

New electoral arrangements for Sefton 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
- Liz Treacy
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- 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 details regarding the powers that we have, as well as further guidance and information about electoral reviews and the review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

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

Why Sefton?

7 We are conducting a review of Sefton 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'.² Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality.' Our aim is to create 'electoral equality,' where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Sefton 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 borough.

Our proposals for Sefton

9 Sefton should be represented by 66 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Sefton should have 22 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change.

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

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 borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not affect 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

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

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Sefton. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 July 2023	Number of councillors decided
25 July 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 October 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
9 January 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
18 March 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
9 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 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 local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown in the table below.

	2023	2029
Electorate of Sefton	215,581	226,389
Number of councillors	66	66
Average number of electors per councillor	3,266	3,430

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 Sefton 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 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 5%.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at present. 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 Sefton Council currently has 66 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and Councillor Sir Ron Watson 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 66 councillors. As Sefton Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years) there is a presumption in legislation⁵ that the Council have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. In each review of local authorities that elect by thirds, we will aim to deliver a pattern of three-member wards. However, in all cases, this consideration will not take precedence over our other statutory criteria, and we will not recommend uniform patterns in the number of councillors per ward or division if, in our view or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria.

26 In response to our draft recommendations, the Southport Liberal Democrats expressed disappointment that we did not adopt their warding pattern composed of 63 councillors. However, we remain unpersuaded that sufficient evidence has been presented to support a reduction in the number of councillors to 63. Consequently, our final recommendations are based on a council represented by 66 councillors.

Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 29 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included borough-wide proposals from the Labour Group on Sefton Council and the Southport Liberal Democrats.

28 We also received a submission from a local resident about the whole borough, but they did not explicitly outline how all of the ward boundaries should be configured. We nonetheless noted and adopted some of their suggestions in parts of the borough in our draft recommendations.

29 The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

30 The two borough-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of three-councillor wards for Sefton. The proposals made by the Labour Group comprised 22 three-councillor wards for 66 councillors. The Southport Liberal Democrats proposed 21 three-councillor wards for 63 councillors.

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

31 Our draft recommendations were for 22 three-councillor wards, based predominantly upon the proposals made by the Labour Group, which we considered to provide the best balance of our statutory criteria. We also accounted for 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 the best balance between our statutory criteria, so we identified alternative boundaries.

32 We visited the area to look at the various proposals on the ground. This tour of Sefton helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations consultation

33 We received 26 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These representations were from the Sefton Conservative Group, the Southport Liberal Democrats, Lydiate Parish Council and 23 local residents.

34 The Conservative Group made a number of general comments on the review process and re-emphasised its opposition to a whole-scale internal ward boundary review. As explained in paragraph 7 and our draft recommendations, we are legally required to periodically review all local authorities in England from time to time. Given that Sefton has not been reviewed for over 20 years, we consider it appropriate to review the Council at this point. The group also asked us to explore whether we should specifically target areas with significant electoral inequality only. However, our approach is to review all wards within an authority during an electoral review, and that is how we have handled the review of Sefton.

35 Additionally, the group claimed that the limited responses received showed little public interest or recognition of a significant need for change. The group also criticised our decision to base a majority of the draft recommendations on the Sefton Labour Group's proposals. Our recommendations are wholly based upon the evidence we receive, regardless of who it is from, and measured only against our statutory criteria. We have proposed several adjustments to ward boundaries and names in Sefton, based on high-quality evidence received during our consultations. We consider these changes enhance Sefton's current electoral arrangements and strike a good balance between the statutory criteria we are legally required to follow.

36 Lastly, the group opposed the implementation of our recommendations through an 'all-out election' in 2026, citing significant financial implications and potential unfairness to existing councillors and candidates. However, where a local authority elects by thirds, a single whole-council election should follow. This ensures simultaneous implementation of new wards. Phasing them in could lead to overlapping representation and local confusion, hindering effective and convenient local government.

37 We received several submissions during both rounds of consultation that requested that the northern part of the authority be separated from the southern part of the authority. However, as outlined in paragraph 14, this electoral review cannot amend the external boundaries of the borough and is focused on making recommendations for the internal electoral arrangements of Sefton.

Final recommendations

38 Our final recommendations are for 22 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.

39 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to ward names in Formby and the south of the borough. These were based on several submissions which argued that several ward names across the borough do not accurately reflect their constituent communities. We recognise that this is quite a significant change in ward names but are content that these changes are sound and based on good evidence received during consultation. It should be noted that the Council has the power to change ward names after our recommendations are implemented, but any changes would require our consent for the first five years after the making of our electoral changes order. We are also recommending some minor modifications to the boundaries between wards in the Southport area, based on evidence provided by the Southport Liberal Democrats.

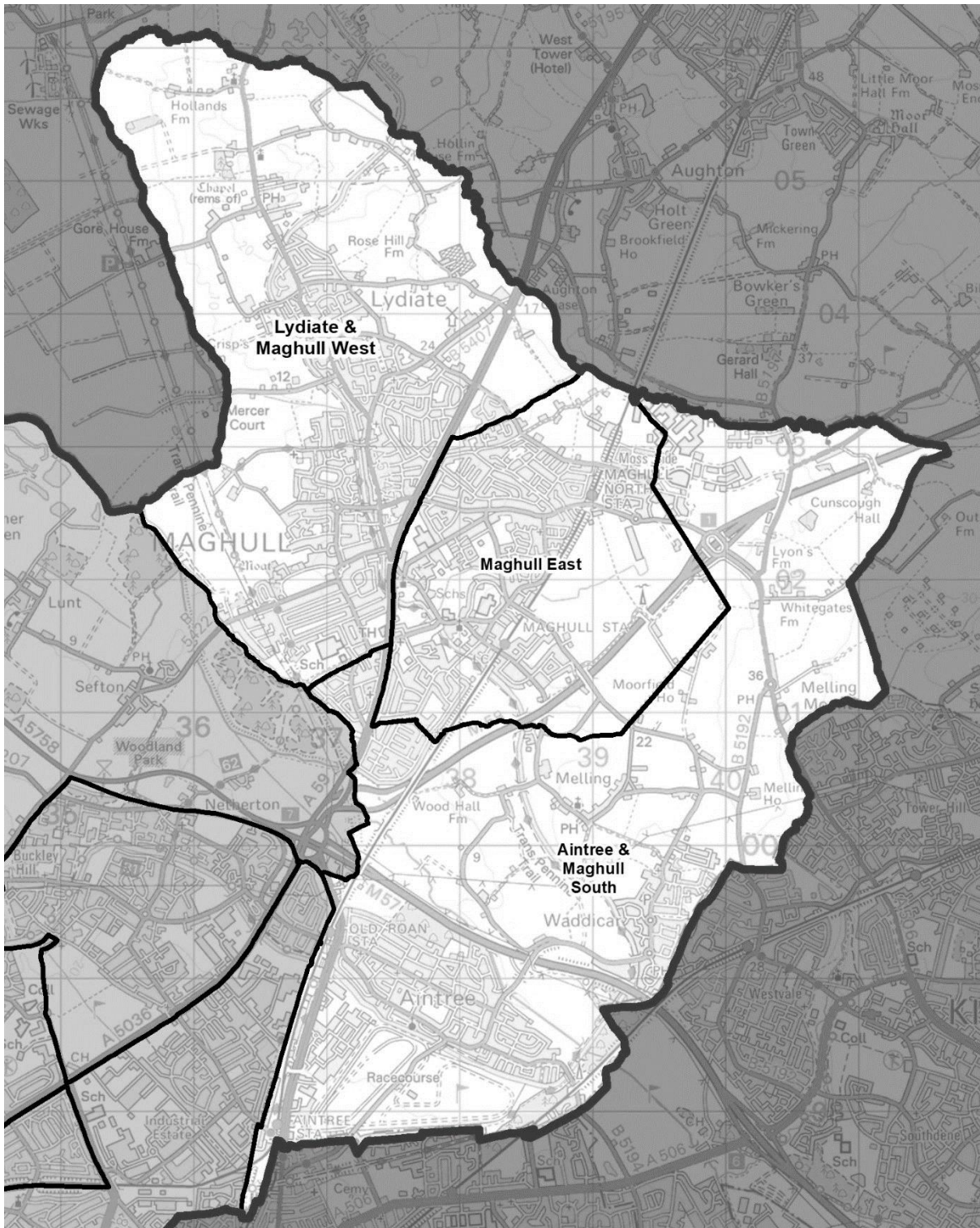
40 The tables and maps on pages 9–21 detail our final recommendations for each area of Sefton. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

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

41 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.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Aintree, Lydiate and Maghull



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Aintree & Maghull South	3	5%
Lydiate & Maghull West	3	10%
Maghull East	3	4%

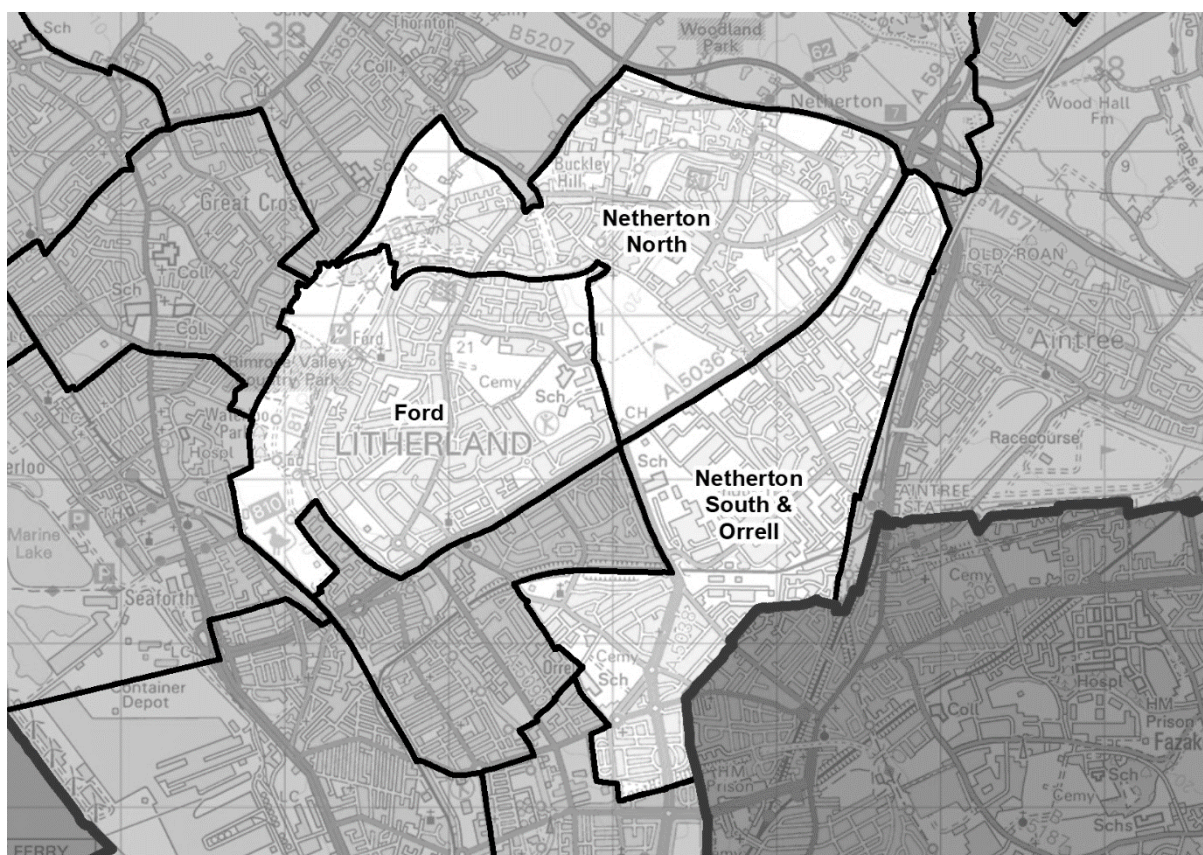
Aintree & Maghull South, Lydiate & Maghull West and Maghull East

42 We received four submissions that related to the names of our proposed Molyneux, Park and Sudell wards. Lydiate Parish Council requested that our draft Park ward be renamed Lydiate & Maghull West. This ward name was suggested by the Southport Liberal Democrats during the previous consultation, and we had invited comments on this proposal. Lydiate Parish Council stated that this revised ward name would assist electors in Lydiate parish to ‘better identify with their ward and strengthen the public’s knowledge on where Lydiate sits in Sefton.’ Three local residents also expressed support for this name change. We are therefore changing the name of Park ward to Lydiate & Maghull West as part of our final recommendations.

43 In our draft recommendations, we considered whether it was similarly appropriate to rename Sudell ward to Maghull East. Three local residents supported this ward name change. Consequently, we have therefore adopted this ward name change as part of our final recommendations.

44 To maintain consistency for ward names across the broader Maghull area, we have decided to rename Molyneux ward to Aintree & Maghull South. We consider that this revised ward name provides a clearer description of the ward’s constituent communities. This revised ward name was supported by two local residents.

Ford, Netherton and Orrell



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Ford	3	-7%
Netherton North	3	-7%
Netherton South & Orrell	3	-9%

Ford

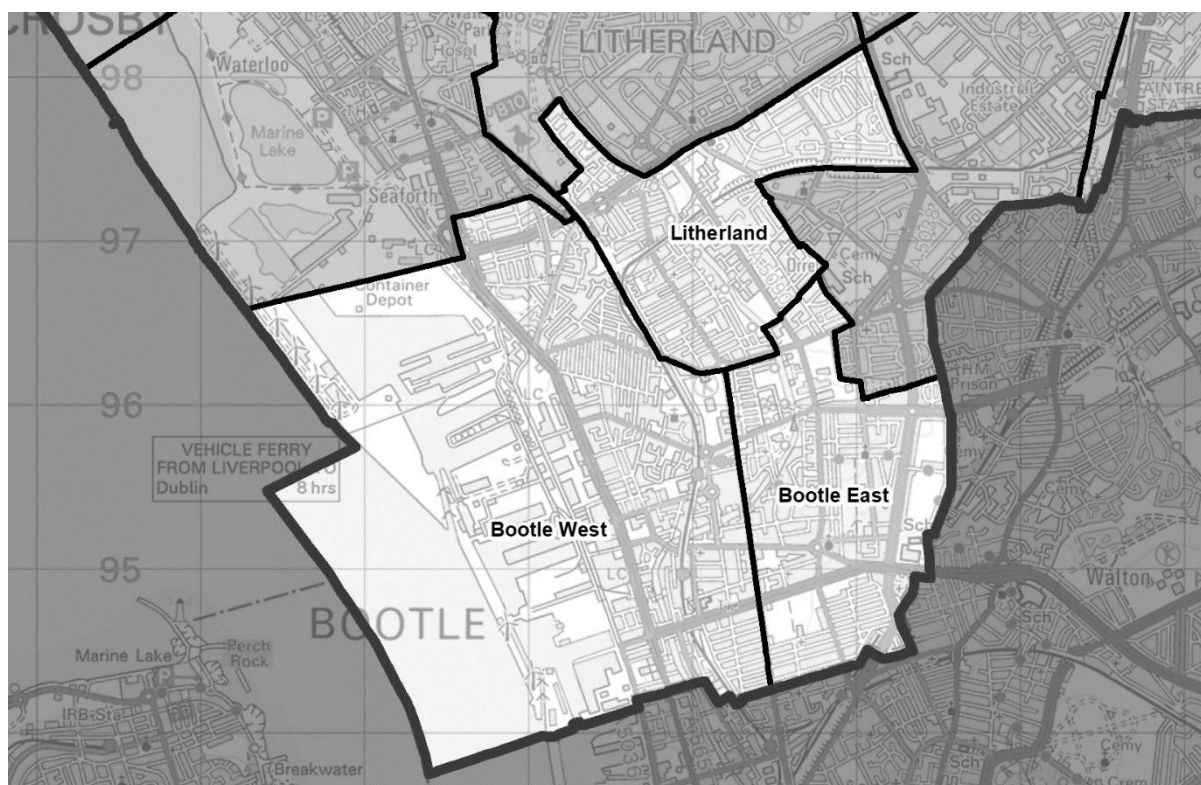
45 We received no submissions that related directly to this ward. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Ford ward as final.

Netherton North and Netherton South & Orrell

46 We received two submissions concerning the names of Netherton & Orrell and St Oswald wards. One local resident suggested renaming these wards Netherton East & Orrell and Netherton St Oswald, while another proposed renaming them Netherton South & Orrell and Netherton North.

47 We agree that these ward names should be amended to better reflect the communities they represent. After consideration, we find the names Netherton South & Orrell and Netherton North to be more suitable as we consider them to be more geographically accurate and have adopted them as part of our final recommendations.

Bootle



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Bootle East	3	-8%
Bootle West	3	-5%
Litherland	3	-4%

Bootle East and Bootle West

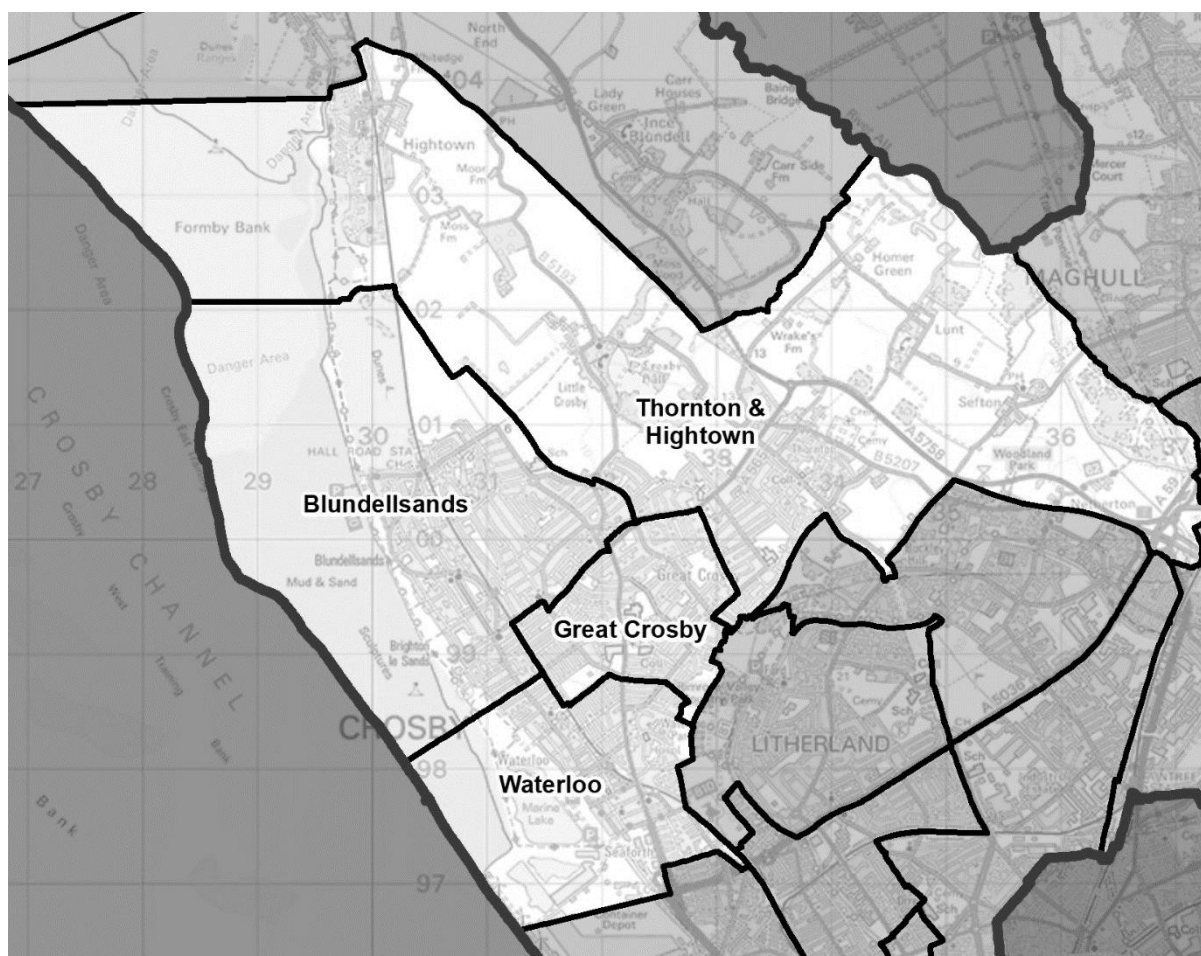
48 A local resident proposed that our recommended Derby and Linacre wards be renamed Bootle West and Bootle East, respectively. We have decided to adopt these names as we agree with the local resident that they are more relevant and reflective of local communities and will provide electors in Bootle with a clearer understanding of the area that each ward covers.

49 Another local resident opposed our decision to move the boundary between the current Linacre and Church wards from the A5036 road. While we note that this road would serve as an identifiable boundary, it would result in our proposed Bootle West ward having a forecast electoral variance of -13% by 2029. We are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been put forward to support such a variance and have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final in this respect.

Litherland

50 We received no submissions that related directly to our proposed Litherland ward. We have therefore decided to confirm the ward as final.

Crosby



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Blundellsands	3	-3%
Great Crosby	3	-6%
Thornton & Hightown	3	6%
Waterloo	3	-4%

Blundellsands and Great Crosby

51 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, we received several submissions that related to our Blundellsands and Victoria wards. One local resident requested that we refrain from making any changes to the current Victoria ward, expressing satisfaction with the existing boundary arrangement. However, three other local residents supported a change in boundaries, with two of them proposing specific modifications.

52 One of the local residents suggested shifting the more urbanised parts of our draft Manor ward and incorporating them into a renamed Great Crosby ward. Additionally, they proposed transferring portions of our draft Victoria ward into reconfigured Blundellsands and Waterloo wards. This adjustment would align the

boundary with College Road while dividing the latter two wards along Brooke Road East and Brooke Road West. Another local resident, who supported the latter boundary change, also stated that we could address the forecast over-representation of Victoria ward by removing the area opposite Merchant Taylors' School (up to and including Brownmoor Lane) by placing it in Manor ward.

53 We carefully considered these proposals. However, we have decided not to adopt any changes to the boundaries of our proposed Blundellsands and Victoria wards in our final recommendations. We consider that the community evidence provided was not strong enough to justify a significant variation in the boundaries defined in our draft recommendations. However, we have been persuaded that a name change for Victoria ward is appropriate and that the name Great Crosby provides a better reflection of the ward's constituent communities. We have thus renamed our proposed Victoria ward Great Crosby in our final recommendations.

54 A local resident requested that the Carnegie Library building be moved from Blundellsands ward to Victoria ward. They argued that the building has no historical connection to Blundellsands and was instead part of the College Road community. The suggestion was to adjust the boundary between the two wards to follow Coronation Road. After careful consideration, we have adopted this small adjustment and placed the library in our proposed Great Crosby ward. We believe this change better reflects community identities and represents a minor adjustment that does not affect any electors.

55 A local resident requested that Forefield Lane be incorporated into a single ward. The road is currently divided between wards and parliamentary constituencies. However, no alternative ward boundary proposal was suggested. As a result, we have decided to retain this boundary in our final recommendations.

Thornton & Hightown

56 We received a submission from a local resident proposing that the parish of Ince Blundell be incorporated into a Manor ward which would be renamed Thornton & Little Crosby. The argument put forth was that, as a rural parish, the community identities and interests of Ince Blundell would be better represented in a ward alongside other rural parishes.

57 After careful consideration, we have decided not to adopt this change as part of our final recommendations. We acknowledge that the local resident provided some community evidence to support the transfer of Ince Blundell parish to a different ward. However, on balance, we were not persuaded we had received sufficient evidence to justify such a notable change to our draft recommendations.

58 We have nonetheless been persuaded that a ward name change is appropriate. However, we consider the name Thornton & Hightown, as suggested by another local resident, to be most appropriate. Given that the Thornton and Hightown

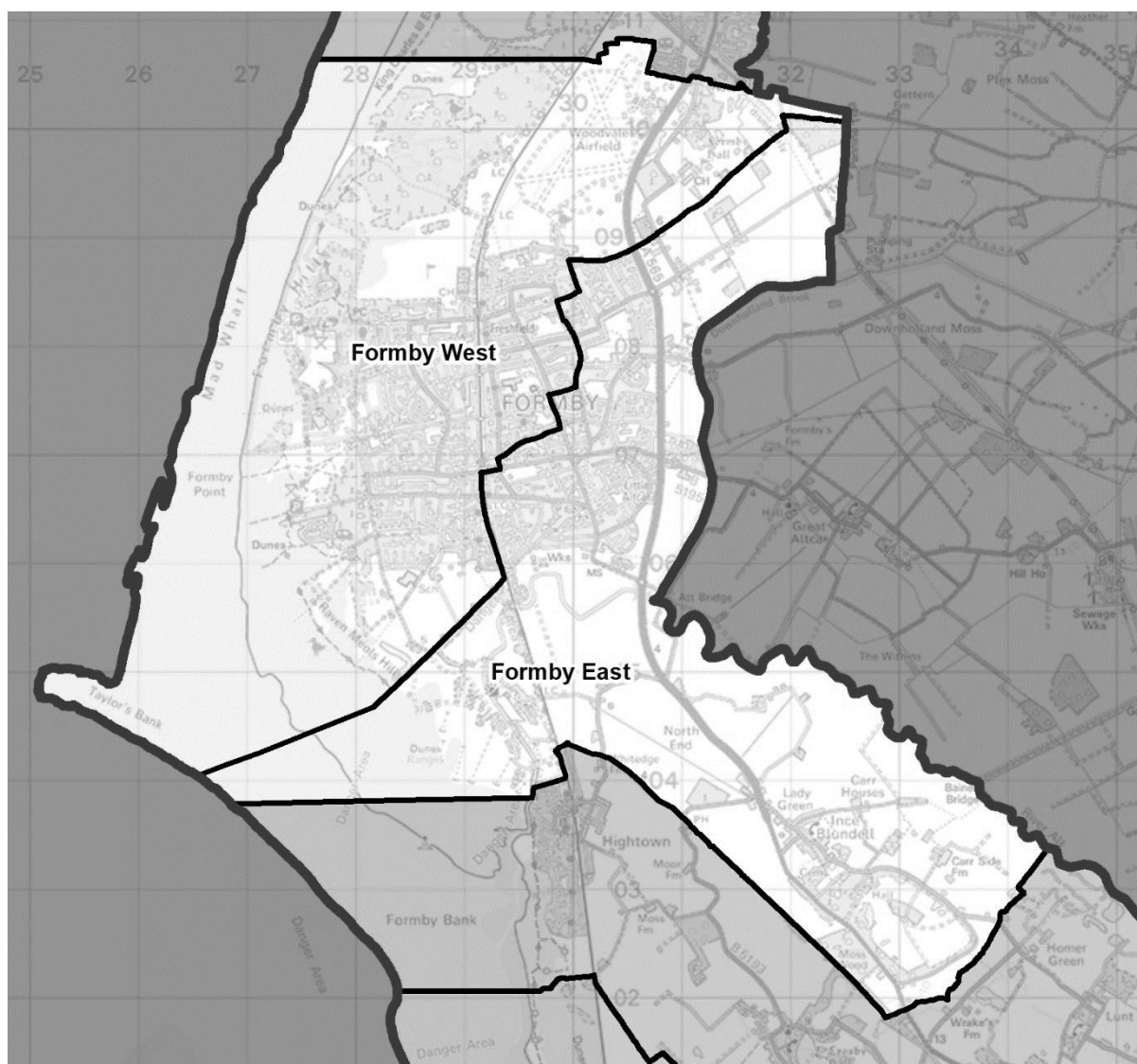
areas are the two more populous communities in the ward, we consider it to be the most suitable ward name.

59 Two local residents requested that the area of Homer Green be included either as part of Ince Blundell or Sefton parishes, rather than in Thornton parish, due to its geographical location and more rural concerns. However, we cannot recommend any changes to external parish boundaries as part of this electoral review; this responsibility lies with the Borough Council through a Community Governance Review.

Waterloo

60 We received four submissions from local residents regarding our draft Church ward. All of these submissions expressed a preference for a different ward name, with each submission arguing that the Church name did not accurately describe the ward's constituent communities. The alternative names suggested were Waterloo, Waterloo Station and Waterloo & Seaforth. After careful consideration, we consider that the name of Waterloo to be the most suitable, given it forms the predominant community in the proposed ward. We propose no changes to the boundaries of this ward as part of our final recommendations.

Formby



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Formby East	3	-1%
Formby West	3	0%

Formby East and Formby West

61 A local resident proposed a significantly different warding pattern for the Formby area. This pattern comprised a Formby Freshfield ward and a Formby Ravenmeols ward, with Formby divided along a north–south axis. We carefully considered this proposal, given that we had previously sought feedback on whether such an arrangement would be preferable. However, we have ultimately decided not to adopt these wards in our final recommendations. We determined that the community evidence provided did not sufficiently justify why a north–south divide of Formby would be preferable and how it would better reflect community identities and interests. We consider that without a strong level of community-based evidence to

support these proposals, a significant alteration of the boundaries outlined in our draft recommendations is not appropriate.

62 However, the local resident did provide evidence that the current ward names of Harington and Ravenmeols were no longer suitable. They indicated that the name 'Ravenmeols' was particularly unsuitable, given that the Raven Meols Hills are not within the ward. Another local resident submitted a proposal that Harington and Ravenmeols wards be renamed Formby West and Formby East, respectively. We have decided to adopt these ward names, as we agree with this local resident that they will be more identifiable to local electors.

63 Two local residents opposed splitting Formby between wards. However, as outlined in the draft recommendations, a ward encompassing the entirety of Formby and Little Altcar parishes would require six councillors to achieve good electoral equality. Therefore, both parishes must be divided across two three-councillor wards to ensure adherence to the presumption in legislation that the borough be represented by a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards, and to achieve good electoral equality.

Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Ainsdale	3	3%
Birkdale	3	7%
Cambridge	3	-1%
Duke's	3	8%
Kew	3	4%
Meols	3	4%
Norwood	3	5%

Ainsdale

64 We received no submissions that related directly to our proposed Ainsdale ward. We have therefore decided to confirm the ward as final.

Birkdale

65 During the previous consultation, the Sefton Labour Group proposed moving several roads connected to Upper Aughton Road from Kew ward to Birkdale ward, to improve electoral equality in Kew ward. We were initially not persuaded to make this amendment, as we determined that Upper Aughton Road represented a strong and recognisable boundary. However, the Southport Liberal Democrats supported this aspect of the Labour Group's submission, suggesting that we place the boundary on, or near, Boundary Street. They stated that this change would promote electoral equality but also restore the historical boundary between areas of Kew and Birkdale. They further emphasised that local residents in this area identify themselves as part of Birkdale. We have decided to adopt this proposal as it is clear that there is cross-party support for such change. There is clear evidence provided across both rounds of consultation that this adjustment would better reflect our statutory criteria and, in particular, the local community identities of residents in this area.

66 A local resident stated that the area incorporated into the Birkdale ward from the Kew ward has traditionally been viewed as part of Kew. However, the specific area transferred into the Kew ward consists of new residential development near the Garden Centre. As outlined in the draft recommendations, this adjustment was made to prevent the development from being divided across wards. The Southport Liberal Democrats have endorsed this decision. We consider that this particular part of the boundary between the Birkdale and Kew wards is clear and identifiable, and we retained it in our final recommendations.

67 Another local resident noted that it was 'odd' that our draft Kew ward had 'hardly changed', given the anticipated development within the ward. However, the aforementioned changes will bring the electoral variance of Kew ward closer to the average for the borough, resulting in a better level of electoral equality.

Cambridge and Meols

68 The Southport Liberal Democrats requested minor adjustments to the boundary between our proposed Cambridge and Meols wards. Specifically, they proposed that Seaton Way and Northam Close, currently split between the two wards, be fully incorporated into Cambridge ward. Additionally, they requested that a few properties on Fairhaven Road be transferred to Meols ward. We concur that these two modifications will create a clearer and more identifiable ward boundary. We also note the minor improvement in electoral equality. We have thus included both changes in our final recommendations.

69 A local resident suggested that we rename Cambridge ward to Hesketh Park. We decided not to adopt this proposal as we were not persuaded that enough community-based evidence had been received to support this proposal.

Duke's

70 A vast majority of Hall Street is currently within Duke's ward. However, a small portion of the eastern side of the road falls within Norwood ward. The Southport Liberal Democrats requested that all of Hall Street be included in Duke's ward. We have adopted this minor modification as we consider it to provide for a more clearly identifiable ward boundary.

71 A local resident stated that our proposed Duke's ward was particularly 'odd' because it combined the most deprived and least deprived areas in Southport. They argued that this would make it difficult for any political party to effectively represent the interests of this ward. We have no view of or regard for which political party may more effectively represent certain types of communities. Furthermore, we do not make the automatic presumption that, because two areas have different social-economic profiles, they should go into different wards. Having considered the evidence received, we have decided to make no changes to the boundaries of this ward, except for the small amendment outlined in the previous paragraph.

72 Another local resident expressed concerns about the allocation of resources in the Duke's ward. However, this review is focused exclusively on the electoral arrangements within the borough. Our role does not extend to resource allocation across individual wards.

Kew

73 The Southport Liberal Democrats proposed adjusting the boundary so that all of Haig Avenue falls within Kew ward. Currently, most of Haig Avenue is in Kew ward, but a small section on the odd-numbered side of the road is in Norwood ward. Similarly, a relatively new development at Princes Gardens is currently situated in the Norwood ward. However, it is only accessible from Kew ward. The Southport Liberal Democrats suggested moving the boundary so that Princes Gardens is included in Kew ward. We agree that these two changes will result in clearer ward boundaries and better reflect road access routes in the area. As a result, we have incorporated these boundary adjustments into our final recommendations.

Norwood

74 A local resident stated that the boundary between the areas of Kew and Blowick cuts through the middle of a community, following the route of a former railway line instead of the present railway line. They argued that this creates a disconnect between different areas in Norwood ward. The resident re-emphasised a preference for a Blowich ward, which they had put forward during the previous consultation. However, it was not clear from the local resident's submissions how a potential Blowich ward would be configured. Therefore, we have decided not to make any changes to our Norwood ward based on these submissions.

75 The local resident also suggested that we could rename Norwood ward to High Park. We decided not to adopt this proposal as we were not persuaded that this name is any more reflective of the communities in this ward than the current name of Norwood.

Conclusions

76 The table below provides a summary of the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Sefton, 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 in Appendix A at the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2023	2029
Number of councillors	66	66
Number of electoral wards	22	22
Average number of electors per councillor	3,266	3,430
Number of wards with a variance of more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance of more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Sefton Council should be made up of 66 councillors serving 22 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

You can also view our draft recommendations for Sefton Council on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

77 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.

78 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, Sefton

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.

79 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 Maghull.

Final recommendations

Maghull Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	6
North	3
South	2
West	5

What happens next?

80 We have now completed our review of Sefton Council. Parliament must now approve the recommendations. 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

81 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

Final recommendations for Sefton 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	Ainsdale	3	10,158	3,386	4%	10,634	3,545	3%
2	Aintree & Maghull South	3	10,178	3,393	4%	10,824	3,608	5%
3	Birkdale	3	10,820	3,607	10%	11,045	3,682	7%
4	Blundellsands	3	9,827	3,276	0%	10,022	3,341	-3%
5	Bootle East	3	9,193	3,064	-6%	9,487	3,162	-8%
6	Bootle West	3	9,364	3,121	-4%	9,760	3,253	-5%
7	Cambridge	3	9,923	3,308	1%	10,160	3,387	-1%
8	Duke's	3	10,633	3,544	9%	11,151	3,717	8%
9	Ford	3	9,334	3,111	-5%	9,535	3,178	-7%
10	Formby East	3	9,659	3,220	-1%	10,172	3,391	-1%
11	Formby West	3	9,949	3,316	2%	10,258	3,419	0%
12	Great Crosby	3	9,603	3,201	-2%	9,708	3,236	-6%
13	Kew	3	9,895	3,298	1%	10,661	3,554	4%

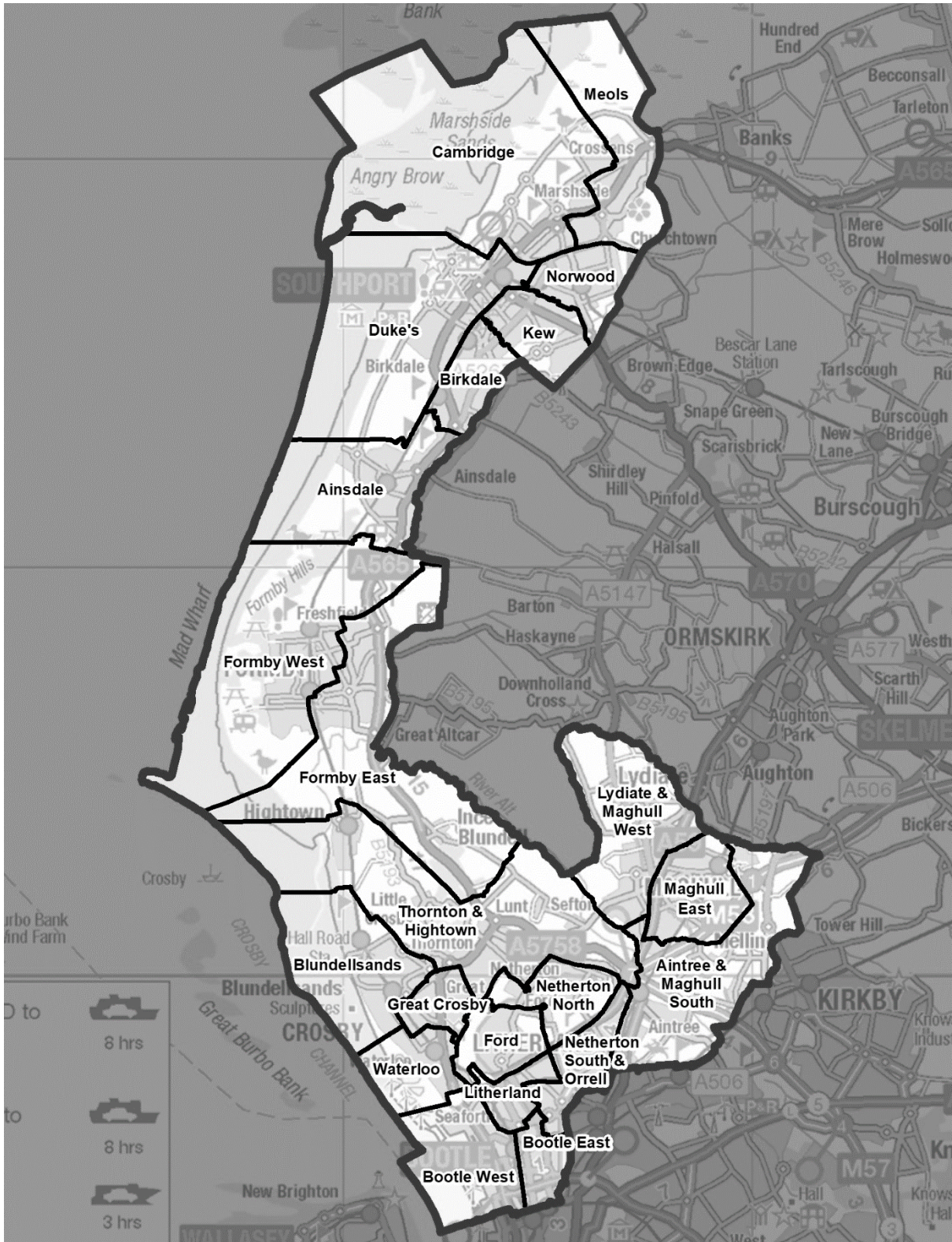
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14 Litherland	3	8,979	2,993	-8%	9,894	3,298	-4%
15 Lydiate & Maghull West	3	10,619	3,540	8%	11,273	3,758	10%
16 Maghull East	3	9,254	3,085	-6%	10,672	3,557	4%
17 Meols	3	9,984	3,328	2%	10,691	3,564	4%
18 Netherton North	3	9,297	3,099	-5%	9,521	3,174	-7%
19 Netherton South & Orrell	3	8,990	2,997	-8%	9,345	3,115	-9%
20 Norwood	3	10,395	3,465	6%	10,803	3,601	5%
21 Thornton & Hightown	3	9,928	3,309	1%	10,916	3,639	6%
22 Waterloo	3	9,599	3,200	-2%	9,854	3,285	-4%
Totals	66	215,581	–	–	226,389	–	–
Averages	–	–	3,266	–	–	3,430	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Sefton 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 borough. 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/sefton

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Political Groups

- Sefton Conservative Group
- Southport Liberal Democrats

Parish and Town Councils

- Lydiate Parish Council

Local Residents

- 23 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 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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