

# Gresley Way – Principal Area Boundary Review

## Draft Recommendations, January 2012

### Introduction

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body which conducts Principal Area Boundary Reviews (PABRs). These are reviews which consider the boundaries between principal authority areas.

2 The LGBCE is conducting a PABR following a formal request for a review of the boundary in this area from East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council. The review will determine where the boundary between East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council should be in the area around Gresley Way. After we have completed our review, subject to the nature of them we will send our final recommendations to the Secretary of State who will decide whether or not to implement them.

3 The existing district boundary cuts through 29 residential properties in Gordian Way, Neptune Gate and Trajan Gate in the area close to Gresley Way. Additionally, five properties are entirely within East Hertfordshire district. As a result of the current boundary position, 19 properties within these three cul-de-sacs are represented by East Hertfordshire District Council, while 15 are represented by Stevenage Borough Council. However, the existing boundary means that the access for all the East Hertfordshire residents in the affected properties is via Stevenage borough. A list of all properties affected is provided in Appendix A.

4 We consider that residents should have direct access to the rest of the authority in which they live and that uniting the whole of the residential estate to the west of Gresley Way in Stevenage will better reflect community identities in this area.

5 Moreover, many services for all affected properties, including refuse collection and other environmental services, are provided by Stevenage Borough Council. No recharge for these services is made to East Hertfordshire District Council.

6 As the current boundary appears to represent an anomaly, we consider it can be addressed through a boundary change which would affect all the residents of the affected properties, as detailed in Appendix A, in the East Hertfordshire District Council area. Realigning this boundary along Gresley Way would result in all affected properties being transferred from East Hertfordshire district into Stevenage borough.

7 Our draft recommendations are described and mapped on pages 4 and 6 of this report. We aim to conduct the review within the time-frame outlined in Table I.

**Table I: Timeframe for the PABR of East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council**

<b>Key dates</b>	<b>Description</b>
24 January 2012	LGBCE publishes its draft recommendations
24 January 2012 to 6 March 2012	Six week consultation period on the draft recommendations
April / May 2012	Final recommendations published and sent to the Secretary of State

## Background and legislation

8 The aim of a Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR) is to consider the existing boundaries in a particular local authority area and to make recommendations to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to change (or in some cases, make recommendations *not* to change) the external boundaries between two or more principal authorities.

9 In considering whether (and, if so, what) boundary change is desirable, the legislation states that we must have regard to:

- the need to secure effective and convenient local government;
- the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities

The boundaries we recommend should also be identifiable, clear and long-lasting.

### Electoral Arrangements

10 If we recommend any boundary change, we must also recommend to the Secretary of State whether, as a consequence, a change should be made to:

- the electoral arrangements of the area of a local authority; and
- the electoral arrangements of the area of a parish council.

11 Electoral arrangements means:

- the total number of members to be elected to the council;
- the number and boundaries of electoral areas (wards or divisions) for the purposes of the election of councillors;
- the number of councillors for any electoral area of a local authority; and
- the name of any electoral area.

### The Secretary of State

12 If we do recommend a boundary change, the Secretary of State may:

- accept and implement the change we recommend;
- modify our recommendations and make an order to implement those modified changes;
- take no action; or
- request us to carry out another review.

## **Parish boundaries**

13 We cannot make recommendations to the Secretary of State about whether or not to change a parish boundary. However, when we make our recommendations about the principal authority boundary (in this case, the district boundary), we may comment on and make suggestions to the Secretary of State on any consequential parish boundary changes he might wish to consider in implementing our recommendations.

## Draft recommendations

14 We have considered the existing boundary between East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council in the area around Gresley Way and whether a change to the boundary is desirable. We consider that uniting all affected residential properties in Gordian Way, Neptune Gate and Trajan Gate, as detailed in Appendix A, into a single district, and ensuring that access to all affected properties is through the same council area will provide for a better reflection of community identity and for more effective and convenient local government.

15 Our draft recommendation to change the district boundary in this area affects 44 electors from 19 households, as detailed in Appendix A. We consider that the transfer of electors between districts does not require any substantial change to the electoral arrangements in the area. We are therefore recommending only directly consequential electoral arrangements to ensure that the district ward and county division boundaries in the area are coterminous with the new district boundary.

### Draft Recommendations:

To re-align the district boundary between East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council, as outlined in Table 2 below and the Map on page 6 of this report. Our draft recommendation is for the area in the shaded part of the map (Area A) to be transferred to Stevenage Borough Council.

We are also recommending that the ward and division boundaries are re-aligned so that they are coterminous with the revised district boundary.

This will have the effect, if implemented, of transferring the entirety of all properties listed in Appendix A, into Stevenage Borough Council, Manor borough ward and Chells county division.

**Table 2:**

Area	District from which omitted	Ward from which omitted	Division from which omitted	District to which added	Ward to which added	Division to which added
<b>A</b>	East Hertfordshire	Walkern	Hertford Rural	Stevenage	Manor	Chells

### Other matters

16 We recognise that the existing district boundary that we are considering is also a parish boundary between Walkern parish in East Hertfordshire and a non-parished area in Stevenage.

17 We have no power to recommend to the Secretary of State that he changes the parish boundary. However, we consider that it would be in the interests of effective

and convenient local government if the parish boundary of Walkern parish be re-aligned to any altered district boundary. We therefore intend to make such a suggestion to the Secretary of State subject to the outcome of consultations on these draft recommendations.

18 The Commission recognises that a number of other boundary anomalies between Stevenage borough and adjoining authorities exist. However, the Commission is of the view that it will not normally proceed with a PABR unless there is agreement between all principal authorities concerned that a review should take place. As there is no agreement between authorities to undertake a PABR of other sections of the boundary, we have confined this review to the area outlined on the map on page 6 of this report. In this specific case both East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council agree that a review of the boundary should take place.

### **Equality Analysis Statement**

19 These draft recommendations have been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. They were found to have positive impacts having regard to the underlying objective of the general equality duty; to advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

# East Herts & Stevenage PABR Draft Recommendations

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

Box Wood



## East Hertfordshire District Council

Walkern County Parish  
Walkern District Ward  
Hertford Rural County Division

## Stevenage Borough Council

Manor District Ward  
Chells County Division

### KEY

-  EXISTING DISTRICT / BOROUGH WARD
-  AREA TO BE TRANSFERRED

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 2012. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England GD100049926 2012.

## What happens next?

20 We are consulting on our draft recommendations between 24 January 2012 and 6 March 2012. We may change our final recommendations as a result of the comments we receive. It is therefore important that you let us have your comments and views on the draft recommendations. We encourage comments regardless of whether you agree with the draft recommendations or not. We will be accepting comments and views until 6 March 2012.

21 We will then consider your comments and formulate our final recommendations which we aim to publish and submit to the Secretary of State in April / May 2012. There will then be a further period of four weeks for interested parties to make representations on our recommendations direct to the Secretary of State.

22 Express your views on our draft recommendations by writing directly to:

**Review Officer**  
**East Hertfordshire and Stevenage Review**  
**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**  
**Layden House**  
**76–86 Turnmill Street**  
**London EC1M 5LG**

23 Submissions can also be made by using the consultation section of our website, [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk) or by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

24 More details on boundary reviews, including references to the legislation that we have to adhere to, can be found in our 'Principal Area Boundary Reviews: technical guidance', published in May 2011, available on our website, [www.lgbce.org.uk/guidance-policy-and-publications](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/guidance-policy-and-publications)

25 Please note that the consultation stages of this review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations on our draft recommendations will be placed on deposit locally at the offices of East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council, our offices in Layden House (London) and on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

26 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

# Appendix A

## List of properties on Gordian Way, Neptune Gate and Trajan Gate affected by the East Hertfordshire and Stevenage PABR

### Properties currently in Stevenage borough where the boundary currently passes through the property:

69 Gordian Way SG2 7QH  
70 Gordian Way SG2 7QH  
71 Gordian Way SG2 7QH  
72 Gordian Way SG2 7QH  
73 Gordian Way SG2 7QH  
74 Gordian Way SG2 7QH  
75 Gordian Way SG2 7QH  
77 Gordian Way SG2 7QH  
44 Neptune Gate SG2 7SH  
45 Neptune Gate SG2 7SH  
46 Neptune Gate SG2 7SH  
50 Neptune Gate SG2 7SH  
3 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
5 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
18 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG

### Properties currently in East Hertfordshire district where the boundary currently passes through the property:

1 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
2 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
6 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
9 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
10 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
11 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
12 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
14 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
15 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
16 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
21 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
22 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
23 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
24 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG

### Properties currently in East Hertfordshire district where the boundary does not pass through the property:

7 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
8 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
19 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
20 Trajan Gate SG2 7QG  
76 Gordian Way SG2 7QH