



MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

REPORTS

**For meeting on Wednesday 15 March 2022 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council, Avenue Road**

MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
28-30 Belle Vue Terrace
Malvern
Worcs
WR14 4PZ
Tel: 01684 566667



8 March 2022

townclerk@malvern-tc.org.uk
www.malverntowncouncil.org

MEETING OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To all Members of Malvern Town Council:

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Malvern Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council, Avenue Road, Malvern on Tuesday 15 March 2022 commencing at 6.00 pm for the transaction of the business shown on the Agenda below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. J. Blake'.

Linda Blake
Town Clerk

No.	Agenda Item
1.	Apologies for Absence To note apologies for absence.
2.	Declarations of Interest To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other disclosable interests.
3.	Minutes of Previous Meeting To receive and confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous Full Council meeting: ➤ Meeting held 3 February 2022
Public Participation <i>The Meeting will be adjourned for public participation when the Chairman will invite members of the public to present their questions, statements or petitions submitted under the Council's Public Participation Procedure.</i> Presentation by Beverley Nielson, Malvern Hills Arts and Community College – a Business Plan	
4.	Mayor's Announcements ➤ Verbal report
5.	Update on Town Council Operations and Activities ➤ Verbal report by the Town Clerk

6.	<p>Reports by County and District Council Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Verbal report(s) or written submissions as applicable
7.	<p>Town Council Ward Reports/Representatives on Outside Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Verbal reports
8.	<p>Members Questions</p> <p>The Chairman will invite members who have written in with questions to present them to Council.</p>
9.	<p>Refreshment Tenders – Victoria Park and Rosebank Gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report CL01/22 to follow
10.	<p>Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Malvern Hills District Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report CL02/22 to follow
11.	<p>Operations and Planning Committee Recommendations – meeting held on 9 February 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report CL03/22 to follow
12.	<p>Policy and Resources Committee Recommendations – meeting held on 10 March 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report CL04/22 to follow
13.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 6.00 pm
	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public – Victoria Park Task and Finish Group Recommendations to Council</p> <p><i>To resolve pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report CL05/22 to be circulated at the meeting

UNADOPTED

MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

held in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council, Avenue Road
on Thursday 3 February 2022, at 6.00 pm

Councillors

Present

N Houghton (Chairman)
C Hooper (Vice Chairman) from 6.55pm
C Fletcher
L Lambeth
L Lowton
D Mead
N Mills
N Morton
J O'Donnell
C Palmer
P Smith
P Tuthill
D Watkins

Absent

J Ashington-Carter (apologies)
C Bovey (apologies)
J Leibrandt (apologies)
R McLaverty-Head (apologies)
J Satterthwaite (apologies)
A Stitt (apologies)
S Taylor (apologies)

Also in attendance

L Blake – Town Clerk
L Wall – Minute Clerk
Cllr Beverley Nielsen, WCC (from 6.25pm)
Cllr Karen Hanks, WCC (from 6.30pm)
Cllr Kaleem Aksar
Peter Buchanan – Malvern Hills Foodbank
Two members of the public

127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs Jack Ashington-Carter, Caroline Bovey, Ronan McLaverty-Head, Jack Satterthwaite, Aidan Stitt and Sharon Taylor were **NOTED**.

Apologies received from Cllr Clive Hooper for lateness were also **NOTED**.

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Morton had previously been a volunteer for the foodbank – agenda item 9.

Cllr Lowton had previously been a volunteer for the foodbank – agenda item 9.

129. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the following meeting be approved and adopted as a correct record of the proceedings, and they were signed by the Mayor:

- Full Council meeting 21 December 2021.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

The Chairman announced that he would be altering the order of business so that agenda item 9 Emergency Grant Application Malvern Hills Foodbank could be brought forward and discussed.

130. EMERGENCY GRANT APPLICATION – MALVERN HILLS FOODBANK

Peter Buchanan of Malvern Hills Foodbank attended the meeting to answer any questions Councillors may have regarding the emergency grant application for £1,000. He explained there had been a marked increase in the demand for services; 152 vouchers had been issued in January 2021, 212 vouchers in January 2022. This represented a 40% increase which had not been foreseen.

UNADOPTED

Whilst the foodbank had received some government funding during the pandemic, this was being used up quickly on fuel vouchers to ensure that people could heat their homes without having to go without food and it was anticipated that this funding would be fully used up by mid-March. The foodbank was able to provide immediate aid to families whilst they were awaiting help from other agencies.

The foodbank is run entirely by volunteers and is well supported by customers of the local supermarkets. Steps are taken in conjunction with other foodbanks to ensure that people do not try to take more than they are entitled to, but overall, 75% of people use the foodbank three times or fewer, and these visits are enough to help them through the most difficult times.

Report CL01/22 was received and noted.

Councillors felt the foodbank was a very worthy cause and wished to support it in the best way. They questioned why an ordinary grant application was not being made through the usual grants scheme, as it would then be possible to apply for up to £2,500 under the large grants scheme and there did not seem to be any time-urgency to the funding requirement.

Cllr Lowton asked whether it would be possible to amend the amount requested for an emergency grant. The Town Clerk replied that an amendment could be made providing that Council was happy with the planned project for which funds were being awarded. Mr Buchanan confirmed that a higher grant of £2,500 would be used to prepare an adjacent unit at the foodbank and get it into use more quickly. This space would be used to provide other services to foodbank users such as debt advice.

Councillors then agreed that they already had sufficient information for a higher grant award and it would not be necessary for Mr Buchanan to re-apply through the large grants scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** to award an Emergency Grant of £2,500 to Malvern Hills Foodbank. A condition of this is that the Foodbank sends a report detailing how the money was spent to the Town Council.

Peter Buchanan thanked members of the Council and left the meeting at 6.20 pm.

The Mayor then reverted to the original order of the agenda.

131. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had not attended many events as Mayor, representing the Town Council, but his diary was becoming busier over the next few weeks, including the public consultation events on the new community hub. He encouraged councillors to engage with the people in their wards to get their thoughts and opinions on the proposals.

The Mayor's Peaky Blinders Charity Casino night has been rescheduled and will now take place on 22 April. Everyone welcome.

Finally, the Malvern Hills Challenge event will take place this year on 30 April.

132. **UPDATE ON TOWN COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Town Clerk reported that after a quieter time operationally in December and January, it was now beginning to get busier with a number of projects taking place.

Refurbishment of Barnards Green Bus Shelter

The Operations Team has been hard at work carrying out the refurbishment of the shelter to its former glory of 1998. Works have included repainting the exterior and interior, fitting new bulkhead lights and shot-blasting the seats. The Remembrance

UNADOPTED

poppies which are an integral part of the memorial's décor will also be carefully repainted. Town Council staff have also been able to repair the clock which is now in good working order. Finally, there will be a new art installation to remind the community of the shelter's importance as a war memorial, and the Council will work with local schools for this.

Cllr Beverley Nielson joined the meeting at 6.25pm

The Jenny Lind Fountain in Rosebank Gardens

Ground works for this fountain are now underway, having been slightly delayed by the discovery of an underground water tank. The outline of the wall has now been cut out and concreted in, and works are continuing.

Refurbishment of Bus Shelter at Rosebank Gardens

Works to the shelter outside Rosebank Gardens will commence soon, with the Operations and Planning Committee considering a report on this at its next meeting on 9 February.

Land at Mill Lane

The transfer of this land should take place very soon. There are still some small works required to fences and gates as per the initial agreement but a new and amended landscaping plan has been agreed.

Small and Large Grants Scheme

The second half of this year's scheme is now open with application forms available on the Town Council website. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Thursday 10 March and these will be looked at during the Policy and Resources meeting scheduled for 30 March.

Cllr Karen Hanks joined the meeting at 6.30pm.

133. **REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

County Councillor Natalie McVey had sent a written report to the office and this would be distributed after the meeting.

County Councillor Karen Hanks reported as follows:

the draft budget for 2022/23 had been presented to the Cabinet meeting on 6 January with a recommendation for an increase of 3.94% on council tax overall as well as increasing the number of Highways Liaison Officers, extending Highways and Transport Control Response contact hours to 7am – 7pm on weekdays, investment of £6 million in completing transition to LED street lighting in Worcestershire and a small discretionary infrastructure budget of £500,000.

Cllr Hanks had used some of her discretionary budget from 2021/22 for the following:

- Footpath works in Lower Howsell, due to start on 19 April
- An additional VAS unit for Malvern Link.
- A communal fridge
- Festive Cheer bags (MTC initiative)
- All About Malvern advertising for Malvern Link traders

Discretionary budget for 2022/23 would be used towards an assessment for controlled crossing between Summerfield Road and Church Road, and a wooden knee rail fencing at the verge on Queen Elizabeth Road to stop vehicles driving over the grass.

UNADOPTED

Cllr Hanks told members she would welcome requests for her 2022/23 divisional fund, available from April.

County Councillor Beverley Nielsen reported that she has been focussing on the alignment of the three tiers of government for highway purposes in Great Malvern. There were at least thirty separate issues in Langland Division but the focus had been Great Malvern in Priory Ward, where the main problems were with speeding, with pedestrians expressing discomfort when walking along Church Street and Worcester Road. To help combat speeding on Worcester Road, more crossing points could be installed including a crossing point by the bus shelter outside Rosebank Gardens.

A meeting had been scheduled to discuss new bike racks in Graham Road and repairs will be carried out to the pavement between 42 and 45 Worcester Road.

There were some lamp columns in Malvern that would be replaced with an appropriate 'heritage' design.

District Councillor Kaleem Aksar, District Councillor, reported that £250,000 was being spent on dredging the pond in Priory Park and £200,000 on refurbishing the public toilets in Grange Road. Within the Link, there had been a number of planning related matters, including a variation in affordable housing for the Northeast Malvern development, and a new application for 130 homes off Stocks Lane.

Cllr Cynthia Palmer, District Councillor, reported that the play area in Priory Park is now nearly finished, and the pond is being cleared; as part of these works the car park at the District Council will be closed from 9 February. Cllr Palmer also reported that she, as Chairman of MHDC, and the Mayor will hold a joint civic service on 9 April at 2.30pm, with the theme of "Friendship", at St Matthias Church.

134. TOWN COUNCIL WARD REPORTS/REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

135. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

None.

Cllr Clive Hooper joined the meeting at 6.55pm and Cllr Aksar left the meeting.

136. PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE NEW BUILDING AT VICTORIA PARK

The Town Clerk gave an update on the progress of the public consultation: leaflets detailing the consultation and with survey attached were in the process of being delivered to 11,000 households in the All About magazine. Some had been returned already and others completed online. The consultation events had been advertised as widely as possible, on social media, a large banner at Victoria Park, on all Town Council noticeboards, in the Gazette, and on the Town Council website. It was hoped that this advertising would bring lots of people along to at least one event.

Additions are being made to the website information following comments from members of the public on accessibility and location of the new building.

The closing date for the consultation is 28 February.

137. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEES

Report C02/22 was received and accepted. The report made three recommendations regarding the appointment of new councillors to the committees as well as one councillor wishing to change committees.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

UNADOPTED

- i. Cllr David Mead to be appointed to Operations and Planning Committee and the Environmental Panel.
- ii. Cllr Clive Fletcher to be appointed to Policy and Resources Committee.
- iii. Cllr Lou Lowton to be appointed to Operations and Planning Committee

138. **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022/23 COUNCIL YEAR**

The Town Clerk explained that the draft calendar showed committee meetings being held on Wednesdays and Full Council on Thursdays. Attempts had been made to avoid clashes with MHDC meetings, although some were inevitable due to financial or audit deadlines. With this in mind, the draft calendar was **AGREED**.

139. **CALENDAR OF TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS 2022/23**

Report CL04/22 was received and noted.

Whilst the calendar was mainly for the newer Councillors, it would also serve as a reminder to everyone of the sorts of events which the Town Council runs, as well as how many volunteers are required.

140. **OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Report CL05/22 was received and accepted and the Chairman of Operations and Planning Committee, Cllr Cynthia Palmer, presented the recommendations from the meeting held on 24 November 2021.

Minute 69 The Queen's Jubilee Event

It was **RESOLVED** that an event be held on Sunday 5 June 2022 to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee incorporating the suggestions made by the committee and listed in the report and with a budget of £3,500.

Minute 70 Health and Wellbeing/Malvern Peaks Challenge Event

It was **RESOLVED** that the plans for a Health and Wellbeing Fair/Malvern Peaks Challenge Event on Saturday 30 April 2022 be agreed.

Minute 72 CCTV at Victoria Park Basketball Courts

It was **RESOLVED** that CCTV be installed at the basketball courts at Victoria Park and that £600 be spent to install power to run the system.

141. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Report CL06/22 was received and accepted and the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee, Cllr Clive Hooper, presented the recommendations from the meeting held on 8 December 2021.

Minute 32 Malvern Town Community Support Grant 2022/23 – Community Action and District

The recommendation was that Community Action be awarded a Malvern Town Community Support grant of £10,900 for the year 2022/23. Whilst all members agreed that Community Action carry out a vital support service, some felt that the organisation was not in need of financial help as there was already a substantial amount in reserves. Following a full discussion,

It was **RESOLVED** that Community Action be awarded a Malvern Town Community Support grant of £10,900 for the year 2022/23 and that it be included in the 2022/23 annual budget. The grant will be paid in monthly instalments until either Belle Vue Terrace building is sold or Community Action choose to terminate their lease.

Minute 35 CALC Employment Award Scheme

UNADOPTED

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council adopts and enters the CALC Employment Award Scheme.

142. EMERGENCY DECISION MAKING GROUP

Report CL07/22 was received and noted.

143. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 6.00 pm in Malvern Hills District Council chamber.

The meeting finished at 7.30 pm.

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(Chairman)

DRAFT

**A REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK TO
A MEETING OF MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
to be held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council, Avenue Road**

REFRESHMENT TENDERS – VICTORIA PARK AND ROSEBANK GARDENS

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. For decision.

2. Recommendation

2.1. Council is asked to consider refreshment tenders for council-owned land as follows:

- i. An ice cream and soft drinks tender for Victoria Park
- ii. An ice cream and soft drinks tender for the summer months at Rosebank Gardens

3. Background

3.1. Historically, the Town council awarded an annual contract for an ice cream and light refreshments tender at Victoria Park. This was awarded to an “ice cream van” and brought in income of between £1,200 and £2,000 per annum.

3.2. Following agreement for a change of use to the pavilion at Victoria Park in 2013, the tender ceased and a small café was given a seven-year lease to run from the pavilion.

3.3. When the Town Council decided to build a new pavilion at Victoria Park, the decision was made not to renew the lease and following a small extension, the café closed in November 2020.

3.4. Most recently, following a tendering exercise, a mobile refreshments unit was given a ten-month contract to sell hot and cold beverages, confectionary, ice creams and a selection of light snacks. This contract ends on 31 March 2022.

3.5. Given the plans to redevelop Victoria Park, Council is being asked to consider a return to a mobile van selling ice cream and soft drinks. This avoids issues such as where to site a more permanent unit, given space restraints, and also the problem with power provision/generators.

3.6. Rosebank Gardens has never had an official refreshment tender but officers have been approached by a local trader to ask if a tender could be considered for Rosebank Gardens during the summer months. Officers feel if in an appropriate format this could enhance the park for users but it would be very different in nature to that in Victoria Park.

3.7. In accordance with financial regulations, refreshment tenders would need to be advertised to allow local companies to submit details, photographs and a fee submission. Each tender would need to be appropriate and in keeping with each of the two sites to ensure that they fit with location, environs and needs of park users.

4. Financial Implications

4.1. Refreshment tenders would be awarded in return for a fee for a specific period. This would create income for the Town Council.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. A refreshment tender contract would be drawn up and signed by both parties to ensure all terms and conditions are fully sealed.

End

Linda Blake
Town Clerk

**A REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK TO
A MEETING OF MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
to be held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council, Avenue Road**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND –
MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. For decision.

2. Recommendation

2.1. That Council considers whether it wishes to submit further comments following the draft recommendations report dated January 2022 on the new electoral arrangements for Malvern Hills District Council.

2.2. Council may wish to submit comments relating to:

- i. The proposed changes to district ward boundaries / councillor numbers within Malvern Town.
- ii. The proposed changes to Malvern Town Council wards.

3. Background

3.1. In August 2021, Full Council agreed to set up a task and finish group to submit comments on the public consultation being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission on ward boundaries and councillor numbers for Malvern Hills District Council.

3.2. This group met on two occasions and submitted detailed proposals on behalf of the Town Council. A copy of the final submission is attached at Appendix A to this report. Councillors will note that the task and finish group chose only to make comments on wards within Malvern Town, rather than within the district as a whole.

3.3. Following this initial consultation period, in January 2022, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England published its draft recommendations for the new electoral arrangements. This report is attached at Appendix B.

3.4. Comments are now being sought on these recommendations with a closing date of 21 March and Full Council is asked to consider if it wishes to submit a response.

3.5. The draft recommendations incorporate many of the suggestions put forward by the Town Council in respect of electoral arrangements for District Council wards within the Town.

3.6. Councillors' attention is drawn to the proposed and revised electoral arrangements for Malvern Town wards under item 84 of the report. This recommends that Malvern Town Council should comprise twenty councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

- Chase 4
- Link 4
- Lygon 1
- Pickersleigh 2

- Pound Bank 1
- Priory 3
- St Joseph 1
- Upper Howsell 2
- West 2

4. Financial Implications

4.1. None pertaining to this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1. In drawing up new electoral wards, the boundary commission must balance three legal criteria:

- 1) To deliver electoral quality, where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the district.
- 2) That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local committees
- 3) That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government

End

Linda Blake
Town Clerk

Malvern Town Council

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Town Clerk

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17 September 2021

Malvern Town Council supports the proposals to reduce the number of councillors on Malvern Hills District Council from 38 to 31, a reduction of 7.

The Town Council's proposals are that the number of Councillors representing the Malvern Town area should be reduced from 15 to 12.

Whilst the Town Council feels that a further one councillor could be reduced in the area covering Longdon, Ripple, Upton and Hanley, and Morton, the Council feels that the specifics of the boundaries and borders should be left to those who are more familiar with the area.

There are then a further 3 councillors to be saved from the north of the district by adjusting polling districts.

Malvern Town Council did not have access to the district council's software to calculate accurate projected electorate numbers for 2027. Therefore, where polling districts have been split within our proposals, estimates for 2027 electorates have been calculated by taking the 2021 electorate for the area separated with an assumption that electorate growth is uniform across the polling district.

Each 2027 electorate for our new suggested wards may not be 100% accurate as a result but will be broadly right and should fall within the 10% variance.

The main principle behind the recommendation is that Malvern Town, rather than simply having one centre, has a series of local/town centres which are not acknowledged in the current ward boundaries. Notably, Link Top is currently split between three wards (Priory, Link and West) despite being a hub of the Malvern Link community and Barnards Green is split between two wards currently, with the ward boundary between Chase and Pickersleigh wards running alongside the shops and splitting the main Barnards Green Road in half.

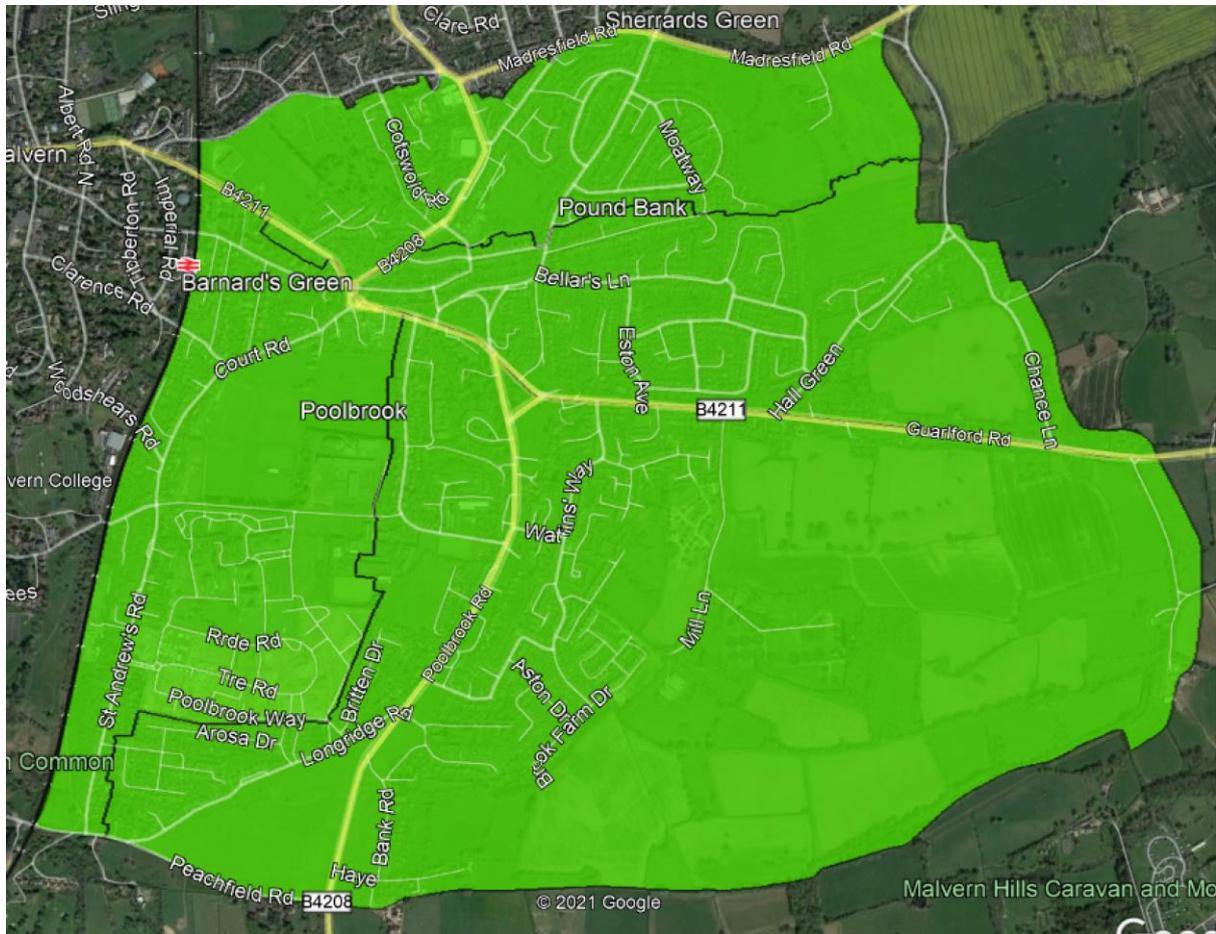
The suggested boundaries reflect three main shopping areas within the town (Great Malvern, Barnards Green, Malvern Link/Link Top) and prevent these district communities from being split into pieces in future boundaries. Consideration has been given to area characteristics, transport links and community groups/identities within the town with the aim of creating clearly definable and distinct areas to make up each suggested ward.

We have also separated the Upper Howsell area from the Malvern Vale area in our suggestions for West and Upper Howsell wards as we believe they are separated by a busy main road (Leigh Sinton Road), rely on different community facilities, and have common area characteristics.

Due to the upcoming North East Malvern development's (in MLK3) access road coming out in Newland parish instead of Malvern Town/Link ward, we feel it is necessary to include Newland parish in our new proposal for Link ward. Newland is considered to be part of Malvern's Built-up area (according to the ONS) in any case so we feel community links are strong between Newland and Malvern Link.

1) Chase Ward to be renamed Barnards Green Ward – 3 Councillors, approx. voters per councillor 2414 (2027 estimate)

We are proposing to add the area north of Pound Bank Road and corresponding with polling district MPK1 into the new Barnards Green Ward.



2) Priory Ward – 2 Councillors, approx. voters per councillor 2095 (2027 estimate)

Areas to be added moved from the MPK3 polling district into the new Priory ward:

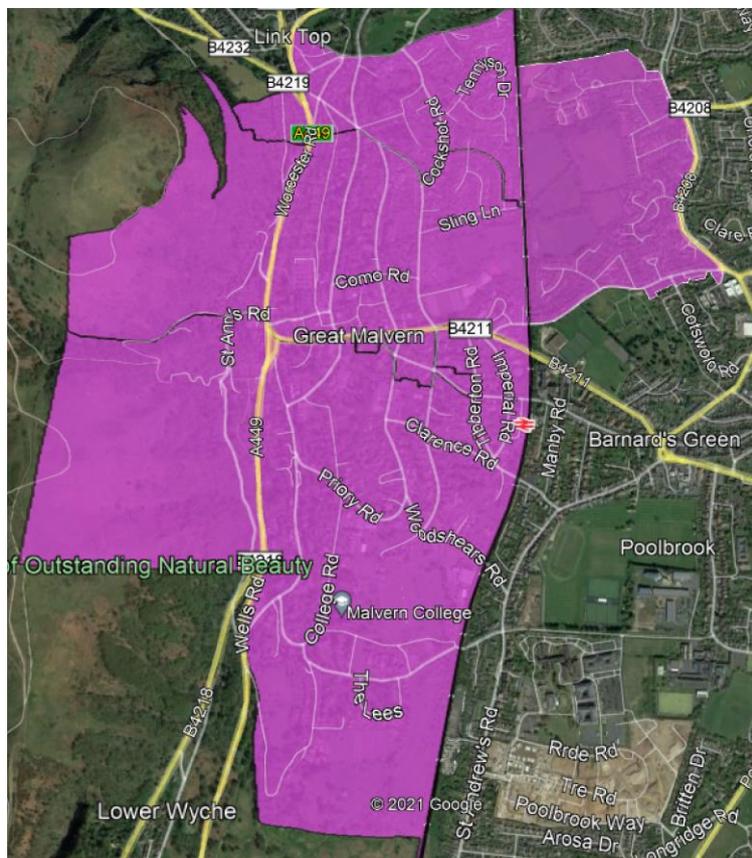
- Alicante Close (all)
- Ashdown Close (all)
- Ashdown Rise (all)
- Buzzard Crescent (all)
- Challenger Close (all)
- Delamere Road (all)
- Eversley Close (all)
- Eversley Grove (all)
- Fernhill Grove (all)
- Greenhill Drive (all)
- Harbinger Avenue (all)
- Hayslan Avenue (all)
- Hayslan Green (all)
- Hayslan Road (all)
- Kestrel Close (all)
- Kingshill Close (all)
- Lansdowne Close (all)
- Lansdowne Row (all)
- Madresfield Road (Odds: 7-65, Evens:

- Merlin Crescent (all)
- Outfield Drive (all)
- Pickersleigh Grove (all)
- Pickersleigh Road (Evens: 156-258b, and
- Viscount Cobham Court)
- Shirley Close (all)
- Stanley Road (all)
- Sunrise (all)

Area to be removed from the MPR3 polling district into the new Malvern Link ward:

- Bank Street (all)
- Link Terrace (all)
- Lygon Bank (all)
- Moorlands Road (all)
- Oxford Road (all)
- Oxford Square (all)
- Worcester Road (Evens: 64-102a)
- Zetland Road (all)

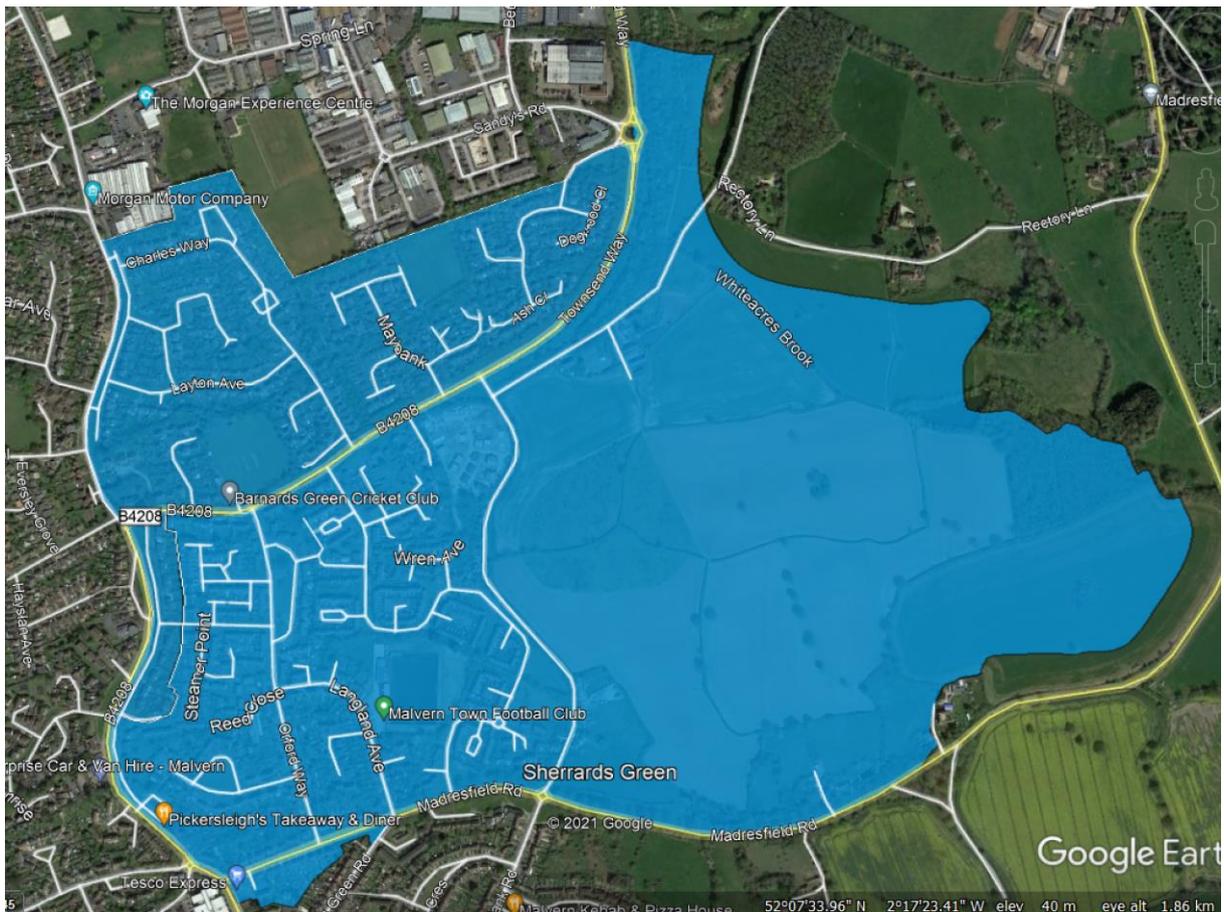
94-112)



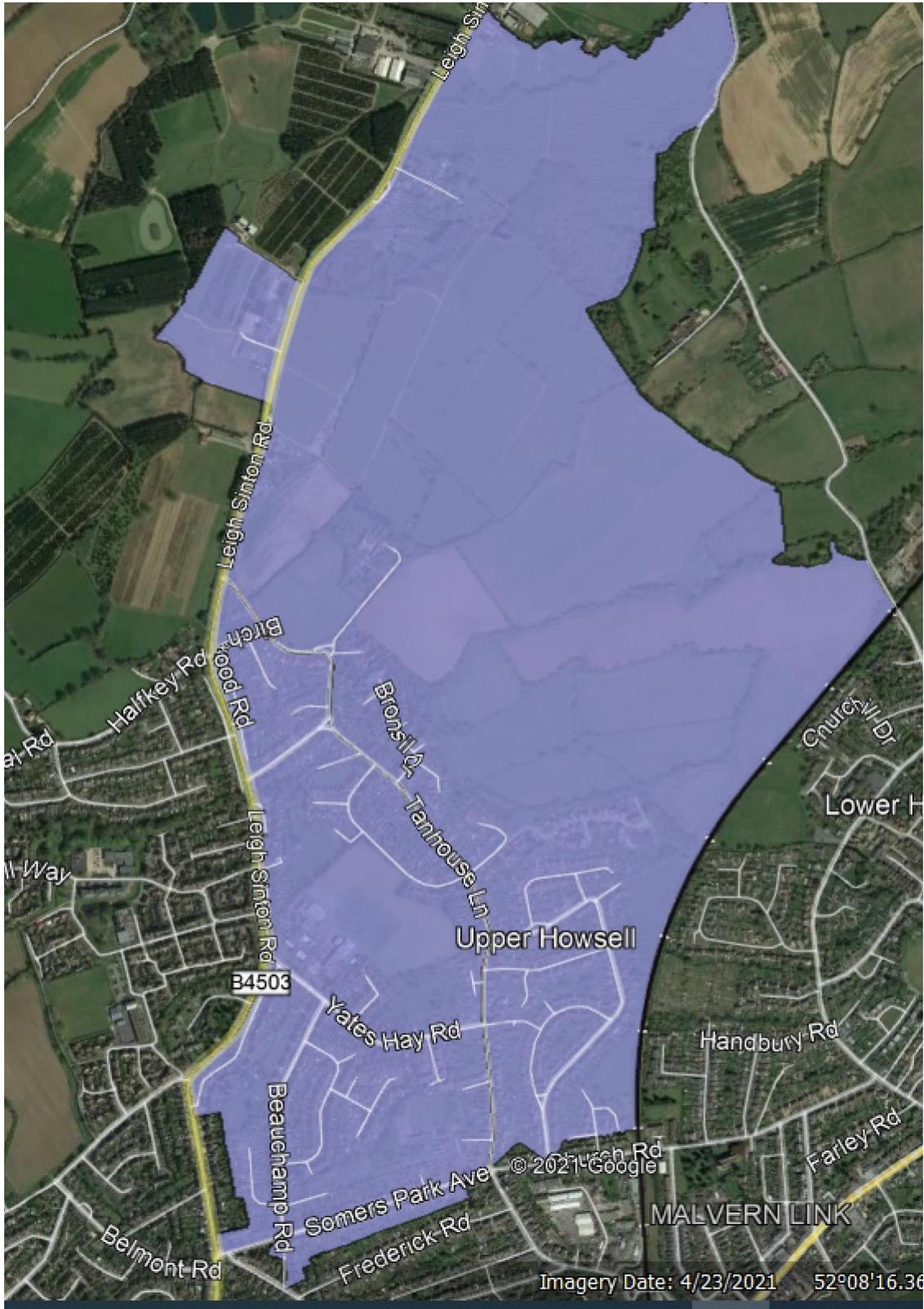
3) Pickersleigh Ward – 2 Councillors, approx. voters per councillor 2165 (2027 estimate)
 Polling District MPK1 to be removed (going into new Barnards Green Ward)

Areas to be removed from the MPK3 polling district into the new Priory ward:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Alicante Close (all) | Kestrel Close (all) |
| Ashdown Close (all) | Kingshill Close (all) |
| Ashdown Rise (all) | Lansdowne Close (all) |
| Buzzard Crescent (all) | Lansdowne Row (all) |
| Challenger Close (all) | Madresfield Road (Odds: 7-65, Evens: 94-112) |
| Delamere Road (all) | Merlin Crescent (all) |
| Eversley Close (all) | Outfield Drive (all) |
| Eversley Grove (all) | Pickersleigh Grove (all) |
| Fernhill Grove (all) | Pickersleigh Road (Evens: 156-258b, and Viscount Cobham Court) |
| Greenhill Drive (all) | Shirley Close (all) |
| Harbinger Avenue (all) | Stanley Road (all) |
| Hayslan Avenue (all) | Sunrise (all) |
| Hayslan Green (all) | |
| Hayslan Road (all) | |



- 4) **Upper Howsell – new ward – 1 Councillor, approx. voters per councillor 2284 (2027 estimate)**
This will represent two polling districts from the current Dyson Perrins Ward MDP2 and MDP3



5) **West Ward – 2 Councillors, approx. voters per councillor 2059 (2027 estimate)**

Area to be added 1 polling district from old Dyson Perrins Ward MDP1

Areas to be removed from MWS1 polling district into the new Malvern Link ward:

Chester Place (all)

Grafton Close (all)

Henley Place (all)

Hospital Bank (all)

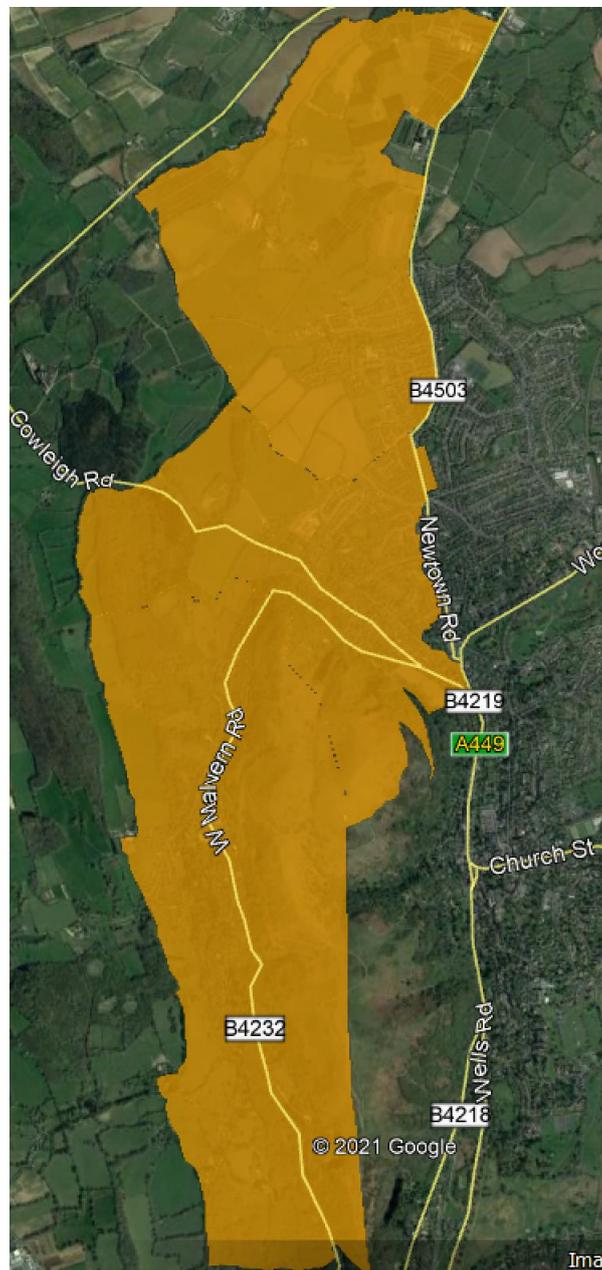
Newtown Road (all)

Queens Close (all)

Queens Road (all)

Uplands Drive (all)

Worcester Road (The Flat, 101 Worcester Road only)



6) Link Ward – 2 Councillors, approx. voters per councillor 2146 (2027 estimate)

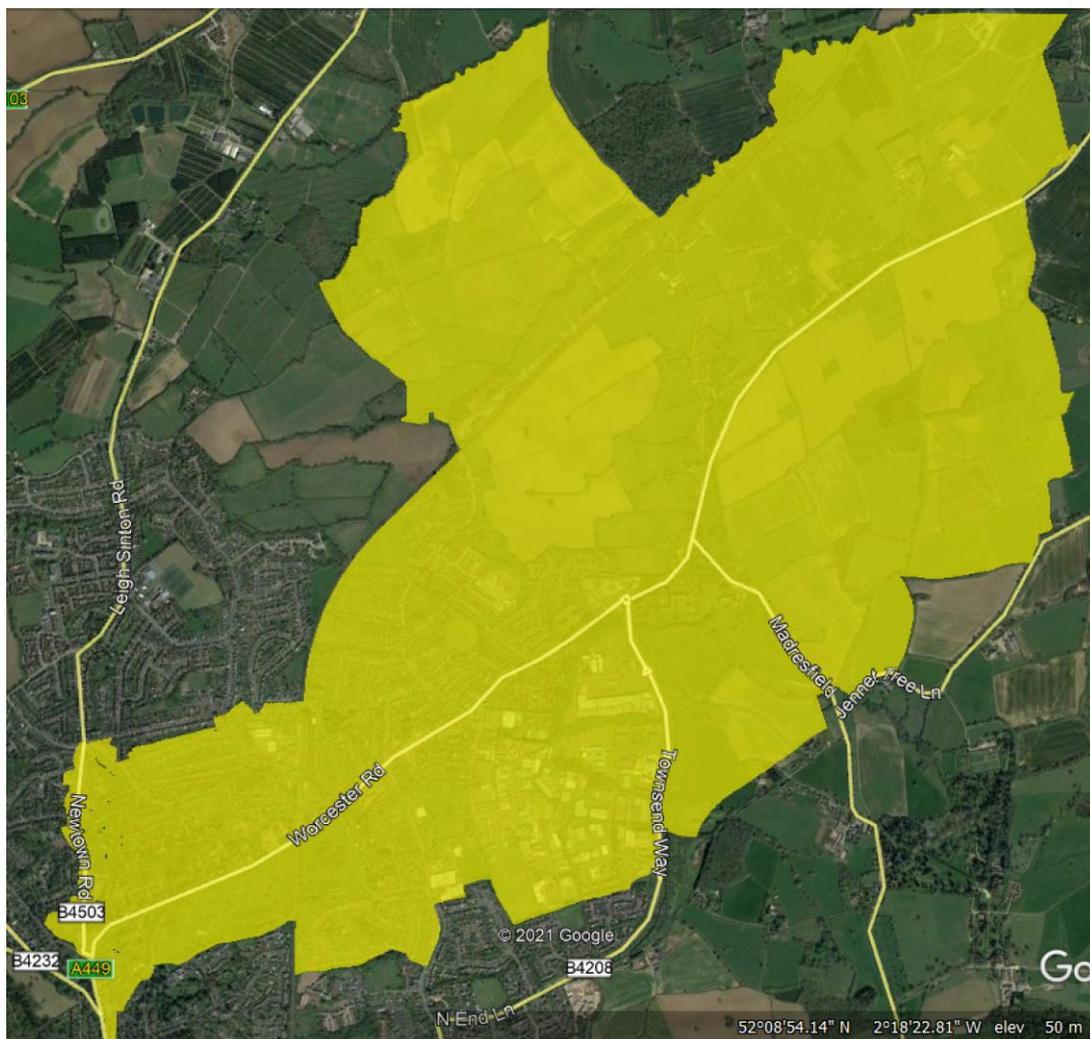
Newland Parish would be added to Link

Area to be added from the MPR3 polling district into the new Malvern Link ward:

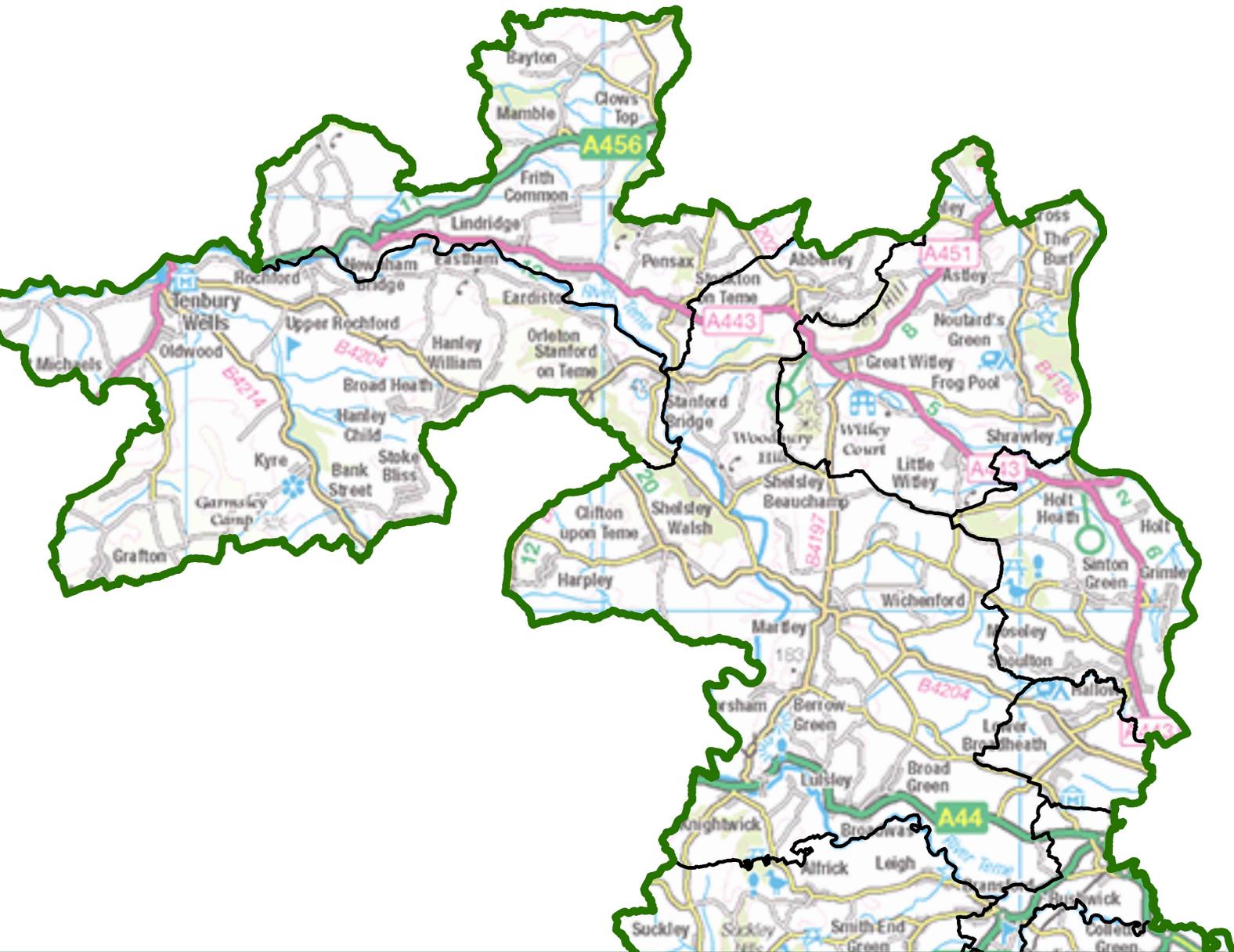
- Bank Street (all)
- Link Terrace (all)
- Lygon Bank (all)
- Moorlands Road (all)
- Oxford Road (all)
- Oxford Square (all)
- Worcester Road (Evens: 64-102a)
- Zetland Road (all),

Area to be added from MWS1 polling district into the new Malvern Link ward:

- Chester Place (all)
- Grafton Close (all)
- Henley Place (all)
- Hospital Bank (all)
- Newtown Road (all)
- Queens Close (all)
- Queens Road (all)
- Uplands Drive (all)
- Worcester Road (The Flat, 101 Worcester Road only)



The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Malvern Hills District Council Draft Recommendations

January 2022

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

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

What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Malvern Hills?

7 We are conducting a review of Malvern Hills District Council ('the Council') following a request from the Council. In addition, its last review was completed in 2002, and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.²

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

- The wards in Malvern Hills are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

Our proposals for Malvern Hills

9 Malvern Hills should be represented by 31 councillors, seven fewer than there are now.

10 Malvern Hills should have 21 wards, one fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all but one ward should change; Kempsey will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

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

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 11 January to 21 March 2022. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 21 March 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 23 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for area. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 January 2021	Number of councillors decided
13 July 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
20 September 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
11 January 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
21 March 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
5 July 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

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

20 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

21 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2021	2027
Electorate of Malvern Hills	62,286	69,940
Number of councillors	31	31
Average number of electors per councillor	2,009	2,256

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Malvern Hills will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 12% by 2027.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

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

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

Number of councillors

26 Malvern Hills Council currently has 38 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing this number by seven will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 31 councillors, for example, 31 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received eight submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. The majority either supported the reduction in councillors or argued that the number should be reduced further. However, neither these, nor the submissions objecting to a reduced council size, provided sufficient evidence to persuade us to change our recommendation for a reduction of seven councillors for Malvern Hills. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a 31-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 55 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two district-wide proposals: from West Worcestershire Conservative Association & the Malvern Hills District Council Conservative Group ('the Conservatives'); and Malvern Hills District Council Independent & Green Councillors ('the Independents & Greens'). We also received a full scheme for Malvern from Malvern Town Council, and partial schemes respectively from Councillors Davies, Satterthwaite and Walton. West Worcestershire Constituency Labour Party expressed their support for 31 single-councillor wards across the district but did not provide specific proposals. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for wards in particular areas of the district.

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

31 Our draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

32 As a result of the unprecedented circumstances related to the outbreak of Covid-19, we were unable to conduct a visit to the area to look at the various

different proposals on the ground. However, we were able to conduct a detailed, virtual tour of Malvern Hills. This helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

33 Our draft recommendations are for two three-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and 13 single-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

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

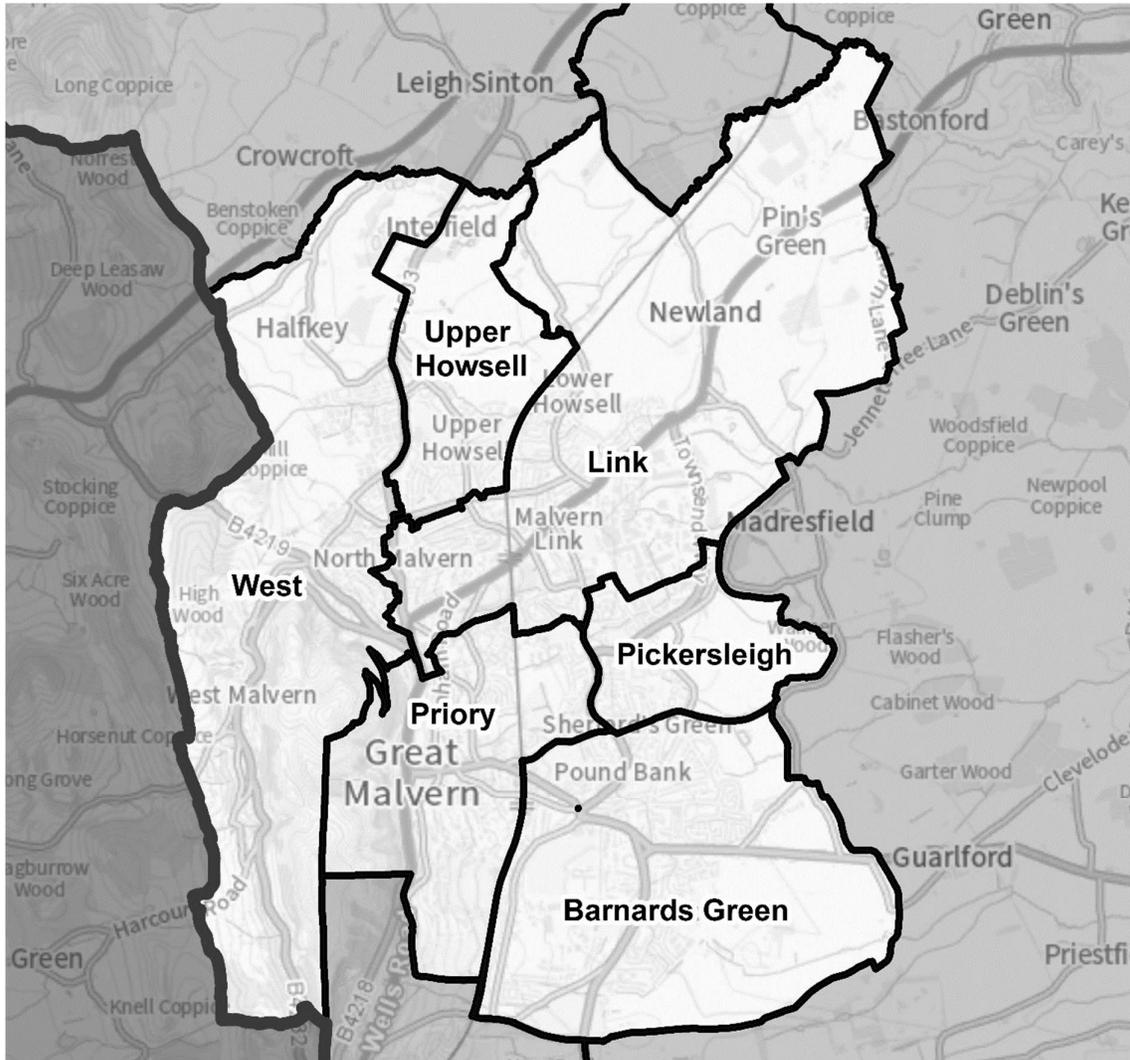
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

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

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

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Malvern



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Barnards Green	3	8%
Link	3	-3%
Pickersleigh	1	-4%
Priors	2	-8%
Upper Howsell	1	2%
West	2	0%

Malvern, Newland and West Malvern

37 During the consultation we received two full schemes covering Malvern (Malvern and West Malvern parishes), from Malvern Town Council and the Independents & Greens. We also received general comments on warding for the town as part of the Conservatives' submission, and three submissions from residents

regarding specific areas. All schemes proposed that Newland parish be grouped in a ward with Malvern, as it forms part of the same built-up area and shares community links with the Malvern town area.

38 Malvern Town Council indicated that its proposal intended to unite three commercial areas (Link Top, Barnards Green and Great Malvern) within wards, rather than ward boundaries separating them. The Independents & Greens' proposal provided limited evidence behind the wards they proposed. Both proposals had wards with good electoral equality across the town.

39 We carefully considered both proposals in detail, assessing how they met our statutory criteria. We propose to broadly base our draft recommendations on Malvern Town Council's proposals on the basis of the community evidence provided and its use of clear and identifiable ward boundaries. However, we do make some changes to these proposals in our draft recommendations.

40 The Town Council proposed that the northern boundary of Barnards Green ward should run along Madresfield Road, with the exception of running to the rear of some properties on the south side of this road, as well as Langeland Close. The Town Council did not outline a specific reason for placing these properties in Pickersleigh rather than Barnards Green ward. We therefore propose to amend this boundary to run entirely along Madresfield Road, to provide a more clear and identifiable boundary between Barnards Green, and Priory and Pickersleigh wards.

41 Similarly, the Town Council proposed that all properties on Moorlands Road should be included in Link ward. We consider that the Council did not provide sufficient evidence to justify separating these electors from those immediately to their south, so have decided that the ward boundary should run along Moorlands Road from the railway to Graham Road.

42 The Independents & Greens' submission specifically mentioned that 62 and 64 Moorlands Road are isolated from the rest of the road by the railway line. While sympathetic to this proposal, the existing boundary is also a Worcestershire County Council division boundary, and so to place these properties in the same ward as the remainder of Moorlands Road would require the creation of a parish ward for these two properties. This is not something that we consider would provide for effective and convenient local government, and we therefore do not propose to make this change.

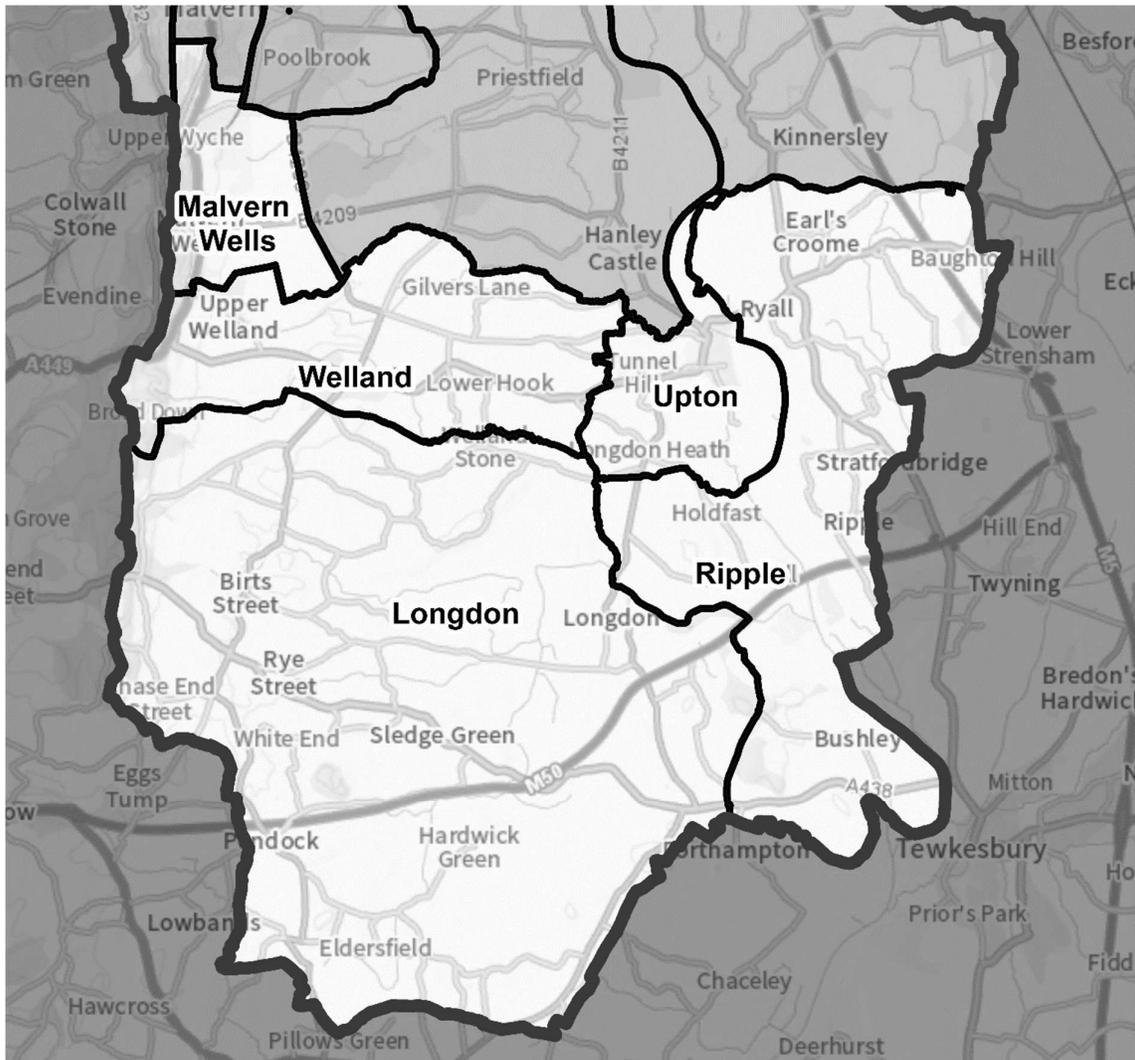
43 On our virtual tour we carefully assessed the proposal to include the area of Link Top centering on Zetland Road, Bank Street and Lygon Bank in Link ward. Under the current arrangements, this area is in Priory ward. We were persuaded that these areas form part of the wider Link Top community and should be included in Link ward. However, we note that this creates a ward boundary running through the

residential area and would welcome comments on whether this arrangement reflects community identity.

44 There were three specific comments from residents related to Malvern. One proposed that Wells ward should be extended northwards to reach the southern end of Abbey Road. However, this would involve combining parts of Malvern and Malvern Wells parishes and we do not consider this would provide an effective balance of our statutory criteria. Another argued that names such as Chase should not be ward names, as these were not in normal use. The Town Council proposed that the new ward covering the previous Chase ward be named Barnards Green, so this comment is accommodated in our draft recommendations. Finally, a resident argued that Link ward included too much of the Leigh area. However, the existing Link ward does not include any of Leigh parish, and we consider that any warding pattern which did not follow the parish boundaries in this specific area would fail to promote effective and convenient local government.

45 We are therefore proposing a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards across Malvern. These are based on the responses we received to our initial consultation and we believe these represent the best balance of our statutory criteria.

Southern Malvern Hills



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Longdon	1	2%
Malvern Wells	1	-7%
Ripple	1	-7%
Upton	1	4%
Welland	1	-8%

Ripple and Upton

46 The Conservatives proposed a single-councillor Upton ward covering the eastern part of Upton-upon-Severn parish, but not including Hook parish ward. They proposed a Ripple ward comprising Earls Croome, Hill Croome, Ripple, Holdfast, Queenhill and Bushley parishes. The Independents & Greens' proposals were for a

two-councillor Upton and Ripple ward covering all of Upton-upon-Severn, along with Earl's Croome, Hill Croome and Ripple parishes.

47 We received comments from both Earl's Croome and Ripple parish councils, arguing that they should not be included in a ward with Upton parish because of their rural nature. Ripple Parish Council specifically suggested that they had more in common with villages across the River Severn such as Queenhill, Holdfast and Longdon rather than with Ripple. A local resident also proposed Holdfast and Queenhill's inclusion in a ward with Ripple. Councillor Tomkins, from Earl's Croome Parish Council, argued that there should be no changes to existing boundaries.

48 However, we also received comments of the opposing view, such as from Upton-upon-Severn Town Council, which commented that it would be happy to be included in a ward with those parishes to the east of the town and referenced some close community links.

49 Two residents proposed maintaining the ward link between Upton and Hanley parishes, with one also arguing that Severn Stoke should be combined with the parishes to the south in Ripple ward. However, this would result in Ripple ward having a significant electoral variance which we are not prepared to recommend.

50 On the basis of the submissions received, we are proposing to adopt the Conservatives' proposals for a single-councillor Upton ward and a single-councillor Ripple ward which crosses the river. We acknowledge that there may be access concerns for Bushley, Queenhill and Holdfast parishes to the rest of the ward, and so would welcome comments on whether this warding arrangement would allow for effective and convenient local government. We also note that this separates Holdfast and Queenhill from their other grouped parish of Longdon, and would welcome comments on what impact this might have, and if there are other viable warding patterns we can consider that keep the grouped parish in a single ward.

Longdon

51 We received a substantial number of different proposals for this part of the district, with the Conservatives and the Independents & Greens proposing to expand the existing Longdon ward. The Independents & Greens proposed adding Birtsmorton, while the Conservatives proposed also adding Castlemorton but removing Holdfast, Queenhill and Bushley from the ward. Councillor Davies expressed his support for the Independents & Greens' proposals in general but proposed localised changes in this area.

52 Councillor Davies argued that the current Morton ward should not be combined with Malvern Wells, but that it should be retained with the addition of Little Malvern parish, and supported the principle of single-member wards in this area. Castlemorton Parish Council submitted their concerns about any proposal to

integrate Morton and Malvern Wells in the same ward and suggested the inclusion of Berrow parish in the existing Morton ward. A resident proposed that Morton could be split between Longdon, and a ward including the Wyche.

53 Because of our proposals for Holdfast, Queenhill and Bushley, it is necessary to include both Birtsmorton and Castlemorton parishes in Longdon ward to avoid creating a ward with a significantly lower electorate than the average for the district. We considered the addition of the Hook parish ward of Upton-upon-Severn parish but ultimately concluded it had better links to Welland (see paragraph 57). We are therefore adopting the Conservatives' proposed Longdon ward, which we consider also reflects local evidence supporting the inclusion of Birtsmorton and Castlemorton parishes in a ward with parishes to their south rather than with Welland or Malvern Wells.

Malvern Wells and Welland

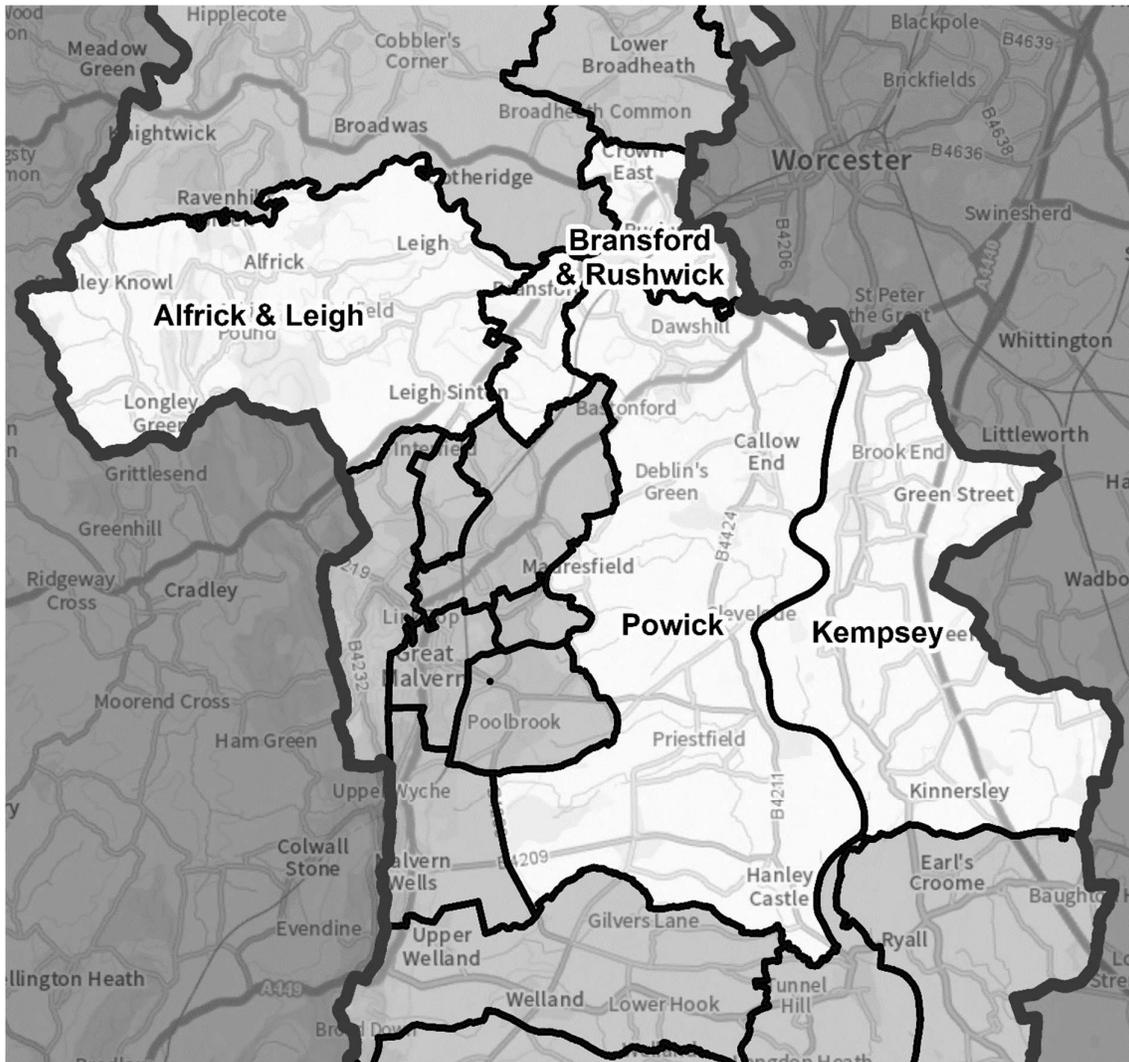
54 The Independents & Greens proposed a two-councillor Wells & Welland ward, while the Conservatives suggested a split in Malvern Wells along Hanley Road to create two single-councillor wards.

55 Councillor Satterthwaite proposed a specific divide in Malvern Wells, to allow for two single-councillor wards. He referenced that while Malvern Wells is part of Great Malvern's built-up area, Welland should be considered distinct, and that these communities would not be best served by a two-councillor ward, with limited public transport links and divergent community identities. He was of the view that the Upper Welland area of Malvern Wells parish has a distinct identity and has strong links to Welland in respect of local amenities. He proposed that all electors on Upper Welland Road and the residential streets off it should be included in a proposed Welland ward.

56 A resident of Wells parish argued that the existing two-councillor ward should be retained.

57 In assessing the various proposals presented to us, we consider that Councillor Satterthwaite's proposal for single-councillor Wells and Welland wards was supported by the strongest evidence and best met our criteria. We are therefore proposing to adopt the Malvern Wells ward as proposed. We are amending the Welland proposal; however, given we are not able to include Castlemorton (as outlined in paragraph 53), we are instead adding the Hook parish ward of Upton-on-Severn parish, which we consider has good links to Welland. We would welcome comments on this proposal during the current consultation.

Central Malvern Hills



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Alfrick & Leigh	1	6%
Bransford & Rushwick	1	1%
Kempsey	2	5%
Powick	2	5%

Kempsey and Powick

58 The Independents & Greens proposed separate two-councillor wards for both Kempsey and Powick. The former includes Kempsey, Severn Stoke and Croome D'abitot parishes, while the latter includes Powick, Madresfield, Guarford and Hanley Castle.

59 The Conservatives proposed splitting this Kempsey ward into two single-councillor wards, with the boundary running through the centre of Kempsey. We were not persuaded that the Conservatives' proposed division of Kempsey would reflect community identities. Kempsey Parish Council stated their preference for being part of a two-councillor ward and a resident argued Kempsey should have two councillors for a ward consisting only of Kempsey parish, and that rural parishes to the south should not be included with it. However, as outlined in paragraph 49, this was not possible because of our recommendations for the wider area. We are therefore proposing to adopt the Independents & Greens' proposal for a two-councillor ward which maintains the existing ward boundaries of Kempsey.

60 The Conservatives proposed separating Powick with the northern bulk of the parish forming a ward on its own. They proposed that the southern part of this area, including Bastonford, Deblin's Green and Kent's Green, be warded with Madresfield, Guarlford and Hanley Castle parishes, as well as Hook parish ward of Upton-upon-Severn. While acknowledging that such a split into two separate wards would reduce their size, we did not consider that sufficient evidence had been received to justify dividing Powick parish between wards. Guarlford Parish Council expressed its support for the existing ward combining rural parishes, and proposed that if further additions were required to the proposed ward, Hanley Castle would be more suitable than any areas of Malvern. This view was echoed by a resident. A resident proposed an amendment to the parish boundary of Guarlford but this is not within the remit of this review.

61 In light of the responses we received, we propose that the Independents & Greens' recommendation for a two-councillor Powick ward should be adopted. We consider that this avoids unnecessarily splitting Powick parish between two different wards, and also accommodates the representations received from parishes in the area.

Alfrick & Leigh and Bransford & Rushwick

62 During our consultation we received a variety of responses covering these areas to the north of Malvern, stretching across the width of the district.

63 The Independents & Greens' proposal was for an expansion of the existing Alfrick & Leigh ward to become a two-councillor ward. This would also include Rushwick, but exclude Doddenham and possibly Knightwick. They presented arguments for and against this but did not make a final proposal.

64 The Conservatives proposed two single-councillor wards covering the same area but excluding Lulsley parish. Under this proposal, Bransford and Rushwick parishes would form one ward, with the other consisting of Suckley, Alfrick and Leigh parishes. They argued that Rushwick and Bransford had linked developments and

looked towards Worcester as commuter areas, while the rural parishes to their west were more oriented to Malvern for services.

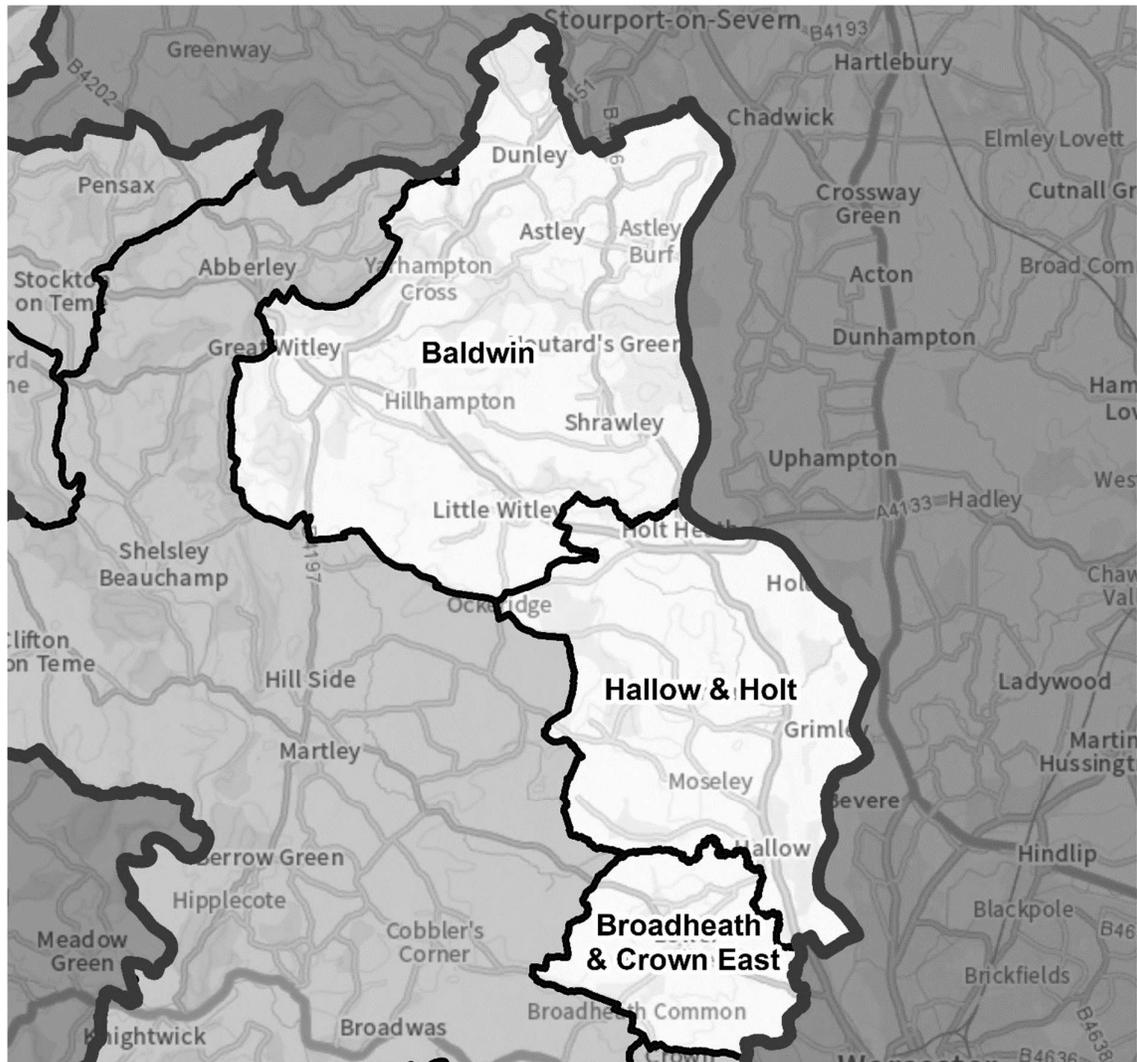
65 Councillor Walton proposed a large Leigh & Bransford ward, but we considered that, with a forecast electoral variance of 28%, this would not be in line with the Commission's criterion of promoting electoral equality.

66 Suckley Parish Council expressed its preference to be part of a two-councillor ward and highlighted its links to Rushwick and Knightwick. A resident stated that they supported the existing ward boundary and opposed any proposal to move part of the ward into Martley or Malvern. They mentioned that some characteristics were shared with Rushwick. Finally, another resident expressed their support for the existing Broadheath ward, which contains Rushwick.

67 Having assessed the variety of evidence we received, we are minded to recommend that two separate single-councillor wards are created, as proposed by the Conservatives, on the basis of the differences in community identity expressed between the eastern and western halves of this area. Knightwick, Lulsley and Doddenham parishes will now form part of the new Martley & Teme Valley ward, given the numerical constraints of including these parishes in a single-councillor Alfrick & Leigh ward.

68 We would strongly encourage comments on our proposals, including assessments of how well these two single-councillor wards would reflect local community identities and interests.

North-east Malvern Hills



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Baldwin	1	4%
Broadheath & Crown East	1	-6%
Hallow & Holt	1	4%

Baldwin, Broadheath & Crown East and Hallow & Holt

69 The Conservatives and Independents & Greens both proposed retaining the existing single-councillor Baldwin ward with the addition of Little Witley parish. Their proposals differed elsewhere – the Independents & Greens proposed two-councillor Broadheath & Hallow and Martley & Teme Valley wards. The Conservatives proposed four single-councillor Hallow, Broadheath, Martley and Woodbury wards. Both proposals referenced community links to justify their proposals and promoted wards with good electoral equality.

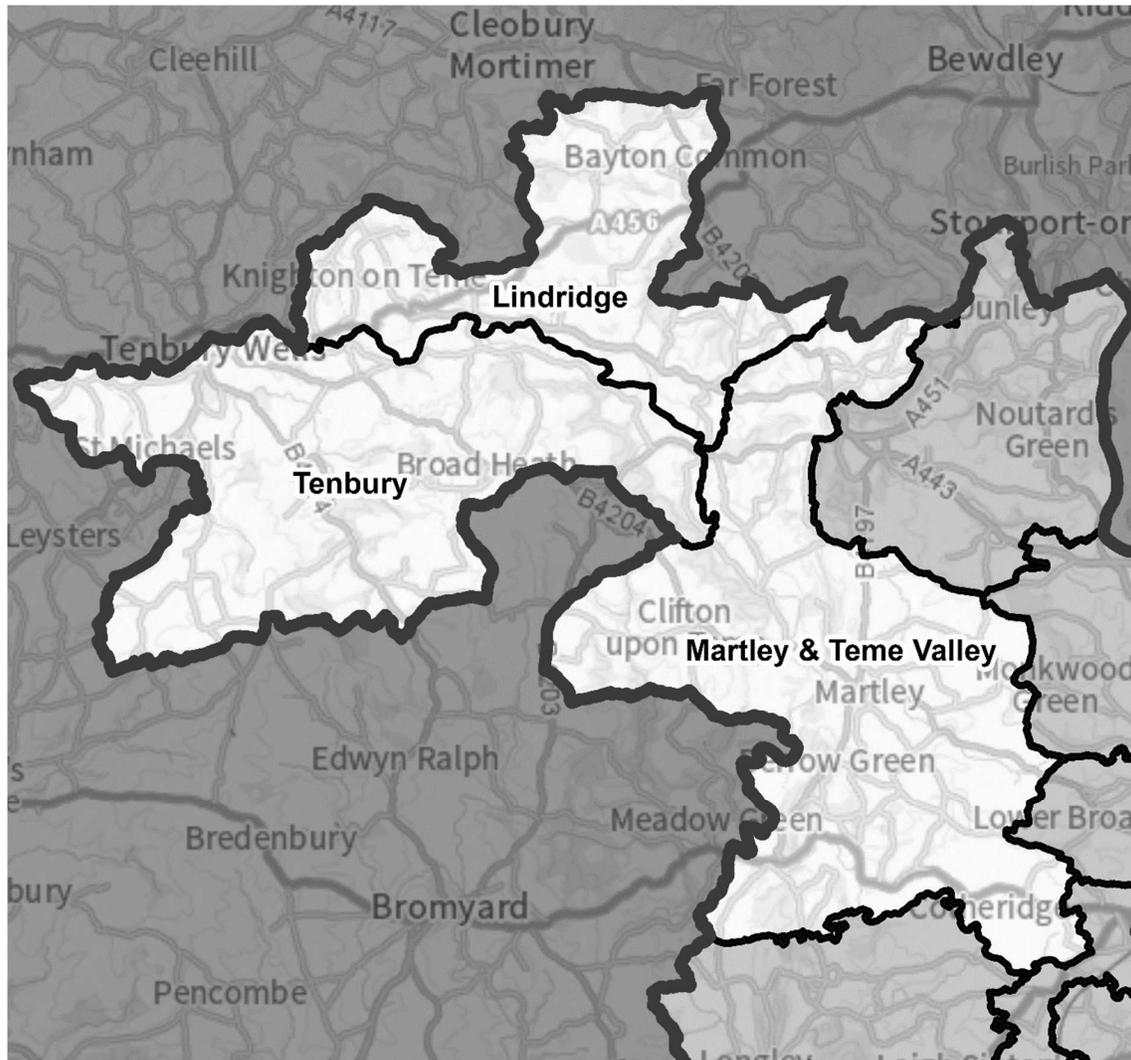
70 Councillor Walton provided his own set of proposals which constituted amendments to the Independents & Greens' submission. He suggested a single-councillor Broadheath & Crown East ward on the same basis as the Conservatives, but proposed different boundaries further north – creating a Hallow & Holt ward formed of those two parishes plus Grimley, and an expanded Baldwin ward which also included Great Witley and Hillhampton parishes.

71 Some elements of Councillor Walton's proposals were echoed in other submissions. A resident stated that Shrawley, Little Witley and Great Witley parishes had connections which meant they should be combined in the same ward. Grimley Parish Council stated its preference to form a ward with Hallow and Holt parishes, stressing transport, business and educational links. Councillor Clarke supported Councillor Walton's proposal and noted that joining Hallow ward with part of Broadheath would require splitting Broadheath parish between wards. Great Witley & Hillhampton Parish Council expressed its desire to remain in a single-councillor ward with nearby parishes.

72 Councillors Chambers, Cumming, Cumming and Jones-Williams expressed their support for the Conservatives' proposals and added specific justifications such as the expansion of the existing Woodbury ward to include the Shelsleys.

73 After careful consideration of these differing proposals, we are recommending Councillor Walton's proposals for Baldwin, Hallow & Holt and Broadheath & Crown East wards. While all the proposals we received in this area created wards with good electoral equality, we assess that Councillor Walton's proposals best reflect the evidence we received on community identity from parishes and residents, particularly around Great Witley.

North-west Malvern Hills



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Lindridge	1	0%
Martley & Teme Valley	2	2%
Tenbury	2	-7%

Lindridge and Tenbury

74 There were broad similarities in the Independents & Greens' and Conservatives' proposals for the north-west corner of the district. Their Lindridge wards differed only in that the Conservatives included Eastham but excluded Pensax parish. Their Tenbury wards differed in the placement of Eastham and the Conservatives' inclusion of Clifton upon Teme and Lower Sapey parishes in their proposed ward.

75 The evidence provided by Councillors Chambers, Cumming, Cumming and Jones-Williams that Eastham should be included with parishes to the north across the Teme did not reference any community identity linkage. In the absence of any comments from parishes or other stakeholders in this area, we were not persuaded that there was sufficient justification to move Eastham. We therefore propose to adopt the Independents & Greens' proposals for a single-councillor Lindridge ward and a two-councillor Tenbury ward. This will mean Eastham continues to be in the same ward as Hanley and Stanford with Orleton parishes. We would welcome comments on whether this arrangement remains appropriate.

Martley & Teme Valley

76 The Conservatives proposed a single-councillor Woodbury ward which removed Little Witley parish from the existing ward and added the Shelsleys. They also proposed a single-councillor Martley ward. The Independents & Greens proposed a two-councillor Martley & Teme Valley ward covering broadly the same area.

77 We received one additional comment for this area, from Abberley Parish Council, which argued that it should be retained in a single-member ward.

78 Because of our proposal for Baldwin ward, the remaining elements of the Conservatives' proposed Woodbury ward would have a significant electoral variance. To account for this, it would be necessary to add part of Martley parish to achieve a good level of electoral equality, with a further ward formed from the rest of Martley and parishes to its south. Instead of this configuration, we considered that it was preferable to have one large two-councillor ward in this area, as proposed by the Independents & Greens. This would avoid an unnecessary division of Martley that was not proposed by any respondents to our consultation.

79 We acknowledge that the four-councillor submission referenced this proposal and argued that it would not help social cohesion and add to workloads. Nonetheless, we consider that this arrangement provides for the best balance of our statutory criteria and note that the distance between the extreme ends of this ward is not significantly further than that of the Conservatives' proposed Tenbury ward.

Conclusions

80 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Malvern Hills, referencing the 2021 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2021	2027
Number of councillors	31	31
Number of electoral wards	21	21
Average number of electors per councillor	2,009	2,256
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	2	0

Draft recommendations

Malvern Hills District Council should be made up of 31 councillors serving 21 wards representing 13 single-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards and two three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Malvern Hills. You can also view our draft recommendations for Malvern Hills on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

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

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

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

84 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Malvern parish.

Draft recommendations

Malvern Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Chase	4
Link	4
Lygon	1
Pickersleigh	2
Pound Bank	1
Priory	3
St Joseph	1
Upper Howsell	2
West	2

85 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Malvern Wells parish.

Draft recommendations

Malvern Wells Parish Council should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Upper Welland	3
Wells	10

Have your say

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

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

88 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

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

Review Officer (Malvern Hills)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

90 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Malvern Hills which delivers:

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

91 A good pattern of wards should:

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

92 Electoral equality:

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

93 Community identity:

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

94 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

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

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

97 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

98 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Malvern Hills District Council in 2023.

Equalities

99 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Malvern Hills

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Alfrick & Leigh	1	2,191	2,191	9%	2,385	2,385	6%
2	Baldwin	1	2,131	2,131	6%	2,345	2,345	4%
3	Barnards Green	3	6,454	2,151	7%	7,299	2,433	8%
4	Bransford & Rushwick	1	1,497	1,497	-25%	2,275	2,275	1%
5	Broadheath & Crown East	1	1,502	1,502	-25%	2,123	2,123	-6%
6	Hallow & Holt	1	2,203	2,203	10%	2,349	2,349	4%
7	Kempsey	2	3,829	1,915	-5%	4,751	2,376	5%
8	Lindridge	1	2,124	2,124	6%	2,259	2,259	0%
9	Link	3	5,720	1,907	-5%	6,580	2,193	-3%
10	Longdon	1	2,167	2,167	8%	2,295	2,295	2%
11	Malvern Wells	1	1,956	1,956	-3%	2,088	2,088	-7%
12	Martley & Teme Valley	2	4,206	2,103	5%	4,592	2,296	2%

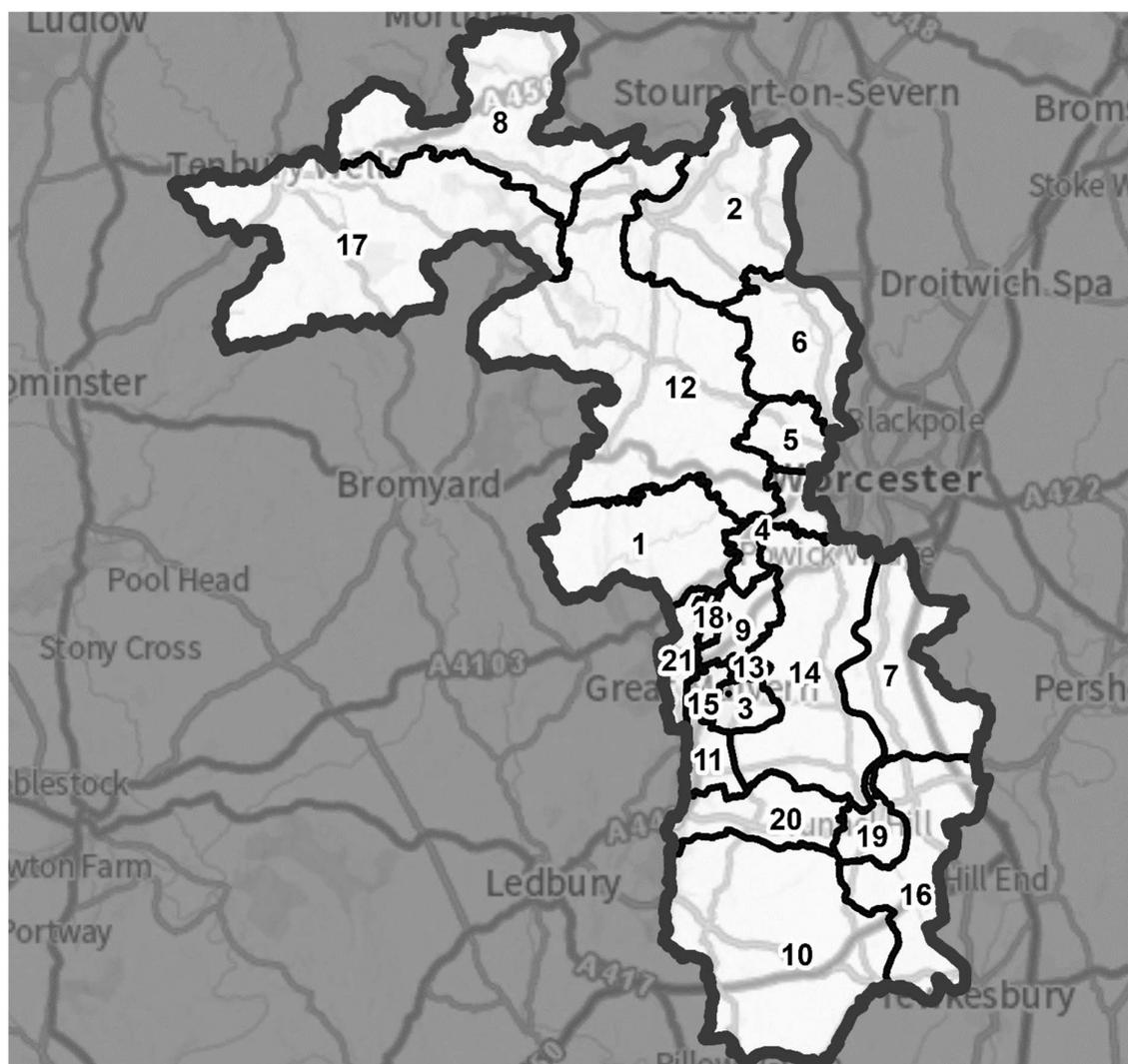
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Pickersleigh	1	2,019	2,019	0%	2,165	2,165	-4%
14 Powick	2	4,308	2,154	7%	4,719	2,360	5%
15 Priory	2	3,888	1,944	-3%	4,167	2,084	-8%
16 Ripple	1	1,871	1,871	-7%	2,109	2,109	-7%
17 Tenbury	2	3,619	1,810	-10%	4,182	2,091	-7%
18 Upper Howsell	1	2,188	2,188	9%	2,304	2,304	2%
19 Upton	1	2,230	2,230	11%	2,348	2,348	4%
20 Welland	1	1,984	1,984	-1%	2,082	2,082	-8%
21 West	2	4,199	2,100	4%	4,523	2,262	0%
Totals	31	62,286	–	–	69,940	–	–
Averages	–	–	2,009	–	–	2,256	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Malvern Hills District Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Alfrick & Leigh
2	Baldwin
3	Barnards Green
4	Bransford & Rushwick
5	Broadheath & Crown East
6	Hallow & Holt
7	Kempsey
8	Lindridge
9	Link
10	Longdon
11	Malvern Wells

12	Martley & Teme Valley
13	Pickersleigh
14	Powick
15	Priory
16	Ripple
17	Tenbury
18	Upper Howsell
19	Upton
20	Welland
21	West

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/worcestershire/malvern-hills

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/worcestershire/malvern-hills

Political Groups

- Malvern Hills District Council Independent & Green Councillors
- West Worcestershire Conservative Association & the Malvern Hills District Council Conservative Group
- West Worcestershire Constituency Labour Party

Councillors

- Councillors D. Chambers, P. Cumming, P. Cumming & B. Jones-Williams (Malvern Hills District Council)
- Councillor D. Clarke (Malvern Hills District Council)
- Councillor M. Davies (Malvern Hills District Council and Little Malvern & Welland Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Satterthwaite (Worcestershire County Council)
- Councillor R. Tomkins (Earls Croome Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Walton (Malvern Hills District Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Abberley Parish Council
- Castlemorton Parish Council
- Earl's Croome Parish Council
- Great Witley & Hillhampton Parish Council
- Grimley Parish Council
- Guarlford Parish Council
- Kempsey Parish Council
- Malvern Town Council
- Ripple Parish Council
- Suckley Parish Council
- Upton-upon-Severn Town Council

Local Residents

- 35 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

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

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

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

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

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

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE

**A REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK TO
A MEETING OF MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
to be held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council, Avenue Road**

OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. For decision.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Full Council is asked to consider the recommendations from the meeting of Operations and Planning Committee held on 9 February 2022 and listed below.
- 2.2. Recommendations to be presented by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee or, if absent, the Vice-Chairman.

Minute 84 Terms of Reference for the Christmas Committee

It was **RECOMMENDED** to agree the Terms of Reference as attached to report OC04/22/this report.

3. Background

- 3.1. At a meeting of Full Council held on 12 September 2018, it was resolved that committees would approve their own minutes for accuracy with any recommendations from committee meetings being taken separately to be accepted by Full Council before being put into effect.
- 3.2. Full Council is therefore asked to consider the recommendations listed above in 2.2 and to approve, amend or refer back to committee as appropriate.
- 3.3. Councillors are reminded that the relevant reports as considered by committees when making their recommendations can be found within the papers distributed for the meeting and these will not be reissued. The Terms of Reference being recommended are within the report at Agenda Item 9 for the meeting held on 9 February 2022.
- 3.4. If any councillor has any queries relating to a recommendation, it is suggested that they raise it with either the Town Clerk or Chairman of Committee before the Council meeting.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Please see individual committee reports.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. Please see individual committee reports for specific details.
- 5.2. Council decisions are supreme and therefore any changes to recommendations can be made with final agreement at Full Council.

End
Linda Blake
Town Clerk

**A REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK TO
A MEETING OF MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
to be held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council, Avenue Road**

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. For decision.

2. Recommendation

2.1. Full Council is asked to consider the recommendations from the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 10 March 2022 and listed below.

2.2. Recommendations to be presented by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee or, if absent, the Vice-Chairman.

Minute 40 Quarterly Accounts – third quarter, October to December 2021

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Full Council approves the Quarterly Accounts for the third quarter ending 31 December 2021.

Minute 42 Town Council Objectives – short and long term

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council's short term and long term aims and objectives 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 as attached to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting minutes at Appendix A are accepted.

Minutes 43 Assessment of Malvern Town Council's significant risks in achieving its objectives, short term and long term

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the significant risks to achieving the Town Council's objectives, both short term and long term as attached to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting minutes at Appendix B are accepted.

Minute 44 Anti-fraud and corruption policy

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the revised Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy within report PR04/22 be approved and adopted subject to the minor change above being made.

Minute 45 Bullying and Harassment Policy

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the revised Bullying and Harassment Policy within report PR05/22 be approved and adopted.

3. Background

3.1. At a meeting of Full Council held on 12 September 2018, it was resolved that committees would approve their own minutes for accuracy with any recommendations from committee meetings being taken separately to be accepted by Full Council before being put into effect.

3.2. Full Council is therefore asked to consider the recommendations listed above in 2.2 and to approve, amend or refer back to committee as appropriate.

3.3. Councillors are reminded that the relevant reports as considered by committees when making their recommendations can be found within the papers distributed for the meeting and these will not be reissued.

3.4. If any councillor has any queries relating to a recommendation, it is suggested that they raise it with either the Town Clerk or Chairman of Committee before the Council meeting.

4. Financial Implications

4.1. Please see individual committee reports.

5. Legal Implications

5.1. Please see individual committee reports for specific details.

5.2. Council decisions are supreme and therefore any changes to recommendations can be made with final agreement at Full Council.

End

Linda Blake
Town Clerk