
NEW COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARIES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report summarises the draft recommendations proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (“LGBCE”) and the Electoral Review Working Group’s (“Working Group”) recommended response. Council must now decide upon its final stage consultation response to the LGBCE and this report makes various recommendations in that regard.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Last year, The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (“LGBCE”) decided to undertake a review of the Council’s electoral arrangements due to certain statutory thresholds being triggered (namely 6 existing wards being over or under represented by more than 10%). The electoral review focusses on:-
- (a) Council Size, namely the number of Councillors representing electors in the district;
 - (b) New warding arrangements; and
 - (c) The names of those wards.
- 2.2 The cross party Working Group was set up by Council on 28 January 2014 with the purpose of making recommendations to Full Council in relation to the electoral review of the District.
- 2.3 The Council completed the stage 1 consultation by submitting its proposed ward patterns and ward names to the LGBCE in September 2014. The LGBCE considered all consultation responses received including that submitted by this Council and issued its draft recommendations on ward patterns in December 2014. Those draft recommendations were circulated to Members on the day announced (9 December) by way of an email with web link, and was considered by the Working Group on 14 January 2015. This document is now attached at appendix A.
- 2.4 Members will be pleased to note that the LGBCE has recommended ward patterns and names which are predominantly based on the submissions made by this Council, save for changes to Rochford and minor adjustments to Rayleigh. This is a reflection of the good work put in by the Council in formulating a sensible set of proposals.
- 2.5 A summary of the key changes proposed by the LGBCE, together with the Working Group’s recommended response to those changes are set out in table in 3 below. Council is required to agree its formal consultation response, which will need to be submitted to the LGBCE by 16 February

2015. Ultimately, it will be up to the LGBCE as to whether they accept any of the recommendations.

3 SUMMARY OF BOUNDARY CHANGES

Original RDC proposal		LGBCE proposal		Working Group Recommended Response
(Including electorate (2020) & variance from District Average)		(Including electorate (2020) & variance from District Average)		(Including electorate (2020) & variance from District Average where necessary)
Rochford:				
Roch North (2 Members)	3,613 -0.47%	Rochford North (3 Members)	5,454 0%	Accept LGBCE proposal given their strong emphasis on achieving uniform 3 Member wards and to avoid splitting Rochford Town Centre
Roch South (1 Member)	1,822 +0.39%	Rochford South (3 Members)	5,306 -3%	
Rochford Central (3 Members)	5,325 -2.20%			
Rayleigh: (all are 3 Member wards as proposed in our September submission)				
Lodge	5,568 +2.26%	Adjustment to the Lodge ward and Wheatley ward in the Richmond Drive area in order to create a clearer boundary	5,555 +2%	Accept LGBCE proposal

Original RDC proposal (Including electorate (2020) & variance from District Average)		LGBCE proposal (Including electorate (2020) & variance from District Average)		Working Group Recommended Response (Including electorate (2020) & variance from District Average where necessary)	
Grange	5,319 -2.31%	Transfer Deepdene Avenue, Hedgehope Avenue and Downhall Close areas from Downhall and Rawreth ward to Grange ward.	5,488 +1%	Realign this boundary so that is it coterminous with the County Division line in order to avoid a small Town Council ward being created which would itself create confusion and detract from the criterion of effective and convenient local government.	5,299 -2.7%
Trinity	5,361 -1.54%	Transfer Link Road, Beech Ave and Elm Drive areas from Wheatley ward into Trinity Ward due to lack of access into Wheatley ward.	5,589 +3%	Revert to the original ward proposal by realigning this boundary so that is it coterminous with the County Division line in order to avoid a small Town Council ward being created which would itself create confusion and detract from the criterion of effective and convenient local government.	5,672 +4.2%
Wheatley	5,763 +5.84%	Transfer Picton Gardens and Picton Close from Trinity ward to into Wheatley Ward for	5,548 +2%	Realign this boundary so that is it coterminous with the County Division line in order to avoid a small Town Council ward being created which would	5,465 0.4%

Original RDC proposal (Including electorate (2020) & variance from District Average)	LGBCE proposal (Including electorate (2020) & variance from District Average)	Working Group Recommended Response (Including electorate (2020) & variance from District Average where necessary)
	electoral equality reasons	itself create confusion and detract from the criterion of effective and convenient local government.
Downhall & Rawreth: 5,483 +0.70	Transfer Victoria Avenue area into Downhall & Rawreth due to concerns around its boundaries with Swayne Park 5,314 -2%	Accept LGBCE proposal

4 NAMING OF THE PROPOSED WARDS

- 4.1 As part of its consultation submission, the Council is required to propose names for its new ward boundaries. LGBCE guidance requires that ward names are kept relatively short (rather than exhaustive), distinct and easily identifiable to encapsulate that ward. The following table sets out the original proposal made by the Council, the LGBCE's proposed names and the Working Group's recommended response (if any) in terms of forming this Council's final consultation.

Original RDC proposal	LGBCE proposal	Working Group Recommended Response
Downhall and Rawreth	Downhall & Rawreth	Accept LGBCE proposal - no change.
Foulness and the Wakerings	Foulness & Great Wakering	Revert to the original ward proposal in order to better identify the area and acknowledging both Little and Great Wakering.
Hawkwell East	Hawkwell East	Accept LGBCE proposal - no change.

Original RDC proposal	LGBCE proposal	Working Group Recommended Response
Hawkwell West	Hawkwell West	Accept LGBCE proposal - no change.
Hockley	Hockley	To alter the name to 'Hockley Central' to better identify its area and differentiate to its neighbouring Hockley & Ashingdon ward.
Hockley and Ashingdon	Hockley & Ashingdon	Accept LGBCE proposal - no change.
Hullbridge	Hullbridge	Accept LGBCE proposal - no change.
Lodge	Lodge	Accept LGBCE proposal - no change.
Roche North	Rochford North	To alter the name to 'Rochford Rural' to better identify the vast area combining a part of Rochford with its rural neighbours.
Rochford Central		
Roche South	Rochford South	Accept LGBCE proposal.
Sweyne Park and Grange	Grange	Accept LGBCE proposal.
Trinity	Trinity	Accept LGBCE proposal - no change.
Wheatley	Wheatley	Accept LGBCE proposal - no change.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are resource implications for the Council in terms of Officer time in producing the necessary information for the LGBCE.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As already referred to in this report, the Parishes may be affected by the resultant changes to district warding patterns. Although the proposed wards follow Parish boundaries where at all possible, there have inevitably been a number of splits to Parish wards due to the requirement to achieve electoral equality (electoral figures close to an electorate of 5445). In such instances, the LGBCE will ward or re-ward the Parish to take account of that split. It is important to note that the actual boundaries of the Parishes will not change. The recommendations made by the LGBCE as highlighted above would also necessitate the creation of a number of small Town Council wards due to

County division lines crossing through their proposed wards. In order to reduce this occurrence, the Working Group's proposal is to adjust (where it is possible to do so) the district boundary lines so that they are coterminous with County division.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

- (1) To approve the Working Group's recommendations as set out the table in 3 above as forming the Council's final consultation response to the LGBCE;
- (2) To approve the Working Group's recommendations as set out in the table in 4 as forming the Council's final consultation response to the LGBCE;
- (3) To formally support the remainder of the LGBCE's proposals as they accord completely with the Council's original proposals as provided in its stage 1 consultation;
- (4) To delegate to officers (in consultation with the Working Group) the finalising of the wording of the final stage (stage 2) consultation response required to be submitted to the LGBCE.



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Background Papers:-

None.

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Rochford District Council

Electoral review

December 2014

Translations and other formats

For information on obtaining this publication in another language or in a large-print or Braille version please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

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Summary

Who we are

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

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

Electoral review

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

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

Why Rochford?

We are conducting an electoral review of Rochford District Council as the Council currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more or many fewer voters than others. This means that the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in Rochford. Overall, 32% of wards currently have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the district.

Our proposals for Rochford

Rochford District Council currently has 39 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, we are retaining a council size of 39 members as we consider this will ensure the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively.

Electoral arrangements

Our draft recommendations propose that Rochford District Council's 39 councillors should represent 13 three-member wards across the district. None of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Rochford by 2020.

You have until 16 February 2015 to have your say on the recommendations. See page 17 for how to have your say.

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Rochford District Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

What is an electoral review?

2 Our three main considerations in conducting an electoral review are set out in legislation¹ and are to:

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

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

Consultation

4 We wrote to the Council as well as other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals on council size. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns. The submissions received during this consultation has informed our draft recommendations.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
22 July 2014	Warding pattern Consultation
9 December 2014	Draft recommendations consultation
17 February 2015	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
12 May 2015	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

5 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.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament 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
Alison Lowton
Sir Tony Redmond
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill
Chief Executive (designate): Jolyon Jackson

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

7 Legislation² states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors³ 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.

8 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.

9 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors as shown on the table below.

	2014	2020
Electorate of Rochford District	66,625	70,792
Number of councillors	39	39
Average number of electors per councillor	1,708	1,815

10 Under our draft recommendations, none of our proposed wards will have electoral variances of greater than 10% from the average for the district by 2020. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for Rochford.

11 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.

12 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Rochford District Council or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. There is no evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

13 See Appendix B for details of submissions received. All submissions may be inspected both at our offices and can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

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

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

Electorate figures

14 As prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2020, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2015. These forecasts were broken down to polling district levels and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 6% to 2020, with over 1,000 additional electors projected in St Andrews parish ward of Rochford parish.

15 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

16 Prior to consultation, Rochford Council submitted a proposal to retain the existing council size of 39.

17 We carefully considered the evidence and are content that the Council has sufficiently demonstrated that the authority can operate efficiently and effectively under this council size and ensure effective representation of local residents. We were therefore minded to retain a council size of 39 as the basis of this electoral review and invited proposals or warding arrangements based on this number of councillors.

18 We received no responses that opposed the council size in response to consultation on warding patterns. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a council size of 39 elected members.

Warding patterns

19 During consultation on warding patterns, we received 18 submissions, including a district-wide proposal from Rochford District Council. Having carefully reviewed the Council's proposals, we considered that its proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the district and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. However, in the Rochford area the Council proposed a single-member Roche North and two-member Roche South ward, arguing that the large geographical size of the area meant a three-member ward was not appropriate. While we note this argument under a Council that elects by thirds the Commission has a presumption of three-member wards except in all but the most exceptional circumstances. In this instance the Commission considered that a pattern of viable three-member wards was achievable for this area. We considered the option of combining the Roche North and Roche South wards, but our tour of the area raised concerns that the Council's proposals divided the centre of Rochford between its Roche North and Rochford Central wards. We are therefore proposing alternative three-member Rochford North and Rochford South wards.

20 Our draft recommendations are for 13 three-member wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

21 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 19–20) and on the large map accompanying this report.

22 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.

Detailed wards

23 The tables on pages 8–13 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Rochford. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Rayleigh, Hullbridge and Rawreth

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Downhall & Rawreth	3	-2%	This ward comprises Rawreth parish and part of Rayleigh town around Sweyne Park.	We received proposals for a Downhall & Rawreth ward although we had concerns about its boundary with its Sweyne Park & Grange ward (renamed Grange ward under the draft recommendations) in the Victoria Avenue area. We propose an amendment to this boundary, transferring the Victoria Avenue area to Downhall & Rawreth ward. In addition, to ensure good electoral equality we are also transferring the Deepdene Avenue, Hedgehope Avenue and Downhall Close areas from Downhall & Rawreth ward to our Grange ward.
Hullbridge	3	3%	This ward comprises Hullbridge parish.	We received proposals for a Hullbridge ward based on Hullbridge parish. We consider that this ward secured good electoral equality and would reflect community identity as it comprises the whole of Hullbridge parish.
Lodge	3	2%	This ward comprises the south- east area of Rayleigh parish.	We received proposals for a Lodge ward that had clear boundaries, provided for good electoral equality and reflected communities. We have broadly included it as part of our draft recommendations but have modified the boundary between Lodge ward and Wheatley ward in order to provide for a clearer boundary in the Richmond Drive area.
Grange	3	1%	This ward comprises the west part of Rayleigh parish to the west of the railway line and south of Sweyne Park.	We received proposals for a Grange ward which had good electoral equality although we had concerns about its boundary with its Downhall & Rawreth ward in the Victoria Avenue area. We propose an amendment to this boundary, transferring the Victoria Avenue area to Downhall & Rawreth ward. In addition, to ensure good electoral equality we are also transferring the Deepdene Avenue, Hedgehope Avenue and Downhall Close areas from Downhall & Rawreth ward to our Grange ward.

				Finally, we note that the proposal was to name this ward Sweyne Park & Grange however, we noted the ward did not include Sweyne Park (included in our Downhall & Rawreth ward). We therefore propose naming this ward Grange.
Trinity	3	3%	This ward comprises the north-east area of Rayleigh parish, to the east of the railway line and north of Rayleigh Castle.	We received proposals for a Trinity ward which had good electoral equality although we had concerns about its boundary with its Wheatley ward where the Link Road, Beech Avenue and Elm Drive area has no direct access into Wheatley ward. While we acknowledge that this is the current Electoral Division boundary we believe this boundary can be improved. We are therefore transferring this area and the remainder of Station Crescent into Trinity ward. In order to ensure good electoral equality we are also transferring Picton Gardens and Picton Close from Trinity ward to Wheatley ward.
Wheatley	3	2%	This ward comprises the south-west area of Rayleigh parish, to the south the railway line and west of Trinity Road	<p>We received proposals for a Wheatley ward but had concerns about its boundary with its Trinity ward where the Link Road, Beech Avenue and Elm Drive area has no direct access into Wheatley ward. While we acknowledge that this is the current Electoral Division boundary we believe this boundary can be improved. We are therefore transferring this area and the remainder of Station Crescent into Trinity ward. In order to ensure good electoral equality we are also transferring Picton Gardens and Picton Close from Trinity ward to Wheatley ward.</p> <p>Finally, we propose a minor amendment to its boundary with Lodge ward to provide a clearer boundary in the Richmond Drive area.</p>

Ashingdon, Hawkwell and Hockley

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Hawkwell East	3	-5%	This ward comprises the east area of Hawkwell parish and a small area of Ashingdon parish around Ashingdon Heights.	<p>We received proposals for a Hawkwell East ward which secured good electoral equality. However, we noted that a number of respondents argued that the north area around Ashingdon Heights and York Road has community links into Ashingdon. We examined options to reflect this, including proposals put forward by Councillor Glynn, but were unable to determine a warding pattern that secured good electoral equality and strong boundaries for the whole area. Our tour of the area confirmed that while this area does have good links into Ashingdon it is hard to determine a boundary with the remainder of Hawkwell parish and this area has good links into the parish via Ashingdon Road.</p> <p>On balance, we consider that the proposed Hawkwell East ward provides for good electoral equality and reflects the statutory criteria.</p>
Hawkwell West	3	-2%	This ward comprises the west area of Hawkwell parish and part of the east of the parish to the east of the railway line.	<p>We received proposals for a Hawkwell West ward which secured good electoral equality. We did have concerns about the Council's proposal to include an area of Hawkwell parish to the east of the railway line with the larger area to the west. We examined alternative options that might avoid this, including proposals put forward by Councillor Glynn, but were unable to determine a warding pattern that secured good electoral equality and strong boundaries for the whole area. The alternatives we examined involved transferring part of Hockley parish to Hawkwell or vice versa. While we noted from our tour of the area that the boundary between the urban</p>

				<p>areas of these parishes is contiguous we were not persuaded that it should be breached. Our tour of the area also indicated that while the two areas are separated by the railway and a rural area they have good road links along Rectory Road.</p> <p>On balance, we consider that the proposed Hawkwell West ward provides good electoral equality and reflects the statutory criteria.</p>
Hockley	3	-4%	This ward comprises the west area of Hockley parish.	<p>We received proposals for a Hockley ward which secured good electoral equality. We considered that the ward used generally strong boundaries although we did have concerns about the ward including part of the parish to the north of the railway line around Plumberow Avenue. However, we noted that removing this area from the ward would create a ward with 17% fewer electors than the district average and we did not consider there to be sufficient evidence to justify such poor electoral equality.</p> <p>We considered Councillor Glynn's alternative proposals, but noted that this transferred part of Hockley parish to a Hawkwell ward and while our tour of the area showed that these areas are contiguous we did not consider there to be evidence to support this.</p> <p>On balance, we consider that the proposed Hockley ward provides good electoral equality and reflects the statutory criteria.</p>
Hockley & Ashingdon	3	1%	This ward comprises most of Ashingdon parish, less an area included in the Hawkwell East ward. It also comprises the east area of Hockley parish.	<p>We received proposals for a Hockley & Ashingdon ward which secured good electoral equality. However, we noted that a number of respondents argued that parts of Hawkwell parish around the Ashingdon Heights and York Road areas have community links into Ashingdon. We examined options</p>

				<p>to reflect this, including proposals put forward by Councillor Glynn, but were unable to determine a warding pattern that secured good electoral equality and clear boundaries for the whole area. Our tour of the area confirmed that while this area does have good links into Ashingdon it is hard to determine a boundary with the remainder of Hawkwell parish. We also observed that this area has good links into the parish via Ashingdon Road. In addition, the area of Hawkwell parish in the Hockley & Ashingdon ward also has good road access into Ashingdon.</p> <p>On balance, we consider that the proposed Hockley & Ashingdon ward provides good electoral equality and reflects the statutory criteria.</p>
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Rochford and rural east

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Foulness & Great Wakering	3	5%	This ward comprises Foulness and Great Wakering parishes and the Little Wakering area of Barling Magna parish.	We received proposals for a Foulness & Great Wakering ward which secured good electoral equality. We had some concerns about the proposal to divide the Barling Magna parish. However, we noted that retaining the whole parish in Foulness & Great Wakering ward would create a ward with 16% more electors than the district average. We observed on our tour of the area that while Little Wakering and Barling are contiguous, the villages are demarcated by town name plates at the area the Council divided them. Therefore, on balance, we consider that the proposed Foulness & Great Wakering ward provides good electoral arrangements.
Rochford North	3	0%	This ward comprises Canewdon, Paglesham and	We received proposals for a single-member Roche North and two-member Roche South ward. We noted the argument that

			<p>Stambridge parishes and the north area of Rochford parish.</p>	<p>they had moved away from three-member wards due to the large geographical area that a three-member ward would cover. However, while we note this argument, under a council that elects by thirds the Commission has a presumption of three-member wards except in all but the most exceptional circumstances. In this instance we considered that a pattern of viable three-member wards was achievable for this area. We considered the option of combining the Roche North and Roche South wards, but our tour of the area raised concerns that the Council's proposals divided the centre of Rochford between its Roche North and Rochford Central wards around East Street, North Street and South Street.</p> <p>We therefore propose the creation of a Rochford North ward. This ward comprises Canewdon, Paglesham and Stambridge parishes and the area of Rochford parish to the north of Dalys Road and Weir Pond Road. This ward secures good electoral equality while ensuring the centre of the town is not divided.</p>
Rochford South	3	-3%	<p>This ward comprises Sutton parish, the Barling area of Barling Magna parish and the south area of Rochford parish.</p>	<p>As detailed above, we considered that a pattern of viable three-member wards was achievable for this area. We considered the option of combining the Roche North and Roche South wards, but our tour of the area raised concerns that the Council's proposals divide the centre of Rochford between its Roche North and Rochford Central wards around East Street, North Street and South Street.</p> <p>Therefore, in reconfiguring the Council's Roche North and Roche South we propose a Rochford South ward comprising Sutton parish, the Barling area of Barling Magna parish and the south area of Rochford parish. This ward secures good electoral equality and reflects the east/west road configuration in the area.</p>

Conclusions

24 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2014 and 2020 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2014	2020
Number of councillors	39	39
Number of electoral wards	13	13
Average number of electors per councillor	1,708	1,815
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Draft recommendation

Rochford District Council should comprise 39 councillors serving 13 three-member wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Rochford.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Rochford on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

25 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.

26 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, Rochford 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.

27 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 Ashingdon, Barling Magna, Hawkwell, Hockley, Rayleigh and Rochford. We have given consideration to our proposed ward boundaries and the existing ward boundaries, but have not taken into account the existing parish ward boundaries. We therefore welcome comments on these parish arrangements.

28 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 Ashingdon parish.

Draft recommendation

Ashingdon Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Ashingdon (returning seven members), Ashingdon Heights (returning one member) and South West (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

29 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 Barling Magna parish.

Draft recommendation

Barling Magna Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Barling Magna (returning four members) and Little Wakering (returning five members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

30 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 Hawkwell parish.

Draft recommendation

Hawkwell Parish Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: East (returning eight members) and West (returning nine members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

31 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 Hockley parish.

Draft recommendation

Hockley Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: East (returning five members) and West (returning 10 members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

32 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 Rayleigh parish.

Draft recommendation

Rayleigh Parish Council should comprise 23 councillors, as at present, representing 10 wards: Beech (returning one member), Deepdene (returning one member), Grange (returning four members), Lodge (returning four members), Picton (returning one member), Swayne Park (returning two members), Trinity (returning four members), Victoria (returning one member), Wheatley (returning four members) and Whitehouse (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

33 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 Rochford parish.

Draft recommendation

Rochford Parish Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: North (returning nine members) and South (returning eight members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 Have your say

34 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole district or just a part of it.

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

36 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at **consultation.lgbce.org.uk**

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

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

The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Rochford which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of voters
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively

A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters
- 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

Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in the council area?

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?

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 ward? Is there any form of public transport?

38 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 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.

39 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.

40 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.

41 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 Rochford Council in 2016.

Equalities

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

Appendix A

Table A1: Draft recommendations for Rochford District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Downhall & Rawreth	3	4,784	1,595	-7%	5,314	1,771	-2%
2	Foulness & Great Wakering	3	5,344	1,781	4%	5,700	1,900	5%
3	Grange	3	5,374	1,791	5%	5,488	1,829	1%
4	Hawkwell East	3	5,073	1,691	-1%	5,177	1,726	-5%
5	Hawkwell West	3	4,755	1,585	-7%	5,310	1,770	-2%
6	Hockley	3	4,991	1,664	-3%	5,235	1,745	-4%
7	Hockley & Ashingdon	3	5,376	1,792	5%	5,489	1,830	1%
8	Hullbridge	3	5,511	1,837	8%	5,627	1,876	3%
9	Lodge	3	5,434	1,811	6%	5,555	1,852	2%
10	Rochford North	3	5,107	1,702	0%	5,454	1,818	0%
11	Rochford South	3	4,063	1,354	-21%	5,306	1,769	-3%
12	Trinity	3	5,475	1,825	7%	5,589	1,863	3%

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2014)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Wheatley	3	5,338	1,779	4%	5,548	1,849	2%
	Totals	39	66,625	–	–	70,792	–	–
	Averages	–	–	1,708	–	–	1,815	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Rochford 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

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/essex/rochford>

Local authority

- Rochford District Council

Councillors

- Councillor Glynn (Rochford District Council)

Parish councils

- Canewdon Parish Council
- Hockley Parish Council
- Rochford Parish Council

Residents

- Twelve local residents

Others

- Rochford and Castle Point District NPT

Appendix C

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

KEY TO PARISH WARDS

- ASHINGDON CP
A ASHINGDON
B ASHINGDON HEIGHTS
C SOUTH WEST
BARLING MAGNA CP
D BARLING MAGNA
E LITTLE WAKERING
HAWKWELL CP
F EAST
G WEST
HOCKLEY CP
H EAST
I WEST
RAYLEIGH CP
J BEECH
K DEEPDENE
L GRANGE
M LODGE
N PICTON
O SWEYNE PARK
P TRINITY
Q VICTORIA
R WHEATLEY
S WHITEHOUSE
ROCHFORD CP
T NORTH
U SOUTH

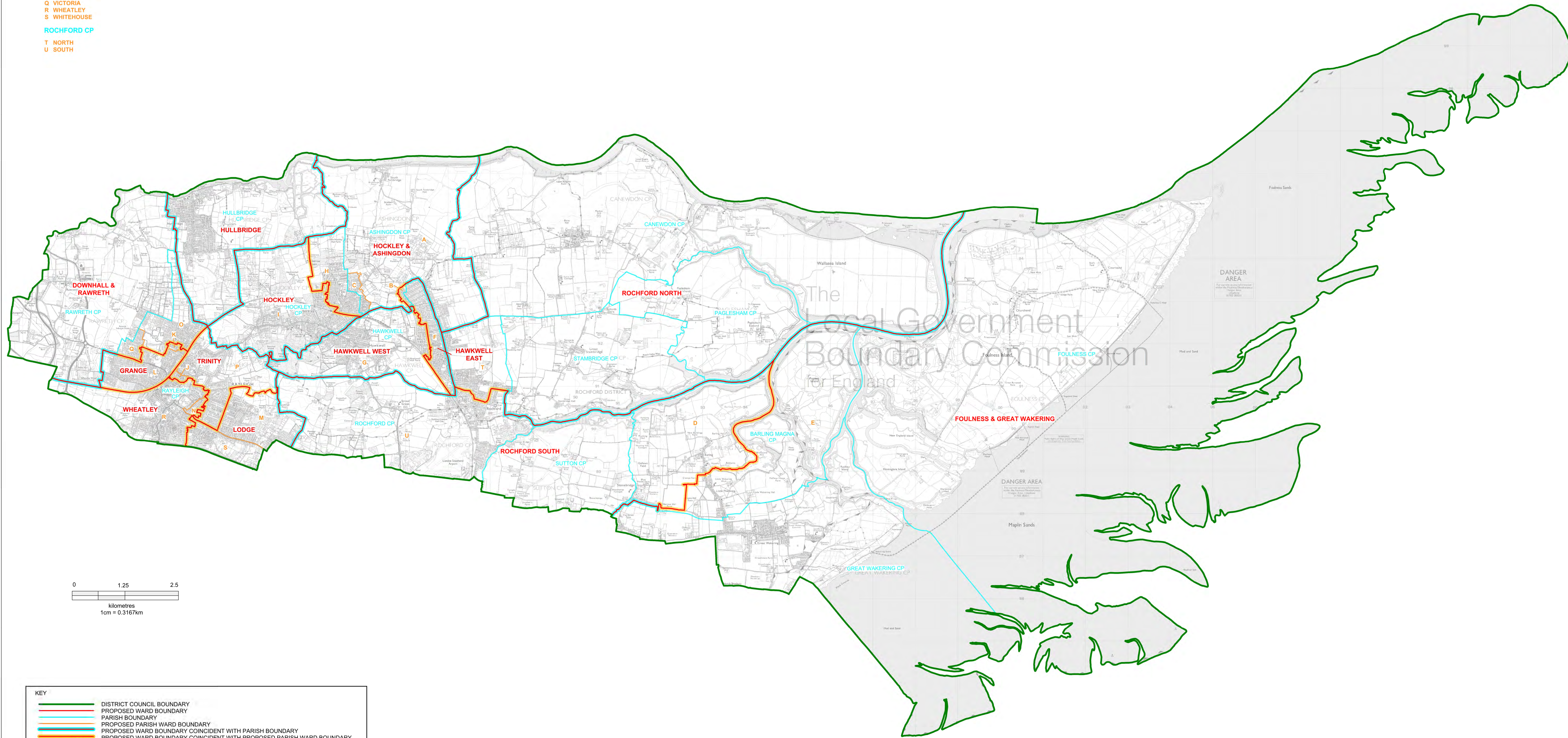
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF ROCHFORD

Draft recommendations for ward boundaries in the district of Rochford December 2014
Sheet 1 of 1

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The Local Government Boundary Commission for England GD100049926 2014.

Boundary alignments and names shown on the mapping background may not be up to date. They may differ from the latest Boundary information applied as part of this review.



- KEY
- DISTRICT COUNCIL BOUNDARY
 - PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY
 - PARISH BOUNDARY
 - PROPOSED PARISH WARD BOUNDARY
 - PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY COINCIDENT WITH PARISH BOUNDARY
 - PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY COINCIDENT WITH PROPOSED PARISH WARD BOUNDARY
 - GRANGE
 - RAYLEIGH CP
 - PARISH NAME