

Canterbury

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Please see attached.

Attached Documents:

- Canterbury City Council warding pattern - Conservative Councillor Group.pdf

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

WARDING PATTERN SUBMISSION BY THE CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLOR GROUP

01 DECEMBER 2023

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ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL: WARDING PATTERN SUBMISSION BY THE CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLOR GROUP

Section 1: Executive Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a review of Canterbury City Council's electoral arrangements. The outcome of the review will be implemented for the May 2027 Council elections.

The review will cover the entire district. The statutory criteria that the LGBCE will apply when making its proposals are: -

1. Electoral equality (a consistent number of electors per councillor).
2. Community identity (strong ward boundaries that reflect communities); and
3. Effective and convenient local government (coherent wards with good internal transport links).

The review was initiated in 2023 and the preliminary stage of the review determined the future Council size: the preferred option of LGBCE is to maintain the council size at 39 members.

The period for interested parties to submit their ideas for warding patterns closes on 4 December 2023.

It is the opinion of the Conservative Group that some of the wards in the district need realigning to ensure greater electoral equality and ensure community identity is achieved where there are large new housing developments coming on stream.

This document sets out how the warding pattern for those wards within the new Herne Bay & Sturry constituency can be changed.

Methodology

Our methodology was:

1. Starting with the wards in Herne Bay – Herne & Broomfield and Greenhill – where there is a greater number of electors, we sought to rebalance the warding pattern in Herne Bay and Sturry, using our knowledge of the communities of each area, transport links and based on the new housing developments.
2. We have changed wards where there were three councillors to two councillor wards, which we believe are able to function better at representing their communities and managing case work. In other wards, we believe it makes more sense to have more one member wards.
3. Most changes have involved moving one or two roads from one place to another. Fortunately, very little adjustment is needed to make this work, the places falling conveniently into councillor-sized blocks.
4. We have aimed to keep parish councils entire within a ward, but where a parish is located across more than one ward, we have taken the decision that it is better to move one part into a new ward, where the statutory criteria are better met.

Section 2: The current warding pattern

Electoral reviews in Canterbury

The current warding pattern was created at the last boundary review in Canterbury District, in 2014, for implementation at the 2017 local election.

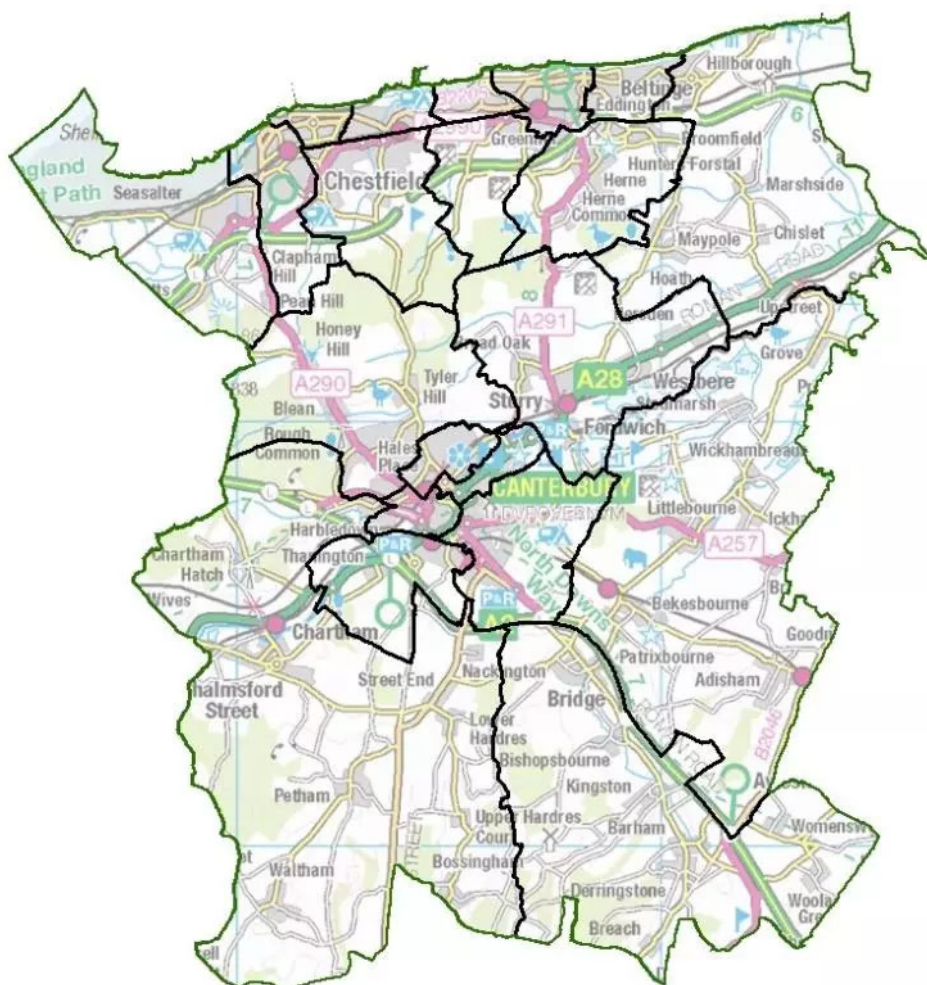
The Council is currently comprised of 39 councillors across 17 wards. There are currently four three-member wards (Barton, Blean Forest, Gorrell and Heron), 10 two-member wards, and 7 one-member wards. All councillors are elected for a four-year term.

All electorate 2023 and anticipated electorate 2029 figures used in this document are those provided by Canterbury City Council in its submission to the LGBCE in July 2023.

Current wards

Fig. 1 – Current warding patterns

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Herne & Broomfield

Existing: two ward councillors.

Polling district	Description of area	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2029
HHB1	Herne Village Area	2726	3428
HHB2	Mill Lane Area	1320	1398
HHB3	Hunters Forstal Road Area	1467	1565
HHB4	Broomfield	1198	1264

Herne and Broomfield is parished, being separated from Herne Bay to the north by the A299 dual carriageway.

Herne and Broomfield is the largest parish council in the CCC district, with the 2011 census showing a population of 8,440. It is separate to the town of Herne Bay to the North, although housing development is pushing the two areas closer together,

Herne was developed as the first landfall along the coast from Reculver. The medieval street pattern is still apparent today. The south of the parish is a designated Special Landscape Area and is bordered by East Blean Woods, a National Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

According to the parish council, the village is centred upon the Parish Church of St. Martin's, which dates from the 14th century. Today it contains a wide variety of buildings dating from the 14th century to the present day and includes 31 listed buildings. These are still able to give the village a distinctive feel.

The parish has separate Infant and Junior schools, three nurseries, one preschool, a cemetery, the Cherry Orchard playing field, three public houses, one microbrewery, a small farm shop in Lower Herne Road, and a post office/general store in Herne and another in Broomfield.

In recent years there has been more housing development to the west of the ward, and more is expected in the North. The new Bullockstone Road was completed in 2023.

Greenhill

Existing: one ward councillor

Polling district	Description of area	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2029
HGE1	Greenhill (West)	1597	2031
HGE2	Greenhill (East)	1733	2763

Greenhill is unparished. It is to the north of Herne Bay and is separated by the Old Thanet Way from the centre of Herne Bay. It is bisected by the A299. To the south is West Blean Woods.

Greenhill is home to Briary Primary School for children aged from 4–11 years and Herne Bay High School for children aged from 11 to 18, a sports college which very recently gained its sports status. Greenhill has its own Gymnastics Club and a wide range of community groups and organisations.

Sturry

Existing: two ward councillors

Polling district	Description of area	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2029
RS6	Fordwich	326	349
RS5	Hersden	1354	2596
RS8	Bredlands Lane Area	143	140
RS1	Broad Oak/Calcott	740	1950
RS2	Park View Area	1398	1478
RS3	Meadow Road Area	1359	1422
RS4	Sturry Village/Fairview Gdns	662	707
RS7	Westbere	263	279

Sturry lies at the old Roman junction of the road from the city to Thanet and Reculver, at the point where a fort was built to protect the crossing of the river. Sturry railway station was opened in 1848 and the line was electrified in 1962, by the South Eastern Railway; it is on the line between Canterbury West and Ramsgate. The station was until the 1860s the stagecoach point for Herne and Herne Bay. The parish boundaries are the same now as they were in 1086 as recorded in the Domesday Book.

There are two primary schools in the area. Sturry Church of England Primary school is situated near the north of the village, with strong links with Hersden Primary School. The junior part of The King's School, Canterbury, is also located in south Sturry. Spires Academy, formerly known as Sturry Secondary Modern School and later Frank Montgomery School, is the only secondary school in Sturry.

Sturry Ward contains three parishes and one town council: Sturry, Westbere and the recently parished Hersden, along with Fordwich Town Council. Fordwich is the smallest town in the UK.

Again, the ward has seen and is seeing a large amount of housing development along Island Road at Hersden on former colliery sites and around the village of Sturry. The new reservoir is proposed at Broad Oak.

Reculver

Existing: one ward councillor

Polling district	Description of area	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2029
HR3	Bishopstone/Hillborough/Reculver	2061	2957
HR2	Chislet/Marshside/Upstreet	719	753
HR1	Hoath/Maypole	457	483

Reculver is a village and coastal resort about 3 miles (5 km) east of Herne Bay on the north coast of Kent and the ward extends southwards to encompass Hoath and Chislet.

Reculver once occupied a strategic location at the north-western end of the Wantsum Channel, a sea lane that separated the Isle of Thanet and the Kent mainland until the late Middle Ages.

It includes two parish councils at Hoath and Chislet. The north of the ward contains the housing developments at Hillborough, Bishopstone and Castle Chase, with new housing being built now. Much of the ward is rural, consisting mainly of agricultural farmland.

It has three infant and primary schools at Reculver, Hoath and Chislet.

Beltinge

Existing: two ward councillors

Polling district	Description of area	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2029
HB1	Beacon Hill/Queen Victoria Hosp Area	1401	1493
HB2	Mickleburgh Avenue/Maritime Ave Area	1911	1987
HB3	Beltinge Area	2087	2468
HB4	Blacksole/Talmead Area	507	536

Beltinge is a low cliff-top suburb of Herne Bay, on the southern shore of the Thames Estuary. It forms the eastern-most part of the urban area of Herne Bay and is just west of Reculver.

The ward is bordered to the south by the A299 and is largely made up of low-density housing. It has a small shopping centre as well as the large business community at Altira, which includes Sainsbury's, Travelodge, and Screwfix.

It is seeing increased housing development at Altira, and land bounded by Bogshole Lane.

There are no schools in Beltinge. The minor injuries unit at the Queen Victoria is within the ward.

Heron

Existing: three ward councillors

Polling district	Description of area	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2029
HH1	Western Ave Area	1807	1879
HH2	Memorial Park Area	1882	2004
HH3	Cavendish Road Area	1693	1761
HH4	Kings Road/Football Ground Area	946	1016
HH5	Eddington/Stillwater Park	1458	1639
HH6	Western Esplanade/Central Ave Area	1833	1906

The Heron ward encompasses the centre of Herne Bay and is home to the world's first freestanding purpose-built Clock Tower, built in 1837. The town rose to prominence as a seaside resort during the early 19th century after the building of a pleasure pier and promenade by a group of London investors and reached its heyday in the late Victorian era.

There is one infant and primary school in the ward: Heron Primary School. The seafront dominates the ward with a large amount of hospitality and tourism operations. There is also the shopping centre on Mortimer St, the High St, and Beach St. There is a leisure centre with a swimming pool. The town's railway station is also in the ward.

There is high density housing throughout the centre of the ward, with larger family homes surrounding the seafront from the Victorian and Georgian periods. Heron ward also suffers from high levels of educational, social and health deprivation.

West Bay

Existing: one ward councillor

Polling district	Description of area	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2029
HWB1	Studd Hill	1149	1226
HWB2	Hampton Area	2019	2100

The coastal ward to the west of Heron, includes Hampton and Studd Hill. It includes the seafront with Hampton Pier and the slopes down to numerous beach huts. The ward extends south to encompass the industrial areas at Sea Street.

It also includes Hampton Primary School. It is largely a mixed residential area of low density.

Section 4 Proposal for New Warding Pattern

We have looked at each ward and related our proposed changes defined by topographical factors, convenient local government and creating as far as is possible a consistent number of voters for each councillor.

We have changed some ward names to ensure clarity and to ensure residents are able to connect with their local community and recognise the area represented by a councillor.

We have created two person and single member wards rather than any three member wards as we do not believe these work particularly well in Canterbury City Council.

Herne & Broomfield

We propose that Herne & Broomfield retains its name and remains a two-member ward.

However, we propose that its western boundary changes so that it extends only to the A291 and then contains the land to the east of the Bullockstone Road. We also propose that the ward is extended a further bit south to Hicks Forstal Road which means the Wildwood site and the nearby industrial units move into the ward of Herne & Broomfield. This always seems to have been an anomaly not to include them with Herne.

The eastern boundary with Reculver ward remains as it is now. The northern ward boundary will run along the A299 rather than the existing boundary with Plenty Brook.

Some of these changes mean that a changed ward, Greenhill & Bullockstone, would increase to a two member ward and include some of the new housing development to the west of Herne & Broomfield, namely the Redrow site. The current ward councillors believe this would help to deliver a better consistent number of voters. It would also mean that what appears to be forming naturally as an extended village of Greenhill to the east of Plenty Brook would sit more comfortably within a new ward.

Herne & Broomfield would remain very closely aligned to the area contained within the parish boundary.

Greenhill & Bullockstone

We propose that Greenhill & Bullockstone is formed as a new ward with two members. One of those new councillors would come from the Blean Forest ward which would reduce from three to two members.

The new ward of Greenhill & Bullockstone, would encompass the whole of the existing Greenhill ward plus the area to the west of Herne & Broomfield (see page 9), specifically the area between Plenty Brook and Bullockstone Road and the land to the north of the A299 to meet the existing and retained southern edge of Heron ward, which will become Herne Bay Central (see below).

Greenhill & Bullockstone's northern boundary would remain the same as it is now for Greenhill.

Beltinge

We propose that Beltinge retains its name and remains a two member ward.

Its boundaries to the north, south and east will remain as they are now, however, the western boundary would now run the length of the eastern side of Canterbury Road from Central Parade to the A299 and the border with the Herne & Broomfield ward.

Ward councillors say this small change to the western boundary would make sense as the residents there see their community connected to the Beltinge Downs and the King's Hall. There is a community building up around the former Herne Bay Hockey Club and Cecil Park which fits more naturally into the community along Mickleburgh Hill.

And then further along Canterbury Road, the development at Parsonage Road will link through from housing at Talmead and that being developed at Altira.

Herne Bay Central

We propose that the existing Heron ward is split into two. The eastern part of the former ward becomes Herne Bay Central with two members, while the western part of the ward joins with West Bay to become Hampton & Studd Hill with two members. This would redistribute the existing ward members from Heron and West Bay – one from the existing Heron ward moving to the new Hampton & Studd Hill ward.

The eastern border of Herne Bay Central would be the west side of the entire length of Canterbury Road. We propose the new western boundary is the east side of Pier Avenue up to and including the station and finishing at the railway line.

Herne Bay Central would still include Eddington Lane and the Stillwater Development. Therefore, the southern boundary would remain unchanged. The northern boundary would run between Canterbury Road and Pier Avenue; therefore, this new ward would encompass the whole of the shopping area, the seafront (including the pier and bandstand), Memorial Park, and the leisure centre, as well as the industrial site at Eddington.

This would make more sense in terms of community as it would contain the town centre and most of the commercial/hospitality/leisure/shopping/tourism assets, while the predominantly residential areas would move into the new ward of Hampton & Studd Hill.

Hampton & Studd Hill

We propose a new ward which would include West Bay and a part of the current Heron ward. It would be a two member ward.

Its eastern boundary would be the west side of Pier Avenue, the Circus to the west of Herne Bay Railway Station and including Fleetwood Avenue and Cross street to meet the Greenhill & Bullockstone boundary at Cobblers Bridge Road. The existing boundary for West Bay to the south and east, as well as Heron to the north will then be retained.

This would bring the residential areas in west Herne Bay, particularly along Western Esplanade together, connecting communities through to Hampton and then bringing the Sea Street area together along to Hampton. This appears to be an anomaly now and the boundary is not in keeping with the more residential areas to the west of Herne Bay.

Sturry & Fordwich

We propose that the existing Sturry ward is renamed and divided into two to better reflect the local communities and given the large amount of development taking place in all areas of this ward.

This would also mean that rather than having a much larger three member ward, there would be a two-member ward and single member ward. We propose that Barton ward is reduced to two members, and one is moved to represent this new ward of Sturry & Fordwich. And as a result, consideration may wish to be given to including electoral area CB7 (Stodmarsh Road/Littlebourne Rd) within this ward.

This may also help the proposed new ward of Island Road (see below) be able to protect the green gap between itself and Sturry, as well as maintain the identity of the village communities along Island Road. We know that some residents along Island Road do not identify with Sturry or Fordwich.

Sturry & Fordwich would remain a two-member ward. Its northern boundary would remain unchanged except for the small section in the east at the A291 where it would start on the southern side of Hicks Forstal Road (see Herne & Broomfield above).

The western boundary would remain unchanged.

The eastern boundary would remain unchanged until it reaches Hoath Road, and the boundary would now be on the western side of Hoath Road and Babs Oak Lane until it meets the A28.

We propose that the southern boundary would be as it is now, but it cuts straight down in a line from the junction of Babs Oak Lane and the A28 across the railway line to meet the existing boundary at the start of the Stodmarsh nature reserve.

Island Road (Westbere, Hersden & Upstreet)

As outlined above, we propose the creation of a new one-member ward, taking in the villages to the east of Sturry and Fordwich, which are on the northern side of the Canterbury West - Ramsgate railway line and Stodmarsh Nature Reserve.

The new ward would extend the length of the A28 to the border with Thanet District Council to include Upstreet, which is currently in Reculver ward. Although Upstreet is in Chislet Parish Council, the village sees itself as separate to the very rural section of the village that lies to the north and is bounded by the A299.

Given the two different communities represented on the parish council, with specific parish

councillors for Upstreet and Marshside, we believe it would not be an impediment to having the ward councillor for Reculver representing the rural portion of the parish and the Island Road councillor representing Upstreet.

The boundary in the north of the ward would be the River Sarre Penn (as it is now) across Sandpit Hill and meeting the boundary with Thanet District Council at the River Wantsum.

Reculver

We propose that Reculver ward remains unchanged for the greater part, retaining the existing boundaries with the wards of Beltinge, Herne & Broomfield and at the boundary with Thanet District Council. The southern boundary would now be on the northern bank of the River Sarre Penn.

This would mean that the Reculver Country Park (Bishopstone and Reculver) remains within the ward, along with Hillborough (where there is a substantial housing development), and the rural parts of the existing ward including the parish of Hoath plus the parish of Chislet, north of the river Sarre Penn would also remain within the ward.