

New electoral arrangements for Brent Council

Draft recommendations

February 2019

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

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

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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 Parliament¹. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Brent?

7 We are conducting a review of Brent Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2000 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² In addition, the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Brent. 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 Brent 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 Brent

9 Brent should be represented by 57 councillors, six fewer as there are now.

10 Brent should have 22 wards, one more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; one (Kilburn) will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

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

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a ten-week period, from 5 February 2019 to 15 April 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 15 April 2019 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 23 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 Brent. 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
21 August 2018	Number of councillors decided
28 August 2018	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 November 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
5 February 2019	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
15 April 2019	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
2 July 2019	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

20 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create ward 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 Brent	226,131	245,732
Number of councillors	57	57
Average number of electors per councillor	3,967	4,311

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 Brent will have good electoral equality by 2024.

Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

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

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.

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

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

Number of councillors

26 Brent Council currently has 63 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing this number by six 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 57 councillors – for example, 57 one-councillor wards, 19 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. The submission proposed that Brent be reduced to 30 councillors but did not provide any evidence to justify this proposal. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 57-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 151 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included borough-wide proposals from the Council, the Brent North Conservative Association and a member of the public. We also received partial schemes from Brent & Harrow Co-operative Party, Brent Labour Party, two local councillors, a resident's association and a joint submission from two local residents. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for ward arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

30 The borough-wide schemes provided both uniform patterns of three-councillor wards and mixed patterns of two- and three-councillor wards for Brent. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

31 The Council informed the Commission that its councillors had not been successful in agreeing a pattern of wards that were supported across the different political groups of the council. Instead the Council submitted two uniform three-councillor warding proposals that its working group had considered. It also submitted two variations on those proposals that moved away from a three-councillor warding pattern. We also noted a submission from Councillor Chan, which supported one of the Council's proposed variations in the Kensal Green and Harlesden area. We also received a number of submissions from local residents in support of Councillor Chan's views.

32 When drawing up the draft recommendations we have used some of these proposed boundaries, particularly where there has been agreement between the schemes submitted. However, we note that the evidence supplied with these

proposals was extremely limited. We do not consider we have received the necessary evidence to justify using these proposals over alternatives where we have received good supporting evidence.

33 We also received full warding proposals from the Brent North Conservative Association and from a member of the public.

34 The scheme from the member of the public was based on a near uniform pattern of two-councillor wards across the borough (with the exception being a three-councillor Kilburn ward). This warding pattern contained a great deal of narrative explaining the proposed boundaries. However, in our view, it did not contain sufficient evidence of actual community identity or how the proposed pattern of wards would secure effective and convenient local government. Like the Council's scheme mentioned above we have used its boundaries where they coincide with our recommendations, for example the Jubilee and Metropolitan Lines in the north of the borough.

35 The scheme submitted by Brent North Conservative Association proposed a mixed pattern of two- and three-councillor wards and was accompanied by a good deal of evidence of community identity and consideration of effective and convenient local government. Our draft recommendations are therefore primarily based on this proposal to which we make a number of changes to take account of other evidence received. We make particular changes in the Preston, Tokyngton and Wembley, and Harlesden and Kensal Green areas.

36 The partial schemes we received were for the area of the borough to the south of the A406 North Circular Road. The schemes we received from Brent Co-operative Party, Brent Labour Party and Councillor Nerva were identical in terms of boundaries with a slightly different narrative in each case. Both these schemes and the joint submission from the local residents used the North Circular Road as the northern boundary for their proposed wards. The scheme received from the Rucklidge Avenue Residents Association contained two alternatives for the Brondesbury Park/ Harlesden/Kensal Green/Kilburn area.

37 Of these partial schemes received, the scheme proposed by the Co-operative Party/Labour Party/Councillor Nerva received some local support. However, when considering this submission, we noted that it would result in a number of wards that would have relatively high electoral variances. In particular, Dudden Hill ward would have a variance of -21%. We have therefore decided not to adopt these proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

38 The partial schemes from two local residents and the Rucklidge Avenue Residents Association provided for good electoral equality but had limited evidence

to support them. As above, we have used some of the boundaries proposed in these schemes where they happen to be in agreement with our draft recommendations.

39 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 identified alternative boundaries.

40 We visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Brent helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

41 Our draft recommendations are for 13 three-councillor wards and nine 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.

42 The tables and maps on pages 8–20 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Brent. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

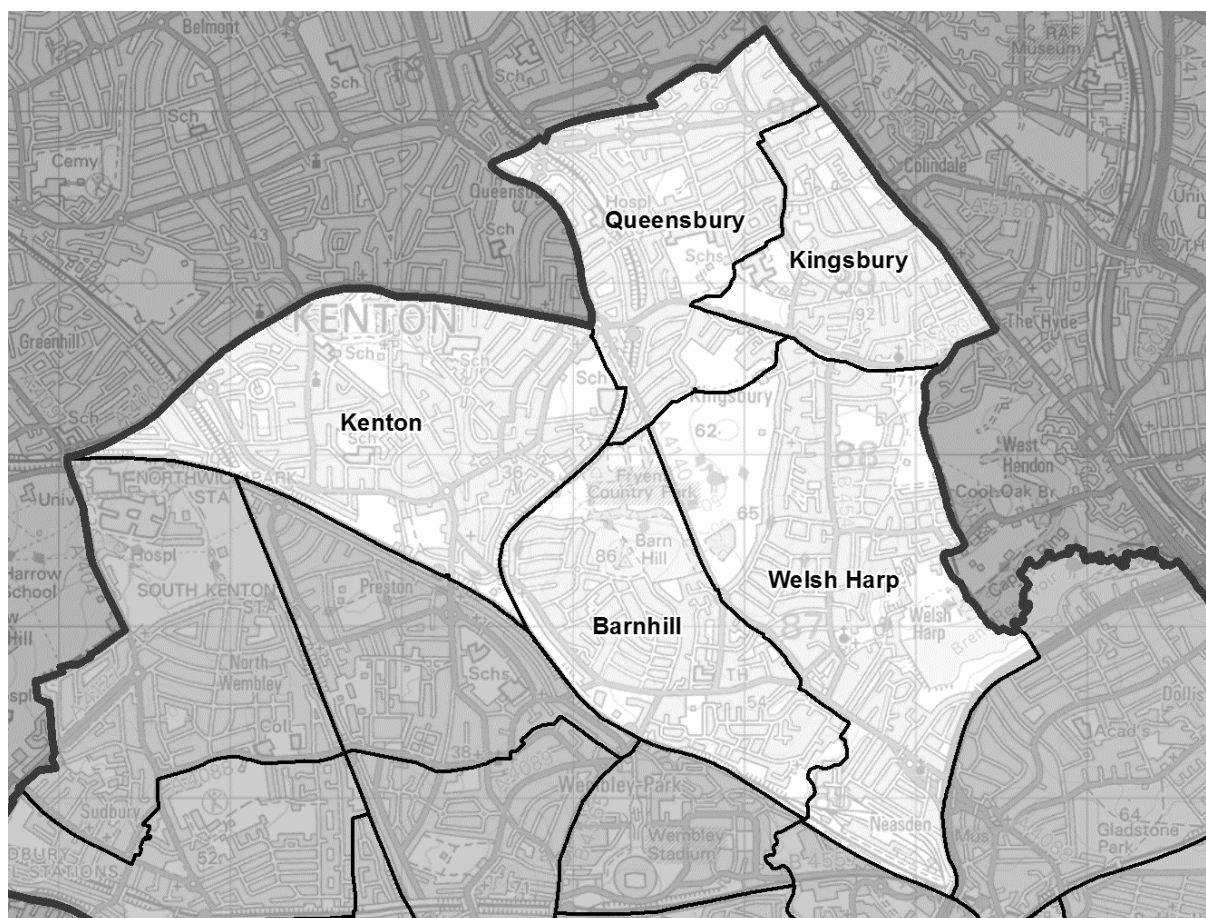
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

43 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 29 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North Brent



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Barnhill	2	3%
Kenton	3	7%
Kingsbury	2	7%
Queensbury	3	-8%
Welsh Harp	3	-7%

Kingsbury, Queensbury and Welsh Harp

45 Our draft recommendations for the wards of Kingsbury, Queensbury and Welsh Harp are based on the submission received from the Conservative Association. We propose that the properties along the B454 Church Lane, to the south of the A4006 Kingsbury Road and east of Slough Lane are included in a three-councillor Welsh Harp ward. Additionally, we propose that the properties along the northern end of the A4140 Fryent Way, to the south of the A4006 Kingsbury Road and west of Slough Lane are included in Queensbury ward. This includes a small number of electors who are currently in Kenton ward. We consider that this proposal better serves those electors by linking them with communities around the Kingsbury Roundabout. We also propose to move the area around Grove Park into our proposed Kingsbury ward.

46 The two submissions we received that related directly to this area proposed that we move the Grove Park area out of Queensbury ward. As mentioned in the previous paragraph we propose to do this. One of the submissions also proposed that we move the residential area either side of Holmstall Avenue from Queensbury ward into a neighbouring ward. We do not propose to do this as to do so would result in poor electoral equality for the remainder of Queensbury ward. We received two further submissions proposing that we make no changes to the existing Welsh Harp ward. We are unable to do this as it would result in extremely poor electoral equality for this area.

47 We propose to retain the ward names of Queensbury and Welsh Harp as we consider that they are still reflective of the communities in these wards. We propose to name the other ward Kingsbury at the suggestion of the Conservative Association which argued that the name is more reflective of the community in the area than the name Fryent. However, we would welcome the submission of evidence for alternative ward names during this round of consultation.

Barnhill and Kenton

48 We propose a three-councillor Kenton ward and a two-councillor Barnhill ward in this area. We propose to use the Jubilee Line as the boundary between these two wards. The current warding pattern in this area has a Barnhill ward that crosses the Jubilee Line. It was argued to us in submissions that the current warding pattern resulted in an arbitrary division of the Kenton area. Using the Jubilee Line as a boundary would unite the electors in properties off Preston Hill and The Mall in Kenton ward, which we consider to be better reflection of the community in this area. Having visited the area as part of our tour of the borough we agree that the Jubilee Line provides a more identifiable ward boundary.

49 We also propose to include a number of electors in the triangle bounded by the Metropolitan Line to the south, Bakerloo Line to the east and Kenton Road to the north in Kenton ward. This area is currently in Northwick Park ward but is separated from the remainder of electors in this ward by the large campus of Northwick Park Hospital. It was suggested that this area would be better located in Kenton ward as it has stronger community ties to that area. Having visited the area on our tour of the borough and considered the evidence provided we agree that this appears to be the case. However, we are particularly interested to hear more evidence from the electors in question as to where they consider their community ties to be.

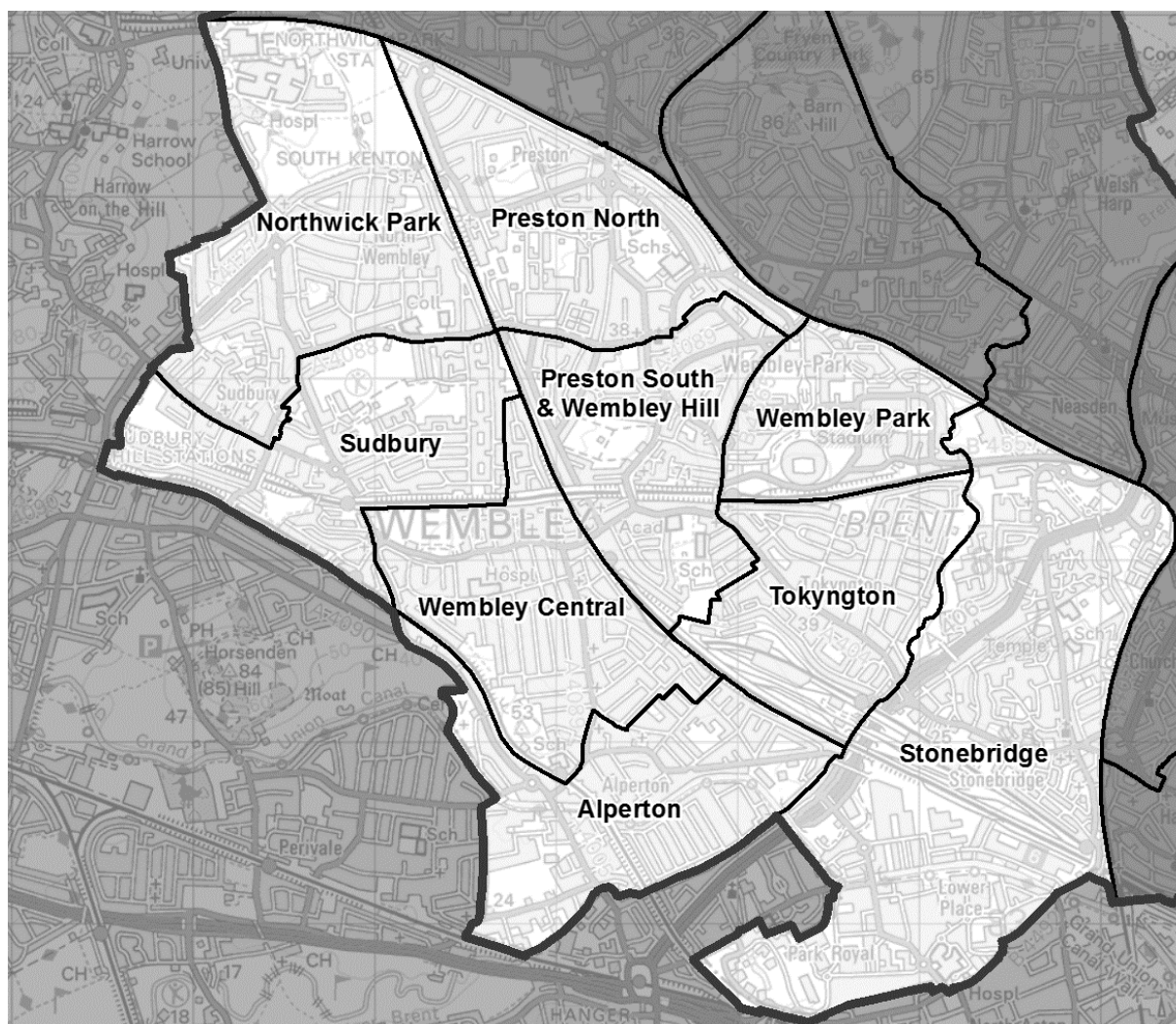
50 Our use of the Jubilee Line as the boundary between Barnhill and Kenton wards means that our proposed Barnhill ward is based on the existing ward minus the area to the north of the Jubilee Line. Our proposed Barnhill ward is the same as the one proposed by the Conservative Association and by a member of the public. We did consider a proposal from Brent Council that included the new development

around Wembley Stadium in this ward. However, we do not consider that this would reflect the community identity of either group of electors. We also received a submission from a local organisation that did not support the Council's proposed ward nor their proposed ward of Neasden, discussed later in this report, which they considered did not recognise the community in the Barnhill and Chalkhill areas.

51 We received two further submissions that related to the Kenton area. One proposed that the ward remains unchanged and the other made reference to changes to the external borough boundary. We cannot consider leaving Kenton ward unchanged as this would result in very poor electoral equality in the area, nor is it within the remit of this review to make any changes to the external boundary of the borough of Brent.

52 Our proposals for the north of Brent are for the two-councillor wards of Barnhill and Kingsbury with electoral variances of 3% and 7% respectively and the three-councillor wards of Kenton, Queensbury and Welsh Harp with electoral variances of 7%, -8% and -7% respectively. We consider that our proposals are reflective of the communities in the north of Brent and use easily identifiable boundaries.

West Brent



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Alperton	3	2%
Northwick Park	2	3%
Preston North	2	-6%
Preston South & Wembley Hill	3	-8%
Stonebridge	3	3%
Sudbury	2	7%
Tokyngton	2	-6%
Wembley Central	3	1%
Wembley Park	2	1%

Alperton, Northwick Park, Sudbury and Wembley Central

53 We propose four wards that are bounded by the Metropolitan Line to the north, the Bakerloo Line to the east, the A406 North Circular Road to the south and the borough boundary to the west.

54 These wards are the two-councillor wards of Northwick Park and Sudbury and the three-councillor wards of Alperton and Wembley Central.

55 Our proposed Northwick Park ward is similar to the existing ward with a couple of changes based on submissions we received during consultation and the evidence we gathered on our tour of the borough. As mentioned in paragraph 49 we include some electors from the existing Northwick Park ward in our proposed Kenton ward. We also propose to move a number of electors on the south side of East Lane and on Woodfield Avenue into our proposed Sudbury ward as we consider that East Lane provides a more easily identifiable boundary in this area. We are, however, interested to hear any views of the electors affected by this proposal.

56 Our proposed Alperton and Wembley Central wards are based on the submission received from the Conservative Association. Our use of the Bakerloo/London Overground line as the eastern boundary of our wards in this area means a westward orientation of our proposed Wembley Central ward when compared to the existing ward. Our proposed Wembley Central ward includes properties to the east and south of Barham Park that are currently part of Sudbury ward. This allows us to use the Chiltern Mainline and the A404 Harrow Road/A4005 Bridgewater Road as ward boundaries in this area. Based on the evidence received, we consider that this provides a better pattern of wards than currently as the existing boundary appears to divide the community in this area. Despite our use of the Chiltern mainline as the northern boundary of the ward, we propose to maintain the area around Lancelot Road to the north of the Chiltern Mainline in Wembley Central ward to reflect access routes in this area.

57 We also propose to include a number of electors to the northwest of Woodstock Road and northeast of Stanley Avenue, currently located in Alperton ward, in our proposed Wembley Central ward as suggested by the Conservative Association. This proposed change allows us to provide good electoral equality for both wards. Aside from this change, our Alperton ward is identical to the existing ward as we consider this to reflect the community in this area.

58 We received three other submissions that referred to this area. One submission proposed that the boundary of Alperton and Wembley follow parish boundaries already in place and that electors in the area between the borough boundary and the Piccadilly Line along the A4005 Bridgewater Road be included in Wembley Central ward. Another submission stated that Northwick Park Hospital and the area to its north be excluded from Northwick Park ward and the third stated that Bowrons Avenue and Braemar Avenue should not be split between wards

59 With regards to the first submission mentioned, the London Borough of Brent does not contain any civil parishes, so we were unable to establish which parish

boundaries this submission referred to. We also propose to include the electors between the borough boundary and the Piccadilly Line along the A4005 Bridgewater Road in our proposed Alperton ward to provide for effective and convenient local government as these electors are separated from the neighbouring Wembley Central ward by the Piccadilly Line. We do not propose to exclude Northwick Park Hospital from Northwick Park ward as we consider that the electors who live on the hospital campus would consider their community ties to be with the remainder of Northwick Park ward. We do, however, propose to move the area to the north of the hospital to Kenton ward as discussed in paragraph 49. Finally, we do not propose that Bowrons Avenue and Braemar Avenue are divided between wards and propose they are both included in our Wembley Central ward.

60 Our proposed Alperton, Northwick Park, Sudbury and Wembley Central wards all have good electoral equality with variances 2%, 3%, 7% and 1% respectively by 2024.

Preston North, Preston South & Wembley Hill, Tokyngton and Wembley Park

61 Our proposal for this area is based on the submission we received from the Conservative Association. We have, however, made substantial changes to these proposals based on evidence we gathered on our tour of the borough. The proposals from the Conservative Association proposed the three two-councillor wards of Preston North, Preston South and Tokyngton and a three-councillor ward of Wembley Park. The resulting electoral variances would be somewhat greater than the Commission would ideally propose.

62 As part of our tour of the borough we visited the area of Wembley Hill to the west of Empire Way which the Conservative Association had proposed to include in a Wembley Park ward. Based on the evidence we gathered as part of this tour and on other submissions we have received we have decided to include this area in our proposed Preston South & Wembley Hill ward. We consider that this is more reflective of community identities in the Wembley Hill area. In particular, the area appears to have more similar characteristics to those streets to the west in Preston South & Wembley Hill ward as opposed to those properties in the new developments around Wembley Stadium.

63 Also, as part of our tour of the borough we visited Brook Avenue which the Conservative Association had proposed be included in Wembley Park ward. We also considered that this area had more in common with either Preston North or Preston South than with Wembley Park. We therefore propose to include it in our Preston North ward on the basis of its access routes onto Forty Avenue at its northern end.

64 Having proposed that Empire Way forms the eastern boundary of Wembley Park ward, we propose that the southern boundary be the Chiltern Mainline. This leaves a two-councillor Wembley Park ward and a three-councillor Preston South &

Wembley Hill ward. We considered all the evidence here very carefully and concluded that a two-councillor Wembley Park ward consisting of the new developments around Wembley Stadium would provide the best balance of the Commission's three statutory criteria. We note that we received submissions that advanced both the argument to keep Wembley Hill in a ward with Wembley Park and to include it in a ward with Preston South. Given the divergent views expressed about this area during consultation, we are very interested to hear the views of electors in the Wembley Hill, Wembley Park and Preston areas as to where they consider their community ties to be.

65 We received five other submissions that related to the Tokyngton and Wembley areas. Three of the submissions related to the Council's proposed inclusion of the St Raphael's estate in Tokyngton ward which we discuss below in paragraphs 70 & 71. Another submission was concerned with the division of the existing Tokyngton ward. The reduction in the overall number of councillors for Brent from 63 to 57 and the extensive development in the Wembley area means that it is impossible to retain the existing wards in this area. We do, however, maintain the two polling districts that cover the Wembley Park development in the same ward, something that the respondent suggested in their submission.

66 Another submission proposed that the boundaries of Tokyngton ward should follow Wembley Brook to the south, the River Brent to the east, Wealdstone Brook to the north and Empire Way to the west, with the area around Waverley Avenue also included in the ward. While we propose that the River Brent forms the eastern boundary of the ward, we consider that the railway line through Stonebridge station is a better southern boundary than Wembley Brook. We also cannot include the Waverley Avenue area in Tokyngton and provide good electoral equality for the area and so we propose to include it in our Preston South & Wembley Hill ward.

67 Our proposed Tokyngton ward differs from the Conservative Association's proposals in two ways. We propose to include the streets off the western side of Harrow Road to the north of Berkhamsted Avenue in Preston South & Wembley Hill ward as mentioned in the previous paragraph. We also propose to include Elsley Primary School in Tokyngton ward. These two amendments provide for considerably better electoral equality across all four wards in this area. We also consider it appropriate that the area to the north of the railway line that passes to the south of Wembley Stadium make up a distinct ward rather than include it in Tokyngton ward to ensure good electoral equality for the area.

68 We also received two submissions that suggested that the ward around Wembley Stadium be named Wembley Stadium rather than Wembley Park, however we consider that Wembley Park is a more appropriate name for the proposed ward given it is the name of the housing and commercial development in this ward.

69 Our proposed Preston North, Preston South & Wembley Hill, Tokyngton and Wembley Park wards will have electoral variances of -6%, -8%, -6% and 1% respectively by 2024.

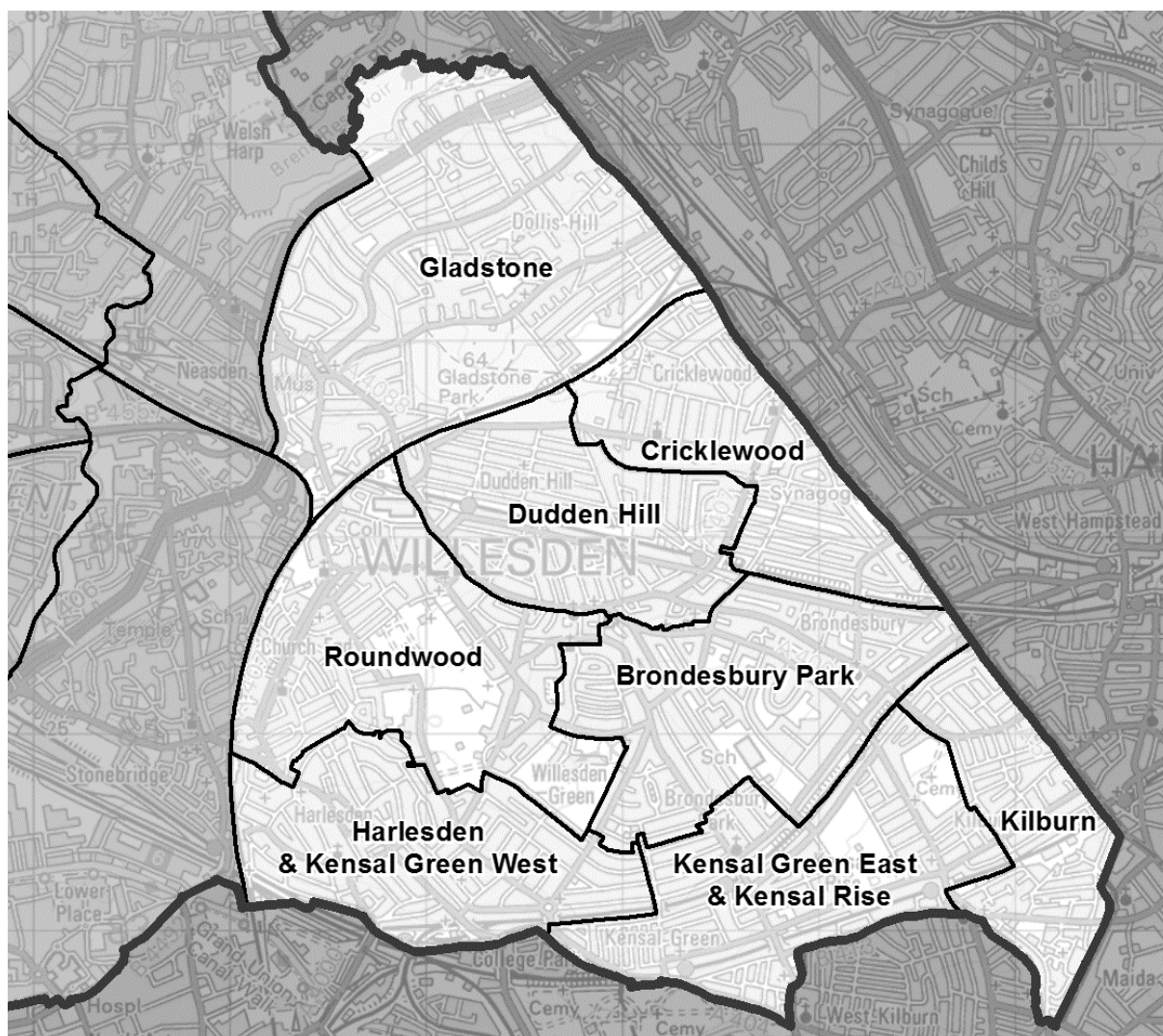
Stonebridge

70 We proposed that the existing Stonebridge ward be retained. A number of submissions we received suggested that the A406 North Circular Road form the boundary of wards for its entire length across the borough as it was a very strong boundary that reflects community cohesion. The Council also proposed to use the North Circular as a boundary between Stonebridge and Tokyngton wards therefore including the St Raphael's housing estate that lies between the North Circular Road and the River Brent in Tokyngton ward. This proposed boundary was also suggested in the partial schemes received from the Brent & Harrow Co-operative Party and in the scheme from two local residents.

71 Countering this argument, we received a number of submissions that argued that the St Raphael's housing estate should remain in Stonebridge ward and that the western boundary of the ward should remain the River Brent. As a result of these contrasting submissions we visited this area as part of our tour of the borough. We concluded that the River Brent was the stronger boundary here and that the St Raphael's housing estate should remain in Stonebridge ward. We are of the view that there is little evidence of community ties between this area and electors in Tokyngton on the other side of the River Brent.

72 As a result, we propose that Stonebridge ward is maintained on its existing boundaries, but we are eager to hear any further evidence that demonstrates the community ties of electors in this area.

East Brent



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2024
Brondesbury Park	2	7%
Cricklewood	2	9%
Dudden Hill	3	-8%
Gladstone	3	7%
Harlesden & Kensal Green West	3	1%
Kensal Green East & Kensal Rise	3	-1%
Kilburn	3	-3%
Roundwood	3	-1%

Brondesbury Park and Kilburn

73 Our draft recommendations for these two wards are to maintain the existing wards. Of the ten different warding patterns proposed for this area, all ten recommended maintaining the existing Kilburn ward as it already reflected the communities in the area and provided for good electoral equality. We propose that

the existing Brondesbury Park ward is retained subject to minor modifications to ensure Newman Close and Hanover Road are not divided between wards as is currently the case. We also propose that Brondesbury Park ward has 2 councillors in future rather than three in line with the reduction in councillor numbers for the borough.

74 We received two submissions that supported making changes to Kilburn ward. One suggested that the ward should be merged with Queens Park ward and another argued it should be changed in conjunction with reducing the overall number of councillors in Brent to 30. It was our view that neither submission provided sufficient evidence to justify these suggestions. We also received a couple of submissions that argued that the existing boundaries and number of councillors for Brondesbury Park ward be retained. This would result in an electoral variance of -29% for the ward which is a significantly higher variance than we are willing to recommend. We also received two submissions in support of the Council's proposed three-councillor Brondesbury Park ward, but we do not propose to adopt this ward due to the limited evidence supplied to justify it and also our view that this ward divides the coherent community of Kensal Green.

75 Our two proposed wards have good electoral equality of 7% and -3% respectively by 2024.

Cricklewood, Dudden Hill and Gladstone

76 We received a number of submissions for this area, primarily in response to the warding pattern proposed by the Council. The main concerns were the proposal for a ward that did not follow the North Circular Road as a boundary and the inclusion of any area to the south of the railway line through Gladstone Park in a ward with areas to the north.

77 We consider that the proposed warding pattern from the Council does not recognise the community ties in this area nor provide for effective and convenient local government. Similarly, we were concerned that the proposal from Brent & Harrow Co-operative Party (also proposed by Brent Labour Party) for Dudden Hill ward would not provide good electoral equality based on the information provided in their submission. Furthermore, we were not persuaded that sufficient evidence was received to support the two-councillor warding proposal put forward a member of the public. Two local residents proposed a warding pattern that included Dudden Hill in a ward with Mapesbury and divided Neasden between Dollis Hill and Stonebridge ward. We considered this warding pattern but again concluded that we had not received sufficient evidence to base our draft recommendations on this warding pattern.

78 Our draft recommendations for this area are therefore based on the Conservative Association submission which we have concluded best met our criteria in regard to community identity and effective and convenient local government.

79 Based on comments in other submissions received, we concluded that the best pattern of wards for this area would recognise the strength of the North Circular Road and the railway line that passes through Gladstone Park as ward boundaries. We were also persuaded by the argument that a ward containing electors on either side of the Jubilee Line around Dollis Hill and Willesden Green stations would reflect community identities in this area.

80 We therefore propose the three-councillor wards of Dudden Hill and Gladstone and a two-councillor Cricklewood ward. Our proposed Gladstone ward is named after Gladstone Park in the south of the ward and is bounded by the railway line to the south and the North Circular Road and borough boundary to the north and east. Our proposed ward includes the part of Neasden that is south of the North Circular Road. This differs from the other proposals for this area which either divided Neasden along the A4088 or proposed a ward that crossed the North Circular. We did not consider that any of these schemes were supported by sufficient evidence. The name Gladstone was proposed to us by the Conservative Association, but we are interested to hear about any other proposed ward names from local residents.

81 Our proposed Cricklewood ward is similar to the existing Mapesbury ward except that we have moved a number of electors in the Walm Lane area into our proposed Dudden Hill ward. This is a minor modification to the Conservative's proposal which used Anson Road and Walm Lane as the ward boundary. We considered that this aspect of their proposals would divide the communities in the area, particularly those streets off Anson Road. We came to this view as a result of the evidence we gathered on our tour of the borough. We propose to rename the ward Cricklewood as we received strong local support for that name and opposition to the existing ward name of Mapesbury.

82 In the Dudden Hill area we propose a ward that brings together electors on either side of the Jubilee Line as it passes through Dollis Hill and Willesden Green stations. This ward is similar to the one suggested to us by the Conservative Association. We were persuaded by the evidence offered to us that this ward would benefit the communities on both sides of the railway line. It is also our view that it is preferable to unite two seemingly separate communities in a single ward that to divide existing communities between wards. We concluded that the other suggested warding patterns for this area would divide communities, particularly in the Dudden Hill area.

83 Our proposed Cricklewood, Dudden Hill and Gladstone wards will have electoral variances of 9%, -8% and 7% respectively by 2024.

Harlesden & Kensal Green West, Kensal Green East & Kensal Rise and Roundwood

84 A significant number of respondents opposed the Council's proposals for this area which they considered would result in the abolition the Kensal Green ward. There was strong support for the retention of a Kensal Green ward with some supporting evidence offered in response to the Council's proposals.

85 A number of these submissions supported an alternative warding pattern suggested by Councillor Chan, but we considered that insufficient accompanying evidence was provided to support it. Additionally, we considered that it did not satisfactorily meet our criteria of community identity as it proposes the division of Harlesden between wards.

86 We also received submissions that stated that the existing warding pattern divided Harlesden and that a ward should be established that united the centre of Harlesden. As a result of these submissions we spent some time in this area on our tour of the borough. We concluded that Harlesden town centre was indeed divided between wards and should be united in a single ward. We also considered the existing Kensal Green ward and whether that formed a coherent community. We concluded that it did, with the possible exception of the streets between the A404 Harrow Road and the London Overground railway line which we consider may have more in common with the neighbouring Queens Park ward.

87 We considered all the schemes that had been proposed for the area and concluded that the scheme from the Council was not appropriate due to its division of Kensal Green and its lack of evidence. The scheme we received from the Brent & Harrow Co-operative Party and a member of the public also divided Kensal Green and were lacking in supporting evidence. A scheme received from a local residents' organisation retained most of the existing Kensal Green ward but divided Harlesden town centre between wards. The Conservative Association proposals also divided the centre of Harlesden between wards.

88 Having considered all the submissions received for this area we concluded that none successfully tackled the two main issues, the retention of Kensal Green ward and the division of Harlesden Town Centre between wards. We therefore looked to see if we could adapt any of the proposals or identify our own warding pattern that successfully resolved these issues.

89 In light of this we have decided to recommend the three-councillor wards of Harlesden & Kensal Green West, Kensal Green East & Kensal Rise, and Roundwood. Our proposed Harlesden & Kensal Green West ward is made up of the part of the existing Harlesden ward that contains Harlesden town centre. It also includes the existing Kensal Green ward with the exception of the streets between

the A404 Harrow Road and the London Overground railway line. We propose to move these electors into the neighbouring Queens Park ward.

90 We propose to name these wards Harlesden & Kensal Green West and Kensal Green East & Kensal Rise. We propose to rename the latter ward to recognise that it now includes Kensal Green underground station as well as the whole of the area known as Kensal Rise. Naming the ward Harlesden & Kensal Green West recognises that the ward is now based around Harlesden town centre and encompasses those parts of the old Kensal Green ward that respondents said could be considered to be part of Harlesden.

91 Our proposed Roundwood ward is similar to a ward suggested to us by the Conservative Association. We propose to include Church End in Roundwood ward and change it from a two-councillor ward to a three-councillor ward. We propose this to allow for a better electoral equality in this area.

92 Our proposed wards of Harlesden & Kensal Green West, Kensal Green East & Kensal Rise and Roundwood will have electoral variances of 1%, -1% and -1% respectively by 2024.

Conclusions

93 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Brent, 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	57	57
Number of electoral wards	22	22
Average number of electors per councillor	3,967	4,311
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	9	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Draft recommendations

Brent Council should be made up of 57 councillors serving 22 wards representing nine two-councillor wards and 13 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 Brent.

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

Have your say

94 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.

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

96 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

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

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

98 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Brent 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.

99 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

100 Electoral equality:

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

101 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?

102 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?

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

104 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.

105 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.

106 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 Brent in 2022.

Equalities

107 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 Brent

	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	Alperton	3	9,677	3,226	-19%	13,172	4,391	2%
2	Barnhill	2	7,703	3,852	-3%	8,868	4,434	3%
3	Brondesbury Park	2	9,131	4,566	15%	9,256	4,628	7%
4	Cricklewood	2	9,133	4,567	15%	9,407	4,704	9%
5	Dudden Hill	3	11,829	3,943	-1%	11,927	3,976	-8%
6	Gladstone	3	13,745	4,582	15%	13,831	4,610	7%
7	Harlesden & Kensal Green West	3	13,109	4,370	10%	13,096	4,365	1%
8	Kensal Green East & Kensal Rise	3	12,343	4,114	4%	12,797	4,266	-1%
9	Kenton	3	13,165	4,388	11%	13,815	4,605	7%
10	Kilburn	3	11,986	3,995	1%	12,581	4,194	-3%
11	Kingsbury	2	7,336	3,668	-8%	9,184	4,592	7%
12	Northwick Park	2	8,862	4,431	12%	8,870	4,435	3%

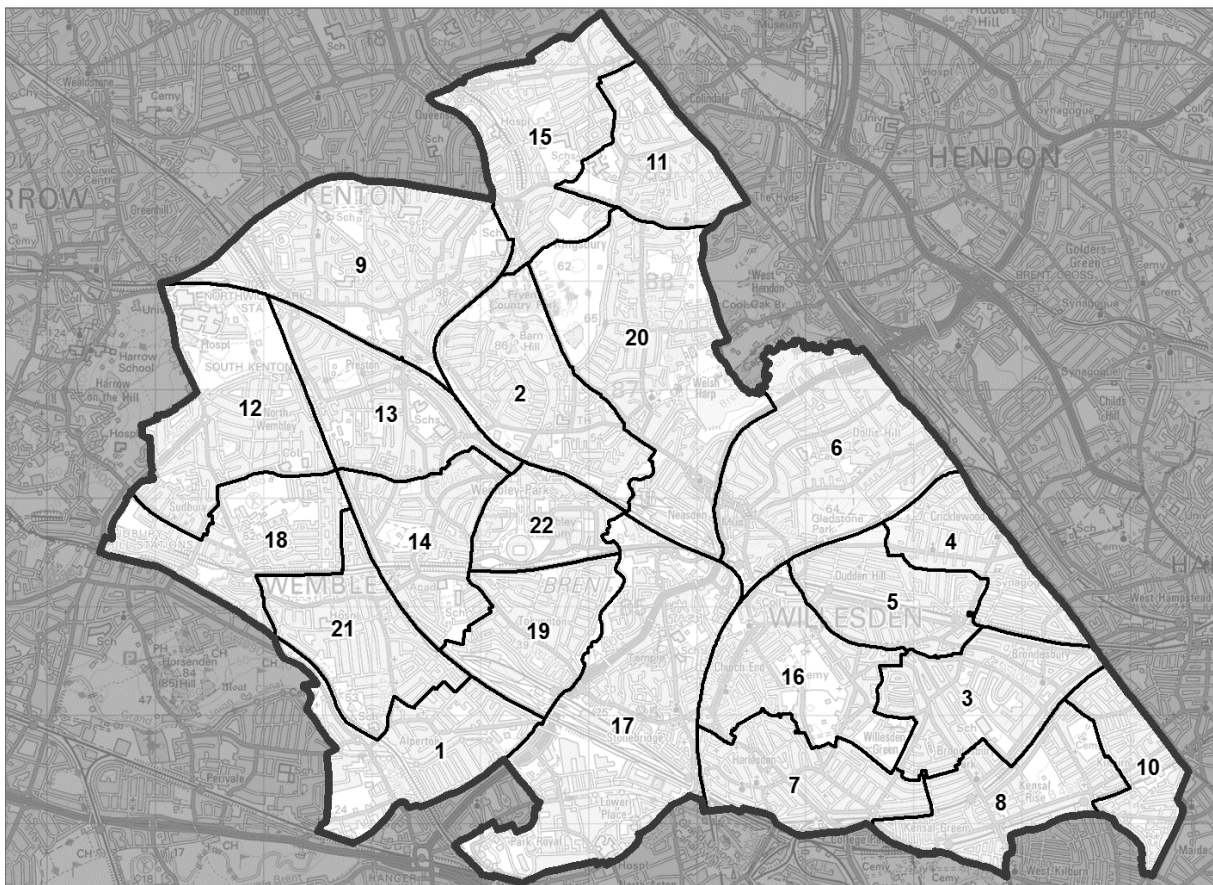
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Preston North	2	7,969	3,985	0%	8,147	4,073	-6%
14 Preston South & Wembley Hill	3	9,825	3,275	-17%	11,845	3,948	-8%
15 Queensbury	3	11,891	3,964	0%	11,869	3,956	-8%
16 Roundwood	3	11,176	3,725	-6%	12,771	4,257	-1%
17 Stonebridge	3	12,398	4,133	4%	13,353	4,451	3%
18 Sudbury	2	9,318	4,659	17%	9,185	4,593	7%
19 Tokyngton	2	7,149	3,575	-10%	8,085	4,042	-6%
20 Welsh Harp	3	11,979	3,993	1%	11,970	3,990	-7%
21 Wembley Central	3	11,930	3,977	0%	13,028	4,343	1%
22 Wembley Park	2	4,477	2,239	-44%	8,674	4,337	1%
Totals	57	226,131	-	-	245,732	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,967	-	-	4,311	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Brent 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



Number	Ward name
1	Alperton
2	Barnhill
3	Brondesbury Park
4	Cricklewood
5	Dudden Hill
6	Gladstone
7	Harlesden & Kensal Green West
8	Kensal Green East & Kensal Rise
9	Kenton
10	Kilburn
11	Kingsbury
12	Northwick Park
13	Preston North
14	Preston South & Wembley Hill
15	Queensbury
16	Roundwood
17	Stonebridge

18	Sudbury
19	Tokyngton
20	Welsh Harp
21	Wembley Central
22	Wembley Park

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

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/brent>

Local Authority

- Brent Council

Political Groups

- Brent & Harrow Co-operative Party
- Brent Labour Party
- Brent North Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor J. Chan (Kensal Green ward, Brent Council)
- Councillor K. Gill (Brondesbury Park ward, Brent Council)
- Councillor C. Hector (Kensal Green ward, Brent Council)
- Councillor O. Hylton (Tokyngton ward, Brent Council)
- Councillor J. Long (Dudden Hill ward, Brent Council)
- Councillor N. Nerva (Queens Park ward, Brent Council)
- Councillor K. Sheth (Wembley Central ward, Brent Council)

Local Organisations

- Henson Avenue Residents' Association
- Kensal Green Residents' Association
- Pakistan Community Centre
- Rucklidge Avenue Residents' Association
- Swaminarayan World Organisation
- The Mosque & Islamic Centre of Brent
- Wembley & District Centre

Local Residents

- 132 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

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

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

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0TL

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Online: www.lgbce.org.uk or
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Twitter: @LGBCE