

New electoral arrangements for Dacorum Borough Council Draft Recommendations

December 2024

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Dacorum?

7 We are conducting a review of Dacorum Borough Council ('the Council') its last review was completed in 2006, 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 Dacorum 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 Dacorum

9 Dacorum should be represented by 52 councillors, one more than there are now.

10 Dacorum should have 26 wards, one more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 17 of the existing wards should change; eight will stay the same.

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 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 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 3 December 2024 to 10 February 2025. We encourage everyone to use this

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

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 10 February 2025 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 33 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 Dacorum. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

| Stage starts | Description |
|------------------|---|
| 25 April 2024 | Number of councillors decided |
| 7 May 2024 | Start of consultation seeking views on new wards |
| 9 September 2024 | End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations |
| 3 December 2024 | Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation |
| 10 February 2025 | End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations |
| 3 June 2025 | Publication of final recommendations |

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 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.

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 Dacorum | 112,167 | 123,849 |
| Number of councillors | 52 | 52 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,157 | 2,382 |

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 'electoral equality'. All but one of our proposed wards for Dacorum are forecast to have 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 11% by 2030.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the overall projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

26 Dacorum Borough Council Conservative Group ('the Conservatives') mentioned that a new development in Kings Langley was omitted from the forecast figures. We understand from the Council that this development was only agreed after the electorate and development data had been finalised, and after the warding pattern consultation had started.

27 We consider that the forecasts provided at the beginning of a review are those that should be used as the base forecast throughout. This ensures that all who wish to make a submission to us can use the same baseline forecast figures. We are aware that planning decisions are likely to be made throughout the duration of this review. Our approach of not updating the forecast throughout the review ensures that we are able to maintain clarity over what the figures are so that people are able to respond on the same basis throughout.

28 We use a mapping tool that uses geocoded electoral registers supplied by the Council to locate electors, by associating addresses on the electoral roll 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 normally very minor and do not impact on our recommendations.

29 In the case of Dacorum, the tool identified a more significant error in the electorate figures provided to us and published on our website at the beginning of the review for polling districts ALC and ALCA. The combined elector count provided by the Council across the two polling districts was accurate. However, the electors in this area were not correctly allocated between the polling districts. Because some of the proposals we received for Bennetts End and Leverstock Green wards were based on the incorrect figures they actually have poorer variances (or levels of electoral equality) than expected. The corrected figures are published on our website and we welcome further views on our proposals in this area.

Number of councillors

30 Dacorum Borough Council currently has 51 councillors. We initially looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

31 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 51 councillors: for example, 51 one-councillor wards, 17 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

32 We received a submission from a resident who was of the view that the current size of the council was adequate, and that an increase would not represent value for money.

33 The Conservatives also commented on the size of the council and felt that increasing it to 53 would lead to a better warding pattern that did not split communities. However, they did not submit boundaries for the entire local authority area with evidence to demonstrate this and we were not persuaded to increase the council size in line with their submission.

34 However, in order to adopt locally developed schemes with strong boundaries that reflected the communities in the west of Dacorum, based on the evidence we have received, our draft recommendations are for a council size of 52 – one more than we announced at the beginning of the consultation.

Ward boundaries consultation

35 We received 40 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included borough-wide proposals from Dacorum Borough Council Labour Group ('Labour') and West Hertfordshire Liberal Democrats ('Liberal Democrats'). The Conservatives provided comments on a significant part of the borough. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward boundaries in particular areas of the borough like Kings Langley, Nash Mills and Tring.

36 Labour and the Liberal Democrats each submitted proposals based on a council size of 51 as well as 52. The Liberal Democrats also submitted an additional warding option for Bovington, Chipperfield, Flaunden and Kings Langley parishes, and the southern area of Hemel Hempstead.

37 The main difference between the 51- and 52-councillor proposals was the inclusion of an additional councillor for the west of the borough, in the Tring area.

38 We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

39 Our draft recommendations are based on a combination of the borough-wide schemes. They 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 and so we identified alternative boundaries.

40 We visited the area in order to look at the various proposals on the ground. We also conducted a virtual tour of the boundary between Adeyfield and Hemel Hempstead Town. These tours of Dacorum helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

41 We received a submission from Councillor Pilkinton of Markyate Parish Council who was of the view that any review of Dacorum Borough Council wards should take into account the new Parliamentary Constituencies. As mentioned in paragraph 13, our recommendations do not take these into account, and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on this issue.

42 We also received a submission which proposed that the Council should change its electoral cycle, and conduct elections every year instead of every four years. The Council's electoral cycle is a matter for the Council, and not us. However, Section 56 and Schedule 2 of the Local Democracy & Economic Development Act 2009 stipulates that if a Council elects on an all-out basis and always has done, it cannot change its cycle.

Draft recommendations

43 Our draft recommendations are for five three-councillor wards, 16 two-councillor wards and five one-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.

44 The tables and maps on pages 9–30 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Dacorum. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

45 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 39 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Aldbury, Wigginton and Tring



| Ward | Number of councillors | Variance 2030 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Aldbury & Wigginton | 1 | -10% |
| Tring Central | 2 | -10% |
| Tring East | 1 | -5% |
| Tring West & Rural | 2 | -8% |

47 In addition to the borough-wide submissions, we received representations from Tring Town Council, and three members of the public for the western area of the borough.

48 The borough-wide proposals from Labour and the Liberal Democrats included all or part of the existing Tring East ward in a ward with Aldbury and Wigginton parishes. This was the case for the 51- and 52-councillor schemes. These proposals sought to address the poor electoral equality forecast for the existing Aldbury & Wigginton (-19%) and Tring Central (-16%) wards by 2030. The Liberal Democrats stated that they considered retaining the existing Aldbury & Wigginton ward but that the 'variance was too great'.

49 Under the 51-councillor proposals, there are five councillors proposed for the area. The 52-councillor schemes return six councillors, as at present.

50 The Conservatives and Tring Town Council also proposed the retention of six councillors for the area. The Conservatives did not propose any specific boundaries in Tring.

Aldbury & Wigginton and Tring East

51 Under their 51-councillor schemes, Labour and the Liberal Democrats proposed including most of the existing Tring Central ward and all of Tring East and Aldbury & Wigginton wards in a single ward. Their proposed wards shared many of the same boundaries.

52 Labour and the Liberal Democrats proposed an identical alternative ward under their 52-councillor proposals. This ward was a merger of the existing Aldbury & Wigginton and Tring East wards. The Liberal Democrats stated the view that both villages (Aldbury and Wigginton) look to Tring for their amenities and share a county councillor with the town.

53 The Conservatives and Tring Town Council advocated retaining the existing boundaries of Aldbury & Wigginton ward. This appeared to be supported by a resident who was of the view that the ward boundaries in the area were 'largely sound'.

54 Tring Town Council opposed placing the urban part of Tring East in a ward with Aldbury and Wigginton parishes e.g., as proposed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats. It was of the view that Tring town had very distinct areas and identities, and that the rural parishes of Aldbury and Wigginton were different in character from the urban area of Tring East.

55 To address Aldbury & Wigginton's poor electoral equality, it proposed that the rural area to the south of the A41 including Hastoe, and the area immediately west of Wigginton parish be moved from Tring East to Aldbury & Wigginton on community identity grounds. It acknowledged that some of the houses just west of the Wigginton parish border were part of Wigginton village. We note that this proposal is something that the Liberal Democrats say they considered. However, they stated that they decided against it because in their view it would create 'a clumsy boundary'.

56 One resident explained that of the four houses on their road, built at the same time, two were in Aldbury & Wigginton ward while the other two were in Tring East ward. They identified as living in Wigginton and requested that their road be united in Aldbury & Wigginton ward.

57 We considered the submissions carefully. We note that all the proposals created wards with good electoral equality in the area. On our tour of the area, we noted the urban nature of Tring town and were persuaded that Tring Town Council's proposed Aldbury & Wigginton and Tring East wards reflect the comments from the resident in the Wigginton area and will better reflect community identities and interests in the wider area. In light of this proposal, which does not necessitate including any part of urban Tring in a rural ward, we are content to adopt it as part of our draft recommendations even though it means one more councillor for the borough than we were originally minded to recommend. The boundaries of these wards are mostly the existing boundaries except for a new stretch along the A4251. This is clear and identifiable.

58 Aldbury & Wigginton and Tring East are single-councillor wards forecast to have 10% and 5% fewer electors per councillor respectively, than the average for the borough, by 2030.

Tring Central and Tring West & Rural

59 The 52-councillor proposals from Labour and the Liberal Democrats had many boundaries in common.

60 The differences were around Akeman Street, Christchurch Road and Miswell Lane. Labour split each of these roads between its two proposed wards. The Liberal Democrats on the other hand proposed keeping each one in a single ward. In effect, they only made a single modification to the existing boundaries.

61 Tring Town Council stated that if Dacorum was required to meet the new Government's increased building targets as part of its Local Plan, this will increase the electorate in the area. It therefore was of the view that no further changes were needed to the ward boundaries in the Tring area. However, as mentioned above, without any changes Tring Central ward is forecast to have 16% fewer electors than the average for Dacorum Borough Council by 2030. We were not persuaded to create a ward with this level of electoral inequality.

62 A resident suggested that we create a single-councillor Tring Rural ward coterminous with the boundaries of Tring Rural parish. However, this was forecast to have 48% fewer electors than the borough average, by 2030. We consider this as very poor electoral equality, and we did not adopt this proposal.

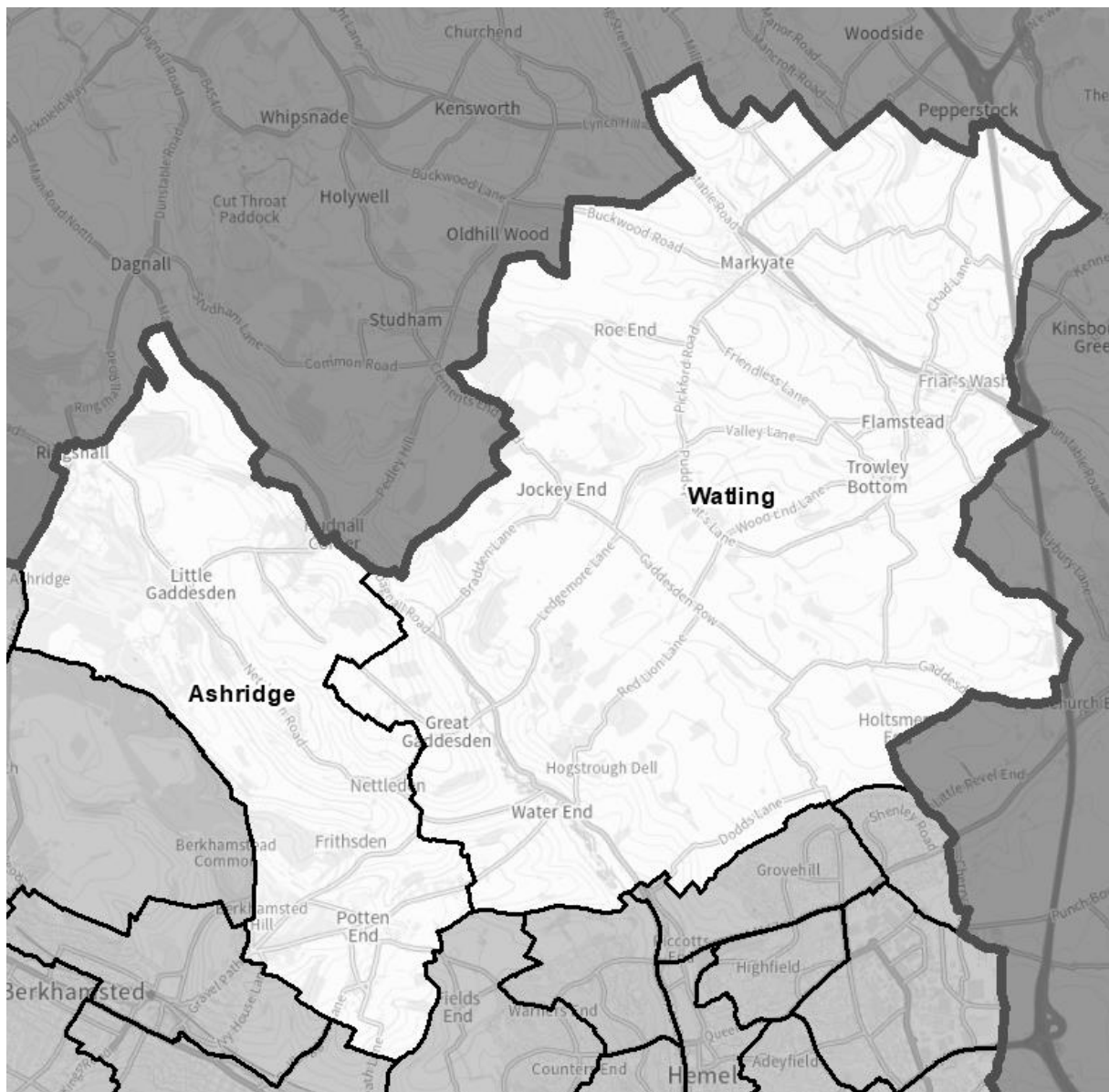
63 We note that the Tring Town Council area is already split across multiple wards and considered what was the best way to modify the existing boundary between Tring Central and Tring West & Rural wards.

64 We considered all the options presented to us, including on our tour of the area. We were persuaded that the Liberal Democrats' boundaries had the most identifiable boundaries keeping all Miswell Lane in the Tring West & Rural ward. Furthermore, the proposal does not split Akeman Street across wards and retains the existing boundaries in that area. It unites Christchurch Road and the roads off it in Tring Central ward. Windmill Way remains in Tring West & Rural ward.

65 We have therefore adopted these proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

66 Tring Central and Tring West & Rural wards both have two councillors and are forecast to have 10% and 8% fewer electors per councillor respectively, than the average for the borough, by 2030.

Ashridge and Watling



| Ward | Number of councillors | Variance 2030 |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Ashridge | 1 | -7% |
| Watling | 2 | -4% |

Ashridge and Watling

67 The borough-wide proposals from Labour and the Liberal Democrats were the only ones we received for this area. They proposed retaining the boundaries of the existing wards.

68 The Liberal Democrats said they considered merging the existing Ashridge and Northchurch wards into a single two-councillor ward. However, they were of the view that the built-up part of Northchurch ward is indistinguishable from the town of

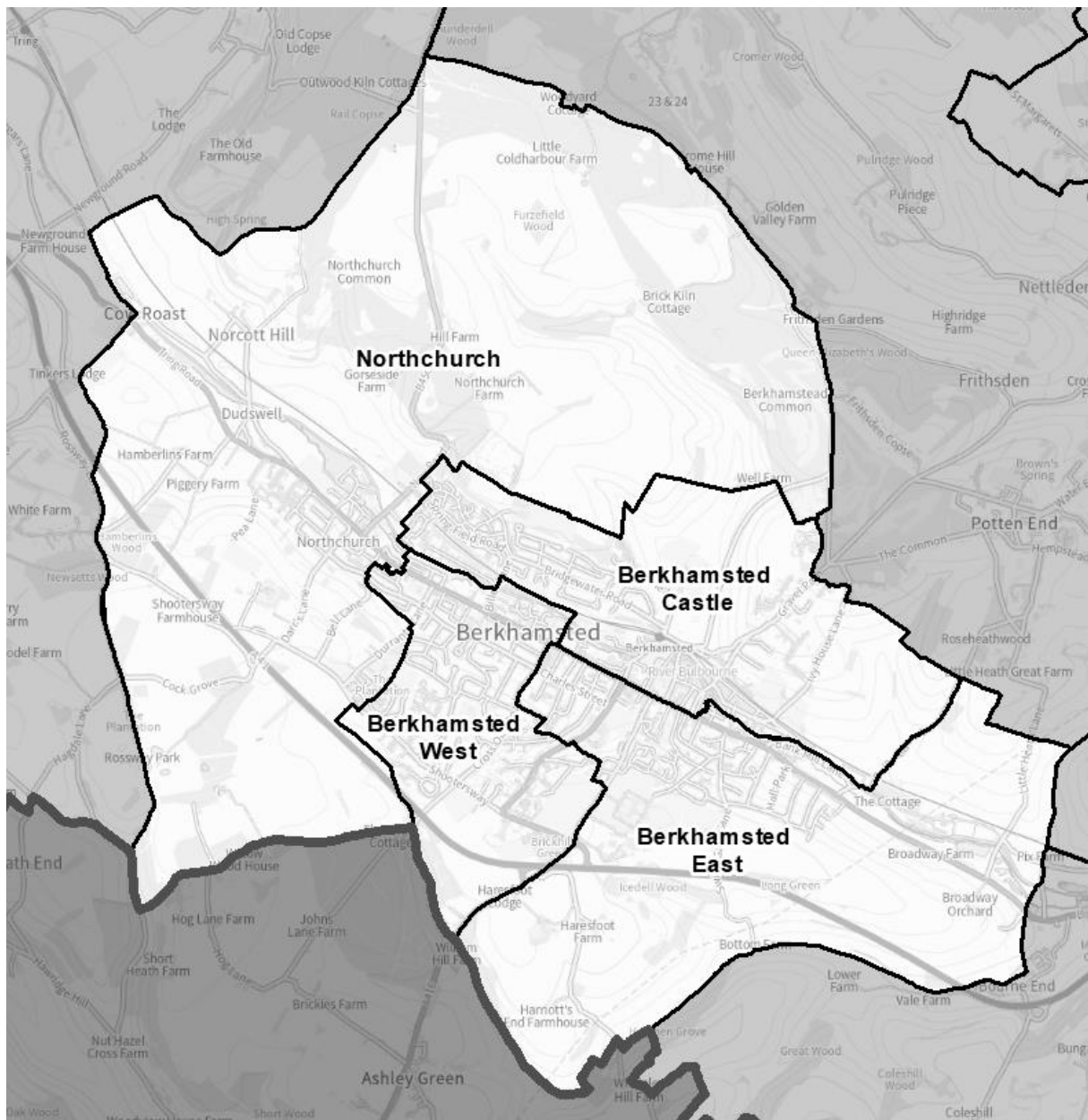
Berkhamsted and that Northchurch was better left as a 'primarily urban ward' separate from the entirely rural ward of Ashridge.

69 We note that the existing Ashridge ward is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030, and that it has adequate road connections from north to south along the length of the ward. By contrast, there do not appear to be road links east to west between Ashridge and Northchurch wards. Therefore, after careful consideration, we are content to retain the existing ward boundaries for Ashridge, as part of our draft recommendations.

70 As we did not receive any further proposals for Watling ward, we are content to retain the existing ward as part of our draft recommendations.

71 Ashridge is a single-councillor ward forecast to have 7% fewer electors than the average for Dacorum, by 2030. Watling is a two-councillor ward forecast to have 4% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2030.

Berkhamsted and Northchurch



| Ward | Number of councillors | Variance 2030 |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Berkhamsted Castle | 2 | 1% |
| Berkhamsted East | 2 | 4% |
| Berkhamsted West | 2 | 7% |
| Northchurch | 1 | 0% |

Berkhamsted Castle, Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West

72 In addition to the borough-wide submissions, we received two submissions from residents.

73 The borough-wide submissions proposed the retention of the existing wards in Berkhamsted. The Liberal Democrats stated that this was because they were all forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

74 A resident advocated for there to be a single ward covering the town of Berkhamsted, because it was one town with the same shared issues. However, due to the size of the electorate, Berkhamsted is entitled to six councillors. As a matter of policy, we will not recommend wards of more than three councillors, as we consider that this dilutes democratic accountability.

75 As these are the only comments we received on the boundaries, we are content to adopt the existing wards as part of our draft recommendations. Berkhamsted Castle, Berkhamsted East and Berkhamsted West wards are all two-councillor wards forecast to have 1%, 4% and 7% more electors per councillor respectively, than the average for Dacorum Borough Council, by 2030.

76 One resident advocated for the use of 'traditional names' for wards. They proposed that Berkhamsted East be renamed Ashlyns ward and Berkhamsted West revert to its old name, Shrublands. While we have not adopted them as part of our draft recommendations, we welcome comments on them, specifically if they resonate with residents and reflect community identity.

Northchurch

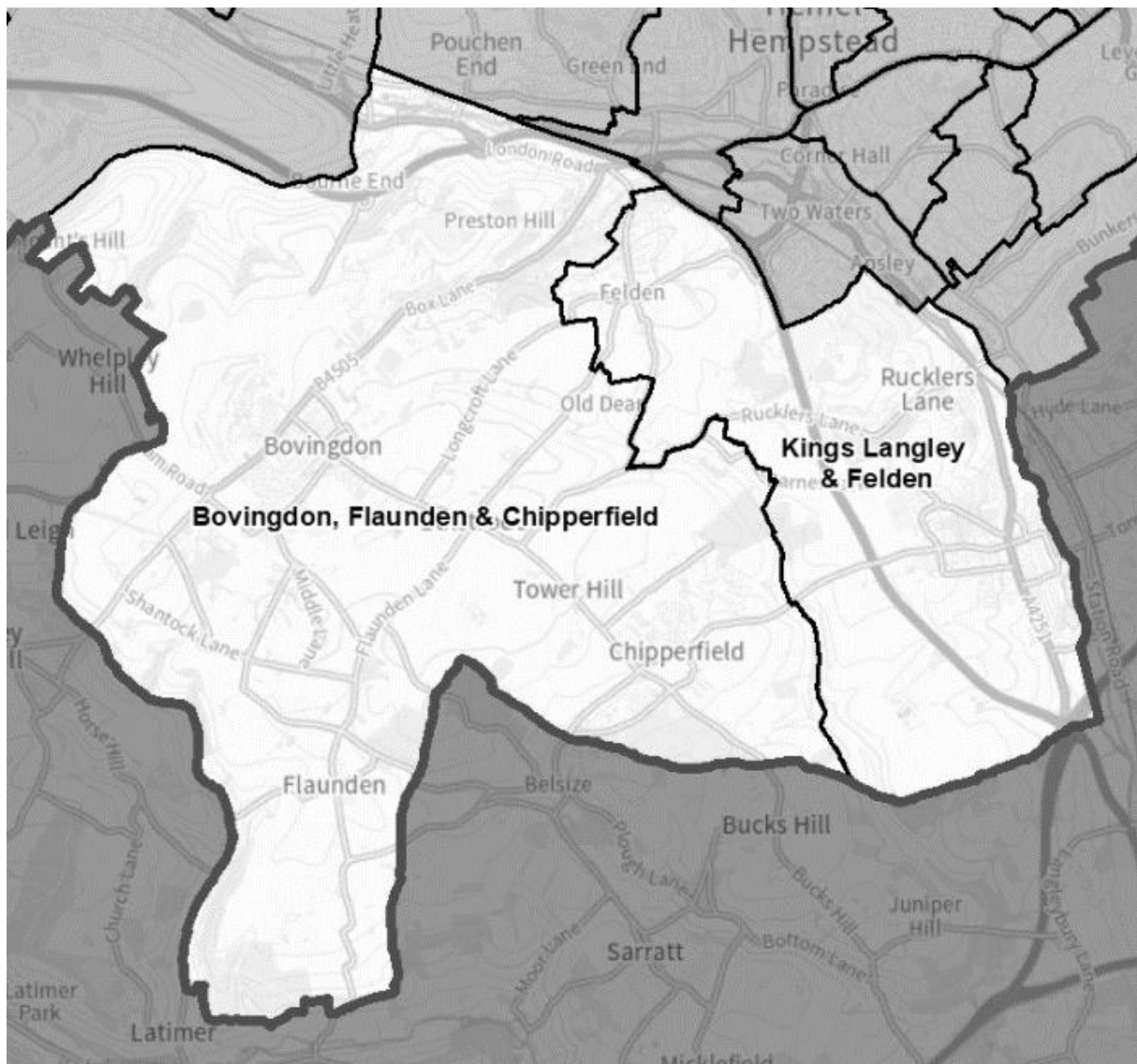
77 The borough-wide submissions were the only ones we received about Northchurch.

78 As mentioned in the section on Ashridge, the Liberal Democrats considered but decided against proposing to a merger of the existing borough wards of Ashridge and Northchurch because Ashridge has different characteristics to most of Northchurch.

79 After careful consideration, we agree that Northchurch should remain separate from Ashridge, on community interest grounds.

80 Northchurch is a single-councillor ward forecast to have approximately the same number of electors per councillor as the average for the borough by 2030.

Bovingdon, Chipperfield, Flaunden, Kings Langley and Felden



| Ward | Number of councillors | Variance 2030 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield | 3 | -7% |
| Kings Langley & Felden | 2 | -4% |

Kings Langley & Felden

81 In addition to the borough-wide submissions, we received 14 submissions about this area, from Councillor Button, Councillor James-Saunders, Councillor Maddern and residents.

82 Almost all of these objected to any proposals that sought to include Kings Langley parish in a ward with Nash Mills parish. They argued that the two parishes were separate and had separate identities especially as Nash Mills was part of Hemel Hempstead. The Conservatives were also of the view that Kings Langley should be kept separate from Hemel Hempstead.

83 Labour submitted two proposals for this area. Its 51-councillor warding pattern proposed a Kings Langley ward coterminous with the parish boundaries. It advocated this because the parish was in a different parliamentary constituency, had its own parish council, and was separated from other areas by fields. We note that this produced a ward forecast to have 16% fewer electors than the average for Dacorum Borough Council, by 2030. Under a 52-councillor scheme it would still have 15% fewer electors than the average for the borough.

84 Its alternative proposal under a 52-councillor scheme was to include Kings Langley in a ward with Nash Mills parish. As mentioned above, we received representations objecting to this on the grounds that Kings Langley was a village and separate from Nash Mills which was urban and very much part of Hemel Hempstead town. Others stated that they were physically separate communities and that there were no natural connections between them.

85 The Liberal Democrats also submitted two alternative proposals for this area. Both placed part of the unparished area south of the A4251 London Road in a ward with Kings Langley parish. The first option included the unparished part of Box Lane and Felden Lane in Kings Langley ward. The second option did not go that far west and only included the Felden area i.e., the section of Felden Lane south of Roughdown Villas Road in Kings Langley ward. The Liberal Democrats state that Felden and Kings Langley 'share' Rucklers Lane. Both options had good electoral equality under either a 51- or 52-councillor council size. Neither option included Kings Langley nor Nash Mills in the same borough ward.

86 On our tour of the area, we noted that while Kings Langley was a village, it was more suburban than rural, and was in close proximity to Nash Mills. We also noted that both of the Liberal Democrats' options had merit – they had good electoral equality and strong boundaries. In particular, we determined that the woods immediately south of Roughdown Villas Road are an identifiable boundary and separate those in the north from those to the south of Felden Lane. We also noted a change in the geography of the area, as one moves south of the area.

87 After careful consideration of all the options, we have not been persuaded to create a ward forecast to have 15% or 16% fewer electors than the borough-wide average. Accordingly, we did not create a ward that was coterminous with Kings Langley parish and sought to identify alternative boundaries for the ward in this area.

88 We have been persuaded to adopt the Liberal Democrats' second option for this area and create a Kings Langley & Felden ward. We considered that the Felden area was somewhat separate from the area to the north and the rest of Hemel Hempstead. We also considered that option one uses a section of the Bovingdon parish boundary that separates very close neighbours i.e., 58 and 60 Box Lane, into different borough wards, so we therefore chose not to adopt this proposal. The

Liberal Democrats stated that Box Lane and Felden communities developed separately and we are content to include them in different wards.

89 Kings Langley & Felden is a two-councillor ward forecast to have 4% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2030.

Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield

90 In addition to the borough-wide submissions, we received comments from a resident about this area.

91 The resident of Felden Lane advocated for Felden Lane to be excluded from Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield ward and included in a ward to the north of this area instead, stating that their community was to the north. However, this produced a ward forecast to have very poor electoral equality i.e., at least 17% more electors than the average for Dacorum. We therefore did not adopt that proposal.

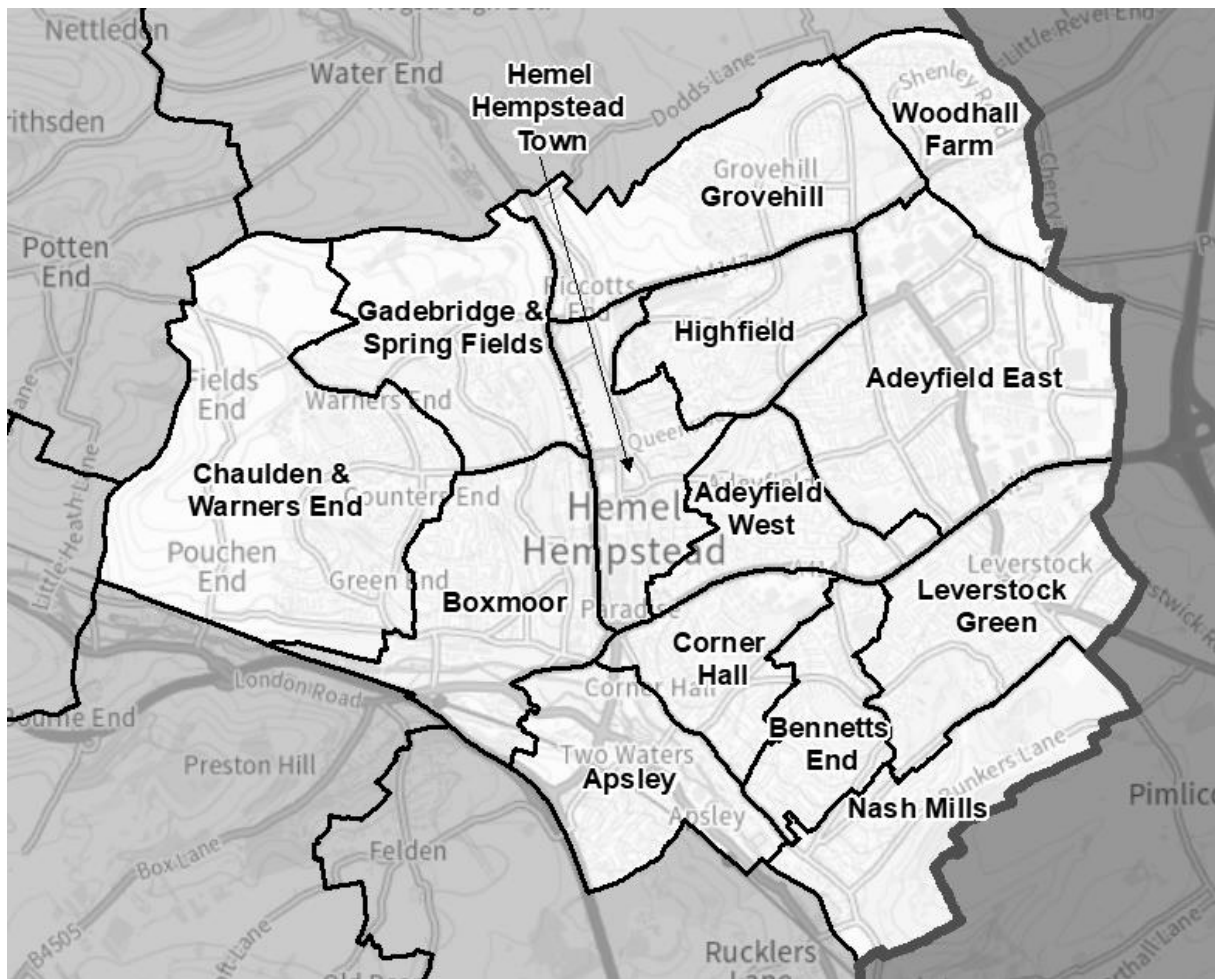
92 Labour proposed retaining the existing ward consisting of Bovingdon, Chipperfield and Flaunden parishes, and an area of Hemel Hempstead from Felden Lane to Bourne End Lane.

93 The Liberal Democrats' proposals kept most of the existing ward together but excluded either the Felden area or both Felden and Box Lane areas from this ward.

94 For reasons mentioned in the section on Kings Langley, we have excluded the southern part of Felden Lane from this ward. However, we have retained the northern end of Felden Lane, from Roughdown Villas Road, in this ward. Accordingly, we have created a ward based on the existing ward, but without Felden. This provides for a better balance of our criteria here and in the Kings Langley area, with both wards having good electoral equality.

95 Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield ward is a three-councillor ward based on one of the Liberal Democrats' proposals. It is forecast to have 7% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2030.

Hemel Hempstead



| Ward | Number of councillors | Variance 2030 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Adeyfield East | 2 | 6% |
| Adeyfield West | 2 | 6% |
| Apsley | 2 | 5% |
| Bennetts End | 2 | -5% |
| Boxmoor | 3 | 7% |
| Chaulden & Warners End | 3 | 6% |
| Corner Hall | 2 | -8% |
| Gadebridge & Spring Fields | 2 | 2% |
| Grovehill | 3 | -9% |
| Hemel Hempstead Town | 2 | 8% |
| Highfield | 2 | 8% |
| Leverstock Green | 3 | -7% |
| Nash Mills | 1 | 9% |
| Woodhall Farm | 2 | 13% |

96 Significant growth is expected in Hemel Hempstead, particularly in the existing wards of Apsley Corner Hall and Hemel Hempstead Town. To accommodate this, the borough-wide schemes proposed creating two two-councillor wards in place of the existing three-councillor Apsley Corner Hall ward and adjusted the boundaries of Hemel Hempstead Town ward as necessary.

97 The Conservatives proposed an additional councillor in each of the existing Apsley Corner Hall and Hemel Hempstead Town ward areas, implying a council size of 53, two more than our minded-to decision, without the supporting detailed governance and community evidence, and boundaries. Secondly, under this proposal, some of the proposed wards like Boxmoor, Bennetts End, Leverstock Green and Woodhall Farm had poor electoral equality. Therefore, we did not adopt this proposal, although we considered the individual boundaries where they specified them.

98 We note the consensus around splitting Apsley Corner Hall into two on growth and community grounds and we have been persuaded to do so.

Adeyfield East, Adeyfield West, Hemel Hempstead Town and Highfield

99 In addition to the borough-wide proposals, we received comments from the Conservatives and two residents for this area. The borough-wide proposals shared many boundaries in common.

100 The existing Hemel Hempstead Town ward is forecast to have 35% more electors than the average for Dacorum Borough Council, by 2030, and all the proposals from Labour and the Liberal Democrats sought to address this by moving part of it into Adeyfield West and Highfield wards. They both proposed moving the Townsend and Wheatfield area into Highfield ward to improve the forecast electoral equality in both wards.

101 The main differences between the proposals pertained to whether St Paul's Road and an area around Paradise/Wood Lane were included in Adeyfield West or in Hemel Hempstead Town ward.

102 The other difference was about in which of the Adeyfield wards to place Vauxhall Road. Labour's 51-councillor proposal and the Liberal Democrats retained Vauxhall Road in Adeyfield West. Labour's 52-councillor scheme moved it to Adeyfield East using the entirety of Longlands as an identifiable boundary. However, this latter proposal produced an Adeyfield East ward with 12% more electors than the average for Dacorum. Considering this poor electoral equality, and the fact that Labour also used the well-established existing boundary in its other proposal, we have not been persuaded to move Vauxhall Road into Adeyfield East ward.

103 The Liberal Democrats retained the St Paul's Road area in Hemel Hempstead Town but consequently moved Paradise (road) and Wood Lane into Adeyfield West ward to achieve good electoral equality.

104 On careful consideration of the options, we considered that the St Paul's Road area is a well-established community which would most likely look to the west for its community interests and amenities, and not eastwards as proposed by Labour. Therefore, we were persuaded to retain this area in Hemel Hempstead Town ward.

105 We also noted that the scale of developments in the Paradise area meant that the new developments were going to have to be split across Adeyfield West and Hemel Hempstead Town wards. All the proposals from Labour and the Liberal Democrats do this.

106 Having taken the decision to retain the St Paul's Road area in Hemel Hempstead Town ward, we have adopted the Liberal Democrats' proposal to move Paradise (road) and Wood Lane area into Adeyfield West ward. We note that this is a discrete area with good boundaries.

107 Labour also proposed splitting the industrial estate to the north and east of Adeyfield East and moving the area north of Swallowdale Lane into a ward to the north of the area. They did not give any supporting reasons for this, and we were not persuaded to adopt this proposal, as we considered that the industrial estate should be kept united in a single ward.

108 In summary, our draft recommendations for Adeyfield East, Adeyfield West and Hemel Hempstead Town wards are based on the Liberal Democrats' proposals with a modification to Hemel Hempstead Town ward. Our draft recommendations for Highfield ward are based on proposals from both Labour and the Liberal Democrats, with one modification.

109 To provide for good electoral equality in Hemel Hempstead Town ward under a 52-councillor scheme, following decisions we made in Tring, we have moved the new development to the north of Hemel Hempstead Town ward, into Highfield ward. Without this, Hemel Hempstead Town ward would be forecast to have 11% more electors than the average for the local authority area.

110 Adeyfield East and Adeyfield West are two-councillor wards and are both forecast to have 6% more electors than the average for Dacorum Borough Council by 2030. Hemel Hempstead Town and Highfield wards are also two-councillor wards, each forecast to have 8% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2030.

Apsley and Corner Hall

111 In addition to the borough-wide comments and those from the Conservatives, we received submissions from three residents.

112 A resident was of the view that the Roughdown area and Stratford Way should fall under the Boxmoor ward and be excluded from the existing Apsley & Corner Hall ward. In their view, this area is more connected geographically and physically to Boxmoor than Apsley and Corner Hall. One resident specified that Catlin Street and Roughdown Road were more 'adjacent' to Boxmoor than Apsley and another one stated that Stratford Way was geographically and socially more connected to Boxmoor than Apsley & Corner Hall ward.

113 We note that the Conservatives and the borough-wide proposals all excluded the above-mentioned streets from their proposals for this area. In light of this and the residents' comments, we were persuaded to exclude these roads from any wards in this area.

114 As mentioned previously, the political groups all proposed the creation of two two-councillor wards to replace the existing Apsley & Corner Hall ward due to growth, and to reflect the two different communities in this area.

115 The Conservatives' and the Liberal Democrats' wards shared many similarities. They were of the view that all or most of the area south of Sempill Road and west of Lime Walk Primary School identified as part of Corner Hall and not Bennetts End. The difference between their Corner Hall ward was that the Conservatives included all of Belmont Road and the southern end of Lime Walk in this ward, while the Liberal Democrats excluded all of Lime Walk and the eastern end of Belmont Road from its proposals for Corner Hall ward. Their proposals for Apsley ward also differed in that in addition to Catlin Street and Roughdown Road, the Liberal Democrats also excluded Roughdown Avenue and Roughdown Common from their proposals for this area.

116 Labour's proposals for Apsley ward produced a ward forecast to have 28% fewer electors than the average for the borough because they excluded a larger part of the existing ward from their proposed ward. They placed Ebbens Road in Corner Hall ward, and the large development on the former gasworks site in a ward to the west. We were not persuaded to create a ward with such poor variance, and we did not adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. We also decided not to include Ebbens Road in Corner Hall ward because doing so would cut off residents of Evans Wharf, Imperial Way, Minoan Drive and Stephenson Wharf from vehicular access to the rest of their ward. We also consider that Belswains Lane and Lawn Lane are strong and identifiable boundaries, as proposed by the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

117 We were also not persuaded to include the residents at the southern end of Lime Walk in Corner Hall ward, as their access is to the east and not west.

118 Therefore, after careful consideration, we are adopting the Liberal Democrats' proposal as part of our draft recommendations. We note that there are many shared boundaries with those proposed by the Conservatives.

119 Apsley and Corner Hall wards both have two councillors each. They are forecast to have 5% more and 8% fewer electors per councillor, respectively, than the average for Dacorum by 2030.

120 The Liberal Democrats gave an option to include residents of Windsor Court to the north of Lawn Lane in Corner Hall ward. We have not done so as part of our draft recommendations, but welcome comments, with community evidence, on this. We also welcome comments on whether the rest of Belmont Road, east of Risedale Road, ought to be included in Corner Hall ward.

Bennetts End and Leverstock Green

121 We received three submissions from residents in addition to the proposals from the Conservatives and the borough-wide ones about these wards.

122 Except for one resident who felt that revised boundaries could not be considered until ongoing expansion plans impacting on Leverstock Green were more 'definite', all the submissions expressed the view that Bennetts End ward should be expanded eastwards, on community identity grounds. This was because in their view part of the area recognised as Bennetts End was currently included in other wards, mainly Leverstock Green.

123 The Liberal Democrats stated that their proposals better reflect the division between Bennetts End and Leverstock Green. They proposed extending Bennetts End to the eastern edge of Longdean School, east of Kiln Ground, along Rant Meadow and east of Belsize Close north to St Albans Road. The Conservatives proposed a boundary further east along St Michaels Avenue and Tile Kiln Lane. As mentioned in the section on Apsley and Corner Hall wards, both groups proposed moving most or all of the area south of Sempill Road and west of Lime Walk Primary School into neighbouring Corner Hall ward.

124 On the other hand, Labour proposed retaining most of that area in Bennetts End ward and did not extend the boundaries significantly eastwards. Like the other proposals, it included Horselers and the whole of Great Elms Road in this ward. Its 52-councillor proposal retained the eastern boundary along Bennetts End Road, whereas its 51-councillor united most of it in Bennetts End ward.

125 On our tour of the area we noted that the community appeared to flow across both sides of Bennetts End Road. We also noted that residents of Acorn Road,

Belsize Road and Sylvan Close, off the northern end of Bennetts End Road, do not have vehicular access to the rest of the existing Leverstock Green ward to the east. Therefore, we considered that they will possibly look west across Bennetts End Road for a significant part of their community interests. This was in line with a resident's comment and most of the proposals we received.

126 While we were not persuaded that the community extended as far east as St Michael's Avenue, we considered that the community most likely included the western end of Peascroft Road and the roads off it. We considered that the Liberal Democrats' eastern boundary best reflected what we saw while on tour.

127 However, as explained in paragraphs 28 and 29 we have had to revise the figures for two polling districts in this area. While we recognise that the Liberal Democrats' proposal is likely to reflect community identity, we have had to recalculate the variances based on the correct figures. This means that their variances are not what was initially thought, regardless of whether the council size was 51, 52 or 53.

128 Under their proposals, Bennetts End and Leverstock Green wards are forecast to have 17% more and 23% fewer electors per councillor than the district average under a 51-councillor scheme, or 20% more and 22% fewer electors per councillor, with 52 councillors. We considered changing Bennetts End to a three-councillor ward and Leverstock Green to a two-councillor ward. However, this still produced wards with very poor electoral equality: 22% fewer and 15% more electors per councillor, or 20% fewer and 17% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough. The variances were similarly poor under a 53-councillor scheme. We did not consider that adopting any of these offered the best balance of our statutory criteria.

129 Accordingly, we looked to see how much of the area east of Bennetts End Road, Leys Road and Great Elms Road we could move into Bennetts End ward. We found it challenging to identify where to draw the boundary between Bennetts End and Leverstock Green. We considered using Peascroft Road as a boundary, but our tour convinced us that both sides of that road shared a community and ought to be in the same ward.

130 We also noted that there was a consensus about Horselers being part of Bennetts End ward, and some agreement about Bond Close and Pinecroft, as most of the proposals placed them in Bennetts End ward, too.

131 Accordingly, as part of our draft recommendations, we have created a Bennetts End ward based on the different proposals we received. We include both sides of Bennetts End Road and the Belsize Road area in this ward. We also include Horselers and unite both sides of Bennetts End Road in this ward.

132 The boundary between Leverstock Green and Bennetts End wards runs north to south from the east of Belsize Road and Sylvan Close, between St Albert the Great Catholic Primary School and the community sports facility, along the back of the properties on the eastern side of Bennetts End Road to Barnacres Road and Hill Common. Its southern boundary mostly runs along the boundary of Nash Mills parish. However, while we have included Bond Close in Bennetts End ward, we have excluded Pinecroft, which we include in Nash Mills ward to the south. This is because including Pinecroft residents in Bennetts End cuts them off from the rest of their ward. We note that this is in line with comments from a resident of Nash Mills. We welcome comments on this.

133 With regards to Leverstock Green ward, we have based the southern boundary on one of Labour's proposals and have not run it along Nash Mills parish boundary. This is because the parish boundary is neither strong nor clear in several places including in Woodfield Drive where it passes through some properties. Furthermore, a few properties would have no direct access to the rest of their ward without crossing into another ward.

134 We welcome comments and proposals, with evidence of community ties, on an alternative boundary between Bennetts End and Leverstock Green that also fits in with the wider warding pattern in the borough.

135 Bennetts End and Leverstock Green are two- and three-councillor wards, respectively, forecast to have 5% and 7% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2030.

Boxmoor, Chaulden & Warners End and Gadebridge & Spring Fields

136 We received submissions from Councillor Anderson and four residents in addition to the borough-wide and Conservatives' proposals.

137 Labour proposed retaining most of the boundaries of the existing wards in this area. In Boxmoor ward it proposed the inclusion of Roughdown area, and Whiteleaf Road, east of Stratford Way. Although the proposals excluded the KD Plaza area, it resulted in a ward forecast to have 18% more electors than the average for the borough under a 52-councillor scheme, and 16% with 51 councillors. We considered these variances too high and did not adopt these boundaries.

138 To address the forecast overrepresentation in Gadebridge ward, Labour proposed a minor amendment to the boundary between it and the existing Chaulden & Warners End ward by including the area between Berkhamsted Road, Boxted Road and Warmark Road in Gadebridge ward.

139 The Liberal Democrats' proposals unite both sides of Northridge Way in Chaulden & Warners End ward and place the Roughdown area up to Stratford Way in Boxmoor ward. They also propose a modification to the boundary between Chaulden & Warners End and Gadebridge wards in the same area as Labour.

However, they propose moving a wider area: the eastern side of Boxted Road, south of Berkhamsted Road and north of Galley Hill.

140 The Conservatives and Councillor Anderson submitted identical suggestions about changing the boundary between Boxmoor and Aspley ward to its south. They suggested that one option would be to include London Road residents and the new developments north of Hemel Hempstead station in Boxmoor ward.

141 As mentioned in the section on Aspley and Corner Hall, several residents expressed the view that residents of certain roads in the Roughdown area identified as living in Boxmoor. Noting that this agreed with the borough-wide schemes, we have been persuaded to include Catlin Road, Roughdown Road and Stratford Way in Boxmoor ward, on community identity and geographical grounds. We have also included a development north of Hemel Hempstead Station in Boxmoor. We have not extended Boxmoor as far as Two Waters Way to include Whiteleaf Road, on electoral equality grounds.

142 We also carefully considered the options for the boundary between Chaulden & Warners End and Gadebridge wards. We considered that the boundary along a section of Galley Hill was more identifiable than the one on Warmark Road proposed by Labour, which we considered might split close neighbours across wards.

143 Accordingly, we have based our draft recommendations on the Liberal Democrats' proposals. They suggest renaming Gadebridge ward, Gadebridge & Spring Fields to reflect the communities within the new ward.

144 We make one modification to their proposals by including residents on the western side of Old Fishery Lane, south of River Bulbourne in Boxmoor ward. This is in line with comments we received from a resident who stated that their community was with the rest of Old Fishery Lane in Boxmoor, and not in Chaulden & Warners End ward to the north, across Chaulden Meadows.

145 Boxmoor and Chaulden & Warners End wards are three-councillor wards forecast to have 7% and 6% more electors per councillor, respectively, than the average for the borough, by 2030. Gadebridge & Spring Fields is a two-councillor ward forecast to have 2% more electors than the average for Dacorum, by 2030.

146 As mentioned in the section on Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield, another resident wanted Felden Lane included in Boxmoor ward. For reasons given in the section on Kings Langley & Felden, we have not adopted this proposal.

Grovehill and Woodhall Farm

147 In addition to the borough-wide submissions, we received comments from Councillor Wyatt-Lowe and two residents.

148 Labour proposed extending the existing Grovehill ward to take in some of Woodhall Farm and Adeyfield East wards, including part of the industrial area south of Redbourn Road, on electoral equality grounds. Under its 51-councillor proposal, its Grovehill & Cupid Green ward also included residents of the Admiral Avenue/Burgundy Drive area and the Three Cherry Trees Caravan Site. The resultant Woodhall Farm ward was forecast to have 14% fewer electors per councillor than the average for Dacorum, by 2030. As part of its 52-councillor scheme, its proposed Grovehill & Cupid Green ward included the caravan site but not the Admiral Avenue/Burgundy Drive area. Labour retained the existing boundary east of Woodhall Wood and The Astley Cooper School.

149 The Liberal Democrats proposed extending the existing Woodhall Farm ward westwards into Grovehill thereby creating a Woodhall & Grovehill East ward also for electoral equality reasons. The proposed ward includes an area of Grovehill, north of Washington Avenue, east of St Agnells Lane. They stated that including this area with Woodhall was not ideal, but they felt that it was the best solution and the proposed ward name reflects the different communities within it. They also state that there are footpaths linking the north of this part of Grovehill to Woodhall.

150 Councillor Wyatt-Lowe advocated the retention of the existing boundaries for Woodhall Farm ward because of its location. She was of the view that the existing ward had self-defining boundaries which would be difficult to change. She stated that residents in 'Woodhall Farm, Hunters Oak and Swallowfields' had a real sense of community which was reflected in current ward boundaries.

151 Both residents questioned why Piccotts End was part of Grovehill ward. One was of the view that it ought to be part of Gadebridge ward or the 'Old Town & Highfield areas of Hemel Hempstead' as it was closer to either of those areas and that its needs were reflective of the Old Town. The other resident advocated for it to be included in (Hemel Hempstead) Town ward.

152 We carefully considered the different boundaries proposed to us. As mentioned in the section on Adeyfield, Highfield and Hemel Hempstead, we were not persuaded to split the industrial estate on both sides of Swallowdale Lane across wards. On further consideration of Labour's proposals, we noted that residents of Admiral Avenue/Burgundy Drive area would be separated from most of their ward and we did not adopt these proposals.

153 With regards to the Liberal Democrats' proposals, on our tour of the area we noted that the proposed boundary along Washington Avenue and St Agnells Lane appeared to split the Grovehill community across wards. We agree that this is not ideal and have not been persuaded to adopt these boundaries.

154 After careful consideration, we note that Woodhall Farm is a self-contained area limited by the borough boundaries as stated by Councillor Wyatt-Lowe.

Accordingly, we have been persuaded to retain the boundaries of the existing wards in this area even though doing so produces a Woodhall Farm ward with a higher variance than we would typically recommend. However, we consider this the best balance of our statutory criteria, as it would avoid splitting communities in either of the two wards in this area.

155 We also considered the residents' comments about Piccotts End. We note that the inclusion of Piccotts End in Grovehill ward uses Leighton Buzzard Road (B440) and Link Road (A4147) as strong and identifiable boundaries. Furthermore, while moving the area out of Grovehill ward produced a ward with good electoral equality in Gadebridge & Spring Fields ward, Grovehill would have 11% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average. At the same time, including it in either Hemel Hempstead Town or Highfield wards produced wards with 13% more electors per councillor than the average for the district in those wards. On careful consideration, we have concluded that using strong boundaries and having wards with good electoral equality are a better balance of our statutory criteria in this instance.

156 Grovehill is a three-councillor ward forecast to have 9% fewer councillors than the average for Dacorum by 2030. Woodhall Farm ward is a two-councillor ward forecast to have 13% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2030.

Nash Mills

157 In addition to the borough-wide proposals, we received submissions from Councillor Maddern and several residents about this area.

158 Labour's 52-councillor scheme placed Nash Mills and Kings Langley parish in a single ward and one resident was of the view that Nash Mills could be split up and merged with 'Bennetts End, Apsley and possibly Kings Langley'. All the other respondents advocated for Nash Mills and Kings Langley parishes to be in separate wards, on community identity grounds.

159 Under its 51-councillor scheme, Labour proposed a Nash Mills ward based on the existing ward with modifications around Barnacres Road, Chambersbury Lane, Horselers and Pinecroft. It excludes Horselers, a section of Barnacres Road and Pinecroft from its proposals for this area.

160 Councillor Maddern and other respondents were of the view that Nash Mills parish was part of Hemel Hempstead, and different from Kings Langley. Councillor Maddern felt that including it in a ward with Kings Langley would be moving it out of town and that it would lose its identity. One resident was of a similar view that Nash Mills parish had its own identity.

161 Several respondents, including the Liberal Democrats, wanted a ward that was coterminous with the parish boundaries. One resident said this would bring 'clarity to

the residents'. The resident also advocated for Pinecroft to be included in Nash Mills ward and also Nash Mills parish because it can only be accessed from there.

162 As mentioned in the section on Kings Langley & Felden, we were not persuaded to create a ward made up of Nash Mills and Kings Langley parishes.

163 We considered creating a ward coterminous with Nash Mills parish boundaries. However, we noted that the parish boundary is neither strong nor clear in some areas including in Woodfield Drive, Market Oak Lane and Silverthorn Drive where it cuts through some properties.

164 Instead, we have based our draft recommendations on the boundaries proposed in Labour's 51-councillor scheme which does not use the parish boundary where it is unclear. We make one modification and include Pinecroft in this ward to reflect its access.

165 We are unable to change parish boundaries e.g., to include Pinecroft in Nash Mills parish. This can only be done by Dacorum Borough Council through a Community Governance Review.

166 Nash Mills ward is a single-councillor ward, forecast to have 9% more electors than the average for Dacorum Borough Council by 2030.

Conclusions

167 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Dacorum, 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 | 52 | 52 |
| Number of electoral wards | 26 | 26 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,157 | 2,382 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average | 2 | 1 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average | 0 | 0 |

Draft recommendations

Dacorum Borough Council should be made up of 52 councillors serving 26 wards representing five single-councillor wards, 16 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 Dacorum Borough Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Dacorum on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

168 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.

169 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, Dacorum Borough 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.

170 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 Tring parish.

Draft recommendations

Tring Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Tring Brunstrux | 5 |
| Tring Dunsley | 2 |
| Tring Hastoe | 1 |
| Tring Miswell | 4 |

Have your say

171 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 borough or just a part of it.

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

173 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

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

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

Review Officer (Dacorum)
LGBCE
7th Floor
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

176 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Dacorum Borough Council 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.

177 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.

178 Electoral equality:

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

179 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?

180 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?

181 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

182 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.

183 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.

184 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 Dacorum Borough Council in 2027.

Equalities

185 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.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Dacorum Borough Council

| | 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 | Adeyfield East | 2 | 4,153 | 2,077 | -4% | 5,028 | 2,514 | 6% |
| 2 | Adeyfield West | 2 | 4,370 | 2,185 | 1% | 5,057 | 2,528 | 6% |
| 3 | Aldbury & Wigginton | 1 | 2,060 | 2,060 | -5% | 2,154 | 2,154 | -10% |
| 4 | Apsley | 2 | 3,973 | 1,987 | -8% | 5,016 | 2,508 | 5% |
| 5 | Ashridge | 1 | 2,100 | 2,100 | -3% | 2,212 | 2,212 | -7% |
| 6 | Bennetts End | 2 | 4,319 | 2,160 | 0% | 4,516 | 2,258 | -5% |
| 7 | Berkhamsted Castle | 2 | 4,521 | 2,261 | 5% | 4,801 | 2,400 | 1% |
| 8 | Berkhamsted East | 2 | 4,668 | 2,334 | 8% | 4,938 | 2,469 | 4% |
| 9 | Berkhamsted West | 2 | 4,663 | 2,332 | 8% | 5,085 | 2,542 | 7% |
| 10 | Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield | 3 | 6,240 | 2,080 | -4% | 6,653 | 2,218 | -7% |

| | 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 | Boxmoor | 3 | 6,650 | 2,217 | 3% | 7,654 | 2,551 | 7% |
| 12 | Chaulden & Warners End | 3 | 6,645 | 2,215 | 3% | 7,564 | 2,521 | 6% |
| 13 | Corner Hall | 2 | 4,166 | 2,083 | -3% | 4,401 | 2,200 | -8% |
| 14 | Gadebridge & Spring Fields | 2 | 4,613 | 2,307 | 7% | 4,859 | 2,429 | 2% |
| 15 | Grovehill | 3 | 5,547 | 1,849 | -14% | 6,527 | 2,176 | -9% |
| 16 | Hemel Hempstead Town | 2 | 4,080 | 2,040 | -5% | 5,167 | 2,583 | 8% |
| 17 | Highfield | 2 | 4,713 | 2,357 | 9% | 5,159 | 2,579 | 8% |
| 18 | Kings Langley & Felden | 2 | 4,459 | 2,230 | 3% | 4,559 | 2,279 | -4% |
| 19 | Leverstock Green | 3 | 6,166 | 2,055 | -5% | 6,614 | 2,205 | -7% |
| 20 | Nash Mills | 1 | 2,443 | 2,443 | 13% | 2,597 | 2,597 | 9% |
| 21 | Northchurch | 1 | 2,315 | 2,315 | 7% | 2,391 | 2,391 | 0% |
| 22 | Tring Central | 2 | 4,088 | 2,044 | -5% | 4,298 | 2,149 | -10% |
| 23 | Tring East | 1 | 2,129 | 2,129 | -1% | 2,262 | 2,262 | -5% |
| 24 | Tring West & Rural | 2 | 4,177 | 2,089 | -3% | 4,396 | 2,198 | -8% |

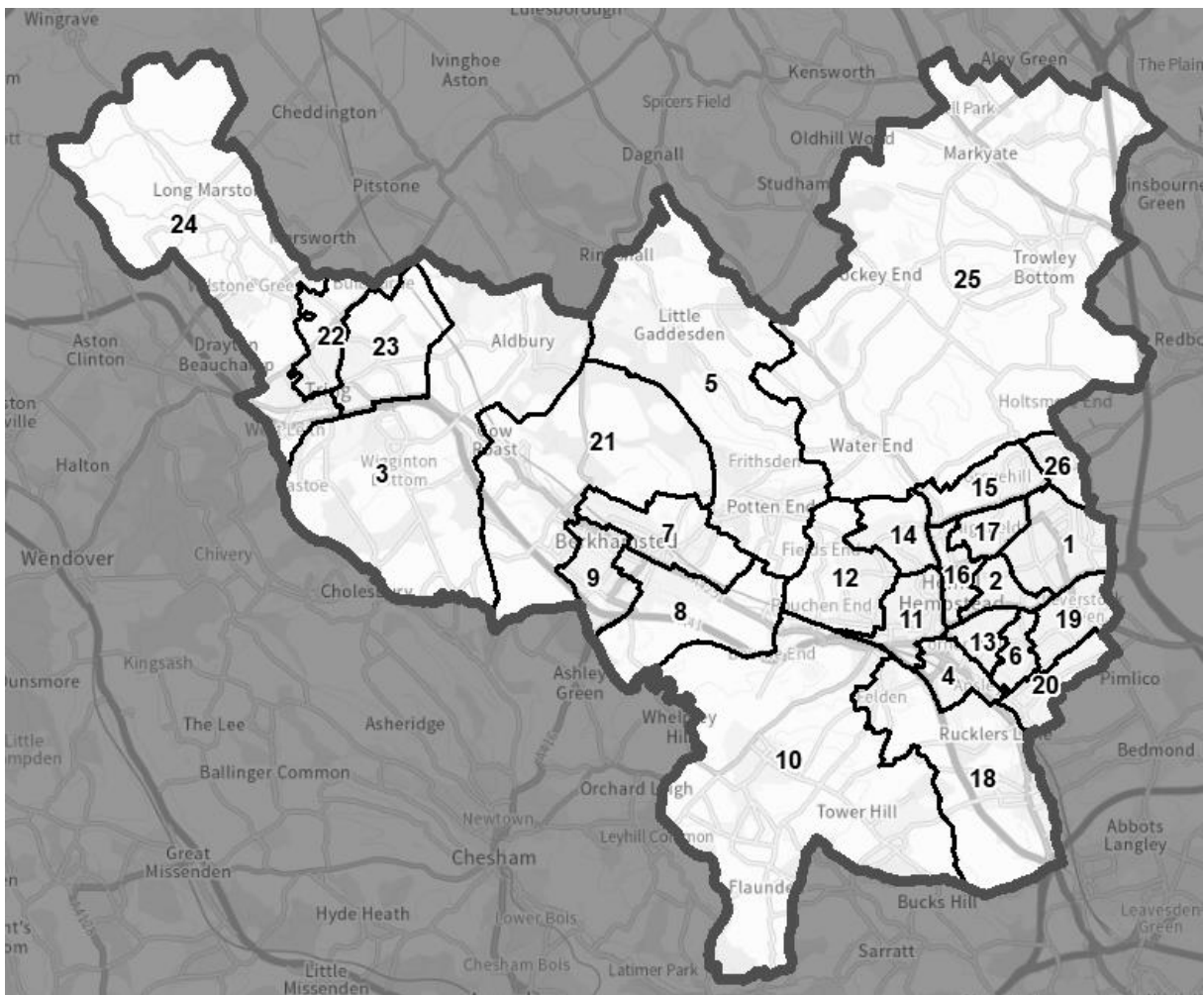
| Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2023) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2030) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 25 Watling | 2 | 4,357 | 2,179 | 1% | 4,570 | 2,285 | -4% |
| 26 Woodhall Farm | 2 | 4,552 | 2,276 | 6% | 5,373 | 2,686 | 13% |
| Totals | 52 | 112,167 | – | – | 123,849 | – | – |
| Averages | | – | 2,157 | – | – | 2,382 | – |

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Dacorum Borough 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 |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Adeyfield East |
| 2 | Adeyfield West |
| 3 | Aldbury & Wigginton |
| 4 | Apsley |
| 5 | Ashridge |
| 6 | Bennetts End |
| 7 | Berkhamsted Castle |
| 8 | Berkhamsted East |
| 9 | Berkhamsted West |
| 10 | Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield |
| 11 | Boxmoor |
| 12 | Chaulden & Warners End |
| 13 | Corner Hall |
| 14 | Gadebridge & Spring Fields |
| 15 | Grovehill |

| | |
|----|------------------------|
| 16 | Hemel Hempstead Town |
| 17 | Highfield |
| 18 | Kings Langley & Felden |
| 19 | Leverstock Green |
| 20 | Nash Mills |
| 21 | Northchurch |
| 22 | Tring Central |
| 23 | Tring East |
| 24 | Tring West & Rural |
| 25 | Watling |
| 26 | Woodhall Farm |

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/dacorum

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Political Groups

- Dacorum Borough Council Conservative Group
- Dacorum Borough Council Labour Group
- West Hertfordshire Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor A. Anderson (Dacorum Borough Council)
- Councillor H. Button (Kings Langley Parish Council)
- Councillor D. James-Saunders (Kings Langley Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Maddern (Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council)
- Councillor S. Pilkinton (Markyate Parish Council)
- Councillor C. Wyatt-Lowe (Dacorum Borough Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Tring Town Council

Local Residents

- 30 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.

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