

From: Graham Gibbens, Chairman of the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee  
John Lynch, Head of Democratic Services

To: Electoral and Boundary Review Committee – 11 December 2017

Subject: Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council – Community Governance Review

Classification: Unrestricted

**Summary:** This report updates Members about the community governance review undertaken by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council in 2016 and the minor alterations to the boundaries of the county electoral divisions of Malling Central and Malling Rural East which will come into effect on the day of the next County Council election in 2021.

## 1. Introduction

- (1) Principal councils (district councils or unitary councils) have the power to carry out community governance reviews and put in place or make changes to local community (parish) governance arrangements under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. A review can consider a number of issues including the creation of a new parish, altering the boundary of an existing parish or grouping a number of parishes together in a grouped parish council.
- (2) Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (TMBC) conducted a Community Governance Review of parish electoral arrangements regarding Kings Hill parish, and the boundaries with East Malling & Larkfield parish. TMBC's General Purpose Committee approved the redrawing of the boundary on 20 October 2016. The Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2017 was made on 24 January 2017 and will come into force on 1 April 2019 in advance of the next borough election.
- (3) It was proposed that a minor amendment to County division boundaries were made so that they were coterminous with the new parish boundary. The affected area is highlighted as A1 in the red hatched area on the attached map. A1 is currently located in the KCC division of Malling Central; it is proposed that it is moved to the KCC division of Malling Rural East. The change to KCC's boundary would not affect any electors or residential properties and would come into effect for 2021 County Council election. The A1 area includes the allotment site, the Kings Hill sports park and pitches, and land identified through the Kings Hill Phase 3 Masterplan as being allocated as 'Amenity Green Space'.
- (4) In order to make the County division boundaries coterminous with the new parish boundary, a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council was required with the approval of the County Council.

- (5) As it was a minor amendment, the Chairman agreed for the Committee to consider and approve the recommendation, to alter the county electoral divisions of Malling Central and Malling Rural East, via email rather than convene a special meeting of the Committee. The local Members, Mr Balfour and Mrs Dean, were also notified of the proposal to make a minor amendment to the boundaries in their divisions.
- (6) As no objections to the proposal were received, the Chairman wrote to Richard Beesley, Head of Electoral & Democratic Services, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on 28 July 2017 to confirm that the County Council did not wish to raise an objection to red hatched area (A1) being moved from the KCC division of Malling Central to the KCC division of Malling Rural East in order for it to be made coterminous with the new parish boundary.
- (7) The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) agreed to make an Order to alter the county division boundaries at its September meeting. The LGBCE has prepared and sent instructions to the Government Legal Department to draft the Order. Once the LGBCE has received the Order and is satisfied with its accuracy, the Order will be made and published at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk> –no parliamentary scrutiny is required for this Order. The Order will come into effect on the day of the next County Council election in 2021.

## Recommendation

The Committee is invited to note the alterations to the boundaries of the county electoral divisions of Malling Central and Malling Rural East which will come into effect on the day of the next County Council election in 2021.

## Appendices

- Appendix – Map

## Background Documents

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (2017) '*Community Governance Reviews (24/01/2017)*', <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/council-and-democracy/councillors,-democracy-and-elections/parish-and-town-councils/boundary-reviews/community-governance-reviews>

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (2016) '*About Community Governance Reviews (01/01/2016)*', <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/about-reviews/about-community-governance-reviews>

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