

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council

Electoral review

April 2017

Translations and other formats

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. 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.

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

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

Why Manchester?

4 We are conducting a review of Manchester as the value of each vote in city council elections varies depending on where you live in Manchester. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

Our proposals for Manchester

- Manchester should be represented by 96 councillors, the same number as there are now.
- Manchester should have 32 wards, the same number as there are now.
- The boundaries of almost all wards will change; one, Baguley, will stay the same.

5 **We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements in Manchester.**

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)
 - Peter Knight CBE, DL
 - Alison Lowton
 - Peter Maddison QPM
 - Sir Tony Redmond
-
- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

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

- The wards in Manchester are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the city.

What is an electoral review?

9 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

10 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Manchester. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the city. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 July 2016	Number of councillors decided
26 July 2016	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
26 September 2016	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
29 November 2016	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
23 January 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
11 April 2017	Publication of final recommendations

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 and which other communities are in that ward. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards

15 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create ward 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.

16 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.

	2016	2022
Electorate of Manchester	369,904	417,015
Number of councillors	96	96
Average number of electors per councillor	3,853	4,344

17 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 Manchester will have electoral equality by 2022.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the city 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.

Submissions received

19 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2017. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 13% by 2022. This is driven by significant growth in the city centre and surrounding wards.

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

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

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

Number of councillors

22 Manchester City Council currently has 96 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will make sure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 96 councillors. As the Council elects by thirds, this was likely to be 32 three-councillor wards.

24 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. It argued that the number of councillors should be increased to 97 and that two wards would become two-councillor wards. No further evidence was offered as to why this was better than a uniform three-councillor pattern. Therefore, we based our draft recommendations on a 96-member council.

Ward boundaries consultation

25 We received 16 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one detailed city-wide proposal from Manchester City Council based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 96 elected members. We also received localised warding patterns in the Chorlton/Whalley Range area from Community on Solid Ground community group and in Northenden from the Northenden Neighbourhood Forum.

26 The city-wide scheme provided for a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Manchester. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that the proposed ward boundaries would have good levels of electoral equality. We also considered that they generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

27 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of the city-wide proposals that we received from Manchester City Council and the scheme received from Community on Solid Ground Group. In some areas of the city we also took into account other local evidence that we received which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals we received did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Manchester helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

28 Our draft recommendations were for 32 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests.

Draft recommendations consultation

29 We received 14 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a submission from Manchester City Council supporting the entirety of our proposals. We also received a small number of localised comments from local residents.

30 Two of these submissions referred to the number of councillors for the city. They both suggested a reduction from 96 councillors to 32 councillors. Neither provided any evidence to support this assertion. Another submission referred to the external boundaries of the city, an issue that is outside the remit of the review.

31 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with two minor modifications to the Piccadilly and Moston wards as a result of submissions received.

Final recommendations

32 Pages 8–15 detail our final recommendations for each area of Manchester. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

33 Our final recommendations are for 32 three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

34 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 18–20 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North Manchester



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Charlestown	3	1%
Cheetham	3	9%
Crumpsall	3	-6%
Harpurhey	3	7%
Higher Blackley	3	-5%
Miles Platting & Newton Heath	3	-2%
Moston	3	5%

Crumpsall and Harpurhey

35 We received one submission from a local resident in opposition to the inclusion of their address in Harpurhey ward instead of Crumpsall ward. This submission did not provide any evidence to support moving an area into Crumpsall.

36 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final for this part of the city.

Moston

37 We received a submission from a local resident that suggested that Broadhurst Park should be entirely contained in Moston ward. This change would not affect any electors and we propose that the boundary follows St Mary's Road, Nuthurst Road and Moston Lane.

38 With the exception of this modification we confirm our draft recommendations for Moston as final.

Charlestown, Cheetham, Higher Blackley and Miles Platting & Newton Heath

39 We received no submissions regarding these wards and we confirm our draft recommendations as final for these areas.

North central Manchester



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Ancoats & Beswick	3	4%
Ardwick	3	5%
Clayton & Openshaw	3	-4%
Deansgate	3	6%
Gorton & Abbey Hey	3	4%
Hulme	3	2%
Piccadilly	3	6%

Ardwick

40 We received one submission relating to this ward, asking that we retain Whitworth Park in Moss Side ward. We do not propose to make this change as it would leave some electors in Ardwick ward without internal access to the remainder of the ward. Electors on Moss Lane East would have to enter Moss Side to get back into Ardwick. We consider that this would not meet our criteria of effective and convenient local government.

41 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Ardwick as final.

Deansgate and Piccadilly

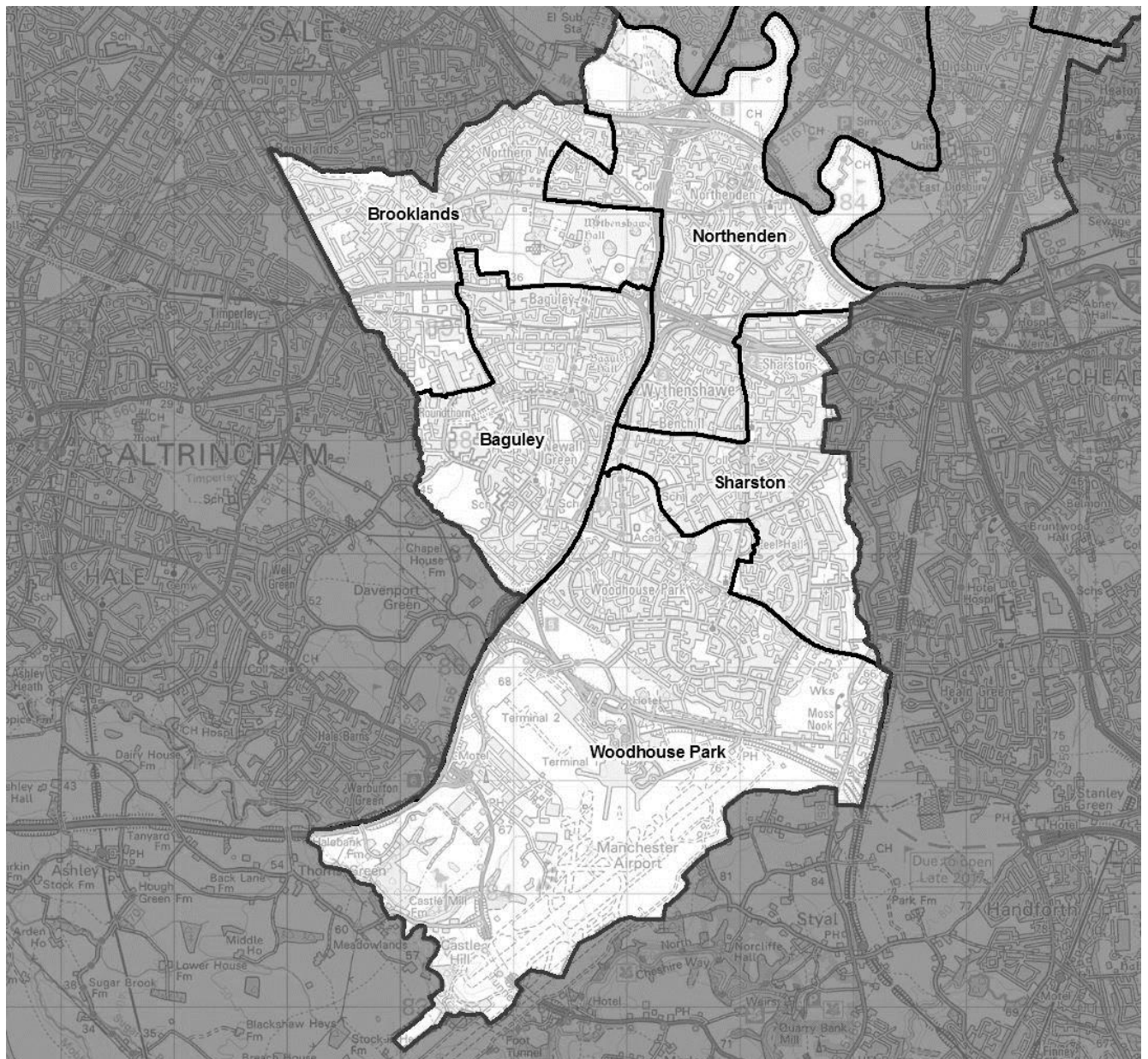
42 We received two submissions that referred to this ward. One submission suggested that the boundary between Deansgate and Piccadilly run down the entirety of Oxford Road. We propose to retain the boundary along Princess Street that was proposed at the draft recommendation stage as this provides good electoral equality for both wards.

43 We also received a submission that suggested that Piccadilly Gardens be included in Piccadilly ward. We propose to make this change which affects no electors. Aside from this modification we confirm our draft recommendations for Deansgate and Piccadilly as final.

Ancoats & Beswick, Clayton & Openshaw, Gorton & Abbey Hey and Hulme

44 We received no submissions regarding these wards and we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

South Manchester



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Baguley	3	-8%
Brooklands	3	-9%
Northenden	3	-8%
Sharston	3	-8%
Woodhouse Park	3	-8%

Baguley, Brooklands, Northenden, Sharston and Woodhouse Park

45 We received no submissions that referred to these wards. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

South central Manchester



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Burnage	3	8%
Chorlton	3	-8%
Chorlton Park	3	3%
Didsbury East	3	-7%
Didsbury West	3	3%
Fallowfield	3	1%
Levenshulme	3	3%
Longsight	3	4%
Moss Side	3	5%
Old Moat	3	-1%
Rusholme	3	-1%
Whalley Range	3	2%
Withington	3	-2%

Burnage, Levenshulme and Rusholme

46 We received three submissions that referred to these wards. One stated that the streets surrounding Elmgate Grove should be in Levenshulme ward. It did not suggest a way this could be achieved whilst providing for good electoral equality for both wards and we therefore cannot support this proposed change. We also received a similar submission that suggested that the Fallowfield Loop footpath should form the boundary between Burnage and Levenshulme but again this did not provide a solution that would provide good electoral equality in the area.

47 A third submission stated that Fairview Avenue should be included in Levenshulme ward. This suggestion was considered at draft recommendations but would require that a number of neighbouring properties also be included in Levenshulme ward, a move that would lead to an unacceptable high level of electoral inequality in both Levenshulme and Rusholme wards.

48 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final in this part of the city.

Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Moss Side and Whalley Range

49 We received three submissions that referred to these wards. Two submissions supported the proposals for the area.

50 Another submission suggested that an area to the east of Parkway in Whalley Range be moved to Moss Side and area to the west of Alexandra Road in Moss Side be moved to Whalley Range. This would worsen electoral equality in the area, though not to an unacceptable level. The submission did not provide a rationale for making this change. As the recommendations in this area were supported locally we are not making this change and instead confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Old Moat and Didsbury West

51 We received one submission that did not support our proposed change to the boundary between Didsbury West and Old Moat wards. This submission suggested the existing wards be retained but did not provide any evidence to justify the unacceptably high electoral inequality that would result. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Didsbury East, Fallowfield, Longsight and Withington

52 We received no submissions that referred to these wards and we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

Conclusions

53 The table below shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2016 and 2022 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2016	2022
Number of councillors	96	96
Number of electoral wards	32	32
Average number of electors per councillor	3,853	4,344
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	7	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Final recommendation

Manchester City Council should be made up of 96 councillors serving 32 wards representing 32 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for the Manchester City Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Manchester City Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

3 What happens next?

54 We have now completed our review of Manchester. 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 2018.

Equalities

55 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Manchester City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ancoats & Beswick	3	9,062	3,021	-22%	13,607	4,536	4%
2	Ardwick	3	12,096	4,032	5%	13,630	4,543	5%
3	Baguley	3	11,302	3,767	-2%	11,986	3,995	-8%
4	Brooklands	3	11,360	3,787	-2%	11,808	3,936	-9%
5	Burnage	3	12,917	4,306	12%	14,049	4,683	8%
6	Charlestown	3	11,665	3,888	1%	13,150	4,383	1%
7	Cheetham	3	12,429	4,143	8%	14,240	4,747	9%
8	Chorlton	3	10,879	3,626	-6%	11,974	3,991	-8%
9	Chorlton Park	3	12,959	4,320	12%	13,363	4,454	3%
10	Clayton & Openshaw	3	11,881	3,960	3%	12,514	4,171	-4%
11	Crumpsall	3	11,124	3,708	-4%	12,292	4,097	-6%
12	Deansgate	3	7,085	2,362	-39%	13,811	4,604	6%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Didsbury East	3	11,643	3,881	1%	12,176	4,059	-7%
14	Didsbury West	3	12,378	4,126	7%	13,479	4,493	3%
15	Fallowfield	3	12,098	4,033	5%	13,118	4,373	1%
16	Gorton & Abbey Hey	3	12,828	4,276	11%	13,499	4,500	4%
17	Harpurhey	3	12,480	4,160	8%	13,890	4,630	7%
18	Higher Blackley	3	11,545	3,848	0%	12,357	4,119	-5%
19	Hulme	3	11,466	3,822	-1%	13,300	4,433	2%
20	Levenshulme	3	12,092	4,031	5%	13,400	4,467	3%
21	Longsight	3	12,112	4,037	5%	13,593	4,531	4%
22	Miles Platting & Newton Heath	3	12,093	4,031	5%	12,820	4,273	-2%
23	Moss Side	3	12,430	4,143	8%	13,687	4,562	5%
24	Moston	3	13,006	4,335	13%	13,635	4,545	5%
25	Northenden	3	11,125	3,708	-4%	11,974	3,991	-8%
26	Old Moat	3	12,166	4,055	5%	12,931	4,310	-1%
27	Piccadilly	3	7,847	2,616	-32%	13,792	4,597	6%

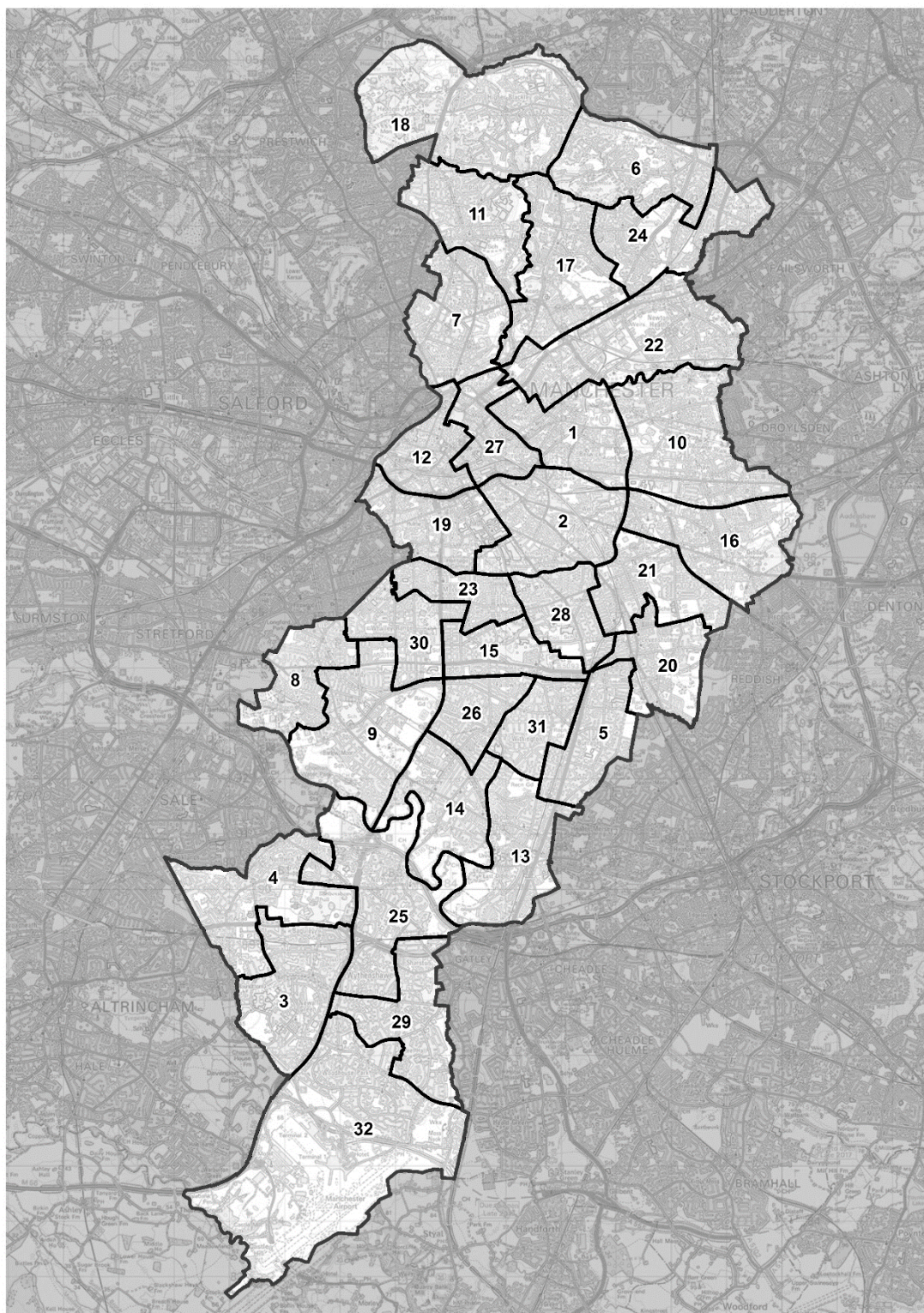
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28 Rusholme	3	11,992	3,997	4%	12,876	4,292	-1%
29 Sharston	3	11,640	3,880	1%	12,022	4,007	-8%
30 Whalley Range	3	11,100	3,700	-4%	13,313	4,438	2%
31 Withington	3	11,968	3,989	4%	12,801	4,267	-2%
32 Woodhouse Park	3	11,136	3,712	-4%	11,928	3,976	-8%
Totals	96	369,904	–	–	417,015	–	–
Averages	–	–	3,853	–	–	4,344	–

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

Appendix B

Outline map



Key

1. Ancoats & Beswick
2. Ardwick
3. Baguley
4. Brooklands
5. Burnage
6. Charlestown
7. Cheetham
8. Chorlton
9. Chorlton Park
10. Clayton & Openshaw
11. Crumpsall
12. Deansgate
13. Didsbury East
14. Didsbury West
15. Fallowfield
16. Gorton & Abbey Hey
17. Harpurhey
18. Higher Blackley
19. Hulme
20. Levenshulme
21. Longsight
22. Miles Platting & Newton Heath
23. Moss Side
24. Moston
25. Northenden
26. Old Moat
27. Piccadilly
28. Rusholme
29. Sharston
30. Whalley Range
31. Withington
32. Woodhouse Park

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the A1 sheet accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/greater-manchester/manchester>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/greater-manchester/manchester>

Local Authority

- Manchester City Council

Local Residents

- 13 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 fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
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. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
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 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
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