

Have your say

We are now consulting local people on a new pattern of wards for Maidstone 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 Maidstone we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

Maidstone Council

Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements

We aim to propose a pattern of wards for Maidstone 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.

- **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

Electoral equality

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

Community identity

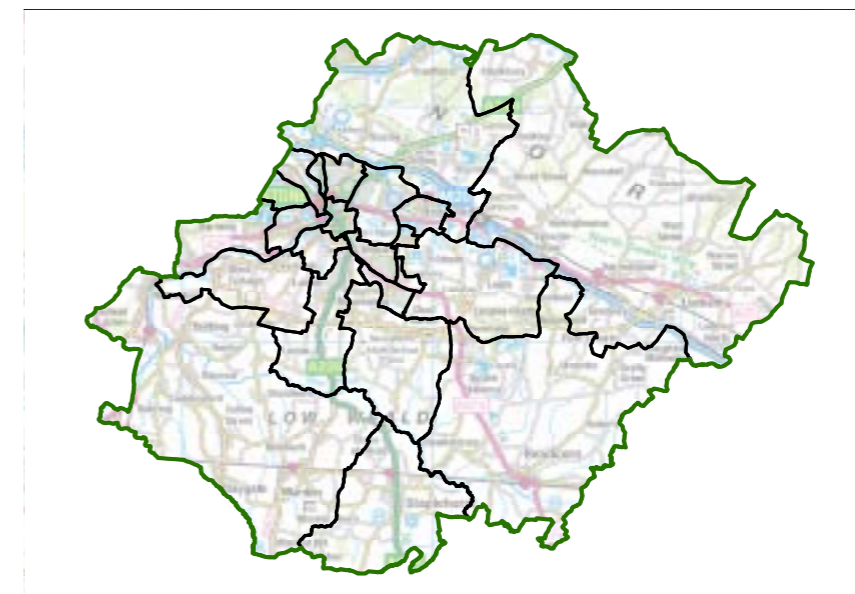
- **Transport links:** are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?
- **Community groups:** is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?
- **Facilities:** does your pattern of wards reflect where local people go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

Have your say:

Write to:
Review Officer (Maidstone),
LGBCE,
PO Box 133,
Blyth,
NE24 9FE

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

Have your say:



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 Maidstone?

- The Commission has a legal duty to carry out an electoral review of each council in England 'from time to time'.
- Maidstone Borough Council has not been reviewed since 2000 and the Commission has therefore decided that it should review Maidstone in advance of the elections in 2024.

Our proposals

- We propose that the council should have **49 councillors** in future, representing seven three-councillor wards, twelve two-councillor wards, and four single-councillor wards across the council area.

You have until 28 September 2022 to have your say on the recommendations

Summary of our recommendations

Our draft recommendations propose that Maidstone Borough Council should have 49 councillors, a decrease of six from the existing arrangements.

Those councillors should represent seven three-councillor wards, twelve two-councillor wards, and four single-councillor wards across the council area.

In January 2022, the Commission was minded to recommend that 48 councillors serve Maidstone in the future. The Commission has decided to increase this number by one to 49 councillors in order to provide a warding pattern that better reflects our statutory criteria.

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

We have considered all of the submissions we received during that phase of consultation. The boundaries of all but one wards should change.

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.
- send us your views directly.

Stage of Review	Description
25 January 2022 - 4 April 2022	Public consultation on warding arrangements
5 July 2022 - 28 September 2022	Public consultation on draft recommendations
29 November 2022	Publication of final recommendations
May 2024	Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at local elections

Overview of draft recommendations for Maidstone 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.



	Wards
1	Allington & Bridge
2	Barming Heath & Teston
3	Bearsted & North Madginford
4	Boughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton
5	Boxley Downs
6	Central Maidstone
7	Coxheath & Farleigh
8	Downswood
9	Fant & Oakwood
10	Grove Green & Vinters Park
11	Harrietsham, Lenham & North Downs
12	Headcorn with Sutton Valence
13	Langley with Otham, Leeds & Kingswood
14	Loose & Linton
15	Marden & Yalding
16	Palace Wood
17	Park Wood
18	Penenden Heath
19	Ringlestone
20	Senacre
21	Shepway
22	Staplehurst
23	Tovil

- One councillor ward
- Two councillor ward
- Three councillor ward