

## **1. Basingstoke & Deane**

### **1.1. About Basingstoke & Deane**

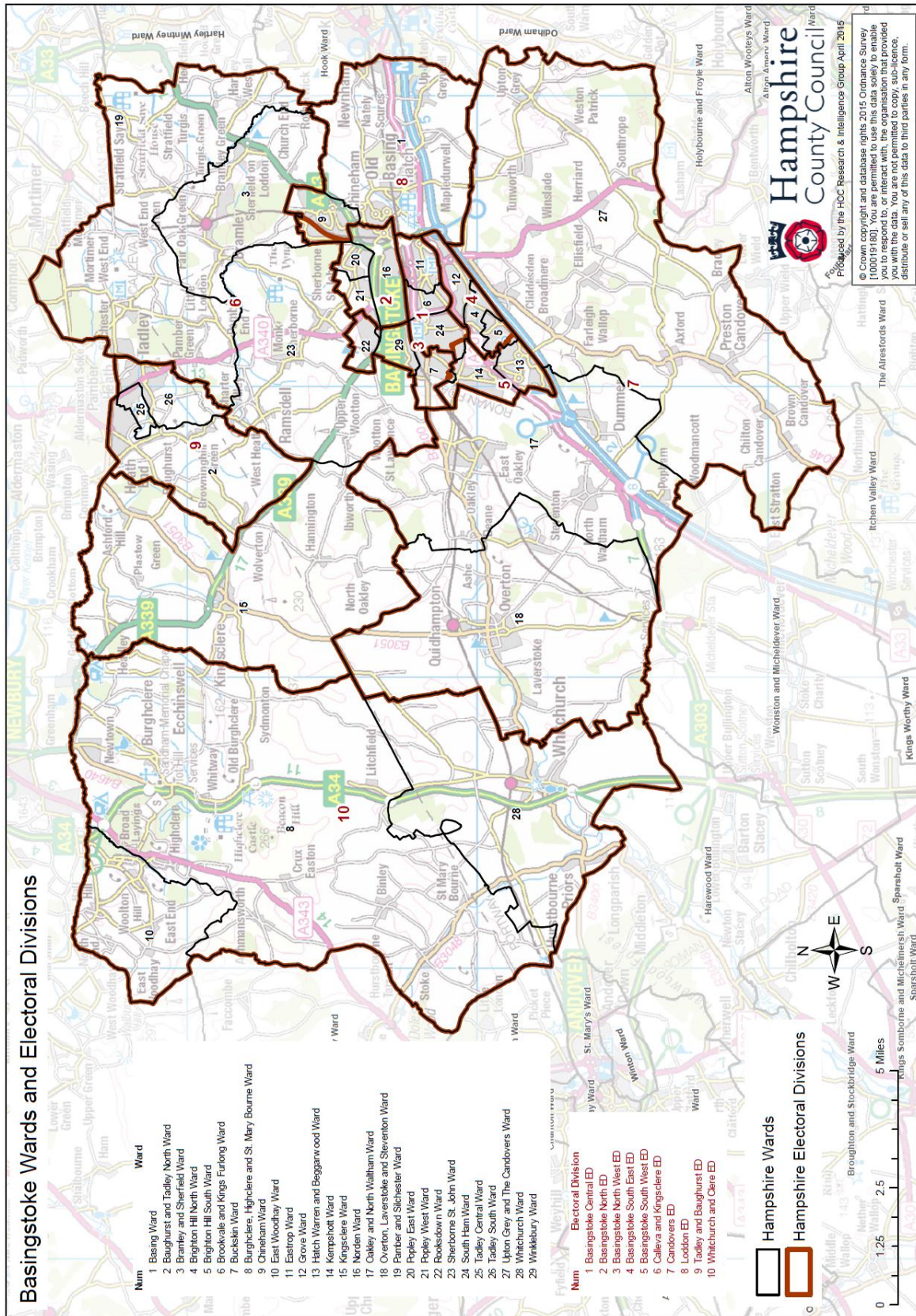
Basingstoke & Deane Borough is one of the largest districts in Hampshire. Covering the central section of north Hampshire, it comprises a substantial rural area around a single large urban area (the town of Basingstoke). The borough sits on the North Wessex Downs on some of the highest ground in Hampshire, and is the source of the River Test, which runs south to the Solent, and the Loddon, which runs north to the Thames.

Basingstoke is a nationally important road and rail junction, being the point at which the main routes from London to the South West intersect with those from the South Coast to the Midlands. The M3 passes immediately to the south of the town, with the A34 and A303 crossing the western part of the district. The South West/West of England main railway lines provide a frequent service from Whitchurch, Overton and Basingstoke to Waterloo that allows easy commuting to London, while rail freight from the Port of Southampton runs north through Basingstoke. With strong links to Andover, Winchester, Alton, Farnborough, Reading and Newbury, the town is also a regional hub for financial, retail and service industries.

Basingstoke is an old settlement that gained in importance after the advent of the railway and the Basingstoke Canal in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but it remained a modest market town until after the Second World War, when it expanded rapidly through 'London overspill' development. The mean age in Basingstoke and Deane is below the Hampshire average and with a population in 2015 of over 170,000, it is the fastest-growing and second-largest district in Hampshire, with most of its recent growth taking place in and on the edges of Basingstoke Town. Pressure for Basingstoke to fulfil some of London's unmet housing need is increasing and there are proposals to build a significant new community to the south and west of the town.

The rural part of the district is sparsely populated compared to Basingstoke Town, and features many characteristic Hampshire villages and small towns of which a number are fairly substantial, such as Whitchurch, Kingsclere and Tadley. Development has been considerably slower in the rural areas and there are environmental and planning constraints on growth including the presence of the Atomic Weapons Establishment just over the border in West Berkshire.

Map of Existing County Council Divisions in Basingstoke & Deane



## 1.2. County Council Divisions in Basingstoke & Deane

There are currently ten County Councillors from Basingstoke & Deane, each representing one division. The combination of factors described above means that by 2021 the divisions in Basingstoke Town will cover a larger number of registered electors than the projected Hampshire average of 13,846 per Councillor, while those in the rural areas will be below average.

### Existing divisions – registered and forecast electorate

Division name	Members	2014 Electorate	2014 Variance	2021 Electorate Forecast	2021 Variance
Basingstoke Central	1	14,878	+13.7%	15,538	+12.2%
Basingstoke North	1	15,105	+15.5%	17,788	+28.5%
Basingstoke North West	1	12,207	-6.7%	14,188	+2.5%
Basingstoke South East	1	12,863	-1.7%	12,325	-11.0%
Basingstoke South West	1	13,638	+4.3%	13,266	-4.2%
Calleva & Kingsclere	1	13,834	+5.8%	16,320	+17.9%
Candovers	1	11,823	-9.6%	12,986	-6.2%
Loddon	1	14,453	+10.5%	14,659	+5.9%
Tadley & Baughurst	1	11,125	-14.9%	11,117	-19.7%
Whitchurch & Clere	1	11,218	-14.2%	11,697	-15.5%
<b>Total</b>	10	131,144		139,884	

The proposal is to retain the same ten divisions for Basingstoke & Deane, each with one Councillor, but to adjust most of the divisions' boundaries to provide a better degree of electoral equality without dividing natural communities or disturbing existing community arrangements. The proposed new pattern of divisions reflects the practicalities of travel in the area, and the Commission's requirement that the pattern should provide for convenient and effective government – so the proposed urban divisions remain larger than the Hampshire average while the rural ones remain smaller. Two changes to the division names of Calleva & Kingsclere and of Whitchurch & Clere are proposed.

The proposals recognise that Basingstoke Town is a distinct area and, rather than arbitrarily mixing town and country or trying to span the M3, we have found it possible instead to provide much greater equality by reshuffling the boundaries within the urban area. However, it has not been possible to achieve this using only whole wards. The town has natural boundary lines, notably the railway line, a motorway, two major A roads and a ring road

system. These roads should be seen more as serving an essential need for traffic flow, aiding the development of the town, rather than as barriers. They cut through several of the town wards, giving rise to the need for our divisions to contain split wards. However, it has also been possible to re-join one previously split ward.

The new pattern rectifies the rural imbalances by enlarging Tadley & Baughurst and Whitchurch & Clere and shrinking Calleva & Kingsclere. It has been necessary to split one ward and one parish to achieve this.

The proposals for Basingstoke & Deane were co-ordinated by Councillor Criss Connor, the Member for Basingstoke Central, and were discussed with and agreed by all current Basingstoke & Deane County Councillors.

### 1.3. **Basingstoke Central**

#### **2021 Electorate Forecast: 15,538 (+12.2% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division covers the central part of Basingstoke Town, including the main shopping areas, the Anvil Concert Hall, the theatre, the two main libraries, the two museums and a major leisure park. Basingstoke Central lies south of the railway, north of an A road and is bounded by an A road to the east. This division currently includes the following wards:

- Brookvale & Kings Furlong
- Eastrop
- 88% of South Ham

The forecast 2021 electorate in Basingstoke Central is well above the Hampshire average and it is necessary to make some significant boundary changes. It is proposed that Eastrop Ward be moved to Basingstoke South East, and to offset this loss by adding two polling districts from Norden Ward currently within Basingstoke North Division, which has a forecast electorate well above the county average. This part of Norden Ward is part of a community with close links to Brookvale even though it is separated by the railway. The Kingsclere Road represents a major route joining the two areas. New houses in this part of Norden are advertised as being within walking distance of the town centre and they use the same facilities (schools, shops etc.) as other Basingstoke Central residents.

#### **Proposal for Basingstoke Central**

- Transfer Eastrop to Basingstoke South East (-4,818)

- Add Norden FY and FZ (+3,430)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,150 (+2.2% against forecast Hampshire average)**

#### 1.4. **Basingstoke North**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 17,788 (+28.5% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division covers the northern part of Basingstoke Town and lies to the north of the South West Main Line. It stretches north into the area of Chineham that is west of the Basingstoke-Reading railway and is a well-established and close-knit area created by the development of council housing estates. This division currently includes the following wards:

- Popley East
- Popley West
- Norden

Following projected new development in Popley, the forecast 2021 electorate in Basingstoke North shows the second-highest variance above the average in all of Hampshire. It is therefore necessary to reassign more than 3,000 voters to another division. A simple solution is fortunately possible – as seen above we propose to transfer Norden FY and FZ to Basingstoke Central. The Popley wards have a close affinity and the ‘Oakridge village’ part of Norden already has well-established community links with the two Popley wards as they share the same surgery, schools, shops and community hall.

#### **Proposal for Basingstoke North**

- Transfer Norden FY and FZ to Basingstoke Central (-3,430)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,358 (+3.7% against forecast Hampshire average)**

#### 1.5. **Basingstoke North West**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 14,188 (+2.5% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division covers the north-western part of Basingstoke Town and forms the western edge of the town. Although Basingstoke North West is cut by an A road, there are two bridges linking the parts and they both use the same

schools as well as being served by the same bus route. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Buckskin (96%)
- Rooksdown
- Winklebury

The forecast 2021 electorate in Basingstoke North West is only slightly above the Hampshire average and no change is necessary to achieve electoral equality. However, a minor change is proposed to better reflect natural communities by reuniting all of Buckskin ward within this division.

#### **Proposal for Basingstoke North West**

- Add Buckskin EV (+210)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,398 (+4.0% against forecast Hampshire average)**

#### **1.6. Basingstoke South East**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 12,325 (-11.0% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division covers the south-eastern part of Basingstoke Town between the central town area and the M3, which forms a hard southern boundary. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Brighton Hill North
- Brighton Hill South (95%)
- Grove

The forecast 2021 electorate in Basingstoke South East is some way below the Hampshire average and changes are necessary to achieve better electoral equality. It is proposed that a whole ward from the eastern part of Basingstoke Central be added and that one polling district be moved to another division that already contains one from the same ward. This leaves a logical grouping that borders the town centre and has many natural links. While the revised electorate is only just under the +10% variance threshold, it is considered that this is the best solution available given the significant growth elsewhere in the town.

#### **Proposal for Basingstoke South East**

- Transfer Brighton Hill South EN to Basingstoke South West (-1,925)
- Add Eastrop (+4,818)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 15,218 (+9.9% against forecast Hampshire average)**

1.7. **Basingstoke South West**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 13,266 (-4.2% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division covers the south-western tip of Basingstoke Town and lies between open country to the west and the hard boundary of the M3 to the south. This is a community that spans a major A road but has common facilities and well-established community links. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Brighton Hill South (5%)
- Buckskin (4%)
- Hatchwarren & Beggarwood
- Kempshott
- South Ham (12%)

The forecast 2021 electorate in Basingstoke South West is slightly below the Hampshire average and no changes are necessary to achieve better electoral equality. Nevertheless, given the necessary changes to Basingstoke South East we propose to add Brighton Hill South EN to this division, and as mentioned above the reunification of Buckskin ward is also proposed. These changes leave Basingstoke South West well within the +10% variance threshold.

**Proposal for Basingstoke South West**

- Transfer Buckskin EV to Basingstoke North West (-210)
- Add Brighton Hill South EN (+1,925)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,981 (+8.2% against forecast Hampshire average)**

1.8. **Calleva & Kingsclere**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 16,320 (+17.9% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This division covers most of the borough north of Basingstoke town, including the Roman settlement of Calleva (now Silchester) and A road links to Newbury and Reading. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Bramley & Sherfield
- Kingsclere
- Pamber & Silchester
- Sherborne St. John

Following projected new development in Sherborne St. John, the forecast 2021 electorate in Calleva & Kingsclere is very significantly above the Hampshire average and changes are necessary to achieve better electoral equality. Pamber & Silchester and Sherborne St. John, which have been linked for a long time, make use of all the same school and community facilities. It is therefore proposed that Kingsclere parish (polling districts FX and FW) be reassigned to Whitchurch & Clere, which shares its Newbury-facing orientation. In addition it is proposed to transfer Ashford Hill and Headley to Tadley & Baughurst, which needs to grow substantially. These changes leave Calleva & Kingsclere very close to the -10% threshold but it is not possible otherwise to bring the other two divisions in the area within -10%.

Due to the transfer of Kingsclere it is necessary to rename this division Calleva.

#### **Proposal for Calleva**

- Transfer Kingsclere FW and FX to Whitchurch & Clere (-2,744)
- Transfer Ashford Hill FT and Headley FU to Tadley & Baughurst (-1,042)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 12,534 (-9.5% against forecast Hampshire average)**

#### **1.9. Candovers**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 12,986 (-6.2% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This is a large rural division covering most of the southern part of the Borough. It is split by two railway lines into Basingstoke as well as the M3 and the first stretch of the A303. Most of the settlements are small villages with the largest being Overton. The division currently includes the following

wards:

- Oakley and North Waltham
- Overton Laverstoke & Steventon
- Upton Grey & The Candovers

The emerging local plan for Basingstoke & Deane maintains the M3 motorway as a boundary line for development with no major sites being proposed for the land to its south. The Candovers division, as currently drawn, is wholly compatible with the emerging plan and having no change protects its identity. No changes to this division are proposed, which represents several natural communities and remains well within the variance threshold.

### **Proposal for Candovers**

- Retain whole of current division

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 12,986 (-6.2% against forecast Hampshire average)**

#### 1.10. **Loddon**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 14,659 (+5.9% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This is a partly urban division to the east of Basingstoke, covering the space between Basingstoke Town and Hook as well as the parish of Chineham north of the town. Most settlements lie north of the three east-west travel corridors that run through the division (M3, A30 and South West Main Line). The division currently includes four whole parishes within the following wards:

- Basing
- Chineham

There has been some development within these wards but being separated from Basingstoke Town by a major A road and the ring road system, they have a strong community identity. The Lychpit area of Basing Ward has a close affinity to the Chineham Ward in terms of housing mix and facilities used; for example both share the Chineham shopping centre as a significant local facility. Both the Basing and Chineham wards have shared use of two village halls that provide considerable community facilities. Finally, the

Loddon Division is wholly within the Basingstoke Parliamentary constituency, rather than North East Hampshire, and it would break this coterminosity if voters were transferred to divisions to the north or south. No changes to this division are therefore proposed, which remains well within the variance threshold.

### **Proposal for Loddon**

- Retain whole of current division

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 14,659 (+5.9% against forecast Hampshire average)**

### 1.11. **Tadley & Baughurst**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 11,117 (-19.7% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This is a mostly rural division to the north-west of Basingstoke, with a single large settlement (Tadley). Tadley borders West Berkshire and is home to many employees of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) in Aldermaston. The town's close proximity to AWE limits the amount of new development that can take place as the Office for Nuclear Regulation is concerned to ensure that the area can be easily evacuated. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Baughurst & Tadley North
- Tadley Central
- Tadley South

Tadley & Baughurst is projected to have an electorate well below the Hampshire average and it is necessary to expand the division into neighbouring areas to achieve better electoral quality. It is proposed that the northern parts of Kingsclere Ward are added, as these areas already use the facilities within the community of Tadley, including schools and bus services both to Basingstoke and Newbury. It is also proposed to add polling district EZ from Whitchurch & Clere, making the division stretch across much of the district's north central boundary with Berkshire. This latter change entails splitting a parish, but it brings Tadley & Baughurst within the -10% threshold and it is difficult to find another solution that does not stretch into completely different communities.

### **Proposal for Tadley & Baughurst**

- Add Ashford Hill FT and Headley FU (+1,042)
- Add Bishops Green EZ (+534)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 12,693 (-8.3% against forecast Hampshire average)**

#### 1.12. **Whitchurch & Clere**

**2021 Electorate Forecast: 11,697 (-15.5% against forecast Hampshire average)**

This large rural division covers the western section of the borough. The A34 trunk road runs north-south through the whole division, while the London-Exeter railway passes through its largest settlement, Whitchurch. The division currently includes the following wards:

- Burghclere, Highclere & St Mary Bourne
- East Woodhay
- Whitchurch

Whitchurch & Clere is projected to have an electorate well below the Hampshire average and it is necessary to expand the division into neighbouring areas to achieve better electoral quality. It is therefore proposed that Kingsclere parish (FX and FW polling districts) be added. This brings all of the 'Cleres' together, with the town of Whitchurch providing the required facilities for this community, which looks more towards Newbury than Basingstoke. To offset this addition, as seen above, it is proposed to transfer Bishops Green EZ to Tadley & Baughurst. These changes bring Whitchurch & Clere's forecast electorate almost exactly to the Hampshire average.

For the reasons set out above, it is proposed to rename this division Whitchurch and The Cleres.

#### **Proposal for Whitchurch & The Cleres**

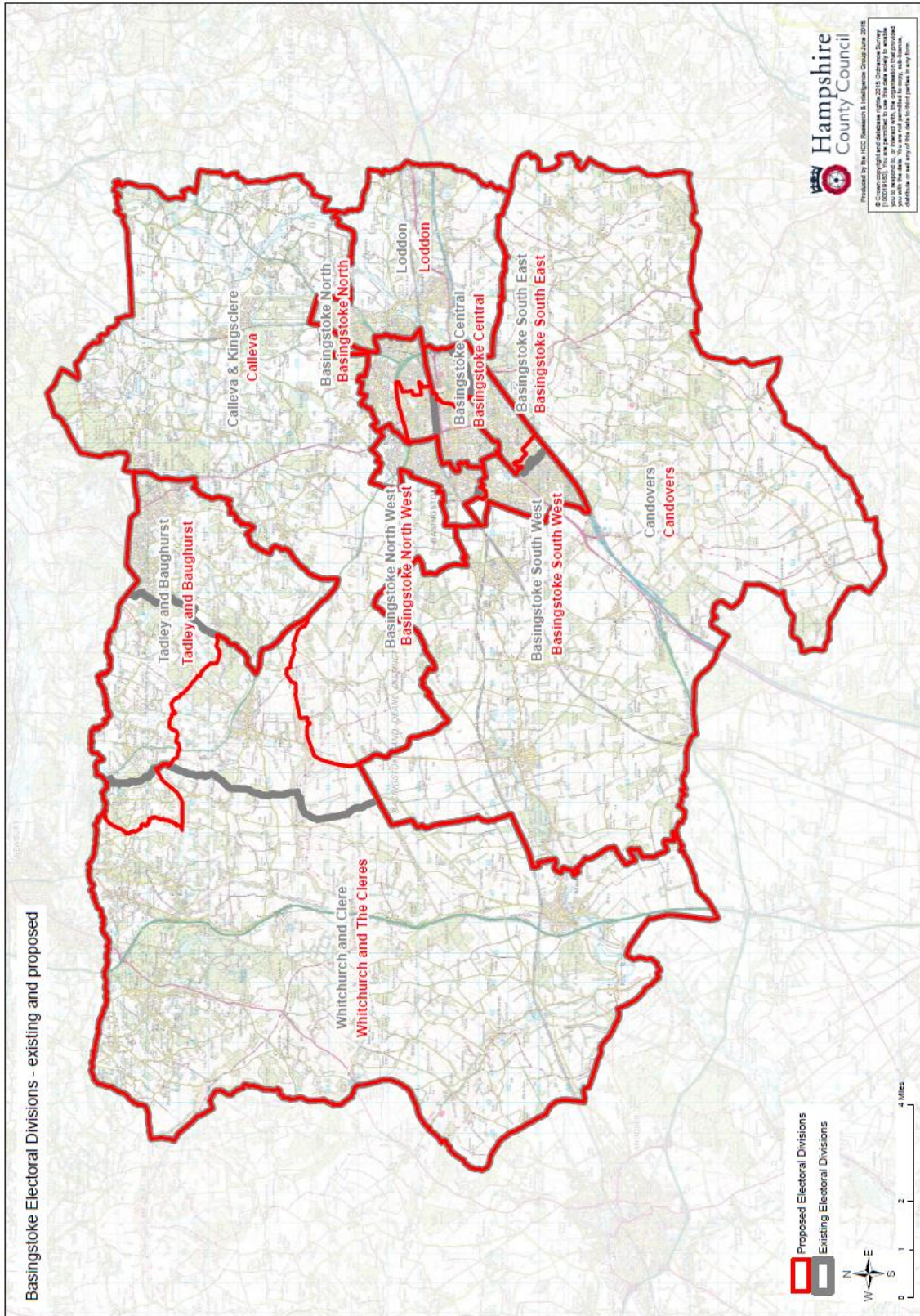
- Add Kingsclere FX and FW (+2,744)
- Transfer Bishops Green EZ to Tadley & Baughurst (-534)

**Proposed 2021 Electorate: 13,907 (+0.4% against forecast Hampshire average)**

1.13. Proposals for Basingstoke & Deane

Division name	Members	2021 Electorate (Existing Forecast)	2021 Variance (Existing Forecast)	2021 Electorate (Proposed)	2021 Variance (Proposed)
Basingstoke Central	1	15,538	+12.2%	14,150	+2.2%
Basingstoke North	1	17,788	+28.5%	14,358	+3.7%
Basingstoke North West	1	14,188	+2.5%	14,398	+4.0%
Basingstoke South East	1	12,325	-11.0%	15,218	+9.9%
Basingstoke South West	1	13,266	-4.2%	14,981	+8.2%
Calleva	1	16,320	+17.9%	12,534	-9.5%
Candovers	1	12,986	-6.2%	12,986	-6.2%
Loddon	1	14,659	+5.9%	14,659	+5.9%
Tadley & Baughurst	1	11,117	-19.7%	12,693	-8.3%
Whitchurch & The Cleres	1	11,697	-15.5%	13,907	+0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>139,884</b>		<b>139,884</b>	

### Map of Proposed County Council Divisions in Basingstoke & Deane



*Proposed division boundaries shown are approximate, based on polling district boundaries mapped using the best information available from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council*