

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL

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Local Government Boundary Commission for England
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5 May 2023

Dear Sir / Madam

LGBCE Consultation: Surrey County Council Electoral Boundary Review
Closing Date: 8 May 2023

Horley Town Council is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the above consultation and draft proposals being presented for the Electoral Boundary Review of Surrey County Council. We understand that this forms part of 2nd phase of the boundary review on division arrangements and that the 1st phase determined that the number of Surrey County Councillors would remain the same at 81 Members in total.

We further note that later rounds of the consultation will focus on the number of divisions, boundaries between divisions, names of each division and proposed changes will be considered, inter alia, to reflect changes in the distribution and growth of the population. Thereafter, final implementation of the new electoral arrangements will become effective in May 2025, subject to approval of the recommendations.

At this stage, we consider it imperative that local communities can give their views on how county divisions should be arranged and that electors can propose changes based on what matters to them most which will undoubtedly encompass a number of important factors.

Having studied in detail the interactive maps on LGBCE website, showing the current boundaries and some predictions regarding changes in the numbers of electorate, the proposals for Horley seem to be fairly evenly spread out across all polling districts and both divisions (Horley West & Sidlow and Horley East & Salfords).

Horley Town Council is very fortunate to have strong communication links with its divisional members, through partnership working arrangements and community engagement with Horley residents, businesses, and community groups. Additionally, frequent meetings are held between council tiers at county, borough, and parish level when we receive a host of important detailed updates on wide-ranging local issues and consultations together with opportunities for future growth and investment in Horley. The Town Council is also able to participate in key stakeholder engagement to influence the decision-making process based on residents' views, ideas for change and local knowledge. We consider it crucial that such well-established collaboration and communication links through the benefit of Horley Town Council being coterminous with the higher tier local authorities is never compromised.

We understand that Surrey County Council has requested that this is a single member division review, but allocation of county councillors based on electorate size will have to be considered. Due to the vast rate of the rising population of Horley in recent years, arising from several large residential developments, we feel that the ratio of electors to county councillor in each division must be kept regularised should changes to divisions and boundaries be deemed necessary, Otherwise, the current arrangement with one member per division could lead to postholders becoming overstretched due to increased demand on their time.

We further wish to state to the Commission, that in assessing the needs and desires of local communities from feedback received, that these are carefully evaluated to determine how the Horley divisions and boundaries should be formed, bearing in mind key factors, such as, community cohesion, residents sharing a common interest, local issues they face and any impacts on infrastructure creating a higher demand on local services.

We look forward to hearing more updates at the later stages of the Electoral Review of Surrey and that that our views on behalf of the Horley electorate will be given due consideration.

Yours faithfully



Joan Walsh
Town Clerk
Horley Town Council

cc (By Email): SCC Cllr Jordan Beech
SCC Cllr Andy Lynch
Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council