

Bristol

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Related subject: Wards within the constituency of Bristol North East

Please see detailed submission set out in the word document.

Attached Documents:

- electoral-changes-for-bristol-north-east.pdf

Bristol North East Wards and Communities

Electoral Changes



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	2025	2031
<i>Number of councillors:</i>	70	76
<i>Overall electorate:</i>	333,320	364,857
<i>Average electorate per cllr:</i>	4,762	4,801

Figure 1

What does it mean for Bristol North East?

Overall, the elector figures for BNE are set out in *Figure 2* including whether to increase the number of councillors from the current 8 to either 9 or 10 overall.

	2025	2031	2031
<i>Number of councillors:</i>	8	9	10
<i>Overall electorate:</i>	39,451	43,186	43,186
<i>Average electorate per cllr:</i>	4,931	4,798	4,319

Figure 2

If we drill down to individual wards in terms of current electors and the 2031 prediction this is set out in *Figure 3*

Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2025	Variance 2025	Electorate 2031	Variance 2031
Eastville	2	10,749	13%	11,353	18%
Frome Vale	2	10,084	6%	10,533	10%
Hillfields	2	9,208	-3%	10,259	7%
Lockleaze	2	9,410	-1%	11,041	15%

Figure 3

Proposal

You can quickly determine from *Figure 2* that in order to closely match the overall elector per councillor set out in *Figure 1* Bristol North East will need to increase the number of Bristol Councillors from 8 to 9.

Taking a look at *Figure 3* the two wards determined to be significantly over the elector per councillor in 2031 is Eastville and Lockleaze.

Considering the above it would be sensible to increase the size of Eastville ward by taking in polling district LOCF and HILD to create a 3-member ward.

Key considerations for the changes we are submitting are: -

1. Electors per councillor
2. Community cohesion
3. Likely housing growth

The new ward maps would look like this:

Eastville – 3-member ward gaining LOCF and HILD

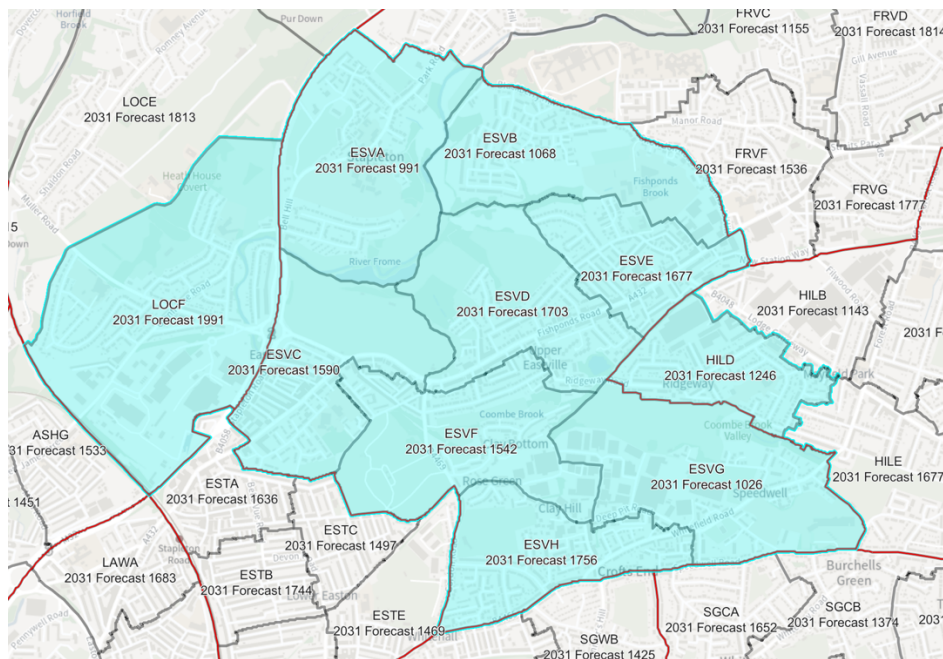


Figure 4

Justification

LOCF is the traditional heart of Eastville. The original Eastville Stadium home of Bristol Rovers was located here (Figure 5 below) along with the Eastville Library further up along Muller Road (Figure 6 below).

The retail outlets that now occupy the location where the Eastville stadium once have road names that demonstrated its historic links to Eastville. New Stadium Road and Eastgate for instance. All the retail outlets within the Eastgate Retail Park have Eastville in their postal addresses (Figure 7)

There are a number of businesses in LOCF (Figure 7) that have Eastville in their names. Eastville Veterinary Centre and The Eastville Club.

Glenfrome Primary School (Figure 8) further over to the East within LOCF also lists Eastville as its postal addresses along with all the homes around this community.


This community both businesses, public facilities and the electors has always viewed themselves as Eastville this the majority of this polling district. Again, that is including their postal addresses. These businesses and individuals have never felt part of Lockleaze. LOCF was formed as an electoral convenience to ensure Lockleaze previously had the correct number of electors. Once that was okay to do making this change would correct an electoral injustice.

The Eastville community existed before the M32 was built and exists after the M32, so we believe community cohesion justifies crossing the road here for these specific reasons set out above.


Included in our submission is that HILD is also moved from Hillfields into Eastville. The proposal tidies up that the main road through HILD and EASV Ridgeway Road and the electors off of it would all be within Eastville.

The community identity in HILD centres around Ridgeway Playing Fields and Coombe Brook Valley both located in ESGV. Homes in Vera Road, Moorlands Road, Abingdon Road and Ridgeway Road all state Eastville as their postal address and have strong links to the playing fields and Coombe Brook itself with homes themselves backing onto this space.

Eastville Stadium



Eastville Stadium in 1986



Interactive map of the Eastville Stadium area

General information


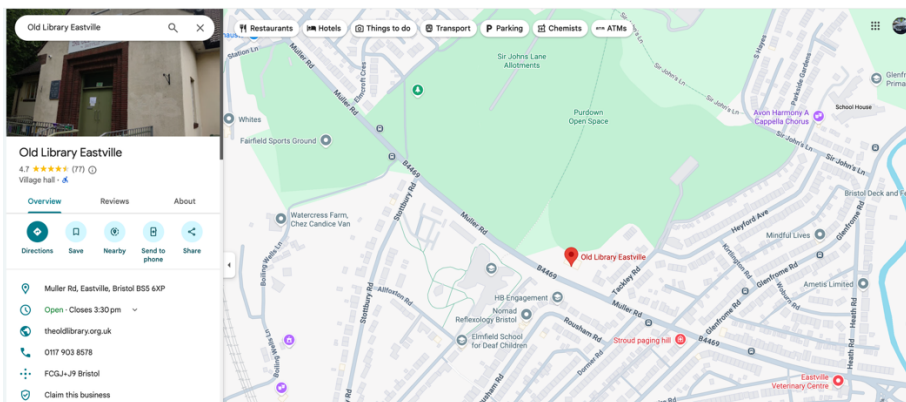
Location	Bristol, England
Coordinates	 51.4725°N 2.5635°W
Completed	1897
Demolished	1998
Client	Bristol Rovers F.C.

Figure 5



The screenshot shows a Google Maps interface. The search bar at the top left contains the text "Old Library Eastville". The map displays a street view of the area, with a red pin marking the location of "Old Library Eastville". The sidebar on the left provides details for the library, including its address (Muller Rd, Eastville, Bristol BS5 6XP), opening hours (Open - Closes 3:30 pm), website (theoldlibrary.org.uk), and phone number (0117 903 8578). The map also shows various landmarks and streets in the surrounding area, such as "Fairfield Sports Ground" and "Purdown Open Space".

Figure 6

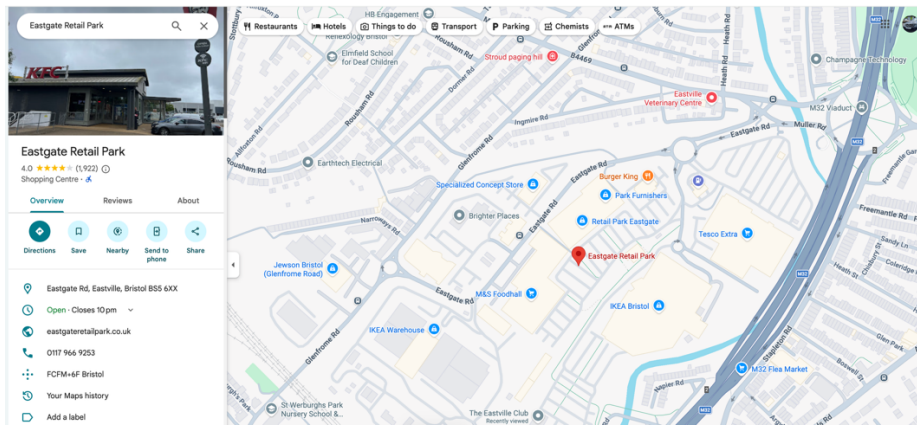


Figure 7

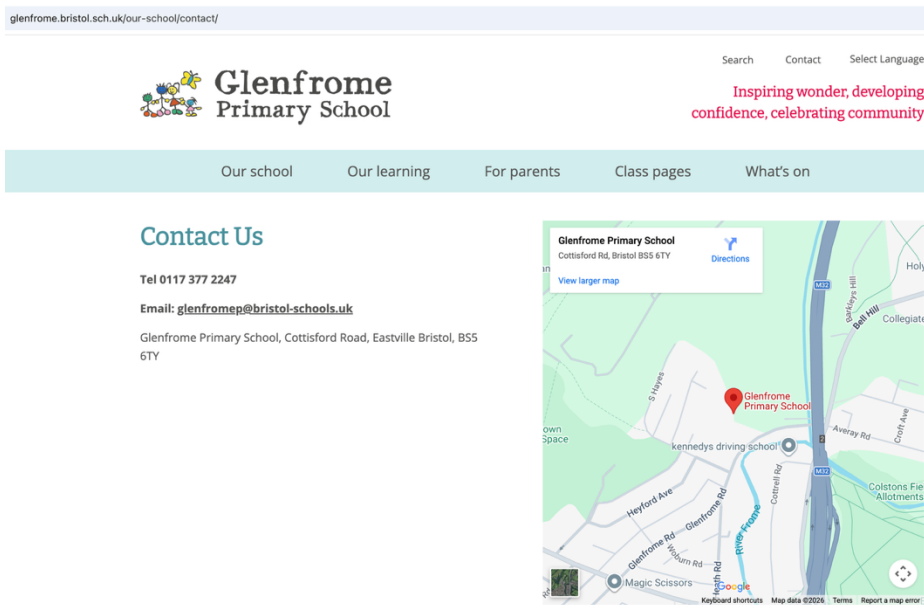


Figure 8

Lockleaze – 2-member ward losing LOCF to Eastville

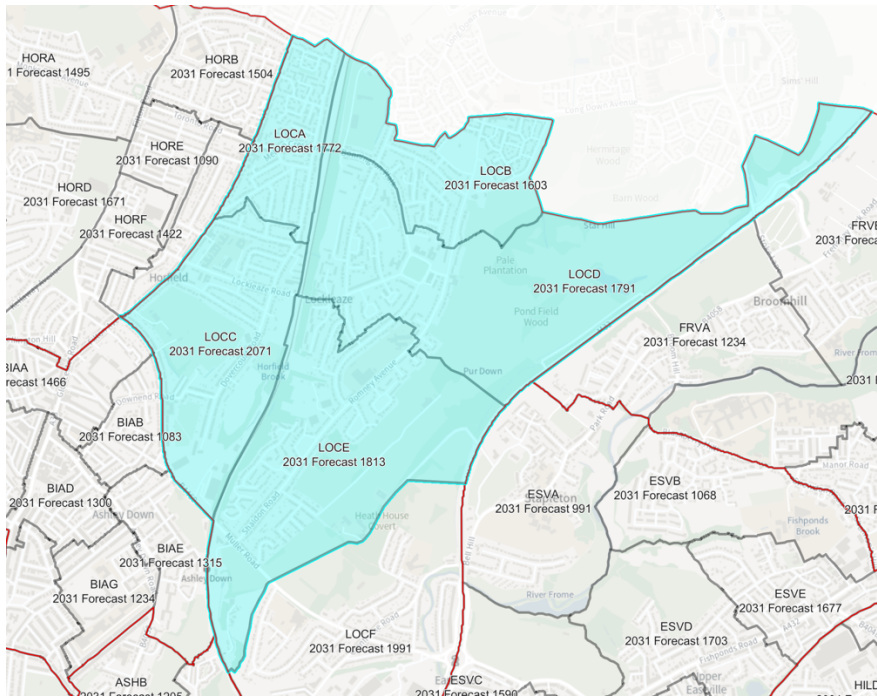


Figure 9

Justification

Details are set out above. In addition to this Lockleaze is growing with new houses to the north part of the road so can justify losing one polling district. Plus the remaining polling districts truly reflect the natural boundaries of the Lockleaze community itself. Whilst Lockleaze would be under the desired number of electors per councillor by 6% with the growth predicted we believe this figure is likely to be less in 2031.

Frome Vale – 2-member ward largely staying the same with small changes with its south border with Hillfields

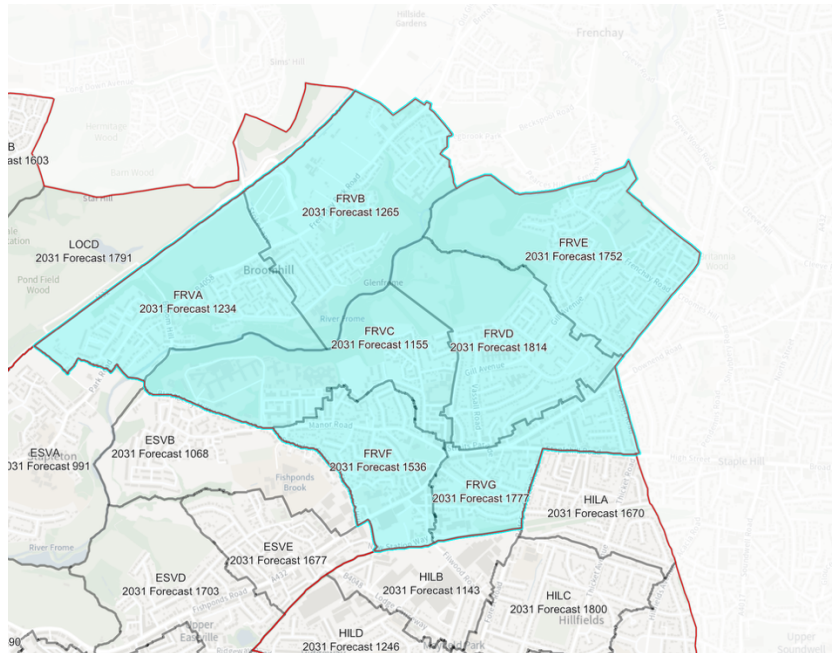


Figure 10

Justification

The proposal above puts Frome Vale over the number of electors by 9.7% so within the tolerances of the electoral commission review however we would suggest that the review looks at moving some electors in FRVG into Hillfields to balance the elector numbers.

Also, Frome Vale has grown significantly in recent years with new housing developments around the Blackberry Hill hospital location. There is very limited space for further developments. The elector prediction tool the review has used predicts an additional 500 electors in Frome Vale. We believe this may be an over estimation given the above.

Hillfields – 2-member ward losing HILD to Eastville with additional small changes to its north border with Frome Vale

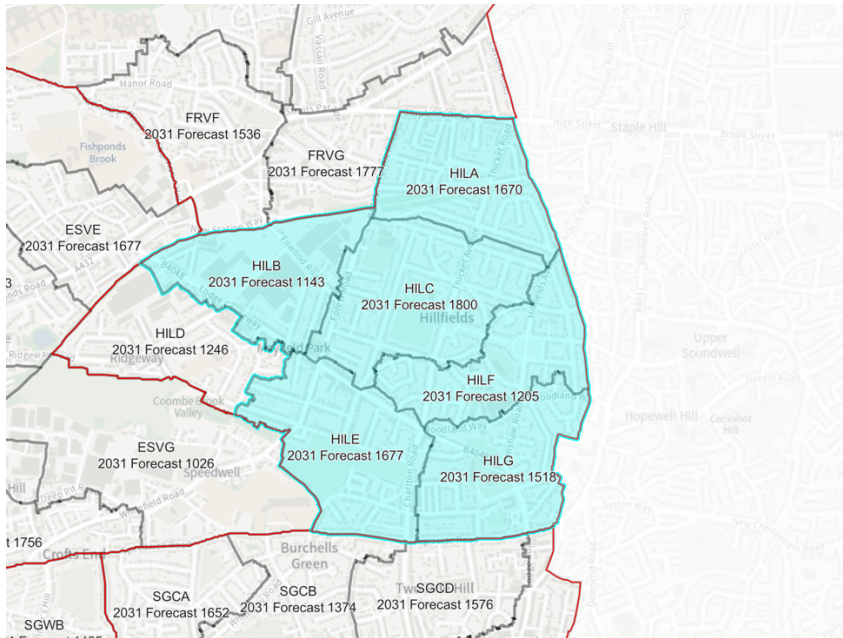


Figure 11

Justification

Details of HILD move into Eastville as set out above along with small changes to FRVG into Hillfields as set out above.

The remaining polling districts that make up are more in line with the Hillfields community. Plus, there are large proposals for additional housing in HILB which we believe the forecasting tool has not fully taken account of therefore whilst the predicted number of electors is 6% under the desired number of 4,800 we believe this will not be the case when we consider the growth of new homes as part of the Atlas Place developments.

The detailed elector figures are set out here

	2031			
	Eastville	Lockleaze	Hillfields	Frome Vale
<i>Number of councillors:</i>	3	2	2	2
<i>Overall electorate:</i>	14,590	9,050	9,013	10,533
<i>Average electorate per cllr:</i>	4,863	4,525	4,507	5,267

Figure 12

Conclusion

Moving Eastville to a 3-member ward taking in LOCF and HILD deals with the oversubscribed number of electors in Lockleaze and Eastville and is more in line with Eastville's natural community.

Frome Vale is over the number of electors per councillor however housing developments in this ward have concluded therefore there is little by way of growth whereas Hillfields and Lockleaze are growing. Small changes to the north boundary of Hillfields and south boundary of Frome Vale could resolve the mismatch of electors.

Our changes meet the three major considerations of electors per councillor, community cohesion and real potential housing growth in our wards.