

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bulmershe & Coronation, Loddon and South Lake

49 In response to the draft recommendations we received general support for these wards, although a number of respondents proposed name changes. The Council expressed support for the draft recommendation, but stated that our proposed three-councillor North Woodley, East Woodley and South Woodley wards should be renamed as Bulmershe & Coronation, Loddon and South Lake, respectively. A resident also supported the retention of the existing Loddon ward name, stating that the draft names 'lack imagination' and that it is better to use locally recognised names, rather than compass point names. Another resident expressed support for the inclusion of compass points in names, but argued they should be a suffix, rather than prefix – for example supporting Woodley East, rather than East Woodley. Woodley Town Council expressed general support for the draft proposals.

50 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the general support for the proposed ward boundaries in Woodley. We have considered the different comments on the proposed names. While we note that there is some support for retaining names with compass point references, albeit it in a different format, we also note the objections. We find the evidence of names that reflect locally recognised areas compelling and note that this argument is used elsewhere in the borough, as well as our draft proposals for the Wokingham Town area, where we have used local names. We are therefore persuaded to adopt the Council's proposed names, noting that these also reflect names of existing wards.

51 Our final recommendations are for three-councillor Bulmershe & Coronation, Loddon and South Lake wards with 9% fewer, 9% fewer and 2% fewer electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively.

Hawkedon, Hillside and Maiden Erlegh & Whitegates

52 In response to the draft recommendations we received a mixture of support and objections to our draft recommendation for this area, with a number of respondents proposing name changes. The Council expressed general support for the draft recommendations, including the inclusion of the Ryhill Way area of Shinfield parish. It also recommended renaming North Earley, South East Earley and South West Earley wards as Maiden Erlegh & Whitegates, Hawkedon and Hillside, respectively. Earley Town Council put forward comments on the parish wards, but not the district wards.

53 Earley & Shinfield Liberal Democrats proposed including all the odd-numbered properties on Beech Lane and Dene Close in South East Earley ward, rather than North Earley ward. They also proposed renaming all the wards so that the compass point part of the name is a suffix, rather than prefix – for example Earley North, rather than North Earley.

54 A number of residents expressed support for the inclusion of Ryhill Way in an Earley ward, while one resident said that the existing parish boundaries should be respected. Shinfield Parish Council expressed support for the draft recommendations. A resident objected to the inclusion of the Sellafield Way to Markby Way area in our proposed South West Earley ward, arguing this would be better placed in the North Earley or South East Earley ward. A number of residents expressed concern about the loss of Maiden Erlegh ward.

55 We received a range of comments on the proposed ward names. A number of respondents objected to using names with compass point references, favouring 'traditional' names. Other respondents supported the compass point references, but argued that they should be a suffix, rather than prefix – for example Earley North, rather than North Earley. A resident and the Council supported renaming South East Earley and South West Earley wards as Hawkedon and Hillside wards, respectively. They did not agree on the name for North Earley, with the Council suggesting Maiden Erlegh & Whitegates, while the resident suggested Sol Joel or Earley Crossroads.

56 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received, noting the support for the draft recommendations. We note that there was some objection to the inclusion of the Ryhill Way area of Shinfield parish in an Earley ward, but there was also support for this arrangement. We remain of the view that this area, which has no direct access into Shinfield parish, is best served in an Earley ward. We also note the amendment put forward by Earley & Shinfield Liberal Democrats. While this provides a marginal improvement to electoral equality, the Group did not provide any compelling evidence to support this amendment. In addition, there was no other support for this change and we note that it moves away from the clear boundary of Beech Lane. Therefore, we are not adopting this amendment.

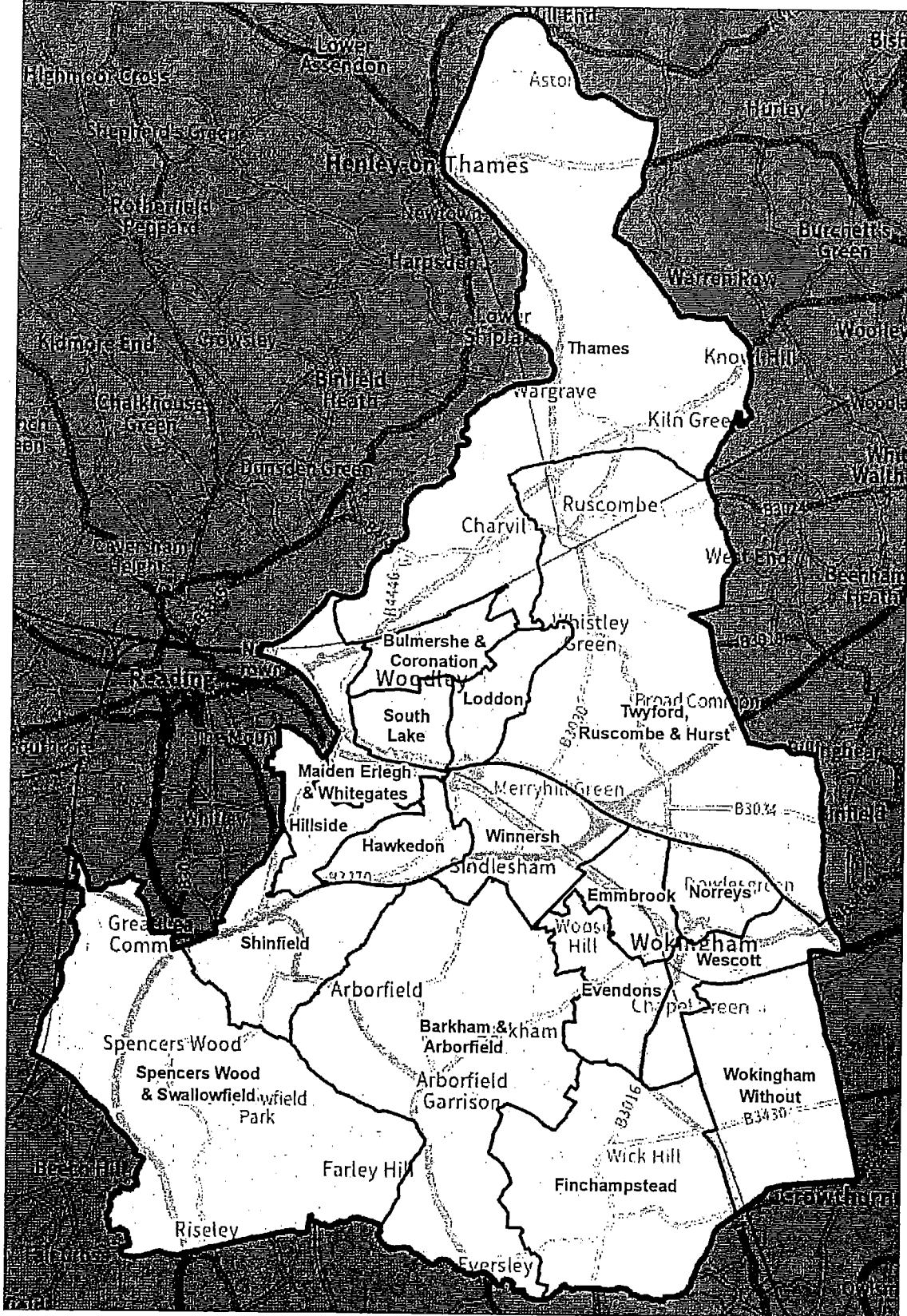
57 We also note the resident's objection to the inclusion of the Sellafield Way to Markby Way area in our proposed South West Earley ward. However, this area cannot be placed in either of the suggested wards without significantly worsening electoral equality in the neighbouring wards. Therefore, we are not adopting this amendment.

58 Finally, we note the comments on ward names. We note that some respondents were happy with the use of compass points in the name, albeit as suffix rather than a prefix. Others favoured more local names. On balance, as with Woodley (discussed above), we are more persuaded by retaining local names. We note that there was agreement for renaming South East Earley and South West Earley wards as Hawkedon and Hillside wards. We are therefore adopting these names. We note that there was not agreement on an alternative name for North Earley. However, we are persuaded by the Council's proposals, noting that the

Maiden Erlegh & Whitegates name reflects concerns from some residents about the loss of Maiden Erlegh. We are therefore adopting the Council's proposed name.

59 Our final recommendations are for three-councillor Hawkedon, Hillside and Maiden Erlegh & Whitegates wards with 5% more, 1% fewer and 9% more electors than the borough average by 2028, respectively.

Appendix B
Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <https://www.lqbce.org.uk/all-reviews/wokingham>