

Submission to LGBCE regarding DOVER district council Wards  
from **Dover and Deal Green Party** (Election Agent Sarah Gleave). Dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018

In general we disagree fundamentally with the reduction from 45 to 32 district councillors in the Dover District where the number of voters is growing over the next 5 years from 87 to 92 thousand. Belief in democratic accountability at district and regional (KCC) level is dangerously low in Kent and this change is grossly irresponsible. The distrust is only exacerbated when the 67 strong conservative majority at KCC suggested in Feb 2018 that it is not worth debating the KCC budget because the size of their majority means it will be voted through by all conservative cllrs and time can be saved if debate is dispensed with.

However, if a reduction in the number of councillors on Dover District Council has to be made, we would **support the thorough research done by the Dover Liberal Democrats (DLD), and endorse the Dover Liberal Democrat boundary proposals**. We believe the DLD suggestions demonstrate to the public an **interest in democratic accountability**, whereas the Conservative Party's suggestions are clearly and blatantly pursuing party interest and many voters with local knowledge will see them as such.

We note particularly,

- a) The strong case the DLD make for a reduction to 37 councillors (not the Conservative majority preference for 32).
- b) The respect shown in the DLD document for both rural and urban ward boundaries, in terms of the historical community, parish and transport links.  
E.G. b.i ) In the case of Kingsdown + Sutton to comprise Kingsdown/ Ringwould / Ripple / Sutton and a new boundary coterminous with the PCC church boundary  
b.ii Eythorne and Tilmanston  
b.iii Capel shouldn't be lumped in with Alkham  
b.iv Wingham  
b.v Woodnesborough  
b.vi Coldred and Shepherdswell
- c) The strong case made by DLD for ward boundaries not to be too large and the need to avoid the ratio of 3 councillors to a ward. We agree that it is better to have all wards as either 2 or 1 councillor wards and no wards with 3 councillors.
- d) The care taken to for there to be similar numbers of voters per ward, namely 2510 electors. And the local knowledge demonstrated in terms of the areas where new developments are appearing fast, e.g. Whitfield.
- e) Finally the DLD set of suggestions will look a lot more logical to the general public than the draft Conservative proposals voted on Wed 28 March and set out in the local press on Wed 4<sup>th</sup> April. (What a pity they weren't voted on on 23<sup>rd</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> March so that they could have gone to press on 28<sup>th</sup> March and the voting public could have more time to submit their comments on the Conservative's draft to the LGBCE.)

Submission from

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