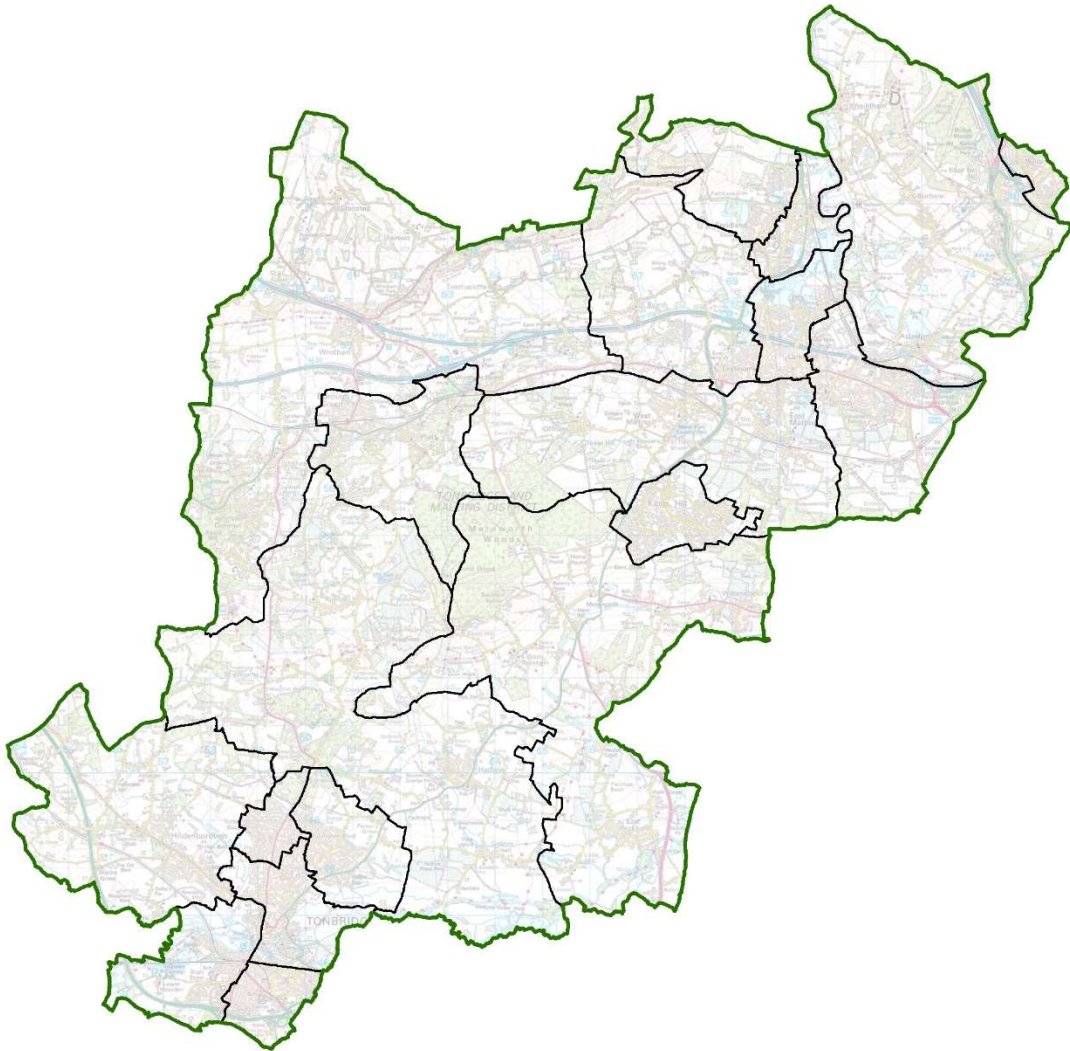


## News Release from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Embargoed until: 00:01 1 March 2022

### New political map for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Tonbridge & Malling is set to have new boundaries for its council wards.



New wards for Tonbridge & Malling

Credit: contains Ordnance Survey data (c) Crown copyright and database rights 2022

High resolution map available at [https://s3-eu-west-](https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Reviews/South%20East/Kent/Tonbridge%20and%20Malling/Final/Wards_nolabels.jpg)

[2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Reviews/South%20East/Kent/Tonbridge%20and%20Malling/Final/Wards\\_nolabels.jpg](https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Reviews/South%20East/Kent/Tonbridge%20and%20Malling/Final/Wards_nolabels.jpg)

The Local Government Boundary Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It has reviewed Tonbridge & Malling 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 final recommendations for changes in Tonbridge & Malling. It says residents should be represented by 44 councillors. This is ten fewer than under the existing arrangements.

The 44 councillors should represent one one-councillor ward, eleven two-councillor wards, and seven three-councillor wards across the council area. There will be 19 wards, five fewer than there are now. The boundaries of all wards should change; none will stay the same.

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

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

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

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

- Cage Green ward will be renamed Cage Green & Angel and shall encompass the area east of the High Street following persuasive community evidence received by the Commission
- West Peckham Parish shall be placed in a ward with East Peckham Parish, Mereworth Parish and Wateringbury Parish to reflect community evidence

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/tonbridge-and-malling>.

Parliament now needs to agree the changes. The new arrangements will then apply for the 2023 council 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](mailto:press@lgbce.org.uk)

An interactive map is available at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/27207>.

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