

Have your say

We are now consulting local people on a new pattern of wards for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. We have an open mind about our final recommendations, and we will consider every piece of evidence we receive from local groups and people, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole council area or just a part of it.

If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Tunbridge Wells we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

We aim to propose a pattern of wards for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council which delivers:

- **Electoral equality:** each councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- **Community identity:** reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- **Effective and convenient local government:** helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

Electoral equality

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in the council area?

Community identity

- **Transport links:** are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?
- **Community groups:** is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?
- **Facilities:** does your pattern of wards reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc?

Write to:
Review Officer (Tunbridge Wells)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

- **Interests:** what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- **Identifiable boundaries:** are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

Effective local government

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?

Useful tips

- Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at consultation.lgbce.org.uk.
- We publish all submissions we receive on our website. Go to: www.lgbce.org.uk

Our consultation area:

consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Email:
reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Twitter:
[@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements



Who we are

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.
- We are not part of government or any political party.
- We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.
- Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority, including:

- The total number of councillors representing the council's electors ('council size').
- The names, number and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
- The number of councillors for each ward or division.

Why Tunbridge Wells?

- The Commission has a legal duty to carry out an electoral review of each council in England 'from time to time'.
- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has not been reviewed since 2001 and the Commission has therefore decided that it should review Tunbridge Wells in advance of the elections in 2024.

Our proposals

- We propose that the council should have **39 councillors** in future, representing 13 three-councillor wards across the council area.

You have until 10 October 2022 to have your say on the recommendations

Summary of our recommendations

Our draft recommendations propose that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council should have 39 councillors, a decrease of nine from the existing arrangements.

Those councillors should represent 13 three-councillor wards across the council area.

The boundaries of all the existing wards will change; none will stay the same.

Before drawing up the draft recommendations, the Commission carried out a public consultation inviting proposals for a new pattern of wards for Tunbridge Wells.

We have considered all of the submissions we received during that phase of consultation.

An outline of the proposals is shown in the map to the right. A detailed report on the recommendations and interactive mapping is available on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk.

We welcome comments on our draft recommendations, whether you support the proposals or wish to put forward alternative arrangements.

Have your say at consultation.lgbce.org.uk:

- view the map of our recommendations down to street level.
- zoom into the areas that interest you most.
- find more guidance on how to have your say.
- read the full report of our recommendations.

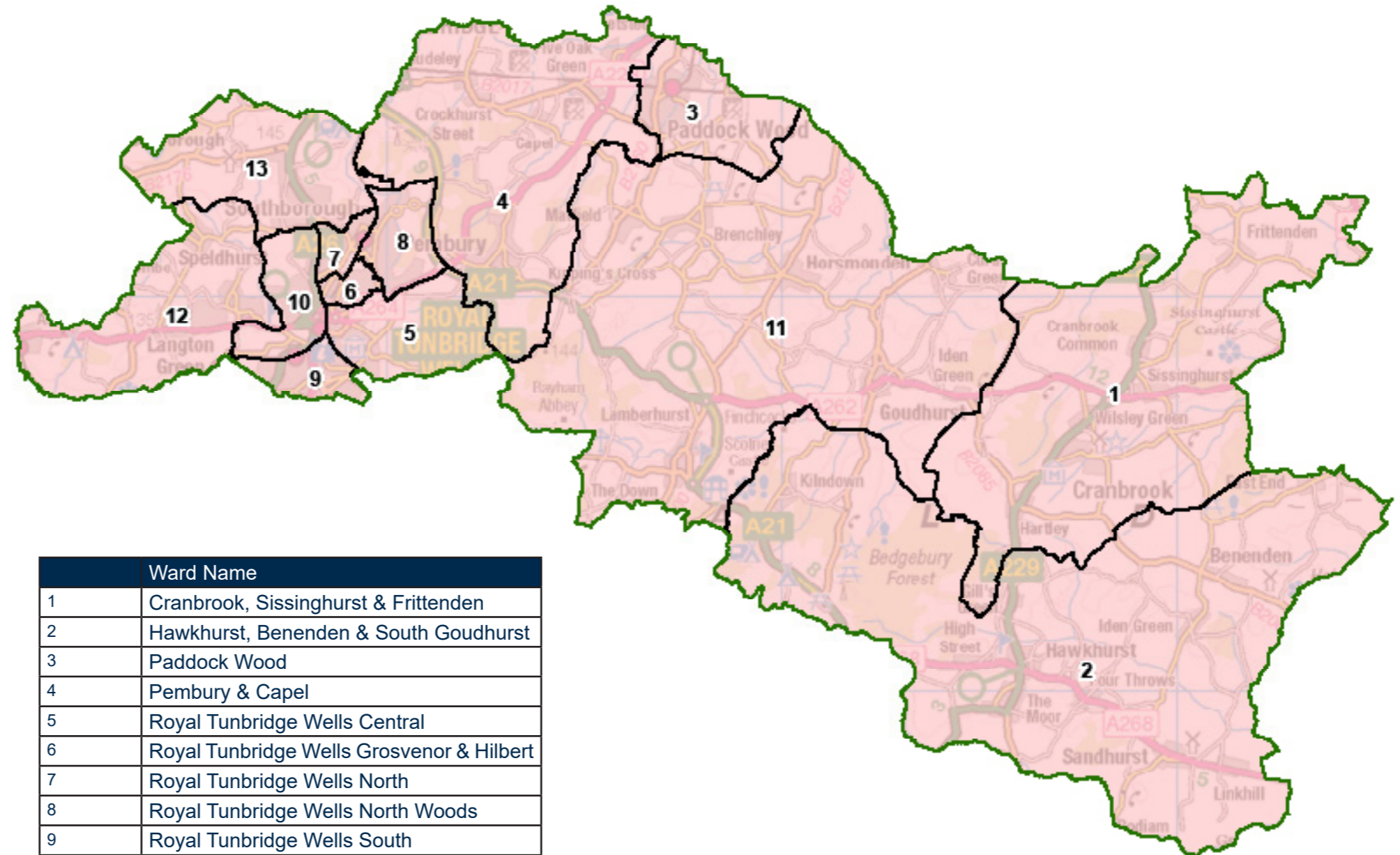
Stage of Review	Description
11 January 2022 - 21 March 2022	Public consultation on warding arrangements
2 August 2022 - 10 October 2022	Public consultation on draft recommendations
10 January 2023	Publication of final recommendations
May 2024	Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at local elections

Overview of draft recommendations for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

View this map online:
consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Follow the review on Twitter: [@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)

If you are viewing this page online, click on the map to go straight to our interactive consultation area.



	Ward Name
1	Cranbrook, Sissinghurst & Frittenden
2	Hawkhurst, Benenden & South Goudhurst
3	Paddock Wood
4	Pembury & Capel
5	Royal Tunbridge Wells Central
6	Royal Tunbridge Wells Grosvenor & Hilbert
7	Royal Tunbridge Wells North
8	Royal Tunbridge Wells North Woods
9	Royal Tunbridge Wells South
10	Royal Tunbridge Wells West
11	Rural Tunbridge Wells
12	Rusthall & Speldhurst
13	Southborough & Bidborough