

63A Sandy Lane,  
Church Crookham,  
Fleet,  
Hampshire,  
GU52 8BX.

5<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

Review Officer (Hart),  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,  
Layden House,  
76-86 Turnmill Street,  
London,  
EC1M 5LG.

Re: Review of ward boundaries for Hart District Council

Dear Sirs,

I am the group leader of the Community Campaign (Hart), a resident's association party with five councillors on Hart District Council (and with a county councillor at Hampshire). I wrote to you in April to suggest an alternative ward arrangement to that then being suggested by Hart District Council following a controversial amendment proposed by Hart's ruling group. In that instance my proposal was predominantly the original officer draft proposal drawn up independently by Hart's electoral officer.

I must take this opportunity to thank the Boundary Commission for giving due consideration to this alternative proposal and incorporating the basic principle into your draft recommendations for the re-warding of Hart District Council.

In the context of your draft recommendations themselves then the only revision that I would like to suggest is that the ward that you call Church Crookham is extended slightly on its western boarder to include all the houses in Chesilton Crescent; so that the road is not needlessly split in two. In order to rebalance the numbers then Crookham Vilage ward could be extended east along Aldershot Road and Sandy Lane to include Atbara Road.

This particular recommendation is included in the response that Hart District Council has voted to send to you. In regard to all the minor changes that Hart will be recommending I add my voice to supporting these; including the suggestion for the renaming of the wards.

I do have a concern however about how the leading group have forced through their suggestion of how to rebalance Fleet Central (ward Q) and Fleet West (ward P). I attach for comparison the original draft report prepared by Hart Officers which proposed a simple solution as to how their identified numbers anomaly could be resolved.

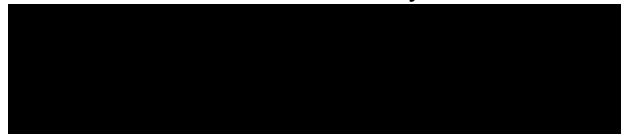
I would like to suggest that the original officer's proposal would result in wards with a more consistent sense of place. I think that the wards defined by the political group less represent a coherent set of communities.

Based on simple geometry the 'bent leg' ward which is now being proposed is not as desirable as the more regular shaped ward first proposed by Hart officers. I base this assertion on the distance from the extremities to the centre of gravity of the ward. In fact the amended proposal has the north-western ward's centre of gravity outside of the ward itself. Although an external centre of gravity is not in itself an issue it does suggest that the ward is somewhat contrived.

In terms of sense of place the north of the 'bent leg' ward consists of a major up-market housing development (Elvetham Heath) which has such an independent sense of place that it has it's own newly formed parish council. I would argue that it has more in common with the established exclusive community in the north of Fleet, known locally as the blue triangle, than it does with the ex-council estates on the south western fringe of Fleet.

I therefore would like to draw the Boundary Commission's attention to the accompanying copy of the original proposal to Hart's Council as drawn up by Hart's professional officers for you to consider.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

✓ Cllr. James Radley  
Group Leader, Community Campaign (Hart).

Attached documents;

[1] **RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION DRAFT RESPONSE ON NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HART – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011.**

**COUNCIL**

**DATE OF MEETING:** 29 SEPTEMBER 2011

**TITLE OF REPORT:** **RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION DRAFT RESPONSE ON NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HART**

**Report of:** Chief Executive

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Ken Crookes, Leader of the Council

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To recommend a response from the Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission's (LGBCE) draft recommendations on electoral arrangements for Hart.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the draft response set out in Appendix A be agreed.

**3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission is currently undertaking a review of the electoral arrangements for the District Council. The first part of that review was to determine how many councillors should sit on the District Council following implementation of the review. Following representations, the Commission have decided to create 11 wards of 3 members each, as recommended by the District Council.

3.2 This second and final stage of the review is to consider the draft recommendations made by the LGBCE surrounding the ward names and new boundaries. The Commission have requested views on this by 10 October 2011.

3.3 Over recent weeks discussions have been held between the three party group leaders on the Council and officers about this issue.

3.5 The attached appendix sets out a draft response following those discussions.

3.6 Council is asked to approve or amend the response as it sees fit.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**CONTACT:**  
**EXTENSION:** 4108

Geoff Bonner – Chief Executive  
EMAIL: [geoff.bonner@hart.gov.uk](mailto:geoff.bonner@hart.gov.uk)

## Introduction

1. On the 19<sup>th</sup> July the LGBCE published its draft recommendations for the electoral arrangements for Hart District Council.
2. The Council broadly accepts the recommendations made.
3. The Council wishes to make three main recommendations to the LGBCE with regard to their report. These include an alteration to the line of two boundaries and an amended table of ward names.
4. The amendments to the two boundaries are as a result of some drafting errors in the original submission to the LGBCE and are recommended to ensure that the electoral equality in the new wards is as close to the mean as possible.
5. The amendments proposed for the new ward names are to ensure that the names given are different to the names of existing parishes or parish wards in instances where the new district wards are not coterminous with the parishes. The local experience of officers is that electors are often confused when the same name is used to refer to different areas at different electoral levels.

## Boundary between Fleet Central and Fleet West

6. The boundary line between Fleet Central and Fleet West proposed by the LGBCE was derived from the submission made by CCH. There was an error in the electorate figures provided to CCH which they then used to determine the boundary.
7. The figures contained in the original proposal were:
 

Fleet Central (Q):	6358 (2010)	6151 (2016)
Fleet West (P):	5945 (2010)	6419 (2016)
8. Following the receipt of the draft recommendations from LGBCE the opportunity has been taken to validate the data submitted. During this validation it was identified that the boundary line proposed between Fleet West and Fleet Central did not produce the above electorate figures, when applied to the 2010 register.
9. The actual electorate figures including electoral variances for the two wards is as follows:
 

Fleet Central:	recalculated as 7597 (2010) +20%	7585 (2016) +19%
Fleet West:	recalculated as 4823 (2010) -24%	5103 (2016) -20%

 This degree of electoral inequality is unacceptable.
10. The proposed boundary line between Fleet West has been redrawn to remove the error and produce a more equitable number of electors between the two wards. This is shown on map I. The change leads to a physically larger Fleet West ward, with the “Blue Triangle” community now wholly within Fleet West.
11. The amended boundary line produces the following electorate figures:

Fleet Central	6636 +5% (2010)	6063 -5% (2016)
Fleet West	5784 -8% (2010)	6625 +4% (2016)

12. In view of the change to the boundary it is more appropriate to rename the ward as Fleet North West.
13. Officer’s recommendation is that this change is suggested as the LGBCE draft recommendation will produce the unequal allocation of electors described above.

**Boundary between Yateley East and Blackwater & Hawley**

14. The boundary line between Yateley East and Blackwater and Hawley originated in the submission of Hart District Council and adopted by the LGBCE.
15. The boundary line between these two wards splits the estate of Hearsey Gardens with the majority of that estate in Yateley East.
16. This should be amended so that all of Hearsey Gardens is in Yateley East. This involves moving 131-139, 145-145 Hearsey Gardens from Blackwater to Yateley East so that all of Hearsey Gardens is in Yateley East. The change in the number of electors is insignificant; but will ensure that the Community within the estate will be wholly contained within Yateley East.
17. The Boundary line will also be more clearly defined and will run along the footpath between Hearsey Gardens and the backs of the properties in Andover Road and Lyndhurst Gardens. The amended boundary is shown on map 2.

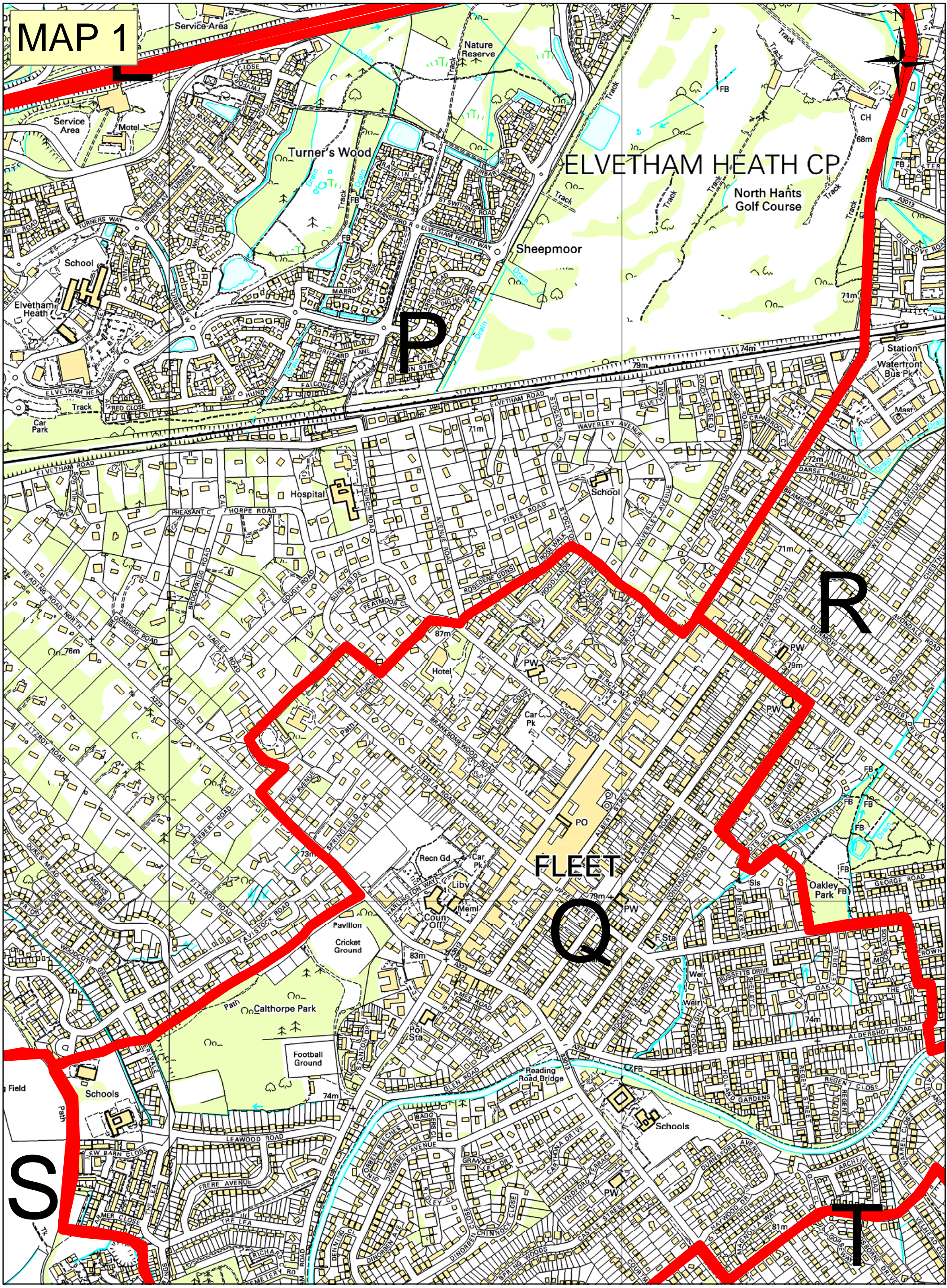
**New Ward names**

18. The LGBCE have proposed new names for the 11 wards. Some of the names suggested are already in use as existing parish or parish ward names. The use of the same name for different electoral areas can be confusing for the electorate.
19. The table below lists an alternative set of names which will eliminate the confusion and better reflect the communities that form the new wards.

Ward name proposed by the LGBCE	Parishes included in new ward	Issues with suggested name	Ward Name to be recommended to the LGBCE by Hart
Hartley Wintney	Hartley Wintney, Mattingley, Bramshill, Eversley, Heckfield Winchfield	1. Does not reflect other communities in the North. 2. Electors confuse Hartley Wintney District ward with the parish.	Northern Hart
Yateley West	Coterminous With YW parish ward	None	Yateley West
Yateley East	Coterminous With YW parish	None	Yateley East

	ward		
Blackwater & Hawley	Includes Frogmore & Darby Green parish ward	Not coterminous with Blackwater & Hawley Parish, will confuse electors if not changed.	Blackwater Valley
Hook	Rotherwick parish	Not coterminous with Hook parish	Hook
Odiham	Odiham, Crondall, S Warnborough Greywell Long Sutton Dogmersfield	Not coterminous with Odiham parish, will confuse electors if not changed.	South West Hart
Crookham Village	Includes Queen Elizabeth and Gally Hill Ward in Church Crookham parish, Ewshot parish & Netherhouse parish ward	Not coterminous with Crookham Village parish, will confuse electors if not changed.	Crookham West
Church Crookham	Includes Courtmoor Parish ward in Fleet and Church Crookham East parish ward.	Not coterminous with Church Crookham parish, will confuse electors if not changed.	Crookham East
Fleet Central	Coterminous with Fleet Central parish ward	None	Fleet Central
Fleet West	Elvetham Heath Parish	Due to the boundary changes described above it is no longer appropriate to name this ward Fleet West as it centred on the North West of the town.	Fleet North West
Fleet East	Includes Pondtail and Ancells parish wards	None	Fleet Pond

# MAP 1



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