

Chief Executive's Department

JOHN JORY
Chief Executive



Reigate & Banstead
BOROUGH COUNCIL
Banstead | Horley | Redhill | Reigate

Review Officer (Surrey)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
LONDON
EC1M 5LG



Our Ref: JJ/216mjn
Your Ref:
Date: 22nd September 2011

Dear Sir,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SURREY - DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

I refer to the Commission's draft recommendations for electoral arrangements in the electoral review of Surrey County Council.

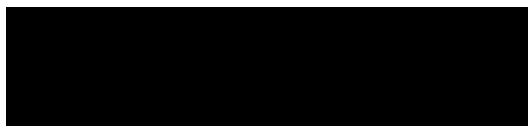
The Borough Council is due to consider these proposals at the Council meeting on 6th October. The following comments are based on consultation with Councillors but are subject to formal adoption by the Council.

The changes to the configuration of Divisions in some areas is welcomed, for example, in the centre of the Borough, as the new boundaries better reflect the communities of Reigate and Redhill. In other areas there is concern that this is not achieved. The new Division of Merstham and Banstead South is bisected by the M25 which is a major physical barrier between the two communities and for this reason it is considered that review objective in relation to community identity is compromised.

Whilst appreciating the need to secure electoral equality, the lack of co-terminosity with Borough Wards particularly in relation to Meadvale and St Johns Ward, may cause confusion for some electors and make responding to issues locally more complex for Councillors. In addition, the proposals will result in additional polling stations being required impacting on the costs associated with running elections. For these reasons the Council does not consider that all the proposals represent convenient and effective local government. However, given the review criteria it is difficult to provide alternative proposals which would achieve better electoral equality. In the circumstances, subject to the reservations referred to above, the Council accepts the proposals.



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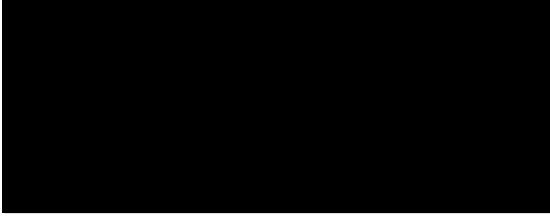
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In the event that the decision of the Council differs from the foregoing I will write to you again.

Yours faithfully



John Jory
Chief Executive