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Community Governance Review Sub-Committee

Agenda

Date:	**Monday, 4th April, 2022**
Time:	**2.00 pm**
Venue:	**The Assembly Room - Town Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1EA**

PLEASE NOTE - This meeting is open to the public and anyone attending the meeting is advised to wear a face covering when not seated (unless exempt).

Lateral Flow Testing: Anyone attending the meeting is asked to undertake a lateral flow test on the day of the meeting before embarking upon the journey to the venue. If your test shows a positive result, then you must not attend the meeting and must follow the latest advice on self-isolation.

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the top of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making meetings are audio recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the Council's website.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Appointment of Chair**

   To appoint a Chair for the municipal year.

2. **Appointment of Vice-Chair**

   To appoint a Vice-Chair for the municipal year.

3. **Apologies for Absence**

For requests for further information
Contact: Paul Mountford, Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01270 686472
E-Mail: paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk with any apologies

4. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

5. **Public and Visiting Cheshire East Councillors - Speaking Time/Open Session**

Whilst the Council's rules on speaking at committee meetings impose a strict time limit for visiting speakers, the Chair will adopt a flexible approach and will seek to allow, all those wishing to do so, the opportunity to speak on any matter relating to this agenda, subject to the following:

- If you attend the meeting with others who wish to speak on the same subject, please nominate one spokesperson to speak.
- A maximum period of 3 minutes will be permitted for each speaker to make their representations.
- There should be no repetition of points made earlier by other speakers.

Members of the public or visiting Members, wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given.

6. **Community Governance Review of Town and Parish Council Governance** (Pages 3 - 864)

To give consideration to the review of Town and Parish Council Governance.

Membership: Councillors J Bratherton, C Browne, L Crane, S Edgar, A Martin and A Stott

Working for a brighter future together

Community Governance Review Sub-Committee, Corporate Policy Committee, and Council

Dates of Meetings:	4 April 2022 14 April 2022 27 April 2022
Report Title:	Community Governance Review of Town and Parish Council Governance
Report of:	Monitoring Officer
Wards Affected:	All Wards

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To secure a resolution of Council which will finalise the governance arrangements of the town and parish councils within Cheshire East Borough.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. This report seeks resolutions of the Community Governance Review Sub Committee, Corporate Policy Committee, and finally Council, following a Community Governance Review (CGR) of Town and Parish Council Governance.

2.2. The CGR project has been in progress for over three years. Engagement with the public, town and parish councils and other stakeholders has been central to the project. There has been an informal pre-consultation survey, as well as a formal consultation process which secured over 5000 responses. This approach to engagement aligns with the Council's "Open and Enabling Organisation" Corporate Plan Priority in:

- ensuring that there is transparency in all aspects of Council decision making;
- listening, learning and responding to our residents; and in
- promoting and developing the services of the Council through regular communication and engagement with all residents.

2.3. This report marks the last stage of the CGR process which will culminate in Council formally determining the final governance arrangements of the Borough's town and parish councils, taking into account those matters which arose during the consultation, together with a range of other considerations.

3. Recommendations

Proposed to the Community Governance Review Sub-Committee

1. The Sub-Committee is recommended to propose to the Corporate Policy Committee that the recommendations made in the review of Community Governance, contained in Appendices 1,2 and 3 to the report will ensure that:
   A. The proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community in the Borough of Cheshire East; and
   B. The proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Proposed to the Corporate Policy Committee

2. The Committee is recommended to propose to Council that the recommendations made in the review of Community Governance, contained in Appendices 1,2 and 3 to the report will ensure that:
   A. The proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community in the Borough of Cheshire East; and
   B. The proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

   and

   That Council should resolve to give effect to the recommendations.

Proposed to Council

3. Council is recommended to resolve that the recommendations made in the review of Community Governance, contained in Appendices1,2 and 3 to the report will ensure that:
   A. The proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community in the Borough of Cheshire East; and
   B. The proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

   and

   Council resolves, by order, to give effect to the recommendations.

(NB: If the Community Governance Review Sub-Committee and/or the Corporate Policy Committee make recommendations to change the town and parish council governance proposals contained in the appendices to this report, the appendices will be updated and the proposed changes will be shown by way of "Track-Changes")

4. Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 Changes in population and local development have caused the Council, as principal Council within the meaning of the Local Government and Involvement in Public Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act), to undertake a borough wide review of community governance to ensure that the town and parish council governance arrangements continue to reflect the identities and interests of the community and is effective and convenient:

http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=487&MId=7087&Ver=4

4.2 The Council has in accordance with the 2007 Act, consulted with the local government electors and other interested persons, had regard to guidance issued under that Act and had regard to its Terms of Reference adopted by the Council's Constitution Committee on 22 November 2018.

5. Other options considered

5.1 To continue with the current Community Governance arrangements within the Borough and accept the risk that it no longer complies with the statutory requirement to reflect the identities and interests of the community and be effective and convenient.

6. Background

6.1 At its meeting on 20 September 2018, the Constitution Committee resolved:

That:

1 A Borough-wide review of the governance arrangements of all of the Borough's town and parish councils be undertaken, commencing as soon as reasonably practicable after the 2019 all-out elections, and concluding well in advance of the May 2023 elections;

2 a sub-committee of the Committee be appointed to conduct the review, working with an officer working group, and make appropriate recommendations to the Constitution Committee for decision; and

3 the sub-committee comprise representatives of all of the Council's political groups, on the basis of relevant proportionality drawn from the Constitution Committee, provided that the Liberal Democrat Group representative shall be nominated by its Group Leader.

6.2 Following that meeting, the Community Governance Review Sub Committee was established, with agreed terms of reference. These can be found, together with the report to the Constitution Committee, which met on 22 November 2018, here: http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=487&MID=7088#AI43589

6.3 The terms of reference for the Community Governance Review required the Council to publish a plan for consultation during the review, which would provide for the consideration of consultation responses as part of the process for preparation of draft proposals.

6.4 A pre-consultation survey commenced in October 2019, and invited any person or body interested in the review to provide a response. The survey was "live" for a period of 14 weeks. The survey closed on the 31 January 2020, by which time the Council received submissions from 276 individuals/town and parish councils etc.

6.5 A number of informal Member workshops were then arranged to develop draft proposals for the formal consultation stage, taking into consideration those matters raised in response to the pre-consultation survey, and a range of other factors.

6.6 Following consideration by the Community Governance Review Sub Committee, and the Constitution Committee, the draft proposals were agreed by Council on 22 June 2021. Item 22 of the following agenda refers: Agenda for Council on Tuesday, 22nd June, 2021, 11.00 am | Cheshire East Council

6.7 Council resolved, as follows:

"That the recommendations of the Community Governance Review Sub Committee on 26 February 2021 be the format of consultation for the Community Governance Review".

6.8 The following issues were taken into account by Members when they agreed the draft proposals for consultation:

- **i.** Electorate numbers taken from the 2019 electoral register;
- **ii.** The number of councillor seats representing each ward;
- **iii.** Wards where the respective town/parish council have requested a review within the last 2 years or so;
- **iv.** Electorate growth forecasts up to 2025 (the period advised by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England);
- **v.** Pre-consultation survey submissions;
- **vi.** Known concerns expressed by parishes;
- **vii.** Wards with significant variances to the average population density and/or councillor ratios;
- **viii.** Local plan developments;
- **ix.** Known built-environment changes.

6.9 The effect of the Council resolution on 22 June 2021 was to formally approve the consultation proposals which were agreed by the CGR Sub-Committee, on 26 February 2021, and to agree that they be consulted-upon for a 12-week period to this report:
http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=569&MID=7944#AI54901

6.10 The formal consultation was concluded on 28 November 2021, with around 4800 consultation responses having been submitted.

7 Recommendations relating to town and parish council governance

7.1 The consultation responses were analysed between December 2021 and February 2022, taking into account all relevant considerations. Recommendations were then considered by informal workshops comprising members of the Community Governance Review Sub Committee.

7.2 These informal recommendations are now presented to the Community Governance Review Sub-Committee in order for them to be formally considered and for a recommendation to be made to the Corporate Policy Committee, which will be asked to make recommendations to Full Council. The recommendations relating to each town and parish council are set out in the appendices to this report.

7.3 In order for Members to be clear as to the recommendations which are before them for consideration, where the Community Governance Review Sub-Committee and/or the Corporate Policy Committee make recommendations to change the town and parish council governance proposals contained in the appendices to this report, the appendices will be updated and the proposed changes will be shown by way of "Track-Changes".

8 Next stages of the review

8.1 Subject to Council resolution, a number of practical measures must be taken in order to give effect to the wishes of Council, including:

8.1.1 A Community Governance Order must be made, published, and sent to the Secretary of State.

8.1.2 Town and parish councils must be notified of the Council decision.

8.1.3 Electoral register details must be changed, where town, parish or parish ward boundaries change.

8.1.4 Council tax records must be changed where town or parish boundaries change, where this would result in residences being "taken into" a different town or parish with a different precept. Any consequent changes to Council Tax precepts must be taken into account as part of the Council Tax precepting and billing process, which commences in September 2022.

8.1.5 Other consequential issues must be managed, for example, matters affecting town and parish council physical and financial assets, and staffing arrangements, which might be impacted by the outcomes of the review.

8.2 It is clear that our ongoing engagement with town and parish councils will be of key importance as part of the process which will lead to the changes, arising from

the review, taking effect in 2023. Whilst, from a purely legal perspective, the responsibility for dealing with such matters rests with the town and parish councils themselves, some degree of support to our town and parish council partners should be provided by this Council.

8.3 Throughout the CGR process, there has been significant collaboration between the officers of this Council, and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (CHALC). CHALC has already provided valuable inputs in respect of the process followed so far and has been a partner in facilitating important engagement with town and parish council members and officers.

8.4 Further work will take place, in partnership with CHALC, to ensure clear communication with our town and parish council partners. Initial discussions have taken place with CHALC which are expected to lead to CHALC providing comprehensive support to all affected town and parish councils (not just those which are members of CHALC). In this way, the expertise and practical experience of CHALC can be drawn-upon, for the benefit of all town and parish councils within the Borough.

9 Consultation and Engagement

9.1 The consultation and engagement elements of the CGR are considered in the "Background" section to this report. Consultation and engagement have been critical factors in this review process. The consultation and engagement exercises are considered to have been very successful, having resulted in over 5,000 responses being submitted. There has been significant engagement with town and parish council colleagues, with regular information having been provided to them, and via the provision of face-to-face engagement opportunities.

9.2 In total, there were over 5,000 consultation responses, and decision-making Members may seek access to these by contacting Brian Reed: Brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk

10. Implications

10.1 Legal Implications

10.1.1 The general powers of Cheshire East Borough Council as a principal council to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR) of its area are contained in Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act). Section 86(2) of the 2007 Act states that the principal council may, by order, give effect to the recommendations made in the review.

10.1.2 Section 93 of the 2007 Act sets out the duties with which the principal council must comply when undertaking a CGR, including the duty to consult electors and others during the CGR process. The cornerstone principles of the CGR are contained in Section 93(4) and require the

principal council to have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient.

10.1.3 Section 100 of the 2007 Act requires principal councils to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (formerly the Department for Communities and Local Government) and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

10.1.4 Section 81 of the 2007 Act requires the principal council to draw up and publish the terms of reference for the review which are attached at Community Governance Review ToR - report final.pdf (cheshireeast.gov.uk)

10.1.5 Sections 87 to 91 of the 2007 Act set out the recommendations arising from the CGR.

10.1.6 The principal council is **required** to make recommendations as to:

- whether a new parish or parishes should be constituted;
- whether existing parishes should or should not be abolished or whether the area of existing parishes should be altered; or
- what the electoral arrangements for new or existing parishes, which are to have parish councils, should be.

10.1.7 In addition, the principal council has a **discretion** to also make recommendations about:

- the grouping or degrouping of parishes;
- adding parishes to an existing group of parishes; or
- making related alterations to the boundaries of a principal councils' electoral areas.

10.1.8 Section 96 of the 2007 Act requires a principal council, as soon as practicable after it has decided to what extent it will give effect to the recommendations made in a community governance review, to publish its decision and the council's reasons for making that decision and thereafter, to take sufficient steps to inform interested persons of its decision and reasons

10.2 Finance Implications

10.2.1 There would appear to be no significant direct financial implications for this Council, which can be identified at this stage. There will be financial implications for town and parish councils, which they will consider when making representations in response to the formal consultation.

10.2.2 There will be a cost to this Council to the provision of support by CHALC to all affected town and parish councils within the Borough. This is expected to be no more than £5,000.

10.3 Policy Implications

10.3.1 There are no direct policy implications.

10.4 Equality Implications

10.4.1 There would appear to be no direct equality implications for this Council which can be identified.

10.5 Human Resources Implications

10.5.1 There are no direct HR implications for Cheshire East Council, although some human resources issues might arise for town and parish councils.

10.6 Risk Management Implications

10.6.1 The CGR project will result in changes to the governance arrangements of our town and parish councils. These governance arrangements have not been reviewed for very many years and the outcome of the review will bring improvements, which will minimise risk to this Council, and to the town and parish councils themselves.

10.7 Rural Communities Implications

10.7.1 Rural community implications have been taken into account as part of the consultation and review process.

10.8 Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

10.8.1 There are no direct implications for children and young people.

10.9 Public Health Implications

10.9.1 There are no direct implications for public health.

10.10 Climate Change Implications

10.10.1 There are no direct implications for climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed: Head of Democratic Services and Governance Brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk Tel: 07973754722
Appendices:	Appendix 1: Final Recommendations Summary Report Appendix 2: Final Recommendations Maps Report Appendix 3: Final Recommendations Assessment Report
Background Papers:	As hyperlinked above

Cheshire East Council

Community Governance Review

Final Recommendations Summary Report

Production date: 25/03/2022

Report produced by:

CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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Section 1: Introduction

Section 1.1: Final Recommendations publications and the background to this Review

In 2018, Cheshire East Council began a Community Governance Review of all the parishes within the Borough area. In this Review, the Council has been guided by the relevant legislation in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the *Guidance on Community Governance Reviews* that the government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England have issued (the *Guidance*)[1], and the Terms of Reference for the Review that were adopted by the Constitution Committee on 22nd November 2018. Those Term of Reference can be found here.

The Review relates to the whole of the Borough and has considered changes to parish areas and parish electoral arrangements across the Borough. These changes include the alteration, merging, creation and abolishing of parishes; the naming of parishes, and the adoption of an alternative style for new parishes. They also include changes to the electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; the council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and whether to divide the parishes into wards for the purposes of elections). The general principles for the Final Recommendations that the Council is making, along with the different types of recommendations, are outlined below.

This report provides a summary of the Review's Final Recommendations. A table listing these Final Recommendations – which lists each current parish council in alphabetical order - can be found in Section 4 of this report.

The Borough Council has also published accompanying documents that justify and explain the Final Recommendations in more detail. These sister documents are:

- A **'Final Recommendations Maps Report',** containing maps that show changes (where any are recommended) to parish and parish ward boundaries.
- A **'Final Recommendations Assessment Report'**, which sets out in detail the evidence and analysis on which the Final Recommendations are based, and which explains the reasoning behind each recommendation. This document includes, among other things, analysis and interpretation of the evidence submitted during the consultation stage of the Review. It also includes

[1] Guidance on community governance reviews, CLG (now MHCLG)/ LGBCE, March 2010.[2]https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/800-all-about-local-councils/file

details of the data and calculations used to forecast changes in elector numbers and to estimate the numbers of electors who would be affected by the recommended governance changes.

Section 1.2: Community governance and details of the Review process

Town and parish councils are the first tier of local government and they are statutory bodies. They serve their electorates; they are independently elected by their local government electors, and they raise their own precept. Town and parish councils work towards providing local services and improving community well-being. Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs; and striving to improve the quality of life and community well-being within their areas.[2]

Cheshire East Council is responsible for community governance arrangements within the Borough. It is considered good practice to review community governance every 10-15 years. This is the first review carried out by Cheshire East Council, which was created in 2009. At the commencement of the Review, there were 142 parishes in the Borough. Of these, 27 were divided into parish wards for the purposes of parish elections. There were 1,018 parish councillors, with each parish councillor representing an average of 296 electors. However, the electoral quota (the ratio of electors to parish councillors) varies widely, and ranges from one councillor to eight electors to one to 3,700 electors across the Borough. There were 44 parishes that were grouped under common councils and there were 16 such parish councils. At the last ordinary parish elections in 2019, 46 (27 per cent) of the 186 parish ward elections were contested and led to a poll. However, 125 of the 1,018 parish council seats remained unfilled at the close of nominations at the last ordinary elections.

Prior to undertaking a public consultation for this Community Governance Review, the Council undertook a pre-consultation survey. This survey requested initial submissions from the existing parish councils and electors and other interested organisations, by a deadline of 31st January 2020. A total of 276 responses were received during that stage and a summary of those responses is available here.

After giving careful consideration to these submissions, the Council carried out extensive analytical work in late 2020 and early 2021 and held informal workshops with elected Members.

[2] https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/800-all-about-local-councils/file

Following that stage of the process, the Council published its Draft Recommendations in March 2021, which were approved for consultation by Full Council in June of that year. The Draft Recommendations Report can be found here. The Council then held a 12-week public consultation on these Draft Recommendations, which ran from 6th September to 28th November 2021.

This consultation stage provided electors and other interested persons or bodies with an opportunity to make the case for alternative proposals to the Council's Draft Recommendations. An alternative case had to demonstrate that any alternative proposals were in line with the general principles of a Community Governance Review, as they are laid down in the legislation and the *Guidance*. (Further guidance is provided on these general principles below.)

Parish councils, residents and other interested parties were invited to submit responses via an online consultation survey, hard copies of the same survey, or by email or letter. Other forms of response, including petitions and survey forms produced by individual parish councils, were also received.

A total of 4,824 responses were received during this consultation stage. The Borough Council has now carefully analysed all these submissions and the alternative proposals they make and in early 2022 held further informal workshops with elected Members. In doing so, it has weighed up these consultation submissions, and other key evidence gathered, against the legislation, the *Guidance* and the Council's Terms of Reference.

Following that stage, the Borough Council produced its Final Recommendations, as set out in this Summary Report. These Final Recommendations will form the basis of a new Cheshire East (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this Order will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2023.

The Final Recommendations comprise a series of graduated changes, ranging from parishes where no changes are being recommended, to parishes where there are recommendations to alter the current electoral arrangements, to small parishes where mergers to form new parishes are being recommended, and finally to more significant area or boundary changes – largely adjoining the Borough's urban parishes – which have a consequential or knock-on effect for the surrounding parishes.

The Cheshire East Community Governance Review does not include the electoral arrangements for the Borough Council or parliamentary seats. These would be the responsibility of central government through the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Boundary Commission for England, respectively.

The Council is committed to an open decision-making process and maintaining a record of the decisions taken by the Review Sub-Committee in this Community Governance Review, and these are available here.

Section 1.3: Report structure

The rest of this report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 outlines the general principles followed in conducting the Review, and the types of recommendations that can be made.
- Section 3 summarises the types of evidence that was used to inform the Final Recommendations.
- Section 4 lists the Final Recommendations for each current parish council (in alphabetical order).
- Appendix 1 provides a lookup table, showing which parish council each individual parish falls under.
- Appendix 2 contains a glossary of terms used in this Summary Report and the accompanying Assessment Report and Maps Report.

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Section 2: General principles and types of recommendation

Every endeavour has been made to base the Final Recommendations for future community governance in the Borough on the principles laid out in the legislation and *Guidance* and in the Council's Terms of Reference.

Parish areas and their boundaries
The Council has undertaken its Review by giving consideration to the parish areas and their boundaries.

In particular, the Council has been anxious to ensure that each parish council's governance arrangements:

- reflect the identities and interests of the different communities in the area. The Council considers that this is a 'community of identity' test, which is especially applicable to the new developments that presently traverse parish boundaries.

- are effective and convenient. The Council considers that this is a 'viability' test, and the Council is anxious to ensure that parish councils are viable and possess a precept that enables them to actively and effectively promote the well-being of their residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner.

- take into account any other arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area that reinforce the 'community of identity' test.

In its Terms of Reference, the Council stated its intention that the whole of Cheshire East should continue to be divided into parish areas, and there was a strong presumption that, with the possible exception of a few very small parishes, all the Borough's parishes should have parish electoral arrangements.

The Council also stated its intention to select boundaries that are and are likely to remain easily identifiable as it drew up proposed boundaries between the communities of identity.

The Council also clearly stated its view that 'natural' settlements or settlements as they are defined in the documents that make up its Local Plan, including the Local Plan Strategy (adopted 2017), should not in normal circumstances be partitioned by parish boundaries.

Names and styles

By and large, in these Final Recommendations the Borough Council has sought to defer to local views with regard to the names of any new parishes and the names of any new or altered parish wards. In its Terms of Reference, however, the Council did state its view that composite names of parishes, comprising a number of names linked by the words 'and', 'with', etc., are rarely in the interests of effective and convenient local government. The Council has tried to avoid composite names other than in exceptional circumstances where the demands of history, local connections or the preservation of local ties make a pressing case for the retention of distinctive traditional names.

In addition, the Council has considered requests received, during the Review, for a change to existing parish council names, and has made recommendations for changes to these names where a persuasive case was put forward.

The Council has also deferred to local views with regard to any proposals to adopt an 'alternative style' for any new parishes that are being proposed. Under section 17A of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council may, during a Community Governance Review, adopt an 'alternative style' to replace the style "parish" for any new parishes that are created by the review. However, only one of three prescribed styles can be adopted: "community", "neighbourhood" or "village".

The councils of eleven parishes in the Borough (Alsager, Bollington, Congleton, Crewe, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Middlewich, Nantwich, Poynton, Sandbach and Wilmslow) have historically used the style of 'town' in accordance with the Local Government Acts. The parish of Handforth has also, more recently, adopted the style of 'town'. This is a matter over which this Review has no remit, and it will lie at the discretion of the council of a new parish as to whether it would wish to adopt the style of 'town' in accordance with Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Parish grouping and electoral arrangements

Having given consideration to the parish areas and their boundaries, the Council has then proceeded to give consideration to parish groupings (councils consisting of multiple parishes) and electoral arrangements.

The Council has considered whether grouping arrangements are an appropriate way forward for its small parishes, and whether the alternative of merging the parishes under a single unwarded or a warded parish council would be more readily understood by both electors and parish councillors.

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The Council has also considered the electoral arrangements of each parish. The term 'electoral arrangements' covers the way in which a council is constituted for the parish, including:

- the number of councillors to be elected to the council;
- the division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors;
- the number and boundaries of any such wards;
- the number of councillors to be elected for any such ward;
- the name of any such ward.

The Council is required by law to consider any change in the number or distribution of the local government electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the Review started. This is why these Draft Recommendations make frequent reference to the electorate as the Council has forecasted it for 2025 (for further details about these forecasts, see the accompanying 'Final Recommendations Assessment Report' published alongside this Summary Report, and also the Community Governance Review electorate forecasts technical report, which is available here).

The Council holds a strong presumption in favour of the formation of parish councils for all parishes of more than 150 electors.

In deciding on the appropriate number of seats for each parish council, the Borough Council has taken account of the size of its electorate, but also a range of other factors that may vary from one council to another. These other factors include: the requirements and demands of rural representation, the traditional and historical level of representation that the parish has had, the workload of the parish council as reflected in its precept and provision of services to the parish, any additional representation that may be required to support a warding/ grouping arrangement, or the demand in the parish for seats on the parish council as reflected in highly contested elections.

The Borough Council has also given careful consideration to the present warding arrangements of the parish councils. In considering whether a parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council, the Council is required by legislation to consider the following:

- whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient;
- whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council.

As stated in its Terms of Reference document, the Council has considered each case on its merits in line with these criteria.

However, warding arrangements should be clearly and readily understood by and should have relevance for the electorate in a parish; they should reflect clear physical and social differences within a parish, whether urban or rural. Furthermore, ward elections should have merit; not only should they meet the two tests laid down in the legislation, but they should also be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. The additional costs of multiple ward elections should not be wasteful of a parish's resources.

The Borough Council has sought to defer to local views with regard to the names of any new or altered parish wards.

In allocating parish councillors to parish wards, the Council has been particularly mindful of the government's *Guidance* that "it is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the elections of councillors". While there is no provision in legislation that each parish ward councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors, the Council concurs with the *Guidance* that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards. The Council has therefore attempted to ensure that the ratio of electors to councillors across the different wards of a parish is equitable insofar as that is practical. However, it recognises that local factors, such as the extra demands involved in representing more rural parish wards, mean that it may be appropriate to have lower ratios for some parish wards than for others.

Risk in the conduct of elections

The Borough Council has been mindful of its desire to avoid risk in the conduct of elections. Such risk arises where the electors at a single parish or parish ward election find themselves voting at the same polling station for two different borough ward elections (or vice versa). In such a situation there is an enhanced risk that an elector might be issued with an incorrect combination of ballot papers and that papers might be placed in the incorrect ballot box, adding risk to the conduct of an election count.

The Borough Council seeks to mitigate such risk, particularly through the provision of a different polling station (possibly in the same building or polling place). In some instances, however, the size of the affected electorate may be so small that it is not viable to provide a separate polling station.

Section 3: Evidence

Section 3.1: Main types of data used to inform the Review

In undertaking this Review, Cheshire East Council has collected and assessed key data for each parish and parish ward. The range of data used is set out in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Main types of data used to inform the Review

Electorate size and housing development data	To calculate projected electorate figures for 2025 (the end of the period for which this Review is required to consider changes in the numbers of local government electors), the Council has relied upon information regarding: • the scale and exact locations of expected future housing developments within the Borough, including additional housing development evidence that has become available since the Review's electorate forecasts were produced in early 2019; • the Council's housing development plans, as set out in its Local Plan Strategy. Details of the approach used to forecast elector numbers for existing parishes and parish wards, including the data sources, assumptions and methodology, are set out in the Council's Electorate forecasts technical report (2019). The 'Final Recommendations Assessment Report' summarises this approach and also sets out how elector numbers were forecast for those areas (generally small sub-areas of individual parishes) that would be moved from one parish to another under the recommended boundary changes. Therefore, the Final Recommendations have been made in the context of both current council sizes and estimated future council sizes. Although the term for which this Review is required to consider changes in the numbers of local government electors is 2018-25, the Council has also taken account of Local Plan Strategy development

	beyond 2025 and up to 2030 (the end date of the current Local Plan Strategy), particularly for those parishes where large developments are anticipated during 2026-30. As the electorate forecasts were produced only up to 2025, the Final Recommendations on seat numbers for parish councils and parish wards are generally based on anticipated electorates for 2025. However, in some cases where major development is expected after 2025 and this would significantly alter each parish ward's share of its parish council's total electorate, the recommended seat numbers make some allowance for this post-2025 growth. The reason for making such an allowance is to reduce the likelihood of longer-term inequities in the ratios of electors to seats.
May 2019 local elections nominations data	The Council has used the Returning Officer's data on the number of nominations at the last ordinary elections for the Borough's parishes (May 2019) relative to the number of seats, including the numbers of parish councillors that did not go through the process of nomination and election and who were therefore co-opted to the parish council to fill vacancies that remained unfilled at those elections. This may be taken as a general and comparative indication of the level of democratic interest in the parish council. The level of co-option for seats on a parish council may suggest that there are too many seats on that existing council. However, it is recognised that a shortage of nominations at the 2019 elections may not necessarily be representative of recent elections in general. It is further recognised that some parish council's vacancies are more readily filled than others. Therefore, in arriving at its Final Recommendations, the Borough Council has interpreted the nominations data with some care, and has taken account of parish councils' consultation stage submission evidence on nominations and co-options.
Band D charge and precept	The Council has used data on the Council Tax Band D charges and the parish council precepts, as these provide a general and comparative indication of the level of expenditure – and thus the level of work – that the parish council undertakes in its parish.

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	However, the Council is conscious that some parish council activities incur no cost, and that some parish councils may draw on other sources of income besides their precept. Therefore, in arriving at its Final Recommendations, the Borough Council has interpreted the Band D charge and precept data with some care, and has taken account of parish councils' consultation stage submission evidence on their activities, costs and income sources.
Pre-consultation survey responses	Responses to the pre-consultation survey, which ran from 28th October 2019 to January 31st 2020.
Consultation stage responses to the Draft Recommendations	Responses to the consultation stage survey, which ran from 6th September to 28th November 2021.

Section 3.2: Analysis of Council Sizes

Table 3.2 shows how, under Cheshire East's current governance arrangements, the number of councillors varies according to the size of the council's electorate (as of 2018, the start of the Review period).

Table 3.2: Average number of seats, by council size

Number of electors in parish council	Number of Cheshire East parish councils in electorate size band[3]	Number of seats (averages and ranges) for each electorate size band		Ratios of electors per seat for each electorate size band
		Cheshire East average (2018)	Cheshire East seat number range (2018)	Cheshire East ratio range (2018)
300 or fewer	30	6.8	5-11	8-60
301 - 500	19	8.8	6-19	25-71
501 - 1,500	28	9.1	7-15	39-157
1,501 - 2,500	7	10.6	7-12	132-251
2,501 - 10,000	14	12.4	7-22	219-737
10,001 - 20,000	6	15.3	12-20	652-1,327
20,000 or more	3	17.3	12-20	1,088-3,404

It should be noted that the legal minimum number of parish councillors for each council is five (Section 16, Local Government Act 1972). The National Association of Local Councils considers that a council of no more than the legal minimum of five members is inconveniently small, and it considers that a practical working minimum should be seven (NALC Circular 1126/1988). The government's *Guidance* makes the point that "the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors" (*Guidance,* paragraph 157). It is therefore Cheshire East Council's view that, where possible, the number of parish councillors for any parish council should be set at a working minimum of seven. It is worthy of note that this figure is also consistent with the current (2018) average council size for the smallest parishes of 300 or fewer electors.

[3] Figures exclude Cheshire East's seven parishes that have no councils and whose representative bodies are their parish meetings, as they have no councillors.

There is no requirement in legislation that the number of councillors should be proportional to electorate size. The view given in the *Guidance* is as follows: "In considering the issue of council size, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is of the view that each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. Nevertheless, having regard to the current powers of parish councils, it should consider the broad pattern of existing council sizes. This pattern appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to have provided for effective and convenient local government." (*Guidance*, paragraph 156)

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Section 4: Final Recommendations

Table 4.1 below sets out the Review's Final Recommendations for Cheshire East's parish councils, parish meetings and their constituent parishes. The table covers each current parish council in turn, listing them in alphabetical order and setting out what governance changes, if any, are recommended for that council.

Where changes in governance are recommended and these involve new parish or parish ward boundaries, a map has been produced, to show the impact on boundaries and any areas of land being transferred from one parish to another. The third column of Table 4.1 gives the reference numbers for the relevant maps, and these maps can be found in the 'Final Recommendations Maps Report' published alongside this Summary Report.

The details of the evidence, analysis and reasoning behind these Final Recommendations can be found in the 'Final Recommendations Assessment Report' published alongside the Summary Report and the Maps Report.

As noted earlier, some parish councils consist of a group of two or more parishes. The Borough Council is conscious that some of those affected by these Final Recommendations may be interested in the changes (if any) that are recommended for a specific parish that forms part of a group, rather than all the parishes in that group. It may also be that, where such grouping arrangement currently exists, some residents and other interested parties are more familiar with the names of individual parishes than the name of the council. Appendix 1 of this Summary Report therefore includes a lookup table which lists all 142 parishes and shows which parish council they fall under.

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Table 4.1: Final Recommendations (in alphabetical order of current council name)

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
1	Acton, Edleston & Henhull (Parish Group)	External boundary change (see Maps 2.1a, 2.1b & 2.8), merger (with Burland) and warding (see Map 2.1c)	Burland & Acton Parish Council	9	Acton & Henhull 3 seats, Burland 3, Ravensmoor & Edleston 3. All these are new wards.
2	Adlington	External boundary change (see Map 2.2)	N/A	10 (no change)	N/A
3	Agden	Merger (with Little Bollington and small part of Millington) and warding (see Map 2.3)[4]	Little Bollington with Agden Community Council	7	Agden 3 seats, Little Bollington 4. Both new wards, but Agden ward boundary based on current Parish Meeting boundary.
4	Alderley Edge	No change	N/A	9	N/A
5	Alpraham	Merger with Calveley (see Map 2.4)	Alpraham & Calveley Community Council	8	Alpraham 5 seats, Calveley 3. Warding based on current parish boundaries.

[4] The rest (majority) of Millington to be transferred to a new council also comprising Rostherne and Tatton.

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
6	Alsager	External boundary change (see Maps 2.5a & 2.5b) and internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	15 (increase from 14)	Central 4 seats (no change), East 6 (no change), West 5 (increase from 4).
7	Arclid	No change	N/A	7	N/A
8	Ashley	No change	N/A	8	N/A
9	Aston by Budworth	No change	N/A	7	N/A
10	Audlem	No change	N/A	12	N/A
11	Barthomley	No change	N/A	7	N/A
12	Betchton	No change	N/A	10	N/A
13	Bickerton & Egerton (Parish Group)	No change	N/A	10	Bickerton 7 seats, Egerton 3.
14	Bollington	Internal change (to warding – see Map 2.6)	N/A	12 (no change)	Central (redrawn boundary) 4 seats, East 4, West (redrawn boundary) 4.
15	Bosley	No change	N/A	7	N/A
16	Bradwall	No change	N/A	7	N/A

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
17	Brereton	External boundary change (see Map 2.7) and internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	9 (increase from 8)	N/A
18	Brindley & Faddiley (Parish Group)	No change	N/A	8	Brindley 4 seats, Faddiley 4.
19	Buerton	No change	N/A	8	N/A
20	Bulkeley & Ridley (Parish Group)	Merger (of the Group's 2 parishes) and warding	Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council	10	Bulkeley 7, Ridley 3. Warding based on current parish boundaries.
21	Bunbury	No change	N/A	10	N/A
22	Burland	External boundary change (see Map 2.8), merger (with Acton, Edleston & Henhull) and warding (see Map 2.1c)	Burland & Acton Parish Council	9	Acton & Henhull 3 seats, Burland 3, Ravensmoor & Edleston 3. All these are new wards.
23	Calveley	Merger with Alpraham (see Map 2.4)	Alpraham & Calveley Community Council	8	Alpraham 5 seats, Calveley 3. Warding based on current parish boundaries.

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
24	Chelford	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	10 (increase from 7)	N/A
25	Cholmondeley & Chorley (near Wrenbury) (Parish Group)	No change	N/A	11	Cholmondeley 6 seats, Chorley 5.
26	Cholmondeston & Wettenhall (Parish Group)	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	7 (increase from 6)	Cholmondeston 3 seats (no change), Wettenhall 4 (increase from 3).
27	Chorley (near Wilmslow)	No change	N/A	7	N/A
28	Church Lawton	External boundary change (see Map 2.5a)	N/A	10 (no change)	N/A
29	Church Minshull	No change	N/A	7	N/A
30	Congleton	External boundary change (see Maps 2.9a & 2.9b) and internal change to warding (see Map 2.9c) and seat numbers	N/A	22 (increase from 20)	Central ward 4 seats, North 4, North East 5, South East 5, West 4. All these are new wards.
31	Cranage	No change	N/A	7	N/A

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
32	Crewe	External boundary change (see Map 2.10)	N/A	20 (no change)	Central ward 2 seats, East 6, North 2, South 4, St Barnabas 2, West 4. (No change to any of these seat numbers.)
33	Crewe Green	External boundary change (see Map 2.10), merger (with Weston & Basford) and warding (see Map 2.11)	Weston & Crewe Green Community Council	13	Crewe Green 3 seats, Weston 7, Wychwood 3.[5] All these are new wards.
34	Disley	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	9 (increase from 7)	N/A
35	Dodcott cum Wilkesley	No change	N/A	8	N/A
36	Doddington & District (Parish Group)	Merger (of the Group's 6 parishes) and warding (see Map 2.12)	Doddington & District Parish Council	11 (decrease from 13)	East (comprising the current parishes of Blakenhall, Checkley cum Wrinehill and Lea) 5 seats, West (comprising the current parishes of Bridgemere, Doddington and Hunsterson) 6.

[5] It is anticipated that an additional (fourth) ward would be created from the South Cheshire Growth Village site (which lies within the proposed Crewe Green ward), when that site is fully developed. However, as the Growth Village is expected to have less than 50 electors by 2025, the creation of this extra ward cannot be justified as part of the current Review and would have to wait until the subsequent one. However, the current Review's recommended allocation of seats to Crewe Green makes an allowance for substantial growth in its electorate before the next Review can take place, bearing in mind the expected eventual size of the Growth Village (650 properties, though Cheshire East currently expects little more than half of these to be completed even by 2030).

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
37	Eaton	External boundary change (see Map 2.9a)	N/A	7 (no change)	N/A
38	Gawsworth	Internal change (to warding - see Map 2.13 - and seat numbers)	N/A	9 (no change)	Moss (redrawn boundary) 4 seats, Village (redrawn boundary) 5.
39	Goostrey	No change	N/A	10	N/A
40	Great Warford	No change	N/A	7	N/A
41	Handforth	External boundary change (see Map 2.14) and internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	11 (increase from 7)	East 4 seats (increase from 2), South 3 (increase from 2), West 4 (increase from 3).
42	Hankelow	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	7 (increase from 5)	N/A
43	Haslington	External boundary change (see Maps 2.5b & 2.15)	N/A	15 (no change)	Oakhanger 1 seat, Village 10, Winterley 4. (No change to any of these seat numbers.)
44	Hassall	No change	N/A	7	N/A

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Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
45	Hatherton & Walgherton (Parish Group)	No change	N/A	10	Hatherton 7 seats, Walgherton 3.
46	Haughton (Parish Meeting)	No change	N/A	N/A	N/A
47	Henbury	External boundary change (see Map 2.16) and internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	8 (increase from 7)	N/A
48	High Legh	No change	N/A	10	N/A
49	Higher Hurdsfield	No change	N/A	8	N/A
50	Holmes Chapel	No change	N/A	12	N/A
51	Hough & Chorlton (Parish Group)	External boundary change (see Map 2.17a), merger (of the Group's 2 parishes) and warding (see Map 2.17b)	Hough & Chorlton Parish Council	11 (increase from 9)	Chorlton 6, Hough 5. Both are new wards.
52	Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	9 (increase from 5)	Hulme Walfield 6 seats (increase from 2), Somerford Booths 3 (no change).

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
53	Kettleshulme	Merger with Lyme Handley (see Map 2.18)	Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley Parish Council	7	N/A
54	Knutsford	External boundary change (see Maps 2.19a & 2.19b) and internal change (to warding – see Map 2.19c – and seat numbers)	N/A	15 (no change)	Bexton and Town Centre 3 seats, Cross Town 3, Nether 3, Norbury Booths 3, St John's Wood 3. All these are new wards.
55	Little Bollington	External boundary change (see Map 2.20), merger (with Agden and small part of Millington) and warding (see Map 2.3)	Little Bollington with Agden Community Council	7	Agden 3 seats, Little Bollington 4. Both are new wards, but Agden ward boundary based on current Parish Meeting boundary.
56	Little Warford	No change	N/A	8	N/A

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
57	Lower Peover[6] (Parish Group)	No change	N/A	7	Nether Peover 4 seats, Peover Inferior 3.
58	Lower Withington	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	8 (increase from 7)	N/A
59	Lyme Handley	Merger with Kettleshulme (see Map 2.18)	Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley Parish Council	7	N/A
60	Macclesfield	External boundary change (see Map 2.16)	N/A	12 (no change)	Broken Cross & Upton 2 seats, Central 2, East 1, Hurdsfield 1, South 2, Tytherington 2, West & Ivy 2. (No change to any of these seat numbers.)
61	Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough (Parish Meeting)	No change	N/A	N/A	N/A

[6] Lower Peover is the only parish council which is split between Cheshire East and another local authority. It is a group of two parishes: Peover Inferior, which is within Cheshire East; and Nether Peover, which is within Cheshire West & Chester. It should be noted that the Community Governance Review does not allow the Borough Council to make governance changes to parishes in another local authority, so the Review considered only the case for making changes to the parish of Peover Inferior.

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
62	Marbury & District (Parish Group)	Merger (of the Group's 3 parishes) and internal change (to warding and seat numbers)	Marbury & District Parish Council	8 (decrease from 19)	Marbury cum Quoisley 3 (decrease from 8), Norbury 3 (decrease from 7), Wirswall 2 (decrease from 4). Warding based on current parish boundaries.
63	Marton	No change	N/A	7	N/A
64	Mere	No change	N/A	8	N/A
65	Middlewich	External boundary change (see Map 2.21) and internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	12 (no change)	Cledford 7 seats (increase from 6), Kinderton 5 (decrease from 6).
66	Millington	External boundary change (see Map 2.20), merger (with Rostherne and Tatton) and warding (see Map 2.22)	Millington & Rostherne Parish Council	8	Millington 4 seats, Rostherne & Tatton 4. Both are new wards.
67	Minshull Vernon & District (Parish Group)	Internal change (to warding and seat numbers)	Leighton, Minshull Vernon & Woolstanwood Parish Council	16 (decrease from 22)	Removal of Leighton warding. Leighton 11 seats (no change), Minshull Vernon 2 (decrease from 7), Woolstanwood 3 (decrease from 4).

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Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
68	Mobberley	External boundary change (see Map 2.19a)	N/A	12 (no change)	N/A
69	Moston	External boundary change (see Maps 2.21 & 2.23) and internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	7 (decrease from 8)	N/A
70	Mottram St Andrew	No change	N/A	7	Mottram St Andrew 5 seats, Newton 2.
71	Nantwich	External boundary change (see Maps 2.1a & 2.1b) and internal change (to seat numbers and warding (see Map 2.24)	N/A	15 (increase from 12)	North (new ward) 5 seats, West (new ward) 5, South (existing ward) 5.
72	Nether Alderley	No change	N/A	8	N/A
73	Newbold Astbury cum Moreton	No change	N/A	13	Astbury 9 seats, Moreton 4.
74	Newhall	No change	N/A	9	N/A
75	North Rode	No change	N/A	7	N/A

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
76	Odd Rode	No change	N/A	15	Mount Pleasant 5 seats, Rode Heath 5, Scholar Green 5.
77	Ollerton with Marthall	No change	N/A	10	Marthall 3 seats, Ollerton 7.
78	Over Alderley	No change	N/A	7	N/A
79	Peckforton (Parish Meeting)	No change	N/A	N/A	N/A
80	Peover Superior	Merger with Snelson (see Map 2.25)	Peover Superior & Snelson Parish Council	11	N/A
81	Pickmere	No change	N/A	8	N/A
82	Plumley with Toft & Bexton	No change	N/A	11	Plumley 9 seats, Toft & Bexton 2.
83	Pott Shrigley	No change	N/A	7	N/A
84	Poynton	External boundary change (see Map 2.2) and internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	14 (decrease from 18)	East 7 seats (decrease from 9), West 7 (decrease from 9).

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
85	Prestbury	Internal change (to warding)	N/A	12 (no change)	Removal of current warding.
86	Rainow	No change	N/A	12	N/A
87	Rope	External boundary change (see Map 2.26) and internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	9 (increase from 7)	N/A
88	Rostherne	Merger (with Tatton and most of Millington) and warding (see Map 2.22)[7]	Millington & Rostherne Parish Council	8	Millington 4 seats, Rostherne & Tatton 4. Both are new wards.
89	Sandbach	External boundary change (see Maps 2.15 & 2.23) and internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	21 (increase from 20)	Elworth 6 seats (increase from 5), Ettiley Heath & Wheelock 5, Heath & East 5, Town 5. (No change to any of these seat numbers, except where specified.)
90	Shavington cum Gresty	External boundary change (see Map 2.26)	N/A	12 (no change)	Gresty Brook 2 seats, Shavington Village 10. (No change to either of these seat numbers.)

[7] The rest of Millington to be transferred to a new council also comprising Agden and Little Bollington.

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
91	Siddington	No change	N/A	8	N/A
92	Smallwood	No change	N/A	8	N/A
93	Snelson	Merger with Peover Superior (see Map 2.25)	Peover Superior & Snelson Parish Council	11	N/A
94	Somerford	External boundary change (see Maps 2.7 & 2.9b) and internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	10 (increase from 7)	N/A
95	Sound & District (Parish Group)	External boundary change (see Map 2.8)	N/A	15 (no change)	Austerson 1 seat, Baddiley 3, Baddington 2, Broomhall 3, Coole Pilate 2, Sound 4. (No change to any of these seat numbers.)
96	Spurstow	No change	N/A	8	N/A
97	Stapeley & District (Parish Group)	Merger (of the Group's 2 parishes)	Stapeley & District Parish Council	12 (increase from 10)	N/A
98	Stoke & Hurleston	Merger (of the Group's 2 parishes)	Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council	7 (increase from 6)	N/A
99	Styal	External boundary change (see Map 2.14)	N/A	7 (no change)	N/A

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
100	Sutton	No change	N/A	12	Lane Ends 3 seats, Langley 3, Lyme Green 3, Rural 3.
101	Swettenham	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	7 (increase from 5)	N/A
102	Tabley	External boundary change (see Map 2.19b)	N/A	10 (no change)	N/A
103	Tatton	Merger (with Rostherne and most of Millington) and warding (see Map 2.22)[8]	Millington & Rostherne Parish Council	8	Millington 4 seats, Rostherne & Tatton 4. Both are new wards.
104	Twemlow	No change	N/A	7	N/A
105	Wardle	No change	N/A	7	N/A
106	Warmingham	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	7 (increase from 5)	N/A

[8] The rest of Millington to be transferred to a new council also comprising Agden and Little Bollington.

Parish Council/ Meeting Ref. No.	Current Parish Council/ Meeting name	Change (if any) being recommended	New council name and style (if applicable)	Seats	Breakdown of parish/ ward names, seat numbers and any other warding arrangements (if applicable)
107	Weston & Basford (Parish Group)	External boundary change (see Map 2.17a), merger (with Crewe Green) and warding (see Map 2.11)	Weston & Crewe Green Community Council	13	Crewe Green 3 seats, Weston 7, Wychwood 3. All these are new wards.
108	Willaston	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	12 (no change)	North 4 seats (increase from 2), Village 8 (decrease from 10)
109	Wilmslow	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	15 (no change)	Dean Row 4 seats (no change), East 3 (decrease from 4), Lacey Green 3 (increase from 2), West 5 (no change).
110	Wincle	No change	N/A	N/A	N/A
111	Wistaston	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	12 (decrease from 15)	St Mary's 5 seats (decrease from 7), Wells Green 3 (no change), Wistaston Green 4 (decrease from 5).
112	Worleston & District (Parish Group)	External boundary change (see Map 2.1b)	N/A	12 (no change)	Aston Juxta Mondrum 3 seats, Poole 2, Worleston 7. (No change to any of these seat numbers.)
113	Wrenbury cum Frith	No change	N/A	9	N/A
114	Wybunbury	Internal change (to seat numbers)	N/A	10 (increase from 9)	N/A

Appendix 1: Lookup table showing which parish council or parish meeting each parish currently falls under

No.	Name of current parish	Name of Parish Council or Parish Meeting this parish is currently within
1	Acton	Acton, Edleston & Henhull (Parish Group)
2	Adlington	Adlington
3	Agden	Agden (Parish Meeting)
4	Alderley Edge	Alderley Edge
5	Alpraham	Alpraham
6	Alsager	Alsager
7	Arclid	Arclid
8	Ashley	Ashley
9	Aston by Budworth	Aston by Budworth
10	Aston Juxta Mondrum	Worleston & District (Parish Group)
11	Audlem	Audlem
12	Austerson	Sound & District (Parish Group)
13	Baddiley	Sound & District (Parish Group)
14	Baddington	Sound & District (Parish Group)
15	Barthomley	Barthomley
16	Basford	Weston & Basford (Parish Group)
17	Batherton	Stapeley & District (Parish Group)
18	Betchton	Betchton
19	Bickerton	Bickerton & Egerton (Parish Group)
20	Blakenhall	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
21	Bollington	Bollington
22	Bosley	Bosley
23	Bradwall	Bradwall
24	Brereton	Brereton

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No.	Name of current parish	Name of Parish Council or Parish Meeting this parish is currently within
25	Bridgemere	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
26	Brindley	Brindley & Faddiley (Parish Group)
27	Broomhall	Sound & District (Parish Group)
28	Buerton	Buerton
29	Bulkeley	Bulkeley & Ridley (Parish Group)
30	Bunbury	Bunbury
31	Burland	Burland
32	Calveley	Calveley
33	Checkley cum Wrinehill	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
34	Chelford	Chelford
35	Cholmondeley	Cholmondeley & Chorley (Parish Group)
36	Cholmondeston	Cholmondeston & Wettenhall (Parish Group)
37	Chorley (near Wilmslow)	Chorley (near Wilmslow)
38	Chorley (near Wrenbury)	Cholmondeley & Chorley (Parish Group)
39	Chorlton	Hough & Chorlton (Parish Group)
40	Church Lawton	Church Lawton
41	Church Minshull	Church Minshull
42	Congleton	Congleton
43	Coole Pilate	Sound & District (Parish Group)
44	Cranage	Cranage
45	Crewe	Crewe
46	Crewe Green	Crewe Green
47	Disley	Disley
48	Dodcott cum Wilkesley	Dodcott cum Wilkesley
49	Doddington	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
50	Eaton	Eaton
51	Edleston	Acton, Edleston & Henhull (Parish Group)
52	Egerton	Bickerton & Egerton (Parish Group)
53	Faddiley	Brindley & Faddiley (Parish Group)
54	Gawsworth	Gawsworth
55	Goostrey	Goostrey

No.	Name of current parish	Name of Parish Council or Parish Meeting this parish is currently within
56	Great Warford	Great Warford
57	Handforth	Handforth
58	Hankelow	Hankelow
59	Haslington	Haslington
60	Hassall	Hassall
61	Hatherton	Hatherton & Walgherton (Parish Group)
62	Haughton	Haughton (Parish Meeting)
63	Henbury	Henbury
64	Henhull	Acton, Edleston & Henhull (Parish Group)
65	High Legh	High Legh
66	Higher Hurdsfield	Higher Hurdsfield
67	Holmes Chapel	Holmes Chapel
68	Hough	Hough & Chorlton (Parish Group)
69	Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths	Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths
70	Hunsterson	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
71	Hurleston	Stoke & Hurleston (Parish Group)
72	Kettleshulme	Kettleshulme
73	Knutsford	Knutsford
74	Lea	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
75	Leighton	Minshull Vernon & District (Parish Group)
76	Little Bollington	Little Bollington (Parish Meeting)
77	Little Warford	Little Warford
78	Lower Withington	Lower Withington
79	Lyme Handley	Lyme Handley
80	Macclesfield	Macclesfield
81	Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough	Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough (Parish Meeting)
82	Marbury cum Quoisley	Marbury & District (Parish Group)
83	Marton	Marton
84	Mere	Mere

No.	Name of current parish	Name of Parish Council or Parish Meeting this parish is currently within
85	Middlewich	Middlewich
86	Millington	Millington
87	Minshull Vernon	Minshull Vernon & District (Parish Group)
88	Mobberley	Mobberley
89	Moston	Moston
90	Mottram St Andrew	Mottram St Andrew
91	Nantwich	Nantwich
92	Nether Alderley	Nether Alderley
93	Newbold Astbury cum Moreton	Newbold Astbury cum Moreton
94	Newhall	Newhall
95	Norbury	Marbury & District (Parish Group)
96	North Rode	North Rode
97	Odd Rode	Odd Rode
98	Ollerton with Marthall	Ollerton with Marthall
99	Over Alderley	Over Alderley
100	Peckforton	Peckforton (Parish Meeting)
101	Peover Inferior	Lower Peover (Parish Group)
102	Peover Superior	Peover Superior
103	Pickmere	Pickmere
104	Plumley with Toft & Bexton	Plumley with Toft & Bexton
105	Poole	Worleston & District (Parish Group)
106	Pott Shrigley	Pott Shrigley
107	Poynton	Poynton
108	Prestbury	Prestbury
109	Rainow	Rainow
110	Ridley	Bulkeley & Ridley (Parish Group)
111	Rope	Rope
112	Rostherne	Rostherne
113	Sandbach	Sandbach
114	Shavington cum Gresty	Shavington cum Gresty
115	Siddington	Siddington

No.	Name of current parish	Name of Parish Council or Parish Meeting this parish is currently within
116	Smallwood	Smallwood
117	Snelson	Snelson
118	Somerford	Somerford
119	Sound	Sound & District (Parish Group)
120	Spurstow	Spurstow
121	Stapeley	Stapeley & District (Parish Group)
122	Stoke	Stoke & Hurleston (Parish Group)
123	Styal	Styal
124	Sutton	Sutton
125	Swettenham	Swettenham
126	Tabley	Tabley
127	Tatton	Tatton (Parish Meeting)
128	Twemlow	Twemlow
129	Walgherton	Hatherton & Walgherton (Parish Group)
130	Wardle	Wardle
131	Warmingham	Warmingham
132	Weston	Weston & Basford (Parish Group)
133	Wettenhall	Cholmondeston & Wettenhall (Parish Group)
134	Willaston	Willaston
135	Wilmslow	Wilmslow
136	Wincle	Wincle (Parish Meeting)
137	Wirswall	Marbury & District (Parish Group)
138	Wistaston	Wistaston
139	Woolstanwood	Minshull Vernon & District (Parish Group)
140	Worleston	Worleston & District (Parish Group)
141	Wrenbury cum Frith	Wrenbury cum Frith
142	Wybunbury	Wybunbury

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Appendix 2: Glossary of terms and abbreviations

'Alternative style'	Section 17A of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the council of a parish to adopt one of the 'alternative styles'. The permitted styles are "community", "neighbourhood" or "village", whereupon the council of that parish becomes a community council, the councillors become community councillors, etc. In a Community Governance Review, the Borough Council may recommend one of the alternative styles where it is creating a new parish.
Band D charge	The council tax payable by a particular property is based on the valuation band (one of eight valuation bands) of the property. The Band D charge is the middle band, and may be used as a point of comparison between different parishes.
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	A levy allowing Local Authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area.
Co-option	The provisions under the Representation of the People Acts for a town or parish council to fill vacancies remaining unfilled at ordinary elections by their selection of any qualified person to act as a town or parish councillor.
Electoral or governance arrangements	Dealt with in detail in Section 2 above. The provision of a council for a parish, the number of councillors on that council, the division of the parish into parish or town wards for the purposes of elections to the council, the names of the wards and the allocation of councillors to those wards.
Local Plan Strategy (LPS)	The Local Plan Strategy is the first part of the Cheshire East Local Plan and was adopted in 2017, providing the overall vision and strategic planning policies for the Borough to 2030.
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
Ordinary Elections	The four-yearly election of all town and parish councillors across Cheshire East. The last ordinary elections occurred in May 2019 and the next are scheduled for May 2023.

Parish area	The geographical area of the parish as defined by its boundaries. All of Cheshire East is divided into parish areas (see Section 2 above for further information).
Parish or town ward	The division of the parish area into lesser areas or wards for the purposes of elections to the town or parish council (see Section 2 above for further information).
Parish meeting	For every parish the legislation in Section 13 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that "there shall be a parish meeting for the purpose of discussing parish affairs and exercising any functions conferred on such meetings by any enactment". It is a meeting of all the electors of the parish. The meeting must assemble annually between 1st March and 1st June each year, and for parishes that do not have a parish council it must meet on at least one other occasion during the year. The rules for the conduct of such meetings are laid out in Schedule 12 of the Act. For parishes without a parish council, the parish meeting becomes their representative body.
Polling districts, polling places and polling stations	Cheshire East is divided into polling districts and all the electors of a district vote together at the same polling place (which may be a settlement or village) at which a specified building is designated as the polling station for that polling district. There may be more than one polling station within the same building. However, risk arises in the conduct of elections where the electors at a single parish election find themselves voting at the same polling station for two different borough ward elections (or vice versa) (see Section 2 above for further information).
Precept	The funds that a town or parish council requests be raised by the council tax to support its budget for the forthcoming year. The billing authority is the Borough Council, which uses the precept to calculate the banded charges for each property within the parish.
Ratio of electors to seats	The number of electors that each town or parish councillor represents. In a warded parish or town, the government *Guidance* recommends that the ratio should be equitable or fair between the different wards of the town or parish, to ensure that every elector's vote has equal weight in the election of councillors to the town or parish council.

Section 106 agreement	Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 , commonly known as s106 agreements, are a means by which the impact of a development can be mitigated.
Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD)	The Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies Document forms the second part of the Local Plan, providing further detailed and non-strategic planning policies and land allocations in line with the strategy set out in the Local Plan Strategy (LPS).
Style	See 'Alternative style' entry.
Town, Town Council	Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the council of a parish to resolve that the parish shall have the status of a town, whereupon the council of that parish becomes a town council and the chairman of the council the town mayor.

Cheshire East Council

Community Governance Review

Final Recommendations Maps Report

Production date: 25/03/2022

Report produced by:

CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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Section 1: Introduction

In 2018, Cheshire East Council began a Community Governance Review of all the parishes within the Borough area. The Review relates to the whole of the Borough and has considered changes to parish areas and parish electoral arrangements across the Borough. These changes include: the alteration, merging, creation and abolishing of parishes; the naming of parishes; and the adoption of an alternative style for new parishes. They also include changes to the electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; the council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and whether to divide the parishes into wards for the purposes of elections).

Following a period of extensive evidence-gathering, analysis and a public consultation on its Draft Recommendations, the Borough Council has now published its Final Recommendations.

This 'Final Recommendations Maps Report' contains maps that show the recommended changes (where there are any) to parish and parish ward boundaries.

An overview of the Final Recommendations can be found in the accompanying 'Final Recommendations Summary Report'.

To provide some overall context, Map 1.1 shows the current parish boundaries for all 142 parishes within the Borough.

Section 2 shows the Final Recommendations' changes (where there are any) to these parish boundaries and to parish ward boundaries. Each of the maps in this section of the Maps Report has a unique reference number. These same map reference numbers are cited in the relevant part of the Summary Report's recommendations table (Section 4 of the Summary Report), so that the location and extent of any recommended boundary changes affecting a particular council, parish or parish ward can be fully understood.

Besides the Summary Report and Maps report, the Borough Council has published a 'Final Recommendations Assessment Report', which sets out in detail the evidence and analysis on which the Final Recommendations are based, and which explains the reasoning behind each recommendation. This document includes, among other things, analysis and interpretation of the evidence submitted during the consultation stage of the Review. It also includes details of the data and calculations used to forecast changes in elector numbers and to estimate the numbers of electors who would be affected by the recommended governance changes.

Appendix 2

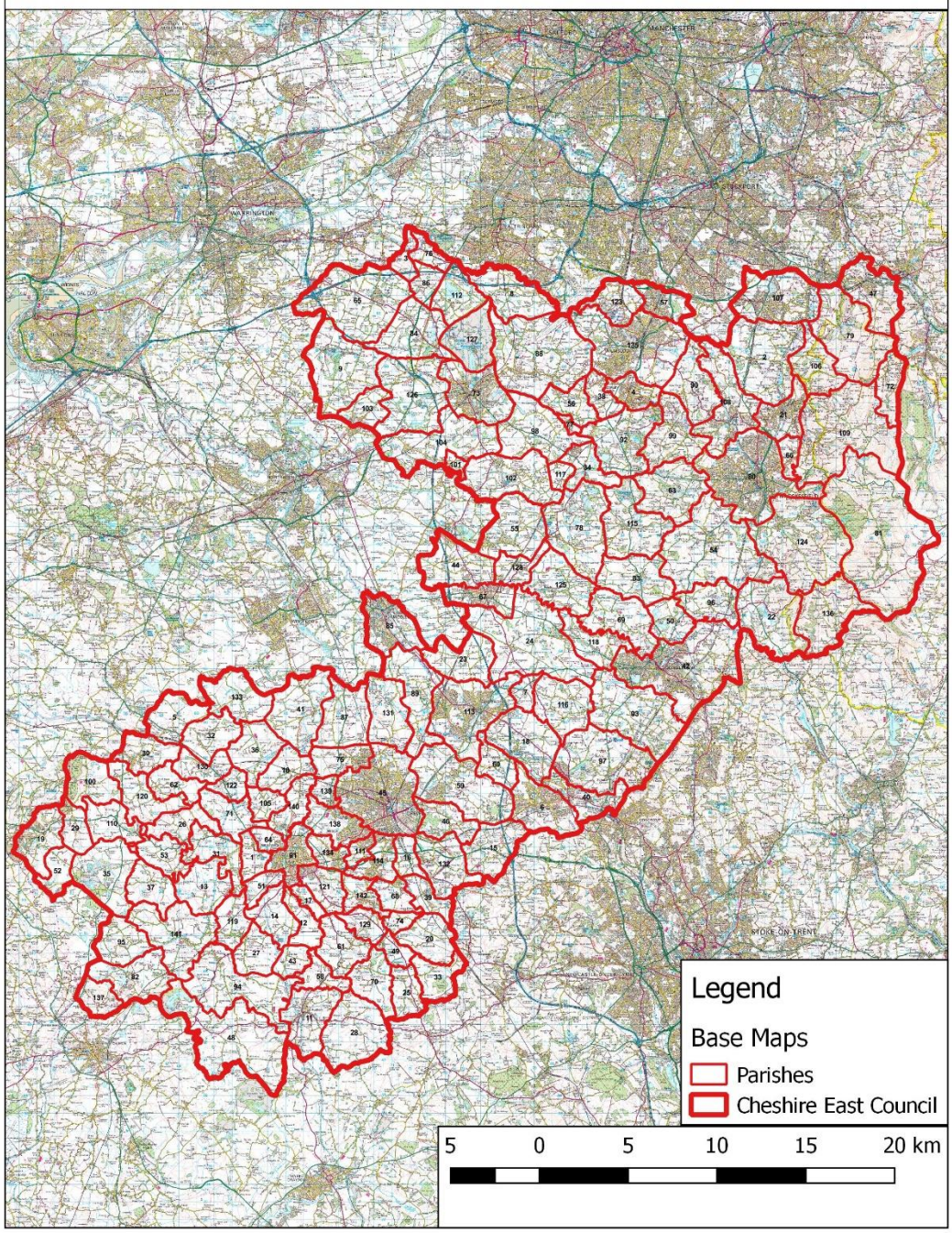
Map 1.1: Current boundaries of Cheshire East parishes

The ID numbers in this map correspond to those shown in Table 1.1 (following page): for example, the parish labelled as “1” is Acton.

Appendix 2

Cheshire East Parishes

Map produced by the Strategic Planning Team, Cheshire East Council. Version No. 1 (production date: 6/3/20).
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Appendix 2

Table 1.1: Lookup table of parish names

The ID numbers below correspond to those shown in Map 1.1 above: for example, the parish labelled as “1” in Map 1.1 is Acton.

No.	Name of current parish	Name of Parish Council or Parish Meeting this parish is currently within
1	Acton	Acton, Edleston & Henhull (Parish Group)
2	Adlington	Adlington
3	Agden	Agden (Parish Meeting)
4	Alderley Edge	Alderley Edge
5	Alpraham	Alpraham
6	Alsager	Alsager
7	Arclid	Arclid
8	Ashley	Ashley
9	Aston by Budworth	Aston by Budworth
10	Aston juxta Mondrum	Worleston & District (Parish Group)
11	Audlem	Audlem
12	Austerson	Sound & District (Parish Group)
13	Baddiley	Sound & District (Parish Group)
14	Baddington	Sound & District (Parish Group)
15	Barthomley	Barthomley
16	Basford	Weston & Basford (Parish Group)
17	Batherton	Stapeley & District (Parish Group)
18	Betchton	Betchton
19	Bickerton	Bickerton & Egerton (Parish Group)
20	Blakenhall	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
21	Bollington	Bollington
22	Bosley	Bosley
23	Bradwall	Bradwall
24	Brereton	Brereton
25	Bridgemere	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
26	Brindley	Brindley & Faddiley (Parish Group)
27	Broomhall	Sound & District (Parish Group)
28	Buerton	Buerton
29	Bulkeley	Bulkeley & Ridley (Parish Group)
30	Bunbury	Bunbury
31	Burland	Burland
32	Calveley	Calveley
33	Checkley cum Wrinehill	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
34	Chelford	Chelford
35	Cholmondeley	Cholmondeley & Chorley (Parish Group)
36	Cholmondeston	Cholmondeston & Wettenhall (Parish Group)
37	Chorley (near Wilmslow)	Chorley (near Wilmslow)
38	Chorley (near Wrenbury)	Cholmondeley & Chorley (Parish Group)
39	Chorlton	Hough & Chorlton (Parish Group)
40	Church Lawton	Church Lawton
41	Church Minshull	Church Minshull
42	Congleton	Congleton
43	Coole Pilate	Sound & District (Parish Group)
44	Cranage	Cranage

Appendix 2

No.	Name of current parish	Name of Parish Council or Parish Meeting this parish is currently within
45	Crewe	Crewe
46	Crewe Green	Crewe Green
47	Disley	Disley
48	Dodcott cum Wilkesley	Dodcott cum Wilkesley
49	Doddington	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
50	Eaton	Eaton
51	Edleston	Acton, Edleston & Henhull (Parish Group)
52	Egerton	Bickerton & Egerton (Parish Group)
53	Faddiley	Brindley & Faddiley (Parish Group)
54	Gawsworth	Gawsworth
55	Goostrey	Goostrey
56	Great Warford	Great Warford
57	Handforth	Handforth
58	Hankelow	Hankelow
59	Haslington	Haslington
60	Hassall	Hassall
61	Hatherton	Hatherton & Walgherton (Parish Group)
62	Haughton	Haughton (Parish Meeting)
63	Henbury	Henbury
64	Henhull	Acton, Edleston & Henhull (Parish Group)
65	High Legh	High Legh
66	Higher Hurdsfield	Higher Hurdsfield
67	Holmes Chapel	Holmes Chapel
68	Hough	Hough & Chorlton (Parish Group)
69	Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths	Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths
70	Hunsterson	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
71	Hurleston	Stoke & Hurleston (Parish Group)
72	Kettleshulme	Kettleshulme
73	Knutsford	Knutsford
74	Lea	Doddington & District (Parish Group)
75	Leighton	Minshull Vernon & District (Parish Group)
76	Little Bollington	Little Bollington (Parish Meeting)
77	Little Warford	Little Warford
78	Lower Withington	Lower Withington
79	Lyme Handley	Lyme Handley
80	Macclesfield	Macclesfield
81	Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough	Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough (Parish Meeting)
82	Marbury cum Quoisley	Marbury & District (Parish Group)
83	Marton	Marton
84	Mere	Mere
85	Middlewich	Middlewich
86	Millington	Millington
87	Minshull Vernon	Minshull Vernon & District (Parish Group)
88	Mobberley	Mobberley
89	Moston	Moston
90	Mottram St Andrew	Mottram St Andrew
91	Nantwich	Nantwich

Appendix 2

No.	Name of current parish	Name of Parish Council or Parish Meeting this parish is currently within
92	Nether Alderley	Nether Alderley
93	Newbold Astbury cum Moreton	Newbold Astbury cum Moreton
94	Newhall	Newhall
95	Norbury	Marbury & District (Parish Group)
96	North Rode	North Rode
97	Odd Rode	Odd Rode
98	Ollerton with Marthall	Ollerton with Marthall
99	Over Alderley	Over Alderley
100	Peckforton	Peckforton (Parish Meeting)
101	Peover Inferior	Lower Peover (Parish Group)
102	Peover Superior	Peover Superior
103	Pickmere	Pickmere
104	Plumley with Toft & Bexton	Plumley with Toft & Bexton
105	Poole	Worleston & District (Parish Group)
106	Pott Shrigley	Pott Shrigley
107	Poynton	Poynton
108	Prestbury	Prestbury
109	Rainow	Rainow
110	Ridley	Bulkeley & Ridley (Parish Group)
111	Rope	Rope
112	Rostherne	Rostherne
113	Sandbach	Sandbach
114	Shavington cum Gresty	Shavington cum Gresty
115	Siddington	Siddington
116	Smallwood	Smallwood
117	Snelson	Snelson
118	Somerford	Somerford
119	Sound	Sound & District (Parish Group)
120	Spurstow	Spurstow
121	Stapeley	Stapeley & District (Parish Group)
122	Stoke	Stoke & Hurleston (Parish Group)
123	Styal	Styal
124	Sutton	Sutton
125	Swettenham	Swettenham
126	Tabley	Tabley
127	Tatton	Tatton (Parish Meeting)
128	Twemlow	Twemlow
129	Walgherton	Hatherton & Walgherton (Parish Group)
130	Wardle	Wardle
131	Warmingham	Warmingham
132	Weston	Weston & Basford (Parish Group)
133	Wettenhall	Cholmondeston & Wettenhall (Parish Group)
134	Willaston	Willaston
135	Wilmslow	Wilmslow
136	Wincle	Wincle (Parish Meeting)
137	Wirswall	Marbury & District (Parish Group)
138	Wistaston	Wistaston
139	Woolstanwood	Minshull Vernon & District (Parish Group)
140	Worleston	Worleston & District (Parish Group)

Appendix 2

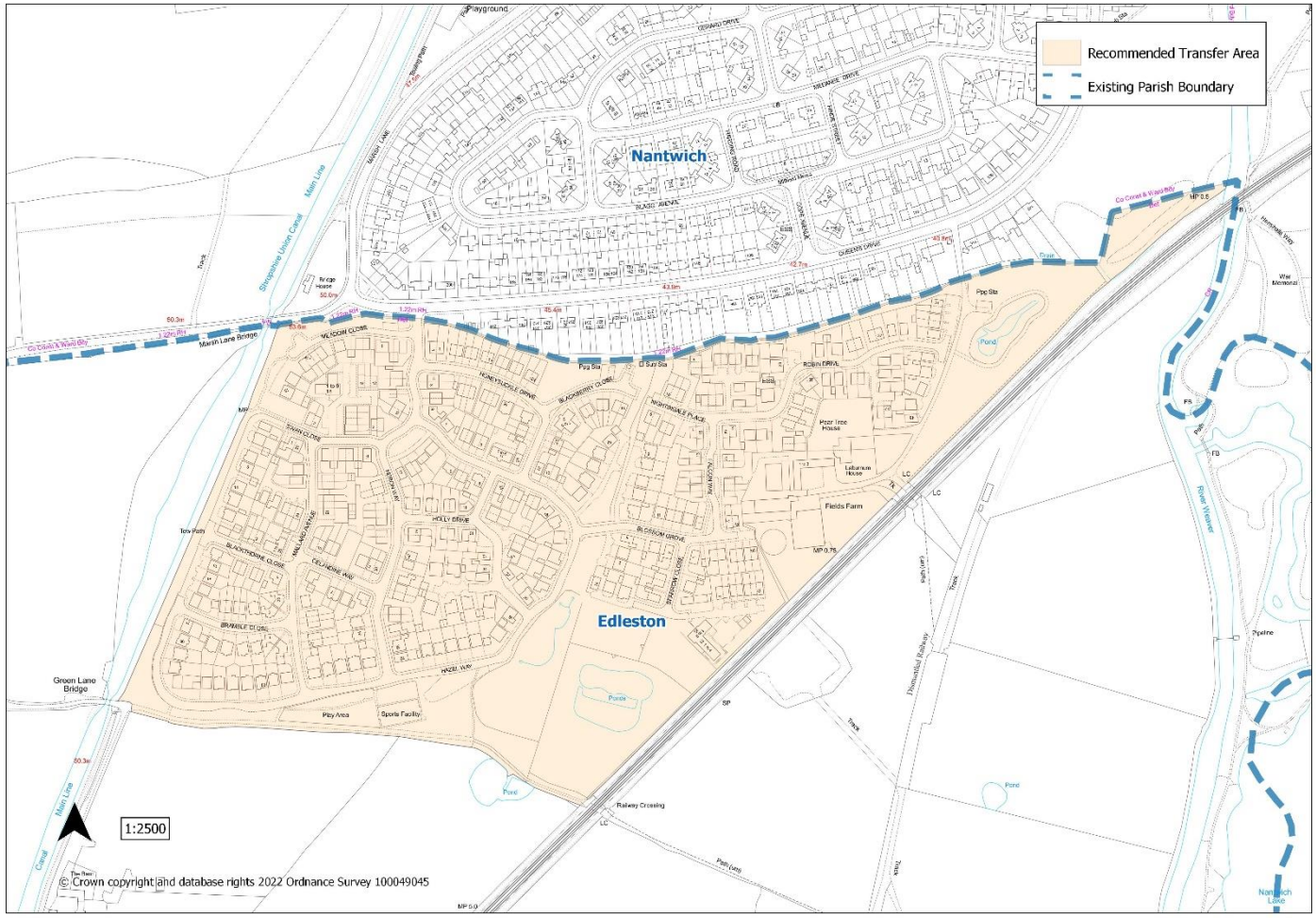
141	Wrenbury cum Frith	Wrenbury cum Frith
142	Wybunbury	Wybunbury

Section 2: Final Recommendations boundary changes

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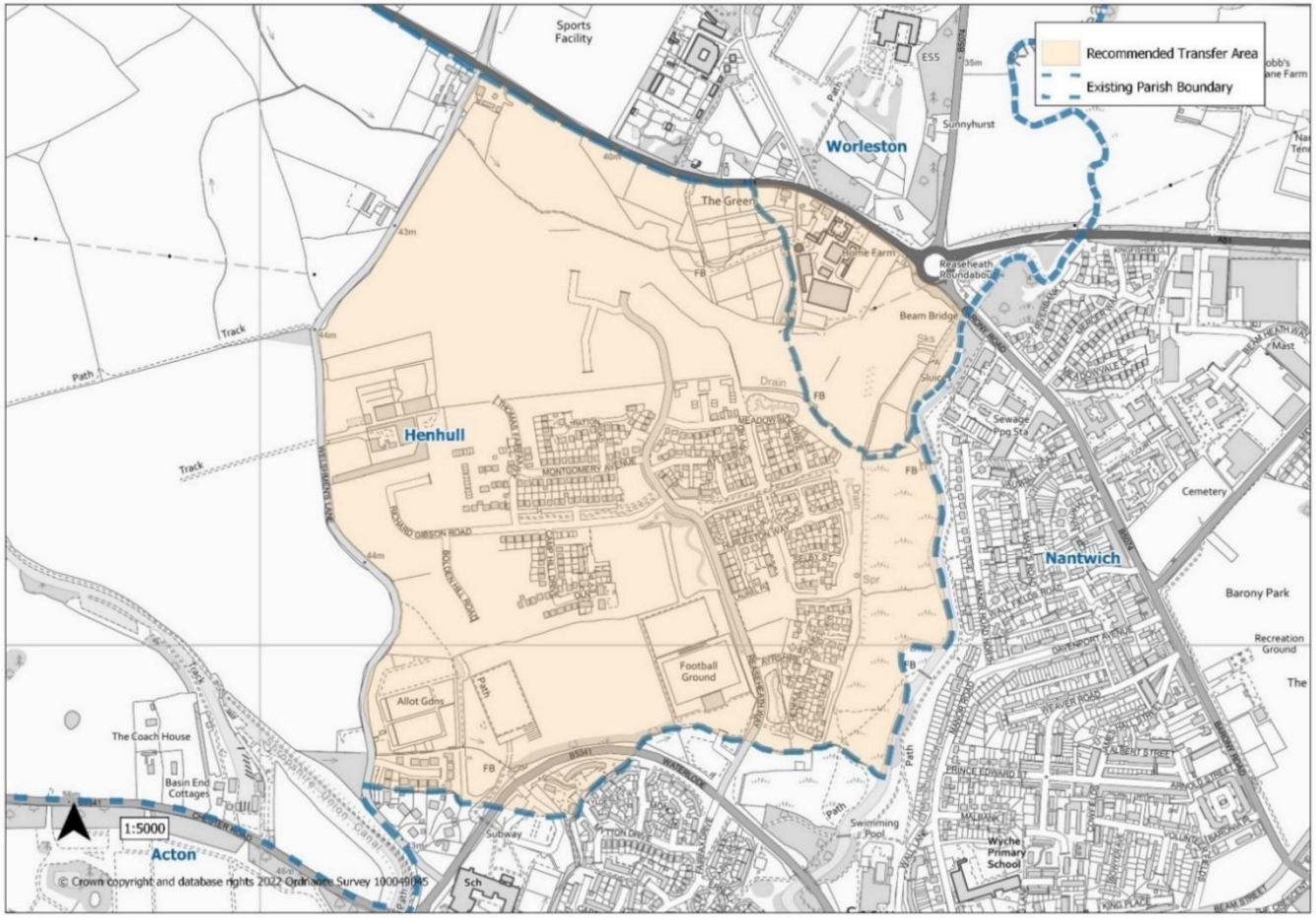
Map 2.1a: Parish boundary change - transfer from Edleston to Nantwich

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Edleston (the Malbank Waters estate area) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Nantwich.



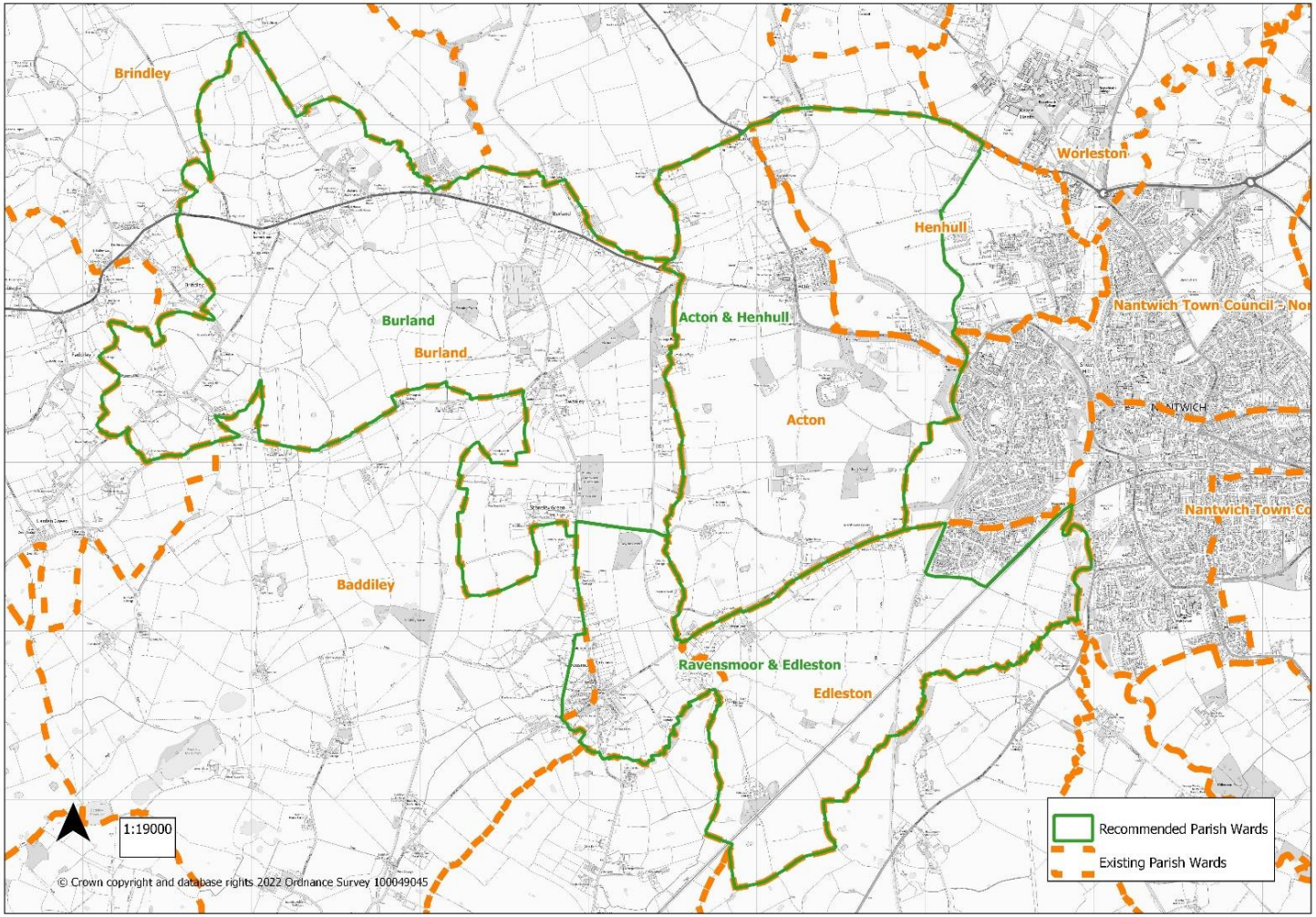
Map 2.1b: Parish boundary change - transfers from Henhull to Nantwich, and from Worleston to Nantwich

The cream-coloured shaded areas show the area of the parish of Henhull (the area east of Welshmen's Lane), and the area of the parish of Worleston (the area south of the A51), that are recommended for transfer to the parish of Nantwich.



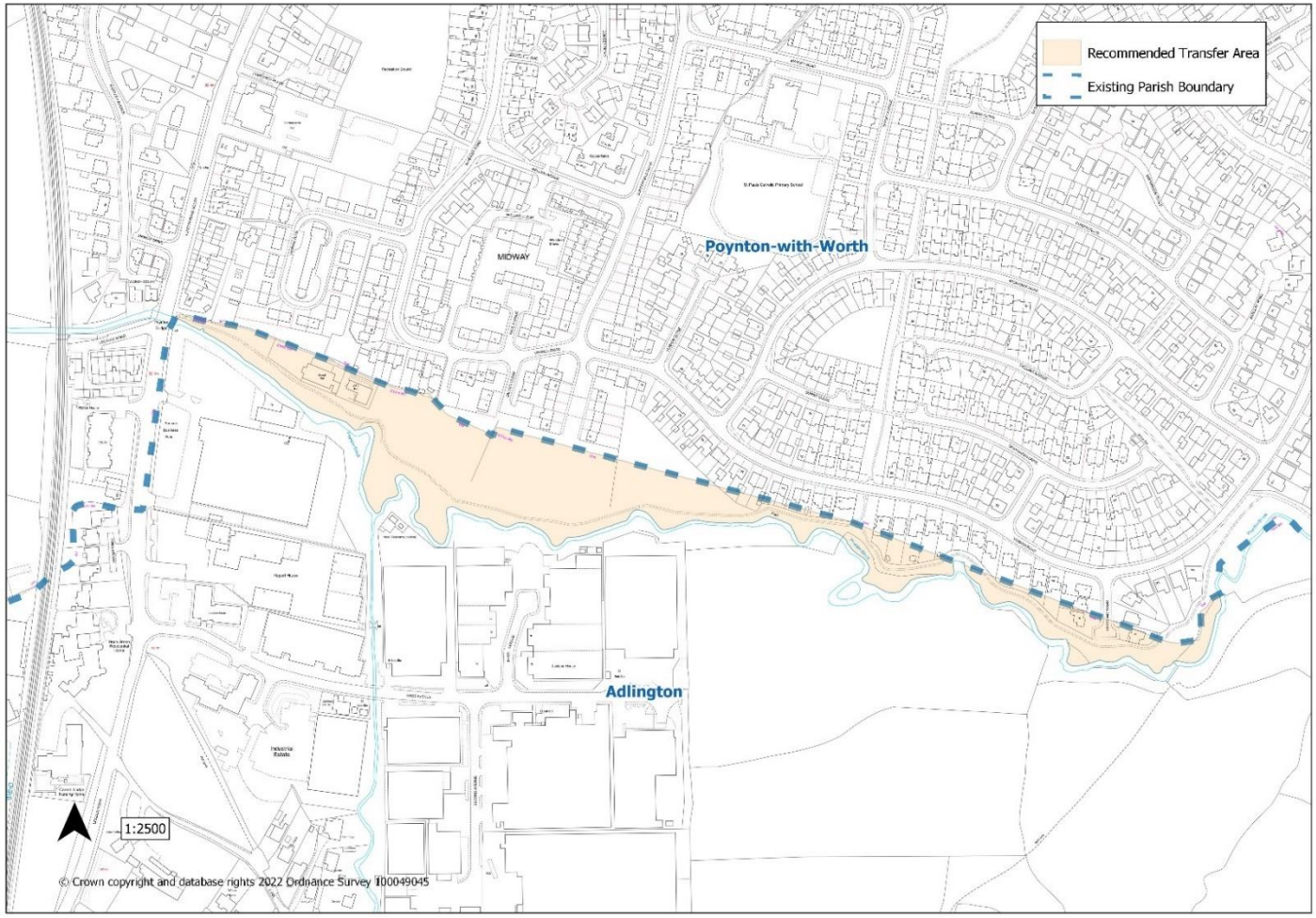
Map 2.1c: Warding for Burland & Acton Parish Council

The green lines and labels show the recommended parish ward boundaries and names for this new Council.



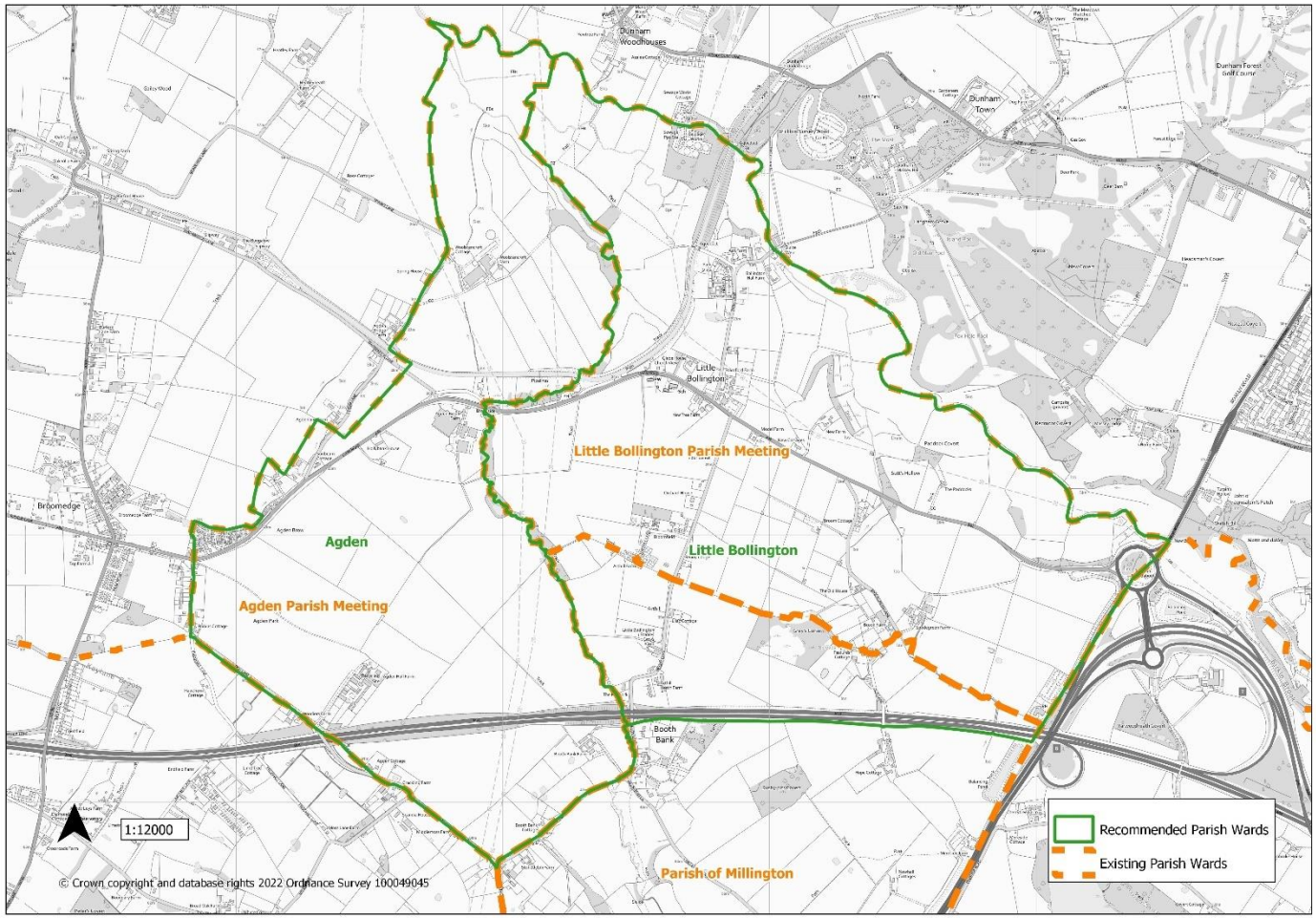
Map 2.2: Parish boundary change - transfer from Adlington to Poynton

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Adlington (the area north of Poynton Brook) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Poynton.



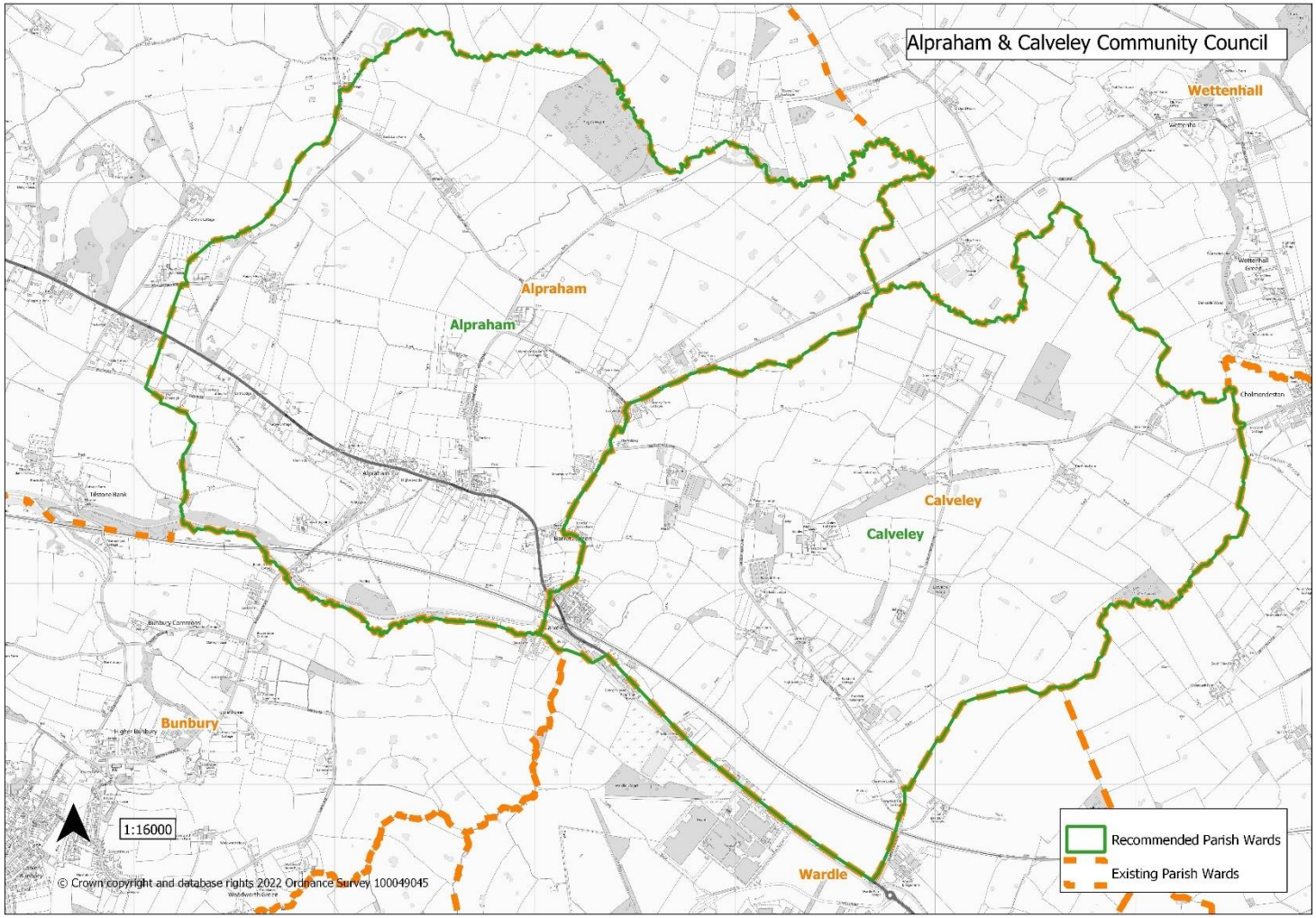
Map 2.3: Warding for Little Bollington with Agden Community Council

The green lines and labels show the recommended parish ward boundaries and names for this new Council.



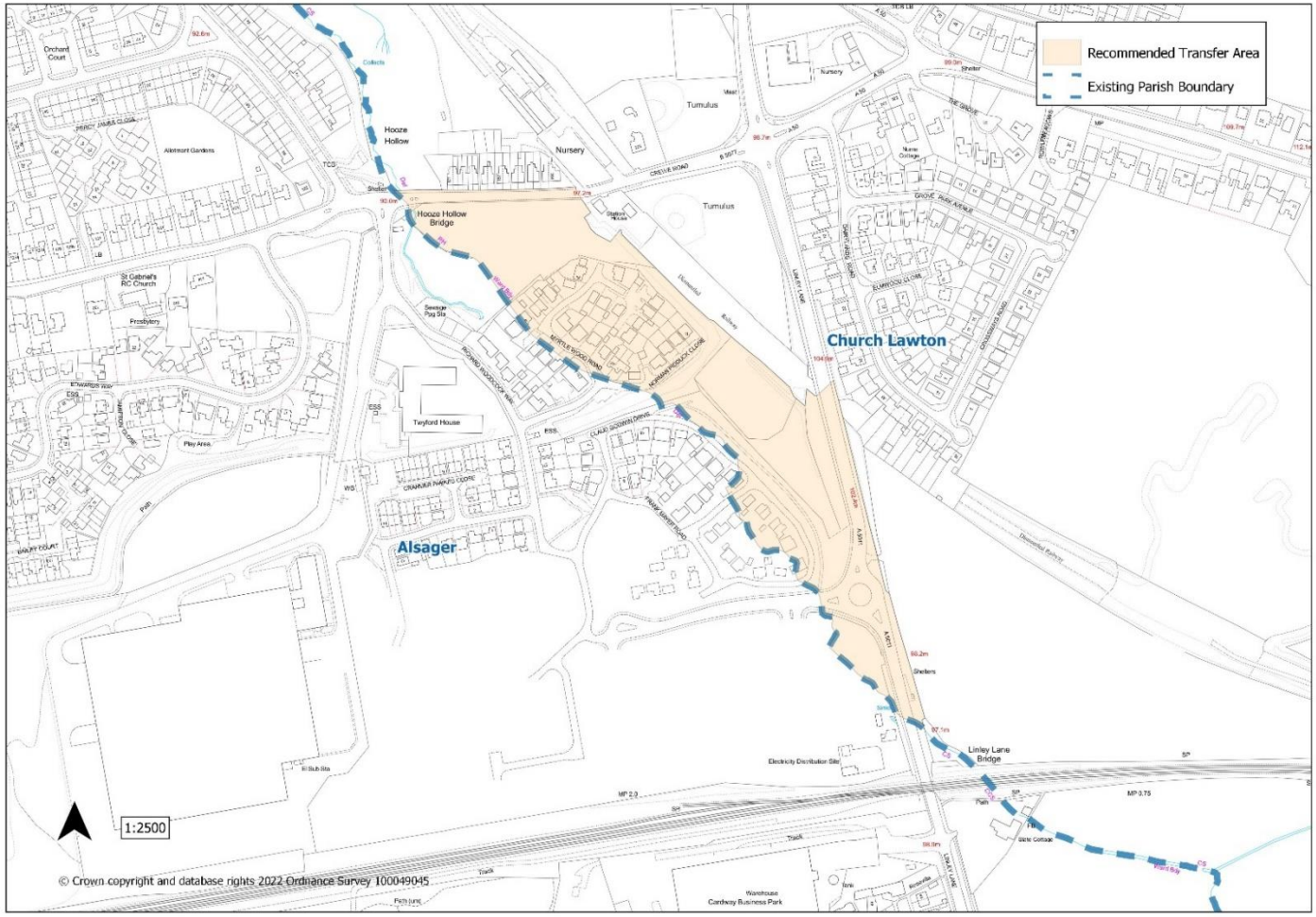
Map 2.4: Warding for Alpraham & Calveley Community Council

The green lines and labels show the recommended parish ward boundaries and names for this new Council.



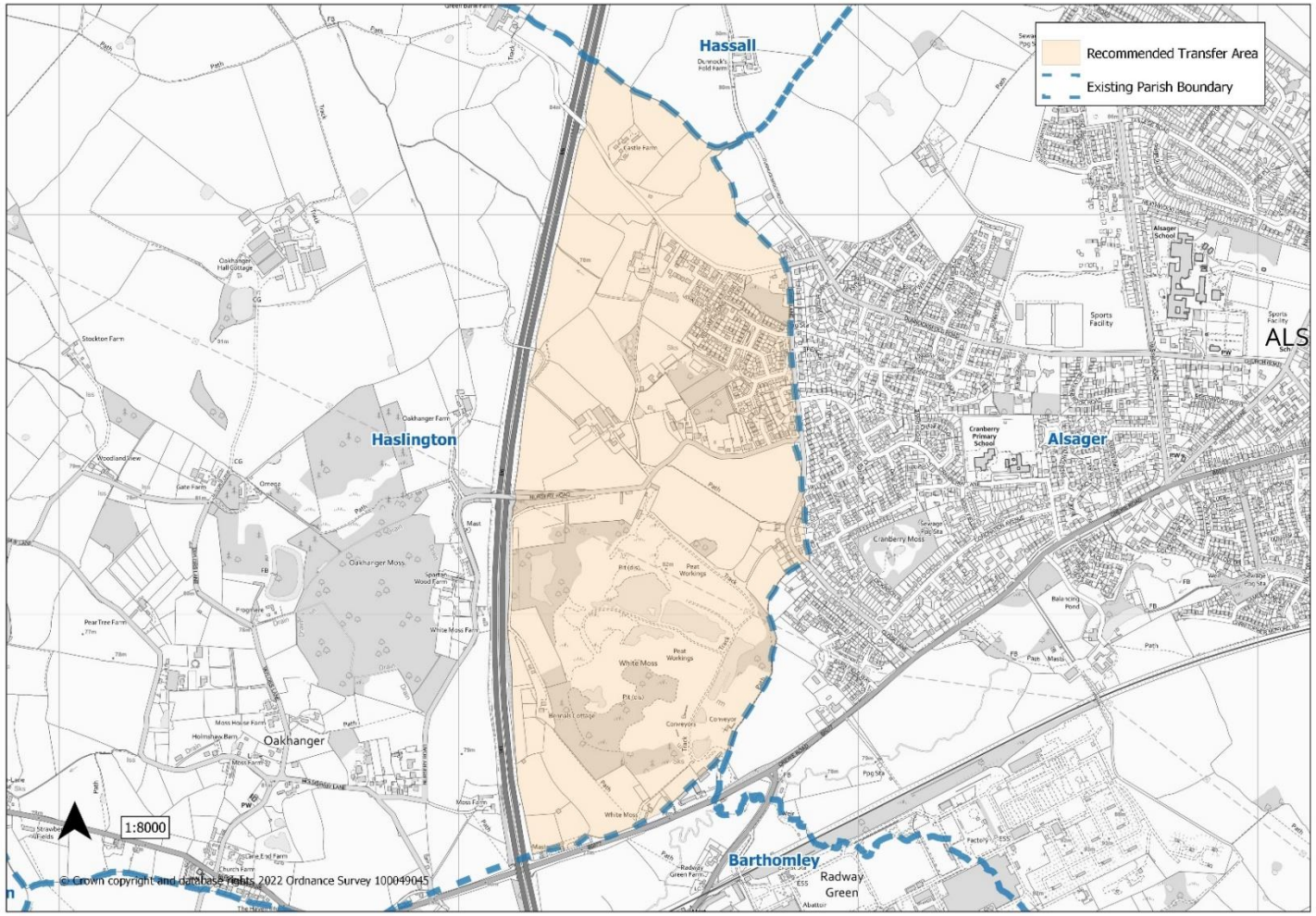
Map 2.5a: Parish boundary change - transfer from Church Lawton to Alsager

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Church Lawton (the Twyford estate area) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Alsager.



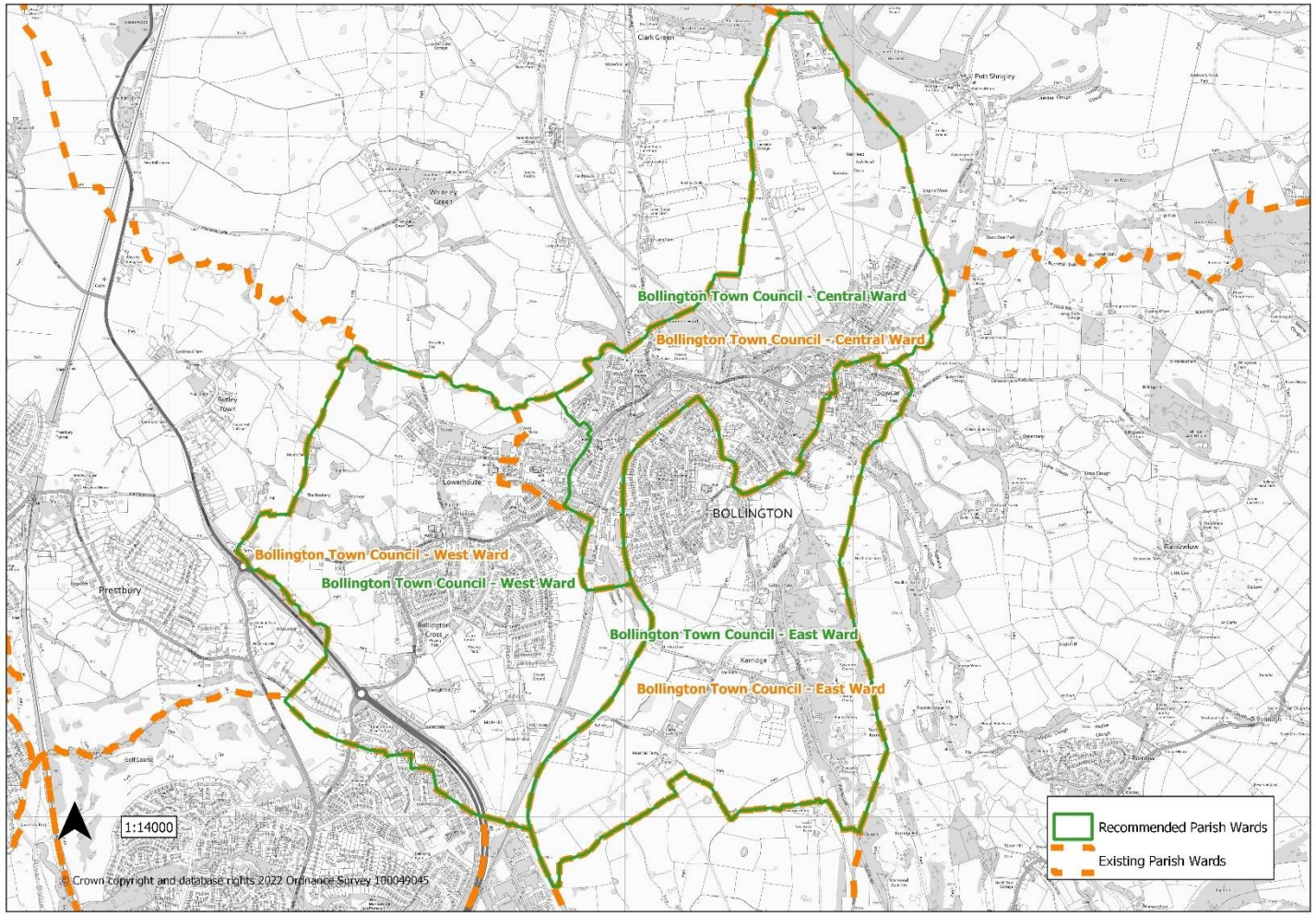
Map 2.5b: Parish boundary change - transfer from Haslington to Alsager

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Haslington (the area east of the M6) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Alsager.



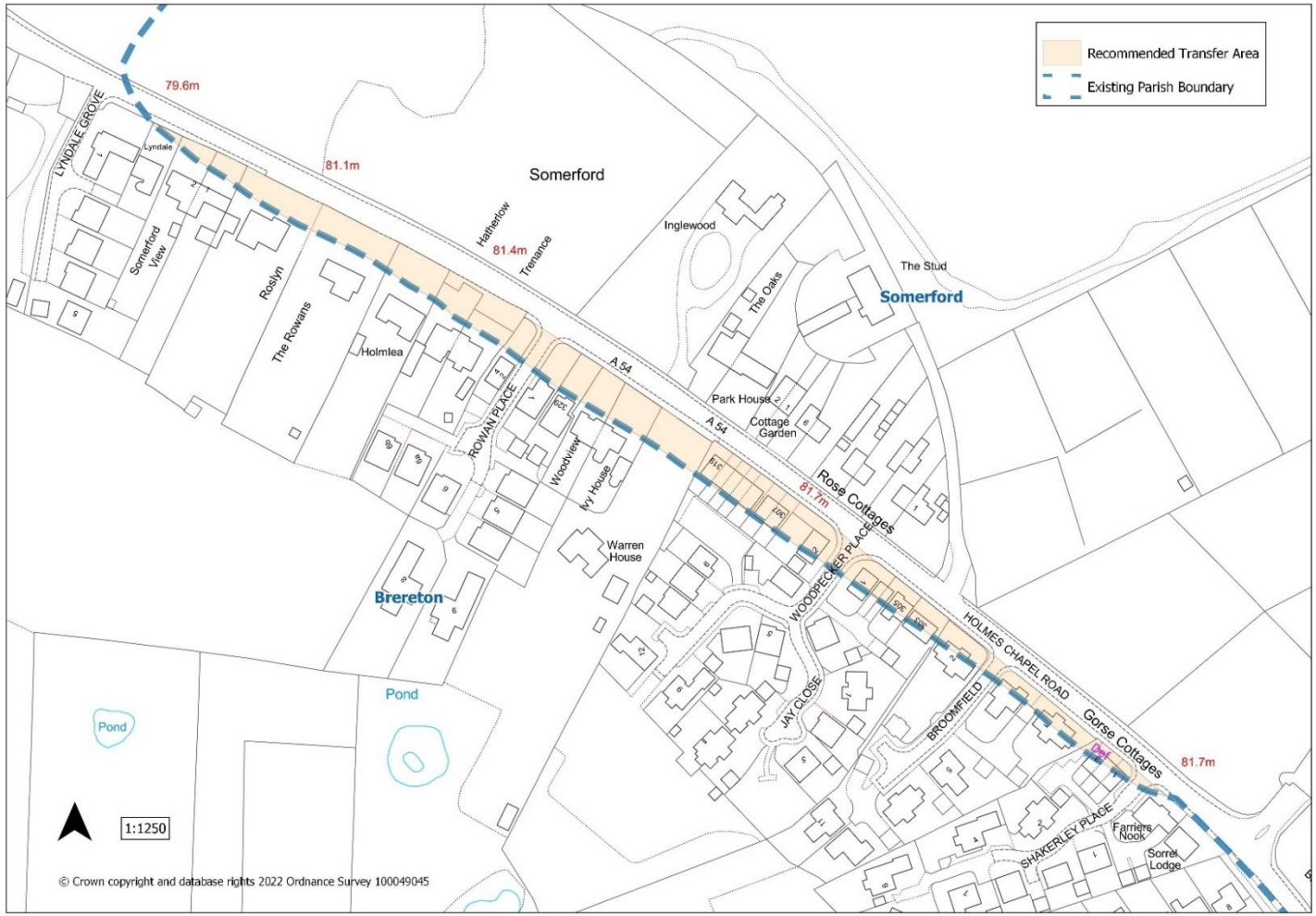
Map 2.6: Warding for Bollington Town Council

The green lines show the recommended new boundaries for Bollington Town Council's wards (but the ward names would remain unchanged).



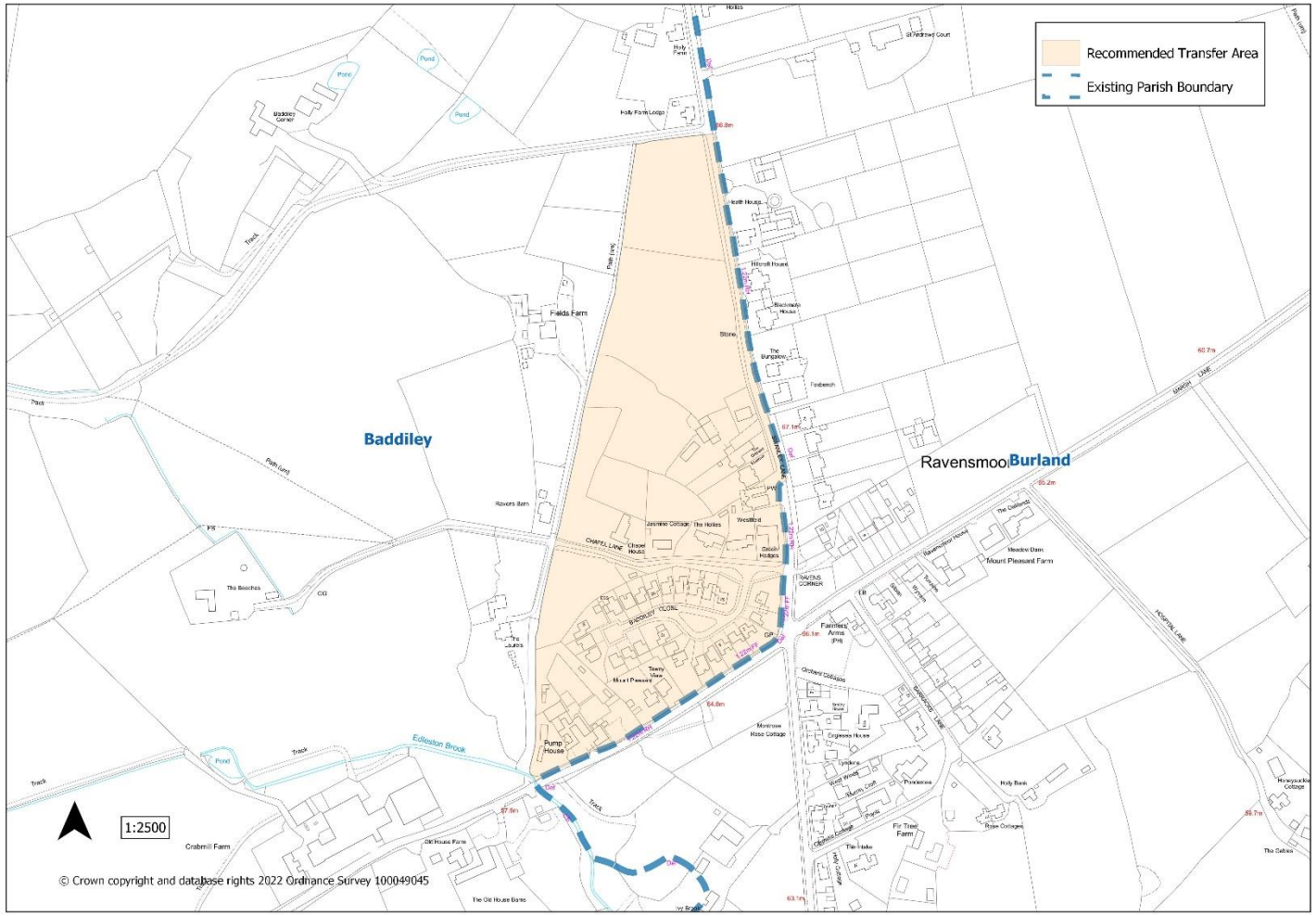
Map 2.7: Parish boundary change - transfer from Somerford to Brereton

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Somerford (the area west of the A54, from Lyndale Grove to Shakerley Place) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Brereton.



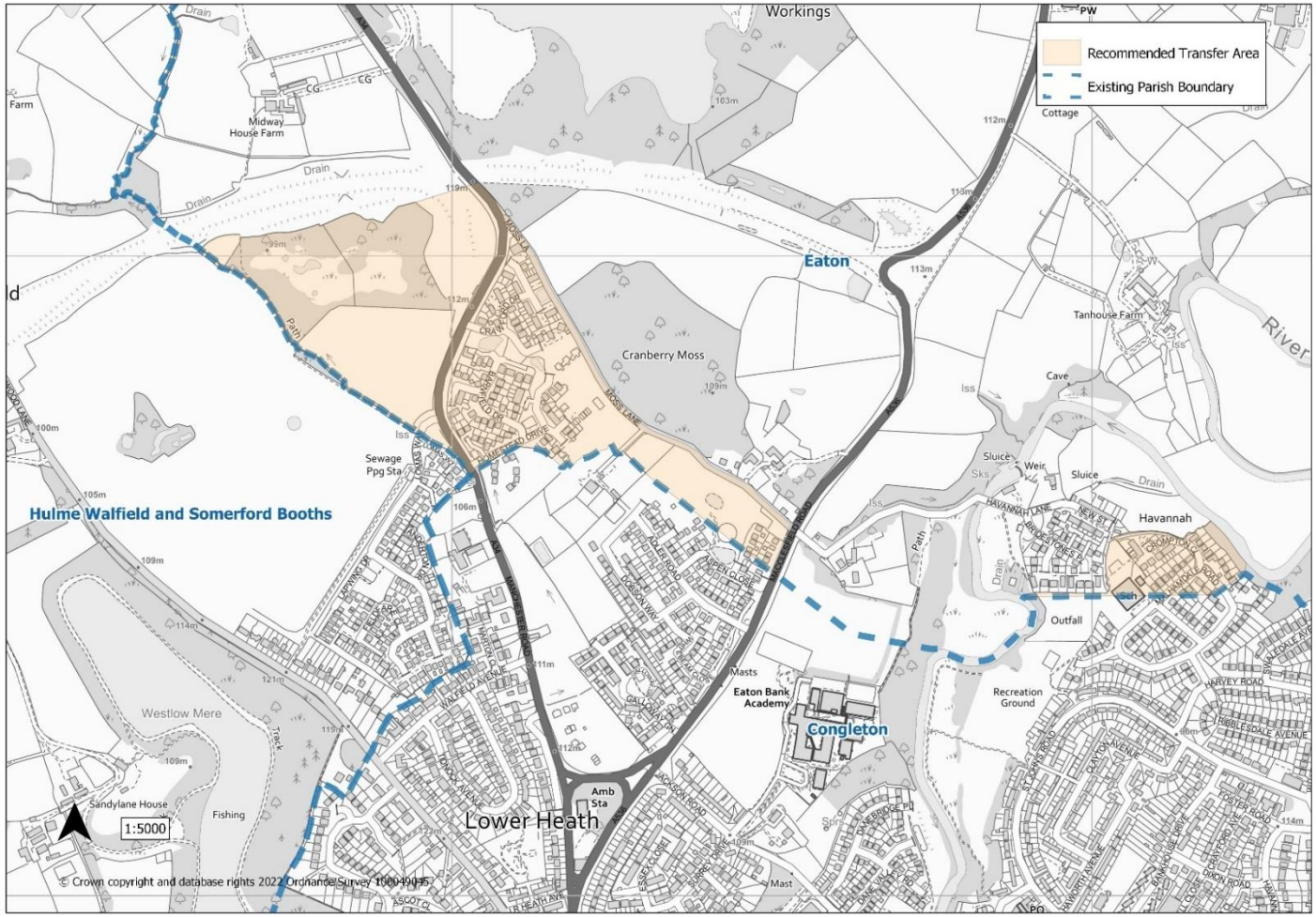
Map 2.8: Parish boundary change - transfer from Baddiley to Burland

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Baddiley (Ravensmoor) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Burland (both the transfer area and Burland would be part of the new Burland & Acton Parish Council shown in Map 2.1c).



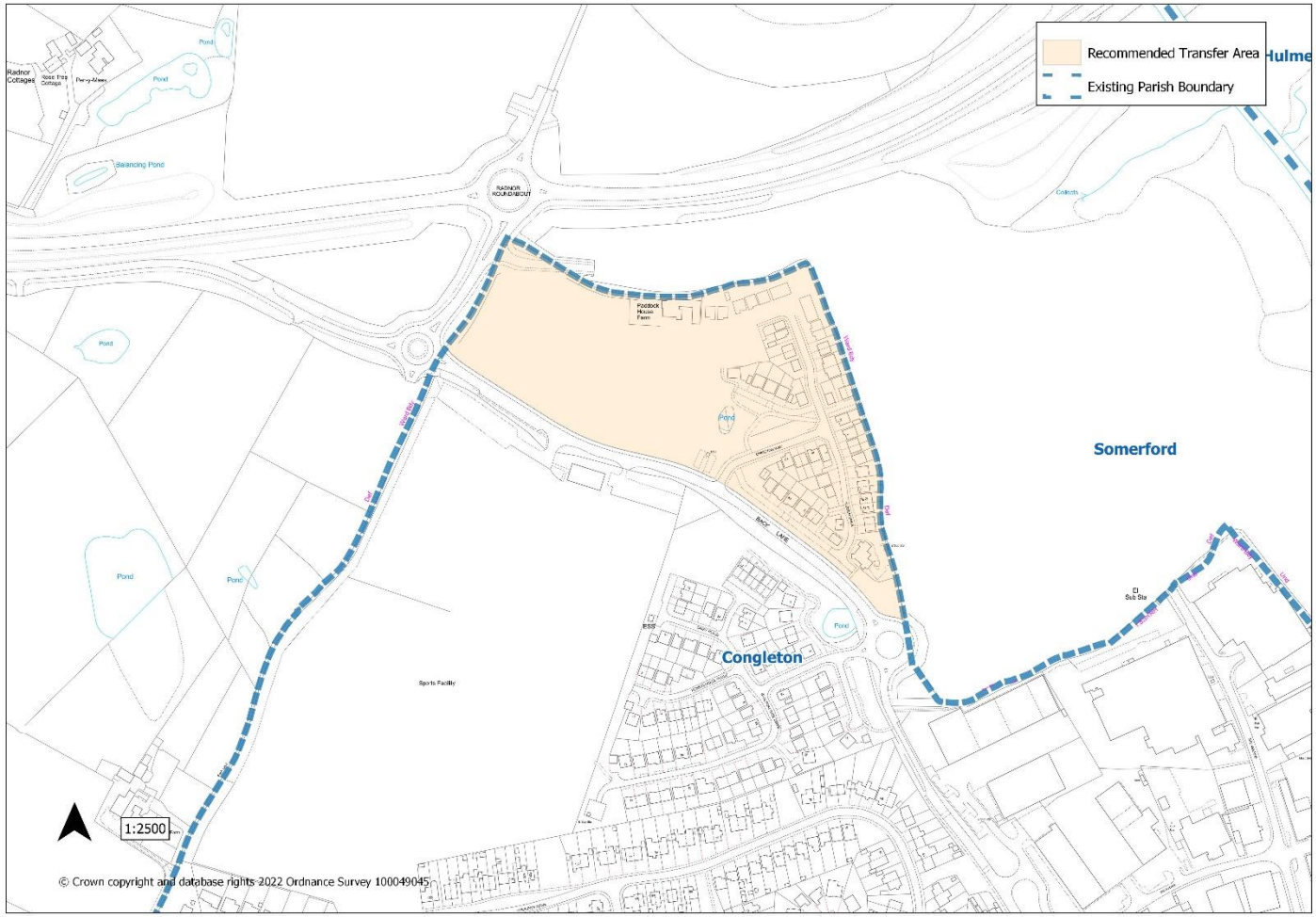
Map 2.9a: Parish boundary change - transfers from Eaton to Congleton

The two cream-coloured shaded areas show the areas of the parish of Eaton (the area south of Moss Lane and the Malhamdale Road/ Crompton Close area) that are recommended for transfer to the parish of Congleton.



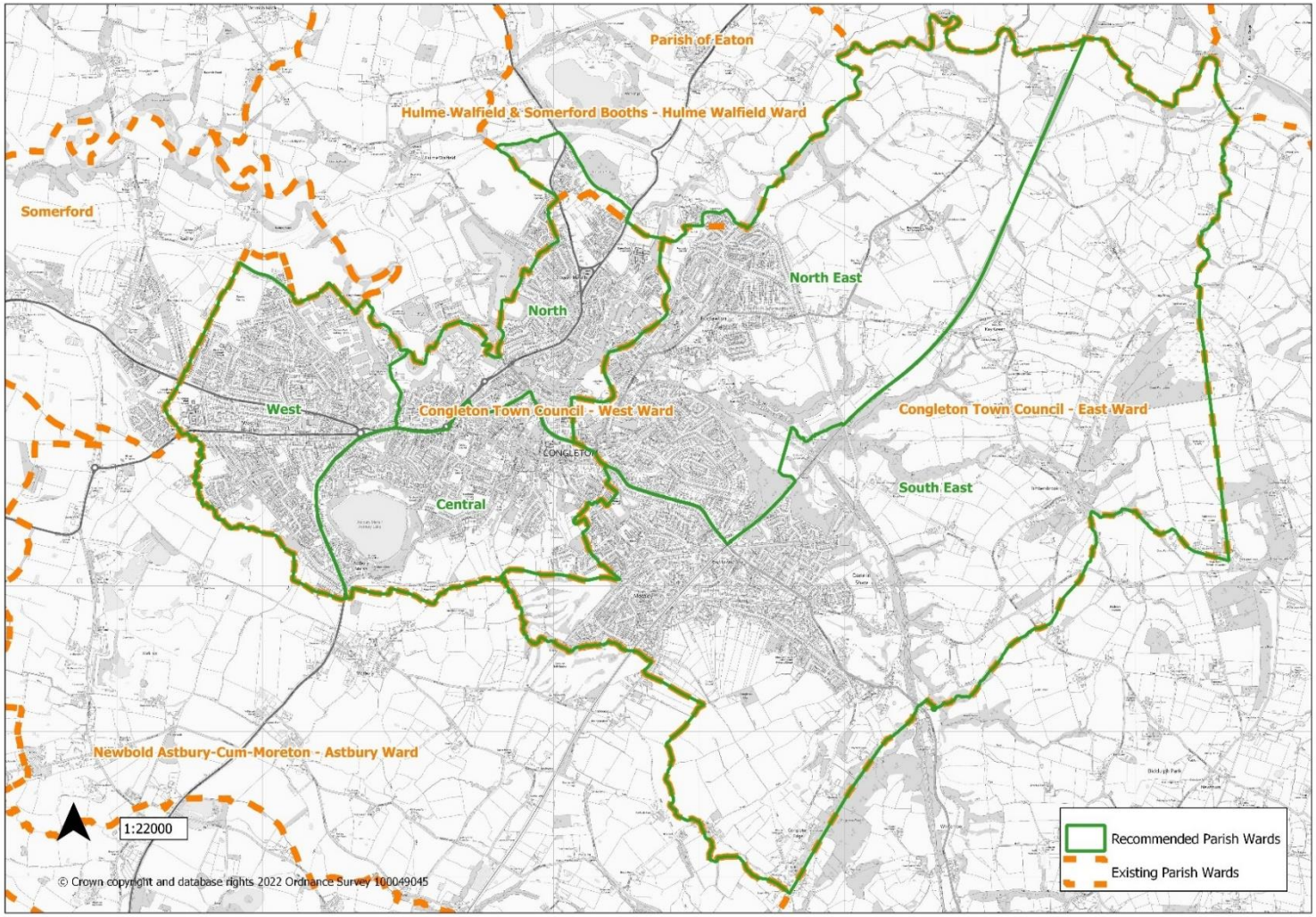
Map 2.9b: Parish boundary change - transfer from Congleton to Somerford

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Congleton (the Turnstone Grange estate area north of Back Lane) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Somerford.



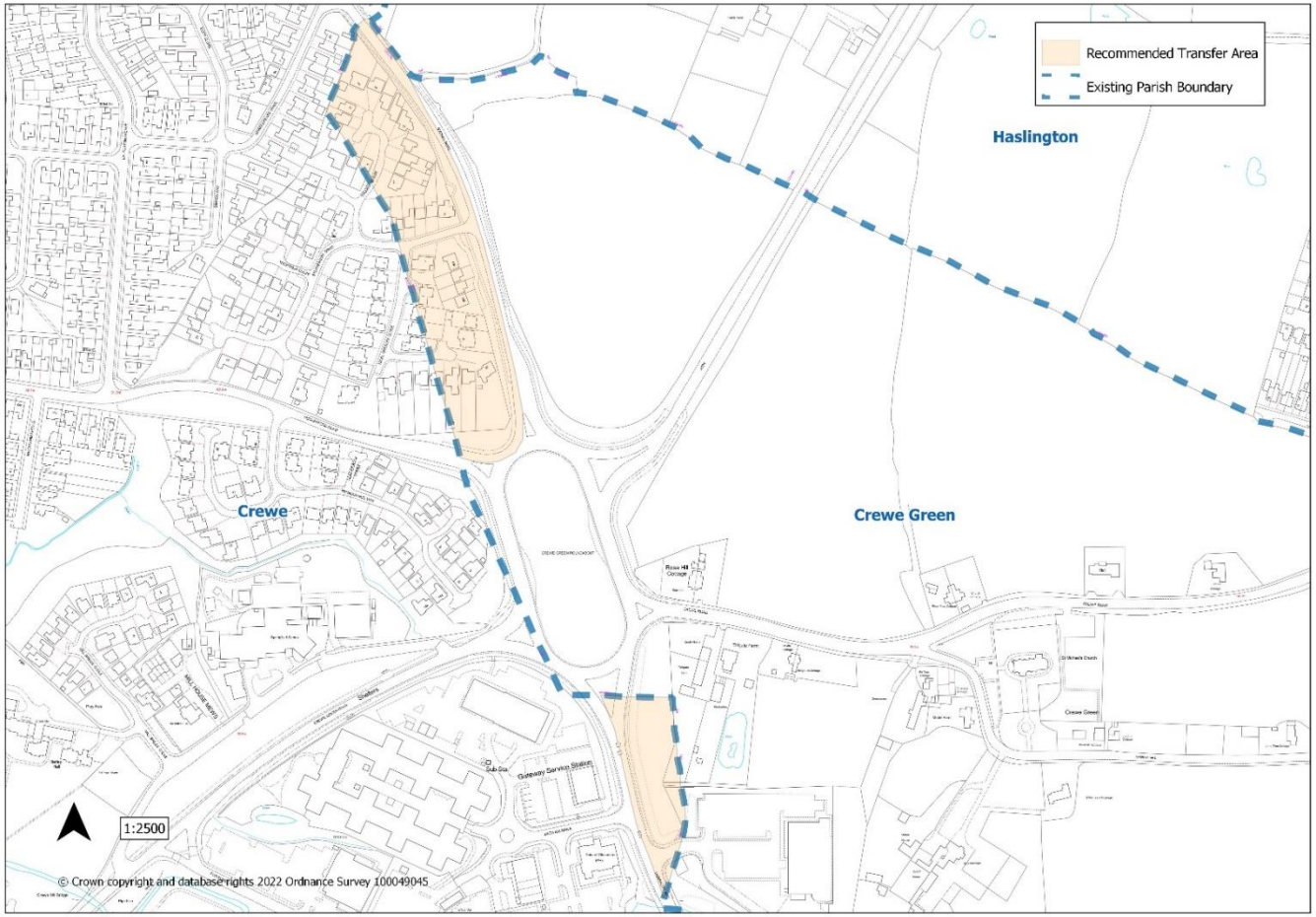
Map 2.9c: Warding for Congleton Town Council

The green lines and labels show the recommended new parish ward boundaries and names for Congleton Town Council.



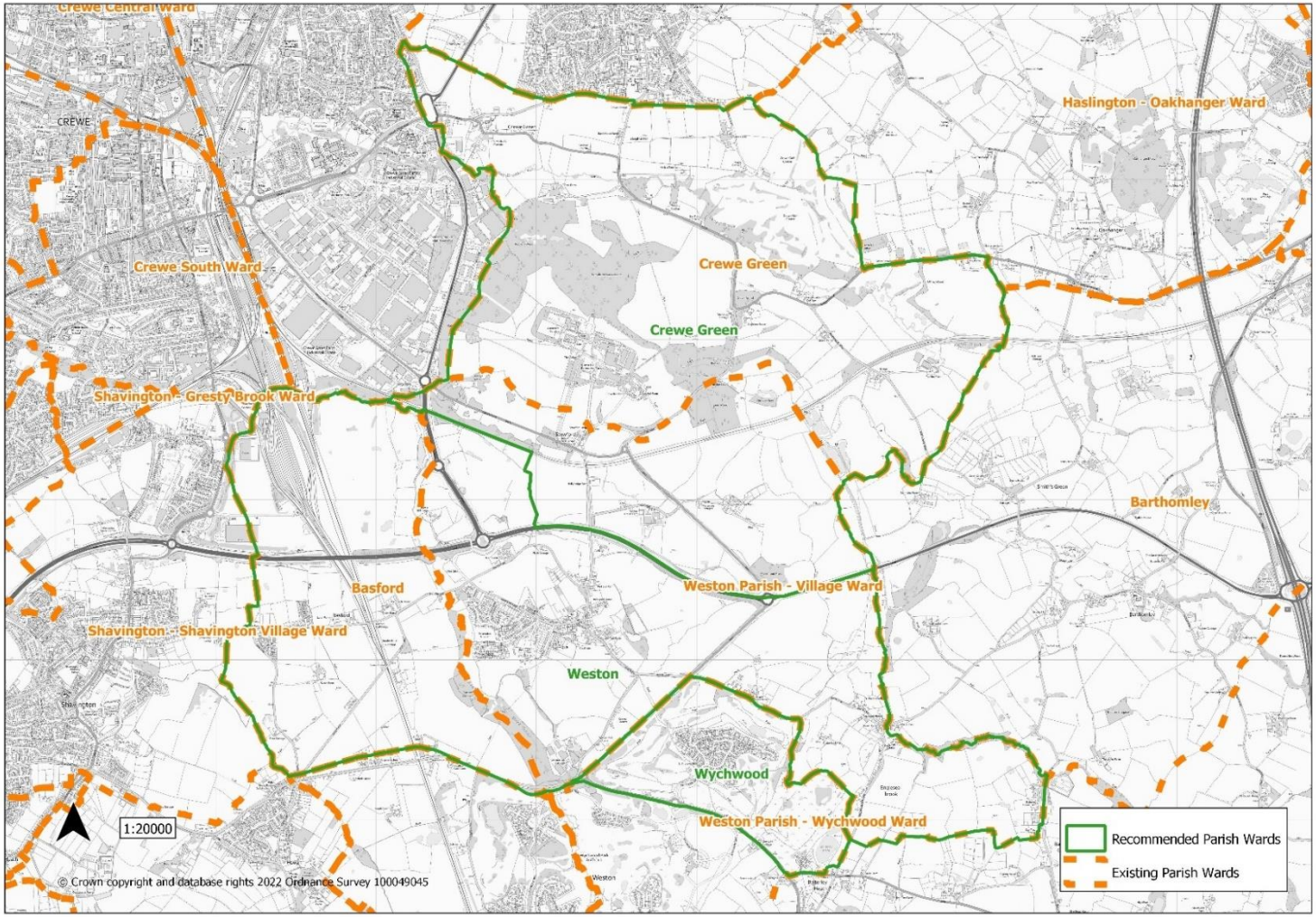
Map 2.10: Parish boundary change - transfers between Crewe and Crewe Green

The upper of the two cream-coloured shaded areas shows the area of the parish of Crewe Green (the Stephenson Drive area) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Crewe. The other shaded area shows the area of Crewe (south of Crewe Green Roundabout) that is recommended for transfer to Crewe Green.



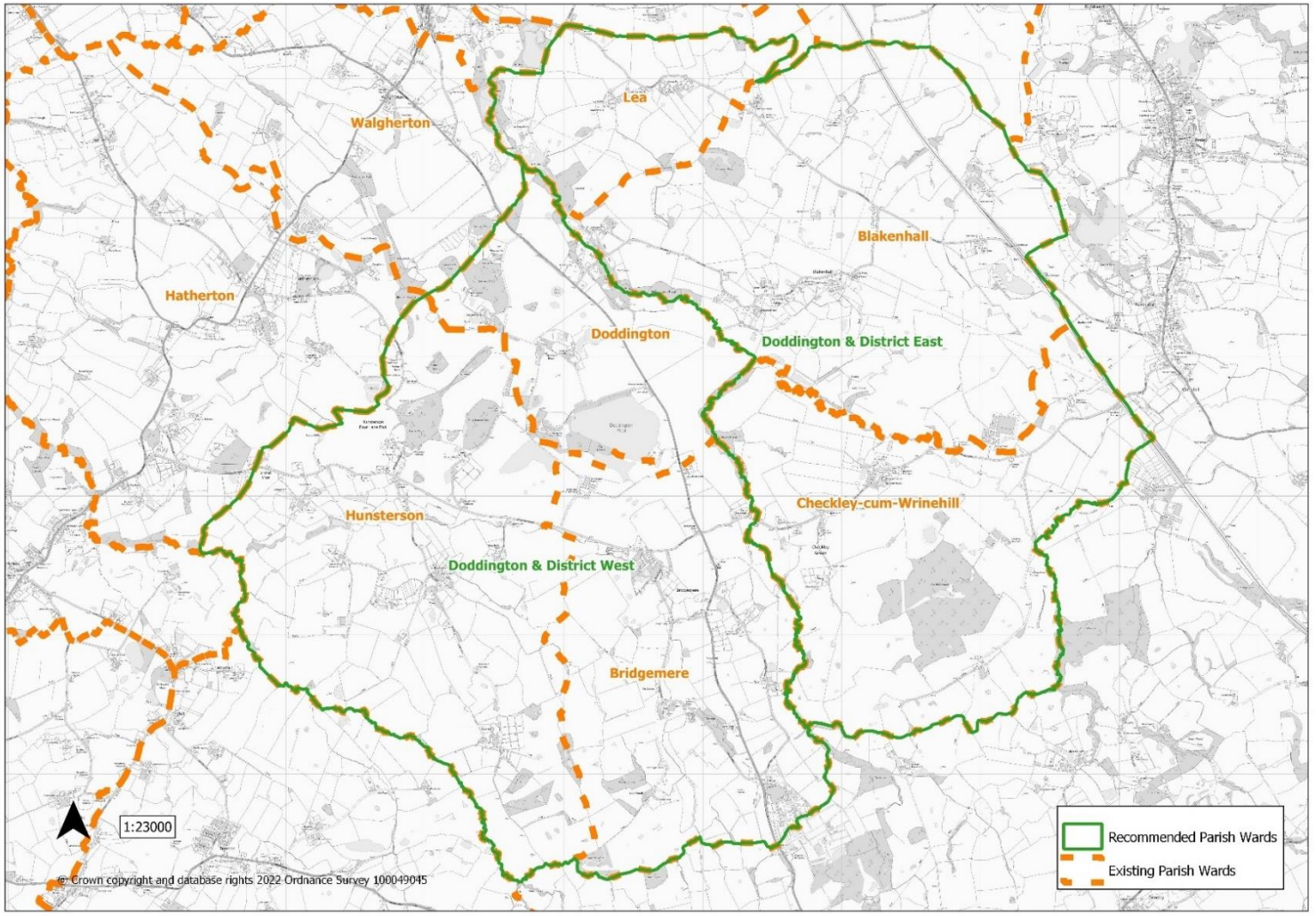
Map 2.11: Warding for Weston & Crewe Green Community Council

The green lines and labels show the recommended parish ward boundaries and names for this new Council.



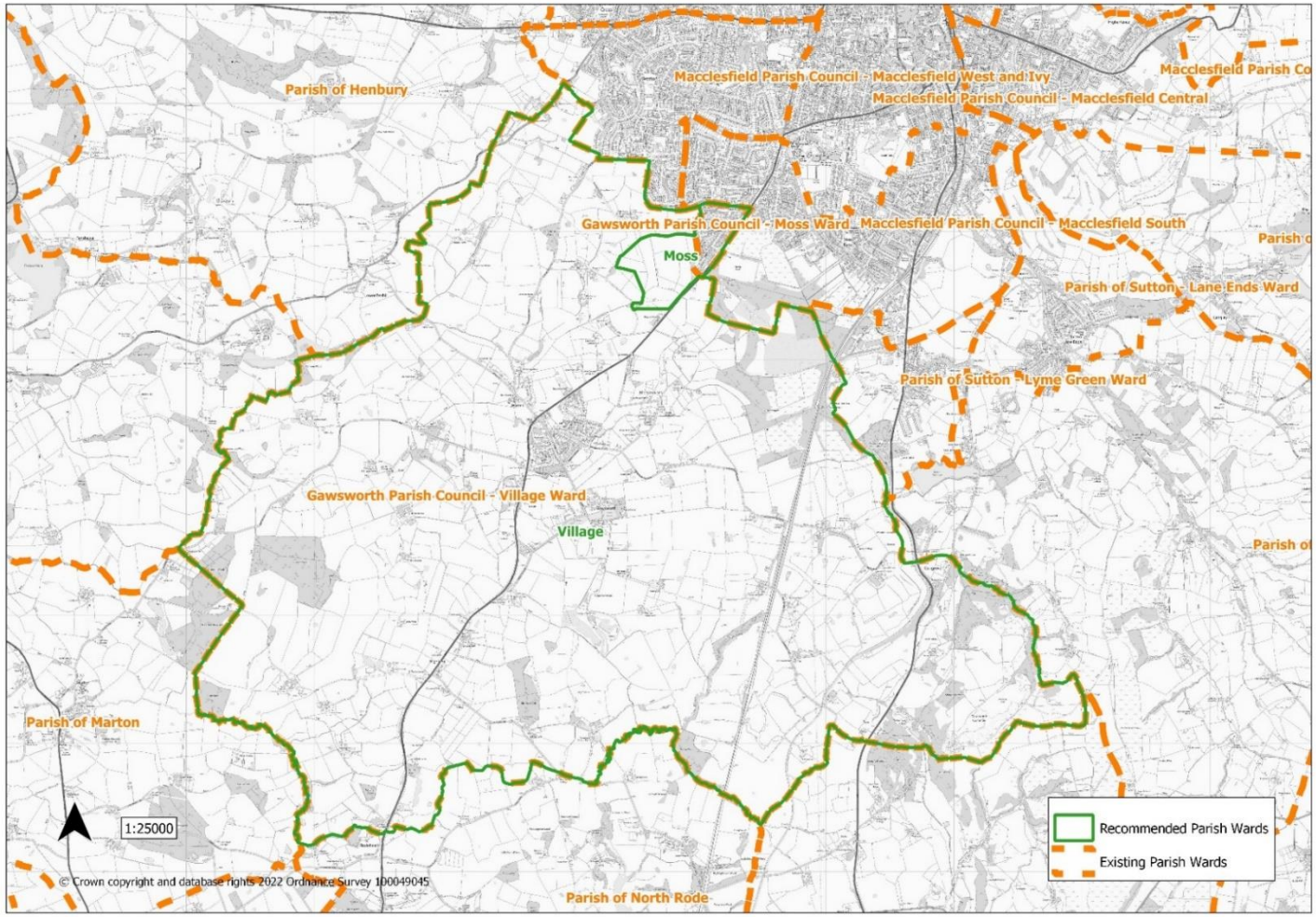
Map 2.12: Warding for Doddington & District Parish Council

The green lines and labels show the recommended parish ward boundaries and names for this new Council.



Map 2.13: Warding for Gawsworth Parish Council

The green lines show the recommended new boundaries for Gawsworth Parish Council's wards (which would retain their existing names).



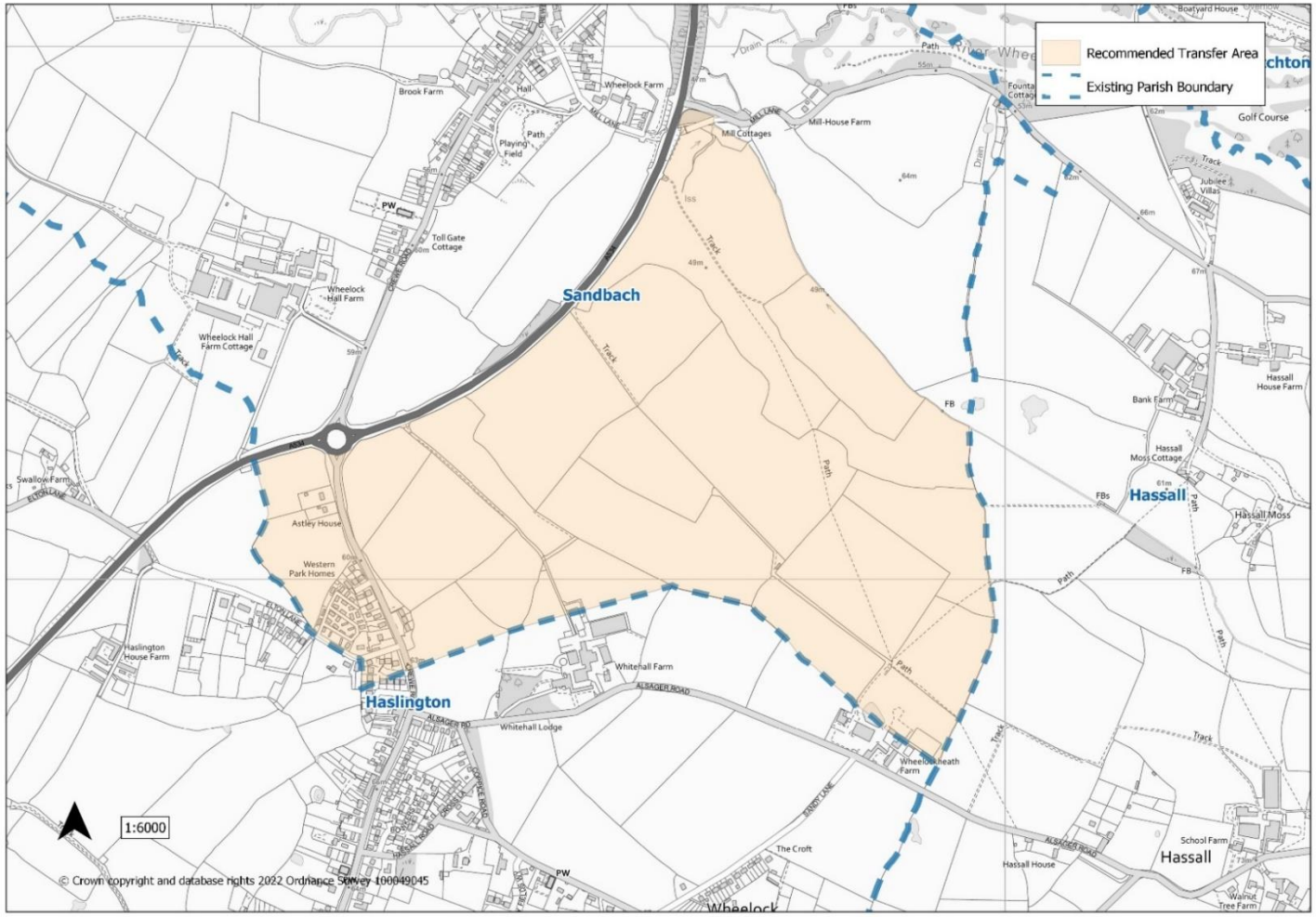
Map 2.14: Parish boundary change - transfer from Styal to Handforth

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Styal (the area between Clay Lane and Sagars Road) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Handforth.



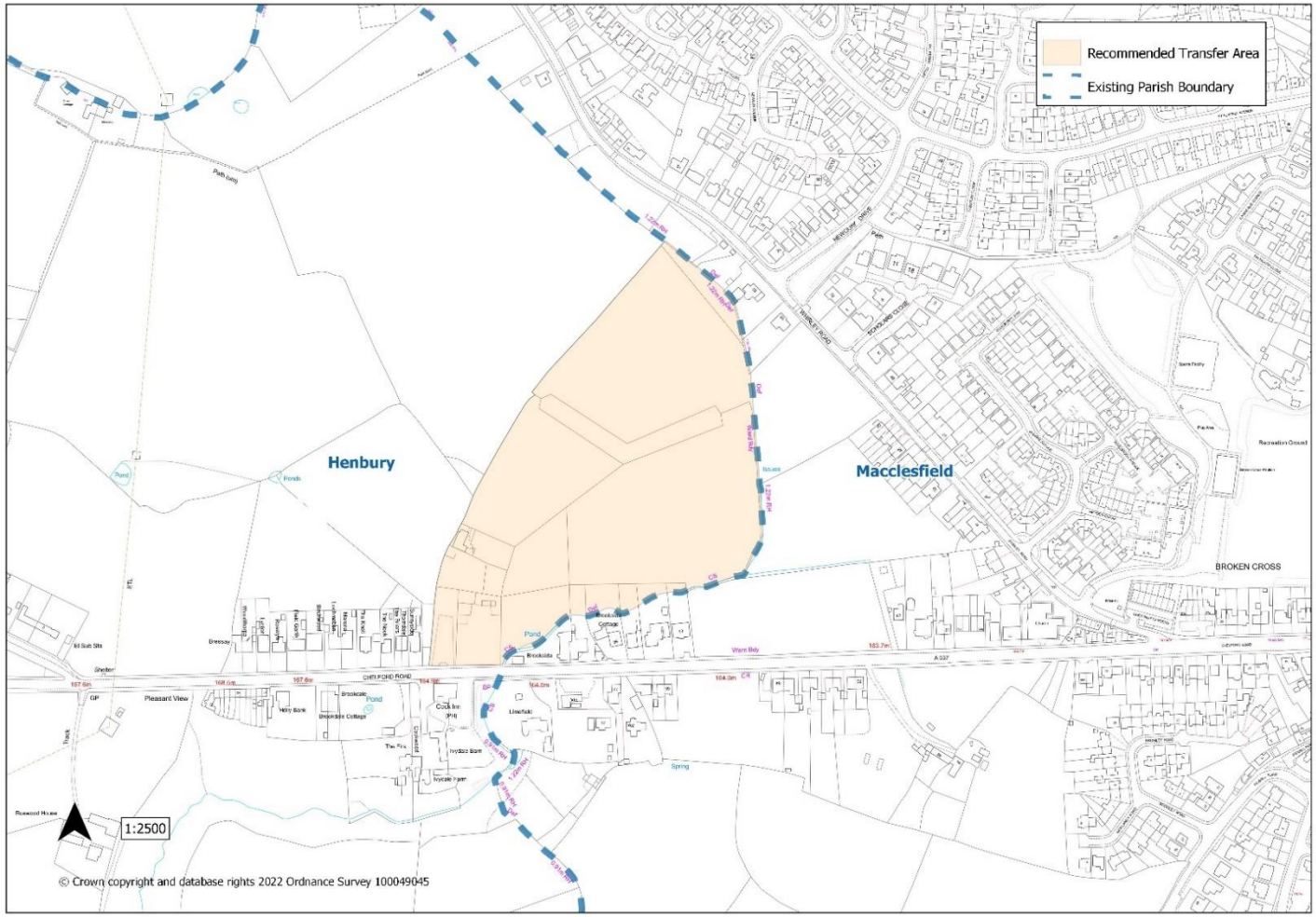
Map 2.15: Parish boundary change - transfer from Sandbach to Haslington

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Sandbach (the area east of the A534 and south of Hassall Moss Brook) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Haslington.



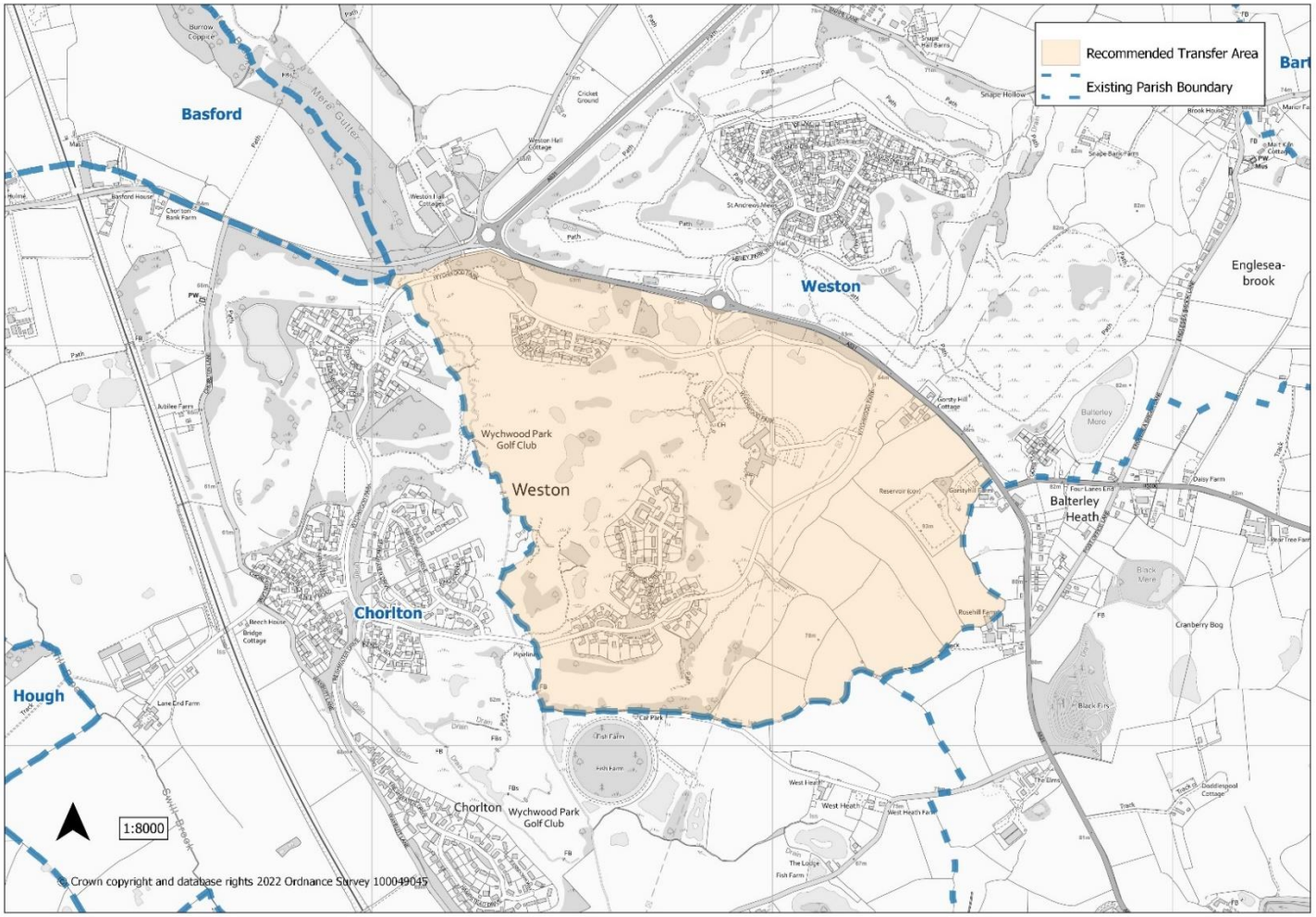
Map 2.16: Parish boundary change - transfer from Henbury to Macclesfield

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Henbury (the area between Chelford Road and Whirley Road) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Macclesfield.



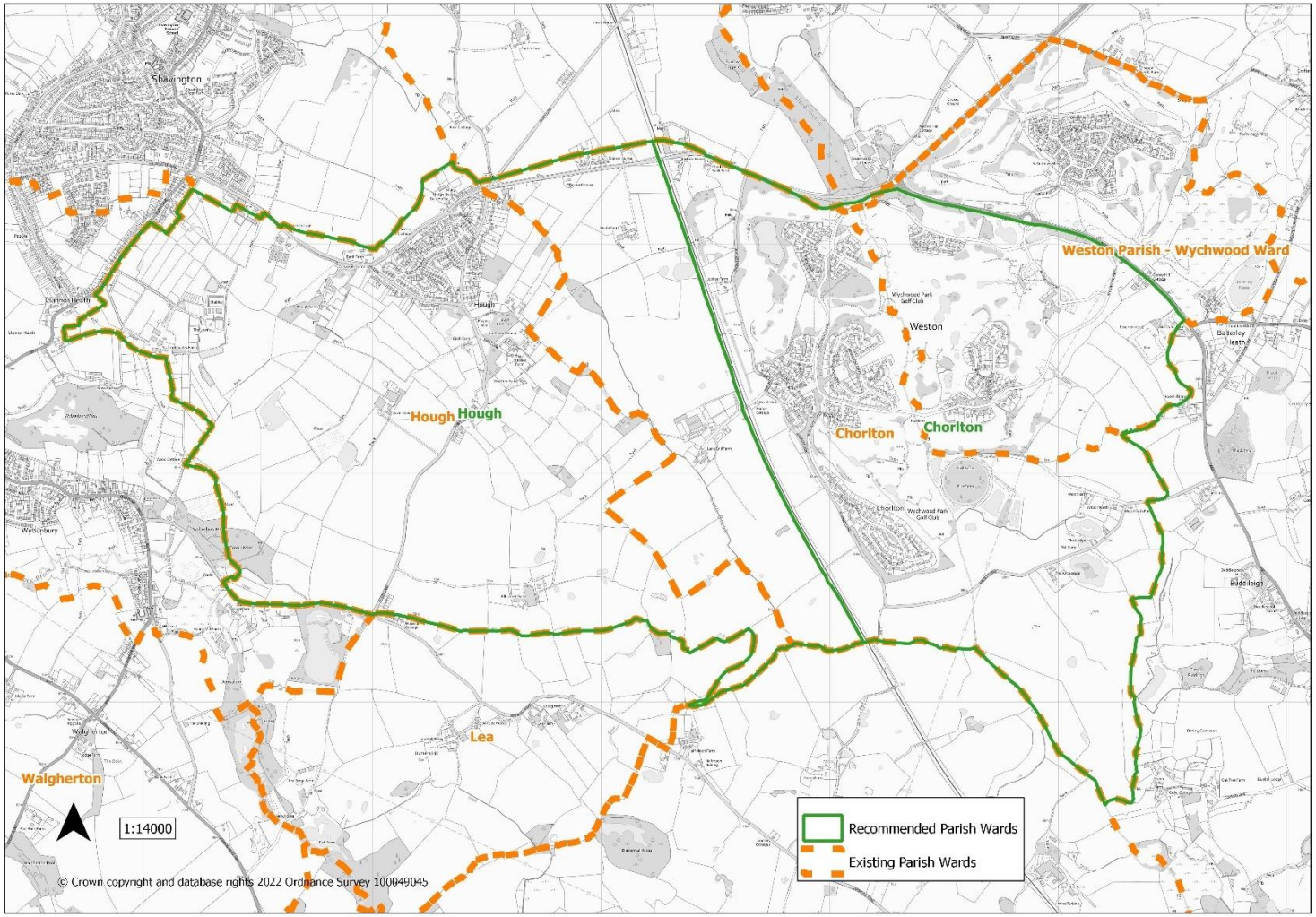
Map 2.17a: Parish boundary change - transfer from Weston to Chorlton

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Weston (the area of Wychwood Park south of the A531) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Chorlton.



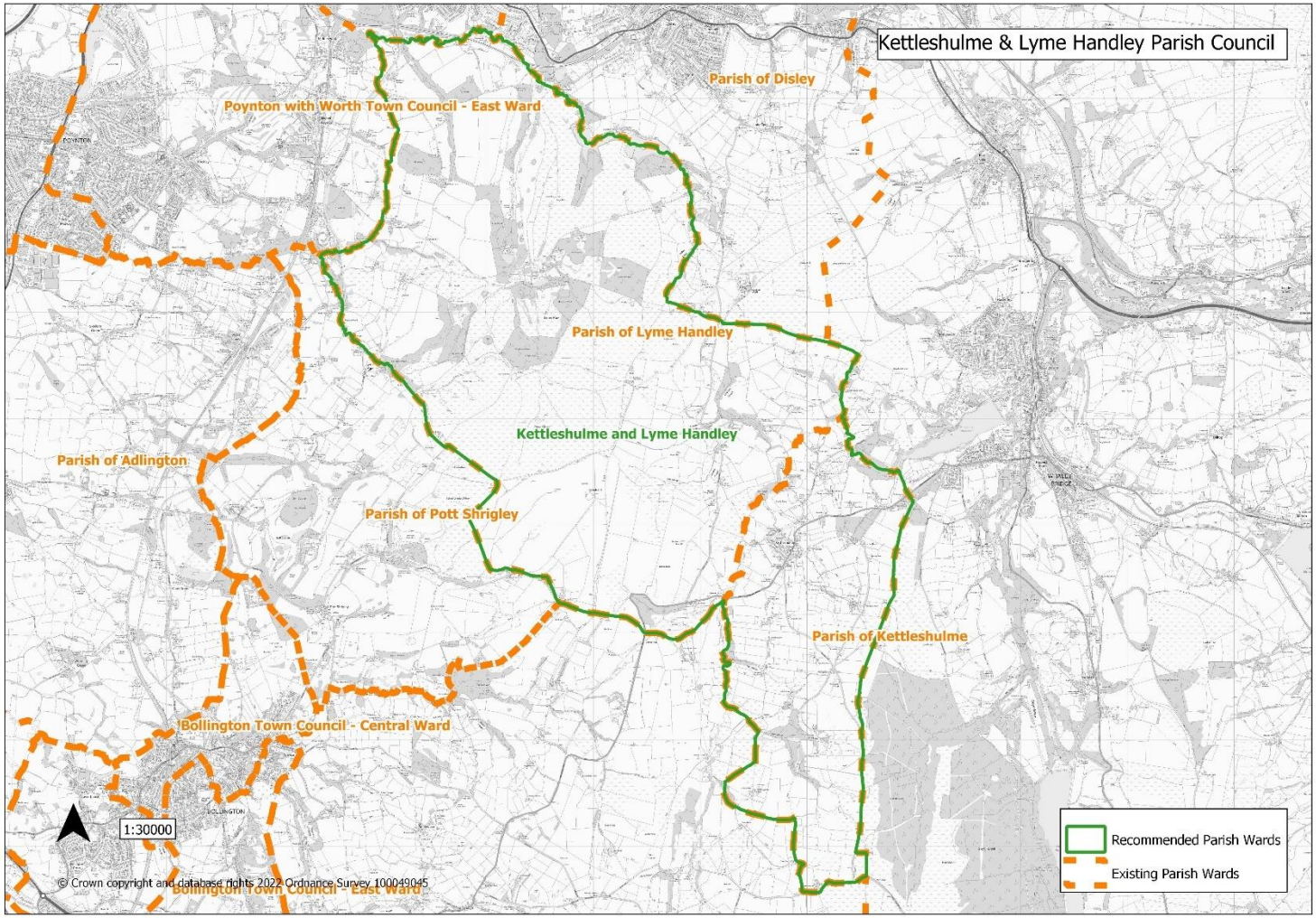
Map 2.17b: Warding for Hough & Chorlton Parish Council

The green lines and labels show the recommended parish ward boundaries and names for this new Council.



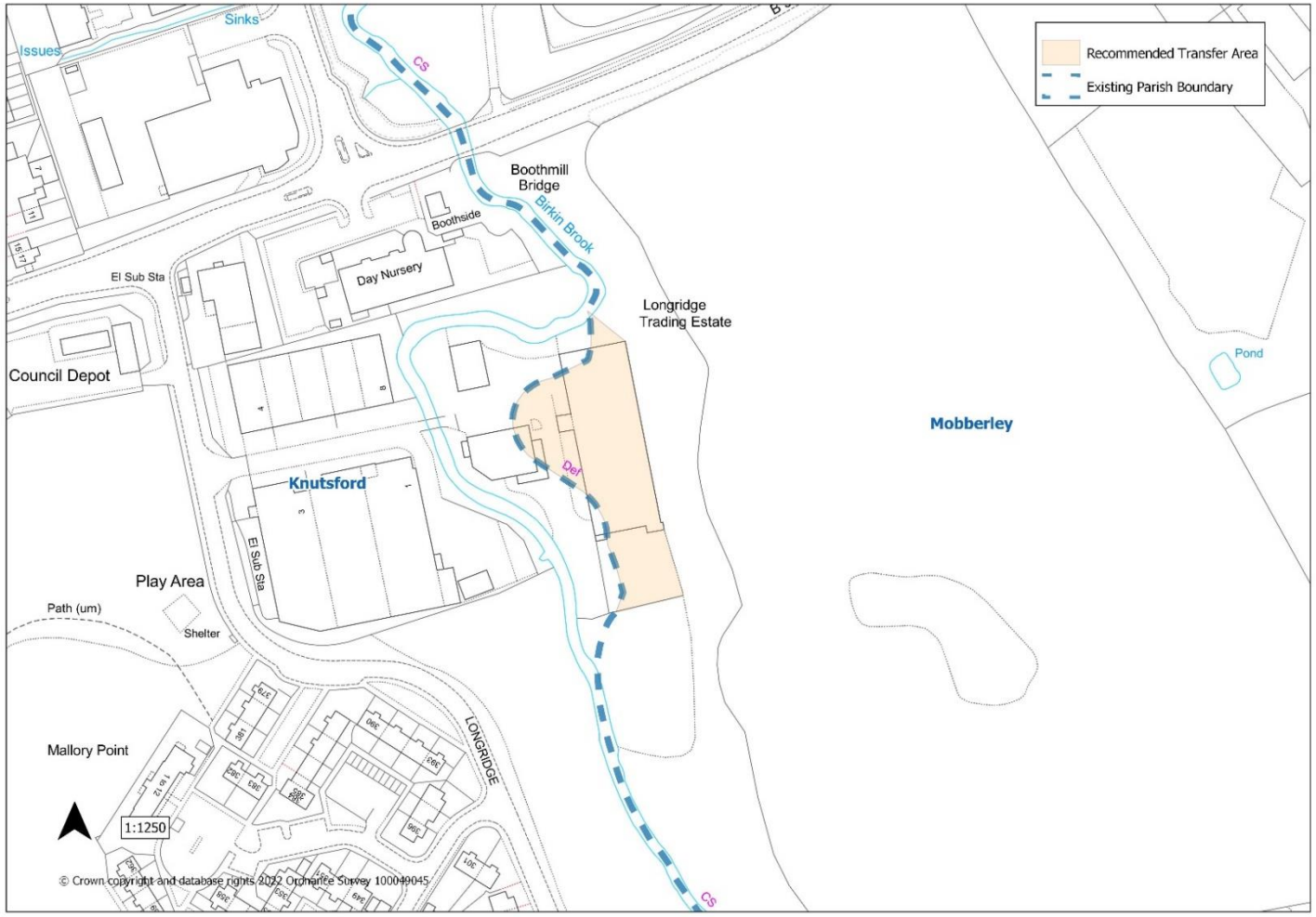
Map 2.18: Boundary for Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley Parish Council

The green line shows the recommended parish ward (and parish) boundary for this new Council.



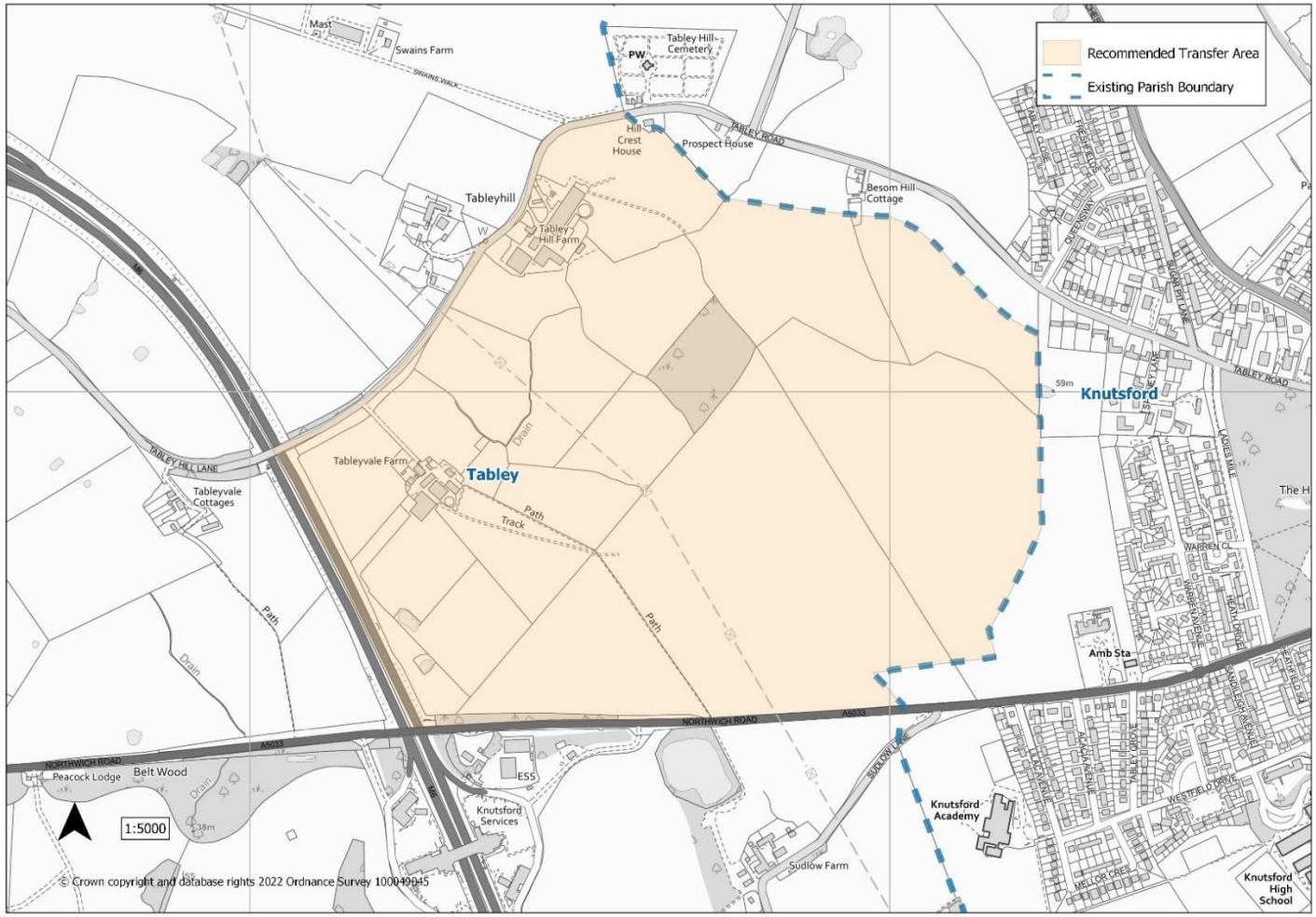
Map 2.19a: Parish boundary change - transfer from Mobberley to Knutsford

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Mobberley (the eastern edge of the Longridge Trading Estate) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Knutsford.



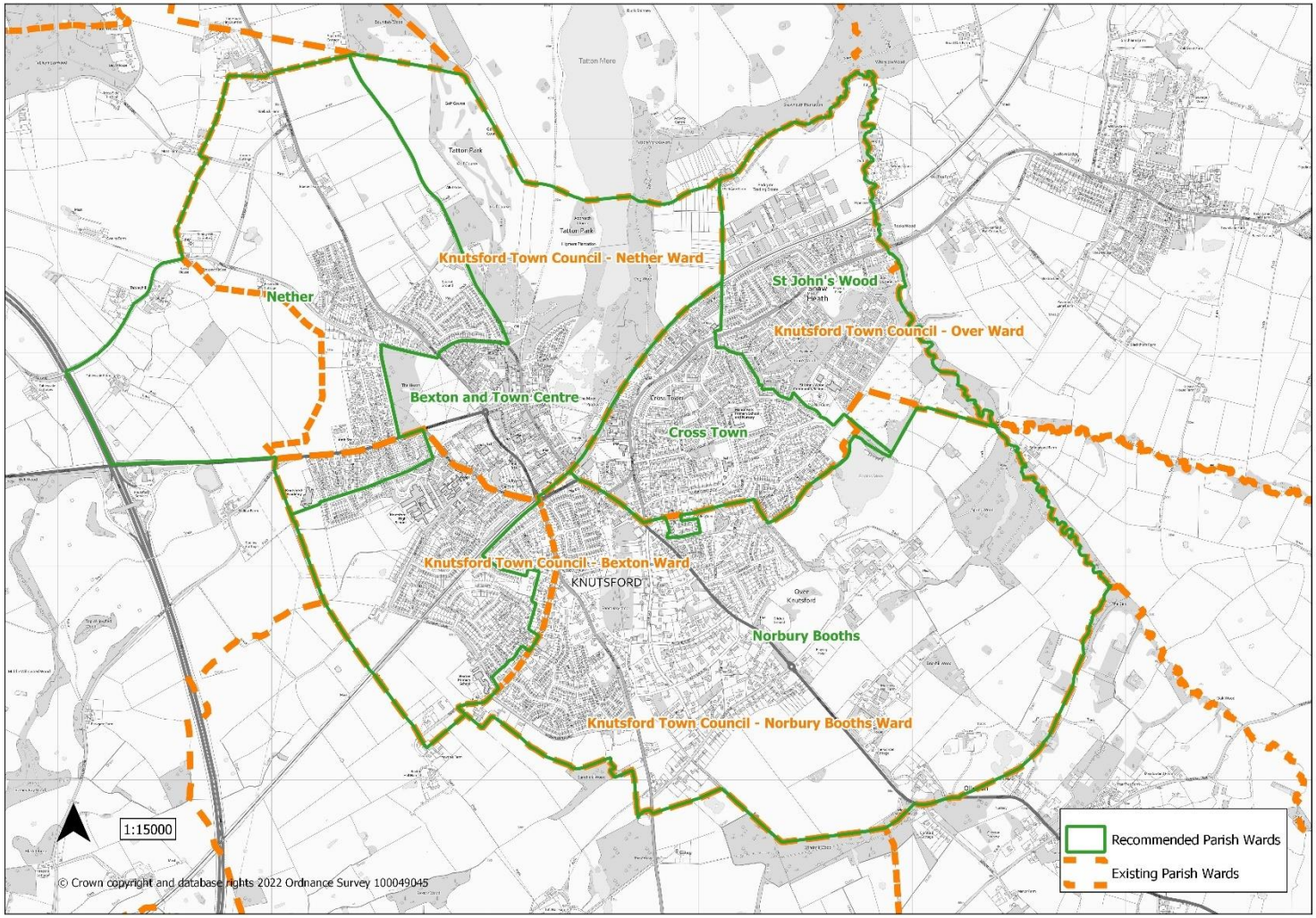
Map 2.19b: Parish boundary change - transfer from Tabley to Knutsford

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Tabley (the area bounded by Tabley Hill Lane, the M6 and Northwich Road) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Knutsford.



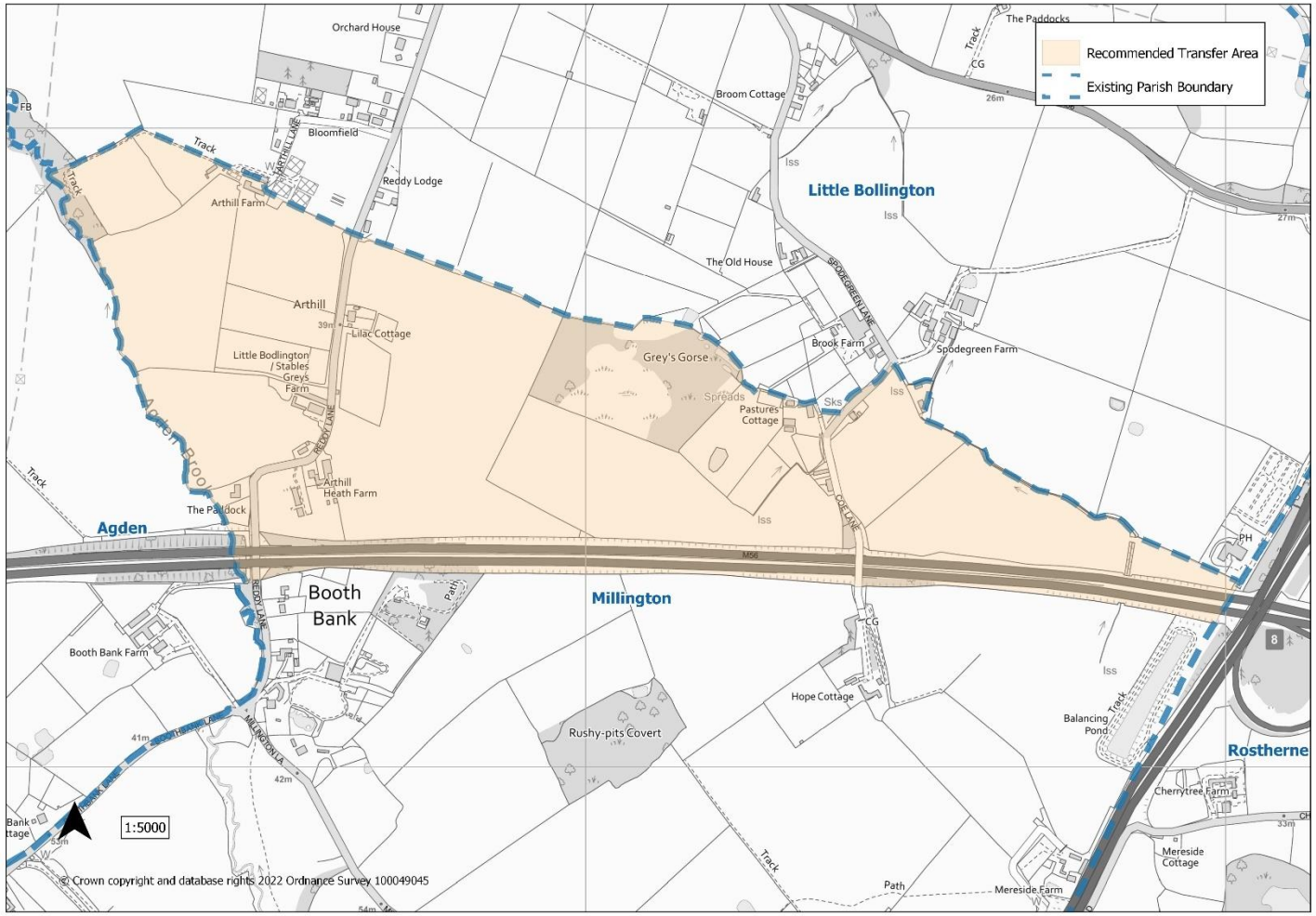
Map 2.19c: Warding for Knutsford Town Council

The green lines and labels show the recommended boundaries and names for Knutsford Town Council's new wards.



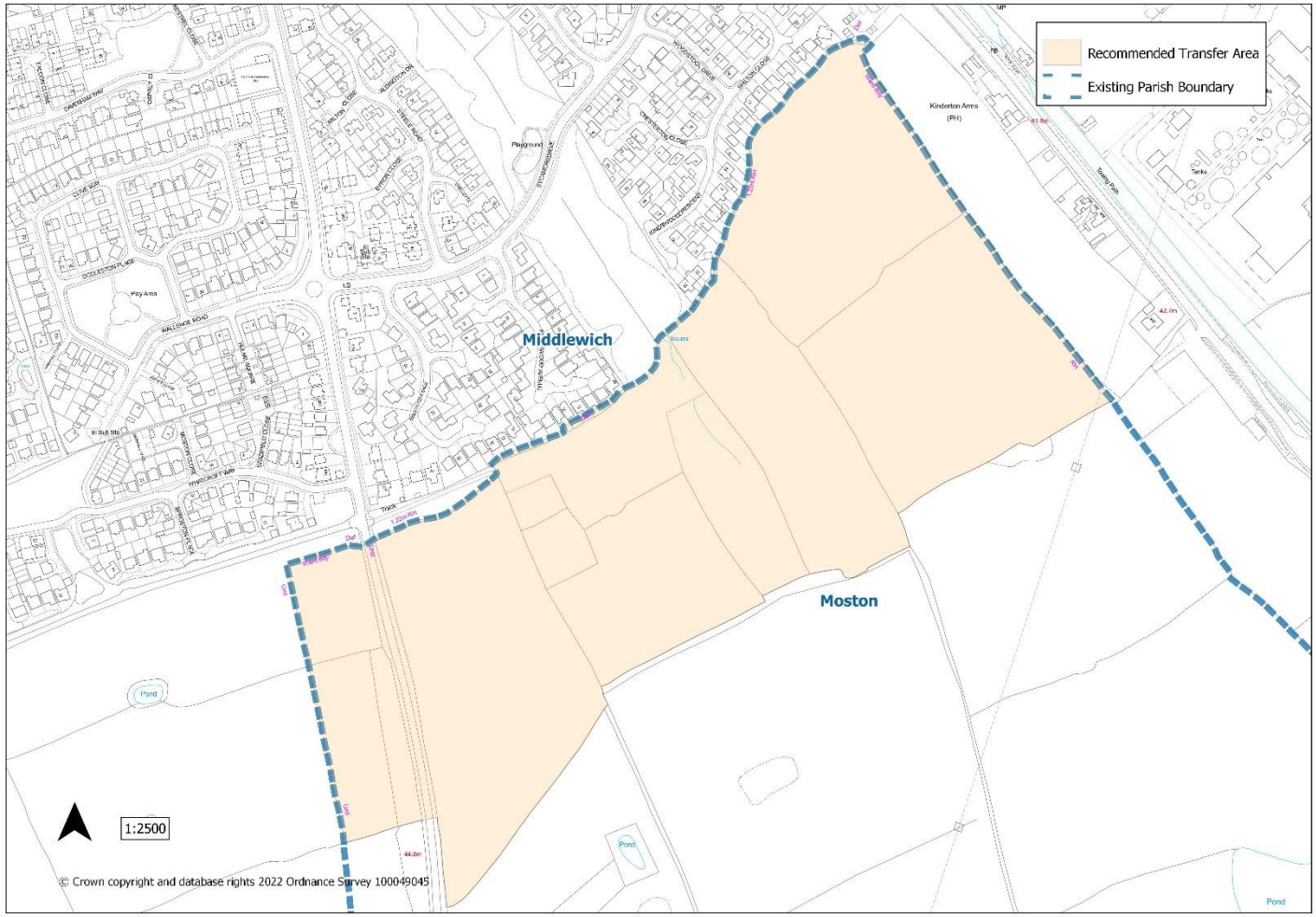
Map 2.20: Parish boundary change - transfer from Millington to Little Bollington

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Millington (the area north of the M56) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Little Bollington.



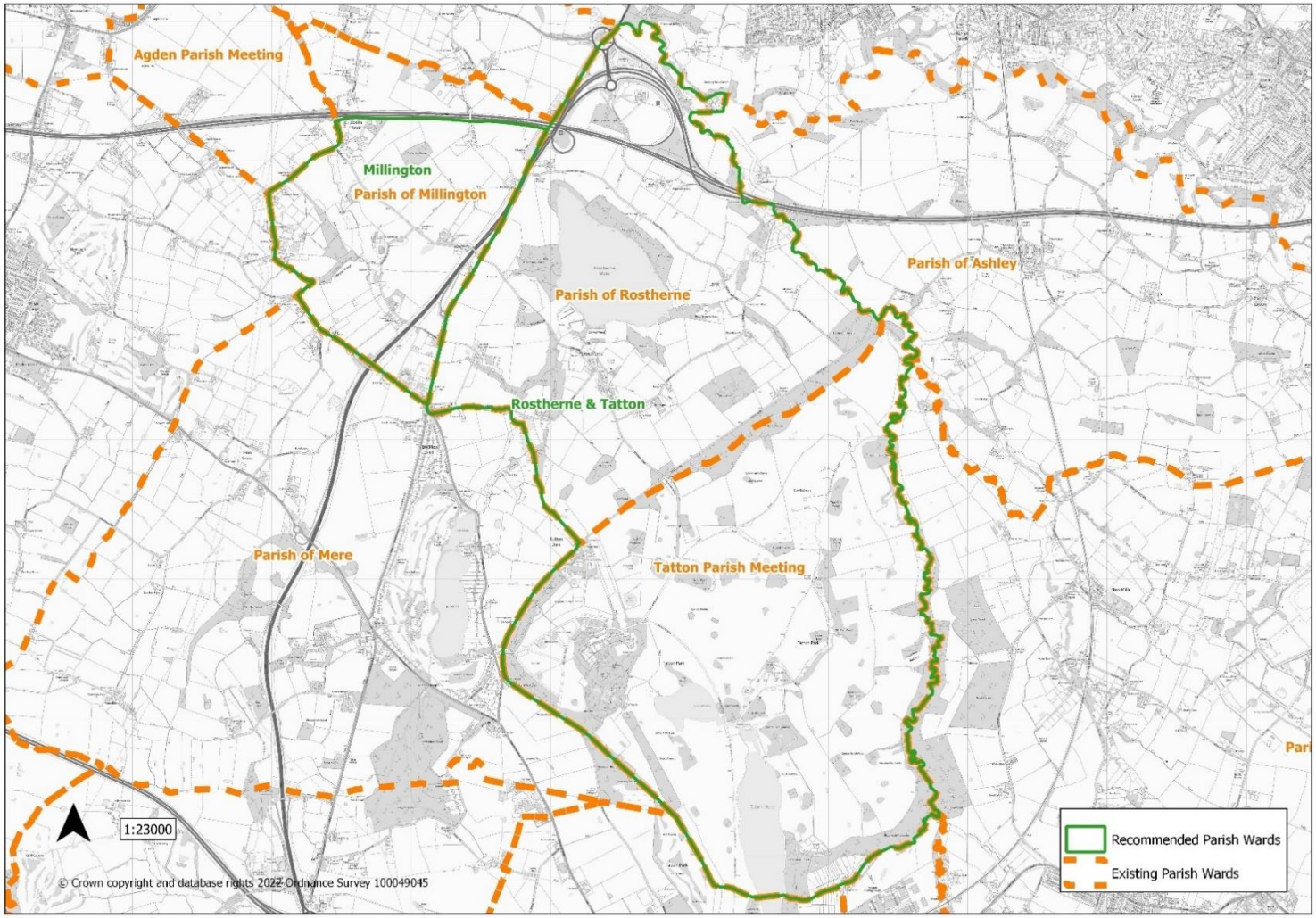
Map 2.21: Parish boundary change - transfer from Moston to Middlewich

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Moston (Glebe Farm/ land off Warmingham Lane) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Middlewich.



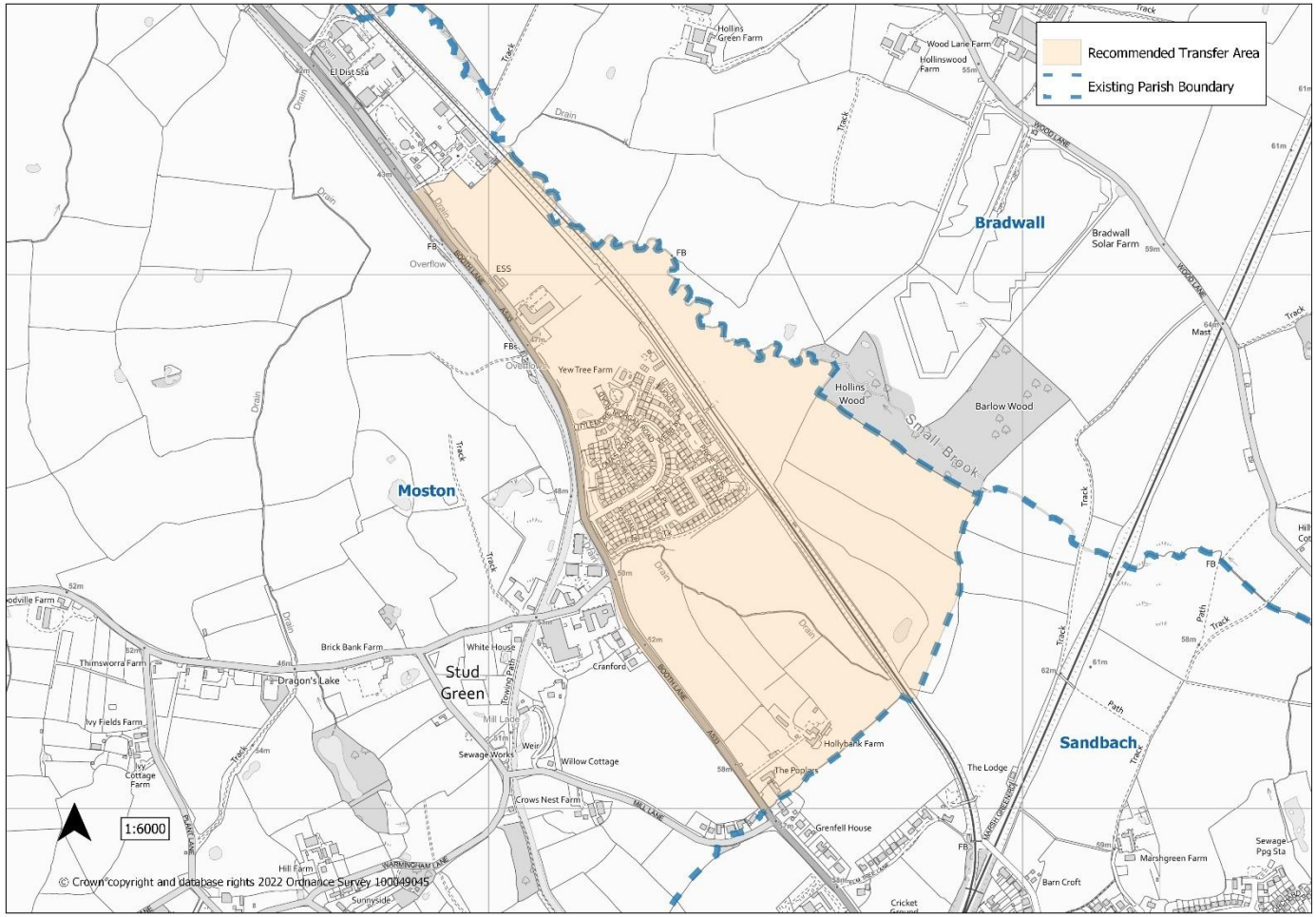
Map 2.22: Warding for Millington & Rostherne Parish Council

The green lines and labels show the recommended parish ward boundaries and names for this new Council.



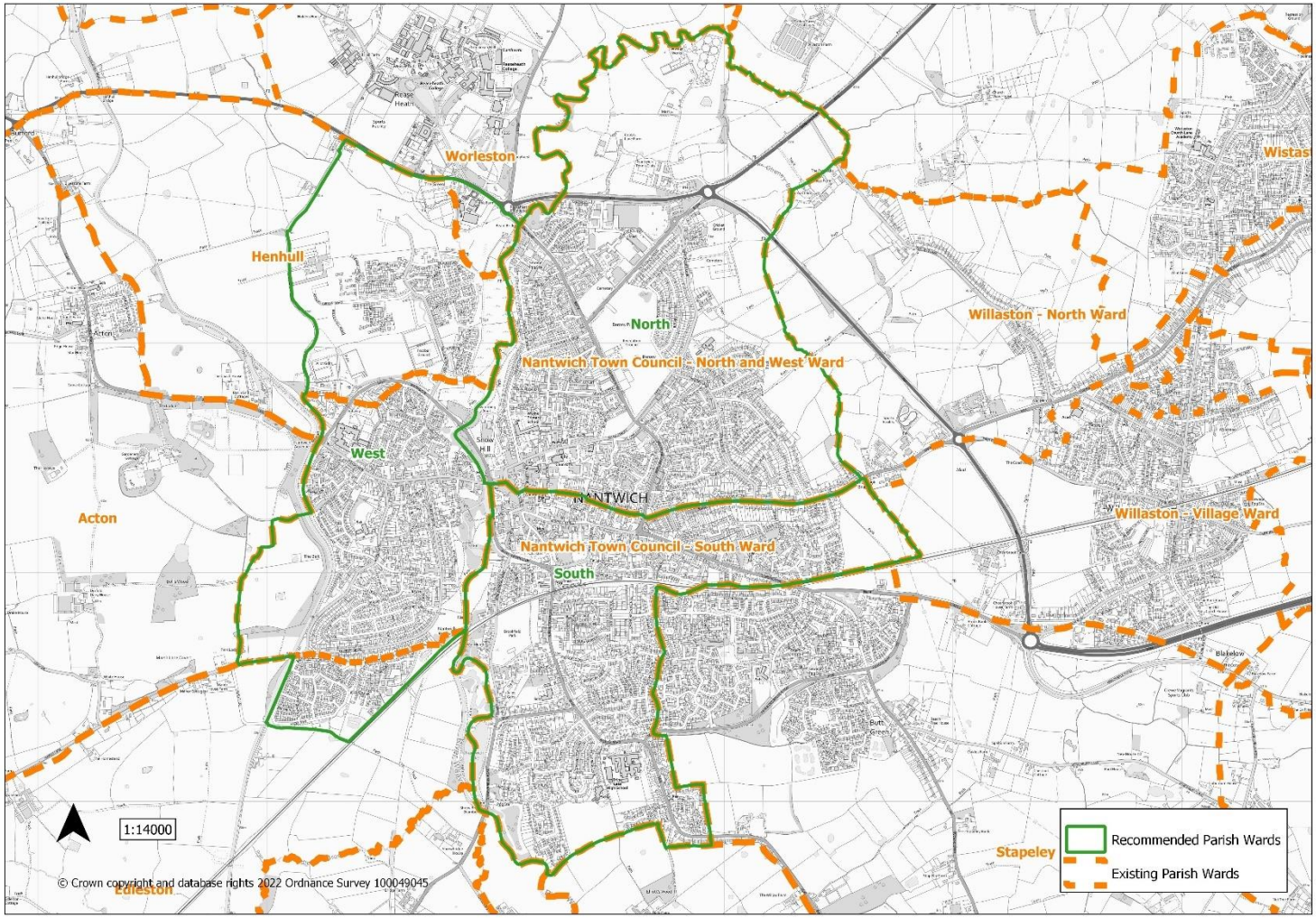
Map 2.23: Parish boundary change - transfer from Moston to Sandbach

The cream-coloured shaded area shows the area of the parish of Moston (the Albion Lock estate area) that is recommended for transfer to the parish of Sandbach.



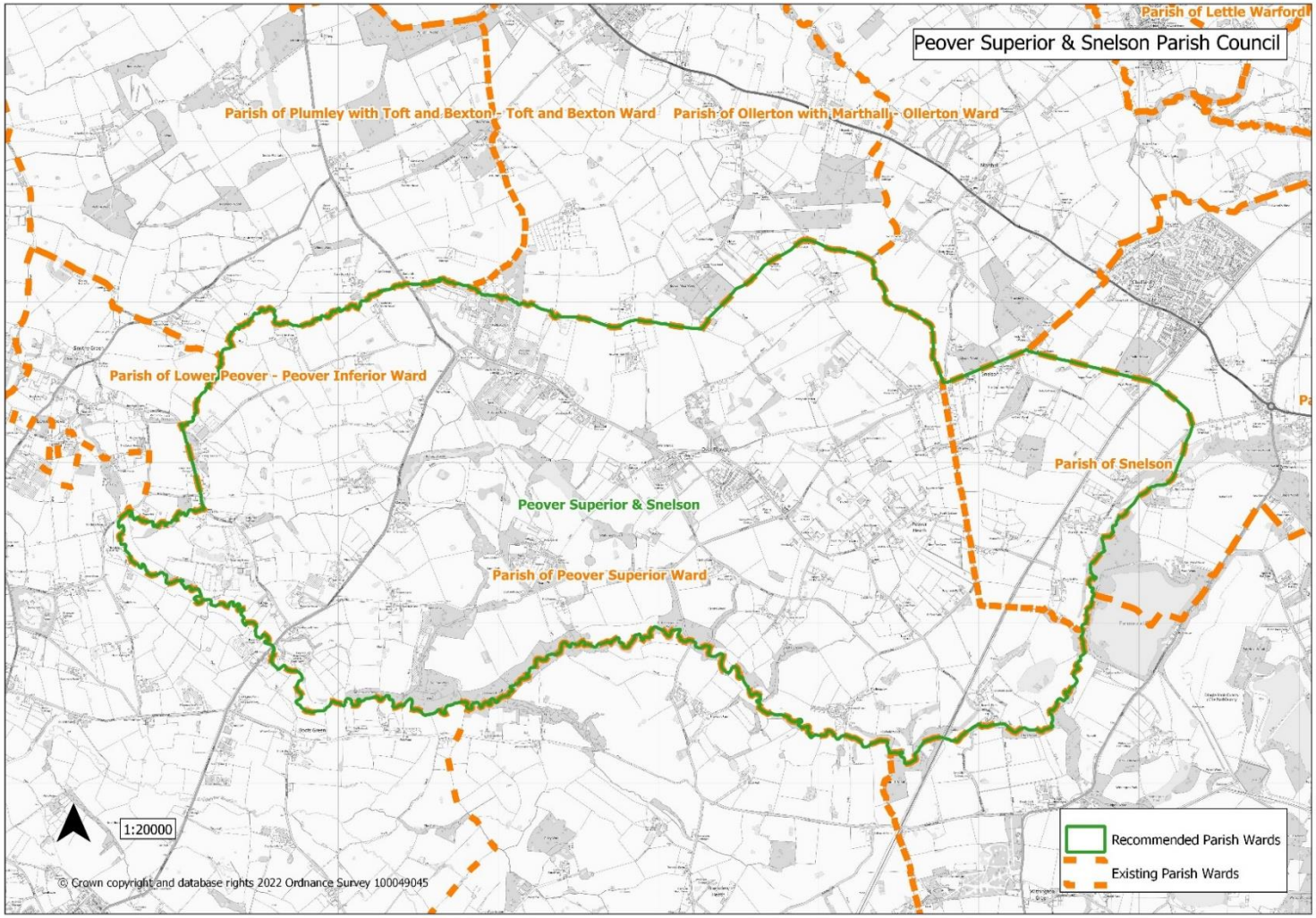
Map 2.24: Warding for Nantwich Town Council

The green lines and labels show the recommended boundaries and names for Nantwich Town Council's new wards.



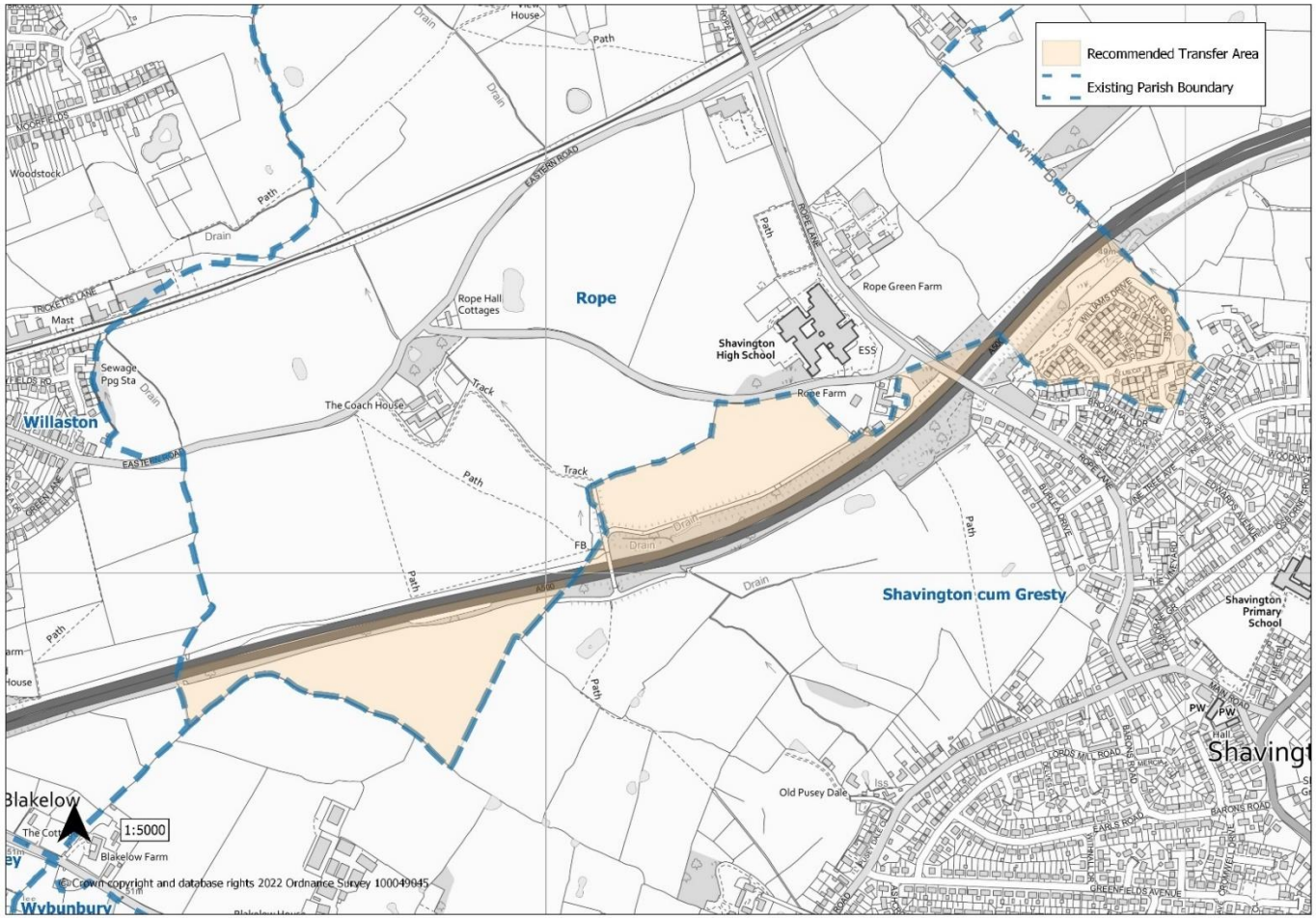
Map 2.25: Boundary for Peover Superior & Snelson Parish Council

The green line shows the recommended parish ward (and parish) boundary for this new Council.



Map 2.26: Parish boundary change - transfers between Rope and Shavington

The three cream-coloured shaded areas next to the A500 (the thick dark line in the map below) are recommended for transfer between the parishes of Rope and Shavington: the two shaded areas south of the A500 (including the Chatsworth Park estate area) would transfer from Rope to Shavington; the shaded area north of the A500 would transfer from Shavington to Rope.



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Cheshire East Council

Community Governance Review

Final Recommendations Assessment Report

Production date: 25/03/2022

Report produced by:

CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Final Recommendations publications and the background to this Review

In 2018, Cheshire East Council began a Community Governance Review of all the parishes within the Borough area. The Review relates to the whole of the Borough and has considered changes to parish areas and parish electoral arrangements across the Borough. These changes include the alteration, merging, creation and abolishing of parishes; the naming of parishes, and the adoption of an alternative style for new parishes. They also include changes to the electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; the council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and whether to divide the parishes into wards for the purposes of elections).

Following a period of extensive evidence-gathering, analysis and a public consultation on its Draft Recommendations (published here), the Borough Council has now published its Final Recommendations.

This 'Final Recommendations Assessment Report' sets out in detail the evidence and analysis on which the Final Recommendations are based, and explains the reasoning behind each of the recommendations. It should be noted that the Final Recommendations take account not just of historical data on the number of electors within each parish, but also forecasts for 2025 (the end of the period for which this Review is required to consider changes in the numbers of local government electors). Figures showing the impact of the Final Recommendations on elector numbers therefore relate (except where specified otherwise) to the year 2025.

A summary of the Final Recommendations can be found in the accompanying 'Final Recommendations Summary report'. Section 4 of that Summary Report includes a table listing the Final Recommendations for all parish councils (sorted in alphabetical order of council name).

In addition to the Summary Report and Assessment Report, the Borough Council has published a 'Final Recommendations Maps Report', which contains maps showing the recommended changes (where there are any) to parish and parish ward boundaries.

1.2 Report structure

Section 1.3 sets out how this Assessment Report has summarised and presented the consultation stage evidence and explains how the Borough Council has assessed the relevance and importance of each submission.

Section 2 presents the evidence, analysis and justification for the Final Recommendations. Each parish council is covered separately, in alphabetical order. Each council's subsection includes:

- **a table (at the start) with details of the council's current governance arrangements**;
- any significant issues (often major housing developments) that required the Borough Council to consider whether the current boundary was appropriate;
- a summary of responses to the Review's pre-consultation survey (which was open from 28th October 2019 to 31st January 2020);
- details of the Draft Recommendations;
- a summary and analysis of the responses received during the public consultation on the Draft Recommendations (which ran from 6th September to 28th November 2021);
- any other relevant factors or evidence;
- an assessment of the collective evidence and a justification, based on this assessment, for the Final Recommendations;
- **a table (at the end) with a summary of the Final Recommendations** (these are generally on a single page, but some longer tables are continued on a second page). Where the Final Recommendations involve a change to parish or parish ward boundaries, reference is made to the reference number(s) for the relevant map(s) in the Maps Report.

Section 3 provides technical information on the data sources and calculation methods used to forecast changes in elector numbers and to estimate the numbers of electors who would be affected by the recommended governance changes.

Finally, it should be noted that some parish councils consist of a group of two or more parishes. The Borough Council is conscious that some of those affected by these Final Recommendations may be interested in the changes (if any) that are recommended for a specific parish that forms part of a group, rather than all the parishes in that group. It may also be that, where such grouping arrangement currently exists, some residents and other interested parties are more familiar with the names of individual parishes than the name of the council. **Therefore Appendix 1 of the Summary Report includes a lookup table which lists all 142 parishes and shows which parish council they fall under; this same table can also be found in the opening section of the Maps report.**

1.3 Approach taken in assessing and summarising the consultation stage evidence

The consultation stage, which ran from September to November 2021, generated 4,824 responses.[1] Most of these were via the Council's consultation survey, but others were received by email or letter, or in the form of completed survey forms produced by individual parish councils; some petitions were also received.

Therefore, whilst all responses have been read and taken into account in developing the Final Recommendations, it is not practical for this Assessment Report to document and respond to every point or piece of evidence that was submitted. Rather, the Report focuses on points and suggestions that were either commonly made, relevant or practical.

In many instances, a single resident or organisation made a very specific proposal that was not relevant to this Review (in some cases beyond the remit of the Review) or not considered practical. Even so, the Assessment Report lists many of these, in order to provide an overview of the range of suggestions and demonstrate that all submissions were read and considered. However, the Report cannot mention and offer a view on each and every one these suggestions. In particular:

- Where a suggestion is made by a single resident and there is no evidence from the consultation submissions that the suggestion commands wider support, it is unlikely to have a bearing on the Final Recommendations. (However, if the sole submission making a specific proposal comes from a town or parish council, then it is accorded much greater weight, given the fact that town and parish councils are representatives of their communities, rather than a single individual.) Similarly, if a suggestion is made by only a small proportion of the respondents from the potentially affected parish(es), or it is more than offset by the number of responses making a contrary proposal, it is not necessarily reviewed here.

- The Borough Council has no authority to alter the boundaries with parishes outside Cheshire East, so suggestions of that kind cannot be taken forward.

[1] It should be noted that some of this Assessment Report's statistics on the number of responses received, and the breakdown of these by the type of respondent (e.g. parish council/ individual resident) or the method of response (e.g. Cheshire East Council survey, email, letter, etc), may differ slightly from those in the Community Governance Review Consultation Key Statistics Report. This is because the Key Statistics Report was produced in early January 2022. Although the main data cleaning and processing work (such as identifying duplicate submissions and checking responses were attributed to the correct parish) had been completed by then, a few final data cleaning issues were subsequently identified and amendments made accordingly.

- Some of the proposals made in the consultation submissions would involve a slight boundary adjustment to transfer part of a property, a single property or a handful of properties (perhaps part of one small street) to another parish. However, this is generally not practical if the parish they would transfer to is in a different borough ward, as separate polling facilities would then be required to ensure people are issued with the correct sets of ballot papers when parish council and Borough Council elections occur. The Borough Council does not generally consider it an appropriate use of resources for separate polling facilities to be provided for very small numbers of residents.

It is also important to note that some types of evidence are relevant to the Borough Council's decisions on community governance, but others are not. Relevant evidence includes the following:

- **Local community identity and interests, for example whether:**
  - a boundary splits or contains a distinct community;
  - the council would contain people or areas with shared or conflicting priorities;
  - councillors do (or would be likely to) live locally and understand local issues.

- **Viability and effectiveness of governance, for example whether:**
  - the council is active and provides (or would provide) reliable, suitable public services;
  - the council engages with and involves local residents (or would so do);
  - there is (or would be) sufficient local interest in serving as a councillor;
  - councillors have (or would have) an excessive workload;
  - services and decisions are (or would be) unduly complicated by different policies applying to different locations (for example, Cheshire East Council planning policy applies in most parts of the Borough, but some parishes fall partly or entirely within the Peak Park and therefore come under its planning regime).

However, there are other forms of evidence that, whilst they may be of critical importance to individual residents or communities, are not normally a relevant consideration in the Community Governance Review decision-making process. These include:
- the impact on residents' house prices or insurance premiums;
- the impact on their precept charges;
- complaints or concerns about public services generally, or about other (higher) tiers of government;
- complaints or concerns about town and parish council activities that a change in governance could not reasonably be expected to resolve.

Nevertheless, this Assessment Report does include overviews of the whole range of responses received, so that the consultation evidence can be seen in its full context. For example, where many residents in a particular parish raised concerns about proposed governance changes affecting their property prices or precept charges, this feedback is included in the overview of people's responses.

In addition, there are factors that might be relevant to the Borough Council's decision-making, or which might not, depending on the circumstances. In particular, if these factors relate in some way to a local community's identity or the character of the local area, they are likely to be relevant. For example, if there is evidence that merging a small rural parish with a large urban neighbour could put the rural area's identity at risk, this would be relevant information that the Borough Council would need to take into account.

In deciding on the appropriate number of seats (councillors) for each council, there is a risk of providing too few seats, but also some potential risks in providing too many. Some of the key risks are listed below, though this is not a comprehensive list and other risks have also been considered.

- Risks of providing too few seats:
  - a less evenly shared workload and hence less incentive to serve on the council;
  - less chance of councillors being demographically diverse, or having a wide range of backgrounds and skills;
  - a greater risk that meeting decisions are unduly influenced by individual councillors or factions;
  - the town or parish council lacks the capacity to deal with local factors that add to councillors' workload, such as a dispersed population, or efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of new road, rail or housing developments;
  - an inability to cope with the additional demands on council services and councillor time that the ongoing COVID pandemic brings.

- Risks of providing too many seats:
  - communication between councillors (and between councillors and residents) can be more complicated and decision-making more difficult and less efficient.
  - some councillors can potentially hide behind the work of others.

Finally, it should also be noted that some of the assessments for individual councils include maps that show boundary issues or proposed boundary changes that were raised or suggested in the consultation responses. However, it is important to stress that the purpose of the maps in this Assessment Report is to help clarify the proposals that the Borough Council has considered. These do not necessarily equate to the boundary changes that the Borough Council is recommending. For maps showing the boundary changes that are recommended, please refer to the Final Recommendations Maps Report.

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Section 2: Assessments for individual parish councils

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2.1 Acton, Edleston & Henhull

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Acton, Edleston & Henhull
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Acton; Edleston; Henhull.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7 (Acton 5, Edleston 1, Henhull 1)
Nominations in 2019	5 (Acton 3, Edleston 1, Henhull 1)
Electorate (2018)	820 (Acton 254, Edleston 478, Henhull 88)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,547 (Acton 277, Edleston 687, Henhull 583)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
[1] Local Plan Strategy site LPS 46 (Kingsley Fields, Nantwich), which is largely within the parish of Henhull (with the rest in the parish of Worleston) is adjacent to Nantwich and is a consequence of that town's expansion. Construction of this site is well underway, with up to 1,100 homes on LPS 46 eventually (after 2030).

[2] The Malbank Waters site, which is in the parish of Edleston, is a development completed in the last few years. It is also adjacent to Nantwich and is a consequence of that town's expansion.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One response from an Acton resident, who made positive comments about the Parish Council's effectiveness; this resident felt (reluctantly) that transfers of new developments to Nantwich (including Malbank Waters and Kingsley Fields) were appropriate, but noted (with an example) that Nantwich residents were benefiting from some Acton, Edleston and Henhull amenities, rather than simply providing subsidised services for their rural neighbours. This submission did, however, express concern that such transfers should not include additional rural land, affect the viability of the Parish Council or compromise the local Neighbourhood Plan.

One submission from an Edleston resident, which also supported the transfer of Malbank Waters. No submissions made from Henhull.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer Malbank Waters estate from Edleston to Nantwich. Transfer area of Henhull east of Welshmen's Lane (largely comprising site LPS 46 - Kingsley Fields - but also some other recent development and the Nantwich Town Football Club grounds) to Nantwich. The purpose of these transfers was to bring into Nantwich those new developments that are adjacent and that will rely on the town for services and amenities.

[2] Merge the residual part of Edleston with Burland, to form a new parish council, with eight seats. Acton and the residual part of Henhull to form a separate parish council, with seven seats. The rationale for this is that Edleston and Burland parishes are in Wrenbury borough ward, whereas Acton and Henhull are in Bunbury borough ward. Hence the transfer of the residual part of Edleston to Burland would simplify electoral arrangements and the provision of polling facilities.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Aside from the Parish Council's submission (summarised below), there were 10 responses from individual residents (all via the consultation survey). One of these was from Acton, five from Edleston and four from Henhull. Of these 10, six (the one relating to Acton, two on Edleston and three on Henhull) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; the other four agreed.

The individual submission on Acton was very similar to ones regarding Edleston and Hehull, so it is assumed these three submissions came from the same person. This group of submissions took the view that: the transfer to Nantwich of the Kingsley

Fields site was justified, but that the transfer of the rest of the land on that side of Welshmen's Lane could be reconsidered; Acton and the residual part of Henhull would not be a viable council; a merger of Acton, the residual part of Edleston and residual part of Henhull would be a viable option, but that including Burland as well would ensure a more effective council, with easier recruitment of councillors, more pooling of resources and a lower precept due to the much larger number of properties. However, these three submissions also voiced concern about the likely volume of work that would be involved in remaking the local Neighbourhood Plan.

Of the other submissions on Edleston, three provided comments: two were in support of the Draft Recommendations, arguing that the Malbank Waters residents relied on Nantwich for amenities and identified as being from Nantwich and were (unfairly) being subsidised by the town at present; the other opposed the transfer, saying Edleston had a separate identity to Nantwich and that (even with the Burland merger) Edleston would be less viable than it is now.

One of the submissions from Henhull raised concerns about the effect on them, as a low income household, of having to pay Nantwich's very high precept.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council agreed with the transfer to Nantwich of Malbank Waters. Nor did it object to the transfer of Kingsley Fields, but it did consider the rest of Henhull (including the small-scale new housing development, allotments and football ground east of Welshmen's Lane) should not transfer. It also considered that a council consisting of just Acton and the residual part of Henhull would not be viable.

Instead it proposed that either: (a) the residual part of Edleston also be included within the same council as Acton and the residual part of Henhull; or (b) Acton and the residual parts of Henhull and Edleston should be merged with Burland Parish Council. Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council preferred the latter option (which Burland Parish Council's submission also supported); it argued that this would pool resources effectively.

However, the Parish Council expressed serious concern about the implications of these changes for its recently completed Neighbourhood Plan which, it said, would need to be remade, involving a substantial amount of additional labour. The Parish Council also felt that, for the sake of consistency and fairness, there should also be a transfer from Stapeley to Nantwich, given that much of the recent development in Stapeley is adjacent to the town and relies on it for some services.

In addition, the Parish Council felt that the removal of the current grouping arrangement and replacement of this with a single parish would be convenient and practical.

In its response, Nantwich Town Council supported the Draft Recommendations boundary change proposal, including the specific proposals relating to Edleston and Henhull.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The MP for Crewe & Nantwich - not counted in the consultation summary figures given above, as his comments relate to a large number of parishes - was sympathetic to the Draft Recommendations proposals to transfer Malbank Waters and Kingsley Fields to Nantwich, but saw recent development with the parish of Stapeley as an entirely different case, given Stapeley's separate identity. He therefore agreed with the Draft Recommendations proposal to keep the boundary between Nantwich and Stapeley as it is.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted above, there was mixed evidence on whether Malbank Waters identifies with Edleston or Nantwich, though a slight majority of the (very few) submissions from Edleston felt the main links were with Nantwich. Whilst the few submissions from Henhull residents mostly opposed the transfer of most of their parish, only one (who supported the transfer) referred to Henhull's identity as a place.

On the matter of a potential merger with Burland, it should also be noted that Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council's submission refers to a survey undertaken by Burland Parish Council, which found that many of its residents identify strongly with Acton.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
As noted above, the Parish Council's submission advises that Acton and the residual part of Henhull would not constitute a viable parish.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None in addition to the merger options presented by the Parish Council.

Post-consultation assessment

The transfer to Nantwich of Kingsley Fields and Malbank Waters is largely supported by those submissions making comments on those specific proposals. These transfers have the support of the Parish Council, Nantwich Town Council and the local MP, with residents' submissions (though few in number) tending to identify and list links with Nantwich.

These new developments are adjacent to Nantwich, and the Borough Council considers that Malbank Waters' ability to engage in Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council activities is likely to be constrained by the fact it is separated from the rest of the Parish Council area by the railway line and canal. The make-up of the current Parish Council area - a combination of new developments on the edge of Nantwich, a village (Acton) some distance away, and smaller, dispersed settlements - raises questions about the extent to which the area will in future have shared interests. In addition, the Borough Council considers that current governance arrangements are unfair to residents of the new estates, with Edleston and Henhull having only one seat each of the Council's overall total of seven, despite the fact they now (based on December 2021 Electoral Register data) each make up over 40 per cent of the Parish Council's electorate, with Acton (five seats) containing only 17 per cent of the electorate.

The Borough Council does not agree with the Parish Council's argument that Stapeley's urban development - also adjacent to Nantwich - should be similarly treated and also transferred to Nantwic. Unlike Malbank or Kinsgley Fields, Stapeley has a long history and a distinct identity and (unlike the residents of Malbank Waters, for example) the residents of its new housing developments have good transport links and easy access to some other parts of their parish and hence are unlikely to be so dependent on Nantwich for community activities or services.

The Borough Council notes the objection of the Parish Council (and a local resident) to the inclusion in the Henhull-Nantwich transfer of the allotments, football ground and smaller developments. However, the submission evidence does not indicate why these areas, which are adjacent to the Nantwich conurbation, might be particularly reliant on the Parish Council for services and the Borough Council is not aware of any evidence (whether from the consultation submissions or elsewhere) to suggest they identify with Henhull. In addition, keeping this area within Henhull but transferring Kingsley Fields would leave it as a long segment of land surrounded on three sides by Nantwich.

In the light of the consultation evidence and these other factors, the Borough Council therefore recommends that the Draft Recommendations changes to Nantwich's boundaries with Edleston and Henhull should proceed.

However, the Borough Council is persuaded by the Parish Council's advice that a council comprising solely of Acton and the residual part of Henhull would not be viable. Although such a council would have an estimated 315 electors, it would face a substantial loss of precept income from the transfers - and Acton had only three nominations at the ordinary elections in 2019, so there is a high risk of not getting enough candidates to stand for election. As the residual part of Edleston would have only an estimated 36 electors, the Borough Council does not agree that its inclusion alone would make a difference to viability. The Borough Council also notes the submission evidence pointing to links between Burland and Acton, the preference of Burland and Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Councils to merge and the difficulty faced by Burland itself in securing nominations (with only four nominations for its nine seats in the 2019 ordinary elections).

The Borough Council therefore recommends that Acton, the residual part of Edleston and the residual part of Henhull be merged with Burland, to create a larger, more viable council, consisting of a single parish. This outcome would avoid a reduction in council seats and would mean a much larger precept income. The Borough Council recommends that this new council be called Burland & Acton - the name suggested by Burland Parish Council. For the style, it recommends "Parish", as Burland Parish Council argued that this was well understood and most of the affected (Acton, Edleston, Henhull and Burland) residents who expressed a preference opted for this as well (tradition, history and the size of the new council being cited as reasons for that choice).

The Borough Council further supports the wishes of Burland and Sound & District Parish Councils for their boundary to be adjusted, so that the settlement of Ravensmoor lies entirely within a single parish (namely the recommended new parish that would include Burland). This decision reflects the consultation submission evidence from Burland and Sound & District Parish Councils and some of their residents, who feel that Ravensmoor is a single community and argue that the current boundary limits community cohesion. (The Burland and Sound & District subsections of this Assessment Report provide further details of this evidence.)

The new merged parish would have an estimated 916 electors by 2025: 277 in the current Acton parish area, 501 in the current Burland Parish Council area, 36 in the residual part of Edleston, 38 in the residual part of Henhull and 64 in the part of Ravensmoor that would be transferred from Sound & District's Baddiley parish (Section 3 of this Assessment Report provides details of the derivation of these figures). Given the geographical size, shape and rurality of the new parish and the challenges it faces (for example, its Neighbourhood Plan workload), it could be argued that 10 or even 11 seats would be appropriate. However, the Borough recommends nine seats for the new merged parish: this is in line with the average for a parish of this size, but also reflects the difficulties Acton, Edleston & Henhull and Burland have recently faced in securing sufficient nominations.

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The Borough Council further recommends that the new parish be divided into three wards, to make the new council's workload more manageable and ensure representation for each of its main settlements. It recommends the following warding:

- One ward consisting of Acton and the residual part of Henhull. Based on the figures quoted above, it is estimated this ward would have 315 electors (as of 2025).
- One covering the part of the current Burland parish (including Burland village) north of Dig Lane, which would have an estimated 334 electors (as of 2025).
- One covering the residual part of Edleston, the part of the current Burland parish (including eastern Ravensmoor) south of Dig Lane and the area (western Ravensmoor) transferred from Sound & District's Baddiley parish. It is estimated that this ward would have 267 electors (as of 2025).

Therefore this warding arrangement would mean wards of similar size in terms of electorate (each around 300 electors, with three seats each) and land area. It would also mean ward boundaries that align with borough ward boundaries (simplifying electoral arrangements) and Dig Lane provides a clear natural boundary between the two wards that would be in Wrenbury borough ward.

The Borough Council recommends that the three new wards be named, respectively, “Acton & Henhull”, “Burland” and “Ravensmoor & Edleston”, so that their main settlements are acknowledged, along with the history of Acton, Edleston, Henhull and Burland as individual parishes.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 1 of 2	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.1a, 2.1b, 2.1c & 2.8 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report.
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Edleston to Nantwich Town Council's recommended new "West" ward, of the shaded area (Malbank Waters) shown in Map 2.1a. Transfer, from the parish of Henhull to Nantwich Town Council's recommended new "West" ward, of the shaded area of Henhull (the area east of Welshmen's Lane) shown in Map 2.1b. Merge the parish of Acton and the residual parts of the parishes of Edleston and Hehull with the parish of Burland, to form a new parish council comprising a single parish, to be called "Burland & Acton Parish Council". Transfer, from the parish of Baddiley to the new Burland & Acton Parish Council, of the shaded area (western Ravensmoor) shown in Map 2.8. This transferred area to become part of the new council's "Ravensmoor & Edleston" ward.
Parish Council name and style	Burland & Acton Parish Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Burland & Acton (new parish)

Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 2 of 2	
Warding arrangements (if any)	Three wards, with boundaries and names as shown in Map 2.1c and summarised below: [1] "Acton & Henhull", consisting of the current Acton parish and the residual part of Henhull parish. [2] "Burland", consisting of the part of the current Burland parish north of Dig Lane. [3] "Ravensmoor & Edleston", consisting of the residual part of Edleston parish, the transferred part of Sound & District Parish Council's Baddiley parish (the western half of the settlement of Ravensmoor) and the part of the current Burland parish south of Dig Lane.
Seats	9 (Acton & Henhull 3, Burland 3, Ravensmoor & Edleston 3)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	916 (Acton & Henhull 315, Burland 334, Ravensmoor & Edleston 267)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	102 overall (Acton & Henhull 105, Burland 111, Ravensmoor & Edleston 89)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Baddiley – transfer to Burland & Acton" • "Burland & Acton – warding" • "Edleston – transfer to Nantwich" • "Henhull – transfer to Nantwich"

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2.2 Adlington

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Adlington
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Adlington
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10
Nominations in 2019	9
Electorate (2018)	913
Electorate (2025 forecast)	983

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Current boundary splits Spenlow Close (which is on the southern edge of Poynton, but part of the town's urban area and its community) between Poynton and Adlington.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None from Adlington Parish Council or its residents. However, nine submissions were received from Poynton, of which three (including responses from the Town Council and the borough ward Member for Poynton West & Adlington) requested an alignment

of the Adlington boundary with Poynton Brook. This alignment was requested to ensure that two houses on Spenlow Close are brought within the same parish (Poynton) as the rest of their street and local community, to bring the polling station used by Poynton Town Council's West ward within the Town Council area, and to avoid the confusion created by the current boundary, which does not reflect Poynton's expansion to date.

Draft Recommendations
Transfer to Poynton of the part of Adlington that lies north of Poynton Brook, as requested by Poynton Town Council and other Poynton pre-consultation submissions.

Decrease seats from 10 to nine, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size (and also reflects the fact that Adlington had only nine nominations at the 2019 ordinary elections).

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None from Adlington Parish Council or its residents. However, six submissions were received from Poynton, of which five (including that from the Town Council) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations.

Feedback from consultation stage - submission from the affected parish council(s)
See above summary of the consultation stage feedback.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The MP for Macclesfield supported the Draft Recommendations proposed changes to Poynton's boundary. (As indicated earlier, the Draft Recommendations proposals are ones requested by the borough ward Member for Poynton West & Adlington during the pre-consultation stage.)

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The consultation stage submissions from Poynton residents largely support the boundary change, which suggests it would reflect local community identity better than the status quo.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The absence of responses from Adlington Parish Council and its residents could be regarded as an indication that there is no substantive objection to the Draft Recommendations boundary change proposal. In the light of the consultation stage and pre-consultation submission evidence from Poynton Town Council, its residents and the local borough ward Member which (bar one individual) supports this boundary proposal, the Borough Council recommends that this change proceed.

The absence of any feedback on the Draft Recommendations proposal to reduce Adlington's seats total could also indicate a lack of objections. However, given that no consultation submissions supported this proposal and given the Borough Council's desire to avoid making changes solely for change's sake, it is recommended that the number of seats be kept at 10. In making this recommendation, the Borough Council is also mindful of the significant risks that can arise from a reduction in seats, due to the impact on the affected parish council's resources, with the COVID pandemic stretching resources and heightening these risks further. The decision also takes account of the relatively large rural geographical area that Adlington covers, which is likely to add to councillors' workloads.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.2 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Adlington to Poynton Town Council's West ward, of the shaded area (land north of Poynton Brook) shown in Map 2.2.
Parish Council name and style	Adlington Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Adlington (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	983[2]
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	98
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

[2] Although the two houses in the transfer area are located within the parish of Adlington, they are already on the electoral roll for Poynton and therefore vote in the Town Council's elections. Therefore the boundary change would not involve the transfer of any electors from Adlington to Poynton.

2.3 Agden

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Agden
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Meeting
Current Parish name(s)	Agden
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Nominations in 2019	N/A
Electorate (2018)	148
Electorate (2025 forecast)	146

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Millington with the Parish Meetings of Agden and Little Bollington, to form a new parish council with no warding and eight seats. The rationale for this is that all three bodies are relatively small, with Millington's shortage of nominations raising questions about its viability as an independent parish council.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Millington Parish Council responded, as did Agden Parish Meeting and Little Bollington Parish Meeting (see below for a summary of their submissions). One Little Bollington individual resident agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but provided no specific comments and no other individual residents from Millington, Agden or Little Bollington made submissions.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Agden Parish Meeting supported the Draft Recommendations proposal, noting that the merged body would provide residents with a stronger, more effective voice to help mitigate the effects of HS2 and the Northern Powerhouse rail project on the local environment, but setting out some conditions and issues that the merger would need to address, namely: continued contributions to the local church that is a focal point for its communal activities; a need to avoid subsidising (through the precept) projects and assets that did not benefit Agden; and the need to plan for the recruitment of a clerk and councillors.

Little Bollington Parish Meeting opposed the Draft Recommendations proposal. It stated that Little Bollington functioned well and engaged effectively with residents at present, with up to 20 per cent of residents attending meetings. It drew attention to the Stamford Arms development that is currently underway - a development not anticipated and hence not previously factored into the Borough Council's electorate forecasts - and to the fact this is expected to increase the adult population by around 30, greatly increasing the electorate and further improving the Parish Meeting's viability.

It noted that Little Bollington was a distinct community that shared no amenities or communal activities with Agden or Millington, and that the three parishes had some separate interests.

To highlight its distinct identity, it refuted the Draft Recommendations Report description of the residential properties in Agden, Millington and Little Bollington as "scattered dwellings in open countryside": it pointed out that, in fact, over half of its dwellings are

in close proximity: either on Park Lane or the adjacent estate, with the new development due to increase that proportion. This concentration of properties accounts in part for the sense of local identity.

Little Bollington Parish Meeting was concerned that a merger of all three bodies would cover too wide-ranging an area and that the parish would lack an effective voice on the new council, with residents feeling remote and inadequately represented and people less inclined to serve on the new body. It noted that in recent years the Parish Meeting has made extensive and successful efforts to build community links between its residents, through social media and social activities, including an annual Little Bollington Festival; the COVID pandemic had put much of that on hold and the Parish Meeting was keen that any Community Governance Review changes should not reverse that progress through a merger with very different neighbours.

However, whilst Millington was relatively distant, with the M56 acting as a barrier to links with most of that parish, Little Bollington felt that a merger with Agden was viable. It also reported that residents in the part of Millington north of the M56 felt more connected to Little Bollington and some attended its communal events and Parish Meetings.

It therefore recommended a merger that excluded the part of Millington south of the M56, but which included Agden, Little Bollington and the rest of Millington. It felt this would ensure viability and an adequate pool of residents from which to recruit candidates. It also pressed for the new council to be warded, so that Little Bollington's distinct identity would be properly reflected and represented.

Millington Parish Council's submission opposed the Draft Recommendations, feeling that it had a much more rural identity and consequently different needs to Agden and Little Bollington; it also considered that integration with Parish Meetings, with their different ways of working, could prove challenging. However, Millington Parish Council felt it had much in common with Rostherne Parish Council and Tatton Parish Meeting and therefore proposed that it be included in their merger. (The Draft Recommendations proposed that Rostherne and Tatton be merged – and Rostherne Parish Council's submission agreed to this proposal, though Tatton Parish Meeting did not respond to the consultation. The Rostherne and Tatton subsections of this Assessment Report contain more details on this.)

The arguments put forward by Millington Parish Council in support of this alternative proposal were: Rostherne and Millington are both very small parish councils, so neither would lose its individual voice to a much larger partner; the two parish council areas and Tatton are rural, farming communities, so have a shared identity; the impact of HS2 is a common challenge that a merged, larger parish council could respond to more effectively; Rostherne and Millington have a history of supporting each other on other issues,

such as road (A556) and housing developments; the two councils share a clerk and use the same premises for their meetings; there are social links between the two councils; its proposed merger of Millington, Rostherne and Tatton, in tandem with a merger of Agden and Little Bollington, would create two parish councils of very similar size (about 300 electors).

Millington Parish Council's submission also notes that it had approached Rostherne with its alternative proposal; Rostherne did not support the proposal at that time, but Millington had since written to Rostherne, setting out the rationale summarised above. Millington Parish Council has suggested the name "Bucklow Parish Council" for a merger of Millington, Rostherne and Tatton.

Should its proposal not find favour, Millington Parish Council's preference is to remain as an independent parish council.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Little Bollington Parish Meeting's submission provides extensive evidence of its distinct identity and community spirit, with a number of social activities and annual events, a majority of residential properties concentrated in a small area and a lack of shared amenities and facilities with neighbours. However, it also sees scope for working more closely with Agden and notes that residents in the northern part of Millington feel connected to Little Bollington and take part in its activities and meetings.

Millington Parish Council provides detailed evidence to suggest it has links to and common interests with Rostherne and Tatton, but not with Agden or Little Bollington.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
Agden Parish Meeting's submission indicates a desire for increased viability and a more effective voice by merging with neighbours.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Agden Parish Meeting's submission proposed that there should be further consultation on wider merger that also included High Legh, Mere, or both these parish councils, but did not elaborate on the rationale for this.

Post-consultation assessment

Agden and Little Bollington are content to merge with each other and provide convincing reasons for doing so, with increased viability and greater influence over shared challenges being the main justification. Whilst Agden further proposes that Millington and either Mere, High Legh or both could also be included in this merger (and the sole response from an Agden or Little Bollington resident favours the inclusion of Millington), Mere Parish Council did not respond to the consultation, High Legh Parish Council supported the Draft Recommendation that it remain an independent council and Little Bollington Parish Meeting and Millington Parish Council did not wish to merge with each other.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends the creation of a new council comprising only of the Agden and Little Bollington Parish Meetings and (given Little Bollington Parish Meeting's persuasive evidence on community links to that area) the part of Millington north of the M56.

It recommends this council be named "Little Bollington with Agden" (Little Bollington Parish Meeting's proposal), as this acknowledges the history of its main areas as individual parish meetings. This merger decision is also influenced by Millington Parish Council's own submission, which objects to being merged with Agden and Little Bollington - seeing itself as more rural - and instead makes a persuasive case for its own inclusion in the Draft Recommendations proposed merger of Rostherne and Tatton, citing a number of common interests, shared resources and the advantage of strength in numbers. The unexpected sharp declines in the electorates of Rostherne and Tatton also add weight to the case for including Millington in that merger: whilst the original electorate forecasts produced for Community Governance Review purposes anticipated a combined electorate for Rostherne and Tatton of 147 by 2025 (no change from 2018), the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put their total electorate at only 117.

As for the legal status of the new Little Bollington with Agden council, Little Bollington Parish Meeting suggests the new body could be either a Parish Meeting or a Parish Council. However, the Borough Council has a presumption in favour of creating parish councils in cases (like this one) where the total electorate would exceed 150 (the legal minimum for a new parish council). It also considers that the geographical extent and size of the new area's electorate (at around 300) would make parish meetings much more difficult to manage and that a council structure would be more appropriate. It therefore recommends that the new body should be a council.

For the style, it recommends "Community", as Little Bollington Parish Meeting argues that this has suitably modern, collaborative connotations.

On the matter of seating and warding, Little Bollington's submission provides persuasive evidence of its distinct identity - with its concentration of properties around Park Lane and local social activities - and specifically requests that the new body be warded so that its own interests are effectively represented. The Borough Council therefore recommends warding, with Little Bollington Parish Meeting and the transferred part of Millington forming a "Little Bollington" ward and Agden Parish Meeting becoming an "Agden" ward.

Taking account of the new Stamford Arms development, the electorate of the current Little Bollington Parish Meeting area is now expected to be 172 (30 more electors than originally forecast) by 2025; the 2025 forecast for Agden is 146 electors. The transferred part of Millington has an estimated seven residential properties and it is estimated (based on the average number of electors per property across the local borough ward of High Legh) that these house 13 electors (with no further development expected in this area of Millington by 2025). Therefore the new council is expected to have a total of 331 electors by 2025, with the Agden ward containing an estimated 146 electors and the Little Bollington ward 185. The Borough Council recommends a total of seven seats, given that this is in line with the average for a council of this size. Based on their respective shares of the total electorate, the fairest allocation would be three seats for Agden and four for Little Bollington, so this is what the Borough Council recommends.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.3 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of Agden Parish Meeting, Little Bollington Parish Meeting and the part of Millington Parish Council north of the M56, to form a new parish council.
Parish Council name and style	Little Bollington with Agden Community Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Little Bollington with Agden (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Two wards, with boundaries as shown in Map 2.3: [1] "Agden", consisting of the current Agden Parish Meeting area); [2] "Little Bollington", consisting of the current Little Bollington Parish Meeting and the part of the current Millington Parish Council area that lies north of the M56.
Seats	7 (Agden 3, Little Bollington 4)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	331 (Agden 146, Little Bollington 185). This forecast takes account of the Stamford Arms development in Little Bollington.
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	47 overall (Agden 49, Little Bollington 46). This is based on the forecast that takes account of the Stamford Arms development.
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Little Bollington with Agden – warding" • "Millington – transfer to Little Bollington"

2.4 Alderley Edge

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Alderley Edge
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Alderley Edge
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	9
Nominations in 2019	11
Electorate (2018)	3,708
Electorate (2025 forecast)	3,846

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Multiple representations, with the majority indicating a preference of no change to governance.

Draft Recommendations
Increase seats from nine to 12, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
15 responses received, of which 11 (73 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, two agreed and two took no view. However, it appeared from their comments that two of those who disagreed were under the misconception that the Borough Council proposed to alter Alderley Edge's boundaries, or to merge it with Wilmslow, Handforth and Chorley; this may have influenced their overall view.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council's own submission requested that seats be kept at nine, noting that "we feel this enables a fair division of workload whilst maintaining good communication between all councillors. We feel 12 councillors would be detrimental to this balance."

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Out of all the consultation stage responses from across Cheshire East, eight suggested that Alderley Edge could be merged with adjacent Chorley, but only one of those came from an Alderley Edge resident (and was not that person's preferred option anyway); the other seven were from residents of the parish of Chorley (adjacent to Alderley Edge), but these made up only a small proportion of the 75 submissions from that parish. Alderley Edge Parish Council itself also requested no merger with neighbouring parishes or towns. Furthermore, no submissions from Alderley Edge residents suggested that the current boundary failed to reflect local community identity.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
Apart from the Parish Council's response (summarised above), no submissions commented on seat numbers specifically and no single governance issue was raised in more than one response. No submissions raised any concerns that might conceivably be addressed through an increase in seats.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The consultation responses indicate a lack of support from local residents for a change to existing governance and the Parish Council's submission argues persuasively that a change to seat numbers would disrupt its current effectiveness and efficiency. In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council now recommends no change to seat numbers, nor to other governance arrangements.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	None
Parish Council name and style	Alderley Edge Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Alderley Edge (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	9 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	3,846
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	427
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.5 Alpraham

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Alpraham
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Alpraham
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	12
Electorate (2018)	354
Electorate (2025 forecast)	477

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Housing in the village of Calveley (in the parish of Calveley) extends slightly into the parish of Alpraham.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None from Alpraham. However, one individual Calveley resident felt that, as they were so small, Alpraham and Calveley's individual voices were not very effective and did not prompt action from the Borough Council. This resident proposed the two parishes merge, to give them a stronger, collective voice.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Wardle with Alpraham and Calveley, as Wardle (and to a lesser extent) Calveley are relatively small parishes. All three are in the same borough ward and vote at the same location, so electoral arrangements would be more convenient than if Wardle or Calveley were merged with another neighbour.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were five submissions from Alpraham, all via the consultation survey. Four of these supported the Draft Recommendations; this included one from a parish councillor on the council's behalf. The fifth submission from Alpraham disagreed with the Draft Recommendations, but cited the distance from Wardle as the reason for this view (no issue with Calveley was raised, though this person did question whether any governance change was needed at all).

There were four submissions from Calveley residents, all via the consultation survey and all of which disagreed with the Draft Recommendations. However, all four of the Calveley responses had some degree of enthusiasm for merging with a neighbour. Two of those supported a merger with Alpraham alone; one of these simply said include Alpraham but not Wardle; the other noted that the two parishes' villages were similar, geographically close and had similar demographic make-up, whereas Wardle was relatively distant and demographically different. This submission suggested that Wardle could be merged with Stoke & Hurleston instead. A third thought a merger with Alpraham would be good, providing: (i) there were a reasonable number of councillors from each village (in other words, seating/ warding or other governance arrangements that would prevent the much-larger Alpraham from unduly dominating proceedings); (ii) any Neighbourhood Plan complications arising from the merger could be satisfactorily resolved (as this submission notes, Calveley has a Neighbourhood Plan, but Alpraham does not). The other Calveley submission favoured a merger of their parish with Wettenhall, citing community links and shared issues (such as Calveley's school serving Wettenhall). This submission objected to being involved in a merger with Wardle, on the grounds that (in this resident's view) Wardle's industrial estate was disrupting traffic on Calveley roads and that Wardle Parish Council was relatively inactive and (unlike Calveley Parish Council) did not engage much with its residents.

There were no submissions from Wardle residents. However, Wardle Parish Council responded by email (see details below).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish councils
As noted above, the councillor responding on behalf of Alpraham Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but added no specific comments to their submission.

Calveley Parish Council itself did not respond, but Wardle Parish Council's submission strongly objected to the merger, for reasons relating to both community identity and to effective and convenient local government. On the matter of community identity, Wardle Parish Council stated it has no current or past links with the parishes of Alpraham and Calveley; it also felt that Wardle has a separate identity, which it wished to retain. As for viability, Wardle Parish Council pointed out that new housing development - on Wardle Avenue and on the former Jolly Tar pub site - has increased its population and electorate significantly since 2018.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions generally indicate that Alpraham and Calveley have common characteristics and note their geographical proximity, but that Wardle is distant and has no community links (or shared interests with) the other two parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No concerns raised.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Two responses from Cholmondeston suggested Wettenhall could be merged with Alpraham and Calveley; one of these submissions stated that Wettenhall has agricultural links with Alpraham and community connections to Calveley. The same two submissions also suggested that their parish could be merged with Wardle (or with Barbridge, which is part of the parish of Stoke), with agriculture and the canal/ canal communities being cited as common links between Wardle, Stoke and Cholmondeston.

Post-consultation assessment
Wardle Parish Council offers persuasive reasons for not being included in a merger with Alpraham and Calveley, citing a separate identity, lack of community links and the fact that recent housing development has boosted its number of electors and consequently its viability as an independent parish.

Furthermore, the four submissions received from Calveley all reject the Draft Recommendations, with three of these objecting to the inclusion of Wardle (though three consider a merger of Alpraham and Calveley alone to be beneficial, or potentially so). These submissions cite additional reasons for this view: Wardle's different demographic make-up; its geographical distance from the villages of Alpraham and Calveley; Wardle Parish Council having a different (allegedly less engaged) approach to communication with residents; and its industrial estate meaning it has different (conflicting) interests to those of Calveley.

Whilst most of the five responses from Alpraham agree with the Draft Recommendations, the one that does object also cites Wardle's distance from Alpraham as the reason for disagreeing.

It should also be noted that the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data confirm that Wardle's electorate has (as the Parish Council's submission indicates) grown substantially since 2018: this latest Register shows 149 electors in the parish (up from 119 in 2018), thereby increasing its viability.

One Calveley resident suggests Wardle could be merged with Stoke & Hurleston and two responses from Cholmondeston suggest that their parish could be merged with Wardle (or with Barbridge, which is part of the parish of Stoke), with agriculture and canal activity being cited as common links between Wardle, Stoke and Cholmondeston. However, the submissions from Wardle and Cholmondeston & Wettenhall Parish Councils request no changes to governance; Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council supports the Draft Recommendations proposal that their Group's two parishes merge, but does not propose a wider merger to include other neighbours.

In the light of the level of opposition from Wardle Parish Council and Calveley residents, together with the views of neighbouring parish councils and other factors summarised here, the Borough Council recommends that Wardle remain as an individual parish.

However, a large majority of the consultation responses from Alpraham and Calveley support a merger involving those two parishes. Four of the five responses from Alpraham - including the one submitted on behalf of Alpraham Parish Council - agree overall with the Draft Recommendations. Three of the four responses from Calveley support a merger of their parish with Alpraham only, with persuasive arguments being put forward: namely the two main villages' proximity, similarities and common demographic make-up. The sole pre-consultation response from either parish (from a Calveley resident) also supported a merger, arguing this would mean Alpraham and Calveley had a stronger, effective voice.

One of the Calveley submissions favouring such a merger makes that support conditional on Calveley (with its much smaller electorate) having a reasonable share of seats on the new council and on neighbourhood plan arrangements being satisfactorily resolved. The Borough Council has considered these issues and concludes that they do not present an obstacle to the two parishes merging. Given this, and in the light of the consultation evidence and other factors discussed above, the Borough Council recommends that Alpraham and Calveley merge, to form a new council.

No names for such a new council were proposed in the submissions, but the Borough Council recommends "Alpraham & Calveley", to acknowledge the two main settlements and their history as individual parishes. The Borough Council recommends that the new council be styled "Community", as three of the four submissions that commented on this matter (the one on behalf of Alpraham Parish Council and two from Calveley residents) favoured “Community” and offered clear reasons (one resident felt this style was more modern; another that it best reflected local people working together).

The Calveley Neighbourhood Plan will still apply to the land it was originally intended, so, following the recommended merger, Alpraham and Calveley may decide to produce a joint plan to expand coverage and the Borough Council considers that such a joint plan is a practical option. Furthermore, as the Calveley Neighbourhood Plan was completed in early 2019, a number of planning changes have occurred since (or are imminent) and therefore the Borough Council believes that a review of this Plan - which could incorporate Alpraham’s planning needs - could be very timely. The Borough Council would also stress that Neighbourhood Plan areas do not have to cover the whole of a parish, so new councils covering a wide geographical area could opt to produce a plan over a more concentrated area where most of the population resides.

As for the matter of ensuring Calveley has sufficient seats to influence decision-making and represent its residents effectively, the Borough Council considers that this can be addressed by having warding, with separate wards for the current parish of Alpraham and the current parish of Calveley; it recommends that these two wards be called “Alpraham” and “Calveley”.

The Borough Council's forecast is that, by 2025, the two parishes will have 477 and 243 electors respectively, giving a total of 720 electors. For a council of this size, eight or possibly nine seats would be in line with the average across Cheshire East. If there were nine seats overall and warding were based on the existing parish boundaries, a fair allocation based on electorate shares (using 2025 forecast data) would be six for Alpraham and three for Calveley; if there were eight seats and the same ward boundary, the fairest split would be Alpraham five and Calveley three. Therefore a total of eight seats would mean Calveley has a relatively greater say in decision-making – and would in fact favour Calveley slightly, by giving it fewer electors per seat (81) than Alpraham (95).

In theory, the boundary between Alpraham and Calveley could be adjusted so that the Alpraham properties to south of Long Lane and east of the A51 (five of which are adjacent to Calveley village anyway) become part of a Calveley ward; this would better reflect settlement boundaries, but would move only an estimated nine properties and 16 electors to Calveley - and would still mean its fair share would be three seats (whether the council has eight seats in total or nine). Given this slight boundary change would not alter Calveley's seating entitlement – and considering the fact that the consultation submissions did not request any boundary change – the Borough Council does not recommend any adjustment to the existing boundary.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends a total of eight seats, with warding (and ward names) based on the current parish boundary and current parish names, with three seats for the Calveley ward and five for Alpraham.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.4 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of the parish of Alpraham with the parish of Calveley, to form a single new parish.
Parish Council name and style	Alpraham & Calveley Community Council
Parish name(s)	Alpraham & Calveley
Warding arrangements (if any)	Existing two parishes to become wards on the new council, as shown in Map 2.4. In other words, the current parish boundary between them will become a parish ward boundary. The new wards to be named “Alpraham” and “Calveley”.
Seats	8 (Alpraham 5, Calveley 3)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	720 (Alpraham 477, Calveley 243)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	90 overall (Alpraham 95, Calveley 81)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.6 Alsager

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Alsager
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Alsager
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Central; East; West.
Seats	14 (Central 4, East 6, West 4)
Nominations in 2019	24 (Central 8, East 7, West 9)
Electorate (2018)	9,821 (Central 2,740, East 3,883, West 3,198)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast: 11,194 (Central 3,278, East 4,599, West 3,317) Revised forecast: 11,151 (Central 3,278, East 4,556, West 3,317) Note: Revised forecast excludes from the East ward those homes in the part of the Twyford estate that are currently in the parish of Church Lawton.

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
[1] Alsager's housing has also expanded significantly into the eastern part of Haslington Parish Councill's Oakhanger ward and the development of Local Plan Strategy site LPS 20 (White Moss Quarry, Alsager), which is mainly within Oakhanger, will add to this.

2] There is a new housing development at site Local Plan Strategy LPS 21 (Twyfords and Cardway, Alsager) that is split between Church Lawton and Alsager. This new development, the Twyford estate, is a consequence of Alsager's expansion and relies on the town for services.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Town Council felt that boundary changes were necessary, to take account of new housing development and the town's expansion into Haslington and Church Lawton; it also felt seat numbers and warding should be reviewed, in the light of this new development. (As noted in the Haslington subsection of this Assessment Report, Haslington Parish acknowledged in its pre-consultation survey response that a transfer to Alsager may be necessary, for this reason.)

One Alsager resident proposed that the boundary with Haslington be extended as far as the M6, to reflect recent development.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer to Alsager Town Council's West ward of the part of Haslington east of the M6, as this would reflect Alsager's expansion and provide a clear long-term boundary between the two parishes.

[2] Transfer to Alsager Town Council's East ward of the part of the Twyford estate that lies in Church Lawton, to reflect local community identity and Alsager's expansion. New boundary to follow the B5077 (Crewe Road) and the A5011 (Linley Lane).

[3] Increase seats from 14 to 15, as this is more in line with the average for a council of Alsager's size. The extra seat to be assigned to the West ward, to reflect the large increase in its electorate resulting from the transfer from Haslington.

[4] Seek public view on potential transfer to Alsager of the part of the parish of Barthomley east of the M6, given the possibility of longer-term development in this location.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
13 submissions from Alsager (all made via the consultation survey), of which six agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and five disagreed. Of those who disagreed, four provided comments. Two of these objected to an expected higher tax burden and one of these (a town councillor) felt that there were underlying party political motives. A third stated that the village of Lawton Heath End (currently in Church Lawton) and the southern part of Betchton (around the equestrian centre and Hassall Nature Reserve) should transfer to Alsager, as they had a common identity. The other dissenter agreed with the transfer from Haslington, but felt that the M6 should be used to demarcate the whole length of Alsager's western boundary (thus transferring parts of the parishes of Barthomley and Hassall to Alsager as well). The latter response was also one of several - which appear to be from the same person - objecting to the practice of having multi-member seats.

The submission from the South Cheshire branch of the Labour Party – which commented on many different parishes across South Cheshire – supported the option of extending Alsager's boundary with Barthomley as far as the M6.

Most of the responses from Haslington (13) agreed with the Draft Recommendations. Of those who disagreed, two included comments: one of these objected to an expected increase in tax arising from being transferred to Alsager; the other opposed the principle of transferring village or rural areas to towns.

All of the four responses from Church Lawton disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but most of these supported Church Lawton Parish Council's proposed modification to the Draft Recommendations boundary line (see details below).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Town Council's submission agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but also endorsed (and attached) a letter from Church Lawton Parish Council, requesting a modification to the Draft Recommendations proposals. This letter (the content of which was mirrored in the Parish Council's own submission) supported the inclusion of the whole Twyford estate in Alsager, but objected to the use of the B5077 and A5011 for the new boundary, on the grounds that this would also transfer part of an ancient burial mound site (the Church Lawton Barrows) and the old Station House along the former (disused) railway line (the Salt Line). The letter states that both the burial site and the old Station House are part of Church Lawton's heritage - the mounds are associated (in academic archaeological work) with Church Lawton - and should remain in the parish. The Parish Council also felt that use of the B5077/ A5011 - which are at right angles to each other - would result in confusing signage at a busy junction. To address this and retain the two heritage sites, it proposed instead that the new boundary should follow the Salt Line. The Church Lawton Barrows

Group also supported Church Lawton Parish Council's boundary modification, for the same reason, and one of the two other responses from Church Lawton also endorsed this modification, again expressing a wish to keep the Barrows in the parish.

In its consultation submission, Haslington Parish accepted the need for a change to its boundary and was content for the M6 to mark the new boundary line.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
As noted above, one town councillor objected to the Draft Recommendations, citing the tax impact and political motives.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The responses from Alsager Town Council and Church Lawton Parish Council support the view that the Twyford estate is part of Alsager's community and is best represented by Alsager alone; no other consultation submissions suggest otherwise. Similarly, the responses from the Town Council and Haslington Parish Council appear to indicate that the new developments in the eastern part of Haslington (east of the M6) have community links to Alsager, rather than Haslington; again, no consultation submissions suggest otherwise. However, the case put forward by the Church Lawton Parish Council (and the local Barrows Group), endorsed by the Town Council, highlights the importance of the Barrows and the old Station House to Church Lawton's heritage.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
As noted above, a majority of the consultation responses from Alsager, including that from the Town Council, supported the Draft Recommendations. Haslington Parish Council also accepted the proposed change to its boundary and most of the Church Lawton responses (the Parish Council included) were content for the Twyford estate to be placed entirely within Alsager. Hence there is a consensus among the affected town/ parish councils and a majority view from individual submissions that the new developments around the Haslington and Church Lawton boundaries form part of Alsager's community and should transfer there. However, the Church Lawton Parish Council submission, endorsed by the Town Council and supported in two of the other responses from Church Lawton (one from its Barrows Group) argue persuasively that the Barrows and the old Station House are part of Church

Lawton's heritage and should remain there; the Parish Council also proposes an alternative boundary that is clear and in fact more practical than the Draft Recommendations line.

The Borough Council considers that the suggestion from one Alsager individual of a transfer to Alsager from Barthomley/ Hassall is not justified, given that there is limited development in these locations; it also feels that another individual's suggestion that Lawton Heath End and parts of Betchton transfer to Alsager because of a shared identity seems at odds with the fact that these areas are not adjacent to residential areas of Alsager.

The proposal - again from one individual - for smaller wards, to avoid multi-member seats - is not practical: for example, it would entail a large number of additional ward boundaries that would be complicated to create and administer and would mean the reliance, across the Borough, of large numbers of urban electors on a single councillor.

No other comments were received regarding seat numbers or warding.

In the light of the consultation responses and these other considerations, the Borough Council recommends that the Draft Recommendations proposed change to the Haslington boundary go ahead, but that the boundary with Church Lawton be modified to follow the Salt Line (so that the Barrows and the old Station House remain in Church Lawton, but the Twyford Estate is brought entirely within Alsager). It further recommends that (as per the Draft Recommendations) the total number of seats on Alsager Town Council be increased to 15, with the extra seat going to the significantly enlarged West ward.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.5a & 2.5b in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Church Lawton to Alsager Town Council's East ward, of the shaded area (the Church Lawton part of the Twyford estate) shown in Map 2.5a. Transfer, from Haslington Parish Council's Oakhanger ward to Alsager Town Council's West ward, of the shaded area (the area of Haslington east of the M6) shown in Map 2.5b.
Parish Council name and style	Alsager Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Alsager (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Central, East West)
Seats	15 overall (an increase from the current 14). Allocation of seats between wards: Central 4 seats (no change), East 6 (no change), West 5 (an increase from the current 4).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	12,064 (Central 3,278, East 4,599, West 4,187).[3]
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	804 overall (Central 820, East 767, West 837)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Church Lawton – transfer to Alsager" • "Haslington – transfer to Alsager"

[3] The Draft Recommendations Report incorrectly excluded the Church Lawton old Station House from its calculation of the impact of the Draft Recommendations proposals on Alsager. However, the Final Recommendations involve the retention of the old Station House within Church Lawton and hence these Final Recommendations forecast figures for Alsager are exactly the same as those shown in the Draft Recommendations Report, despite the boundary modification now recommended.

2.7 Arclid

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Arclid
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Arclid
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	4
Electorate (2018)	239
Electorate (2025 forecast)	369

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council responded, requesting no change, but made no specific comments. No Arclid residents responded.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. Merger not needed, given that electorate is well above 150 and is expected to grow substantially up to 2025 and that no issues raised about viability. No change needed to seat numbers, as the current total of seven - the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council - is in line with the average for a council of this size. Only four nominations in 2019, so any extra seats may be difficult to fill. The recommendation of no change also reflects the Parish Council's pre-consultation response.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
No responses from the Parish Council or its residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

No consultation responses from the Parish Council or its residents, nor any consultation submissions from other parishes that commented on Arclid. It is therefore assumed that the Parish Council and local residents are content with the proposal of no change. For this reason - and the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Arclid Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Arclid (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	369
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	53
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.8 Ashley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Ashley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Ashley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	250
Electorate (2025 forecast)	254

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats from eight to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions

None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Eight submissions received (all via the online survey). Five of these, including one from the Parish Council and one from a parish councillor, stated that they disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The other three said they agreed, but one of them proposed (in response to a question about alternative suggestions) eight seats instead of seven, so it would appear this person also, in effect, disagrees with the Draft Recommendations. (Another of those who expressed agreement made some suggestions for managing the reduction in seats, but these ideas fall outside the remit of the Community Governance Review.)

The three individual residents who stated their disagreement all made comments to support their view. All three cited major transport projects that do (or will) have a disproportionate impact on Ashley and add significantly to the Parish Council's workload: all mentioned the HS2 route and infrastructure - a development that will extend across much of the local area; two of them referred to the M56's four-lane smart motorway, which is nearby; and one noted that the proximity of Manchester Airport also presented challenges. One of those citing these transport-related problems also stated that problems relating to footpaths, potholes, gullies and hedges were relatively time-consuming issues for the parish. All three of those who highlighted HS2 and other transport issues also had positive words to say about the current system or the work of parish councillors: one said current arrangements work well; another praised their hard work and dedication to local residents; the third pointed out that Ashley's councillors had very detailed local knowledge, with some being lifelong residents and felt this made the Parish Council very effective.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council felt it needed to retain all eight councillors in order to address some of the local major issues - issues that individual residents' submissions also highlighted.

One of these is HS2. The Parish Council is determined to mount an effective challenge to - or at least mitigate - the impact of the HS2 Phase 2B railway and sidings, given that that this development is due to cover a large part of the village of Ashley.

Another is the smart motorway section covering Junctions 6 to 8 of the M56: Ashley village is near the central part of this motorway section and the Parish Council has to liaise extensively with Highways England over the problems of noise and tree removal.

The submission also highlighted the fact that councillors have to cover a wide geographical area.

The Parish Council felt that, given all these local factors that add to its workload, it is inappropriate for seat numbers to be based on electorate size alone.

The submission also included maps showing the proximity of the village to the motorway and the proposed HS2 development.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
One of the parish's councillors echoed the Parish Council's comments on the impact of HS2, saying that the existing eight councillors were needed to tackle that challenge. This submission also felt that the Borough Council should provide more support.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from the Parish Council and its residents highlight common issues - notably mitigating the effects of HS2 and the smart motorway - and a desire to preserve the village of Ashley as best they can. Whilst some submissions from a few other parishes refer to challenges posed by a specific transport infrastructure project or major road, Ashley is unusual in facing multiple challenges of this kind.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
It is notable that a number of submissions from individual residents comment on the effectiveness of the Parish Council.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
A clear majority of the consultation responses, including the one from the Parish Council, oppose the Draft Recommendations proposed reduction in seats. The arguments made in support of keeping the existing eight seats are persuasive: it is clear that Ashley faces an unusually difficult combination of challenges and unwelcome side effects arising from the M56 motorway and HS2, and requires significant additional councillor time and effort to address these, with its widespread geography and some more

commonplace problems also adding to the Council's workload. Furthermore, the responses from residents suggest that the Council is effective and well regarded. The Borough Council is also conscious of the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on parish council's workloads. In the light of this, and the consultation submission evidence, the Borough Council recommends that Ashley retain its current eight seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Ashley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Ashley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	254
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	32
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.9 Aston by Budworth

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Aston by Budworth
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Aston by Budworth
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	266
Electorate (2025 forecast)	289

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
No responses from the Parish Council or its residents.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. Merger not needed, given that electorate is above 250 and is expected to grow further up to 2025 and that no issues raised about viability. No change needed to seat numbers, as the current total of seven - the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council - is in line with the average for a council of this size. Only five nominations in 2019, so any extra seats may be difficult to fill.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
No consultation responses from the Parish Council or its residents, nor any consultation submissions from other parishes that commented on Aston by Budworth. It is therefore assumed that the Parish Council and local residents are content with the proposal

of no change. For this reason - and the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Aston by Budworth Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Aston by Budworth (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	289
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	41
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.10 Audlem

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Audlem
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Audlem
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	12
Nominations in 2019	9
Electorate (2018)	1,580
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,834

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council requested no change to governance, but made no specific comments. No responses from individual residents.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats to 10, as this is in line with the average for a council of Audlem's size. No other changes to governance.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Two responses from individual residents, both via the consultation survey and both disagreeing overall with the Draft Recommendations. One of these objected to seat numbers being based on statistical averages alone. The other stated that a significant number of the current councillors had been co-opted (which the 2019 nominations figure would seem to support) and that some consequently lacked experience. This submission recommended that the seats total be kept at 12, so that council decision-making and service provision would benefit from a mix of newer and more experienced councillors.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council requested no change to governance in its pre-consultation submission. Both of the consultation stage submissions opposed the Draft Recommendations proposed reduction in seats. Hence none of the pre-consultation and

consultation responses support the Draft Recommendations. Furthermore, the comments made during the consultation stage are important and persuasive ones (although the Borough Council is not in a position to judge whether the statement that Audlem's parish councillors are relatively inexperienced is a fair one). Whilst statistics on the average number of seats for a given electorate are a useful reference, they do not take account of factors such as whether the council is urban or rural, the density and dispersement of its population, transport links, geographical terrain or specific local issues (e.g. major employers or industries) - all of which can have a significant impact on councillors' workloads. Audlem is a relatively rural parish, unlike some others that have a comparably-sized electorate. In addition, it is necessary have decisions informed by experienced councillors, as well as newcomers with fresh ideas.

In the light of this submission evidence, the Borough Council recommends no change in governance. In making this decision, the Borough Council has also considered the additional pressure placed on parish council services and councillor time by the ongoing COVID pandemic.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Audlem Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Audlem (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	12 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,834
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	153
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.11 Barthomley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Barthomley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Barthomley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	6
Electorate (2018)	169
Electorate (2025 forecast)	189

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
No major housing development is currently planned on the Barthomley side of this parish's boundary with Alsager, but it is possible that Alsager's housing expansion could eventually spill over into Barthomley and extend as far as the M6.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Seek public view on whether to merge the whole of Barthomley with Haslington, merge only part of it (the part west of the M6) with Haslington and transfer the rest to Alsager, or leave Barthomley as an independent parish. These options reflect Barthomley's relatively small size and hence questions about its viability, particularly if the area east of the M6 were to be transferred to Alsager.

The Draft Recommendation is to leave Barthomley with seven seats if it remains in existence as a parish.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
One response from an individual Barthomley resident (via the consultation survey), who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and objected specifically to the potential decline in property values that could occur; this submission opposed any boundary change or merger.

One response on Alsager felt that the M6 should be used to demarcate the whole length of Alsager's western boundary (thus transferring parts of the parishes of Barthomley and Hassall to Alsager as well part of the parish of Haslington). The submission from the South Cheshire branch of the Labour Party – which commented on many different parishes across South Cheshire – also supported the option of extending Alsager's boundary with Barthomley as far as the M6, arguing that the town could eventually expand to that point. However, there were no other submissions on any parish that proposed making any changes to Barthomley's governance arrangements.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None other than the response (summarised above) from the South Cheshire branch of the Labour Party.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

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Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
As noted, there were only three submissions that commented Barthomley and these had very different views on the case for altering the parish's boundary. Two of these favoured a transfer to Alsager of the area of Barthomley east of the M6, one of them expressing a preference for the use of clear boundaries and the other noting that the town's expansion could eventually extend into that part of Barthomley. However, the Borough Council is not persuaded by these points alone: this part of Barthomley (like the rest of the parish) has little housing and no significant development expected over the Local Plan period (up to 2030), so (unlike the part of Haslington east of the motorway) residents in this area are unlikely to identify with Alsager or rely on the town for the sort of community services provided by a parish council. Furthermore, the sole submission from a Barthomley resident opposes a change to this boundary. In addition, neither the submission from Alsager Town Council nor the one from Haslington Parish Council expressed a wish to absorb part or all of Barthomley.

The Borough Council also notes that the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put Barthomley's electorate at 172 - broadly on a par with the 2018 figure (169). This total does not greatly exceed the legal minimum (150) required for a new parish council and could in some cases raise questions about an existing parish's viability. However, the Borough Council is unaware of any concerns about Barthomley's effectiveness and notes that for the 2019 ordinary elections it received almost as many nominations (six) as there are seats.

In the light of these factors and the submission evidence, the Borough Council recommends that Barthomley should remain as an independent parish, with no changes to its boundary. The Borough Council also recommends that Barthomley's number of seats should remain at seven, given that this is the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum and that no submissions made a case for changing this.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Barthomley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Barthomley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	189
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	27
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.12 Betchton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Betchton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Betchton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	552
Electorate (2025 forecast)	576

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats to eight, as this is in line with the average for a council of this size and also reflects the apparent difficulty in filling the current number of seats (as indicated by the shortage of nominations for the 2019 ordinary elections).

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Two responses from Betchton, both via the consultation survey, one from an individual resident (who was unsure whether to agree or disagree with the Draft Recommendations and added no comments) and the other from the Parish Council (see below).

A submission on Alsager suggested that the southern part of Betchton (around the equestrian centre and Hassall Nature Reserve) should transfer to Alsager (along with Lawton Heath End in Church Lawton), as they had a common identity.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
In its submission, the Parish Council recognises the rationale for the Draft Recommendations proposal, but disagrees overall with the Recommendations, stating that it would like to retain the current 10 seats so that any increased interest from residents in serving on the council can be accommodated.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

The suggestion (from an Alsager resident) that Lawton Heath End and parts of Betchton should transfer to Alsager because of a shared identity seems at odds with the fact that these areas are not adjacent to residential areas of Alsager. No other submissions made this proposal. Therefore the Borough Council does not recommend a change to Betchton's boundary with Alsager.

Betchton Parish Council makes a reasonable request for retaining the flexibility that a 10-seat quota provides, should there be increased future interest from residents in serving on the council. The Borough Council would be interested to know why the Parish Council considers that 10 seats are needed and whether there are specific reasons to expect increased future take-up. However, even without that information available in the submission evidence, the Borough Council is persuaded that 10 seats is appropriate. Betchton covers a large geographical area and is partly split by the M6, which is likely to add to the challenge of accessing certain parts of the parish. In addition, submissions from other parishes have highlighted the positive difference that an extra seat or two can bring, for example: a more evenly shared workload and hence greater incentive to serve on the council; more likelihood of councillors being demographically diverse and having a wide range of backgrounds and skills; and ensuring meeting decisions are not unduly influenced by individual councillors or factions. The Borough Council is also aware of the additional demands on council services and councillor time that the ongoing COVID pandemic brings - which some submissions also highlight. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change in seats or other governance arrangements.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Betchton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Betchton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	576
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	58
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.13 Bickerton & Egerton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Bickerton & Egerton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Bickerton; Egerton.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10 (Bickerton 7, Egerton 3)
Nominations in 2019	9 (Bickerton 6, Egerton 3)
Electorate (2018)	244 (Bickerton 186, Egerton 58)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	247 (Bickerton 186, Egerton 61)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats from 10 to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size. Remove warding.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None from Bickerton & Egerton Parish Council or its residents.

In its submission, Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council opposed the Draft Recommendations proposal that it merge with Peckforton, arguing that "Bickerton" would be a stronger candidate for inclusion any merger involving Bulkeley & Ridley, given the parish's reliance on Bickerton for many social, recreational activities and for primary school education and religious worship. However, Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council's preference was that it remain as an independent council and it did not consider it necessary to merge with any neighbours. Aside from this, no consultation submissions made reference to Bickerton or Egerton.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Evidence of community ties between Bickerton & Egerton and Bulkeley & Ridley, as noted in the latter parish council's submission, but no indication that this justifies a merger of those two parish groups.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

The absence of any submissions from this Parish Council or its residents seem to indicate a lack of support for a change to existing governance. Given these factors, and the Borough Council's intention to avoid making changes for change's sake, the Borough Council considers that the Draft Recommendations merger proposal is not necessary and now recommends that the Parish Council should remain as a group of two parishes.

In addition, submissions from other parishes have highlighted the positive difference that an extra seat or two can bring, for example: a more evenly shared workload and hence greater incentive to serve on the council; more likelihood of councillors being demographically diverse and having a wide range of backgrounds and skills; and ensuring meeting decisions are not unduly influenced by individual councillors or factions. Hence there are significant risks that can arise from a reduction in seats, with the COVID pandemic stretching resources and heightening these risks further. Therefore, keeping the existing total of 10 seats seems appropriate and this is what the Borough Council recommends.

Based on each parish's share of the electorate, the fairest share of seats would be eight for Bickerton and three for Egerton, but even the current seven-three split broadly reflects each parish's relative size and there is no available evidence to suggest that this split has adversely affected the council's effectiveness or its ability to represent its residents. In addition, as Bickerton had only six nominations for its seven seats for the 2019 ordinary elections, it may not necessarily be able to fill a quota of eight seats. Given these factors, and the Borough Council's intention to avoid making changes for change's sake, the Borough Council considers that a change in the allocation of the 10 seats between the two parishes is not necessary and it consequently recommends no change to this allocation.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A (council to remain as a group of two parishes)
Parish Council name and style	Bickerton & Egerton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Bickerton; Egerton (no changes)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (Bickerton 7, Egerton 3). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	247 (Bickerton 186, Egerton 61)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	25 overall (Bickerton 27, Egerton 20)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.14 Bollington

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Bollington
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Bollington
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Central; East; West.
Seats	12 (Central 4, East 4, West 4)
Nominations in 2019	12 (Central 4, East 2, West 6)
Electorate (2018)	6,336 (Central 2,516, East 1,933, West 1,887)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	6,391 (Central 2,536, East 1,922, West 1,933)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
The current boundary with Macclesfield cuts through a residential area south of the Silk Road (A523).

Two housing sites (with an expected 78 housing completions during 2018-25) in the western (Ingersley Vale) part of the parish of Rainow. The smaller of these sites (12 homes) is adjacent to the boundary with Bollington Town Council; the other (66 homes) is further from the parish boundary.

See also consultation evidence (summarised below) regarding Dumbah Lane.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Six responses at this stage from Bollington: one from a borough ward Member (though with no specific comments made) and five from individuals. Two responses thought the Town Council needed more authority or resources. Two (contrasting) opinions on the effectiveness of the Town Council's services. One comment on seat numbers specifically, which was that the current total of 12 was about right.

The 19 responses from Macclesfield (one from a town councillor and the rest from individuals) included two individual residents who suggested a change to Macclesfield's boundary with Bollington. One of these two submissions argued that residents of the main settlements in many neighbouring parishes relied on Macclesfield for services, and that Local Plan development was turning this wider area into a conurbation anyway; the other felt that this boundary should be aligned with the Silk Road.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer, from Bollington to Macclesfield, of the area south of the A523, on the grounds that the current boundary cuts through the middle of a residential area and the A road would provide a more natural boundary.

[2] Keep total seats at 12 (average for a council of this size), but reallocate them between the three wards, so that Central ward has five seats (up one), East four (no change) and West three (down one), as this better reflects their respective electorate shares.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
20 submissions, of which 10 were consultation survey responses and 10 were emails. Of the 10 survey responses, six disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only two agreed.

However, none of the 10 emails commented on the Draft Recommendations proposals; nine of these related to the area around Dumbah Lane (including Ball Lane); the tenth (summarised below) was from the Bollington Civic Society. The residents of seven properties in the Dumbah Lane area each submitted a joint message (by email), stating that they identified with Prestbury and that they wished for the Bollington (eastern) part of their road to be moved into that parish (a proposal that has the support of Prestbury

Parish Council and the borough ward Member for Prestbury). These seven households noted they were closer to the centre of Prestbury than to Bollington and were within walking distance of Prestbury's amenities.

Four other residents who live in properties on Tytherington Lane/ Ball Lane area (adjacent to Dumbah Lane) also opposed the transfer of their area to Macclesfield, with most citing community connections to Bollington (though one of these submissions also suggested that some of these residents wished to be moved to Prestbury).

Another email submission was also received on behalf of a local community organisation, again citing the affected area's connections to Bollington, not Macclesfield.

Two responses (including that from the Parish Council) specifically opposed the proposed changes in the wards' seat numbers and noted the Draft Recommendations proposals would have limited impact on the current disparity in the ratios of electors per seat, despite that being one of the Draft Recommendations' objectives. One local resident thought that the best solution for reducing the disparity between the wards' ratios of electors per seat would simply be to reduce the number of West ward seats to three.

One submission from a local resident commented on (and opposed) Bollington Town Council's proposed change to its boundary with Rainow; this boundary change proposal – a transfer from the Ingersley Vale part of Rainow - is described in more detail below.

Despite the fact that the Town Council's proposal to absorb the Ingersley Vale part of Rainow was not part of (and hence not mentioned in) the Draft Recommendations and hence may be a matter that many of the respondents were unaware of, three submissions from Rainow residents did refer to (and opposed) this proposal. These three residents identified with Rainow and looked to its Parish Council to protect their interests.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Bollington Town Council opposed the Draft Recommendations change to the boundary with Macclesfield (and noted that Macclesfield Town Council opposed this change as well). It cited a survey it undertook of residents in the affected area, in which 46 of the responses favoured staying in Bollington, 37 were neutral and only one supported a transfer to Macclesfield.

Bollington Town Council also provided examples of how the A523 does not act as barrier between communities: there are safe pedestrian crossings, school and bicycle journeys can be safely made across the road, and many of those south of the A523 rely on Bollington for leisure facilities and other amenities.

Bollington Town Council instead suggested a minor change to the boundary with Macclesfield, so that the boundary aligns with streets in the Springwood Way estate area, rather than (as at present) bisecting streets and cutting through some individual properties. This proposed boundary line is shown in Map BOL1 below.

On the issue of seats and warding, Bollington Town Council agreed that it is desirable to have less disparity between the wards' ratios of electors per seat, but was keen to retain equal numbers of seats for each ward, in the interests of political balance. It therefore proposed a transfer of part of its Central ward (the area shown in Map BOL2 below) to its West ward. This transfer would – according to the Town Council's estimates – affect 260 electors and would mean that the current allocation of four seats for each Town Council ward would better reflect each ward's share of the total electorate.

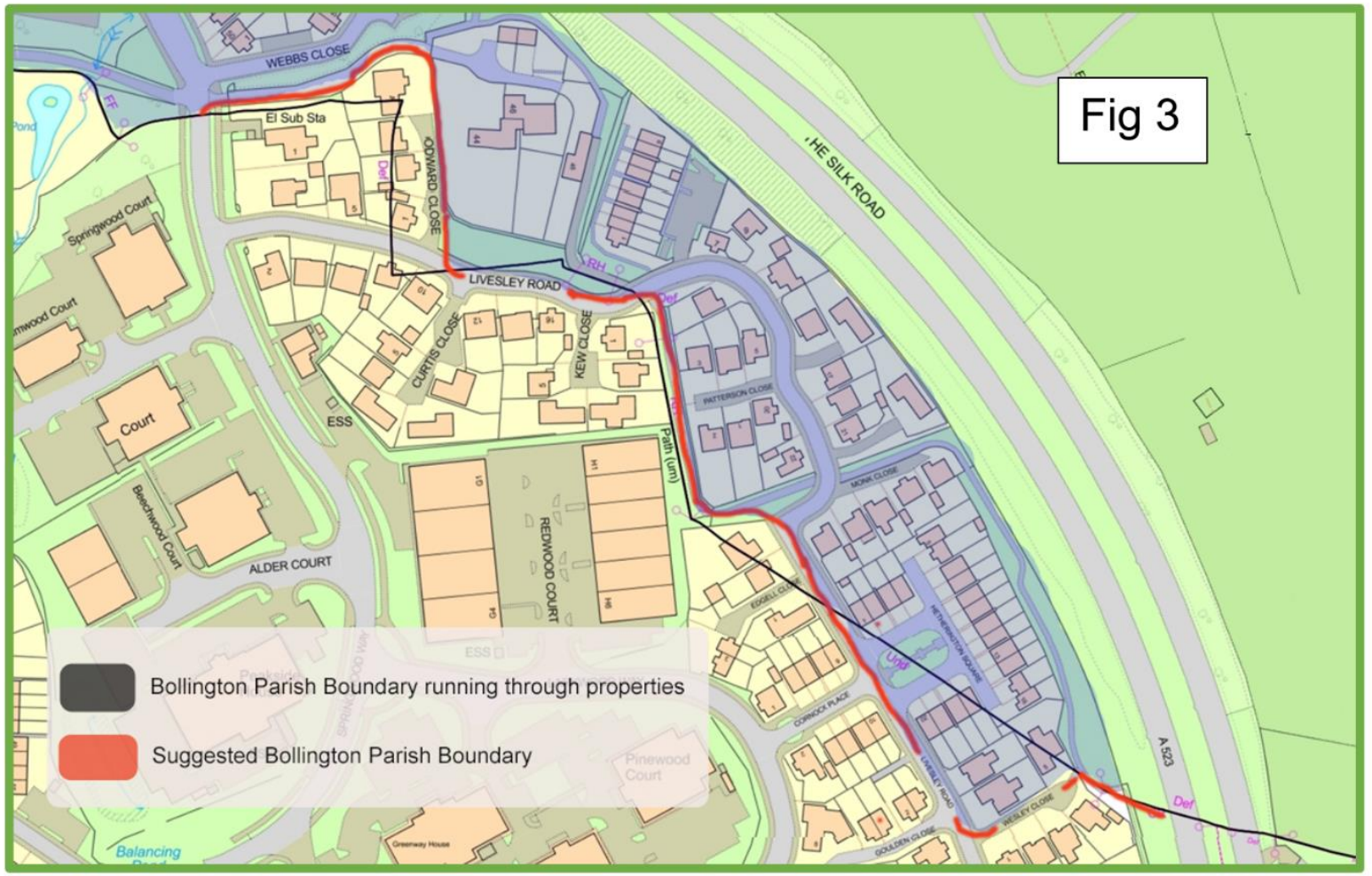
Bollington Town Council also requested a transfer of the Ingersley Vale (western) part of Rainow to Bollington, on the grounds that new housing is being developed in this area and that the residential properties in this part of Rainow have road links to Bollington and rely on the town for local services and social activities. Its submission refers to the Settlement Boundary set out in the Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD), noting that this Boundary extends into Rainow. The Town Council also undertook a survey of residents in this part of Rainow and found that the vast majority supported its proposals (though this indicates that only around 10 households were available to offer a view); it included the results of this (and an unsolicited email from a resident of the affected area) in its submission.

Rainow Parish Council's own submission opposed any change to the boundary with Bollington. It stated that Bollington Town Council approached Rainow residents before clarifying the location and extent of its proposed boundary change with the Parish Council (and without the Parish Council's consent). It also argued that the proposed boundary change would transfer a large proportion of rural land beyond the Bollington Settlement Area boundary, much of it Green Belt/ Peak Park fringe land and with the Ingersley Vale Mill site being the only area where development is practical.

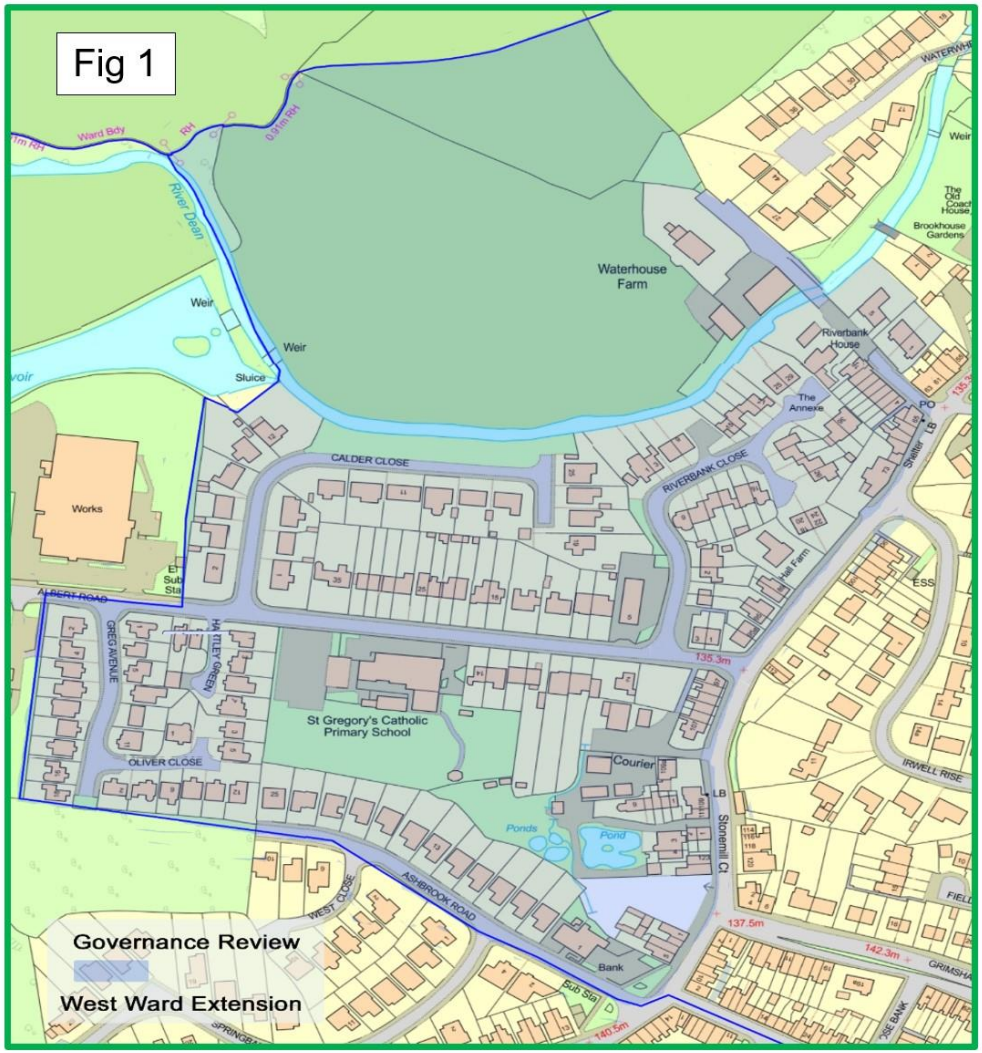
The area that the Town Council proposed for transfer from Rainow is shown in Map BOL3 below.

In its submission, Prestbury Parish Council noted that it had been petitioned by the residents of Dumbah Lane, who requested a change to the boundary so that their road (which is currently split between Prestbury and Bollington) would be entirely within Prestbury. The Parish Council supported this proposal. This proposed boundary change (and a variant of it suggested by the Ward Member for Prestbury) are shown in Map BOL4 below.

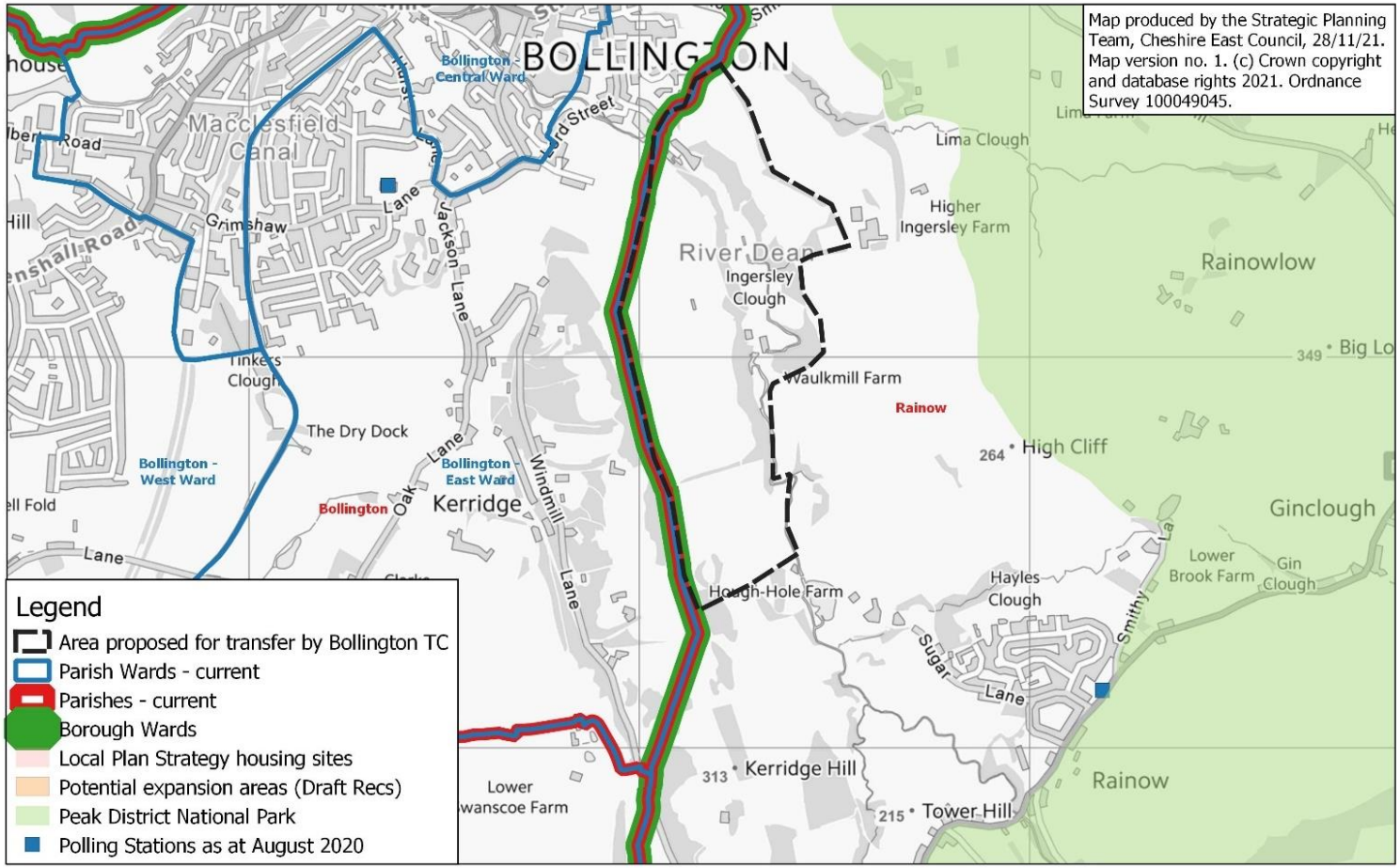
Map BOL1: Bollington Town Council proposed slight adjustment (red line) to current Bollington/ Macclesfield boundary (black line)



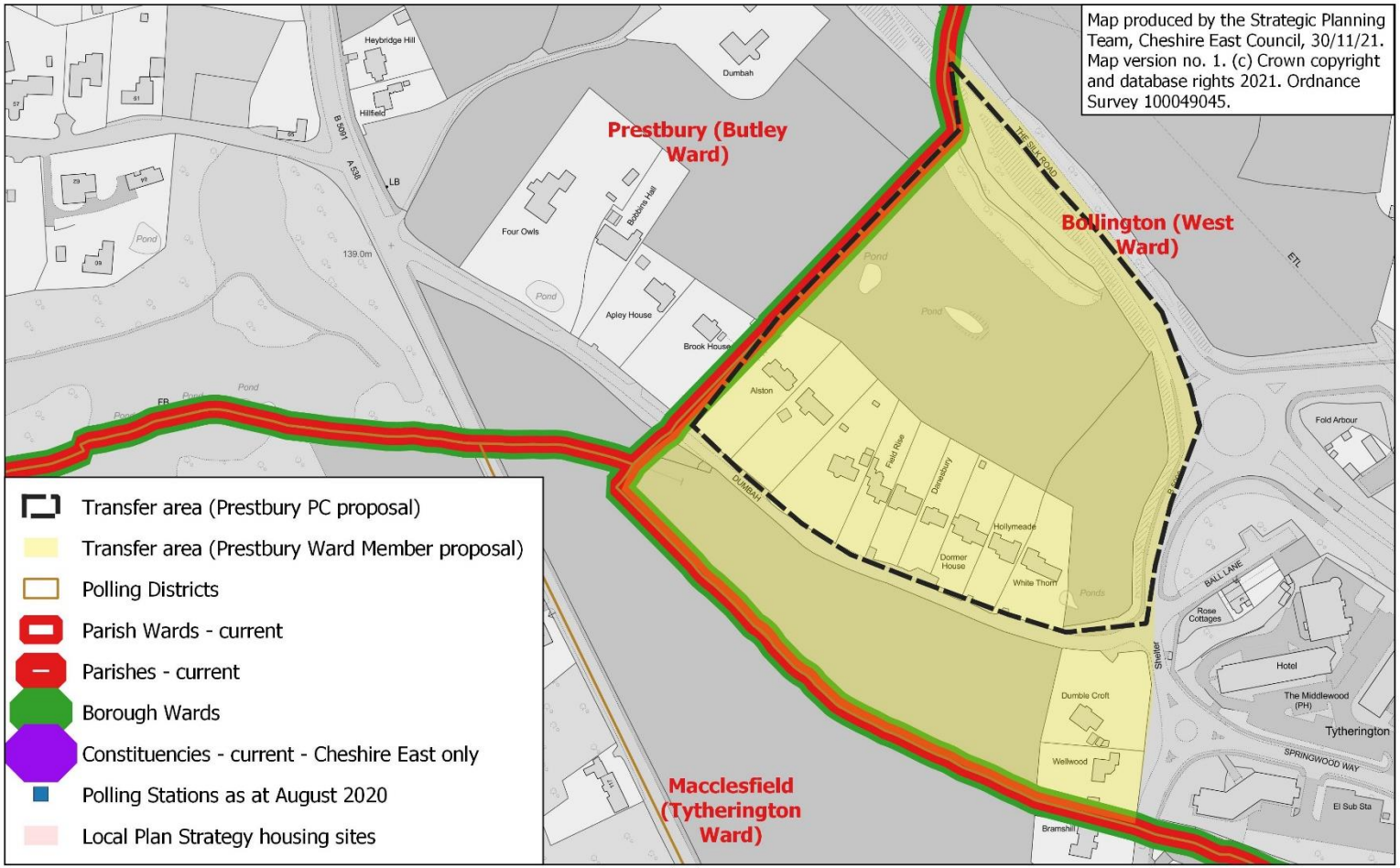
Map BOL2: Area proposed (by Bollington Town Council) for transfer from Bollington Town Council Central Ward to Bollington Town Council West Ward (the Town Council's proposed transfer area is the shaded area below)



Map BOL3: Area proposed (by Bollington Town Council) for transfer from Rainow Parish Council to Bollington Town Council (the Town Council's proposed transfer area is that enclosed by the black dash line in this map)



Map BOL4: Area proposed for transfer from Bollington to Prestbury by Prestbury Parish Council (area enclosed by the black dash line) and by Prestbury Ward Member (yellow shaded area)



Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The borough ward Member for the affected part of Macclesfield (Tytherington) felt the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary change was unnecessary.

The Bollington Civic Society (which responded by email) felt that the Ingersley Vale part of Rainow should be transferred to Bollington, to help meet Bollington's housing needs and that the area south of the Silk Road could be transferred to Macclesfield, but it had not at that stage seen the Draft Recommendations proposals.

The response from the borough ward Member for Prestbury supported Prestbury Parish Council's proposal to bring Dumbah Lane entirely within Prestbury, but proposed in addition that two Tytherington Lane properties adjacent to Dumbah Lane (one of them accessed via Dumbah Lane and the other marking the current boundary with Macclesfield) also be transferred from Bollington to Prestbury. This variant of Prestbury Parish Council's proposal is shown in Map BOL4 above.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The responses from residents and the Town Council strongly indicate that those living south of the A523 do not identify with Macclesfield. The evidence also indicates that the residents of this area identify predominantly with Bollington and rely on its services and amenities, with pedestrian crossings ensuring the A road does not act as a barrier between communities. However, those living on Dumbah Lane (and some of those immediately adjacent to Dumbah Lane) cite closer links to Prestbury than to Bollington.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The submitted evidence demonstrates conclusively that residents south of the A523 identify largely with Bollington or (in the case of the Dumbah Lane area) with Prestbury. In the light of this, the Borough Council accepts that the boundary between Macclesfield and Bollington should remain unchanged.

However, the Borough Council is not persuaded by the Town Council's suggestion of a minor adjustment to this boundary (to align it with streets in the Springwood Way estate area), as this would involve moving a handful of individual properties from Bollington to Macclesfield (despite the submission evidence of these residents identifying with Bollington) and moving a handful in the opposite direction. As Bollington and the adjacent part of Macclesfield are in different borough wards, such a change would involve electoral risk and require the provision of additional polling facilities, which cannot be justified for such a small number of households. However, the Borough Council does consider that it may be appropriate to reconsider the boundary in this area after the next borough ward review.

On the issue of Dumbah Lane, the Borough recognises that the current boundary line (cutting the street in two) is confusing and does not reflect community identity and acknowledges the preference of its residents (and some adjacent properties) to be moved to Prestbury. However, such a change to the Bollington/ Prestbury boundary would again involve electoral risk (as the parish of Prestbury is in a separate borough ward). On balance, therefore, the Borough Council does not consider a change to this boundary can be justified, given the small number of properties (around 10) for which additional polling facilities would be required. This does mean, though, that it may be appropriate to reconsider the boundary in this area after the next borough ward review.

The Borough Council considers that Bollington Town Council's proposed change to the boundary with Rainow cannot be justified, for various reasons (though it accepts the evidence that the residents of current and new housing in the Ingersley Vale area will be reliant on Bollington for some services). Firstly, the new boundary line proposed by the Town Council is unclear and appears to cut across areas of woodland and open ground, rather than following roads or other natural boundaries. Secondly, it would take in a large rural part of Rainow containing Green Belt land and Peak Park fringe areas, but justification is not provided for the extent of this transfer. The potential for additional housing in this area is limited in any case, as the Ingersley Vale Mill site is the only part of the would-be transfer area where development is practical. Thirdly, the transfer would constrain Rainow's own development options, by significantly reducing the part of that parish that lies beyond the Peak Park. Fourthly, the survey that the Town Council undertook of Ingersley Vale residents was small in scale (so not necessarily representative) and Rainow Parish Council's own submission states that this survey was undertaken without its own consent. Furthermore, as the proposal was not one presented or mentioned in the Draft Recommendations, many local residents have not had an opportunity to be consulted on it and offer their views – and it should be noted that the proposed change was opposed by Rainow Parish Council in its submission and by those Rainow residents whose submissions indicated an awareness of the Town Council’s proposal. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change to the Bollington/ Rainow boundary.

On the matter of internal warding and seats, the Borough Council recognises the merits of maintaining an equal number of seats for each ward, so that they have the same political weight; it also accepts the Town Council's argument that a change to internal ward boundaries would be an effective means of keeping seat numbers at four per ward whilst also reducing the disparity between the wards' ratios of electors per seat. The Borough Council accepts Bollington Town Council's figure for the number of electors who would transfer from the Central ward to the West ward under its proposal (260) and is satisfied this change would reflect community identity.[4] The Borough Council's own forecasts indicate that, if the current boundaries were retained, the Central ward would have 2,536 electors by 2025, whilst the East and West wards would have 1,922 and 1,933 respectively. Hence the Town Council's proposal would mean 2,276 (2,536 – 260) electors for the Central ward and 2,193 (1,933 + 260) for the West ward. Consequently, under the Town Council's proposal, a fair allocation of the 12 seats between the three wards would indeed be four seats each. In the light of this and the other factors discussed above, the Borough Council is persuaded by the Town Council's proposed ward boundary change and therefore recommends this change.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

[4] The Borough Council notes that this boundary change would, in fact, mean that Ashbrook Road becomes part of the same ward as the cul-de-sacs of West Close and Springbank, which can be accessed only via Ashbrook Road). It also notes that Waterhouse Farm, which is included in the Town Council's proposed transfer from the Central ward to the West ward, is accessed via Garden Street (which lies to this farm's south and which would also transfer under the proposal), rather than via the residential area to the farm's east (which would remain in the Central ward). The Borough Council therefore agrees it is appropriate for this farm to be included in the recommended transfer, even though it is on the opposite side of the River Dean to the rest of the transfer area.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.6 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Bollington Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Bollington (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	[1] No change to the current ward names: “Central”, “East” and “West”. [2] Transfer, from the Central ward to the West ward, of the shaded area shown in Map 2.6. This is the same transfer area as that proposed in Bollington Town Council's consultation stage submission.
Seats	12 (Central 4, East 4, West 4). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	6,391 (Central 2,276, East 1,922, West 2,193). The figures for individual wards take account of the recommended ward boundary change.
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	533 overall (Central 569, East 481, West 548)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • “Bollington - warding”

2.15 Bosley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Bosley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Bosley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	382
Electorate (2025 forecast)	387

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. Merger not needed, given that electorate is nearly 400 and that no issues raised about viability. No change needed to seat numbers, as the current total of seven - the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council - is in line with the average for a council of this size. Only five nominations in 2019, so any extra seats may be difficult to fill.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
One response (via the consultation survey) from an individual resident, but this person chose "unsure/ don't know" when asked they agree or disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. (This person also selected "unsure/ don't know" when asked about whether the Draft Recommendations reflected local identity/ interests or effective and convenient local government.)

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

No consultation responses from the Parish Council or its residents, other than a single resident who was unsure whether the Draft Recommendations (no change) were appropriate. No consultation submissions from other parishes that commented on Bosley. It is therefore assumed that the Parish Council and local residents are content with - or at least see no grounds for objection to - the proposal of no change. For this reason - and the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Bosley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Bosley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	387
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	55
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.16 Bradwall

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Bradwall
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Bradwall
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	6
Electorate (2018)	154
Electorate (2025 forecast)	162

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council responded, requesting no changes to governance, but made no specific comments.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. Merger not needed, given that electorate exceeds 150 and is expected to grow a little further and that no issues raised about viability. No change needed to seat numbers, as the current total of seven - the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council - is in line with the average for a council of this size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
One response (via the consultation survey) from an individual resident, who agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The sole respondent who agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations also agreed overall that they reflected local identities and interests, which suggests Bradwall comprises a single community with shared interests.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
As noted, the Parish Council requested no change in response to the pre-consultation survey; it is assumed this remains its view and is perhaps why it did not respond during the consultation itself. Furthermore, the sole local resident who responded was in

favour of the Draft Recommendations and felt they reflected local identity. Given this evidence - and for the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Bradwall Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Bradwall (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	162
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	23
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.17 Brereton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Brereton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Brereton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	1,052
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,430

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Bluebell Green is a development of 190 homes[5] that is due to be built by 2025. Bluebell Green, and the smaller Dunkirk Farm development next to it, are within the parish of Brereton and are surrounded by open countryside to the south, but are adjacent to the parish of Holmes Chapel.

[5] The Draft Recommendations Report incorrectly gave the number of (eventual) homes as "over 200".

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
There were 18 representations from Brereton at this stage of this review - including one from Brereton Parish Council. 17 of these requested no change (the other did not request any specific changes to governance arrangements). Brereton Parish Council specifically requested that the Bluebell Green development should remain within its parish.

However, three of the seven pre-consultation survey responses from Holmes Chapel - including one from Holmes Chapel Parish Council itself – proposed a boundary change with Brereton that would bring the Bluebell Green development within the parish of Holmes Chapel, while a fourth implied such a boundary change should at least be considered. The boundary change proposal has Ward Member support as well as Parish Council support. The other three responses from Holmes Chapel did not comment on whether any boundary changes should be made.

Draft Recommendations
[1] As the Bluebell Green estate area (including Dunkirk Farm) is adjacent to Holmes Chapel and could be seen as part of the same community, a case could be made for transferring it to that parish. However, given the contrasting views from Brereton and Holmes Chapel, the Draft Recommendations did not propose to alter this boundary, but did seek further responses from the public and interested bodies on this matter.

[2] Increase seats from eight to nine, as this is more in line with the average for a council of Brereton's size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary - key statistics and feedback on the Brereton/ Holmes Chapel boundary
There were 275 responses from Brereton. 274 of these were via the consultation survey and one (which opposed a transfer of the Bluebell Green area to Holmes Chapel) in the form of a letter. Unfortunately, for Brereton (and Holmes Chapel), there was considerable confusion over the survey's three initial "agree/ disagree" questions and this arises from the fact that the Draft Recommendations report presented a potential boundary change option (the transfer of the Bluebell Green area), but did not recommend it. The "agree/ disagree" questions were about whether people agree or not with the Draft Recommendations, but it was clear from the comments that Brereton (and Holmes Chapel) residents made that some of them thought these initial questions were about whether they agreed with the boundary change option.

Brereton Parish Council clarified the questions' meaning with the Borough Council on its residents' behalf; following that, the proportion of Brereton residents opting to agree overall increased notably. Six of these later submissions included a comment that the person concerned was making another response, as their first one had unintentionally indicated that they disagreed with the Draft Recommendations (though one of these noted that their original submission's comments clearly identified their opposition to the Brereton/ Holmes Chapel boundary change).

However, the vast majority of Brereton responses, along with most Holmes Chapel submissions, made specific comments - and most of those comments included a clear expression of that person's view on whether the Bluebell Green area should transfer.

Of all the 274 survey responses from Brereton (including those who did not make specific comments), 243 (89%) stated they agreed with the Draft Recommendations and 30 (11%) disagreed.

Of these 274 survey responses, 225 included comments and 193 of those provided a clear view on whether the boundary with Holmes Chapel should be adjusted so that Bluebell Green fell within Holmes Chapel. Of these 193, 173 opposed the transfer of Bluebell Green, which equates to 90 per cent (173/193) of those who commented on that issue and 63 per cent (173/274) of all the Brereton consultation survey responses; 19 favoured the transfer of Bluebell Green and the other one who commented on this said they were unsure.

Given that Brereton residents' apparent level of support for the Draft Recommendations changes only marginally (from 89 per cent to 90 per cent) when only responses with specific comments are considered, it would appear that, despite the survey questionnaire confusion, the survey's "agree/ disagree" do present a fair picture of Brereton residents' views. It therefore seems reasonable to conclude that the vast majority of Brereton responses intended to express opposition to the transfer of Bluebell Green.

From Holmes Chapel, there were 68 submissions: one being an email from the Parish Council (summarised below) and the other 67 via the consultation survey. Of all the 67 survey responses from Holmes Chapel (including those who did not make specific comments), 37 (55 per cent) stated they agreed with the Draft Recommendations and 29 (43 per cent) disagreed.

Of these 67 survey responses from Holmes Chapel, 38 included comments and 34 of those provided a clear view on the Holmes Chapel boundary. Of these 34, 25 supported the transfer of Bluebell Green, which equates to 74 per cent of those who commented on that issue; the other nine (26 per cent of those who commented on the boundary) opposed the transfer.

Given that Holmes Chapel residents' apparent level of support for the Draft Recommendations falls markedly (from 55 per cent to 26 per cent) when only responses with specific comments are considered, it would appear that the survey's "agree/ disagree" present a misleading picture of Holmes Chapel residents' views and it seems likely that the vast majority of Holmes Chapel responses intended to express support for the transfer of Bluebell Green.

In summary, it is apparent that a large majority of the Brereton respondents – a minimum of 63 per cent, but more probably around 90 per cent - oppose a change to this boundary. It would also appear that a majority of Holmes Chapel respondents - probably around three quarters - favour a boundary change, though at least nine (13 per cent of all Holmes Chapel responses) took a contrary view.

When explaining the reasons for their view, Brereton submissions commonly cited issues of local identity and interests (55 mentions) or a view that current governance works well (29); eight raised concerns about the impact on the Green Belt and the natural environment and eight felt the transfer of Bluebell Green would be at odds with local planning policy. No other broad issue was raised by more than five people from Brereton.

Specific points made by Brereton residents included: Bluebell Green residents using local amenities such as Brereton's primary school, scouts, pub, nature reserve and footpaths; the achievements of Brereton Parish Council (there was praise for the quality and early adoption of its Neighbourhood Plan); effective engagement between the Parish Council and residents (with press releases and regular noticeboard updates); references to Holmes Chapel struggling to provide facilities for its existing population (it was claimed, for example, that its schools are at full capacity, whereas Brereton's primary school is not); and incompatibility of the transfer with either Brereton Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan or Holmes Chapel's.

Notably, however, the minority of Brereton residents who made comments requesting the transfer of the Bluebell Green area included nine of the 13 people who identified themselves as Bluebell Green and Dunkirk Farm residents. The other four responses from these new developments, though, were from people wishing to remain in Brereton.

When explaining the reasons for their view, Holmes Chapel submissions commonly cited issues of local identity and interests (24 mentions) or a view that current governance works well (six). No other broad issue was raised by more than two people from Holmes Chapel.

Specific points made by those favouring a boundary change related largely to Bluebell Green's dependence on Holmes Chapel for services and a wish not to subsidise service use by people on the new estate. Some of the Holmes Chapel residents who opposed a boundary change argued that the village was struggling to provide the infrastructure and services its existing residents needed and that Brereton (in contrast) had spare school capacity.

One Holmes Chapel resident proposed a larger transfer to their parish, involving not just the Bluebell Green estate area, but also land west of railway line and south of the River Croco (essentially the land on the opposite side of the railway to Bluebell Green), but did not specify an exact new boundary line.

Feedback from consultation stage - summary - feedback on other potential governance changes

There was some support for the Draft Recommendations proposal to allocate an extra seat to the Parish Council, with the suggestion than extra councillor could help in addressing Bluebell Green's needs, such as improved footpaths to Brereton village.

As for alternative suggestions on other matters, 42 individuals from Brereton proposed aligning the Somerford-Brereton boundary with the A54 from Lyndale Grove to Shakerley Place - as did four Somerford residents. Brereton Parish Council's submission also requested this change. The rationale for this alteration is that the current boundary diverges slightly from the main road, meaning that 11 properties on the west side that are accessed via the A54 lie within Somerford, but their neighbours are in Brereton - a situation that causes much confusion.

Two Somerford residents expressed support for Somerford Parish Council's proposed alternative change to this boundary, which would involve bringing all properties that are accessed via the A54 into Somerford - and hence a much larger transfer. However, no Brereton residents' submissions favoured this option.

One Somerford resident suggested that properties on both sides along this stretch of the A54 should become part of Brereton - a different proposal again to either of the Parish Councils. In addition, four submissions, all from Brereton, said this boundary should be made less confusing, but did not specify a particular new boundary line.

Two submissions (one from Brereton, one from Somerford) proposed that Brereton and Somerford should be merged; one Somerford resident suggested that Brereton, Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford should all be merged together. Increased viability and a stronger rural voice was a justification offered for some of these merger proposals.

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One response from Sandbach proposed using the M6 to mark Sandbach's boundary with Brereton and some of the town's other rural neighbours - presumably involving a transfer of the northeastern edge of Sandbach to Brereton, but no other submissions from any parish made this proposal.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

Brereton Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It presented a number of reasons for wishing to retain the existing boundary with Holmes Chapel. It noted that the location of the estate within the parish is in keeping with Brereton's rural character and the wishes of local residents, as expressed in the parish's Neighbourhood Plan. It also highlighted the actions it has been taking to address the needs of Bluebell Green residents, such as reducing speed limits in the area and improving pavements. In addition, it argued that the services that Bluebell Green and other Brereton residents rely on Holmes Chapel for (such as its secondary school and GPs) are not ones that are funded through Holmes Chapel Parish Council's precept income.

It also took issue with the Draft Recommendations' map of the potential (but not recommended) transfer area including a large rural area east of the A50, given that this has no major development and that the A50 itself is a much more natural boundary.

However, the Parish Council voiced serious concern about the confusion created by the structure and wording of the Draft Recommendations report and consultation survey, with the report and survey offering seemingly contradictory information on what the Borough Council's recommendation for the Holmes Chapel boundary area was, and whether the survey's agree/ disagree questions were about a recommendation of no change, or about a potential boundary change. It considered the consultation consequently flawed and felt, therefore, that a boundary change could not be justified, whatever the survey results might show.

The Parish Council's submission also highlighted the confusing nature of part of its current boundary with Somerford. As noted above, this boundary diverges slightly from the A54, meaning that 11 properties on the west side of the A road (nine on the A54 and two in Woodpecker Place) are currently in Somerford, but their neighbours are not. The Parish Council proposed that this boundary be aligned with the A54 itself, so that these 11 properties would transfer from Somerford to Brereton. Map BRE1 below shows the area (shaded in green) that would transfer under this proposal.

Map BRE1: Brereton Parish Council proposed change to its boundary with Somerford (alignment with A54; the area shaded green would transfer to Brereton under this proposal)



The Parish Council had carried a survey of residents in this area and reported that eight of the 11 properties had responded, all of them supporting its boundary proposal. It also approached 61 properties that are in the adjacent part of Brereton, receiving 36 responses, of which all but one agreed with its proposal.

However, as also noted above, Somerford Parish Council requested a different change to this section of its boundary: one that would transfer to Somerford all those properties that are accessed solely via the A54. Map SOM1, which is in the Somerford subsection of this Assessment Report, shows the area that would transfer from Brereton to Somerford under this proposal.

To support its case, Somerford Parish Council had also undertaken a survey of people living near the A54 boundary with Brereton, including some who are currently Brereton Parish Council residents: it got 44 responses, of which 25 (57 per cent) agreed with its proposal and 18 (41 per cent) disagreed. However, Brereton Parish Council considered Somerford Parish Council's separate survey of this area to be unsound, arguing that Somerford had been selective in its choice of residents to survey.

In its submission, Holmes Chapel Parish Council argued for Bluebell Green to be transferred to its parish. It stated that the estate's residents identified with Holmes Chapel, used its services (including ones subsidised by Holmes Chapel residents' precept charges) and were far closer to its village centre (1km away) than to Brereton village (3km away), with a continuous footpath into Holmes Chapel, but no such pedestrian (or cycling lane) route into Brereton village. Its submission cited Planning Inspectorate appeals decisions and developer marketing literature that identify Bluebell Green as being part of Holmes Chapel and its housing supply. It also observed that such a transfer would be consistent with the Borough Council's planning policy proposals (in its Site Allocations and Development Policies Document) for amending the Settlement Boundary and would address the issue (raised in the Holmes Chapel Neighbourhood Plan) of the parish having insufficient green space. The Parish Council further noted that, of the Section 106 money allocated to fund infrastructure improvements following the new development, the vast majority has been allocated to Holmes Chapel, not Brereton.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
Holmes Chapel's local borough ward Member again expressed support for the transfer of Bluebell Green to Holmes Chapel and endorsed the submission made by Holmes Chapel Parish Council. The Member stated that Bluebell Green residents relied largely on Holmes Chapel for services and had clear community links to the village. This submission also noted that many of the estate's residents approached the Member regarding Borough Council issues, saying that they identify with Holmes Chapel even though they are in a different borough ward.

Brereton Community Interest Group opposed the transfer of Bluebell Green, drawing attention to local activities to develop community spirit across Brereton and noting that the Holmes Chapel services that Brereton residents access are not ones funded by Holmes Chapel Parish Council.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
It is clear from the responses from the Parish Council and many of its residents that Bluebell Green is regarded as part of its community and examples are given of residents relying on it for many communal activities and amenities. By contrast, a number of other submissions - some from Holmes Chapel, but also some from Bluebell Green residents - state that the new estate relies primarily on Holmes Chapel for services.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The Borough Council acknowledges and regrets the considerable confusion that the Draft Recommendations report and the consultation stage survey generated for Brereton and Holmes Chapel residents.

However, even after allowances are made for the uncertainty about what many of the responses were agreeing or disagreeing with - the option of a boundary change, or the Draft Recommendation of no boundary change - some key messages are clear.

Most notably, there is considerable polarisation of opinion. A large majority of the 274 survey submissions from Brereton (including its Parish Council) oppose a transfer of Bluebell Green: 63 per cent of them stated this clearly in open comments and 90 per cent of all the Brereton residents who commented on this issue were against such a transfer. In contrast, 25 (37 per cent) of all the Holmes Chapel survey responses - including the village's borough ward Member - made comments clearly indicating their support for this boundary change and 74 per cent of all the Holmes Chapel survey responses that commented on this issue were in favour of the transfer. Holmes Chapel Parish Council also supports a change to this boundary. Another important consideration is the view of Bluebell Green and Dunkirk Farm residents themselves. There were 13 submissions from people identifying themselves as residents of one of these new developments and all 13 provided comments clearly indicating their view on the boundary change

option. Nine (70 per cent) wished to transfer to Holme Chapel; the other four took the opposite view. If these responses are representative of the estate's overall population, it would appear that a large majority of the affected residents wish to become part of Holmes Chapel, but the small number of responses involved means there is a degree of uncertainty over that - and it also seems a significant minority oppose such a change.

As with the comments made by those living elsewhere in Brereton, or by Holmes Chapel residents, the Bluebell Green/ Dunkirk Farm residents on both sides of the argument cite evidence relating to community identity and to where the estate's residents look to for services and communal activities; many of the points made by both opponents and supporters of a boundary change are highly relevant.

The Borough Council has reservations about making a recommendation that goes against what seems, tentatively, to be the majority opinion among residents of the new development itself. However, it considers that it would not be in the interests of wider community cohesion to alter this boundary, given that there is such extensive (and well-argued) opposition in Brereton as a whole, with a large majority of Brereton responses including specific comments against this boundary change.

Holmes Chapel Parish Council states that Bluebell Green's inclusion in the parish of Brereton does not align with the Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) proposed Holmes Chapel Settlement Boundary[6] and some planning decisions identify the new estate as part of Holmes Chapel's housing, but there is no requirement for parish boundaries to reflect planning policy geographies. The key criteria for community governance purposes are, rather, community identity and effective and convenient local government. Furthermore, as Brereton Parish Council and others have also noted, Bluebell Green residents inevitably rely on Holmes Chapel for some key services, but it does not necessarily follow that these are services funded or otherwise supported by Holmes Chapel Parish Council.

Therefore, taking account of all the evidence and other factors considered above, the Borough Council recommends no change to the Brereton/ Holmes Chapel boundary.

As for the current Somerford-Brereton boundary around the A54, the Borough Council agrees this is confusing. As both parishes are in the same borough ward, there would be no electoral risk involved in changing this boundary and it could be justified even if relatively few electors were affected. However, the Borough Council feels that Somerford Parish Council's proposal could increase

[6] The Borough Council can confirm that the proposed SADPD Settlement Boundary for Holmes Chapel is drawn tightly around (and includes) the new development.

the existing confusion, as it would result in separate clusters of properties on the west side of the A54 that would be in Somerford, whilst some properties adjacent to these clusters would remain in Brereton. It is also concerned that Somerford Parish Council's proposed would transfer a large proportion of Brereton Heath properties to Somerford - and there is clear evidence of significant opposition to such a proposal. Somerford Parish Council's own survey of this area found that around 40 per cent of respondents (18 out of 44) were against its proposal, whilst Brereton Parish Council's separate survey found only one household out of a total of 44 opposed its own preferred boundary line (the A54 itself). It is also significant that Brereton Parish Council obtained views from eight of the 11 households that its proposal would transfer - and all of these supported that proposal. Whilst the two surveys yield conflicting results - no doubt a result of differences in their survey methods and the evidence/ arguments presented to residents - Brereton's proposal has the advantage of minimal opposition and of agreement from all the 11 affected households that offered a view. Another important consideration are the views that local residents submitted directly to the Borough Council, in their consultation responses: as noted above, only two of these (both from Somerford residents) favoured Somerford Parish Council's proposal, while 46 residents (42 from Brereton and four from Somerford) supported Brereton Parish Council's boundary proposal - one of the highest numbers received for any alternative change to the Draft Recommendations for any parish. In addition, the A54 provides a clear natural and well-understood boundary.

Considering the weight of local opinion, and the desirability of clear boundaries, the Borough Council therefore recommends that this boundary be altered to align with the A54, as Brereton Parish Council and many local residents wish.

As noted earlier, this change would move 11 properties out of Somerford; using the average number of electors per property for that area's local borough ward (Brereton Rural), that implies an estimated 20 electors would transfer. Adding this to the total electorate for the current Brereton Parish area (forecast to reach 1,430 by 2025), Brereton would have an expected 1,450 electors by 2025, under the new boundary.

The current total of eight seats is relatively low; nine or ten seats would be more in line with the average for a council of this size and would better reflect the population growth and additional demands arising the Bluebell Green development. The Borough Council is also conscious that Brereton covers a wide geographical area, with its main settlements dispersed across the parish. Therefore a case could be made for 10 seats, rather than the nine that the Draft Recommendations proposed. However, the submission evidence from the Parish Council and its residents indicates that it is working effectively even with its current limit of eight councillors. Furthermore, Brereton Parish Council's submission agrees with the Draft Recommendations - which proposed an increase to nine seats - and this part of the proposal attracted no objections (and the odd expression of support) in Brereton

residents' submissions. The Borough Council consequently recommends an increase to nine seats, as per the Draft Recommendations.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.7 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Somerford to the parish of Brereton, of the shaded area (area of Somerford west of the A54) shown in Map 2.7.
Parish Council name and style	Brereton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Brereton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	9 (an increase from the current 8)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,450
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	161
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Somerford – transfer to Brereton"

2.18 Brindley & Faddiley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Brindley & Faddiley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Brindley; Faddiley.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8 (Brindley 4, Faddiley 4)
Nominations in 2019	8 (Brindley 3, Faddiley 5)
Electorate (2018)	269 (Brindley 132, Faddiley 137)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	278 (Brindley 132, Faddiley 146)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None. (It should be noted that the Draft Recommendations Report included a summary of a pre-consultation survey response that was attributed in error to Brindley & Faddiley Parish Council.)

Draft Recommendations
Merge the Group's two parishes into a parish council comprising a single parish with no warding, given the confusion and inconvenience that grouping arrangements can cause for electors and candidates. Decrease seats from eight to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
No representations from individual Brindley & Faddiley residents. See below for the Parish Council's response.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council responded via the consultation survey. It disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and requested the current number of seats and other existing governance arrangements be retained. However, it did not add any specific reasons for maintaining these arrangements.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The absence of any submissions from Brindley & Faddiley residents - at either the pre-consultation or consultation stages - seems to indicate a lack of support for a change to existing governance. Furthermore, as noted above, the Parish Council itself requests

no changes in governance. In the light of this response, and given the Borough Council's wish to avoid change for change's sake, it recommends that the two parishes should retain their grouping and not be merged.

The Borough Council would be interested to know the reasons behind the Parish Council's request for keeping its current number of seats. However, the Borough Council is conscious - particularly from the submissions made by some other parishes - of the risks that a reduction in seats can bring, for example: councillors from a narrower (less representative) range of backgrounds and with a more limited range of skills and experience to offer; heavier workloads for councillors, which may deter people from serving on the council; and problems being referred on to the local authority or other bodies, rather than resolved at a local level. In addition, as some submissions on other parishes have noted, there are no cost savings to be gained from the loss of a seat, as councillors are unpaid volunteers. The Borough Council is also aware of the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council services and councillor time. Another important consideration is the fact that total number of nominations for the 2019 ordinary elections matched total seats (though Faddiley had a slight surplus of candidates and Brindley a slight shortage). Finally, a reduction to seven seats, if based on electorate shares, would mean Brindley, with its marginally smaller electorate, losing a seat while Faddiley retained its existing four. However, this would somewhat widen the (currently small) disparity between the two wards' number of electors per seat (to 44 electors per seat for Brindley, against only 37 for Faddiley). In the light of these factors, and the Parish Council's submission, the Borough Council recommends no change in the total number of seats. It also recommends that each parish retain its existing allocation of four seats, as this division most fairly reflects each parish's respective share of the total electorate.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Brindley & Faddiley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Brindley; Faddiley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (Brindley 4, Faddiley 4). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	278 (Brindley 132, Faddiley 146)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	35 overall (Brindley 33, Faddiley 37)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.19 Buerton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Buerton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Buerton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	7
Electorate (2018)	449
Electorate (2025 forecast)	466

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that there are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. Merger not needed, given that electorate was over 400 as of 2018 and is expected to grow further up to 2025 and that no issues raised about viability. No change needed to seat numbers, as the current total of eight is in line with the average for a council of this size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
No consultation responses from the Parish Council or its residents, nor any consultation submissions from other parishes that commented on Buerton. It is therefore assumed that the Parish Council and local residents are content with the proposal of no

change. For this reason - and the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Buerton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Buerton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	466
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	58
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.20 Bulkeley & Ridley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Bulkeley & Ridley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Bulkeley; Ridley.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10 (Bulkeley 7, Ridley 3)
Nominations in 2019	10 (Bulkeley 7, Ridley 3)
Electorate (2018)	328 (Bulkeley 214, Ridley 114)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	357 (Bulkeley 239, Ridley 118)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council found its grouping arrangement confusing and unhelpful and wished instead to be merged into a single parish (a repeat of a request it made to the Borough Council in 2017 - one which the Borough Council supported at the time). It noted, for example, that the combination of voting rules and the grouping meant that councillors living in one of the two parishes could stand

for election in the other one but would then not be able to vote for themselves. A resident from Bulkeley also highlighted confusion over voting rights due to the grouping arrangement.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council and Peckforton Parish Meeting into a single parish council, with no warding and eight seats. The intended purpose of this was to make local government in this area more viable by merging a very small body (Peckforton Parish Meeting) with an adjacent rural neighbour with a common identity and interests.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Two responses from individual residents from Bulkeley; one of them agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and the other disagreed. The Parish Council's response is summarised below, along with that from Peckforton Parish Meeting.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council opposed the Draft Recommendations proposals. It felt the existing council functioned well and that there were no natural geographical or social links with Peckforton. It noted that Peckforton has its own village hall, whereas Bulkeley & Ridley relies on Bickerton Village Hall for many leisure and social activities and also relies on Bickerton's primary school and church for primary education and religious worship. It noted that "Bickerton" would therefore be a stronger candidate for inclusion any merger involving Bulkeley & Ridley. However, Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council's preference was that it remain as an independent council and it did not consider it necessary to merge with any neighbours.

The Parish Council also opposed a reduction in its seats, arguing that it had been successful in maintaining its full complement of 10 councillors.

Peckforton Parish Meeting's own submission stated that, at a meeting held to discuss the Draft Recommendations, those Recommendations were unanimously opposed by those present, including the Meeting Chair; the Meeting clerk had also received more than 10 emails from local residents, all opposing the merger proposal. The Parish Meeting’s submission highlighted Peckforton's geographical separation from Bulkeley & Ridley, its different character and the different issues it faced - and also the Meeting's effectiveness and viability. In particular, it noted that residents are largely concentrated in Peckforton village, which is in

the centre of the Parish Meeting area, and that many of its distinctive properties had been part of estate around Peckforton Castle. Peckforton is therefore unique and residents have a strong sense of local identity. The extensive use of the village hall is mentioned (which implies it can support many community activities itself, rather than relying on neighbouring parish councils). The submission mentions the high proportion of residents who attend and contribute to meetings - commonly one in eight, sometimes one in three - and the willingness of those residents to be proactive and organise new activities or projects in the wake of a Meeting.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council and Peckforton Parish Meeting indicate that each has a separate identity, faces different issues and that the two areas are not closely linked, either socially or geographically. Peckforton has its own village hall to serve as a focal point for communal activities, whilst Bulkeley & Ridley uses Bickerton Village Hall.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The submissions from Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council and Peckforton Parish Meeting indicate that both bodies are effective. Bulkeley & Ridley's submission notes it is successful in filling its quota of seats. Peckforton Parish Meeting's submission highlights the very high proportion of residents who attend meetings and of the time and effort residents are willing to spend in helping to progress the Meeting's work and tackle local challenges.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The submissions from Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council and Peckforton Parish Meeting demonstrate persuasively that each has a separate identity, faces different issues and that the two areas are not closely linked, either socially or geographically. The Parish Council and the Parish Meeting also argue persuasively that they are operating effectively, with no shortage of nominations for the Parish Council and a very high level of participation by Peckforton's residents both in meetings and in follow-up activities and projects. The Parish Meeting's opposition to a merger is also reinforced by the unanimous vote against this proposal and the number of emails its clerk received from local residents (again all opposing the change). In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council recommends that the Parish Council and Peckforton do not merge, and that Peckforton remain as a Parish Meeting.

However, in its pre-consultation survey response (and earlier approaches to Cheshire East), the Parish Council (with some support from an individual resident) has highlighted the confusing nature of its status as a group of two parishes and argued persuasively that it should be a single parish. In the light of this, the Borough Council recommends that Bulkeley & Ridley should be a single parish. The Borough Council also recommends the name "Bulkeley & Ridley" for the merged council, as requested by the Parish Council. No individual residents suggested a name for a new merged council and only one made suggestions for the style (deeming "Community" or "Neighbourhood" to be more inclusive), but the Parish Council's view, given that it represents residents collectively, should be given greater weight on this point - and it proposes "Parish". The Borough Council therefore recommends that the style "Parish" should remain.

On the matter of seats for Bulkeley & Ridley, the Parish Council argues that it should retain its existing total 10, as it has no problem filling these. The evidence on nominations received for the 2019 ordinary elections confirms this, with no seats requiring co-option. In addition, submissions from other parishes have highlighted the positive difference that an extra seat or two can bring, for example: a more evenly shared workload and hence greater incentive to serve on the council; more likelihood of councillors being demographically diverse and having a wide range of backgrounds and skills; and ensuring meeting decisions are not unduly influenced by individual councillors or factions. The Borough Council is also conscious of the additional pressure that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council resources and councillor time – and is conscious that Bulkeley & Ridley covers a large rural area (which is likely to add further to its councillors' workload). Given these factors, and the consultation evidence, the Borough Council recommends no change to the total number of seats.

The Borough Council further recommends a warding arrangement, so there is still separate representation for Bulkeley and Ridley. This reflects the fact that much of Bulkeley's population is concentrated in its main village, whereas Ridley's dwellings are more dispersed. As for the allocation of seats between Bulkeley and Ridley, the current allocation of seven seats for Bulkeley and three for Ridley means very similar ratios of electors per seat for each ward, so the electors in each of the two areas are fairly represented. Given this, and the evidence that the Parish Council is functioning effectively as it is, the Borough Council recommends no change to this seating allocation: that is, seven seats for the "Bulkeley" ward and three for the "Ridley" ward.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of the parish of Bulkeley and the parish of Ridley, to form a single parish.
Parish Council name and style	Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council (new council, but no change to the name or style)
Parish name(s)	Bulkeley & Ridley (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Two wards: [1] “Bulkeley”, consisting of the current parish of Bulkeley. [2] “Ridley”, consisting of the current parish of Ridley.
Seats	10 (Bulkeley 7, Ridley 3). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	357 (Bulkeley 239, Ridley 118)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	36 (Bulkeley 34, Ridley 39)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.21 Bunbury

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Bunbury
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Bunbury
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10
Nominations in 2019	7
Electorate (2018)	1,096
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,230

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Three responses from individual residents. Two of these felt there was no need for a change in governance; one of these specifically stated that a merger with a neighbour was unnecessary, as the Parish Council was effective. The third felt that The Yew

Tree pub and houses along Long Lane towards the A49 (currently in the parish of Spurstow) are connected to and part of Bunbury village and that the boundary should be changed to include them. However, Bunbury Parish Council requested no change to its boundary and there were no survey responses at this stage from Spurstow.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. The Borough Council considered the pre-consultation survey proposal - from an individual resident - to adjust the boundary with Spurstow, but concluded this was not justified, given that the Parish Council itself wanted no change and that the resident's proposal would involve the transfer of a relatively small number of properties that are within a different borough ward to Bunbury (and hence involve a need for additional polling facilities).

No change needed to seat numbers, as current total of ten is in line with the average for a council of this size. There were only seven nominations in 2019, but one pre-consultation response specifically stated that the Parish Council was effective and no views to the contrary were offered.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Two responses (one from the Parish Council), both agreeing overall with the Draft Recommendations.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
As noted above, the Parish Council agreed with the Draft Recommendations, but it did not add specific comments.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Both the submitted responses agreed that the Draft Recommendations reflected local community identity.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Both the submitted responses - including that from the Parish Council - agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. Furthermore, two of the three residents who responded at the pre-consultation stage requested no change to governance, and the proposal from the third - a boundary change with Spurstow - would be at odds with the submission from Spurstow Parish Council, whose consultation stage submission did not mention any issues with this boundary (and requested no change to its own governance). In the light of this evidence - and for the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance for Bunbury.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Bunbury Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Bunbury (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,230
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	123
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.22 Burland

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Burland
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Burland
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	9
Nominations in 2019	4
Electorate (2018)	494
Electorate (2025 forecast)	501

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Ravensmoor, which is one of the main settlements in Burland, is split between two parishes, with much of the western part of the village lying within the parish of Baddiley (part of Sound & District Parish Council) and the rest in Burland.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council felt that current number of seats was about right and did not propose any changes in governance. One resident questioned the effectiveness of the parish's voice and suggested a merger with Faddiley, saying the two parishes faced similar issues.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer Malbank Waters estate from Edleston to Nantwich. Transfer area of Henhull east of Welshmen's Lane (largely comprising Local Plan site LPS 46 – Kingsley Fields) to Nantwich. The purpose of these transfers is to bring into Nantwich those new developments that are adjacent and which will rely on Nantwich for services and amenities.

[2] Merge the residual part of Edleston with Burland, to form a new parish council, with eight seats. (The Draft Recommendations proposed that Acton and the residual part of Henhull should form a separate parish council.) The rationale for this was that Edleston and Burland parishes are in Wrenbury borough ward, whereas Acton and Henhull are in Bunbury borough ward. Hence the transfer of the residual part of Edleston to Burland would simplify electoral arrangements.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Aside from the Parish Council's submission (see details below), there were seven responses from individual residents (all via the consultation survey). Of these seven, three agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and three disagreed. The seventh was concerned about the Draft Recommendations leading to reduced influence for the affected rural parishes, but was prepared to agree to the Recommendations providing the changes were made in tandem with the provision of adequate financial support.

Two of those who disagreed provided reasons. One objected to the transfer of a large number of properties and their precept income (presumably referring to Edleston) and the merger of the remainder with an area with few councillors, leading to a loss of influence. (However, two of those agreeing with the Draft Recommendations felt the changes would strengthen the voice of the affected rural parishes.) Another person who disagreed took the view that Acton and the residual part of Henhull would not be a viable council. This individual felt that a merger of Acton, the residual part of Edleston and the residual part of Henhull would be a viable option, but that including Burland as well (as both Burland Parish Council and Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council propose) would ensure a more effective council, with easier recruitment of councillors, more pooling of resources and a lower

precept due to the much larger number of properties. This same submission also voiced concern about the likely volume of work that would be involved in remaking the local Neighbourhood Plan. The comments in this submission echoed ones submitted on Acton, Edleston and Henhull and appear to be from the same person.

Two responses from Sound & District residents felt the priority should be to address the division of Ravensmoor between the parish of Baddiley (Sound & District Parish Council) and Burland Parish Council. The individuals who raised the Ravensmoor issue noted that it was a single community and should be represented by a single parish. One of these responses noted that a large proportion of Baddiley's properties were concentrated in Ravensmoor and suggested the whole parish could be merged with Burland if this proved more practical and cost-effective than a pure boundary change. The other response regarding Ravensmoor highlighted the fact that a defibrillator installed on the Baddiley side of the parish boundary was intended for the benefit of all Ravensmoor residents, but that the boundary meant coordination was required between the two parishes before the unit could be procured and installed.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council had raised local awareness of Draft Recommendations through a Facebook campaign and the distribution of leaflets to all households. It also conducted an online survey (via SurveyMonkey) and invited residents to a parish council meeting to discuss the Recommendations; about 15 residents attended this.

It reported that most of those who responded to the survey had no concerns, but half of the others were worried about the proposed reduction in Burland's seats and half by an expected increase in the precept charge.

One resident who responded to the Parish Council's survey felt the division of Ravensmoor - currently split between Burland and Sound & District's Baddiley parish - was bad for community cohesion and it should be brought within one parish. (According to Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council's submission, the Burland survey also found that many residents felt a close connection to Acton.)

Burland Parish Council itself is keen that this boundary be adjusted, so that Ravensmoor lies entirely within Burland.

The Ravensmoor boundary change aside, the Parish Council itself prefers no change in governance to other options and therefore opposes the Draft Recommendations; however, in the event that the Draft Recommendations boundary changes proceed, the Parish Council (like Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council) would favour a merger with Acton and the residual parts of Edleston

and Henhull into a single parish. Burland Parish Council proposed that, if such a council were created, it should be called “Burland & Acton”.

In its submission, Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council agreed with the transfer to Nantwich of Malbank Waters. Nor did it object to the transfer of Kingsley Fields, but it did consider the rest of Henhull (including the small-scale new housing development, allotments and football ground east of Welshmen's Lane) should not transfer. However, it considered that a council consisting of just Acton and the residual part of Henhull would not be viable. Instead it proposed that either: (a) the residual part of Edleston also be included; or (b) Acton and the residual parts of Henhull and Edleston should be merged with Burland. The Parish Council preferred the latter option (which, as noted above, Burland Parish Council's submission also supports); it argued that this would pool resources effectively.

The submission from Sound & District Parish Council also highlighted the division of Ravensmoor and it also favoured a change to bring its part of the settlement into Burland.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Burland Parish Council reported that many of its residents identify strongly with Acton. Ravensmoor is seen by Burland as a key local settlement, with the current division of that settlement between Burland and Sound & District failing to reflect local community identity - a view shared by Sound & District and some of its residents.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
As noted above, some Burland residents were concerned that the Draft Recommendations proposals could weaken the voice of their parish and that of affected neighbouring parishes (Acton and Edleston), but others took a contrary view, so the evidence on this is mixed.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One suggestion that was unclear because it seemed to be based on a misunderstanding as to which parishes Ravensmoor was split between.

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Post-consultation assessment

The transfer to Nantwich of Kingsley Fields and Malbank Waters is largely supported by those submissions making comments on those specific proposals. These transfers have the support of the Parish Council, Nantwich Town Council and the local MP (see Acton, Edleston & Henhull and Nantwich subsections of this Assessment Report for further details on this), with residents' submissions (though few in number) tending to identify and list links with Nantwich. These new developments are adjacent to Nantwich, and the Borough Council considers that Malbank Waters' ability to engage in Parish Council activities is likely to be constrained by the fact it is separated from the rest of the Parish Council area by the railway line and canal. In the light of the consultation evidence and these other factors, the Borough Council therefore recommends that these Draft Recommendations proposed changes to Nantwich's boundaries with Edleston and Henhull should proceed.

However, the Borough Council accepts Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council's advice that a council comprising solely of Acton and the residual part of Henhull would not be viable. Although such a council would have an estimated 315 electors, it would face a substantial loss of precept income from the transfers and Acton had only three nominations for the 2019 ordinary elections, so there is a high risk of not getting enough candidates to stand for election. As the residual part of Edleston would have only an estimated 36 electors, the Borough Council does not agree that its inclusion alone would make a difference to viability. The Borough Council also notes the submission evidence pointing to links between Burland and Acton, the preference of Burland and Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Councils to merge (in the event that the Edleston and Henhull transfers to Nantwich proceed) and the difficulty faced by Burland itself in securing nominations (with only four nominations for its nine seats in 2019). It also notes the findings from Burland Parish Council's own survey, with most of those who responded having no concerns about the Draft Recommendations, but with the rest having reservations; it further notes the mixed views of those who responded to the Borough Council's own survey.

Taking all these considerations into account, the Borough Council recommends the alternative suggestion put forward by Burland and Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Councils: namely the merger of Acton, the residual part of Edleston and the residual part of Henhull with Burland, to create a larger, more viable council. This outcome would avoid a reduction in council seats and would mean a much larger precept income. The Borough Council recommends that this new council be called "Burland & Acton" - the name suggested by Burland Parish Council. For the style, it recommends "Parish", as Burland Parish Council argued that this was well understood and three of the four Acton, Edleston, Henhull and Burland residents who expressed a preference for a new council's style opted for this as well (tradition, history and the size of the new council being cited as reasons for that choice).

The Borough Council further supports the wishes of Burland and Sound & District Parish Councils for their boundary to be adjusted, so that the settlement of Ravensmoor lies entirely within the new merged Burland & Acton parish. It feels that the consultation submissions provide persuasive evidence that Ravensmoor is a single community and that its current separation limits community cohesion.

The new Burland & Acton parish would have an estimated 916 electors by 2025: 277 in the current Acton parish area, 501 in the current Burland Parish Council area, 36 in the residual part of Edleston, 38 in the residual part of Henhull and 64 in the part of Ravensmoor that would be transferred from Sound & District's Baddiley parish (see Section 3 for further information on the derivation of these figures). The Borough recommends nine seats for the new merged parish: this is in line with the average for a parish of this size, but also reflects the difficulties Acton, Edleston & Henhull and Burland have recently faced in securing sufficient nominations. The Borough Council is concerned that 10 or 11 seats might prove hard to fill, but considers eight to be inadequate, given the geographical size, shape and rurality of the new parish and the challenges it faces (for example, its Neighbourhood Plan workload and the loss of precept income from Kingsley Fields and Malbank Waters).

The Borough Council further recommends that the new parish be divided into three wards, to make the new council's workload more manageable and ensure representation for each of its main settlements. It recommends:

- One ward consisting of Acton and the residual part of Henhull. Based on the figures quoted above, it is estimated this ward would have 315 electors (as of 2025).
- One covering the part of the current Burland parish (including Burland village) north of Dig Lane, which would have an estimated 334 electors (as of 2025).
- One covering the residual part of Edleston, the part of the current Burland Parish Council area (including eastern Ravensmoor) south of Dig Lane and the area (western Ravensmoor) transferred from Sound & District's Baddiley parish. It is estimated that this ward would have a total of 267 electors (as of 2025).

Therefore this warding arrangement would mean wards of similar size in terms of electorate (each around 300 electors, with three seats each) and land area. It would also mean ward boundaries that align with borough ward boundaries (simplifying electoral arrangements) and Dig Lane provides a clear natural boundary between the two wards that would be in Wrenbury borough ward.

The Borough Council recommends that the three new wards be named, respectively, "Acton & Henhull", "Burland" and "Ravensmoor & Edleston", so that their main settlements are acknowledged, along with the history of Acton, Edleston, Henhull and Burland as individual parishes.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 1 of 2	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.1c & 2.8 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Baddiley to the parish of Burland, of the shaded area (western part of Ravensmoor) shown in Map 2.8. Merger of Burland (including the transferred part of Baddiley) with the parish of Acton and the residual parts of the parishes of Edleston & Henhull, to form a new council consisting of a single council called “Burland & Acton”. In this context, “residual” means the parts of Edleston & Henhull that would remain following the recommended transfers from those parishes to Nantwich (these transfer areas are shown in Maps 2.1a & 2.1b). The transferred part of Baddiley to become part of the new council’s “Ravensmoor & Edleston” ward.
Parish Council name and style	Burland & Acton Parish Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Burland & Acton (new parish)

Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 2 of 2

Warding arrangements (if any)	Three wards, with boundaries as shown in Map 2.1c: [1] "Acton & Henhull", consisting of the current Acton parish and the residual part of Henhull. [2] "Burland", consisting of the part of the current Burland parish north of Dig Lane. [3] "Ravensmoor & Edleston", consisting of the residual part of Edleston parish, the transferred part of Baddiley (the western half of the settlement of Ravensmoor) and the part of the current Burland parish south of Dig Lane.
Seats	9 (Acton & Henhull 3, Burland 3, Ravensmoor & Edleston 3)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	916 (Acton & Henhull 315, Burland 334, Ravensmoor & Edleston 267)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	102 overall (Acton & Henhull 105, Burland 111, Ravensmoor & Edleston 89)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Baddiley – transfer to Burland & Acton" • "Burland & Acton – warding" • "Edleston – transfer to Nantwich" • "Henhull – transfer to Nantwich"

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2.23 Calveley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Calveley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Calveley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	6
Electorate (2018)	214
Electorate (2025 forecast)	243

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Housing in the village of Calveley (in the parish of Calveley) extends slightly into the parish of Alpraham.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One individual Calveley resident felt that, as they were so small, Alpraham and Calveley's individual voices were very effective and did not prompt action from the Borough Council. This resident proposed the two parishes merge, to give them a stronger, collective voice.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Wardle with Alpraham and Calveley, as Wardle (and to a lesser extent) Calveley are relatively small parishes. All three are in the same borough ward and vote at the same location, so electoral arrangements would be more convenient than if Wardle or Calevely were merged with another neighbour.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were four submissions from Calveley residents, all via the consultation survey and all of which disagreed with the Draft Recommendations. However, all four of the Calveley responses had some degree of enthusiasm for merging with a neighbour. Two of those supported a merger with Alpraham alone; one of these simply said include Alpraham but not Wardle; the other noted that the two parishes' villages were similar, geographically close and had similar demographic make-up, whereas Wardle was relatively distant and demographically different. This submission suggested that Wardle could be merged with Stoke & Hurleston instead. A third thought a merger with Alpraham would be good, providing: (i) there were a reasonable number of councillors from each village (in other words, seating/ warding or other governance arrangements that would prevent the much-larger Alpraham from unduly dominating proceedings); (ii) any Neighbourhood Plan complications arising from the merger could be satisfactorily resolved (as this submission notes, Calveley has a Neighbourhood Plan, but Alpraham does not). The other Calveley submission favoured a merger of their parish with Wettenhall, citing community links and shared issues (such as Calveley's school serving Wettenhall). This submission objected to being involved in a merger with Wardle, on the grounds that (in this resident's view) the Wardle's industrial estate was disrupting traffic on Calveley roads and that Wardle Parish Council was relatively inactive and (unlike Calveley Parish Council) did not engage much with its residents.

There were five submissions from Alpraham, all via the consultation survey. Four of these supported the Draft Recommendations; this included one from a parish councillor on the council’s behalf. The fifth submission from Alpraham disagreed with Draft Recommendations, but cited the distance from Wardle as the reason for this view (no issue with Calveley was raised, though this person did question whether any governance change was needed at all).

No submissions from Wardle residents. However, Wardle Parish Council responded by email (see details below).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Calveley Parish Council itself did not respond.

As noted above, a councillor responding on behalf of Alpraham Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but added no specific comments.

However, Wardle Parish Council's submission strongly objected to the merger, for reasons relating to both community identity and to effective and convenient local government. On the matter of community identity, the Parish Council stated it has no current or past links with the parishes of Alpraham and Calveley; it also felt that Wardle has a separate identity, which it wishes to retain. As for viability, Wardle Parish Council pointed out that new housing development - on Wardle Avenue and on the former Jolly Tar pub site - has increased its population and electorate significantly since 2018. The submission also considered that the current number of seats allows effective communication with residents and saw no justification for changing this.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions generally indicate that Alpraham and Calveley have common characteristics and note their geographical proximity, but that Wardle is distant and has no community links (or shared interests with) the other two parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Two responses from Cholmondeston suggest Wettenhall could be merged with Alpraham and Calveley; one of these submissions stated that Wettenhall has agricultural links with Alpraham and community connections to Calveley. The same two submissions also suggested that their parish could be merged with Wardle (or with Barbridge, which is part of the parish of Stoke), with agriculture and the canal/ canal communities being cited as common links between Wardle, Stoke and Cholmondeston.

Post-consultation assessment

Wardle Parish Council offers persuasive reasons for not being included in a merger with Alpraham and Calveley, citing a separate identity, lack of community links and the fact that recent housing development has boosted its number of electors and consequently its viability as an independent parish.

Furthermore, the four submissions received from Calveley all reject the Draft Recommendations, with three of these objecting to the inclusion of Wardle (though three consider a merger of Alpraham and Calveley alone to be beneficial, or potentially so). These submissions cite additional reasons for this view: Wardle's different demographic make-up; its geographical distance from the villages of Alpraham and Calveley; Wardle Parish Council having a different (allegedly less engaged) approach to communication with residents; and its industrial estate meaning it has different (conflicting) interests to those of Calveley.

Whilst most of the five responses from Alpraham agree with the Draft Recommendations, the one that does object also cites Wardle's distance from Alpraham as the reason for disagreeing.

It should also be noted that the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data confirm that Wardle's electorate has (as the Parish Council's submission indicates) grown substantially since 2018: this latest Register shows 149 electors in the parish (up from 119 in 2018), thereby increasing its viability.

One Calveley resident suggests Wardle could be merged with Stoke & Hurleston and two responses from Cholmondeston suggest that their parish could be merged with Wardle (or with Barbridge, which is part of the parish of Stoke), with agriculture and canal activity being cited as common links between Wardle, Stoke and Cholmondeston. However, the submissions from Wardle and Cholmondeston & Wettenhall Parish Councils request no changes to governance; Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council supports the Draft Recommendations proposal that its Group's two parishes merge, but does not propose a wider merger to include other neighbours.

In the light of the level of opposition from Wardle Parish Council and Calveley residents, together with the views of neighbouring parish councils and other factors summarised here, the Borough Council recommends that Wardle remain as an individual parish.

However, a large majority of the consultation responses from Alpraham and Calveley support a merger involving those two parishes. Four of the five responses from Alpraham - including the one submitted on behalf of Alpraham Parish Council - agree overall with the Draft Recommendations. Three of the four responses from Calveley support a merger of their parish with Alpraham

only, with persuasive arguments being put forward: namely the two main villages' proximity, similarities and common demographic make-up. The sole pre-consultation response from either parish (from a Calveley resident) also supported a merger, arguing this would mean Alpraham and Calveley had a stronger, effective voice.

One of the Calveley submissions favouring such a merger makes that support conditional on Calveley (with its much smaller electorate) having a reasonable share of seats on the new council and on neighbourhood plan arrangements being satisfactorily resolved. The Borough Council has considered these issues and concludes that they do not present an obstacle to the two parishes merging. Given this, and in the light of the consultation evidence and other factors discussed above, the Borough Council recommends that Alpraham and Calveley merge, to form a new council.

No names for such a new council were proposed in the submissions, but the Borough Council recommends "Alpraham & Calveley", to acknowledge the two main settlements and their history as individual parishes. The Borough Council recommends that the new council be styled "Community", as three of the four submissions on this (the one from Alpraham Parish Council and two from Calveley residents) favoured this and offered clear reasons (one resident felt this style was more modern; another that it best reflected local people working together).

The Calveley Neighbourhood Plan will still apply to the land it was originally intended, so, in the event of a merger, Alpraham and Calveley may decide to produce a joint plan to expand coverage and the Borough Council considers that such a joint plan is a practical option. Furthermore, as the Calveley Neighbourhood Plan was completed in early 2019, a number of planning changes have occurred since (or are imminent) and therefore the Borough Council believes that a review of this Plan - which could incorporate Alpraham's planning needs - could be very timely. The Borough Council would also stress that Neighbourhood Plan areas do not have to cover the whole of a parish, so new councils covering a wide geographical area could opt to produce a plan over a more concentrated area where most of the population resides.

As for the matter of ensuring Calveley has sufficient seats to influence decision-making and represent its residents effectively, the Borough Council considers that this can be addressed by having warding, with separate wards for the current parish of Alpraham and the current parish of Calveley. The Borough Council's forecast is that, by 2025, the two parishes will have 477 and 243 electors respectively, giving a total of 720 electors. For a council of this size, eight or possibly nine seats would be in line with the average across Cheshire East. If there were nine seats overall and warding were based on the existing parish boundaries, a fair allocation based on electorate shares (using 2025 forecast data) would be six for Alpraham and three for Calveley; if there were eight seats and the same ward boundary, the fairest split would be Alpraham five and Calveley three. Therefore a total of eight seats would

would mean Calveley has a relatively greater say in decision-making – and would in fact favour Calveley slightly, by giving it fewer electors per seat (81) than Alpraham (95).

In theory, the boundary between Alpraham and Calveley could be adjusted so that the Alpraham properties to south of Long Lane and east of the A51 (five of which are adjacent to Calveley village anyway) become part of a Calveley ward; this would better reflect settlement boundaries, but would move only an estimated nine properties and 16 electors to Calveley - and would still mean its fair share would be three seats (whether the council has eight seats in total or nine). Given this slight boundary change would not alter Calveley's seating entitlement – and considering the fact that the consultation submissions did not request any boundary change – the Borough Council does not recommend any adjustment to the existing boundary.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends a total of eight seats, with warding (and ward names) based on the current parish boundary and current parish names, with three seats for the Calveley ward and five for Alpraham.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.4 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report.
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of the parish of Alpraham with the parish of Calveley, to form a single new parish.
Parish Council name and style	Alpraham & Calveley Community Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Alpraham & Calveley (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Existing two parishes to become wards on the new council, as shown in Map 2.4. In other words, the current parish boundary between them will become a parish ward boundary. The new wards to be named “Alpraham” and “Calveley”.
Seats	8 (Alpraham 5, Calveley 3)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	720 (Alpraham 477, Calveley 243)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	90 overall (Alpraham 95, Calveley 81)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.24 Chelford

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Chelford
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Chelford
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	7
Electorate (2018)	1,054
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,364

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One response from an individual resident, proposing only changes that were outside the scope of the Review.

Draft Recommendations
Increase seats from seven to 10, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Three submissions received (all via the online survey), including one from the Parish Council. All three agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but made no specific comments.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
As noted above, the Parish Council agrees with the Draft Recommendations.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Given the support received for its proposal in all the submissions from the Parish Council and residents, the Borough Council recommends an increase to 10 seats, as per the Draft Recommendations, but no other changes to governance. The Borough Council considers that this significant increase in seats is also justified by the expected increase in the electorate (to 1,364 by 2025), together with the ongoing demands on parish council resources created by the COVID pandemic - factors that are likely to add substantially to the Parish Council's workload.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Chelford Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Chelford (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (an increase from the current 7)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,364
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	136
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.25 Cholmondeley & Chorley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Cholmondeley & Chorley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Cholmondeley; Chorley.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	11 (Cholmondeley 6, Chorley 5)
Nominations in 2019	5 (Cholmondeley 4, Chorley 1)
Electorate (2018)	224 (Cholmondeley 134, Chorley 90)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	229 (Cholmondeley 140, Chorley 89)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats from 11 to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size and reflects the low number of nominations in 2019. Four seats for Cholmondeley and three for Chorley, as this reflects their respective electorate shares.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Two responses from individual residents (one from each parish), both via the consultation survey. Both of these submissions disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The Cholmondeley submission claimed the Parish Council provided no services for residents and was not managing its finances appropriately; this resident proposed that the Council be abolished.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council responded via the consultation survey. It disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, offering three reasons for opposing the cut in seats. Firstly, it felt that seven councillors was insufficient to cover its widespread geographical area. Secondly, the current group of councillors covers a diverse range of ages and backgrounds and the Council did not wish to lose that mix. Thirdly, a number of councillors are farmers and their work patterns mean they cannot always attend meetings, but having a relatively high number of seats ensures meetings can remain quorate and council business can continue even when the farmers on the council are absent.

In addition, the Parish Council considered that the Draft Recommendations report's figure for Cholmondeley's electorate as of 2018 (134) was incorrect, but it did not offer an alternative. (The Borough Council has checked and it maintains that its figure of 134 correctly records the number of electors in the parish, as shown in the Electoral Register as at the end of 2018.)

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
As noted, one submission from a local resident raises concern about a lack of services and financial management.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Although one resident's submission raises concern about the Parish Council's service provision and financial management, it is difficult for the Borough Council to judge whether this concern is reasonable and (given the absence of comments from other local residents) it is not known whether this view is more widely shared. In any case, such issues are not ones that a change in governance arrangements would necessarily resolve.

As for seat numbers, the Parish Council's submission puts forward a persuasive case for keeping these high, despite the Council's small electorate: large rural areas can add to councillor's workload and travel times; having a wide mix of ages and backgrounds on the Council makes it more representative and may mean there is a wider array of skills and experience it can draw on to address local issues; it is also important that council business is not delayed by inquorate meetings, and that local farmers have a fair opportunity to serve on the council, not least because of the specialist knowledge they can offer on agricultural matters.

In the light of this evidence - and considering also the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on councillors - the Borough Council now considers that seven seats would be inadequate.

It is noted that the Parish Council's submission does not request that the total remain at 11; it may be that, say, nine seats would be practical. However, the Borough Council is keen to maintain the current diversity of people on the council and considers that any significant reduction could put this at risk. Given this, and the fact that no specific alternative figure has been proposed in the consultation responses, the Borough Council recommends that the total remain at 11.

As for the allocation of seats between the two parishes, the 2025 forecasts for their electorates (Cholomondeley 140, Chorley 89) would suggest a fair split would be seven seats (up one) for Cholmondeley and four (down one) for Chorley. However, the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data indicate that the division of electors is more evenly balanced (Cholomondeley 136, Chorley 101) and would imply that the current allocation of seats (Cholmondeley six, Chorley five) is fairer than any alternative. The Borough Council therefore recommends no change in the allocation of seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Cholmondeley & Chorley (no change)
Parish name(s)	Cholmondeley; Chorley (no changes)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	11 (Cholmondeley 6, Chorley 5). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	229 (Cholmondeley 140, Chorley 89)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	21 overall (Cholmondeley 23, Chorley 18)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.26 Cholmondeston & Wettenhall

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Cholmondeston & Wettenhall
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Cholmondeston; Wettenhall.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	6 (Cholmondeston 3, Wettenhall 3)
Nominations in 2019	6 (Cholmondeston 2, Wettenhall 4)
Electorate (2018)	333 (Cholmondeston 152, Wettenhall 181)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	348 (Cholmondeston 164, Wettenhall 184)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One response from an individual Cholmondeston resident, who felt the precept was too low, that the Parish Council was inactive, that issues relating to road conditions and flooding were not being addressed and that there was a lack of interest in serving on the council. This submission also suggested reviewing the current boundary, bearing in mind the railway line and canal route.

Two responses from individual Wettenhall residents: like the Cholmondeston response, both of these felt the precept was too low and no services were being provided and that the Parish Council did not engage properly with residents, with poor communication being cited as an issue; one also raised concerns about inadequate financial management. One of the Wettenhall responses also raised a boundary issue that was outside the Community Governance Review's remit.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Merge the two parishes into a single parish council with one parish and two wards, with each ward consisting of one of the current parishes. The purpose of this is to remove the grouping arrangement, which some election candidates and residents find confusing and which can result in inconvenient constraints on voting rights with the parish council.

[2] Increase seats to seven, as this is the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council. Wettenhall to have four seats (an increase of one) and Cholmondeston three, as this is the fairest allocation based on their respective electorate shares.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Four responses from individuals in Wettenhall, one by email and the others via the consultation survey. The one submitted as an email voiced support specifically for the increase in seats, but felt unable to comment on allocating the extra seat to Wettenhall without knowing where the parish boundary was. Two others agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but did not add comments. The fourth individual response from Wettenhall raised concerns about a lack of transparency over financial management and cited evidence to suggest the political balance and share of the Council's resources was tilted unfairly against Wettenhall; this response also indicated that Cholmondeston & Wettenhall councillors were not working very effectively together.

There were two responses from individual residents from Cholmondeston, which are similar in terms of their comments and suggestions. These two submissions disagree with the Draft Recommendations, but do so on the grounds that Cholmondeston & Wettenhall form an ineffective partnership – which a merger could exacerbate. One of these submissions says "The changes would force two Councils who don't want to work together..." Both submissions list a number of problems, including: a political imbalance that deprives Wettenhall of influence; council meetings being infrequent and poorly managed when they do take place; poor

communication with residents; minimal services/ amenities for residents and issues raised by residents not being acted on; poor relations between some councillors; and lack of financial transparency and concern that the Council may not be financially compliant. Both of these submissions suggest Wettenhall could be merged with Alpraham and Calveley; one of them states that Wettenhall has agricultural links with Alpraham and community connections to Calveley. The same two submissions also suggest that their parish could be merged with Wardle (or with Barbridge, which is part of the parish of Stoke), with agriculture and the canal/ canal communities being cited as common links between Wardle, Stoke and Cholmondeston.

One submission from a Calveley resident suggested a merger of their parish with Wettenhall, citing community links and shared issues (such as Calveley's school serving Wettenhall).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council states simply that it wishes to keep the current governance arrangement and current number of seats, but adds no specific reasons for this request.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Some submissions cite community ties and shared interests that link Wettenhall to Alpraham and Calveley, and that link Cholmondeston to Wardle and Stoke.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
A large proportion of the submissions from individual residents at the pre-consultation and consultation stages cite a number of issues that suggest the Parish Council is ineffective at managing its business, with financial management, service provision, engagement with residents and relations between councillors all being cited as concerns. However, the Borough Council cannot be sure as to whether the views and experiences presented in these submissions are representative of local residents collectively and it is not clear whether current governance arrangements contribute to the issues that the submissions raise.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

As indicated above, a large proportion of the submissions from individual residents at the pre-consultation and consultation stages cite a number of issues that suggest the Parish Council is ineffective at managing its business, with financial management, service provision, engagement with residents and relations between councillors all being cited as concerns. Some submissions have suggested the answer may be to split the two parishes up and merge each with a different neighbour. As noted, two responses from Cholmondeston suggest that their parish could be merged with Wardle (or with Barbridge, which is part of the parish of Stoke), with agriculture and canal activity being cited as common links between Wardle, Stoke and Cholmondeston. However, the submission from Wardle Parish Council requests no changes to its governance, while Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council supports the Draft Recommendations proposal that its Group's two parishes merge, but does not propose a wider merger to include other neighbours.

Furthermore, whilst the Borough Council is concerned by the picture presented of the Parish Council, it cannot be sure as to whether the views and experiences presented in these submissions are widespread among local residents and it is not clear whether current governance arrangements contribute to the issues that the submissions raise. Therefore it considers that a break-up of the Parish Group could perpetuate or even worsen the situation and might perhaps transfer problems onto other parishes that appear to be functioning well at present. On the other hand, it feels that merging Cholmondeston and Wettenhall into a single parish would make it more difficult to tackle the issues at hand; such a step would be at odds with the evidence from some submissions that the two parishes and their councillors are not working well together.

In the light of all this, the Borough Council recommends that Cholmondeston & Wettenhall remain grouped, but do not merge.

On the matter of seats, however, seven is the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for even the smallest parish councils - and Cholmondeston & Wettenhall's electorate is double that of many other parish councils - and the COVID pandemic places additional demands on council resources and councillor time. Consequently the Borough Council considers that it would not be acting responsibly if decided to keep the Parish Council's number of seats at only six. Therefore the Borough Council recommends an increase to seven seats.

The 2025 forecasts indicate that Wettenhall will continue to have more electors than Cholmondeston and the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data (Wettenhall 177 electors, Cholmondeston 161) confirm that situation. Hence a fair allocation means the extra seat should go to Wettenhall. This may also help address the concerns raised in some Wettenhall submissions that the

parish currently lacks a fair say in decision-making and resource allocation. Therefore the Borough Council recommends an increase to seven seats, with four for Wettenhall and three for Cholmondeston.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Cholmondeston & Wettenhall Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Cholmondeston; Wettenhall (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (an increase from the current 6). Allocation of seats: Cholmondeston 3 (no change), Wettenhall 4 (an increase from the current 3).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	348 (Cholmondeston 164, Wettenhall 184)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	50 overall (Cholmondeston 55, Wettenhall 46)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.27 Chorley (near Wilmslow)

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Chorley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Chorley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	386
Electorate (2025 forecast)	394

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council requested no change in governance (as did the sole response from an individual resident). It felt that the current total of seven seats was appropriate, but noted there was significant difficulty in filling them. However, a local borough ward

Member, also commenting on the difficulty of persuading people to serve on the council and the parish's small size, suggested it could be merged with Wilmslow.

Draft Recommendations
Wilmslow, Handforth and Chorley to be merged into a new council. The rationale for this was twofold. Firstly, Wilmslow and Handforth were considered to be a single community Secondly, Chorley is relatively small and has a shortage of nominations, raising questions about its viability as an independent council.

Handforth would become a single ward on the new council. The current Wilmslow Town Council West ward would be extended to include Chorley and the expanded ward called Wilmslow West & Chorley; both Wilmslow West and Chorley are in the same Borough Ward (Wilmslow West & Chorley), so there would be no electoral risk that requires the provision of additional polling facilities.

New council to have 20 seats. Proposed seating allocation: Handforth four seats (down from seven at present), Wilmslow Dean Row four seats (no change), Wilmslow East three (down one), Wilmslow Lacey Green three (up one), Wilmslow West & Chorley six (up one).

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were 75 responses from Chorley, all via the consultation survey. Of these, 74 (99 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and this included the Parish Council (see summary below); the other resident did not answer the question about their overall view, but made a general comment stating their preference was to avoid a merger. In effect, therefore, there was unanimous opposition from Chorley.

67 of the responses included comments. By far the most common reasons for disagreement were ones relating to local identity and interests (62 mentions), but a substantial number of people also indicated that the current arrangements worked well (18 mentions) or had concerns about paying a higher precept (10). Four mentioned Green Belt or environmental issues. No other reason was cited in more than one response.

The comments included a number of more specific points, notably: the wide geographical area that the merged parish would cover; the contrast between Chorley's rural character and urban Handforth/ Wilmslow; the distance and lack of road/ social links between Handforth and Chorley; demographic differences between Chorley (with a generally older, static population) and Wilmslow/ Handforth; the rivers Bollin and Dean being natural barriers between the three parishes' communities; the huge disparity in the size, amenities (and hence in the needs) of the merged parishes, with Wilmslow having a majority of electors and seats and Chorley and Handforth consequently having limited impact on decision-making; Chorley's village hall giving it a focal point for community activities; an anticipated increase in precept, with Chorley subsidising services for the rest of the new council; a view from some that Wilmslow Town Council provides unsatisfactory services and the new Wilmslow-dominated council may do likewise; a readiness from some to help fill vacant seats, now they knew this was an issue; and a view that the current councillors are effective and understand local needs.

Some noted that, of all the surrounding larger settlements, Chorley's closest links are with Alderley Edge - it is in the same school catchment and the local GP practice is there - whilst the local Wilmslow newspaper is not distributed to Chorley residents.

A relatively high number of the submissions (16) made alternative suggestions. These largely involved potential mergers with other neighbours. However, considering the content and views of Chorley residents collectively and the choice of wording for these alternative ideas, it seems likely that many, if not all, of these suggestions were put forward as a "least worst" option if a merger had to take place, rather than a favoured outcome. Seven submissions suggested a merger with Alderley Edge alone (as did a sole Alderley Edge resident); one proposed merging with Alderley Edge and Mobberley; the other eight suggested one or more of various rural neighbours with which there were connections or similarities (Great Warford, Little Warford, Mobberley, Nether Alderley and the Lindow part of Wilmslow were all mentioned, as well as one proposal involving Peover Superior and Peover Inferior, which are not adjacent to Chorley).

There were 198 responses from Wilmslow, all via the consultation survey. Of these, 175 (88 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; only 18 (9 per cent) agreed; the others were unsure or neither agreed nor disagreed. As with Chorley, the most common reasons for disagreeing related to local identity (103 mentions) and a view that current arrangements worked well (23).

There were 1,128 responses from Handforth: 510 via the consultation survey, 617 via a Community Governance Review survey leaflet produced by Handforth Town Council and one by email. Of the 510 direct responses to the Borough Councils' consultation survey, 437 (86 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, as did 591 (96 per cent) of those who completed the

Town Council's leaflet; the email also expressed disagreement. As with Chorley and Wilmslow, those who expressed disagreement via the Borough Council survey most commonly cited local identity as a reason for their view (291 mentions) or the fact that current arrangements worked well (76); a substantial number (38) also referred to recent or imminent growth in Handforth's housing and population as evidence of its viability and separate needs.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

In objecting to the proposed merger, the Parish Council highlighted Chorley's rural character and the fact it consists to a large extent of Green Belt, in contrast to the mainly urban areas of Wilmslow and Handforth. It was concerned about the much reduced level of representation under the merger proposal, with one seat per 1,354 electors for the enlarged Wilmslow West ward, as opposed to seven councillors currently serving its 400 or so electors. In addition, it noted that substantially higher precepts that Wilmslow and Handforth charge and took the view that Chorley residents' taxes would be subsidising activities in the rest of the merged council area. It also stated that 15 per cent of residents had submitted comments directly to the Parish Council, and that all of these opposed the merger. As for uncertainty over its ability to fill seats, the Parish Council was able to report greatly increased interest in serving on the council, following Community Governance Review publicity and a wish to remain independent.

In its submission, Wilmslow Town Council opposed the merger, citing the result of the 2011 referendum on Wilmslow/ Handforth governance and separate identities of the three parishes, which it felt had become more entrenched since then.

The response from Handforth Town Council likewise opposed the merger, again referring to Handforth's distinct identity and its independence from Wilmslow following a 2009 local petition. This submission also presented a range of evidence to highlight Handforth Town Council's viability and effectiveness: statistics on major recent and forthcoming housing developments, which demonstrate both its population growth and the difference between its challenges and those of Wilmslow and Chorley; activities, services and achievements, ranging from the organisation of events like Christmas markets to CCTV provision to CPR training to part-funding various local community groups; and the long-term track record in securing a high number of nominations at election times and getting casual vacancies filled without difficulty. In addition, it highlighted some other problems that a merger would present: a greatly increased workload for the (remaining) clerk; as a more distant, less accessible parish council office for Handforth residents (if meetings moved to Wilmslow); a sharp reduction in representation (four seats instead of the current seven) and loss of influence over the use of income from the Community Infrastructure Levy (another achievement) on the Garden Village/ Handforth Dean developments.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The local MP opposes the merger, arguing that the three parishes are viable and have separate identities, and citing the result of the 2011 referendum that resulted in Handforth and Wilmslow becoming separate councils; the MP's submission also notes that the proposal to merge Chorley is inconsistent with the treatment of similar small parishes, for which continued independence was proposed.

From borough ward Members making submissions on Wilmslow and Handforth, views on the merger proposal were more mixed. Two local borough ward Members supported it: one of them felt it was welcome and timely, but did not comment further. A former resident and borough ward Member took the view that the merger would strengthen the local area's voice and would result in more efficient use of public funds. However, there were three serving borough ward Members who opposed the merger: two stressed Handforth's distinct community identity and independence; the other (making a submission on Wilmslow) emphasised the separate identities of Wilmslow and Chorley - a view expressed by residents who had been in contact with this Member - and felt that Chorley's interests would be overridden by its larger neighbours.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Extensive evidence provided by Chorley Parish Council and its residents of their distinct identity and need for separate representation to Wilmslow and Handforth, with key issues being the parish's rural character, its different demographic composition, its own communal facilities, its reliance for public services on Alderley Edge rather than Wilmslow and geographical distance from Wilmslow and (even more so) Handforth. The submissions from Wilmslow and Handforth Town Councils and a large majority of their residents demonstrate that they too feel they have a separate identity to Chorley (and to each other).

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
A number of responses indicating that the Parish Council is effective and understands local issues. No concerns raised that it lacks viability and some clear evidence of increased interest in serving on the council, thereby addressing the historic difficulty in filling vacant seats.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One Handforth resident suggested having equal numbers of seats for each of the three merging areas, to ensure Chorley and Handforth retained a significant voice. Three Wilmslow residents (and two from Handforth) suggested merging Chorley with Wilmslow. Two Chorley residents suggested merging Wilmslow and Handforth, but leaving out Chorley (one Wilmslow resident and one from Handforth also proposed this).

Post-consultation assessment

The consultation submissions from Chorley Parish Council and its residents are not only large in volume (75), but unanimous in opposing the Draft Recommendations proposal of a merger with Wilmslow and Handforth. This accords with the Parish Council's own finding that the substantial proportion of residents who contacted it directly were opposed to the merger. Furthermore, the submissions from Chorley offer extensive and persuasive evidence of their parish's distinct identity, its viability, the effectiveness of current governance and the adverse impact on representation that the merger would bring.

The submissions from Handforth and Wilmslow Town Councils also object to the merger, as do a large majority of the responses from their residents; again, the evidence submitted from these parishes is extensive and persuasive.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends that Chorley, Handforth and Wilmslow remain as three separate councils.

As for Chorley's number of seats, the Borough Council is conscious that the current total of seven seats is the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum and that this figure is in line with the average for a council of Chorley's size. It also notes the submission evidence that current governance arrangements are working well for Chorley and it does not wish to disrupt that. It therefore recommends no change in the number of seats and is optimistic that the apparent increased interest in serving on the council will mean they are more readily filled in future.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Chorley Parish Council (no change).
Parish name(s)	Chorley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	394
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	56
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.28 Church Lawton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Church Lawton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Church Lawton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	1,828
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast 1,872. Revised forecast 1,915. Note: Revised forecast includes those homes in the Church Lawton part of the Twyford Estate (the original forecasting approach assigned the electorate of the whole Estate to Alsager's East ward). The figure of 1,915 differs slightly from that cited in the Draft Recommendations Report's technical appendices (1,917), as the Draft Recommendations estimate double-counted Church Lawton's old Station House.

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
There is a new housing development at Local Plan Strategy site LPS 21 (Twyfords and Cardway, Alsager) that is split between Church Lawton and Alsager. This new development, the Twyford estate, is a consequence of Alsager's expansion and relies on the town for services.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council's response noted that Church Lawton is an ancient parish with a strong identity and the Barrows (ancient burial mounds) are a key part of its identity and heritage. It felt the current total of 10 seats was appropriate and any reduction would hamper its ability to deliver projects. No other responses received from Church Lawton. (As noted in the Alsager subsection of this Assessment Report, the Town Council felt that boundary changes were necessary, to take account of new housing development and the town's expansion into some neighbouring parishes, including Church Lawton.)

Draft Recommendations
Transfer to Alsager Town Council East ward of the part of the Twyford estate that lies in Church Lawton, to reflect local community identity and Alsager's expansion. New boundary to follow the B5077 (Crewe Road) and the A5011 (Linley Lane). No change in Church Lawton's number of seats, which is in line with the average for a parish of its size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Four submissions received from Church Lawton. All four were made via the consultation survey and all disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, three of these four - including one from the Parish Council (see details below) - proposed a modification that would still transfer the whole Twyford estate to Alsager, but with a tighter boundary line around the estate than the one the Draft Recommendations proposed. The fourth submission sought no change to the boundary and was unhappy about the potential implications for local addresses and mail. (As noted in the Alsager subsection of this Assessment Report, there were 13 submissions from the town, of which six agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and five disagreed.)

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council's submission supported the inclusion of the whole Twyford estate in Alsager, but objected to the use of the B5077 and A5011 for the new boundary, on the grounds that this would also transfer part of the ancient Barrows site, as well as the

old Station House that lies along the former (disused) railway line (the Salt Line). The submission states that both the burial site and the Station House are part of Church Lawton's heritage - the mounds are associated (in academic archaeological work) with Church Lawton - and should remain in the parish. The Parish Council also felt that use of the B5077/ A5011 - which are at right angles to each other - would result in confusing signage at a busy junction. To address this and retain the two heritage sites, it proposed instead that the new boundary should follow the Salt Line. The Church Lawton Barrows Group also supported this boundary modification, for the same reason. One of the two responses from individual Church Lawton residents also endorsed this modification, again expressing a wish to keep the Barrows in the parish.

In its submission, Alsager Town Council referred to and supported the Church Lawton Parish Council boundary modification that would keep the Barrows and the old Station House in Church Lawton.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
One Alsager town councillor objected to the Draft Recommendations, citing the tax impact and political motives, but it is not clear if these comments related to the proposals for the changing the boundary with Church Lawton, or to the other proposed boundary change that would affect the town (the boundary with Haslington).

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted, the Parish Council - and Alsager Town Council - agreed with the proposal to move the Twyford estate entirely into Alsager (and a majority of the responses from Alsager supported the Draft Recommendations). However, the submissions from the Parish Council (endorsed by the Town Council) and the Barrows Group highlight the importance of the Barrows and the old Station House to Church Lawton's heritage.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No submissions indicate that viability is an issue for Church Lawton.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
As noted above, a majority of the consultation responses from Alsager, including that from the Town Council, supported the Draft Recommendations. Most of the Church Lawton responses (the Parish Council included) were content for the Twyford estate to be

placed entirely within Alsager. Hence there is a consensus among the affected town/ parish councils and a majority view from individual submissions that the Twyford development forms part of Alsager's community and should transfer there.

However, the Church Lawton Parish Council submission, endorsed by the Town Council and supported in two of the other responses from Church Lawton (one from its Barrows Group) argue persuasively that the Barrows and the old Station House are part of Church Lawton's heritage and should remain there; the Parish Council also proposes an alternative boundary that is clear and in fact more practical than the Draft Recommendations line.

In the light of these factors, the Borough Council recommends that the Draft Recommendations proposed change to the boundary with Church Lawton be modified, so the area east of the Salt Line (including the old Station House and the Barrows) remains in Church Lawton.

The Borough Council forecasts that Church Lawton would be left with 1,870 electors if the Draft Recommendations proposals were implemented. Assuming the number of electors at the old Station House is line with the average for the local borough ward of Odd Rode, that implies another two electors would remain in the parish under the Final Recommendations, making 1,872 in total. Given that the existing 10 seats is in line with the average for a council of that size and that the Parish Council had (at the pre-consultation stage) raised concern that a reduction in seats could put some of its work at risk, the Borough Council recommends (as per the Draft Recommendations) that the total number of seats remain unchanged.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.5a in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Church Lawton to Alsager Town Council's East ward, of the shaded area (Church Lawton part of the Twyford estate) shown in Map 2.5a.
Parish Council name and style	Church Lawton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Church Lawton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,872
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	187
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Church Lawton – transfer to Alsager"

2.29 Church Minshull

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Church Minshull
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Church Minshull
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	368
Electorate (2025 forecast)	396

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council responded to the pre-consultation survey, but did not include any specific comments.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Minshull Vernon with Church Minshull, as both are rural parishes in the same borough ward and vote at the same location. This proposal was also influenced by the Draft Recommendation to merge Leighton and Woolstanwood (the other two parishes within Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council) with Crewe Town Council, which would leave Minshull Vernon as a relatively small council unless it were merged with a neighbour.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
Two petitions were received relating to Minhsull Vernon & District. One of these, which had 72 signatures, called on the Borough Council to "remove their proposals to abolish the Leighton and Woolstanwood Parishes and merge the Minshull Vernon Parish, from their next consultation". As this petition notes, Minshull Vernon & District held official polls on 10th June 2021, in which the residents of each parish voted by very large majorities against the Draft Recommendations proposals. The poll question wording and result for the parish of Minshull Vernon were as follows: "Do you object to the abolition of Minshull Vernon and District Parish Council and the merger of Minshull Vernon Parish with Church Minshull Parish?“ - “Yes” 19 votes (68%), “No” 9 votes (32%), turnout 14%. The second petition, which had seven signatures, sought "full clarity from Cheshire East Council as to why they want to make changes to the Leighton, Woolstanwood and Minshull Vernon Parish Council areas", arguing that the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal had not been explained.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
11 submissions were received from Church Minshull (all via the online survey), of which 10 disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; the other submission (neither agreeing nor disagreeing) was from the Parish Council. Only one of those who disagreed provided any comments, but these related to the impact of on tax bills of a merger with Crewe Town Council (even though the Draft Recommendations did not propose including Church Minshull in such a merger).

Besides the two petitions, a further 332 submissions were received from Minshull Vernon & District, of which 329 were submitted online, three (one from each parish) were in the form of letters or emails. Of these 332, 251 were from Leighton, 47 from Minshull Vernon and 34 from Woolstanwood. Of those from Minshull Vernon, 45 (96 per cent) disagreed overall and only one agreed. Of the 332 responses made via online survey, letter or email, 220 included comments. 48 per cent (105) of those who made comments cited the results of the June 2021 official poll and 47 per cent (104) cited a view that their parish and its council had a distinct identity (from Crewe/ Church Minshull) as a reason for opposing the break-up of Minshull Vernon & District. 35 per cent (78) argued that the current government arrangements worked well and 22 per cent (49) raised concerns about the impact of the Draft

Recommendations on their tax bills, with the residents from Leighton and Woolstanwood being much more likely to cite the latter concern than those from Minshull Vernon.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
As noted above, Church Minshull Parish Council's submission neither agreed nor disagreed with the Draft Recommendations; it proposed a name for the new parish if the merger were to go ahead, but offered no further comments.

Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council's submission cites – among other points - the results of the June 2021 poll and also those of an online poll on its website, in which 180 people voted, with 172 supporting the retention of Minshull Vernon & District.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted above, the residents of the parish of Minshull Vernon voted by a large majority against a merger with Church Minshull, which indicates a lack of common identity and interests between the two parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
As noted above, Minshull Vernon parish's residents voted by a large majority against a merger with Church Minshull. Furthermore, Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council opposed this change and (as set out in detail in the Minshull Vernon & District subsection of this Assessment Report) that Parish Council and its residents provided persuasive evidence against a merger of the Council's Leighton and Woolstanwood parishes with Crewe.

The responses from Church Minshull residents did not include specific comments on the Draft Recommendations, but were unanimous in opposing a merger with Minshull Vernon and did not raise any concerns about current governance. Therefore the

available evidence suggests Church Minshull residents – and its Parish Council (which expressed no strong view on the merger proposal) - are content with the existing arrangements.

In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council recommends that Minshull Vernon & District should remain as a Parish Council, with no changes to its boundaries or those of its constituent parishes, and that Church Minshull should also remain as an independent parish.

Church Minshull's current total of seven seats is in line with the average for a parish of its size (396 electors forecast by 2025). In the light of this and the consultation submission evidence, the Borough Council recommends no changes in Church Minshull's governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Church Minshull Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Church Minshull (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	396
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	57
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.30 Congleton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Congleton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Congleton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	East; West.
Seats	20 (East 10, West 10)
Nominations in 2019	48 (East 22, West 26)
Electorate (2018)	21,763 (East 10,917, West 10,846)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	24,015 (East 11,292, West 12,723)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 26 (Back Lane/ Radnor Park, Congleton), LPS 27 (Congleton Business Park Extension), LPS 28 (Giantswood Lane South, Congleton), LPS 29 (Giantswood Lane to Manchester Road, Congleton) and LPS 30 (Manchester Road to Macclesfield Road, Congleton) are major new housing developments around the outskirts of Congleton. LPS 29 and LPS 30 are partly within the parish of Eaton. LPS 27 and LPS 28 are entirely within the parish of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths, as is part of LPS 29. LPS 26 is partly within the parish of Somerford. However, all these sites are adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and are considered to be a consequence of that town's expansion.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey

16 submissions from Congleton at this stage. All of these requested some change in governance. 10 responses (including one from a town councillor) wanted the existing wards split into smaller ones with fewer councillors, with the suggested number of new wards varying from three to six (though another proposed removing warding altogether and a town councillor felt the current arrangement of 10 seats per ward was effective and enabled good cross-party working). The arguments put forward were that the current large wards mean: (a) councillors cannot build close relationships and keep in touch with residents effectively, and help develop a local community spirit; and (b) so many seats that some councillors can hide behind the work of others; and (c) ballot papers being too long to digest and putting candidates further down the alphabet at a disadvantage.

Eight responses (including three from town councillors and one from the Town Council) wanted the external boundary extended to include areas of adjacent parishes that rely on Town Council services and which should, it was argued, contribute to Congleton's precept. One of these mentioned specifically the new developments in Somerford and Eaton and "parts of Havannah". The Town Council itself did not propose a specific new boundary, but some other submissions suggested extending it to the Link Road or to include the settlement area defined in the Cheshire East Local Plan.

There was one “Congleton” response from someone whose property was on the Eaton/ Congleton boundary and who identified as being in Congleton. This resident proposed that the boundary be changed, so that Malhamdale Road, Crompton Close and possibly Bridestones Place (part of the Havannah area) be moved to Congleton. The sole submission on Eaton made similar comments and may therefore be from the same resident.

One Congleton resident also objected to the division of Kestrel Close between the two current Town Council wards.

One response from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths proposed moving that parish's new residential development site areas into Congleton, to maintain the rural identity of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths. However, the none of the other submissions from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths (including one from its Parish Council) requested any changes in governance.

Somerford Parish Council proposed that the new Turnstone Grange estate, which is within the Congleton Town Council area, be transferred to its parish (Map SOM2, which is in the Somerford subsection of this Assessment Report, shows the area the Parish Council proposed for transfer). It noted that this estate is marketed as being a "Somerford" location and that it is adjacent to new

housing development areas that are within Somerford Parish; it argued that the Turnstone Grange residents will therefore identify as being part of Somerford. One of the six submissions from Somerford residents proposed that it and other small parishes be merged, but the rest did not request any mergers or boundary changes.

Draft Recommendations

[1] Transfer to Congleton of the following parts of Eaton parish: the area south of the Congleton Link Road and west of the A536, which includes the parts of Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 29 and LPS 30 that fall within Eaton; the area south of Havannah Lane; and the parts of Buglawton (sections of Malhamdale Road and Crompton Close) not currently in Congleton. The reason for making these transfers is that the development on sites LPS 29 and LPS 30 is due to Congleton's expansion and it is expected that those new residents will rely on Congleton for services and community activities. It also reflects the fact that while Havannah Lane and the Buglawton part of Eaton are established residential areas, they are adjacent to Congleton and were felt to have closer links to the town than to Eaton.

[2] Transfer to Congleton of the part of the parish of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths that lies south of Congleton Link Road. The reason for this is that this area covers the Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 27 and LPS 28 and the part of site LPS 29 that lies within Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths. These sites are adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and are a consequence of the town's expansion. The proposed transfer also includes existing commercial development on Congleton Business Park, which is also adjacent to Congleton.

[3] Transfer to Congleton of the part of Somerford that lies south of Congleton Link Road and also the part of that parish that is north of the Link Road but east of Chelford Road. This proposal is based on the fact that this area contains part of Local Plan Strategy site LPS 26, which is a major new housing development that is adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and is a consequence of that town's expansion.

[4] Division of the existing two wards into five new wards:

- Ward 1 (provisional name North East) comprising polling districts COB1, COB2, CON1, CON2, CON3, and CON4 and the part of Eaton Parish east of the A536 that is recommended for transfer to Congleton;
- Ward 2 (provisional name East) comprising COS1, COS2, COS3 and COS4;
- Ward 3 (provisional name Central) comprising COC1, COC2 and COC3;
- Ward 4 (provisional name South West): polling districts COW1, COW2, COW3 and COW4; and

- Ward 5 (provisional name North West), comprising CNW2 and CNW3, the part of Eaton parish west of A536 that is recommended for transfer to Congleton and the parts of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths and Somerford parishes that are recommended for transfer to Congleton.

The purpose of this warding was to address the problems raised by the pre-consultation submissions and ensure that wards are small enough for councillors and residents to communicate easily and to avoid lengthy ballot papers and other complexities at election times.

[5] Increase from current 20 seats to 22, with five each for Wards 1 and 5 and four each for the other three wards. The increase in seats is to reflect the growth of the existing Town Council population and the extension of its boundary to include some residents from neighbouring parishes. The allocation of seats between wards reflects their respective electorate shares.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
Somerford Parish Council's submission included a petition against the Draft Recommendations, signed by 424 residents. The wording of this petition is "I, the undersigned, oppose the proposal to abolish the Parish of Somerford and merge the bulk of the parish into Congleton Town. I consider that the parish is well represented by the current parish council which should be retained in its present format."

Feedback from consultation stage – summary - Congleton
40 submissions from Congleton (39 via the consultation survey and one by letter/ email). Of the 39 survey responses, 19 (49 per cent) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and 15 (38 per cent) disagreed.

Objections from those who disagreed focused predominantly on the proposed outward expansion of the Town Council area: six submissions fell into this category and the points they raised included concerns about an enlarged Town Council being unwieldy and remote, the impact on the separate rural identity of parishes like Eaton and Somerford and a weakened community spirit. One person who disagreed overall made comments suggesting a mistaken belief that the Draft Recommendations proposed to abolish Congleton Town Council.

Comments on the proposed internal changes (to Congleton's warding and seats) were, by contrast, largely supportive. The sole email endorsed the warding changes, citing the arguments raised in many pre-consultation responses and also noting that smaller wards made vote-counting easier and reduced the prospect of one dominant party taking all or most of the Council seats.

Some alternative warding suggestions were made. One individual noted that the area proposed for transfer from Somerford was on the opposite side of the river to the new ward it was assigned to (Ward 5 - provisional name “North West”) and suggested it should therefore be placed within Ward 4 (provisional name “South West”) instead and felt that “North” would be a more accurate name for Ward 5 if this change were made. The same resident suggested alternative names for some of the other proposed new wards: “South East” (instead of “East”) for Ward 2 (as its population is concentrated in the southeast of the town); “West” (instead of “South West”) for Ward 4 (as only the Padgbury Lane part of this ward is in the town's geographical south). A separate response also suggested the name “West” for Ward 4 (noting that the area is known as West Heath) and “North” for Ward 5. Someone else recommended "Mossley" for Ward 2, saying locals used that name for the area; another suggestion (assumed also to be for Ward 2) was "Dane in Shaw", again due to common local use of this name.

Of those who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, only three commented specifically on seats or warding issues.

One of these people proposed three changes to the internal ward boundaries: firstly, to extend the boundary of Ward 2 (provisional name “East”) so that it included the whole of the estate off Canal Road (Kestrel Close and adjacent roads), rather than having the estate divided between Ward 2 and Ward 3 (“Central”); secondly, to move the hospital from Ward 2 to Ward 3; and thirdly, to transfer the Obelisk Way estate area from Ward 3 to Ward 5. The same person felt - perhaps in another reference to the river separating the proposed transferred part of Somerford from Congleton - that Ward 5 covered rather separate housing areas and so did not reflect local community identity.

Another person who disagreed overall objected to the inclusion of Key Green in Ward 2, saying it was part of Buglawton (which would be within Ward 1 under the Draft Recommendations), not Mossley.

The third individual objected to the continued practice of having multiple seats for each ward - an objection also raised in relation to other (mainly large) town and parish councils; the wording used in these submissions suggests they were made by the same individual, rather than different people independently making the same argument.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary - relevant feedback from other parishes

There were 126 submissions on Eaton, of which three (all opposing the Draft Recommendations) were via email or letter; two of these were from the MPs for Congleton and Macclesfield. The other 123 responses were via the consultation survey and 118 (96 per cent) of these disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; only three (2 two per cent) agreed. The most frequently-cited

reasons for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (59 mentions), the impact on the local environment, the Green Belt or rural areas (35 mentions), a view that the current governance arrangements work well (20) and concern about the impact on the precept (17).

Some Eaton residents from the Havannah Lane area pointed out that their properties have no road access - only a connecting footpath - to the adjacent (Buglawton) part of Congleton. Furthermore, there are other natural barriers between parts of Havannah Lane and Buglawton, including woodland, pastures, the River Dane and the river valley. Therefore Havannah lane residents rely on Eaton for services, including shops, schools, public transport and waste collection; some also note that the issues affecting Havannah - such as new housing development, the Link Road and protection of the green gap - are entirely different to those facing Buglawton; Havannah's separate identity was also mentioned.

Some Eaton residents objected to the inclusion of the Cranberry Moss wildlife site in the transfer, noting that development in this area was counter to the Cheshire East Local Plan and Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD) policies and could not therefore be regarded as part of Congleton's expansion; reference was made to the Eaton Neighbourhood Plan Inspector's supportive comments on this matter.

One Eaton resident, who supported the transfer of Buglawton, also endorsed the Congleton warding proposals, feeling the smaller wards would mean easier access to councillors and would avoid long ballot papers that unduly favoured candidates at the top of the paper.

There were 13 submissions from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths (all via the consultation survey), of which eight disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only three agreed; the other two neither agreed nor disagreed. The most common reasons for disagreeing related either to local identity and interests (six mentions) or a view that current arrangements worked well (five). Two submissions raised concerns about the potential impact on rural areas and the natural environment; the residents making these comments strongly wished to retain a rural identity.

There were 48 responses from Somerford, of which 46 were via the consultation survey and two by email or letter. Of the 46 survey responses, 40 (87 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only five (11 per cent) agreed; the other one neither agreed nor disagreed. Although the reasons for disagreeing commonly involved matters of local identity and interests (22 mentions), even more (23) argued that current arrangements were working well, with the active nature and achievements of Somerford Parish Council being widely cited. A number of the submissions from Somerford referred to the rural identity of the

parish and its residents and objected to the fact they would have only five town councillors out of 22 representing them, with their separate interests consequently have little influence.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

Congleton Town Council's submission agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and welcomed the opportunity that it felt the boundary changes would give to improve local services and increase investment in local infrastructure, but recognised that rural areas had a different perspective and expressed a wish to understand the needs of transferred parts of neighbouring parishes. It passed judgement on potential names for the new wards, feeling that the areas transferred from its rural neighbours should have a say in that.

In its submission, Eaton Parish Council also disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It argued for a modified, less extensive transfer of land from its parish to Congleton. In particular, it drew attention to the Eaton Neighbourhood Plan Inspector's examination report, which states that a further significant extension of Congleton's housing development into the remaining undeveloped area of Eaton would be highly undesirable and would compromise efforts to maintain a green gap and protect Cranberry Moss (a site of biological importance) and the surrounding natural landscape. The Parish Council also stated that a transfer of this area (the part of Eaton north of Moss Lane) would be contrary to policies in the Cheshire East Local Plan and the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD), which seek to protect this land from development.

In addition, Eaton Parish Council highlighted the fact that Havannah Lane has a distinct identity and no vehicular access to the Buglawton area of Congleton - with a valley separating some Havannah Lane properties from the town - and therefore it looks primarily to Eaton for services and community activities. It noted that councillors representing the proposed new Congleton ward covering Havannah would be unlikely to know this small area well and serve its interests effectively.

Eaton Parish Council's modified proposal - which would keep Havannah Lane and the area north of Moss Lane within Eaton - would therefore mean its electorate remained significantly higher (with around 100 more electors) than under the Draft Recommendations proposal. Hence this modification would add to its viability, although the Parish Council notes that its electorate would remain well above 150 even based on the Draft Recommendations and the Borough Council's electorate statistics.

Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It felt that, under the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary changes, the rural identity and interests of many of the affected residents would not be

understood and addressed by Congleton and noted that these residents would be represented by only a small proportion of the town councillors.

Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council took the view that the transfer of its forthcoming new Alderley Gate and Redrow housing developments to Congleton was premature, given that they will not be complete for some years to come. It suggested that a transfer of these sites might be a matter for consideration at the next Community Governance Review.

It also objected to the proposed merger of the residual part of its parish with the residual part of Somerford, observing that there was neither a shared identity nor any strong links with that parish. In particular, it pointed out that the entire boundary with Somerford is marked by a natural barrier - the River Dane - with Chelford Road being the sole crossing point (Somerford Parish Council objected to the merger for the same reasons).

Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council also undertook its own consultation of residents, by delivering a Community Governance Review information document to 270 households and inviting feedback, and through a separate consultation with residents in the Giantswood Lane area. Although relatively few people responded, the vast majority opposed the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary changes, with concerns about loss of identity being common and some objections made to expected higher precept charges.

However, the Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council did make an alternative suggestion, which was that the western part of the Draft Recommendations proposed transfer area should move to Congleton, but that the rest of the parish boundary should remain as it is. The area it proposed for transfer is shown in Map HUL1 in the Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths subsection of this Assessment Report. This area consists of the existing development on Congleton Business Park and parts of Local Plan site LPS 27 (Congleton Business Park Extension), including some future new housing development (the Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths subsection of this Assessment Report provides further details on the rationale for this).

In its submission, Somerford Parish Council also opposed the Draft Recommendations. It drew attention to the rural identity of its residents, including those in the new residential developments adjacent to Congleton. It had undertaken a large-scale postal and online survey of residents and got 280 responses, of which 278 (99 per cent) opposed the boundary change. The Parish Council also requested again that its pre-consultation boundary change proposals - which the Draft Recommendations had overlooked - should be considered. To support its case, it had undertaken a survey of Turnstone Grange residents; from those residents who

responded, it received unanimous support (though it should be noted that the survey literature drew attention Somerford's lower precept).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The MP for Macclesfield opposed the Draft Recommendations for Eaton, but endorsed Eaton Parish Council's proposed alternative boundary change, for the reasons given by the Parish Council (protecting Cranberry Moss and the parish's green gap and to reflect the identity and community links of the Havannah Lane area).

The MP for Congleton also expressed opposition to the end of Eaton as an independent parish.

Two borough ward Members made "Congleton" submissions. One of them agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but made no specific comments. The other argued that the residents of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford had separate identities to Congleton and that their parish councils would protect public rights of way and footpaths effectively and thereby preserve the local quality of life, whereas the Town Council had other interests. Another borough ward Member, making a submission on Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths, opposed the Draft Recommendations for that parish, arguing that its parish council is effective and understands local issues, whereas an enlarged body would not; the Member also stated that the transfer of part of that parish to Congleton would mean less support for neighbouring parishes and that town councillors would not understand the needs of the rural community.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from Eaton Parish Council and Havannah residents highlight Havannah's separate identity from (and lack of road access to) Buglawton, and its links to Eaton for services and community activities. The submissions from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford Parish Councils and their residents indicate the rural identities and priorities of those parishes. Furthermore, the results from the survey undertaken by Somerford Parish Council of its existing residents (with 280 responses), along with its petition (over 400 signatures) show overwhelming opposition to a transfer to Congleton, with their separate rural identity and concern over reduced representation being key factors. The results of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths' consultation of its residents also show a clear majority against the Draft Recommendations proposed change to their boundary. In addition, Somerford Parish Council's survey of Turnstone Grange residents found unanimous support for a transfer to Somerford (though this may have been influenced by the survey highlighting Somerford's lower precept).

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Two individual submissions from Eaton (echoing the proposal made by its Parish Council - see summary above - and the MP for Macclesfield) argued that the transfer should exclude Havannah Lane and the area north of Moss Lane; another proposed a slight variant of this, under which the Eaton part of Eaton Bank Academy's grounds would also transfer to Congleton.

Two Havannah Lane residents, while opposing the transfer of Havannah to Congleton, advised that such a transfer should at least be to the proposed “North West” Congleton ward (Ward 5) with which there would be closer geographical and community links; including Havannah in the “North East” ward (Ward 1), they argued, would mean its needs would be poorly understood and represented.

One Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths resident who opposed the Draft Recommendations made an alternative proposal, which was that "those properties that lie along the north side of Giantswood Lane, opposite Westlow Mere, and Westlow Mere and the small hamlet of properties that are adjacent to the Fisheries, are allowed to remain within the parish of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths", but that the new Alderley Gate and Redrow developments should transfer. (As noted above, Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council itself also favours retention of the Giantswood Lane/ Westlow Mere area, but wishes to retain the Alderley Gate and Redrow sites as well.)

Post-consultation assessment
Eaton Parish Council makes a persuasive case for a modified, less extensive transfer of land from its parish to Congleton, with Eaton residents offering supporting evidence to justify this more modest change. In particular, these submissions draw attention to the Eaton Neighbourhood Plan Inspector's examination report, which states that a further significant extension of Congleton's housing development into the remaining undeveloped area of Eaton would be highly undesirable and would compromise efforts to maintain a green gap and protect Cranberry Moss (a site of biological importance) and the surrounding natural landscape.

The submissions on Eaton also highlight the fact that Havannah Lane has a distinct identity and no vehicular access to the Buglawton area of Congleton - with a river, valley and other barriers separating some Havannah Lane properties from the town - and therefore looks primarily to Eaton for services and community activities.

In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council now recommends the modified Congleton/ Eaton boundary change put forward by Eaton Parish Council. The Borough Council's forecast was that the current Eaton Parish Council would have 607 electors by 2025. Under the modified boundary change being recommended, the Borough Council estimates that 329 of these electors would transfer to Eaton, leaving the Parish Council with an estimated 278 electors (2025 forecast) - substantially more than the estimated number that would remain under the Draft Recommendations proposal. In addition, Eaton received nominations for all its seven seats at the 2019 ordinary elections and the submissions from residents indicate a Parish Council that is very active and well regarded. Hence the Borough Council is not concerned about Eaton's viability following the recommended transfer.

The submissions from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council and its residents provide persuasive evidence of the rural identity of its existing residents. The Parish Council also makes the reasonable point that it requires an adequate precept income to maintain the rural character of the area and serve residents effectively. Furthermore, it requests that the Borough Council wait until the next Review, when the new Alderley Gate and Redrow developments are completed, before a decision is made on whether to transfer them to Congleton. The Borough Council agrees that it is right for those future occupiers to have a say in their governance. Furthermore, in highlighting the River Dane's presence as a physical barrier between Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford and the existence of a sole crossing over the river, Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford demonstrate very convincingly how there is a lack of links and shared interests between the two parishes - and little reason to expect that a merger would change this. In addition, the submissions from residents of each of these two parishes show that a majority oppose the Draft Recommendations, with little support for either a boundary change with Congleton or a merger of the residual parts of their parishes; Somerford Parish Council's own survey received 280 responses and found over 94 per cent opposed the merger and 99 per cent opposed the boundary change.

It is also apparent that the residents of the two parishes feel current governance works well and no concerns are raised about viability; a local borough ward Member endorses the actions and priorities of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council and there are many positive comments about the activities and achievements of Somerford Parish Council.

Whilst Congleton Town Council and most of its residents support the Draft Recommendations, it should be noted that most of the opposition from its residents relates to the proposed absorption of parts of rural neighbours, rather than to the proposals for Congleton's internal warding.

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In the light of all this evidence, the Borough Council considers that there should be no transfers from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths or Somerford to Congleton, that both parish councils should remain independent and that Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths' boundary should remain unchanged.

Whilst the Borough Council understands Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council's alternative proposal that the western part of the LPS 27 site transfer to Congleton, it considers that this would not be electorally convenient, given that the area covered by this alternative proposal has no residential properties at present and none expected even by 2025. As Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths is in a different borough ward to the adjacent part of Congleton, this transferred area would require separate polling facilities, but this cannot be justified if there are no electors or no significant numbers of electors expected by the time of the 2023 ordinary elections.

Had the Draft Recommendations proceeded without any modifications, the proposed transfers to Congleton from Somerford and Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths would have accounted for around 2,100 of the electors in the new Ward 5 (provisional name North West). However, as stated above, it is now recommended that no transfers are made from those two parish councils to Congleton, whilst the Draft Recommendations proposed transfer from Eaton to Ward 5 has also been modified (though the number of electors affected by the modification - namely those north of Moss Lane - is very small).

In addition, in the light of the submission evidence put forward by Somerford Parish Council on the Turnstone Grange estate and the wishes of that estate's residents, the Borough Council recommends that this estate be transferred to Somerford. This modification to the Draft Recommendations proposals would result in an estimated 231 electors being transferred to Somerford, with the proposed new Ward 4 having 231 fewer electors than previously anticipated.

Further to this, the modification to the Eaton/ Congleton boundary change means that the transfer from Eaton to Ward 1 would involve only Buglawton electors (an estimated 61), rather than the Havannah Lane area as well.

Hence, if the Draft Recommendations proposed new wards' internal boundaries remained the same, it is estimated that their elector numbers in 2025 would be as follows: Ward 1 - 5,949; Ward 2 - 5,404; Ward 3 - 4,464; Ward 4 - 4,633; Ward 5 - 3,663. Based on their electorate shares and still assuming (as the Draft Recommendations propose) 22 seats in total, a fair allocation (one ensuring similar ratios of electors per seat) would be as follows: six for Ward 1, five for Ward 2, four each for Wards 3 and 4 and only three seats for Ward 5.

If the current total of 20 seats were retained, a fair allocation would involve less variation between each ward's number of seats, but would still mean Ward 1 got five seats and Ward 5 only three. Consequently, the Draft Recommendations boundaries would result in a significant political imbalance between the new wards. They would limit the opportunity to address one of the concerns raised by some Congleton residents: that wards with more seats can result in some councillors taking on heavier workloads than other representatives in that ward.

Therefore it is particularly important to consider the modifications that individual residents have suggested to the proposed new wards' boundaries, to determine whether these would even out elector numbers between the five wards. As noted earlier, one consultation stage submission proposed moving the hospital into Ward 3, given that is the "Central" ward - but the Borough Council does not consider the hospital's ward location to be an issue that impacts on effective governance or community identity. However, the same submission also proposed extending Ward 2, so that it includes the whole of Kestrel Close and the rest of the estate off Canal Road (this in fact mirrors a suggestion made by one resident at the pre-consultation stage). The Borough Council agrees that the existing Town Council boundary in this location - which the Draft Recommendations proposals would perpetuate - does divide a local community. However, bringing the whole estate into Ward 2 would significantly increase the electorate of Ward 2 (already relatively large) and decrease that of Ward 3 (which is relatively small). Such a change would therefore increase the disparity in the five wards' sizes. Furthermore, the estate would remain split between two borough wards and therefore separate polling stations would be required even if the Town Council ward boundary were adjusted. Hence, on balance, the Borough Council is not persuaded by this modification. However, as noted, the same resident made a third suggestion: to transfer the Obelisk Way estate from Ward 3 to Ward 5. The Borough Council estimates that this estate will has around 428 electors (with no further housing development expected there by 2025).

As indicated by the figures quoted earlier, Ward 5 would have around 800 fewer electors than Ward 3 if the Draft Recommendations internal boundaries remained unchanged - so the resident's proposal for transferring Obelisk Way would result in the two wards having almost equal numbers of seats (4,036 and 4,091 respectively) and would reduce the overall disparity between the five wards' sizes. Furthermore, the Borough Council considers that Obelisk Way is well connected, by road, to the adjacent residential area of Ward 5 and hence that this transfer would not adversely affect community cohesion. In addition, if this transfer were made, then, with 22 seats overall, the fairest allocation between the five wards (based on electorate shares) would be five seats each for Wards 1 and 2, and four each for the other three wards, meaning each carries a very similar voting weight. In the light of this, the Borough Council recommends a modification to its Draft Recommendations stage internal ward boundaries, so that Obelisk Way – which it defines as the part of the COC2 polling district that lies north of West Road and the A34 Clayton Bypass - is included in Ward 5.

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The Borough Council is also conscious that the five properties in the former CON4 polling district (now subsumed into COS2) have more convenient access to a polling station in the recommended Ward 2 than to the polling facilities in Ward 1. It therefore now recommends a second modification to its Draft Recommendations stage internal ward boundaries, so that these properties are included within Ward 2, not Ward 1. (However, this change does not affect the Borough Council's calculation of elector numbers for the proposed wards, as its Draft Recommendations estimates for Ward 2 already included the electors for the five properties in the former CON4 district.)

As for the names for the recommended wards, one resident proposed modifications to some of the wards' names, which were: Ward 2 should be called "South East" (not "East"), as its population is concentrated in the Mossley/ Hightown areas in the town's geographical southeast; Ward 4 should be called "West" (not "South West"), as only a minority of it (the Padgbury Lane area) lies in the geographical south of the Town Council area; and that Ward 5 should be "North" (not "North West") if (as is now recommended) it does not include any transfers from Congleton's western neighbour Somerford. These arguments are persuasive - and the fact another respondent favoured the names "West" and "North" for Wards 4 and 5, noting that the Ward 4 area is known as West Heath - adds further weight to this case.

Whilst another submission suggested that Ward 2 be called "Mossley" and a separate one suggested "Dane in Shaw", given these are widely-recognised names for much of that area, the Borough Council is conscious that Ward 2 is geographically large and also includes Hightown and some small settlements outside the town's conurbation; it does not wish to settle on names that might appear to overlook these other areas' identities and the ward's geographical diversity. The Borough Council does not therefore wish to recommend the "Mossley" or "Dane in Shaw" option, but does recommend the other modifications.

The recommended ward names are therefore as follows: Ward 1 - North East, Ward 2 - South East, Ward 3 - Central, Ward 4 - West, Ward 5 - North.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.9a, 2.9b & 2.9c in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	[1] Transfer, from the parish of Eaton to Congleton Town Council, of the shaded areas (the Local Plan Strategy site areas of Eaton south of Moss Lane and the part of Buglawton currently within Eaton) shown in Map 2.9a. The area south of Moss Lane to be transferred to Congleton Town Council's new "North" ward and the part of Buglawton currently within Eaton to be transferred to Congleton Town Council's new "North East" ward. [2] Transfer, from the parish of Congleton to the parish of Somerford, of the shaded area (the Turnstone Grange estate) shown in Map 2.9b.
Parish Council name and style	Congleton Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Congleton (no change)

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Warding arrangements (if any)	**Division of the existing two wards into five new ones.** • The current Congleton East ward to be split into two new wards: "North East" and "South East". • The current Congleton West ward to be split into three new wards: "Central", "West" and "North". The five new wards to cover the areas listed below and as shown in Map 2.9c. • **"North East"**: comprising polling districts COB1, COB2, CON1, CON2, CON3 and the Malhamdale Road/ Crompton Close (Buglawton) part of 4GC1 (currently in Eaton); • **"South East"**: polling districts COS1, COS2 (including the former CON4 district), COS3 and COS4; • **"Central"**: polling districts COC1 and COC3 and the part of COC2 that lies south of West Road and the A34 Clayton Bypass; • **"North"**: polling districts CNW2, CNW3, the part of COC2 that lies north of West Road and the A34 Clayton Bypass, and the Local Plan sites (LPS 29 and LPS 30) housing development part of 4GC1 (Eaton); • **"West"**: polling districts COW1, COW3, COW4 and all of COW2 except for the Turnstone Grange estate.
Seats	22 (Central 4, North 4, North East 5, South East 5, West 4)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	24,113 (Central 4,036, North 4,091, North East 5,949, South East 5,404, West 4,633)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	1,096 overall (Central 1,009, North 1,023, North East 1,190, South East 1,081, West 1,158)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Congleton – transfer to Somerford" • "Congleton – warding" • "Eaton – transfer to Congleton"

2.31 Cranage

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Cranage
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Cranage
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	6
Electorate (2018)	1,024
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,042

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Six submissions from individual residents, with four of these indicating a preference of no change and most of those feeling current arrangements work well. Two representations proposed a merger: one of these (which argued that the current Parish Council did

not represent the interests of all residents) suggested that Cranage and Goostrey faced common issues and should merge; the other felt a merger would reduce the precept, but did not name a specific neighbouring parish to merge with.

Draft Recommendations
Increase seats from seven to nine, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size. However, no merger with Goostrey recommended, as the Borough Council considered that the two parishes comprise two distinct communities of identity centred on the settlements of Cranage and Goostrey.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
A submission from the Parish Council (see details below). None from individual residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It felt that the existing total of seven seats was adequate and that filling nine would be difficult.

It also proposed a change to the boundary with the parish of Allostock (in Cheshire West & Chester), as the current boundary line cuts through an individual property; this proposal included a specific route for the revised boundary to take.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The Borough Council is unable to realign the boundary with the parish of Allostock as the Parish Council requests, given that Allostock is in Cheshire West & Chester. The Borough Council also considers that, as the current boundary line cuts through only one property, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on effective governance and community identity.

Whilst seven seats is a relatively modest number for a parish with as many electors as Cranage, the feedback from residents at the pre-consultation stage indicates that most feel the current arrangement works well. Furthermore, the Parish Council feels that seven is sufficient and it has reasonable grounds for claiming that nine would be hard to fill, given that there were only six nominations in 2019. In the light of the evidence that is available and the fact that it received no submissions that supported the Draft Recommendations proposal, the Borough Council now recommends that there should be no change in seat numbers.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Cranage Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Cranage (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,042
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	149
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.32 Crewe

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Crewe
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Crewe
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Central; East; North; South; St Barnabas; West
Seats	20 (Central 2, East 6, North 2, South 4, St Barnabas 2, West 4)
Nominations in 2019	43 (Central 4, East 14, North 5, South 8, St Barnabas 4, West 8)
Electorate (2018)	37,636 (Central 4,301, East 10,961, North 3,613, South 7,243, St Barnabas 3,755, West 7,763)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	39,239 (Central 4,488, East 12,432, North 3,583, South 7,527, St Barnabas 3,638, West 7,571)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area

[1] Local Plan Strategy site LPS 3 (Basford West, Crewe) contains a major new housing development that is partly within Shavington and partly within Basford, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Crewe and is a consequence of the town's expansion.

[2] Local Plan Strategy site LPS 2 (Basford East, Crewe) contains a major new housing development that is partly within Weston and partly within Basford, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Crewe and is a consequence of the town's expansion.

[3] The Stephenson Drive residential area is split between Crewe and Crewe Green.

[4] Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 4 (Leighton West) and LPS 5 (Leighton), which fall largely within Leighton. A small area of LPS 4 is within Woolstanwood. In addition, the existing residential areas of Leighton and Woolstanwood are adjacent to Crewe and are part of the same conurbation.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One response from Crewe, which regarded the Town Council as an unnecessary layer of government.

No responses from Rope.

Five submissions from Shavington residents; none proposed any specific governance changes.

Weston & Basford Parish Council proposed some boundary changes, including aligning its northern boundary with Weston Road.

Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council proposed changing the boundaries between Leighton, Woolstanwood and Crewe, so that they followed Sunnybank Road, Pym's Lane and Minshull New Road, to provide clearer demarcation than at present. (However, this boundary change would entail some electoral risk, as it would involve the transfer to Minshull Vernon & District of land - within Crewe Town Council - that would remain within the Crewe St Barnabas borough ward. As the affected areas of land are largely non-residential and will remain so up to 2025, the Borough Council does not consider the benefits of this boundary change sufficient to outweigh the electoral risk involved.)

There was also a submission - not attributed to any one parish, as it commented on several - which proposed that Wistaston Green parish ward, Woolstanwood parish and Leighton parish's Urban ward should be merged with Crewe

Draft Recommendations

[1] Transfer to Crewe Town Council of the part of the parish of Shavington that lies north of the A500 and northeast of the Chatsworth Park estate. This area contains the Gresty Brook parish ward, as well as housing development adjacent to Gresty Brook (but on the opposite side of the railway) and, further east, site LPS 3. It was considered that this transfer would reflect Crewe's expansion and the identity of the local community.

[2] Transfer, from the parish of Basford to Crewe Town Council, of the area of Basford north of the A500. Transfer, from the parish of Weston to Crewe Town Council, of the area bounded by the railway line, the LPS 2 site eastern field boundary and the A500. The rationale was that these areas' new housing developments are a consequence of Crewe's expansion and are expected to rely on it for services.

When next borough review undertaken, redraw boundary between Crewe Town Council and Crewe Green Parish Council around Crewe Green Roundabout, so that it runs north along Sydney Road as far as the Haslington boundary and south down University Way as far as (and including) the Aldi store. The purpose of this is to ensure the residential area around Stephenson Drive (part of which is currently within the parish of Crewe Green) falls entirely within Crewe, as it forms part of the Crewe urban area.

Merge Leighton and Woolstanwood with Crewe, on the grounds that their urban areas are part of the same conurbation and their rural areas have too small an electorate to constitute a viable parish.

Increase Town Council seats from 20 to 22 seats. Woolstanwood to become part of Crewe West ward (which would still have four seats). Leighton to be a ward in its own right, with two seats (out of a total of 22), on Crewe Town Council. No changes to the numbers of seats for any other Town Council wards.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions

Two petitions were received relating to Minhsull Vernon & District. One of these, which had 72 signatures, called on the Borough Council to "remove their proposals to abolish the Leighton and Woolstanwood Parishes and merge the Minshull Vernon Parish, from their next consultation". As this petition notes, Minshull Vernon & District held official polls on 10th June 2021, in which the residents of each parish voted by very large majorities against the Draft Recommendations proposals. The poll question wording and results were as follows: "Do You Want to Keep Your Leighton Parish?“ - “Yes” 683 votes (98%);,“No” 11 votes (2%), turnout 15%; "Do you object to the abolition of Minshull Vernon and District Parish Council and the merger of Minshull Vernon Parish with Church Minshull Parish?“ - “Yes” 19 votes (68%), “No” 9 votes (32%), turnout 14%; "Do You Want to Keep Woolstanwood Parish?“

- “Yes” 171 votes (97%), “No” 5 votes (3%), turnout 32%. The second petition, which had seven signatures, sought "full clarity from Cheshire East Council as to why they want to make changes to the Leighton, Woolstanwood and Minshull Vernon Parish Council areas", arguing that the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal had not been explained.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary

There were 18 responses from Crewe, of which one (from the Town Council) was by email and the other 17 via the consultation survey. Of the 17 survey responses, seven agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, nine disagreed and the other neither agreed or disagreed.

However, no single broad reason for disagreement was given by more than one respondent. One cited the results of Minshull Vernon & District's official poll of residents (summarised above); one felt Crewe has seen too much counterproductive change already and that the proposed boundaries put Green Belt land at risk of development. One stated that the changes would leave Crewe covering too large an area, making the Council remote and unreceptive to local interests. Two others limited their comments to general criticism of the Community Governance Review, rather than observations on the Crewe proposals in particular. Another individual objected to the continued practice of having multiple seats for each ward - an objection also raised in relation to other (mainly large) town and parish councils - and the wording used in these submissions suggests they were made by the same individual, rather than different people independently making the same argument.

Some of those agreeing with the Draft Recommendations felt that the Crewe conurbation should have unified governance; some felt that the current separation into different parishes meant parochial concerns took priority over wider interests, and that those outside the Town Council used but did not help pay for its services.

Besides the two petitions from Minshull Vernon & District, a further 332 submissions were received from its residents, of which 329 were submitted online, and three (one from each parish) were in the form of letters or emails. Of these 332, 251 were from Leighton, 47 from Minshull Vernon and 34 from Woolstanwood. Of the 251 submissions from Leighton, 241 (96 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only five agreed. Of those from Minshull Vernon, 45 (96 per cent) disagreed overall and only one agreed. Of those from Woolstanwood, 33 (97 per cent) disagreed overall and only one agreed. Of the 332 responses made via online survey, letter or email, 220 included comments. 48 per cent (105) of those who made comments cited the results of the June 2021 official poll and 47 per cent (104) cited a view that their parish and its council had a distinct identity (from Crewe/ Church Minshull) as a reason for opposing the break-up of Minshull Vernon & District. 35 per cent (78) argued that the current

government arrangements worked well and 22 per cent (49) raised concerns about the impact of the Draft Recommendations on their tax bills.

There were three responses received from Crewe Green: two from residents (via the consultation survey) and one from the Parish Council. One of the residents agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The other disagreed, but made no comments on the Draft Recommendations proposals relating to Crewe.

There were 12 responses received from Weston & Basford, one from the Parish Council and 11 (all in the form of survey responses) from Weston residents. (No submissions were made by Basford residents.) Of the Weston residents' responses, five disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and four agreed. However, of the five that disagreed, three acknowledged and supported their parish council's proposal (see details below) to accept the Draft Recommendations boundary changes, but subject to a merger of the redrawn Weston & Basford parish area with Crewe Green.

There were 907 submissions from Shavington, all via the consultation survey. Of these, 817 (90 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The reasons given for disagreeing related most commonly to local identity and interests (393 mentions); other common reasons related to concerns about an adverse effect on house prices or insurance premiums (90 mentions), the impact on the Green Belt and natural environment (67) or a view that current governance arrangements worked well (49). Most of the responses focused on the Draft Recommendations proposed changes to Shavington's boundary with Crewe. A number of submissions came from residents on the new Willowbrook Grange estate (part of the LPS 3 site), stating that they identified strongly with Shavington and had moved to the area to be in Shavington, not Crewe. Evidence was also presented that Gresty Brook ward residents also identify mainly with Shavington, and to a lesser extent with Rope, but not with Crewe.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Crewe Town Council, while agreeing with the Draft Recommendations, suggested three additional changes.

One suggestion was that Leighton's boundary could be aligned with Moss Lane and the railway, to provide greater clarity.

Another was a transfer to Crewe of the parts of the parish of Wistaston that lie north of Wistaston Green Road and Wistaston Brook - the purpose being to provide a natural boundary and ensure the adjacent (Wistaston) part of the Crewe conurbation is served by a single council.

The third was to extend Crewe's southeastern boundary still further, to include the whole of the South Cheshire Growth Village. The Town Council felt that, as a major development close to Crewe, the new Growth Village would rely on Crewe for services and develop community ties to the town, rather than to the rural area of Crewe Green.

Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council's submission cites the results of its June 2021 poll - in which over 95 per cent of Leighton and Woolstanwood residents voted to retain their existing parishes - and also those of an online poll on its website, in which 180 people voted, with 172 supporting the retention of Minshull Vernon & District. The Parish Council also highlighted its concerns about the sharply reduced level of representation (a much higher ratio of electors per seat) that Leighton and Woolstanwood residents would receive - and the higher tax bills they would face in financially challenging times - if their parishes were merged with Crewe.

Weston & Basford Parish Council's submission proposed that the Draft Recommendations changes to its boundary with Crewe be implemented - but subject to the remaining part of Weston & Basford being merged with Crewe Green into a single, new parish council, comprising of a single parish. Crewe Green Parish Council's own submission supported this merger proposal, including the changes to its boundary with Crewe that the Draft Recommendations proposals (and the merger) envisage. Weston & Basford Parish Council's submission included a number of reasons for the merger proposal: the ability for the enlarged council to operate more efficiently, saving costs and providing a better service; the desire to coordinate Growth Village development effectively and pool expertise/ knowledge in managing that development; and more equal representation (less disparate ratios of electors to seats).

Shavington Parish Council submitted a counterproposal, which involved various changes to Shavington's boundary, including the boundary with Crewe. The Parish Council had also produced a booklet (published online here) setting out its counterproposal and the supporting evidence; 125 of its residents endorsed the counterproposal and some of these included this booklet in their submission. The booklet included maps showing the counterproposal's intended changes to Shavington's external boundary, which involved transfers from Basford (of Basford's part of the LPS 3 site) and a small non-residential area of Crewe containing rail infrastructure and associated works. Map SHA1, which was produced by the Borough Council and which can be found in the Shavington section of this Assessment Report, shows the boundary changes that the counterproposal envisages.

The counterproposal booklet also reports on a survey the Parish Council had undertaken of Shavington residents in the area north of the A500 and other locations that would be affected by the Draft Recommendations, to obtain their views on their local identity. It surveyed 47 per cent of the households north of the A500 and found that 93 per cent identified themselves as being part of

Shavington, six per cent identified with Wistaston and the other one per cent identified with Rope; it seems, therefore, that none identify as being from Crewe.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The borough ward Member for Wistaston (which includes Woolstanwood) cited the June 2021 poll results and supported Woolstanwood residents' wishes to retain their parish within Minshull Vernon & District.

The MP for Crewe & Nantwich also mentioned the poll results and says they should carry significant weight in the Borough Council's decision; he also noted that residents of Leighton see themselves as being separate to Crewe and he raised concern about the prospect of Minshull Vernon & Districts' residents seeing a sharp reduction in the number of councillors representing them, under the Draft Recommendations. He also drew attention to Gresty residents' strong identification with Shavington, but felt that the Gresty Brook parish ward area, being on the same side of the railway as adjacent parts of the Crewe conurbation and being part of Crewe South borough ward already, could justifiably be transferred to Crewe Town Council.

One Crewe town councillor, whilst tending to agree overall with the Draft Recommendations, felt that Crewe Town Council's East ward was too large. This submission noted that "With six members, the [East] ward will be in a bad situation", but did not indicate what alternative ward boundary lines might address this, or what changes in seat numbers might resolve this issue. The councillor's submission also made some suggestions that were predicated on Leighton and Woolstanwood becoming part of Crewe or Wistaston. In particular, it was suggested that: Leighton and Woolstanwood could become a single ward on Crewe Town Council, or that Woolstanwood could be merged with Wistaston; and Leighton should have four wards on the Town Council (rather than two), to reflect its size and expected future growth.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from the residents of Leighton and Woolstanwood indicate that they have a distinct identity from Crewe. Along with the results of the June 2021 poll, this was the most commonly-cited reason for these residents overwhelmingly opposing the Draft Recommendations. Many responses included concerns that being merged with Crewe would result in more remote representation, with residents being more dependent on the decisions of councillors who did not know the Leighton/ Woolstanwood area and who were unlikely to commit resources to addressing challenges in those areas. There is extensive evidence from Shavington residents' responses that those living in the new (Willowbrook Grange) LPS 3 development area north of the A500 also identify with Shavington, not Crewe. Much of this evidence comes from those actually living in this area. The consultation submissions also indicate that residents of Gresty Brook ward identify predominantly with Shavington; some feel a stronger

connection to Rope, with reliance on Rope for schooling, medical treatment and other services being a factor in this, but there appears to be little affinity with Crewe, despite its geographical proximity. This sense of local identity is further confirmed by the local residents' survey undertaken by Shavington Parish Council, which found that over 90 per cent of those living north of the A500 identified as being part of Shavington. As some submissions note, this may in part reflect the physical barriers between this area and Crewe, with Gresty Brook being separated from Crewe by a brook and fields, and the new LPS 3 development being on the opposite side of the railway lines to Crewe.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The results of the June 2021 poll of Minshull Vernon & District residents, along with the consultation submission responses, demonstrate those residents' overwhelming support for the retention of the existing Parish Council and its current boundaries, with a distinct local identity being the predominant reason underlying this, though with the Council's effectiveness also being commonly cited. Furthermore, the responses from Crewe residents did not reveal any strong desire or convincing reasons for the town to absorb parts of Minshull Vernon & District. In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council considers that the Draft Recommendations proposals cannot be justified and that Minshull Vernon & District should remain as an independent parish council, with no transfers from any of its parishes to Crewe.

As for the Town Council's suggestion that Leighton's boundary could be aligned with Moss Lane and the railway, to provide greater clarity, none of the parish councils that would be affected by this change have requested a change to this boundary and nor have their residents. In any case, this suggestion is presumably based on the assumption that the Draft Recommendations proposal – that Leighton be merged with Crewe – will go ahead; as stated earlier, though, the Borough Council now recommends no merger.

The reasoning behind Crewe Town Council's (and one Crewe resident's) suggestion – of a transfer to Crewe of the parts of Wistaston that lie north of Wistaston Green Road and Wistaston Brook - is also clear: to provide a natural boundary and ensure the adjacent (Wistaston) part of the Crewe conurbation is served by a single council. However, such a change would transfer virtually the whole of Wistaston Parish Council's Wistaston Green ward to Crewe, leaving that ward with only a handful of scattered

dwellings. The pre-consultation and consultation stage submissions offer no evidence on the identity of the residents in this area - which is not surprising, given that the Draft Recommendations did not consider a change to this boundary. It is therefore quite possible that these residents identify as being from Wistaston, or that they have some other identity that is not "Crewe". The consultation evidence also demonstrates that the residents of many of the parishes surrounding Crewe - such as Woolstanwood, to Wistaston's immediate north - have a strong separate identity and oppose a transfer to Crewe. Hence the Town Council's proposal may not reflect local community identity - and in any case, it lacks significant local support. Therefore the Borough Council is not persuaded by this proposal.

The Draft Recommendations proposed changes to the boundary with Crewe Green are supported by Crewe Town Council; they also have the support of Crewe Green Parish Council, whose proposed merger with Weston & Basford assumes that these boundary changes will proceed. Furthermore, none of the submissions from Crewe or Crewe Green residents raise objections to these specific boundary changes. The Borough Council therefore recommends that these boundary changes proceed.

In the Draft Recommendations report, the Borough Council had proposed that these changes to the boundary between Crewe and Crewe Green be deferred until the next borough ward review is due, given the small number of electors involved and the electoral risk that remains until borough ward boundaries are realigned. It should also be noted that (as set out in the Assessment Report subsections on Crewe Green and Weston & Basford) the Borough Council is recommending the merger of Crewe Green and Weston & Basford Parish Councils (which both these parish councils requested) and the division of this new council into wards, including a “Crewe Green” ward. Immediate implementation of the transfer of the Stephenson Drive area of Crewe Green would mean the loss of a large of a relatively large proportion of the recommended Crewe Green ward’s small electorate, which would impact on the ward’s viability and its ability to recruit councillors – until such time as the Growth Village has a significant amount of housing. Therefore the Borough Council still recommends that the boundary changes between Crewe and Crewe Green be deferred.

As for the Town Council's suggestion that it include the South Cheshire Growth Village, this is at odds with Crewe Green and Weston & Basford Parish Council's proposal to merge their residual areas, which argues persuasively that the merged council could not only operate more efficiently, saving costs and providing a better service, but also to coordinate Growth Village development effectively and pool expertise and knowledge in managing that development. The Borough Council agrees that the Growth Village, as a new development that is likely to comprise a single community, should be contained within a single parish. However, the merger proposal would achieve this - and whilst the Town Council's proposal would do too, the Growth Village is some distance from Crewe: apart from the LPS 2 development, with which it shares only a narrow boundary, it is surrounded by

rural areas. Furthermore, as indicated in the Local Plan Strategy, the Growth Village development involves the provision of retail, a facility for communal meetings, a village square and sports and leisure facilities, including recreation areas for young children and teenagers. It therefore considers that the Growth Village will be geographically detached from Crewe and able to develop its own internal community ties. In addition, where Crewe Green and Weston & Basford Parish Council residents mentioned the merger proposal in their consultation submissions, they supported it. However, only the Town Council and one individual Crewe resident favoured the inclusion of the Growth Village in Crewe. Therefore the Borough Council is not persuaded by the Town Council's proposal and instead recommends the Crewe Green/ Weston & Basford merger proposal.

On the matter of Shavington's boundary with Crewe, a huge number - over 900 - Shavington residents responded to the consultation. As noted earlier, 90 per cent disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and their objections related predominantly to the transfer of the area north of the A500 to Crewe. The objections focused largely on the residents of this area identifying with Shavington; this was true of both those in the Gresty Brook area and those in the new Willowbrook Grange estate area within the LPS 3 site. Although there is evidence of Gresty Brook residents having ties with Rope - on which they rely for schooling and some other services - the consultation evidence reveals that Gresty identifies more strongly with Shavington - and there is no evidence that the area identifies with (or is particularly reliant on) Crewe. Shavington Parish Council itself also opposes any transfer of the parish's area to Crewe. In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council now recommends that the area of Shavington north of the A500, including Gresty Brook ward, remain in Shavington.

The Draft Recommendations had proposed that, along with the area of Shavington north of the A500, there should be a transfer to Crewe of the rest of the LPS 2 and LPS 3 site areas (covering the area of Basford north of the A500 and the part of the LPS 2 site that falls within Weston). However, as noted, the recommendation now is no transfer from Shavington to Crewe. Consequently, if the parts of LPS 2 and LP3 in Basford and Weston were still to transfer to Crewe, they would share only a narrow boundary with Crewe Town Council's South ward (which the Draft Recommendations had proposed they be transferred to). Furthermore, railway lines separate these areas from the adjacent parts of Crewe – which increases the likelihood that the LPS sites' prospective residents will develop a separate identity to (and perhaps have limited links to) Crewe. An alternative would be to transfer these parts of Basford and Weston to the Crewe Town Council's East ward, but that ward is already extremely large in terms of land area and elector numbers and again is separated from the adjacent LPS 2 and LPS 3 sites by railway lines. Therefore the Borough Council now recommends that the LPS 2 and LPS 3 parts of Basford and Weston do not transfer to Crewe.

The final boundary issue to assess is the element of Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal - which 125 Shavington submissions support - that envisages the transfer to Shavington of a small area of Crewe. This area lies to the northeast of the

current boundary and contains rail infrastructure and associated works, but no residential properties. The counterproposal suggests the purpose of this transfer may be to provide a clear boundary, but no further justification is provided. The Borough Council considers that Crewe, with its extensive rail infrastructure and experience of liaising with rail authorities and contractors, is best placed to understand and address any issues relating to the infrastructure and works in this location. The Borough Council is therefore unpersuaded by this part of the counterproposal and recommends that the boundary between Crewe and Shavington remain unchanged.

On the matter of seats, the recommended change to the boundary with Crewe Green would add an estimated 45 electors to Crewe East ward by 2025. This number is small in relation to the total expected electorate of the existing Town Council area (forecast to be 39,239 by 2025) and the existing total of 20 seats is around the average for a council of Crewe's size. Furthermore, none of the consultation submissions objected to the Draft Recommendations proposal that the total number of seats for Crewe's existing wards remain at 20. The Borough Council therefore recommends no change in the total number of seats.

As for the allocation of seats between the six wards, the current allocation (Central ward two, East six, North two, South four, St Barnabas two, West four) would reflect their expected shares of the total electorate by 2025, even allowing for the recommended boundary changes. The Borough Council is concerned by the size, both geographically and in terms of its number of electors, of the East ward and a town councillor made a submission raising this same concern. However, other submissions did not raise this matter or suggest any specific changes to ward boundaries and the Town Council itself did not object to the existing warding. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change in the allocation of seats or to ward boundaries as part of the current Review, but feels that the next Review may need to revisit this issue.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.10 in the Final Recommendations Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Crewe Green to the parish of Crewe, of the shaded area (the Crewe Green part of the Stephenson Drive residential area) shown in Map 2.10. However, this change to be deferred until the next borough ward review. Transfer, from the parish of Crewe to the parish of Crewe Green, of the shaded area (the Crewe part of the Aldi supermarket plot off University Way) shown in Map 2.10. However, this change to be deferred until the next borough ward review.
Parish Council name and style	Crewe Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Crewe (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing internal ward boundaries or to ward names (Central; East; North; South; St Barnabas; West)
Seats	20 (Central 2, East 6, North 2, South 4, St Barnabas 2, West 4). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	39,284 (Central 4,488, East 12,477, North 3,583, South 7,527, St Barnabas 3,638, West 7,571)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	1,964 overall (Central 2,244, East 2,080, North 1,792, South 1,882, St Barnabas 1,819, West 1,893)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Crewe Green – transfers to and from Crewe"

2.33 Crewe Green

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Crewe Green
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Crewe Green
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	4
Electorate (2018)	182
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast: 183 Revised forecast: 214 Note: revised forecast reflects updated expectations about the development of the South Cheshire Growth Village development, but also takes account of the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data.

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Development of Local Plan Strategy site LPS 8 (South Cheshire Growth Village, South East Crewe), which lies partly within the parish of Crewe Green and partly within the adjacent parish of Weston. Only 26 housing completions are expected on this site by 2025, but a further 350 are anticipated by 2030 and the site will provide for 650 homes eventually.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Apart from the area proposed for transfer from northwest Weston to Crewe (the area bounded by the railway line, the eastern field boundary of the Local Plan Strategy site LPS 2 and the A500), move all of Weston north of the A500 into Crewe Green, so that the South Cheshire Growth Village is brought within a single parish, rather than being split between Crewe Green and Weston.

[2] When next borough review undertaken, redraw boundary between Crewe Town Council and Crewe Green Parish Council around Crewe Green Roundabout, so that it runs north along Sydney Road as far as the Haslington boundary and south down University Way as far as (and including) the Aldi store. The purpose of this is to ensure the residential area around Stephenson Drive (part of which is currently within the parish of Crewe Green) falls entirely within Crewe, as it forms part of the Crewe urban area.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Three responses received: two from residents (via the consultation survey) and one (via email) from the Parish Council. One of the residents agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The other disagreed, but made no comments on specific Draft Recommendations proposals, instead expressing opposition to a potential transfer or part (or perhaps all) of Crewe Green to Weston, stating that Crewe had stronger community links to Haslington and greater reliance on that village for local services.

Only four of the 11 responses from Weston residents agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, three others acknowledged (and all supported) the merger proposal put forward by Crewe Green and Weston & Basford Parish Councils (detailed below), feeling it would deliver financial benefits and enable more effective representation.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Crewe Green Parish Council's submission proposes that the Draft Recommendations changes to its boundary with Crewe be implemented - and that the Draft Recommendations changes to Weston & Basford's boundaries with Crewe and Chorlton also be implemented - but subject to the remaining parts of Crewe Green and Weston & Basford being merged into a single, new parish council, comprising of a single parish.

The Parish Council further proposes that this new parish be split into four wards: Crewe Green (covering the existing Crewe Green parish); Wychwood (covering Wychwood Village); Weston (the residual parts of Weston and Basford); and a separate ward for the Growth Village when that is built.

Weston & Basford Parish Council's own submission supports these proposals. Key reasons given for the merger proposal (which were listed in Weston & Basford Parish Council's submission) were: the ability for the enlarged council to operate more efficiently, saving costs and providing a better service; the desire to coordinate Growth Village development effectively and pool expertise/ knowledge in managing that development; and more equal representation (less disparate ratios of electors to seats).

Crewe Town Council, while agreeing with the Draft Recommendations, suggested three additional changes. One suggestion was to extend Crewe's southeastern boundary still further, to include the whole of the South Cheshire Growth Village. The Town Council felt that, as a major development close to Crewe, the new Growth Village would rely on Crewe for services and develop community ties to the town, rather than to the rural area of Crewe Green.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The MP for Crewe & Nantwich supports the proposed boundary changes involving Crewe Green, noting that it is unhelpful to have parish boundaries that cut through residential estates.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted above, the Parish Council and one of the two residents who responded were in support of the proposed changes to the boundary with Crewe, which indicates that they accept the Stephenson Drive area as being part of Crewe town. Nor did the submissions from Crewe object to this proposal (which Crewe Town Council also supported).

Crewe Green and Weston & Basford Parish Councils' proposal to merge indicates links to and common interests between the two parishes - and the imminent development of the Growth Village (and a desire for that new community to fall entirely within a single parish) is cited in Weston & Basford Parish's submission as one key reason for the merger.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No consultation submissions raised concerns about Crewe Green's viability.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Crewe Green and Weston & Basford Parish provide a persuasive case for merging and their proposal dovetails with the wishes of Crewe Town Council and Hough & Chorlton Parish Council. This merger is also supported by those local residents who commented on it, who also make a persuasive case.

Both Crewe Green Parish Council and Crewe Town Council supported the Draft Recommendations proposed changes to the boundary between Crewe Green and Crewe, and no local residents objected. Given this, and the benefits of ending the division of the Stephenson Drive area (and the Aldi plot) between parishes, the Borough Council recommends these changes proceed (but further comments are made below about the timing of this specific change).

The Draft Recommendations had proposed that the area of Shavington north of the A500 should be transferred to Crewe, along the rest of the LPS 2 and LPS 3 site areas (covering the area of Basford north of the A500 and the part of the LPS 2 site that falls within Weston). However, the consultation evidence from Shavington Parish Council and its residents (covered under the Shavington subsection of this Assessment Report) demonstrates persuasively that residents in this part of Shavington identify strongly with Shavington and have few links to Crewe. Therefore (as the Shavington subsection of this Assessment Report notes), the Borough Council recommends that there be no transfer from Shavington to Crewe. Consequently, if the parts of LPS 2 and LP3 in Basford and Weston were still to transfer to Crewe, they would share only a narrow boundary with Crewe Town Council's South ward (which the Draft Recommendations had proposed they be transferred to). Furthermore, railway lines separate these areas from the adjacent parts of Crewe – which increases the likelihood that the LPS site's prospective residents will develop a separate identity to (and perhaps have limited links to) Crewe. An alternative would be to transfer these parts of Basford and Weston to the Crewe Town Council East ward, but that ward is already extremely large in terms of land area and elector numbers and again is

separated from the adjacent LPS 2 and LPS 3 sites by railway lines. Therefore the Borough Council now recommends that the LPS 2 and LPS 3 parts of Basford and Weston do not transfer to Crewe.

Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal would involve the transfer to Shavington, of the part of the LPS 3 site area currently within Basford. The Borough Council understands the advantages of having such development sites entirely within a single parish. However, as Basford and Shavington are in different borough wards, a separate polling facility would be required for the transferred part of Basford. This part of the LPS 3 site (unlike the part already in Shavington) consists of employment premises, not residential properties; nor will there be future residential development in this part of the site. Therefore the Borough Council does not consider that the provision of separate polling facilities is justified. Consequently, it does not recommend the transfer of this area to Shavington.

Only one submission - the one citing closer links to Haslington and proposing a merger with that parish - raises any relevant concerns about the Crewe Green/ Weston merger option. However, whilst the settlement of Crewe Green itself is geographically close to and can readily access Haslington's services, the parish as a whole covers a much wider area, much of it closer to and more connected to Weston. The development of the Growth Village will mean that the area's population becomes concentrated around the current Crewe Green/ Weston boundary, a location that is distant from and has no obvious links to Haslington. The Borough Council is also conscious that (until the Growth Village development is well underway) Crewe Green parish in its current form has a rather small electorate (only 165 electors as of December 2021 - down from 182 in December 2018 - though with early Growth Village development expected to add another 49 by 2025) and received only four nominations for its eight seats in 2019. This arguably raises questions about its viability, even though the residents' submissions did not mention this as a concern.

Hence, in the light of the submission evidence and the additional factors discussed above, the Borough Council recommends that the Crewe Green/ Weston merger proceed. It further recommends that the new council be called "Weston & Crewe Green".

The Borough Council also recommends the new warding proposed by Crewe Green and Weston & Basford Parish Councils, but with the creation of the fourth (Growth Village) ward deferred until the next Community Governance Review, given the limited number of electors expected on the site by 2025. The LPS 2 and LPS 3 parts of Basford and Weston (given the recommendation now that they do not transfer to Crewe) would become part of the new "Weston" ward on this new council.

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However, in the meantime, the Borough Council recommends that, aside from the LPS 2 site area, the part of the current Weston parish north of the A500 should become part of the new Crewe Green ward. This would ensure that the Growth Village, even during its early years, falls entirely within a single ward.

As noted in the Draft Recommendations, the boundary changes between Crewe and Crewe Green involve relatively small areas and few electors, but involves transfers between different borough wards. They would therefore require the provision of additional polling facilities until such time as the borough ward boundary is changed. In the Draft Recommendations, the Borough Council had therefore recommended that this change be deferred until the next borough ward review is due. It should be noted that immediate implementation of the transfer of the Stephenson Drive area of Crewe Green here would mean the loss of a relatively large proportion of the recommended Crewe Green ward's small electorate, which would impact on the ward's viability and its ability to recruit councillors – until such time as the Growth Village has a significant amount of housing. Therefore the Borough Council still recommends that the boundary changes between Crewe and Crewe Green be deferred.

It should also be noted that the Final Recommendations (like the Draft Recommendations) involve the transfer, to the parish of Chorlton, of the part of Wychwood Park that is currently within Weston & Basford Parish Council's Wychwood ward. This is a change which has the support of both Weston & Basford and Hough & Chorlton Parish Councils. Under the Final Recommendations, the residual part of the current Wychwood ward (the area north of the A531, which contains Wychwood Village) would become the new council's new "Wychwood" ward.

On the matter of seat numbers, the Borough Council recommends 13 seats for the new merged parish: this is around the average for a council of the expected size (2,747 electors by 2025), but also reflects the number of nominations received in 2019 (11 for Weston & Basford and only four for Crewe Green), together with the fact that a large part of Weston's electorate would transfer to Chorlton.

Based on their electorate shares alone (using 2025 forecasts), a fair allocation would be seven seats for the new Weston ward, four for Wychwood and only one for Crewe Green. However, additional demands will be placed on the Crewe Green ward councillors, due to the area's rural nature and to the development and increasing electorate of the Growth Village.

The Borough Council forecasts that the Growth Village is expected to have only 26 homes by 2025; applying the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward of Haslington, that implies a total of 49 electors on the site by 2025. Adding these electors to the current (December 2021 Register) total electorate of 165 in the parish of Crewe Green (no other electorate

growth is expected elsewhere in the parish during 2022-25), along with the effect of the recommended transfer from the parish of Weston to the new Crewe Green ward (an extra 42 electors) and the transfer to Crewe (a loss of 45 electors), that implies a total of 211 electors for the recommended new Crewe Green ward by 2025. (This calculation is set out in more detail in Section 3 of this Assessment Report.)

However, a further 350 homes are expected in the Growth Village by 2030; using the same (Haslington borough ward) average number of electors per property, that would mean a further 663 electors during 2026-30, increasing Crewe Green ward's electorate from 211 (2025) to 874 (2030). The latter figure would equate to around a third of the new parish's total electorate, entitling the ward to four of the 13 seats. Given that a further 300 homes are due to be completed on the site after 2030 and that the next Community Governance is likely to be well after 2030, the Borough Council recommends, in the meantime, three seats for Crewe Green. Based on their expected electorate shares as of 2025, a fair split of the other nine seats would be seven for Weston and three for Wychwood and this is what the Borough Council recommends.

The Borough Council recommends that the new council be styled "Community", as this was favoured by four of the six submissions from the affected parishes that proposed a specific style (a fifth suggested "Community" or "Neighbourhood") and was seen to reflect local people collaborating and the relative size of the new council. Some the responses felt, in contrast, that "Parish" was too ecclesiastical or implied a smaller population than the new council would have.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 1 of 2	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.10 & 2.11 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of Crewe Green with the remaining part of Weston & Basford Parish Council (following the recommended change to that parish council's boundaries with Chorlton, as set out in the Weston & Basford section of the Assessment Report and Map 2.17a of the Maps Report). The merged council to consist of a single parish. Transfer, from the parish of Crewe Green to the parish of Crewe, of the shaded area (the Crewe Green part of the Stephenson Drive residential area) shown in Map 2.10. However, this change to be deferred until the next borough ward review. Transfer, from the parish of Crewe to the parish of Crewe Green, of the shaded area (the Crewe part of the Aldi supermarket plot off University Way) shown in Map 2.10. However, this change to be deferred until the next borough ward review.
Parish Council name and style	Weston & Crewe Green Community Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Weston & Crewe Green (new parish)

Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 2 of 2

Warding arrangements (if any)	Three wards, with boundaries as shown in Map 2.11: • "Crewe Green", consisting of the existing Crewe Green parish and the part of the existing Weston parish that lies north of the A500 but outside the Local Plan site LPS 2 (Basford East) area; • "Weston", consisting of the existing Basford parish, the part of the existing Weston Village parish ward that falls within the LPS 2 site and the part of the existing Weston Village parish ward that lies south of the A500; and • "Wychwood", consisting of the residual part of Weston Wychwood parish ward (the part not being transferred to Chorlton). When the next Community Governance Review is undertaken, consideration to be given to splitting the Crewe Green ward into two new wards (assuming a significant proportion of the Growth Village development has been completed by then), with one of these wards comprising the Growth Village and the other comprising the rest of the Crewe Green ward.
Seats	13 (Crewe Green 3, Weston 7, Wychwood 3)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,747 (Crewe Green 211, Weston 1,876, Wychwood 660)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	211 overall (Crewe Green 70, Weston 268, Wychwood 220).
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Crewe Green – transfers to and from Crewe" • "Weston – transfer to Chorlton" • "Weston & Crewe Green – warding"

2.34 Disley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Disley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Disley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	3,998
Electorate (2025 forecast)	4,000

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Four responses from individual residents, of whom three favoured no change in governance; the fourth questioned the Parish Council's effectiveness and readiness to consult residents; this response proposed the parish be renamed "Disley and Newton", but did not suggest any other changes within the Community Governance Review remit.

In its response, the Parish Council provided an extensive list of its activities and felt it was effective; however, it felt neglected by the Borough Council, considered that more resources were needed to maintain its effectiveness and suggested that an increase in seats may be necessary.

Draft Recommendations
Increase seats from seven to 12, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size. This recommendation also reflects the Parish Council's view that more seats may be required.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
11 submissions received, of which nine (all from individual residents) were via the consultation survey; the other two were emails from the Parish Council clerk and chair. Of the nine submissions from local residents, five agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, two disagreed, one neither agreed nor disagreed and the other one was unsure. The only comment made by any of these residents was a suggestion (from one of those who agreed) that Disley should become part of Greater Manchester - a proposal outside the Community Governance Review remit.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
In a response submitted by its clerk, the Parish Council states the number of seats should increase. However, it requested nine seats: it felt this number would be both achievable and beneficial, but 12 would not. The submission makes a number of points to justify this more modest increase. It notes that councillors' workloads have increased - councillors' input into other local bodies was highlighted - and that the parish population has grown significantly too. However, it also draws attention to the fact that the Cheshire East Local Plan does not provide for additional housing in Disley up to 2030 and therefore it expects the population to remain stable until at least then. The Parish Council also notes that there were only eight nominations in 2019; it adds that many residents are actively engaged in supporting the Parish Council's work and local projects (such as the Neighbourhood Plan), but some of these residents say that they do not necessarily wish to become councillors. The submission also highlights the Parish Council's efforts to encourage resident participation in voluntary work in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

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The email from the Parish Council Chair (treated as a separate submission to the clerk's, given some significant differences in the content and the fact it came from a different person) also stated that nine seats was appropriate and also referred to the same evidence on councillor workloads, population and housing trends, and nominations. Both this submission and the clerk's email included the text of an individual councillor's earlier email, to highlight these points.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The submissions from the Parish Council clerk and chair offer persuasive arguments and evidence for increasing seats provision, but limiting the new total to nine. The local population has increased in recent years, and councillors' workloads with this; the advent of the COVID pandemic has probably contributed further to this workload. However, the Parish Council's pre-consultation and consultation submissions suggest it is very active even with seven councillors, so a modest increase in seats may prove sufficient to respond to the additional recent pressures.

The Parish Council submissions, together with the data on nominations for the 2019 ordinary elections, also suggest that many residents have a preference for supporting community activities without standing for election, thus sharing out the Parish Council workload more evenly between local people than the tally of council seats might suggest.

Furthermore, whilst a clear majority of responses from individual residents agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, it may be that they are indicating their support for the principle of an increase in seats, rather than the exact number recommended at that stage.

The Borough Council also considers that its decision should be based largely on the Parish Council's views, given its role and experience in representing the whole of the local community, and the fact that it made detailed, important comments to support its views. The Borough Council therefore recommends an increase to nine seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Disley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Disley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	9 (an increase from the current 7)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	4,000
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	444
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.35 Dodcott cum Wilkesley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Dodcott cum Wilkesley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Dodcott cum Wilkesley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	7
Electorate (2018)	376
Electorate (2025 forecast)	395

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats from eight to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The absence of any submissions from this Parish Council or its residents seem to indicate a lack of support for a change to existing governance. Furthermore, there are significant risks that can arise from a reduction in seats, due to the impact on the parish council's resources, with the COVID pandemic stretching resources and heightening these risks further. In addition, the number of nominations for the 2019 ordinary elections was only just short of the available seats. The Borough Council is also conscious that this parish covers a relatively large rural area, which is likely to add to councillors' workload. Given these factors, and the Borough

Council's intention to avoid making changes for change's sake, the Borough Council now recommends no change in seats or other governance arrangements.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Dodcott cum Wilkesley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Dodcott cum Wilkesley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	395
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	49
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.36 Doddington & District

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Doddington & District
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Blakenhall; Bridgemere; Checkley cum Wrinehill; Doddington; Hunsterston; Lea.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	13 (Blakenhall 3, Bridgemere 3, Checkley cum Wrinehill 2, Doddington 1, Hunsterston 3, Lea 1)
Nominations in 2019	8 (Blakenhall 1, Bridgemere 2, Checkley cum Wrinehill 1, Doddington 1, Hunsterston 2, Lea 1)
Electorate (2018)	504 (Blakenhall 119, Bridgemere 119, Checkley cum Wrinehill 77, Doddington 19, Hunsterston 134, Lea 36)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	505 (Blakenhall 120, Bridgemere 120, Checkley cum Wrinehill 76, Doddington 19, Hunsterston 134, Lea 36)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One response from Hunsterson, which stated that “Hunsterson seems to get merged a lot with Bridgemere and Doddington”, which may support the Council’s Draft Recommendations.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Doddington & District into a single parish with eight seats, given that the existing parishes have very small electorates and the shortage of nominations for available seats. Divide the new parish into two wards, to ensure its large geographical area maintains some local representation. Proposed warding: Blakenhall, Checkley cum Wrinehill and Lea (broadly the area east of the A51) in one ward; and Bridgemere, Doddington and Hunsterson (broadly west of the A51) in the other. This warding reflects where each existing parish currently votes.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
The Parish Council produced its own literature for local residents on the Draft Recommendations, which included a form that residents could use to submit their views on the proposals. The form included specific questions that related to the Draft Recommendations, but which differed from the questions on the Borough Council's consultation survey. These responses were collated by the Parish Council and included along with the Parish Council's own submission. (The Borough Council did not receive any additional responses directly from Doddington & District residents.) 14 residents provided responses via this form. Of these, 13 supported the merger proposal and only one opposed it, while 12 agreed with the proposal for two wards and two opposed this. Only two of these residents agreed with the Draft Recommendations proposal to reduce the number of seats to eight and 11 disagreed. However, for the Parish Council's own seating proposal - a more modest reduction to 11 seats - these figures were reversed, with residents supporting this counterproposal by a margin of 11 to two.

Two residents made specific comments, in both cases raising concern about the impact of a cut in seats on the parish council resources: one of them noted there was no cost saving involved - just a larger work burden for the remaining councillors; the other highlighted the extensive councillor travelling time required in such a wide geographical area. 10 residents suggested names for the proposed new parish, with half of them (five) proposing "Doddington & District" and two others suggesting "Doddington". No other name was suggested by more than one resident. For parish ward names, four responses proposed "Doddington East" or

"Doddington (&) District East" and four proposed "Doddington West" or "Doddington (&) District West"; no other ward names were proposed by more than two residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It supported the merger and the proposed ward boundary. It also felt that the current arrangement of separate representation for some individual hamlets was an inefficient use of councillors' resources, given the very small electorates of some of its parishes.

However, it disagreed with the proposed reduction to eight seats, arguing that this failed to take account of the challenges presented by the Parish Council's rural nature and its extensive geographical area. It therefore proposed a more modest reduction, to 11 seats. The Parish Council proposed - taking account of the feedback from residents - that the merged parish be called "Doddington & District" and that its wards be named "Doddington & District: East Ward" and "Doddington & District: West Ward".

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The Parish Council's submission is supported by the Member for the local borough ward (Wybunbury), who is also a Doddington & District parish councillor.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted above, the Parish Council and a large majority of the residents who offered views were in favour of the Draft Recommendations proposed merger and ward boundary. Therefore it appears that the Draft Recommendations warding proposal would reflect community identity appropriately.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
As noted above, the Parish Council considers that separate representation for parishes with very small electorates is inefficient.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
No alternative suggestions besides the Parish Council's proposal for 11 seats.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council, the local borough ward Member and most of the residents who submitted views are in support of the Draft Recommendations merger and warding proposals and the Parish Council accepts the inefficiency of having separate

representation for very small hamlets. However, they have also argued persuasively that the Council's geographical extent and its rural nature require a greater number of seats than an electorate of this size (around 500) would typically require.

In the light of this consultation stage evidence, and bearing in mind the additional demands that the COVID pandemic places on parish councils, the Borough Council has decided to modify its recommendation, so that the new council will have 11 seats.

The Borough Council further recommends the ward boundary that it proposed at the Draft Recommendations stage, given the widespread support for this in the consultation feedback. It also proposes that the new council be called “Doddington & District” and that the new wards be called “Doddington & District East” and “Doddington & District West”, given that this reflects the wishes of the Parish Council and the parish and parish ward names most commonly suggested by residents. The Borough Council recommends five seats for the East ward and six for the West, given that this is what the Parish Council itself proposes and that this allocation would reflect each ward’s share of the total electorate.

No requests were made regarding preferred style. Therefore the Borough Council recommends that the style "Parish" be retained, to ensure continuity and avoid change for its own sake.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.12 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger (of the Group's six parishes – Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley cum Wrinehill, Doddington, Hunsterson and Lea) into a single parish.
Parish Council name and style	Doddington & District Parish Council (new council, but with same name as its forerunner)
Parish name(s)	Doddington & District (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Two wards, with boundaries as shown in May 2.12: [1] "Doddington & District East", consisting of the current parishes of Blakenhall, Checkley cum Wrinehill and Lea. [2] "Doddington & District West", consisting of the current parishes of Bridgemere, Doddington and Hunsterson.
Seats	11 (East 5, West 6)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	505 (East 232, West 273)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	46 overall (East 46, West 46)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.37 Eaton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Eaton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Eaton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	7
Electorate (2018)	393
Electorate (2025 forecast)	607

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 29 (Giantswood Lane to Manchester Road, Congleton) and LPS 30 (Manchester Road to Macclesfield Road, Congleton) contain major new housing development that is partly within Eaton, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and is a consequence of that town's expansion

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One Eaton resident, whose property was on the Eaton/ Congleton boundary and who identified as being in Congleton. This resident proposed that the boundary be changed, so that Malhamdale Road, Crompton Close and possibly Bridestones Place (part of the Havannah area) be moved to Congleton. (One Congleton submission made similar comments and may therefore be from the same resident.)

16 submissions from Congleton at this stage. Eight of these responses (including three from town councillors and one from the Town Council) wanted the external boundary extended to include areas of adjacent parishes that rely on Town Council services and that should, it was argued, contribute to Congleton's precept. One of these mentioned specifically the new developments in Somerford and Eaton and "parts of Havannah". The Town Council itself did not propose a specific new boundary, but some other submissions suggested extending it to the Link Road or to include the settlement area defined in the Cheshire East Local Plan.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer to Congleton of the following parts of Eaton parish: the area south of the Congleton Link Road and west of the A536, which includes part of Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 29 and LPS 30; the area south of Havannah Lane; the parts of Buglawton (sections of Malhamdale Road and Crompton Close) not currently in Congleton. The reason for making these transfers is that the development on sites LPS 29 and LPS 30 is due to Congleton's expansion and it is expected that those new residents will rely on Congleton for services and community activities. It also reflects the fact that while Havannah Lane and the Buglawton part of Eaton are established residential areas, they are adjacent to Congleton and were felt to have closer links to the town than to Eaton.

[2] Merger of the residual part of Eaton (an estimated 192 electors) with either Marton or North Rode (the Draft Recommendations report sought views on which of these merger options, if either, was appropriate). Seven seats for the new merged parish, as this is in line with the average for a parish of the resulting size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
126 submissions on Eaton, of which three (all opposing the Draft Recommendations) were via email or letter; two of these were from the MPs for Congleton and Macclesfield. The other 123 responses were via the consultation survey and 118 (96 per cent) of these disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; only three (two per cent) agreed. The most frequently-cited reasons for

disagreeing related to local identity and interests (59 mentions), the impact on the local environment, the Green Belt or rural areas (35 mentions), a view that the current governance arrangements work well (20) and concern about the impact on the precept (17). No other types of reasons were mentioned by more than two people.

Some residents from the Havannah Lane area pointed out that their properties have no road access - only a connecting footpath - to the adjacent (Buglawton) part of Congleton. Furthermore, there are other natural barriers between parts of Havannah Lane and Buglawton, including woodland, pastures, the River Dane and the river valley. Therefore Havannah Lane residents rely on Eaton for services, including shops, schools, public transport and waste collection; some also note that the issues affecting Havannah - such as new housing development, the Link Road and protection of the green gap - are entirely different to those facing Buglawton; Havannah's separate identity was also mentioned. One response highlighted the adverse environmental impact of having to travel much further by road to access Town Council representatives and offices.

Some residents objected to the inclusion of the Cranberry Moss wildlife site in the transfer, noting that development in this area was counter to the Cheshire East Local Plan and SADPD (Site Allocations and Development Policies Document) policies and could not therefore be regarded as part of Congleton's expansion; reference was made to the Eaton Neighbourhood Plan Inspector's supportive comments on this matter.

The submissions also gave examples of Eaton's localised issues and challenges, such as quarrying activity, the village's proximity to the A536 and the Eaton Neighbourhood Plan; they also drew attention to its geographical separation, noting that the parish's main village is compact and distant from neighbouring parishes. The point here is that these factors mean that Eaton is separate from and has different interests from Marton and North Rode.

There were a few alternative suggestions. Two individual submissions (echoing the proposal made by the Parish Council - see summary below - and the MP for Macclesfield) argued that the transfer should exclude Havannah Lane and the area north of Moss Lane; another proposed a slight variant of this, under which the Eaton part of Eaton Bank Academy's grounds would also transfer.

Two Havannah Lane residents, while opposing the transfer of Havannah to Congleton, advised that such a transfer should at least be to the proposed “North West” Congleton ward, with which there would be closer geographical and community links; including Havannah in the “North East” ward would mean its needs would be poorly understood and represented.

A number of responses praised the effectiveness and hard work of the current Parish Council, citing specific examples (e.g. its efforts to mitigate the impact of recent floods).

There were 56 responses from Marton, all via the consultation survey. Of these 52 (93 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and three (five per cent) agreed. The most common reasons given for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (40 mentions) and a view that the current system works well (13). Five responses objected to an anticipated need to invest significant time and expense in remaking the Marton Neighbourhood Plan (and Eaton's Plan) if a merger went ahead, particularly given the volume of work involved in producing the existing Plan. It was also pointed out that it was inconsistent for the Draft Recommendations to regard an Eaton parish left with 192 electors as potentially unviable, whilst proposing to leave either Marton or North Rode (both of which also have around 200 electors) as an independent parish.

There were 79 submissions on North Rode, of which two (both opposing the Draft Recommendations) were via email or letter. The other 77 responses were via the consultation survey and 69 (90 per cent) of these disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; only eight (10 per cent) agreed. The most frequently-cited reasons for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (45 mentions), a view that the current governance arrangements worked well (22), concern about the impact on the precept (10) and the impact on the local environment, the Green Belt or rural areas (raised by four people).

There were 40 submissions from Congleton (39 via the consultation survey and one by letter/ email). Of the 39 survey responses, 19 (49 per cent) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and 15 (38 per cent) disagreed. Objections from those who disagreed focused predominantly on the proposed outward expansion of the Town Council area; comments on the proposed internal changes (to Congleton's warding and seats) were, by contrast, largely supportive.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

In its submission, Eaton Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It too argued that Eaton has very separate interests to its neighbours: for example, mitigating the effects of Congleton's expansion, local quarrying and highways issues. It also argued for a modified, less extensive transfer of land from its parish to Congleton. In particular, it drew attention to the Eaton Neighbourhood Plan Inspector's examination report, which states that a further significant extension of Congleton's housing development into the remaining undeveloped area of Eaton would be highly undesirable and would compromise efforts to maintain a green gap and protect Cranberry Moss (a site of biological importance) and the surrounding natural landscape. The Parish Council also states that a transfer of this area (the part of Eaton north of Moss Lane) would be contrary to policies in the

Cheshire East Local Plan and the emerging SADPD (Site Allocations and Development Policies Document) that seek to protect this land from development.

In addition, Eaton Parish Council highlights the fact that Havannah Lane has a distinct identity and no vehicular access to the Buglawton area of Congleton - with a valley separating some Havannah Lane properties from the town - and therefore looks primarily to Eaton for services and community activities. It notes that councillors representing the proposed new Congleton ward covering Havannah would be unlikely to know this small area well and serve its interests effectively.

Eaton Parish Council's modified boundary change proposal - which would keep Havannah Lane and the area north of Moss Lane within Eaton - would therefore mean its electorate remained significantly higher (with 100 more electors) than under the Draft Recommendations proposal. Hence this modification would add to its viability, although it notes that its electorate would remain well above 150 even based on the Draft Recommendations and the Borough Council's electorate statistics.

Marton Parish Council's submission disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. Reasons given for this view were: the parish's long and ancient heritage (reference was made to the Marton Oak and the local church); the distinct community identity arising from the compact nature of Marton village; the anticipated volume of additional work and confusion that would be involved in remaking the parish's Neighbourhood Plan; Eaton, Marton and North Rode all having separate interests that a merged council would not serve as well as their present ones do; and no prospect of cost savings or other benefits for residents.

North Rode Parish Council - also opposing the Draft Recommendations - had delivered leaflets about the Community Governance Review proposals to all local residents, spoken to many of them and undertaken an online survey. It had not found a single resident who supported the merger proposal, with many feeling their parish's specific needs would get overlooked in the expanded council area. Key objections raised by local people were: the different characters of the two parishes, with Eaton village being compact, but North Rode properties more dispersed; Congleton's expansion directly affecting Eaton but not North Rode; and a perceived greater risk of unwanted development. It noted that North Rode has a strong community spirit, with many families having lived there for generations, some regular community events taking place (e.g. the biannual sheep race), local volunteers helping to maintain the village's appearance and Daintry Hall hosting a lot of social activities and community groups. It emphasised that the local issues it faced - such as unauthorised development, road conditions, heavy goods vehicles using unsuitable roads and increased traffic through the village - were different to those of Eaton, meaning both parishes' needs would be less effectively served if they merged.

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Congleton Town Council's submission agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but recognised that rural areas had a different perspective and expressed a wish to understand the needs of transferred parts of neighbouring parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The local borough ward Member objected to the Draft Recommendations, making comments in relation to a number of rural parishes near to Macclesfield where boundary changes or mergers were proposed, including Eaton. The Member's submission noted that residents of long-established properties in these rural areas identify with their own parish, feel that a transfer to a town council would mean remote representation and neglect of local issues and service requirements, and that a higher precept would probably be charged as well. The Member endorsed the submissions of all the parish councils in Gawsworth borough ward, including Eaton.

The MP for Macclesfield opposed the Draft Recommendations, but endorsed Eaton Parish Council's proposed alternative boundary change, for the reasons given by the Parish Council (protecting Cranberry Moss and the parish's green gap and to reflect the identity and community links of the Havannah Lane area). He emphasised the unique identities of Marton and North Rode, raising many points made by their parish councils and also the concern of North Rode residents that a merger with Eaton would - given Eaton's proximity to Congleton's development - compromise their rural character. He also drew attention to the three parish councils' effectiveness and recent successes, arguing that they should remain as independent councils.

The MP for Congleton also expressed opposition to the end of Eaton as an independent parish.

A local residents association in North Rode (Dobford Grange) objected to North Rode or Marton merging with Eaton, emphasising the three parishes' separate identities. This submission objected to the prospect of its residents contributing taxes towards Congleton Town Council services (however, the Draft Recommendations do not include such a proposal).

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from Eaton Parish Council and Havannah residents highlight Havannah's separate identity from (and lack of road access to) Buglawton, and its links to Eaton for services and community activities. The submissions from Eaton, Marton and North Rode parish councils also provide evidence that the three parishes consist of separate communities with very different interests.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The evidence from residents indicates that the Parish Council is active and effective and that residents are concerned about the potential loss of this advantageous position.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One Eaton resident suggested a merger of all three parishes (Eaton, Marton and North Rode), but gave no reasons for this other than a shared "Macclesfield" identity.

Post-consultation assessment
Eaton Parish Council and its residents provides persuasive evidence that their parish, with its own specific challenges (some resulting from proximity to Congleton) and its compact main village, has a separate identity and interests to Marton and North Rode. As also noted, the overwhelming majority of its residents oppose a merger, as do Marton and North Rode Parish Councils and the residents of those two parishes. The submissions from Marton and North Rode Parish Councils and their residents provide further evidence of the separate identities, characters and interests of those parishes.

Furthermore, Eaton Parish Council makes a persuasive case for a modified, less extensive transfer of land from its parish to Congleton, with Eaton residents offering supporting evidence to justify this more modest change. In particular, these submissions draw attention to the Eaton Neighbourhood Plan Inspector's examination report, which states that a further significant extension of Congleton's housing development into the remaining undeveloped area of Eaton would be highly undesirable and would compromise efforts to maintain a green gap and protect Cranberry Moss (a site of biological importance) and the surrounding natural landscape. The submissions on Eaton also highlight the fact that Havannah Lane has a distinct identity and no vehicular access to the Buglawton area of Congleton - with a river, valley and other barriers separating some Havannah Lane properties from the town - and therefore looks primarily to Eaton for services and community activities.

In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council now recommends the modified Congleton/ Eaton boundary change put forward by Eaton Parish Council.

Under this modification, the Borough Council estimates that, of the 607 electors the current Eaton Parish Council is forecast to have by 2025, 329 would transfer to Congleton (61 to the recommended new Congleton Town Council “North East” ward and 268 to the Town Council’s new “North” ward), leaving Eaton with an estimated 278 electors - substantially more than the estimated number that would remain under the Draft Recommendations proposal. In addition, Eaton received nominations for all its seven seats at the

2019 ordinary elections and the submissions from residents indicate a Parish Council that is very active and well regarded. Hence the Borough Council is not concerned about Eaton's viability following the recommended transfer. Given this, and the evidence on its, North Rode's and Marton's separate identities and interests, it now recommends that Eaton remain as an independent parish.

As for Eaton's number of seats, the current total of seven is in line with the average for a council of its size and is equal to the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council. Besides this, the evidence from Eaton residents' submissions indicate a prevailing view that the current governance arrangements work well and the Borough Council does not wish to disrupt that. The Borough Council therefore recommends no change to the current number of seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.9a in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Eaton to Congleton Town Council, of the shaded areas (the Local Plan site areas of Eaton south of Moss Lane and the part of Buglawton currently within Eaton) shown in Map 2.9a. The area south of Moss Lane to be transferred to Congleton Town Council's new "North" ward and the part of Buglawton currently within Eaton to be transferred to Congleton Town Council's new "North East" ward.
Parish Council name and style	Eaton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Eaton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	278
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	40
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Eaton – transfer to Congleton"

2.38 Gawsworth

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Gawsworth
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Gawsworth
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Moss; Village.
Seats	9 (Moss 3, Village 6)
Nominations in 2019	7 (Moss 2, Village 5)
Electorate (2018)	1,417 (Moss 474, Village 943)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,712 (Moss 461, Village 1,251)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy site LPS 15 (Land at Congleton Road, Macclesfield) is a major new housing development that is within the Village ward of the parish of Gawsworth. (It should be noted that the Draft Recommendations report incorrectly stated that this site was in Gawsworth's Moss ward.) LPS 15 is adjacent to the established development (at Manley Road, Sussex Avenue, Hillcrest Road, Rising Sun Road, Moss View Road and Surrey Road) that makes up Gawsworth's Moss ward. The Moss ward in turn is adjacent to residential areas of Macclesfield Town Council.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey

In its response to the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey, Gawsworth Parish Council informed the Council that it undertook a community survey, in which 89 per cent of respondents said they would oppose Gawsworth being integrated into Macclesfield Town Council's area. Additionally, a 155-signature petition was presented to the parish council giving the same view. The parish council itself is against ceding any of its area to the parish of Macclesfield and opposes any border alterations.

The Parish Council proposed that present warding arrangement whereby the parish was divided into two wards – Village and Moss parish wards – could be removed, giving its view that this would alleviate issues with finding enough local councillors. However, it also offered an alternative proposal whereby the parish's Moss ward would be extended to include the LPS 15 site and the extent of Local Plan Strategy safeguarded land site LPS 19 (South West Macclesfield) which is currently within the parish of Gawsworth and suggested that the community could be given the opportunity to change the name of the Moss ward.

The Parish Council considered that the existing total of nine seats was appropriate and, if the warding arrangement was retained, it proposed five seats for the Village ward and four for the Moss ward.

There was only one response at this stage from an individual Gawsworth resident, who was unsure if governance changes were appropriate.

The 19 pre-consultation responses from Macclesfield (one from a town councillor and the rest from individuals) included two individual residents who favoured a change to Macclesfield's boundary with various rural neighbours, including Gawsworth. These two submissions argued that residents of the main settlements in many neighbouring parishes relied on Macclesfield for services, and that Local Plan development was turning this wider area into a conurbation anyway. Another resident felt that the current boundaries constrained Macclesfield's influence over LPS sites that are being developed to meet the town's housing needs; this submission referred to the fact that part of the LPS site area lies within Gawsworth.

Draft Recommendations

[1] Transfer, from Gawsworth to Macclesfield, of Moss ward, site LPS 15 and potentially the rural hinterland to the southwest that is contained by Congleton Road, Gawsworth Road and the minor road to Brownhills Farm and Dalehouse Farm. The Draft Recommendations report's rationale for such a transfer was that the Moss ward development, along with site LPS 15 when developed, are a consequence of Macclesfield's expansion and both were considered to be part of Macclesfield's community. However, the Draft Recommendations report sought public views on whether the transfer should include all these areas, or just

Moss ward and LPS 15, or indeed whether there should be no transfer at all. (Note: the Draft Recommendations report statement that Moss ward development is a consequence of Macclesfield's expansion is incorrect and was based on incorrect assumptions made by the Borough Council about the chronology of housing development in this area. As Gawsworth Parish Council's consultation stage submission – summarised below - has pointed out, the Moss ward area contained residential properties as far back as the 1800s and its existing estate was built on this same site between the 1930s and 1960s. Therefore its development occurred independently of Macclesfield's.)

[2] Number of seats to remain at nine, with no warding, if the entire potential transfer area (as far as Congleton Road, Gawsworth Road and minor road linking them) is moved to Macclesfield. If no transfer at all, seats to be increased to ten, with three (no change) for Moss ward and seven (up one) for Village and no change to the existing ward boundary.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
246 responses from Gawsworth, of which 243 (including the Parish Council's submission) were via the consultation survey and three by email. One of the emails was from a Gawsworth parish councillor (see summary below). Another was from a Moss ward resident who did not wish to be transferred to Macclesfield.

Of 243 survey responses, 223 (92 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only 13 (5 per cent) agreed; five neither agreed nor disagreed and two did not complete that question. The reasons for disagreeing with the Draft Recommendations most commonly related to local identity and interests (mentioned in 138 responses), concern about the impact on the Green Belt, rural areas or the environment (53 mentions) or a view that current governance arrangements worked well (47). Other reasons cited in four or more responses were concern about the impact on taxes (12 mentions), the impact on property prices (12) and evidence from local surveys demonstrating Gawsworth residents' opposition, such as the survey of local residents that the Parish Council undertook during the pre-consultation stage (8).

Eight responses came from people who either stated they were Moss ward residents or gave a Moss ward street as their address. All but one of these eight disagreed with the Draft Recommendations (the other person feeling that inclusion in Macclesfield might bring the benefit of street lighting and road/ paving repairs). One of the recurring themes highlighted by these Moss ward residents was the strong community ties that they have to Gawsworth parish and its main village. Many examples were given here, including

use of Gawsworth's park, school, shop, village hall, scout hut, pub, church, woods and walking routes, as well as reliance on Gawsworth Hall for recreation and events, and on the parish's farmers for some local produce. Some Moss ward residents took an active part in organising community events across the parish and some of their submissions cited longstanding family connections to the parish, sometimes going back generations. Another key argument was that Gawsworth Parish councillors understood Moss ward's needs and issues, whereas Macclesfield would not. Moss ward residents also raised some concern over the boundary change encouraging future urban sprawl that would remove Gawsworth's rural character; some said Moss ward itself had a "village" or a rural identity.

The responses from Village ward residents with properties within the potential transfer area (e.g. one from Penningtons Lane) also objected and identified with Gawsworth.

Many other submissions from Gawsworth (not necessarily from areas within the Draft Recommendations transfer area) also highlighted the parish's strong rural, village identity and the benefits of that (some had moved there specifically for that reason) and the shared facilities and events that tied parish residents together as a single community. Other specific points made in the 246 Gawsworth submissions included the following: the development of Moss ward's housing occurring long before Macclesfield's expanded to adjoin it; the full extent of the potential transfer bringing the boundary with Macclesfield close to the edge of Gawsworth village, leaving the parish with no control over development in an area almost adjacent to its main settlement and placing its rural character at risk; a view from some that Macclesfield Town Council's services are less than satisfactory and that it would be unable to cope with the additional needs of transferred areas.

Of all the 246 responses, several made alternative suggestions. One suggested moving only the Moss ward to Macclesfield. Three suggested redrawing the boundary between Gawsworth and Macclesfield, so it followed Penningtons Lane (that is, a transfer from Macclesfield to Gawsworth), but potentially moving the LPS 15 site (and hence presumably Moss ward as well) to Macclesfield. One suggested extending the Gawsworth boundary to Ivy Lane, Kendal Road and Gawsworth Road (so that part of Macclesfield would be transferred to Gawsworth). One proposed leaving the parish boundary as it is, but removing the warding. Another alternative suggestion - which also related to warding (and seat numbers) came from the Parish Council itself and this is summarised below.

There were 55 submissions from Macclesfield, of which one (clearly disagreeing with the Draft Recommendations) was a letter and 54 were via the consultation survey. Of the 54 survey submissions, 33 (61 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only 12 (22 per cent) agreed; six neither agreed nor disagreed, two did not complete that question and the

other one was unsure. Due to the number and range of Draft Recommendations proposals for Macclesfield, the reasons people gave for disagreeing were frequently unrelated to the boundary with Gawsworth. However, 12 of those who disagreed cited issues of local identity and interests and the specific points made here included a desire to preserve the rural identities of neighbouring parishes, a need to ensure the residents of those parishes were represented by people who understood their local interests and concern over Macclesfield Town Council covering too large an area to enable properly representative government.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Gawsworth Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. In its submission, it highlighted some factual errors in the Draft Recommendations report - all of which the Borough Council agrees were indeed errors.

Firstly, contrary to the wording at the top of p154, the LPS 15 site is in Village ward, not Moss (though the Borough Council's narrative elsewhere does not repeat this error and the error does not feed through into its forecasts and other calculations).

Secondly, when complete, LPS 15 is expected to contain 300 homes, not as stated on p200, 950 (but again, this error does not feed through into the Borough Council's forecasts).

Thirdly, Gawsworth Moss' housing is not (contrary to the statement on p154) part of Macclesfield's outward expansion. Rather, houses were first built in Gawsworth Moss in the 1800s and the current properties in the areas were completed between the 1930s and 1960s. (The Borough Council notes that historic maps of the area confirm this chronology: as of 1938, for example, there was a large green gap between development in the current Moss ward area and what was then the southwestern extent of Macclesfield town.)

The latter point explains in part the Moss ward's separate identity to Macclesfield - which the Parish Council elaborated on. In particular, it gave examples of Moss residents' ties to the rest of Gawsworth, referring to their reliance on Gawsworth Primary School, their use of Gawsworth's park, Moss residents attending social events in Gawsworth Methodist church and the high proportion of the parish's scout leaders and WI members who live in Moss ward. The contribution of Moss ward people to conservation work elsewhere in the parish was also cited. Also highlighted were the results of the Parish Council's December 2019 survey of Moss Ward residents, in which 88 per cent (54 out of the 61 responses, according to Macclesfield Town Council's own submission) identified with Gawsworth and 89 per cent opposed a transfer to Macclesfield. It argued that the Borough Council would need to provide evidence of a reversal of this local opinion if it wished to proceed with the Draft Recommendations.

Whilst the Parish Council acknowledged that its residents rely on Macclesfield for some services, it noted this relationship is common to all towns and their rural neighbours and does not equate to communal ties. It also cited additional grounds for not transferring any of the rural hinterland that extends to the south and west of the LPS site. In particular, it noted that: a transfer of this whole area would move farms whose rural identity contrasted with Macclesfield's urban interests; the western part of the Draft Recommendations' potential new boundary line went around (and would transfer) individual properties on the west side of Gawsworth Road, rather than applying best practice and using the natural boundary of the road itself. It also argued that the LPS 15 site itself had a clear enough boundary and hence there was no justification for transferring established Congleton Road properties that adjoin the southwestern side of the site.

On the issue of effective governance, the Parish Council drew attention to its achievement of a Quality Gold accreditation under the Local Council Award Scheme - one of only four Cheshire East councils to be awarded that standard; it also gave examples of its numerous activities, including development of the Neighbourhood Plan and public consultation with residents over the LPS 15 site development.

The Parish Council also made some alternative suggestions. Should the existing parish boundary be retained (as the Parish Council wishes), it proposed that the Moss ward boundary should be extended to include the LPS 15 site. Under this scenario, it proposed four seats (up one) for the enlarged Moss ward and five seats (down one) for the Village ward. However, if Moss ward and the LPS site (and potentially the rural hinterland around them) were moved to Macclesfield, the Parish Council felt seven seats would suffice for its residual area.

Macclesfield Town Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It felt that a review of its governance was premature, given that it had been created only six years before. It also highlighted the strength of opposition to boundary changes from residents in Gawsworth and other rural neighbours. It claimed that the Draft Recommendations Report's electorate numbers for Gawsworth and Sutton were inaccurate and around double current levels and perhaps included housing that is not expected to be built in the near future. (Note: The electorate figures the Town Council refers to here are for the year 2025 - as the Draft Recommendations report indicates - and are therefore forecasts that do allow for future housing development. However, there will be differences of opinion on the likely timing of this new development and indeed expectations about that likely timing will continue to change in the light of emerging evidence.)

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies

A Gawsworth parish councillor, who has professional expertise in legal compliance matters, responded to the consultation. The councillor's submission referred to Community Governance Review and consultation guidance, emphasising that the Borough Council had a duty to provide evidence to support the claims about community identity and effective government that its Draft Recommendations were based on. This submission also drew attention to some of the factual errors picked up by the Parish Council itself (and summarised above), notably Moss ward's housing development occurring independently of Macclesfield's growth and needs.

The councillor also argued that the Draft Recommendations failed to take account of the survey and petition evidence presented at the pre-consultation stage.

Besides its Quality Gold Award, the councillor provided further examples of the Parish Council's effectiveness, such as contested elections in recent years and the clerk having won an award. Examples of the Parish Council's activities and its level of engagement with residents were offered too, including signage repairs, support for the community shop, a monthly newsletter, a modern website and communications sub-group.

In addition, the councillor noted that the Draft Recommendations boundary line would split farmers' land between Gawsworth and Macclesfield.

The local borough ward Member objected to the Draft Recommendations, noting feedback from residents of Gawsworth that they identify with their own parish and feel that a transfer to the Town Council would mean remote representation and neglect of local issues and service requirements for all those transferred. The Member also stated the rural residents tend to shop out of town or (increasingly) online, with the COVID pandemic having restricted town centre events and increased the attraction of online retail and of rural areas for leisure activities. (In a separate submission on Henbury, the Member endorsed the submissions of all the parish councils in Gawsworth Ward, including Gawsworth.)

The MP for Macclesfield also objected to the transfer of Moss ward to Macclesfield, highlighting the evidence from the Parish Council's residents survey and petition that the ward's residents identify with Gawsworth and overwhelmingly oppose a boundary change; like the borough ward Member, he was concerned that the Draft Recommendations changes would mean Moss ward's local needs were neglected.

The headteacher of Gawsworth Primary School felt that the transfer of Moss ward to Macclesfield would damage local community cohesion, noting that many staff and pupils lived there and that they identified strongly with Gawsworth. The chair of the Friends of Gawsworth Primary PTA - a Moss ward resident who gave examples of their own household's community ties to the rest of the parish - opposed the transfer on the same grounds.

One Macclesfield town councillor felt a boundary review was too early, given the Town Council was a relatively new creation; another stated that this existing boundary was effective.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from the Parish Council, its residents - particularly Moss ward residents - and the local MP (among others) highlight the fact that Moss ward residents strongly identify with Gawsworth parish, rely on it for very many amenities and services and are actively engaged in many communal activities in Gawsworth village and across the parish. The Parish Council's own survey and petition indicate that the vast majority of Moss ward residents do not wish to transfer to Macclesfield - and the vast majority of the self-declared Moss ward residents who responded to the consultation expressed the same view. Also emphasised by the Parish Council is the rural character and identity of the farms (to the west of Moss ward and the LPS 15 site) that could transfer to Macclesfield under the Draft Recommendations proposals. The chronology of housing development in the Moss ward and the (now) adjacent area of the Macclesfield conurbation shows Moss' development occurred independently of Macclesfield's housing needs and helps explain its separate identity. Residents also draw attention to the village or rural identity that extends to Moss ward itself and they and the borough ward Member raises concerns that this and attention to the area's local needs would be lost as a result of more remote representation via Macclesfield.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No concerns raised about viability. The submissions document the active nature of the Parish Council and its achievement of Quality Gold accreditation is evidence of its effectiveness.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One response from a Sutton resident suggested that Wincle could be merged with Sutton or Gawsworth.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council and the overwhelming majority of residents' submissions oppose the Draft Recommendations and provide a number of persuasive arguments and pieces of evidence to support their view.

Many examples are given of Moss wards' residents' communal ties to the rest of the parish, of their reliance on Gawsworth village and the area surrounding it for everyday amenities and services, including primary school education, shopping, worship, scouts and other societies, and outdoor recreation; various of examples are also given of communal activities that occur in the Village ward but which Moss ward residents help organise and participate in.

Also notable are the results of the Parish Council's survey of Moss ward residents, which found the vast majority identified with the parish and did not wish to transfer; the Council's petition and the consultation stage submissions from Moss ward residents themselves provide further confirmation of this.

The Parish Council also rightly draws attention to the fact that Moss ward's housing was developed independently of (and indeed long before) Macclesfield expanded far enough to adjoin it, meaning it neither serves Macclesfield's housing needs nor has longstanding connections to the town.

The submissions from the Parish Council, its residents and the borough ward Member also raise concerns that government from Macclesfield Town Hall would fail to understand and address the needs of Moss ward, or of the rural hinterland that would also potentially transfer under the Draft Recommendations proposals.

Furthermore, Macclesfield Town Council itself feels a boundary review is premature and has no wish to expand its geographical extent; it too notes the strength of opposition from its rural neighbours.

In the light of all this evidence, the Borough Council is persuaded that Moss ward, and the rural hinterland around it, should remain in Gawsworth parish. It therefore follows that the LPS 15 site would need to remain in Gawsworth, as it is adjoined to the Macclesfield conurbation only via the existing Moss ward area. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change to the current parish boundary. (It should also be noted that the Parish Council argues convincingly that the Draft Recommendations boundary line is inconsistent and unclear in making use of individual property boundaries in places where the LPS site boundary or roads are a viable alternative, but this is an academic point now, following the recommendation of no parish boundary change.)

On the matter of seats and warding, the Parish Council proposes that the LPS 15 site become part of the Moss ward. The Borough Council considers that such a change would be appropriate, given that the new development, like the existing Moss ward, will be a relatively compact residential area, and that both are adjacent and likely to develop community ties - not least as Moss residents

will need to travel past the new site to access services and amenities in Gawsworth village. Therefore the Borough Council recommends this change to the parish ward boundary, noting also that it means each ward will eventually have a broadly similar number of electors - which in turns justifies each having a similar number of seats and consequently a fairly even say in decision-making.

As for specific elector numbers and seats, the Borough Council forecasts that this parish as a whole will have 1,712 electors by 2025 and a total of 10 seats would be in line with the average for a council of that size. However, the Parish Council requests nine seats (no change from its present total) and there is extensive evidence from the consultation submissions (for example, the Quality Gold Award) that the Parish Council is already very active and effective. Furthermore, none of the submissions request an increase in seats. The Borough Council therefore recommends that the total number of seats stays at nine.

The allocation of the recommended nine seats between the two wards has to take account of the wards' respective numbers of electors, but also their different geographies – and the wishes of the Parish Council itself. The Draft Recommendations Report provides data from which the redrawn wards' elector numbers can be estimated. In particular, it notes that Gawsworth parish as a whole had an estimated 759 properties as of 2010, with this total expected to increase to 955 by 2025, largely as a result of the LPS 15 development. Furthermore, it notes that the current Moss ward has an estimated 257 properties and that 185 homes are expected on LPS 15 by 2025, meaning that the enlarged Moss ward would have an estimated 442 properties by 2025 (257 + 185) and the new (smaller) Village ward 513 properties by that time (955 - 442). Hence the redrawn Moss ward would have 46 per cent (442/955) of homes in the parish. Assuming its share of electors was also 46 per cent, that would imply 792 electors for the enlarged Moss ward by 2025 and 920 for the Village ward. Based on these numbers, a fair split - if determined by each ward's electorate share alone - would be four seats for the Moss ward and five for Village, as the Parish Council proposes.

Once the LPS 15 site is completed, it would have 300 homes: 115 over and above the total expected on the site by 2025. Applying the local borough ward's (Gawsworth's) average number of electors per seat, that implies an additional 209 electors, giving the Moss ward a total of 1,001 electors (792 + 209) by the time the development is completed, compared to 920 for the Village ward (assuming the latter ward sees little or no further housing development during that time). That would imply, in the longer term, a significantly lower number of electors per seat for the Village ward (184) than for Moss ward (250). However, the Borough Council considers that this compensates to some degree for the likely extra workload involved in serving the Village ward's (partly) dispersed rural population.

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The Borough Council therefore considers that the Parish Council's proposed allocation - of five seats for the Village ward and four for the Moss ward – takes appropriate account not only of the different geographies and population densities of the two wards, but also of their likely numbers of electors in 2025 and beyond. It therefore recommends that the nine seats be allocated between the two wards as per the Parish Council's proposal (Village five, Moss four).

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.13 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Gawsworth Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Gawsworth (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Division into two wards – and the names of those wards (“Moss” and “Village”) to be maintained, but the boundary between the existing two wards to be redrawn, so that the Local Plan Strategy site LPS 15 is transferred from the Village ward to the Moss ward. Map 2.13 shows the resulting boundaries of the redrawn wards.
Seats	9 overall (no change). Allocation between wards: Moss 4; Village 5.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,712 (Moss 792, Village 920)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	190 overall (Moss 198, Village 184)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • “Gawsworth – warding”

2.39 Goostrey

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Goostrey
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Goostrey
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10
Nominations in 2019	9
Electorate (2018)	1,866
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,862

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Two responses from individual residents and one from the Parish Council. Two of these, including the Parish Council, requested a change to the boundary with Allostock (in Cheshire West & Chester), in order to bring the Blackberry Gardens development - which is adjacent to and relies on Goostrey for services and identifies with the village - into their parish. The other response took the view

that no change was needed, stating that the Parish Council was effective, that the current number of seats was appropriate and that Goostrey faced unique issues because of the presence of Jodrell Bank and the implications of that for planning.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. The pre-consultation survey proposal for a change to the boundary with Allostock is outside the remit of the Community Governance Review, which does not enable boundary changes to parish councils located in other local authorities. The current number of seats was considered appropriate, given that it is in line with the average for a council of Goostrey's size, that nominations in 2019 almost matched available seats and that the pre-consultation survey responses included only a positive comment (and no concerns) about the Council's effectiveness.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
One response from an individual resident, who agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations but did not make any specific comments.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The sole submitted response agreed that the Draft Recommendations reflected local community identity.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

As noted, the sole response during the consultation stage supported the Draft Recommendation of no change and felt this reflected local identity. At the pre-consultation stage, the only requested change in governance was an adjustment to the boundary with Allostock, to reflect the community identity of Blackberry Gardens residents. The Borough Council considers that the case for this change is well made, but it falls outside the scope of the Community Governance Review, given that Allostock is in Cheshire West & Chester. It is also noted that the collective responses from the pre-consultation and consultation stages support the Draft Recommendations proposal for no change in seats. In the light of these responses and the other evidence highlighted above, the Borough Council recommends no change in governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Goostrey Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Goostrey (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,862
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	186
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.40 Great Warford

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Great Warford
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Great Warford
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	633
Electorate (2025 forecast)	642

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Great Warford with Little Warford. Eight seats for the new merged parish. The reason for the merger is evidence that put Little Warford's viability in question: less than 70 electors; no precept income, suggesting a relative lack of activity; and only four nominations in 2019. Both parishes are in the same borough ward and vote at the same location, so the merger would not create electoral risk or require additional polling facilities.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Four submissions from Great Warford (all via the consultation survey), of which one (summarised below) was from the Parish Council. Of the other three, two expressed overall agreement with the Draft Recommendations and the other one disagreed. However, of the two who said they agreed overall, one added comments under another question, stating it was important that Great Warford and Little Warford did not merge. This person felt that getting new occupants into Little Warford's existing unoccupied properties, or a new residential development, would suffice to increase its electorate to a viable level. This submission also referred to the Warford Park development as an (unwelcome) indication of what of merger could bring, but did not clarify the specific relevance of the Warford Park case. One of those who disagreed stated that the residents of both parishes were very different and had little in common, adding that the current governance arrangements work well.

From Little Warford, there were two submissions, one from the Parish Council (summarised below) and one from an individual resident. Both disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The individual Little Warford resident noted that the zero percept gave a false picture of local activity, with much of the Parish Council's work involving no costs (e.g. planning application inspections, or lobbying the Borough Council) and explained that it also had an unpaid clerk and had received funds via the RBS Banking Switch initiative. This resident objected to the potential increase in precept from a merger, considering people's financial difficulties in the current economic climate.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Great Warford Parish Council (responding via the consultation survey) neither agreed nor disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendation. It added that it was content for the merger to go ahead, but stressed that Little Warford's views must be respected.

Little Waford Parish Council itself responded by letter, objecting to the merger proposal, requesting that it remain independent and citing a range of evidence to show it is viable.

It noted that, whilst much of its housing for people with epilepsy had been vacated following the implementation of the UK Government's "care in the community" initiative and medical advances in treatment of epileptics, new housing development was occurring on some of the vacated land, with the construction underway so far expected to house an extra 18 to 24 electors, and maybe more redevelopment to come.

Little Warford Parish Council also explained that it is able to remain relatively active, despite its zero precept, as a substantial reserve had been built up to fund a defibrillator, but that this unit was considered surplus to local requirements, leaving the funding available to support room hire and other administrative costs. The Parish Council gave specific examples of its work, including regular meetings, inspection of all planning applications, speeding checks and successful lobbying for improvements to the conditions of its road network.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted, one Great Warford resident's submission stated that the two parishes' communities are very different.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
Significant amount of evidence provided by Little Warford Parish Council (and one of its residents) that it is able to remain active without charging a precept, and that new housing development will increase its electorate more than the Borough Council anticipated.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Of the 75 submissions on Chorley (near Wilmslow), three suggested that Chorley could be merged with Great Warford. A further five suggested it could be merged with both Great and Little Warford or with "Warford"; some of those five also proposed having other neighbouring rural parishes included in such a merger, either in addition to or instead of Great and Little Warford. However, all eight of the proposals for some form of Chorley/ Great Warford merger were from people who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations for Chorley (a merger with Wilmslow and Handforth) and it may be that some of these suggestions were put

forward as the best outcome if a merger had to take place, rather than their preferred overall outcome (which might be no merger at all). In any case, the prospect of a merger with Chorley was not even mentioned in the submissions from Great Warford and Little Warford.

Post-consultation assessment

Little Warford Parish Council's submission argues persuasively that it is viable as a council, with the provision of valuable services such as planning inspections and lobbying (successfully) for road improvements, despite not charging a precept; as it notes, its pool of reserves is covering administrative costs. The sole Little Warford resident who responded to the consultation values this approach and opposes the merger proposal.

Furthermore, two of the three responses from Great Warford residents made comments opposing the merger, with one feeling that the two parishes' residents have little in common.

Great Warford Parish Council holds no strong views on the merger option, other than calling for Little Warford Parish Council's views to be respected.

The Borough Council is unsure as to how long the existing reserves will support Little Warford's work, but it can of course begin to charge a precept if need be. The Borough Council also notes that, while the new housing development now underway is not one factored into its original Community Governance Review forecast (67 electors by 2025), this would still leave the Parish Council with no more than 91 electors (assuming 24 new residents who are all electors). That would make Little Warford by far the smallest parish in Cheshire East, but the potential for further housing and population growth is also noted.

Although a few submissions on Chorley (eight out of 75) proposed a merger with Great Warford, or with both Great Warford and Little Warford, this idea received no support (and in fact no mention) in the responses from Great and Little Warford, so lacks the support to justify further consideration.

In light of the submission evidence that the Parish Council is very active despite its limited resources, that its electorate is growing again and that support for a merger with Great Warford is minimal compared to the local opposition, the Borough Council recommends that the two parishes remain independent.

On the matter of seats for Great Warford, existing total of seven is low for a council of this size, but the lack of nominations in 2019 (five) suggests seats may be hard to fill and the consultation responses reveal no demand for additional seats. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change in its seats.

Consequently the recommendation for Great Warford is no change at all in governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Great Warford Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Great Warford (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	642
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	92
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.41 Handforth

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Handforth
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Handforth
Current parish ward names (if warded)	East; South; West.
Seats	7 (East 2, South 2, West 3)
Nominations in 2019	13 (East 2, South 4, West 7)
Electorate (2018)	5,162 (East 1,661, South 1,346, West 2,155)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast: 5,484 (East 1,643, South 1,718, West 2,123). Revised forecast: 5,723 (East 1,858, South 1,742, West 2,123). Note: the revised forecast takes account of development now expected at the Garden Village site by 2025.

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Within Styal, but adjacent to that parish's boundary with Handforth, there will be a housing development of 185 properties at Local Plan Strategy site LPS 34 (Land Between Clay Lane and Sagars Road, Handforth).

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
There were eight responses at this stage from Handforth. Five of these, including one from a former parish councillor and former chair of the Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, proposed that the LPS 34 (Clay Lane/ Sagars Road) site should transfer to Handforth, given its adjacent position and its road connections to the town. The same five submissions also proposed that Handforth's number of seats should be increased to take account of this transfer, the Garden Village and other developments; all of these suggested at least one extra seat each for the East and South wards and some also felt the West should have another seat; the former Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group chair also mentioned The Sanctuary and Sun Field developments and felt the council should have at least nine seats. Two responses expressed dissatisfaction with how the Council ran its business and used public funds; however, one of these felt it had too many councillors and the other requested no change in governance. (However, it should be noted that the pre-consultation survey was held from October 2019 to January 2020 and the consultation stage responses – as summarised below - generally present a different picture of Handforth Town Council.)

Draft Recommendations
Wilmslow, Handforth and Chorley to be merged into a new council. The rationale for this was twofold. Firstly, Wilmslow and Handforth were considered to be a single community. Secondly, Chorley is relatively small and has a shortage of nominations, raising questions about its viability as an independent council.

Handforth (the existing Handforth Town Council area plus the Clay Lane/ Sagars Road housing site LPS 34 recommended for transfer from Styal) would become a single ward on the new council, as its existing wards have much smaller numbers of electors than Wilmslow's wards and so seats cannot be evenly divided between the current Handforth wards.

The current Wilmslow Town Council West ward would be extended to include Chorley, with the expanded ward called Wilmslow West & Chorley. New council to have 20 seats, with four seats for Handforth (down from seven at present).

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary

There were 1,128 responses from Handforth: 510 via the consultation survey, 617 via a CGR survey leaflet produced by Handforth Town Council and one by email. Of the 510 direct responses to the Borough Councils' consultation survey, 437 (86 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, as did 591 (96 per cent) of those who completed the Town Council's leaflet; the email also expressed disagreement.

Those who expressed disagreement via the Borough Council survey most commonly cited local identity as a reason for their view (291 mentions) or the fact that current arrangements worked well (76); a substantial number (38) also referred to recent or imminent growth in Handforth's housing and population as evidence of its viability and separate needs.

Specific points included: the sharp cut in Handforth seats in spite of its dramatic (and ongoing) housing and population growth; loss of local councillors who know the area and its needs well; the current Town Council offices being convenient for local residents to access, whereas Wilmslow is not; Handforth having a wide array of local services (e.g. two GP surgeries, supermarkets, hotels, retail park, restaurants, library, car dealerships, train station, Post Office, youth centre, etc) and so not being that dependent on (or linked to) Wilmslow; the provision of a new secondary school (in response to the Garden Village development) will mean even less connection to Wilmslow; Handforth residents relying on the adjacent areas of Greater Manchester (rather than Wilmslow) for some facilities (e.g. banks); the wide range of community activities and events and community groups organised or supported by Handforth Town Council (many examples were given) and the effectiveness of the Town Council on planning (e.g. the establishment of the Neighbourhood Plan) and tackling highways issues; a view (commonly expressed) that Handforth sorts its own problems out and that the Town Council is performing very well and is well regarded locally - in contrast to its image a year or so before - with local councillors working hard and being accessible; the right for Handforth to manage the impact of its major housing and retail developments on its community and the funding arising from this (e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy monies); and the lack of any financial benefit (cost savings) from the reduction in Handforth seats, as councillors are unpaid volunteers.

From the minority of responses that favoured a merger, key arguments were: potential efficiencies from reduced administration costs; smaller councils having a parochial outlook rather than serving wider, shared interests; the vast majority of residents not voting at all in the 2011 referendum; some links and shared services between Wilmslow and Handforth, with, for example, a local bus service being part-funded by Wilmslow, and Handforth being dependent on Wilmslow (or Greater Manchester) for sporting facilities; and the new Garden Village being separated from the rest of Handforth by the road network and hence maybe developing stronger links with Wilmslow. A small number of those supporting a merger listed complaints relating to the conduct of Council business and resources, but, as implied above, the vast majority of comments on the Council's performance were positive.

A few responses from Handforth made alternative suggestions. Two Handforth residents (and three from Wilmslow) suggested merging Chorley with Wilmslow, but leaving Handforth out. One Handforth resident suggested merging Wilmslow and Handforth, but leaving out Chorley (two Chorley residents and one from Wilmslow also proposed this). Two Handforth submissions proposed a review of its seats and warding, but did not suggest any specific changes; another resident felt the number of wards could be reduced (to two).

There were 198 responses from Wilmslow, all via the consultation survey. Of these, 175 (88 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; only 18 (9 per cent) agreed; the others were unsure or neither agreed nor disagreed. The most common reasons for disagreeing related to local identity (103 mentions) and a view that current arrangements worked well (23). Six cited the results of the 2011 referendum, or the general feedback of neighbours and local friends.

There were 75 responses from Chorley, all via the consultation survey. Of these, 74 (99 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and this included the Parish Council (see summary below); the other resident did not answer the question about their overall view, but made a general comment stating their preference was to avoid a merger. In effect, therefore, there was unanimous opposition from Chorley. 67 of the responses included comments. By far the most common reasons for disagreement were ones relating to local identity and interests (62 mentions), but a substantial number of people also indicated that the current arrangements worked well (18 mentions) or had concerns about paying a higher precept (10).

As for the Draft Recommendations proposed change to the Handforth/ Styal boundary, this was supported by all 15 of the Handforth consultation stage submissions that comment on this matter, including the Town Council and Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group; these submissions highlighted the new development's road links to Handforth and likely reliance on it for services, with no direct vehicle access to Styal village.

There were four submissions from Styal (all from individual residents) and all of these disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, one of these made comments supporting the boundary change and two offered no comments; the other expressed a view that Handforth is already large enough.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Handforth Town Council opposed the Draft Recommendations merger proposal, referring to Handforth's distinct identity and its independence from Wilmslow following a 2009 local petition. This submission also presented a range of evidence to highlight

Handforth Town Council's viability and effectiveness: statistics on major recent and forthcoming housing developments, which demonstrate both its population growth and the difference between its challenges and those of Wilmslow and Chorley; activities, service and achievements, ranging from the organisation of events like Christmas markets to CCTV provision to CPR training to part-funding various local community groups; and the long-term track record in securing a high number of nominations at election times and getting casual vacancies filled without difficulty. In addition, it highlighted some other problems that a merger would present: a greatly increased workload for the (remaining) clerk; a more distant, less accessible parish council office for Handforth residents (if meetings moved to Wilmslow); a sharp reduction in representation (four seats instead of the current seven) and loss of influence over the use of income from the Community Infrastructure Levy (another achievement) on the Garden Village/ Handforth Dean developments.

In its submission, Wilmslow Town Council opposed the merger, citing the result of the 2011 referendum on Wilmslow/ Handforth governance and separate identities of the three parishes, which it felt had become more entrenched since then. It noted that Chorley had no links to Wilmslow and had never been part of the same council.

The response from Chorley Parish Council highlighted Chorley's rural character and the fact it consists to a large extent of Green Belt, in contrast to the mainly urban areas of Wilmslow and Handforth. It was concerned about the much-reduced level of representation under the merger proposal, with one seat per 1,354 electors for the enlarged Wilmslow West ward, as opposed to seven councillors currently serving its 400 or so electors. In addition, it noted the substantially higher precepts that Wilmslow and Handforth charge and took the view that Chorley residents' taxes would be subsidising activities in the rest of the merged council area. It also stated that 15 per cent of residents had submitted comments directly to the Parish Council, and that all of these opposed the merger. As for uncertainty over its ability to fill seats, the Parish Council was able to report greatly increased interest in serving on the council, following Community Governance Review publicity and a wish to remain independent.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The local MP opposes the merger, arguing that the three parishes are viable and have separate identities, and citing the result of the 2011 referendum that resulted in Handforth and Wilmslow becoming separate councils.

From borough ward Members making submissions on Wilmslow and Handforth, views on the merger proposal were more mixed. Two local borough ward Members supported it: one of them felt it was welcome and timely, but did not comment further. A former resident and borough ward Member took the view that the merger would strengthen the local area's voice and would result in more efficient use of public funds. However, there were three serving borough ward Members who opposed the merger: two stressed

Handforth's distinct community identity and independence; the other (making a submission on Wilmslow) emphasised the separate identities of Wilmslow and Chorley - a view expressed by residents who had been in contact with this Member - and felt that Chorley's interests would be overridden by its larger neighbours.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Extensive evidence provided by Handforth residents of their distinct identity and need for separate representation, with the Garden Village and other large developments also presenting Handforth with very different challenges and priorities to those of Wilmslow and Chorley. Wilmslow Town Council itself cites a separate identity and the result of the 2011 referendum (supporting separate councils for Wilmslow and Handforth). The submissions from Chorley Parish Council and Wilmslow Town Council and a large majority of their residents (in Chorley's case, 100 per cent of the residents who responded) demonstrate that they too feel they have a separate identity to Handforth (and to each other).

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The submissions from Handforth Town and its residents highlight the town's size and substantial ongoing population growth. The responses also indicate the vast majority of Handforth residents are satisfied with the work undertaken by their councillors and the services provided, with many positive comments (although a small number hold a different view). On this basis, it is clear that viability is not an issue for Handforth.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One Handforth resident suggested having equal numbers of seats for each of the three merging areas, to ensure Chorley and Handforth retained a significant voice; another person from Handforth felt its seat allocation should be greater than four, given the impact of the Garden Village development on its electorate.

Post-consultation assessment
The consultation submissions from Handforth Town Council and its residents are not only large in volume (1,128), but overwhelmingly oppose the Draft Recommendations proposal of a merger with Chorley and Wilmslow. Furthermore, the submissions from Handforth offer extensive and persuasive evidence of their parish's distinct identity and challenges, its viability, the effectiveness and high activity level of the current Town Council and the adverse impact on representation that the merger would bring.

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A number of points are particularly notable, namely: the different social and demographic make-up of the three areas; the large and greatly expanded electorate and land area such a merged body would cover, making it potentially more remote and less responsive to local needs; Handforth's success in achieving high numbers of nominations (relative to seats) at recent ordinary elections; the many positive comments about Handforth Town Council's recent activities and performance (only a few submissions take a different view on this); the major housing developments that both add to Handforth's population and mean that it faces different challenges in the coming years to Wilmslow or Chorley; and the fact that Wilmslow and Handforth are both well endowed with local amenities, which results in each being to a large degree independent of the each other.

The submissions from Wilmslow Town Council and Chorley Parish Council also object to the merger, as do a large majority of the responses from their residents; again, the evidence submitted from these parishes is extensive and persuasive.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends that Chorley, Handforth and Wilmslow remain as three separate councils.

As for the Draft Recommendations proposed change to the Handforth/ Styal boundary, this is supported by all the Handforth submissions that commented on this matter at the pre-consultation stage (five) and consultation stage (15), including the Town Council and Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The arguments put forward for this change - relating to road access and service use - are persuasive.

Although all four submissions from Styal disagree overall with the Draft Recommendations, one of these supports the boundary change, two offer no comments; the concern expressed by the fourth Styal resident - that Handforth is already large enough - is not voiced in other submissions.

The Borough Council therefore recommends that this boundary change should proceed.

As for Handforth's total number of seats, the current total of seven is unusually low even for a council of its current size. Whilst the consultation stage submissions focused on the merger proposal and not on seating for an independent Handforth, a number of the pre-consultation responses argue persuasively for an increase in seats, to reflect recent and forthcoming housing and population growth; the general consensus among those making this case was at least one extra seat for the East and South wards and therefore at least nine seats in total; some also argued for an extra seat for the West ward. 12 seats would be in line with the average for a council of Handforth's size, but the Borough Council is conscious of the submission evidence that current arrangements are working well and does not wish to potentially disrupt this balance by increasing the number of seats too

dramatically. However, the Borough Council considers that 10 or 11 seats would reflect the pre-consultation responses, Handforth's current size and its expected future growth, and also ensure a degree of continuity.

It is worth noting that Disley Parish Council, for example (which also has seven seats at present), has seen its electorate increase in recent years and feels that nine seats is sufficient. However, Disley (4,000 electors) is only two thirds of Handforth's size (around 6,000 electors by 2025) and does not expect further growth. Handforth, by contrast, is due to see substantial future housing growth as its Garden Village development (which will be concentrated in the East ward) is built – and the transfer from Styal (adjacent to the West ward) will also add significantly to the town's population. Taking all this into account, the Borough Council feels that 10 or 11 seats for Handforth would be an appropriate balance.

However, the exact overall total should also reflect warding arrangements and the distribution of the future housing growth between the wards. With their focus on the merger issue, the consultation stage submissions did not address ward boundaries for an independent Handforth. Only one pre-consultation submission - from the former Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group chair - suggested changes to ward boundaries, but the Borough Council is unwilling to alter these boundaries as part of the current Review, given the lack of evidence of more widespread support for such changes; it also agrees with that submission's point that creating a new ward comprising only the Garden Village would hold back the new development's integration with the rest of Handforth. Therefore the Borough Council recommends that the ward boundaries remain unchanged.

As for the appropriate allocation of seats to each ward, this should take account of expected development up to 2025, but also consider longer-term change, given the size of the Garden Village when complete. (The Borough Council can confirm that the forecasts in the Draft Recommendations report do take account of two major developments - The Sanctuary and Sun Field - that have planning permission and that Handforth Town Council cited in its submission. The other forthcoming developments listed in the Town Council submission - 26 homes at Knowle House, 39 at Cypress House and 5 at St Chad's Vicarage - are not included in the Borough Council's forecasts, but the submission notes these did not yet have planning permission.)

The forecasts in the Draft Recommendations report were produced at a time when no Garden Village housing development was expected by 2025, but, as that Report notes, the Borough Council now expects 150 homes to be completed there by March 2025. It estimates (using the forecasted average of 1.591 electors per property in the local borough ward by 2025) that this equates to 239 electors. Around 90 per cent of the Garden Village development will be in the East ward, adding another 215 (239 x 90 per cent) electors to that ward by 2025; the other 10 per cent of the development is in the South ward, adding another 24 electors (239 x 10 per cent) there. Hence the Borough Council has now updated its forecast to reflect this and now expects an estimated 1,858

electors in the East ward by March 2025 (the original forecast of 1,643 plus 215 electors in the Garden Village) and 1,742 (the original 1,718 plus 24) in the South ward. With the recommended transfer of the Clay Lane/ Sagars Road LPS site development (330 electors by 2025) to the West ward, that ward would have 2,453 electors by 2025. Therefore the revised forecast is 6,053 electors for the whole of Handforth by 2025. If Handforth were to have 10 seats, a fair allocation based on these 2025 forecasts would be four seats for the West ward and three each for the East and South wards. This would mean that, as of 2025, the number of electors per seat would be similar (between 581 and 619) for each of the three wards.

However, once complete, the Garden Village development will have 1,500 homes. As noted, an estimated 90 per cent (1,350 homes, or 2,147 electors, using the borough ward average of 1.591 electors per property) will be in the East ward and the other 10 per cent (150 homes, or 239 electors) in the South ward. This would imply an eventual 3,790 electors (1,643 + 2,147) in the East ward, 1,957 (1,718 + 239) in the South and 2,453 in the West: in other words, 8,200 electors in total. If, as suggested above, Handforth were to have 10 seats, with four seats for the West ward and three each for the East and South wards, this would result in highly unequal representation by the time the Garden Village is complete, with the East ward having around nearly half of the Town Council's electors by that time (assuming no other new major housing developments have occurred), but only 30 per cent of its seats.

The Borough Council considers that an appropriate allowance for this longer-term change would be to increase Handforth's total number of seats to 11, with both the East and West wards receiving four seats and South three. This would reflect the level and distribution of housing development and expansion in the three wards and mean less disparity in electors-per-seat ratios over time. As of 2025, the resulting ratios would vary from 465 (East ward) to 613 (West ward), but on completion of the Garden Village the ratios would range from 613 (West ward) to 948 (East).

Therefore the Borough Council recommends an increase to 11 seats: four each for the East and West wards, and three for the South ward.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.14 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Styal to Handforth Town Council's West ward, of the shaded area (Local Plan site LPS 34) shown in Map 2.14.
Parish Council name and style	Handforth Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Handforth (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (East; South; West)
Seats	11 overall (an increase from the current 7). Allocation of seats between wards as follows: East 4 seats (an increase from the current 2); South 3 (an increase from the current 2); West 4 (an increase from the current 3).
Electorate (2025 forecast)[7]	Revised forecast for 2025: 6,053 (East 1,858, South 1,742, West 2,453). Forecast for post-2025: 8,200 (East 3,790, South 1,957, West 2,453).
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	Revised forecast for 2025: 550 overall (East 465, South 581, West 613). Forecast for post-2025: 745 overall (East 948, South 652, West 613).
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Styal – transfer to Handforth"

[7] The revised forecast for 2025 takes account of development now expected at the Garden Village site by 2025. The post-2025 forecast takes account of the completion of the Garden Village development, but does not factor in other post-2025 development.

2.42 Hankelow

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Hankelow
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Hankelow
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	5
Nominations in 2019	6
Electorate (2018)	258
Electorate (2025 forecast)	292

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Increase seats from five to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size and seven is the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for a parish council. The fact there were six nominations in 2019 suggests there is a greater level of interest in serving on the council than its current small seating allocation would indicate.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The lack of any submissions from Hankelow residents or its parish council during the pre-consultation and consultation stages means there is no available evidence on local people's views about the Draft Recommendations. However, seven seats is the NALC preferred minimum and the ongoing COVID pandemic places additional pressure on parish council resources and councillor time, thereby strengthening the case for even small councils like Hankelow to have at least seven seats. Whilst the Borough

Council is generally minded to leave governance arrangements as they are if the proposed changes receive no support from local residents or their parish council, it believes that the NALC preferred minimum, the persistence of the COVID pandemic and the fact that Hankelow is forecast to have nearly 300 electors by 2025 all mean that seven seats is appropriate for this parish council. In addition, nominations at the 2019 ordinary elections exceeded the number of available seats, so there is no indication of a shortage of candidates - and an increase in seats means more opportunity to share the workload and hopefully further increase interest in serving on the council. Considering all these factors, the Borough Council recommends an increase to seven seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Hankelow Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Hankelow (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (an increase from the current 5)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	292
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	42
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.43 Haslington

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Haslington
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Haslington
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Haslington Village; Oakhanger; Winterley.
Seats	15 (Haslington Village 10, Oakhanger 1, Winterley 4)
Nominations in 2019	10 (Haslington Village 8, Oakhanger 1, Winterley 1)
Electorate (2018)	5,634 (Haslington Village 3,936, Oakhanger 458, Winterley 1,240)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	6,922 (Haslington Village 4,469, Oakhanger 1,052, Winterley 1,401)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
[1] Alsager's housing has also expanded significantly into the eastern part of Haslington's Oakhanger ward and the development of Local Plan Strategy site LPS 20 (White Moss Quarry, Alsager), which is mainly within Oakhanger, will add to this.

[2] Recent development on the edge of Haslington's Winterley ward has expanded into Sandbach; these new homes are adjacent to and can easily access Winterley/ Haslington amenities, but are distant from services in the nearest part of Sandbach (Wheelock).

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Both the Parish Council and Sandbach Town Council proposed a change to their shared boundary, to bring the new development at the northern edge of Winterley entirely within Haslington Parish Council. The two councils proposed that the new boundary follow the A534 as far as Hassall Moss Brook (the southern tributary of the River Wheelock) and then follow the Brook eastwards to the parish boundary with Hassall.

The Parish Council's preference was for its existing boundary with Alsager to be retained, but it recognised that the expansion of Alsager may necessitate a transfer of the area east of the M6; if no boundary were to be made, it suggested that the number of seats for Oakhanger be increased to two, to reflect the large volume of housing development in the area adjacent to Alsager.

Several responses from individual residents, but none proposed any specific changes in governance.

Draft Recommendation
[1] Transfer to Alsager of the part of Haslington east of the M6, as this would reflect Alsager's expansion and provide a clear long-term boundary between the two parishes.

[2] Transfer to Haslington of the part of Sandbach Town Council's Ettiley Heath & Wheelock ward that lies east of the A534 bypass, so that there is a clear and identifiable boundary between Sandbach and Haslington that does not partition existing community of Winterley.

[3] Removal of all warding and reduction of total seats from 15 to 12, as this is in line with the average for a council of its size and there was a significant shortage of nominations at the 2019 ordinary elections.

[4] Seek public view on whether to merge whole of Barthomley with Haslington, merge only part of it (the part west of the M6) with Haslington and transfer the rest to Alsager, or leave Barthomley as an independent parish.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary

13 submissions, of which 12 (including the Parish Council's official response, from its clerk) were via the consultation survey and one (from a parish councillor) in the form of an email. However, the text of the email was identical to that from the clerk (who agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations). Of the 12 survey submissions, six agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only three disagreed. Of those who disagreed, two included comments: one of these objected to an expected increase in tax arising from being transferred to Alsager; the other opposed the principle of transferring village/ rural areas to towns.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

The Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but supported some specific elements of the recommendations while opposing (or else suggesting modifications to) others. It is reluctant to lose the part of its area east of the M6, but understands and is content to accept this transfer. (Alsager Town Council's submission supports this boundary change.)

It welcomed the proposal to bring the new development on the edge of Winterley fully within its parish, but requested again that the new boundary run northwards along the A534 only as far as Hassall Moss Brook and then follow the Brook eastwards. It justified this requested modification to the Draft Recommendations boundary line by pointing out that the small number of properties north of the Brook (on Mill Lane/ Cotton Lane) are geographically much closer to the Wheelock area of Sandbach than to Winterley and have much easier access to services in Wheelock. (Sandbach Town Council's submission reiterates its support for the boundary line proposed by the Parish Council.)

In addition, the Parish Council opposed the Draft Recommendations proposed removal of the existing warding, arguing that the three wards represent distinct communities with different characters, and with fields separating them geographically. It noted that Haslington is a local service centre with a number of key services, whereas Winterley has very limited amenities and Oakhanger is very rural and sparsely populated. It argued that these differences require separate representation.

Furthermore, the Parish Council opposed a change to the existing total seats or the allocation of these between the wards, emphasising in particular the substantial recent growth in Haslington's population in the wake of new housing developments and the fact that Winterley's low number of nominations in 2019 was a one-off issue resulting from the simultaneous retirement of multiple councillors.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
One Alsager town councillor objected to the Draft Recommendations, citing the tax impact and political motives.

The MP for Crewe & Nantwich noted the Draft Recommendations proposed transfer from Haslington to Alsager; he did not voice support or opposition to it, but stressed that any decision must reflect the views of local residents.

South Cheshire Labour (the South Cheshire branch of the Labour Party) felt that the Draft Recommendations proposed too large a transfer from Sandbach to Haslington and as such did not reflect community identity. It therefore proposed that the new boundary should follow the A534 until it meets a track that leads across to Alsager Road at Whitehall Farm; it stated that this track is well used and recognised. This proposed boundary line would mean the new development in Winterley was entirely within Haslington, but that the transfer area would be somewhat smaller than the one envisaged by either the Parish Council/ Town Council or by the Draft Recommendations.

South Cheshire Labour also opposed the removal of separate warding for Winterley. It argued that the lack of nominations is a short-term phenomenon and that contested ordinary elections have occurred there in recent years. It also noted that Winterley was geographically separate from Haslington and had its own distinct identity, requiring separate representation.

South Cheshire Labour further proposed that, if the part of Oakhanger ward east of the M6 were to be transferred to Alsager, the remaining part of Oakhanger should also be moved to Alsager. It felt that would better reflect community identity and allow easier access to polling facilities for Oakhanger residents on both sides of the M6.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The Parish Council's submission (and the one from South Cheshire Labour) highlights the distinct identities of its three wards and how the Winterley community extends into Sandbach (though not beyond Hassall Moss Brook).

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No submissions indicate that viability is an issue for Haslington.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One response proposed a merger of Haslington with Sandbach. However, no other submissions on any other parish raised this option and it is at odds with the frequently-expressed view (in many areas where urban conurbations extend into or adjoin rural

parishes) that the merger of large towns or parishes would not reflect community identity and would result in unduly large, unwieldy and remote councils.

Post-consultation assessment

A majority of the Haslington responses to the consultation support the Draft Recommendations. The Draft Recommendations proposed change to the boundary with Alsager is accepted as reasonable by Haslington Parish Council and supported by Alsager Town Council. The Parish Council - supported by Sandbach Town Council - confirms its support for a change to the Sandbach boundary to bring Winterley entirely within Haslington, but makes a persuasive case for using Hassall Moss Brook as the northern extent of the redrawn boundary, so that the Wheelock community is not itself split between parishes. (The alternative boundary line proposed by South Cheshire Labour would also ensure residents north of the Brook stay within the parish to which they have community links, but this proposed line received no support in other submissions and would follow a track that is less clearly marked on maps than the Brook. Similarly, the Borough Council is not persuaded by South Cheshire Labour's proposal that the whole of Oakhanger be merged with Alsager, as this received no wider support and no consultation submissions were received which indicated that Oakhanger residents west of the M6 might identify more with Alsager than with Haslington.) The Borough Council therefore recommends that the boundary with Alsager be moved to the M6, as per the Draft Recommendations, but that the proposed new boundary with Sandbach be modified in line with the Parish Council's proposal, so that it extends only as far north as Hassall Moss Brook.

As a result of the recommended change to Haslington's boundary with Alsager, the Oakhanger ward would lose an estimated 870 electors, leaving it with only 182 electors.

As for warding, the Parish Council's submission (and that from South Cheshire Labour on Winterley) makes a persuasive case for retaining its existing warding. The Parish Council also presents convincing reasons for keeping its current total of 15 seats: namely to cater for the increased demand and challenges arising from its new housing developments and to allow for an expected increase in nominations.

The Borough Council also accepts the logic of more rural areas like Oakhanger having a lower number of electors per seat, because of the greater workload for councillors (notably longer travel times). The Borough Council has reservations about wards being represented by a single councillor (because of the risk of lack of representation if that councillor falls sick, resigns or is otherwise unavailable). However, the Parish Council argues persuasively that its three wards have distinct identities and that each requires separate representation. Because of its very small electorate following the recommended boundary change with Alsager,

two seats for Oakhanger would be excessive. The Borough Council therefore recommends that the allocation of seats between the three wards remain unchanged.

Under the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary change, it was estimated that Haslington would acquire an additional 101 electors from Sandbach. However, under the modified proposal, the estimated seven properties north of Hassall Moss Brook would remain in Sandbach. Assuming the average number of electors per property is the same as for the local borough ward of Ettiley Heath & Wheelock, that implies a further 12 electors would remain in Sandbach. Therefore Haslington's Winterley ward would acquire only 89 electors (101 - 12) from Sandbach. The elector numbers shown in the 'Final Recommendations: Overview' table below reflect all this.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.5b & 2.15 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from Haslington Parish Council's Oakhanger ward to the Alsager Town Council's West ward, of the shaded area (the area of Haslington east of the M6) shown in Map 2.5b. Transfer, from Sandbach Town Council's Ettiley Heath & Wheelock ward to Haslington Parish Council's Winterley ward, of the shaded area (the area of Ettiley Heath & Wheelock east of the A534 and south of Hassall Moss Brook) shown in Map 2.15.
Parish Council name and style	Haslington Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Haslington (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Haslington Village; Oakhanger; Winterley)
Seats	15 (Haslington Village 10, Oakhanger 1, Winterley 4). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	6,141 (Haslington Village 4,469, Oakhanger 182, Winterley 1,490)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	409 overall (Haslington Village 447, Oakhanger 182, Winterley 373)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Haslington – transfer to Alsager" • "Sandbach – transfer to Haslington"

2.44 Hassall

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Hassall
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Hassall
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	4
Electorate (2018)	231
Electorate (2025 forecast)	231

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that there are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. Merger not needed, given that electorate is well above 200 and is expected to remain stable up to 2025 and that no issues raised about viability. No change needed to seat numbers, as the current total of seven - the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council - is in line with the average for a council of this size. Only four nominations in 2019, so any extra seats may be difficult to fill.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Two submissions from individual Hassall residents, of whom one agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and one disagreed.

One individual submission on Alsager stated that the M6 should be used to demarcate the whole length of Alsager's western boundary - which would mean transferring the eastern part of Hassall to Alsager.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

The Borough Council considers that the suggestion from one Alsager individual of a transfer to Alsager from Barthomley/ Hassall is not justified, given that there is limited development in these locations.

The two consultation responses from Hassall offer no consensus, with one favouring no change and the other disagreeing but not adding comments. Given these contrasting views, the absence of any suggested alternatives to no change, and the limited number of responses (with the Parish Council's own view not submitted), along with the reasons given under the Draft Recommendation, the Borough Council still recommends no change in governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Hassall Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Hassall (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	231
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	33
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.45 Hatherton & Walgherton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Hatherton & Walgherton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Hatherton; Walgherton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10 (Hatherton 7, Walgherton 3)
Nominations in 2019	9 (Hatherton 7, Walgherton 2)
Electorate (2018)	415 (Hatherton 290, Walgherton 125)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	427 (Hatherton 300, Walgherton 127)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council opposes a reduction in seats.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats from 10 to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size. Five seats for Hatherton and two for Walgherton, as this allocation reflects their respective shares of the electorate.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Responses received (via the consultation survey) from one Hatherton resident and from the Parish Council; both disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The Hatherton resident felt the current arrangement worked well and noted that a cut in seats would not deliver any cost savings, more effective representation or other benefits.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council's submission notes that one of its councillors attended and spoke against the Draft Recommendations for Hatherton & Walgherton at the Community Governance Review Sub Committee meeting held in February 2021. It felt that a reduction to seven seats would, among other things: result in heavier and less manageable workloads and less incentive for local people to serve on the Parish Council; limit councillors' ability to raise local issues with other public bodies/ other organisations and get problems resolved; constrain contact with residents over the parish's large rural area; and jeopardise the quality of its work. On the latter point, the Parish Council notes that in October 2021 it received the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) Local Council Foundation Award for good governance, which only four other parish councils across Cheshire East (and no others in south Cheshire) had achieved. The Parish Council also observes that the COVID pandemic had resulted in increased need for support services from the Parish Council and that future crises could place similar pressure on the Council. In addition, the Parish Council (like the individual resident's response) noted that the cut would bring no cost savings, as councillors are unpaid volunteers.

The Parish Council also produced a newsletter for residents, informing them of the consultation, and emailed them too. This correspondence signposted residents to the online consultation survey, but the Parish Council also received feedback directly and its submission notes that all of these direct responses (the number of which is not stated) supported the retention of the existing 10 seats.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The Parish Council's submission notes that the local borough ward Member spoke against the Draft Recommendations for Hatherton & Walgherton at the Community Governance Review Sub Committee meeting held in February 2021.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council's submission argues persuasively against a reduction in its number of seats, presenting numerous points - and supporting evidence - to demonstrate its current effectiveness (as shown, for example, by its recent NALC award) and how this would be put at risk if there were fewer councillors. It rightly notes that a shortage of available seats can mean excessive workloads that deter residents from standing for election - and hence fewer nominations than seats, which makes governance less effective still. Furthermore, its submission implies, the workload of councillors is greater in large rural areas than in more compact urban ones and the provision of seats ought to allow for that. The fact that residents' collective feedback was unanimous in opposing the Draft Recommendations is also significant, with direct responses to the Parish Council all favouring the retention of the existing 10 seats. In the light of all this consultation evidence, the Borough Council recommends no change in the total number of seats.

As for the allocation of seats between the two parishes, the current distribution is a fair reflection of each parish's share of the electorate (based on the Borough Council's forecasts for 2025). Therefore the Borough Council recommends that this allocation remain unchanged and that there be no changes to existing governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Hatherton & Walgherton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Hatherton; Walgherton (no changes)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 seats overall (Hatherton 7 seats, Walgherton 3). No changes to any of these numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	427 (Hatherton 300, Walgherton 127)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	43 overall (Hatherton 43, Walgherton 42)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.46 Haughton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Haughton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Meeting
Current Parish name(s)	Haughton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Nominations in 2019	N/A
Electorate (2018)	178
Electorate (2025 forecast)	181

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. However, the Draft Recommendations report did invite suggested alternatives. As that report notes, where the electorate of a parish is between 150 and 1,000 electors, it is for the Borough Council to decide whether or not the parish should have a council.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.
Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
No consultation responses from the Parish Council or its residents, nor any consultation submissions from other parishes that commented on Haughton. It is therefore assumed that the Parish Meeting and local residents are content with the proposal of no change. It should also be noted that the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put the number of electors in Haughton at 164, which is notably lower than either the 2018 figure (178) or the 2025 forecast (181). If this decline continues, then Haughton may soon have fewer than the legal minimum of 150 required for a new parish council. In any case, the decline in electors since

2018 raises questions about whether Haughton might be viable as a council. Given this evidence and the lack of consultation responses and the absence of any alternative suggestions to consider, the Borough Council considers that Parish Meeting status remains the most appropriate form of governance and therefore recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Haughton Parish Meeting (no change)
Parish name(s)	Haughton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Electorate (2025 forecast)	181
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	N/A
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.47 Henbury

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Henbury
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Henbury
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	499
Electorate (2025 forecast)	758

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy site LPS 18 (Land between Chelford Road and Whirley Road, Macclesfield) is a major new housing development within that is partly within Henbury, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Macclesfield and is a consequence of that settlement's expansion.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One individual from Henbury raised concerns about the new LPS 18 development, but did not comment on current or alternative governance options.

The 19 responses from Macclesfield (one from a town councillor and the rest from individuals) included two individual residents who favoured a change to Macclesfield's boundary with various rural neighbours, including Henbury. These two submissions argued that residents of the main settlements in many neighbouring parishes relied on Macclesfield for services, and that Local Plan development was turning this wider area into a conurbation anyway.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Move the LPS 18 development site area from Henbury to Macclesfield, as it is adjacent to that settlement and will depend on the town for services and amenities. The Draft Recommendations also proposed the transfer of the estimated 20 existing dwellings along the A537 (Chelford Road) that border site LPS 18, as it was considered that they also formed part of this expansion area and hence were part of the Macclesfield community.

[2] Increase the number of seats for the redrawn Henbury Parish Council from seven to eight, as the latter figure is in line with the average for a council of Henbury's resulting size (an estimated 485 electors, following the Draft Recommendations boundary change).

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were 18 responses from Henbury, all via the consultation survey and all disagreeing overall with the Draft Recommendations. The most commonly-cited reasons for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (mentioned in 12 responses); also cited a number of times were a view that current arrangements work well (five mentions) and a concern about the impact on the Green Belt, rural areas or the natural environment more generally (also five mentions).

More specific comments included: examples of local residents' community links to Henbury village; a view that a boundary change would result in more development encroaching onto Green Belt land in the future; and expressions of satisfaction with Henbury Parish Council and its achievements.

Five responses - including that from Parish Council (summarised below) - made the same alternative suggestion: that the LPS site should move to Macclesfield, but the established Chelford Road properties should stay in Henbury. One of those making this alternative proposal was a resident from one of these Chelford properties, who emphasised that they identified with Henbury and highlighted the historical importance of other potentially-affected properties like The Firs and The Cock Inn. One other advocate of this alternative boundary line noted that the river by the Cock Inn formed a much more natural boundary than the Draft Recommendations line. (Only one other alternative proposal was made, which was to move not only the LPS site and the Chelford Road properties to Macclesfield, but also the Local Plan LPS 19 safeguarded land site; the respondent argued this would aid Macclesfield's neighbourhood planning and also protect Henbury's rural identity.)

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council opposes the Draft Recommendations. It had visited the residents of the established properties along Chelford Road, who confirmed that they identified with Henbury and wished to remain in that parish. The Parish Council noted that some of these properties date back many years and are part of the parish's history. It requested that the LPS 18 site be moved to Macclesfield, but that the established properties, as far east as (and including) the Cock Inn, be kept within Henbury.

In its submission, Macclesfield Town Council also expressed opposition to most of the potential changes to its external boundaries. It noted, amongst other things, that the pre-consultation survey responses did not indicate any desire for the Town Council area to be enlarged, and that opposition to the potential boundary changes was high in most of the neighbouring parishes. Notably, however, the one Draft Recommendations change to its boundary that it did not refer to was the one involving Henbury.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
In his submission, the MP for Macclesfield notes the Parish Council's finding that the existing Chelford Road residents identify and wish to remain in Henbury. He endorses the Parish Council's request that these properties stay in Henbury, but that the LPS 18 site be transferred to Macclesfield.

The local borough ward Member objected to the Draft Recommendations, making comments in relation to a number of other rural parishes near to Macclesfield where boundary changes or mergers were proposed, including Henbury. The Member's submission noted that residents of long-established properties in these rural areas identify with their own parish, feel that a transfer to a town council would mean remote representation and neglect of local issues and service requirements, and that a higher precept would

probably be charged as well. The Member endorsed the submissions of all the parish councils in Gawsworth borough ward, including Henbury.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The responses from the Parish Council and its residents indicate that the people living in the established properties along Chelford identity strongly with Henbury. No submissions proposed that these properties should move to Macclesfield.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None, other than the suggestion from the Parish Council, local MP and some residents that only site LPS 18 be moved to Macclesfield.

Post-consultation assessment
As noted above, the submissions from Henbury indicate unanimous disagreement with the Draft Recommendations. More specifically, the Parish Council and a number of other responses highlight the existing Chelford Road residents' strong identity with Henbury and the age and history of some of these established properties. The Borough Council is persuaded that these residents form part of Henbury's community of identity. As for the LPS 18 site currently in Henbury, the Parish Council itself wishes for that to transfer to Macclesfield. Furthermore, whilst Macclesfield Town Council's submission explicitly raises objections to the Draft Recommendations' other proposed changes to its boundary, it does not refer to Henbury. The Borough Council takes this an as indication that the Town Council is content for the LPS 18 site to transfer to Macclesfield.

In the light of all this evidence, the Borough Council now recommends a modification, such that site LPS 18 is transferred to Macclesfield, but the existing Chelford Road properties, up and including the Cock Inn, remain in Henbury. It should be noted that this recommended transfer area (shown in Map 2.16 of the Maps Report) includes a small area of land (with no properties) that lies between the LPS site and the current boundary with Macclesfield.

As for Henbury’s number of seats, this has to take account of its resulting electorate size, as well as other factors. As noted, there are an estimated 20 existing Chelford Road properties; applying the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward of Gawsworth, that implies an estimated 36 electors in these properties. Under the Draft Recommendations proposals, the

Borough Council forecast that Henbury would have 485 electors by 2025. Under the boundary change now recommended, it would therefore have 521 (485 + 36). Eight seats - rather than the current seven - is in line with the average for a council of this size. The Borough Council is also conscious of the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council resources and councillor time. As Henbury is a sizeable rural parish, this adds further to the parish council workload. Furthermore, none of the consultation submissions raised an objection to the proposed increase in seats. The Borough Council therefore recommends an increase to eight seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.16 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Henbury to Macclesfield Town Council's Broken Cross & Upton ward, of the shaded area (Local Plan site LPS 18 and the small area of undeveloped land enclosed by LPS 18 and the current parish boundary) shown in Map 2.16.
Parish Council name and style	Henbury Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Henbury (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (an increase from the current 7)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	521
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	65
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Henbury – transfer to Macclesfield"

2.48 High Legh

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	High Legh
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	High Legh
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10
Nominations in 2019	10
Electorate (2018)	1,403
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,408

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council stated that the current size of the parish and the number of seats were appropriate and requested no changes to governance. No individual residents responded.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that are there no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. No change needed to seat numbers, given that the current total of ten is in line with the average for a council of this size, that the Parish Council consider this number appropriate and that nominations matched seats in 2019.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Three submissions (all via the consultation survey), of which two were from individual residents and the other from the Parish Council. Two of these (including the Parish Council) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The third, which neither agreed nor disagreed with the Recommendations, felt that the Parish Council worked hard and did a good job, but lacked diversity and failed to represent the interests of all residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council stated that the current governance arrangement worked well and saw no need for change.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No submissions indicate that viability is an issue for Alsager, Barthomley, Church Lawton or Haslington.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Agden Parish Meeting's submission proposed "further consultation" on the viability of a merger with High Legh, Mere or both councils (it is assumed by the Borough Council that this suggestion assumes the inclusion of Little Bollington Parish Meeting and

Millington Parish Council in the merger as well, as the Draft Recommendations proposed a merger of Agden, Little Bollington and Millington - and Agden supported this).

Post-consultation assessment

None of the High Legh submissions during the consultation or pre-consultation stages requested changes to governance and none objected to the Draft Recommendations. The Parish Council itself stated that the current arrangements work well.

As noted above, Agden Parish Meeting suggested it (and Little Bollington and Millington, it is understood) could be included in a merger with High Legh, Mere or both these larger parishes. However, no other submissions, whether from High Legh or any neighbouring parishes, requested a boundary change or merger.

One response raised concerns about a lack of diversity among High Legh councillors, meaning they may not fully represent local residents. However, the more seats that are available, the greater the opportunity there is for people from different demographic groups and backgrounds to get elected to the Parish Council. The Borough Council therefore sees the comment about diversity as an additional reason for avoiding any cut in seats; the additional pressure that the COVID pandemic places on Parish Council resources and councillor time is a further reason for at least maintaining the current total. There is, therefore, an argument for slightly increasing the seats total, to 11 or 12, but this would be above average for a council of High Legh's size - and could potentially disrupt current working arrangements that, the Parish Council feels, work well.

In the light of the submitted responses and these additional factors, the Borough Council therefore recommends no changes to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	High Legh Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	High Legh (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,408
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	141
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.49 Higher Hurdsfield

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Higher Hurdsfield
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Higher Hurdsfield
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	603
Electorate (2025 forecast)	605

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
No recent or expected future developments of any size, but the Roewood Lane estate area is adjacent to Macclesfield Town Council area.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council's response requested no changes to governance, stating that Higher Hurdsfield is a small parish with its own identity and that would be lost if it were merged with a neighbour. It also provided details of its extensive activities and felt it was working effectively.

Four individual residents responded. Two felt the Parish Council was effective and understood and addressed local needs. However, one felt that the Roewood Lane estate was closely linked to Macclesfield and that either it or the whole parish should merge with the town. The fourth resident was unsure if change was necessary.

The 19 responses from Macclesfield (one from a town councillor and the rest from individuals) included one individual resident who favoured a change to Macclesfield's boundary with various rural neighbours, including Higher Hurdsfield. This submission argued that residents of the main settlements in many neighbouring parishes relied on Macclesfield for services, and that Local Plan development was turning this wider area into a conurbation anyway.

Draft Recommendations
[1] No change to the boundary with Macclesfield, in spite of the Roewood Lane estate being part of the same conurbation as the town. This recommendation reflects the fact that the parish has its own separate identity, and that it is viable and functioning effectively. However, the Draft Recommendations Report sought a public view on whether the Roewood Lane area should transfer to Macclesfield and (if so) whether the rest of the parish (comprising only an estimated 174 electors by 2025) should be merged with Bollington.

[2] Keep total number of seats at eight, as this is in line with the average for a council of this size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Six responses from Higher Hurdsfield (all via the consultation survey), of which one was from the Parish Council (see summary below) and five were from individual residents. Five of the six submissions (including the Parish Council's) responded to the agree/ disagree questions by indicating that they disagreed with the overall Draft Recommendations; in contrast, the other one agreed.

Five of the six responses included specific comments that confirmed their opinion on the potential boundary change, but it was apparent from these comments that some respondents thought the agree/ disagree questions were about whether they agreed with the boundary change option, rather than about whether they agreed with the Draft Recommendation of no boundary change. In particular, the comments revealed that three of those who expressed disagreement (including the Parish Council itself) wanted no boundary change; however, two others made comments showing that they had interpreted the agree/ disagree questions as the Borough Council intended.

Looking at the comments collectively, it is clear, therefore, that four of the six submissions (including the Parish Council's) opposed a boundary change and one supported it; the sixth voiced overall disagreement, but made no comment to clarify whether this view related to the Draft Recommendations or the boundary change option. Nevertheless, it is apparent from this analysis that a majority of the responses wished for the Roewood Lane estate area to remain in Higher Hurdsfield.

The person who made comments supporting the boundary change option felt that the Roewood Lane area was an integral part of Macclesfield and that (in Macclesfield) local awareness of Higher Hursfield as a place was limited.

Of the three individuals who made comments to oppose a boundary change, one simply asked for no governance change at all; the other two felt that existing governance worked well, that Higher Hurdsfield had a distinct identity and were also concerned about the adverse impact on taxes if the Roewood Lane estate were moved to Macclesfield. Both of these latter two submissions raised concerns that: a transfer to Macclesfield would result in councillors covering a much larger area and many more electors, but perhaps lacking knowledge of Higher Hurdsfield's separate needs as a rural community; the parish clerk's expertise would be lost; one consequence of such a change would be the loss of a productive relationship with Bollington Town Council. One of these submissions also cited many examples of recent parish council achievements, such as road repairs, addressing concerns over a new development site, and cleaning and improving public areas and conservation/ heritage sites.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

The Parish Council's response stated that Higher Hurdsfield has a distinct identity as a semi-rural village, separate from Macclesfield or Bollington. It provided details of the range of activities it undertakes, ranging from refurbishment of bins, buildings and other assets to road safety monitoring. It was also concerned about the loss of its experienced clerk and reduced level of local representation, were it to no longer be an independent parish.

In its submission, Macclesfield Town Council also expressed opposition to most of the potential changes to its external boundaries, including the one with Higher Hurdsfield. It noted that the last review of governance arrangements for Macclesfield had taken place relatively recently (2013/14), that the current arrangements were working well, that the pre-consultation survey responses did not indicate any desire for the Town Council area to be enlarged, and that opposition to the potential boundary changes was high in most of the neighbouring parishes that would be affected, including Higher Hurdsfield.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The Parish Council feels that Higher Hurdsfield has a distinct, semi-rural identity that requires separate representation from Macclesfield or Bollington. Most of the residents who responded also felt the same way and expressed concern that a boundary change would lead to more remote representation, from councillors who were less likely to understand their rural community's needs.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The Parish Council, along with one of its residents, provides an extensive list of its activities, indicating that it is operating effectively. No submissions raised concerns about viability or effectiveness.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council argues persuasively - with supporting evidence provided by some local residents - that Higher Hurdsfield has a distinct identity, separate from either Bollington or Macclesfield, and that it requires separate representation. Some residents raise the legitimate concerns that local knowledge would be sacrificed for more remote (too remote) governance if part or all of the parish were transferred to Macclesfield. The Parish Council and its residents collectively offer a detailed list of the Parish Council's wide range of activities and successes, which indicates its effectiveness.

Although there was some confusion within Higher Hurdsfield over the interpretation of the consultation survey's agree/ disagree questions, it is clear from the detailed comments submitted from the Parish Council and its residents that a majority of those responding wished to see no change to its boundary.

Furthermore, Macclesfield Town Council itself opposes a change to this boundary, arguing that its relatively new governance arrangements are working well and that there is no desire for an outward expansion.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends that Higher Hurdfield remain as an independent parish, with no changes to its boundary.

Given the submission evidence of the Parish Council's effectiveness and the fact that its current number of seats is in line with average for a council of its size, the Borough Council also recommends that the total number of seats should stay as it is.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Higher Hurdsfield Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Higher Hurdsfield (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	605
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	76
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.50 Holmes Chapel

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Holmes Chapel
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Holmes Chapel
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	12
Nominations in 2019	13
Electorate (2018)	5,037
Electorate (2025 forecast)	5,496

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Bluebell Green is a development of 190 homes[8] that is due to be built by 2025. Bluebell Green, and the smaller Dunkirk Farm development next to it, are within the parish of Brereton and are surrounded by open countryside to the south, but are adjacent to the parish of Holmes Chapel.

[8] The Draft Recommendations Report incorrectly gave the number of (eventual) homes as "over 200".

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Three of the seven pre-consultation survey responses from Holmes Chapel - including one from Holmes Chapel Parish Council itself – proposed a boundary change with Brereton that would bring the Bluebell Green development within the parish of Holmes Chapel, while a fourth implied such a boundary change should at least be considered. The boundary change proposal has borough ward Member support as well as Parish Council support. The other three responses from Holmes Chapel did not comment on whether any boundary changes should be made.

There were 18 representations from Brereton at this stage of this review - including one from Brereton Parish Council. 17 of these requested no change (the other did not request any specific changes to governance arrangements). Brereton Parish Council specifically requested that the Bluebell Green development should remain within its parish.

Draft Recommendations
[1] As the Bluebell Green estate area (including Dunkirk Farm) is adjacent to Holmes Chapel and could be seen as part of the same community, a case could be made for transferring it to that parish. However, given the contrasting views from Brereton and Holmes Chapel, the Draft Recommendations did not propose to alter this boundary, but did seek further responses from the public and interested bodies on this matter.

[2] Keep total number of seats at 12, as this is in line with the average for a council of Holmes Chapel's size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
From Holmes Chapel, there were 68 submissions: one being an email from the Parish Council (summarised below) and the other 67 via the consultation survey.

Unfortunately, for Holmes Chapel (and Brereton), there was considerable confusion over the survey's three initial "agree/ disagree" questions and this arises from the fact that the Draft Recommendations report presented a potential boundary change (the transfer of the Bluebell Green area), but did not recommend it. The "agree/ disagree" questions were about whether people agree or not with the Draft Recommendations, but it was clear from the comments that Holmes Chapel and Brereton residents made that some of them thought these initial questions were about whether they agreed with the boundary change option.

Of all the 67 survey responses from Holmes Chapel (including those who did not make specific comments), 37 (55 per cent) stated they agreed with the Draft Recommendations and 29 (43 per cent) disagreed.

Of these 67 survey responses from Holmes Chapel, 38 included comments and 34 of those provided a clear view on the Holmes Chapel boundary. Of these 34, 25 supported the transfer of Bluebell Green, which equates to 74 per cent of those who commented on that issue; the other nine (26 per cent of those who commented on the boundary) opposed the transfer.

Given that Holmes Chapel residents' apparent level of support for the Draft Recommendations falls markedly (from 55 per cent to 26 per cent) when only responses with specific comments are considered, it would appear that the survey's "agree/ disagree" present a misleading picture of Holmes Chapel residents' views and it seems likely that the vast majority of Holmes Chapel responses intended to express support for the transfer of Bluebell Green.

There were 275 responses from Brereton. 274 of these were via the consultation survey and one (which opposed a transfer of the Bluebell Green area to Holmes Chapel) in the form of a letter.

Brereton Parish Council clarified the survey questions' meaning with the Borough Council on its residents' behalf; following that, the proportion of Brereton residents opting to agree overall increased notably. Six of these later submissions included a comment that the person concerned was making another response, as their first one had unintentionally indicated that they disagreed with the Draft Recommendations (though one of these noted that their original submission's comments clearly identified their opposition to the Brereton/ Holmes Chapel boundary change). Partly as a consequence of this, the vast majority of Brereton responses made specific comments - and most of those comments included a clear expression of that person's view on whether the Bluebell Green area should transfer.

Of all the 274 survey responses from Brereton (including those who did not make specific comments on the Holmes Chapel boundary issue), 243 (89 per cent) stated they agreed with the Draft Recommendations and 30 (11 per cent) disagreed.

Of these 274 survey responses, 225 included comments and 193 of those provided a clear view on whether the boundary with Holmes Chapel should be adjusted so that Bluebell Green fell within Holmes Chapel. Of these 193, 173 opposed the transfer of Bluebell Green, which equates to 90 per cent (173/193) of those who commented on that issue and 63 per cent (173/274) of all the

Brereton consultation survey responses; 19 favoured the transfer of Bluebell Green and the other one who commented on this said they were unsure.

Given that Brereton residents' apparent level of support for the Draft Recommendations changes only marginally (from 89 per cent to 90 per cent) when only responses with specific comments on the Holmes Chapel boundary issue are considered, it would appear that, despite the survey questionnaire confusion, the survey's "agree/ disagree" do present a fair picture of Brereton residents' views. It therefore seems reasonable to conclude that the vast majority of Brereton responses intended to express opposition to the transfer of Bluebell Green.

In summary, it is apparent that a large majority of the Brereton respondents – a minimum of 63 per cent, but more probably around 90 per cent - oppose a change to this boundary. It would also appear that a majority of Holmes Chapel respondents - probably around three quarters - favour a boundary change, though at least nine (13 per cent of all Holmes Chapel responses) took a contrary view.

When explaining the reasons for their view, Holmes Chapel submissions commonly cited issues of local identity and interests (24 mentions) or a view that current governance works well (6). No other broad issue was raised by more than two people.

Specific points made by those favouring a boundary change related largely to Bluebell Green's dependence on Holmes Chapel for services and a wish not to subsidise service use by people on the new estate. Some of the Holmes Chapel residents who opposed a boundary change argued that the village was struggling to provide the infrastructure and services its existing residents needed and that Brereton (in contrast) had spare school capacity.

When explaining the reasons for their view, Brereton submissions commonly cited issues of local identity and interests (55 mentions) or a view that current governance works well (29); eight raised concerns about the impact on the Green Belt and the natural environment and eight felt the transfer of Bluebell Green would be at odds with local planning policy. No other broad issue was raised by more than five people.

Specific points made by Brereton residents included: Bluebell Green residents using local amenities such as Brereton's primary school, scouts, pub, nature reserve and footpaths; the achievements of Brereton Parish Council (there was praise for the quality and early adoption of its Neighbourhood Plan); effective engagement between the Parish Council and residents (with press releases and regular noticeboard updates); references to Holmes Chapel struggling to provide facilities for its existing population (it

was claimed, for example, that its schools are at full capacity, whereas Brereton's primary school is not); and incompatibility of the transfer with either Brereton Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan or Holmes Chapel's.

Notably, however, the minority of Brereton residents who made comments requesting the transfer of the Bluebell Green area included nine of the 13 people who identified themselves as Bluebell Green and Dunkirk Farm residents. The other four responses from these new developments, though, were from people wishing to remain in Brereton.

One Holmes Chapel resident proposed a larger transfer to their parish, involving not just the Bluebell Green estate area, but also land west of railway line and south of the River Croco (essentially the land on the opposite side of the railway to Bluebell Green), but did not specify an exact new boundary line.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

In its submission, Holmes Chapel Parish Council argued for Bluebell Green to be transferred to its parish. It stated that the estate's residents identified with Holmes Chapel, used its services (including ones subsidised by Holmes Chapel residents' precept charges) and were far closer to its village centre (1km away) than to Brereton village (3km away), with a continuous footpath into Holmes Chapel, but no such pedestrian (or cycling lane) route into Brereton village. Its submission cited Planning Inspectorate appeal decisions and developer marketing literature that identify Bluebell Green as being part of Holmes Chapel and its housing supply. It also observed that such a transfer would be consistent with the Borough Council's planning policy proposals (in its Site Allocations and Development Policies Document) for amending the Settlement Boundary and would address the issue (raised in the Holmes Chapel Neighbourhood Plan) of the parish having insufficient green space. The Parish Council further notes that, of the Section 106 money allocated to fund infrastructure improvements following the new development, the vast majority has been allocated to Holmes Chapel, not Brereton.

Brereton Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It presented a number of reasons for wishing to retain the existing boundary with Holmes Chapel. It noted that the location of the Bluebell Green estate within the parish is in keeping with Brereton's rural characters and the wishes of local residents, as expressed in the parish's Neighbourhood Plan. It also highlighted the actions it has been taking to address the needs of Bluebell Green residents, such as reducing speed limits in the area and improving pavements. In addition, it argued that the services that Bluebell Green and other Brereton residents rely on Holmes Chapel for (such as its secondary school and GPs) are not ones that are funded through Holmes Chapel Parish Council's precept income.

It also took issue with the Draft Recommendations' map of the potential (but not recommended) transfer area including a large rural area east of the A50, given that this has no major development and that the A50 itself is a much more natural boundary.

However, the Parish Council voiced serious concern about the confusion created by the structure and wording of the Draft Recommendations Report and consultation survey, with the Report and survey offering seemingly contradictory information on what the Borough Council's recommendation for the Holmes Chapel boundary area was, and whether the survey's agree/ disagree questions were about a recommendation of no change, or about a potential boundary change. It considered the consultation consequently flawed and felt, therefore, that a boundary change could not be justified, whatever the survey results might show.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
Holmes Chapel's local borough ward Member again expressed support for the transfer of Bluebell Green to Holmes Chapel and endorsed the submission made by Holmes Chapel Parish Council. He stated that Bluebell Green residents relied largely on Holmes Chapel for services and had clear community links to the village. He also noted that many of the estate's residents approached him regarding Borough Council issues, saying that they identify with Holmes Chapel even though they are in a different borough ward.

Brereton Community Interest Group opposed the transfer of Bluebell Green, drawing attention to local activities to develop community spirit across Brereton and noting that the Holmes Chapel services that Brereton residents access are not ones funded by Holmes Chapel Parish Council.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
It is clear from the responses from Brereton Parish Council and many of its residents that Bluebell Green is regarded as part of its community and examples are given of residents relying on it for many communal activities and amenities. By contrast, a number of other submissions - some from Holmes Chapel, but also some from Bluebell Green residents - state that the new estate relies primarily on Holmes Chapel for services.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

The Borough Council acknowledges and regrets the considerable confusion that the Draft Recommendations report and the consultation stage survey generated for Brereton and Holmes Chapel residents.

However, even after allowances are made for the uncertainty about what many of the responses were agreeing or disagreeing with - the option of a boundary change, or the Draft Recommendation of no boundary change - some key messages are clear.

Most notably, there is considerable polarisation of opinion. A large majority of the 274 survey submissions from Brereton (including its Parish Council) oppose a transfer of Bluebell Green: 63 per cent of them stated this clearly in open comments and 90 per cent of all the Brereton residents who commented on this issue were against such a transfer. In contrast, 25 (37 per cent) of all the Holmes Chapel survey responses - including the village's borough ward Member - made comments clearly indicating their support for this boundary change and 74 per cent of all the Holmes Chapel survey responses that commented on this issue were in favour of the transfer. Holmes Chapel Parish Council also supports a change to this boundary. Another important consideration is the view of Bluebell Green and Dunkirk Farm residents themselves. There were 13 submissions from people identifying themselves as residents of one of these new developments and all 13 provided comments clearly indicating their view on the boundary change option. Nine (70 per cent) wished to transfer to Holme Chapel; the other four took the opposite view. If these responses are representative of the estate's overall population, it would appear that a large majority of the affected residents wish to become part of Holmes Chapel, but the small number of responses involved means there is a degree of uncertainty over that - and it also seems a significant minority oppose such a change.

As with the comments made by those living elsewhere in Brereton, or by Holmes Chapel residents, the Bluebell Green/ Dunkirk Farm residents on both sides of the argument cite evidence relating to community identity and to where the estate's residents look to for services and communal activities; many of the points made both opponents and supporters of a boundary change are highly relevant.

The Borough Council has reservations about a recommendation that goes against what seems, tentatively, to be the majority opinion among residents of the new development itself. However, it considers that it would not be in the interests of wider community cohesion to alter this boundary, given that there is such extensive (and well-argued) opposition in Brereton as a whole, with a large majority of Brereton responses including specific comments against this boundary change.

Holmes Chapel Parish Council states that Bluebell Green's inclusion in the parish of Brereton does not align with the SADPD (Site Allocations and Development Policies Document) proposed Holmes Chapel Settlement Boundary[9] and that some planning decisions identify the new estate as part of Holmes Chapel's housing, but there is no requirement for parish boundaries to reflect planning policy geographies. The key criteria for Community Governance purposes are, rather, community identity and effective and convenient local government. Furthermore, as Brereton Parish Council and others have also noted, Bluebell Green residents inevitably rely on Holmes Chapel for some key services, but it does not necessarily follow that these are services funded or otherwise supported by Holmes Chapel Parish Council.

Therefore, taking account of all the evidence and other factors discussed above, the Borough Council recommends no change to the Brereton/ Holmes Chapel boundary.

As for Holmes Chapel's number of seats, the current total of 12 is in line with the average for a council of its size and the consultation did not prompt any requests for a change to this number. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change in seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

[9] The Borough Council can confirm that the proposed SADPD Settlement Boundary for Holmes Chapel is drawn tightly around (and includes) the new development.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Holmes Chapel Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Holmes Chapel (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	12 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	5,496
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	458
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.51 Hough & Chorlton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Hough & Chorlton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Hough & Chorlton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	9 (Chorlton 2, Hough 7)
Nominations in 2019	8 (Chorlton 2, Hough 6)
Electorate (2018)	1,339 (Chorlton 685, Hough 654)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,350 (Chorlton 677, Hough 673)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
The Wychwood Park estate is split between the parish of Weston, which is part of Weston & Basford Parish Council, and the parish of Chorlton.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council proposed two boundary changes. One of these was to bring Wychwood Park (currently split between the parishes of Chorlton and Weston) entirely within Chorlton; it noted that Weston & Basford Parish Council was amenable to this change.

The other proposal was to align Hough's northwestern boundary with Shavington and Wybunbury so that it followed Stock Lane and Newcastle Road (rather than individual property or field boundaries), transferring a few properties in those parishes to Hough.

Draft Recommendations
Split Hough and Chorlton (given that they are geographically separate settlements) into separate parish councils, but redraw the boundary between the two, so it follows the railway line (in effect, a transfer to Hough of the area of Chorlton west of the railway line).

Transfer to Chorlton of the part of Wychwood Park that currently lies within the parish of Weston, so that the single community of Wychwood Park is represented by a single parish. This proposal also takes account of the wishes of the two affected parish councils.

Nine seats for the redrawn Chorlton parish area and eight seats for the redrawn Hough, as these figures are in line with the averages for councils of those respective sizes.

(No change was proposed to Hough's boundary with Shavington and Wybunbury. The Borough Council agrees that Newcastle Road forms a more natural boundary than Hough's current northwestern border, but the Parish Council proposal – as the Borough Council understands it - would mean residents on the east side of Stock Lane would be separated from their Wybunbury neighbours opposite and the properties transferred to Hough would be geographically distanced from the rest of Hough's residents. In any case, the Parish Council did not raise this proposal again at the consultation stage.)

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary

The Parish Council produced its own literature for local residents on the Draft Recommendations, which included a form that residents could use to submit their views on the proposals, with specific questions that related to the Recommendations, but which differed from the questions on the Borough Council's consultation survey. These responses were collated by the Parish Council and included along with the Council's own submissions. Eight residents provided responses via this form. Of these, six opposed the Draft Recommendations proposal to move the Hough/ Chorlton boundary to the railway line and two supported it; five opposed the extension of the Chorlton boundary to include the whole of Wychwood Park. All eight opposed the splitting of Hough and Chorlton into two separate parish councils. As for the Draft Recommendations seating proposals, two of those who completed the form agreed with that element of the proposals, three disagreed and three were undecided. However, only two of the responses made via this form included comments: one of these responses agreed with the Parish Council's proposal for a total of 11 seats and the other questioned the need to make governance changes when the current arrangement works well.

The responses submitted directly to the Borough Council - of which there were 26 - also indicated that a sizeable majority opposed the overall Draft Recommendations. Of these 26 submissions, 22 (16 from Hough and six from Chorlton) were made via the consultation survey and the other four (two from each parish) were in the form of emails or letters. Of the 16 survey submissions from Hough, eight disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only six agreed; of the six survey responses from Chorlton, three disagreed and only two agreed. In the 26 submissions received directly, the most common-cited reasons for disagreeing with the Draft Recommendations were: the current system working well 11 (11 mentions - four from Chorlton and seven from Hough); Hough and Chorlton having a common identity (seven mentions - two from Chorlton, five from Hough); and opposition to the seating proposal (also seven mentions - three from Chorlton and four from Hough, with the proposed numbers being regarded as too high).

Feedback on the current Parish Council's work was positive and four responses raised concern about a break-up of the two parishes leading to less efficient operation and higher taxes. Some of those citing a common identity between the two parishes made reference to the Wybunbury Combined Parishes 2020 Neighbourhood Plan and the shared challenge of HS2. One of those objecting to the proposed seat numbers - a former councillor - highlighted the difficulty of recruiting candidates for the Wychwood Park area; another agreed that Chorlton's quota of seats should be increased, even if this were at the expense of Hough.

Of the 11 submissions received from Weston & Basford residents (all of them from Weston), seven either agreed with the Draft Recommendations or backed Weston & Basford Parish Council’s and Crewe Green Parish Council’s proposed merger (which itself assumes that the Draft Recommendations transfer of Wychwood Park from Weston to Chorlton would proceed).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council agreed with the Draft Recommendations proposed new boundary between Hough and Chorlton. It also agreed (as its pre-consultation response indicated) with the inclusion of the whole of Wychwood Park within Chorlton. However, it opposed the separation of the two parishes into different councils, highlighting the fact that the two parishes face a common challenge in (and have been working collaboratively for many years on) HS2; it also stated that a break-up would reduce efficiency and raise costs/ taxes.

It proposed instead that the two parishes be merged into a single parish with warding, with the railway line forming the boundary between the two wards (which it proposes be called “Hough” and “Chorlton”). The Parish Council also considered the Draft Recommendations proposed seats totals as far too high, noting the difficulty in recent years in finding sufficient candidates for both parishes, which would leave some seats unfilled. However, it agreed that the two parishes' current shares of the seats total is unfair and does not reflect the relative size of their electorates. It therefore proposed a total of 11 seats: six for Chorlton and five for Hough. The Parish Council also requested that the new merged parish continue to be called Hough & Chorlton.

In their submissions, Weston & Basford Parish Council and Crewe Green Parish Council proposed a merger with each other and this merger assumes that the Draft Recommendations transfer of Weston’s part of Wychwood Park (from Weston to Chorlton) would proceed.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The Parish Council's submission is supported by the Member for the local borough ward (Wybunbury).

The MP for Crewe & Nantwich notes - referring specifically to Weston (and to Crewe Green) that it is unhelpful to have parish boundaries that cut through residential estates, so it is assumed that he is supportive of the proposed change that would bring Wychwood Park entirely within Chorlton.

The South Cheshire branch of the Labour Party also supports the boundary change to bring all of Wychwood Park within Chorlton.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from the Parish Council and its residents indicate that Hough and Chorlton share a common identity and face common challenges. The submitted views on the inclusion of the whole of Wychwood Park within Chorlton are mixed: most of the responses from residents did not offer a view on this specific element of the Draft Recommendations and a narrow majority of those who did were opposed (by five to three), but the opponents of this proposed boundary change did not offer reasons for their opinion and the Parish Council maintains its support for this change.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The submissions indicate that the current council works effectively and is well regarded by residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One submission from Chorlton proposed a standard ratio of 250 electors per seat, but this would mean only six seats for Hough & Chorlton (even with the Wychwood Park boundary change) - which is below the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum of seven for any council. Another Chorlton submission proposed making Wychwood Park and the rest of the current Weston Wychwood parish ward a parish in its own right. However, Basford & Weston Parish Council's own submission supported the Draft Recommendations proposed change to the Weston/ Chorlton boundary and neither it nor its residents suggested Wychwood should become a separate parish.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council and its residents argue persuasively that the two parishes share a common identity, with HS2 and the Wybunbury Combined Parishes Neighbourhood Plan being the focus of much of their collaborative working. The submissions also indicate an effective and well-regarded council.

In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council recommends that Hough & Chorlton should remain as a single parish council; it also recommends the Parish Council's proposal that Hough and Chorlton merge into a single parish, given their longstanding close relationship, but also agrees that separate warding would be appropriate, given the geographical distance between the village of Hough and the Wychwood Park area.

The Borough Council also recommends the Parish Council's proposal to retain the existing council name and to name the new wards "Hough" and "Chorlton". It also recommends the style "Parish", as the Parish Council requests this and as all the Hough &

Chorlton residents who offered a view on this either preferred “Parish” (one saying it was well understood), were content with “Parish” or “Community”, or had no preference.

The views of residents to the proposed boundary changes are mixed, but the Borough Council notes the Parish Council's support for the use of the railway line as the ward boundary and for bringing the Wychwood Park estate within a single parish. It should also be noted that the proposals in Weston & Basford Parish Council's submission are based on the assumption that Wychwood Park would transfer to Chorlton – and most of the responses from Weston residents support a proposal (whether their Parish Council’s proposal or the Draft Recommendations) that involves this transfer. On balance, therefore, the Borough Council considers – and so recommends - that these changes to the Hough/ Chorlton and Chorlton/ Weston boundaries should be made, thereby providing more natural boundaries and better reflecting local community identity.

The Parish Council and its residents also argue convincingly that, given the difficulties in recruiting people to stand for election, the total number of seats should be limited to 11. In any case, 10 or 11 seats is line with the average for a parish council of the resulting size (1,550 electors by 2025). The Borough Council further notes the support expressed in the submissions for dividing seats more fairly between Hough and Chorlton; it therefore recommends the Parish Council's proposal of six seats for Chorlton and five seats for Hough, which would exactly reflect their electorate shares and mean very similar ratios of electors per seat for each ward. The Borough Council's recommendations also take account of the local borough ward Member's endorsement of the Parish Council's proposals.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.17a & 2.17b in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from Weston & Basford Parish Council's Wychwood ward to Hough & Chorlton Parish Council's new "Chorlton" ward, of the shaded area (the Wychwood Park area of the current Wychwood ward) shown in Map 2.17a.
Parish Council name and style	Hough & Chorlton Parish Council (new council, but same name as current council)
Parish name(s)	Hough & Chorlton (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Two wards, with boundaries as shown in Map 2.17b: [1] "Chorlton", consisting of the part of the current parish of Chorlton that lies east of the railway line and the part of Wychwood Park that is currently in Weston & Basford Parish Council's Wychwood ward. [2] "Hough" ward, consisting of the current parish of Hough and the part of the current parish of Chorlton that lies west of the railway line.
Seats	11 (Chorlton 6, Hough 5)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,550 (Chorlton 836, Hough 714)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	141 overall (Chorlton 139, Hough 143)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Hough & Chorlton - warding" • "Weston – transfer to Chorlton"

2.52 Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Hulme Walfield; Somerford Booths.
Seats	5 (Hulme Walfield 2, Somerford Booths 3)
Nominations in 2019	6 (Hulme Walfield 3, Somerford Booths 3)
Electorate (2018)	298 (Hulme Walfield 163, Somerford Booths 135)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	804 (Hulme Walfield 612, Somerford Booths 192)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 27 (Congleton Business Park Extension) and LPS 28 (Giantswood Lane South, Congleton) are major new housing developments that are entirely within Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths, as is part of LPS 29 (Giantswood Lane to Manchester Road, Congleton), which is another major housing site. These sites are adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and are a consequence of the town's expansion.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey

Five responses from individual Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths residents (four with specific comments) and one from the Parish Council. The Parish Council requested no change and felt the urban-rural balance would be best managed if the new residential areas remained in its parish. However, one resident - in the only response requesting a change in governance - proposed moving the new residential development site areas into Congleton, to maintain the rural identity of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths. Two other residents felt that the parish was losing its identity as a result of the new development and consequent dramatic population increase. Another resident felt the Parish Council was effective and that the current arrangements worked well.

16 submissions from Congleton at this stage. Eight of these responses (including three from town councillors and one from the Town Council) wanted the external boundary extended to include areas of adjacent parishes that rely on Town Council services and that should, it was argued, contribute to Congleton's precept. The Town Council itself did not propose a specific new boundary, but some other submissions suggested extending it to the Link Road or to include the settlement area defined in the Cheshire East Local Plan.

Draft Recommendations

[1] Transfer to Congleton of the part of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths that lies south of Congleton Link Road. The reason for this is that this area covers the LPS 27 and LPS 28 sites and the part of LPS 29 that lies within Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths. As noted, above, these sites are adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and are a consequence of the town's expansion. The proposed transfer also includes existing commercial development on Congleton Business Park, which is also adjacent to Congleton.

[2] Transfer to Congleton of the part of Somerford that lies south of Congleton Link Road and also the part of that parish that is north of the Link Road but east of Chelford Road. This proposal is based on the fact that this area contains Local Plan Strategy site LPS 26 (Back Lane/ Radnor Park, Congleton), which is a major new housing development that is adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and is a consequence of the town's expansion.

[3] Merger of the residual part of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths (280 electors forecast by 2025) with the residual part of Somerford (107 electors), to form a new parish council, with seven seats (in line with the average for a council of the expected size) and no warding. The rationale for this is that, following the proposed transfers to Congleton, the residual part of Somerford would have too few electors to be a viable parish.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths itself. However, Somerford Parish Council's submission noted it had collected 424 signatures from residents for a petition against the Draft Recommendations, so this is a material consideration in evaluating the Draft Recommendations proposed merger of the residual part of Somerford and with residual part of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths. The wording of this petition is "I, the undersigned, oppose the proposal to abolish the Parish of Somerford and merge the bulk of the parish into Congleton Town. I consider that the parish is well represented by the current parish council which should be retained in its present format."

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
13 submissions (all via the consultation survey), of which eight disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only three agreed; the other two neither agreed nor disagreed. The most common reasons for disagreeing related either to local identity and interests (six mentions) or a view that current arrangements worked well (five). Two submissions raised concerns about the potential impact on rural areas and the natural environment; the residents making these comments strongly wished to retain a rural identity. No other broad issue was raised by more than one respondent.

One resident who opposed the Draft Recommendations made an alternative proposal, which was that "those properties that lie along the north side of Giantswood Lane, opposite Westlow Mere, and Westlow Mere and the small hamlet of properties that are adjacent to the Fisheries, are allowed to remain within the parish of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths", but that the new Alderley Gate and Redrow developments should transfer. As noted below, the Parish Council itself also favours retention of the Giantswood Lane/ Westlow Mere area, but wishes to retain the Alderley Gate and Redrow sites as well.

There were 48 responses from Somerford, of which 46 were via the consultation survey and two by email or letter. Of the 46 survey responses, 40 (87 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only five (11 per cent) agreed; the other one neither agreed nor disagreed. Although the reasons for disagreeing commonly involved matters of local identity and interests (22 mentions), even more (23) argued that current arrangements were working well, with the active nature and achievements of Somerford Parish Council being widely cited; four submissions raised concerns about a higher precept. No other broad issue was raised by more than two people.

There were 40 submissions from Congleton (39 via the consultation survey and one by letter/ email). Of the 39 survey responses, 19 (49 per cent) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and 15 (38 per cent) disagreed. Objections from those who

disagreed focused predominantly on the proposed outward expansion of the Town Council area; comments on the proposed internal changes (to Congleton's warding and seats) were, by contrast, largely supportive.

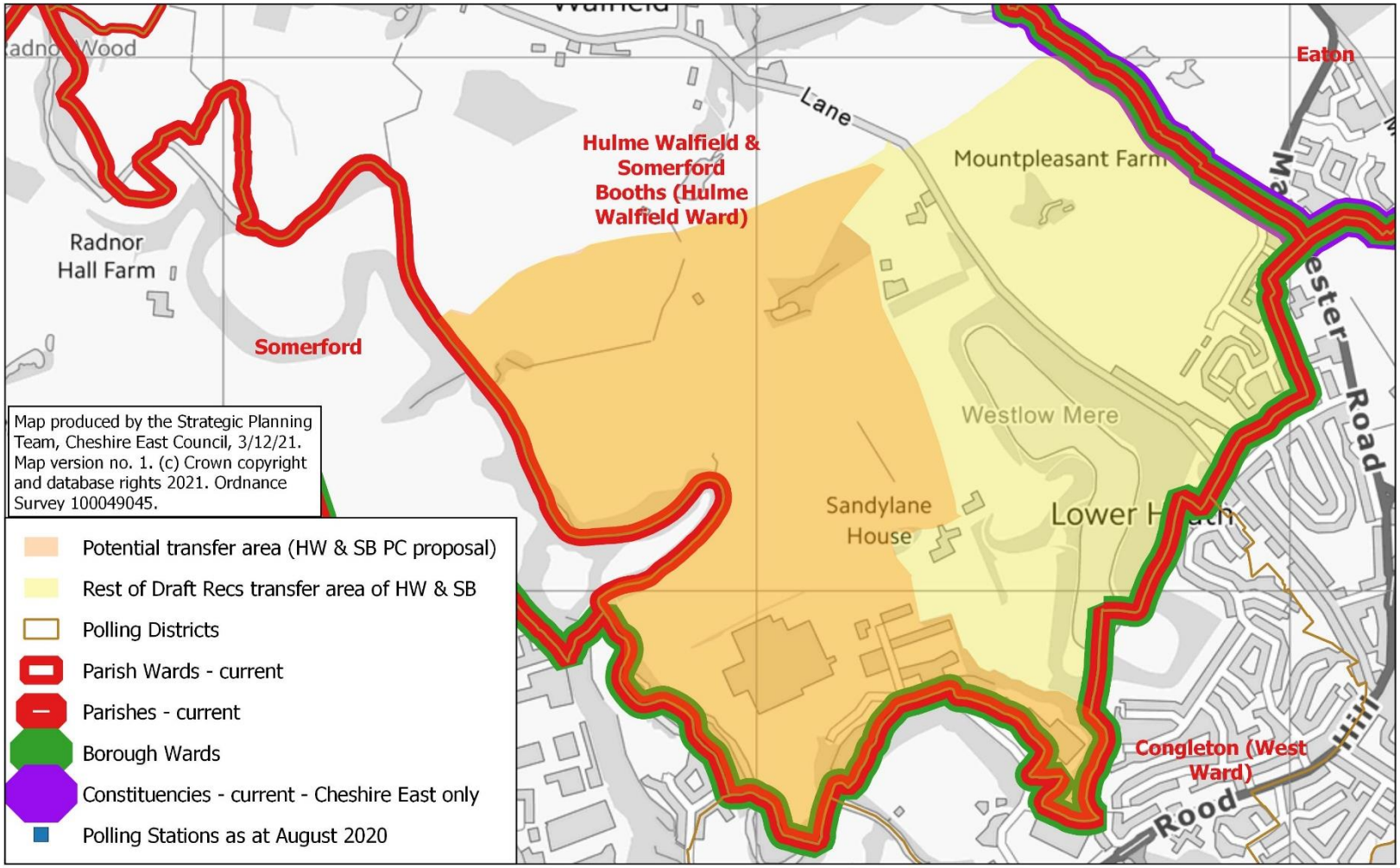
Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It felt that, under the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary changes, the rural identity and interests of many of the affected residents would not be understood and addressed by Congleton and noted that these residents would be represented by only a small proportion of the town councillors.

The Parish Council took the view that the transfer of its forthcoming new Alderley Gate and Redrow housing developments to Congleton was premature, given that they will not be complete for some years to come. It suggested that a transfer of these properties might be a matter for consideration at the next Community Governance Review. It also objected to the proposed merger of the residual part of its parish with the residual part of Somerford, observing that there was neither a shared identity nor any strong links with that parish. In particular, it pointed out that the entire boundary with Somerford is marked by a natural barrier - the River Dane - with Chelford Road being the sole crossing point.

The Parish Council also undertook its own consultation of residents, by delivering a Community Governance Review information document to 270 households and inviting feedback, and through a separate consultation with residents in the Giantswood Lane area. Although relatively few people responded, the vast majority opposed the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary changes, with concerns about loss of identity being common and some objections to higher precept charges. Feedback on the Somerford merger proposal was more mixed, but included concerns about the lack of links to that parish.

However, the Parish Council did make an alternative suggestion, which was that the western part of the Draft Recommendations proposed transfer area should move to Congleton, but that the rest of the parish boundary should remain as it is. The area it proposed for transfer – shown in Map HUL1 below - consists of the existing development on Congleton Business Park and parts of site LPS 27 (Congleton Business Park Extension), including some future housing development.

Map HUL1: Area (shaded in orange) proposed by Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council for transfer to Congleton Town Council



It therefore proposed to retain the corridor from Giantswood Lane to Sandylane Farm and Westlow Mere, including the Mount Pleasant Farm development, as this is a rural area; the parish's Neighbourhood Plan and Business Plans reflect this and this area's existing residents have a strong rural community identity. Its proposal also involves the retention of the Alderley Gate and Redrow developments in the southeast of the parish: it argues that these new homes are marketed as being rural and people will live there to be in the countryside.

A further reason the Parish Council gives for retaining these forthcoming new developments and the Mount Pleasant Farm one is to provide part of the precept income required to serve residents' rural needs effectively and deliver on its Plans, with public rights of way, recreation space and conservation being key priorities.

In its submission, Somerford Parish Council also opposed the Draft Recommendations. It drew attention to the rural identity of its residents, including those in the new residential developments adjacent to Congleton. It had undertaken a large-scale postal and online survey of residents and got 280 responses, of which 278 (99 per cent) opposed the boundary change and 264 opposed a merger of the residual area with Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths. Like Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council, it also highlighted how the physical barrier of the River Dane and the existence of a sole road crossing between the two parishes meant they lacked any close links or common interests.

Congleton Town Council's submission agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but recognised that rural areas had a different perspective and expressed a wish to understand the needs of any transferred parts of neighbouring parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies

A borough ward Member opposed the Draft Recommendations, arguing that the Parish Council is effective and understands local issues, whereas an enlarged body would not; the Member also stated that the transfer to Congleton would mean less support for neighbouring parishes and that town councillors would not understand the needs of the rural community. Another borough ward Member (whose input was classed as a "Congleton" submission) argued that the residents of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford had separate identities to Congleton and that their parish councils would protect public rights of way and footpaths effectively and thereby preserve the local quality of life, whereas the Town Council had other interests.

It should also be noted that the MP for Congleton voiced opposition to the abolition of Somerford - a position which is a relevant factor in determining the Final Recommendations, given that the Draft Recommendations proposals for Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford are interlinked.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
It is clear from the responses from the Parish Council and its residents that Hulme Walfield and its residents have a strong rural identity and that rural interests are a key priority, even in the southern part of the parish where LPS development is forthcoming. There are concerns that these interests would not be understood and represented effectively if the Draft Recommendations transfer went ahead. It is also clear, from the responses of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford Parish Councils, that those two parishes do not have common links; the barrier of the River Dane and the presence of a sole road crossing over the river go some way towards explaining that lack of connection.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The submissions from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council and its residents provide persuasive evidence of the rural identity of its existing residents. The Parish Council also makes the reasonable point that it requires an adequate precept income to maintain the rural character of the area and serve residents effectively.

Furthermore, it requests that the Borough Council wait until next Review, when the new Alderley Gate and Redrow developments are completed, before a decision is made on whether to transfer them to Congleton. The Borough Council agrees that it is right for those future occupiers to have a say in their governance.

In addition, in highlighting the River Dane's presence as a physical barrier between Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford and the existence of a sole crossing over the river, Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford Parish Councils demonstrate very convincingly how there is a lack of links and shared interests between the two parishes - and little reason to expect that a merger would change this. In addition, the submissions from residents of each parish show that a majority oppose the Draft Recommendations, with little support for either a boundary change with Congleton or a merger of the residual parts of their parishes; Somerford Parish Council's own survey received 280 responses and found 94 per cent opposed the merger and 99 per cent opposed the boundary change.

It is also apparent that the residents of the two parishes feel current governance works well and no concerns are raised about viability; a local borough ward Member endorses the actions and priorities of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council and there are many positive comments about the activities and achievements of Somerford Parish Council.

Whilst Congleton Town Council and most of its residents support the Draft Recommendations, it should also be noted that most of the opposition from its residents relates to the proposed absorption of parts of rural neighbours, rather than to the proposals for Congleton's internal warding.

In the light of all this evidence, the Borough Council considers that there should be no transfers from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths or from Somerford to Congleton, that both parish councils should remain independent and that Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths' boundary should remain unchanged.

Whilst the Borough Council understands Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council's alternative proposal that the western part of the LPS 27 site transfer to Congleton, it considers that this would not be electorally convenient, given that the area covered by this alternative proposal has no residential properties at present and none expected even by 2025. As Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths is in a different borough ward to the adjacent part of Congleton, this transferred area would require separate polling facilities, but this cannot be justified if there are no electors or no significant numbers of electors expected by the time of the 2023 ordinary elections.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends no changes to Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths' external boundary.

The Borough Council also recommends that the existing warding be retained, as no submissions proposed any change to this; this also means that Somerford Booths, which will remain a very rural area with no major housing development, can be separately represented.

As for seating, the current total of five seats is not only very low relative to the Parish Council's size (with 804 electors expected by 2025), but is below the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum of seven. With the ongoing COVID pandemic adding to the demands placed on council services and councillor time, and the challenges presented to the Parish Council by the housing and employment land development on sites LPS 27, LPS 28 and LPS 29, together with the impact of the Link Road, the Borough Council considers that even seven seats is likely to be inadequate. Eight or nine seats would be in line with

the average for a council of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths' size (as of 2025) and - given the development challenges cited earlier and the additional housing growth that is likely beyond 2025 - the Borough Council recommends nine. Based on their electorate shares, a fair allocation of nine seats between the two wards would be two seats for Somerford Booths and seven for Hume Walfield, but this could leave Somerford Booths with limited influence; it would also probably mean (given that Somerford Booths currently has three seats and Hulme Walfield only two) a greater turnover of councillors and less continuity; having to recruit an extra five councillors for Hulmes Walfield might also prove difficult. In addition, Somerford Booths has a more dispersed population, which is likely to add to councillors' workload. Therefore the Borough Council recommends three seats for Somerford and six for Hulme Walfield, so that the workload arising from the (even more) rural nature of Somerford Booths is factored in and to maintain some stability.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Hulme Walfield; Somerford Booths)
Seats	9 (an increase from the current 5) Allocation of seats between wards: Hulme Walfield 6 (an increase from the current 2); Somerford Booths 3 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	804 (Hulme Walfield 612, Somerford Booths 192)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	89 overall (Hulme Walfield 102, Somerford Booths 64)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.53 Kettleshulme

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Kettleshulme
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Kettleshulme
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	7
Electorate (2018)	275
Electorate (2025 forecast)	271

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Kettleshulme with the parish of Lyme Handley, as Lyme Handley does not have a functioning parish council at this time: there were no nominations for its council of five seats in 2019; it has not raised a precept to support local services; and it only had 119 electors in 2018 (forecast to decrease to 117 by 2025). The Borough Council considers that this merger would enable viable parish governance for Lyme Handley and both the affected parishes are small rural parishes that vote at the same location.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Two submissions received from Kettleshulme: one from the Parish Council (see below for its comments) and one from a local resident (who made no specific comments). Both of these supported the Draft Recommendations. No submissions from Lyme Handley.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and added the comment that "Kettleshulme Parish Council have discussed the plans for governance review in Cheshire East. The council fully support the proposal for an amalgamation of Kettleshulme PC with Lyme Handley." The Council's submission further proposed that the new parish be called "Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley" and should have the style "Parish", as this designation works well.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from Kettleshulme supporting the Draft Recommendations indicate that a merged parish comprising Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley would reflect local community identity.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Given the support received for its proposal in the submissions from the Parish Council and the local resident who responded, along with the other reasons given above, the Borough Council recommends that Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley be merged into a single parish with seven seats (in line with the average for a council of this size) and no warding, as per the Draft Recommendations. It also recommends the name and style "Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley Parish Council", given Kettleshulme Parish Council proposed this and no alternatives were suggested.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.18
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of the current parish councils of Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley into a single parish, with external boundary as shown in Map 2.18.
Parish Council name and style	Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley Parish Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7
Electorate (2025 forecast)	388
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	55
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.54 Knutsford

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Knutsford
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Knutsford
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Bexton; Nether; Norbury; Over
Seats	15 (Bexton 3, Nether 3, Norbury 3, Over 6)
Nominations in 2019	14 (Bexton 3, Nether 3, Norbury 3, Over 5)
Electorate (2018)	10,537 (Bexton 2,128, Nether 2,145, Norbury 2,128, Over 4,136)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast: 10,815 (Bexton 2,117, Nether 2,146, Norbury 2,132, Over 4,420). Revised forecast: 10,933 (Bexton 2,117, Nether 2,264, Norbury 2,132, Over 4,420). Note: the revised forecast was produced because the original calculation incorrectly excluded the part of the Local Plan site LPS 36A housing development that is currently within Knutsford.

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
175 homes by 2025 at Local Plan Strategy site LPS 36A (Land North of Northwich Road, Knutsford). Some 60 per cent of the site area lies in the parish of Tabley; the rest is within the current parish of Knutsford. Tabley Parish Council has previously recognised this as a Knutsford development and gave consent for it to be in the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan. (There are other major Local Plan housing sites in Knutsford, but these fall entirely within the current Town Council boundary.)

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Five individual Knutsford residents responded. Three of these mentioned the unwieldy size of the Over ward, noting that this hampered communication and that some its councillors could hide behind the work of others; two of these residents requested that the ward be split into two.

Two responses proposed that the new housing development south of Longridge (Local Plan Strategy site LPS 38) should become part of the Over ward, as it was cut off from the other residential areas of the Norbury ward (in which part of it currently lies).

Other proposals from the individual Knutsford residents (each made by one individual) were: to adjust the boundary with Tabley to bring the whole LPS 36A site within Knutsford; making Tatton part of the Town Council, to give the town a say in managing its estate; cutting seats to 12, as 15 was considered inefficient; and abolishing the Town Council (lack of accountability and poor use of public funds were cited as reasons for this).

Knutsford Town Council's submission requested that its boundary with Tabley be redrawn, so that the whole of the site LPS 36A housing development falls within Knutsford. The Town Council argued that residents of the new development will depend on the town for services and community activities and that the existing boundary would generate confusion and prevent community cohesion. Its submission included a proposed new parish boundary (based on field boundaries enclosing the LPS site).

The Town Council also requested that its boundary with Mobberley be redrawn slightly, to include the whole of the Longridge Trading Estate, as currently a small part of the Estate (part of a single building) is within Mobberley.

It further proposed that Tatton Parish Meeting be merged with Knutsford.

In addition, it proposed that the current four parish wards be replaced by five new wards, given that the current Over ward has twice as many seats and about twice as many electors as the other wards. The Town Council considers that this is confusing for electors

and makes it harder for councillors to coordinate their efforts. It considered that its proposed new ward boundaries (for which it submitted detailed maps showing the proposed new boundary lines) would address this and would better reflect local communities' sense of identity and the location of expected future LPS development. It proposed that the current total of 15 seats be retained, but with three seats for each of the new wards, for which it suggested specific names. Its proposed warding places the LPS 38 housing site entirely within one of the two wards being created from the split of Over (addressing an issue raised by some individuals, as noted above).

No responses at this stage from Mobberley Parish Council, Tabley Parish Council or their residents.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer to Knutsford of the part of Tabley bounded by the M6 to the west, Tabley Hill Lane to the north and Northwich Road to the south. No change to seat numbers or other governance arrangements. The purpose of this transfer is to bring the LPS 36A development entirely within Knutsford - for the reasons set out in the Town Council's submission - and to ensure a clear, natural boundary that relies on roads, rather than the Town Council's proposed use of field boundaries.

[2] Transfer the Mobberley part of the Longridge Trading Estate to Knutsford, given that the Town Council proposed this and that it avoids the confusion and potential extra liaison work resulting from the Estate being split between two councils. No residential properties (and hence no electors) would be affected by this change. However, this transfer to be delayed until the next borough ward review is due, as Mobberley is in a different borough ward to Knutsford and therefore electoral risk arises in the event of a commercial referendum.

[3] New wards, boundaries and seating as proposed by the Town Council in its pre-consultation submission (15 seats, with three seats each for the new wards). New wards to be called “Bexton & Town Centre”, “Cross Town”, “Nether”, “Norbury Booths” and “St John's Wood”.

[4] Tatton to be merged with Rostherne Parish Council (as both are rural areas with small populations), rather than with Knutsford.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were six responses from Knutsford: one (an email) from the Town Council (summarised below) and five (all via the consultation survey) from individual residents.

Of the latter five, three agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and two disagreed. None mentioned the Mobberley boundary, but three of the responses from individual people made comments on the proposed change to the boundary with Tabley.

One submission, whilst agreeing overall, felt that the transfer from Tabley to Knutsford should also include the land to the south of Northwich Road, so that the M6 would be used to mark the boundary from Tabley Hill Lane southwards; the reasoning was that this would ensure a more permanent boundary - but this would mean transferring a much greater area of Tabley than the Draft Recommendations propose.

One of those who disagreed objected in general to boundary changes (seeing such proposals as a low priority and an unsuitable use of public money).

The other person who disagreed raised two objections. One of these related to the boundary proposal, but this submission argued that the M6 (given its strength as a clear natural boundary) should be used to mark the entire length of Knutsford's boundary with Tabley - which again would mean transferring a much greater area of Tabley than the Draft Recommendations propose. The same submission also objected to the continued practice of having multiple seats for each ward - an objection also raised in relation to other (mainly large) town and parish councils; the wording used in these submissions suggests they were made by the same individual, rather than different people independently making the same argument.

Two responses voiced support for the new warding arrangements specifically; other than the person objecting to multi-member seats, there were no other comments on that issue.

No responses from individual residents from Tabley, but the Parish Council's response is summarised below.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Town Council agreed with the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary with Tabley and accepted the rationale for this involving a larger area than either the LPS 36A housing site or the new boundary that the Town Council had proposed at the pre-consultation stage. It was also content with the proposal for Tatton to be merged with Rostherne and felt this would mean effective

representation for Tatton. It also welcomed the proposed changes to internal ward boundaries and seat numbers (which were taken, without any modification, from the Town Council's pre-consultation proposals). However, it questioned the need to defer the change to the Mobberley boundary until the next borough ward review, given that there are many other instances where a Draft Recommendations boundary change involves electoral risk (with a transfer of land between parishes that are in different borough wards) but where no deferral is proposed.

Tabley Parish Council (responding via the consultation survey) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It objected to the Draft Recommendations proposed change to its boundary, stating that it did not understand why a transfer of such size was proposed - but it opposed any boundary change. It objected to the encroachment of Knutsford into its rural area and felt it was best placed to meet the needs of people in the potentially affected area. It also wished to retain the precept and Section 106 funds from this part of the existing parish.

Mobberley Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It objected to the change to its boundary, arguing that it would lose out on its land allocation if the affected land is designated for development.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One individual from Knutsford suggested that The Heath and Little Heath (park areas with no electors) should be in the new Nether ward (rather than Bexton & Town Centre), citing a historical connection to Nether.

One individual response on Plumley with Toft & Bexton suggested that the Bexton part of that parish's Toft & Bexton ward could be merged with Knutsford. However, no other submissions proposed this change and it appears to be based on a misunderstanding of the Draft Recommendations proposals for Plumley with Toft & Bexton.

Post-consultation assessment

Whilst Tabley Parish Council's objection to the proposed boundary change is a concern and carries significant weight in the Borough Council's decision-making, the Parish Council's submission is the only one opposing this specific boundary change. Knutsford Town Council originally proposed (and still supports) this change and no Tabley residents responded to the consultation.

It should be noted that there are only two established properties (farms) in the transfer area. The Borough Council would have welcomed information on the preferences and local identities of the residents of these properties; had evidence been available to show that they strongly identified with Tabley, that would have strengthened the case for keeping their properties within Tabley. Unfortunately, none of the consultation submissions provide information on the views of these households or indeed other Tabley residents.

Furthermore, the Borough Council is also conscious that the Draft Recommendations proposed transfer area is on the opposite side of the M6 to most of the rest of Tabley and - given this physical barrier - it is not clear that its current or future residents would have strong connections to or necessarily identify with the rest of the parish. The Borough Council also agrees with Knutsford Town Council that the existing boundary, splitting LPS 36A as it does, would prevent residents on that new development from being a cohesive community.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends that the change to the boundary with Tabley should proceed, with the new boundary as defined in the Draft Recommendations.

On the Longridge boundary issue, the Borough Council understands Mobberley Parish Council's wish to avoid a potentially smaller land allocation. However, the area proposed for transfer is already developed for commercial purposes - it consists only of part of a commercial building - and the prospect of redevelopment (for a non-commercial purpose) is remote and, in terms of land area, the size of the transfer is very small. Therefore the risk to Mobberley from the transfer is extremely low and would involve a low impact even if it did occur. Therefore the Borough Council still recommends that the transfer proceed.

The Draft Recommendation was that this transfer from Mobberley to Knutsford be delayed until the next borough ward review is due, as Mobberley is in a different borough ward to Knutsford and therefore electoral risk arises in the event of a commercial referendum. However, Knutsford Town Council is right to note that many other boundary changes involving electoral risk are treated differently in the Draft Recommendations and not being deferred until the next borough ward review. Furthermore, the Borough Council has reconsidered the timing of this boundary change and has concluded that it would in fact be practical to

implement it now. The Borough Council's Final Recommendation, therefore, is that this boundary change be implemented now, rather than be deferred.

On the matter of seats and warding, the Town Council and most of those residents who commented are in favour of the Draft Recommendations proposals. The sole objection proposed an alternative - smaller wards, to avoid multi-member seats - which is not practical: for example, it would entail a large number of additional ward boundaries that would be complicated to create and administer and would mean the reliance, across the Borough, of large numbers of urban electors on a single councillor (and hence no representation if, for example, that councillor falls sick or resigns).

As noted above, one resident suggested a modification so that The Heath and Little Heath (park areas with no electors) would lie within the new Nether ward rather than Bexton Town & Centre. However, no other submissions raised this issue and it is counter to the Town Council's preferred boundary line. The Borough Council therefore recommends that the Draft Recommendations' warding and seating proposals proceed without any modification.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.19a, 2.19b & 2.19c in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Mobberley to Knutsford Town Council's new "St John's Wood" ward, of the shaded area (the Mobberley part of the Longridge Trading Estate) shown in Map 2.19a. Transfer, from the parish of Tabley to Knutsford Town Council's new "Nether" ward, of the shaded area (the area of Tabley bounded by the M6 to the west, Tabley Hill Lane to the north and Northwich Road to the south) shown in Map 2.19b.
Parish Council name and style	Knutsford Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Knutsford (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	New ward boundaries, with the existing four wards being divided into five new ones. Map 2.19c shows the boundaries of the new wards (with the existing boundaries overlaid, for comparison). New wards to be named as follows: "Bexton & Town Centre"; "Cross Town"; "Nether"; "Norbury Booths"; "St John's Wood".
Seats	15 (Bexton & Town Centre 3, Cross Town 3, Nether 3, Norbury Booths 3, St John's Wood 3)

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Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 2 of 2

Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast (as shown in the Draft Recommendations report): 10,994 (Bexton & Town Centre 2,501, Cross Town 2,414, Nether 1,937, Norbury Booths 2,042, St John's Wood 2,100). Revised forecast: 11,112 (Bexton & Town Centre 2,528, Cross Town 2,440, Nether 1,958, Norbury Booths 2,064, St John's Wood 2,122). Note: The revised forecast was produced because the original calculation incorrectly excluded the part of the Local Plan Strategy site LPS 36A housing development that is currently within Knutsford. (The forecasting methodology takes each new ward's share of the town's total housing stock and apportions electors between them according to those shares – hence the revised figures producing a slight uplift in elector numbers for all five wards.)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	741 overall (Bexton & Town Centre 843, Cross Town 813, Nether 653, Norbury Booths 688, St John's Wood 707). Note: These ratios are based on the revised electorate forecasts and so will differ slightly from the ratios shown in the Draft Recommendations Report.
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Knutsford - warding" • "Tabley – transfer to Knutsford"

2.55 Little Bollington

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Little Bollington
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Meeting
Current Parish name(s)	N/A
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Nominations in 2019	N/A
Electorate (2018)	144
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast: 142 Revised forecast: 172 Note: revised forecast takes account of Stamford Arms housing development.

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None. (Little Bollington Parish Meeting's consultation response notes that the Stamford Arms housing development is currently in progress and is expected to increase the adult population by around 30, but this development does not extend into neighbouring parishes.)

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Millington with the Parish Meetings of Agden and Little Bollington, to form a new parish council with no warding and eight seats. The rationale for this is that all three bodies are relatively small, with Millington's shortage of nominations raising questions about its viability as an independent parish council.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
One Little Bollington individual resident agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but provided no specific comments and no other individual residents from Millington, Agden or Little Bollington made submissions.

Little Bollington Parish Meeting responded, as did Agden Parish Meeting and Millington Parish Council (see below for a summary of their submissions).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Little Bollington Parish Meeting opposed the Draft Recommendations proposal. It stated that Little Bollington functioned well and engaged effectively with residents at present, with up to 20 per cent of residents attending meetings. It drew attention to the Stamford Arms development that is currently underway - a development not anticipated and hence not factored into the Borough Council's electorate forecasts - and to the fact this is expected to increase the adult population by around 30, greatly increasing the electorate and further improving the Parish Meeting's viability.

It noted that Little Bollington was a distinct community that shared no amenities or communal activities with Agden or Millington, and that the three parishes had some separate interests.

To highlight its distinct identity, it refuted the Draft Recommendations report description of the residential properties in Agden, Millington and Little Bollington as "scattered dwellings in open countryside": it pointed out that, in fact, over half of its dwellings are in close proximity: either on Park Lane or the adjacent estate, with the new development due to increase that proportion. This concentration of properties accounts in part for the sense of local identity.

Little Bollington Parish Meeting was concerned that a merger of all three bodies would cover too wide-ranging an area and that the parish would lack an effective voice on the new council, with residents feeling remote and inadequately represented and people less inclined to serve on the new body. It noted that in recent years the Parish Meeting has made extensive and successful efforts to build community links between its residents, through social media and social activities, including an annual Little Bollington Festival; the COVID pandemic had put much of that on hold and the Parish Meeting was keen that any Community Governance Review changes should not reverse that progress through a merger with very different neighbours.

However, whilst Millington was relatively distant, with the M56 acting as a barrier to links with most of that parish, Little Bollington felt that a merger with Agden was viable. It also reported that residents in the part of Millington north of the M56 felt more connected to Little Bollington and some attended its communal events and Parish Meetings.

It therefore recommended a merger that excluded the part of Millington south of the M56, but which included Agden, Little Bollington and the rest of Millington. It felt this would ensure viability and an adequate pool of residents from which to recruit candidates. It also pressed for the new council to be warded, so that Little Bollington's distinct identity would be properly reflected and represented.

Agden Parish Meeting supported the Draft Recommendations proposal, noting that the merged body would provide residents with a stronger, more effective voice to help mitigate the effects of HS2 and the Northern Powerhouse rail project on the local environment, but setting out some conditions and issues that the merger would need to address, namely: continued contributions to the local church that is a focal point for its communal activities; a need to avoid subsidising (through the precept) projects and assets that did not benefit Agden; and the need to plan for the recruitment of a clerk and councillors.

Millington Parish Council's submission opposed the Draft Recommendations, feeling that it had a much more rural identity and consequently different needs to Agden and Little Bollington; it also considered that integration with Parish Meetings, with their different ways of working, could prove challenging. However, Millington felt it had much in common with Rostherne and Tatton and therefore proposed that it be included in their merger. (The Draft Recommendations proposed that Rostherne and Tatton be merged – and Rostherne Parish Council's submission agreed to this proposal, though Tatton Parish Meeting did not respond to the consultation.)

The arguments put forward by Millington in support of this were: Rostherne and Millington are both very small parish councils, so neither would lose its individual voice to a much larger partner; the two parish council areas and Tatton are rural, farming communities, so have a shared identity; the impact of HS2 is a common challenge that a merged, larger parish council could respond to more effectively; Rostherne and Millington have a history of supporting each other on other issues, such as road (A556) and housing developments; the two councils share a clerk and use the same premises for their meetings; there are social links between the two councils; its proposed merger of Millington, Rostherne and Tatton, in tandem with a merger of Agden and Little Bollington, would create two parish councils of very similar size (about 300 electors).

Millington Parish Council's submission also notes that it had approached Rostherne with its alternative proposal; Rostherne did not support the proposal at that time, but Millington had since written to Rostherne, setting out the rationale summarised above.

Should its proposal not find favour, Millington Parish Council's preference is to remain as an independent parish council.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Little Bollington Parish Meeting's submission provides extensive evidence of its distinct identity and community spirit, with a number of social activities and annual events, a majority of residential properties concentrated in a small area and a lack of shared amenities and facilities with neighbours. However, it also sees scope for working more closely with Agden and notes that residents in the northern part of Millington feel connected to Little Bollington and take part in its activities and meetings.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
Agden Parish Meeting's submission indicates a desire for increased viability and more effective voice by merging with neighbours.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Agden Parish Meeting's submission proposed that there should be further consultation on wider merger that also included High Legh, Mere, or both these parish councils, but did not elaborate on the rationale for this.

Post-consultation assessment
Agden and Little Bollington are content to merge with each other and provide convincing reasons for doing so, with increased viability and greater influence over shared challenges being the main justification. Whilst Agden further proposes that Millington and either Mere, High Legh or both could also be included in this merger (and the sole response from an Agden or Little Bollington resident favours the inclusion of Millington), Mere Parish Council did not respond to the consultation, High Legh Parish Council supported the Draft Recommendation that it remain independent and Little Bollington Parish Meeting and Millington Parish Council did not wish to merge with each other.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends the creation of a new council comprising only of the Agden and Little Bollington Parish Meetings and (given Little Bollington's persuasive evidence on community links) the part of Millington north of the M56.

It recommends this council be named "Little Bollington with Agden" (Little Bollington Parish Meeting's proposal), as this acknowledges the history of its main areas as individual parish meetings. This merger decision is also influenced by Millington Parish Council's own submission, which objects to being merged with Agden and Little Bollington - seeing itself as more rural - and instead makes a persuasive case for its own inclusion in the Draft Recommendations proposed merger of Rostherne and Tatton, citing a number of common interests, shared resources and the advantage of strength in numbers. The unexpected sharp declines in the electorates of Rostherne and Tatton also add weight to the case for including Millington in that merger: whilst the electorate forecasts produced for Community Governance Review purposes anticipated a combined electorate for Rostherne and Tatton of 147 by 2025 (no change from 2018), the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put their total electorate at only 117.

As for the legal status of the new Little Bollington with Agden council, Little Bollington Parish Meeting suggests the new body could be either a Parish Meeting or a Parish Council. However, the Borough Council has a presumption in favour of creating parish councils in cases (like this one) where the total electorate would exceed 150 (the legal minimum for a new parish council). It also considers that the geographical extent and size of the new area's electorate (at around 300) would make parish meetings much more difficult to manage and that a council structure would be more appropriate. It therefore recommends that the new body should be a council.

For the style, it recommends "Community", as Little Bollington Parish Meeting argues that this has suitably modern, collaborative connotations.

On the matter of seating and warding, Little Bollington's submission provides persuasive evidence of its distinct identity - with its concentration of properties around Park Lane and local social activities - and specifically requests that the new body be warded so that its own interests are effectively represented. The Borough Council therefore recommends warding, with Little Bollington Parish Meeting and the transferred part of Millington forming a "Little Bollington" ward and Agden Parish Meeting becoming an "Agden" ward.

Taking account of the new Stamford Arms development, the electorate of the current Little Bollington Parish Meeting area is now expected to be 172 (30 more electors than originally forecast) by 2025; the 2025 forecast for Agden is 146 electors. The transferred part of Millington has an estimated seven residential properties and it is estimated (based on the average number of electors per property across the local borough ward of High Legh) that these house 13 electors (with no more development expected in that area of Millington by 2025). Therefore the new council is expected to have a total of 331 electors by 2025, with the Agden ward containing an estimated 146 electors and the Little Bollington ward 185. The Borough Council recommends a total of seven seats, given that this is in line with the average for a council of this size. Based on their respective shares of the total electorate, the fairest allocation would be three seats for Agden and four for Little Bollington, so this is what the Borough Council recommends.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.3 & 2.20 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Millington to the parish of Little Bollington, of the shaded area (the area of Millington north of the M56) shown in Map 2.20. Merger of Agden Parish Meeting and Little Bollington Parish Meeting – including the transferred part of Millington north of the M56 - to form a new parish council.
Parish Council name and style	Little Bollington with Agden Community Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Little Bollington with Agden (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Two wards, with boundaries as shown in Map 2.3: [1] "Agden", consisting of the current Agden Parish Meeting area; [2] Little Bollington, consisting of the current Little Bollington Parish Meeting and the part of the current Millington Parish Council area that lies north of the M56.
Seats	7 (Agden 3, Little Bollington 4)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	331 (Agden 146, Little Bollington 185). These figures are based on a revised forecast that takes account of the Stamford Arms development.
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	47 overall (Agden 49, Little Bollington 46). These figures are based on a revised forecast that takes account of the Stamford Arms development.
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Little Bollington with Agden – warding" • "Millington – transfer to Little Bollington"

2.56 Little Warford

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Little Warford
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Little Warford
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	4
Electorate (2018)	65
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast: 67. Revised forecast: 88. Note: Revised forecast based on consultation stage submission evidence from Little Warford Parish Council about new housing development. This revised forecast takes the original forecast and adds on the mid-point (21) of the Parish Council's estimate of the number of voting-age residents who will live in the new homes currently being developed (18 to 24).

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Great Warford with Little Warford. Eight seats for the new merged parish. The reason for the merger is evidence that put Little Warford's viability in question: less than 70 electors; no precept income, suggesting a relative lack of activity; and only four nominations in 2019. Both parishes are in the same borough ward and vote at the same location, so the merger would not create electoral risk or require additional polling facilities.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
From Little Warford, there were two submissions, one from the Parish Council (summarised below) and one from an individual resident. Both disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The individual Little Warford resident noted that the zero percept gave a false picture of local activity, with much of the Parish Council's work involving no costs (e.g. planning application inspections, or lobbying the Borough Council) and explained that it also had an unpaid clerk and had received funds via the RBS Banking Switch initiative. This resident objected to the potential increase in precept from a merger, considering people's financial difficulties in the current economic climate.

Four submissions from Great Warford (all via the consultation survey), of which one (summarised below) was from the Parish Council. Of the other three, two expressed overall agreement with the Draft Recommendations and the other one disagreed. However, of the two who said they agreed overall, one added comments under another question, stating it was important that Great Warford and Little Warford did not merge. This person felt that getting new occupants into Little Warford's existing unoccupied properties, or a new residential development, would suffice to increase its electorate to a viable level. This submission also referred to the Warford Park development as an (unwelcome) indication of what of merger could bring, but did not clarify the specific

relevance of the Warford Park case. One of those who disagreed stated that the residents of both parishes were very different and had little in common, adding that the current governance arrangements work well.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Little Waford Parish Council itself responded by letter, objecting to the merger proposal, requesting that it remain independent and citing a range of evidence to show it is viable.

It noted that, whilst much of its housing for people with epilepsy had been vacated following the implementation of the UK Government's "care in the community" initiative and medical advances in treatment of epileptics, new housing development was occurring on some of the vacated land, with the construction underway so far expected to house an extra 18 to 24 electors, and maybe more redevelopment to come.

Little Warford Parish Council also explained that it is able to remain relatively active, despite its zero precept, as a substantial reserve had been built up to fund a defibrillator, but that this unit was considered surplus to local requirements, leaving the funding available to support room hire and other administrative costs. The Parish Council gave specific examples of its work, including regular meetings, inspection of all planning applications, speeding checks and successful lobbying for improvements to the conditions of its road network.

Great Warford Parish Council (responding via the consultation survey) neither agreed nor disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendation. It added that it was content for the merger to go ahead, but stressed that Little Warford's views must be respected.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted, one Great Warford resident's submission stated that the two parishes' communities are very different.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
Significant amount of evidence provided by Little Warford Parish Council (and one of its residents) that it is able to remain active without charging a precept, and that new housing development will increase its electorate more than the Borough Council anticipated.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Of the 75 submissions on Chorley (near Wilmslow), three suggested that Chorley could be merged with Great Warford. A further five suggested it could be merged with both Great and Little Warford or with "Warford"; some of those five also proposed having other neighbouring rural parishes included in such a merger, either in addition to or instead of Great and Little Warford. However, all eight of the proposals for some form of Chorley/ Great Warford merger were from people who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations for Chorley (a merger with Wilmslow and Handforth) and it may be that some of these suggestions were put forward as the best outcome if a merger had to take place, rather than their preferred overall outcome (which might be no merger at all). In any case, the prospect of a merger with Chorley was not even mentioned in the submissions from Great Warford and Little Warford.

Post-consultation assessment
Little Warford Parish Council's submission argues persuasively that it is viable as a council, with the provision of valuable services such as planning inspections and lobbying (successfully) for road improvements, despite not charging a precept; as it notes, its pool of reserves is covering administrative costs. The sole Little Warford resident who responded to the consultation values this approach and opposes the merger proposal.

Furthermore, two of the three responses from Great Warford residents made comments opposing the merger, with one feeling that the two parishes' residents have little in common.

Great Warford Parish Council holds no strong views on the merger option, other than calling for Little Warford Parish Council's views to be respected.

The Borough Council is unsure as to how long the existing reserves will support Little Warford's work, but it can of course begin to charge a precept if need be. The Borough Council also notes that, while the new housing development now underway is not one factored into its original Community Governance forecast (67 electors by 2025), this would still leave the Parish Council with no

more than 91 electors (assuming 24 new residents who are all electors). That would make Little Warford by far the smallest parish in Cheshire East, but the potential for further housing and population growth is also noted.

Although a few submissions on Chorley (eight out of 75) proposed a merger with Great Warford, or with both Great Warford and Little Warford, this idea received no support (and in fact no mention) in the responses from Great and Little Warford, so lacks the support to justify further consideration.

In light of the submission evidence that the Parish Council is very active despite its limited resources, that its electorate is growing again and that support for a merger with Great Warford is minimal compared to the local opposition, the Borough Council recommends that the two parishes remain independent.

Given its small electorate, Little Warford's status could be changed to that of a parish meeting. However, the Borough Council did not present this option for public consultation in its Draft Recommendations and the consultation responses in fact indicate that current governance arrangements work well. Therefore the Borough Council considers that a change of status, from parish council to parish meeting, could not be justified. It therefore recommends that Little Warford remain as a parish council.

On the matter of seats for Little Warford, the lack of nominations in 2019 (four) suggests the existing eight seats may be hard to fill and (both under the existing governance arrangements and the Borough Council's Final Recommendations) eight seats is very unusual for a council with fewer than 400 electors. However, the COVID pandemic adds to the demands placed on council resources and councillor time and the loss of even one councillor could compromise the Parish Council's capacity to maintain its range of no-cost activities. Furthermore, the responses from the Parish Council and a local resident (and lack of concerns raised by other residents) also suggests the current work arrangement works well. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change in seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Little Warford Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Little Warford (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	88 This is a revised forecast that takes account of the consultation stage submission evidence from Little Warford Parish Council about new housing development.
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	11 (based on the revised forecast that takes account of the new housing development currently underway)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.57 Lower Peover

Special circumstances to consider: This Parish Council is the only one that is split between Cheshire East and another local authority. It is a group of two parishes: Peover Inferior (in Cheshire East); and Nether Peover (inCheshire West & Chester). It should be noted that the Community Governance Review does not allow Cheshire East to make governance changes to parishes in another local authority, so any changes to this Parish Council would be limited to the parish of Peover Inferior.

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Lower Peover
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Nether Peover; Peover Inferior.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7 (Nether Peover 4, Peover Inferior 3)
Nominations in 2019	3 for Peover Inferior. Figure for Nether Peover not known.
Electorate (2018)	93 electors in Peover Inferior as of 2018. 2018 figure for Nether Peover not available. However, Electoral Register data are available for both parishes for 2020: this puts the number of electors at 92 for Peover Inferior (as of 17th January 2020) and 342 for Nether Peover (as of 1st April 2020).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	508 (Nether Peover 414, Peover Inferior 94)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
No change in governance.

The current allocation of seats between the two parishes results in a large disparity in the number of electors per seat, with this ratio being far higher for Nether Peover than for Peover Inferior. Given the new housing development taking place in Nether Peover during the early 2020s (which is covered in more detail in subsection 3.5 of this Assessment Report and factored into the 2025 forecast figures quoted above), this gap is expected to widen further.

As Nether Peover is within Cheshire West & Chester, Cheshire East does not have the authority to reduce the disparity in electors-to-seats ratios by increasing that parish's number of seats. It does have the option of reducing this disparity by cutting the number of seats that Peover Inferior has. Such a change would leave Peover Inferior with only one or two seats, with a single seat being the fairest allocation if each parish's share of seats is to reflect its share of the electorate.

However, seven seats is the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for a parish council and a reduction to one seat for Peover Inferior would leave the Parish Council with only five seats, putting it at risk of being unable to conduct its business effectively. It should also be noted that even seven seats is relatively low for a council of Lower Peover's size (over 500 electors by 2025). Therefore, although the Draft Recommendations Report sought public views on the option of a cut to one seat for Peover Inferior, it advised against such a change.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
No responses other than that from the Parish Council (summarised below).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council's submission (made by email) strongly supports the existing governance arrangements. It accepts that the current allocation of seats results in a large disparity between the two parishes in terms of electors per seat. However, it agrees with NALC's view that seven seats should be the minimum and feels that any reduction would prevent it from conducting its business effectively.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Of the 75 submissions on Chorley (near Wilmslow), one suggested that Chorley could be merged with Peover Inferior and Peover Superior, along with Great and Little Warford and the Lindow part of Wilmslow. However, Peover Inferior and Peover Superior are not actually adjacent to any of these other parishes.

Post-consultation assessment
As noted, the Parish Council's submission (made by email) strongly supports the existing governance arrangements and echoes the Borough Council's view that a reduction in Peover Inferior's seats would make the Parish Council unviable. It also specifically endorses the position held by NALC: namely that there should be a minimum of seven seats. Whilst equality of representation is highly desirable, it would be perverse to seek to achieve this by removing a parish council's viability. In addition, the Borough Council is conscious of the extra demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on parish council services and councillor time. Given this, and the submission evidence from the Parish Council, the Borough Council recommends no change in governance.

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For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Lower Peover Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Nether Peover (in Cheshire West & Chester); Peover Inferior (in Cheshire East). No changes to these parishes' names.
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (Nether Peover 4, Peover Inferior 3). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	508 (Nether Peover 414, Peover Inferior 94)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	73 overall (Nether Peover 104, Peover Inferior 31)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly subsection 3.5

2.58 Lower Withington

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Lower Withington
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Lower Withington
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	6
Electorate (2018)	448
Electorate (2025 forecast)	452

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Increase seats from seven to eight, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Two submissions (via the consultation survey) from individual residents, both of whom disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, one of these provided no comments and the other one cited (under the reasons for disagreeing question) concerns about "reduced representation for locals" - which seems inconsistent with the Draft Recommendations proposal that the number of seats should be increased. It should be noted that submissions with similar wording and the same specific concern were submitted for the nearby parishes of Gawsworth, Henbury, Siddington and Swettenham, though only one of these (Siddington) is a council where the Draft Recommendations proposed a cut in seats. Therefore it seems likely that these submissions were from the same person; if so, this person may be a resident of one of those other parishes, rather than Lower Withington.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council responded via the consultation survey, to agree overall with the Draft Recommendations, but made no specific comments.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

Although both the submissions from individual residents opposed the Draft Recommendations, neither offered a clear reason for their view: one made no comments and the concern raised by the other person (loss of local representation) suggests a mistaken belief that the Draft Recommendations proposal involved a cut in seats, or possibly a merger or a boundary change. In addition, the Parish Council itself supports the proposed increase in seats. The Borough Council is also conscious of the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council resources and councillor time - which strengthens the case for providing an extra seats. In the light of this, and the collective submission evidence, the Borough Council recommends an increase to eight seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Lower Withington Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Lower Withington (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (an increase from the current 7)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	452
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	57
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.59 Lyme Handley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Lyme Handley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Lyme Handley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	5
Nominations in 2019	0
Electorate (2018)	119
Electorate (2025 forecast)	117

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Lyme Handley with the parish of Kettleshulme, as Lyme Handley does not have a functioning parish council at this time: there were no nominations for its council of five seats in 2019; it has not raised a precept to support local services; and it only had 119 electors in 2018 (forecast to decrease to 117 by 2025). The Borough Council considers that this merger would enable viable parish governance for Lyme Handley and both the affected parishes are small rural parishes that vote at the same location.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
No submissions from Lyme Handley.

Two submissions received from Kettleshulme: one from the Parish Council (see below for its comments) and one from a local resident (who made no specific comments). Both of these supported the Draft Recommendations.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Kettleshulme Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and added the comment that "Kettleshulme Parish Council have discussed the plans for governance review in Cheshire East. The council fully support the proposal for an amalgamation of Kettleshulme PC with Lyme Handley." The Council's submission further proposed that the new parish be called "Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley" and should have the style "Parish", as this designation works well.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from Kettleshulme supporting the Draft Recommendations indicate that a merged parish comprising Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley would reflect local community identity.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Given the support received for its proposal in the submissions from Kettleshulme Parish Council and the Kettleshulme local resident who responded, the Borough Council recommends that Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley be merged into a single parish with seven seats (in line with the average for a council of this size) and no warding, as per the Draft Recommendations. It also recommends the name and style "Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley Parish Council", given Kettleshulme Parish Council proposed this and no alternatives were suggested.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.18 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of the current parish councils of Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley into a single parish, with external boundary as shown in Map 2.18.
Parish Council name and style	Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley Parish Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7
Electorate (2025 forecast)	388
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	55
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.60 Macclesfield

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Macclesfield
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Macclesfield
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Broken Cross & Upton; Central; East; Hurdsfield; South; Tytherington; West & Ivy
Seats	12 (Broken Cross & Upton 2, Central 2, East 1, Hurdsfield 1, South 2, Tytherington 2, West & Ivy 2)
Nominations in 2019	33 (Broken Cross & Upton 6, Central 7, East 4, Hurdsfield 1, South 4, Tytherington 7, West & Ivy 4)
Electorate (2018)	40,846 (Broken Cross & Upton 6,838, Central 7,156, East 3,597, Hurdsfield 3,495, South 6,003, Tytherington 7,393, West & Ivy 6,364)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	42,814 (Broken Cross & Upton 7,043, Central 7,523, East 3,939, Hurdsfield 3,489, South 6,391, Tytherington 7,720, West & Ivy 6,709)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
[1] Bollington's current boundary with Macclesfield cuts through a residential area south of the Silk Road (A523).

[2] Local Plan Strategy site LPS 15 (Land at Congleton Road, Macclesfield) is a major new housing development which is within the Village ward of the parish of Gawsworth. LPS 15 is adjacent to the established development that makes up Gawsworth's Moss ward. The Moss ward in turn is adjacent to residential areas of Macclesfield Town Council.

[3] Local Plan Strategy site LPS 18 (Land between Chelford Road and Whirley Road, Macclesfield) is a major new housing development that is partly within Henbury, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Macclesfield and is a consequence of the town's expansion.

[4] The Roewood Lane estate is in the parish of Higher Hurdsfield, but is adjacent to the Macclesfield Town Council residential area.

[5] Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 13 (the South Macclesfield Development Area, which lies partly within Sutton Parish Council's Lyme Green ward) and LPS 17 (Gaw End Lane, Macclesfield, which lies entirely within the Lyme Green ward) are major new housing developments that are adjacent to the existing urban development in Macclesfield and are a consequence of the town's expansion.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey

The 19 responses from Macclesfield (one from a town councillor and the rest from individuals) included two individual residents who favoured a change to Macclesfield's boundary with various rural neighbours, including Sutton, Prestbury, Gawsworth and Henbury; one also mentioned Higher Hurdsfield and Bollington. These two submissions argued that residents of the main settlements in many neighbouring parishes relied on Macclesfield for services, and that Local Plan development was turning this wider area into a conurbation anyway.

Another Macclesfield resident felt that the current boundaries constrained Macclesfield's influence over Local Plan sites that are being developed to meet the town's housing needs, and proposed specifically that the whole of Lyme Green ward be moved to Macclesfield.

Two other Macclesfield submissions felt that the Town Council should have a say in the development of Macclesfield Rugby Club and the King's School complex; one of these specifically suggested a change to the boundary with Prestbury to reflect this.

The other boundary change suggestion made by a Macclesfield resident was that the boundary with Bollington be aligned with the Silk Road (A523).

Three responses from Macclesfield expressed concern about the lack of amenities in Tytherington, feeling that the area was neglected; two of these suggested it should have its own parish council. Another submission on Tytherington felt it consisted of two separate communities, Tytherington and Bollinbrook.

Only one response commented on the number of councillors, saying this should be reviewed, but did not comment on whether the current total might be too high or too low.

As for submissions from neighbouring parishes with major new housing development sites that overlap with, adjoin or are close to the Macclesfield Town Council area, the response from Gawsworth Parish Council is particularly notable: it opposed a change to its boundary with Macclesfield and reported the results of a local survey, in which nearly 90 per cent of the residents of Moss ward (adjacent to the Town Council) identified with Gawsworth and wished to remain in that parish; a local petition with 155 signatures, also opposing such a transfer, was cited as well.

Draft Recommendations

[1] Transfer, from Bollington to Macclesfield, of the area south of the Silk Road (A523), on the grounds that the current boundary cuts through the middle of a residential area and the A road would provide a more natural boundary.

[2] Transfer, from Gawsworth to Macclesfield, of Gawsworth Moss parish ward, Local Plan site LPS 15 and potentially the rural hinterland to the southwest that is contained by Congleton Road, Gawsworth Road and the minor road to Brownhills Farm and Dalehouse Farm. The Draft Recommendations report's rationale for such a transfer was that the Moss ward development, along with site LPS 15 when developed, are a consequence of Macclesfield's expansion and both were considered to be part of Macclesfield's community. However, the Draft Recommendations report sought public views on whether the transfer should include all these areas, or just Moss ward and LPS 15, or indeed whether there should be no transfer at all. (As noted in this Assessment Report's subsection on Gawsworth, the housing development in Gawsworth's Moss ward actually occurred independently of Macclesfield's expansion, so this element of the Draft Recommendations was based in part on an incorrect assumption.)

[3] Move the LPS 18 development site area from Henbury to Macclesfield, as it is adjacent to that settlement and will depend on the town for services and amenities. The Draft Recommendations also proposed the transfer of the estimated 20 existing dwellings

along the A537 (Chelford Road) that border site LPS 18, as it was considered that they also formed part of this expansion area and hence were part of the Macclesfield community.

[4] No change to Higher Hurdsfield's boundary with Macclesfield, in spite of the Roewood Lane estate being part of the same conurbation as the town. This recommendation reflects the fact that the parish has its own separate identity, and that it is viable and functioning effectively. Nevertheless, the Draft Recommendations report sought a public view on whether the Roewood Lane area should transfer to Macclesfield and (if so) whether the rest of the parish (comprising only an estimated 174 electors by 2025) should be merged with Bollington.

[5] Transfer part or potentially the whole of Lyme Green parish ward to Macclesfield. This Draft Recommendation was made because the Borough Council considered that Macclesfield's outward development and planned LPS sites mean Sutton Lyme Green and Macclesfield are becoming a single urban area with a community of identity that looks to Macclesfield. The Draft Recommendations sought public views on how much of the parish ward should be transferred to the parish of Macclesfield: the whole parish ward, or a smaller area that more tightly contains housing sites LPS 13 and 17 and the existing Lyme Green village housing.

[6] No changes to internal ward boundaries, but increase total seats to around 20, as this is in line with the average for a council of Macclesfield's size. The exact number of seats overall - and a fair allocation of these between the wards - would depend on which (if any) of the Draft Recommendations' potential boundary changes proceed and (where different options are presented) on the extent of the land being transferred. 21 or 22 seats might be necessary to ensure a fair allocation. The number of seats for each ward would be as follows: Broken Cross & Upton three to four; Central three to four; East two; Hurdsfield two; South three to four; Tytherington three to four; West & Ivy three.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
55 submissions from Macclesfield, of which one (clearly disagreeing with the Draft Recommendations) was a letter and 54 were via the consultation survey. Of the 54 survey submissions, 33 (61 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only 12 (22 per cent) agreed; six neither agreed nor disagreed, two did not complete that question and the other one was unsure.

The most frequently cited reasons for disagreeing were a view that the current system works well (17 mentions) and opposition to the seating proposals specifically (also 17 mentions). Of the 17 raising the latter objection, 15 stated their opposition to an increase in seats; of these 15 submissions, 13 felt more seats would damage what they considered to be effective governance arrangements (the other two said more councillors would make an already-unsatisfactory level of service worse).

More specific points included the following: a desire to preserve the rural identities of neighbouring parishes and a need to ensure the residents of those parishes were represented by people who understood their local interests; awareness of opposition (to the external boundary change proposals) from rural parishes; concern over Macclesfield Town Council covering too large an area to enable properly representative government; a view that extra councillors would only hamper productivity; and Macclesfield's last governance review being relatively recent and hence another one premature.

A few of the Macclesfield responses made alternative suggestions. One proposed that only the boundary with Gawsworth should be changed. Three - including one from Macclesfield Civic Society - all suggested the same specific set of modifications to the Draft Recommendations boundary change proposals, namely: for Gawsworth and Henbury, transfer also the part of Local Plan Strategy safeguarded land (site LPS 19) in those parishes; leave the rural hinterland area of Gawsworth (the non-LPS part of Gawsworth Village parish ward) in Gawsworth; transfer Higher Hurdsfield's Roewood Lane estate to Macclesfield; transfer Flash Lane roundabout and Prestbury Parish Council's Fallibroome ward (to Macclesfield); for Sutton, transfer only the area that lies west of London Road and north of the LPS 17 southern boundary.

There were 20 submissions from Bollington (of which 10 were consultation survey responses and 10 were emails or letters). Of the survey responses, six disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only two agreed. However, none of the emails commented the Draft Recommendations proposals.

There were 246 responses from Gawsworth, of which 243 were via the consultation survey and three by email. Of 243 survey responses, 223 (92 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only 13 (five per cent) agreed. The reasons for disagreeing with the Draft Recommendations most commonly related to local identity and interests (mentioned in 138 responses), concern about the impact on the Green Belt, rural areas or the environment (53 mentions) or a view that current governance arrangements worked well (47).

There were 18 responses from Henbury, all via the consultation survey and all disagreeing overall with the Draft Recommendations. The most commonly-cited reasons for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (mentioned in 12

responses). Five responses - including that from Henbury Parish Council (summarised below) - made the same alternative suggestion: that the LPS 15 site should move to Macclesfield, but the established Chelford Road properties should stay in Henbury.

There were six responses from Higher Hurdsfield and a majority of these wished for the Roewood Lane estate area to remain in Higher Hurdsfield.

There were 381 responses from Sutton, of which 372 were via the consultation survey, eight by letter or email, and one via a completed Parish Council leaflet. None of the submissions by letter, email or leaflet supported the Draft Recommendations. Of the 372 survey responses, 360 (97 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; 225 of these included comments objecting specifically to the proposals for Sutton Parish Council's Lyme Green ward. The reasons given for disagreeing with the Draft Recommendations most commonly related to local identity and interests (256 people made comments on this subject), a view that current governance works well (118 mentions), concerns about the impact on the Green Belt, natural environment or rural areas (61 mentions), the impact on tax (58) and the current boundary line being suitable (36). 12 of the responses from Sutton also made alternative suggestions relating to Macclesfield. 11 of these proposed a transfer to Macclesfield that involved only the part of Lyme Green that lies west of London Road: this would mean, in effect, that sites LPS 13 and LPS 17 would lie entirely within Macclesfield, but the existing Lyme Green village would remain in Sutton. Of the 11 submissions making this proposal, one specified that the transfer should exclude the area south of site LPS 17 (as noted above, three Macclesfield submissions made this same suggestion).

A substantial amount of evidence was provided to demonstrate that Gawsworth Moss and Sutton Lyme Green residents identify strongly with the rest of their existing parish, with close community ties to the other areas of the parish and extensive reliance on their existing parish for amenities and services. Particularly notable were the examples of close bonds between Gawsworth Moss and Gawsworth village, and likewise between Lyme Green and Sutton's other villages. There was also a significant volume of evidence to indicate that existing (Chelford Road) residents in the proposed Henbury transfer area identify strongly with Henbury.

Further details of the responses from Bollington, Gawsworth, Henbury, Higher Hurdsfield and Sutton residents can be found in the Assessment Report sections on those particular parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Macclesfield Town Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It felt that a review of its governance was premature, given current governance arrangements were the product of a public consultation undertaken in 2013/14, with the Town

Council having existed for only six years. It considered that the existing arrangements were effective and that any increase in seats would reduce its productivity and would add to costs, given that additional staff (and accommodation for them) would be required to support the extra councillors. It argued that the pre-consultation responses from residents did not include any requests for more seats.

The Town Council also highlighted the strength of opposition to boundary changes from residents in Bollington, Gawsworth, Higher Hurdsfield and Sutton. It claimed that the Draft Recommendations report's electorate numbers for Gawsworth and Sutton were inaccurate and around double current levels and perhaps included housing that is not expected to be built in the near future. (Note: The electorate figures the Town Council refers to here are for the year 2025 - as the Draft Recommendations Report indicates - and are therefore forecasts that do allow for future housing development. However, there will be differences of opinion on the likely timing of this new development and indeed expectations about that likely timing will continue to change in the light of emerging evidence.)

The submission from Bollington Town Council opposes the Draft Recommendations change to the boundary with Macclesfield. It cites a survey it undertook of residents in the affected area, in which 46 of the responses favoured staying in Bollington, 37 were neutral and only one supported a transfer to Macclesfield. Bollington Town Council also provides examples of how the A523 does not act as barrier between communities and notes that many of those south of the A523 rely on Bollington for leisure facilities and other amenities.

Bollington Town Council suggested a minor change to the boundary with Macclesfield, so that the boundary aligns with streets, rather than (as at present) bisecting streets and cutting through some individual properties. This proposed boundary line is shown in Map BOL1, which can be seen in the Bollington subsection of this Assessment Report.

Gawsworth Parish Council also objected to a change to its boundary: it provided evidence of the strong community ties between Gawsworth Moss ward and the rest of the parish and the range of the parish's services and amenities that Moss residents rely on; it also cited the results of its pre-consultation survey of Moss ward residents, who overwhelmingly identified with Gawsworth and opposed a transfer to Macclesfield. In addition, it highlighted how the Moss ward's residential development occurred independently of (and long before) Macclesfield expanded to adjoin it (as noted in the Gawsworth subsection of this Assessment Report, the Borough Council accepts this point). The Parish Council also drew attention to the rural character of much of the area proposed for transfer and the lack of clarity the Draft Recommendations potential new boundary line offered.

Henbury Parish Council had contacted residents of the existing (Chelford Road) properties that would transfer to Macclesfield under the Draft Recommendations, and confirmed that they identified with and wished to remain in Henbury. It requested that only the new LPS 18 site be transferred to Macclesfield.

Higher Hurdsfield Parish Council's response opposed a change to its boundary or a merger, stating that the parish has a distinct identity as a semi-rural village, separate from Macclesfield or Bollington.

Sutton Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It noted Lyme Green's separate village identity, and the natural barriers - the canal and London Road - that also separate it geographically from Macclesfield. It also drew attention to survey evidence (for the Parish Plan) confirming that Lyme Green residents identify as part of Sutton. In addition, it emphasised their strong community links to the parishes' two other villages, Sutton Lane Ends and Langley, offering many examples of shared facilities, services and joint initiatives.

Further details of the responses from Bollington, Gawsworth, Henbury, Higher Hurdsfield and Sutton Town/ Parish Councils can be found in the Assessment Report subsections on those particular parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies

The MP for Macclesfield objected to the transfer of Moss parish ward to Macclesfield, highlighting the evidence (from Gawsworth Parish Council's residents survey and petition) that the parish ward's residents identify with Gawsworth and overwhelmingly oppose a boundary change; he was concerned that that change would mean their local needs were neglected. He also stated that Lyme Green residents had clearly indicated to him their wish to remain within Sutton Parish, feeling that the Parish Council serves their interests effectively, but that the Town Council would not understand or address the needs of their distinct rural village community. He noted that the existing Chelford Road residents identify with Henbury and endorsed Henbury Parish Council's request that these properties stay in the parish, but that the LPS 18 site be transferred to Macclesfield. However, given his opposition to changes to the Sutton and Gawsworth boundaries, he felt there was no justification for increasing the Town Council's seats beyond the current 12.

The borough ward Member for Gawsworth (who made separate submissions for Gawsworth and Henbury) endorsed the submissions of all the parish councils in that borough ward, including Gawsworth and Henbury. Commenting on rural residents' needs more generally, the Member stated they tend to shop out of town or (increasingly) online, with the COVID pandemic having restricted town centre events and increased the attraction of online retail and of rural areas for leisure activities. In addition, the

Member noted that residents of long-established properties in these rural areas identify with their own parish, feel that a transfer to a town council would mean remote representation and neglect of local issues and service requirements, and that a higher precept would probably be charged as well.

The submission from the borough ward Member for Sutton opposes the Draft Recommendations for Lyme Green and Sutton Rural. On the matter of Lyme Green, the Member drew attention to the village's semi-rural character, with countryside currently on all sides - and a strong community spirit, as shown by attendances when the Christmas lights are turned on, or by local people raising funds to install play equipment in the local park. The Member noted that many families have lived there for generations. This submission also argued that a transfer to Macclesfield would probably mean higher precepts but less effective representation, with localised issues (e.g. speeding) being overlooked. Overall, the Member feared that the transfer would damage local community cohesion. The Member also felt it was right to delay any possible boundary change in this area until the new LPS developments are built, so that the new residents can have a say on which town or parish council they fall under.

Three Macclesfield town councillors responded, all of whom disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations: all felt the current governance arrangements were effective and no more councillors were needed; some added other points, including the level of opposition from rural neighbours, a view that a review of governance was premature and that the proposed changes would increase costs but reduce productivity.

There were also submissions from two Members who each represent a Macclesfield borough ward. One of them took the view that current arrangements worked well, that no increase in seats was needed and that a governance review was premature. However, this Member had a different perception of Gawsworth Moss' residents' sense of identity to that reported in other submissions: some Moss residents had indicated to the Member that they identified with Gawsworth, but the Member's impression was that most of the area's residents had no strong ties to either their parish or Macclesfield. The Member thought that the next review, following in the wake of the LPS development, might yield some demand for a boundary change. The other Macclesfield borough ward Member (also a town councillor), who represents Tytherington, felt strongly that 12 seats resulted in effective governance and that any increase should be avoided, even if (though the Member was not advocating this) boundary changes were made.

A former councillor also responded, again arguing that 12 seats worked very well and any increase would damage productive working; the councillor also felt that Gawsworth Parish Council functioned well and that a transfer from that parish could put that at risk.

There was also a response from one local organisation, Macclesfield Civic Society, which (as noted above) agreed with the Draft Recommendations' general approach of extending the town's boundaries but proposed a number of modifications to these. The Civic Society also objected to the continued practice of having multiple seats for each ward; this was an objection also raised by one individual making a submission on Macclesfield and in a few submissions (no more than one per parish) in relation to other, mainly large, town and parish councils; the wording used in these submissions suggests they were made by the same individual, rather than different people independently making the same argument.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity

There is extensive evidence from the submissions from Gawsworth that its Moss ward residents strongly identify and have close links - through shared amenities, services and community groups - to the rest of their existing parish. The same can be said of the evidence from Sutton on the identity and ties of Lyme Green residents, who have many social ties to Sutton's other villages. The responses from Higher Hurdsfield highlight its separate identity to Macclesfield and the submission from Bollington Town Council demonstrates that its residents south of the Silk Road identify and have community ties to Bollington, not Macclesfield. Finally, the consultation evidence from Henbury Parish Council and its residents shows that those living in Henbury's established dwellings along Chelford Road identify with Henbury and wish to remain there.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues

No concerns raised by residents about the viability of Macclesfield's rural neighbours and there is in fact much evidence (as documented elsewhere in this Assessment Report) of the active nature and achievements of Gawsworth, Higher Hurdsfield and Sutton parish councils in particular. (As the Draft Recommendations note, Higher Hursfield's viability might be in question if the Roewood Lane estate area were transferred to Macclesfield, but the Draft Recommendations did not favour this option and the majority of responses from the parish, including its Parish Council, also oppose such a change.) Instead, the overriding concern relating to effective governance is that an enlarged Macclesfield could be less efficient and not understand and effectively represent the interests of people on its rural periphery.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere

Some of the responses from Gawsworth made alternative suggestions relating to Macclesfield. One suggested moving only the Gawsworth's Moss ward to Macclesfield. Three suggested redrawing the boundary between Gawsworth and Macclesfield, so it followed Penningtons Lane (that is, a transfer from Macclesfield to Gawsworth), but potentially moving the LPS 15 site (and hence presumably Moss ward as well) to Macclesfield. One suggested extending the Gawsworth boundary to Ivy Lane, Kendal Road and Gawsworth Road (so that part of Macclesfield would be transferred to Gawsworth).

A submission from Sutton proposed a transfer from Macclesfield to Sutton, bring the whole of the settlement of Gurnett (currently split by the canal) into Sutton.

Post-consultation assessment

A large majority of the Macclesfield consultation submissions oppose the Draft Recommendations, as does its Town Council. The same is true of the submissions from the residents of Gawsworth and Sutton and their parish councils, with an overwhelming majority in each of these parishes against a change to their boundaries, along with their borough ward Members and the local MP.

There is much persuasive evidence offered on the community ties linking Gawsworth Moss residents to the rest of their parish, and on those linking Lyme Green to the rest of Sutton, particularly its two other villages. Some submissions from Sutton suggested transferring only the area west of London Road (largely comprising new Local Plan development sites) to Macclesfield, but the number of people proposing this (11) is very low relative to the total number of responses from that parish (381).

More generally, apart from the alternative boundary line proposed by Henbury Parish Council (reviewed below), alternative suggestions for changes to Macclesfield's boundaries lacked a critical mass of support and sometimes the rationale was also unclear.

There were few responses from Higher Hurdsfield, but the majority of these (including that from its parish council) oppose any transfers from that parish to Macclesfield, citing its separate semi-rural identity.

In the light of the evidence from these parishes, the Borough Council now recommends no change to the boundaries of Gawsworth and Sutton, and maintains its recommendation of no change to Higher Hurdsfield's boundary.

As for responses from Bollington, most of those who commented on the Macclesfield-Bollington boundary change proposal were opposed to it, including Bollington Town Council, which presented persuasive evidence of community ties between residents living either side of the Silk Road. However, the Borough Council is not persuaded by the Town Council's suggestion of a minor adjustment to this boundary (to align it with streets in the Springwood Way estate area), as this would involve moving a handful of individual properties from Bollington to Macclesfield (despite the submission evidence of these residents identifying with Bollington) and a few in the opposite direction. As Bollington and the adjacent part of Macclesfield are in different borough wards, such a

change would involve electoral risk and require the provision of additional polling facilities, which cannot be justified for such a small number of households. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change to the Bollington-Macclesfield boundary.

All of the submissions from Henbury, including that from Henbury Parish Council, opposed the Draft Recommendations. As noted, Henbury Parish Council had contacted existing residents (in the established Chelford Road dwellings) who would transfer to Macclesfield under the Draft Recommendations proposals - and confirmed they identify with and wish to stay in Henbury. However, the Parish Council and a number of its residents - with support from the local MP and borough ward Member - propose a modified boundary change, under which only the new LPS 18 development would transfer to Macclesfield. The Borough Council finds this proposed modification - and the evidence that underpins it - persuasive and further notes that Macclesfield Town Council's submission does not voice (nor refer to) opposition to this specific boundary change.

Therefore the Borough Council now recommends the modified boundary change proposed by Henbury Parish Council.

In summary, the Borough Council recommends no changes to Macclesfield's boundary, other than the transfer of the Henbury LPS 18 site just referred to. (This transfer would also include a small area of undeveloped land that lies between the LPS 18 site and the current Macclesfield-Henbury boundary.) This decision also reflects the frequently-articulated view in the consultation responses that an enlarged Macclesfield would be remote and fail to represent the interests of those on its rural periphery.

As for its warding and seating, the Town Council argues that a rehaul of governance arrangements is premature, noting that the town's last such review was undertaken in 2013/14 and stating that the pre-consultation responses revealed no demand for an increase in the council's size. The Borough Council considers this a fair assessment of the pre-consultation evidence (one submission at that stage proposed a "review" of seats, but did not imply a change was necessarily required; no others mentioned seat numbers). The Borough Council also accepts the point about premature reviews, given that national guidance advocates that a Community Governance Review be undertaken only once every 10-15 years. Furthermore, the consultation evidence from Macclesfield residents confirms that demand for governance changes is limited. Besides this, the Town Council and other submissions - including a number from individual councillors - indicate that the current total of 12 seats enables effective working and highlight the fact that a large increase in this could increase costs, but reduce productivity.

It is also notable that the consultation responses indicate no demand for a change in ward boundaries or the allocation of seats between wards. In addition, based on the Borough Council's forecasts of the 2025 electorate, and factoring in the expected number of electors in the transferred (LPS 18) part of Henbury (estimated at 237 by 2025), the current allocation of seats (one each for the

East and Hurdsfield wards and two for all others) reflects their respective shares of the town's electorate. Whilst the Borough Council has concerns about the risks with single Member seats (e.g. no representation if the sole councillor is sick or resigns) and the potential to engage with electors at a very local level with ratios of over 3,000 electors per seat, the Borough Council is persuaded that the current seating arrangement works well, that it has strong local support and that any changes at this stage would be premature. It therefore recommends no changes to seat numbers.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.16 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Henbury to Macclesfield Town Council's Broken Cross & Upton ward, of the shaded area (Local Plan Strategy site LPS 18 and the small area of undeveloped land enclosed by LPS 18 and the current parish boundary) shown in Map 2.16.
Parish Council name and style	Macclesfield Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Macclesfield (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Broken Cross & Upton; Central; East; Hurdsfield; South; Tytherington; West & Ivy)
Seats	12 (Broken Cross & Upton 2, Central 2, East 1, Hurdsfield 1, South 2, Tytherington 2, West & Ivy 2). No changes to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	43,051 (Broken Cross & Upton 7,280, Central 7,523, East 3,939, Hurdsfield 3,489, South 6,391, Tytherington 7,720, West & Ivy 6,709)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	3,588 overall (Broken Cross & Upton 3,640, Central 3,762, East 3,939, Hurdsfield 3,489, South 3,196, Tytherington 3,860, West & Ivy 3,355)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: "Henbury – transfer to Macclesfield"

2.61 Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Meeting
Current Parish name(s)	Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Nominations in 2019	N/A
Electorate (2018)	161
Electorate (2025 forecast)	160

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting, Wincle Parish Meeting and the Sutton Rural ward of Sutton Parish Council into a single new parish council, with no warding and eight seats.

The background to this recommendation was that the rural parish of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough and the rural parish of Wincle do not presently have parish council representation. At present the representative body of the two parishes is their meetings of their electors which by law are required to meet twice annually. However, the Borough Council was unsure clear if the meetings of electors are ever convened.

With 161 and 151 electors respectively for the two parish meetings as of 2018 and little change anticipated (160 and 150 electors respectively by 2025), the Borough Council considered that the two parishes might be merged with the Rural ward of the residual parish of Sutton, to form a new parish with 672 electors (2025 electorate). The present Rural ward of the parish of Sutton has very few nominations for its seats (only one for its three seats in the 2019 ordinary elections) and its viability as a separate parish ward was therefore considered to be questionable.

Sutton Parish Council's Rural ward lies adjacent to both parishes of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough and Wincle. All three areas lie in the Sutton borough ward, and therefore there is no risk to the conduct of elections by having electors of the same parish voting in different borough ward elections.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
36 submissions from Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough, all via the consultation survey. 34 of these were from individuals; the Parish Meeting Chair and a local business also made a response.

Of these, 33 (92 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; two stated that they agreed overall, but one of these residents cited concern about a loss of influence in a larger body and made a request for no change to governance. The other submission, which did not answer the question on overall agreement, commented that small Peak Park parishes tended to be independent and that parish meetings were effective for small communities, but that they should be open to considering change and collaboration with neighbouring parishes.

By far the most common feedback on the Draft Recommendations related to matters of local interest and identity (30 mentions). A number of these responses provided examples of how Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough's character and interests differed from one or both of the would-be merger partners. For example, it was noted that Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough lacks fibre broadband public transport and therefore road connectivity and maintenance is a much greater issue. Similarly, it receives lots of tourists and has to manage some of the unwelcome impacts of that, such as litter. Some highlighted the fact that the Parish Meeting is primarily a farming community and dwellings are very rural and isolated. Differences in climate were also cited, with Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough being far more prone to severe winter weather and the challenges that presents to farmers, roads and supply deliveries. A recurrent worry was that an enlarged governing body, including less rural areas, would neglect these distinct local characteristics and issues. One simple but important point was that the proposed merger would encompass an extremely large geographical area, which councillors could struggle to cover.

Seven people commented that existing arrangements worked well and some expressed enthusiasm specifically for their parish meeting form of governance and the direct democracy it offered. The submissions also confirmed that Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough parish meetings do definitely take place (the Draft Recommendations noted that the Borough Council was unsure whether they did).

Another common theme - highlighted in seven responses - was the impact on planning policy and specifically the fact that Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough are in the Peak Park and hence subject to its separate planning policy regime, whereas Sutton Parish is not. Therefore a merger of Sutton Rural with the two Parish Meetings would require councillors to understand and apply two different planning policies.

Four residents voiced concern about the prospect of an increased precept, with some objections to the idea of Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough residents effectively subsidising services and facilities (such as street lighting) that are not available in their parish meeting.

There were 50 responses from Wincle, of which one (opposing the merger) was a letter and the other 49 via the consultation survey. Of the 49 survey responses, 48 (98 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. Feedback on the Draft Recommendations related most frequently to concerns about paying a higher precept (28 mentions), local identity and interests (26), a view that current governance works well (23) and planning policy matters (16). No alternative suggestions were made, other than the status quo.

There were 381 responses from Sutton, of which eight were by letter or email (all opposing one or more of the Draft Recommendations proposals for Sutton), one via a Parish Council leaflet (also opposed to the Draft Recommendations) and 372 via the consultation survey. Of the 372 survey responses, 360 (97 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. Comments from those who disagreed were primarily about the proposals for Sutton Lyme Green parish ward, but 42 of the Sutton submissions objected specifically to the proposed merger of Sutton's Rural ward with Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle.

Further details of the responses from Sutton and Wincle residents can be found in the subsections of this Assessment Report that focus on those two parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

The submission from the Chair of Macclesfield Forest & Wilboarclough Parish Meeting disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and objected to the proposed merger, for a number of reasons. One was the fact that the Parish Meeting, unlike Sutton, is subject to the Peak Park planning regime. The Chair questioned whether parish councillors and the clerk would be able to manage two separate planning regimes. Another was the set of distinct challenges that the parish faces, such as its particularly dangerous trunk roads, its lack of mobile reception and broadband availability, the adverse impacts of tourism on this rural area and absence of public transport. The Chair also felt it was unreasonable to expect Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough's residents to pay a higher precept, given the very limited public services and amenities they have; it was noted, for example, that the parish meeting has no village hall, play area or street lighting. The submission also drew attention to the parish's ancient history, distinct geography and its strong rural community spirit.

The submission from Wincle Parish Meeting (made by its clerk) also disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and reported a unanimous vote, at a Parish Meeting EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting), against the merger proposal. The reasons for its opposition were: residents value the direct democratic say that parish meeting status offers and wish retain that; they have a distinct identity that would be lost; representation and influence would be limited, given that Sutton Rural would have a majority of the electorate (and hence probably of councillors as well); the extra complexity involved in managing an area with two separate planning regimes; higher costs and taxes arising from having to fund things like councillor expenses and accounting/ auditing fees; and the loss of the Wincle website, as the running costs of this are covered through the Parish Meeting and labour input is voluntary, with content specific to Wincle. As further evidence of a desire to maintain current arrangements, the Wincle clerk cited

the results of a survey for the Wincle Parish Plan (to which 98 per cent of residents responded), requesting no changes to current services and amenities.

Sutton Parish Council also disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and opposed its proposals for Sutton Rural. The Parish Council highlighted Sutton's separate identity, with the semi-rural status of parts of Sutton Rural contrasting with the isolated character of the two parish meetings. It noted that Sutton Rural residents have close community links to the villages of Sutton, given that the primary school, shops, public transport, community centres and other amenities are within walking distance for many of them. By contrast, it drew attention to the physical and psychological barrier presented by the hills separating its parish from the two parish meetings (which rise to 1,600 feet). The Parish Council too was keen to emphasise the very active, viable status of the two parish meetings. Like the two parish meetings, it felt that having a council that spanned two separate planning regimes would introduce unnecessary complexity and noted that the merger would involve additional administration costs (such as a clerk) and any warding would add further to these costs. It also raised concern that the merger of smaller parishes conflicted with the spirit and intent of Neighbourhood Plans in giving individual communities their own say over local decision-making.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies

The local borough ward Member opposed the merger. This submission highlighted the fact that the two parish meetings are isolated, rural communities. The Member pointed out that the two parish meetings are on some of the highest ground in the Borough, meaning they face a different climate and hence different challenges - like getting milk tankers through to farms in the winter. The Member emphasised that both parish meetings were very active and that the success of a recent campaign to keep Wincle's junior school open was a good example of a local interest that current governance arrangements can address, but which a merged, more remote council would not. It was noted that the frequency of actual parish meetings is a poor guide to actual activity levels, as the isolated nature of their dwellings means that contact by phone, email or social media is often more efficient. It was stated hat representatives from both parish meetings are regularly in touch the Member - and active on Facebook - about local issues such as road repairs, gritting and the adverse effects of tourism (COVID restrictions on indoor social activity having led to increased numbers of visitors). The Member argued that the merger would result in higher taxes for the parish meetings, but much less effective representation for them, with Sutton being up to seven miles away from some parish meeting residents, and Wincle/ Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough members of the new council having relatively little incentive to travel a long way to discuss issues that were relevant only to Sutton. The submission also noted the administration costs involved in the merger. As with many of the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough submissions, the borough ward Member highlighted the fact that the proposed merger would create a council covering areas with two different planning regimes, resulting in confusion and potentially conflicting decisions.

A former councillor (making a "Sutton" submission) also objected to the proposed merger of Sutton Rural with the two neighbouring parish meetings. This submission noted that Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough are on high terrain and therefore face different challenges to Sutton Rural, which is partly on high ground, but also includes areas that are adjacent to Sutton village. This submission also referred to the problems involved in covering two different planning regimes, and added that the new council would incur the additional cost of a paid clerk. The former councillor also emphasised that the two parish meetings value their current form of governance, which works well in such remote areas, that their terrain presents them with localised interests and issues (milk tanker access in winter was mentioned here too) and that the public service they receive is limited to waste collection and highways maintenance, so if the merger went ahead they would not benefit from (but would still subsidise) the additional services that Sutton Rural receives. This submission also noted that, while the two parish meetings face similar issues and are used to mutually supporting each other, they are each distinct communities.

In his submission, the MP for Macclesfield noted that he had spoken to the chairs of the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle Parish Meetings, parish councillors from Sutton and residents of those three areas, and found strong opposition to the merger proposal. He argued that current governance arrangements work well for all three bodies, that residents of the two parish meetings value and wish to retain their ability to vote on all local decisions and that setting up a new council for the merged area would involve various costs (e.g. councillor expenses, training, accounting and external auditing) that the parish meetings had not incurred before and hence higher taxes. He also highlighted the different character of Sutton Rural, which has some semi-rural areas (Leek Old Road/ Parvey Lane), whereas the two parish meetings are totally rural. Like many other submissions, his drew attention to the different planning regimes of Sutton and the parish meetings. He also highlighted the Wincle Parish Plan questionnaire evidence that residents wished for no change to their existing services and amenities.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity

The submissions collectively indicate that Macclesfield & Wildboarclough has a very distinct identity to Sutton and very different interests and challenges, with its largely farming community, limited public services and transport/ IT connectivity and its separate (Peak Park) planning regime; its high terrain and different climate account in part for some of its local challenges. They highlight that Sutton, in contrast, is semi-rural in places and is relatively distant (up to seven miles away). They also highlight the physical and psychological barrier presented by the hills separating Sutton from the two parish meetings, and that fact that Sutton Rural residents have close community links to the villages of Sutton, given that the primary school, shops, public transport, community centres and other amenities are within walking distance for many of them.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues

The submission evidence indicates that Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting is active in raising awareness of and addressing issues such as road conditions, gritting and problems with influxes of tourists - and that residents value the direct form of democracy that this offers. Because of the remote nature of the area, much communication occurs by phone, email and social media, and less so through meetings. No concerns are raised about the viability and effectiveness of the Parish Meeting; instead, the submissions question (and doubt) the effectiveness of the larger council area that the Draft Recommendations proposals would create.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere

Two Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough residents suggested that their parish meeting could be merged with Wincle only (but both appeared to prefer no merger at all). One of these listed a number of shared characteristics: farming communities, with some tourism; no village shops or street lights; and both parishes being almost entirely in the Peak Park and subject to its separate planning regime. Both of the people who made this suggestion highlighted the two parishes' totally rural character. A third resident appeared to have this same option in mind, stating that any merger should involve purely rural groupings and considering Sutton to have too urban and sizeable a population to enable Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough's interests to be represented.

Post-consultation assessment

The overwhelming majority of those Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle residents who responded to the consultation disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, as did the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting chair. An EGM of the Wincle Parish Meeting recorded a unanimous vote against the Draft Recommendations. Sutton Parish Council also opposes the proposal to merge its Rural ward with the two parish meetings and the overwhelming majority of Sutton residents who responded to the consultation disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations proposals, with over 40 specifically opposing the proposals for Sutton Rural. The merger proposal is also opposed by the local MP and the borough ward Member.

The submissions argue persuasively that Macclesfield & Wildboarclough has a very distinct identity to Sutton and very different interests and challenges, with its isolated dwellings, farming community, limited public services and amenities, lack of public transport/ IT connectivity and its separate (Peak Park) planning regime; it is apparent that its high terrain and different climate account in part for some of its local challenges and priorities (e.g. road conditions and access), as does the attraction of the area to visitors. The submissions highlight the fact that Sutton, in contrast, is semi-rural in places and is relatively distant (up to seven miles away), meaning a merger would result in more distant, less accessible governance and much less awareness of (or incentive to address) Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough's specific needs.

In contrast, it is apparent from the submissions that residents value the direct democracy that parish meeting status brings, and that the parish meetings are very active in lobbying for - and ensuring action is taken on - for example, road repairs and the adverse impacts of tourism.

Whilst two Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough residents suggest the option of a merger that involves the two parish meetings but not Sutton, the suggestion appears to be a reluctant one and the idea received no wider support. In addition, some submissions, including some from past and present elected representatives, indicate that while the two parish meetings have a history of mutual support and understanding, they are distinct communities.

In the light of this collective evidence, the Borough Council recommends that Sutton Rural remain part of Sutton parish and that there be no change in governance for either Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough or Wincle.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting (no change)
Parish name(s)	Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Electorate (2025 forecast)	160
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	N/A
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.62 Marbury & District

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Marbury & District
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Marbury cum Quoisley; Norbury; Wirswall.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	19 (Marbury cum Quoisley 8, Norbury 7, Wirswall 4)
Nominations in 2019	11 (Marbury cum Quoisley 3, Norbury 5, Wirswall 3)
Electorate (2018)	481 (Marbury cum Quoisley 232, Norbury 169, Wirswall 80)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	495 (Marbury cum Quoisley 238, Norbury 169, Wirswall 88)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One Marbury resident was opposed to the removal of the council's internal boundaries, arguing that each of the three parishes needed to be represented by councillors who lived locally and understood the local parish's needs.

The Parish Council felt the number of seats was too high for the size of the electorate, but did not suggest a specific alternative figure.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Marbury & District into a single parish. Reduce seats from 19 to eight, given that this is in line with the average for a council of its size, that the Parish Council itself felt there were too many seats and that the number of nominations in 2019 fell substantially short of available seats. No warding for the merged parish, given that all the existing parishes vote in the same location and are within the same borough ward.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
See below for details of the Parish Council's response.

There were also three responses from individual residents (one from each parish), all via the consultation survey and all disagreeing overall with the Draft Recommendations. Two of these included comments. The Wirswall resident's submission agreed that the number of seats should be reduced, but argued for separate representation for each of the three parishes. This response noted the rural nature of the settlements within the Parish Council area and the fact that the limitations of the road network mean some of its constituent settlements are relatively isolated from others. It noted that the settlements of Wirswall and Bradeley Green (which is also in the parish of Wirswall) are linked only by a footpath and that vehicle access from Bradeley Green to the Parish Council's other settlements is possible only by travelling a relatively long distance and going through Cheshire West & Chester first. The Norbury's resident's submission also felt that the three parishes had separate identities and needed their own voice.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council responded by email. It noted that only 11 of the 19 available seats are filled, but added that this had been the case for some years and that in practice this arrangement - leaving the other eight seats unfilled - worked very well. It had concerns over the extent of the Draft Recommendations proposed reduction in seats, given the geography of the area, but felt that a further reduction, from 11 councillors to eight, was manageable, through natural turnover of councillors. It did not object to the merger proposal.

The Parish Council felt that separate representation for each of the existing parishes could be retained (through warding), but did not make a specific request for this. However, it did request that the current name of "Marbury & District Parish Council" be retained. (No individual residents made any suggestions for a new name.)

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted above, two of the three responses from individual residents stated the three constituent parishes had separate identities, with one explaining how the limited road network means some of the individual settlements are not closely connected to each other, and one settlement actually having better road connections to Cheshire West & Chester than to the rest of the Parish Council area.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No submissions indicate that viability is an issue for Marbury & District.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
One submission from a Wirswall resident argues persuasively for the retention of separate representation of the existing three parishes, pointing out how the limited road network results in relative isolation and a lack of links, with one of the two main settlements in the parish of Wirswall having road access to the rest of the Parish Council area only via a long journey via Cheshire West & Chester. Furthermore, most of the other responses from individual residents during the pre-consultation and consultation stages also request separate representation.

The Parish Council itself, though suggesting the Council's internal boundaries could be removed, notes that the three parishes are each distinct communities. However, no submissions oppose the removal of the grouping arrangement.

In the light of all this evidence, the Borough Council recommends that the three parishes be merged into a single parish, but that they be warded, with the current parish boundaries becoming the new ward boundaries.

The Borough Council also recommends that the merged council retain the name "Marbury & District", given that the Parish Council requested this and no alternatives were offered by local residents; similarly it recommends that it retain the style "Parish", as this was favoured by the only two submissions to make a suggestion on that point (the Parish Council and the Wirswall resident).

On seat numbers, the Parish Council and the Wirswall resident's submission agree that the current total of 19 is too many. No submissions objected specifically to this part of the proposal. Whilst the Parish Council confirms that its current tally of 11 filled seats proves very effective, it feels the proposed reduction to eight seats is reasonable. The Borough Council therefore recommends a total of eight seats.

As for the allocation of these seats between the three constituent areas, a fair distribution based on electorate shares alone would be Marbury four, Norbury three and Wirswall one. However, the Borough Council's preference is to avoid, where possible, wards with a single seat, given the burden that could place on individual councillors and the lack of representation if no nominations are received or the sole councillor falls sick or resigns. Furthermore, the limited road access between Bradeley Green and the rest of the Parish Council area is likely to add significantly to the travel times and workload of those representing Wirswall. The Borough Council therefore recommends two seats for Wirswall and three for each of the other two parishes. This recommendation also takes account of the fact that each of the three existing parishes received at least three nominations at the 2019 ordinary elections; it is hoped that the recommended allocation of seats between the three areas will therefore allow each seat to be filled without much difficulty and that it will avoid undue disruption to the Council's working arrangements.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of existing Parish Group into a single parish.
Parish Council name and style	Marbury & District Parish Council (no change in council name)
Parish name(s)	Marbury & District (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Three wards, each comprising of the current three parishes (i.e. existing parish boundaries to become parish ward boundaries). Ward names to be those of the existing parishes, namely “Marbury cum Quoisley”, “Norbury” and “Wirswall”.
Seats	8 overall (a decrease from the current 19). Allocation of seats between wards: Marbury cum Quoisley 3 (a decrease from the current 8), Norbury 3 (a decrease from the current 7), Wirswall 2 (a decrease from the current 4).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	495 (Marbury cum Quoisley 238, Norbury 169, Wirswall 88)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	62 overall (Marbury cum Quoisley 79, Norbury 56, Wirswall 44)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.63 Marton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Marton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Marton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	6
Electorate (2018)	184
Electorate (2025 forecast)	194

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One response from a local organisation, but it made no comments on matters within the remit of the Community Governance Review.

Draft Recommendations

[1] Transfer to Congleton of the following parts of the parish of Eaton: the area south of the Congleton Link Road and west of the A536, which includes part of Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 29 (Giantswood Lane to Manchester Road, Congleton) and LPS 30 (Manchester Road to Macclesfield Road, Congleton); the area south of Havannah Lane; the parts of Buglawton (sections of Malhamdale Road and Crompton Close) not currently in Congleton. The reason for making these transfers was that LPS 29 and LPS 30 contain major new housing development that is partly within Eaton, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and is a consequence of that town's expansion, while Havannah Lane and the Buglawton part of Eaton are established residential areas, but are adjacent to Congleton. It was considered that moving these areas into the parish of Congleton would reflect the town's expansion, local identities, and reliance on Congleton for services.

[2] Merger of the residual part of Eaton (an estimated 192 electors) with either Marton or North Rode (the Draft Recommendations report sought views on which of these merger options, if either, was appropriate). Seven seats for the new merged parish, as this is in line with the average for a parish of the resulting size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions

None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary

There were 56 responses from Marton, all via the consultation survey. Of these 52 (93 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and three (5 five per cent) agreed. The most common reasons given for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (40 mentions) and a view that the current system works well (13). Five responses objected to an anticipated need to invest significant time and expense in remaking the Marton Neighbourhood Plan (and Eaton's Plan) if a merger went ahead, particularly given the volume of work involved in producing the existing Plan.

Other specific points included comments about the current Parish Council being very active and understanding local needs, with a merger into a larger area meaning more remote, less effective representation; there was also some concern that the proposals for Eaton, Marton and North Rode would weaken rural parishes' voice and residents' ability to preserve the local environment and rural village life. It was also pointed out that it was inconsistent for the Draft Recommendations to regard an Eaton parish left with 192 electors as potentially unviable, whilst proposing to leave either Marton or North Rode (both of which also have around 200 electors) as an independent parish.

There were 126 submissions on Eaton, of which three (all opposing the Draft Recommendations) were via email or letter; two of these were from the MPs for Congleton and Macclesfield. The other 123 responses were via the consultation survey and 118 (96 per cent) of these disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; only three (two per cent) agreed. The most frequently-cited reasons for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (59 mentions), the impact on the local environment, the Green Belt or rural areas (35 mentions), a view that the current governance arrangements work well (20) and concern about the impact on the precept (17). No other types of reasons were mentioned by more than two people.

There were 79 submissions on North Rode, of which two (both opposing the Draft Recommendations) were via email or letter. The other 77 responses were via the consultation survey and 69 (90 per cent) of these disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; only eight (10 per cent) agreed. The most frequently-cited reasons for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (45 mentions), a view that the current governance arrangements worked well (22), concern about the impact on the precept (10) and the impact on the local environment, the Green Belt or rural areas (raised by four people).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

Marton Parish Council's submission disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. Reasons given for this view were: the parish's long and ancient heritage (reference was made to the Marton Oak and the local church); the distinct community identity arising from the compact nature of Marton village; the anticipated volume of additional work and confusion that would be involved in remaking the parish's Neighbourhood Plan; Eaton, Marton and North Rode all having separate interests that a merged council would not serve as well as their present ones do; and no prospect of cost savings or other benefits for residents.

North Rode Parish Council - also opposing the Draft Recommendations - had delivered leaflets about the Community Governance Review proposals to all local residents, spoken to many of them and undertaken an online survey. It had not found a single resident who supported the merger proposal, with many feeling their parish's specific needs would get overlooked in the expanded council area. Key objections raised by local people were: the different characters of the two parishes, with Eaton village being compact, but North Rode properties more dispersed; Congleton's expansion directly affecting Eaton but not North Rode; and a perceived greater risk of unwanted development. It noted that North Rode has a strong community spirit, with many families having lived there for generations, some regular community events taking place (e.g. the biannual sheep race), local volunteers helping to maintain the village's appearance and Daintry Hall hosting a lot of social activities and community groups. It emphasised that the local issues it faced - such as unauthorised development, road conditions, heavy goods vehicles using unsuitable roads and increased traffic through the village - were different to those of Eaton, meaning both parishes' needs would be less effectively served if they merged.

In its submission, Eaton Parish Council also disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It too argued that Eaton has very separate interests to its neighbours: for example, mitigating the effects of Congleton's expansion, local quarrying and highways issues. It also argued for a modified, less extensive transfer of land from its parish to Congleton. In particular, it drew attention to the Eaton Neighbourhood Plan Inspector's examination report, which states that a further significant extension of Congleton's housing development into the remaining undeveloped area of Eaton would be highly undesirable and would compromise efforts to maintain a green gap and protect Cranberry Moss (a site of biological importance) and the surrounding natural landscape. The Parish Council also states that a transfer of this area (the part of Eaton north of Moss Lane) would be contrary to policies in the Cheshire East Local Plan and the emerging SADPD (Site Allocations and Development Policies Document) that seek to protect this land from development. In addition, Eaton Parish Council highlights the fact that Havannah Lane has a distinct identity and no vehicular access to the Buglawton area of Congleton - with a valley separating some Havannah Lane properties from the town - and therefore looks primarily to Eaton for services and community activities. It notes that councillors representing the proposed new Congleton ward covering Havannah would be unlikely to know this small area well and serve its interests effectively.

Eaton Parish Council's modified proposal - which would keep Havannah Lane and the area north of Moss Lane within Eaton - would therefore mean its electorate remained significantly higher (with 100 more electors) than under the Draft Recommendations proposal. Hence this modification would add to its viability, although the Parish Council notes that its electorate would remain well above 150 even based on the Draft Recommendations and the Borough Council's electorate statistics.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The borough ward Member - who endorses Marton Parish Council's submission - noted that Marton is an ancient parish with a distinct identity and requested that there be no boundary change (or merger).

The MP for Macclesfield opposed the Draft Recommendations, but endorsed Eaton Parish Council's proposed alternative boundary change, for the reasons given by the Parish Council. He emphasised the unique identities of Marton and North Rode, raising many points made by their parish councils and also the concern of North Rode residents that a merger with Eaton would - given Eaton's proximity to Congleton's development - compromise their rural character. He also drew attention to the three parish councils' effectiveness and recent successes, arguing that they should remain as independent councils.

The MP for Congleton also expressed opposition to the end of Eaton as an independent parish.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The Parish Council's submission highlights Marton's unique heritage and the sense of community identity arising from the compact nature of the main village.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One Eaton resident suggested a merger of all three parishes (Eaton, Marton and North Rode), but gave no reasons for this other than a shared "Macclesfield" identity.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council provides persuasive evidence that Marton, with its distinctive history and population concentrated in its main village, has a separate identity and interests to Eaton (and North Rode). It - and a number of its residents - also raise reasonable concerns about the impact of a merger on its Neighbourhood Plan workload. As also noted, the overwhelming majority of its residents oppose a merger (with concern about more remote representation being a key theme), as do Eaton and North Rode Parish Councils and the residents of those two parishes. The submissions from Eaton and North Rode Parish Councils and their residents provide further evidence of the separate identities, characters and interests of those parishes. Furthermore, Eaton Parish Council makes a persuasive case for a modified, less extensive transfer of land from its parish to Congleton, with Eaton residents offering supporting evidence to justify this more modest change.

In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council now recommends the modified Congleton/ Eaton boundary change put forward by Eaton Parish Council. Under this modification, Eaton would be left with around 300 electors - substantially more than the estimated number that would remain under the Draft Recommendations proposal. In addition, Eaton received nominations for all its seven seats at the 2019 ordinary elections and the submissions from residents highlight a Parish Council that is very active and well regarded.

Hence the Borough Council is not concerned about Eaton's viability and now recommends that it remain as an independent parish.

Furthermore, the submissions from Marton and North Rode residents indicate a strong desire for those parishes to remain independent and no evidence to suggest their viability is in question. Therefore the Borough Council also recommends that Marton and North Rode remain as individual parishes.

As for Marton's number of seats, the current total of seven is in line with the average for a council of its size and is equal to the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council. Besides this, Marton residents' submissions indicate a prevailing view that the current governance arrangements work well and the Borough Council does not wish to disrupt that. The Borough Council therefore recommends no change to the current number of seats.

In the light of this evidence - and for the reasons given for the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change in governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Marton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Marton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	194
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	28
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.64 Mere

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Mere
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Mere
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	524
Electorate (2025 forecast)	524

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. No change needed to seat numbers, given that the current total of eight is in line with the average for a council of this size and that nominations matched seats in 2019.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The only mention of Mere in any consultation submissions was Agden Parish Meeting's suggestion that it (and Little Bollington and Millington, it is understood) could be included in a merger with High Legh, Mere or both these larger parishes. However, High Legh Parish Council supported the Draft Recommendation that it remain independent and Little Bollington Parish Meeting and Millington Parish Council did not make any merger proposals involving larger neighbouring parishes.

As there were no consultation responses from Mere Parish Council or its residents, it is assumed that they are content with the proposal of no change. For this reason - and the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

OFFICIAL

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Mere Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Mere (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	524
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	66
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.65 Middlewich

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Middlewich
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Middlewich
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Cledford; Kinderton.
Seats	12 (Cledford 6, Kinderton 6)
Nominations in 2019	22 (Cledford 1, Kinderton 11)
Electorate (2018)	11,347 (Cledford 6,298, Kinderton 5,049)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	11,725 (Cledford 6,696, Kinderton 5,029)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
New housing being developed on Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 42 (Glebe Farm, Middlewich) and LPS 45 (Land off Warmingham Lane West (Phase II), Middlewich); these sites are each divided by the current Middlewich/ Moston parish boundary, but are a consequence of Middlewich's expansion.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Only one response from an individual Middlewich resident, but this did not include any comments. No response from Middlewich Town Council and none from Moston Parish Council or its residents at this stage.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer, from Moston to Middlewich, of those parts of sites LPS 42 and LPS 45 that currently lie within Middlewich. The rationale for this is that these sites reflect the town's expansion and their residents are expected to rely on Middlewich for services and community activities, given that the town is adjacent, whereas other settlements in Moston are relatively distant and offer more limited amenities.

[2] Increase in total seats, from 12 to 15, as this is in line with the average for a council of its size. Number of seats for Cledford ward to be increased from six to nine, but Kinderton seats to stay at six; this would reflect their respective electorate shares more fairly and would take account of the proposed boundary change.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
20 responses from Middlewich (all from individual residents), of which eight (40 per cent) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and 12 (60 per cent) disagreed. However, of the 12 Middlewich residents who disagreed, only two commented specifically on the proposed change to the Moston boundary: one of these felt that this change would provide a pretext for the Borough Council to make more land available for housing development but without any accompanying increase in local infrastructure; the other simply stated that no boundary changes were needed.

Comments made by other 10 who disagreed were focused largely on dissatisfaction with public services more generally, with some feeling that Middlewich was being neglected. Two responses (one from someone who agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations) felt that the Town Council did not engage effectively with residents and was not responding to their requests or queries; one of these residents concluded that an increase in seats would not help address this issue. The other objection to the seating proposals (from someone who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations) related to the continued practice of having multiple seats for each ward - an objection also raised in relation to other (mainly large) town and parish councils; the

wording used in these submissions suggests they were made by the same individual, rather than different people independently making the same argument.

From Moston, there were 11 responses and nine of these agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, though only one of these (from the Parish Council) commented specifically on the proposed changes to the Middlewich boundary.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Middlewich Town Council did not make a submission. Moston Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and specifically supported the Middlewich boundary change.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Although a majority of the 20 responses from Middlewich disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, the Town Council itself did not make a submission and only two of its residents expressed opposition specifically to the boundary change with Moston and the only reason given for this opposition did not relate to community identity. Furthermore, Moston Parish Council supported this boundary change and most of the Moston residents who responded said they agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations (though none commented on the Middlewich boundary specifically).

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
As noted, two Middlewich resident raised concerns that the Town Council did not engage effectively with local residents or respond to/ act on their queries and requests. A number of others listed complaints about public service provision, though these did not refer to the Town Council specifically.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Middlewich Town Council did not make a submission, but 20 of its residents did and a majority (60 per cent) of these people disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, only two of these residents commented specifically on the boundary

change proposal, and the only reason offered for opposing it (from one individual) was a concern that it would encourage developers to build new homes without any accompanying investment in infrastructure. Other comments from Middlewich residents related either to seating proposals or to dissatisfaction with public services and investment more generally. The Borough Council therefore considers that the objections from Middlewich residents are largely unconnected to the boundary line and that this boundary change would not exacerbate the problems they raise; the solutions to these problems are ones that fall outside of the Community Governance Review remit. Furthermore, the change to the Moston/ Middlewich boundary, to bring all of sites LPS 42 and 45 within Middlewich, is supported by Moston Parish Council. None of the submissions from Moston residents comment on this specific boundary change but, as noted, most of them agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations.

In summary, the change to the Moston/ Middlewich boundary has strong support from Moston and its residents, and critical comments from Middlewich residents, whilst significant in number, focus mainly on other matters. In the light of all this consultation evidence, the Borough Council therefore recommends that the change to the Moston/ Middlewich boundary proceed as per the Draft Recommendations.

On the matter of seating, two Middlewich residents raised concerns that the Town Council was ineffective in acknowledging and addressing residents' needs and requests; one of these questioned whether an increase in seats would address this. The Borough Council is also unsure whether such an increase would help, given that the underlying causes of residents' dissatisfaction are widespread and do not necessarily relate to a shortage of Town Council resources. This uncertainty is heightened by the fact that the Town Council did not respond to the consultation with its own perspective. In the light of the available evidence, the Borough Council now recommends that the total number of seats should remain at 12.

However, whilst the current situation of equal seat numbers for each ward allows a political balance, it will mean Cledford residents have substantially less representation than their Kinderton counterparts, with a ratio of 1,170 electors per seat by 2025, compared to 838 for Kinderton. The Borough Council therefore recommends that the 12 seats be reallocated, so that Cledford has seven (one extra seat) and Kinderton five (on seat less). This results in very similar ratios for both wards.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.21 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Moston to Middlewich Town Council's Cledford ward, of the shaded area (the Moston parts of sites LPS 42 & LPS 45) shown in Map 2.21.
Parish Council name and style	Middlewich Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Middlewich (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing internal ward boundaries or to ward names (Cledford; Kinderton)
Seats	12 overall (no change) Allocation of seats between wards: Cledford 7 (an increase from the current 6), Kinderton 5 (a decrease from the current 6).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	12,047 (Cledford 7,018, Kinderton 5,029)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	1,004 overall (Cledford 1,003, Kinderton 1,006)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Moston – transfer to Middlewich"

2.66 Millington

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Millington
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Millington
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	5
Nominations in 2019	3
Electorate (2018)	151
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast: 149. Revised forecast: 185. Note: The revised forecast takes account of the December 2021 Electoral Register data.

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Millington with the Parish Meetings of Agden and Little Bollington, to form a new parish council with no warding and eight seats. The rationale for this is that all three bodies are relatively small, with Millington's shortage of nominations raising questions about is viability as an independent parish council.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Millington Parish Council responded, as did Agden Parish Meeting and Little Bollington Parish Meeting (see below for a summary of their submissions). One Little Bollington individual resident agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but provided no specific comments and no other individual residents from Millington, Agden or Little Bollington made submissions.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Millington Parish Meeting's submission opposed the Draft Recommendations, feeling that it had a much more rural identity and consequently different needs to Agden and Little Bollington; it also considered that integration with Parish Meetings, with their different ways of working, could prove challenging. However, Millington felt it had much in common with Rostherne and Tatton and therefore proposed that it be included in their merger. The arguments put forward by Millington in support of this were: Rostherne and Millington are both very small parish councils, so neither would lose its individual voice to a much larger partner; the two parish council areas and Tatton are rural, farming communities, so have a shared identity; the impact of HS2 is a common challenge that a merged, larger parish council could respond to more effectively; Rostherne and Millington have a history of supporting each other on other issues, such as road (A556) and housing developments; the two councils share a clerk and use the same premises for their meetings; there are social links between the two councils; and its proposed merger, in tandem with a merger of Agden and Little Bollington, would create two parish councils of very similar size (about 300 electors).

Millington Parish Council's submission also notes that it had approached Rostherne with its alternative proposal; Rostherne did not support the proposal at that time, but Millington had since written to Rostherne, setting out the rationale summarised above.

Millington Parish Council has suggested the name "Bucklow Parish Council" for a merger of Millington, Rostherne and Tatton. Should its proposal not find favour, Millington's preference is to remain as an independent parish council.

Agden Parish Meeting supported the Draft Recommendations proposal, noting that the merged body would provide residents with a stronger, more effective voice to help mitigate the effects of HS2 and the Northern Powerhouse rail project on the local environment, but setting out some conditions and issues that the merger would need to address.

Little Bollington Parish Meeting supported a merger with Agden, but noted that most of Millington's residents live on the opposite (south) side of the M56 and felt its Parish Meeting shared communal links and interests only with the small part of Millington that lies north of the motorway. Little Bollington Parish Meeting reported that residents in this northern part of Millington felt more connected to Little Bollington and some attended its communal events and Parish Meetings. It therefore proposed that the merger exclude the part of Millington south of the M56.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Evidence provided by Millington Parish Council that it has many shared interest with and ties to Rostherne, but little in common with Agden or Little Bollington. The submission from Little Bollington Parish Meeting does however highlight the community links that its Parish Meeting has to the small number of Millington residents who live north of the M56.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Agden Parish Meeting's submission proposed that there should be further consultation on wider merger that also included High Legh, Mere, or both these parish councils (the Borough Council presumes this merger proposal would include Little Bollington and Millington as well). However, Agden Parish Meeting did not elaborate on the rationale for this.

Post-consultation assessment

Millington Parish Council's submission makes a persuasive case for its own inclusion in the Draft Recommendations proposed merger of Rostherne and Tatton - citing a number of common interests, shared resources and the advantage of strength in numbers. (It should be noted that Rostherne Parish Council's submission supports the Draft Recommendations Rostherne-Tatton merger proposal and that there were no responses from its residents, nor from Tatton Parish Meeting and its residents during the consultation stage. The Draft Recommendations merger proposal was also favoured by the sole pre-consultation response from Rostherne.)

The unexpected sharp declines in the electorates of Rostherne and Tatton also add weight to the case for including Millington: whilst the forecasts produced for Community Governance Review purposes anticipated a combined electorate for Rostherne and Tatton of 147 by 2025 (no change from 2018), the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put their total electorate at only 117 (Rostherne 103 and Tatton 14), with Rostherne's electorate having fallen from 126 (2018) to 103 (2021) and Tatton's from 21 (2018) to 14 (2021). In contrast, Millington's electorate has increased unexpectedly and (as of December 2021) stands at 185 (up from 151 in 2018).

A further consideration is the identity of those Millington residents north of the M56 and Little Bollington Parish Meeting's submission persuasively argues that those residents - who attend its meetings and events - are more closely linked to Little Bollington. The Borough Council estimates that only around seven of Millington's properties lie north of the motorway; based on the average number of electors per property in the local borough ward of High Legh, it estimates this would equate to 13 electors. If this part of Millington were to be included in a merger of Agden and Little Bollington, it would therefore leave the rest of Millington with 172 electors. As such, Millington could remain as an independent parish even with this transfer.

However, Millington itself had only three nominations for its five seats in 2019, which raises questions about its own viability, even though, as noted above, its electorate has grown significantly since 2018.

Taking all these factors and the collective submission evidence into account, the Borough Council recommends that the small part of Millington north of the M56 be transferred to Little Bollington (to be included in a merger of that Parish Meeting and Agden) and that the rest of Millington be merged with Rostherne and Tatton.

The Borough Council considers that "Bucklow" (Millington's suggestion) would be an acceptable name for the new merged parish, but is conscious both of the request in Rostherne's submission for its existing name to be retained and of Millington's separate

history. It therefore recommends the name "Millington & Rostherne" and the style "Parish" (as the submissions from both Millington Parish Council and Rostherne Parish Council favoured this).

As for the number of seats for this new merged council, the original Community Governance Review forecasts suggest it would have 283 electors by 2025 (136 in the area of Millington south of the M56 plus 147 in Rostherne and Tatton). However, as noted, the December 2021 Electoral Register data show Millington's electorate has seen significant, unexpected growth, whilst the reverse is true for Rostherne and Tatton. Consequently, the 2021 Electoral Register numbers are now seen as a better guide, but imply a similar overall total of 289 electors (172 in the area of Millington south of the M56 plus 117 in Rostherne and Tatton). For this number of electors, seven seats is in line with the Cheshire East average. However, the new merged parish would cover a relatively large and very rural area, placing additional demands on councillors. Furthermore, Rostherne received nominations for all of its eight seats in 2019, while Millington received only three for its five seats. Therefore the Borough Council recommends eight seats, as this would better reflect the likely workload, as well as enabling more continuity (less turnover of councillors) and - based on the 2019 nominations figures for Millington and Rostherne - there is a good prospect of getting nominations for all seats.

The Borough Council is also conscious that Millington is in a separate borough ward to Rostherne and Tatton and has a separate history. It therefore recommends that the new parish be divided into two wards: a "Millington" ward (covering the Millington parish area south of the M56) and a "Rostherne and Tatton" ward, covering the rest of the new parish. Based on their electorate shares as of 2021, five seats for Millington and three for Rostherne & Tatton would be a fair division. However, given Millington's wish for a broad political balance with Rostherne, plus Rostherne's somewhat greater success (based on 2019 data) in attracting nominations and the fact that Rostherne has eight of the affected areas' existing thirteen seats, a split of four seats each is more likely to provide continuity and political stability. Furthermore, the Rostherne & Tatton ward covers a much larger geographical area than Millington - and it would have to address the unique challenges and opportunities presented by Tatton Park. Therefore the Borough Council recommends four seats for each ward.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.20 & 2.22 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Millington to the parish of Little Bollington, of the shaded area (the area of Millington north of the M56) shown in Map 2.20.
Parish Council name and style	Millington & Rostherne Parish Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Millington & Rostherne (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Two wards, with boundaries as shown in Map 2.22: [1] "Millington", consisting of the part of the current Millington Parish Council that lies south of the M56; [2] "Rostherne & Tatton", consisting of the current Rosthern Parish Council and the current Tatton Parish Meeting.
Seats	8 (Millington 4, Rostherne & Tatton 4)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	289 overall (Millington 172, Rostherne & Tatton 117) This is a revised forecast that takes account of the December 2021 Electoral Register data.
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	36 overall (Millington 43, Rostherne & Tatton 29). Figures based on the revised forecast.
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Millington – transfer to Little Bollington" • "Millington & Rostherne – warding"

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2.67 Minshull Vernon & District

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Minshull Vernon & District
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Leighton; Minshull Vernon; Woolstanwood.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Leighton Rural; Leighton Urban. (Leighton is the only warded parish in the Group.)
Seats	22 (Leighton Rural 3, Leighton Urban 8, Minshull Vernon 7, Woolstanwood 4)
Nominations in 2019	13 (Leighton Rural 0, Leighton Urban 5, Minshull Vernon 7, Woolstanwood 1)
Electorate (2018)	5,127 (Leighton Rural 388, Leighton Urban 3,967, Minshull Vernon 209, Woolstanwood 563)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	6,012 (Leighton Rural 1,227, Leighton Urban 3,967, Minshull Vernon 262, Woolstanwood 556)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 4 (Leighton West) and LPS 5 (Leighton), which fall largely within Leighton. A small area of LPS 4 is within Woolstanwood.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
A Leighton resident felt the current governance gave undue weight to the rural part of their parish.

The Parish Council requested its name be changed to list all three parishes, to provide clarity over the area it covers. The Parish Council also proposed changing the boundaries between Leighton, Woolstanwood and Crewe, so that they followed Sunnybank Road, Pym's Lane and Minshull New Road, to provide clearer demarcation than at present.

There was also a submission - not attributed to any one parish, as it commented on several - which proposed that Wistaston Green parish ward, Woolstanwood parish and Leighton parish's Urban ward should be merged with Crewe.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Merge Leighton and Woolstanwood with Crewe, on the grounds that their urban areas are part of the same conurbation and their rural areas have too small an electorate to constitute a viable parish.

[2] Merge Minshull Vernon with Church Minshull, as both are rural parishes in the same borough ward and vote at the same location.

The Parish Council's proposal to alter the boundary around Sunnybank Road, Pym's Lane and Minshull New Road did not form part of the Draft Recommendations (and is not one the Parish Council followed up in its consultation stage submission). This boundary change would entail some electoral risk, as it would involve the transfer to Minshull Vernon & District of land (within Crewe Town Council) that would remain within the Crewe St Barnabas borough ward. As the affected areas of land are largely non-residential (and will remain so up to 2025), the Borough Council did not consider the benefits of this boundary change sufficient to outweigh the electoral risk involved.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions (and official poll results)
Two petitions were received relating to Minshull Vernon & District. One of these, which had 72 signatures, called on the Borough Council to "remove their proposals to abolish the Leighton and Woolstanwood Parishes and merge the Minshull Vernon Parish, from their next consultation".

As this petition notes, Minshull Vernon & District held official polls on 10th June 2021, in which the residents of each parish voted by very large majorities against the Draft Recommendations proposals. The poll question wording and results were as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Results of Minshull Vernon & District official poll, 10th June 2021

Parish	Wording of poll question	Number voting "Yes"	Number voting "No"	% voting "Yes"	% voting "No"	Turnout
Leighton	Do You Want to Keep Your Leighton Parish?	683	11	98%	2%	15%
Minshull Vernon	Do you object to the abolition of Minshull Vernon and District Parish Council and the merger of Minshull Vernon Parish with Church Minshull Parish?	19	9	68%	32%	14%
Woolstanwood	Do You Want to Keep Woolstanwood Parish?	171	5	97%	3%	32%

The second petition, which had seven signatures, sought "full clarity from Cheshire East Council as to why they want to make changes to the Leighton, Woolstanwood and Minshull Vernon Parish Council areas", arguing that the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal had not been explained.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary

Besides the two petitions, a further 332 submissions were received, of which 329 were submitted via Cheshire East's consultation survey and three (one from each parish) were in the form of letters or emails. Of these 332, 251 were from Leighton, 47 from Minshull Vernon and 34 from Woolstanwood. Of the 251 submissions from Leighton, 241 (96 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only five agreed. Of those from Minshull Vernon, 45 (96 per cent) disagreed overall and only one agreed. Of those from Woolstanwood, 33 (97 per cent) disagreed overall and only one agreed.

Of the 332 responses made via the consultation survey, letter or email, 220 included comments. 48 per cent (105) of those who made comments cited the results of the June 2021 official poll and 47 per cent (104) cited a view that their parish and its council had a distinct identity (from Crewe/ Church Minshull) as a reason for opposing the break-up of Minshull Vernon & District. 35 per cent (78) argued that the current government arrangements worked well and 22 per cent (49) raised concerns about the impact of the Draft Recommendations on their tax bills, with the residents from Leighton and Woolstanwood being much more likely to cite the latter concern than those from Minshull Vernon.

The responses from Church Minshull (covered in more detail in the Church Minshull subsection of this Assessment Report) overwhelmingly opposed a merger of that parish with Minshull Vernon.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council's submission cites the results of the June 2021 poll and also those of an online poll on its website, in which 180 people voted, with 172 supporting the retention of their Council.

On the matter of nominations at the 2019 ordinary elections falling some way short of available seats, the Parish Council notes that these vacancies were filled within six months and that those who were co-opted found it more practical to wait for vacancies to emerge than go through the nominations process. In other words, there was no shortage of people willing to serve on the Council - but the Parish Council also notes that the Draft Recommendations proposal to break up the Council had an unfortunate deterrent effect: "since the publication of the draft recommendations for the abolition of the Parish Council, we have received no requests for co-option and a number of Councillors have resigned as they have no confidence in the consultation process as [they] see the outcome as already decided." The Parish Council also highlights its concerns about the sharply reduced level of representation (a much higher ratio of electors per seat) that Leighton and Woolstanwood residents would receive - and the higher tax bills they would face in financially challenging times - if their parishes were merged with Crewe.

The Parish Council's own proposal – which assumes no mergers and no changes to its external boundary - is a reduction from 22 seats to 16 (Leighton 11, Minshull Vernon 2, Woolstanwood 3). It also favours the removal of the Urban/ Rural warding within Leighton, which it feels no longer reflects the actual rural/ urban geography. In addition, it reaffirms its original (pre-consultation survey) wish for its name to be changed, to list all three of its constituent parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The borough ward Member for Wistaston (which includes Woolstanwood) cited the June 2021 poll results and supported Woolstanwood residents' wishes to retain their parish within Minshull Vernon & District.

The MP for Crewe & Nantwich also mentioned the poll results and said they should carry significant weight in the Borough Council's decision; he also noted that residents of Leighton see themselves as being separate to Crewe and raised concern about the prospect of Minshull Vernon & Districts' residents seeing a sharp reduction in the number of councillors representing them.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted above, of all those submissions from Minshull Vernon & District residents that included comments, 104 (75 from Leighton, 14 from Minshull Vernon and 15 from Woolstanwood) felt their parish and its council had a distinct identity. Along with the results of the June 2021 poll, this was the most commonly-cited reason for opposing the Draft Recommendations. Many responses included concerns that being merged with Crewe would result in more remote representation, with residents being more dependent on the decisions of councillors who did not know the Leighton/ Woolstanwood area and who were unlikely to commit resources to addressing challenges in those areas.

One submission from a Woolstanwood resident, whilst much preferring the status quo to any alternative, suggested a merger with other rural parishes would be the least worst merger option. However, no other submissions from Minshull Vernon & District advocated any form of merger – which again highlights the feeling of separate identity that the Council's residents have.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
As noted, 78 of the Minshull Vernon & District responses commented that the current arrangement works well - with some giving specific examples of the Parish Council offering a good service and dealing with local challenges effectively, and noting that local councillors were easy to locate and approach - and there is overwhelming support from residents for the current Parish Council to be retained. (As also noted, the Parish Council had no difficulty filling vacant seats prior to the Draft Recommendations proposals, despite its large number of seats.) This indicates that the Parish Council is providing effective and convenient local government.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Crewe Town Council's submission (which supported the Draft Recommendations) suggested that Leighton's boundary could be aligned with Moss Lane and the railway, to provide greater clarity.

Post-consultation assessment

The June 2021 poll results, along with the consultation submission responses, demonstrate local residents' overwhelming support for the retention of the existing Parish Council and its current boundaries, with a distinct local identity being the predominant reason underlying this, though with the Council's effectiveness also being commonly cited. In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council considers that the Draft Recommendations proposals cannot be justified and that Minshull Vernon & District should remain as an independent parish council. Furthermore, the Borough Council hopes and expects that this decision will result in renewed interest in serving on the Parish Council.

As noted above, Crewe Town Council's submission suggested that Leighton's boundary could be aligned with Moss Lane and the railway, to provide greater clarity. However, this boundary change would entail some electoral risk, as it would involve the transfer of areas of land that are in different borough wards. As the affected areas of land are largely non-residential (and will remain so up to 2025), the Borough Council does not consider that the provision of separate polling facilities (to avoid electoral risk) can be justified. The Borough Council's view also reflects the fact that this boundary change was not proposed in any other submissions – and the fact that the Town Council's proposal is, presumably, predicated on the Draft Recommendations merger of Crewe and Leighton (and Woolstanwood) going ahead.

Consequently the Borough Council recommends with no changes to Minshull Vernon & District's external boundary, and no changes to the boundaries of its constituent three parishes.

The Borough Council maintains its view that the current 22 seats is unreasonably high for a parish council of Minshull Vernon & District's size (over 6,000 electors forecast by 2025), particularly in light of the shortage of nominations seen in 2019.

The Final Recommendations for other parish councils of similar size generally propose around 12 to 15 seats, but Minshull Vernon & District covers an unusually wide and geographically diverse area spanning an urban conurbation but also very rural areas - and is host to Leighton Hospital and major new Local Plan development sites - all of which are likely to add to the complexity and volume of Parish Council's work.

Given this, together with the disruption and adverse impact of resources and councillor workloads that could result from a reduction to 15 or even fewer seats, the Borough Council agrees with the Parish Council's proposal for 16 seats. Whilst the Parish Council's proposed allocation of these 16 seats between the three parishes would result in rather disparate ratios of electors per seat (ranging from 131 for Minshull Vernon to 472 for Leighton), the Borough Council considers that this allocation not only reasonably

reflects the additional workload facing the more rural parishes (Minshull Vernon and Woolstanwood), but also avoids one parish (Leighton) having a near-monopoly on decision-making. (Leighton would have 14 of the 16 seats, and the other two parishes one seat each - and hence no representation at all if and when their sole councillor is sick or resigns - if the allocation were based on electorate shares alone.) The Borough Council therefore recommends a total of 16 seats, with 11 for Leighton, two for Minshull Vernon and three for Woolstanwood, as per the proposals in the Parish Council's consultation stage submission.

The Borough Council also agrees with the Parish Council's view that the current division of Leighton into separate urban and rural wards no longer reflects actual geography and should be removed. The Borough Council also agrees that the Parish Council's proposed new Council name would improve understanding of the area covered and recommends this name – listing all three constituent parishes – be adopted.

Nevertheless, the Borough Council is mindful that the recommended reduction in seats for the parish of Minshull Vernon (from seven seats to two) is very substantial and is anxious that this change be managed and monitored with particular care.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Leighton, Minshull Vernon & Woolstanwood Parish Council (new name, but no change to style)
Parish name(s)	Leighton; Minshull Vernon; Woolstanwood (no change).
Warding arrangements (if any)	Removal of warding from Leighton parish. This means the whole council will be unwarded.
Seats	16 overall (a decrease from the current 22). Allocation of seats between parishes: Leighton 11 (no change), Minshull Vernon 2 (a decrease from the current 7), Woolstanwood 3 (a decrease from the current 4).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	6,012 (Leighton 5,194, Minshull Vernon 262, Woolstanwood 556)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	376 overall (Leighton 472, Minshull Vernon 131, Woolstanwood 185)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.68 Mobberley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Mobberley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Mobberley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	12
Nominations in 2019	11
Electorate (2018)	2,475
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,508

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
See pre-consultation survey response information below regarding the Longridge Trading Estate.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None from Mobberley Parish Council or its residents.

However, Knutsford Town Council's submission requested that its boundary with Mobberley be redrawn slightly, to include the whole of the Longridge Trading Estate, as currently a small part of the Estate (part of a single building) is within Mobberley.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer the Mobberley part of the Longridge Trading Estate to Knutsford, given that the Town Council proposed this and that it avoids the confusion and potential extra liaison work resulting from the Estate being split between two councils. No residential properties and hence no electors would be affected by this change. However, this transfer to be delayed until the next borough ward review is due, as Mobberley is in a different borough ward to Knutsford and therefore electoral risk arises in the event of a commercial referendum.

[2] Keep number of seats at 12, as this is in line with the average for a council of this size and nominations fell only slightly short of available seats in 2019.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
No responses from individual Mobberley residents.

Of the five submissions from individual Knutsford residents, three agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and two disagreed, but none of the five made reference to the Mobberley boundary change part of the Recommendations for Knutsford.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Mobberley Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It did not comment on the proposal of no change in seats. However, it objected to the boundary change, arguing that it would lose out on its land allocation if the affected land is designated for development.

Knutsford Town Council's submission welcomed the Draft Recommendations boundary change proposal, but questioned the need for implementation to be delayed until the next borough ward review.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Of the 75 submissions on Chorley (near Wilmslow), three suggested that Chorley could be merged with Mobberley. However, these two were from people who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations for Chorley (a merger with Wilmslow and Handforth) and it may be that some of these suggestions were put forward as the best outcome if a merger had to take place, rather than their preferred overall outcome (which might be no merger at all).

Post-consultation assessment
On the Longridge boundary issue, the Borough Council understands Mobberley Parish Council's wish to avoid a potentially smaller land allocation. However, the area proposed for transfer is already developed for commercial purposes - it consists only of part of a commercial building - and the prospect of redevelopment (for a non-commercial purpose) is remote and, in terms of land area, the size of the transfer is very small. Therefore the risk to Mobberley from the transfer is extremely low and would involve a low impact even if it did occur. Therefore the Borough Council still recommends that this boundary change proceed.

The Draft Recommendation was that this transfer from Mobberley to Knutsford be delayed until the next borough ward review is due, as Mobberley is in a different borough ward to Knutsford and therefore electoral risk arises in the event of a commercial referendum. However, Knutsford Town Council is right to note that many other boundary changes involving electoral risk are treated differently in the Draft Recommendations and not being deferred until the next borough ward review. Furthermore, the Borough Council has reconsidered the timing of this boundary change and has concluded that it would in fact be practical to implement it now. The Borough Council's Final Recommendation, therefore, is that this boundary change be implemented now, rather than be deferred.

As no objections or comments were made on the seating proposal, and given the current total is line with average for a council of Mobberley's size, the Borough Council further recommends that the Parish Council retain its existing 12 seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.19a in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Mobberley to Knutsford Town Council's new "St John's Wood" ward, of the shaded area (the Mobberley part of the Longridge Trading state) shown in Map 2.19a.
Parish Council name and style	Mobberley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Mobberley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	12
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,508
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	209
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.69 Moston

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Moston
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Moston
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	433
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,456

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
[1] The Albion Lock development, which is within the current Moston parish boundary, but which is adjacent to Sandbach, is a consequence of the town's expansion. Many of Sandbach's services and activities (unlike those in Middlewich and the more limited provision in Moston) are accessible on foot from Albion Lock.

[2] New housing being developed on Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 42 (Glebe Farm, Middlewich) and LPS 45 (Land off Warmingham Lane West (Phase II), Middlewich); these sites are each divided by the current Middlewich/ Moston parish boundary, but are a consequence of Middlewich's expansion.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
No response from Moston Parish Council or its residents at this stage.

No response from Middlewich Town Council at this stage.

Sandbach Town Council's pre-consultation survey response proposed a change to its boundary with Haslington (and to its total seats), but did not mention the Moston boundary or the Albion Lock development.

Only one response from an individual Sandbach resident, but this did not include any comments; likewise, a single response (with no comments) from an individual Middlewich resident.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer, from the parish of Moston to Sandbach Town Council's Elworth ward, of the Albion Lock housing development. Transferred area to consist of that part of Moston that is east of the A533 and south of the Brenntag works, and the three existing properties on the opposite (west) side of this stretch of the A533. The purpose is to locate the new development within Sandbach, as it is a consequence of the town's expansion and is expected to rely on the town for local services and community activities.

[2] Transfer, from the parish of Moston to Middlewich Town Council's Cledford ward, of those parts of sites LPS 42 and LPS 45 that currently lie within Middlewich. The rationale for this is that these sites reflect the town's expansion and their residents are expected to rely on Middlewich for services and community activities, given that the town is adjacent, whereas other settlements in Moston are relatively distant and offer more limited amenities.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary

There were 11 responses from Moston and nine of these agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, including that from the Parish Council.

One of those who did disagree noted that they would change their view on the overall Draft Recommendations to "strongly agree" if the Moston-Sandbach transfer area were modified to exclude the three properties on the west side of the A533 (Cranford, The Cedars and the old Moston Garage), arguing that they are old properties that identify with Moston (see below for the Parish Council's supporting evidence on this issue) and that keeping them in that parish would help safeguard the green gap between Moston and Sandbach. This submission also made reference to the green gap policy in Moston's Neighbourhood Plan, which shows the three properties are adjacent to a designated green gap area. This same submission was also the only one from an individual resident that commented on (to express support for) the proposed reduction to seven seats.

The other Moston resident who disagreed cited concerns about the Albion Lock transfer encouraging developers to expand housing sites further into Moston.

However, three Moston residents who agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations voiced support for the Albion Lock transfer specifically; two of these were Albion Lock residents and both felt they were part of the Sandbach/ Elworth community; one of these made practical suggestions for improving the estate's pedestrian access to Sandbach services.

Of the nine responses from Sandbach, five agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and three disagreed. The other one, which was the Town Council's response, disagreed with some proposals, but supported the Albion Lock transfer.

20 responses from Middlewich (all from individual residents), of which eight (40 per cent) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and 12 (60 per cent) disagreed. However, only two of the 12 Middlewich residents who disagreed commented specifically on the proposed change to the Moston boundary: one of these felt that this change would provide a pretext for the Borough Council to make more land available for housing development but without any accompanying increase in local infrastructure; the other simply stated that no boundary changes were needed. Comments made by the other 10 who disagreed were in relation to seating proposals for the town or to dissatisfaction with public services more generally, with some feeling that Middlewich was being neglected.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and specifically supported the proposed reduction in seats, the Middlewich boundary change and the Albion Lock transfer. However, it opposes the inclusion of Cranford and its neighbours on the west side of the A533, on the grounds that they are old properties that are an established part of their parish; furthermore, the Parish Council had consulted their residents on the Community Governance Review proposals and found they identified strongly with Moston and wished to remain in that parish.

In its submission, Sandbach Town Council also supports the transfer of the Albion Lock development, though it does not comment specifically on the Draft Recommendations proposed inclusion in this transfer of three properties that are on the west side of the A533 (Cranford, The Cedars and the Old Moston Garage).

Middlewich Town Council did not make a submission.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Both the Parish Council and Sandbach Town Council support the proposed transfer of Albion Lock to Sandbach's Elworth ward. The responses from Moston and Sandbach residents indicate little objection to this transfer and the two responses received from Albion Lock residents were among those in favour.

However, the Parish Council has received confirmation from the residents of homes on the opposite side of the A533 - Cranford and The Cedars - that they identify strongly with Moston and wish to remain there; the adjacent former garage (not occupied) is also seen as part of Moston. As also noted above, one individual Moston resident opposed the inclusion of these three properties, again partly on the grounds that they are part of Moston's identity.

Although a majority of the 20 responses from Middlewich disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, the Town Council itself did not make a submission and only two of its residents expressed opposition specifically to the boundary change with Moston and the only reason given for this opposition did not relate to community identity.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No submissions indicate that viability is an issue for Moston.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The transfer of Albion Lock from Moston to Sandbach is supported by the Parish Council and Sandbach Town Council, with only one local resident opposing this specific change and Albion Lock residents themselves expressing support and seeing their development as part of the Sandbach/ Elworth community. In addition, a majority of the responses from both Sandbach and Moston agree overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, the Parish Council provides evidence that Cranford and adjacent established properties on the opposite (west) side of the A533 identify with Moston and wish to remain there; a Moston resident concurs and also argues persuasively that keeping these properties in the parish would help safeguard its green gap and the Moston Neighbourhood Plan's green gap policy.

In the light of all this consultation evidence, the Borough Council therefore recommends that the Draft Recommendations proposed change to the Sandbach/ Moston boundary be modified, so that the Albion Lock development is transferred to Sandbach, but Cranford and the other two properties adjacent to it (The Cedars and the old Moston garage) stay in Moston.

As a result of the modification to the boundary change, Moston would retain an additional two occupied properties (the old garage being unoccupied); applying the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward of Brereton Rural, that means an extra four electors would stay in Moston, giving it an estimated 305 electors (2025 forecast), rather than the 301 that it would have had under the Draft Recommendations proposals.

The change to the Moston/ Middlewich boundary, to bring all of sites LPS 42 and 45 within Middlewich, is supported by the Parish Council. None of the submissions from Moston residents comment on this specific boundary change but, as noted, most of them agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. Middlewich Town Council did not make a submission, but 20 of its residents did and a majority of these people disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, only two of these residents commented specifically on the boundary change proposal, and the only reason offered for opposing it (from one individual) was a concern that it would encourage developers to build new homes without any accompanying investment in infrastructure. Other comments from Middlewich residents related either to seating proposals or to dissatisfaction with public services and investment

more generally. The Borough Council therefore considers that the objections from Middlewich residents are largely unconnected to the boundary line and that this boundary change would not exacerbate the problems they raise; the solutions to these problems are ones that fall outside of the Community Governance Review remit.

In summary, the change to the Moston/ Middlewich boundary has strong support from Moston and its residents, whilst critical comments from Middlewich residents, whilst significant in number, focus mainly on other matters.

In the light of all this consultation evidence, the Borough Council therefore recommends that the change to the Moston/ Middlewich boundary proceed as per the Draft Recommendations.

The Draft Recommendations proposed reduction from eight seats to seven would be in line with the average for a council of Moston's size (following the recommended boundary changes); as noted, the Parish Council supports this change (as does the only Moston resident to comment on that specific proposal). The Borough Council therefore recommends that this change in seats proceed.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

OFFICIAL

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.21 & 2.23 in the Final Recommendations Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Moston to Middlewich Town Council's Cledford ward, of the shaded area (the Moston parts of Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 42 and LPS 45) shown in Map 2.21. Transfer, from the parish of Moston to Sandbach Town Council's Elworth ward, of the shaded area (Albion Lock housing development area) shown in Map 2.23.
Parish Council name and style	Moston Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Moston (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (a decrease from the current 8)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	305
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	44
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Moston – transfer to Middlewich" • "Moston – transfer to Sandbach"

2.70 Mottram St Andrew

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Mottram St Andrew
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Mottram St Andrew
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Mottram St Andrew; Newton.
Seats	7 (Mottram St Andrew 5, Newton 2)
Nominations in 2019	7 (Mottram St Andrew 5, Newton 2)
Electorate (2018)	532 (Mottram St Andrew 442, Newton 90)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	534 (Mottram St Andrew 441, Newton 93)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Two responses from individual residents, one from the borough ward Member and one from the Parish Council. All four stated that the current council and the governance arrangements work well, with councillors engaging effectively with residents; the general view was that no change was required.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Over Alderley with Mottram St Andrew. The rationale for this is that Over Alderley is a relatively small parish, that it had only four nominations in 2019 (suggesting difficulty in filling seats). Nine seats for the new council, which is in line with the average for a council of the resulting size. The Draft Recommendations sought public views on whether warding (with ward boundary based on the current parish boundary) is appropriate. Six seats proposed for Mottram St Andrew and three for Over Alderley (if there is to be warding), as this reflects their respective shares of the electorate.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
22 submissions from Mottram St Andrew, of which one (from the borough ward Member) was via email and 21 via the consultation survey. Of the 21 survey responses, 18 (86 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, two agreed and the other neither agreed nor disagreed. The most common reasons offered for disagreeing were to do with local identity and interests (cited in 15 responses) and a view that the current system works well (13); no other reason was mentioned by more than three people.

Specific points relating to local identity were: Mottram St Andrew and Over Alderley have very different characters; Mottram St Andrew has a strong community spirit, with the school, village hall, church and pub and events like bonfire night being key focal points for community activities; the existing councillors know the local area well, but coverage of Over Alderley as well would dilute this and the extra workload involved in this expanded area would deter people from serving on the council; and Mottram St Andrew itself covers a varied geographical area and needs separate representation to meet the needs of its different sub-areas.

Comments relating to viability included: the council runs a wide range of activities, is efficient and engages well with residents; the parish is effective at filling seats, so loss of a councillor would reduce the number of willing volunteers for no benefit; and potential disruption if the current clerk's expertise is lost.

Three submissions objected specifically to the loss of warding for Newton; reasons for keeping this warding were not suggested, but Over Alderley Parish Council's submission referred to the natural barrier of the River Bollin making Newton a separate community.

There were 114 submissions from Over Alderley, including one (summarised below) from its Parish Council. Of these 114, one (from the local Borough Ward Member) was an email; the others were via the consultation survey. 112 (99 per cent) of the 113 consultation survey responses from Over Alderley stated that they disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; all these people also made specific comments. Although the Draft Recommendations proposals for Over Alderley also considered (but did not recommend) a potential change to that parish's boundary with Nether Alderley, it was clear from the comments made that the merger proposal was the focus of the almost unanimous opposition (the Over Alderley subsection of this Assessment Report provides further details on this).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

Mottram St Andrew Parish Council's submission emphasised the distinct communities and different characters of Mottram St Andrew and Over Alderley. This submission noted the unusually wide range of local facilities and amenities that Mottram St Andrew has (for a rural village), including a hotel, school, golf club, multiple garden centres, cafes, farm shops, a distribution depot, an array of other businesses and rivers/ lakes for fishing. It highlighted the importance of the village hall, the parish's play and recreation grounds and annual local events to communal life and gave examples of council activities, ranging from allotment provision, to a free library service and the development and operation of the village website. It noted the numerous social clubs and other communal activities that occur within the parish, but pointed out that these have no links to Over Alderley.

Newton's longstanding place within the parish, and its success in filling its two seats, is also cited, though the need for its separate warding is not explained.

On the subject of viability, the submission highlights: the Parish Council's effectiveness in addressing highways, planning and other local challenges; the high attendance rates at council meetings; and the infrequency of seat vacancies and the abundance of candidates to fill these.

In addition, the Parish Council raises detailed concerns about the potential costs and disruption of a merger.

Over Alderley Parish Council's submission stated its opposition to the proposed merger with Mottram St Andrew. It made a number of points to demonstrate its viability. It states that the shortage of nominations in 2019 was unrepresentative and that the parish has a strong long-term track record in filing seats: in particular, there have been only three occasions since 1946 when ordinary elections failed to return councillors for all seats, but each time co-option to the vacant positions took place immediately, at the Annual Meeting; vacancies between ordinary elections have also been filled quickly, in recent years often attracting multiple

candidates. The Parish Council points out that 2019 was atypical, with a number of veteran councillors standing down - and that people can be reluctant to stand if there is a risk of a contest that results in the defeat of a valued sitting councillor. In other words, a shortfall in nominations can simply indicate a vote of confidence in incumbent councillors. The Parish Council also argues that its low Band D charge is not an accurate measure of its activities, citing a number of examples of work it undertakes, (much of it at no cost), such as collaborations with (or membership of) local community groups and providing allotments for residents. It also emphasises that its electorate is well in excess of the 150 limit that the Draft Recommendations take for a presumption in favour of parish council status.

As an indication of local community spirit and separate identity, the Parish Council highlights the support services set up for local people in response to COVID and the fact that Over Alderley (with its church and meeting room, but no village centre, no shops or similar amenities) is very different in character to Mottram St Andrew.

The submission also argues that having only three seats to cover Over Alderley would be very inadequate, given its size and rural nature and that the merged parish as a whole would be so large as to make effective service provision very challenging.

Over Alderley Parish Council's submission also summarises the feedback it received directly from residents after delivering letters and a survey about the Community Governance Review to all households: 107 of the 108 responses strongly opposed the merger, with concerns including the loss of valued councillors and local knowledge, reduced representation, the potential difficulty in serving a much larger, unwieldy area and recruiting councillors to do that, loss of funding and loss of local identity.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies

The borough ward Member for Prestbury submitted emails opposing the Draft Recommendations proposal for Over Alderley and Mottram St Andrew to merge, one focusing on Over Alderley and the other on Mottram St Andrew. The email on Mottram St Andrew noted: that opposition to the merger proposal was widespread and any support very limited; the parish's strong community spirit, with local events attracting many residents and the village hall being central to many communal activities; the main village's mix of businesses, amenities and services (including a hotel and school) contributed to its distinctiveness; and the Parish Council was effective, efficient and well regarded locally, with a busy agenda and many activities underway. In the email that focused on Over Alderley, the Member stated that residents had a strong sense of identity and community, with the Reading Room and local church being the focus of many parish activities; this submission also highlighted the viability of the parish, with no shortage of people willing to become councillors and busy meeting agendas.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from Mottram St Andrew Parish Council, its residents' submissions (and that of the local borough ward Member) highlight their parish's strong community spirit, with its range of local services, amenities and communal facilities providing a clear focus for local activities.

Over Alderley Parish Council's submission highlights the strong community spirit within the parish (as does the borough ward Member).

The submissions from both parishes also emphasise their very distinct identity and separate characters.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The submissions from Mottram St Andrew residents highlight the parish council's extensive activities, the local support it has and the fact that it has no difficulty filling seats. Over Alderley Parish Council's submission provides evidence of its viability: a long-term track record in attracting candidates; prompt co-options when vacancies occasionally occur; a wide range of activities (not necessarily involving a cost) that the council undertakes or supports; and an electorate well above that deemed necessary for a presumption in favour of parish council status. The borough ward Member also draws attention to the effectiveness of both parish councils.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One response from an individual Mottram St Andrew resident proposed the transfer of a short section of Alderley Road (between Pott Brook and Dickens Farm) from Over Alderley to Mottram St Andrew, on the grounds that this road is used predominantly by Mottram St Andrew residents (as they travel to access services in Alderley Edge) and Mottram St Andrew parish has a much stronger incentive to ensure it is properly maintained.

Another response from an individual Mottram St Andrew resident suggested that Over Alderley could be merged with Alderley Edge or Nether Alderley.

Another resident - taking the view that the merger proposal was driven by a desire to cut costs - suggested the solution may be to reduce Over Alderley's seats.

Post-consultation assessment

Mottram St Andrew Parish Council's submission argues persuasively against a merger with Over Alderley, highlighting the two parishes' different characters and facilities and Mottram St Andrew's distinct identity, as well as its viability (e.g. its long-term success in filling seats and the range of activities it undertakes). Over Alderley Parish Council's own submission also provides persuasive evidence of both its separate identity and its viability. Furthermore, as shown by both Over Alderley Parish Council's own survey of residents and the large volume of submissions from residents of both parishes to the consultation, the opposition to the Draft Recommendations merger proposal appears to be almost unanimous.

As for alternative suggestions, the idea (suggested by one Mottram St Andrew resident) of merging Over Alderley with Nether Alderley did not receive any support (and indeed was not even mentioned) in the submissions from Over Alderley Parish Council and its residents. The rationale (from another Mottram St Andrew resident) for moving a section of Alderley Road from Over Alderley to Mottram St Andrew is clearly stated, but again received no wider support from consultation submissions; this change would move Dickens Farm to Mottram St Andrew, but it is not known whether the farm's residents necessarily identify with that parish.

In the light of all the consultation evidence, the Borough Council now recommends that Mottram St Andrew and Over Alderley remains as independent parishes, with no changes to their boundaries.

On the matter of warding, the submissions from three Mottram St Andrew residents request that the separate warding for Newton should remain. These submissions do not offer specific reasons for why this warding is deemed necessary and nor does that from the Parish Council itself. However, Over Alderley Parish Council's submission refers to the River Bollin marking the boundary between Newton and the Mottram St Andrew parish ward and it seems likely that this natural barrier, and Newton's geographical distance from other parts of the parish, give it a separate identity and distinct needs. In addition, the Borough Council is generally reluctant to make governance changes that have not received local support - and is even more reluctant when the responses actively oppose such a change. Therefore the Borough Council recommends that Newton remain as a separate ward.

On the matter of seat numbers, the current total of seven is relatively low for a parish of Mottram St Andrew's size, with eight being more typical. However, the submission evidence strongly indicates that the Parish Council is very active and effective with its existing quota of seats and the Borough Council does not wish to disrupt that situation. It therefore recommends that the total number of seats remain at seven.

As for the allocation of seats between the two wards, reducing Newton's allocation to a single seat would better reflect each ward's share of the electorate. However, the Borough Council is generally keen to avoid seats with a single councillor, given the lack of opportunity for sharing workloads within the affected parish ward and the risk of no representation if the sole councillor resigns or falls sick. As also noted, the submission evidence also indicates that the current governance arrangements are working very well. Therefore the Borough Council recommends that the allocation of seats remain as it is, with five for Mottram St Andrew and two for Newton.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Mottram St Andrew Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Mottram St Andrew (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Mottram St Andrew; Newton)
Seats	7 (Mottram St Andrew 5, Newton 2). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	534 (Mottram St Andrew 441, Newton 93)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	76 overall (Mottram St Andrew 88, Newton 47)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.71 Nantwich

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Nantwich
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Nantwich
Current parish ward names (if warded)	North & West; South
Seats	12 (North & West 7, South 5)
Nominations in 2019	26 (North & West 16, South 10)
Electorate (2018)	11,480 (North & West 7,105, South 4,375)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	11,362 (North & West 7,030, South 4,332)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area

[1] Local Plan Strategy site LPS 46 (Kingsley Fields), which is largely within Henhull (with the rest in Worleston), is adjacent to Nantwich and is a consequence of that town's expansion. Construction of this site is well underway, with up to 1,100 homes on LPS 46 eventually (after 2030).

[2] The Malbank Waters site, which is in Edleston, is a development completed in the last few years. It is also adjacent to Nantwich and is a consequence of that town's expansion.

[3] Major development has occurred in recent years in the northern part of the parish of Stapeley, including on the site of the former Stapeley Water Gardens. As a result, almost 90 per cent of the parish council's housing is adjacent to Nantwich.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
18 responses received from Nantwich. Most of these felt that Nantwich should be expanded to include Malbank Waters (11 responses proposed this) and Kingsley Fields (12 proposals); the transfer of all or part of Stapeley (eight proposals) was also a frequent request. Those proposing the transfer of Malbank Waters and Kingsley Fields included a current and a former town councillor.

Two other responses - one of them from the Town Council - felt there should be some expansion of the town's boundaries to reflect recent development and the fact that residents of these new homes would use Nantwich's services; the Town Council also felt they would identify primarily with Nantwich.

Those proposing the transfer of newer developments commonly cited a concern that the residents of these areas were using the town' services but not contributing to the cost of these because they lived outside its boundary.

Four responses proposed an increase in the number of wards, seats or both, with some suggesting specific figures (though these varied from response to response); two of those making such proposals (including the sitting town councillor mentioned earlier) felt that the large number of seats per ward, along with the high number of nominations, resulting in long, unwieldy ballot papers and smaller wards would resolve this.

Three Stapeley residents submitted comments at this stage, one feeling that the parish relied on Nantwich for services and should become part of the Town Council, either as part of the Nantwich South ward or as a separate ward in its own right. However, Stapeley & District Parish Council reported - from canvassing at election time - that local residents identifed strongly with Stapeley and wanted to remain as part of a village, rather than be subsumed into Nantwich. Another of the Stapeley residents felt the boundary with Nantwich around Audlem Road could be made less arbitrary and that the area east of the Cheerbrook Roundabout should be transferred to Willaston.

There was one response from an Acton resident, who made positive comments about Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council's effectiveness; this resident felt (reluctantly) that transfers of new developments to Nantwich (including Malbank Waters and

Kingsley Fields) were appropriate, but noted (with an example) that Nantwich residents were benefiting from some Acton, Edleston and Henhull amenities, rather than simply providing subsidised services for their rural neighbours. This submission did, however, express concern that such transfers should not include additional rural land, affect the viability of the Parish Council or compromise the local Neighbourhood Plan.

There was one submission from an Edleston resident, which also supported the transfer of Malbank Waters.

No submissions made at this stage from Worleston, nor any from Henhull. Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council itself did not respond at this stage.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer Malbank Waters estate from Edleston to Nantwich. Transfer area of Henhull east of Welshmen's Lane (largely comprising site LPS 46 - Kingsley Fields - but also some other recent development and the Nantwich Town Football Club grounds) to Nantwich. The purpose of these transfers is to bring into Nantwich those new developments that are adjacent and which will rely on Nantwich for services and amenities.

[2] No change to the boundary with Stapeley, given that it has a strong separate identity, as shown for example in the Parish Council's pre-consultation submission evidence. (The transfer to Nantwich of the adjacent urban part of Stapeley was presented in the Draft Recommendations as an option that had been considered, but which was not being recommended.)

[3] Increase total seats from 12 to 15, with the Town Council's North & West ward's number of seats increasing from seven to 10, to reflect the council's size and the addition of the transferred parts of Edleston, Henhull and Worleston. The South ward's number of seats to remain at five.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were 12 submissions from Nantwich (all via the consultation survey), of which six agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and four disagreed.

One of those who disagreed stated that it was unfair that Stapeley benefited from but did not contribute to the cost of services provided by Nantwich; this response suggested either a boundary change or that Stapeley Parish Council should contribute to the Nantwich precept. Another objected to the continued practice of having multiple seats for each ward - an objection also raised in relation to other (mainly large) town and parish councils; the wording used in these submissions suggests they were made by the same individual, rather than different people independently making the same argument. A third simply said the Draft Recommendations rationale was unclear; the fourth made no comments.

Aside from Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council's submission (summarised below), there were 10 responses from its individual residents (all via the consultation survey). One of these was from Acton, five from Edleston and four from Henhull. Of these 10, six (the one relating to Acton, two on Edleston and three on Henhull) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; the other four agreed.

The individual submission on Acton was very similar to ones regarding Edleston and Henhull, so it is assumed these three submissions came from the same person. This group of submissions took the view that the transfer to Nantwich of the Kingsley Fields site was justified, but that the transfer of the rest of the land on that side of Welshmen's Lane could be reconsidered. Of the other individual submissions covering Edleston, three provided comments: two were in support of the Draft Recommendations, arguing that the Malbank Waters residents relied on Nantwich for amenities and identified as being from Nantwich and were (unfairly) being subsidised by the town at present; the other opposed the transfer, saying Edleston had a separate identity to Nantwich and that (under the Draft Recommendations proposals) Edleston would be less viable than it is now. One Henhull resident objected to the impact of the transfer on precept charges.

In addition to Stapeley & District Parish Council's response, there were seven submissions from its residents (all from Stapeley; none from Batherton); six of these were via the consultation survey and the other by email. Of the six survey responses, two agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, two disagreed and two neither agreed nor disagreed. The sole email (clearly in disagreement with the Draft Recommendations) felt that Nantwich was unfairly subsidising services enjoyed by Stapeley residents.

There was one response from a Worleston resident, who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but this did not include comments on boundary issues.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Town Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations (and specifically expressed support for the proposed changes to the boundary with Edleston and Henhull). However, it proposed a further change: namely to divide the North & West ward into two, so that the number of seats and consequent number of candidates was more manageable at election time and to enable easier communication between electors and councillors. It proposed using the River Weaver as the boundary. It argued that this split would result in three Town Council wards - North, South and West - of similar size and which could have five seats each.

Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council agreed with the transfer of Malbank Waters and Kingsley Fields to Nantwich, although it objected to the inclusion in the Henhull transfer of the football ground, allotments and some small-scale recent housing development (all of which are outside Kingsley Fields, but which lie between it and the current town boundary); it also objected to the different treatment of Stapeley, but Stapeley & District Parish Council itself agreed with the Draft Recommendations. Worleston & District Parish Council did not make a submission.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The MP for Crewe & Nantwich - not counted in the consultation summary figures given above, as his comments cover a large number of parishes - is sympathetic to the Draft Recommendations proposals to transfer Malbank Waters and Kingsley Fields to Nantwich, but sees Stapeley's recent development as an entirely different case, given Stapeley's separate identity. He therefore agrees with the Draft Recommendations proposal to keep the boundary between Nantwich and Stapeley as it is.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Town Council supports the Draft Recommendations and the Nantwich residents who responded were more likely to agree with those Recommendations than disagree. Those who disagreed offered varying reasons, but did not refer to matters of community identity. As for the responses from the rural parishes that would be affected by the Draft Recommendations boundary proposals, Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council accepted the transfer of Malbank Waters and Kingsley Fields, though it objected to the inclusion of the football ground, allotments and smaller-scale development in the proposed transfer from Henhull. From its residents, there was mixed evidence on whether Malbank Waters identifies with Edleston or Nantwich, though a slight majority of the (very few) submissions from Edleston felt the main links were with Nantwich.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The transfer to Nantwich of Kingsley Fields and Malbank Waters is largely supported by those submissions making comments on those specific proposals. These transfers have the support of Nantwich Town Council and the local MP is sympathetic to these changes. Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council also accepts the transfer of these developments.

Of those Nantwich residents who responded to the consultation, half agreed with the Draft Recommendations and only a third disagreed; the points made by those who disagreed do not coalesce around any particular argument.

The views of Acton, Edleston & Henhull residents on the boundary changes are more mixed, but again do not focus on specific, compelling reasons for not proceeding with these changes.

It is also notable that Malbank Waters' ability to engage in Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council activities is likely to be constrained by the fact it is separated from the rest of the Parish Council area by the railway line and canal. The make-up of the current Parish Council area - a combination of new developments on the edge of Nantwich, a village (Acton) some distance away, and smaller, dispersed settlements - raises questions about the extent to which the area will in future have a shared interest.

In addition, the Parish Council's current governance arrangements are unfair to residents of the new estates, with Edleston and Henhull having only one seat each of the Council's overall total of seven, despite the fact they now (based on December 2021 Register data) each make up over 40% of the Council's electorate, with Acton (five seats) containing only 17% of the electorate.

The Borough Council notes the objection of Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council (and one of its local residents) to the inclusion in the Henhull-Nantwich transfer of the allotments, football ground and smaller developments. However, the submission evidence does not indicate why these areas, which are adjacent to the Nantwich conurbation, might be particularly reliant on the Parish Council for services - and no consultation evidence is offered to suggest they identify with Henhull. In addition, keeping this area within Henhull (but transferring Kingsley Fields) would leave it as a long segment of land surrounded on three sides by Nantwich.

Worleston & District Parish Council did not submit a response during the consultation (or pre-consultation stage); only one of its residents responded, disagreeing with the proposals, but not offering a reason for this view.

The Borough Council disagrees with the comments of Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council and some Nantwich/ Stapeley residents that Stapeley's urban development - also adjacent to Nantwich - should be similarly treated and also transferred to Nantwich: unlike Malbank Waters or Kinsgley Fields, Stapeley has a long history and a distinct identity. Stapeley & District Parish Council's pre-consultation submission provides ample evidence of its residents' separate identity. In addition (unlike the residents of Malbank Waters, for example), the residents of Stapeley's new housing developments have good links (by road and foot) to other parts of their parish and are not so dependent on Nantwich for community activities or services.

In the light of all this consultation evidence and the other factors discussed above, the Borough Council therefore recommends that the Draft Recommendations proposed transfers from Edleston, Henhull and Worleston should proceed, but that (as also proposed in the Draft Recommendations) the boundary with Stapeley should remain unchanged.

The Town Council - and some of the pre-consultation submissions - make a persuasive case for dividing the existing North & West ward into two, so that election ballot papers are less lengthy and communication with electors is simpler (a problem that would be heightened by the recommended changes to the Town Council's external boundaries). The Town Council's proposal to use the River Weaver as the dividing line is sound: it is a clear natural boundary and this division would split the electors of the enlarged Town Council area almost equally between North, South and West wards, meaning that (as the Town Council suggest) they can be assigned equal numbers of seats, with each ward having a similar ratio of electors to seats.

The Borough Council's own estimate is that (by 2025), the number of electors for these proposed wards would be as follows: North 4,270; South 4,332; West 3,970.

The Borough Council therefore recommends that the North & West ward be split – using the River Weaver as the dividing line - as per the Town Council's proposal.

As noted in the Draft Recommendations report, 15 seats is in line with the average for a council of Nantwich's size – and would mean (based on their respective shares of the electorate) that a fair allocation of these would be five seats for each of the recommended wards. Therefore the Borough Council recommends an increase to 15 seats, with five seats for each ward.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 1 of 2

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.1a, 2.1b & 2.24 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Edleston to Nantwich Town Council's new "West" ward, of the shaded area (Malbank Waters) shown in Map 2.1a. Transfer, from the parish of Henhull to Nantwich Town Council's new "West" ward, of the shaded area (the area of Henhull east of Welshmen's Lane) shown in Map 2.1b. Transfer, from the parish of Worleston to Nantwich Town Council's new "West" ward, of the shaded area (the area of Worleston south of the A51/ Barony Road) shown in Map 2.1b.
Parish Council name and style	Nantwich Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Nantwich (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Division of the current North & West ward into two, using the River Weaver as the new boundary. New warding will therefore consist of the following three wards, with boundaries as shown in Map 2.24: [1] "North", consisting of the part of the existing North & West ward that lies east of the River Weaver. [2] "South", consisting of the same area as the existing South ward. [3] "West", consisting of the part of the existing North & West ward that lies west of the River Weaver, plus the areas being transferred from the parishes of Edleston, Henhull and Worleston.

Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 2 of 2

Seats	15 overall (an increase from the current 12). Allocation of seats between wards: North 5, South 5, West 5. Consequently, there will be no change in the South ward's number of seats.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	12,572 (North 4,270, South 4,332, West 3,970)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	838 overall (North 854, South 866, West 794)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Edleston – transfer to Nantwich" • "Henhull – transfer to Nantwich" • "Nantwich– warding" • "Worleston – transfer to Nantwich"

2.72 Nether Alderley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Nether Alderley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Nether Alderley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	520
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,033

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy site LPS 61 (Alderley Park) contains a major new housing development where 381 houses are planned. The development spans the boundary between the parishes of Nether Alderley and Over Alderley, and 356 homes will fall in the parish of Nether Alderley and 25 will fall within the parish of Over Alderley.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One response from an individual resident, who stated that Nether Alderley relied heavily on Alderley Edge for services and had strong community links to its larger neighbour; this resident felt the two parishes should be merged.

Draft Recommendations
[1] No change to the boundary with Over Alderley, in spite of the new LPS 61 development spanning parts of both parishes. This recommendation reflects the fact that there is a lack of natural boundaries that could be used to define a new parish boundary, unless a large rural swathe of Over Alderley is transferred along with that parish's part of the new development site. It is also based on the fact that the two parishes are in different borough wards and so electoral risk would be involved, meaning that any transferred area would require separate polling facilities.

[2[Increase seats from eight to 10, given the expected doubling of the electorate by 2025 (largely a result of the Alderley Park development). 10 seats would be in line with the average for a parish council of the size Nether Alderley is expected to be by 2025.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None from individual Nether Alderley residents.

There were 114 submissions from Over Alderley, including one (summarised below) from its Parish Council. Of these 114, one (from the local borough ward Member) was an email; the others were via the consultation survey. 112 (99 per cent) of the consultation survey responses from Over Alderley stated that they disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; all these people also made specific comments. However, it should be noted that the Draft Recommendations proposed that Over Alderley should be merged with Mottram St Andrew and it was clear from the comments made that this merger proposal was the focus of the almost unanimous opposition. None of the Over Alderley submissions requested that the boundary with Nether Alderley should be altered.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None from Nether Alderley Parish Council.

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Over Alderley Parish Council's submission stated its opposition to a boundary change with Nether Alderley. It noted that the potential transfer area reviewed (but not proposed) in the Draft Recommendations report covers properties (at Hocker Lane, Birtles Lane and Birtles Hall) that are a separate community to Nether Alderley and which are part of Over Alderley's rural character. Over Alderley Parish Council also felt that such a transfer would not comply with Local Government Boundary Commission for England guidance on using easily identifiable boundaries and that it was likely to fracture community cohesion further by splitting some residents' land and property between the two parishes.

Over Alderley Parish Council also referred to the contents of the Alderley Park Development Brief, which indicates that the new site will contain "three distinctly identifiable character areas", with a circulation road and a separate development to the east of this road creating boundaries and separate communities within Alderley Park. The point here is that Alderley Park does not form a single community that has to be encompassed with a single parish.

In addition, Over Alderley Parish Council highlighted the preparation of plans for a more extensive development that could double Over Alderley's population (this being a factor that the Draft Recommendations report did not consider).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The borough ward Member for Prestbury submitted an email opposing the Draft Recommendations proposal for Over Alderley and Mottram St Andrew to merge, but did not comment on the boundary with Nether Alderley.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Over Alderley Parish Council notes that the residents in the potential transfer area are part of its parish's community, not that of Nether Alderley. It also highlights the fact that the Alderley Park development will not be a single homogenous community that ought to be contained within a single parish, but multiple areas with roads and other features separating them.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One response from an individual Mottram St Andrew resident suggested that Over Alderley could be merged with Alderley Edge or Nether Alderley.

Of the 75 submissions on Chorley (near Wilmslow), two suggested that Chorley could be merged with Nether Alderley and one or more other neighbours (one mentioned Great Warford and Little Warford; the other "Warford"). However, these two were from people who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations for Chorley (a merger with Wilmslow and Handforth) and it seems likely that these suggestions were put forward as the best outcome if a merger had to take place, rather than their preferred overall outcome (which might be no merger at all).

Post-consultation assessment

The submission from Over Alderley Parish Council supports the Draft Recommendations view that a change to its boundary with Nether Alderley is not justified, with no clear natural boundary available for use. The Parish Council offers further, similarly persuasive reasons for keeping this boundary unchanged: namely the fact that residents in the established properties in the southwest of the parish are part of Over Alderley's community, and that the Alderley Park development is not itself a single community that requires representation by one parish. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change to the Nether Alderley/ Over Alderley boundary.

Three responses (if the pre-consultation stage submissions are included) suggested that Nether Alderley could be merged with another neighbour: one suggested Alderley Edge and two proposed merging it with Chorley. However, the overwhelming majority of responses on Alderley Edge, Chorley and Over Alderley (including those from their parish councils) either opposed any mergers involving their parishes or did not mention this as an option. Such changes would not therefore reflect local community identity. Nor are they necessary to ensure viability, as the evidence submitted by Chorley and Over Alderley parish councils and their residents (see separate sections of the Assessment Report covering those parishes) demonstrates persuasively that they are viable as they are. Therefore the Borough Council recommends that Nether Alderley remain as an independent parish.

On the issue of seats, the Alderley Park development is expected to increase the parish's population substantially, which will add significantly to the workload for councillors - and eight seats would be relatively low for a council of its expected size by 2025 (over 1,000 electors). The Borough Council is also conscious that Nether Alderley covers a relatively large geographical area and that this places additional demands on councillors. The Borough Council also recognises the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council services and councillor time. However, it is unsure whether Nether Alderley would be able to fill the 10 seats proposed at the Draft Recommendations stage – and, as noted elsewhere, it is generally minded to leave governance arrangements as they are if (as in this case) the proposed changes receive no support from local residents or their parish council. Therefore the Borough Council recommends that the number of seats remain at eight.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Nether Alderley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Nether Alderley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,033
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	129
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.73 Newbold Astbury cum Moreton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Newbold Astbury cum Moreton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Newbold Astbury cum Moreton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	13 (Astbury 9, Moreton 4)
Nominations in 2019	13 (Astbury 9, Moreton 4)
Electorate (2018)	580 (Astbury 442, Moreton 138)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	595 (Astbury 454, Moreton 141)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council responded, noting that its current total of 13 seats may seem high, but is necessary to serve its widespread geographical area. This response also provided an overview of the Parish Council's activities and recent achievements, and its efforts to keep residents informed and engaged. There were no responses from individual residents.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats from 13 to eight, as this is in line with the average for a council of this size. Remove warding, as it is not considered that the two wards represent separate communities.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were two submissions, both via the consultation survey and both disagreeing overall with the Draft Recommendations. One of these was submitted by a Newbold Astbury cum Moreton parish councillor on behalf of the Parish Council (see below for further details). The other (later) one was from an individual councillor, responding as "As an elected Newbold Astbury cum Moreton parish councillor"; given this wording and the inclusion of some alternative suggestions not in the other submission, it has been assumed that the two responses are from different councillors and that the first one is the Parish Council's collective view but that the second (also summarised below) is an individual one.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
As noted above, the response sent on behalf of the Parish Council disagreed with the Draft Recommendations. It requested no change in the total number of seats and also felt that division of the Council into wards was necessary.

This submission argued that a cut in seats would: cause disruption and uncertainty for its services and activities; increase the workload of remaining councillors (and the clerk/ responsible financial officer) significantly and would consequently deter people from serving on the council; limit the range of skills and experience of councillors and hence constrain their effectiveness; and lead to more problems being referred to Cheshire East, rather than being resolved locally.

A further concern was that the quorum for meetings would be too low (the Parish Council states that a council of eight would need just three councillors present for a meeting to be quorate). It therefore felt that the Draft Recommendations would lead to decisions being taken by a small number of councillors and consequently weaken democracy and accountability - and a perception that councillors were serving their own interests, not the wider community.

The Parish Council also argued that efforts to even out the electors-per-seat ratios between parish councils was unwise, given the varying geographies, population densities and other characteristics of individual towns and parishes (which affect the demands placed on councillors by any given number of electors).

On the matter of warding, the Parish Council stated that Moreton was more rural than Astbury and relatively distant, requiring separate representation for its voice to be heard. Given the importance attached to Moreton, the Parish Council asked that the council retain the name of Newbold Astbury cum Moreton.

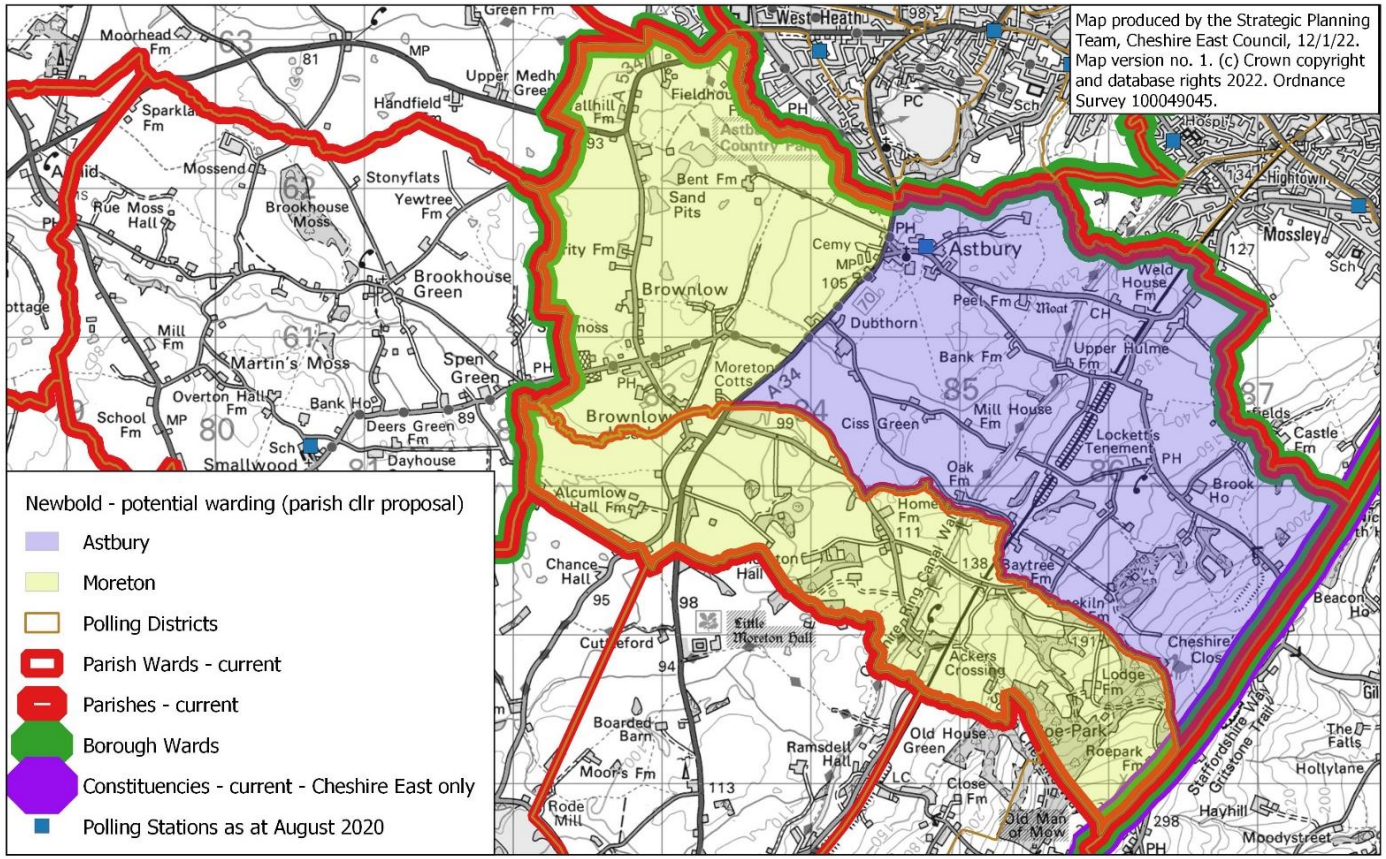
Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies

The parish councillor who responded separately (from an individual viewpoint, it seems) also opposed the Draft Recommendations proposed cut in seats, expressing concern about the impact on councillor and clerk/ financial officer workloads and noting that changes in legislation and people's expectations have added to these burdens already. This councillor's submission noted that there is no cost savings from a cut in seats, given that councillors are unpaid volunteers. The councillor felt, therefore, that the total number of seats should remain at (or else close to) 13.

The individual councillor also felt that a division of the council into wards was necessary, arguing that Moreton required separate representation, and that (assuming the existing 13 seats were retained) the ballot paper for any contested ordinary elections would be too lengthy for voters' convenience if the council were to lose its warding. However, the councillor's submission argued that it was feasible to keep separate warding for Moreton but at the same time reduce the current disparity in the ratio of electors per seat between Astbury and Moreton. Two options were put forward in this submission: firstly, reducing Moreton's seats to three (with Astbury still on nine); secondly, redrawing the ward boundary, so that the communities of Brownlow, Wallhill Lane and Brownlow Heath were transferred from the Astbury ward to the Moreton ward. The individual councillor favoured the latter option, as it would result in the two wards having relatively similar numbers of electors and therefore grounds for each having a similar number of seats. This latter option would, the councillor argued, mean a fairly even political balance between the two wards and safeguard against the possible future risk of Astbury councillors using their weight of numbers to vote through proposals that did not reflect Moreton's interests. (The councillor estimated this preferred alternative option would move around 125 electors from Astbury to Moreton: based on the 2018 Electoral Register data published in the Draft Recommendations, this would mean 317 electors in Astbury and 263 in Moreton and hence ratios of 44 to 45 electors per seat for each ward if Astbury were assigned seven seats and Moreton six.)

Map NEW1 below shows what the alternative ward boundaries would be under the alternative warding proposal made by this individual councillor, assuming that the A34 is used as the dividing line between the part of Astbury ward that would be transferred to Moreton, and the residual part of Astbury.

Map NEW1: Alternative ward boundaries (shown by purple/ yellow shading) proposed by individual Newbold Astbury cum Moreton parish councillor, compared to current boundary (indicated by thin red line)



Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The Parish Council's submission notes that Moreton is relatively rural and has different needs that require separate representation from Astbury; the submission from an individual councillor takes the same view.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The two submissions received - that on behalf of the Parish Council and the separate one from an individual parish councillor - argue against a reduction in seat numbers. As the parish council notes, cuts in seats can cause disruption, add to councillor workloads and hence deter people from serving on the council, limit the pool of skills and backgrounds that councillors can offer - and do not generate cost savings, but can instead mean that problems are passed on (probably at an additional cost) to paid staff at the local authority or another body. The Parish Council also raises legitimate concerns about the impact of lower seat numbers on quorums for meetings and the resulting concentration of political power in fewer (perhaps too few) hands. The Borough Council accepts that a sharp reduction in seats - like the cut from 13 to eight proposed in the Draft Recommendations - is likely to be very disruptive. Furthermore, whilst it could be argued that a small reduction in seats is practical, the Parish Council's submission is persuasive in highlighting the risks involved in any cut to seats - and the ongoing COVID pandemic adds to the demands placed on parish council resources and councillor time. 13 seats is relatively high even for a rural council of this size, but the Parish Council's pre-consultation submission highlights the range and extent of its activities and its achievements to date. It should also be noted that there were nominations for all 13 seats in 2019, so there appears to be no shortage of interest in serving on the council. In the light of these factors, and the consultation evidence, the Borough Council recommends no change in total seats.

On the matter of warding, the Parish Council notes that Moreton is more rural, with a separate identity. No further detail is offered on Moreton's distinct needs in the consultation submissions, but the Borough Council is aware that Newbold Astbury cum Moreton's larger settlements lie within the Astbury ward and it can understand how Moreton, with its more rural character and dispersed population, would have its own issues and interests. The Borough Council therefore recommends that the parish council remain warded.

On the matter of the ward boundary line, the Borough Council is very sympathetic to the alternative boundary proposal put forward in the individual councillor's submission: this would (if a clear natural boundary is to be used as far as possible) mean a transfer, to Moreton, of the area of Astbury ward that lies west of the A34. The Borough Council's own calculation is that this transfer would move an estimated 81 properties of Astbury's 237 properties into Moreton, giving it slightly more properties (161) than Astbury (156) and hence (assuming the average number of electors per property is the same in each ward) seven of the 13 seats. The Borough Council therefore agrees that this proposal would enable a more even political balance between the two wards, as well as a division of seats that reflects each ward's share of the electorate.

However, it is not clear if local support for this proposal extends beyond the individual councillor who suggested it; the submission on behalf of the Parish Council makes no reference to alternative ward boundary options and concludes by requesting no changes to the current governance arrangements. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change to the existing ward boundary.

On the matter of seat allocations between the two wards, 10 for Astbury (up one) and three for Moreton (down one) would best reflect their respective shares of the electorate, but the Borough Council is persuaded by the two submissions' argument that Moreton needs an effective voice on the Parish Council - and also feels that its more rural nature and dispersed population justify a lower number of electors per seat than for Astbury. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change from the current seating allocation (Astbury nine, Moreton four).

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Newbold Astbury cum Moreton
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Astbury; Moreton)
Seats	13 (Astbury 9, Moreton 4). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	595 (Astbury 454, Moreton 141)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	46 overall (Astbury 50, Moreton 35)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.74 Newhall

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Newhall
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Newhall
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	9
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	693
Electorate (2025 forecast)	839

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that there are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. No change needed to seat numbers, given that current total of nine is in line with the average for a council with the number of electors that Newhall is expected to have by 2025, and that the number of nominations almost matched seats in 2019.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
No consultation responses from the Parish Council or its residents. No consultation submissions from other parishes that commented on Newhall. It is therefore assumed that the Parish Council and local residents are content with - or at least see no

grounds for objection to - the proposal of no change. For this reason - and the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Newhall Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Newhall (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	9 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	839
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	93
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.75 North Rode

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	North Rode
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	North Rode
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	205
Electorate (2025 forecast)	202

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations

[1] Transfer to Congleton of the following parts of the parish of Eaton: the area south of the Congleton Link Road and west of the A536, which includes part of Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 29 (Giantswood Lane to Manchester Road, Congleton) and LPS 30 (Manchester Road to Macclesfield Road, Congleton); the area south of Havannah Lane; the parts of Buglawton (sections of Malhamdale Road and Crompton Close) not currently in Congleton. The reason for making these transfers was that sites LPS 29 and LPS 30 contain major new housing development that is partly within Eaton, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and is a consequence of that town's expansion, while Havannah Lane and the Buglawton part of Eaton are established residential areas, but are adjacent to Congleton. It was considered that moving these areas into the parish of Congleton would reflect the town's expansion, local identities, and reliance on Congleton for services.

[2] Merger of the residual part of Eaton (an estimated 192 electors) with either Marton or North Rode (the Draft Recommendations Report sought views on which of these merger options, if either, was appropriate). Seven seats for the new merged parish, as this is in line with the average for a parish of the resulting size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions

None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary

79 submissions on North Rode, of which two (both opposing the Draft Recommendations) were via email or letter. The other 77 responses were via the consultation survey and 69 (90 per cent) of these disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; only eight (10 per cent) agreed. The most frequently-cited reasons for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (45 mentions), a view that the current governance arrangements worked well (22), concern about the impact on the precept (10) and the impact on the local environment, the Green Belt or rural areas (raised by four people). No other broad issue was cited by more than one person.

Specific points raised by those who disagreed included specific examples of how North Rode's character and challenges differ from Eaton: North Rode is largely a farming community, whereas Eaton has a compact village; Eaton has fibre broadband, but North Rode has copper wire; Eaton is on a bus route, but North Rode is not; Eaton has a park, but North Rode does not; and issues that are specific to North Rode (e.g. heavy goods vehicles using roads that cannot support them). Some submissions also highlighted the parish's ability to serve itself, with its own newsletter and local events such as classic cars shows and sheep racing. There was also concern that a merger with Eaton, with its more modern housing development and proximity to Congleton and the Link Road,

would mean a conflict of interest on development issues and North Rode's rural concerns being neglected. Some were concerned about the loss of local, approachable representatives.

There were 126 submissions on Eaton, of which three (all opposing the Draft Recommendations) were via email or letter; two of these were from the MPs for Congleton and Macclesfield. The other 123 responses were via the consultation survey and 118 (96 per cent) of these disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; only three (two per cent) agreed. The most frequently-cited reasons for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (59 mentions), the impact on the local environment, the Green Belt or rural areas (35 mentions), a view that the current governance arrangements work well (20) and concern about the impact on the precept (17). No other types of reasons were mentioned by more than two people.

There were 56 responses from Marton, all via the consultation survey. Of these 52 (93 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and three (five per cent) agreed. The most common reasons given for disagreeing related to local identity and interests (40 mentions) and a view that the current system works well (13). Five responses objected to an anticipated need to invest significant time and expense in remaking the Marton Neighbourhood Plan (and Eaton's Plan) if a merger went ahead, particularly given the volume of work involved in producing the existing Plan. It was also pointed out that it was inconsistent for the Draft Recommendations to regard an Eaton parish left with 192 electors as potentially unviable, whilst proposing to leave either Marton or North Rode (both of which also have around 200 electors) as an independent parish.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

North Rode Parish Council – which opposed the Draft Recommendations - had delivered leaflets about the Community Governance Review proposals to all local residents, spoken to many of them and undertaken an online survey. It had not found a single resident who supported the merger proposal, with many feeling their parish's specific needs would get overlooked in the expanded council area. Key objections raised by local people were: the different characters of the two parishes, with Eaton village being compact, but North Rode properties more dispersed; Congleton's expansion directly affecting Eaton but not North Rode; and a perceived greater risk of unwanted development. It noted that North Rode has a strong community spirit, with many families having lived there for generations, some regular community events taking place (e.g. the biannual sheep race), local volunteers helping to maintain the village's appearance and Daintry Hall hosting a lot of social activities and community groups. It emphasised that the local issues it faced - such as unauthorised development, road conditions, heavy goods vehicles using unsuitable roads and increased traffic through the village - were different to those of Eaton, meaning both parishes' needs would be less effectively served if they merged.

In its submission, Eaton Parish Council also disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It too argued that Eaton has very separate interests to its neighbours: for example, mitigating the effects of Congleton's expansion, local quarrying and highways issues. It also argued for a modified, less extensive transfer of land from its parish to Congleton. In particular, it drew attention to the Eaton Neighbourhood Plan Inspector's examination report, which stated that a further significant extension of Congleton's housing development into the remaining undeveloped area of Eaton would be highly undesirable and would compromise efforts to maintain a green gap and protect Cranberry Moss (a site of biological importance) and the surrounding natural landscape. The Parish Council also stated that a transfer of this area (the part of Eaton north of Moss Lane) would be contrary to policies in the Cheshire East Local Plan and the emerging SADPD (Site Allocations and Development Policies Document) that seek to protect this land from development. In addition, Eaton Parish Council highlighted the fact that Havannah Lane has a distinct identity and no vehicular access to the Buglawton area of Congleton - with a valley separating some Havannah Lane properties from the town - and therefore looks primarily to Eaton for services and community activities. It noted that councillors representing the proposed new Congleton ward covering Havannah would be unlikely to know this small area well and serve its interests effectively. Eaton Parish Council's modified proposal - which would keep Havannah Lane and the area north of Moss Lane within Eaton - would therefore mean its electorate remained significantly higher (with 100 more electors) than under the Draft Recommendations proposal. Hence this modification would add to its viability, although it notes that its electorate would remain well above 150 even based on the Draft Recommendations and the Borough Council's electorate statistics.

Marton Parish Council's submission also disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. Reasons given for this view were: the parish's long and ancient heritage (reference was made to the Marton Oak and the local church); the distinct community identity arising from the compact nature of Marton village; the anticipated volume of additional work and confusion that would be involved in remaking the parish's Neighbourhood Plan; Eaton, Marton and North Rode all having separate interests that a merged council would not serve as well as their present ones do; and no prospect of cost savings or other benefits for residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The borough ward Member - who endorses North Rode's submission - opposed any merger, noting that North Rode is an ancient parish with a distinct identity and that a merger would result in a higher precept but a reduced level of service and attention from councillors.

The MP for Macclesfield opposed the Draft Recommendations, but endorsed Eaton Parish Council's proposed alternative boundary change, for the reasons given by the Parish Council. He emphasised the unique identities of Marton and North Rode, raising many points made by their parish councils and also the concern of North Rode residents that a merger with Eaton would - given Eaton's

proximity to Congleton's development - compromise its rural character. He also drew attention to the three parish councils' effectiveness and recent successes, arguing that they should remain as independent councils.

The MP for Congleton also expressed opposition to the end of Eaton as an independent parish.

A local residents association in North Rode (Dobford Grange) objected to North Rode or Marton merging with Eaton, emphasising the three parishes' separate identities. This submission objected to the prospect of its residents contributing taxes towards Congleton Town Council services (however, the Draft Recommendations do not include such a proposal).

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The Parish Council's submission highlights North Rode's strong community spirit, with distinctive local events, a venue for varied community activities (Daintry Hall), many families who have lived in the parish for generations and residents undertaking voluntary work to maintain the village's appearance. This submission also gives examples of North Rode's own local interests and challenges (e.g. increased traffic volumes and heavy goods vehicles using unsuitable roads through the parish). Some residents also provide evidence of the differences from Eaton (e.g. a more dispersed population, with no public transport and no fibre broadband).

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The evidence from residents indicates that, while North Rode lacks some of the amenities and services that Eaton has, the Parish Council is active and effective and residents do not depend on other parishes for communal activities.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One Eaton resident suggested a merger of all three parishes (Eaton, Marton and North Rode), but gave no reasons for this other than a shared "Macclesfield" identity.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council provides persuasive evidence that North Rode, with its strong community spirit and own local events, its own facility for community activities (Daintry Hall), its rural farmland and its own specific challenges, has a separate identity and interests to Eaton (and Marton). A number of its residents also give specific examples of its separate identity and interests.

As also noted, the overwhelming majority of its residents oppose a merger, as do Eaton and Marton Parish Councils and the residents of those two parishes. The submissions from Eaton and Marton Parish Councils and their residents provide further evidence of the separate identities, characters and interests of those parishes.

Furthermore, Eaton Parish Council makes a persuasive case for a modified, less extensive transfer of land from its parish to Congleton. In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council now recommends the modified Congleton/ Eaton boundary change put forward by Eaton Parish Council. Under this modification, Eaton would be left with around 300 electors - substantially more than the estimated number that would remain under the Draft Recommendations proposal. In addition, Eaton received nominations for all its seven seats at the 2019 ordinary elections and the submissions from residents highlight a Parish Council that is very active and well regarded. Hence the Borough Council is not concerned about Eaton's viability and now recommends that it remain as an independent parish.

Furthermore, the submissions from Marton and North Rode residents indicate a strong desire for those parishes to remain independent and no evidence to suggest their viability is in question. Therefore the Borough Council also recommends that Marton and North Rode remain as individual parishes.

As for North Rode's number of seats, the current total of seven is in line with the average for a council of its size and is equal to the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council. Besides this, North Rode residents' submissions indicate a prevailing view that the current governance arrangements work well and the Borough Council does not wish to disrupt that. The Borough Council therefore recommends no change to the current number of seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	North Rode Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	North Rode (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	202
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	29
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.76 Odd Rode

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Odd Rode
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Odd Rode
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Mount Pleasant; Rode Heath; Scholar Green.
Seats	15 (Mount Pleasant 5, Rode Heath 5, Scholar Green 5)
Nominations in 2019	13 (Mount Pleasant 5, Rode Heath 4, Scholar Green 4)
Electorate (2018)	4,532 (Mount Pleasant 1,267, Rode Heath 1,770, Scholar Green 1,495)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	4,619 (Mount Pleasant 1,274, Rode Heath 1,774, Scholar Green 1,571)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
The Draft Recommendations report sought views on two options: [1] reduce seats either to 12 (in line with the average for a council of this size); or [2] reduce them only to 14 (which can be split more fairly than 12 between the three wards). These proposals also reflect the relative shortage of nominations in 2019. If 14 seats, then four for Mount Pleasant and five for each of the other two wards. If 12 seats, then three for Mount Pleasant, five for Rode Heath and four for Scholar Green.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Four responses (all via the consultation survey). Of these, one - from the Parish Council - disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations (see details of this response below). The other three were from individual residents, two of whom agreed overall, but made no specific comments. The other resident neither agreed nor disagreed, but felt that the parish was sometimes overlooked and therefore needed strong representation.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
As noted above, the Parish Council's submission opposed the Draft Recommendations proposal. It noted that Odd Rode's wards consist of three distinct communities: Rode Heath/ Thurlwood; Scholar Green/ Hall Green/ Kent Green; and Mow Cop/The Bank/ Mount Pleasant.

The submission observed that, although the Mount Pleasant ward has a smaller population than the others, its three settlements (Mow Cop/ The Bank/ Mount Pleasant) are located on a hill and this presents specific issues that require additional support. Hence Mount Pleasant warrants a lower ratio of electors per seat than the other wards. More generally, the Parish Council emphasises that seating arrangements need to reflect localised characteristics such as Mount Pleasant's hilly terrain and not just be based on statistical averages.

It also sees the lack of nominations in 2019 as a spurious reason for reducing the total seats, noting that a single election is not necessarily representative and that there was a full complement of 15 councillors during most of the 2015-19 electoral term.

As there are no cost savings to be gained from reducing seats, it sees no advantage in the Draft Recommendations proposal.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted in the Parish Council's submission, the three wards form distinct communities, with Mount Pleasant's hilly terrain in particular presenting it with unique issues.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Although the number of submissions supporting the Draft Recommendations exceeds those against, the Parish Council makes persuasive arguments in favour of maintaining the current number of seats.

As its submission notes, seating allocations should take account of the specific characteristics and challenges facing each parish and its wards and not be determined by statistics alone. It is clear the existing three wards are separate communities and that Mount Pleasant's topology generates additional challenges that justify not only its own councillors but a lower ratio of electors per seat, so that the workload of councillors across the whole parish is more evenly shared.

It is also important not to attach too much weight to nominations numbers from a single election: as the Parish Council points out, all 15 seats were filled for most of the previous electoral term.

Furthermore, it is notable that the sole comment made by the residents who responded to the survey was one seeking strong representation for the parish - which could be at risk if no allowance were made for Mount Pleasant's unusual challenges. The same resident felt that the parish can get overlooked - and its geographical position on the periphery of Cheshire East may be a factor in this.

In the light of all this submission evidence, the Borough Council recommends no change in the total number of seats, and no change in the allocation of seats between the three wards. In making this decision, the Borough Council is also conscious of the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council resources and councillor time.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Odd Rode Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Odd Rode (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Mount Pleasant; Rode Heath; Scholar Green)
Seats	15 (Mount Pleasant 5, Rode Heath 5, Scholar Green 5). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	4,619 (Mount Pleasant 1,274, Rode Heath 1,774, Scholar Green 1,571)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	308 overall (Mount Pleasant 255, Rode Heath 355, Scholar Green 314)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.77 Ollerton with Marthall

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Ollerton with Marthall
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Ollerton with Marthall
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Marthall; Ollerton.
Seats	10 (Marthall 3, Ollerton 7)
Nominations in 2019	11 (Marthall 4, Ollerton 7)
Electorate (2018)	455 (Marthall 139, Ollerton 316)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	505 (Marthall 156, Ollerton 349)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats from 10 to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size. Retain warding, as the wards reflect the separate settlements of Ollerton and Marthall. Two seats for Marthall and five for Ollerton, as this allocation reflects their respective shares of the electorate.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The absence of any submissions from this Parish Council or its residents seem to indicate a lack of support for a change to existing governance. Furthermore, there are significant risks that can arise from a reduction in seats, due to the impact on the affected parish council's resources, with the COVID pandemic stretching resources and heightening these risks further. Given these factors,

and the Borough Council's intention to avoid making changes for change's sake, the Borough Council recommends no change in total seats.

As noted above, Marthall and Ollerton are distinct settlements and therefore the Borough Council considers the warding to be necessary. Based on each parish's share of the electorate (using the 2025 forecasts), the fairest share of the 10 seats between the two wards would be present allocation of three seats for Marthall and seven for Ollerton. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change in the seating allocation between the two wards.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Ollerton with Marthall Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Ollerton with Marthall (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Marthall; Ollerton)
Seats	10 (Marthall 3, Ollerton 7). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	505 (Marthall 156, Ollerton 349)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	51 overall (Marthall 52, Ollerton 50)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.78 Over Alderley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Over Alderley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Over Alderley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	4
Electorate (2018)	258
Electorate (2025 forecast)	259

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy site LPS 61 (Alderley Park) contains a major new housing development, where 381 houses are planned. The development spans the boundary between the parishes of Nether Alderley and Over Alderley, and 356 homes will fall in the parish of Nether Alderley and 25 will fall within the parish of Over Alderley.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
[1] No change to the Nether Alderley boundary with Over Alderley, in spite of the new LPS 61 development spanning parts of both parishes. This recommendation reflects the fact that there is a lack of natural boundaries that could be used to define a new parish boundary, unless a large rural swathe of Over Alderley is transferred along with that parish's part of the new development site. It is also based on the fact that the two parishes are in different borough wards and so electoral risk would be involved.

[2] Merge Over Alderley with Mottram St Andrew. The rationale for this is that Over Alderley is a relatively small parish, that it had only four nominations in 2019 (suggesting difficulty in filling seats). Nine seats proposed, which is in line with the average for a council of the size that the merged new parish would be. The Draft Recommendations sought public views on whether warding (with the ward boundary based on the current parish boundary) is appropriate. Six seats proposed for Mottram St Andrew and three for Over Alderley (if there is to be warding), as this reflects their respective shares of the electorate.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
114 submissions from Over Alderley, including one (summarised below) from its Parish Council. Of these 114, one (from the local borough ward Member) was an email; the others were via the consultation survey. 112 (99 per cent) of the 113 consultation survey responses from Over Alderley stated that they disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; all these people also made specific comments. However, it was clear from the comments made that the merger proposal was the focus of the almost unanimous opposition. (None of the Over Alderley submissions requested that the boundary with Nether Alderley be altered.) By far the most common reason for disagreeing was the impact on local identity and interests: this was cited by 94 of the 112 responses that opposed the Draft Recommendations; the next most common reason (cited by 14 of the 112) was that current governance arrangements worked well. Some responses highlighted the ways in which Mottram St Andrew and Over Alderley differed in character, amenities (or lack of them) and community facilities, and how this meant they had contrasting issues and interests: one, for example, noted that Mottram St Andrew contained a school, pub/ restaurant and hotel, whereas Over Alderley had none of these. There was some concern that the interests of Mottram St Andrew, with its larger population, would prevail at Over Alderley's expense. One resident suggested that this effect could be mitigated if each parish had 50 per cent of the seats on the new merged council, but this response appeared to prefer no merger at all.

There were 22 submissions from Mottram St Andrew, of which one (from the borough ward Member) was via email and 21 via the consultation survey. Of the 21 survey responses, 18 (86 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The most common reasons offered for disagreeing were to do with local identity and interests (cited in 15 responses) and a view that the current system works well (13); no other reason was mentioned by more than three people. Specific points relating to local identity were: Mottram St Andrew and Over Alderley have very different characters; Mottram St Andrew has a strong community spirit, with the school, village hall, church and pub and events like bonfire night being key focal points for community activities; the existing councillors know the local area well, but coverage of Over Alderley as well would dilute this and the extra workload involved in this expanded area would deter people from serving on the council; and Mottram St Andrew itself covers a varied geographical area and needs separate representation to meet the needs of its different sub-areas. Comments relating to viability included: the council runs a wide range of activities, is efficient and engages well with residents; the parish is effective at filling seats, so loss of a councillor would reduce the number of willing volunteers for no benefit; potential disruption if the current clerk's expertise is lost.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Over Alderley Parish Council's submission stated its opposition both to a boundary change with Nether Alderley and the proposed merger with Mottram St Andrew.

On the Nether Alderley boundary, it noted that the potential transfer area reviewed (but not proposed) in the Draft Recommendations report covers properties (at Hocker Lane, Birtles Lane and Birtles Hall) that are a separate community to Nether Alderley and which are part of Over Alderley's rural character. Over Alderley Parish Council also felt that such a transfer would not comply with Local Government Boundary Commission for England guidance on using easily identifiable boundaries and that it was likely to fracture community cohesion further by splitting some residents' land and property between the two parishes.

The Parish Council also referred to the contents of the Alderley Park Development Brief, which indicates that the new site will contain "three distinctly identifiable character areas", with a circulation road and a separate development to the east of this road creating boundaries and separate communities within Alderley Park. The point here is that Alderley Park does not form a single community that has to be encompassed with a single parish.

In addition, the Parish Council highlighted the preparation of plans for a more extensive development that could double Over Alderley's population - this being a factor that the Draft Recommendations report did not consider. (The Borough Council believes the development referred to here is a plan for 160 retirement apartments - for around 270 adults - at Heatherley Woods; this specific development would fall entirely within the parish of Over Alderley.)

On the merger proposal, the Parish Council made a number of points to demonstrate its viability. It states that the shortage of nominations in 2019 was unrepresentative and that the parish has a strong long-term track record in filing seats: in particularly, there have been only three occasions since 1946 when ordinary elections failed to return councillors for all seats, but each time co-option to the vacant positions took place immediately, at the Annual Meeting; and vacancies between ordinary elections have also been filled quickly, in recent years often attracting multiple candidates. It points out that 2019 was atypical, with a number of veteran councillors standing down - and that people can be reluctant to stand if there is a risk of a contest that results in the defeat of a valued sitting councillor. In other words, a shortfall in nominations can simply indicate a vote of confidence in incumbent councillors. It argues that its low Band D charge is not an accurate measure of its activities, citing a number of examples of work it undertakes, (much of it at no cost), such as collaborations with (or membership of) local community groups and providing allotments for residents. It also emphasises that its electorate is well in excess of the 150 limit that the Draft Recommendations take for a presumption in favour of parish council status.

As an indication of local community spirit and separate identity, the Parish Council highlights the support services set up for local people in response to COVID and the fact that Over Alderley (with its church and meeting room, but no village centre, no shops or similar amenities) is very different in character to Mottram St Andrew.

The submission also argues that having only three seats to cover Over Alderley would be very inadequate, given its size and rural nature and that the merged parish as a whole would be so large as to make effective service provision very challenging.

The Parish Council submission also summarises the feedback it received directly from residents after delivering letters and survey about the Community Governance Review to all households: 107 of the 108 responses strongly opposed the merger, with concerns including loss of valued councillors and local knowledge, reduced representation, the potential difficulty in serving a much larger, unwieldy area and recruiting councillors to do that, loss of funding and loss of local identity.

Mottram St Andrew Parish Council's submission emphasised the distinct communities and different characters of Mottram St Andrew and Over Alderley. This submission noted the unusually wide range of local facilities and amenities that Mottram St Andrew has (for a rural village), including a hotel, school, golf club, multiple garden centres, cafes, farm shops, a distribution depot, an array of other businesses and rivers/ lakes for fishing. It highlighted the importance of the village hall, the parish's play and recreation grounds and annual local events to communal life and gave examples of council activities, ranging from allotment provision, to a free library service and the development and operation of the village website. It noted the numerous social clubs and other

communal activities that occur within the parish, but pointed out that these have no links to Over Alderley. On the subject of viability, the submission highlights: the Parish Council's effectiveness in addressing highways, planning and other local challenges; the high attendance rates at council meetings; and the infrequency of seat vacancies and the abundance of candidates to fill these. In addition, the Parish Council raises detailed concerns about the potential costs and disruption of a merger.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The Borough ward member for Prestbury submitted emails opposing the Draft Recommendations proposal for Over Alderley and Mottram St Andrew to merge, one focusing on Over Alderley and the other on Mottram St Andrew.

In the email that focused on Over Alderley, the Member stated that residents had a strong sense of identity and community, with the Reading Room and local church being the focus of many parish activities; this submission also highlighted the viability of the parish, with no shortage of people willing to become councillors and busy meeting agendas.

The email on Mottram St Andrew noted: that opposition to the merger proposal was widespread and any support very limited; the parish's strong community spirit, with local events attracting many residents and the village hall being central to many communal activities; the main village's mix of businesses, amenities and services (including a hotel and school) contributed to its distinctiveness; and the Parish Council was effective, efficient and well regarded locally, with a busy agenda and many activities underway.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Over Alderley Parish Council notes that the residents in the Draft Recommendations potential transfer area are part of its parish's community, not that of Nether Alderley. It also highlights the fact that the Alderley Park development will not be a single homogeneous community that ought to be contained within a single parish, but multiple areas with roads and other features separating them. Its submission highlights the strong community spirit within the parish (as does the borough ward Member) and its very distinct identity and separate character to Mottram St Andrew. The submissions from Over Alderley residents also draw attention to the parish's separate identity and interests.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
Over Alderley Parish Council's submission provides evidence of its viability: a long-term track record in attracting candidates; prompt co-options when vacancies occasionally occur; a wide range of activities (not necessarily involving a cost) that the council undertakes or supports; and an electorate well above that deemed necessary for a presumption in favour of parish council status.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere

One response from an individual Mottram St Andrew resident proposed the transfer of a short section of Alderley Road (between Pott Brook and Dickens Farm) from Over Alderley to Mottram St Andrew, on the grounds that this road is used predominantly by Mottram St Andrew residents (as they travel to access services in Alderley Edge) and Mottram St Andrew parish has a much stronger incentive to ensure it is properly maintained.

Another response from an individual Mottram St Andrew resident suggested that Over Alderley could be merged with Alderley Edge or Nether Alderley. Another resident - taking the view that the merger proposal was driven by a desire to cut costs - suggested the solution may be to reduce Over Alderley's seats.

Post-consultation assessment

The submission from Over Alderley Parish Council supports the Draft Recommendations view that a change to its boundary with Nether Alderley is not justified, with no clear natural boundary available for use. The Parish Council offers further, similarly persuasive reasons for keeping this boundary unchanged: namely the fact that residents in the established properties in the southwest of the parish are part of Over Alderley's community, and that the Alderley Park development is not itself a single community that lacks natural boundaries or requires representation by one parish. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no change to the Nether Alderley/ Over Alderley boundary.

Over Alderley Parish Council's submission argues persuasively against a merger with Mottram St Andrew, highlighting the two parishes' different characters and facilities and Over Alderley's distinct identity, as well as its viability (e.g. its long-term success in filling seats and the range of activities it undertakes). Furthermore, as shown by both the Parish Council's own survey of residents and the large volume of submissions its residents made to the consultation survey, the opposition to the Draft Recommendations merger proposal appears to be almost unanimous and contains further persuasive evidence.

Mottram St Andrew Parish Council and almost all of its residents who responded to the consultation - were also opposed to the merger; they also provided a number of persuasive reasons for not proceeding with a merger.

As for alternative suggestions, the idea (suggested by one Mottram St Andrew resident) of merging Over Alderley with Nether Alderley did not receive any support (and indeed was not even mentioned) in the submissions from Over Alderley Parish Council and its residents. The rationale (from another Mottram St Andrew resident) for moving a section of Alderley Road from Over

Alderley to Mottram St Andrew is clearly stated, but again received no wider support from consultation submissions; this change would move Dickens Farm to Mottram St Andrew, but it is not known whether the farm's residents necessarily identify with that parish.

In the light of all the consultation evidence, the Borough Council now recommends that Over Alderley remain as an independent parish, with no changes to its boundary. In addition, given the Parish Council's evidence that current governance arrangements are working well (judging by its level of activity and usual success in filling seats), the Borough Council recommends that the number of seats remains at seven, which is in line with the average for a council of Over Alderley's size and meets the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum. (The suggestion - from one Mottram St Andrew resident - of a reduction in Over Alderley's seats is not persuasive: this would not save costs and would leave Over Alderley with fewer seats than the NALC preferred minimum of seven, putting it at risk of being unable to serve residents effectively.)

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Over Alderley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Over Alderley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	259
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	37
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.79 Peckforton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Peckforton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Meeting
Current Parish name(s)	Peckforton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Nominations in 2019	N/A
Electorate (2018)	123
Electorate (2025 forecast)	127

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council and Peckforton Parish Meeting into a single parish council, with no warding and eight seats. The intended purpose of this was to make local government in this area more viable by merging a very small body (Peckforton Parish Meeting) with an adjacent rural neighbour with a common identity and interests.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
No direct responses from Peckforton residents. However, the Parish Meeting's submission (see details below) reports on the views of residents expressed at a Meeting and in emails to the clerk.

Two responses from individual residents from Bulkeley; one of them agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and the other disagreed. See also below for Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council's response to the merger proposal.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Meeting's submission stated that, at a meeting held to discuss the Draft Recommendations, those Recommendations were unanimously opposed by those present, including the Meeting Chair; the Meeting clerk had also received more than 10 emails from local residents, all opposing the merger proposal.

The Meeting's submission highlighted Peckforton's geographical separation from Bulkeley & Ridley, its different character and the different issues it faced - and also the Meeting's effectiveness and viability. In particular, it noted that residents are largely concentrated in Peckforton village, which is in the centre of the Parish Meeting area, with many of its distinctive properties having been part of estate around Peckforton Castle. Peckforton is therefore unique and residents have a strong sense of local identity.

The extensive use of the village hall is mentioned (which implies it can support many community activities itself, rather than relying on neighbouring parish councils).

The submission also highlights the large proportion of residents who attend and contribute to meetings - commonly one in eight, sometimes one in three - and the willingness of those residents to be proactive and organise new activities or projects in the wake of a Meeting.

Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council's submission also opposed the Draft Recommendations proposal. It felt the existing council functioned well and that there were no natural geographical or social links with Peckforton. It noted that Peckforton has its own village hall, whereas Bulkeley & Ridley relies on Bickerton Village Hall for many leisure and social activities and also relies on Bickerton's primary school and church for primary education and religious worship. It noted that "Bickerton" would therefore be a stronger candidate for inclusion any merger involving Bulkeley & Ridley. However, Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council's preference was that it remain as an independent council and it did not consider it necessary to merge with any neighbours.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council and Peckforton Parish Meeting indicate that each has a separate identity, faces different issues and that the two areas are not closely linked, either socially or geographically.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The submissions from Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council and Peckforton Parish Meeting indicate that both bodies are effective. Bulkeley & Ridley's submission notes it is successful in filling its quota of seats. Peckforton Parish Meeting's submission highlights the very high proportion of residents who attend meetings and of the time and effort residents are willing to spend in helping to progress the Meeting's work and tackle local challenges.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The submissions from Bulkeley & Ridley Parish Council and Peckforton Parish Meeting demonstrate persuasively that each has a separate identity, faces different issues and that the two areas are not closely linked, either socially or geographically.

The Parish Council and the Parish Meeting also argue persuasively that they are operating effectively, with no shortage of nominations for the Parish Council and a very high level of participation by Peckforton's residents both in meetings and in follow-up activities and projects.

The Parish Meeting's opposition to a merger is also reinforced by the unanimous vote against this proposal and the volume of emails its clerk received from local residents (again all opposing the change).

The Borough Council also notes that the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put Peckforton's electorate at 125: that is, similar to the number of electors in 2018 (123) and the forecast for 2025 (127).

In the light of all this evidence, the Borough Council recommends that the Parish Council and Peckforton do not merge, and that Peckforton remain as a Parish Meeting.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Peckforton Parish Meeting (no change)
Parish name(s)	Peckforton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Electorate (2025 forecast)	127
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	N/A
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.80 Peover Superior

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Peover Superior
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Peover Superior
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	556
Electorate (2025 forecast)	662

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Snelson with Peover Superior, to form a new parish council consisting of a single parish, with nine seats and no warding. This proposal reflects the fact that Snelson is a very small parish, with an electorate significantly below the 150 that is the legal minimum for a new council. The proposal is also consistent with the suggestion made by a Snelson resident at the pre-consultation stage.

Both Chelford and Peover Superior are in the same borough ward as Snelson and therefore a merger of Snelson with either Chelford or Peover Superior would present no electoral risk. However, Peover Superior is significantly smaller than Chelford; furthermore, Chelford - classified in the Local Plan as a Local Service Centre - has a number of local services and amenities not available in the other two parishes. Peover Superior is therefore considered a better match for Snelson - being less different in size and characteristics or needs - than Chelford would be.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Peover Superior Parish Council responded via the consultation survey, as did Snelson Parish Council. Both agreed with the Draft Recommendations (see below for further details). However, there were no other responses from either of these parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
As noted above, Peover Superior Parish Council supported the merger; it did not offer a view on the number of seats that should be provided, but proposed the name "Peover Superior & Snelson" for the new council. It requested the style "Parish", on the grounds that this reflected the two parishes' historical identity. Peover Superior Parish Council also made a suggestion as to where Snelson residents might now vote, but deferred ultimately to Snelson on that matter.

As also noted above, Snelson Parish Council supported the merger proposal, but requested that the new parish have eleven seats, rather than nine, given the large geographical area it would cover and the existing number of councillors covering the two parishes (13).

Snelson Parish Council also questioned what arrangements would be put in place for the transition period and wondered whether the two parishes would be advised to hold joint meetings during that time.

For the new council, Snelson Parish Council proposed the name "Over Peover & Snelson" and asked that it be styled as a "Parish", given that that term is widely used and understood in rural areas; it felt the alternative styles would not reflect the rural nature and character of the two merging parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The fact that both parish councils are content to merge suggests they feel they have some common interests.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The fact that both parish councils are content to merge suggests they feel the merger would help ensure viable governance for Snelson (and Peover Superior) residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
As noted, both Snelson and Peover Superior Parish Councils support the Draft Recommendations merger proposal and one of the responses (at the pre-consultation stage) from a local resident raises a merger with Peover Superior as an option. Furthermore, the consultation stage prompted no objections to this proposal. In the light of this evidence, and considering Snelson's small size, Borough Council therefore recommends that this merger proceed.

On the matter of total seat numbers, Snelson Parish Council makes the reasonable request that a decision on this should take account of the new parish's large geographical extent and the existing number of councillors representing the two parishes. At present, there are 13 councillors in total (five for Snelson and eight for Peover Superior). Snelson's proposal for 11 seats - rather than the Draft Recommendations proposal for nine - should therefore ensure less turnover of councillors and more continuity and would better reflect the level of interest in standing for election (at the 2019 ordinary elections, both parishes received nominations for all their available seats). Besides this, the Borough Council is conscious - particularly from the submissions made by some other parishes - of the risks that a lower number seats can bring, for example: councillors from a narrower (less representative) range of

backgrounds and with a more limited range of skills and experience to offer; heavier workloads for councillors, which may deter people from serving on the council; and problems being referred on to the local authority or other bodies, rather than resolved at a local level. In addition, as some submissions on other parishes have noted, there are no cost savings to be gained from the loss of a seat, as councillors are unpaid volunteers. The Borough Council is also aware of the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council services and councillor time.

In the light of these factors, and the arguments put forward by Snelson Parish Council, the Borough Council is persuaded that the provision of only nine seats would probably limit the new council's effectiveness and recommends a modification to its original proposals, so that the new council has eleven seats.

11 seats is a relatively large number for a single unwarded parish. The Borough Council is also conscious that Snelson's history as a separate parish gives it to some extent a different identity. Therefore the new parish could be divided into two wards, each corresponding to the current two parishes. However, the Draft Recommendations did not propose warding and the consultation responses from the two parishes do not request a division into wards. Consequently the Borough Council recommends that the new council be unwarded.

As for the name of the new council, the submissions from the two merging parishes both propose the inclusion of "Snelson" but differ on the naming of Peover Superior. The Borough Council feels that Peover Superior Parish Council should have the ultimate say on this part of the new council name and therefore recommends "Peover Superior & Snelson", rather than "Over Peover & Snelson". The Borough Council also recommends that the new council should have the style "Parish", given that both of the merging councils request this and offer sound reasons for their preference.

Finally, the Borough Council notes the questions from both the merging parishes regarding the transition period and use of polling stations and will use this feedback to inform its planning and respond as appropriate.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.25 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of with Peover Superior, to form a new parish council consisting of a single parish, with the external boundary as shown in Map 2.25.
Parish Council name and style	Peover Superior & Snelson Parish Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Peover Superior & Snelson (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	11
Electorate (2025 forecast)	786
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	71
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.81 Pickmere

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Pickmere
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Pickmere
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	612
Electorate (2025 forecast)	704

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One response from an individual resident, who raised a number of concerns about the effectiveness of the Parish Council. No submission from the Parish Council itself.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that there are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. No change needed to seat numbers, given that the current total of eight is in line with the average for a council of this size. The number of nominations in 2019 indicates there may be some difficulty filling seats, but a reduction to seven seats would be unusually low for a council of this size and is unlikely in any case to address the concerns raised by the person who responded to the pre-consultation survey.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
One response (via the consultation survey) from an individual resident, who neither agreed or disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. This resident felt smaller parishes were losing out on their fair share of funding.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

The responses to the pre-consultation and consultation stages indicate there is some dissatisfaction with current arrangements, but do not suggest that a change in governance would address this. In any case, no specific alternatives to the status quo have been proposed by local residents and the Parish Council's own view is not known. In the light of this - and the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Pickmere Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Pickmere (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	704
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	88
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.82 Plumley with Toft & Bexton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Plumley with Toft & Bexton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Plumley with Toft & Bexton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Plumley; Toft & Bexton.
Seats	11 (Plumley 9, Toft & Bexton 2)
Nominations in 2019	10 (Plumley 8, Toft & Bexton 2)
Electorate (2018)	655 (Plumley 571, Toft & Bexton 84)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	692 (Plumley 607, Toft & Bexton 85)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats from 11 to eight, as this is in line with the average for a council of this size. The Draft Recommendations propose an allocation of seven seats to Plumley and one to Toft and Bexton, but seek public views on whether the warding should be removed.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were two submissions, both via the consultation survey and both disagreeing overall with the Draft Recommendations. One was from the Parish Council (see below for further details.) The other was from an individual resident, whose comments raised concerns about removing the Toft and Bexton ward from the Parish Council and making Toft & Bexton a Parish Meeting; it appears this person may have misunderstood and thought that the Draft Recommendations proposal was to split the existing Council into two new entities (one covering each of the two current wards), rather than just to potentially remove the ward boundary between the two current wards. This apparent misunderstanding may have affected their decision to disagree with the Draft Recommendations.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council felt that the existing total of 11 councillors was needed to cover the Council's extensive geographical area and serve residents effectively. It noted that the current arrangement worked well and that a cut in seats would not deliver any cost savings, so it saw no benefits from this element of the Draft Recommendations proposals. The Parish Council's submission did not offer a view on whether the warding should be retained.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
The individual resident's submission suggested that Bexton could be merged with Knutsford, but argued that Toft should remain with Plumley, given footpath/ public rights of way issues affecting the Toft area of the Parish Council. However, as noted above, this submission appeared to be based on the misunderstanding that the Draft Recommendations proposed to split Plumley and Toft with Bexton into two separate legal entities.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council's submission points out, quite reasonably, that it covers a relatively large geographical area and that this places additional demands on councillors. It also argues that there is no cost saving to be gained from a cut in seats. The Borough Council accepts these points and is also conscious - particularly from the submissions made by some other parishes - of additional risks that a reduction in seats can bring, for example: councillors from a narrower (less representative) range of backgrounds and with a more limited range of skills and experience to offer; heavier workloads for councillors, which may deter people from serving on the council; and problems being referred on to the local authority or other bodies, rather than resolved at a local level. The Borough Council is also aware of the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council services and councillor time. In the light of these factors, and the Parish Council's submission, the Borough Council recommends no change in the total number of seats.

On the matter of warding, the Parish Council does not state its preference. However, the dispersement of homes across the Toft & Bexton ward, its geographical distance from the village of Plumley and the limitations of the road network (with much of Toft & Bexton being on the opposite side of the M6 to the rest of the Parish Council) all suggest Toft & Bexton may face different issues and require separate representation. Therefore the Borough Council recommends that the current warding should remain.

On the matter of allocating seats between the two wards, an allocation based on electorate shares alone would mean ten seats for Plumley (up one) and only one (down one) for Toft and Bexton). However, Toft and Bexton's dispersed population and the constraints of the road network are likely to add significantly to the workload for its councillors. Furthermore, the Borough Council is anxious to avoid, as far as possible, having new wards with a single councillor unless consultation submissions offering compelling reasons for such an arrangement (which is not the case here). The risk with single-seat wards is that residents end up with no representation for a while if, for example, their sole councillor falls sick or resigns; in addition, that councillor is unable to share their work burden and there is no opportunity to allocate work between councillors according to their individual skills or experience.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends that the current allocation of two seats for Toft and Bexton and nine for Plumley should remain in place.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Plumley with Toft & Bexton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Plumley with Toft & Bexton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Plumley; Toft & Bexton)
Seats	11 (Plumley 9, Toft and Bexton 2). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	692 (Plumley 607, Toft and Bexton 85)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	63 overall (Plumley 67, Toft and Bexton 43)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.83 Pott Shrigley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Pott Shrigley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Pott Shrigley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	210
Electorate (2025 forecast)	223

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. Merger not needed, given that electorate is above 200 and is expected to grow further up to 2025 and that no issues raised about viability. No change needed to seat numbers, as the current total of seven - the NALC (National Asociation of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council - is in line with the average for a council of this size and the number of nominations in 2019 suggests there is little difficulty filling these.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Three responses (all via the consultation survey). One of these was from an individual resident, who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The other responses were from an individual parish councillor and from the parish clerk, both of whom agreed overall. None of the three responses included any comments.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Agreement with the Draft Recommendations, as noted above.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
As noted above, one parish councillor expressed overall agreement with the Draft Recommendations.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No submissions indicate that viability is an issue for Pott Shrigley.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

The fact that the Parish Council and an individual councillor support the Draft Recommendations indicates that Pott Shrigley is a distinct community and no merger or boundary change is needed. It also indicates that the current provision of seats is effective. Whilst the other response, from an individual resident, opposed the Draft Recommendations, this response did not offer reasons or suggest an alternative form of governance. In the light of this - and the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Pott Shrigley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Pott Shrigley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	223
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	32
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.84 Poynton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Poynton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Poynton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	East; West.
Seats	18 (East 9, West 9)
Nominations in 2019	24 (East 12, West 12)
Electorate (2018)	11,737 (East 5,729, West 6,008)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	12,208 (East 5,950, West 6,258)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Current boundary splits Spenlow Close (which is on the southern edge of Poynton, but part of the town's urban area and its community) between Poynton and Adlington.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Nine submissions received from Poynton, of which three (including responses from the Town Council and the borough ward Member for Poynton West & Adlington) requested an alignment of the Adlington boundary with Poynton Brook. This alignment was

requested to ensure that two houses on Spenlow Close are brought within the same parish (Poynton) as the rest of their street and local community, to bring the polling station used by Poynton Town Council's West ward within the Town Council area, and to avoid the confusion created by the current boundary, which does not reflect Poynton's expansion to date.

Three submissions (again including the Town Council and the borough ward Member for Poynton West & Adlington) also requested a reduction from the current 18 seats to 14 (seven per ward); one individual response considered the current total excessive.

One submission proposed a change to the boundary between Poynton East and Poynton West, to avoid splitting Dickens Lane and Vernon Road between wards; this also questioned whether prospective new housing development would alter the balance of elector numbers between the two wards (which the Draft Recommendations have taken account of).

Mixed views offered on the services provided by the Town Council, but no specific governance changes proposed, other than one call for its abolition.

No submissions from Adlington.

Draft Recommendations
Transfer to Poynton of the part of Adlington that lies north of Poynton Brook, for the reasons given by Poynton Town Council, the local borough ward Member and some other Poynton pre-consultation submissions.

Reduce seats from 18 to 14 (seven per ward), given the pre-consultation support for this and the fact it is more line with the average for a council of Poynton's size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Six submissions were received from Poynton, of which five (including that from the Town Council) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The sole submission to disagree with the Draft Recommendations was the only one to include specific comments, but the objections raised related to the continued practice of having multiple seats for each ward - an objection also

raised in relation to other (mainly large) town and parish councils; the wording used in these submissions suggests they were made by the same individual, rather than different people independently making the same argument.

No consultation stage submissions from Adlington Parish Council or its residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Support for all the Draft Recommendations proposals, which align with what the Town Council requested at the pre-consultation stage.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The MP for Macclesfield supports the Draft Recommendations proposed changes to Poynton's boundary and seating. As noted above, the Draft Recommendations proposals are ones requested by the borough ward Member for Poynton West & Adlington during the pre-consultation stage.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The consultation stage submissions from Poynton largely support the boundary change, which suggests it would reflect local community identity better than the status quo.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The submitted evidence indicates support for the Draft Recommendations proposals from the Parish Council, the majority of individual residents and (at the pre-consultation stage) from the borough ward Member for Poynton West & Adlington.

The sole objection proposed an alternative - smaller wards, to avoid multi-member seats - which is not practical: for example, it would entail a large number of additional ward boundaries that would be complicated to create and administer and would mean the reliance, across the Borough, of large numbers of urban electors on a single councillor.

The Borough Council therefore recommends that the Draft Recommendations – the alignment of the Poynton/ Adlington boundary with Poynton Brook and the reduction from 18 to 14 seats (seven for each ward) - proceed without any modification.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

OFFICIAL

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.2 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Adlington to Poynton Town Council's West ward, of the shaded area (land north of Poynton Brook) shown in Map 2.2.
Parish Council name and style	Poynton Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Poynton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing internal ward boundaries or to ward names (East; West)
Seats	14 overall (a decrease from the current 18) Allocation of seats between wards: East 7 seats (a decrease from the current 9); West 7 (a decrease from the current 9).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	12,208 (East 5,950, West 6,258)[10]
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	872 overall (East 850, West 894)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

[10] Although the two houses in the transfer area are located within the parish of Adlington, they are already on the electoral roll for Poynton and therefore vote in the Town Council's elections. Therefore the boundary change would not involve the transfer of any electors from Adlington to Poynton.

2.85 Prestbury

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Prestbury
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Prestbury
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Butley; Fallibroome; Prestbury.
Seats	12 (Butley 6, Fallibroome 1, Prestbury 5)
Nominations in 2019	12 (Butley 5, Fallibroome 1, Prestbury 6)
Electorate (2018)	2,833 (Butley 1,314, Fallibroome 85, Prestbury 1,434)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,847 (Butley 1,332, Fallibroome 84, Prestbury 1,431)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
See consultation evidence (summarised below) regarding Dumbah Lane.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Prestbury Parish Council noted its area's distinct identity and did not wish to be merged with a neighbouring parish (although an individual response supported a merger with Macclesfield). The Parish Council requested that the parish's name and its total of 12

seats be kept, but noted the uneven electors per councillor ratios across its wards and proposed that the Fallibroome and Prestbury wards be merged.

The 19 responses from Macclesfield (one from a town councillor and the rest from individuals) included two individual residents who favoured a change to Macclesfield's boundary with various rural neighbours, including Prestbury. These two submissions argued that residents of the main settlements in many neighbouring parishes relied on Macclesfield for services, and that Local Plan development was turning this wider area into a conurbation anyway. Two other Macclesfield submissions felt that the Town Council should have a say in the development of Macclesfield Rugby Club and the King's School complex; one of these specifically suggested a change to the boundary with Prestbury to reflect this.

Draft Recommendations
Keep seats total at 12, as this is in line with the average for a council with an electorate of this size. Remove all warding, on the grounds that it does not reflect distinct communities and is not needed to ensure practical and convenient electoral arrangements (as all three wards vote at the same location). These proposals also take account of the Parish Council's own views.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
21 responses received from Prestbury: 13 via the consultation survey and eight by email or letter. Of the 13 survey responses, eight disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and four agreed; the other neither agreed nor disagreed.

However, 14 of all the responses commented only on (all opposing) the possible transfer to Bollington Town Council of part of Prestbury (many mentioned Butley specifically), saying they identified with Prestbury and relied on the village for accessible services - yet this was not an option proposed or even considered in the Draft Recommendations. Some of these submissions attributed this possible transfer proposal to Bollington Town Council, although the Town Council's actual consultation submission did not mention a change to this part of its boundary.

It should be noted that, of the eight survey responses that expressed overall disagreement with the Draft Recommendations, seven commented only the Bollington/ Prestbury boundary issue, so it is possible that they disagreed only with that.

One of the responses that stated overall agreement with the Draft Recommendations was from someone who disagreed with the survey's other two agree/ disagree questions and this response also commented only the Bollington/ Prestbury boundary issue, so it may be that their choice to "agree" overall was made in error.

A further six submissions also commented only the Bollington/ Prestbury boundary issue, but these were emails and so did not answer the consultation survey's "agree/ disagree" questions.

The other submission expressing disagreement was one that opposed multi-member seating; this response favoured the transfer of Fallibroome to Macclesfield and the division of the rest of Prestbury into a number of small wards - proposals that received no support in other consultation submissions.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council's submission supports the retention of the existing 12 seats and also the removal of all warding. It notes that it had favoured separate warding for Butley, as the River Bollin provides a clear boundary for that ward, but is now persuaded by the Draft Recommendations and the opportunity for councillors to represent any part of the parish.

However, the Parish Council also noted that it had been petitioned by the residents of Dumbah Lane, who requested a change to the boundary so that their road (which is currently split between Prestbury and Bollington) would be entirely within Prestbury. The Parish Council supports this proposal. As recorded in the Bollington section of this Assessment Report, several residents from the Bollington part of Dumbah Lane made submissions requesting this change. Map BOL4 (which is within the Bollington section of this Assessment Report) shows the area of Bollington that would transfer to Prestbury under the Parish Council's proposal; this map also shows an alternative (slightly larger) area proposed for transfer by the borough ward Member for Prestbury (whose response is summarised below).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The response from the local borough ward Member supports the Parish Council's position on seats, the removal of warding and the proposed Dumbah Lane boundary change, but proposes in addition that two Tytherington Lane properties adjacent to Dumbah Lane (one of them accessed via Dumbah Lane and the other marking the current boundary with Macclesfield) also be transferred from Bollington to Prestbury.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions commenting on the Prestbury/ Bollington boundary issue provide a strong indication that residents in this area identify with Prestbury and that the current division of Dumbah Lane does not reflect community identity. Some of these submissions, along with some others (notably that from the local borough ward Member) highlight the distinct identity of Butley, but do not present this as an argument for retaining separate warding.

The submission from the Parish Council also indicates that the current warding is unnecessary and does not reflect separate community identities.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The Parish Council's pre-consultation and consultation responses identify the separate warding of Fallibroome as impractical.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The Borough Council notes that the Parish Council and local borough ward Member support the Draft Recommendations seating/ warding proposals - and agrees that the removal of warding would enable more flexible representation whilst not compromising community identity.

The Borough Council also notes that almost all the stated disagreement with the Draft Recommendations appears to relate to a potential change that was not part of those Recommendations.

On the issue of Dumbah Lane, the Borough recognises that the current boundary line (cutting the street in two) is confusing and does not reflect community identity and acknowledges the preference of its residents (and some adjacent properties) to be moved to Prestbury. However, such a boundary change would involve electoral risk, as the parish of Prestbury is in a separate borough ward. On balance, therefore, the Borough Council does not consider a change to this boundary can be justified, given the small number of properties (around 10) for which additional polling facilities would be required.

In the light of all the consultation evidence, the Borough Council therefore recommends the Draft Recommendations proposals proceed without modification: that is, the retention of 12 seats and the removal of all warding, but no external boundary changes.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Prestbury Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Prestbury (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Removal of all warding
Seats	12 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,847
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	237
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.86 Rainow

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Rainow
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Rainow
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	12
Nominations in 2019	13
Electorate (2018)	1,048
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,088

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Two housing sites (with an expected 78 housing completions during 2018-25) in the western (Ingersley Vale) part of the parish. The smaller of these sites (12 homes) is adjacent to the boundary with Bollington Town Council; the other (66 homes) is further from the parish boundary.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One response from an individual Rainow resident, saying the Parish Council works hard and provides a good quality service, with no changes needed to current governance arrangements.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats from 12 to 10, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
20 responses received (16 via the consultation survey and four by email/ letter), of which 19 (95 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only one agreed.

All 20 responses included comments, and it is notable that all 20 stated that the current system works well, with many praising the work of the Parish Council and the quality of services provided.

Nine responses made specific comments opposing the Draft Recommendations' proposed reduction in seats and these cited a number of reasons for retaining the current total of 12 seats, namely: the extensive geographical area the parish covers; the fact that most (but not all) of the parish is in the Peak Park, meaning that councillors need to understand and ensure compliance with its separate planning regime; a cut in seats would unduly increase the workload of the remaining councillors, acting as a deterrent to serving on the council - and would also mean councillors had a narrower range of skills, backgrounds, with some (younger) age groups less likely to be represented on the Council; and the fact that councillors are unpaid, so a cut in their numbers adds to the burden on the clerk and other public bodies - thus adding to costs and the tax burden.

The responses included submissions from local bodies, such as the Rainow Parochial Church Council and other local church leaders, who listed a number of important local services that would be at risk if the number of seats were reduced.

Despite the fact that Bollington Town Council's proposal to absorb the Ingersley Vale part of Rainow was not part of (and hence not mentioned in) the Draft Recommendations and therefore may be a matter that many of the respondents were unaware of, three submissions from Rainow residents did refer to (and opposed) this proposal. These three residents identified with Rainow and

looked to its Parish Council to protect their interests. (The area that Bollington Town Council proposed for transfer is shown in Map BOL3 in the Bollington section of this Assessment Report and is described in further detail below.)

One (different) submission from an Ingersley Vale resident saw the area as having different needs to the rest of Rainow, due to its geographical separation, but presented this as an argument for retaining the existing 12 seats (i.e. more local/ geographically spread representation), not for a boundary change.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

The Parish Council opposes the Draft Recommendations proposal to reduce its number of seats, citing various reasons for its view. One of these is its geography, with the parish covering a very wide area, much of it in the Peak Park (the demands of its separate planning regime are highlighted) and including some very isolated hamlets at high elevations. The submission also notes that the 2019 ordinary elections were contested (with 13 nominations), so the existing tally of seats can be readily filled. A further point it makes is that the Parish Council has had to take on duties previously carried by other bodies (speed camera operation and other examples are given), adding to its workload and meaning that a cut in seats would be perverse. Various examples are also given of the multiple roles undertaken by individual councillors and the additional support services provided in response to COVID (which a seats cut could jeopardise). In addition, the Parish Council points out that the current group of councillors is demographically diverse - including two representatives with young school-age children, who would not have been elected had the Draft Recommendations limit of 10 seats been in place. The submission also highlights the adverse impact of a seats cut on costs and residents' taxes, as a result of fewer councillors (unpaid volunteers) being available (and the submission includes some specific cost estimates for this impact).

The Parish Council also opposes any change to the boundary with Bollington. It states that Bollington Town Council approached Rainow residents (to seek their views on the Town Council's boundary change proposal – summarised below), before clarifying the location and extent of its proposed boundary change with the Parish Council. (It also states that the Town Council made this approach without the Parish Council's consent.) It argues that the proposed boundary change would transfer a large proportion of rural land beyond the Bollington Settlement Area boundary, much of it Green Belt/ Peak Park fringe land, with the Ingersley Vale Mill site being the only area where development is practical.

In its submission, Bollington Town Council requested a transfer of the Ingersley Vale (western) part of Rainow to Bollington, on the grounds that new housing is being developed in this area and that the residential properties in this part of Rainow have road links to

Bollington and rely on the town for local services and social activities. Its submission refers to the Settlement Boundary set out in the Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD), noting that this Boundary extends into Rainow.

As mentioned in Rainow Parish Council's submission, the Town Council also undertook a survey of residents in this part of Rainow and found that the vast majority supported its proposals (though this indicates that only around 10 households were available to offer a view); it included the results of this and an unsolicited email from a resident of the affected area in its submission.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The local borough ward Member opposes a reduction in seats, highlighting the wide geographical extent of the parish and arguing that fewer seats would reduce the opportunity and the incentive to serve on the council, leading to a narrower and less representative range of councillors and less focus on very local issues. The Member's submission also highlights the fact that, even with 12 seats, the ratio of electors per seat is more than double than of comparable parishes (such as the neighbouring rural parish of Pott Shrigley).

Rainow Parochial Church Council's submission offers a comprehensive list of activities undertaken or supported (very successfully) by the Parish Council; it feels these services would (at best) be compromised by a reduction in seats.

A submission from a local church applauds the Parish Council's work and raises concern (as does a submission from a former councillor) about the adverse impact of a seats cut on service provision.

The Parish Council's own submission helpfully includes the statements of all the above people and bodies (though it should be noted that the borough ward Member and the Parochial Church Council also made their own submissions).

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The individual submissions from Rainow that mention the Bollington boundary issue indicate that residents adjacent to Bollington identify with Rainow, though the Bollington Town Council survey of Rainow residents in the Ingersley Vale area comes to a different conclusion.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The consultation responses indicate overwhelming opposition to the Draft Recommendations proposal to reduce the Parish Council's number of seats. Many of these submissions offer detailed, persuasive reasons for maintaining the current seats total, highlighting the quality and range of the Council's services, the additional burdens arising from its extensive geographical area, high terrain (in places) and (partial) Peak Park coverage, the benefits of having a diverse range of councillors who can share the large work burden fairly and the consequences of putting all this in jeopardy. In the light of this evidence - and considering also the additional pressure that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on parish councils' workloads, the Borough Council recommends no change to the number of seats.

The Borough Council considers that Bollington Town Council's proposed change to the boundary with Rainow cannot be justified, for various reasons. Firstly, the new boundary line proposed by the Town Council is unclear and appears to cut across areas of woodland and open ground, rather than following roads or other natural boundaries. Secondly, it would take in a large rural part of Rainow containing Green Belt land and Peak Park fringe areas, but justification is not provided for the extent of this transfer. The potential for additional housing in this area is limited in any case, as the Ingersley Vale Mill site is the only part of the would-be transfer area where development is practical. Thirdly, the transfer would constrain Rainow's own development options, by significantly reducing the part of that parish that lies beyond the Peak Park. Fourthly, the survey that the Town Council undertook of Ingersley Vale residents was small in scale (so not necessarily representative) and Rainow Parish Council's own submission states that this survey was undertaken without its own consent. Furthermore, as the proposal was not one presented or mentioned in the Draft Recommendations, many local residents have not had an opportunity to be consulted on it and offer their views – and the proposed change was opposed by Rainow Parish Council in its submission and by those Rainow residents whose submissions indicated an awareness of the Town Council's proposal. The Borough Council is also conscious that, whilst rural areas that are adjacent to towns are generally dependent to varying degrees on those towns for some services, that does not mean they identify as part of the urban area's community.

In the light of all this consultation evidence and the other factors discussed above, the Borough Council therefore recommends no change to the Bollington/ Rainow boundary.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Rainow Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Rainow (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	12 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,188
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	99
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.87 Rope

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Rope
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Rope
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	1,756
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,833

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
The Chatsworth Park estate is currently split between Rope and Shavington.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None from Rope residents or its parish council. Five submissions from Shavington residents, but none proposed any boundary changes.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfers to Shavington of the two non-contiguous areas of land in Rope that are south of the A500 (one of these being the part of Chatswork Park estate that is currently within Rope; the other being an area of undeveloped land with no dwellings).

[2] Transfer from Shavington to Rope of the part of Shavington that lies north of the A500 and west of Chatsworth Park (this area of land also has no dwellings).

The rationale for transferring the Rope part of the Chatsworth Park estate is that the whole estate is part of Shavington village's urban area and is part of the same community as the rest of that village. A further reason for making this boundary change, and the other transfers between Rope and Shavington, is to make use of the A500 as a natural barrier between the parishes of Rope and Shavington.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Six submissions from Rope: all from individual residents, all via the consultation survey and all disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. Four of the responses included comments. Of these four, two simply felt that a boundary change was of no benefit. However, the other two made comments indicating their support for the transfer of Rope's part of Chatsworth Park to Shavington and both stated that residents of the estate identified as being from Shavington; one (who was a Chatsworth Park resident) noted that their information on local community activities came from Shavington Parish Council and the other noted the confusing nature of the current boundary.

There were 907 submissions from Shavington, all via the consultation survey. Of these, 817 (90 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only 64 (8 per cent) agreed; of the remaining 26, 15 neither agreed nor disagreed, two were unsure and nine did not answer that question.

However, objections focused almost exclusively on the proposals for changing Shavington's boundaries with Crewe and Wybunbury. Of those Shavington responses that commented on Shavington's boundary with Rope, all supported the inclusion of the whole Chatsworth Park estate within their parish, though the vast majority of those favoured a larger transfer, most commonly the one indicated in Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal (summarised below).

154 of the 907 submissions made proposals that involved a change to the boundary with Rope. Of these, 125 simply endorsed the Parish Council's counterproposal without further modification. 17 others did not refer to the counterproposal but suggested a transfer that was more extensive than the Draft Recommendations envisaged for Rope and affected dwellings or amenities north of the A500. Of the latter 17, almost all (14) recommended use of the railway line to Shrewsbury as part of the new boundary line; five of these 17 proposed that Shavington Academy, Rope Green Medical Centre, or both of these, be moved into Shavington. One person suggested the transfer of virtually all of the rural part of Rope parish to neighbouring parishes and the movement of the part of Wistaston into Rope. 11 submissions suggested that Shavington's Gresty Brook parish ward could be transferred to Rope. Those who proposed the option of a Gresty Brook transfer to Rope cited community links resulting from shared services and amenities and common history: for example, parents in Gresty Brook send their children to school at Berkeley Academy, which is in Rope, and people on both sides of the boundary share the same medical practice; it was also noted that Gresty Brook and the urban part of Rope are part of the same housing estate. However, one of those proposing this possible option noted that Gresty Brook residents had mixed views, with some looking favourably on being part of Rope, whilst others wanted to remain in Shavington, though it was reported that no Gresty Brook residents wished to move to Crewe.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
No response from Rope Parish Council.

Shavington Parish Council submitted a counterproposal that aligned its boundary southwest of the Chatsworth Park estate with the A500 and transferred Rope's part of Chatsworth Park. In these respects, it mirrors the Draft Recommendations. However, the counterproposal also involves the transfer of the rural area of Rope bounded by the A500 to the south, Rope Lane to the west and the railway line and Gresty Lane to the north. In effect, this proposal would move all of the rural area of Rope east of Rope Lane into Shavington. The Parish Council had also produced a booklet (published online here) setting out its counterproposal and the supporting evidence; a number of residents who endorsed the counterproposal included this booklet in their submission.

The booklet includes maps showing the boundary changes that the counterproposal envisages between Shavington and its various neighbours. However, Map SHA1 (which was produced by the Borough Council and which can be found in the Shavington subsection of this Assessment Report) shows the full extent of all the counterproposal's boundary changes.

To support its case, the counterproposal booklet reports on a survey the Parish Council had undertaken of residents in the Chatsworth Park area and other locations that would be affected by the Draft Recommendations, to obtain their views on their local

identity. It surveyed of 31 per cent of the households in Chatsworth Park and found that 63 per cent identified themselves as being part of Shavington, 16 per cent identified as being part of Rope and the other 21 per cent were undecided. (It is not clear from the booklet whether the survey covered both the area of the estate currently in Shavington and the area currently in Rope, but the Borough Council assumes this was the case.) The booklet indicates that the counterproposal's boundary lines were informed by a preference for clear natural boundaries such as railway lines and roads, but it does not include further justification for transferring the rural area between Rope Lane, the A500 and the railway.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Although the six responses from individual Rope residents stated that they disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, the two that commented on local identities (including one Chatsworth Park estate resident) said people living on the estate identified with Shavington. Also notable is that some of the responses from residents in the Gresty Brook area of Shavington cited communal links between Gresty and the mainly residential area of Rope; both Gresty and this area of Rope form part of the same housing estate.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One submission from a Wistaston resident suggested that their parish could be merged with Willaston, Shavington, Rope and perhaps also Wybunbury, arguing that the residents of these parishes used the same services and had community links; the respondent felt such a merger would result in greater purchasing power and a stronger local voice.

Post-consultation assessment
Although the six responses from individual Rope residents stated that they disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, the two that commented on local identities (including one Chatsworth Park estate resident) said people living on the estate identified with Shavington. The other responses from Rope offered no reason for opposing a change to this boundary, other than a view it served no benefit. Furthermore, whilst the vast majority of submissions from Shavington also disagreed overall with the Draft

Recommendations, objections focused almost exclusively on the proposals for changing Shavington's boundaries with Crewe and Wybunbury.

The results of Shavington Parish Council's survey of Chatsworth Park residents offer persuasive evidence that those who live in the estate identify with Shavington: the survey found that 63 per cent did so and only 16 per cent identified with Rope.

Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal proposes that, in addition to the transfer of the Chatsworth Park part of Rope, the boundary south of Chatsworth Park should be aligned with the A500. 125 of the submissions from Shavington residents endorse this counterproposal and, by implication, the Chatsworth Park transfer and A500 alignment further to the south; a number of other residents' submissions also endorse the Chatsworth Park element of the counterproposal, or express support for the Draft Recommendations proposed new Rope/ Shavington boundary, while none take a contrary view.

In the light of all this evidence on the level of local support and the identity of the estate's residents, the Borough Council recommends that these changes to the Rope/ Shavington boundary proceed, so that this boundary follows the A500 as far north as (and including) the Chatsworth Park estate.

However, the Borough Council notes that neither Shavington Parish Council's submission nor those from Shavington residents offer a justification (other than the use of clear natural boundaries) for additionally transferring the rural area bounded by the A500, Rope Lane and the railway. In particular, the submission evidence provides no indication of the views or local identity of the residents of Rope Green Farm and Brook Farm, which are within this area; it may be that they - given the presence of the A500 as a natural barrier between the farms and Shavington - identify with Rope, not Shavington. In any case, a transfer of this rural area was not presented as an option in the Draft Recommendations and therefore Rope residents have not had an opportunity to offer views on such a change. It should also be noted that, in other parts of the Borough where the Draft Recommendations have proposed the transfer of a rural area to a neighbouring parish with adjacent housing development, opposition has sometimes been significant. Furthermore, it is not clear, given this area's rural character and the A500 barrier, how it would form part of the same community as Shavington. In addition, Rope is in a different borough ward to the adjacent part of Shavington, so separate polling facilities would be required.

Taking all these factors into account, the Borough Council is not persuaded, on balance, by this part of the counterproposal and recommends that the rural land around Rope Green Farm remains in Rope. For the same reason, the Borough Council is not persuaded by other alternative proposals that involve aligning the Shavington/ Rope boundary with the railway.

As for the suggestions that Shavington Academy and Rope Green Medical Centre be transferred to Shavington, these are few in number relative to the total number of submissions from Shavington and whilst a transfer of the Academy might better reflect local identity, there is no clear, natural boundary that could contain it without also absorbing parts of Rope's rural hinterland.

The final set of alternative suggestions to consider are those proposing that the Gresty Brook ward could be transferred to Rope. The submissions proposing this option indicate clear community links between Gresty and Rope; however, the evidence also indicates that the local community is divided, with many wishing to remain in Shavington. Furthermore, the number of responses making this proposal is very low in relation to the total volume of submissions from Shavington. In addition, such a change is clearly against Shavington Parish Council's wishes. Therefore the Borough Council considers that such a transfer risks damaging community cohesion and recommends that this part of the Rope/ Shavington boundary remain as it is.

In summary, therefore, the Borough Council's recommendation is that the Rope-Shavington boundary as far north as (and including) the Chatsworth Park estate be aligned with the A500, but that no other boundary changes between Rope and Shavington be made.

As for Rope's number of seats, the current total of seven is very low for a council of Rope's size. Ten seats would be more in line with the average for a council of its size (1,736 electors by 2025, allowing for the Chatsworth Park transfer) and this is the number that the Draft Recommendations proposed. However, the Borough Council notes that the Parish Council had only five nominations in 2019. As also noted, the Parish Council did not respond to the pre-consultation survey or the consultation survey and the few submissions from its residents do not give an indication of its level of activity or effectiveness. The Borough Council is concerned that a limit of seven for an electorate of over 1,700 could constrain the Parish Council's ability to provide residents with an effective service, particularly in the wake of the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on public resources and support services. On the other hand, it is also concerned that a very substantial increase in seats could result in vacant seats that prove hard to fill. Therefore the Borough Council considers that nine seats would be a reasonable trade-off between these two concerns and therefore recommends an increase to nine seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.26 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Rope to Shavington Parish Council's Village ward, of the shaded areas of Rope shown in Map 2.26 (the Rope part of the Chatsworth Park estate, and the area of Rope southwest of this estate that lies south of the A500). Transfer, from Shavington Parish Council's Village ward to the parish of Rope, of the shaded area of Shavington shown in Map 2.26 (the area of Shavington that lies southwest of the Chatsworth Park estate and north of the A500.
Parish Council name and style	Rope Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Rope (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	9 (an increase from the current 7)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,736
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	193
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Rope – transfers to and from Shavington"

2.88 Rostherne

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Rostherne
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Rostherne
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	126
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast: 126 Revised forecast: 103 Note: The revised forecast takes account of the December 2021 Electoral Register data.

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None from Rostherne residents. However, there was one individual representation from Tatton, which identified a close historical connection to Rostherne; this stated that Rostherne parish "was the old estate village to Tatton Park." This submission requested that Tatton be merged with Rostherne.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Tatton with Rostherne, to form a new parish, with five seats. This rationale for this is that Tatton has a very small electorate (21 as of 2018) and is not viable as a separate entity; as noted in the sole pre-consultation submission, the two areas have links. Both parishes are in the same borough ward, so there would be not electoral risk that requires the provision of an additional polling station. The new parish would have an electorate which is below the legal minimum (150) for a new parish council. However, where the new parish has fewer than 150 electors but part or the whole of the parish is already served by a parish council, it is for the Borough Council to decide whether or not the new parish should continue to have a council. The Borough Council has expressed a view in its Terms of Reference that parish governance should extend where practicable to all the parishes in the Borough.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Rostherne Parish Council responded (see details below), but no Rostherne residents did.

No responses from Tatton residents.

Feedback from consultation stage – submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Rostherne Parish Council accepted the merger proposal and requested that the new parish be called "Rostherne" and have the style "Parish", but also requested that the new parish should have eight seats, rather than the five that the Draft Recommendations propose. It did not, though, add specific reasons for requesting this number of seats. There was no response from Tatton Parish Meeting.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
The Draft Recommendations proposed that the Agden and Little Bollington Parish Meetings and Millington Parish Council should merge. The responses to this proposal have implications for the potential governance arrangements for Rostherne and Tatton.

Agden Parish Meeting supported this Draft Recommendations proposal; so did one Little Bollington resident (no other residents of the three affected areas made a submission).

Little Bollington Parish Meeting supported a merger with Agden, but noted that most of Millington's residents live on the opposite (south) side of the M56 and felt its Parish Meeting shared communal links and interests only with the small part of Millington that lies north of the motorway. Little Bollington Parish Meeting reported that residents in this northern part of Millington felt more connected to Little Bollington and some attended its communal events and Parish Meetings. It therefore proposed that the merger exclude the part of Millington south of the M56.

Millington Parish Meeting's submission opposed the Draft Recommendations, feeling that it had a much more rural identity and consequently different needs to Agden and Little Bollington; it also considered that integration with Parish Meetings, with their different ways of working, could prove challenging. However, Millington felt it had much in common with Rostherne and Tatton and therefore proposed that it be included in their merger. The arguments put forward by Millington in support of this were: Rostherne and Millington are both very small parish councils, so neither would lose its individual voice to a much larger partner; the two parish council areas and Tatton are rural, farming communities, so have a shared identity; the impact of HS2 is a common challenge that a merged, larger parish council could respond to more effectively; Rostherne and Millington have a history of supporting each other on other issues, such as road (A556) and housing developments; the two council share a clerk and use the same premises for their meetings; there are social links between the two councils; its proposed merger, in tandem with a merger of Agden and Little Bollington, would create two parish councils of very similar size (about 300 electors).

Millington Parish Council's submission also notes that it had approached Rostherne with its alternative proposal; Rostherne did not support the proposal at that time, but Millington had since written to Rostherne, setting out the rationale summarised above. Millington Parish Council has suggested the name "Bucklow Parish Council" for a merger of Millington, Rostherne and Tatton.

Should its proposal not find favour, Millington's preference is to remain as an independent parish council.

Post-consultation assessment

Rostherne Parish Council supports the Draft Recommendations merger proposal and there were no responses from its residents, nor from Tatton Parish Meeting and its residents during the consultation stage. This merger was also one proposed by the sole pre-consultation response from Rostherne and Tatton. The Borough Council therefore considers that Rostherne and Tatton should become part of the same parish council.

However, whilst the original forecasts produced for Community Governance Review purposes anticipated a combined electorate for Rostherne and Tatton of 147 by 2025 (no change from 2018), the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put their total electorate at only 117 (Rostherne 103 and Tatton 14), with Rostherne's electorate having fallen from 126 (2018) to 103 (2021) and Tatton's from 21 (2018) to 14 (2021). In contrast, the number of electors in Millington (originally forecast to be 149 as of 2025) has unexpectedly increased significantly (from 151 in 2018 to 185 by 2021).

Millington Parish Council's submission makes a persuasive case for its own inclusion in the merger of Rostherne and Tatton - citing a number of common interests, shared resources and the advantage of strength in numbers - and the unexpected sharp declines in the electorates of Rostherne and Tatton also add weight to this case.

A further consideration is the identity of those Millington residents north of the M56 and Little Bollington Parish Meeting's submission persuasively argues that those residents - who attend its meetings and events - are more closely linked to Little Bollington. The Borough Council estimates that only around seven of Millington's properties lie north of the motorway; based on the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward of High Legh, this would equate to an estimated 13 electors. If this part of Millington were to be included in a merger of Agden and Little Bollington, it would therefore leave the rest of Millington with 172 electors. As such, Millington could remain as an independent parish even with this transfer. However, Millington itself had only three nominations for its five seats in 2019, which raises questions about its own viability, despite the significant growth in its electorate since 2018.

Taking all these factors and the collective submission evidence into account, the Borough Council recommends that the small part of Millington north of the M56 be transferred to Little Bollington (to be included in a merger of that Parish Meeting and Agden) and that the rest of Millington be merged with Rostherne and Tatton.

The Borough Council considers that "Bucklow" (Millington Parish Council's suggestion) would be an acceptable name for the new merged parish, but is conscious both of the request in Rostherne's submission for its existing name to be retained and of Millington's separate history. It therefore recommends the name "Millington & Rostherne" and the style "Parish" (as both Millington and Rostherne proposed this).

As for the number of seats for the new merged council, the original Community Governance forecasts suggest it would have 283 electors by 2025 (136 in the area of Millington south of the M56 plus 147 in Rostherne and Tatton). However, as noted, the December 2021 Electoral Register data show Millington's electorate has seen significant, unexpected growth, whilst the reverse is true for Rostherne and Tatton. Consequently, the 2021 Electoral Register numbers are now seen as a better guide, but imply a similar overall total of 289 electors (172 in the area of Millington south of the M56 plus 117 in Rostherne and Tatton).

For this number of electors, seven seats is in line with the Cheshire East average. However, the new merged parish would cover a relatively large and very rural area, placing additional demands on councillors. Furthermore, Rostherne received nominations for all of its eight seats in 2019, while Millington received three. Therefore the Borough Council recommends eight seats, as this would better reflect the likely workload, as well as enabling more continuity (less turnover of councillors) and there is a good prospect of getting nominations for all seats.

The Borough Council is also conscious that Millington is in a separate borough ward to Rostherne and Tatton and has a separate history. It therefore recommends that the new parish be divided into two wards: a "Millington" ward (covering the Millington parish area south of the M56) and a "Rostherne & Tatton" ward, covering the rest of the new parish. Based on their electorate shares as of 2021, five seats for Millington and three for Rostherne & Tatton would be a fair division. However, given Millington's wish for a broad political balance with Rostherne, plus Rostherne's somewhat greater success (based on 2019 data) in attracting nominations and the fact that Rostherne has eight of the affected areas' existing thirteen seats, a split of four seats each is more likely to provide continuity and political stability. Furthermore, the Rostherne & Tatton ward covers a much larger geographical area than Millington - and it would have to address the unique challenges and opportunities presented by Tatton Park. Therefore the Borough Council recommends four seats for each ward.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.22 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Millington & Rostherne Parish Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Millington & Rostherne (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Two wards, with boundaries as shown in Map 2.22: [1] "Millington", consisting of the part of the current Millington Parish Council that lies south of the M56; [2] "Rostherne & Tatton", consisting of the current Rosthern Parish Council and the current Tatton Parish Meeting.
Seats	8 (Millington 4, Rostherne & Tatton 4)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	289 overall (Millington 172, Rostherne & Tatton 117). These figures are based on a revised forecast that takes account of the 2021 Electoral Register data.
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	36 overall (Millington 43, Rostherne & Tatton 29). These figures are based on the revised forecast.
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Millington – transfer to Little Bollington" • "Millington & Rostherne – warding"

2.89 Sandbach

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Sandbach
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Sandbach
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Elworth; Ettiley Heath & Wheelock; Heath & East; Town.
Seats	20 (Elworth 5, Ettiley Heath & Wheelock 5, Heath & East 5, Town 5)
Nominations in 2019	25 (Elworth 8, Ettiley Heath & Wheelock 7, Heath & East 6, Town 4)
Electorate (2018)	16,600 (Elworth 4,409, Ettiley Heath & Wheelock 4,337, Heath & East 3,623, Town 4,231)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	18,507 (Elworth 5,291, Ettiley Heath & Wheelock 4,377, Heath & East 4,552, Town 4,287)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area

[1] The Albion Lock development, which is within the current Moston parish boundary, but which is adjacent to Sandbach, is a consequence of the town's expansion. Many of Sandbach's services and activities (unlike those in Middlewich and the more limited provision in Moston) are accessible on foot.

[2] Recent development on the edge of Haslington's Winterley ward has expanded into Sandbach; these new homes are adjacent to and can easily access Winterley/ Haslington amenities, but are distant from services in the nearest part of Sandbach (Wheelock).

[3] New development in Elworth and Ettiley Heath & Wheelock wards, particularly west of the railway line.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Both the Town Council and Haslington Parish Council proposed a change to their shared boundary, to bring the new development at the northern edge of Winterley entirely within Haslington parish. The two councils proposed that the new boundary follow the A534 as far as Hassall Moss Brook (the southern tributary of the River Wheelock) and then follow the Brook eastwards to the parish boundary with Hassall. The Town Council also requested an increase to six seats for each ward, to reflect expected population growth up to 2030, but opposed any change to internal ward boundaries.

Only one response from an individual Sandbach resident, but this did not include any comments.

Several responses from individual Haslington residents, though none raised the boundary with Sandbach as an issue.

No responses from Moston at this stage.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer, from Moston to Sandbach, of the Albion Lock housing development. Transferred area to consist of that part of Moston that is east of the A533 and south of the Brenntag works, and the three existing properties on the opposite (west) side of this stretch of the A533. The purpose is to locate the new development within Sandbach, as it is consequence of the town's expansion and is expected to rely on the town for local services and community activities.

[2] Transfer to Haslington of the part of Sandbach Town Council's Ettiley Heath & Wheelock ward that lies east of the A534 bypass, so that there is a clear and identifiable boundary between Sandbach and Haslington that does not partition existing community of Winterley.

[3] Transfer, from Ettiley Heath & Wheelock ward to Elworth ward, of the Teal Drive area (comprising properties on Kestrel Walk, Redshank Place, Teal Drive, Woodpecker Close and some properties on the southern side of Moss Lane). This is to reflect

evidence that people in this area see themselves as being part of Elworth and that the Teal Drive area is on the same side of the railway line as the adjacent residential part of Elworth.

[4] Increase total seats to 22, to reflect the town's expansion. The two extra seats to go to the Elworth ward (which contains the largest share of recent housing development) and the other wards to remain on five seats each.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Of the nine responses from Sandbach, five agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and three disagreed. The other one, which was the Town Council's response (see details below), was in the form of an email and agreed with some key parts of the proposals but disagreed with others.

Of the individual responses that disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, only one included specific comments. This response objected to the continued practice of having multiple seats for each ward - an objection also raised in relation to other (mainly large) town and parish councils; the wording used in these submissions suggests they were made by the same individual, rather than different people independently making the same argument. The same response also suggested using the M6 to mark Sandbach's boundary with Betchton, Bradwall and Brereton (but no other submissions from any parish made this proposal).

One submission asked for seats to be kept to a minimum (and made suggested changes outside the Community Governance Review remit), while another questioned the wide variation in electors per seats between Sandbach and Moston, but both these responses were from people who agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations.

There were 13 submissions from Haslington (including the Parish Council's official response), of which 12 were via the consultation survey. Of the 12 survey responses, six (including the Parish Council) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only three disagreed, but none of those who disagreed made comments specifically about the Haslington/ Sandbach boundary change.

There were 11 responses from Moston and nine of these agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, including that from the Parish Council. One of those who did disagree noted that they would change their view on the overall Draft Recommendations to "agree" if the Moston-Sandbach transfer area were modified to exclude the properties on the west side of the A533 (the Draft

Recommendations include three such properties: Cranford, The Cedars and the old Moston garage). This submission argued that these three are old properties that identify with Moston (see below for the Parish Council's supporting evidence on this issue) and that keeping them in that parish would help safeguard the green gap between Moston and Sandbach. The same submission also made reference to the green gap policy in Moston's Neighbourhood Plan, which shows the three properties are adjacent to a designated green gap area.

The other Moston resident who disagreed cited concerns about the Albion Lock transfer encouraging developers to expand housing sites further into Moston.

However, three Moston residents who agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations voiced support for the Albion Lock transfer specifically; two of these were Albion Lock residents and both felt they were part of the Sandbach/ Elworth community.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

The Town Council supports the transfer of the Albion Lock development to Sandbach. It does not comment specifically on the Draft Recommendations proposed inclusion in this transfer of three properties that are on the west side of the A533 (Cranford, The Cedars and the old Moston garage). However, Moston Parish Council's own submission, whilst supporting the Albion Lock transfer, opposes the inclusion of Cranford and its neighbours, on the grounds that they are old properties that are an established part of their parish; furthermore, the Parish Council had consulted the residents of these properties on the Community Governance Review Draft Recommendations proposals and found they identify strongly with Moston and wished to remain in that parish.

On the matter of the boundary with Haslington, the Town Council's submission reiterates its support for the boundary line proposed by Haslington Parish Council in its pre-consultation response and again in its consultation stage submission. This boundary line is a modified version of the Draft Recommendations boundary proposal: under the Parish Council/ Town Council proposal, the new boundary would run northwards along the A534 only as far as Hassall Moss Brook and then follow the Brook eastwards. Both the Parish Council's and the Town Council's submissions justify this requested modification by pointing out that the small number of properties north of the Brook (on Mill Lane/ Cotton Lane) are geographically much closer to the Wheelock area of Sandbach than to Winterley and have much easier access to services in Wheelock.

The Town Council opposes the transfer of Teal Drive from the Ettiley Heath & Wheelock ward to the Elworth ward. It offers two main reasons for this. Firstly, that this area is adjacent to (and linked by a footpath to) a new Bellway development to the south. These homes and those in the Teal Drive area both are on the same side of the railway and the Town Council argues that they

form part of the same community - yet the Bellway development would remain in Ettiley Heath & Wheelock under the Draft Recommendations. Secondly, even without this transfer between wards, Elworth already has a significantly larger electorate than the town's other wards - and the boundary change with Moston would widen this disparity. This could be addressed by allocating seats according to electorate shares alone, but the Town Council's wish is to have little or no difference between the seat numbers for each ward, to maintain the current political balance; another solution could be to alter ward boundaries elsewhere so that part of Elworth is transferred to another ward, but the Town Council felt that it was not practical for it to work out an alternative boundary line at such an advanced stage of the Community Governance Review process.

On the matter of total seats and the allocation of these between wards, the Town Council supported an increase in overall seats, to reflect population growth, but - given its wish for a roughly equal number of seats for each ward - it opposed the Draft Recommendations proposal to increase Elworth's seats from five to seven. Instead, it proposed an increase to only six seats for Elworth (and no change to the other wards), giving a total of 21 seats (as opposed to the Draft Recommendations overall total of 22).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
South Cheshire Labour (the South Cheshire branch of the Labour Party) felt that the Draft Recommendations proposed too large a transfer from Sandbach to Haslington and as such did not reflect community identity. It therefore proposed that the new boundary should follow the A534 until it meets a track that leads across to Alsager Road at Whitehall Farm; it stated that this track is well used and recognised. This proposed boundary line would mean the new development in Winterley was entirely within Haslington, but that the transfer area would be somewhat smaller than the one envisaged by either the Parish Council/ Town Council or by the Draft Recommendations.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Both the Town Council and Moston Parish Council support the proposed transfer of Albion Lock to Sandbach's Elworth ward. The responses from Moston and Sandbach residents indicate little objection to this transfer and the two responses received from Albion Lock residents were among those in favour.

However, Moston Parish Council has received confirmation from the residents of homes on the opposite side of the A533 - Cranford and The Cedars - that they identify strongly with Moston and wish to remain there; the adjacent former garage is also seen as part of Moston.

Both the Town Council and Haslington Parish Council have also reiterated their support for the extending Haslington's boundary northwards, so that all residents of Wheelock Heath fall within their parish; no objections were made by Haslington or Sandbach residents to this specific part of the Draft Recommendations proposals. However, both the Town Council and Haslington Parish Council emphasised that the area north of Hassall Moss Brook should remain within Sandbach, arguing that the small number of residents there have much access to Wheelock, identify with that area and rely on it for services.

Finally, the Town Council argues that Teal Drive is part of the same community as the Bellway estate to its immediate south, with a footpath linking the two developments.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One individual Haslington resident proposed a merger of Haslington with Sandbach. However, no other submissions on any other parish raised this option and it is at odds with the frequently-expressed view (in many areas where urban conurbations extend into or adjoin rural parishes) that the merger of large towns or parishes would not reflect community identity and would result in unduly large, unwieldy and remote councils. It is also at odds with the responses of Haslington Parish Council and Sandbach Town Council.

Post-consultation assessment
The transfer of Albion Lock from Moston to Sandbach is supported by the Town Council and Moston Parish Council, with only one local resident opposing this specific change and Albion Lock residents themselves expressing support and seeing their development as part of the Sandbach/ Elworth community. In addition, a majority of the responses from both Sandbach and Moston agree overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, Moston Parish Council provides evidence that Cranford and adjacent established properties on the opposite (west) side of the A533 identify with Moston and wish to remain there; a Moston resident concurs and also argues persuasively that keeping these properties in the parish would help safeguard its green gap and the Moston Neighbourhood Plan's green gap policy. In the light of all this consultation evidence, the Borough Council therefore recommends that the Draft Recommendations proposed change to the Sandbach/ Moston boundary be modified, so that the Albion Lock development is transferred to Sandbach, but Cranford and the properties adjacent to it stay in Moston.

The extension of Haslington/ Sandbach boundary, to include all of Wheelock Heath within Haslington, is supported by the Town Council and Haslington Parish Council and no individual residents from either council object to this specific proposal. As with Sandbach residents, a majority of those from Haslington agree overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, the Town Council and Parish Council argue persuasively that properties on Cotton Lane and Mill Lane (north of Hassall Moss Brook) have easy access to Wheelock, are part of its community and should therefore remain in Sandbach. In the light of all this evidence, the Borough Council recommends that the Draft Recommendations proposed change to the Sandbach/ Haslington boundary be modified, so that the transfer to Haslington excludes those properties north of Hassall Moss Brook. (The alternative boundary line proposed by South Cheshire Labour would also ensure residents north of the Brook stay within the parish to which they have community links, but this proposed line received no support in other submissions and would follow a track that is less clearly marked on maps than the Brook.)

On the matter of internal ward boundaries, the Town Council argues that the Teal Drive area and the Bellway estate to the south are part of the same community, being linked by a footpath. The Borough Council accepts this point and notes that both estates are cut off to some extent (by the railway and industrial estates) from residential areas to the east, which may strengthen their shared local identity. However, the Borough Council is also conscious that this footpath consists of steps, meaning that pedestrian access between the two estates is not practical – and in some cases not possible - for certain groups of residents, such as people with prams, wheelchair users and other residents with limited mobility. It is also aware – as noted in the Draft Recommendations report - that some Teal Drive residents identify as being part of Elworth, and that they have an Elworth postal address.

Nevertheless, the Borough Council is persuaded by the Town Council's argument that the elector numbers in each ward should be kept as even as possible, to maintain equal or similar numbers of seats per ward and hence achieve both political balance and fair representation across the wards.

Weighing all these factors up, the Borough Council agrees that, on balance, Teal Drive should not be transferred from Ettiley Heath & Wheelock to Elworth and it therefore recommends no change to the boundary between these two wards.

Given the Town Council’s understandable wish to maintain similar numbers of seats for each ward, the Borough Council therefore recommends that Elworth's seats be increased to six (not seven as the Draft Recommendations proposed) and that total seats be increased to 21 (not 22 as originally proposed). A downside of this is that the ratio of electors per seat would be somewhat higher in Elworth (estimated at 1,020 by 2025) than in the other three wards (where the ratios would range from 858 to 910). However, this

disparity in ratios is modest and, considering the Town Council's wish for a balance of seats between its wards (which it is assumed is working well to date), six seats for Elworth is judged to be appropriate.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.15 & 2.23 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the Sandbach Town Council's Ettiley Heath & Wheelock ward to Haslington Parish Council's Winterley ward, of the shaded area (the area of Ettiley Heath & Wheelock enclosed by the A534 to the west and by Hassall Moss Brook to the north) shown in Map 2.15. Transfer, from the parish of Moston to Sandbach Town Council's Elworth ward, of the shaded area (Albion Lock) shown in Map 2.23.
Parish Council name and style	Sandbach Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Sandbach
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing internal ward boundaries or to ward names (Elworth; Ettiley Heath & Wheelock; Heath & East; Town)
Seats	21 (an increase from the current 20). Allocation of seats between wards: Elworth 6 (an increase from the current 5), Ettiley Heath & Wheelock 5 (no change), Heath & East 5 (no change), Town 5 (no change).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	19,247 (Elworth 6,120, Ettiley Heath & Wheelock 4,288, Heath & East 4,552, Town 4,287)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	917 overall (Elworth 1,020, Ettiley Heath & Wheelock 858, Heath & East 910, Town 857)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Moston – transfer to Sandbach" • "Sandbach – transfer to Haslington"

2.90 Shavington cum Gresty

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Shavington cum Gresty
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Shavington cum Gresty
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Gresty Brook; Shavington Village
Seats	12 (Gresty Brook 2, Shavington Village 10)
Nominations in 2019	7 (Gresty Brook 0, Shavington Village 7)
Electorate (2018)	4,341 (Gresty Brook 553, Shavington Village 3,788)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	5,513 (Gresty Brook 541, Shavington Village 4,972)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
[1] Local Plan Strategy site LPS 3 (Basford West, Crewe) contains a major new housing development that is partly within Shavington, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Crewe and is a consequence of the town's expansion.

[2] Local Plan Strategy site LPS 9 (The Shavington/ Wybunbury Triangle), which is currently split between the parishes of Shavington and Wybunbury. This site, which contains the Shavington Park estate, is adjacent to established dwellings on Dig Lane and Stock Lane.

[3] The Chatsworth Park estate is currently split between Rope and Shavington.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Five submissions from Shavington residents; none proposed any specific governance changes.

One response from Crewe, which regarded the Town Council as an unnecessary layer of government.

Five submissions from Wybunbury, of which four (including one from the Parish Council) requested that the parish's northern boundary be aligned with Newcastle Road. The submissions proposing this change noted that the current boundary is confusing and places some people in a different parish to their neighbours.

No responses from Rope.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer to Crewe of the part of Shavington that lies north of the A500 and northeast of the Chatsworth Park estate. This area contains the Gresty Brook parish ward, as well as housing development adjacent to Gresty Brook (but on the opposite side of the railway) and, further east, site LPS 3. As noted above, LPS 3 is adjacent to the existing urban development in Crewe and is a consequence of the town's expansion, whilst Gresty Brook and the adjacent residential area within Shavington Village ward are part of the same conurbation as Crewe. The rationale for transferring these areas to Crewe was that it would reflect Crewe's expansion and the identity of the local community.

[2] Transfers to Shavington of the two non-contiguous areas of land in Rope that are south of the A500 (one of these being the part of Chatsworth Park estate that is currently within Rope; the other being an area of undeveloped land with no dwellings). Transfer from Shavington to Rope of the part of Shavington that lies north of the A500 and west of Chatsworth Park (this area of land also has no dwellings). The rationale for transferring the Rope part of the Chatsworth Park estate is that the whole estate is part of Shavington village's urban area and is part of the same community as the rest of that village. A further reason for making this boundary change, and the other transfers between Rope and Shavington, is to make use of the A500 as a natural barrier between the parishes of Rope and Shavington.

[3] Transfer to Wybunbury of the part of Shavington that lies south of Newcastle Road. This would mean that the Wybunbury-Shavington boundary line follows Newcastle Road itself, all the way from where Newcastle Road meets the Willaston parish boundary in the west to where it meets the Hough parish boundary in the east. The rationale for this change is to bring the entire LPS 9 site and all other properties on the south side of Newcastle Road into Wybunbury: the Borough Council's understanding was that (despite the new development's name of Shavington Park) local residents generally identified with Wybunbury. The proposed new boundary would also be clear, unlike the current line.

[4] Given the proposed transfer of Gresty Brook ward to Crewe, the residual area of Shavington will be unwarded. The Draft Recommendations propose that this remaining area should have 12 seats (no change from the Parish Council's current total), as this is line with the average for a council of its expected size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were 907 submissions from Shavington, all via the consultation survey. Of these, 817 (90 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only 64 (8 per cent) agreed; of the remaining 26, 15 neither agreed nor disagreed, two were unsure and nine did not answer that question. The reasons given for disagreeing related most commonly to local identity and interests (393 mentions); other common reasons related to concerns about an adverse effect on house prices or insurance premiums (90 mentions), the impact on the Green Belt and natural environment (67) and a view that current governance arrangements worked well (49). 12 mentioned higher taxes, 11 referred to polls or other evidence of local opinion (some quoting statistics from the Parish Council's own survey - summarised below) and 10 thought school catchments might be adversely affected. A number of those who felt current arrangements worked well indicated that they valued the active and supportive nature of the Parish Council and felt it was effective in engaging with residents (though some of those agreeing with the Draft Recommendations expressed a different view on that matter).

Objections focused almost exclusively on the proposals for changing Shavington's boundaries with Crewe and Wybunbury. Of those Shavington responses that commented on Shavington's boundary with Rope, all supported the inclusion of the whole Chatsworth Park estate within their parish, though the vast majority of those favoured a larger transfer, most commonly the one indicated in Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal (summarised below).

Boundaries with Crewe and Rope

Most of the responses from Shavington residents focused on the Draft Recommendations proposed changes to their parish's boundary with Crewe. A number of submissions came from residents on the new Willowbrook Grange estate (part of the LPS 3 site), stating they identified strongly with Shavington and had moved to the area to be in Shavington, not Crewe. More specifically, 19 of the Shavington respondents indicated that they lived in Willowbrook Grange (nine respondents) or other areas north of the A500 (10). Of these 19, 15 not only disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations but made comments objecting specifically to the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary with Crewe; those objecting specifically to the proposed boundary with Crewe included all nine of the self-declared Willowbrook Grange residents.

Of all the 907 submissions from Shavington, 216 included comments specifically opposing the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary with Crewe. (Note: the figure of 216 excludes people who quoted from or voiced support for their Parish Council's counterproposal, but who did not add comments of their own on the Crewe boundary.) Key points made against this boundary change included the following: Willowbrook Grange and Gresty Brook residents rely on Shavington for services; residents north of the A500 are separated from residential areas of Crewe by natural barriers (a brook, railway lines, fields and industrial premises), meaning they are not part of the same community; Shavington has a community spirit, but Crewe does not; Crewe is struggling to provide public services and infrastructure for its existing population and would not cope with the needs of an expanded area. Many raised concerns that a transfer to Crewe would mean the affected residents would see a fall in the value of their property, and increases in their insurance premiums or precept charges. Some cited the results of neighbourhood surveys - not just the Parish Council's own one (cited in its counterproposal publication) - which showed most people in the Gresty area identified with Shavington. A number of responses referred specifically to Shavington's identity as a village and their wish to retain this. Some had concerns that the boundary change with Crewe would mean a lot of unnecessary working 'remaking' the Neighbourhood Plan.

Of those Shavington responses that commented on Shavington's boundary with Rope, all supported the inclusion of the whole Chatsworth Park estate within their parish, though the vast majority of those favoured a larger transfer, most commonly the one indicated in Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal. More specifically, 154 of the 907 submissions made proposals that involved a change to the boundary with Rope. Of these, 125 simply endorsed the Parish Council’s counterproposal without further modification. 17 others did not refer to the counterproposal but suggested a transfer that was more extensive than the Draft Recommendations envisaged for Rope and affected dwellings or amenities north of the A500. Of the latter 17, almost all (14) recommended use of the railway line to Shrewsbury as part of the new boundary line; five of these 17 proposed that Shavington Academy, Rope Green Medical Centre, or both of these, be moved into Shavington. One person suggested the transfer of virtually all of the rural part of Rope parish to neighbouring parishes and the movement of the part of Wistaston into Rope. 11 submissions

suggested that Shavington's Gresty Brook parish ward could be transferred to Rope. Those who proposed the option of a Gresty Brook transfer to Rope cited community links resulting from shared services and amenities and common history: for example, parents in Gresty Brook send their children to school at Berkeley Academy, which is in Rope, and people on both sides of the boundary share the same medical practice; it was also noted that Gresty Brook and the urban part of Rope are part of the same housing estate. However, one of those proposing this possible option noted that Gresty Brook residents had mixed views, with some looking favourably on being part of Rope, whilst others wanted to remain in Shavington, though it was reported that no Gresty Brook residents wished to move to Crewe.

There were 18 responses from Crewe, of which one (from the Town Council) was by email and the other 17 via the consultation survey. Of the 17 survey responses, seven agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, nine disagreed and the other neither agreed or disagreed. Of those who disagreed, two made comments about the collective proposals for Crewe's boundaries, though neither mentioned Shavington specifically: one felt Crewe has seen too much counterproductive change already and that the proposed boundaries put Green Belt land at risk of development; one stated that the changes would leave Crewe covering too large an area, making the Council remote and unreceptive to local interests. Some of those agreeing with the Draft Recommendations felt that the Crewe conurbation should have unified governance; some felt that the current separation into different parishes meant parochial concerns took priority over wider interests, and that those outside the Town Council used but did not help pay for its services.

There were six submissions from Rope: all from individual residents, all via the consultation survey and all disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. Four of the responses included comments. Of these four, two simply felt that a boundary change was of no benefit. However, the other two made comments indicating their support for the transfer of Rope's part of Chatsworth Park to Shavington and both stated that residents of the estate identified as being from Shavington; one (who was a Chatsworth Park resident) noted that their information on local community activities came from Shavington Parish Council and the other noted the confusing nature of the current boundary.

Boundary with Wybunbury

Of the 907 Shavington responses, 29 made comments relating objecting specifically to the Draft Recommendations boundary with Wybunbury. (Note: the figure of 29 excludes people who quoted from or voiced support for their Parish Council's counterproposal – summarised later on - but who did not add comments of their own on the Wybunbury boundary.)

Of the five Shavington respondents who identified themselves as 'Triangle' residents (people living in the LPS 9/ Dig Lane/ Stock Lane area), two supported the use of Newcastle Road as the boundary, but the other three identified with (and wished to remain in) Shavington. The reasons given by these three - and in other Shavington responses - for opposing the Newcastle Road boundary line largely related to community identity.

It was argued that Triangle residents engaged in community activities in Shavington village, sent their children to school there and used Shavington facilities (such as its pubs and health centre); it was also noted that the village's facilities are accessible to Triangle residents on foot, whereas Wybunbury's are not.

Some submissions noted that there were no footpaths linking Shavington Park to Wybunbury village/ nearby residential parts of the parish and no street lights, making community cohesion difficult and discouraging communal events in the area; it was also noted that Shavington's polling facilities are accessible on foot from Shavington Park, but Wybunbury's are not.

However, a minority took a different view and one submission acknowledged that residents in the established properties (e.g. Dig Lane) identified less strongly with Shavington.

As for alternative suggestions for the Shavington-Wybunbury boundary, 125 Shavington submissions endorsed the Shavington Parish Council counterproposal without suggesting any further modifications (this figure includes the submission from Shavington Parish Council itself); a further four supported the counterproposals' plans for the boundary with Wybunbury, but proposed modifications to its plans for other parts of the Shavington boundary. (However, a few submissions explicitly opposed this counterproposal, with some concern that Shavington has few amenities and cannot service an enlarged area and an observation that the counterproposal does not offer justification for the proposed extension of its boundaries.)

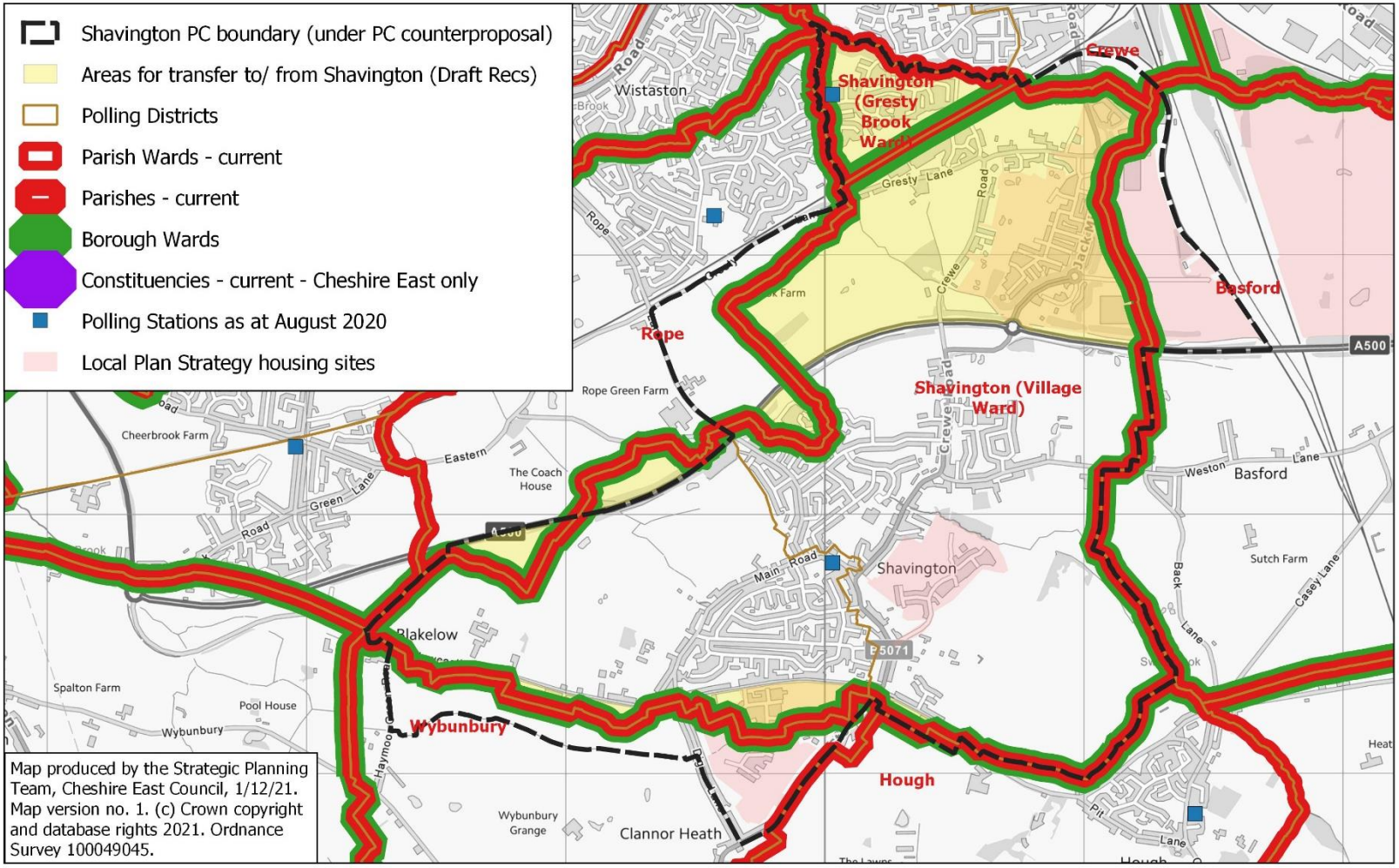
The only other alternative offered by Shavington residents that relates to Wybunbury was one submission that proposed merging Basford, Shavington, Weston and Wybunbury.

There were 82 responses from Wybunbury. 15 of these were via a survey form on an information leaflet that the Parish Council had produced and delivered to residents. The leaflet asked (among other things) whether people agreed with the Draft Recommendations proposal to align the boundary with Newcastle Road. 13 agreed with the boundary change and the other two disagreed. Almost all of the comments included on the leaflets related to people identifying with Wybunbury, or seeing Newcastle Road as a clear boundary. Of the other 67 submissions from Wybunbury, 65 (all via the consultation survey) were from individual residents. The other two responses were from the Parish Council and the borough ward Member. Of the 65 individual responses via the survey, 51 (78 per cent) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and 14 (22 per cent) disagreed. Of the survey responses from individual residents, 13 included open comments supporting the proposed boundary change; reasons given for favouring this change related to people in that area having a Wybunbury identity, relying on Wybunbury rather than Shavington for local facilities, and the benefit of having a clearer boundary. Two submissions referred to (and opposed) Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal involving a transfer from Wybunbury to Shavington; two submissions, whilst stating agreement with the Draft Recommendations, cited community ties to Wybunbury and wished to remain there, which might be an indirect reference to the counterproposal. Of the 14 individuals who stated that they disagreed overall, a number made open comments, but there was no prevailing theme: two felt the boundary should stay unchanged and another indicated that changes were unnecessary, but did not refer to a specific proposal; however, two others expressed opposition to being transferred from Wybunbury to Shavington, so it appears their "disagree" response may be based on a misconception that the Draft Recommendations proposed a transfer in this direction.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

Shavington Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It submitted a counterproposal, which involved various changes to Shavington's boundary, including the boundaries with Crewe, Rope and Wybunbury, but also affecting Basford, Hough and Willaston. This counterproposal is published online here and includes maps setting out the proposed boundary change. However, Map SHA1 below, which was produced by the Borough Council, provides an overview of these boundary proposals.

Map SHA1: Shavington Parish Council counterproposal boundary (area enclosed by the black dash line), compared to current boundary (thick red line) and areas proposed for transfer under the Borough Council's Draft Recommendations (yellow shaded areas)



For the boundary with Crewe, it proposed no transfers of land from Shavington to Crewe. Instead, it proposed a transfer to Shavington of the area of Crewe that lies between the railway line to Shrewsbury and the railway line to Stafford. This section of land is small in area and has no current or prospective residential properties, but it does contain rail infrastructure and associated works.

For the boundary with Rope, the counterproposal involves alignment of the boundary southwest of the Chatsworth Park estate with the A500 and the transfer to Shavington of Rope's part of Chatsworth Park. In these respects, it mirrors the Draft Recommendations. However, the counterproposal also involves the transfer of the rural area of Rope bounded by the A500 to the south, Rope Lane to the west and the railway line and Gresty Lane to the north. In effect, this proposal would move all of the rural area of Rope east of Rope Lane into Shavington.

The counterproposal's Shavington/ Wybunbury boundary runs (from east to west) along the middle of Stock Lane, then along the middle of Dig Lane until that street intersects with a stream (the Cheer Brook), then follows the stream westwards until it reaches Haymoor Green Road, then runs up Haymoor Green Road until it reaches Newcastle Road. As such, the counterproposal involves the transfer to Shavington not just of the Wybunbury part of the Shavington Park estate, but also of parts of Dig Lane and Stock Lane, as well as some of the fields that lie behind the established properties on the south side of Newcastle Road. The counterproposal would move residents on the west side of Stock Lane to Shavington, but not those on the east side. The counterproposal would also move residents on the east side of Dig Lane to Shavington, along with those who live on the west side but north of the intersecting stream; residents who live on the west side of Dig Lane but south of the stream would, however, remain in Wybunbury.

For the boundary with Hough, the counterproposal involves the transfer of a small section of to the south of Newcastle Road and east of Stock Lane which consists of fields and commercial premises.

The counterproposal also involves the transfer to Shavington of the part of the LPS 3 site that currently lies in Basford; this part of LPS 3 consists of land for commercial and other employment premises, rather than dwellings.

To support its case, the counterproposal publication reports on a survey the Parish Council had undertaken of residents in the locations that would be affected by the Draft Recommendations, to obtain their views on their local identity. It surveyed 47 per cent of the households north of the A500 and found that 93 per cent identified themselves as being part of Shavington, 6 per cent

identified with Wistaston and the other 1 per cent identified with Rope. It surveyed 31 per cent of the households in the Chatsworth Park estate and found that 63 per cent identified themselves as being part of Shavington, 16 per cent identified with Rope and the other 21 per cent were undecided. It covered 45 per cent of the households south of Newcastle Road and found that 76 per cent identified themselves as being part of Shavington, 17 per cent identified with Wybunbury and the other 7 per cent were undecided. The counterproposal cites the benefits of using clear natural boundaries (such as railway lines or roads) and it is apparent that its proposed boundary lines reflect this approach. However, the counterproposal booklet and the Parish Council's consultation submission do not provide further reasons for the proposed transfers to Shavington of parts of Crewe, Basford and Hough, nor the transfers of rural parts of Rope and the fields (currently in Wybunbury) between Haymoor Green Road and Dig Lane.

Crewe Town Council, whilst agreeing with the Draft Recommendations, suggested some further boundary changes, but these further suggestions did not relate to its boundary with Shavington.

Rope Parish Council did not respond to the consultation.

Wybunbury Parish Council's submission noted that it had delivered an information leaflet on the Community Governance Review proposals to all its households, and to those in the area of Shavington - the areas south of Newcastle Road - that would transfer to Wybunbury under the Draft Recommendations. The Parish Council supported the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary change. It noted the Newcastle Road had been the parish boundary in the past, and that the current boundary, which is based on field hedges and a culvert, had become increasingly inappropriate following the Local Plan provision for housing development in an area (what is now site LPS 9) that spans both sides of the boundary. The Parish Council further noted that the completed first phase of development, which involves 200 homes, is split between Shavington and Wybunbury; the second phase (then underway) involves 160 homes on land that is entirely within the current Wybunbury boundary; and a smaller-scale, third phase of development is expected. It argued that the persistence of the current boundary will limit community cohesion between the residents of Shavington Park, Dig Lane and Stock Lane, dividing them between the two parishes as it does. The Parish Council highlighted the fact that the creation of clearly-defined communities is consistent with the Borough Council's SADPD (Site Allocations and Development Policies Document) planning policies and the original planning application. In addition, it referred to the Wybunbury Combined Parishes Neighbourhood Plan - 'made' in February 2020 - and specifically to the responses from residents during the Plan's consultation stage, many of which sought to obtain a clearer boundary between Wybunbury and Shavington. Furthermore, it highlighted the historic and cultural importance of Dig Lane, Stock Lane and Clannor Heath to Wybunbury and referred to properties on the south side of Newcastle Road having historically been part of Wybunbury.

Contrary to what Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal proposes, Hough & Chorlton Parish Council's consultation stage submission did not request any changes to Hough's external boundary and nor did any of its residents. Similarly, Weston & Basford Parish Council's submission - advocating a merger of its parish with Crewe Green - is predicated on the Draft Recommendations proposed changes to their boundaries with Crewe, but not on any transfers from Basford to Shavington.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies

The borough ward Member for Wybunbury endorsed Wybunbury Parish Council's consultation submission and wished it to be regarded as the Member's own response. The borough ward Member also submitted a rebuttal of the Shavington Parish Council counterproposal. The rebuttal objected to the counterproposal for a number of reasons. It noted in particular that the 'Triangle' residential area comprising Dig Lane, Stock Lane and the Shavington Park development already lies mostly within Wybunbury. Furthermore, only four Dig Lane properties and six Stock Lane properties are currently in Shavington, but the counterproposal would move the whole east side of Dig Lane and whole west side of Stock Lane and would therefore leave residents on the opposite sides of these roads segregated from their neighbours. The counterproposal would also (relying only on field boundaries) extend Shavington's boundary east of Stock Lane, to take in part of Hough parish. In addition, it would use the Cheer Brook ditch/ culvert as a new boundary to the west of Dig Lane and as far west as Haymoor Green Road, taking in properties currently in Wybunbury parish. The borough ward Member objected to all these changes, highlighting in particular the adverse impact that the division of Dig Lane and Stock Lane would have on community cohesion. The Member argued that the counterproposal would undermine the Wybunbury Combined Parishes Neighbourhood Plan and would fail to respect the local identities of Dig Lane and Stock Lane residents, as expressed in responses to the Plan's consultation stage, as well as failing to reflect the community and historic links of the transferred areas to Wybunbury. Furthermore, the Member highlighted the fact that the Wybunbury residents who would be affected by the counterproposal had not had an opportunity to offer their views on Shavington Parish Council's proposals - and was also concerned that the counterproposal would result in the loss of a quarter of Wybunbury's housing stock.

In his submission, the MP for Crewe & Nantwich understood both the motivation of Shavington Parish Council and the historic and community links that the Triangle area has to Wybunbury, but emphasised that the collective wishes of local residents and their local identities should be respected. He also expressed concern that Shavington's counterproposal would, by removing 25 per cent of Wybunbury's housing stock, increase the imbalance in the sizes of the two councils and considered this to be at odds with the objectives of the Community Governance Review.

A local business in Shavington opposed the Draft Recommendations, feeling they would damage local community spirit and adversely affect the business' own trade.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted above, the residents survey conducted by Shavington Parish Council indicates that, in the area south of Newcastle Road, the residential area north of the A500 (Gresty/ Gresty Brook) and the Chatsworth Park estate, a substantial majority of residents identify primarily with Shavington. The submissions from Shavington residents - and those from Rope residents who comment on the Chatsworth Park area specifically - generally reinforce this image.

There is extensive evidence from Shavington residents' responses that those living in the new (Jack Mills Way/ Willowbrook Grange) LPS 3 development area north of the A500 identify with Shavington, not Crewe. Much of this evidence comes from those actually living in this area.

The consultation submissions also indicate that residents of the Gresty Brook ward identify predominantly with Shavington; some feel a stronger connection to Rope, with reliance on Rope for schooling, medical treatment and other services being a factor in this, but there appears to be little affinity with Crewe, despite its geographical proximity.

However, the evidence on the community identity of those living south of Newcastle Road is very mixed. Where they comment on the boundary line in this location, Shavington residents generally say that the people in this area identify primarily with Shavington and rely on that village for services and communal activities - a finding their parish council's survey results support.

In contrast, the vast majority of Wybunbury residents agree overall with the Draft Recommendations and their comments on the Recommendations relate almost exclusively to the boundary issue. Wybunbury residents generally say this area identifies with their parish and some note that local people use Wybunbury facilities. Wybunbury Parish Council itself highlights the historic and community links that established dwellings in this area have with their parish.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Two responses from Shavington residents - both from people who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations - suggested that Gresty Brook parish ward could be transferred to Crewe, but that the rest of the area north of the A500 should stay in Shavington; this mirrors the suggestion of the local MP.

One Shavington resident proposed making Gresty a parish in its own right; another proposed likewise for the "Gresty Green" area (including Gresty Road, Gresty Lane and Gresty Green Road and the new LPS 3 housing development). Another proposed that Crewe and Shavington could merge. One proposed using the railway line to Stafford as the parish's eastern boundary. One submission from a Wistaston resident suggested that their parish could be merged with Willaston, Shavington, Rope and perhaps also Wybunbury, arguing that the residents of these parishes used the same services and had community links; the respondent felt such a merger would result in greater purchasing power and a stronger local voice.

Post-consultation assessment

Although the six responses from individual Rope residents stated that they disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, the two that commented on local identities (including one Chatsworth Park estate resident) said people living on the estate identified with Shavington. The other responses from Rope offered no reason for opposing a change to this boundary, other than a view it served no benefit. Furthermore, whilst the vast majority of submissions from Shavington also disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, objections focused almost exclusively on the proposals for changing Shavington's boundaries with Crewe and Wybunbury. The results of Shavington Parish Council's survey of Chatsworth Park residents offer persuasive evidence that those who live in the estate identify with Shavington: the survey found that 63 per cent did so and only 16 per cent identified with Rope. Furthermore, Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal proposes that, in addition to the transfer of the Chatsworth Park part of Rope, the boundary south of Chatsworth Park should be aligned with the A500. 125 of the submissions from Shavington residents endorse this counterproposal and, by implication, the Chatsworth Park estate transfer and A500 alignment further to the south; a number of other residents also endorse the Chatsworth Park element of the counterproposal, or express support for the Draft Recommendations proposed Rope/ Shavington boundary line, while none take a contrary view.

In the light of all this evidence on the level of local support and the identity of the estate's residents, the Borough Council recommends that these changes to the Rope/ Shavington boundary proceed, so that the boundary along (and to the south of) the Chatsworth Park estate is aligned with the A500.

As for the Parish Council’s counterproposal to additionally transfer the rural area bounded by the A500, Rope Lane and the railway, the Borough Council accepts that these additional changes would provide a clearer boundary line than the present one and appreciates that this is part of the underlying rationale. However, the submission evidence from the Parish Council and other Shavington responses provides no guide to the views or local identity of the residents of Rope Green Farm and Brook Farm, which are within this area; it may be that they - given the presence of the A500 as a natural barrier between the farms and Shavington - identify with Rope, not Shavington. Furthermore, a transfer of this rural area was not presented as an option in the Draft

Recommendations and therefore Rope residents have not had an opportunity to offer views on such a change. It should also be noted that, in other parts of the Borough where the Draft Recommendations have proposed the transfer of a rural area to a neighbouring parish with adjacent housing development, opposition has sometimes been significant. In addition, it is not clear, given this area's rural character and the A500 barrier, how it would form part of the same community as Shavington. The Borough Council is also conscious that Rope is a different borough ward to the adjacent part of Shavington, so separate polling facilities would be required.

Taking all these factors into account, the Borough Council is not, on balance, persuaded by this part of the counterproposal and recommends that the rural land around Rope Green Farm remains in Rope. For the same reason, the Borough Council is not persuaded by other alternative proposals that involve aligning the Shavington/ Rope boundary with the railway.

As for the suggestions that Shavington Academy and Rope Green Medical Centre be transferred to Shavington, these are few in number relative to the total number of submissions from Shavington and whilst a transfer of the Academy might better reflect local identity, there is no clear, natural boundary that could contain it without also absorbing parts of Rope's rural hinterland.

The final set of alternative suggestions to consider that affect the Rope-Shavington boundary are those proposing that the Gresty Brook ward could be transferred to Rope. The submissions proposing this option indicate clear community links between Gresty and Rope; however, the evidence also indicates that the local community is divided, with many wishing to remain in Shavington. Furthermore, the number of responses making this proposal is very low in relation to the total volume of submissions from Shavington. In addition, such a change is clearly against Shavington Parish Council's wishes. Therefore the Borough Council considers that such a transfer risks damaging community cohesion and recommends that this part of the Rope/ Shavington boundary (the boundary line to the northeast of Chatsworth Park) remain as it is.

The submissions from Wybunbury and Shavington parish councils and their residents provide very contrasting indications as to where the boundary between the two parishes should be drawn. Both parish councils favour a change to the current boundary, which cuts through a new development and as such is confusing and fails to reflect distinct community identity. There are few objections to the argument that Newcastle Road would provide a clear boundary - but what also matters is the identity of residents south of this road.

On this point, the evidence is mixed. The vast majority of survey submissions and leaflet returns from Wybunbury - many of them from residents of the Triangle area that the current boundary bisects - support the use of Newcastle Road as the parish boundary

and say the people in that area identify with Wybunbury. Wybunbury Parish Council itself takes the same view and offers persuasive evidence of the historic and community ties of this area to Wybunbury. On the other hand, the majority of responses from Shavington oppose the Draft Recommendations; most of those that comment on the Wybunbury boundary feel that the whole Triangle area should lie within Shavington. They also make some persuasive points: evidence is provided that many of the residents in this area identify with Shavington, rely on it for their children's schooling and other amenities and services, and it is noted that these are within easy walking distance, whereas services in Wybunbury village are not. Furthermore, Shavington Parish Council's own survey of residents south of Newcastle Road found that 76 per cent identified with Shavington (though interpretation of this result requires caution, as the views of those survey respondents living in the established properties on Dig Lane and Stock Lane may well have differed from those living in the new housing development). Also notable is the volume of support for placing the Shavington Park development - and much of the adjacent area south of Newcastle Road - within Shavington parish. Well over 100 Shavington submissions support Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal for the new development and most of Dig Lane and Stock Lane to be transferred to Shavington, as well as some of the fields to the west of Dig Lane.

Nevertheless, despite its widespread support, the Borough Council considers that this element of the counterproposal has some disadvantages. Firstly, although the Parish Council presents the results of its survey of local residents (which does not distinguish the wishes of Dig Lane/ Stock Lane residents from those on the new estate), it does not provide additional evidence or arguments for the proposed boundary changes (other than citing the benefits of using clear natural boundaries like railway lines or roads). For example, no rationale is provided for the transfer to Shavington of the fields bounded by the Cheer Brook, Haymoor Green Road, Newcastle Road and Dig Lane; it is presumed the main reason is to make use of the stream as a natural boundary. Nor is justification given for extending Shavington slightly east of Stock Lane, into part of Hough. More crucially, there is no justification offered for having a boundary line that would place residents on the east side of Stock Lane in a different parish to their immediate neighbours on all sides, and doing likewise to those living in the southwest part of Dig Lane. Those on the east side of Dig Lane would in fact no longer adjoin the rest of Wybunbury parish and so - unless they were transferred to Hough, which has no adjacent residential areas - the counterproposal would mean the bisection of Wybunbury parish. These are concerns that the local borough ward Member raises, and the local MP is among those who have concerns about the political imbalance that could result from a much enlarged Shavington. Some residents also question whether Shavington is able to serve an enlarged area effectively.

The Borough Council therefore considers that the counterproposal's Shavington/ Wybunbury boundary would risk damaging community cohesion and upsetting the balance of influence that parish councils in this area have. It also considers that modifications of the counterproposal boundary line are not viable either. In particular, a transfer to Shavington of Shavington Park alone would leave Stock Lane as a long narrow segment of Wybunbury parish and limit its residents' ability to engage in their

parish's communal activities. As for a transfer of the whole Triangle to Shavington, the Borough Council considers that this would adversely affect community cohesion, given the historic ties of Dig Lane/ Stock Lane to Wybunbury and the volume of evidence from Wybunbury submissions that many people in this area identify with Wybunbury.

In summary, there is no obviously clear boundary other than Newcastle Road - and yet there is a large body of consultation evidence from the Shavington submissions that this boundary line would fail to reflect the community identities and ties of many local residents. Despite the number and quality of submissions from Wybunbury supporting a Newcastle Road boundary, the Borough Council therefore concludes, with considerable regret, that any change to the existing boundary risks doing more harm than good to community identity. It therefore recommends no change to this boundary.

On the matter of Shavington's boundary with Crewe, a huge number - over 900 - Shavington residents responded to the consultation. As noted, 90 per cent disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and their objections related predominantly to the transfer of the area north of the A500 to Crewe. The objections focused largely on the residents of this area identifying with Shavington; this was true of both those in the Gresty Brook area and those in the new Willowbrook Grange estate area within site LPS 3. Although there is evidence of Gresty Brook having ties with Rope - on which they rely for schooling and some other services - the consultation evidence reveals that Gresty identifies more strongly with Shavington - and there is no evidence that the area identifies with (or is particularly reliant on) Crewe. Shavington Parish Council itself also opposes any transfer of the parish's area to Crewe. In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council now recommends that the area of Shavington north of the A500, including Gresty Brook ward, remain in Shavington.

As for Shavington’s eastern boundary, Shavington Parish Council’s counterproposal would involve the transfer to Shavington, of the part of the LPS 3 site area currently within Basford. The Borough Council understands the advantages of having such development sites entirely within a single parish. However, as Basford and Shavington are in different borough wards, a separate polling facility would be required for the transferred part of Basford. This part of the LPS 3 site (unlike the part already in Shavington) consists of employment premises, not residential properties; nor will there be future residential development in this part of the site. Therefore the Borough Council does not consider that the provision of separate polling facilities is justified. Consequently, it does not recommend the transfer of this area to Shavington.

Another boundary issue to assess is the element of Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal that envisages the transfer to Shavington of a small area of Crewe. This area lies to the northeast of the current boundary and contains rail infrastructure and associated works, but no residential properties. The counterproposal offers no justification for this transfer and the Borough Council

considers that Crewe, with its extensive rail infrastructure and experience of liaising with rail authorities and contractors, is best placed to understand and address any issues relating to the infrastructure and works in this location. Again, this area of Crewe is a different borough ward to the adjacent part of Shavington and would therefore require separate polling facilities if it were transferred, even though it does not have (nor will have) any residential properties. Therefore the Borough Council recommends that the boundary between Crewe and Shavington remain unchanged.

As for the counterproposal's slight adjustment to Shavington's boundary with Hough, Shavington Parish Council does not set out a rationale for this change and Hough & Chorlton Parish Council's submission does not seek a change to this boundary. The Borough Council is therefore not persuaded by this element of the counterproposal and so it recommends that the boundary between Shavington and Hough remain unchanged.

On the matter of seats and warding for Shavington, the consultation prompted no requests for a change in the total number of seats and the current total of 12 is in line with the average for a council of Shavington's size (an estimated 5,610 electors by 2025, including those transferred from the Rope part of Chatsworth Park). The Borough Council therefore recommends no change in the total number of seats.

In addition, the consultation revealed no demand for a change to the existing warding and separate warding for Gresty Brook is in fact necessary, given that it lies in a different borough ward to the rest of the parish.

As for the allocation of seats between the two parish wards, an allocation based on their electorate shares alone would mean 11 (up one) for the Village ward and one (down one) for Gresty Brook. However, the Borough Council considers that this could leave Gresty Brook without a meaningful influence - and indeed would mean no influence if it had a sole councillor who fell sick or resigned. Furthermore, the consultation prompted no requests for a change in the allocation of seats between the two wards. The Borough Council therefore considers it necessary for Gresty Brook to retain its existing two seats, even though this results in a far lower ratio of electors to seats than for the Village ward. Hence the Borough Council recommends no changes to the two wards' seat numbers.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.26 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Rope to Shavington Parish Council's Village ward, of the shaded areas of Rope shown in Map 2.26 (the Rope part of the Chatsworth Park estate, and the area of Rope southwest of this estate that lies south of the A500). Transfer, from Shavington Parish Council's Village ward to the parish of Rope, of the shaded area of Shavington shown in Map 2.26 (the area of Shavington that lies southwest of the Chatsworth Park estate and north of the A500.
Parish Council name and style	Shavington cum Gresty Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Shavington cum Gresty (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing internal ward boundaries or to ward names (Gresty Brook; Shavington Village)
Seats	12 (Gresty Brook 2, Shavington Village 10). No changes to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	5,610 (Gresty Brook 541, Shavington Village 5,069)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	468 overall (Gresty Brook 271, Shavington Village 507)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Rope – transfers to and from Shavington"

2.91 Siddington

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Siddington
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Siddington
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	279
Electorate (2025 forecast)	275

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Decrease seats from eight to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
One submission (via the consultation survey) from an individual, who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and justified this view saying that the proposal would undermine residents needs and mean reduced representation. It should be noted that submissions with similar wording and the same specific concern were submitted for the nearby parishes of Gawsworth, Henbury, Lower Withington and Swettenham. Therefore it seems likely that these submissions were from the same person; if so, this person may be a resident of one of those other parishes, rather than Siddington. (It should also be noted that Siddington was the only one of these parish councils for which the Draft Recommendations proposed a cut in seats, so, apart from the case of Siddington, the concern about reduced representation seems to be based on a misunderstanding of the proposals.)

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

The sole consultation stage submission on Swettenham opposed the Draft Recommendations. The concern raised in this submission - about a loss of local representation - is a reasonable one. However, it appears the same individual objected, for the same reason, to proposed increases in some nearby parishes; if this is indeed so, their perspective on seating proposals is unclear and it is not clear either if this person is a resident of Swettenham or one of the other neighbouring parishes.

Despite these uncertainties over this sole submission, the Borough Council is generally minded to leave governance arrangements as they are if proposed changes receive no support from local residents or their parish council. In addition, the Borough Council is conscious of the extra demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council services and councillor workloads and is consequently more reluctant to reduce seat numbers unless there are compelling reasons to do so. Furthermore, nominations at the 2019 ordinary elections matched the number of seats, so there is no indication of a shortage of candidates.

Considering all these factors, the Borough Council recommends no change to the existing number of seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Siddington Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Siddington (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	275
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	34
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.92 Smallwood

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Smallwood
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Smallwood
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	556
Electorate (2025 forecast)	559

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council's response requested no changes and stated that the Council was content with the existing boundary.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that there are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. No change needed to seat numbers, as the current total of eight is in line with the average for a council of this size and nominations for the 2019 ordinary elections matched the number of seats. This recommendation also reflects the pre-consultation stage response from the Parish Council.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Two submissions from individual residents, both via the consultation survey and both agreeing overall with the Draft Recommendations. One of these felt parish councils played a crucial role in protecting local interests and rural communities. The other, by contrast, questioned what the role of parish councils was and felt that Smallwood Parish Council was relatively inactive compared to neighbouring councils, even allowing for the budget constraints of its modest precept.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted above, one response from an individual resident emphasised the role of parish councils in standing up for local interests and rural areas.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

Although there were only three responses from the pre-consultation survey and the consultation survey in total, these all supported the case for no change in governance. Taking account of this - and for the reasons given for the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change in governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

OFFICIAL

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Smallwood Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Smallwood (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	559
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	70
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.93 Snelson

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Snelson
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Snelson
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	5
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	122
Electorate (2025 forecast)	124

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Two responses from individual residents. One felt Snelson was very small and could be "grouped" with a neighbouring parish, suggesting either Peover Superior or Chelford. The other response requested no change in governance, but made no specific comments.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Snelson with Peover Superior, to form a new parish council consisting of a single parish, with no warding. This proposal reflects the fact that Snelson is a very small parish, with an electorate significantly below the 150 that is the legal minimum for a new council. The proposal is also consistent with the suggestion made by a Snelson resident at the pre-consultation stage.

Both Chelford and Peover Superior are in the same borough ward as Snelson and therefore a merger with either of them – as suggested in one of the pre-consultation responses - would present no electoral risk. However, Peover Superior is significantly smaller than Chelford; furthermore, Chelford - classified in the Local Plan as a Local Service Centre - has a number of local services and amenities not available in the other two parishes. Peover Superior is therefore considered a better match for Snelson - being less different in size and characteristics or needs - than Chelford would be.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Peover Superior Parish Council responded via the consultation survey, as did Snelson Parish Council. Both agreed with the Draft Recommendations (see below for further details). However, there were no other responses from either of these parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
As noted above, Snelson Parish Council supported the merger proposal. However, it requested that the new parish have eleven seats, rather than nine, given the large geographical area it would cover and the existing number of councillors covering the two parishes (13).

The Parish Council also questioned what arrangements would be put in place for the transition period and wondered whether the two parishes would be advised to hold joint meetings during that time.

For the new council, Snelson Parish Council proposed the name "Over Peover & Snelson" and asked that it be styled as a "Parish", given that that term is widely used and understood in rural areas; it felt the alternative styles would not reflect the rural nature and character of the two merging parishes.

As also noted above, Peover Superior Parish Council supported the merger; it did not offer a view on the number of seats that should be provided, but proposed the name "Peover Superior & Snelson" for the new council. It requested the style "Parish", on the grounds that this reflected the two parishes' historical identity. Peover Superior Parish Council also made a suggestion as to where Snelson residents might now vote, but deferred ultimately to Snelson on that matter.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The fact that both parish councils are content to merge suggests they feel they have some common interests.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The fact that both parish councils are content to merge suggests they feel the merger would help ensure viable governance for Snelson (and Peover Superior) residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
As noted, both Snelson and Peover Superior parish councils support the Draft Recommendations merger proposal and one of the responses (at the pre-consultation stage) from a local resident raises a merger with Peover Superior as an option. Furthermore, the consultation stage prompted no objections to this proposal. In the light of this evidence, and considering Snelson's small size, Borough Council therefore recommends that this merger proceed.

On the matter of total seat numbers, Snelson Parish Council makes the reasonable request that a decision on this should take account of the new parish's large geographical extent and the existing number of councillors representing the two parishes. At present, there are 13 councillors in total (five for Snelson and eight for Peover Superior). Snelson's proposal for 11 seats - rather than the Draft Recommendations proposal for nine - should therefore ensure less turnover of councillors and more continuity and would better reflect the level of interest in standing for election (at the 2019 ordinary elections, both parishes received nominations for all their available seats). Besides this, the Borough Council is conscious - particularly from the submissions made by some other parishes - of the risks that a lower number seats can bring, for example: councillors from a narrower (less representative) range of

backgrounds and with a more limited range of skills and experience to offer; heavier workloads for councillors, which may deter people from serving on the council; and problems being referred on to the local authority or other bodies, rather than resolved at a local level. In addition, as some submissions on other parishes have noted, there are no cost savings to be gained from the loss of a seat, as councillors are unpaid volunteers. The Borough Council is also aware of the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council services and councillor time.

In the light of these factors, and the arguments put forward by Snelson Parish Council, the Borough Council is persuaded that the provision of only nine seats would probably limit the new council's effectiveness and recommends a modification to its original proposals, so that the new council has 11 seats.

11 seats is a relatively large number for a single unwarded parish. The Borough Council is also conscious that Snelson's history as a separate parish gives it to some extent a different identity. Therefore the new parish could be divided into two wards, each corresponding to the current two parishes. However, the Draft Recommendations did not propose warding and the consultation responses from the two parishes do not request a division into wards. Consequently the Borough Council recommends that the new council be unwarded.

As for the name of the new council, the submissions from the two merging parishes both propose the inclusion of "Snelson" but differ on the naming of Peover Superior. The Borough Council feels that Peover Superior Parish Council should have the ultimate say on this part of the new council name and therefore recommends "Peover Superior & Snelson", rather than "Over Peover & Snelson". The Borough Council also recommends that the new council should have the style "Parish", given that both of the merging councils request this and offer sound reasons for their preference.

Finally, the Borough Council notes the questions from both the merging parishes regarding the transition period and use of polling stations and will use this feedback to inform its planning and respond as appropriate.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.25 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of the parish of Snelson with the parish of Peover Superior, to form a new parish council consisting of a single parish, with external boundary as shown in Map 2.25.
Parish Council name and style	Peover Superior & Snelson Parish Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Peover Superior & Snelson (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	11
Electorate (2025 forecast)	786
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	71
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.94 Somerford

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Somerford
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Somerford
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	7
Electorate (2018)	713
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,719

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Somerford contains Local Plan Strategy site LPS 26 (Back Lane/ Radnor Park, Congleton), which is a major new housing development that is adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and is a consequence of that town's expansion.

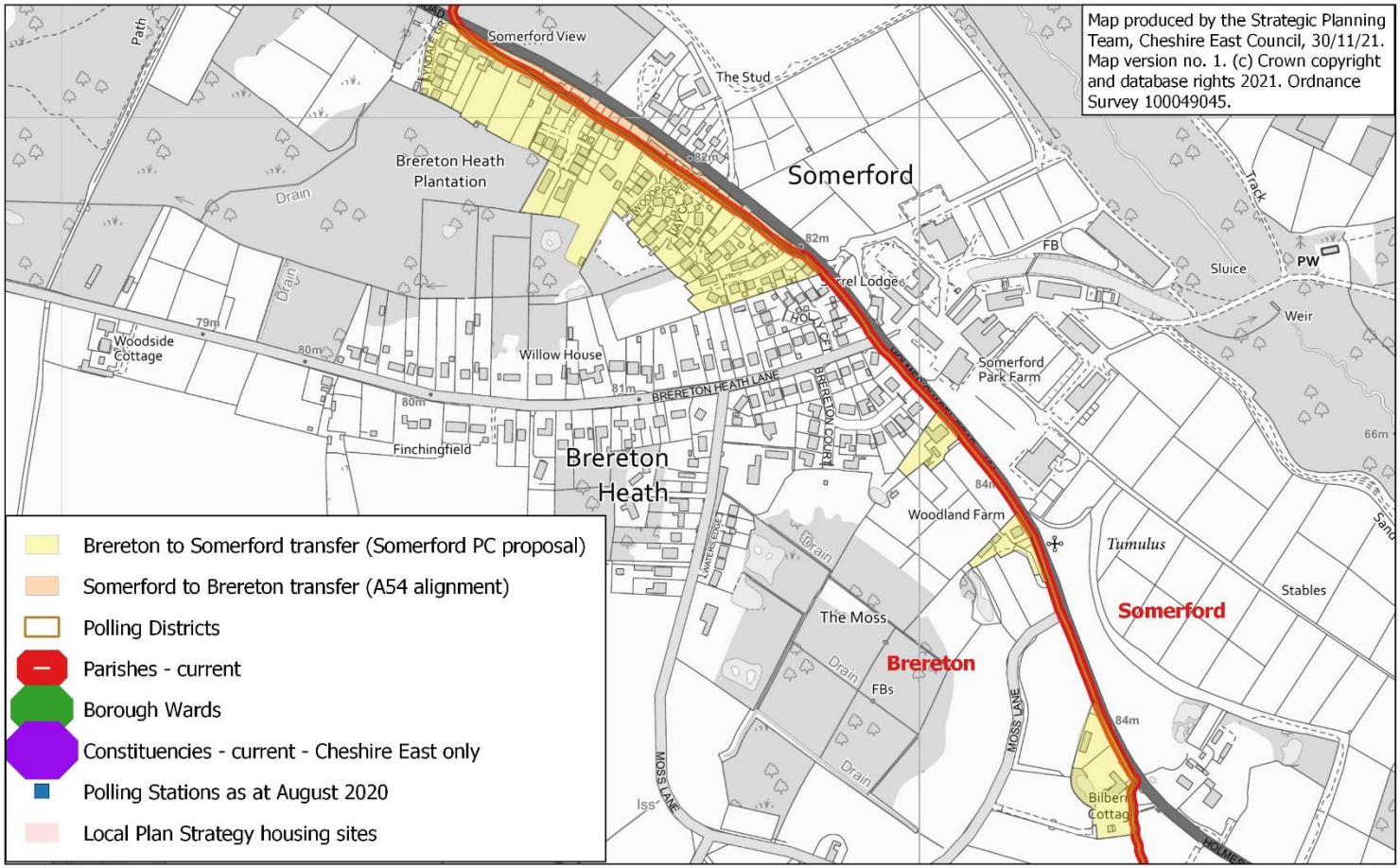
Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Six responses from individual Somerford residents. Two of these felt that an increase in seats was appropriate, given the extent of the parish's housing and population growth. However, three others requested no change and one of these people stated that the

current number of seats was about right; the latter respondent commented that the Parish Council was run effectively. However, the other individual submission took the view that the Parish Council was unresponsive to and unwilling to accept large residential developments; this person proposed that small parishes be merged into larger ones.

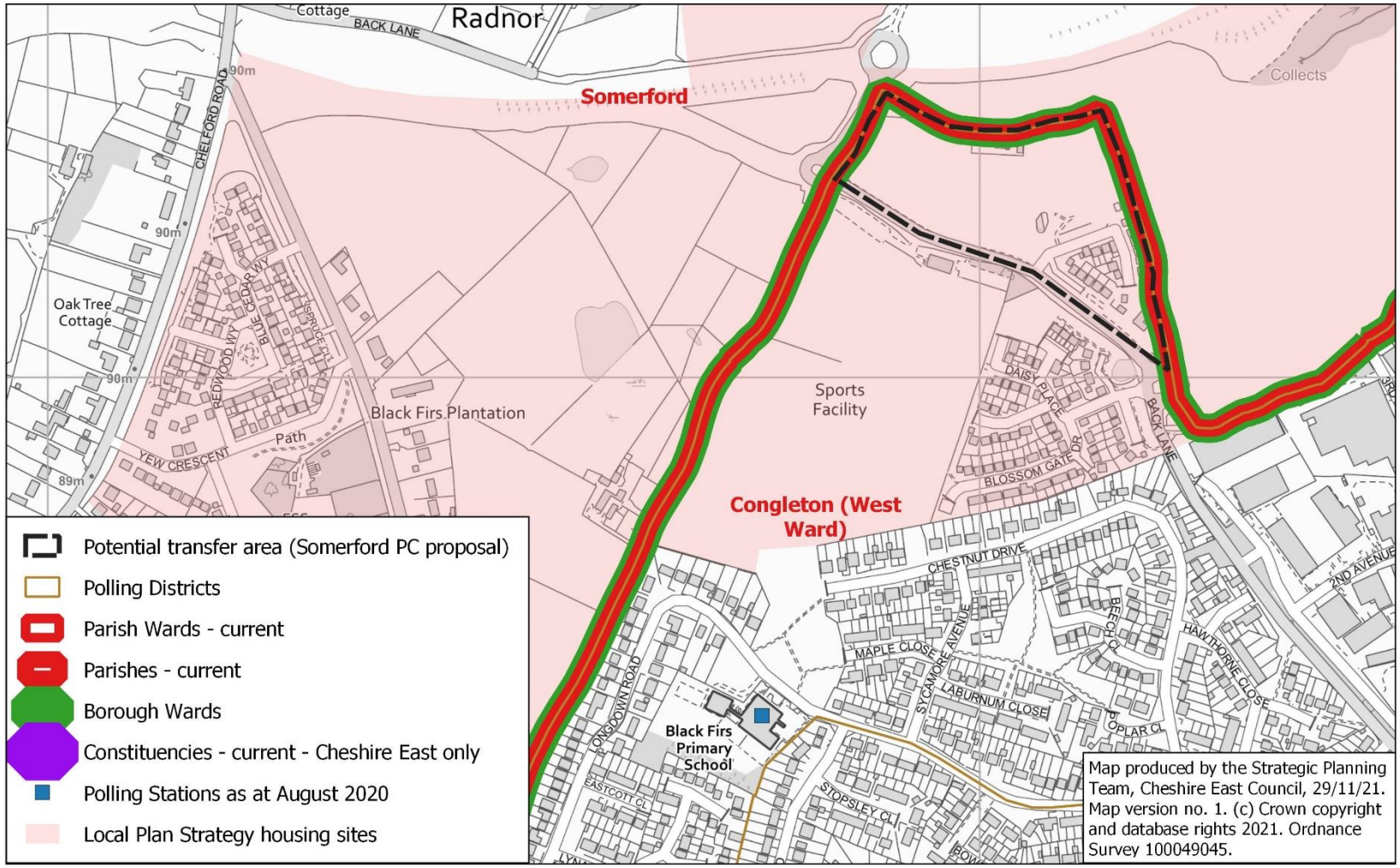
The Parish Council itself stated that it was very active and had received the Quality Gold standard under the Local Council Award Scheme. It proposed two boundary changes. The first related to its boundary with Brereton, which deviates slightly from the A54 around the villages of Somerford and Brereton Heath, with some residents being in a different parish to their neighbours. It noted that some residents on the Brereton side of the boundary identify as being from Somerford and engage in that parish's activities. It proposed that the boundary be changed so that all properties that are accessed via the A54 become part of Somerford. Map SOM1 below shows this proposal, with the yellow shaded areas of this map indicating the parts of Brereton that would move to Somerford under this proposal. (For comparison, the orange shaded area of Map SOM1 shows the part of Somerford that would transfer to Brereton under Brereton Parish Council's alternative boundary line proposal, but the latter proposal can be seen more clearly in Map BRE1 in the Brereton subsection of this Assessment Report.)

The second proposal related to the new Turnstone Grange estate, which is within the Congleton Town Council area. The Parish Council noted that this estate is marketed as being a "Somerford" location and that it is adjacent to new housing development areas that are within Somerford Parish; it argued that the Turnstone residents will therefore identify as being part of Somerford and consequently proposed that the estate be moved into its parish. Map SOM2 below shows this proposal, with the area enclosed by the black dash line indicating the part of Congleton that would move to Somerford under this proposal.

Map SOM1: Somerford Parish Council proposed change to its boundary with Brereton (with Brereton Parish Council alternative proposal – alignment of boundary with A54 - also shown for comparison)



Map SOM2: Somerford Parish Council proposed transfer from Congleton to Somerford (area enclosed by black dash line)



Draft Recommendations

[1] Transfer to Congleton of the part of Somerford that lies south of Congleton Link Road and also the part of that parish that is north of the Link Road but east of Chelford Road. This proposal is based on the fact that this area contains Local Plan Strategy site LPS 26, which is a major new housing development that is adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and is a consequence of that town's expansion.

[2] Transfer to Congleton of the part of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths that lies south of Congleton Link Road. The reason for this is that this area covers the LPS 27 site (Congleton Business Park Extension), the LPS 28 site (Giantswood Lane South, Congleton) and the part of LPS 29 (Giantswood Lane to Manchester Road, Congleton) that lies within Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths. These sites are adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and are a consequence of the town's expansion. The proposed transfer also includes existing commercial development on Congleton Business Park, which is also adjacent to Congleton.

[3] Merger of the residual part of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths (280 electors forecast by 2025) with the residual part of Somerford (107 electors), to form a new parish council, with seven seats (in line with the average for a council of the expected size) and no warding. The rationale for this is that, following the proposed transfers to Congleton, the residual part of Somerford would have too few electors to be a viable parish.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions

Somerford Parish Council's submission included a petition against the Draft Recommendations, signed by 424 residents. The wording of this petition is "I, the undersigned, oppose the proposal to abolish the Parish of Somerford and merge the bulk of the parish into Congleton Town. I consider that the parish is well represented by the current parish council which should be retained in its present format."

Feedback from consultation stage – summary

48 responses from Somerford, of which 46 were via the consultation survey and two by email or letter. Of the 46 survey responses, 40 (87 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only five (11 per cent) agreed; the other one neither agreed nor disagreed. Although the reasons for disagreeing commonly involved matters of local identity and interests (22 mentions), even more (23) argued that current arrangements were working well, with the active nature and achievements of Somerford Parish Council being widely cited; four submissions raised concerns about a higher precept. No other broad issue was raised by more than two people.

A number of residents praised the work and achievements of Somerford Parish Council - and some appreciated its absence of party politics - and felt that the Draft Recommendations would throw away this position of successful governance by effectively abolishing the Parish Council. They noted that the Parish Council has won a Gold Award for its work and councillors are very approachable and understand local issues. Some cited specific achievements, including: successful negotiation with the RSPB and fundraising to acquire an 10-acre community area; the lease of another natural site from Cheshire Wildlife Trust; effective liaison with developers and other bodies on the new housing and Link Road developments.

Others noted that the new LPS 26 developments are largely within Somerford and are now part of its identity.

There was also concern that the Draft Recommendations would sharply reduce local representation, with affected residents being dependent on five councillors (who would also cover a large part of the existing Town Council area), rather than seven as at present, and that the transferred areas would therefore have insufficient votes to affect Town Council decision-making.

Some submissions highlighted Somerford's community spirit and its semi-rural identity; some had moved to the parish specifically because of that identity.

As for alternative suggestions, two Somerford residents expressed support for Somerford Parish Council's proposed changes to its boundaries with Congleton and Brereton (for more details on these, see pre-consultation survey summary above and the overview of the Parish Council's consultation stage response below).

However, four responses from Somerford favoured Brereton Parish Council's preference for aligning the Somerford-Brereton boundary with the A54 from Lyndale Grove to Shakerley Place, as did 42 responses from individual Brereton residents. As noted earlier, Map BRE1 (in the Brereton subsection of this Assessment Report) shows the area that would transfer from Somerford to Brereton under this proposal.

One Somerford submission proposed that properties on both sides along this stretch of the A54 should become part of Brereton - a different proposal again to either of the Parish Councils. (In addition, four submissions, all from Brereton, said this boundary should be made less confusing, but did not specify a particular new boundary line).

Two submissions (one from Brereton, one from Somerford) proposed that Brereton and Somerford should be merged; one Somerford resident suggested that Brereton, Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford should all be merged together; another submission from Somerford suggested that their parish be merged with Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths or another (unspecified) rural neighbour. Increased viability and a stronger rural voice was a justification offered for some of these merger proposals.

There were 13 submissions from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths (all via the consultation survey), of which eight agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only three agreed; the other two neither agreed nor disagreed. The most common reasons for disagreeing related either to local identity and interests (six mentions) or a view that current arrangements worked well (five). Two submissions raised concerns about the potential impact on rural areas and the natural environment; the residents making these comments strongly wished to retain a rural identity. No other broad issue was raised by more than one respondent.

There were 40 submissions from Congleton (39 via the consultation survey and one by letter/ email). Of the 39 survey responses, 19 agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and 15 disagreed. Objections from those who disagreed focused predominantly on the proposed outward expansion of the Town Council area; comments on the proposed internal changes (to Congleton's warding and seats) were, by contrast, largely supportive.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

In its submission, Somerford Parish Council opposed the Draft Recommendations. It highlighted its many activities and successes, including the acquisition and creation of a nature reserve at Rheads Meadow, leasing of Blackfirs Wood from Cheshire Wildlife Trust, footpath improvements, liaison with housing/ road developers, reduction in speed limits and other safety improvements and the development of the parish's Neighbourhood Plan. It also drew attention to its Quality Gold award under the Local Council Award scheme - one of only 50 councils across England to achieve this.

It highlighted the rural identity of its residents, including those in the new residential developments adjacent to Congleton; three of its current seven councillors in fact live on these new estates.

It argued that the new housing developments in the south of the parish were an expansion of Somerford, not Congleton, and noted that most of the new LPS 26 developments (all except Turnstone Grange and Blossom Gate) were already within its parish. The submission also noted that the Draft Recommendations boundary change proposal would greatly increase the number of electors

per seat for the affected residents and result in them having only five representatives on a Town Council with 22 seats, giving them relatively little influence - despite the likelihood of paying a much larger precept.

The Parish Council had undertaken a large-scale postal and online survey of residents (followed up with visits to residents' properties) and got 280 responses, of which 278 (99 per cent) opposed the Draft Recommendations boundary change and 264 (94 per cent) opposed a merger of the residual area with Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths. It also highlighted how the physical barrier of the River Dane and the existence of a sole road crossing between its parish and Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths meant the two parishes lacked any close links or common interests.

The Parish Council also requested again that its pre-consultation boundary change proposals - which the Borough acknowledges the Draft Recommendations had overlooked - should be considered. To support its case for the changes, it had undertaken surveys of Turnstone Grange residents and a separate survey of people living near the A54 boundary with Brereton, including some who are currently Brereton Parish Council residents. From the Turnstone Grange residents who responded, it received unanimous support. From the survey of the A54 area, it got 44 responses, of which 25 (57 per cent) agreed with its proposal and 18 (41 per cent) disagreed.

However, it should be noted that Brereton Parish Council's submission - which (like Somerford's evidence) highlighted the confusing nature of this boundary - proposed a different solution: one that simply involved moving the boundary to align with the A54 itself, from Lyndale Grove to Shakerley Place. This would move 11 properties (nine on the A54 and two in Woodpecker Place) from Somerford to Brereton. Brereton Parish Council had carried its own survey and reported that eight of the 11 properties had responded, all of them supporting its boundary proposal. It also approached 61 properties that are in the adjacent part of Brereton, receiving 36 responses, of which all but one agreed with its proposal. It also considered Somerford Parish Council's separate survey of this area to be unsound, arguing that Somerford had been selective in its choice of residents to survey.

Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It felt that, under the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary changes, the rural identity and interests of many of its affected residents would not be understood and addressed by Congleton and noted that these residents would be represented by only a small proportion of the town councillors. The Parish Council took the view that the transfer of some of its forthcoming new housing developments to Congleton was premature, given that they will not be complete for some years to come. It suggested that a transfer of these properties might be a matter for consideration at the next Community Governance Review. It also objected to the proposed merger of the residual of its parish with the residual part of Somerford, noting (as Somerford Parish Council did) that the River Dane and its

sole crossing precluded close links between the two parishes. The Parish Council also reported the results of its own consultation of residents, in which the responses (though few in number) largely opposed the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary changes. However, the Parish Council did make an alternative suggestion, which was that the western part of the Draft Recommendations proposed transfer area should move to Congleton, but that the parish's southeastern area should remain within Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths, to preserve that area's rural character and identity and maintain sufficient precept income to support the parish's rural needs.

Congleton Town Council's submission agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and welcomed the opportunity that it felt the boundary changes would give to improve local services and increase investment in local infrastructure, but recognised that rural areas had a different perspective and expressed a wish to understand the needs of transferred parts of neighbouring parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
A borough ward Member (whose input was classed as a "Congleton" submission) argued that the residents of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford had separate identities to Congleton and that their parish councils would protect public rights of way and footpaths effectively and thereby preserve the local quality of life, whereas the Town Council had other interests. It should also be noted that the MP for Congleton voiced opposition to the abolition of Somerford.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
It is clear from the responses from the Parish Council and its residents that Somerford and its residents have a separate identity; even in the southern part of the parish where LPS development is forthcoming, residents value the semi-rural nature of their local area. They argue that, as most of the LPS 26 site housing development is within the existing Somerford Parish and (even in the Turnstone Grange estate on the Town Council side of the boundary) marketed as Somerford, these new homes are part of Somerford. Furthermore, the surveys undertaken by the Parish Council reported unanimous support from Turnstone Grange residents for a boundary change that brings them within Somerford and near-unanimous opposition from residents to the Draft Recommendations proposed boundary change and merger (though the results of the Turnstone survey may have been influenced by that survey highlighting Somerford's lower precept). It is also clear, from the responses of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Councils, that those two parishes do not have common links; the barrier of the River Dane and the presence of a sole road crossing over the river go some way towards explaining that lack of connection.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
There is much support from Somerford residents for the Parish Council's work and achievements, with a number of individual projects and successes noted. It is apparent that many residents object strongly to the abolition of their Parish Council.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One individual (recorded as "Brereton" submission) proposed a boundary change that would move the area where they live - the part of Somerford around the Somerford Park Farm equestrian centre - into Brereton. This person argued that the area was distant from most of Somerford's population and identified more with Brereton. However, no other submissions mentioned such a change.

Post-consultation assessment
The submissions from Somerford and Hulme Walfield Parish Council provide persuasive evidence of the separate, rural identity of its existing residents. In addition, the submissions from residents of each parish show that a majority oppose the Draft Recommendations, with little support for either a transfer of parts of their parishes to Congleton or a merger of the residual parts of their parishes. Somerford Parish Council's own survey of its residents received 280 responses and found over 94 per cent opposed the merger and 99 per cent opposed the boundary change with Congleton.

Furthermore, in highlighting the River Dane's presence as a physical barrier between Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford and the existence of a sole crossing over the river, Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Somerford demonstrate very convincingly how there is a lack of links and shared interests between the two parishes - and little reason to expect that a merger would change this.

It is also apparent that the residents of the two parishes feel current governance works well and no concerns are raised about viability; a local borough ward Member endorses the actions and priorities of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council and there are many positive comments about the activities and achievements of Somerford Parish Council.

Whilst Congleton Town Council and most of its residents support the Draft Recommendations, it should also be noted that most of the opposition from its residents relates to the proposed absorption of parts of rural neighbours, rather than to the proposals for Congleton's internal warding.

In the light of all this evidence, the Borough Council considers that there should be no transfers from Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths or Somerford to Congleton, that both parish councils should remain independent and that Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths' boundary should remain unchanged.

As for Somerford Parish Council's proposal that the Turnstone Grange estate by transferred from Congleton, both the Parish Council and its residents make the reasonable point that most of the LPS 26 housing development is already within Somerford, is marketed as a Somerford location and that many people move there because it is semi-rural, not a town. The Parish Council's own survey found that Turnstone Grange residents wished to be part of Somerford (though it may be that information on the potential impact on their precept influenced some of these responses). In addition, the proposed new boundary - Back Lane - is clear, whereas the existing one is not. In the light of this evidence, the Borough Council recommends that Turnstone Grange be transferred from Congleton to Somerford.

As for the Somerford-Brereton boundary along the A54, the Borough Council agrees the current boundary is confusing. Furthermore, as both parishes are in the same borough ward, there would be no electoral risk involved in changing this boundary and it could be justified even if relatively few electors were affected. However, the Borough Council feels that Somerford Parish Council's proposal could increase the existing confusion, as it would result in separate clusters of properties on the west side of the A54 that would be in Somerford (see Map SOM1 above), whilst some properties adjacent to these clusters would remain in Brereton. It is also concerned that Somerford Parish Council's proposed would transfer a large proportion of Brereton Heath properties to Somerford - and there is clear evidence of significant opposition. Somerford Parish Council's own survey of this area found over 40 per cent of respondents (18 out of 44) to be against its proposal, whilst Brereton Parish Council's separate survey found only one household out of a total of 44 opposed its own preferred boundary line (the A54 itself). It is also significant that Brereton Parish Council obtained views from eight of the 11 households that its proposal would transfer - and all of these supported that proposal. Whilst the two surveys yield conflicting results - no doubt a result of differences in their survey methods and the evidence/ arguments presented to residents, Brereton's proposal has the advantage of minimal opposition and of agreement from all the 11 affected households that offered a view. Another important consideration are the views that local residents submitted directly to the Borough Council, in their consultation responses: as noted above, only two of these (both from Somerford residents) favoured Somerford Parish Council's proposal, while 46 residents (42 from Brereton and four from Somerford) supported Brereton Parish Council's boundary proposal - one of the highest numbers received for any alternative change to the Draft Recommendations for any parish. In addition, the A54 provides a clear natural boundary. Considering the weight of local opinion, and the desirability of clear boundaries, the Borough Council therefore recommends that this boundary be altered to align with the A54, as Brereton Parish Council and many local residents wish.

As for the impact of these recommended boundary changes (which did not form part of the Draft Recommendations), the Turnstone Grange estate - which will eventually have 140 properties - is expected to be completed by 2024. Applying to this figure the local borough ward's average number of electors per seat, that implies an estimated 231 electors would transfer to Somerford. However, the boundary change with Brereton would move 11 properties out of Somerford; using the average number of electors per property for that area's local borough ward, an estimated 20 electors would transfer under that proposal. With the total electorate for the current Somerford Parish forecast to reach 1,719 by 2025, that means the net effect of the recommended boundary changes would be to increase that figure to 1,930 (1,719 + 231 - 20).

As for seating, the current total of seven seats is low, even for the Parish Council's current size. For an electorate of 1,930, ten seats - or possibly slightly more - is in line with the Cheshire East average. Furthermore, whilst the consultation stage submissions focused on the boundary change/ merger proposals and not on potential governance changes for an independent Somerford, it is noted that two of the pre-consultation survey responses felt an increase in seats was required to reflect the parish's recent and ongoing population growth. The Borough Council is also conscious that the large-scale housing development on LPS 26, together with the Link Road, add significantly to the Parish Council's workload, not just due to the enlarged population but because of liaison and mitigation efforts. It also recognises that Somerford covers an area that is geographically large and diverse, ranging from the new estates in the south to Somerford village to more dispersed settlements. Therefore a case could be made for 11 or 12 seats, rather than 10 seats. However, the submission evidence from the Parish Council and its residents indicates that it is working effectively even with its current limit of seven councillors – and the Borough Council is therefore anxious to ensure a degree of continuity.

Taking all these factors into account, the Borough Council recommends an increase to ten seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.7 & 2.9b in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Somerford to the parish of Brereton, of the shaded area (the area of Somerford west of the A54) shown in Map 2.7. Transfer, from the parish of Congleton to the parish of Somerford, of the shaded area (the Turnstone Grange estate) shown in Map 2.9b.
Parish Council name and style	Somerford Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Somerford (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (an increase from the current 7)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,930
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	193
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Congleton – transfer to Somerford" • "Somerford – transfer to Brereton"

2.95 Sound & District

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Sound & District
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Austerson; Baddiley; Baddington; Broomhall; Coole Pilate; Sound.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	15 (Austerson 1, Baddiley 3, Baddington 2, Broomhall 3, Coole Pilate 2, Sound 4)
Nominations in 2019	9 (Austerson 0, Baddiley 1, Baddington 1, Broomhall 3, Coole Pilate 1, Sound 3)
Electorate (2018)	838 (Austerson 100, Baddiley 214, Baddington 102, Broomhall 161, Coole Pilate 57, Sound 204)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	886 (Austerson 104, Baddiley 219, Baddington 119, Broomhall 178, Coole Pilate 61, Sound 205)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Merge Baddiley with the parish of Wrenbury, given that they are in the same borough ward (Wrenbury) and vote at the same location, whereas the other five Sound & District parishes vote in a different location and are in a different borough ward (Audlem). The purpose of this proposal is to simplify electoral arrangements. The new merged parish to have 10 seats, which is in line with the average for a council of the resulting size.

The Draft Recommendations sought views on whether there should be separate warding (with two seats) for Baddiley in this proposed new council.

[2] Merge the other five Sound & District parishes into a single parish and no warding, given the very small size of the existing parishes. The new merged parish to have eight seats, which is in line with the average for a council of the resulting size (667 electors) and reflects the relative shortage of nominations seen under the present governance arrangements.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Besides a submission from the Parish Council (summarised below), there were four responses from individual residents (all via the consultation survey): two from Broomhall and one each from Baddiley and Sound. Only one of these four individual responses (from Broomhall) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; the other three disagreed.

One of those who disagreed felt that the proposals were designed to strengthen the power of councils at the expense of residents.

The other two who disagreed felt the priority should be to address the division of Ravensmoor - one of the council's main settlements - between Sound & District and Burland Parish Council. The individuals who raised the Ravensmoor issue noted that it was a single community and should be represented by a single parish. One of these responses noted that a large proportion of Baddiley's properties were concentrated in Ravensmoor and suggested the whole parish could be merged with Burland if this proved more practical and cost-effective than a pure boundary change; the same individual considered that electoral convenience was a minor issue (given the low frequency of elections), in contrast to the daily concern of community cohesion. The other response regarding Ravensmoor highlighted the fact that a defibrillator installed on the Baddiley side of the parish boundary was

intended for the benefit of all Ravensmoor residents, but that the boundary meant coordination was required between the two parishes before the unit could be procured and installed.

None of the responses from Sound & District residents commented on the proposal to merge Baddiley with Wrenbury, but there were two responses from Wrenbury residents, both opposing such a merger on the grounds that the two parishes were not closely linked.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Sound & District Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, on the grounds that the current governance arrangements work well and that each of its parishes require separate representation. (It submitted separate survey responses for each of its parishes; the response for Baddington did not indicate an overall view on the Draft Recommendations, but it is assumed this was an omission and the Parish Council meant to express disagreement, as it did for the other five parishes.)

It wished to see no change to existing governance, except for a change to bring Ravensmoor within a single council - which it proposed should be Burland. Burland Parish Council's own submission requested a boundary change to bring the whole of Ravensmoor within its parish, and its own survey found this proposal received some support - and no apparent opposition - from its local residents.

Wrenbury Parish Council opposed the Draft Recommendations, saying that it had no links to Baddiley and that the two parishes had little in common, Wrenbury being a village of significant size with a number of local services, whilst Baddiley was entirely rural. Wrenbury Parish Council also took issue with the Draft Recommendations' failure to address the division of Ravensmoor.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The Parish Council reports that its constituent parishes require separate representation, suggesting they have separate identities. Also apparent from its submission, that of Burland Parish Council and the residents of both councils, is a shared view that the division of Ravensmoor between parishes fails to reflect its identity as a single community.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No concerns raised in the submissions about the viability of Sound & District's individual parishes, despite their small size. Instead, the Parish Council considers that current governance works well and no residents offer a contrary view. It is also apparent that the division of Ravensmoor between councils hampers effective government.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council and a majority of the residents who submitted response oppose the Draft Recommendations proposals. The Parish Council's view is that the current arrangements work well, with each parish needing separate representation - and no residents make comments to the contrary. Furthermore, Wrenbury Parish Council's own submission convincingly sets out why a merger of its parish with Baddiley would not be practical.

The submissions from Sound & District Parish Council, its residents and Burland Parish Council argue persuasively that Ravensmoor is a single community and that its current division between parishes hampers community cohesion and effective governance. There is also a consensus among those who comment on this issue that Ravensmoor should be brought entirely within Burland.

One submission proposes that this could be achieved by merging the whole of Baddiley with Burland. However, no other responses suggest such an extensive transfer and this may be at odds with Sound & District's wishes. In any case, the Borough Council recommends a merger of Burland with Acton and parts of Henhull and Edleston, into a new "Burland & Acton" Parish Council; including the whole of Baddiley in this merger would result in a new parish council covering an extensive and awkwardly shaped area that could add unreasonably to the workload of that new council.

In the light of these factors and the submission evidence, the Borough Council recommends that the boundary between Baddiley and Burland be redrawn (as shown in Map 2.8), so that the whole of the settlement of Ravensmoor is brought within the new merged parish of Burland & Acton, but that the rest of Baddiley remains within Sound & District, and that Sound & District remains as a group of six separate parishes.

The Borough Council estimates that 35 properties that would transfer from Baddiley as a result of this boundary change around Ravensmoor; applying the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward (Wrenbury) to this figure, it is estimated that 64 electors would be affected.

As for total seat numbers, the Borough Council still considers 15 seats relatively high for a parish of this size (822 electors as of 2025, excluding those recommended for transfer to the new Burland & Acton Parish Council). However, the Borough Council considers that this total should stay as it is, given the evidence that this arrangement works well and is necessary if all six parishes are to have some individual representation.

The Borough Council notes that the current allocation of seats between the six parishes would mean, based on its forecasts for the 2025 electorate, that Austerson's 104 electors would have only one councillor, whereas Coole Pilate would have two, despite having only 61 electors. Allocating two seats to Austerson and only one to Coole Pilate would, by contrast, mean very similar ratios of electors per seat for all six parishes, based on these forecasts. That said, the Borough Council notes that the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put Austerson's electorate at 92 and Coole Pilate's at 70; if elector numbers were to remain at the levels indicated by this Register, then an allocation of two seats to Austerson and only one to Coole Pilate would in fact mean Coole Pilate had a much higher ratio (70) than the other five parishes (all of which would have between 46 and 53 electors per seat). Hence the Borough Council is not convinced that this slight reallocation of seats would significantly improve local representation. Bearing that in mind, along with the Parish Council's own view, and the fact that Austerson did not have any nominations in 2019, the Borough Council recommends no change to the current allocation of seats for each parish.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.8 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Baddiley (part of Sound & District Parish Council) to the parish of Burland, of the shaded area (western part of Ravensmoor) shown in Map 2.8. As set out in the Assessment Report subsections on Acton, Edleston & Henhull and Burland, the transferred (western Ravensmoor) part of Baddiley and the adjacent part of Burland (includind eastern Ravensmoor) would become part of the recommended new "Burland & Acton" Parish Council's "Ravensmoor & Edleston" ward.
Parish Council name and style	Sound & District Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Austerson; Baddiley; Baddington; Broomhall; Coole Pilate; Sound.
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	15 (Austerson 1, Baddiley 3, Baddington 2, Broomhall 3, Coole Pilate 2, Sound 4). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	822 (Austerson 104, Baddiley 155, Baddington 119, Broomhall 178, Coole Pilate 61, Sound 205)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	55 overall (Austerson 104, Baddiley 52, Baddington 60, Broomhall 59, Coole Pilate 31, Sound 51)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Baddiley – transfer to Burland & Acton"

2.96 Spurstow

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Spurstow
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Spurstow
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	8
Nominations in 2019	3
Electorate (2018)	320
Electorate (2025 forecast)	325

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
No responses from Spurstow Parish Council or its residents at this stage.

One resident from Bunbury felt that The Yew Tree pub and houses along Long Lane towards the A49 (currently in Spurstow) are connected to and part of Bunbury village and that the boundary should be changed to include them. However, in its pre-consultation response, Bunbury Parish Council requested no change to its boundary.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Decrease seats to seven, as this is in line with the average for a council of Spurstow's size. The recommendation also reflects the fact the parish had only three nominations for the 2019 ordinary elections, indicating that seats may be hard to fill.

[2] No change to boundary. The Borough Council considered the pre-consultation survey proposal - from an individual Bunbury resident - to adjust the boundary with Spurstow, but concluded this was not justified, given that Bunbury Parish Council itself wanted no change and that the resident's proposal would involve the transfer of a relatively small number of properties that are within a different borough ward to Bunbury (and hence a need for additional polling facilities at election time).

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Only one response, which was from the Parish Council (see details below).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Spurstow Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It agreed with the Borough Council's proposal (cited in the Draft Recommendations) to leave the boundary with Bunbury unchanged; it should also be noted that Bunbury Parish Council's consultation stage response agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations.

However, Spurstow Parish Council objected to the proposed decrease in seats, for three main reasons.

Firstly, whilst there is no warding, the parish's different geographical areas - East, West and Central - face different issues, which largely relate to highways and planning. For example, on highways matters, road safety and speeding are key issues on the busy A49 in the West, whereas the East's lanes are affected by poor road condition and the Central area by flooding. Having two councillors for each of the three areas - who specialise in understanding and dealing with that local area's issues - plus a chairman and vice chair - proves very effective, but a loss of one seat would upset this balance.

Secondly, while nominations in 2019 were few, interest in filling vacant seats is high and many of those co-opted onto the Council had a longstanding interest in serving before they actually did so.

Thirdly, the Council is concerned about the expense of elections - which are more likely if fewer seats are available - and the consequently lower amount of funding available for local services and projects. It sees co-option as a more cost-effective means of ensuring seats are filled.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Although a single response at the pre-consultation stage took a different position, the views of Bunbury Parish Council and Spurstow Parish Council on their shared boundary seem to indicate that the existing boundary reflects local community identity. The Borough Council therefore recommends no boundary change.

On the issue of seats, Spurstow Parish Council makes a persuasive case for retaining its current total of eight, demonstrating that this allows the localised needs of its sub-areas to be addressed effectively and highlighting the fact it has no difficulty filling vacant seats. In the light of this consultation submission, the Borough Council recommends no change in the number of seats. In making this decision, the Borough Council has also considered the additional pressure that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council resources and councillor time.

Whilst the submission also demonstrates the need for different areas of the parish to have separate, specialist representation, the Parish Council explains how this is achieved effectively through the existing governance arrangements. The Borough Council therefore recommends that the parish remain unwarded.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

OFFICIAL

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Spurstow Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Spurstow (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	8 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	325
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	41
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.97 Stapeley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Stapeley & District
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Batherton; Stapeley.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10 (Batherton 1 Stapeley 9)
Nominations in 2019	8 (Batherton 1 Stapeley 7)
Electorate (2018)	2,907 (Batherton 37 Stapeley 2,870)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,965 (Batherton 44 Stapeley 2,921)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Major development has occurred in recent years in the northern part of the parish of Stapeley, including on the site of the former Stapeley Water Gardens. As a result, almost 90 per cent of the parish council's housing is adjacent to Nantwich.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Three residents (all from Stapeley; none from Batherton) submitted comments, one feeling that the parish relied on Nantwich for services and should become part of the Town Council, either as part of the Nantwich South ward or as a separate ward in its own right.

However, the Parish Council reported - from canvassing results at election time - that local residents identified strongly with Stapeley and wanted to remain as part of a village, rather than be subsumed into Nantwich.

Another of the responding residents felt the boundary with Nantwich around Audlem Road could be made less arbitrary and that the area east of the Cheerbrook Roundabout should be transferred to Willaston. The other resident was concerned about the impact of additional housing.

There were 18 responses from Nantwich. Eight of these felt that Nantwich should be expanded to include all or part of Stapeley, though Nantwich responses more commonly requested expansions to absorb new development in Edleston and Henhull. Those proposing the transfer of newer developments commonly cited a concern that the residents of these areas were using the town' services but not contributing to the cost of these because they lived outside its boundary. Two other Nantwich responses - one of them from the Town Council - felt there should be some expansion of the town's boundaries to reflect recent development and the fact that residents of these new homes would use Nantwich's services; the Town Council also felt they would identify primarily with Nantwich.

Draft Recommendations
No merger of Stapeley with Nantwich, nor any boundary change transferring part of the parish to Nantwich. This reflects the strong separate identity that Stapeley residents have, as cited in the Parish Council's pre-consultation response.

However, given its tiny electorate, Batherton to be merged with Stapeley into a single parish. The merged parish council to have 12 seats, as this is more in line with the average for a council of Stapeley & District’s size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
In addition to the Parish Council's response (summarised below), there were seven submissions from residents (all from Stapeley; none from Batherton); six of these were via the consultation survey and the other by email. Of the six survey responses, two agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, two disagreed and two neither agreed nor disagreed. One of those who agreed felt that the proposed increase in seats was appropriate, given the increase in recent and forthcoming years in Stapeley's housing and population. The sole email (clearly in disagreement with the Draft Recommendations) felt that Nantwich was unfairly subsidising services enjoyed by Stapeley residents. (Of the two who responded to the survey and who disagreed, one made comments that were unclear and the other did not comment.)

There were 12 submissions from Nantwich (all via the consultation survey), of which six agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and four disagreed. One of those who disagreed stated that it was unfair that Stapeley benefited from but did not contribute to the cost of services provided by Nantwich; this response suggested either a boundary change or that Stapeley Parish Council should contribute to the Nantwich precept.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations in its response to the consultation survey, noting that the proposals reflected its feedback at the pre-consultation stage.

Nantwich Town Council also agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The MP for Crewe & Nantwich agrees that Stapeley has a distinct identity and feels it would not be appropriate for all or part of it to be subsumed by Nantwich.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Whilst two residents (one at the pre-consultation and one at the consultation stage) favoured a transfer of all or part of Stapeley to Nantwich, the Parish Council reports that residents generally have a strong separate identity.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None other than suggestion from one Stapeley resident (and also from a Nantwich resident) that Stapeley unfairly enjoys subsidised services from Nantwich and a merger or boundary change could address this.

Post-consultation assessment
Whilst individual residents had very mixed views on the Draft Recommendations, only one of those who opposed them offered clear reasons for this view, arguing that it relies on Nantwich for town/ parish council services and a boundary change or merger would rectify this. However, the Parish Council, which has evidence from recent canvassing of local residents' views more generally, reports strong identification with Stapeley as a separate settlement and opposes a transfer of its adjacent properties to Nantwich, as does the local MP. The Borough Council finds this evidence persuasive, particularly as Stapeley is an old settlement that has expanded towards Nantwich, not (in contrast to Malbank Waters in Edleston or Kingsley Fields in Henhull) a new housing estate overspill from the town. Even though rural parishes like Stapeley rely to some extent on towns for key services, it does not necessarily follow that the services they obtain from Nantwich are ones that the Town Council provides or supports (in which case the subsidy objection does not apply).

In the light of these factors and the reiteration of the Parish Council's position and local residents' prevailing view, the Borough Council recommends no change to the boundary between Stapeley and Nantwich.

The Borough Council also notes that one local resident's comment that the Draft Recommendations proposed increase in seats was an appropriate response to recent and ongoing housing and population growth, and that no submissions objected to the seats change or to the merger of the two constituent parishes. Given this, and the Parish Council's overall agreement with the proposals collectively, the Borough Council recommends that Batherton and Stapeley merge into a single parish with 12 seats, as per the Draft Recommendations.

On the matter of the new parish's name, two residents suggested "Batherton and Stapeley" and one proposed "Stapeley". For the new council's style, one favoured "Community" and one "Parish"; no other comments on name or style were offered. Given this limited number of responses and the lack of a clear favourite name or style, the Borough Council feels it would be appropriate to retain the existing name and style, that is, “Stapeley & District Parish Council”, not least as "& District" recognises the inclusion of Batherton.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of the parishes of Batherton and Stapeley, to form a single new parish.
Parish Council name and style	Stapeley & District Parish Council (new council, but with same name as current council)
Parish name(s)	Stapeley & District (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	12 (an increase from the current 10)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,965
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	247
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.98 Stoke & Hurleston

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Stoke & Hurleston
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Hurleston; Stoke.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	6 (Hurleston 2, Stoke 4)
Nominations in 2019	6 (Hurleston 2, Stoke 4)
Electorate (2018)	261 (Hurleston 60, Stoke 201)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	261 (Hurleston 60, Stoke 201)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge the Group into a single parish (to simplify electoral arrangements and make governance arrangements easier for electors). Increase seats from six to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size and seven is the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for a parish council.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
No submissions from Stoke & Hurleston residents. See below for the Parish Council's response.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council supported the Draft Recommendations proposals to merge the two parishes and increase seats to seven. It requested that the merged council retain the name "Stoke & Hurleston Parish", as this is commonly known and understood. It also agreed that no boundary changes are needed.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The Parish Council's support for the merger but no boundary changes indicates that Stoke and Hurleston share a common identity and interests, but are distinct from other neighbouring rural parishes.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Two submissions from Cholmondeston residents proposed that their parish could be merged with "Barbridge" (presumably meaning the parish of Stoke). However, this proposal did not receive wider support and is at odds with both the Draft Recommendations and the wishes of Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council.

Post-consultation assessment

Given the Parish Council's support for the Draft Recommendations and the absence of other responses to these proposals, the Borough Council concludes that Stoke and Hurleston share a common identity and interests, but are distinct from other neighbouring rural parishes. The Borough Council also feels that an increase to the NALC preferred minimum of seven seats is particularly important, given the additional demands that the COVID pandemic places on parish council services. The Borough Council therefore recommends that the Draft Recommendations proposals should go ahead. It also recommends the name "Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council", for the reasons given by the Parish Council in its submission.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Merger of the parishes of Hurleston and Stoke, to form a single new parish.
Parish Council name and style	Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council (new council, but same name as current council)
Parish name(s)	Stoke & Hurleston (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (an increase from the current 6)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	261
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	37
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.99 Styal

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Styal
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Styal
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	7
Electorate (2018)	564
Electorate (2025 forecast)	896

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
At the boundary between the existing parishes of Handforth and Styal, there will be a housing development of 185 properties on Local Plan Strategy Site LPS 34 (Land between Clay Lane and Sagars Road, Handforth).

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One individual Styal resident requested no change in governance, but made no specific comments.

Of the eight submissions on Handforth, five proposed transferring the LPS 34 development; the reasons given for this were the convenient road, rail and pedestrian access from the new site into Handforth, the lack of a direct road for cars and heavier traffic into Styal and the new residents' consequent dependence on Handforth for services.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Move the LPS 34 development site area from Styal to Handforth, as it is adjacent to that settlement and will depend on Handforth for services and amenities. Wilmslow, Handforth and Chorley to be merged into a new council and the transferred area to become part of a new Handforth ward on that council.

[2] Increase the number of seats for the redrawn Styal Parish Council from seven to eight, as the latter figure is in line with the average for a council of Styal's size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Four responses from individual Styal residents, all via the consultation survey. All four disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, one of the submissions made comments stating their support for the boundary change. The only other response to include specific comments on the issue of the Handforth/ Styal boundary was one that felt Handforth was already relatively large and questioned the need for it to expand; this same submission also objected to the proposed change in seats, arguing that Styal was small with few amenities and so lacked the level of parish council activity to justify an extra councillor.

There were 1,128 responses from Handforth: 510 via the consultation survey, 617 via a Community Governance Review survey leaflet produced by Handforth Town Council and one by email. Of the 510 direct responses to the Borough Councils' consultation survey, 437 (86 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, as did 591 (96 per cent) of those who completed the Town Council's leaflet; the email also expressed disagreement. However, the opposition from Handforth focused overwhelmingly on the merger proposal. Of the Handforth submissions that commented on the boundary with Styal (15 in total), all supported the boundary change and (as with the pre-consultation responses) cited transport access and reliance on Handforth services as justification for this.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None from Styal Parish Council.

The 15 Handforth submissions expressing support for the Draft Recommendations change to the boundary with Styal included those from the Town Council and from the Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Two submissions from Handforth suggested merging Styal with Wilmslow, while two submissions from Wilmslow suggested merging Styal with Handforth. The arguments given were that this could improve viability, and (from the two responses proposing this option) a view that Wilmslow and Styal had a shared identity. However (as implied above) no responses from Styal proposed these mergers and the number of respondents who made them is very low in comparison to the total number of submissions from Wilmslow (nearly 200) or Handforth (over 1,000).

Post-consultation assessment
The Draft Recommendations proposed change to the Handforth/ Styal boundary is supported by all the Handforth submissions that commented on this matter at the pre-consultation stage (five) and consultation stage (15), including the Town Council and Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The arguments put forward for this change - relating to road access and service use - are persuasive. Although all four submissions from Styal disagree overall with the Draft Recommendations, one of these made comments supporting the boundary change and two offered no comments; the concern expressed by the fourth Styal resident - that Handforth is already large enough - is not voiced in other submissions.

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Taking account of the weight of local opinion, together with the wishes of Handforth Town Council and the persuasive arguments made for transferring the new development to Handforth, the Borough Council therefore recommends that the boundary change should proceed.

Furthermore, in the light of the overwhelming opposition to a merger from Handforth Town Council and its residents - and also Wilmslow Town Council, Chorley Parish Council and their residents - and the persuasive arguments they put forward (largely relating to their separate identities and to the viability and effectiveness of Handforth and Chorley as independent councils), the Borough Council recommends that Handforth remain as an individual council. (See the Chorley, Handforth and Wilmslow subsections of this Assessment Report for more details of the evidence on which this recommendation is based.)

Given the evidence that Handforth is operating effectively under current governance arrangements and the lack of proposals at the consultation stage for any changes to its ward boundaries, the Borough Council also recommends no change to those internal boundaries and therefore the transferred part of Styal would be added to the existing Handforth West ward.

As for the number of seats allocated to Styal, the current total of seven is slightly low for a parish of Styal's size (even allowing for the removal of the LPS 34 housing site). Furthermore, Styal covers a relatively rural area and the Borough Council is unsure as to whether the presence of HM Prison Styal or the proximity of Manchester Airport raise additional challenges or issues that add to the Parish Council's workload. However, as noted, none of the responses from Styal residents agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and the only one to comment on the seating proposals raised the reasonable question of whether Styal's limited amenities justify the provision of an extra councillor. In the light of the limited submission evidence on the seating issue, and the Borough Council's wish to take account of local feedback and avoid change for its own sake, the Borough Council therefore recommends that the number of seats remain at seven.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.14 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Styal to Handforth Town Council's West ward, of the shaded area (Local Plan Strategy site LPS 34) shown in Map 2.14.
Parish Council name and style	Styal Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Styal (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	566
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	81
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Styal – transfer to Handforth"

2.100 Sutton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Sutton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Sutton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Lane Ends; Langley; Lyme Green; Rural
Seats	12 (Lane Ends 3, Langley 3, Lyme Green 3, Rural 3)
Nominations in 2019	9 (Lane Ends 2, Langley 3, Lyme Green 3, Rural 1)
Electorate (2018)	2,231 (Lane Ends 880, Langley 460, Lyme Green 554, Rural 337)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,666 (Lane Ends 878, Langley 605, Lyme Green 821, Rural 362)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 13 (South Macclesfield Development Area), which lies partly within Sutton's Lyme Green ward, and LPS 17 (Gaw End Lane, Macclesfield), which lies entirely within the Lyme Green ward, are major new housing developments that are adjacent to the existing urban development in Macclesfield and are a consequence of that settlement's expansion.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None from Sutton Parish Council or its residents.

However, the 19 responses from Macclesfield included two individual residents who favoured a change to Macclesfield's boundary with various rural neighbours, including Sutton. These two submissions argued that argued that residents of the main settlements in many neighbouring parishes relied on Macclesfield for services, and that Local Plan development was turning this wider area into a conurbation anyway. Another resident felt that the current boundaries constrained Macclesfield's influence over LPS sites that are being developed to meet the town's housing needs, and proposed specifically that the whole of Lyme Green ward be moved to Macclesfield.

Draft Recommendations

[1] Transfer part or potentially the whole of Lyme Green parish ward to Macclesfield. This Draft Recommendation was made because the Borough Council considered that Macclesfield's outward development and planned LPS sites mean Sutton Lyme Green and Macclesfield are becoming a single urban area with a community of identity that looks to Macclesfield. The Draft Recommendations sought public views on how much of Sutton Parish Council's Lyme Green ward should be transferred to the parish of Macclesfield: the whole parish ward, or a smaller area that more tightly contains housing sites LPS 13 and 17 and the existing Lyme Green village housing.

[2] Merge Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting, Wincle Parish Meeting and the Sutton Rural ward of Sutton Parish Council into a single new parish council, with no warding and eight seats. The background to this recommendation was that Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle do not presently have parish council representation. At present the representative body of the two parishes is their meetings of their electors that by law are required to meet twice annually. However, the Borough Council was unsure if the meetings of electors were ever convened. With 161 and 151 electors as of 2018 and little change anticipated (160 and 150 electors respectively by 2025), the Borough Council considered that the two parishes might be merged with Sutton's Rural ward, to form a new parish with 672 electors (2025 electorate). Furthermore, Sutton's Rural has very few nominations for its seats (only one for its three seats in 2019) and its viability as a separate parish ward was therefore considered to be questionable. The ward lies adjacent to both parishes of Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle. All three areas lie in the Sutton borough ward, and therefore there is no risk to the conduct of elections by having electors of the same parish voting in different borough ward elections.

[3] A total of 10 seats for the remaining part of Sutton, with four for Langley ward and six for Lane Ends. However, if Sutton Rural is not merged with the two parish meetings but instead remains part of Sutton parish, then still 10 seats in total, but three seats for

Langley ward, five for Lane Ends and two for Rural. (Both these scenarios assume that the whole of Lyme Green is transferred to Macclesfield.)

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
381 responses from Sutton, of which eight were by letter or email (all opposing one or more of the Draft Recommendations proposals for Sutton), 372 via the consultation survey and one (disagreeing with the Draft Recommendations proposals for Lyme Green) via a completed Parish Council leaflet. Of the 372 survey responses, 360 (97 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. 225 (59 per cent) of the 380 responses included comments objecting specifically to the proposals for Sutton Lyme Green parish ward and 42 objected specifically to the proposed merger of Sutton Rural with Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle.

The reasons given for disagreeing with the Draft Recommendations most commonly related to local identity and interests (256 people made comments on this subject), a view that current governance works well (118 mentions), concerns about the impact on the Green Belt, natural environment or rural areas (61 mentions), the impact on tax (58) and the current boundary line being suitable (36). On the latter subject, many considered the canal to be a very clear and suitable boundary with Macclesfield. 10 cited complications that would arise for planning policy; these commonly mentioned the fact that the two parish meetings are subject to the Peak Park planning regime, which Sutton is not.

Specific points made in opposition to the Draft Recommendations proposals for Lyme Green included examples of the strong community links between Sutton's three villages and of the services, events and amenities they share, such as the primary school in Sutton village, the local shop, churches and pubs, the scout group, social lunches for the elderly, Christmas carol singing, Lyme Green's park, a bus route and community volunteer work on gardens and the canal. Also mentioned by some was a concern that Macclesfield would be remote and not represent Lyme Green's interests as a semi-rural village, with local people ceasing to have influence over decision-making and a loss of identity. Some felt that Lyme Green and other rural villages' reliance on towns for services was exaggerated or in decline and it was stated that there are no convenient bus connections into Macclesfield.

Specific points made in opposition to the Draft Recommendations proposals for Sutton Rural (besides the issue of managing two different planning regimes) included the following: the two parish meetings' isolated, independent farming communities having very

different identities and interests to those living on housing estates in Sutton and seeing those interests neglected or not understood under the merger; and the physical barrier between Sutton Rural and the two parish meetings (a few miles apart, and high hills in between).

Points were also made that rebutted both Draft Recommendations proposals. Some cited evidence of the strong community spirit across Sutton parish and its response to the COVID pandemic. Others highlighted the ease with which many Lyme Green and Sutton Rural residents can access Sutton parish's local services and amenities (often on foot), whereas a merger with the two parish meetings would mean parish-wide communal activities could be undertaken only by longer journeys and less sustainable means (car).

Many responses, including one from a local business, spoke positively of the Parish Council's active nature and effectiveness in representing residents across Sutton.

There were 55 submissions from Macclesfield, of which one (clearly disagreeing with the Draft Recommendations) was a letter and 54 were via the consultation survey. Of the 54 survey submissions, 33 (61 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only 12 (22 per cent) agreed; six neither agreed nor disagreed, two did not complete that question and the other one was unsure. Due to the number and range of Draft Recommendations proposals for Macclesfield, the reasons people gave for disagreeing were frequently unrelated to the boundary with Sutton. However, 12 of those who disagreed cited issues of local identity and interests and the specific points made here included a desire to preserve the rural identities of neighbouring parishes, a need to ensure the residents of those parishes were represented by people who understood their local interests and concern over Macclesfield Town Council covering too large an area to enable properly representative government.

There were 50 responses from Wincle, of which one (opposing the merger) was a letter and the other 49 via the consultation survey. Of the 49 survey responses, 48 (98 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; the other one stated agreement, but added comments under a later question that could in fact perhaps indicate a wish for no change in governance. Feedback on the Draft Recommendations related most frequently to concerns about paying a higher precept (28 mentions), local identity and interests (26), a view that current governance works well (23) and planning policy matters (16). No alternative suggestions were made, other than the status quo.

There were 36 submissions from Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough, all via the consultation survey. 34 of these were from individuals; the Parish Meeting Chair and a local business also made a response. Of these, 33 (92 per cent) disagreed overall with

the Draft Recommendations; two stated that they agreed overall, but one of these residents cited concern about a loss of influence in a larger body and made a request for no change to governance.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Sutton Parish Council disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and opposed its proposals for both Lyme Green and Sutton Rural.

On the issue of Lyme Green, the Parish Council noted Lyme Green's separate village identity, and the natural barriers - the canal and London Road - that also separate it geographically from Macclesfield. It also drew attention to survey evidence (for the Parish Plan) confirming that Lyme Green residents identify as part of Sutton. In addition, it emphasised their strong community links to the parishes' two other villages, Sutton Lane Ends and Langley, with various shared facilities and services and a joint community action group and magazine covering the three villages. Also highlighted were parish-wide initiatives such as the COVID Volunteer Group, which the Parish Council helped to support and which has addressed the needs of vulnerable and isolated residents during the pandemic and received an award nomination for its community work.

On the issue of Sutton Rural, the Parish Council highlighted the Sutton's separate identity, with the semi-rural status of parts of Sutton Rural contrasting with the isolated character of the two parish meetings. It noted that Sutton Rural residents have close community links to the villages of Sutton, given that the primary school, shops, public transport, community centres and other amenities are within walking distance for many of them. By contrast, it drew attention to the physical and psychological barrier presented by the hills separating its parish from the two parish meetings (which rise to 1,600 feet). The Parish Council was also keen to emphasise the very active, viable status of the two parish meetings. It felt that having a council that spanned two separate planning regimes would introduce unnecessary complexity and noted that the merger would involve additional administration costs (such as a clerk) and any warding would add further to these costs. It also raised concern that the merger of smaller parishes conflicted with the spirit and intent of Neighbourhood Plans in giving individual communities their own say over local decision-making.

Macclesfield Town Council also disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It felt that a review of its governance was premature, given that it had been created only six years before. It also highlighted the strength of opposition to boundary changes from residents in Sutton and other rural neighbours, and argued that much of the housing development in the Macclesfield/ Sutton area, particularly on LPS 13, was not likely for some years, given a lack of resolution over relief road issues.

The submission from Wincle Parish Meeting (made by its clerk) also disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and reported a unanimous vote, at a Parish Meeting EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting), against the merger proposal. The reasons for its opposition were: residents value the direct democratic say that parish meeting status offers and wish retain that; they have a distinct identity that would be lost; representation and influence would be limited, given that Sutton Rural would have a majority of the electorate (and hence probably of councillors as well); the extra complexity involved in managing an area with two separate planning regimes; higher costs and taxes arising from having to fund things like councillor expenses and accounting/ auditing fees; loss of the Wincle website, as the running costs of this are covered through the Parish Meeting and labour input is voluntary, with content specific to Wincle. As further evidence of a desire to maintain current arrangements, the Wincle clerk cited the results of a survey for the Wincle Parish Plan (to which 98 per cent of residents responded), requesting no changes to current services and amenities.

The submission from the Chair of the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and objected to the proposed merger, for a number of reasons. One was the fact that the Parish Meeting, unlike Sutton, is subject to the Peak Park planning regime. The Chair questioned whether parish councillors and the clerk would be able to manage two separate planning regimes. Another reason was the set of distinct challenges that the Parish faces, such as its particularly dangerous trunk roads, its lack of mobile reception and broadband availability, the adverse impacts of tourism on this rural area and the absence of public transport. The Chair also felt it was unreasonable to expect Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough's residents to pay a higher precept, given the very limited public services and amenities they have; it was noted, for example, that the Parish Meeting has no village hall, play area or street lighting. The submission also drew attention to the Parish's ancient history, distinct geography and its strong rural community spirit.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The borough ward Member opposed the Draft Recommendations for both Lyme Green and Sutton Rural.

On the matter of Lyme Green, the Member drew attention to the village's semi-rural character, with countryside currently on all sides - and a strong community spirit, as shown by attendances when the Christmas lights are turned on, or by local people raising funds to install play equipment in the local park. This submission stated that many families have lived there for generations. The Member also notes that a transfer to Macclesfield would probably mean higher precepts but less effective representation, with localised issues (e.g. speeding) being overlooked. Overall, the Member feared that the transfer would damage local community cohesion. The Member also felt it was right to delay any possible boundary change in this area until the new LPS developments are built, so that the new residents can have a say.

On the Sutton Rural proposals, the Member's submission highlighted the fact that the two parish meetings are isolated, rural communities. It was pointed out that they are on some of the highest ground in the Borough, meaning they face a different climate and hence different challenges - like getting milk tankers through to farms in the winter. It was emphasised that both parish meetings were very active and that the success of a recent campaign to keep Wincle's junior school open was a good example of a local interest that current governance arrangements would address, but which a merged, more remote council would not. The Member noted that the frequency of actual parish meetings is a poor guide to actual activity levels, as the isolated nature of their dwellings means that contact by phone, email or social media is often more efficient. Representatives from both parish meetings are regularly in touch with the Member - and active on Facebook - about local issues such as road repairs, gritting and the adverse effects of tourism (COVID restrictions on indoor social activity having led to increased numbers of visitors). The Member argued that the merger would result in higher taxes for the parish meetings, but much less effective representation for them, with Sutton being up to seven miles away from some parish meeting residents, and Wincle/ Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough members of the new council having relatively little incentive to travel a long way to discuss issues that were relevant only to Sutton. Also noted were the administrative costs involved in the proposed merger. As with many of the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough submissions, the borough ward Member highlighted the fact that the proposed merger would create a council covering areas with two different planning regimes, resulting in confusion and potentially conflicting decisions.

A former councillor also objected to the proposals for both Lyme Green and Sutton Rural. Commenting on Lyme Green, the councillor noted the strong community links it has with Langley and Sutton (Lane Ends) with, for example, Lyme Green residents shopping in Sutton village and sending their children to the primary school and the cub/ scout/ brownie/ guide groups there, and going to church in Sutton or Langley. It was stressed that Lyme Green residents value their identity as villagers and many of those living in Lyme Green have been there for decades. It was also noted that the existing (canal) boundary is very clear, and that precepts would probably be much higher for Lyme Green residents if the transfer to Macclesfield went ahead. On the Sutton Rural proposals, the councillor also noted that Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough are on high terrain and therefore face different challenges to Sutton Rural, which is partly on high ground, but also includes areas that are adjacent to Sutton village. This submission also referred to the problems involved in covering two different planning regimes. In addition, the former councillor emphasised that the two parish meetings value their current form of governance, which works well in such remote areas, that their terrain presents them with localised interests and issues (milk tanker access in winter was mentioned here too) and that the public service they receive is limited to waste collection and highways maintenance, so if the merger went ahead they would not benefit from (but would still subsidise) the additional services that Sutton Rural receives.

In his submission, the MP for Macclesfield stated that Lyme Green residents had clearly indicated to him their wish to remain within Sutton Parish, feeling that the Parish Council serves their interests effectively, but that the Town Council would not understand or address the needs of their distinct rural village community. As for the merger proposal involving Sutton Rural, the MP noted that he had spoken to the chairs of the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle Parish Meetings, Sutton parish councillors and residents of those three areas, and found strong opposition to the merger proposal involving those three areas. He argued that current governance arrangements work well for the two parish meetings and Sutton Parish Council, that residents of the two parish meetings value and wish to retain their ability to vote on all local decisions and that setting up a new council for the merged area would involve various operational costs that the parish meetings had not incurred before and hence higher taxes. He also highlighted the different character of Sutton Rural, which has some semi-rural areas (Leek Old Road/ Parvey Lane), whereas the two parish meetings are totally rural. Like many other submissions, his drew attention to the different planning regimes of Sutton and the parish meetings.

One Macclesfield town councillor felt a boundary review was too early given the Town Council was a relatively new creation; another stated that this existing boundary was effective.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity

On the matter of Lyme Green, the submissions provide extensive evidence of Lyme Green's village identity, its local community spirit and its strong community links to the other Sutton parish villages of Langley and Sutton Lane Ends: it relies of them for many social activities, services and amenities.

On the Sutton Rural merger proposal, the submissions collectively indicate that the two parish meetings have a very distinct identity to Sutton and very different interests and challenges, with their entirely rural communities, limited public services, local events and community spirit centred around facilities such as Wincle's school and church, and the separate (Peak Park) planning regime. It is further noted that its high terrain and different climate account in part for some of the parish meetings' local challenges. The submissions highlight that Sutton Rural, in contrast, is semi-rural in places and is relatively distant (up to seven miles away). They also highlight the physical and psychological barrier presented by the hills separating Sutton from the two parish meetings, and the fact that Sutton Rural residents have close community links to the villages of Sutton, given that the primary school, shops, public transport, community centres and other amenities are within walking distance for many of them.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
The submission evidence indicates that Sutton Parish Council is very active and effective. There is no indication from the responses that the relative shortage of nominations for the 2019 ordinary elections has created any issues that constrain the Council's activities and service provision.

The submissions also indicate that the two parish meetings are very active in raising awareness of and addressing issues such as road conditions, gritting and problems with influxes of tourists - and that residents value the direct form of democracy that this form of governance offers. No concerns are raised about the viability and effectiveness of the parish meetings; instead, the submissions question (and doubt) the effectiveness of the larger council area that the Draft Recommendations proposals would create. The submissions also demonstrate how Wincle parish meeting is viable despite not charging a precept: for example, it has reserve funds to cover the cost of some local facilities and the existing clerk is an unpaid volunteer.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
18 of the responses from Sutton made alternative suggestions, with many different permutations.

By far the most common alternative option (mentioned by 11 people) was a transfer to Macclesfield only of the part of Lyme Green that lies west of London Road: this would mean, in effect, that LPS sites 13 and LPS 17 would lie entirely within Macclesfield, but the existing Lyme Green village would remain in Sutton. Of the 11 submissions making this proposal: one specified (as did three alternative suggestions made by Macclesfield residents) that the transfer should exclude the area south of site LPS 17; another suggested that Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough could be merged with Sutton, and Wincle merged with Sutton or Gawsworth.

Of the other seven alternative suggestions made by Sutton residents, two advocated a transfer of Lyme Green to Macclesfield, but opposed the merger involving Sutton Rural; one proposed transferring Lyme Green to Macclesfield and merging all of the remaining three Sutton parish wards with Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle; another also favoured a merger of Sutton Rural (or perhaps the whole of the parish) with the two parish meetings, but wanted Lyme Green to remain in Sutton; one requested a ward boundary change, so that the properties on Bullocks Lane (Lyme Green parish ward) were moved to Lane Ends; one proposed a transfer from Macclesfield to Sutton, bring the whole of the settlement of Gurnett (currently split by the canal) into Sutton; and one suggested removing Sutton's warding.

Two Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough residents suggested that their parish meeting could be merged with Wincle only (but both appeared to prefer no merger at all). One of these listed a number of shared characteristics: farming communities, with some

tourism; no village shops or street lights; and both parishes almost entirely in the Peak Park and subject to its separate planning regime. Both of the people who made this suggestion highlighted the two parishes' totally rural character. A third Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough resident appeared to have this same option in mind, stating that any merger should involve purely rural grouping and considering Sutton to have too urban and sizeable a population to enable Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough's interests to be represented.

Post-consultation assessment

Sutton Parish Council opposes both the transfer of Lyme Green to Macclesfield and the proposal to merge its Sutton Rural ward with the two parish meetings. Of the 380 consultation responses from Sutton, the overwhelming majority disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations proposals for the Lyme Green and Sutton Rural wards, with 225 (nearly 60 per cent) of the Sutton responses specifically opposing the proposals for Lyme Green and 42 specifically objecting to the merger involving Sutton Rural. The overwhelming majority of those Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle residents who responded to the consultation disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, as did the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting chair. An EGM of the Wincle Parish Meeting recorded a unanimous vote against the Draft Recommendations. Both the Lyme Green transfer and the Sutton Rural merger proposal are also opposed by the local MP and the borough ward Member.

On the issue of Lyme Green, the submissions demonstrate persuasively that Lyme Green has a strong community spirit and a village identity, and that it has very strong ties to Sutton parish's other two villages, due to the many shared communal, facilities amenities and services. There is opposition to the prospect of higher precepts, but yet more remote representation. Furthermore, Macclesfield Town Council itself opposes the transfer of Lyme Green, feeling a boundary review is premature and LPS 13 development some years away; other submissions from Macclesfield - where they comment on this issue - generally take the same view.

Whilst 11 responses from Sutton (and three from Macclesfield) suggested a modification that would transfer only the western (largely LPS site area) of Lyme Green to Macclesfield, this tally is small relative to the total number of objections to the Draft Recommendations proposals for Lyme Green.

In the light of this collective evidence, the Borough Council recommends that the boundary between Sutton parish and Macclesfield remain as it is.

On the merger proposal, the submissions argue persuasively that the two parish meetings have a very distinct identity to Sutton and very different interests and challenges, with their completely rural characters, limited public services and amenities, local events, their own focal points (e.g. Wincle church and school) for community activities and their separate (Peak Park) planning regime; it is apparent that their high terrain and different climate account in part for some of their local challenges and priorities (e.g. road conditions and access), as does the attraction of the area to visitors. The submissions highlight the fact that Sutton, in contrast, is semi-rural in places and is relatively distant (up to seven miles away), meaning a merger would result in more distant, less accessible governance and much less awareness of (or incentive to address) the two parish meetings' specific needs. In contrast, it is apparent from the submissions that residents of Wincle and Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough value the direct democracy that parish meeting status brings, and that the parish meetings are very active in lobbying for - and ensuring action is taken on - for example, road repairs and the adverse impacts of tourism. Also apparent is a significant level of opposition to the higher taxes - but lack of accompanying improvement in service provision - that a merged council would be expected to levy. Whilst two Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough residents suggest the option of a merger that involves the two parish meetings but not Sutton, the suggestion appears to be a reluctant one and the idea received no wider support. In addition, some submissions, including some from past and present elected representatives, indicate that while the two parish meetings have a history of mutual support and understanding, they are distinct communities.

In the light of this collective evidence, the Borough Council recommends that Sutton Rural remain part of Sutton parish and that there be no change in governance for either Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough or Wincle.

On the matter of seats and their allocation, Sutton's current total of 12 is in line with the average for a council of its size. It is notable that the current allocation of three seats for each parish ward results in very different ratios of electors per seat: based on 2025 electorate forecasts, the ratios for is close to 300 for Lane Ends and Lyme Green, but only 202 for Langley and much less still (121) for Sutton Rural. However, Langley covers a wider geographical area than Lane Ends or Lyme Green, whilst the Rural ward covers a far greater area still, much of it completely rural. Given that rurality and geographical size add to councillors' workload, there is a strong case for fewer electors per seat in the Langley and Rural wards. Furthermore, the submission evidence indicated no concerns that the current seat allocation unduly favours those two wards; rather, it suggests current governance arrangements work well. Therefore the Borough Council recommends no changes to either the total number of seats or their allocation between wards.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Sutton Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Sutton (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Lane Ends; Langley; Lyme Green; Rural)
Seats	12 (Lane Ends 3, Langley 3, Lyme Green 3, Rural 3). No change to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,666 (Lane Ends 878, Langley 605, Lyme Green 821, Rural 362)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	222 overall (Lane Ends 293, Langley 202, Lyme Green 274, Rural 121)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.101 Swettenham

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Swettenham
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Swettenham
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	5
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	246
Electorate (2025 forecast)	266

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Increase seats from five to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size and seven is the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for a parish council.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
One submission (via the consultation survey) from an individual, who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. However, this submission cited (under the reasons for disagreeing question) concerns about "representation for residents needs [being] reduced" - which seems inconsistent with the Draft Recommendations proposal that seats should be increased. It should be noted that submissions with similar wording and the same specific concern were submitted for the nearby parishes of Gawsworth, Henbury, Lower Withington and Siddington, though only one of these (Siddington) is a council where the Draft Recommendations proposed a cut in seats. Therefore it seems likely that these submissions were from the same person; if so, this person may be a resident of one of those other parishes, not Swettenham.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

Although the sole consultation stage submission on Swettenham opposed the Draft Recommendations, the reason it cites (loss of local representation) suggests a mistaken belief that the Draft Recommendations proposal involved a cut in seats, a merger or a boundary change. Furthermore, seven seats is the NALC preferred minimum and the ongoing COVID pandemic places additional pressure on parish council resources and councillor time, thereby strengthening the case even for small councils like Swettenham to have at least seven seats. Whilst the Borough Council is generally minded to leave governance arrangements as they are if proposed changes receive no support from local residents or their parish council, it believes that the NALC preferred minimum, the COVID pandemic and the fact that Swettenham has well over 200 electors all mean that seven seats should be the minimum required by this parish council. In addition, nominations at the 2019 ordinary elections matched the number of seats, so there is no indication of a shortage of candidates - and an increase in seats means more opportunity to share the workload and hopefully further increase interest in serving on the council. Considering all these factors, the Borough Council recommends an increase to seven seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Swettenham Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Swettenham (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (an increase from the current 5)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	266
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	38
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.102 Tabley

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Tabley
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Tabley
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	10
Nominations in 2019	9
Electorate (2018)	384
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast: 442. Revised forecast: 618. Note: The revised forecast takes account of the expected development of Local Plan site LPS 36A.

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
175 homes by 2025 on Local Plan Strategy site LPS 36A (Land North of Northwich Road, Knutsford). Some 60 per cent of the site area lies in the parish of Tabley; the rest is within the current Knutsford Town Council area. Tabley Parish Council has previously recognised this as a Knutsford development and gave consent for it to be in the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None from Tabley Parish Council or its residents.

However, Knutsford Town Council's submission requested that its boundary with Tabley be redrawn, so that the whole of the site LPS 36A development falls within Knutsford. The Town Council argued that residents of the new development will depend on the town for services and community activities and the existing boundary would generate confusion and prevent community cohesion. Its submission included a proposed new parish boundary (based on field boundaries enclosing the LPS site).

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer to Knutsford of the part of Tabley bounded by the M6 to the west, Tabley Hill Lane to the north and Northwich Road to the south. The purpose of this transfer is to bring the LPS 36A development entirely within Knutsford - for the reasons set out in the Town Council's pre-consultation submission - and to ensure a clear, natural boundary that relies on roads, rather than the Town Council's proposed use of field boundaries.

[2] Reduce number of seats to eight, as this is in line with the average for a council of Tabley's expected size by 2025 (whether the boundary change with Knutsford occurs or not).

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None from individual residents from Tabley.

There were six responses from Knutsford: one (an email) from the Town Council (summarised below) and five (all via the consultation survey) from individual residents. Of the latter five, three agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and two disagreed. One of those who disagreed objected in general to boundary changes (seeing such proposals as a low priority and an

unsuitable use of public money). The other person who disagreed raised two objections. One of these related to the boundary proposal, but their submission argued that the M6 (given its strength as a clear natural boundary) should be used to mark the entire length of Knutsford's boundary with Tabley - which would mean transferring a much greater area of Tabley than the Draft Recommendations propose. Another submission, whilst agreeing overall, felt that the transferred area should include the land to the south of Northwich Road, so that the M6 would be used to mark the boundary from Tabley Hill Lane southwards; the reasoning was that this would ensure a more permanent boundary - but again this would mean transferring a much greater area of Tabley than the Draft Recommendations propose. No other submissions from Knutsford residents commented on any external boundary proposals.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Tabley Parish Council (responding via the consultation survey) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It objected to the proposed cut in seats, arguing that a reduction would narrow the range of skills, experience and local knowledge that its councillors have and would prevent some willing volunteers from serving and sharing the council's work burden.

It also objected to the Draft Recommendations boundary change proposal, stating that it did not understand why a transfer of such size was proposed, but opposed any boundary change. It objected to the encroachment of Knutsford into its rural area and felt it was best placed to meet the needs of people in the area proposed for transfer to Knutsford. It also wished to retain the precept and Section 106 funds from this part of the existing parish.

However, Knutsford Town Council supported the proposed new boundary (which transfers a larger area of land than it proposed at the pre-consultation stage).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Whilst Tabley Parish Council's objection to the proposed boundary change is a concern and carries significant weight in the Borough Council's decision-making, the Parish Council's submission is the only one opposing this specific boundary change.

Knutsford Town Council originally proposed (and still supports) this change and no Tabley residents responded to the consultation.

It should be noted that there are only two established properties (farms) in the transfer area. The Borough Council would have welcomed information on the preferences and local identities of the residents of these properties; had evidence been submitted that they strongly identified with Tabley, that would have strengthened the case for keeping their properties within Tabley. Unfortunately, the consultation submissions do not provide any information on the views or identity of these households or indeed other Tabley residents. However, the Borough Council is conscious that the Draft Recommendations proposed transfer area is on opposite side of M6 to most of Tabley and - given this physical barrier - it is not clear that its current or future residents would have strong connections to or necessarily identify with the rest of the parish.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends that the boundary change should proceed, with the new boundary as defined in the Draft Recommendations.

On the issue of seat numbers, the Parish Council's submission points out, quite reasonably, that a larger complement of councillors means a wider range of skills and experience are involved and that councillors can operate more effectively, allocating work according to their respective strengths and areas of expertise. The Borough Council is also conscious that Tabley covers a relatively large and rural geographical area and that this places additional demands on councillors. Furthermore, the Borough Council is aware - particularly from the submissions made by some other parishes - of additional risks that a reduction in seats can bring, for example: heavier workloads for councillors, which may deter people from serving on the council; and problems being referred on to the local authority or other bodies, rather than resolved at a local level. The Borough Council also recognises the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council services and councillor time. In any case, a reduction in seats delivers no cost savings. In the light of these factors, and the Parish Council's submission, the Borough Council recommends no change in the total number of seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.19b in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Tabley to Knutsford Town Council's new "Nether" ward, of the shaded area (the area of Tabley bounded by the M6 to the west, Tabley Hill Lane to the north and Northwich Road to the south) shown in Map 2.19b.
Parish Council name and style	Tabley Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Tabley (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	439
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	44
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Tabley – transfer to Knutsford"

2.103 Tatton

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Tatton
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Meeting
Current Parish name(s)	Tatton
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Nominations in 2019	N/A
Electorate (2018)	21
Electorate (2025 forecast)	Original forecast: 21 Revised forecast: 14 Note: Revised forecast takes account of the December 2021 Electoral Register data.

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
One individual representation from Tatton, which identified a close historical connection to Rostherne; this stated that Rostherne parish “was the old estate village to Tatton Park.” This submission requested that Tatton be merged with Rostherne. (There were no submissions from Rostherne at this stage.)

Draft Recommendations
Merge Tatton with Rostherne, to form a new parish, with five seats. This rationale for this is that Tatton has a very small electorate and is not viable as a separate entity; as noted in the sole pre-consultation submission, the two areas have links. Both parishes are in the same borough ward, so there would be no electoral risk that requires the provision of an additional polling station. The new parish would have an expected electorate below the legal minimum (150) for a new parish council. However, where the new parish has fewer than 150 electors but part or the whole of the parish is already served by a parish council, it is for the Borough Council to decide whether or not the new parish should continue to have a council. The Borough Council has expressed a view in its Terms of Reference that parish governance should extend where practicable to all the parishes in the Borough.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
No responses from the Parish Meeting or its residents, nor any from Rostherne residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
No response from Tatton Parish Meeting.

However, Rostherne Parish Council accepted the merger proposal and requested that the new parish be called "Rostherne" and have the style "Parish". It also requested that the new parish should have eight seats, rather than the five that the Draft Recommendations propose. It did not, though, add specific reasons for requesting this number of seats.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
The Draft Recommendations proposed that the Agden and Little Bollington Parish Meetings and Millington Parish Council should merge. The responses to this proposal have implications for the potential governance arrangements for Rostherne and Tatton.

Agden Parish Meeting supported the Draft Recommendations proposal; so did one Little Bollington resident (no other residents of the three affected areas made a submission).

Little Bollington Parish Meeting supported a merger with Agden, but noted that most of Millington's residents live on the opposite (south) side of the M56 and felt its Parish Meeting shared communal links and interests only with the small part of Millington that lies north of the motorway. Little Bollington Parish Meeting reported that residents in this northern part of Millington felt more connected to Little Bollington and some attended its communal events and its parish meetings. It therefore proposed that the merger exclude the part of Millington south of the M56.

Millington Parish Meeting's submission opposed the Draft Recommendations, feeling that it had a much more rural identity and consequently different needs to Agden and Little Bollington; it also considered that integration with Parish Meetings, with their different ways of working, could prove challenging. However, Millington felt it had much in common with Rostherne and Tatton and therefore proposed that it be included in their merger. The arguments put forward by Millington in support of this were: Rostherne and Millington are both very small parish councils, so neither would lose its individual voice to a much larger partner; the two parish council areas and Tatton are rural, farming communities, so have a shared identity; the impact of HS2 is a common challenge that a merged, larger parish council could respond to more effectively; Rostherne and Millington have a history of supporting each other on other issues, such as road (A556) and housing developments; the two councils share a clerk and use the same premises for their meetings; there are social links between the two councils; its proposed merger, in tandem with a merger of Agden and Little Bollington, would create two parish councils of very similar size (about 300 electors).

Millington Parish Council's submission also notes that it had approached Rostherne with its alternative proposal; Rostherne did not support the proposal at that time, but Millington had since written to Rostherne, setting out the rationale summarised above.

Millington Parish Council has suggested the name "Bucklow Parish Council" for a merger of Millington, Rostherne and Tatton.

Should its proposal not find favour, Millington's preference is to remain as an independent parish council.

Post-consultation assessment

Rostherne Parish Council supports the Draft Recommendations merger proposal and there were no responses from its residents, nor from Tatton Parish Meeting and its residents during the consultation stage. This merger was also one proposed by the sole pre-consultation response from Rostherne and Tatton. The Borough Council therefore considers that Rostherne and Tatton should become part of the same parish council.

However, whilst the original forecasts produced for Community Governance Review purposes anticipated a combined electorate for Rostherne and Tatton of 147 by 2025 (no change from 2018), the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put their total electorate at only 117 (Rostherne 103 and Tatton 14), with Rostherne's electorate having fallen from 126 (2018) to 103 (2021) and Tatton's from 21 (2018) to 14 (2021). In contrast, the number of electors in Millington (originally forecast to be 149 as of 2025) has unexpectedly increased significantly (from 151 in 2018 to 185 by 2021).

Millington Parish Council's submission makes a persuasive case for its own inclusion in the merger of Rostherne and Tatton - citing a number of common interests, shared resources and the advantage of strength in numbers - and the unexpected sharp declines in the electorates of Rostherne and Tatton also add weight to this case.

A further consideration is the identity of those Millington residents north of the M56 and Little Bollington Parish Meeting's submission persuasively argues that those residents - who attend its meetings and events - are more closely linked to Little Bollington. The Borough Council estimates that only around seven of Millington's properties lie north of the motorway; based on the average number of electors per property in the local borough ward of High Legh, this equates to an estimated 13 electors. If this part of Millington were to be included in a merger of Agden and Little Bollington, it would therefore leave the rest of Millington with 172 electors. As such, Millington could remain as an independent parish even with this transfer. However, Millington itself had only three nominations for its five seats in 2019, which raises questions about its own viability, despite the significant growth in its electorate since 2018.

Taking all these factors and the collective submission evidence into account, the Borough Council recommends that the small part of Millington north of the M56 be transferred to Little Bollington (to be included in a merger of that Parish Meeting and Agden) and that the rest of Millington be merged with Rostherne and Tatton.

The Borough Council considers that "Bucklow" (Millington's suggestion) would be an acceptable name for the new merged parish, but is conscious both of the request in Rostherne's submission for its existing name to be retained and of Millington's separate history. It therefore recommends the name "Millington & Rostherne" and the style "Parish" (as both Millington and Rostherne proposed this).

As for the number of seats for the new merged council, the original Community Governance forecasts suggest it would have 283 electors by 2025 (136 in the area of Millington south of the M56 plus 147 in Rostherne and Tatton). However, as noted, the December 2021 Electoral Register data show Millington's electorate has seen significant, unexpected growth, whilst the reverse is true for Rostherne and Tatton. Consequently, the 2021 Electoral Register numbers are now seen as a better guide, but imply a similar overall total of 289 electors (172 in the area of Millington south of the M56 plus 117 in Rostherne and Tatton).

For this number of electors, seven seats is in line with the Cheshire East average. However, the new merged parish would cover a relatively large and very rural area, placing additional demands on councillors. Furthermore, Rostherne received nominations for all of its eight seats in 2019, while Millington received three. Therefore the Borough Council recommends eight seats, as this would better reflect the likely workload, as well as enabling more continuity (less turnover of councillors) and there is a good prospect of getting nominations for all seats.

The Borough Council is also conscious that Millington is in a separate borough ward to Rostherne and Tatton and has a separate history. It therefore recommends that the new parish be divided into two wards: a "Millington" ward (covering the Millington parish area south of the M56) and a "Rostherne and Tatton" ward, covering the rest of the new parish. Based on their electorate shares as of 2021, five seats for Millington and three for Rostherne & Tatton would be a fair division. However, given Millington's wish for a broad political balance with Rostherne, plus Rostherne's somewhat greater success (based on 2019 data) in attracting nominations and the fact that Rostherne has eight of the affected areas' existing thirteen seats, a split of four seats each is more likely to provide continuity and political stability. Furthermore, the Rostherne & Tatton ward covers a much larger geographical area than Millington - and it would have to address the unique challenges and opportunities presented by Tatton Park. Therefore the Borough Council recommends four seats for each ward.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.22 in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Millington & Rostherne Parish Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Millington & Rostherne (new parish)
Warding arrangements (if any)	Two wards, with boundaries as shown in Map 2.22: [1] "Millington", consisting of the part of the current Millington Parish Council that lies south of the M56; [2] "Rostherne & Tatton", consisting of the current Rosthern Parish Council and the current Tatton Parish Meeting.
Seats	8 (Millington 4, Rostherne & Tatton 4)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	289 overall (Millington 172, Rostherne & Tatton 117). These figures are based on the revised forecast that takes account of the 2021 Electoral Register data.
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	36 overall (Millington 43, Rostherne & Tatton 29). These figures are based on the revised forecast that takes account of the 2021 Electoral Register data.
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Millington – transfer to Little Bollington" • "Millington & Rostherne – warding"

2.104 Twemlow

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Twemlow
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Twemlow
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	7
Electorate (2018)	182
Electorate (2025 forecast)	203

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
No change to governance. Boundary change not needed, given that there are no major housing developments or any known divisions of local communities between parishes. Merger not needed, given that electorate is well above 150. No change needed to seat numbers, as current total of seven - the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for any parish council - is in line with the average for a council of this size and nominations for the 2019 ordinary elections matched the number of seats.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
No consultation responses from the Parish Council or its residents, nor any consultation submissions from other parishes that commented on Twemlow. It is therefore assumed that the Parish Council and local residents are content with the proposal of no

change. It is noted that the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put the number of electors in Twelmlow at 178 - somewhat lower than the 2025 forecast (203), but on a par with the 2018 electorate (182) and still well above 150. Therefore the latest elector numbers do not cause concern over the parish's viability. In the light of all this evidence - and the reasons given under the Draft Recommendations - the Borough Council recommends no change to governance.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

OFFICIAL

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Twemlow Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Twemlow (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	203
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	29
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.105 Wardle

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Wardle
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Wardle
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	7
Nominations in 2019	7
Electorate (2018)	119
Electorate (2025 forecast)	162

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None from Wardle Parish Council or its residents at this stage.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Wardle with Alpraham and Calveley, as Wardle (and to a lesser extent) Calveley are relatively small parishes. All three are in the same borough ward and vote at the same location, so electoral arrangements would be more convenient than if Wardle or Calveley were merged with another neighbour.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
No submissions from Wardle residents. However, the Parish Council responded by email (see details below).

There were five submissions from Alpraham, all via the consultation survey. Four of these - including one from a parish councillor on the council's behalf - supported the Draft Recommendations. The fifth submission from Alpraham disagreed with Draft Recommendations, but cited the distance from Wardle as the reason for this view (no issue with Calveley was raised, though this person did question whether any governance change was needed at all).

There were four submissions from Calveley residents, all via the consultation survey and all of which disagreed with the Draft Recommendations. However, all four of the Calveley responses had some degree of enthusiasm for merging with a neighbour. Two of these supported a merger with Alpraham alone; one said include Alpraham but not Wardle; the other noted that the two parishes' villages were similar, geographically close and had similar demographic make-up, whereas Wardle was relatively distant and demographically different. This submission suggested that Wardle could be merged with Stoke & Hurleston instead. A third thought a merger with Alpraham would be good, under certain conditions (see Alpraham/ Calveley subsections of this Assessment Report for further details on this). The other Calveley submission favoured a merger with Wettenhall and objected to being involved in a merger with Wardle, on the grounds that (in this resident's view) the Wardle's industrial estate was disrupting traffic on Calveley roads and that Wardle Parish Council was relatively inactive and (unlike Calveley Parish Council) did not engage much with its residents.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Wardle Parish Council strongly objected to the merger, for reasons relating to both community identity and to effective and convenient local government. On the matter of community identity, it stated it has no current or past links with the parishes of Alpraham and Calveley; it also felt that Wardle has a separate identity, which it wishes to retain. As for viability, the Parish Council

points out that new housing development - on Wardle Avenue and on the former Jolly Tar pub site - has increased its population and electorate significantly since 2018. The submission also considered that the current number of seats allows effective communication with residents and saw no justification for changing this.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
The submissions from Wardle Parish Council and the residents of Calveley (and one Alpraham resident) indicate that Wardle lacks links to Alpraham and Calveley and has different interests and characteristics.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
No submissions indicate that viability is an issue for Wardle (or for Calveley/ Alpraham).

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
Two responses from Cholmondeston suggested that their parish could be merged with Wardle (or with Barbridge, which is part of the parish of Stoke), with agriculture and the canal/ canal communities being cited as common links between Wardle, Stoke and Cholmondeston.

Post-consultation assessment
Wardle Parish Council offers persuasive reasons for not being included in a merger with Alpraham and Calveley, citing a separate identity, lack of community links and the fact that recent housing development has boosted its number of electors and consequently its viability as an independent parish.

Furthermore, the four submissions received from Calveley all reject the Draft Recommendations, with three of these objecting to the inclusion of Wardle. These submissions cite additional reasons for this view: Wardle's different demographic make-up; its geographical distance from the villages of Alpraham and Calveley; Wardle Parish Council having a different (allegedly less engaged) approach to communication with residents; and its industrial estate meaning it has different (conflicting) interests to those of Calveley.

Whilst most of the five responses from Alpraham agree with the Draft Recommendations, the one that does object also cites Wardle's distance from Alpraham as the reason for disagreeing.

It should also be noted that the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data confirm that Wardle's electorate has (as the Parish Council's submission indicates) grown substantially since 2018: this latest Register shows 149 electors in the parish, up from 119 in 2018. Although 149 is one elector short of the legal minimum for a new parish council, Wardle is an existing parish council and therefore a merger is not legally required; besides, the Borough Council's forecast is that this total will increase to 162 by 2025. In addition, the Borough Council is not aware of any concerns from Wardle's own residents about the Parish Council's viability.

One Calveley resident suggests Wardle could be merged with Stoke & Hurleston and two responses from Cholmondeston suggest that their parish could be merged with Wardle, with agriculture and canal activity being cited as common links between Wardle, Stoke and Cholmondeston. However, the submission from Cholmondeston & Wettenhall Parish Council does not present any arguments for a merger with neighbours; Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council's submission supports the Draft Recommendations proposal that their Group's two parishes merge, but does not propose a wider merger to include other neighbours.

In the light of the level of opposition from the Parish Council and Calveley residents, together with the views of neighbouring parish councils and other factors summarised here, the Borough Council recommends that Wardle remain as an individual parish.

On the matter of seats, the current total of seven seats is in line with the average for a council of Wardle's size and is the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum.

Given this and the likely additional challenges presented by the parish's large industrial estate, together with the extra demands that the COVID pandemic places on council resources and councillor time, the Borough Council considers that seven seats is appropriate and therefore recommends no change to this or other governance arrangements.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Wardle Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Wardle (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	162
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	23
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.106 Warmingham

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Warmingham
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Warmingham
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	5
Nominations in 2019	5
Electorate (2018)	191
Electorate (2025 forecast)	209

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Increase seats from five to seven, as this is in line with average for a council with an electorate of this size and seven is the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) preferred minimum for a parish council.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Three submissions, all via the consultation survey. Two of these - one from the Parish Council, one from an individual resident - agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The other (from an individual resident) disagreed. However, only the Parish Council made specific comments (see below for further details).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
In addition to the Parish Council's consultation survey response (made by its chair), the clerk submitted an email, noting that the Parish Council had met and agreed to support the Draft Recommendations seating proposal. (The responses from the clerk and the chair, given that they simply express support for the Draft Recommendations, have been treated as a single submission.)

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment

The Draft Recommendations proposed increase in seats is supported by the Parish Council and by two of the three Warmingham submissions. The sole person to disagree with the Draft Recommendations did not offer reasons for their view. Furthermore, seven seats is the NALC preferred minimum and the ongoing COVID pandemic places additional pressure on parish council resources and councillor time, thereby strengthening the case for even small councils like Warmingham to have at least seven seats. In addition, nominations at the 2019 ordinary elections matched the number of seats, so there is no indication of a shortage of candidates - and an increase in seats means more opportunity to share the workload and hopefully further increase interest in serving on the council. It is also noted that the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put the number of electors in the parish at 190: that is, more or less the same total as in 2018 and therefore no indication that the parish has or will cease to be viable. In the light of this and the consultation submission evidence, the Borough Council recommends an increase to seven seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Warmingham Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Warmingham (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	7 (an increase from the current 5)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	209
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	30
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.107 Weston & Basford

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Weston & Basford
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Basford; Weston.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Weston Village; Weston Wychwood. (Weston is the only warded parish in the Group.)
Seats	11 (Basford 3, Weston Village 5, Weston Wychwood 3)
Nominations in 2019	11 (Basford 3, Weston Village 5, Weston Wychwood 3)
Electorate (2018)	1,869 (Basford 199, Weston Village 800, Weston Wychwood 870)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,778 (Basford 200, Weston Village 1,718, Weston Wychwood 860)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
[1] Development of new housing sites LPS 2 (Basford East, Crewe) and LPS 3 (Basford West, Crewe) that lie north of the A500 and that are a consequence of Crewe's expansion; LPS 2 lies partly within the parish of Weston and partly in the parish of Basford and LPS 3 is partly within Basford (the rest is in the parish of Shavington).

[2] Development of Local Plan Strategy site LPS 8 (South Cheshire Growth Village, South East Crewe), which lies partly within the parish of Weston and partly within the adjacent parish of Crewe Green. Only 26 housing completions are expected by 2025, but a further 350 are anticipated by 2030 and the site will provide for 650 homes eventually.

[3] The established Wychwood Park estate is currently split between Weston and the adjacent parish of Chorlton.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Two responses from individual Weston residents, one making proposals outside the Community Governance Review remit and the other questioning the Parish Council's effectiveness at representing local interests. One response from a parish councillor, noting the Wychwood ward's separate character to the rest of the parish (due to its recent housing developments) and the split of Wychwood Park between parish councils; this response made a suggestion to align the parish council boundary with the borough ward boundary.

The Parish Council's own submission proposed aligning its southern boundary with the A531 (moving Wychwood Park entirely into Chorlton), its western boundary with the railway, its northern boundary with Weston Road and the southeastern boundary with Engelsea Brook (moving the area east of the Brook into Barthomley).

Hough & Chorlton Parish Council's own pre-consultation response also proposed changing its boundary with Weston & Basford, so that the whole of Wychwood Park would be included in Chorlton.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer, from Basford to Crewe, of the area of that parish that is north of the A500 (the LPS 2/ LPS 3 development area of Basford).

[2] Transfer, from Weston to Crewe, of the area bounded by the railway line, the LPS 2 site eastern field boundary and the A500.

These areas of Weston and Basford contain major new housing developments that are a consequence of Crewe's expansion and the transfers would reflect that situation.

[3] Transfer, from Weston to Crewe Green, of the remaining part of Weston north of the A500, so that the South Cheshire Growth Village is brought within a single parish, rather than being split between Crewe Green and Weston.

[4] Transfer to Chorlton of the part of Weston parish's Wychwood ward that lies south of the A531, so that all of Wychwood Park is brought within a single parish (Chorlton).

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
12 responses received, one from the Parish Council (via email) and 11 (all in the form of survey responses) from Weston residents. (No submissions made by Basford residents.) Of the residents' responses, five disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and four agreed. However, of the five that disagreed, three acknowledged and supported the Parish Council's proposal (see details below) to accept the Draft Recommendations boundary changes, but subject to a merger of the redrawn Weston & Basford parish area with Crewe Green.

The three individuals who supported the merger offered persuasive reasons for doing so. Two of them cited financial benefits from greater efficiency. One raised concerns that the Draft Recommendations would weaken the Parish Council's voice by moving areas with large numbers of existing (or expected) homes into other parishes and felt that the merger would offset the effects of this. Another saw an opportunity for improved local planning and coordination, particularly on investment in public transport links to Crewe.

Of the two responses that disagreed with the Draft Recommendations but did not comment on the merger option, one felt current governance worked fine and the other made no comments at all.

Three responses received from Crewe Green: two from residents (via the consultation survey) and one (via email) from the Parish Council. One of the residents agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. The other disagreed, but made no comments on specific Draft Recommendations proposals, instead expressing opposition to a potential transfer of part (or perhaps all) of Crewe Green to Weston, stating that Crewe Green had stronger community links to Haslington and greater reliance on that village for local services.

The responses from Hough & Chorlton residents mostly disagreed with the Draft Recommendations. Eight of these responses offered a view specifically on the proposed transfer of the Weston part of Wychwood Park (five opposed it), but none gave reasons for their view on this issue.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Weston & Basford Parish Council's submission proposes that the Draft Recommendations changes to its boundaries with Crewe and Chorlton be implemented - and that the Draft Recommendations changes to Crewe Green's boundary with Crewe also be implemented - but subject to the remaining parts of Crewe Green and Weston & Basford being merged into a single, new parish council, comprising of a single parish.

The Parish Council further proposes that this new parish be split into four wards: Crewe Green (covering the existing Crewe Green parish); Wychwood (covering Wychwood Village); Weston (the residual parts of Weston and Basford); and a separate ward for the Growth Village when that is built.

Crewe Green Parish Council's own submission supports these proposals.

Key reasons given for the merger proposal (which were listed in Weston & Basford Parish Council's submission) were: the ability for the enlarged council to operate more efficiently, saving costs and providing a better service; the desire to coordinate Growth Village development effectively and pool expertise/ knowledge in managing that development; more equal representation (less disparate ratios of electors to seats).

Crewe Town Council, while agreeing with the Draft Recommendations, suggested three additional changes. One suggestion was to extend Crewe's southeastern boundary still further, to include the whole of the South Cheshire Growth Village. The Town Council felt that, as a major development close to Crewe, the new Growth Village would rely on Crewe for services and develop community ties to the town, rather than to the rural area of Crewe Green.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The MP for Crewe & Nantwich notes - referring specifically to Weston (and to Crewe Green) that it is unhelpful to have parish boundaries that cut through residential estates, so it is assumed that he is supportive of the proposed changes to the boundary with Chorlton and to any boundary changes that bring the South Cheshire Growth Village within a single parish (as both the Draft Recommendations and the Crewe Green/ Weston & Basford merger proposal would).

The South Cheshire branch of the Labour Party also supports the boundary change to bring all of Wychwood Park within Chorlton.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
As noted above, the Parish Council and most of the residents who responded were in support of the proposed changes to the boundary with Chorlton, which indicates that they accept Wychwood Park as being a single community that should be located within a single parish.

Crewe Green and Weston & Basford Parish Councils' proposal to merge with each other indicates links to and common interests between the two parishes - and the imminent development of the Growth Village (and a desire for that new community to fall entirely within a single parish) is cited in Weston & Basford Parish's submission as one key reason for the merger.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Crewe Green and Weston & Basford Parish provide a persuasive case for merging and their proposal dovetails with the wishes of Crewe Town Council and Hough & Chorlton Parish Council. This merger is also supported by those local residents who commented on it, who also make a persuasive case.

Both Weston & Basford and Hough & Chorlton Parish Councils support the proposal to bring the whole of Wychwood Park within Chorlton. Whilst a few of the responses from Hough & Chorlton residents explicitly opposed this change, these responses provided no reasons for their view and most Hough & Chorlton responses did not comment on this matter. Furthermore, no Weston & Basford residents commented on this specific change and most either supported the Draft Recommendations or their Parish Council’s merger proposal. Therefore, considering the weight of local opinion, the views of the affected parish councils and the advantages of placing the Wychwood Park community within a single parish, the Borough Council recommends that this boundary be changed, as per the Draft Recommendations.

The Draft Recommendations had proposed that the area of Shavington north of the A500 should be transferred to Crewe, along with the rest of the LPS 2 and LPS 3 site areas (covering the area of Basford north of the A500 and the part of the LPS 2 site that falls within Weston). However, the consultation evidence from Shavington Parish Council and its residents (covered under the Shavington subsection of this Assessment Report) demonstrates persuasively that residents in this part of Shavington identify strongly with Shavington and have few links to Crewe. Therefore (as the Shavington subsection of this Assessment Report notes), the Borough Council recommends that there be no transfer from Shavington to Crewe. Consequently, if the parts of LPS 2 and LP3 in Basford and Weston were still to transfer to Crewe, they would share only a narrow boundary with Crewe Town Council's South ward (which the Draft Recommendations had proposed they be transferred to). Furthermore, railway lines separate these areas from the adjacent parts of Crewe – which increases the likelihood that the LPS sites' prospective residents will develop a separate identity to (and perhaps have limited links to) Crewe. An alternative would be to transfer these parts of Basford and Weston to the Crewe Town Council's East ward, but that ward is already extremely large in terms of land area and elector numbers and again is separated from the adjacent LPS 2 and LPS 3 sites by railway lines. Therefore the Borough Council now recommends that the LPS 2 and LPS 3 parts of Basford and Weston do not transfer to Crewe.

Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal would involve the transfer to Shavington, of the part of the LPS 3 site area currently within Basford. The Borough Council understands the advantages of having such development sites entirely within a single parish. However, as Basford and Shavington are in different borough wards, a separate polling facility would be required for the transferred part of Basford. This part of the LPS 3 site (unlike the part already in Shavington) consists of employment premises, not residential properties; nor will there be future residential development in this part of the site. Therefore the Borough Council does not consider that the provision of separate polling facilities can be justified. Consequently, it does not recommend the transfer of this area to Shavington.

Only one submission - the one citing closer links to Haslington and proposing a merger with that parish - raises any relevant concerns about the Crewe Green/ Weston merger option. However, whilst the settlement of Crewe Green itself is geographically close to and can readily access Haslington's services, the parish as a whole covers a much wider area, much of it closer to and more connected to Weston. The development of the Growth Village will mean that the area's population becomes concentrated around the current Crewe Green/ Weston boundary, a location that is distant from and has no obvious links to Haslington.

The Borough Council is also conscious that (until the Growth Village development is well underway) Crewe Green parish in its current form has a rather small electorate (only 165 electors as of December 2021 - down from 182 in December 2018 - though with early Growth Village development expected to add another 49 by 2025) and received only four nominations for its eight seats

in 2019. This arguably raises questions about its viability, even though the residents' submissions did not mention this as a concern.

Hence, in the light of the submission evidence and the additional factors discussed above, the Borough Council recommends that the Crewe Green/ Weston merger proceed. It further recommends that the new council be called “Weston & Crewe Green”.

Both Crewe Green Parish Council and Crewe Town Council supported the Draft Recommendations proposed changes to the boundary between Crewe Green and Crewe, and no local residents objected. Given this, and the benefits of ending the division of the Stephenson Drive area (and the Aldi plot) between parishes, the Borough Council recommends these changes proceed (but further comments are made below about the recommended timing of this specific boundary change).

The Borough Council also recommends the new warding proposed by Crewe Green and Weston & Basford Parish Councils, but with the creation of the fourth (Growth Village) ward deferred until the next Community Governance Review, given the limited number of electors expected on the site by 2025. (Given the recommendation now that they do not transfer to Crewe, the parts of the LPS 2 and LPS 3 sites that lie within the current Weston & Basford area would become part of the new “Weston” ward.)

However, in the meantime, the Borough Council recommends that (except for the LPS 2 area) the part of Weston north of the A500 should become part of the new Crewe Green ward, so that the Growth Village, even during its early years, falls entirely within a single ward.

As noted in the Draft Recommendations, the boundary changes between Crewe and Crewe Green involve relatively small areas and few electors, but involves transfers between different borough wards. They would therefore require the provision of additional polling facilities until such time as the borough ward boundary is changed. In the Draft Recommendations, the Borough Council had therefore recommended that this change be deferred until the next borough ward review is due. It should also be noted that immediate implementation of the transfer of the Stephenson Drive area of Crewe Green here would mean the loss of a relatively large proportion of the recommended Crewe Green ward’s small electorate, which would impact on the ward’s viability and its ability to recruit councillors – until such time as the Growth Village has a significant amount of housing. Therefore the Borough Council still recommends that the boundary changes between Crewe and Crewe Green be deferred.

On the matter of seat numbers, the Borough Council recommends 13 seats for the new merged parish: this is around the average for a council of the expected size (2,747 electors by 2025), but also reflects the number of nominations received in 2019 (11 for

Weston & Basford and only four for Crewe Green), together with the fact that a large part of Weston's electorate would transfer to Chorlton.

Based on their electorate shares alone (using 2025 forecasts), a fair allocation would be seven seats for the new Weston ward, four for Wychwood and only one for Crewe Green. However, additional demands will be placed on the Crewe Green ward councillors, due to the area's rural nature and to the development and increasing electorate of the Growth Village.

The Borough Council forecasts that the Growth Village is expected to have only 26 homes by 2025; applying the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward of Haslington, that implies a total of 49 electors on the site by 2025. Adding these electors to the current (December 2021 Register) total electorate of 165 (as no other electorate growth is expected elsewhere in the parish during 2022-25), along with the effect of the recommended transfer from the current Weston parish (an extra 42 electors from the non-LPS area of Weston north of the A500) and the transfer to Crewe (a loss of 45 electors), that implies a total of 211 electors for Crewe Green by 2025.

However, a further 350 homes are expected in the Growth Village by 2030; applying the local (Haslington) borough ward average number of electors per property, that would mean a further 663 electors during 2026-30, increasing Crewe Green ward's electorate from 211 (2025) to 874 (2030). The latter figure would equate to around a third of the new parish's total electorate, entitling the ward to four of the 13 seats. Given that a further 300 homes are due to be completed on the site after 2030 and that the next Community Governance is likely to be well after 2030, the Borough Council recommends, in the meantime, three seats for Crewe Green. Based on their expected electorate shares as of 2025, a fair split of the other ten seats would be seven for Weston and three for Wychwood and this is what the Borough Council recommends.

The Borough Council recommends that the new council be styled "Community", as this was favoured by four of the six submissions from the affected parishes that proposed a specific style (a fifth suggested "Community" or "Neighbourhood") and was seen to reflect local people collaborating and the relative size of the new council. Some the responses felt, in contrast, that "Parish" was too ecclesiastical or implied a smaller population than the new council would have.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 1 of 2	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Maps 2.11 & 2.17a in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Weston to Hough & Chorlton Parish Council's new "Chorlton" ward, of the shaded area (the Wychwood Park part of the Weston Wychwood parish ward) shown in Map 2.17a. Merger of the remaining part of Weston & Basford Parish Council with Crewe Green Parish Council (with the recommended changes to that parish council's boundaries with Crewe, as set out in the Crewe Green subsection of this Assessment Report and Map 2.10 of the Maps Report, deferred until the next borough ward review). The merged council to consist of a single parish.
Parish Council name and style	Weston & Crewe Green Community Council (new council)
Parish name(s)	Weston & Crewe Green (new parish)

Final Recommendations: Overview – Page 2 of 2

Warding arrangements (if any)	Three wards, with boundaries as shown in Map 2.11: [1] "Crewe Green", consisting of the existing Crewe Green parish and the part of the existing Weston parish that lies north of the A500 but outside the Local Plan site LPS 2 (Basford East) area; [2] "Weston", consisting of the existing Basford parish, the part of the existing Weston Village parish ward that falls within the LPS 2 site and the part of the existing Weston Village parish ward that lies south of the A500; and [3] "Wychwood", consisting of the residual part of Weston Wychwood parish ward (the part not being transferred to Chorlton). When the next Community Governance Review is undertaken, consideration to be given to splitting the Crewe Green ward into two new wards (assuming a significant proportion of the Growth Village development has been completed by then), with one of these wards comprising the Growth Village and the other comprising the rest of the Crewe Green ward.
Seats	13 (Crewe Green 3, Weston 7, Wychwood 3)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	2,747 (Crewe Green 211, Weston 1,876, Wychwood 660)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	211 overall (Crewe Green 70, Weston 268, Wychwood 220)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Section 3 of this Assessment Report, particularly the following parts of subsection 3.4: • "Crewe Green – transfers to and from Crewe" • "Weston – transfer to Crewe" • "Weston & Crewe Green – warding"

2.108 Willaston

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Willaston
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Willaston
Current parish ward names (if warded)	North; Village
Seats	12 (North 2, Village 10)
Nominations in 2019	9 (North 2, Village 7)
Electorate (2018)	2,628 (North 701, Village 1,927)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	3,233 (North 1,101, Village 2,132)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Five submissions from individual residents, of whom three favoured no change to governance.

The Parish Council proposed realigning the boundary with Stapeley, so that it runs along Newcastle Road and brings the housing north of the A500 into Willaston; an individual resident proposed the same change.

The Parish Council also felt the boundary between Willaston North ward and Wistaston Parish was confusing and submitted a map proposing an alternative boundary line.

In addition, it felt that a better balance could be struck in its distribution of seats by decreasing the Village ward allocation to nine seats and increasing the North ward allocation to three seats, to better reflect their electorate shares and the new Moorfields housing development in the North ward.

Draft Recommendations
[1] No boundary changes. The Parish Council's suggested change to the boundary with Stapeley was considered, but not recommended. Such a change would affect around 20 properties that are currently in the parish of Stapeley and that would be transferred by this change to the Willaston's Village ward. However, Stapeley and Willaston are in different borough wards. Hence a change of boundary would require the provision of an additional polling station to mitigate the risk in the conduct of elections. As the number of electors concerned is so small, the Borough Council did not consider that it could support this proposal.

[2] Keep the total number of seats at 12, as this is in line with the average for a council of Willaston's size, but redistribute them so that the North ward has four seats and the Village ward eight, as this would most fairly reflect their respective shares (based on 2025 forecasts) of the parish's total electorate and would allow for the fact that most of the expected growth in the electorate over the 2018-25 period is in the parish's North ward.

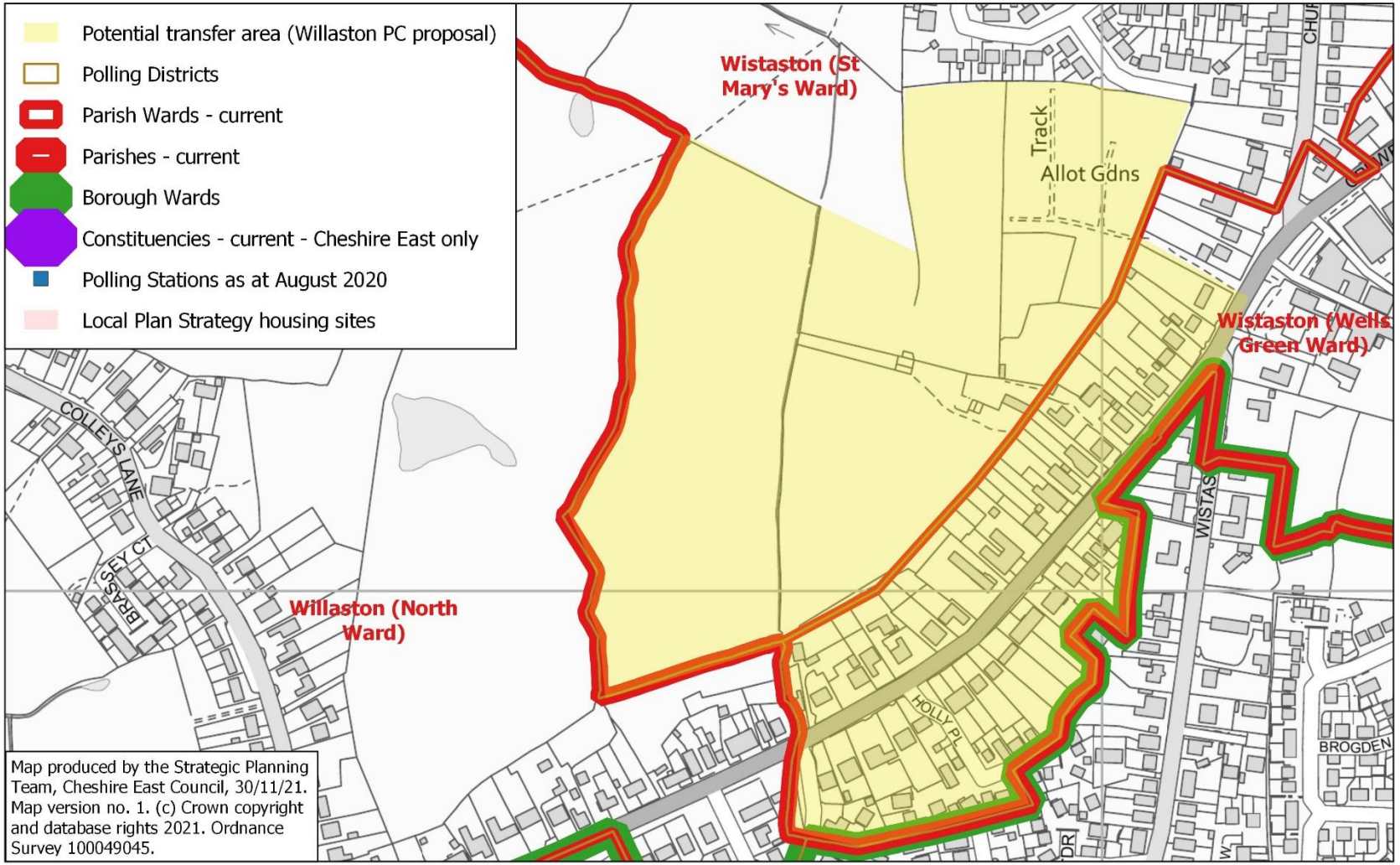
Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Three submissions received. Two of these (both from individual residents) were via the consultation survey; the third was the Parish Council's response (see further details below), which was sent both via the survey and (with the same comments) by email. Of the two residents, one agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations but made no specific comments. The other disagreed, arguing that areas as small as Willaston did not need a parish council and that they should be merged with a larger neighbour

(Nantwich was suggested), to reduce the administration costs and expenses involved in having more politicians and free up more funds for public services.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
The Parish Council neither agreed nor disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. It did not comment on the Draft Recommendations seating proposals, but repeated its pre-consultation request for a change to the boundary with Wistaston (which the Draft Recommendations report did not address) and again attached a map showing its preferred alternative boundary line. As shown in Map WIL1 below, this alternative line involves the transfer to Wistaston of part of Crewe Road, side roads to the south and fields and allotments to the north and would avoid having a boundary that cuts through side streets off the south side of Crewe Road (as the current line does).

Map WIL1: Willaston Parish Council proposed transfer from Wistaston to Willaston (area shaded in yellow below)



Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
Although there was no response on behalf of Wistaston Parish Council, one of its parish councillors responded to support the Draft Recommendations (which, unlike Willaston Parish Council's submission, do not propose any changes to the boundary between Willaston and Wistaston).

The Labour Party's South Cheshire branch made a different proposal to Willaston Parish Council's suggested Willaston/ Wistaston boundary, but one relating to the same part of the boundary.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
Although one resident felt that the parish council was too small and should be merged with a larger neighbour, to achieve efficiencies and free up more funds for public services, none of the neighbouring parishes (nor any other submissions on any parish) suggested a merger involving Willaston. Given this lack of support - and the fact that many submissions from councils at or below Willaston's size regard their parish as efficient and effective - the Borough Council is not persuaded by this merger proposal.

The Parish Council's resubmitted proposal to change the boundary with Wistaston would, as the Parish Council's accompanying map shows, improve on the current line in some respects, by not cutting through individual side streets. Both the area of Wistaston that would transfer to Willaston, and part of the adjacent area of the current Willaston parish are in the same borough ward, so separate polling facilities would not be required for the transferred area. This boundary change would move parts of Wistaston's St Mary's ward and parts of its Wells Green ward into Willaston. The area that would be transferred contains an estimated 65 properties; applying the forecasted average number of electors per property for the local (Wistaston) borough ward in 2025 (1.866), that means an estimated 121 electors would be affected.

However, the Parish Council's proposed line relies to a large extent on field and individual property boundary lines and a track running down to Crewe Road - and one section appears to cut through a field rather than following its boundary. The Borough Council therefore considers that, whilst the current boundary does lack clarity, the same is true of the Parish Council's alternative line. In addition, this alternative suggestion has been proposed only by Willaston Parish Council. A different boundary line in this area was proposed by the South Cheshire branch of the Labour Party, but this also relies on individual property boundaries and did not receive wider support.

In other words, there is no evidence available to indicate that the residents of the potentially affected area of Wistaston identify more with Willaston and wish to be transferred to that parish, or that they think such a change would make local government more efficient and effective. Therefore, while the Borough Council understands the logic behind the Parish Council's proposal and the similar one from South Cheshire Labour, it recommends that the boundary remains unchanged.

On the matter of seating, the Borough Council notes that the consultation stage submission did not raise any objections to the Draft Recommendations seating proposal, which in any case reflected the Parish Council's wish for a modest redistribution of seats from the Village ward to the North ward. Such a redistribution would also reflect the fact that the Village ward received only seven nominations in 2019. The Borough Council therefore recommends that its Draft Recommendations seating proposal should proceed, with the Village ward being reduced from 10 seats to eight and the North ward being increased from two to four.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Willaston Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Willaston (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (North; Village)
Seats	12 overall (no change) Allocation of seats between wards: North 4 (an increase from the current 2); Village 8 (a decrease from the current 10).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	3,233 (North 1,101, Village 2,132)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	269 overall (North 275, Village 267)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.109 Wilmslow

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Wilmslow
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Town Council
Current Parish name(s)	Wilmslow
Current parish ward names (if warded)	Dean Row; East; Lacey Green; West.
Seats	15 (Dean Row 4, East 4, Lacey Green 2, West 5)
Nominations in 2019	22 (Dean Row 5, East 4, Lacey Green 5, West 8)
Electorate (2018)	19,898 (Dean Row 5,485, East 3,242, Lacey Green 3,564, West 7,607)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	20,886 (Dean Row 5,774, East 3,532, Lacey Green 3,852, West 7,728)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
18 responses from Wilmslow at this stage, 17 from residents and one from a borough ward Member. 12 of the responses proposed changes, but some of these did not specify the type of change they had in mind, while some other proposals were outside the Community Governance Review remit. Of the other proposals for change, one (from a borough ward Member) suggested Chorley, given its small size, could be merged with Wilmslow; another felt the existing wards were too large and should be divided into single-seat wards, so that councillors' responsibilities were clearer; another favoured abolition of the Town Council. One resident who wanted no change was concerned specifically about the impact of a potential merger on service provision. Views about the Town Council (where given) were mixed: six residents commented that it lacked power or didn't listen to and engage with local people, but four felt it was effective.

Draft Recommendations
Wilmslow, Handforth and Chorley to be merged into a new council. The rationale for this was twofold. Firstly, Wilmslow and Handforth were considered to be a single community. Secondly, Chorley is relatively small and has a shortage of nominations, raising questions about its viability as an independent council.

Handforth (the existing Handforth Town Council area plus the Local Plan Strategy housing site LPS 34 recommended for transfer from Styal) would become a single ward on the new council, as its existing wards have much smaller numbers of electors than Wilmslow's wards and so seats cannot be evenly divided between the current Handforth wards.

The current Wilmslow Town Council West ward would be extended to include Chorley and the expanded ward called Wilmslow West & Chorley; both Wilmslow West and Chorley are in the same borough ward (Wilmslow West & Chorley), so there would be no electoral risk that requires the provision of additional polling facilities.

New council to have 20 seats. Proposed seating allocation: Handforth four seats (down from seven at present), Wilmslow Dean Row four seats (no change), Wilmslow East three (down one), Wilmslow Lacey Green three (up one), Wilmslow West & Chorley six (up one).

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary

198 responses from Wilmslow, all via the consultation survey. Of these, 175 (88 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; only 18 (9 per cent) agreed; the others were unsure or neither agreed nor disagreed.

The most common reasons for disagreeing related to local identity (103 mentions) and a view that current arrangements worked well (23).

More specific comments made by those opposing a merger were: councils (like other public bodies) can become inefficient and remote when they expand too much, with the combined area's size (in terms of electorate and distance from one end to the other) already very unwieldy and Handforth's Garden Village development adding to this; loss of councillors who live nearby and understand the local area; the three areas are socially and demographically very different and hence their populations have different interests and public service needs; Handforth and Wilmslow each having their own core services and amenities (e.g. libraries, medical centres) and hence a lack of need for residents to travel and develop links between the two town councils; the result of the 2011 referendum establishing Handforth as a separate council; the huge disparity in the merging parishes' sizes; and potentially more distant and less accessible town council offices.

Among the minority who supported the Draft Recommendations, key arguments were that the three areas have common interests and the merger would allow economies of scale/ cost savings.

11 of the submissions from Wilmslow made alternative proposals. Three of these favoured abolition of town/ parish councils in general. Three Wilmslow residents (and two from Handforth) suggested merging Chorley with Wilmslow (but leaving Handforth out). One proposed merging Handforth and Styal. One suggested merging Chorley with Wilmslow and also merging Handforth with Styal. (Two Handforth residents also proposed merging Wilmslow and Styal.) One suggested merging Handforth or Wilmslow with a smaller (unspecified) neighbour, but not with each other. One Wilmslow resident suggested merging Wilmslow and Handforth, but leaving out Chorley (two Chorley residents and one from Handforth also proposed this).

One submission on Wilmslow also felt that more use should be made of natural boundaries like roads and railway lines to demarcate parish boundaries, but this submission was similar in wording to several others on various towns, so these submissions may all be from the same person.

There were 75 responses from Chorley, all via the consultation survey. Of these, 74 (99 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and this included the Parish Council; the other responses resident did not answer the question about their overall view, but made a general comment stating their preference was to avoid a merger. In effect, therefore, there was unanimous opposition from Chorley. By far the most common reasons for disagreement were ones relating to local identity and interests (62 mentions), but a substantial number of people also indicated that the current arrangements worked well (18 mentions) or had concerns about paying a higher precept (10).

There were 1,128 responses from Handforth: 510 via the consultation survey, 617 via a Community Governance Review survey leaflet produced by Handforth Town Council and one by email. Of the 510 direct responses to the Borough Councils' consultation survey, 437 (86 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, as did 591 (96 per cent) of those who completed the Town Council's leaflet; the email also expressed disagreement. As with Chorley and Wilmslow, those who expressed disagreement via the Borough Council survey most commonly cited local identity as a reason for their view (291 mentions) or the fact that current arrangements worked well (76); a substantial number (38) also referred to recent or imminent growth in Handforth's housing and population as evidence of its vitality and separate needs.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

In its submission, Wilmslow Town Council opposed the merger, citing the result of the 2011 referendum on Wilmslow/ Handforth governance and separate identities of the three parishes, which it felt had become more entrenched since then. It noted that Chorley had no links to Wilmslow and had never been part of the same council.

The response from Handforth Town Council likewise opposed the merger, again referring to Handforth's distinct identity and its independence from Wilmslow following a 2009 local petition. This submission also presented a range of evidence to highlight Handforth Town Council's viability and effectiveness: statistics on major recent and forthcoming housing developments, which demonstrate both its population growth and the difference between its challenges and those of Wilmslow and Chorley; activities, service and achievements, ranging from the organisation of events like Christmas markets to CCTV provision to CPR training to part-funding various local community groups; and the parish's long-term track record in securing a high number of nominations at election times and getting casual vacancies filled without difficulty. In addition, it highlighted some other problems that a merger would present: a greatly increased workload for the (remaining) clerk; a more distant, less accessible parish council office for Handforth residents (if meetings moved to Wilmslow); a sharp reduction in representation (four seats instead of the current seven) and loss of influence over the use of income from the Community Infrastructure Levy (another achievement) on the Garden Village/ Handforth Dean developments.

Chorley Parish Council highlighted Chorley's rural character and the fact it consists to a large extent of Green Belt, in contrast to the mainly urban areas of Wilmslow and Handforth. It was concerned about the much-reduced level of representation under the merger proposal, with one seat per 1,354 electors for the enlarged Wilmslow West ward, as opposed to seven councillors currently serving its 400 or so electors. In addition, it noted the substantially higher precepts that Wilmslow and Handforth charge and took the view that Chorley residents' taxes would be subsidising activities in the rest of the merged council area. It also stated that 15 per cent of residents had submitted comments directly to the Parish Council, and that all of these opposed the merger. As for uncertainty over its ability to fill seats, the Parish Council was able to report greatly increased interest in serving on the Council, following Community Governance Review publicity and a wish to remain independent.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The local MP opposes the merger, arguing that the three parishes are viable and have separate identities, and citing the result of the 2011 referendum that resulted in Handforth and Wilmslow becoming separate councils; the MP's submission also notes that the proposal to merge Chorley is inconsistent with the treatment of similar small parishes, for which continued independence was proposed.

From borough ward Members making submissions on Wilmslow and Handforth, views on the merger proposal were more mixed. Two local borough ward Members supported it: one of them felt it was welcome and timely, but did not comment further. A former resident and borough ward Member took the view that the merger would strengthen the local area's voice and would result in more efficient use of public funds. However, there were three serving borough ward Members who opposed the merger: two stressed Handforth's distinct community identity and independence; the other (making a submission on Wilmslow) emphasised the separate identities of Wilmslow and Chorley - a view expressed by residents who had been in contact with this Member - and felt that Chorley's interests would be overridden by its larger neighbours.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Extensive evidence is provided by Wilmslow residents of their distinct identity and need for separate representation. Wilmslow Town Council itself cites this separate identity and the result of the 2011 referendum (supporting separate councils for Wilmslow and Handforth). The submissions from Wilmslow and Handforth Town Councils and a large majority of their residents demonstrate that they too feel they have a separate identity to Chorley (and to each other) and that Handforth, with its wide array of services, is not particularly reliant on Wilmslow.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
One Handforth resident suggested having equal numbers of seats for each of the three merging areas, to ensure Chorley and Handforth retained a significant voice; another person from Handforth felt its seat allocation should be greater than four, given the impact of the Garden Village development on its electorate.

Post-consultation assessment
The consultation submissions from Wilmslow Town Council and its residents are not only large in volume (198), but overwhelmingly oppose the Draft Recommendations proposal of a merger with Chorley and Handforth. Furthermore, the submissions from Wilmslow offer extensive and persuasive evidence of their parish's distinct identity, its viability, the effectiveness of current governance and the adverse impact on representation that the merger would bring.

A number of points are particularly notable, namely: the different social and demographic make-up of the three areas; the large and greatly expanded electorate and land area such a merged body would cover, making it potentially more remote and less responsive to local needs; and the fact that Wilmslow and Handforth are both well endowed with local amenities, which results in each being to a large degree independent of the other.

The submissions from Handforth Town Council and Chorley Parish Council also object to the merger, as do a large majority of the responses from their residents; again, the evidence submitted from these parishes is extensive and persuasive.

Therefore the Borough Council recommends that they remain as three separate councils.

As for Wilmslow's total number of seats, the current total of 15 is lower than the number of seats in some of Cheshire East's other medium-sized or large towns: Sandbach, for example, has fewer electors than Wilmslow but 20 seats at present and the Final Recommendations involve a slight increase to 21. However, Macclesfield Town Council, which has around twice as many electors as Wilmslow, feels its current total of 12 seats is suitable and an increase would in fact hamper its productivity. Furthermore, whilst some of the submissions at the pre-consultation or consultation stage felt that Wilmslow Town Council was not as effective or as engaged with residents as it should be, no submissions suggested that an increase in its seats was appropriate. Given all this, and the Borough Council's wish to avoid change for its own sake, it recommends that the total number of seats remain at 15.

However, the current allocation of seats between Wilmslow's wards is very unfair: based on the 2018 Electoral Register data, Lacey Green has 1,782 electors per seat, which is more than double the ratio for the East ward (811); the 2025 forecast figures indicate that this huge disparity would continue if the seating allocation remained as it is (with Lacey Green's ratio at 1,926 and the East at 883).

Based on electorate shares (2025 forecast figures) alone, the fairest allocation would be Dean Row four seats (no change), East two (down two), Lacey Green three (up one) and West six (up one). However, this would still mean a significant difference in ratios, ranging from 1,284 (Lacey Green) to 1,766 (East). It could also mean there is less political balance on the council, with one ward having six votes but another only two. In contrast, redistributing a single seat from the East ward to Lacey Green, so they have three seats each, would involve less change and would result in much less disparity in ratios, with the number of electors per seat then ranging from 1,177 (East) to 1,546 (West). Therefore the Borough Council recommends the latter allocation.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Wilmslow Town Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Wilmslow (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (Dean Row; East; Lacey Green; West)
Seats	15 overall (no change) Allocation of seats between wards: Dean Row 4 (no change); East 3 (a decrease from the current 4); Lacey Green 3 (an increase from the current 2); West 5 (no change).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	20,886 (Dean Row 5,774, East 3,532, Lacey Green 3,852, West 7,728)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	1,392 overall (Dean Row 1,444, East 1,177, Lacey Green 1,284, West 1,546)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.110 Wincle

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Wincle
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Meeting
Current Parish name(s)	Wincle
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Nominations in 2019	N/A
Electorate (2018)	151
Electorate (2025 forecast)	150

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting, Wincle Parish Meeting and the Sutton Rural ward of Sutton Parish Council into a single new parish council, with no warding and eight seats. The background to this recommendation was that Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle do not presently have parish council representation. At present the representative body of the two parishes is their meetings of their electors that by law are required to meet twice annually. However, the Borough Council was unsure if the meetings of electors are ever convened. With 161 and 151 electors as of 2018 and little change anticipated (160 and 150 electors respectively by 2025), the Borough Council considered that the two parishes might be merged with Sutton Parish Council's Rural ward, to form a new parish with 672 electors (2025 forecast). Sutton's Rural ward has very few nominations for its seats (only one for its three seats in the 2019 ordinary elections) and its viability as a separate parish ward is therefore questionable. The ward lies adjacent to both parishes of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough and Wincle. All three areas lie in the Sutton borough ward, and therefore there is no risk to the conduct of elections by having electors of the same parish voting in different borough ward elections.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were 50 responses from Wincle, of which one (opposing the merger) was a letter and the other 49 via the consultation survey. Of the 49 survey responses, 48 (98 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations; the other one stated agreement, but commented under a later question (on the preferred "style") that "Parish should stay as it is", which could perhaps indicate a wish for no change in governance, rather than just a wish to keep the style "Parish".

Feedback on the Draft Recommendations related most frequently to concerns about paying a higher precept (28 mentions), local identity and interests (26), a view that current governance works well (23) and planning policy matters (16). No alternative suggestions were made, other than the status quo.

A number of specific points were made. One was that the two parish meetings have a strong community spirit, reinforced by local community centres (Wincle's church and school) and events. It was felt that the proposed merger would weaken this local identity and put at risk the continuation of local events (such as fetes and fell runs), which generate income for other Parish Meeting activities - and some felt the future of Wincle's school and church - the community's focal points - would be placed at risk. In distinguishing the parish from Sutton, some drew attention to Wincle's rural character and attractiveness, with many tourists visiting.

Another was that, whilst the two parish meetings are completely rural, many Sutton Rural residents are in a location that is only semi-rural, with urban areas and their amenities nearby, meaning their needs and priorities are different.

Furthermore, it was felt that the needs of Sutton Rural, with its much larger electorate, would dominate the merged area's decision-making. Many submissions noted that the two parish meetings are in the Peak Park and subject to its planning regime, whereas Sutton is not - which would make planning and development in the merged area complicated to manage. In addition, residents noted that the two parish meetings receive relatively few public services (waste collection, sometimes street cleaning) and so would resent the imposition of higher taxes to cover the proposed new council's administration costs (e.g. councillor expenses) and to fund (and subsidise) services that only Sutton Rural got. One submission noted that a number of residents are on low incomes - partly due to local demography (age group) and occupation - and hence a tax rise would adversely affect them in particular.

Some cited the Wincle Parish Plan and its refection of the will of local residents for current governance arrangements to continue and the local school and church to remain as the area's key community centres.

Many of the responses voiced support for the direct influence that parish meeting status gives individual residents.

Also highlighted was the fact that the parish has reserve funds that have been used to pay for, for example, signage and defribrillators, so its zero precept was not an indication of zero activities or facilities; although the parish has a clerk, it was noted this person is an unpaid volunteer. In addition, it was noted that the costs of the Wincle website would be lost, as its maintenance costs are funded through the Parish Meeting and voluntary labour and the site's content is specific to Wincle.

There were 36 submissions from Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough, all via the consultation survey. 34 of these were from individuals; the Parish Meeting Chair and a local business also made a response. Of these, 33 (92 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations.

There were 380 responses from Sutton, of which eight were by letter or email (all opposing one or more of the Draft Recommendations proposals for Sutton) and 372 via the consultation survey. Of the 372 survey responses, 360 (97 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. Comments from those who disagreed were primarily about the proposals for Sutton Parish Council’s Lyme Green ward, but 42 of the Sutton submissions objected specifically to the proposed merger of Sutton Rural with Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)

The submission from Wincle Parish Meeting (made by its clerk) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and reported a unanimous vote, at a Parish Meeting EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting), against the merger proposal. The reasons for its opposition were: residents value the direct democratic say that parish meeting status offers and wish retain that; they have a distinct identity that would be lost; representation and influence would be limited, given that Sutton Rural would have a majority of the electorate (and hence probably of councillors as well); the extra complexity involved in managing an area with two separate planning regimes; higher costs and taxes arising from having to fund things like councillor expenses and accounting/ auditing fees; loss of the Wincle website, as the running costs of this are covered through the parish meeting and labour input is voluntary, with content specific to Wincle. As further evidence of a desire to maintain current arrangements, the Wincle clerk cited the results of a survey for the Wincle Parish Plan (to which 98 per cent of residents responded), requesting no changes to current services and amenities.

The submission from the Chair of the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and objected to the proposed merger, for a number of reasons. One was the fact that the Parish Meeting, unlike Sutton, is subject to the Peak Park planning regime. The Chair questioned whether parish councillors and the clerk would be able to manage two separate planning regimes. Another was the set of distinct challenges that the parish faces, such as its particularly dangerous trunk roads, its lack of mobile reception and broadband availability, the adverse impacts of tourism on this rural area and absence of public transport. The Chair felt it was unreasonable to expect Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough's residents to pay a higher precept, given the very limited public services and amenities they have; it was noted, for example, that the Parish Meeting has no village hall, play area or street lighting. The submission also drew attention to the parish's ancient history, distinct geography and its strong rural community spirit.

Sutton Parish Council also disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and opposed its proposals for Sutton Rural. The Parish Council highlighted Sutton's separate identity, with the semi-rural status of parts of Sutton Rural contrasting with the isolated character of the two parish meetings. It noted that Sutton Rural residents have close community links to the villages of Sutton, given that the primary school, shops, public transport, community centres and other amenities are within walking distance for many of them. By contrast, it drew attention to the physical and psychological barrier presented by the hills separating its parish from the two parish meetings (which rise to 1,600 feet). The Parish Council too was keen to emphasise the very active, viable status of the two parish meetings. Like the two parish meetings, it felt that having a council that spanned two separate planning regimes would introduce unnecessary complexity and noted that the merger would involve additional administration costs (such as a clerk) and

any warding would add further to these costs. It also raised concern that the merger of smaller parishes conflicted with the spirit and intent of Neighbourhood Plans in giving individual communities their own say over local decision-making.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The borough ward Member opposed the Draft Recommendations proposed merger. The submission highlighted the fact that the two parish meetings are isolated, rural communities. It was pointed out that the two parish meetings are on some of the highest ground in the Borough, meaning they face a different climate and hence different challenges - like getting milk tankers through to farms in the winter.

The Member emphasised that both parish meetings were very active and that the success of a recent campaign to keep Wincle's junior school open was a good example of a local interest that current governance arrangements would address, but which a merged, more remote council would not. It was noted that the frequency of actual parish meetings is a poor guide to actual activity levels, as the isolated nature of their dwellings means that contact by phone, email or social media is often more efficient. Representatives from both parish meetings are regularly in touch with the Member - and active on Facebook - about local issues such as road repairs, gritting and the adverse effects of tourism (COVID restrictions on indoor social activity having led to increased numbers of visitors).

The Member argued that the merger would result in higher taxes for the parish meetings, but much less effective representation for them, with Sutton being up to seven miles away from some parish meeting residents, and Wincle/ Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough members of the new council having relatively little incentive to travel a long way to discuss issues that were relevant only to Sutton. Also noted were the administration costs involved in the merger.

As with many of the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough submissions, the borough ward Member highlighted the fact that the proposed merger would create a council covering areas with two different planning regimes, resulting in confusion and potentially conflicting decisions.

A former councillor (making a "Sutton" submission) also objected to the proposed merger of Sutton Rural with the two neighbouring parish meetings. This submission noted that Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough are on high terrain and therefore face different challenges to Sutton Rural, which is partly on high ground, but also includes areas that are adjacent to Sutton village. This submission also referred to the problems involved in covering two different planning regimes, and added that the new council would incur the additional cost of a paid clerk. The former councillor also emphasised that the two parish meetings value their current form

of governance, which works well in such remote areas, that their terrain presents them with localised interests and issues (milk tanker access in winter was mentioned here too) and that the public service they receive is limited to waste collection and highways maintenance, so if the merger went ahead they would not benefit from (but would still subsidise) the additional services that Sutton Rural receives. This submission also noted that, while the two parish meetings face similar issues and are used to mutually supporting each other, they are each distinct communities.

In his submission, the MP for Macclesfield noted that he had spoken to the chairs of the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle Parish Meetings, Sutton parish councillors and residents of those three areas, and found strong opposition to the merger proposal. He argued that current governance arrangements work well for all three bodies, that residents of the two parish meetings value and wish to retain their ability to vote on all local decisions and that setting up a new council for the merged area would involve various costs (e.g. councillor expenses, training, accounting and external auditing) that the parish meetings had not incurred before and hence higher taxes. He also highlighted the different character of Sutton Rural, which has some semi-rural areas (Leek Old Road/ Parvey Lane), whereas the two parish meetings are totally rural. Like many other submissions, his drew attention to the different planning regimes of Sutton and the parish meetings. He also highlighted the Wincle Parish Plan questionnaire evidence that residents wished for no change to their existing services and amenities.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity

The submissions collectively indicate that Wincle has a very distinct identity to Sutton and very different interests and challenges, with its entirely rural community, limited public services, its local events and community spirit centred around its school and church, and its separate (Peak Park) planning regime. It is further noted that its high terrain and different climate account in part for some of its local challenges. The submissions highlight that Sutton, in contrast, is semi-rural in places and is relatively distant (up to seven miles away). They also highlight the physical and psychological barrier presented by the hills separating Sutton from the two parish meetings, and the fact that Sutton Rural residents have close community links to the villages of Sutton parish, given that the primary school, shops, public transport, community centres and other amenities are within walking distance for many of them.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues

The submission evidence indicates that Wincle Parish Meeting is active in raising awareness of and addressing issues such as road conditions, gritting and problems with influxes of tourists - and that residents value the direct form of democracy that parish meeting status offers. No concerns are raised about the viability and effectiveness of the Parish Meeting; instead, the submissions question (and doubt) the effectiveness of the larger council area that the Draft Recommendations proposals would create. The

submissions also point out that Wincle Parish Meeting has reserve funds to cover the cost of some local facilities, that local events such as fell runs generate income to support community activities and that the existing clerk is an unpaid volunteer.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere

Two Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough residents suggested that their parish meeting could be merged with Wincle only (but both appeared to prefer no merger at all). One of these listed a number of shared characteristics: farming communities, with some tourism; no village shops or street lights; and both parishes being almost entirely in the Peak Park and subject to its separate planning regime. Both of the people who made this suggestion highlighted the two parishes' totally rural character. A third Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough resident appeared to have this same option in mind, stating that any merger should involve purely rural grouping and considering Sutton to have too urban and sizeable a population to enable Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough's interests to be represented.

One response from Sutton suggested Wincle could be merged with Sutton or Gawsworth.

Post-consultation assessment

The overwhelming majority of those Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough and Wincle residents who responded to the consultation disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, as did the Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough Parish Meeting chair. An EGM of the Wincle Parish Meeting recorded a unanimous vote against the Draft Recommendations. Sutton Parish Council also opposes the proposal to merge its Sutton Rural ward with the two parish meetings and the overwhelming majority of Sutton residents who responded to the consultation disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations proposals for their Lyme Green and Sutton Rural wards, with over 40 specifically opposing the proposals for Sutton Rural. The merger proposal is also opposed by the local MP and Borough Ward Member.

The submissions argue persuasively that Wincle has a very distinct identity to Sutton and very different interests and challenges, with its completely rural characters, limited public services and amenities, local events, its own focal points (its church and school) for community activities and its separate (Peak Park) planning regime; it is apparent that its high terrain and different climate account in part for some of its local challenges and priorities (e.g. road conditions and access), as does the attraction of the area to visitors.

The submissions highlight the fact that Sutton, in contrast, is semi-rural in places and is relatively distant (up to seven miles away), meaning a merger would result in more distant, less accessible governance and much less awareness of (or incentive to address) Wincle's (or Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough's) specific needs.

In contrast, it is apparent from the submissions that residents value the direct democracy that parish meeting status brings, and that the parish meetings are very active in lobbying for - and ensuring action is taken on - for example, road repairs and the adverse impacts of tourism.

Also apparent is a significant level of opposition to the higher taxes - but lack of accompanying improvement in service provision - that a merged council would be expected to levy.

Whilst two Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough residents suggest the option of a merger that involves the two parish meetings but not Sutton, the suggestion appears to be a reluctant one and the idea received no wider support. In addition, some submissions, including some from past and present elected representatives, indicate that while the two parish meetings have a history of mutual support and understanding, they are distinct communities.

In the light of this collective evidence, the Borough Council recommends that Sutton Rural remain part of Sutton parish and that there be no change in governance for either Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough or Wincle.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview

Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	
Parish Council name and style	Wincle Parish Meeting (no change)
Parish name(s)	Wincle (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	N/A
Electorate (2025 forecast)	150
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	N/A
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.111 Wistaston

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Wistaston
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with warding
Current Parish name(s)	Wistaston
Current parish ward names (if warded)	St Mary's; Wells Green; Wistaston Green.
Seats	15 (St Mary's 7, Wells Green 3, Wistaston Green 5)
Nominations in 2019	11 (St Mary's 5, Wells Green 3, Wistaston Green 3)
Electorate (2018)	6,655 (St Mary's 2,508, Wells Green 1,722, Wistaston Green 2,425)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	7,337 (St Mary's 2,959, Wells Green 1,716, Wistaston Green 2,662)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Two responses from individual Wistaston residents. One raised a concern about the Parish Council's conduct of its business and favoured change, but did not specify what change. The other response requested no change, but added no comments.

There was also a submission - not attributed to any one parish, as it commented on several - which proposed that Wistaston parish's Wistaston Green parish ward, Woolstanwood parish and Leighton parish's Urban ward should be merged with Crewe.

Draft Recommendations
Reduce seats from 15 to 12, as this is in line with the average for a council of this size and also reflects the relative shortage of nominations in 2019.

A change to seat numbers also presents an opportunity to reduce the disparity in the wards' ratios of electors per seat, which (as of 2018) ranged from 358 (St Mary's) to 574 (Wells Green). New allocation of seats to each ward to be St Mary's five seats, Wells Green three, Wistaston Green four. This division better reflects their respective electorate shares and means much less disparity in their ratios.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Eight responses (all via the consultation survey), of which two agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations (including one from a Wistaston parish councillor - see summary below) and five disagreed. The other person - who neither agreed nor disagreed - stated that the Parish Council had difficulty filling seats and that the councillors came from a narrow range of backgrounds and did not represent the interests of the wider community well. This submission suggested that the parish could be merged with Willaston, Shavington, Rope and perhaps also Wybunbury, arguing that the residents of these parishes used the same services and had community links; the respondent felt such a merger would result in greater purchasing power and a stronger local voice.

Of those who disagreed, four made comments. Two of these people simply requested no change, but did not add further explanation. Another referred to two ongoing housing developments where a total of 700 homes were expected and questioned whether the proposed reduction in seats took account of that. (The Borough Council's Draft Recommendations and the electorate forecasts on which they are based do take account of two major developments in this area. One of these is on land off Church Lane, where 259 properties are due built during 2018-25 and a further 41 thereafter. The other is on land to the north of Wistaston Green Road, where 143 new properties are due for completion during 2018-25. Although the numbers do not match up with those quoted by the Wistaston resident, it may be that the resident has one or both of these sites in mind.) The other person who

disagreed lived on the western edge of Wistaston and felt this area was overlooked by the Parish Council; their submission suggested a transfer of this area to Willaston (though a more detailed definition of location and extent of this area was not provided).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
There was no submission from the Parish Council itself, but one of its councillors did respond (see summary below).

Crewe Town Council, while agreeing with the Draft Recommendations, suggested there could also be a transfer to Crewe of the parts of Wistaston that lie north of Wistaston Green Road and Wistaston Brook - the purpose being to provide a natural boundary and ensure the adjacent (Wistaston) part of the Crewe conurbation is served by a single council.

Willaston Parish Council repeated its pre-consultation request for a change to the boundary with Wistaston (which the Draft Recommendations report did not address) and again attached a map showing its preferred alternative boundary line. This alternative line (as shown in Map WIL1 in the Willaston section of this Assessment Report) involves the transfer to Wistaston of part of Crewe Road, side roads to the south and fields and allotments to the north and would avoid having a boundary that cuts through side streets off the south side of Crewe Road (as the current line does).

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
A Wistaston parish councillor supported the Draft Recommendations proposal to reduce the seats total to 12 and felt it could be decreased further, to 10. This councillor also felt no other changes were needed and the Council was effective; the councillor also requested that Wistaston Green remain part of the parish.

The Labour Party's South Cheshire branch made a different proposal to Willaston Parish Council's suggested Willaston/ Wistaston boundary, but one relating to the same part of the boundary.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere

None.

Post-consultation assessment

The reasoning behind Crewe Town Council's (and one Crewe resident's) suggestion - a transfer to Crewe of the parts of Wistaston that lie north of Wistaston Green Road and Wistaston Brook - is clear: to provide a natural boundary and ensure the adjacent (Wistaston) part of the Crewe conurbation is served by a single council. However, such a change would transfer virtually the whole of Wistaston parish's Wistaston Green ward to Crewe, leaving that ward with only a handful of scattered dwellings. The pre-consultation and consultation stage submissions offer no evidence on the identity of the residents in this area - which is not surprising, given that the Draft Recommendations did not consider a change to this boundary. It is therefore quite possible that these residents identify as being from Wistaston, or that they have some other identity that is not "Crewe". The consultation evidence also demonstrates that the residents of many of the parishes surrounding Crewe - such as Woolstanwood, to Wistaston's immediate north - have a strong separate identity and oppose a transfer to Crewe. Hence the Town Council's proposal may not reflect local community identity - and in any case, there is no evidence to suggest it has significant local support. Therefore the Borough Council is not persuaded by this proposal.

Willaston Parish Council's resubmitted proposal to change the boundary with Wistaston would, as Map WIL1 shows, improve on the current line in some respects, by not cutting through individual side streets. Both the area of Wistaston that would transfer to Willaston, and part of the adjacent area of the current Willaston parish are in the same borough ward, so separate polling facilities would not be required for the transferred area. This boundary change would move parts of Wistaston's St Mary's ward and parts of its Wells Green ward into Willaston. The area that would be transferred contains an estimated 65 properties; applying the forecasted average number of electors per property for the local (Wistaston) borough ward in 2025 (1.866), that means an estimated 121 electors would be affected.

However, the Parish Council's proposed line relies to a large extent on field and individual property boundary lines and a track running down to Crewe Road - and one section appears to cut through a field rather than following its boundary. The Borough Council therefore considers that, whilst the current boundary does lack clarity, the same is true of the Parish Council's alternative line. In addition, this alternative suggestion has been proposed only by Willaston Parish Council. The South Cheshire branch of the Labour Party propose an alternative adjustment again to this part of the boundary line, but its suggestion again relies on individual property boundaries and did not receive wider support.

In other words, there is no evidence available to indicate that the residents of the potentially affected area of Wistaston identify more with Willaston and wish to be transferred to that parish, or that they think such a change would make local government more efficient and effective. Therefore, while the Borough Council understands the logic behind the Parish Council's proposal, it recommends that the boundary remains unchanged.

As for the submissions from Wistaston itself, most disagree overall with the Draft Recommendations, but only one of these offers a specific reason for reconsidering the proposed reduction in seats. This is the submission that raises the reasonable question of whether the Draft Recommendations take account of major new housing developments. The Borough Council can confirm that the electorate forecasts produced for the Community Governance do factor in all the new development (up to 2025) that was expected at the time those forecasts were produced (2019) - including the Church Lane and Wistaston Green Road sites referred to above. The Borough Council is not aware of any additional new developments that are now expected within Wistaston. Therefore it is not persuaded there is a need to further adjust its recommendations in response to that particular submission.

In addition, the Borough Council notes the support of a Wistaston parish councillor for a reduction to 12 seats (as per the Draft Recommendations) or even 10 - and the observation of one resident that seats are proving hard to fill. However, the Borough Council is anxious not to disrupt the Parish Council's services or stretch its resources unduly; it is particularly conscious of the wide area that Wistaston covers - with an extensive rural hinterland as well as urban areas adjacent to Crewe - and of the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on council resources and councillor time. It therefore feels that 10 seats could present an unnecessary risk; 12 is, in any case, more in line with the average for a council of this size. The Borough Council therefore recommends a reduction to 12 seats. As per the Draft Recommendations, it recommends five seats for St Mary's ward, three for Wells Green and four for Wistaston Green, as this best reflects each ward's electorate share and sharply reduces the current disparity in their ratios of electors per seat.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Wistaston Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Wistaston (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	No changes to existing ward boundaries or to ward names (St Mary's; Wells Green; Wistaston Green)
Seats	12 overall (a decrease from the current 15) Allocation of seats between wards: St Mary's 5 (a decrease from the current 7); Wells Green 3 (no change); Wistaston Green 4 (a decrease from the current 5).
Electorate (2025 forecast)	7,337 (St Mary's 2,959, Wells Green 1,716, Wistaston Green 2,662)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	611 overall (St Mary's 592, Wells Green 572, Wistaston Green 666)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.112 Worleston & District

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Worleston & District
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Parish Group
Current Parish name(s)	Aston Juxta Mondrum; Poole; Worleston.
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	12 (Aston Juxta Mondrum 3, Poole 2, Worleston 7)
Nominations in 2019	10 (Aston Juxta Mondrum 3, Poole 1, Worleston 6)
Electorate (2018)	474 (Aston Juxta Mondrum 155, Poole 115, Worleston 204)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	496 (Aston Juxta Mondrum 162, Poole 118, Worleston 216)

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy site LPS 46 (Kingsley Fields, Nantwich), which covers parts of Henhull and Worleston (though mainly within Henhull), is adjacent to Nantwich and is a consequence of that town's expansion. Construction of this site is well underway and it is estimated that there will be up to 1,100 homes on LPS 46 eventually (after 2030). The part of the development site that falls within Worleston consists of land intended for employment purposes, but is adjacent to the new housing and is on the opposite side of the A51 to the rest of Worleston parish.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
None.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer to Nantwich of the part of Worleston that lies south of the A51/ Barony Road (an area that largely consists of site LPS 46 land), in order to bring the new development's housing and employment premises within Nantwich, as it is a consequence of that town's expansion and will be reliant on it for services and amenities.

[2] Merger of the Worleston & District parishes into a single parish, with eight seats. The proposed merger and reduction in seats is based on the three parishes' relatively small size (and hence questions about their viability). The proposed reduction in seats would bring the parish into line with the average number for a parish of its size and also reflects the shortage of nominations for the 2019 ordinary elections.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
One response from a Worleston resident, who disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations, but made no comments on the proposals, other to suggest a non-serious name for the new merged parish that implied some general dissatisfaction with public services.

12 responses from Nantwich and the number of these that agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations (six) exceeded the number who disagreed.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Nantwich Town Council supported the Draft Recommendations; its response did not mention Worleston specifically, but Worleston comprises only a small proportion of the Kingsley Fields site.

Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council also agreed with the transfer to Nantwich of Kingsley Fields.

Worleston & District Parish Council did not make a submission.

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Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The MP for Crewe & Nantwich is sympathetic towards the proposed transfer to Nantwich of the Kingsbourne Estate (Kingsley Fields) development, but referred to the site generally, rather than to Worleston specifically.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The proposed transfer to Nantwich of the Kingsley Fields development is supported by Nantwich Town Council and by Acton, Edleston & Henhull Parish Council, in which the vast majority of the site currently lies. One Worleston resident disagreed with the Draft Recommendations, but it is unclear whether this disagreement related to the proposed boundary change, the proposed merger of the Worleston & District parishes, or both these things; nor are the reasons for the disagreement clear – and Worleston & District Parish Council itself did not respond to the consultation.

Therefore it is not possible to accurately gauge the views of Worleston & District and its residents about the boundary change.

Nevertheless, in light of the general support for the boundary change seen in the other consultation submissions, the Borough Council recommends that this change should proceed.

The Borough Council still considers that the Worleston & District parishes are relatively small and is unsure whether separate representation for each is necessary; it is also conscious that the current allocation of seats unduly favours the parish of Worleston (with a ratio of 29 electors per seat, based on 2025 forecasts and taking account of the recommended boundary change), at the expense of Aston Juxta Mondrum (ratio of 54) and Poole (59). However, the Borough Council has emphasised that it does not wish to implement change purely for change's sake and, given the absence of support for its merger and seating proposals during the

consultation, it is now recommended that Worleston & District remain as a Parish Group, with no merger and no change in the total number of seats or their allocation between parishes.

In making this decision, the Borough Council has also considered the additional demands that the ongoing COVID pandemic places on parish councils and the consequent risk of reducing seats, particularly where the risks of doing so are clear or (as in this case) unknown due to the limited local evidence from the consultation.

In deciding on no change to the seat allocations for each parish, the Borough Council is also mindful of the fact Poole (which has two seats now, but would have three seats, if allocations were based on electorate shares) received only one nomination in 2019, raising questions about its ability to fill a higher seats quota.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

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Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	Map 2.1b in the Final Recommendations Maps Report
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	Transfer, from the parish of Worleston to Nantwich Town Council's new "West" ward, of the shaded area (the area of Worleston south of the A51/ Barony Road) shown in Map 2.1b.
Parish Council name and style	Worleston & District Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Aston Juxta Mondrum; Poole; Worleston (no changes)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	12 (Aston Juxta Mondrum 3, Poole 2, Worleston 7). No changes to any of these seat numbers.
Electorate (2025 forecast)	482 (Aston Juxta Mondrum 162, Poole 118, Worleston 202)
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	40 overall (Aston Juxta Mondrum 54, Poole 59, Worleston 29)
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.113 Wrenbury cum Frith

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Wrenbury cum Frith
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Wrenbury cum Frith
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	9
Nominations in 2019	8
Electorate (2018)	975
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,087

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
None.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
The Parish Council responded to the pre-consultation survey, but made no specific comments. No responses at that stage from Wrenbury residents.

Draft Recommendations
Merge Baddiley (a parish within the Sound & District Parish Group) with the parish of Wrenbury, given that they are in the same borough ward (Wrenbury) and vote at the same location, whereas the other five Sound & District parishes vote in a different location and are in a different borough ward (Audlem). The purpose of this proposal is to simplify electoral arrangements. The new merged parish to have 10 seats. The Draft Recommendations report also sought views on whether there should be separate warding (with two seats) for Baddiley.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
Two responses from Wrenbury residents, both via the consultation survey. Both disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and stated their opposition to the proposed merger on the grounds that the two parishes (Baddiley and Wrenbury) were not closely linked.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from the affected parish council(s)
Wrenbury Parish Council opposed the Draft Recommendations, saying that it had no links to Baddiley and that the two parishes had little in common, Wrenbury being a village of significant size with a number of local services, whilst Baddiley was entirely rural.

Wrenbury Parish Council also took issue with the Draft Recommendations' failure to address the division of Ravensmoor (a settlement currently split between Baddiley and the parish of Burland).

Sound & District Parish Council's submission opposes the Draft Recommendations, on the grounds that the current governance arrangements work well and that each of its parishes require separate representation. It wished to see no change to existing governance, except for a change to bring Ravensmoor within a single council - which it proposed should be Burland (a point on which Burland Parish Council also agreed). It is also clear from Sound & District's comments that it does not support the Baddiley/ Wrenbury merger proposal, even though it did not refer to this part of the proposal explicitly.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
None.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Although only three submissions were received from Wrenbury, they were unanimous in their view that Wrenbury had few links or shared issues with Baddiley and the two should not be merged.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The Parish Council and the two local residents who submitted responses unanimously oppose the Draft Recommendations proposals. The Parish Council's own submission convincingly sets out why a merger of its parish with Baddiley would not be practical. It also sees the division of Ravensmoor between Baddiley and Burland as barrier to community cohesion and a problem that the Draft Recommendations proposals would perpetuate rather than solve; the submissions from Sound & District Parish Council, its residents (and Burland Parish Council) take the same view and make this point convincingly.

In the light of this consultation evidence, the Borough Council recommends that Wrenbury remains as an individual parish council; it also recommends (as set out in more detail in the Assessment Report subsections on Burland and Sound & District) that the Ravensmoor part of Baddiley is transferred to the recommended new Burland & Acton parish council, but that the rest of Baddiley remains within Sound & District.

The Borough Council also recommends that Wrenbury's total number of seats should remain at nine, as this is line with the average with its size.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Wrenbury cum Frith Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Wrenbury cum Frith (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	9 (no change)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,087
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	121
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

2.114 Wybunbury

Current Governance: Overview	
Current Parish Council/ Parish Meeting name	Wybunbury
Type of Parish Council/ Parish Meeting	Individual parish, with no warding
Current Parish name(s)	Wybunbury
Current parish ward names (if warded)	N/A
Seats	9
Nominations in 2019	9
Electorate (2018)	1,258
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,629

Details of any boundary issues to consider (e.g. major housing development) in this area
Local Plan Strategy site LPS 9 (The Shavington/ Wybunbury Triangle), which is currently split between the parishes of Shavington and Wybunbury. This site, which contains the Shavington Park estate, is adjacent to established dwellings on Dig Lane and Stock Lane.

Feedback from pre-consultation survey
Five submissions from Wybunbury, of which four (including one from the Parish Council) requested that the parish's northern boundary be aligned with Newcastle Road. The submissions proposing this change noted that the current boundary is confusing and places some people in a different parish to their neighbours.

Five submissions from Shavington residents; none proposed any specific governance changes.

Draft Recommendations
[1] Transfer to Wybunbury of the part of Shavington that lies south of Newcastle Road. This would mean that the Wybunbury-Shavington boundary line follows Newcastle Road itself, all the way from where Newcastle Road meets the Willaston parish boundary in the west to where it meets the Hough parish boundary in the east. The rationale for this change is to bring the entire LPS 9 site and all other properties on the south side of Newcastle Road into Wybunbury: the Borough Council's understanding was that (despite the new development's name of Shavington Park) local residents identified with Wybunbury. The proposed new boundary would also be clear, unlike the current line.

[2] Increase total number of seats from nine to 10, as this is more in line with the average for a council of Wybunbury's size.

Feedback from consultation stage – petitions
None.

Feedback from consultation stage – summary
There were 82 responses from Wybunbury. 15 of these were via a survey form on an information leaflet that the Parish Council had produced and delivered to residents. The leaflet asked two separate questions: firstly, whether people agreed with the Draft Recommendations proposal to align the boundary with Newcastle Road; and secondly, whether they agreed with the proposal to increase the seats total to 10. 13 agreed with the boundary change and the other two disagreed. 12 of the leaflet responses agreed with the seats proposal, two disagreed and the other one was unsure. 11 of the 15 leaflet responses agreed with both proposals. Almost all of the comments included on the leaflets related to people identifying with Wybunbury, or seeing Newcastle Road as a clear boundary. One of those opposed to an increase in seats explained their view, feeling that a larger group of councillors could mean decision-making is less efficient and maybe incur more expense.

Of the other 67 submissions from Wybunbury, 65 (all via the consultation survey) were from individual residents. The other two responses were from the Parish Council, which submitted evidence both via the consultation survey and by email (though for statistical purposes the Borough Council has counted this as a single submission) and from the borough ward Member, who responded by email; both these submissions are summarised below.

Of the 65 individual responses via the survey, 51 (78 per cent) agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and 14 (22 per cent) disagreed. Of the survey responses from individual residents, 13 included open comments supporting the proposed boundary change; reasons given for favouring this change related to people in that area having a Wybunbury identity, relying on Wybunbury rather than Shavington for local facilities, and the benefit of having a clearer boundary. One of those who made comments in support of the boundary change also specifically endorsed the proposed increase to 10 seats (the only survey response from any individual resident to make any comments on seat numbers). Two submissions referred to (and opposed) Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal involving a transfer from Wybunbury to Shavington (summarised separately below); two submissions, whilst stating agreement with the Draft Recommendations, cited community ties to Wybunbury and wished to remain there, which might be an indirect reference to the counterproposal.

Of the 14 individuals who stated that they disagreed overall, a number made open comments, but there was no prevailing theme: two felt the boundary should stay unchanged, with one of these arguing that the use of the middle of Newcastle Road would (still) divide neighbours; another indicated that changes were unnecessary, but did not refer to a specific proposal; however, two others expressed opposition to being transferred from Wybunbury to Shavington, so it appears their "disagree" response may be based on a misconception that the Draft Recommendations proposed a transfer in this direction. Other comments from people who disagreed were on matters outside the Community Governance Review remit.

There were 907 submissions from Shavington, all via the consultation survey. Of these, 817 (90 per cent) disagreed overall with the Draft Recommendations and only 64 (8 per cent) agreed; of the remaining 26, 15 neither agreed nor disagreed, two were unsure and nine did not answer that question. The reasons given for disagreeing related most commonly to local identity and interests (393 mentions).

Most of the Shavington residents' from (or otherwise about) residents of 'Triangle' area stated that those residents identified as being part of Shavington, engaged in community activities there, sent their children to school there and used Shavington facilities (such as its pubs and health centre); it was noted that the village's facilities are accessible to Triangle residents on foot, whereas Wybunbury's are not. Some submissions noted that there were no footpaths linking Shavington Park to nearby residential areas of

Wybunbury and no street lights, making community cohesion difficult and discouraging communal events in the area; it was also noted that Shavington's polling facilities are accessible on foot from Shavington Park, but Wybunbury's are not.

Of the five Shavington respondents who identified themselves as 'Triangle' residents, three felt the area belonged in Shavington, but the other two favoured use of Newcastle Road as the boundary.

As for alternative suggestions for the Shavington-Wybunbury boundary, 125 Shavington submissions endorsed the Shavington Parish Council counterproposal (summarised below) without suggesting any further modifications (this figure includes the submission from Shavington Parish Council itself); a further four supported the counterproposals' plans for the boundary with Wybunbury, but proposed modifications to its plans for other parts of the Shavington boundary. (However, a few submissions explicitly opposed this counterproposal, with some concern that Shavington has few amenities and cannot service an enlarged area - and an observation that the counterproposal does not offer justification for the proposed extension of its boundaries.) The only other alternative offered by Shavington residents that relates to Wybunbury was one submission which proposed merging Basford, Shavington, Weston and Wybunbury.

Feedback from consultation stage - submission from the affected parish council(s)
In its survey submission, Wybunbury Parish Council agreed overall with the Draft Recommendations. In the detailed response attached to its email, it noted that it had delivered an information leaflet on the Community Governance Review proposals to all its households, and to those in the area of Shavington - the areas south of Newcastle Road - that would transfer to Wybunbury under the Draft Recommendations.

The Parish Council supported both the proposed boundary change and the provision of an extra seat.

On the boundary issue, it noted the Newcastle Road had been the parish boundary in the past, and that the current boundary, which is based on field hedges and a culvert, had become increasingly inappropriate following the Local Plan provision for housing development in an area (what is now site LPS 9) that spans both sides of the boundary. The Parish Council further noted that the completed first phase of development, which involves 200 homes, is split between Shavington and Wybunbury; the second phase (then underway) involves 160 homes on land that is entirely within the current Wybunbury boundary; and a smaller-scale, third phase of development is expected. It argued that the persistence of the current boundary will limit community cohesion between the residents of Shavington Park, Dig Lane and Stock Lane, dividing them between the two parishes as it does. The Parish Council highlighted the fact that the creation of clearly-defined communities is consistent with the Borough Council's SADPD (Site

Allocations and Development Policies Document) planning policies and the original planning application. In addition, it referred to the Wybunbury Combined Parishes Neighbourhood Plan - 'made' in February 2020 - and specifically to the responses from residents during the Plan's consultation stage, many of which sought to obtain a clearer boundary between Wybunbury and Shavington. Furthermore, it highlighted the historic and cultural importance of Dig Lane, Stock Lane and Clannor Heath to Wybunbury and referred to properties on the south side of Newcastle Road having historically been part of Wybunbury.

On the issues of seats, the Parish Council felt that an extra seat would help it to recruit councillors from the new development and the transferred part of Shavington; it further noted that two of its existing councillors are Dig Lane residents.

Shavington Parish Council submitted a counterproposal, which involved various changes to Shavington's boundary, including the boundary with Wybunbury. It had also produced a booklet (published online here) setting out its counterproposal and the supporting evidence, including maps of its proposed boundary changes. A number of Shavington residents who endorsed the counterproposal included this booklet in their submission.

Map SHA1, which was produced by the Borough Council and which can be found in the Shavington subsection of this Assessment Report, provides an overview of all the boundary changes that the counterproposal envisages.

The counterproposal's Shavington-Wybunbury boundary runs (from east to west) along the middle of Stock Lane, along the middle of Dig Lane until that street intersects with a stream (the Cheer Brook), then follows the stream westwards until it reaches Haymoor Green Road, then runs up Haymoor Green Road until it reaches Newcastle Road. As such, the counterproposal involves the transfer to Shavington not just of the Wybunbury part of the Shavington Park estate, but also of parts of Dig Lane and Stock Lane, as well as some of the fields that lie behind the established properties on the south side of Newcastle Road. The counterproposal would move residents on the west side of Stock Lane to Shavington, but not those on the east side. (The Borough Council assumes the counterproposal is based on the premise that those on the east side of Stock Lane would become part of Hough, as the counterproposal would leave them cut off from the rest of Wybunbury. However, this is not certain.) The counterproposal would also move residents on the east side of Dig Lane to Shavington, along with those who live on the west side but north of the intersecting stream; residents who live on the west side of Dig Lane but south of the stream would, however, remain in Wybunbury.

The counterproposal booklet reports on a survey the Parish Council had undertaken of residents in the area south of Newcastle Road and other locations that would be affected by the Draft Recommendations, to obtain their views on their local identity. It

surveyed 45 per cent of the households south of Newcastle Road and found that 76 per cent identified themselves as being part of Shavington, 17 per cent identified as being part of Wybunbury and the other 7 per cent were undecided.

Feedback from consultation stage - submissions from elected councillors, Borough Ward Members and local bodies
The borough ward Member for Wybunbury endorsed Wybunbury Parish Council's consultation submission and wished it to be regarded as her own response.

The borough ward Member also submitted a rebuttal of the Shavington Parish Council counterproposal. The rebuttal objected to the counterproposal for a number of reasons. It noted in particular that the 'Triangle' residential area comprising Dig Lane, Stock Lane and the Shavington Park development already lies mostly within Wybunbury. Furthermore, only four Dig Lane properties and six Stock Lane properties are currently in Shavington, but the counterproposal would move the whole east side of Dig Lane and whole west side of Stock Lane and would therefore leave residents on the opposite sides of these roads segregated from their neighbours. The counterproposal would also (relying only on field boundaries) extend Shavington's boundary east of Stock Lane, to take in part of Hough parish. In addition, it would use the Cheer Brook ditch/ culvert as a new boundary to the west of Dig Lane and as far west as Haymoor Green Road, taking in properties currently in Wybunbury parish. The borough ward Member objected to all these changes, highlighting in particular the adverse impact that the division of Dig Lane and Stock Lane would have on community cohesion. The Member argued that the counterproposal would undermine the Wybunbury Combined Parishes Neighbourhood Plan and would fail to respect the local identities of Dig Lane and Stock Lane residents, as expressed in responses to the Plan's consultation stage, as well as failing to reflect the community and historic links of the transferred areas to Wybunbury. Furthermore, the Member highlighted the fact that the Wybunbury residents who would be affected by the counterproposal had not had an opportunity to offer their views on Shavington Parish Council's proposals - and was also concerned that the counterproposal would result in the loss of a quarter of Wybunbury's housing stock.

In his submission, the MP for Crewe & Nantwich understood both the motivation of Shavington Parish Council and the historic and community links that the Triangle area has to Wybunbury, but emphasised that the collective wishes of local residents and their local identities should be respected. He also expressed concern that Shavington's counterproposal would, by removing 25 per cent of Wybunbury's housing stock, increase the imbalance in the sizes of the two councils and considered this to be at odds with the objectives of the Community Governance Review.

Feedback from consultation stage on local community identity
Mixed evidence on the identity of residents in the Triangle area, with submissions from Shavington generally indicating that residents of this area identify with Shavington and rely on it for services, whereas the submissions from Wybunbury generally indicate links to and identification with Wybunbury.

Feedback from consultation stage on viability issues
None.

Feedback from consultation stage - alternative suggestions not covered elsewhere
None.

Post-consultation assessment
The submissions from Wybunbury and Shavington parish councils and their residents provide very contrasting indications as to where the boundary between the two parishes should be drawn. Both parish councils favour a change to the current boundary, which cuts through a new development and as such is confusing and fails to reflect distinct community identity. There are few objections to the argument that Newcastle Road would provide a clear boundary - but what also matters is the identity of residents south of this road.

On this point, the evidence is mixed. The vast majority of survey submissions and leaflet returns from Wybunbury - many of them from residents of the Triangle area that the current boundary bisects - support the use of Newcastle Road as the parish boundary and say the people in that area identify with Wybunbury. Wybunbury Parish Council itself takes the same view and offers persuasive evidence of the historic and community ties of this area to Wybunbury. On the other hand, the majority of responses from Shavington oppose the Draft Recommendations; most of those that comment on the Wybunbury boundary feel that the whole Triangle area should lie within Shavington. They also make some persuasive points: evidence is provided that many of the residents in this area identify with Shavington, rely on it for their children's schooling and other amenities and services, and it is noted that these are within easy walking distance, whereas services in Wybunbury village are not. Furthermore, Shavington Parish Council's own survey of residents south of Newcastle Road found that 76 per cent identified with Shavington (though interpretation of this result requires caution, as the views of those survey respondents living in the established properties on Dig Lane and Stock Lane may well have differed from those living in the new housing development). Also notable is the volume of support for placing the Shavington Park development - and much of the adjacent area south of Newcastle Road - within Shavington parish. Well over

100 Shavington submissions support Shavington Parish Council's counterproposal for the new development and most of Dig Lane and Stock Lane to be transferred to Shavington, as well as some of the fields to the west of Dig Lane.

Nevertheless, despite its widespread support, the Borough Council considers that this element of the counterproposal has some disadvantages. Firstly, although the Parish Council presents the results of its survey of local residents (which does not distinguish the wishes of Dig Lane/ Stock Lane residents from those on the new estate), it does not provide additional evidence or arguments for the proposed boundary changes (other than citing the benefits of using clear natural boundaries like railway lines or roads). For example, no rationale is provided for the transfer to Shavington of the fields bounded by the Cheer Brook, Haymoor Green Road, Newcastle Road and Dig Lane; it is presumed the main reason is to make use of the stream as a natural boundary. Nor is justification given for extending Shavington slightly east of Stock Lane, into part of Hough. More crucially, there is no justification offered for having a boundary line that would place residents on the east side of Stock Lane in a different parish to their immediate neighbours on all sides, and doing likewise to those living in the southwest part of Dig Lane. Those on the east side of Dig Lane would in fact no longer adjoin the rest of Wybunbury parish and so - unless they were transferred to Hough, which has no adjacent residential areas - the counterproposal would mean the bisection of Wybunbury parish. These are concerns that the local borough ward Member raises, and the local MP is among those who have concerns about the political imbalance that could result from a much enlarged Shavington. Some residents also question whether Shavington is able to serve an enlarged area effectively.

The Borough Council therefore considers that the counterproposal's Shavington/ Wybunbury boundary would risk damaging community cohesion and upsetting the balance of influence that parish councils in this area have. It also considers that modifications of the counterproposal boundary line are not viable either. In particular, a transfer to Shavington of Shavington Park alone would leave Stock Lane as a long narrow segment of Wybunbury parish and limit its residents' ability to engage in their parish's communal activities. As for a transfer of the whole Triangle to Shavington, the Borough Council considers that this would adversely affect community cohesion, given the historic ties of Dig Lane/ Stock Lane to Wybunbury and the volume of evidence from Wybunbury submissions that many people in this area identify with Wybunbury.

In summary, there is no obviously clear boundary other than Newcastle Road - and yet there is a large body of consultation evidence from the Shavington submissions that this boundary line would fail to reflect the community identities and ties of many local residents. Despite the number and quality of submissions from Wybunbury supporting a Newcastle Road boundary, the Borough Council therefore concludes, with considerable regret, that any change to the existing boundary risks doing more harm than good to community identity. It therefore recommends no change to this boundary.

On the matter of seats, 10 seats is in line with the average for a council of Wybunbury's expected size (1,629 electors by 2025, based on the existing boundary) and the proposed increase to 10 has the support of the Parish Council, the borough ward Member and all those residents who expressed an opinion on the matter. The Borough Council therefore recommends 10 seats.

For all the reasons given above, it is considered that the recommendations will ensure that:

A. the proposed community governance arrangements reflect the identities and interests of the community; and

B. the proposed community governance arrangements are effective and convenient.

Final Recommendations: Overview	
Reference numbers for maps showing any recommended boundary changes or new council/ parish ward boundaries	N/A
Major changes (mergers, external boundary changes), if any	N/A
Parish Council name and style	Wybunbury Parish Council (no change)
Parish name(s)	Wybunbury (no change)
Warding arrangements (if any)	N/A
Seats	10 (an increase from the current 9)
Electorate (2025 forecast)	1,629
Ratio of electors per seat (2025 forecast)	163
Source for further information on the calculation of the 2025 forecasts	Subsections 3.1 & 3.2 of this Assessment Report

Section 3: Calculation of electorate forecasts for parishes, transfer areas and new wards

3.1 Overview

The Community Governance Review (CGR) electorate forecasts technical report of 2019[11] (available here) explains how the 2018-25 electorate forecasts were produced for parishes, borough wards, parish wards and polling districts.

During 2020-22, as part of the review of potential boundary changes, additional forecasts were produced to estimate the number of electors who would be affected (relocated from one parish to another) if these boundary alterations were to be made. These forecasts were in some cases refined as, during that period, new evidence became available to suggest the original forecast was no longer appropriate.

For simplicity, the rest of Section 3 commonly refers to the areas of land that are recommended for transfer to another parish as "transfer areas". The exact boundaries of these areas are shown by the maps in the accompanying Final Recommendations Maps Report.

The transfer area forecasts rely on the same data sources and the methodological approach as the original (2019) forecasting work. In most cases, the forecasts for these expansion areas were calculated by:

- using Office for National Statistics (ONS) data on housing stocks as at 2010[12], map data (the Ordnance Survey data available via the Council's geographic mapping system, plus Google Maps data) and the Cheshire East Strategic Planning Team's housing database records (for 2010 onwards), to estimate the number of residential properties in the transfer area as of 2018 and adding on the number of expected new homes up to 2025;

[11] Community Governance Review electorate forecasts technical report, Cheshire East Council, August 2019.
[12] Dwelling Stock by Council Tax Band, 2010, Neighbourhood Statistics, ONS. (As noted in the Community Governance Review 2019 electorate forecasts technical report, this ONS data set is no longer available in the public domain.)

- converting the transfer area's 2025 housing stock into electors. This was generally done by assuming (in the absence of further information) that the affected area's percentage share of the parish's electorate was the same as its percentage share of the parish's homes.[13] So, for example, if an expansion area is expected to contain 10 per cent of the local parish's homes by 2025, it is assumed that it also contains 10 per cent of the parish's electors. This approach assumes, in effect, that the average number of electors per property is the same inside the transfer area as it is outside it.

For a few parishes, however, there is insufficient information on the total housing stock and so a different approach is followed.

In some cases, as set out below, reference was also made to the latest available (December 2021) Electoral Register data, as for some parishes the latest Register data indicated that the original forecast was no longer appropriate and that an updated forecast was required.

This section also sets out how, where new ward boundaries are being recommended, estimates were made of the expected number of electors in each new ward. However, where new wards simply follow existing electoral boundaries (for example, where two existing parishes will become parish wards), the electorate forecasts are simply taken from the electorate forecasts technical report of 2019 and hence no further calculations are involved.[14]

The rest of this section sets out:

- some limitations and other caveats which apply to the forecasts (subsection 3.2):
- an explanation of the terminology used (subsection 3.3);
- details (in subsection 3.4) of how the forecasts for each transfer area and each new ward were calculated;
- details (in subsection 3.5) of how elector numbers were forecast for Lower Peover Parish Council, as one of its two parishes (Nether Peover) falls within Cheshire West & Chester and was not therefore covered in the electorate forecasts technical report of 2019.

[13] In some cases, where the available data is sufficiently disaggregated to make this feasible (e.g. for Alsager's expansion into Haslington), the transfer area's forecast electorate is derived by taking its share of the local parish ward's homes and assuming its share of the parish ward's electors is the same.
[14] This applies to the new warding for the new Alpraham & Calveley Community Council, Doddington & District Parish Council and Marbury & District Parish Council, as the new ward boundaries for these councils are the same as existing parish boundaries.

3.2 Forecast limitations and other caveats

There are a number of caveats that need to be issued about the electorate forecasts presented in this Report.

Firstly, although the electorate forecasts reported for whole parishes and their constituent parish wards are generally taken from the Community Governance Review forecasts that the Borough Council produced in 2019, there has been an update of the forecasts in those cases where the scale, timing or location of major new developments has changed so much that it has a significant bearing on governance recommendations, or where other evidence (such as the latest Electoral Register data) suggested the original forecast may no longer be a reliable guide for informing such recommendations. One such example is Knutsford Town Council and the parish of Tabley, where there have been changed expectations (since 2019) about the timing of a new housing development that straddles the Knutsford-Tabley boundary. Other such cases of updated forecasts are clearly identified in this section of the Report.

Secondly, as noted in the 2019 Community Governance Review electorate forecasts technical report, the forecasts generally assign all the homes on each development site to whichever administrative area that site's easting and northing are in, even though some sites cover parts of two or more parishes. Hence the forecasts tend to be less precise in cases where housing developments cut across parish boundaries.

Thirdly, whilst the Borough Council has detailed data on homes built from 2010 onwards, statistics on the housing stock as at 2010 (which are necessary for estimating the current and future housing stock) are available only for Output Areas (OAs).[15] In many cases, OAs cover whole parishes, or even multiple parishes – and sometimes OA boundaries do not align with those of parishes or other tiers of electoral geography. This means that, for example, it is particularly difficult to estimate elector numbers for urban areas that include a significant number of older homes but which do not align with OA boundaries. In such instances, judgments about the number of existing residential properties have been based on other evidence, mainly Ordnance Survey data that is on the Council's GIS (geographical mapping) systems, and aerial or street-view analysis using Google Maps.

Finally, it should be emphasised that, except where specified otherwise, the estimates set out below (and in the 2019 Community Governance Review electorate forecasts technical report) were based on the data and intelligence available at the time that they were produced.

[15] OAs are small areas created by ONS for statistical purposes and are intended to be of similar size (in terms of population). There were originally 1,215 OAs in Cheshire East and ONS' 2010 dwelling stock statistics are broken into these 1,215 areas.

3.3 Terminology

This section uses the terms “homes”, “houses”, “housing”, “properties” or “residential properties” to mean all residential accommodation, whether these are dwellings in which (usually) only a single household lives, or communal establishments such as care homes.

References to the numbers of homes being built are net figures: that is, new homes (e.g. completions or conversions) net of losses (e.g. demolitions).

Throughout this section (for consistency with the original Community Governance electorate forecasting work in 2019), references to homes built during “2010-18” means between 1st April 2010 and 1st December 2018 inclusive and references to those due to be built during “2018-25” means between 2nd December 2018 and 31st December 2025 inclusive.

3.4: Further details of the calculations of the impact of each boundary change

This subsection contains full details of the data and calculations involved in producing electorate forecasts for each recommended change that involves new boundary lines for parishes or parish wards.

In those cases where an electors-per-property ratio is used to convert the numbers of properties into numbers of electors, the ratio for the local borough ward is used. This approach is consistent with that followed for the 2019 Community Governance electorate forecasts produced for parishes and other administrative areas.

In this subsection:

- Calculations relating to parish boundary changes (recommended transfers between parishes) are listed under the parish they currently lie within, with each of these parishes being covered in alphabetical order. However, cases where the potential transfer between parishes involves no transfer of electors and no expected future housing development (by 2025)[16] are not discussed here, given that their transfer would not have any impact on electors.

- Cases involving new ward boundaries are listed in alphabetical order of the recommended new council's name.

Baddiley – transfer to Burland & Acton

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer, to the recommended new Burland & Acton Parish Council's Ravensmoor & Edleston parish ward, of the part of Ravensmoor that currently lies in the parish of Baddiley (one of the parishes that make up Sound & District Parish Council). This transfer area is shown in Map 2.8 of the Maps Report.

The Borough Council estimates that 35 properties that would transfer from Baddiley as a result of this boundary change around Ravensmoor. (It estimates there are 35 properties currently and no additional housing is expected by the end of 2025.) Appying the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward of Wrenbury (forecast to be 1.818 by 2025) to this figure, it is estimated that 64 electors would be affected by the transfer.

[16] Adlington and Mobberley.

The Borough Council forecast that the area currently covered by Sound & District Parish Council would have 886 electors by 2025, with the parish of Baddiley accounting for 219 of these electors. Hence, under the Final Recommendations, Sound & District would be left with 822 electors (886 minus 64) and Baddiley would have 155 (219 minus 64).

Bollington – warding

The Final Recommendations involve a transfer of part of the current Bollington Central ward to the Bollington West ward, as shown in Map 2.6 of the Maps Report. As noted in Section 2 of this Assessment Report, Bollington Town Council's consultation stage submission puts the number of electors who would transfer at 260. The Borough Council's analysis and Final Recommendations is based on this figure. The Borough Council forecast that, if the current ward boundaries were left unchanged, the number of electors in each ward would be as follows: Central 2,536, East 1,922, West 1,933 (a total of 6,391 for the Town Council as a whole). Hence, under the Final Recommendations, the forecasts are Central 2,276 (2,536 – 260), East 1,922, West 2,193 (1,933 + 260).

Burland & Acton - warding

The Final Recommendations involve the creation of a new "Burland & Acton" Parish Council. The recommendation is that the new parish be divided into three wards, covering the following areas (as shown in Map 2.1c of the Maps Report):

- An "Acton & Henhull" ward, consisting of Acton and the residual part of Henhull. As noted in the part of subsection 3.4 covering the recommended transfer from Henhull to Nantwich, it is estimated that the residual part of Henhull would have 38 electors (as of 2025). With Acton forecast to have 277 electors by 2025, that means an estimated total of 315 electors (277 + 38) for this new ward.

- A "Ravensmoor & Edleston" ward, consisting of the part of Burland south of Dig Lane, the area (western Ravensmoor) being transferred from the parish of Baddiley, and the residual part of Edleston. As noted in the part of subsection 3.4 covering the recommended transfer from Edleston to Nantwich, it is estimated that the residual part of Edleston would have 36 electors (as of 2025). The Borough Council estimates that (as of January 2022) the part of the current Burland parish south of Dig Lane has 92 residential properties, with no additional housing development expected in this area up to the end of 2025. Applying the average number of electors per property in the local borough ward of Wrenbury (forecast to be 1.818 by 2025), that implies an estimated 167 electors (92 x 1.818) south of Dig Lane as of 2025. As noted in the part of subsection 3.4 covering the recommended transfer from Baddiley to this new council (and to this particular new ward), it is estimated the transferred part of Baddiley would

have 64 electors (2025 forecast). Therefore it is estimated that the Ravensmoor & Edleston ward would have a total of 267 electors (36 + 167 + 64).

- A "Burland" ward covering the part of the current Burland parish (including Burland village) north of Dig Lane. Given that the Borough Council forecast is 501 electors within the whole of the current Burland Parish Council area by 2025 and that it estimates that 167 of these electors live south of Dig Lane, that implies an estimated 334 electors (501 – 167) in the new Burland ward.

Church Lawton – transfer to Alsager

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer of the Twyford estate (Local Plan Strategy Site LPS 21, Twyfords and Cardway, Alsager) from Church Lawton to Alsager Town Council's East Ward. This recommended transfer is shown in Map 2.5a of the Maps Report.

The original Community Governance forecasts predicted that Church Lawton would have 1,872 electors by 2025. However, these forecasts included all the estate's electors within Alsager, as the site's easting and northing – and most of the site's land - fall within the existing Town Council boundary.

From Ordnance Survey data, it was estimated the area proposed for transfer at the Draft Recommendations stage would have 25 properties by 2025 (24 within the estate itself, plus the old Station House). Assuming the average number of electors per property matches the average for the local borough ward of Odd Rode (forecast at 1.794 for 2025), it was further estimated that this part of the estate, together with the old Station House, would contain around 45 electors (25 x 1.794): two in the old Station House and 43 on the estate.

Hence a more precise estimate is that the current Church Lawton Parish Council area would have 1,915 electors (1,872 + 43) by 2025 if its boundary remained unchanged, but would lose 45 of these if the Draft Recommendations transfer were to proceed.

However, as set out in Section 2 of this Report, the Final Recommendations involve a modification, under which the old Station House (and the Church Lawton Barrows) would remain in Church Lawton, with the area now recommended for transfer being that shown in Map 2.5a of the Maps Report. Assuming, as noted above, that the old Station House has two electors, the Final

Recommendations boundary change would transfer only an estimated 43 electors to Alsager, leaving Church Lawton with 1,872 electors.

The area currently covered by Alsager Town Council's East ward is forecast to have 4,556 electors by 2025. As a result of this recommended transfer from Church Lawton, it would therefore have an estimated 4,599 electors (4,556 + 43) by 2025.

Congleton – transfer to Somerford

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer, from Congleton's recommended new West ward to Somerford, of the Turnstone Grange estate,[17] as shown in Map 2.9b of the Maps report. This site is expected to have 140 properties when complete in 2024. Applying the average number of electors per property in the local borough ward of Congleton West (forecast to be 1.647 by 2025), that implies an estimated 231 electors (1.647 x 140) would be affected by the transfer.

Congleton – warding

The Final Recommendations involve new Congleton wards consisting of the following polling districts (all currently within Congleton Town Council) and relocated areas of Eaton:

- "North East": polling districts COB1, COB2, CON1, CON2, CON3 and the Malhamdale Road/ Crompton Close part of 4GC1 (which are to be transferred from Eaton);
- "South East": polling districts COS1, COS2 (including the former CON4 district), COS3 and COS4;
- "Central": polling districts COC1 and COC3 and the part of COC2 that lies south of West Road and the A34 Clayton Bypass (that is, all of COC2 except the Obelisk Way estate);
- "West": polling districts COW1, COW3, COW4 and all of COW2 except for the Turnstone Grange estate (which is being transferred to Somerford);
- "North": polling districts CNW2 and CNW3; the part of COC2 that lies north of West Road and the A34 Clayton Bypass (that is, the part containing the Obelisk Way estate); and the Local Plan Strategy parts of 4GC1[18] (which are to be transferred from Eaton).

[17] Housing database site reference number 5903.

[18] That is, the parts of Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 29 (Giantswood Lane to Manchester Road, Congleton) and LPS 30 (Manchester Road to Macclesfield Road, Congleton) that are currently within the parish of Eaton.

The 2025 elector forecasts for each of the proposed new Congleton wards were calculated by summing the original (2019) Community Governance Review forecasts for their respective polling districts (taken from the Community Governance Review electorate forecasts technical report produced in 2019) and then constraining the resulting totals, so that:

- the new wards covering the current Congleton Town Council East ward ("North East" and "South East") summed to the electorate forecast for the current Congleton Town Council East ward (11,292 electors) plus the Malhamdale Road/ Crompton Close part of Eaton (61 electors); and
- those covering the current Congleton Town Council West ward ("Central", "West" and "North") summed to the electorate forecast for Congleton Town Council West ward (12,723 electors) plus the parts of Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 29 and LPS 30 currently within Eaton (268 electors) and minus the Turnstone Grange part of Congleton (231 electors).

The Draft Recommendations had involved the inclusion of the whole of the COC2 polling district within the "Central" ward. However, as indicated above, the Final Recommendations place the Obelisk Way estate area of COC2 with the "North" ward. The Obelisk Way estate has an estimated 260 properties. Applying the average number of electors per property in local borough ward of Congleton West (forecast to be 1.647 by 2025), that implies an estimated 428 extra electors (1.647 x 260) in the "North" ward and a corresponding reduction of 428 in the number of electors in the "Central" ward (the purpose of this adjustment being to balance out elector numbers between the recommended wards, as noted in the Congleton part of Section 2 of this Report).

The resulting forecast for 2025, based on the Final Recommendations external and ward boundaries for Congleton, is 24,113 for the expanded Town Council area, with elector numbers for the five new wards as follows:

- Central 4,036;
- North 4,091;
- North East 5,949;
- South East 5,404;
- West 4,633.

Crewe Green – transfers to and from Crewe

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer to Crewe of the residential area west of Sydney Road (covering some properties on Stanier Close, Sydney Road, Nigel Gresley Close and Stephenson Drive) that is currently within Crewe Green parish. This transfer area is shown in Map 2.10 of the Maps Report.

Ordnance Survey data indicates that this area currently has 29 houses and the Council's housing database records show that no more development is expected by 2025. Using the average number of electors per property for Crewe East borough ward (forecast at 1.541 by 2025), it is estimated that 45 electors (29 x 1.541) would be affected by this recommended transfer.[19]

The Final Recommendations also involve redrawing the part of the Crewe-Crewe Green boundary immediately to the south of Crewe Green Roundabout, so it aligns with University Way and places the Aldi supermarket driveway in Crewe Green (where the supermarket itself is located), as also shown in Map 2.10. However, this area does not contain any houses and nor is any residential development expected there by 2025.

Eaton – transfer to Congleton

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer of two separate, non-contiguous areas from Eaton to Congleton.

One of these involves the transfer, to Congleton's recommended new North East ward, of the parts of Malhamdale Road and Crompton Close that are currently in Eaton, as shown in Map 2.9a of the Maps Report. Ordnance Survey data suggest there are an estimated 36 properties in this transfer area. No further housing completions are expected in this area by 2025. Hence, applying the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward of Congleton East (forecast at 1.701 for 2025), it is estimated that 61 electors (36 x 1.701) would be affected by this transfer.

The other is the transfer of the area south of Moss Lane (bounded by the Congleton Link Road and Moss Lane to the north and by Macclesfield Road to the east), as also shown in Map 2.9a. Ordnance Survey data suggest there were 146 properties completed in this area as of late September 2021, with another 17 completions expected by end 2025 (all of them by the end of 2022), making a total of 163 properties by that date. Hence, applying the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward of Congleton West (forecast at 1.647 for 2025), it is estimated that 268 electors (163 x 1.647) would be affected by this transfer.

Consequently, it is estimated that a total of 329 of Eaton's electors (61 + 268) would transfer to Congleton under the Final Recommendations.

[19] Applying the local borough ward (Haslington) average number of electors per property (1.894 by 2025) implies 55 electors (29 x 1.894), but as this area is part of the Crewe conurbation, use of the average for the Crewe East borough ward (1.541) seems more appropriate.

Edleston – transfer to Nantwich

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer of the Malbank Waters estate from Edleston to Nantwich, as shown in Map 2.1a of the Maps Report.

The Borough Council's Ordnance Survey map data suggest that, other than Malbank Waters, Edleston has only around 20 buildings that are (maybe with some exceptions) likely to be residential properties, including two farms and Edleston Hall. Although it provides additional detailed information, it is difficult to gauge the number of likely residential properties using Google Maps, because of the large, sparsely-populated area in question – but the Google data suggest that 20 is a reasonably broad estimate for the current number of properties[20] and no further housing completions are expected in this part of Edleston up to 2025. If the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward of Wrenbury (forecast to be 1.818 by 2025) is applied to this figure, that implies only 36 (20 x 1.818) electors in this area. With the parish as a whole expected to have 687 electors by 2025, that implies the transfer area, Malbank Waters, will contain an estimated 651 electors (687 minus 36).

Gawsworth – warding

The Final Recommendations involve a change to the existing boundary between Gawsworth's two wards, which would mean the Local Plan site LPS 15 (Land at Congleton Road, Macclesfield) would transfer from the Village ward to the Moss ward. Map 2.13 of the Maps Report shows the recommended new boundaries for the two wards.

Gawsworth parish as a whole is coterminous with six Output Areas: OAs E00093816 to E00093821. Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that these OAs had a total of 759 homes in 2010. The Council's housing database records show a further six homes being completed in the parish during 2010-18 and 190 due to be built during 2018-25 (185 of these on the LPS 15 site), so the Parish is expected to have a total of 955 homes (759 + 6 + 190) by 2025.

The current Moss ward consists of two Output Areas (E00093818 and E00093821). Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that E00093818 and E00093821 had a combined total of 257 houses in 2010. No further housing development has been undertaken in the current Moss ward since then and the Borough Council is not expecting any new housing in this area up to 2025.

[20] The Google Maps data should include two properties built in this area during 2010-18 (housing database site reference numbers 1920 and 5937).

As noted above, the Borough Council's forecast is that 185 homes will be completed on the LPS 15 site by 2025. Therefore it is expected that the expanded Moss ward (including the LPS 15 site) will contain a total of 442 properties (257 + 185) by 2025, and that the redrawn Village ward would have 513 homes (955 minus 442) by that time.

Hence the redrawn Moss ward would have an estimated 46 per cent (442/955) of homes in the parish. The parish of Gawsworth as a whole is forecast to have 1,712 electors by 2025. Assuming the redrawn Moss ward's percentage share of the parish's electors matches its share of the parish's properties, that would imply 792 electors for the enlarged Moss ward by 2025 (46 per cent x 1,712) and 920 (1,712 – 792) for the Village ward.

Once the LPS 15 site is completed, it is expected to have around 300 homes: 115 over and above the total expected on the site by 2025. Applying the local borough ward's (Gawsworth's) average number of electors per seat (using the 2025 forecast figure of 1.817 as a proxy for post-2025), that implies an additional 209 electors (115 x 1.817), giving the Moss ward a total of 1,001 electors (792 + 209) by the time the development is completed, compared to 920 for the Village ward (assuming the latter ward sees little or no further housing development in the late 2020s).

Haslington – transfer to Alsager

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer, to Alsager Town Council's West ward, of the part of Haslington's Oakhanger parish ward that lies east of the M6, as shown in Map 2.5b.

Oakhanger parish ward consists of two Output Areas (OAs). One of these, E00093176, contains all the developments that reflect Alsager's expansion into Haslington. These sites[21] involve 112 completions to date (2010-18) and 302 more during 2018-25. The latter figure includes a 185-home development[22], at Site LPS 20 (White Moss Quarry, Alsager), which lies mainly within OA E00093176 but extends into Oakhanger parish ward's other OA, into Alsager and (slightly) into Barthomley parish.

The transfer area includes:

- OA E00093176 in its entirety;

[21] Housing database site reference numbers 4072, 4154, 4556, 5535, 5906, 5940 and 6481.
[22] Housing database site reference number 4154.

- the part of the White Moss Quarry site that extends outside E00093176 and into Oakhanger's other OA (E00093177);

- all other Oakhanger parish ward land that lies east of the M6.

ONS housing stock data indicate that OA E00093176 had 51 homes in 2010, so by 2025 it and the White Moss Quarry site are expected to have a total of 465 homes (51 + 112 + 302). Although this figure includes those White Moss Quarry homes (a minority of the site's total) in Alsager and Barthomley, it is the best available estimate of the expansion area's housing stock by 2025.

Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data indicate the rest of the transfer area – the rest of the Oakhanger Parish Ward land that lies east of the M6 – has about three residential properties.

Hence the whole transfer area is forecast to have a total of 468 homes (465 + 3) by 2025.

The other OA in Oakhanger Parish Ward (E00093177) had 87 homes in 2010 (including the three within the transfer area), three completions during 2010-18 and eleven more completions expected during 2018-25, so by 2025 it is forecast to have 101 homes (87 + 3 + 11). Therefore the total number of houses in the parish ward is expected to be 566 (465 + 101) by 2025, with the transfer area accounting for 83 per cent (468/566) of these. Oakhanger parish ward is forecast to have 1,052 electors by 2025. Assuming the transfer area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of the parish ward's properties, that implies 870 electors (1,052 x 83 per cent) in the transfer area, with the other 182 (1,052 – 870) in the rest of the parish ward.

The area currently covered by Alsager Town Council's West ward is forecast to have 3,317 electors by 2025. As a result of this recommended transfer from Haslington, it would have an estimated 4,187 electors (3,317 + 870) by 2025.

Henbury – transfer to Macclesfield

The Draft Recommendations involved the transfer, from Henbury to Macclesfield, of Local Plan Strategy site LPS 18 (Land between Chelford Road and Whirley Road, Macclesfield) and a small number of existing properties adjacent to this southern edge of this LPS site.

Site LPS 18 is adjacent to the Macclesfield Town Council boundary and Macclesfield's existing urban area already extends as far as the parish boundary. LPS 18 had no housing as of 2018, but 135 homes are due to be built there during 2018-25[23] (though no others are being completed thereafter).

Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data indicate that the number of established properties adjacent to this development totals around 20. Hence the Draft Recommendations Macclesfield-Henbury transfer area consisted of these existing properties and LPS 18: in other words, an estimated total of 155 homes (135 + 20) by 2025.

Henbury parish as a whole consists of three Output Areas (OAs): OAs E00093854 to E00093856. Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that these OAs had a total of 264 homes in 2010. The Borough Council's housing database records show a further 20 homes being completed in the parish during 2010-18 and 147 (including those on site LPS 18) due to be built during 2018-25, so the parish is expected to have a total of 431 homes (264 + 20 +147) by 2025.

Hence the Draft Recommendations transfer area would make up an estimated 36 per cent (155/431) of the parish's housing stock by 2025. The parish's total electorate is forecast to be 758 by 2025. Assuming the Draft Recommendations transfer area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, then by 2025 this area would have an estimated 273 electors (36 per cent x 758), with the rest of the parish containing the other 485 (758 minus 273) electors.

However, the Final Recommendations involve a modification under which the established 20 properties would remain in Henbury. Applying the local borough ward (Gawsworth) average number of electors per property (forecast to be 1.817 by 2025), that implies an additional 36 electors (1.817 x 20) would remain in Henbury and therefore only 237 electors (273 minus 36) would transfer to Macclesfield under the Final Recommendations.

Map 2.16 of the Maps Report shows the area recommended for transfer under the Final Recommendations.

Henhull – transfer to Nantwich

The Final Recommendations involves the transfer, to Nantwich, of the part of Henhull that lies east of Welshmen's Lane. This transfer area is shown in Map 2.1b of the Maps Report.

[23] Housing database site reference number 3994.

Two housing sites[24] are being developed in this area. On one of these, on Local Plan Strategy site LPS 46 (Kingsley Fields, Nantwich), 20 homes were built during 2010-18 and 259 more are expected between 2018 and 2025. However, the site's total capacity is much greater still and up to 1,100 homes are expected by the time site construction eventually ends (well after 2025). The other site, which is between Welshmen's Lane and the B5341, involves the completion of 18 houses between 2018 and 2025.

There were only 88 Henhull parish electors on the Electoral Register as of the end of November 2018 and it is assumed these will include occupants of the 20 homes completed on site LPS 46 up to that date, as well as the residents of the two farms, the Hall and the small cluster of around five properties near Nantwich Town Football Club: that is, around 28 residential properties. Assuming the average number of electors per property is the same as for Bunbury, the local borough ward (1.789 in 2018), it is estimated that the recommended transfer area contained 50 electors (28 x 1.769) as of 2018 and that the other 38 lived outside this area. As no development is expected outside the transfer area during 2018-25, it is estimated that the number of electors outside this transfer area will still be 38 by 2025.[25] As the parish as a whole is forecast to have 583 electors by 2025, this implies 545 of them (583 minus 38) will be living in the transfer area.[26]

Hough & Chorlton - warding

The Final Recommendations involve redrawing the boundary between Hough and Chorlton along the railway line, as this would form a more natural boundary. This would mean a transfer to Hough of the part of Chorlton that is west of the railway line, with the areas covered by the new "Chorlton" and "Hough" wards as shown in Map 2.17b of the Maps Report.

From Ordnance Survey data, it is estimated that there are a total of 22 existing dwellings in the part of Chorlton west of the railway line and the Council's housing database records indicate that no more housing completions are expected by 2025. The local borough ward (Wybunbury) has an average of 1.870 electors per property expected by 2025. Applying this average to the dwellings figure implies that an estimated 41 electors (22 x 1.870) would be affected by this recommended transfer.

[24] Housing database site reference numbers 2926 (Local Plan Strategy site LPS 46) and 5215.
[25] This allows (as the Community Governance Review electorate forecasting methodology does) for a 1.1% fall in the average number of electors per property during 2018-25, but a 1.1% reduction from 38 still (after rounding off to the nearest whole number) means 38 electors.
[26] A single Output Area (E00093063) covers both Henhull and Acton. Therefore the total number of properties in Henhull as of 2010 is unknown: hence the use of an alternative calculation approach here.

The area covered by the current parish of Hough is forecast to have 673 electors by 2025. Therefore the recommended boundary change would mean that the new "Hough" ward would have an estimated 714 electors (673 + 41).

The area covered by the current parish of Chorlton is forecast to have 677 electors by 2025. However, as implied by the analysis above, the new "Chorlton" ward would lose 41 of these electors to Hough, but (as noted in the part of subsection 3.4 covering the transfer from Weston to Chorlton), it would gain an estimated 200 electors as a result of the boundary change with Weston. Therefore the new Chorlton ward would have an estimated 836 electors (677 – 41 + 200).

Knutsford - warding

The Final Recommendations involve new wards and ward boundaries for Knutsford, as shown in Map 2.19c of the Maps Report.

The elector forecasts for each of the recommended new Knutsford wards were calculated by taking 2010 dwelling stock figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) at Output Area (OA) level and assigning the ONS dwelling figures for each of Knutsford's 46 OAs to the new ward that they fell within. The Borough Council's housing database was then used to add on the number of net housing completions in each OA for the period 2010-20. In cases where an OA was split between two or more of the proposed new wards, Ordnance Survey data was used to estimate the number and percentage of properties in the affected OA that fell within each recommended new ward and 2020 housing numbers were apportioned between these wards on the basis of these percentages. The expected number of 2021-25 housing completions in each new ward was calculated by mapping the site locations for these future developments, to see which new wards they fell within. 2025 housing stock estimates for each new ward were calculated by adding the 2021-25 completions figures to the 2020 housing stock estimates.

The housing stock figure for the new Nether ward included both the existing (2020) housing stock in the area recommended for transfer from Tabley (derived from Ordnance Survey data) and the expected future completions on site LPS 36A (as all of this site lies within the new Nether ward). Elector forecasts for the new wards for 2025 were then estimated by taking each new ward's share of the enlarged Town Council's 2025 housing stock and multiplying this by the total 2025 electorate forecast for the expanded Town Council.

In the figures reported in this Final Recommendations Assessment Report, these forecasts for the new wards' electorates have been revised slightly, to include the number of electors (118) forecast to be living in the part of LPS 36A currently within Knutsford (as the Draft Recommendations report figures - which involved the same recommended ward and Town Council boundaries for

Knutsford - incorrectly excluded this from the town's total electorate). The effect of this adjustment is to increase the elector numbers for each ward slightly.

The resulting forecast for 2025, based on the recommended new external and ward boundaries for Knutsford, is 11,112 for the expanded Town Council area, with elector numbers for the five new wards as follows:

- (Bexton & Town Centre 2,528;
- Cross Town 2,440;
- Nether 1,958;
- Norbury Booths 2,064;
- St John's Wood 2,122.

Little Bollington with Agden - warding

The Final Recommendations involve the creation of a new "Little Bollington with Agden Community Council", with two parish wards: an "Agden" ward, consisting of the current parish of Agden; and a "Little Bollington" ward, consisting of the current parish of Little Bollington and the part of the parish of Millington that lies north of the M56. Map 2.3 of the Maps Report shows the areas covered by these recommended wards.

The Borough Council's original forecast was that the parish of Little Bollington would have 142 electors by 2025 and that the parish of Agden would have 146. However, taking account of the new Stamford Arms development, the electorate of the current parish of Little Bollington is now expected to be 172 (30 more electors than originally forecast) by 2025. As noted in the part of subsection 3.4 covering the transfer from Millington to Little Bollington, it is estimated that the transferred part of Millington (the part north of the M56) would have 13 electors as of 2025. Therefore the new council is expected to have a total of 331 electors by 2025, with the Agden ward containing an estimated 146 electors and the Little Bollington ward 185 (172 + 13).

Millington – transfer to Little Bollington

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer, to the recommended new Little Bollington with Agden Community Council's Little Bollington parish ward, of the part of Millington north of the M56, as shown in Map 2.20 of the Maps Report.

The Borough Council estimates that seven properties that would transfer from Millington as a result of this boundary change (with no further development expected in this area of Millington by 2025); applying the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward (High Legh) to this figure (forecast to be 1.819 by 2025), it is estimated that 13 electors (7 x 1.819) would be affected by this transfer.

Millington & Rostherne - warding

The Final Recommendations involve the creation of a new "Millington & Rostherne Parish Council", with two wards: a "Millington" ward, consisting of the part of the current parish of Millington south of the M56; and a "Rostherne & Tatton" ward, consisting of the current parishes of Rostherne and Tatton. Map 2.22 of the Maps Reports shows the boundaries of these recommended new wards.

Whilst the original forecasts produced for Community Governance Review purposes anticipated a combined electorate for Rostherne and Tatton of 147 by 2025 (no change from 2018), the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put their total electorate at only 117, with Rostherne's electorate having fallen from 126 (2018) to 103 (2021) and Tatton's from 21 (2018) to 14 (2021). In contrast, the number of electors in Millington (originally forecast to be 149 as of 2025) has unexpectedly increased significantly (from 151 in 2018 to 185 by 2021).

In the light of this, and given that no new housing development is expected in the three parishes by 2025, the Borough Council considers that the December 2021 Electoral Register figures now offer the best indication of elector numbers in these three parishes by 2025. Therefore it now expects that the areas covered by the current parishes of Millington, Rostherne and Tatton to have 185, 103 and 14 electors respectively as of 2025.

As noted earlier (under the part of subsection 3.4 covering the recommended transfer from Millington to Little Bollington), the Borough Council estimates that only around seven of Millington's properties lie north of the M56, and that this equates to an estimated 13 electors. Hence, under the Final Recommendations, the rest of Millington (the new council's "Millington" ward) would have 172 electors (185 minus 13) by 2025 and the "Rostherne & Tatton" ward would have 117 electors.

Moston – transfer to Middlewich

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer to Middlewich, of the parts of Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 42 (Glebe Farm, Middlewich) and LPS 45 (Land off Warmingham Lane West (Phase II), Middlewich) that are currently within Moston. This transfer area is shown in Map 2.21 of the Maps Report.

There was no house-building around the Middlewich-Moston boundary during 2010-18. However, on site LPS 45[27], 185 homes are expected during 2018-25 (and 235 eventually). The vast majority (roughly 90 per cent) of this site's land area (and its easting and northing) is on the Middlewich side of the boundary and so the 2019 Community Governance Review electorate forecasts assigned all this site's housing and electors to Middlewich.

As for site LPS 42[28], 185 houses are expected during 2018-25 (and 450 eventually). The vast majority (roughly 75 per cent) of this site's land area is within Moston, as is its easting and northing, so the 2019 Community Governance Review electorate forecasts assigned all this site's housing and electors to Moston.

Assuming that the homes on sites LPS 42 and 45 are evenly distributed across the sites' land areas, the number of new homes expected on Site LPS 42 (185) is probably a reasonable approximation to the total number of LPS 42 and LPS 45 homes that will be on the Moston side of the current boundary.

Moston parish as a whole consists of a single Output Area (E00092812). Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that this area had 164 residential properties in 2010. The Borough Council's housing database records show that 105 more were built during 2010-18 and a further 568 homes are expected during 2018-25. This gives an expected total of 837 homes (164 + 105 + 568) by 2025.

Hence the Middlewich-Moston transfer area is estimated to contain around 22 per cent (185 /837) of Moston's final (2025) housing stock.

Moston is forecast to have 1,456 electors by 2025.

[27] Housing database site reference number 2658.
[28] Housing database site reference number 4958.

Assuming the Middlewich-Moston transfer area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, this transfer area is expected to contain 322 (22 per cent x 1,456) of the parish's electors by 2025, so 322 electors would transfer to Middlewich under the Final Recommendations.

The area currently covered by Middlewich Town Council's Cledford ward is forecast to have 6,696 electors by 2025. As a result of this recommended transfer from Moston, it would have an estimated 7,018 electors (6,696 + 322) by 2025.

As a result of this recommended transfer and the one to Sandbach (which, as indicated below, would transfer an estimated 829 electors to Sandbach), Moston would be left with an estimated 305 electors (1,456 – 322 – 829).

Moston – transfer to Sandbach

The Draft Recommendations involved the transfer, from Moston to Sandbach, of an area comprising the major housing developments on the former Albion Inorganic Chemicals site (Albion Lock) and a small number of existing properties along the A533. There are two developments at this location, one involving 120 new homes and one involving 371 new homes.[29] A total of 95 homes were built on these sites during 2010-18 and 379 more are expected by 2025.

Besides the new build homes already completed on the Albion Chemicals land, Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data shows around five residential buildings in existence elsewhere in the area proposed for transfer at the Draft Recommendations stage.

Hence the area that was proposed for transfer at the Draft Recommendations stage would contain a total of 479 houses (5 + 95 + 379) by 2025.

As noted in the part of subsection 3.4 covering the recommended transfer from Moston to Middlewich, the area covered by the current Moston parish is expected to contain total of 837 homes by 2025.

Hence the Draft Recommendations Sandbach-Moston transfer area is forecast to contain 57 per cent (479/837) of the parish's 2025 housing stock.

Moston is forecast to have 1,456 electors by 2025.

[29] Housing database site reference numbers 2360 and 6434.

Assuming the Draft Recommendations Moston-Sandbach transfer area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its shares of the parish's properties, this transfer area would have an estimated 833 (57 per cent x 1,456) of the parish's electors by 2025.

However, the Final Recommendations involve a modification under which three properties on the west side of the A533 – Cranford, The Cedars and the old Moston garage – would remain in Moston. The Borough Council understands that the old Moston garage is not occupied (nor likely to be in the foreseeable future), but that the other two properties are. Applying the local borough ward (Brereton Rural) average number of electors per property (forecast to be 1.801 by 2025) to these two dwellings, it is estimated that the effect of this modification would be to leave an additional four electors in Moston. Hence, under the Final Recommendations, it is estimated that 829 electors (833 minus 4) would transfer to Sandbach.

Map 2.23 of the Maps Report shows the area covered by this Final Recommendations transfer from Moston to Sandbach.

The area currently covered by Sandbach Town Council's Elworth ward is forecast to have 5,291 electors by 2025. As a result of this recommended transfer from Moston, it would have an estimated 6,120 electors (5,291 + 829) by 2025.

As a result of this recommended transfer and the one to Middlewich (which, as indicated above, would transfer an estimated 322 electors to Sandbach), Moston would be left with an estimated 305 electors (1,456 – 322 – 829).

Nantwich – warding

The Final Recommendations involve the creation of new wards for Nantwich, with boundaries and names as shown in Map 2.24 of the Maps report.

These wards consist of the following polling districts (all currently within Nantwich Town Council) and relocated areas of Edleston, Henhull and Worleston:

- "North": polling districts 1NA0, 1NA3, 1NA6 & 1NAC. The Borough Council forecasts that these polling districts will have a combined electorate of 4,270 by 2025.
- "South": same area as the current South ward (forecast to have 4,332 electors by 2025).

- "West": polling districts 1NA1 & 1NA2 and the transferred parts of Edleston (3FA6), Henhull (3FA7) and Worleston (3FA8). The Borough Council forecasts that polling districts 1NA1 and 1NA2 will have a combined electorate of 2,760 by 2025. As noted in the parts of subsection 3.4 covering the calculation of numbers of electors transferring from Edleston, Henhull and Worleston, it is estimated that 651 would transfer from Edleston, 545 from Henhull and 14 from Worleston. Hence the new West ward is forecast to have a total of 3,970 electors (2,760 + 651 + 545 + 14) by 2025.

The expanded Town Council is therefore forecast to have a total of 12,572 electors (4,270 + 4,332 + 3,970) by 2025.

Rope – transfers to and from Shavington

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer to Shavington, of the Chatsworth Park estate, as shown in Map 2.26 of the Maps Report.

Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data indicate around 50 properties in this location. The (limited) address information on Google Maps tallies with some of the addresses for the 47 properties built on a single site[30] in this area during 2010-18. On this basis (and in the absence of further information), it seems reasonable to assume that the buildings shown on Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data equate to the 47 homes in the Council's own housing database records.

Rope parish consists of six Output Areas: OAs E00093380 to E00093385 inclusive. Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that these areas collectively had 828 homes in 2010. The Council's housing database records show a further 62 homes being built during 2010-18 (and no others expected between 2018 and 2025). Hence the parish is estimated to have 890 (828 + 62) properties at present, with no further homes expected by 2025.

Hence the transfer area accounts for an estimated 5 per cent (47/890) of Rope's 2025 housing stock. Rope is forecast to have 1,833 electors by 2025. Assuming the transfer area's percentage share of the parish's electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, the transfer area will have an estimated 97 electors (1,833 x 5 per cent) in 2025.

[30] Housing database reference number 3379.

As also shown in Map 2.26, the Final Recommendations also involve redrawing the rest of the Shavington-Rope boundary (further south), so it aligns with the A500. However, this area does not contain any houses and nor is any residential development expected there by 2025.

The area currently covered by Shavington Parish Council's Village ward is forecast to have 4,972 electors by 2025. As a result of this recommended transfer from Rope, it would have an estimated 5,069 electors (4,972 + 97) by 2025.

Sandbach – transfer to Haslington

The Draft Recommendations report proposed the transfer, to Haslington's Winterley ward, of the part of Sandbach's Ettiley Heath & Wheelock ward that lies east of the A534. However, the Final Recommendations involve a modification of this, under which the part of this area that lies north of Hassall Moss Brook would remain in Sandbach.

Based on Google Maps and Ordnance Survey data, the Draft Recommendations transfer area includes 59 existing houses: of these, 52 are in Wheelock Heath and the other seven are alongside or north of Mill Lane. Only one additional home (in Wheelock Heath) is expected to be built by 2025.[31]

Sandbach Town Council consists of 59 OAs (E00093004 to 62 inclusive). According to ONS housing stock data, these OAs had a total of 8,050 homes as of 2010 and the Borough Council's housing database indicates 1,699 completions with the Town Council boundary during 2010-18 and a further 1,265 expected during 2018-25. Hence Sandbach is predicted to have 11,014 houses (8,050 + 1,699 + 1,265) by 2025.

Hence the Draft Recommendations transfer area is estimated to contain only 0.5 per cent (60/11,014) of Sandbach's 2025 total housing stock. Sandbach is forecast to have 18,507 electors by 2025. Assuming the transfer area's percentage share of the Town Council's electors is the same as its share of the Council's properties, the Draft Recommendations transfer area would have an estimated 101 electors (18,507 x 0.5 per cent) as of 2025.

[31]Housing database reference number 2822. This site involves the completion of four properties, which were (at the time the Community Governance Review forecasts were produced) due to be finished by 2019. However, at the time that the forecasts for this transfer area were being calculated, Ordnance Survey maps showed only three completed houses at this location.

However, under the Final Recommendations, the properties north of Hassall Moss Brook (estimated to be seven in total) would remain in Sandbach. Assuming the average number of electors per property is the same as for the local borough ward of Ettiley Heath & Wheelock (1.742 - 2025 forecast), that implies a further 12 electors (7 x 1.742) would remain in Sandbach. Therefore Haslington's Winterley ward would acquire only 89 electors (101 - 12) from Sandbach.

The area covered by the current Winterley ward is forecast to have 1,401 electors by 2025. Therefore it would have an estimated 1,490 electors (1,401 + 89) under the recommended new boundary.

The area covered by the current Ettiley Heath & Wheelock ward is forecast to have 4,377 electors by 2025. Therefore it would have an estimated 4,288 electors (4,377 minus 89) under the recommended new boundary.

Map 2.15 of the Maps Report shows this area that would transfer to Haslington under the Final Recommendations.

Somerford – transfer to Brereton

The Final Recommendations involve the alignment of the Brereton-Somerford boundary, so that it follows the A54. This would result in the transfer of a small area of land from Somerford to Brereton, as shown in Map 2.7 of the Maps Report.

Using the average number of electors per property for that area's local borough ward (Brereton Rural), which is 1.801 (2025 forecast), that implies 20 electors (11 x 1.801) would transfer.

Sound & District – transfer (from the parish of Baddiley) to Burland & Acton

See entry under "Baddiley – transfer to Burland & Acton".

Styal – transfer to Handforth

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer, from Styal to Handforth, of Local Plan Strategy site LPS 34 (Land Between Clay Lane and Sagars Road, Handforth), which is just on the Styal side of boundary with Handforth. This site involves a 249-home

development[32]. No houses were built on this site prior to 2018, but 185 are expected during 2018-25. However, no other homes, either existing or expected, are within this boundary area.

Map 2.14 of the Maps Report shows this recommended transfer area.

Estimating the numbers of homes in the rest of the parish of Styal – something that is necessary in order to estimate the numbers of electors inside and outside this area – is complicated by the fact that the Styal parish boundary is not coterminous with Output Area (OA) boundaries.

However, two OAs, E00094140 andE00094150, are completely within Styal. Office for National Statistics housing stock data and the Borough Council's housing database records indicate that these areas had a total of 297 homes in 2010, with eight more houses completed during 2010-18 and a further 189 expected during 2018-25. This makes a total of 494 residential properties (297 + 8 + 189) by 2025.

A third OA, E00094139, includes the rest of Styal Parish, but also a significant part of Wilmslow. The area covered by this OA had only two homes built on its Styal side during 2010-18 and only two more expected on this side during 2018-25.[33] Ordnance Survey data indicates only four existing residential properties (all farms) on this side of the parish boundary. It is therefore assumed that the Styal part of this OA will have only eight homes (4 + 2 + 2) by 2025, making a total of 502 (494 + 8) for Styal as a whole.

Hence the transfer area will account for an expected 37 per cent (185/502) of the parish's homes by 2025.

Styal's electorate is forecast to be 896 by 2025. Assuming the transfer area's percentage share of the parish's electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, it is estimated that the transfer area will have 330 electors (896 x 37 per cent), with the rest of Styal containing the other 566 (896 minus 330).

The area currently covered by Handforth Town Council's West ward is forecast to have 2,123 electors by 2025. As a result of this recommended transfer from Styal, it would have an estimated 2,453 electors (2,123 + 330) by 2025.

[32] Housing database site reference number 3527.
[33] Housing database site reference numbers 3979, 5071, 5757 and 5898.

Tabley – transfer to Knutsford

As shown in Map 2.19b, the Final Recommendations involve the transfer, from Tabley to the new Knutsford Nether ward, of the land bounded by Northwich Road to the south, the M6 to the west and Tabley Hill Lane to the north. This includes the part of Local Plan Strategy Site LPS 36A (Land North of Northwich Road, Knutsford) currently within Tabley.

The LPS 36A site was not included in the original (2019) Community Governance Review electorate forecasts, as no development was expected over the 2018-25 period at the time those forecasts were produced. However, more recent information indicates that 175 houses (the total number that the site allows for) will be built there by 2025. Roughly 60 per cent of the site area is on the Tabley side of the current boundary and 40 per cent on the Knutsford side.

The transfer area includes rural land to the west of LPS3 6A. Analysis of Ordnance Survey data, along with the information available on Google Maps, indicates that this rural land currently includes only two farms and no other residential properties.

The original Community Governance Review forecasts indicated that Tabley would have 442 electors by 2025. Assuming that, for the new development at LPS 36A, the average number of electors per property is the same as for Knutsford borough ward (forecast to be 1.679 by 2025), the expected number of electors living in the new development's homes is expected to be 294 (175 x 1.679) by 2025. Furthermore, assuming that this housing is evenly distributed across the site area (i.e. around 60 per cent of the site's properties are on the Tabley side of the current boundary) and assuming the same electors-per-property ratio on both sides of the boundary, it is expected that Tabley will contain 176 (294 x 60 per cent) of these electors and the other 118 will be in Knutsford.

Assuming (for simplicity) that the expansion area's existing properties (the two farms) also have the same number of electors per property as Knutsford borough ward average, that implies a further three electors (2 x 1.679) in this area.

Hence an updated (2020) forecast is that the area covered by Tabley will have 618 electors by 2025, 179 (176 + 3) of them in the recommended transfer area and 439 (618 minus 179) elsewhere in the Parish.

Weston – transfer to Chorlton

The Final Recommendations involve the transfer to Chorlton, of the part of Wychwood Park that is currently within Weston's Wychwood parish ward (that is, the part of Weston & Basford's Wychwood parish ward that lies south of the A531). Map 2.17a of the Maps Report shows this transfer area.

The current Weston Wychwood parish ward is forecast to have 860 electors by 2025. From Ordnance Survey data, it is estimated that the total number of existing dwellings in the Wychwood Park area of the parish ward (the part of the parish ward south of A531) is 107 and the Borough Council's housing database records indicate that no more housing completions are expected by 2025. The local borough ward (Wybunbury) has an average of 1.870 electors per property expected by 2025. Applying this average to Wychwood Park implies that an estimated 200 electors (107 x 1.870) would be transferred to Chorlton under the Final Recommendations; Weston Wychwood's other 660 electors (860 minus 200) would remain in Weston (which, under the Final Recommendations, would become the new "Wychwood" ward within the new Weston & Crewe Green Community Council).

Weston & Crewe Green – warding

The Final Recommendations involve the merger of Crewe Green Parish Council and Weston & Basford Parish Council, to form a new "Weston & Crewe Green Community Council" consisting of the following three parish wards (as shown in Map 2.11 of the Maps Report):

- "Wychwood", which would include the part of the current Weston Wychwood parish ward north of the A531 (encompassing Wychwood Village). As indicated in the part of subsection 3.4 covering the recommended change to the current parish of Weston's boundary with Chorlton, this new ward would have an estimated 660 electors.

- "Weston", which would include all of the current Basford parish, the part of the current Weston Village parish ward that lies south of the A500, and the part of the current Weston Village parish ward that lies within the Local Plan Strategy site LPS 2 (Basford East).

- "Crewe Green", which would include all of the current Crewe Green parish, plus the part of the current Weston Village parish ward that lies north of the A500 but outside the LPS 2 (Basford East) site.

The area covered by the current Weston Village parish ward is forecast to have 1,718 electors by 2025, whilst the current parish of Basford is forecast have 200 electors by that date.

However, under the Final Recommendations, the part of the current Weston Village parish ward that lies north of the A500 but outside the LPS 2 (Basford East) site would become part of the new council's Crewe Green ward. From Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data, it is estimated there are 22 existing properties in this part of the current Weston Village parish ward and the

Borough Council's housing database records show no further housing completions are expected in this area up to 2025. The local borough ward (Haslington) has an expected average ratio of 1.894 electors per property by 2025 and applying that ratio to the 22 houses gives a total of 42 electors (22 x 1.894). Hence, given the recommendation that these 42 electors become part of the new Crewe Green ward, it is estimated that the new Weston ward would have 1,876 electors (1,718 + 200 – 42).

The original Community Governance Review forecasts had suggested the current Crewe Green parish's electorate would remain static (182 electors in 2018; 183 forecast for 2025). The latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data indicates a significant decrease in the parish's number of electors, to 165. However, as just noted, the new Crewe Green ward would also include the part of the current Weston Village parish ward that lies north of the A500 but outside the LPS 2 site (meaning an extra 42 electors, as noted above). Furthermore, it is now expected that the South Cheshire Growth Village, which would fall entirely within the new Crewe Green ward, would have 26 properties completed by 2025; applying the local (Haslington) borough ward average number of electors per property (forecast at 1.894 for 2025), that implies a further 49 electors. On the other hand, the transfer of the Stephenson Drive area to Crewe would (as noted in the part of subsection 3.4 covering the transfers between Crewe and Crewe Green) mean a loss of 45 electors. Therefore it is estimated that the new Crewe Green ward would, as of 2025, have 211 electors (165 + 42 + 49 – 45).

Worleston – transfer to Nantwich

As shown in Map 2.1b, the Final Recommendations involve the transfer to Nantwich of the part of Worleston that lies south of the A51/ Barony Road and which is largely within Local Plan site LPS 46 (Kingsley Fields, Nantwich). This area currently has eight residential properties and no further housing development is expected, as this part of the LPS site is designated for employment use. Applying the local (Bunbury) borough ward average number of electors per property (forecast at 1.769 for 2025), that implies an estimated 14 electors (8 x 1.769) would transfer to Nantwich.[34]

[34] The Draft Recommendations Report proposed the same transfer area, but its calculations did not take account of the small number of existing properties in this part of Worleston and so assumed no electors would be affected. The calculations produced for the Final Recommendations correct this oversight.

3.5: Calculation of elector forecasts for Lower Peover Parish Council

This subsection explains the calculation of the forecast for Lower Peover group of parishes, which is the only Parish Council that is split between Cheshire East and another local authority. The Parish Council consists of two parishes: Peover Inferior, which is in Cheshire East; and Nether Peover, which is in Cheshire West and Chester. The original (2019) forecasts for the Community Governance Review did not include a forecast for the parish of Nether Peover, given it is not in Cheshire East. However, the Draft Recommendations did include such a forecast, so that the implications of its governance proposals could be better understood. The calculation of that forecast is set out below.

Nether Peover had 342 electors as of 1st April 2020[35]. Using the same approach as for the 2019 Community Governance Review electorate forecasts, Cheshire East Borough Council estimated that Nether Peover will have an electorate of 414 by 2025. This forecast of 414 electors is based on the following data and assumptions:

- An expected 1.1% decline – for all parishes covered by the Community Governance Review - in the average number of electors per property over the Review period. The 1.1% figure is based on Local Plan Strategy population and housing forecasts[36] that indicate a 1.1% fall in the average number of residents aged 17 and above per property, over the 2018-25 period. This would mean that the electorate in the existing (2020) housing stock falls to 338 (342 x 0.989) by 2025.

- Cheshire West and Chester's Planning Policy Team information indicating that (as of April 2020) 41 new homes are due to be completed in Nether Peover between 1st April 2020 and the end of 2025.[37]

- The 2019 electorate forecasts putting the average number of electors per property in Chelford borough ward (the ward containing Peover Inferior) at 1.846 for 2025. Using this ratio as a proxy and applying it to the 41 extra properties leads to an estimate of 76 extra electors (41 x 1.846) during 2020-25.

[35] Figure provided by Democratic Services, Cheshire West and Chester Council, April 2020.
[36] Population and housing forecasts produced by Opinion Research Services (ORS) for the Cheshire East Housing Development Study 2015, ORS, June 2015.
[37] This may be an overestimate: at the time the data were provided, Cheshire West and Chester had not yet monitored actual completions over the year to end March 2020 and so it may be that some of the 41 homes had already been built by that time.

When the estimated number of electors in the new homes (76) is added to the expected total electorate in existing properties (338 by 2025), this gives a total for the Nether Peover parish of 414 electors. When the 2025 electorate forecast for the Peover Inferior parish (94) is added to this, this results in an estimated overall total of 508 electors for the whole Lower Peover Parish Council by 2025.

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