

The Commission has published final recommendations for changes in Maidstone. It says residents should be represented by 49 councillors. This is six fewer than the current arrangements.

There will be 22 wards, four fewer than there are now, representing three single-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and eight three-councillor wards. The boundaries of 21 wards should change; only Staplehurst will stay the same.

Publishing the recommendations Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said:

“We are very grateful to people in Maidstone. We looked at all the views they gave us. They helped us improve our earlier proposals.

“We believe the new arrangements will deliver electoral fairness while maintaining local ties.”

236 people and organisations made comments to help decide the new wards. Changes in response to what local people said include:

- Stockley Parish will be included in Boxley Downs ward
- The Coombe Farm Estate will be united in Tovil ward

The Commission has made further changes to its earlier proposals. Details can be found on its website at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/kent/maidstone>.

The changes become law once Parliament has approved them. Staff at the council will ensure that the arrangements are in place for the 2024 elections.

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 <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/32722>.

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