

**Explanatory notes to accompany information supplied for 5 June 2014
Electoral Boundary review committee meeting**

- At the last committee meeting district level electorate forecasts were circulated.
- Ward level electorate forecasts have now been produced.
- If the wards are grouped to the form the existing electoral divisions, 41 of the 72 divisions (57%) fall within a +/-10% variance from the County average (which is 13,806 persons per Member at 2020 based on the electorate forecast aged 18+). This is in-line with the number of divisions identified by the Boundary Commission in their preliminary work.
- Table 1 summarises the results for each Kent district based on the current electoral division boundaries.
- Although 41 of the existing divisions fall within the accepted level of variance, there is a need to review the boundaries of all divisions in order to make the remaining 31 divisions fall within the accepted level of variance.
- Given the preference to retain a Council size of 84 Members, the initial step has been to re-group the electoral wards to form 84 divisions.
- However, due to the varying size of electoral wards (the smallest having an electorate of 1,460 and the largest 9,150), it is not always possible to group the wards to reach a target electorate of 13,806. This tends to be the case in rural areas where electoral wards cover very large geographical areas, and in urban areas where electoral wards are smaller but have very high populations. In these circumstances, a solution has been to create a slightly larger division which can be represented by two Members. The preference was to create two-Member divisions rather than split electoral wards.
- 16 two-Member divisions have been created in the draft proposal. This is 4 more than currently exist.
- This creates a total of 67 divisions compared to 72 currently.
- And a Council size of 83 Members compared to 84 currently.
- 9 out of the 12 districts retain the same number of Members as currently. However, Gravesham requires one extra Member, whereas both Thanet and Sevenoaks each require one fewer Member. Please see the additional note at the end of this paper which explains this in more detail.
- The reduction to 83 Members means that the average electorate per Member increases slightly to 13,972 rather than 13,806 based on 84 Members.
- The new grouping of wards results in 56 of the 67 divisions (84%) falling within a +/-10% variance from the County average, with five districts (Ashford, Dartford, Maidstone, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells) having 100% of their divisions within the accepted variance levels.
- Table 2 summarises the results for each Kent district.
- A map and table for each Kent district that shows the proposed new divisions has also been provided.

Key points:

- The circulated proposal is just one option in order to test whether a Council size of 84 Members is viable when working below district level.
- The new divisions have been created purely from a statistical point of view.
- In some instances (but not all) other combinations of wards are possible. An Excel file (ED Boundary Revisions.xls) has been created to aid the creation of new divisions and can be supplied upon request.

Table 1 – Existing Electoral Divisions variance based on 2020 forecast

	Number of Members	Number of two Member divisions	Number of electoral divisions	Electoral divisions within + or - 10% of county average based on 84 Members		Electoral divisions within + or - 12.5% of county average based on 84 Members	
				Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Ashford	7	0	7	5	71%	5	71%
Canterbury	9	2	7	4	57%	6	86%
Dartford	6	0	6	4	67%	4	67%
Dover	7	2	5	2	40%	3	60%
Gravesham	5	2	3	2	67%	2	67%
Maidstone	9	1	8	5	63%	7	88%
Sevenoaks	7	0	7	4	57%	6	86%
Shepway	6	0	6	3	50%	4	67%
Swale	7	1	6	3	50%	5	83%
Thanet	8	3	5	3	60%	3	60%
Tonbridge & Malling	7	1	6	4	67%	5	83%
Tunbridge Wells	6	0	6	2	33%	4	67%
KCC total	84	12	72	41	57%	54	75%

Table 2 – Proposed Electoral Divisions variance based on 2020 forecast

	Number of Members	Number of two Member divisions	Number of electoral divisions	Electoral divisions within + or - 10% of county average based on 83 Members		Electoral divisions within + or - 12.5% of county average based on 83 Members	
				Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Ashford	7	0	7	7	100%	7	100%
Canterbury	9	3	6	4	67%	5	83%
Dartford	6	0	6	6	100%	6	100%
Dover	7	1	6	4	67%	6	100%
Gravesham	6	3	3	1	33%	2	67%
Maidstone	9	1	8	8	100%	8	100%
Sevenoaks	6	0	6	4	67%	5	83%
Shepway	6	0	6	5	83%	5	83%
Swale	7	2	5	4	80%	4	80%
Thanet	7	2	5	4	80%	5	100%
Tonbridge & Malling	7	3	4	4	100%	4	100%
Tunbridge Wells	6	1	5	5	100%	5	100%
KCC total	83	16	67	56	84%	62	93%

Justification for one fewer Member in Sevenoaks

When the number of Members per district based on the distribution of population was first calculated, the unrounded number of Members only summed to 83. An additional Member was then added to Sevenoaks, it being the next likely district to be rounded up to a whole Member to give a Council size of 84 in total. Having now looked at the ward level distribution within

Sevenoaks, a closer match to the equality of representation required by the LGBC is achieved by having only 6 Members in Sevenoaks, which results in an overall Council size of 83 Members.

Business Intelligence, Research & Evaluation
28 May 2014