

## Guidance for individuals: giving us your views on proposed changes to wards



### How reviews work

When we carry out electoral reviews we must:

- Make sure that, within an authority, each councillor represents a similar number of electors
- Create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community links
- Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views and circumstances



### Consultations

Public consultations are an essential part of our work, the submissions we receive help us improve our proposals before we make final recommendations.

- We consider all submissions carefully. Tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposals.
- Here are some tips to express your opinion:
- If you agree with certain proposals tell us why.
- Besides telling us you disagree with a proposal, tell us why and suggest how it might change.

Please note ward changes do not change parliamentary boundaries or postcodes.



### Your views

#### The overall picture

- For the whole council area, what do you think of the proposals?

#### Names

- Are there any new ward names that you think are particularly good and why?
- Are there any new ward names that you think are particularly bad and why?
- What do you think would be better names and why?

#### Boundaries

- Which of the proposed boundaries do you agree with and why?
- Which of the proposed boundaries do you disagree with and why?
- If you disagree with proposed boundaries, are there clearer and more identifiable boundaries that could be used?

## Examples of where we found local views persuasive

We often refine our proposals in response to local views. Here are a couple of examples, included in our published recommendations:



### **Maidstone (November 2022)**

‘We received a submission from a resident who argued that Mote Park should be included in Shepway ward, with Ashford Road as the northern boundary for Shepway ward. They argued that Ashford Road is widely recognised as the southern boundary of Grove Green and that many access points into Mote Park are within Shepway ward. Following consideration

of this evidence, we were convinced to adopt this change. We consider that Ashford Road is a clear and identifiable boundary in this area, and further note the connection of Mote Park to Shepway.’



### **Tonbridge and Malling (October 2021)**

‘To provide a good level of electoral equality south of the M20, a submission by a local resident proposed linking Ditton parish with the area of Aylesford south of the M20. While we were sympathetic to the submissions which define Ditton as a self-contained community, we considered that this arrangement

provides for a good balance of our statutory criteria. We further note that the communities of Ditton and South Aylesford are linked by London Road and some residents of Ditton use large supermarkets in Aylesford.’