

## Letchworth

56. The unparished town of Letchworth is currently served by 13 Councillors in total, split across 5 wards. The wards currently exhibit high electoral variance, so changes will be required through this review. Whilst there will be some growth in electorate in the town, it is not as significant as in other areas, hence the number of councillors serving the community is necessarily reducing.
57. Cutting across the town is the railway. Whilst current wards straddle the railway, local Councillors have advised it does form a barrier in some places. The town is therefore effectively divided into 'north' and 'south' using the railway as a reference point. Members of NHC have been invited to identify communities within Letchworth, and these have been accommodated within the proposed warding arrangements.
58. In total, Letchworth will be served by 12 members across 6 wards.
59. The proposed wards have been discussed by Members and a range of options considered. Two options have been presented to Members at Full Council, and the preference chosen by Councillors, which they feel best meets the three statutory criteria is:
  - a. Letchworth South East  
This comprises the south eastern part of the town, bordered on east by the town boundary. The northern boundary is the railway line. The western boundary follows Norton Way South and William Way, then runs to the north of Whitethorn Lane, along Howard Drive, then south along the A505.
  - b. Letchworth South West  
This is the remaining area of Letchworth, south of the railway line. The communities in the northern area here are distinct from those elsewhere in southern Letchworth.

c. Letchworth Grange

This is the northern-most part of Letchworth, bordered on the north and west by the town boundary. It includes the Grange estate, as identified by local Councillors.

d. Letchworth Wilbury

This ward is the Wilbury community, as identified by local Members, expanded slightly eastwards to ensure electoral equality.

e. Letchworth Norton

This ward is centred on Norton common, and includes the community of Norton village and the Longmead/Hawthorn Hill area.

		Electorate	
		In 2021	In 2028
Ward name	Letchworth South East		
Councillors	3		
Total electorate		5,957	6,359
Variance		2.5%	-4.1%

		Electorate	
		In 2021	In 2028
Ward name	Letchworth South West		
Councillors	3		
Total electorate		7,077	7,204
Variance		21.7%	8.6%

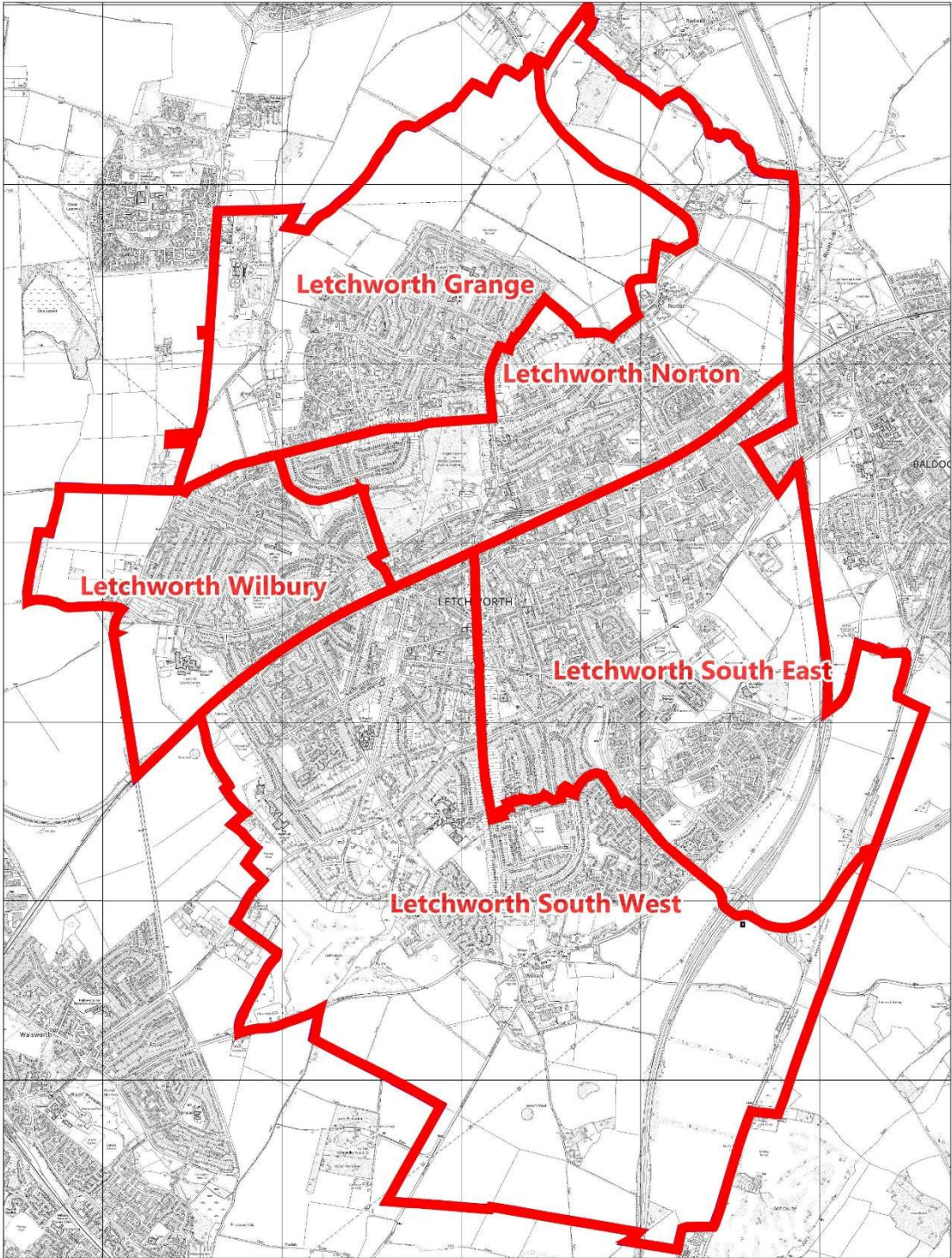
		Electorate	
		In 2021	In 2028
Ward name	Letchworth Grange		
Councillors	2		
Total electorate		4,391	4,860
Variance		13.3%	9.9%

		Electorate	
		In 2021	In 2028
Ward name	Letchworth Norton		
Councillors	2		
Total electorate		3,571	4,078
Variance		-7.9%	-7.8%

		Electorate	
		In 2021	In 2028
Ward name	Letchworth Wilbury		
Councillors	2		
Total electorate		4086	4086
Variance		5.4%	-7.6%



Proposed Letchworth Wards



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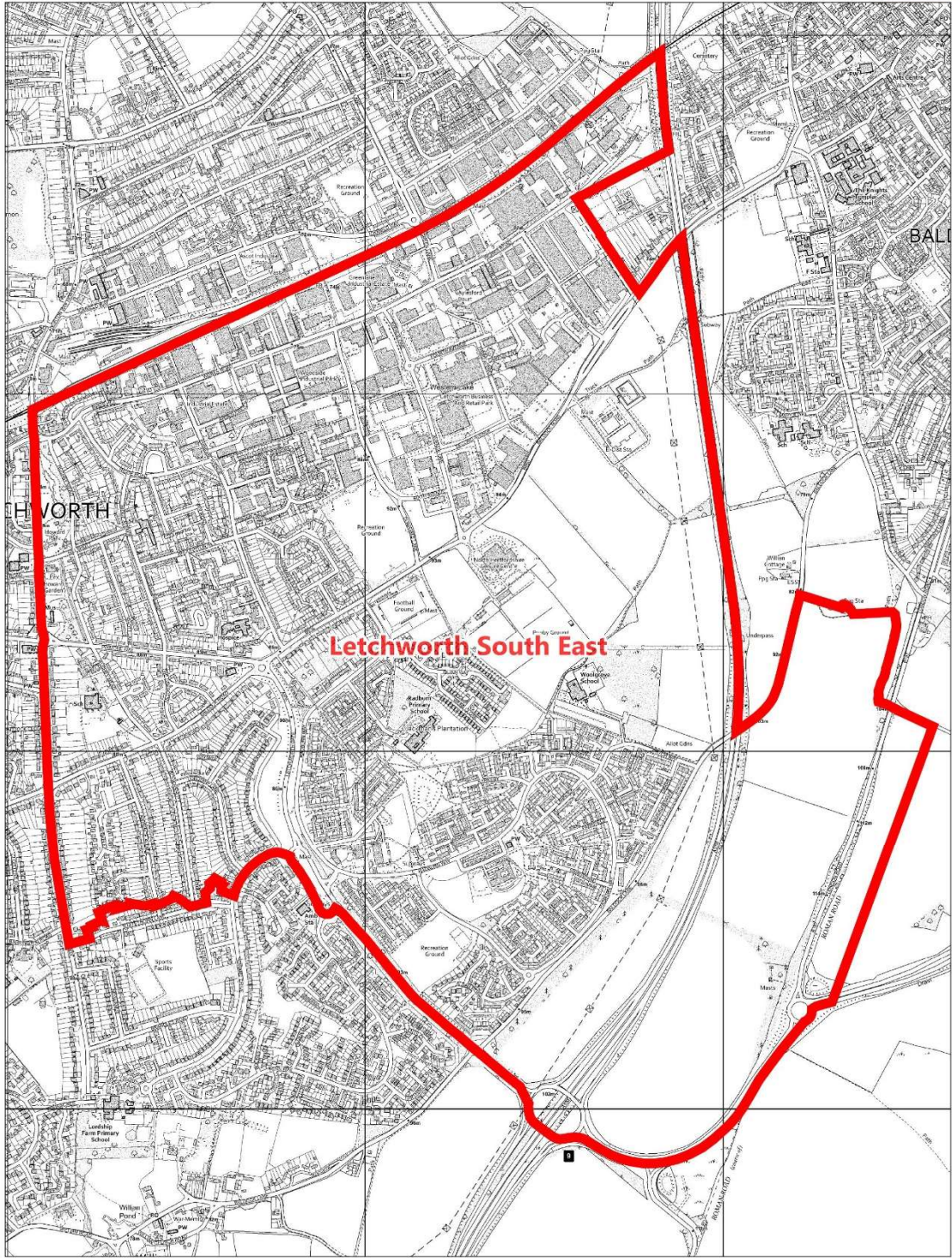
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Proposed Letchworth South East Ward



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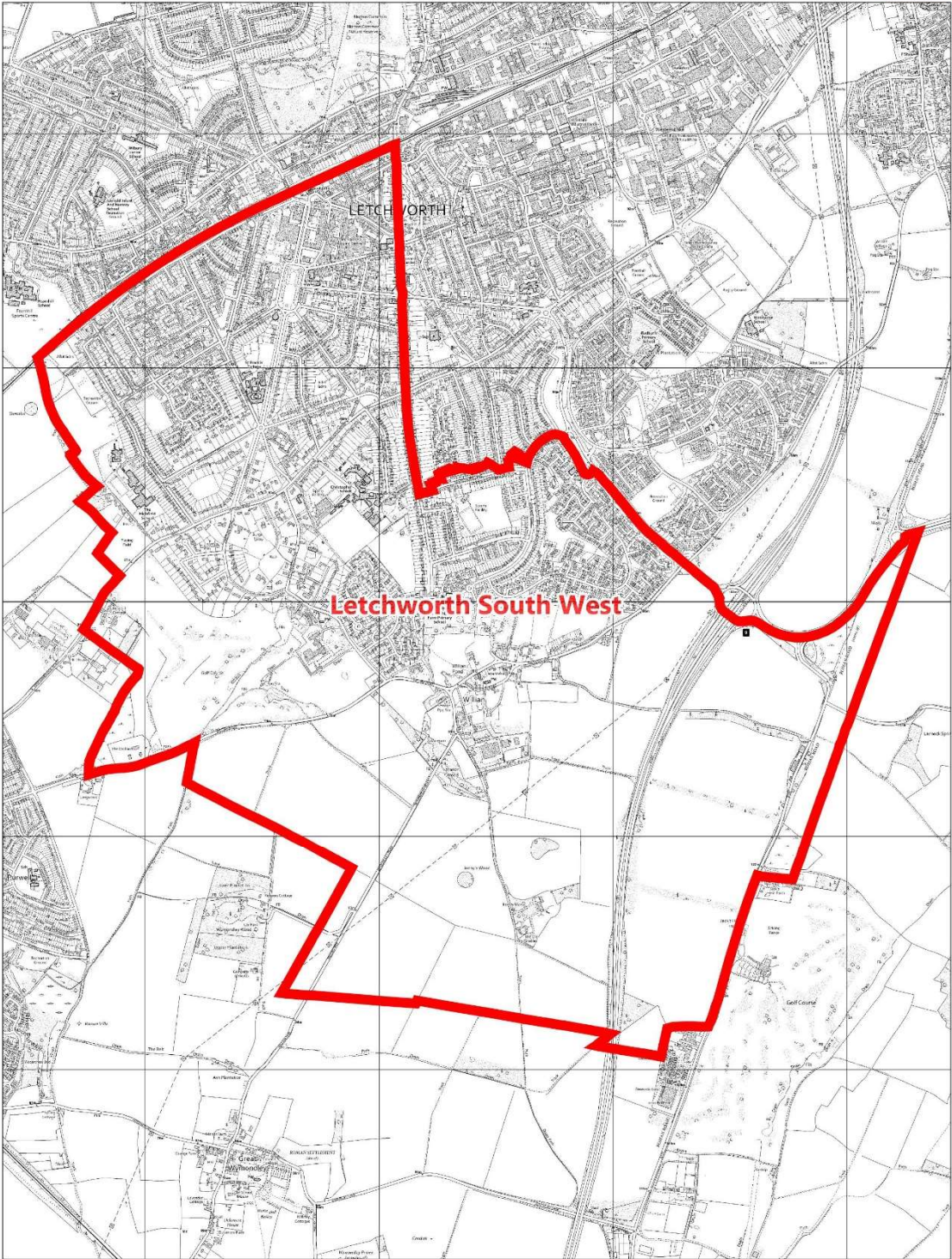
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Proposed Letchworth South West Ward



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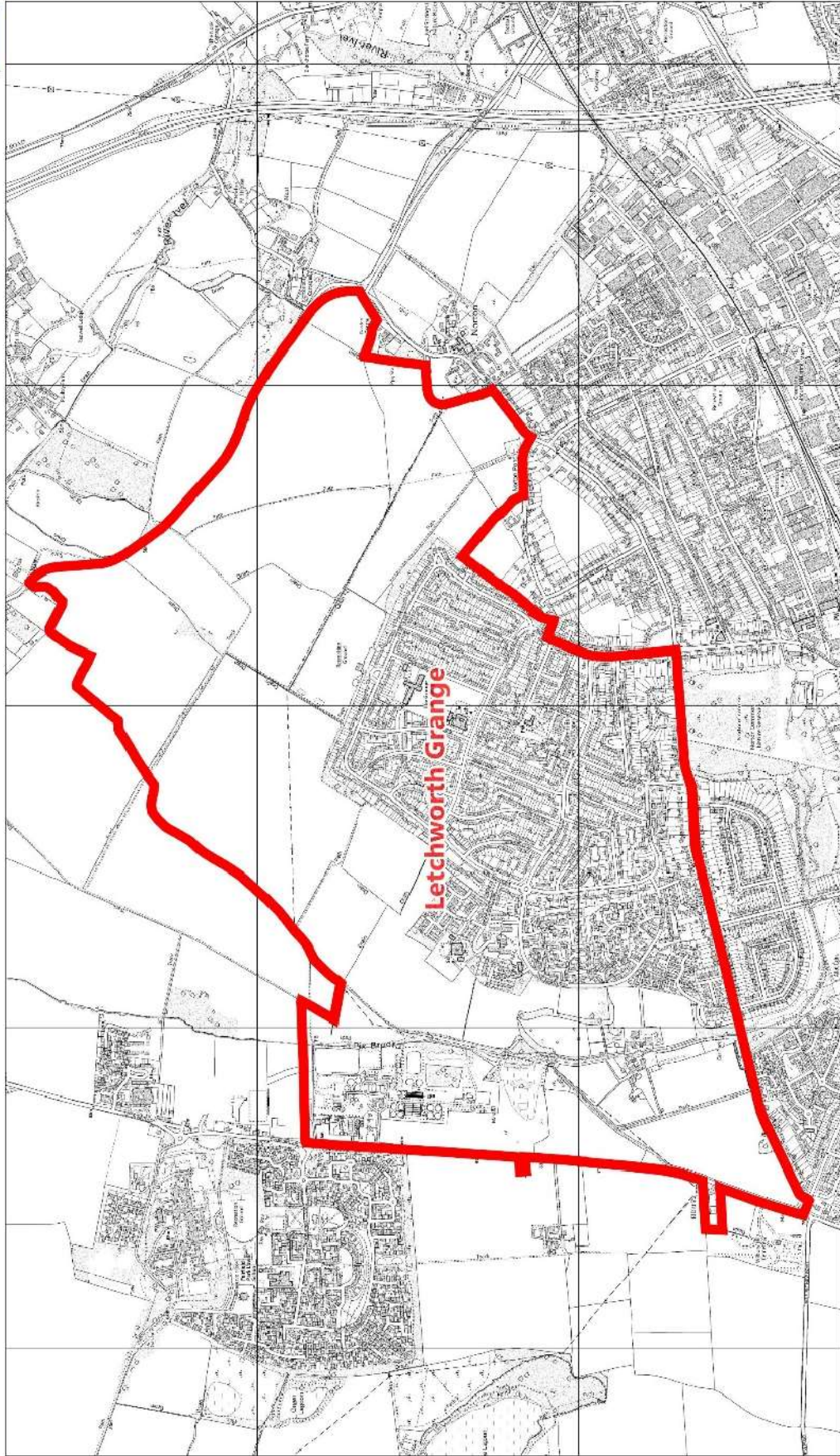
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Proposed Letchworth Grange Ward



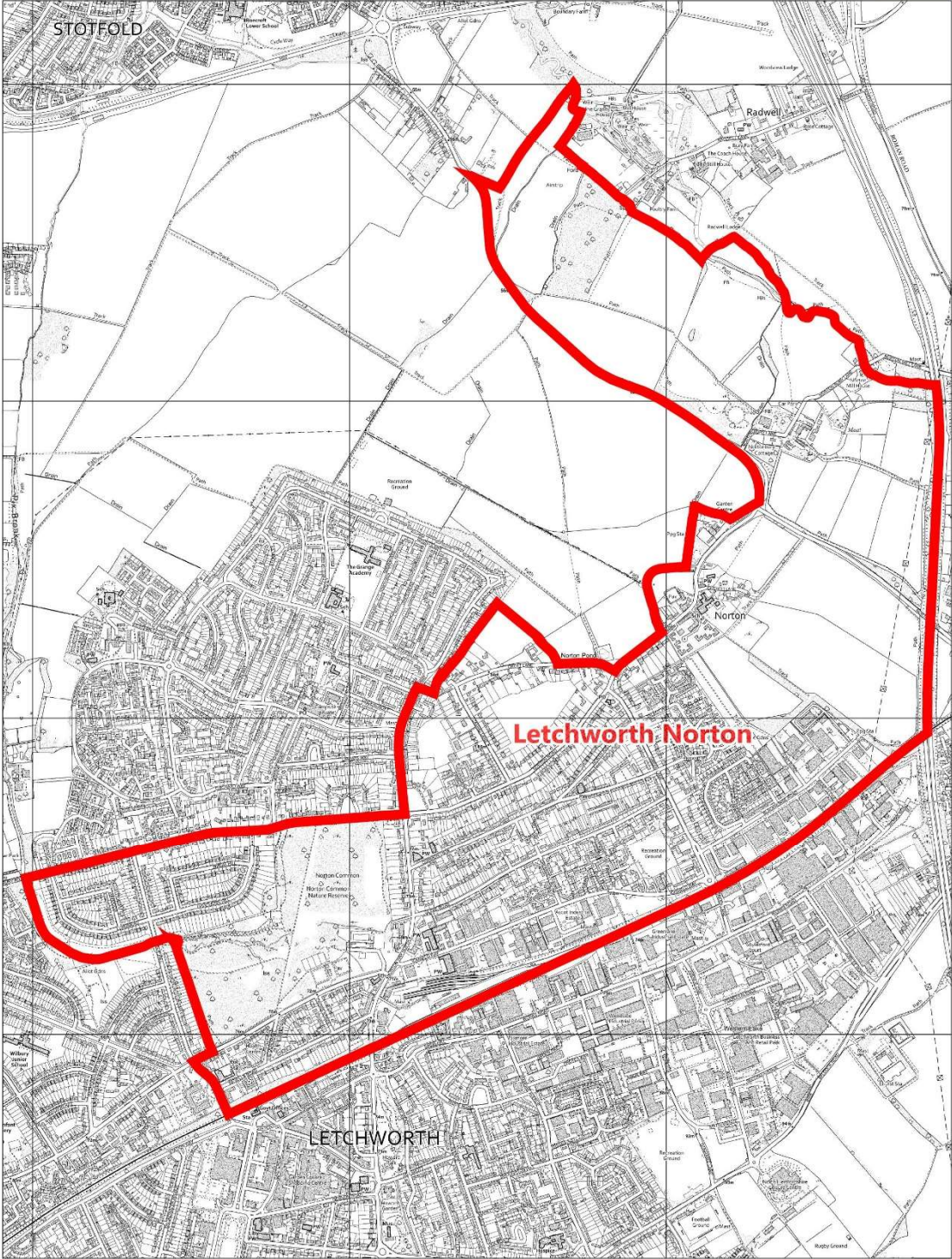
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Proposed Letchworth Norton Ward



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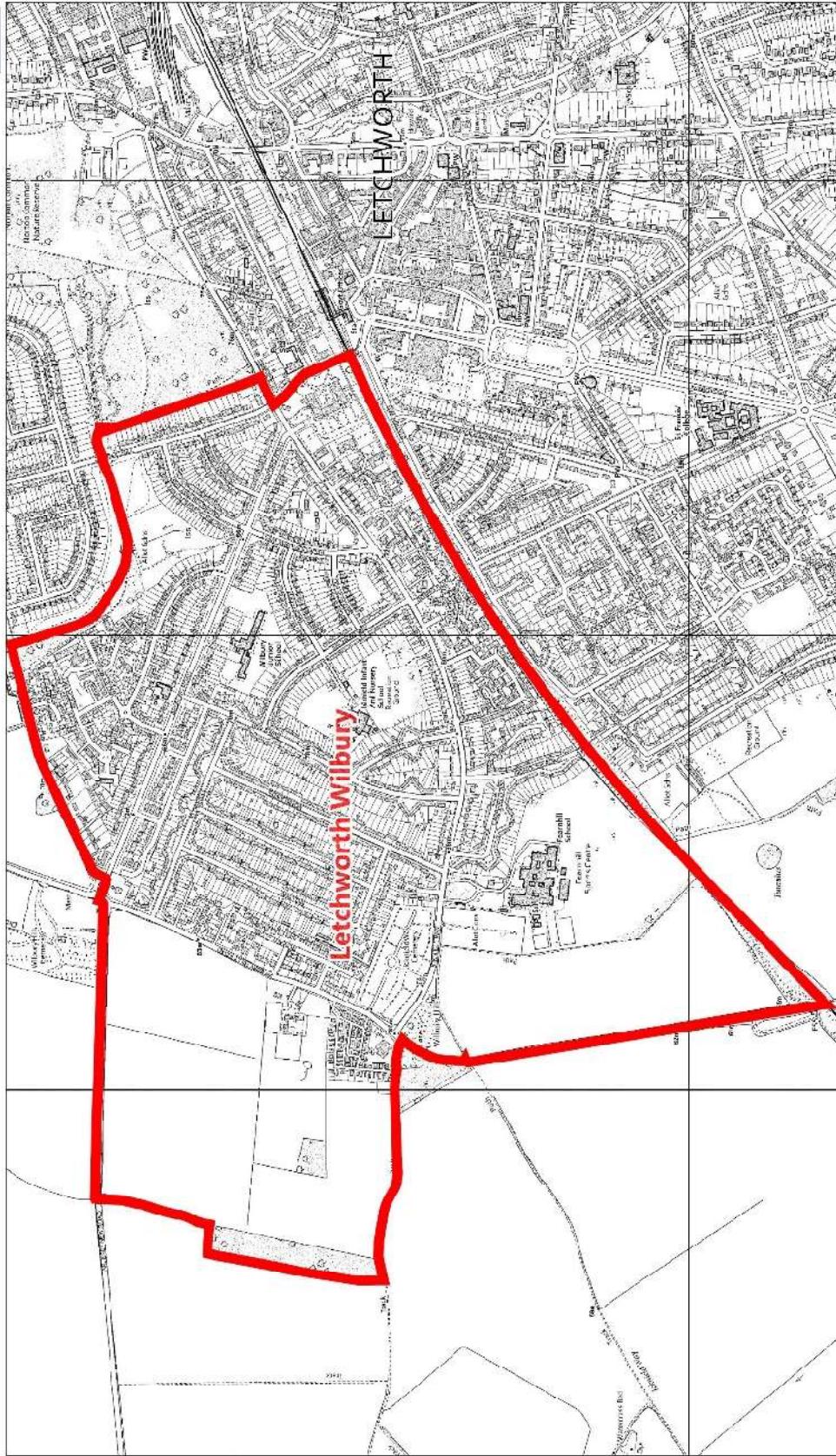
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Proposed Letchworth Wilbury Ward



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## Ward summary

The preceding pages have shown electorate variances based on a total of 50 Councillors. However, in order to fully represent the communities within North Herts district whilst maintaining electoral equality and delivering effective and convenient local government, this submission includes a total of 51 Councillors. The table below highlights the impact of that change. The wards now outside of the 10% variance (Ermine at 10.4%, and Letchworth West at 10.3%) are only just so, and the warding arrangement submitted is based on local communities. Therefore it is felt that this is appropriate.

New ward	Cllrs	2028 figures (51 Cllrs)	
		Electorate	Variance
Ermine	1	2441	10.4%
Arbury	1	2266	2.5%
Cadwell	1	2390	8.1%
Offley & Pirton	2	4577	3.5%
Knebworth	2	4835	9.4%
Codicote & Kimpton	2	4422	0.0%
Langley, Preston & Walden	1	2418	9.4%
Wymondley, Graveley & St Ippolyts	2	4135	-6.5%
Weston & Sandon	1	2391	8.2%
Great Ashby	2	4527	2.4%
Baldock East	2	4225	-4.4%
Baldock Town	3	6147	-7.3%
Royston Palace	2	4309	-2.5%
Royston Meridien	2	4104	-7.2%
Royston Burloes	1	2146	-2.9%
Royston Heath	2	4205	-4.9%
Hitchin Walsworth	3	7027	6.0%
Hitchin Bearton	3	6251	-5.7%
Hitchin Oughton	2	4177	-5.5%
Hitchin Highbury	3	7065	6.5%
Hitchin Priory	1	2083	-5.8%
Letchworth South East	3	6359	-4.1%
Letchworth South West	3	7204	8.6%
Letchworth Wilbury	2	4086	-7.6%
Letchworth Norton	2	4078	-7.8%
Letchworth Grange	2	4860	9.9%





