

Guidance for community groups: giving us your views on proposed changes to wards



How reviews work

When we carry out electoral reviews we must:

- Make sure that, within an authority, each councillor represents a similar number of electors
- Create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community links
- Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views and circumstances



Consultations

Public consultations are an essential part of our work, the submissions we receive help us improve our proposals before we make final recommendations.

- We consider all submissions carefully. Tell us if you agree or disagree with the proposals.
- Here are some tips to express your opinion:
- If you agree with certain proposals tell us why.
- Besides telling us you disagree with a proposal, tell us why and suggest how it might change.

Please note ward changes do not change parliamentary boundaries or postcodes.



Gathering views

The following questions may be helpful in gathering views from your members:

The overall picture

- For the whole council area, what do you think of the proposals?

Names

- Are there any new ward names that you think are particularly good and why?
- Are there any new ward names that you think are particularly bad and why?
- What do you think would be better names and why?

Boundaries

- Which of the proposed boundaries do you agree with and why?
- Which of the proposed boundaries do you disagree with and why?

- If you disagree with proposed boundaries, are there clearer and more identifiable boundaries that could be used?

Examples of where we found local views persuasive

We often refine our proposals in response to local views. Here are a couple of examples, included in our published recommendations:



Lewisham (June 2020)

Brockley Society argued that the long-standing boundary between Brockley and Ladywell wards along Tyrwhitt Road should be moved behind the properties on the eastern side of the road. This would unite electors on this road within the same ward.



Mid Sussex (February 2022)

We received a comment from Twineham Parish Council which proposed the inclusion of Twineham parish in Downland Villages ward due to being the smallest community with 238 electors.