

# Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council

Electoral review

November 2016

## **Translations and other formats**

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## Table of Contents

Summary .....	1
Who we are and what we do .....	1
Electoral review .....	1
Why Manchester?.....	1
Our proposals for Manchester .....	1
Have your say.....	1
What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England? .....	2
1 Introduction .....	3
What is an electoral review? .....	3
Consultation.....	3
How will the recommendations affect you?.....	4
2 Analysis and draft recommendations .....	5
Submissions received.....	5
Electorate figures.....	5
Number of councillors .....	6
Ward boundaries consultation .....	6
Draft recommendations .....	7
North Manchester .....	8
North central Manchester .....	10
South Manchester.....	12
South central Manchester.....	14
Conclusions.....	16
Summary of electoral arrangements.....	16
3 Have your say .....	17
Equalities.....	18
Appendix A.....	19
Draft recommendations for Manchester City Council.....	19
Appendix B.....	22
Outline map .....	22
Appendix C.....	24
Submissions received.....	24
Appendix D.....	25
Glossary and abbreviations .....	25



## Summary

### Who we are and what we do

1 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.

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

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

### Why Manchester?

4 We are conducting a review of Manchester as the value of each vote in city council elections varies depending on where you live in Manchester. 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 Manchester

- Manchester should be represented by 96 councillors, the same number as there are now.
- Manchester should have 32 wards, same number as there are now.
- The boundaries of almost all wards will change; one, Baguley, will stay the same.

### Have your say

5 We are consulting on our draft recommendations for an eight-week period, from 29 November 2016 to 23 January 2017. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new wards – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we received.

6 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this *Draft recommendations* report and look at the accompanying map before responding

to us. You have until 23 January 2017 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 17 for how to send us your response.

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

8 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)
  - Peter Knight CBE, DL
  - Alison Lowton
  - Peter Maddison QPM
  - Sir Tony Redmond
- 
- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## 1 Introduction

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

- The wards in Manchester 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 city.

### What is an electoral review?

10 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

11 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](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Consultation

12 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Manchester. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the city. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

13 This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 July 2016	Number of councillors decided
26 July 2016	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
26 September 2016	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
29 November 2016	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
23 January 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
11 April 2017	Publication of final recommendations

## How will the recommendations affect you?

14 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 draft recommendations

15 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards

16 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.

17 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	2022
Electorate of Manchester	369,904	417,015
Number of councillors	96	96
Average number of electors per councillor	3,853	4,344

18 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 Manchester will have electoral equality by 2022.

19 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the city 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 take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

### Submissions received

20 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk).

### Electorate figures

21 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2017. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 13% by 2022. This is driven by significant growth in the city centre and surrounding wards.

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

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

22 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.

## Number of councillors

23 Manchester City Council currently has 96 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.

24 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 96 councillors – as the Council elects by thirds this is likely to be 32 three-councillor wards.

25 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. It argued that the number of councillors should be increased to 97 and that two wards would become two-councillor wards. No further evidence was offered as to why this was better than a uniform three-councillor pattern. Therefore, we have based our draft recommendations on a 96-member council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received 16 submissions to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one detailed city-wide proposal from Manchester City Council based on a pattern of wards to be represented by 96 elected members. We also received localised warding patterns in the Chorlton/Whalley Range area from Community on Solid Ground community group and in Northenden from the Northenden Neighbourhood Forum.

27 The city-wide scheme provided for a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards for Manchester. 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.

28 Our draft recommendations are based on a combination of the city-wide proposals that we received from Manchester City Council and the scheme received from Community on Solid Ground. In some areas of the city we have also taken into account other local evidence that we received which provided evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals we received 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 Manchester helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

29 Our draft recommendations are for 32 three-councillor 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.

30 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on page 19 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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

## Draft recommendations

32 The tables and maps on pages 8–15 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Manchester. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

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

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

## North Manchester



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Charlestown	3	1%
Cheetham	3	9%
Crumpsall	3	-6%
Harpurhey	3	7%
Higher Blackley	3	-5%
Miles Platting & Newton Heath	3	-2%
Moston	3	5%

*Charlestown, Crumpsall, Harpurhey, Higher Blackley and Moston*

33 Apart for the scheme from the Council we received no submissions regarding these areas. We have therefore based our proposed wards on the submission received from the Council. This proposes that electors from Cheetham ward, which is forecast to have a variance of 35% by 2022, are moved to both Crumpsall and Harpurhey wards. The boundaries between Harpurhey and Moston wards and Moston and Charlestown wards are both moved northwards to take account of this. We consider these wards reflects the local community, and both improve electoral equality in the area and use easily identifiable boundaries.

*Cheetham*

34 We have based our ward on the ward proposed by the Council in this area, but with two significant changes to provide for a more identifiable boundary and reflect the community in the area. The proposed ward suggested by the Council moved around 1,400 electors to the north of Queens Road/A6010 and to the east of Cheetham Hill Road/A665 into a proposed Crumpsall ward. We considered that this would break community ties in the Cheetham Hill area and we have instead included these electors in our proposed Cheetham ward.

35 In addition to the electors mentioned above we propose to include around 500 electors in properties on Mirabel Street to the north of Manchester Victoria station in our proposed Deansgate ward (see paragraph 38).

*Miles Platting & Newton Heath*

36 We have based our proposed ward on the Council's scheme in this area with one small modification. We propose that the electors on Sudell Street and Shilford Drive are included in this ward rather than the proposed Piccadilly ward mentioned below. This is to provide for more convenient and effective local government and to reflect the community ties in the area.

## North central Manchester



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Ancoats & Beswick	3	4%
Ardwick	3	5%
Clayton & Openshaw	3	-4%
Deansgate	3	6%
Gorton & Abbey Hey	3	4%
Hulme	3	2%
Piccadilly	3	6%

*Ancoats & Beswick, Ardwick, Clayton & Openshaw and Hulme*

37 Apart for the warding proposal from Manchester City Council we received no submissions for these areas. We have therefore based our proposed wards for these areas on the warding pattern suggested by the Council. We have made no suggested amendments to the boundaries proposed by the Council which we consider use clearly identifiable boundaries and provide for good electoral equality.

*Deansgate and Piccadilly*

38 Our proposals in the city centre are based on the Council's proposed wards with one amendment. We proposed to include around 500 electors just to the north of Victoria Station in Deansgate ward instead of Cheetham ward. We consider that this better reflects the community identity of the electors in this area.

*Gorton & Abbey Hey*

39 We have based our proposed Gorton & Abbey Hey ward on the ward proposed by the Council subject to one minor amendment. We propose that the boundary run along the A57 as far as Belle Vue station. This includes the areas around Belle Vue Greyhound Stadium and Belle Vue Speedway Stadium in our proposed Longsight ward as discussed below.

## South Manchester



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
<b>Baguley</b>	3	-8%
<b>Brooklands</b>	3	-9%
<b>Northenden</b>	3	-8%
<b>Sharston</b>	3	-8%
<b>Woodhouse Park</b>	3	-8%



*Baguley, Brooklands and Northenden*

40 In addition to the Council's proposed wards in this area we also received a submission from Northenden Neighbourhood Forum. This submission argued that the Northenden community consisted of Northenden and Northern Moor and proposed a ward based on those boundaries. This provided a ward with good electoral equality, with 5% more electors than the city average by 2022. The submission did not provide a warding pattern for the rest of the area other than to suggest a ward that crossed the M56.

41 We considered whether the proposed Northenden ward could be accepted on its own but concluded that we could not do this and still provide acceptable electoral equality for the rest of the area. Therefore, our proposals for this area are based on those submitted by the Council with one small modification to the boundary between Northenden and Brooklands. We propose to use Sale Road between Orton Road and Rackhouse Road rather than Yewtree Lane. This provides for slightly better electoral equality in both wards.

*Woodhouse Park and Sharston*

42 The five wards to the south of the River Mersey form a self-contained pattern of wards. We considered if the River Mersey could be crossed but concluded that this would not provide for convenient and effective local government. We also considered using the M60 motorway as the boundary in this area but concluded that the River Mersey is the most appropriate boundary for the area.

43 Our proposed wards of Woodhouse Park and Sharston are based on the wards suggested by the Council. These wards provide minimal change to the existing wards with a small number of electors around Meliden Crescent moving from Sharston to Woodhouse Park ward. This also ensures that all of Wythenshawe centre is included in one ward.

## South central Manchester



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Burnage	3	8%
Chorlton	3	-8%
Chorlton Park	3	3%
Didsbury East	3	-7%
Didsbury West	3	3%
Fallowfield	3	1%
Levenshulme	3	3%
Longsight	3	4%
Moss Side	3	5%
Old Moat	3	-1%
Rusholme	3	-1%
Whalley Range	3	2%
Withington	3	-2%

*Burnage, Didsbury East, Didsbury West, Old Moat and Withington*

44 We received no submissions for these areas apart from the Council's proposal. Our draft recommendations are based on the scheme provided by the Council with a minor modification to the boundary between the wards of Burnage and Didsbury East. This is to include the area around Burnage station in Burnage ward and to provide a more identifiable boundary.

*Chorlton, Chorlton Park and Whalley Range*

45 In addition to the Council's submission we received 13 submissions that referred to these areas. The majority of these submissions were responses to the Council's proposed scheme which had been shared publicly. These submissions objected to the Council's proposed boundaries. One submission, from the Community on Solid Ground (CSG) group proposed a revised warding pattern for the three wards.

46 We considered both submissions and note that both provide good electoral equality for the area. Upon visiting the area, we concluded that the warding pattern put forward by the CSG group better reflected our statutory criteria of community identity.

47 Therefore, our draft recommendations for these wards are based on the submission received from the CSG group.

*Fallowfield, Levenshulme, Longsight, Moss Side and Rusholme*

48 We received no submissions for these areas apart from the Council's submission. We considered several alternatives to the Council's proposed pattern of wards in this area, including using the Fallowfield Loop as the southern boundary of Levenshulme and Matthews Lane as the northern boundary. We also considered using Hamilton Road as the boundary between Longsight and Rusholme instead of Beresford Road as proposed by the Council.

49 We visited the area to consider both the Council's proposed pattern of wards and the alternatives. We concluded that to use Hamilton Road as the boundary between Longsight and Rusholme would divide the community of Longsight between wards. As a consequence of this, we were unable to propose most of the other alternatives we considered as they would result in poor electoral equality in the area.

50 Our proposed draft recommendations are therefore based on the Council's submission with two small amendments to provide for more identifiable boundaries. This moves the streets of Peacefield Road and Kingsmere Avenue to our proposed Rusholme ward from the Council's proposed Fallowfield ward.

## Conclusions

51 The table below shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2015 and 2022 electorate figures.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2015	2022
Number of councillors	96	96
Number of electoral wards	32	32
Average number of electors per councillor	3,853	4,344
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	7	0
Number of wards/ with a variance more than 20% from the average	3	0

***Draft recommendation***

Manchester City Council should be made up of 96 councillors serving 32 wards representing 32 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

***Mapping***

***Sheet 1, Map 1*** shows the proposed wards for the Manchester City Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Manchester City Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

### 3 Have your say

52 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.

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

54 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](http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

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

**Review Officer (Manchester)**  
**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**  
**14th Floor, Millbank Tower**  
**Millbank**  
**London SW1P 4QP**

56 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for the Manchester 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

57 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

58 Electoral equality:

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

59 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?

60 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?

61 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 Millbank (London) and on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

62 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.

63 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.

64 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 the Manchester in 2018.

## Equalities

65 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

### Draft recommendations for Manchester City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ancoats & Beswick	3	9,062	3,021	-22%	13,607	4,536	4%
2	Ardwick	3	12,096	4,032	5%	13,630	4,543	5%
3	Baguley	3	11,302	3,767	-2%	11,986	3,995	-8%
4	Brooklands	3	11,360	3,787	-2%	11,808	3,936	-9%
5	Burnage	3	12,917	4,306	12%	14,049	4,683	8%
6	Charlestown	3	11,665	3,888	1%	13,150	4,383	1%
7	Cheetham	3	12,429	4,143	8%	14,240	4,747	9%
8	Chorlton	3	10,879	3,626	-6%	11,974	3,991	-8%
9	Chorlton Park	3	12,959	4,320	12%	13,363	4,454	3%
10	Clayton & Openshaw	3	11,881	3,960	3%	12,514	4,171	-4%
11	Crumpsall	3	11,124	3,708	-4%	12,292	4,097	-6%
12	Deansgate	3	7,085	2,362	-39%	13,811	4,604	6%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Didsbury East	3	11,643	3,881	1%	12,176	4,059	-7%
14 Didsbury West	3	12,378	4,126	7%	13,479	4,493	3%
15 Fallowfield	3	12,098	4,033	5%	13,118	4,373	1%
16 Gorton & Abbey Hey	3	12,828	4,276	11%	13,499	4,500	4%
17 Harpurhey	3	12,480	4,160	8%	13,890	4,630	7%
18 Higher Blackley	3	11,545	3,848	0%	12,357	4,119	-5%
19 Hulme	3	11,466	3,822	-1%	13,300	4,433	2%
20 Levenshulme	3	12,092	4,031	5%	13,400	4,467	3%
21 Longsight	3	12,112	4,037	5%	13,593	4,531	4%
22 Miles Platting & Newton Heath	3	12,093	4,031	5%	12,820	4,273	-2%
23 Moss Side	3	12,430	4,143	8%	13,687	4,562	5%
24 Moston	3	13,006	4,335	13%	13,635	4,545	5%
25 Northenden	3	11,125	3,708	-4%	11,974	3,991	-8%
26 Old Moat	3	12,166	4,055	5%	12,931	4,310	-1%
27 Piccadilly	3	7,847	2,616	-32%	13,792	4,597	6%



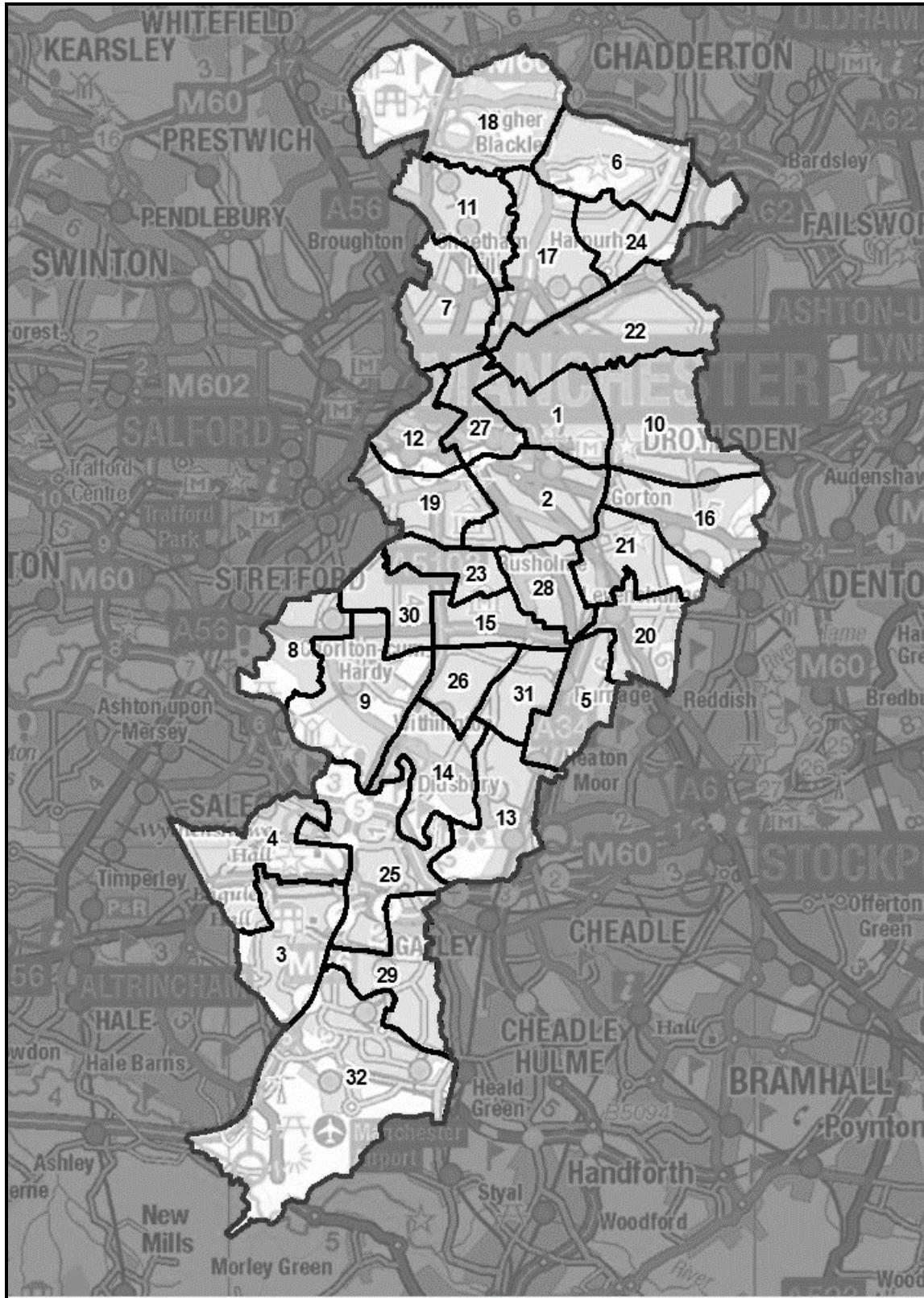
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28 Rusholme	3	11,992	3,997	4%	12,876	4,292	-1%
29 Sharston	3	11,640	3,880	1%	12,022	4,007	-8%
30 Whalley Range	3	11,100	3,700	-4%	13,313	4,438	2%
31 Withington	3	11,968	3,989	4%	12,801	4,267	-2%
32 Woodhouse Park	3	11,136	3,712	-4%	11,928	3,976	-8%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>369,904</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>417,015</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,853</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,344</b>	<b>–</b>

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

## Appendix B

### Outline map



## Key

1. Ancoats & Beswick
2. Ardwick
3. Baguley
4. Brooklands
5. Burnage
6. Charlestown
7. Cheetham
8. Chorlton
9. Chorlton Park
10. Clayton & Openshaw
11. Crumpsall
12. Deansgate
13. Didsbury East
14. Didsbury West
15. Fallowfield
16. Gorton & Abbey Hey
17. Harpurhey
18. Higher Blackley
19. Hulme
20. Levenshulme
21. Longsight
22. Miles Platting & Newton Heath
23. Moss Side
24. Moston
25. Northenden
26. Old Moat
27. Piccadilly
28. Rusholme
29. Sharston
30. Whalley Range
31. Withington
32. Woodhouse Park
33. Ancoats & Beswick

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/north-west/greater-manchester/manchester>

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

#### Local Authority

- Manchester City Council

#### Political Group

- Manchester City Council Liberal Democrat Group
- Manchester Green Party

#### Local Organisations

- Community on Solid Ground
- Manley Park Methodist Church
- Northenden Neighbourhood Forum
- Range Road Residents' Group
- Whalley Range Forum
- Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association

#### Local Residents

- 7 local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

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

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

Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council
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