

Guildford Borough Council

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Comment text:

Please find attached MVCA's submission to LGBCE for the Guildford Electoral Review, proposing new ward boundaries which aim for balanced electorates/Councillor whilst respecting Parish boundaries in the area covered by Mole Valley Constituency.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1613942274_Guildford+Borough+Council+Electoral+Review+-+MVCA+Submission.docx)

Electoral Review

Stage Two – Warding Arrangements

Mole Valley Conservative Association
submission to the Local Government
Boundary Commission for England
(February 2021)

1. Background

The villages to the east of Guildford town, running from West Clandon to Effingham, from Shere to Wisley, are set to experience massive growth over the coming years. Lovelace ward and Effingham ward in particular have projected 2026 electorates 58% and 22% above the average electorate 2026 electorate per Councillor (2,422). This variance from the 2026 average electorate should be kept below 10%, and our proposal achieves this.

Our proposal also seeks to avoid splitting any parishes, so distinct formed communities remain within a single ward. We will keep variance within 10% of the average to respect the need for electoral equality. We believe some degree of variance is acceptable to ensure the ward boundaries are sensitive to village communities. Overall our proposals will bring the representation of the villages from 9 Councillors to 10 Councillors in light of projected growth.

2. Ward by ward proposals for the Guildford Eastern Villages

a) East Horsley and Effingham

Effingham's projected growth makes it far too large to be a single member ward, but far too small to be a two member ward. It must therefore be joined to another community. The only community adjoining it is East Horsley.

The two villages are connected by the A246 and Effingham common Road and both are serviced by Effingham Junction station. Several residential roads, like Heath View and Heathway, are currently split between the two. Joining only a part of East Horsley to Effingham to create a two member ward would split East Horsley parish, but placing the two parishes into one Borough ward with three members would create a ward with a -9% variance from the 2026 average, within 10% of the average.

b) Lovelace & West Horsley

The substantial growth Lovelace (comprising Ripley, Ockham and Wisley) undergoes leave it far too large to be a single member ward, but too small to be a two member ward. We believe combining it with the well connected villages of East Clandon and West Horsley, to compose a three member ward with a -7% variance from the average 2026 electorate, is the best solution from an electoral equality perspective whilst also not splitting historic parishes.

West Horsley connects to Ripley via Ripley Lane/Rose Lane. West Horsley connects to Ockham via the B2039. East Clandon connects to West Horsley via the A246. Ockham connects to East Clandon via Hungry Hill Road/Ripley Road.

c) Send and West Clandon

Send alone has a -22% variance from the average on 2026 figures for its two member representation. Combining it with West Clandon, as is already done in the Shere County division, brings it to 2% variance from the average for a two member ward, whilst keeping parishes intact. As well as sharing a County division, the villages are linked by the A247.

d) Tillingbourne

Tillingbourne's 2026 electorate is only -4% from the average electorate per Councillor. Current boundaries do not split any parishes, so there is no community reason to change its boundaries. Its boundaries should remain unchanged.

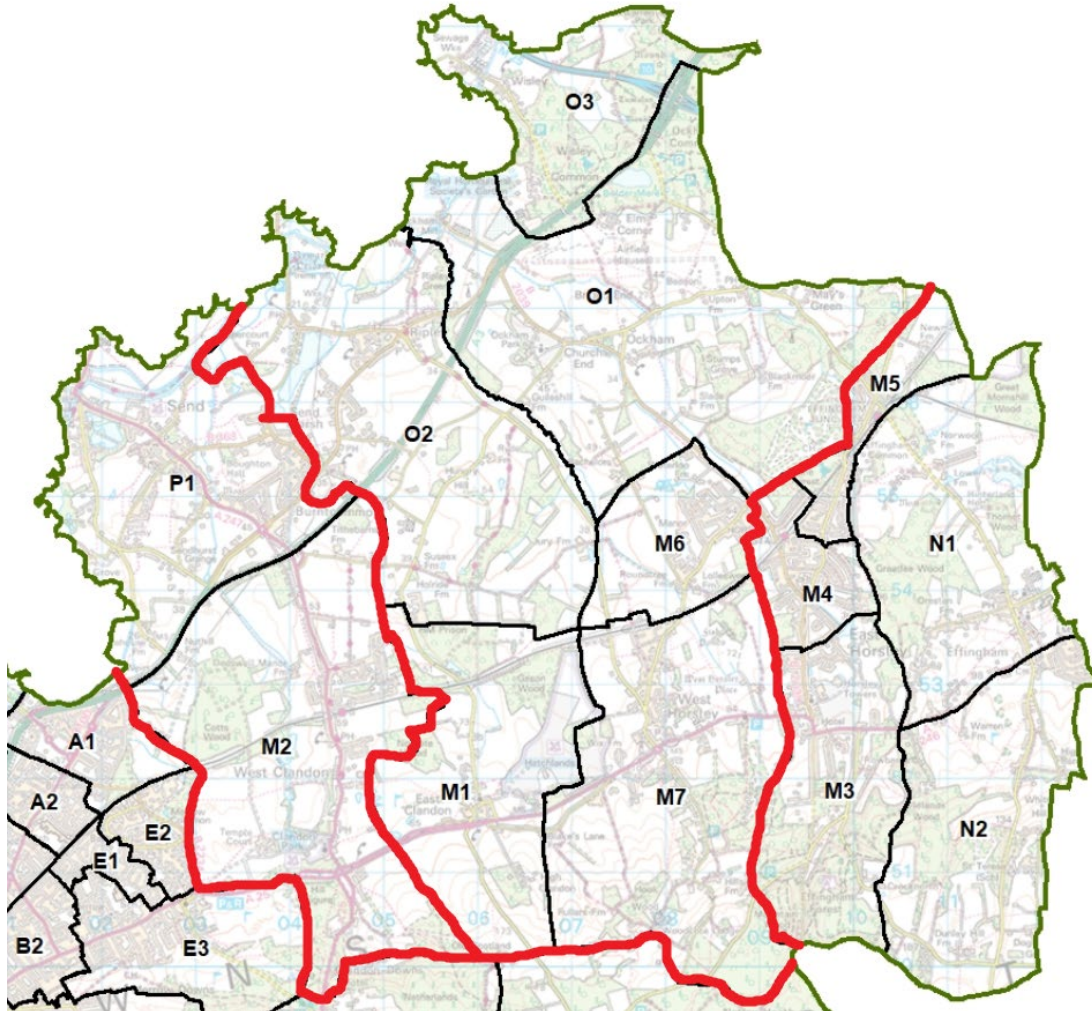


fig 1. The proposed new wards are outlined in red (from left to right, Send and West Clandon, Lovelace & West Horsley, and East Horsley & Effingham).

e) Electorate in existing wards

Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2020	Variance 2020	Electorate 2026	Variance 2026
Clandon & Horsley	3	7,035	9%	7,706	6%
Effingham	1	2,098	-2%	2,954	22%
Lovelace	1	1,944	-10%	3,818	58%
Send	2	3,444	-20%	3,791	-22%
Tillingbourne	2	4,485	4%	4,672	-4%

f) Electorate in proposed wards

Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2020	Variance 2020	Electorate 2026	Variance 2026
East Horsley and Effingham	3	5,551	-14%	6,583	-9%
Lovelace & West Horsley	3	4,432	-31%	6,757	-7%
Send and West Clandon	2	4,538	5%	4,929	2%
Tillingbourne	2	4,485	4%	4,672	-4%