

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council

Electoral review

October 2012

Translations and other formats

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Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. The broad purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors, and the names, number and boundaries of wards or divisions – for a specific local authority. We are conducting an electoral review of Warwick District Council ('the Council') to provide improved levels of electoral equality across the authority.

The review aims to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same. The Commission commenced the review in January 2012.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
14 February 2012	Submission of proposals of ward arrangements to the LGBCE
4 May 2012	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
23 October 2012	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
7 January 2013	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Submissions received

During the preliminary stage of this review we received one submission on council size from the Council. The Council then submitted a district-wide proposal for warding arrangements. All submissions can be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Analysis and draft recommendations

Electorate figures

The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2018, a date five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2013. This is prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act'). The Council initially projected a very high electorate growth of 21%.

We had strong reservations about whether this exceptionally high level of growth would be realised and asked the Council to review its forecasts. The Council's revised forecasts projected an electorate growth of a little over 5%. We are content that these revised forecasts are the most accurate figures available at the present time and have used them as the basis of our draft recommendations.

Council size

The Council currently has 46 councillors. During preliminary discussions with the Council, it stated that it had sought a review primarily to address issues of electoral equality and not to make radical changes to council size. It submitted proposals for a council size of between 44 and 48 members, but did not propose a specific council size.

Having reviewed the rationale submitted by the Council, we did not consider that the Council had not put forward sufficient evidence to enable us to make a decision on council size. As a result we had a further meeting with the Council to explore its rationale further. At this meeting the Council provided further evidence on its governance arrangements, member workload and member representation of electors. As a result of the further information received, we propose that the council size should remain at 46 members, as at present.

General analysis

The Council proposed a uniform pattern of two-member wards for Warwick, but did not explain why it proposed such a pattern. We identified a number of concerns with the Council's proposals and have proposed several amendments, most notably in the areas of Warwick town, Kenilworth town, and the rural east of the district.

In Kenilworth and the rural east of the district, we had concerns about the Council's proposals to include Burton Green parish in a ward with Stoneleigh parish given the poor road links between these two areas. We are therefore transferring Burton Green parish into a ward with Kenilworth. As a consequence, we have made significant changes to the rural wards in the areas of Cubbington, Radford Semele and Stoneleigh.

In Warwick town, we propose modifications to the Council's proposals for the areas of Bishops Tachbrook, Heathcote and Myton to improve electoral equality and provide for stronger boundaries. Elsewhere across the district, we propose a number of minor modifications to the Council's proposals to improve electoral equality, strengthen boundaries and address parish warding issues.

Our draft recommendations for Warwick are for two single-member, 19 two-member and two three-member wards. No ward will have a variance of greater than 10% by 2018.

What happens next?

There will now be a consultation period, during which we encourage comment on the draft recommendations on the proposed electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council contained in the report. **We take this consultation very seriously and it is therefore important that all those interested in the review should let us have their views and evidence, whether or not they agree with these draft proposals.** We will take into account all submissions received by 7 January 2013. Any received after this date may not be taken into account.

We would particularly welcome local views backed up by demonstrable evidence. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations. Express your views by writing directly to us at:

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Warwick Review
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76–86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG
reviews@lgbce.org.uk

The full report is available to download at www.lgbce.org.uk

1 Introduction

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Warwick District Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the authority.

2 We wrote to the Council as well as other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals first on council size and then on warding arrangements for the Council. The submissions received during these stages of the review have informed our draft recommendations.

3 We are now conducting a full public consultation on the draft recommendations. Following this period of consultation, we will consider the evidence received and will publish our final recommendations for the new electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council in spring of 2013.

What is an electoral review?

4 The main aim of an electoral review is to try to ensure 'electoral equality', which means that all councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors. Our objective is to make recommendations that will improve electoral equality, while also trying to reflect communities in the area and provide for effective and convenient local government.

5 Our three main considerations – equalising the number of electors each councillor represents; reflecting community identity; and providing for effective and convenient local government – are set out in legislation¹ and our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why are we conducting a review in Warwick?

6 We decided to conduct this review because, based on the December 2010 electorate figures, 35% of the existing wards have 10% more or fewer electors per councillor than the district average. The Council had also formally requested that a review take place in order to reduce the current electoral variances.

How will the recommendations affect you?

7 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 instances, which parish council wards you vote in. Your ward name may also change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. The names or boundaries of parishes will not change as a result of our recommendations.

¹ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

8 It is therefore important that you let us have your comments and views on the draft recommendations. We encourage comments from everyone in the community, regardless of whether you agree with the draft recommendations or not. The draft recommendations are evidence based and we would therefore like to stress the importance of providing evidence in any comments on our recommendations, rather than relying on assertion. We will be accepting comments and views until 7 January 2013. After this point, we will be formulating our final recommendations which we are due to publish in the Spring 2013. Details on how to submit proposals can be found on page 19 and more information can be found on our website, www.lgbce.org.uk

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

9 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Members of the Commission are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)
Professor Colin Mellors (Deputy Chair)
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
Sir Tony Redmond
Dr Colin Sinclair CBE
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill
Director of Reviews: Archie Gall

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

10 Before finalising our recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council we invite views on these draft recommendations. We welcome comments relating to the proposed ward boundaries and ward names. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

11 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for Warwick is to achieve a level of electoral fairness – that is, each elector's vote being worth the same as another's. In doing so we must have regard to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009,² with the need to:

- secure effective and convenient local government
- provide for equality of representation
- reflect the identities and interests of local communities, in particular
 - the desirability of arriving at boundaries that easily identifiable
 - the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties

12 Legislation also states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the date of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward at the end of the review.

13 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum. We therefore recommend strongly that in formulating proposals for us to consider, local authorities and other interested parties should also try to keep variances to a minimum, making adjustments to reflect relevant factors such as community identity and interests. As mentioned above, we aim to recommend a scheme which provides improved electoral fairness over a five-year period.

14 Additionally, in circumstances where we propose to divide a parish between district wards or county divisions, we are required to divide it into parish wards so that each parish ward is wholly contained within a single district ward or county division. We cannot make amendments to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

15 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Warwick District Council or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. The proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries, and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

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

Submissions received

16 Prior to, and during, the initial stage of the review, we visited Warwick District Council and met with members, parish council representatives and officers. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance. We received two submissions from the Council, one on council size and one during information gathering on warding arrangements, both of which may be inspected both at our offices and those of the Council. All representations received can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

17 As part of the electoral review, Warwick District Council submitted electorate forecasts for the six year period 2012-18.

18 The Council initially forecast very high growth of 21% based on a number of large developments it considered would occur during the forecast period. We examined all the major growth sites identified by the Council on a tour of the district and noted that work had yet to commence on most of the sites identified. The Council confirmed that many sites had not yet been granted planning permission. We therefore asked it to review its forecast figures and provide a stronger rationale for them.

19 The Council provided revised electorate forecasts of a little over 5%. Having considered the information provided by the Council, we are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis of our draft recommendations.

Council size

20 Warwick District Council currently has 46 members elected from 20 wards, comprising five single-member, four two-member and 11 three-member wards.

21 During preliminary discussions on council size, the Council stated that it had requested an electoral review primarily to reduce current electoral variances. The Council submitted proposals for a council size of between 44 and 48 members, outlining key responsibilities on issues of governance and strategic management for the area. It also outlined the engagement model between members and cabinet, and issues of elector representation.

22 We had concerns that the Council's proposal did not clearly articulate the need for the existing council size to be retained. We therefore arranged a meeting with the Council's council size working group to discuss its rationale in greater detail.

23 At this meeting the Council outlined members' ward work and the impact of the Localism Act, arguing that it is likely to increase member workload. It argued that any proposal to reduce council size could force councillors to become full time. It also outlined the planning workload for members, stating that there were a large number of anticipated planning applications that will place additional demands on member time. Finally, it highlighted the importance of the Council's Community Forums, stating that it was trying to increase engagement through these and a reduction in council size would be to the detriment of this.

24 We were persuaded that councillor workload is unlikely to reduce, particularly as a result of the impact of the Localism Act and the Council's drive to maximise engagement with the local community. In light of the evidence received, we consider that the Council has provided evidence to justify the retention of 46 elected members. The draft recommendations are therefore based on a council size of 46 members.

Electoral fairness

25 As discussed in the introduction to this report, the prime aim of an electoral review is to achieve electoral fairness within a local authority.

26 Electoral fairness, in the sense of each elector in a local authority having a vote of equal weight when it comes to the election of councillors, is a fundamental democratic principle. It is expected that our recommendations will provide for electoral fairness, reflect communities in the area, and provide for effective and convenient local government.

27 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor. The district average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the district (101,047 in 2012 and 106,385 by 2018) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council, 46 under our draft recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our final recommendations is 2,197 in 2012 and 2,313 by 2018.

28 Under our draft recommendations, all of our proposed 23 wards will have electoral variances of less than 10% from the average for the district by 2018. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for Warwick.

General analysis

29 During the information gathering stage, we received one submission, from the Council, on warding arrangements for Warwick. The Council submitted a district-wide proposal based on a council size of 46, which was supported by some evidence of community identity.

30 The Council's proposals were for a uniform pattern of two-member wards, although it did not explain why it had adopted this pattern. Its proposal generally secured reasonable levels of electoral equality, with only one ward having a variance of greater than 10% than the district average by 2018.

31 However, in Kenilworth and the rural east of the district, we had concerns about the Council's proposals to include Burton Green parish and the Warwick University site in Stoneleigh parish in a ward with Stoneleigh parish given the poor road links between these areas. We are therefore transferring Burton Green parish and part of Stoneleigh parish into a ward with Kenilworth town. As a consequence, we have made significant changes to the rural wards in the areas of Cubbington, Radford Semele and Stoneleigh

32 In Warwick and Leamington Spar town areas, we propose modifications to the Council's proposals for the areas of Bishops Tatchbrook, Heathcote and Myton to

improve electoral equality and provide for stronger boundaries. Elsewhere across the district, we propose a number of minor modifications to the Council's proposals to improve electoral equality, strengthen boundaries and address parish warding issues.

33 We acknowledge that our draft recommendations in these areas move away from the Council's uniform pattern of two-member wards. However, there is no presumption in favour of a uniform pattern in Warwick and we consider the amendments we have made to the Council's proposals provide for improved electoral equality and stronger boundaries.

34 In the remainder of the district we propose a number of other minor modifications to improve electoral equality, strengthen boundaries and address parish warding issues. Our draft recommendations for Warwick are for two single-member, 19 two-member and two three-member wards.

35 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 22 – 23) and the large map accompanying this report.

36 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations. We also welcome comments on the ward names we have proposed as part of the draft recommendations.

Electoral arrangements

37 This section of the report details the submissions we have received, our consideration of them, and our draft recommendations for each area of Warwick. The following areas of the authority are considered in turn:

- West rural area (pages 10 – 11)
- Warwick town (page 11)
- Kenilworth town and east rural area (pages 11 – 12)
- Leamington Spa town – south (pages 13 – 14)
- Leamington Spa town – north (page 14)

38 Details of our draft recommendations are set out in Table A1 on pages 22 – 23 and illustrated the large map accompanying this report.

West rural area

39 This area covers the rural parishes to the west of the district. The Council proposed a two-member Arden ward comprising the parishes of Baddesley Clinton; Beausale, Haseley, Honiley & Wroxall; Bushwood; Lapworth; Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe; Rowington; and Shrewley. It also proposed the retention of the existing two-member Budbrooke ward comprising Barford, Budbrooke, Hatton, Norton Lindsey, Sherbourne and Wasperton parishes. Arden and Budbrooke wards would have 5% fewer and 7% more electors respectively than the district average by 2018.

40 The Council's wards for this area provide reasonable electoral equality. We note that a section of the road between Beausale, Haseley, Honiley & Wroxall parish and Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe parish runs a very short distance outside the proposed Arden ward. However, having toured the area we do not consider this to be to the

detriment of effective and convenient local government and any changes to address this minor issue would have a significant knock-on effect on the surrounding wards. We are therefore adopting the Council's Arden and Budbrooke wards as part of our draft recommendations without amendment.

41 Our draft recommendations for this area can be seen on Table A1 (on pages 22 – 23) and on Map 1 accompanying this report.

Warwick town

42 This area covers the Warwick Town Council area, with the exception of Myton which is addressed in the Leamington Spa town south section in paragraphs 55 – 58. The Council proposed four two-member wards of Aylesford, Emscote, Saltisford and Woodloes for this area with equal to the average, 2% more, 5% more and 11% fewer electors respectively than the district average by 2018.

43 These wards generally used strong boundaries with good internal communication links. However, we had a concern with the levels of electoral equality in the Council's proposed Woodloes ward. The Council acknowledges the poor variance within its submission but states that there 'is no reasonable way that reflects local community to balance the electoral numbers'.

44 Our tour of the area confirmed that the A46, Coventry Road and the Grand Union Canal provide strong boundaries for Woodloes ward. However, the area around Mallory Drive in the proposed Aylesford ward has reasonable links into Woodloes ward along the A425 having road links under the railway line. We propose therefore transferring this area into Woodloes ward which improves electoral equality from 11% fewer to 6% fewer electors per councillor than the district average in 2018, while Aylesford ward would have 6% fewer electors than the district average in 2018.

45 Elsewhere, we had a concern that the Council's boundary between its proposed Emscote and Saltisford wards followed Coten End rather than the railway line which appears to be a stronger boundary. However, transferring the area to the north of Coten End to Emscote ward would significantly worsen electoral equality in both wards. In addition, our tour of the area confirmed that this area has reasonable links into Emscote ward along Wharf Street. We are therefore adopting the Council's Emscote and Saltisford wards without amendment as part of our draft recommendations.

46 Our draft recommendations for this area can be seen on Table A1 (on pages 22 – 23) and on Map 1 accompanying this report.

Kenilworth town and east rural area

47 This area covers Kenilworth parish and the rural parishes to the north and west of Kenilworth and Leamington Spa. The Council proposed four two-member wards for this area. Its proposed Abbey, Park Hill, St John's and Windy Arbour wards would have 2% fewer, 7% more, equal to and 10% fewer electors respectively than the district average by 2018. In the surrounding rural areas and the east of the district the Council proposed two two-member rural wards of Stoneleigh and Radford Semele & Cubbington. Its Stoneleigh ward would comprise Ashow, Baginton, Bubbenhall, Stoneleigh and Burton Green parishes and would have 3% fewer electors than the

district average by 2018. Its Radford Semele & Cubbington ward would comprise Eathorpe, Hunningham, Offchurch, Radford Semele, Wappenbury and Weston-under-Wetherley parishes and the rural part of Cubbington parish. This ward would have 4% fewer electors than the district average by 2018.

48 The Council stated that Kenilworth does not naturally fall into distinct neighbourhoods, adding that the -10% electoral variance of its Windy Arbour ward would allow for development predicted beyond the five-year forecast period from the end of the review. However, we are unable to consider development beyond the five-year forecast period. The Council also stated that the newly created Burton Green parish was part of an existing Kenilworth ward, but was transferred to the proposed Stoneleigh ward as the parish is rural in nature.

49 The Council's proposed wards for Kenilworth provided for reasonable boundaries, although we had concerns about the poor electoral equality of its Windy Arbour ward. In addition, our tour of the area, while confirming Burton Green parish to be rural in part, also highlighted that it has strong links into Kenilworth town while it and the Warwick University site in Stoneleigh ward have no direct road links into the remainder of the Council's proposed Stoneleigh ward.

50 We therefore explored options to address these issues and are making a number of amendments to the Council's proposals for this area. We propose transferring Burton Green parish and the Warwick University site in Stoneleigh parish to Abbey ward, to create a three-member ward with 3% more electors than the district average by 2018. Although this proposal would require the warding of Stoneleigh parish, the university site is separate from the rest of the parish, with road access to the north into neighbouring Coventry.

51 As a result of this change it is necessary to revise the wards in the rest of the rural area to the east of the district. We therefore propose creating a two-member Stoneleigh & Cubbington ward comprising Ashow, Baginton, Bubbenhall and Weston-under-Wetherley parishes, the remainder of Stoneleigh parish and the rural part of Cubbington parish. Our tour of the area confirmed that the constituent parishes of this ward have good internal road links. Under our draft recommendations, our Stoneleigh & Cubbington ward would have 9% fewer electors than the district average by 2018.

52 We are also proposing a single-member Radford Semele ward comprising Eathorpe, Hunningham, Offchurch, Radford Semele and Wappenbury parishes. This ward also has good internal road links. Our revised Radford Semele ward would also have 9% fewer electors than the district average by 2018 under our draft recommendations.

53 Elsewhere in Kenilworth town, in addition to the three-member Abbey ward discussed above, we have made minor modification to the boundary between the Council's proposed Park Hill and Windy Arbour wards. This improves electoral equality in both wards to 5% more and 8% fewer electors respectively than the district average by 2018, while also providing a stronger boundary coterminous with the county division boundary. We do not propose any amendment to the Council's proposed St John's ward and are adopting it as part of the draft recommendations.

54 Our draft recommendations for this area can be seen on Table A1 (on pages 22 – 23) and on Map 1 accompanying this report.

Leamington Spa – south

55 This area covers the south of Royal Leamington Spa parish, the Myton area of Warwick parish and Bishops Tachbrook and Whitnash parishes. The Council proposed five two-member wards of Briar Hill, Brunswick, Heathcote, Leam, Myton & Bishops Tachbrook and Sydenham wards for this area, with 6% more, 3% more, 3% fewer, 3% fewer, 10% fewer and 9% more electors than the district average by 2018, respectively.

56 The Council stated that its proposals ensured that the Warwick Gate area would only be divided between two wards (Briar Hill and Heathcote), rather than three as at present. It also stated that a proposed development to the west of the railway line and east of Whitnash Brook should be included in its proposed Sydenham ward to improve electoral equality and enable access into the site from an adjoining development also within Sydenham ward. Finally, it proposed merging the Myton area of Warwick town with Bishops Tachbrook parish to create a two-member Myton & Bishops Tachbrook ward which also included a significant development proposed for the 'Garden Village' area near Europa Way.

57 We had concerns about the composition and level of electoral equality in the Council's proposed Myton & Bishops Tachbrook ward. Following a tour of the area we concluded that the Myton area, although having road links into Bishops Tachbrook, did not have obvious community ties with the parish. While the Council's proposals would accommodate electorate growth in the 'Garden Village' development, we were not persuaded that this would adequately reflect local community identities in the area.

58 We are therefore proposing a number of modifications to the Council proposals in this area. In the Myton area, we propose a single-member Myton ward with 6% fewer electors than the district average by 2018. Bishops Tachbrook parish is combined with the Council's proposed Heathcote ward to create a three-member Heathcote & Bishops Tachbrook ward with 6% fewer electors than the district average by 2018. This ward would have better internal communication links than the Council's proposals for the area. In addition, as a three-member ward it would also enable the ward to absorb further residential development in the 'Garden Village' area, a key site within the Council's Local Development Framework.

59 We also had concerns about the Council's proposed Sydenham ward. This ward has relatively poor electoral equality and what appeared to be an irregular boundary. In addition, we noted that Sydenham ward is dependent on the creation of a parish ward in Whitnash parish that would have no existing electors, but would grow to have 376 electors by 2018.

60 Although the Sydenham ward boundary appears irregular, our tour confirmed that the constituent areas had good internal road links. In addition, although the proposal relies on the creation of a parish ward in Whitnash parish with no electors, we note that when the development is completed it will have 376 electors and access solely into Sydenham ward and not into any of the surrounding wards. Therefore, transferring this area elsewhere would not reflect community identities or provide for convenient and effective local government. We are therefore adopting the Council's proposed Sydenham ward as part of our draft recommendations.

61 Elsewhere in this area, we are therefore adopting the Council's Briar Hill, Brunswick, Leam and Sydenham wards as part of the draft recommendations without amendment.

62 Our draft recommendations for this area can be seen on Table A1 (on pages 23 – 24) and on Map 1 accompanying this report.

Leamington Spa – north

63 This area covers the north of Royal Leamington Spa parish and Blackdown and Old Milverton parishes. The Council proposed five two-member wards of Clarendon, Crown, Manor, Milverton and Newbold for this area, with 4% fewer, equal to, equal to, 7% more and 10% more electors respectively than the district average by 2018.

64 With the exception of the Newbold ward, the Council's proposals for this area secured reasonable electoral equality. However, its proposed Newbold and Manor wards result in the creation of two unviable parish wards in Milverton parish, each containing less than 20 electors. We therefore propose minor amendments to address these issues.

65 We propose transferring the whole of Milverton parish to Milverton ward. These areas have strong road links and the amendment does not alter the electoral variances in Milverton, Manor or Crown wards.

66 Elsewhere we are also making minor boundary amendments between Newbold and Crown wards and Newbold and Clarendon wards to improve electoral equality in Newbold ward and provide for stronger boundaries. As a result of these amendments, Clarendon, Crown and Newbold wards would have 3% more, 1% more and 1% more electors than the district average by 2018, respectively.

67 Our draft recommendations for this area can be seen on Table A1 (on pages 23-24) and on Map 1 accompanying this report.

Conclusions

68 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2012 and 2018 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2012	2018
Number of councillors	46	46
Number of electoral wards	23	23
Average number of electors per councillor	2,197	2,313
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	1	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendation

Warwick District Council should comprise 46 councillors serving 23 wards, as detailed and named in Table A1 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Parish electoral arrangements

69 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.

70 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, Warwick District 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.

71 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parishes of Cubbington, Kenilworth, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwick and Whitnash.

72 Cubbington Parish Council is currently represented by 12 parish councillors and is divided into three wards. As a result of our proposed district ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Cubbington parish.

Draft recommendations

Cubbington Parish Council should return 12 parish councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Cubbington (returning seven members) and New Cubbington (returning five members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

73 Kenilworth Town Council is currently represented by 17 parish councillors representing three parish wards. As a result of our proposed district ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Kenilworth parish.

Draft recommendations

Kenilworth Town Council should return 17 parish councillors, as at present, representing six wards: Abbey (returning four members); Castle End (returning two members); Park Hill (returning four members); Queens (returning one member); St John's (returning four members); and Windy Arbour (returning two members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

74 Royal Leamington Spa Town Council is currently represented by 16 parish councillors, representing six parish wards. As a result of our proposed district ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Leamington Spa parish.

Draft recommendations

Royal Leamington Spa Town Council should return 16 parish councillors, as at present, representing 11 wards: Arlington (returning two members); Brunswick North (returning two members); Brunswick South (returning one member); Clarendon (returning one member); Clemens (returning one member); Leam (returning two members); Lillington (returning two members); Lime (returning one member); Milverton (returning two members); Northumberland (returning one member); Sydenham (returning one member); and Victoria Park (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

75 Warwick Town Council is currently represented by 15 members, representing three parish wards. As a result of our proposed district ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Warwick parish.

Draft recommendations

Warwick Town Council should return 15 parish councillors, as at present, representing 10 wards: Aylesford (returning two members); Bridge End (returning one member); Cliffe (returning one member); Emscote (returning two members); Heathcote (returning two members); Myton (returning one member); Saltisford (returning two members); Saltisford Common (returning one member); St Nicholas (returning one member); and Woodloes Park (returning two members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

76 Whitnash Town Council is currently represented by 15 members, representing three parish wards. As a result of our proposed district ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we propose revised parish electoral arrangements for Whitnash parish.

Draft recommendations

Whitnash Town Council should return 15 parish councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Central (returning 10 members); East (returning one member); West (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 What happens next?

77 There will now be a consultation period of 11 weeks, during which everyone is invited to comment on the draft recommendations on future electoral arrangements for Warwick District Council contained in this report. We will take into account fully all submissions received by 7 January 2013. Any received after this date may not be taken into account.

78 We have not finalised our conclusions on the electoral arrangements for Warwick and welcome comments from interested parties relating to the proposed ward boundaries, number of councillors, ward names and parish electoral arrangements. We would welcome alternative proposals backed up by demonstrable evidence during our consultation on these draft recommendations. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

79 Express your views by writing directly to:

Review Officer
Warwick Review
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76–86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Submissions can also be made by using the consultation section of our website, www.lgbce.org.uk or by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk

80 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 received during consultation on these draft recommendations will be placed on deposit locally at the offices of Warwick District Council and at our offices in Layden House (London) 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.

81 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as 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.

82 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.

83 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 next elections for Warwick District Council in 2015.

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

4 Mapping

Draft recommendations for Warwick

85 The following map illustrates our proposed ward boundaries for Warwick District Council:

- **Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Warwick District Council.

Appendix A

Table A1: Draft recommendations for Warwick District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Abbey	3	6,565	2,188	0%	7,164	2,388	3%
2	Arden	2	4,299	2,150	-2%	4,391	2,196	-5%
3	Aylesford	2	4,148	2,074	-6%	4,370	2,185	-6%
4	Briar Hill	2	4,648	2,324	6%	4,892	2,446	6%
5	Brunswick	2	4,590	2,295	4%	4,780	2,390	3%
6	Budbrooke	2	4,662	2,331	6%	4,945	2,473	7%
7	Clarendon	2	4,663	2,332	6%	4,784	2,392	3%
8	Crown	2	4,480	2,240	2%	4,694	2,347	1%
9	Emscote	2	4,509	2,255	3%	4,699	2,350	2%
10	Heathcote & Bishops Tachbrook	3	5,829	1,943	-12%	6,496	2,165	-6%
11	Leam	2	4,242	2,121	-3%	4,464	2,232	-3%
12	Manor	2	4,508	2,254	3%	4,627	2,314	0%
13	Milverton	2	4,795	2,398	9%	4,967	2,484	7%

Table A1 (cont): Draft recommendations for Warwick District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14	Myton	1	2,081	2,081	-5%	2,174	2,174	-6%
15	Newbold	2	4,498	2,249	2%	4,676	2,338	1%
16	Park Hill	2	4,647	2,324	6%	4,852	2,426	5%
17	Radford Semele	1	2,032	2,032	-7%	2,102	2,102	-9%
18	Saltisford	2	4,615	2,308	5%	4,858	2,429	5%
19	St Johns	2	4,467	2,234	2%	4,622	2,311	0%
20	Stoneleigh & Cubbington	2	4,063	2,032	-8%	4,202	2,101	-9%
21	Sydenham	2	4,441	2,221	1%	5,022	2,511	9%
22	Windy Arbour	2	4,084	2,042	-7%	4,243	2,122	-8%
23	Woodloes	2	4,181	2,091	-5%	4,361	2,181	-6%
Totals		46	101,047	–	–	106,385	–	–
Averages		–	–	2,197	–	–	2,313	–

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

Appendix B

Glossary and abbreviations

AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)	A landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it
Constituent areas	The geographical areas that make up any one ward, expressed in parishes or existing wards, or parts of either
Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral imbalance	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections

Local Government Boundary Commission for England or LGBCE	The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for undertaking electoral reviews. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England assumed the functions of the Boundary Committee for England in April 2010
Multi-member ward or division	A ward or division represented by more than one councillor and usually not more than three councillors
National Park	The 13 National Parks in England and Wales were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 and can be found at www.nationalparks.gov.uk
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward

Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
PER (or periodic electoral review)	A review of the electoral arrangements of all local authorities in England, undertaken periodically. The last programme of PERs was undertaken between 1996 and 2004 by the Boundary Commission for England and its predecessor, the now-defunct Local Government Commission for England
Political management arrangements	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enabled local authorities in England to modernise their decision making process. Councils could choose from two broad categories; a directly elected mayor and cabinet or a cabinet with a leader
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

