

New electoral arrangements for Canterbury City Council Final Recommendations

July 2024

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

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

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Why Canterbury?

7 We are conducting a review of Canterbury City Council ('the Council') as some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others.² 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 Canterbury 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 Canterbury

9 Canterbury should be represented by 40 councillors, one more than there is now.

10 Canterbury should have 24 wards, three more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 15 existing wards should change; six will stay the same.

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

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 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 Canterbury. We then held two periods of consultation with the public

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

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 September 2023	Number of councillors decided
26 September 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
4 December 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
27 February 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
6 May 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
30 July 2024	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 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.

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 Canterbury	108,398	124,256
Number of councillors	40	40
Average number of electors per councillor	2,710	3,106

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but two of our proposed wards for Canterbury 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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2029, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 15% 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.

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.

Number of councillors

24 Canterbury City Council currently has 39 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 39 councillors – for example, 39 one-councillor wards, 13 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

26 Canterbury Labour Party & City Labour Group ('Labour') proposed a 40-councillor warding pattern. We also received one submission expressing support for the retention of the same number of councillors for the local authority. We did not receive any other comments explicitly on council size in response to our warding pattern consultation.

27 In order to adopt locally developed schemes with strong boundaries, based on the evidence we received, our draft recommendations were for a council size of 40 – one more than we announced at the beginning of the consultation.

28 We received a submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. A resident was of the view that no area needed two councillors, and that fewer councillors would be better for the Council's finances. They did not propose a specific number of councillors, nor did they explain how the Council would function with fewer councillors. We have therefore maintained 40 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 38 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two city-wide proposals from Canterbury & Coastal Liberal Democrats ('Liberal Democrats') and Labour. We also received two partial schemes from the Council's Conservative Group ('Conservative Group') and the Canterbury Conservatives. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for wards arrangements in particular areas of the city.

30 The city-wide schemes provided a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Canterbury. 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.

31 Our draft recommendations were based on Labour's proposals in the northeast and the Liberal Democrats' proposals in the rest of the authority area. We also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered

that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

32 We conducted a virtual tour of the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

33 Our draft recommendations were for three three-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and nine one-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

34 We received 43 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included local authority area-wide comments from the Liberal Democrats in support of the draft recommendations.

35 We also received a submission from the Conservative Group objecting to the draft recommendations in the northeast of Canterbury, specifically where we split Herne & Broomfield parish across two city wards. They proposed an alternative warding pattern for Greenhill, Herne & Broomfield, and the area to the east including Reculver.

36 The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals for Chartham, Thanington and the rural parishes to the southwest.

Final recommendations

37 Our final recommendations are for one three-councillor ward, 14 two-councillor wards and nine one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

38 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in the southwest based on the submissions received. We also renamed two wards in response to comments we received.

39 The tables and maps on pages 9–22 detail our final recommendations for each area of Canterbury. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

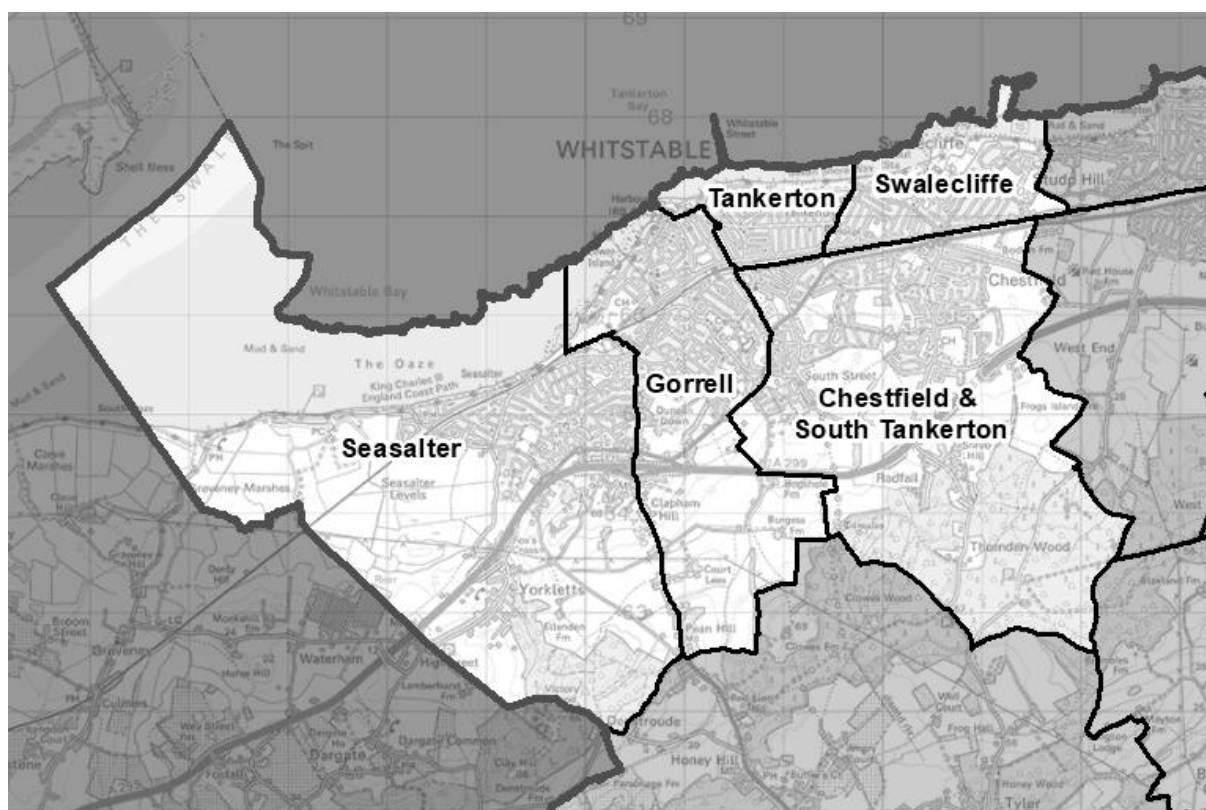
- Equality of representation.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

- 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.

Northwest



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Chestfield & South Tankerton	2	2%
Gorrell	3	-5%
Seasalter	2	7%
Swalecliffe	1	8%
Tankerton	1	4%

Chestfield & South Tankerton

41 In addition to the authority area-wide comments, we received a submission from Chestfield Parish Council.

42 The Liberal Democrats expressed support for our draft recommendations.

43 Chestfield Parish Council supported the new name of the ward stating that it reflected the inclusion of South Tankerton in the ward.

44 It also raised a couple of issues which related to requests to change parish boundaries. These are outside the remit of the review as we cannot change parish boundaries. That can only be done by a Community Governance Review conducted by Canterbury City Council.

45 As these were the only comments we received, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Chestfield & South Tankerton as final.

Gorrell and Seasalter

46 We received a submission from a resident about this area, in addition to the local authority area-wide support we received from the Liberal Democrats.

47 The resident proposed moving those south of the A229 from Gorrell to Seasalter ward, stating that those representing Gorrell ward are likely to focus on the centre of Whitstable and overlook areas like Bogshole Lane and Clapham Hill. They were of the view that if the entire community south of the A229 was united in a single ward, this would lead to better representation for the residents.

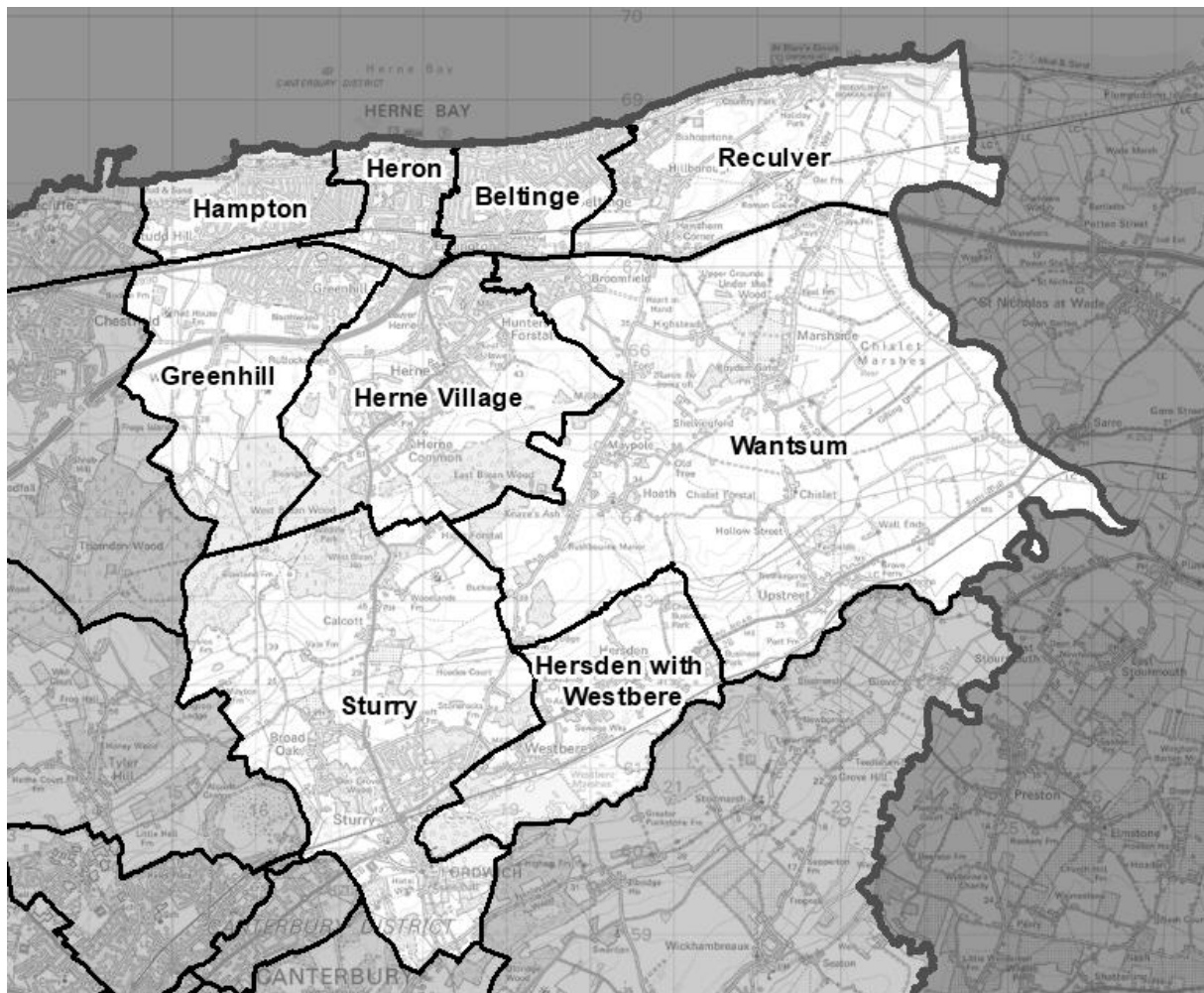
48 We considered this proposal very carefully. While we think it has some merit, we do not consider that we have enough community evidence to support moving the residents in question from Gorrell to Seasalter ward without further consultation. We note that in response to our first consultation, both city-wide warding schemes proposed the boundaries we adopted as part of our draft recommendations for Seasalter ward and we are not persuaded to either undertake further consultation on this proposal or to make the change without consultation.

49 We have therefore not been persuaded to make any changes to our draft recommendations for Seasalter and Gorrell wards and we confirm them as final.

Swalecliffe and Tankerton

50 Aside from the general support we received from the Liberal Democrats, we did not receive any specific comments about our draft recommendations for Swalecliffe and Tankerton wards. We therefore confirm them as final.

Northeast, Hersden and Sturry



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Beltinge	2	4%
Greenhill	2	-11%
Hampton	2	6%
Herne Village	2	-10%
Heron	2	0%
Hersden with Westbere	1	-3%
Reculver	1	-5%
Sturry	2	-5%
Wantsum	1	6%

Beltinge

51 We received a submission from a resident in addition to the support for the draft recommendations that we received from the Liberal Democrats.

52 One resident noted the importance of including Beltinge with areas that had similar values and characteristics like Bishopstone, Herne and Reculver, but not

communities that they considered were very different like Sturry. We note that our draft recommendations retain the boundaries of the existing ward with Bishopstone and Reculver in a neighbouring ward to its east. We have not included Sturry in a ward with Beltinge.

53 As this was the only additional comment we received, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Beltinge ward as final.

Greenhill, Herne Village, Reculver and Wantsum

54 We received submissions from the Conservative Group, Sir Roger Gale MP, Herne & Broomfield Parish Council and a number of residents, in addition to the supportive comments from the Liberal Democrats.

55 The Liberal Democrats were of the view that the additional councillor our draft recommendations included in the northeast of the local authority area allowed for a more satisfactory warding pattern, recognising that there is no perfect solution for wards in this area.

56 Most of the comments we received on the draft recommendations were about Herne Village and Wantsum wards, the majority of which objected to splitting Herne & Broomfield parish or the Broomfield area across city wards. Respondents told us that the Herne and Broomfield areas were a single community which our draft recommendations had split.

57 To address this, the Conservatives proposed an alternative warding pattern for the Greenhill, Herne, Broomfield, Reculver and Wantsum area. They proposed that we extend Greenhill ward to the A299, east of Herne & Broomfield parish's western boundary, that we create a Herne & Broomfield ward coterminous with the rest of Herne & Broomfield parish, and that we combine the rest of our proposed Hillborough and Wantsum wards to form a two-councillor Reculver & Wantsum ward. At the same time, the Conservatives supported our inclusion of the Bishopstone area in a ward with Reculver.

58 Sir Roger Gale wrote in support of the Conservatives' proposal.

59 Herne & Broomfield Parish Council also proposed that Greenhill ward be extended to the A299, thereby taking in the parished part of the Redrow housing development to the west of the parish. It argues that this would unite Redrow housing development in a single ward. Furthermore, it was of the view that splitting the eastern part of the parish could leave part of Broomfield with very little representation at City Council level, as the Wantsum ward councillor would be spread too thin having to attend three different parish council meetings.

60 Most residents objected to any part of Broomfield being a separate ward from the Herne area, stating that they looked to Herne as part of their community. Two

residents expressed support for the draft recommendations in the Herne Bay area. One of them believed that they had a fairer distribution of councillors representing areas with a shared interest.

61 We considered the points raised carefully. We understand the views put forward, and we contemplated doing what the Conservative Group, MP, parish council and most residents proposed. This would provide for Greenhill, Herne & Broomfield and Reculver & Wantsum wards forecast to have variances of -3%, 15% and -33%, respectively. Meanwhile, a single-councillor Wantsum ward (without Reculver) would be forecast to have 60% fewer electors than the average for Canterbury. We considered these variances to be very high and not justified by the evidence we received.

62 Accordingly, we considered changing the council size back to 39 to see if a single-councillor Reculver & Wantsum ward would produce wards with good electoral equality. In this case, the variances for Herne & Broomfield and Reculver & Wantsum would be forecast to be -12% and 32%, respectively. And that is without taking account of any knock-on effect on the variances of other wards for which we have not received any comments.

63 We do have some sympathy for the views expressed by respondents from Herne & Broomfield parish. However, if a local authority has just one ward with a variance outside of 30%, this would meet the criteria which would trigger us conducting an electoral review. That is why we do not recommend wards with such high forecast variances, as would be the case for the proposed Reculver & Wantsum or Wantsum ward under any of the scenarios listed above. Therefore, we did not adopt these proposals.

64 The boundary between our draft recommendations for Greenhill and Herne Village wards runs along the parish boundary. We considered making one change in line with the proposals we received, by departing from this boundary and extending Greenhill ward to the A299 while retaining our draft recommendations boundary to the east. Herne Village ward would then have 18% fewer electors than the average for Canterbury City Council. We were not persuaded to make this change in light of the poor variances and because we noted we would also have to create another parish ward within Herne & Broomfield parish.

65 Therefore, after careful consideration, we are not making any changes to the boundaries of our draft recommendations in this area, and confirm them as final.

66 We note that the Conservatives' Group expressed the view that the name Reculver resonates with the local community, but that Hillborough does not. They state that neither the primary school nor the new housing development are named Hillborough, but the school is named after Reculver. After due consideration, we have been persuaded to rename Hillborough ward, Reculver.

67 We accept that Wantsum ward is made up of different communities. We sometimes have to do this in order to achieve a balance of our statutory criteria. With regards to the ward councillor having to attend three parish meetings, we note that the wards to the south of the city have single-councillor wards each comprised of five parishes.

68 We also note that the Conservative Group alluded to us splitting Herne & Broomfield into 'two parish councils'. We have not, and we are unable to do so. Herne & Broomfield Parish Council is still a single parish council under these recommendations. We have split the parish area over two city (or district) wards but both areas (parish wards) will remain part of Herne & Broomfield parish and therefore the parish council area. The precepts for both areas will still be collected by Herne & Broomfield Parish Council. Accordingly, unless Canterbury City Council decides to conduct a Community Governance Review to change the boundaries of the parish, nothing in this electoral review changes the parish boundaries.

69 Aside from the name change in Reculver, we confirm our draft recommendations for the wards in this area as final.

Hampton and Heron

70 We received two submissions from residents in addition to the supportive city-wide comments from the Liberal Democrats.

71 The residents expressed support for our draft recommendations. One stated that our approach in the Herne area seemed pragmatic. The other felt that under the draft recommendations, councillors would be representing areas with shared interests.

72 In light of the support for our draft recommendations for Hampton and Heron wards, we are confirming them as final.

Hersden with Westbere and Sturry

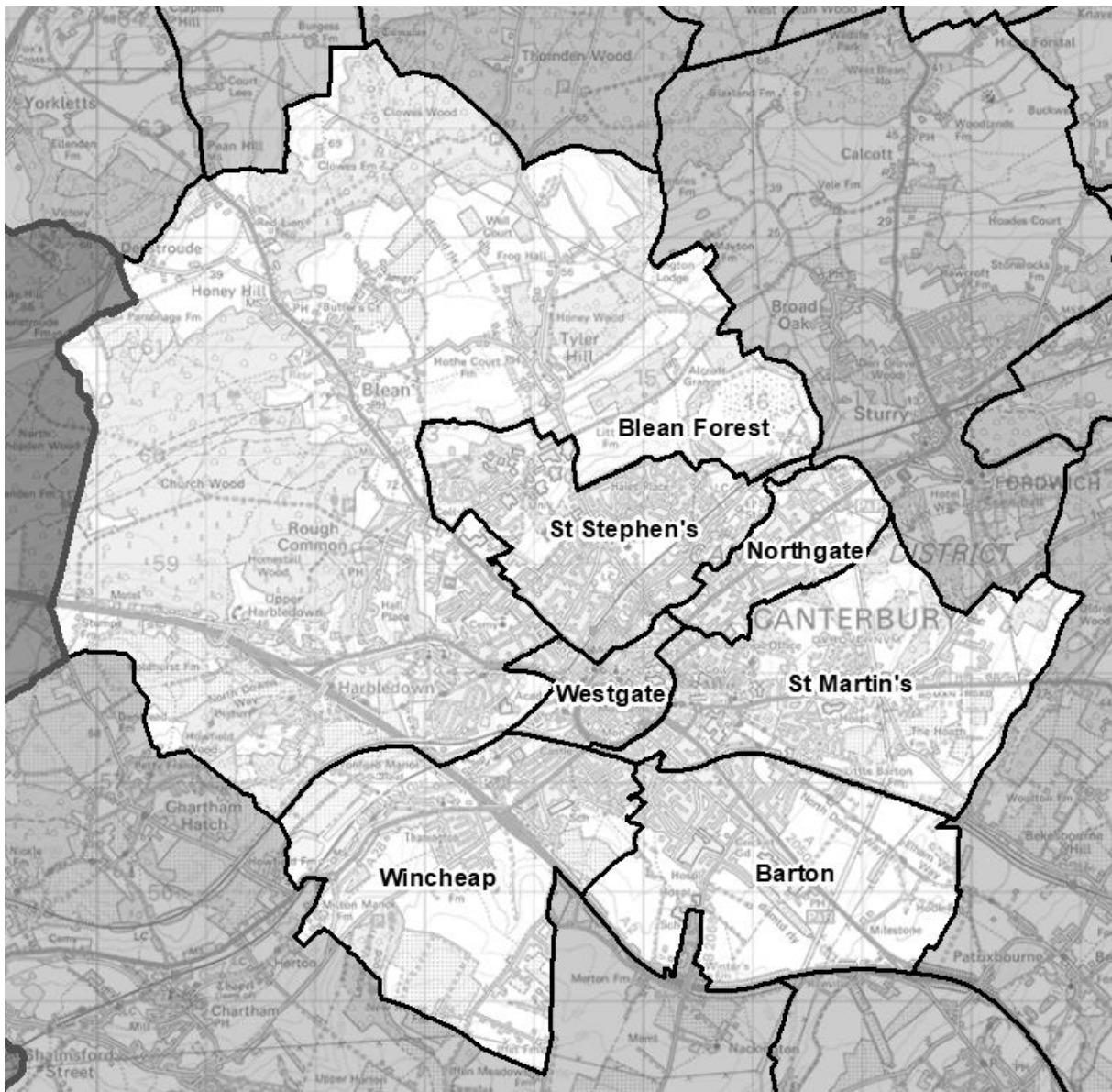
73 We received comments from Westbere Parish Council about our draft recommendations for this area.

74 While it did not object to the splitting of the current Sturry ward into two separate wards, it advocated for Hersden ward to be renamed Hersden with Westbere.

75 We note that the Hersden ward is made up of Hersden and Westbere parishes. We are therefore content to rename the ward, Hersden with Westbere.

76 Except for this name change, we make no further changes and confirm the boundaries of our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

Canterbury and Blean



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Barton	2	-10%
Blean Forest	2	10%
Northgate	1	1%
St Martin's	2	-1%
St Stephen's	2	4%
Westgate	1	10%
Wincheap	2	7%

77 We received an alternative warding pattern for the wards in this area from a resident. The resident objected to the inclusion of urban and rural areas in the same ward. They particularly objected to the inclusion of Thanington parish in a ward with

Chartham, Lower Hardres & Nackington, Petham, Upper Hardres and Waltham parishes.

78 The resident proposed retaining the boundaries of the existing two-councillor Chartham & Stone Street ward, with the split of Harbledown & Rough Common parish across wards. They also proposed a two-councillor Barton ward and a two-councillor Wincheap based on the existing wards. Their proposed Barton ward was forecast to have 12% fewer electors than the average for Canterbury City Council by 2029.

79 Furthermore, the resident did not support the inclusion of unparished areas of Canterbury in a ward with Blean and Hackington parishes and proposed changes and consequential ones to wards in that area as well as St Martin's and Westgate. The resident expressed support for the draft recommendations for St Stephen's ward.

80 We have carefully considered the proposed wards and note that while we received other objections about our inclusion of Thanington parish in a mostly rural ward, on the basis that it was more affiliated to urban Canterbury city and not the rural parishes, we did not receive any other objections to our warding pattern elsewhere in the area. Furthermore, we note that it is dependent on retaining the existing split of Harbledown & Rough Common parish, which we have received support for uniting.

81 Accordingly, we have not been persuaded to make any changes to the boundaries of our draft recommendations' Blean Woods and Northgate wards. We have, however, been persuaded to make changes to Chartham, Thanington & Stone Street and St Lawrence wards, with consequential ones to St Martin's and Westgate wards.

Barton and Wincheap

82 Our draft recommendations for this area included a three-councillor St Lawrence ward excluding Thanington parish which we included in a ward with other parishes to the south and west.

83 The comments we received for this area included the supportive ones from the Liberal Democrats and those from the resident who advocated two two-councillor wards based on the existing Barton and Wincheap wards, which included Thanington parish. The resident was of the view that whilst there was no perfect dividing line between the existing Wincheap ward and Barton ward, the communities on the roads that lead off Wincheap and the communities on the roads that lead off the Old Dover Road are distinct communities within Canterbury, and therefore keeping separate wards would better reflect the community interests than a new combined St Lawrence ward. The proposed Barton ward includes Holm Oak Close and the area east of Nunnery Road and South Canterbury Road.

84 We also received additional comments in relation to our draft recommendations for the ward to the southwest, which mostly did not support the inclusion of Thanington parish there, on the grounds that the parish shared facilities with, and had more in common with, the Wincheap area of Canterbury than with the rural parishes in that ward.

85 After careful consideration we have been persuaded to base our final recommendations on the resident's proposals with some modifications to improve the electoral equality of Barton ward. We have modified it to place Lansdown Road in Barton ward. We consider that this is the best balance of our statutory criteria.

86 Barton and Wincheap are both two-councillor wards forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

Blean Forest and St Stephen's

87 We received two additional submissions from Harbledown & Rough Common Parish Council and a resident about our draft recommendations for this area. Both submissions were in response to our question about the name of Blean Woods ward and objected to our renaming Blean Forest ward, Blean Woods.

88 Both the parish council and resident stated that 'Blean Forest references the ancient Forest of Blean whereas Blean Woods connotes a place more specific and less inclusive'. The resident also expressed the view that Blean Forest was a name that had been used for years and so would connote some continuity. The resident expressed support for the boundaries of the ward.

89 As mentioned earlier, the Liberal Democrats supported our draft recommendations, including the name of our Blean Woods ward. The resident who proposed a different warding arrangement also supported our draft recommendations for St Stephen's but proposed a single-councillor Blean Forest ward.

90 After careful consideration of the submissions we received across the two consultations, we have not been persuaded to make any changes to the boundaries of our draft recommendations for Blean Woods, partly in view of the support for the inclusion of all of Harbledown & Rough Common parish in this ward. Also, as we have only received one submission objecting to the ward boundaries, we are unable to determine if the views expressed by the resident advocating for change is shared more widely.

91 However, we have been persuaded to change the name of the ward back to Blean Forest. Nevertheless, in the five years following a review, a local authority may seek the Commission's agreement to change the name of a ward if this reflects

community identity and sentiment. After five years, a local authority may make a change without seeking the agreement of the Commission.

92 We did not receive any more comments specific to St Stephen's ward. Accordingly, with the exception of the name change referred to in the paragraph above, we confirm our draft recommendations for these two wards as final.

St Martin's, Northgate and Westgate

93 We received two submissions from residents in addition to the supportive submission from the Liberal Democrats and the one from a resident advocating a different warding pattern. Both were about Westgate ward.

94 One resident objected to the reduction of the number of councillors representing Westgate, from two to one. Another resident was of the view that the city centre 'within the ring road' ought to have its own dedicated councillors because residents of that area had issues not applicable to those outside of the area.

95 The resident who advocated for a different warding pattern proposed that the area east of Duck Lane, west of Kingsmead Road and south of Great Stour River be moved into St Martin's ward. They wanted all of Duck Lane and St Radigund's Place included in Westgate as in their view these residents identified with the city centre.

96 We considered the boundary between Northgate, St Martin's and Westgate both at draft recommendations stage and now. We note that in order to include both sides of Duck Lane and all of St Radigund's Place in Westgate but move the rest of the area into St Martin's as proposed by the resident, we would have to draw a boundary through what appears to be a shared courtyard and car park. We were not persuaded to split this shared area nor did we consider it a strong or identifiable boundary. This is why our boundary between Westgate and Northgate runs along Kingsmead Road and why we have included the entire area in question in Westgate ward. We have not been persuaded to change this.

97 As mentioned earlier, we have also not been persuaded to make changes that split Harbledown & Rough Common parish and Blean Forest ward. However, we have included Bingley Close and St Andrews Close just outside the ring road in Westgate ward, as it facilitates a Wincheap ward with good electoral equality.

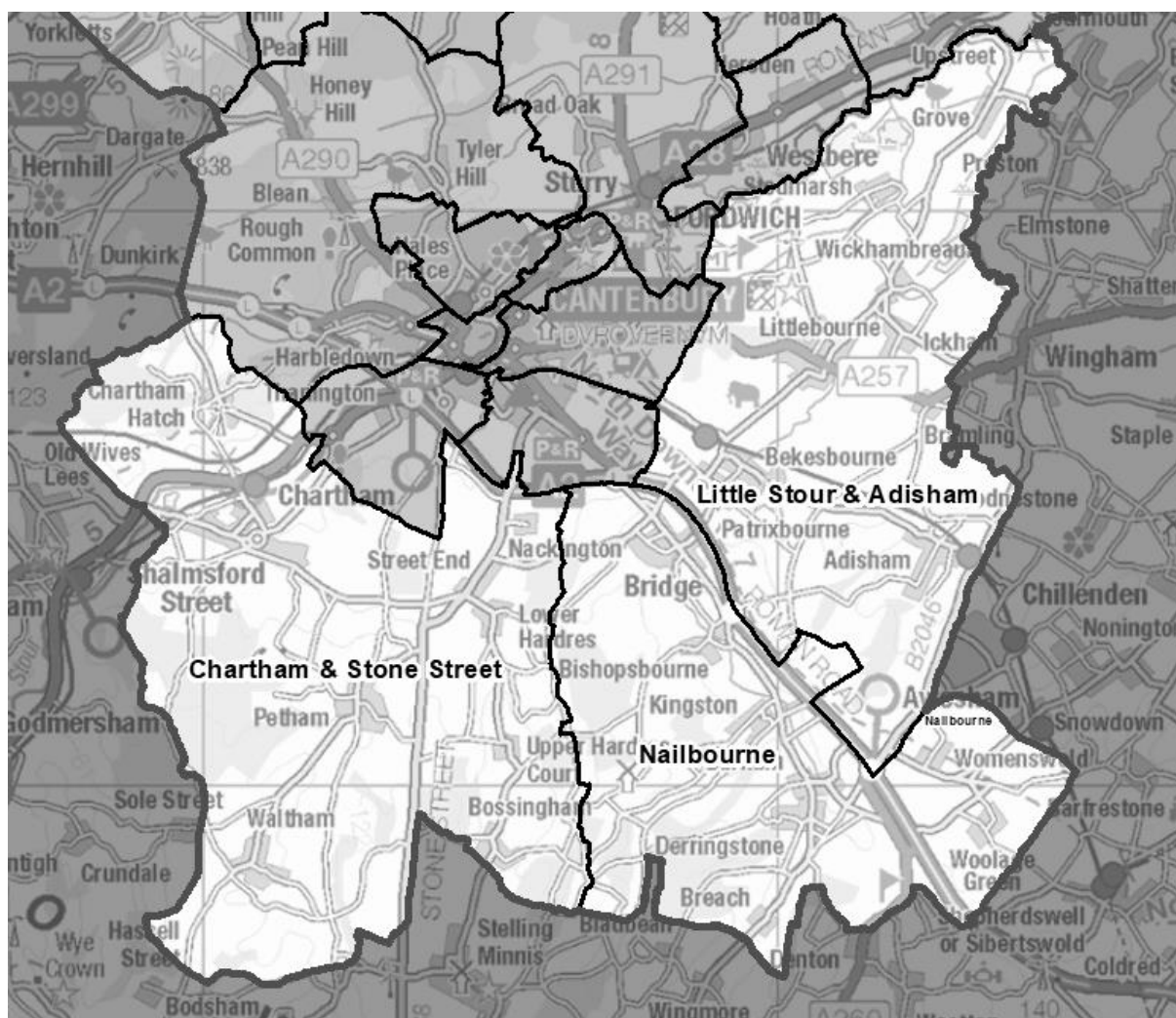
98 With regards to the number of councillors for Westgate ward, the number of councillors representing an area is dependent on and in proportion to the number of electors in that area. In the case of Westgate, both the number of electors and the area covered by the new ward are very different from that of the existing ward. Westgate ward is forecast to have 10% more electors per councillor than the average for Canterbury City Council by 2029.

99 With regards to the area within the ring road having a dedicated councillor representing it, such a ward is forecast to have at least 6% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the local authority area, by 2029. We were not persuaded by the evidence we received to create such a ward.

100 St Martin's, Northgate and Westgate wards are all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

101 We asked for views on the name of Northgate ward. We received one comment from the Liberal Democrats who suggested Vauxhall after the retail and industrial area of the ward. They indicated that they did not have any strong views about it. We have decided to retain the name Northgate as we are unable to tell if Vauxhall resonates with the community in the area.

South and East



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Chartham & Stone Street	2	-14%
Little Stour & Adisham	1	9%
Nailbourne	1	7%

Chartham & Stone Street

102 In addition to the local authority area-wide comments from the Liberal Democrats and the resident referred to above, we received submissions from Chartham Parish Council, and two other residents.

103 Chartham Parish Council and one other resident objected to Thanington parish being included in what they considered a rural ward. The parish council were of the view that Thanington parish had more in common with the Wincheap area of Canterbury city, and that there was an urban edge at the boundary between Thanington and Chartham. The resident went further and proposed that Chartham form a single-councillor ward on its own. This is something we considered doing

when drawing up our draft recommendations but we didn't because, at the time, there would have been no direct access between Thanington parish and the rest of its ward.

104 Another resident supported our draft recommendations but noted that although the constituent areas had some common interests, they had wide variations in terms of wealth and deprivation.

105 As mentioned in the section on Canterbury and Blean, a resident proposed an alternative warding pattern which retained the existing ward. This would include the southern half of Harbledown & Rough Common parish in this ward. They were of the view that the existing Chartham & Stone Street ward is a ward that people are used to, the villages have similar needs and the ward has good electoral equality.

106 On careful consideration of the submissions, we note the comments about Thanington sharing schools and shops with Wincheap in Canterbury, and not having much in common with the more rural parishes to its west and south. Furthermore, although we consider the A2 a logical and identifiable boundary, we note that the A28 Thanington Road crosses it and provides good access between Thanington parish and Wincheap.

107 Accordingly, we have been persuaded to modify our draft recommendations and exclude Thanington parish from this ward. As mentioned in the section on Blean Forest, we are retaining all of Harbledown & Rough Common parish in that ward.

108 This produces a two-councillor Chartham & Stone Street ward forecast to have 14% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the local authority area by 2029. Although outside our usual tolerance range, we consider this the best balance of our statutory criteria and are content to adopt this as part of our final recommendations.

109 We considered creating two single-councillor wards with one coterminous with Chartham parish as advocated by a resident. However, this produced forecast wards with variances of 13% and -42%. We did not do so because of the extremely high electoral inequality that a ward with -42% represents.

Little Stour & Adisham and Nailbourne

110 We did not receive any submissions with specific comments about this area of Canterbury in response to our draft recommendations.

111 We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for Little Stour & Adisham and Nailbourne as final.

Conclusions

112 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Canterbury, 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	40	40
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	2,710	3,106
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	16	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	4	0

Final recommendations

Canterbury City Council should be made up of 40 councillors serving 24 wards: nine single-councillor wards, 14 two-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward. 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 the Canterbury City Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Canterbury City Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

113 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.

114 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, Canterbury 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.

115 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 Herne & Broomfield parish.

116 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Herne & Broomfield parish.

Final recommendations

Herne & Broomfield Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	4
West	9

What happens next?

117 We have now completed our review of Canterbury 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 2027.

Equalities

118 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 Canterbury 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	Barton	2	4,001	2,001	-26%	5,602	2,801	-10%
2	Beltinge	2	5,908	2,954	9%	6,486	3,243	4%
3	Blean Forest	2	6,384	3,192	18%	6,814	3,407	10%
4	Chartham & Stone Street	2	5,037	2,519	-7%	5,316	2,658	-14%
5	Chestfield & South Tankerton	2	5,674	2,837	5%	6,305	3,153	2%
6	Gorrell	3	8,072	2,691	-1%	8,880	2,960	-5%
7	Greenhill	2	4,047	2,024	-25%	5,511	2,756	-11%
8	Hampton	2	6,324	3,162	17%	6,608	3,304	6%
9	Herne Village	2	4,765	2,383	-12%	5,593	2,797	-10%
10	Heron	2	5,749	2,875	6%	6,209	3,105	0%
11	Hersden with Westbere	1	1,760	1,760	-35%	3,015	3,015	-3%

	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 %
12	Little Stour & Adisham	1	3,254	3,254	20%	3,386	3,386	9%
13	Nailbourne	1	3,128	3,128	15%	3,323	3,323	7%
14	Northgate	1	2,739	2,739	1%	3,126	3,126	1%
15	Reculver	1	2,059	2,059	-24%	2,955	2,955	-5%
16	Seasalter	2	6,146	3,073	13%	6,640	3,320	7%
17	St Martin's	2	5,233	2,617	-3%	6,138	3,069	-1%
18	St Stephen's	2	6,088	3,044	12%	6,473	3,237	4%
19	Sturry	2	4,485	2,243	-17%	5,906	2,953	-5%
20	Swalecliffe	1	3,209	3,209	18%	3,348	3,348	8%
21	Tankerton	1	3,086	3,086	14%	3,234	3,234	4%
22	Wantsum	1	3,119	3,119	15%	3,295	3,295	6%
23	Westgate	1	3,211	3,211	18%	3,422	3,422	10%

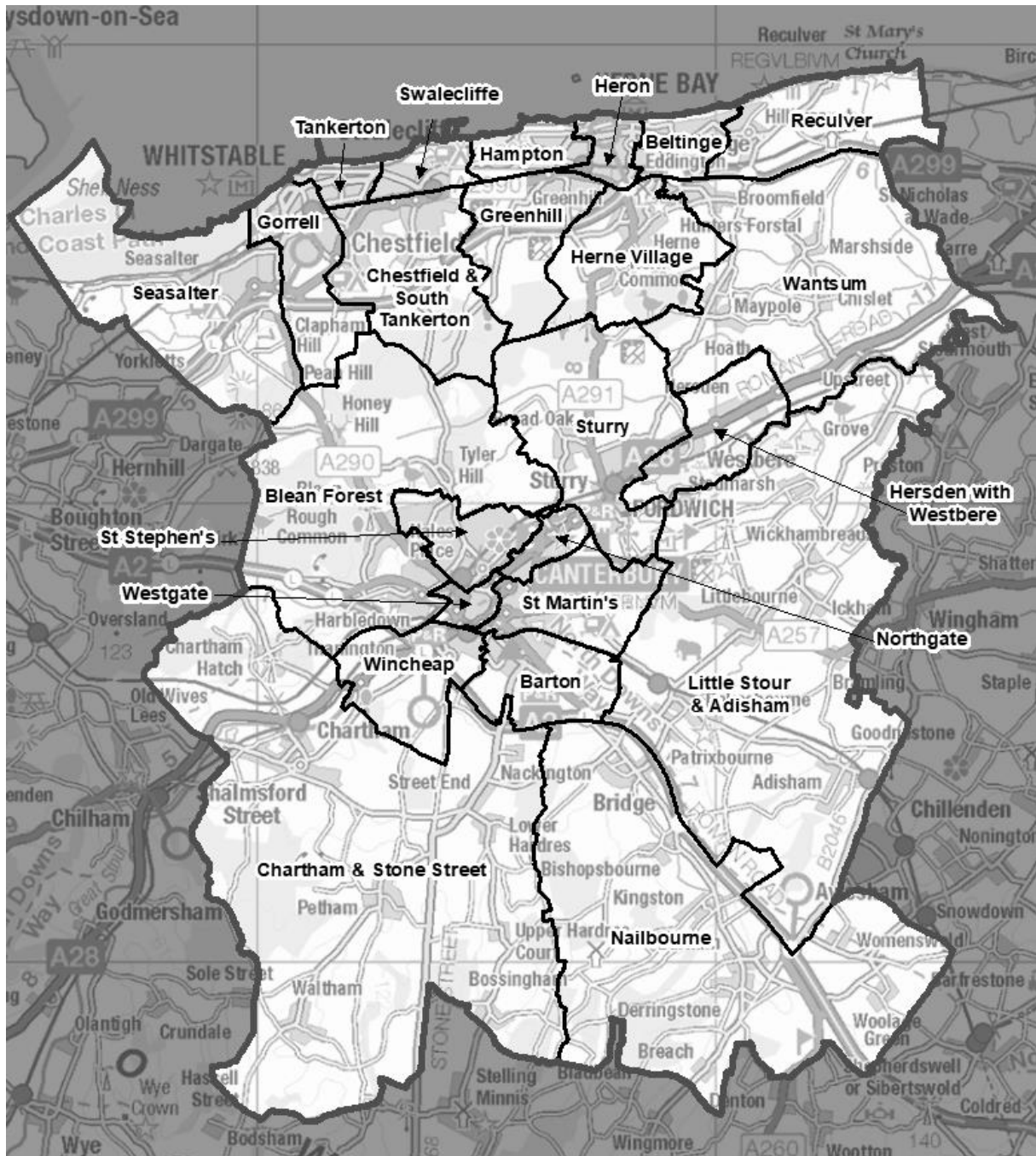
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
24 Wincheap	2	4,920	2,460	-9%	6,671	3,336	7%
Totals	40	108,398	–	–	124,256	–	–
Averages	–	–	2,710	–	–	3,106	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Canterbury 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/canterbury

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Political groups

- Canterbury & Coastal Liberal Democrats
- Canterbury City Council Conservative Group

Members of Parliament

- Sir Roger Gale (Herne Bay & Sandwich)⁶

Parish and Town Councils

- Chartham Parish Council
- Chestfield Parish Council
- Harbledown & Rough Common Parish Council
- Herne & Broomfield Parish Council
- Westbere Parish Council

Local residents

- 35 local residents

⁶ formerly North Thanet constituency

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 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

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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