

Appendix 2:

Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Coventry City Council Electoral Forecast

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Introduction

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) review of Coventry City Council started in October 2022.
2. As part of this process, local authorities are required to provide electoral forecasts up to 2029.
3. This report follows the "Electorate Forecasting – User Guide" document from the LGBCE.
4. Data sources used:

Source	Description
Office for National Statistics (ONS) (1)	Estimates of the population for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland Mid 2019 Estimates of the population for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland Mid 2020
ONS (2)	Ward-level population estimates (Experimental Statistics) Mid - 2019 and Mid - 2020
ONS (3)	Subnational population projections for England: 2018-based
ONS (4)	Census 2021
Coventry City Council (CCC) (5)	Electoral register canvas data 2018 – 2023 Electoral Services
CCC (6)	New Housing Development 2022 – 2031+: Planning Policy Department
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) (7)	Registered student profiles

Local authority electorate projections based on ONS population projections

5. The purpose of projecting the future electorate population using ONS population projections is to constrain, if needed, any projections based on new housing development plans.
6. Electorate numbers for the whole local authority have been projected to 2029 by using:
 - Elector to ONS adult (18+ years) mid-year population estimate (MYE) ratios by polling district determined from the last three years (Table 1) and then by
 - Applying ONS adult (18+ years) projected population estimates (PYE) (Table 2).

Table 1: Ratio Electors (5) to Estimated Adult Population (1 and 3)

Year	Adult Population Estimate	Local Government Electorate	Electors to Adult Population Ratio
2021	305,270	228,193	0.75
2022	308,816	229,459	0.74
2023	312,360	233,963	0.75

7. Based on data for 2021 – 2023, around 75% of the estimated adult population are registered to vote (a ratio of electorate to adult population of 0.75).

Table 2: Projected whole authority electors in 2029 (3)

Year	Multiplier Adult Population	Ratio Elector to Adult Population	Projected Total Electors	Projected Additional Electors
2029	1.07	0.75	249,249	15,286

8. Projected whole local authority registered electorate growth to 2029 (from 2023) is + 15,286.

ONS population estimates compared with 2021 Census reported population numbers

9. The 2021 Census reported a total population estimate of 345,328, compared with an ONS PYE of 383,820 for 2021 (a shortfall of around 39,000) and an 18+ year population of 268,444 compared with an ONS PYE of 305,270 (a shortfall of around 37,000).
10. It is worth noting that 85% of the variance between the 2021 Census and ONS population estimates were for residents between 20 – 34 years of age.
11. It may also be worth noting that the 2021 Census was undertaken during lockdown and reported the population was drawn from 134,125 surveyed households, which is around 27,000 fewer addresses than was used in the annual electorate register canvas (160,847) in the same year.

12. There is also significant variation across wards. Tables 3a and 3b show the variance in households reported in the 2021 Census compared with households canvassed in 2021 (3a) and % profiles of household type and nationality of the registered electorate in the same year (3b).
13. The highest variances in household numbers were for St Michael's and Wainbody wards which have significantly large student populations. This variance is mainly due to the fact that on the electoral register each room is a property rather than the full Halls of residence being one property.
14. Coventry City Council, along with other councils with large student and migrant populations, are working currently with ONS colleagues to understand population variances and to improve methods for estimating population.
15. We estimate from HESA (7) and canvas data (5) that currently around 45K university students live in Coventry, with up to 30K eligible potentially to vote (around 10-15% of total registered electorate population).
16. Also of note is the 2021 Census reported that 82% of the surveyed population had at least one UK national identity (compared with 90% nationally) and 28% had been born outside the UK (compared with 18% nationally).

Table 3a: Variance in households canvassed in 2021 compared with households reported in the 2021 Census (4 and 5)

Ward	Households Census 2021	Canvassed 2021	Variance	% Variance
Bablake	6,990	7,259	-269	-4%
Binley and Willenhall	7,567	8,180	-613	-7%
Cheylesmore	6,840	7,451	-611	-8%
Earlsdon	6,199	6,734	-535	-8%
Foleshill	7,445	8,521	-1,076	-13%
Henley	8,579	9,331	-752	-8%
Holbrook	7,140	7,601	-461	-6%
Longford	8,244	8,884	-640	-7%
Lower Stoke	8,936	9,372	-436	-5%
Radford	7,892	8,423	-531	-6%
St Michael's	8,772	21,123	-12,351	-58%
Sherbourne	7,467	8,254	-787	-10%
Upper Stoke	7,724	8,334	-610	-7%
Wainbody	4,688	9,515	-4,827	-51%
Westwood	8,032	8,834	-802	-9%
Whoberley	6,863	7,398	-535	-7%
Woodlands	7,936	8,414	-478	-6%
Wyken	6,811	7,219	-408	-6%
Coventry	134,125	160,847	-26,722	83%

Table 3b: % Profile by household and nationality of registered electorate (5)

Ward	No class	Other (e.g.HMO)	University	British	Commonwealth	EU
Bablake	98%	2%	0%	93%	2%	5%
Binley and Willenhall	97%	3%	0%	85%	5%	10%
Cheytesmore	97%	3%	0%	85%	8%	7%
Earlsdon	94%	4%	2%	94%	2%	4%
Foleshill	97%	2%	1%	73%	12%	16%
Henley	98%	2%	0%	80%	7%	13%
Holbrook	99%	1%	0%	82%	6%	13%
Longford	98%	2%	0%	83%	6%	12%
Lower Stoke	98%	2%	1%	78%	8%	14%
Radford	97%	2%	1%	79%	7%	15%
St Michael's	44%	6%	50%	65%	18%	17%
Sherbourne	94%	4%	1%	87%	4%	9%
Upper Stoke	98%	2%	0%	78%	8%	14%
Wainbody	51%	2%	48%	95%	3%	2%
Westwood	93%	5%	2%	89%	4%	7%
Whoberley	96%	4%	0%	88%	4%	8%
Woodlands	100%	0%	0%	94%	2%	5%
Wyken	99%	1%	0%	89%	5%	6%
Coventry	87%	3%	10%	84%	6%	10%

Projecting the future electorate to 2029 for polling districts using additional housing forecast method

16. The LGBCE guidance states the number of additional electors for smaller areas can be calculated as follows:

Electorate per dwelling factor X New housing additions (up to 2029) X factor for vacant dwellings = Additional electors (2029)

17. The projection for electors to 2029 can then be calculated as follows:

Current electorate (2023 baseline) + Additional electors (2029)

18. New housing forecast data sourced from the Planning Policy Department at Coventry City Council was used to project the electorate from a 2023 baseline to 2029 based on additional housing at polling district level.
19. The electorate per dwelling by polling district and ward has been estimated by using information from the annual electoral roll canvas (5). Table 4 sets out the computed electorate per dwelling by ward for the period 2017-2022 (minus/plus 95% confidence intervals).

Table 4: Ratio electorate: dwelling by ward 2017-2022 (-/+ 95% CI) (5)

Ward	Ratio 2017 - 2022	CI 95% lower	CI 95% Upper
Bablake	1.8	1.7	1.9
Binley and Willenhall	1.6	1.6	1.6
Cheylesmore	1.6	1.5	1.7
Earlsdon	1.8	1.7	1.9
Foleshill	1.6	1.5	1.6
Henley	1.6	1.5	1.6
Holbrook	1.8	1.7	1.8
Longford	1.6	1.5	1.7
Lower Stoke	1.7	1.6	1.7
Radford	1.6	1.5	1.6
St Michael's	0.6	0.4	0.8
Sherbourne	1.5	1.4	1.5
Upper Stoke	1.6	1.6	1.6
Wainbody	1.1	0.9	1.2
Westwood	1.6	1.4	1.7
Whoberley	1.6	1.5	1.7
Woodlands	1.6	1.6	1.7
Wyken	1.8	1.7	1.8
Coventry	1.5	1.4	1.6

20. The electorate per dwelling ratio computed was notably lower for St Michael's and Wainbody wards. Between them, they are estimated to account for more than 50% of students living in Coventry, who in turn, represent a significantly sizeable proportion of the adult population in these wards (estimated to be 52% and 33% respectively).
21. The projected electorate number to 2029 aggregated for the whole of Coventry using the new housing forecast method at polling district level is 245,658 compared with 249,249 using the ONS population projection method (Table 2). A shortfall of 3,591.
22. The projection from the new housing forecast reconciles with the Council's Local Plan (2011 – 2031), which has projected the need for a net 42,400 new homes to be built to meet projected population demand to 2031, with a target to build around 25,000 new homes in Coventry (60%), and for the remainder (40%) to be built out of Coventry through arrangements with neighbouring local authorities.
23. The projections account for 10,259 new homes planned to be built by 2029 but do not account for the 200+ estimated additional homes per year to be built on windfall sites.
24. Thus, projected electorate numbers by polling district and ward using the new housing forecast method have been adjusted for projections using the ONS population projection method (Table 2).
25. The results of the projected electorate numbers to 2029 using the new housing forecast method by polling district (Table 5) suggest:
 - Significant growth in projected electorate numbers to 2029, exceeding the 10% variance threshold against the average electorate numbers by ward for Bablake (+31%) and Westwood (+14%).

- Electorate numbers for both Henley and Lower Stoke being greater than the 10% variance threshold against the average electorates by ward both currently and projected to 2029 (+12% and +13% respectively).
- A shortfall in projected electorate numbers to 2029 exceeding the 10% variance threshold against the average electorates by ward for Cheylesmore (-12%) and for Sherbourne (-10%).
- A shortfall in current and projected electorate numbers to 2029 exceeding the 10% variance threshold against the average electorates by ward for Wainbody (-20%) and Whoberley (WH) (-15%).

Table 5: Electors and % variance in electorate numbers by ward against the average projected to 2029 (1, 3, 5 and 6)

Ward	Projected Electors to 2029	% Variance to Average Electors Per Ward
Bablake	18,130	31%
Binley and Willenhall	13,709	-1%
Cheylesmore	12,122	-12%
Earlsdon	12,748	-8%
Foleshill	14,077	2%
Henley	15,446	12%
Holbrook	14,656	6%
Longford	14,631	6%
Lower Stoke	15,810	14%
Radford	13,595	-2%
St Michael`s	13,023	-6%
Sherbourne	12,531	-10%
Upper Stoke	13,558	-2%
Wainbody	11,030	-20%
Westwood	15,818	14%
Whoberley	11,767	-15%
Woodlands	13,915	0%
Wyken	12,682	-8%