	<h2>Constitution and General Purposes Committee</h2> <h3>6 January 2022</h3>
Title	Revised Boundaries and Arrangements – Residents Forums and Area Committees
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Salar Rida – Senior Governance Officer salar.rida@barnet.gov.uk – 020 8359 7113

Summary

As a result of the final outcomes of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of ward boundaries in the London Borough of Barnet, there will be changes to the number of wards, the number of Councillors per ward and ward boundaries which will come into effect in May 2022.

The ward boundary changes will have an impact on the Councils area based governance arrangements (i.e. Area Committees and Residents Forums) as there will be more wards and a mixture of two and three Member wards.

Officers developed various options for revised arrangements relating to Residents Forums and Area Committees which were discussed with the Local Government Boundary Review Member Reference Group. Feedback was received from the individual political groups on the options. The Committee are asked to agree the preferred option for implementation in May 2022.

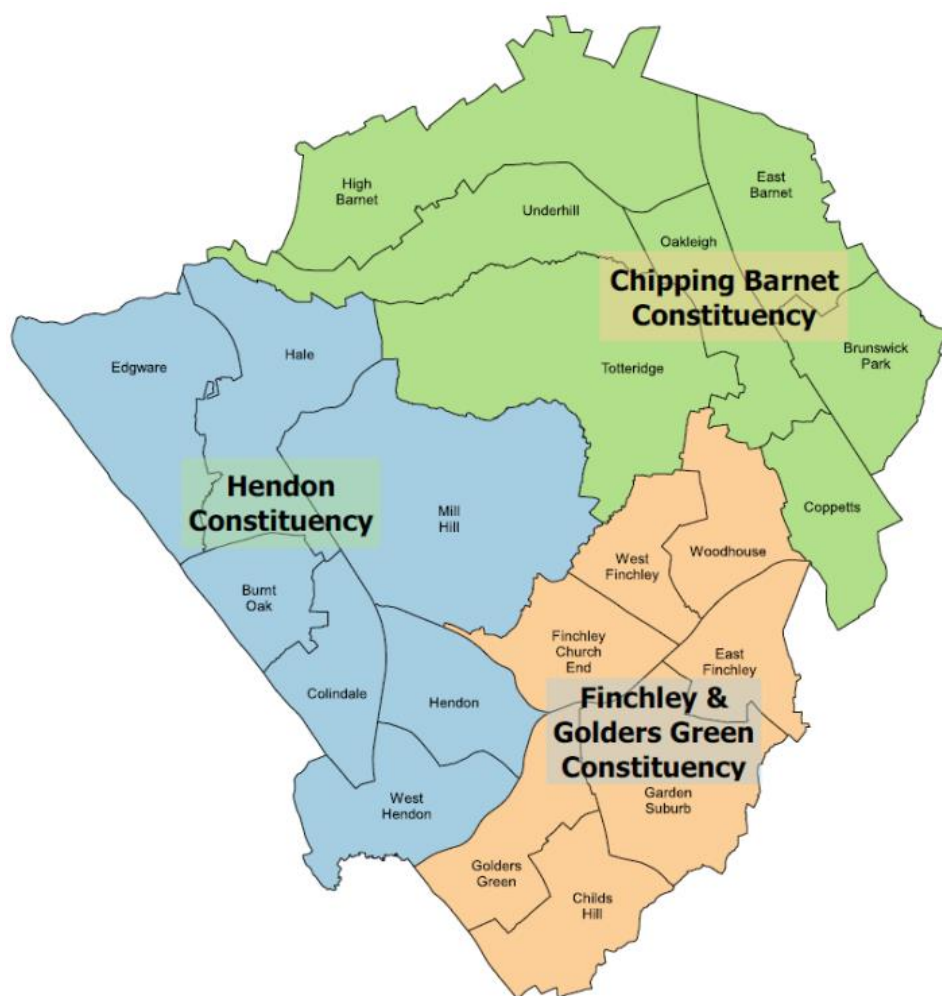
Subject to Committee approval of the preferred option, officers will draft the required Constitution amendments and report these to Council for approval.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the Constitution and General Purposes Committee note the report.**
- 2. That the Constitution and General Purposes Committee indicate their preferred option for revised arrangements for Residents Forums and Area Committees:
a) is there a desire for Area Committees to which proportionality does not apply and the membership is made up of elected members from that area; and
b) the preferred option for the geographical areas for the committees.**
- 3. That the Constitution and General Purposes Committee approve the option for revised arrangements for Residents Forums and Area Committees and recommend to Council in May 2022 that the Constitution be amended to give effect to the changes in May 2022.**
- 4. That the Constitution and General Purposes Committee agree that Residents Forums are aligned to the revised Area Committee boundaries from May 2022 and continue to operate under the existing membership format consisting of Chair and Vice-Chair appointed by Council.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 In Barnet, there are currently 21 wards in total and seven wards for each of the Parliamentary constituencies for Hendon, Chipping Barnet and Finchley & Golders Green.



1.2 Each of the Barnet Parliamentary constituencies currently include the following wards:

Hendon	Chipping Barnet	Finchley & Golders Green
1. Burnt Oak	1. Brunswick Park	1. Childs Hill
2. Colindale	2. Coppetts	2. Finchley Church End
3. Edgware	3. East Barnet	3. East Finchley
4. Mill Hill	4. High Barnet	4. Garden Suburb
5. Hale	5. Oakleigh	5. Golders Green
6. Hendon	6. Underhill	6. Woodhouse
7. West Hendon	7. Totteridge	7. West Finchley

1.3 The key changes from the final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for Barnet are summarised below. The new changes mean that there will be an increase in the number of wards in Barnet from 21 to 24.

Existing Arrangements	New Arrangements (5 May 2022)
63 Councillors	63 Councillors
21 Wards	24 Wards
3 Councillors/Ward	15 x 3-Councillor Wards and 9 x 2-Councillor Wards

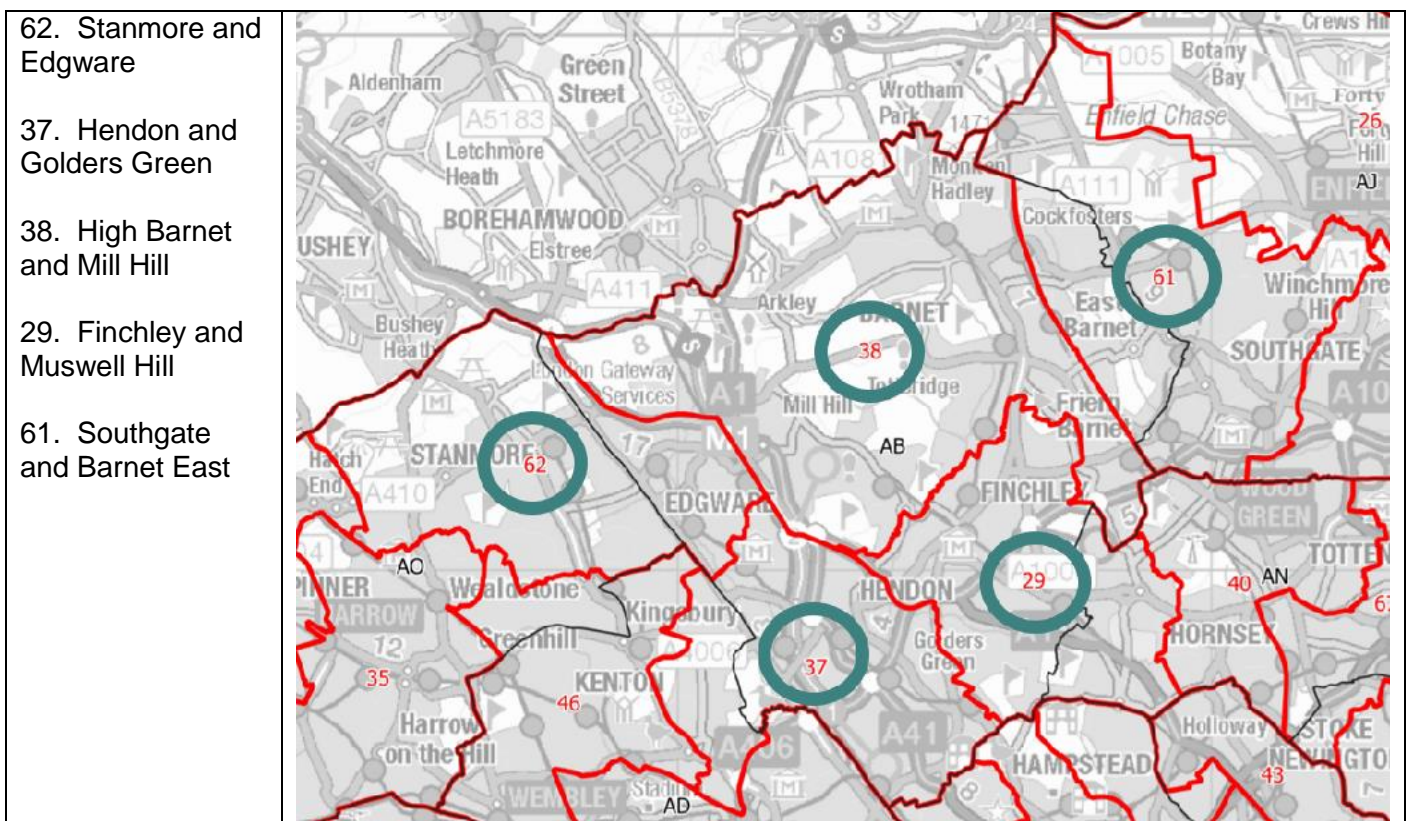
1.4 The number of Councillors per ward for the current and new ward arrangements are:

Existing Ward Arrangements			New Ward Arrangements		
	Ward	Councillors		Ward	Councillors
1	Brunswick Park	3	1	Barnet Vale	3
2	Burnt Oak	3	2	Brunswick Park	3
3	Childs Hill	3	3	Burnt Oak	3
4	Colindale	3	4	Childs Hill	3
5	Coppetts	3	5	Colindale North	2
6	East Barnet	3	6	Colindale South	3
7	East Finchley	3	7	Cricklewood	2
8	Edgware	3	8	East Barnet	3
9	Finchley Church End	3	9	East Finchley	3
10	Garden Suburb	3	10	Edgware	3
11	Golders Green	3	11	Edgwarebury	2
12	Hale	3	12	Finchley Church End	3
13	Hendon	3	13	Friern Barnet	3
14	High Barnet	3	14	Garden Suburb	2
15	Mill Hill	3	15	Golders Green	2
16	Oakleigh	3	16	Hendon	3
17	Totteridge	3	17	High Barnet	2
18	Underhill	3	18	Mill Hill	3
19	West Finchley	3	19	Totteridge & Woodside	3
20	West Hendon	3	20	Underhill	2
21	Woodhouse	3	21	West Finchley	3
			22	West Hendon	3
			23	Whetstone	2
			24	Woodhouse	2
	Total	63		Total	63

1.5 The implications for the ward arrangements from the LGBCE review means that each ward will have new boundaries as of May 2022, as displayed in the map below.

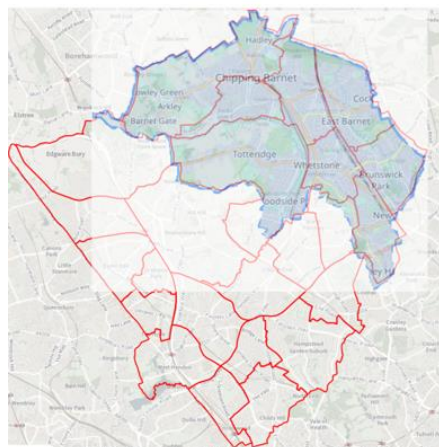


- 1.6 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is currently conducting a review of the Parliamentary constituencies. The BCE is required to make a formal final report to the Speaker of the House of Commons before 1 July 2023, recommending any changes that it believes are appropriate to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies in England.
- 1.7 The Member Steering Group requested that consideration was given to aligning the local government ward boundary changes with the BCE review of parliamentary constituencies. Whilst this may have been a helpful consideration, the timetables for the two reviews are not aligned. Changes to the Barnet Parliamentary constituencies are not expected until mid-2023 at the earliest and proposals could change following consultation. The initial proposals for the London Region covering Barnet are set out below:

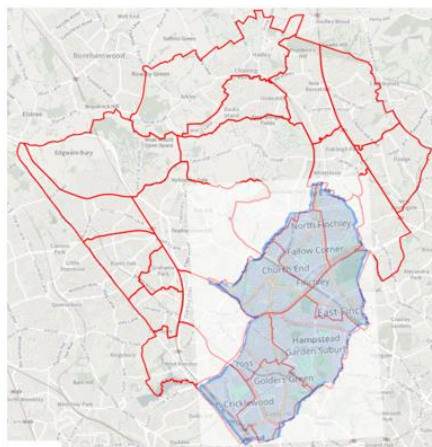


- 1.8 The timetable for consultation and submission of the final report and recommendations of the Parliamentary Boundary review 2023 can be found here: <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>
- 1.9 Using the BCE parliamentary constituency proposals presents a number of key issues for area based arrangements, as follows:
- Using the proposed constituencies would require a comprehensive revision to the existing three areas as there is no congruence between proposed new parliamentary constituencies, the borough boundaries and the local government wards.
 - If Barnet’s new area committee boundaries link to the new parliamentary constituencies, then there will be a gap between the ward boundaries coming into effect in May 2022 and the new parliamentary boundaries coming into effect (on a date TBC).
 - In the interim period, between May 2022 and the new parliamentary boundaries coming into effect (expected 2023) the new ward arrangements are not coterminous with the existing parliamentary boundaries in Barnet, as illustrated below:

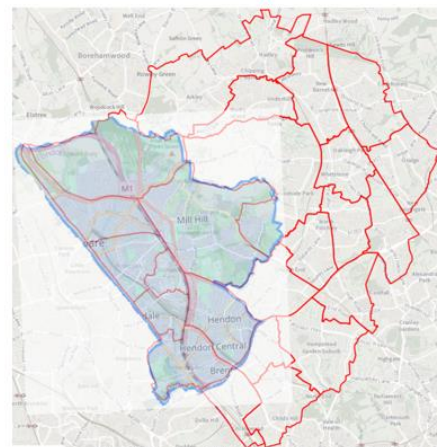
Chipping Barnet



Finchley & Golders Green



Hendon



1.10 It was therefore agreed by the Member Reference Group that proposals should be worked up without reference to the parliamentary review.

1.11 The Member Reference Group considered Area Committee / Residents Forums options at their meetings on 13 July 2021 and 14 September 2021. The Group were consulted and agreed on the principles for the revision for area-based governance arrangements as follows:

- Retain x3 Area Committees and x3 Residents Forums
- Develop 3 new areas which are broadly congruent with existing Area Committee and Residents Forum boundaries
- Equal number of Wards per Area – 24 new Wards → 8 Wards within each Area Committee area
- Equal number of Members per Area: $63/3= 21$ Members per Area (in so far as is possible)
- Equal number of Electors per Area (as far as possible) taking into account projected growth in electors and population
- Have regard to the Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review

1.12 Following consultation and feedback from the Member Reference Group, three options were proposed for the new area based governance arrangements for Residents Forums and Area Committees.

1.13 The initial proposals are summarised as follows:

Option 1:

	East Area	West Area	South Area
Number of Cllrs	21	21	21
Number of Wards	8	8	8

Option 2:

	East Area	West Area	South Area
Number of Cllrs	21	22	20
Number of Wards	8	8	8

Option 3:

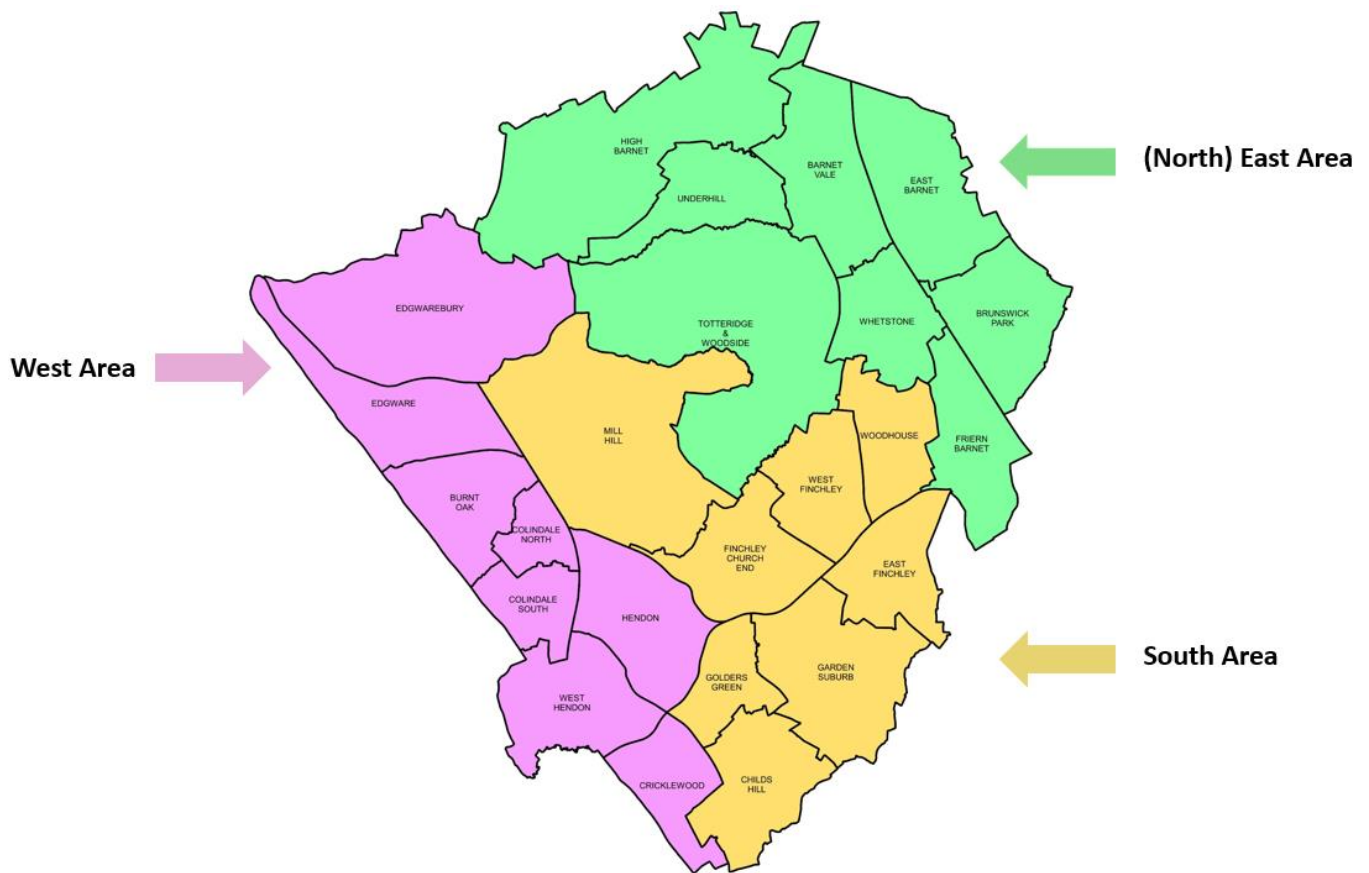
	North Area	West Area	East Area
Number of Cllrs	21	21	21
Number of Wards	8	8	8

- 1.13 A detailed breakdown for each option including maps is presented in following sections of the report:
- Option 1 sections 1.14 – 1.17
 - Option 2 sections 1.18 – 1.20
 - Option 3 sections 1.21 – 1.25

Option 1

- 1.14 Option 1 retains an equal number of councillors per area. The elector numbers based on 2020 figures are slightly unbalanced, but are approximately balanced by 2025. This option is broadly consistent with our existing area-based governance arrangements.

1.15 Map for option 1:



1.16 The number of Councillors per Area and per Ward for option 1:

East Area		West Area		South Area	
High Barnet	2	Edgwarebury	2	Mill Hill	3
Barnet Vale	3	Edgware	3	Childs Hill	3
Underhill	2	Burnt Oak	3	East Finchley	3
East Barnet	3	West Hendon	3	West Finchley	3
Brunswick Park	3	Hendon	3	Golders Green	2
Whetstone	2	Cricklewood	2	Woodhouse	2
Friern Barnet	3	Colindale North	2	Finchley Church End	3
Totteridge & Woodside	3	Colindale South	3	Garden Suburb	2
TOTAL:	21	TOTAL:	21	TOTAL:	21

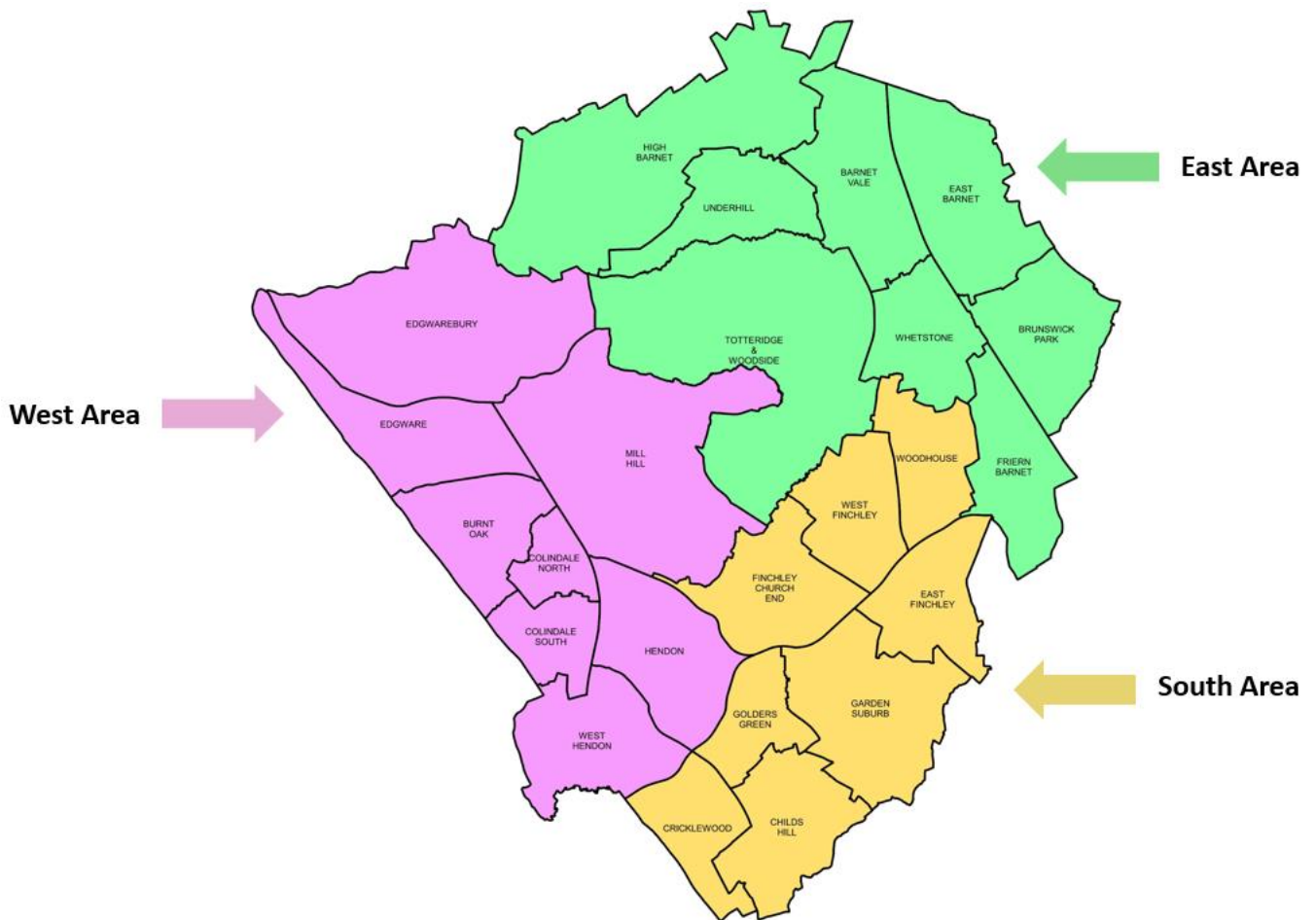
1.17 The number of electors*¹ per Area and per Ward for option 1:

East Area			West Area			South Area		
Ward	2020	2025	Ward	2020	2025	Ward	2020	2025
High Barnet	8,493	9,233	Edgwarebury	7,927	8,769	Mill Hill	11,799	13,018
Barnet Vale	11,578	12,284	Edgware	12,391	13,743	Childs Hill	11,014	12,581
Underhill	8,491	9,156	Burnt Oak	11,424	13,447	East Finchley	10,487	11,545
East Barnet	11,818	13,007	West Hendon	9,028	12,506	West Finchley	11,650	13,004
Brunswick Park	11,029	13,096	Hendon	11,786	13,576	Golders Green	7,818	8,396
Whetstone	7,370	8,543	Cricklewood	5,177	7,903	Woodhouse	8,716	9,493
Friern Barnet	11,564	12,795	Colindale North	6,254	9,055	Finchley Church End	12,036	13,523
Totteridge & Woodside	9,481	11,910	Colindale South	8,814	13,360	Garden Suburb	8,863	9,231
TOTAL:	79,824	90,024	TOTAL:	72,801	92,359	TOTAL:	82,383	90,791

Option 2

1.18 Option 2 has an unequal number of Councillors per area which could impact on the way that the committees are constituted. Elector numbers based on 2020 figures are balanced, but an imbalance is projected by 2025. This option is the closest comparison to the existing Barnet parliamentary constituency boundaries for Chipping Barnet, Hendon and Finchley & Golders Green. Map for option 2:

¹ Note: Options presented are based on electorate rather than population figures. Population figures currently use 2011 census data and so are out of date. If population data were to be used, it would ideally use the 2021 census data which will not be available until later in 2022.



1.19 The number of Councillors per Area and per Ward for option 2:

East Area		West Area		South Area	
High Barnet	2	Edgwarebury	2	Cricklewood	2
Barnet Vale	3	Edgware	3	Childs Hill	3
Underhill	2	Burnt Oak	3	East Finchley	3
East Barnet	3	West Hendon	3	West Finchley	3
Brunswick Park	3	Hendon	3	Golders Green	2
Whetstone	2	Mill Hill	3	Woodhouse	2
Friern Barnet	3	Colindale North	2	Finchley Church End	3
Totteridge & Woodside	3	Colindale South	3	Garden Suburb	2
TOTAL:	21	TOTAL:	22	TOTAL:	20

1.20 The number of electors² per Area and per Ward for option 2*:

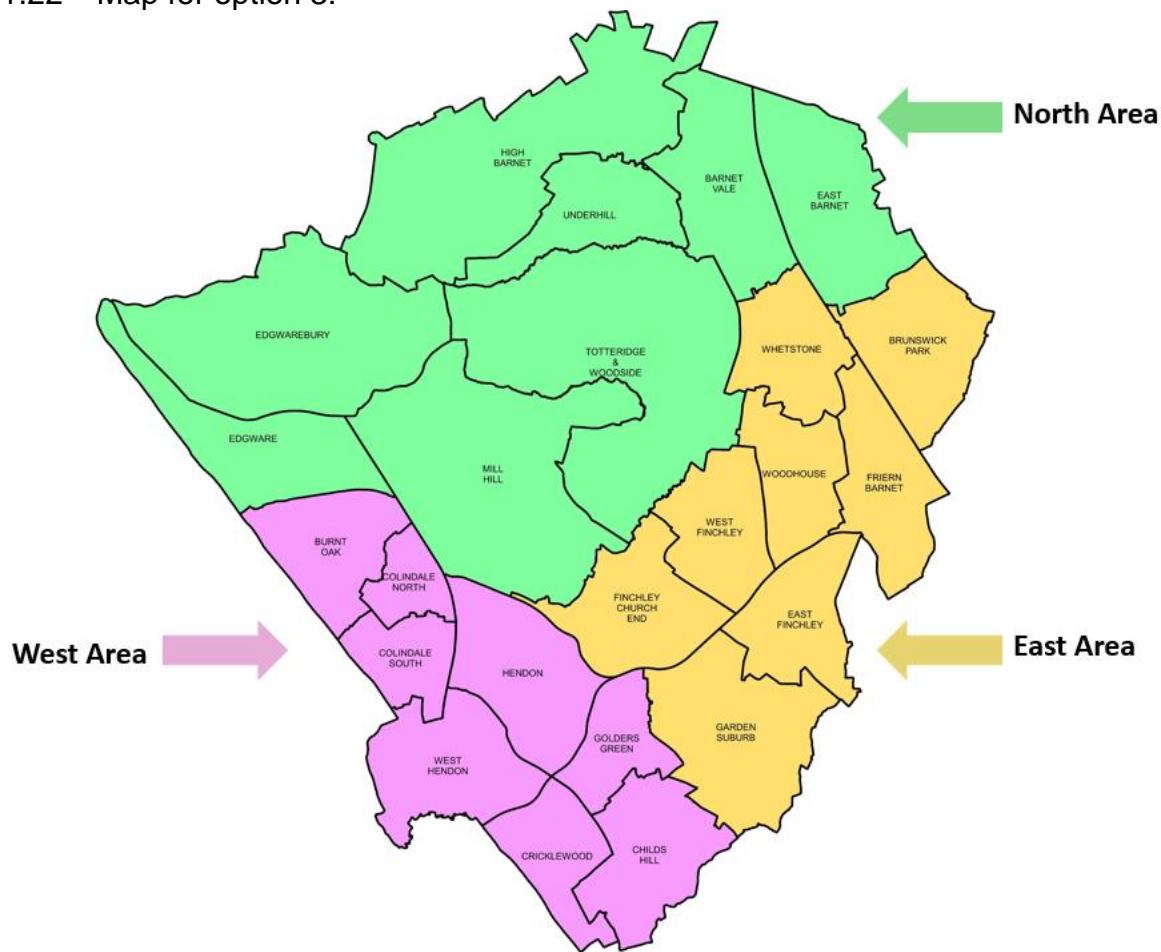
East Area			West Area			South Area		
Ward	2020	2025	Ward	2020	2025	Ward	2020	2025
High Barnet	8,493	9,233	Edgwarebury	7,927	8,769	Cricklewood	5,177	7,903
Barnet Vale	11,578	12,284	Edgware	12,391	13,743	Childs Hill	11,014	12,581
Underhill	8,491	9,156	Burnt Oak	11,424	13,447	East Finchley	10,487	11,545
East Barnet	11,818	13,007	West Hendon	9,028	12,506	West Finchley	11,650	13,004
Brunswick Park	11,029	13,096	Hendon	11,786	13,576	Golders Green	7,818	8,396
Whetstone	7,370	8,543	Mill Hill	11,799	13,018	Woodhouse	8,716	9,493
Friern Barnet	11,564	12,795	Colindale North	6,254	9,055	Finchley Church End	12,036	13,523
Totteridge & Woodside	9,481	11,910	Colindale South	8,814	13,360	Garden Suburb	8,863	9,231
TOTAL:	79,824	90,024	TOTAL:	79,423	97,474	TOTAL:	75,761	85,676

Option 3

1.21 Option 3 retains an equal number of councillors per area. Elector numbers based on 2020 figures are slightly unbalanced, but are broadly balanced by 2025. This option is inconsistent with our existing area based governance boundary arrangements.

² Note: Options presented are based on electorate rather than population figures. Population figures currently use 2011 census data and so are out of date. If population data were to be used, it would ideally use the 2021 census data which will not be available until later in 2022.

1.22 Map for option 3:



1.23 The number of Councillors per Area and per Ward for option 3:

North Area		West Area		East Area	
East Barnet	3	Burnt Oak	3	Brunswick Park	3
Barnet Vale	3	Colindale North	2	Friern Barnet	3
High Barnet	2	Colindale South	3	Whetstone	2
Underhill	2	West Hendon	3	Woodhouse	2
Totteridge and Woodside	3	Hendon	3	West Finchley	3
Mill Hill	3	Golders Green	2	Finchley Church End	3
Edwarebury	2	Cricklewood	2	East Finchley	3
Edware	3	Childs Hill	3	Garden Suburb	2
TOTAL:	21	TOTAL:	21	TOTAL:	21

1.24 The number of electors³ per Area and per Ward for option 3:

Ward	2020	2025	Ward	2020	2025	Ward	2020	2025
East Barnet	11,818	13,007	Burnt Oak	11,424	13,447	Brunswick Park	11,029	13,096
Barnet Vale	11,578	12,284	Colindale North	6,254	9,055	Friern Barnet	11,564	12,795
High Barnet	8,493	9,233	Colindale South	8,814	13,360	Whetstone	7,370	8,543
Underhill	8,491	9,156	West Hendon	9,028	12,506	Woodhouse	8,716	9,493
Totteridge and Woodside	9,481	11,910	Hendon	11,786	13,576	West Finchley	11,650	13,004
Mill Hill	11,799	13,018	Golders Green	7,818	8,396	Finchley Church End	12,036	13,523
Edgwarebury	7,927	8,769	Cricklewood	5,177	7,903	East Finchley	10,487	11,545
Edgware	12,391	13,743	Childs Hill	11,014	12,581	Garden Suburb	8,863	9,231
Total:	81,978	91,120	Total:	71,315	90,824	Total:	81,715	91,230

1.25 Under the options presented, Area Committees could be appointed to on a politically proportionate basis, or on an area basis. Legal provisions are set out in the table below:

Area Based	Proportionately
<p>Area Committees Regulation 16A Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 SI 1553/1990 provides an exception from the political balance requirements where a committee is established to discharge functions of the authority or to advise the authority or another committee of the authority in respect of any part of the area of the authority, and –</p> <p>(i) the authority is a county, district or London borough council; and</p> <p>(ii) the voting members of the committee consist solely of persons who are elected for electoral divisions or wards which are wholly or partly within that part; and</p>	<p>The Council must allocate seats on Committees and other prescribed bodies to give effect to the political balance rules. The rules for the allocation of seats are set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. Section 15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out the principles as follows:</p> <p>a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;</p> <p>b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the</p>

³ Note: Options presented are based on electorate rather than population figures. Population figures currently use 2011 census data and so are out of date. If population data were to be used, it would ideally use the 2021 census data which will not be available until later in 2022.

<p>(iii) the area of that part does not exceed two-fifths of the total area of the authority; or</p> <p>(iv) the population of that part, as estimated by the authority, does not exceed two-fifths of the total population of the area of the authority as so estimated.</p>	<p>number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;</p> <p>c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and</p> <p>d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.</p>
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Composition Considerations

- 1.26 Retaining three areas meets the requirements to enable Area Committees to be constituted on an area basis (i.e. less than 2/5 of the area; and less than 2/5 of the estimated population)
- 1.27 The current composition of Area Committees = 7 (comprising one Member and one substitute Member for each Ward). Each new area will have 8 wards. If constituting on an area basis continues, the number of Members appointed could increase to 8.
- 1.28 An alternative to area composition is to appoint based on political proportionality. Each committee would have representation proportionate to their strength on the Council. Based on an 8 Member committee and using the current political balance figures the seat allocations would be 5 Conservative and 3 Labour for each committee.
- 1.29 To retain an area link, Article 7 of the Constitution could be amended to have in the 'Membership' column that: the primary Member is a Ward Member; and the Substitute Member is recommended to be the Ward Member, but could be any Member from the area covered by the Area Committee.
- 1.30 Ward Members could still make applications to the Area Committee CIL Budgets without being appointed to the Committee (as is the case currently).

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The above recommendations are put forward to the Committee in order to enable the Council to effectively plan towards future business of the Area based arrangements for Area Committees and Residents Forums.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 As set out under section 1.9 of the report, using the proposed BCE parliamentary constituency proposals would require a comprehensive revision to the existing three

areas as there is no congruence between parliamentary constituencies, the borough boundaries and the local government wards. If Barnet's new area committee boundaries link to the new parliamentary constituencies, then there will be a gap between the ward boundaries coming into effect in May 2022 and the new parliamentary boundaries coming into effect (on a date TBC).

- 3.2 Three alternative options were proposed to Members for consideration as outlined in section 1 above.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Following the Committee's decision, a report will be prepared for Council detailing the Constitution amendments required to give effect to the approved option for area based arrangements for Area Committees and Residents Forums for implementation in May 2022 when the new ward boundaries come into effect.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 To ensure effective participation and efficient procedures are in place are key aims which align with the Council's Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from the proposals set out in this report. The options presented have no current implications for the Neighbourhood CIL budgets delegated to Area Committees (£0.4m per committee per year). The options have no impact on the current officer support arrangements either.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 Under Article 7 (Committees Forums Working Groups and Partnerships) of the Council's Constitution, the terms of reference of the Constitution and General Purposes Committee includes the following responsibilities:

To have responsibility for overseeing the Council's governance arrangements including:

- Electoral Services including: elections and electoral registration performance; and polling places and polling district boundaries
- Determine Members requests for non-committee information as specified in the Members Information Management Policy
- Endorsing the calendar of meetings prior to Council approval
- Health and Safety Strategy and Performance
- Member Development

- 5.3.2 Under Article 4 (Full Council) of the Council's Constitution Council has responsibility for "Adopting and changing the Constitution (unless delegated)."

- 5.3.3 Legal considerations for the composition of the Residents Forums and Area Committees are set out in sections 1.25 to 1.29 of the report.

5.4 Insight

5.4.1 Insight information has been used to inform the recommendations and content of the report from:

- Boundary Commission for England review <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>
- Mapping data: <https://mapit.mysociety.org/area/2489.html>
- Recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England review for Barnet: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/15057>
- Electoral data: <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-06-08-Initial-Proposals-London-Region.pdf>
- Population data: <https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Reviews/Greater London/Barnet/Final Recs/Barnet Final Recs Report web.pdf>

5.5 Social Value

5.5.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 There is a risk of imbalance and disproportionate representation of areas on the Area Committees and Residents Forums if the new ward boundaries are not coterminous with the area based arrangements coming into effect on 5 May 2022.

5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.7.1 Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The equalities impact will be revisited on each of the proposals as they are developed. Consideration of the duties should precede the decision. It is important that committees have regard to the statutory grounds in the light of all available material such as consultation responses. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;

- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- a) Tackle prejudice, and
- b) Promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:

- a) Age
- b) Disability
- c) Gender reassignment
- d) Pregnancy and maternity
- e) Race
- f) Religion or belief
- g) Sex
- h) Sexual orientation
- i) Marriage and civil partnership

5.7.2 Officers do not consider that the proposals will have any detrimental equality implications. Having area committees means that decisions can be made that are more bespoke to a particular area.

5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 None in the context of this report.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 The cross-party Members Reference Group for the implementation of the new ward boundaries arrangements were consulted on the proposals and engaged through their feedback which has informed the content of this report. In addition, service areas such as the Organisational Insight & Intelligence and Electoral Services were consulted on data and information sources set out in the report.

6. Environmental Impact

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Constitution and General Purposes Committee 4 October 2021 – Implementing the New Warding Arrangements for the London Borough of Barnet – Project Update (June – September 2021):
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=174&MId=10960&Ver=4>
- 7.2 Constitution and General Purposes Committee 22 June 2021 – Implementing the New Warding Arrangements for the London Borough of Barnet – Project Update:
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=174&MId=10959&Ver=4>
- 7.3 Constitution and General Purposes Committee 12 October 2020 – Implementing the Final Recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE):
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=174&MId=10215&Ver=4>
- 7.4 Council 20 October 2020 – Report of the Constitution and General Purposes Committee, Area Planning Committees and the Boundary Review:
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=162&MId=10235&Ver=4>