

# New electoral arrangements for Bradford Council

## Further Draft Recommendations

July 2024

# Further draft recommendations for the new electoral arrangements in the areas of Baildon, Bingley and Shipley and south of the city centre of City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Electoral review

June 2024

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

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## Analysis and further draft recommendations in the areas of Baildon, Bingley and Shipley and the area to the southeast and southwest of the city centre

1 Following our consultation on the draft recommendations for Bradford, the Commission has decided to hold a period of consultation on further draft recommendations in the areas of Baildon, Bingley and Shipley, and the area to the southeast and southwest of the city centre, before the publication of its final recommendations. The Commission believes it has received sufficient evidence relating to the rest of the district to finalise its recommendations, so this consultation is focused on those areas only.

2 During consultation on the draft recommendations, which were published on 28 November 2023, we received 191 representations, around 60 of which commented on our proposals for wards in Baildon, Bingley and Shipley. A significant majority of these submissions expressed opposition to our proposed Baildon & Eldwick ward, also providing us with a great deal of community-based evidence to substantiate their opposition to our proposals. Baildon Town Council provided a counter proposal for four wards covering the Baildon, Bingley and Shipley areas.

3 We also received opposition from the Green Party Group ('the Greens') on Bradford Council concerning our proposals for Tong and Wyke & Brierley Woods ward. They consequently provided a counter proposal for the six wards to the southeast and southwest of Bradford city. They stated that a ward that crossed the M606 did not provide for effective and convenient local government for the area, nor did it reflect the community identities and interests of local electors. They also stated that a Brierley Woods community does not exist. The Greens counter proposal sought to maintain the existing Tong ward by suggesting a revised warding pattern that achieved this and dealt with the consequential effects that resulted from this proposal.

4 Accordingly, we have been persuaded to amend our proposals and publish further draft recommendations for the Baildon, Bingley and Shipley areas, and the area to the southeast and southwest of the city centre. We consider that because these two warding patterns have not received public consultation, it is appropriate to hold a further period of consultation on these two areas. We are now inviting further views in these areas.

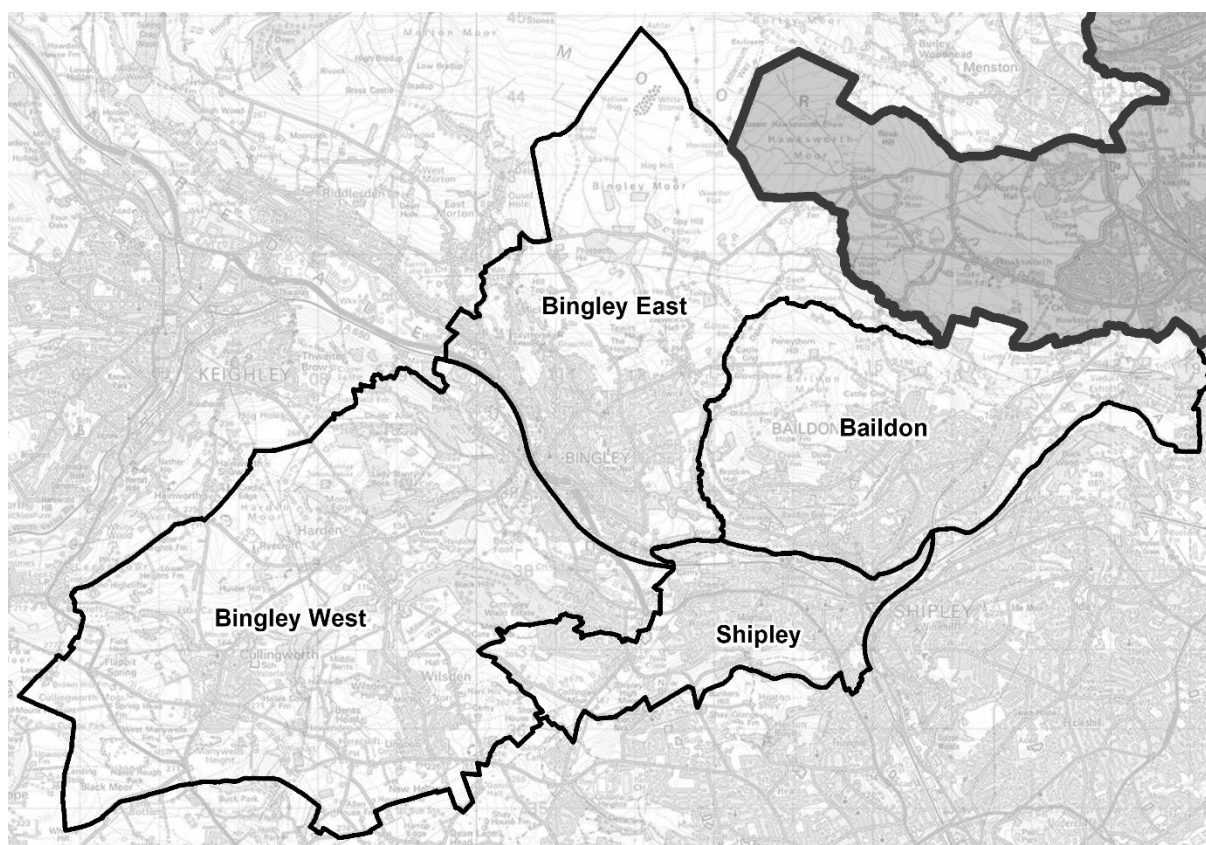
5 We welcome all comments on these proposals, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries and the names of our proposed wards. This consultation stage begins on 4 June 2024 and closes on 15 July 2024. Please see page 12 for more information on how to send us your response.

6 The tables and maps on pages 3-10 detail our further draft recommendations for these two areas. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

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



## Baildon, Bingley and Shipley



| Ward name    | Number of councillors | Variance 2029 |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Baildon      | 3                     | 8%            |
| Bingley East | 3                     | 3%            |
| Bingley West | 3                     | -8%           |
| Shipley      | 3                     | 9%            |

### *Baildon, Bingley East, Bingley West and Shipley*

7 We are consulting on this area because a substantial number of respondents opposed our draft recommendations. Our draft recommendations for this area transferred the settlement of Eldwick from Bingley ward to a proposed Baildon & Eldwick ward. This proposal allowed us to achieve electoral equality for both wards, as the existing Bingley ward is forecast to have 20% more electors than the average for the district by 2029.

8 In addition, we had recommended a Bingley Rural ward that moved Denholme parish into Worth Valley ward and used the River Aire as the boundary between Bingley ward and Bingley Rural ward. Our proposed Shipley ward followed the boundaries of the existing Shipley ward, except for a small amendment to provide a more identifiable boundary with Baildon & Eldwick ward along Green Lane. This proposal meant that the part of Baildon parish currently in a Shipley ward remained in a Shipley ward.



9 Around 70 of the 191 submissions we received referenced our proposals in this area. Bradford Council Labour Group ('the Labour Group') and the Greens both supported the draft recommendations, and a local resident wrote in support of the proposed Bingley ward.

10 The remaining submissions relating to this area all opposed the inclusion of Eldwick in Baildon & Eldwick ward. These submissions came from Baildon Town Council, Bingley Town Council, Bradford Council Conservative Group, two Bingley Town Council councillors, Eldwick & Gilstead Gala Association and 62 local residents.

11 These submissions provided a great deal of community-based evidence demonstrating the strong ties that the Eldwick area has with the wider Bingley area. The submissions also stated that there is a lack of community ties between Eldwick and Baildon, including the lack of any public transport over Baildon Moor along Bingley Road, a road which several submissions stated can be frequently closed due to harsh weather.

12 In addition to these submissions, the Bradford Council Conservative Group ('the Conservatives') objected to the continued inclusion of part of Baildon parish in Shipley ward, a view supported in a handful of other submissions. The Conservatives, in their objection to the inclusion of Eldwick in Baildon & Eldwick ward, reiterated their initial submission that moved the Eldwick area to Wharfedale ward. We also received a mixture of support and opposition regarding the inclusion of Denholme parish in the neighbouring Worth Valley ward.

13 As part of their submission, Baildon Town Council offered a counter proposal which they considered better met the Commission's statutory criteria than the draft recommendations.

14 Baildon Town Council proposed a Baildon ward that was made up of the entirety of Baildon parish plus the inclusion of 38 electors in the settlement of Low Springs within Bingley parish. This proposal would see the part of Baildon parish currently in Shipley ward placed into a Baildon ward. They proposed that Bingley parish be divided between Bingley East and Bingley West wards. Bingley East ward would be made up of most of the existing Bingley ward, but with the Bingley Central & Myrtle Park area moved into Bingley West ward. The remainder of the Bingley West ward would be composed of the parishes of Cullingworth, Harden and Wilsden, and part of the village of Cottingley, numbering around 485 electors on streets connected to Manor Drive. The remainder of Cottingley village would be included in Shipley ward.

15 When considering these further draft recommendations, we have considered all the evidence we received and have balanced these against our three statutory

criteria. While we note the support for the draft recommendations from the Labour Group and Green Party Group, we consider that the proposal submitted by Baildon Town Council better reflects local communities than our draft recommendations.

16 Therefore, as part of our further draft recommendations, we are recommending a Baildon ward almost identical to that proposed by Baildon Town Council. We propose two minor changes to their suggested ward, by retaining the slightly amended boundary around Esholt Hall, as proposed in our draft recommendations, to reflect the access of a handful of electors into Esholt village. We also do not propose to include the settlement of Low Springs in Baildon ward. To do this would require us to create a parish ward for the settlement within the Bingley Town Council area. This parish ward would only have 38 electors and it is the Commission's policy to not create parish wards with less than 100 electors, as we consider they do not provide for effective and convenient local government.

17 We also agree that Bingley parish should be divided into a Bingley East ward and a Bingley West ward, as suggested by Baildon Town Council. This is necessary to achieve electoral equality, given a three-councillor ward covering the entire Bingley Town Council area would have 64% more electors than average by 2029, and the existing Bingley and Bingley Rural wards are forecast to have 20% and 18% more electors by 2029, respectively.

18 We noted Baildon Town Council's proposal to divide the town following the railway line from the boundary with Keighley until Bingley station, then the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and Kingsway/Gloucester Road/Cornwall Road, but we determined that this boundary is not as strong as following the railway line for its entirety within Bingley parish.

19 Accordingly, we propose that the railway line forms the boundary between our Bingley East and Bingley West wards, with every area to the east of the line in Bingley East ward and the remaining part of Bingley parish in either Bingley West (along with Cullingworth, Harden and Wilsden parishes) or Shipley ward.

20 Having considered all the various options, we came to the view that it was not possible to provide a warding pattern that did not divide a settlement within Bingley parish between wards, while ensuring a good level of electoral equality. Baildon Town Council suggested that Cottingley be divided between Bingley West and Shipley wards. We agree that this represents the best solution in this area to reflect our statutory criteria. We however propose a different boundary within Cottingley. We propose that the boundary between Bingley West and Shipley wards runs from Bradford Road, follows the rear of Cottingley Hall Care Home and then to the rear of the streets off the north side of Manor Road and Airedale Avenue and then to the south of the Cottingley Wood Estate. We propose that all electors to the south of this boundary are included in Shipley ward and electors to the north, on the streets off or around Manor Drive, are included in Bingley West ward. The inclusion of this area

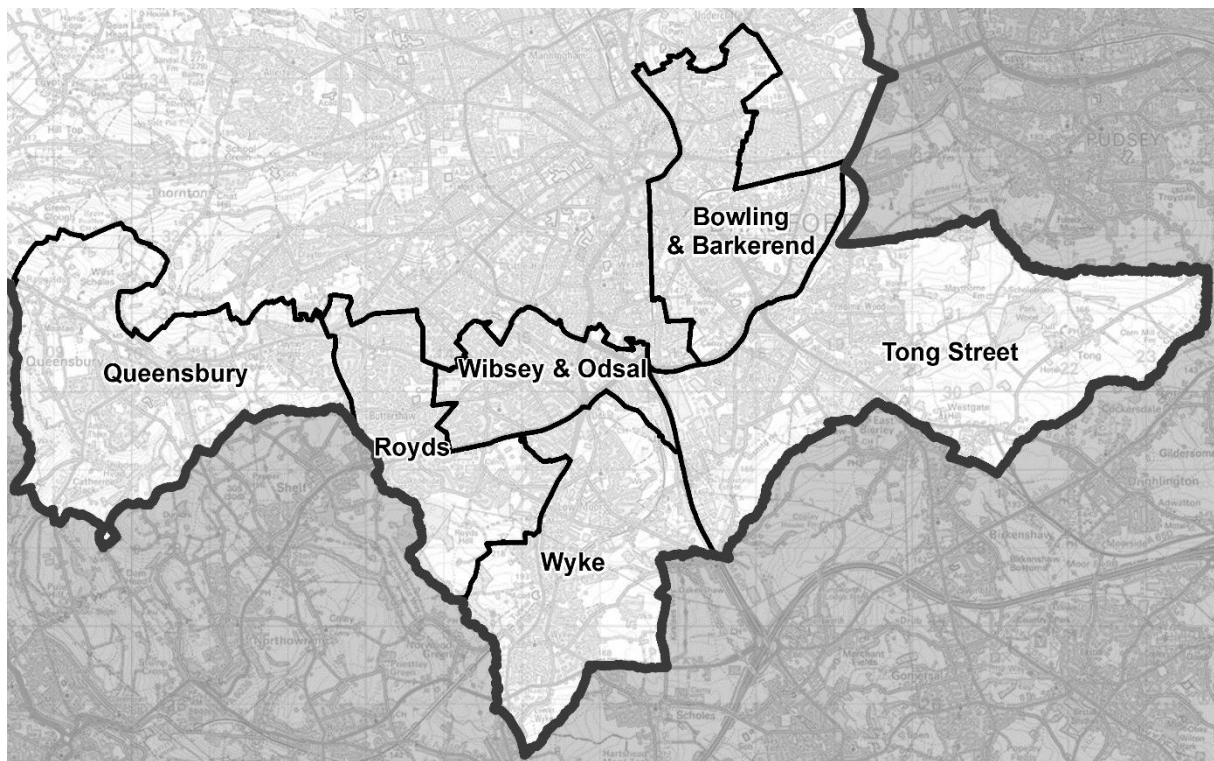
into Shipley ward will ensure electoral equality across wards, given a Shipley ward made up just of Shipley parish would have an electoral variance of -12%.

21 Our proposed Shipley ward is therefore composed of the parish of Shipley, plus the area of Cottingley mentioned in the paragraph above.

22 We are particularly eager to hear further evidence in this area to help inform our final recommendations. This can be in support or opposition to these further draft recommendations, or the initial draft recommendations. We will consider all the submissions we received in preparation of our final recommendations.

23 Our proposed further draft recommendations for this are for four three-councillor wards of Baildon, Bingley East, Bingley West and Shipley. These wards will have electoral variances of 8%, 3%, -8% and 9% by 2029, respectively.

## Southeast and southwest of Bradford city centre



| Ward name           | Number of councillors | Variance 2029 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Bowling & Barkerend | 3                     | 10%           |
| Queensbury          | 3                     | -9%           |
| Royds               | 3                     | -8%           |
| Tong Street         | 3                     | 3%            |
| Wibsey & Odsal      | 3                     | -7%           |
| Wyke                | 3                     | -10%          |

### *Bowling & Barkerend, Queensbury, Royds, Tong Street, Wibsey & Odsal and Wyke*

24 We are consulting on this area because a number of respondents opposed our draft recommendations. Respondents stated that the proposed Wyke and Bierley Woods ward did not reflect the community in that area. The Greens stated that, in their view, a Bierley Woods community did not exist, and our draft recommendations divided the Bierley community between Wyke & Bierley Woods and Tong wards.

25 The submissions also broadly argued that the part of Bierley included in Wyke & Bierley Woods ward (being the electors that lie to the west of Bierley Lane and south of Walker Street, as well as the small community of Lower Woodlands), had no direct connection to the Wyke area. They stated that the two road connections between the areas of Bierley and Wyke were via Mill Carr Hill Road and Bradford Road through the village of Oakenshaw. Oakenshaw village straddles the local authority boundary between Bradford and Kirklees and the road connection in question leaves the district of Bradford for a short stretch. The other connections

between the two wards would be via the A6177/A6036 through Wibsey & Odsal ward. These submissions argued that the M606, the boundary between the existing Tong and Wyke wards, continues to provide the strongest and most recognisable boundary. They noted that the sole crossing of the M606 motorway within the proposed Wyke & Brierley ward was a road servicing the Prologis Park and Industrial Estate, a no-through road. The submissions argued that these limited connections illustrated the lack of community ties between the two areas.

26 The Greens, who provided one of the submissions in opposition to the wards in this area, provided a counter proposal for the six southernmost wards of the authority.

27 Their proposal suggested that the existing Bowling & Barkerend and Tong wards be left unchanged from the existing wards. This would mean that the existing boundary of the M606 would be retained as the boundary between the Tong and Wyke areas. This proposal would also mean that the Swain Green and Cutler Heights area would be retained in Bowling & Barkerend ward.

28 We had included this area in our proposed Tong ward as suggested by Bradford Council in their submission to our initial consultation. We had proposed a boundary between our suggested Bowling & Barkerend and Tong wards of Sticker Lane.

29 As part of their response to the Commission on the draft recommendations, the Council requested that the boundary between Bowling & Barkerend and Tong wards follow Cutler Heights Lane. They stated that this boundary provided coterminosity with the new parliamentary constituency boundaries, which the Council uses to determine their Area Committee structure. They argued that a coterminous boundary would provide for effective and convenient local government.

30 The Greens counter proposal also suggested that Tong ward be renamed Tong Street. They reasoned that Tong village forms only a small part of the ward. Instead, they argued that Tong Street would be more suitable, given it is the ward's main settlement and the name of the main road traversing the ward.

31 In addition to these proposals, the Greens counter proposal also suggested changes to the northern boundary of Wyke ward as well as changes to the boundaries of Queensbury, Royds and Wibsey & Odsal wards. These changes are a consequence of using the M606 as the boundary between their proposed Tong Street and Wyke wards.

32 Their proposed Wyke ward would mean all electors in properties south of the A6036 Halifax Road/Rooley Avenue, which lie between Horsfall Playing Fields and Odsal Stadium, would be included in Wyke ward. Electors to the east of Odsal

Stadium, south of Rooley Avenue and west of the M606 would remain in Wibsey & Odsal ward, as our draft recommendations had proposed.

33 To provide for electoral equality for all six wards, the Greens also proposed that an area in Wibsey Slack bounded by Reevy Road, Buttershaw Lane, Halifax Road and Wibsey Park Avenue be moved from Royds ward to Wibsey & Odsal ward. They also proposed that Coopers Lane forms the boundary between Queensbury and Royds wards. They stated that this would mean that Horton Bank Top is wholly contained in Royds ward and that Cooper Lane would form a strong identifiable boundary between Clayton Heights in Queensbury ward and Horton Bank Top in Royds ward.

34 Having considered all the submissions received, we propose that our further draft recommendations are based on the Green's counter proposal, subject to some small amendments.

35 We propose to adopt the Bowling & Barkerend and Tong Street wards suggested by the Greens. We noted the submission from the Council with regard to the inclusion of the Swain Green area in Tong ward and the use of Cutler Heights Lane as a coterminous boundary with the new parliamentary constituency boundaries.

36 The Commission is not obliged to consider parliamentary constituency boundaries when proposing ward boundaries. Whilst we note the argument about coterminosity, were we to include the Swain Green area in Tong Street ward, whilst retaining the existing boundary of the M606, then Tong Street ward would have an electoral variance of 16% by 2029. We consider that we have not received strong and persuasive enough evidence relating to our three statutory criteria to justify proposing a ward with that level of electoral inequality. However, we would be interested in receiving further evidence about this decision from affected electors during consultation.

37 We were persuaded by the evidence we had received that the M606 provided such a strong boundary that it should form the ward boundary in this area. Given this decision, we accept that consequential changes are required to Queensbury, Royds, Wibsey & Odsal and Wyke wards to ensure electoral equality across wards.

38 We consider that the changes proposed by the Greens in their counter proposal reflect local communities in the area, particularly the revised boundary between Queensbury and Royds wards along Cooper Lane. We also consider that the inclusion of the area to the south of the A6036 Halifax Road/Rooley Avenue in Wyke ward uses a strong and identifiable boundary. We do propose one small change to the area that the Greens suggested including in Wibsey & Odsal ward. We instead propose the boundary between Royds and Wibsey & Odsal wards follows the rear of

properties on Fairfield Grove and Glendale Close, so that the former is in Royds ward, and the latter is in Wibsey & Odsal ward.

39 Our further draft recommendations are for six three-councillor wards of Bowling & Barkerend, Queensbury, Royds, Tong Street, Wibsey & Odsal and Wyke with electoral variances of 10%, -9%, -8%, 3%, -7% and -10% respectively by 2029.

40 We consider these wards to reflect local communities and we are eager to hear further evidence on these further draft recommendations.



## Parish electoral arrangements

41 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.

42 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Bradford 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.

43 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 Bingley.

44 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bingley parish.

### Draft recommendations

Bingley Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

| Parish ward                   | Number of parish councillors |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bingley Central & Myrtle Park | 2                            |
| Cottingley North              | 1                            |
| Cottingley South              | 2                            |
| Crossflatts & Micklethwaite   | 2                            |
| Crow Nest                     | 2                            |
| Eldwick East                  | 1                            |
| Eldwick West                  | 1                            |
| Gilstead                      | 2                            |
| Lady Lane & Oakwood           | 1                            |
| Priestthorpe                  | 2                            |

Have your say

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

46 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you do not think our recommendations are right for Bradford, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

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

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

49 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Bradford)**  
**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**  
**PO Box 133**  
**Blyth**  
**NE24 9FE**

50 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Bradford 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

51 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

52 Electoral equality:

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

53 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?

54 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?

55 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

56 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as 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.

57 In light of the representations received, we will review our further 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 further draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

58 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 Bradford in 2026.

## Equalities

59 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 its 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

Further draft recommendations for Baildon, Bingley and Shipley and south of the city centre in Bradford

|    | 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  | Baildon             | 3                     | 13,124            | 4,375                             | 6%                      | 14,112            | 4,704                             | 8%                      |
| 2  | Bingley East        | 3                     | 11,931            | 3,977                             | -3%                     | 13,494            | 4,498                             | 3%                      |
| 3  | Bingley West        | 3                     | 11,481            | 3,827                             | -7%                     | 12,135            | 4,045                             | -8%                     |
| 4  | Bowling & Barkerend | 3                     | 13,674            | 4,558                             | 11%                     | 14,468            | 4,823                             | 10%                     |
| 5  | Queensbury          | 3                     | 11,434            | 3,811                             | -7%                     | 11,969            | 3,990                             | -9%                     |
| 6  | Royds               | 3                     | 11,482            | 3,827                             | -7%                     | 12,018            | 4,006                             | -8%                     |
| 7  | Shipley             | 3                     | 12,997            | 4,332                             | 5%                      | 14,259            | 4,753                             | 9%                      |
| 8  | Tong Street         | 3                     | 12,568            | 4,189                             | 2%                      | 13,509            | 4,503                             | 3%                      |
| 9  | Wibsey & Odsal      | 3                     | 11,492            | 3,831                             | -7%                     | 12,238            | 4,079                             | -7%                     |
| 10 | Wyke                | 3                     | 11,310            | 3,770                             | -8%                     | 11,858            | 3,953                             | -10%                    |

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Bradford 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 district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower-than-average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

## Appendix B

### Submissions received

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

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/bradford>

#### *Political Groups*

- Bradford Council Conservative Group
- Bradford Council Green Party Group
- Bradford Council Labour Group
- Worth Valley Labour Party (two submissions)

#### *Councillors*

- Councillors R. Berry, D. Green and S. Khan (Bradford Council) – joint submission
- Councillor P. Corkindale (Keighley Town Council)
- Councillor J. Dodds (Bradford Council)
- Councillors S. Duffy, B. Mullaney and K. Regan (Bradford Council) – joint submission
- Councillors D. Heseltine (Bingley Town Council)
- Councillors A. Jabar, T. Hussain and J. Dodds (Bradford Council) – joint submission
- Councillor H. Johnson (Bradford Council)
- Councillor M. Love (Bradford Council)
- Councillor A. Loy and Councillor D. Nunns (Bradford Council) – joint submission
- Councillor L. Maunsell (Keighley Town Council)
- Councillor A. Mitchell (Bradford Council)
- Councillors A. Tait, A. Thornton and R. Wood (Bradford Council) – joint submission
- Councillor M. Truelove (Bingley Town Council)
- Councillor A. Walsh (Bradford Council)

#### *Members of Parliament*

- Judith Cummins MP (Bradford South)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Bierley Community Centre
- Bradford Trident Limited



- Cafe West Allerton
- Clayton Estate Community Action Group
- Eldwick and Gilstead Gala Association
- Lidget Green Healthy Living Centre
- Oakworth Village Society
- St John's Great Horton & St Wilfrid's Lidget Green
- Sandale Community Development Trust
- Scholemoor Beacon Community Centre.
- South Square Centre
- Spring Bank Place Neighbourhood Association
- The Sutton Centre
- Thornton Community Centre (two submissions)
- Thornton and Allerton Community Association
- Thornton Community Library

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Baildon Town Council
- Bingley Town Council
- Ilkley Town Council
- Keighley Town Council
- Oxenhope Village Council
- Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 145 local residents

#### *Petitions*

- Thornton Library



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