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

2025 No. ****

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

The Walsall (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 July 2024(**c**) stating its recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements for the borough of Walsall. 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 Walsall (Electoral Changes) Order 2025.

(2) This article and article 2 come into force on 15th October 2025.

(3) Articles 3 and 4 come into force—

(a) for the purposes of proceedings preliminary or relating to the election of councillors, on 15th October 2025;

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

(**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, 7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ. It is also accessible online at https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/walsall/.

(**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

(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 Walsall (Electoral Changes) Order 2025", 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 borough of Walsall and number of councillors

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

(2) The borough of Walsall is divided into the 20 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 Walsall

4.—(1) Elections of all councillors for each ward of the borough of Walsall 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 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;

(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;

(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 any 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

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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).

(**a**) Prints of the map are 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/walsall.

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 Walsall

1. Aldridge Central & South
2. Aldridge North & Walsall Wood
3. Beechdale, Leamore & Reedswood
4. Bentley & Darlaston North
5. Bloxwich East & Blakenall Heath
6. Bloxwich West
7. Brownhills
8. Darlaston South
9. Harden, Goscote & Ryecroft
10. New Invention
11. Paddock
12. Palfrey & The Delves
13. Pelsall
14. Pheasey Park Farm
15. Pleck
16. Rushall-Shelfield
17. Short Heath
18. St Matthew's
19. Streetly
20. Willenhall

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

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

Article 3 abolishes the existing electoral wards of the borough of Walsall and replaces them with the 20 new ones listed in the Schedule for the purpose of elections to be held on and 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. That article 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 offices of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ.

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

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

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ISBN 978-0-34-826700-6

£5.78

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukdsi/2025/9780348267006