

07 November 2017 at 7.00 pm

Conference Room, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks
Despatched: 30.10.17



Governance Committee

Membership:

Chairman, Cllr. Pett; Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Ms. Tennessee
Cllrs. Clack, Halford, Layland, London and McGarvey

Agenda

There are no fire drills planned. If the fire alarm is activated, which is a continuous siren with a flashing red light, please leave the building immediately, following the fire exit signs.

	Pages	Contact
Apologies for Absence		
1. Minutes To agree the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 June 2017, as a correct record.	(Pages 1 - 4)	
2. Declarations of Interest Any interest not already registered.		
3. Actions from the previous meeting (if any)		
4. Boundary Commission: Revised proposals for new constituency boundaries in the south east	(Pages 5 - 74)	Lee Banks Tel: 01732 227161
5. Members' allowances working group	(Pages 75 - 106)	Adrian Rowbotham Tel: 01732 227153
6. Work Plan	(Pages 107 - 108)	

EXEMPT INFORMATION

At the time of preparing this agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public.

If you wish to obtain further factual information on any of the agenda items listed above, please contact the named officer prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you need this agenda or any of the reports in a different format, or have any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact Democratic Services on 01732 227000 or democratic.services@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2017 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr. Pett (Chairman)

Cllr. Ms. Tennessee (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs. Clack, Layland, London and McGarvey

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. Halford

Cllrs. Mrs. Hunter was also present.

1. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Governance Committee held on 2 February 2017, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Actions from the previous meeting

There were none.

4. Ruling by the Chairman regarding Urgent Matters

In accordance with Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman advised the Committee he had agreed to accept an urgent reference from the Planning Advisory Committee. The matter was urgent as this was to be considered at Cabinet on 13 July 2017. The item was taken as Agenda Item 6 (Minute 6 below).

5. Review of the Scheme for Members' Allowances

The Chairman welcomed two members of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel (JIRP), Gary Allen and Chris Oliver, to the meeting. The Chief Finance Officer introduced the covering report and then the JIRP presented their report which detailed their Members' Allowance review.

A Member raised the concern that allowances were not paid hourly and therefore Members that attended every meeting were being paid the same allowance as Members that rarely attended meetings. The subject was debated, but Members agreed that that it would have been difficult to have completed the report based

on an hourly rate because of the time Members dedicated to their Wards and not just to meetings. Overall, the Members agreed that the report was fair.

The Chairman thanked Messrs. Allen and Oliver for attending and the Panel for a clear and detailed report.

Resolved: That

- a) the report be noted;
- b) it be recommended to Council that
 - i) the revised Schedule of Recommended Members Allowances as detailed on page 19 and 20 of Appendix A to the report, be agreed;
 - ii) in future the allowances be updated in line with any increases in the remuneration of Council staff;
 - iii) the current travel expenses scheme based upon the HMRC approved rate, continue;
 - iv) the existing scheme for meal and subsistence allowances, which excludes tea allowance, continue;
 - v) the IT allowance not be paid to Councillors after the next election; and
 - vi) the recommendations take effect from April 2018.
- c) the Committee formally record its thanks to Gary Allen, Max Lewis and Chris Oliver for their work in preparing 'A Review of Council Members' Allowances for Sevenoaks District Council'.

6. CIL Spending Board - Reference from the Planning Advisory Committee

The Committee received a reference from the Planning Advisory Committee which had been referred for consideration and comment. Accompanying the reference was a short explanatory report which the Chairman had agreed to take as an urgent item.

Members considered the report. In response to a question it was confirmed that the quorum of 5 was a quarter of the number of members, as per the standard Constitution rules. It was thought preferable that not all of the Members on the board should be the same as the Development Control Committee, so that other Members would have the opportunity to join Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Board. A Member expressed concern that the money in the CIL Spending Board fund should be monitored closely so that the money that came in first was used first to prevent funds being lost after 10 years.

Resolved: That

- a) the reference be noted; and
- b) no objection be raised with the proposed draft protocol.

7. Work Plan

It was noted by Members that there is not currently anything to be discussed at the meeting on 7 November 2017 and therefore the Chairman will decide by the end of October 2017 whether or not the meeting on 7 November 2017 will go ahead.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 7.55 PM

CHAIRMAN

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION: REVISED PROPOSALS FOR NEW CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN THE SOUTH EAST

Governance Committee - 7 November 2017

Report of Chief Officer, Corporate Services

Status For Consideration

Key Decision No

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Anna Firth

Contact Officer Lee Banks, Head of Transformation and Strategy

Recommendation to Governance Committee: That

- (a) the Committee note the revised proposals contained in the Boundary Commission's most recent report, including the timescales for any response from Sevenoaks District Council; and
- (b) the Committee consider the opportunity to submit a response to these proposals within the revised timescales specified in the Boundary Commission report.

Reason for recommendation: The revised proposals contain changes to some of the existing boundaries within Sevenoaks district.

Background

- 1 The Boundary Commission is currently conducting a review of constituencies on the basis of new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), resulting in the number of constituencies in the South East reducing by one, to 83. The rules also require that every constituency - apart from two specified exceptions¹ - must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.
- 2 The Boundary Commission has now completed the next stage of the review process and has published its revised proposals. These are attached as Appendix A. Proposals for Kent and Medway begin on page 24 of the Appendix.
- 3 Initial proposals for new boundaries were published in September 2016. The Chairman of the Governance Committee submitted a response to these on behalf of the Council in November 2016, after discussions at the Governance

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Committee on 3 November that year, and subsequently at a full Council meeting on 22 November. This response is attached as Appendix B.

- 4 The timescales for responses to these revised proposals is between 17 October and 11 December 2017.

Key Implications

Financial

N/A

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

N/A

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Appendices

Appendix A - Revised proposals for the South East by the Boundary Commission, published 17 October 2017

Appendix B - Response by Sevenoaks District council Governance Committee to the Boundary Commission's original proposals 29 November 2016

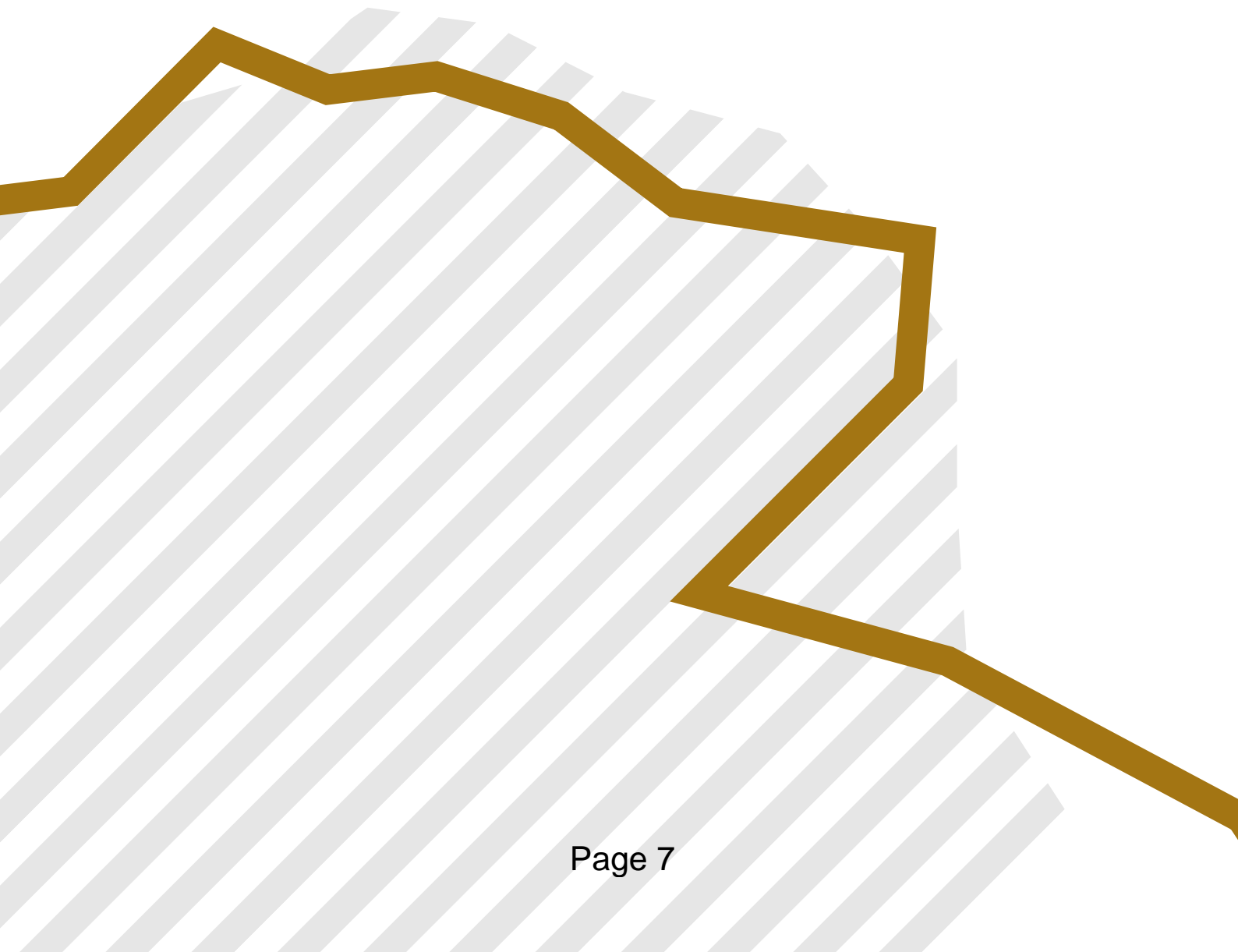
Background Papers

Appendix A above.

Jim Carrington-West

Chief Officer Corporate Services

Revised proposals for new constituency boundaries in the South East



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Summary

Who we are and what we do

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

The 2018 Review

We have the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. We are currently conducting a review on the basis of new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), resulting in the number of constituencies in the South East reducing by one, to 83. The rules also require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions¹ – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

How did we conduct the 2018 Review?

We published our initial proposals for new boundaries in September 2016 and consulted on them. We received written comments and oral submissions at public hearings held in each region. We published all the comments we received and we held a second consultation exercise in relation to them in March 2017. We are very grateful for all the comments that these two consultation exercises have generated. We have now completed the next stage of the review process and we are now publishing our revised proposals. For each region, the revised proposals report sets

out our analysis of all the responses to our initial proposals in the first and second consultations, and the conclusions we have reached as to how those proposals should be revised as a result. The annex to each report contains details of the composition of each constituency in our revised proposals for the relevant region; maps to illustrate these constituencies can be viewed on our website or in hard copy at a local place of deposit near you.

What are the revised proposals for the South East?

We have revised the composition of 41 of the 83 constituencies we proposed in September 2016. After careful consideration, we have decided not to make any revisions to the composition of the remaining 42. In some instances, however, we have revised our proposed names for these constituencies.

Under our revised proposals, 20 constituencies in the South East would be the same as they are under the existing arrangements.

As it was not always possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, our initial proposals grouped some local authority areas into sub-regions. It was also necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county or unitary authority boundaries. Following consideration of the representations made on our initial proposals, our revised proposals are based on new sub-regions, as shown in the table overleaf.

¹ The specified exemptions in England to the rules on constituency size are the two constituencies in the Isle of Wight. However, with this important qualification, in all other aspects of the 2018 Review, the Isle of Wight is treated in the same way as other parts of England.

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Sub-region	Existing allocation	Allocation under our revised proposals
Berkshire and Surrey	19	19
Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway	25	24
West Sussex	8	8
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	7	7
Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton	18	17
Isle of Wight	1	2
Oxfordshire	6	6

We are proposing three cross-county constituencies. In Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway, we are proposing that Mid Kent and Ticehurst, and Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough cross the East Sussex/Kent boundary, to allow us to create a whole number of constituencies within 5% of the electoral quota. In Berkshire and Surrey, we are proposing a Windsor constituency which includes the Windlesham ward from the County of Surrey, to avoid removing part of the urban centre of Slough.

In the Berkshire and Surrey sub-region, we are changing 12 of our initial proposals, increasing the number of existing constituencies we are able to retain to 11, adding Mole Valley, Slough, Woking, and Wokingham.

In Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway, we are changing 17 of our initial proposals, right across the sub-region.

In West Sussex, we are making no changes to our initial proposals.

In Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, we are changing two of our initial proposals, altering which Milton Keynes wards are allocated to Buckingham.

In Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton, we are changing four of our initial proposals, in Portsmouth and around Romsey.

In the Isle of Wight sub-region, we are changing our initial proposals for both constituencies around Wootton.

In Oxfordshire, we are changing four of our initial proposals, around Oxford and Wallingford.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our revised proposals for an eight-week period, from 17 October 2017 to 11 December 2017. We encourage everyone to use this final opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when we make recommendations to the Government.

We ask everyone wishing to contribute to the design of the new constituencies to first look at the revised proposals report, and accompanying maps, before responding to us. The best way to respond to our revised proposals is through our consultation website: www.bce2018.org.uk.

1 What is the Boundary Commission for England?

1.1 The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is required by Parliament to review Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. We conduct a review of all the constituencies in England every five years. Our role is to make recommendations to Parliament for new constituency boundaries. We also make recommendations for any changes in the names of individual constituencies.

1.2 The Chair of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons, but by convention he or she does not participate in the formulation of the Commission's recommendations, nor in the conduct of the review. The Deputy Chair and two further Commissioners take decisions on what recommendations to make for new constituency boundaries. They are assisted in their task by 21 assistant commissioners (two or three allocated to each of the nine regions of England). Further information about the Commissioners and assistant commissioners can be found in the 'About us' section of our corporate website.²

1.3 Our consultation website at www.bce2018.org.uk contains all the information needed to view and comment on our revised proposals. You can also contact us with any general enquiries by emailing information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk, by calling 020 7276 1102, or by writing to:

The Secretary to the Commission
Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

² <http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/about-us>

2 Background to the 2018 Review

2.1 There are four Boundary Commissions covering the UK with separate Commissions for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 states that they must conduct a review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries, and make recommendations to Government, every five years. Under the current review, we must report in September 2018. The four Commissions work separately, and this report covers only the work of the Boundary Commission for England and, in particular, introduces our revised proposals for the South East.

2.2 Parliamentary boundaries are important, as they define the area in which voters will elect a Member of Parliament. If our recommendations are accepted, they would be used for the first time at the next General Election following their acceptance.

2.3 The legislation we work to states that there will be 600 Parliamentary constituencies covering the UK – a reduction of 50 from the current number. For England, that means that the number of constituencies must reduce from 533 to 501. There are also new rules that the Commission has to adhere to when conducting the review – a full set of rules can be found in our Guide to the 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituencies (the Guide),³ published in the summer of 2016, but they are also summarised later in this chapter. Most significantly, the rules state that every constituency we recommend (with the exception of two covering the Isle of Wight) must contain between 71,031 and 78,507 electors.

2.4 This is a significant change to the old rules under which Parliamentary boundary reviews took place, where achieving as close to the average number of electors in each constituency was an aim but not an overriding legal necessity. For example, in England, the largest constituency currently has around twice as many electors as the smallest. Achieving a more even distribution of electors in every constituency across England, together with the reduction in the total number of constituencies, means that a significant scale of change to the existing map of constituencies is inevitable.

2.5 If implemented, the recommendations that we will make in September 2018 will be the first set of boundaries to be defined under the new rules. While there has to be a significant amount of change across the country, we will, where possible, try to limit the extent of such change, having regard to the statutory factors. Under the Act, we have a challenging job to do in conducting a review of constituency boundaries that is necessarily going to result, in many places, in a pattern of constituencies that is unfamiliar to the public. Nevertheless the review has been one that we have conducted in a rigorous and thorough fashion.

2.6 The revised proposals that we set out in this report, and in the reports for the other eight regions across England, are made on the basis of the evidence we received during two consultation exercises, the careful consideration of our assistant commissioners and the best judgement of the three Boundary Commissioners. We are confident that these revised

³ Available at <http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-review>.

proposals strike the best balance between the statutory factors and, having consulted twice already, we are close to settling on a pattern of constituencies to recommend to Parliament next year. There may be particular areas across the country where our judgement has been a balanced and marginal one between competing alternatives, and in such cases we have made clear that we are looking for further evidence before we finalise our recommendations. In many areas we are persuaded by the evidence we have received thus far, and we would therefore require new and significantly stronger arguments to make us depart from our revised proposals. If it exists, such new and compelling evidence would be welcome. However, we will not be assisted by repetition of arguments that have already been made, and which we have already considered. The requirement to keep constituencies within the permitted range of electors is strict, but otherwise we have sought to balance often conflicting considerations. Our proposals must also be comprehensive. We are acutely conscious that very often a change in one constituency necessarily requires an alteration in another and sometimes the consequential alterations reverberate through a whole chain of constituencies.

2.7 The Guide contains further detailed background, and explains all the policies and procedures that we are following in conducting the review, in greater depth than in this consultation document. We encourage anyone wishing to be involved in the review to read the Guide, to enable greater understanding of the rules and constraints placed on the Commission, especially if they are intending to comment on our revised proposals.

The rules in the legislation

2.8 The rules contained in the legislation state that every constituency in England (except two covering the Isle of Wight) must have an electorate of between 71,031 and 78,507 – that is, 5% either side of the electoral quota of 74,769. The legislation also states that, when deciding on boundaries, the Commission may also take into account:

- special geographical considerations, including the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency
- local government boundaries as they existed on 7 May 2015
- boundaries of existing constituencies
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.

2.9 It is essential to understand that none of the factors mentioned in the list above overrides the necessity to achieve an electorate in each constituency that is within the range allowed, as explained previously. In relation to local government boundaries in particular, it should be noted that we are obliged to take into account local government boundaries as they existed in May 2015. Our initial proposals for the region and the accompanying maps were based on the wards as they existed in May 2015, and our revised proposals contained within this report continue to be based on those boundaries. The Guide outlines further our policy on how, and to what extent, we take into account local government boundaries that have been amended since 2015.

2.10 In our initial proposals, we took into account the boundaries of existing constituencies so far as we could, and

tried to retain existing constituencies where possible, so long as the other factors could also be satisfied. As mentioned earlier in this chapter, because of the scale of change required to fulfil the obligations imposed on us by the new rules, this proved difficult. Our initial proposals retained 18% of the existing constituencies in the South East – the remainder were new constituencies (although in a number of cases we were able to limit the changes to existing constituencies, making only minor changes as necessary to enable us to comply with the new rules).

2.11 Among the many arguments we heard in response to the consultations on our initial proposals was the need to have particular regard to this factor of the rules to which we work. While some respondents put a higher value on retaining existing constituency boundaries over the other factors in the rules, it is the Commission's task to balance all the factors. As we set out in the course of this report, our revised proposals retain 20 (24%) of the existing 84 constituencies in the South East.

The use of the regions used for European elections

2.12 Our proposals are based on the nine regions used for European elections. This report relates to the South East. There are eight other separate reports containing our revised proposals for the other regions. At the very beginning of the 2018 Review we decided, in agreement with all the main political parties, to use these regions as a basis for working out our initial proposals. You can find more details in the Guide and on our website.

We stated in our initial proposals report that, while this approach does not prevent anyone from making proposals to us that cross regional boundaries, we would need to have compelling reasons provided to us to persuade us to depart from the region-based approach.

2.13 In response to the consultations on our initial proposals, we did not receive sufficient evidence across the country to suggest that we should depart from the regional approach to this review. Therefore, this report, and all other regional reports, continues to use the regional boundaries as a basis for proposals for constituencies.

Timetable for the review

Stage one – initial proposals

2.14 We began this review in February 2016 by publishing breakdowns of the electorate for each ward, local government authority and existing constituency, which were prepared using electorate data provided by local authorities and the Office for National Statistics. These are available on the data pages of our corporate website.⁴ The Commission spent a number of months considering the factors outlined above and drawing up our initial proposals. We published our initial proposals for consultation for each of England's nine regions on 13 September 2016.

Stage two – consultation on initial proposals

2.15 We consulted on our initial proposals for 12 weeks, from 13 September 2016 to 5 December 2016. This consultation period also included holding 36 public

⁴ <http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/data-and-resources>

hearings, at which people had the opportunity to make oral representations. We received more than 18,000 unique written representations across the country as a whole, including more than 2,000 unique written representations relating to the South East. We also heard more than 100 oral representations at the five public hearings in the South East. We are grateful to all those who took the time and trouble to read and respond to our initial proposals.

Stage three – consultation on representations received

2.16 The legislation requires us to publish all the representations we received on our initial proposals, and to allow people to send us comments on them for a four-week period. We published the representations on 28 February 2017 and invited comments on them until 27 March 2017. We received more than 7,500 unique written representations across the country as a whole during those four weeks.

Stage four – publication of revised proposals

2.17 As we outline in chapter 3, having considered the evidence presented to us, we have decided that the evidence is such that it is appropriate to revise our initial proposals in some areas. Therefore, as we are required to do (under the legislation), on 17 October 2017, we are publishing this report – Revised proposals for new constituency boundaries in the South East – alongside eight others, one for each of the other regions in England. We are consulting on our revised proposals for the statutory eight-week period, which closes on 11 December 2017. Unlike the

initial consultation period, there is no provision in the legislation for further public hearings, nor is there a repeat of the four-week period for commenting on the representations of others. Chapter 4 outlines how you can contribute during this consultation period.

Stage five – final recommendations

2.18 Once the consultation on revised proposals has closed on 11 December 2017, we will consider all the representations received at this stage, and throughout the review, before making final recommendations to the Government. The legislation states that we must do this during September 2018. Further details about what the Government and Parliament must do to implement our recommendations are contained in the Guide.

2.19 At the launch of each stage of consultation, we have taken – and are continuing to take – all reasonable steps to publicise our proposals, so that as many people as possible are aware of the consultation and can take the opportunity to contribute to our review of constituencies.

3 Revised proposals for the South East

3.1 In July 2016, we arranged for the appointment of three assistant commissioners for the South East – Colin Byrne, Stephen Lawes and Alan Nisbett – to assist us with the analysis of the representations received during the first two consultation periods. This included chairing public hearings held in the region to collect oral evidence, as follows:

- Guildford: 20–21 October 2016
- Oxford: 24–25 October 2016
- Portsmouth: 27–28 October 2016
- Brighton: 31 October – 1 November 2016
- Maidstone: 3–4 November 2016.

3.2 We asked the assistant commissioners to consider all the written and oral representations, and to make recommendations to us on whether our initial proposals should be revised, in light of evidence provided in the representations. It is important to stress that the assistant commissioners had no involvement in developing – and therefore no vested interest in supporting – our initial proposals. Accordingly, they came to the analysis with an independent mind, open to viable alternative proposals supported by evidence. We are incredibly grateful for the thorough and methodical approach the assistant commissioners have taken to their work.

3.3 What follows in this chapter is:

- a brief recap of our initial proposals
- a description of the counter-proposals put forward during the consultations
- the assistant commissioners' analysis of the strength of the arguments for adoption of any of those counter-proposals

- our decision on whether or not to make changes to our proposals in the given area.

3.4 A tabular summary of the revised constituencies we now propose appears at Annex A to this report.

3.5 Throughout this chapter, where we refer to a respondent's response we also include the reference number, i.e. BCE-12345. This reference number corresponds with the representations that can be found on our consultation website at www.bce2018.org.uk. All representations received in response to the first two consultations are publicly available on this website. The representations received in response to these revised proposals will be published at the end of the review.

3.6 The term 'ward' used throughout this document should be taken to mean electoral division in reference to the Isle of Wight.

The sub-region split

3.7 The initial proposal sub-regions were:

- Berkshire
- Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway
- West Sussex
- Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes
- Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton
- Isle of Wight
- Oxfordshire
- Surrey.

3.8 These were largely supported, with some exceptions. Notably, the Pirate Party (BCE-30175) proposed a Berkshire

and Surrey sub-region, and a Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway sub-region, which they felt better respected local ties. Jonathan Rogers (BCE-38947) also proposed a Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent, and Medway sub-region, in order to resolve issues for Hove. Oliver Raven (BCE-30164) also proposed a Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent, and Medway sub-region, as part of a counter-proposal covering all of the South East.

3.9 Our assistant commissioners carefully considered these counter-proposals, based on different sub-regional configurations. While they considered that there were elements of the proposals that had merit for certain constituencies (and are discussed in each sub-regional section), they were not persuaded by the strength of arguments, in particular about crossing the West Sussex/East Sussex county boundary. They concluded that these counter-proposals disrupted more existing constituencies than was necessary to create an acceptable configuration. Oliver Raven's counter-proposal was rejected as it provided little evidence as to its merits. As will be set out below, the assistant commissioners did observe that, by crossing the Berkshire/Surrey boundary at Windlesham, rather than across the length of the boundary (not just at Windlesham), as suggested by the Pirate Party, changes to Bracknell and Slough constituencies can be avoided. We therefore endorse the assistant commissioners' recommendation to combine Berkshire and Surrey in a sub-region, and retain the remainder of the sub-regions as per the initial proposals as a basis for our revised proposals.

Berkshire and Surrey

3.10 Of the 19 existing constituencies in the Berkshire and Surrey sub-region, 12 (Bracknell, East Surrey, Epsom and Ewell, Guildford, Maidenhead, Mole Valley, Reigate, Slough, South West Surrey, Surrey Heath, Woking, and Wokingham) are currently within 5% of the electoral quota. Of the remaining seven constituencies, Esher and Walton, and Newbury have electorates more than 5% above the electoral quota and Reading East, Reading West, Runnymede and Weybridge, Spelthorne, and Windsor are all more than 5% below the electoral quota.

3.11 The initial proposals retained the seven constituencies of Bracknell, East Surrey, Epsom and Ewell, Guildford, Maidenhead, Reigate, and South West Surrey unchanged, and made minor amendments to the others to bring all of them within 5% of the electoral quota.

Berkshire

3.12 The Commission received broad support for the initial proposals in Berkshire. The official response from the Conservative Party (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878) supported the proposals. The Labour Party (BCE-30359, BCE-31969 and BCE-40901) supported them, with the exception of retaining Chalvey ward in the Slough constituency and moving instead Bullbrook ward from Bracknell to Windsor. The Liberal Democrat Party's counter-proposal (BCE-28287 and BCE-31973) suggested moving 13 wards within this sub-region to better reflect local ties. The counter-proposal put forward by the Newbury and West Berkshire Liberal Democrats

(BCE-21241) supported the official Liberal Democrat Party counter-proposal, subject to one amendment: that Aldermaston ward should remain within Newbury and, in its place, the ward of Basildon would become part of Reading West.

3.13 There were four main issues raised in relation to the initial proposals for Berkshire: whether Aldermaston ward looks towards Newbury and Basingstoke rather than to Wokingham; the separation of Maiden Erlegh from the rest of the Lower Earley area in Reading East; Mapledurham ward being effectively detached from the Reading West constituency; and the removal of the Chalvey ward from the Slough constituency.

3.14 It is helpful for the purposes of this exercise to consider Berkshire in two halves: the western side of Berkshire, containing the constituencies of Newbury, Wokingham and both Reading East and Reading West; and, to the east, Bracknell, Windsor, Maidenhead, and Slough.

3.15 Starting with the western part of the county, representations were received arguing that the Aldermaston ward is rural and looks towards Newbury or Basingstoke for shopping and leisure activities, not towards the eastern areas (Janet Barnes, BCE-29472 and Peter Hulme, BCE-24253). These views were supported by Robert Young (BCE-23745), who was also concerned about the lack of direct public transport links into Wokingham. Conversely, we received support for the initial proposals from Keith Baer (BCE-34316), asserting that Wokingham has the same mix of urban and rural areas centred around a main town as the Newbury constituency.

3.16 A number of respondents were concerned that the initial proposals for the Reading East constituency took the ward of Maiden Erlegh away from the Lower Earley area. We received a petition from Carl Doran, Chair of the Earley Labour Party (BCE-28400 and BCE-40960), with 325 signatures, to keep Maiden Erlegh and the Lower Earley area in the Wokingham constituency.

3.17 Those supporting the initial proposal for the transfer of Maiden Erlegh ward included former Member of Parliament for Reading East Rob Wilson (BCE-30657 and BCE-32005), who pointed out that the proposed grouping of wards would bring together the campus of the University of Reading into one constituency and boost already established local ties with Reading East. He also asserted that residents look towards Reading or Woodley town centre for shopping and recreation.

3.18 Responses raised concerns that the Mapledurham ward in the proposed Reading West constituency would be a detached ward, with no direct crossings over the River Thames to link the ward to the rest of the proposed Reading West constituency (Malcolm Pemble, BCE-15273, John Popplewell, BCE-27457 and Alison Ray, BCE-28751). Further evidence from the ward councillor for Mapledurham, Isobel Ballsdon (BCE-26147), added that residents of the ward share community ties with Caversham in Reading East. Counter-proposals from Jeanette Skeats (BCE-40716) and Ed Hopper (BCE-16213) suggested that Basildon ward, which is currently in the Newbury constituency, could be transferred to Reading West as an alternative to moving Mapledurham ward to ensure the constituencies are within 5%

of the electoral quota. The Conservative Party (BCE-30308) also indicated that ‘if the Commission decided to find an alternative ward for example the Basildon ward of West Berkshire’ (currently in the Newbury constituency with 2,459 electors) that ‘this would also be acceptable’.

3.19 The assistant commissioners considered the Liberal Democrat Party’s counter-proposal (BCE-28287) and concluded that it was not the optimum solution given that there were better alternatives that were less disruptive.

3.20 Our assistant commissioners recognised that the solution to the Aldermaston ward and the Reading East and Reading West issues were connected when considering the western side of Berkshire. There were two main alternatives put forward, one from former Member of Parliament Rob Wilson (BCE-30657 and BCE-32005), which transferred Basildon ward from Newbury to Reading West to increase the elector numbers in this constituency, allowing the ward of Mapledurham to remain in Reading East. The assistant commissioners were strongly of the view that the Mapledurham ward should be moved into Reading East, due to its otherwise detached nature.

3.21 An alternative option for west Berkshire was put forward by Aaron Fear (BCE-30739), which transferred both Basildon and Bucklebury wards from Newbury into Reading West and moved Battle from Reading West to Reading East. This would allow both Reading East to retain Mapledurham and Wokingham to retain Maiden Erlegh and thereby be unchanged. Aldermaston can again remain in Newbury under this approach.

3.22 We note that there was significant opposition to the transfer of Basildon ward to the Reading West constituency, although this move was not included in our initial proposals and despite the existence of good road and rail links from Basildon into Reading (as mentioned by Ian McKenzie, BCE-26915, Andrew Marshall, BCE-26896 and David Thomas, BCE-26127).

3.23 Having considered the representations made for West Berkshire, our assistant commissioners were entirely persuaded that Mapledurham should be reunited with the Reading East constituency, due to the access issues and their effect on local ties. They were not persuaded that the arguments to keep the university campus together outweighed the evidence of the break in local ties that occurred in the Earley area under our initial proposals. Accordingly, they considered, on balance, that Aaron Fear’s counter-proposal (BCE-30739) provided a slightly better alignment between local authority and constituency boundaries (e.g. the existing Wokingham constituency boundary), and they therefore recommended his counter-proposal for the western side of Berkshire.

3.24 We agree with the assistant commissioners that Maiden Erlegh be reunited with Hawkedon ward and the Lower Earley area, in the Wokingham constituency. We were concerned by the proposal to transfer the large, more rural, wards of Basildon and, in particular, Bucklebury into the Reading West constituency, and tested the assistant commissioners on this recommendation. They noted that, while not ideal (as noted in the opposition already expressed from

Basildon ward), this solution did allow for Aldermaston to remain in the Newbury constituency, and for Maiden Erlegh to remain in the Wokingham constituency (which could therefore remain unchanged), and would also retain the existing degree of coterminosity with the local authority. In light of this, we are content to accept these recommendations as part of our revised proposals, noting particularly that leaving Wokingham constituency unchanged is an essential element enabling the retention of Aldermaston within Newbury. We welcome evidence from the local communities of Bucklebury and Basildon regarding this finely balanced decision.

3.25 Moving to the east of Berkshire, strong opposition was received relating to the transfer of Chalvey ward from Slough to Windsor. The vast majority of those expressing their view felt that Chalvey was part of the civic heart of Slough, and therefore the initial proposals would break the local ties it had with the rest of the Slough town centre area. Slough Borough Council (BCE-26831) put its argument most succinctly: ‘Chalvey ward is in the central urban area of Slough, contains Slough High Street, Slough Borough Council Offices, the Slough MPs Office, the town’s magistrates court and Slough Police station – all illustrative of it being part of the central urban core of the Slough constituency.’

3.26 Other arguments stated that the M4 motorway served as a barrier between Chalvey ward and the rest of the Windsor constituency (Philip Wright, BCE-27818), and that the needs of the residents of Chalvey ward (due to its demographic) are significantly different to those of the Windsor constituency (Madhuri Bedi,

BCE-39387 and Rob Deeks, BCE-32016). Father Alistair Stewart, vicar in the parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey, stated as part of his oral representation (BCE-32070) that: ‘Chalvey itself is an area of significant urban deprivation, as you are undoubtedly aware. So my fear, apart from having my own work made more difficult by working in two Parliamentary constituencies, is that there will be a democratic deficit for the people of Chalvey, who will be separated, as it were, from easy access to their Member of Parliament, who will be represented fundamentally by a constituency which is unlike Chalvey in cultural and socio-economic means and is fundamentally still a market town rather than an industrial urban centre, which is what Slough is and of which Chalvey is a fundamental part.’

3.27 The overwhelming response received during the consultations indicated that a revised approach was required in relation to the proposed Windsor constituency. The assistant commissioners were persuaded by the strength of evidence presented that Chalvey ward clearly has stronger local ties to Slough than Windsor, not least given the presence of a number of Slough civic institutions in the ward. They were of the view that this ward may not be adequately represented if it were transferred to the Windsor constituency, and to do so would break local ties. The assistant commissioners therefore recommended to us that Chalvey ward should remain in the Slough constituency, and we agree.

3.28 In order to address the inadequate electorate numbers in the Windsor constituency that would arise as a consequence of the ward of Chalvey

remaining in Slough, the assistant commissioners considered the alternatives. Any one of Bullbrook ward, Crowthorne ward, or Priestwood and Garth ward, all currently in the Bracknell constituency, have been suggested as better alternatives to be added into the Windsor constituency instead of Chalvey ward, for example by Catherine Meek on behalf of Slough Borough Council (BCE 26831) and Sohail Munawar (BCE 34506). Any of the three wards would bring Windsor within 5% of the electoral quota and would not have any knock-on effects. However, none of these wards were ideal. Both Bullbrook, and Priestwood and Garth wards are adjacent to Bracknell town centre, being only a few hundred metres from the main shopping complex. Although in the past other more distant Bracknell Forest Council wards, such as Warfield Harvest Ride, have become part of the Windsor constituency, the transfer of these wards would extend the Windsor constituency right into the heart of Bracknell. Our assistant commissioners therefore considered that this outcome would be little better than the transfer of Chalvey under the initial proposals. Crowthorne is a more rural ward, but has poor road connections and no rail connections to Windsor and therefore is also not a strong candidate.

3.29 As an alternative solution, the Pirate Party (BCE-30175) suggested a more wide-ranging cross-county Windsor, Ascot, and Surrey Heath constituency (which included the transfer of five Surrey Heath wards). The assistant commissioners considered this counter-proposal too radical and disruptive, and not in adherence to the statutory factors of matching existing constituencies and respecting local government boundaries.

3.30 However, given the disruption that would occur to Bracknell under the first option (the inclusion of either Bullbrook, Crowthorne, or Priestwood and Garth wards in the Bracknell constituency), the assistant commissioners considered whether there were individual wards in the county of Surrey that could be placed in the Windsor constituency in order to address the low electorate. They noted the reasonable road links from Windlesham ward, in the Surrey Heath constituency, to Windsor through the neighbouring wards of Sunningdale and Sunninghill and South Ascot, which have broadly similar characteristics. The assistant commissioners felt that although transferring the ward of Windlesham from Surrey Heath to Windsor would cross the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead into the County of Surrey, moving Windlesham would be a more appropriate proposal than removing the ward of Chalvey from Slough. This option would also avoid removing a Bracknell ward from the existing Bracknell constituency, and would have no knock-on effect further into Surrey. Furthermore, as pointed out by Aaron Fear (BCE-30739), Berkshire no longer has a county council. In order to satisfy themselves, our assistant commissioners also visited the area to see the links on the ground, which underlined their view that this would be the best solution to address the low electorate in Windsor constituency. They accordingly recommended the transfer of the Windlesham ward to the Windsor constituency.

3.31 We accept the recommendation for a revised Windsor constituency that takes in the Surrey Heath ward of Windlesham. However, we note that this approach was

not specified in any of the responses to the initial proposals, apart from the Pirate Party's more radical proposal (BCE-30175). We would therefore welcome representations from the local community on whether our revised proposal strikes the best balance, based on the criteria to which we work.

3.32 We endorse the assistant commissioners' recommendation that the constituencies of Maidenhead and Bracknell remain unchanged.

Surrey

3.33 To reduce the numbers of electors in Esher and Walton, the initial proposals transferred Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon ward to Mole Valley. To increase the numbers of electors in Spelthorne, the initial proposals took the ward of Chertsey St. Ann's from Runnymede and Weybridge constituency. Byfleet was then proposed to transfer from Woking to allow Runnymede and Weybridge to meet the permitted electorate range, which then led to the proposed transfer into Woking of Bisley ward (from Surrey Heath) and Send ward (from Mole Valley). The Labour Party (BCE-30359, BCE-31969, and BCE-40901) supported the Commission's initial proposals in their entirety, while the Conservative Party (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878) and Liberal Democrat Party (BCE-28287 and BCE-31973) submitted counter-proposals.

3.34 Substantial objection was received from local residents to the transfer of Chertsey St. Ann's ward to Spelthorne. Malcolm S. Loveday (BCE-20929) wrote on behalf of the Committee of The Chertsey Society to voice its concerns over dividing

the town of Chertsey 'down the middle of Guildford Street which is widely regarded as the town's 'High Street'.' Mr Loveday's submission was supported by residents (Joanne Whaley, BCE-25401, Neil Postance, BCE-25986 and William Moss, BCE-27261). Richard Dodd (BCE-26603) went further in his submission by pointing out that 'Chertsey has the River Thames as a significant geographic factor and the town is bounded by two motorways, the M3 and M25. Surely these natural and man made boundaries can be used to a greater extent to create constituencies that do not tear Chertsey apart.'

3.35 Councillor Myles Willingale (BCE-38078) suggested transferring Egham Hythe ward to Spelthorne in place of Chertsey St. Ann's ward, on the basis of some urban continuity with Staines. Other alternatives were taking Walton Central ward from the existing Esher and Walton constituency (Jonathan Stansby, BCE-17012), although this would split Walton, or taking Thorpe ward, as proposed by the Conservative Party's counter-proposal (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878).

3.36 We also received representations requesting the ward of Send, which had been transferred from Mole Valley to Woking under the initial proposals, be transferred instead to Guildford (Linda Parker, BCE-34765). The assistant commissioners did not consider this proposal to be viable as this would result in Send ward becoming detached if placed within the Guildford constituency. We agree with the assistant commissioners' decision not to recommend any changes to the constituency of Guildford.

3.37 Respondents highlighted the fact that the initial proposals for Woking left both Bisley and Byfleet as ‘orphan wards’⁵ from their respective local authorities (The Conservative Party, BCE-40878). Opposition to the transfer of Bisley ward to Woking pointed to cultural and geographical ties with the West End ward that would be split, including West End Parish Council which includes both Bisley and West End wards (Raymond Colvin, BCE-35608). Similarly, there was opposition to separating Byfleet from West Byfleet and Pyrford wards, with evidence provided from community groups that covered all three wards (Simon Ashall, BCE-29318, Pauline Hedges, BCE-29665 and Linda Kemeny, BCE-29441). Simon Ashall (BCE-29318) also commented on the strong transport links between Byfleet and Woking, stating that ‘... transport links both road and rail show a far greater link between Byfleet and Woking than Bisley or Send, particularly to Woking urban area, where the A245 follows the line of the railway and canal that are longstanding boundaries and features of the area’.

3.38 It was suggested that Send ward should be transferred to Guildford rather than Woking (Frank Anayi, BCE-19015 and Linda Parker, BCE-34765). Local evidence was received to support the retention of Send in the Mole Valley constituency, contrasting the semi-rural nature of Send and the Mole Valley with the largely urban nature of Woking, and pointing to the natural geographical boundaries of the River Wey and Wey Navigation (Iain Wakeford, BCE-14423). Reverend Tony Shutt (BCE-34821), a vicar from Send ward, argued that the parishes of Send

and Ripley (currently in the Lovelace ward of Mole Valley) and the northern part of Clandon have historically shared social and geographical features of their identity. Reverend Shutt asked ‘... the question of what is best for Send. As a semi rural village, divided from Woking by the River Wey and Wey Navigation, Send has more in common with most of the more rural Mole Valley than most of the far more urban and densely populated Woking. Send would have less sense of cohesion with Woking than it has become accustomed to experiencing with Mole Valley.’ The assistant commissioners did not consider this proposal to be viable, as it would leave Send as a detached ward, and would extend disruption to the otherwise unchanged existing constituency of Guildford.

3.39 There were a small number of mixed views about moving Oxshott and Stoke D’Abernon ward from Esher and Walton to Mole Valley. Opponents such as Susannah Cunningham (BCE-33239) and Ian Nelson (BCE-21128) maintained that the River Mole forms a natural boundary between the two constituencies, and emphasised the ward’s shopping and recreational ties to Cobham.

3.40 The counter-view, while noting the ties with Cobham, recognised the absence of an ideal solution in the area and supported the initial proposals. Andrew Kelly (BCE- 28461), Elmbridge Borough Councillor for Walton North and the Chairman of Walton Central and North Conservatives, stated: ‘There is no ideal solution here. In a perfect world Cobham would be in the same constituency and [as] Oxshott & Stoke D’Abernon. However,

⁵ ‘Orphan ward’ refers to a clear minority of wards (usually just one ward) from one local authority, in a constituency where the overwhelming majority of wards are from another local authority.

considering the other options. I do strongly support the Commission's draft proposal to move the Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon ward out of the constituency.'

3.41 The Conservative Party proposed (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878) that Thorpe ward be transferred from the existing Runnymede and Weybridge constituency to Spelthorne in place of Chertsey St. Ann's ward, and that Hersham South ward should then be moved from the existing Esher and Walton constituency to Runnymede and Weybridge. This counter-proposal attracted both support and opposition at the secondary consultation stage.

3.42 The opposition, while noting that some disruption was necessary, expressed the view that splitting Hersham was less preferable than splitting communities elsewhere in the area (Andrew Kelly, BCE-28461 and BCE-33325). However, on balance, the assistant commissioners agreed with the view that this solution is less disruptive to Surrey as a whole, and addresses the main concerns raised in the initial proposals, by allowing the wards of Bisley, Byfleet, Chertsey St. Ann's, Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon, and Send all to revert to their respective existing constituencies. As stated by Woking Borough Councillor Mark Pengelly (BCE-35818), this recommended revised proposal '... would achieve much of the required change without a subsequent domino effect on neighbouring constituencies'. The assistant commissioners therefore recommended the adoption of the Conservative Party counter-proposals for Surrey, with the sole amendment to transfer Windlesham ward to Windsor constituency (as

described under the Berkshire section above). Following the recommended revisions, there would be only three changes to existing constituencies in Surrey, compared with the six changed constituencies in the initial proposals.

3.43 There was no significant comment on the initial proposals in respect of East Surrey, Reigate, and South West Surrey, which would remain unchanged from the existing constituencies. We therefore agree with the assistant commissioners' recommendation not to change the proposals for these constituencies.

3.44 We agree with the assistant commissioners' recommendations for Surrey.

Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway

3.45 Of the 25 existing constituencies in this sub-region, just eight have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota. With only three above the permitted electorate range, there are 14 constituencies below it, in consequence of which the overall number of constituencies reduces by one to 24.

3.46 Of the eight within the permitted range, the Commission's initial proposals changed all but two (Hastings and Rye, and Sittingbourne and Sheppey), although only minor change was proposed in four (Dartford, Folkestone and Hythe, Gillingham and Rainham, and Rochester and Strood), and local authority ward boundary changes have slightly altered Eastbourne, leaving 17 constituencies with significant change proposed.

Brighton and Hove

3.47 The proposals for this area prompted more opposition than anywhere else in the region, with the key objections to the proposals being: the division of Hove between two constituencies; having a ‘Brighton North’ constituency with no connection to the sea, and no meaningful community ties or transport links between its east and west parts; and dividing Woodingdean from the other ‘Deans’ areas of east Brighton, with which it shares strong links. There was also opposition to extending the eastern part of the Brighton East and Newhaven constituency to Seaford, where a number of respondents felt that their ties are more towards Eastbourne.

3.48 The Hands Off Hove campaign (BCE-30144), opposing our initial proposal to transfer Hove Park ward to a Brighton North constituency, was signed by 4,515 individuals during our initial consultation period. As they said, ‘Brighton and Hove may be partners in the formation of the city but they vigorously maintain their separate and distinct identities.’ These sentiments were reflected across the bulk of representations mentioning Hove.

3.49 We received a significant number of differing counter-proposals. The Green Party (BCE-36874) alone submitted four alternative options. However, nearly all major consultation responses, bar one discussed later, took the same general approach as the Commission, agreeing that it would not be appropriate to push disruption west or north into the largely settled West Sussex sub-region. Accordingly, the counter-proposals for

the area fell into one of two variants of extension east of Brighton: those which adopt the line of the Commission’s initial proposal to extend the existing easternmost Brighton constituency further east along the coast, as far as Seaford; or those which instead extend the Brighton, Kemptown constituency north-east, to take in Lewes (putting Seaford in an Uckfield constituency). There are merits to both approaches, it being argued that Lewes has a community of interest with Brighton for shopping, commuting and leisure along the strong A27 road link and East Coastway rail line, and Seaford has links (such as school catchment areas) with Newhaven (proposed for inclusion with a Brighton constituency even in the Lewes variant).

3.50 Our assistant commissioners advised us that the Seaford variant is more difficult to reconcile with attempts to address the concerns about splitting Hove in the west and ‘the Deans’ in the east of the city, there being no whole-ward solution which includes all of the Newhaven and Seaford wards.

3.51 The Green Party put forward two whole-ward and two split-ward counter-proposals, the first whole-ward option being identical to that which the Commission had as its revised proposals in 2013, and the others being variants on that base: moving Queen’s Park ward into the existing Brighton Pavilion constituency rather than Moulsecoomb and Bevendean ward in the second whole-ward proposal; splitting Queen’s Park, and Regency wards in the first split-ward solution; and splitting only Regency ward in their second split-ward proposal.

3.52 One interesting counter-proposal (Neil Harding, BCE-29013, BCE-29021, BCE-32739, BCE-34032, BCE-34034 and BCE-34593) suggested a straight swap of Brunswick and Adelaide ward, and Withdean ward between the existing Hove and Brighton, Pavilion constituencies, with the latter also gaining Moulsecoomb and Bevendean ward. As a prime example of the Lewes variant, the remainder of the existing Brighton, Kemptown constituency would then be combined with the Newhaven wards and Lewes wards, plus the two wards of Kingston, and Ouse Valley and Ringmer, to form a Brighton East and Lewes constituency.

3.53 Jonathan Rogers (BCE-38947) proposed a variant of this, keeping Withdean ward in the proposed Brighton North constituency, but increasing the number of electors in Hove by taking Eastbrook ward from East Worthing and Shoreham. This creates a knock-on effect in Worthing West, and Bognor Regis and Littlehampton constituencies, moving one ward from each eastwards along the coast. The assistant commissioners concluded that this was more disruptive to more existing constituencies than was necessary in order to satisfy the representations regarding Hove.

3.54 In light of the particular complexities and number of alternatives presented for the area, the assistant commissioners visited the city, and observed that Woodingdean has closer links with the rest of 'the Deans' than it does with the centre of Brighton. Two other 'Deans', Bevendean and Roedean, are more closely linked to Brighton, with Bevendean in particular linking directly into Moulsecoomb, with no direct road link to the neighbouring

Woodingdean ward. The visit also demonstrated the difficulties in moving east-west across the city itself, until reaching the seafront. Crossing from Hove Park to Withdean, across the Dyke Road, and moving further east, crossing steep valleys running north-south through the Westdene area of the city, strongly supported what had been stated in representations that Withdean and Hove Park wards should remain in separate constituencies. They also noted that Regency ward, although having a feel more of central Brighton than of Hove, is nonetheless more accessible to Hove residents than Withdean.

3.55 The strength of evidence received during the consultations persuaded the assistant commissioners that a revised approach was necessary to provide a better solution for the proposed Brighton and Hove constituencies.

3.56 In the west of the city, the volume and quality of evidence in representations suggested that Hove Park ward should be restored to the Hove constituency. The assistant commissioners therefore recommended this. The assistant commissioners recommended that St. Peter's and North Laine ward be returned to the central constituency, and Woodingdean restored to the eastern constituency, establishing greater equivalence of the central constituency with the existing Brighton, Pavilion constituency. This recommendation does need to retain Regency ward in the proposed western constituency to stay within 5% of the electoral quota without breaching the boundary with West Sussex (as discussed earlier). However, as Tom Beament of the Green Party (BCE-36874) said, 'although it is not ideal, in that it does not fully respect

the Hove/Brighton boundary, if one ward is to be added to the Hove constituency, then the Regency ward is the best fit'. The assistant commissioners also felt that this solution would see all three of the city's constituencies contain part of 'the heart of Brighton'.

3.57 We agree with the assistant commissioners' recommendations for these revised western and central constituencies, as well as their recommendation to return the Woodingdean ward to the eastern Brighton constituency.

3.58 Turning to the easternmost Brighton constituency, our assistant commissioners concluded that the Seaford variant, linking communities along the coast, would create a constituency which is more homogeneous than one that incorporated parts of Brighton with the more rural-facing county town of Lewes. In reaching this view, they noted in particular the evidence that pointed towards these communities being principally residential, with the coastline, sea defences and port activities to maintain (Michael Morton-George, BCE-29163), significant retirement populations (Douglas Murray, Wealden District Councillor, BCE-30629) and many shared issues, such as the congestion on the A259 (Roy Burman, BCE-33885). The assistant commissioners also noted the similarity in shape and connectivity between this proposed constituency moving eastwards from Brighton and those constituencies along the coast to the west of Brighton.

3.59 However, the counter-proposals based on whole-ward solutions would require one of the Newhaven wards to be

omitted in order to remain within 5% of the electoral quota – and realistically only the Newhaven Valley ward can be considered if the resulting constituency is not to be left entirely split in two. Having visited the area, our assistant commissioners noted that this ward contains the main road link connecting the rest of Newhaven (and subsequently Seaford) with the proposed constituency. Removing this ward would, therefore, remove that main road link through the constituency, albeit only by a short distance. They also noted that removing Newhaven Valley ward was likely to divide the centre of the town of Newhaven.

3.60 Given their concerns regarding the removal of this ward, the assistant commissioners investigated other solutions that followed the principle of a coastal constituency. They noted that by splitting the ward of Newhaven Denton and Meeching, with just polling district LIA moving from the proposed Brighton East and Newhaven to the proposed Lewes and Uckfield constituency, they could keep the centre of Newhaven together and retain the main road access running through the constituency. They felt that there were compelling reasons to do so, given that it also prevents disruption to existing Brighton and East Sussex constituencies that would be needed otherwise. By contrast, this one ward split allows a number of existing constituencies to see minimal change and more communities to be kept together in the same constituency.

3.61 We considered these recommendations very carefully and, as mentioned earlier, are persuaded that the evidence suggests that the right principle is to propose a constituency

that brings together most if not all of the coastal area. However, we note that uniting all wards along the Peacehaven/Newhaven/Seaford coastal area is not possible within the permitted electorate range. We have assessed two options to address this: the removal of Newhaven Valley ward into the proposed Lewes and Uckfield constituency (which would, in effect, be adopting the Green Party's proposals for the area), or the assistant commissioners' recommendation to split the ward of Newhaven Denton and Meeching. We find at this stage that the evidence and argument to split this ward is not compelling enough to persuade us, given our stated policy and our approach to splitting wards around the country, and the fact that a whole-ward solution exists in isolation for these two constituencies. We note that the ward-split proposal does not assist with providing a significantly better pattern over the larger sub-regional area, nor do we yet have any evidence from the local community that the whole-ward solution affects local ties. Finally, we note that this proposal – suggested by the Green Party – has been publicly aired at our public hearing in Brighton (BCE-32663) and has been consulted on. We therefore reject the assistant commissioners' recommendation to split the ward of Newhaven Denton and Meeching, and propose to adopt the Green Party's solution for Brighton East and coastal areas extending east.

3.62 With these relatively minor changes to the existing western and central constituencies, we believe that 'Hove and Regency' and the existing 'Brighton Pavilion' respectively would be appropriate constituency names. We feel the nature of the recommended changes to the

existing eastern constituency would be best reflected by retaining the existing 'Brighton Kemptown', with the addition of 'and Seahaven'.

East Sussex

3.63 The Commission's proposed Eastbourne and Hastings and Rye constituencies were largely supported during both consultation periods. The rest of East Sussex was supported by both the Conservative Party (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878) and the Labour Party (BCE-30359, BCE-31969 and BCE-40901), with the Liberal Democrat Party (BCE-28287) opposing, instead suggesting a dumbbell-shaped High Weald constituency.

3.64 Other representations did not support the initial proposals approach to Lewes and Uckfield, perceived locally to be too large a constituency north-south for effective representation. John Bryant's (BCE-28072) counter-proposal addressed this by transferring Buxted and Maresfield, Forest Row, Framfield, and Hartfield wards to his alternative cross-county constituency, Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough. This counter-proposal also delivers less change to Bexhill and Battle and brings Hailsham back into Lewes and Uckfield.

3.65 The assistant commissioners recommended the adoption of the John Bryant counter-proposal for East Sussex (as this satisfies those representations which were concerned with the geographic size of the constituency), with some minor adjustment due to the revised configuration of the Brighton Kemptown and Seahaven constituency (described

above). Specifically, Horem ward transfers from Lewes and Uckfield to Bexhill and Battle (linking it with Heathfield, as suggested by representations such as Virginia Roberts, BCE-16281), and Ticehurst and Etchingham ward transfers from Bexhill and Battle to the reconfigured constituency named 'High Weald' in our initial proposals (which is discussed further in the Kent section below). We agree with these recommendations.

Kent, and Medway

3.66 With regard to north Kent and the Medway, the Conservative Party's counter-proposal for Rochester and Strood (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878), to retain Higham in the Gravesham constituency, was heavily supported, as were the Commission's initial proposals for Chatham and The Mallings, Dartford, Gillingham and Rainham, and Sittingbourne and Sheppey. There appeared to be coordinated campaigns covering the three Medway constituencies. The Medway Labour Group's counter-proposal (BCE-20508, BCE-29214, BCE-32515, BCE-40879, BCE-40882 and BCE-40980) was more radical but did not deal with knock-on effects in the proposed Maidstone, Sevenoaks, and Tonbridge and The Weald constituencies.

3.67 There was both support and opposition to the Lordswood and Capstone ward being moved to the Gillingham and Rainham constituency, but the balance of opinion was to oppose this move, notably in a 261-signature petition (Medway Labour Group, BCE-40980). The most heavily populated part of the ward is directly joined to both the Princes Park and Walderslade wards in the Chatham

and The Mallings constituency, rather than with Hempstead and Wigmore ward. There is a substantial green space between this area and the boundary with the existing Gillingham and Rainham constituency.

3.68 The other opposition to this proposal was the allocation of Watlingbury ward to Chatham and The Mallings. Representations stated that it should sit with Tonbridge, as its links go west to Tonbridge, rather than north.

3.69 The assistant commissioners were persuaded that the Conservative Party counter-proposal to retain Higham ward in Gravesham constituency (with Ash and New Ash Green ward consequentially returning to Sevenoaks constituency) struck a better overall balance of our criteria. While recognising the evidence presented about the ties which exist between Lordswood and Capstone ward and the proposed Chatham and The Mallings constituency, they noted that shifting this ward out of Gillingham and Rainham constituency would leave both constituencies outside the permitted electorate range.

3.70 The assistant commissioners therefore recommended adoption of the Conservative Party counter-proposals for north Kent, with the sole amendment of transferring Watlingbury ward to the Tonbridge constituency, which can be achieved in isolation and reflects the representations from that area. We agree.

3.71 In relation to central Kent and the Weald, there was opposition to the initial proposals for a High Weald constituency straddling East Sussex and Kent, with the view being that it was too large and would

be difficult for a Member of Parliament to deal with, with no community of interest, other than that all parts are very rural in nature. As noted in the East Sussex sub-section, John Bryant (BCE-28072) suggested an alternative crossing of the Kent/East Sussex boundary, creating a Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough constituency, together with a reconfigured Mid Kent constituency, arguing that these give more compact and regularly shaped primarily rural constituencies.

3.72 There was opposition to the initially proposed Tonbridge and The Weald constituency, in that it was poorly aligned with both the existing constituency and local authority. Additionally, local opposition from Edenbridge (Mary McCarten, BCE-16412) argued that Edenbridge looks towards Tonbridge for education and has good road and rail links in that direction.

3.73 Both the Labour Party (BCE-30359) and the Liberal Democrat Party (BCE-28287) proposed that Park Wood ward should be included in the Maidstone constituency, as this would maximise the number of urban Maidstone wards in the constituency.

3.74 The assistant commissioners were persuaded by John Bryant's counter-proposals for a Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough constituency and a separate Mid Kent constituency. They therefore recommended these revised constituencies, with two minor amendments to his Mid Kent constituency, specifically including the Ticehurst and Etchingham ward in both the composition and name of the Mid Kent and Ticehurst

constituency (as noted in the East Sussex section above), and transferring Park Wood ward to Maidstone. Apart from the latter change, the assistant commissioners recommended no other changes to the Maidstone constituency in our original proposals.

3.75 The assistant commissioners also recommended the adoption of John Bryant's proposed constituencies of Tonbridge and Sevenoaks, though again with minor amendments (to reflect the representations about Edenbridge), specifically transferring the wards of Edenbridge North and East, and Edenbridge South and West from Sevenoaks to Tonbridge, and transferring the ward of Wrotham, Ightham and Stansted from Tonbridge to Sevenoaks (to balance the transferred Edenbridge electors).

3.76 We agree with the assistant commissioners' recommendations for central Kent and the Weald.

3.77 With regard to east Kent, we received objections relating to the removal of Little Stour and Ashstone ward and Sandwich ward from South Thanet. Residents such as Margaret Russell (BCE-24192) mentioned 'The close relationship between Sandwich and Ramsgate in terms of Shopping, tourism and transport links.' Some representations indicated they felt that Sandwich is more closely linked to Dover than Thanet, such as Jim Fitt (BCE-34654): '... it makes no sense to separate Sandwich, Ash and Wingham from Dover and Deal... Both Dover and Deal have been the main shopping and social centres for these villages (and Sandwich). The community

connections between us all are very strong; in fact they/we are all part of the same community. Good road and rail links exist between us all and are well used.'

3.78 The Conservative Party counter-proposals (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878) retain Sandwich in Thanet East, but move Little Stour and Ashstone (LS&A) to Dover. This second move runs counter to other representations, such as Richard Rowson (BCE-24296), who stated: 'In Wingham and other LS&A villages most of our shopping and other business, including rail and bus connections, is with Canterbury.'

3.79 While the assistant commissioners considered that the Conservative counter-proposal for this area was a less than ideal solution for the Little Stour and Ashstone ward, which has links to both Canterbury and Sandwich, they noted that it does remove potential knock-on effects that would disrupt towns in the initially proposed North Kent Coastal constituency. The assistant commissioners therefore recommended the Conservative Party's counter-proposals for the composition of the constituencies of Canterbury and Faversham, North Kent Coastal, Dover, and Thanet East. We agree with these recommendations.

3.80 The name of the Dover constituency was contentious, with strong support for inclusion of the name Deal in the constituency. The assistant commissioners therefore recommended the name of Dover and Deal for this constituency, and we agree. The name of Thanet East also appeared not to be so appropriate for the composition of the revised constituency: assistant commissioners initially suggested

North East Kent Coastal, but we eventually agreed their further suggestion of East Thanet and Sandwich.

3.81 There was no significant comment on the initial proposals in respect of Hastings and Rye, which would remain unchanged from the existing constituency, or in respect of Ashford, and Folkestone and Hythe. We therefore agree with the assistant commissioners' recommendation not to change the proposals for these constituencies.

West Sussex

3.82 There are eight constituencies in West Sussex. The existing constituencies of Arundel and South Downs, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton, East Worthing, Horsham, Shoreham, and Worthing West have an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota. The elector numbers of Mid Sussex and Chichester are above the 5% limit and Crawley is below the 5% limit. Although the scale of change proposed in each constituency was minor, seven of the eight constituencies were proposed to change, with only East Worthing and Shoreham constituency proposed as completely unchanged (although the proposals for Worthing West merely sought to realign the constituency boundary with the changed ward boundaries of Arun District Council).

3.83 To increase the number of electors in Crawley, we proposed transferring Copthorne and Worth ward from the Horsham constituency. To reduce the numbers in Chichester and Mid Sussex, we proposed to transfer the wards of Bolney and Plaistow respectively into the Arundel and South Downs constituency.

As this would have left the latter too large, we consequentially proposed to transfer the Barnham ward to Bognor Regis and Littlehampton constituency.

3.84 Representations for West Sussex were generally broadly supportive. The Conservative Party (BCE-30308, BCE-31975, BCE-40878) and Liberal Democrat Party (BCE-28287 and BCE-31973) supported all the Commission's proposals for the county. The Labour Party's (BCE-30359, BCE-31969 and BCE-40901) only objection was to the inclusion of Copthorne and Worth ward in Crawley, noting the boundary of the M23 motorway, and proposing instead to transfer Rusper and Colgate from Horsham, citing stronger ties and road links. The Conservative Party (BCE-40878) refuted this suggestion, stating as part of their submission: 'It is clear that Copthorne has links with Crawley particularly along the A264. It has no links with the town of Horsham, whereas Rusper and Colgate immediately abuts Horsham and has several road links between them.'

3.85 Crawley Borough Council's Governance Committee (BCE-27169) proposed splitting the ward of Rusper and Colgate by taking the polling district for Kilnwood Vale from Rusper and Colgate ward, as well as including the Mid Sussex District ward of Copthorne and Worth in a Crawley constituency. The argument centred on including an as yet unfinished urban development currently in the Horsham constituency in the proposed Crawley constituency.

3.86 The Pirate Party (BCE-30175) proposed a radically reorganised set of constituencies across West Sussex, suggesting that its proposal better

fitted local community ties, avoided constituencies crossing the significant geographical boundary of the South Downs and removed a constituency which covers portions of four different local authorities, replacing it with constituencies which cover at most two local authorities.

3.87 Respondents also suggested that the Shoreham wards of East Worthing and Shoreham would sit better with the Hove constituency, citing the natural border of the River Adur and the airport in the west (Em Young, BCE-17585 and Rob Ellison, BCE-15389).

3.88 Having considered the representations made, our assistant commissioners believed the significant level of response supporting the initial proposals demonstrated the lack of justification for either a radical overhaul of West Sussex constituencies or the creation of a constituency that straddles West Sussex and the unitary authority of Brighton and Hove. They did not consider Crawley Borough Council Governance Committee's proposal to have exceptional and compelling circumstances to justify splitting the ward of Rusper and Colgate and found the evidence favouring Copthorne and Worth to be more persuasive. We agree with our assistant commissioners' conclusion.

3.89 There was no significant comment in the initial proposals in respect of Worthing West, which realigned the constituency boundary with the changed ward boundaries of Arun District Council. We therefore agree with the assistant commissioners' recommendation not to change the proposals for this constituency.

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes

3.90 Of the seven existing constituencies in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, four (Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, and Wycombe) are currently within 5% of the electoral quota. Of the remaining three, Milton Keynes North and Milton Keynes South are above the statutory maximum electorate and Chesham and Amersham is below the statutory minimum.

3.91 In our initial proposals, we proposed moving the Stony Stratford and Wolverton wards from Milton Keynes Borough into the existing Buckingham constituency, and creating new configurations for two newly named Milton Keynes Bletchley and Milton Keynes Newport Pagnell constituencies. Buckingham in turn was therefore proposed to transfer the wards of Edlesborough, Oakfield & Bierton, Pitstone & Cheddington, Watermead, and Wingrave to Aylesbury, which could then afford to transfer the wards of Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens, and Greater Hughenden to Chesham and Amersham, bringing it into the permitted electorate range. Our proposed Wycombe constituency included the wards of Bledlow and Bradenham, and Stokenchurch and Radnage from Aylesbury, to keep the latter within the required electorate range. This left just the constituency of Beaconsfield unaltered.

3.92 Our proposals for this sub-region received support from the Liberal Democrat Party (BCE-28287). The Conservative Party (BCE-30308) counter-proposed swapping Waddesdon ward for Wing ward between the

proposed Buckingham and Aylesbury constituencies and suggested alternative names for the proposed Milton Keynes Bletchley and Milton Keynes Newport Pagnell constituencies. The Labour Party (BCE-30359) agreed with all our proposals except moving Wolverton, arguing that there may be alternatives. In their submission to the secondary consultation, the Labour Party (BCE-40901) also disputed the Conservative Party's counter-proposal, saying: 'We note here the counter-proposal of the Conservatives as set out at the Lead Public Hearing in Guildford to include the Waddesdon ward in Aylesbury CC and the Wing ward in Buckingham CC which, at least in respect of the former, we believe has no obvious rationale.'

3.93 There was opposition from some respondents to moving any Milton Keynes wards to a non-Milton Keynes constituency, but as both Milton Keynes constituencies are too large, there is no alternative under the statutory rules. A small number of counter-proposals suggested crossing the region boundary, transferring rural Milton Keynes wards to either Northamptonshire in the East Midlands (Adrian Bailey, BCE-30315) or Bedfordshire in the Eastern region. Consideration was given by the assistant commissioners to this suggested sharing of Milton Keynes wards with the Eastern or East Midlands regions, but doing so would not in their view, nor in the view of the assistant commissioners for those other regions, help in the configuration of constituencies in those parts of those regions in line with the statutory factors. Our stated policy – which has received strong support – is to use the European regions as a basis for our recommendations,

and only depart from that policy in light of very compelling reasons to do so. We agree with our assistant commissioners' recommendations that such reasons do not exist here and we have therefore decided that the South East regional boundary should not be crossed with any other region.

3.94 An alternative proposal suggested Tattenhoe ward be moved to Buckingham, in place of Wolverton (Councillor Martin Gowans, BCE-19549), citing the latter as a more established area with long-standing ties to the rest of Milton Keynes, whereas Tattenhoe sits on the A421, a direct road link to Buckingham. It was also notable that Wolverton is separated from Stony Stratford and Buckingham by the A5. Our assistant commissioners were persuaded by the argument and evidence put forward for this alternative, and therefore recommended that Wolverton be included in Milton Keynes Bletchley, with Tattenhoe instead being included in the Buckingham constituency.

3.95 There were several suggestions that the names for the two Milton Keynes constituencies were unsuitable, and that compass points would be preferred. Our assistant commissioners recommended the names be changed to Milton Keynes North East and Milton Keynes South West.

3.96 We received a small number of representations arguing that Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens ward has links with The Risboroughs ward and to Wycombe, and that The Risboroughs has links to Aylesbury rather than to Chesham and Amersham, or Buckingham, as in our

initial proposals. A suggested attempt to address this in a counter-proposal (Councillor Graham Peart, BCE-16924) relied upon splitting the town of Hazelmere between Chesham and Amersham, and Wycombe. Our assistant commissioners did not believe the evidence is sufficiently compelling to justify such a split, rather than allocating whole communities. As none of those raising concerns have been able to identify a satisfactory alternative that does not split wards, we have therefore determined to make no change to the initial proposals in this area.

3.97 The assistant commissioners were not persuaded by the Conservative Party counter-proposal (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878) to move Waddesdon ward to Aylesbury, and Wing ward to Buckingham. They agreed with the Labour Party view that there was 'no obvious rationale' for this change. Furthermore, they noted that making this change would seem to produce an odd shape, leaving the southern wards of the Buckingham constituency rather isolated from the rest of the constituency.

3.98 In summary, the assistant commissioners recommended revising the initial proposals for this sub-region so that Tattenhoe ward is transferred to Buckingham, and Wolverton ward to Milton Keynes Bletchley, and that the names of the Milton Keynes constituencies be changed to Milton Keynes North East, and Milton Keynes South West. In all other respects, they make no changes to our initial proposals, and we accept their recommendations.

Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton

3.99 There are currently 18 constituencies in Hampshire, eight of which (Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Meon Valley, New Forest East, North East Hampshire, and North West Hampshire) have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota. The electorate of the other 10 constituencies are below the permitted electorate range. This generally low electorate necessitates a reduction in the number of constituencies to 17. Of the national parties, the Labour Party (BCE-30359, BCE-31969 and BCE-40901) and the Liberal Democrat Party (BCE-28287 and BCE-31973) supported the initial proposals for Hampshire in their entirety, while the Conservative Party counter-proposed only a different configuration for Southampton, still retaining both constituencies within the city boundaries (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878).

Hampshire

3.100 There was opposition to the initial proposals to include the Dun Valley and Blackwater wards in the New Forest East constituency. Representations such as Robin Garrett (BCE-15062) and Marcus Durham (BCE-23284) stated that residents of the Dun Valley area had strong ties to Romsey, Andover, Salisbury or Winchester, rather than south to the New Forest communities, with the east-west alignment of roads in the area being highlighted. Counter-proposals put forward were to either cross the regional boundary into Wiltshire, or to substitute for these two wards the ward of Chilworth, Nursling and Rownhams (Dun Valley Parish Councils, BCE-27031, James Strachan, BCE-16103

and Graham Pointer, BCE-35429). The assistant commissioners were persuaded by the evidence put forward relating to the severing of local ties and therefore recommended that the Dun Valley and Blackwater wards be retained in a Test Valley constituency.

3.101 The assistant commissioners did not see a sufficiently compelling reason to cross the regional boundary into Wiltshire and therefore recommended instead transferring the ward of Chilworth, Nursling and Rownhams into New Forest East, while recognising that residents of the Chilworth, Nursling and Rownhams ward may feel limited affinity with the rural areas of the New Forest East constituency. However, they believed the ward may have more similarities with the built-up area in and around Totton, which is already within the existing New Forest East constituency. We agree with the assistant commissioners' assessment and recommendations for these two constituencies, although we recognise this is a finely balanced judgement on which we would welcome further evidence in response to our revised proposals.

3.102 There were also objections to the inclusion of Compton and Otterbourne ward and Colden Common and Twyford ward in the proposed Test Valley constituency, citing close ties of these wards to Winchester. Adrian Walmsley (BCE-23497) proposed a solution that split the Compton and Otterbourne ward, so that just the polling district containing the Compton and Shawford Parish Council could be transferred back to Winchester. An alternative proposal from Hursley Parish Council (BCE-25257) was to transfer Sparsholt ward and Wonston

and Micheldever ward to the Test Valley constituency in place of Compton and Otterbourne ward and Colden Common and Twyford ward. While recognising the community links between Winchester and areas to its south and west, our assistant commissioners did not feel that there were sufficiently compelling reasons to justify the suggested splitting of the Compton and Otterbourne ward. In considering the counter-proposals to swap wards north of Winchester for those south of the city, the assistant commissioners advised us that this would merely be relocating the issue, and therefore did not recommend adopting these changes. In the absence of further evidence we are therefore not minded to alter our initial proposals in this area.

3.103 Further north, there were some objections from areas to the south and west of Andover to our initial proposal to transfer them into the Test Valley constituency. A counter-proposal from Charles Milner-Williams (BCE-18662) suggested not including in a North West Hampshire constituency the wards of Pamber and Silchester, Bramley and Sherfield, and Sherborne St. John, which would then allow the wards of Anna, Amport, and Penton Bellinger to be retained in the North West Hampshire constituency, but it did not address how the consequential shortfall in electors in Test Valley might then be dealt with. There were also a number of representations opposed to transferring the two Crookham wards into the Aldershot constituency, which focused on how this separated them from Fleet, with which they are said to have closer ties. Counter-proposals – such as those from the then Member of Parliament Sir Gerald Howarth (BCE-33404), from Jim Daniell (BCE-21214), and from the

Pirate Party (BCE-30175) – suggested adding Yateley East ward into the existing Aldershot constituency instead.

3.104 After consideration of the evidence, the assistant commissioners were not persuaded that splitting the Yateley community between two constituencies would be preferable to keeping the Crookham wards together in a single constituency (albeit a different one than Fleet). They were not able to reconcile the different counter-proposals into a solution that does not give rise to problems elsewhere in northern Hampshire, and therefore recommended no change to our initial proposals in these areas. In the absence of any such satisfactory overall counter-proposal, we agree with their recommendation.

3.105 There was a mixture of support (Richard Ryan, BCE-22182) and opposition (Kay Gale, BCE-22972) to the addition of Whiteley ward to the Fareham constituency. The assistant commissioners observed that Whiteley road links are to the south and west, into the Fareham constituency, and therefore found that the ward should be moved to Fareham. We agree with the assistant commissioners' conclusion.

3.106 There was no significant comment on the initial proposals in respect of Basingstoke, Eastleigh, and Gosport, which would remain unchanged from the existing constituencies, or in respect of East Hampshire, Havant, New Forest West, and North East Hampshire. We therefore agree with the assistant commissioners' recommendation not to change the proposals for these constituencies.

Portsmouth

3.107 In Portsmouth, our initial proposals expressly sought views on whether Baffins or Nelson ward was best to move into the Portsmouth South constituency, to which there was a mixed response. Support for the inclusion of Nelson ward – such as that from Stuart Crow (BCE-32268) – highlighted how that would unite the interests of the harbour area, and include the whole of the Buckland community.

3.108 Conversely, those preferring the inclusion of Baffins ward, for example the Pirate Party (BCE-30175), stated that it had closer ties south to Milton ward than north to Copnor (with which there was a clear industrial and main road boundary), while Nelson ward had strong connections east and a clear boundary to its south: ‘There are strong links from Nelson ward to both Hilsea and Copner wards (along the A3, A2047, Stubbington Avenue, Labernum Grove and Chichester Road) whereas the Nelson-Charles Dickens ward boundary primarily goes through the non-residential areas of the Harbour and the Dockyard.’ The Baffins option was further supported by Darren Sanders, City Councillor for Baffins ward. During his oral submission at the public hearing held in Portsmouth (BCE-32270), he maintained that Tangier Road, the main road which runs through Baffins ward, was historically the constituency boundary of Portsmouth South.

3.109 The assistant commissioners considered stronger arguments had been made by those favouring the Baffins option, and therefore recommended the inclusion of Baffins ward with the

Portsmouth South constituency, and Nelson ward in the Portsmouth North constituency. We agree.

Southampton

3.110 In Southampton, the key point of contention has been over the most appropriate place for an enlarged Southampton Itchen constituency to cross the River Itchen.

3.111 Paul Lewzey, City Councillor for Peartree ward in Southampton, supported our initial proposals to extend into Bevois ward from the existing southern crossing in the Bargate ward. As part of his oral evidence (BCE-32218), he noted that these wards share similar characteristics and are ‘connected by some really significant road bridges: we have the new Itchen Bridge ... and for Bevois ward there is a similar bridge, not quite so high, that actually connects Bevois to areas around Bitterne Park and Peartree, so it fits quite neatly.’

3.112 At the same public hearing, Councillor Simon Letts (BCE-32233), leader of Southampton City Council, also supported this approach. In relation to the consequential ability to keep together the wards of Bassett, Portswood, and Swaythling, he added: ‘If you look at Portswood and Bassett and Swaythling, ... effectively, they surround the university campus which sits at the centre of those three seats and combining them together makes it very much more simple for an MP to operate.’ Caroline Nokes, Member of Parliament for the existing constituency of Romsey and Southampton North, also welcomed the initial proposals (BCE-25539 and BCE-32254), as they retained in a

single constituency the community resident in the Flower Roads estate, straddling both the Bassett and Swaythling wards.

3.113 By contrast, we received a petition of 103 signatures, submitted by Sukhbir Singh (BCE-28687), objecting to the Commission's proposals, asserting that '... Bevois has always had stronger ties with communities, schools, local services and charities to the west of the City (Southampton Test) rather than across the river (Southampton Itchen) which feels alien to us and would cause confusion and nuisance.' The petition contained a counter-proposal which would keep Bevois ward in Southampton Test and transfer Swaythling ward from Southampton Test to Southampton Itchen. The Conservative Party (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878) proposed that the wards of Bevois and Bargate be kept together and join Southampton Test, and the wards of Bassett and Swaythling be placed in the Southampton Itchen constituency.

3.114 To test the strength of these competing arguments, the assistant commissioners toured the area in person. They reported to us that the visit endorsed the evidence relating to the Flower Roads estate spanning both Bassett and Swaythling wards, and that Portswood, Bassett, and Swaythling wards shared a common interest in the University of Southampton. In terms of crossings of the river in this part of the city, there appeared to be only a small bridge on Woodmill Lane providing a very limited connection between Swaythling and Bitterne Park. Further south, although the river itself was a natural boundary, assistant commissioners advised us that there were

significantly better crossings via the busy Itchen and Northam bridges, providing good connectivity between the wards either side of the river. It was also noted that there seemed to be a strong continuity between Bargate and Bevois wards.

3.115 On this basis, the assistant commissioners considered the stronger case lay with those supporting our initial proposals, and therefore recommended no change to those initial proposals in Southampton. We agree.

Isle of Wight

3.116 In our initial proposals, we proposed two constituencies on the basis of an east-west split, with each being roughly equal in geographical size and having a mix of coastal and rural areas. There were some consultation responses opposed to splitting the island into two constituencies, however this is a mandatory requirement under the legislation.

3.117 The east-west split approach received very wide-ranging support, from the Conservative Party, the Labour Party nationally, the Liberal Democrat Party, local councils and political groups, such as Havenstreet and Ashe Parish Council (BCE-27218) and Sandown Independents Party (BCE-30580), and individuals such as Joe Cody (BCE-19908) and Juliet Behrendt (BCE-17794). Liz Kingston (BCE-26123) put forward a slight variation on the initial proposals, proposing instead transferring the electoral division of Wootton Bridge to the proposed Isle of Wight East constituency. During the secondary consultation period, this was supported by I. Bond (BCE-37938), who noted that the

initial proposals separated Wootton from Binstead and Fishbourne, cutting across local ties between those areas.

3.118 The Isle of Wight Council Labour Group (BCE-26320) proposed instead a fundamentally different north-south divide, on the basis that the communities on the north side of the island look to the Solent and mainland, while the communities on the south side (including the centrally located town of Newport) look to the English Channel.

3.119 Support for the initial proposals, and the evidence contained within the representations, persuaded the assistant commissioners that it would not be appropriate to recommend a radically different north-south split, but they were persuaded by the case for a minor adjustment to include Wootton Bridge within the Isle of Wight East constituency, which they accordingly recommended. We endorse the assistant commissioners' recommendation.

Oxfordshire

3.120 Of the six existing constituencies in Oxfordshire, three (Henley, Oxford West and Abingdon, and Witney) are currently within 5% of the electoral quota. Of the remaining three constituencies, Banbury and Wantage are both over the permitted electorate range and Oxford East is below it.

3.121 Our initial proposals were to move Fringford, Launton, Ambrosden and Chesterton, and Wallingford wards from Banbury and Wantage to a renamed 'Henley and Thame' constituency; to transfer the wards of Wheatley,

Garsington and Horspath, and Sandford and the Wittenhams from the existing Henley constituency to Oxford West and Abingdon; and to transfer the wards of North and St. Margaret's from Oxford West and Abingdon to Oxford East. Witney would be unaltered.

3.122 The initial proposals received support from the Conservative Party (BCE-30308, BCE-31975 and BCE-40878) with the exception of the names of the Wantage constituency, which they suggested should be called 'Wantage and Didcot'. The Labour Party (BCE-30359, BCE-31969 and BCE-40901) proposed moving Jericho and Osney ward from Oxford West and Abingdon to Oxford East, in preference to St. Margaret's ward. Conversely, the Liberal Democrat Party (BCE-28287 and BCE-31973) proposed moving Wheatley, Garsington & Horspath, and Sandford & the Wittenhams wards from Oxford West and Abingdon to Oxford East, allowing Oxford West and Abingdon to retain North and St. Margaret's wards, but also gain Carfax and Holywell wards from Oxford East, dividing the city along the River Cherwell.

3.123 There was opposition from Antony Atkins (BCE-17506), Jane Olds (BCE-29452) and others to moving Fringford, Launton, and Ambrosden and Chesterton wards to Henley and Thame, as these are much closer to Bicester, which is expanding. The size of the existing Banbury constituency makes this a necessity, in order to avoid much more significant disruption to the rest of the county. There was a suggestion from Jane Olds, to extend the Banbury constituency across the region boundary into South Northamptonshire; however, our assistant commissioners advised us

that they did not see a compelling reason for doing so, not least as it would not be helpful to the structuring of constituencies in South Northamptonshire. A counter-proposal to retain Fringford in Banbury and Bicester (Elizabeth Wood, BCE-33196 and BCE-39371) would have removed the disruption for that ward, but would increase it in the Oxford West and Abingdon, Wantage, and Witney constituencies. Another counter-proposal (Jonathan Jordan, BCE-40336) put forward a separation of Banbury and Bicester, but this was reliant on changes to every Oxfordshire constituency except Oxford East. We received representations that, as the mix of larger communities within the existing Banbury constituency was unchanged under the Commission's initial proposals, it would be inappropriate to add Bicester to the name. We also received representations regarding the name of the proposed Henley and Thame constituency. Both towns are in the southern half of this constituency, which extends down the entire eastern edge of the county.

3.124 There was opposition to moving Wallingford ward into the Henley and Thame constituency, in part due to the River Thames at Wallingford forming a natural boundary. An alternative proposed by Aaron Fear (BCE-30739) was to leave Wallingford in the Wantage constituency, instead creating an amended Oxford West and Abingdon constituency stretching to Kirtlington ward in the north, adjacent to Kidlington, and down to Marcham and Drayton wards in the south, adjacent to Abingdon, all of which would be linked by the A34 forming a 'spine' through them all.

3.125 The assistant commissioners visited the area and observed the light-controlled single-track bridge that forms the only crossing from Wallingford across the River Thames to Henley. They considered this more of a barrier than a link. They also inspected the proximity and links that the rural wards of Marcham, Drayton, Wheatley, Garsington & Horspath, and Sandford & the Wittenhams had with both Abingdon and Oxford. Marcham and Drayton wards are very close to Abingdon, but the other three are more distant, with poor road links, and appear more similar in nature to wards further east, in the proposed Henley and Thame constituency.

3.126 The assistant commissioners also visited the City of Oxford wards of Jericho and Osney, North, and St. Margaret's, to compare them to the Summertown and Wolvercote wards. Mr Fear points out that St. Margaret's is part of the area of Summertown and therefore fits naturally with the Oxford ward of that name. The assistant commissioners, from their visit, concur with this view, as well as the views expressed by the Labour Party and the Green Party (BCE-36874) that including Jericho and Osney ward in the easternmost of the two City of Oxford constituencies would be a better fit. The Labour Party saw it as uniting the centre of the city, better recognising local ties in both Oxford constituencies, and the Green Party observed that '... this is consistent with travel patterns, and the cultural differences between north Oxford and the rest'. The assistant commissioners observed that Jericho and Osney is of a very similar nature to the central Oxford wards, but that to travel from the centre of Oxford to St. Margaret's ward you must first pass through North ward.

3.127 Accordingly the assistant commissioners recommended the adoption of Aaron Fear’s counter-proposals for two revised Oxford constituencies. As one will now contain all but three of Oxford City wards and 87% of its electors, we agree with the assistant commissioners’ recommendations that this constituency be renamed ‘Oxford’, and that the second constituency – containing Abingdon, the remaining three city wards (including St. Margaret’s), and wards to the north of Oxford – be renamed ‘Abingdon and Oxford North’.

3.128 Although the assistant commissioners recognised the opposition to moving three wards from the edge of Bicester to Henley and Thame, they did not believe this could be resolved without substantial disruption across the county. They also considered that it would be inappropriate to change a constituency name where the mix of larger communities within it is unchanged, and recommended that the name remain as Banbury. We agree.

3.129 The assistant commissioners believed that the rural nature of the wards of Wheatley, Garsington & Horspath, and Sandford & the Wittenhams mitigated against transferring them to the much more urban Oxford East (as per the Liberal Democrat Party’s counter-proposal), or – particularly with poor road links to Abingdon – to Oxford West and Abingdon (as per our initial proposal).

3.130 The assistant commissioners considered that Aaron Fear’s (BCE-30739) counter-proposal addressed the objection to separating Wallingford from Wantage. It also retained the rural wards of Wheatley, Garsington & Horspath, and Sandford & the Wittenhams with the other rural parts of the Henley and Thame constituency, and respected the natural barrier of the River Thames. They therefore recommended revisions to this constituency in line with Aaron Fear’s counter-proposal. As this constituency extends over the entire eastern area of the county, they also recommended that the name change to ‘East Oxfordshire’. We agree to these recommendations.

4 How to have your say

4.1 We are consulting on our revised proposals for an eight-week period, from 17 October 2017 to 11 December 2017. We encourage everyone to use this last opportunity to help finalise the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be before making final recommendations to Government.

4.2 While people are welcome to write to us on any issue regarding the constituency boundaries we set out in this report and the accompanying maps, our main focus during this final consultation is on those constituencies we have revised since our initial proposals. While we will consider representations that comment again on the initial proposals that we have not revised, it is likely that particularly compelling further evidence or submissions will be needed to persuade us to depart at this late stage in the review from those of our initial proposals, which have withstood intensive scrutiny of objections in the process of consultation and review to which they have already been subject. Representations relating to initial proposals that we have not revised and that simply repeat evidence or arguments that have already been raised in either of the previous two consultation stages are likely to carry little weight with the Commission.

4.3 When responding, we ask people to bear in mind the tight constraints placed on the Commission by the rules set by Parliament and the decisions we have taken regarding adoption of a regional approach and use of local government wards discussed in chapter 2 and in the Guide. Most importantly:

- We cannot recommend constituencies that have electorates that are more than 5% above or below the electoral quota (apart from the two covering the Isle of Wight).
- We are obliged by law to use the Parliamentary electorate figures as they were in the statutory electoral register published by local electoral registration officers between December 2015 and February 2016. We therefore cannot base our proposals for this constituency review on any subsequent electorate figures.
- We are basing our revised proposals on local government ward boundaries (at May 2015) as the building blocks of constituencies. Exceptional and compelling evidence needs to be provided to persuade us that splitting a ward across two constituencies is necessary or appropriate.
- We have constructed constituencies within regions, so as not to cross regional boundaries. Particularly compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade us that we should depart from this approach.

4.4 These issues mean that we encourage people who are making a representation on a specific area to bear in mind the knock-on effects of their counter-proposals. The Commission must look at the recommendations for new constituencies across the whole region (and, indeed, across England). We therefore ask everyone wishing to respond to our consultation to bear in mind the impact of their counter-proposals on neighbouring constituencies, and on those further afield across the region.

How can you give us your views?

4.5 We encourage everyone to make use of our consultation website, www.bce2018.org.uk, when contributing to our consultation. That website contains all the information you will need to contribute to the design of the new constituencies, including the revised proposals reports and maps, all the representations we have received so far during the review, the initial proposals reports and maps, the electorate sizes of every ward, and an online facility where you can instantly and directly submit to us your views on our revised proposals. If you are unable to access our consultation website for any reason, you can still write to us at 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ.

4.6 We encourage everyone, before submitting a representation, to read our approach to data protection and privacy and, in particular, the publication of all representations and personal data within them. This is available in our Data Protection and Privacy Policy, at:

<http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/freedom-of-information-and-data-protection>

What do we want views on?

4.7 We would like particularly to ask two things of those considering responding on the revised proposals we have set out. First, if you support our revised proposals, please tell us so, as well as telling us where you object to them. Past experience suggests that too often people who agree with our proposals do not respond in support, while those who object to them do respond to make their points – this can

give a distorted view of the balance of public support or objection to proposals. Second, if you are considering objecting to our revised proposals, do please use the resources available on our website and at the places of deposit (maps and electorate figures) to put forward counter-proposals which are in accordance with the rules to which we are working.

4.8 Above all, however, we encourage everyone to have their say on our revised proposals and, in doing so, to become involved in drawing the map of new Parliamentary constituencies. This is the final chance to contribute to the design of the new constituencies, and the more views we get on those constituencies, the more informed our consideration in developing them will be, and the better we will be able to reflect the public's views in the final recommendations we present in September 2018.

Annex A: Revised proposals for constituencies, including wards and electorates

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
1. Abingdon and Oxford North CC			72,654
	Kidlington North	Cherwell	3,973
	Kidlington South	Cherwell	6,112
	Kirtlington	Cherwell	2,346
	Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton	Cherwell	4,047
	St. Margaret's	Oxford	2,965
	Summertown	Oxford	4,197
	Wolvercote	Oxford	4,281
	Abingdon Abbey Northcourt	Vale of White Horse	4,333
	Abingdon Caldecott	Vale of White Horse	5,083
	Abingdon Dunmore	Vale of White Horse	4,545
	Abingdon Fitzharris	Vale of White Horse	4,616
	Abingdon Peachcroft	Vale of White Horse	5,178
	Botley and Sunningwell	Vale of White Horse	4,240
	Cumnor	Vale of White Horse	4,645
	Drayton	Vale of White Horse	2,274
	Kennington and Radley	Vale of White Horse	5,081
	Marcham	Vale of White Horse	2,158
	Wootton	Vale of White Horse	2,580
2. Aldershot BC			74,715
	Crookham East	Hart	5,834
	Crookham West and Ewshot	Hart	6,394
	Aldershot Park	Rushmoor	5,177
	Cherrywood	Rushmoor	5,057
	Cove and Southwood	Rushmoor	5,276
	Empress	Rushmoor	4,259
	Fernhill	Rushmoor	5,190
	Knellwood	Rushmoor	5,442
	Manor Park	Rushmoor	5,447
	North Town	Rushmoor	4,547
	Rowhill	Rushmoor	4,994
	St. John's	Rushmoor	4,966
	St. Mark's	Rushmoor	4,763
	Wellington	Rushmoor	2,471
	West Heath	Rushmoor	4,898
3. Arundel and South Downs CC			74,331
	Angmering and Findon	Arun	7,003
	Arundel and Walberton	Arun	6,240
	Bury	Chichester	1,702
	Petworth	Chichester	3,609
	Plaistow	Chichester	3,649
	Wisborough Green	Chichester	1,913
	Bramber, Upper Beeding and Woodmancote	Horsham	4,124
	Chanctonbury	Horsham	6,506
	Chantry	Horsham	7,615
	Cowfold, Shermanbury and West Grinstead	Horsham	4,166
	Henfield	Horsham	4,059
	Pulborough and Coldwatham	Horsham	4,993
	Steyning	Horsham	4,786
	Bolney	Mid Sussex	2,118
	Hassocks	Mid Sussex	6,123
	Hurstpierpoint and Downs	Mid Sussex	5,725

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
4. Ashford CC			71,303
	Aylesford Green	Ashford	2,341
	Beaver	Ashford	3,817
	Bockhanger	Ashford	1,873
	Boughton Aluph and Eastwell	Ashford	2,262
	Bybrook	Ashford	1,891
	Charing	Ashford	2,008
	Downs North	Ashford	1,927
	Downs West	Ashford	1,932
	Godinton	Ashford	4,641
	Great Chart with Singleton North	Ashford	2,533
	Highfield	Ashford	1,841
	Isle of Oxney	Ashford	2,105
	Kennington	Ashford	1,799
	Little Burton Farm	Ashford	2,131
	Norman	Ashford	1,840
	North Willesborough	Ashford	3,742
	Park Farm North	Ashford	2,445
	Park Farm South	Ashford	1,932
	Saxon Shore	Ashford	4,083
	Singleton South	Ashford	2,267
	South Willesborough	Ashford	2,360
	Stanhope	Ashford	1,900
	Stour	Ashford	3,599
	Victoria	Ashford	3,521
	Washford	Ashford	2,338
	Weald East	Ashford	2,195
	Weald South	Ashford	4,177
	Wye	Ashford	1,803
5. Aylesbury CC			77,715
	Aston Clinton & Stoke Mandeville	Aylesbury Vale	7,422
	Bedgrove	Aylesbury Vale	4,886
	Central & Walton	Aylesbury Vale	4,233
	Coldharbour	Aylesbury Vale	6,070
	Edlesborough	Aylesbury Vale	2,298
	Elmhurst	Aylesbury Vale	4,285
	Gatehouse	Aylesbury Vale	6,007
	Mandeville & Elm Farm	Aylesbury Vale	6,329
	Oakfield & Birtton	Aylesbury Vale	5,113
	Pitstone & Cheddington	Aylesbury Vale	4,799
	Riverside	Aylesbury Vale	4,966
	Southcourt	Aylesbury Vale	4,070
	Walton Court & Hawkslade	Aylesbury Vale	4,179
	Watermead	Aylesbury Vale	2,154
	Wendover & Halton	Aylesbury Vale	6,288
	Wing	Aylesbury Vale	2,321
	Wingrave	Aylesbury Vale	2,295
6. Banbury CC			78,250
	Adderbury	Cherwell	2,317
	Banbury Calthorpe	Cherwell	3,974
	Banbury Easington	Cherwell	6,076
	Banbury Grimsbury and Castle	Cherwell	6,821
	Banbury Hardwick	Cherwell	5,911
	Banbury Neithrop	Cherwell	3,869
	Banbury Ruscote	Cherwell	5,606
	Bicester East	Cherwell	4,307
	Bicester North	Cherwell	4,601
	Bicester South	Cherwell	3,630
	Bicester Town	Cherwell	3,784
	Bicester West	Cherwell	5,467

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Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Bloxham and Bodicote	Cherwell	5,250
	Caversfield	Cherwell	2,087
	Cropredy	Cherwell	2,268
	Deddington	Cherwell	2,163
	Hook Norton	Cherwell	2,063
	Sibford	Cherwell	2,161
	The Astons and Heyfords	Cherwell	3,756
	Wroxton	Cherwell	2,139
7. Basingstoke BC			78,026
	Basing	Basingstoke and Deane	6,624
	Brighton Hill North	Basingstoke and Deane	3,936
	Brighton Hill South	Basingstoke and Deane	3,798
	Brookvale and Kings Furlong	Basingstoke and Deane	4,321
	Buckskin	Basingstoke and Deane	4,335
	Chineham	Basingstoke and Deane	7,340
	Eastrop	Basingstoke and Deane	3,821
	Grove	Basingstoke and Deane	4,636
	Hatch Warren and Beggarwood	Basingstoke and Deane	6,406
	Kempshott	Basingstoke and Deane	5,634
	Norden	Basingstoke and Deane	5,770
	Popley East	Basingstoke and Deane	4,373
	Popley West	Basingstoke and Deane	3,551
	Rooksdown	Basingstoke and Deane	2,671
	South Ham	Basingstoke and Deane	6,220
	Winklebury	Basingstoke and Deane	4,590
8. Beaconsfield CC			73,984
	Beaconsfield North	South Bucks	1,949
	Beaconsfield South	South Bucks	2,858
	Beaconsfield West	South Bucks	3,725
	Burnham Church & Beeches	South Bucks	5,540
	Burnham Lent Rise & Taplow	South Bucks	5,366
	Denham	South Bucks	5,686
	Farnham & Hedgerley	South Bucks	5,135
	Gerrards Cross	South Bucks	5,840
	Iver Heath	South Bucks	3,949
	Iver Village & Richings Park	South Bucks	4,788
	Stoke Poges	South Bucks	3,672
	Wexham & Fulmer	South Bucks	1,824
	Bourne End-cum-Hedsor	Wycombe	4,076
	Flackwell Heath and Little Marlow	Wycombe	5,643
	Marlow North and West	Wycombe	6,392
	Marlow South East	Wycombe	3,891
	The Wooburns	Wycombe	3,650
9. Bexhill and Battle CC			75,872
	Battle Town	Rother	3,912
	Central	Rother	3,872
	Collington	Rother	3,679
	Crowhurst	Rother	2,024
	Darwell	Rother	3,920
	Ewhurst and Sedlescombe	Rother	2,036
	Kewhurst	Rother	3,884
	Old Town	Rother	2,984
	Rother Levels	Rother	3,752
	Sackville	Rother	3,653
	Salehurst	Rother	3,417
	Sidley	Rother	3,937
	St. Marks	Rother	3,779
	St. Michaels	Rother	3,707
	St. Stephens	Rother	3,693
	Cross in Hand/Five Ashes	Wealden	1,975

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Heathfield East	Wealden	1,933
	Heathfield North and Central	Wealden	6,091
	Herstmonceux	Wealden	2,209
	Horam	Wealden	2,064
	Ninfield and Hooe with Wartling	Wealden	1,914
	Pevensey and Westham	Wealden	7,437
10. Bognor Regis and Littlehampton CC			78,189
	Aldwick East	Arun	4,416
	Aldwick West	Arun	4,972
	Barnham	Arun	5,999
	Beach	Arun	3,674
	Bersted	Arun	6,177
	Brookfield	Arun	4,490
	Courtwick with Toddington	Arun	5,579
	Felpham East	Arun	4,566
	Felpham West	Arun	4,111
	Hotham	Arun	3,458
	Marine	Arun	3,632
	Middleton-on-Sea	Arun	4,130
	Orchard	Arun	3,981
	Pagham	Arun	4,927
	Pevensey	Arun	3,624
	River	Arun	6,192
	Yapton	Arun	4,261
11. Bracknell CC			76,917
	Bullbrook	Bracknell Forest	4,110
	Central Sandhurst	Bracknell Forest	3,797
	College Town	Bracknell Forest	3,852
	Crown Wood	Bracknell Forest	5,575
	Crowthorne	Bracknell Forest	3,932
	Great Hollands North	Bracknell Forest	4,928
	Great Hollands South	Bracknell Forest	3,577
	Hanworth	Bracknell Forest	5,778
	Harmans Water	Bracknell Forest	6,112
	Little Sandhurst and Wellington	Bracknell Forest	3,995
	Old Bracknell	Bracknell Forest	3,974
	Owlsmoor	Bracknell Forest	3,814
	Priestwood and Garth	Bracknell Forest	5,454
	Wildridings and Central	Bracknell Forest	3,203
	Finchampstead North	Wokingham	4,302
	Finchampstead South	Wokingham	4,341
	Wokingham Without	Wokingham	6,173
12. Brighton Kemptown and Seahaven BC			76,167
	East Brighton	Brighton and Hove	9,318
	Queen's Park	Brighton and Hove	10,037
	Rottingdean Coastal	Brighton and Hove	10,224
	Woodingdean	Brighton and Hove	7,216
	East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs	Lewes	5,275
	Newhaven Denton and Meeching	Lewes	5,532
	Peacehaven East	Lewes	3,825
	Peacehaven North	Lewes	3,148
	Peacehaven West	Lewes	3,164
	Seaford Central	Lewes	3,500
	Seaford East	Lewes	3,792
	Seaford North	Lewes	3,913
	Seaford South	Lewes	3,480
	Seaford West	Lewes	3,743

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Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
13. Brighton Pavilion BC			71,527
	Hanover and Elm Grove	Brighton and Hove	9,966
	Hollingdean and Stanmer	Brighton and Hove	9,171
	Moulsecoomb and Bevendean	Brighton and Hove	9,998
	Patcham	Brighton and Hove	10,580
	Preston Park	Brighton and Hove	10,101
	St. Peter's and North Laine	Brighton and Hove	11,357
	Withdean	Brighton and Hove	10,354
14. Buckingham CC			74,596
	Buckingham North	Aylesbury Vale	4,287
	Buckingham South	Aylesbury Vale	4,285
	Great Brickhill & Newton Longville	Aylesbury Vale	4,577
	Great Horwood	Aylesbury Vale	2,487
	Grendon Underwood & Brill	Aylesbury Vale	2,569
	Haddenham & Stone	Aylesbury Vale	7,028
	Long Crendon	Aylesbury Vale	2,456
	Luffield Abbey	Aylesbury Vale	2,079
	Marsh Gibbon	Aylesbury Vale	2,450
	Oakley	Aylesbury Vale	2,239
	Quainton	Aylesbury Vale	2,433
	Steeple Claydon	Aylesbury Vale	2,312
	Stewkley	Aylesbury Vale	2,538
	Tingewick	Aylesbury Vale	2,468
	Waddesdon	Aylesbury Vale	2,196
	Winslow	Aylesbury Vale	4,658
	Stony Stratford	Milton Keynes	7,408
	Tattenhoe	Milton Keynes	7,373
	Icknield	Wycombe	2,459
	The Risboroughs	Wycombe	6,294
15. Canterbury and Faversham CC			74,307
	Barton	Canterbury	5,994
	Blean Forest	Canterbury	4,034
	Chartham & Stone Street	Canterbury	5,240
	Little Stour & Adisham	Canterbury	3,041
	Nailbourne	Canterbury	3,025
	Northgate	Canterbury	3,120
	Seasalter	Canterbury	6,019
	St. Stephen's	Canterbury	4,381
	Sturry	Canterbury	5,634
	Westgate	Canterbury	4,476
	Wincheap	Canterbury	5,306
	Aylesham	Dover	3,650
	Abbey	Swale	3,835
	Boughton and Courtenay	Swale	4,277
	East Downs	Swale	2,128
	Priory	Swale	1,978
	St. Ann's	Swale	3,906
	Watling	Swale	4,263
16. Chatham and The Mallings CC			73,954
	Chatham Central	Medway	8,996
	Luton and Wayfield	Medway	8,936
	Princes Park	Medway	6,837
	Walderslade	Medway	6,956
	Aylesford North and Walderslade	Tonbridge and Malling	4,948
	Aylesford South	Tonbridge and Malling	3,180
	Burham and Wouldham	Tonbridge and Malling	2,065
	Ditton	Tonbridge and Malling	3,707
	East Malling	Tonbridge and Malling	3,527
	Kings Hill	Tonbridge and Malling	5,645
	Larkfield North	Tonbridge and Malling	3,402

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Larkfield South	Tonbridge and Malling	3,228
	Snodland East and Ham Hill	Tonbridge and Malling	3,476
	Snodland West and Holborough Lakes	Tonbridge and Malling	4,257
	West Malling and Leybourne	Tonbridge and Malling	4,794
17. Chesham and Amersham CC			77,089
	Amersham Common	Chiltern	1,865
	Amersham Town	Chiltern	3,339
	Amersham-on-the-Hill	Chiltern	3,520
	Asheridge Vale and Lowndes	Chiltern	3,580
	Ashley Green, Latimer and Chenies	Chiltern	1,725
	Austenwood	Chiltern	1,646
	Ballinger, South Heath and Chartridge	Chiltern	1,703
	Central	Chiltern	3,091
	Chalfont Common	Chiltern	3,075
	Chalfont St. Giles	Chiltern	5,202
	Chesham Bois and Weedon Hill	Chiltern	3,831
	Cholesbury, The Lee and Bellingdon	Chiltern	1,837
	Gold Hill	Chiltern	1,582
	Great Missenden	Chiltern	1,693
	Hilltop and Townsend	Chiltern	3,330
	Holmer Green	Chiltern	3,279
	Little Chalfont	Chiltern	3,815
	Little Missenden	Chiltern	1,869
	Newtown	Chiltern	1,701
	Penn and Coleshill	Chiltern	3,450
	Prestwood and Heath End	Chiltern	5,029
	Ridgeway	Chiltern	1,782
	Seer Green	Chiltern	1,721
	St. Mary's and Waterside	Chiltern	3,444
	Vale	Chiltern	1,451
	Greater Hughenden	Wycombe	6,486
	Lacey Green, Speen and the Hampdens	Wycombe	2,043
18. Chichester CC			75,087
	Bosham	Chichester	3,500
	Boxgrove	Chichester	1,670
	Chichester East	Chichester	5,563
	Chichester North	Chichester	5,144
	Chichester South	Chichester	5,042
	Chichester West	Chichester	3,605
	Donnington	Chichester	1,808
	Easebourne	Chichester	1,893
	East Wittering	Chichester	3,911
	Fernhurst	Chichester	3,895
	Fishbourne	Chichester	1,811
	Funtington	Chichester	2,131
	Harting	Chichester	1,611
	Lavant	Chichester	1,822
	Midhurst	Chichester	3,693
	North Mundham	Chichester	1,698
	Rogate	Chichester	1,859
	Selsey North	Chichester	4,821
	Selsey South	Chichester	3,362
	Sidlesham	Chichester	1,816
	Southbourne	Chichester	5,340
	Stedham	Chichester	1,706
	Tangmere	Chichester	1,865
	West Wittering	Chichester	3,776
	Westbourne	Chichester	1,745

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Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
19. Crawley BC			74,325
	Bewbush	Crawley	5,442
	Broadfield North	Crawley	3,998
	Broadfield South	Crawley	3,951
	Furnace Green	Crawley	4,223
	Gossops Green	Crawley	3,720
	Ifield	Crawley	6,170
	Langley Green	Crawley	5,022
	Maidenbower	Crawley	6,184
	Northgate	Crawley	3,281
	Pound Hill North	Crawley	4,805
	Pound Hill South and Worth	Crawley	5,899
	Southgate	Crawley	5,634
	Three Bridges	Crawley	4,916
	Tilgate	Crawley	4,213
	West Green	Crawley	3,120
	Copthorne and Worth	Mid Sussex	3,747
20. Dartford CC			72,180
	Bean and Darent	Dartford	4,165
	Brent	Dartford	4,903
	Castle	Dartford	1,833
	Greenhithe	Dartford	5,042
	Heath	Dartford	5,021
	Joyce Green	Dartford	3,642
	Joydens Wood	Dartford	5,617
	Littlebrook	Dartford	3,106
	Longfield, New Barn and Southfleet	Dartford	5,639
	Newtown	Dartford	5,112
	Princes	Dartford	4,312
	Stone	Dartford	4,803
	Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley	Dartford	3,265
	Swanscombe	Dartford	4,822
	Town	Dartford	2,708
	West Hill	Dartford	4,981
	Wilmington	Dartford	3,209
21. Dover and Deal CC			74,735
	Buckland	Dover	5,355
	Capel-le-Ferne	Dover	2,012
	Castle	Dover	1,637
	Eastry	Dover	3,980
	Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover	3,723
	Little Stour and Ashstone	Dover	5,445
	Lydden and Temple Ewell	Dover	1,957
	Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory	Dover	5,128
	Middle Deal and Sholden	Dover	5,966
	Mill Hill	Dover	5,995
	North Deal	Dover	5,593
	Ringwould	Dover	1,687
	River	Dover	3,765
	St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe	Dover	3,481
	St. Radigunds	Dover	3,540
	Tower Hamlets	Dover	3,931
	Town and Pier	Dover	1,427
	Walmer	Dover	6,093
	Whitfield	Dover	4,020

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
22. East Hampshire CC			72,314
	Binsted and Bentley	East Hampshire	2,272
	Bramshott and Liphook	East Hampshire	6,472
	Clanfield and Finchdean	East Hampshire	4,252
	Downland	East Hampshire	2,019
	East Meon	East Hampshire	1,768
	Four Marks and Medstead	East Hampshire	5,045
	Froxfield and Steep	East Hampshire	1,887
	Grayshott	East Hampshire	1,812
	Headley	East Hampshire	4,324
	Horndean Catherington and Lovedean	East Hampshire	1,848
	Horndean Downs	East Hampshire	1,904
	Horndean Hazleton and Blendworth	East Hampshire	2,066
	Horndean Kings	East Hampshire	2,378
	Horndean Murray	East Hampshire	1,869
	Lindford	East Hampshire	2,026
	Liss	East Hampshire	3,695
	Petersfield Bell Hill	East Hampshire	1,737
	Petersfield Causeway	East Hampshire	1,918
	Petersfield Heath	East Hampshire	1,542
	Petersfield Rother	East Hampshire	1,897
	Petersfield St. Marys	East Hampshire	1,990
	Petersfield St. Peters	East Hampshire	1,778
	Ropley and Tisted	East Hampshire	1,764
	Rowlands Castle	East Hampshire	2,108
	Selborne	East Hampshire	1,799
	The Hangers and Forest	East Hampshire	1,849
	Whitehill Chase	East Hampshire	1,603
	Whitehill Deadwater	East Hampshire	1,725
	Whitehill Hogmoor	East Hampshire	1,617
	Whitehill Pinewood	East Hampshire	1,727
	Whitehill Walldown	East Hampshire	1,623
23. East Oxfordshire CC			78,201
	Ambrosden and Chesterton	Cherwell	3,005
	Fringford	Cherwell	1,887
	Launton	Cherwell	2,256
	Otmoor	Cherwell	1,967
	Benson & Crowmarsh	South Oxfordshire	5,716
	Berinsfield	South Oxfordshire	2,846
	Chalgrove	South Oxfordshire	2,643
	Chinnor	South Oxfordshire	6,118
	Forest Hill & Holton	South Oxfordshire	2,688
	Garsington & Horspath	South Oxfordshire	2,752
	Goring	South Oxfordshire	2,991
	Haseley Brook	South Oxfordshire	3,062
	Henley-on-Thames	South Oxfordshire	8,318
	Kidmore End & Whitchurch	South Oxfordshire	2,789
	Sandford & the Wittenhams	South Oxfordshire	2,880
	Sonning Common	South Oxfordshire	5,214
	Thame	South Oxfordshire	8,847
	Watlington	South Oxfordshire	2,955
	Wheatley	South Oxfordshire	3,023
	Woodcote & Rotherfield	South Oxfordshire	6,244
24. East Surrey CC			77,146
	Horley Central	Reigate and Banstead	5,851
	Horley East	Reigate and Banstead	5,145
	Horley West	Reigate and Banstead	5,645
	Bletchingley and Nutfield	Tandridge	4,155
	Burstow, Horne and Outwood	Tandridge	4,399
	Chaldon	Tandridge	1,379
	Dormansland and Felcourt	Tandridge	2,894

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Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Felbridge	Tandridge	1,671
	Godstone	Tandridge	4,193
	Harestone	Tandridge	2,978
	Limpsfield	Tandridge	2,739
	Lingfield and Crowhurst	Tandridge	3,124
	Oxted North and Tandridge	Tandridge	4,197
	Oxted South	Tandridge	4,351
	Portley	Tandridge	3,208
	Queens Park	Tandridge	2,793
	Tatsfield and Titsey	Tandridge	1,488
	Valley	Tandridge	2,863
	Warlingham East and Chelsham and Farleigh	Tandridge	4,147
	Warlingham West	Tandridge	2,636
	Westway	Tandridge	3,078
	Whyteleafe	Tandridge	2,775
	Woldingham	Tandridge	1,437
25. East Thanet and Sandwich CC			76,908
	Sandwich	Dover	5,638
	Beacon Road	Thanet	3,395
	Bradstowe	Thanet	3,240
	Central Harbour	Thanet	5,511
	Cliffsend and Pegwell	Thanet	3,862
	Cliftonville East	Thanet	5,133
	Cliftonville West	Thanet	4,571
	Dane Valley	Thanet	5,256
	Eastcliff	Thanet	4,920
	Kingsgate	Thanet	1,708
	Margate Central	Thanet	3,199
	Nethercourt	Thanet	3,498
	Newington	Thanet	3,530
	Northwood	Thanet	4,914
	Salmestone	Thanet	3,886
	Sir Moses Montefiore	Thanet	3,630
	St. Peters	Thanet	5,459
	Viking	Thanet	5,558
26. East Worthing and Shoreham BC			71,723
	Buckingham	Adur	3,039
	Churchill	Adur	3,292
	Cokeham	Adur	3,286
	Eastbrook	Adur	3,308
	Hillside	Adur	3,301
	Manor	Adur	3,204
	Marine	Adur	3,401
	Mash Barn	Adur	3,248
	Peveler	Adur	3,353
	Southlands	Adur	2,862
	Southwick Green	Adur	3,341
	St. Mary's	Adur	3,526
	St. Nicolas	Adur	3,027
	Widewater	Adur	4,455
	Broadwater	Worthing	6,574
	Gaisford	Worthing	6,495
	Offington	Worthing	6,291
	Selden	Worthing	5,720

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
27. Eastbourne BC			74,670
	Devonshire	Eastbourne	7,495
	Hampden Park	Eastbourne	6,883
	Langney	Eastbourne	7,496
	Meads	Eastbourne	7,531
	Old Town	Eastbourne	7,927
	Ratton	Eastbourne	7,447
	Sovereign	Eastbourne	8,600
	St. Anthony's	Eastbourne	7,786
	Upperton	Eastbourne	7,341
	Willingdon	Wealden	6,164
28. Eastleigh BC			77,814
	Bishopstoke East	Eastleigh	4,262
	Bishopstoke West	Eastleigh	4,202
	Botley	Eastleigh	3,937
	Bursledon and Old Netley	Eastleigh	5,658
	Eastleigh Central	Eastleigh	7,695
	Eastleigh North	Eastleigh	5,986
	Eastleigh South	Eastleigh	6,612
	Fair Oak and Horton Heath	Eastleigh	6,728
	Hamble-le-Rice and Butlocks Heath	Eastleigh	4,284
	Hedge End Grange Park	Eastleigh	5,619
	Hedge End St. John's	Eastleigh	6,174
	Hedge End Wildern	Eastleigh	4,082
	Netley Abbey	Eastleigh	4,095
	West End North	Eastleigh	4,037
	West End South	Eastleigh	4,443
29. Epsom and Ewell BC			77,417
	Auriol	Epsom and Ewell	2,959
	College	Epsom and Ewell	4,162
	Court	Epsom and Ewell	4,567
	Cuddington	Epsom and Ewell	4,365
	Ewell	Epsom and Ewell	4,122
	Ewell Court	Epsom and Ewell	4,201
	Nonsuch	Epsom and Ewell	4,302
	Ruxley	Epsom and Ewell	4,301
	Stamford	Epsom and Ewell	4,944
	Stoneleigh	Epsom and Ewell	3,603
	Town	Epsom and Ewell	4,468
	West Ewell	Epsom and Ewell	4,544
	Woodcote	Epsom and Ewell	4,263
	Ashted Common	Mole Valley	3,195
	Ashted Park	Mole Valley	3,341
	Ashted Village	Mole Valley	4,523
	Nork	Reigate and Banstead	6,035
	Tattenhams	Reigate and Banstead	5,522
30. Esher and Walton BC			73,791
	Claygate	Elmbridge	5,363
	Cobham Fairmile	Elmbridge	2,924
	Cobham and Downside	Elmbridge	4,660
	Esher	Elmbridge	4,797
	Hersham North	Elmbridge	4,442
	Hinchley Wood	Elmbridge	3,752
	Long Ditton	Elmbridge	4,578
	Molesey East	Elmbridge	4,758
	Molesey North	Elmbridge	4,550
	Molesey South	Elmbridge	4,930
	Oxshott and Stoke D'Abernon	Elmbridge	4,428
	Thames Ditton	Elmbridge	4,534
	Walton Ambleside	Elmbridge	3,041

Agenda Item 4

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Walton Central	Elmbridge	4,921
	Walton North	Elmbridge	4,569
	Walton South	Elmbridge	4,713
	Weston Green	Elmbridge	2,831
31. Fareham BC			77,933
	Fareham East	Fareham	5,755
	Fareham North	Fareham	5,421
	Fareham North-West	Fareham	5,371
	Fareham South	Fareham	5,210
	Fareham West	Fareham	5,295
	Locks Heath	Fareham	5,548
	Park Gate	Fareham	6,185
	Portchester East	Fareham	8,621
	Portchester West	Fareham	5,612
	Sarisbury	Fareham	5,719
	Titchfield	Fareham	5,686
	Titchfield Common	Fareham	5,920
	Warsash	Fareham	5,381
	Whiteley	Winchester	2,209
32. Folkestone and Hythe CC			77,333
	Broadmead	Shepway	2,747
	Cheriton	Shepway	8,180
	East Folkestone	Shepway	7,593
	Folkestone Central	Shepway	6,417
	Folkestone Harbour	Shepway	4,362
	Hythe	Shepway	8,884
	Hythe Rural	Shepway	4,615
	New Romney	Shepway	5,570
	North Downs East	Shepway	8,468
	North Downs West	Shepway	4,843
	Romney Marsh	Shepway	5,767
	Sandgate & West Folkestone	Shepway	4,076
	Walland & Denge Marsh	Shepway	5,811
33. Gillingham and Rainham BC			75,283
	Gillingham North	Medway	10,351
	Gillingham South	Medway	10,137
	Hempstead and Wigmore	Medway	6,269
	Lordswood and Capstone	Medway	6,393
	Rainham Central	Medway	9,488
	Rainham North	Medway	6,546
	Rainham South	Medway	9,613
	Twydall	Medway	9,642
	Watling	Medway	6,844
34. Gosport BC			72,357
	Hill Head	Fareham	5,923
	Stubbington	Fareham	5,491
	Alverstoke	Gosport	3,510
	Anglesey	Gosport	3,007
	Bridgemary North	Gosport	3,440
	Bridgemary South	Gosport	3,486
	Brockhurst	Gosport	3,716
	Christchurch	Gosport	3,707
	Elson	Gosport	3,428
	Forton	Gosport	3,307
	Grange	Gosport	3,551
	Hardway	Gosport	4,187
	Lee East	Gosport	4,518
	Lee West	Gosport	3,980
	Leesland	Gosport	3,492
	Peel Common	Gosport	3,355

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Privett	Gosport	3,324
	Rowner and Holbrook	Gosport	3,264
	Town	Gosport	3,671
35. Gravesham CC			75,208
	Central	Gravesham	4,477
	Chalk	Gravesham	1,727
	Coldharbour	Gravesham	3,196
	Higham	Gravesham	3,138
	Istead Rise	Gravesham	2,841
	Meopham North	Gravesham	3,485
	Meopham South and Vigo	Gravesham	3,434
	Northfleet North	Gravesham	4,742
	Northfleet South	Gravesham	5,055
	Painters Ash	Gravesham	4,363
	Pelham	Gravesham	4,667
	Riverside	Gravesham	4,842
	Riverview	Gravesham	3,370
	Shorne, Cobham and Luddesdown	Gravesham	3,243
	Singlewell	Gravesham	5,280
	Westcourt	Gravesham	4,555
	Whitehill	Gravesham	3,115
	Woodlands	Gravesham	4,947
	Hartley and Hodsoll Street	Sevenoaks	4,731
36. Guildford CC			74,077
	Burpham	Guildford	4,097
	Christchurch	Guildford	4,012
	Friary and St. Nicolas	Guildford	5,727
	Holy Trinity	Guildford	5,480
	Marrow	Guildford	5,825
	Onslow	Guildford	5,188
	Pilgrims	Guildford	1,980
	Shalford	Guildford	4,179
	Stoke	Guildford	4,304
	Stoughton	Guildford	6,790
	Westborough	Guildford	6,255
	Worplesdon	Guildford	6,494
	Alfold, Cranleigh Rural and Ellens Green	Waverley	1,494
	Blackheath and Wonersh	Waverley	1,420
	Cranleigh East	Waverley	4,946
	Cranleigh West	Waverley	2,994
	Ewhurst	Waverley	1,575
	Shamley Green and Cranleigh North	Waverley	1,317
37. Hastings and Rye CC			71,672
	Ashdown	Hastings	4,365
	Baird	Hastings	3,362
	Braybrooke	Hastings	3,311
	Castle	Hastings	3,559
	Central St. Leonards	Hastings	3,272
	Conquest	Hastings	3,710
	Gensing	Hastings	3,617
	Hollington	Hastings	3,969
	Maze Hill	Hastings	3,562
	Old Hastings	Hastings	3,953
	Ore	Hastings	3,318
	Silverhill	Hastings	3,132
	St. Helens	Hastings	3,904
	Tressell	Hastings	3,065
	West St. Leonards	Hastings	3,616
	Wishing Tree	Hastings	3,675
	Brede Valley	Rother	3,948

Agenda Item 4

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Eastern Rother	Rother	3,705
	Marsham	Rother	3,312
	Rye	Rother	3,317
38. Havant BC			77,739
	Barncroft	Havant	4,438
	Battins	Havant	4,679
	Bedhampton	Havant	7,091
	Bondfields	Havant	4,844
	Cowplain	Havant	7,272
	Emsworth	Havant	8,093
	Hart Plain	Havant	7,402
	Hayling East	Havant	7,118
	Hayling West	Havant	6,799
	St. Faith's	Havant	7,231
	Warren Park	Havant	4,845
	Waterloo	Havant	7,927
39. Horsham CC			73,653
	Billingshurst and Shipley	Horsham	7,377
	Broadbridge Heath	Horsham	2,929
	Denne	Horsham	4,342
	Forest	Horsham	2,877
	Holbrook East	Horsham	4,100
	Holbrook West	Horsham	4,290
	Horsham Park	Horsham	5,718
	Itchingfield, Slinfold and Warnham	Horsham	4,175
	Nuthurst	Horsham	2,354
	Roffey North	Horsham	4,692
	Roffey South	Horsham	4,594
	Rudgwick	Horsham	2,078
	Rusper and Colgate	Horsham	2,249
	Southwater	Horsham	7,622
	Trafalgar	Horsham	4,642
	Ardingly and Balcombe	Mid Sussex	4,179
	Crawley Down and Turners Hill	Mid Sussex	5,435
40. Hove and Regency BC			74,716
	Brunswick and Adelaide	Brighton and Hove	6,518
	Central Hove	Brighton and Hove	6,120
	Goldsmid	Brighton and Hove	10,429
	Hangleton and Knoll	Brighton and Hove	10,478
	Hove Park	Brighton and Hove	7,686
	North Portslade	Brighton and Hove	7,324
	Regency	Brighton and Hove	6,171
	South Portslade	Brighton and Hove	6,716
	Westbourne	Brighton and Hove	6,609
	Wish	Brighton and Hove	6,665
41. Isle of Wight East CC			55,973
	Arreton and Newchurch	Isle of Wight	3,007
	Binstead and Fishbourne	Isle of Wight	2,627
	Brading, St. Helens and Bembridge	Isle of Wight	5,930
	Godshell and Wroxall	Isle of Wight	2,517
	Havenstreet, Asheys and Haylands	Isle of Wight	2,685
	Lake North	Isle of Wight	2,785
	Lake South	Isle of Wight	2,881
	Nettlestone and Seaview	Isle of Wight	2,427
	Ryde East	Isle of Wight	2,763
	Ryde North East	Isle of Wight	2,546
	Ryde North West	Isle of Wight	2,573
	Ryde South	Isle of Wight	2,841
	Ryde West	Isle of Wight	2,614
	Sandown North	Isle of Wight	2,294

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Sandown South	Isle of Wight	2,807
	Shanklin Central	Isle of Wight	2,660
	Shanklin South	Isle of Wight	2,721
	Ventnor East	Isle of Wight	2,265
	Ventnor West	Isle of Wight	2,325
	Wootton Bridge	Isle of Wight	2,705
42. Isle of Wight West CC			49,475
	Carisbrooke	Isle of Wight	2,548
	Central Wight	Isle of Wight	2,758
	Chale, Niton and Whitwell	Isle of Wight	2,271
	Cowes Medina	Isle of Wight	2,874
	Cowes North	Isle of Wight	2,393
	Cowes South and Northwood	Isle of Wight	2,867
	Cowes West and Gurnard	Isle of Wight	2,973
	East Cowes	Isle of Wight	2,944
	Freshwater North	Isle of Wight	2,148
	Freshwater South	Isle of Wight	2,421
	Newport Central	Isle of Wight	2,840
	Newport East	Isle of Wight	2,669
	Newport North	Isle of Wight	2,384
	Newport South	Isle of Wight	2,580
	Newport West	Isle of Wight	2,460
	Parkhurst	Isle of Wight	2,292
	Totland	Isle of Wight	2,287
	West Wight	Isle of Wight	2,694
	Whippingham and Osborne	Isle of Wight	3,072
43. Lewes and Uckfield CC			77,696
	Barcombe and Hamsey	Lewes	1,510
	Chailey and Wivelsfield	Lewes	3,802
	Ditchling and Westmeston	Lewes	1,891
	Kingston	Lewes	1,542
	Lewes Bridge	Lewes	3,356
	Lewes Castle	Lewes	3,283
	Lewes Priory	Lewes	5,067
	Newhaven Valley	Lewes	2,554
	Newick	Lewes	1,922
	Ouse Valley and Ringmer	Lewes	4,829
	Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington and St. John (Without)	Lewes	1,678
	Alfriston	Wealden	1,942
	Chiddingfold and East Hoathly	Wealden	2,421
	Danehill/Fletching/Nutley	Wealden	3,946
	East Dean	Wealden	1,876
	Hailsham Central and North	Wealden	4,729
	Hailsham East	Wealden	1,894
	Hailsham South and West	Wealden	6,168
	Hellingly	Wealden	5,555
	Polegate North	Wealden	4,510
	Polegate South	Wealden	1,988
	Uckfield Central	Wealden	2,272
	Uckfield New Town	Wealden	2,006
	Uckfield North	Wealden	4,212
	Uckfield Ridgewood	Wealden	2,743
44. Maidenhead CC			71,834
	Belmont	Windsor and Maidenhead	5,233
	Bisham and Cookham	Windsor and Maidenhead	4,983
	Boyn Hill	Windsor and Maidenhead	4,962
	Bray	Windsor and Maidenhead	5,299
	Cox Green	Windsor and Maidenhead	5,313
	Furze Platt	Windsor and Maidenhead	5,144

Agenda Item 4

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Hurley and Walthams	Windsor and Maidenhead	4,387
	Maidenhead Riverside	Windsor and Maidenhead	5,295
	Oldfield	Windsor and Maidenhead	5,946
	Pinkneys Green	Windsor and Maidenhead	5,105
	Charvil	Wokingham	2,334
	Coronation	Wokingham	4,381
	Hurst	Wokingham	2,185
	Remenham, Wargrave and Ruscombe	Wokingham	4,275
	Sonning	Wokingham	2,541
	Twyford	Wokingham	4,451
45. Maidstone CC			75,323
	Allington	Maidstone	5,356
	Barming	Maidstone	1,880
	Bearsted	Maidstone	6,367
	Boxley	Maidstone	6,162
	Bridge	Maidstone	3,965
	Detling and Thurnham	Maidstone	2,265
	Downswood and Otham	Maidstone	1,909
	East	Maidstone	5,839
	Fant	Maidstone	5,972
	Heath	Maidstone	4,037
	High Street	Maidstone	5,715
	North	Maidstone	5,564
	Park Wood	Maidstone	4,039
	Shepway North	Maidstone	5,770
	Shepway South	Maidstone	4,019
	South	Maidstone	6,464
46. Mid Kent and Ticehurst CC			75,703
	Biddenden	Ashford	1,977
	Rolvenden and Tenterden West	Ashford	1,969
	St. Michaels	Ashford	1,832
	Tenterden North	Ashford	1,744
	Tenterden South	Ashford	1,898
	Weald Central	Ashford	3,996
	Weald North	Ashford	1,891
	Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton	Maidstone	1,925
	Coxheath and Hunton	Maidstone	5,456
	Harrietsham and Lenham	Maidstone	4,418
	Headcorn	Maidstone	3,778
	Leeds	Maidstone	1,770
	Loose	Maidstone	1,976
	Marden and Yalding	Maidstone	5,618
	North Downs	Maidstone	1,834
	Staplehurst	Maidstone	4,330
	Sutton Valence and Langley	Maidstone	2,004
	Ticehurst and Etchingham	Rother	3,410
	Benenden and Cranbrook	Tunbridge Wells	5,044
	Brenchley and Horsmonden	Tunbridge Wells	3,852
	Frittenden and Sissinghurst	Tunbridge Wells	1,571
	Goudhurst and Lamberhurst	Tunbridge Wells	3,340
	Hawkhurst and Sandhurst	Tunbridge Wells	4,402
	Paddock Wood East	Tunbridge Wells	2,913
	Paddock Wood West	Tunbridge Wells	2,755
47. Mid Sussex CC			77,031
	Ashurst Wood	Mid Sussex	2,023
	Burgess Hill Dunstall	Mid Sussex	3,812
	Burgess Hill Franklands	Mid Sussex	3,903
	Burgess Hill Leylands	Mid Sussex	3,650
	Burgess Hill Meeds	Mid Sussex	3,560
	Burgess Hill St. Andrews	Mid Sussex	3,676

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Burgess Hill Victoria	Mid Sussex	4,141
	Cuckfield	Mid Sussex	3,973
	East Grinstead Ashplats	Mid Sussex	4,164
	East Grinstead Baldwins	Mid Sussex	3,766
	East Grinstead Herontye	Mid Sussex	3,741
	East Grinstead Imberhorne	Mid Sussex	3,538
	East Grinstead Town	Mid Sussex	3,514
	Haywards Heath Ashenground	Mid Sussex	3,894
	Haywards Heath Bentswood	Mid Sussex	4,215
	Haywards Heath Franklands	Mid Sussex	3,739
	Haywards Heath Heath	Mid Sussex	3,973
	Haywards Heath Lucastes	Mid Sussex	4,280
	High Weald	Mid Sussex	3,834
	Lindfield	Mid Sussex	5,635
48. Milton Keynes North East CC			78,294
	Broughton	Milton Keynes	8,239
	Campbell Park & Old Woughton	Milton Keynes	8,820
	Central Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes	7,840
	Danesborough & Walton	Milton Keynes	8,563
	Monkston	Milton Keynes	8,190
	Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope	Milton Keynes	9,451
	Newport Pagnell South	Milton Keynes	8,748
	Olney	Milton Keynes	9,307
	Woughton & Fishermead	Milton Keynes	9,136
49. Milton Keynes South West BC			76,858
	Bletchley East	Milton Keynes	9,140
	Bletchley Park	Milton Keynes	10,204
	Bletchley West	Milton Keynes	10,136
	Bradwell	Milton Keynes	8,873
	Loughton & Shenley	Milton Keynes	9,556
	Shenley Brook End	Milton Keynes	8,953
	Stantonbury	Milton Keynes	10,139
	Wolverton	Milton Keynes	9,857
50. Mole Valley CC			72,400
	Clandon and Horsley	Guildford	6,886
	Effingham	Guildford	2,089
	Lovelace	Guildford	1,884
	Send	Guildford	3,409
	Tillingbourne	Guildford	4,394
	Beare Green	Mole Valley	1,521
	Bookham North	Mole Valley	4,486
	Bookham South	Mole Valley	4,405
	Box Hill and Headley	Mole Valley	1,706
	Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland	Mole Valley	3,480
	Capel, Leigh and Newdigate	Mole Valley	3,259
	Charlwood	Mole Valley	1,751
	Dorking North	Mole Valley	3,123
	Dorking South	Mole Valley	5,346
	Fetcham East	Mole Valley	3,022
	Fetcham West	Mole Valley	3,109
	Holmwoods	Mole Valley	4,677
	Leatherhead North	Mole Valley	4,617
	Leatherhead South	Mole Valley	3,245
	Leith Hill	Mole Valley	1,312
	Mickleham, Westhumble and Pixham	Mole Valley	1,488
	Okewood	Mole Valley	1,437
	Westcott	Mole Valley	1,754

Agenda Item 4

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
51. New Forest East CC			71,844
	Ashurst, Copythorne South and Netley Marsh	New Forest	4,702
	Bramshaw, Copythorne North and Minstead	New Forest	2,124
	Brockenhurst and Forest South East	New Forest	4,404
	Butts Ash and Dibden Purlieu	New Forest	4,959
	Dibden and Hythe East	New Forest	4,496
	Fawley, Blackfield and Langley	New Forest	4,772
	Furzedown and Hardley	New Forest	2,634
	Holbury and North Blackfield	New Forest	4,928
	Hythe West and Langdown	New Forest	4,905
	Lyndhurst	New Forest	2,353
	Marchwood	New Forest	4,401
	Totton Central	New Forest	4,211
	Totton East	New Forest	4,890
	Totton North	New Forest	4,611
	Totton South	New Forest	4,569
	Totton West	New Forest	3,725
	Chilworth, Nursling and Rownhams	Test Valley	5,160
52. New Forest West CC			71,289
	Barton	New Forest	4,809
	Bashley	New Forest	2,209
	Becton	New Forest	3,975
	Boldre and Sway	New Forest	4,418
	Bransgore and Burley	New Forest	4,470
	Buckland	New Forest	2,579
	Downlands and Forest	New Forest	2,350
	Fernhill	New Forest	4,720
	Fordingbridge	New Forest	5,237
	Forest North West	New Forest	2,055
	Hordle	New Forest	4,502
	Lymington Town	New Forest	4,686
	Milford	New Forest	4,180
	Milton	New Forest	4,807
	Pennington	New Forest	4,755
	Ringwood East and Sopley	New Forest	2,100
	Ringwood North	New Forest	4,845
	Ringwood South	New Forest	4,592
53. Newbury CC			71,737
	Aldermaston	West Berkshire	2,170
	Chieveley	West Berkshire	1,790
	Clay Hill	West Berkshire	4,461
	Cold Ash	West Berkshire	2,344
	Compton	West Berkshire	2,346
	Downlands	West Berkshire	2,415
	Falkland	West Berkshire	4,839
	Greenham	West Berkshire	4,493
	Hungerford	West Berkshire	4,271
	Kintbury	West Berkshire	3,947
	Lambourn Valley	West Berkshire	4,232
	Northcroft	West Berkshire	3,926
	Speen	West Berkshire	4,136
	St. Johns	West Berkshire	4,416
	Thatcham Central	West Berkshire	4,450
	Thatcham North	West Berkshire	4,139
	Thatcham South and Crookham	West Berkshire	5,038
	Thatcham West	West Berkshire	4,827
	Victoria	West Berkshire	3,497

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
54. North East Hampshire CC			71,949
	Upton Grey and The Candovers	Basingstoke and Deane	2,240
	Alton Amery	East Hampshire	1,762
	Alton Ashdell	East Hampshire	1,891
	Alton Eastbrooke	East Hampshire	1,941
	Alton Westbrooke	East Hampshire	2,179
	Alton Whitedown	East Hampshire	2,310
	Alton Wooteys	East Hampshire	1,670
	Holybourne and Froyle	East Hampshire	2,421
	Blackwater and Hawley	Hart	5,460
	Fleet Central	Hart	6,374
	Fleet East	Hart	5,670
	Fleet West	Hart	5,820
	Hartley Wintney	Hart	6,713
	Hook	Hart	6,123
	Odiham	Hart	6,302
	Yateley East	Hart	6,591
	Yateley West	Hart	6,482
55. North Kent Coastal CC			75,864
	Beltinge	Canterbury	5,901
	Chestfield	Canterbury	5,569
	Gorrell	Canterbury	8,177
	Greenhill	Canterbury	3,038
	Herne and Broomfield	Canterbury	6,145
	Heron	Canterbury	9,271
	Reculver	Canterbury	2,951
	Swalecliffe	Canterbury	3,177
	Tankerton	Canterbury	2,792
	West Bay	Canterbury	3,146
	Birchington North	Thanet	3,252
	Birchington South	Thanet	5,203
	Garlinge	Thanet	3,699
	Thanet Villages	Thanet	5,193
	Westbrook	Thanet	3,161
	Westgate-on-Sea	Thanet	5,189
56. North West Hampshire CC			78,317
	Baughurst and Tadley North	Basingstoke and Deane	4,353
	Bramley and Sherfield	Basingstoke and Deane	4,261
	Burghclere, Highclere and St. Mary Bourne	Basingstoke and Deane	4,556
	East Woodhay	Basingstoke and Deane	2,221
	Kingsclere	Basingstoke and Deane	3,860
	Oakley and North Waltham	Basingstoke and Deane	5,388
	Overton, Laverstoke and Steventon	Basingstoke and Deane	3,795
	Pamber and Silchester	Basingstoke and Deane	3,598
	Sherborne St. John	Basingstoke and Deane	1,727
	Tadley Central	Basingstoke and Deane	2,067
	Tadley South	Basingstoke and Deane	4,374
	Whitchurch	Basingstoke and Deane	4,007
	Alamein	Test Valley	6,818
	Bourne Valley	Test Valley	1,641
	Charlton	Test Valley	1,520
	Harroway	Test Valley	5,740
	Millway	Test Valley	5,512
	St. Mary's	Test Valley	6,804
	Winton	Test Valley	6,075
57. Oxford BC			77,269
	Barton and Sandhills	Oxford	4,614
	Blackbird Leys	Oxford	3,790
	Carfax	Oxford	1,926
	Churchill	Oxford	3,715

Agenda Item 4

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Cowley	Oxford	3,937
	Cowley Marsh	Oxford	3,982
	Headington	Oxford	3,843
	Headington Hill and Northway	Oxford	3,109
	Hinksey Park	Oxford	3,717
	Holywell	Oxford	1,573
	Iffley Fields	Oxford	3,645
	Jericho and Osney	Oxford	4,040
	Littlemore	Oxford	4,305
	Lye Valley	Oxford	4,327
	Marston	Oxford	4,232
	North	Oxford	2,936
	Northfield Brook	Oxford	4,081
	Quarry and Risinghurst	Oxford	4,418
	Rose Hill and Iffley	Oxford	4,235
	St. Clement's	Oxford	3,767
	St. Mary's	Oxford	3,077
58. Portsmouth North BC			74,077
	Purbrook	Havant	7,340
	Stakes	Havant	7,234
	Copnor	Portsmouth	9,693
	Cosham	Portsmouth	10,171
	Drayton and Farlington	Portsmouth	10,064
	Hilsea	Portsmouth	9,951
	Nelson	Portsmouth	9,676
	Paulsgrove	Portsmouth	9,948
59. Portsmouth South BC			75,389
	Baffins	Portsmouth	10,812
	Central Southsea	Portsmouth	9,429
	Charles Dickens	Portsmouth	10,213
	Eastney and Craneswater	Portsmouth	8,914
	Fratton	Portsmouth	9,477
	Milton	Portsmouth	9,792
	St. Jude	Portsmouth	8,042
	St. Thomas	Portsmouth	8,710
60. Reading East BC			73,626
	Abbey	Reading	6,707
	Battle	Reading	5,780
	Caversham	Reading	6,592
	Church	Reading	5,476
	Katesgrove	Reading	5,262
	Mapledurham	Reading	2,392
	Park	Reading	5,587
	Peppard	Reading	7,122
	Redlands	Reading	4,492
	Thames	Reading	6,969
	Bulmershe and Whitegates	Wokingham	6,491
	Loddon	Wokingham	6,784
	South Lake	Wokingham	3,972
61. Reading West CC			71,155
	Kentwood	Reading	6,601
	Minster	Reading	6,208
	Norcot	Reading	6,568
	Southcote	Reading	6,022
	Tilehurst	Reading	6,763
	Whitley	Reading	7,337
	Basildon	West Berkshire	2,459
	Birch Copse	West Berkshire	6,085
	Bucklebury	West Berkshire	4,767
	Calcot	West Berkshire	6,596

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Pangbourne	West Berkshire	2,249
	Purley on Thames	West Berkshire	5,136
	Theale	West Berkshire	2,172
	Westwood	West Berkshire	2,192
62. Reigate BC			71,778
	Banstead Village	Reigate and Banstead	6,119
	Chipstead, Hooley and Woodmansterne	Reigate and Banstead	6,528
	Earlswood and Whitebushes	Reigate and Banstead	6,255
	Kingswood with Burgh Heath	Reigate and Banstead	5,489
	Meadvale and St. John's	Reigate and Banstead	5,520
	Merstham	Reigate and Banstead	5,483
	Preston	Reigate and Banstead	1,874
	Redhill East	Reigate and Banstead	6,869
	Redhill West	Reigate and Banstead	5,666
	Reigate Central	Reigate and Banstead	5,195
	Reigate Hill	Reigate and Banstead	4,130
	Salfords and Sidlow	Reigate and Banstead	2,045
	South Park and Woodhatch	Reigate and Banstead	5,192
	Tadworth and Walton	Reigate and Banstead	5,413
63. Rochester and Strood CC			75,317
	Cuxton and Halling	Medway	4,384
	Peninsula	Medway	10,544
	River	Medway	5,741
	Rochester East	Medway	7,181
	Rochester South and Horsted	Medway	9,509
	Rochester West	Medway	7,318
	Strood North	Medway	9,674
	Strood Rural	Medway	10,681
	Strood South	Medway	10,285
64. Runnymede and Weybridge CC			71,274
	Hersham South	Elmbridge	4,754
	Oatlands Park	Elmbridge	4,694
	St. George's Hill	Elmbridge	4,196
	Weybridge North	Elmbridge	3,089
	Weybridge South	Elmbridge	3,188
	Addlestone Bourneside	Runnymede	4,005
	Addlestone North	Runnymede	4,226
	Chertsey Meadows	Runnymede	4,227
	Chertsey South and Row Town	Runnymede	4,638
	Chertsey St. Ann's	Runnymede	4,259
	Egham Hythe	Runnymede	4,510
	Egham Town	Runnymede	3,912
	Englefield Green East	Runnymede	2,146
	Englefield Green West	Runnymede	3,142
	Foxhills	Runnymede	3,995
	New Haw	Runnymede	4,211
	Virginia Water	Runnymede	3,936
	Woodham	Runnymede	4,146
65. Sevenoaks CC			72,561
	Ash and New Ash Green	Sevenoaks	4,513
	Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge	Sevenoaks	4,861
	Crockenhill and Well Hill	Sevenoaks	1,513
	Dunton Green and Riverhead	Sevenoaks	3,589
	Eynsford	Sevenoaks	1,498
	Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darenth	Sevenoaks	3,724
	Fawkham and West Kingsdown	Sevenoaks	4,801
	Halstead, Knockholt and Badgers Mount	Sevenoaks	2,675
	Hextable	Sevenoaks	3,287
	Kemsing	Sevenoaks	3,241
	Otford and Shoreham	Sevenoaks	3,485

Agenda Item 4

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Seal and Weald	Sevenoaks	3,045
	Sevenoaks Eastern	Sevenoaks	2,924
	Sevenoaks Kippington	Sevenoaks	3,561
	Sevenoaks Northern	Sevenoaks	3,030
	Sevenoaks Town and St. John's	Sevenoaks	4,351
	Swanley Christchurch and Swanley Village	Sevenoaks	4,299
	Swanley St. Mary's	Sevenoaks	3,004
	Swanley White Oak	Sevenoaks	4,603
	Westerham and Crockham Hill	Sevenoaks	3,284
	Wrotham, Ightham and Stansted	Tonbridge and Malling	3,273
66. Sittingbourne and Sheppey CC			75,638
	Bobbing, Iwade and Lower Halstow	Swale	3,895
	Borden and Grove Park	Swale	4,423
	Chalkwell	Swale	1,914
	Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch	Swale	4,403
	Homewood	Swale	4,569
	Kemsley	Swale	4,103
	Milton Regis	Swale	4,107
	Minster Cliffs	Swale	5,652
	Murston	Swale	3,905
	Queenborough and Halfway	Swale	5,375
	Roman	Swale	4,287
	Sheerness	Swale	6,927
	Sheppey Central	Swale	5,815
	Sheppey East	Swale	3,734
	Teynham and Lynsted	Swale	3,951
	The Meads	Swale	2,075
	West Downs	Swale	2,110
	Woodstock	Swale	4,393
67. Slough BC			76,668
	Baylis and Stoke	Slough	5,428
	Britwell and Northborough	Slough	5,538
	Central	Slough	5,045
	Chalvey	Slough	5,351
	Cippenham Green	Slough	6,195
	Cippenham Meadows	Slough	6,182
	Elliman	Slough	5,028
	Farnham	Slough	5,423
	Foxborough	Slough	2,142
	Haymill and Lynch Hill	Slough	6,167
	Langley Kedermister	Slough	6,208
	Langley St. Mary's	Slough	6,301
	Upton	Slough	5,803
	Wexham Lea	Slough	5,857
68. South West Surrey CC			74,494
	Bramley, Busbridge and Hascombe	Waverley	3,333
	Chiddingfold and Dunsfold	Waverley	2,929
	Elstead and Thursley	Waverley	3,002
	Farnham Bourne	Waverley	3,103
	Farnham Castle	Waverley	2,939
	Farnham Firgrove	Waverley	3,036
	Farnham Hale and Heath End	Waverley	3,165
	Farnham Moor Park	Waverley	3,505
	Farnham Shortheath and Boundstone	Waverley	3,107
	Farnham Upper Hale	Waverley	3,052
	Farnham Weybourne and Badshot Lea	Waverley	3,242
	Farnham Wrecclesham and Rowledge	Waverley	3,271
	Frensham, Dockenfield and Tilford	Waverley	3,045
	Godalming Binscombe	Waverley	3,001
	Godalming Central and Ockford	Waverley	3,219

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Godalming Charterhouse	Waverley	2,642
	Godalming Farncombe and Catteshall	Waverley	3,497
	Godalming Holloway	Waverley	3,196
	Haslemere Critchmere and Shottermill	Waverley	4,313
	Haslemere East and Grayswood	Waverley	4,897
	Hindhead	Waverley	3,108
	Milford	Waverley	3,007
	Witley and Hambledon	Waverley	2,885
69. Southampton Itchen BC			75,474
	Bargate	Southampton	8,571
	Bevois	Southampton	8,343
	Bitterne	Southampton	9,573
	Bitterne Park	Southampton	9,747
	Harefield	Southampton	9,698
	Pear tree	Southampton	9,850
	Sholing	Southampton	10,291
	Woolston	Southampton	9,401
70. Southampton Test BC			72,705
	Bassett	Southampton	8,890
	Coxford	Southampton	9,843
	Freemantle	Southampton	8,673
	Millbrook	Southampton	9,954
	Portsmouth	Southampton	8,877
	Redbridge	Southampton	9,871
	Shirley	Southampton	9,212
	Swaythling	Southampton	7,385
71. Spelthorne BC			74,418
	Thorpe	Runnymede	4,119
	Ashford Common	Spelthorne	6,049
	Ashford East	Spelthorne	5,619
	Ashford North and Stanwell South	Spelthorne	5,814
	Ashford Town	Spelthorne	5,265
	Hallford and Sunbury West	Spelthorne	4,679
	Laleham and Shepperton Green	Spelthorne	5,900
	Riverside and Laleham	Spelthorne	5,170
	Shepperton Town	Spelthorne	5,243
	Staines	Spelthorne	5,430
	Staines South	Spelthorne	5,145
	Stanwell North	Spelthorne	5,356
	Sunbury Common	Spelthorne	5,470
	Sunbury East	Spelthorne	5,159
72. Surrey Heath CC			74,329
	Ash South and Tongham	Guildford	5,958
	Ash Vale	Guildford	4,276
	Ash Wharf	Guildford	4,717
	Bagshot	Surrey Heath	4,411
	Bisley	Surrey Heath	2,610
	Chobham	Surrey Heath	2,895
	Frimley	Surrey Heath	4,444
	Frimley Green	Surrey Heath	4,249
	Heathside	Surrey Heath	4,479
	Lightwater	Surrey Heath	5,260
	Mytchett and Deepcut	Surrey Heath	4,929
	Old Dean	Surrey Heath	3,012
	Parkside	Surrey Heath	4,791
	St. Michaels	Surrey Heath	3,508
	St. Pauls	Surrey Heath	4,452
	Town	Surrey Heath	3,378
	Watchetts	Surrey Heath	3,652
	West End	Surrey Heath	3,308

Agenda Item 4

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
73. Test Valley CC			75,481
	Chandler's Ford East	Eastleigh	3,644
	Chandler's Ford West	Eastleigh	4,581
	Hiltingbury East	Eastleigh	4,021
	Hiltingbury West	Eastleigh	4,105
	Abbey	Test Valley	3,786
	Ampfield and Braishfield	Test Valley	1,803
	Ampport	Test Valley	1,820
	Anna	Test Valley	3,740
	Blackwater	Test Valley	4,103
	Broughton and Stockbridge	Test Valley	3,582
	Cupernham	Test Valley	3,895
	Dun Valley	Test Valley	1,733
	Harewood	Test Valley	1,748
	Kings Somborne and Michelmersh	Test Valley	2,106
	North Baddesley	Test Valley	5,382
	Over Wallop	Test Valley	1,369
	Penton Bellinger	Test Valley	3,601
	Romsey Extra	Test Valley	3,395
	Tadburn	Test Valley	3,989
	Valley Park	Test Valley	5,575
	Colden Common and Twyford	Winchester	4,252
	Compton and Otterbourne	Winchester	3,251
74. Tonbridge CC			74,860
	Cowden and Hever	Sevenoaks	1,561
	Edenbridge North and East	Sevenoaks	3,616
	Edenbridge South and West	Sevenoaks	3,015
	Leigh and Chiddingstone Causeway	Sevenoaks	1,690
	Penshurst, Fordcombe and Chiddingstone	Sevenoaks	1,966
	Borough Green and Long Mill	Tonbridge and Malling	5,258
	Cage Green	Tonbridge and Malling	3,502
	Castle	Tonbridge and Malling	3,287
	Downs and Mereworth	Tonbridge and Malling	3,305
	Hadlow and East Peckham	Tonbridge and Malling	5,371
	Higham	Tonbridge and Malling	3,611
	Hildenborough	Tonbridge and Malling	3,686
	Judd	Tonbridge and Malling	3,594
	Medway	Tonbridge and Malling	4,167
	Trench	Tonbridge and Malling	3,516
	Vauxhall	Tonbridge and Malling	3,693
	Wateringbury	Tonbridge and Malling	1,540
	Capel	Tunbridge Wells	1,719
	Pembury	Tunbridge Wells	4,268
	Southborough and High Brooms	Tunbridge Wells	4,981
	Southborough North	Tunbridge Wells	3,051
	Speldhurst and Bidborough	Tunbridge Wells	4,463
75. Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough CC			74,555
	Broadwater	Tunbridge Wells	2,902
	Culverden	Tunbridge Wells	4,994
	Pantiles and St. Mark's	Tunbridge Wells	4,745
	Park	Tunbridge Wells	5,054
	Rusthall	Tunbridge Wells	3,371
	Sherwood	Tunbridge Wells	4,391
	St. James'	Tunbridge Wells	3,753
	St. John's	Tunbridge Wells	4,811
	Buxted and Maresfield	Wealden	4,723
	Crowborough East	Wealden	3,830
	Crowborough Jarvis Brook	Wealden	1,883
	Crowborough North	Wealden	4,430
	Crowborough St. Johns	Wealden	2,021
	Crowborough West	Wealden	3,842

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Forest Row	Wealden	3,722
	Framfield	Wealden	2,147
	Frant/Withyham	Wealden	3,933
	Hartfield	Wealden	2,039
	Mayfield	Wealden	2,122
	Rotherfield	Wealden	1,924
	Wadhurst	Wealden	3,918
76. Wantage CC			76,505
	Cholsey	South Oxfordshire	6,597
	Didcot North East	South Oxfordshire	6,805
	Didcot South	South Oxfordshire	7,104
	Didcot West	South Oxfordshire	4,663
	Wallingford	South Oxfordshire	5,625
	Blewbury & Harwell	Vale of White Horse	4,583
	Faringdon	Vale of White Horse	5,362
	Grove North	Vale of White Horse	3,998
	Hendreds	Vale of White Horse	2,151
	Kingston Bagpuize	Vale of White Horse	2,555
	Ridgeway	Vale of White Horse	2,355
	Stanford	Vale of White Horse	2,654
	Steventon & the Hanneys	Vale of White Horse	2,444
	Sutton Courtenay	Vale of White Horse	2,086
	Thames	Vale of White Horse	2,534
	Wantage & Grove Brook	Vale of White Horse	5,138
	Wantage Charlton	Vale of White Horse	4,764
	Watchfield & Shrivenham	Vale of White Horse	5,087
77. Winchester CC			76,083
	Bishops Waltham	Winchester	5,261
	Boarhunt and Southwick	Winchester	1,130
	Cheriton and Bishops Sutton	Winchester	1,740
	Denmead	Winchester	5,757
	Droxford, Soberton and Hambledon	Winchester	1,682
	Itchen Valley	Winchester	1,575
	Kings Worthy	Winchester	3,475
	Littleton and Harestock	Winchester	2,716
	Olivers Battery and Badger Farm	Winchester	3,044
	Owslebury and Curdrige	Winchester	3,107
	Shedfield	Winchester	3,074
	Sparsholt	Winchester	1,329
	St. Barnabas	Winchester	4,618
	St. Bartholomew	Winchester	4,557
	St. John and All Saints	Winchester	3,935
	St. Luke	Winchester	3,365
	St. Michael	Winchester	4,433
	St. Paul	Winchester	3,899
	Swanmore and Newtown	Winchester	3,394
	The Alresfords	Winchester	4,869
	Upper Meon Valley	Winchester	1,588
	Wickham	Winchester	3,163
	Wonston and Micheldever	Winchester	4,372
78. Windsor CC			72,090
	Ascot	Bracknell Forest	3,967
	Binfield with Warfield	Bracknell Forest	6,444
	Warfield Harvest Ride	Bracknell Forest	5,755
	Winkfield and Cranbourne	Bracknell Forest	3,883
	Colnbrook with Poyle	Slough	3,404
	Windlesham	Surrey Heath	3,256
	Ascot and Cheapside	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,643
	Castle Without	Windsor and Maidenhead	4,418
	Clewer East	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,465

Agenda Item 4

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
	Clewer North	Windsor and Maidenhead	5,341
	Clewer South	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,406
	Datchet	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,368
	Eton and Castle	Windsor and Maidenhead	1,227
	Eton Wick	Windsor and Maidenhead	1,711
	Horton and Wraysbury	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,723
	Old Windsor	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,573
	Park	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,536
	Sunningdale	Windsor and Maidenhead	3,489
	Sunninghill and South Ascot	Windsor and Maidenhead	4,481
79. Witney CC			78,455
	Alvescot and Filkins	West Oxfordshire	1,367
	Ascott and Shipton	West Oxfordshire	1,713
	Bampton and Clanfield	West Oxfordshire	2,877
	Brize Norton and Shilton	West Oxfordshire	1,549
	Burford	West Oxfordshire	1,467
	Carterton North East	West Oxfordshire	3,806
	Carterton North West	West Oxfordshire	3,260
	Carterton South	West Oxfordshire	3,295
	Chadlington and Churchill	West Oxfordshire	1,533
	Charlbury and Finstock	West Oxfordshire	2,955
	Chipping Norton	West Oxfordshire	4,640
	Ducklington	West Oxfordshire	1,667
	Eynsham and Cassington	West Oxfordshire	4,706
	Freeland and Hanborough	West Oxfordshire	3,378
	Hailey, Minster Lovell and Leafield	West Oxfordshire	3,107
	Kingham, Rollright and Enstone	West Oxfordshire	3,115
	Milton-under-Wychwood	West Oxfordshire	1,645
	North Leigh	West Oxfordshire	1,506
	Standlake, Aston and Stanton Harcourt	West Oxfordshire	3,280
	Stonesfield and Tackley	West Oxfordshire	3,111
	The Bartons	West Oxfordshire	1,556
	Witney Central	West Oxfordshire	3,654
	Witney East	West Oxfordshire	5,541
	Witney North	West Oxfordshire	3,114
	Witney South	West Oxfordshire	4,522
	Witney West	West Oxfordshire	2,994
	Woodstock and Bladon	West Oxfordshire	3,097
80. Woking CC			72,144
	Normandy	Guildford	2,478
	Pirbright	Guildford	2,083
	Brookwood	Woking	1,851
	Byfleet	Woking	5,344
	Goldsworth East	Woking	5,018
	Goldsworth West	Woking	3,500
	Hermitage and Knaphill South	Woking	3,742
	Horsell East and Woodham	Woking	3,478
	Horsell West	Woking	5,154
	Kingfield and Westfield	Woking	3,923
	Knaphill	Woking	6,796
	Maybury and Sheerwater	Woking	6,129
	Mayford and Sutton Green	Woking	1,932
	Mount Hermon East	Woking	3,350
	Mount Hermon West	Woking	4,187
	Old Woking	Woking	2,123
	Pyrford	Woking	3,789
	St. John's and Hook Heath	Woking	3,295
	West Byfleet	Woking	3,972

Constituency	Ward	Local authority	Electorate
81. Wokingham CC			76,905
	Burghfield	West Berkshire	4,497
	Mortimer	West Berkshire	4,364
	Sulhamstead	West Berkshire	2,215
	Arborfield	Wokingham	1,927
	Barkham	Wokingham	2,544
	Emmbrook	Wokingham	6,466
	Evendons	Wokingham	6,819
	Hawkedon	Wokingham	6,678
	Hillside	Wokingham	6,267
	Maiden Erlegh	Wokingham	6,570
	Norreys	Wokingham	6,915
	Shinfield North	Wokingham	2,371
	Shinfield South	Wokingham	5,515
	Swallowfield	Wokingham	2,270
	Wescott	Wokingham	4,290
	Winnersh	Wokingham	7,197
82. Worthing West BC			74,210
	East Preston	Arun	6,705
	Ferring	Arun	3,975
	Rustington East	Arun	4,431
	Rustington West	Arun	6,650
	Castle	Worthing	6,140
	Central	Worthing	6,497
	Durrington	Worthing	4,378
	Goring	Worthing	6,690
	Heene	Worthing	5,717
	Marine	Worthing	6,363
	Northbrook	Worthing	3,626
	Salvington	Worthing	6,927
	Tarring	Worthing	6,111
83. Wycombe CC			77,998
	Abbey	Wycombe	6,227
	Bledlow and Bradenham	Wycombe	2,149
	Booker and Cressex	Wycombe	3,474
	Bowerdean	Wycombe	3,477
	Chiltern Rise	Wycombe	3,995
	Disraeli	Wycombe	3,839
	Downley and Plomer Hill	Wycombe	3,654
	Greater Marlow	Wycombe	3,770
	Hambleton Valley	Wycombe	1,891
	Hazlemere North	Wycombe	3,712
	Hazlemere South	Wycombe	3,439
	Micklefield	Wycombe	3,493
	Oakridge and Castlefield	Wycombe	5,213
	Ryemead	Wycombe	4,719
	Sands	Wycombe	4,119
	Stokenchurch and Radnage	Wycombe	4,137
	Terriers and Amersham Hill	Wycombe	6,081
	Totteridge	Wycombe	4,290
	Tylers Green and Loudwater	Wycombe	6,319

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Appendix B

Dear Sirs,

I am writing as the Chairman of the Sevenoaks District Council Governance Committee, on behalf of this Council, in response to your initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries. The proposals were considered at a meeting of the Governance Committee on 3 November, and subsequently at a full Council meeting on 22 November.

There was broad agreement for the proposals put forward for the Sevenoaks constituency, but with concerns relating to the northern wards of “Ash and New Ash Green” and “Hartley and Hodsoll Street”. The following sets out the main views and details a suggested counter-proposal:

- Clearly the Sevenoaks District area is too large to form a co-terminus parliamentary constituency, so there is acceptance that some areas would need to be in other constituencies.
- The Southern wards of the District covering Edenbridge, Cowden, Hever, Penshurst, Fordcombe, Chiddingstone and Leigh are closely connected in terms of geography and communities and have together been part of the Tonbridge Parliamentary constituency for many years. These parishes were also kept together in the recent review of Kent County Council division boundaries by the Local Government Boundary Commission.
- It is accepted that these areas are likely to remain outside the Sevenoaks constituency. There was a strong view from one Southern ward member that their links are more with Tonbridge than Tunbridge Wells. Reasons cited included the local infrastructure is better aligned to Tonbridge, including rail, road links and schools and that it would retain stronger links with County Council boundaries.
- Conversely, there was a strong view that the “Ash and New Ash Green” ward should remain part of the Sevenoaks constituency. In addition that, in order to make the Sevenoaks constituency larger (as required by the overall proposals), it would make more sense to include the “Hartley and Hodsoll Street” ward rather than add in the three wards that are part of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.
- The Ash and Hartley areas are rural in nature and have strong links to Sevenoaks, and have little in common with Gravesham which is a fast growing urban area.
- The three Tonbridge and Malling wards have no connection with Sevenoaks as their residents naturally look towards the centres of West Malling, Kings Hill and

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Tonbridge. There is a clear geographical separation between Sevenoaks and Borough Green by way of the largely unpopulated area of Seal Chart.

- The main concern is that it would not seem sensible to remove two wards of Sevenoaks District Council, only to replace them with three unconnected wards from a neighbouring council. The Sevenoaks Constituency under this counter-proposal would have an acceptable electorate of 74,019, virtually at the mid-point of the required range.
- Clearly, when looking at the wider region, there could be many alternatives to manage the knock-on effects of this counter-proposal. In line with paragraph 62 of your publication "Guide to the 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituencies" the following table and attached map indicate one way in which it could be achieved on a region basis.

	Sevenoaks	Gravesham	Tonbridge & the Weald	Maidstone	Rochester & Strood
Initial Proposal	76,611	76,583	71,575	71,284	78,455
Ash & New Ash Green	4,513	-4,513			
Hartley & Hodsoll Street	4,731	-4,731			
Borough Green & Long Mill	-5,258		5,258		
Downs & Mereworth	-3,305		3,305		
Wrotham, Ightham & Stansted	-3,273		3,273		
Cuxton & Halling		4,384			-4,384
Harrietsham & Lenham			-4,418	4,418	
North Downs			-1,834	1,834	

Counter-proposal	74,019	71,723	77,159	77,536	74,071
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your initial proposals.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Alan Pett,

Chairman Sevenoaks District Council Governance Committee

On behalf of Sevenoaks District Council

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REVIEW OF THE SCHEME FOR MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Governance Committee - 7 November 2017

Report of	Chief Finance Officer
Status	For Consideration and Decision
Also considered by	Council - 21 November 2017
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary: A Joint Independent Remuneration Panel carried out a review on Members Allowances. The review made a number of recommendations that were presented to the Governance Committee and Council. Council recommended that a working group look at several issues and report back to the Governance Committee.

This report supports the Key Aim of Effective Use of Council Resources

Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Anna Firth
Contact Officers	Adrian Rowbotham, Ext. 7153 Veronica Wilson, Ext. 7436

Recommendation to Governance Committee:

- (a) That it be recommended to Council that either
 - i) no action is taken;
 - ii) the recommendations in the Members' Allowances Working Group report (Appendix A) be agreed; or that
 - iii) a different recommendation is agreed

Recommendation to Council:

- (a) That either
 - i) no action is taken;
 - ii) the recommendations in the Members' Allowances Working Group report (Appendix A) be agreed; or that
-

-
- iii) a different recommendation is agreed
-

Reason for recommendation: Section 19 of The Local Authorities (Members Allowances)(England) Regulations 2003 state that before an authority makes or amends a Members' Allowance scheme, the authority shall have regard to the recommendations made in relation to it by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Background

- 1 The Joint Independent Remuneration Panel (JIRP) was established jointly by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Sevenoaks District Council in 2001 to make separate recommendations for each Council on their Scheme of Members' Allowances. The JIRP operates under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The function of the Panel is to make recommendations to Council in accordance with Statutory Instruments (Primarily 2003 No.1020 and No.1692).
- 2 One of the roles of the Governance Committee is to receive the recommendations of the JIRP and make recommendations for changes to the Members' Allowance Scheme to the Council and, if required, to the JIRP.

Introduction

- 3 The JIRP provides an objective view of the remuneration that should be provided for Members and makes a recommendation to this Council. Legislation requires that before an Authority amends a scheme, the authority shall have regard to the recommendations made to it by the JIRP.
- 4 The Council's current Members' Allowance Scheme is set out in Appendix G of the Constitution.
- 5 The purpose of the JIRP review is to carry out the quadrennial update of Members' allowances required by legislation, taking into account Members' workload, responsibilities and required time commitment and then to recommend a fair level of recompense for those commitments.
- 6 Historically Members have modified the JIRP recommendations to ensure that the final scheme remained within budget.
- 7 If the Governance Committee do recommend an increase above the current budget to Council, if approved, a growth item will be required in the 2018/19 budget process.

JIRP's Recommendations

- 8 The JIRP Report, attached at Appendix C, sets out the details of their work and their recommendations.
- 9 The financial effect of the JIRP's recommendations can be found in Appendix B in the 'JIRP Proposed Scheme 2017/18' scenario.

Council - 18 July 2017

- 10 The JIRP Report was presented to the Governance Committee on 27 June 2017 and then on to Council on 18 July 2017.
- 11 It was resolved that the Council welcomed and thanked the Independent Remuneration Panel for its work, and was particularly pleased with their comments regarding the involvement of members and the important part they played in the success of the authority. However
 - a) before accepting the recommendations contained within the report a working group is set up to look at the following issues:
 - i) the omission of an SRA for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Infrastructure Levy Board and at what level any SRA should be;
 - ii) the proposed level of SRA for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Development Control Committee;
 - iii) the budgetary implications of the report and any other proposed changes;
 - b) the working group will report back to Governance Committee and a further recommendation is sent to Full Council, both meetings being in November;
 - c) the Chairman of Governance be delegated authority to determine the size and composition of the working group.

Working Group

- 12 Whilst a working group might normally be constituted of some or all of the relevant committee, the Chairman of the Governance Committee was of the view that such a working group represented a limited range of views, because of its limited membership, and the outcome was likely to be unchanged. Accordingly, after sounding out a wide range of members for their views, the Chair of Governance concluded that the recommendation in Appendix A should be put forward to the Governance Committee and, if thought fit, to Council.
- 13 The recommendation includes some changes starting immediately and some coming in from 2019/20. The financial effects of these changes can be found in Appendix B. The effect of the changes starting immediately can be seen in the 'Working Group Scheme 2018/19' scenario and the effect of the changes coming in from 2019/20 can be seen in the 'Working Group Scheme 2019/20' scenario.

Key Implications

Financial

In 2017/18, the Council's budget for Members' Allowances is £385,998. Based on current assumptions in the 10-year Budget, this will increase to £389,858 in 2018/19 and £393,757 in 2019/20.

The financial effects of the different scenarios can be found in Appendix B including how much more they could cost compared to the current scheme.

The actual costs will depend on which Member is in each role and the amount unclaimed.

If an increase above the cost of the current scheme is approved, a growth item may be required in the 2018/19 budget process.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

The Council is required under the Local authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and subsequent amendments to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel to review and make recommendations to the Council on the range and levels of remuneration for elected Members.

Under the regulations, the Council is required to undertake a full review every four years. A full review was considered by the Council on 20 November 2012, but the Panel was requested to carry out a further review as the Council had adopted revised Governance arrangements in May 2013. The further review was considered by the Council on 1 October 2013.

Remuneration for Members is intended to ensure that there are no avoidable obstacles preventing people from taking part in the work of the Council. The level of remuneration needs to be at an appropriate level. Any deviation from the recommendations should be justified with a written record being made.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

The basis of the current level of Members' Allowances for Sevenoaks District Council was established by the Panel in December 2001 following guidance issued by central government. Allowances have been revised following later Panel's recommendations to reflect the changing roles of Members. Members are requested to consider the contents of this report and appendices before making a recommendation to Council.

Appendices Appendix A - Members' Allowances Working Group report

Appendix B - Financial Effects of Scenarios

Appendix C - A Review of Council Members' Allowances for Sevenoaks District Council (JIRP May 2017)

Background [Local Authorities \(Members Allowances\)\(England\) Regulations 2003](#)

Papers

[Members' Allowances Scheme set out at Appendix G in the Council's Constitution](#)

Report to Governance Committee on 27 June 2017:

<http://cds.sevenoaks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=289&MId=2194&J=1>

Adrian Rowbotham

Chief Finance Officer

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**Members' Allowances Working Group Report
in response to JIRP 2017 report**

Full Council at its meeting on 18 July 2017 responded to the report by the JIRP and recommendations of the Governance Committee of 27 June flowing from that by authorising the Chairman of Governance to set up a working party to further consider the JIRP recommendations, having regard to the current economic climate, as follows:

Resolved: That the Council welcomed and thanked the Independent Remuneration Panel for its work, and was particularly pleased with their comments regarding the involvement of members and the important part they played in the success of the authority. However

- a) before accepting the recommendations contained within the report a working group is set up to look at the following issues:
 - i) the omission of an SRA for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Infrastructure Levy Board and at what level any SRA should be;
 - ii) the proposed level of SRA for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Development Control Committee;
 - iii) the budgetary implications of the report and any other proposed changes;
- b) the working group will report back to Governance Committee and a further recommendation is sent to Full Council, both meetings being in November;
- c) the Chairman of Governance be delegated authority to determine the size and composition of the working group.

Whilst a working group might normally be constituted of some or all of the relevant committee, the Chairman of the Governance Committee was of the view that such a working group represented a limited range of views, because of its limited membership, and the outcome was likely to be unchanged. Accordingly, after sounding out a wide range of members for their views, the Chair of Governance concluded that the following should be put forward as the recommendation to the Governance Committee and, if thought fit, to Council.

Recommendation to Governance Committee:

a) that the Chairman of the CIL board be remunerated at the same rate as the Chairs of other committees, namely £2,144 p.a. with immediate effect,

b) that the Vice Chair of the CIL board be remunerated at the same rate as other Vice Chairs of committees, namely £534 p.a. with immediate effect,

c) that the allowance for the Vice Chair of Development Control committee be increased to £1,000 p.a. with immediate effect,

d) that otherwise the recommendations of the JIRP be instituted with effect from the commencement of the municipal year 2019/20, namely:

- i) The basic allowance shall remain unchanged.
- ii) Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) should be:
 - a. Council Leader £20,000 p.a.
 - b. Deputy Leader £12,000 p.a.
 - c. Opposition Group Leaders £270 p.a. per group member
 - d. Cabinet Members £7,000 p.a.
 - e. Deputy Cabinet Members £1,600 p.a.
 - f. Committee Chairs £1,500 - £5,000 p.a.
 - g. Advisory Committee Chairs £2,500 p.a.
 - h. Development Control Cttee Vice Chair £1,000 p.a.
 - i. Vice Chairs of other committees shall not receive a SRA.
 - j. Development Control Cttee Members £500 p.a.
 - k. Licensing Cttee Members £135 p.a.
 - l. Standards Co-optees £480 p.a.
- iii) Child Care Allowance should be payable at the actual amount charged, subject to a maximum rate of £7.20 per child per hour.
- iv) Dependent Carer's Allowance should be payable at the actual amount charged, subject to a maximum of £16.00 per hour.

- v) Allowances should be updated in line with any annual increases in pay awards to Council staff.
- vi) Travel expenses should continue to be based upon the HMRC approved rate.
- vii) The existing scheme for meal and subsistence allowances should continue.
- viii) The existing IT allowance should be stopped.

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Scenarios:		Current Scheme 2017/18			JIRP Proposed Scheme 2017/18			Working Group Scheme 2018/19			Working Group Scheme 2019/20			
Allowance	No. Max	Rate (£)	No.	Total (£)	Rate (£)	No.	Total (£)	Rate (£)	No.	Total (£)	Rate (£)	No.	Total (£)	
Basic Allowance	54	5,359	54	289,386	5,359	54	289,386	5,413	54	292,302	5,467	54	295,218	
Cabinet Chair / Leader	1	16,078	1	16,078	20,000	1	20,000	16,239	1	16,239	20,000	1	20,000	
Deputy Leader	1	0	0	0	12,000	1	12,000	0	0	0	12,000	1	12,000	
Cabinet	7	6,699	6	40,194	7,000	5	35,000	6,766	6	40,596	7,000	5	35,000	
Deputy Cabinet	10	671	7	4,697	1,600	7	11,200	678	7	4,746	1,600	7	11,200	
Group Leaders - Labour	1	1,331	0	0	270	0	0	1,344	0	0	270	0	0	
Group Leaders - Lib Dem	1	1,331	1	1,331	540	1	540	1,344	1	1,344	540	1	540	
Group Leaders - UKIP	1	1,331	1	1,331	540	1	540	1,344	1	1,344	540	1	540	
Chair - Development Ctl	1	3,217	1	3,217	5,000	1	5,000	3,249	1	3,249	5,000	1	5,000	
Chair - Advisory Cttes	7	2,144	2	4,288	2,500	2	5,000	2,165	2	4,330	2,500	2	5,000	
Chair - Audit	1	2,144	1	2,144	2,500	1	2,500	2,165	1	2,165	2,500	1	2,500	
Chair - Scrutiny	1	2,144	1	2,144	2,500	1	2,500	2,165	1	2,165	2,500	1	2,500	
Chair - Governance	1	2,144	1	2,144	2,500	1	2,500	2,165	1	2,165	2,500	1	2,500	
Chair - Licensing	1	2,144	1	2,144	2,500	1	2,500	2,165	1	2,165	2,500	1	2,500	
Chair - Health Liaison	1	2,144	1	2,144	2,500	1	2,500	2,165	1	2,165	2,500	1	2,500	
Chair - Transportation	1	2,144	1	2,144	2,000	1	2,000	2,165	1	2,165	2,000	1	2,000	
Chair - CIL								2,165	1	2,165	2,500	1	2,500	
Chair - Standards	1	1,074	1	1,074	1,600	1	1,600	1,085	1	1,085	1,600	1	1,600	
Vice Chairs - Advisory Cttes	7	535	0	0	0	0	0	540	0	0	0	0	0	
Vice Chair - Audit	1	535	1	535	0	0	0	540	1	540	0	0	0	
Vice Chair - Sctny	1	535	0	0	0	0	0	540	0	0	0	0	0	
Vice Chair - Gov.	1	535	1	535	0	0	0	540	1	540	0	0	0	
Vice Chair - Development Ctl	1	804	1	804	1,000	1	1,000	1,000	1	1,000	1,000	1	1,000	
Vice Chair - Licensing	1	535	1	535	0	0	0	540	1	540	0	0	0	
Vice Chair - Health Liaison	1	535	1	535	0	0	0	540	1	540	0	0	0	
Vice Chair - Transportation	1	535	0	0	0	0	0	540	0	0	0	0	0	
Vice Chair - CIL								540	0	0	0	0	0	
Vice Chair Standards	1	269	1	269	0	0	0	272	1	272	0	0	0	
Development Ctl - Members	17	269	9	2,421	500	11	5,500	272	8	2,176	500	11	5,500	
Licensing - Members	11	134	4	536	135	4	540	135	4	540	135	4	540	
Standards Co-optees					480	0	0	0	0	0	480	0	0	
I.T Allowance**	54	125	54	6,750	125	54	6,750	126	54	6,804	0	0	0	
Childcare (p/h p/child)		6.19	0	0	7.20	0	0	6.25	0	0	7.20	0	0	
Dependent Carers (p/h)		16.00	0	0	16.00	0	0	16.16	0	0	16.00	0	0	
Sub Total	188		153	387,380		150	408,556		153	393,342		97	410,138	
NI est	1.5%			5,811			6,128			5,900			6,152	
TOTAL				393,191			414,684			399,242			416,290	
Budget				385,998			385,998			389,858			393,757	
Over/(under) budget				7,193			28,686			9,384			22,533	
Increase/(Decrease) compared to current scheme							21,494				2,191			15,340

Notes:

Each Member can only receive one Special Responsibility Allowance.

Assumed that 1 Cabinet Member is Leader and 1 Cabinet Member is Deputy Leader.

Assumed that 5 Cabinet Members are an Advisory Ctte Chair.

Assumed that 1 Deputy Cabinet Member is an Advisory Ctte Chair.

Assumed that 6 Deputy Cabinet Members are an Advisory Ctte Vice Chair.

Inflation assumptions in 10-year Budget:

2018/19 1% 2019/20 1%

2016/17: Budget £382,176 Actual Spend £376,498 = £5,678 under budget.

Some Members do not claim their full allowance (e.g. only 40 Members currently claim the I.T. Allowance).

The actual cost each year will vary dependent on which Member is in each role and the amount unclaimed.

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**A REVIEW OF
COUNCIL MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES
FOR
SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL
May 2017**

**Joint Independent Remuneration Panel [The Panel]
for
Sevenoaks District Council
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council**

Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Summary of Recommendations**
- 3. Background**
- 4. Approach & Methodology**
- 5. Allowance Calculations**
- 6. Special Responsibility Allowances**
- 7. Carers' Allowances**
- 8. Travel Expenses**
- 9. Meal Allowances**
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- 11. Number of Councillors**
- 12. Conclusions**
- 13. Acknowledgements**

Appendices

- 1. Regulations and Guidance for Independent Remuneration Panels**
- 2. Terms of Reference & Panel Members**
- 3. Comparative data from Kent & Sussex Borough/District Council Allowances**
- 4. Revised Schedule of Recommended Members' Allowances**

1 Introduction

1.1 The Council is required under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and subsequent amendments to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel [The Panel] to review and make recommendations to the Council on the range and levels of remuneration for elected Members (see Terms of Reference Appendix 2).

1.2 Under the Regulations the Council is required to undertake a full review every four years. A full review was considered by the Council on 27 November 2012, but the Panel was requested to carry out a further review as the Council had adopted revised Governance arrangements in May 2013. The further review was considered by the Council on 1 October 2013. This report is the result of the latest review conducted in Winter 2016/Spring 2017.

1.3 The purpose of this review is to carry out the quadrennial update of local councillors' allowances required by legislation, taking into account Members' workload, responsibilities and required time commitment and then to recommend a fair level of recompense for those commitments.

1.4 The Panel is mindful always of its remit to assist in broadening the diversity of councillor representation by minimising financial barriers to participation in local government.

1.5 While affordability of the Panel's recommendations is ultimately an issue for the Council to decide, the Panel fully appreciates the sensitivity of making any increase in allowances in the current financial climate and has tried to propose a scheme which is fair, simple to administer and properly reflects the significant time commitments given by individuals in this important tier of government. However, the Panel appreciates that time commitment alone is not necessarily an accurate indicator of efficiency, output and results.

1.6 The Panel also has the responsibility of reviewing allowances for both Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils. The Panel's recommendations were rejected by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council who determined that the status quo should continue and the main principles were accepted by the General Purposes Committee at Tonbridge and Malling Council, with some of the proposals being recommended for introduction at the next election. The Panel has noted the differences in the role of the Cabinet, the Cabinet Advisory System and the Management Structure in Sevenoaks compared with the two neighbouring councils of Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling and it is for these reasons that some allowances are not the same as the neighbouring councils, even though the Panel is of the view that the economics, cost of living and diversity issues are broadly similar between the three councils.

2 Summary of Recommendations

2.1 Basic Allowance

The existing Basic Allowance of £5,359 p.a. should continue at the current rate. This takes account of the additional formal workload of the Council's 'fully inclusive'

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Governance arrangements, in comparison to the other two Councils which have been reviewed by the Panel. The gross value of the allowance is £8,932 p.a., reduced by £3,573 p.a. for this voluntary element. This allowance is higher than the Panel's recommendation of £5,000 for both Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils for the reasons set out in the report.

2.2 Special Responsibility Allowances

In this review the Panel has considerably simplified the structure of SRAs by using an approach which sets the level of each SRA as a percentage of the Leader's allowance. The Panel has also re-considered the allowances for Vice-Chairs. The Panel continues to support the 2007 guidance on Members Remuneration from the Councillors Commission which recommends that members should not receive more than one SRA.

The Panel's recommendations for Special Responsibility Allowances for each role (after reduction for the voluntary/public service element) are:-

- Council Leader - £20,000 p.a.
- Deputy Leader - £12,000 p.a.
- Opposition Group Leaders - £270 p.a. per group member
- Cabinet Members - £7,500 p.a.
- Deputy Cabinet Members - £1,600 p.a.

- Committee Chairs

Audit	£2,500
Development Control	£5,000
Governance	£2,500
Health Liaison Board	£2,500
Licensing	£2,500
Scrutiny	£2,500
Joint Transportation Board	£2,000
Standards	£1,600

- Advisory Committee Chairs

Policy & Performance	£2,500
Economic & Community Dev	£2,500
Finance	£2,500
Housing	£2,500
Planning	£2,500
Direct & Trading Servs	£2,500
Legal & Democratic	£2,500

- Committee Vice-Chair

Development Control	£1,000
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- Committee Members

Development Control	£500
Licensing	£135
Standards Co-optees	£480

2.3 Carer Allowances

The Panel's recommendations are that the Child Care Allowance should be equivalent to the forthcoming National Living Wage payable at the actual amount charged, subject to a maximum rate of £7.20 per hour per child or and that the Dependant Carer's Allowance should be payable at the actual amount charged subject to maximum of £16.00 per hour. The Panel is aware that councillors rarely claim for these allowances but it is available to ensure that those entitled to such allowances can serve as councillors.

2.4 Updating

In future the allowances should be updated in line with any annual increases in pay awards to Council staff.

2.5 Travel Expenses

The Panel recommends that the current scheme for Members, based upon the HMRC approved rate should continue. It is noted that many members chose not to claim mileage allowances.

2.6 Meal Allowances

The Panel recommends that the existing scheme for meal and subsistence allowances, which excludes tea allowance, should continue.

2.7 IT Allowance

The Panel recommends that the IT allowance be stopped at the next Election. Such allowances are no longer appropriate in that access to IT Equipment in the home is now so widespread.

3 Background

3.1 The basis of the current level of members' allowances for Sevenoaks District Council was established by the Panel in December 2001 following guidelines issued by central government [see Appendix 1]. These allowances replaced the previous system of attendance-based payments and have been revised in subsequent years to reflect cost of living increases and changes in council structure and responsibilities.

3.2 The process is that the Panel recommends a structure of allowances, after consultation with members and officers but that the final decision is the responsibility of the Council. The Panel has followed broadly the same methodology since 2008.

3.3 The 2007 Councillors Commission paper on Members Remuneration suggested a set of basic principles to govern allowance schemes:

- The basic allowance should encourage people from a wide range of backgrounds and with a wide range of skills to serve as local councillors
- Those who participate in and contribute to the democratic process should not suffer unreasonable financial disadvantage
- Councillors should be compensated for their work and the compensation should have regard to the full range of commitment and complexity of their roles
- The system should be transparent, simple to operate and understand
- The system should not encourage the proliferation of meetings or provoke councillors into spending more time on council business than is necessary
- The level of remuneration should relate to a commonly accepted benchmark, such as the median male non-manual salary

These principles underpin the recommendations made in this report and are reflected in our Terms of Reference [Appendix 2]

4 Approach and Methodology

4.1 In line with the previous reviews, and reflecting the approach taken by many other Independent Review Panels elsewhere in the country, the Panel established a set of core principles to guide this review as follows:-

- To remove, where possible, the immediate financial barriers to becoming a councillor to assist in the diversity of the cohort of councillors, regardless of political background
- To reflect the current time commitment required to perform the role of ward councillor and the potential loss of earnings opportunities for councillors in doing so
- To recognise the increasing levels of responsibility and accountability being devolved from central government to local government and its impact on the nature of leadership and scrutiny roles within the Council
- To retain a significant element of public service, *pro bono* contribution from elected councillors
- To benchmark the comparative position of council members with those in similar roles in Kent and other South East councils
- To recommend allowances based on objective data with a simple and logical structure that can easily be updated in future

In conducting the review at the Council, the Panel held meetings with the Chief Finance Officer and two party leaders, and offered the opportunity to elected members to meet individually with the Panel, a number of whom took up this offer. The Panel considered meetings were a more effective way of eliciting information than a questionnaire. One member provided written information.

5 Allowance Calculations

5.1 There are some important principles and constraints on the calculation of allowances which are detailed in our Terms of Reference [Appendix 2].

Determining the Basic Allowance

5.2 The statutory guidance for Local Authority Allowances says that the *“basic allowance is intended to recognise the time commitment of all councillors, including such inevitable calls on their time as meeting with officers and constituents and attendance at political group meetings. It is also intended to cover incidental costs such as the use of their homes.”* [ODPM 2003. Para 10].

5.3 There are three core elements which determine the Basic Allowance: time spent on councillor duties, a standard financial hourly rate and the public service discount element.

Time Commitment

5.4 *“Having established what local councillors do, and the hours which are devoted to these tasks the local authorities will need to take a view on the number of hours for which, councillors ought to be remunerated”* [ODPM 2003. Para 67].

5.5 The number of hours committed by individual councillors to their elected and representative duties varies widely between individuals and over time. It is recognised that, for many councillors, the role is far more than just attendance at council meetings and will include, for example, constituency duties, committee meetings, meetings with officers and training courses.

5.6 The Panel determined in 2008 that the average time taken to satisfactorily perform a ward councillor role was an average of 15 hour per week, following a survey of members and soundings at all levels of the Council. This figure was used for the 2012 review. The Council changed its Governance arrangements in May 2013 by introducing additional Advisory Committees, introducing Deputy Cabinet Members and changing the Committee Structure.

5.7 One aim of the changes was to increase Member involvement in decision making and the interviews with Councillors indicated to the Panel, that this had been achieved. The changes were expected to result in an increase in the number of formal meetings, which has been the case. The Panel noted the difference in governance from that in the neighbouring councils and the increased involvement of councillors in decision making and in advising cabinet members.

5.8 During the discussions with members their estimates of the time spent on Council business varied greatly and it was not possible to draw a conclusion of the average productive hours spent.

Hourly rate

5.9 Previously, including for the last review in 2012, the Panel used the median hourly pay for all employees who live within the Sevenoaks local authority area as published by the Office of National Statistics in their Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE). In 2012 this was £13.98 per hour [Source: ASHE 2012. ONS] and this was the base hourly-rate for the Panel's recommended allowances. This resulted in a Basic Allowance of £6,039, which the Council considered to be too high, with a figure of £5,140 being adopted by the Council in October 2013. The Panel noted the huge variation in remuneration that exists in the Sevenoaks area and considers that average remuneration in Sevenoaks is not especially helpful in determining recommendations.

5.10 The Panel has carried out benchmarking, which showed that the Basic Allowance for Sevenoaks is high in relation to other local authorities in Kent. See Table 1 below. The position was the same for the other two Councils that the Panel covered, which suggested that the previous methodology was not applicable. The Panel considers that the previously used hourly rate bears little relation to the actual hourly rates paid in Sevenoaks, because it is distorted by the fact that many residents actually work in London.

Table 1 - KENT BASIC ALLOWANCE COST COMPARISON – 2016

Authority	Basic	No of Cllrs	Total
Sevenoaks	£5,253	54	£283,662
Tonbridge & Malling	£5,283 *	54	£285,282
Tunbridge Wells	£5,500 *	48	£264,000
Ashford	£4,466	43	£192,038
Canterbury	£5,303	39	£206,817
Dartford	£5,000	44	£220,000
Dover	£3,980	45	£179,100
Gravesham	£3,447	44	£151,668
Maidstone	£4,666	55	£256,630
Shepway	£3,867	30	£116,010
Swale	£4,880	47	£229,360
Thanet	£4,570	56	£255,920

* The Panel recommended £5,000 in the latest review for both Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils

5.11 The Panel had felt that the three councils within its purview were similar and that it should really be recommending one rate for all three. One way of doing this would be to calculate an average figure based on the latest hourly ASHE rates for all three councils. The results for the latest available ASHE survey (2015), Table 8.6(a) give the following hourly rates for the three councils:

- Sevenoaks - £14.49
- Tonbridge and Malling - £14.08
- Tunbridge Wells - £13.10

These figures give an arithmetic mean of £13.89 per hour.

The Public Service/Voluntary Principle

5.12 Central government guidance to Independent Remuneration Panels for setting the basic allowance states that *“it is important that some element of the work of members continues to be voluntary – that some hours are not remunerated. This must be balanced against the need to ensure that financial loss is not suffered by elected members, and further to ensure that, despite the input required, people are encouraged to come forward as elected members and that their service to the community is retained”* [ODPM 2003. Para 68].

5.13 This idea that some work of members should remain voluntary is called the ‘public service principle’ and this is incorporated into the financial calculations as a percentage discount factor, agreed locally. The Councillors Commission report indicated that considerable variations of between 20-50% apply. The Panel’s meetings with members and Council leaders confirmed that this principle is understood and supported by elected councillors.

5.14 In the 2012 review the Panel recommended a public service discount factor of 40% based on benchmarking with allowance schemes elsewhere and consistent with the recommendations of our predecessors on this Panel since its inception in 2001. The Panel recommends that this level of discount be retained.

Calculating the Basic Allowance – the formula

5.15 To bring together the separate elements of the time-based model the following formula is commonly used by other Independent Remuneration Panels:

- 1) Expected hours input x hourly rate x 48 weeks = Gross Basic Allowance p.a.
- 2) **minus** discount for voluntary public service = recommended Basic Allowance p.a.

Using the above data and formula the Panel considered an annual Basic Allowance derived as follows:-

- 1) 15 hours per week x £13.89 per hour x 48 weeks = £10,000.80 p.a.
- 2) **minus** 40% public service discount = £6,000 p.a. (rounded)

This calculation results in a Basic Allowance that is too high in relation the 'Kent Family' of district councils. The Panel carried out benchmarking of district councils in Sussex to establish if the Kent figures were low, but as shown in Appendix 3, this was not the case. The Panel concludes that the use of the hourly rate is no longer appropriate and the Basic Allowance calculated above cannot be recommended, as it is too high when compared to the level for the 'Kent Family' of district councils.

Basic Allowance – recommendation

5.16 The Council unlike some councils appears to have little difficulty attracting prospective Councillors and the Panel noted that there are several younger members. This suggests that the Basic Allowance is not a barrier for attracting Councillors. When assessing the Basic Allowances for Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils, the Panel had turned to benchmarking and recommended that the Basic Allowance be reduced to £5,000. With the 40% public service discount, this equated to a Gross Basic Allowance of £8,333 p.a. The Panel had initially anticipated making the same recommendation for this review, but the evidence collected during the review did not support this approach.

5.17 The Council decided in 2013, that the Basic Allowance should be higher than initially recommended, to take account of the additional work arising from the new 'fully inclusive' decision making process. The Council decided that the Leader and Cabinet Members would be allocated lower SRAs as part of that review, to remain within budgetary provision. The Council has put itself into a strong financial position and whereas many councils were concentrating on making savings in their forward budget, Sevenoaks was looking at new initiatives – this process involved members putting forward proposals through the Committee structure, which fed into the final deliberations.

5.18 The Panel concluded that the 'inclusive' Governance arrangements resulted in a higher effective 'formal meeting workload', than in the other two councils it had reviewed and justified the current sum of £5,359. The Basic Allowance has been increased annually and the Panel concludes that this allowance should remain at that level. With the 40% public service discount, this equates to a Gross Basic Allowance of £8,932 p.a.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Basic Allowance should remain at £5,359 p.a.

6 Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)

6.1 In reviewing the current system of SRAs, the Panel took into account the evolution of the governance structures within the Council and the frequency of committee meetings, including the time to research and prepare. The Panel is of the view that allowances should be kept as simple as possible and favour an approach adopted by many councils which relates allowances to that paid to the Council Leader. This approach which calculates the top figure and then bases others on percentages of that figure is in common use in the public sector for determining senior level salaries, so the principle is well-established.

Council Leader

6.2 The previous approach was to recommend that the Leader's allowance should be three times the Basic Allowance. However, the Panel's perception is that this role is so

critical to the successful running of the Council, and that both the expertise needed to undertake the role and the time required are so high that a higher amount is appropriate. The Panel recommended that the Leader's SRA for the other two councils it reviewed should be £20,000 p.a. (a multiple of four times the £5,000) Basic Allowance. That equated to a gross allowance of £33,332 p.a., but after the voluntary discount was a net £20,000 p.a. The Panel recommends that the Leader's SRA should be the same as the other two Councils - £20,000 p.a. The Panel noted that the Council previously decided to reduce the allowance for the Leader but the Panel felt that it was necessary for the Leader to have a gross allowance of £33,332 so that a School Teacher or similar could afford to take on this arduous role.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Special Responsibility Allowance for Council Leader should be £20,000 p.a.

Deputy Leader

6.3 The Panel is aware that the Deputy Leader often has to stand in for the Leader so needs to have read all relevant papers and be prepared to represent him at those meetings. For this reason the Panel believes this role merits an individual Special Responsibility Allowance. As there are Deputy Cabinet Members to assist with Portfolio work, the Panel consider that the allowance should be set at 60% of the Leader's Allowance ie £12,000 p.a.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Special Responsibility Allowance for Deputy Council Leader should be £12,000 p.a.

Opposition Group Leader

6.4 The Panel established the principle in the previous reviews that Council Leader's Allowance reflects the full role, including those duties associated with political leadership of the majority party. However, there is an additional time commitment required of leadership of an opposition group which is not reflected in the Basic Allowance.

6.5 The Council has two opposition groups, which is unusual. Each group has two members, so the additional work is not high. In line with the approach to simplify the structure of allowances the Panel recommends that the allowance for opposition group Leaders should be on a variable sliding scale determined by the number of elected councillors in the opposition party, at a rate of 5% of the Basic Allowance per member, being £270. (rounded). Should a larger Opposition Group develop with greater responsibility for its Leader then this allowance can be revisited.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Special Responsibility Allowance for Opposition Group Leader should be £270 per member in the group.

Cabinet Members

6.6 Whilst acknowledging the broad portfolio responsibilities and time commitments of Cabinet Members, the Panel recognises that under the Council's Constitution, they do not have full individual decision making responsibility and also have Deputy Cabinet Members to assist with the Portfolio. The role and responsibility of cabinet members is different from that in the neighbouring councils. The Panel therefore recommends an

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SRA of 35% of the Council Leader's allowance. This equates to an allowance after discount for the public service element of £7,500 p.a.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Special Responsibility Allowance for Cabinet Members should be 35% of the Council Leader's Allowance = £7,000 p.a.

Deputy Cabinet Members

6.7 This role has developed significantly since 2013, with holders carrying out specific projects and commissioning reports. The Panel considers that the allowance for the role should be increased to 8% of the Council Leader's allowance. This equates to an allowance after discount for the public service element of £1,600 p.a.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Special Responsibility Allowance for Deputy Cabinet Members should be 8% of the Council Leader's Allowance = £1,600 p.a.

Chairs of Committees

6.8 The Panel has reviewed the Committee allowances using a simplified factor model which aligns Committees into groups of similar dimensions which broadly reflect the frequency of meetings and their position in the governance process.

6.9 The Panel recognises the importance that the Council puts on Scrutiny function and work of the Advisory Boards. This has to be balanced against the work of the other committees and based on the current scheme and operational arrangements, the Panel makes the following recommendations for Committee Chair allowances:-

Committee	% of Leader's Allowance	Recommended Allowance
Audit	12.5%	£2,500
Development Control	25%	£5,000
Governance	12.5%	£2,500
Health Liaison Board	12.5%	£2,500
Licensing	12.5%	£2,500
Scrutiny	12.5%	£2,500
Joint Transportation Board	10%	£2,000
Standards	8%	£1,600

Advisory Committee	% of Leader's Allowance	Recommended Allowance
Policy & Performance	12.5%	£2,500
Economic & Community Dev	12.5%	£2,500
Finance	12.5%	£2,500
Housing	12.5%	£2,500
Planning	12.5%	£2,500
Direct & Trading Servs	12.5%	£2,500
Legal & Democratic	12.5%	£2,500

Vice-Chairs

6.10 There has been much discussion about the role of Vice-Chairs and there seems little doubt that these vary considerably often depending on the personality of the Chair. In line with the last review, the Panel's view is that it is only for the Development Control

Committee, that this role should be recognised. The Panel takes the view that this should be reflected in an appropriate SRA and would consider that the rate for Development Control should be to 5% of the Council Leader's Allowance, being £1,000 p.a.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Development Control Committee Vice-Chair should be at the rate of £1000 p.a.

Committee Members

6.11 The Council has adopted the practice of making payments for members of both the Development Control and Licensing Committees to address the workload and timing of meetings which are frequently held in the daytime. The work load for Development Control is rising and becoming more complex, whilst that for Licensing has reduced. The Panel makes the recommendations below

Development Control	£500
Licensing	£135
Standards Co-optees	£480

Updating

6.12 The Council currently updates allowances and the Panel recommends that this is in line with any increases in the remuneration of Council staff.

RECOMMENDATION: that in future the allowances are updated in line with any increases in the remuneration of Council staff.

7 Carers' Allowances

7.1 In earlier reviews two separate allowances were established to distinguish between the costs of standard childcare and that of professional care for dependants with special requirements. These allowances are proposed as follows:-

Childcare Allowance: for child-minding of the Member's dependent children. Payable at the actual amount charged, subject to a maximum rate of **£7.20** per hour per child.

Dependant Carer's Allowance: for professional care for elderly or disabled dependants, or other dependants with special requirements. Payable at the actual amount charged, subject to a maximum rate of **£16.00** per hour. The Panel also recommends that booking fees from professional agencies should be claimable.

7.2 In practice, these allowances have rarely been claimed by Sevenoaks' councillors but the Panel continues to support the need for them.

8 Travel Expenses

8.1 The Council currently operates a scheme based upon the HMRC approved rate and the Panel recommends that this continues.

RECOMMENDATION: that the current travel expenses scheme based upon the HMRC approved rate, continues.

9 Meal Allowances

9.1 The Council currently adopts a scheme for subsistence allowances, which excludes tea allowance because of the nature and timings of the work of councillors and the Panel recommends that the existing scheme for meal and subsistence allowances, continue.

RECOMMENDATION: that the existing scheme for meal and subsistence allowances, which excludes tea allowance, should continue.

10 IT Allowance

10.1 The Council currently pays an IT allowance. The Panel considers that in this day and age, when access to IT Equipment in the home is now so widespread, an allowance is not necessary and recommends that this allowance be stopped at the next election.

RECOMMENDATION: that the IT allowance is not paid to Councillors after the next election. .

11 Number of Councillors

11.1 The Panel's report in 2012 highlighted that the number of councillors in Sevenoaks was high in comparison to other Councils in the 'Kent Family' of district councils and recommended that the Council considers this. The Council carried out a review which concluded in November 2016 and resolved that the matter should be reviewed after the next election. The Panel has noted in its report on the neighbouring councils that whilst services and officers have been reduced in recent years the number of councillors and their cost has not.

12 Conclusions

12.1 The Panel has attempted in this review to propose levels of allowances which would remove financial barriers that deter potential candidates from standing for election and to properly recognise the time commitments that individual members offer in support of their local community.

12.2 The Panel has also sought to propose a system that is easy to understand and update and which may be perceived as fair by all. The Panel has also tried to re-balance the allowances to reflect the fact that the degree of commitment involved for those with additional responsibilities is proportionately greater than may have been the case in the past.

13 Acknowledgements

13.1 The Panel's thanks go to the officers and members who gave us their time and opinions which have helped to shape the Panel's thinking.

Appendix 1

Regulations and Guidance for Independent Remuneration Panels

- *The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003*. Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 1021
- *The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003*. Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 1692
- *The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004*. Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 2596
- *New Council Constitutions: Consolidated Guidance on Regulation for Local Authority Allowances - 2003*
- *The Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Compensation (Local Authority Members in England) Regulations 2003*. Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 1022
- *New Council Constitutions. Guidance on Consolidated Regulations for Local Authority Allowances*. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Inland Revenue. July 2003
- *Members Remuneration – models, issues, incentives and barriers*. - Councillors Commission. Dept. of Communities and Local Government. December 2007
- *Representing the Future – Report of the Councillors Commission*. December 2007
- *Members' Allowances Survey 2008*. Report by the Local Government Association Research Department

**Joint Independent Review Panel
for
Sevenoaks District Council
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Sevenoaks District Council**

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Joint Independent Remuneration Panel (JIRP) for Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Sevenoaks District Council was originally established in 2001 and now operates under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The function of the panel is to make recommendations to Council in accordance with Statutory Instruments (primarily 2003 No.1021 and No.1692).

The JIRP was established jointly by the three Councils but it considers each Council individually and makes separate recommendations for each according to the particular structures and requirements of the organisation.

Members of the Panel are appointed by the Councils but are independent members of the community with relevant professional backgrounds in remuneration and benefits.

Membership – Joint Independent Remuneration Panel

The members of the panel are:

- Gary Allen, a resident of Lamberhurst
- Max Lewis, a resident of Tunbridge Wells
- Chris Oliver, a former resident of Tonbridge & Malling Borough

JIRP meetings will normally involve all Panel members. A quorum will be three members. One of the members will act as Chair of the Panel by agreement between the Panel members.

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 determine that none of the Panel members may be a member of the local authority in question, or of its committees, or an employee of the council, but that this does not preclude participation by parish councillors.

Panel Recommendations

The 2003 Regulations require that councils must have regard to their Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations, which must be publicised on the authority's website and in the authority's newspaper, if it has one. The Panel must be required to make recommendations whenever the council decides to revoke or amend its members' allowances scheme. However, Panel recommendations are not binding on authorities. After considering its panel's recommendations, a council can decide for up to four years on automatic indexation of members' allowances without the need for a review by the Panel.

Principles for Allowances Schemes

There is currently little central prescription of members' allowance. However, there are some important constraints:-

- Attendance allowances are prohibited
- The basic allowance must be paid equally to all members
- Where one or more groups on a council form an administration, a special responsibility allowance must be paid to a member of the opposition. This is usually paid either to the leader of the opposition, if this post exists, or to a chair of a scrutiny committee

The report of the Councillors' Commission in December 2007 highlighted a 'universal principle' that members should not suffer financial loss as a direct result of their council activities and service. They went on to suggest a more detailed set of principles to govern allowance schemes:-

- The basic allowance should encourage people from a wide range of backgrounds and with a wide range of skills to serve as local councillors
- Those who participate in and contribute to the democratic process should not suffer unreasonable financial disadvantage
- Councillors should be compensated for their work and the compensation should have regard to the full range of commitment and complexity of their roles
- The system should be transparent, simple to operate and understand
- The system should not encourage the proliferation of meetings or provoke councillors into spending more time on council business than is necessary
- The level of remuneration should relate to commonly accepted benchmark, (for example, the median male non-manual salary)

The Panel will operate within the scope of these principles. Should any departure from these be considered necessary, the reasons for the variation will be made clear in the relevant report.

The core objective of the Panel is to present informed comprehensive recommendations that are fair and equitable.

Appendix 3

Comparative data from Kent & Sussex Borough/District Councils

Authority	Basic	Leader	Cabinet Member	Chair Planning Cttee	Chair Overview/ Scrutiny	Chair Licensing	Last Review Date
Ashford	£4,378	£18,000	£7,200	£6,000	£5,400	£1,440	01.04.2014
Dartford	£5,000	£31,339	£8,357	£5,014	£2,090	£2,090	01.04.2016
Gravesham	£3,447	£20,260	£3,447	£3,447	£3,447	£3,447	Summer 2015
Maidstone	£4,666	£18,661	£7,464	£7,464		£3,732	2016
Sevenoaks	£5,253	£15,761	£6,567	£3,153	£525	£2,102	2014
Tonbridge & Malling	£5,283	£18,384	£8,400	£5,283	£5,283	£2,643	01.04.16
Tunbridge Wells	£5,500	£19,250	£11,000	£5,500	£1,375	£1,375	25.02.2015
Medway (U)	£8,836	£20,391	£11,123	£7,415	£9,269		01.04.2016
Bexley (U)	£9,418	£26,391	£13,197	£8,802	£4,260	£8,802	21.05.2015
Bromley (U)	£10,870	£30,600	£20,400	£8,670		£8,670	01.04.2016
Tandridge	£4,068	£2,885		£2,885	£2,885		01.04.2016
Mid Sussex	£4,501	£20,596	£8,238	£4,620	£3,862	£475	01.04.2013
Rother	£4,280	£12,500	£2,719	£2,719	£2,719	£1,989	01.04.2016
Wealden	£4,300	£4,460	£5,200	£3,925	£3,515	£1,275	01.04.2014

(U) – Unitary Authorities

[Source: Council websites July 2016; South East Employers Survey 2016]

N.B. The Joint Independent Review Panel works on behalf of Sevenoaks District Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council but considers each Council individually and makes separate recommendations for each according to the particular structures and requirements of the organisation. It should be noted that members' allowances are currently under review at all three councils but the figures quoted above are those in force at time of writing this report and do not reflect any changes to be proposed by the JIRP as part of this review process.

Appendix 4**Revised Schedule of Recommended Members' Allowances****Sevenoaks District Council**

	<u>2013 JIRP Recommendation</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>2017 JIRP Recommendation</u>
<u>Basic Allowance</u>	£6,039	£5,359	£5,359
<u>Special Responsibility Allowances:-</u>			
<u>Opposition Group Leaders:</u>			
	£302 per member	£1,331	£270 per member
<u>Cabinet</u>			
Leader	£18,118	£16,078	£20,000
Deputy Leader	n/a	n/a	£12,000
Cabinet Member	£7,549	£6,699	£7,000
Deputy Cabinet Member	£755	£671	£1,600
<u>Committee Chairs</u>			
Audit	£3,020	£2,144	£2,500
Development Control	£4,530	£3,217	£5,000
Governance	£3,020	£2,144	£2,500
Health Liaison Board		£2,144	£2,500
Licensing		£2,144	£2,500
Scrutiny	£3,020	£2,144	£2,500
Joint Transportation Board	£3,020	£2,144	£2,000
Standards		£1,074	£1,600
<u>Advisory Committee Chairs</u>			
Policy & Performance	£3,020	£2,144	£2,500
Economic & Community Dev.	£3,020	£2,144	£2,500
Finance	£3,020	£2,144	£2,500
Housing	£3,020	£2,144	£2,500
Planning	£3,020	£2,144	£2,500
Direct & Trading Servs	N/A	£2,144	£2,500
Legal & Democratic	N/A	£2,144	£2,500
<u>Committee Vice-Chairs</u>			
Audit	£0	£535	£0
Development Control	£0	£804	£1,000
Governance	£0	£535	£0
Health Liaison Board	£0	£535	£0
Licensing	£0	£535	£0
Scrutiny	£0	£535	£0
Joint Transportation Board	£0	£535	£0
Standards	£0	£269	£0

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Advisory Committee Vice-Chairs

Policy & Performance	£0	£535	£0
Economic & Community Dev.	£0	£535	£0
Finance	£0	£535	£0
Housing	£0	£535	£0
Planning	£0	£535	£0
Direct & Trading Servs	N/A	£535	£0
Legal & Democratic	N/A	£535	£0

Committee Members

Development Control	£302	£269	£500
Licensing	£302	£134	£135
Standards Co-optees	£479	£-	£480

N.B. All figures are per annum except where stated

Governance Committee Work Plan 2017/18 (as at 22/7/17)

7 November 2017	1 February 2018	Summer 2018	Winter 2018
Member allowances working group			

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