



New electoral arrangements for Bromley Council

Further Draft Recommendations

June 2020

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Analysis and further draft recommendations in the Orpington area

1 Following our consultation on the draft recommendations for Bromley, the Commission has decided to hold a period of consultation on further draft recommendations in the area of Orpington, prior to publication of its final recommendations. The Commission believes it has received sufficient evidence relating to the rest of the borough to finalise its recommendations.

2 During consultation on the draft recommendations, which were published on 29 October 2019, we received 539 representations. Many submissions focused on specific areas across the borough, but we received a large number of objections to our draft recommendations from the Knoll community in regard to our proposed warding in the Orpington area. Many respondents provided a great deal of evidence describing their community to substantiate their opposition to our proposals.

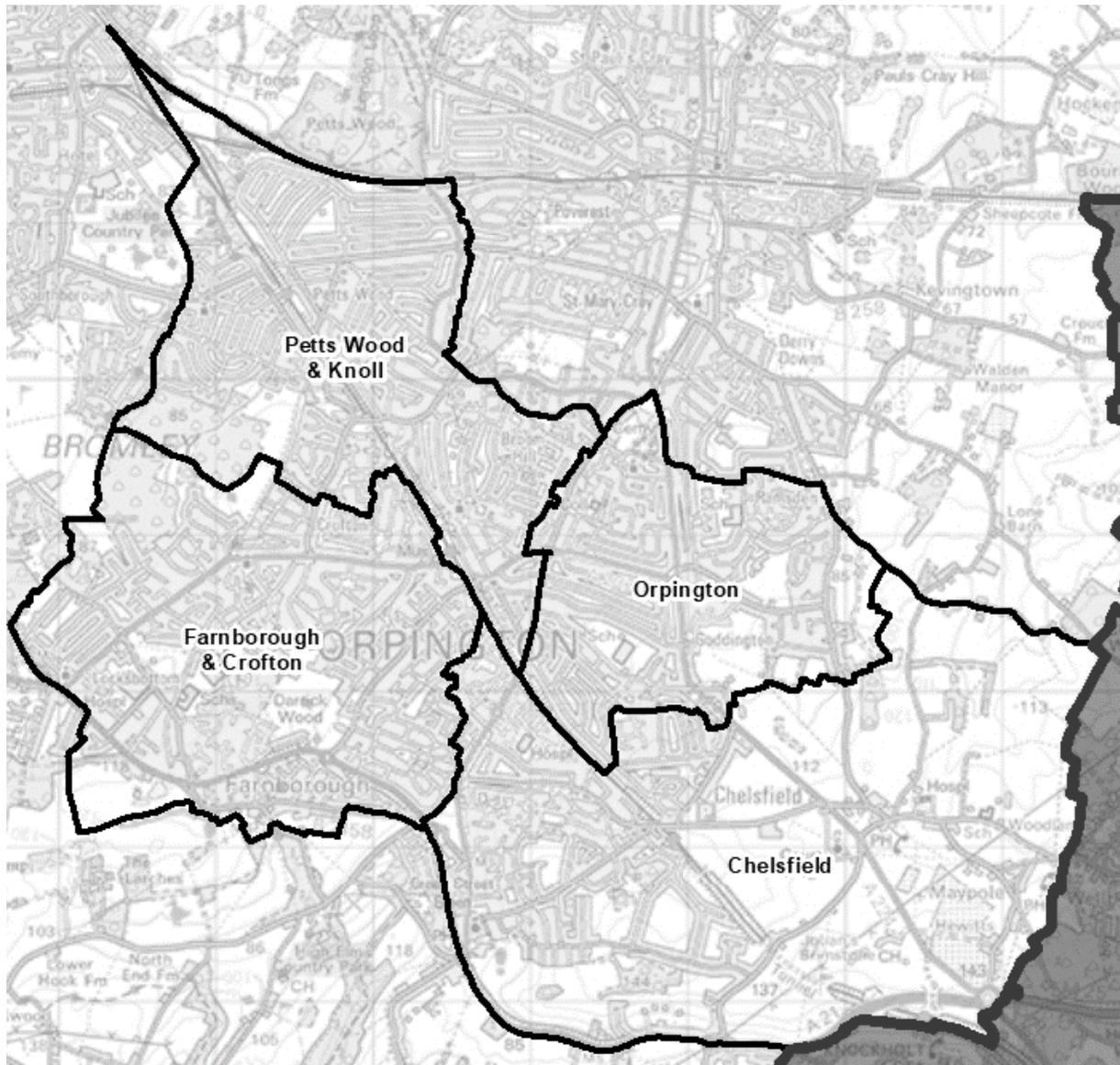
3 Accordingly, we have been persuaded to amend our proposals and publish further draft recommendations for wards in the Orpington area. We are now inviting further views, in this area only, in order to identify whether these revised warding arrangements best reflect our statutory criteria.

4 We welcome all comments on these proposals, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries and the names of our proposed wards. This stage of consultation begins on 16 June 2020 and closes on 27 July 2020. Please see page 7 for more information on how to send us your response.

5 The tables and maps on pages 2–5 detail our further draft recommendations for the Orpington area. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

Chelsfield, Farnborough, Crofton, Orpington and Petts Wood



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Chelsfield	2	5%
Farnborough & Crofton	3	7%
Orpington	2	10%
Petts Wood & Knoll	3	3%

Orpington and Petts Wood & Knoll

6 We received approximately 250 submissions that objected to our draft recommendations for Petts Wood and Orpington wards. We received strong evidence from electors who predominantly reside in the area covered by the Knoll Residents' Association that their community should remain warded with the Petts Wood community, rather than be placed in a three-councillor Orpington ward. Although we received a handful of submissions that supported our recommendations

here, we examined alternative proposals that would allow the Knoll community to be warded with the Petts Wood community.

7 We firstly examined the possibility of reverting to the existing ward boundary between Petts Wood & Knoll and Orpington wards. However, doing so resulted in a two-councillor Orpington ward with an electoral variance of 26%, which we consider far too high to recommend. It would not be possible to accept this proposal and ensure people have a vote of broadly equal weight when compared to neighbouring wards.

8 We therefore examined the proposal made by Councillor Fawthrop, Councillor Owen and a local resident who all recommended we return to the boundaries in place prior to the previous electoral review of Bromley. This involved including electors bounded by Sevenoaks Road, Station Road and the railway line, in addition to electors residing on Knoll Rise, Orchard Grove and Vinson Close, within a three-councillor Petts Wood & Knoll ward. It was argued that electors on these streets form part of the Knoll community and should accordingly be part of a Petts Wood & Knoll ward. While we recognise that this proposal reflects community identities, it still results in a relatively high electoral variance of 13% for a two-councillor Orpington ward.

9 To compensate for this electoral imbalance, we propose extending our proposed Chelsfield ward, thereby transferring electors on Abingdon Way, Harrow Gardens, Magdalen Grove and Roedean Close from our proposed Orpington ward. We consider that these streets, which form part of the Schools Estate, look towards Chelsfield rather than Orpington town in respect of community identities and interests. The result of this change creates an Orpington ward with an electoral variance of 10%, which, in our view, is a reasonable variance given the community evidence received.

10 Councillor Botting supported our proposed Orpington ward, arguing that a three-councillor ward was necessary for the area, based on councillor workload. However, given our decision to transfer the Knoll community from our proposed Orpington ward into Petts Wood & Knoll, our proposed Orpington ward must now be represented by two councillors in order to ensure good electoral equality.

11 We received one submission from a local resident that opposed our decision to include the area around Harris Primary Academy in St Mary Cray ward. Similarly, a local resident opposed the decision to include the area around Perry Hall Road in St Mary Cray ward. However, accommodating both of these objections would result in an unacceptably high electoral variance for a two-councillor Orpington ward. We have therefore decided not to adopt these proposals as part of our further draft recommendations.

12 We received two submissions from local residents that requested Grosvenor Road be included in Petts Wood and Knoll ward. We received good evidence that electors here are part of the Petts Wood community and adopting this change would better reflect community identities. Despite opposition from the Council's Electoral Registration Officer, who suggested that there was no obvious community justification for this change, we have decided to adopt this modification as part of our further draft recommendations.

13 We consider that our further draft recommendations for Petts Wood & Knoll and Orpington wards provide a good balance between community interests and identities and electoral equality. Nonetheless, we would particularly welcome comments regarding these two wards during the current consultation.

Chelsfield and Farnborough & Crofton

14 We received five submissions that related to our proposals for Chelsfield and Farnborough & Crofton wards. The Orpington Conservative Association supported our proposals for the borough but proposed two modifications to these wards. They firstly suggested that the electors situated around Southfleet Road should be transferred into Chelsfield ward given it would better reflect community identities and access routes in and out of the estate. However, we decided not to adopt this proposal, as it produced an electoral variance of 11% for Chelsfield ward. We consider this somewhat too high an electoral variance to accept. Furthermore, this area will have good connectivity to Farnborough & Crofton ward via Southfleet Road and Ridgeway Crescent.

15 The second modification requested by the Orpington Conservative Association was for the Place Farm estate to be placed in Farnborough & Crofton ward on the basis that this area forms part of the Crofton community. This proposal had support from the Crofton Place & Sparrow Drive Residents' Association and Councillor Joel. However, given our decision not to transfer electors situated around Southfleet Road into Chelsfield ward, the resulting electoral variance of this change would be 14%. By also including Sparrow Drive within Farnborough & Crofton ward, as requested by the Crofton Place & Sparrow Drive Residents' Association, this increases the variance further to 15%.

16 It was suggested by Councillor Joel and a local resident that good electoral equality could be achieved by reverting to the existing boundary between Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom ward and Farnborough & Crofton ward. This would result in Tubbenden Lane, the Place Farm estate and Sparrow Drive being located in Farnborough & Crofton ward. However, reverting to this boundary and placing the Davis estate into Chelsfield ward results in a two-councillor Chelsfield ward with an electoral variance of 37%. We have a legal obligation to ensure that electors in Bromley have a vote of broadly equal weight and we consider that none of these

variances will provide for sufficient electoral equality. We therefore decided not to adopt these proposals as part of our further draft recommendations.

17 Councillor Joel also proposed that electors residing on Crofton Lane, Kennedy Close, Broadcroft Road, Branston Crescent, Honeybourne Way, Heath Side, Derwent Drive and Greenfield Gardens be included in Farnborough & Crofton ward. We did not adopt this proposal as this would similarly result in poor electoral equality for Farnborough & Crofton ward.

18 A local resident opposed our decision to transfer Pratts Bottom into Darwin ward, suggesting that it does not share the same rural outlook as the other villages in our proposed Darwin ward. The resident argued that it shared closer links with the communities in our proposed Chelsfield ward. However, placing Pratts Bottom into our proposed Chelsfield ward results in an electoral variance of -16% for Darwin ward. We were not persuaded that the evidence provided was strong enough to justify an electoral variance of this size, so we have not adopted this proposal.

19 The local resident also suggested we rename the ward 'Chelsfield & Green Street Green'. However, we did not consider the community evidence strong enough to support this name change, so we have therefore not adopted this proposal.

20 Bromley Liberal Democrats supported our draft recommendations for Chelsfield and Farnborough & Crofton wards, but suggested electors on Beechwood Avenue, Cocksett Avenue, Ramus Wood Avenue, Cleave Avenue and Kent Close be transferred into a Chelsfield ward given their proximity to amenities in Green Street Green. They argued that electors on these streets would identify more with a densely populated Chelsfield ward than with the more rural Darwin ward. While this amendment would provide for good electoral equality, we do not consider the community evidence persuasive enough to adopt this change. We would welcome further evidence on this during the current consultation.

21 As noted earlier in paragraph 9, we are recommending significant changes to Orpington ward that result in a relatively small change to our proposed Chelsfield ward. We propose that Abingdon Way, Harrow Gardens, Magdalen Grove and Roedean Close form part of Chelsfield ward, to better reflect our statutory criteria.

22 On balance, we consider that our further draft recommendations for the wards of Chelsfield and Farnborough & Crofton effectively reflect our statutory criteria. However, we again welcome comments regarding our decisions for these two wards during the current consultation.

Have your say

23 The Commission has an open mind about its further draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from.

24 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for the Orpington area, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

25 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

26 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Bromley)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

27 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Bromley which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of voters.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

28 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

29 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in Bromley?

30 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

31 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

32 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices in Westminster (London) and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

33 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation, we will remove any personal identifiers, such as postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

34 In the light of representations received, we will review our further draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the further draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

35 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which

brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Bromley in 2022.

Equalities

36 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Further draft recommendations for the Orpington area of Bromley Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2025)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Chelsfield	2	8,667	4,334	4%	8,993	4,497	5%
2	Farnborough & Crofton	3	13,533	4,511	8%	13,791	4,597	7%
3	Orpington	2	9,218	4,609	10%	9,485	4,743	10%
4	Petts Wood & Knoll	3	13,008	4,336	4%	13,258	4,419	3%

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Bromley Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/greater-london/bromley

Political Groups

- Bromley Labour
- Bromley Liberal Democrats
- Lewisham West & Penge Conservative Association
- Orpington Conservative Association
- Petts Wood & Knoll Conservatives
- Shortlands Ward Conservatives

Councillors

- Councillor G. Allatt (Bromley Council)
- Councillor V. Allen (Bromley Council)
- Councillor Y. Bear (Bromley Council)
- Councillor K. Botting (Bromley Council)
- Councillor M. Cooke (Bromley Council)
- Councillor I. Dunn (Bromley Council)
- Councillor S. Fawthrop (Bromley Council)
- Councillor C. Harris (Bromley Council)
- Councillor C. Joel (Bromley Council)
- Councillor J. King (Bromley Council)
- Councillor K. Onslow (Bromley Council)
- Councillor T. Owen (Bromley Council)
- Councillor W. Rowlands (Bromley Council)
- Councillor K. Terry (Bromley Council)
- Councillor M. Tickner (Bromley Council)

Local Organisations

- Beadon Road Residents' Association
- Broomwood Junction Neighbourhood Watch, Normanhurst, Kelsey, Pleasance Roads and St Mary's Close Neighbourhood Watch
- Copers Cope Area Residents' Association
- Crofton Place & Sparrow Drive Residents' Association
- Ingleby Way Residents' Association
- Keston Village Residents' Association

- Knoll Residents' Association
- Park Langley Residents' Association
- Penge Forum
- Star Lane Residents' Association x2
- Sundridge Residents' Association x2
- West Beckenham Residents' Association

Local Residents

- 503 local residents

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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