

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Bristol City Council Draft Recommendations

June 2026

Contents

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Bristol?	2
Our proposals for Bristol	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Have your say	3
Review timetable	3
Analysis and draft recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	6
Draft recommendations	7
North Bristol	9
East Bristol	14
South Bristol	20
Central and west Bristol	26
Conclusions	33
Summary of electoral arrangements	33
Have your say	35
Equalities	39
Appendices	41
Appendix A	41
Draft recommendations for Bristol City Council	41
Appendix B	44
Outline map	44
Appendix C	45
Submissions received	45
Appendix D	47
Glossary and abbreviations	47

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 Commission are:

- Bev Smith (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Dame Gillian Guy
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Janet Waggott
- 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.

6 More details 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 Bristol?

7 We are conducting a review of Bristol City Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2015 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² 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 wards in Bristol 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 city.

Our proposals for Bristol

9 Bristol should be represented by 76 councillors, six more than there are now.

10 Bristol should have 36 wards, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; one will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the city council 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 consider any representations which are based on these issues.

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

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 30 June 2026 to 7 September 2026. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 7 September 2026 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 35 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Bristol. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the city. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 November 2025	Number of councillors decided
25 November 2025	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
16 February 2026	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
30 June 2026	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
7 September 2026	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 December 2026	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ 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.

20 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.

21 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.

	2025	2031
Electorate of Bristol	333,163	364,693
Number of councillors	76	76
Average number of electors per councillor	4,384	4,799

22 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 'electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Bristol are forecast to have electoral equality by 2031.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2031, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2026. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 9%.

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 draft recommendations.

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

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 Bristol City Council currently has 70 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that increasing this number by six 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 76 councillors: for example, 76 one-councillor wards, 38 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

29 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. The submissions all opposed the increase in councillors. However, none of these submissions provided compelling evidence as to how an alternative number would allow the Council to discharge its roles and functions more effectively, so our draft recommendations are based upon a 76-member council.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 66 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four detailed city-wide proposals, from the Bristol Green Party ('the Green Party'), the Bristol Labour Party ('the Labour Party') (with separate submissions from the four constituency Labour Party groups with the same proposals as the Bristol Labour Party), the Bristol Conservatives ('the Conservatives') and the Bristol Liberal Democrats ('the Liberal Democrats'). The remaining submissions consisted of localised comments relating to specific areas of the city. We are grateful to all respondents for taking the time to provide evidence and local insight, which has informed our draft recommendations.

31 The Green Party's submission included a range of warding options across different parts of the city, alongside a recommended overall arrangement for each part. Throughout this report, we have primarily addressed their recommended configuration, while referring to alternative proposals where appropriate.

32 The four city-wide schemes provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Bristol. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of

electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

33 Our draft recommendations are therefore based on a mixture of the city-wide schemes as well as local evidence which provided further examples 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.

34 We visited the city in order to look at the various proposals on the ground. This tour of Bristol helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

35 Two local residents made reference to the city council boundary, with one suggesting that parts of Hartcliffe & Withywood ward that border North Somerset Council could transfer into that authority, while the other stated that the current boundary of Bristol does not reflect the extent of the built-up area, suggesting that neighbouring areas such as Kingswood and Filton should be included within the city. While we note these views, this electoral review is solely concerned with the internal ward boundaries of Bristol. Changes to principal authority boundaries are considered through a separate statutory process and are therefore outside the scope of this review.

Draft recommendations

36 Our draft recommendations are for 36 wards representing three single-councillor wards, 26 two-councillor wards and seven three-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

37 The tables and maps on pages 9–31 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Bristol. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

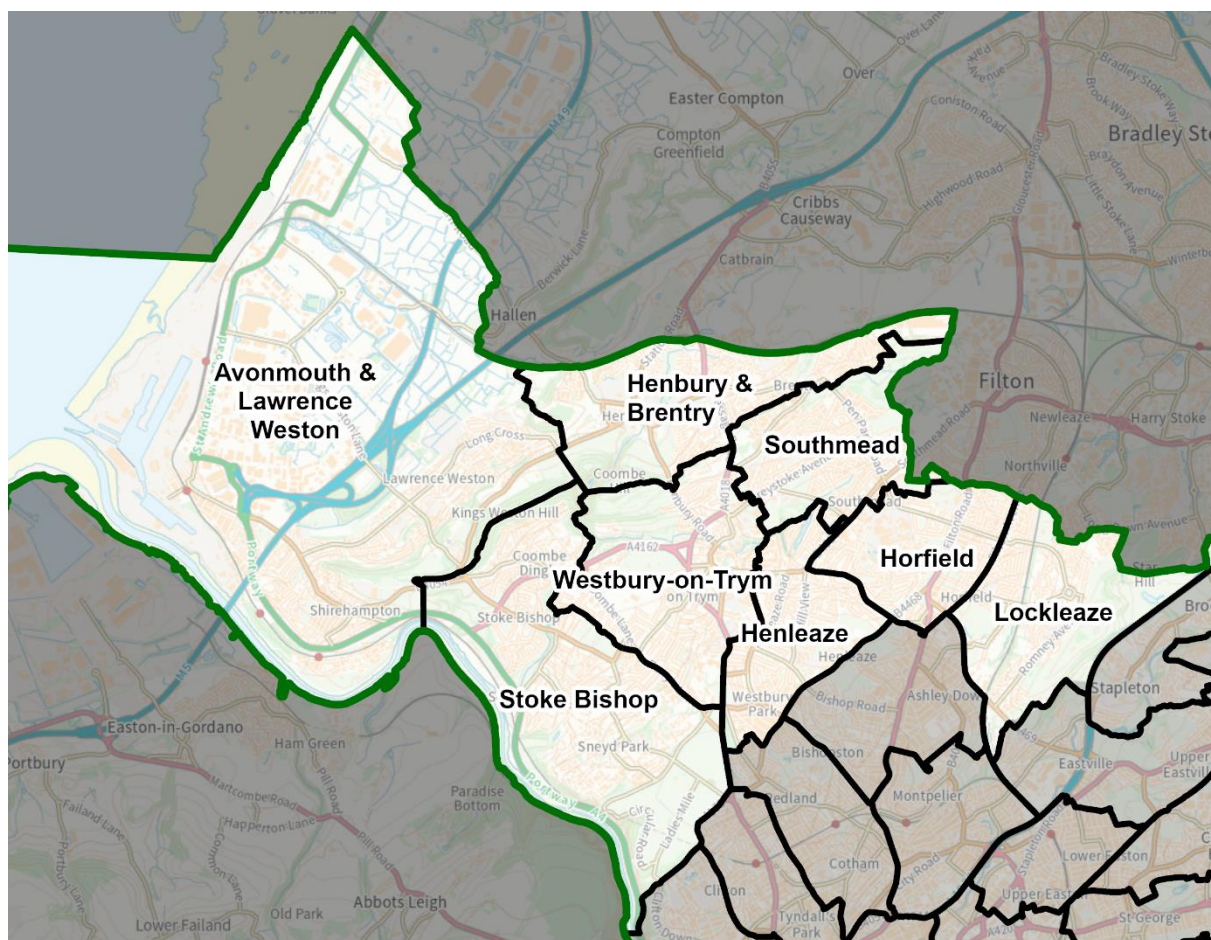
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

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

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

39 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries and the names of our proposed wards.

North Bristol



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston	3	0%
Henbury & Brentry	2	1%
Henleaze	2	5%
Horfield	2	-2%
Lockleaze	2	-6%
Southmead	2	-9%
Stoke Bishop	2	10%
Westbury-on-Trym	2	-5%

Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston

40 Our proposed three-councillor Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston ward is based on the proposals submitted by the Liberal Democrats, the Green Party and the Labour Party, all of which transferred the Sea Mills area from the existing ward. We consider that Sea Mills is distinct from the Avonmouth, Shirehampton and Lawrence Weston areas, being separated by woodland and open space. We consider that uniting it with the Coombe Dingle area in our proposed Stoke Bishop ward will better reflect community identities and interests.

41 The Conservatives proposed a two-councillor Avonmouth & Shirehampton ward alongside a single-councillor Lawrence Weston ward. We were not persuaded to adopt this arrangement, as the former ward would include part of the Sea Mills area. As outlined later in this report, we consider it more appropriate for this area to form part of our proposed Stoke Bishop ward. We also determined that the proposed boundary between the two wards, which would follow Windcliff Crescent, was not particularly clear and identifiable.

Henbury & Brentry

42 The Conservatives and the Labour Party both proposed retaining the existing two-councillor Henbury & Brentry ward. However, our draft recommendations follow the proposals submitted by the Green Party and the Liberal Democrats, which transfer electors from the Charlton Mead estate into Southmead ward. We agree that electors in this area have better links with Southmead, particularly via Charlton Road, and are separated from the remainder of Henbury & Brentry ward by Brentry Woods.

Henleaze and Westbury-on-Trym

43 For our recommended two-councillor Westbury-on-Trym ward, we have largely followed the proposals put forward by the Green Party. We determined that its proposed ward better reflected the composition and extent of the Westbury-on-Trym community than the other proposals, based on the evidence received from the Green Party and the Westbury-on-Trym Society.

44 The Liberal Democrat and Conservative proposals both included the Coombe Dingle area in a Westbury-on-Trym ward, citing community links with Westbury-on-Trym. However, we consider Coombe Dingle to have stronger community links with the immediately adjacent Sea Mills area, while the River Trym provides a clear and recognisable physical boundary with Westbury-on-Trym that limits connections between the areas. We therefore do not consider it appropriate to include Coombe Dingle in a Westbury-on-Trym ward. We welcome views on this approach during consultation.

45 We also note that the Labour Party's proposal for a three-councillor Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze ward would result in a significant part of the Westbury-on-Trym community being transferred into its Stoke Bishop ward. In our view, this would divide the Westbury-on-Trym community across wards, and we do not consider that it would reflect the community identity or interests of Westbury-on-Trym residents.

46 Our proposed Henleaze ward has been informed by local community evidence. In particular, several residents supported transferring the area around Henleaze Lake from Southmead ward to Henleaze ward. This was on the basis that residents in this area identify more closely with, and access services in, the Henleaze area.

This position was also supported by the Westbury-on-Trym Society, which stated that this area shares better links with either Henleaze or Westbury-on-Trym. We observed this proposal during our visit to the city and agree that Henleaze Lake shares strong links southwards towards the wider Henleaze community. Our proposed ward therefore includes this area and broadly reflects the proposals put forward by the Green Party and the Liberal Democrats, both of whom advocated for this particular area to be included in a Henleaze ward.

47 We note that the Liberal Democrats proposed a three-councillor Henleaze & Westbury Park ward, supported by evidence of linkages between Henleaze and Westbury Park. The Conservatives also included the Westbury Park area in their two-councillor Henleaze ward. However, we additionally received a submission from a local resident indicating that Westbury Park shares closer community links with the Redland area. Having considered the evidence, we have decided to retain the existing boundary in this area, as proposed by the Green Party and the Labour Party. We nevertheless welcome further views during consultation on the community links of the Westbury Park area.

48 We also received submissions from the Henleaze Society, the Westbury-on-Trym Society and two local residents supporting the retention of the existing three-member Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze ward, noting that the current arrangement works well and that the two communities share common issues. While we recognise this view, we consider that our draft recommendations will provide a better balance of the statutory criteria. In particular, we consider that two-councillor wards, centred on each community, more clearly reflect the identities and interests of Henleaze and Westbury-on-Trym than a single three-councillor ward. We note the concerns of the Westbury-on-Trym Society that primarily related to a reduction in representation for the area. Our recommendations increase the representation of the Henleaze and Westbury-on-Trym areas from three to four councillors and we consider they will ensure effective representation for both communities, while also achieving good electoral equality across wards.

Horfield

49 We recommend a two-councillor Horfield ward that closely reflects both the existing electoral arrangements and the proposals put forward by the Conservatives and the Labour Party. We agree that the ward is defined by the clear and identifiable boundaries of Southmead Road, Filton Avenue and Wellington Hill East/West. We also note that it contains a range of community facilities and amenities serving the Horfield area, including Horfield Leisure Centre and the Upper Horfield Community School. By contrast, we consider that the proposals submitted by the Green Party and the Liberal Democrats relied on less clearly defined boundaries. However, we have adopted the amendment proposed by the Liberal Democrats in the northern part of the ward to reflect road access onto Southmead Road. As a result, electors around Penrith Gardens, Kenmore Drive and Pitlochry Close are included in our

proposed Southmead ward. This adjustment also ensures that Southmead ward achieves good electoral equality by 2031.

Lockleaze

50 All of the city-wide schemes proposed a two-councillor Lockleaze ward. However, our recommended ward aligns with the identical proposals submitted by the Labour Party, the Conservatives, the Green Party and Councillor Fraser, all of which transferred the Eastgate area from the ward. By contrast, the Liberal Democrats proposed retaining this area within Lockleaze ward. We were not persuaded to adopt this approach, as we consider the Eastgate area to have stronger links with the wider Eastville community, as outlined in further detail in the Eastville section of the report.

Southmead

51 Our proposed Southmead ward reflects a combination of the Green Party and Liberal Democrat proposals. In particular, we agreed with their approach to transfer electors from the Charlton Mead estate to Southmead ward, for the reasons set out in the Henbury & Brentry section. We have also adopted the Liberal Democrat proposal to ensure the ward boundary reflects road access onto Southmead Road.

52 Additionally, we have adopted the Green Party's proposal to transfer electors in the Westbury Fields and Elmfield Road area into Westbury-on-Trym ward. This was supported by the Westbury-on-Trym Society, which stated that this area forms part of the wider Westbury-on-Trym community. Taken together with the other modifications to the current ward, we consider that our proposed Southmead ward will reflect community identities and interests and provide an effective balance of the statutory criteria.

Stoke Bishop

53 Our draft recommendations for Stoke Bishop ward are similar to the Green Party's proposals for a two-councillor ward linking the Stoke Bishop area with the entirety of the Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle area. However, we propose that the boundary between Stoke Bishop and Westbury-on-Trym wards follows the B4054. The Green Party had suggested an alternative boundary which would follow the Hollybush Lane footpath. However, following our visit to Bristol, we consider the B4054 to provide a clearer and more identifiable boundary between communities. We also note that the Westbury-on-Trym Society supported retention of this boundary, describing it as 'sensible'.

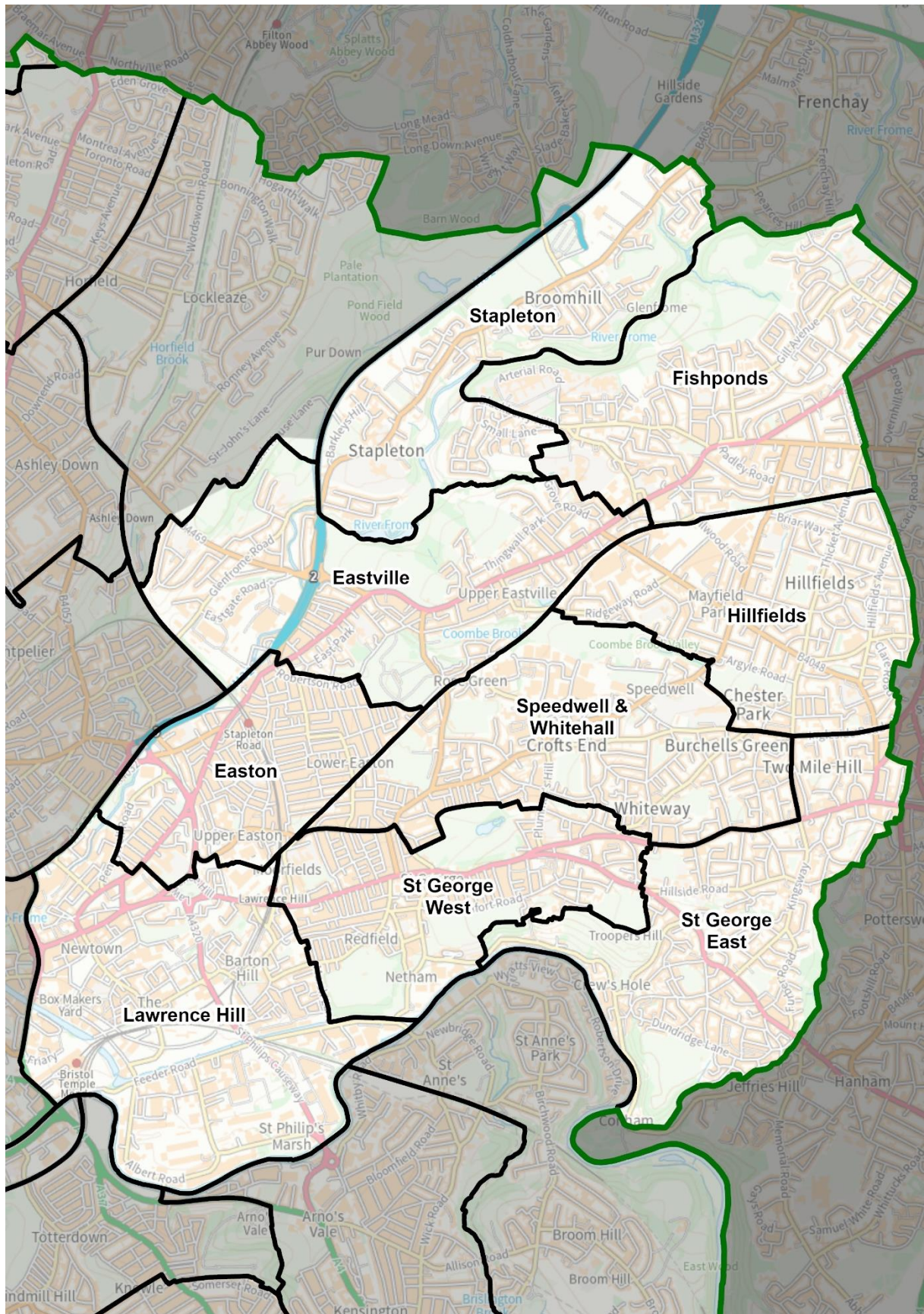
54 We also considered the alternative proposals submitted by the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives. However, we were not persuaded to adopt these as they would result in the Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle area being divided between wards. We received evidence from the Labour Party and local residents emphasising the distinct identity of the Sea Mills community and the importance of it being

contained within a single ward. During our visit to the city, we observed this distinct community identity and noted its close geographical relationship with the Coombe Dingle area. We therefore consider that uniting these areas in a single ward best reflects community identities and interests.

55 We carefully considered the Labour Party's proposal for a single-councillor Sea Mills ward which linked Sea Mills with Coombe Dingle, and which would be separate from Stoke Bishop. However, this would also require the adoption of its two-councillor Stoke Bishop ward, which would extend into the Westbury-on-Trym area in order to achieve good electoral equality across wards. We consider that such a proposal would divide the Westbury-on-Trym community. We also explored creating a single-councillor Stoke Bishop ward adjacent to a single-councillor Sea Mills ward but were unable to identify a viable warding arrangement that would reflect the identities and interests of the Stoke Bishop and Westbury-on-Trym communities, while also securing good electoral equality.

56 We therefore propose a two-councillor Stoke Bishop ward incorporating the Stoke Bishop area together with the entirety of Sneyd Park, Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle. While this does not create a standalone ward centred on Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle, we consider it nonetheless reflects community identities and interests by ensuring the area is contained within a single ward rather than divided between wards, as is currently the case. We also note the evidence provided by the Liberal Democrats indicating that Sea Mills and Stoke Bishop share community facilities and are well connected by local bus routes, which further supports the view that this arrangement will reflect community interests.

East Bristol



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Easton	2	8%
Eastville	2	-10%
Fishponds	2	-3%
Hillfields	2	-5%
Lawrence Hill	2	-1%
Speedwell & Whitehall	2	3%
Stapleton	1	-8%
St George East	2	2%
St George West	2	-4%

Easton

57 Our proposed Easton ward is based on Councillor Bartle’s submission and shares similarities with the proposal submitted by the Green Party. Of the city-wide schemes, only the Green Party proposed a ward that crosses the Severn Beach railway line, arguing this would better reflect the extent of the Easton community. Following our visit to the city, we agree that a distinct Easton community extends westwards across the railway line rather than southwards towards the separate community of Redfield, which is currently included in Easton ward. We also note Councillor Bryher’s observation that the areas either side of the railway line are referred to as Easton by local people, which supports this conclusion.

58 The Green Party proposed that the western boundary follow Easton Way. However, we have extended the boundary further west to include the area around Easton CE Primary School and Easton Leisure Centre, as suggested by Councillor Bartle. We consider that these facilities, and the surrounding area, form part of the Easton community and should therefore be included within an Easton ward.

Eastville

59 We propose a two-councillor Eastville ward that most closely reflects the Green Party’s submission. Its proposed ward includes the Eastgate area, resulting in a ward that spans the M32 motorway. This approach was also put forward by Councillor Fraser, the Labour Party and the Conservatives. These submissions provided strong community evidence indicating that Eastgate forms part of the Eastville community, citing the historic Eastville Stadium and the presence of local facilities and businesses carrying the Eastville name, such as the Eastville Veterinary Centre and The Eastville Club. From our visit to the area, we agree that the M32 does not represent a significant barrier, particularly as it is elevated and can be easily crossed via the Eastville Roundabout. We also consider that the Eastgate area is geographically distinct from the remainder of Lockleaze ward in which it is currently situated. We therefore conclude that its inclusion in an Eastville ward better reflects community identities and interests. While Councillor Francis opposed any

changes to the current Eastville ward, we consider our recommendations result in a ward that strikes the most effective balance of the statutory criteria, based on the evidence received.

60 We also recommend that the eastern boundary of Eastville ward follow the Bristol and Bath Railway Path, which provides a clear and identifiable boundary. As a result, the area to the east of the path, which is currently included in a larger Eastville ward, would transfer to our proposed Speedwell & Whitehall ward. We are therefore unable to adopt the proposals of the Labour Party and Conservatives, both of which retain this area within their respective Eastville and Eastville Park wards.

Fishponds and Stapleton

61 We received varied proposals for the area covered by the existing Frome Vale ward. The Labour Party, the Conservatives and Councillor Fraser all slightly modified it by suggesting the boundary with the adjacent Hillfields ward move towards Fishponds Road. In contrast, the Green Party and the Liberal Democrats both proposed variations of a two-councillor Fishponds ward and a single-councillor ward focused on the Stapleton area.

62 After careful consideration, we have decided to recommend the two-councillor Fishponds ward and single-councillor Stapleton ward proposed by the Green Party. Based on the evidence received and the observations made during our visit to the area, we determined that the Stapleton community is a distinct area bounded by M32 and the River Frome, with limited connectivity to other areas. We consider that the somewhat isolated nature of the Stapleton community warrants it forming a single-councillor ward. However, to ensure the ward has improved electoral equality, the ward will include the area south of the UWE Glenside Campus. While this means the Stapleton ward will straddle the river, we consider this area shares reasonable links with the rest of the Stapleton ward via Frome Bridge on Broom Hill.

63 We concluded from our visit to the city that a two-councillor Fishponds ward, centred upon Fishponds Road, would provide a good reflection of the statutory criteria. During our visit to the area we observed that Fishponds Road is the high street and focal point for the area, with a concentration of shops, services and local facilities serving the surrounding residential neighbourhoods.

Hillfields

64 Our recommended Hillfields ward is based on a combination of the proposals submitted by the Green Party and the Liberal Democrats. We consider that adopting a mixture of these proposals will provide for a ward that has clear and identifiable boundaries, and which reflects the extent of the Hillfields community. Our recommended ward would be bounded by the Bristol and Bath Railway Path to the north, Speedwell Road/Ingleside Road to the south, and the Coombe Brook Nature Reserve to the east. In contrast, we concluded that the alternative proposals

submitted by the Conservatives, the Labour Party and Councillor Fraser did not use as clear or distinct boundaries, and so we were not persuaded to adopt them.

Lawrence Hill

65 We received a range of proposals for the area currently covered by the existing Lawrence Hill ward, including significantly different approaches from the Conservatives and the Labour Party, both of which proposed dividing the area across two new wards. We were not persuaded to adopt either proposal as we considered they would potentially divide established communities and rely on less clear boundaries. For example, we consider that the Labour Party's proposal would divide the Easton community around Chaplin Road, while the Conservatives' proposal would create a ward straddling the M32, which we observed to be a strong and identifiable boundary in this part of the city. Councillor Bryher shared a similar view, stating that the M32 'delineates the distinct communities of St Pauls and St Werburghs from Old Market/St Jude's and Easton'.

66 Our recommended ward draws on elements of both the Green Party and Liberal Democrat proposals, which were themselves based on the current electoral arrangements for the area. It brings together the Barton Hill, Old Market, Newtown and St Jude's communities in a single ward, which we consider to offer a good reflection of local community identities and interests. In particular, we have followed the Liberal Democrats' approach by including the whole of Barton Hill within a single ward, reflecting evidence that this distinct community extends across the railway line and should remain undivided. We also note that the Conservatives proposed keeping Barton Hill within one ward. However, we have not included the area broadly to the east of Stapleton Road railway station in the ward, as proposed by the Liberal Democrats. This is because we consider it to be more closely linked to the Easton community and have therefore placed it in our recommended Easton ward, as proposed by the Green Party.

67 We also considered proposals from the Green Party, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats to extend the ward across the River Avon to include new development in areas such as Paintworks and Temple Island. While we recognise the potential benefit of placing new development in a ward that is also undergoing significant development, we consider that the River Avon provides a strong and clearly identifiable boundary. On this basis, we have not been persuaded to adopt a ward that straddles the river in our draft recommendations.

68 We note submissions from Councillor Bartle and Councillor Bryher that did not support the existing ward name, with the latter suggesting various alternatives such as Barton Hill, Old Market, St Jude's or St Philip's. However, we recognise that no single community predominates within the ward, and we were not persuaded that these names would adequately reflect the area as a whole. We therefore welcome further views on an appropriate name for the ward during the current consultation.

69 We also note Councillor Mohamud's view that the ward should be represented by three councillors rather than two, in light of significant development and the level of representation in neighbouring wards. However, our proposed two-councillor ward is forecast to have an electoral variance of -1% by 2031, meaning it achieves good electoral equality. This ensures that each councillor for the proposed ward will represent a comparable number of electors to those in other wards across Bristol, so the area is neither over- nor under-represented.

Speedwell & Whitehall

70 As part of our draft recommendations, we propose largely adopting the two-councillor Speedwell & Whitehall ward submitted by the Green Party. Councillor Fraser and Councillor Lavan also supported the creation of a new Speedwell ward.

71 We were persuaded by this approach, as we observed during our visit to the area that both the Speedwell and Whitehall communities form distinct and identifiable areas that are currently divided across wards. This was recognised by Councillor Fraser in their submission. We further observed that the two communities share strong links, particularly along Speedwell Road and Whitehall Road. We therefore concluded that creating a two-councillor ward centred on these communities will reflect their identities and interests.

72 In light of the above, we have not adopted the proposals submitted by the Conservatives or Labour Party because we consider they would divide the Speedwell and Whitehall communities across wards. In respect of the Liberal Democrats' proposal for a single-councillor Whitehall ward, we were not persuaded that this would reflect the extent of the Whitehall community as effectively as the arrangements proposed by the Green Party.

73 We noted Councillor Fraser's proposal to include the Clay Bottom area within a Speedwell ward. However, we did not adopt this proposal in our draft recommendations as it would result in Eastville ward having an electoral variance of -14% by 2031.

St George East and St George West

74 We recommend the two-councillor wards of St George East and St George West as part of our draft recommendations. Our proposed St George East ward reflects evidence from Councillor Fraser and Councillor Lavan and is also broadly similar to those submitted by the Green Party, the Labour Party and the Conservatives.

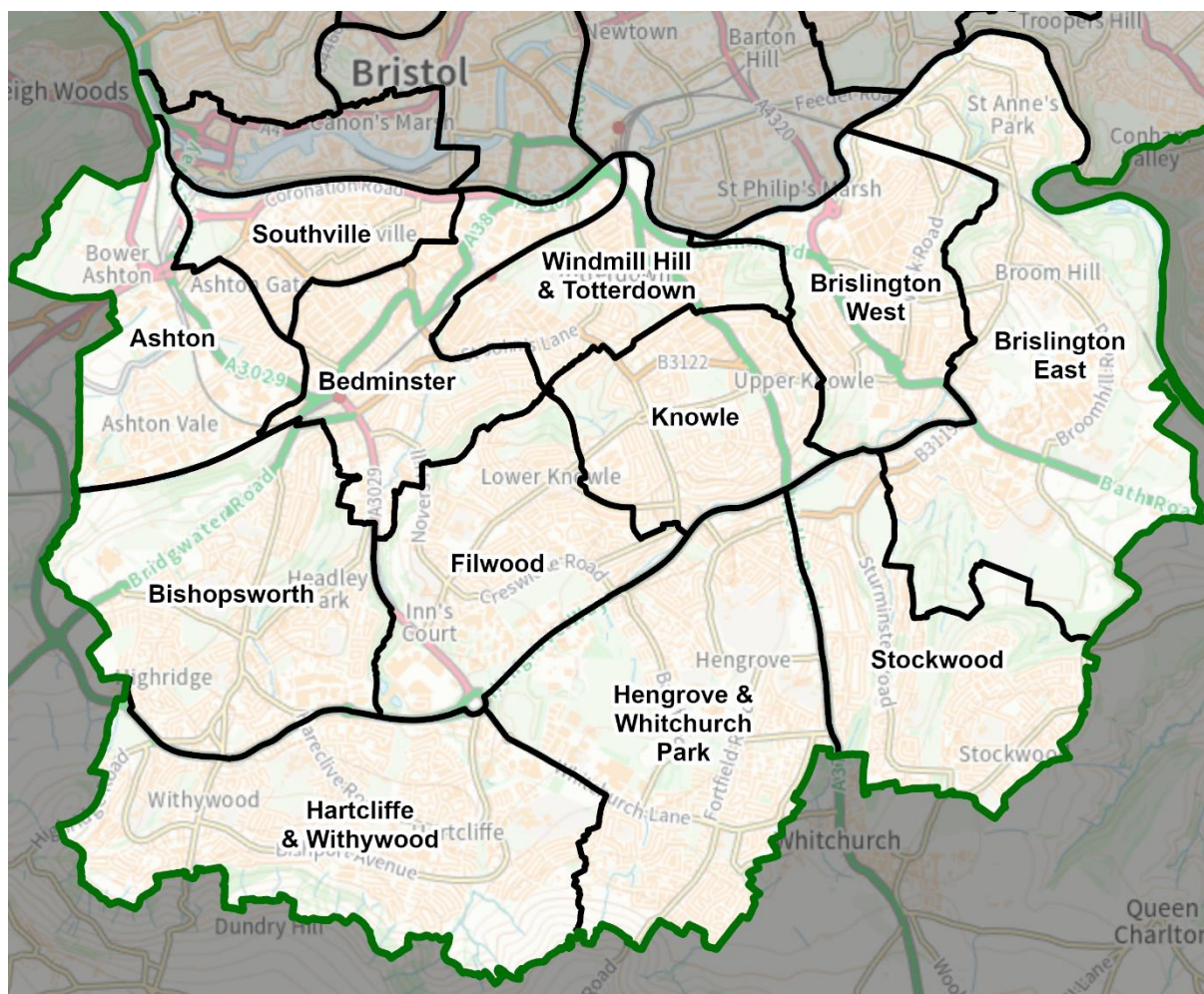
75 Our recommended St George West ward most closely reflects the Green Party's proposals, but shares some similarities with the Conservatives' proposal. We consider that our recommendations provide a good reflection of the statutory criteria,

particularly because the Redfield community is transferred from the existing Easton ward, with which it shares relatively limited connections. Our recommendations are also supported by local evidence indicating that the area around Netham Park is separate from Easton. The proposed ward is centred on Church Road, which acts as the main spine and commercial focus for the area. The boundary with Speedwell & Whitehall ward follows Whitehall Road, reflecting Councillor Bryher's observation that this represents the edge of the Redfield and Whitehall communities.

76 Councillor Bryher suggested that Redfield should be included in the ward name to reflect the size, clear boundaries and local usage of this community's name. While we recognise this evidence, we have not included Redfield in the proposed ward name at this stage. However, we welcome further views during the current consultation as to whether the ward name should be amended to better reflect community identities.

77 We also note Councillor Fraser's proposal to include the Whitehall area in St George West ward. However, as outlined previously, we consider that this area is more appropriately included within our recommended Speedwell & Whitehall ward.

South Bristol



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Ashton	1	4%
Bedminster	3	-4%
Bishopsworth	2	5%
Brislington East	2	2%
Brislington West	2	8%
Filwood	2	-3%
Hartcliffe & Withywood	3	1%
Hengrove & Whitchurch Park	3	4%
Knowle	2	9%
Southville	2	-6%
Stockwood	2	-4%
Windmill Hill & Totterdown	2	0%

Ashton, Bedminster and Southville

78 We received a range of proposals for the area currently covered by the existing Bedminster and Southville wards. Our draft recommendations reflect a combination of these city-wide schemes and other evidence received.

79 Based on our visit to the area, we were persuaded that an Ashton ward, as broadly proposed by the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats, would provide an effective balance of the statutory criteria. We consider that a ward centred on Ashton Vale reflects its distinct identity, which we consider is somewhat separate from the Bedminster and Southville areas. Our proposed single-councillor Ashton ward most closely resembles the Liberal Democrats' proposal, as the Labour Party's two-councillor option included areas we consider to form part of the Southville community.

80 Our proposed two-councillor Southville ward is also based on the Liberal Democrats' proposal. We consider that the boundaries largely reflect the Southville area as observed during our visit to the city. However, while the Liberal Democrats proposed that the boundary with Bedminster ward follow East Street/Bedminster Parade, we instead recommend that it follow Dean Street, Catherine Mead Street and St John's Road. This reflects evidence submitted by a local resident which indicated that facilities such as Bedminster Library are associated with the Bedminster community, and our observation that East Street/Bedminster Parade functions as the main high street for the Bedminster area and should therefore be contained in a single ward.

81 We also propose a three-councillor Bedminster ward, broadly reflecting proposals submitted by the Labour Party and Councillor Freeman, with the ward straddling the railway line. We note that both the Green Party's third proposal and the Conservatives' scheme for this area also included crossing the railway, albeit to different extents. From our visit to the area, we consider that areas on both sides of the railway form part of the Bedminster community. We also agree that Parson Street and St John's Lane provide good connectivity across the railway, which does not act as a strong barrier between communities in this area. We are satisfied that the proposed ward reflects the identities and interests of the Bedminster community based on the evidence received and our observations on the ground.

Bishopsworth

82 All of the city-wide schemes proposed a relatively similar Bishopsworth ward. Our recommended two-councillor ward most closely reflects the Liberal Democrats' submission. We have been persuaded to adjust the southern boundary with Hartcliffe & Withywood ward so that it follows the A4174, as this is clearer and more identifiable than the existing boundary which follows Church Road, Chapel Road and Whitchurch Road. We also recommend the transfer of the Imperial Park area into Filwood ward, as we agree with the Liberal Democrats that it is somewhat separated

from the rest of Bishopsworth by the Pigeonhouse Stream and has better links into Filwood ward. However, we note that the Green Party suggested that the Imperial Park area would be more appropriately included in Hartcliffe & Withywood ward, and would welcome further views on this proposal during the current consultation.

83 The Green Party, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats proposed transferring electors around Aylesbury Road and Willada Close from the existing Bishopsworth ward. We have adopted this proposal in our draft recommendations as we consider these areas to have stronger links with the communities that will form our recommended Bedminster ward, given their primary road access is onto Bedminster Road rather than Bishopsworth Road.

84 A local resident considered that Headley Park, Highridge and Bedminster Down form a cohesive geographical area within the existing ward and that, overall, the current ward is broadly reflective of communities in the area. Taking this into account, and alongside the modifications outlined above, we are satisfied that our recommended Bishopsworth ward provides a good balance of our three statutory criteria.

Brislington East and Brislington West

85 All four city-wide schemes proposed creating the two-councillor wards of Brislington East and Brislington West, with some variation in their configurations. Our draft recommendations are based on the Green Party's proposal. We consider that using Brislington Brook as the boundary between the two wards provides a clearer and more identifiable boundary than the existing one which follows Wick Road. The Green Party also proposed transferring electors that reside south of the A4 and east of Callington Road from Brislington West ward to Brislington East ward. During our visit to the area, we observed that, while the A4 is a major road which forms the current ward boundary, it does not act as a strong barrier between communities. We therefore consider that electors in this area would fit appropriately in a Brislington East ward.

86 Councillor Rippington, the current Brislington East ward councillor, requested that the ward remain unchanged, stating it comprises two well-established communities, St Anne's and Broomhill, both with strong local identities. Although our draft recommendations include changes to the existing ward boundaries, both communities will remain wholly within our proposed Brislington East ward. We are therefore content that the ward reflects community identities and provides a good reflection of the statutory criteria.

Hartcliffe & Withywood

87 All of the city-wide schemes proposed a three-councillor Hartcliffe & Withywood ward, with only minor variations in respect of their proposed boundaries. Our draft recommendations most closely reflect the proposal made by the Liberal Democrats,

as we agree that following the A4174 from the city boundary to the Hengrove Way roundabout provides a clear and identifiable boundary with the adjacent Bishopsworth ward.

88 Our proposed Hartcliffe & Withywood ward also includes the area around Bridge Learning Campus, which is currently located in Hengrove & Whitchurch Park ward. This transfer supports good electoral equality in our proposed Hengrove & Whitchurch Park ward and reflects community evidence from the city-wide schemes, which indicated that this area forms part of the Hartcliffe community.

Hengrove & Whitchurch Park

89 The Green Party, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats each proposed a three-councillor Hengrove & Whitchurch Park ward, with similar boundary adjustments with the adjacent Hartcliffe & Withywood ward in order to achieve good electoral equality and better reflect the extent of the Hartcliffe community. In contrast, the Conservatives proposed a two-councillor Hengrove ward and a single-councillor Whitchurch Park ward, arguing that the two areas have distinct economic, housing and social characteristics. A local resident also supported dividing the current Hengrove & Whitchurch Park ward.

90 We carefully considered these proposals and went to this area during our visit to the city. As a consequence, we were not persuaded that Hengrove and Whitchurch Park are sufficiently distinct to justify creating two separate wards. We also noted that the Conservatives' proposed boundary between the two areas, located just north of Whitchurch Lane, was not particularly identifiable on the ground. We have therefore decided to recommend a three-councillor Hengrove & Whitchurch Park ward, in line with the other city-wide schemes, as part of our draft recommendations.

Filwood

91 Our proposed two-councillor Filwood ward draws on proposals submitted by the Labour Party and Green Party. We agree that the Northern Slopes (the Novers) provide a clear and recognisable boundary with the adjacent Bedminster ward. While Councillor Logan (the current Filwood ward councillor) expressed support for retaining the existing ward, we consider that our recommendations reflect community identities and interests by keeping together the Inns Court, the Novers, Filwood and Knowle West communities in this ward.

92 The Conservatives, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats all proposed retaining the Filwood ward name, while the Green Party and a local resident suggested renaming it Knowle West. We have decided to retain the name of Filwood but welcome further views during consultation on whether Knowle West would be a more appropriate ward name.

Knowle

93 Our recommended Knowle ward is broadly similar to the existing ward, reflecting the proposals of the Conservatives and the Labour Party. A local resident also expressed support for the current ward, while another provided evidence of local facilities and amenities in the area. We consider that the existing ward reflects the communities of Upper Knowle and Knowle Park, and that no significant alterations are required. However, we propose a minor modification to the northern boundary so that it follows the rear of properties on Somerset Road, with Arnos Vale Cemetery transferred to an adjoining ward. This adjustment secures electoral equality for Knowle ward and places electors that form part of the Totterdown community in our proposed Windmill Hill & Totterdown ward.

94 The Green Party and the Liberal Democrats proposed that the boundary with the adjacent Filwood ward should follow Salcombe Road. We carefully considered this option but noted that this would result in Filwood ward being significantly under-represented, with an electoral variance of 24%. Furthermore, Knowle ward would be significantly over-represented, with an electoral variance of -18%. We are not persuaded that sufficient evidence was provided to justify such high electoral variances and have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

Stockwood

95 The Conservatives, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats each proposed retaining the existing Stockwood ward, which is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2031. The Green Party proposed to largely retain the existing ward except for transferring West Town Park and adjoining roads to the east of Brislington Brook into a Brislington East ward.

96 We agree that the existing Stockwood ward provides an effective balance of the statutory criteria and does not require significant change. However, we have adopted the modification proposed by the Green Party, transferring West Town Park and adjoining roads into Brislington East ward. This is because we consider Brislington Brook to constitute a clear and identifiable boundary.

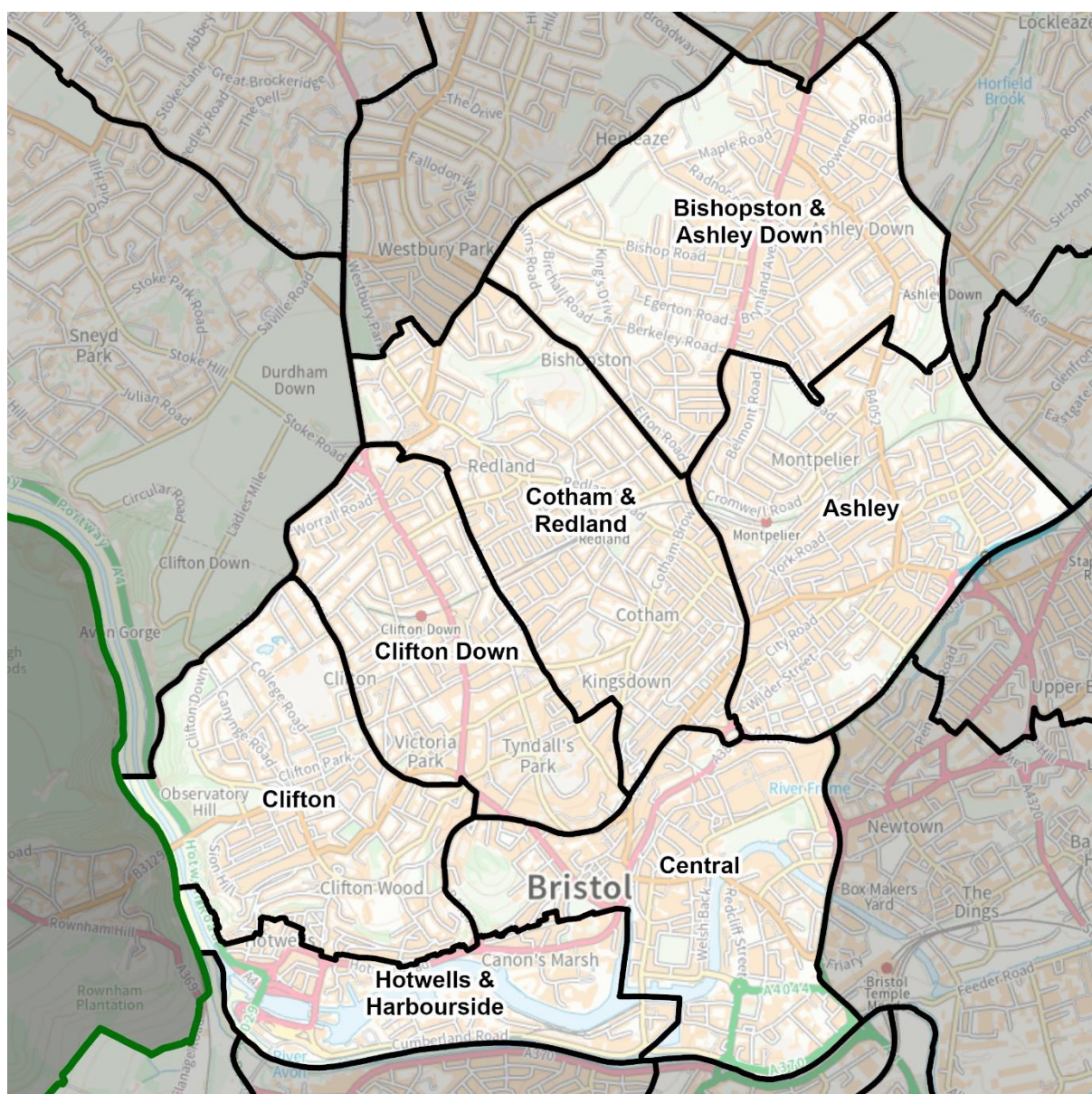
Windmill Hill & Totterdown

97 The Green Party proposed various configurations for a Windmill Hill ward but did not present a single preferred option. After careful consideration, we propose a two-councillor Windmill Hill & Totterdown ward as part of our draft recommendations. This reflects proposals submitted by the Conservatives, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats, which were broadly consistent with the existing arrangements. We agree with the Labour Party that the area comprises communities with a strong local identity centred on Victoria Park, which we clearly observed during our visit to the city. We also support the Liberal Democrats' proposed amendment to the boundary with Knowle ward as it brings the whole of the Totterdown community

within a single ward, thereby reflecting community identities and securing electoral equality.

98 In light of this, we also agree with the Labour Party that Totterdown should be included in the ward name, as this recognises its distinct identity and reflects the composition of the proposed ward.

Central and west Bristol



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Ashley	3	7%
Bishopston & Ashley Down	3	6%
Central	2	-7%
Clifton	2	-6%
Clifton Down	2	-4%
Cotham & Redland	3	-1%
Hotwells & Harbourside	1	9%

Ashley

99 The Green Party and the Labour Party proposed retaining the existing three-councillor Ashley ward, which is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2031. In contrast, the Liberal Democrats proposed a modified three-councillor ward that transferred the Stokes Croft area into an adjoining ward, while the Conservatives proposed a smaller two-councillor ward centred on the St Andrew's and Montpelier communities.

100 After careful consideration, we have decided to retain the existing Ashley ward as part of our draft recommendations, as proposed by the Green Party and the Labour Party. We consider that the current ward benefits from clear and identifiable boundaries, including the M32 motorway, the A38 and the Bristol and South Wales railway line. We are also persuaded that it reflects the extent of the St Andrew's, St Paul's, St Werburgh's and Montpelier communities. We were not persuaded that the Conservatives' proposal reflected the statutory criteria as effectively, as it relied on less clearly defined boundaries and, in our view, divided the St Werburgh's community by using Mina Road as a ward boundary. Similarly, we considered that the Liberal Democrats proposal might split the community around St Pauls by placing a ward boundary along Drummond Road, Brighton Street and Prince's Street.

101 Councillor Russell (one of the existing Ashley ward councillors) stated that the current ward is too large and that its constituent areas compete for funding and are unable to work together effectively. They considered the ward to comprise distinct areas. A local resident also suggested that the ward should be divided into three single-councillor wards.

102 We explored whether the existing Ashley ward could be divided into smaller wards. However, as also recognised by the Liberal Democrats, doing so would mean dividing one or more of these communities in order to achieve electoral equality across wards. In such circumstances, we would always prefer to place distinct communities in the same ward rather than divide communities between smaller geographical wards. We therefore consider that retaining a three-councillor ward provides the best balance of our statutory criteria in this area.

103 Councillor Russell also suggested that the ward should include both sides of Stokes Croft, arguing that Stokes Croft functions as a single community, and that dividing it across wards is confusing. We did not adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations because the geographical extent of the Stokes Croft area was not made clear to us. However, we would particularly welcome views on our recommendations for this area during the current consultation.

104 Three local residents also argued that the area around St Andrew's should not be included in Ashley ward. They considered that this area has stronger connections

with Gloucester Road and the broader Bishopston area, and suggested that the Severn Beach railway line would provide a more identifiable ward boundary. We considered this proposal but did not adopt it, as it would result in a two-councillor Ashley ward with an electoral variance of 17%, assuming the ward continued to be bounded by the A38, the M32 and the railway line. We were not persuaded that sufficient evidence had been provided to justify such a variance.

Bishopston & Ashley Down

105 The city-wide schemes proposed a two-councillor Bishopston & Ashley Down ward, with only the Liberal Democrats suggesting modifications to the existing ward boundaries. A local resident also expressed support for retaining the existing ward.

106 Despite this broad consensus, we have decided to recommend a three-councillor ward for this area. We consider that, based on the evidence received, a larger ward would better reflect the extent of the locally recognised Bishopston community. The Green Party noted, within one of its alternative proposals, that extending the ward towards Cranbrook Road, as we propose, would allow the ward to include a greater proportion of Bishopston. Our proposed ward similarly includes roads to the north of Cranbrook Road which a local resident identified as forming part of the Bishopston community. We would particularly welcome further views on our recommendations for this ward during the current consultation.

Central

107 We received differing proposals for the city centre in Bristol. The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats each proposed an identical two-councillor Central ward. The Green Party also proposed a two-councillor Central ward, but with different boundaries. The Labour Party proposed a two-councillor North Central ward and a single-councillor South Central ward, separated by the Floating Harbour. Councillor Tshabalala, one of the existing Central ward councillors, requested no changes to the ward, apart from moving the area around 'Upper Redland', which we understand to be the area near the University. This area has been moved into our Clifton Down ward, for reasons outlined later in this report.

108 Having considered the evidence received, we have decided to recommend a two-councillor Central ward based on the Green Party's proposal. We consider that transferring Princes Wharf and Merchants Quay to Hotwells & Harbourside ward better reflects the statutory criteria, as we agree these areas have stronger functional and community links with Spike Island than with the city centre. Evidence from Councillor McAllister also persuaded us that this would unite Spike Island in one ward and allow Bathurst Basin to form a clearer, more identifiable ward boundary than the current one. While we acknowledge Councillor Tshabalala's view that Princes Wharf and Merchants Quay function as a commercial extension of the city centre, we consider that our recommendations strike an effective balance between

the need to reflect community identities and to ensure clear and identifiable ward boundaries.

109 We also recommend transferring Brandon Hill into Central ward, in line with the Green Party and Councillor McAllister's proposals. We were persuaded by Councillor McAllister's evidence that the area has stronger links to Central via Park Street and the Triangle than to Canon's Marsh and the harbour. We were also persuaded that much of Brandon Hill is disconnected from the rest of Hotwells & Harbourside ward, which is more closely defined by its waterfront character.

110 We also considered Councillor Tshabalala's view that the Brandon Hill area aligns more closely with Clifton than with the city centre, citing the steep topography separating Brandon Hill from the city centre, and the character of the area which was said to be more comparable with Cliftonwood or Lower Clifton Hill. While we acknowledge this evidence, we remain of the view that Brandon Hill has good functional and day-to-day links with the city centre. Its inclusion in Central ward also ensures the ward has good electoral equality. On balance, we consider that including the Brandon Hill area in Central ward effectively balances the statutory criteria.

111 The Green Party proposed that this ward be named Cabot, to distinguish it from the Bristol Central parliamentary constituency, and to reflect its use as a historical ward name. We did not adopt this name, as we were not persuaded that it has strong current relevance. However, we welcome comments on the name of our recommended ward during this consultation.

112 A local resident suggested transferring the Redcliffe area from Central ward into either Southville or Windmill Hill ward, with Central ward represented by a single councillor. We were not persuaded to adopt this proposal, as it would require a ward that would straddle the River Avon, which we consider to be a strong and clearly identifiable boundary in this part of the city.

Clifton

113 We have based our proposed Clifton ward on the Green Party's submission, although it also shares similarities with the proposal put forward by the Liberal Democrats. While the Liberal Democrats proposed retaining the existing two-councillor Clifton ward, which was supported by Councillor Thomas, we were persuaded by the Green Party's suggested modifications to the southern boundary. This would result in the transfer of areas locally recognised as part of the Hotwells community to a Hotwells & Harbourside ward.

114 We were not persuaded to adopt the Labour Party or Conservative proposals for this area, both of which included the wider Hotwells area within the Clifton ward. As explained in the Hotwells & Harbourside section, we consider Hotwells to be distinct from the broader Clifton area, with the communities separated by steep changes in elevation.

Clifton Down

115 All four of the city-wide schemes proposed expanding the existing Clifton Down ward to include the area around the University of Bristol. Councillor Calascione, Councillor Ralston and Councillor Tshabalala also supported this proposal. Extending the ward would address the forecast over-representation of the current Clifton Down ward and we therefore propose to adopt this modification in our draft recommendations. We are also content that this change reflects community identities and interests, bringing together an area closely linked to the University while uniting Whiteladies Road within a single ward.

116 We were not persuaded to adopt the Conservatives' proposed ward name of Clifton East, as we determined that insufficient evidence was provided to demonstrate why this name would be preferable to the existing one.

117 The Green Party, Councillor Calascione and Councillor Ralston also suggested renaming the ward. They stated that the name Clifton Down does not accurately reflect the area, as the Clifton Down open space lies outside the ward boundary. They suggested that Whiteladies would be a more appropriate name, given the role of Whiteladies Road as a focal point for the ward. We have decided not to change the ward name as part of our draft recommendations, as we consider Clifton Down to be an appropriate name given the presence of Clifton Down railway station and Clifton Down Shopping Centre within the ward. However, we welcome further views on this suggested ward name during the current consultation.

Cotham & Redland

118 We received a range of proposals in relation to existing two-councillor Cotham and Redland wards. The Green Party and the Conservatives proposed broadly similar two-councillor wards, extending the former ward southwards to include the area around Dove Street, with some minor changes to the latter ward. The Labour Party proposed moving the boundary between the two wards northwards, towards Redland Green School. The Liberal Democrats proposed a Cotham, Kingsdown & Stokes Croft ward that would extend the existing Cotham ward further south into the Dove Street and St Pauls areas, while transferring electors north of the Severn Beach railway line into a Redland ward. Councillor Tshabalala opposed the transfer of the Dove Street area from the current Central ward, citing concerns about community identity and interests.

119 As part of our draft recommendations, we propose a larger three-councillor Cotham & Redland ward. Having considered the range of two-councillor options put forward, we were not persuaded that any provided a satisfactory balance between electoral equality, community identities and following clearly identifiable boundaries. We determined that these proposals potentially split parts of Cotham, Kingsdown and Redland in ways that risked dividing communities. By contrast, we consider that

a three-councillor ward allows these closely related areas to be brought together in a single ward that achieves good electoral equality.

120 We carefully considered whether the Dove Street area should be retained within a Central ward or transferred to an adjacent Ashley ward, in light of the concerns raised by Councillor Tshabalala regarding community identities and interests. However, we were unable to identify an arrangement that would provide for this and secure good levels of electoral equality for either Ashley or Cotham & Redland wards. On this basis, and having regard for the need to balance the statutory criteria, we have included the Dove Street area in our recommended Cotham & Redland ward.

Hotwells & Harbourside

121 We received differing proposals for the Hotwells & Harbourside area. The Conservatives proposed subsuming the existing Hotwells & Harbourside ward into a larger three-councillor Clifton ward. The Labour Party proposed including the Spike Island area within a larger South Central ward alongside the Redcliffe area. It also proposed including the Canon's Marsh area in a North Central ward and transferring the Hotwells area into an enlarged Clifton ward.

122 The Liberal Democrats and the Green Party both proposed a single-councillor Hotwells & Harbourside ward, with the Liberal Democrats retaining the existing boundaries. The Green Party proposed some modifications by including Princes Wharf and Merchants Quay in Hotwells & Harbourside ward and transferring the Brandon Hill area into a Central ward. It also proposed a further boundary adjustment to include a greater proportion of the Hotwells community in its proposed ward. The Green Party's proposals were very similar to those submitted by Councillor McAllister, who provided community evidence in support of these changes.

123 We have based our draft recommendations on the Green Party's and Councillor McAllister's proposals. During our tour of the area, we observed that the proposed boundary adjustments in the Hotwells area brought community facilities and amenities serving the area into the ward. Furthermore, as set out in the Central ward section of this report, we considered that transferring the Brandon Hill area into a city centre ward and including Princes Wharf and Merchants Quay in Hotwells & Harbourside ward would provide a better balance of the statutory criteria.

124 We were not persuaded that the larger Clifton ward proposed by the Conservatives or the South Central ward proposed by the Labour Party would balance the statutory criteria as effectively. This is because we consider that our proposed Hotwells & Harbourside ward covers a distinct area, with Hotwells separated from Clifton by a steep change in elevation, and with Spike Island and Canon's Marsh forming harbourside areas distinct from the city centre.

Conclusions

125 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Bristol, referencing the 2025 and 2031 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 at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2025	2031
Number of councillors	76	76
Number of electoral wards	36	36
Average number of electors per councillor	4,384	4,799
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Draft recommendations

Bristol City Council should be made up of 76 councillors serving 36 wards: three single-councillor wards, 26 two-councillor wards and seven 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 Bristol City Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Bristol City Council on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say

126 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole city or just a part of it.

127 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Bristol, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

128 Our website is the best way to keep up to date with progress on the review and to have your say www.lgbce.org.uk

129 Each review has its own page with details of the timetable for the review, information about its different stages and interactive mapping.

130 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Bristol)
LGBCE
7th Floor
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

131 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Bristol which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

132 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

133 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in Bristol?

134 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

135 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

136 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

137 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

138 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

139 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Bristol City Council in 2028.

Equalities

140 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

Draft recommendations for Bristol City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average
1	Ashley	3	14,245	4,748	8%	15,383	5,128	7%
2	Ashton	1	4,039	4,039	-8%	4,974	4,974	4%
3	Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston	3	13,509	4,503	3%	14,406	4,802	0%
4	Bedminster	3	11,934	3,978	-9%	13,800	4,600	-4%
5	Bishopsworth	2	9,512	4,756	9%	10,054	5,027	5%
6	Bishopston & Ashley Down	3	14,514	4,838	10%	15,289	5,096	6%
7	Brislington East	2	8,951	4,476	2%	9,748	4,874	2%
8	Brislington West	2	9,288	4,644	6%	10,388	5,194	8%
9	Central	2	6,473	3,237	-26%	8,934	4,467	-7%
10	Clifton	2	8,140	4,070	-7%	9,014	4,507	-6%
11	Clifton Down	2	8,600	4,300	-2%	9,167	4,584	-4%
12	Cotham & Redland	3	13,632	4,544	4%	14,227	4,742	-1%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average
13 Easton	2	9,813	4,907	12%	10,345	5,173	8%
14 Eastville	2	8,282	4,141	-6%	8,676	4,338	-10%
15 Filwood	2	8,540	4,270	-3%	9,281	4,641	-3%
16 Fishponds	2	8,916	4,458	2%	9,314	4,657	-3%
17 Hartcliffe & Worthywood	3	13,639	4,546	4%	14,609	4,870	1%
18 Henbury & Brentry	2	9,089	4,545	4%	9,718	4,859	1%
19 Hengrove & Whitchurch Park	3	12,951	4,317	-2%	14,975	4,992	4%
20 Henleaze	2	9,535	4,768	9%	10,072	5,036	5%
21 Hillfields	2	8,163	4,082	-7%	9,142	4,571	-5%
22 Horfield	2	8,913	4,457	2%	9,365	4,683	-2%
23 Hotwells & Harbourside	1	4,513	4,513	3%	5,225	5,225	9%
24 Knowle	2	9,896	4,948	13%	10,489	5,245	9%
25 Lawrence Hill	2	7,084	3,542	-19%	9,540	4,770	-1%
26 Lockleaze	2	7,513	3,757	-14%	9,046	4,523	-6%
27 Southmead	2	8,059	4,030	-8%	8,740	4,370	-9%

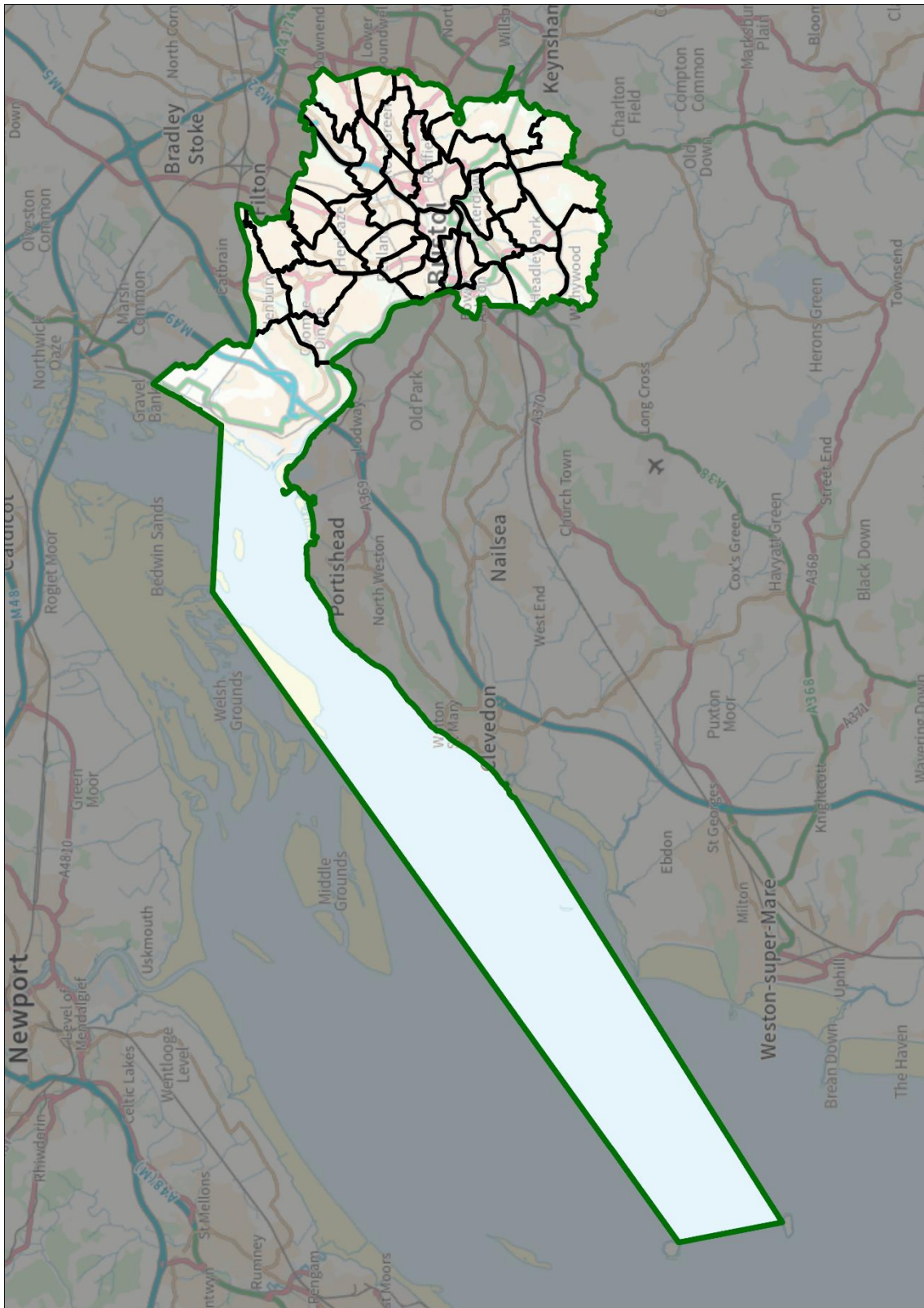
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average
28	Southville	2	7,981	3,991	-9%	9,042	4,521	-6%
29	Speedwell & Whitehall	2	9,290	4,645	6%	9,902	4,951	3%
30	St George East	2	9,146	4,573	4%	9,747	4,874	2%
31	St George West	2	8,690	4,345	-1%	9,218	4,609	-4%
32	Stapleton	1	4,160	4,160	-5%	4,392	4,392	-8%
33	Stockwood	2	8,581	4,291	-2%	9,189	4,595	-4%
34	Stoke Bishop	2	9,891	4,946	13%	10,523	5,262	10%
35	Westbury-on-Trym	2	8,616	4,308	-2%	9,155	4,578	-5%
36	Windmill Hill & Totterdown	2	9,065	4,533	3%	9,604	4,802	0%
Totals		76	333,163	-	-	364,693	-	-
Averages		-	-	4,384	-	-	4,799	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Bristol City 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 city. 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/bristol

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Political Groups

- Bristol Central Constituency Labour Party
- Bristol Conservatives
- Bristol East Constituency Labour Party
- Bristol Green Party
- Bristol Labour Party
- Bristol Liberal Democrats
- Bristol North East Constituency Labour Party
- Bristol South Constituency Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor J. Bartle (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor R. Bryher (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor G. Calascione (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor L. Francis (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor E. Fraser (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor E. Freeman (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor C. Lavan (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor R. Logan (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor P. McAllister (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor Y. Mohamud (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor S. Ralston (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor T. Rippington (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor I. Russell (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor J. Thomas (Bristol City Council)
- Councillor S. Tshabalala (Bristol City Council)

Local organisations

- The Henleaze Society
- Westbury-on-Trym Society

Local residents

- 41 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Changes 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

Licensing:

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: AC 0000807452 2026

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

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.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row,
London,
EC1Y 8YZ

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Online: www.lgbce.org.uk
X: @LGBCE