

New electoral arrangements for Cheshire East Council Draft Recommendations

October 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.

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

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

Why Cheshire East?

7 We are conducting a review of Cheshire East Council ('the Council') as 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 Cheshire East 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 council area.

Our proposals for Cheshire East

9 Cheshire East should be represented by 82 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Cheshire East should have 50 wards, two fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change.

How will the recommendations affect you?

12 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.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the council area 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 consider any representations which are based on these issues.

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 1 October 2024 to 9 December 2024. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 9 December 2024 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See 45 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Cheshire East. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the authority. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 January 2024	Number of councillors decided
23 January 2024	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
1 April 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
1 October 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
9 December 2024	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
13 May 2025	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ 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.

20 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.

21 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	2030
Electorate of Cheshire East	314,649	337,307
Number of councillors	82	82
Average number of electors per councillor	3,838	4,114

22 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 Cheshire East are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2030, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2025. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 7% by 2030.

25 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 draft recommendations.

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

26 Our mapping tool uses geocoded electoral registers supplied by the Council to locate electors, by associating addresses with specific geographic coordinates. It considers each elector's location to produce precise elector counts for each ward. There can be very slight differences between the electorate figures published on our website at the beginning of the review and the electorate figures published in this report. However, these are very minor and do not impact on our recommendations.

Number of councillors

27 Cheshire East Council currently has 82 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 82 councillors – for example, 82 one-councillor wards, 41 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

29 We received eight submissions from local residents about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. Three of the submissions suggested the number of councillors should be halved and one submission suggested a 10% decrease in councillors. One local resident proposed that the Council should have 12 councillors representing 12 wards. The remainder of the submissions argued that the number of councillors should be decreased, but did not suggest a preferred number of councillors.

30 We consider that insufficient evidence was provided to demonstrate how the Council would carry out its duties with fewer councillors, and no information was provided as to how these proposals would be accommodated in a warding pattern for the authority. Therefore, we have based our draft recommendations on an 82-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

31 We received 126 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included authority-wide proposals from Cheshire East Council and the Cheshire East Liberal Democrats ('the Liberal Democrats'). We also received partial schemes from Councillor Seddon at Cheshire East Council, the Macclesfield Labour Party and the Tatton Labour Party. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the authority.

32 The two authority-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for 82 councillors. 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 identifiable boundaries.

33 Our draft recommendations are for a mixed pattern of single-, two- and three-councillor wards, based predominantly on the schemes received from the Council and Liberal Democrats. However, we have adopted the proposal received from the Tatton Labour Party for Knutsford town and the scheme received from Macclesfield Labour Party for Macclesfield town as part of our draft recommendations.

34 Our recommendations also take 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, so we identified alternative boundaries.

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

Draft recommendations

36 Our draft recommendations are for 23 single-councillor wards, 22 two-councillor wards and five three-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

37 The tables and maps on pages 8–39 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Cheshire East. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

38 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 52 and on the large map accompanying this report.

39 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

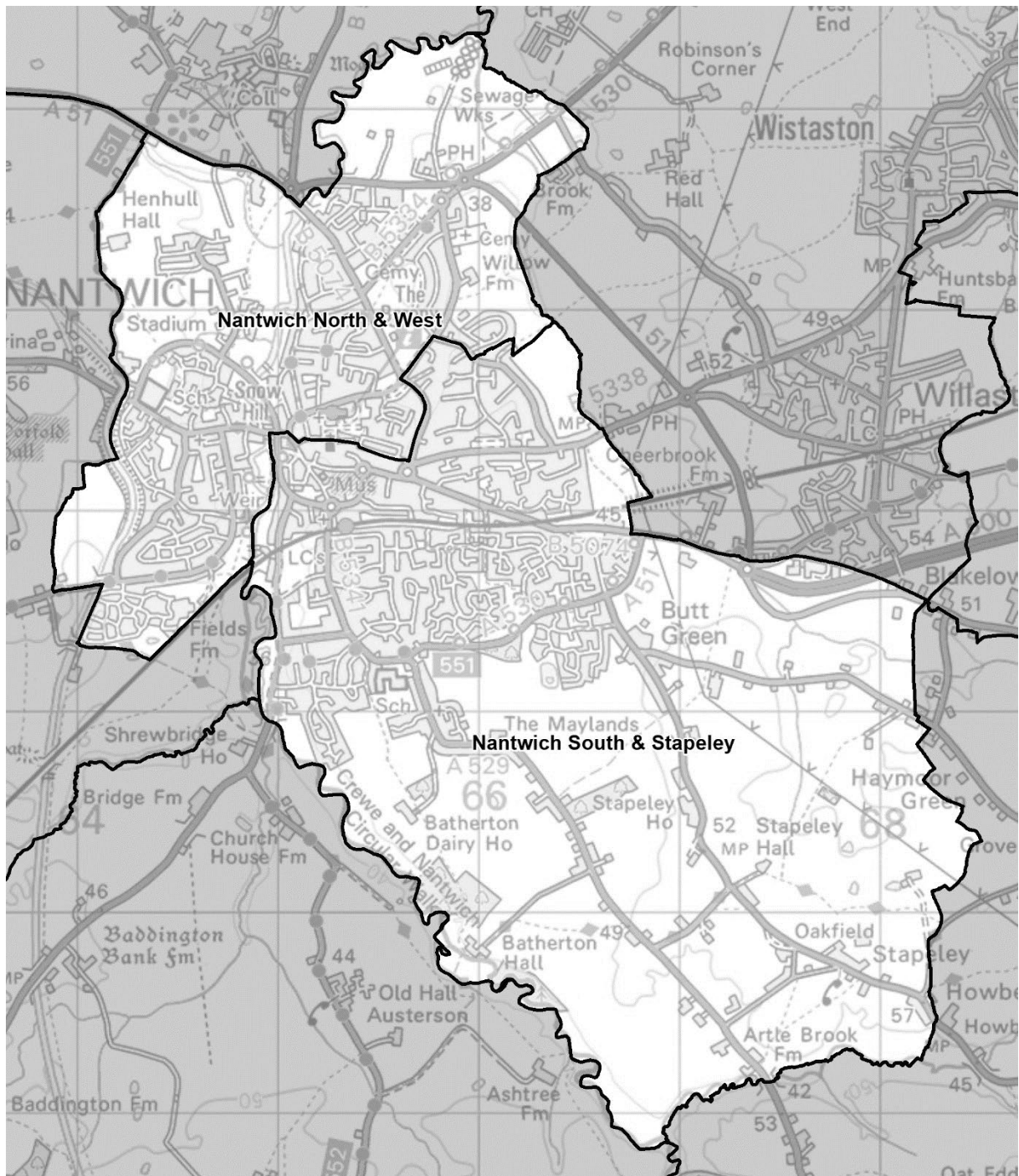
alternative suggestions, we are adopting these proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

Bunbury and Wrenbury

41 The Council proposed retaining the Peckforton and Brindley parishes within Wrenbury ward to reflect community ties, stating that Burland & Acton, Brindley and Faddiley parishes are close together geographically and are well connected via the A534. Alternatively, the Liberal Democrats placed the parishes of Peckforton and Brindley within their proposed Bunbury ward, stating that Peckforton has stronger community ties with the parishes in Bunbury ward and that the inclusion of Brindley parish was necessary to improve electoral equality.

42 Both proposals provide for wards with good anticipated electoral equality and we consider the evidence presented to us to be persuasive. However, we propose to adopt the Council's proposals for Bunbury and Wrenbury wards as part of our draft recommendations. We determined that maintaining the existing arrangement of Peckforton and Brindley parishes within Wrenbury ward will be a good reflection of our statutory criteria, as we consider that it reflects the existing community ties in this ward. However, given the lack of localised submissions for this area, we would particularly welcome comments on these wards during the current consultation period.

Nantwich



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Nantwich North & West	2	2%
Nantwich South & Stapeley	2	7%

Nantwich North & West

43 We received varied proposals in relation to the warding arrangements for the northern area of Nantwich. The Council proposed to retain a two-councillor Nantwich North & West ward that included the West parish ward and the majority of the North parish ward of Nantwich Town Council, excluding the electors surrounding Mount Drive. This proposal received support from Councillor Priest. Alternatively, the Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards named Nantwich North and Nantwich West. Their proposed Nantwich West ward included the West parish ward of Nantwich Town Council, aside from the Malbank Waters development. Their proposed Nantwich North ward consisted entirely of the North parish ward of Nantwich Town Council.

44 We visited the Malbank Waters development on our tour of the area and considered it to share good links with Nantwich town. However, the Liberal Democrats proposed that the development be included within a predominantly rural Wrenbury ward, which we consider this area to have limited association and access to. Furthermore, the Nantwich West ward proposed by the Liberal Democrats results in an 11% forecasted electoral variance. To include the Malbank Waters development would further worsen electoral equality and produce a 28% variance. We consider this variance to be exceptionally high and we were thus not persuaded to adopt the Liberal Democrats' proposals for this area. Therefore, we are recommending the Council's proposed Nantwich West & North ward, as we consider this to provide the best balance of our statutory criteria

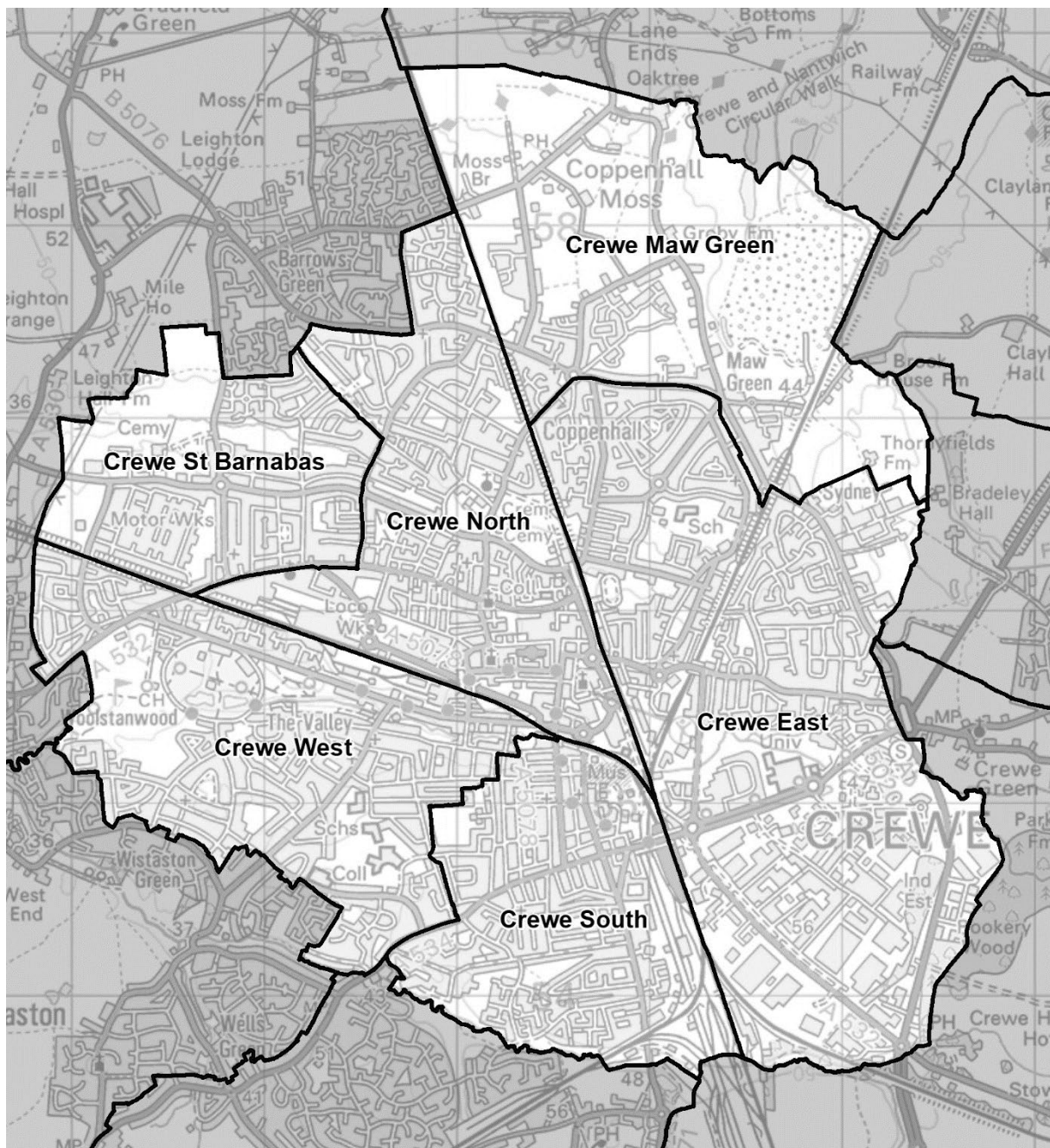
45 A local resident submitted a proposal for a three-councillor ward consisting of the entirety of Nantwich Town Council. However, we were not persuaded to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations, as it resulted in a 12% forecasted electoral variance and the proposal did not include a suggestion as to which ward Stapeley & District parish should be transferred to as a result. However, the inclusion of the Malbank Waters development in their proposed Nantwich ward reaffirms our view that placing the development in our proposed Nantwich North & West ward will reflect community identities.

Nantwich South & Stapeley

46 The Council's scheme in the southern area of Nantwich retained a two-councillor Nantwich South & Stapeley ward, that consisted of electors surrounding Mount Drive, the South parish ward of Nantwich parish, as well as Stapeley & District parish. In contrast, the Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards for this area. They proposed a Nantwich South ward comprising the South parish ward of Nantwich parish and a Stapeley ward comprising Stapeley & District parish and the electors south of the railway line within Willaston parish. The Liberal Democrats argue that the area south of the railway line has strong links to Stapeley & District parish.

47 Having carefully considered the evidence received, we have decided to base our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals. This is because we were concerned that the Liberal Democrats' proposed Stapeley ward would separate electors south of the railway line from the rest of Willaston parish. We consider that this would not, in our view, be conducive to effective and convenient local government, nor reflect community identities. We explored amending the boundary of their proposed Stapeley ward to reflect the Nantwich parish boundary. However, this resulted in a -17% for their Stapeley ward. Nonetheless, we welcome comments on this decision during consultation.

Crewe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Crewe East	2	9%
Crewe Maw Green	1	-10%
Crewe North	2	4%
Crewe South	2	-7%
Crewe St Barnabas	1	-2%
Crewe West	2	-2%

Crewe East and Crewe Maw Green

48 We received differing proposals for the eastern area of Crewe that is currently represented by a three-councillor Crewe East ward. The Liberal Democrats and the Council proposed a single-councillor Crewe Maw Green ward. However, the Council included electors along Sydney Road, north of the railway line, within Crewe Maw Green ward, while the Liberal Democrats proposed to include these electors within a Crewe Grand Junction ward, resulting in a -11% forecasted variance for their proposed Crewe Maw Green ward.

49 Furthermore, the Council proposed a two-councillor Crewe East ward which consists of the electors south of Remer Street. The Liberal Democrats, however, proposed to divide this area into two single-councillor wards named Crewe Grand Junction and Crewe Waldron. Under these proposals, Crewe Grand Junction is forecast an electoral variance of -16%. We thus investigated potential amendments we could make to the Liberal Democrats' proposals to improve this variance. We explored moving electors west of Middlewich Street into their proposed Crewe Maw Green ward to improve the electoral equality of the proposed Crewe Grand Junction ward. However, this amendment resulted in an 11% forecast electoral variance for the proposed Crewe Maw Green ward. We were not persuaded to adopt this amendment as this variance exceeds 10%, which represents the upper limit for what we normally deem to be good electoral equality.

50 A local resident proposed to divide the existing Crewe East ward into two wards named Sydney & Hungerford and Cumberland & Coppenhall, suggesting the railway line as the boundary between them. We were not persuaded to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations as we consider insufficient community evidence was supplied.

51 Another local resident also suggested that Crewe should be divided into 10 single-councillor wards. We were not persuaded to adopt this proposal, as we decided there was not enough community evidence provided to justify this proposal, and it was not clear how these single-councillor wards would be configured.

52 To conclude, we have adopted the Council's proposals for a Crewe Maw Green ward and a Crewe East ward as part of our draft recommendations, as we consider this arrangement to provide the best balance of our statutory criteria and results in good electoral equality for both proposed wards by 2030.

Crewe North and Crewe St Barnabas

53 We propose to retain the existing single-councillor Crewe St Barnabas ward as part of our draft recommendations. This is reflective of both the Council's and Liberal Democrats' proposals which we consider to reflect community identities and interests and maintain good electoral equality by 2030.

54 The Council and Liberal Democrats similarly proposed to combine the existing single-councillor Crewe Central and Crewe North wards into a two-councillor ward to improve electoral equality. However, the Council proposed to name this ward 'Crewe North' to reflect the geography of this area and argued this name is already a well-established name within the local area, whereas the Liberal Democrats proposed to name this ward 'Crewe Coppenhall' as the ward covers the majority of the ancient Coppenhall parish.

55 A local resident submission suggested that the existing Crewe North ward should include the electors west of Stoneley Road and Groby Road. However, this produces poor electoral equality with forecasted variances of -43% for Crewe Maw Green ward and 21% for Crewe North ward. We consider these forecasted variances to be exceptionally high and we therefore cannot adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

56 Consequently, as part of our draft recommendations, we are adopting the identical boundary proposals for this ward presented to us by the Liberal Democrats and the Council. We consider these wards to use strong boundaries that reflect communities. We were persuaded by the evidence provided by the Council to adopt the name of Crewe North, as we consider a ward name already in use within this area will help to promote effective and convenient local government.

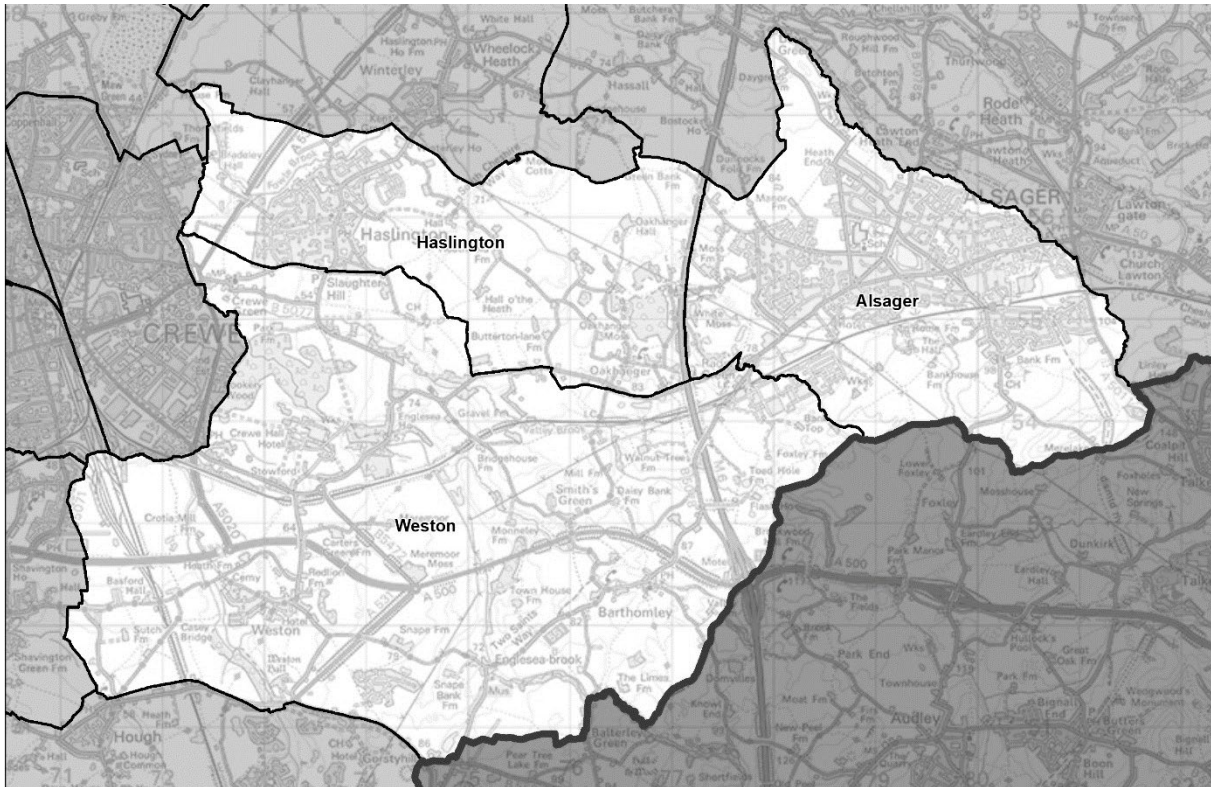
Crewe West and Crewe South

57 The Council and Liberal Democrats both proposed wards for the south-western area of Crewe that reflected the Crewe parish boundary. Whilst the Council proposed to make some minor amendments to the two-councillor Crewe West and Crewe South wards, the Liberal Democrats alternatively suggested dividing this area into two single-councillor wards named Crewe Queen's Park and Crewe Alexandra, in addition to a two-councillor Crewe St John's ward.

58 We visited this area on tour and we considered the boundary between the Liberal Democrats' Crewe St John's and Crewe Alexandra wards did not effectively reflect communities. The proposed boundary ran behind the shops along Nantwich Road and transferred electors residing around Edleston Road into their proposed Crewe St John's ward. We considered this proposal to separate this community from their nearest shopping area of which they have direct access to.

59 As part of our draft recommendations, we propose to adopt the suggestions put forward to us by the Council for two-councillor Crewe West and Crewe South wards, which we consider to better reflect community ties and interests in this area and also improve electoral equality. However, we would welcome local input on this decision during the current consultation.

Alsager, Haslington and Weston



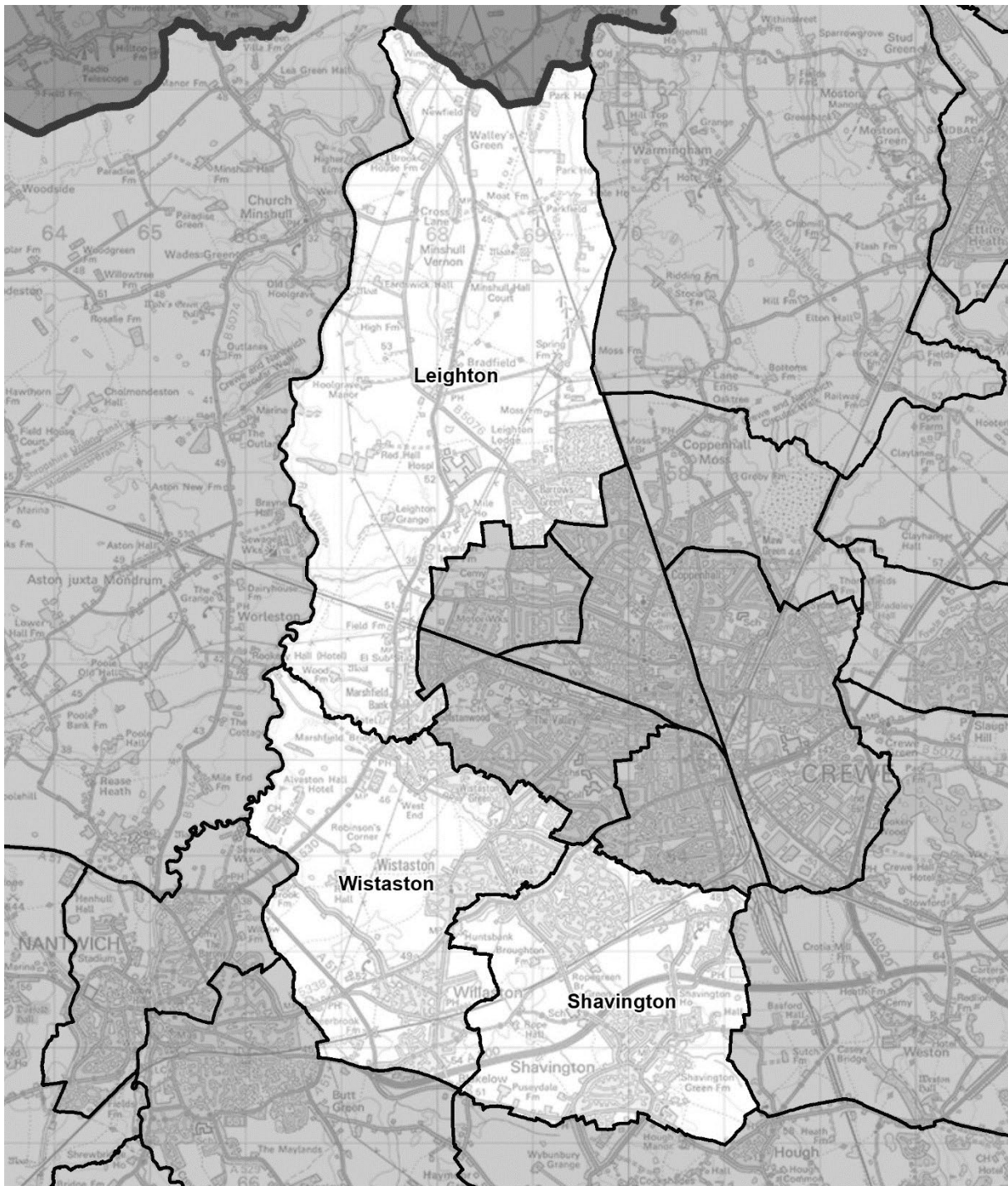
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Alsager	3	1%
Haslington	1	7%
Weston	1	4%

Alsager, Haslington and Weston

60 We received identical proposals for a three-councillor Alsager ward and single-councillor Haslington and Weston wards from the Council and Liberal Democrats. Alsager Town Council submitted a response in support of the Council's proposals for Alsager ward as they respected the Alsager parish boundary. Both of the authority-wide schemes proposed a Haslington ward that consisted of Haslington and Oakhanger villages, which the Council states have 'natural ties' due to easy road access. Both schemes also proposed a Weston ward which included the addition of Wychwood village to reflect the Weston & Crewe Green parish boundary.

61 We were persuaded to adopt these proposals as part of our draft recommendations as we consider them to reflect communities, promote effective and convenient local government, and ensure good levels of electoral equality by 2030.

Leighton, Shavington and Wistaston



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Leighton	2	-6%
Shavington	2	7%
Wistaston	2	4%

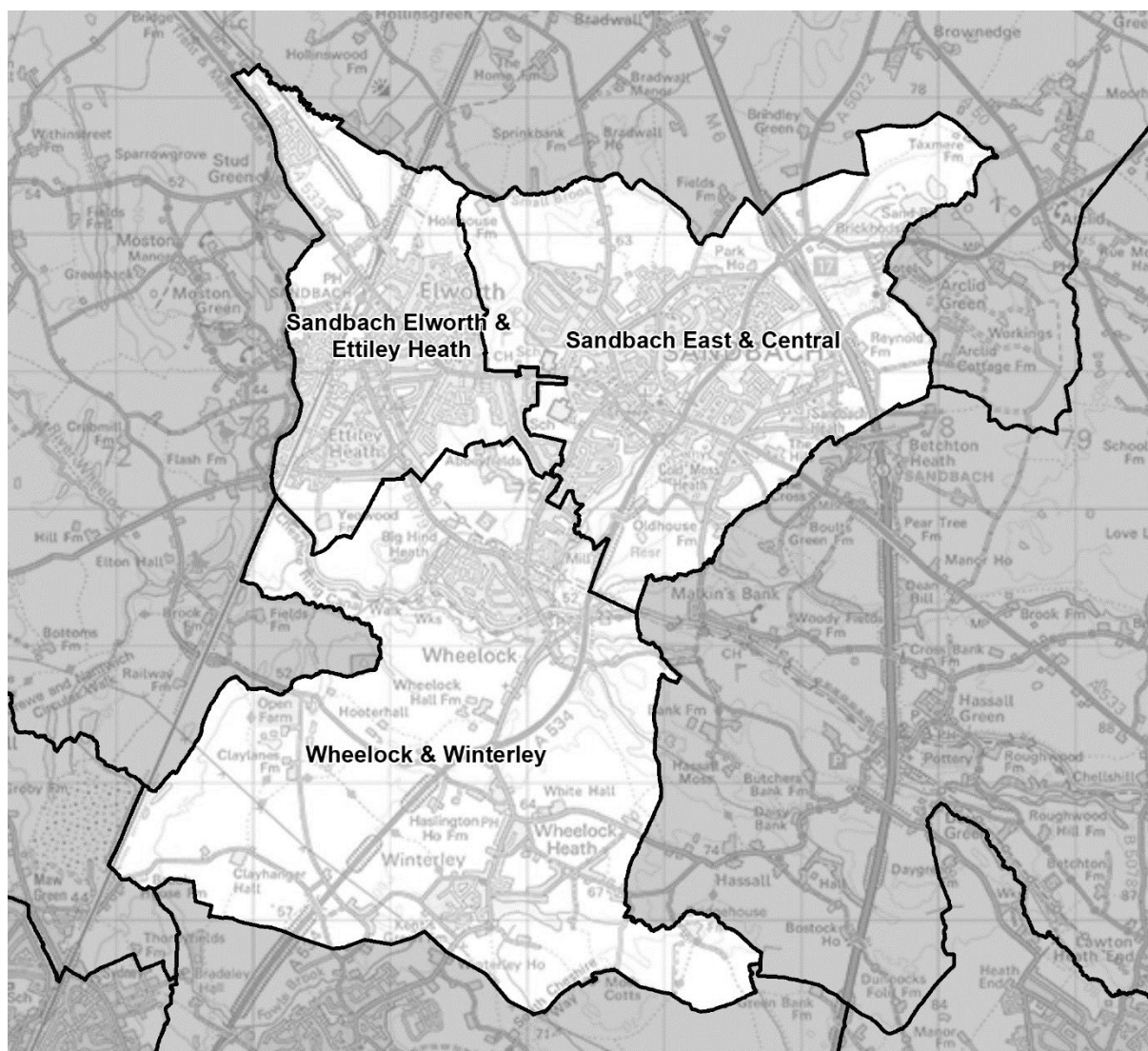
Leighton, Shavington and Wistaston

62 The Liberal Democrats proposed a two-councillor Wistaston ward consisting of Wistaston parish and the electors north of the railway line in Willaston parish, stating that the railway line provides a clear and identifiable boundary. Contrastingly, the Council proposed a two-councillor Wistaston parish which consists entirely of Willaston parish and the majority of Wistaston parish, aside from the Wells Green area, which they proposed to include within a two-councillor Shavington ward.

63 We found the evidence presented to us by the Council more persuasive than the evidence presented by the Liberal Democrats, and we consider that the Council's proposals better reflect community identities in this area. Therefore, we are adopting the Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations. As a consequence, we have also decided to adopt their two-councillor Shavington ward, which encompasses the Rope and Shavington-cum-Gresty parishes as well as the Wells Green area. Both wards are forecast good electoral equality by 2030. We would welcome comments on how these communities interact in response to our draft recommendations.

64 The Council and Liberal Democrats both proposed a two-councillor Leighton ward which consists of Leighton, Woolstanwood and Minshull Vernon parishes. We are adopting this ward as part of our draft recommendations as it respects parish boundaries, promotes effective and convenient local government and is forecasted good electoral equality.

Sandbach



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Sandbach East & Central	2	5%
Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath	2	-3%
Wheelock & Winterley	1	-7%

Sandbach East & Central

65 We received varying proposals for Sandbach from the Council and Liberal Democrats. The Council proposed to merge the existing single-member Sandbach Town and Sandbach Heath & East wards into a two-councillor Sandbach East & Central ward, with some minor modifications to the existing arrangements around Sandbach School. This proposal resulted in improved electoral equality. The Liberal Democrats, however, proposed to retain the existing arrangements for this area with two single-councillor wards named Sandbach Town and Sandbach East.

66 We visited the area around Sandbach School on our tour of Cheshire East. We determined from our visit that including Park Lane and the surrounding electors within a single ward would be more reflective of communities in this area. Therefore, we are proposing the Council's suggestion of a two-councillor Sandbach East & Central ward to reflect community identities and interests. However, we would welcome comments on this proposal during consultation.

Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath

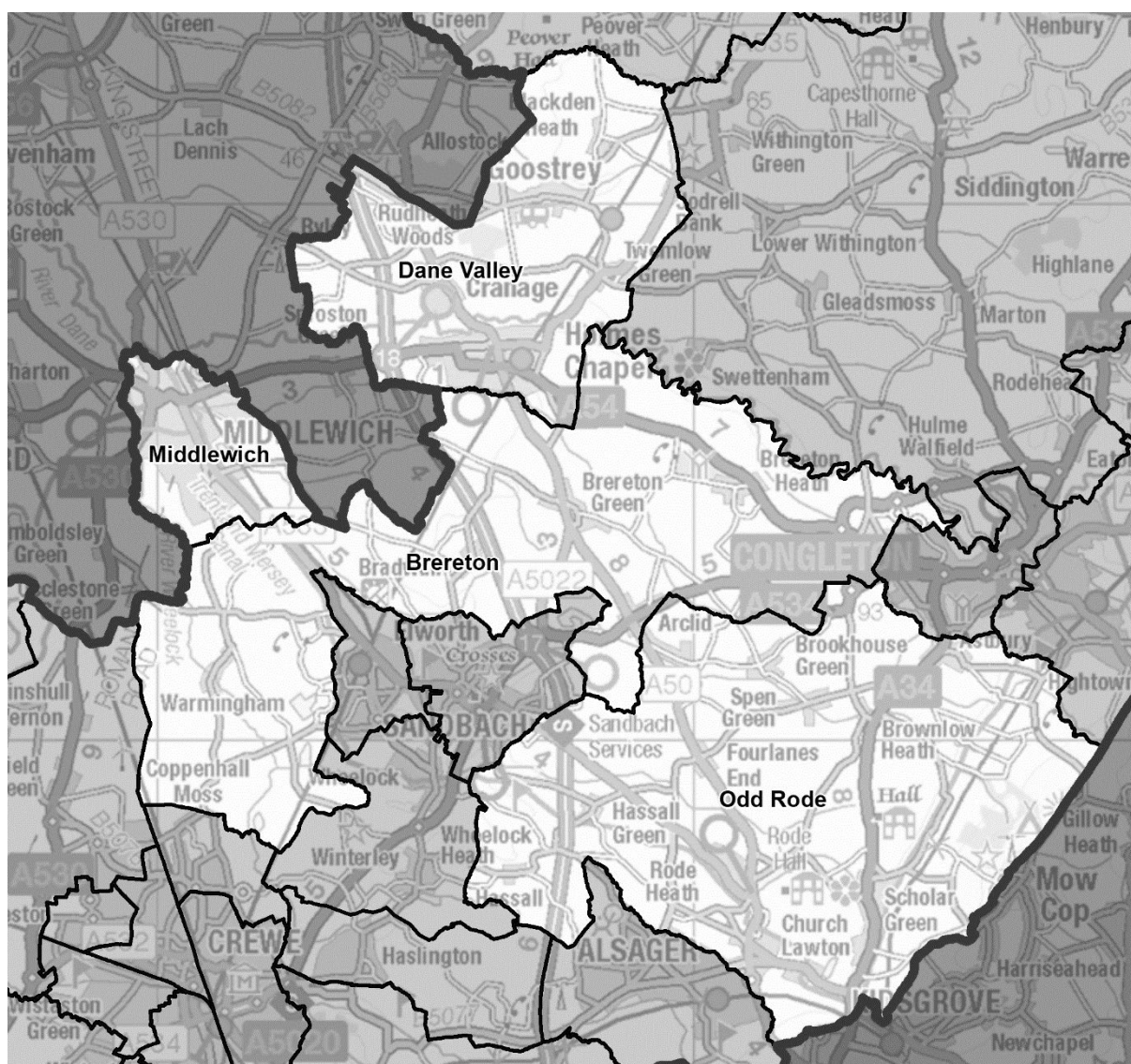
67 To achieve electoral equality in eastern Sandbach, the Council proposed a two-councillor Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath ward consisting of the Elworth and Ettiley Heath communities. Contrastingly, the Liberal Democrats proposed a two-councillor Elworth ward, which also comprised the Elworth and Ettiley Heath communities, with the addition of Moston and Warmingham parishes.

68 As part of our draft recommendations, we were persuaded to adopt the Council's proposal for a two-councillor Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath ward. We consider the Trent and Mersey Canal to be a clear dividing line between the communities of Ettiley Heath and Elworth and the parishes of Moston and Warmingham. From our tour of the area, we also determined that these areas are very different and we concluded that the Council's proposals grouped similar communities and provided for a better balance of our statutory criteria.

Wheelock & Winterley

69 Both the Council and the Liberal Democrats proposed a Wheelock & Winterley ward. The only difference was where each proposal placed the Park Lane area. The Liberal Democrats proposed placing this area in their proposed Winterley & Wheelock ward. However, as mentioned in paragraph 66, we visited Park Lane on our tour of this area and considered it to look towards Sandbach for its amenities and services, which reflects the Council scheme. Therefore, we have decided to adopt the Council's proposed single-councillor Wheelock & Winterley ward. We consider this ward to be reflective of communities and conducive of effective and convenient local government. This recommended ward is also forecast good electoral equality by 2030.

Brereton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Brereton	1	10%
Dane Valley	2	3%
Middlewich	3	2%
Odd Rode	2	0%

Dane Valley

70 The proposals we received from the Council and Liberal Democrats for a two-councillor Dane Valley ward match the existing arrangements. This proposed ward has good electoral equality as it is forecast an electoral variance of 3%. We were persuaded to adopt their proposals as part of our draft recommendations as we consider this proposal a good reflection of our statutory criteria.

71 We received a submission from Holmes Chapel Parish Council that proposed the Dane Valley ward boundary reflect the revised settlement boundary for Holmes Chapel. In the absence of information on where this new settlement boundary lies, we were unable to adopt this proposal. However, we welcome further information and local opinion on this suggestion.

Brereton and Odd Rode

72 The Council and Liberal Democrats submitted differing proposals for a two-councillor Odd Rode ward and a single-councillor Brereton ward. The existing Brereton Rural ward is forecast an 127% electoral variance. In order to significantly improve this forecasted variance, the Liberal Democrats propose a Brereton ward consisting of Brereton, Somerford, Smallwood, Arclid and Bradwall parishes.

73 The Council's proposal for Brereton ward, supported by Brereton Parish Council consisted of the above-mentioned parishes, with the exception of Smallwood. The Council also proposed to retain Moston and Warmingham parishes within their proposed ward. However, Somerford Parish Council opposed the Council's proposal and argued the parish shares no interests or identity with the other parishes in the ward aside from small parts of Brereton parish. They argued that parish largely relies on the town of Congleton for amenities and services. However, including Somerford parish within Congleton West ward results in a 18% electoral variance. We consider this variance too high to accept as part of our draft recommendations.

74 As part of our draft recommendations, we were persuaded to adopt the proposal put forward to us by the Council. Whilst both proposals are successful in significantly improving electoral equality in this area, the Liberal Democrats' proposals result in an 11% forecasted electoral variance, as opposed to a 10% under the Council's suggestions. We therefore determined that the Council's proposals would provide for a better balance of our statutory criteria for this area of Cheshire East. However, we acknowledge the scale of this ward geographically and the many communities it encompasses. We would particularly welcome local opinion on whether this proposal is reflective of community identities during the current consultation.

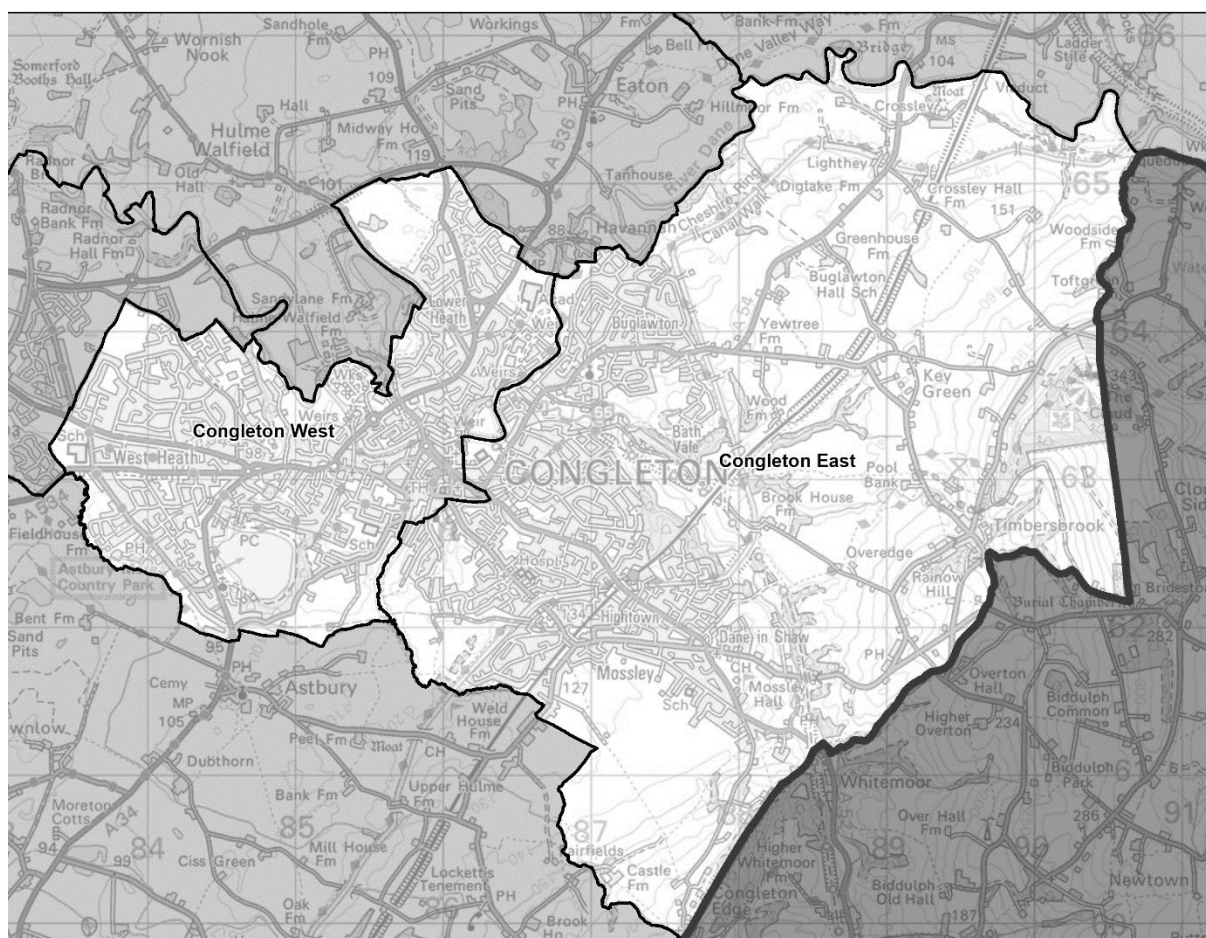
75 A local resident put forward a proposal for a new ward named 'Brereton and Somerford' comprising of Arclid, Brereton, Smallwood and Somerford parishes. We were not persuaded to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations as we determined insufficient community evidence was provided to us. This proposal would also result in poor electoral equality, as it would be significantly over-represented.

Middlewich

76 We received proposals for a three-councillor Middlewich ward, which is composed of the entirety of Middlewich parish, from the Council and the Liberal Democrats. In the absence of any alternative proposals, we were persuaded to adopt their proposals as we consider them to achieve good electoral equality and promote effective and convenient local government by following parish boundaries.

77 We also received a submission from a local resident which stated that Middlewich ward should be made part of Cheshire West & Chester Council. We are unable to adopt this suggestion as this electoral review cannot make amendments to the external boundaries of the authority or any of its adjoining local authorities.

Congleton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Congleton East	3	-2%
Congleton West	3	1%

Congleton East and Congleton West

78 We received contrasting proposals in relation to the warding arrangements for Congleton town. The Council proposed broadly retaining the two three-councillor wards of Congleton East and Congleton West. They proposed modifying the existing boundaries to include the area of Buglawton currently in Gawsorth ward, as well as uniting the Kestral Close estate within their proposed Congleton East ward. Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council also expressed support for the Council's proposed Congleton West ward which included part of Hulme Walfield parish.

79 The Liberal Democrats' and Councillor Seddon's proposals were similar, both suggesting three two-councillor wards for this area. They each argued that this arrangement will promote effective and convenient local government. A preference for three two-councillor wards was also expressed by Councillor Douglas. The

Liberal Democrats proposed Congleton West, Congleton North and Congleton East wards that aligned the wards with the Congleton parish wards, with the exception of dividing the North East parish ward between Congleton East and Congleton North wards, adopting the Dane in Shaw Brook as the boundary. Councillor Seddon's proposals were for Congleton West, Congleton Central and Congleton East wards, which broadly reflected the Liberal Democrats' proposals with some minor differences.

80 After careful consideration of how the contrasting proposals would impact effective and convenient local government, as well as communities, we have decided to adopt the Council scheme in this area as part of our draft recommendations. Whilst we acknowledge the comments received from the Liberal Democrats and Councillor Seddon on the difficulty in managing three-councillor wards, we consider retaining the strong and locally identifiable boundary of the River Dane will help in promoting effective and convenient local government.

81 Furthermore, when we visited this area on tour, we also noted that there appeared to be a natural divide in communities on each side of the river, which reaffirmed our decision to adopt the Council's proposals. We were also persuaded by the evidence presented to us within their submission that their proposals reflect community identities, by reuniting communities that are divided by the existing warding arrangements in this area. Our views were further strengthened by the submission we received from Bromley Farm Community Development Trust which supports the Council's proposals, suggesting they strengthen community identities.

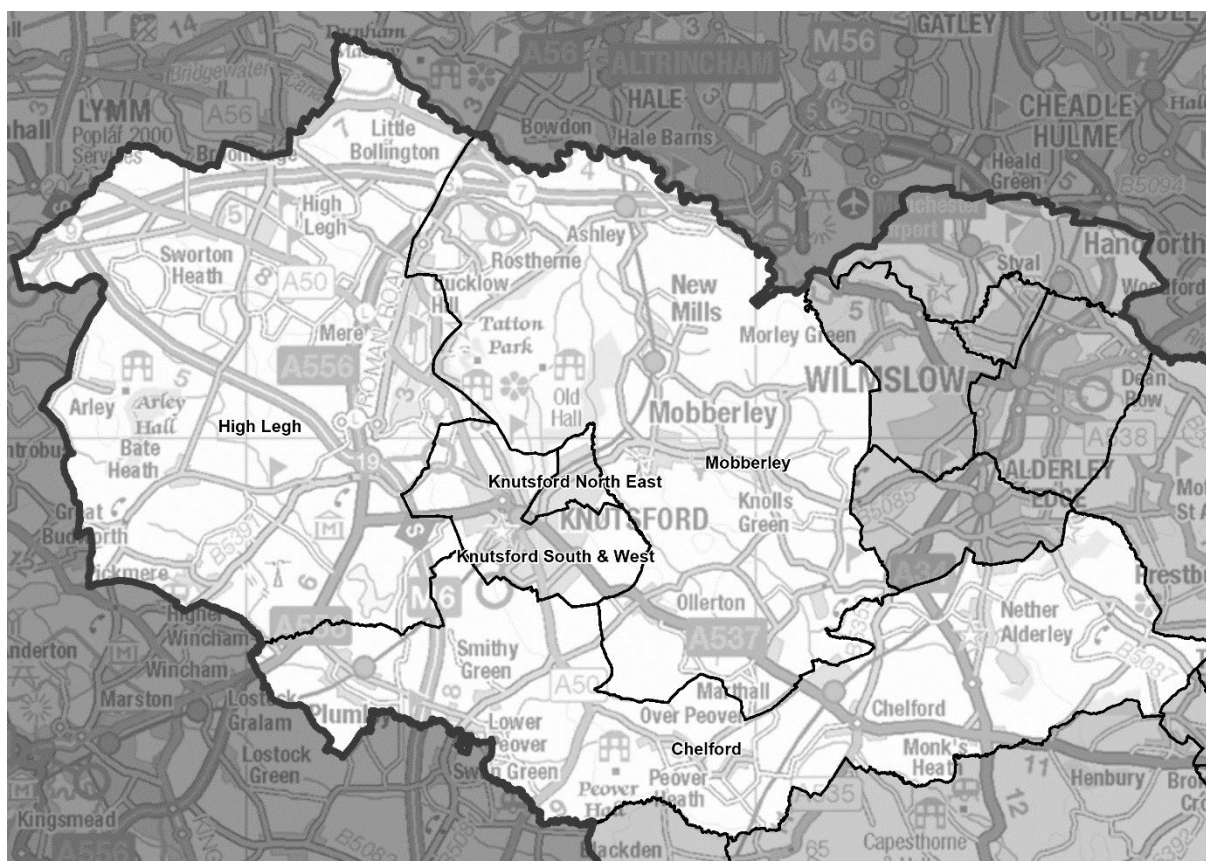
82 We also consider a ward with forecasted electoral variance over -10% to not possess good electoral equality. The Liberal Democrats' proposed Congleton North ward is forecasted a -11% variance and Councillor Seddon's proposed Congleton Central ward is forecast a variance of -14%. We consider that more comprehensive community-based evidence is required for us to justify such variances. In comparison, our proposed wards of Congleton West and Congleton East are forecasted 1% and -2% electoral variances respectively. Nonetheless, we welcome comments on this recommendation.

83 A local resident proposed for the Congleton area to consist of five wards. However, it was unclear how this would be configured into a warding pattern. We therefore were not persuaded to adopt this suggestion as part of our draft recommendations.

84 Congleton Town Council submitted a response arguing for Congleton Link Road to be adopted as the boundary for Congleton. However, they did not present a pattern of wards for this area for us to consider and they acknowledged that they were unclear on how their proposal would impact electoral equality. Despite this, we do agree with the town council that given the high level of development occurring

within this area, the Congleton Link Road would provide for a strong and locally recognisable boundary that would be reflective of communities in this area. We therefore explored various options to include all of the current electors and the anticipated developments south of Congleton Link Road within a Congleton ward. However, all options had a considerable impact on electoral equality in the neighbouring Gawsworth and Brereton wards. We were therefore not persuaded to adopt any of these options on this basis.

Knutsford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Chelford	1	-3%
High Legh	1	-10%
Knutsford North East	1	-9%
Knutsford South & West	2	-4%
Mobberley	1	-3%

Knutsford North East and Knutsford South & West

85 The Council, Knutsford Town Council and Liberal Democrats proposed to amend the existing three-councillor Knutsford ward to follow the revised Knutsford parish boundary. We received an alternative proposal from the Tatton Labour Party to divide Knutsford parish into two wards – a single-councillor Knutsford North East ward and a two-councillor Knutsford South & West ward.

86 We consider that the proposals made by the Tatton Labour Party better reflect the statutory criteria. We were persuaded by the evidence provided that their proposals would better reflect community identities and interests in Knutsford. However, their Knutsford North East ward is forecasted a -11% electoral variance by 2030. On our tour of the area, we explored various other boundaries that we could adopt to improve this variance. We determined that placing the boundary along

Hollow Lane would provide for a clear boundary that would also bring more electors into the proposed Knutsford North East ward, thereby improving the forecasted variance to -9%. We note that their proposals also respect the revised Knutsford parish boundary, which a local resident also argued should be reflected in our proposals for this area.

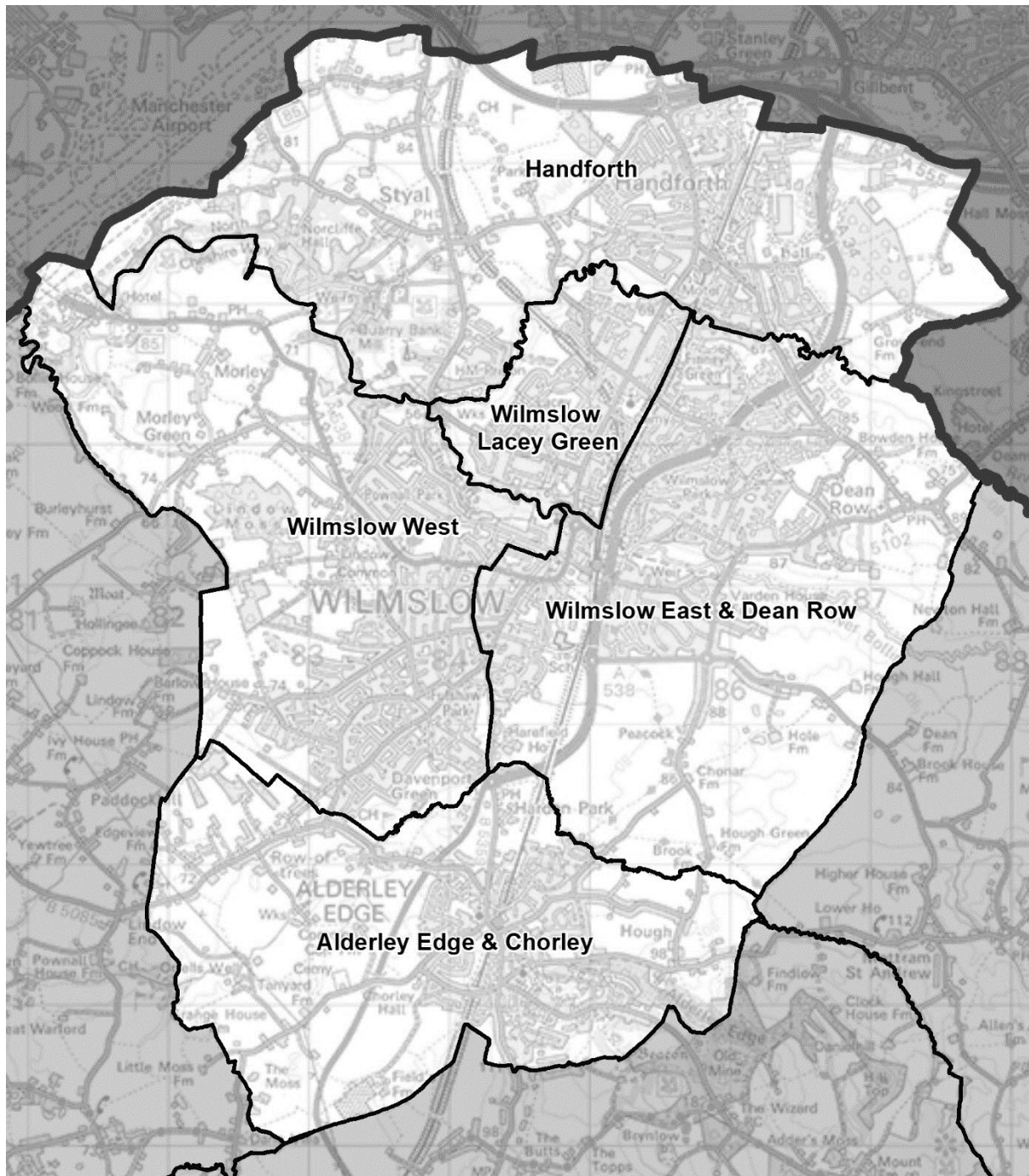
87 Therefore, as part of our draft recommendations, we have adopted the proposals put forward to us by Tatton Labour Party with the modification as described. However, we strongly encourage comments on our recommendations during the current consultation, and feedback on whether an alternative warding arrangement supported by community evidence will provide a better balance of our statutory criteria.

Chelford, High Legh and Mobberley

88 The proposals we received from the Council and Liberal Democrats for the wards of Chelford, High Legh and Mobberley were identical. However, we received submissions from Ollerton with Marthall Parish Council and Councillor Speakman that advocated for the retention of Ollerton with Marthall parish within Chelford ward. They argued the parish has a close working relationship with the other parishes that Chelford ward consists of and also shares close community ties. However, we are unable to adopt their request if we are to achieve good electoral equality in this area, as this proposal would result in a -15% forecasted electoral variance for Mobberley ward.

89 As a result, we propose to adopt the Council's and the Liberal Democrats' proposals for Chelford, High Legh and Mobberley wards as part of our draft recommendations. We are content that their proposals provide the most effective balance of our statutory criteria.

Wilmslow



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Alderley Edge & Chorley	1	0%
Handforth	2	-12%
Wilmslow East & Dean Row	2	5%
Wilmslow Lacey Green	1	-9%
Wilmslow West	2	0%

Alderley Edge & Chorley

90 We received identical proposals for a one-councillor Alderley Edge ward consisting of Alderley Edge and Chorley parishes from the Council and the Liberal Democrats. Submissions from Chorley Parish Council, Councillor Durbar and a local resident supported these proposals. However, Chorley Parish Council and Councillor Durbar advocated for the ward name to be amended to 'Alderley Edge & Chorley', to avoid a loss of identity for Chorley parish.

91 Great Warford Parish Council submitted a response which argued for Great Warford parish to be included within Alderley Edge ward due to residents regularly accessing the facilities and services including the shops and train station in Alderley Edge. We were not able to adopt this suggestion, despite the community evidence presented to us, as it would result in a 14% variance for Alderley Edge ward and a -18% variance for Mobberley. We consider that these electoral variances are too high to accept if we are to ensure good electoral equality in this area.

92 Due to the support received in favour of the Council's and the Liberal Democrats' proposals for Alderley Edge ward alongside good forecasted electoral equality, we have adopted their proposals as part of our draft recommendations. We also propose to adopt the name of 'Alderley Edge & Chorley' as put forward to us by Chorley Parish Council and Councillor Durbar, as we consider it to be logical, locally identifiable and will help to promote effective and convenient local government.

Handforth

93 Both the Liberal Democrats and the Council proposed a Handforth ward consisting of Handforth and Styal parishes that result in a -12% forecasted electoral variance. By moving the Colshaw Farm area into a Wilmslow ward and following parish boundaries, they argued that their proposed ward would better reflect communities in this area. The Council also argued that although the electorate forecast predicts 600 of the homes in the Handforth Garden Village site are to be built by 2030, a further 900 homes are planned for this area, suggesting that this electoral variance will improve over time. We also note that these proposals are supported by the Handforth Ratepayers' Association Independent Party, Handforth Town Council, Councillor Anderson and a handful of local residents.

94 We acknowledge the difficulty of proposing a ward in this area with good electoral equality that also respects parish boundaries. Therefore, despite the relatively high forecasted electoral variance, we consider that the Liberal Democrats' and the Council's proposals for Handforth ward are the best reflection of statutory criteria and have adopted them in our draft recommendations.

Wilmslow Lacey Green

95 The Liberal Democrats and the Council presented identical proposals for Wilmslow Lacey Green ward. We agree that the River Bollin and the railway line are

clear and identifiable boundaries for this ward and we consider this arrangement to better reflect community identities and interests in this area, based on the evidence received. As part of our draft recommendations, we therefore propose to adopt their proposals, which also results in a -9% forecasted variance, promoting good electoral equality in this area.

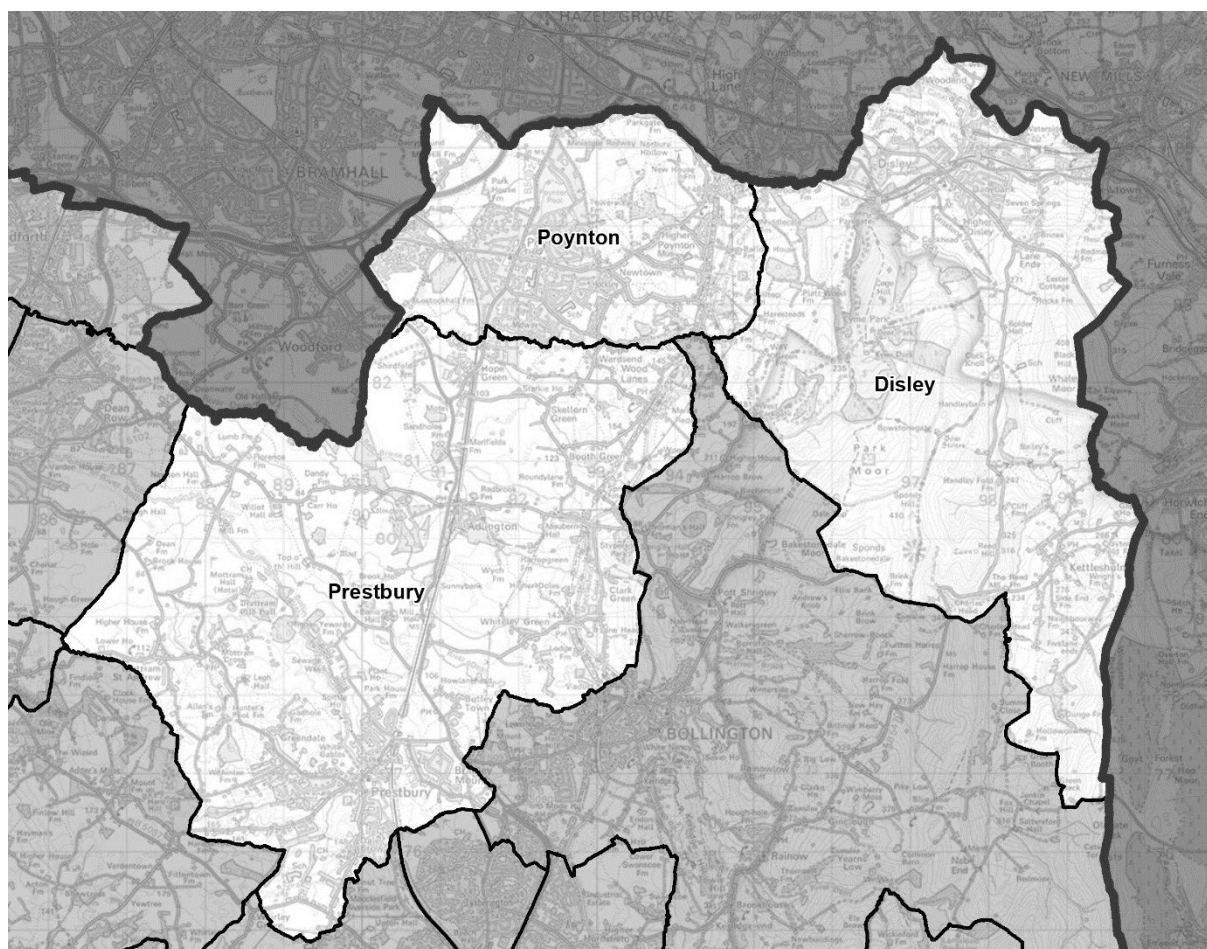
Wilmslow East & Dean Row and Wilmslow West

96 Both the Council and the Liberal Democrats proposed to include the entirety of Fulshaw Park in a Wilmslow West ward. They both also proposed to move Chorley parish into a ward with Alderley Edge parish from the existing Wilmslow West & Chorley ward. Both schemes also proposed to merge the existing Wilmslow Dean Row and Wilmslow East wards into a two-councillor ward, with the Council suggesting to adopt the name of Wilmslow East & Dean Row, to reflect the community identities of the two distinct communities, whereas the Liberal Democrats suggested the name of Wilmslow East.

97 However, the Liberal Democrats proposed to maintain the B5086 as the boundary between their proposed Wilmslow West and Wilmslow East wards. The Council instead diverted from this road to follow Hawthorn Street and Kennerley's Lane before rejoining the B5086. The Council argued that this would result in the town centre being concentrated within a single ward, which would allow it to be represented by a single councillor. They suggested that this would promote effective and convenient local government.

98 We were persuaded by the evidence received to adopt the Council's proposal as part of our draft recommendations, as we agree this modification would contribute to effective and convenient local government, in addition to better reflecting community identities and interests in this area. Furthermore, we also propose to adopt the name of Wilmslow East & Dean Row, to ensure that both communities are reflected within the ward name.

Disley, Poynton and Prestbury



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Disley	1	3%
Poynton	3	-2%
Prestbury	1	3%

Disley and Poynton

99 We received identical proposals for a three-councillor Poynton ward consisting entirely of Poynton with Worth parish and a single-councillor Disley ward consisting of Disley and Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley parishes from the Council and the Liberal Democrats. Support for these proposals was also expressed through submissions from Poynton & Disley Labour Party and Councillor Sewart. In light of the support received, we propose to adopt these proposals for Poynton and Disley wards as part of our draft recommendations, which both achieve good electoral equality by 2030.

Prestbury

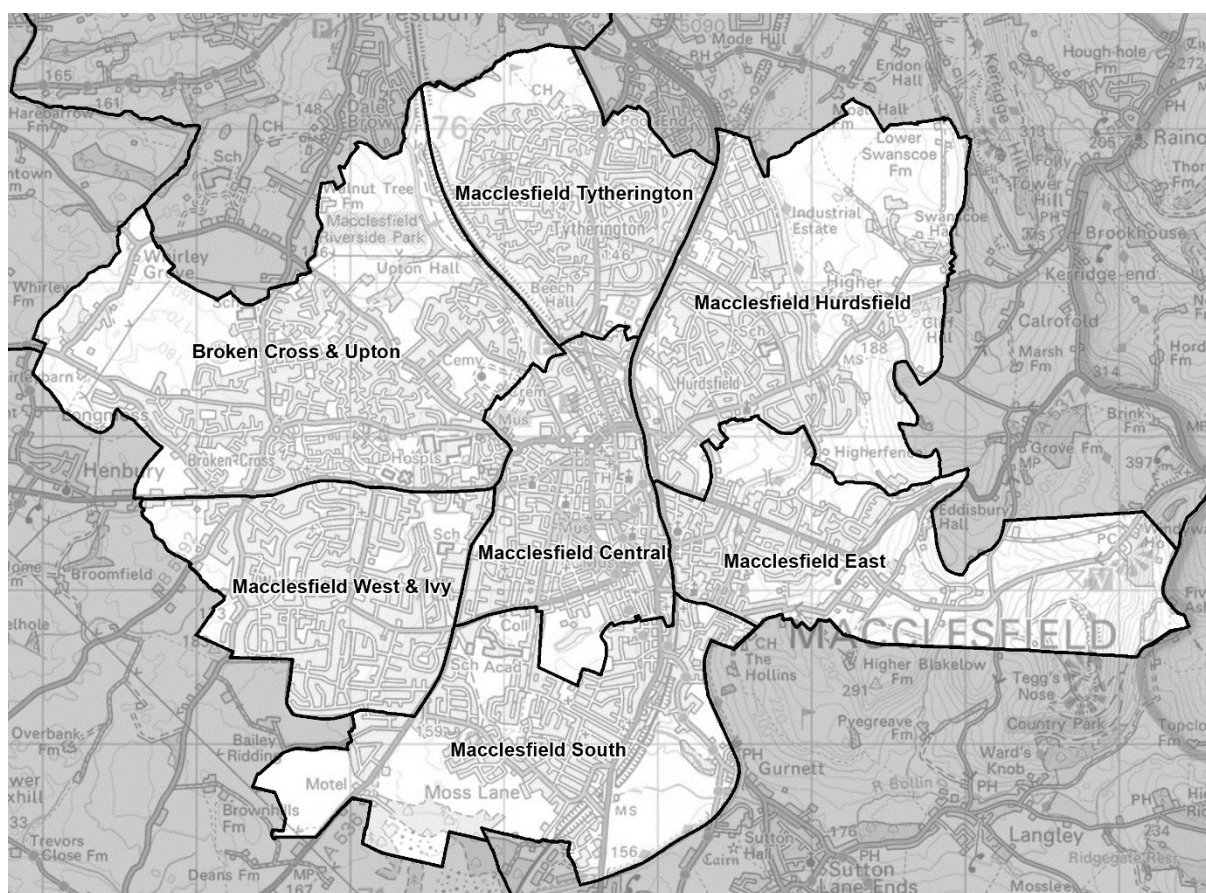
100 The Council and Liberal Democrats both proposed a single-councillor Prestbury ward consisting of the parishes of Adlington, Prestbury and Mottram St Andrew.

However, a submission from Over Alderley Parish Council opposed the proposed exclusion of Over Alderley parish from Prestbury ward. Over Alderley Parish Council provided evidence of the close relationship with Prestbury and Mottram St Andrew parishes and explained that good transport links between the areas allow the parishes to share their services and amenities.

101 While we note evidence provided by Over Alderley Parish Council, their proposal to retain Over Alderley parish within Prestbury ward would result in a -13% variance for Chelford ward and a 13% variance for Prestbury ward. We consider that the community evidence provided was not strong enough to warrant these levels of electoral inequality in both wards. As a consequence, we were not persuaded to adopt this proposal and we instead propose to adopt the suggestions from the Council and Liberal Democrats for Prestbury ward, which we consider to effectively balance our statutory criteria.

102 Furthermore, we are unable to adopt the request received from The Dumbah Association and many of its residents to amend the boundary between Prestbury and Bollington parishes. This is because we are unable to amend the external boundaries of any parishes, as this can only be achieved through a Community Governance Review, via the Council. In addition, we have also decided to not unite the entirety of Dumbah Lane within Prestbury ward by using Tytherington Lane as the proposed boundary. This is because it would involve the creation of a parish ward for Bollington parish composed of fewer than 30 electors, which we consider to not aid effective and convenient local government.

Macclesfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Broken Cross & Upton	2	1%
Macclesfield Central	2	6%
Macclesfield East	1	0%
Macclesfield Hurdsville	1	-2%
Macclesfield South	2	-10%
Macclesfield Tytherington	1	12%
Macclesfield West & Ivy	2	-5%

103 In response to our consultation, we received three schemes for Macclesfield – from the Council, the Liberal Democrats and the Macclesfield Labour Party. The Council and Liberal Democrats provided identical schemes aside from their proposals for Macclesfield Tytherington ward. The Macclesfield Labour Party proposed a significantly different warding arrangement for Macclesfield.

104 A local resident proposed Macclesfield to consist of 11 single-member wards. We were not persuaded to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations as it was unclear how these wards would be configured.

Macclesfield Tytherington

105 The Liberal Democrats proposed to retain the existing arrangements for a two-councillor Macclesfield Tytherington ward that follows the Macclesfield and Bollington parish boundary. The Council, supported by Councillor Edwardes, alternatively proposed to extend the boundary further north to The Silk Road, stating that this would better reflect community identities and promote effective and convenient local government. Both proposals result in a Macclesfield Tytherington ward with good electoral equality by 2030.

106 In contrast, the Macclesfield Labour Party submitted a proposal for a single-councillor Macclesfield Tytherington ward that is forecast an electoral variance of 13%. They transferred the community of Bollinbrook from the existing Macclesfield Tytherington ward, as they argued the railway and the River Bollin both represent physical barriers for electors across the current ward. This argument was supported by the community evidence we received from many residents during consultation that argued that Bollinbrook has no community ties to the Tytherington area and should be included within a Broken Cross & Upton ward. The Macclesfield Civic Society also stated that Bollinbrook is separated from the rest of the ward by the River Bollin. We visited this location whilst touring the area and we agree that the Bollinbrook community is separate from the rest of Macclesfield Tytherington ward.

107 After careful consideration of the persuasive community evidence received from Macclesfield Labour Party and the residents of Bollinbrook, we have decided to adopt Macclesfield Labour Party's proposal for Macclesfield Tytherington ward, subject to a minor modification. We propose to include the electors east of Tytherington Lane into the proposed Bollington & Rainow ward, to ensure the entirety of Springwood Estate is contained within one ward. This reflects the evidence received from the Council which stated that their recent community governance review consultation revealed the existence of community ties between Springwood Estate residents and the area of Bollington north of The Silk Road. Our proposed modification also improves electoral equality slightly from a 13% to a 12% forecasted variance. While this electoral variance is slightly higher than what we would usually recommend, we consider it is justified, when taken into consideration along with our other two statutory criteria.

Broken Cross & Upton and Macclesfield West & Ivy

108 Macclesfield Labour Party proposed to broadly retain a two-councillor Broken Cross & Upton ward, with the addition of the Bollinbrook area and the development site included in the Local Plan north of Chelford Road. They also proposed a two-councillor Macclesfield West & Ivy ward which generally reflected the existing arrangement, with the addition of the Ivy Bank area west of Congleton Road.

109 In comparison, the Council and the Liberal Democrats both proposed to merge the two existing wards of Broken Cross & Upton and Macclesfield West & Ivy into a

three-member Macclesfield West ward, also including the development site north of Chester Road.

110 As previously discussed, we have proposed to not include Bollinbrook in Macclesfield Tytherington ward. However, including Bollinbrook within the Council's and the Liberal Democrats' proposed Macclesfield West ward would produce a 20% forecasted variance. We consider this variance too high to accept.

111 As a result, we are recommending the Macclesfield Labour Party's proposals for two two-councillor wards of Broken Cross & Upton and Macclesfield West & Ivy. Both wards are forecasted good electoral equality by 2030 and reflect communities based on local evidence received. Both wards follow Chester Road and Congleton Road as clear and identifiable boundaries, which will be conducive to effective and convenient local government.

Macclesfield Central and Macclesfield South

112 The Council and the Liberal Democrats both proposed to retain the existing arrangements for Macclesfield Central and Macclesfield South, with the addition of the development site west of Congleton Road in Gawsworth parish.

113 The Macclesfield Labour Party alternatively proposed a Macclesfield Central ward that consists of the electors south of Tytherington School and challenged the Council's reasonings for not including the electors around Coare Street and Station Street. The Macclesfield Labour Party argued that Hibel Road is not a physical barrier as stated in the Council's submission and that there are crossing points that are used daily. We also received a submission from a local resident that supported the Macclesfield Labour Party's argument. The Macclesfield Labour Party's proposed Macclesfield South ward extended further north than the boundary suggested by the Council and Liberal Democrats, following the edge of South Park as the boundary, which they suggested to reflect communities.

114 Councillor Shepherd expressed opposition towards including Gawsworth Moss parish ward within Macclesfield South ward and proposed to reunite the entirety of Gawsworth parish within Gawsworth ward to reflect community ties. We visited this location whilst touring the area and consider it to be urban in nature with close links to Macclesfield for amenities and services. We were persuaded by the evidence received from the Council, Liberal Democrats, Macclesfield Labour Party and Councillor Woods to include this area within our proposed Macclesfield South ward. Nonetheless, we welcome comments on this recommendation.

115 We consider the evidence received from Macclesfield Labour Party and the local resident to be more compelling and we propose to adopt their suggestions for Macclesfield Central and Macclesfield South wards in our draft recommendations.

We are content that these proposals provide a good balance of our statutory criteria.

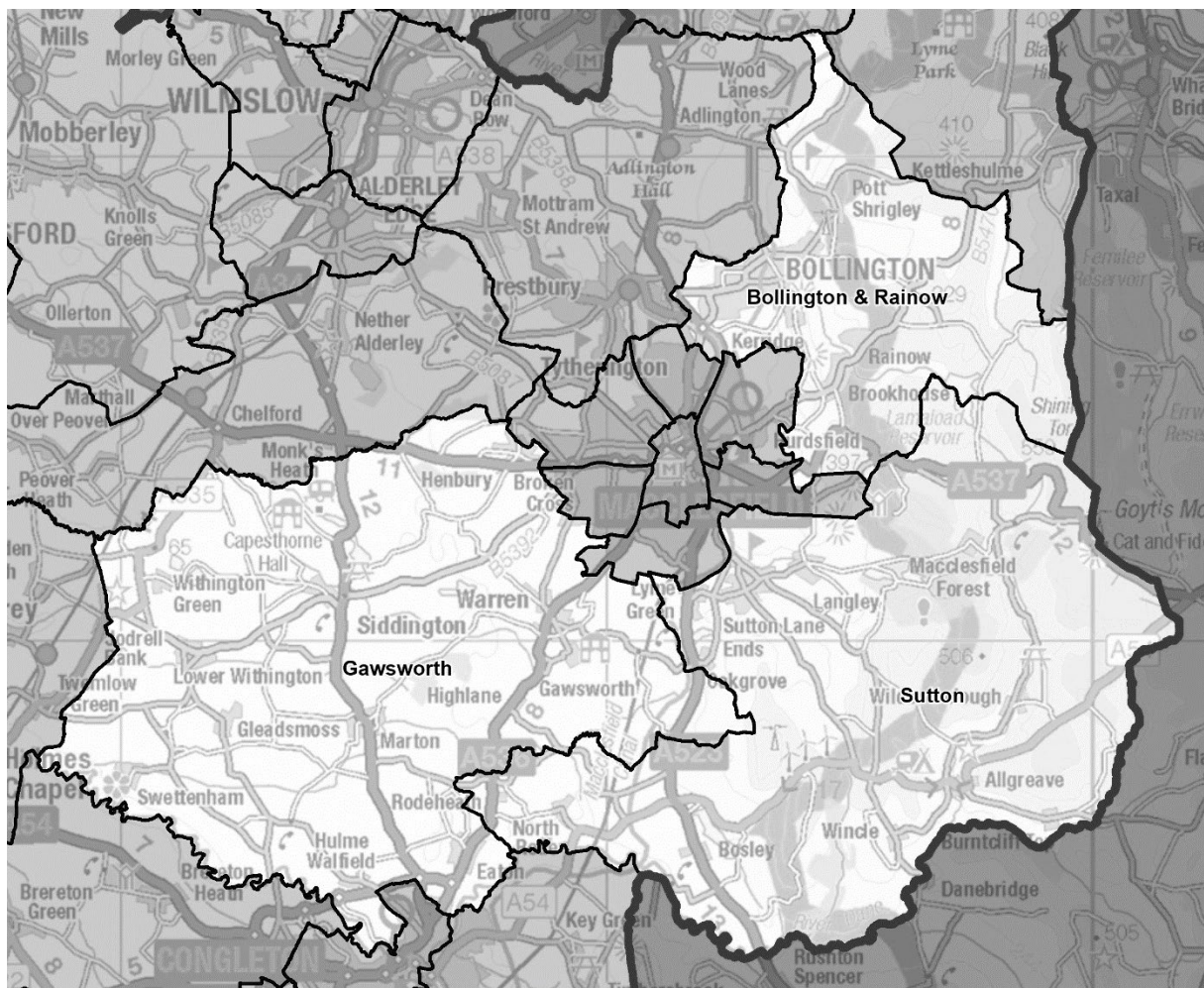
Macclesfield East and Macclesfield Hurdsfield

116 The Council, the Liberal Democrats and the Macclesfield Labour Party all proposed identical warding arrangements for Macclesfield East and Macclesfield Hurdsfield wards. They all proposed to retain the current Macclesfield East ward, which is proposed to have good electoral equality by 2030. All of the proposals suggested a Macclesfield Hurdsfield ward similar to the existing arrangement, with the addition of Higher Hurdsfield parish. The inclusion of this parish into a Macclesfield Hurdsfield ward is also supported by the Macclesfield Civic Society and a local resident.

117 Higher Hurdsfield Parish Council and Bollington Town Council, however, both opposed this proposal. They both requested for the parishes to be united in a single ward due to their close working relationship. Higher Hurdsfield Parish Council consider themselves a rural parish that should not be attached to urban Macclesfield. However, including Higher Hurdsfield parish in Bollington & Rainow ward with Bollington parish would produce a -17% forecasted variance for Macclesfield Hurdsfield ward. We consider this electoral variance too high to accept and would not provide for the best balance of our statutory criteria.

118 We therefore determined that the proposals put forward to us by the Council, Liberal Democrats and Macclesfield Labour Party resulted in the best reflection of our statutory criteria and we recommend them as part of our draft recommendations.

Bollington & Rainow, Gawsworth and Sutton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Bollington & Rainow	2	-3%
Gawsworth	1	5%
Sutton	1	-3%

Bollington & Rainow, Gawsworth and Sutton

119 The Liberal Democrats and the Council's proposals for a single-councillor Sutton ward differed in relation to North Rode parish. The Liberal Democrats retained North Rode parish in Gawsworth ward, whereas the Council included it within their proposed Sutton ward. Good community evidence was presented to us to justify both proposals.

120 Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booth Parish Council opposed the Council's proposed Gawsworth ward and argued for Gawsworth and Congleton to be 'combined', although did not outline how this would be configured. Consequently, we did not adopt this proposal.

121 Furthermore, the Liberal Democrats' proposed single-councillor Gawsworth ward resulted in a 23% forecasted variance. We consider this electoral variance exceptionally high and it would not provide for good electoral equality in this area of the authority. We have therefore adopted the Council's Gawsworth and Sutton wards as part of our draft recommendations, which are both forecast good electoral equality by 2030.

122 This results in a single-councillor Sutton ward comprised of North Rode, Bosley, Sutton, Wincle and Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough parishes and a single-councillor Gawsworth ward comprising of the majority of Gawsworth, Henbury, Siddington, Marton, Swettenham, Lower Withington, Eaton and the majority of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths parishes.

123 We received near-identical proposals from the Liberal Democrats and the Council for a two-councillor Bollington & Rainow ward comprised of Bollington, Pott Shringley and Rainow parishes. Rainow Parish Council requested the retention of Rainow parish within Sutton ward on the grounds of effective and convenient local government, providing evidence of the close working relationship with Sutton parish, which Sutton Parish Council also stated in their submission. Rainow Parish Council also stated that they are a rural parish, a statement support by Councillor O'Leary, and they consider Bollington an urban area which faces different issues to Rainow.

124 We decided not to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations, as retaining Rainow parish within Sutton ward under the Council's and the Liberal Democrats' proposals would result in a 25% forecasted electoral variance for Sutton ward. We considered this variance too high to adopt if we are to ensure good electoral equality across wards.

125 To conclude, we are recommending the Bollington & Rainow ward as proposed by the Council and the Liberal Democrats, with a modification as a result of warding arrangements in north-east Macclesfield which we addressed in the Macclesfield Tytherington section.

Conclusions

126 The table below provides a summary of the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Cheshire East, referencing the 2023 and 2030 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 to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2023	2030
Number of councillors	82	82
Number of electoral wards	50	50
Average number of electors per councillor	3,838	4,114
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	6	0

Draft recommendations

Cheshire East should be made up of 82 councillors serving 50 wards representing 23 single-councillor wards, 22 two-councillor wards and five three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for the Cheshire East. You can also view our draft recommendations for Cheshire East on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/cheshire-east

Parish electoral arrangements

127 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.

128 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, Cheshire East 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.

129 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 Congleton, Crewe, Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Nantwich, Sandbach and Wilmslow.

130 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Congleton parish.

Draft recommendations

Congleton Town Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	3
North	4
North East	5
South East	6
West	4

131 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Crewe parish.

Draft recommendations

Crewe Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Crewe Central	2
Crewe East	4
Crewe Maw Green	2
Crewe North	2
Crewe South	4
Crewe St Barnabas	2
Crewe West	4

132 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for the grouped parish of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths.

Draft recommendations

Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Giantswood	3
Hulme Walfield	5
Somerford Booths	1

133 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Knutsford parish.

Draft recommendations

Knutsford Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bexton & Town Centre	3
Cross Town North	2
Cross Town South	1
Nether	3
Norbury Booths	3
St John's Wood	3

134 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Macclesfield parish.

Draft recommendations

Macclesfield Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Broken Cross & Upton	2
Macclesfield Central	2
Macclesfield East	1
Macclesfield Hurdsfield	1
Macclesfield South	2
Macclesfield Springwood	1
Macclesfield Tytherington	1
Macclesfield West & Ivy	2

135 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Nantwich parish.

Draft recommendations

Nantwich Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Nantwich North	3
Nantwich South	6
Nantwich West	6

136 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Sandbach parish.

Draft recommendations

Sandbach Town Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath	9
Sandbach Heath & East	5
Sandbach Town	4
Sandbach Wheelock	3

137 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Wilmslow parish.

Draft recommendations

Wilmslow Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Wilmslow Dean Row	4
Wilmslow East	2
Wilmslow Lacey Green	3
Wilmslow West	6

Have your say

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

139 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Cheshire East, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

140 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

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

142 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Cheshire East)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
7th Floor
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

143 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Cheshire East 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.

144 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.

145 Electoral equality:

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

146 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?

147 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?

148 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.lqbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

149 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, 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.

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

151 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 Cheshire East in 2027.

Equalities

152 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

Draft recommendations for Cheshire East

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Alderley Edge & Chorley	1	4,059	4,059	6%	4,095	4,095	0%
2	Alsager	3	11,567	3,856	0%	12,503	4,168	1%
3	Audlem	1	4,310	4,310	12%	4,432	4,432	8%
4	Bollington & Rainow	2	7,817	3,909	2%	7,964	3,982	-3%
5	Brereton	1	3,760	3,760	-2%	4,532	4,532	10%
6	Broken Cross & Upton	2	8,087	4,044	5%	8,335	4,168	1%
7	Bunbury	1	3,838	3,838	0%	4,019	4,019	-2%
8	Chelford	1	3,826	3,826	0%	3,976	3,976	-3%
9	Congleton East	3	11,779	3,926	2%	12,099	4,033	-2%
10	Congleton West	3	11,726	3,909	2%	12,426	4,142	1%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Crewe East	2	8,957	4,479	17%	8,968	4,484	9%
12 Crewe Maw Green	1	2,697	2,697	-30%	3,718	3,718	-10%
13 Crewe North	2	8,458	4,229	10%	8,565	4,283	4%
14 Crewe South	2	7,281	3,641	-5%	7,650	3,825	-7%
15 Crewe St Barnabas	1	3,546	3,546	-8%	4,038	4,038	-2%
16 Crewe West	2	7,998	3,999	4%	8,059	4,030	-2%
17 Dane Valley	2	8,315	4,158	8%	8,494	4,247	3%
18 Disley	1	4,245	4,245	11%	4,253	4,253	3%
19 Gawsworth	1	3,199	3,199	-17%	4,321	4,321	5%
20 Handforth	2	5,878	2,939	-23%	7,238	3,619	-12%
21 Haslington	1	4,265	4,265	11%	4,394	4,394	7%
22 High Legh	1	3,644	3,644	-5%	3,701	3,701	-10%
23 Knutsford North East	1	3,171	3,171	-17%	3,724	3,724	-9%
24 Knutsford South & West	2	7,242	3,621	-6%	7,915	3,958	-4%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25	Leighton	2	5,464	2,732	-29%	7,708	3,854	-6%
26	Macclesfield Central	2	8,020	4,010	4%	8,714	4,357	6%
27	Macclesfield East	1	3,620	3,620	-6%	4,106	4,106	0%
28	Macclesfield Hurdsfield	1	4,042	4,042	5%	4,024	4,024	-2%
29	Macclesfield South	2	6,022	3,011	-22%	7,401	3,701	-10%
30	Macclesfield Tytherington	1	4,632	4,632	21%	4,618	4,618	12%
31	Macclesfield West & Ivy	2	7,506	3,753	-2%	7,829	3,915	-5%
32	Middlewich	3	11,298	3,766	-2%	12,623	4,207	2%
33	Mobberley	1	3,946	3,946	3%	3,978	3,978	-3%
34	Nantwich North & West	2	7,722	3,861	1%	8,399	4,200	2%
35	Nantwich South & Stapeley	2	8,546	4,273	11%	8,830	4,415	7%
36	Odd Rode	2	8,137	4,069	6%	8,237	4,119	0%
37	Poynton	3	11,766	3,922	2%	12,098	4,032	-2%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
38	Prestbury	1	4,206	4,206	10%	4,239	4,239	3%
39	Sandbach East & Central	2	8,255	4,128	8%	8,611	4,306	5%
40	Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath	2	7,745	3,873	1%	8,020	4,010	-3%
41	Shavington	2	8,523	4,262	11%	8,764	4,382	7%
42	Sutton	1	3,072	3,072	-20%	3,995	3,995	-3%
43	Weston	1	2,109	2,109	-45%	4,278	4,278	4%
44	Wheelock & Winterley	1	3,746	3,746	-2%	3,842	3,842	-7%
45	Wilmslow East & Dean Row	2	8,460	4,230	10%	8,669	4,335	5%
46	Wilmslow Lacey Green	1	3,684	3,684	-4%	3,758	3,758	-9%
47	Wilmslow West	2	8,156	4,078	6%	8,264	4,132	0%
48	Wistaston	2	8,550	4,275	11%	8,576	4,288	4%
49	Wrenbury	1	3,863	3,863	1%	4,024	4,024	-2%
50	Wybunbury	1	3,895	3,895	1%	4,282	4,282	4%
Totals		82	314,649	-	-	337,307	-	-

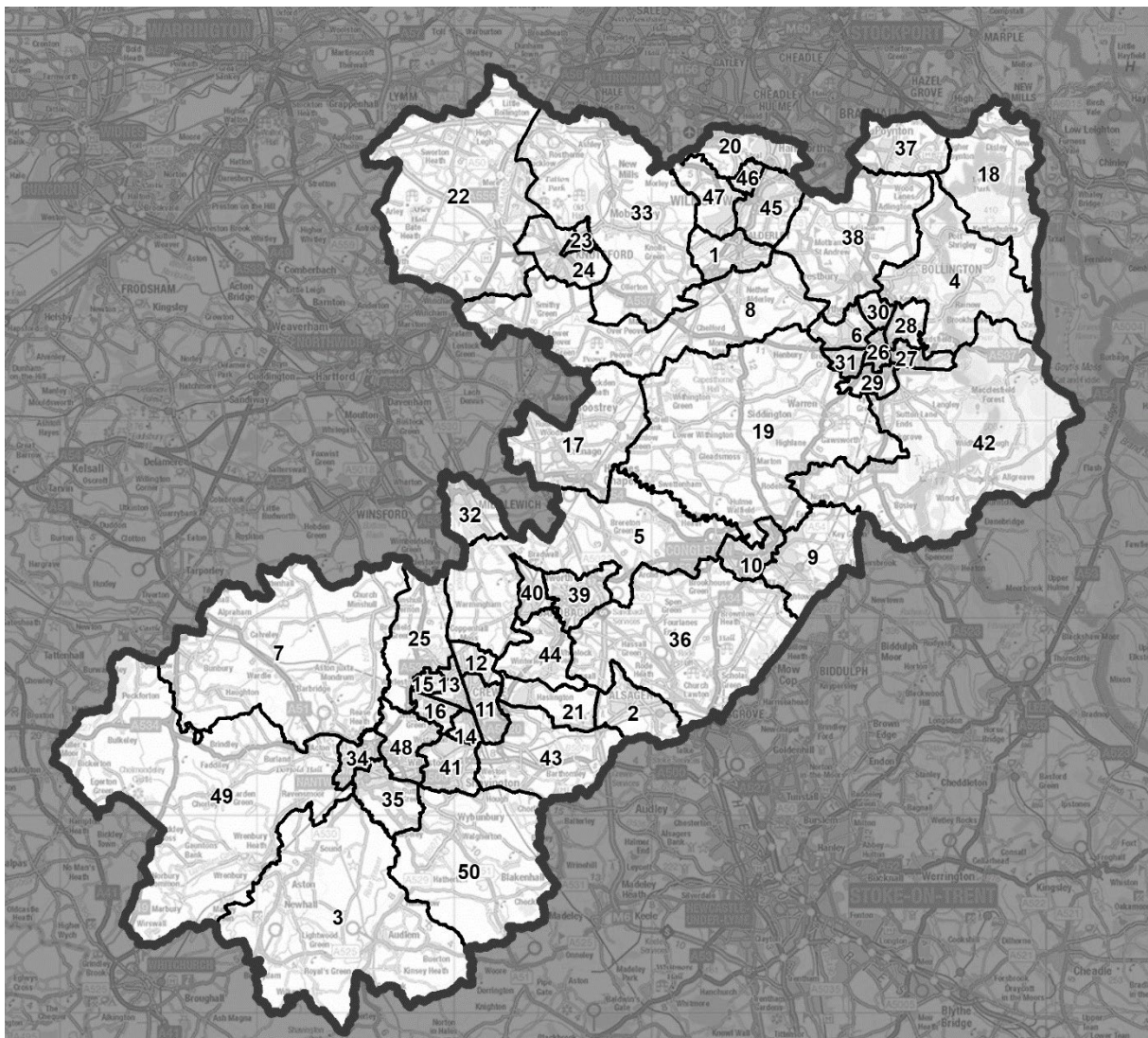
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Averages	–	–	3,838	–	–	4,114	–

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Alderley Edge & Chorley
2	Alsager
3	Audlem
4	Bollington & Rainow
5	Brereton
6	Broken Cross & Upton
7	Bunbury
8	Chelford
9	Congleton East
10	Congleton West
11	Crewe East
12	Crewe Maw Green

13	Crewe North
14	Crewe South
15	Crewe St Barnabas
16	Crewe West
17	Dane Valley
18	Disley
19	Gawsworth
20	Handforth
21	Haslington
22	High Legh
23	Knutsford North East
24	Knutsford South & West
25	Leighton
26	Macclesfield Central
27	Macclesfield East
28	Macclesfield Hurdsfield
29	Macclesfield South
30	Macclesfield Tytherington
31	Macclesfield West & Ivy
32	Middlewich
33	Mobberley
34	Nantwich North & West
35	Nantwich South & Stapeley
36	Odd Rode
37	Poynton
38	Prestbury
39	Sandbach East & Central
40	Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath
41	Shavington
42	Sutton
43	Weston
44	Wheelock & Winterley
45	Wilmslow East & Dean Row
46	Wilmslow Lacey Green
47	Wilmslow West
48	Wistaston
49	Wrenbury
50	Wybunbury

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/cheshire-east

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/cheshire-east

Local Authority

- Cheshire East Council

Political Groups

- Cheshire East Liberal Democrats
- Handforth Ratepayers' Association Independent Party
- Macclesfield Labour Party
- Poynton & Disley Labour Party
- Tatton Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor L. Anderson (Cheshire East Council)
- Councillor R. Douglas (Congleton Town Council)
- Councillor B. Durbar (Chorley Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Edwardes (Cheshire East Council)
- Councillor K. Edwards (Bollington Town Council)
- Councillor C. O'Leary (Cheshire East Council)
- Councillor J. Priest (Cheshire East Council)
- Councillor H. Seddon (Cheshire East Council)
- Councillor P. Shepherd (Gawsworth Parish Council)
- Councillor N. Speakman (Ollerton with Marthall Parish Council)
- Councillor M. Sewart (Cheshire East Council)
- Councillor S. Waltho (Eaton Parish Council)
- Councillor P. Woods (Gawsworth Parish Council)

Local Organisations

- Bromley Farm Community Development Trust
- Macclesfield Civic Society
- The Dumbah Association

Parish and Town Councils

- Alsager Town Council
- Bollington Town Council
- Bradwall Parish Council
- Brereton Parish Council
- Chorley Parish Council
- Congleton Town Council
- Great Warford Parish Council
- Handforth Town Council
- Higher Hurdsfield Parish Council
- Holmes Chapel Parish Council
- Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council
- Knutsford Town Council
- Ollerton with Marthall Parish Council
- Over Alderley Parish Council
- Rainow Parish Council
- Somerford Parish Council
- Sutton Parish Council

Local Residents

- 87 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

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.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row,
London,
EC1Y 8YZ

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

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Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

X: @LGBCE