

# Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Harborough District Council

Electoral review

March 2017

## Translations and other formats

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# Summary

## Who we are and what we do

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

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

## Electoral review

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

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

## Why Harborough?

4 We are conducting a review of Harborough as the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in Harborough. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal. The District Council also requested that we conduct a review with a view to examining the total number of members elected to the Council.

## Our proposals for Harborough

- Harborough should be represented by 34 councillors, three fewer than there are now.
- Harborough should have 19 wards, six fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of all but one ward will change.

## Have your say

5 We are consulting on our draft recommendations for an eight-week period, from 14 March to 8 May 2017. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new wards – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we receive.

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

**You have until 8 May 2017 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 19 for how to send us your response.**

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

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

8 The members of the Commission are:

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

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

# 1 Introduction

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

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

## What is an electoral review?

10 Our three main considerations are to:

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

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

## Consultation

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

13 This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 October 2016	Number of councillors decided
25 October 2016	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
9 January 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
14 March 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
8 May 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
11 July 2017	Publication of final recommendations

## How will the recommendations affect you?

14 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in and which other communities are in that ward. Your ward name may also change.



## 2 Analysis and draft recommendations

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

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

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

	2016	2022
Electorate of Harborough	68,492	74,460
Number of councillors	34	34
Average number of electors per councillor	2,014	2,190

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

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

### Submissions received

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

### Electorate figures

21 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2017. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 9% by 2022.

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

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

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

## Number of councillors

23 Harborough District Council currently has 37 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that decreasing the number of councillors by three would enable the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

24 We therefore invited proposals for a new pattern of wards that would be represented by 34 councillors – for example, 34 one-councillor wards, 17 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards. Our draft recommendations are based on a 34-member council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

25 We received 10 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included a district-wide proposal from the Council based on 34 members and a partial district proposal from Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council. Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council's warding pattern did not include proposals for Broughton Astley, Lutterworth and Market Harborough or areas to the west of the A5199 road. We also received localised submissions from local residents and parish councils across Harborough.

26 Our draft recommendations are based on a combination of Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council's proposals, the District Council's proposals and our own proposals for Broughton Astley, Lutterworth and Market Harborough. In Broughton Astley, Lutterworth and Market Harborough we considered that the proposals of the Council did not provide for the best balance of our statutory criteria and have recommended alternative ward boundaries for these areas. We also visited the area to look at the different proposals on the ground.

27 Our draft recommendations are for three, three-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and seven one-councillor wards. None of the proposed 19 wards will have an electoral variance above 10%. We consider that our draft recommendations provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

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

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

## Draft recommendations

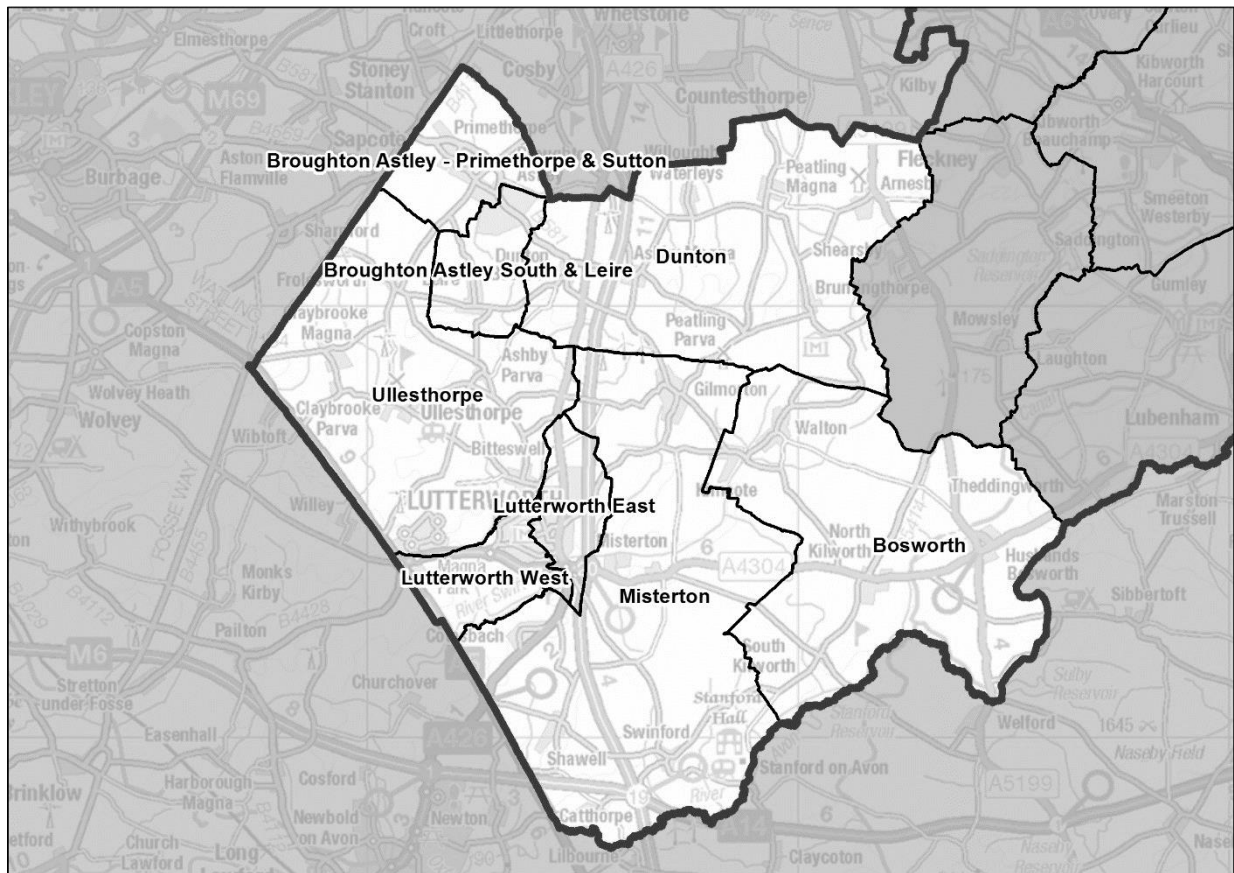
30 The tables and maps on pages 8–15 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Harborough. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

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

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

## Broughton Astley, Lutterworth and West Harborough



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Bosworth	1	10%
Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton	2	-9%
Broughton Astley South & Leire	2	-5%
Dunton	1	-1%
Lutterworth East	2	-9%
Lutterworth West	2	-9%
Misterton	1	0%
Ullesthorpe	1	5%

### *Broughton Astley and Leire*

31 We received two submissions relating to Broughton Astley. A local resident suggested that two rather than four councillors should represent the Broughton Astley area. The district-wide warding patterns of the Council proposed four single-councillor wards for Broughton Astley. However, three of these wards had electoral variances of 11% fewer, 13% fewer and 18% fewer electors than the district average for Harborough by 2022. We considered these variances too high and considered potential alternative warding patterns for the area.

32 We investigated whether the proposed four single-councillor wards could be modified to achieve better levels of electoral equality within Broughton Astley. However, we were unable to identify a warding pattern that would both reflect community identities and use clearly defined ward boundaries. Therefore, to ensure that wards in Broughton Astley satisfy our statutory criteria, we recommend a two-councillor Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton ward which covers the northern part of the parish and housing development on land to the east of Broughton Way. We also recommend that the remainder of Broughton Astley parish be combined with Leire parish in a two-councillor ward called Broughton Astley South & Leire. This recommendation is to improve electoral equality because the remainder of Broughton Astley parish has too few electors for a single- or two-councillor ward.

33 Overall, we consider these modifications provide for the best balance of the statutory criteria and they therefore form part of our draft recommendations.

### *Lutterworth*

34 The district-wide warding patterns of the Council proposed four single-councillor wards for Lutterworth. However, two of these wards had electoral variances of 11% fewer and 14% fewer electors per councillor than the district average by 2022.

35 We investigated whether minor modifications to the Council's proposals could reduce these electoral variances. However, we were unable to identify a viable alternative and therefore recommend each of the four single-councillor wards are combined to make two, two-councillor wards called Lutterworth East and Lutterworth West. We also recommend that Spring Close is transferred to Lutterworth West ward to improve electoral equality. Our recommendations ensure that Lutterworth East and Lutterworth West wards are wholly within the boundaries of Lutterworth parish and use clearly identifiable boundaries.

36 We consider our proposals achieve a better balance of the statutory criteria and they therefore form part of our draft recommendations.

### *Dunton*

37 To provide for good electoral equality in Broughton Astley, we have recommended that Leire parish be transferred to Broughton Astley South & Leire ward. This modification to the Council's proposals leaves Dunton ward with an electoral variance of 14% fewer electors so we have included Arnesby parish from Fleckney ward. The communities of our proposed ward share strong road links across the M1 motorway and into the east of the ward.

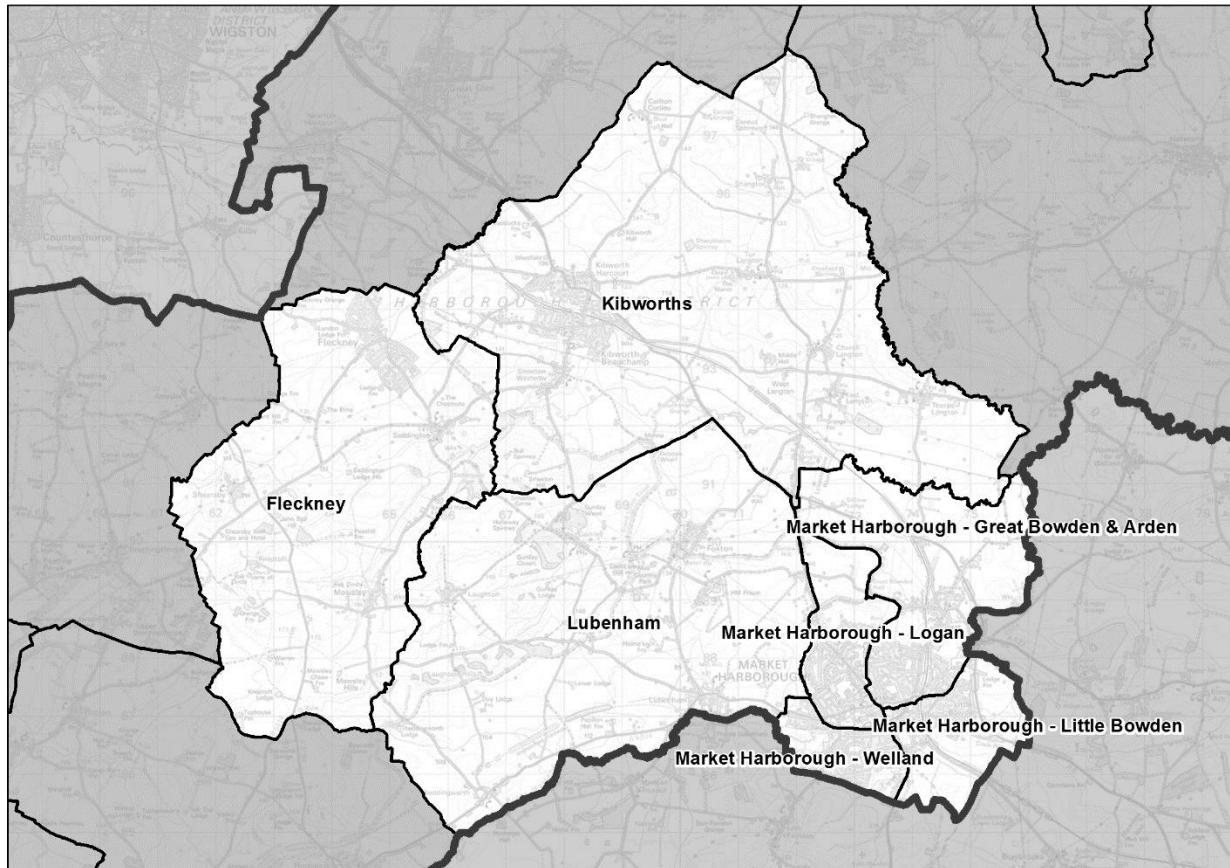
*Bosworth, Misterton and Ullesthorpe*

38 We received two submissions relating to areas covered by Bosworth, Misterton and Ullesthorpe wards. Shawell Parish Meeting commented on the close association it has with Catthorpe, Cotesbach, North Kilworth, South Kilworth, Stanford on Avon (Northamptonshire), Swinford and Walcote parishes. The Council proposed three single-councillor wards here. We investigated whether it was possible to improve electoral equality by transferring South Kilworth or Kimcote & Walton parishes to Misterton ward but this resulted in a high electoral variance for Misterton ward. Therefore, we have adopted the warding pattern proposal of the Council which combines Shawell, Cotesbach and Swinford parishes in the same ward.





## Market Harborough and Central Harborough



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Fleckney	2	2%
Kibworths	3	-3%
Lubenham	1	-6%
Market Harborough - Great Bowden & Arden	2	4%
Market Harborough - Little Bowden	2	4%
Market Harborough - Logan	2	6%
Market Harborough - Welland	3	-3%



### *Market Harborough*

39 Our draft recommendations for Market Harborough are largely based on the proposals of the Council. However, we have recommended a ward boundary change between Market Harborough - Great Bowden & Arden and Market Harborough - Little Bowden wards to reduce an 11% electoral variance. We have transferred St Mary's Road to Market Harborough - Great Bowden & Arden ward, using the River Welland as the ward boundary. We have adopted the Council's warding patterns for Market Harborough - Logan ward and Market Harborough - Welland ward as part of our draft recommendations.

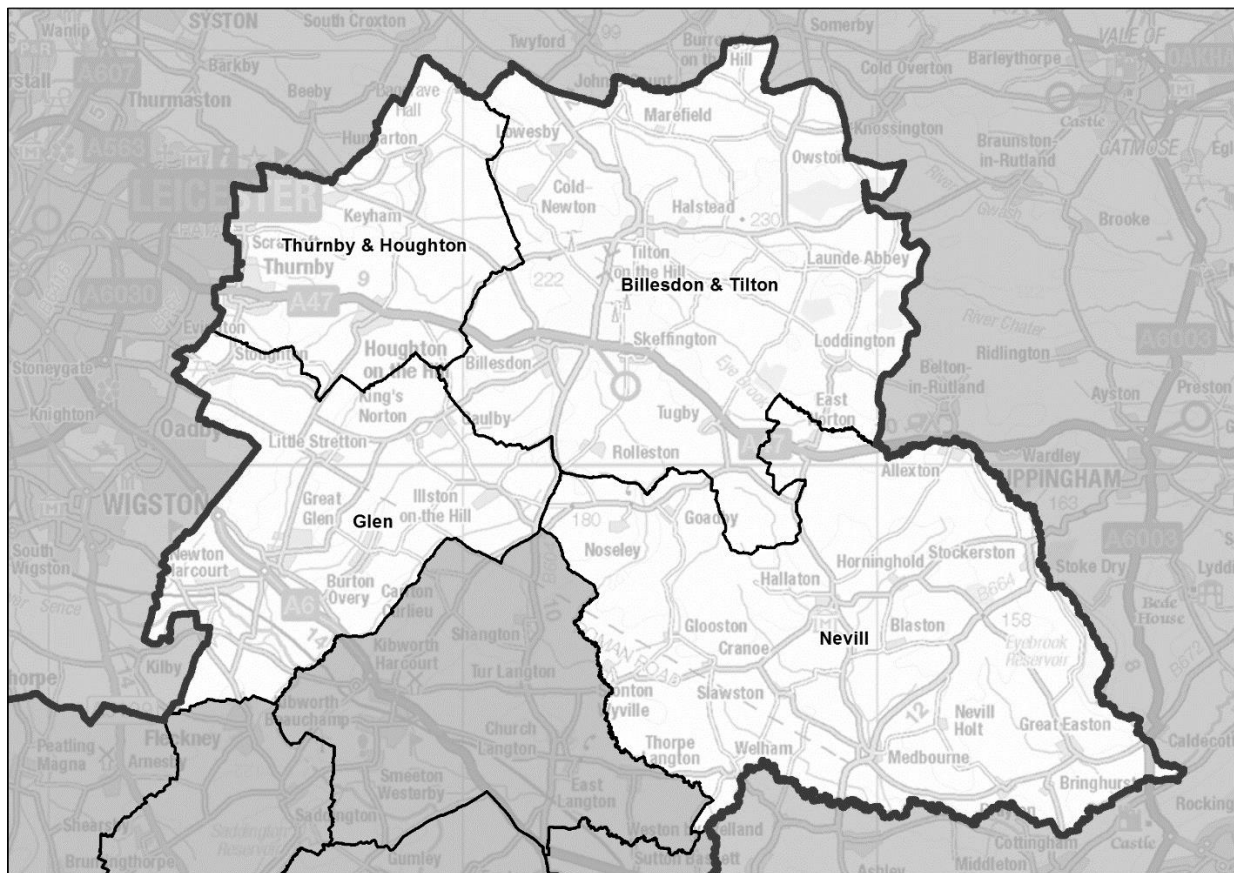
### *Kibworths*

40 We received two distinct warding proposals for central Harborough from the Council and Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council. The Council placed Kibworth Harcourt parish and Kibworth Beauchamp parish in separate wards. However, both parishes did not support this warding arrangement and preferred to be grouped together in a three-councillor ward. Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council provided evidence that it has close community links with Kibworth Beauchamp parish and co-operates closely on local issues. We consider that the evidence to group Kibworth Harcourt parish and Kibworth Beauchamp parish in the same ward is persuasive. In addition, Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council's proposals for central Harborough is well-evidenced and better reflects the statutory criteria than the other proposals received. Therefore, we have adopted Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council's proposed Kibworths ward as part of our recommendations.

### *Fleckney and Lubenham*

41 The warding patterns of the Council and Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council were similar in this area. The only difference was that the Council grouped Laughton parish in Lubenham ward whereas Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council did not. Despite their similarities, we are persuaded by the evidence put forward by Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council as part of its district proposals for Fleckney and Lubenham. However, to improve electoral equality, we have transferred Arnesby parish from Fleckney ward to Dunton ward as mentioned in the Broughton Astley, Lutterworth and West Harborough section of this report.

## North Harborough



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Billesdon & Tilton	1	5%
Glen	2	6%
Nevill	1	8%
Thurnby & Houghton	3	7%

#### *Billesdon & Tilton, Glen and Nevill*

42 Our draft recommendations are largely based on the proposals of Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council. However, we have transferred Stoughton parish to Glen ward to improve electoral equality in the adjoining Thurnby & Houghton ward. We did not receive any further localised submissions from this area and we are content that the warding patterns reflect the statutory criteria with good evidence provided to support the proposed wards.

#### *Thurnby & Houghton*

43 In addition to the warding patterns of Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council, we received a submission from Thurnby & Bushby parish which appeared to support a three-councillor ward for the area. We are also aware of a change to the external parish boundary of Houghton on the Hill parish following a recent community governance review. Our draft recommendations are not affected by this change which is to come into effect in 2019.

44 The proposals of Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council for Thurnby & Houghton ward resulted in a variance of 11%. Therefore, as stated above, we have transferred Stoughton parish to Glen ward to improve electoral equality.

## Conclusions

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

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2016	2022
Number of councillors	34	34
Number of electoral wards	19	19
Average number of electors per councillor	2,014	2,190
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

#### **Draft recommendation**

Harborough District Council should be made up of 34 councillors serving 19 wards representing seven single-councillor wards, nine two-councillor wards and three three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in the table below and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

#### **Mapping**

**Sheet 1, Map 1** shows the proposed wards for Harborough District Council.

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

### Parish electoral arrangements

46 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different ward it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

47 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Harborough District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

48 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Broughton Astley and Lutterworth.

49 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Broughton Astley parish.

<b>Draft recommendation</b> Broughton Astley Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Astley	4
Broughton North	1
Broughton South	4
Primethorpe	4
Sutton	3

50 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Lutterworth parish.

<b>Draft recommendation</b> Lutterworth Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:	
<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Number of parish councillors</b>
Brookfield	4
Orchard	4
Springs	4
Swift	4



### 3 Have your say

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

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

53 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at [consultation.lgbce.org.uk](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

56 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government

57 Electoral equality:

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

58 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?

- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

59 Effective local government:

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

60 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices in Millbank (London) and on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

61 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

62 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

63 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Harborough in 2019.

## Equalities

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



## Appendix A

### Draft recommendations for Harborough District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Billesdon & Tilton	1	2,088	2,088	4%	2,289	2,289	5%
2	Bosworth	1	2,233	2,233	11%	2,406	2,406	10%
3	Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton	2	3,210	1,605	-20%	4,005	2,003	-9%
4	Broughton Astley South & Leire	2	3,998	1,999	-1%	4,149	2,074	-5%
5	Dunton	1	2,125	2,125	5%	2,169	2,169	-1%
6	Fleckney	2	4,394	2,197	9%	4,464	2,232	2%
7	Glen	2	4,324	2,162	7%	4,644	2,322	6%
8	Kibworths	3	5,944	1,981	-2%	6,343	2,114	-3%
9	Lubenham	1	1,567	1,567	-22%	2,068	2,068	-6%
10	Lutterworth East	2	3,628	1,814	-10%	3,975	1,987	-9%
11	Lutterworth West	2	3,791	1,896	-6%	4,005	2,002	-9%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Market Harborough - Great Bowden & Arden	2	4,417	2,209	10%	4,545	2,272	4%
13	Market Harborough - Little Bowden	2	4,316	2,158	7%	4,551	2,276	4%
14	Market Harborough - Logan	2	4,308	2,154	7%	4,634	2,317	6%
15	Market Harborough - Welland	3	5,874	1,958	-3%	6,369	2,123	-3%
16	Misterton	1	2,093	2,093	4%	2,180	2,180	0%
17	Nevill	1	2,275	2,275	13%	2,365	2,365	8%
18	Thurnby & Houghton	3	5,761	1,920	-5%	7,003	2,334	7%
19	Ullesthorpe	1	2,146	2,146	7%	2,297	2,297	5%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>68,492</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>74,460</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>–</b>

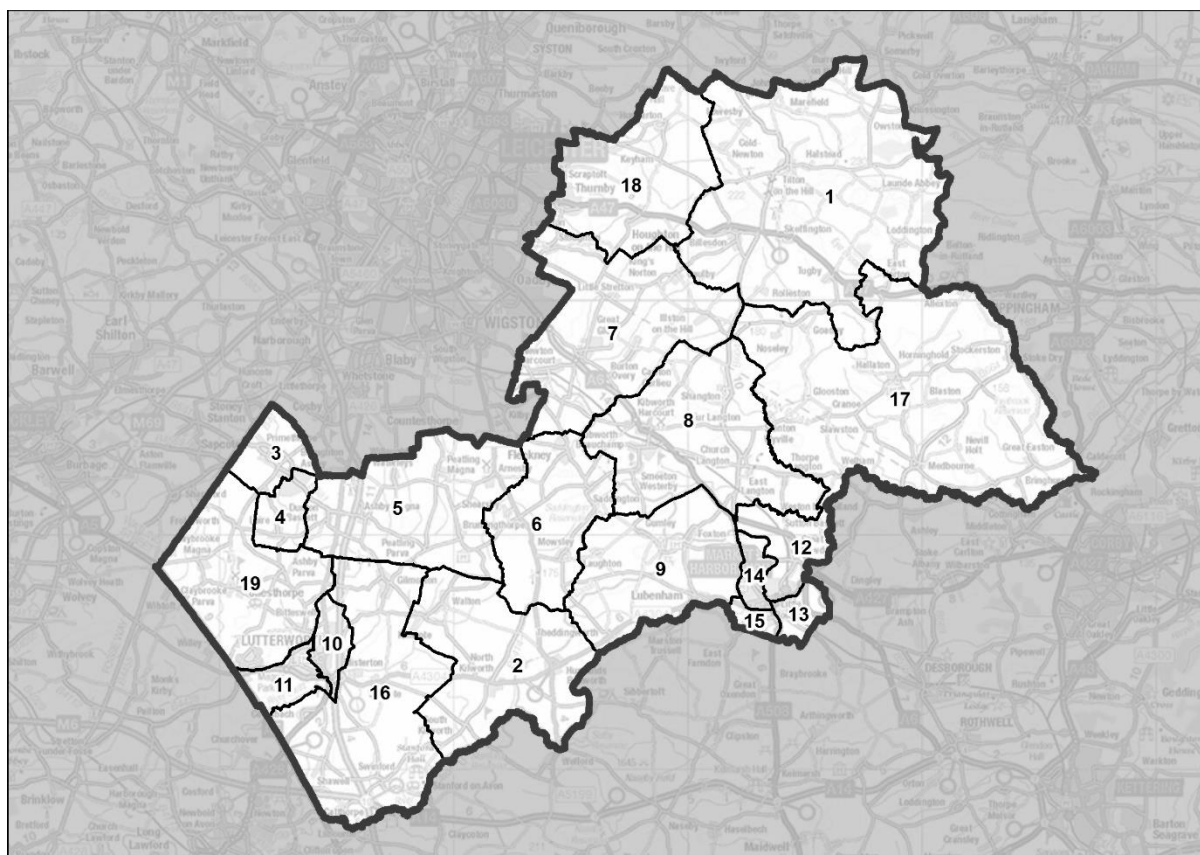
Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Harborough District Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.



## Appendix B

### Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/east-midlands/leicestershire/harborough>

## Key

1. Billesdon & Tilton
2. Bosworth
3. Broughton Astley - Primethorpe & Sutton
4. Broughton Astley South & Leire
5. Dunton
6. Fleckney
7. Glen
8. Kibworths
9. Lubenham
10. Lutterworth East
11. Lutterworth West
12. Market Harborough - Great Bowden & Arden
13. Market Harborough - Little Bowden
14. Market Harborough - Logan
15. Market Harborough - Welland
16. Misterton
17. Nevill
18. Thurnby & Houghton
19. Ullesthorpe

# Appendix C

## Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/east-midlands/leicestershire/harborough>

### Local Authority

- Harborough District Council

### Parish and Town Councils

- Foxton Parish Council
- Houghton on the Hill Parish Council
- Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council and Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council joint submission
- Kibworth Harcourt Parish Council
- Shawell Parish Meeting
- Thurnby & Bushby Parish Council

### Local Residents

- Three local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

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

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



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