



15 April 2018

Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Millbank Tower  
London  
SW1P 4QP

Dear Sir or Madam

### **Draft Recommendations for Babergh District Council.**

I write in response to the Commission's proposed warding arrangements for Hadleigh.

The recommendation for one ward covering the entirety of the town would not provide the most accountable and efficient means of local governance. An electorate of almost 6,700 residents is comparatively unfair when assessed alongside the proposed warding arrangements for Sudbury Town, which has been divided into four manageable wards.

I have requested the most recent local electorate data from Babergh District Council and drafted some alternative warding arrangements within the Hadleigh Town boundary. Under these proposals, Hadleigh would still be served by three councillors, but in two wards. One councillor would serve Hadleigh North, whereas two would serve Hadleigh South.

Ward Name	Electorate	Electorate per Councillor	Variance on 2017 Average of 2,240
Hadleigh North (1 member)	2,284	2,284	-4.4%
Hadleigh South (2 members)	4,391	2,196	-2.0%

Please refer to the attached appendices, which make clear the specific makeup of the proposed wards.

### **Reasons for Adoption**

- **Electoral equality**  
The above proposals reflect the Commission's objective of keeping the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the district average as possible. Indeed, if implemented, both wards would have very high levels of electoral equality.
- **Local Identity**  
The proposed 1-member Hadleigh North ward is more rural in nature and also contains tightly knit, newer communities constructed in the town's northern fringe. By contrast, Hadleigh South is more commercial in nature with the inclusion of the High Street and the town's longer established residential areas.
- **Democratic Accountability**  
To make my recommendations as representative as possible, I have sought the opinions of local residents on the future electoral arrangements for the town. There is broad consensus that residents prefer to identify their local representatives easily. A 'list-style' approach in the Commission's draft proposal for three Councillors representing the entirety of the Town would not meet this local need.

I hope the Commission will accept my proposals above, which will more effectively serve residents of Hadleigh following the next Babergh District Council elections in May 2019.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions arising or if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Dr Sian Dawson