

# New electoral arrangements for Coventry City Council Final Recommendations

May 2024

# Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Coventry City Council

Electoral review

May 2024

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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.<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.

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

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)

## Why Coventry?

7 We are conducting a review of Coventry City Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2003, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.<sup>2</sup> 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 Coventry 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 Coventry

9 Coventry should be represented by 54 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Coventry should have 18 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; two (Foleshill and Longford) will stay the same.

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

## 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 city or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency

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



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 Coventry. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the city. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 May 2023	Number of councillors decided
23 May 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
31 July 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
31 October 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
22 January 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
7 May 2024	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	2029
Electorate of Coventry	233,963	249,249
Number of councillors	54	54
Average number of electors per councillor	4,333	4,616

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 of our proposed wards for Coventry are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

## Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2029, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2024. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6.5% by 2029.

23 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.

<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.

## Number of councillors

24 Coventry City Council currently has 54 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 54 councillors.

26 As Coventry City Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation<sup>5</sup> that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We will only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern of wards will better reflect our statutory criteria.

27 We received no further submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on the draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 54 councillors for our final recommendations.

## Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 44 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included city-wide proposals from Coventry City Council, Coventry Labour Party, Coventry Conservative Federation and Coventry Conservative Party Group (joint submission) ('the Conservatives') and Coventry Green Party. The submissions from Coventry City Council and Coventry Labour Party were identical. In addition, we also received submissions from Colleen Fletcher MP, Taiwo Owatemi MP and Zarah Sultana MP with comments on the wards that fall within their respective Coventry constituencies. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the city.

29 The three city-wide schemes all provided uniform patterns of three-councillor wards for Coventry. 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.

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

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<sup>5</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

three of the city-wide schemes received. However, they were predominantly based on the scheme from Coventry City Council for most of the city and from the Conservatives in the Lower and Upper Stoke areas.

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

32 Our draft recommendations were for 18 three-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

33 We received 83 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a city-wide response from Coventry City Council ('the Council') submitted by Councillor Duggins, a member of Coventry City Council's Cabinet. That submission was supported by Coventry City Council Labour Group ('the Labour Group') which submitted a document of support signed by all 37 councillors. Councillor Welsh also submitted a response from Coventry Labour Party which was identical to the submission made by Councillor Duggins. We have treated these three submissions individually but have noted that they all contained the same views.

34 We also received a submission from a member of the public containing comments on all wards, this submission suggested a number of new wards. We looked at this submission but we did not consider that this suggested warding pattern provided the best balance of our statutory criteria, with limited evidence of community identities as well as proposing a number of wards we had considered and rejected during the drawing up of our draft recommendations.

35 We also received submissions from Councillor Simpson, on behalf of Coventry City Council Conservative Group ('the Conservative Group') and Coventry Conservative Federation.

36 Additionally, submissions were received from Colleen Fletcher MP, Zarah Sultana MP, Allesley Parish Council, Keresley Parish Council, and a number of Coventry City councillors, local organisations and local residents. These submissions focused on specific areas of the city, particularly our proposals in Bablake, Earlsdon, Lower Stoke, Sherbourne and Wainbody wards.

## Final recommendations

37 Our final recommendations are for 18 three-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 modifications to Binley & Willenhall, Cheylesmore, Earlsdon, Holbrooks, Lower Stoke, Radford, St Michael's, Sherbourne, Upper Stoke, Wainbody and Whoberley wards based on the submissions received.

39 The tables and maps on pages 9–22 detail our final recommendations for each area of Coventry. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>6</sup> criteria of:

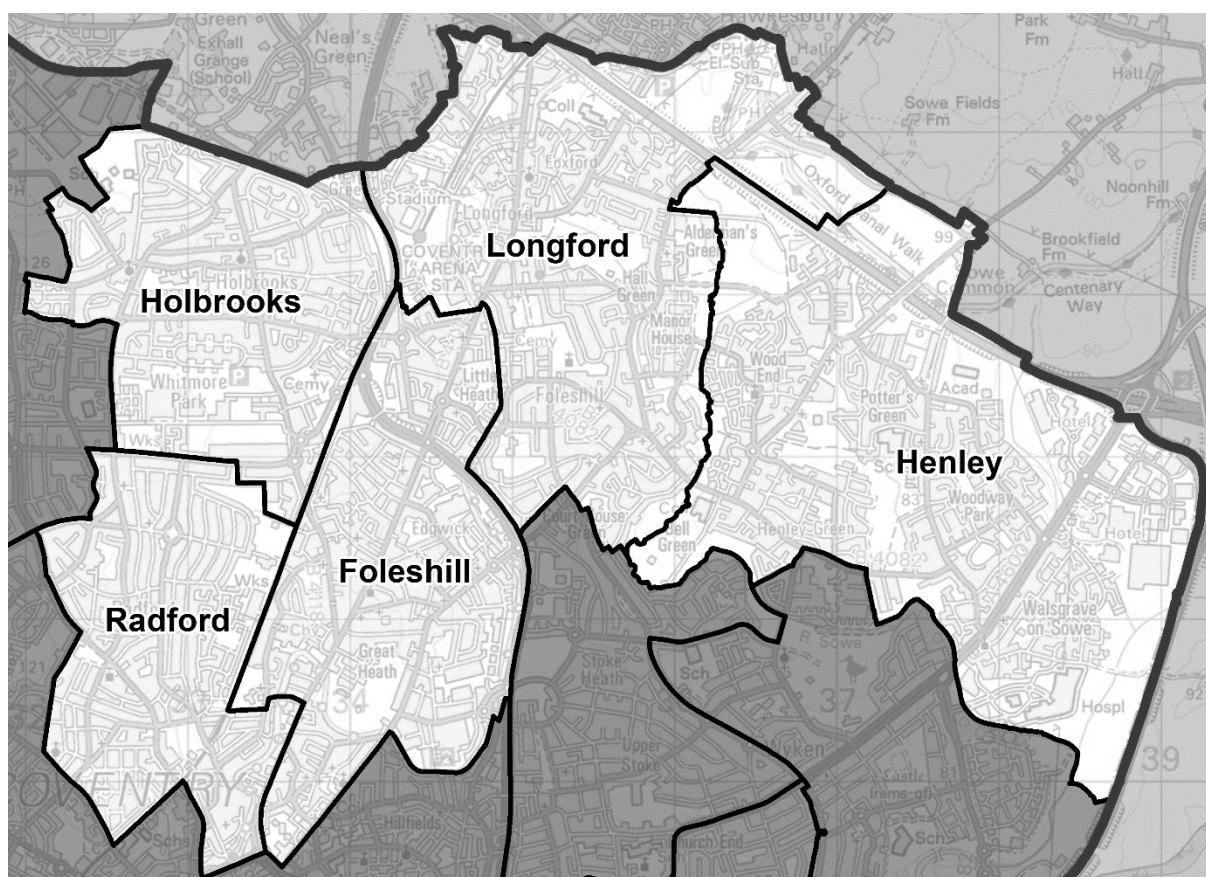
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

40 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 29 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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<sup>6</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## North and North East Coventry



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Foleshill	3	2%
Henley	3	5%
Holbrooks	3	1%
Longford	3	6%
Radford	3	3%

### *Foleshill, Henley and Longford*

41 The draft recommendations for these wards were supported by Coventry City Council, the Labour Group and the Labour Party. They stated that the boundaries of Foleshill and Longford wards reflected no change from the existing warding pattern and continued to reflect the communities in the area. They also supported our proposed Henley ward which reflected the historical link between Manor Farm and Wyken by moving Manor Farm from Henley ward to Wyken ward. Additionally, they stated that our recommendations reflected how the electors of Walsgrave, Potter's Green and Woodway Park view their community ties and reflected the lack of connections between Walsgrave and Wyken.

42 The Conservative Group and Conservative Federation both reiterated their proposal to include Walsgrave in a ward with the Sowe area, rather than to include



the Manor Farm area in Wyken ward. They stated that Walsgrave is the more appropriate area to include in Wyken ward given the community ties between the areas, particularly in respect of schooling.

43 Three local residents supported the draft recommendations for these wards.

44 Having considered the submissions received we do not propose to make any changes to our recommendations. We looked again at the evidence offered to us in respect of the Walsgrave on Sowe area and concluded that using the A4600 Hinckley Road as a boundary and moving the electors to the east of the A4600 and north of the River Sowe out of Henley ward would break longstanding community ties in the area. We considered that the River Sowe forms the stronger boundary in this area and propose it be used as a ward boundary.

45 It was argued that using the River Sowe as the boundary between Henley and Wyken wards to the east of the A4600 but not in the Manor Farm area was inconsistent. Having visited the area on our visit to Coventry we are of the view that the River Sowe is a less strong boundary in the Manor Farm area with shared access for electors on both sides on the river in Wyken Croft Nature Park.

46 Including the Manor Farm area in Wyken ward also provides for good electoral equality in Henley ward. This ward would have the relatively high electoral variance of 12% if the area in question is included in Henley. Overall, we have concluded that we have not received sufficiently strong enough evidence of community ties to justify a ward with this variance.

47 Our final recommendations for this area are for the three-councillor wards of Foleshill, Henley and Longford with electoral variances of 2%, 5% and 6%, respectively, by 2029.

#### *Holbrooks and Radford*

48 The Council supported the proposal that Holbrook ward be renamed Holbrooks. However, it did not support the use of Burnaby Road as the boundary between Holbrooks and Radford wards stating there were significant historical links between Yelverton Road (which lies to the south of Burnaby Road) and the rest of Holbrooks ward. This view was supported in submissions from Councillor Lancaster and three local residents. We received no further submissions relating to these two wards.

49 Having considered the submissions received and the evidence related to the community identity of electors on Yelverton Road, we propose to amend the boundary between Holbrooks and Radford wards and include these electors in Holbrooks ward. Under our final recommendations, the ward boundary moves from Burnaby Road and will follow the rear of the properties on the south side of Yelverton Road and then run to the south of the industrial area on Holbrook Lane.



50 Our final recommendations for this area are for the three-councillor wards of Holbrooks, with an electoral variance of 1%, and Radford, with a variance of 3%, by 2029.

## North West Coventry



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Bablake	3	3%
Sherbourne	3	5%
Whoberley	3	-9%
Woodlands	3	3%

### *Bablake and Woodlands*

51 The existing Bablake ward contains the large housing development known as the Eastern Green sustainable urban extension (SUE). This will see the ward grow

by approximately 1,700 electors by 2029. This increase would leave Bablake ward with 31% more electors than the average for Coventry on its current boundaries.

52 Our draft recommendations for Bablake and Woodlands wards were based on the Council's submission. This reduced the electorate in Bablake ward by using the A45 as the new southern boundary and by including the Eastern Green SUE in Woodlands ward along with the existing Eastern Green area. We agreed that the A45 will form a very strong boundary between the new development and the remainder of Bablake ward.

53 In response to our consultation, the Council supported the draft recommendations observing that they will provide the most appropriate allocation of future electors in the Eastern Green SUE. We also received submissions from Allesley Parish Council and Keresley Parish Council, the two parishes contained within the existing Bablake ward. Keresley Parish Council called for 'better and larger representation' due to rapid growth. Allesley Parish Council's submission, which we received from both the parish clerk and parish chair, related to the boundaries of Allesley parish and the principal authority (Coventry) in which it resides.

54 We noted the comments from both parish councils about the proposed ward and how the parishes are currently constituted. As part of this review, we cannot amend the external boundaries of any parish. Furthermore, we also take the view that it would be inappropriate for us to make changes to the number of members elected to a parish council. Both the external boundaries of a parish and the number of councillors can be changed by means of a Community Governance Review conducted by Coventry City Council as the principal authority. It should also be noted that the external boundary of Coventry cannot be amended as part of this review either.

55 We are required to provide parish warding arrangements for a parish that is divided between city wards. To ensure the most appropriate warding of a parish we base our parish wards on the five-year forecast electorate. We therefore propose that Allesley parish is divided into two wards – Allesley parish ward (containing the village of Allesley) which will have approximately 700 electors by 2029 and two parish councillors and Eastern Green parish ward (containing the Eastern Green SUE) which will have approximately 1,900 electors by 2029 and six parish councillors. Our formal recommendations for parish warding arrangements can be found at paragraph 89 of this report.

56 We did not receive any further submissions regarding these two wards and propose to confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

57 Our final recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Bablake and Woodlands, both of which will have good electoral equality by 2029.

### *Sherbourne and Whoberley*

58 Our draft recommendations for Sherbourne and Whoberley wards were based on the Council's proposals to which we made one small amendment. We proposed to move electors at 26–140 Allesley Old Road, Sunnyside Close and Rushmoor Drive, and streets off Rushmoor Drive, from Sherbourne ward to Whoberley ward.

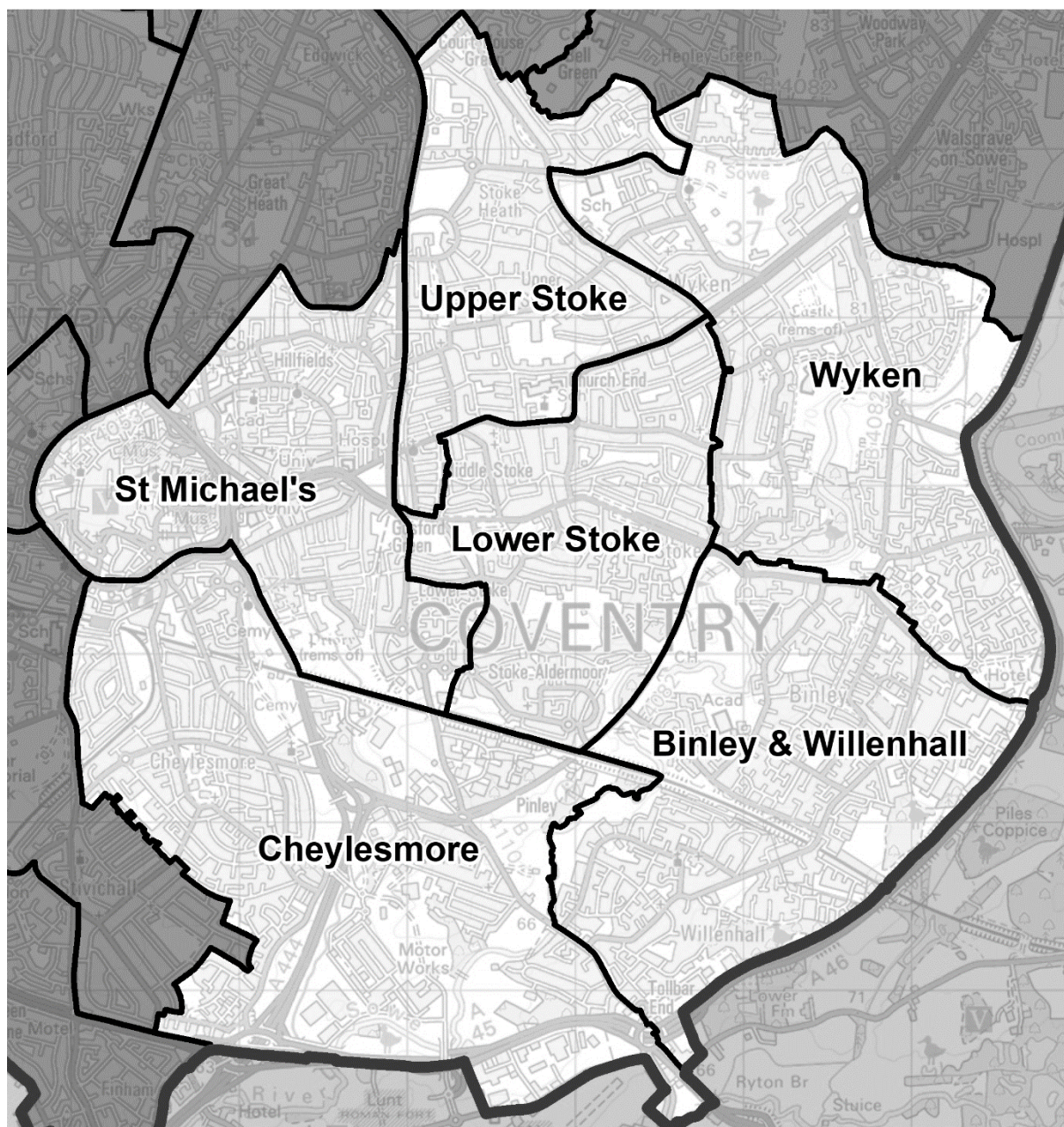
59 The Council broadly supported our draft recommendations for these wards noting that our proposed Sherbourne ward recognised the strong ties that exist between the Coundon and Spon End areas. The Council did not support our proposed amendment mentioned in the paragraph above, stating that the streets in question had strong community ties to Sherbourne ward based on the shared open space around the River Sherbourne. This view was supported by Councillor Lloyd and six local residents who gave further evidence of their ties to Sherbourne ward.

60 Having considered the evidence received in response to our draft recommendations, we have been persuaded to revise them and revert to the existing ward boundary in this specific area. The electors in question will therefore be included in Sherbourne on the basis of their community ties to that ward.

61 Our final recommendations for this area are for the three-councillor wards of Sherbourne and Whoberley, which will have electoral variances of 5% and -9% by 2029, respectively.



## South East and Central Coventry



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Binley & Willenhall	3	-3%
Cheylesmore	3	-5%
Lower Stoke	3	-2%
St Michael's	3	-4%
Upper Stoke	3	-4%
Wyken	3	1%

*Lower Stoke, St Michael's, Upper Stoke and Wyken*

62 Our draft recommendations for St Michael's and Wyken wards were predominantly based on the Council's proposals whereas our Lower Stoke and Upper Stoke wards were based on the scheme we received from the Conservatives.

63 In response to our consultation, the Council submitted further evidence in support of its earlier proposal to move an area of Lower Stoke to St Michael's ward. The Council stated that it understood the Commission's concern in moving the boundary away from the railway line which appears to form a strong boundary. However, it stated that this boundary has changed considerably since the railway line closed and now forms a cycleway that links the communities in St Michael's and Lower Stoke. The Council added that residents saw Aldermoor Lane as the boundary between Stoke Aldermoor and the newer housing on the Humber factory site. For this reason it considered that the newer housing should be part of St Michael's ward.

64 In respect of Lower Stoke and Upper Stoke wards, the Council stated that the draft recommendations divided the Poets Corner and Lower Stoke areas by removing the identifiable boundary along Ansty Road and moving it to Longfellow Road. The Council reiterated its original proposal that kept the Poets Corner area in the same ward. The Council also stated that if the boundary along Longfellow Road was maintained, they would like the entirety of Hipswell Highway to be included in Wyken ward. It supported moving the streets between Kingsway and Marlborough Road from Upper Stoke ward to Lower Stoke ward to secure a more identifiable boundary.

65 We also received 18 submissions from local residents in Lower Stoke, all of which were submitted as a template letter. This letter made a number of suggested changes to wards which included keeping Poets Corner in Lower Stoke, including all of Hipswell Highway in Wyken ward and returning the streets between Kingsway and Marlborough Road to Upper Stoke ward. The respondents also proposed including part of Lower Stoke in St Michael's ward as the Council had proposed, but that the boundary should follow Terry Road and Humber Road, with electors to the west moved into St Michael's ward. Finally, it was proposed that, if more electors were needed in Upper Stoke ward, then the 'Avenues' area between Marlborough Road and Brays Lane could be moved to Upper Stoke.

66 We also received a submission from a local resident in St Michael's ward who supported both the draft recommendations and the Council's proposed amendments to them.

67 Having considered the submissions received and having visited the areas in question on our visit to Coventry, we propose to make a number of changes to our draft recommendations.

68 We are adopting the Council's original proposal to add the area of new housing in Lower Stoke to St Michael's ward. We accept the argument that the railway line now forms a unifying feature for communities in its use as a cycleway and that Aldermoor Lane is a recognisable boundary for local people. We have revised the boundary between St Michael's ward and Lower Stoke ward to follow the rear of properties on Bolingbroke Road and then the centre of Aldermoor Lane. We did consider the alternative boundary suggested by local residents that followed Terry Road and Humber Road but concluded that this divided the community in that area.

69 In addition, we propose to move the boundary between Lower Stoke and Upper Stoke wards from Longfellow Road to follow the current alignment along Ansty Road. We accept that the draft recommendations divided the Poets Corner community by using Longfellow Road as a boundary. Our revised proposal reverts to the existing ward boundary between the two areas. We also propose to include all of Hipswell Highway in Wyken ward as suggested by the Council and local residents. We consider that this better reflects the pattern of communities in Wyken ward.

70 There were contrasting views on the area between Kingsway and Marlborough Road with the Council agreeing with the draft recommendations which moved the area from Upper Stoke ward to Lower Stoke ward. The Council considered that this revised boundary was more identifiable. The local residents in their template letter stated that this community identifies more with Upper Stoke and should be kept in that ward, with the addition of both sides of Marlborough Road. Having considered both views we propose to return the area to Upper Stoke, with both sides of Marlborough Road included in Upper Stoke ward. This proposal also provides for better electoral equality than our draft recommendations.

71 Our final recommendations in this area are for the three-councillor wards of Lower Stoke, St Michael's, Upper Stoke and Wyken with electoral variances of -2%, -4%, -4% and 1%, respectively, by 2029.

#### *Binley & Willenhall and Cheylesmore*

72 The draft recommendations for these two wards were based on the Council's scheme and provided for an unchanged Binley & Willenhall ward and a Cheylesmore ward with a small change to the boundary with St Michael's ward.

73 The Council supported our draft recommendations for both these wards. Two local residents also supported our Binley & Willenhall ward. The Conservatives proposed that the boundary between Binley & Willenhall and Cheylesmore should follow the River Sowe rather than the A4082 Allard Way and B4110 London Road.

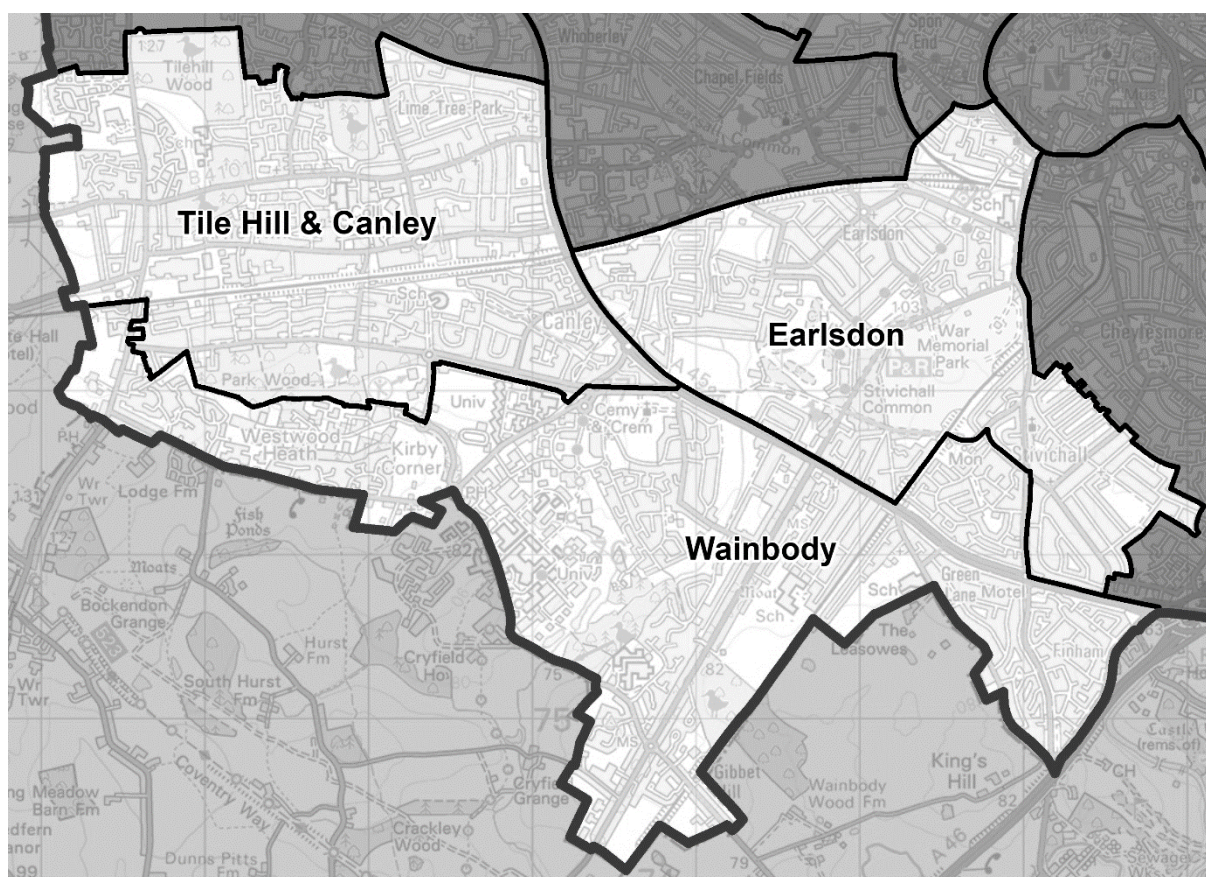


They argued that the area between the River Sowe and these two roads is forecast to see a new housing development that would be home to around 300 electors by 2029. This new development will, according to the existing plans, access onto London Road with no access over the River Sowe into Binley & Willenhall ward. The Conservatives therefore proposed that this development site be included in Cheylesmore ward arguing that, if it were to remain in Binley & Willenhall ward, the new development would be isolated from the services it would use in the Whitley area.

74 Having considered these submissions we propose to adopt the Conservatives' revised proposal for the boundary between Binley & Willenhall and Cheylesmore wards. It is often difficult to assess where the future community ties of unbuilt developments will lie but, having considered the plans for the development, including its road access and geographical location, we consider that it is appropriate to include it in Cheylesmore ward.

75 Our final recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Binley & Willenhall and Cheylesmore which will have electoral variances of -3% and -5%, respectively, by 2029.

## South West Coventry



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Earlsdon	3	-6%
Tile Hill & Canley	3	1%
Wainbody	3	4%

### *Earlsdon and Wainbody*

76 Our draft recommendations for these two wards were based on the Council's scheme to which we made an amendment. Having visited the area on our visit to Coventry, we considered that the A45 formed a strong boundary across the city. We therefore proposed to include the Styvechale Grange area in Earlsdon ward as it appeared to be isolated from the rest of Wainbody ward by the A45. However, we included the Westwood Heath area in Wainbody ward as suggested by the Council.

77 In response to our consultation on the draft recommendations, the Council argued that, whilst the A45 is a strong boundary in the city, the one place where it did not represent a barrier between communities was in the Styvechale Grange area. The Council stated that electors in this area shared a community identity with Finham to the south of the A45. It argued that children residing north of the A45 attended Finham Park School and that residents in the Styvechale Grange area used the doctors' surgery in Finham to the south of the A45. The Council proposed

that Styvechale Grange form part of Wainbody ward and that the 'Earlsdon' part of the St Michael's area move to Earlsdon ward. One local resident was in favour of this.

78 Conversely, the Conservatives supported the proposal to include Styvechale Grange in Earlsdon ward on the grounds of its stronger community ties to this area including Styvechale Grange School. They also suggested that the ward should be called Earlsdon & Stivichall. In addition, they proposed two amendments to the boundaries of Earlsdon ward. They proposed to include approximately 250 electors north of the A45 on Cannon Close and Stareton Close in Wainbody ward. The Conservatives also proposed to make the boundary between Cheylesmore and Earlsdon wards more identifiable by following the centre of Dillotford Avenue from The Chesils to Hele Road. In particular, they argued that the western section had more in common with Stivichall and the eastern section shared greater ties with Cheylesmore. The Conservatives also objected to the inclusion of Westwood Heath in Wainbody ward. We will discuss this in the section on Tile Hill & Canley ward.

79 We received 19 submissions from local residents and one from Styvechale Grange Residents' Association, all in opposition to the inclusion of the Styvechale Grange area in Earlsdon ward, stressing their strong community ties to Finham. One local resident proposed a revised ward which would include all of the Finham and Stivichall communities. We carefully looked at this proposal but concluded it could not be accommodated in a three-councillor warding pattern and noted the consequential impact on adjoining wards. We have decided that insufficient evidence was provided to justify this proposal so have not included it in our final recommendations.

80 We have been persuaded by the evidence from the Council and local residents, as well as our visit to the area, that the Styvechale Grange area should remain in Wainbody ward due to its strong ties to Finham. As such, we propose to revert to the existing warding arrangement which includes Styvechale Grange in Wainbody ward.

81 We considered the response made by the Conservatives which stated that Styvechale Grange had community ties to Earlsdon. We accept that there will be electors that have community ties to Earlsdon as well as with Finham. However, on balance, we concluded that the evidence suggested they shared stronger community ties with the Finham area. We do not propose to adopt either of the other changes that the Conservatives suggested. Whilst we accept the view that Cannon Close and Stareton Close are somewhat isolated in Earlsdon ward, we did not consider we had the evidence to move the ward boundary from the A45 dual carriageway in this specific area. Additionally, we are not persuaded to use the centre of Dillotford Avenue as the boundary between Cheylesmore and Earlsdon wards. The current ward boundary retains all of Dillotford Avenue in Cheylesmore and we consider that

retaining it a single ward provides for more effective and convenient local government for these electors.

82 We have decided to adopt the Council's suggestion to include the area between Ringway, Butts Road and the railway line in Earlsdon ward. In our draft recommendations we retained this area in St Michael's ward as we could not include both this area and Styvechale Grange area in Earlsdon ward and ensure good electoral equality. Having agreed that Styvechale Grange should be included in Wainbody ward, we propose to include the area the Council suggest in Earlsdon ward to provide good electoral equality for both Earlsdon and St Michael's wards. We received limited submissions in this area with only the Council and a local resident making comments; however, given the need to balance all three of the statutory criteria, we consider our final recommendation to include it in Earlsdon ward provides the best balance of our criteria.

### *Tile Hill & Canley*

83 The Council was supportive of the draft recommendations for this area, stating that they reflected the extent of the Tile Hill and Canley communities and recognised the shared identity Westwood Heath had with other areas in Wainbody ward. It also acknowledged that some significant redrawing of the wards in this area was necessitated by the large Eastern Green SUE development being included in Woodlands ward, as discussed earlier.

84 The Conservatives did not support the inclusion of Westwood Heath in Wainbody ward. The party also objected to the ward name of Tile Hill & Canley and argued that the Westwood name should be retained given that Westwood Heath is in the ward. In order to achieve electoral equality for the area, the Conservatives proposed an alternative warding pattern which would result in approximately 2,700 electors in an area bounded by Charter Avenue to the south, Mitchell Avenue to the west, the Coventry–Tile Hill railway line to the north and A45 to the east, moving into Wainbody ward. They also proposed that Westwood Heath move into a renamed Westwood ward. Councillor Lapsa wrote in support of this proposal.

85 We received 12 other submissions relating to Westwood Heath with one supporting its inclusion in Wainbody ward and 11 objecting to it.

86 Having considered the evidence received and having visited the area on our visit to Coventry, we propose to confirm the draft recommendations for Tile Hill & Canley ward as final. Whilst we accept that Westwood Heath has ties to Tile Hill, including it in that ward would result in an electoral variance of 14% by 2029. We do not consider we have received the evidence to support this level of electoral inequality. We carefully considered the proposal to move some of the Canley area to Wainbody but concluded that the proposal divided a coherent community. Whilst we accept that Westwood Heath may not have strong ties to all of Wainbody ward, we

consider there is evidence that it has ties to the neighbouring parts of the ward. In addition, the Commission's general approach is that it will always prefer to include two distinct communities in the same ward, even if they have limited community ties, than to divide a coherent community.

87 Our final recommendations for this area are for the three-councillor wards of Earlsdon, Tile Hill & Canley and Wainbody, which will have electoral variances of -6%, 1% and 4% by 2029, respectively.

## Conclusions

88 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Coventry, referencing the 2023 and 2029 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2023	2029
Number of councillors	54	54
Number of electoral wards	18	18
Average number of electors per councillor	4,333	4,616
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Final recommendations

Coventry City Council should be made up of 54 councillors serving 18 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 Coventry.

You can also view our final recommendations for Coventry City Council on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

89 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.

90 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, Coventry City 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.

91 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 Allesley.

#### Final recommendations

Allesley Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Allesley	2
Eastern Green	6



## What happens next?

92 We have now completed our review of Coventry City Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2026.



## Equalities

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

# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Final recommendations for Coventry City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bablake	3	11,044	3,681	-15%	14,195	4,732	3%
2	Binley & Willenhall	3	13,176	4,392	1%	13,409	4,470	-3%
3	Cheylesmore	3	12,512	4,171	-4%	13,091	4,364	-5%
4	Earlsdon	3	12,029	4,010	-7%	13,051	4,350	-6%
5	Foleshill	3	13,464	4,488	4%	14,077	4,692	2%
6	Henley	3	13,926	4,642	7%	14,581	4,860	5%
7	Holbrooks	3	12,901	4,300	-1%	13,965	4,655	1%
8	Longford	3	14,183	4,728	9%	14,631	4,877	6%
9	Lower Stoke	3	13,408	4,469	3%	13,634	4,545	-2%
10	Radford	3	13,859	4,620	7%	14,296	4,765	3%
11	Sherbourne	3	14,072	4,691	8%	14,561	4,854	5%
12	St Michael's	3	12,584	4,195	-3%	13,253	4,418	-4%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Tile Hill & Canley	3	13,747	4,582	6%	14,014	4,671	1%
14 Upper Stoke	3	13,026	4,342	0%	13,263	4,421	-4%
15 Wainbody	3	11,597	3,866	-11%	14,374	4,791	4%
16 Whoberley	3	12,334	4,111	-5%	12,556	4,185	-9%
17 Woodlands	3	12,289	4,096	-5%	14,271	4,757	3%
18 Wyken	3	13,812	4,604	6%	14,027	4,676	1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>233,963</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>249,249</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,333</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,616</b>	<b>–</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Coventry 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/coventry](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/coventry)



## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

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

#### *Local Authority*

- Coventry City Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Coventry Conservative Federation
- Coventry Conservative Group
- Coventry Labour Group
- Coventry Labour Party
- St Michael's Ward Labour Party

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor R. Lancaster (Coventry City Council)
- Councillor M. Lapsa (Coventry City Council)
- Councillor G. Lloyd (Coventry City Council)

#### *Members of Parliament*

- Colleen Fletcher MP (Coventry North East)
- Zarah Sultana MP (Coventry South)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Stoke Kerala Community
- Styvechale Grange Residents' Association

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Allesley Parish Council (two submissions)
- Keresley Parish Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 67 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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