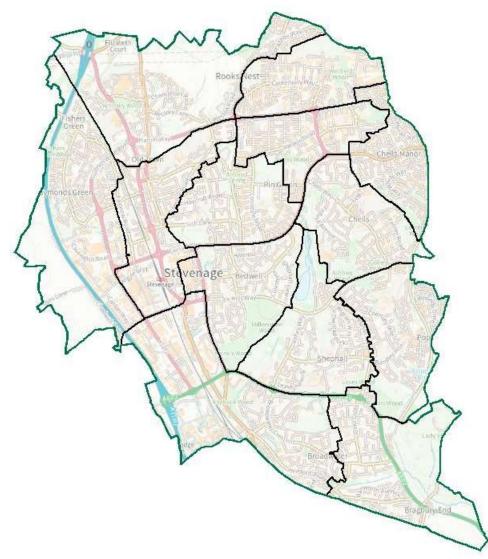
## News Release from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Embargoed until: 00:01 1 November 2022

## New political map for Stevenage Borough Council

Stevenage is set to have new boundaries for its council wards.



New wards for Stevenage Credit: contains Ordnance Survey data (c) Crown copyright and database rights 2022 High resolution map available at <u>https://s3-eu-west-</u> 2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Reviews/Eastern/Hertfordshire/Stevenage/Final/Stevenage%20no <u>%20labels.jpg</u>

The Local Government Boundary Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It has reviewed Stevenage 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 Stevenage. It says residents should be represented by 39 councillors. This is the same as the current arrangements.

There will be 13 three-councillor wards across the council area, the same as there are now. The boundaries of every ward will change; none will stay the same.

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

"We are very grateful to people in Stevenage. 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."

123 people and organisations made comments to help decide the new wards. The Commission has made further changes to its earlier proposals. Details can be found on its website at <a href="http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/hertfordshire/stevenage">www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/hertfordshire/stevenage</a>.

Changes in response to what local people said include:

- Modifications to the boundary between Chells and Manor wards, to include some residents east of Mobbsbury Way in Manor ward.
- Including residents of Glenwood Close, Oakwood Close and Taywood Close in Longmeadow ward, south of the A602.

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 <u>local government</u> elections. It is separate from consultations that are currently taking place across England on arrangements for <u>parliamentary</u> 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 <u>www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/30912.</u>

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

- Reflect the electoral cycle so that each ward is represented by three councillors
- Create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community ties and identities
- Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views and circumstances