

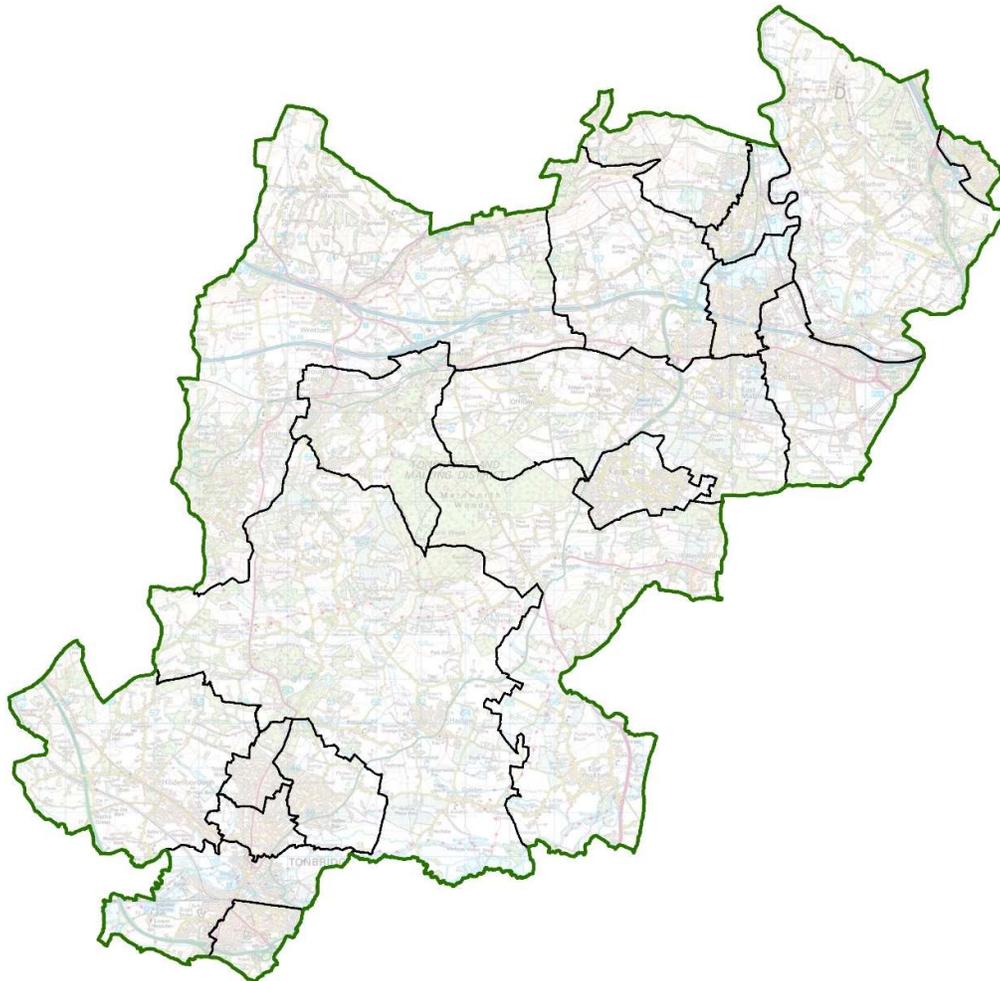
News Release from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Embargoed until: 00:01 05 October 2021

Have your say on a new political map for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A 10-week consultation on the proposals will run from 5 October 2021 until 13 December 2021.



Proposed wards for Tonbridge & Malling

Credit: contains Ordnance Survey data (c) Crown copyright and database rights 2021

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

[2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Reviews/South%20East/Kent/Tonbridge%20and%20Malling/Draft/DR_nolabels.jpg](https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Reviews/South%20East/Kent/Tonbridge%20and%20Malling/Draft/DR_nolabels.jpg)

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing 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 proposals for changes to Tonbridge & Malling. It is proposing that there should be 19 wards, five fewer than there are now. These wards should be represented by 44 councillors, ten fewer than there are now. The boundaries of all wards should change, none will stay the same.

The Commission made a minded to decision in April to reduce the number of councillors to 43, however we have increased this number to 44 in order to provide for a pattern of wards that better reflects our statutory criteria.

Proposed changes include:

- The current Wrotham, Ightham & Stansted ward will be enlarged to incorporate the parishes of Trottiscliffe and Addington. This ward shall be named Pilgrims with Ightham.
- Mereworth parish and Wateringbury parish shall be placed in a ward together, along with East Peckham parish, due to the strong community evidence we received.

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

“We want people in Tonbridge & Malling to help us.

“We have drawn up proposals for new wards in Tonbridge and Malling. 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. <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/27207>

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

Review Officer (Tonbridge & Malling)
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 <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