

Contents

Summary	1
1 Introduction	3
2 Analysis and draft recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	5
Council size	6
Warding patterns	6
Detailed wards	7
Central, Holywell, Oxhey and Vicarage	8
Leggatts, Nascot and Park	10
Meriden, Stanborough and Woodside	12
Callowland and Tudor	15
Conclusions	17
3 Have your say	19

Appendices

A Table A1: Draft recommendations for Watford Borough Council	21
B Submissions received	23
C Glossary and abbreviations	24

Summary

Who we are

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.

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

Electoral review

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

Why Watford?

We are conducting an electoral review of Watford Borough Council as the Council currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more or many fewer voters than others. This means that the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Watford. Overall, 33% of wards in Watford currently have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the borough. Tudor ward currently has 20% fewer electors than the average for Watford, while Central ward has 15% more.

Our proposals for Watford

Watford Borough Council currently has 36 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, we consider that maintaining this council size will ensure the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively.

Electoral arrangements

As Watford Borough Council elects by thirds, the Commission will aim to produce a uniform pattern of three-member wards. Our draft recommendations therefore propose that Watford Borough Council's 36 councillors should represent 12 three-member wards across the borough. None of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Watford by 2020.

You have until 19 October 2015 to have your say on the recommendations. See page 19 for how to have your say.

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Watford Borough Council's ('the Council's) electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

What is an electoral review?

2 Our three main considerations in conducting an electoral review are set out in legislation¹ and are to:

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

3 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

4 We wrote to the Council as well as other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals on council size. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
17 March 2015	Council size decision
12 May 2015	Invitation to submit proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
7 July 2015	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
25 August 2015	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation
19 October 2015	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
3 December 2015	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

5 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 the name of your ward.

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

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 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
Alison Lowton
Sir Tony Redmond
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

7 Legislation² states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors³ in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the date of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward at the end of the review.

8 In reality, 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.

9 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors as shown on the table below.

	2015	2020
Electorate of Watford	71,321	77,923
Number of councillors	36	36
Average number of electors per councillor	1,981	2,165

10 Under our draft recommendations, none of our proposed wards will have electoral variances of greater than 10% from the average for the borough by 2020. We are therefore satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for Watford.

11 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Watford or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. There is no evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

12 See Appendix B for details of submissions received. All submissions may be inspected at our offices and can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

13 As prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2020, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in December 2015. These forecasts were broken down to polling district levels and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 9% to 2020. The growth will largely be driven by development within the borough, including the development of the health campus site.

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.

14 During the preliminary period of the review, the Council had expressed some concerns that its existing electorate figure of 69,255 was probably lower than it should be as a result of the impact of Individual Elector Registration (IER). It cited the fact that its February 2014 register recorded 71,313 electors which was higher than the figure of 69,255 taken in December 2014 figure following IER. However, following discussion the Council agreed that there was no more accurate figure available so we decided to use this as the basis of consultation on warding patterns.

15 Towards the beginning of the consultation on warding patterns, the Council informed us that its most recent electoral register (June 2015) had recorded an increase to 71,321 in electors which it considered was a more accurate reflection following the establishment of IER. It expressed concern that the figures originally provided were inaccurate, which would also affect the accuracy of its forecast figures. The Council therefore requested that we consider a revised set of existing and forecast electorate figures. On balance, in light of the evidence provided by the Council, we considered that the revised figures were the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis of our draft recommendations.

Council size

16 Watford Borough Council put forward a submission supporting a council size of 36, the retention of the existing council size. We received no other submissions with alternative council sizes.

17 We carefully considered the evidence provided by the Council and considered that it had demonstrated that the authority can operate efficiently and effectively under the existing council size and ensure effective representation of local residents.

18 We therefore consulted on electoral arrangements for Watford based on a council size of 36 members.

19 In response to this consultation we did not receive any further comments to persuade us that the council size was incorrect. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a council size of 36 elected members.

Warding patterns

20 During consultation on warding patterns, we received 15 submissions, including three borough-wide proposals. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

21 The three borough-wide schemes provided a uniform warding arrangement of three-member wards for the borough. The Council, supported by the Liberal Democrat Group, put forward a pattern of 12 three-member wards. These were based on the existing wards with a number of amendments to improve electoral equality and to follow identifiable boundaries. The Conservative Group put forward similar proposals to the Council and Liberal Democrat Group, but with a number of modifications. Under both the Council and Conservative Group proposals there would be two wards – Stanborough and Woodside – with 10% fewer electors than the borough average by 2020.

22 The Watford Labour Party also proposed 12 three-member wards. Its warding pattern was broadly similar to the Council and Conservative Group proposals, but subject to a number of differences to improve electoral equality or strengthen boundaries. Under its proposals only Stanborough ward would have a variance of 10% or fewer electors than the borough average by 2020.

23 We note that there were areas of general consensus between all three proposals, including the need to transfer parts of the health campus development to the Oxhey ward. We are therefore proposing to transfer parts of this to the Oxhey ward.

24 We had concerns that the Council and Conservative Group were both proposing the retention of the existing Stanborough and Woodside wards which would have 10% fewer electors than the borough average by 2020. We noted that the Watford Labour Party put forward proposals to address these poor levels of electoral equality. Although, the Council and Conservative Group acknowledged the poor levels of electoral equality in these wards, they argued that the boundaries for these areas were too strong to be breached. Our tour of the area confirmed that these wards do have strong boundaries, however, we consider that there are options to improve electoral equality.

25 Our draft recommendations are for 12 three-member 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.

26 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 21–2) and on the large map accompanying this report.

27 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations. We also welcome comments on the ward names we have proposed as part of the draft recommendations.

Draft recommendations

28 The tables on pages 8–16 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Watford. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Central, Holywell, Oxhey and Vicarage

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Central	3	6%	This ward comprises the existing Central ward, less the housing around the Raphael Drive and Brocklesbury Close areas. This ward also does not include the new development being built on the health campus site.	<p>We are proposing modifications to the existing ward to secure better electoral equality. As proposed by a number of respondents, we are including the new development being built on the health campus site in our Oxhey ward. During our visit to the area we observed the new access road for the development and understand it will be facing onto the River Colne.</p> <p>We note that there were support and objections to transferring the area of housing around Raphael Drive and Brocklesbury Close from Central ward to Tudor ward. We also note that there was one proposal to include the Watford Fields area in the Oxhey ward, while retaining Raphael Drive and Brocklesbury Close in the Central ward.</p> <p>On balance, following our tour of the area and consideration of the evidence submitted to us we consider that the Watford Fields area is better placed in the Central ward. We also considered that the area of housing around Raphael Drive and Brocklesbury Close whilst having road links into Central ward is separated by the railway line. We are therefore including this area in the Tudor ward under our draft recommendations.</p>
Holywell	3	8%	This ward comprises the existing Holywell ward, less an area to the south of the new health campus site and less	We are proposing modifications to the existing Holywell ward transferring an area of the new development on the health campus site to the Oxhey ward. This was supported by a number of respondents, including all those who put forward borough-wide proposals.

			two small residential areas to the north of the ward.	<p>One respondent suggested that an additional area of the health campus should be transferred to Oxhey ward. Having considered the proposals we consider that including the new development as suggested in three borough-wide warding patterns provides for good electoral equality and identifiable boundaries.</p> <p>To the north of Holywell there were proposals to include the Raven Close and Cherrydale areas in the Park ward to further improve electoral equality. Following our tour of the area we propose that these areas should be included in the Park ward.</p>
Oxhey	3	-1%	This ward comprises the existing Oxhey ward plus areas of Central, Holywell and Vicarage wards.	<p>We are proposing modifications to the existing Oxhey ward, transferring areas of housing in the health campus development in the Central, Holywell and Vicarage wards. This is necessary to improve electoral equality, particularly in Central and Vicarage wards. The new development on the health campus site will access Oxhey via the new access road to the development. This new development will also face onto the River Colne.</p> <p>One respondent proposed transferring the Watford Fields area to Oxhey ward. As stated in the Central area discussion (above), we have not proposed this as part of our draft recommendations because our tour of the area suggested this area sits better in the Central ward.</p>
Vicarage	3	3%	This ward comprises the existing Vicarage ward less an area to the south of the new health campus site and a small area in the north of the ward.	We are proposing modifications to the existing Vicarage ward to secure better electoral equality. As proposed by a number of respondents, we are transferring an area including parts of the new development on the health campus site to the Oxhey ward.

				In addition, as suggested by a respondent we are uniting the whole of Mildred Avenue in a single ward, but running the boundary down the rear of the houses to the south of the road. Our tour of the area suggested that this boundary would be identifiable.
--	--	--	--	--

Leggatts, Nascot and Park

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Leggatts	3	-3%	This ward comprises existing Leggatts ward, plus part of Nascot ward and less Courtlands Close and Burrow Close.	<p>We are proposing modifications to the existing Leggatts ward. Although there was some support for the retention of the existing ward, we propose modifications to improve electoral equality elsewhere in the borough and also to strengthen boundaries.</p> <p>We propose to include Courtlands Close in the Woodside ward. While we acknowledge that this area is separated from Woodside by the A41, our tour of the area confirmed that it does have direct road links via Ashfields. Transferring this area significantly improves the -10% variance in Woodside to 5% fewer electors than the average.</p> <p>We also propose transferring Minerva Drive and part of Greenbank Road from Nascot ward to Leggatts ward. We acknowledge that this area is part of the area covered by Courtlands Residents' Association, but we note that the area covered by the residents' association is already divided between different borough wards. Our tour of the area also confirmed that the housing on Minerva Drive and Greenbank Road had good road links into Leggatts via Goodwood</p>

				<p>Avenue. This modification would also improve the electoral equality in the Nascot ward.</p> <p>Finally, we propose a minor amendment to include all of Burrow Close in the Nascot ward. The current boundary separates this road and does not reflect the access of the cul-de-sac.</p>
Nascot	3	5%	<p>This ward comprises the existing Nascot ward, plus Burrow Close and The Avenue, but less Minerva Drive and part of Greenbank Road.</p>	<p>We are proposing modifications to the existing Nascot ward to strengthen boundaries, but also improve electoral equality.</p> <p>We received a proposal that suggested that an area to the east of Hempstead Road should be included in the Park ward rather than Nascot ward. We have decided not to include this proposal in our draft recommendation. During our tour of the area our observations were that Hempstead Road forms a strong and identifiable boundary.</p> <p>As detailed in the Leggatts section (above), we are transferring the Minerva Drive and Greenbank Road from the Nascot ward to Leggatts ward. We acknowledge that this area is part of the Courtlands Residents' Association, but we note that the area covered by the residents' association is in both the Nascot and Leggatts wards. Our tour of the area also confirmed that Minerva Drive and Greenbank Close had good road links into Leggatts ward via Goodwood Avenue. This modification also improves electoral equality in the Nascot ward.</p> <p>A number of respondents suggested that the whole of The Avenue should be included in a single ward, although there was also an objection to this. Our tour of the area suggested that running the boundary to the west of the houses on The</p>

				<p>Avenue would provide for a clear boundary and reflect the evidence received. We have therefore decided to include all of the housing on The Avenue in our Nascot ward as part of the draft recommendations.</p> <p>Finally, we propose a minor amendment to include all of Burrow Close in the Nascot ward. The current boundary separates this cul-de-sac and the modification reflects its access into the ward.</p>
Park	3	3%	This ward comprises the existing Park ward, less The Avenue but plus part of Holywell and Vicarage wards.	<p>We are proposing minor modifications to the existing Park ward to improve boundaries and electoral equality. As discussed in the Vicarage and Holywell sections (above), we are including areas of housing on Raven Close, Cherrydale area and Mildred Avenue. We consider these modifications provide for clear boundaries and good electoral equality.</p> <p>As detailed in the Nascot section (above), we have decided not to include an area of housing to the east of Hempstead Road in our Park ward. We considered that Hempstead Road provided a clear and identifiable boundary.</p> <p>Additionally, we have decided that all of The Avenue should be included in our Nascot ward as part of our draft recommendations.</p>

Meriden, Stanborough and Woodside

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Meriden	3	-7%	This ward comprises the existing Meriden ward less the Kytes Drive area.	We received some proposals supporting the retention of the existing Meriden ward. We also received a proposal to modify the ward boundaries. A proposal suggested that the

				<p>even-numbered houses on St Albans Road should be included in the Stanborough ward rather than the Meriden ward. While this would worsen electoral equality in Meriden ward it would improve it in Stanborough ward.</p> <p>We considered this proposal carefully, because although there was support for retaining the existing wards in this area, we do not think there is sufficient justification for a Stanborough ward with 10% fewer electors than the average. However, the proposal to transfer the even-numbered houses on St Albans Road is not viable as this does not transfer electors on Kilby Close, Holtsmere Close or Cow Lane, which would mean none of these roads have internal road access into the Meriden ward. Therefore, we are not including this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.</p> <p>We note that it is not possible to transfer electors to Stanborough from any other wards because of the very strong boundary of North Western Avenue. We are therefore including the Kytes Drive area of Meriden ward in our Stanborough ward. Although there was some objection to this, our tour of the area suggested that this area has good access to Stanborough ward and would improve electoral equality in Stanborough. Including this area in the Stanborough ward would worsen electoral equality in the Meriden ward to 7% fewer electors than the borough average by 2020, but improve it to 4% fewer in Stanborough.</p> <p>We also considered whether it might be possible to include the Kytes Drive area in the Woodside ward to improve the poor electoral equality for that ward. However, our tour of the</p>
--	--	--	--	---

				area confirmed that while it is possible to cross the Kingsway North Orbital Road, this forms a strong barrier.
Stanborough	3	-4%	This ward comprises the existing Stanborough ward plus the Kytes Drive area.	<p>As stated in the Meriden section (above), we are proposing modifications to the Stanborough ward. Although we note that there was support for the retention of the existing ward, we also note that there was support for some modification to improve the variance of 10% fewer electors than the average that would result from no change. We do not consider there to be sufficient evidence for poor electoral equality, particularly when there are alternatives.</p> <p>As stated in the Meriden section, we have decided not to include even-numbered houses on St Albans Road in the Stanborough ward as this would leave a number of roads (Kilby Close, Holtsmere Close or Cow Lane) with no internal road access into Meriden ward. We have, however, identified that the Kytes Drive area has good links to Stanborough by St Albans Road. Although there was some objection to this, our tour of the area suggested that this area has good road access to Stanborough ward. This would improve electoral equality in this ward to 4% fewer electors than the borough average by 2020.</p>

Woodside	3	-5%	This ward comprises the existing Woodside ward plus the Courtlands Close area.	<p>As stated in the Leggatts section (above), we are proposing modifications to the Woodside ward. Although there was support for retaining the existing ward, we note that there was also support for transferring the Courtlands Close area of Leggatts ward to Woodside. Some of the support for retaining the existing ward specifically rejected this proposal, arguing that the A41 forms a strong boundary between the two areas.</p> <p>We have considered the evidence and while we acknowledge that the A41 is a strong boundary, our tour of the area confirmed that the area does have direct road links via Ashfields. On balance, we do not consider we have received persuasive evidence to justify the retention of a ward with 10% fewer electors than the average when there is an alternative. We are therefore proposing that Courtlands Close should be included in our Woodside ward as part of our draft recommendations. Our proposed Woodside ward would have 5% fewer electors than the borough average by 2020.</p>
-----------------	---	-----	--	--

Callowland and Tudor

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Callowland	3	-2%	This ward comprises the existing Callowland ward, with no changes.	We are not proposing any amendments to this ward. We note that a number of respondents considered that it might be possible to include an area of the Callowland ward in the Tudor ward. However, these modifications were rejected by respondents. Therefore, in light of the good electoral equality that this ward has we are retaining it without amendment.

Tudor	3	-4%	<p>This ward comprises the existing Tudor ward plus housing around the Raphael Drive and Brocklesbury Close areas.</p>	<p>As stated in the Central ward section (above), we are proposing amendments to this ward to improve electoral equality.</p> <p>As stated above, a number of people suggested that the housing in the Raphael Drive and Brocklesbury Close areas could be included in this ward. However, there were also objections, arguing that this area of housing has links into Central ward. These respondents therefore proposed retaining the housing in the Raphael Drive and Brocklesbury Close areas in the Central ward and instead suggested that the Watford Fields area could be included in the Oxhey ward, to address the fact that Central ward would have too many electors by 2020.</p> <p>On balance, following our tour of the area, and consideration of the evidence submitted to us, we consider that the area of housing around Raphael Drive and Brocklesbury Close should be included in the Tudor ward as part of our draft recommendations. Our tour of the area suggested that while there are crossing points over the railway, we considered the railway forms a barrier between the housing area above and Central ward.</p>
--------------	---	-----	--	---

Conclusions

29 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2015 and 2020 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2015	2020
Number of councillors	36	36
Number of electoral wards	12	12
Average number of electors per councillor	1,981	2,165
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendation

Watford Council should comprise 36 councillors serving 12 three-member wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Watford. You can also view our draft recommendations for Watford on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

3 Have your say

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

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

32 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

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

Review Officer (Watford)
14th Floor Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP

The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Watford 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

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

Electoral equality:

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

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?

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 ward? Is there any form of public transport?

34 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 Tower (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.

35 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.

36 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.

37 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 next elections for Watford Borough Council in 2016.

Equalities

38 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

Table A1: Draft recommendations for Watford Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Callowland	3	5,728	1,909	-4%	6,388	2,129	-2%
2	Central	3	6,126	2,042	3%	6,910	2,303	6%
3	Holywell	3	6,280	2,093	6%	7,038	2,346	8%
4	Leggatts	3	6,027	2,009	1%	6,321	2,107	-3%
5	Meriden	3	5,766	1,922	-3%	6,054	2,018	-7%
6	Nascot	3	6,428	2,143	8%	6,817	2,272	5%
7	Oxhey	3	5,459	1,820	-8%	6,423	2,141	-1%
8	Park	3	6,381	2,127	7%	6,682	2,227	3%
9	Stanborough	3	5,927	1,976	0%	6,204	2,068	-4%
10	Tudor	3	5,465	1,822	-8%	6,252	2,084	-4%
11	Vicarage	3	5,856	1,952	-1%	6,693	2,231	3%

Table A1 (cont): Draft recommendations for Watford Borough Council

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Woodside	3	5,878	1,959	-1%	6,139	2,046	-5%
Totals	36	71,321	–	–	77,923	–	–
Averages	–	–	1,981	–	–	2,165	–

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

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

Appendix B

Submissions received

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

Local authority

- Watford Borough Council

Political parties

- Watford Labour Party
- Watford Conservative Group
- Watford Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor R. Martins
- Councillor S. Giles-Medhurst (Three Rivers District Council)

Local organisations

- Cassiobury Residents' Association
- Courtlands Residents' Association

Residents

- Seven local residents

Appendix C

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