Draft Order laid before Parliament under section 59(9) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009; draft to lie for forty days pursuant to section 6(1) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, during which period either House of Parliament may resolve that the Order be not made.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2023 No. 0000

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

The Epping Forest (Electoral Changes) Order 2023

Made - - - -

Coming into force in accordance with article 1(2), (3) and (4)

Under section 58(4) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009(**a**) ("the Act") the Local Government Boundary Commission for England(**b**) ("the Commission") published a report dated March 2023(**c**) stating its recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements for the district of Epping Forest. The Commission has decided to give effect to the recommendations.

A draft of the instrument has been laid before Parliament and a period of forty days has expired since the day on which it was laid and neither House has resolved that the instrument be not made.

The Commission makes the following Order in exercise of the power conferred by section 59(1) of the Act.

Citation, commencement, extent and application

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Epping Forest (Electoral Changes) Order 2023.

(2) This article and article 2 come into force on the day after the day on which this Order is made.

(3) Articles 3, 4, 5, Schedule 1 and Part 1 of Schedule 2 come into force—

(a) for the purposes of proceedings preliminary or relating to the election of councillors, on 15th October 2023;

(b) for all other purposes, on the ordinary day of election of councillors in England(**d**) in 2024.

(**a**) 2009 c. 20.

(**b**) The Local Government Boundary Commission for England was established on 1st April 2010 by section 55(1) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

(**c**) The report is available for inspection at reasonable times at the principal office of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 1st Floor, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0TL. It is also accessible online at https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/epping-forest.

(**d**) The ordinary day of election of councillors in England is prescribed by section 37(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2), as amended by section 18(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1985 (c. 50), renumbered by paragraph 5 of Schedule 3 to the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (c. 29), and further amended by section 6(16) of the Wales Act 2017 (c. 4).

(4) Article 6 and Part 2 of Schedule 2 come into force—

(a) for the purposes of proceedings preliminary or relating to the election of councillors, on 15th October 2026;

(b) for all other purposes, on the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in 2027.

(5) This Order extends to England and Wales but applies in relation to England only.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Order, "the map" means the map marked "Map referred to in the Epping Forest (Electoral Changes) Order 2023", held by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England(**a**).

(2) Where a boundary is shown on the map as running along a road, railway line, footway, watercourse or similar geographical feature, it is to be treated as running along the centre line of the feature.

Wards of the district of Epping Forest and number of councillors

3.—(1) The existing wards of the district of Epping Forest are abolished.

(2) The district of Epping Forest is divided into the 18 wards listed in Schedule 1.

(3) Each ward comprises the area identified on the map by reference to the name of the ward.

(4) The number of councillors to be elected for each ward is three.

Elections of the district of Epping Forest

4.—(1) Elections of all councillors for each ward of the district are to be held simultaneously on the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in 2024.

(2) The councillors holding office for any ward abolished by article 3(1) immediately before the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2024 are to retire on that fourth day, and the newly elected councillors are to come into office on that fourth day.

(3) Of the councillors elected for a ward in 2024—

(a) one is to retire on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in 2026;

(b) one is to retire on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in 2027;

(c) one is to retire on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in 2028.

(4) Of the councillors elected for a ward in 2024—

(a) the first councillor for each ward to retire is to be the councillor elected by the smallest number of votes; and

(b) the second councillor for each ward to retire is to be the councillor elected by the next smallest number of votes.

(5) In the case of an equality of votes between any persons elected which makes it uncertain which of them is to retire in any year, the person to retire in that year is to be determined by lot.

(6) If an election of councillors for any ward is not contested, the person to retire in each year is to be determined by lot.

(**a**) Prints of the map are available for inspection at reasonable times at the principal office of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 1st Floor, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0TL. It is also accessible online at https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/epping-forest.

(7) An election to replace a councillor who is to retire under paragraph (3) is to be held on the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in the year in which the retirement is due to take place, and any newly elected councillor is to come into office on the fourth day after that day.

(8) Where, under this article, any question is to be determined by lot, the lot is to be drawn at the next practicable meeting of the council after the question has arisen and the drawing is to be conducted under the direction of the person presiding at the meeting.

Parish wards of the parishes of Chigwell and Loughton and number of councillors

5.—(1) The existing parish wards of the parishes of Chigwell and Loughton are abolished.

(2) The parish of Chigwell is divided into the three parish wards listed in the first column of table 1 in Part 1 of Schedule 2.

(3) The parish of Loughton is divided into the nine parish wards listed in the first column of table 2 in Part 1 of Schedule 2.

(4) Each parish ward comprises the area identified on the map by reference to the name of the parish ward.

(5) The number of councillors to be elected for each parish ward is the number specified in relation to that parish ward in the second column of the table in Part 1 of Schedule 2.

Parish wards of the parishes of Epping, Roydon and Waltham Abbey and number of councillors

6.—(1) The existing parish wards of the parishes of Epping, Roydon and Waltham Abbey are abolished.

(2) The parish of Epping is divided into the two parish wards listed in the first column of table 3 in Part 2 of Schedule 2.

(3) The parish of Roydon is divided into the four parish wards listed in the first column of table 4 in Part 2 of Schedule 2.

(4) The parish of Waltham Abbey is divided into the five parish wards listed in the first column of table 5 in Part 2 of Schedule 2.

(5) Each parish ward comprises the area identified on the map by reference to the name of the parish ward.

(6) The number of councillors to be elected for each parish ward is the number specified in relation to that parish ward in the second column of the table in Part 2 of Schedule 2.

Sealed with the seal of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Name
Chief Executive
Date Local Government Boundary Commission for England

SCHEDULE 1

Article 3

Names of wards of the district of Epping Forest

1. Buckhurst Hill East & Whitebridge

2. Buckhurst Hill West

3. Chigwell with Lambourne

4. Epping East

5. Epping West & Rural

6. Grange Hill

7. Loughton Fairmead

8. Loughton Forest

9. Loughton Roding

10. Loughton St John's

11. North Weald Bassett

12. Ongar

13. Roydon & Lower Nazeing

14. Rural East

15. Theydon Bois with Passingford

16. Waltham Abbey North

17. Waltham Abbey South & Rural

18. Waltham Abbey West

SCHEDULE 2

Articles 5 and 6

Names of parish wards and number of councillors

PART 1

Table 1

Parish wards of the parish of Chigwell

(1) Name of parish ward	*(2) Number of councillors*
Chigwell Row	2
Chigwell Village	2
Grange Hill	7

Table 2

Wards of the parish of Loughton

(1) Name of parish ward	*(2) Number of councillors*
Loughton Alderton	3
Loughton Broadway	2
Loughton Debden	1
Loughton Fairmead	3
Loughton Forest	3
Loughton Roding	1
Loughton St John's	5
Loughton St Mary's	2
Loughton Whitebridge	2

PART 2

Table 3

Parish wards of the parish of Epping

(1) Name of parish ward	*(2) Number of councillors*
Hemnall	6
St John's	6

Table 4

Parish wards of the parish of Roydon

(1) Name of parish ward	*(2) Number of councillors*
Broadley Common	2
Dobbs Weir	2
Halls Green	3
Roydon Village	4

Table 5

Parish wards of the parish of Waltham Abbey

(1) Name of parish ward	*(2) Number of councillors*
High Beach	1
Honey Lane	2
North East	2
Paternoster	3
South West	3

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order makes changes to electoral arrangements for the District of Epping Forest following recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The area of the district remains unchanged.

Article 3 abolishes the existing electoral wards of the District of Epping Forest and replaces them with 18 new ones listed in Schedule 1 for the purpose of elections held on or after the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in 2024. It establishes the names and areas of the new electoral wards and the number of councillors for each.

Article 4 makes provision for a whole council election in 2024. Subsequently, the council will revert to the existing system of election by thirds. That article also provides for the order of retirement of councillors in 2026, 2027 and 2028 and the election of their replacements.

Articles 5 and 6 makes changes to parish wards within the area of the District that are consequential on the changes made by article 3. Article 5 and Part 1 of Schedule 2 make provision in respect of parishes that elect in 2024, whilst Article 6 and Part 2 of Schedule 2 make provision in respect of parishes that are to elect in 2027.

The area covered by each ward created by this Order is identified on a map which is available for inspection at reasonable times at the offices of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 1st Floor, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0TL.

The map may also be accessed at https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/epping-forest.

An impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no impact on the private, public or voluntary sectors is foreseen.

© Crown copyright 2023

Printed and published in the UK by The Stationery Office Limited under the authority and superintendence of Jeff James, Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office and King's Printer of Acts of Parliament.

£6.90

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukdsi/2023/9780348248203

ISBN 978-0-34-824820-3

