

Methodology

This workbook contains two forecasts:

- A forecast of the electorate (excluding attainers) at 2020

- A forecast of the electorate (including attainers) at 2020

Attainers are those aged 17 years who will be turning 18 within the year and therefore will be eligible to vote.

The electorate forecast is based on the latest KCC population forecast (KCC Strategy forecast - March 2014). The KCC Strategy forecast is a bottom-up forecast based on the number of dwellings to be built in each individual district, as advised by each Kent local authority planning department in March 2014. In summary, the housing numbers have been based on either a district's adopted Core Strategy, a Submission version of a Local Development Framework (LDF), a published Preferred Option, or the South East Plan housing provision. As Local Plans are continuously being developed, future housing numbers are subject to change. **If a district's future housing provision changes, then the forecast of future population will also change. The forecasts contained in this file are therefore the best estimate of what we expect the population to be, based on the information available to us at this point in time.**

The forecast of the population aged 17+ and 18+ in 2020 in each Kent local authority has been taken from the KCC Strategy forecast (March 2014). A ratio is then applied to the population forecast to convert this to an electorate forecast. The ratio has been calculated using Mid Year Population Estimates and UK Electoral Statistics published by the Office for National Statistics. The applied ratio is district specific. It is based on a 3-year average (2010-2012), as the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) advise against calculating a ratio from a single year of data. The ratios applied to the population forecast are as follows:

	% applied to 18+ population to produce Electorate (excluding attainers)	% applied to 17+ population to produce Electorate (including attainers)
Ashford	97.1	96.6
Canterbury	89.3	88.9
Dartford	94.7	94.3
Dover	94.8	94.2
Gravesham	92.6	92.0
Maidstone	95.3	95.0
Sevenoaks	97.3	97.0
Shepway	94.5	93.8
Swale	91.5	90.8
Thanet	90.0	89.5
Tonbridge & Malling	96.4	95.8
Tunbridge Wells	91.5	91.1

Forecast Electorate* at 2020

Electorate 18+ (excluding attainers) ▼

District	2020
Ashford	97,200
Canterbury	117,500
Dartford	85,200
Dover	94,600
Gravesham	76,100
Maidstone	129,400
Sevenoaks	88,400
Shepway	86,100
Swale	102,000
Thanet	101,300
Tonbridge & Malling	98,800
Tunbridge Wells	83,100
KCC Area	1,159,700

* Electorate aged 18 and over.

*Source: Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council
Strategy-based population forecast (March 2014)*

Council Size Options

	Council Size - Number of Members									
	84	84	78	77	76	75	74	73	66	63
Ashford	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6
Canterbury	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7
Dartford	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5
Dover	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
Gravesham	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4
Maidstone	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	6
Sevenoaks	7	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5
Shepway	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
Swale	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6
Thanet	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	5
Tonbridge & Malling	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
Tunbridge Wells	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4

Average Electoral Division (ED) size options

Based on the latest KCC Strategy-based Population Forecast (March 2014 Electorate 18+ (excluding attainers))

Research & Evaluation, Kent County Council

	Council Size - Number of Members									
	84	84	78	77	76	75	74	73	66	63
ASHFORD										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	97,200	97,200	97,200	97,200	97,200	97,200	97,200	97,200	97,200	97,200
Number of Members in District	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6
Average Electorate per Cllr	13,886	12,150	13,886	13,886	13,886	13,886	13,886	13,886	16,200	16,200
Variance from Kent average (No.)	80	-1,656	-982	-1,175	-1,373	-1,577	-1,786	-2,001	-1,371	-2,208
Variance from Kent average (%)	1%	-12%	-7%	-8%	-9%	-10%	-11%	-13%	-8%	-12%
CANTERBURY										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	117,500	117,500	117,500	117,500	117,500	117,500	117,500	117,500	117,500	117,500
Number of Members in District	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	7
Average Electorate per Cllr	13,056	13,056	14,688	14,688	14,688	14,688	14,688	14,688	16,786	16,786
Variance from Kent average (No.)	-750	-750	-180	-374	-572	-775	-984	-1,199	-785	-1,622
Variance from Kent average (%)	-5%	-5%	-1%	-2%	-4%	-5%	-6%	-8%	-4%	-9%
DARTFORD										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	85,200	85,200	85,200	85,200	85,200	85,200	85,200	85,200	85,200	85,200
Number of Members in District	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5
Average Electorate per Cllr	14,200	14,200	14,200	14,200	14,200	14,200	17,040	17,040	17,040	17,040
Variance from Kent average (No.)	394	394	-668	-861	-1,059	-1,263	1,368	1,154	-531	-1,368
Variance from Kent average (%)	3%	3%	-4%	-6%	-7%	-8%	9%	7%	-3%	-7%
DOVER										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	94,600	94,600	94,600	94,600	94,600	94,600	94,600	94,600	94,600	94,600
Number of Members in District	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
Average Electorate per Cllr	13,514	13,514	15,767	15,767	15,767	15,767	15,767	15,767	18,920	18,920
Variance from Kent average (No.)	-292	-292	899	706	507	304	95	-120	1,349	512
Variance from Kent average (%)	-2%	-2%	6%	5%	3%	2%	1%	-1%	8%	3%

GRAVESHAM										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	76,100	76,100	76,100	76,100	76,100	76,100	76,100	76,100	76,100	76,100
Number of Members in District	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4
Average Electorate per Cllr	15,220	12,683	15,220	15,220	15,220	15,220	15,220	15,220	19,025	19,025
Variance from Kent average (No.)	1,414	-1,123	352	159	-39	-243	-452	-666	1,454	617
Variance from Kent average (%)	10%	-8%	2%	1%	0%	-2%	-3%	-4%	8%	3%
MAIDSTONE										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	129,400	129,400	129,400	129,400	129,400	129,400	129,400	129,400	129,400	129,400
Number of Members in District	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	6
Average Electorate per Cllr	14,378	14,378	16,175	16,175	16,175	16,175	16,175	16,175	18,486	21,567
Variance from Kent average (No.)	572	572	1,307	1,114	916	712	503	289	915	3,159
Variance from Kent average (%)	4%	4%	9%	7%	6%	5%	3%	2%	5%	17%
SEVENOAKS										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	88,400	88,400	88,400	88,400	88,400	88,400	88,400	88,400	88,400	88,400
Number of Members in District	7	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5
Average Electorate per Cllr	12,629	14,733	14,733	14,733	14,733	17,680	17,680	17,680	17,680	17,680
Variance from Kent average (No.)	-1,177	927	-135	-328	-526	2,217	2,008	1,794	109	-728
Variance from Kent average (%)	-9%	7%	-1%	-2%	-3%	14%	13%	11%	1%	-4%
SHEPWAY										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100
Number of Members in District	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
Average Electorate per Cllr	14,350	14,350	14,350	14,350	17,220	17,220	17,220	17,220	17,220	17,220
Variance from Kent average (No.)	544	544	-518	-711	1,961	1,757	1,548	1,334	-351	-1,188
Variance from Kent average (%)	4%	4%	-3%	-5%	13%	11%	10%	8%	-2%	-6%
SWALE										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	102,000	102,000	102,000	102,000	102,000	102,000	102,000	102,000	102,000	102,000
Number of Members in District	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6
Average Electorate per Cllr	14,571	14,571	14,571	14,571	14,571	14,571	14,571	14,571	17,000	17,000
Variance from Kent average (No.)	765	765	-297	-490	-688	-891	-1,100	-1,315	-571	-1,408
Variance from Kent average (%)	6%	6%	-2%	-3%	-5%	-6%	-7%	-8%	-3%	-8%

THANET										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	101,300	101,300	101,300	101,300	101,300	101,300	101,300	101,300	101,300	101,300
Number of Members in District	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	5
Average Electorate per Cllr	12,663	14,471	14,471	14,471	14,471	14,471	14,471	16,883	16,883	20,260
Variance from Kent average (No.)	-1,143	665	-397	-590	-788	-991	-1,200	997	-688	1,852
Variance from Kent average (%)	-8%	5%	-3%	-4%	-5%	-6%	-8%	6%	-4%	10%
TONBRIDGE & MALLING										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800	98,800
Number of Members in District	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
Average Electorate per Cllr	14,114	14,114	16,467	16,467	16,467	16,467	16,467	16,467	19,760	19,760
Variance from Kent average (No.)	308	308	1,599	1,406	1,207	1,004	795	580	2,189	1,352
Variance from Kent average (%)	2%	2%	11%	9%	8%	6%	5%	4%	12%	7%
TUNBRIDGE WELLS										
Total forecast electorate at 2020	83,100	83,100	83,100	83,100	83,100	83,100	83,100	83,100	83,100	83,100
Number of Members in District	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
Average Electorate per Cllr	13,850	13,850	13,850	16,620	16,620	16,620	16,620	16,620	16,620	20,775
Variance from Kent average (No.)	44	44	-1,018	1,559	1,361	1,157	948	734	-951	2,367
Variance from Kent average (%)	0%	0%	-7%	10%	9%	7%	6%	5%	-5%	13%
KCC AREA										
	1,159,700	1,159,700	1,159,700	1,159,700	1,159,700	1,159,700	1,159,700	1,159,700	1,159,700	1,159,700
KCC Average electorate per ED	13,806	13,806	14,868	15,061	15,259	15,463	15,672	15,886	17,571	18,408

Threshold:

Plus or minus	10%
Change this figure to test an alternative threshold, then click this button to update the colour coding.	

Update

Note:

This analysis is based on the AVERAGE electorate population in each Electoral Division, within each District - whereas the aim is to get the electoral divisions (as defined by aggregates of Wards) to be within +/-10% of the County average in order to ensure equality of representation. As wards are fairly coarse building blocks, the actual variation is likely to be higher than is shown in this table.

Analysis:

	Council Size - Number of Members									
	84	84	78	77	76	75	74	73	66	63
Maximum average ED size	15,220	14,733	16,467	16,620	17,220	17,680	17,680	17,680	19,760	21,567
Minimum average ED size	12,629	12,150	13,850	13,886	13,886	13,886	13,886	13,886	16,200	16,200
Difference	2,591	2,583	2,617	2,734	3,334	3,794	3,794	3,794	3,560	5,367
Average % variation of min/max	21%	21%	19%	20%	24%	27%	27%	27%	22%	33%

Of the options considered above, *potentially*, a council size of 78 Members would give the lowest overall variation in ED size.