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



11 March 2011

Dear Ms Murphy

## **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SURREY**

I refer to your consultation on new electoral division boundaries for Surrey.

In relation to the Boundary Commission being minded to retain 80 councillors for the county, this Council considers that the number of councillors should be reduced to 60. The Council feels that this would reduce the cost of democracy at a time of severe financial constraint for local government but would still achieve effective representation.

You will have received representations from Windlesham Parish Council setting out its case for redrawing the boundaries of the Bisley, Chobham and West End Division and the Windlesham Division. Lightwater Ward is currently split between 2 county divisions, with Lightwater West in the Bisley, Chobham and West End Division and Lightwater East in the Windlesham Division. This results in the village of Lightwater being divided in two with the division boundary running down Ambleside Road.

This Council is minded to support the Windlesham Parish Council's proposal that Bagshot, Windlesham and Chobham be grouped in one division and Lightwater, West End and Bisley in another division. The Council endorses the Parish Council's view that this combination would reflect the natural coalescence of the communities and would result in divisional boundaries being coterminous with existing borough and parish ward boundaries.

In addition it is understood that the County Council's submission in relation to this consultation includes a proposal to make a small amendment to move approximately 200 properties from the Camberley West Division to the Frimley Green and Mytchett Division. This Council would be minded to resist this proposal as it would split the borough ward of Frimley West between 2 county divisions and would divide a residential estate. As a result it would not reflect natural communities and community ties. It is acknowledged that these divisions have a variance from the average

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electorate per councillor of 12% and -11% respectively. However this Council considers that the principal of keeping communities in the same division without splitting the building blocks of borough wards should be the overriding consideration.

Yours sincerely



Derek McManus  
Head of Corporate Governance