

# Somerset Council Electoral Review Full Council Briefing




**Somerset  
Council**

November 2023

# About us:


Impartial




Objective



Transparent



Responsive



Professional



You can contact us with questions at any time throughout the review.

# What is an electoral review?

An electoral review considers the electoral arrangements for a local authority

Number of councillors



Number of divisions



Boundaries between divisions



Names of each divisions




Number of councillors elected to each divisions

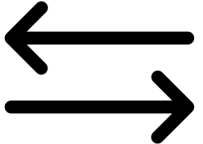


# We review authorities for one of four reasons

**1**   
Poor electoral equality  
(intervention review)

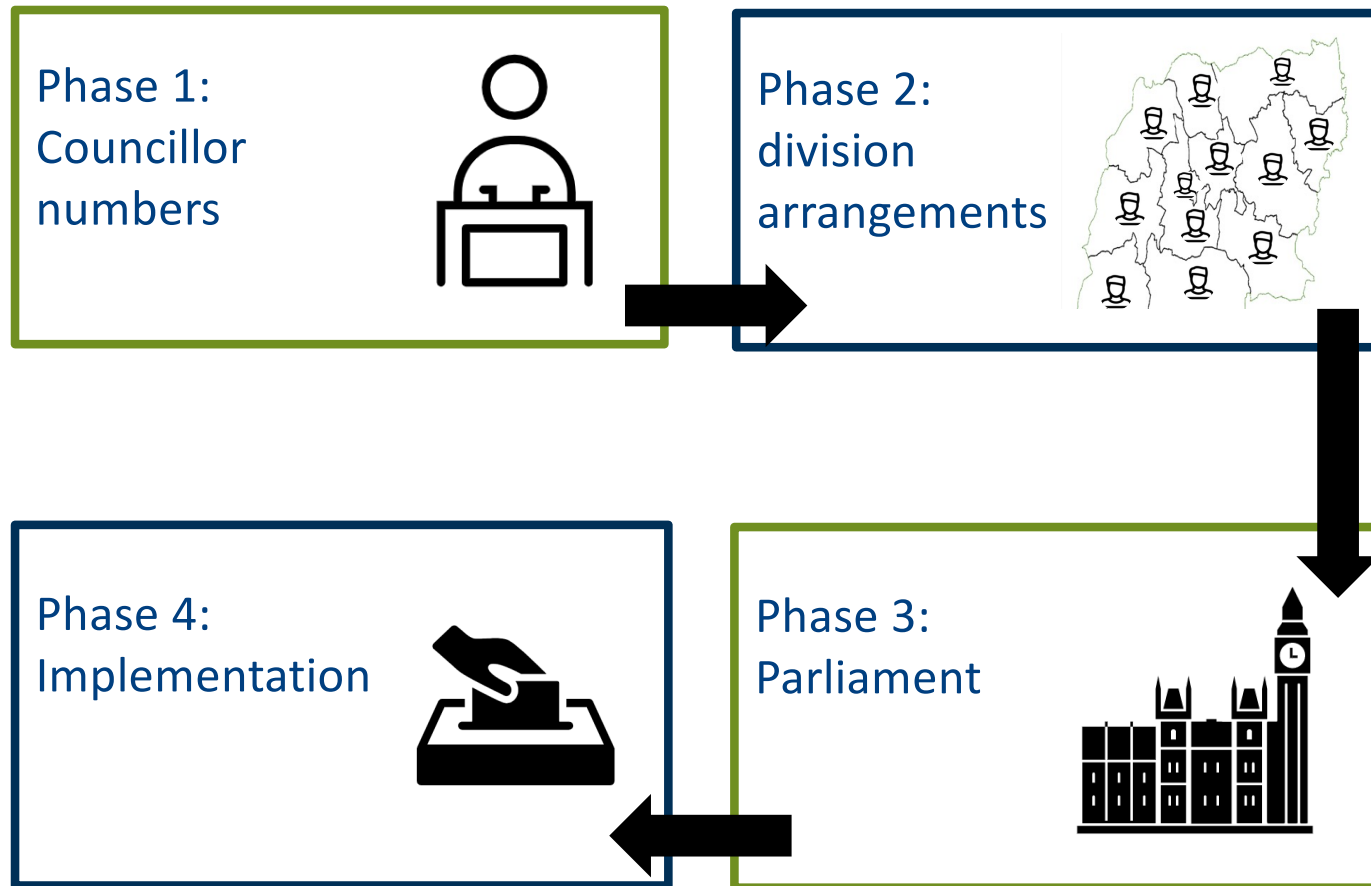
**2**   
Time  
(periodic review)

**3**   
Request from a local  
authority

**4**   
As a result of  
structural change



## Process:



# Phase 1: councillor numbers



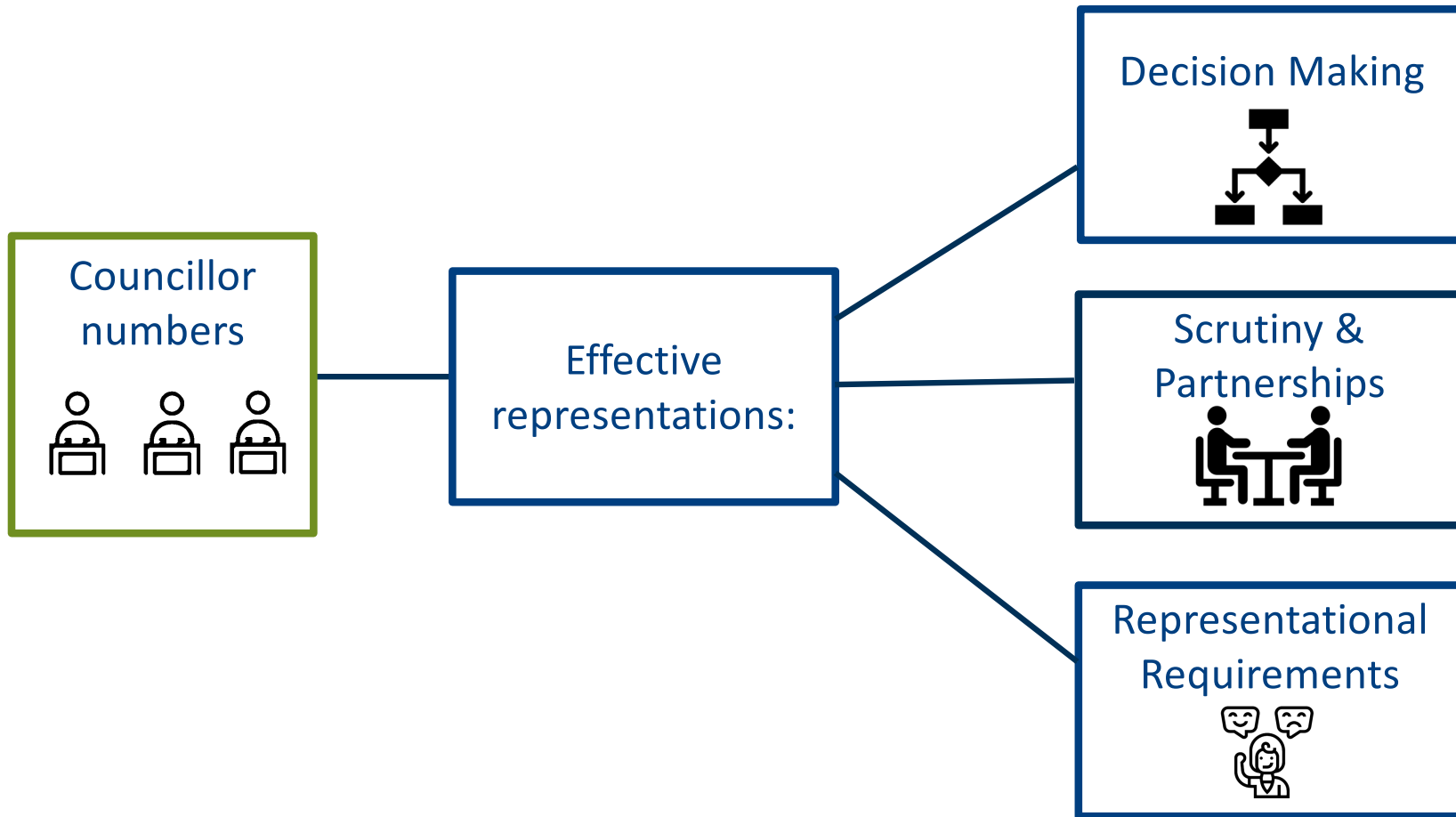
During this phase, we ask for you to make your case for a particular number of councillors

We are happy to receive submissions from whole council or from individual groups or councillors.

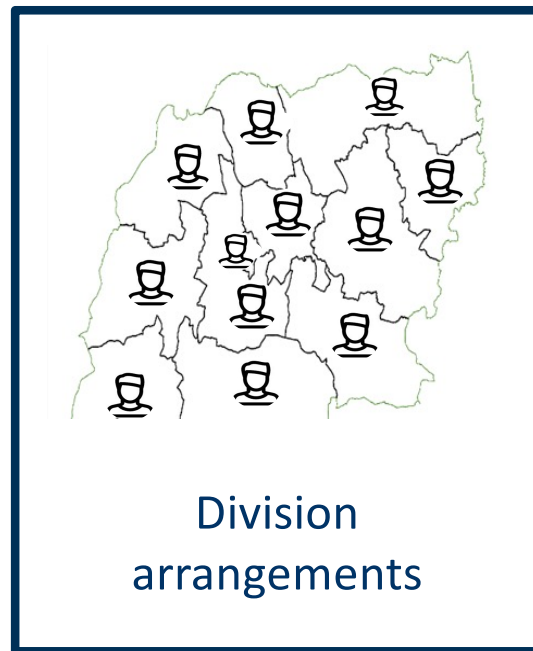
Every council is unique. The Commission does not have a policy as to whether the number of councillors should go up, go down, or stay the same.

Submissions should be provided by  
*26 July 2024*

# Phase 1: councillor numbers (cont.)



# Phase 2: division arrangements



The local community has at least two opportunities to tell us their views about how divisions should be arranged.

First consultation on division arrangements:  
*27 August 2024 – 4 November 2024*

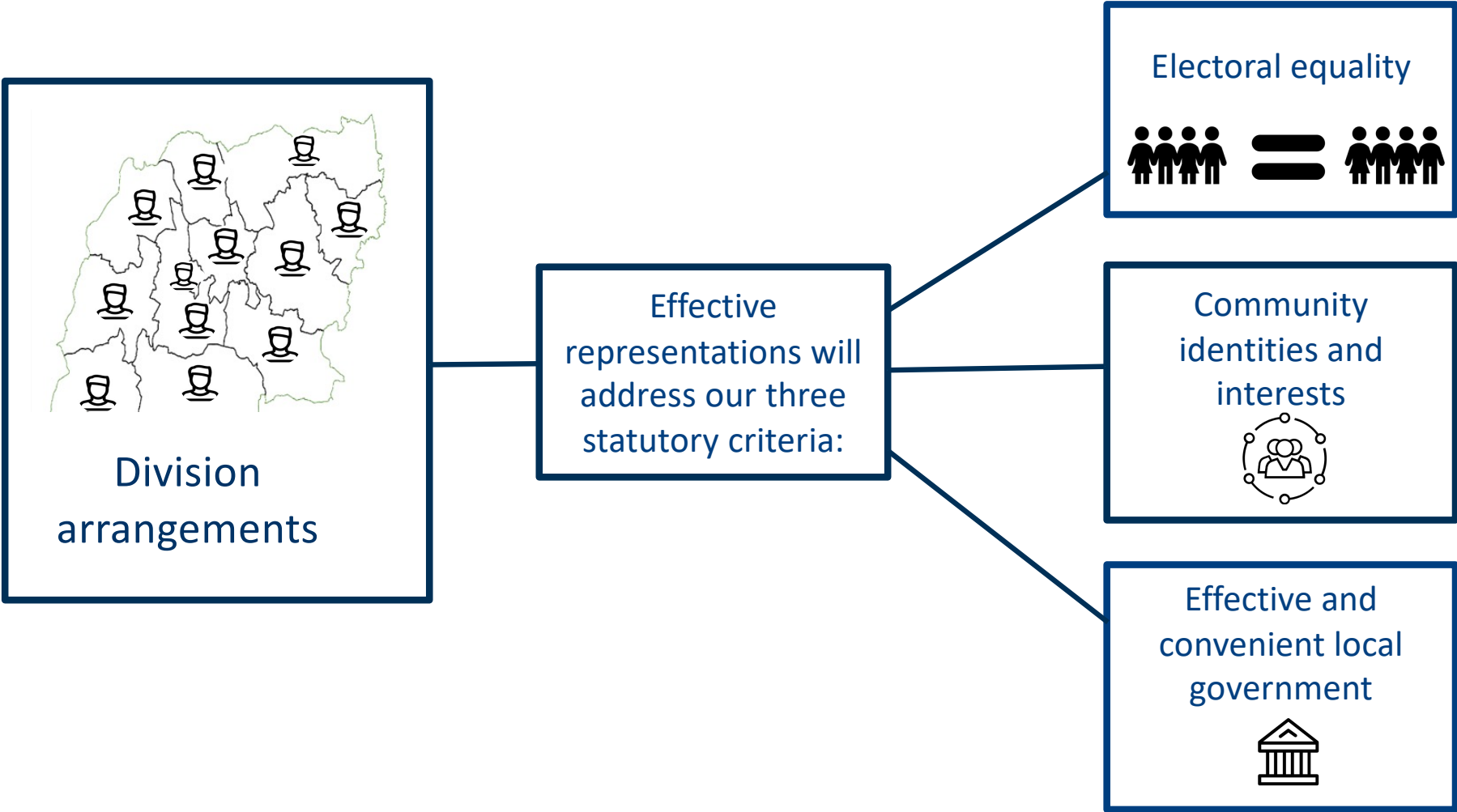
Consultation on draft proposals:  
*4 March 2025 – 12 May 2025*

Sometimes we will hold an additional round of consultation if we want to test some proposals that are very different from our draft proposals

Publication of final proposals:  
*26 August 2025  
(later if further consultation needed)*



# Phase 2: division arrangements (cont.)



# What do we mean by electoral equality?

# The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

**Electoral data**  
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council  
**Using this sheet:**

Fill in the cells for each polling district. Please make sure that the names of each parish, parish ward and borough ward are correct and consistent. Check your data in the cells to the right.

Scroll right to see the second table

What is the polling district code?	Is there any other description you use for this area?	Is this polling district contained in a parish? If not, leave this cell blank.	Is this polling district contained in a parish ward? If not, leave this cell blank.	Is this polling district contained in a group of parishes with a joint parish council? If not, leave this cell blank.	What ward is this polling district in?	What is the current electorate?	What is the predicted electorate?
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Polling district	Description of area	Parish	Parish ward	Grouped parish council	Existing ward	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2027
EX1	Example 1	Little Example		Little and Even Littler	Example	480	502
EX2	Example 2	Even Littler Example		Little and Even Littler	Example	67	68
EX3	Example 3	Medium Example			Example	893	897
EX4	Example 4	Big Example	Big Example East		Example	759	780
EX5	Example 5	Big Example	Big Example West		Example	803	824

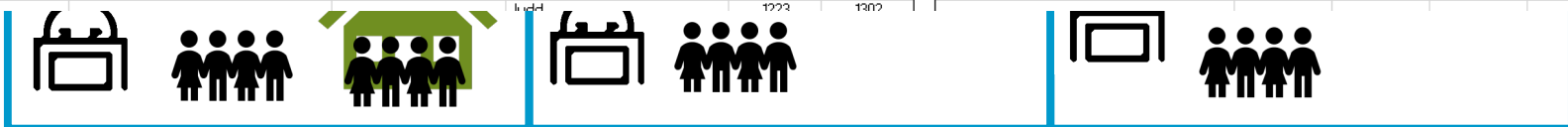
JAA		Aylesford Parish	North Ward		Aylesford North & Walderslade	586	621
JAB		Aylesford Parish	Blue Bell Hill Ward		Aylesford North & Walderslade	1090	1160
JAC		Aylesford Parish	Eccles Ward		Aylesford North & Walderslade	1330	1425
JAD		Aylesford Parish	Walderslade Ward		Aylesford North & Walderslade	2084	2268
JBA		Aylesford Parish	South Ward		Aylesford South	3838	4135
JAA		Borough Green			Borough Green & Long Mill	3158	3340
JAB		Platt			Borough Green & Long Mill	1356	1443
JAC		Plaxtol			Borough Green & Long Mill	854	919
JAD		Shipbourne			Borough Green & Long Mill	398	414
JCA		Burham			Burham & Wouldham	1050	1122
JCB		Wouldham			Burham & Wouldham	1791	2841
JBA					Cage Green	1823	1928
JBB					Cage Green	1789	1905
JCA					Castle	2048	2193
JCB					Castle	1465	1585
JDA		Ditton			Ditton	1330	1415
JDB		Ditton			Ditton	2513	2691
JDA		Addington			Downs & Mereworth	657	700
JDB		Birling			Downs & Mereworth	359	380
JDC		Mereworth	Village Ward		Downs & Mereworth	568	622
JDD		Offham			Downs & Mereworth	614	661
JDE		Fyarsh			Downs & Mereworth	660	700
JDF		Trottscliffe			Downs & Mereworth	421	449
JDG		West Peckham			Downs & Mereworth	292	315
JEA		East Malling & Larkfield	East Malling Ward		East Malling	3870	4197
JFA		East Peckham			Hadlow & East Peckham	2547	2724
JFB		Hadlow	Golden Green Ward		Hadlow & East Peckham	432	475
JFC		Hadlow	Hadlow Ward		Hadlow & East Peckham	2519	2690
JGA					Higham	3653	3926
JHA		Hildenborough			Hildenborough	1616	1701
JHB		Hildenborough			Hildenborough	2140	2299
JIA					High	1772	1800

Check your data	2021	2027
Number of councillors:	54	54
Overall electorate:	98,327	106,828
Average electorate per cllr:	1,821	1,978

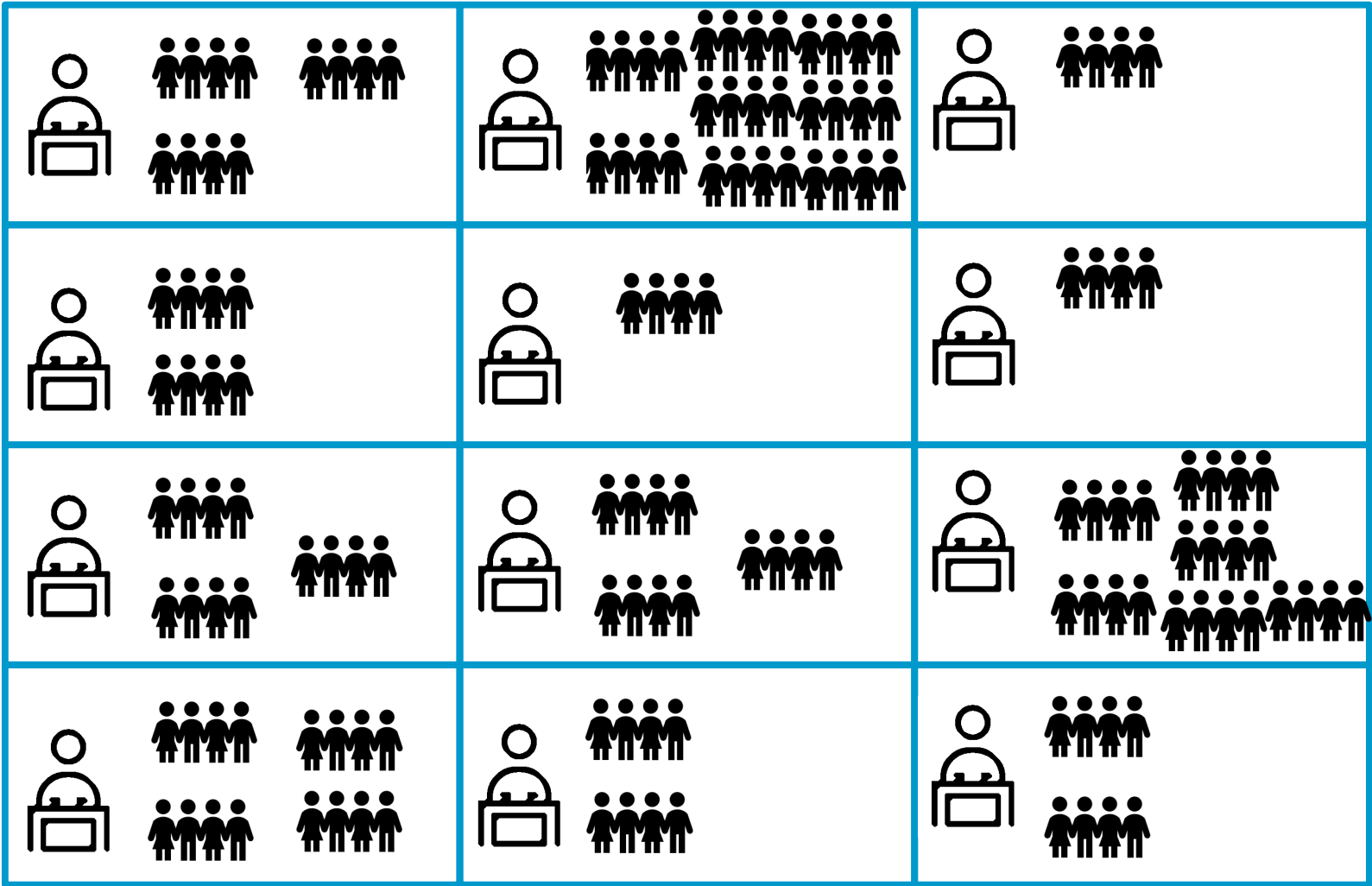
Scroll left to see the first table

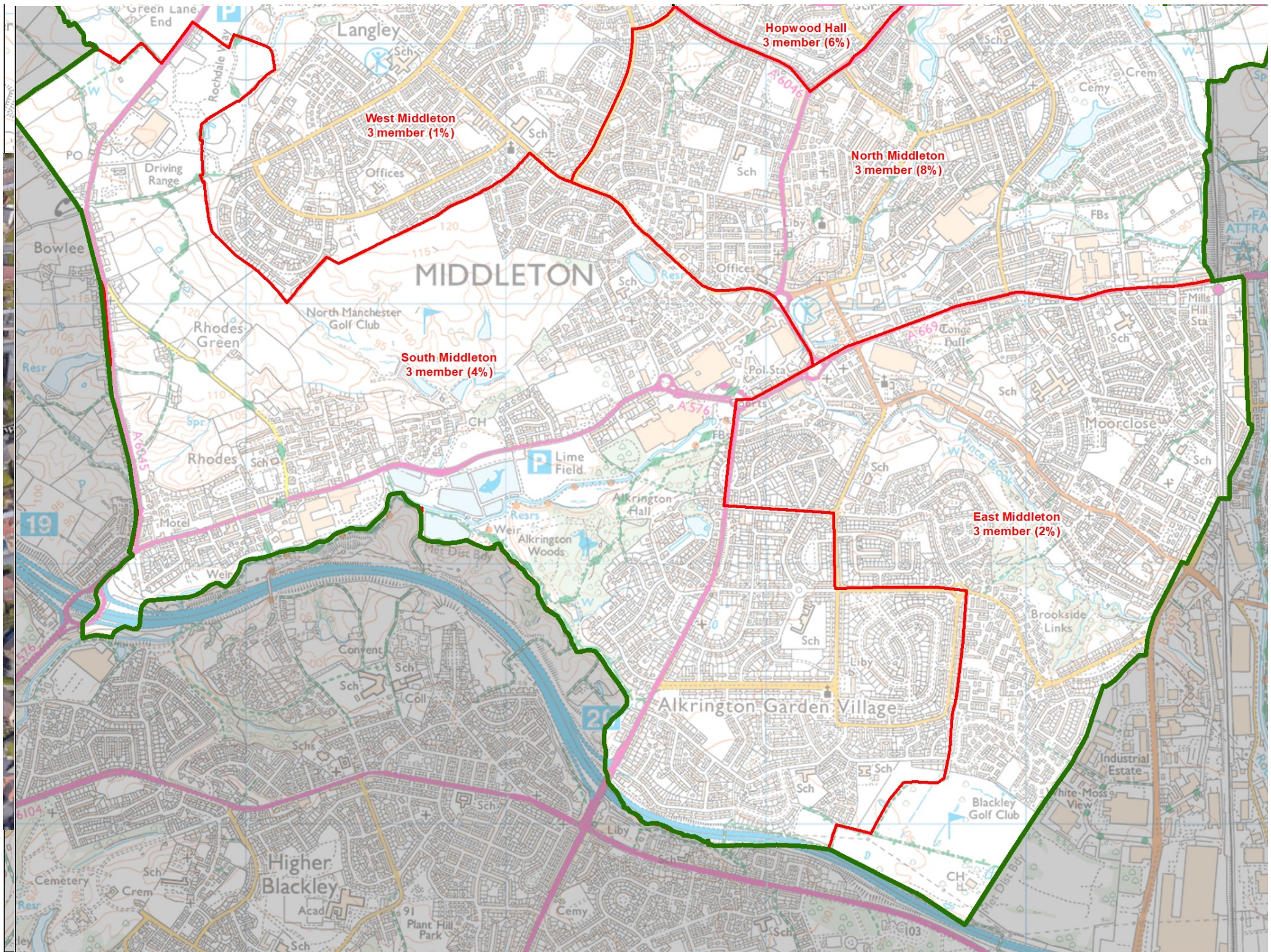
Fill in the name of each ward once	Fill in the number of councillors per ward	These cells will show you the electorate and variance. They change depending what you enter in the table to the left.
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Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2021	Variance 2021	Electorate 2027	Variance 2027
Aylesford North & Walderslade	3	5,090	-7%	5,474	-8%
Aylesford South	2	3,838	5%	4,135	5%
Borough Green & Long Mill	3	5,766	6%	6,116	3%
Burham & Wouldham	2	2,841	-22%	3,963	0%
Cage Green	2	3,612	-1%	3,833	-3%
Castle	2	3,513	-4%	3,778	-5%
Ditton	2	3,843	6%	4,106	4%
Downs & Mereworth	2	3,571	-2%	3,827	-3%
East Malling	2	3,870	6%	4,197	6%
Hadlow & East Peckham	3	5,498	1%	5,889	-1%
Higham	2	3,653	0%	3,926	-1%
Hildenborough	2	3,756	3%	4,000	1%
Judd	2	3,928	8%	4,137	5%
Kings Hill	3	6,509	19%	7,916	33%
Larkfield North	2	3,558	-2%	3,798	-4%
Larkfield South	2	3,408	-6%	3,632	-8%
Medway	3	5,372	-2%	5,708	-4%
Snodland East & Ham Hill	2	3,649	0%	3,894	-2%
Snodland West & Holborough Lakes	3	4,929	-10%	5,152	-13%
Trench	2	3,530	-3%	3,802	-4%
Vauxhall	2	3,912	7%	4,125	4%
Wateringbury	1	1,564	-14%	1,688	-15%
West Malling & Leybourne	3	5,632	3%	6,020	1%
Wrotham, Ightham & Stansted	2	3,485	-4%	3,712	-6%



# What do we mean by electoral equality?





Hopwood Hall  
3 member (6%)

West Middleton  
3 member (1%)

North Middleton  
3 member (8%)

South Middleton  
3 member (4%)

East Middleton  
3 member (2%)

MIDDLETON

Alkington Garden Village

Higher Blackley

19

20

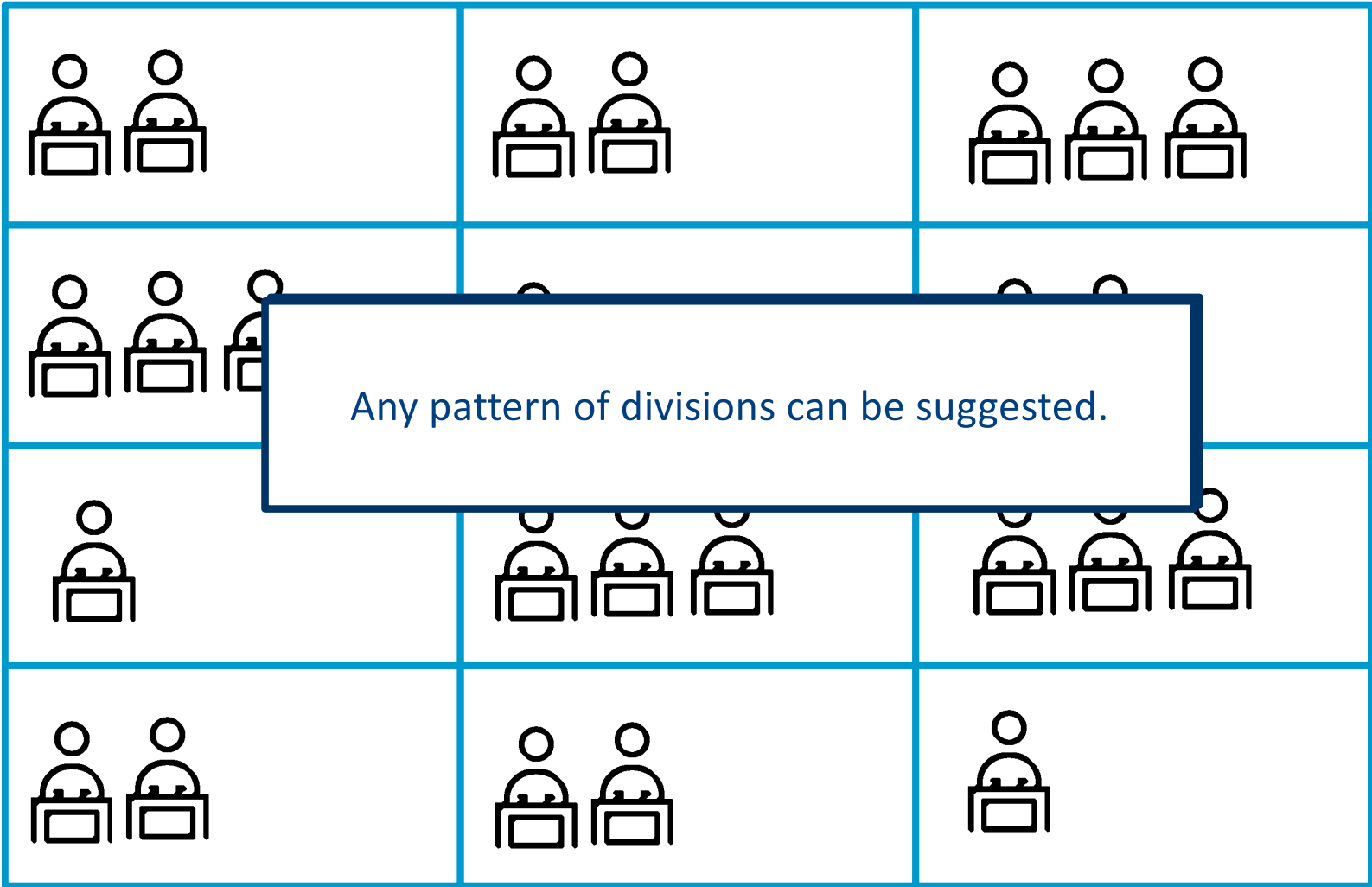
03

# The Local Government Boundary Commission

An aerial photograph of a city with a blue line drawn across it, representing a proposed boundary. The line starts in the upper left, crosses a major road, and continues towards the bottom right. The city features a mix of residential areas, commercial buildings, and green spaces. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the center of the map.

We look for strong and identifiable boundaries that should make it easy for councillors to represent their areas.

# Number of councillors per division



## What we can't consider

Political consequences

“It ain't broke, don't fix it” arguments

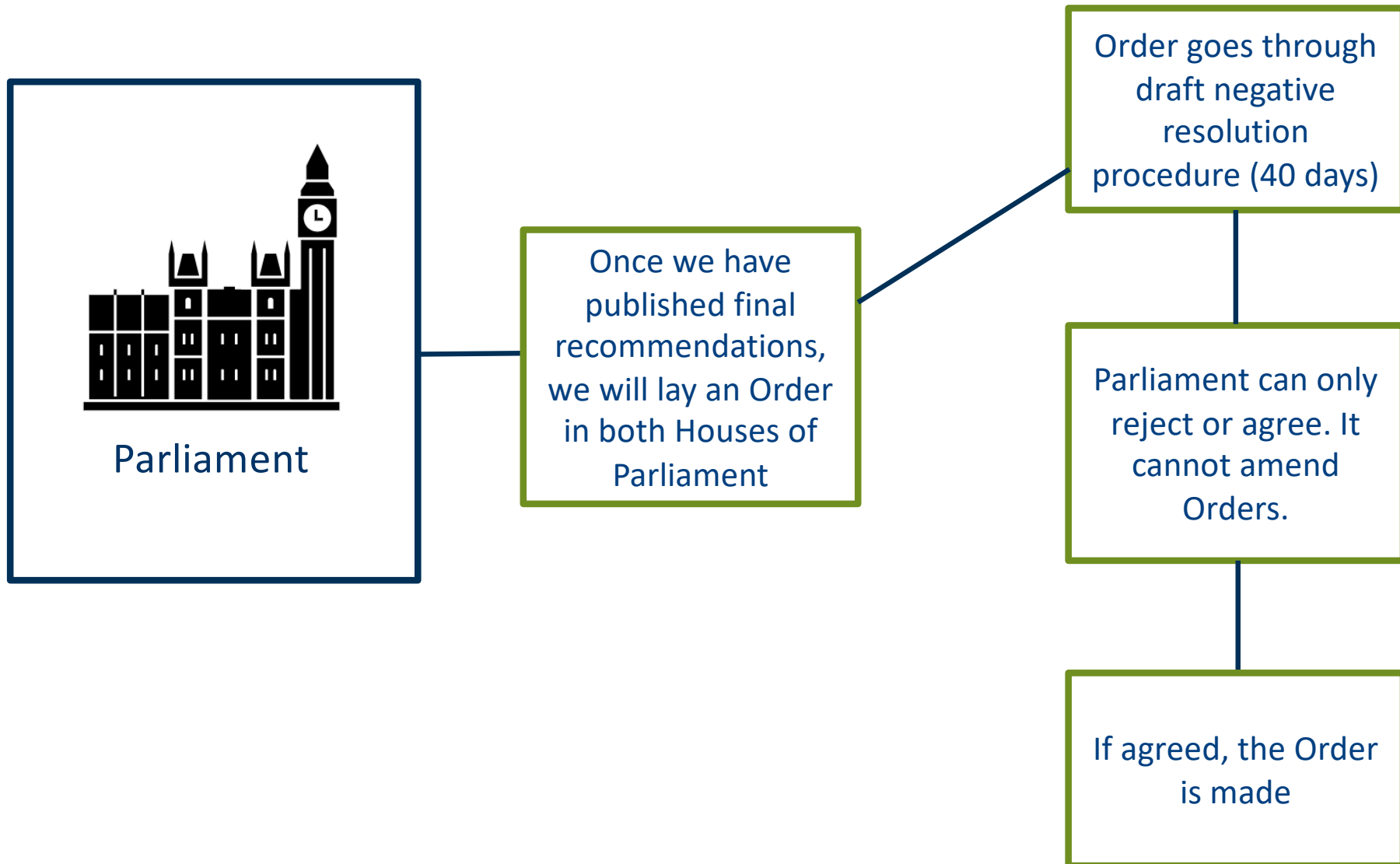
Parliamentary boundaries

Postcodes or addresses

House prices or insurance

The external boundaries for the unitary authority

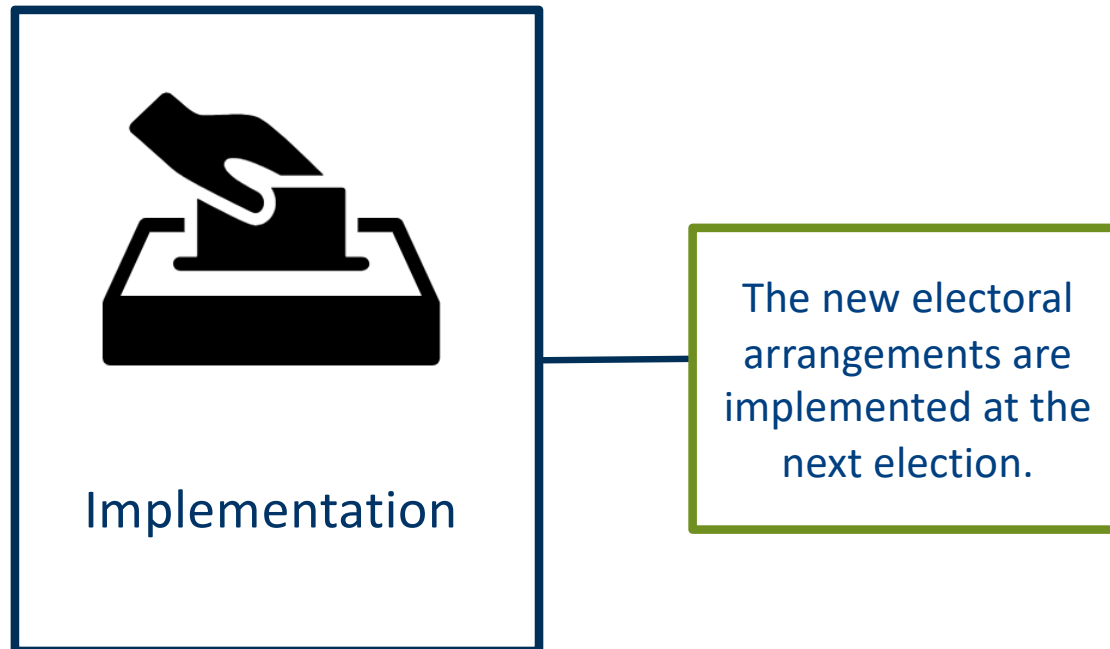
# Phase 3: Parliament



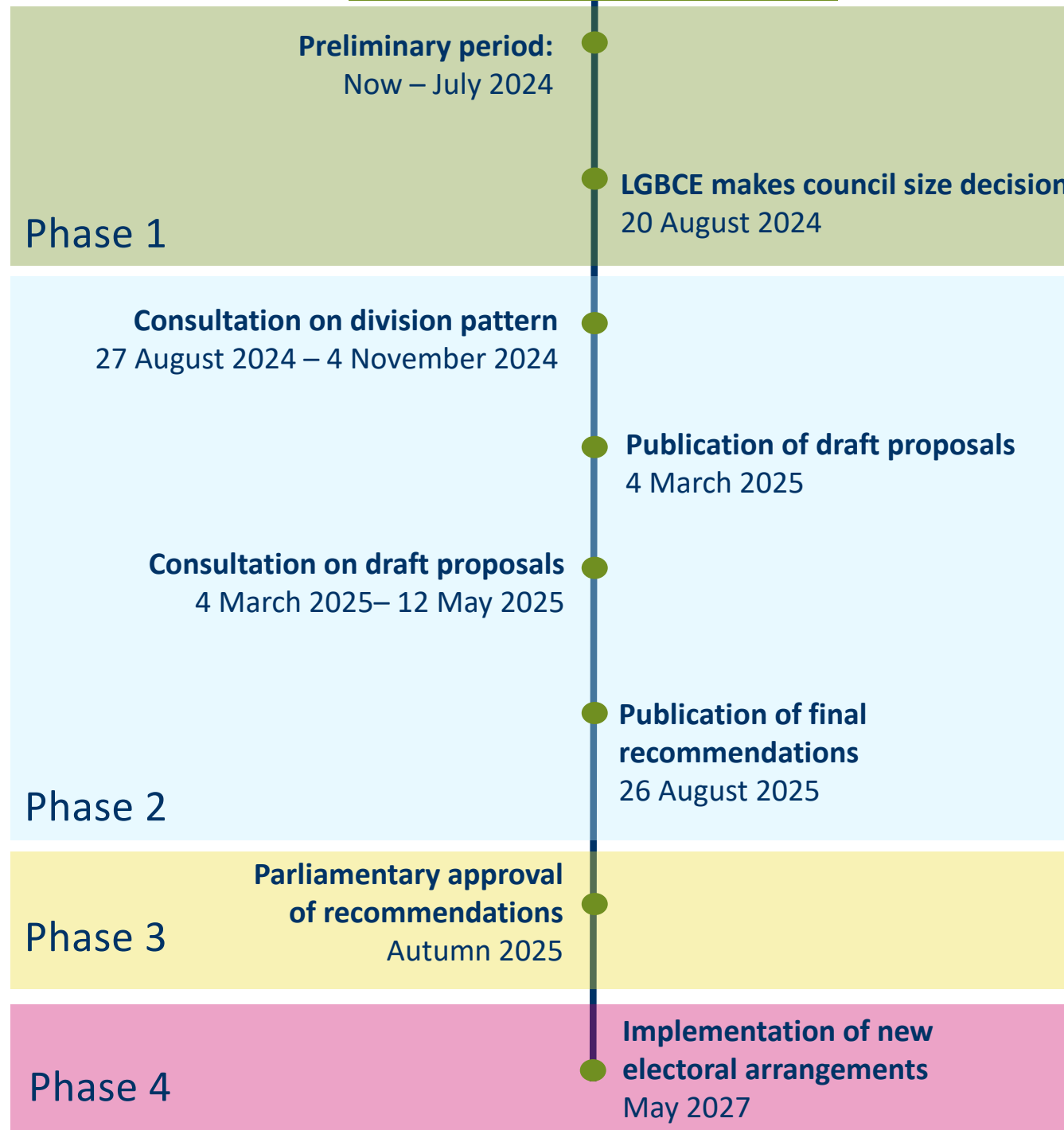


# Phase 4: Implementation

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England



## REVIEW TIMELINE



## How we consult

Write to all key stakeholders in the local area



Social media



Local media



Community briefings



Flyers and posters



Work with your officers



Ask for your help



## How to make a submission or get in contact during the review



Questions?