**Submission from Maidenhead Liberal Democrats**  
**4th December 2017**  

Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14th Floor  
Millbank Tower  
Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4QP

Executive Summary

a. We support the proposals for Maidenhead approved by the Council’s working party  
b. We support the reduction of the number of councillors to 43 in mainly 2 and 1 member wards  
c. We request that the Commission gives thought to introducing elections by thirds or by halves.  
d. We ask that the Commission breaks the 10% divergence rule in the case of Old Windsor and the Etons so that natural communities can continue to be represented

**Maidenhead proposals**

We support the proposals for Maidenhead that were approved by the Borough Council’s working party. These are included in the appendix A.

We support the maintenance of strong community cohesion by using the Bath Road to divide North and South Maidenhead which have historically been quite separate.

We strongly support the maintenance of the community of Pinkneys Green, historically one of the major hamlets that was joined together to create Maidenhead in the 18th and 19th Centuries. This community stretches from the Pinkneys Green Brick Kilns in Malders Lane, down to what was once Highway Farm, Pinkneys Green in what is now Highway Avenue. To the east it takes in Pinkneys Green Estate, also called the Bomber estate and the attached Oaken Grove Park, and in the west includes The Thicket.

The railway line is also used as a boundary in these proposals giving a strong boundary to Boyn Hill.

We also support the division of rural Maidenhead – Cookham, Hurley and the Walthams, Cox Green.
**Number of Councillors**

With so many services now being contracted out, the huge amount of work that councilors used to perform on council committees is greatly reduced. Although Scrutiny remains vital, less Executive Members, both Cabinet members and non-cabinet executive members are now required so reducing the need for so many councilors.

43 councillors would be the appropriate number to allow us to compare well against similar sized councils.

While we support the reduction in councilors to 43, we have concerns around the size of the wards if they continue to by 3 member wards. We would therefore ask that the number of councilors per ward are kept to 2 in most cases with some exception of one councilor in a ward to honour community cohesion and boundaries.

**Elections by halves or thirds**

Windsor and Maidenhead is a unitary council combining the roles of a county council and a borough council. This means that currently rather than having elections every two years, they are actually only every four years. By having elections every two years or in thirds would improve the democratic accountability of the council and allow close scrutiny of council decisions by the voting public.

**Community Cohesion**

We have concerns about the proposals for Old Windsor and the Etons and the failure to follow any community or natural boundaries for these communities. We would ask the Commission to break the 10% divergence rule in those cases to allow communities to be properly represented.

Maidenhead Liberal Democrats
Appendix A

Figures provided to the Royal Borough’s Working Group based on the council’s prediction for the number of residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Balanced Pattern - Option D</th>
<th>Units 2023</th>
<th>Electors 2023</th>
<th>Clrs</th>
<th>Electors per clrs</th>
<th>Target per clr</th>
<th>Variance to target (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belmont</td>
<td>3,197</td>
<td>5,741</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,871</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisham &amp; Cookham</td>
<td>3,197</td>
<td>5,741</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,871</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boynt Hill</td>
<td>3,384</td>
<td>6,077</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3,039</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bray</td>
<td>3,252</td>
<td>5,840</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,920</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox Green</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>5,343</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,671</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desborough</td>
<td>3,229</td>
<td>5,799</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,899</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furze Platt</td>
<td>3,240</td>
<td>5,819</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,909</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurley &amp; Walthams</td>
<td>2,792</td>
<td>5,014</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,507</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinkneys Green</td>
<td>2,952</td>
<td>5,301</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,651</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside</td>
<td>3,324</td>
<td>5,969</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,985</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
<td>2,839</td>
<td>5,098</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,549</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What they should total: 66,173 118,838 43