

**New electoral arrangements for
Wakefield Council
Final Recommendations
December 2024**

Translations and other formats:

To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Licensing:

The mapping in this report is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Keeper of Public Records © Crown copyright and database right. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and database right.

Licence Number: GD 100049926 2024

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.

Introduction	1
Who we are and what we do	1
What is an electoral review?	1
Why Wakefield?	2
Our proposals for Wakefield	2
How will the recommendations affect you?	2
Review timetable	3
Analysis and final recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Number of councillors	6
Ward boundaries consultation	6
Draft recommendations consultation	7
Final recommendations	8
Castleford	9
Knottingley and Pontefract	11
Featherstone and Normanton	14
Ackworth, South Elmsall, South Kirkby & Upton	15
Crofton, Hemsworth, Ryhill and Walton	17
Wakefield city	18
Horbury and Ossett	21
Stanley, Outwood and Wrenthorpe	23
Conclusions	25
Summary of electoral arrangements	25
Parish electoral arrangements	25
What happens next?	27
Equalities	29
Appendices	31
Appendix A	31
Final recommendations for Wakefield Council	31
Appendix B	33
Outline map	33
Appendix C	34
Submissions received	34
Appendix D	35

Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and 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 Wakefield?

7 We are conducting a review of Wakefield Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2003, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Wakefield 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 Wakefield.

Our proposals for Wakefield

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

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

11 The boundaries of most wards should change.

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

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 Council or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

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

Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
14 November 2023	Number of councillors decided
21 November 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
29 January 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
Electorate of Wakefield	262,168	288,649
Number of councillors	63	63
Average number of electors per councillor	4,161	4,582

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 Wakefield 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 10%.

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

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

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

24 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

25 Wakefield Council currently has 63 councillors. We have 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.

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

27 We received two submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. Two local residents stated that 63 councillors were too many and supported a reduction. One suggested a reduction by half, while the other resident suggested the Council be composed of 42 councillors, arguing this would save money. However, we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence relating to the Council's decision-making structure and representational role of members was presented to support these proposed reductions. Consequently, our final recommendations are based on a council represented by 63 councillors.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 22 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included an authority-wide proposal from the Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the authority.

29 The Council's proposal provided for a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Wakefield. We carefully considered this proposal and were of the view that the

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

proposed pattern of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

30 Our draft recommendations were therefore based on the Council's proposals. We also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

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

32 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

33 We received 40 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. Among them was a submission from the Council, which supported our recommendations with the exception of a proposed ward name change for Knottingley ward. The Council also encouraged councillors to make their own evidence-based responses. The other submissions were from four councillors, the Liberal Democrat Focus Team for Knottingley & Ferrybridge, one local organisation and 33 local residents. Most of these focused on specific areas, notably our proposals in Wakefield city, Pontefract and Castleford.

34 On the basis of the submissions received, we have decided to adjust our draft recommendations in the areas of Wakefield city and Castleford to reflect the local evidence submitted to us. We consider these changes will ensure that our final recommendations provide an effective balance between our statutory criteria.

35 We received a submission from Councillor Roberts, who proposed boundary changes to almost every ward across the authority. Many of these involved moving away from a parish boundary to what Councillor Roberts deemed to be a more identifiable boundary. However, such amendments would unavoidably require the creation of unviable parish wards containing little or no electors. This is because legalisation requires that if parish is to be divided between different wards, it must also be divided into parish wards. We have therefore not adopted these proposals in our final recommendations. However, in areas where parish boundaries are not concerned, we have analysed the merits of Councillor Roberts' suggestions in the relevant sections of this report.

36 We received a proposal to divide the Council into two new local authorities. However, the creation, division, or merger of a local authority cannot be accomplished through an electoral review; it would necessitate a Principal Area Boundary Review.

Final recommendations

37 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.

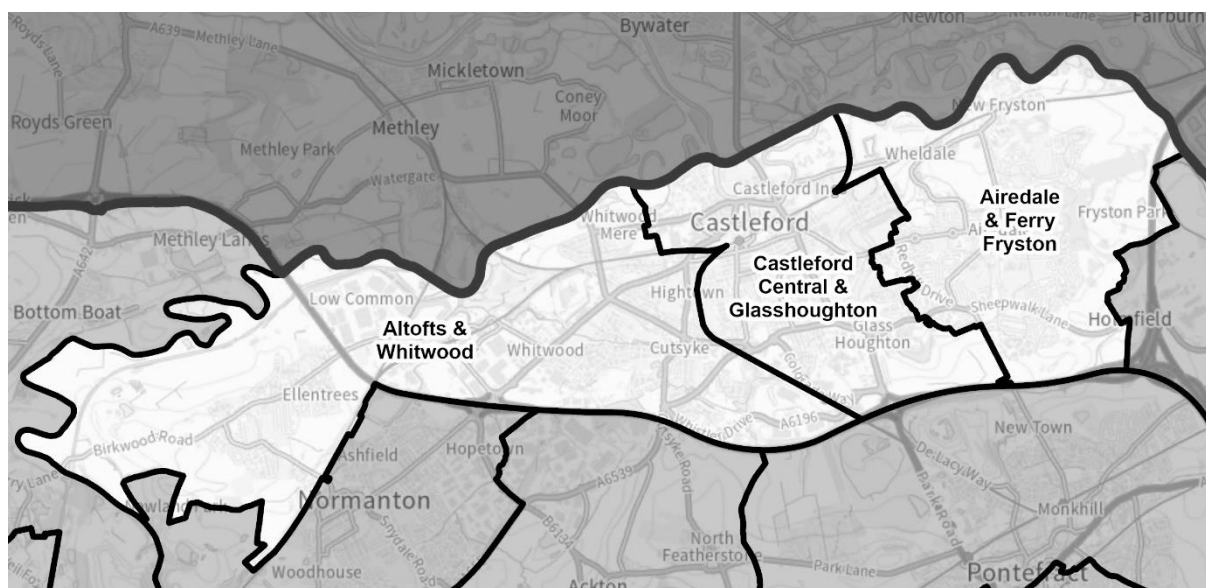
38 The tables and maps on pages 9–24 detail our final recommendations for each area of Wakefield. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

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

39 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 31 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Castleford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Airedale & Ferry Fryston	3	-6%
Altofts & Whitwood	3	9%
Castleford Central & Glasshoughton	3	4%

Airedale & Ferry Fryston, Altofts & Whitwood and Castleford Central & Glasshoughton

40 In our draft recommendations, we proposed transferring electors on Healdfield Road and its adjacent streets, to the east of Castleford Cemetery, from the existing Castleford Central & Glasshoughton ward to our proposed Airedale & Ferry Fryston ward. However, we received two objections to this decision, which both highlighted the limited connectivity between the Healdfield Road area and the remainder of the proposed Airedale & Ferry Fryston ward. These objections also emphasised that the Healdfield Road community has stronger ties to Castleford town centre.

41 Additionally, we received four submissions concerning the Altofts & Whitwood and Castleford Central & Glasshoughton wards. Councillor Jeffery (with the support of Councillor Forster and Councillor Wallis) and three local residents expressed concerns that our draft recommendations would divide the Cutsyke area between wards, potentially undermining local community identities.

42 The four latter submissions suggested alternative ward boundaries, arguing that these changes would better align with the statutory criteria. They proposed incorporating electors residing near Bruce Smeaton Way into the Altofts & Whitwood ward, while transferring the Half Acres and Roundhill areas to Castleford Central & Glasshoughton ward. They argued that either the railway line or Aketon Road would serve as a clearer and more identifiable boundary than the present one that follows the rear of properties on Barnes Road and Beacroft Road. They also provided

strong community evidence supporting their assertion that the Half Acres and Roundhill areas share stronger community links with central Castleford.

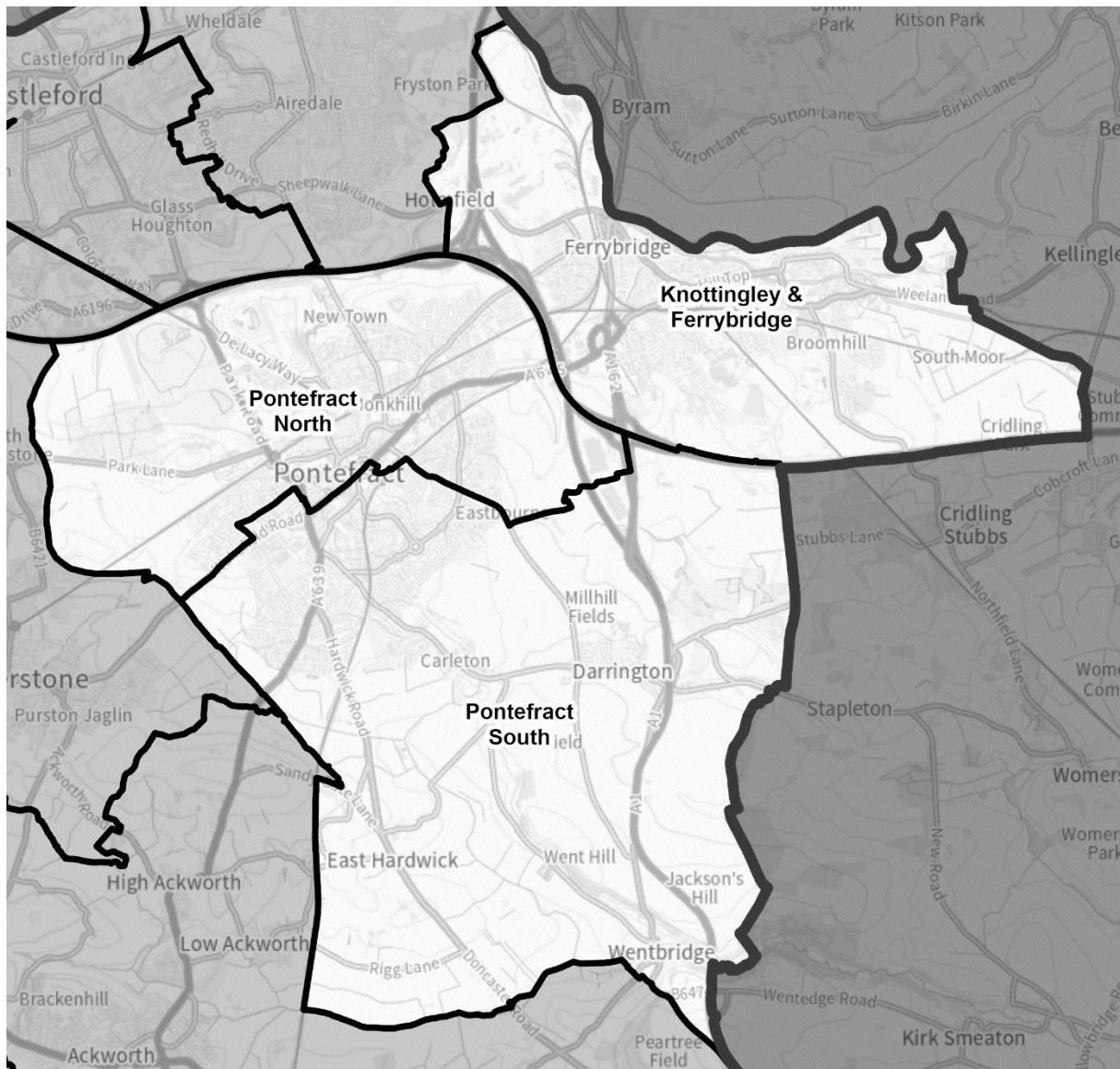
43 After considering the evidence provided across both rounds of consultation, we have been persuaded that implementing the abovementioned proposals will better reflect our statutory criteria. Together, these modifications will enhance the level of electoral equality across the three wards, establish clearer boundaries, and reflect community identities, based on the feedback received. Therefore, we have incorporated all of these changes into our final recommendations.

44 Councillor Roberts suggested the boundary between Airedale & Ferry Fryston and Castleford Central & Glasshoughton wards should follow Queen's Park Drive, Redhill Drive, Fryston Road, Holywell Lane and Spittal Hardwick Lane. However, a local resident suggested that voters living near the junction of Holywell Lane, Fryston Road, Sheepwalk Lane and Spittal Hardwick Lane are more closely aligned with the Townville area than with Glasshoughton. They argued that these voters are more likely to use local amenities in Airedale & Ferry Fryston ward and should therefore be included in that ward. We have decided to adopt the local resident's proposal, as we agree that it will better reflect community identities. Additionally, this change will help bring the electoral variances of both the Airedale & Ferry Fryston and Castleford Central & Glasshoughton wards closer to the authority's average.

45 Councillor Roberts also suggested that the boundary between Altofts & Whitwood and Castleford Central & Glasshoughton wards follows Hunt Street and Methley Road. We decided not to adopt this proposal as we were not persuaded that it would be clearer or more identifiable than our proposed boundary.

46 The Glasshoughton Infant Academy suggested that the designation of polling stations should also be reviewed. However, this falls outside our remit, as the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations is conducted by the Council.

Knottingley and Pontefract



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Knottingley & Ferrybridge	3	-10%
Pontefract North	3	5%
Pontefract South	3	8%

Knottingley & Ferrybridge

47 We received four submissions regarding the name of our proposed Knottingley ward. The Council, Councillor Girt, the Liberal Democrat Focus Team for Knottingley & Ferrybridge and a local resident all requested that the ward be named Knottingley & Ferrybridge to acknowledge the distinct community of Ferrybridge. We have been persuaded that this name change would better reflect the constituent communities of the ward and therefore have decided to adopt the name Knottingley & Ferrybridge in our final recommendations.

48 Councillor Roberts suggested that Oakland Hill Park be transferred from this ward to Airedale & Ferry Fryston ward, so that the boundary follows the A1. We decided not to adopt this proposal as it would result in Knottingley & Ferrybridge ward being over-represented.

Pontefract North

49 Two local residents supported our decision to follow the A1/M62 road as the eastern boundary of this ward, with one stating that the Stumpcross area did not share strong links with the Knottingley and Ferrybridge communities. This feedback was in response to a suggestion made during the previous consultation that the area bounded by Holmfield Lane, Darkfield Lane, Stumpcross Lane and Sowgate Lane be transferred from Pontefract North ward to a Ferrybridge ward.

50 Conversely, two local residents asserted that our draft Knottingley ward should incorporate areas west of the A-road. One stated that it would improve the relatively high variance of the ward, while the other reiterated their proposals from the last consultation to include the area bounded by Holmfield Lane, Darkfield Lane, Stumpcross Lane, and Sowgate Lane in Knottingley ward. The latter submission argued that this could better reflect community identities and also improve electoral variances between wards. However, we found that the evidence presented was primarily based upon historical connections between this area, Knottingley and Ferrybridge, and we were not convinced that these areas currently share particularly strong community links.

51 Therefore, after careful consideration, we have decided to retain the A1/M62 as the boundary between our Knottingley & Ferrybridge and Pontefract North wards in our final recommendations.

Pontefract South

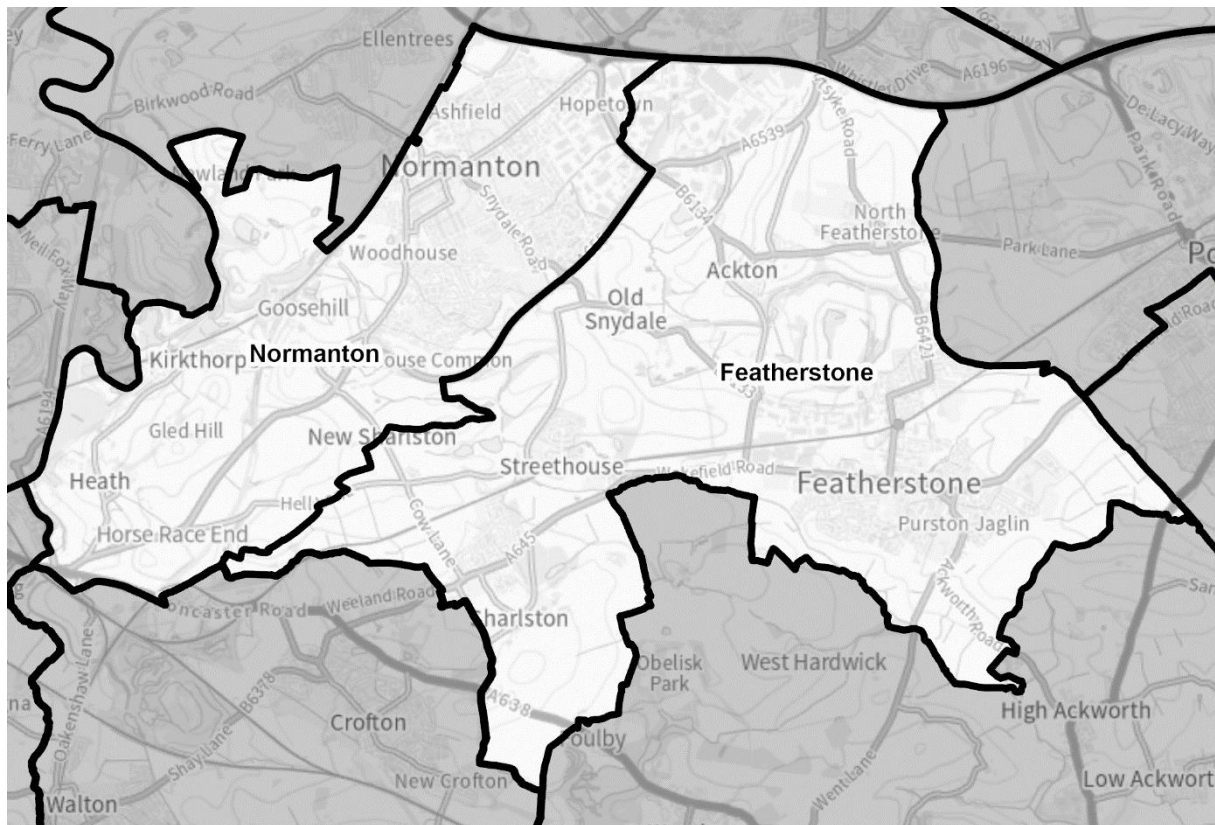
52 We received five submissions in support of our proposal to unite the parish of Wentbridge in Pontefract South ward. One of these submissions also supported our decision to unite East Hardwick parish in this ward. Both parishes are currently split between wards. The respondents generally agreed that these changes would better reflect community identities and promote more effective and convenient local governance. As a result, we confirm this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

53 Councillor Roberts suggested that the boundary between Pontefract North and Pontefract South wards could follow the A645. We have decided not to adopt to this proposal as it would result in significant levels of electoral inequality for both wards.

54 A local resident argued that beyond 2029, as new housing is developed in Pontefract South ward, the electorate will increase leading to a higher variance and worsening electoral equality. Consequently, they contended that our decision to transfer the southern portion of the existing Pontefract North ward to Pontefract

South ward should not be implemented. However, we are only able to consider developments that are projected within the five-year forecast period. As such, any electorate changes expected after this timeframe cannot influence our recommendations.

Featherstone and Normanton



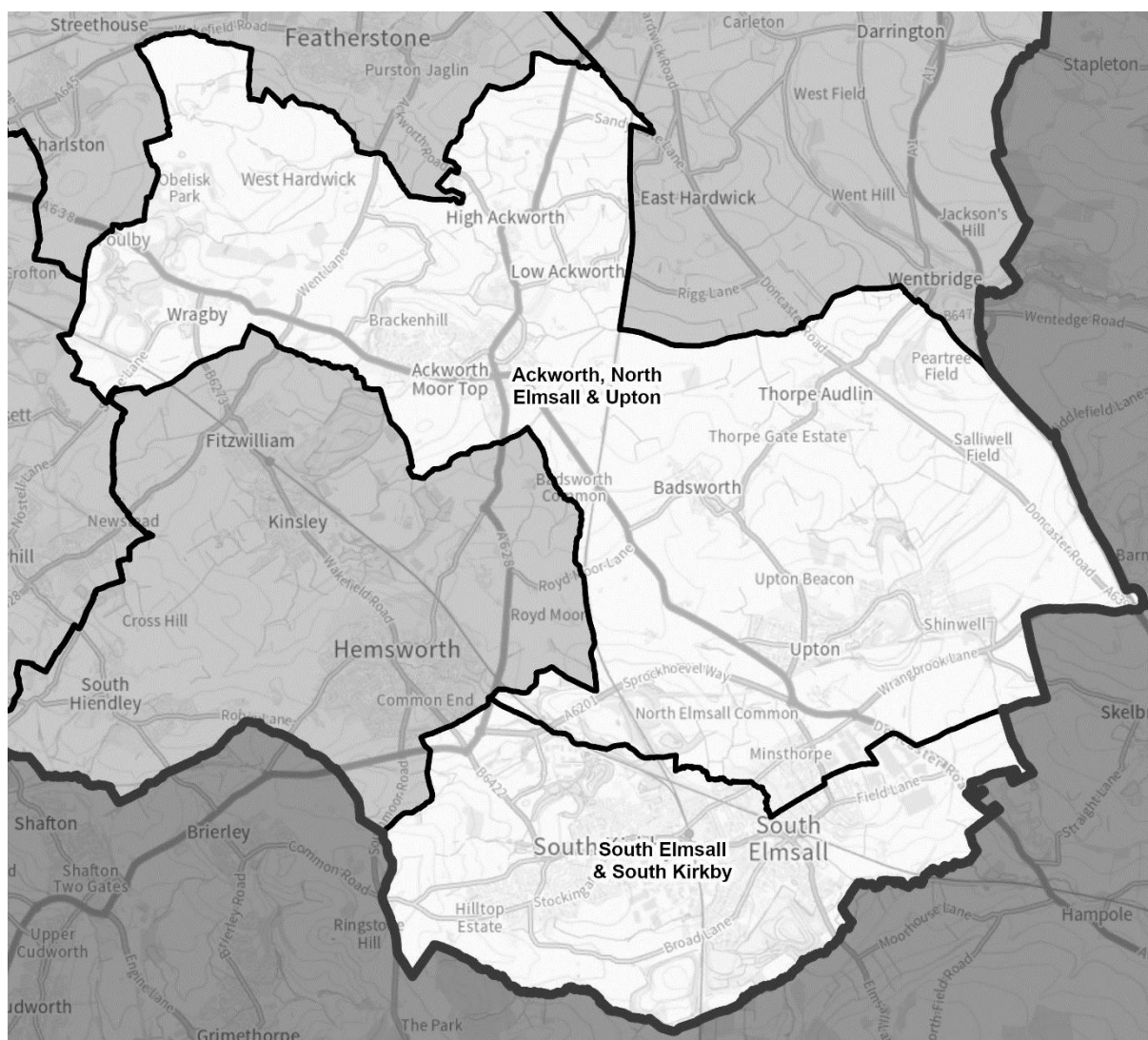
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Featherstone	3	6%
Normanton	3	1%

Featherstone and Normanton

55 A local resident expressed frustration that the recent development near Bruce Smeaton Way fell within Featherstone parish. They suggested changing the parish boundary. However, we note that this area is not within Featherstone parish. Furthermore, we are not responsible for changing parish boundaries, which is the responsibility of Wakefield Council via a Community Governance Review.

56 Councillor Jennings of Normanton & Altofts Town Council, along with a local resident, opposed the Council's proposal submitted during the previous consultation to include electors living near Normanton Altofts Junior School within Normanton ward. Councillor Jennings preferred that the boundary follow the railway line. Since our proposed Normanton ward aligns with the railway line, we recommend no changes to this ward.

Ackworth, South Elmsall, South Kirkby & Upton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton	3	4%
South Elmsall & South Kirkby	3	7%

Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton

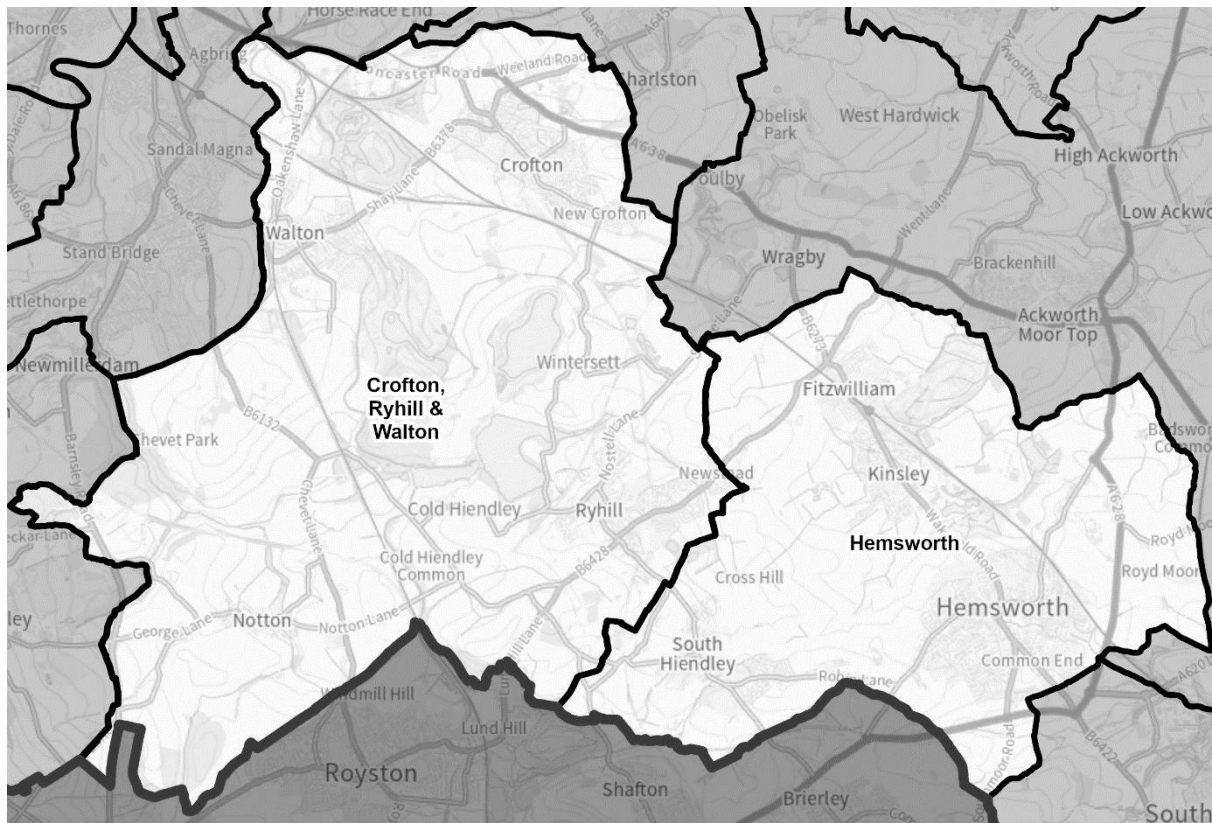
57 A local resident stated that our recommendations did not adequately consider the demographics of Ackworth, North Elmsall, Upton and Pontefract South wards. They suggested a more representative approach could be achieved by combining Ackworth with parts of south Pontefract, while merging North Elmsall and Upton with Hemsworth ward. However, our recommendations are based not on the demography of areas and we do not assume that, because adjoining areas share demographics, they share community identities and interests. As a result, we have not included this proposal in our final recommendations.

58 Another local resident argued that Ackworth should have its own councillor to effectively represent its interests, rather than being part of a larger ward. However, in order to maintain the principle of a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards, Ackworth must be connected to other communities to form a three-councillor ward that achieves good electoral equality. We consider that the evidence presented was insufficient to justify departing from this principle.

South Elmsall & South Kirkby

59 During consultation, we received one submission in relation to this ward. A local resident opposed the continued division of South Elmsall parish, which places the Minsthorpe area in Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton ward. However, including the entire South Elmsall parish – and by extension, the Minsthorpe area – within South Elmsall & South Kirkby ward would result in a projected electoral variance of 15% by 2029. We consider this variance to be too high if we are to ensure good electoral equality. As a result, we are confirming our recommended South Elmsall & South Kirkby ward as final.

Crofton, Hemsworth, Ryhill and Walton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Crofton, Ryhill & Walton	3	-1%
Hemsworth	3	-2%

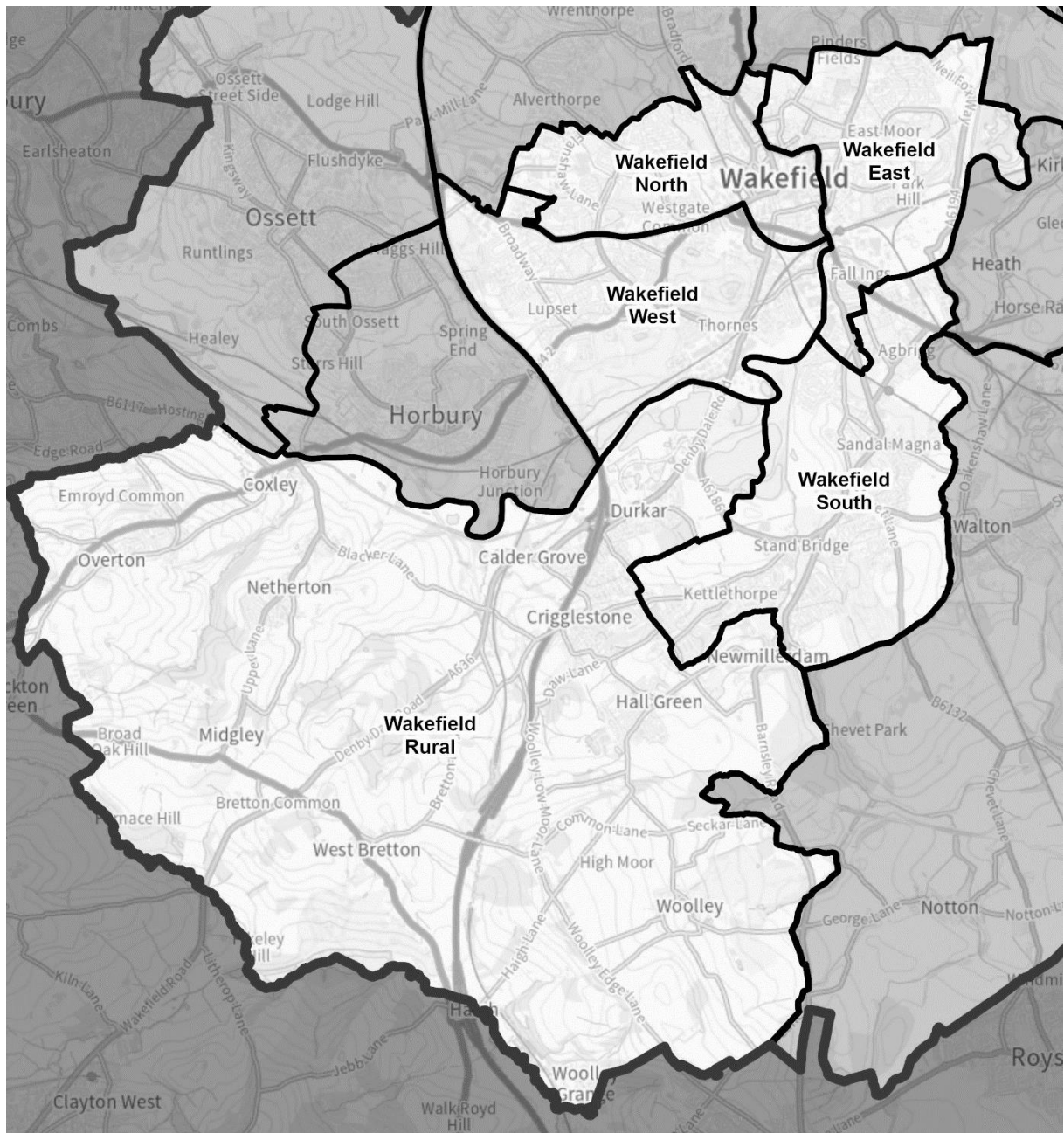
Crofton, Ryhill & Walton

60 One local resident expressed support for our proposed Crofton, Ryhill & Walton ward. However, as outlined in the Wakefield South section of this report, we have decided to incorporate Chevet and Nottton parishes in Crofton, Ryhill & Walton ward. No additional changes are proposed for this ward as part of our final recommendations.

Hemsworth

61 We received no submissions relating to Hemsworth ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Hemsworth ward as final.

Wakefield city



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Wakefield East	3	-10%
Wakefield North	3	-5%
Wakefield Rural	3	8%
Wakefield South	3	-3%
Wakefield West	3	-8%

Wakefield East

62 A local resident expressed support for our proposed Wakefield East ward. However, another resident provided compelling evidence that community identities

and interests would be better represented by moving the Portobello area into Wakefield South ward. They stated that residents in this area use the schools, health facilities, recreation and community centres, and shops located in Wakefield South ward. Councillor Roberts also supported the inclusion of the Portobello area in Wakefield South ward. Although we did not adopt a similar suggestion in our draft recommendations due to a lack of sufficient community evidence, we have now been persuaded that this adjustment aligns better with our statutory criteria. As a result, we have incorporated it as part of our final recommendations.

63 This change, however, results in an over-represented Wakefield East ward. To address this, we have adopted the resident's additional proposal to extend the northern boundary of the ward and include more of the City Fields development. The revised boundary will now follow Neil Fox Way and Nellie Spindler Drive, which we find to be clear and easily identifiable. Using Neil Fox Way as a ward boundary was also suggested by Councillor Roberts. With these adjustments, the revised Wakefield East ward is projected to have an electoral variance of -10% by 2029.

Wakefield North

64 As detailed further in the Stanley, Outwood and Wrenthorpe section of this report, we propose adjusting the northern boundary of this ward to better reflect local road access routes and create a clearer, more identifiable boundary. Additionally, we recommend adopting Councillor Roberts' proposal that the boundary between this ward and Wakefield East follow the A61 through the city centre.

65 However, we have decided not to adopt Councillor Roberts' suggestion that the boundary with Wakefield East ward follow Westfield Road, College Grove Road and North Avenue, as we determined that it was not particularly clear or identifiable.

Wakefield Rural

66 We received one submission concerning Wakefield Rural ward, supporting our decision to keep Crigglestone parish entirely in the ward and exclude the Kettlethorpe area. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Wakefield South

67 One submission supported our proposed changes to Wakefield South ward, while four others opposed the inclusion of the parishes of Chevet and Notton. Two of these respondents argued that it was unsuitable to combine these distinct rural communities with the more urbanised areas of Wakefield city. One of the two submissions preferred that the parishes remain part of a more rural ward, while the other suggested they be placed in the Crofton, Ryhill & Walton ward, as at present.

68 After reviewing the evidence provided, we have been persuaded that placing these parishes in Wakefield South ward would not reflect local community identities.

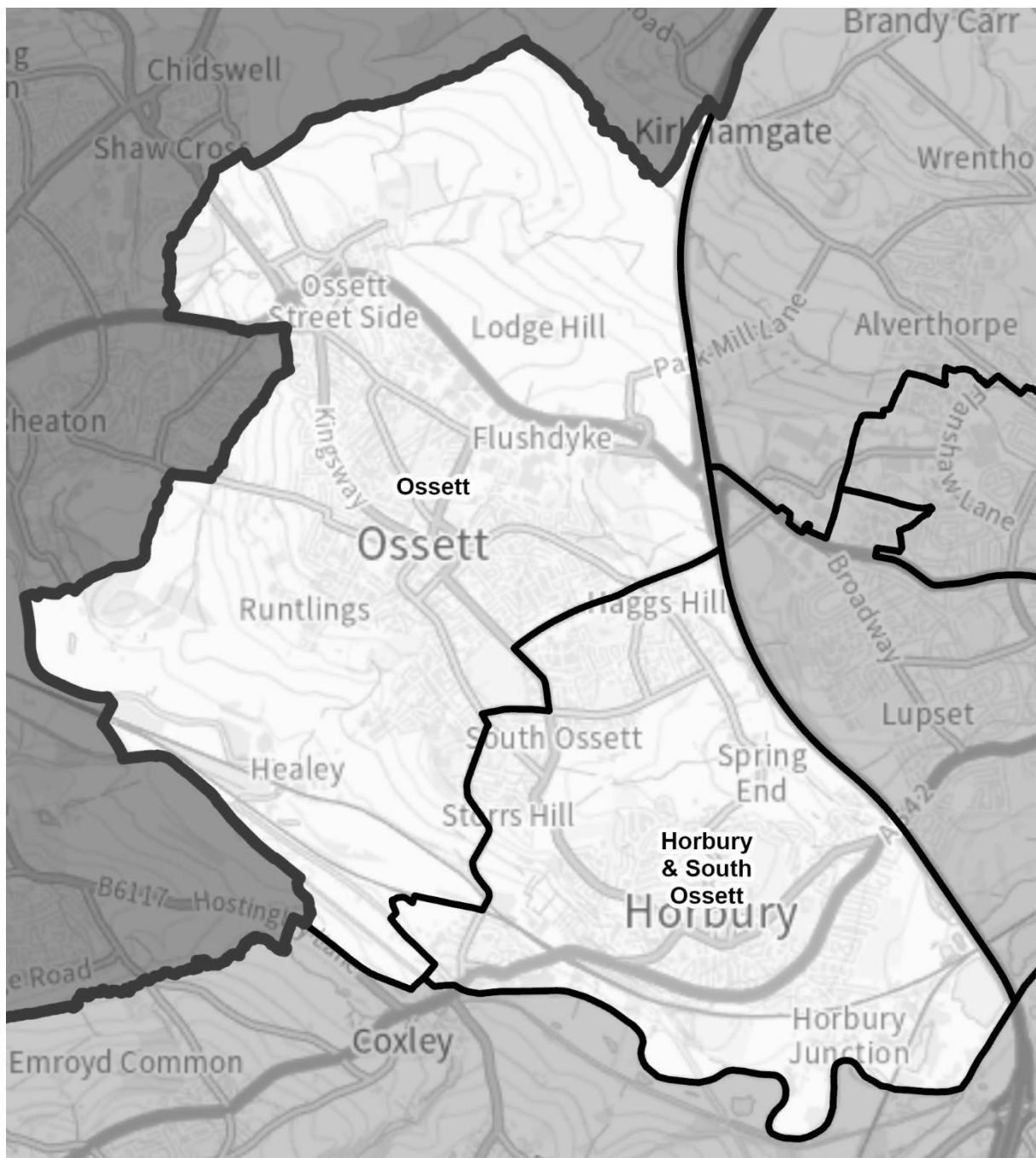
Therefore, we have decided to place Chevet and Notton parishes in our proposed Crofton, Ryhill & Walton ward as part of our final recommendations.

69 As outlined in the Wakefield East section of this report, we decided to transfer the Portobello area into this ward. However, we were not persuaded to adopt Councillor Roberts' proposal to also include the Fall Ings area, following the River Calder as the boundary. This is because this change would result in a Wakefield East ward with significant electoral inequality.

Wakefield West

70 We received a submission regarding this ward from Councillor Roberts, who proposed transferring the Foreman Road and Johnson Road estate into Wakefield North ward, suggesting that the boundary follow the A638. However, as noted in our draft recommendations, placing this estate in Wakefield West ward ensures electoral equality for that ward. We consider that insufficient evidence have been provided to support this proposal and have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Wakefield West ward as final.

Horbury and Ossett



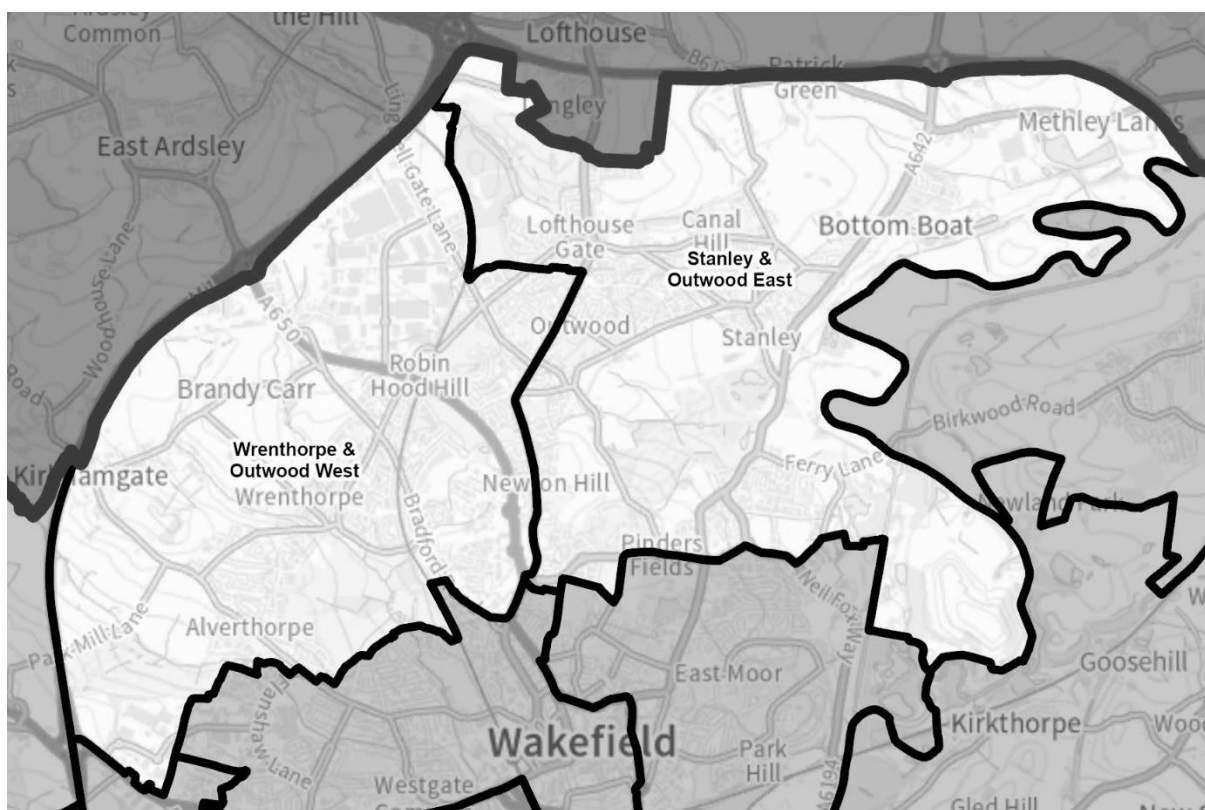
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Horbury & South Ossett	3	-8%
Ossett	3	-2%

Horbury & South Ossett and Ossett

71 Councillor Roberts supported the boundaries of these two wards, stating that they are clear and defined.

72 A local resident objected to the division of the Ossett area between wards. However, to achieve good electoral equality and adhere to the presumption that the authority be represented by a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards, the area must be split into two wards. We consider that the evidence presented was insufficient to justify deviating from this arrangement. Therefore, with no further submissions received relating to these two wards, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Horbury & South Ossett and Ossett wards as final.

Stanley, Outwood and Wrenthorpe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Stanley & Outwood East	3	0%
Wrenthorpe & Outwood West	3	2%

Stanley & Outwood East

73 A local resident argued that placing Headingley Mews in Wakefield North ward was unsuitable, as the properties are accessed via Stanley & Outwood East ward. They suggested that Headingley Mews be moved from Wakefield North ward to Stanley & Outwood East ward. We have decided to adopt this proposal in our final recommendations as we agree that it will better reflect road access routes in the area.

74 As detailed in the Wakefield East section of this report, we have altered the southern boundary of this ward to broadly follow Neil Fox Way. Apart from these changes, we recommend no further modifications to this ward as part of our final recommendations.

Wrenthorpe & Outwood West

75 In our draft recommendations, we placed the entirety of Houlth Court in Wakefield North ward to reflect road access routes. However, a local resident stated that the boundary around Houlth Court, particularly near Milthorpe Carr Road, Lancaster Avenue and Fraser Way, remained unclear. They argued that since the

properties in this area are primarily accessed via the roundabout near Snowhill Retail Park in Wrenthorpe & Outwood West ward, it would make sense to move the area into that ward. We agree that such a change would help provide a clearer and more identifiable boundary, and have decided to adjust the boundary between this ward and Wakefield North to follow Fox Lane, Bradford Road and Link Road up to the Newton Hill roundabout, as suggested by Councillor Roberts. For the same reasons, we have adopted Councillor Roberts' suggestion to align the boundary between this ward and Wakefield North ward along Batley Road and Flanshaw Lane.

76 However, we have not adopted Councillor Roberts' proposal to align the boundary between this ward and Stanley & Outwood East along Lingwell Nook Lane to the motorway, as we found this boundary to be insufficiently clear and identifiable.

Conclusions

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

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2023	2029
Number of councillors	63	63
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	4,161	4,582
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

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

Parish electoral arrangements

78 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.

79 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, Wakefield 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.

80 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 Normanton & Altofts parish.

Final recommendations

Normanton & Altofts Town Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Altofts	6
Central & South	5
East	6
North & West	5

81 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 South Elmsall parish.

Final recommendations

South Elmsall Town Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Minsthorpe	2
South Elmsall	11

What happens next?

82 We have now completed our review of Wakefield Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2026.

Equalities

83 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

Final recommendations for Wakefield Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ackworth, North Elmsall & Upton	3	13,319	4,440	7%	14,353	4,784	4%
2	Airedale & Ferry Fryston	3	11,907	3,969	-5%	12,977	4,326	-6%
3	Altofts & Whitwood	3	13,654	4,551	9%	14,992	4,997	9%
4	Castleford Central & Glasshoughton	3	13,027	4,342	4%	14,309	4,770	4%
5	Crofton, Ryhill & Walton	3	12,251	4,084	-2%	13,542	4,514	-1%
6	Featherstone	3	13,145	4,382	5%	14,511	4,837	6%
7	Hemsworth	3	12,044	4,015	-4%	13,427	4,476	-2%
8	Horbury & South Ossett	3	11,618	3,873	-7%	12,639	4,213	-8%
9	Knottingley & Ferrybridge	3	10,436	3,479	-16%	12,435	4,145	-10%
10	Normanton	3	12,724	4,241	2%	13,867	4,622	1%
11	Ossett	3	12,461	4,154	0%	13,492	4,497	-2%
12	Pontefract North	3	13,118	4,373	5%	14,491	4,830	5%

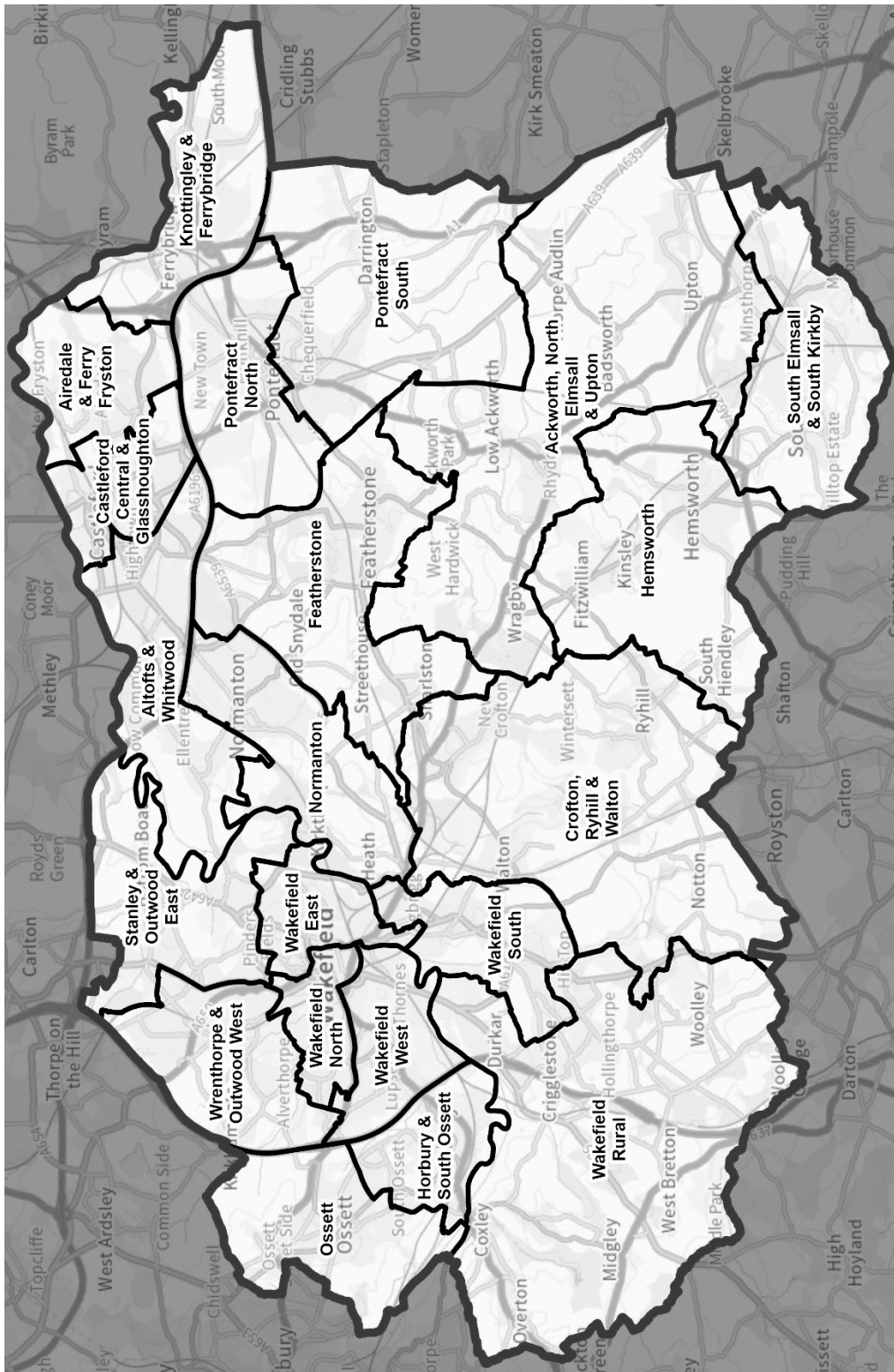
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Pontefract South	3	13,245	4,415	6%	14,818	4,939	8%
14	South Elmsall & South Kirkby	3	13,505	4,502	8%	14,746	4,915	7%
15	Stanley & Outwood East	3	12,840	4,280	3%	13,804	4,601	0%
16	Wakefield East	3	10,966	3,655	-12%	12,308	4,103	-10%
17	Wakefield North	3	11,566	3,855	-7%	13,049	4,350	-5%
18	Wakefield Rural	3	13,657	4,552	9%	14,810	4,937	8%
19	Wakefield South	3	11,944	3,981	-4%	13,344	4,448	-3%
20	Wakefield West	3	11,790	3,930	-6%	12,651	4,217	-8%
21	Wrenthorpe & Outwood West	3	12,951	4,317	4%	14,084	4,695	2%
Totals		63	262,168	-	-	288,649	-	-
Averages		-	-	4,161	-	-	4,582	-

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

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/wakefield

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

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

Local Authority

- Wakefield Council

Political Groups

- Liberal Democrats Focus Team – Knottingley & Ferrybridge

Councillors

- Councillor P. Girt (Wakefield Council)
- Councillor D. Jeffery (Wakefield Council)
- Councillor M. Jennings (Normanton & Altofts Town Council)
- Councillor M. Roberts (Wakefield Council)

Local Organisations

- Glasshoughton Infant Academy

Local Residents

- 33 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority.
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Online: www.lgbce.org.uk
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
X: @LGBCE