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Summary

Who we are

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed
- How many wards or electoral divisions should there be, where are their boundaries and what should they be called
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division

Why Bexley?

We are conducting an electoral review of Bexley Council at the request of the Council. The Council sought a review with the aim to reduce its council size.

Our proposals for Bexley

Bexley Council currently has 63 councillors. Based on the evidence we received during previous phases of the review, we consider that the Council should have 45 members in the future. We consider that a council of this size can perform its roles and responsibilities effectively.

Electoral arrangements

Our draft recommendations propose that Bexley Council's 45 councillors should represent 11 three-member, five two-member and two single-member wards across the borough. None of our proposed wards would have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for Bexley by 2021.

You have until 4 April 2016 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 16 for how to have your say.

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being conducted following our decision to review the electoral arrangements for Bexley Council ('the Council') to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

What is an electoral review?

2 Our three main considerations in conducting an electoral review are set out in legislation¹ and are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

3 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

4 We wrote to the Council inviting a submission of proposals on council size. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during our consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

This review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
18 August 2015	Council size decision
8 September 2015	Invitation to submit proposals for warding arrangements to LGBCE
17 November 2015	LGBCE's analysis and formulation of draft recommendations
9 February 2016	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation
5 April 2016	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations
19 July 2016	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

5 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in and which other communities are in that ward. Your ward name may also change.

¹ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Members of the Commission are:

Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)

Alison Lowton

Peter Maddison QPM

Sir Tony Redmond

Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

7 Legislation² states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors³ in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over a five-year period from the date of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward at the end of the review.

8 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum.

9 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors as shown on the table below.

	2015	2021
Electorate of Bexley London Borough	179,439	189,189
Number of councillors	45	45
Average number of electors per councillor	3,988	4,204

10 Under our draft recommendations, none of our proposed wards will have an electoral variance of greater than 10% from the average for the borough by 2021. We are satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness for Bexley.

11 These recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Bexley Borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. There is no evidence that the recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

12 See Appendix B for details of submissions received. All submissions may be inspected at our offices and can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

13 As prescribed in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2021, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in July 2016. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 5.4% to 2021. The growth will largely be driven by increases in electorate resulting from developments in the north of the borough.

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

14 During our consultation on warding patterns, we were informed that the Labour Group on the Council had queried the accuracy of the Council's forecasts. The Group's comments regarded the distribution and scale of future development and the way that numbers of existing electors had been taken into account in areas likely to be subject to new development. Forecasting the electorate is an inexact science, but we consider that the Council has reasonably taken future development into account. Having considered the information provided by the Council, we are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time and these figures form the basis of our draft recommendations.

Council size

15 Prior to consultation, the Council submitted a proposal that the current council size of 63 members be reduced to 45. We are satisfied that the Council had sufficiently demonstrated that the authority could operate efficiently and effectively under a council size of 45 and ensure effective representation of local residents.

16 During consultation on warding patterns, we received comments on council size from some members of the public. One proposed a reduction in council size to 21, whilst another expressed more general support for a reduction. Councillor Beazley proposed that current ward boundaries be retained but that each ward be represented by two councillors. This would result in a council size of 42. One member of the public opposed a reduction. Two respondents said that an acceptable approach would be to retain the existing number of councillors but substantially reduce the allowances which are paid to them. However, we consider that the evidence contained in these responses to be insufficient to persuade us to alter our initial view. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on a council size of 45 elected members.

Warding patterns

17 During consultation on warding patterns, we received 30 submissions including the five which commented solely on council size and one which objected to the review process. We received borough-wide proposals from the Borough Council and from the Labour Group. Five submissions were expressions of support for the Council's proposals whilst three opposed any alteration to existing ward boundaries. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements, particularly in Blackfen and North Cray.

18 The Council's warding proposal was for a pattern of nine three-member, eight two-member and two single-member wards. Under this warding pattern, variances from the average number of electors per councillor would range from +9% to -9% by 2021.

19 The Labour Group's proposal was for a pattern of six three-member, 10 two-member and seven single-member wards. Under this warding pattern, variances from the average number of electors per councillor would range from +6% to -9% by 2021.

20 In neither the Council's nor the Labour Group's proposals would any of the borough's 21 current wards be unchanged. However, as indicated above, Councillor

Beazley suggested that current ward boundaries be retained but that representation be reduced to two members per ward.

21 In the northern part of the borough, a proposed Thamesmead East ward was common to both the Council's and the Labour Group's proposals. The Council and the Labour Group also proposed that the area immediately to the south of Lesnes Abbey Woods be included in a different ward than the area immediately to the north of the woods. The Council proposed a Lower Belvedere ward and a Belvedere Village ward whilst the Labour Group, broadly, would combine these areas into a single ward. Whilst the Labour Group proposed modifications to the current Erith and North End wards, the Council proposed a markedly different approach, combining Erith town centre and riverside area with Slade Green in a single ward.

22 The Council proposed that the Bexleyheath railway line provided a clear ward boundary throughout the central part of the borough. The Labour Group made a different proposal, arguing that the railway line, the stations along it and the shopping and service centres that have grown up around its stations reflect communities which cross the railway line. The Labour Group proposal reflected a view that the central part of the borough is composed of smaller, more identifiable communities than the Council's proposal would suggest. Whilst the Council proposed six wards, with a combined total of 15 councillors, the Labour Group proposal was for nine wards in this part of the borough.

23 Neither proposal included a ward that would cross the A2, which runs from west to east across Bexley. A number of local residents also commented that no wards should cross this major traffic route. Whilst both the Council and the Labour Group proposed a Longlands ward with similar boundaries, they suggested different approaches to warding the remainder of the southern part of the borough. The Council proposed three three-member wards and one two-member ward. The proposal included a St Mary's & St James ward which was substantially the same as a ward proposed by the North Cray Residents' Association and which they would name St James & St Mary's. The Labour Group proposed a pattern of two three-member, one two-member and three single-member wards for this area.

24 We have based our draft recommendations on the proposals made to us by the Council, the Labour Group, the North Cray Residents' Association and having regard to the localised comments made by residents of the borough. We have sought to propose ward boundaries which are clear and identifiable having regard to the features of the area, many of which we observed during visits to the borough.

25 Our draft recommendations in the north, south-east and west of the borough are similar to the proposals made to us by the Council. In the central part of the borough, our draft recommendations reflect some of the characteristics of the Labour Group's proposals.

26 A summary of our proposed electoral arrangements is set out in Table 1 (on page 15) and on the large map accompanying this report. We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations. We also welcome comments on the ward names we have proposed as part of the draft recommendations.

Draft recommendations

27 The tables on pages 9 –14 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Bexley. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Erith and the north of the borough

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Belvedere Village	1	1%	The proposed ward is bounded to the south by Streamway and in the north by the top of a steep escarpment. To the west lie Lesnes Abbey Woods and the Belvedere Sports Ground and Orchard Avenue. The eastern boundary is marked by Brook Street and andElmbourne Drive.	We received a proposal for a single-member ward in this area and an alternative proposal which would include it with the area lying at the foot of the escarpment upon which this area stands in a three-member ward. We note, however, that the steep escarpment separates Woolwich Road/Erith Road from the Gilbert Road area. We also consider that the presence of the local shopping and community facilities on Albert Road and Nuxley Road gives a particular community focus to this area. Our proposed ward would provide a good level of electoral equality.
Bostall	3	2%	The borough boundary is the western extent of the proposed ward. Lesnes Abbey Woods lie to the north. Belvedere Sports Ground, Dryhill Road and Bedonwell Road form the eastern boundary. The southern boundary includes Stevens Park, properties to the north of Normanhurst Avenue, Orchard Close and Dunwich Road.	One of the borough-wide warding patterns that we received proposed a similar Bostall ward whilst the alternative proposal was that this area be divided up between a number of wards. We are not persuaded that the area is as fragmented as has been suggested and therefore we have based our draft recommendation on a ward that does not divide the Bostall area. However, we have modified the proposal we received slightly in order to reflect what we consider would provide for clearer boundaries. Our proposed ward would provide a good level of electoral equality.
Erith & Slade Green	2	2%	The proposed ward is bounded by the rivers Thames and Darent and by the North Kent rail line.	We received two different warding patterns covering this part of the borough. We consider that our proposed Erith & Slade Green ward reflects the pattern of community interactions between Slade Green and Erith town centre. We also consider our ward has clear boundaries, particularly the North Kent

				railway line. Our proposed ward would provide a good level of electoral equality.
Lower Belvedere	2	0%	The proposed ward has the borough boundary to the west. The North Kent rail line from the borough boundary to the vicinity of Belvedere Station and Erith Marshes mark the northern extent of the ward. Bronze Age Way forms the eastern boundary whilst Parkside Road, Halt Robin Road and the line of the steep escarpment form the southern boundary.	Our draft recommendation largely reflects our view that the area of the Belvedere Village ward described above is distinct from the remainder of the Belvedere ward. We therefore propose a Lower Belvedere ward covering this community. We are not persuaded, however, that the Battle Road area forms a community distinct from that of the Lower Road area and therefore propose to include it in this ward. This modification improves electoral equality in this ward and across the area. We consider our Lower Belvedere ward provides a good balance between the statutory criteria.
Northumberland Heath	3	5%	The proposed ward includes properties lying to the east of Bedonwell Road and Brook Street and to the west of the North Kent rail line. Parkside Road and Halt Robin Road form the ward's northern boundary. Erith Leisure Centre, Erith School and grounds and the bakery on Belmont Road all lie within the ward's southern boundary.	We received different proposals for wards covering this part of the area. We have decided to include a three-member Northumberland Heath ward in our draft recommendations. This area combines the different areas of Picardy and Northumberland Heath. We did receive proposals to divide this area into smaller wards but we are not persuaded that the alternative patterns would better reflect community identities. We note that a substantial amount of development is forecast to take place in our proposed ward and we have considered the expected impact of this upon elector numbers and electoral equality. We have also considered how this development will relate spatially to the area around it.
Thamesmead East	3	-9%	Boundaries of the ward are strongly delineated by the borough boundary to the west, the North Kent rail line to the south, the River Thames to the	Both borough-wide submissions proposed very similar Thamesmead East wards. The electoral variance is relatively high; there would be 9% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2021. We did investigate alternative warding arrangements to reduce this level of electoral

			north and Yarnton Way to the East.	equality but consider that any alternative would divide communities and create a ward with unclear boundaries. We consider that our Thamesmead East ward provides the best balance between the statutory criteria.
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Bexleyheath and central borough

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Barnehurst & North End	3	2%	The northern boundary of the proposed ward adjoins the grounds of Erith School and the Erith Leisure Centre. The North Kent rail line forms the eastern boundary. The southern boundary adjoins the Barnehurst golf course and properties on Mayplace Road East. The western boundary adjoins Burstled Wood.	We received two different warding patterns covering this part of the area. One suggested the railway line should be used as a boundary, the other suggested crossing the railway line. We observed during a visit of the area the nature of housing on both sides of the railway and the vehicular and foot crossings which pass underneath it. We also consider that the Barnehurst station and the shops which are close to it form a focus for those living on both sides of the railway. We therefore propose a ward which crosses the railway line. Our proposed ward would provide a good level of electoral equality.
Brampton	2	-6%	The proposed ward lies between Normanhurst Avenue/ Orchard Close and Crook Log/Broadway and between Gipsy Road and Belvedere Road but includes properties between Wrotham Road and Elsa Road.	Our draft recommendation is for a two-member ward that includes the community that surrounds Bexleyheath station. We are recommending the inclusion of the area around Farnham Road in our Brampton ward in order to provide for good levels of electoral equality.

Christchurch	3	4%	The proposed ward includes properties lying between Rydal Drive and the A2 in the north and south respectively. The western boundary follows a line extending roughly north from Bexleyheath Golf Club. The eastern boundary includes Bursted Wood, Martens Grove Park and Gravel Hill.	Our draft recommendation is for a ward which includes the borough's principal shopping, service and administrative centre and the communities which lie immediately to the north and south of it. We consider it provides for a good balance between the statutory criteria.
Crayford	3	-2%	The boundaries of the proposed ward are defined by the A2, the borough boundary and the North Kent rail line to the south and east. Gravel Hill and Martens Grove Park mark the western boundary whilst the Barnehurst golf course and the Bexleyheath Railway, east of its crossing of Northend Road form the northern boundary.	We received two different proposals for wards covering this area. One suggested that Crayford should be covered by a three-member ward; the other suggested dividing the area into a single-member Crayford and two-member Hall Place & Upton ward. We were not persuaded that the boundary between these two suggested wards would reflect distinct communities and therefore propose a three-member Crayford ward as part of our draft recommendations.
Crook Log	1	5%	The proposed ward lies between Crook Log/Broadway to the north and the A2 to the south. It adjoins Danson Park to the west. Iris Avenue and properties on Lion Road mark the eastern extent of the ward.	Our proposed Crook Log ward includes a substantial residential area centred upon Upton Road. We consider this ward reflects community identities and provides for a reasonable levels of electoral equality.
East Wickham	3	0%	The proposed ward is marked to the north and west by the borough boundary and to the south by the Bexleyheath Railway. The eastern boundary includes in the ward properties	We received two different proposals for wards in this part of the borough. Our East Wickham ward includes a residential area at the western edge of the borough and offers an excellent level of electoral equality. We also consider our ward has clear and identifiable boundaries.

			on Saltash Road and Teignmouth Road and those lying between Elsa Road and Northdown Road to the west of Gipsy Road.	
Falconwood & Welling	3	1%	The boundaries of the ward are the Bexleyheath railway line to the north and north-west, Danson Park to the east and the A2 trunk road to the south.	Our proposed Falconwood & Welling ward is centred on Welling town centre. This is a linear shopping and service centre extending along the A207, Bellegrave Road. We considered from our visit to the area that the shopping and service centre, rather than the Welling rail station, forms the focus for the community in this part of borough. The ward provides for an excellent level of electoral equality and has clear boundaries.

Sidcup and the south of the borough

Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2021	Description	Detail
Blackfen & Lamorbey	3	2%	The proposed ward is at the western boundary of the borough. It lies between the A2 and the Sidcup loop railway line. The boundary to the east adjoins and Sidcup Golf Club.	Both the borough-wide submissions suggested a ward for the Blackfen area providing a good level of electoral equality. The proposals differed in their composition, however. Our draft recommendation is for a Blackfen & Lamorbey three-member ward. We consider this ward has clear boundaries, reflects communities and provides for a good level of electoral equality.
Blendon & Penhill	3	0%	The proposed ward lies between the A2 and the Sidcup loop railway line. The western side of the ward includes Lamorbey Park and Sidcup Golf Club whilst the eastern	Our proposed Blendon & Penhill ward provides for an excellent level of electoral equality and reflects the road pattern of this part of the borough. It forms part of a good pattern of wards for the southern part of the borough and we propose that it form part of our draft recommendations.

			boundary adjoins Bexley Woods.	
Longlands	2	-2%	The proposed ward is at the south-western edge of the borough lying to the south of the Sidcup loop railway line. The ward extends eastward to Station Road, Elm Road and Chislehurst Road.	Both the borough-wide proposals included a Longlands ward, albeit with minor variations of the eastern boundary. We consider that our proposed Longlands ward has clear boundaries and reflects community identities. Additionally, the ward provides for a good level of electoral equality.
Sidcup	3	-3%	The proposed ward lies between the Sidcup loop railway and the borough's southern boundary. The western boundary comprises Station Road, Elm Road and Chislehurst Road. The River Cray forms the eastern boundary.	We received different proposals for this part of the borough. One submission proposed a three-member ward covering this area and one proposed a three-member Sidcup ward which would include Lamorbey Park, a single-member Albany Park ward to the east of Bexley Lane and a single-member Foots Cray ward. We were not persuaded that this latter pattern of wards would reflect community identities. We therefore propose to include in our draft recommendations a three-member Sidcup ward. We consider this ward provides a good balance between our statutory criteria.
St Mary's & St James	2	2%	The proposed ward is at the south-eastern edge of the borough lying to the east of the River Cray. It includes Old Bexley.	We received different proposals for wards covering this part of the borough. Our draft recommendation is for a two-member St Mary's and St James ward. This ward reflects the community identity evidence received from the North Cray Residents' Association and Cold Blow Crescent Residents' Association. We consider this ward provides for a good balance between our statutory criteria.

Conclusions

28 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2015 and 2021 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2015	2021
Number of councillors	45	45
Number of electoral wards	18	18
Average number of electors per councillor	3,988	4,204
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Draft recommendation
 Bexley London Borough Council should comprise 45 councillors serving 11 three-member, five two-member and two single-member wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping
Sheet 1, Map 1 illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Bexley London Borough Council.
 You can also view our draft recommendations for Bexley on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

3 Have your say

29 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole borough or just a part of it.

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

31 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

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

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

The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Bexley 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

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

Electoral equality:

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

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?

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 ward? Is there any form of public transport?

33 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 at Millbank Tower (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.

34 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.

35 In the light of representations received, we will review our 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 draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

36 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 next elections for Bexley Council in 2018.

Equalities

37 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required

Appendix A

Table A1: Draft recommendations for Bexley London Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Barnehurst & North End	3	11,928	3,976	0%	12,891	4,297	2%
2	Belvedere Village	1	4,102	4,102	3%	4,239	4,239	1%
3	Blackfen & Lamorbey	3	12,484	4,161	4%	12,851	4,284	2%
4	Blendon & Penhill	3	12,222	4,074	2%	12,576	4,192	0%
5	Bostall	3	12,451	4,150	4%	12,828	4,276	2%
6	Brampton	2	7,625	3,813	-4%	7,871	3,936	-6%
7	Christchurch	3	12,375	4,125	3%	13,119	4,373	4%
8	Crayford	3	11,603	3,868	-3%	12,347	4,116	-2%
9	Crook Log	1	4,269	4,269	7%	4,435	4,435	5%
10	East Wickham	3	12,081	4,027	1%	12,590	4,197	0%
11	Erith & Slade Green	2	7,584	3,792	-5%	8,589	4,295	2%
12	Falconwood & Welling	3	12,208	4,069	2%	12,687	4,229	1%
13	Longlands	2	7,947	3,974	0%	8,277	4,139	-2%

Table A1 (cont.): Draft recommendations for Bexley London Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2021)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14	Lower Belvedere	2	7,881	3,941	-1%	8,439	4,220	0%
15	Northumberland Heath	3	11,863	3,954	-1%	13,213	4,404	5%
16	Sidcup	3	11,669	3,890	-2%	12,181	4,060	-3%
17	St Mary's & St James	2	8,299	4,150	4%	8,556	4,278	2%
18	Thamesmead East	3	10,848	3,616	-9%	11,500	3,833	-9%
	Totals	45	179,439	-	-	189,189	-	-
	Averages	-	-	3,988	-	-	4,204	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Bexley London Borough 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 <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/greater-london/bexley>

Local authority

- Bexley London Borough Council

Bexley London Borough Councillors

- Councillor C. Beazley
- Councillor T. O'Neill OBE

Political parties

- Bexley London Borough Council Labour Group
- Erith & Thamesmead Conservative Association
- Old Bexley & Sidcup Conservative Association

Members of Parliament

- James Brokenshire MP
- David Evennett MP

Local organisations

- Cold Blow Crescent Residents' Association
- North Cray Residents' Association

Residents

- 20 local residents

Appendix C

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

