

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for the London Borough of Southwark

Electoral review

July 2016

Translations and other formats

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

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

Electoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

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

Why Southwark?

We are conducting a review of the London Borough of Southwark Council as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Southwark. 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.

Our proposals for Southwark

- Southwark should be represented by 63 councillors, the same number as there are now
- Southwark should have 23 wards, two more than now
- The boundaries of all wards should change; none will stay the same

We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Southwark.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

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

The members of the Commission are:

Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)

Alison Lowton

Peter Maddison QPM

Sir Tony Redmond

Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

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

- The wards in the London Borough of Southwark 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.

What is an electoral review?

2 Our three main considerations are to:

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

3 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

4 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Southwark. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation informed our draft and final recommendations.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 August 2015	Number of councillors decided
8 September 2015	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
16 November 2015	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
9 February 2016	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
5 April 2016	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
19 July 2016	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

2 Analysis and final recommendations

6 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

7 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.

8 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.

	2015	2021
Electorate of Southwark	215,493	243,292
Number of councillors	63	63
Average number of electors per councillor	3,421	3,862

9 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 'electoral equality'. All of our new wards for Southwark will have electoral equality by 2021.

10 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Southwark borough or result in changes to postcodes or local taxes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. We have seen no evidence to suggest that our recommendations will have an effect on house prices or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

12 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2021, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2016. These forecasts were broken down to polling district levels and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 12.9% to 2021.

13 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We used these

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

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

figures to produce our draft and final recommendations.

Number of Councillors

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

15 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 63 councillors – for example, 63 one-councillor wards, 21 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one, two, and three councillor wards.

16 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. The submission supported maintaining the current number. We received no opposition to keeping the current number and therefore based our draft recommendations on a 63-member council.

17 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. The respondent commented that 63 councillors was too many, but did not propose an alternative size. We have therefore maintained 63 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

18 We received 15 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three detailed borough-wide proposals from the Council's Labour and Liberal Democrat groups and from a Conservative councillor. All three were based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 63 elected members.

19 The three borough-wide schemes each provided for a mix of one, two and three councillor wards for Southwark. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that the proposed ward boundaries would have good levels of electoral equality. We also considered that they generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

20 Our draft recommendations were based on a combination of the borough-wide proposals that we received. In some areas of the borough we have also taken into account local evidence that we received which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Southwark helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations consultation

21 We received 80 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included detailed borough-wide proposals from the Council's Labour and Liberal Democrat groups, and submissions commenting on the majority of the borough from Southwark Green Party and from two local residents. The majority of other submissions focussed on individual wards, particularly our draft Half Moon and

Dulwich Village wards. There was strong opposition to our proposal for single councillor wards for this area.

22 Our final recommendations are similar to our draft recommendations. As a result of the local evidence received we have made modifications to several wards, mainly in the centre and south of the borough. We have also made changes to the names of five wards.

Final recommendations

23 Pages 8–18 detail our final recommendations for each area of Southwark. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

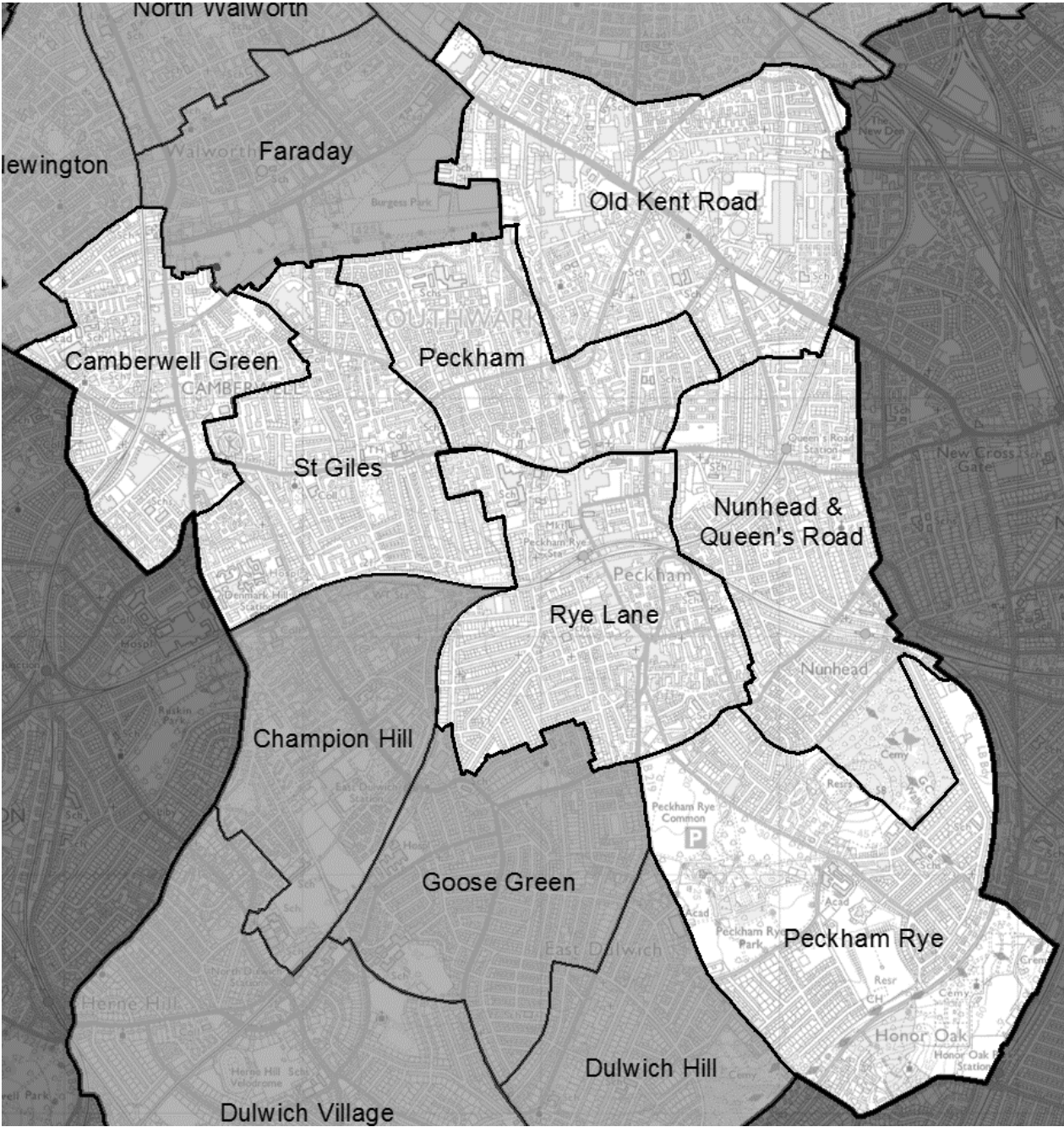
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

24 Our final recommendations are for 17 three-councillor wards and six two-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

25 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in Table 1 (on page 19) and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Central Southwark



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021
Camberwell Green	3	1%
Nunhead & Queen's Road	3	-1%
Old Kent Road	3	4%
Peckham	3	-6%
Peckham Rye	2	-1%
Rye Lane	3	4%
St Giles	3	5%

Ward boundaries in central Southwark

Old Kent Road

26 We received two submissions that commented on this ward. The Council's Liberal Democrat group was supportive of our draft boundaries. The Labour group was largely supportive, but proposed a minor modification to the boundary with Nunhead ward. The submission commented that two properties on Culmore Road that were included on our draft Old Kent Road ward have more in common with Nunhead. These properties are therefore now in our Nunhead & Queen's Road ward.

Camberwell

27 Three submissions from the Labour group, Liberal Democrat group, and a local organisation proposed amending the western boundary of Camberwell Green in order to include all of the D'Eynsford estate in St Giles ward. We consider that this would be a better reflection of the community in the area and have therefore modified the boundary between these two wards.

28 As a result of local evidence received we have also made a minor amendment to the boundary with Newington, to the north-west of Camberwell Green, in order to include all of the Brandon Estate in Newington.

29 We have made a more substantial change to the boundary between St Giles and Rye Lane, as a result of submissions from both political groups and a resident stating that Peckham Academy and the surrounding housing should be in a Peckham-facing ward. The boundary in this area will now run along Talfourd Road and Talfourd Place instead of Bellenden Road. To the north of St Giles we have also adopted a submission that proposed amending the boundary with Peckham to run along Comfort Street to reflect that the Donato Drive area looks towards St Giles.

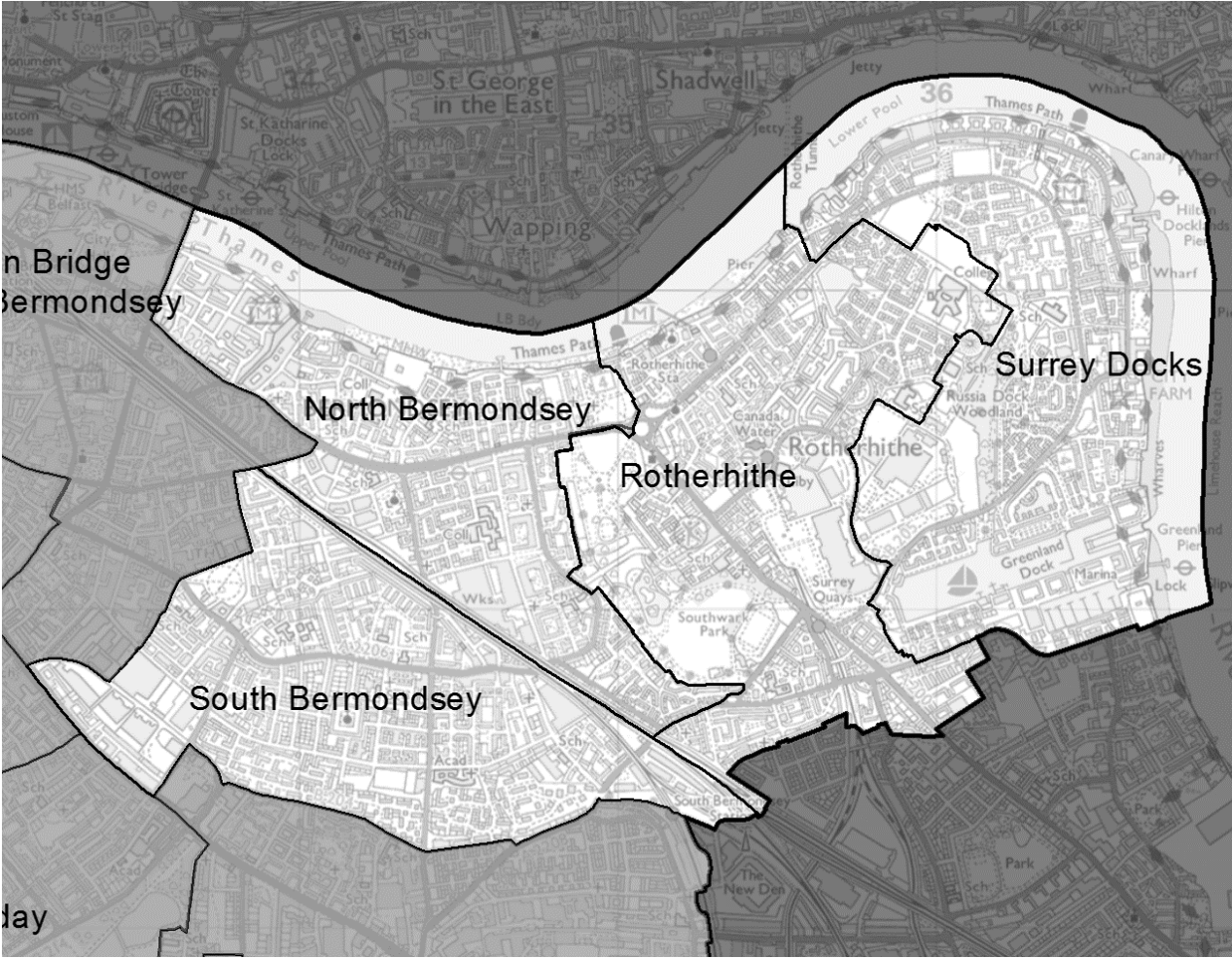
Peckham, Peckham Rye and Nunhead

30 Our Peckham and Rye Lane wards are as proposed in our draft recommendations, with minor modifications to the boundary with St Giles as detailed in paragraph 30. In the south-eastern corner of Rye Lane we have also modified the boundary with Nunhead to include all of the new development at Nunhead Green in Nunhead rather than in Rye Lane.

31 The Labour group proposed two minor modifications to the boundaries of Nunhead ward. As described in paragraph 27, we have amended the boundary with Old Kent Road in the Culmore Road area, and as described in paragraph 31, we have amended the boundary with Rye Lane to keep the Nunhead Green development in a Nunhead ward.

32 The Liberal Democrat group proposed substantially different boundaries for Peckham Rye and Nunhead, with consequential changes to Peckham, Rye Lane, and Dulwich Hill. The proposal would have worsened electoral inequality in the area and would have included housing that identifies with Peckham Rye in a Dulwich Hill ward. We did not consider that the submission provided persuasive enough evidence to justify the changes proposed. However, the submission also noted that residents in the north of our Nunhead ward identify with the Queen's Road area. We have therefore renamed this ward Nunhead & Queen's Road.

North-east Southwark



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021
North Bermondsey	3	3%
Rotherhithe	3	-4%
South Bermondsey	3	3%
Surrey Docks	3	7%

Ward boundaries in north east Southwark

Bermondsey and Rotherhithe

33 We received no submissions on our Bermondsey wards apart from comments made in the two whole-borough proposals. The Liberal Democrat group supported our North Bermondsey ward. The Labour group supported the majority of the ward but noted that including all of Southwark Park in either North Bermondsey or Rotherhithe would provide for better administration. We have therefore modified the boundary of North Bermondsey to include all the park in our Rotherhithe ward.

34 We have also modified the boundary between South Bermondsey and London Bridge and West Bermondsey. Both political groups stated that Spa Road and Grange Yard look towards the London Bridge and Borough areas for services, rather than into South Bermondsey. We accept this case and have therefore moved these roads into our London Bridge and West Bermondsey ward.

35 In North Bermondsey, the Labour group proposed moving the Pedworth Estate from our draft North Bermondsey ward to Rotherhithe. Similarly, in Rotherhithe, the Liberal Democrat group proposed moving the Osprey Estate from Rotherhithe to Surrey Docks. We did not consider that adequate rationale was provided for either change. Our Surrey Docks ward is therefore entirely as proposed in our draft recommendations.

North-west Southwark



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021
Borough & Bankside	3	-4%
Chaucer	3	-4%
Faraday	3	-4%
London Bridge & West Bermondsey	3	5%
Newington	3	3%
North Walworth	3	-7%
St George's	2	1%

Ward boundaries in north-west Southwark

Borough and the London Bridge area

36 The Liberal Democrat group and two local residents proposed that our draft Bankside & Borough ward instead be named Borough & Bankside, as that is how the area is known locally. The Labour group instead proposed the name Cathedral. We consider that this name could be confusing as there are two cathedrals in the area but only one is within this ward. We are therefore adopting the name Borough & Bankside.

37 The Labour and Liberal Democrat groups and one local resident commented that as St George ward is named for St George's Cathedral and St George's Circus, St George's would be a more appropriate name than St George. We have adopted this amended name.

38 The Liberal Democrat group submission noted that our boundary between Borough & Bankside and St George's split a residential estate, Quentin House. We have modified this boundary in this area in order to keep the three blocks of Quentin House together in our St George's ward.

39 Four submissions commented on the name of our draft Bridges ward. One supported the name and three proposed alternatives. Taking into account the geographical position of the ward and the communities it covers we have decided that London Bridge & West Bermondsey is the most appropriate name.

40 Chaucer ward is identical to our draft ward with a minor modification to the boundary with London Bridge & West Bermondsey. The Labour group and a local resident commented that the Bermondsey Square area should be in a Bermondsey ward. We consider the area would be better placed in London Bridge & West Bermondsey and so have modified the boundary to run along Bermondsey Street rather than Tower Bridge Road.

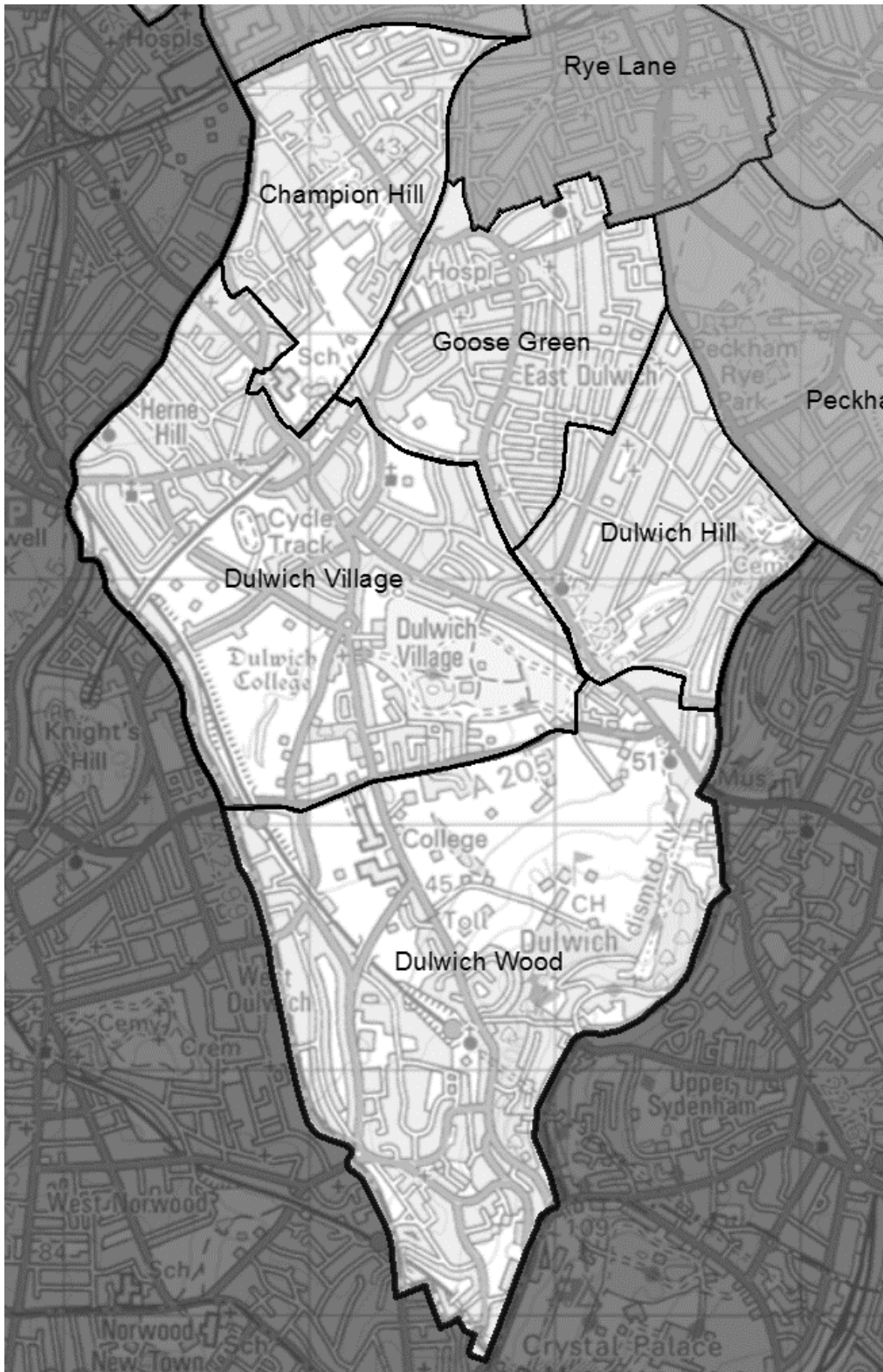
Walworth

41 Our Newington ward is very similar to our draft ward with a modification to the southern boundary with Camberwell Green detailed in paragraph 29.

42 Two local residents provided evidence that Faraday, the name of the current ward in the South Walworth area, is well known in the area and is reflected in several local landmarks. We have therefore renamed our draft South Walworth ward as Faraday. We have made a minor modification to the boundary between North Walworth and Faraday in order to keep all of Faraday Gardens in our Faraday ward.

43 We received a submission from the Metropolitan Police noting that, in our draft recommendations, Burgess Park was divided between four wards. The submission proposed that including the park all in one ward would provide for better administration. We have therefore amended the boundaries of Faraday to include all of Burgess Park in this ward.

South Southwark



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021
Champion Hill	2	0%
Dulwich Hill	2	-4%
Dulwich Village	2	3%
Dulwich Wood	2	-3%
Goose Green	3	-3%

Ward boundaries in south Southwark

Dulwich and Champion Hill

44 We received over 60 submissions commenting on our wards in south Southwark, mainly from local residents. The majority opposed our proposed one-councillor wards of Half Moon and Dulwich Village. Two Conservative borough councillors, a local organisation and the majority of residents who expressed a preference proposed combining the two into one two-councillor ward, while the Labour group and Southwark Green Party proposed instead joining Half Moon ward with our two councillor Champion Hill ward to create a three councillor ward. The Liberal Democrat group supported our wards as proposed.

45 Taking account of the submissions received we consider the Half Moon area has more in common with Dulwich Village than with Champion Hill. Our final recommendations in this area are therefore for a two Councillor Dulwich Village ward, covering the whole of our draft Dulwich Village and Half Moon wards.

46 The Labour and Liberal Democrat groups and a local resident proposed a further modification to the boundary between Dulwich Village and Champion Hill. The submissions noted that our draft boundary divided the Sunray Avenue conservation area. We have therefore modified the boundary in order to include all of the Sunray Estate in our Dulwich Village ward.

Dulwich Hill, Goose Green and Dulwich Wood

47 The proposed alternative wards for the Nunhead and Peckham Rye area, (paragraph 32) included a change to the boundary between the wards of Dulwich Hill and Peckham Rye, including the housing south of Peckham Rye Park in a Dulwich Hill ward. As we have not adopted the proposal for Nunhead we have also not adopted the consequential modifications to Dulwich Hill.

48 We received 12 submissions proposing six alternative names for our draft Dulwich Hill ward. There was no consensus or strong evidence for any particular name. We are therefore maintaining the Dulwich Hill name.

49 We received mixed support and opposition to our Goose Green ward. A local resident proposed extending the ward eastward to Friern Road and the Liberal Democrat group proposed using Barry Road as the boundary. We consider the Barry and Friern Road areas to be part of Dulwich Hill and are therefore maintaining our draft boundary in this area.

50 A local resident proposed including the Melford Road area in Dulwich Hill rather than in Dulwich Wood as in our draft recommendations. We accept that this area has some ties to Dulwich Hill, but to remove it from Dulwich Wood would leave Dulwich Wood with 19% fewer electors per councillor than the average for Southwark by 2021. We do not consider that persuasive enough evidence was provided to accept such a high level of electoral inequality.

51 The Liberal Democrat group supported our proposed Dulwich Wood ward. The Labour group proposed renaming the ward as College. As the Dulwich College area extends into our Dulwich Village ward we do not consider this to be the most appropriate name and are therefore maintaining the Dulwich Wood name.

Conclusions

52 Table 1 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2015 and 2021 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2015	2021
Number of councillors	63	63
Number of electoral wards	23	23
Average number of electors per councillor	3,421	3,862
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	11	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

Final recommendation

The London Borough of Southwark Council should be made up of 63 councillors serving 23 wards representing 17 three-councillor wards and six two-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

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

3 What happens next?

53 We have now completed our review of The London Borough of Southwark Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2018.

Equalities

54 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Appendix A

Table A1: Draft recommendations for the London Borough of Southwark Council

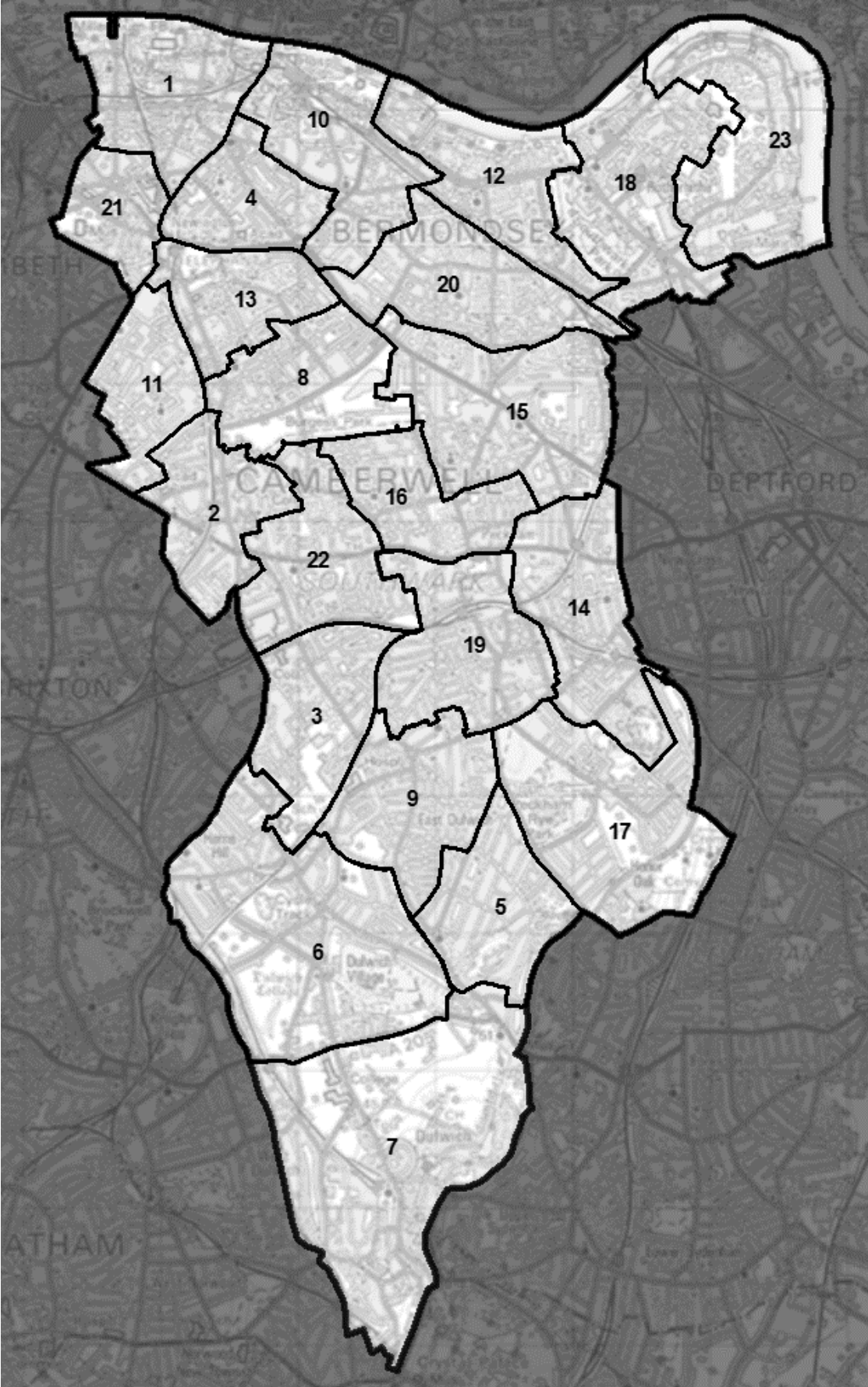
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Borough & Bankside	3	7,106	2,369	-31%	11,074	3,691	-4%
2	Camberwell Green	3	9,941	3,314	-3%	11,644	3,881	1%
3	Champion Hill	2	7,291	3,646	7%	7,687	3,843	0%
4	Chaucer	3	10,783	3,594	5%	11,146	3,715	-4%
5	Dulwich Hill	2	7,419	3,710	8%	7,404	3,702	-4%
6	Dulwich Village	2	7,891	3,946	15%	7,920	3,960	3%
7	Dulwich Wood	2	7,436	3,718	9%	7,458	3,729	-3%
8	Faraday	3	8,674	2,891	-15%	11,146	3,715	-4%
9	Goose Green	3	10,779	3,593	5%	11,261	3,754	-3%
10	London Bridge & West Bermondsey	3	9,627	3,209	-6%	12,158	4,053	5%
11	Newington	3	11,658	3,886	14%	11,968	3,989	3%
12	North Bermondsey	3	10,496	3,499	2%	11,916	3,972	3%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 North Walworth	3	8,001	2,667	-22%	10,718	3,573	-7%
14 Nunhead & Queen's Road	3	10,808	3,603	5%	11,446	3,815	-1%
15 Old Kent Road	3	11,352	3,784	11%	12,100	4,033	4%
16 Peckham	3	10,293	3,431	0%	10,894	3,631	-6%
17 Peckham Rye	2	7,637	3,819	12%	7,669	3,834	-1%
18 Rotherhithe	3	10,252	3,417	0%	11,171	3,724	-4%
19 Rye Lane	3	10,525	3,508	3%	12,078	4,026	4%
20 South Bermondsey	3	11,559	3,853	13%	11,990	3,997	3%
21 St George's	2	4,858	2,429	-29%	7,831	3,916	1%
22 St Giles	3	11,935	3,978	16%	12,197	4,066	5%
23 Surrey Docks	3	9,172	3,057	-11%	12,417	4,139	7%
Totals	63	215,493	-	-	243,292	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,421	-	-	3,862	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by the London Borough of Southwark 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



Appendix B

Key

- 1 Borough & Bankside
- 2 Camberwell Green
- 3 Champion Hill
- 4 Chaucer
- 5 Dulwich Hill
- 6 Dulwich Village
- 7 Dulwich Wood
- 8 Faraday
- 9 Goose Green
- 10 London Bridge & West Bermondsey
- 11 Newington
- 12 North Bermondsey
- 13 North Walworth
- 14 Nunhead & Queen's Road
- 15 Old Kent Road
- 16 Peckham
- 17 Peckham Rye
- 18 Rotherhithe
- 19 Rye Lane
- 20 South Bermondsey
- 21 St George's
- 22 St Giles
- 23 Surrey Docks

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the A1 sheet accompanying this report, or on our website <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/greater-london/southwark>

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

Political groups

- Southwark Green Party
- Southwark London Borough Council Labour Group
- Southwark London Borough Council Liberal Democrat Group

Councillors

- Councillor J. Barber (Southwark London Borough Council)
- Councillor T. Briggs (Lambeth London Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Lyons (Southwark London Borough Council)
- Councillor M. Mitchell (Southwark London Borough Council)

Local organisations

- D'Eynsford Tenant Management Organisation
- The Herne Hill Society
- Metropolitan Police
- Stradella and Springfield Residents' Association

Residents

- 69 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
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