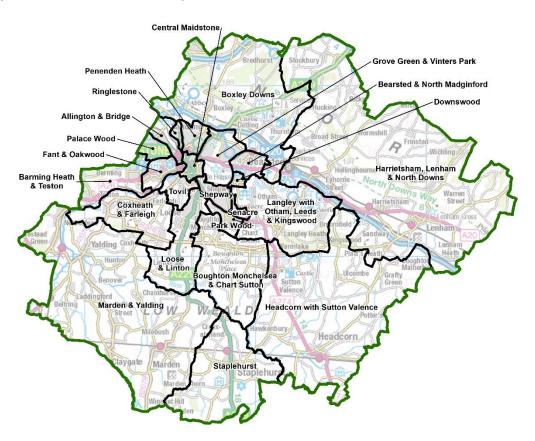
## News Release from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Embargoed until: 00:01 5 July 2022

# Have your say on a new political map for Maidstone Borough Council

New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in Maidstone Borough Council

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A 12 week consultation on the proposals will run until 28 September 2022.



Proposed wards for Maidstone Credit: contains Ordnance Survey data (c) Crown copyright and database rights 2022
High resolution map available at https://s3-eu-west2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/map%20labels.pdf

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing Maidstone to make sure councillors will represent about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements will help the council work effectively.

The Commission has published proposals for changes to Maidstone. It is proposing that there should be twenty three wards, consisting of seven three-councillor wards,

twelve two-councillor wards, and four single councillor wards. One ward will remain the same, the rest will have different boundaries.

## Proposed changes include:

- Following strong evidence received, Lenham Parish will not be split between wards and will instead be placed in Harrietsham, Lenham & North Downs ward containing the parishes of Harrietsham, Lenham, Hollingbourne, Hucking, Bicknor, Stockbury, Wormshill, Frinsted, Wichling and Otterden.
- North Loose, Loose Parish and Linton Parish will be combined in Loose & Linton ward, following persuasive evidence regarding community links in this area.

Launching the consultation Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said:

"We want people in Maidstone to help us.

"We have drawn up proposals for new wards in Maidstone. We want to make sure these new electoral arrangements reflect communities. We also want them to be easy to understand and convenient for local people.

"Residents and local organisations can help us do that. We would like them to let us know whether they agree with our proposals before we take final decisions. "It's easy to get involved. Go to our website. Or you can e-mail or write to us. "Just tell us what you think and give us some details why you think that. It's really simple, so do get involved"

The Commission has a dedicated section on its website where people can see the detail of the proposals and comment on the names of wards and their boundaries: <a href="https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/32722">https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/32722</a>

People can also give their views by e-mail at reviews@lgbce.org.uk, and by post:

Review Officer (Maidstone) LGBCE PO Box 133 Blyth NE24 9FE

### Ends/

#### **Notes to editors:**

This consultation relates to the arrangements for local government elections. It is separate from consultations that are currently taking place across England on arrangements for parliamentary elections.

For further information contact the Commission's press office on 0330 500 1525 / 1250 or email press@lgbce.org.uk

An interactive map is available at <a href="https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/32722">https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/32722</a>
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body accountable to Parliament. It recommends fair electoral and boundary arrangements for local authorities in England. In doing so, it aims to:

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