

# Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Harrow Council

Electoral review

December 2018

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why Harrow?

7 We are conducting a review of Harrow Council ('the Council') as the value of each vote in council elections varies depending on where you live in Harrow. 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 Harrow 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 Harrow

9 Harrow should be represented by 55 councillors, eight fewer than there are now.

10 Harrow should have 22 wards, one 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, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. 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.

## Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 4 December 2018 to 11 February 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 11 February 2019 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 37 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 Harrow. 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
24 July 2018	Number of councillors decided
31 July 2018	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
8 October 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
4 December 2018	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
11 February 2019	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
26 March 2019	Publication of final recommendations





## Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> 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 Harrow	184,640	193,598
Number of councillors	55	55
Average number of electors per councillor	3,357	3,520

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 Harrow 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](http://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 5% by 2024.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

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<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

## Number of councillors

26 Harrow Council currently has 63 councillors. The Labour Group proposed retaining a council size of 63, while the Conservative Group proposed reducing it to 55. We have looked at evidence provided and have concluded that decreasing by eight will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 55 councillors – for example a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 In response to the consultation on warding patterns the Council argued that we should reconsider the decision to reduce council size from 63 to 55, arguing that this would have implications for democratic representation in the future. Five local residents provided a mixture of general objections and support for the reduction in council size.

29 We have considered the evidence received, particularly the Council's concerns about the impact of a reduction in council size. However, we do not consider there to be any new or compelling evidence to persuade us that Harrow Council would be unable to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively under a council of 55 members. Therefore, our draft recommendations are based on a 55-member council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 32 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included five borough-wide proposals from the Council, the Conservative Group on Harrow Borough Council ('the Conservative Group'), the Harrow Liberal Democrats ('the Liberal Democrats') and from two members of the public. The five borough-wide schemes provided a mixed pattern of one- two- and three-councillor wards for Harrow, with all schemes providing good levels of electoral equality and generally using clearly identifiable boundaries.

31 The remainder of the submissions provided a mixture of general comments about the review and more specific comments about warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

32 The Council and Conservative Group both proposed a mixed pattern of two- and three-councillor wards. Both proposals secured good levels of electoral equality. They also provided good evidence for the boundaries of their respective proposals, as well as some evidence of community links. The Conservative Group also provided a counter argument to specific elements of the Council's proposal.

33 The proposals from the Liberal Democrats and the two members of the public provided some community evidence, but placed a stronger emphasis on how their proposals secured good electoral equality and used strong boundaries.

34 We note that there was relatively little agreement between most of the borough-wide proposals. Therefore, our starting point has been to focus on the treatment of a number of specific boundaries as well as our observations when we visited the borough and viewed the proposals on the ground. This then informed how we developed our draft recommendations across the borough.

35 The Council and a member of the public proposed a ward that crossed the railway line around Wealdstone, while the Conservative Group, Liberal Democrats and a member of the public proposed using the railway as a boundary. We note the Council's argument that the area to the west of the railway line, including the Kodak redevelopment site, has links into Wealdstone. Our visit to the area confirmed that Headstone Drive provides a link under the railway into the centre. However, our visit also suggested that the link up and over the railway via George Gange Way is less good and the railway is a more significant barrier here. We also consider that the Council's boundary along Walton Drive and Kings Way appears to cut through the residential area to the north of Harrow town centre.

36 On balance, we consider that the railway line should be used as a boundary in this area. This enables the creation of a Wealdstone ward centred around the town centre to the east and a more residential ward to the west.

37 In Rayners Lane, the Council, Liberal Democrats and a member of the public argued that the railway line does not form a significant barrier and proposed a ward that crosses it. The Conservative Group and another local resident argued that it does form a barrier and therefore used it. Councillor Almond and a number of local residents argued that the residential area immediately to the north of Rayners Lane looks to Pinner South citing community links, including to Pinner High School and Pinner Library.

38 Our visit to the area highlighted that the shopping area along Rayners Lane and Alexandra Avenue is continuous and that the railway does not form a significant barrier. However, while we consider that the residents immediately to the north of this probably use the shops in this area, we acknowledge the argument that the area also has links into Pinner. Our tour of the area showed us a number of 'Rayners Lane' nameplates on the approach to the shops via Village Way and Rayners Lane. This suggested to us that, while the area around the shops is part of the Rayners Lane community, the area to the north is less so. While we have considered extending Rayners Lane ward north to take in the shopping area, on balance we propose following the railway line as a boundary in this area.

39 To the north of this area, the Conservative Group and the members of the public proposed using the railway line between Pinner and Pinner South as a boundary, while the Council and the Liberal Democrat Groups proposed breaching it, chiefly to ensure electoral equality. Our visit to the area suggested that breaching the railway line should be avoided. Despite a number of crossing points, we consider the railway a significant barrier in this area. In addition, the Council's proposal to transfer an area of Pinner Green to a Pinner South ward appears to divide Pinner Green. We are therefore using the railway line as a boundary here.

40 In Hatch End, the Council, Liberal Democrats and the members of the public, as well as a number of other respondents, argued that the railway line does not divide Hatch End. The Conservative Group argued that the railway does divide the area. However, the community evidence received and our visit to the area has led us to conclude that it should not form a boundary.

41 Finally, the Council and a local resident proposed a ward that crossed the railway line at Headstone Lane Station. The Conservative Group and Councillor Almond expressed concerns about a ward that stretched from West Pinner Cemetery to Wealdstone, crossing the railway line around Headstone Lane Station. Our visit to the area suggested that while there are links across the railway and that the areas immediately surrounding the station may see it as a focal point, a ward containing parts of Wealdstone with parts of Headstone and the borders of Pinner does not reflect community links. We therefore have sought to retain the railway line as a boundary in this area. This has enabled us to create a ward for Headstone and two wards for Wealdstone.

42 In light of our decision around these significant boundaries we are basing the draft recommendations on a mixture of the schemes received, although given the stronger community identity evidence provided by both schemes, we are basing them primarily on elements of the Council and Conservative Group schemes.

43 Four members of the public proposed changes to the external boundary of Harrow borough, including the inclusion of Northwick Park Hospital within Harrow and transferring other areas to neighbouring Hillingdon. We are unable to make changes to the external boundaries of the borough as part of this review, so have not considered these proposals further.

44 Our draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we have identified alternative boundaries.

## Draft recommendations

45 Our draft recommendations are for 11 three-councillor wards and 11 two-councillor wards. 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.

46 The tables and maps on pages 10–34 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Harrow. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

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

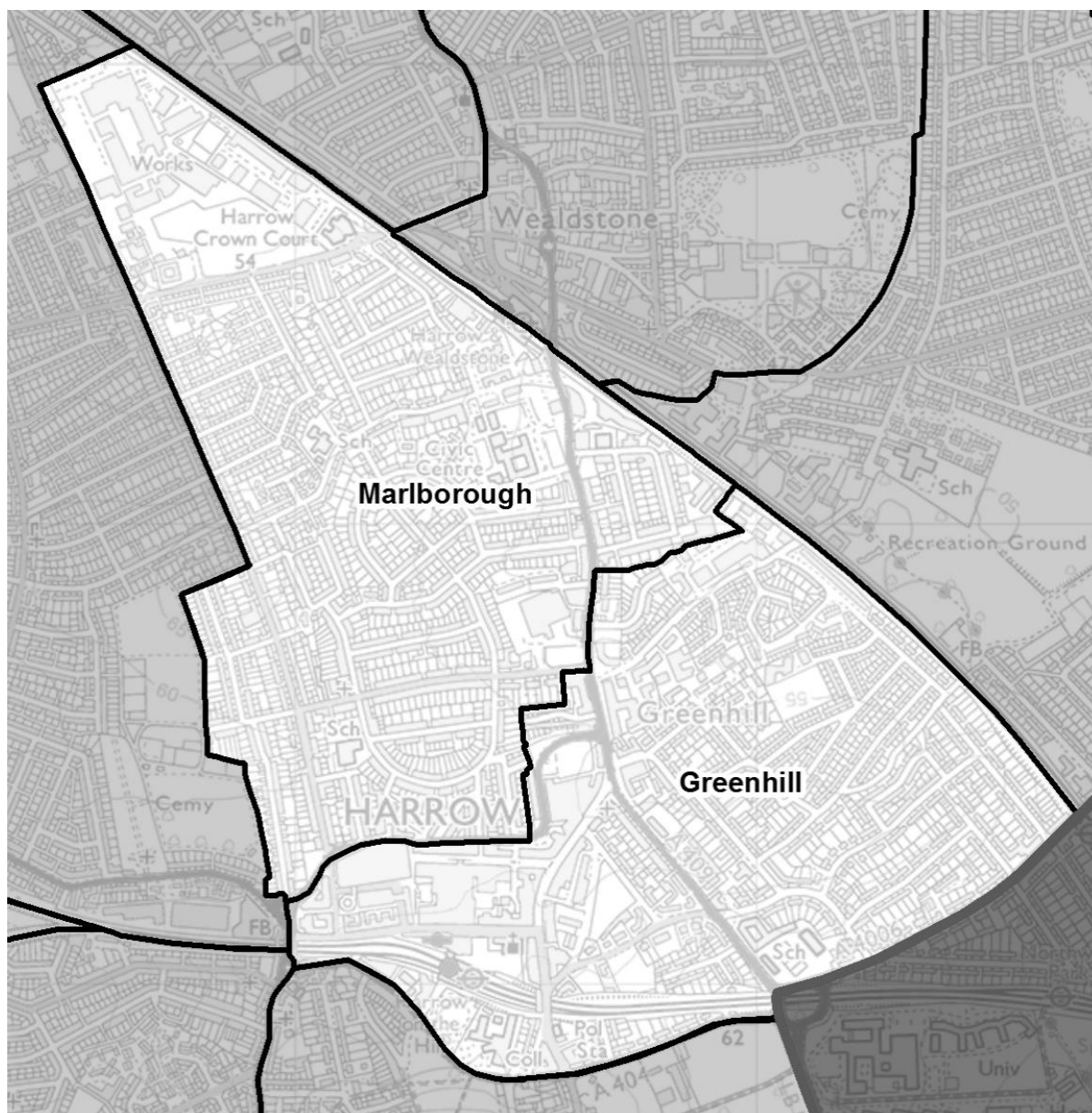
47 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 41 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

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<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Marlborough and Greenhill



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Greenhill	3	-1%
Marlborough	3	3%

### *Greenhill and Marlborough*

49 Our recommendations for this area are based on our decision (paragraphs 35–6) not to cross the railway line to join part of this area with Wealdstone. The Conservative Group and a resident proposed wards that gave a north–south split to this area. However, we consider that the Conservative Group’s proposal to bring the residential area to the south of Hindes Road into a ward with Harrow town centre crosses a strong boundary. Its proposal also divides the town centre around Station

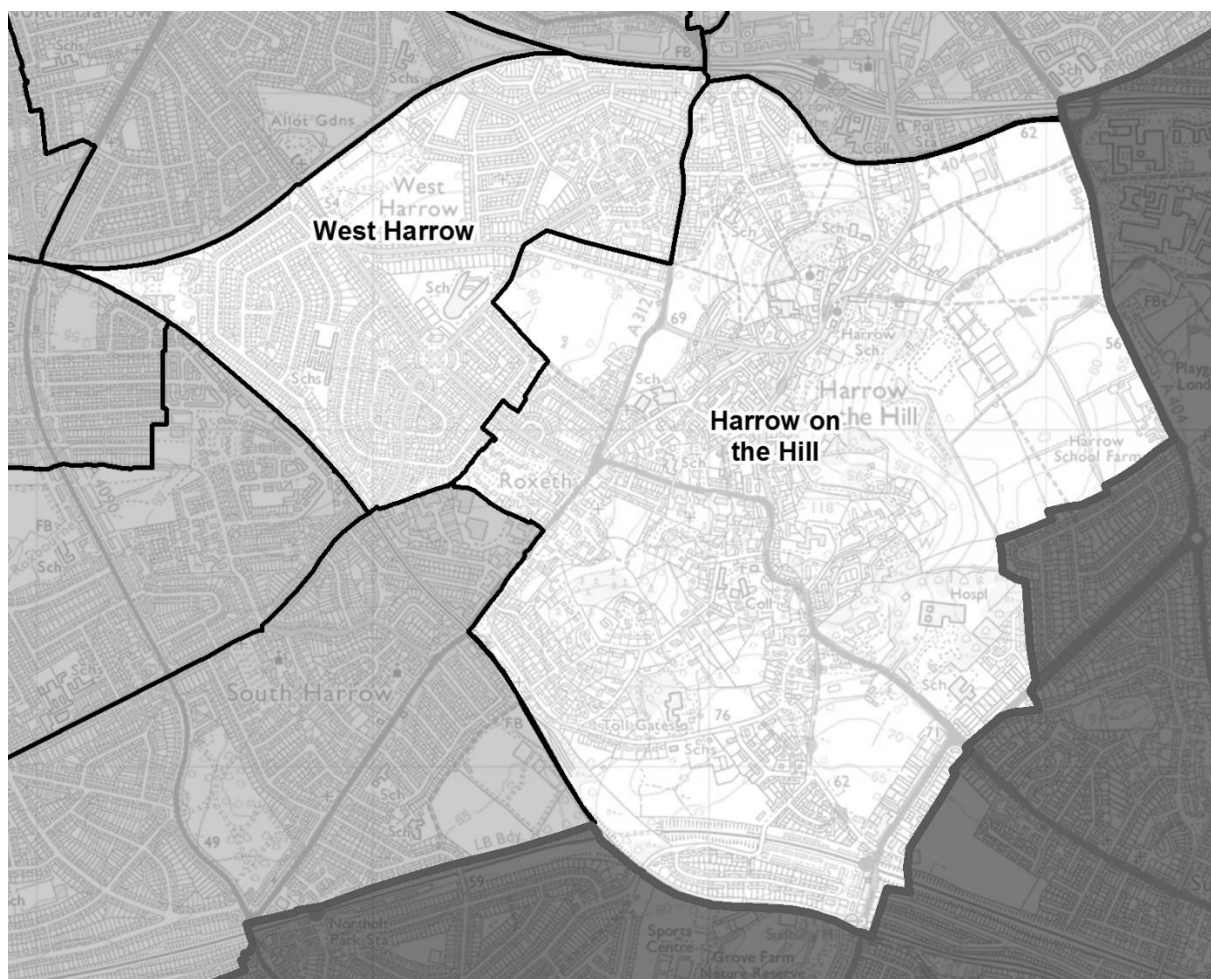
Road and Greenhill Way. We consider the resident's proposal to use Greenhill Way to be a much stronger boundary, dividing the town centre from the residential area to the north and keeping the larger area of the town centre in a single ward.

50 Our three-councillor Marlborough ward combines the development on the Kodak site with the residential area to the south, while our three-councillor Greenhill ward places the majority of Harrow town centre in a ward with the Greenhill area.

51 To the south of our Greenhill ward, the Conservative Group proposed drawing the ward boundary along the railway line, while the Council proposed transferring the area to the north of Lowlands Road and Tyburn Lane to a Greenhill ward. Our visit to the area highlighted that the railway line runs below ground level at this point providing a minimal barrier, while Grove Hill Road links into the town centre. In addition, the Peterborough Road climbs towards Harrow on the Hill reinforcing the sense that Tyburn Lane is a good boundary. We are therefore including this area in our Greenhill ward.



## Harrow on the Hill and West Harrow



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Harrow on the Hill	2	5%
West Harrow	2	0%

### *Harrow on the Hill and West Harrow*

52 Our recommendations for these wards are based on the Council's proposal, subject to a minor amendment. The Conservative Group put forward broadly similar proposals; however, its proposed Harrow on the Hill ward included an area to the south of Harrow on the Hill Station, which the Council argued should be in a ward with Harrow town. There was also a difference to the boundary between Harrow on the Hill and West Harrow wards around the Grange Farm Estate. Finally, the Council proposed including The Gardens in its West Harrow ward.

53 We note that there was support and evidence for a ward centred around Harrow on the Hill, with respondents highlighting a number of conservation areas. There was also support for including The Grove Open Space in a ward with Harrow



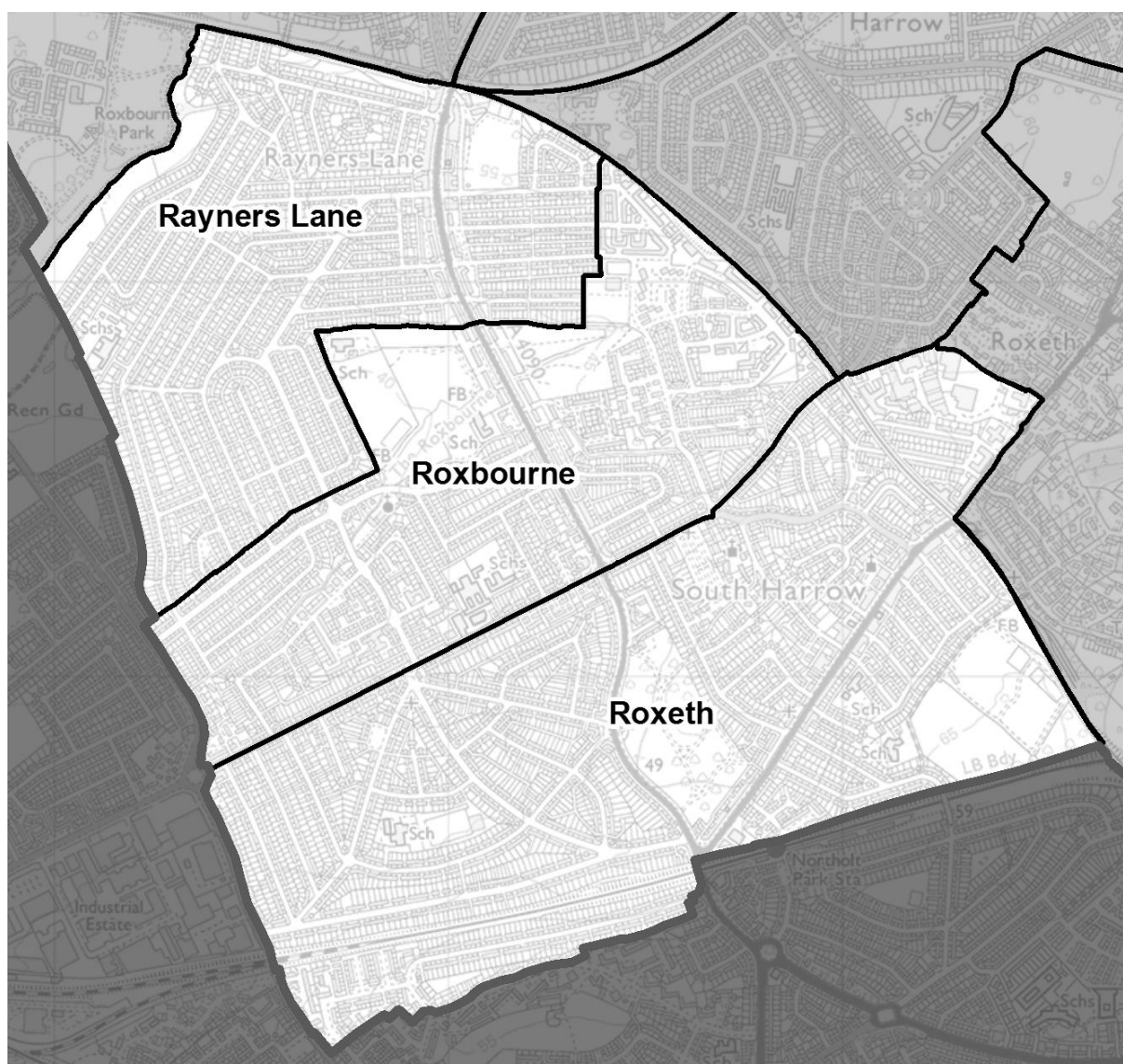
on the Hill. The Liberal Democrats and a member of the public excluded this area from Harrow on the Hill, so we do not propose adopting their proposals here.

54 In the north of the Harrow in the Hill ward, as discussed in paragraph 52, we consider that Council's argument for transferring the area to the south of Harrow on the Hill Station to a ward with Harrow town centre is stronger than the Conservative Group's argument that the railway line is a strong boundary. We are therefore adopting the Council's proposals here.

55 We also consider that the Council's proposals provide a stronger boundary between Harrow on the Hill and West Harrow, noting that the Conservative Group proposal isolate Merton Road and Ferring Close from West Harrow. We are therefore adopting the Council's boundary between these wards.

56 Finally, we note the Council's argument for including The Gardens in West Harrow ward as children from the area attend the Vaughn Primary School. However, our visit to the area suggested that, while The Gardens has good links into West Harrow, it also has good links into North Harrow with access to the school at the north of The Gardens near the shops on Blenheim Road. Therefore, we are not including The Gardens in our proposed West Harrow ward.

## Rayners Lane, Roxbourne and Roxeth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Rayners Lane	2	1%
Roxbourne	2	-2%
Roxeth	3	2%

### *Roxeth*

57 We are basing our draft recommendations for Roxeth ward on the Council's proposals. The Conservative Group and a member of the public proposed a broadly similar ward but with the ward boundary following the rear of properties on Eastcote Lane and Roxeth Green Avenue. Although this provides slightly better levels of electoral equality, we consider using the centre of these roads provides a clear boundary so we are adopting the Council's proposed Roxeth ward in our draft recommendations. We have not adopted the Liberal Democrats' proposals in this

area because they proposed two wards running north–south, which breached Eastcote Lane and Roxeth Green Avenue. As stated, we consider these roads provide a clear boundary so have not adopted these proposals.

### *Rayners Lane and Roxbourne*

58 We are basing our recommended Rayners Lane and Roxbourne wards on a mixture of the Council and Conservative Group proposals in this area. As discussed above, we are adopting the Council’s boundary along Eastcote Lane and Roxeth Green Avenue for the boundary with Roxeth ward.

59 To the north of the Roxbourne ward, the Council’s proposed boundary with its Rayners Lane ward runs down the centre of a number of roads. We consider it a somewhat arbitrary division of this residential area, with Newtons Park in the middle disrupting transport links through the ward. We consider the Conservative Group’s proposal to use the park as a boundary between its Roxbourne and Rayners Lane wards will provide a stronger boundary. We are therefore adopting its boundary with Roxeth ward in our draft recommendations.

60 The Liberal Democrats and a local resident put forward proposals that, like the Council’s, crossed the railway line at Rayners Lane. Another resident put forward similar proposals to those of the Conservative Group by using the railway as a ward boundary.

61 As discussed in paragraphs 37–8, we received contradictory evidence for the northern boundary of Rayners Lane ward. Some respondents argued that the railway line is a clear boundary and others argued that a ward that crosses the railway line will enable the whole of the town centre to be incorporated in a single ward. While we are less persuaded that the railway line itself is a strong boundary, and there is evidence for the town centre being retained in a single-ward, we considered the evidence from Councillor Almond and a number of local residents that the roads to the north of Village Way have good community links with south Pinner to be strong.

62 Our visit to the area confirmed that the shopping area along Rayners Lane and Alexandra Avenue is continuous and that the railway does not form a significant barrier. However, while we consider that the residential areas immediately to the north of this probably use the shops in this area, we acknowledge the argument from Councillor Almond, Councillor Stevenson and a number of local residents that the area also has links into Pinner. On our visit to the borough we noticed a number of ‘Rayners Lane’ nameplates on the approach to the shops via Village Way and Rayners Lane. This suggested to us that the area around the shops is part of Rayners Lane, but the area to the north is not.

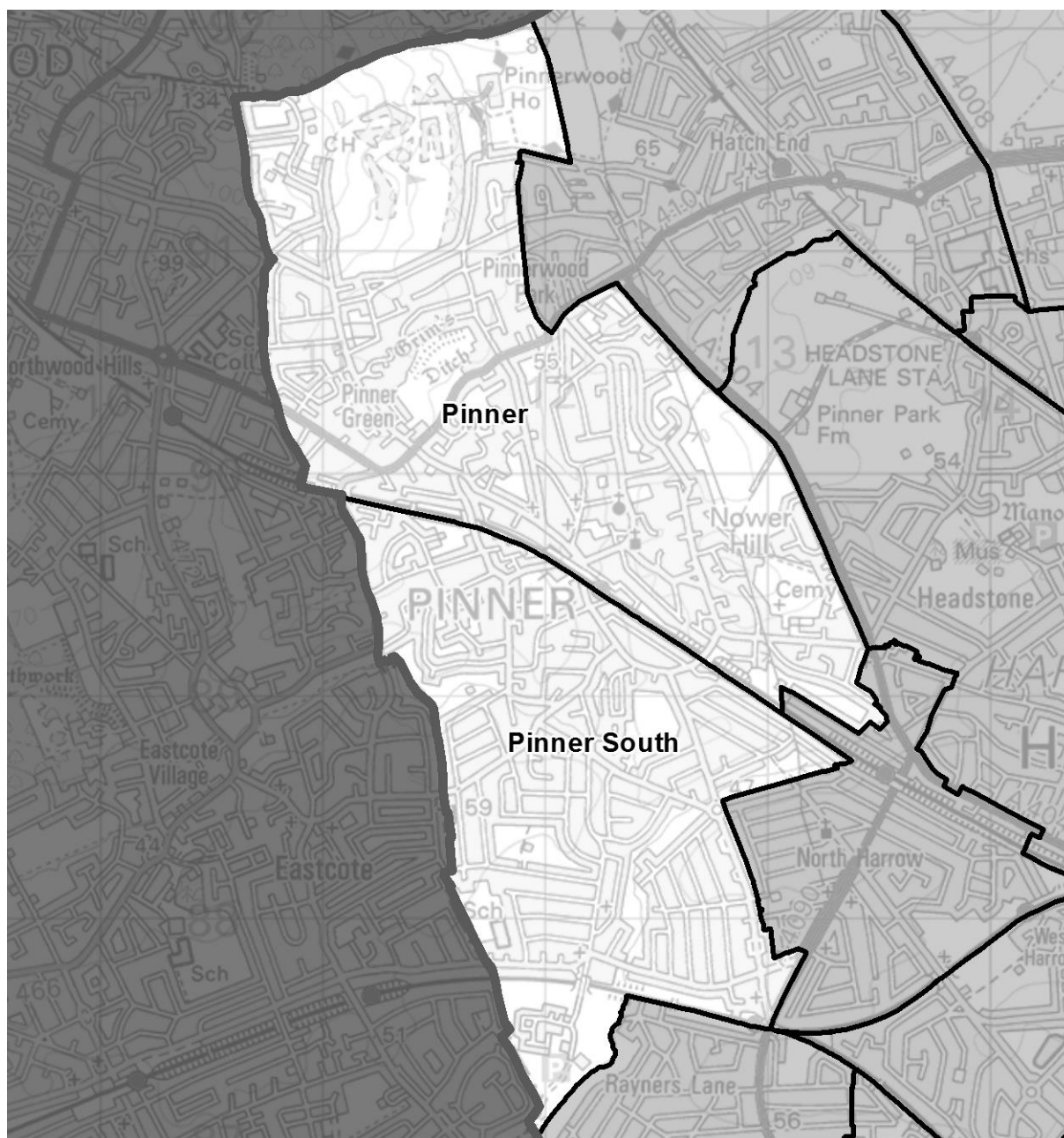
63 On balance, we have decided to use the railway line as a boundary in this area. However, we wish to emphasise that an alternative option would be to extend

Rayners Lane ward north to take in the shopping area on the southern section of Rayners Lane and on Village Way East, but not the residential properties north of Village Way. We would therefore welcome comments on our draft recommendations as well as potential alternative warding options for this area.

64 Using the railway line as a ward boundary in this area has a consequential impact on adjoining wards. We have therefore not adopted the Council's proposal to transfer the development to the West of Roxbourne Park to Rayners Lane ward. In any event, we are not persuaded by the Council's argument for including this in Rayners Lane ward as its primary access route is north towards south Pinner.



## Pinner



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Pinner	3	-4%
Pinner South	3	8%

### *Pinner and Pinner South*

65 Our recommendations for Pinner and Pinner South wards are based on the Conservative Group proposals, subject to a number of amendments. A local resident put forward broadly similar proposals to the Conservative Group. As discussed in the section above, we are using the railway line between Pinner South and Rayners Lane as a boundary, although we acknowledge that the area immediately to the

north of the railway line has links with the Rayners Lane shopping area to the south. However, we have been persuaded by the evidence from Councillors Almond and Stevenson and a number of local residents that the area north of Village Way has stronger links to Pinner South.

66 As discussed in paragraph 39 we have decided not to adopt the Council's proposals for these wards because we consider the railway line in this area to be a significant boundary. In addition, we were concerned that its proposal divides the Pinner Green area, with part being transferred to Pinner South ward.

67 The Liberal Democrats also proposed a ward that crossed the railway line, taking an area from the south and putting it in a ward with the north of Pinner. As with the Council's proposal, we do not believe the railway line should be crossed, so we are not adopting this proposal in our draft recommendations.

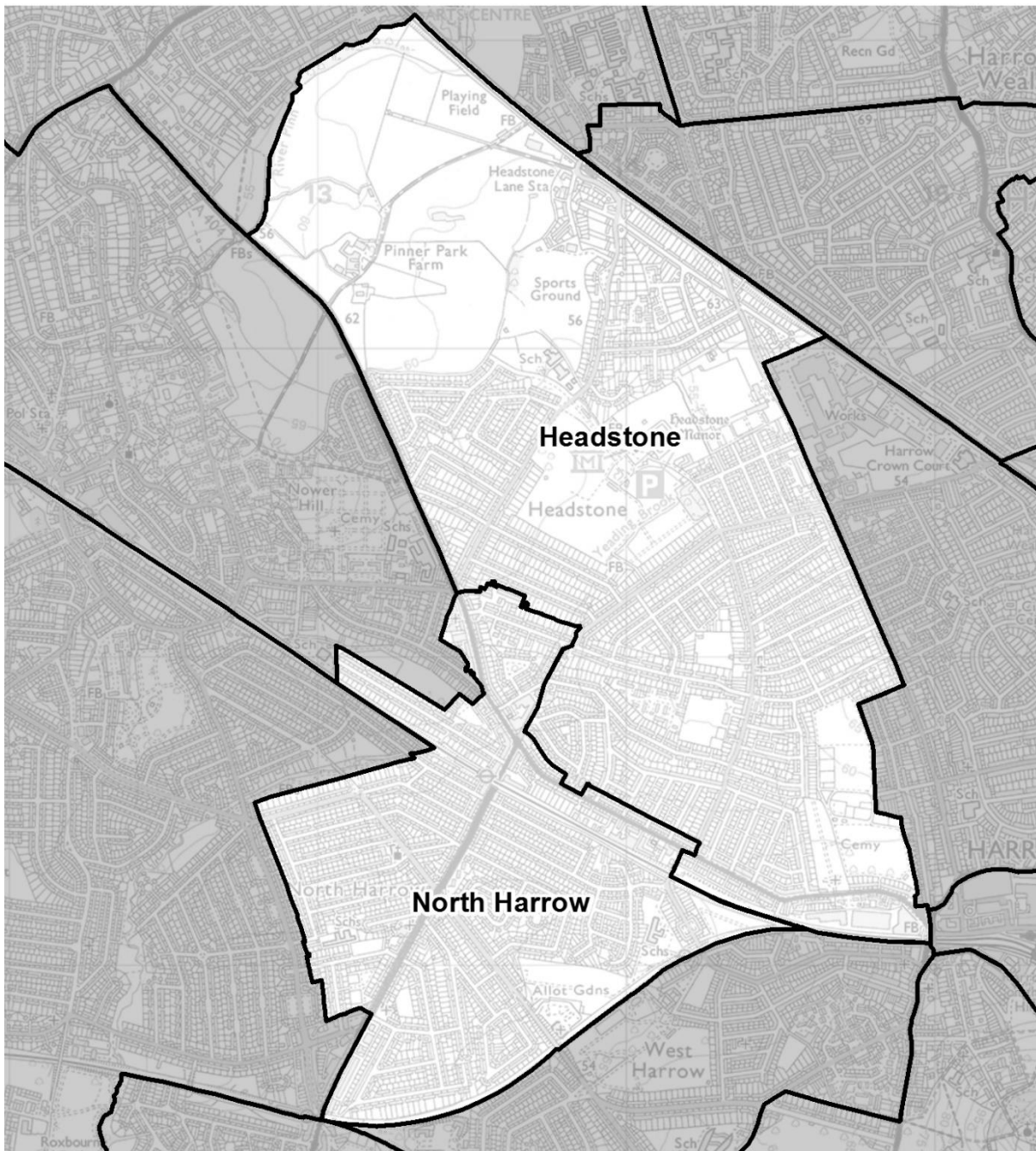
68 We propose a number of amendments to the Conservative Group's proposal to facilitate stronger warding patterns in the neighbouring areas and to secure good electoral equality. As Pinner lies at the edge of the borough, the options are somewhat limited. We are transferring the area to the north of Yeading Walk to Pinner South ward to secure better electoral equality in our North Harrow ward. Although transferring this area increases the electoral variance in Pinner South to 8% by 2024, leaving it in North Harrow ward would give this ward 12% more electors by 2024. We do not consider that it is possible to take only part of this area without dividing the community. We also note that all the roads to the north of Yeading Walk have good access into our proposed Pinner South ward via Rayners Lane.

69 The Conservative Group's Pinner ward included an area of the existing Hatch End ward around Marsworth Avenue. However, to facilitate a stronger Hatch End ward with good electoral equality we propose transferring a smaller area of Hatch End to Pinner ward. Therefore, to account for transferring fewer electors from Hatch End we are transferring electors from Woodlands and South Way to Pinner ward. We note that this area is close to North Harrow, and that Woodlands has pedestrian access into the shopping area, but if we do not transfer this area, Pinner ward would have a 10% fewer electors than the borough average by 2024, while North Harrow would have 8% more. We do not consider that a ward with a variance of 10% can be justified in this area.

70 On balance, we consider that our proposals provide strong boundaries, particularly retaining the railway line as a boundary between the Pinner wards, while also securing good electoral equality. We note that the Council proposed calling its wards Pinner Village and Pinner West End. While we are not adopting its proposals in this area, our proposed wards cover a broadly similar area. The Council provided good evidence to support these names. However, we also note that other respondents referred to Pinner and Pinner South, while one member of the public

suggested Pinner North and Pinner South. Given the lack of consensus, we are retaining the ward names of Pinner and Pinner South, but would welcome local views during this consultation.

## Headstone and North Harrow



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Headstone	3	1%
North Harrow	2	-1%

### *North Harrow*

71 Our proposal for this ward is based on elements of the Council and Conservative proposals and comprises a ward centred around North Harrow Station and the shops in this area. We are not adopting the proposals from the two members



of the public as they divide this area long the railway line, splitting the shopping area. The Liberal Democrat proposal does not work given our decision to adopt a West Harrow ward using the Metropolitan line as a boundary.

72 The southern boundary and part of the western boundary of the North Harrow ward is based on the Conservative Group's proposal and follows the Metropolitan line and the rear of houses along Rayners Lane. We note the argument from the Council and Conservative Group for including the area to the north of Yeading Walk in this ward. However, because of the other amendments we propose to this ward, if we include this area in our proposed North Harrow ward it would have 12% more electors than the borough average by 2024. In addition, we are transferring Woodlands and South Way to Pinner ward to secure good electoral equality. As discussed in paragraph 56, we are including The Gardens in this ward as we consider that area has stronger links the area around Blenheim Road.

73 Finally, the Council proposed transferring some of the 'county roads' to this ward. However, Councillor Almond argued that this area is better placed in a Headstone ward. While we do not consider his argument about the character of the house type to be entirely compelling, we do have a concern that the Council's boundary is somewhat arbitrary and may split this community in two. In addition, because of amendments elsewhere, including the 'county roads' in a North Harrow ward worsens electoral equality there. Therefore, we propose transferring only the properties along Pinner Road to Harrow North ward. This enables the whole of the shopping area and North Harrow Community Library to be in this ward, unlike the Conservative Group's proposal which uses the railway line and places this area in Headstone ward.

#### *Headstone*

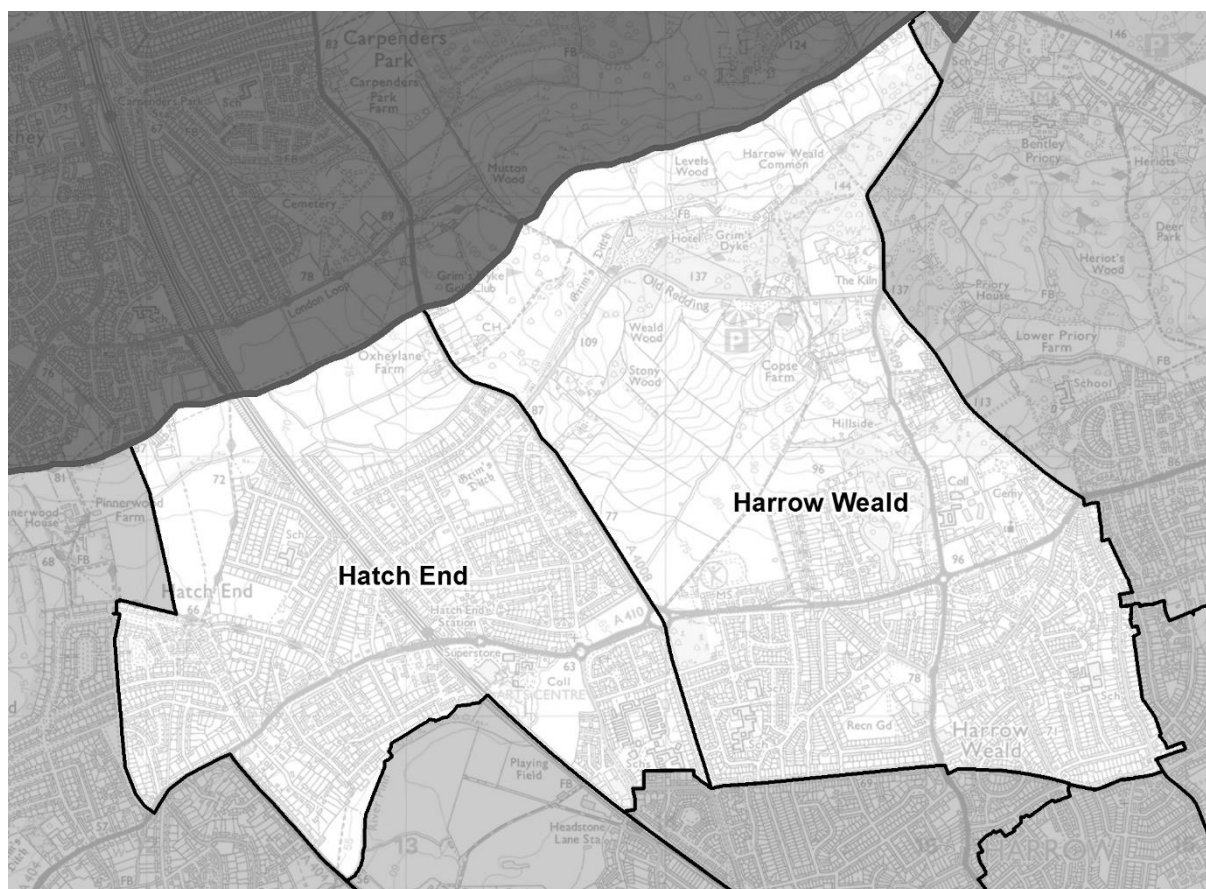
74 Our recommendations for this ward are based on our attempt to resolve a number of concerns with the proposals from respondents. The Council and a member of the public proposed Headstone wards that breach the railway line at Headstone Lane Station, including parts of Headstone in a ward with Wealdstone (the Council proposal) or Hatch End (the member of public's proposal).

75 As discussed in paragraph 41, the Conservative Group and Councillor Almond expressed concerns about a ward that stretched from West Pinner Cemetery to Wealdstone, crossing the railway line around Headstone Common Station. Our visit to the area suggested that, while there are links across the railway and that the areas immediately surrounding the station may see the station as focal point, a ward containing parts of Wealdstone with parts of Headstone and the borders of Pinner would not appear to reflect community identities. We have therefore sought to retain the railway line as a ward boundary in this area under our draft recommendations.

76 Our tour of the area also confirmed that the Conservative Group proposal to join parts of Headstone and Hatch End in a ward does not reflect communities. The area of Pinner Park Farm provides a substantial divide between the two areas. In addition, there is good evidence for a Hatch End ward that crosses the railway line.

77 Our proposed Headstone ward does not cross the railway line at Headstone Common and does not combine the area with Hatch End. It also secures good electoral equality.

## Hatch End and Harrow Weald



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Harrow Weald	2	2%
Hatch End	2	1%

### *Hatch End*

78 Our recommendations for Hatch End ward are based on a modified version of the Council's and Liberal Democrats' proposals, which sought to reflect the fact that the railway line does not divide the community in this area. Hatch End Association provided good evidence to argue that the railway line does not divide this area and that there are facilities on either side that all residents use including the shopping area to the west and a supermarket, as well as Harrow Arts Centre to the east. The railway station is another focal point. Our visit to the area confirmed that while one does have to cross the railway, the facilities identified by Hatch End Association are easily accessible from either side.

79 As stated above in paragraph 76, our visit to the area also confirmed that the Conservative Group's proposal to join parts of Headstone with parts of Hatch End does not reflect communities. The area of Pinner Park Farm provides a substantial divide between the two areas. It also proposed joining the eastern area of Hatch End

in a ward with parts of Harrow Weald crossing the A4008. Respondents to our consultation suggested that this was a strong boundary and our visit to the area appeared to confirm this. Therefore, we are not basing our draft recommendations for Hatch End ward on those proposals.

80 We have decided not to base our draft recommendations on the proposals put forward by the members of the public. One proposed a three-councillor ward that included an area of north Headstone that we consider only has limited links to Hatch End. The other resident proposed a ward that incorporated Hatch End with parts of Harrow Weald. As with the Conservative proposal, this crosses the A4008. Therefore, we are not adopting this proposal either.

81 While we are basing our draft recommendations for this area on the proposals of the Council and the Liberal Democrats, we have made a number of modifications. Hatch End Association argued that the area to the north of Long Elmes should be included in Hatch End ward, particularly as the area includes Hatch End High School. A local resident supported this argument and added that the residents around Chantry Road and Letchford Terrace use facilities in Hatch End. The Council and Liberal Democrats excluded this area. However, our proposal to transfer an area to the west of Hatch End to Pinner ward means we can include this area in Hatch End ward while still securing good electoral equality. Hatch End Association argued that the western boundary of Hatch End could be adjusted to help secure electoral equality.

#### *Harrow Weald*

82 We are adopting the Council's proposed Harrow Weald ward without amendment. As discussed above, we are not adopting the proposals from the Conservative Group and member of the public because their proposals cross the A4008, which we do not consider would reflect community identities.

83 We are not adopting the Liberal Democrats' proposals as they include in this ward an area to the east of Clamp Hill that we consider has stronger links with Stanmore. The other member of the public put forward similar proposals to the Council, but also included an area to the south of Long Elmes and College Avenue. While some of this area comprises the area covered by Harrow Weald Tenants & Residents' Association, as highlighted by the Conservative Group, it does not include the whole area. We consider that Long Elmes and College Avenue provide an easily identifiable boundary and are therefore adopting the Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations.



## Wealdstone



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Wealdstone East	3	-7%
Wealdstone West	2	-7%

### *Wealdstone East and Wealdstone West*

84 Our proposals for this area reflect our decision not to cross the railway line either in Wealdstone town centre or at Headstone Lane station, but also our proposals for Harrow Weald and Kenton West wards. As a result of these decisions we have been unable to adopt proposals from any of the respondents and are proposing our own warding pattern for this area.

85 We consider that the railway line, Belmont Trail and Long Elmes Road provide strong boundaries in this area. Overall this area is entitled to five councillors and we have examined how to divide it into two wards. Electoral equality in this area could be improved if additional electors were transferred. However, we consider the boundaries described above are sufficiently strong and have therefore decided not to do this.

86 The three-councillor Wealdstone East ward is bounded by Belmont and Kenton West ward to the south and west and contains the majority of Wealdstone town centre. The two-councillor Wealdstone West ward is predominantly residential. This ward contains the Harrow Weald Tenants & Residents' Association, which the Conservative Group's proposal sought not to divide. Therefore, in addition to comments on the ward boundaries, we also welcome views on whether the name Wealdstone West is appropriate.

## Kenton East and Kenton West



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Kenton East	3	-1%
Kenton West	2	4%

### *Kenton East and Kenton West*

87 Our recommendations for this area are based on the Council's proposals, subject to a minor amendment, as we consider its proposals provide the strongest warding pattern.

88 We considered the Conservative Group's proposals for this area, but had a number of concerns. Firstly, its Kenton West ward crosses the Belmont Trail, taking in an area to the west. We consider this former railway line to be a good barrier between Kenton and Wealdstone. In addition, its boundary between the two Kenton wards crosses Kenton Lane, transferring an area to the east into Kenton West ward. While it argued that the area is homogenous, we believe the Council's proposed boundary along the rear of houses on Kenton Lane is stronger.

89 The proposals from one of the members of the public also crosses the Belmont Trail and Kenton Lane, so for the same reason we do not propose adopting them as

part of our draft recommendations. The other member of the public who submitted a scheme proposed a ward cutting across Kenton Lane and another that transferred an area around Kenmore Park school to a ward stretching as far as the southern edge of Stanmore. We do not consider this reflects local community links and are therefore not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

90 We have similar concerns with the Liberal Democrats' proposal. While their proposal does not cross the Belmont Trail, its Kenton West ward does cross Kenton Lane. In addition, its Kenton East ward extends a long way north to include areas such as Taunton Way. We do not consider these proposals provide as strong ward boundaries as the Council's. Therefore, we do not propose adopting them.

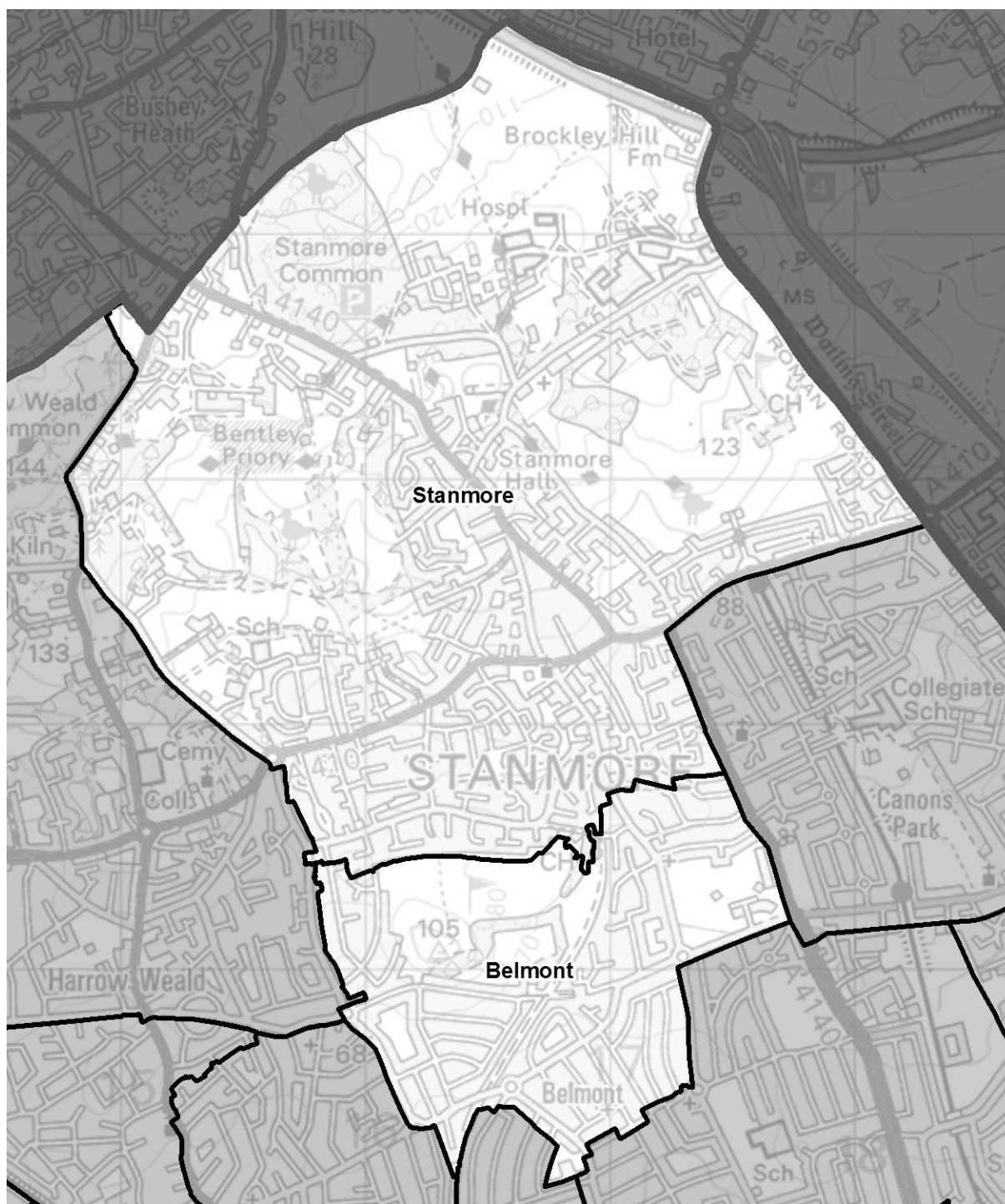
91 We noted that the Council's Kenton East ward includes the Everton Drive area to the east of Honeypot Lane, which other respondents argued is a strong boundary. The Conservative Group argued that this area should be in Edgware ward. However, removing this from Kenton East ward would worsen electoral equality in this ward to 8% fewer electors than the borough average by 2024. In addition, being at the edge of the borough, the options for this area are limited and it would only have access into our proposed Centenary ward and not Edgware ward. On balance, we have decided to retain this area in Kenton East ward in our draft recommendations.

92 As stated above, we propose a modification to the north of Kenton West ward. We are running the boundary around the rear of properties at the north end of Kenton Lane and Belmont Circle. We consider this has a number of advantages. It means that the boundary runs consistently along the rear of the properties on Kenton Lane. It also improves electoral equality in Belmont ward to address the transfer of electors around Gordon Avenue to adjoining wards, while also ensuring the whole of Belmont Circle is in Belmont ward.

93 The Council proposed calling these wards Kenmore Park and Kingshill arguing that the Kenton name is often associated with the neighbouring borough of Brent, particularly in relation to London Assembly constituencies. While we acknowledge these concerns, we note that all other respondents proposed retaining 'Kenton East' and 'Kenton West' as ward names. In addition, we note that these wards are divided by Kenton Lane, which helps give a sense of local identity. We are therefore retaining the ward names of Kenton East and Kenton West, but would welcome local views on these names during this consultation.



## Belmont and Stanmore



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Belmont	2	-5%
Stanmore	3	2%

### *Belmont and Stanmore*

94 We are basing our draft recommendations for these wards on the Council's proposals, subject to a number of amendments.

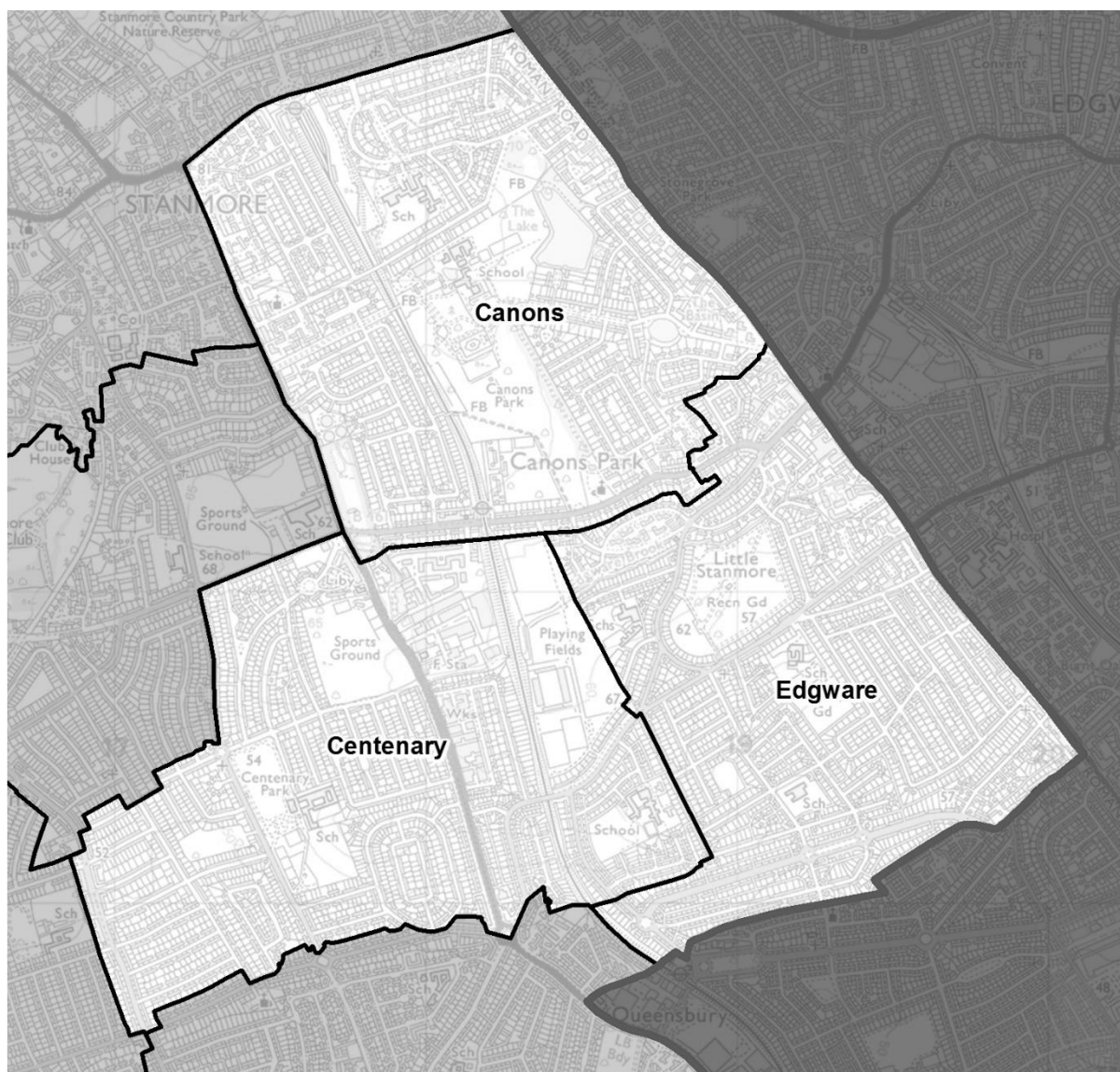
95 We are not adopting the proposals for Belmont ward from the Conservative Group, Liberal Democrats or a member of the public. Their proposals all included areas to the west of Kenton Lane that we are including in our Harrow Weald and Wealdstone East wards. The proposed Belmont ward put forward by another local resident is similar to the Council's proposal, but included a number of areas we are including in Stanmore and Centenary wards. Another local resident argued that Drummond Drive should be in Belmont ward, while everything to the north of Wemborough Road should be in Stanmore ward.

96 The Conservative Group argued that the boundary of the Council's Belmont ward should not run down Gordon Avenue, transferring the southern side of this road to Belmont ward. Our visit to the area confirmed that Gordon Avenue should be united in a single ward, with the boundary running to the south so that it is included in Stanmore ward. However, transferring this area to Stanmore ward worsens electoral equality in Belmont ward. As described in paragraph 92, we are offsetting this by including the area to the rear of Kenton Lane and Belmont Circle in Belmont ward. This has the advantage of improving electoral equality while also including the whole of Belmont Circle in Belmont ward. Drummond Drive is in the proposed Belmont ward, but we are unable to include the area to the north of Wemborough Road in Stanmore ward without significantly increasing the electoral variance.

97 Subject to the amendment described above, we are adopting the Council's Stanmore ward as part of our draft recommendations. We considered the Liberal Democrats' proposal to include the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in its Canon ward. However, the Council argued that this would be better placed in Stanmore and we note that it has good access into the Stanmore area.

98 The Conservative Group and one of the local residents put forward broadly similar proposals to the Council for a three-councillor Stanmore ward. However, to the east we consider that the Council's proposal uses the strongest boundary, running along London Road, so we are adopting this as part of our draft recommendations.

## Canons, Edgware and Centenary



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Canons	2	4%
Centenary	3	-5%
Edgware	3	3%

### *Canons*

99 We are basing our draft recommendations for these wards on the Council's proposals. In light of our decisions elsewhere in the borough, our options in relation to the other borough-wide proposals are limited in this area.

100 With the exception of the Liberal Democrats, the other borough-wide schemes proposed broadly similar wards for this area. As discussed in paragraph 97, we do not consider that the Liberal Democrat proposal to include the Royal National



Orthopaedic Hospital in its Canon ward reflects the community links highlighted by the Council, so we are not adopting its proposal.

101 We note that the Conservative Group expressed concerns about the Council's Canons ward, particularly the use of London Road as a boundary in the north. It argued that there are cul-de-sacs which only access on to London Road and into Stanmore. Both members of the public also proposed a ward that crossed London Road. However, we consider that London Road is a clear boundary and note that because the cul-de-sacs access on to London Road they do have access into Canons ward. Therefore, we are using the Council proposed ward boundary here.

102 The Conservative Group and a member of the public put forward a broadly similar southern boundary to their Canons ward. The Conservative Group argued that the Stanmore Place development should be in this ward and not the Council's Centenary ward, arguing that it has links to Canons Park Station. We acknowledge these comments but note that while parts of this development have direct road access to Canons Park station, other parts only have pedestrian access. However, including this area in Canons ward would significantly worsen electoral equality in Centenary ward, so we are not adopting this proposal. In addition, we consider that the southern boundary of the Conservative Group's proposed Canons ward actually includes the Edgware area of Harrow. We consider this is better placed in Edgware ward, so we are adopting the Council's boundary here as part of our draft recommendations.

### *Edgware and Centenary*

103 We are basing our draft recommendations for these wards on the Council's proposals – the Council initially submitted proposals for a Queensbury ward, but in a follow-up submission requested that we consider the name Centenary to avoid confusion to an identically named area in neighbouring Brent. It proposed Centenary to reflect the park at the centre of its proposed ward. In light of our decisions elsewhere in the borough, our options in relation to the other borough-wide proposals for this area are limited.

104 There were relatively few similarities for the proposals in this area, although Liberal Democrats and both members of the public used the Jubilee Line as a boundary between Edgware and the neighbouring Centenary/Queensbury ward. The Conservative Group used Honeypot Lane to the west of the Jubilee Line for its boundary between these wards. The Council by contrast proposed a boundary along Dale Avenue and to the east of The Hive meaning that the Jubilee Line and Honeypot Lane would both be in its Centenary ward.

105 The Conservative Group highlighted that the Council's proposal divides Camrose Avenue, arguing that Honeypot Lane or the Jubilee Line are stronger boundaries.

106 We visited this area and while we acknowledge that Honeypot Lane and the Jubilee Line are barriers, we also noted that Taunton Way gives good access across the Jubilee Line and there is access across Honeypot Lane at the Queensbury Circle roundabout.

107 We have looked to see if it is possible to use either of these features as a ward boundary. However, given our decisions elsewhere, we have been unable to identify a warding pattern for this area that uses these boundaries without leaving Centenary ward significantly short of electors and Edgware with too many. In the case of Edgware, we have already discounted transferring the area south of Whitchurch Lane to Canons ward, considering that this area of Edgware should be in Edgware ward. There are no other options here because Edgware ward lies at the edge of the borough. For Centenary ward, because of our draft recommendations for Kenton East, Kenton West, Belmont and Canons wards, there are also limited options. We are therefore adopting the Council's proposed Centenary and Edgware wards without amendment as part of our draft recommendations. We are adopting the name Centenary, but would welcome local views on this.



## Conclusions

108 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Harrow, 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	55	55
Number of electoral wards	22	22
Average number of electors per councillor	3,357	3,520
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

#### Draft recommendations

Harrow Council should be made up of 55 councillors serving 22 wards representing 11 two-councillor wards and 11 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

#### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for the Harrow Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Harrow Council on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)





## Have your say

109 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.

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

111 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](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

112 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Harrow)**  
**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Windsor House**  
**50 Victoria Street**  
**London SW1H 0TL**

113 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Harrow 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.

114 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.

115 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that each councillor would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in the Harrow?

116 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?

117 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?

118 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](http://www.lqbce.org.uk) A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

119 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.

120 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.

121 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 Harrow Borough Council in in 2022.

## Equalities

122 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 Harrow 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	Belmont	2	6,818	3,409	2%	6,657	3,328	-5%
2	Canons	2	7,139	3,570	6%	7,292	3,646	4%
3	Centenary	3	10,214	3,405	1%	10,008	3,336	-5%
4	Edgware	3	11,153	3,718	11%	10,886	3,629	3%
5	Greenhill	3	6,285	2,095	-38%	10,410	3,470	-1%
6	Harrow on the Hill	2	7,121	3,561	6%	7,398	3,699	5%
7	Harrow Weald	2	7,338	3,669	9%	7,156	3,578	2%
8	Hatch End	2	7,303	3,652	9%	7,133	3,567	1%
9	Headstone	3	10,599	3,533	5%	10,653	3,551	1%
10	Kenton East	3	10,736	3,579	7%	10,414	3,471	-1%
11	Kenton West	2	7,518	3,759	12%	7,318	3,659	4%
12	Marlborough	3	7,252	2,417	-28%	10,888	3,629	3%

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 %
13 North Harrow	2	6,792	3,396	1%	6,952	3,476	-1%
14 Pinner	3	10,269	3,423	2%	10,101	3,367	-4%
15 Pinner South	3	11,402	3,801	13%	11,367	3,789	8%
16 Rayners Lane	2	7,085	3,543	6%	7,113	3,556	1%
17 Roxbourne	2	6,764	3,382	1%	6,889	3,445	-2%
18 Roxeth	3	10,699	3,566	6%	10,775	3,592	2%
19 Stanmore	3	10,125	3,375	1%	10,738	3,579	2%
20 Wealdstone East	3	8,298	2,766	-18%	9,842	3,281	-7%
21 Wealdstone West	2	6,727	3,364	0%	6,578	3,289	-7%
22 West Harrow	2	7,003	3,502	4%	7,029	3,514	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>184,640</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>193,598</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,357</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,520</b>	<b>-</b>

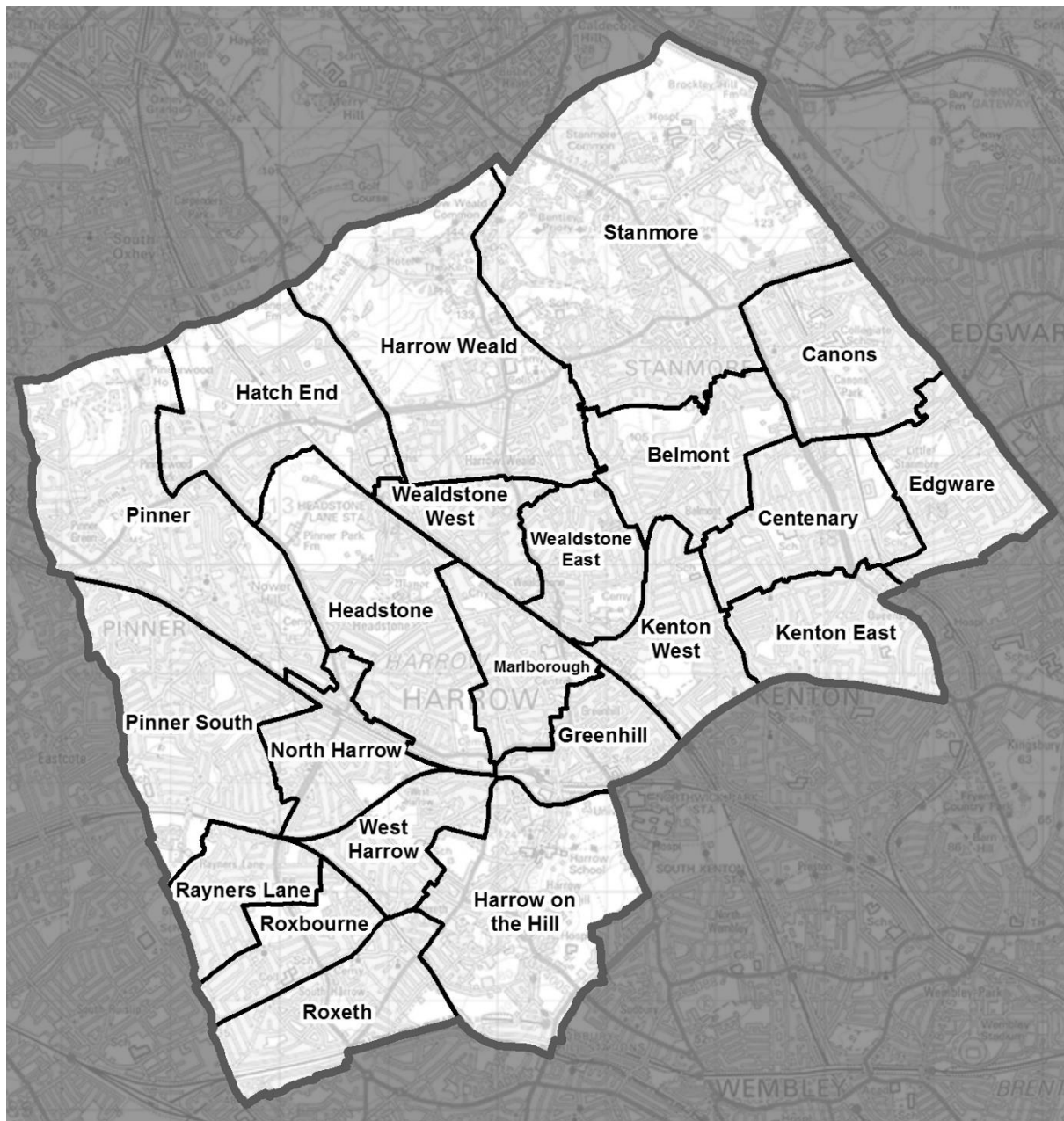
Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Harrow Council.

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 Harrow. 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/harrow>

## 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/harrow>

#### *Local Authority*

- Harrow Council

#### *Political Groups*

- The Conservative Group on Harrow Borough Council
- Harrow Liberal Democrats

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor R. Almond (Pinner South)
- Councillor P. Osborn (Pinner)
- Councillor N. Stevenson (Pinner)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Hatch End Association

#### *Local Residents*

- 25 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 <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
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