

# Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Rotherham Borough Council

Electoral Review

July 2017

## Translations and other formats

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## Summary

### Who we are and what we do

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

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

### Electoral review

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

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

### Why Rotherham?

4 We are conducting a review of Rotherham Borough Council as elections to the Council are now held for all seats on the council rather than for a third of seats at each election. This means that there is no longer a requirement for each ward to be elected by three members, creating an opportunity to better reflect the distinct communities in the borough. Furthermore, the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Rotherham. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

### Our proposals for Rotherham Borough Council

- Rotherham Borough Council should be represented by 59 councillors, four fewer than there are now.
- Rotherham Borough Council should have 25 wards, four more than there are now.
- The boundaries of all wards should change, none will stay the same.

### Have your say

5 We are consulting on our draft recommendations for a nine-week period, from 4 July to 4 September 2017. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to

contribute to the design of the new wards – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we receive.

6 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

**You have until 4 September 2017 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 19 for how to send us your response.**

## What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

7 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.<sup>1</sup>

8 The members of the Commission are:

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

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

# 1 Introduction

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

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

## What is an electoral review?

10 Our three main considerations are to:

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

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

## Consultation

12 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Rotherham. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

13 This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
21 February 2017	Number of councillors decided
28 February 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
8 May 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
4 July 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
4 September 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
31 October 2017	Publication of final recommendations

## How will the recommendations affect you?

14 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in and which other communities are in that ward and, in some instances, which parish council ward you vote in. Your borough and parish ward names may also change.

## 2 Analysis and draft recommendations

15 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

16 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

17 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2016	2022
Electorate of Rotherham	201,314	206,263
Number of councillors	59	59
Average number of electors per councillor	3,412	3,496

18 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Rotherham will have good electoral equality by 2022.

19 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

### Submissions received

20 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

### Electorate figures

21 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2017. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 2.5% by 2022.

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

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

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

## Number of councillors

23 Rotherham Borough Council currently has 63 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing by four will make sure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

24 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 59 councillors – for example, 59 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and/or three-councillor wards.

25 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. One submission supported the proposal for a council size of 59 whilst two proposed a reduction in council size to 42 or fewer. These submissions contained no new evidence relating to governance or representational matters. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 59-member council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received 23 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a detailed borough-wide proposal from the Council. Other submissions made particular reference to localised parts of the borough.

27 The borough-wide scheme would provide for a mix of two- and three-councillor wards for Rotherham. We carefully considered this proposal and concluded that the proposed ward boundaries would, in general, have good levels of electoral equality. We also considered that they generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

28 Our draft recommendations are based on the Council's borough-wide proposal. However, in some areas of the borough we have also taken into account the local evidence that we received, which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas, we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This visit to Rotherham helped us to decide between different boundaries proposed and helped us to form our own alternatives.

29 Our draft recommendations are for nine three-councillor wards and 16 two-councillor 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.

30 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 16 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

## Draft recommendations

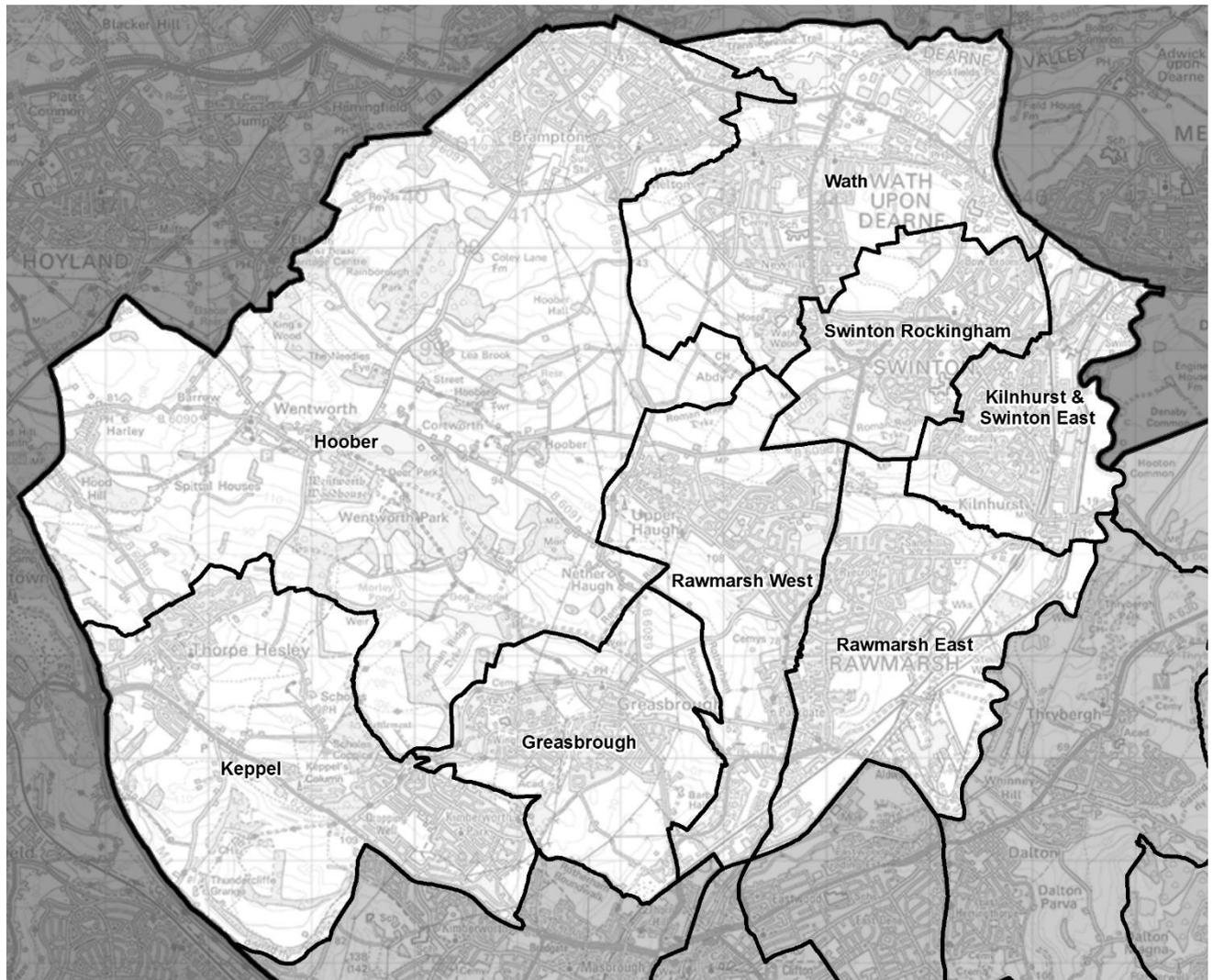
32 The tables and maps on pages 8–15 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Rotherham. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

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

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<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## The northern wards



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Greasbrough	2	-6%
Hooper	3	-2%
Keppel	3	5%
Kilnhurst & Swinton East	2	-9%
Rawmarsh East	2	5%
Rawmarsh West	2	4%
Swinton Rockingham	2	-8%
Wath	2	-2%

### *Greasbrough*

33 The Council proposed a two-councillor ward for Greasbrough, describing the communities that make up its proposed ward. We received no other representations about this area. We consider that the ward boundaries proposed by the Council to be clear and the level of electoral equality to be satisfactory. We therefore recommend the Greasbrough ward proposed by the Council as part of our draft recommendations.

### *Hoober and Keppel*

34 The Council proposed two three-councillor wards in this area, having clear boundaries and good levels of electoral equality. One resident advocated the combination of these two areas in a single ward. However, the number of electors in these areas warrants two three-councillor wards, and we are unwilling to recommend wards represented by more than three councillors. The Council's proposal would achieve the outcome sought by another resident: the inclusion of the whole of the Kimberworth Park area in Keppel ward. We recommend the Hoober and Keppel wards proposed by the Council as part of our draft recommendations.

### *Kilnhurst & Swinton East, Rawmarsh East, Rawmarsh West, Swinton Rockingham and Wath*

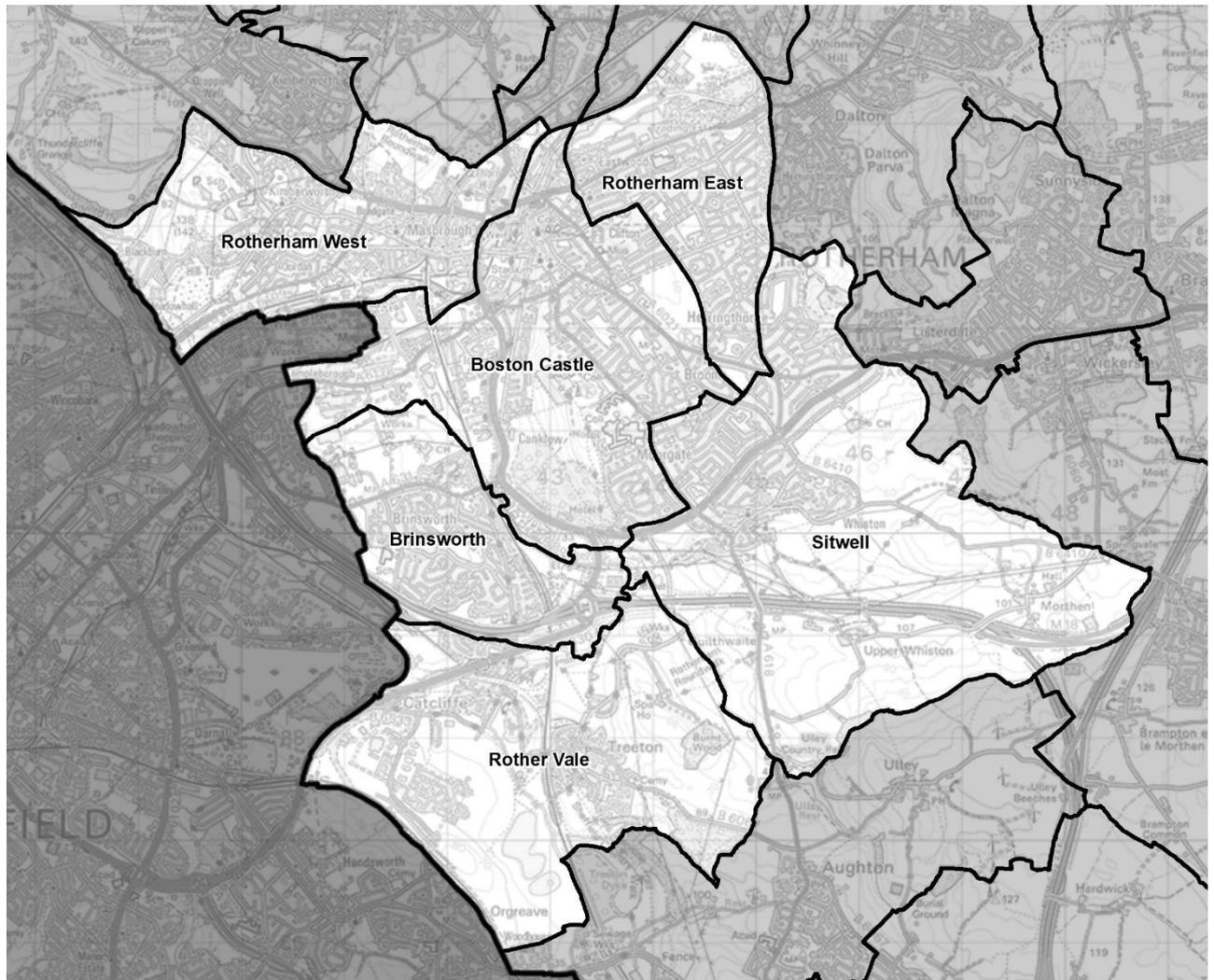
35 The Council proposed five two-councillor wards in this area, generally having clear boundaries. Whilst the Kilnhurst & Swinton East and Swinton Rockingham wards would have 9% and 8% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2022, respectively, we recognise that the pattern of wards facilitates a good representation of community identities not just in these areas but also in adjacent parts of Rotherham.

36 The parish councils of Ravenfield and Thrybergh argued, in their submissions to us, that the boundaries of current wards link their areas with both Kilnhurst and Rawmarsh which they consider to be inappropriate. Rotherham Council's proposal would make those areas distinct from both parishes. One resident suggested that the whole of Kilnhurst and Swinton should form a single ward. However, the number of electors in these areas warrants representation by four councillors and, as described above, we are unwilling to recommend wards represented by more than three councillors.

37 Whilst touring the area to examine the submissions made to us, we noted a small group of houses on Golden Smithies Lane and nearby housing that we considered would be better represented in a Swinton Rockingham ward than with more distant housing areas in Wath ward. We also took the view that the Wedgewood Close and Greenfield area of Rawmarsh would be better represented with adjoining residential areas in Rawmarsh East ward rather than in Rawmarsh West ward.

38 Subject to making these small changes, our draft recommendations are for Kilnhurst & Swinton East, Rawmarsh East, Rawmarsh West, Swinton Rockingham and Wath wards, largely as proposed by the Council

## The western wards



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Boston Castle	3	0%
Brinsworth	2	10%
Rother Vale	2	-6%
Rotherham East	3	4%
Rotherham West	3	3%
Sitwell	3	-2%

### *Boston Castle and Rotherham East*

39 The Council proposed two three-councillor wards for these areas, broadly having clear boundaries and good levels of electoral equality. We received one further submission, from a local resident who argued that whilst the proposed ward boundaries would be appropriate, the Boston Castle ward would be better named Rotherham Central. We are not persuaded by this suggestion, as the Boston Castle ward would extend considerably to the south of the town's central area, and the castle and park are notable features of the area.

40 On our visit to the area, however, we noted that housing on the north and south sides of Wickersley Road in Herringthorpe appeared to be part of the same community and we therefore propose that both sides of the road be included in a Rotherham East ward. Making this small change, our draft recommendations are for Boston Castle and Rotherham East wards, largely as proposed by the Council.

### *Brinsworth and Rother Vale*

41 The Council proposed two two-councillor wards for these areas, broadly having clear boundaries. We received a submission from a local resident who argued that Catcliffe should not be separated from Brinsworth as to do so would weaken the position of Brinsworth. We are not persuaded by this argument, noting that the Council's proposed ward would be coterminous with (have the same boundaries as) Brinsworth parish.

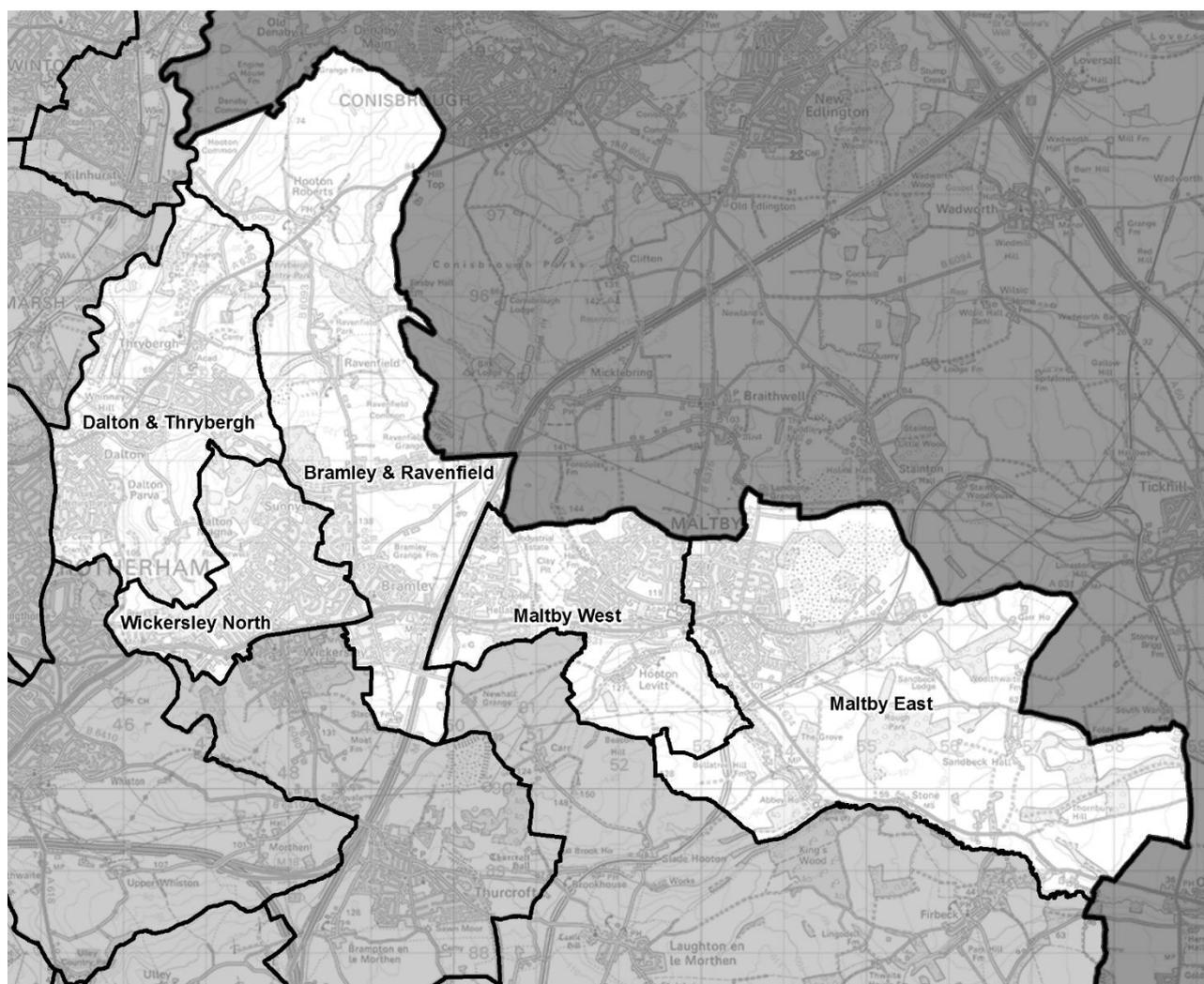
42 We received further submissions from Orgreave Parish Council, the Waverley Residents' Association and from local residents. They argued that the Waverley development, a modern and continuing large-scale residential development, should be represented in a single ward. This development area lies on the boundary between Catcliffe and Orgreave parishes, and is currently split between two wards.

43 The Council's proposal would achieve the outcome sought in these submissions. We note that the proposal would mean that Orgreave parish would be represented in two wards, but also that Orgreave Parish Council considers that the Waverley area and the older Orgreave community do not share a common identity and that there ought to be a separate Waverley parish. It is not within our power to alter parish boundaries or to create new parishes, but we are able to divide a parish between borough wards. Where we do so, we must provide parish wards, and we propose to do so as part of our draft recommendations. With this in mind, our draft recommendations are for Brinsworth and Rother Vale wards as proposed by the Council.

### *Rotherham West and Sitwell*

44 The Council proposed two three-councillor wards for these areas, broadly having clear boundaries and good levels of electoral equality. The Council also described the community identities of these areas persuasively. We received no further submissions about these areas. Our draft recommendations are for Rotherham West and Sitwell wards as proposed by the Council.

## The eastern wards



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
<b>Bramley &amp; Ravenfield</b>	2	6%
<b>Dalton &amp; Thrybergh</b>	2	7%
<b>Maltby East</b>	2	-3%
<b>Maltby West</b>	2	-5%
<b>Wickersley North</b>	3	-2%

### *Bramley & Ravenfield*

45 The Council proposed a two-councillor ward for this area which includes Hooton Roberts parish. Whilst we note that the ward would have around 200 more electors per councillor than the average for Rotherham by 2022, we consider that the Council's proposed ward would have good boundaries. We also note that it provides for the separation of Ravenfield from Kilnhurst and Rawmarsh as suggested by Ravenfield Parish Council. We propose, as part of our draft recommendations, one minor change to the Council's proposal by including within a Wickersley North ward, properties at Coppins Close and the southern end of Holyrood Rise.

### *Dalton & Thrybergh and Wickersley North*

46 The Council proposed a two-councillor Dalton & Thrybergh ward and a three-councillor Wickersley North ward. Dalton Parish Council proposed a ward having the same boundaries as the parish, whilst Thrybergh Parish Council proposed that the whole of its parish be included within a single ward, preferably with Dalton parish rather than with Kilnhurst or Rawmarsh.

47 A ward consisting solely of Dalton parish would not have good electoral equality, either as a two-councillor or a three-councillor ward, and would also increase electoral inequality in adjacent areas to levels we would not be prepared to accept. A three-councillor ward consisting of Dalton and Thrybergh parishes in their entirety would have an acceptable level of electoral equality, but again, at the expense of electoral equality in adjoining areas. Furthermore, we visited the south-eastern part of Dalton parish in order to gauge its community links with the northern part of Wickersley. We concluded that this part of Dalton does appear to have greater commonality with Wickersley than with the northern and western parts of Dalton. We are therefore not persuaded that a ward having the same boundaries as Dalton parish would satisfy our statutory considerations.

48 We also noted, however, a considerable disparity in levels of representation between the Council's proposed Wickersley North ward and its Thurcroft & Wickersley South ward. We visited the Sledgate Lane and the Moorlands area to ascertain whether its inclusion in Wickersley North would reflect community identity while minimising electoral variances. We observed that whilst Bawtry Road is a major urban highway, provision has been made for pedestrian and vehicular crossing and that the road also provides the sole means of access from this area to the Wickersley shopping and services centre which itself spans Bawtry Road.

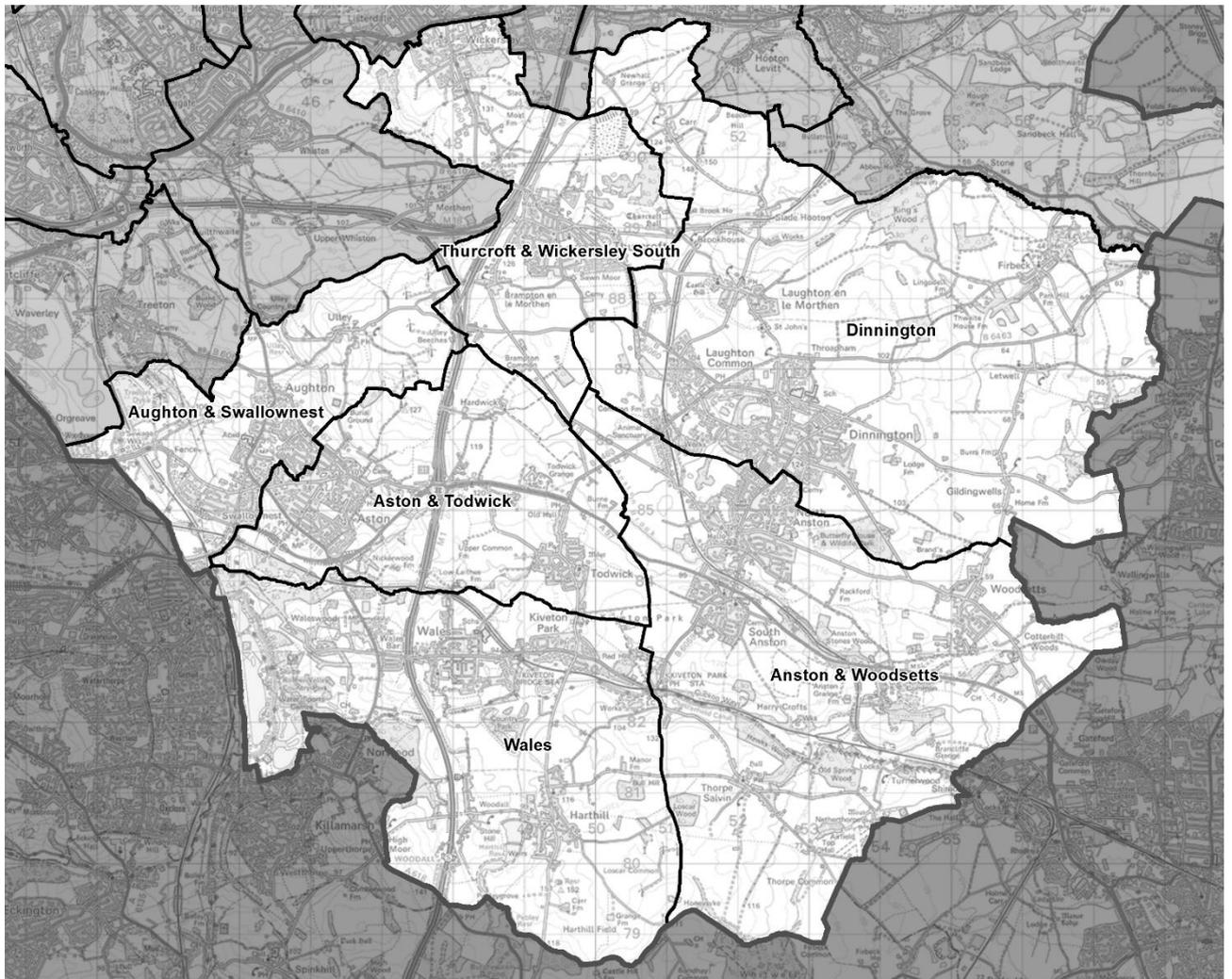
49 We therefore propose, as part of our draft recommendations, a Dalton & Thrybergh ward as proposed by the Council and a Wickersley North ward, largely as proposed by the Council but including the Sledgate Lane and Moorlands area.

### *Maltby East and Maltby West*

50 The Council proposed two two-councillor wards for this area, Maltby East having almost the exact number of electors per councillor as the average for Rotherham by 2022 whilst Maltby West would have 8% fewer. One local resident commented that current ward boundaries as they relate to Hellaby should change.

51 We visited Maltby to ascertain whether Braithwell Road represented a significant division between communities and concluded that it does not appear to do so. We therefore propose to modify the Council's proposal in order to provide a better balance of representation by including all the properties fronting or gaining sole access to Braithwell Road in a Maltby West ward, along with Church Lane and Church Close.

## The southern wards



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Anston & Woodsetts	3	-7%
Aston & Todwick	2	5%
Aughton & Swallownest	2	-2%
Dinnington	3	-4%
Thurcroft & Wickersley South	2	3%
Wales	2	7%

### *Anston & Woodsetts and Dinnington*

52 The Council proposed two three-councillor wards for this area. Its proposed Anston & Woodsetts ward would comprise the parishes of North & South Anston, Thorpe Salvin, Woodsetts and the Laughton Common area of Dinnington St John's. Woodsetts Parish Council argued that its inclusion in a ward with North & South Anston would mean that the parish would be ineffectively represented, advocating a ward to represent Woodsetts, Gildingwells, Letwell and Firbeck. A single-councillor ward for that area would have 45% fewer electors per councillor than the average for Rotherham by 2022, a degree of electoral inequality that we are not prepared to recommend. The addition of Thorpe Salvin parish would not resolve this over-representation, giving an electoral variance of 35%.

53 In his submission to us, Councillor Jepson commented that the Council's proposal would split the Laughton Common area inappropriately. He added that the Council's proposal to divide the Borrowdale Crescent area between Anston & Woodsetts and Dinnington wards would also split a localised community. We visited both areas in order to consider the points he raised. We agree that the Council's proposal would split the Laughton Common community. Whilst the argument for the Lakeland Drive area is less clear-cut, we consider that modifying the Council's proposal will provide a better balance of our statutory considerations.

54 Our draft recommendations therefore propose that the Laughton Common area of Dinnington parish be included in the Dinnington ward and that the Borrowdale Crescent and Park Avenue area be included in our Anston & Woodsetts ward.

### *Aston & Todwick and Aughton & Swallownest*

55 The Council proposed two two-councillor wards for this area, broadly having good boundaries and electoral equality. We received no other submissions regarding this area. On our visit to the area, we noted, however, that the Manvers Road, Eden Grove and Egerton Road area is served by cul-de-sacs. We consider the orientation of this area to be towards Worksop Road and our draft recommendation is to include it in Aston & Todwick ward. To maintain good levels of electoral equality, we propose to include Rosedale Road and Town End Avenue in Aughton & Swallownest.

### *Thurcroft & Wickersley South*

56 The Council proposed a two-councillor Thurcroft & Wickersley South ward, having good boundaries but having 8% more electors per councillor than the average for Rotherham by 2022. This compares with 8% fewer in Wickersley North ward. We received no other submissions regarding this area. As described in paragraph 48 above, we propose, as part of our draft recommendations, to modify the Council's proposal in the Sledgate Lane and Moorlands area in order to improve levels of electoral equality.

### *Wales*

57 The Council proposed a two-councillor Wales ward, made up of the parishes of Harthill with Woodall and Wales, which would have good electoral equality. We received no other submissions regarding this area. We consider that the Council's proposal satisfies our statutory considerations, and include it as part of our draft recommendations.

## Conclusions

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

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2016	2022
Number of councillors	59	59
Number of electoral wards	25	25
Average number of electors per councillor	3,412	3,496
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

#### **Draft recommendation**

Rotherham Borough Council should be made up of 59 councillors serving 25 wards representing 16 two-councillor wards and nine three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

#### **Mapping**

**Sheet 1, Map 1** shows the proposed wards for Rotherham.

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

## Parish electoral arrangements

59 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.

60 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, Rotherham Borough 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.

61 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 Aston cum Aughton, Bramley, Dalton, Dinnington St John's, Maltby, Orgreave and Wickersley.

62 As 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 Aston cum Aughton parish.

<b>Draft recommendation</b>	
Aston cum Aughton Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Aston cum Aughton North	5
Aston cum Aughton South	7
Aston cum Aughton West	3

63 As 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 Bramley parish.

<b>Draft recommendation</b>	
Bramley Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Bramley North	3
Bramley South	3
Bramley West	1

64 As 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 Dalton parish.

<b>Draft recommendation</b>	
Dalton Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Dalton East	9
Dalton North	5
Dalton South	2

65 As 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 Dinnington St John's parish.

<b>Draft recommendation</b> Dinnington St John's Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Dinnington Park Avenue	1
Dinnington Town	14

66 As 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 Maltby parish.

<b>Draft recommendation</b> Maltby Parish Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Maltby East	10
Maltby West	8

67 As 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 Orgreave parish.

<b>Draft recommendation</b> Orgreave Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Orgreave	2
Waverley	5

68 As 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 Wickersley parish.

<b>Draft recommendation</b> Wickersley Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Wickersley North	9
Wickersley South	7

### 3 Have your say

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

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

71 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](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

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

**Review Officer (Rotherham)**  
**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**  
**14th Floor, Millbank Tower**  
**Millbank**  
**London SW1P 4QP**

73 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Rotherham 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

74 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

75 Electoral equality:

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

76 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?

77 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

78 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 Millbank (London) and on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

79 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.

80 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.

81 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Rotherham Borough Council in 2020.

## Equalities

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

## Appendix A

### Draft recommendations for Rotherham Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Anston & Woodsetts	3	9,816	3,272	-4%	9,714	3,238	-7%
2	Aston & Todwick	2	7,118	3,559	4%	7,348	3,674	5%
3	Aughton & Swallownest	2	6,910	3,455	1%	6,849	3,425	-2%
4	Boston Castle	3	10,112	3,371	-1%	10,526	3,509	0%
5	Bramley & Ravenfield	2	7,445	3,723	9%	7,423	3,712	6%
6	Brinsworth	2	7,864	3,932	15%	7,715	3,858	10%
7	Dalton & Thrybergh	2	6,917	3,459	1%	7,503	3,752	7%
8	Dinnington	3	9,663	3,221	-6%	10,089	3,363	-4%
9	Greasbrough	2	6,375	3,188	-7%	6,567	3,284	-6%
10	Hooper	3	9,750	3,250	-5%	10,286	3,429	-2%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Keppel	3	11,088	3,696	8%	11,058	3,686	5%
12 Kilnhurst & Swinton East	2	6,025	3,013	-12%	6,342	3,171	-9%
13 Maltby East	2	6,684	3,342	-2%	6,764	3,382	-3%
14 Maltby West	2	6,674	3,337	-2%	6,648	3,324	-5%
15 Rawmarsh East	2	7,324	3,662	7%	7,365	3,683	5%
16 Rawmarsh West	2	6,975	3,488	2%	7,286	3,643	4%
17 Rother Vale	2	5,013	2,507	-27%	6,550	3,275	-6%
18 Rotherham East	3	11,046	3,682	8%	10,917	3,639	4%
19 Rotherham West	3	10,604	3,535	4%	10,812	3,604	3%
20 Sitwell	3	10,209	3,403	0%	10,285	3,428	-2%
21 Swinton Rockingham	2	6,490	3,245	-5%	6,466	3,233	-8%
22 Thurcroft & Wickersley South	2	6,851	3,426	0%	7,194	3,597	3%
23 Wales	2	7,165	3,583	5%	7,480	3,740	7%
24 Wath	2	6,950	3,475	2%	6,835	3,418	-2%

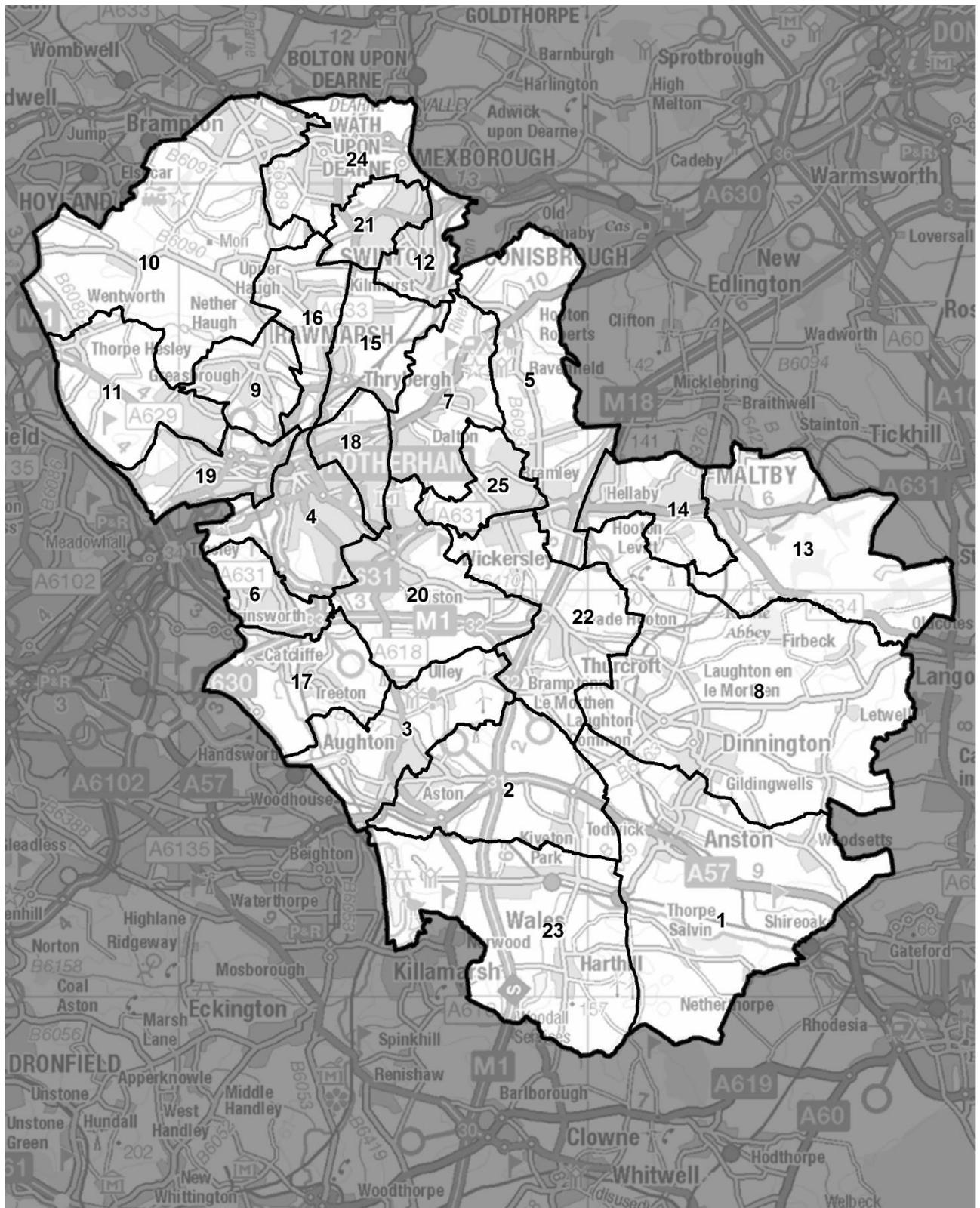
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25 Wickersley North	3	10,246	3,415	0%	10,241	3,414	-2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>201,314</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>206,263</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,412</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>3,496</b>	<b>-</b>

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

# Appendix B

## Outline map



## Key

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Anston & Woodsetts        | 14. Maltby West                  |
| 2. Aston & Todwick           | 15. Rawmarsh East                |
| 3. Aughton & Swallownest     | 16. Rawmarsh West                |
| 4. Boston Castle             | 17. Rother Vale                  |
| 5. Bramley & Ravenfield      | 18. Rotherham East               |
| 6. Brinsworth                | 19. Rotherham West               |
| 7. Dalton & Thrybergh        | 20. Sitwell                      |
| 8. Dinnington                | 21. Swinton Rockingham           |
| 9. Greasbrough               | 22. Thurcroft & Wickersley South |
| 10. Hooper                   | 23. Wales                        |
| 11. Keppel                   | 24. Wath                         |
| 12. Kilnhurst & Swinton East | 25. Wickersley North             |
| 13. Maltby East              |                                  |

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/yorkshire-and-the-humber/south-yorkshire/rotherham>

# Appendix C

## Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/yorkshire-and-the-humber/south-yorkshire/rotherham>

### Local Authority

- Rotherham Borough Council

### Councillors

- Councillor A. Carter (Rotherham Borough Council)
- Councillor C. Jepson (Rotherham Borough Council)

### Local Organisations

- Waverley Residents' Association

### Parish and Town Council

- Dalton Parish Council
- Orgreave Parish Council
- Ravenfield Parish Council
- Thrybergh Parish Council
- Ulley Parish Council
- Whiston Parish Council
- Woodsetts Parish Council

### Local Residents

- 12 local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

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

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

Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council
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