

2018 Local Government Boundary Review

The Borough of Basingstoke and Deane

Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

1. A core principle for the LGBCE is to provide continuity wherever possible.
2. Another core principle is to respect distinct communities that are coherently and logically grouped with those with whom they have much in common and not with those with whom they have not wherever possible.

County Division Boundaries

3. The County Divisions have only just been redrawn—ideally, for simplicity they should not be breached. Many County Divisions within Basingstoke share boundaries with the Basingstoke Borough Constituency; consequently those around Basingstoke share boundaries with the North East Hampshire County Constituency.
 4. **As an example, would the LGBCE consider it prudent to make the borders of Chineham Ward and Popley East Ward coterminous with the borders of Basingstoke North Division and Loddon Division, i.e. amending the boundaries around the Chineham Business Park, particularly since it is unparished and is primarily commercial?**
 5. While almost all of Popley West Ward is within Basingstoke North Division, it extends into Basingstoke North West Division (Figures 1 and 2). This is unnecessarily complicated, especially given that no houses appear to move.
 6. There are minor discrepancies in the north-easterly corner of Chineham Ward with a roundabout and single building seemingly drawn differently to the Loddon Division boundary also (Figure 3).
 7. **Would the LGBCE consider it prudent to directly match groups of intact Borough Council Wards to County Council Divisions, or to increase the number of Councillors per Ward beyond three (some councils already have more than three Councillors per Ward, so it is provided for in law) so that this was possible?**
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Parishes

8. The LGBCE has acknowledged that it must consider requests by principal councils to bring Ward and Division boundaries into alignment with new or changed Parish boundaries as a result of the creation or alteration of Parish boundaries by Community Governance Reviews (CGRs) and stated "the importance of Parishes should not be underestimated given that, where they exist, we will seek to use them as the building blocks for Wards or Divisions".
 9. The LGBCE's own guidance is that "particularly in rural areas, Parishes often represent separate local identities".
 10. **Would the LGBCE make sure that any adjustments made do not cause unnecessary confusion amongst residents by grouping Parishes with conflicting local identities e.g. more built up areas with countryside, smaller villages with parts of large towns (even if those parts are Parished) etc.?**
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Community connections

11. All communities have distinct identities, with different characteristics.
12. Sherfield Park Parish has recently been created following a CGR from Sherfield-on-Loddon Parish, the latter of which is in the North East Hampshire Parliamentary constituency. This was appropriate as Sherfield Park Parish has a distinct identity and has historically had more connection to the community of Chineham Ward, rather than Bramley & Sherfield Ward, which most of Sherfield-on-Loddon Parish was in (before the CGR). This mirrors the Calleva Division and Loddon Division boundaries also.
13. It also reflected that Sherfield Park Parish (previously the Sherfield Park Parish Ward of Sherfield-on-Loddon Parish) had always been represented in Parliament as part of the Basingstoke Borough Constituency, while Sherfield-on-Loddon Parish (previously the other parts of Sherfield-on-Loddon Parish) has always been represented in Parliament as part of the North East Hampshire County Constituency.
14. **So, as an example, would the LGBCE agree to retain the status quo and not move Sherfield Park Parish out of Chineham Ward and into any other Ward, recognising that this could split communities and adversely affect residents' connection to their representatives (plus the existing clear understanding of**

that representation by residents that they are in the Chineham Ward, in the Loddon Division and in the Basingstoke Borough Constituency)?

15. As another example, would the LGBCE agree to retain the status quo and not force out Rooksdown Parish into a Ward that includes communities to which it does not have any obvious connection e.g. Sherborne St John, Monk Sherborne and Ramsdell, which could lead to residents of either or both parts believing that they aren't receiving fair representation?

16. Given the coherence of communities south of the M3, which are separated by a significant barrier (the M3) from the rest of the Basingstoke and Deane Wards—and how vast and sparsely populated the area is—there is an exceptional case for a single member Ward south of the M3, which is the status quo. This would be more appropriate than alternative approaches, for example mixing with the distinct surrounding communities such as Old Basing, which would result in crossing county Division boundaries.

17. Would the LGBCE consider it prudent to—exceptionally—retain a single member Ward covering south of the M3?

18. Will the LGBCE seek to make sure that Parliamentary boundaries are not crossed by new Ward boundaries, in order to improve understanding of representation and recognise existing community connections? This applies to (16), (17) and (18) above, to provide three examples.

Church Deaneries

19. Local Government has its roots in the Church, i.e. Ecclesiastical Parishes. Churches are often physically and socially at the centre of communities, with communities defining themselves based on their Church Deanery and Benefice also. Ideally, these should be kept together and not be broken and divided by Ward boundaries. Ecclesiastical Parishes and Benefices therefore provide a good basis for the LGBCE, just as it recognises the importance of Civil Parishes as the building blocks for Wards.

20. The Odiham Deanery comprises 26 churches in 18 Parishes in 6 benefices: (a) Darby Green and Eversley; (b) Hartley Wintney w Elvetham, Winchfield and Dogmersfield; (c) Sherfield on Loddon and Stratfield Saye w Hartley Wespall w Stratfield Turgis and Bramley; (d) Whitewater; and (e) Yateley).

21. Would the LGBCE consider it prudent to make sure that the churches in the Benefice in 20(c), which is within the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane, are kept united in one Ward?

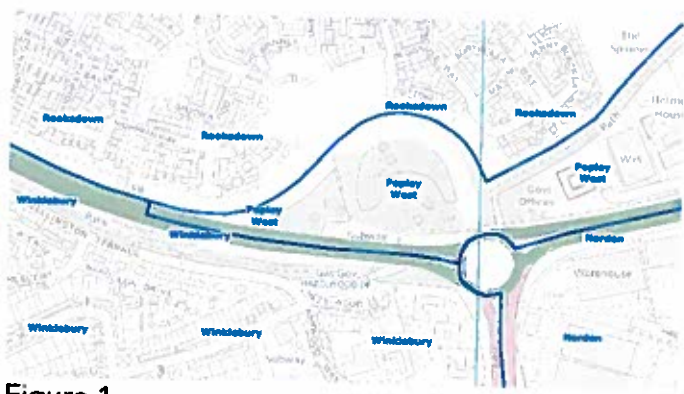


Figure 1

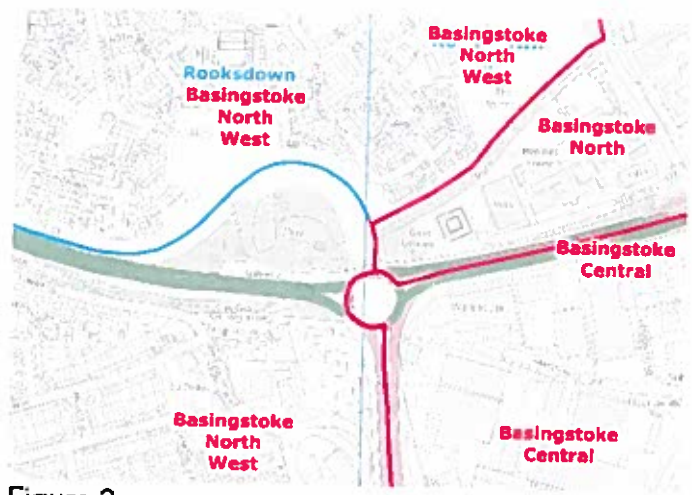


Figure 2



Figure 3