

New electoral arrangements for Barnet Council

Draft recommendations

March 2019

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Who we are and what we do | 1 |
| What is an electoral review? | 1 |
| Why Barnet? | 2 |
| Our proposals for Barnet | 2 |
| How will the recommendations affect you? | 2 |
| Have your say | 3 |
| Review timetable | 3 |
| Analysis and draft recommendations | 4 |
| Submissions received | 4 |
| Electorate figures | 4 |
| Number of councillors | 5 |
| Ward boundaries consultation | 5 |
| Draft recommendations | 6 |
| East Barnet | 7 |
| North Barnet | 9 |
| Coppetts, Finchley, Muswell Hill and Woodhouse | 12 |
| Cricklewood, East Finchley, Golders Green and Garden Suburb | 15 |
| Hendon | 18 |
| Burnt Oak and Colindale | 20 |
| Mill Hill and Totteridge | 22 |
| Edgware | 25 |
| Conclusions | 27 |
| Summary of electoral arrangements | 27 |
| Have your say | 28 |
| Equalities | 31 |
| Appendices | 32 |
| Appendix A | 32 |
| Draft recommendations for Barnet Council | 32 |
| Appendix B | 35 |
| Outline map | 35 |
| Appendix C | 36 |
| Submissions received | 36 |

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Appendix D | 37 |
| Glossary and abbreviations | 37 |

Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament¹. 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.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Andrew Scallan CBE
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

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

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Why Barnet?

7 We are conducting a review of Barnet Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 1999 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'². In addition, the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Barnet. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

- The wards in Barnet 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 borough.

Our proposals for Barnet

9 Barnet should be represented by 63 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Barnet should have 25 wards, four more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change; none will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough 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 consider any representations which are based on these issues.

² Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1)

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 5 March to 13 May 2019. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 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.

16 You have until 13 May 2019 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 28 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for area. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

| Stage starts | Description |
|-------------------|---|
| 18 September 2018 | Number of councillors decided |
| 25 September 2018 | Start of consultation seeking views on new wards |
| 3 December 2018 | End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations |
| 5 March 2019 | Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation |
| 13 May 2019 | End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations |
| 30 July 2019 | Publication of final recommendations |

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ 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.

20 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.

21 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.

| | 2018 | 2024 |
|---|---------|---------|
| Electorate of Barnet | 250,294 | 273,174 |
| Number of councillors | 63 | 63 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 3,973 | 4,336 |

22 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 Barnet will have good electoral equality by 2024.

Submissions received

23 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

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2024, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2019. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 9% by 2024.

25 During the course of the consultation period it was brought to our attention that the Council's electorate figures included a group of overseas electors ineligible to vote in local elections. In discussion with the Council, we have removed these electors from the published electorate figures. In addition, during our formulation of

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

the draft recommendations, we noted that two development sites had been allocated to the wrong polling districts. The figures have now been revised to ensure the sites are in the correct polling district. However, as a result, the forecast growth has fallen by approximately 500 electors as each site had a slightly different elector-per-household ratio under the Council's forecast methodology.

26 Finally, we note the concerns of the Barnet Conservatives over the potential impact on the electoral forecasts over delays to the Brent Cross North scheme. However, we must be cautious in revisiting the electorate figures continuously through the review. Therefore, subject to the amendments identified above, we remain 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

27 Barnet Council currently has 63 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

28 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 63 councillors.

29 In response to our consultation on ward patterns we received a number of general comments in support of, or objecting to this proposed council size, but no significant new evidence was received. We are therefore basing the draft recommendations on a 63-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 31 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two borough-wide proposals from Barnet Conservatives (the Conservatives) and a joint submission from the Labour Group on Barnet Council and the Barnet Labour Party (Labour). The Conservatives proposal was based on 63 councillors with a mixed pattern of single-, two- and three-member wards. In a number of areas there were discrepancies between the text, maps and figures for their proposals. To assist, we provided the Conservatives with a digitised version of their proposals. We also produced a set of electorate figures that sought to reconcile the text, maps and figures and provided by the Conservatives. These figures demonstrated that, in a number of areas the proposed wards would have high electoral variances and differed from those quoted in their submission. Labour proposed a uniform pattern of 21 three-councillor wards, with all wards securing good levels of electoral equality.

31 We also received a number of submissions focusing on specific areas, including the Cricklewood, Garden Suburb, Childs Hill, Golders Green, Mill Hill and Muswell Hill areas.

32 We carefully considered the proposals received and are basing the draft recommendations on a mixture of the Conservative and Labour proposals, along with a number of our own proposals. While we recognise Labour's preference for a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards, the legislation does not require this for London Boroughs. We also note that the Conservatives proposed a mixed pattern of wards. Our draft recommendations have taken account of the localised evidence we received, which provided information about 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. In a number of cases we have been persuaded to move away from the current uniform pattern of three-member wards.

33 We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This visit to Barnet helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for 14 three-councillor wards, 10 two-councillor wards and one one-councillor ward. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

35 The tables and maps on pages 7–27 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Barnet. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 27 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

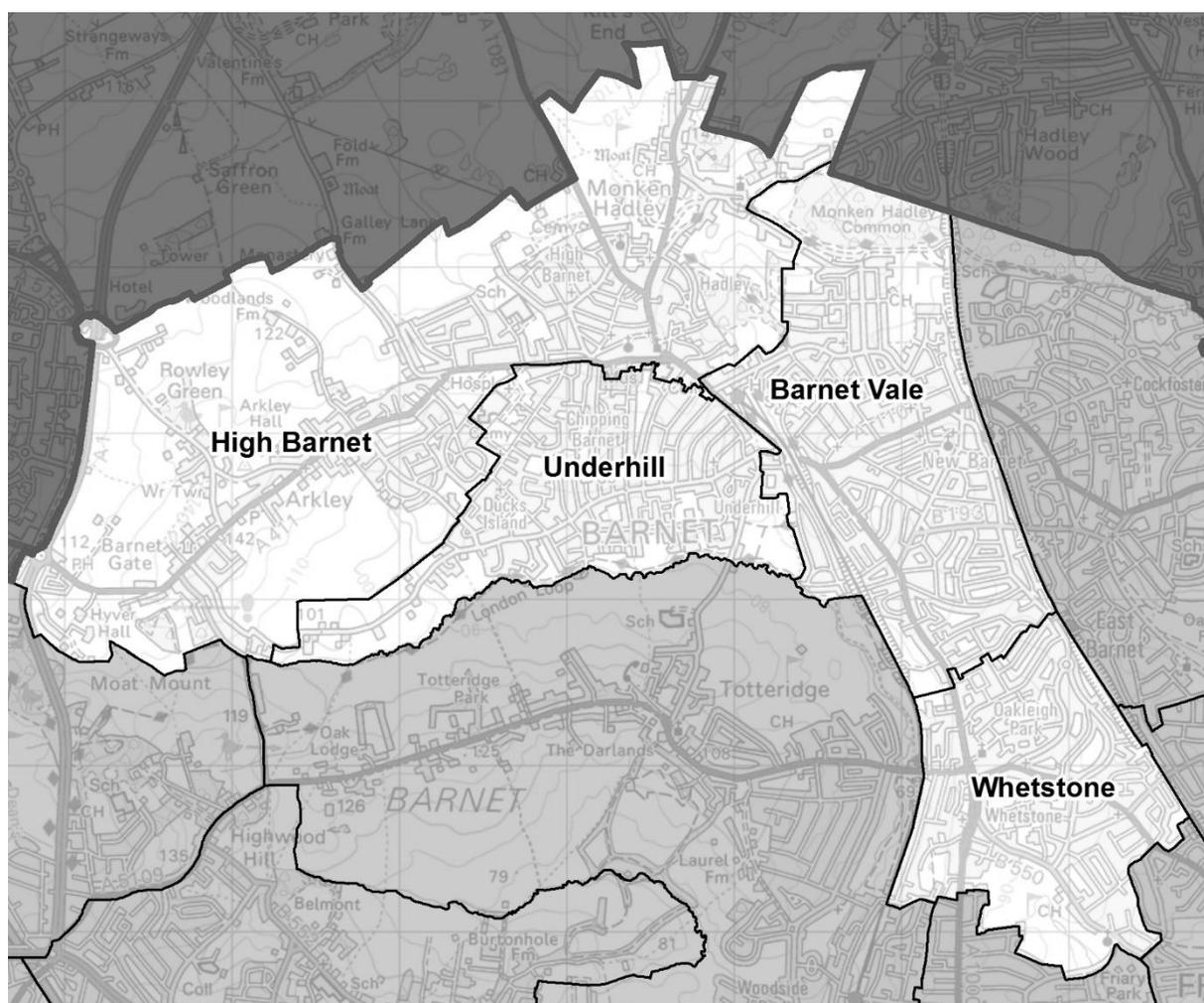
⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Conservatives' proposal to transfer the area to the west of Oakleigh South Road to their Friern Barnet ward. We note they stated that this area associates strongly with Friern Barnet, but our visit to the area suggested that it has better access into Brunswick Park. Therefore, we are not adopting this boundary. We are, however, adopting the Labour amendment to the existing boundary between Brunswick Park and East Barnet as this improves electoral equality, while still using a strong boundary.

39 We note the suggestion from a local resident that the whole of New Barnet should be in a single ward. However, this would require a significant redrawing of the boundaries throughout the area and may not secure good electoral equality across this area. While we acknowledge these concerns, we do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to support this proposal, so we are not adopting it as part of our draft recommendations.

40 We also note the argument from a resident that Parkside Gardens should be in East Barnet ward, but we consider that Parkside Gardens is separated from East Barnet by the strong boundary formed by Oak Hill Park. Finally, we propose moving away from the existing ward boundary around Beresford Avenue to tie it to the railway line.

North Barnet



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2024 |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Barnet Vale | 3 | -5% |
| High Barnet | 2 | 6% |
| Underhill | 2 | 5% |
| Whetstone | 2 | -4% |

Barnet Vale, High Barnet and Underhill

41 Our draft recommendations for these wards are based on our own proposals and elements of the Conservative proposals. We note that Labour proposed retaining the existing three-councillor wards, subject to a number of minor amendments to improve electoral equality and strengthen the boundaries. However, the Conservatives and two residents argued that the New Barnet area of the existing High Barnet ward is focused around Station Road and that New Barnet extends to the area to the east of the railway in East Barnet ward. As a result, the New Barnet area is divided between three wards. We also note that one of the Labour modifications placed Station Road in their High Barnet ward.

42 Our visit to the area has led us to consider that the existing High Barnet ward, which stretches from Arkley, through High Barnet as far as areas of New Barnet, may not provide the strongest reflection of community links. We consider that a ward based around the New Barnet area would reflect local community ties.

43 To achieve this, the Conservatives proposed moving away from the existing pattern of three-member wards for this area. However, as mentioned earlier in this report, we noted a number of elector count discrepancies in their figures. To assist, we provided the Conservatives with a digitised version of their proposals. We also produced a set of electorate figures that sought to reconcile their text, maps and figures and provided these to the Conservatives. These showed that their proposed Barnet Hill ward had significantly higher levels of electoral inequality than those quoted in their submission. We have therefore explored our own warding pattern for this area.

44 We propose a two-councillor High Barnet ward comprising Arkley and High Barnet. We also propose that the area to the east of High Barnet Underground Station be placed in a three-councillor Barnet Vale ward. The High Barnet ward will include the areas around Quinta Drive and Elmbank Avenue. Although these areas clearly have good access into to the adjoining areas in our proposed Underhill ward, they also have good access into the Arkley and High Barnet areas. The Conservatives proposed transferring the caravan park to the west of the A1 into its proposed Edwarebury & Highwood Hill ward. However, our visit to the borough suggested that this area would be better placed in High Barnet ward, along with the caravan park to the east of the A1.

45 To ensure good electoral equality in our proposed two-councillor Underhill ward, we are transferring the Fairfield Way, Grasvenor Avenue and Sherrards Way areas into a three-councillor Barnet Vale ward. We acknowledge that these roads have links into Underhill ward and High Barnet, but we note they also share clear links into the New Barnet area via Great North Road. Finally, to further improve electoral equality between High Barnet and Underhill wards we are running the boundary behind the shops on Wood Street and High Street, placing the whole of the High Barnet retail area in High Barnet ward. This improves electoral equality in our proposed ward to 5% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2024 and places the whole retail area in a single ward. We would particularly welcome local views on our proposals for this area during the current consultation.

46 We also acknowledge that our High Barnet ward does not contain High Barnet station. While it may be possible to extend the boundary to include this, we are currently not persuaded that it would provide a clear ward boundary. Again, we would welcome local views.

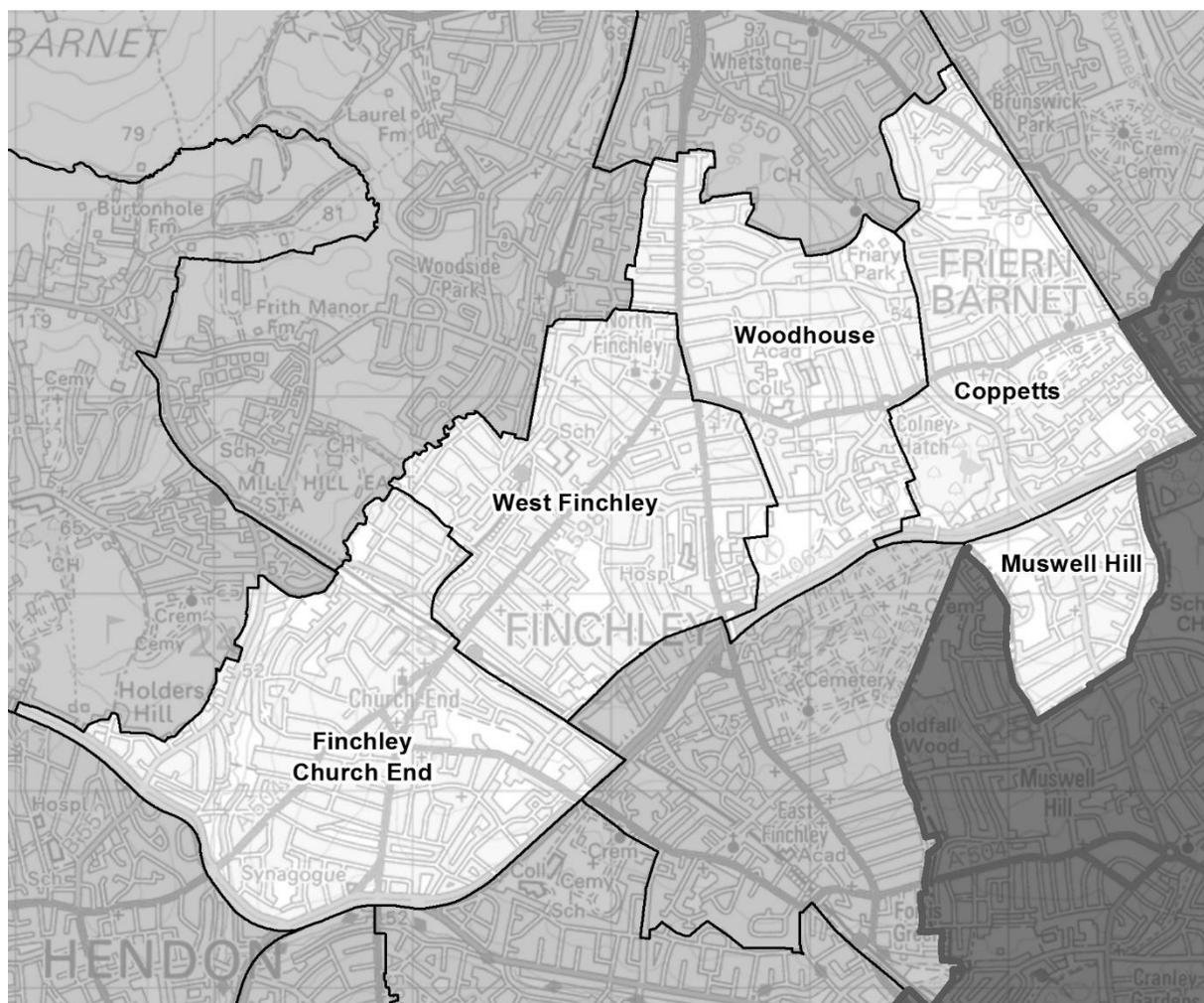
47 As stated above, we are creating a three-councillor Barnet Vale ward based around Station Road in New Barnet. We note the argument that New Barnet straddles the railway line, but do not consider it is possible to create a ward that takes account of this and secures good electoral equality in the wider area. Therefore, we propose that the area to the east of the railway remains in East Barnet ward. Overall, we consider that our proposals for these wards will ensure that New Barnet is no longer divided between three wards. To secure good electoral equality, our proposed Barnet Vale ward extends south to Buckingham Avenue.

Whetstone

48 We have based our two-councillor Whetstone ward on the Labour proposals, subject to a modification to reflect our proposals in the adjoining Barnet Vale area. The Conservative and Labour proposals agreed about the south west boundary of this ward, using the existing boundary around the North Middlesex Golf Course and Friary Park. However, to the south east the Conservatives proposed retaining the existing boundary, while Labour proposed transferring an area around Manor Drive and Oakleigh Road North to Coppetts ward. We acknowledge that this area has good links north into the majority of Whetstone ward. However, adopting this proposal would mean that Whetstone ward would have an electoral variance of 13% by 2024. We do not consider that this poor level of electoral equality can be justified so it is necessary to transfer the area into our proposed Coppetts ward. Our visit to the area also confirmed that this area has clear transport links south into Coppetts ward.

49 A local resident argued that the area to the east of High Road should be in Oakleigh ward (which covers some of the same area as our proposed Whetstone ward), and not Totteridge. The Labour proposal used Dollis Brook to the west as a ward boundary, while the Conservatives used the railway line. We propose using the railway line to ensure the whole of the Dollis Valley Green Walk is in a single ward.

Coppetts, Finchley, Muswell Hill and Woodhouse



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2024 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Coppetts | 2 | 1% |
| Finchley Church End | 3 | 4% |
| Muswell Hill | 1 | -2% |
| West Finchley | 3 | -4% |
| Woodhouse | 2 | -2% |

Finchley Church End and West Finchley

50 We are basing the wards for this area primarily on our own proposals, but with elements of the Conservative proposals. We had a number of concerns with the Labour proposals for this area. Firstly, we were not persuaded that the area around Mill Hill East Underground Station should be included in their proposed Dollis ward, which also includes parts of Finchley. In addition, while we acknowledge their proposal to transfer an area of the existing Finchley Church End to their proposed Garden Suburb ward to improve electoral equality in the area to the south of the A406, our visit to the area confirmed that this area only has limited links with

Hampstead Garden Suburb. Therefore, we are not adopting either of these proposed wards.

51 We have carefully considered the Conservatives' proposals. However, we noted a number of discrepancies between the text, maps and figures in their submission. To assist, we provided the Conservatives with a digitised version of their proposals. We also produced a set of electorate figures based on our analysis of their proposals. These showed that their proposed Finchley Central and Finchley West wards had significantly higher levels of electoral inequality than those quoted in the submission.

52 As stated above, we noted that the wards to the south of the A406 had too few electors, so considered it necessary to transfer an area from the north to the south. Following our visit to the borough, we concluded that the area to the south of Squires Lane has reasonable links into East Finchley ward under the A406 via Long Lane, and across the junction on the A1000 High Road. Transferring this area has a consequential effect on the remainder of Finchley, particularly the Conservative's proposal which placed some of this area in their Finchley Church End ward.

53 As a result, we have drawn up our own proposals for these wards. We note the Conservative's opposition to transferring any of Ballards Lane into a Finchley Church End ward. We also recognise the argument that the Hendon Lane and Regents Park Road area of Church End is the historic centre of this community and distinct from the Ballards Lane area. However, to secure good electoral equality it is necessary to move some electors from north to south or vice versa. We are proposing a three-councillor Finchley Church End ward bounded by the A406 and A1 to the south and east, and Hendon Cemetery & Crematorium and Hendon Golf Club to the west. To the north the boundary will run along the Northern Line as far as Ballards Lane. It will then take in the electors to the south-west of Lover's Walk, around Nether Street and Gordon Road. This area has access south into Finchley Church End ward via Nether Lane and Regents Park Road.

54 To the north we are proposing a three-councillor West Finchley ward. This combines the Conservative's West Finchley and Finchley Central wards, but removes the area to the east of the A1000 around North Finchley Library and Torrington Park. We concur with Labour that this area is best retained in Woodhouse ward, along with the area to the west of the A1000. We are also transferring a small section around Argyle Road into our proposed Totteridge ward to secure improved electoral equality there. This area has good access into Woodside via Argyle Road. To the south-east of our proposed West Finchley ward, we consider that the Conservatives' proposal to include the areas around Finchley Memorial Hospital and Finchley Lido Leisure Centre in a Finchley ward better reflect communities than the Labour proposal to include them in Woodhouse ward. Finally, as discussed above, we are transferring the area south of Squires Lane to East Finchley ward.

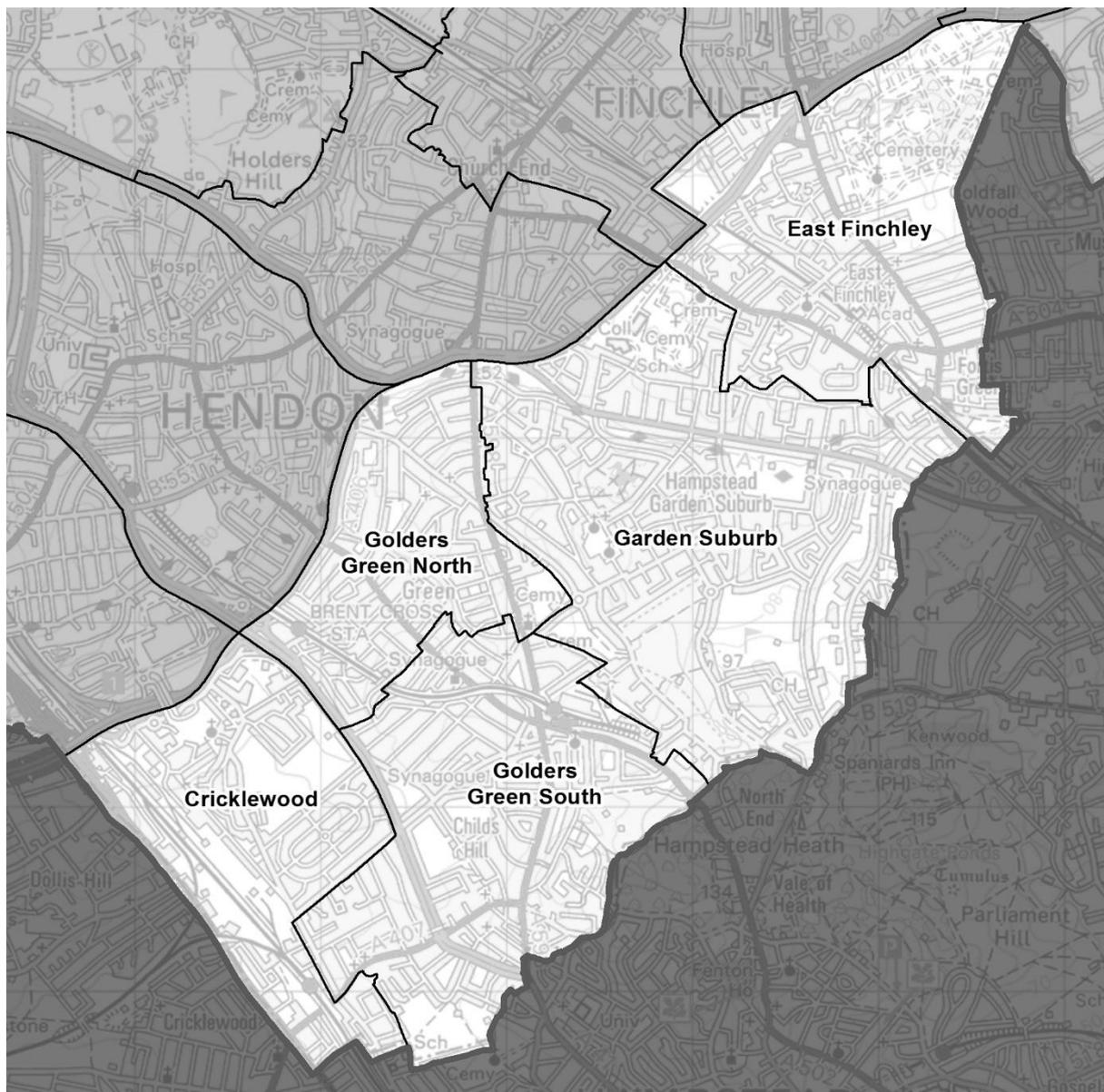
Coppetts, Muswell Hill and Woodhouse

55 We are basing our proposals for this area on a mixture of the Conservative and Labour proposals. The Conservatives proposed a three-councillor Friern Barnet ward and single-councillor Muswell Hill ward. While their Muswell Hill ward is unaffected by the changes elsewhere, given our proposals in adjoining areas and the need to ensure good electoral equality, we are not persuaded to adopt their proposed Friern Barnet ward.

56 However, following our visit to the area, we have been persuaded that Muswell Hill should be a single-councillor ward. The A406 is a clear divide between communities either side of the road and the area has no other transport routes into the borough. We do, however, have some reservations about a single-councillor ward from the perspective of convenient and effective local government. We would therefore particularly welcome local views on our proposed single-councillor Muswell Hill ward during this round of consultation.

57 In the remaining area, we are basing our recommended wards on the Labour proposals, subject to amendments. In light of the creation of a single-councillor Muswell Hill ward, Labour's proposed Coppetts ward is entitled to two-councillors. Therefore, we propose a two-councillor Coppetts ward. To the west, and given our proposal to include the area around Finchley Memorial Hospital and Finchley Lido Leisure Centre in West Finchley ward, we are recommending a two-councillor Woodhouse ward. Our proposed Woodhouse ward will include the area around the A1000 near North Finchley Library.

Cricklewood, East Finchley, Golders Green and Garden Suburb



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2024 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Cricklewood | 2 | -7% |
| East Finchley | 3 | -2% |
| Garden Suburb | 2 | 6% |
| Golders Green North | 2 | -3% |
| Golders Green South | 3 | -5% |

East Finchley and Garden Suburb

58 We are basing the draft recommendations for this area on our own proposals, with elements of the existing wards and elements of the Conservative proposals. We have considered the Labour proposals but have a number of concerns, particularly

with their Garden Suburb ward. We acknowledge the need to transfer some electors from north of the A406 to the south to improve overall electoral equality. However, our visit to the area confirmed that the area Labour proposed transferring only has limited community links to the Garden Suburb. In addition, we note that their proposed Garden Suburb ward takes in areas far to the south of the existing ward including the Childs Hill area on the borough boundary. We do not consider that this reflects local community identities, so we are not adopting this ward as part of our draft recommendations. In addition, given our decision to transfer an area to the south of Squires Lane to East Finchley ward, we are unable to consider their East Finchley ward, as it would contain too many electors.

59 We have considered the Conservative proposals for this area. However, because of our decision to transfer the area to the south of Squires Lane to East Finchley, their proposed two-councillor ward would have too many electors. Retaining a two-councillor ward would require the transfer of part of East Finchley ward to the east of the railway line to Garden Suburb ward which we do not consider would reflect community links. Therefore, we are proposing a modified version of the existing three-councillor East Finchley ward. This would exclude the roads around Brim Hill and return them to Garden Suburb ward. We carefully considered whether to include parts of Ossulton Way and Neale Close in Garden Suburb ward but concluded that this would worsen electoral equality further.

60 Our proposed two-member Garden Suburb ward does not include properties along Finchley Road and around Golders Green Station which we consider have stronger links with Golders Green than the Garden Suburb. Furthermore, our two-councillor ward would comprise most of the area represented by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust.

Cricklewood, Golders Green North and Golders Green South

61 We are basing the draft recommendations for these wards on modified versions of the Conservative proposals. Our recommendations for a Garden Suburb ward mean that the Labour proposals for Golders Green and Claremont & Childs Hill wards would need to be significantly amended to absorb the electors removed from their Garden Suburb ward. Therefore, we have not considered their proposals further.

62 The Conservatives proposed two-councillor Golders Green North, Golders Green South and Cricklewood wards. However, as stated earlier, our analysis of their electorate figures shows that their proposed Golders Green South ward had a notably higher electoral variance than the figure quoted in their submission.

63 In addition, two local residents proposed a three-councillor Cricklewood ward based on the draft recommendations from the last electoral review – these were not implemented as the final recommendations modified the proposals for this area.

Another resident that proposed a Cricklewood ward take in areas to the east of the A41 and south of Brent Cross, while another said the A41 should be the ward boundary.

64 We note the concerns of the local residents that the Cricklewood area is divided by the existing ward. Firstly, it not possible to secure good electoral equality using the A41 as a boundary. We note that the Conservatives' proposal divides Cricklewood by including the area to the west of the A41 in Golders Green South ward. We have looked whether it is possible to create a three-councillor Cricklewood ward, taking in an area to the east of the A41. However, in order to secure good electoral equality for the remainder of the Golders Green area, we would have to include a very small section of the Childs Hill area around Finchley Road and Cricklewood Lane. We do not consider that this would reflect community identities or interests in this area.

65 We acknowledge the concerns about the Cricklewood area. However, because the area lies at the edge of the borough our scope to consider alternatives are limited and it is necessary to create a ward that crosses the A41. On balance, we consider that the Conservative proposals for a two-councillor Cricklewood ward provide the best warding pattern for this area, although we propose a minor amendment around The Vale to ensure a clearer ward boundary while also improving electoral equality.

66 In the remainder of this area, we have decided to modify the Conservatives' proposals for the two-councillor wards of Golders Green North and Golders Green South. We propose a three-councillor Golders Green South ward taking in the whole of the Golders Green retail area on Golders Green Road. This ward would also contain Golders Green Station. We propose modifications to the two-councillor Golders Green North ward, reducing the area slightly to accommodate the three-councillor Golders Green South ward.

67 A local resident proposed renaming Golders Green ward as Brent Cross. However, we do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to support this and we note that the Conservatives and Labour both proposed wards named Golders Green. We consider that this ward name reflects the local community and is understood locally. We are therefore not adopting this proposal.

Hendon



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2024 |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Hendon | 3 | 4% |
| West Hendon | 3 | -4% |

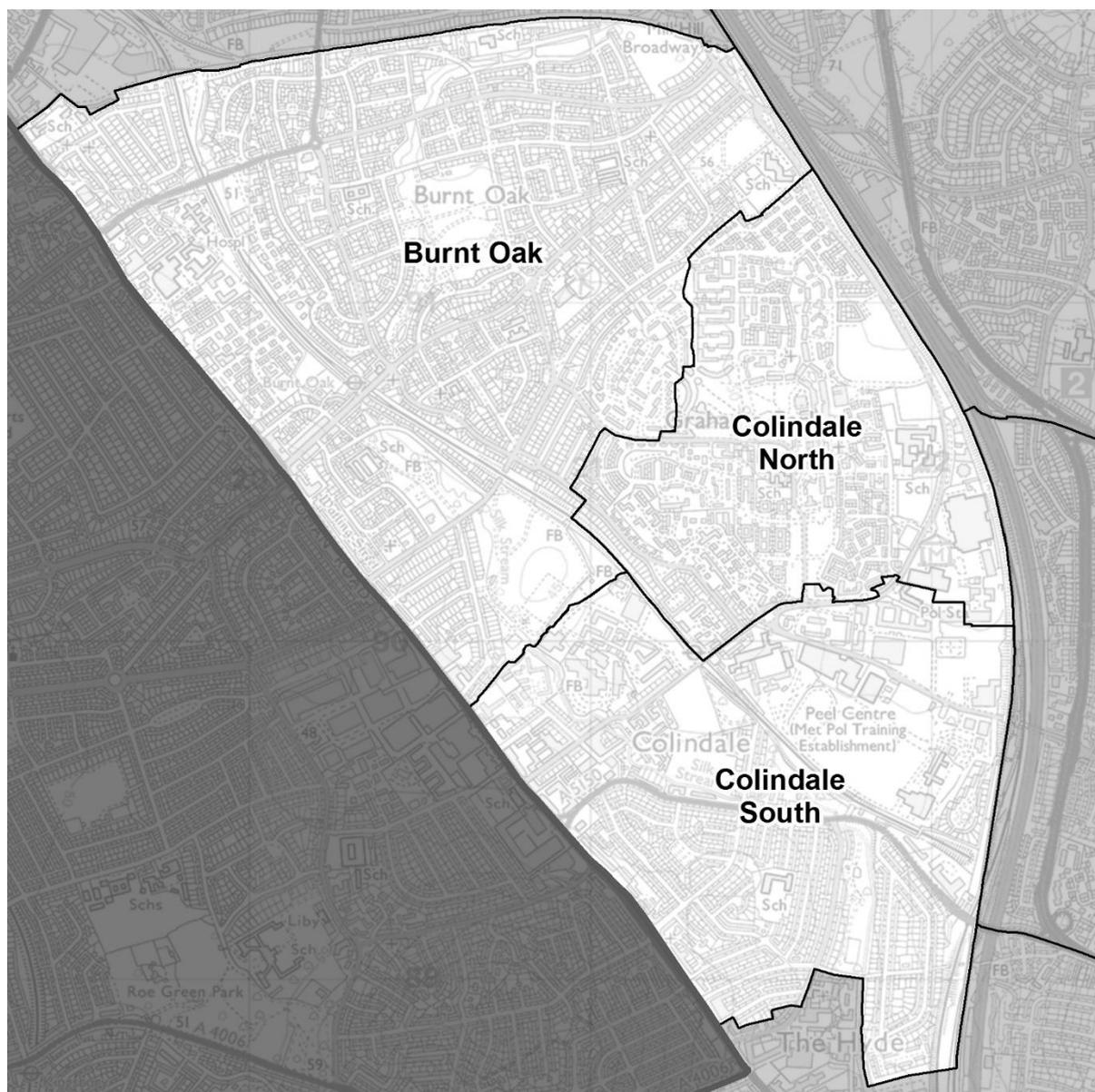
Hendon and West Hendon

68 We are basing the draft recommendations for Hendon on a modified version of the Labour proposals. The Conservatives and Labour both proposed three-councillor Hendon and Hendon West wards for this area. However, the Labour proposals secured better levels of electoral equality, with electoral variances of 1% and 0% respectively by 2024, versus 0% and -8% under the Conservatives' proposal.

69 We note that the Labour proposal secured better electoral equality in part because they included the development around The Hyde in their West Hendon ward. Our visit to the area confirmed that this area, while being in the south of Colindale, also has good links into West Hendon. However, our visit to the area also suggested that, while Labour's proposal to include the Cheyne Walk area in their West Hendon ward improves electoral equality, it may not reflect community links. This area is somewhat isolated between the A41 Hendon Way and the railway line, but its access routes into West Hendon seemed somewhat poor. On balance, although retaining this area in the Hendon ward increases the electoral variances in Hendon and Hendon West wards to 4% and -4% respectively by 2024, we consider the stronger ward boundary justifies this. Therefore, we are including this area in our Hendon ward.

70 We note the comments from two residents that Colin Crescent should be included in a Hendon ward. This would also require the transfer of Colin Gardens and Colin Drive which are part of the same area as Colin Crescent located between the M1 and Rushgrove Park. However, we are not persuaded that this area should be moved, noting that it has clear links into our Colindale South ward. A local resident argued that Hendon and West Hendon wards should be renamed University and Hendon Waterside. We were not persuaded that we had received evidence to support these proposed ward names. We are therefore retaining the ward names of Hendon and West Hendon as part of our draft recommendations.

Burnt Oak and Colindale



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2024 |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Burnt Oak | 3 | 3% |
| Colindale North | 2 | 4% |
| Colindale South | 3 | 3% |

Burnt Oak, Colindale North and Colindale South

71 We are basing the draft recommendations for this area on our own proposals, although the northern boundary of Burnt Oak ward is based on the Conservative's proposal, while the southern boundary of Colindale South is based on the Labour proposal.

72 During our consideration of this area, it came to our attention that the Council had misallocated two significant areas of development to the wrong polling districts. As discussed in the Electorate figures section above, the figures have now been revised to ensure the sites are allocated to the correct polling district. However, as a result, the forecast growth has fallen by around 500 electors as each site had a slightly different elector-per-household ratio under the Council's forecast methodology. As a result, the Conservatives proposed Colindale East and Colindale West wards would have 22% more and 23% fewer electors than the borough average by 2024. These variances were further exacerbated by the discrepancies we highlighted in the electorate figures provided in their submission. As a result, their Burnt Oak ward would have 17% fewer electors than the borough average by 2024.

73 The Labour proposals were less affected by the amendments to the forecast figures for this area and their Colindale North and Colindale South wards would have 4% more and 8% fewer electors per councillor respectively, by 2024. Their Burnt Oak ward would have 1% more electors. However, we had concerns that their proposal to extend Burnt Oak ward north to Deansbrook and taking in areas of Edgware would not reflect community identities.

74 Therefore, in this area we have developed our own proposals. As discussed in the Hendon section of this report, we are adopting the Labour proposal to put The Hyde development in West Hendon ward. In light of this, and because of the changes to the forecast electorate figures, we are proposing a three-councillor Colindale South ward and two-councillor Colindale North ward. Our proposed Colindale South ward would comprise the whole area to the south of the Northern Line, as far as Montrose playing fields. It would also include the remainder of the Beaufort Park development up to Grahame Park Way and the whole of the Peel Centre development. Our proposed two-councillor Colindale North ward would cover the area to the north of Grahame Park Way, up to the Orion Primary School.

75 Our three-councillor Burnt Oak ward would extend as far north as the Mill Hill Old Railway nature reserve, which we consider forms a clear boundary between this area and Edgware. We have decided to use the M1 motorway and the railway as the eastern boundary here, rather than transferring any of the area of Bunn's Lane to the east of the motorway to a Mill Hill ward. As with the Conservative and Labour proposals, Burnt Oak ward would be centred around Burnt Oak and include the Watling Estate.

Mill Hill and Totteridge



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2024 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Mill Hill | 3 | 0% |
| Totteridge & Woodside | 3 | -6% |

Mill Hill

76 We are basing our draft recommendations for Mill Hill on the Conservative proposals, subject to an amendment. Labour proposed a significantly different three-councillor Mill Hill ward centred on Mill Hill Broadway and the Apex Corner roundabout. However, their proposed ward excluded Mill Hill village which they proposed be placed in their Totteridge Valley ward. We note their argument for basing their ward around Mill Hill Broadway and the Apex Corner Roundabout. While

we acknowledge that these areas have access to each other across the M1 motorway and railway line that cuts through the area, our visit suggested these still remain a significant barrier. In addition, we note their argument that including Mill Hill village in Totteridge Valley ward means this semi-rural area will be in a ward with other similar areas. However, we also consider the evidence from the Conservatives for retaining this integral part of Mill Hill in Mill Hill ward to be stronger.

77 We note the suggestion from the Mill Hill Neighbourhood Forum for a three-councillor Mill Hill North ward and three-councillor Mill Hill South ward, covering the existing Mill Hill ward and the NW7 postcode area of the existing Hale ward. Unfortunately, the area described does not contain sufficient electors for six councillors and would therefore result in poor levels of electoral equality.

78 We are adopting the Conservative's proposed three-councillor Mill Hill ward subject to two amendments. We have decided to use the motorway as a ward boundary. On our visit to the area, we considered it to provide a clearly identifiable feature on which to base a ward boundary. Finally, we are retaining the whole of Buttonhole Farm in the Mill Hill ward as its accesses into this ward and not Totteridge & Woodside ward. This also improves electoral equality in Mill Hill ward from 4% more electors per councillor to 0%, by 2024.

79 We agree with the Conservatives that it is necessary to remove the Millbrook Park development from Mill Hill ward. This area will contain too many new electors to secure good electoral equality if retained in Mill Hill ward. We have concluded that it should be placed in Totteridge & Woodside ward to help minimise electoral variances there. Our visit to the area confirmed that the development has reasonable access into Woodside Park.

80 A local resident argued that Mill Hill ward should be named Inglis, reflecting the former barracks at Inglis Way. However, we have not received any other evidence in support of this ward name and consider the existing name of Mill Hill to be a long-standing one which is recognised and understood by the local community.

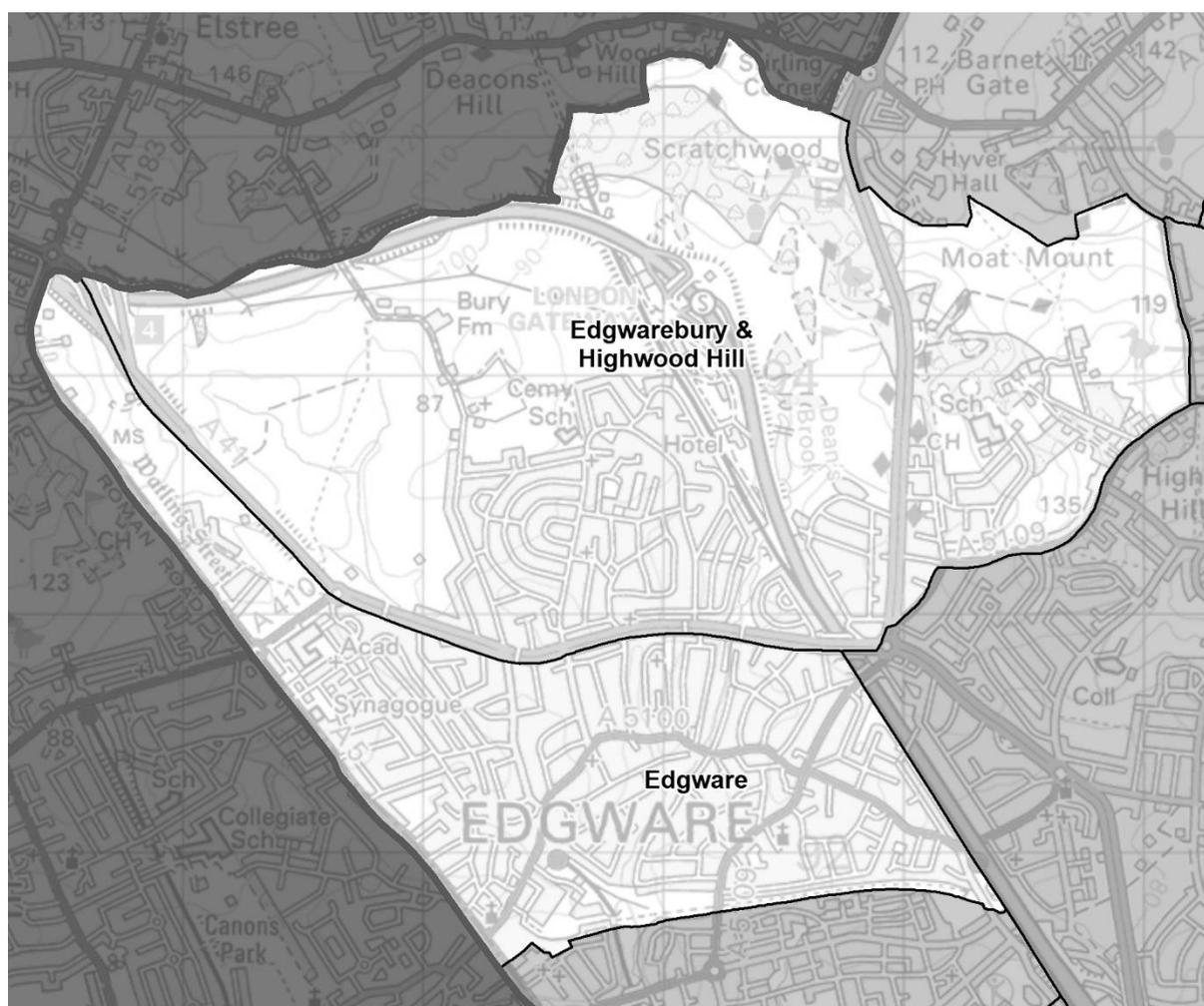
Totteridge & Woodside

81 We are basing our draft recommendations for Totteridge & Woodside ward on the Conservative's proposals. We were not persuaded by the Labour proposals for this area. In particular, we note that Labour proposed including Mill Hill village and the area around Mill Hill Cemetery in their Totteridge ward. Based on the evidence received and our observations when we visited the borough, we have decided to include these areas in Mill Hill ward. The remainder of Labour's proposed Totteridge ward will not contain sufficient electors to secure good electoral equality.

82 While we have based our draft recommendations for Totteridge & Woodside ward of the Conservative proposals, they differ in a number of respects. Firstly, as outlined above, we have decided to include the Millbrook Park development in Totteridge & Woodside ward which will ensure good electoral equality across this area. Our visit to the area also confirmed that Millbrook Park has reasonable access into Woodside Park. Secondly, we have decided to retain the whole of Buttonhole Farm in Mill Hill ward as this reflects its primary access route.

83 Additionally, we agree that it is necessary to include some of the Woodside Park area in Totteridge & Woodside ward to secure good electoral equality. However, we have concerns about the proposal to include the west side of the A1000 High Road in Totteridge & Woodside ward. In particular, we note that this area contains a large number of cul-de-sacs that only access onto the A1000 and not directly into Totteridge & Woodside ward. We consider this area would be better placed in Woodhouse ward along with those areas to the east of the A1000. Since it is necessary to transfer some electors to Totteridge & Woodhouse ward to secure good electoral equality, we have decided to include Westbury Road and Courthouse Road in Totteridge & Woodhouse ward. While we acknowledge that these roads have links into West Finchley ward, we also note that they have good access into Woodhouse via Argyle Road.

Edgware



| Ward name | Number of councillors | Variance 2024 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Edgware | 3 | 6% |
| Edgwarebury & Highwood Hill | 2 | 1% |

Edgware and Edgwarebury & Highwood Hill

84 We have based our draft recommendations for these wards on the Conservative proposals subject to some minor amendments. As discussed earlier in this report, we are not adopting the Labour proposals for Mill Hill or Burnt Oak ward. This has a consequential effect to our ability to consider their proposals for Edgware ward.

85 We consider that the Conservatives' proposed Edgware ward uses strong boundaries. We are adopting this, subject to the amendment discussed in the Mill Hill section. While we note that the area immediately to the west of the M1 motorway and railway line has links into Mill Hill Broadway, we consider the motorway and railway to provide a stronger ward boundary.

86 To the north, we note that the Conservatives' proposed Edgwarebury & Highwood Hill ward is bisected by the M1 motorway and railway line. However, the options for alternative warding patterns that secure good electorate equality are limited in this part of the borough, particularly given its location on the borough boundary. Therefore, while this ward may combine distinct communities, we are satisfied that they share clear transport links via the Apex Corner roundabout. Additionally, as noted by the Conservatives, they share some concerns, including proximity to greenbelt, suburban character and concerns over the major thoroughfares. We are therefore adopting their Edgwarebury & Highwood Hill ward, subject to a small amendment to include the caravan park to the north in High Barnet ward.

Conclusions

87 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Barnet, referencing the 2018 and 2024 electorate figures. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

| | Draft recommendations | |
|--|-----------------------|-------|
| | 2018 | 2024 |
| Number of councillors | 63 | 63 |
| Number of electoral wards | 25 | 25 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 3,973 | 4,336 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average | 8 | 0 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average | 2 | 0 |

Draft recommendations

Barnet Council should be made up of 63 councillors serving 25 wards representing one single-councillor ward, 10 two-councillor wards and 14 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Barnet.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Barnet Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Have your say

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

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

90 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

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

Review Officer (Barnet)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

92 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Barnet Council 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.

93 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.

94 Electoral equality:

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

95 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?

96 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?

97 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 and on our website at www.lqbce.org.uk. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

98 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, 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.

99 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.

100 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 Barnet Council in 2024.

Equalities

101 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Barnet Council

| | Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2018) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2024) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|----|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Barnet Vale | 3 | 12,103 | 4,034 | 2% | 12,365 | 4,122 | -5% |
| 2 | Brunswick Park | 3 | 11,623 | 3,874 | -2% | 13,096 | 4,365 | 1% |
| 3 | Burnt Oak | 3 | 12,925 | 4,308 | 8% | 13,447 | 4,482 | 3% |
| 4 | Colindale North | 2 | 6,576 | 3,288 | -17% | 9,055 | 4,528 | 4% |
| 5 | Colindale South | 3 | 9,209 | 3,070 | -23% | 13,360 | 4,453 | 3% |
| 6 | Coppetts | 2 | 8,716 | 4,358 | 10% | 8,720 | 4,360 | 1% |
| 7 | Cricklewood | 2 | 5,671 | 2,836 | -29% | 8,069 | 4,034 | -7% |
| 8 | East Barnet | 3 | 12,242 | 4,081 | 3% | 13,007 | 4,336 | 0% |
| 9 | East Finchley | 3 | 12,584 | 4,195 | 6% | 12,771 | 4,257 | -2% |
| 10 | Edgware | 3 | 13,082 | 4,361 | 10% | 13,743 | 4,581 | 6% |
| 11 | Edgwarebury & Highwood Hill | 2 | 8,188 | 4,094 | 3% | 8,769 | 4,385 | 1% |

| | Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2018) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2019) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 12 | Finchley Church End | 3 | 12,818 | 4,273 | 8% | 13,523 | 4,508 | 4% |
| 13 | Garden Suburb | 2 | 9,042 | 4,521 | 14% | 9,231 | 4,615 | 6% |
| 14 | Golders Green North | 2 | 8,546 | 4,273 | 8% | 8,396 | 4,198 | -3% |
| 15 | Golders Green South | 3 | 12,021 | 4,007 | 1% | 12,415 | 4,138 | -5% |
| 16 | Hendon | 3 | 13,279 | 4,426 | 11% | 13,576 | 4,525 | 4% |
| 17 | High Barnet | 2 | 8,460 | 4,230 | 6% | 9,233 | 4,617 | 6% |
| 18 | Mill Hill | 3 | 12,377 | 4,126 | 4% | 13,018 | 4,339 | 0% |
| 19 | Muswell Hill | 1 | 4,231 | 4,231 | 6% | 4,271 | 4,271 | -2% |
| 20 | Totteridge & Woodside | 3 | 9,635 | 3,212 | -19% | 12,191 | 4,064 | -6% |
| 21 | Underhill | 2 | 8,808 | 4,404 | 11% | 9,075 | 4,538 | 5% |
| 22 | West Finchley | 3 | 12,248 | 4,083 | 3% | 12,520 | 4,173 | -4% |
| 23 | West Hendon | 3 | 10,510 | 3,503 | -12% | 12,506 | 4,169 | -4% |

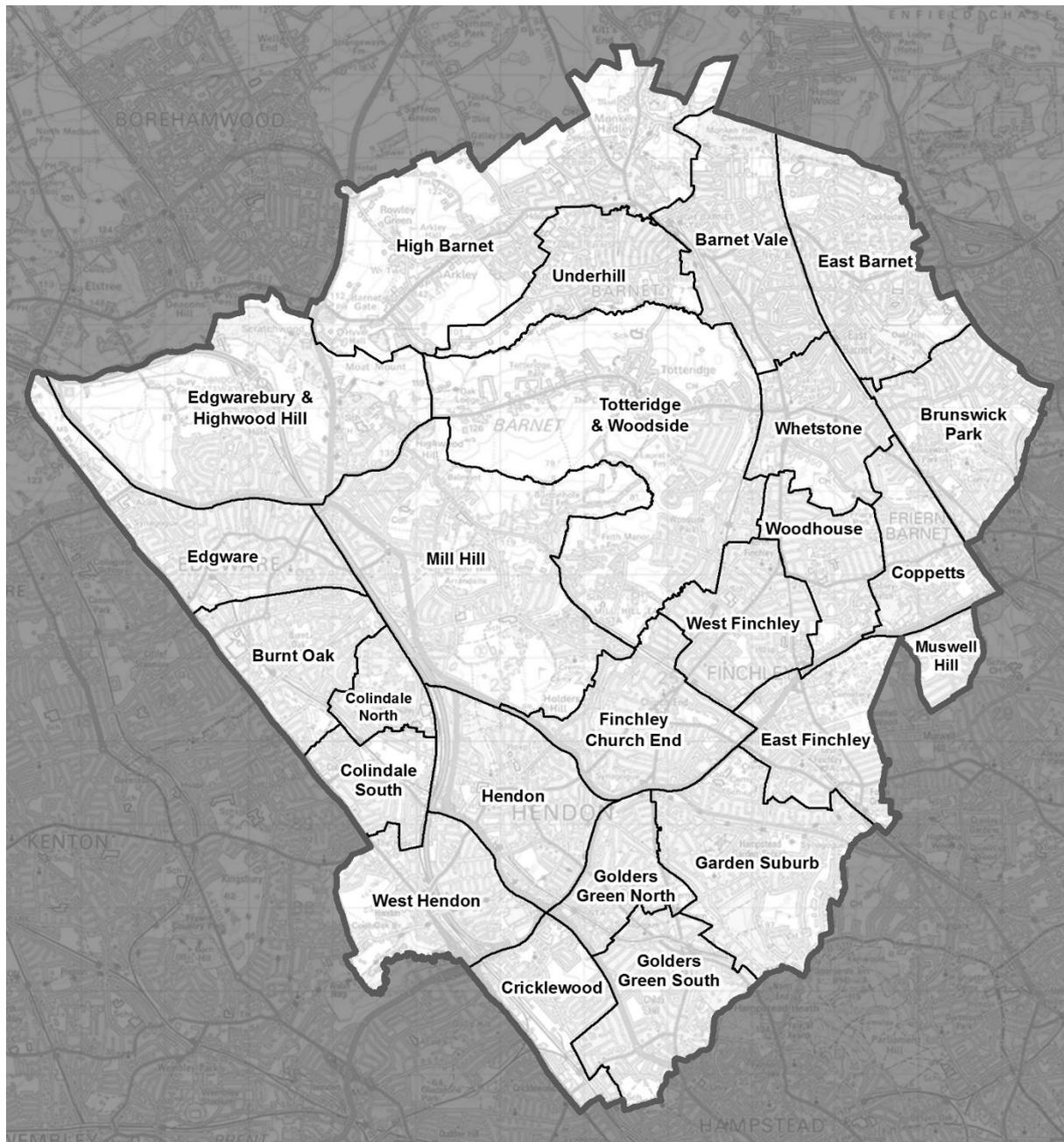
| Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2018) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2019) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 24 Whetstone | 2 | 7,137 | 3,569 | -10% | 8,347 | 4,173 | -4% |
| 25 Woodhouse | 2 | 8,263 | 4,132 | 4% | 8,470 | 4,235 | -2% |
| Totals | 63 | 250,294 | – | – | 273,174 | – | – |
| Averages | – | – | 3,973 | – | – | 4,336 | – |

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Barnet 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

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/barnet>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/barnet>

Political Groups

- Barnet Conservatives
- Labour Group on Barnet Council and Barnet Labour Party

Local Organisations

- Mill Hill Neighbourhood Forum

Local Residents

- 28 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 |

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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