

# New electoral arrangements for City of York Council Draft Recommendations

April 2026



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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.<sup>1</sup> 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
- Wallace Sampson OBE
- Liz Treacy
- Janet Waggott
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why City of York?

7 We are conducting a review of City of York 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'.<sup>2</sup>

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

- The wards in York 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 city.

## Our proposals for York

9 York should be represented by 48 councillors, one more than there is now.

10 York should have 22 wards, one more than there is now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; three 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 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 consider any representations which are based on these issues.

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<sup>2</sup> 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 29 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 York. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the city. 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 Legislation<sup>3</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>4</sup> 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 York	156,099	170,031
Number of councillors	48	48
Average number of electors per councillor	3,252	3,542

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 York 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](http://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 9% by 2031.

25 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 therefore used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

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 City of York Council currently has 47 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and initially concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 47 councillors: for example, 47 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

29 We received no submissions offering specific evidence about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. However, when developing our proposed warding pattern, and taking into account the evidence received during consultation, we considered that a 48-councillor warding pattern offered a better balance of our statutory criteria than a 47-councillor pattern. Our draft recommendations are therefore based on 48 councillors.

## Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 66 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included city-wide proposals from the Liberal Democrat Group and the Conservative Party. A third city-wide proposal was made on behalf of York Labour Party, York Labour Councillors, Mayor David Skaith (York & North Yorkshire), Luke Charters MP (York Outer) and Rachael Maskell MP (York Central). This is referred to throughout this report as the 'Labour proposal', in the interests of brevity. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the city.

31 The city-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for York. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

32 Our draft recommendations are based primarily on the Labour proposals in the north and centre of York, and the Liberal Democrat proposals to the south and west of the city. Both the Liberal Democrats and Labour provided substantive evidence in

support of their proposal, with less evidence provided in support of the Conservative proposal.

33 The draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

34 We visited the area in order to look at the various proposals on the ground. This tour of York helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

## Draft recommendations

35 Our draft recommendations are for 10 three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and six one-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

36 The tables and maps on pages 8–23 detail our draft recommendations for each area of York. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>5</sup> criteria of:

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

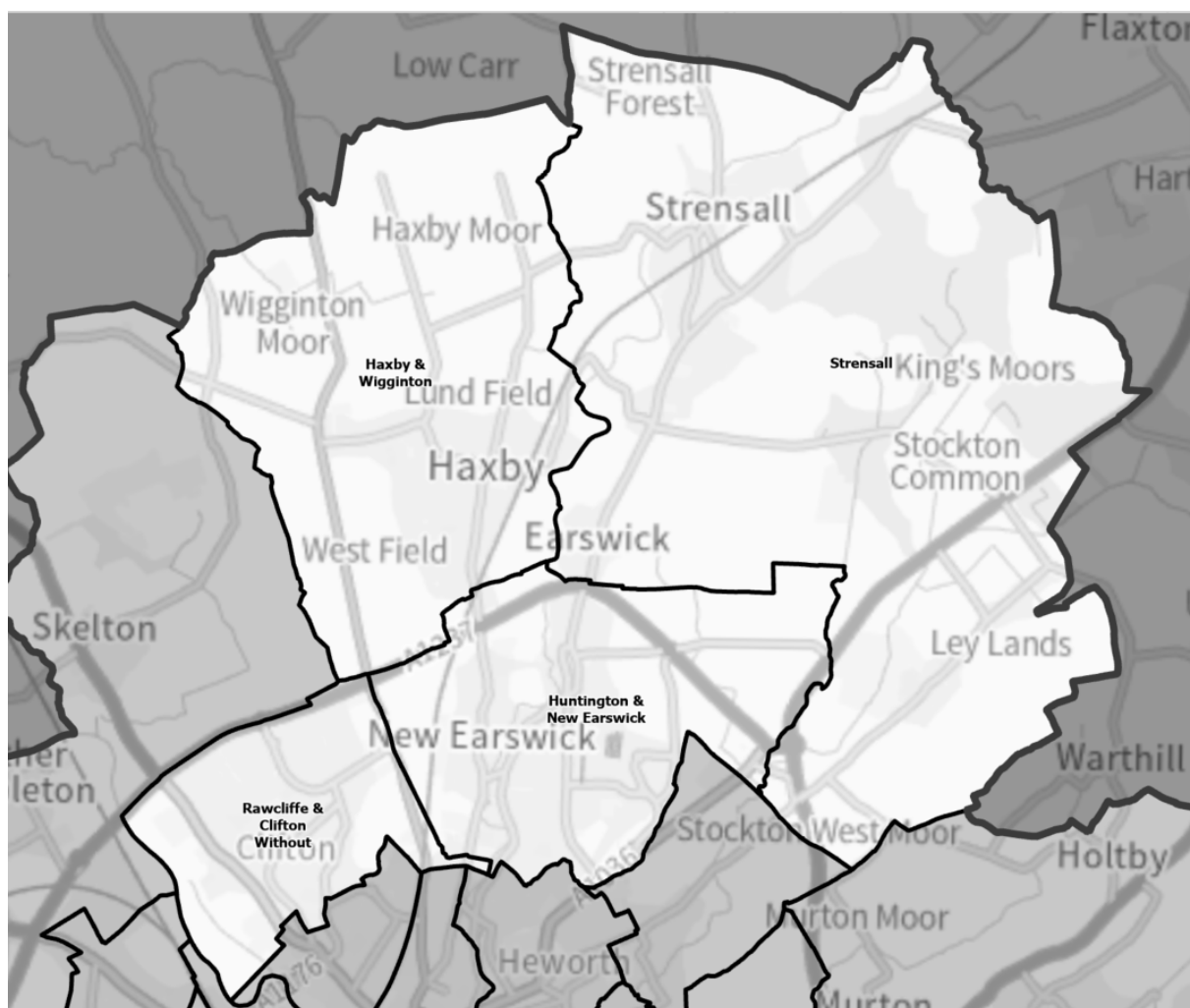
37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 35 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

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<sup>5</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## North York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Haxby & Wigginton	3	-6%
Huntington & New Earswick	3	10%
Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	3	-5%
Strensall	2	-8%

### *Haxby & Wigginton, Huntington & New Earswick and Strensall*

39 The authority-wide schemes that we received agreed on the boundaries of Haxby & Wigginton, Huntington & New Earswick and Strensall wards. Each of these wards consists of entire parishes. The Liberal Democrats suggested that the settlements of Haxby and Wigginton were essentially one, rather than there being any meaningful distinction, and cited a number of shared community facilities such as the Methodist Church and Wigginton Recreational Hall; and that services were shared between Strensall and Earswick, such as libraries and bus services.

40 While providing less detailed evidence in these areas, the Labour and Conservative proposals agreed on the shape of these wards. The Green submission suggested that the area around Hopgrove Lane could be moved into Strensall in order to improve the electoral equality. While this would move the number of electors per councillor in both Huntington & New Earswick and Strensall wards nearer to the average for the city, it would require the creation of small parish wards rather than following parish boundaries. We were not persuaded that this would necessarily provide for effective and convenient government. We also have no evidence as to whether this area shares community identities with Huntington or Stockton on the Forest. We are therefore not adopting the Greens' proposal and are proposing to retain the existing wards of Haxby & Wigginton, Strensall and Huntington & New Earswick as part of our draft recommendations.

41 Haxby Town Council provided a submission requesting the abolition of town council wards. We will make changes to parish electoral arrangements as part of an electoral review only where we are obliged to do so by law – other changes can be made through a Community Governance Review undertaken by City of York Council.

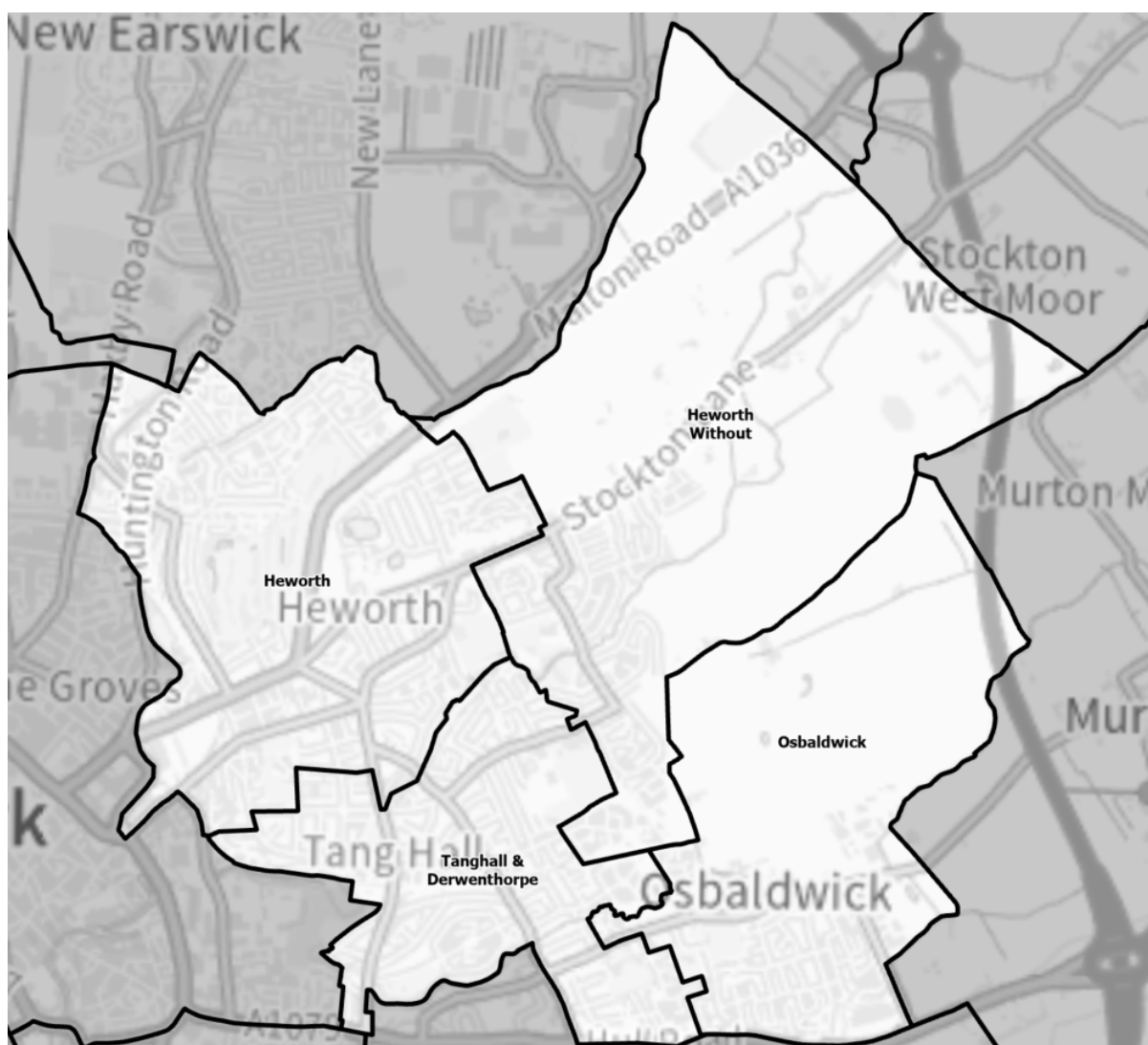
#### *Rawcliffe & Clifton Without*

42 We received varying proposals for this ward. The Labour submission proposed joining Rawcliffe and Clifton Without parishes to Skelton; the Conservatives suggested retaining the existing ward without modification; and the Liberal Democrats suggested broadly retaining the existing ward but removing the Shipton Road area to the south of Clifton Without parish. The Liberal Democrats noted that Rawcliffe and Clifton Without function effectively as a single community, sharing medical and library facilities, and argued that Skelton parish has a more rural character.

43 As outlined below (paragraphs 68–69), we have decided to retain Skelton parish in a Rural West York ward as part of our draft recommendations. The Labour submission also suggested moving the southern boundary of this ward to precisely follow the parish boundary in the area of Lilbourne Drive. It noted that this reflected the situation before 2015 and would reflect the catchment area for Clifton Primary School.

44 While school catchment areas can be a reflection of community identity, we note that these are subject to change. We also note that the parish boundary does not appear to align with streets in the area in question, which would leave residents to the south of Lilbourne Drive and on Archer Close cut off from the remainder of their ward. We have therefore not adopted this proposal and have decided to base our draft recommendations on the proposals of the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives to retain the existing boundary in this area.

## Eastern York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Heworth	3	-6%
Heworth Without	1	-3%
Osbaldwick	1	-2%
Tanghall & Derwenthorpe	2	-7%

### *Heworth and Heworth Without*

45 We received varying proposals for the Heworth area to the north-east of the city centre. Even allowing for the development expected within the five-year forecast period, Heworth Without parish has too few electors to provide for a single-councillor ward with good electoral equality. The Liberal Democrats and Conservatives preferred extending Heworth Without ward to the south, favouring the retention of most of the existing ward, while the Labour submission proposed extending the ward to the south, to take in the Meadlands area of Osbaldwick parish.

46 Osbaldwick Parish Council provided a submission stating that they were happy with the current warding arrangements, but providing no details as to how these arrangements continue to reflect our statutory criteria. We note that the existing Osbaldwick & Derwenthorpe ward would not offer good electoral equality (11% more electors per councillor than average) and would have consequential implications for several neighbouring wards if it were retained.

47 We have largely, albeit on a modified basis, adopted the Labour proposal for these wards as part of our draft recommendations. Both the Liberal Democrats and Labour submissions agree that there is a distinction in identity between the more suburban Heworth Without area and the area of Heworth closer to the city centre. Labour argued for the Meadlands area to be included in a Heworth Without ward, citing school and road links, and distinct residents' associations, despite the Meadlands area being within Osbaldwick parish. However, the Labour proposal also placed the Derwent Mews area in a Tanghall-based ward, despite the lack of road links in the area.

48 We have modified the Labour proposals to ensure good electoral equality, as well as to reflect road access throughout our proposed wards and to ensure compatibility with our recommendations in adjoining areas of the city. We recommend extending Labour's proposed Heworth Without ward to take in the areas of Derwent Way, Meadlands Mews and surrounding streets. This allows all wards to have internal road links. Elsewhere, we have followed the boundary of Heworth Without parish wherever possible, except where this boundary appears to split residential areas around Whitby Avenue and Algarth Road. Our recommendations also ensure that Hempland Primary School is placed in Heworth Without ward, despite being slightly outside the relevant parish boundary.

49 A submission from a resident of Hempland Drive suggested that their community identity lay towards Heworth rather than the Ashley Park area. They proposed that the current ward boundary made it difficult to receive relevant electoral communications. The latter point is not one which we can consider, but our draft recommendations include Hempland Drive within a Heworth ward.

#### *Osbaldwick and Tanghall & Derwenthorpe*

50 The Conservatives proposed a two-member Osbaldwick & Derwent ward, retaining the existing warding pattern in this area. This was supported by Osbaldwick Parish Council, although no specific evidence as to the community links in this area was provided in the parish council's submission. Both the Liberal Democrats and Labour proposed a geographically smaller ward, focused on Osbaldwick parish. We visited this area on our tour of York and consider that Osbaldwick and the rural parishes have distinct identities, as laid out in the Labour and Liberal Democrat submissions. Osbaldwick appears to have a suburban character, compared to the large rural areas in the remaining parishes of the existing ward. We have therefore

based our draft recommendations for this area on the Labour proposals, with modifications.

51 As discussed above, we consider it compatible with effective and convenient local government to ensure that, wherever possible, wards should have good internal road links between their constituent communities. We have therefore modified the Labour proposals to place the Lotherington Mews area within a Tanghall & Derwenthorpe ward, reflecting road access of this area.

52 We have further adapted the Labour proposals, placing a small area of Murton parish to the west of Osbaldwick Link Road in Osbaldwick ward. On our tour of the city, we did not consider that the parish boundary in this area, particularly where it divides Tranby Avenue, offered a strong or clear ward boundary. We have also placed the area between Millfield Lane and Hull Road into a Heslington & University ward, which is discussed in more detail below (paragraph 57).

## Southeastern York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Derwent	2	4%
Fulford & Fishergate	3	10%
Heslington & University	2	-2%

### *Derwent and Heslington & University*

53 We have broadly adopted the Labour proposals for these wards as part of our draft recommendations, subject to modifications to ensure good electoral equality and to ensure a coherent pattern of wards across the wider area.

54 We received differing views as to what warding arrangements should cover the University of York campus, which is in the north of Heslington parish. The Conservative proposal was for a single-member ward drawn very tightly to the campus itself, while Labour proposed a slightly larger two-member ward that included the campus and Heslington village, but placed the more rural southern section of Heslington parish into a Derwent ward. The Liberal Democrat proposal was for a three-member Heslington & Hull Road ward, extending north to Lang Avenue and Ambleside Avenue.

55 Heslington Parish Council provided a submission suggesting a small amendment to the existing Fulford & Heslington ward, in order to bring more of Heslington village together. While we are not proposing a direct successor to the existing Fulford & Heslington ward, our draft recommendations will ensure that all of Heslington village and parish are contained in a single ward.

56 In addition to the proposals from political groups, we received a submission from the University of York Students' Union. This submission argued that the amount of casework generated by the university and student population should mean that a three-councillor ward is appropriate rather than a smaller ward.

57 While we appreciate the unique nature of this area when compared to other areas of the city of York, we are obliged by law to ensure that electoral equality is considered among our other criteria. Arbitrarily assigning three councillors to a university-based ward, irrespective of the number of electors, would not offer a good reflection of this criterion. We have adopted the proposal from the students' union to have 'University' as part of a ward name. We have also decided to take in a portion of the area to the north of Hull Road into a university-based ward, reflecting evidence that a large number of students live in this area and therefore share community interests. This change also ensures our Heslington & University ward has good electoral equality.

58 To the south of the university area, the Labour proposal was for a boundary running just south of Heslington village and in part along the A64 ring road. This would have left the remainder of Heslington parish requiring a parish ward with very few electors, at least until the completion of the proposed development at the Elvington Airfield site. We do not consider that this would provide for effective and convenient local government and are instead adopting the proposal of the Liberal Democrats to extend this ward to take in all of Heslington parish.

59 Labour proposed a two-councillor Derwent ward covering the majority of eight rural parishes to the south and east of the urban area of the city. In contrast, the Liberal Democrats proposed splitting this ward into two single-councillor wards. We recognise that, even with our modifications to the proposals, it would be possible to construct two single-member wards. One ward would be formed of Naburn,

Deighton, Wheldrake and Elvington parishes and the other formed of Kexby, Dunnington, Holtby and Murton parishes. We would particularly welcome further evidence as to which of these proposals is likely to best reflect the community identity of these areas, and whether the two-member ward put forward in our draft recommendations is likely to be too large geographically to represent effectively.

### *Fulford & Fishergate*

60 The Conservative proposal for Fulford was to link the parish to Heslington village and Naburn in a way that did not allow direct road access, as well as being incompatible with our decisions in respect of Heslington & University ward. The Labour proposal was for a three-member ward covering Fulford village and Fishergate to the north, while the Liberal Democrats proposed separate wards for Fulford (one member) and Fishergate (two members).

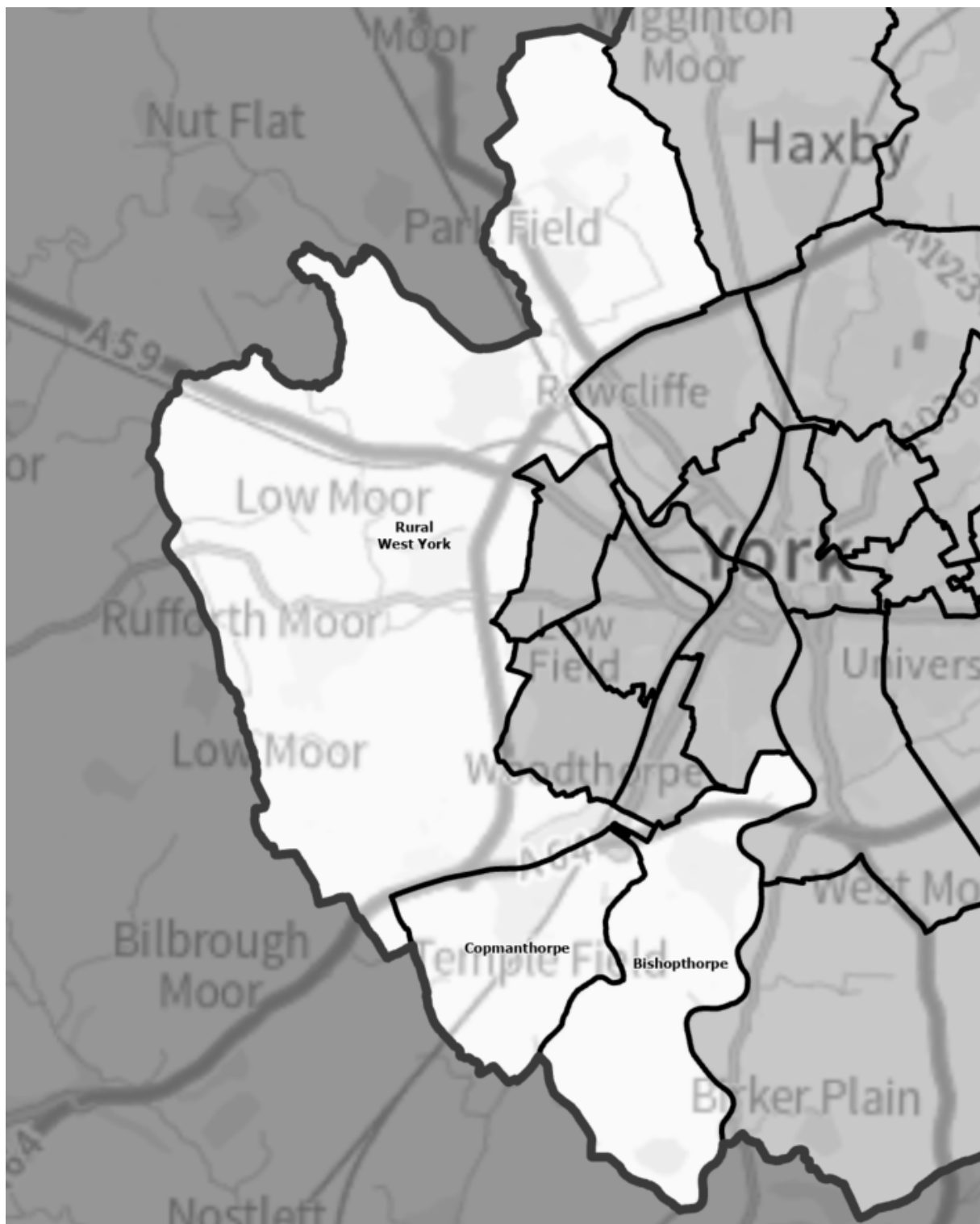
61 We visited this area on our tour of York. We considered that neither the northern boundary of Fulford parish or the ward boundary proposed by the Liberal Democrats was a particularly strong or clear one on the ground. We also noted that community facilities such as the Fulford Club and Fulford Arms pub were north of the parish itself, suggesting clear links between the Fulford and Fishergate areas.

62 The Liberal Democrats argued that there was a clear distinction of community identity between these areas, placing particular weight on a desire to separate civilian communities from those associated with the military facilities at Imphal Barracks. However, little specific evidence was provided as to any barriers between the communities. We have instead preferred the Labour proposal for a combined three-member ward in this area, subject to one modification.

63 The Labour proposal separated the rural area of Fulford parish to south of the ring road from the village to the north. While we accept that this area may have a differing community identity, it would require the creation of a parish ward with very few electors, in a manner that we do not consider compatible with effective and convenient local government. In a similar way to the neighbouring Heslington parish, we are therefore including all of Fulford parish in a single ward as part of our draft recommendations.

64 Cllr M. Dobson (Fulford Parish Council) offered a submission discussing the desirability of alignment between parish and ward boundaries, but without offering specific proposals.

## Southern and Western Rural York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Bishopthorpe	1	-2%
Copmanthorpe	1	8%
Rural West York	2	-9%

### *Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe and Rural West York*

65 The Labour submission proposed combining the existing wards of Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe into a two-member ward that would also include the parishes of Askham Richard and Askham Bryan, arguing that while the communities had separate identities, they shared commonalities such as educational links and medical facilities.

66 In contrast, the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, York Green Party, Cllr D. Walker, Cllr M. Nicholls, Acaster Malbis Parish Council, Bishopthorpe Parish Council, Acaster Malbis Community Events and a number of residents argued for the current arrangements. This would result in separate single-member wards covering respectively Copmanthorpe parish, and the parishes of Bishopthorpe and Acaster Malbis. Respondents cited the effective and convenient nature of having a single councillor to deal with a number of local community events. A number of Acaster Malbis residents indicated that they did not feel any particular community identity towards Copmanthorpe, as opposed to Bishopthorpe. Cllr Nicholls also cited a shared interest between Bishopthorpe and Acaster Malbis regarding the River Ouse, which is not shared with Copmanthorpe and other neighbouring parishes.

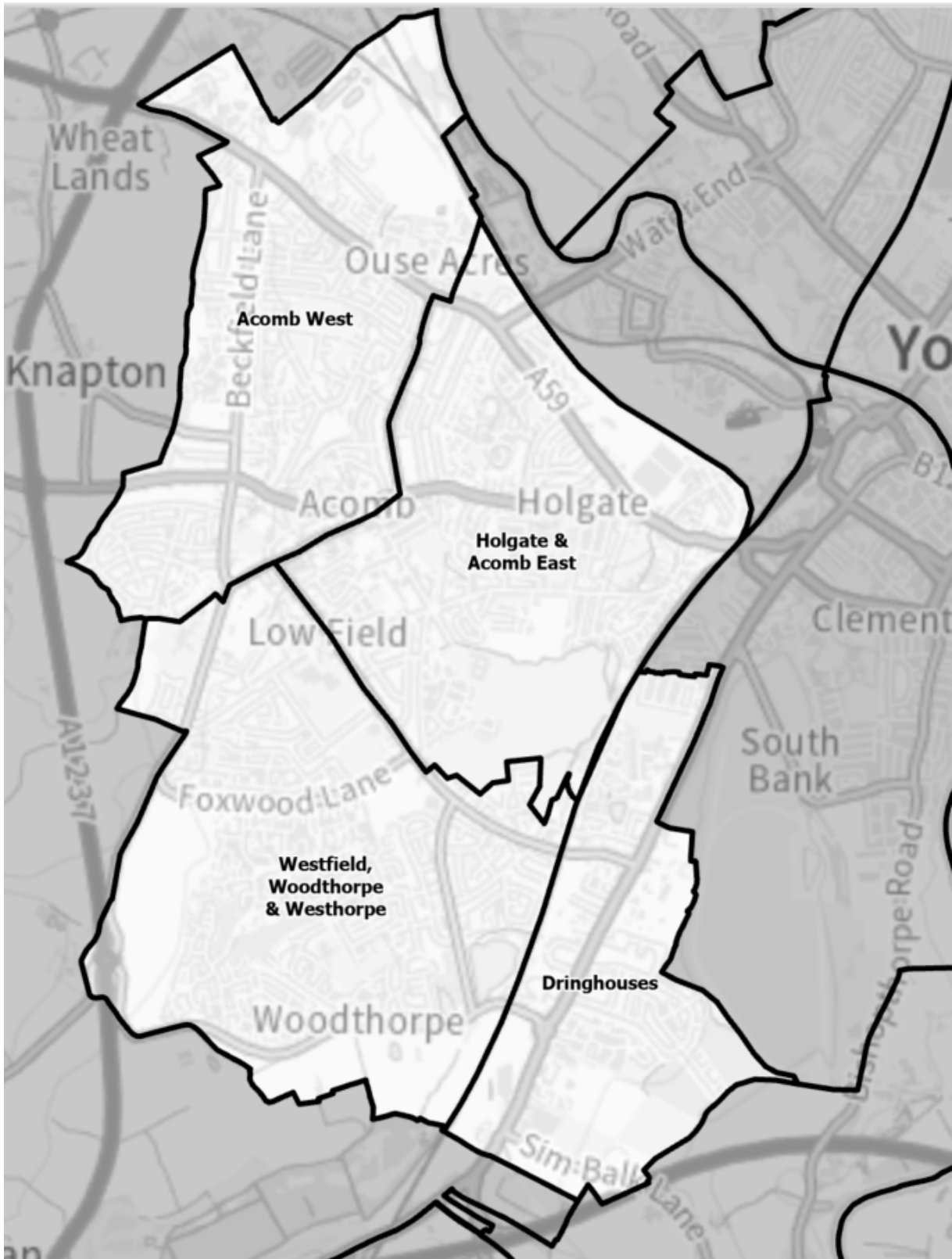
67 As part of our draft recommendations we have decided to adopt the proposals of the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in this area, and are therefore proposing separate Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe wards. Given that Copmanthorpe will have a relatively high electoral variance, this means that it cannot accommodate Askham Bryan and Askham Richard parishes. We considered placing these parishes in Bishopthorpe ward but consider that the access between the different sections of the ward would be poor, and that we have little specific evidence of community identity between Askham Richard, Askham Bryan and Bishopthorpe.

68 The Labour submission proposed a single-councillor Poppleton ward, to replace the current two-member Rural West York ward. To ensure good electoral equality this was reliant on not only Askham Richard and Askham Bryan parishes being moved to alternative wards, but also Skelton parish being placed in a ward with the built-up areas of Rawcliffe and Clifton Without parishes.

69 The Liberal Democrat, Conservative and Green proposals were to retain the existing Rural West York ward, including the parishes of Askham Richard and Askham Bryan in the south, and Skelton in the north. We have broadly adopted this, subject to minor changes in the Acomb area, where Labour proposed placing small areas of Upper Poppleton and Rufforth with Knapton parishes in a ward with the neighbouring areas of Acomb West ward. We agree that the parish boundaries in this area appear defaced and have adopted the Labour proposal to bring these areas within Acomb West ward as part of our draft recommendations.

70 As well as comments on the proposed boundaries, we would particularly welcome further evidence as to whether the name of 'Rural West York' is appropriate for this ward, or whether it could be improved by reference to one or more specific areas within the ward.

West York



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Acomb West	3	-5%
Dringhouses	1	3%
Holgate & Acomb East	3	6%
Westfield, Woodthorpe & Westthorpe	3	3%

*Acomb West, Dringhouses, Holgate & Acomb East and Westfield, Woodthorpe & Westthorpe*

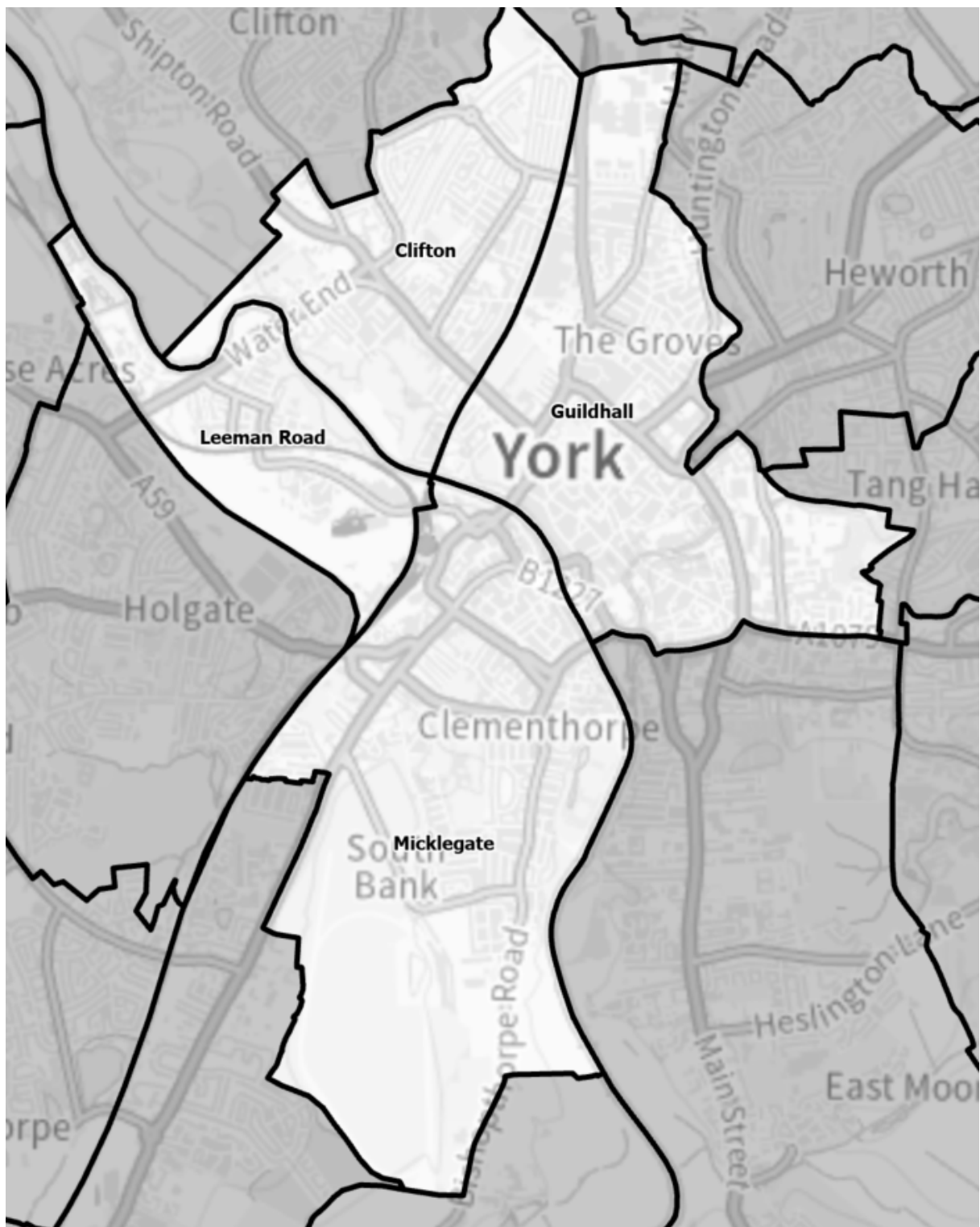
71 We have adopted the Labour proposals for these wards. The Conservative proposals relied upon a Hob Moor ward bringing together areas both north and south of this open space. We viewed this on our tour of the city and considered that the open space was more likely to be a divide between communities rather than a unifying feature. The Labour submission provided evidence that the Acomb Community extended significantly beyond the existing ward of that name, citing Acomb Primary School, and suggested that the distinction between the Acomb and Holgate areas was not clear or understandable.

72 The Liberal Democrats broadly supported the retention of the existing wards in this area, with a few adjustments to ensure good electoral equality. However, we received evidence from residents that supported that Labour proposals – specifically with regard to the links between communities in the Foxwood and Woodthorpe areas, which are described as being linked through shopping, schools, medical and religious facilities.

73 We received varying proposals as to whether the Dringhouses area, to the east of the railway line, should be a separate single-member ward or should retain its connection to the Woodthorpe area across the railway line. The Labour proposal and that of the Conservatives suggested a boundary running along the railway line. We visited this area on our tour of York and, while there is access across the railway line by means of Moor Lane and St Helen’s Road, we concluded that the railway forms a clear and recognisable boundary. We have therefore adopted the Labour and Conservative proposal for a single-member Dringhouses ward as part of our draft recommendations.

74 As discussed above, we propose including areas to the north and west of the existing Acomb ward within predominantly urban wards. The Labour proposal suggested that this was necessary to ensure that all the development in this area would fall within a single ward. We are including this within our draft recommendations, notwithstanding the fact that it requires the creation of relatively small parish wards. Overall, we consider that the evidence supports this and will ensure effective and convenient local government.

## York City Centre



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2031
Clifton	2	9%
Guildhall	3	-2%
Leeman Road	1	-6%
Micklegate	3	5%

*Clifton, Guildhall, Leeman Road and Micklegate*

75 Again, we received varying proposals for these wards, which cover the central urban area of York. As in many areas, the decisions that we make with regard to centrally located wards have significant consequential effects across the city area.

76 The Liberal Democrats proposed a Guildhall ward somewhat to the south of the existing ward of this name, including sections both north and south of the River Ouse. We visited this area on our tour of York and consider that the river represents a very strong and recognisable boundary, as well as there being distinct variations in the community identities of the areas on either side of the river. We have therefore not adopted the Liberal Democrat proposal for this ward, meaning that their proposals for several neighbouring wards cannot be adopted without having fundamental effects on the overall coherence of our warding pattern across York.

77 We have adopted the Liberal Democrat proposal for Clifton ward, which differed only slightly from that of the Labour submission (discussed above at paragraph 44). The Conservative proposal was for two single-member wards covering this area, named Clifton Green and Burton Green. We viewed the proposed boundary between these wards on our visit to York but did not consider that the proposed boundary in the area of Burton Stone Lane or Water Lane was particularly strong or clear. We have therefore decided to retain a two-member ward as part of our draft recommendations in this area.

78 We are adopting the Labour proposal for a single-member Leeman Road ward, covering the area south of the river but north of the railway line. This area is described as ‘something of an island’, and on our tour of York we agreed that the Leeman Road area appears somewhat isolated from neighbouring communities to the south. We note that a significant amount of the York Central development is expected in this area and would welcome further evidence as to where precise boundaries can be drawn to ensure that our warding patterns reflect the developing nature of the communities in this area.

79 To the south of the city centre, we have adopted the Labour proposals for a Micklegate ward covering the Clementhorpe area as well as the Knavesmire open space and racecourse. The Conservative proposal was for a single-member South Bank ward and a two-member Micklegate ward. However, we do not consider that the proposed boundaries along South Bank Avenue and Butcher Terrace were particularly strong or clear. The Liberal Democrat proposal was for the areas north of

Scarcroft Road and Holgate Road to be placed in a cross-river Guildhall ward (discussed above at paragraph 76).

80 We received submissions from residents describing their community identity in the areas of Clementhorpe and South Bank. Having carefully considered these submissions, we are satisfied that the communities as described correspond with the warding pattern we are proposing as part of our draft recommendations.



## Conclusions

81 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in York, 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	48	48
Number of electoral wards	22	22
Average number of electors per councillor	3,252	3,542
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

#### Draft recommendations

City of York Council should be made up of 48 councillors serving 22 wards: six single-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and 10 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 York.

You can also view our draft recommendations for York on our interactive maps at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

82 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.

83 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, City of York 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.

84 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 Murton, Osbaldwick, Rufforth with Knapton and Upper Poppleton parishes.

85 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Murton parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Murton Parish Council should comprise six councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Tranby Avenue	3
Village	3

86 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Osbaldwick parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Osbaldwick Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Lotherington	1
Meadlands	3
Village	11

87 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Rufforth with Knapton parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Boroughbridge Road	3
Rural	5

88 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Upper Poppleton parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Upper Poppleton Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Acomb	2
Poppleton	7



## Have your say

89 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 city area or just a part of it.

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

91 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

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

93 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (York)**  
**LGBCE**  
**3 Bunhill Row**  
**London**  
**EC1Y**

94 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for York 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.

95 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.

96 Electoral equality:

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

97 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?

98 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?

99 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.lqbce.org.uk](http://www.lqbce.org.uk) A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

100 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.

101 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.

102 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 City of York Council in 2027.



## Equalities

103 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 City of York Council

	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	Acomb West	3	9,519	3,173	-2%	10,124	3,375	-5%
2	Bishopthorpe	1	3,413	3,413	5%	3,481	3,481	-2%
3	Clifton	2	7,479	3,740	15%	7,693	3,847	9%
4	Copmanthorpe	1	3,395	3,395	4%	3,812	3,812	8%
5	Derwent	2	6,654	3,327	2%	7,399	3,699	4%
6	Dringhouses	1	3,632	3,632	12%	3,646	3,646	3%
7	Fulford & Fishergate	3	9,714	3,238	0%	11,664	3,888	10%
8	Guildhall	3	9,841	3,280	1%	10,432	3,477	-2%
9	Haxby & Wigginton	3	9,835	3,278	1%	10,011	3,337	-6%
10	Heslington & University	2	6,113	3,057	-6%	6,930	3,465	-2%
11	Heworth	3	8,613	2,871	-12%	9,970	3,323	-6%

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 %
12 Heworth Without	1	2,723	2,723	-16%	3,422	3,422	-3%
13 Holgate & Acomb East	3	10,732	3,577	10%	11,246	3,749	6%
14 Huntington & New Earswick	3	9,920	3,307	2%	11,657	3,886	10%
15 Leeman Road	1	2,087	2,087	-36%	3,328	3,328	-6%
16 Micklegate	3	10,391	3,464	7%	11,127	3,709	5%
17 Osbaldwick	1	2,460	2,460	-24%	3,477	3,477	-2%
18 Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	3	9,851	3,284	1%	10,114	3,371	-5%
19 Rural West York	2	6,187	3,094	-5%	6,443	3,222	-9%
20 Strensall	2	6,420	3,210	-1%	6,534	3,267	-8%
21 Tanghall & Derwenthorpe	2	6,359	3,180	-2%	6,575	3,287	-7%
22 Westfield, Woodthorpe & Westhorpe	3	10,761	3,587	10%	10,945	3,648	3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>156,099</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>170,031</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,542</b>	<b>–</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by City of York 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.



14	Huntington & New Earswick
15	Leeman Road
16	Micklegate
17	Osballdwick
18	Rawcliffe & Clifton Without
19	Rural West York
20	Strensall
21	Tanghall & Derwenthorpe
22	Westfield, Woodthorpe & Westhorpe

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/york](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/york)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/york](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/york)

#### *Political Groups*

- Conservative Party (North)
- York Green Party
- York Labour Party, York Labour Councillors, Mayor D. Skaith (York & North Yorkshire), Luke Charters MP (York Outer), Rachael Maskell MP (York Central)
- York Liberal Democrats

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor M. Dobson (Fulford Parish Council)
- Councillor M. Nicholls (City of York Council)
- Councillor D. Walker (Acaster Malbis Parish Council)

#### *Local organisations*

- Acaster Malbis Community Events
- University of York Students' Union

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Acaster Malbis Parish Council
- Bishopthorpe Parish Council (2 submissions)
- Haxby Town Council
- Heslington Parish Council
- Osbaldwick Parish Council

#### *Local residents*

- 51 local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

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

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
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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