

News Release

Embargoed until: 00:01, 12 May 2015

Kent residents: have your say on new county division boundaries

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking people across Kent to comment on its draft proposals for new county council division boundaries.

An eight-week public consultation on the recommendations begins today and will end on 6 July 2015. The consultation is open to anyone who wants to have their say on new county council electoral divisions, division boundaries and division names across Kent.

The Commission's draft recommendations propose that Kent County Council should have 81 county councillors in the future, three fewer than the current arrangements. The recommendations also outline how those councillors should represent 65 single-member divisions and eight two-member divisions across the county.

The full recommendations and detailed interactive maps are available on the Commission's website at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk and www.lgbce.org.uk. Hard copies of the Commission's report and maps will also be available to view at council buildings and libraries.

Max Caller CBE, Chair of the Commission, said: "We are publishing proposals for a new pattern of electoral divisions across Kent and we are keen to hear what local people think of the recommendations.

"Over the next eight weeks, we are asking local people to tell us if they agree with the proposals or if not, how they can be improved.

"Our review aims to deliver electoral equality for local voters. This means that each county councillor represents a similar number of electors so that everyone's vote in county council elections is worth roughly the same regardless of where you live.

"We also want to ensure that our proposals reflect the interests and identities of local communities across Kent and that the pattern of divisions can help the council deliver effective local government to local people.

"We will consider all the submissions we receive whoever they are from and whether your evidence applies to the whole county or just part of it.

The Commission wants to hear as much evidence as possible in order to develop final recommendations for Kent County Council. If you would like to make a submission to the Commission, please write or email us by 6 July 2015:

The Review Officer (Kent)

LGBCE
14th floor, Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter [@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)

Have your say directly through the Commission's consultation portal:
<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4285>

Link to the dedicated web page for the Kent electoral review:
www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/kent/kent-county-council

For further information contact:
Press Office: 0330 500 1250 / 1525
press@lgbce.org.uk

ends/

Notes to editors:

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for reviewing local authority electoral arrangements, defining boundaries for local elections and the number of councillors to be elected, as well as conducting reviews of local government external boundaries and structures.
2. The Commission is carrying out an electoral review of Kent County Council to provide for 'electoral equality'; that means each county councillor representing approximately the same number of electors. The Commission must also have regard to community identity and interests and providing effective and convenient local government.
3. The types of questions the Commission is asking residents at this stage are:
 - a. Do the proposed electoral divisions reflect local communities?
 - b. How do you think the proposals can be improved whilst maintaining electoral equality?
 - c. Are the names of the proposed divisions right?
4. Residents have from 12 May to 6 July 2015 to have their say about where division boundaries for Kent should be drawn. The Commission will consider all submissions and aims to publish its final recommendations in September 2015. Once the Commission agrees its final recommendations it will lay a draft order in both Houses of Parliament. Parliament will then have 40 days in which to consider the recommendations. If both Houses are satisfied with the recommendations, the draft order will be 'made' and the new divisions will come into effect at the county council elections in 2017.