



ADDITIONAL / TO FOLLOW AGENDA ITEMS

This is a supplement to the original agenda and includes reports that are additional to the original agenda or which were marked 'to follow'.

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL CITY COUNCIL

Date: Monday, 22 January 2018

Time: 2.00 pm

Place: Council House, Old Market Square

Governance Officer: Laura Wilson, Senior Governance Officer **Direct Dial:** 0115 8764301

AGENDA

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CITY COUNCIL - 22 January 2018

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposed Nottingham City Council response to the Draft Recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Review of Electoral Equality in Nottingham City.
- 1.2 Council are asked to consider counter proposals for a Warding Pattern in the City of Nottingham, for submission to the LGBCE, and provide formal endorsement.
- 1.3 More details of the counter proposal are set out below under **Sections 6 and 7**.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council accepts the Draft Recommendations of the LGBCE in respect of the following wards in the city: **Aspley, Basford, Berridge, Bestwood, Bilborough, Bulwell, Bulwell Forest, Dales, Leen Valley, Lenton & Wollaton East, Mapperley, Radford, St Anns, Sherwood and Wollaton West** wards.
- 2.2 That the Council accepts the recommendations to amendments to the LGBCE's recommendations in relation to the proposed **Park, City, New Meadows, Embankment, Arboretum, Hyson Green, Clifton North and Clifton South** wards.
- 2.3 That Council delegates authority to the Leader of the Council to make any necessary amendments to the report following on from the Full Council debate.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Nottingham is a diverse city where we have worked hard to deliver community cohesion. People from diverse background live and work together in a way we are proud of. The LGBCE's proposals go against this work and look to segregate wards based on race, demography, income and housing tenure. This is particularly the case in Clifton and where there are single member wards.
- 3.2 Nottingham City Council believes that wards should reflect a range of different communities and they are made stronger by their diversity. Segregating wards into small areas based on a particular issue (such as race or income) is not in the best interests of community cohesion
- 3.3 Based on the original responses, it is difficult to argue in favour of the wholesale change proposed by the LGBCE. Proposals including so much change are unduly disruptive and therefore costly at a time when local authorities are under increasing financial pressure. If the LGCBE's proposals were adopted, we would have change our successful area working to fit into single member wards. Partners such as the Police and health colleagues would also have to make costly changes. This would undermine the model of area working that was highlighted and praised in our recent peer review.

- 3.4 Nottingham City Council believes that multi-member wards provide the best representation for areas and individuals. Having more than one councillor means that elected members can better reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. It also ensures that on occasions when one councillor is unavailable, for example due to ill health, an area remains represented. Under the Local Government Act, a Councillor can be off sick but still a councillor for 6 months, and longer in some circumstances. Adopting the LGBCE's recommendations could result in some areas being unrepresented at certain times.
- 3.5 The revised pattern of wards proposed by the City Council meets the statutory criteria for the review set by the LGBCE, whilst also addressing their concerns in respect of the electoral equality in a small number of wards in Nottingham.
- 3.6 The City Council response to the draft recommendations ensures that existing local communities and links within the city are maintained as much as possible, whilst still meeting the LGBCE's other statutory criteria.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 A number of different options for alternative warding patterns for Nottingham City were considered, based on the preferred council size of 55 Councillors and taking into account the views of the LGBCE as set out in their draft recommendations.
- 4.2 Options were developed with the aim of minimising unnecessarily disruptive change and any potential negative impacts on local residents and the provision of public services by the City Council and our partners. This includes any disruption or negative impact arising from the LGBCE's proposals for single member wards in the city.
- 4.3 Options were developed whilst also addressing the statutory criteria set out by the LGBCE for the review.
- 4.4 The counter proposals presented are considered the most appropriate option to achieve the aims stated above.

5 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 5.1 In July 2016, the LGBCE wrote to the Chief Executive to advise that Nottingham would be subject to an electoral review. In November 2016, representatives of the LGBCE met with the Chief Executive and Deputy Leader of Nottingham City Council to confirm the process and timetable for the review.
- 5.2 At December 2016, there were 204,355 registered electors in Nottingham City, an average of 3,715 electors for each of the 55 City Councillors. Nottingham is being reviewed on the basis that:
- 30% of the council's wards have an electoral imbalance of greater than +/-10% from the average ratio of electors to councillors for the city (Arboretum, Bilborough, Bridge, Clifton North, Dunkirk & Lenton and Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey wards);

- Two wards (Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey and Dunkirk & Lenton) have an electoral imbalance of greater than -30% from the average ratio for the city.

5.3 All Councillors were briefed by the LGBCE at a session on 16 January 2017. Following this, and in line with the LGBCE's timetable for the review, the City Council submitted its view on a preferred Council size in May 2017, recommending the current council size of 55 Councillors is maintained. The LGBCE accepted this recommendation.

5.4 The LGBCE then announced a consultation on the pattern of wards in the city, and the City Council was invited to submit its own proposals for a preferred warding pattern in Nottingham. A submission on behalf of the authority was discussed and approved at Full Council on 11 September 2017. It was submitted to the LGBCE the following day.

5.5 Based on the submissions received, the LGBCE published its Draft Recommendations for warding in Nottingham on 31 October 2017. The counter proposals in this paper and the attached submission (**Appendix 1**) set out the City Council's formal response.

6 CONSIDERATIONS INFORMING THE NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE

6.1 In arriving at a revised warding pattern, Nottingham City Council has considered the LGBCE's statutory criteria for the review:

- delivering electoral equality for local voters;
- maintaining the interests and identities of local communities, and;
- providing for effective and convenient local government for the city,

6.2 Our counter proposals specifically focus on the LGBCE's draft recommendations where the City Council feels it can offer a better alternative proposal in terms of meeting the LGBCE's statutory criteria, than that put forward by the commission itself.

6.3 The proposals that are of most concern to the authority include the commission's proposals for five new single member wards (**Arboretum, City, Embankment, New Meadows and The Park**), which in our view have the most potential for disruptive change and a negative impact on the city in regard to two of the three statutory criteria set by the LGBCE:

- maintaining the interests and identities of local communities.
- providing for effective and convenient local government for the city

6.4 The authority is also submitting a counter proposal to the LGBCE's proposed **Clifton North** and **Clifton South** wards.

6.5 The authority is not proposing to respond to the LGBCE's draft recommendations in respect of the following wards: **Bestwood, Bulwell, Bulwell Forest** and **Wollaton West**, which are identical to the City Council proposals submitted on 12 September 2017.

6.6 In addition, the following wards see boundary changes that either incorporate or differ marginally from the City Council's original warding proposals submitted on 12 September 2017: **Aspley, Basford, Berridge, Bilborough, Dales, Leen Valley, Lenton & Wollaton East, Mapperley, Park Forest and Sherwood.**

6.7 The City Council recommends that the LGBCE's proposals in respect of the above wards (see paragraphs 6.5 and 6.6) are accepted for the purposes of the review.

7 NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL COUNTER PROPOSALS FOR WARDING IN NOTTINGHAM

7.1 Nottingham City Council's counter proposals respond to the LGBCE's proposed single member wards of: **Arboretum, City, Embankment, New Meadows** and **The Park**. Our response also covers the LGBCE's proposed **Clifton North** and **Clifton South** wards.

7.2 The overall number of wards in the city is maintained at 20, an increase of one on our original warding proposal. The City Council is proposing a warding pattern of 15 wards represented by three-members, and 5 wards represented by two-members.

7.3 For the LGBCE's proposed single member **The Park** and **City Centre** wards, we submit the counter proposal of a merged two member **Castle** ward that includes both wards.

7.4 In response to the LGBCE's proposal for a single member **Arboretum** and two member **Hyson Green** wards, we submit a counter proposal for a three member **Hyson Green & Arboretum** ward.

7.5 The LGBCE draft recommendations propose breaking up the existing **Bridge** ward into three single member wards. Their proposed **City Centre** ward is covered under **paragraph 7.3**. The remainder of the current **Bridge** ward, which covers the whole of the Meadows area is divided into two new single member wards: **Embankment** and **New Meadows**. As an alternative, the City Council proposes a two member **Meadows** ward that retains a unified Meadows identity.

7.6 In light of the other changes suggested in relation to the neighbouring areas of Arboretum, Hyson Green and the Park, the City Council accepts the LGBCE's proposal to create a two member **Radford** ward.

7.7 The City Council proposes a two member **Clifton West** ward and a three member **Clifton East** ward in response to the LGBCE's proposed three member **Clifton North** Ward and two member **Clifton South** wards.

7.8 More details of the counter proposals are set out in the accompanying draft submission to the LGBCE (please see **Appendix 1**).

7.9 Where names are suggested for wards in the city, these are provisional titles put forward for the purposes of the review, and may be subject to further consultation in future.

8 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY)

8.1 None - there is no financial element in the proposal.

9 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 9.1 There are no legal issues arising from the contents of this report.
- 9.2 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) must abide by certain rules, set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, when drawing up their proposals for new ward boundaries. The proposed Response to the draft recommendations of the LGBCE, including counterproposals, appended to this report addresses these criteria and the issues raised by the Commission that prompted their review.

10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

- 10.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No X

An EIA is not required because there is no proposed change to Nottingham City Council policies or provision of services as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

11 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 11.1 None

12 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 12.1 LGBCE Draft Recommendations for Nottingham City.
- 12.2 Nottingham City Council Submission to the LGBCE on Council Size.
- 12.3 Nottingham City Council Submission to the LGBCE on Warding Proposals for the City of Nottingham.

**COUNCILLOR JON COLLINS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

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Nottingham City Council

Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England draft recommendations on new electoral arrangements for the City of Nottingham



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Executive Summary

- i) This proposal is a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (“LGBCE”) Draft Recommendations for Nottingham City, published on 31st October 2017.
- ii) Like the LGBCE, the Council supports the proposal for 55 Councillors, but across 20 three and two member wards rather than the 23 wards proposed by the LGBCE.
- iii) The City Council is proposing a warding pattern of 15 wards represented by three-members and 5 wards represented by two-members. Our counter proposal accepts 15 of the ward boundaries proposed by the LGBCE and seeks to bring together the remaining boundaries suggested by the LGBCE to maintain the important principle of multi member wards.
- iv) Our proposed warding pattern meets the commission’s statutory criteria in respect of improving electoral equality, representing community identities and interests and providing for convenient and effective local government. Our proposals also address the issues that prompted the review of electoral equality in Nottingham City.
- v) The response focuses on those wards where the City Council feels it can offer a better alternative than that put forward in the LGBCE’s recommendations, whilst also meeting the statutory criteria.
- vi) The LGBCE has made a set of proposals based on the responses to their original consultation. Of a voting population of 221,915, a total of just 24 responses were received. 2 of these were not relevant to the consultation. 18 argue for minimal change and multi-member wards, 5 call for small changes to a specific ward and 3 call for wholesale change. In response, the LGBCE’s proposals are significantly different from the current arrangements and for one constituency, Nottingham South, arguably constitute wholesale change. It is difficult to see how this is justified given the original consultation responses.
- vii) Nottingham City Council believes that the LGBCE’s original proposals, where they constitute significant change, will be expensive, damage partnership working and community cohesion and are significantly less effective and convenient than the current arrangements. For this reason, the City Council proposes changes to the LGBCE recommendations as it relates to the City, the Park, Arboretum, New Meadows, Embankment, Hyson Green, Clifton North and South, while accepting those proposals offering no or minimal change on the current arrangements.

viii) In proposing an increase in the number of wards, the LGBCE's proposals will add significantly to the cost of delivering local government services. These proposals are therefore disruptive and costly at a time when local government budgets are under extreme financial pressure. For example, by creating additional wards, there will be need for extra staff and additional polling arrangements. As a minimum, this would cost the local authority £126,000 a year, and up to £142,830 (additional information in appendix 3).

ix) The LGBCE's proposals will also affect the successful area-working model in Nottingham, which has been adopted by partners including the Police and NHS. We have strong local partnerships, which have aligned their services around the existing City Council ward boundaries and demonstrated effective working matched to local need and communities. Disrupting these working arrangements will be costly and will impact citizens who access these services. Partners will have to change their working practices to accommodate the new ward boundaries. Wholesale change will mean local people having to get used to new boundaries, and will disrupt the existing services, including the voluntary and community sector, who already work in partnership along existing boundaries lines. There is little evidence of any appetite amongst residents for this level of disruption and change.

x) Nottingham is a diverse city, where the City Council, Councillors, Communities and Partners have worked hard to deliver community cohesion. The LGBCE's proposals would undermine this work, segregating wards based on demography, income and housing tenure. This is particularly the case where single member wards are proposed and in Clifton. An additional unintended consequence of this approach is that a number of the single member wards now appear to divide communities along ethnic lines.

xi) Larger wards which are represented by more than one councillor provide the most effective and convenient local government. By having ward boundaries which span different communities, wards can better reflect Nottingham's diverse communities. This encourages councillors to balance the differing needs of the communities they serve in their decision making. Applying this principle at a ward level helps councillors to take the same approach when considering city wide issues. By contrast, small, single member wards segregated by housing tenure, demography or income, and inadvertently by race, potentially promote conflict and damages community cohesion.

xii) Nottingham City Council's response to the LGBCE's draft recommendations seeks to maintain multi-member wards in the City. This was the preferred option of 18 of the 24 responses received by the LGBCE and is consistent with the views of a significant majority in favour of minimal change.

xii) Multi-member wards have a number of advantages over single member wards. These include:

- Multi-member wards ensure there is capacity to provide effective and convenient local government. In single member wards, inevitably there are times when a councillor is unavailable to the electorate they represent, whether that be short-term absence due to personal, work or holiday commitments or long-term absence due to maternity or enforced leave, for example due to ill-health, maternity or care responsibilities. Multi member wards ensure that the wards electorate can contact a representative most, if not all, of the time. Single member wards could leave communities unrepresented. Voters in single member wards have no choice about who can represent their views or argue their case within the Council. In multi-member wards, if a constituent disagrees with the councillor's views, they have an alternative representative to talk to and seek help from. This can be particularly important in diverse communities or where, for example, a constituent would prefer to talk to a woman or someone with similar life experience to them.

xiv) Nottingham City Council notes that the LGBCE has not completed an Equality Impact Assessment on their proposals, and so has included one in this report, as well as a separate EIA on the City Council's proposals.

xv) The proposals set out in this response were formally endorsed by Nottingham City Council at a meeting of Full Council on 22nd January 2018.

1. Introduction

1.1 This document sets out Nottingham City Council's counter proposals in response to the LGBCE's consultation on its draft recommendations for warding in Nottingham City.

1.2 In July 2016, the LGBCE wrote to the Chief Executive to advise that Nottingham would be subject to an electoral review. In November 2016, representatives of the LGBCE met with the Chief Executive and Deputy Leader of Nottingham City Council to agree the process and timetable for the review. All Councillors were briefed by the LGBCE at a session on 16th January 2017.

1.3 Following this, and in line with the LGBCE's timetable for the review, the City Council submitted its view on preferred Council Size, recommending the current council size of 55 Councillors is maintained, which was accepted by the LGBCE.

1.4 Nottingham City Council also submitted its own proposed warding pattern for the city on 12th September 2017, in response to the LGBCE consultation on warding in Nottingham.

1.5 The LGBCE received 24 responses to their initial consultation, from a voting population of 221,915. Of those 24 responses, 2 were not relevant to the consultation, 18 argued for multi-member wards and minimal change, 5 for minor changes in particular wards and 3 for wholesale change. In view of the LGBCE's draft recommendations following that consultation, the City Council believes the pattern of wards recommended in this counter proposal is the most appropriate to meet the LGBCE's statutory criteria for the review, which are:

In response to this consultation, the LGBCE proposed an increase in the number of wards to 23 and significant changes, mainly across the Nottingham South constituency.

- Delivering electoral equality for local voters
- Maintaining the interests and identities of local communities in the city
- Providing for effective and convenient local government for Nottingham.

2. Draft Recommendations of the LGBCE

2.1 The LGBCE are inviting responses to their provisional recommendations for a pattern of 23 wards in the city, an increase of three wards on the current warding arrangements.

2.2 Their draft proposals breakdown as follows:

- Three-member wards: 14
- Two-member wards: 4
- Single member wards: 5

- Total number of proposed wards: 23

2.3 The following wards are identical in both the original NCC proposal and the draft recommendations from the LGBCE:-

- **Bestwood, Bulwell, Bulwell Forest, Wollaton West**

On that basis, the City Council are not proposing to respond further in relation to these wards.

2.4 The following wards see boundary changes that either include or differ only marginally from the City Council's original warding proposals submitted on 12th September 2017:

- **Aspley, Basford, Berridge, Bilborough, Dales, Leen Valley, Mapperley, St Anns, Sherwood, Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey, Dunkirk & Lenton** (*but see paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 below*)

2.5 The City Council accepts the draft recommendations of the LGBCE in respect of boundary changes for these wards.

2.6 In relation to **Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey** and **Dunkirk & Lenton** wards, the City Council originally proposed merging these wards to address concerns about electoral equality in those areas. That proposal has been accepted by the LGBCE.

2.7 The City Council proposed naming the new, merged ward "**Wollaton East, Lenton Abbey and Dunkirk**" to reflect its constituent wards. The LGBCE consider this name too unwieldy for the public to use, and instead have suggested "**Lenton and Wollaton East**" as the name for the new ward. Subject to the views of local residents, the City Council accepts their suggestion for the name of the new ward.

2.8 The following wards see major changes proposed by the LGBCE:-

- **Arboretum, Bridge, Hyson Green, Radford & Park, Clifton South and Clifton North**

2.9 More detail of the LGBCE's individual proposals for the above wards, and the City Council's counter proposals, is set out under **Section 5**.

2.10 A ward by ward analysis of the LGBCE's draft recommendations is attached as **Appendix 2**.

2.11 The draft warding pattern proposed by the LGBCE and its impact on electoral equality are summarised in the table below (*please see Table 1*).

Table 1 – Summary of LGBCE Draft Recommendations for Warding in Nottingham City

LGBCE proposals			
Ward	Councillors	2023 electorate	% difference
Arboretum Ward	1	3,610	-6.0
Aspley Ward	3	11,692	1.5
Basford Ward	3	11,735	1.8
Berridge Ward	3	11,113	-3.6
Bestwood Ward	3	12,270	6.5
Bilborough Ward	3	12,504	8.5
Bulwell Forest Ward	3	11,685	1.4
Bulwell Ward	3	10,831	-6.0
City Ward	1	3,675	-4.3
Clifton North Ward	3	12,631	9.6
Clifton South Ward	2	8,058	4.9
Dales Ward	3	11,705	1.6
Embankment Ward	1	3,581	-6.8
Hyson Green Ward	2	7,633	-0.6
Leen Valley Ward	2	7,067	-8.0
Lenton & Wollaton East Ward	3	10,875	-5.6
Mapperley Ward	3	11,781	2.2
New Meadows Ward	1	3,583	-6.7
Radford Ward	2	7,164	-6.7
Sherwood Ward	3	11,217	-2.7
St Ann's Ward	3	11,878	3.1
The Park Ward	1	3,742	-2.6
Wollaton West Ward	3	11,222	-2.6
Total	55	211,252	
Average Electorate per Councillor		3841	

3. Considerations informing our revised ward proposal

The revised warding pattern suggested in this proposal allows the City Council and our Partners to continue to provide efficient local government, decision-making and services to the public, whilst ensuring that the interests and identities of our diverse local communities are effectively represented in each ward.

In developing our proposal we have tried to reflect, as far as is possible, the many interests and identities of Nottingham's communities. We have used our knowledge of the city, its communities, shared facilities, transport links and identifiable geographical boundaries, as well as the feedback received through informal consultation with local councillors and residents.

Nottingham City Council's proposals better reflect the responses to the LGBCE consultation, which received just 24 responses. 22 of these responses were relevant to the review, with 18 arguing for minimal change. Just 3 call for wholesale change, with 5 calling for minor changes relevant to specific wards and 2 calling for a single member Park ward. This clearly demonstrates that there is little appetite amongst residents for the level of change contained in the LGBCE's proposals. It is disappointing that the small number of responses putting forward single member wards appear to have been given disproportionate weight in the review.

In arriving at our revised warding pattern, where we disagree with the draft recommendation for a particular ward, we have set out our reasons for doing so, and why our alternative proposal is better for the ward in question, its residents and the City of Nottingham.

3.1 Delivering electoral equality for local voters

The LGBCE's proposals achieve electoral equality by 2023, however are based on a number of assumptions for population change. They also only achieve electoral equality by creating false communities, such as the proposed Park ward, in which 45% of the electorate do not live in the Park Estate.

The City Council's proposals achieve electoral equality more quickly, and more accurately reflect the local communities within Nottingham. The City Council proposals include no wards that are more than 10% above or below the average electorate in the City.

3.2 Providing for effective and convenient local government

Cost

The LGBCE's proposals are disruptive and expensive at a time when local authorities are facing extreme financial pressure. Nottingham City Council has had to make savings totalling £232.7m between 2010/11 and 2017/18. We have to make extremely difficult decisions about the services we provide to make savings of £27.1m next year,

in addition to meeting the increasing cost of providing care to vulnerable children and adults in the city.

In light of the difficult savings proposals the authority is having to consider our councillors and local residents will rightly question why the LGBCE is seeking to impose additional and unnecessary financial costs on the authority at this time, as a result of its proposed changes. Full details of the costs can be found in appendix 3.

If the LGBCE's proposals were adopted, we would have to change our successful area working to fit into single member wards. Partners such as the Police and health colleagues would also have to make costly changes. This would undermine the model of area working that was highlighted and praised in our recent Local Government Association Peer Review.

By contrast, the City Council's proposals keep within the existing 20 wards, preventing additional costs which would be incurred by creating additional wards. They also maintain boundaries along community lines as far as possible. The City Council's proposals are therefore more cost effective and better reflect the financial position of the local authority.

Lack of capacity

The LGBCE's proposals to create single member wards provide less effective and less convenient local government by reducing the resilience of local representation.

Ill-health and personal issues are unavoidable, however local residents rightly expect to be represented at all times, and under the LGBCE's proposed single member wards this clearly would be put at risk. There is little provision under the Local Government Act 1972 for the authority to address this. Under the Local Government Act, a councillor can be off sick but still a councillor for a period of 6 months, and longer in some circumstances. Adopting the LGBCE's recommendations could potentially result in some areas being unrepresented at certain times.

The Local Government Act (1972) states:

- S.85 - If a councillor fails throughout a period of 6 consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall (unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period) cease to be a member of the authority;
- S.89 - Where a casual vacancy for a councillor occurs within 6 months before the day on which the councillor would regularly have retired then an election shall not be held in the interim before the ordinary election, except in the unlikely event that the total number of unfilled vacancies exceeds one third of the total number of councillors

For example, in 2017 a by-election was held in Bestwood ward, following a period of ill-health of one of the local councillors. Had this been a single member ward, the local community would have been unrepresented for several months in the run up to the by-election.

Given the commission's statutory criteria of providing for effective and convenient local government, and representing the best interests and identities of local communities, it is difficult to see how its proposed single member wards can be reconciled with this outcome.

In contrast, the City Council's proposals to maintain multi-member wards allow for more effective and convenient local government, through providing greater resilience within wards, allowing councillors to support each other in times of increased demand, cover when personal or work issues arrive, and ensure the residents of the ward continue to receive the democratically accountable representation they rightly expect at all times.

Representation in diverse communities

The LGBCE's proposals for single member wards mean that the diversity of some communities will not be reflected by its councillors. Having more than one councillors to represent an area is an important part of the effective democratic representation and governance of the city. It is a model that is endorsed and supported by all our partners, and a key part of both their engagement with the public and their delivery of services.

Multi member wards provide the best representation for areas and individuals. Having more than one councillor means that elected members can better reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. In Nottingham, there are many residents who don't have English as their first language. Having a range of different councillors of different genders and different language skills representing each ward means that people can nearly always have a local representative who understands them, and who they are comfortable approaching. The City Council's proposals therefore ensure the best democratic representation for all residents of the city.

3.3 Maintaining the interests and identities of local communities in the city

The LGBCE's proposals do not reflect the diversity and longstanding community ties that exist across Nottingham. The proposals segregate communities based on income, housing tenure, demography. In unintentional consequence of this is that some single member wards appear now also to be segregated along ethnic lines. For example, the proposed Park ward is separated from surrounded areas based on housing tenure, income and inadvertently race. Another example are the two single member wards proposed in the Meadows, which separate the more middle class, owner

occupied areas from the rest of the Meadows, which is generally lower income, council housing.

By contrast, our proposals create wards that better reflect the city as a whole. Our proposals better reflect the geography of the city, the city's existing diversity and public perception of community. For example, the electorate of the area covered by the LGBCE's proposed Arboretum ward in fact identifies with Hyson Green and not the university. The City Council's proposals for a combined Hyson Green and Arboretum ward reflects this. In Clifton, the City Council's proposals for a Clifton East and Clifton West split recognise that the Clifton Estate has a single identity and not an identity divided as proposed by the LGBCE.

4. Summary of counter proposals to LGBCE's Draft Electoral Arrangements

4.1 Summary of counter proposals

- (i) Nottingham City Council's counter proposals respond to the LGBCE's proposed single member wards of: **Arboretum, City, Embankment, New Meadows** and **The Park**. In addition, our counter proposals also impact on the LGBCE's suggested two member **Hyson Green** ward.
- (ii) Our response also covers the LGBCE's proposed **Clifton North** and **Clifton South wards**, putting forward an alternative warding pattern for **Clifton East** and **Clifton West** wards that better reflects Clifton's communities and their interests, whilst conforming to the LGBCE's statutory criteria.
- (iii) The overall number of wards in the city is maintained at 20, an increase of one on our original warding proposal. The City Council is proposing a warding pattern of 15 wards represented by three members, and 5 wards represented by two members.
- (iv) Where the LGBCE have recommended single member wards for the city, we have used these as the building blocks for wards that, in the view of the city council and our partners, better represent our local communities, their interests and the best interests of the city as a whole, for the reasons previously set out under Section 3.
- (v) They also adhere to the LGBCE's statutory criteria, including on electoral equality, with no ward proposed with an electoral variance that is greater than +/-10% from the city average.
- (vi) For the LGBCE's proposed single member **Park** and **City** wards, we submit the counter proposal of a merged two member **Castle** ward that includes both wards.
- (vii) In respect of the LGBCE's proposed single member **Arboretum** and two member **Hyson Green** wards, we submit a counter proposal for a three member **Hyson Green & Arboretum** ward.
- (viii) Where the LGBCE draft recommendations propose to split the Meadows area into two single member wards (**New Meadows** and **Embankment**), as an alternative, the City Council suggests a two member **Meadows** ward that better maintains the links and community identity of the area.
- (ix) In light of the other changes suggested, the City Council accepts the LGBCE's proposal to create a two-member **Radford** ward. This ward makes sense in light of the other counter proposals the City Council is making.
- (x) The use of "**Castle**" as the name of the newly formed ward comprised of the LGBCE's suggested **Park** and **City** wards, is subject to further consultation and the views of local residents and is used only for the purposes of this proposal.

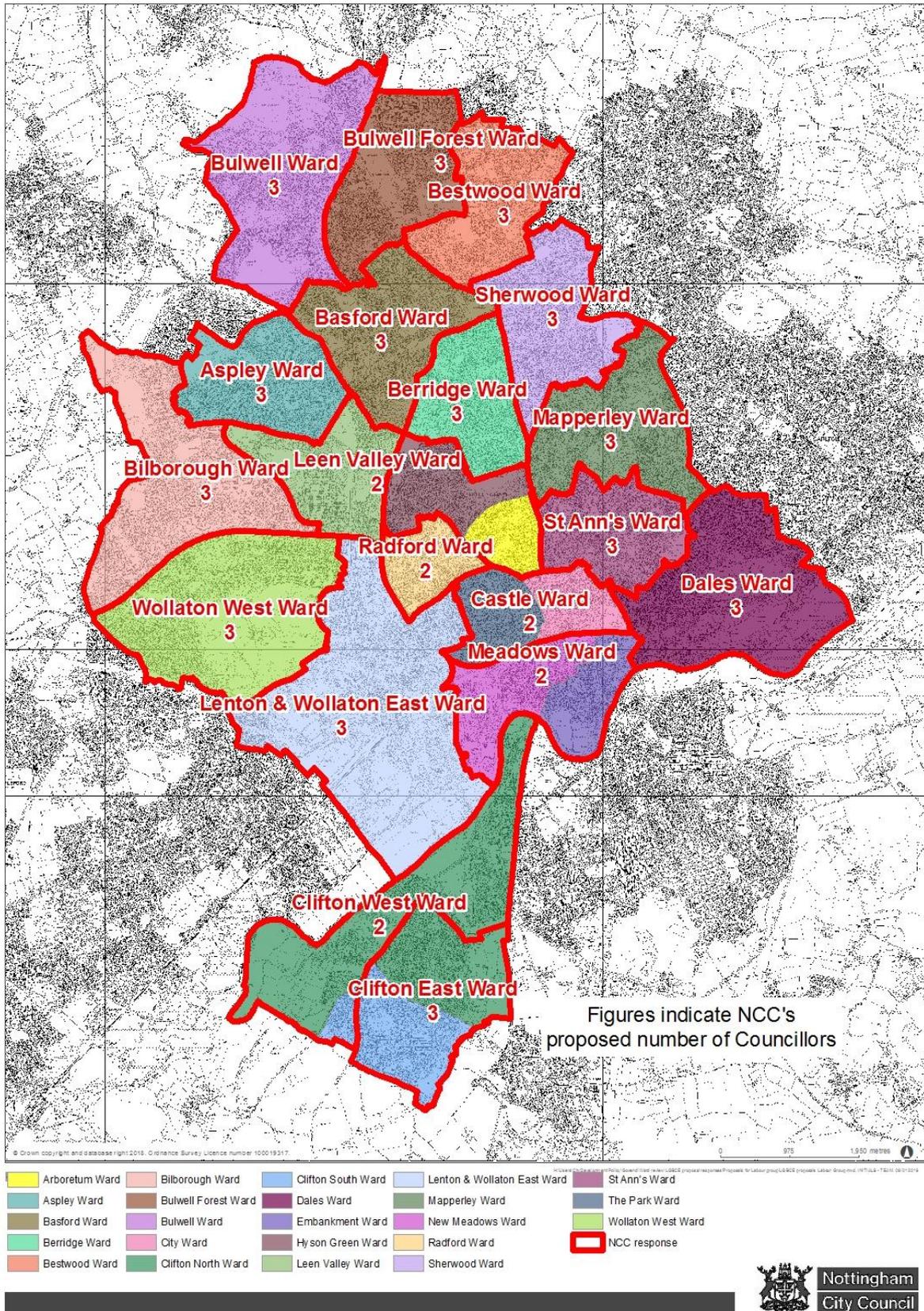
(xi) “**Meadows**” as a name for the merged ward formed from the LGBCE’s proposed **Embankment** and **New Meadows** ward is a provisional title suggested by officers that better reflects the area and relationships between the communities in it. It is subject to further consultation and the views of local residents, and is used only for the purposes of this proposal.

(xii) Based on the pattern of wards in our counter proposal, the electorate and variance forecast for 2023 is set out below (See *Table 2*). A map showing the City Council’s proposed warding pattern for the city, overlaid onto the LGBCE proposals, is also included below.

Table 2: Electorate and variance based on Nottingham City Council proposed warding pattern, in 2023.

NCC response			
Ward	Councillors	2023 electorate	% difference
Aspley Ward	3	11,692	1.5
Basford Ward	3	11,735	1.8
Berridge Ward	3	11,113	-3.6
Bestwood Ward	3	12,270	6.5
Bilborough Ward	3	12,504	8.5
Bulwell Forest Ward	3	11,685	1.4
Bulwell Ward	3	10,831	-6.0
Castle Ward	2	7,417	-3.4
Clifton East Ward	3	12,593	9.3
Clifton West Ward	2	8,096	5.4
Dales Ward	3	11,705	1.6
Hyson Green and Arboretum Ward	3	11,243	-2.4
Leen Valley Ward	2	7,067	-8.0
Lenton & Wollaton East Ward	3	10,875	-5.6
Mapperley Ward	3	11,781	2.2
Meadows Ward	2	7,164	-6.7
Radford Ward	2	7,164	-6.7
Sherwood Ward	3	11,217	-2.7
St Ann's Ward	3	11,878	3.1
Wollaton West Ward	3	11,222	-2.6
	55	211,252	
Average electorate per councillor		3841	

LGBCE proposals and NCC response



5 Detailed counter proposals by ward

In this section, we will put forward our counter proposals by ward. Each counter proposal will be laid out as follows:

1. The LGBCE's proposals by ward
2. Analysis of the LGBCE's proposals
3. Nottingham City Council's counter proposals
4. Analysis of the City Council's proposals

The arguments for and against will be set out in the following sections:

- Community
- Cost
- Consultation responses
- Effective and Convenient Local Government
- LGBCE's statutory criteria regarding number of electors

5.1.1 LGBCE proposal- The Park and City wards

The LGBCE has proposed a single member **The Park** ward and a single member **City** ward.

The Park ward includes the whole of Park Estate and also the residential areas between the estate and Maid Marian Way, which were part of the existing Radford & Park ward. The LGBCE have also added a small number of properties from the current Dunkirk & Lenton ward and included the flats and housing on Castle Marina, to ensure it meets the LGBCE's own electoral thresholds.

The **City** ward's southern boundary is at the railway line with the newer flats to the south of the train station included in the **New Meadows**. Marco Island and the bus depot join the new **City** ward from **St Ann's** and **Dales** respectively.

5.1.2 Analysis of the LGBCE's proposals

- Community

The LGBCE's proposed **Park** ward contains significant areas of housing along Derby Road, Maid Marian Way and at Castle Marina which do not form part of the actual Park Estate itself. These areas are maintained and serviced by the City Council, rather than the private Park Estate management.

These areas are physically separated from the actual Park Estate by fencing/railing and high boundary walls along Castle Boulevard and Derby Road, which cut these areas off from the Park itself.

The ward cannot justifiably be described as representing a self-contained community, particularly when most of the electorate outside the Estate are clearly aligned with the

city centre, not with the Park. Having a single member ward named after the Park estate, when the Commission has had to make up the numbers by almost half of residents (45%) who do not live in this area, is not representative of the local area and does not provide effective or convenient government for all residents of the proposed Park ward.

With no clear links to the Park Estate itself, it is difficult to justify in terms of the LGBCE's own statutory criteria the inclusion of so many people who do not live in the Park in a single member **Park** Ward, other than to artificially ensure the ward fits the LGBCE's electoral variance threshold.

These areas very clearly look to the city centre for their amenities, as those amenities are not available within the Park Estate.

- Cost

The LGBCE's proposals create additional cost to the council at a time of extreme financial difficulty. They also disrupt our well established principle of areas working. On the principle of one Neighbourhood Development Office per ward, this would create an additional cost of at least £42,000.

Additional information about costs can be found in Appendix 3.

- Consultation Responses

Only 24 responses were received to the LGBCE's initial consultation. 2 were not relevant to the consultation. Of these, only 2 argued in favour of the creation of a single member Park ward. The remaining 21 either called for multi member wards to be maintained or did not mention this. Therefore, the LGBCE's proposal does not reflect the views expressed in the initial consultation.

- Effective and Convenient Local Government

The proposed **City** ward is an area where an individual councillor would have to deal with a disproportionately high caseload due to a high proportion of unregistered student residents. A single councillor would find themselves burdened with a heavy caseload.

Single member wards do not allow elected representation to reflect the diversity of the communities they represent. They also mean an area is vulnerable to be unrepresented if a councillor is absent due to personal circumstances or illness.

Single member wards are less able to respond to the needs of their communities and can create gaps in representation for local people.

The proposals undermine representation. Diverse communities are best served through giving choice. One councillor cannot be as effective as two or three in representing multiple and diverse needs.

- LGBCE's statutory criteria regarding number of electors

The proposals meet the statutory criteria. However, in order to meet the criteria for a single member ward, housing from Derby Road, Maid Marian Way and Castle Marina has been included that is clearly not part of the Park Estate. This has been used to make up the numbers in order to meet the LGBCE's own threshold of electoral equality not varying in any ward by +/- 10%. Without the electors from these areas, the proposed ward would be too small to justify being a separate ward with a single councillor.

No strong evidence has been provided by the LGBCE to justify the inclusion of this additional housing in the Park ward.

5.1.3 Nottingham City Council Counter Proposal: Castle Ward

Nottingham City Council proposes merging the two single member wards proposed by the LGBCE- **City** and **Park** wards, to create a two member **Castle** ward that aligns on the external boundaries of those wards.

Nottingham Castle is suggested as being a suitable focal point in the middle of the new ward and a link between the two areas (access to the Park Estate can be gained by a road and path that runs alongside the Castle). On that basis, we propose "**Castle**" as the name for the new ward.

5.1.4 Analysis of the City Council's Proposals

- Community

Our proposals better reflect the areas they represent by bringing together and maintain the cohesion of the city centre community through merging the proposed **City** and **Park** wards. These proposals recognise that there are a significant number of residents who live near to but not in the Park Estate.

Residents of the Park Estate look to and use the amenities available in the city centre, probably more so than they do to any other area of the city. They also commute to and work in the city centre. These amenities are not available within the Park Estate.

The City Council's proposals better reflect the interests of the communities on Derby Road, the Ropewalk, Standard Hill, Maid Marian Way, Castle Boulevard and Castle Marina. These areas have far more in common with the rest of the city centre, and have links to its amenities and communities over the Park Estate, which does not have the facilities itself.

- Cost

The City Council's proposals do not incur additional and unnecessary costs to the local authority at a time of reduced funding and difficult budget decisions. For

example, by creating one ward rather than two, fewer Neighbourhood Development Officers are needed, reducing the cost to the council.

- Consultation Responses

Of the 24 responses received to the LGBCE's consultation, 21 either called for multi member wards to be maintained or did not mention them. One of the responses calls for the Park and city centre areas to be represented together. Therefore, the City Council's proposals better reflect the views expressed by local people.

- Effective and Convenient Local Government

Having more than one councillor for an area creates a better diversity of representation, reflecting the communities represented by a ward area.

A multi member ward is better placed to respond to the needs of its community and ensures continuity of representation for local people in the event of Councillor absence/ill-health

There would be a significant benefit to residents in terms of access to their representatives if this additional burden was spread over a two member ward rather than a single member.

Larger wards which are represented by more than one councillor provide the most effective and convenient local government. By having ward boundaries which span different communities, wards can better reflect Nottingham's diverse communities. This encourages councillors to balance the differing needs of the communities they serve in their decision making. Applying this principle at a ward level helps councillors to take the same approach when considering city wide issues.

The City Council's proposals reflect the diversity of communities in the area and allow a for diverse representation.

- LGBCE's statutory criteria regarding number of electors

The City Council's proposals meet the LGBCE's criteria for electoral equality, without artificially including 45% of the proposed electorate that live in areas and communities with no obvious links to the Park Estate.

Our proposals also reflect that 45% of the electorate of the LGBCE's proposed **Park** ward do not actually live within the Park Estate.

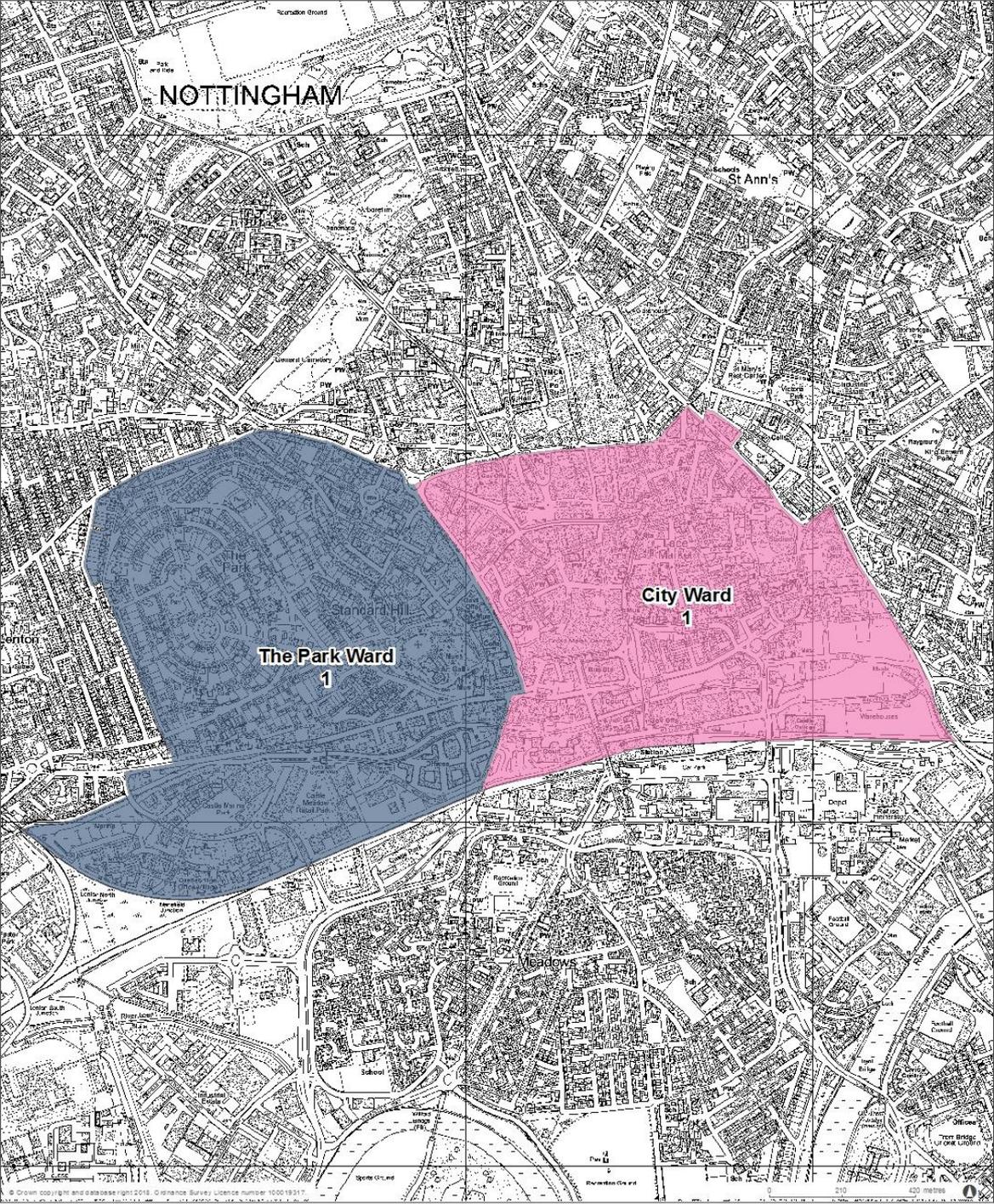
Radford Ward

The majority of the remaining **Radford & Park** ward is included in the LGBCE's proposed two-member **Radford** ward. The northern part of the existing ward, roughly bounded by New Road, Hartley Road, Radford Boulevard and Player Street, has been transferred into the new **Hyson Green** ward. The new **Radford** ward is nearly 7%

below the average ward size, but contains large areas of student housing including Faraday Road, the Opal development and the roads between Derby and Ilkeston Roads.

In light of the changes proposed elsewhere by the LGBCE, the City Council reluctantly accepts the LGBCE's proposed two-member **Radford** Ward. However we wish to highlight to the commission our concern about the negative impact of their proposal, which, by removing the Park from the current Radford and Park ward, effectively segregates the two areas based on ethnicity, income and type of housing. Nottingham City Council believes this is inappropriate and it is an approach which is unwelcome in Nottingham.

LGBCE proposals - City and The Park



Key



5.2.1 LGBCE Proposal: Clifton North and Clifton South wards

The LGBCE have proposed a much smaller **Clifton South** ward consisting of the area bounded by Green Lane, Barton Lane and the City boundary, with only two councillors. The LGBCE proposal for **Clifton North** moves a further 1,900 voters from South to North in addition to the 600 moved under the NCC proposal. This includes the area between Glapton Lane and Green Lane on Clifton Estate, Clifton Village and the Hartness Road Estate. It retains three councillors.

5.2.2 Analysis of the LGBCE's proposals

- Community

The LGBCE proposal gives two wards where the majority of electors in both are residents of Clifton Estate, artificially splitting this longstanding area and community, which dates back to the 1950s and 1960s, into two areas.

This is not a boundary that local residents would recognise and the commission's proposal to separate a small part of Clifton Estate into a two member Clifton South ward ignores the strong community ties across the area.

Despite their proximity to Clifton Estate, Clifton Lane operates as a significant barrier between these communities and the Estate. In particular, there are very few links between the Estate, the Wilford and Silverdale areas, and the Nottingham Trent University campus, which make up the majority of the proposed ward's population. It also includes all of the housing north of Farnborough Road including the Wilford and Silverdale areas and Brooksby Lane.

There is a distinct community identity in Clifton, the Clifton estate, which the LGBCE's proposals does not respect.

- Consultation responses

Only 24 responses were received by the LGBCE to their initial consultation. None of these responses called for the warding pattern suggested by the LGBCE and most support the principle of minimal change.

- Effective and convenient local government

There are limited justifications for the LGBCE's proposed ward boundaries. As such, it is difficult to argue that unrecognisable boundaries would create effective and convenient local government. Having wards which are split across such boundaries would make it difficult for any councillor to truly represent their area, or have a full grasp on the area that they represent.

- LGBCE Statutory criteria regarding number of electors

The proposals meet the LGBCE's statutory criteria. However, this is done through the creation of an artificial community.

5.2.3 Nottingham City Council Counter Proposal: Clifton East and Clifton West wards

In response to the LGBCE's proposals, Nottingham City Council proposes two new wards for Clifton on an East/West split. The proposed new **Clifton East** ward contains the Clifton Estate and is bounded by Farnborough Road and Farnborough School to the North, Clifton Lane to the West and the City boundary to the South and East. The **Clifton East** ward would be represented by three councillors.

The proposed new **Clifton West** ward includes all of the housing West of Clifton Lane including the Nobel Road and Hartness Road Estates, Lark Hill retirement village, Clifton Village, the Nottingham Trent University Clifton Campus and Clifton Grove. It also includes all of the housing north of Farnborough Road including the Wilford and Silverdale areas and Brooksby Lane. The **Clifton West** ward would be represented by 2 councillors.

The City Council originally proposed two wards, each with three Councillors, with 600 voters moving from Clifton South into Clifton North to make sure all of the properties on Wheatacre Road are in Clifton North.

5.2.4 Analysis of the City Council's proposals

- Community

Our proposal keeps the Estate in one ward rather than splitting it over two wards as put forward by the LGBCE and then grouping it with other communities which operate quite separately from it.

The Clifton Estate is the most distinct community in the area and is virtually self-contained in terms of transport and services. It has a history as the largest council estate in Europe and should be represented as a single community by three councillors.

Our proposals better reflect the communities and identities in the area and the divide between Clifton Estate and the wider area.

The Nobel Road estate is different to the rest of Clifton, it is post-war housing. Creating the Clifton West estate brings together a number of different communities which are independent of the rest of the Clifton Estate.

- Consultation responses

Only 24 responses to the LGBCE's initial consultation were received. These responses do not support wholesale changes, however the City Council's responses

provide minimal disruption by keeping the Clifton Estate together as the most recognisable single area in Clifton.

- Effective and convenient local government

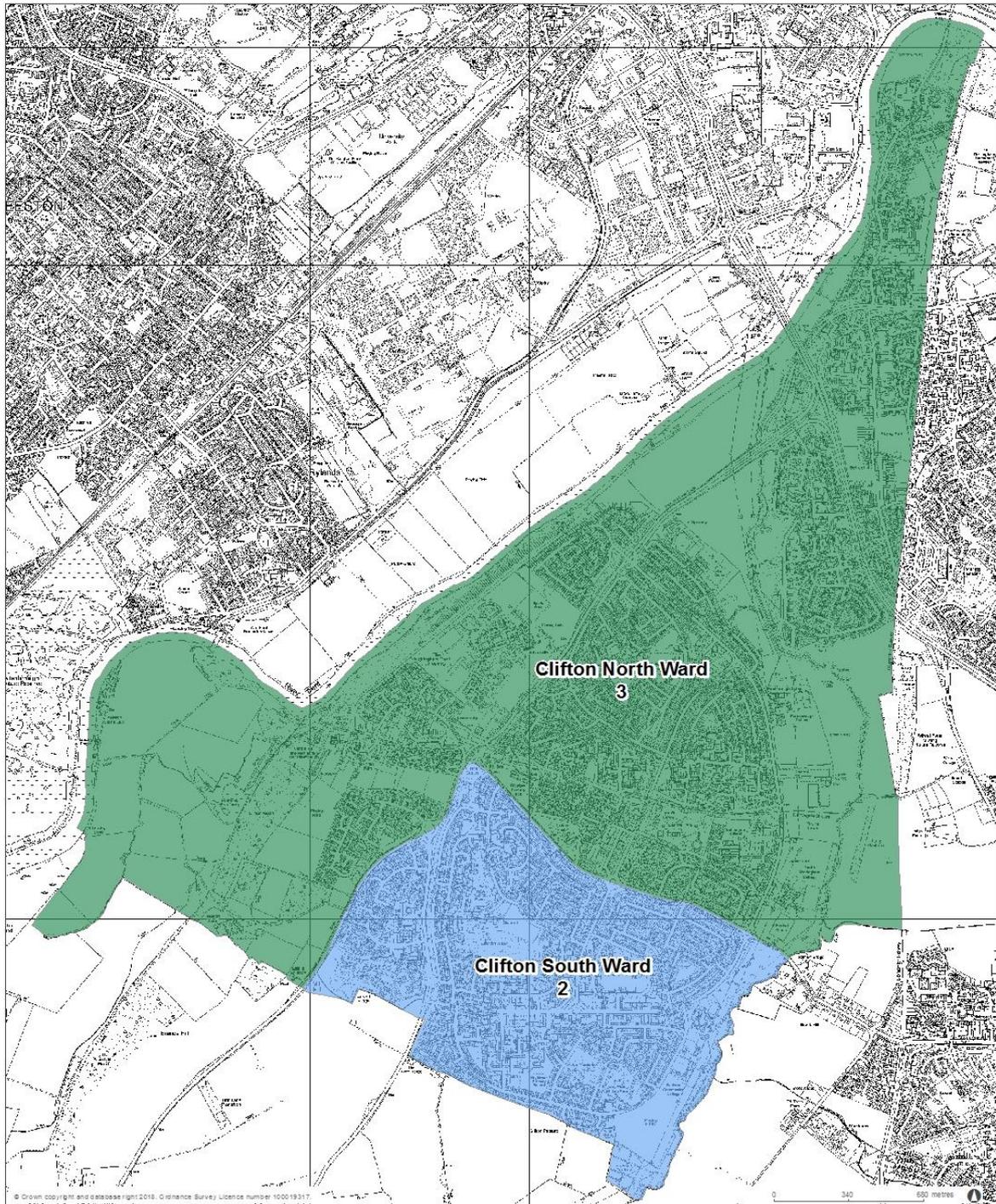
Our proposed **Clifton East** ward means three councillors can concentrate on residents' issues affecting Clifton Estate, which houses the majority of the population in Clifton, with the two Councillors in our proposed **Clifton West** ward able to address residents' issues in the smaller areas of Clifton Village, Nobel Road and Hartness Road Estates, the NTU Campus, Silverdale and Wilford. This will provide more effective and convenient local government, meaning issues in both areas can be given greater focus.

The City Council's proposals retain the diversity of communities in the area and the diversity of their representatives.

- LGBCE's statutory criteria regarding number of electors

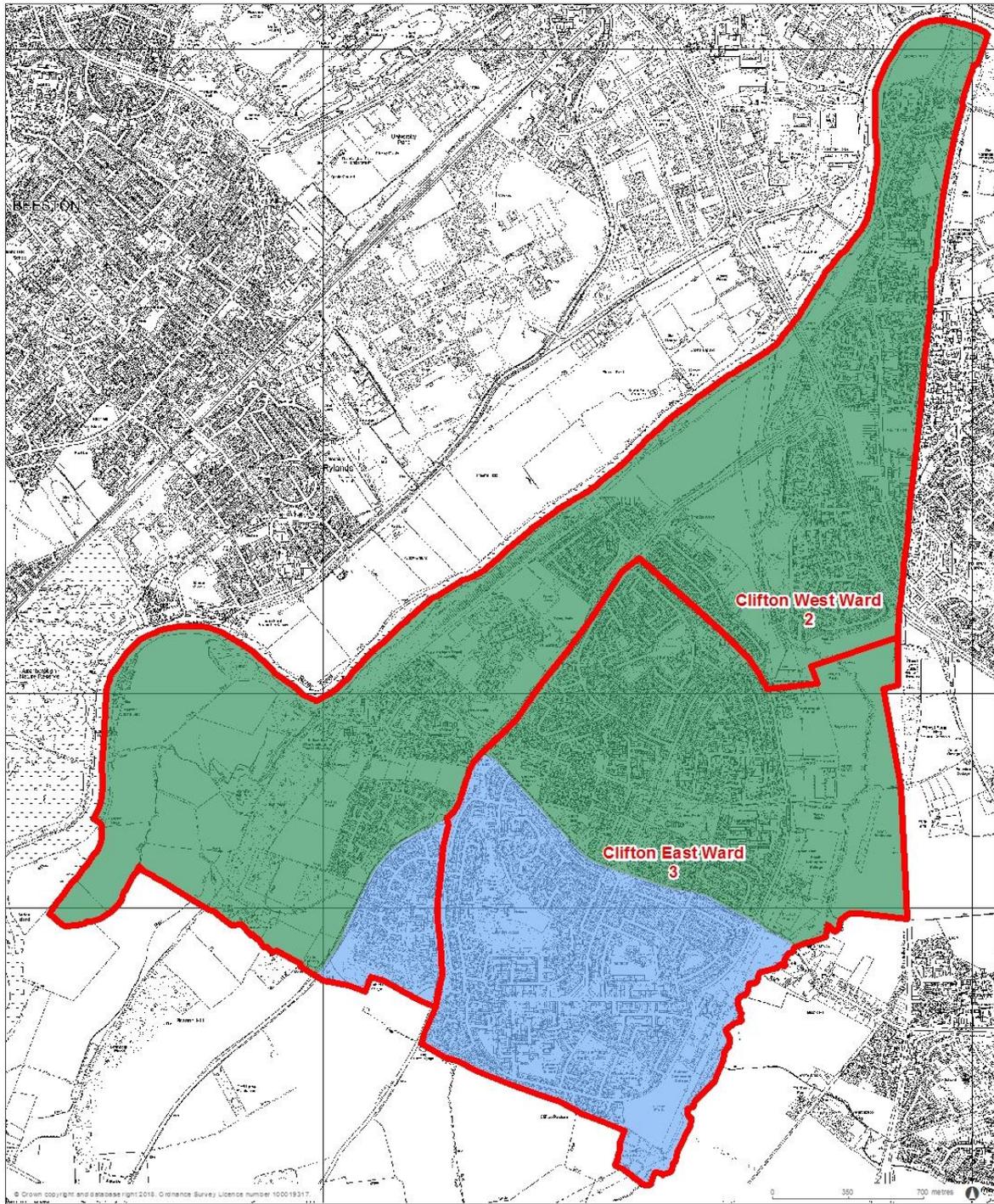
The City Council's proposals meet the LGBCE's statutory criteria in relation to electoral equality.

LGBCE proposals - Clifton North and Clifton South



Key

LGBCE proposals and NCC response - Clifton East and Clifton West



Key

5.3.1 LGBCE proposal: Hyson Green and Arboretum Wards

As a result of their proposed reduction in the number of councillors in **Clifton South from three to two**, and to maintain the recommended council size of 55 councillors, the LGBCE has had to accommodate an extra councillor in a different ward in the City.

This has been done by expanding part of the area currently covered by the existing **Arboretum** ward to form a wider area that also takes in parts of other existing wards including **Berridge, Leen Valley, Radford & Park** and **Hyson Green**.

The current **Arboretum** ward has been extended to the north and west, taking an area bounded by: Russell Road and Gladstone Street from the current **Berridge** ward; the Bobbersmill part of the existing **Leen Valley** ward and the parts of the current **Radford and Park** ward north of Hartley Road and Player Street.

These new areas and the existing **Arboretum** ward north of Forest Road have been combined to form a new **Hyson Green** ward with two councillors. The remaining part of the existing **Arboretum** ward, south of Forest Road, forms a single member ward.

5.3.2 Analysis of the LGBCE's proposals

- Community

We disagree with the Commission's conclusion that **Arboretum** has more in common with and looks predominately towards the city centre and the Nottingham Trent University Campus. An analysis of registered electors in the proposed Arboretum ward shows that very few are either students or work at the university. Indeed, the majority of the electorate live in Birkin Patch, along Bentinck Road and in the housing association and public housing in between Forest Road and Alfreton Road. These three areas look to Alfreton Road, Radford Road and Gregory Boulevard for their services and therefore look towards and identify as part of Hyson Green. Their needs and community ties have been disregarded by the LGBCE's proposals.

The LGBCE's proposals split the community between Forest Road West and the General Cemetery and also separate the existing communities in the areas north of Forest Road.

- Cost

The LGBCE's proposals incur additional and unnecessary costs to the local authority at a time of reduced funding and difficult budget decisions.

For example, based on the existing principle of one Neighbourhood Development Officer, this would require another NDO, at a cost of £42,000.

Additional information about costs can be found in Appendix 3.

- Consultation responses

Only 24 responses were received by the LGBCE to their initial consultation. Of these, 22 were relevant. Only three called for single member wards, whilst 18 call for multi member wards or do not mention them. One of the responses calls for the communities ties between Arboretum and Hyson Green to be recognised. This response has not been taken into consideration. The LGBCE's proposals are not support by public appetite.

- Effective and convenient local government

Under the LGBCE's proposals, local residents may struggle to access their local councillor, given the high demand on councillor time in the area.

The LGBCE seem to contradict themselves, in that the numbers used in calculating electoral equality do not take into account many students, who have not registered to vote. However, their proposals for the Arboretum ward seem to be based on the lives of students in Arboretum. Students are not the main demographic group in this group, and certain not reflective of the overall voting population locally.

Single member wards do not allow elected representation to reflect the diversity of the communities they represent. They also mean an area is vulnerable to be unrepresented if a councillor is absent due to personal circumstances or illness.

Single member wards are less able to respond to the needs of their communities and can create gaps in representation for local people.

The proposals undermine representation. Diverse communities are best served through giving choice. One councillor cannot be as effective as two or three in representing multiple and diverse needs.

- LGBCE's statutory criteria regarding number of electors

The LGCBE's proposals meet the statutory criteria relating to electoral equality

5.3.3 Nottingham City Council Counter Proposal: Hyson Green and Arboretum Ward

We propose a combined **Hyson Green and Arboretum** ward to form a two member ward.

The City Council originally proposed a small change to **Arboretum** ward to include an area of the existing **Berridge** ward around Hyson Green Asda bounded by Noel Street and Berridge Road.

5.3.4 Analysis of the City Council's proposals

- Community

Merging the two wards would enable this community to be contained in a single ward without having a detrimental effect on the other two communities in the proposed **Arboretum** ward.

The tram runs through Arboretum into Hyson Green and beyond, clearly linking the two areas, with residents of Arboretum looking to the shopping and facilities available in Hyson Green, including the market, supermarket and other facilities available. These are more accessible to people living in the Arboretum than their equivalents in the city centre.

The City Council's proposals therefore correctly reflect that residents in Arboretum use the mixture of facilities available in Hyson Green rather than the city centre.

The commission's proposed **Arboretum** ward is made up of three distinct communities. The largest of these is between Forest Road West and the General Cemetery and there is a high degree of alignment between this area and the area north of Forest Road that is contained within the commission's **Hyson Green** ward. The City Council's proposals keep these communities together.

The City Council's proposals much better reflect the community ties of residents living in Bentinck Road, the Birkin Patch and parts of Alfreton Road.

Therefore a combined **Hyson Green and Arboretum** ward better reflects the communities in the area, their links, and how the area functions on a day to day basis.

- Cost

The City Council's proposals do not incur additional and unnecessary costs to the local authority at a time of reduced funding and difficult budget decisions. For example, by creating one ward rather than two, fewer Neighbourhood Development Officers are needed, reducing the cost to the council.

- Consultation responses

Only 24 responses were received by the LGBCE to their initial consultation. None of these responses called for the warding pattern suggested by the LGBCE and most support the principle of minimal change.

- Effective and convenient local government

Merging the two wards would mean this additional burden can be spread between the two councillors rather than all being taken on by a single councillor. This would have obvious benefits for local residents who under the current proposals may struggle to access their representative.

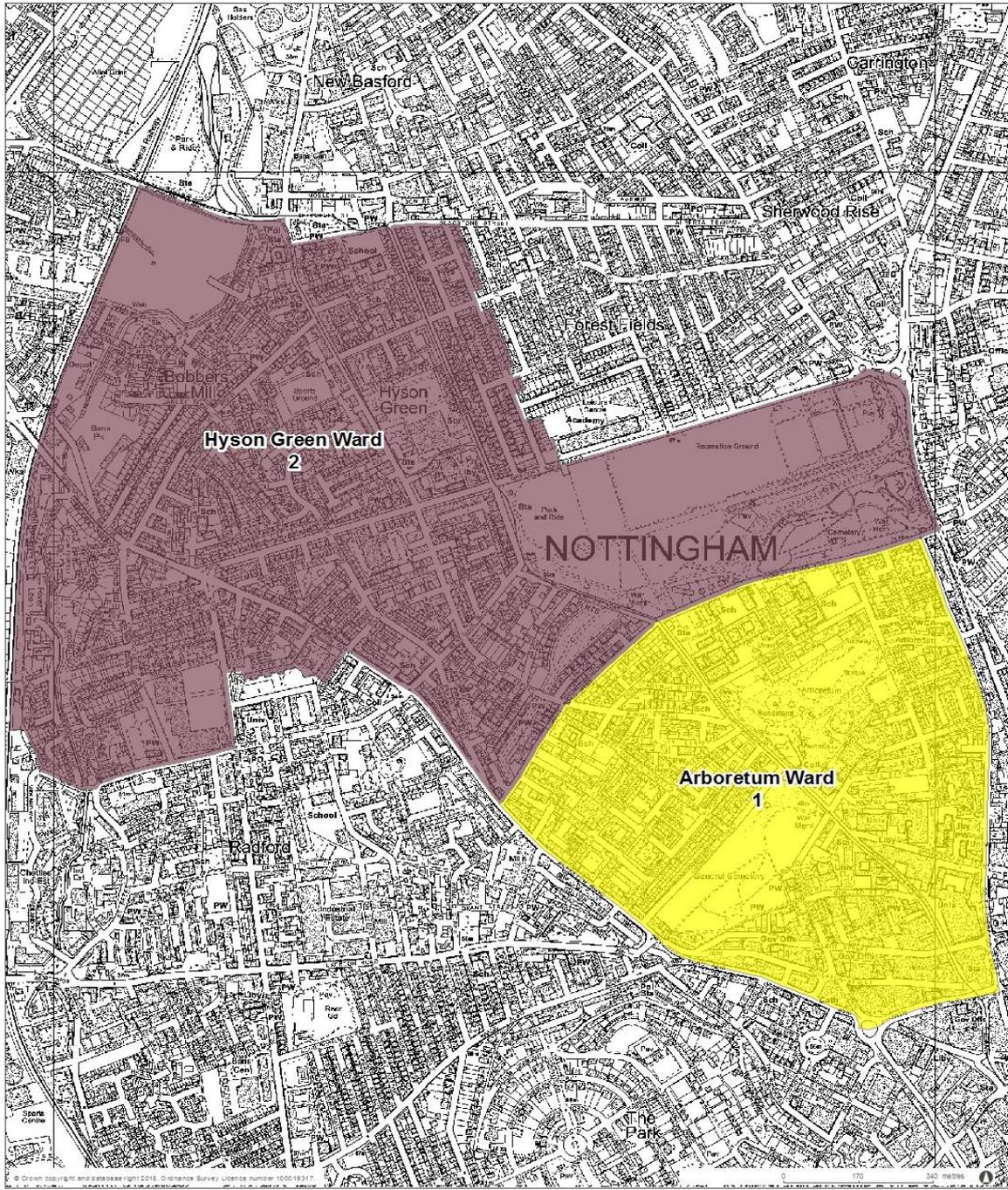
Having more than one councillor for an area creates a better diversity of representation, reflecting the communities represented by a ward area.

A multi member ward is better placed to respond to the needs of its community and ensures continuity of representation for local people in the event of Councillor absence/ill-health

- Larger wards which are represented by more than one councillor provide the most effective and convenient local government. By having ward boundaries which span different communities, wards can better reflect Nottingham's diverse communities. This encourages councillors to balance the differing needs of the communities they serve in their decision making. Applying this principle at a ward level helps councillors to take the same approach when considering city wide issues.
- The City Council's proposals reflect the diversity of communities in the area and allow a for diverse representation.
- LGBCE's statutory criteria regarding number of electors

The City Council's proposals meet the LGBCE's statutory criteria, including of electoral equality, without splitting the community between Forest Road West and the General Cemetery, and maintains its community links to the area north of Forest Road.

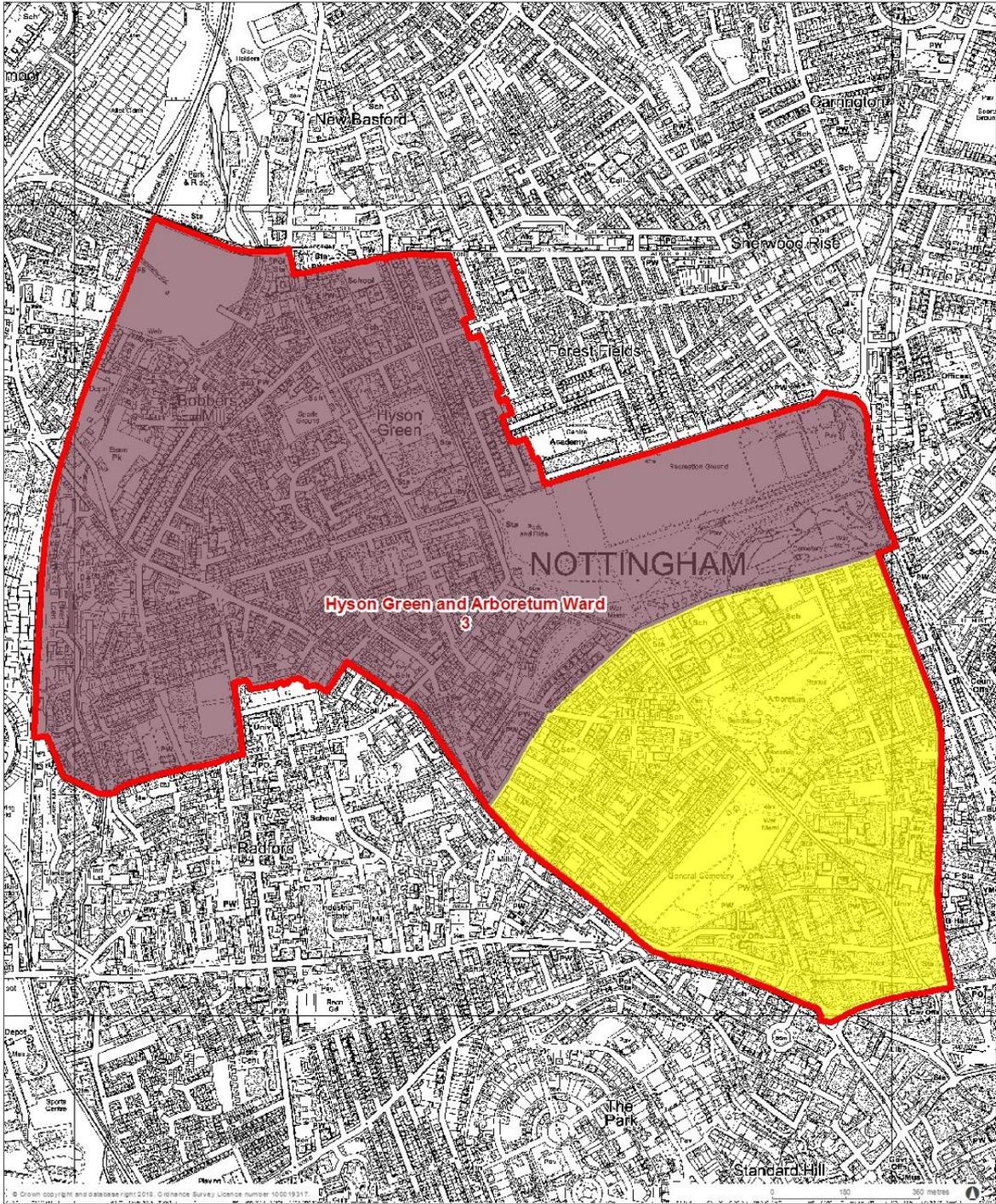
LGBCE proposals - Arboretum and Hyson Green



Key



LGBCE proposals and NCC response - Hyson Green and Arboretum ward



Key



5.4.1 LGBCE Proposal: New Meadows and Embankment

The LGBCE have proposed three single member wards which fall within the current **Bridge** ward boundary: **City**, **New Meadows** and **Embankment**.

The Meadows is divided roughly based on the areas of pre and post 1970s housing, although some of the newer housing around Arkwright Walk is included in the **Embankment** ward to ensure that both wards meet their threshold.

5.4.2 Analysis of the LGBCE's proposals

- Community

The LGBCE's proposals create unnecessary division of a long-standing, well-recognised community based on housing tenure and income.

The commission's proposal to split the area based on the different housing types isn't appropriate and furthermore isn't fully achieved. A significant number of voters in the newer housing around Arkwright Walk have been included in their proposed **Embankment** ward to ensure it meets their electoral threshold.

The LGBCE's proposals split an estate owned by Nottingham City Council and maintained by Nottingham City Homes (NCH), with one proposed boundary using a footpath access route within a single unified estate. The LGBCE's proposals seem to divide a genuinely recognisable neighbourhood in a way that is against the commission's own statutory criteria.

The LGBCE seem to suggest that the existence of two residents associations, OMTRA and NEMTRA, supports splitting the Meadows area. However, this view is not supported by these organisation, the members of which are strongly opposed to the idea that these areas should be segregated.

The LGBCE's proposal has the unintended consequence of dividing up the wider Meadows area based on demographic, income and housing type/tenure lines, which is not appropriate for the City of Nottingham.

- Cost

The LGBCE's proposals incur additional and unnecessary costs to the local authority at a time of reduced funding and difficult budget decisions.

For example, based on the existing principle of one Neighbourhood Development Officer, this would require another NDO, at a cost of £42,000. Additional information about costs can be found in Appendix 3.

- Consultation Responses

Only 24 responses were received by the LGBCE to their initial consultation, of which 22 were relevant to the consultation. Of these, only three called for single member wards, whilst 18 call for multi-member wards or do not mention them. None called for changes to the Meadows. Therefore, the LGBCE's proposals are not supported by public appetite.

- Effective and Convenient Local Government

Single member wards do not allow elected representation to reflect the diversity of the communities they represent. They also mean an area is vulnerable to be unrepresented if a councillor is absent due to personal circumstances or illness.

Single member wards are less able to respond to the needs of their communities and can create gaps in representation for local people.

The proposals undermine representation. Diverse communities are best served through giving choice. One councillor cannot be as effective as two or three in representing multiple and diverse needs.

- LGBCE's statutory criteria regarding number of electors

A significant number of voters in the newer housing around Arkwright Walk have been included in their proposed **Embankment** ward to ensure it meets their electoral threshold.

5.4.3 Nottingham City Council Counter Proposal: Meadows Ward

We propose merging the **New Meadows** and **Embankment** wards into a single, two member ward to be called "**Meadows**".

NCC originally proposed increasing the number of councillors in **Bridge** ward to three but maintaining the current boundary and Meadows area of the city as a unified whole, but this was not accepted by the LGBCE.

5.4.4 Analysis of the City Council's proposals

- Community

Combining the two proposed single member wards into a unified two-member ward more accurately represents the local "Meadows" community identity and means that the newer 1970s style housing is all contained in a single ward, rather than being artificially split up to ensure electoral thresholds are met.

The Meadows area acts as one community with the same services, shops and transport all serving both the newer housing in the north and west of the area and the older housing in the south. The area has had a strong sense of a collective "Meadows" identity for many years, extending back beyond the previous electoral review that took place in 2000.

The City Council's proposals respect the current "Meadows" identity, which is distinct from the rest of the city and extends back beyond the last LGBCE review in 2000.

The City Council's proposals also better reflect the views of the two tenants and residents' associations, OMTRA and NEMTRA, which both support keeping the Meadows together.

The Bridgeway Centre, nearby shopping and other amenities are used by all residents of the Meadows. The Victoria Embankment area is similarly used by the whole of the Meadows.

The City Council's proposals maintain the Meadows as a unified area, with a single ward covering it, rather than artificially splitting into two. The City Council's proposals therefore better reflect the links between communities in the Meadows area and how they use the nearby amenities.

- Cost

The City Council's proposals do not incur additional and unnecessary costs to the local authority at a time of reduced funding and difficult budget decisions. For example, by creating one ward rather than two, fewer Neighbourhood Development Officers are needed, reducing the cost to the council.

- Consultation Responses

Only 24 responses were received by the LGBCE to their initial consultation. None of these responses called for the warding pattern suggested by the LGBCE and most support the principle of minimal change.

In addition, both the NEMTRA and OMTRA have expressed in the strongest terms their opposition to the LGBCE's proposed changes. Although these two organisations exist, that does not reflect a local appetite to separate a long existing and well known Meadows community.

- Effective and Convenient Local Government

Merging the two wards would mean this additional burden can be spread between the two councillors rather than all being taken on by a single councillor. This would have obvious benefits for local residents who under the current proposals may struggle to access their representative.

Having more than one councillor for an area creates a better diversity of representation, reflecting the communities represented by a ward area.

A multi-member ward is better placed to respond to the needs of its community and ensures continuity of representation for local people in the event of councillor absence/ill-health

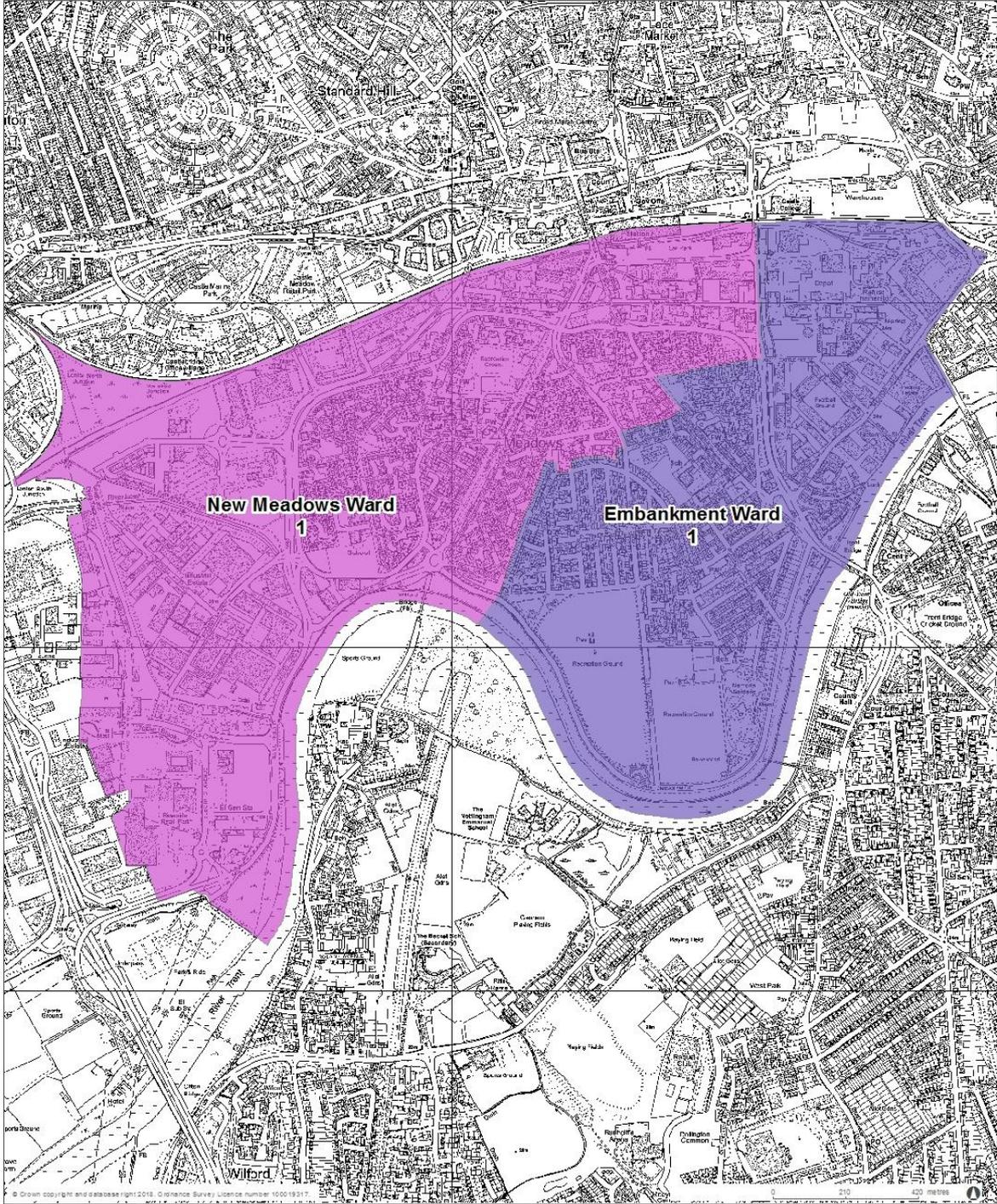
Larger wards which are represented by more than one councillor provide the most effective and convenient local government. By having ward boundaries which span different communities, wards can better reflect Nottingham's diverse communities. This encourages councillors to balance the differing needs of the communities they serve in their decision making. Applying this principle at a ward level helps councillors to take the same approach when considering city wide issues.

The City Council's proposals reflect the diversity of communities in the area and allow a for diverse representation.

- LGBCE's statutory criteria regarding number of electors

The City Council's response meets the LGBCE's statutory criteria, including of electoral equality, without the need to artificially split the community in the newer housing around Arkwright Walk between the two suggested wards to ensure the LGBCE's own electoral thresholds are met.

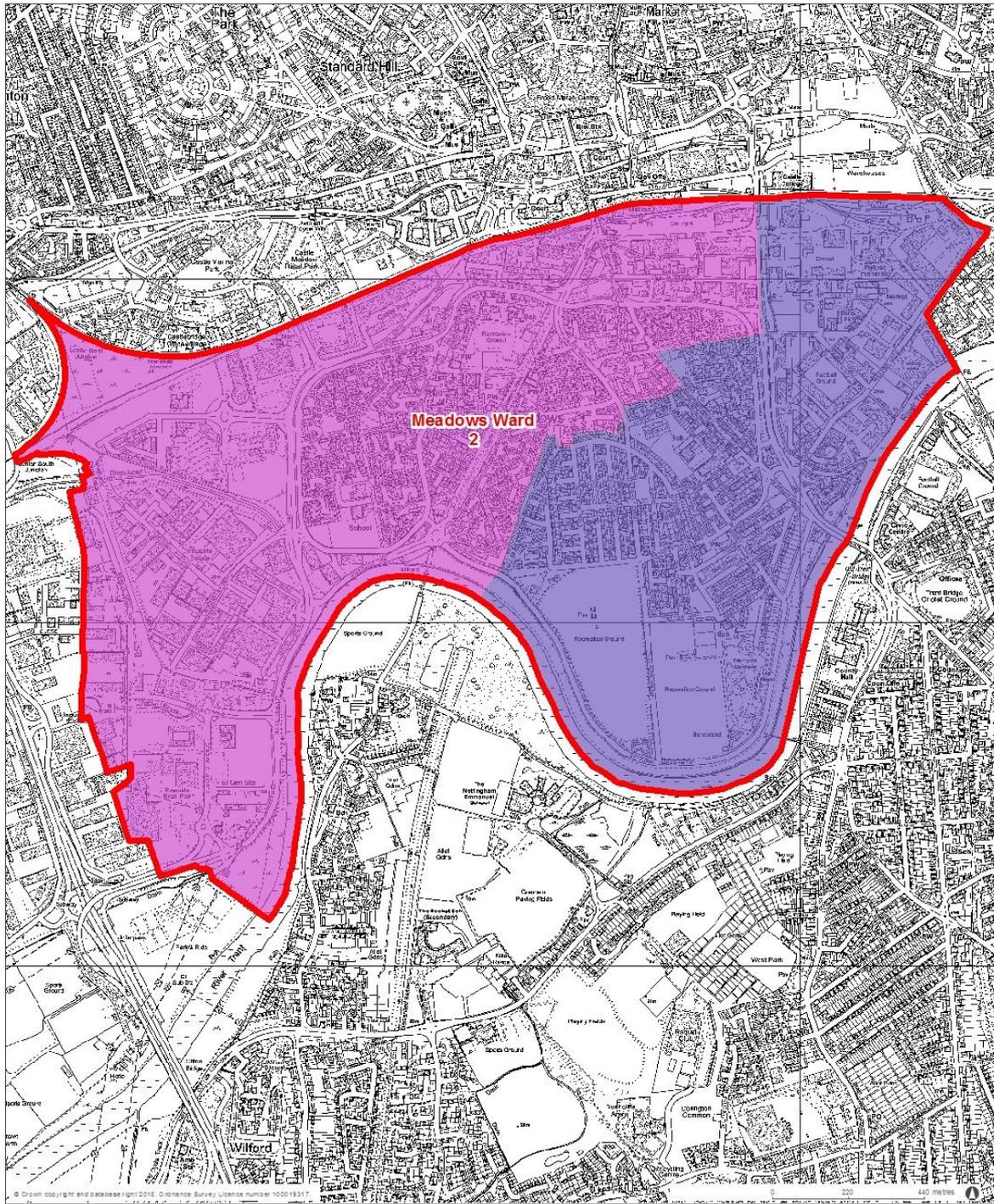
LGBCE proposals - Embankment and New Meadows



Key



LGBCE proposals and NCC response - Meadows ward



Key



6. Conclusion

6.1 The revised warding pattern set out in this counter proposal improves on the LGBCE's draft recommendations, while fully meeting the statutory criteria. Nottingham City Council have accepted the LGBCE's proposals for 15 of the wards, with the remaining wards largely being combinations of single member wards created by the LGBCE.

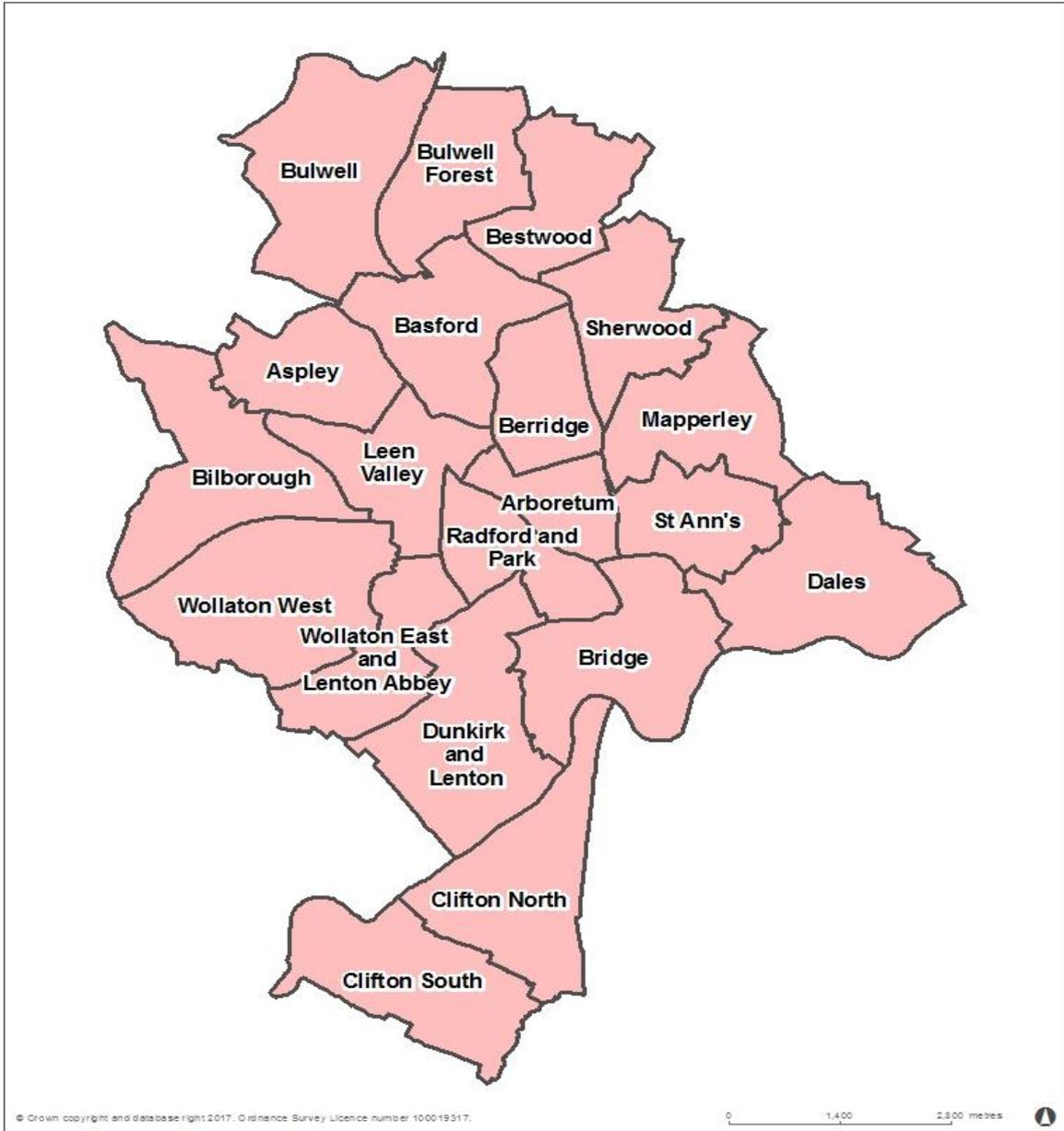
6.2 Our counter proposal has the advantage over the LGBCE's draft recommendations of:-

- Maintaining existing community identities and interests as much as possible, without unnecessarily dividing existing communities within wards to meet electoral thresholds.
- Meeting the LGBCE's statutory criteria whilst preserving the principle and benefits of multi-member wards in Nottingham.
- Reflecting the key role of councillors as representatives for local residents and in the city's governance arrangements, therefore providing for convenient and effective local government to continue in Nottingham.
- Continuing as much as possible the existing successful ward based model of service provision in the city adopted by Nottingham City Council and supported by our partners.

6.3 Given the electoral imbalances identified at the start of the review, our revised warding pattern takes account of the future growth and development of the city and its electorate. The proposed arrangements "future-proof" the wards in the city as far as possible. In practice, that means we have not put forward any wards with variances greater than +/- 10% by 2023, to comply with the criteria set by the LGBCE.

Appendix 1: Nottingham City Council – Current Warding Arrangement

Current Wards



Key



Appendix 2: Summary of LGBCE Proposals and NCC response

Ward Name	Boundary	Nottingham City Council Response
Aspley	The proposed Aspley ward covers largely the same area as the existing ward. It is bounded to the North by the City boundary, to the East by Nuthall Road and Melbourne Road. To the South it follows Aspley Lane and Strelley Road. The Western boundary has been extended West to include Helston Drive and adjoining roads between Strelley Road and Westleigh Road.	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
Basford	Basford ward is again broadly similar to the existing Basford ward with a small adjustment in the South East to move an area East of the trainline into the neighbouring Berridge ward. The ward boundary starts at Wilkinson Street in the South, follows the trainline North to the ring road. It then follows Hucknall Lane to the north, turns West along Kersall Drive to Vernon Road. The boundary then cuts West along a line North of Oakleigh Street, Lauriston Drive and Neston Drive, before turning South along Cinderhill Road and Nuthall Road before rejoining Wilkinson Street.	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
Berridge	The proposed Berridge ward is broadly similar to the existing ward with changes to the Western boundary. The Eastern boundary follows Hucknall Road and Mansfield Road. Gregory Boulevard is the Southern boundary. The Western boundary now runs between Russell Road and Ewart Road, along Gladstone Street and Wilkinson Street to the Railway. The Northern boundary follows the ring road.	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
Bestwood	The proposed Bestwood ward is identical to the existing ward. It follows the City boundary to the North and East. The Southern boundary follows the edge of the City Hospital campus with the West following	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward

	Hucknall Road, Southglade Road, Parkview Road, Old Farm Road and Muirfield Road to the City Boundary.	
Bilborough	Bilborough ward is broadly similar to the existing Bilborough ward. The Eastern border starts East of Felstead Road and follows Beechdale Road to Strelley Road. It carries on West of Helston Drive to Calverton Drive then East of Moorgreen Drive to the City Boundary. The City Boundary forms the Northern and Western borders and the Railway the Southern border.	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
Bulwell	The proposed Bulwell ward is identical to the existing ward. The boundary to the North and West is the City boundary and to the East is the Railway line. The Southern boundary follows Cinderhill Road and a line north of Neston Drive back to the Railway Line	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
Bulwell Forest	The proposed Bulwell Forest ward is identical to the existing ward. The Western boundary is the Railway Line. The Southern boundary follows a line north of Lauriston Drive and Oakleigh Street, to Vernon Road, Kelsall Drive, Hucknall Road and Southglade Road. It then turns north to form the Eastern boundary following Parkview Road, Old Farm Road and Muirfield Road to the City Boundary. The City Boundary forms the Northern border.	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
Dales	The proposed Dales ward is broadly the same as the existing ward, with a small adjustment to move some industrial buildings along Pennyfoot Street into the proposed City ward. The ward boundary follows Manvers Street to the West then follows Sneinton Road and Windmill Lane before going North East to the south of Elford Rise and the former college playing fields. It then follows Carlton Road to the City Boundary, which forms the ward's Eastern and Southern borders.	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward

Leen Valley	The proposed Leen Valley ward broadly matches the ward as initially proposed by Nottingham City Council. The Southern border now follows the Railway and then joins Beechdale Road, east of Felstead Road. It follows Beechdale Road to Aspley Lane and then to the East of Melbourne Road, to Nuthall Road and Wilkinson Street. The Eastern boundary now follow the Railway line meaning the Bobbersmill area moves into the proposed Hyson Green ward.	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
Lenton and Wollaton East	The Northern boundary starts at the Railway line and goes south between Radford Bridge Road and Southwold Drive, south of Harrow Road and then follows the Eastern and Southern edge of Wollaton Park to the City Boundary. It follows the City Boundary south to the River Trent and from the River travels North along the Eastern edge of the Lenton Lane industrial Estate, following the Railway to the Nottingham Canal. It continues North to the east of Harlaxton Drive then West along Derby Road. It then follows the Railway to the North until it rejoins the Northern boundary	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
Mapperley	The proposed Mapperley ward is broadly the same as the existing ward with an adjustment of one property on Mapperley Rise. From Mansfield Road, the Southern border follows Elm Avenue to Cranmer Street. It then goes North on Woodborough Road before following the Southern edge of the Gorseyclose and Hungerhill Gardens. The boundary then goes south along Ransom Road and east along St Bartholomew's Road and Thorneywood Rise. It then follows Marmion Road to Carlton Road and east to the City Boundary. The City Boundary forms the Eastern border. The boundary continues to the east of Woodthorpe Park than goes east of Maurice Drive, north of Morley	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward

	Avenue and south of Private Road before it joins Mansfield Road.	
Radford	Radford ward is a new ward composed of part of the existing Radford and Park ward. Its boundary follows the Railway to the West, Derby Road to the South and Alfreton Road to the East. The Northern boundary goes south of Player Street and follows Hartley Road and New Road back to the Railway	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
Sherwood	The proposed Sherwood ward is broadly the same as the existing ward with an adjustment of one property on Mapperley Rise. The wards boundary reaches a point at the join of Mansfield Road and Hucknall Road in the South. It follows Hucknall Road to the City Hospital then follows the Northern edge of the Hospital campus. It then goes north along Edwards Lane to Arnold Road and the City Boundary, which then forms most of the Eastern boundary. The boundary continues to the east of Woodthorpe Park before travelling east of Maurice Drive, north of Morley Avenue and south of Private Road before it rejoins Mansfield Road.	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
St Ann's	The proposed St Ann's ward is broadly the same as the existing ward with a small adjustment to move the Marco Island flats on Brook Street into the proposed City ward. The ward boundary follows North Sherwood Street in the West, then Forest Road, south on Mansfield Road and then along Elm Avenue to Cranmer Street. It then goes North on Woodborough Road before following the Southern edge of the Gorseyclose and Hungerhill Gardens. The boundary then goes south along Ransom Road and east along St Bartholomew's Road and Thorneywood Rise. It then follows Marmion Road and the Southern boundary of the former college playing fields south of Carlton Road. The Southern boundary	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward

	continues south of Elford Rise, along Wilndmill Lane, Sneinton Road, Southwell Road, and Parliament Street.	
Wollaton West	The proposed Wollaton West ward is identical to the existing ward. The border follows the Railway to the North, the City Boundary to the West and the Southern boundary of Wollaton Park to the South. The Eastern boundary continues to follow the edge of Wollaton Park to Harrow Road and Raleigh Island, before travelling north between Radford Bridge Road and Southwold Drive to the Railway.	We accept the Commission's recommendation for this ward
Arboretum	The proposed Arboretum ward forms part of the existing wards. The proposed boundary follows North Sherwood Street to the East, Forest Road to the North, Alfreton Road, Derby Road and Parliament Street.	See response for Hyson Green ward
Hyson Green	The proposed Hyson Green ward is an entirely new ward made up from parts of the existing Arboretum, Berridge, Leen Valley and Radford and Park wards. The boundary follows Wilkinson Street and Gladstone Street to the North, turns south between Russell Road and Ewart Road and East along Gregory Boulevard. The boundary then follows the edge of the Forest Recreation Ground, then goes West along Forest Road, Mansfield Road and then south of Player Street and follows Hartley Road and New Road to the Railway. The Railway forms the Western boundary back to Wilkinson Street	Nottingham City Council proposes merging the proposed Arboretum and Hyson Green wards into a single ward with three Councillors. There are strong transport links between the two wards due to the tram and the use of Forest Road West as the border between the two wards splits the community either side of the road.
New Meadows	The proposed New Meadows ward forms part of the existing Bridge ward. The boundary follows the River Trent to the South, the edge of the Lenton Lane industrial Estate to the West and the Railway to the North. The Eastern boundary follows London Road then a footpath between Lammas and Eugene Gardens to Arkwright Walk,	See response for Embankment ward.

	another footpath between Willersley Drive and Kirkby Gardens to Sheriffs Way, then north and west of Wilford Crescent to the River.	
Embankment	The proposed Embankment ward forms part of the existing Bridge ward. The Southern boundary follows the River Trent to Lady Bay Bridge and Meadow Lane. It then goes west on the Railway and south on London Road. The Western boundary follows London Road then a footpath between Lammas and Eugene Gardens to Arkwright Walk, another footpath between Willersley Drive and Kirkby Gardens to Sheriffs Way, then north and west of Wilford Crescent to the River.	The Commission have attempted to divide the area based broadly on different housing types. This has not been successful as both wards contain parts of the newer housing type. This is particularly problematic in the area around Arkwright Walk where an area of housing run by Nottingham City Homes is split across two wards with the boundaries drawn along footpaths rather than any recognisable dividing line. Furthermore, despite the differences in housing type, the area acts as a discrete community with shops, services and transport serving the whole area. As such, Nottingham City Council proposes merging the New Meadows and Embankment wards into a single Meadows ward with two Councillors
City	The proposed City ward is a new area which is part of the existing Bridge ward with the Marco Island flats on Brook Street also included. The boundary follows Parliament Street (including Marco Island and adjacent roads), Manvers Street, the Railway, Wilford Road and Maid Marian Way.	See response for The Park ward
The Park	The proposed The Park ward is a new area which is part of the existing Radford and Park ward, plus the area to the south between the canal and the railway which is currently in Bridge ward. The Southern boundary follows the Railway, then goes along Wilford Road, Maid Marian Way and Derby Road. The Western boundary is to the east of Harlaxton Drive then follows	Nottingham City Council proposes merging the City and The Park wards into a single Castle ward with two Councillors. The Park ward attempts to create a ward based around the privately managed Park Estate. However, the Estate has nothing in the way of shops or services and is highly aligned

	the Nottingham Canal back to the Railway.	with the City ward in respect of these things. Also, the Park Estate only accounts for 55% of the ward's electorate with the rest of the ward physically separated from the Estate by the cliff edge at the Ropewalk, and very clearly aligned with the City ward, particularly in the case of the flats along Derby Road and Maid Marian Way. Merging the two wards therefore maintains the wider City Centre community.
Clifton North	The proposed Clifton North ward is bounded to the North and West by the River Trent and to the East by the City Boundary. Its Southern border follows Green Lane through Clifton Estate and then follows Clifton Lane and Barton Land to the City Boundary.	See response for Clifton South ward
Clifton South	The proposed Clifton South ward is bounded to the East and South by the City Boundary. Its Northern border follows Green Lane through Clifton Estate and the Western border follows Clifton Lane and Barton Land to the City Boundary.	The Commission asked for recommendations for dividing the Clifton wards between five Councillors as previous submissions were based on retaining six Councillors. As such, Nottingham City Council is proposing a larger set of changes than elsewhere. The area is dominated by Clifton Estate which operates as a single, discrete community. The smaller areas adjoining the Estate (Clifton Village, Wilford, Silverdale, NTU campus etc) are themselves discrete communities which are physically separated from Clifton Estate and largely do not use its shops, facilities etc. Nottingham City Council therefore proposes a three Councillor Clifton East ward which covers almost all of Clifton Estate, and a two Councillor Clifton West ward covering these smaller communities whose concerns

		could otherwise be subsumed into the more populous Clifton Estate.
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Appendix 3 Potential Cost to Nottingham City Council of LGBCE Draft Recommendations

<u>LGBCE proposals</u>	Impact	Associated cost £	Other considerations
<u>Increasing total number of wards in the city to 23 (currently 20)</u>	Potentially requires provision of 3 additional Neighbourhood Development Officers (NDO) to ensure current arrangement of one NDO per ward continues in line with councillor and resident expectations	£42k each totalling £126k including on-costs.	
Introduction of single member wards	Potential introduction of additional area committee/committees to reflect new warding arrangements	<p>The cost of holding 4 area committee meetings per year (as is currently the case)</p> <p>£6,500 Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chair (if the current rate were unchanged)</p> <p>£1,600 in Governance Officer time to support the meeting.</p>	<p>Officer time of colleagues attending the meetings and preparing reports. This includes officers from the City Council, Nottingham City Homes and Nottinghamshire Police.</p> <p>This is difficult to quantify in financial terms, but area committee meetings typically last between 1-2 hours and involve a variety of officers from across the authority attending the meeting in regard to their specific area of council activity.</p>
Introduction of single member wards	Ensuring an in-ward provision of polling stations, so residents do not have to vote in a	A Permanent polling station costs between £170-£200 per day. (however it depends	Dependent on availability of suitable buildings/space locally for the polling

	polling district outside of their ward. Minimum of one station per ward.	<p>on the venue - some are as much as £300-400 per day);</p> <p>Temporary polling station (Portable Unit) £1,770.00 for delivery, hire for three days and collection - if no venue available.</p> <p>Presiding Officer £200 each (one per polling station)</p> <p>Polling Clerks £120.00 each (at least one per polling station but normally two, sometimes three- depending on electorate)</p> <p>Stationery costs i.e. additional notices, ballot box, new map for poll cards and sundries etc.. £100-£150</p> <p>2 x double polling booths per station @ £200 each and 1 x low level booth for wheelchair users per polling station @ £150.00</p>	station, which may be an issue in the smaller wards the LGBCE propose.
Direct Service delivery impact to align to new wards	CPO	Additional team leader time to support the need to attend an increase in meetings and ward walks – 1 additional £60k.	
Organisational Infrastructure	Realign systems and process to new wards	One off cost to realign systems and processes 2 x finance	

		officers £80k and 1 x HR officer £40k	
Total potential cost to the City Council of the LGBCE's proposals			

Title of EIA/ DDM: Impact of Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Draft Recommendations for wards in the City of Nottingham

Name of Author: Dean Goodburn

Director: Candida Brudenell

Department: Strategy & Resources

Service Area: Corporate Policy Team

Strategic Budget EIA Y/N (please underline)

Author (assigned to Covalent): Dean Goodburn

Brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed:

Background

In July 2016, the LGBCE wrote to the Chief Executive to advise that Nottingham would be subject to an electoral review. In November 2016, representatives of the LGBCE met with the Chief Executive and Deputy Leader of Nottingham City Council to confirm the process and timetable for the review.

At December 2016, there were 204,355 registered electors in Nottingham City, an average of 3,715 electors for each of the 55 City Councillors. Nottingham is being reviewed on the basis that:

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- 30% of the council's wards have an electoral imbalance of greater than +/-10% from the average ratio of electors to councillors for the city (Arboretum, Bilborough, Bridge, Clifton North, Dunkirk & Lenton and Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey wards);
- Two wards (Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey and Dunkirk & Lenton) have an electoral imbalance of greater than -30% from the average ratio for the city.

In line with the LGBCE's timetable for the review, the City Council submitted its view on a preferred Council size in May 2017, recommending the current council size of 55 Councillors is maintained. The LGBCE accepted this recommendation.

The LGBCE then announced a consultation on the pattern of wards in the city based on 55 Councillors, and the City Council was invited to submit its own proposals for a preferred warding pattern in Nottingham. A submission on behalf of the authority was approved at Full Council on 11 September 2017. It was submitted to the LGBCE 12 September 2017.

Proposals to be assessed

The LGBCE published its Draft Recommendations for a pattern of wards in Nottingham on 31 October 2017.

Their draft proposals breakdown as follows:

- Three-member wards: 14
- Two-member wards: 4
- Single member wards: 5
- Total number of proposed wards: 23

Of particular concern is that the LGGBCE has proposed 5 single member wards in the city: Arboretum, City Centre, Embankment, New Meadows and

Full details of their proposals are available here <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/east-midlands/nottinghamshire/nottingham>

Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

Citizen Survey, Consultation with Key Stakeholders, feedback from Ward Councillors and Local Residents, Indices of Deprivation, Census.

	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X
People from different ethnic groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Trans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people or carers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy/ Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none.	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Younger	<input type="checkbox"/>	√
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How different groups could be affected (Summary of impacts)	Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact (or why action isn't possible)
<p>The key impact resulting from the LGBCE's proposals for single member wards is that they will undermine cohesion in the city, based as they are on dividing wards on demographic, income and type of housing tenure lines.</p> <p>Nottingham is a diverse city, and the City Council is rightly proud of the hard work of our communities, local councillors and partner organisations to continue the high levels of community cohesion we have in</p>	<p><u>Actions to reduce negative impact of LGBCE proposals</u></p> <p>1. Multi member wards in the city allow for a diversity of elected representatives and ensure the</p>

Nottingham. The last Citizen Survey (2016/17) of local residents showed that 91% of respondents felt people from who different backgrounds got on well together in their local area.

Their proposals also risk already under-represented communities in Nottingham having their voices further diluted by proposing single member wards where the elected representative will not necessarily reflect the different communities within the ward, and may be unable to represent them to the fullest, for reasons of ethnicity, gender, language or religion.

The LGBCE's proposed single member wards will disadvantage those groups and communities overall, with the risk of poorer outcomes and unmet needs.

This is not appropriate for Nottingham and puts some of our most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities at risk of further disadvantage, by reducing their democratic representation, with potential negative impacts on cohesion and integration in the city.

A breakdown of the LGBCE's proposed wards single member wards by ethnicity is below:

	Pop/n	White British	White not British	Mixed ethn.	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other Ethnic group
Hyson Green	100.0	33.7	10.2	7.6	33.1	11.6	3.8
Arboretum	100.0	62.9	6.0	8.3	13.8	7.0	2.0
Embankment	100.0	52.9	7.8	7.1	21.6	9.6	1.0
New Meadows	100.0	51.4	9.2	9.8	13.8	13.0	2.8
Park	100.0	69.3	9.3	5.7	11.8	2.3	1.6
City	100.0	46.7	13.0	7.3	22.3	5.0	5.7

This shows that the wards are ethnically diverse, whilst their representation under the proposed single member wards will not be.

Under the LGBCE's proposals, the impact will be that areas are split along demographic, income and housing tenure lines. Replacing these multi-member wards, with their diversity of elected representation, with five single member wards and a two member Radford and Hyson Green wards will mean that already potentially under-represented and vulnerable groups in the city will not have their voices heard, with less influence in who their local representative is.

1. The proposed boundaries for the single wards do not match the community as understood locally.
2. For specific groups, such as the elderly, young families, the City Council and partners have structured our area working and services around these groups and communities.
3. Cohesion in the city is strong. If the proposed changes have the effect of segregating communities in any way, that will impact on cohesion in established, diverse communities.
4. Less diversity and choice of elected representative under the proposed single member wards will mean Councillors may not fully understand the needs of residents in their ward, due to barriers of language, culture and cultural norms, and therefore are unable to advocate for their service needs. Residents may

interests of our different communities and groups are properly heard and represented in the local democratic process. This helps to maintain and advance social cohesion in Nottingham.

2. Ensure targeted service provision and our current successful area working model, supported by partners such as the Police and NHS, continues, through matching boundaries to existing communities and multi-member wards.

3. Maintain multi-member wards to ensure that where a councillor is unable to discharge their duties for reasons of absence/ill health, there is always an elected representative for their local area that residents can turn to when they need assistance.

also be left having to approach a councillor where they may feel uncomfortable doing so for gender or religion, whereas multi-member wards with a mix allow for both men and women to approach the elected representative they feel most comfortable with.

5. All residents and communities within the five proposed single member wards will be left at risk of being un-represented for significant periods of time should the sole councillor for their ward be unable to undertake their duties as an elected representative for reasons of ill-health or absence.

Has consultation been done or planned for this proposal? •Completed •Planned

Has human rights legislation been considered in this proposal? •Yes •No

Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:

•No major change needed •Adjust the policy/proposal •Adverse impact but continue
•Stop and remove the policy/proposal

Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:

Review when Final Recommendations released by LGBCE, following by annual review of indicators of impact by the Corporate Policy Team, through for example the Citizen Survey and or Nottingham Plan to 2020.

Approved by (manager signature):

Colin Monckton
Director of Strategy and Policy
Strategy and Resources
Tel: 0115 8764832
Email: colin.monckton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Date sent to equality team for publishing:
19.01.18

Before you send your EIA to the Equality and Community Relations Team for scrutiny, have you:

1. Read the guidance and good practice EIA's

<http://gossweb.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/nccextranet/index.aspx?articleid=9770>

2. Clearly summarised your proposal/ policy/ service to be assessed.

3. Hyperlinked to the appropriate documents.
4. Written in clear user friendly language, free from all jargon (spelling out acronyms).
5. Included appropriate data.
6. Consulted the relevant groups or citizens or stated clearly when this is going to happen.
7. Clearly cross referenced your impacts with SMART actions.

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Title of EIA/ DDM: Impact of Nottingham City Council response to Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Draft Recommendations for wards in the City of Nottingham

Name of Author: Dean Goodburn

Director: Candida Brudenell

Department: Strategy & Resources

Service Area: Corporate Policy Team

Strategic Budget EIA Y/N (please underline)

Author (assigned to Covalent): Dean Goodburn

Brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed:

Proposals to be assessed

The LGBCE published its Draft Recommendations for a pattern of wards in Nottingham on 31 October 2017. This includes proposals for 5 single member wards in the city: Arboretum, City Centre, Embankment, New Meadows and The Park. This is a change from the current warding pattern in the city of a mix of three member and two member wards.

In response, the City Council is submitting its own counter proposals as in our view, the LGBCE proposals have not had due regard for equality in the city, and they have not sufficiently considered the impact of their proposals on minority and vulnerable groups in Nottingham.

Nottingham City Council has an obligation under the Equality Act 2010 to have “due regard for equality” in the way we provide services and make decisions. We must also take account of the impact on our residents of external factors, such as central government policies and legislation, as well decisions taken by external bodies, such as the Police and NHS.

As a statutory external body tasked by central Government to undertake reviews of electoral equality across local authorities in England, and empowered to make recommendations for how those local authorities should effectively be governed, we consider their Draft Recommendations should be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment to determine the potential impact of their assessments on local residents in respect of race, sex, disability, religion and other characteristics.

An EIA has been completed on their Draft Recommendations and is attached separately. See Appendix 4 to the Full Council Report.

The LGBCE’s proposed single wards divide areas on demographic, income and type of housing tenure lines. This risks already under-represented communities and areas in Nottingham having their voices further diluted through single member wards where the elected representative will not necessarily reflect the different communities within the ward, and may be unable to represent them to the fullest, for reasons of ethnicity, gender, language or religion.

The LGBCE’s proposed single member wards will disadvantage those groups and communities overall, with the risk of poorer outcomes and unmet needs. This negatively impacts on cohesion and integration in the city, and reduces the democratic participation and engagement of already disadvantaged communities, where need is the greatest.

This would fundamentally undermine two of the LGBCE’s own statutory criteria in terms of:

- representing community identities and interests,

- providing for convenient and effective local government.

Nottingham is a diverse city, and the City Council believe that multi-member wards provide the best representation for Nottingham's diverse areas and communities, ensuring that all communities and voices within our wards have the opportunity to be heard and their interests expressed through an elected representative that properly reflects and represents them.

The principle of maintaining multi-member wards in Nottingham is an important one that informs Nottingham City Council's response to the Ward Boundary Review. The City Council is proposing a warding pattern of 15 wards represented by three-members, and 5 wards represented by two-members.

Our proposals include merging the LGBCE's proposed New Meadow and Embankment wards, their proposed City and the Park wards, and their proposed Hyson Green and Arboretum wards, to create coherent multi-member wards that meet all of the LGBCE's statutory criteria, unlike their own proposals.

In our view, multi-member wards have the following benefits in comparison the LGBCE's draft recommendations:

- They provide the best representation for the diverse areas and communities in Nottingham. Having more than one councillor in a ward means that elected members can better reflect the diversity of that ward and ensure the interests of different communities and areas in within it are heard. It also ensures that on occasions when one councillor is unavailable, through absence or ill health, that an area remains represented at all times.
- In Nottingham, there are many residents who don't have English as their first language. Having a range of different councillors of different genders and different language skills representing each ward means that people can nearly always have a local representative who understands them, and who they are comfortable approaching. This ensures democratic representation for all residents of the city. This is not the case with the LGBCE's proposed single member wards.
- Unlike the LGBCE's proposals, the City Council's proposed multi member wards don't segregate existing wards into small areas based on a particular characteristic (such as demography, income, or housing tenure). That is not appropriate for Nottingham and not in the best of interests of the city and our local communities.

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Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

Citizen Survey, Consultation with Key Stakeholders, feedback from Ward Councillors and Local Residents, Indices of Deprivation, Census.

	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X
People from different ethnic groups.	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people or carers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy/ Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none.	√	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lesbian, gay or bisexual people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Younger	√	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please underline the group(s) /issue more adversely affected or which benefits.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

How different groups could be affected (Summary of impacts)	Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact (or why action isn't possible)
<p>In our view, multi-member wards have the following benefits in comparison the LGBCE's draft recommendations:</p> <p>Page 69</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They provide the best representation for the diverse areas and communities in Nottingham. Having more than one councillor in a ward means that elected members can better reflect the diversity of that ward and ensure the interests of different communities and areas in within it are heard. It also ensures that on occasions when one councillor is unavailable, through absence or ill health, that an area remains represented at all times. • In Nottingham, there are many residents who don't have English as their first language. Having a range of different councillors of different genders and different language skills representing each ward means that people can nearly always have a local representative who understands them, and who they are comfortable approaching. This ensures democratic representation for all residents of the city. This is not the case with the LGBCE's proposed single member wards. • Unlike the LGBCE's proposals, the City Council's proposed multi member wards don't segregate existing wards into small areas based on a particular characteristic (such as demography, income, or housing tenure). That is not appropriate for Nottingham and not in the best of interests of the city and our local communities. • Our proposals reduce the risk of people from vulnerable minorities and already disadvantaged groups not being represented in their local council and in turn being left unable to 	<p><u>Positive Impacts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintaining multi-member wards ensures diversity of elected representation. 2. Multi-member wards reduce the risk of unmet need and poorer outcomes for local residents through ensuring a plurality of representation and sufficient capacity within wards to allow for the different communities in a ward to be appropriately represented. 3. Multi member wards would further reduce the negative impacts of the LGBCE proposals by ensuring local people always have access to a councillor, even when a fellow ward councillor is unable to carry out their duties due to ill-health or absence. 4. This ensures continuity of democratic representation and allows all residents in the city to participate in local democracy in Nottingham the civic life of the city. 5. They maintain social cohesion and integration that would be put at risk by the LGBCE's proposals to split and divide communities into different, smaller wards based on demography, income and housing tenure. 6. Multi-member wards align to our area based model of joint working and service provision better.

influence its policies and actions.

7. Our counter proposals better reflect the communities in the city as local residents understand them.

Has consultation been done or planned for this proposal? •Completed •Planned

Has human rights legislation been considered in this proposal? •Yes •No

Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:

- Page 2700
- No major change needed
 - Adjust the policy/proposal
 - Adverse impact but continue
 - Stop and remove the policy/proposal

Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:

Review when Final Recommendations released by LGBCE, following by annual review of indicators of impact by the Corporate Policy Team, through for example the Citizen Survey and or Nottingham Plan to 2020.

Approved by (manager signature):

Colin Monckton
Director of Strategy and Policy
Strategy and Resources
Tel: 0115 8764832
Email: colin.monckton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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