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Summary

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

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

This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
23 October 2012	Consultation on council size
29 January 2013	Invitation to submit proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
9 April 2013	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
18 June 2013	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
10 September 2013	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Draft recommendations

We proposed a council size of 50 members, comprising a pattern of four single-member wards, 14 two-member wards and six three-member wards. The recommendations were broadly based on the proposals from Wyre Borough Council and Thornton Action Group, subject to a number of modifications to reflect our statutory criteria. Our draft recommendations for Wyre Borough Council sought to reflect the evidence of community identities received while ensuring good electoral equality and providing for effective and convenient local government.

Submissions received

During the consultation on our draft recommendations, the Commission received 13 submissions, including comments covering most parts of the borough. Submissions were received from the Council, Thornton Action Group, seven borough councillors (including a joint-submission) and five residents. All submissions can be viewed on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk

Analysis and final recommendations

Electorate figures

As part of this review, Wyre Borough Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2018, projecting an increase in the electorate of approximately 3.2% over the

six-year period from 2012–18. The forecasts provided by the Council took into account planned developments across the borough, as well as population forecasts made by the Office for National Statistics.

During the consultation on warding patterns, Thornton Action Group expressed concern at how the electorate forecasts had been distributed across particular polling districts. However, having considered the evidence and methodology provided by the Council, we were of the view that the Council's projected figures were the best available at the time and these figures formed the basis of our draft recommendations. During the consultation on the draft recommendations we received no comments on the projected electorate figures. We therefore remain content that the figures provided by the Council remain the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis for the final recommendations.

General analysis

Throughout the review process, the primary consideration has been to achieve good electoral equality, while seeking to reflect community identities and securing effective and convenient local government. Having considered the submissions received during consultation on our draft recommendations, we have sought to reflect community identities and improve the levels of electoral fairness. Our final recommendations take account of submissions received during consultation on our draft recommendations. As a result, we have proposed some minor amendments in the area of Norcross and Thornton-Cleveleys.

Our final recommendations for Wyre are that the Council should have 50 members, with four single-member wards, 14 two-member wards and six three-member wards. None of the wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% by 2018.

What happens next?

We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Wyre Borough Council. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament and will be implemented subject to Parliamentary scrutiny. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements which will come into force at the next elections for Wyre Borough Council, in 2015.

We are grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to the review through expressing their views and advice. The full report is available to download at www.lgbce.org.uk

You can also view our final recommendations for Wyre Borough Council on our interactive maps at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

1 Introduction

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

2 The submission received from Wyre Borough Council during the initial stage of consultation of this review informed our *Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Wyre Borough Council*, which were published on 18 June 2013. We then undertook a further period of consultation which ended on 9 September 2013.

What is an electoral review?

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

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

Why are we conducting a review in Wyre?

5 We decided to conduct this review because, based on December 2011 electorate figures, 31% of the Council's 26 wards have an electoral variance greater than 10% electors per councillor than the average for the borough.

How will the recommendations affect you?

6 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward and, in some instances, which parish council wards you vote in. Your ward name may also change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. The names or boundaries of parishes will not change as a result of our recommendations.

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

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

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

Members of the Commission are:

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

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill
Director of Reviews: Archie Gall

2 Analysis and final recommendations

8 We have now finalised our recommendations for the electoral arrangements for Wyre.

9 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for Wyre Borough Council is to achieve a level of electoral fairness – that is, each elector’s vote being worth the same as another’s. In doing so we must have regard to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009² with the need to:

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

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

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

12 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Wyre Borough Council or the external boundaries or names of parish or town councils, or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that our recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. Our proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

13 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 divisions or wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division or ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

14 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make such changes as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority ward arrangements.

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

However, principal councils have powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct Community Governance Reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

Submissions received

15 Prior to, and during, the initial stages of the review, we visited Wyre Borough Council ('the Council') and met with members and officers. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance. We received 12 submissions during the consultation on warding patterns, including a borough-wide scheme from the Council. During consultation on the draft recommendations we received 13 submissions. All of the submissions may be inspected at both our offices and those of the Council. All representations received can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

16 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2018, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2013. This is prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act'). These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 3.2% to 2018. The forecasts provided by the Council took into account planned developments across the borough, as well as population forecasts made by the Office for National Statistics.

17 During the consultation on warding patterns, Thornton Action Group expressed concern at how the electorate forecasts had been distributed across particular polling districts. However, having considered the evidence and methodology provided by the Council, we were content that the Council's projected figures were the best available at that present time and used these figures to form the basis for the draft recommendations.

18 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, we received no comments relating to the projected electorate figures. We therefore continue to consider that the Council's project figures are the best available at the present time and have used these figures to form the basis of our final recommendations.

Council size

19 Wyre Borough Council currently has 55 councillors elected from 26 borough wards. During the preliminary stage of the review, we met with Group Leaders and Full Council. The Council subsequently made a proposal for a council size of 50, a reduction of five. In support of its proposal, the Council argued that, by streamlining some of its committees to make the business of the Council operate more efficiently, the total number of councillors could be reduced from 55 to 50.

20 The Council also explored the possibility of a more significant reduction in council size, which could be achieved by increasing levels of delegation. However, the Council argued that, while a larger reduction would be possible, it was important to ensure that councillors were able to meet the representational pressures associated with the borough's diverse communities, parish councils and residents' groups. In particular, the Council argued that it was important that it was able to

ensure the enhancement of the representational role of members through the Shaping Your Neighbourhood initiative. The Council argued that these pressures justified a reduction of only five councillors.

21 During the preliminary stage, we also received an alternative council size submission for 44 councillors from the Labour Group. The rationale was primarily an economic one: the Group argued that 'the total number of councillors should be reduced by a level of 20% (pro rata with the electorate) in line with reduction in council staff and services'. The Labour Group argued that a reduction in councillors would help to mitigate the impact of difficult financial circumstances on residents.

22 Having considered the evidence received, we were satisfied that new neighbourhood management initiatives were likely to result in significant increases in representative workloads and that a reduction of councillors to below 50 could undermine the ability of councillors to fulfil this role. We noted that the increase in workload pressures was also acknowledged by the Labour Group in its submission.

23 We were therefore of the view that the evidence supported the Council's case that the number of councillors could be sustainably reduced to 50 members. We determined to consult publicly on this council size. This consultation ended on 3 December 2012.

24 We received seven submissions during the consultation on council size. These were from the Preesall Town Council, three local residents, Thornton Action Group, and a local councillor who submitted two representations.

25 We carefully considered the information provided during the consultation period. Although the submissions received provided mixed support for a council size of 50, no other council size was adequately evidenced. Nor was any substantial evidence presented to contradict the rationale presented by the Council. While we noted arguments made by Thornton Action Group, which compared service responsibilities between Blackpool and Wyre councils and argued for a greater reduction in numbers, we were of the view that Wyre Council should be considered individually and not compared with a neighbouring authority.

26 We were therefore minded to adopt a council size of 50 elected members as the basis of this electoral review. A consultation on warding arrangements began on 29 January 2013 and ended on 8 April 2013.

27 During the consultation on warding arrangements, we received three representations relating to council size. The Labour Group reaffirmed its earlier submission for a council size of 44 but provided no further evidence. Two local residents also stated that the number of councillors should be further reduced, but did not provide any supporting evidence for their assertions. Having considered all the evidence received relating to council size, we decided to adopt a council size of 50 as part of our draft recommendations for Wyre.

28 During the consultation on the draft recommendations, we received four representations which all supported a larger reduction in council size. These were from three borough councillors and one local resident. We are not persuaded that evidence has been received to support a larger reduction in council size. Therefore, we have decided to adopt a council size of 50 as part of our final recommendations.

Electoral fairness

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

30 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor. The borough average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the borough (85,990 in 2012 and 88,719 by 2018) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council, 50 under our draft recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our draft recommendations is 1,720 in 2012 and 1,774 by 2018.

31 Under our final recommendations, none of our proposed wards will have electoral variances of more than 10% from the average for the borough by 2018. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral equality for Wyre.

General analysis

32 During the consultation on our draft recommendations, we received 13 submissions. These included a submission from Wyre Borough Council, Thornton Action Group (TAG), seven borough councillors (including a joint-submission) and five local residents.

33 The Council submission largely opposed the draft recommendations and reiterated the proposals it promoted during the consultation on warding patterns. The submission from the Council also opposed our proposal to include single-member wards in the warding pattern. These arguments were primarily against the principle of single-member wards rather than suggesting why a multi-member warding pattern would better reflect the statutory criteria. Councillor M. Anderton, Councillor E. Anderton and a joint submission from Councillors Newsham and MacNaughton also opposed the principle of single-member wards.

34 The majority of submissions received commented on the Norcross and Thornton-Cleveleys area. As noted in the paragraph above, the Council reiterated its earlier proposals for this area. In a joint submission, Councillors Newsham and MacNaughton proposed an alternative warding pattern covering this area. Opposition to the warding pattern covering this area was also received from Councillor Martin. We received support for our proposals for this area of Wyre from TAG and a member of the public. However, both submissions did suggest alternative ward names.

35 The remaining submissions commented on other parts of the borough. These are covered in more detail in the relevant section of the report below. We also received a submission from a resident who suggested an area outside of the borough should be included within it. The procedure for making any changes to the boundaries between local authorities is a Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR). This is not within the scope of the electoral review of Wyre and the external boundaries of Wyre Borough Council will not change as part of this review.

36 Having considered the representations, we did not consider that sufficient evidence was received to modify the boundaries proposed in our draft recommendations. While alternative warding patterns were promoted, we did not consider that persuasive evidence had been received explaining why these alternatives would better reflect the statutory criteria.

37 Our final recommendations would result in four single-member wards, 14 two-member wards and six three-member wards. We consider our proposals provide for good levels of electoral equality while reflecting our understanding of community identities and interests in Wyre.

Electoral arrangements

38 This section of the report details the proposals we have received, our consideration of them, and our final recommendations for each area of Wyre. The following areas of the authority are considered in turn:

- Rural Wyre (pages 9–10)
- Poulton-le-Fylde and Carleton (pages 10–11)
- Norcross and Thornton-Cleveleys (pages 11–13)
- Fleetwood (page 14)

39 Details of the final recommendations are set out in Table A1 on pages 20–21 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Rural Wyre

40 Rural Wyre comprises a collection of villages and small conurbations to the east of the River Wyre. This part of the borough is entirely parished. Our draft recommendations for rural Wyre were broadly based on those of the Council.

41 As part of our draft recommendations we proposed to divide the Council's proposed two-member Calder ward into two single-member wards of Calder and Wyresdale. This proposal was a result of evidence received from Barnacre-with-Bonds Parish Council. We also proposed to amend the Council's ward name of Hambleton & Stalmine-with-Staynall to Hambleton & Stalmine.

42 During the consultation on our draft recommendations we received two submissions about this area, including the submission from the Council.

43 The Council supported the ward name of Hambleton & Stalmine and opposed our single-member Calder and Wyresdale wards. The Council reiterated its proposal for a two-member Calder ward covering the area. In its submission the Council indicated that in the rural areas it considered single-member wards to be less effective and democratic than multi-member wards. We consider that no evidence has been received to explain why a two-member Calder ward would provide a better balance of the statutory criteria than our proposed single-member wards.

44 The other submission we received about rural Wyre was from Councillor Brooks. He proposed some minor modifications to the boundary of our proposed Garstang ward. He suggested that the boundary needed to be modified along Six Arches Lane, Station Lane and Scorton Lake. We investigated these proposals and

noted that they would result in the creation of unviable parish wards in the parishes of Nether Wyresdale and Forton (we consider a parish ward to be unviable if it contains fewer than 100 electors). Therefore, we have decided not to adopt these proposals as part of our final recommendations.

45 Having considered the evidence received, we have decided not to modify our draft recommendations for rural Wyre. Our final recommendations are for single-member Calder, Wyresdale and Pilling wards, two-member Brock with Catterall, Great Eccleston and Hambleton & Stalmine wards, and three-member Garstang and Preesall wards. Under our final recommendations no ward in rural Wyre would have an electoral variance greater than 10% from the borough average by 2018.

Poulton-le-Fylde and Carleton

46 Poulton-le-Fylde and Carleton are semi-urban conurbations in the south-west of the borough, bordering the north-east of the borough of Blackpool. This part of Wyre is entirely unparished.

Hardhorn, High Cross and Breck

47 Our draft recommendations for these wards were largely based on the Council's proposals with modifications to improve electoral equality, reflect local communities and provide for easily identifiable boundaries.

48 As part of our draft recommendations, we proposed a three-member Hardhorn with High Cross ward. This ward had the borough boundary as its southern, eastern and western boundaries, with the northern boundary following Garstang Road East. This was largely similar to the proposal of the Council. However, it proposed that the boundary follow Garstang Road East before diverting along the railway line in the area. Following our tour of the area we observed that Garstang Road East was a more easily identifiable boundary and decided that the boundary should follow all along Garstang Road East.

49 In response to the consultation on our draft recommendations, the Council reiterated its original proposal for the Hardhorn with High Cross ward. However, it did not provide any new evidence to support its proposal. We have therefore decided not to modify the boundary of our Hardhorn with High Cross ward. We received one other representation in relation to this ward. A resident considered that the proposal appeared logical but proposed the ward be named Hardhorn and High Cross. Having considered the alternative proposal, we have decided not to include this ward name as part of our final recommendations.

50 Our proposed two-member Breck ward was largely similar to that proposed by the Council with a small modification so that the boundary followed Chapel Street rather than Market Place. In response to the consultation on the draft recommendations the Council indicated it supported our proposed Breck ward. We have therefore decided to confirm our proposed Breck ward as final.

51 Under our final recommendations the two-member Breck ward and three-member Hardhorn with High Cross wards would have 8% fewer and 2% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2018, respectively.

Carleton and Tithebarn

52 As part of our draft recommendations we proposed two-member Carleton and Tithebarn wards. These wards were broadly based on the Council's proposals with modifications to improve electoral equality, reflect local communities and provide for easily identifiable boundaries.

53 The only submission we received in relation to these wards was from the Council. The Council opposed our recommendations and reiterated its original proposals. We consider that the Council has not provided evidence to suggest why an alternative pattern of wards would better reflect the statutory criteria.

54 Therefore, we have decided to confirm our Carleton and Tithebarn wards as final. These wards would have 8% more and 4% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2018, respectively.

Norcross and Thornton-Cleveleys

55 Norcross and Thornton-Cleveleys are large unparished urban conurbations in the west of the borough. Like Poulton and Carleton, the area borders the north-east of Blackpool. A number of whole developments and individual houses have crossed over the boundary into Wyre from Blackpool. As a result, the boundary between the two local authorities is defaced³ in multiple locations.

56 In response to the consultation on warding patterns, we received two warding patterns covering this part of the borough. One was from the Council and the other from Thornton Action Group (TAG). Both provided for good levels of electoral equality but were very different.

57 The proposals from TAG built on the principle that Amounderness Way (A585), a busy arterial road running through the heart of the area, was a 'significant barrier' which should not be crossed other than in the Norcross area. The proposals from the Council were very different and proposed a number of wards which crossed Amounderness Way.

58 In developing our draft recommendations we toured the area and observed the proposed warding patterns. We considered that Amounderness Way was a barrier in the area and considered that a warding pattern which crossed it would not reflect community identity. Therefore, we largely based our draft recommendations on the proposals from TAG with a number of modifications to better reflect our statutory criteria.

Cleveleys Park

59 As part of our draft recommendations, we proposed a two-member Cleveleys Park West ward and a single-member Cleveleys Park East ward. In response to the consultation on our draft recommendations we received four submissions in relation to our proposed wards for this part of the borough.

60 The Council opposed our draft recommendations and reiterated its original proposal of a three-member Cleveleys Park ward which crossed Amounderness Way. The Council's proposed ward was also supported by Councillor Martin, who

³ A boundary becomes defaced when the ground detail the boundary was previously following no longer exists or has been built over.

added that Thornton-Cleveleys shared community identity and considered that Amounderness Way was not a significant barrier in the area. Councillor Martin also considered that we had been inconsistent in deciding what roads in the area were significant barriers. We received support for the boundaries of our proposed Cleveleys Park East and Cleveleys Park West wards from TAG and a resident. However, both did propose alternative ward names.

61 TAG and a resident both proposed our Cleveleys Park West ward should be named Cleveleys Park. TAG suggested our Cleveleys Park East ward be named Pheasant's Wood which, it said, reflects the main housing estate in the ward. The resident proposed the ward be named Bourne as the ward included Bourne Hill which is a significant physical feature in the ward.

62 We are not persuaded to modify the boundaries of our proposed Cleveleys Park East and Cleveleys Park West wards. However, we have decided to modify the ward names. As part of our final recommendations we propose that the wards Cleveleys Park East and Cleveleys Park West be named Pheasant's Wood and Cleveleys Park, respectively. These wards would have 8% fewer and 9% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2018, respectively.

Victoria and Jubilee

63 As part of our draft recommendations we proposed two-member Victoria and Jubilee wards. These proposed wards were broadly based on those suggested by TAG but with a number of modifications to improve electoral equality and provide for more easily identifiable boundaries.

64 The four respondents who commented on our proposed wards covering the Cleveleys Park area also commented on the wards in this part of the borough. The Council reiterated its original proposals for a three-member Victoria ward and two-member Jubilee ward. Councillor Martin supported the Council's proposed wards and considered that as we had recognised Amounderness Way as a barrier we had been inconsistent in proposing a Jubilee ward which crossed Rossall Road (A587) and the adjacent tramway. We received support for the boundaries of our proposed Victoria and Jubilee wards from TAG and a resident. However, both proposed alternative ward names for our Victoria ward.

65 TAG proposed our Victoria ward be named Victoria & Norcross and the resident proposed the ward be named Norcross & Victoria. Both considered these names reflected the communities in the ward.

66 As outlined in our draft recommendations report, we considered that a warding pattern which crossed Rossall Road and the adjacent tramway provided for a good balance between the statutory criteria. As detailed in our draft recommendations report, we observed during our tour of the area the number of crossings straddling Rossall Road and the tramway. We are therefore not persuaded to modify the boundaries of our proposed Victoria and Jubilee wards. However, we have decided that our proposed Victoria ward be renamed Victoria & Norcross.

67 Our final recommendations are for two-member Victoria & Norcross and Jubilee wards. These wards would have 5% more and 10% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2018, respectively.

Norcross, Bourne, Thornton and Staina

68 As part of our draft recommendations, we proposed a two-member Staina ward and three-member Norcross & Thornton and Bourne wards. These proposed wards were broadly based on those suggested by TAG but with a number of modifications to improve electoral equality and provide for more easily identifiable boundaries.

69 In addition to the four respondents who commented on our proposals in other parts of the Norcross and Thornton-Cleveleys area we also received a joint submission from Councillors Newsham and MacNaughton who proposed an alternative warding pattern for this part of the borough.

70 The Council reiterated its original proposals for this part of the borough. The Council's proposals were again supported by Councillor Martin. We received support for the boundaries of our proposed Staina, Norcross & Thornton and Bourne wards from TAG and a resident but both respondents again proposed alternative ward names.

71 As mentioned in paragraph 69, we also received an alternative warding pattern covering this area from Councillors Newsham and MacNaughton. They proposed a three-member Thornton Central ward and two-member Thornton West and Bourne wards. The proposed Thornton West ward was bounded by Amounderness Way to the west and Fleetwood Road South/North to the east. The proposed Bourne ward combined our Cleveleys Park East ward with the Burn Naze area. The Thornton Central ward included the Trunnah area and was bounded by Fleetwood Road South/North to the west, the railway line to the east and Amounderness Way to the south. We investigated the electoral equality for these proposals which indicated that the wards of Thornton Central, Thornton West and Bourne would have equal to, 15% fewer and 9% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2018, respectively. We consider these wards do not provide for reasonable levels of electoral equality for the area and have decided not to include these proposals as part of our final recommendations.

72 As detailed in paragraph 70, TAG and a resident proposed alternative ward names in this part of the borough. TAG proposed Norcross & Thornton ward be named Thornton Mill. The resident proposed this ward be named Marsh Mill and the Bourne ward be named Burn Naze with Trunnah. Additionally, the Council and Councillors Newsham and MacNaughton all suggested our Staina ward be named Stanah as this reflected the local name of the area.

73 We are not persuaded to modify the boundaries of our proposed wards in this part of the borough. However, we do propose the ward of Norcross & Thornton be renamed Marsh Mill as it reflects the local landmark in the area, and that Staina ward be named Stanah. We have decided not to modify the name of our proposed Bourne ward.

74 Our final recommendations in this part of the borough are for a two-member Stanah ward and three-member Marsh Mill and Bourne wards. These wards would have 8% more, 7% fewer and 6% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2018, respectively.

Fleetwood

75 Fleetwood is a large urban conurbation, entirely parished, in the north-west of the borough. Our draft recommendations were for two-member Park, Warren, Pharos and Mount wards and a three-member Rossall ward. Our proposals were largely based on those of the Council subject to a small modification to the boundary between the proposed Mount and Park wards.

76 In response to the consultation on the draft recommendations, we received three submissions about this area of the borough. These were from the Council, Councillor E Anderton and a resident. The Council reiterated its original proposals for this part of the borough and objected to our modification to the boundary between Park and Mount wards. Councillor Anderton was concerned about the reduction in representation for Fleetwood and did not support the creation of a St Wulstan's parish ward. The resident opposed the number of parish councillors representing Fleetwood Parish and considered the number of parish councillors should be reduced. He also opposed the name of the St Wulstan's parish ward. The resident considered the proposed parish ward name could alienate people of other religious groups.

77 Firstly, we considered that evidence has not been received to justify modifying the draft recommendations for the proposed district ward boundaries and names in this part of the borough. We therefore, confirm our proposed district wards for the Fleetwood area as final.

78 Secondly, when dividing a parish between borough wards we must also create parish wards. This is the case for Fleetwood. When creating parish wards we must have regard to the district wards and the county division boundaries. Our proposed St Wulstan's parish ward is a result of the proposed district ward boundaries and the county division boundaries in the area. Therefore, we propose a parish ward should be created. We did investigate alternative parish ward names for the St Wulstan's parish ward but considered this name was recognisable locally as it reflected both the church and school in the parish ward. Having considered the evidence received we have decided to confirm our proposed parish wards for Fleetwood as final. These are detailed in paragraph 83.

79 Our final recommendations for the Fleetwood area are for two-member Park, Warren, Pharos and Mount wards and a three-member Rossall ward. These wards would have 7% more, 4% more, 6% more, 7% more and 7% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2018, respectively.

Conclusions

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

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2012	2018
Number of councillors	50	50
Number of electoral wards	24	24
Average number of electors per councillor	1,720	1,774
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Wyre Borough Council should comprise 50 councillors serving 24 wards as detailed and named in Table A1 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Parish electoral arrangements

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

82 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, Wyre Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

83 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parish of Fleetwood.

Final recommendation

Fleetwood Town Council should return 13 parish councillors, as at present, representing six wards: Park (returning two members), Mount (returning two members), Pharos (returning three members), Rossall (returning three members), Warren (returning two members) and St Wulstan's (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 What happens next?

84 We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Wyre Borough Council. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements which will come into force at the next elections for Wyre Borough Council in 2015.

Equalities

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

4 Mapping

Final recommendations for Wyre

86 The following maps illustrate our proposed ward boundaries for Wyre Borough Council:

- **Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Wyre Borough Council.

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

Appendix A

Table A1: Final recommendations for Wyre Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bourne	3	4,542	1,514	-12%	5,000	1,667	-6%
2	Breck	2	3,135	1,568	-9%	3,270	1,635	-8%
3	Brock with Catterall	2	3,637	1,819	6%	3,758	1,879	6%
4	Calder	1	1,713	1,713	0%	1,750	1,750	-1%
5	Carleton	2	3,744	1,872	9%	3,826	1,913	8%
6	Cleveleys Park	2	3,795	1,898	10%	3,877	1,939	9%
7	Garstang	3	5,344	1,781	4%	5,515	1,838	4%
8	Great Eccleston	2	3,116	1,558	-9%	3,184	1,592	-10%
9	Hambleton & Stalmine	2	3,488	1,744	1%	3,574	1,787	1%
10	Hardhorn with High Cross	3	5,045	1,682	-2%	5,236	1,745	-2%
11	Jubilee	2	3,808	1,904	11%	3,896	1,948	10%
12	Marsh Mill	3	4,830	1,610	-6%	4,935	1,645	-7%
13	Mount	2	3,580	1,790	4%	3,788	1,894	7%
14	Park	2	3,713	1,857	8%	3,798	1,899	7%

Table A1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Wyre Borough Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
15 Pharos	2	3,642	1,821	6%	3,770	1,885	6%
16 Pheasant's Wood	1	1,593	1,593	-7%	1,627	1,627	-8%
17 Pilling	1	1,788	1,788	4%	1,849	1,849	4%
18 Preesall	3	4,659	1,553	-10%	4,770	1,590	-10%
19 Rossall	3	4,817	1,606	-7%	4,925	1,642	-7%
20 Stanah	2	3,766	1,883	9%	3,848	1,924	8%
21 Tithebarn	2	3,348	1,674	-3%	3,420	1,710	-4%
22 Victoria & Norcross	2	3,645	1,823	6%	3,733	1,867	5%
23 Warren	2	3,615	1,808	5%	3,708	1,854	4%
24 Wyresdale	1	1,627	1,627	-5%	1,662	1,662	-6%
Totals	50	85,990	-	-	88,719	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,720	-	-	1,774	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Wyre Borough Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each ward varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors.

Appendix B

Glossary and abbreviations

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

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

Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
PER (or periodic electoral review)	A review of the electoral arrangements of all local authorities in England, undertaken periodically. The last programme of PERs was undertaken between 1996 and 2004 by the Boundary Commission for England and its predecessor, the now-defunct Local Government Commission for England
Political management arrangements	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enabled local authorities in England to modernise their decision making process. Councils could choose from two broad categories; a directly elected mayor and cabinet or a cabinet with a leader
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

