will help to clarify the existing arrangements in the area and what impact the further draft recommendations have on parish and parish ward boundaries.

91 At the moment, Pool parish ward of Hammerwich parish, which includes most of Highfields Road and the area to the M6 Toll station, is currently in Burntwood South county division. Therefore, the parish is already split across two county divisions and is being represented by two county councillors. In that respect, our further draft recommendations do not introduce anything new.

92 Furthermore, our further draft recommendations have no impact on parish boundaries, so Hammerwich parish boundaries will remain unchanged. Only the district council can change that and only after carrying out a Community Governance Review. It is the case that certain parishes are split across district wards and divisions but this does not necessarily lead to any changes to the parish boundaries.

93 However, as part of our further draft recommendations, we also include the area covered by Triangle parish ward of Hammerwich parish in Burntwood South. This unites Highfields Road in a single division. It also unites all of King Street and all of Lawnswood Avenue in a single division.

94 Considering that we are not changing Hammerwich parish or parish ward boundaries as part of this review, and in view of the fact that the parish is currently represented by two county councillors, we have not been persuaded to move away from our further draft recommendations in light of the representations made. We maintain that the area in question is built up and different from the more rural part of the parish. Furthermore, the area which most residents appear to be concerned about, while in Hammerwich with Wall district ward, is already in Burntwood South county division. We retain it within this division and, as mentioned above, also include the area between Highfields Road and Hospital Road. Regardless of the county division the area is in, it remains in Hammerwich with Wall district ward and Hammerwich parish.

95 With regards to the area south of the A461 (Falkland Road) and west of the A5127 (Birmingham Road) in Lichfield city, we note that the County Council in its original representation to us recognised that it was not ideal to include this area in Lichfield Rural South, given the more rural general nature of the division. The County Council also notes that residents of this new estate will enjoy activities in the city that are within a walking distance and 'are unlikely to make use of rural facilities in the widespread villages'. Our further draft recommendations reflect this.

96 We also note that the A461 (Lichfield Southern Bypass) between Birmingham Road and London Road is not used as a boundary under the original draft recommendations which the County Council propose that we adopt. There are two new developments south of the A461 (Falklands Road and Lichfield Southern Bypass) either side of Birmingham Road. The County Council and some councillors propose that we include one in the city division and the other in the rural division. We are not sure why and are of the view that they will both share characteristics and community with Lichfield city.

97 We note from the County Council's submission that electoral equality was an important driver for its proposals. We accept that the further draft recommendations have two divisions with variances outside of what we would count as good electoral equality. However, in creating county divisions, we seek to balance a number of statutory criteria. This means that we sometimes accept variances that are outside of our usual range. We are content to do so here and are satisfied that the latest proposals represent the best balance of our statutory criteria.

98 With regards to the inclusion of the Woodhouses area of Burntwood parish in Burntwood North ward, we considered including it in Burntwood North division. In our further draft recommendations report, we noted that it would produce a Lichfield Rural West division with 10% fewer electors than the average for Staffordshire. While that is good electoral equality, we did not receive any community evidence to strengthen the case for the inclusion of the area in Burntwood North. We also note that Woodhouses is somewhat separate from the rest of the more densely populated area of Burntwood parish. On balance, we have retained it in their existing division of Lichfield Rural West.

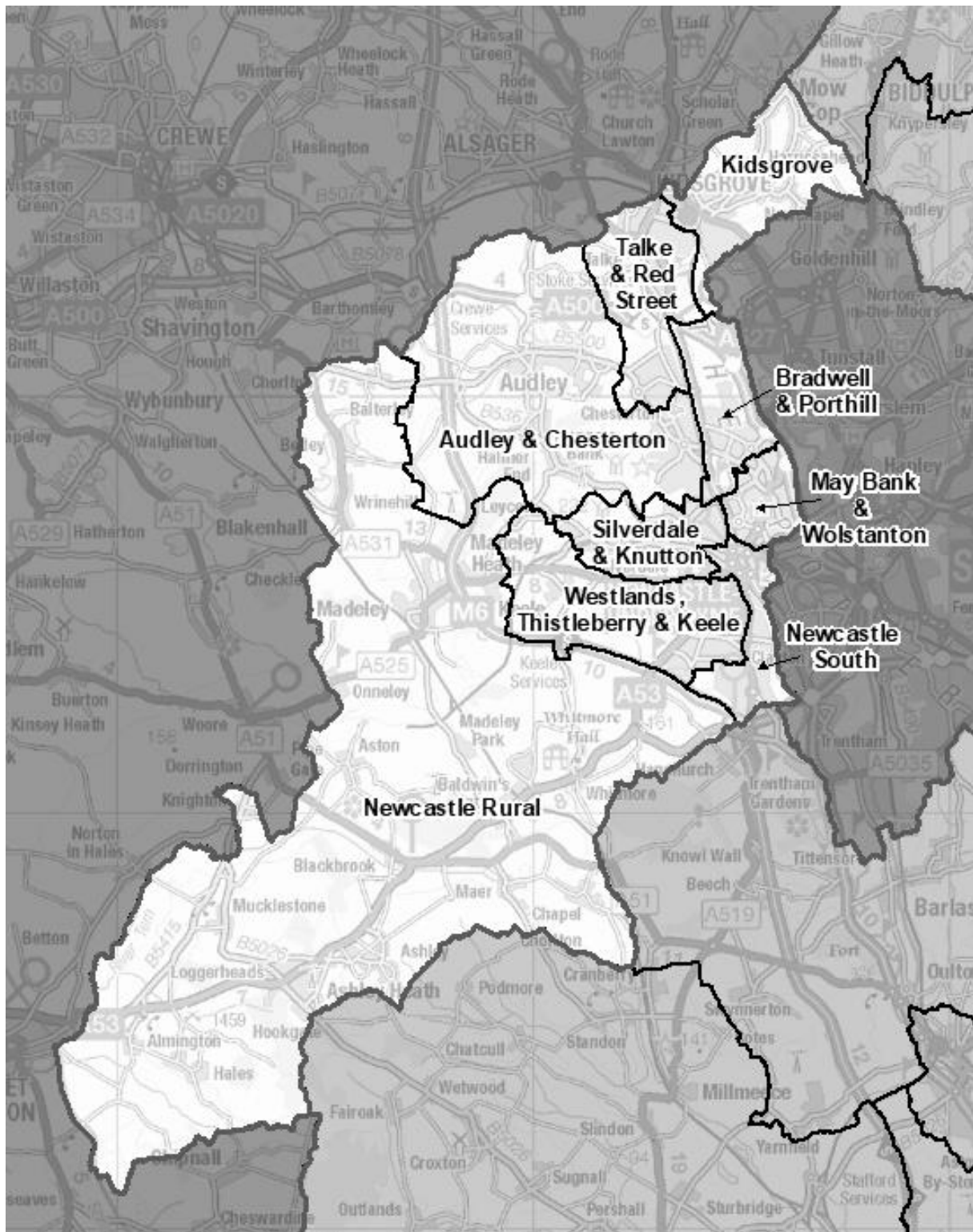
99 We therefore confirm our further draft recommendations as final.

Lichfield City North

100 In response to our original draft recommendations we received submissions from the County Council, Lichfield Labour and Lichfield City Council about this area.

101 They all supported our draft recommendations. We therefore confirm them as final.

Newcastle under Lyme



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Audley & Chesterton	1	-4%
Bradwell & Porthill	1	-13%
Kidsgrove	1	2%
May Bank & Wolstanton	1	-8%
Newcastle Rural	1	-5%
Newcastle South	1	-6%
Silverdale & Knutton	1	-5%
Talke & Red Street	1	2%
Westlands, Thistleberry & Keele	1	-7%

Audley & Chesterton, Kidsgrove and Talke & Red Street

102 The County Council's comments in support of our draft recommendations were the only ones we received about these divisions.

103 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Audley & Chesterton, Kidsgrove and Talke & Red Street divisions as final.

Bradwell & Porthill and May Bank & Wolstanton

104 In addition to the County Council's comments, we received additional comments from a resident for these two divisions. While the County Council supported the draft recommendations, the resident did not.

105 The resident objected to the splitting of the existing Bradwell & Wolstanton division. They were also of the view that the draft recommendations did not take account of the recently established Bradwell, May Bank, Porthill & Wolstanton Neighbourhood Forum Plan area. The resident proposed that the two draft recommendations divisions be combined into a two-councillor division.

106 We have carefully considered the resident's comments. We recognise that the Bradwell, May Bank, Porthill & Wolstanton Neighbourhood Forum Plan area is split across our draft recommendations Bradwell & Porthill and May Bank & Wolstanton divisions. However, we do not consider this strong enough evidence to depart from a uniform pattern of single-councillor divisions. A two-councillor division as proposed above will cover the same area as these two divisions, and that division will be represented by two separate councillors, in common with the draft recommendations.

107 As mentioned earlier in this report, at the beginning of the review we agreed to a request from the County Council to conduct this review as a single-member review. This means that we will seek to return a uniform pattern of single-councillor divisions unless we are unable to find a satisfactory way of doing so that allows us to reflect our statutory criteria.

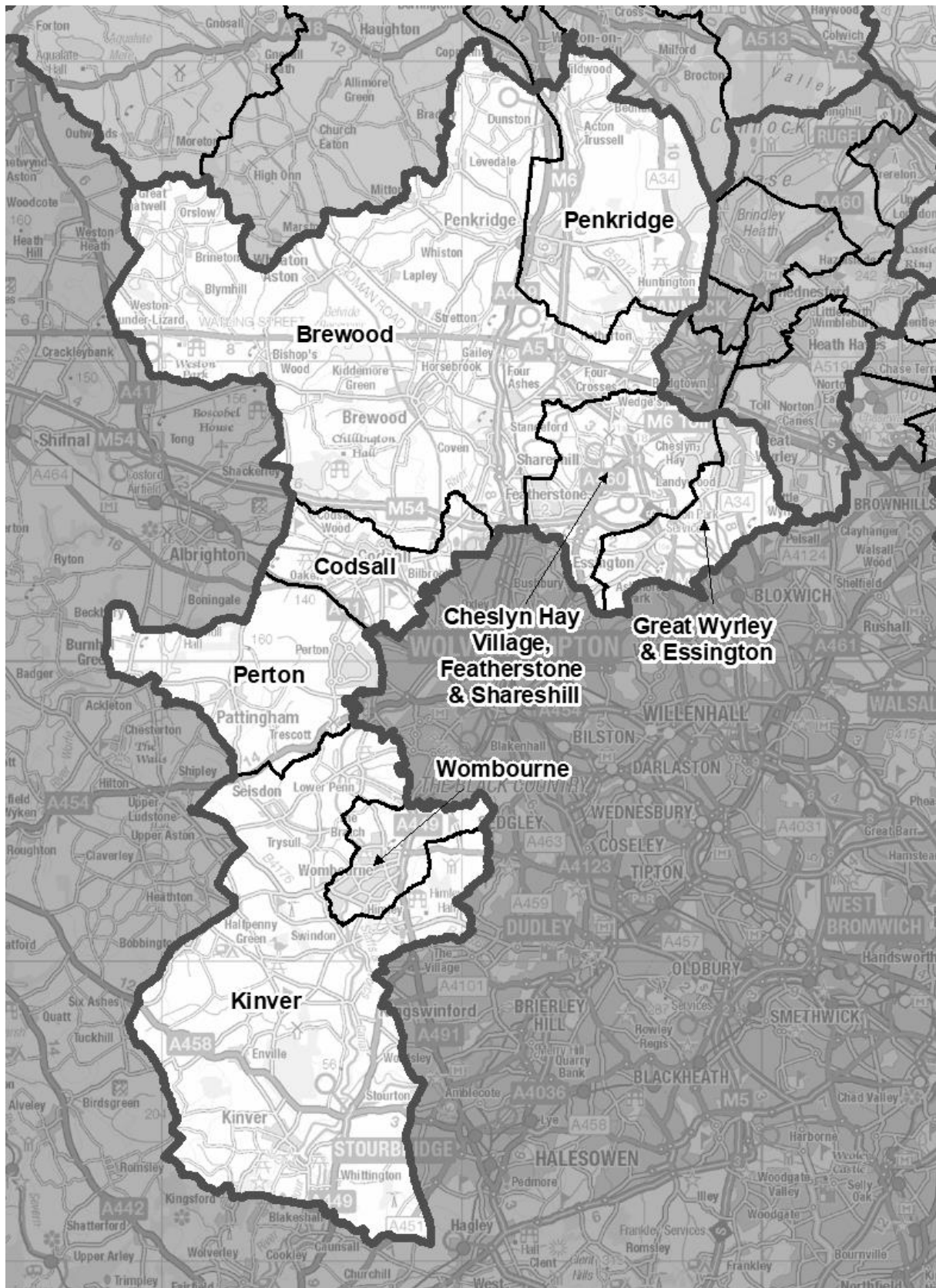
108 Accordingly, we have not been persuaded that the creation of a two-member division provides for a better balance of all our statutory criteria than the draft recommendations. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final.

*Newcastle Rural, Newcastle South, Silverdale & Knutton and Westlands,
Thistleberry & Keele*

109 The County Council's comments in support of our draft recommendations were the only ones we received about these divisions.

110 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Newcastle Rural, Newcastle South, Silverdale & Knutton and Westlands, Thistleberry & Keele as final.

South Staffordshire

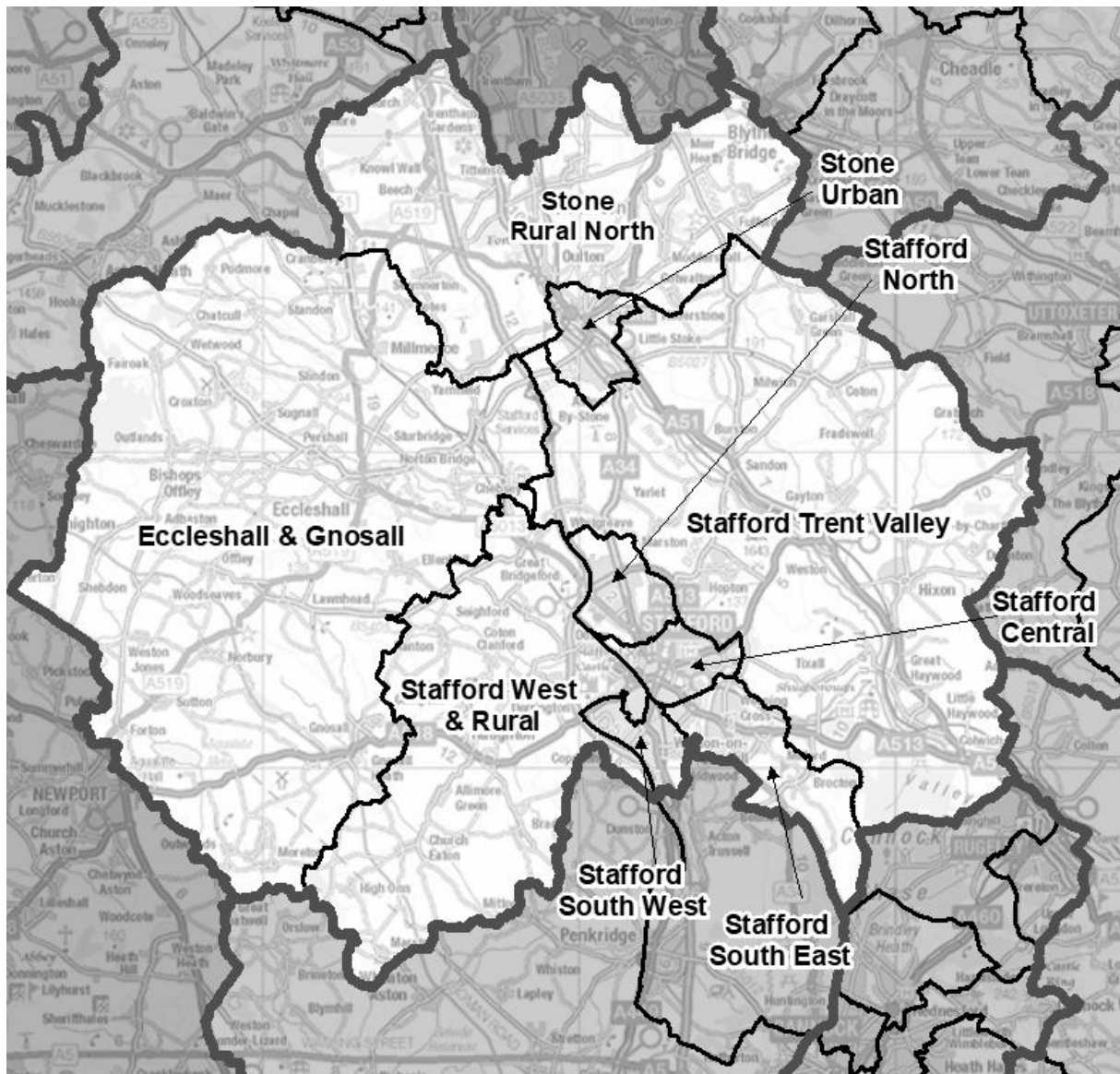


Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Brewood	1	-10%
Cheslyn Hay Village, Featherstone & Shareshill	1	-4%
Codsall	1	-10%
Great Wyrley & Essington	1	8%
Kinver	1	-5%
Penkridge	1	-1%
Perton	1	-13%
Wombourne	1	0%

111 The County Council's submission, in which it expressed support for the draft recommendations, was the only one we received for South Staffordshire district.

112 Therefore, we are confirming our draft recommendations for South Staffordshire as final.

Stafford



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Eccleshall & Gnosall	1	-3%
Stafford Central	1	10%
Stafford North	1	4%
Stafford South East	1	9%
Stafford South West	1	3%
Stafford Trent Valley	1	5%
Stafford West & Rural	1	-6%
Stone Rural North	1	6%
Stone Urban	1	6%

113 We received comments from the County Council, Stafford & Stone Green Party, West Midlands Green Party, councillors and residents in response to our draft recommendations for Stafford Borough Council.

114 The County Council, Councillor Edgeller, Councillor Pert, Berkswich Parish Council, Brocton Parish Council and some residents objected to all or some of our draft recommendations.

115 The County Council, supported by Councillor Pert, wanted us to adopt its original proposals. The Council was of the view that the rural divisions were too large, and in some cases rural and urban areas were included in the same division. Berkswich Parish Council, supported by Brocton Parish Council, wanted Berkswich parish united in Stafford Trent Valley division, while several residents of Aston Lodge area wanted to be included Stone Town division.

116 Stafford & Stone Green Party, West Midlands Green Party, Councillor Carter, Councillor Pearce, Councillor Reid, Councillor Rose, Councillor Rouxel, Eccleshall Parish Council, Chebsey Parish Council and some residents supported our draft recommendations, for various reasons.

117 Stafford & Stone Green Party felt that the draft recommendations better reflected the communities within the borough, and acknowledged that there was always going to be at least one division which included both urban and rural areas. The West Midlands Green Party was of the view that the draft recommendations provided a good balance between electoral equality, keeping communities together and providing coterminosity between county divisions and borough wards.

118 Identifying a pattern of divisions in Stafford borough was challenging. The County Council's proposals were very different from our draft recommendations in all but one division, and it was not possible to adopt divisions proposed by the County Council in one area, and our draft recommendations in another. The scale of recent and ongoing development around Stafford and Stone means that an area of these towns will have to be included in more rural divisions.

119 We visited the area to compare the proposed boundaries. We noted that both patterns of divisions had merit. Our final recommendations are therefore a balance of these merits in line with our statutory criteria.

Eccleshall & Gnosall and Stone Rural North

120 The County Council was of the view that the draft recommendations Eccleshall & Gnosall 'did not satisfy the criteria of effective and convenient local government'. Councillor Pert noted that road and public transport networks do not link Eccleshall and Gnosall easily. Councillor Pert also suggested that we split the existing Stone Rural and Stone Urban divisions, and possibly Yarlet, Enson and Marston, between two councillors. In his view this would not impact greatly on the rest of the existing

division arrangements in the borough. Councillor Pert did not propose any specific boundaries between the two proposed 'Stone' divisions.

121 Chebsey Parish Council supported the draft recommendations stating that including Eccleshall and Gnosall 'would suit the residents more than a less rural division'. Eccleshall Parish Council also supported the draft recommendations, noting that this reflected their views in the previous consultation.

122 During the last consultation we received comments which stated that the communities in Eccleshall & Gnosall look to Stafford and Newport for their amenities, and that it was desirable for Barlaston, Fulford, Oulton and Swynnerton on the edge of the borough to be included in a single division.

123 On our tour of the area, we noted that south of Whitley Heath, the road network connecting Eccleshall directly to Gnosall is indeed more rural, as noted by Councillor Pert. However, we also noted that this would be the case within the County Council's proposed Gnosall & Doxey division, for example, between Ellenhall, High Offley and Norbury parishes, and Gnosall parish.

124 After careful consideration, we have decided to retain our draft recommendations. We note that the parishes within the draft recommendations' Eccleshall & Gnosall division all share a rural or semi-rural nature and there will therefore be some shared issues that they all have. The County Council suggested that we change the name of the draft recommendations' Wedgwood division to Stone Rural North as Wedgwood has its roots in Stoke-on-Trent and not Staffordshire County Council area. We have done so as part of our final recommendations.

125 Therefore, with the exception of changing the name of one of the divisions from Wedgewood to Stone Rural North, we confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

Stafford North

126 The County Council did not have any objections to our draft recommendations for Stafford North.

127 Councillor Carter expressed support for the inclusion of the Marston Grange area of Creswell parish in Stafford North division, on community links and identity grounds. However, Councillor Reid stated that the draft recommendations split an estate across two divisions. He objected to the separation of Edison Road from the rest of the estate to which it belonged and suggested that the existing boundary along School Place be retained.

128 We have considered these submissions carefully and have been persuaded to unite the estate both sides of Edison Road in the neighbouring division. Therefore,

as part of our final recommendations, we have modified the boundaries of Stafford North division to exclude Edison Road.

Stafford Central and Stafford West & Rural

129 The County Council objected to Stafford West & Rural for the reasons given in paragraph 115. It was also of the view that 'Rowley' was different from the rural area, and that 'parts of a private nature' had been split by the draft recommendations.

130 Stafford & Stone Green Party supported the draft recommendations. While it acknowledged that Stafford West & Rural division includes rural and urban areas, it was of the view that it was a good solution in light of the number of county councillors allocated to the borough. It stated that the different communities within this division were kept together and not split across different divisions. It also supported the uniting of Castletown and Virginia Park in Stafford Central division on community identity grounds.

131 Councillor Pearce supported our draft recommendations for this area as they related to Doxey & Castletown borough ward. He too was of the view that the draft recommendations were a good compromise which 'ensures that the communities which exist within the ward are kept together'. Councillor Carter also supported the draft recommendations for similar reasons, including that Rowley borough ward was not split across divisions.

132 Both Councillor Carter and Councillor Rose noted that Seighford & Church Eaton borough ward was split across three county divisions, but they were of the view that there were good reasons for this and therefore supported the draft recommendations.

133 A resident supported the draft recommendations' inclusion of St Mary's Gate, Church View and Kensington Drive estates in Stafford Central division instead of Stafford Trent Valley.

134 When considering these submissions, we noted that both the County Council's proposals and the draft recommendations united Castletown and Virginia Park in a single division. We also noted that both schemes split Seighford and Church Eaton borough ward across divisions. Furthermore, both schemes included densely populated area(s) with a rural area.

135 Our draft recommendations place all of Rowley ward in the same division, as has been noted by a number of respondents. The County Council did not specify where our recommendations split the private area of Rowley, or propose an alternative boundary, except to state that we should adopt its division pattern for the entire borough, or 'other alternatives'.

136 The County Council's boundary to the east excluded St Mary's Gate, Church View and Kensington Drive estates from Stafford Central division, utilising the parish boundary. However, this boundary is defaced and runs through properties. Therefore, we did not adopt it as part of our recommendations.

137 On our tour of the area, we noted that the area around Hylton Road and to its east was a somewhat separate development from the one in Castlefields, which explained the County Council's proposed boundary in that area. Nevertheless, we considered that both developments and any new ones will have some shared interests, not least because of their proximity and characteristics.

138 In any case, we sometimes combine distinct communities in the same division in order to ensure good electoral equality. This is what we have done in Stafford West & Rural, in particular. We note that some respondents stated that the draft recommendations for this division do not split communities.

139 After careful consideration, we have been persuaded that this is the best balance of our statutory criteria and have not been persuaded to move away from our draft recommendations. We confirm them as final.

Stafford Trent Valley and Stone Urban

140 The County Council did not provide any additional or specific comments about our draft recommendations for either of these two divisions. As mentioned in the section on Stone Rural North division, Councillor Pert suggested that we split the existing Stone Rural and Stone Urban divisions among two county councillors to avoid impacting other areas of the borough. Doing this without further strong community evidence of where the boundaries should be and which communities should be included, will not take account of evidence and support we have received for the draft recommendations in other divisions.

141 Although one resident supported the inclusion of Aston Lodge in Stafford Trent Valley division, a number of residents objected to the area, which is in the east of Stone town, being excluded from Stone Urban. They explained that they were part of Stone town, and should therefore be included in Stone Urban division. We recognise the desirability of including this area in the Stone Urban division and this is something we considered doing as part of our draft recommendations. However, it produced a Stone Urban division with 18% more electors than the average for the county. We considered this too high and were not persuaded to do so.

142 As highlighted in our draft recommendations, Stone has too many electors for one councillor, and too few for two councillors if we are to retain a good level of electoral equality. Accordingly, we consider that part of the town will need to be included in a rural ward.

143 During the first consultation on division patterns, Stone Town Council and a resident advocated for the Walton area to be included in Stone Urban division, thereby uniting Walton ward, on community identity grounds. We agreed with this, and our draft recommendations placed Udall Grange development and a small area around Cauldon Drive, off the A34 in Stone Urban. We considered that the Cauldon Drive area is more contiguous with Stone Urban than the neighbouring rural division. Our draft recommendations in this area were also supported by a resident, on community identity grounds.

144 Following the consultation on the draft recommendations, we visited the area. We noted that both Aston Lodge to the east, and Udall Grange to the west, are distinct developments within Stone parish. While there is no doubt that both look to Stone for amenities, Aston Lodge is a more discrete development than Udall Grange. Vehicular access to it is via Aston Lodge Parkway only. The railway line and crossing, while not an impenetrable or a hard boundary, is clear and identifiable. Udall Grange with access via Clarke Way and Myatt Avenue is less discrete and will share some community or issues with those across Eccleshall Road, especially the development around Sweepers Avenue, as well as Manor Rise Estate.

145 As mentioned earlier, we sometimes include separate and distinct communities in the same division if that allows us to better balance our statutory criteria overall. For this reason, we placed Aston Lodge in Stafford Trent Valley division, a different division from the rest of Stone Town. We remain satisfied that it is the best balance of our statutory criteria and have therefore not been persuaded to move away from our draft recommendations for Stone Urban.

146 Berkswich Parish Council advocated for its parish to be united in Stafford Trent Valley division. It objected to being split across two divisions, stating that the two villages, Walton-on-the-Hill and Milford, that make up the parish share a lot of community interests. This view was supported by Brocton Parish Council and a resident. It also pointed out that a number of Milford properties and amenities were included in Stafford South East.

147 The County Council and Councillor Edgeller were of the view that Walton-on-the-Hill should be placed in Stafford South East, in line with our draft recommendations, because the majority of the students in Walton High School reside in Stafford South East.

148 We considered placing both Berkswich and Brocton parishes within Stafford Trent Valley division. However, when taken together with our decision about Aston Lodge, this produced a division with 23% more electors than the average for the county. We consider this to be very poor electoral equality and have not been persuaded do this.

149 On our tour of the area, we noted that Walton-on-the-Hill is adjacent to the town of Stafford and we remain persuaded that residents of Walton-on-the-Hill look to Stafford for some of their community and amenities. This is in line with comments from the Council and Councillor Edgeller. Therefore, we have excluded them from Stafford Trent Valley division and placed them in Stafford South East.

150 However, we note the comments from Berkswich Parish Council about Milford Hall and Milford Lodge being separated from the rest of Milford, and have made a modification to address this and have included this area in Stafford Trent division.

151 With the exception of this modification, we confirm our draft recommendations for Stafford Trent Valley and Stone Urban as final.

Stafford South East and Stafford South West

152 The County Council and Councillor Edgeller opposed our draft recommendations for Stafford South East and Stafford South West divisions. They were of the view that the railway line should be the boundary between these two divisions as well as Stafford Central. They advocated for the whole of Penkside borough ward to be included in Stafford South East, together with Meadowcroft Park, on community identity grounds.

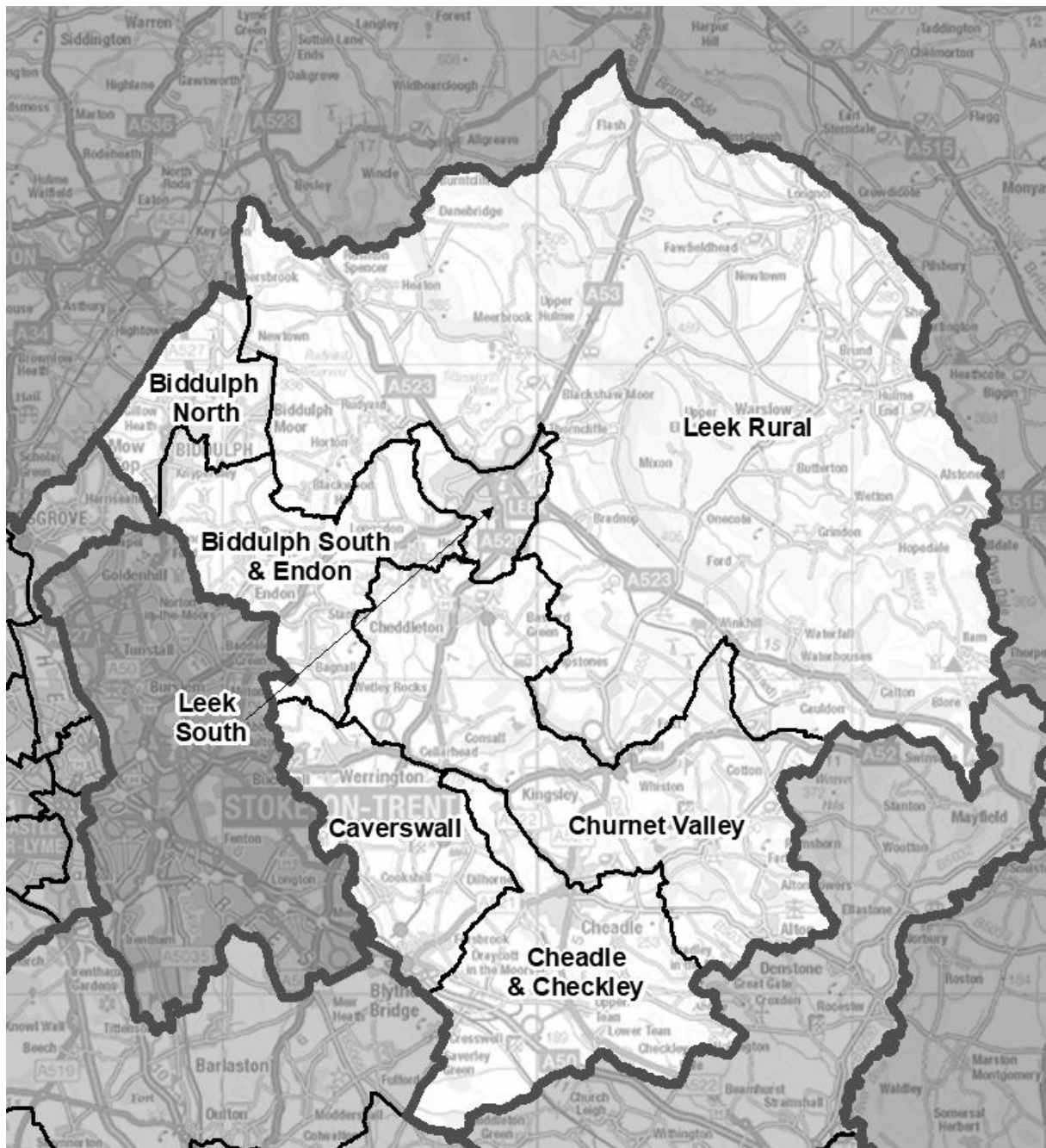
153 We considered uniting Penkside borough ward in Stafford South East. However, this produced divisions with 24% more and 12% fewer electors than the county average. We considered a variance of 24% too high and did not adopt this proposal.

154 On visiting the area, we noted that the railway line is indeed a strong boundary. However, it is not impenetrable, and there are adequate road crossings over it. We have therefore been persuaded to retain the boundaries of our draft recommendations for these divisions. Manor ward is wholly included in Stafford South West, while Baswich and Weeping Cross & Wildwood wards are wholly included in Stafford South East.

155 The County Council and Councillor Edgeller stated that residents of Lodgefield Park and The Saltings in Baswich borough ward had no connection with Stafford Trent Valley, and that their community is all within the existing Stafford South East division. As mentioned above, our draft recommendations place all of Baswich borough ward in Stafford South East division.

156 After due consideration, and in light of decisions made elsewhere in the borough, we are confirming our draft recommendations in this area as final, with the exception of a minor modification between Stafford South East and Stafford Trent Valley as explained in the section on Stafford Trent Valley.

Staffordshire Moorlands



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Biddulph North	1	-11%
Biddulph South & Endon	1	8%
Caverswall	1	1%
Cheadle & Checkley	1	9%
Churnet Valley	1	3%
Leek Rural	1	-2%
Leek South	1	7%

Biddulph North and Biddulph South & Endon

157 The County Council's comments were the only ones we received on our draft recommendations for this area of Staffordshire Moorlands district.

158 Our draft recommendations were for a Biddulph North and a Biddulph South & Endon division with variances of -11% and 7%, respectively. The County Council objected to the draft recommendations on electoral equality grounds and asked us to reconsider our decision. The County Council wanted us to use the boundary adjustment it proposed during the first consultation.

159 On careful consideration, we note that while it is true that using the County Council's proposed boundary along Princess Street, Well Street and St John's Road would improve the electoral equality of Biddulph North division, the boundary would be less identifiable and weaker. Therefore, after considering the strength of the draft recommendations' boundary, we are of the view that our draft recommendations provide the best balance of our statutory criteria.

Caverswall, Cheadle & Checkley and Churnet Valley

160 The County Council's comments in support of the draft recommendations were the only ones we received for these divisions. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Caverswall, Cheadle & Checkley and Churnet Valley divisions as final.

Leek Rural and Leek South

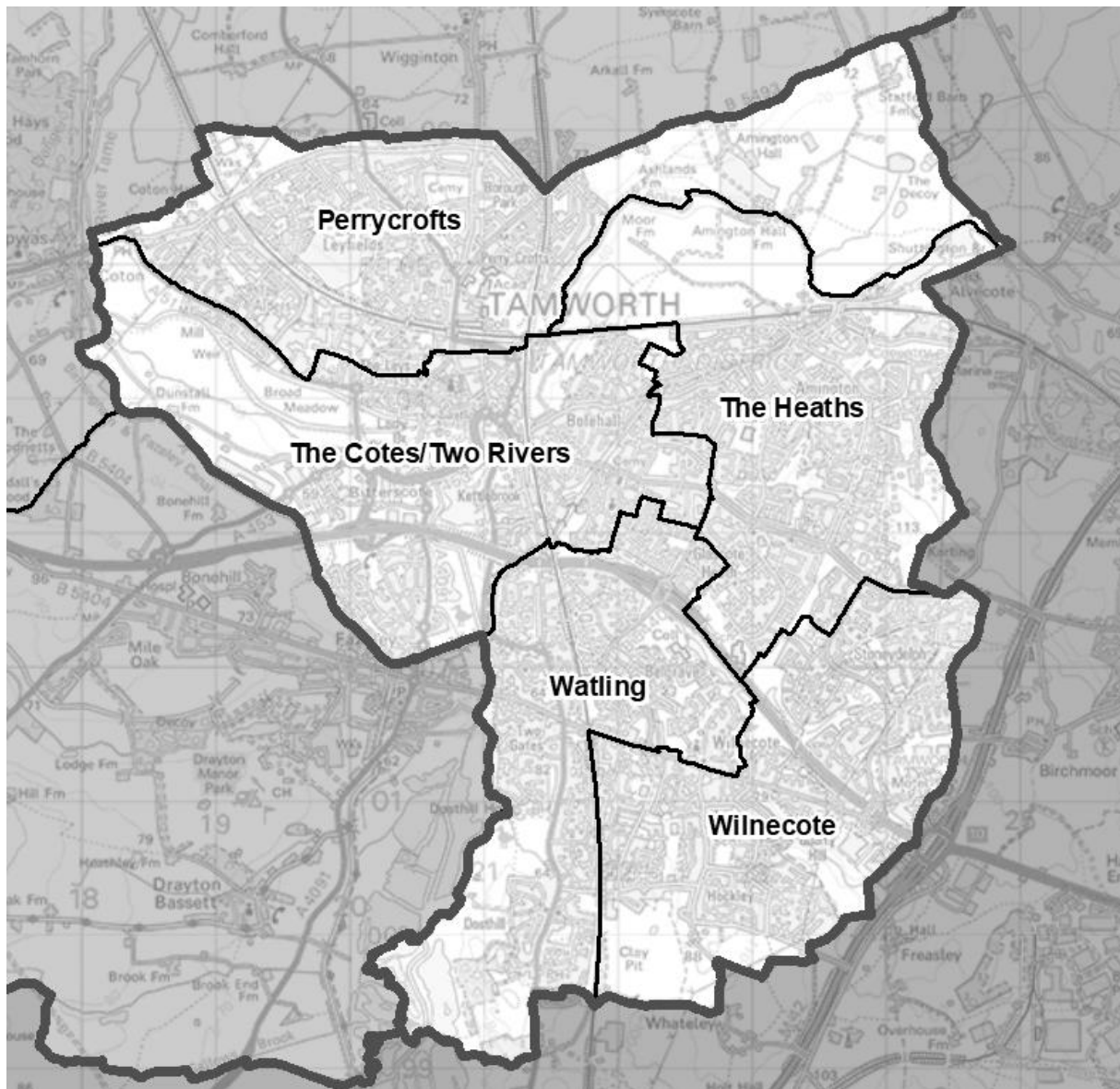
161 We received one submission from a resident in addition to the County Council's supportive comments.

162 The resident objected to the changes made to Leek South division boundary and was of the view that the characteristics, history and geographical location of Ladderedge align more closely with Leek and therefore Leek South division.

163 We considered doing this. However, to avoid creating an unviable parish ward, including Ladderedge in Leek South division would mean using the existing parish boundary. As noted in our draft recommendations report, this would split Mollatts Wood Road. It would leave 15 residents at the south end of the road in a different division. It would also utilise a defaced parish boundary. Therefore, we did not adopt this.

164 We did not receive any other comments about these divisions. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Leek Rural and Leek South as final.

Tamworth



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Perrycrofts	1	8%
The Cotes/Two Rivers	1	9%
The Heaths	1	9%
Watling	1	10%
Wilmecote	1	8%

165 We received one submission, in addition to the County Council's comments, on our draft recommendations for Tamworth. This was from Councillor Daniels.

166 The County Council expressed support for the draft recommendations. It noted that we had adopted its proposals, for which they had previously provided supporting community evidence during the first consultation.

167 Councillor Daniels stated that 'she was happy with the proposed changes'. However, she wanted to know if Perrycrofts division reflected the new development 'to the left' of Ashby Road. She was of the view that although the development was within Lichfield District, residents would use amenities in Tamworth.

168 We note that the border between Tamworth and Lichfield runs along a section of Ashby Road. The development to the north of the road is within Lichfield District Council area, and will therefore be included in a division within Lichfield district.

169 We received no other comments relating to the draft recommendations for Tamworth. In view of the support we received for the draft recommendations, we are confirming them as final.

170 All the divisions in Tamworth are forecast to have good electoral equality.

Conclusions

171 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Staffordshire, referencing the 2022 and 2029 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and divisions. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2022	2029
Number of councillors	62	62
Number of electoral divisions	62	62
Average number of electors per councillor	10,744	11,617
Number of divisions with a variance more than 10% from the average	18	7
Number of divisions with a variance more than 20% from the average	4	0

Final recommendations

Staffordshire should be made up of 62 councillors serving 62 single-councillor divisions. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed divisions for Staffordshire County Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Staffordshire on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

172 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 divisions it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

173 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, Staffordshire County 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.

174 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Berkswich, Branston, Burntwood, Creswell, Hednesford, Hopton & Coton, Horninglow & Eton, Leek, Outwoods, Rugeley, Stone and Uttoxeter.

175 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Berkswich parish.

Final recommendations

Berkswich Parish Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Milford	2
Walton-on-the-Hill	8

176 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Branston parish.

Final recommendations

Branston Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Branston	8
Henhurst North	2
Henhurst South	1

177 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Burntwood parish.

Final recommendations

Burntwood Town Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Boney Hay & Central	5
Chase Terrace	4
Chasetown North	1
Chasetown South	4
Gorstey Ley	1
Highfield	1
Hunslet	1
Summerfield & All Saints	5

178 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Creswell parish.

Final recommendations

Creswell Parish Council should comprise five councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Creswell East	4
Creswell West	1

179 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hednesford parish.

Final recommendations

Hednesford Town Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Green Heath	3
Hawks Green	1
Hednesford Hills	1
Keys Park East	1
Keys Park West	1
Pye Green	3

180 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hopton & Coton parish.

Final recommendations

Hopton & Coton Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hopton & Coton	3
Tixall Road	4

181 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Horninglow & Eton parish.

Final recommendations

Horninglow & Eton Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Beaconsfield Road	1

Eton	6
Horninglow East	6
Horninglow West	2

182 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Leek parish.

Final recommendations

Leek Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Birchall	1
Leek Brook	1
Leek East	2
Leek North	3
Leek South East	2
Leek South West	1
Leek West	2

183 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Outwoods parish.

Final recommendations

Outwoods Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	5
North	2
South East	3
South West	1

184 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Rugeley parish.

Final recommendations

Rugeley Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Etching Hill	9
Hagley West	3
Pear Tree	2
Western Springs North	3
Western Springs South	2

185 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Stone parish.

Final recommendations

Stone Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
St Michael's East	2
St Michael's West	3
Stonefield & Christchurch	6
Walton North	3
Walton South	4

186 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Uttoxeter parish.

Final recommendations

Uttoxeter Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Heath	8
Rural	1
Town	7

What happens next?

187 We have now completed our review of Staffordshire County 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 2025.

Equalities

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

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Staffordshire County Council

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Cannock Chase								
1	Brereton & Ravenhill	1	8,535	8,535	-21%	10,824	10,824	-7%
2	Cannock Town	1	11,486	11,486	7%	12,106	12,106	4%
3	Chadsmoor	1	10,825	10,825	1%	11,269	11,269	-3%
4	Etching Hill & The Heath	1	10,318	10,318	-4%	10,742	10,742	-8%
5	Hawks Green, Rawsley & Cannock Wood	1	11,981	11,981	12%	12,432	12,432	7%
6	Hednesford North	1	11,397	11,397	6%	12,619	12,619	9%
7	Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	1	11,793	11,793	10%	12,345	12,345	6%
East Staffordshire								
8	Burton South	1	8,035	8,035	-25%	11,566	11,566	0%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
9	Burton Tower	1	11,015	11,015	3%	11,575	11,575	0%
10	Burton Town	1	11,271	11,271	5%	13,144	13,144	13%
11	Burton Trent	1	10,007	10,007	-7%	10,568	10,568	-9%
12	Dove	1	8,763	8,763	-18%	10,638	10,638	-8%
13	Needwood Forest	1	9,569	9,569	-11%	10,351	10,351	-11%
14	Stretton	1	11,776	11,776	10%	12,245	12,245	5%
15	Uttoxeter Rural	1	8,651	8,651	-19%	11,240	11,240	-3%
16	Uttoxeter Town	1	10,549	10,549	-2%	12,695	12,695	9%
Lichfield								
17	Burntwood North	1	11,083	11,083	3%	11,044	11,044	-5%
18	Burntwood South	1	10,797	10,797	0%	10,950	10,950	-6%
19	Lichfield City North	1	11,564	11,564	8%	12,096	12,096	4%
20	Lichfield City South	1	10,337	10,337	-4%	12,776	12,776	10%
21	Lichfield Rural East	1	8,232	8,232	-23%	9,953	9,953	-14%
22	Lichfield Rural North	1	7,992	7,992	-26%	10,213	10,213	-12%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
23	Lichfield Rural South	1	12,193	12,193	13%	12,445	12,445	7%
24	Lichfield Rural West	1	10,887	10,887	1%	11,700	11,700	1%
Newcastle under Lyme								
25	Audley & Chesterton	1	10,461	10,461	-3%	11,122	11,122	-4%
26	Bradwell & Porthill	1	9,422	9,422	-12%	10,099	10,099	-13%
27	Kidsgrove	1	11,213	11,213	4%	11,823	11,823	2%
28	May Bank & Wolstanton	1	10,005	10,005	-7%	10,688	10,688	-8%
29	Newcastle Rural	1	10,080	10,080	-6%	11,053	11,053	-5%
30	Newcastle South	1	10,027	10,027	-7%	10,928	10,928	-6%
31	Silverdale & Knutton	1	10,021	10,021	-7%	11,060	11,060	-5%
32	Talke & Red Street	1	11,233	11,233	5%	11,809	11,809	2%
33	Westlands, Thistleberry & Keele	1	9,644	9,644	-10%	10,751	10,751	-7%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	
South Staffordshire								
34	Brewood	1	10,141	10,141	-6%	10,501	10,501	-10%
35	Cheslyn Hay Village, Featherstone & Shareshill	1	10,676	10,676	-1%	11,162	11,162	-4%
36	Codsall	1	9,951	9,951	-7%	10,465	10,465	-10%
37	Great Wyrley & Essington	1	11,625	11,625	8%	12,559	12,559	8%
38	Kinver	1	10,615	10,615	-1%	11,058	11,058	-5%
39	Penkridge	1	11,163	11,163	4%	11,482	11,482	-1%
40	Perton	1	9,691	9,691	-10%	10,071	10,071	-13%
41	Wombourne	1	11,231	11,231	5%	11,583	11,583	0%
Stafford								
42	Eccleshall & Gnosall	1	11,133	11,133	4%	11,304	11,304	-3%
43	Stafford Central	1	11,799	11,799	10%	12,819	12,819	10%
44	Stafford North	1	11,177	11,177	4%	12,044	12,044	4%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
45	Stafford South East	1	12,575	12,575	17%	12,612	12,612	9%
46	Stafford South West	1	11,916	11,916	11%	11,984	11,984	3%
47	Stafford Trent Valley	1	11,426	11,426	6%	12,141	12,141	5%
48	Stafford West & Rural	1	9,383	9,383	-13%	10,877	10,877	-6%
49	Stone Rural North	1	12,103	12,103	13%	12,262	12,262	6%
50	Stone Urban	1	11,960	11,960	11%	12,312	12,312	6%
Staffordshire Moorlands								
51	Biddulph North	1	9,858	9,858	-8%	10,288	10,288	-11%
52	Biddulph South & Endon	1	11,970	11,970	11%	12,539	12,539	8%
53	Caverswall	1	10,792	10,792	0%	11,677	11,677	1%
54	Cheadle & Checkley	1	11,311	11,311	5%	12,712	12,712	9%
55	Churnet Valley	1	10,807	10,807	1%	11,991	11,991	3%
56	Leek Rural	1	10,896	10,896	1%	11,366	11,366	-2%
57	Leek South	1	11,470	11,470	7%	12,378	12,378	7%

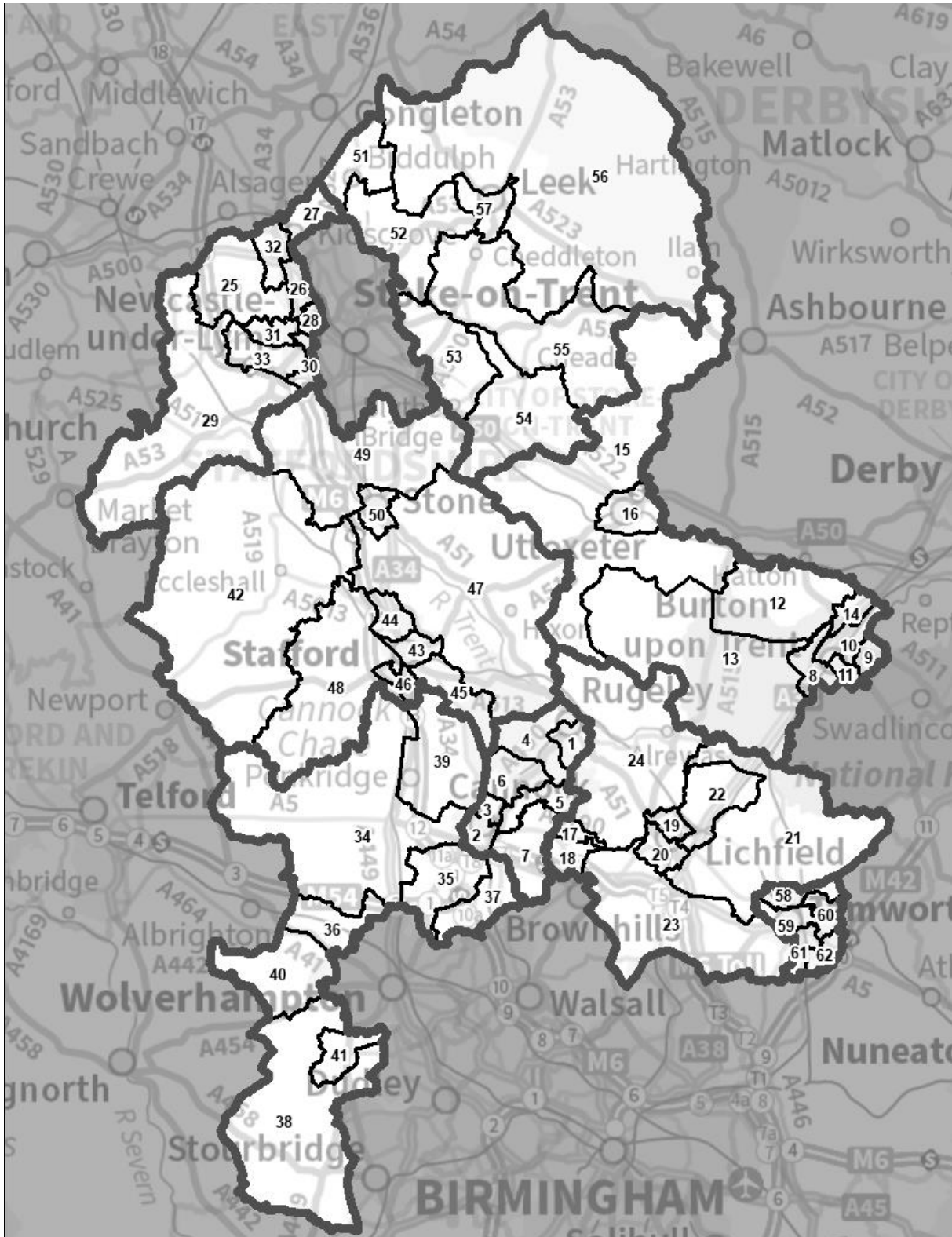
Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	
Tamworth								
58	Perrycrofts	1	11,616	11,616	8%	12,579	12,579	8%
59	The Cotes/Two Rivers	1	11,779	11,779	10%	12,680	12,680	9%
60	The Heaths	1	11,363	11,363	6%	12,627	12,627	9%
61	Watling	1	12,344	12,344	15%	12,743	12,743	10%
62	Wilnecote	1	12,164	12,164	13%	12,537	12,537	8%
Totals		62	666,097	–	–	720,225	–	–
Averages		–	–	10,744	–	–	11,617	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Staffordshire County Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral division varies from the average for the county. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower-than-average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



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

Number	Division name	Number	Division name
Cannock Chase		32	Talke & Red Street
1	Brereton & Ravenhill	33	Westlands, Thistleberry & Keele
2	Cannock Town	South Staffordshire	
3	Chadsmoor	34	Brewood
4	Etching Hill & The Heath	35	Cheslyn Hay Village, Featherstone & Sharesill
5	Hawks Green, Rawsley & Cannock Wood	36	Codsall
6	Hednesford North	37	Great Wyrley & Essington
7	Norton Canes, Heath Hayes & Wimblebury	38	Kinver
East Staffordshire		39	Penkridge
8	Burton South	40	Perton
9	Burton Tower	41	Wombourne
10	Burton Town	Stafford	
11	Burton Trent	42	Eccleshall & Gnosall
12	Dove	43	Stafford Central
13	Needwood Forest	44	Stafford North
14	Stretton	45	Stafford South East
15	Uttoxeter Rural	46	Stafford South West
16	Uttoxeter Town	47	Stafford Trent Valley
Lichfield		48	Stafford West & Rural
17	Burntwood North	49	Stone Rural North
18	Burntwood South	50	Stone Urban
19	Lichfield City North	Staffordshire Moorlands	
20	Lichfield City South	51	Biddulph North
21	Lichfield Rural East	52	Biddulph South & Endon
22	Lichfield Rural North	53	Caverswall
23	Lichfield Rural South	54	Cheadle & Checkley
24	Lichfield Rural West	55	Churnet Valley
Newcastle under Lyme		56	Leek Rural
25	Audley & Chesterton	57	Leek South
26	Bradwell & Porthill	Tamworth	
27	Kidsgrove	58	Perrycrofts
28	May Bank & Wolstanton	59	The Cotes/Two Rivers
29	Newcastle Rural	60	The Heaths
30	Newcastle South	61	Watling
31	Silverdale & Knutton	62	Wilnecote

Appendix C

Submissions received in response to our draft recommendations

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/staffordshire

Local Authority

- Staffordshire County Council

Political Groups

- Cannock Chase CLP and Labour Group
- Cannock Chase Green Party
- Lichfield Constituency Labour Party
- Stafford & Stone Green Party
- West Midlands Green Party

Councillors

- Councillor E. Bishop and Councillor M. Boyer (Cannock Chase District Council)
- Councillor R. Bragger (Lichfield City Council and Lichfield District Council)
- Councillor E. Carter (Stafford Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Daniels (Tamworth Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Edgeller (Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor J. Elson and Councillor A. Muckley (Cannock Chase District Council)
- Councillor A. Fox (Lichfield City Council)
- Councillor A. Lax (Lichfield City Council)
- Councillor D. Mawle (Cannock Chase District Council)
- Councillor T. Pearce (Stafford Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Pert (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor A. Reid (Stafford Borough Council and Eccleshall Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Rose (Stafford Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Rouxel (Stafford Borough Council)

Local Organisations

- National Memorial Arboretum

Parish and Town Councils

- Berkswich Parish Council

- Brocton Parish Council
- Chebsey Parish Council
- Eccleshall Parish Council
- Lichfield City Council

Local Residents

- 45 local residents

Submissions received in response to our further draft recommendations

Local Authority

- Staffordshire County Council

Councillors

- Councillor R. Bragger (Lichfield City Council and Lichfield District Council)
- Councillor S. Daniels (Tamworth Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Fox (Lichfield City Council)
- Councillor C. Greatorex (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor R. Holland (Lichfield District Council)
- Councillor D. King (Hammerwich Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Smith (Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor J. Silvester-Hall (Lichfield District Council and Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor M. Wilcox (Lichfield District Council and Staffordshire County Council)
- Councillor S. Wilcox (Lichfield District Council)
- Councillor S. Woodward (Lichfield District Council and Staffordshire County Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Hammerwich Parish Council

Local Residents

- 18 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority.
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

Translations and other formats:

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

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

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

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