

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for South Gloucestershire Council

Electoral review

August 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 South Gloucestershire?

4 We are conducting a review of South Gloucestershire Council as a result of a request from the authority in order that the number of councillors elected to the authority could be examined.

Our proposals for South Gloucestershire

- South Gloucestershire should be represented by 61 councillors, nine fewer than there are now.
- South Gloucestershire should have 30 wards, five fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of 28 wards should change, two will stay the same.

Have your say

5 We are consulting on our draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 29 August to 6 November 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 received.

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 6 November 2017 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 29 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.¹

8 The members of the Commission are:

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

¹ 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 South Gloucestershire 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

Consultation

12 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for South Gloucestershire. 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
21 March 2017	Number of councillors decided
28 March 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 June 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
29 August 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
6 November 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
16 January 2018	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, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

15 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ 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.

	2017	2023
Electorate of South Gloucestershire	210,525	230,173
Number of councillors	61	61
Average number of electors per councillor	3,451	3,773

18 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for South Gloucestershire will have good electoral equality by 2023.

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

Electorate figures

21 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 9% by 2023, largely driven by the Filton Airfield development in the proposed Charlton & Cribbs ward.

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

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

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 South Gloucestershire Council currently has 70 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by three political groups on the Council and have concluded that decreasing by nine, to a council size of 61, will make sure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

24 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 61 councillors – for example, 61 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

25 We did not receive any submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 61-member council.

Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received 28 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three detailed district-wide proposals from two political groups and a member of the public. One political group submitted a partial scheme. All of the schemes received were based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 61 elected members.

27 The four district-wide schemes each provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for South Gloucestershire. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that the proposed ward boundaries would have good levels of electoral equality. We also considered that they generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

28 Our draft recommendations are based on a combination of the district-wide proposals that we received. In some areas of the district we have also taken into account local evidence where we received it, and where it provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas, we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of South Gloucestershire helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed, and allowed us to make decisions based on observations as well as submissions.

29 Our draft recommendations are for eight three-councillor wards, 15 two-councillor wards and seven one-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

30 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 24 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

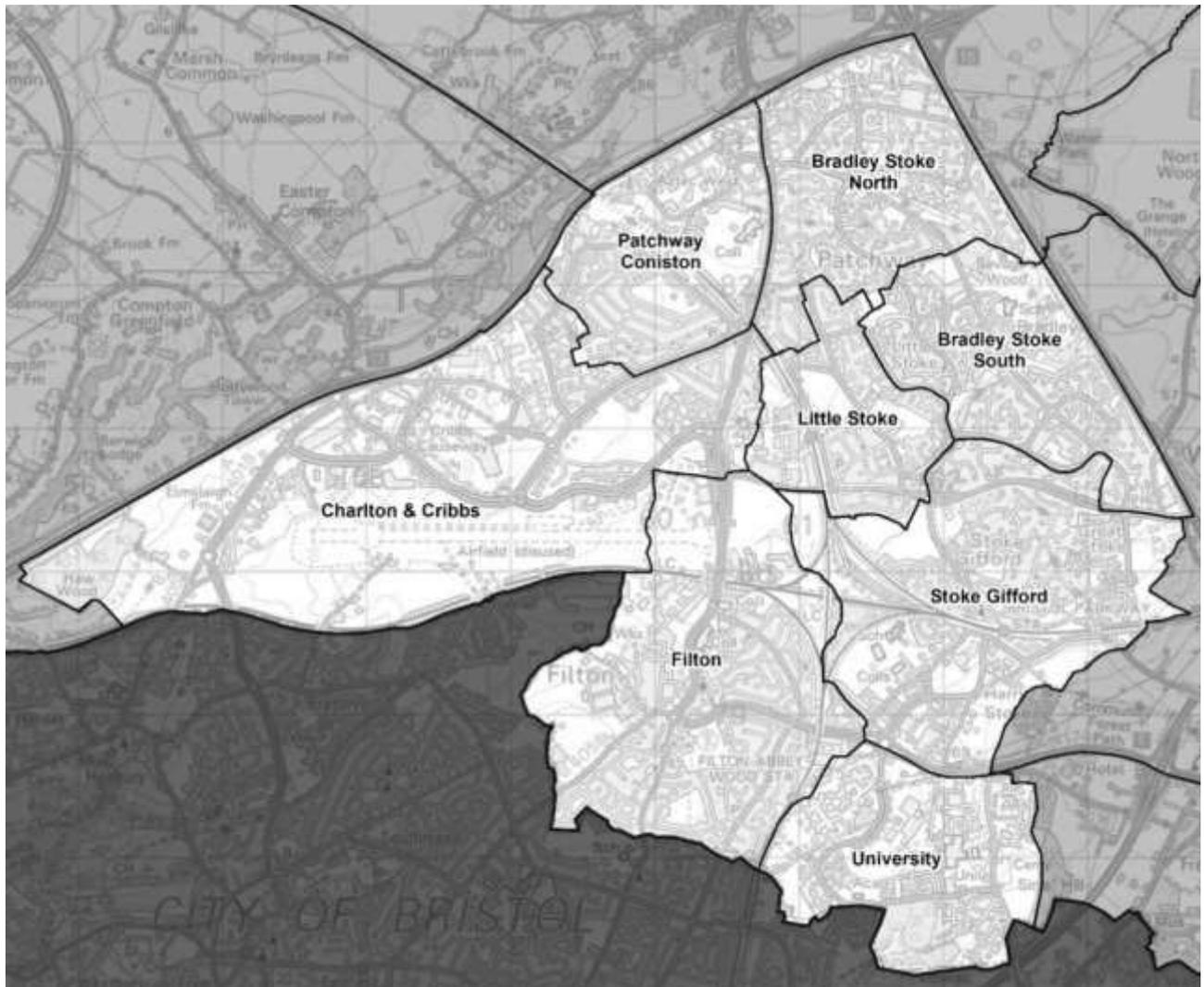
Draft recommendations

32 The tables and maps on pages 8–23 detail our draft recommendations for each area of South Gloucestershire. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

South western areas



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Bradley Stoke North	2	4%
Bradley Stoke South	2	-7%
Charlton & Cribbs	3	4%
Filton	2	8%
Little Stoke	1	5%
Patchway Coniston	1	5%
Stoke Gifford	2	9%
University	1	-8%

Bradley Stoke North, Bradley Stoke South and Little Stoke

33 The proposed Bradley Stoke North, Bradley Stoke South and Little Stoke wards are based on a submission made by the Council's Labour Group, as the proposed wards used strong and identifiable boundaries, and provided for good levels of electoral equality. We propose an alteration to the Labour Group's proposed Little Stoke ward, to include the area of housing directly to the south of Gipsy Patch Lane; this change allows for access throughout the ward, and provides for good levels of electoral equality.

34 The eastern and northern boundaries of these wards are formed by the M4 and M5 motorways, which are also the external boundaries of Bradley Stoke parish. We consider that the motorways form strong boundaries that mark the proposed wards out as distinct from the more rural areas to the north and east.

35 Both the Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrat Group also provided a warding pattern for this area, as did a member of the public. However, the chosen warding pattern provided for the best levels of electoral equality and also followed strong and identifiable boundaries. We are proposing a two-councillor Bradley Stoke North ward, a two-councillor Bradley Stoke South ward, and a single-councillor Little Stoke ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Charlton & Cribbs, Filton and Patchway Coniston

36 Our proposed warding pattern in this area is based largely on the proposal received from the Council's Conservative Group, as their proposed wards did not cross the M5 boundary in the north, which is a significant elevated motorway. The proposed Filton ward follows the boundary of Filton parish, and mirrors the existing arrangement in this area. We note that part of the development will fall within the proposed Filton ward. We considered that it may be preferable to have all of the development in one ward; however, as this small area will be used as offices and retail space, we are unable to move it into Charlton & Cribbs as it would create an unviable parish ward as there would be no electors there.

37 The proposed Charlton & Cribbs ward contains the Filton Airfield development area, and the electorate is expected to increase significantly over the next five years. This ward contains the old Filton Airfield, along with the existing Cribbs Causeway retail development, the area south of Highwood Road and the area west of Callicroft Primary Academy. The ward's northern boundary is formed by the M5 motorway, and the western boundary is formed by Haw Wood, as suggested both by the Liberal Democrats and a member of the public.

38 The proposed Patchway Coniston ward comprises the Aztec West Business Park, along with the housing surrounding the eastern end of Coniston Road. This ward is based on a ward pattern submitted by the Conservative Group, and follows strong and identifiable boundaries.

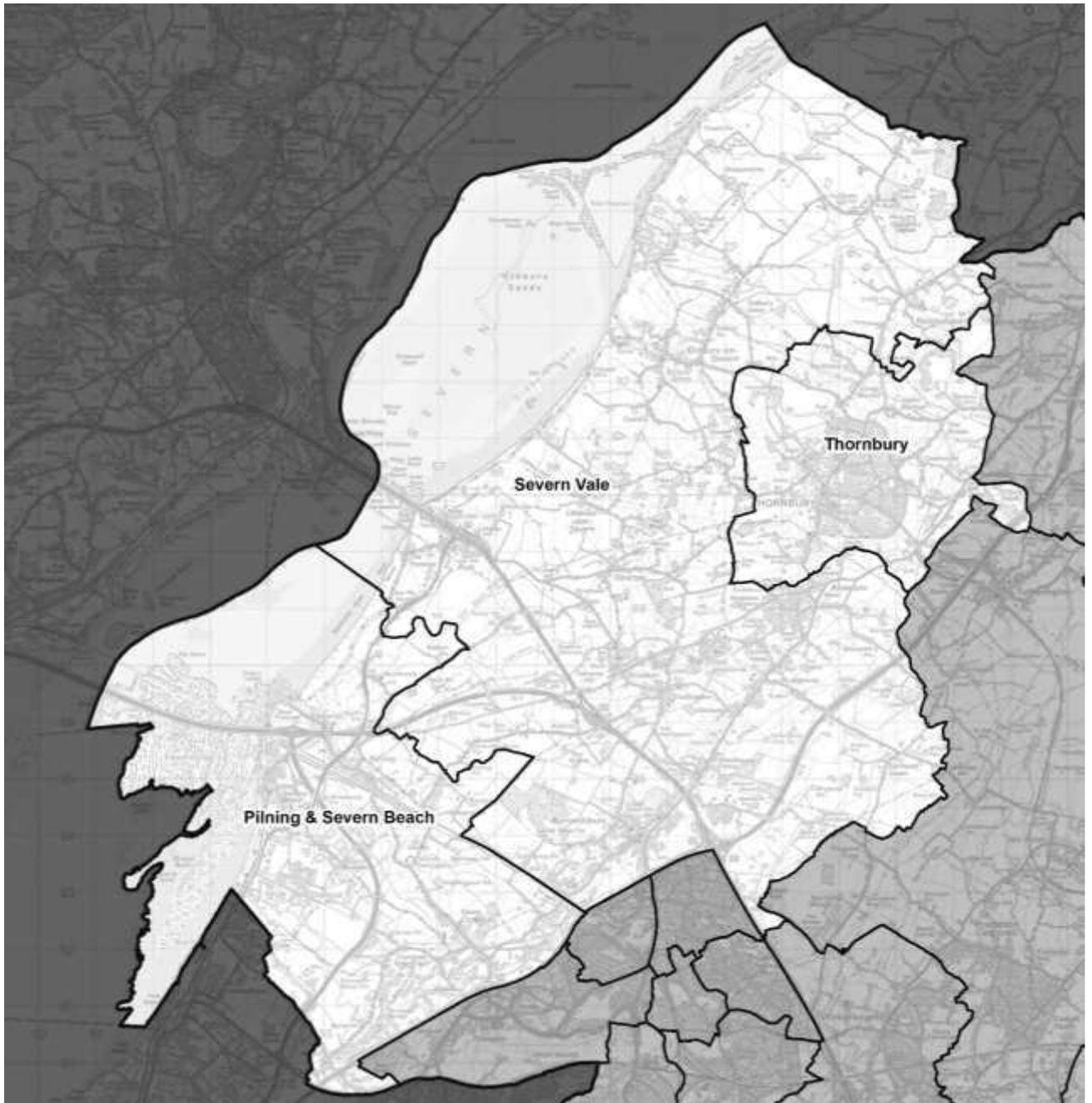
Stoke Gifford and University

39 The proposed Stoke Gifford and University wards are based on a combination of the proposals made by the three political groups. On our visit to the area, we noted that the University area is distinct from the surrounding wards, and that Filton Road forms a strong boundary between the university and the area to the north. For

this reason, we have created a single-councillor University ward, a variation on the ward proposed here by the Liberal Democrat Group.

40 In Stoke Gifford, north of the university, the proposed two-councillor ward combines the proposals made by the Labour and Conservative groups. The proposed ward includes the area north of Filton Road with the Stoke Gifford area north of the railway line and includes the area east of Stoke Brook and north of Winterbourne Road. We carefully considered each proposal here, and concluded that a combination of the proposed schemes not only allowed for good adherence to the statutory criteria in Stoke Gifford, but also allowed for a strong warding pattern across the rest of this part of South Gloucestershire.

Rural west



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Pilning & Severn Beach	1	2%
Severn Vale	2	5%
Thornbury	3	3%

Pilning & Severn Beach and Severn Vale

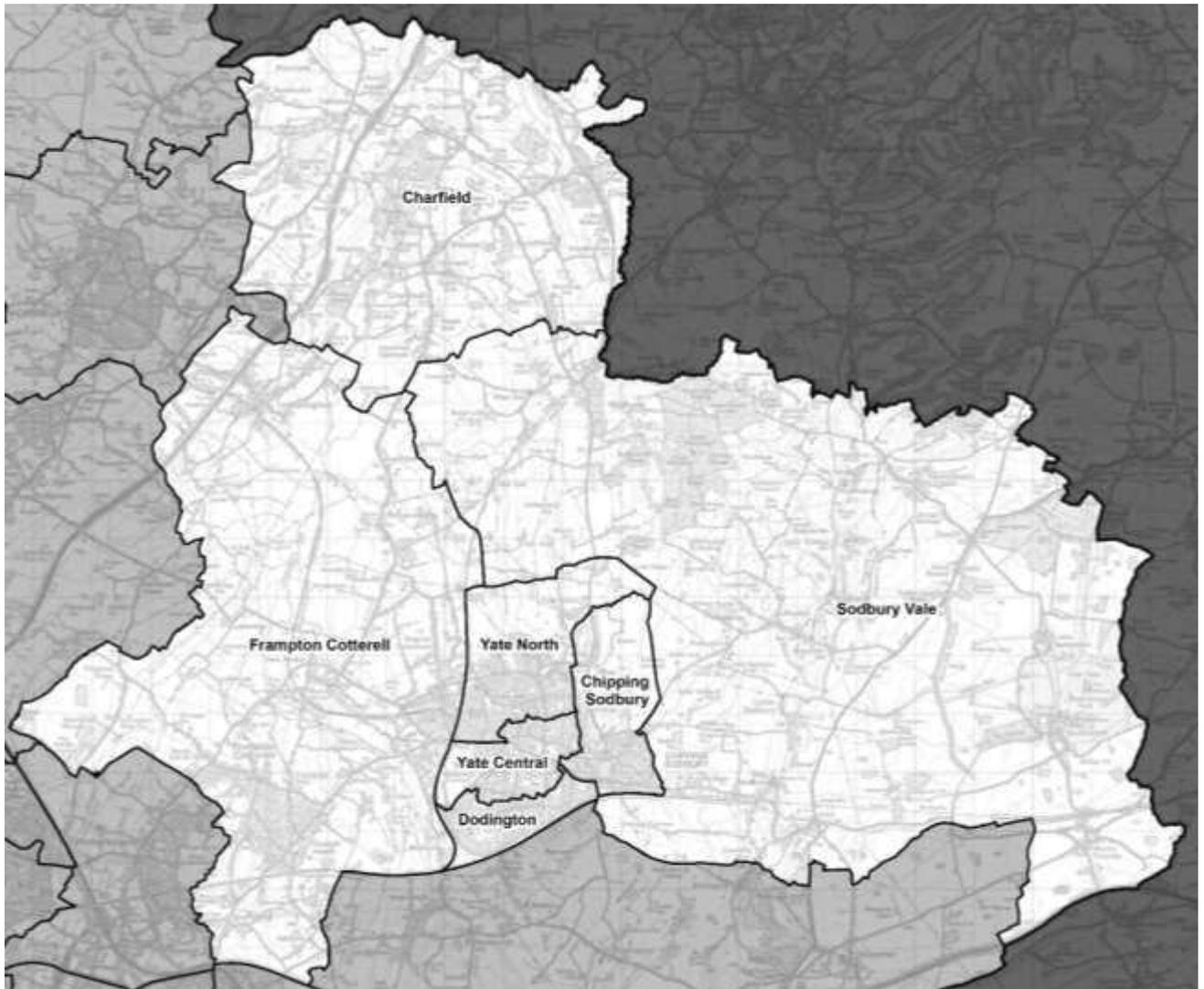
41 The proposed Pilning & Severn Beach ward is based on the scheme submitted by the Conservative Group, with an alteration to the south-western boundary to include Hallen Road. This small area lies to the south of the M5 but can only be accessed from the Pilning & Severn Beach ward; there is no access into this area from the east. We received a submission from Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council, which suggested extending the existing ward in this area to include the Easter Compton area. We are therefore proposing a ward that includes the parish of Pilning & Severn Beach and the area of Almondsbury parish north of the M5 and west of the railway line, in addition to the Hallen Road area mentioned above. The proposed ward represents community links in the area, as well as providing for good levels of electoral equality and following strong and identifiable boundaries.

42 With regard to the proposed Severn Vale ward, in addition to the aforementioned full schemes, we received submissions from four parish councils, as well as from a member of the public. Each of these parish councils referenced the rurality of the existing Severn ward, and expressed a desire for this rural character to be maintained. The submission from a member of the public requested that the parish of Rockhampton be included in a rural ward. To maintain a good level of electoral equality, both in this ward and across South Gloucestershire, our proposed ward extends the existing Severn ward to the south-east, as put forward by the Conservative submission. This submission provided compelling evidence regarding the community links within the proposed ward, including the structure of local services, community publications, and the schools in the area. The proposed ward comprises the parishes of Rockhampton, Hill, Oldbury-upon-Severn, Aust, Olveston and Alveston, and the parts of Almondsbury parish that lie to the north of the motorways and to the east of the railway line.

Thornbury

43 Our proposed three-councillor Thornbury ward comprises the parish of Thornbury. This warding arrangement was put forward by the Liberal Democrat Group, the Labour Group, and a member of the public. Thornbury Town Council requested that the existing warding arrangements here be maintained; however, to do this would require the addition of another councillor, and would result in a variance of -28% in the proposed Severn Vale ward. No evidence was provided to support this warding pattern. The Town Council's 'second choice' option was to maintain all of Thornbury parish in one ward. Our proposed Thornbury ward follows the boundaries of Thornbury parish, with a variance of 3% and represented by three councillors.

Rural east and Yate



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Charfield	1	-6%
Chipping Sodbury	1	1%
Dodington	2	7%
Frampton Cotterell	3	-9%
Sodbury Vale	1	8%
Yate Central	2	-9%
Yate North	3	-1%

Charfield and Frampton Cotterell

44 In addition to the full schemes, we received two submissions regarding the proposed Charfield ward, both from parish councils. Both submissions requested that the existing warding pattern here be maintained, as it was felt that it works well for the parishes as it exists currently. As a result of the submissions received, we are maintaining the existing Charfield ward; this ward includes four parishes, and will have a variance of -6% by 2023.

45 The proposed Frampton Cotterell ward comprises the parishes of Frampton Cotterell, Iron Acton, Rangeworthy and Tytherington, and part of the parish of Westerleigh. In addition to the full schemes, we received a submission from Iron Acton Parish Council, requesting that the parish be included in one ward. We did not receive any other evidence concerning this ward; we visited this ward during a tour of the area, and noted that there are good road links throughout the proposed ward. The ward here follows strong boundaries, and has a variance of -9% by 2023.

Chipping Sodbury, Dodington, Yate Central and Yate North

46 In addition to the full schemes, we received three submissions regarding Yate and Dodington. One of these submissions commented on electorate forecasting; we are content with the forecasts provided by the Council.

47 The remaining two submissions were from Yate Town Council and Dodington Parish Council. The latter suggested that the rural part of the parish of Dodington be included in a rural ward – our proposed warding pattern puts this area in the rural Boyd Valley ward. Dodington Parish Council also put forward a warding pattern for Dodington that was very similar to that proposed by Yate Town Council, with a small part of Yate parish joining the northern part of Dodington Parish.

48 Yate Town Council's submission provided detailed evidence for a warding pattern comprising two Yate wards, a Dodington ward, and a Chipping Sodbury ward. The evidence provided focused on the different characters of Yate and Chipping Sodbury; this was supported by a visit to the area. Yate Town Council provided good evidence regarding the community identities within Yate and Chipping Sodbury, and given the strength of the evidence provided we have adopted the Town Council's proposed warding pattern here.

49 The proposed Dodington ward comprises the area north and east of the railway line, west of Kennedy Way, and south of Longford and Glenfall. We noted on our visit to the area that Rodford Way is a dual carriageway with a central reservation and therefore is difficult to cross in places; however, to include the area north of Rodford Way in the proposed Yate Central ward would result in a variance of 18% for Yate Central and a variance of -19% for Dodington, and no evidence was provided to justify these variances.

50 The proposed two-councillor Yate Central ward comprises the area north of Sunningdale, Woodmancote and The Common, and is bounded in the west by the railway line, which is also the parish boundary. The ward also follows the parish boundary in the east, and the northern boundary sits to the north of properties on Melrose Avenue, The Glen and Home Orchard, and then runs along Station Road.

The proposed Yate North ward, to the north of Yate Central ward, again follows the parish boundary.

51 The proposed Chipping Sodbury ward is also based on the ward boundaries proposed by Yate Town Council, and includes those areas of Sodbury parish west of Sodbury Common and the River Frome, and north of the railway line.

Sodbury Vale

52 In addition to the full schemes, we received three submissions relating to the proposed Sodbury Vale ward. Two of these submissions did not request any specific alterations, and one submission requested that the existing warding pattern in this area be maintained. However, to maintain the existing warding pattern would result in a Sodbury Vale ward with a variance of -26%, and no compelling evidence was received to justify such a high variance. Our proposed ward is a modified version of the wards proposed in this area by both the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Group, and includes the parishes of Acton Turville, Badminton, Little Sodbury, Horton, Hawkesbury and Wickwar, along with the rural part of the parish of Sodbury. We have named this ward Sodbury Vale, but would welcome comments on this during the consultation on the draft recommendations.

Western areas



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Emersons Green	3	6%
Frenchay & Downend	3	-3%
Staple Hill & Mangotsfield	3	1%
Winterbourne	2	-2%

Emersons Green

53 In addition to the full schemes, we received one submission relating to this area, from Emersons Green Town Council. In its submission, the Town Council requested that any district ward be coterminous with the parish boundary. None of the full schemes received proposed an Emersons Green ward that covered the entire parish, instead following existing ward boundaries or polling district boundaries. As a ward that contains the entire parish would provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, following strong boundaries and encompassing an established community area, we are proposing a three-councillor Emersons Green ward that mirrors the boundary of Emersons Green parish, with a variance of 6% by 2023.

Frenchay & Downend and Staple Hill & Mangotsfield

54 We did not receive any submissions specifically relating to this area, apart from the full schemes. Our proposed Frenchay & Downend ward is based on the ward proposed by the Conservative Group in this area, with a number of alterations. Our proposed ward covers the Frenchay area to the south of the A4174, along with the majority of the parish of Downend & Bromley Heath. The Labour Group proposed a southern boundary that runs south of Shrubbery Road and Christ Church Infant School, and along Salisbury Road. As this allows for a smaller electoral imbalance in the proposed ward, we have adopted the Labour Group's proposed southern boundary here. All three of the schemes received from the political groups placed the Aintree Drive area in the north into a proposed Emersons Green ward; however, as stated in paragraph 53, the Emersons Green ward proposed as part of the draft recommendations follows the parish boundary. For this reason, and because Badminton Road forms a strong boundary, we are including the Aintree Drive area in the proposed Frenchay & Downend ward.

55 Our proposed Staple Hill & Mangotsfield ward is based on the proposals made by the Labour Group. Their submission focused on Page Park, as a local leisure hub, forming the central focal point of the new ward; at the moment, the park falls between three wards. The proposed ward includes the area north of Church Road and the railway line, and west of Charn Hill, Elmleigh Avenue and Barley Close Community Primary School.

Winterbourne

56 Each of the four full schemes received proposed retaining the existing Winterbourne ward, which is based largely on the parish of Winterbourne, excluding the Frenchay area. On our visit to the area, we noted that the A4174 forms a significant barrier between north and south of Winterbourne, with a limited number of crossing points. We are therefore proposing to alter the existing Winterbourne ward to include the area south of the A4174 in Frenchay & Downend. The areas of Winterbourne parish that lie north of the A4174 will form our proposed two-councillor Winterbourne ward.

Southern areas



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Hanham	3	-9%
Kingswood	2	-4%
Longwell Green	2	7%
New Cheltenham	2	-6%
Parkwall & Warmley	2	-1%
Woodstock	2	3%

Hanham, Longwell Green and Parkwall & Warmley

57 The four schemes that provided a warding pattern here each proposed significantly different boundaries. None of the proposals contained any strong evidence to support the warding patterns presented. In Hanham, an area lying on the very edge of the district, our proposed ward is based on a scheme submitted by a member of the public that closely resembles the existing arrangements, including Hanham parish and the area of Hanham Abbots parish that lies to the west of the A4174

58 The proposed Longwell Green ward is similar to those wards proposed by both the Labour and Conservative groups. The ward covers the area of Hanham Abbots parish to the east of the A4174 and Oldland parish south of Stephens Drive, Parkwall Road and Earlstone Crescent.

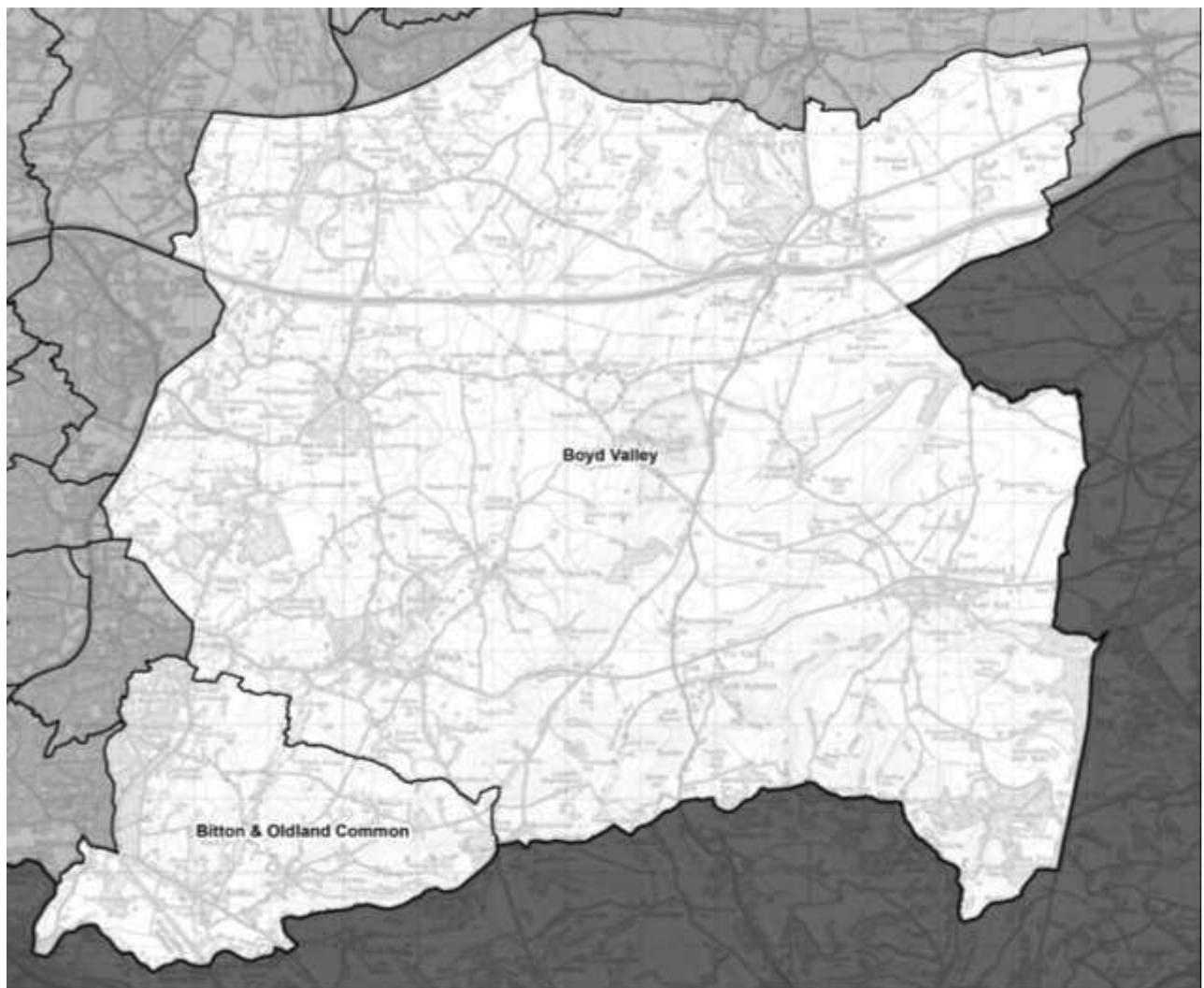
59 The proposed Parkwall & Warmley ward includes the Parkwall, Warmle and Cadbury Heath areas east of the A4174. The proposed ward uses this main road as its western boundary, except in the north of the ward where a slight deviation is made to avoid the creation of an unviable parish ward in the parish of Siston. We would particularly welcome comments on these wards during the consultation on the draft recommendations.

Kingswood, New Cheltenham and Woodstock

60 Three of the schemes received provided a warding pattern for this area. We visited the area and agreed with the Conservatives' submission on the assertion that the A420 is a community focus, rather than a dividing line, and as such it should not be used as a ward boundary. The proposed Kingswood and Woodstock wards therefore cover areas on both sides of the A420. The proposed New Cheltenham ward includes the area north of New Cheltenham Road and Lansdown Road, and also includes the area of Siston parish between Siston Common and the A4174.

61 None of the schemes received provided for a warding pattern in this area that allowed for a strong warding pattern across the whole of South Gloucestershire. The wards proposed allow for a pattern of wards across the district that adhere to the statutory criteria. As we did not receive any submissions directly referring to this area during the first stage of consultation, we would particularly welcome comments on our proposed Kingswood, New Cheltenham and Woodstock wards during the consultation on the draft recommendations.

South eastern areas



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Bitton & Oldland Common	2	0%
Boyd Valley	2	-4%

Bitton & Oldland Common

62 Our proposed Bitton & Oldland Common ward is based on a submission from Bitton Parish Council. The submission requested that the parish of Bitton be represented by a two-member ward coterminous with the parish. As this arrangement provides for a variance of 0% and reflects community identities in the area, we propose a two-councillor Bitton & Oldland Common ward as part of our draft recommendations.

Boyd Valley

63 Our proposed Boyd Valley ward comprises the parishes of Marshfield, Cold Ashton, Tormarton, Dyrham & Hinton, Doynton, Wick & Abson and Pucklechurch, the rural area of Dodington parish, the area of Westerleigh to the east of Ram Hill, and the rural eastern areas of the parish of Siston. In addition to the full schemes, we received two submissions from parish councils relating to this area. One did not provide substantive comments, and the other requested that the parish of Doynton be included in a predominantly rural ward. Our proposed ward is made up of the rural parishes lying to the east of the urban part of the district, and to the south of the railway line. We acknowledge that this two-councillor ward covers a large area; however, no satisfactory alternative was provided that met the statutory criteria. We would particularly welcome comments on both the make-up of this ward and the ward name during the consultation on the draft recommendations.

Conclusions

64 The table below shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2017 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	61	61
Number of electoral wards	30	30
Average number of electors per councillor	3,451	3,773
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	14	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Draft recommendation

South Gloucestershire Council should be made up of 61 councillors serving 30 wards representing seven single-councillor wards, 15 two-councillor wards and eight three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for South Gloucestershire. You can also view our draft recommendations for South Gloucestershire Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

65 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.

66 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, South Gloucestershire 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.

67 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 Almondsbury Parish Council, Bradley Stoke Town Council, Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council, Hanham Abbots Parish Council, Oldland Parish Council, Patchway Town Council, Siston Parish Council, Sodbury Town Council, Stoke Gifford Parish Council, Stoke Lodge & The Common Parish Council, Westerleigh Parish Council, Winterbourne Parish Council and Yate Town Council.

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

Draft recommendation	
Almondsbury Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Almondsbury	4
Compton	1
Cribbs Causeway	8

69 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 Bradley Stoke parish.

Draft recommendation	
Bradley Stoke Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
North	6
South	7
Stoke Brook	2

70 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 Downend & Bromley Heath parish.

Draft recommendation	
Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Downend	10
Staple Hill	2

71 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 Hanham Abbots parish.

Draft recommendation	
Hanham Abbots Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	4
West	9

72 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 Oldland parish.

Draft recommendation	
Oldland Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Cadbury Heath	7
Longwell Green	7
Mount Hill	1

73 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 Patchway parish.

Draft recommendation	
Patchway Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Callicroft	9
Coniston	6

74 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 Siston parish.

Draft recommendation Siston Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Common	3
Rural	1
Warmley	5

75 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 Sodbury parish.

Draft recommendation Sodbury Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Chipping Sodbury	13
Old Sodbury	2

76 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 Stoke Gifford parish.

Draft recommendation Stoke Gifford Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	6
Little Stoke	3
University	3

77 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 Stoke Lodge & The Common parish.

Draft recommendation Stoke Lodge & The Common Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
North	7
South	2

78 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 Westerleigh parish.

Draft recommendation

Westerleigh Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Coalpit Heath	7
Westerleigh	2

79 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 Winterbourne parish.

Draft recommendation

Winterbourne Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Frenchay	4
Winterbourne	12

80 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 Yate parish.

Draft recommendation

Yate Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	6
North	9
South	2

3 Have your say

81 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 district or just a part of it.

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

83 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

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

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

85 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for South Gloucestershire 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

86 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

87 Electoral equality:

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

88 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?

89 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?

90 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. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

91 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.

92 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.

93 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 South Gloucestershire Council in 2019.

Equalities

94 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 South Gloucestershire Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bitton & Oldland Common	2	7,348	3,674	6%	7,582	3,791	0%
2	Boyd Valley	2	7,187	3,594	4%	7,235	3,618	-4%
3	Bradley Stoke North	2	7,834	3,917	13%	7,838	3,919	4%
4	Bradley Stoke South	2	7,002	3,501	1%	7,002	3,501	-7%
5	Charfield	1	3,228	3,228	-6%	3,533	3,533	-6%
6	Charlton & Cribbs	3	4,534	1,511	-56%	11,723	3,908	4%
7	Chipping Sodbury	1	3,657	3,657	6%	3,794	3,794	1%
8	Dodington	2	7,971	3,986	15%	8,063	4,032	7%
9	Emersons Green	3	10,106	3,369	-2%	12,002	4,001	6%
10	Filton	2	8,094	4,047	17%	8,175	4,088	8%
11	Frampton Cotterell	3	10,189	3,396	-2%	10,355	3,452	-9%
12	Frenchay & Downend	3	10,332	3,444	0%	10,930	3,643	-3%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Hanham	3	10,250	3,417	-1%	10,356	3,452	-9%
14 Kingswood	2	6,571	3,286	-5%	7,244	3,622	-4%
15 Little Stoke	1	3,956	3,956	15%	3,971	3,971	5%
16 Longwell Green	2	7,905	3,953	15%	8,039	4,020	7%
17 New Cheltenham	2	6,982	3,491	1%	7,075	3,538	-6%
18 Parkwall & Warmley	2	7,396	3,698	7%	7,457	3,729	-1%
19 Patchway Coniston	1	3,976	3,976	15%	3,976	3,976	5%
20 Pilning & Severn Beach	1	3,830	3,830	11%	3,840	3,840	2%
21 Severn Vale	2	7,870	3,935	14%	7,922	3,961	5%
22 Sodbury Vale	1	4,062	4,062	18%	4,088	4,088	8%
23 Staple Hill & Mangotsfield	3	11,239	3,746	9%	11,422	3,807	1%
24 Stoke Gifford	2	7,565	3,783	10%	8,192	4,096	9%
25 Thornbury	3	10,063	3,354	-3%	11,631	3,877	3%
26 University	1	1,961	1,961	-43%	3,478	3,478	-8%
27 Winterbourne	2	6,040	3,020	-12%	7,386	3,693	-2%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28 Woodstock	2	7,739	3,870	12%	7,777	3,889	3%
29 Yate Central	2	6,879	3,440	0%	6,898	3,449	-9%
30 Yate North	3	8,759	2,920	-15%	11,189	3,730	-1%
Totals	61	210,525	–	–	230,173	–	–
Averages	–	–	3,451	–	–	3,773	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by South Gloucestershire 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



Key

1. Bitton & Oldland Common
2. Boyd Valley
3. Bradley Stoke North
4. Bradley Stoke South
5. Charfield
6. Charlton & Cribbs
7. Chipping Sodbury
8. Dodington
9. Emersons Green
10. Filton
11. Frampton Cotterell
12. Frenchay & Downend
13. Hanham
14. Kingswood
15. Little Stoke
16. Longwell Green
17. New Cheltenham
18. Parkwall & Warmley
19. Patchway Coniston
20. Pilning & Severn Beach
21. Severn Vale
22. Sodbury Vale
23. Staple Hill & Mangotsfield
24. Stoke Gifford
25. Thornbury
26. University
27. Winterbourne
28. Woodstock
29. Yate Central
30. Yate North

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/south-west/gloucestershire/south-gloucestershire>

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

Political Groups

- South Gloucestershire Council Conservative Group
- South Gloucestershire Council Labour Group
- South Gloucestershire Council Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor R. Avenin (South Gloucestershire Council)

Parish and Town Council

- Aust Parish Council
- Bitton Parish Council
- Dodington Parish Council
- Doynton Parish Council
- Emersons Green Town Council
- Falfield Parish Council
- Hawkesbury Parish Council
- Hill Parish Meeting
- Iron Acton Parish Council
- Oldbury on Severn Parish Council
- Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council
- Rockhampton Parish Council
- Thornbury Town Council
- Tormanton Parish Council
- Tortworth Parish Council
- Wick & Abson Parish Council
- Yate Town Council (two submissions)

Local Residents

- Six 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 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