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 not be made.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2025 No. ****

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

The Sandwell (Electoral Changes) Order 2025

Made - - - - ***

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

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 September 2025(**c**) stating its recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements for the borough of Sandwell. 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 Sandwell (Electoral Changes) Order 2025.

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

(3) Articles 3 and 4 come into force—

(a) for the purposes of proceedings preliminary or relating to the election of councillors, on the day after the day on which this Order is made;

(**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. 20).

(**c**) The report is available for inspection at reasonable times at the principal office of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ. It is also accessible online at https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/sandwell/.

(b) for all other purposes, on the ordinary day of election of councillors in England(**a**) in 2026.

(4) 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 Sandwell (Electoral Changes) Order 2025" held by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England(**b**).

(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 that feature.

Wards of the borough of Sandwell and number of councillors

3.—(1) The existing wards of the borough of Sandwell are abolished.

(2) The borough of Sandwell is divided into the 24 wards listed in the Schedule.

(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 borough of Sandwell

4.—(1) Elections of all councillors for each ward of the borough of Sandwell are to be held simultaneously on the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in 2026.

(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 England in 2026 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 2026—

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

(b) one is to retire on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in 2028, and

(c) one is to retire on the fourth day after the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in 2030.

(4) Of the councillors elected for a ward in 2026—

(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.

(**a**) 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).

(**b**) The map is available for inspection at reasonable times at the principal office of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ. It is also accessible online at https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/sandwell/.

(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.

(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.

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

Name
Chief Executive
Date Local Government Boundary Commission for England

SCHEDULE

Article 3

Wards of the borough of Sandwell

1. Bearwood
2. Blackheath
3. Bristnall
4. Charlemont & Grove Vale
5. Cradley Heath & Old Hill
6. Friar Park & Stone Cross
7. Great Barr, Tamebridge & Yew Tree
8. Great Bridge
9. Greets Green & Lyng
10. Hateley Heath
11. Hill Top
12. Langley
13. Newton & Valley
14. Old Warley
15. Oldbury
16. Princes End
17. Rowley
18. Smethwick
19. Soho & Victoria
20. St Pauls
21. Tipton Green
22. Tividale
23. Wednesbury
24. West Bromwich Central

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order makes changes to electoral arrangements for the borough of Sandwell following recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. This Order does not change the boundary of the borough itself.

Article 3 abolishes the existing electoral wards of the borough of Sandwell and replaces them with the 24 new ones listed in the Schedule for the purposes of elections held on or after the ordinary day of election of councillors in England in 2026. It also 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 2026. Subsequently, the council will revert to the existing system of election by thirds. Article 4 also provides for the order of retirement of councillors in 2027, 2028 and 2030 and the election of their replacements.

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 principal office of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ. The map is also accessible online at https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/sandwell/.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen.

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