News Release from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

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New political map for Gravesham Borough Council

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

WAITING FOR MAP

New wards for Gravesham Credit: contains Ordnance Survey data (c) Crown copyright and database rights 2022 High resolution map available at <mark>LINK</mark>

The Local Government Boundary Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It has reviewed Gravesham 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 Gravesham Borough Council. It says residents should be represented by 39 councillors. This is five fewer than current arrangements.

There will be 17 wards; six three-councillor wards, ten two-councillor wards, and one single-councillor ward. This is one fewer ward than there is now. The boundaries of all wards have been changed in our final recommendations; none will stay the same.

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

"We are very grateful to people in Gravesham. We looked at all the views they gave us. They helped us improve our earlier proposals.

"We believe the new arrangements will guarantee electoral fairness while maintaining local ties."

72 people and organisations made comments to help decide the new wards. Changes in response to what local people said include:

• The Northfleet East & Rosherville and Coldharbour wards from our draft recommendations have been reorganised into a two-councillor Rosherville ward and a three-councillor Coldharbour & Perry Street ward with the boundary at the railway line.

• The Chalk & Westcourt ward from our draft recommendations has been split into a single-councillor Chalk ward and a two-councillor Westcourt ward.

The Commission has made further changes to its earlier proposals. Details can be found on its website at <u>https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-</u><u>east/kent/gravesham</u>

Parliament now needs to agree the changes. The new arrangements will then apply for the 2023 council elections.

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Notes to editors:

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/have-your-say/27825

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