



# **Surrey Heath Borough Council**

## **Electoral Review Warding Pattern Submission**

# Introduction

In July 2016, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England announced that it was minded to support a reduction in Members from 40 to 34. This reduction had been recommended by the Council in its submission on Council size. The Boundary Commission has now launched its public consultation on warding patterns.

The Council's Governance Working Group was tasked with developing the Council's submission on the warding pattern. The Working Group was a cross party group to which all members of the Council were invited to express an interest in attending to ensure representation from each of the existing wards. Groups of ward members also held informal meetings to discuss proposals in conjoined wards. The notes of these meetings are annexed to this submission.

The Borough has some significant 'barriers to movement' including large areas of heathland; railway lines and major roads. The Council has taken these into account in defining ward boundaries as far as possible, acknowledging the difficulty of crossing these features in parts of the Borough.

In making its submission, the Council recognises that there are areas within its Proposed Warding Pattern where no agreement could be reached, in particular in relation to the Parkside and Heatherside Wards, and asks the Boundary Commission to consider the options presented by the Council. The Council has also chosen not to make any recommendation in relation to Chobham Ward.

The Council's proposals would result in a reduction in the number of wards from 16 to 15.

The Council at its meeting on 5 October 2016 considered the recommendations of the Governance Working Group and agreed to submit the following proposals and recommendations to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

1. The Proposed Warding Pattern, as set out below, be adopted;
2. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England be asked to further consider the 2 Options presented for the Parkside and Heatherside Wards and note that no recommendation has been made in respect of the Chobham Ward; and
3. In recognition that not all wards in the Proposed Warding Pattern achieve the requirements of electoral equality, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be asked to look at 35 councillors as well as 34 councillors.

## Proposed Warding Pattern

The current electorate of the Borough is 68,041 and this is forecast to be 70,641 by 2021. With 34 Members the average electorate per councillor will be 2,078 by 2021. In order to meet the Boundary Commission objectives, each Ward needs to have a forecast Electorate within 10% of the average electorate.

Name of Borough ward	Electorate 2015	Electorate 2021
Bagshot	4,782	4,782
Bisley	2,837	2,837
Chobham	3,107	3,107
Frimley	4,794	4,794
Frimley Green	4,539	4,539
Heatherside	4,809	4,809
Lightwater	5,555	5,555
Mytchett & Deepcut	5,425	7,425
Old Dean	3,333	3,333
Parkside	5,116	5,116
St Michaels	4,169	4,169
St Pauls	4,747	4,747
Town	3,864	4,264
Watchetts	3,979	3,979
West End	3,491	3,691
Windlesham	3,494	3,494
<b>Total Electorate</b>	<b>68,041</b>	<b>70,641</b>

### Bagshot and Windlesham

It is proposed to redraw the boundary between Bagshot and Windlesham using the A322 as the boundary. This is a major road which divides the communities. The roads moving from Bagshot to Windlesham are:

- Dukes Covert
- Dukes Hill
- Grove End
- Swift Lane
- London Road
- Guildford Road

The proposal results in approximately 86 electors moving from Bagshot to Windlesham.

The electorate for Windlesham would be 3,580. With 2 councillors, the variance would be -14%.

The electorate for Bagshot would be 4696 and with a reduction to 2 councillors, would be a variance of 13%.

### **Bisley and West End**

It is proposed to combine West End Ward and Bisley Ward into one ward with 3 councillors. As referred to in the Lightwater section below, it is proposed to move Sundew Close and Blackstroud Lane West from West End to Lightwater. As a result, the combined electorate would be 6,274, representing a variance of 1%.

### **Chobham**

Whilst it is felt that Chobham should retain 2 councillors it is acknowledged that, with an electorate of 3,107 there would be a variance of -25%. It is proposed that no recommendations be made in respect of Chobham.

### **Frimley and Frimley Green**

It is proposed to move the following roads from Frimley Green Ward to Frimley Ward and to retain 3 councillors in Frimley and reduce to 2 councillors in Frimley Green.

Beaumaris Parade  
Wansdyke Close  
Sandringham Way  
Morton Close  
Dunbar Rd  
Peel Ave  
Pevensey Way  
Tenby Road  
Clevedon Court  
Raglan Close  
Berkley Crescent  
Glencoe  
Osbourne Close  
Windsor Way  
Caernarvon  
Broadlands  
Barnard Close  
Elgin Way  
Glamis Close  
Chilham Close  
Winterbourne Walk

The proposal results in 1154 electors transferring from Frimley Green to Frimley giving Frimley ward an electorate of 5,948, a variance of -5% with 3 councillors. The electorate of Frimley Green would reduce to 3,385 with a variance of -19% with 2 councillors.

## **Heatherside and Parkside**

The Council has considered 2 options put forward for future ward boundaries between Parkside and Heatherside and has not reached a conclusion on which option to recommend. On that basis, it asks the Commission to consider both of the options below.

### Option 1

To move the following roads from Heatherside Ward to Parkside Ward and to retain 3 councillors in Parkside and reduce to 2 councillors in Heatherside.

Upper Chobham Road (part)  
Winding Wood Drive  
Westmorland Drive  
Lincoln Close  
Warwick Close  
Byron Avenue  
Cairn Close  
Carlton Close  
Goldney Road (part)  
Calvin Close  
Old Bisley Road (part)  
Westerdale Drive  
Hambleton Close  
The Ridings  
Holly Avenue  
Fern Close

This proposal would move 663 electors to Parkside bringing the electorate to 5779. With the retention of 3 councillors for Parkside this would represent a variance of 7.2%. Heatherside ward would reduce to 4146 electors. With 2 councillors there would be a variance of less than 1%.

### Option 2

To move the following roads from Parkside Ward to Heatherside Ward and to retain 3 councillors in Heatherside and reduce to 2 councillors in Parkside.

Azalea Way  
Beverley Close  
Clewborough Drive  
Copped Hall Drive  
Copped Hall Way  
Fairway Heights  
Green Hill Close  
Greenhill Road  
Heathside Park  
Hillborough Park

Middle Close  
Roundway  
Roundway Close  
Stonegate  
The Spinney  
Upper Chobham Road

This proposal would move 1009 electors to Heatherside bringing the electorate to 5818. With the retention of 3 councillors for Heatherside this would represent a variance of 6.6%. Parkside ward would reduce to 4107 electors with 2 councillors which would represent a variance of 1 %.

### **Lightwater**

It is proposed that Lightwater Ward remains unchanged except with the addition of Sundew Close (32 electors) and Blackstroud Lane West (22 electors) from West End Ward. With an electorate of 5,609 and 3 councillors, the variance will be 10%.

### **Mytchett & Deepcut**

It is proposed that no changes be made to the Mytchett and Deepcut Ward. With 3 councillors, the current electorate of 5,425 would result in a variance of -13% and in 2012 with a projected electorate of 7,425 the variance would be 19%.

### **St Michaels and Watchetts**

It was proposed that the boundaries of St Michaels and Watchetts remain unchanged. St Michaels would elect 2 councillors as at present with a variance of 0%. Watchetts would also continue to elect 2 councillors with a variance of -4%.

### **Old Dean, St Pauls and Town**

It is proposed to amend the boundaries between Old Dean, St Pauls and Town. It is also proposed to reduce the number of councillors in St Pauls Ward to 2, whilst retaining 2 councillors in Old Dean Ward and Town Ward.

#### Old Dean

It is proposed to add the following roads from Town ward into Old Dean:

Barossa Rd  
College Close  
College Ride  
Cromwell Rd  
Diamond Hill  
Diamond Ridge  
Fossewood Drive  
Hartford Rise  
Lawrence Lodge

Old Dean Rd  
Upland Rd  
Whitehill Close  
York Rd

This gives an increase in electors of 897 taking the Old Dean ward to 4230. With 2 councillors this will give a variance of 2%.

### Town

The proposal is to transfer the following roads from St Pauls to Town:

Amberwood Drive  
Carlinwark Drive  
Cornwall Close  
Crosby Hill Drive  
Devonshire Drive  
Gainsborough Close  
Hall Close  
Knightsbridge Rd  
Linden Court  
London Rd - Nos 43 to 69  
Marlborough Rise  
Middleton Rd  
Shalbourne Rise  
Tekels Park  
Upper Park Rd

This represents 897 electors to Old Dean and 666 from St Pauls - a net decrease of 231. This results in an electorate in Town ward of 4033 in 2021, representing a variance of -3% on the projected electorate.

### St Pauls

It is proposed to reduce the number of councillors in St Pauls to 2 and with the transfer the above roads to Town (666) the electorate in St Pauls will be 4081 a variance of -2%.

## Notes of a Meeting of the Governance Working Group - 31 August 2016

### Members Present:

Cllr Moira Gibson (Chairman)  
Cllr Rodney Bates  
Cllr Paul Deach

Cllr Josephine Hawkins  
Cllr Wynne Price

**In attendance:** Cllr Richard Brooks, Cllr Edward Hawkins, Cllr Paul Ilnicki, Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans, Cllr David Lewis, Cllr Oliver Lewis, Cllr Jonathan Lytle, Cllr Katia Malcaus Cooper, Cllr Robin Perry, Cllr Ian Sams and Cllr Valerie White

**Officers:** Richard Payne, Jane Sherman and Rachel Whillis.

### 1. Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 22 April 2016 were agreed.

### 2. Electoral Review - Warding Pattern Submission

The Working Group was informed that the Local Government Boundary Commission had agreed to recommend a 'minded to' figure of 34 councillors to be elected to the Council in future. The next stage of the review would be to consider the Council's submission on a new pattern of electoral wards to accommodate those councillors. Any submission from the Council would need to be made by 10 October 2016. Members were reminded that individual submissions on warding patterns could also be made to the Boundary Commission by this date.

The Boundary Commission had advised that the statutory criteria for the review comprised 3 elements:

- 1. Electoral Equality.** The number of electors represented by a councillor should be consistent, which would equate to approximately 2,100 electors per councillor. There would, however, be a tolerance of a 10% variance above or below this figure.
- 2. Local Communities.** Pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.
- 3. Promoting effective and convenient local government.**

It was advised that electoral equality was the primary consideration, although natural communities could be considered a mitigating factor when considering whether to tolerate any variation above or below the accepted 10% variance.

Members agreed an initial approach of forming groupings of current wards, each of which would be allocated a number of councillors based upon the electoral equality figure, following which there would be a more detailed evaluation of the proposals for possible ward boundaries within those areas.

It was proposed to form the following groupings with the councillor allocation as indicated below:

Bisley and Chobham	3 Councillors
Bagshot and Windlesham	4 Councillors
Lightwater and West End	4 Councillors
St Michaels and Watchetts	4 Councillors
Heatherside and Parkside	5 Councillors
Old Dean, St Pauls and Town	6 Councillors
Frimley, Frimley Green and Mytchett & Deepcut	8 Councillors

The proposed groupings reflected the Boundary Commission's 'minded to' figure of 34 councillors, whilst also achieving the required electoral equality.

It was emphasised that these groupings were to be used as a starting point and may need to be altered as work progressed.

Ward Councillors for each of the groupings would be asked to meet prior to the next Working Group meeting in order to start considering options for possible configurations of boundaries and allocation of councillors within these areas.

**RESOLVED to ask Ward Councillors for each of the proposed groupings, as set out above, to meet prior to the next meeting in order to start initial evaluations of possible configurations of ward boundaries within the allocated areas.**

### **3. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 12 September 2016 at 5pm. A further meeting would be arranged.

## Notes of a Meeting of the Governance Working Group - 12 September 2016

### Members Present:

Cllr Moira Gibson (Chairman)  
Cllr Rodney Bates  
Cllr Paul Deach

Cllr Josephine Hawkins  
Cllr Wynne Price

### In Attendance:

Cllr Richard Brooks, Cllr Ian Cullen, Cllr Edward Hawkins, Cllr Paul Ilnicki, Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans, Cllr Jonathan Lytle, Cllr David Mansfield, Cllr Adrian Page, Cllr Nic Price, Cllr Pat Tedder, Cllr Ian Sams, Cllr Victoria Wheeler and Cllr Valerie White

### Officers:

Jane Sherman and Rachel Whillis

#### 1. Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 31 August 2016 were agreed.

#### 2. Electoral Review - Warding Pattern Submission

At its previous meeting, the Working Group had agreed, as a way forward, to form groupings of wards, within which Members from those wards would be asked to informally meet in order to assess, in greater detail, options for future boundaries within those areas.

Members received an update on progress made by each of the areas:

##### Old Dean, Town and St Pauls

This group had agreed boundary changes involving the transfer of roads from Town Ward to Old Dean Ward and transfer of roads from St Pauls Ward to Town Ward, which achieved the requirements of electoral equality for 6 councillors allocated to that area.

##### Bagshot and Windlesham

There had been an agreement to revise boundaries using the A322 as a natural division between the 2 wards. Further evaluation would be given with regard to moving Freemantle Road and subsidiary roads from Bagshot to Windlesham.

##### St Michaels and Watchetts

No Members from these wards were present at the meeting. It was, however, recognised that these wards were likely to remain the same, as the projected variances were below 10% of the average with the existing number of councillors.

### Frimley, Frimley Green and Mytchett & Deepcut

Members for these wards had discussed options, including re-joining the part of the Paddock Hill estate from Frimley Green Ward to Frimley Ward, but no agreement had been reached.

### Heatherside and Parkside

Options for re-drawing the boundaries between the 2 wards had been considered by Members but no agreement had been reached.

The Working Group agreed that Frimley, Frimley Green, Heatherside, Mytchett & Deepcut and Parkside Wards should be reviewed as a larger group; ward councillors for these areas would be asked to informally meet prior to the next meeting in order to evaluate possible configurations of boundaries within the grouped area.

### Bisley and Chobham

Members from these wards had assessed possible options and concluded that, apart from the small detached part of Bisley, the two wards did not share a boundary, there was therefore no natural scope for them to be assessed together.

### Lightwater and West End

No conclusions had been reached on options for altering any boundaries, although the Working Group discussed possible options for movement of a few roads between the 2 wards. It was suggested by some Members that Lightwater Ward should remain largely the same with 3 councillors, although it was recognised that, taking into account the Boundary Commission's 'minded to' decision to reduce the number of councillors to 34, this would affect the allocation of councillors to other areas.

The Working Group agreed that the Bisley, Chobham, Lightwater and West End Wards should be reviewed as a larger group; ward councillors for these areas would be asked to informally meet prior to the next meeting in order to evaluate possible configurations of boundaries within the grouped area.

It was recognised that, if no agreement on revised boundaries could be reached for some areas, a fall-back position could be for the Council to advise the Boundary Commission to consider the grouped area(s) as a start point for its review. Members were also reminded that individual submissions could be made to the Commission.

## **RESOLVED**

### **(i) that**

- a. the boundary between Bagshot and Windlesham wards be moved to the A322 and further consideration be given**

**to moving Freemantle Road and the roads leading off from Bagshot to Windlesham;**

**b. the boundaries between Old Dean, Town and St Pauls wards be altered as set out at Annex A to these notes;**

- (ii) to note that St Michaels and Watchetts Wards were likely to remain the same, although slight alterations to the boundaries may need to be considered as a result of proposals in adjoining wards;**
- (iii) proposals for revised boundaries within the Bisley, Chobham , Lightwater and West End Wards be further considered at the next meeting; and**
- (iv) proposals for revised boundaries within the Frimley, Frimley Green, Heatherside, Mytchett & Deepcut and Parkside Wards be further considered at the next meeting.**

### **3. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 27 September 2016 at 6pm.

## Notes of a Meeting of the Governance Working Group - 27 September 2016

### Members Present:

Cllr Moira Gibson (Chairman)  
Cllr Paul Deach  
Cllr Josephine Hawkins

Cllr Wynne Price  
Cllr Victoria Wheeler (for Cllr Bates)

### In Attendance:

**Officers:** Cllr Ian Sams, Cllr Ian Cullen, Cllr Edward Hawkins, Cllr David Lewis, Cllr Jonathan Lytle, Cllr David Mansfield, Cllr Alan McClafferty, Cllr Adrian Page, Cllr Pat Tedder and Cllr Valerie White

### 1. Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 12 September were agreed.

### 2. Electoral Review - Warding Pattern Submission

The Working Group at its last meeting had agreed that

- a) the boundary between Bagshot and Windlesham Wards be moved to the A322;
- b) the boundaries between Old Dean, Town and St Pauls Wards be altered as suggested by the relevant ward councillors
- c) St Michaels and Watchetts Wards remain unchanged; and
- d) proposals for revised boundaries within the Bisley, Chobham , Lightwater and West End Wards and within the Frimley, Frimley Green, Heatherside, Mytchett & Deepcut and Parkside Wards be further considered at the next meeting.

Ward councillors for areas to be further considered had been asked to informally meet prior to the next meeting in order to evaluate possible configurations of boundaries within the grouped area.

The Working Group received updates in relation to the proposed changes to wards.

In relation to Heatherside and Parkside Wards, the Working Group discussed 2 options which represented moving a number of roads from Parkside Ward into Heatherside Ward or vice versa, with a consequent reduction in the number of councillors from 3 to 2 in one of the wards. As both options were workable and each achieved electoral equality, the Working Group agreed that both options be presented to the Council for consideration.

The Working Group discussed 2 options for Chobham Ward:

- To retain 2 councillors or
- To reduce to 1 councillor.

Whilst the Working Group in principle supported the proposal that Chobham Ward should retain 2 councillors, it considered that it was for the Chobham Councillors to justify this approach.

It was acknowledged that, with an electorate of 3,107 there would be a variance of -25%. The Working Group agreed that no recommendations be made to the Council in respect of Chobham Ward.

The Working Group discussed the remaining areas and made recommendations as set out below.

### **Recommended to Council**

- (i) that the boundaries of St Michaels Ward remain unchanged. St Michaels Ward to continue to elect 2 councillors;**
- (ii) that the boundaries of Watchetts Ward remain unchanged. Watchetts Ward to continue to elect 2 councillors;**
- (iii) to amend the boundaries between Old Dean, Town and St Pauls Wards and to reduce the number of councillors in St Pauls Ward to 2, whilst retaining 2 councillors in Old Dean Ward and Town Ward:**
  - a. roads be moved from Town Ward and added into Old Dean Ward to increase the Old Dean Ward by 897electors bringing the electorate to 4230;**
  - b. roads be moved from St Pauls Ward to Town Ward, representing 666 electors which taking into account the 897 electors given to Old Dean Ward would result in a projected electorate in Town Ward of 4033 in 2021;**
  - c. with the transfer of the roads to Town Ward the electorate in St Pauls Ward would be 4081;**
- (iv) two options for the boundary between Heatherside and Parkside Wards be considered:**
  - a. Option 1 - To move a number of roads in the north west of the Heatherside Ward to Parkside Ward and to retain 3 councillors in Parkside Ward and reduce to 2 councillors in Heatherside Ward. This proposal would move 663 electors to Parkside Ward bringing**

**the electorate to 5779. Heatherside ward would reduce to 4146 electors;**

- b. Option 2 - To move a number of roads from in the northeast of the Parkside Ward to Heatherside Ward and to retain 3 councillors in Heatherside Ward and reduce to 2 councillors in Parkside Ward. This proposal would move 1009 electors to Heatherside bringing the electorate to 5818. Parkside ward would reduce to 4107 electors;**
  
- (v) to amend the boundaries between Frimley and Frimley Green Wards by moving the roads comprising the Paddock Hill Estate, from Frimley Green Ward to Frimley Ward. 3 councillors to be retained in Frimley Ward but to reduce to 2 councillors in Frimley Green Ward. The proposal would result in 1154 electors transferring from Frimley Green Ward to Frimley Ward giving Frimley Ward an electorate of 5,948,. The electorate of Frimley Green Ward would reduce to 3,385;**
  
- (vi) that no changes be made to the Mytchett and Deepcut Ward. 3 councillors to be retained with a current electorate 5,425 and with a projected electorate of 7,425 in 2021;**
  
- (vii) to amend the boundary between Bagshot and Windlesham Wards using the A322 as the boundary. The proposal would result in approximately 86 electors moving from Bagshot Ward to Windlesham Ward. Windlesham Ward to retain 2 councillors with a revised electorate of 3,580. The electorate for Bagshot Ward would be 4696 and the number of councillors reduce to 2;**
  
- (viii) that Lightwater Ward to remain unchanged except with the addition of Sundew Close and Blackstroud Lane West from West End Ward. 3 councillors to be retained;**
  
- (ix) to combine West End Ward and Bisley Ward into one ward with 3 councillors and a combined electorate would be 6,274; and**
  
- (x) that no recommendations be made in respect of Chobham Ward pending the justification for the retention of 2 councillors by the ward councillors.**

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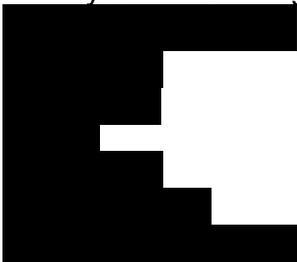
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Dear Laura

Further to Rachel's email attaching the Council's submission on the Surrey Heath Electoral Review Warding Pattern, the map to support the submission showing the proposed warding pattern for both Options 1 and 2 can be found on this link. If you would like this map in a different format please let me know.

[http://surreydigitalservice.s3-website-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/boundaries\\_commission\\_review.html](http://surreydigitalservice.s3-website-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/boundaries_commission_review.html)

**Jane Sherman**  
Democratic Services Manager  
Surrey Heath Borough Council



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