

Electoral Review Stage 2 Update for Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

What we have so far



All stage 1 work submitted and approved by LGBCE



All draft options mapped with final figures



Workshops complete

What is Stage 2?

Stage 2 is the **re-drawing of boundary lines** to address the electoral inequality within Staffordshire. In this Stage we needed to work closely with Members to look at:

- The total number of divisions
- Division boundaries
- Number of Councillors elected to each division
- Name of each division

LGBCE Criteria

It is essential that we considered the **3 LGBCE criteria** throughout this Stage:

- **Electoral Equality**

- Ideally all divisions will be within +/- 10% of the County Average.

- **Community Identity**

- Well evidenced community identities argument needs to be submitted with our division arrangement proposals

- **Effective and Convenient Local Government**

- Proposals need to reflect and consider remaining coterminous with District/Borough and Parish boundaries, where possible

Member engagement



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1-2-1 sessions have taken place with members

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Preparing for Stage 2



Following reviewing the confirmed data an initial proposal was created by the team and the SDM's to capture a holistic view on the County.

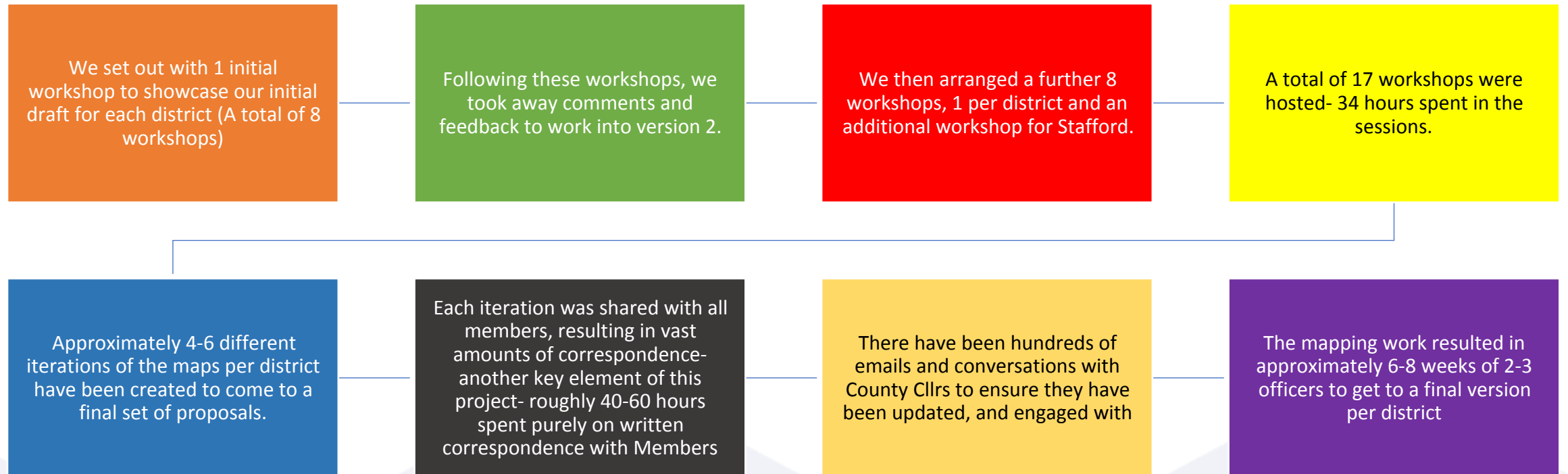


Our initial proposals were then taken to a point of contact chosen by the leader for each District.



Edits were made on the back of these sessions, and then a first draft was created to take to our first workshop sessions.

Developing our proposals



Developing our proposals (Cont'd)



Where needed, a 1-2-1 session has been offered and conducted to explore certain divisions in more detail - this was on average 2-3 members per district



A Community and Parish briefing was held on the 16th February to provide a briefing on Stage 2 with approximately 30 attendees



All Cllrs have been updated frequently throughout this process and we have worked with them to engage and be transparent with our work

Key info on options

- **Tamworth:** The highest forecast variances by 2028 are in Stonydelph, Watling North and Watling South – all have forecast variances of more than -10%; boundary changes are therefore likely to be required to improve electoral equality across the borough. The data and LGBCE strategy suggests for one less Cllr.
- **East Staffordshire:** East Staffs currently has 8 single member divisions. Due to the forecast increase in electorate for East Staffs, by 2028 the borough will have an increased proportion of the total electorate of Staffordshire. Therefore to maintain electoral equality across the districts and boroughs East Staffs requires 1 additional councillor, bringing the total number of councillors to 9. The Boundary Commission has recently completed a review of Electoral Wards in East Staffs, which will come into effect from May 2023. These new ward boundaries will have to be taken into consideration when new division boundaries are proposed.

Key info on options (Cont'd)

- **Cannock:** Cannock Chase currently has 5 single member divisions and 1 two-member division, a total of 7 members. We have requested a single member division review and will put those proposals in with stage 2. The highest forecast variances by 2028 are in Etchingill & Heath and Hednesford & Rawnsley, with forecast variances of over +/- 10%. Boundary changes will be required to improve electoral equality across the district.
- **Lichfield:** The highest forecast variances by 2028 are in Lichfield City South, Burntwood North, Lichfield Rural South and Lichfield Rural North – all have forecast variances of over 10%; boundary changes will be required to improve electoral equality across the borough.
- **South Staffs:** The highest forecast variances by 2028 are in Perton – which has a forecast variances of over 10%; boundary changes will be required to improve electoral equality across the borough.

Key info on options (Cont'd)

- **Staffordshire Moorlands**: Biddulph North has a forecast variance to the average electorate of more than minus 10%, whilst two further divisions vary by more than plus 5%; boundary changes will therefore be required to improve electoral equality across the district.
- **Newcastle**: The highest forecast variances by 2028 is in Keele, Knutton and Silverdale – this division has a forecast variance of over 25%; boundary changes will be required to improve electoral equality across the borough.
- **Stafford**: The highest forecast variances by 2028 is in Gnosall & Doxey, which has a forecast variances of over 25%; boundary changes will be required to improve electoral equality across the borough.

To summarise

	2022	2025	Member Change (n)
Tamworth	6	5	-1
Newcastle	9	9	
Stafford	9	9	
Cannock	7(1 Double Member Division)	7(1 Double Member Division*)	
Lichfield	8	8	
Staffs Moorlands	7	7	
East Staffs	8	9	+1
South Staffs	8 (1 Double Member Division)	8 (1 Double Member Division*)	
Total	62	62	0

*Single Member Division review requested but awaiting feedback from LGBCE

What's next?

- Rationale and community insight is being completed to support our proposed to build a robust case.
- Once our final proposal document is complete, we will submit to the LG BCE on **20th March**.

Key Dates

- Pre Cabinet 1st March
- Cabinet 8th March
- Full Council 16th March
- Submission to LGBCE 20th March
- Consultation on draft recommendations: 27 June to 4 September 2023