

New electoral arrangements for Barnsley Council Final Recommendations

December 2024

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Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Electoral review

December 2024

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Barnsley?

7 We are conducting a review of Barnsley ('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 Barnsley 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 Barnsley

9 Barnsley should be represented by 63 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Barnsley should have 21 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; four (Darton East, Dearne North Dearne South and Old Town) will stay the same.

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

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 have an effect on local

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

taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Barnsley. 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
17 October 2023	Number of councillors decided
7 November 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
12 February 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
7 May 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
9 September 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
3 December 2024	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

18 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

19 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2023	2029 (Initial Figures)	2029 (Revised Figures) *
Electorate of Barnsley	184,406	214,901	193,614
Number of councillors	63	63	63
Average number of electors per councillor	2,927	3,411	3,073

* see below for information

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 Barnsley are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2029, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2024. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 16% by 2029.

23 This projected increase was driven by a large amount of housing development in the Cudworth, Dodworth and Monk Bretton areas. We considered the information

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.

provided by the Council and were initially satisfied that the projected figures were sound. We published these figures on our website when starting our consultation on warding patterns.

24 During the consultation on warding patterns, we received a submission that challenged the electorate forecasts for Barnsley, arguing that an increase of 30,495 electors was unrealistic and not supported by growth trends in population or housing development. We put these concerns to the Council which agreed that the initial forecast figure was too high. This was due to an error in the calculation of forecast housing development up to and beyond the five-year period we have regard for under legislation.

25 We worked with officers at the Council to develop a revised set of electorate figures. These revised figures will see a forecast electorate figure of 193,614 for Barnsley in 2029. This is a reduction from the original forecast of 214,901 electors. This figure would see an increase in the electorate of 5% over the next five years as opposed to 16% under the initial figure.

26 We were content that this revised figure provided a more realistic forecast for Barnsley and used it to produce our draft recommendations.

27 For those draft recommendations, it should be noted that, when assessing the various different proposals received for the borough, we measured these against the revised forecast figure, rather than the original forecast under which they were developed. We were satisfied that the change in the forecast would not, of itself, rule out any of the proposals put forward to us during the initial consultation.

28 We received no further comments on the electorate forecasts during the consultation on our draft recommendations and have therefore continued to use this revised figure as the basis of our final recommendations.

29 It should be noted that 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

30 Barnsley Council currently has 63 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.

31 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 63 councillors.

32 As Barnsley 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.

33 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on warding patterns and therefore based our draft recommendations on a 63-member council.

34 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. Councillor Barnard reiterated his views made during our consideration of council size that Barnsley should have 42 councillors with two councillors per ward and all out elections.

35 As stated above, as the authority elects by thirds, we must follow the presumption that it have a uniform pattern of three-member wards. Furthermore, only Barnsley Council has the power to make a change to its electoral cycle and the Commission has no power to do this as part of an electoral review.

36 We have therefore based our final recommendations on 63 councillors.

Ward boundaries consultation

37 We received 141 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals from the Council, Barnsley Council Liberal Democrat Group and a local resident. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough. Of these submissions, 112 were from local residents in Silkstone Common in response to a proposal that had been made by the Council in its submission.

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

38 The three borough-wide schemes provided uniform patterns of three-councillor wards for Barnsley. All three submissions were based on the original electorate forecasts; however, as stated above, we applied the revised electorate figures to these schemes as part of our consideration of them. We carefully considered all the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

39 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of all three authority-wide proposals where we considered they met our statutory criteria. We also took into account local evidence received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

40 We conducted a virtual tour of Barnsley in order to look at the various different proposals. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

41 Our draft recommendations were for 21 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

42 We received 225 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included responses from the Council, the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council and the local resident who proposed a warding pattern during the earlier consultation. These submissions provided responses to either all or a majority of our draft recommendations. We also received a submission from the local resident who had identified the earlier issue with the electorate forecasts commenting on our proposed wards. Councillor Barnard also made a submission regarding the size of the council and the proposals in the Stainborough area.

43 The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly the proposals in the Stainborough area. In respect of this area, we received 132 submissions in response to a proposal that had been made by the Council in its submission. We also received 45 submissions regarding our proposals in the Birdwell area. We received six submissions from councillors, one from a Member of Parliament, two submissions from parish and town councils, one from a local organisation and 211 from individual local residents.

44 At the conclusion of the consultation on our draft recommendations, we conducted an in-person tour of Barnsley in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Final recommendations

45 Our final recommendations are for 21 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.

46 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in the Dodworth, Kingstone, Rockingham and Worsbrough areas based on the submissions received. We also make minor modifications to the boundaries of Central ward and Cudworth and Monk Bretton wards. We also propose to amend several ward names that we put forward in our draft recommendations.

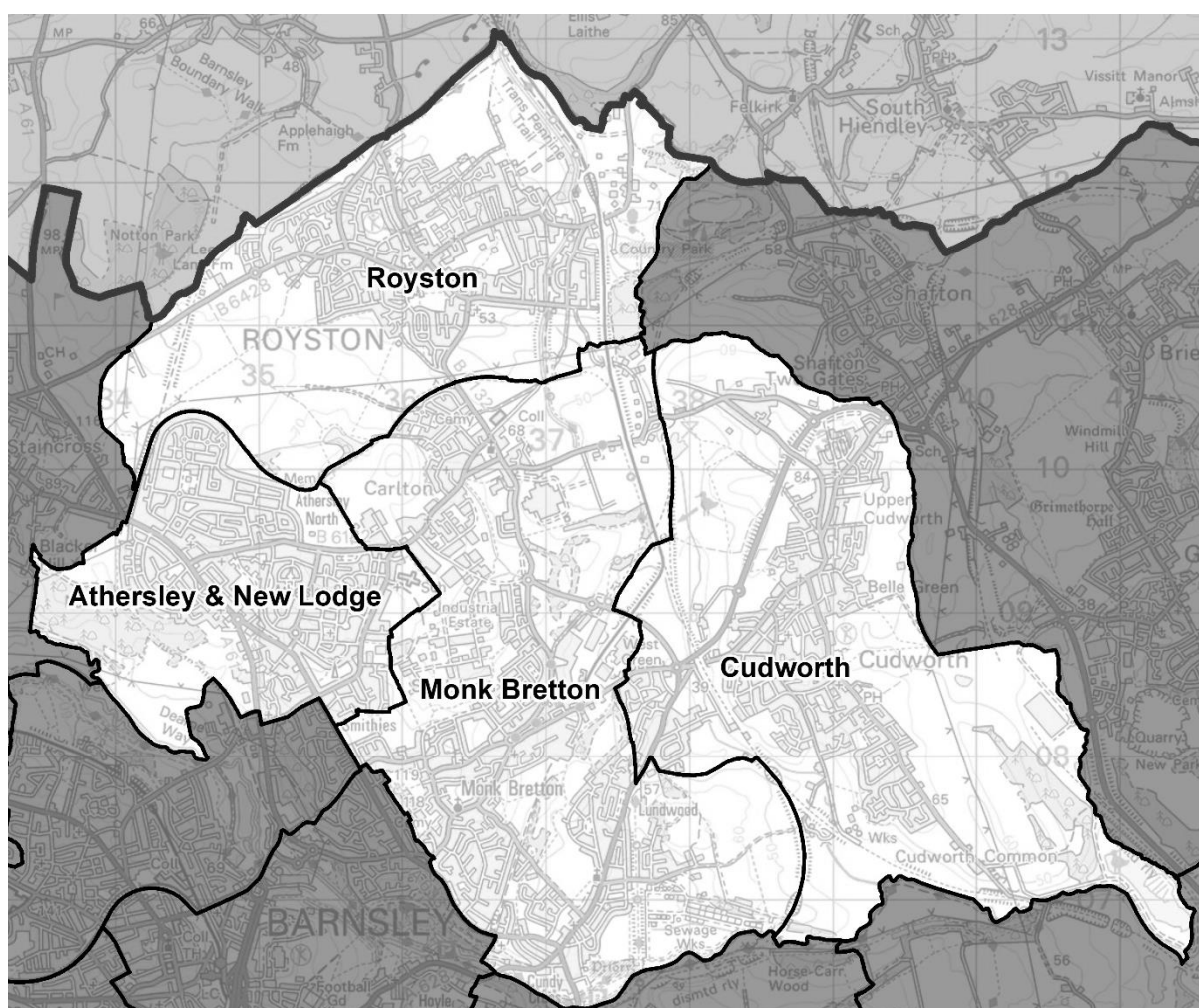
47 The tables and maps on pages 10–28 detail our final recommendations for each area of Barnsley. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

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

48 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 35 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Athersley & New Lodge, Cudworth, Monk Bretton and Royston



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Athersley & New Lodge	3	-6%
Cudworth	3	-8%
Monk Bretton	3	8%
Royston	3	-8%

Athersley & New Lodge, Cudworth, Monk Bretton and Royston

49 In response to our draft recommendations, the Council supported the boundaries of all four of these wards but proposed that Athersley ward revert to its existing name of St Helen's as being more reflective of communities in the ward. The Liberal Democrats also made no objection to the boundaries of these four wards but also commented on the name for Athersley ward. They proposed that the ward be renamed Athersley & New Lodge so that New Lodge residents did not feel 'disenfranchised'. They also argued that a secular name for the ward as opposed to one based on an ecclesiastical parish was more consistent with other ward names. A local resident supported this proposal.

50 The proposal to revert to the St Helen's ward name was also supported by a local resident and a further resident supported the Athersley name. Amongst other submissions a local resident wrote in support of the inclusion of the village of Carlton in Monk Bretton ward and of the Burton Road area being included in Monk Bretton ward.

51 A local resident wrote in support of the proposed Cudworth and Monk Bretton wards but suggested the boundary be slightly amended so that all electors living on Carrs Lane be included in Cudworth ward given that Carrs Lane has no direct transport access into Monk Bretton ward. Another local resident suggested that properties along Rotherham Road from Westgate to Burton Road be included in Monk Bretton rather than Central ward and a further local resident supported our proposed Royston ward.

52 Having considered the submissions received, we propose to make one small amendment to the boundary between Cudworth and Monk Bretton wards and to change the name of Athersley ward to Athersley & New Lodge.

53 We considered the proposal that properties along Rotherham Road from Westgate to Burton Road be included in Monk Bretton ward but did determine that insufficient evidence had been received to justify this proposal, particularly as it would result in Monk Bretton ward having 11% more electors than the authority average and Central ward having 11% fewer electors than the average by 2029.

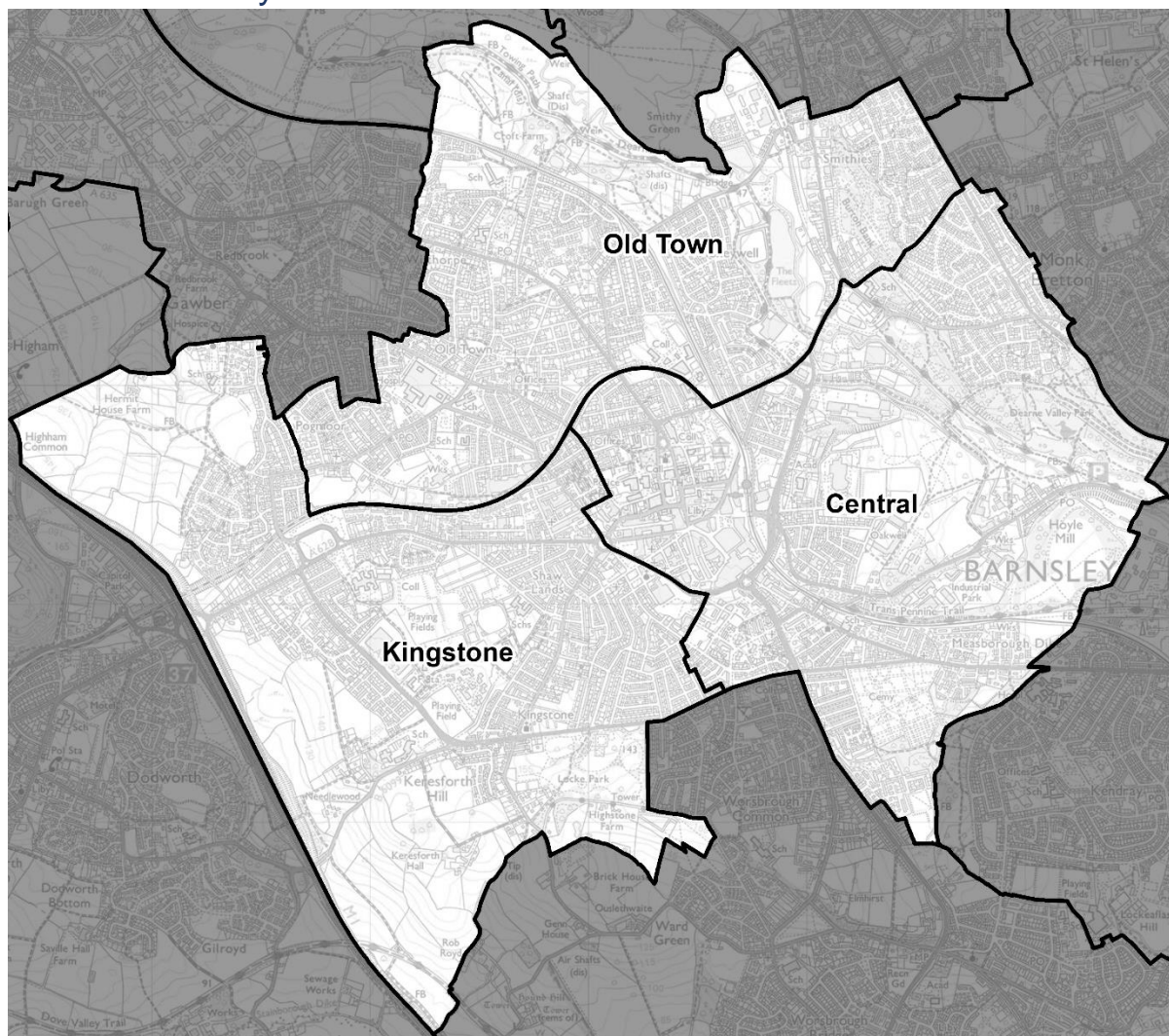
54 We propose to move the boundary between Cudworth and Monk Bretton from its existing alignment along the old railway line towards Darfield to follow the old railway line towards Stairfoot. This ensures that all properties off Carrs Lane are included in Cudworth ward which is where their most direct access route lies.

55 We also considered the various comments on the names of Athersley ward, and we propose to adopt the proposal to rename the ward Athersley & New Lodge. We found the evidence for that ward name to be the most compelling given the communities in the ward and the location of amenities with the St Helen's name appearing in neighbouring wards.

56 We propose no other changes to these wards and confirm the remaining draft recommendations as final.

57 Our proposed final recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Athersley & New Lodge, Cudworth, Monk Bretton and Royston. These wards will have electoral variances of -6%, -8%, 8% and -8%, respectively, by 2029.

Central Barnsley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Central	3	-7%
Kingstone	3	-1%
Old Town	3	-5%

Central and Old Town

58 The Council supported our proposal to retain the existing wards as part of our draft recommendations whilst noting it was unfortunate that parts of Monk Bretton were included in Central ward and that the Pogmoor community was divided between wards. The Council added that it had been unable to identify any warding pattern that resolved these issues and also met the Commission's statutory criteria. The Council also stated that the current wards had been in place for over 20 years and it considered them to be well established.

59 In their submission, the Liberal Democrats proposed two amendments to the boundary between Central ward and Kingstone ward. They proposed that the roads

off Wood Street (Fleming Place, Providence Court, Allatt Close, Rebecca Row and Duke Street) should move from Kingstone ward to Central ward to unite the social housing on and around Wood Street in Central ward. They also proposed a new boundary along New Street and West Way, taking the area around the Morrisons supermarket into Kingstone ward, including Silver Street, Foundry Street, George Street and George Square. This was intended to unite the terraced housing on and around Princess Street within Kingstone ward. They considered this to better reflect the pattern of communities on the edge of the town centre.

60 The alternative scheme received from a local resident proposed to substantially redraw the Central and Old Town wards with the Smithies area being moved from Old Town ward to Central ward to accommodate the inclusion of the Gawber/Wilthorpe and Pogmoor areas in Central ward. They also proposed to move a small area around Union Street from Central ward to Kingstone ward.

61 The various submissions from local residents included one which asked if Pogmoor could be wholly contained within a single ward and another from a local resident on Mount Vernon Road who objected to the boundary between Central and Kingstone ward being moved onto Upper Sheffield Road which consequently placed their property in Kingstone ward.

62 Having considered the submissions received we are not proposing to make any changes to Old Town ward. We plan to make some small amendments to the boundary between Central ward and Kingstone ward based on the submission received from the Liberal Democrat Group.

63 We also looked at the warding pattern proposed by the local resident and concluded that whilst it provided for good electoral equality for these wards, it was predicated on including Birdwell in a ward with Dodworth which we do not consider would be an appropriate proposal. We discuss the reasons for this in the section on Dodworth later in this report.

64 We propose to adopt the changes suggested by the Liberal Democrat Group and amend the boundary between Central and Kingstone wards. While we do not assume that adjoining areas of social housing will automatically share a sense of community, we have been persuaded that the proposed amendments will provide a better reflection of community identities and interests in this area to the south of the town centre. Furthermore, the proposed changes will still ensure good electoral equality for these wards.

65 Our draft recommendations are for the two three-councillor wards of Central and Old Town. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -7% and -5%, respectively, by 2029.

Kingstone

66 Our draft recommendations for Kingstone ward looked to address the electoral inequality in the current ward which will have 14% fewer electors per councillor than the average for Barnsley by 2029.

67 In response to our draft recommendations, we received alternative proposals from the Council, the Liberal Democrat Group and a local resident that all looked to make substantial changes to this ward and its boundaries with the neighbouring wards of Dodworth and Worsbrough.

68 The Liberal Democrats' proposal for Kingstone ward suggested a small area to the north and east of Horizon Community College should be moved from Dodworth ward to Kingstone ward. This was in addition to the changes they suggest to the boundary between Central and Kingstone ward, which are discussed in paragraphs 59 and 62 of this report.

69 The Council's and local resident's proposals include the Keresforth Hill area in Kingstone ward with the Council also proposing to add that part of the Pogmoor area currently in Dodworth ward. Both of these schemes proposed moving Worsbrough Common from Kingstone to Worsbrough ward to restore community ties within the Worsbrough community. Both of these schemes would see the M1 motorway become the boundary between Kingstone and Dodworth wards. Their proposals for the village of Dodworth itself are discussed more fully in the section below.

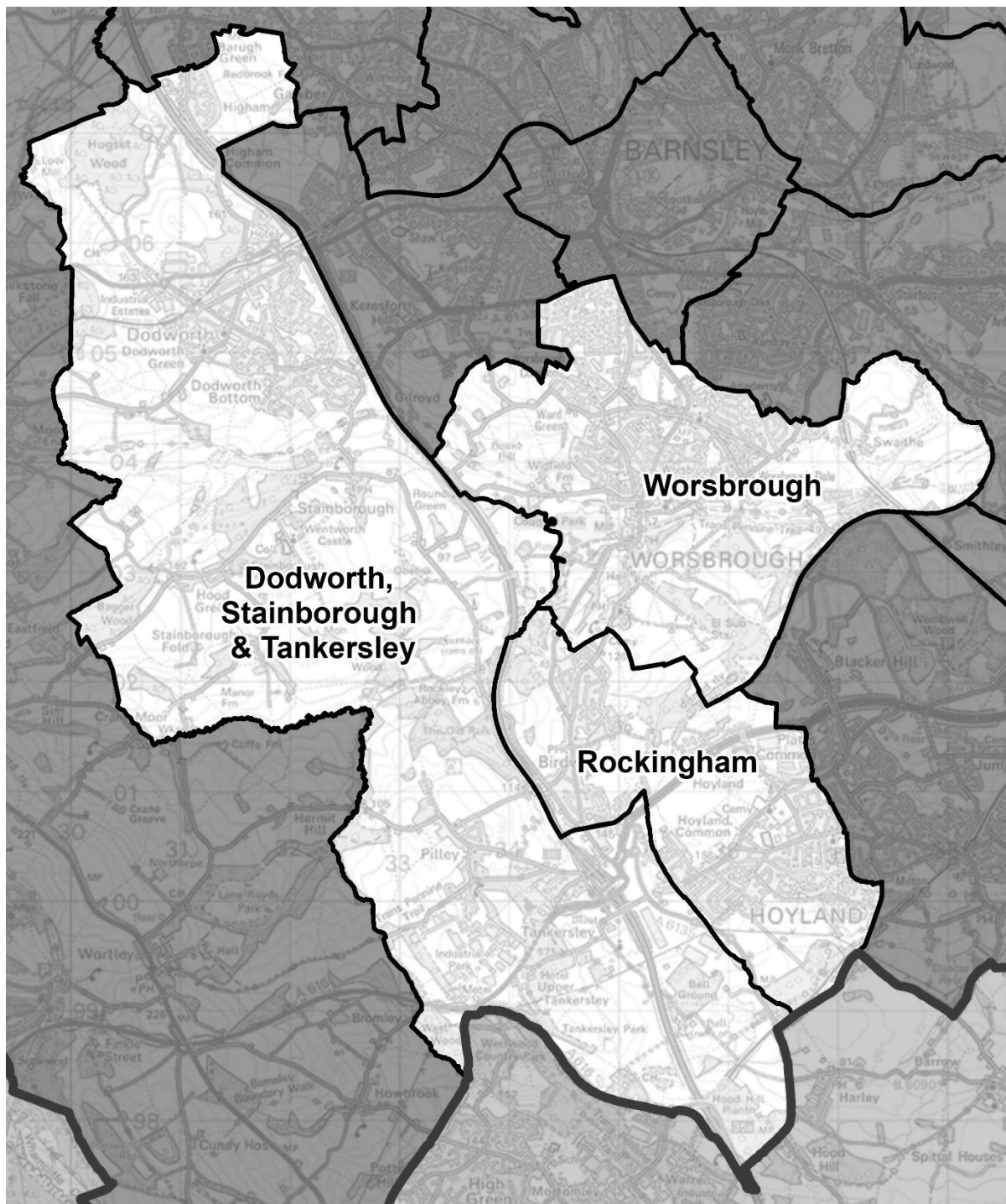
70 Having considered the submissions received and having visited the areas discussed on our tour of Barnsley, we propose to adopt the Council's revised Kingstone ward, subject to the amendments to the boundary with Central ward put forward by the Liberal Democrats.

71 We were persuaded that the Council's proposed warding pattern provided a good balance of our statutory criteria and best addressed the issues that had arisen as part of the consultation on our draft recommendations. Our proposed Kingstone ward will see Keresforth Hill and part of Pogmoor move from Dodworth ward to Kingstone ward which reflects their stronger community ties to the town centre and other areas in the existing Kingstone ward. We observed as part of our tour that the M1 motorway provided a very clear divide between the Keresforth Hill and Dodworth areas.

72 As a result of our proposals for the Keresforth Hill and Pogmoor areas, it is also possible to restore Worsbrough Common to Worsbrough ward which the Council proposed we do as part of our final recommendations. A number of other submissions also expressed support for this proposal. This is discussed fully in the next section of this report.

73 Our final recommendations are for a three-councillor Kingstone ward with a forecast electoral variance of -1% by 2029.

Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley, Rockingham and Worsbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley	3	-9%
Rockingham	3	-2%

Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley, Rockingham and Worsbrough

74 Our draft recommendation for Dodworth ward were very similar to the existing arrangements. We recommended this ward as a result of the submissions received from the Silkstone parish area. These submissions objected to the Council's proposed Dodworth ward, which included part of Silkstone parish in Dodworth ward.

75 As a result of this decision, we were constrained in what we could recommend for the Kingstone, Rockingham and Worsbrough areas. We consequently decided to divide the Birdwell area between Rockingham and Worsbrough wards to achieve good electoral equality in the area.

76 In response to our draft recommendations, we received 45 submissions that opposed this division of Birdwell between Rockingham and Worsbrough wards. A number of these submissions also supported the inclusion of Worsbrough Common in Worsbrough ward. These included submissions from Councillors Bowser, Clarke, Holling and Lodge who all represent wards in the area. These submissions stated that the division of the village broke existing community ties, particularly for the northern part of the village which does not have strong connections to Worsbrough. The respondents all stated that Birdwell has a strong affinity with Hoyland Common which is in Rockingham ward.

77 We also received 132 submissions that objected to the Council's proposed ward of Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley. These included responses from Councillor Barnard, Stainborough Parish Council and Marie Tidball MP (Penistone & Stocksbridge). These submissions were overwhelmingly from the parish of Stainborough and stressed their strong community ties to the rest of the present Penistone East ward. They also referenced the rural nature of the parish when compared with Dodworth and Tankersley. A smaller number of these submissions were from electors in Tankersley parish who also objected to their inclusion in the proposed ward. Other respondents were opposed to the inclusion of the Tankersley area in Rockingham ward stating their preference to remain in Penistone East ward.

78 The Liberal Democrat Group proposed an alternative Dodworth ward that included Stainborough parish but kept Tankersley parish in Rockingham ward. They proposed to maintain Higham, Keresforth Hill and half of Pogmoor in Dodworth ward. The alternative proposal from the local resident proposed a Dodworth & Birdwell ward which included the parishes of Stainborough and Tankersley as well as the Birdwell area.

79 We visited this area as part of tour of Barnsley and carefully considered all the submissions received. We have decided to base our final recommendations on the alternative proposals from the Council for Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley,

Rockingham and Worsbrough wards, subject to a small amendment to the boundaries in the Hoyland Common area.

80 We considered the other warding proposals submitted but concluded that they had disadvantages when compared to the Council's proposals. In particular, the Liberal Democrat proposal maintained the division of Birdwell between wards and did not include Worsbrough Common in Worsborough ward. The scheme from the local resident kept Birdwell together as a community in a single ward but placed it in a ward with Dodworth. We did not consider that either of these proposals would reflect the identities and interests of the Birdwell and Worsbrough communities.

81 On our visit to the area, we were able to observe the community ties that exist within the Birdwell area, and its stronger ties with areas to the south rather than with Worsbrough. We therefore recommend that it be wholly included in Rockingham ward. We also visited the Worsbrough Common community and concluded that the most appropriate warding pattern would be to include this community in a Worsbrough ward which is provided for in the Council's proposal.

82 Having given careful consideration to the evidence received, we have decided to base our final recommendations on the Council's proposed Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley ward. While we accept that this ward has generated some opposition from both the Stainborough and Tankersley area, our options for a warding patterns in this area that meet our statutory criteria are very limited. Other potential warding patterns would divide coherent communities such as Birdwell and Worsbrough between wards. The Commission's view is that it is better to propose a ward that contains whole areas that may not share a close sense of community such as Stainborough and Dodworth than to divide coherent communities that share ties.

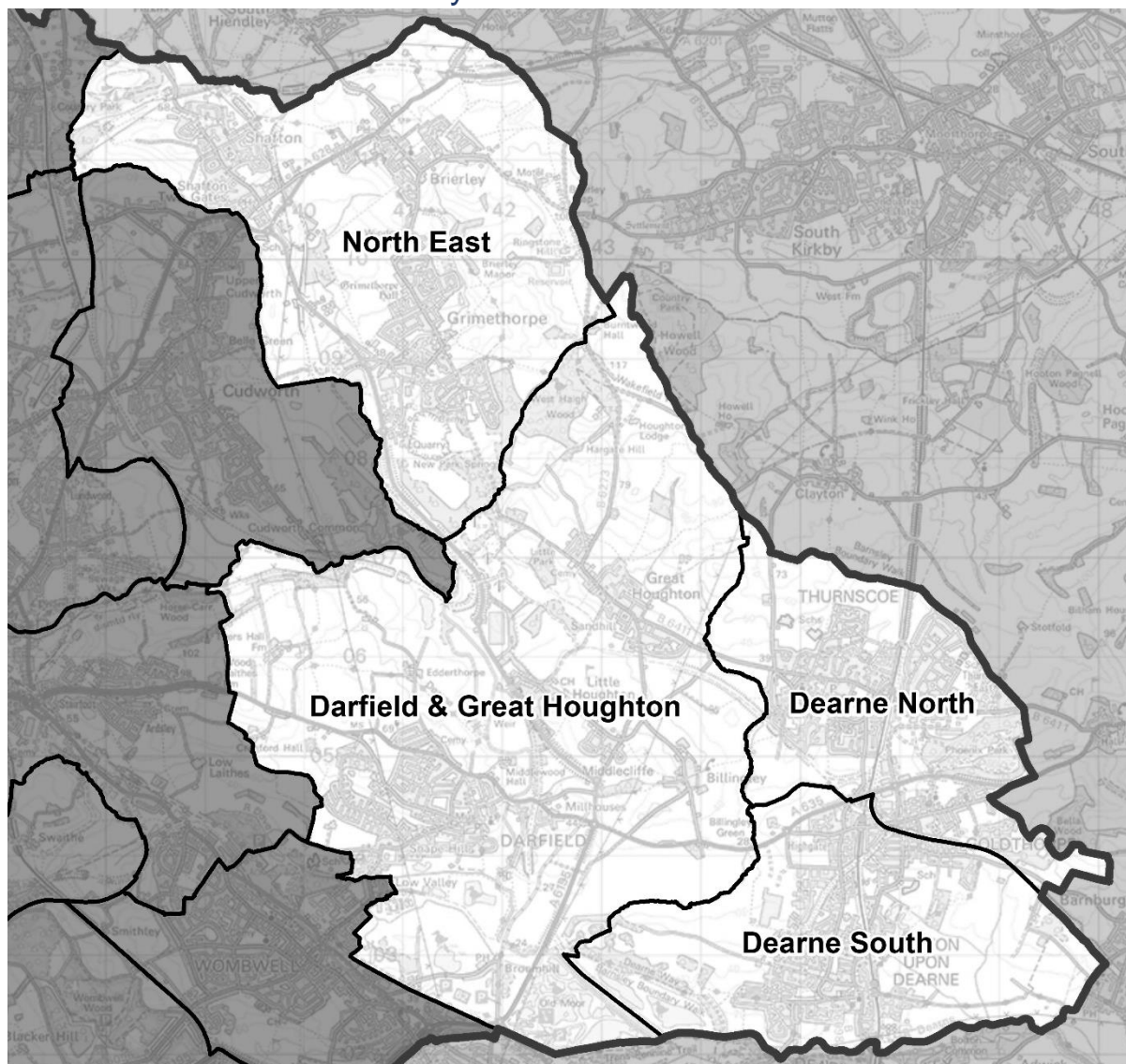
83 We did consider whether it was possible to include all of Tankersley in Rockingham ward as a number of submissions requested but this would result in an electoral variance of 15% in Rockingham ward and -30% in Dodworth ward. We do not consider we have received sufficient evidence to justify such high electoral variances.

84 In one area, we have not adopted the Council's proposals. This is in relation to its proposed boundary between Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley and Rockingham wards. The Council's proposed ward boundary departs from the parish boundary in the Hoyland Common area in such a way that it would require two parish wards for Tankersley. One of these parish wards would contain approximately 40 electors whilst the other would contain no electors. It is the Commission's view that a parish ward of fewer than 100 electors does not normally provide for effective and convenient local government. Consequently, we have decided to follow the parish boundary as the ward boundary despite it being partially defaced by housing development. Issues of this nature can be resolved by means of a Community Governance Review of parish boundaries conducted by Barnsley Council.

Subsequently, the Council would be at liberty to request that we consider a related alteration to the borough ward boundary.

85 Our final recommendations for this area are for the three-councillor wards of Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley, Rockingham and Worsbrough with forecast electoral variances of -9%, -2% and 8% by 2029, respectively.

East and North East Barnsley



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Darfield & Great Houghton	3	10%
Dearne North	3	-1%
Dearne South	3	5%
North East	3	-7%

Dearne North and Dearne South

86 Under our draft recommendations we proposed to make no changes to the boundaries of the existing wards. However, we recommended that Dearne North ward be renamed Thurnscoe & Goldthorpe North and that Dearne South be renamed Bolton & Goldthorpe Green following a proposal from a local resident.

87 In response, while we received support for the unchanged ward boundaries from the Council, it argued that the names should revert to Dearne North and Dearne

South as these were longstanding names that were very well recognised locally. The Council added that both wards lie in the Dearne Valley, with lots of amenities carrying the Dearne name. The Council's view was that including Goldthorpe in both names added confusion as local residents do not identify with Goldthorpe North, Goldthorpe South or Goldthorpe Green. The Liberal Democrat Group also wrote in agreement that the current names are well understood and should be retained. A local resident supported the boundaries of the two wards and the name of Thurnscoe & Goldthorpe North but suggested the other ward should be named Bolton & Goldthorpe South instead of Bolton & Goldthorpe Green.

88 Having considered these submissions we agree that reverting to the existing ward names of Dearne North and Dearne South would be appropriate to avoid local confusion and to recognise the longstanding and identifiable community names already in place.

89 Our final recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Dearne North and Dearne South with forecast electoral variances of -1% and 5%, respectively, by 2029.

Darfield & Great Houghton and North East

90 The Council supported the two proposed wards of Darfield & Great Houghton and North East. A local resident also wrote in support of these two wards stating that the inclusion of all of Great Houghton parish in a single ward reflects the strong community identity of the parish, as does its inclusion in the ward name. They supported the boundaries for North East ward but suggested that it be renamed Grimethorpe & Shafton to reflect the two largest communities in the ward.

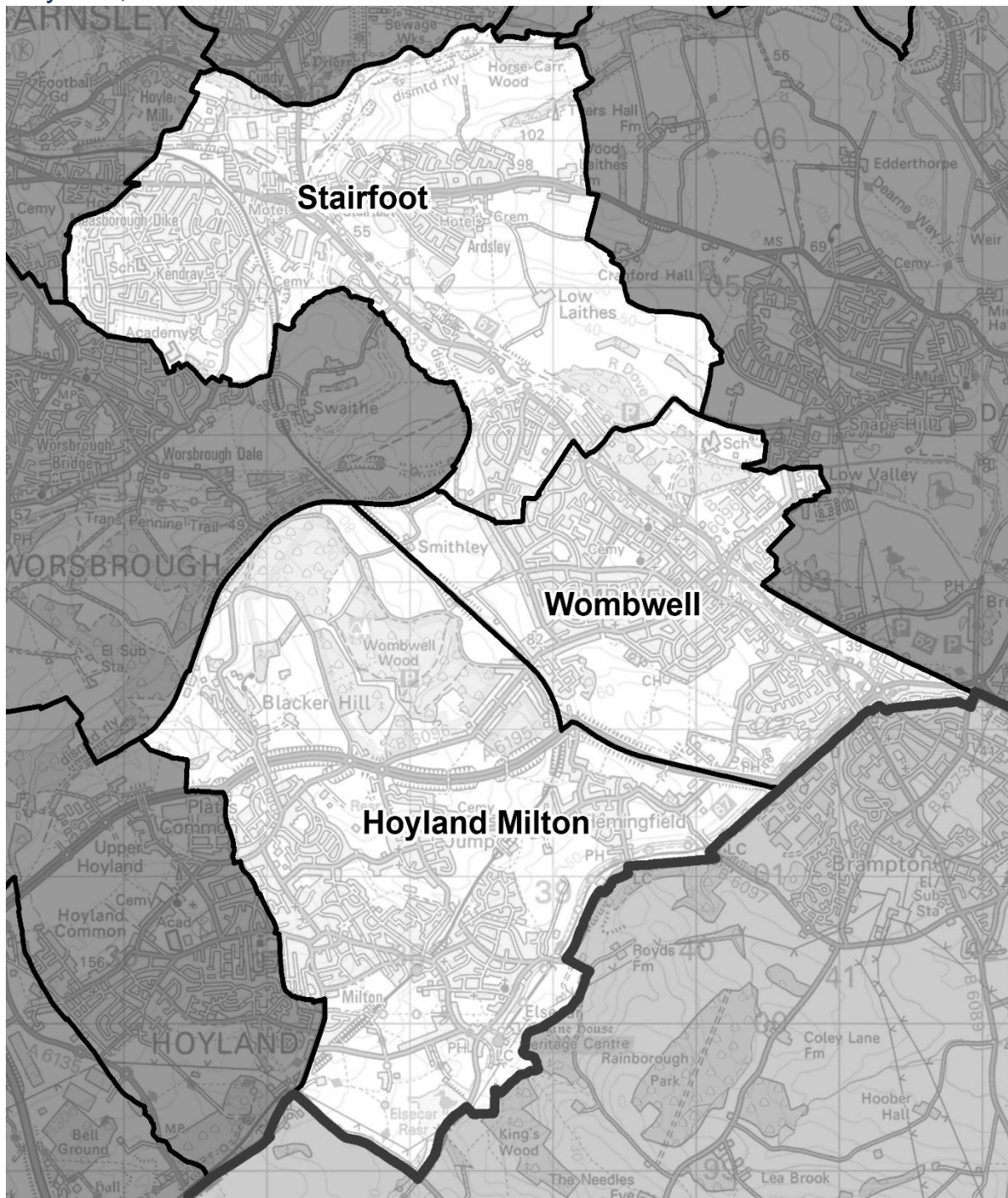
91 Three local residents wrote in response to Darfield & Great Houghton ward, two of which supported the parish of Great Houghton remaining in North East ward. The Darfield Area Amenities Society wrote to ask that the area covered by the Goldthorpe Masterplan remain divided between Darfield & Great Houghton ward and Dearne South ward.

92 Having considered the submissions received, we propose to make no changes to the draft recommendations. While we noted the two submissions in opposition to the inclusion of Great Houghton parish in Darfield & Great Houghton ward, neither of these submissions provided an alternative warding pattern that would resolve the high electoral variance of 15% that results when North East ward is left unchanged. We also looked at the comments regarding the Goldthorpe Masterplan which appears in the Local Plan for this area. This future development appears to have approximately 80 future electors allocated to the part of the development that will lie in Darfield & Great Houghton ward. We do not propose to make any changes in this area due to considerations of electoral equality and so the future development will remain partly in Darfield & Great Houghton ward and partly in Dearne South ward.

93 We do not propose to change the name of North East ward as we consider this to be a longstanding and well recognised ward name in the area.

94 Our final recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Darfield & Great Houghton and North East. These wards will have forecast electoral variances of 10% and -7%, respectively, by 2029.

Hoyland, Stairfoot and Wombwell



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Hoyland Milton	3	7%
Stairfoot	3	1%
Wombwell	3	9%

Hoyland Milton, Stairfoot and Wombwell

95 The Council supported the draft recommendations for this area and supported the retention of the Hoyland Milton ward name due to its historical significance as the name of the local Milton Ironworks. The Council considered that this name united the entire community and changing it to Hoyland Elsecar, which was an alternative suggestion, would only recognise part of the community. The Council also supported the small change we made to the existing Stairfoot ward to recognise the geographic footprint of Barnsley Academy that had opened since the previous electoral review.

96 A local resident proposed to substantially redraw the three wards in this area. They proposed that the Wombwell boundary should move from the railway line to follow the rear of properties on Windmill Road, Summer Lane and Copeland Road and that properties to the south and west of these streets should move to a Hoyland East & Wombwell Wood ward. Their proposed Hoyland East & Wombwell Wood ward loses Blacker Hill and Platts Common to a Wombwell West ward, with Tankersley parish and Birdwell moving to a Dodworth & Birdwell ward. This proposal would see three wards with good electoral equality.

97 Another local resident supported the proposed boundary for Hoyland Milton, despite the inclusion of Wood Walk which they argued had stronger ties with Wombwell. They proposed that the ward should be called Hoyland & Elsecar stating that Elsecar has stronger local recognition as a name. They supported our recommended boundary between Wombwell and Darfield & Great Houghton wards as well as our proposed Stairfoot ward.

98 We received six further submissions from local residents that mentioned one or more of these wards. One local resident was in favour of keeping the Hoyland Milton ward name, while another supported changing the name of Hoyland Milton ward to Hoyland Elsecar. Two local residents suggested that electors around Aldham House Lane should be included in Wombwell rather than Stairfoot ward and two residents objected to the changes proposed to Wombwell ward around Wood Walk.

99 Having carefully considered the submissions received, we do not propose to make any changes to our recommendations for these wards. We noted the alternative warding proposals from a local resident, but concluded that this scheme was not an improvement on the draft recommendations. In particular, we considered that the boundary between their proposed Hoyland East & Wombwell Wood and Hoyland West wards in the central Hoyland area was arbitrary and would not reflect local communities. We also considered that the proposed inclusion of a larger part of Wombwell in a ward with Hoyland did not reflect community identities or interests. Additionally, as mentioned earlier in this report, we were not persuaded that electors in Birdwell should be included in a ward with Dodworth.

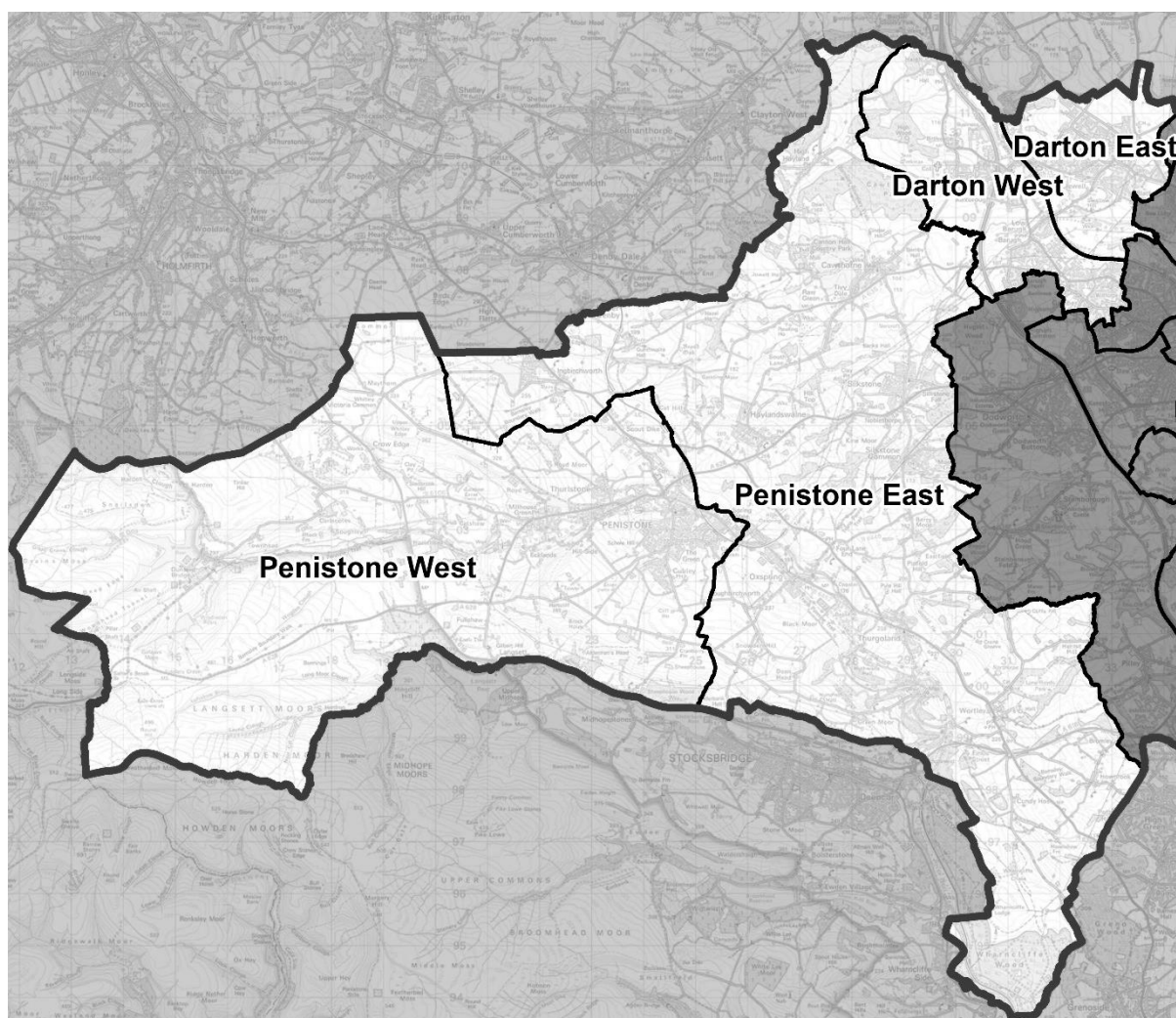
100 We have decided not to rename our proposed Hoyland Milton ward to Hoyland Elsecar. We note the evidence offered in favour of the inclusion of Elsecar in the

ward name but agree with the Council that the existing name reflects all of the communities in the ward rather than just a single area. We considered the inclusion of Wood Walk and Wombwell Wood in Wombwell ward when drawing up our draft recommendations. However, this would result in an electoral variance of 13% for Wombwell ward and we do not consider that sufficient community evidence has been received to justify this electoral inequality.

101 In addition, the inclusion of the Aldham House Lane area in Wombwell ward, as suggested by two respondents, would see Wombwell have 25% more electors per councillor than the average for Barnsley which we consider too high a variance to accept.

102 Our final recommendations for this area are for the three-councillor wards of Hoyland Milton, Stairfoot and Wombwell, which will have forecast electoral variances of 7%, 1% and 9%, by 2029.

Penistone and Darton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Darton East	3	3%
Darton West	3	-3%
Penistone East	3	-4%
Penistone West	3	10%

Darton East and Darton West

103 The Council supported our recommended Darton East and Darton West wards as it agreed that largely retaining the existing wards would best serve communities in this area. The Liberal Democrats supported the wards but felt their proposed ward name of Darton West & Redbrook would better reflect the suburban part of the ward.

104 A local resident suggested a revised warding pattern that would see all of Higham included in Darton West ward, with Gawber/Wilthorpe moving to Old Town ward. This approach was supported by another local resident. A further submission from a local resident suggested that the part of Barugh Green that lies to the south of

the main road that runs through the village should be moved into a ward with Dodworth. They stated that this was more appropriate due to this area's shared connection with new housing developments in the area. We proposed that this new housing development be divided between Dodworth ward and Kingstone ward as part of our draft recommendations.

105 Having considered the submissions received we are not proposing to make any changes to our recommendations for these two wards, which are almost identical to the existing warding pattern.

106 We looked at whether it was possible to include Higham in Darton West ward given its close proximity to Barugh Green and visited the area on our tour of Barnsley. However, we have been unable to identify a warding pattern that includes Higham in Darton West and provides for good electoral equality in this area. We noted that the new housing development in this area has commenced and will cover a large area of land to the east of Higham village. We also noted the submission that stated that Higham would have a shared connection with this new development. The development's forecast electorate for 2029 is sufficiently large that it is necessary to include it in both Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley and Kingstone wards to provide a warding pattern that balances our statutory criteria.

107 For these reasons we concluded that the best warding pattern for the area was the one proposed as part our draft recommendations. This pattern includes Higham in a ward with Dodworth, alongside the proposal from the Council for Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley as discussed earlier in this report. We do not propose to adopt the ward name Darton West & Redbrook as suggested by the Liberal Democrats as we consider that the existing name is well recognised. Furthermore, we are concerned at the prospect of adding a single community to the name of the ward over those of other communities.

108 Our final recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Darton East and Darton West. These two wards will have electoral equality of 3% and -3%, respectively, by 2029.

Penistone East and Penistone West

109 The Council supported our proposed Penistone West ward and the proposal to move Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth parish from Penistone East to Penistone West. The Council proposed to move Stainborough parish from Penistone East to Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley ward. The Liberal Democrats supported moving Stainborough parish into a ward with Dodworth and a local resident proposed to include Stainborough in a Dodworth & Birdwell ward. These proposals are discussed earlier in this report.

110 Nine submissions from local residents supported our draft recommendations not to divide Silkstone parish between wards and to keep the parish in Penistone

East ward. This approach was supported by Silkstone Parish Council. We also received a submission that supported the inclusion of Gunthwaite & Ingbirchworth parish in Penistone East ward and two submissions which supported our draft recommendation that High Hoyland remain in Penistone East ward.

111 Having considered these submissions, we propose to make no changes to our recommendations for Penistone West ward. As discussed earlier in this report, we propose to adopt the Council's suggested Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley ward which results in Stainborough parish moving from Penistone East ward.

112 Our final recommendations are for the three-councillor wards of Penistone East and Penistone West with forecast electoral variances of -4% and 10%, respectively, by 2029.

113 At the time of writing, a draft statutory instrument is being considered by Parliament which would result in a small area of the borough in the south of Penistone East ward being transferred to the City of Sheffield. Should this statutory instrument pass Parliamentary scrutiny and be signed by the relevant Government minister, the boundary of our recommended Penistone East ward will change as a consequence.

Conclusions

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

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2023	2029
Number of councillors	63	63
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	2,927	3,073
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	1	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Barnsley Council should be made up of 63 councillors serving 21 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 Barnsley Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Barnsley Council on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

115 We have now completed our review of Barnsley. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary

scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2026.

Equalities

116 The Commission is satisfied that it complies with its legal obligations under the Equality Act and that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Barnsley Council

	Ward name	Number of cllrs	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per cllrs	Variance from average %
1	Athersley & New Lodge	3	8,343	2,781	-5%	8,664	2,888	-6%
2	Central	3	8,361	2,787	-5%	8,611	2,870	-7%
3	Cudworth	3	8,129	2,710	-7%	8,506	2,835	-8%
4	Darfield & Great Houghton	3	9,627	3,209	10%	10,160	3,387	10%
5	Darton East	3	8,828	2,943	1%	9,522	3,174	3%
6	Darton West	3	8,777	2,926	0%	8,920	2,973	-3%
7	Dearne North	3	8,548	2,849	-3%	9,096	3,032	-1%
8	Dearne South	3	9,217	3,072	5%	9,663	3,221	5%
9	Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley	3	7,433	2,478	-15%	8,397	2,799	-9%
10	Hoyland Milton	3	9,549	3,183	9%	9,869	3,290	7%
11	Kingstone	3	8,611	2,870	-2%	9,137	3,046	-1%
12	Monk Bretton	3	9,353	3,118	7%	9,924	3,308	8%
13	North East	3	8,283	2,761	-6%	8,589	2,863	-7%

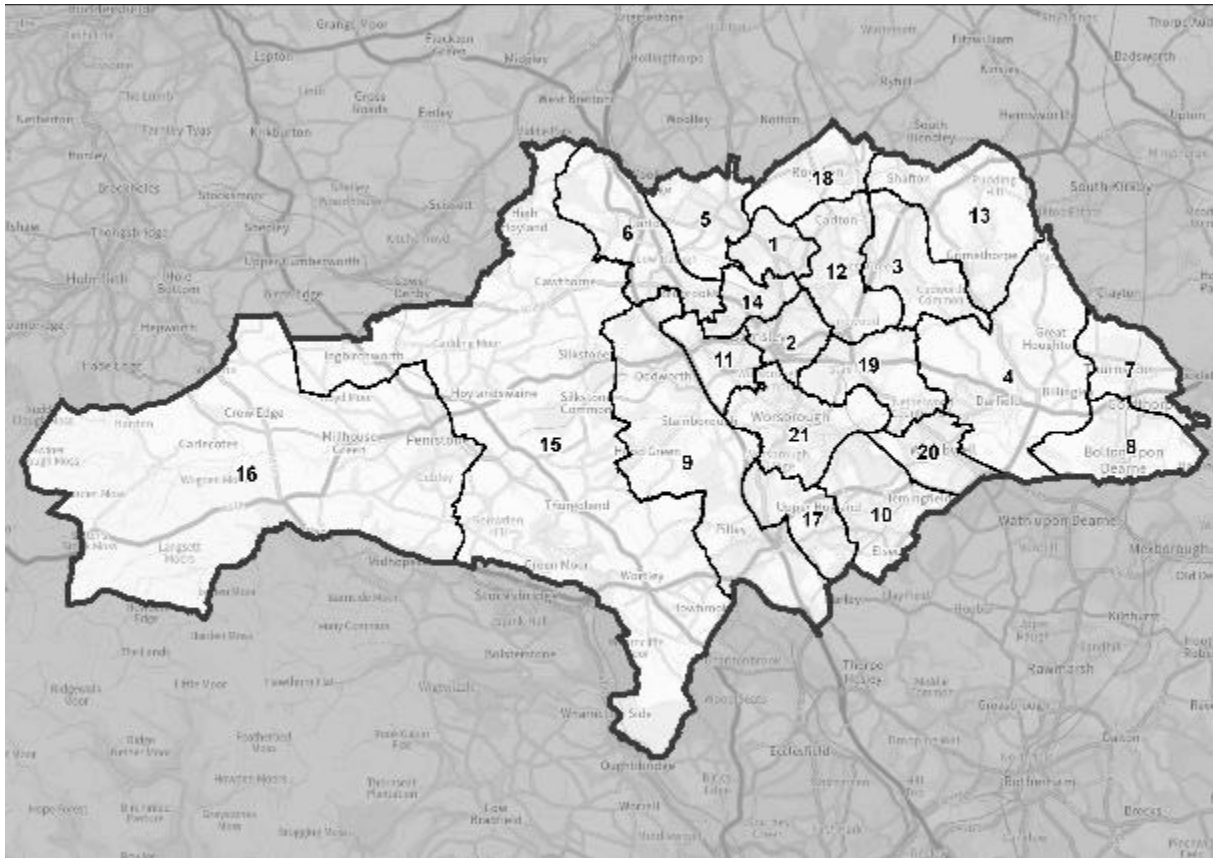
	Ward name	Number of cllrs	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per cllrs	Variance from average %
14	Old Town	3	8,587	2,862	-2%	8,790	2,930	-5%
15	Penistone East	3	8,607	2,869	-2%	8,822	2,941	-4%
16	Penistone West	3	9,491	3,164	8%	10,099	3,366	10%
17	Rockingham	3	8,279	2,760	-6%	9,010	3,003	-2%
18	Royston	3	8,179	2,726	-7%	8,524	2,841	-8%
19	Stairfoot	3	8,923	2,974	2%	9,308	3,103	1%
20	Wombwell	3	9,634	3,211	10%	10,018	3,339	9%
21	Worsbrough	3	9,647	3,216	10%	9,985	3,328	8%
Totals		63	184,406	-	-	193,614	-	-
Averages		-	-	2,927	-	-	3,073	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Barnsley 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



Number	Ward name	Number	Ward name
1	Athersley & New Lodge	12	Monk Bretton
2	Central	13	North East
3	Cudworth	14	Old Town
4	Darfield & Great Houghton	15	Penistone East
5	Darton East	16	Penistone West
6	Darton West	17	Rockingham
7	Dearne North	18	Royston
8	Dearne South	19	Stairfoot
9	Dodworth, Stainborough & Tankersley	20	Wombwell
10	Hoyland Milton	21	Worsbrough
11	Kingstone		

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/barnsley

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Local Authority

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Political Groups

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group

Councillors

- Councillor R. Barnard (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Bowser (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Clarke (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Holling (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Lodge (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council) – two submissions

Members of Parliament

- Marie Tidball MP (Penistone & Stocksbridge)

Local Organisations

- Darfield Area Amenities Society

Parish and Town Councils

- Silkstone Parish Council
- Stainborough Parish Council

Local Residents

- 211 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Changes 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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