



Surrey Heath Borough Council

**Response to the Boundary
Commissions Draft
Recommendations on the new
electoral arrangements for Surrey
Heath Borough Council**

March 2017

Introduction

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published, for consultation, its draft recommendations on new electoral arrangements for Surrey Heath on 24 January 2017.
2. The Council's Governance Working Group has met on 3 February to consider the Commissions' draft recommendations and its comments and its recommendations were considered by the Council on 22 February.
3. The Council notes that Karen Whelan, as Electoral Registration Officer, has also considered the draft proposals and any practical consequences arising from the LGBCE's recommendations and has submitted her own response to the draft recommendations.
4. The Council's response to the draft recommendations is set out below.

Bagshot, Lightwater, Windlesham, Chobham, West End and Bisley

5. The Commission had suggested a number of changes for these 6 rural wards. However these Members feels that although the numbers achieve electoral equality, the recommendations do not reflect existing relationships between these wards, local group relationships, doctors' surgeries, church relationships or accepted community boundaries and relationships.
6. As a result the Commission is asked to consider the proposals set out below in relation to these wards.
7. The proposals as set out below are supported by the majority of members in these wards. However the 2 members who represent the West End Ward are strongly opposed to the proposals in so far as they relate to the movement of electors from West End and Bisley Wards to Chobham Ward. These ward councillors support the draft recommendations of the Boundary Commission in relation to the combining of West End and Bisley Wards. However they do not object to the proposal to move Sundew Close and Blackstoud Lane West from West End Ward to Lightwater Ward.

Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham

8. The Council feels that the boundaries of these wards should remain largely unchanged. It is considered that there is natural affinity between the villages of Lightwater, Windlesham and Bagshot. These wards share a Parish Council and a Clinical Commissioning Group. Windlesham residents have easy road links to Lightwater which houses the doctor's surgery and provides a 'local' supermarket and shopping hub for Windlesham village residents.
9. The Council also re-iterates its previous suggestion that Sundew Close and Blackstoud Lane West should move from West End Ward to Lightwater Ward.

10. Lightwater Ward would return 3 Councillors, Bagshot 2 Councillors and Windlesham 2 Councillors.

Bisley, Chobham and West End

11. The Commission’s draft recommendation proposes the joining of Bisley Ward and West End Ward with 3 Councillors.
12. The Council largely accepts this proposal. However it is considered that the boundary between Chobham Ward and the proposed West End/Bisley Ward should be amended so as to increase the electorate for the Chobham Ward and for it to elect 2 Councillors. This suggestion will result in an electorate of 3,799 for Chobham Ward and 5019 for Bisley and West End Ward, thereby achieving electoral equality.
13. It is therefore proposed that the following roads and approximately 676 electors be moved from the existing West End and Bisley Wards to Chobham, which includes new developments.

Road	From	To	Number of electors
Bagshot Road	West End	Chobham	132
Beldam Bridge Road	West End	Chobham	48
Beldam Bridge Road*	West End	Chobham	170
Coldharbour Lane	West End	Chobham	10
Halebourne Lane	West End	Chobham	53
Hookstone Lane	West End	Chobham	13
Kings Road	West End	Chobham	132
Kings Road*	West End	Chobham	84
Old House Lane	R - Bisley	Chobham	2
Pennypot Lane	West End	Chobham	8
Rose Meadow	West End	Chobham	14
Scotts Grove Road	West End	Chobham	6
Scotts Grove Road	Bisley	Chobham	4

* New developments.

Representations

14. **To object to the Commission’s proposals for the combining of Windlesham Ward with Chobham Ward.**
15. **To ask the Commission to retain the boundaries of Bagshot, Lightwater and Windlesham wards largely unchanged with the exception of the moving of Sundew Crescent and Blackstroud Lane East from West End to Lightwater Ward; Lightwater to return 3 Councillors, Bagshot 2 Councillors and Windlesham 2 Councillors.**

16. **To accept, in the main, the Commission's draft recommendation that West End Ward and Bisley Wards be combined and to return 3 Councillors but subject to the moving of the above roads to the Chobham Ward (approximately 676 electors), to achieve improved electoral equality, and for the Chobham Ward to return 2 Councillors.**
17. **To ask the Commission to be aware that whilst the above proposals were supported by the majority of members in these wards, the West End Ward members are strongly opposed to the proposals in so far as they relate to the movement of electors from West End and Bisley Wards to Chobham Ward. These ward councillors support the draft recommendations of the Boundary Commission in relation to these wards. They do not oppose the proposal to move Sundew Close and Blackstoud Lane West from West End Ward to Lightwater Ward.**

Old Dean, Town, St Michaels, St Pauls and Watchetts

18. The Commission's proposals include the moving of 529 electors and 235 properties from St Paul's Ward to Old Dean Ward. The Commission has used the railway line as the boundary instead of the A30. Each of these wards would have 2 councillors.
19. The Council notes that the Commission has not provided any detailed explanation as to why the its proposals for Old Dean, Town, St Michaels, St Paul's and Watchetts Wards had not been included in its draft recommendations.
20. In relation to the proposal to move properties south of the A30 from St Pauls ward to Old Dean ward, the Council considers that the A30 is a much more recognisable boundary between the Old Dean and St Pauls wards. In addition the Council considers that the electors identified to move from St Pauls ward do not share any community identity with the electors in the Old Dean ward.
21. The Commission's proposals in relation to St Michaels Ward recommend the movement of an area north of the A30 to the Town Ward. This will mean that electors within this area will move to the Town Ward whilst remaining in a different county division from the rest of Town ward, therefore requiring the creation of a new Polling District, which would comprise approximately 21 electors and 13 households.
22. The options for these wards have been reviewed and the Council asks the Commission to reconsider its original submission in relation to Old Dean, Town, St Michaels, St Paul's and Watchetts Wards.

Representations

23. **To object to the proposals for Old Dean, Town, St Michaels, St Paul's and Watchetts Wards and to request the Commission to reconsider the original submission from the Council particularly in relation to**

- (a) **the proposal to use the railway line as the boundary between St Pauls and Old Dean Wards as the Council considers that the A30 is a more obvious boundary between which better reflects community identity and provides electoral equality; and**
- (b) **the proposal to move of the small area north of the A30 from St Michaels Ward to the Town Ward as it would, because of the county divisional boundary, required the creation of a new Polling District comprising approximately 21 electors and 13 households;**

Heatherside and Parkside

24. The Commission's draft recommendations include the proposal to move the boundary between Parkside and Heatherside by transferring an area which currently falls within Parkside to Heatherside Ward. This proposal reflects one of the options put forward by the Council in relation to these 2 wards. The Heatherside ward would return 3 councillors and the Parkside ward, 2 councillors. However the Council now considers Youlden Close and Youlden Drive should remain in Parkside as these properties have no vehicular link to the roads in Heatherside. The number of electors involved would not affect the electoral equality in these 2 wards.

Representations

25. **To ask the Commission to revise its proposals for Heatherside and Parkside so that Youlden Close and Youlden Drive remain within Parkside Ward.**

Frimley and Frimley Green

26. The Commission's draft recommendations involves moving a significant proportion of the settlement of Frimley, including its identifiable centre which incorporates Frimley High Street, Frimley Station and a number of community buildings, to Frimley Green ward.
27. Changes to the County Council Divisions prior to the 2013 County Council elections required the creation of the Frimley South (FC) Polling District, mostly comprising the Ansell Estate, as, due to the changes introduced, the electors in this area would be voting in the Frimley Borough Ward, whilst voting in the Frimley Green and Mytchett County Division; the remainder of Frimley Borough Ward has continued to vote in the Camberley West County Division. The arrangements for Frimley South would remain the same under the Commission's draft proposals.
28. However, the Commission's draft proposals introduce the need to create a further Polling District: the proposed re-drawing of the Frimley Green boundary with the northern boundary at the A325 would mean the electors affected would thereafter vote in the Frimley Green Borough Ward, whilst continuing to vote in the Camberley West County Division.

29. The Council considers that the proposal to move a significant proportion of the settlement of Frimley, to Frimley Green ward is in conflict with the Commission's stated aim of recognising and reflecting community identity and results in further complication for voters as it introduced additional non-coterminous boundaries within the area. The Commission is therefore asked to retain the current boundary between Frimley and Frimley Green and for the approximately 1000 electors remain in Frimley.
30. However in order to achieve electoral equality the Council proposes that the Frimley South (FC) Polling District, comprising 860 electors, be transferred to the Frimley Green ward. The Frimley Ward would elect 2 councillors and Frimley Green, 3 councillors. This proposal improves co-terminosity with the County Division and thereby reduces elector confusion, keeps recognised communities together and provides for effective and convenient local government whilst achieving electoral equality.

Representations

31. **For the reasons set out above, to object to the proposal to move a significant proportion of the settlement of Frimley, to Frimley Green ward and to propose that the current boundary between Frimley and Frimley Green be retained but that the Frimley South (FC) Polling District, comprising 860 electors, be transferred to the Frimley Green ward with Frimley electing 2 councillors and Frimley Green, 3 councillors.**

Mytchett and Deepcut

32. The Commission agrees with the Council's submission and its draft recommendations are based on the current boundaries and will retain 3 councillors.

Representations

33. **To make no comments in relation to the Commission's draft recommendation for Mytchett and Deepcut.**