

# New electoral arrangements for Dacorum Borough Council Final Recommendations

July 2025

# Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Dacorum Borough Council

Electoral review

July 2025



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## A note on our mapping:

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

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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- 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.

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

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

## Why Dacorum?

7 We are conducting a review of Dacorum Borough Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2006, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup> 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 wards in Dacorum are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

## Our proposals for Dacorum

9 Dacorum should be represented by 52 councillors, one more than there are now.

10 Dacorum should have 26 wards, one more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 14 existing wards will change; 11 will stay the same.

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

## How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

## Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Dacorum. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on

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<sup>2</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).



warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
25 April 2024	Number of councillors decided
7 May 2024	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
9 September 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 December 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
10 February 2025	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 July 2025	Publication of final recommendations



## Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation<sup>3</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>4</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.

18 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.

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.

	2023	2030
Electorate of Dacorum	112,179	123,849
Number of councillors	52	52
Average number of electors per councillor	2,157	2,382

20 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 but two of our proposed wards for Dacorum are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

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

## Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2030, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2025. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 10% by 2030.

23 During the warding pattern consultation, Dacorum Borough Council Conservative Group ('the Conservatives') mentioned that a new development in Kings Langley was omitted from the forecast figures. They and two other respondents raised this issue during the latest consultation. The Council explained

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

that this development was only agreed after the electorate and development data had been finalised, and after the warding pattern consultation had started.

24 We consider that the forecasts provided at the beginning of a review are those that should be used as the base forecast throughout. This ensures that all who wish to make a submission to us can use the same baseline forecast figures. We are aware that planning decisions are likely to be made throughout the duration of this review. Our approach of not updating the forecast throughout the review ensures that we can maintain clarity over what the figures are so that people are able to respond on the same basis throughout.

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

26 Our mapping tool uses geocoded electoral registers supplied by the Council to locate electors, by associating addresses with specific geographic coordinates. It considers each elector's location to produce precise elector counts for each ward. There can be very slight differences between the electorate figures published on our website at the beginning of the review and the electorate figures published in this report. However, these are very minor and do not impact on our recommendations.

## Number of councillors

27 Dacorum Borough Council currently has 51 councillors. At the beginning of the review we looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 51 councillors – for example, 17 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

29 However, to adopt locally developed schemes with strong boundaries that reflected the communities in the west of Dacorum, based on the evidence we received, our draft recommendations were for a council size of 52 – one more than we announced at the beginning of our first consultation.

30 We did not receive any submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on the draft recommendations and we have maintained 52 councillors for our final recommendations.

## Ward boundaries consultation

31 We received 40 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included borough-wide proposals from Dacorum Borough Labour Group ('Labour') and West Hertfordshire Liberal Democrats. The Council's Conservative Group ('the Conservatives') provided comments for a significant part of the borough. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for wards arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

32 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of the borough-wide schemes. We 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 We visited the area to look at the various proposals on the ground. We also conducted a virtual tour of the boundary between Adeyfield and Hemel Hempstead Town. These tours of Dacorum helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

34 Our draft recommendations were for five three-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and five one-councillor wards. 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

35 We received 22 submissions during the consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from the Council which reflected the shared views of its political groups. We also received additional submissions from the Conservatives and Dacorum Liberal Democrat Group ('Liberal Democrats') which focused on different areas of the borough. Most of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Kings Langley, Felden and Piccotts End.

36 We also received a number of submissions which questioned the need for the review. As we explain in paragraph 7, we are required by law to review the electoral arrangements of all local authorities in England 'from time to time'. The Commission takes that to mean every 12 to 16 years. By the time this review is concluded, it will have been 19 years and four electoral cycles since the last review of Dacorum and we were not persuaded that a review of Dacorum was not justified.

## Final recommendations

37 Our final recommendations are for five three-councillor wards, 16 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 received such evidence during consultation.

38 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the boundary between Apsley and Corner Hall wards, and another modification to the boundary between Kings Langley and Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield wards based on the submissions we received. We also make a minor modification to the boundary between Leverstock Green and Nash Mills wards.

39 We rename Gadebridge & Spring Fields ward, Gadebridge.

40 The tables and maps on pages 9–24 detail our final recommendations for each area of Dacorum. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>5</sup> criteria of:

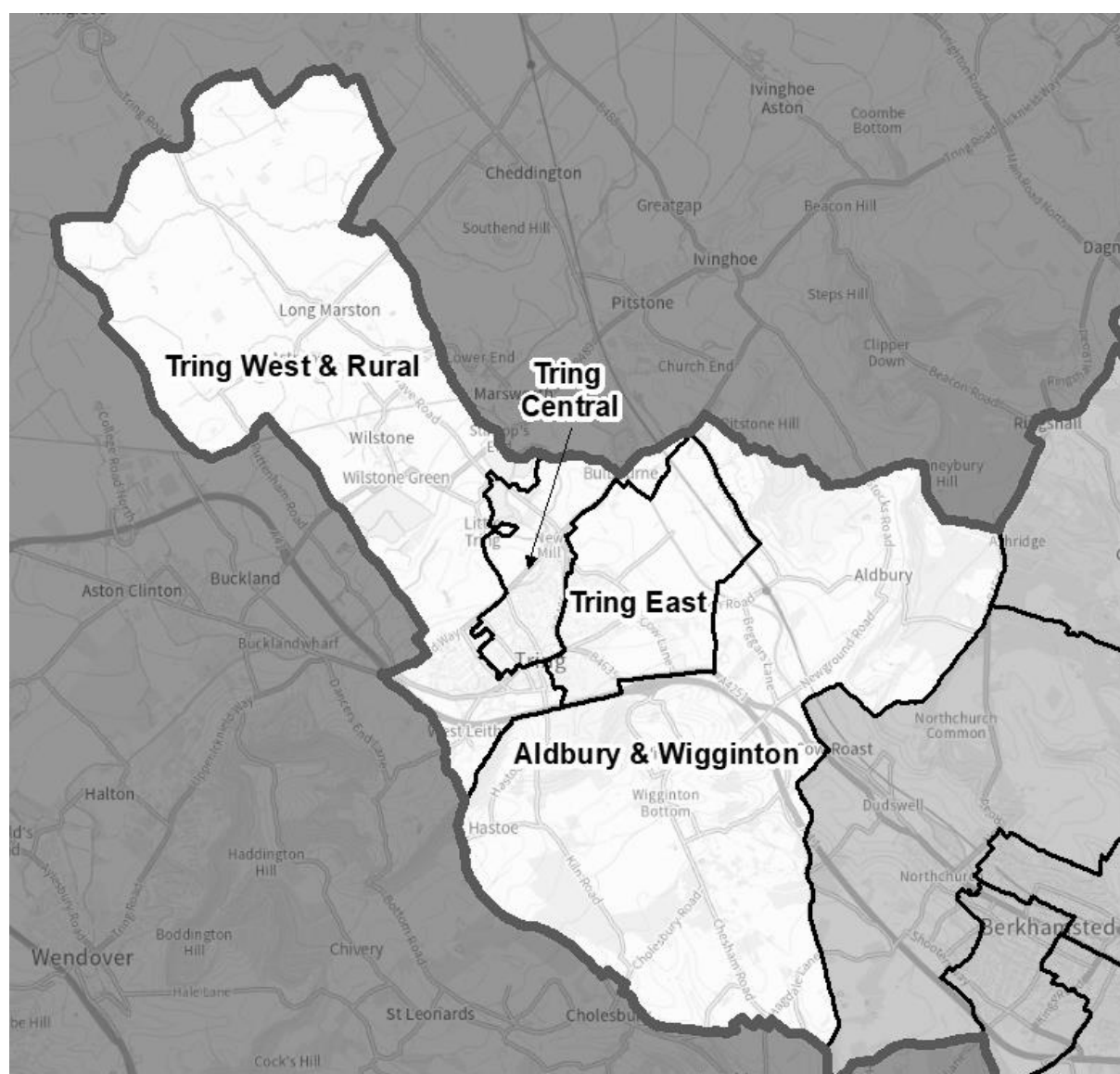
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

41 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 31 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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<sup>5</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Aldbury, Wigginton and Tring



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Aldbury & Wigginton	1	-10%
Tring Central	2	-10%
Tring East	1	-5%
Tring West & Rural	2	-8%

42 We received a submission from a resident asking why the town of Tring was split across multiple borough wards.

43 It may help to explain that one of the criteria set out in law that we must take into account when creating wards is electoral equality. This is where we make recommendations to make sure that each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors. Tring Rural parish has too few electors for a single-councillor

ward to have a good level of electoral equality – if Tring Rural parish formed one ward by itself it would have 48% fewer electors than the average. At the same time, a ward comprising the parish of Tring town only would have too many electors (35% more electors than the average) for three councillors which is the maximum number of councillors we would assign to any given ward. Accordingly, we identified an alternative warding pattern which results in the Tring Town Council area continuing to be split across multiple wards.

#### *Aldbury & Wigginton and Tring East*

44 We received comments on our draft recommendations for this area from the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Tring Town Council.

45 The Conservatives and Tring Town Council supported our draft recommendations which were for separate Aldbury & Wigginton and Tring East wards.

46 The Liberal Democrats advocated for Aldbury and Wigginton parishes to be included in a two-councillor ward with Tring East. In other words, a merger of the two draft recommendation wards. They expressed the view that ‘this would safeguard the situation and add some resilience to representation where a single member is domiciled at some distance from the ward.’

47 We note the view expressed by the Liberal Democrats. While this may be true in certain circumstances, it is also true that in a two-councillor ward there is no guarantee that one of the councillors would be resident near the ward. We also note that the Liberal Democrats acknowledge that residents of the rural parishes of Aldbury and Wigginton identify strongly with their respective parishes. Furthermore, as noted in our draft recommendations report, our tour of the area persuaded us that retaining a single-councillor Aldbury & Wigginton ward better reflected the community identities of residents.

48 Therefore, we have not been persuaded to change our draft recommendations for these wards, and we confirm them as final.

49 Aldbury & Wigginton and Tring East wards are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

#### *Tring Central and Tring West & Rural*

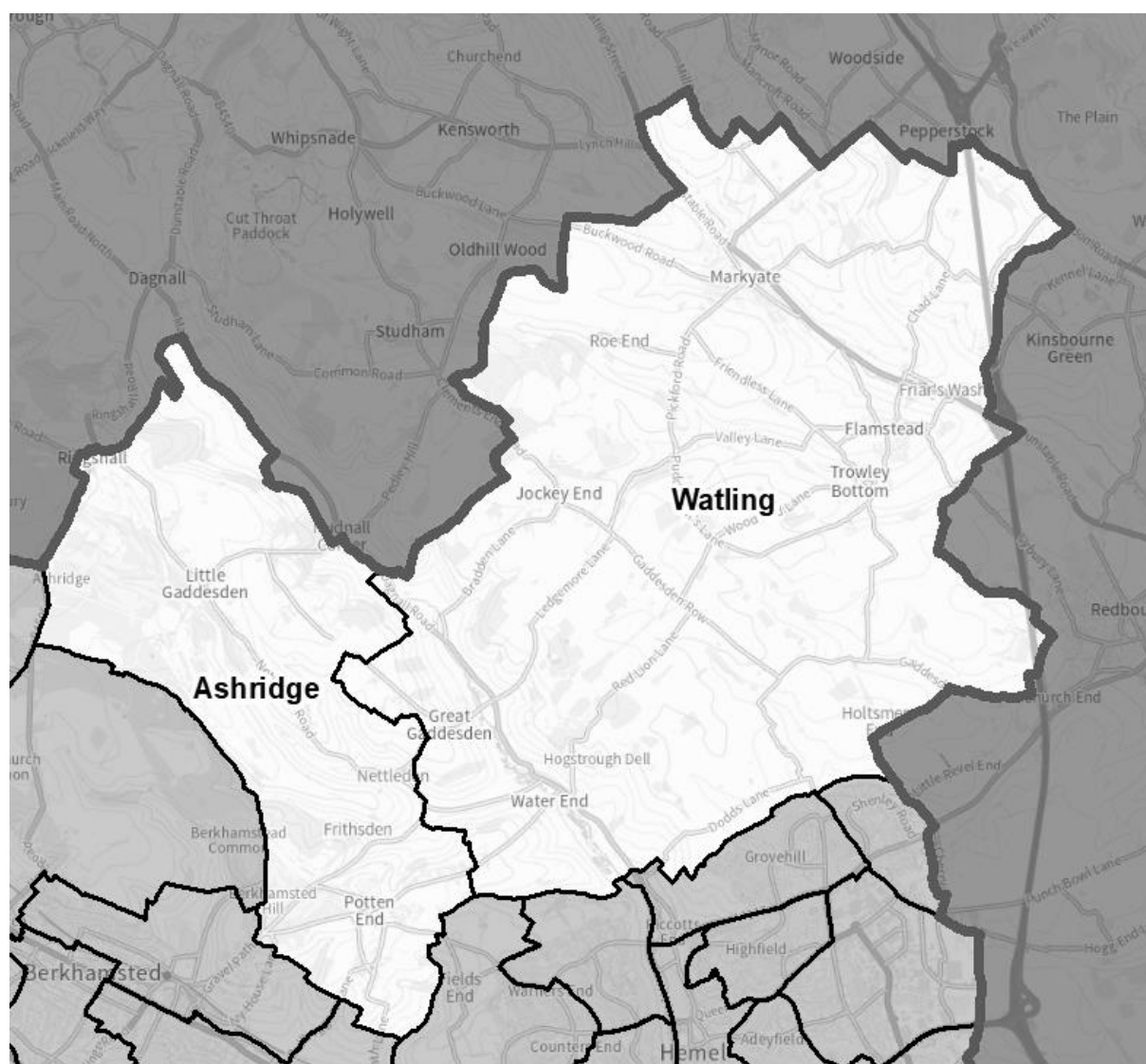
50 We received specific comments from Tring Town Council who expressed general support for all our wards in Tring.

51 As these were the only comments we received on our boundaries in this area, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final.



52 Tring Central and Tring West & Rural are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

## Ashridge and Watling



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Ashridge	1	-7%
Watling	2	-4%

### *Ashridge and Watling*

53 We received a submission from a resident about our wards in this area.

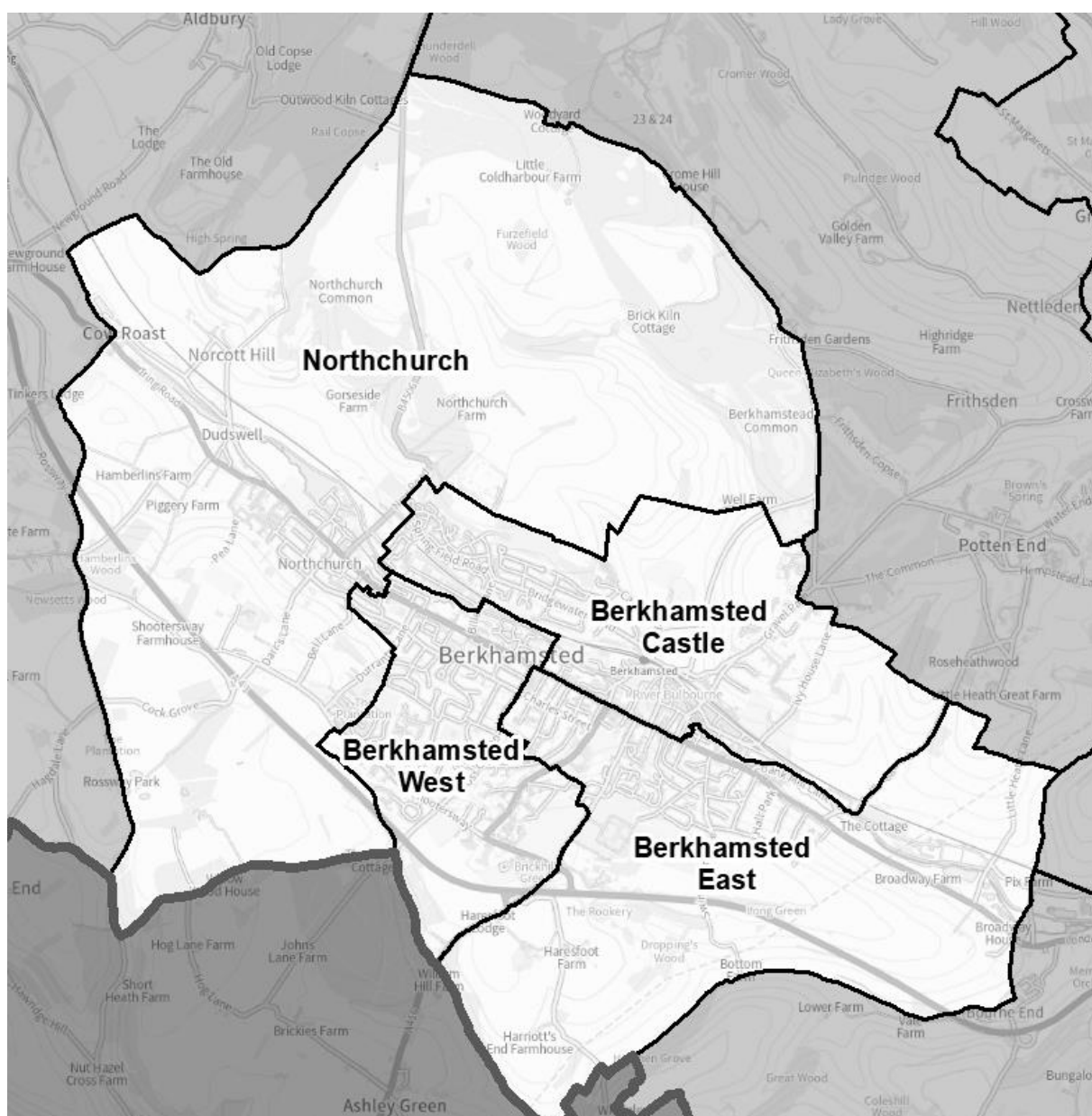
54 The resident was of the view that Ashridge should be combined with Northchurch ward because the former had very few electors.

55 However, we note that our proposed Ashridge ward has good electoral equality, and the resident did not provide any community identity evidence to support their proposal.

56 Therefore, we have not been persuaded to change our draft recommendations for Ashridge.

57 As this was the only specific comment about our wards in this area, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Ashridge and Watling wards as final. They are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

## Berkhamsted and Northchurch



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Berkhamsted Castle	2	1%
Berkhamsted East	2	4%
Berkhamsted West	2	7%
Northchurch	1	0%

### *Berkhamsted Castle and Northchurch*

58 In addition to the comment about combining Ashridge and Northchurch wards which we discuss in the section on Ashridge and Watling, we received comments from the Council and Liberal Democrats about our draft recommendations for Berkhamsted Castle and Northchurch.

59 The Council and Liberal Democrats requested that we move the five properties on Swallowtail Walk from Northchurch ward to Berkhamsted Castle ward. They say that this will reflect the residents' access which is via Berkhamsted Castle.

60 We considered doing this and noted that these properties are located within Northchurch parish. Including them in Berkhamsted Castle ward will necessitate the creation of a parish ward. This is because by law, if a parish is to be divided between different borough wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single borough ward. However, with fewer than 15 electors this parish ward would be unviable. Unviable parish wards are those which we consider would have too few electors (typically fewer than 100) to be effectively represented at parish level and which would not aid effective and convenient local government. We have therefore not made the requested change.

61 As mentioned in the section on Ashridge and Watling, we have not been persuaded to merge Northchurch with Ashridge as requested by a resident.

62 The Council is able to modify the parish boundaries after conducting a Community Governance Review, following which it can request that we make a change to the borough ward boundaries so that they follow the amended parish boundaries. We make this change through the making of a legal order known as a related alteration order.

63 We confirm our draft recommendations for Berkhamsted Castle and Northchurch wards as final. Both wards are forecast to have good electoral equality.

#### *Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West*

64 We received two submissions from residents about Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West wards.

65 One of the residents stated that the Bourne End area is currently split across Berkhamsted East, Chaulden & Warners End and Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield wards and that the draft recommendations maintained this split. They suggested that Bourne End should be united in a single ward, possibly Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield ward.

66 We considered this proposal. However, we noted that if we did this, we would have to create a parish ward in Berkhamsted parish which would have fewer electors than what we consider viable. Therefore, we did not do this but maintained the use of the parish boundary as a well-recognised and identifiable boundary.

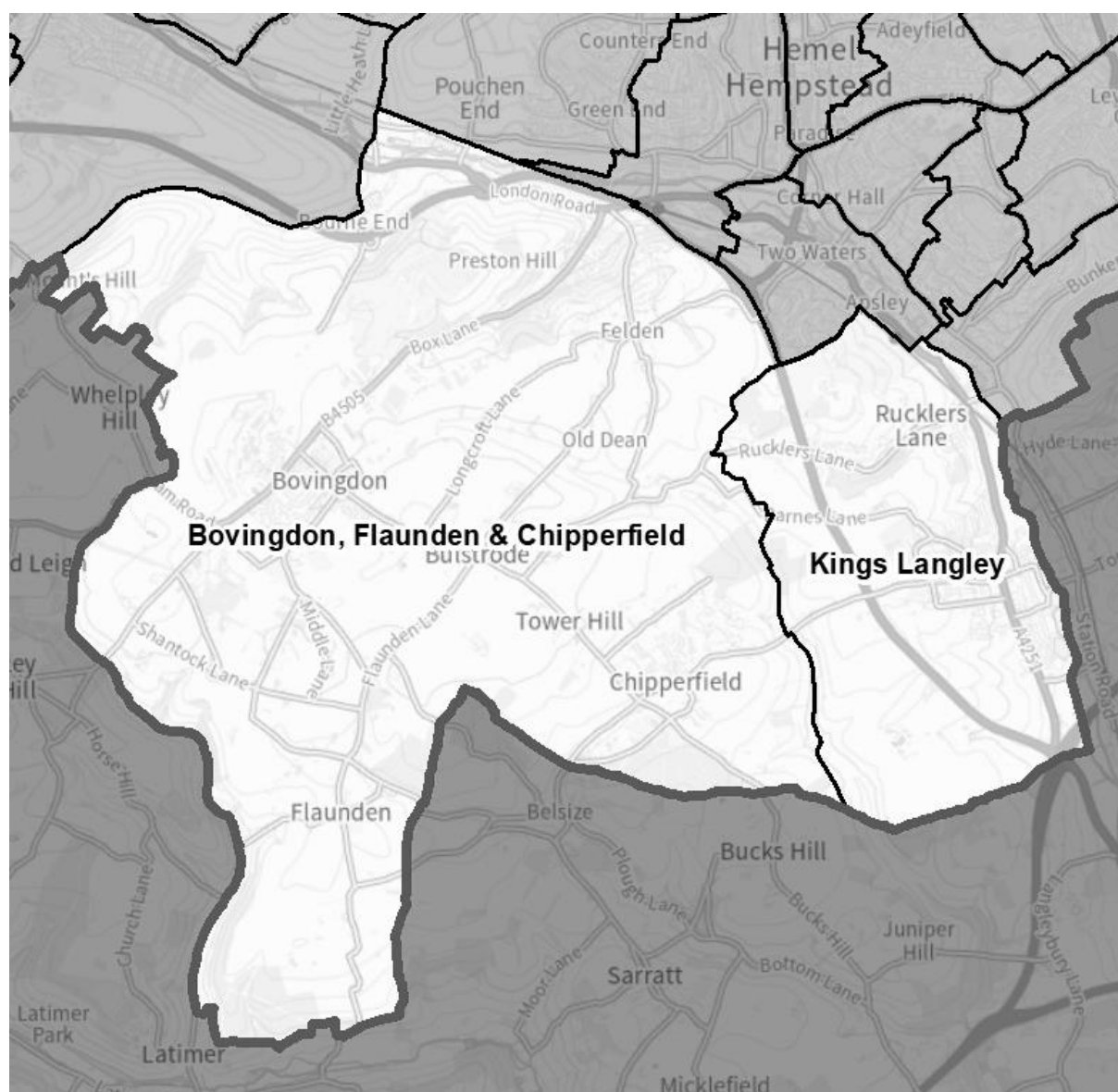
67 Accordingly, we are confirming our draft recommendations for these two wards as final. Both wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

68 In our draft recommendations report, we asked for comments on whether we should rename these wards in line with a request from a resident. We asked specifically if Ashlyns and Shrublands are names that would resonate with residents of Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West, respectively, and reflect their community identity. In response, one resident said they liked the idea of reverting to these names but did not provide any evidence that this sentiment was shared by residents more widely or why this was the case.

69 Considering the dearth of comments and evidence to support this, we have not been persuaded to rename these wards. However, in the five years following a review, a local authority may seek the Commission's agreement to change the name of a ward if this reflects community identity and sentiment. After five years, a local authority may make a change without seeking the agreement of the Commission.



## Bovingdon, Chipperfield, Felden, Flaunden and Kings Langley



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield	3	0%
Kings Langley	2	-15%

### *Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield and Kings Langley*

70 We received comments about our draft recommendations for this area from the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats, Councillor Anderson, Councillor James-Saunders and a resident.

71 Our draft recommendations were for a Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield ward and a Kings Langley & Felden ward. We did not adopt a Kings Langley ward coterminous with the parish boundaries because this produced a ward with 15%

fewer electors than the average for the borough which we were not persuaded was justified in light of a lack of evidence about the community identity in the area.

72 The Liberal Democrats supported the draft recommendations but suggested that we consider renaming Kings Langley & Felden ward, Kings Langley with Felden.

73 The Conservatives, Councillor Anderson and Councillor James-Saunders objected to our draft recommendations. The Conservatives and Councillor Anderson reiterated their comments about the omission of the Rectory Farm development(s) from the forecast electorate for Kings Langley. The Conservatives indicated that if the additional electorate from the development was included, a Kings Langley ward comprising the parish alone would have good electoral equality. As mentioned in paragraph 24, while we note that local authorities will agree housing developments throughout the life of a review, we do not change forecasts once they have been agreed at the start. Therefore, this argument has not persuaded us to change our draft recommendations.

74 Councillor James-Saunders stated that Kings Langley and Felden were physically separate communities with no natural connections.

75 Councillor Anderson also emphasised that the two communities had nothing in common. Furthermore, he stated that Kings Langley and Felden were in different parliamentary constituencies and that Felden did not have any polling station facilities.

76 We have not been persuaded by the arguments about polling stations and parliamentary constituencies. Polling stations can be located outside the polling district or ward. Parliamentary constituencies take into account the borough wards we create and so the next review of those constituencies will have regard to these new wards.

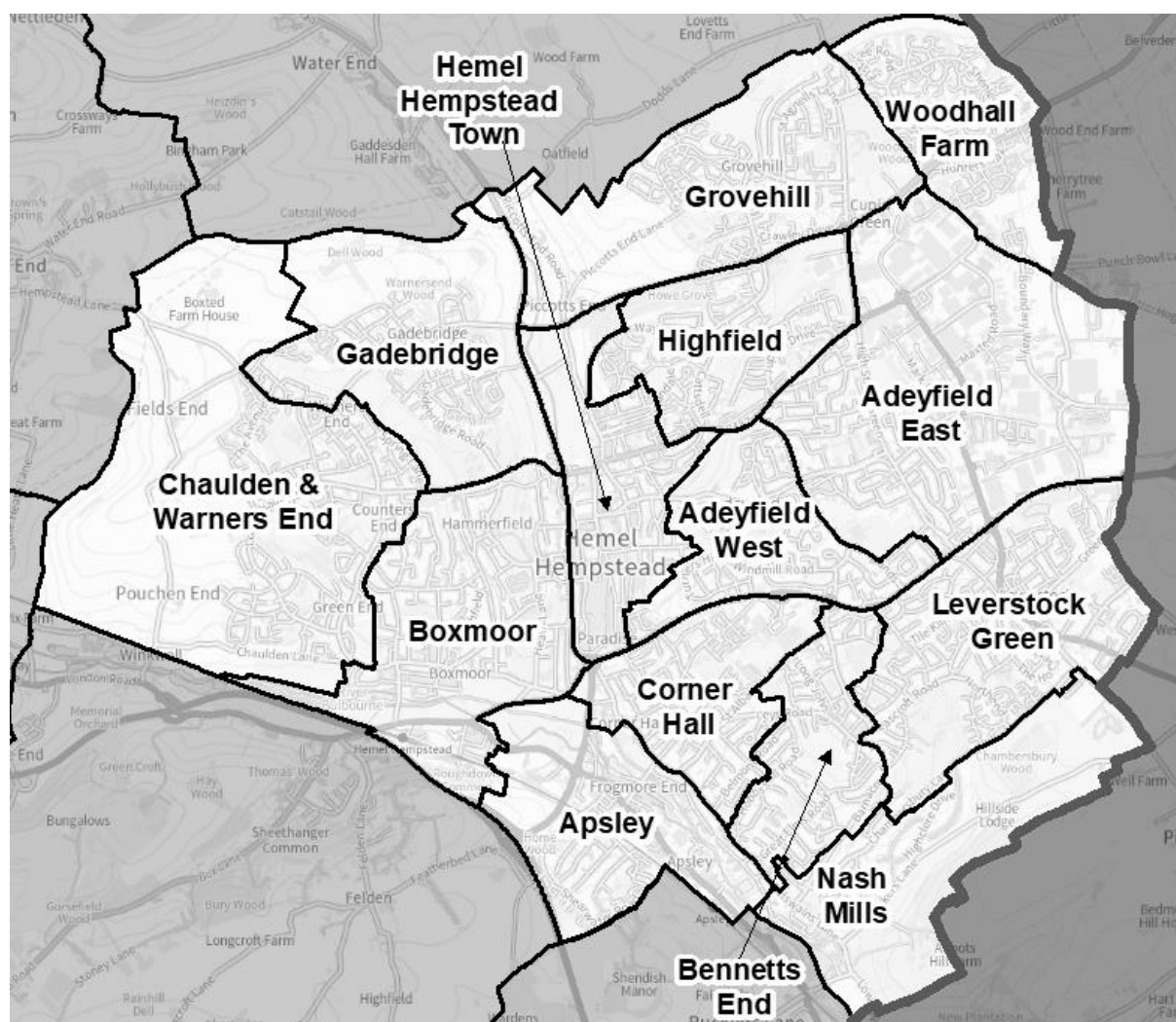
77 However, we have noted and carefully considered the comments about Kings Langley and Feldon being distinct and separate communities which have little in common. We also note that there is some geographical distance between the communities. We have been persuaded that they should not be in the same ward. We note that Kings Langley's position being at the edge of the borough provides fewer other alternative options and we consider that in this instance a poorer level of electoral equality of -15% in a Kings Langley ward is justified by the significant improvement to the reflection of community identities. We are content that this represents the best balance of our statutory requirements.

78 Accordingly, we have decided to change our draft recommendations and retain the boundaries of the existing Kings Langley ward based on the parish of the same name. This means that the Felden area will also be retained in its current ward, Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield.



79 Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield ward is forecast to have a similar number of electors per councillor as the average for Dacorum Borough Council by 2030. Kings Langley ward is forecast to have 15% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2030.

## Hemel Hempstead



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Adeyfield East	2	6%
Adeyfield West	2	6%
Apsley	2	3%
Bennetts End	2	-5%
Boxmoor	3	7%
Chaulden & Warners End	3	6%
Corner Hall	2	-5%
Gadebridge	2	2%
Grovehill	3	-9%
Hemel Hempstead Town	2	8%
Highfield	2	8%
Leverstock Green	3	-7%
Nash Mills	1	8%
Woodhall Farm	2	13%

*Adeyfield East, Adeyfield West and Highfield*

80 The Council and Liberal Democrats expressed support for the draft recommendations in Highfield ward. We did not receive any specific comments on our draft recommendations for Adeyfield East and Adeyfield West wards. Therefore, we are confirming them as final.

81 These wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

*Apsley and Corner Hall*

82 The Council and Liberal Democrats asked us to move Corner Hall Estate from our draft recommendations Apsley ward to Corner Hall ward to avoid confusing the residents who would assume that they were in the ward that shares a name with their estate.

83 We considered this and noted that doing this would still use identifiable boundaries, while reflecting the community identity of the residents. It unites the trading estate in a single ward. It also improved the electoral variances of both wards. We have therefore adopted this change as part of our final recommendations.

84 Apsley and Corner Hall wards are both forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

*Bennetts End, Leverstock Green and Nash Mills*

85 The Council and Liberal Democrats both expressed support for our draft recommendations in Bennetts End and Leverstock Green wards.

86 They requested a minor modification which would place 18a Pinecroft in Nash Mills ward along with the rest of Pinecroft. We are content to do so, uniting Pinecroft in a single ward.

87 Councillor Bromham suggested that we should unite all of Woodfield Drive, Chambersbury Lane and Bedmond Road in Leverstock Green ward. These roads are currently split across Leverstock Green and Nash Mills wards. He pointed out that these roads are closer to Leverstock Green than Nash Mills and that doing this would improve the electoral equality of both wards.

88 While we note that this is true, moving the 23 properties on Woodfield Drive and Woodfield Gardens that are currently in Nash Mills parish into Leverstock Green ward would necessitate the creation of a parish ward. This is because under law, if a parish is to be divided between different borough wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single borough ward. This parish ward would have too few electors to be viable. Unviable parish wards are those which we consider would have too few electors (typically fewer than 100) to be effectively represented at parish level and which would not aid effective and convenient local government.

89 We are unable to modify parish boundaries to mitigate this by moving those properties out of Nash Mills parish. Only the Council can do that after conducting a Community Governance Review. If after such a review it was decided to modify the parish boundaries, the Council can request that we issue a related alterations order amending the borough ward boundary to match the new parish boundary in that area.

90 However, we have been persuaded to move 342 to 362 Chambersbury Lane into Leverstock Green ward. This unites both sides of that stretch of the road in that ward. We have not made any changes to the boundary on Bedmond Road to retain access for Woodfield Drive and Woodfield Gardens residents to the rest of their ward.

91 We received a submission from a resident who indicated that they lived next to Coronation Fields. The resident stated that Coronation Fields and the roads around it had always been in Bennetts End and ought to remain there. They did not specify which roads they were referring to.

92 We note that all the roads immediately surrounding Coronation Fields, including the resident's road, are included in our draft recommendations for Bennetts End ward. Furthermore, we have expanded the existing ward to the east and southeast. We did move some roads in the northwest of the existing ward, i.e., north of Glebe Close, into Corner Hall ward based on evidence we received during the first consultation. We remain content that this reflects the community identity in that area, and we have not been persuaded to make any changes based on this submission.

93 Another resident acknowledged that the draft recommendations had moved some roads from Leverstock Green into Bennetts End, but they advocated for more roads to be moved. They pointed to Goldcroft and Rant Meadow as examples of roads that were near Bennetts End Road shops, but which the draft recommendations retained in Leverstock Green ward.

94 In drawing up our draft recommendations we carefully considered where to draw the boundary between these two wards. We conducted a tour of the area. We considered that the Bennetts End community most likely included Rant Meadow, Goldcroft and both sides of the western end of Peascroft Road. However, as explained in our draft recommendations report, including them in Bennetts End ward produced wards with poor electoral equality even if we made Bennetts End a three-councillor ward and Leverstock Green a two-councillor ward. This is still the case even if we only include Goldcroft and Rant Meadow in Bennetts End ward and leave out Peascroft Road.

95 This is why we retained these roads in their existing ward. At the time we noted the consensus about Bennetts End Road and Horselers as these streets were

included in Bennetts End ward under all the proposals we received. Accordingly, we placed these roads in that ward.

96 We remain satisfied that our draft recommendations continue to represent the best balance of our draft recommendations. In light of this and the support we have received from the two other respondents, we do not make any changes to the boundary between these wards.

97 Aside from the two minor modifications in Chambersbury Lane and Pinecroft, we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

98 Bennetts End, Leverstock Green and Nash Mills wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

#### *Boxmoor, Chaulden & Warners End and Gadebridge*

99 The Council and Liberal Democrats wrote to us about the boundary between Boxmoor and Chaulden & Warners End wards, and the name of our draft recommendations Gadebridge & Spring Fields ward.

100 Our draft recommendations united Northridge Way in Chaulden & Warners End ward. This included Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church, which is located on that road at the boundary between the two wards.

101 The Council and Liberal Democrats pointed out that the church was the polling station for Boxmoor ward and that they did not have an alternative site. They asked us to move the church into Boxmoor ward where it was currently located.

102 We considered this request. However, we note that a polling station does not have to be located within the polling district or ward to which it relates. We also consider that the boundary between the two wards which places both sides of Northridge Way in a single ward is logical, and we have not been persuaded to make any changes to the boundaries of these wards.

103 As part of our draft recommendations, we modified the existing Gadebridge ward and renamed it Gadebridge & Spring Fields. The Council and Liberal Democrats have asked for this ward to revert to its current name, Gadebridge. They say that community in this ward identifies with the name Gadebridge and not Spring Fields. We are content to do this.

104 Boxmoor, Chaulden & Warners End and Gadebridge wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

105 A resident stated that on one of our maps Gadebridge (& Spring Fields) ward appeared to be outside the district. Like many other wards on that map, due to space, the label was outside the boundaries of the borough. However, except for

Gadebridge & Spring Fields all the others had label callouts pointing to the location of each wards. This was missing for Gadebridge & Spring Fields. We have rectified this on the updated map.

#### *Grovehill and Hemel Hempstead Town*

106 The Council and Liberal Democrats expressed support for our draft recommendations for these two wards.

107 We received comments from four residents who objected to the retention of Piccotts End in Grovehill ward. They explained that Piccotts End was not in the same County Council division and that the residents' association and residents found this difficult to understand. One stated that Piccotts End was part of the 'Old Town' and that they did not have anything in common with Grovehill.

108 When we are creating wards for a district or borough council, we do not have to have regard for the County Council division boundaries. This is because it is the district council ward boundaries that determine the County Council division boundaries when they are next reviewed. Nevertheless, we considered including Piccotts End in Hemel Hempstead Town ward as part of our draft recommendations in order to reflect community identities.

109 As explained in our draft recommendations report, it would produce two wards (Grovehill and Hemel Hempstead Town) with poor electoral equality. We also note that including Piccotts End in Grovehill ward makes use of the Leighton Buzzard Road (B440) and Link Road (A4147) as a strong and identifiable boundary. Therefore, we consider that retaining them in Grovehill is the best balance of our statutory criteria and have not been persuaded to change our draft recommendations. Accordingly, we confirm our draft recommendations as final in this area.

110 Both wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

#### *Woodhall Farm*

111 The Council and Liberal Democrats expressed support for our draft recommendations for this ward even though they noted its higher-than-average electoral variance. We did not receive any other comments about the boundaries of this ward.

112 Accordingly, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Woodhall Farm ward as final.

## **Conclusions**

113 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Dacorum, referencing the 2023 and 2030 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of

wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found in Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

## Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2023	2030
Number of councillors	52	52
Number of electoral wards	26	26
Average number of electors per councillor	2,157	2,382
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

### Final recommendations

Dacorum Borough Council should be made up of 52 councillors serving 26 wards representing five single-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and five three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Dacorum Borough Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Dacorum on our interactive maps at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Parish electoral arrangements

114 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.

115 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, Dacorum Borough 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.

116 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 Tring parish.

117 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Tring parish.

#### Final recommendations

Tring Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Tring Brunstrux	5
Tring Dunsley	2
Tring Hastoe	1
Tring Miswell	4



## What happens next?

118 We have now completed our review of Dacorum Borough Council, and our recommendations are approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – was scheduled to be laid in Parliament this year, and the new electoral arrangements were to come into force at local elections in 2027. However, we are aware that the Government's White Paper on English Devolution may have an impact on local government structure in Hertfordshire. Therefore, at this stage, we do not intend to lay a draft Order in Parliament.



## Equalities

119 The Commission is satisfied that it complies with its legal obligations under the Equality Act and that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.



# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Final recommendations for Dacorum Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Adeyfield East	2	4,153	2,077	-4%	5,028	2,514	6%
2	Adeyfield West	2	4,370	2,185	1%	5,057	2,528	6%
3	Aldbury & Wigginton	1	2,060	2,060	-5%	2,154	2,154	-10%
4	Apsley	2	3,872	1,936	-10%	4,910	2,455	3%
5	Ashridge	1	2,100	2,100	-3%	2,212	2,212	-7%
6	Bennetts End	2	4,318	2,159	0%	4,514	2,257	-5%
7	Berkhamsted Castle	2	4,521	2,261	5%	4,801	2,400	1%
8	Berkhamsted East	2	4,668	2,334	8%	4,938	2,469	4%
9	Berkhamsted West	2	4,663	2,332	8%	5,085	2,542	7%
10	Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield	3	6,708	2,236	4%	7,142	2,381	0%
11	Boxmoor	3	6,650	2,217	3%	7,654	2,551	7%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Chaulden & Warners End	3	6,645	2,215	3%	7,564	2,521	6%
13	Corner Hall	2	4,267	2,134	-1%	4,507	2,253	-5%
14	Gadebridge	2	4,613	2,307	7%	4,859	2,429	2%
15	Grovehill	3	5,547	1,849	-14%	6,527	2,176	-9%
16	Hemel Hempstead Town	2	4,080	2,040	-5%	5,167	2,583	8%
17	Highfield	2	4,713	2,357	9%	5,159	2,579	8%
18	Kings Langley	2	3,991	1,996	-7%	4,070	2,035	-15%
19	Leverstock Green	3	6,198	2,066	-4%	6,636	2,212	-7%
20	Nash Mills	1	2,424	2,424	12%	2,576	2,576	8%
21	Northchurch	1	2,315	2,315	7%	2,391	2,391	0%
22	Tring Central	2	4,088	2,044	-5%	4,298	2,149	-10%
23	Tring East	1	2,129	2,129	-1%	2,262	2,262	-5%
24	Tring West & Rural	2	4,177	2,089	-3%	4,396	2,198	-8%
25	Watling	2	4,357	2,179	1%	4,570	2,285	-4%
26	Woodhall Farm	2	4,552	2,276	6%	5,373	2,686	13%

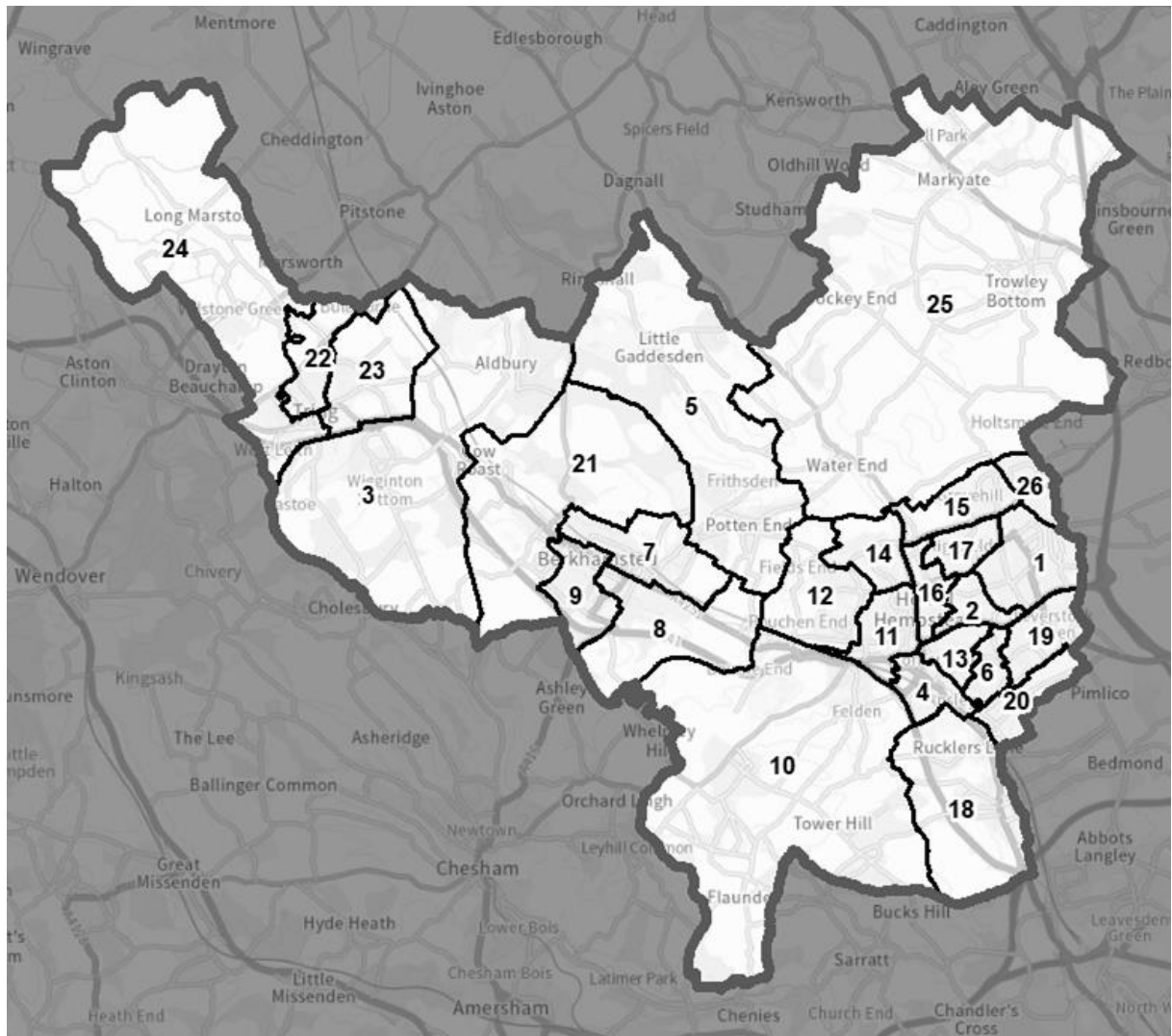
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Totals	52	112,179	–	–	123,849	–	–
Averages	–	–	2,157	–	–	2,382	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Dacorum Borough Council.

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

## Appendix B

### Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Adeyfield East
2	Adeyfield West
3	Aldbury & Wigginton
4	Apsley
5	Ashridge
6	Bennetts End
7	Berkhamsted Castle
8	Berkhamsted East
9	Berkhamsted West
10	Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield
11	Boxmoor
12	Chaulden & Warners End
13	Corner Hall



14	Gadebridge
15	Grovehill
16	Hemel Hempstead Town
17	Highfield
18	Kings Langley
19	Leverstock Green
20	Nash Mills
21	Northchurch
22	Tring Central
23	Tring East
24	Tring West & Rural
25	Watling
26	Woodhall Farm

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/dacorum](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/dacorum)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/dacorum](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/dacorum)

#### *Local Authority*

- Dacorum Borough Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Dacorum Borough Council Conservative Group
- Dacorum Liberal Democrat Group

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor A. Anderson (Dacorum Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Bromham (Dacorum Borough Council)
- Councillor D. James-Saunders (Kings Langley Parish Council)

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Tring Town Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 15 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 <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

## **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](mailto: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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