

4th February 2016

The Review Officer (West Sussex)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14th Floor, Millbank Tower  
Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4QP

Dear Sir/Madam

**Consultation on draft recommendations for electoral review of West Sussex County Council**

Mid Sussex Conservative Association wishes to comment on the Commission's draft recommendations for the electoral review of West Sussex County Council, in so far as they relate to the Mid Sussex constituency.

Burgess Hill East, Burgess Hill Town, Hassocks & Victoria and Hurstpierpoint & Bolney divisions

The Association objects to the Commission's proposals for these divisions. While it is accepted there are issues of electoral equity with the status quo, the Commission's proposals are a retrograde step. They result in significant numbers of electors being transferred to new divisions and result in Burgess Hill being split between four County divisions, two of which will be predominately village focused.

Burgess Hill is the largest town in Mid Sussex and one of the largest housing growth areas in the South East. This requires significant co-ordination between local authorities and clear representation at County Council level. The Commission's proposals result in the town centre (a major regeneration area) being split between three divisions, which will not assist the delivery of WSCC's input into regeneration.

The Commission's objectives of 'Community interest/identity' and 'Effective and convenient local government' are not met by the proposed arrangements.

The Association supports the consultation response by Burgess Hill Town Council and requests that the Commission revisits alternative options for resolving the electoral equity problem between Hassocks & Victoria and Hurstpierpoint & Downs divisions by transferring parish electors rather than impacting on Burgess Hill. In the event that this is not possible, the alternative proposals by the Town Council for the Burgess Hill divisions are supported.

Haywards Heath East, Haywards Heath Town and Lindfield & High Weald divisions

The need to make minor amendments to the Haywards Heath divisions to provide electoral equity is acknowledged. The Association feels that the proposed addition of the Fox Hill community to Haywards Heath Town and the proposed addition of part of Lindfield Rural parish to Haywards Heath East are logical changes which minimise disruption to electors and best reflect community links. The Commission's proposals for these divisions are therefore supported.

Cuckfield & Lucastes, East Grinstead Meridian, East Grinstead South & Ashurst Wood and Imberdown divisions

The Commission's proposals for these divisions (largely no change) are supported.

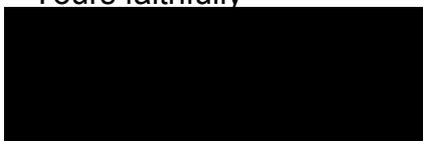
Consequential changes for Burgess Hill Town Council and Haywards Heath Town Council

The Association expresses concerns about the use of Town Council wards as the 'building blocks' of County divisions rather than polling districts. The result of the Commission's proposals is an unhelpful and uneven splitting of wards in Burgess Hill Town Council and Haywards Heath Town Council, creating significant variations in the elector/Councillor ratio in these Town Councils.

Given that District & Town elections are carried out at the same time, with the current wards being coterminous, the Commission's consequential changes will result in significant confusion for electors and difficulties for Mid Sussex District Council in administering the elections.

Should the consequential changes take effect, Mid Sussex District Council will need to consider conducting Community Governance Reviews to piece back together the Town Council wards prior to the next District & Town elections to resolve these problems. The Association would request that the Commission works with Mid Sussex District Council to use polling districts (amended if necessary) as the building blocks of the new County divisions in these towns rather than impacting Town Council wards.

Yours faithfully



Ginny Heard  
Agent  
Mid Sussex Conservative Association