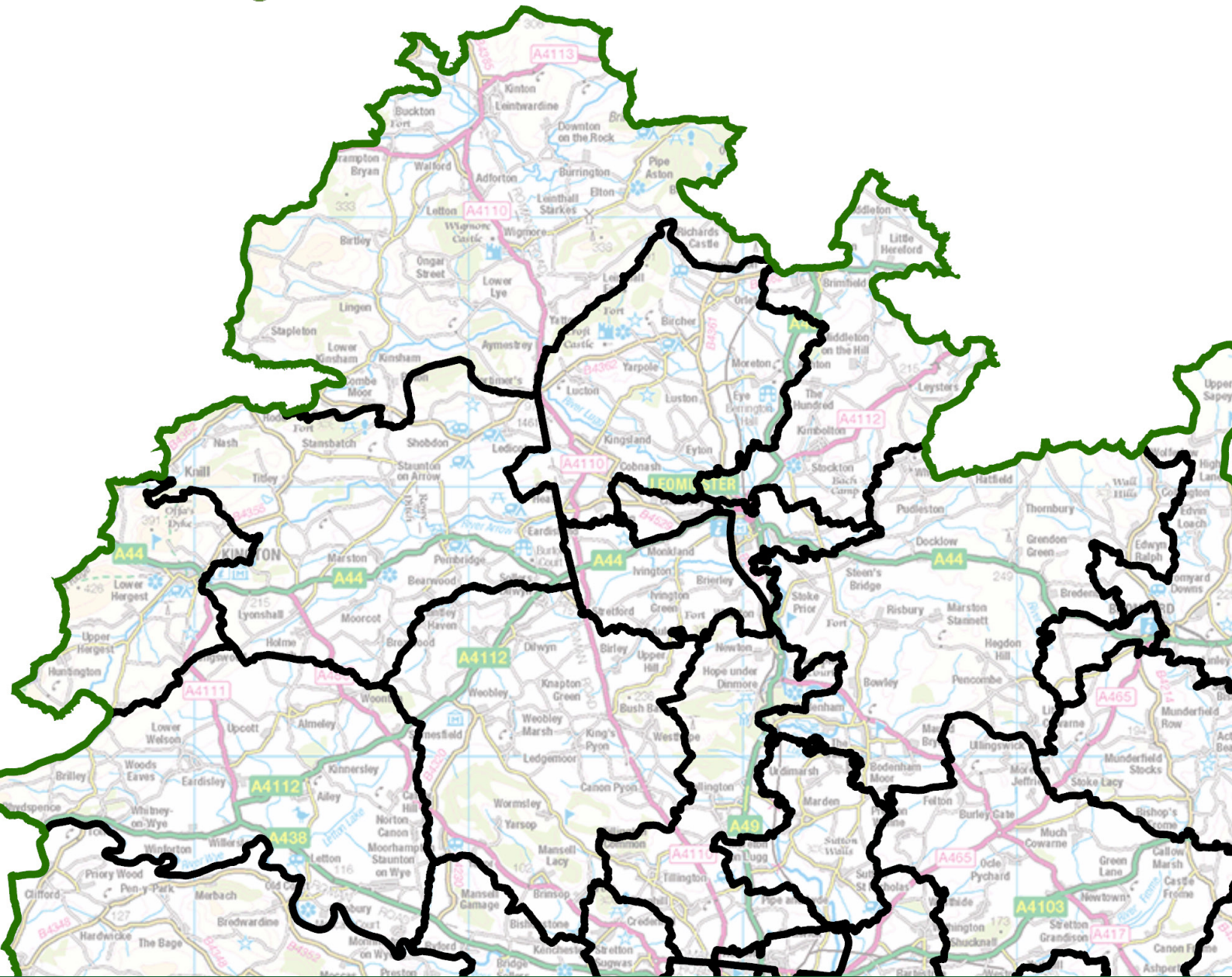


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Herefordshire Council Draft Recommendations

April 2026

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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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:

- Bev Smith (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Dame Gillian Guy
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Janet Waggott
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Herefordshire?

7 We are conducting a review of Herefordshire Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2014, 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 Herefordshire 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 county.

Our proposals for Herefordshire

9 Herefordshire should be represented by 53 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Herefordshire should have 53 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of 22 wards should change; 31 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 authority 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.

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

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 28 April 2026 to 6 July 2026. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more 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 6 July 2026 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 27 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 Herefordshire. We then held a period of public consultation on warding patterns for the Council. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 November 2025	Number of councillors decided
25 November 2025	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 February 2026	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
28 April 2026	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
6 July 2026	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 September 2026	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.

	2025	2031
Electorate of Herefordshire	147,602	160,080
Number of councillors	53	53
Average number of electors per councillor	2,785	3,020

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Herefordshire are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2031.

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 2031, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2026. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 8.5% by 2031.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and were satisfied that the projected figures were the best available at the start of this review. During consultation we received a submission from Councillor Harvey, writing as a member

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.

of the public, who expressed some concerns with the forecasts provided by the Council. We discussed these concerns with officers at the Council who set out that the queries related to developments that are beyond the scope of this review because construction is not expected to start within the five-year forecasting period. We are satisfied with this response and have used the originally agreed forecast figures to produce our draft recommendations.

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

Number of councillors

27 Herefordshire Council currently has 53 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the authority can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We received several submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. The submission from Herefordshire Council reiterated its support for 53 councillors representing 53 wards. The remaining submissions were from local residents who argued for a reduction in the proposed number of councillors. One respondent specified a reduction of five or six councillors while the remainder did not suggest an alternative number. While carefully considering the submissions received, we were not persuaded that sufficient evidence was provided to justify an alternative number of councillors. On this basis, we have based our draft recommendations on a 53-councillor council.

29 Prior to the start of the review, Herefordshire Council passed a resolution requesting that this be a single-member ward review. If a review is conducted on this basis, there is a presumption in legislation that the Council will have a uniform pattern of single-councillor wards. Accordingly, we will aim to deliver a pattern of single-member wards. However, in all cases this consideration will not take precedence over our other statutory criteria, and we will not recommend a uniform pattern of single-member wards if, in our view or as is shown in evidence provided to us, it is not compatible with our other statutory criteria.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 28 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These did not include any authority-wide proposals. The Council decided at this stage not to make a warding pattern proposal. The Council stated

that it had asked councillors to respond to the Commission directly regarding the areas they represented. We received five submissions from local councillors, four submissions from parish and town councils and one submission from a political group. The remainder of submissions were from local residents.

31 Our draft recommendations are based on the existing electoral arrangements with a number of amendments made to wards to provide for electoral equality. The lack of a council-wide warding proposal means that we received relatively limited community evidence across Herefordshire with only certain areas represented in the evidence received. We have taken into account the local evidence we have received, particularly where it provided information relating to community links and locally recognised boundaries.

32 We conducted a virtual tour of the area. This virtual tour of Herefordshire helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed. Once the current consultation is completed, we intend to visit the area in person to examine the proposed boundaries put forward.

Draft recommendations

33 Our draft recommendations are for 53 single-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.

34 The tables and maps on pages 8–22 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Herefordshire. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

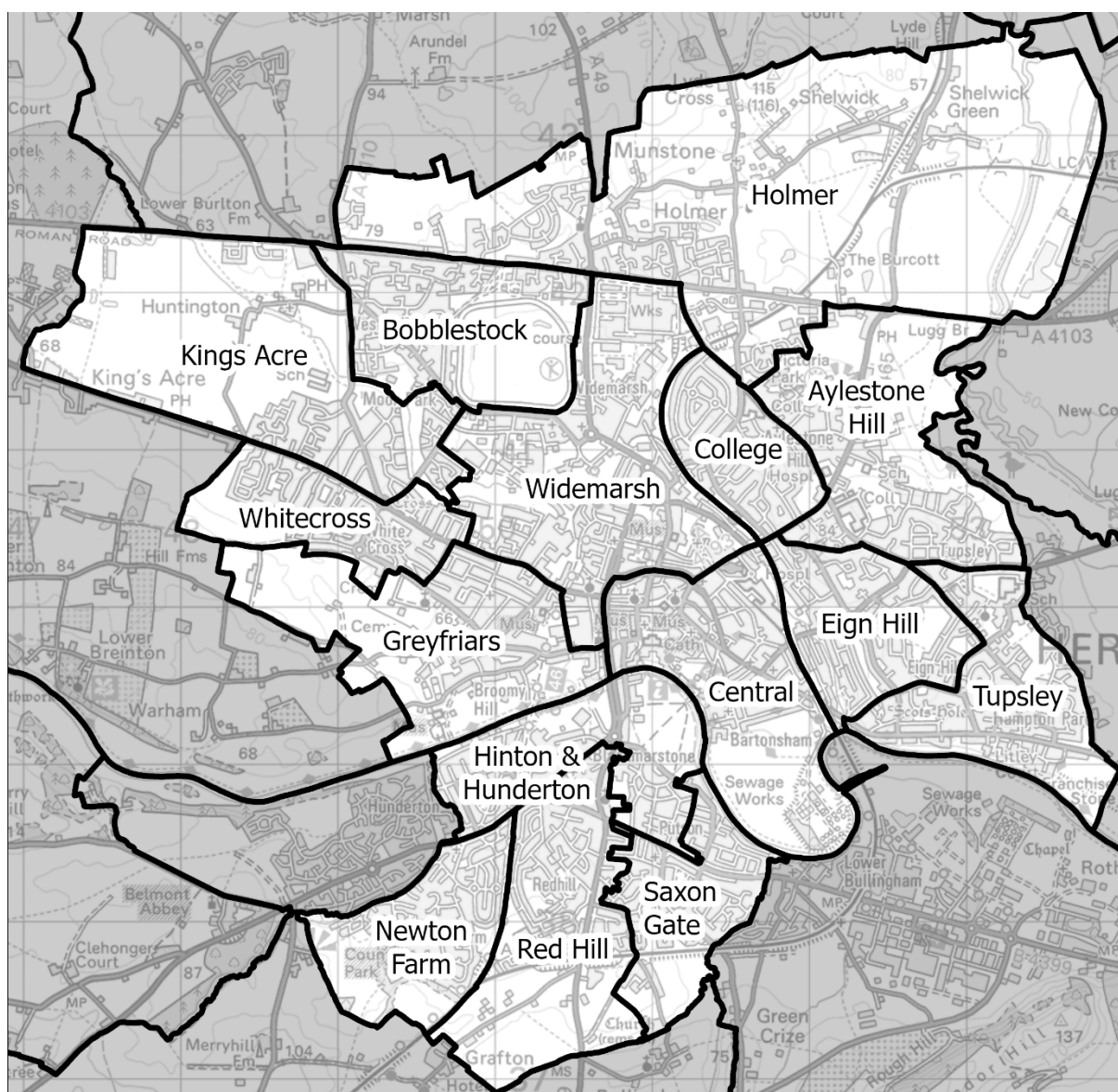
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

35 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

36 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.

Hereford



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Aylestone Hill	1	-9%
Bobblestock	1	-2%
Central	1	3%
College	1	-4%
Eign Hill	1	-3%
Greyfriars	1	-10%
Hinton & Hunderton	1	4%
Holmer	1	5%
Kings Acre	1	-8%
Newton Farm	1	8%
Red Hill	1	2%

Saxon Gate	1	1%
Tupsley	1	-9%
Whitecross	1	-9%
Widemarsh	1	-1%

Hereford – North of the River Wye (Aylestone Hill, Bobblestock, Central, Colledge, Eign Hill, Greyfriars, Holmer, Kings Acre, Tupsley, Whitecross and Widemarsh)

37 Our recommendations for this part of Hereford are based on the existing wards. We have made some amendments to minimise electoral variances whilst reflecting community ties and ensuring effective and convenient local government. We have also taken account of those submissions we have received which provided evidence of community links in this area.

38 The existing Holmer ward is made up of the parish of Holmer & Shelwick and part of Hereford parish. It is forecast to have an electoral variance of 34% when compared to the average for Herefordshire by 2031. This level of electoral inequality is a result of forecast housing development in the ward. We looked at possible ways to reduce this level of electoral inequality. We noted the use of the A4103 for some of the existing ward boundary and propose that the ward boundary follow this road in other areas.

39 In particular, we propose to move the streets to the south of the A4103 and north of Hereford Racecourse from Holmer ward into Bobblestock ward. This means that all properties and streets to the south of the A4103 Roman Road between Holmer Road and Tillington Road are included in Bobblestock ward. This provides for electoral equality in Bobblestock ward. We propose to retain the ward name of Bobblestock but welcome views on this during the current consultation.

40 We examined whether it was possible to use the A4103 as the southern boundary of Holmer ward between Aylestone Hill and Lugg Bridge but concluded this would not provide for good electoral equality. To achieve this, it is necessary for some properties to the south of the A4103 to remain in Holmer ward. We propose to retain Victoria Park in Holmer ward whilst moving the rest of the properties to the south of Victoria Park into a revised Aylestone Hill ward.

41 The current Aylestone Hill ward is forecast to have 12% fewer electors per councillor than the average by 2031. By moving properties to the north and south of Overbury Road into this ward we have created a ward more closely focused on A465 Aylestone Hill. To provide electoral equality for neighbouring wards, we propose to move the area bounded by Ledbury Road, Bodenham Road, Southbank Road and Folly Lane into Eign Hill ward. We also propose to revise the boundary between Eign Hill and Central wards so that it fully follows the railway line. This will place Clive Street and Portfield Street in Central ward as suggested by Councillor Milln of Hereford City Council in their submission.

42 We also propose to make a small amendment to the boundary between Eign Hill and Tupsley wards to provide for electoral equality in Tupsley ward. We propose to move the existing boundary from the rear of properties on Winchester Avenue to instead follow Church Road and Ledbury Road. Both of these proposed are based on the evidence we gathered on our virtual tour.

43 The existing Widemarsh ward has forecast electoral inequality of -14% by 2031. To reduce this variance, we propose to move an area bounded by Eign Street, Victoria Street, Barton Road and Barton Yard from Greyfriars ward to Widemarsh ward. We propose this modification based on our virtual tour and in order to provide electoral equality for both wards but are interested to hear evidence on the community links in this area and in respect of our other proposed modifications.

44 We propose to make no changes to the existing wards of College, Kings Acre and Whitecross. Our draft recommendations are for 11 wards, all of which are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2031 with figures of -9%, -2%, 3%, -4%, -3%, -10%, 5%, -8%, -9%, -9% and -1% respectively.

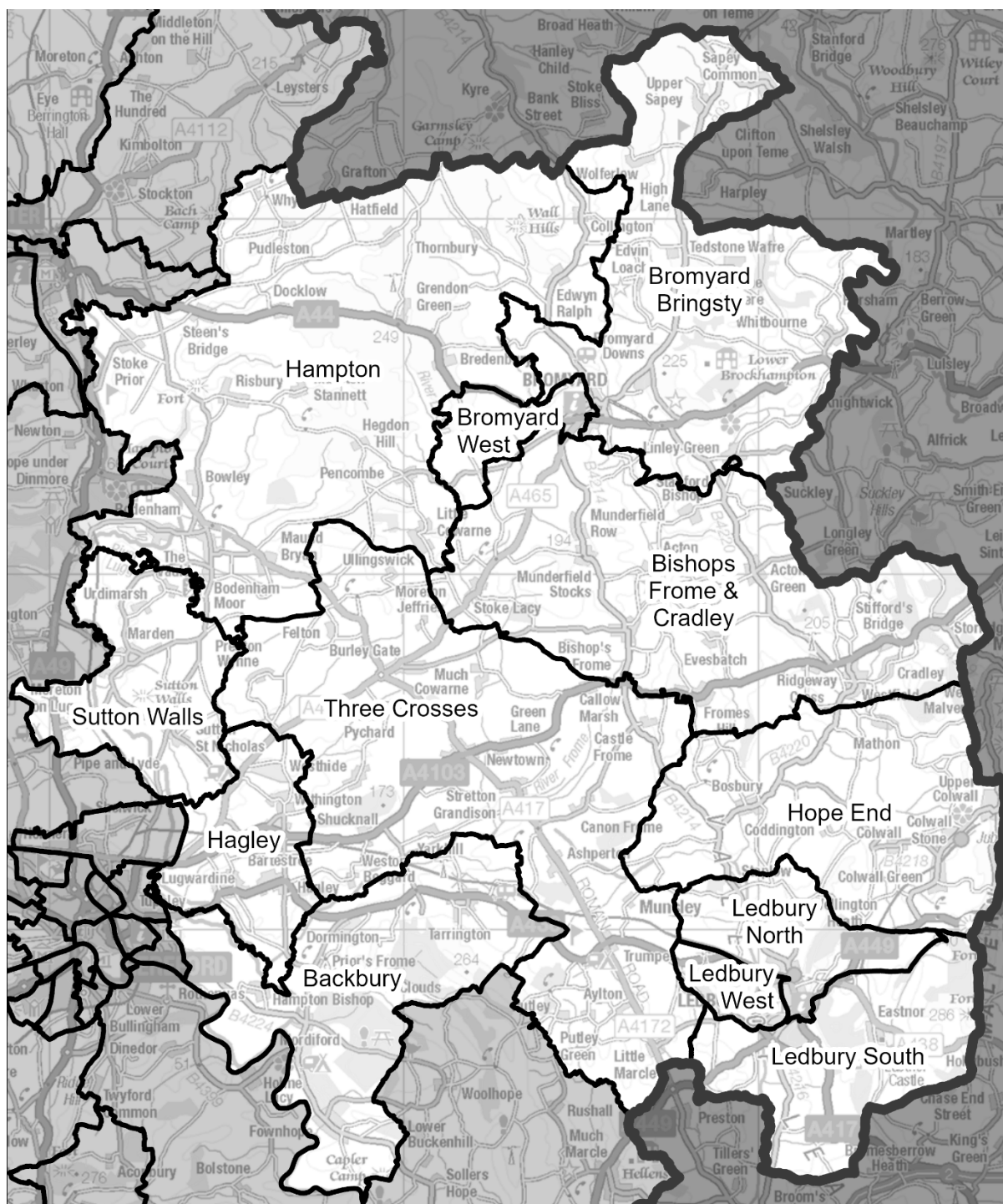
Hereford – South of the River Wye (Hinton & Hunderton, Newton Farm, Red Hill and Saxon Gate)

45 We received no submissions that mentioned these four wards during the warding arrangements consultation. We noted that all four wards have good forecast electoral equality by 2031.

46 We therefore propose to make no changes to these wards as part of our draft recommendations. However, we would be interested to hear evidence from these communities as to whether these wards still reflect their community identities and interests. This can also include comments on the names of these proposed wards.

47 Our draft recommendations are for four wards with forecast electoral equality of 4%, 8%, 2% and 1% respectively by 2031.

North East Herefordshire



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Backbury	1	-1%
Bishops Frome & Cradley	1	6%
Bromyard Bringsty	1	8%
Bromyard West	1	-9%
Hagley	1	8%

Hampton	1	1%
Hope End	1	6%
Ledbury North	1	8%
Ledbury South	1	10%
Ledbury West	1	5%
Sutton Walls	1	-5%
Three Crosses	1	-1%

Bromyard Bringsty, Bromyard West and Hampton

48 The two submissions received for this area mentioned the boundaries of Bromyard Bringsty and Bromyard West wards. A local resident thought the existing boundary along the High Street was confusing to residents who would not know which councillor to contact. Bromyard & Winslow Town Council stated its view that no changes to the existing ward boundaries were required. We received no comments about Hampton ward.

49 Based on the evidence received we propose to make no changes to these wards and recommend that the three existing wards be retained. We are still interested to hear any further evidence that local electors and representatives may have, particularly on the community ties and links in this area.

50 Our draft recommendations are for the three wards of Bromyard Bringsty, Bromyard West and Hampton. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of 8%, -9% and 1% respectively by 2031.

Backbury, Bishops Frome & Cradley, Hagley, Hope End, Sutton Walls and Three Crosses

51 The two submissions received for these six wards were from local residents and related to the external boundaries of individual parishes in the area. The external boundaries of parishes are not within the scope of this review. Changes to external parish boundaries can be made by Herefordshire Council by means of a Community Governance Review (CGR).

52 The existing Hagley ward is forecast to have 14% more electors per councillor than the authority's average by 2031. To reduce this level of electoral inequality, we looked at whether it was possible to move any parishes in the current ward to neighbouring wards. Over 90% of the electors in this ward live in the two parishes of Lugwardine and Withington, and to transfer some of these electors would likely result in dividing parishes between wards to ensure good electoral equality. We try to avoid this approach if there are other options that would minimise electoral variances. One option we identified was to move the parishes of Preston Wynne and Westhide from Hagley ward to Three Crosses ward which would reduce the electoral variance in Hagley ward from 14% to 8%.

53 Having carefully considered the potential warding options for this area, we have decided to make this change but note that the parishes in question form part of a grouped parish council with Withington parish which would remain in Hagley ward. We try, where possible, not to divide a grouped parish between wards. However, in this instance and in the absence of community evidence, we considered that providing good electoral equality for Hagley ward justified this change. We would particularly welcome evidence relating to the community identity and interests of this area as we did not receive any during our first consultation. Additionally, we would welcome the submission of alternative warding arrangements that would secure good electoral equality for Hagley and avoid the division of the grouped parish council between wards.

54 Moving Preston Wynne and Westhide parishes to Three Crosses ward would increase the electoral variance of that ward to 12%. Consequently, we propose to move Stoke Lacy parish from Three Crosses ward to Bishops Frome & Cradley ward. This would leave Three Crosses ward with an electoral variance of -1% and Bishops Frome & Cradley with a variance of 6%. Our virtual tour of Herefordshire suggested that Stoke Lacy has direct transport links to Bishops Frome and the wider Bromyard area.

55 We did not receive any submissions that referred to Backbury, Hope End and Sutton Walls wards, and we therefore propose to make no changes to these existing wards as part of our draft recommendations.

56 Our draft recommendations are for the six wards of Backbury, Bishop Frome & Cradley, Hagley, Hope End, Sutton Walls and Three Crosses. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -1%, 6%, 8%, 6%, -5% and -1% respectively by 2031.

Ledbury North, Ledbury South and Ledbury West

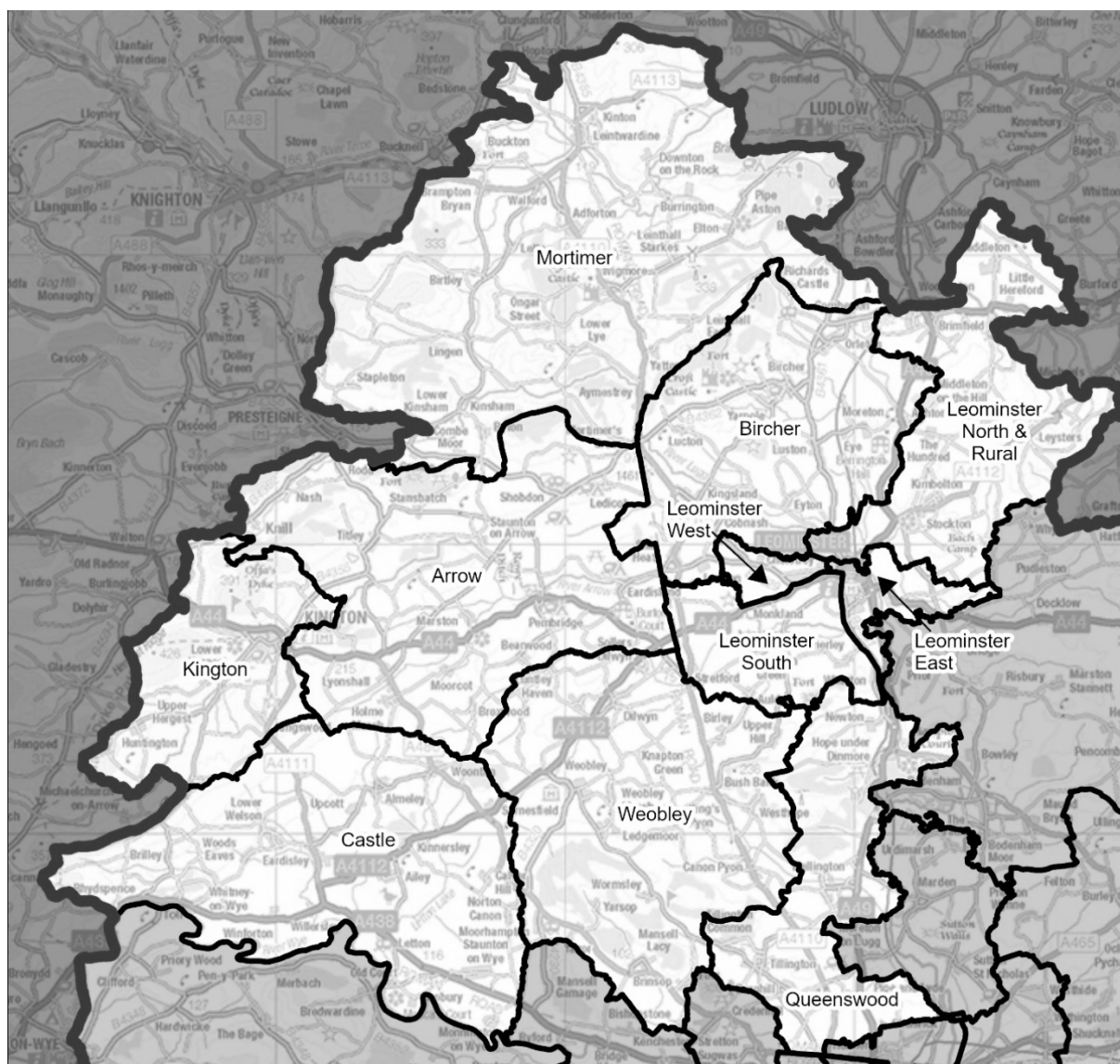
57 We received two submissions relating to the town of Ledbury. These were from Ledbury Town Council and Councillor Harvey, writing in their capacity as a local resident in support of the proposal put forward by Ledbury Town Council.

58 Ledbury Town Council proposed some modifications to the wards in the town to address the high electoral variance of Ledbury North ward, which currently stands at 16% more electors per councillor than the average for Herefordshire. The Town Council proposed to move the boundary between Ledbury North and Ledbury West wards to follow the old railway line in its entirety. The current ward boundary deviates from the railway line to follow Longacres and the rear of Woodleigh Road and this change was intended to provide a more identifiable ward boundary. The Town Council also proposed to move the boundary between Ledbury South and Ledbury West wards to follow New Street, Ross Road and the River Leadon, with areas to the west of this area transferred from Ledbury South to Ledbury West.

59 We carefully considered both of these modifications and propose to make the first of these between Ledbury North and Ledbury West to follow the disused railway line. We do not propose to adopt the modification between Ledbury South and Ledbury West wards because, based on the electorate forecasts we received from Herefordshire Council, this would result in an electoral variance of 14% in Ledbury West.

60 Our draft recommendations are for the three wards of Ledbury North, Ledbury South and Ledbury West. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of 8%, 10% and 5% respectively by 2031.

North West Herefordshire



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Arrow	1	5%
Bircher	1	6%
Castle	1	-8%
Kington	1	-9%
Leominster East	1	4%
Leominster North & Rural	1	9%
Leominster South	1	-8%
Leominster West	1	-8%
Mortimer	1	6%
Queenswood	1	-3%
Weobley	1	3%

Bircher and Mortimer

61 We received two submissions relating to these wards. Councillor Hurcomb (Bircher ward) stated that no change should be made to the existing Bircher ward despite its forecast electoral variance of 15%. They stated that the parishes that make up the existing ward work well together and are partially grouped and should therefore not be divided between wards.

62 Councillor Gandy (Mortimer ward) proposed making no changes to Mortimer as they argued the existing ward worked well, with its constituent parishes having a strong relationship with each other. We considered the evidence provided in support of the existing wards. However, we have decided to transfer Richards Castle parish from Bircher ward to Mortimer ward as part of our draft recommendations to provide for good electoral equality. We would welcome further evidence of community ties in this area and, in particular, evidence in relation to our proposed change.

63 Our draft recommendations are for the two wards of Bircher and Mortimer which are forecast to have electoral variances of 6% and 6% respectively by 2031.

Arrow, Castle, Kington, Queenswood and Weobley

64 We received one submission relating to the wards of Castle and Kington. A local resident suggested that Eardisley parish and those in the Eardisley grouped parish should be moved into Kington ward. We received no comments about Arrow, Queenswood and Weobley wards.

65 Having considered the resident's proposals for Castle and Kington ward, we noted that it would produce electoral variances of 36% in Kington ward and -50% in Castle ward.

66 We have not received the evidence to justify these large electoral variances and, in any event, to adopt them would mean we were not effectively balancing our three statutory criteria. We would be interested to receive any further community evidence relating to these wards during the current consultation.

67 We therefore propose retaining the existing warding pattern for this area as part of our draft recommendations. We propose five wards of Arrow, Castle, Kington, Queenswood and Weobley with forecast electoral variances of 5%, -8%, -9%, -3% and 3% respectively by 2031.

Leominster East, Leominster North & Rural, Leominster South and Leominster West

68 We received a submission from Councillor Bartlett, the current councillor for Leominster East. They stated that the change to four single-councillor wards for Leominster at the last electoral review was a positive move but that the addition of some rural areas to Leominster wards had not reflected community identity around the town, particularly in Leominster North and Leominster South. They also stated

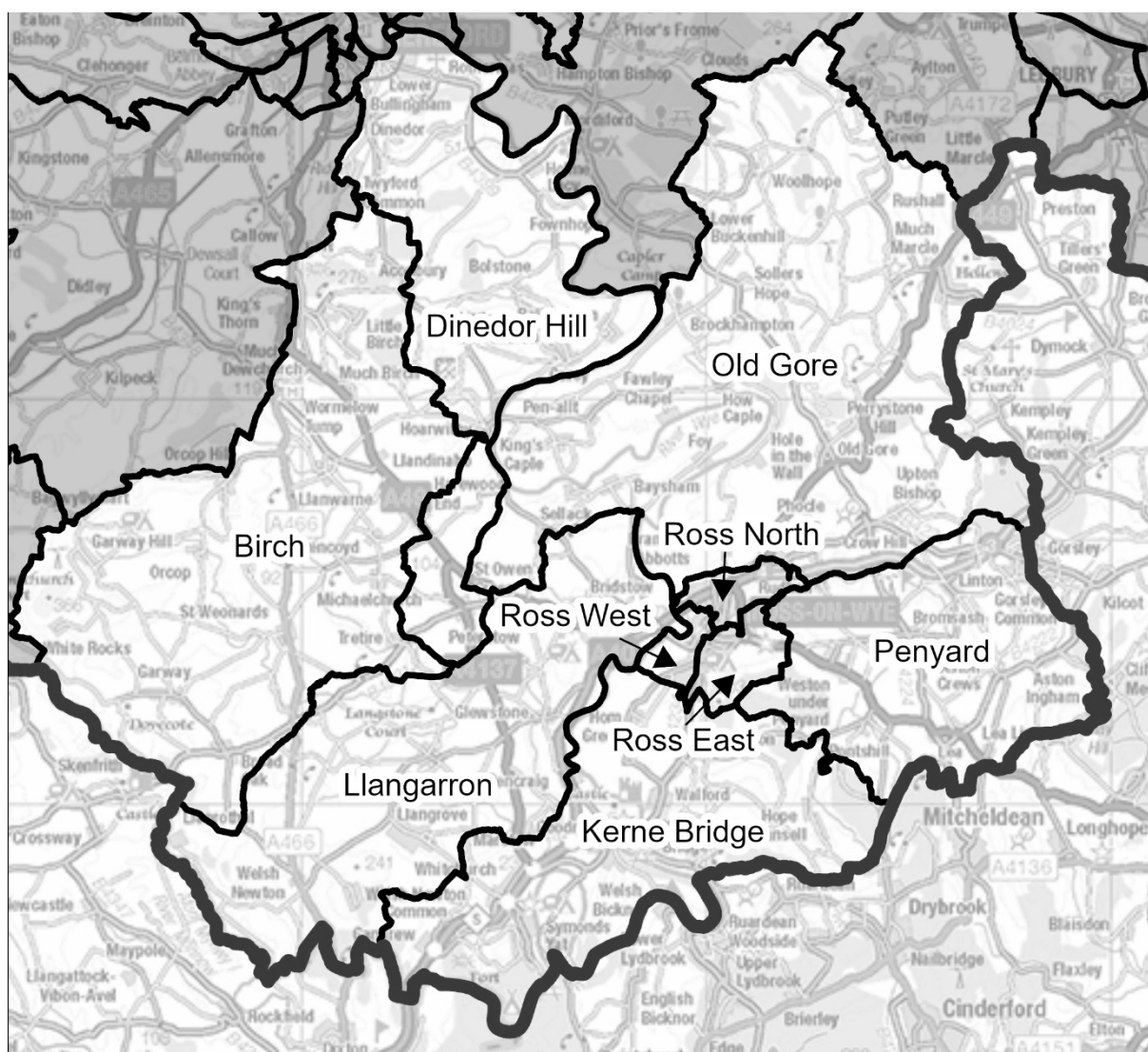
that the division of some streets between wards in the town centre was confusing to electors.

69 We received no other submissions that referred to Leominster. We considered the submission from Councillor Bartlett and examined whether we could identify any potential changes to any of the Leominster wards to improve community ties. However, given the lack of evidence received, we have no information to demonstrate where those ties might lie and what boundaries would be appropriate to reflect local communities.

70 We therefore propose that the existing four Leominster wards are retained as part of our draft recommendations, but we would welcome any further community evidence for the area, including alternative warding patterns that would provide for good electoral equality.

71 Our draft recommendations are for the four wards of Leominster East, Leominster North & Rural, Leominster South and Leominster West, with forecast electoral variances of 4%, 9%, -8% and -8% respectively by 2031.

South East Herefordshire



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Birch	1	-6%
Dinedor Hill	1	6%
Kerne Bridge	1	0%
Llangarron	1	-5%
Old Gore	1	-4%
Penyard	1	4%
Ross East	1	1%
Ross North	1	9%
Ross West	1	10%

Ross East, Ross North and Ross West

72 We received a submission from a local resident that referenced the wards in Ross-on-Wye. It proposed that there should be one councillor for the town of Ross-

on-Wye and one councillor for the surrounding rural areas. As these areas are entitled to five councillors, a reduction to two councillors would leave the area significantly under-represented.

73 We did, however, note that the existing Ross North and Ross East wards have poor forecast electoral equality of 12% and 14% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2031. We have therefore sought to identify amendments to the three Ross wards to provide for good electoral equality.

74 We propose two amendments to achieve this. We propose to move the boundary between Ross East and Ross West from Broad Street to Gloucester Road and Cantilupe Road. We also propose to move the boundary between Ross North and Ross West to follow River View, Brampton Street, Brookfield Road and Over Ross Street. These proposed changes are based on evidence gathered on our virtual tour and provide electoral equality for all three Ross wards.

75 We received no evidence in relation to Ross-on-Wye during the first consultation so are interested to hear evidence from this area during the current consultation, particularly in relation to the changes we have recommended. We would also be open to hearing about other potential warding arrangements for the town that meet our three statutory criteria of electoral equality, community identities and effective and convenient local government.

76 Our draft recommendations for Ross are for the three wards of Ross East, Ross North and Ross West, which are forecast to have electoral variances of 1%, 9% and 10% respectively by 2031.

Birch, Dinedor Hill, Kerne Bridge, Llangarron, Old Gore and Penyard

77 We received three submissions in relation to this area. Two of the submissions related to the boundary between Birch ward and Wormside ward. Both Councillor Fagan and Much Birch Parish Council stated that the boundary should be changed to follow the A49. The other submission related to Old Gore ward and stated that the village of Brampton Abbotts should be included in a Ross-on-Wye ward.

78 We also noted that the existing Old Gore and Penyard wards have poor electoral equality of -12% and 12%, respectively.

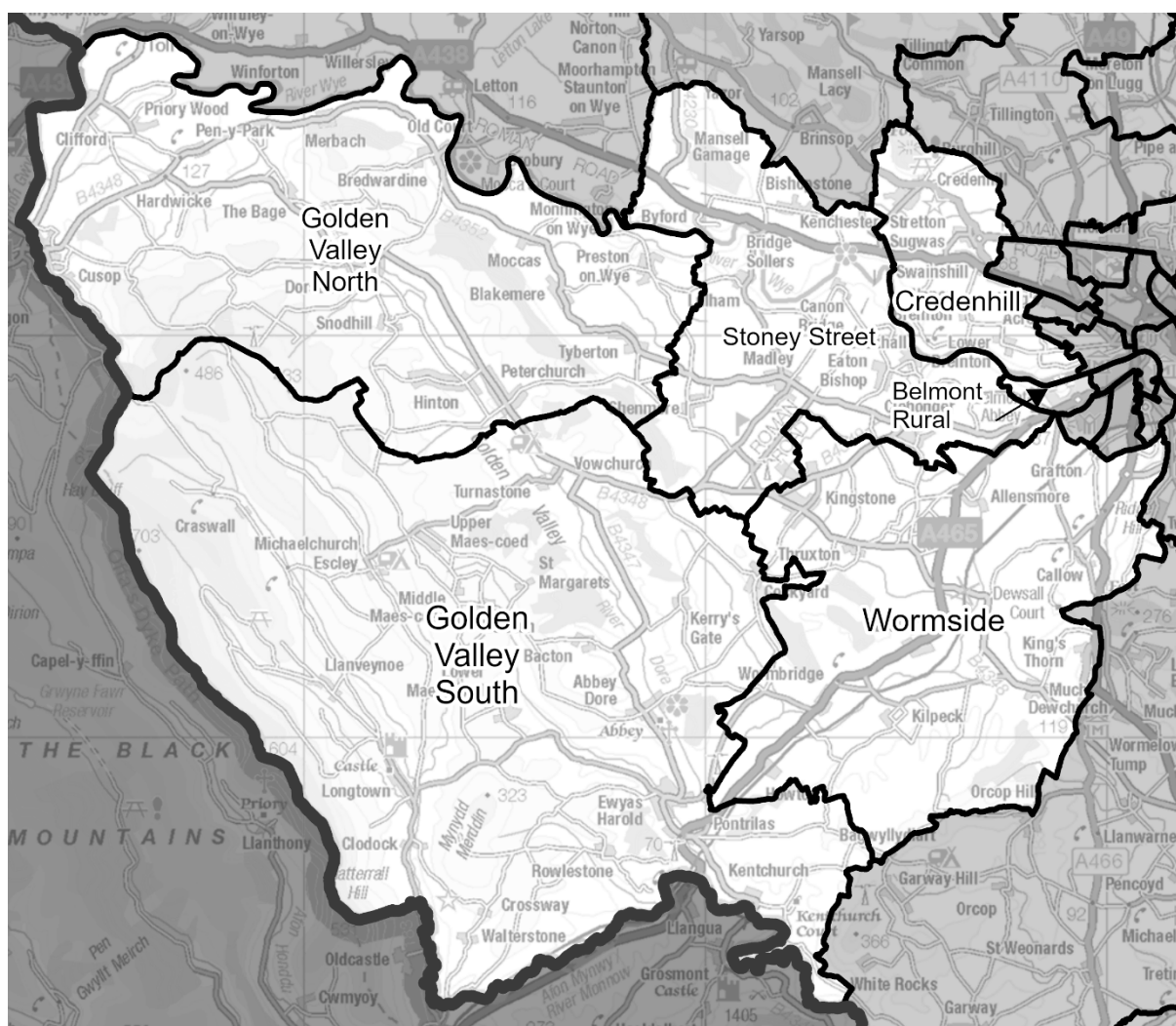
79 We considered the evidence received but do not propose to make changes to the boundary between Birch and Wormside wards so that it follows the A49. The existing boundary follows parish boundaries and to make the change proposed would require the creation parish wards for both Much Birch and Much Dewchurch parishes. These parish wards would have very few electors in them which, in our view, would not provide for effective and convenient local government here. Additionally, we have not been persuaded to include Brampton Abbotts in a Ross-

on-Wye ward as we could not identify a warding pattern that could achieve this and provide for good electoral equality.

80 We have decided to recommend changes between Llangarron and Old Gore wards and Kerne Bridge and Penyard wards. We propose to move Hope Mansell parish from Penyard ward to Kerne Bridge ward and propose to move Sellack parish from Llangarron ward to Old Gore ward. Both of these changes are intended to provide for good electoral equality in all four of these wards.

81 Our draft recommendations are for the six wards of Birch, Dinedor Hill, Kerne Bridge, Llangarron, Old Gore and Penyard. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -6%, 6%, 0%, -5%, -4% and 4% respectively by 2031.

South West Herefordshire



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Belmont Rural	1	-3%
Credenhill	1	-9%
Golden Valley North	1	-8%
Golden Valley South	1	-6%
Stoney Street	1	4%
Wormside	1	7%

Belmont Rural, Credenhill, Golden Valley North, Golden Valley South, Stoney Street and Wormside

82 We received three submissions that mentioned one of these wards. As referenced in paragraphs 77–79 above, two submissions related to the boundary between Wormside and Birch wards. We also received a submission from Credenhill Parish Council suggesting a small change to the parish boundary affecting eight properties.

83 As discussed earlier, any changes to the boundary between Wormside ward and Birch ward would require the creation of unviable parish wards in both Much Birch and Much Dewchurch parishes. In our view, this would not provide for effective and convenient local government.

84 In addition to this, we cannot make the change suggested by Credenhill Parish Council as it relates to the external boundary of the parish. This is beyond the scope of this review and falls under the responsibility of Herefordshire Council by means of a Community Governance Review. We received no further comments regarding these six wards and therefore propose to make no changes to the existing warding pattern in this area as part of our draft recommendations.

85 Our draft recommendations are for the six wards of Belmont Rural, Credenhill, Golden Valley North, Golden Valley South, Stoney Street and Wormside. These wards are forecast to have electoral variances of -3%, -9%, -8%, -6%, 4% and 7% by 2031, respectively.

Conclusions

86 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Herefordshire, referencing the 2025 and 2031 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	
	2025	2031
Number of councillors	53	53
Number of electoral wards	53	53
Average number of electors per councillor	2,785	3,020
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	1	0

Draft recommendations

Herefordshire should be made up of 53 councillors serving 53 single-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 Herefordshire Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Herefordshire Council on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

87 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.

88 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, Herefordshire 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.

89 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 Hereford, Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye.

90 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hereford parish.

Draft recommendations

Hereford City Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing 15 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Hereford Aylestone Hill	1
Hereford Bobblestock	1
Hereford Central	2
Hereford College	1
Hereford Eign Hill	1
Hereford Greyfriars	1
Hereford Hinton & Hunderton	2
Hereford Kings Acre	1
Hereford Newton Farm	2
Hereford Red Hill	1
Hereford Saxon Gate	1
Hereford Tupsley	1
Hereford Victoria Park	1
Hereford Whitecross	1
Hereford Widemarsh	1

91 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ledbury parish.

Draft recommendations

Ledbury Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ledbury North	6
Ledbury South	6
Ledbury West	6

92 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ross-on-Wye parish.

Draft recommendations

Ross-on-Wye Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ross-on-Wye East	6
Ross-on-Wye North	6
Ross-on-Wye West	6

Have your say

93 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 of Herefordshire or just a part of it.

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

95 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

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

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

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

98 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Herefordshire 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.

99 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.

100 Electoral equality:

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

101 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?

102 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?

103 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.

104 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.

105 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.

106 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 Herefordshire in 2027.

Equalities

107 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 Herefordshire

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Arrow	1	2,974	2,974	7%	3,186	3,186	5%
2	Aylestone Hill	1	2,583	2,583	-7%	2,759	2,759	-9%
3	Backbury	1	2,594	2,594	-7%	3,000	3,000	-1%
4	Belmont Rural	1	2,712	2,712	-3%	2,919	2,919	-3%
5	Birch	1	2,618	2,618	-6%	2,850	2,850	-6%
6	Bircher	1	3,008	3,008	8%	3,209	3,209	6%
7	Bishops Frome & Cradley	1	2,962	2,962	6%	3,189	3,189	6%
8	Bobblestock	1	2,768	2,768	-1%	2,972	2,972	-2%
9	Bromyard Bringsty	1	3,059	3,059	10%	3,247	3,247	8%
10	Bromyard West	1	2,388	2,388	-14%	2,752	2,752	-9%
11	Castle	1	2,495	2,495	-10%	2,793	2,793	-8%
12	Central	1	2,915	2,915	5%	3,103	3,103	3%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 College	1	2,705	2,705	-3%	2,886	2,886	-4%
14 Credenhill	1	2,598	2,598	-7%	2,742	2,742	-9%
15 Dinedor Hill	1	2,805	2,805	1%	3,203	3,203	6%
16 Eign Hill	1	2,787	2,787	0%	2,942	2,942	-3%
17 Golden Valley North	1	2,515	2,515	-10%	2,783	2,783	-8%
18 Golden Valley South	1	2,664	2,664	-4%	2,841	2,841	-6%
19 Greyfriars	1	2,547	2,547	-9%	2,707	2,707	-10%
20 Hagley	1	3,065	3,065	10%	3,253	3,253	8%
21 Hampton	1	2,888	2,888	4%	3,052	3,052	1%
22 Hinton & Hunderton	1	2,927	2,927	5%	3,130	3,130	4%
23 Holmer	1	2,789	2,789	0%	3,176	3,176	5%
24 Hope End	1	3,032	3,032	9%	3,198	3,198	6%
25 Kerne Bridge	1	2,853	2,853	2%	3,032	3,032	0%
26 Kings Acre	1	2,632	2,632	-5%	2,787	2,787	-8%
27 Kington	1	2,594	2,594	-7%	2,743	2,743	-9%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28 Ledbury North	1	2,419	2,419	-13%	3,249	3,249	8%
29 Ledbury South	1	3,112	3,112	12%	3,309	3,309	10%
30 Ledbury West	1	2,989	2,989	7%	3,160	3,160	5%
31 Leominster East	1	2,949	2,949	6%	3,133	3,133	4%
32 Leominster North & Rural	1	3,102	3,102	11%	3,298	3,298	9%
33 Leominster South	1	2,609	2,609	-6%	2,792	2,792	-8%
34 Leominster West	1	2,112	2,112	-24%	2,772	2,772	-8%
35 Llangarron	1	2,706	2,706	-3%	2,873	2,873	-5%
36 Mortimer	1	2,956	2,956	6%	3,199	3,199	6%
37 Newton Farm	1	3,046	3,046	9%	3,264	3,264	8%
38 Old Gore	1	2,727	2,727	-2%	2,903	2,903	-4%
39 Penyard	1	2,845	2,845	2%	3,126	3,126	4%
40 Queenswood	1	2,751	2,751	-1%	2,934	2,934	-3%
41 Red Hill	1	2,896	2,896	4%	3,072	3,072	2%
42 Ross East	1	2,747	2,747	-1%	3,047	3,047	1%

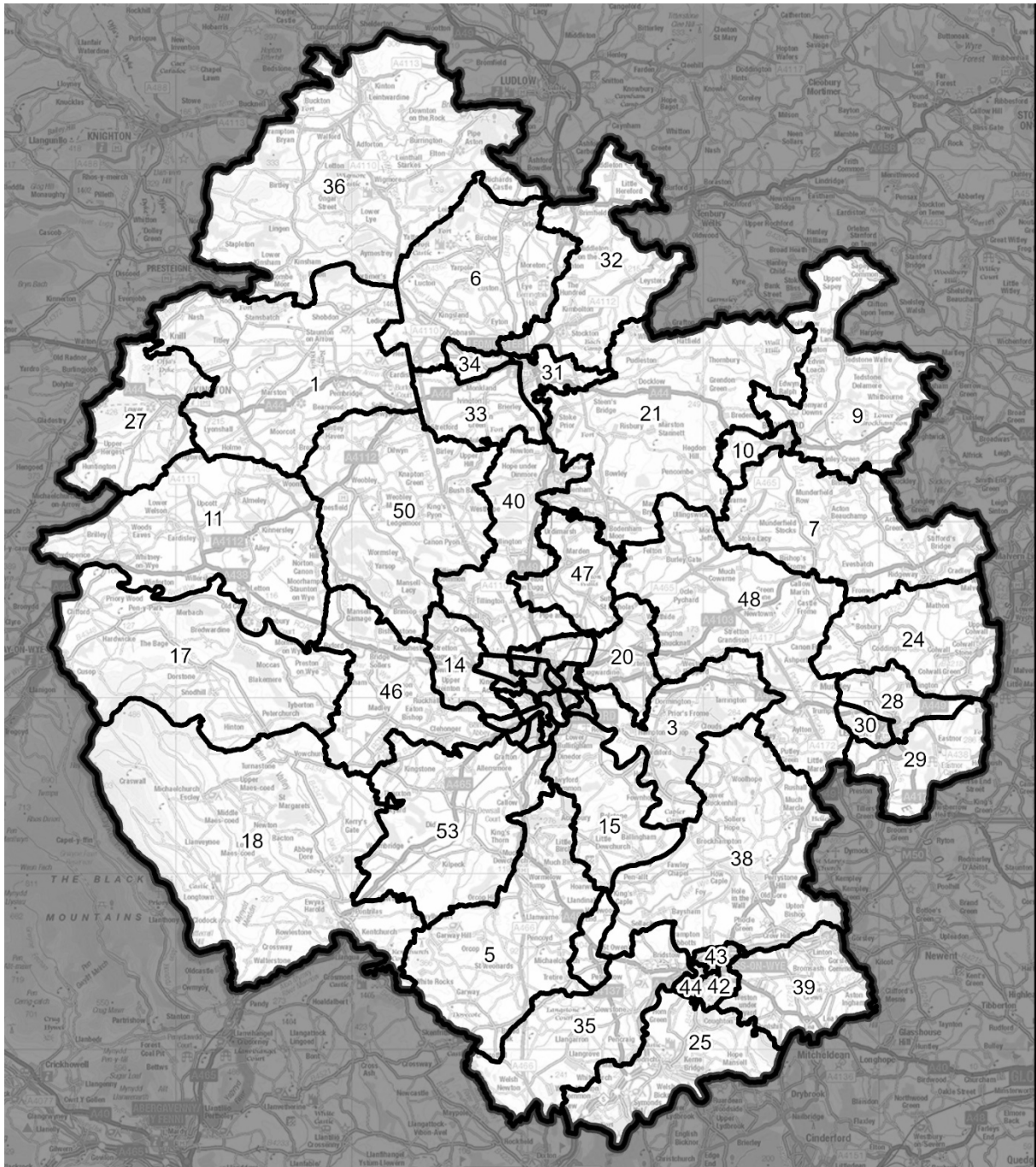
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2031)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
43 Ross North	1	3,083	3,083	11%	3,296	3,296	9%
44 Ross West	1	3,147	3,147	13%	3,327	3,327	10%
45 Saxon Gate	1	2,870	2,870	3%	3,046	3,046	1%
46 Stoney Street	1	2,858	2,858	3%	3,133	3,133	4%
47 Sutton Walls	1	2,599	2,599	-7%	2,883	2,883	-5%
48 Three Crosses	1	2,766	2,766	-1%	2,991	2,991	-1%
49 Tupsley	1	2,592	2,592	-7%	2,743	2,743	-9%
50 Weobley	1	2,898	2,898	4%	3,113	3,113	3%
51 Whitecross	1	2,564	2,564	-8%	2,746	2,746	-9%
52 Widemarsh	1	2,727	2,727	-2%	2,977	2,977	-1%
53 Wormside	1	3,055	3,055	10%	3,240	3,240	7%
Totals	53	147,602	-	-	160,080	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,785	-	-	3,020	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Herefordshire Council.

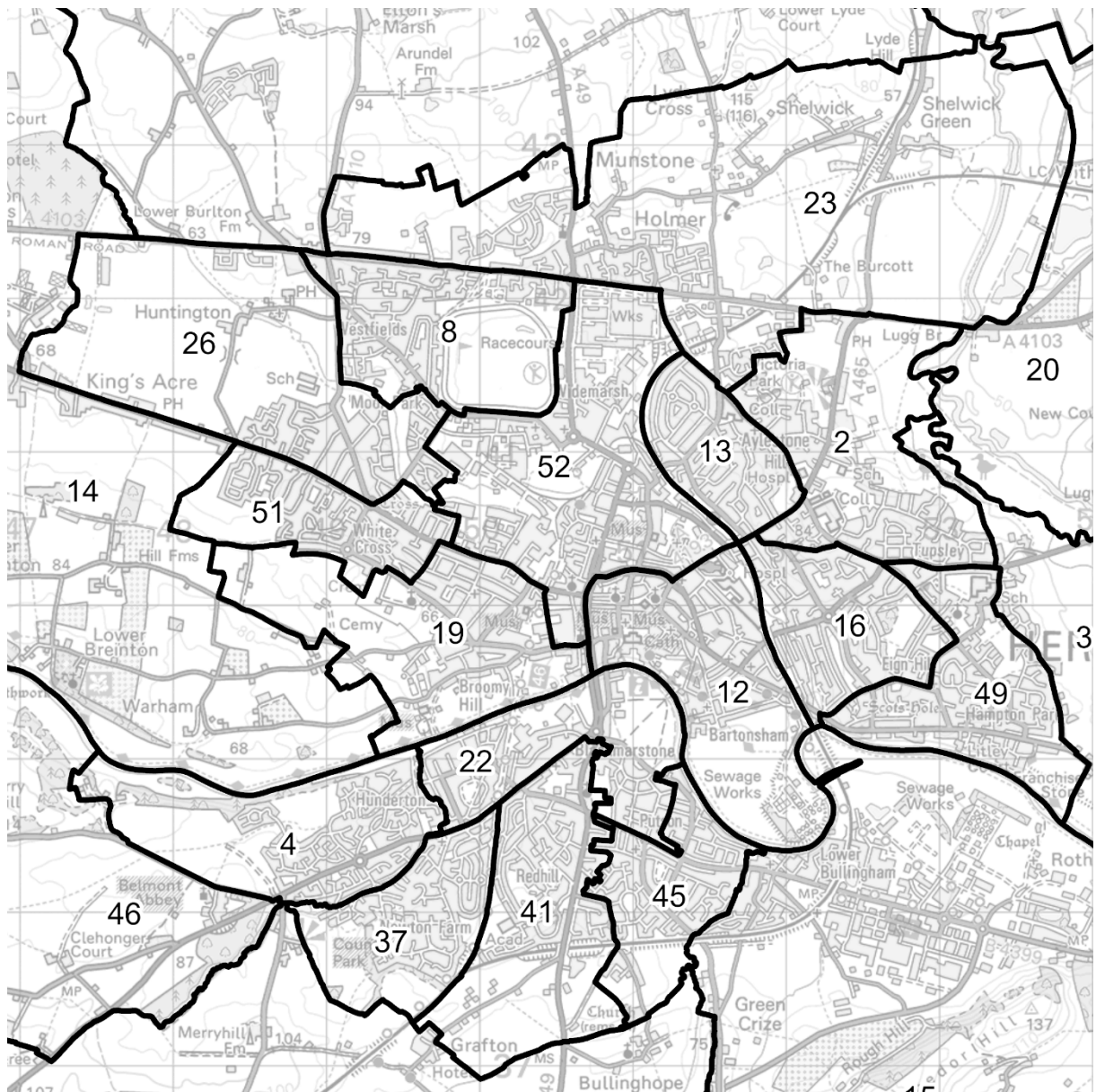
Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the authority. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Hereford



Number	Ward name
1	Arrow
2	Aylestone Hill
3	Backbury
4	Belmont Rural
5	Birch
6	Bircher
7	Bishops Frome & Cradley
8	Bobblestock
9	Bromyard Bringsty
10	Bromyard West
11	Castle

12	Central
13	College
14	Credenhill
15	Dinedor Hill
16	Eign Hill
17	Golden Valley North
18	Golden Valley South
19	Greyfriars
20	Hagley
21	Hampton
22	Hinton & Hunderton
23	Holmer
24	Hope End
25	Kerne Bridge
26	Kings Acre
27	Kington
28	Ledbury North
29	Ledbury South
30	Ledbury West
31	Leominster East
32	Leominster North & Rural
33	Leominster South
34	Leominster West
35	Llangarron
36	Mortimer
37	Newton Farm
38	Old Gore
39	Penyard
40	Queenswood
41	Red Hill
42	Ross East
43	Ross North
44	Ross West
45	Saxon Gate
46	Stoney Street
47	Sutton Walls
48	Three Crosses
49	Tupsley
50	Weobley
51	Whitecross
52	Widemarsh
53	Wormside

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/herefordshire

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

Local Authority

- Herefordshire Council

Political Groups

- Hereford and South Herefordshire Constituency Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillor J. Bartlett (Herefordshire Council)
- Councillor T. Fagan (Herefordshire Council)
- Councillor C. Gandy (Herefordshire Council)
- Councillor D. Hurcomb (Herefordshire Council)
- Councillor J. Milln (Hereford City Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Bromyard & Winslow Town Council
- Credenhill Parish Council
- Ledbury Town Council
- Much Birch Parish Council

Local residents

- 17 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

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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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.

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

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

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

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