

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Cherwell District Council

Electoral review

December 2014

Translations and other formats

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Tel: 020 7664 8534

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Summary

Who we are

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

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

Electoral review

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

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

Why Cherwell?

We are conducting an electoral review of Cherwell District Council as the Council currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more or many fewer voters than others. This means that the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in Cherwell. Overall, 36% of wards currently have a variance of more than 10% from the average for the district.

Our proposals for Cherwell

Cherwell District Council currently has 50 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, we consider that a reduction in council size by two to 48 members will ensure the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively.

Electoral arrangements

As Cherwell District Council elects by thirds, the Commission will aim to produce a pattern of three-member wards. Our draft recommendations therefore propose that Cherwell District Council's 48 councillors should represent 16 three-member wards across the district. None of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Cherwell by 2020.

**You have until 16 February 2015 to have your say on the recommendations.
See page 16 for how to have your say.**

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review Cherwell District Council's electoral arrangements to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

Consultation

4 We wrote to the Council as well as other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals on council size. We then held two periods of consultation, first on council size and then on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during our consultations have informed our draft recommendations.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
7 January 2014	Council size consultation
29 April 2014	Warding pattern consultation
9 December 2014	Draft recommendations consultation
17 February 2015	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
12 May 2015	Publication of final recommendations

5 We were due to publish our draft recommendations in September 2014; however, we have delayed the publication in order to allow for a Related Alteration to be made following a Community Governance Review by the Council. This Related Alteration amends the county electoral divisions in the Banbury and Bicester areas so that the divisions are coterminous with the parish council boundaries. Without this Related Alteration it would have been necessary to implement some parish wards which would have had no electors.

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

How will the recommendations affect you?

6 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 instances, which parish council wards you vote in. Your ward name may also change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. The names or boundaries of parishes will not change as a result of our recommendations.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

7 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Members of the Commission are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)
Professor Colin Mellors (Deputy Chair)
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
Alison Lowton
Sir Tony Redmond
Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill
Chief Executive (designate): Jolyon Jackson CBE

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

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

9 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum.

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

	2013	2020
Electorate of Cherwell District	109,649	123,835
Number of councillors	48	48
Average number of electors per councillor	2,284	2,580

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

12 Additionally, in circumstances where we propose to divide a parish between district wards or county divisions, we are required to divide it into parish wards so that each parish ward is wholly contained within a single district ward or county division. We cannot make amendments to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

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

Submissions received

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

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.

Electorate figures

15 As prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2020, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2015. These forecasts were broken down to polling district levels and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 13% to 2020. The growth will largely be driven by substantial new housing developments planned for Banbury and Bicester.

16 Having considered the information provided by the Council, we are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis of our draft recommendations.

Council size

17 Prior to consultation, Cherwell Council submitted a proposal to reduce the council size from 50 to 48. During council size consultation we received 19 submissions. These were from 11 parish and town councils, three district councillors and four local residents. Adderbury Parish Council provided two submissions. The Council did not submit a representation at this stage.

18 We carefully considered the representations received during consultation. We consider that the Council's original submission proposing a council of 48 is supported by adequate evidence to justify a reduction in size. We are content that the Council has sufficiently demonstrated that the authority can operate efficiently and effectively under this council size and ensure effective representation of local residents. The majority of submissions received supported the Council's proposal. We were therefore minded to adopt a council size of 48 as the basis of this electoral review and invited proposals or warding arrangements based on this number of councillors.

19 We received no responses that opposed the council size in response to consultation on warding patterns. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a council size of 48 elected members.

Warding patterns

20 During consultation on warding patterns, we received 22 submissions, including three district-wide proposals. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district.

21 The three district-wide schemes provided a uniform warding arrangement of three-member wards for the district. Having carefully considered the proposals received, we were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the district and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

22 Our draft recommendations are for 16 three-member wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

23 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table A1 (on pages 19–20) and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

Detailed wards

25 The tables on pages 8-13 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Cherwell. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Banbury

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Banbury Calthorpe & Easington	3	3%	This ward comprises the southern part of Banbury town, including the residential areas on both sides of Bloxham Road and Oxford Road.	We received two very similar proposals for this ward, which appeared to broadly reflect local communities. In order to improve electoral equality we have made minor amendments to the boundaries proposed and also sought to use more easily identifiable boundaries. In the east of the ward we have used the middle of Broughton Road as the boundary, rather than the backs of properties, and in the west of the ward our boundary runs between Meadow View and Wood End rather than behind High Acres.
Banbury Cross & Castle	3	8%	This ward includes Banbury town centre and extends north to Oxford Canal, east to the railway line, south to the junction of Bloxham Road and Queensway and west to the streets behind Woodgreen Leisure Centre.	We received two submissions regarding this ward. One proposal suggested the eastern boundary follow the A361 North Bar Street/Horse Fair, whereas the other proposal suggested the eastern boundary follow the A4260 Cherwell Street. Our consideration, based on the tour of the area, was that the A4260 was a more identifiable boundary and that using the A361 as a boundary appeared to divide the town centre. We have made a modification to the proposed boundary in the west of the ward, in the Boxhedge Road area, to improve electoral equality.
Banbury Grimsbury & Hightown	3	7%	This ward includes the eastern part of the town. It is bounded to the north and east by the district boundary. The western boundary is the A4260 and the southern boundary runs behind the properties on Hightown Leyes, Foscote Rise and Meadow View.	The ward is based on a proposal received during consultation with some modifications to the south of the ward to improve electoral equality. We investigated extending the ward westwards, as proposed by another respondent, but considered that this would divide the town centre area and would not best reflect the communities in the area.
Banbury Hardwick	3	7%	This ward comprises the northern part of Banbury, including Hardwick, the	A local resident commented that Hanwell Fields should not be in a ward with Hardwick. We investigated including Hanwell Fields in our Banbury Cross & Castle or Banbury Grimsbury &

			Hanwell Fields estate and the new developments off Dukes Meadow Drive.	Hightown wards, but this would result in a high level of electoral inequality. We consider that Hanwell Fields is well-linked to Hardwick and planned new developments will increase this connection.
Banbury Ruscote	3	8%	This ward comprises the Ruscote and Neithrop residential areas, as far north as Warwick Road and extending south to Broughton Road. It extends west to the edge of the town and east to the back of Woodgreen Leisure Centre.	The ward is based on a proposal received, with some modifications to improve electoral equality. In the north of the ward we are proposing the boundary runs behind Trinity Close, rather than along Warwick Road. In the east we have modified the proposed boundary with Banbury Cross & Castle to include Boxhedge Road and Poolside Close in Banbury Cross & Castle rather than in Ruscote.

Bicester

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Bicester East	3	-8%	The town centre, as far south as Church Street/Causeway, and the residential areas north of the centre extending to the parish boundary with Launton.	We received one submission regarding this area. Our ward is based on this proposed ward with a modification to the southern boundary to avoid creating a parish ward with no electors in the Bicester Village area. Parish wards with fewer than 100 electors are normally considered unviable. The ward has strong boundaries to the north and west. The southern boundary follows the railway line in the eastern part of the ward and then runs along Launton Road and Church Street to include the town centre area in the ward.
Bicester North	3	-7%	The parish of Caversfield and the residential areas either side of Banbury Road, stretching to the railway line in the south and Buckingham Road to the east.	This ward has clear, easily identifiable boundaries and reflects the community connections in the Woodfield area and Caversfield parish.
Bicester South	3	4%	The south of Bicester town centre, including Bicester Village, Langford Village, the new development south of Middleton Stoney Road, and Ambrosden.	This ward includes a number of development sites south of Bicester and the southern part of Bicester town. Though the ward contains more than one community at present, the areas will be connected by forthcoming developments.
Bicester West	3	-4%	The residential area bounded by the railway line to the north, Queens Avenue/Field Street to the east, Middleton Stoney Road to the south and the parish boundary with Bucknell to the west.	This ward has clear, easily identifiable boundaries and reflects the community connections in the Highfield area.

Rural Cherwell

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2020	Description	Detail
Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote	3	1%	This ward comprises the parishes of Adderbury, Bloxham, Bodicote and Milton.	We received several submissions regarding this area. Our draft ward represents what we consider to be the best balance of the statutory criteria. Several parish councils in the area stated they shared rural community interests and expressed a desire to be included in a rural ward and not with Banbury town. We have reflected this in our draft recommendations.
Cropredy, Sibfords & Wroxton	3	-9%	This ward comprises the parishes of Bourton, Broughton, Claydon with Clattercote, Cropredy, Drayton, Epwell, Hanwell, Horley, Hornton, Mollington, North Newington, Prescote, Shenington with Alkerton, Shutford, Sibford Gower, Sibford Ferris, Swalcliffe, Tadmarton, Wardington and Wroxton.	All three full schemes received for Cherwell proposed the same Cropredy, Sibfords & Wroxton ward. A local councillor commented on the affinity between the parishes in the proposed ward and noted that residents use the same shops and schools. Drayton Parish Council supported the proposed ward. We consider that the ward as proposed has clear boundaries and reflects community identity evidence received.
Deddington	3	0%	This ward comprises the parishes of Barford St John & St Michael, Deddington, Duns Tew, Hook Norton, Fritwell, Middle Aston, Milcombe, North Aston, Somerton, Souldern, South Newington, Steeple Aston and Wigginton.	We received three proposals for this ward. One included the parishes as in our proposed ward, but with the addition of Adderbury instead of South Newington. Another proposed extending the ward west to include Milcombe, Wigginton and Hook Norton, which we have adopted. A third included the parishes of Adderbury, Milton and South Newington instead of Souldern, Fritwell and Somerton. Although including Souldern, Fritwell and Somerton results in the ward including areas both sides of the River Cherwell, we

				consider that this provides the best balance of the statutory criteria. Access between the two parts of the ward is provided by a bridge at Somerton.
Fringford & Heyfords	3	-7%	This ward comprises the parishes of Ardley, Bucknell, Cottisford, Finmere, Fringford, Godington, Hardwick with Tusmore, Hethe, Kirtlington, Lower Heyford, Middleton Stoney, Mixbury, Newton Purcell with Shelswell, Stoke Lyne, Stratton Audley and Upper Heyford.	We received three similar proposals for this area. All proposals included the majority of parishes in the ward as we have suggested. One also included the parishes of Soulern, Fritwell and Somerton, which we have included in our Deddington ward. Two proposals included the parishes of Chesterton and Bucknell, while one included those parishes in wards with Bicester. From our observations from our visit to the area we considered that the parishes were rural in nature and would have more affinity in the Fringford & Heyfords ward.
Kidlington East	3	2%	This ward comprises the north-west of Kidlington town, as far south as the High Street, and the parish of Gosford & Water Eaton.	We received three submissions regarding Kidlington. One involved two-member wards and so we have not been able to adopt it. Another proposed a seemingly arbitrary divide of the town in a north and south manner. We are largely adopting the proposed East and West wards with a minor modification in the Grovelands area to improve electoral equality but are otherwise adopting the ward as proposed. We have also included Gosford and Water Eaton, which a local resident noted together form a community.
Kidlington West	3	2%	This ward comprises the south-east of Kidlington town, as far north as the High Street, and the parishes of Begbroke and Yarnton.	We have made a minor modification in the Grovelands area to improve electoral equality but are otherwise adopting the ward as proposed. The ward also includes Begbroke and Yarnton, which a local resident noted together form a community.
Launton & Otmoor	3	-8%	This ward comprises the parishes of Arncott, Blackthorn, Bletchingdon, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Fencott &	All three full schemes received for Cherwell included the same Launton & Otmoor ward. We consider that the ward as proposed meets the statutory criteria and have therefore decided to include it as part of our draft recommendations.

			Murcott, Hampton Gay & Poyle, Horton-cum-Studley, Islip, Launton, Merton, Noke, Oddington, Piddington, Shipton -on-Cherwell and Thrupp, Wendlebury and Weston-on- the-Green.	
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Conclusions

26 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2013 and 2020 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2013	2020
Number of councillors	48	48
Number of electoral wards	16	16
Average number of electors per councillor	2,284	2,580
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendation

Cherwell District Council should comprise 48 councillors serving 16 three-member wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Cherwell.

You can also view our draft recommendations for Cherwell on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

27 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

28 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Cherwell District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

29 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

30 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Banbury parish.

Draft recommendation

Banbury Parish Council should comprise 22 councillors, as at present, representing 15 wards: Balmoral (returning one member), Calthorpe North (returning one member), Calthorpe South (returning one member), Easington North (returning one member), Easington South (returning two members), Grimsbury (returning three members), Hardwick East (returning one member), Hardwick West (returning three members), Neithrop North (returning one member), Neithrop South (returning one member), Park Road (returning one member), Ruscote (returning three members), Town Centre (returning one member), Trinity Close (returning one member) and Warwick Road (returning one member). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

31 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bicester parish.

Draft recommendation

Bicester Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: East (returning four members), North (returning four members), South (returning three members) and West (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

32 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Kidlington parish.

Draft recommendation

Kidlington Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Dogwood (returning four members), Fernhill (returning one member), Orchard (returning four members) and St Mary's (returning six members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 Have your say

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

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

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

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

Review Officer (Cherwell)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76–86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Cherwell which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of voters
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively

A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government

Electoral equality:

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

Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?

- Are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?

37 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices in Layden House (London) and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

38 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

39 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.

40 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the next elections for Cherwell Council in 2016.

Equalities

41 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 Cherwell District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2013)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote	3	6,956	2,319	2%	7,839	2,613	1%
2	Banbury Calthorpe & Easington	3	6,543	2,181	-5%	7,969	2,656	3%
3	Banbury Cross & Castle	3	7,681	2,560	12%	8,372	2,791	8%
4	Banbury Grimsbury & Hightown	3	7,825	2,608	14%	8,248	2,749	7%
5	Banbury Hardwick	3	6,553	2,184	-4%	8,306	2,769	7%
6	Banbury Ruscote	3	6,982	2,327	2%	8,367	2,789	8%
7	Bicester East	3	6,644	2,215	-3%	7,147	2,382	-8%
8	Bicester North	3	6,020	2,007	-12%	7,167	2,389	-7%
9	Bicester South	3	6,159	2,053	-10%	8,032	2,677	4%
10	Bicester West	3	7,148	2,383	4%	7,432	2,477	-4%
11	Cropredy, Sibfords & Wroxton	3	6,686	2,229	-2%	7,081	2,360	-9%
12	Deddington	3	7,323	2,441	7%	7,738	2,579	0%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Cherwell District Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2013)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Fringford & Heyfords	3	5,893	1,964	-14%	7,196	2,399	-7%
14	Kidlington West	3	7,603	2,534	11%	7,927	2,642	2%
15	Kidlington East	3	7,477	2,492	9%	7,856	2,619	2%
16	Launton & Otmoor	3	6,156	2,052	-10%	7,158	2,386	-8%
Totals		48	109,649	—	—	123,835	—	—
Averages		—	—	2,284	—	—	2,580	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Cherwell District 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 district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at
<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/oxfordshire/cherwell-fer>

Local authority

- Cherwell District Council

Political parties

- Banbury Labour Party
- Cherwell District Council Conservative Group
- North Oxfordshire Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor G. Reynolds (Cherwell District Council)

Parish councils

- Adderbury Parish Council
- Bicester Town Council
- Bloxham Parish Council
- Bodicote Parish Council
- Drayton Parish Council
- Deddington Parish Council
- Kidlington Parish Council
- Middleton Stoney Parish Council
- Milcombe Parish Council
- Shenington with Alkerton Parish Council

Residents

- Seven local residents

Appendix C

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

