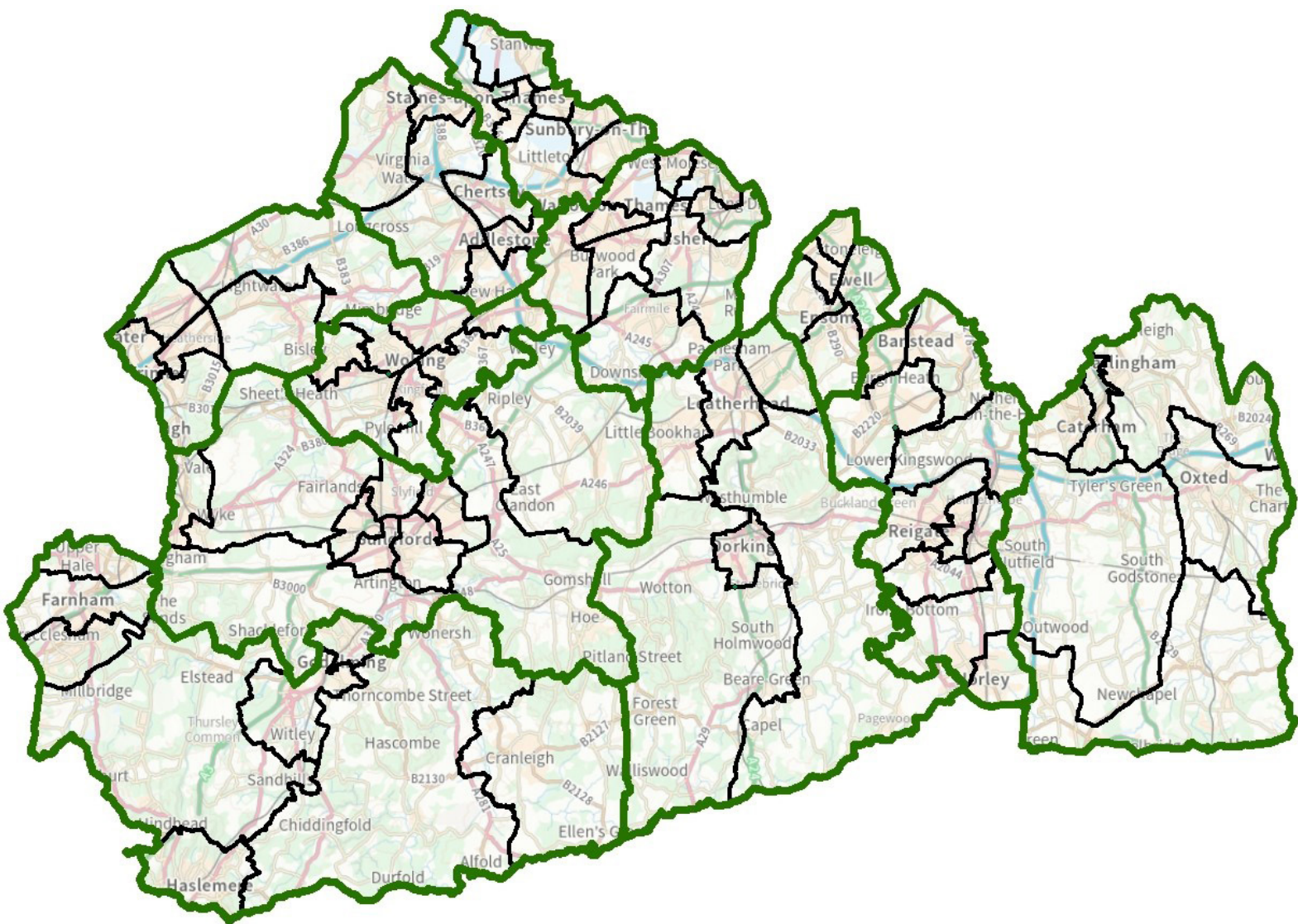


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Surrey County Council Draft Recommendations

August 2023

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Liz Treacy
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many county council electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and the review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Surrey?

7 We are conducting a review of Surrey County Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2012 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.²

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The divisions in Surrey are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the county.

Our proposals for Surrey

9 Surrey County Council should be represented by 81 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Surrey should have 81 divisions, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of most divisions should change; 24 will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

12 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which division you vote in, which other communities are in that division, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your division name may also change.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the county or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

² Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 8 August to 16 October 2023. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed divisions as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new divisions to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 16 October 2023 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 45 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Surrey. We then held a period of consultation with the public on division patterns for the county. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
14 February 2023	Number of councillors decided
28 February 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new divisions
8 May 2023	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
8 August 2023	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
16 October 2023	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
9 January 2024	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our divisions.

20 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create divisions with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

21 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2022	2029
Electorate of Surrey	876,454	964,825
Number of councillors	81	81
Average number of electors per councillor	10,820	11,911

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a division is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the division as having 'good electoral equality'. Seventy-four of our proposed divisions for Surrey are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2029.

Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2028, a period five years on from the originally scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2023. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 10% by 2028. The district and borough councils provided information to the County Council in support of these forecasts.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

figures to produce our draft recommendations. While the publication of our Final Recommendations has been delayed to 2024, we consider that the forecasts provided for 2028 will stand as the best available for 2029.

Number of councillors

26 Surrey County Council currently has 81 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same would ensure that the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 At the beginning of the review, the Council requested that this review be conducted as a ‘single-member division’ review.⁵ The Commission agreed to this request, and we invited proposals for divisions that would each be represented by one councillor.

28 We received no submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on division patterns and our draft recommendations are based on a council size of 81.

Councillor allocation and coterminosity

29 A council size of 81 provides the following allocation between the district and borough councils in the county. When conducting reviews of two-tier county councils there are a number of rules that we must follow. Firstly, we must not recommend any divisions that cross the district boundary. Secondly, we must have regard for the district/borough wards that exist within each area. Where possible we try to use the district/borough wards to form the boundaries of the county divisions. The table below shows the percentage of district/borough wards that are wholly contained within our proposed divisions. We refer to this as coterminosity.

District/Borough	Allocation of councillors	Coterminosity
Elmbridge	9	56%
Epsom & Ewell	5	86%
Guildford	10	57%
Mole Valley	6	77%
Reigate & Banstead	10	47%
Runnymede	6	79%
Spelthorne	7	46%
Surrey Heath	6	93%
Tandridge	6	90%

⁵ Section 57 of Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Waverley	9	75%
Woking	7	20%

Division boundaries consultation

30 We received 39 submissions in response to our consultation on division boundaries. These included one county-wide proposal from the Council. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for division arrangements in particular areas of the county.

31 The one county-wide scheme provided a uniform pattern of one-councillor divisions for Surrey. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that, in general, the proposal from the Council offered adequate levels of electoral equality, and provided some evidence of community identity, although many arguments were focused on changes from existing divisions.

32 Our draft recommendations are broadly based on the scheme proposed by the Council, with the exception of Elmbridge, where we have broadly adopted proposals from the Liberal Democrats. They also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

33 We visited the area in order to look at the different proposals. This tour of Surrey helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

34 Our draft recommendations are for 81 one-councillor divisions. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

35 The tables and maps on pages 9–40 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Surrey. They detail how the proposed division arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

36 A summary of our proposed new divisions is set out in the table starting on page 51 and on the large map accompanying this report.

37 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the division boundaries, and the names of our proposed divisions.

Elmbridge



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Cobham	1	8%
Esher & Claygate	1	10%
Hersham	1	-4%
Long Ditton & Hinchley Wood	1	0%
Thames Ditton & East Molesey	1	-11%
Walton	1	3%
Walton South & Oatlands	1	1%
West Molesey	1	-10%
Weybridge	1	11%

38 Under a Council size of 81, Elmbridge has been allocated nine councillors, with each councillor representing on average 1% more electors than the county average.

39 In addition to the proposal from the County Council, we received a proposal from Elmbridge Liberal Democrats for this borough. Both proposals were for nine divisions covering the borough.

40 The Council proposal was for the majority of existing boundaries to be retained, except for Orchard Avenue, Greenwood Close, Manordene Close, Dene Gardens, Greenwood Road and the section of Manor Road North connecting these streets, which were proposed to move into The Dittons division, from Long Ditton & Hinchley Wood. It proposed retaining the existing divisions of East Molesey & Esher, and Hinchley Wood, Claygate & Oxshott, despite there being no direct road connectivity between the northern and southern settlements in each of these divisions.

41 The alternative proposal, from the Elmbridge Liberal Democrats, was for significant changes across the borough. The proposal included the creation of new divisions covering Cobham & Oxshott and Claygate & Esher. The proposal included several divisions with very poor electoral equality.

Cobham, Esher & Claygate, Long Ditton & Hinchley Wood, Thames Ditton & East Molesey and West Molesey

42 The Council proposed retaining the existing divisions covering this area, except for a modest alteration to the boundary between Hinchley Wood, Claygate & Oxshott and The Dittons. We note that, while these divisions offer good electoral equality, the existing and proposed division of Hinchley Wood, Claygate & Oxshott does not offer good internal access between the various settlements within the division, with electors in Oxshott in particular having to leave the division in order to access settlements to the north within the same division. This also relied on the existing East Molesey & Esher division, which has similar issues about access between the northern and southern areas of the division.

43 The Molesey Residents' Association provided evidence that the existing boundary of East Molesey & Esher division was seen as 'illogical and confusing', and suggested that a revision to group neighbouring areas together would be welcomed. This suggestion was reflected in the Liberal Democrat scheme, grouping East Molesey with Thames Ditton.

44 We are broadly adopting the Liberal Democrats' proposal in the north-east of the borough, but modifying the schemes proposed in the south-east to provide for good electoral equality. We propose a Cobham division and an Esher & Claygate division with the boundary between the two running from the A3 south along the edge of Oxshott Heath, north-east along the railway line, and south along the A244 Warren Lane/Leatherhead Road, thus offering as strong a boundary as is possible while maintaining good electoral equality. The area north of this boundary is placed in an Esher & Claygate division, which follows the boundary of the borough wards of

the same names, except for the portion of Esher ward west of the River Ember which is placed in Hersham division, as proposed by both the Council and the Liberal Democrats. We would welcome further evidence in this area, both in terms of the boundaries of our proposed divisions, but also as to whether our proposed names offer an adequate reflection of the various communities contained within the divisions.

45 To the north, we have adopted the proposal of the Liberal Democrats for Long Ditton & Hinchley Wood, Thames Ditton & East Molesey and West Molesey divisions as this agrees with the evidence of community identity offered by Molesey Residents' Association. Thames Ditton & East Molesey division is forecast to have 11% fewer electors than average by 2029 – slightly outside the bounds of good electoral equality. We considered improving this by, for example, running the boundary along the northern edge of Long Ditton recreation ground and south of Prospect Road and Clearwater Place. However, this would result in a loss of coterminosity, with Long Ditton borough ward split between divisions. On balance, based on the evidence received during consultation, we consider that our proposals offer the best available balance of our statutory criteria.

Hersham, Walton, Walton South & Oatlands and Weybridge

46 We have broadly adopted the Council's proposal for these divisions, mirroring the existing arrangements in this area, with minor adjustments to improve coterminosity. The Liberal Democrat proposal included a North Walton division with 14% fewer electors than average, and a Weybridge division with 16% more electors than average. Limited evidence was provided to justify these deviations from electoral equality, other than a broad assertion of limited community links between Walton and Oatlands. No evidence of any stronger links between Oatlands and Hersham, as proposed in the Liberal Democrat scheme, was provided.

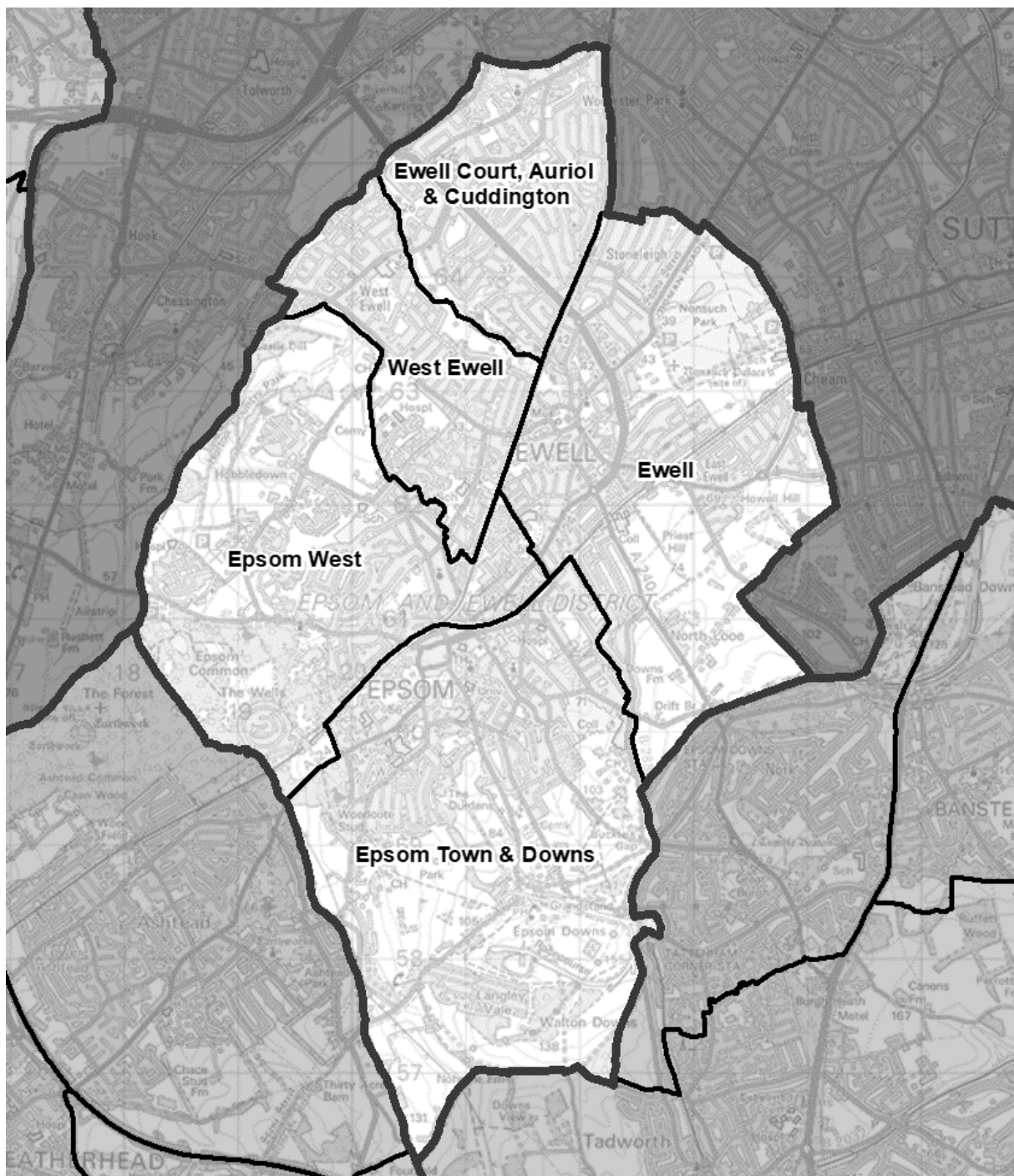
47 The Liberal Democrats also argued that consideration should be given to mirroring the provisional revised Parliamentary constituencies in the arrangement of divisions. Parliamentary boundaries are dealt with by a different Commission, and we have not been persuaded to use them as the basis for our division boundaries.

48 The Liberal Democrats placed the Whiteley Village area in Elmbridge division, whereas the County Council included it in a Hersham division. We received no specific evidence about the community identity of this area, and we would welcome more views on the communities in this area during the consultation. We note that placing this area in Weybridge division would likely require a corresponding change elsewhere to achieve acceptable levels of electoral equality.

49 We have modified the proposal of the Council slightly, to improve coterminosity, placing Marlborough Drive in Weybridge division to avoid a split of Weybridge Riverside ward; and placing Newhall Gardens and Walton Community Hospital in Walton division to avoid splitting Walton North ward.

50 Our proposed Weybridge division has a variance of 11% – just beyond the bounds of good electoral equality. We considered various means to improve this, such as placing the southern boundary of the division along the A245 Byfleet Road, but considered that the B365 and A3 offer strong and clear boundaries that outweigh any marginal improvements in electoral equality which may be available.

Epsom & Ewell



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Epsom Town & Downs	1	8%
Epsom West	1	2%
Ewell	1	9%
Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington	1	8%
West Ewell	1	5%

51 Under a Council size of 81, Epsom & Ewell has been allocated five councillors, each councillor representing on average 6% more electors than the county average.

52 We received two proposals for this borough, from the Council, who proposed a minimal level of change from the existing division arrangements, and from the Epsom & Ewell Constituency Labour Party. The proposal from the local Labour Party, while offering helpful information about deprivation levels throughout the borough, and proposing 100% coterminosity, offered poor levels of electoral equality for several divisions, including 12% fewer electors than average in Town division, and 21% more electors than average in Epsom Common & Downs.

Epsom Town & Downs, Epsom West and West Ewell

53 We have adopted the Council's proposals for these divisions. The Labour proposal, which kept entire wards within single divisions throughout the borough, placed Stamford ward within a southern division, proposed to be called Epsom Common & Downs, resulting in very poor electoral inequality for this ward. In contrast, the Council's proposal, while splitting wards, offered good electoral equality, and used the strong boundary of the railway line through the centre of Epsom Town.

54 The only proposed change from the existing divisions we are making is to unify Horton ward within Epsom West division, placing electors on Oakwood Avenue, McKenzie Way and neighbouring streets in Epsom West division. This was proposed by the Council, and both improves coterminosity, and ensures that these electors are not isolated within West Ewell division as they are at present, and we have adopted it as part of our draft recommendations. The remaining boundaries of West Ewell division, including the borough wards of Ruxley, West Ewell and the northern section of Court ward, are unchanged from the existing arrangements.

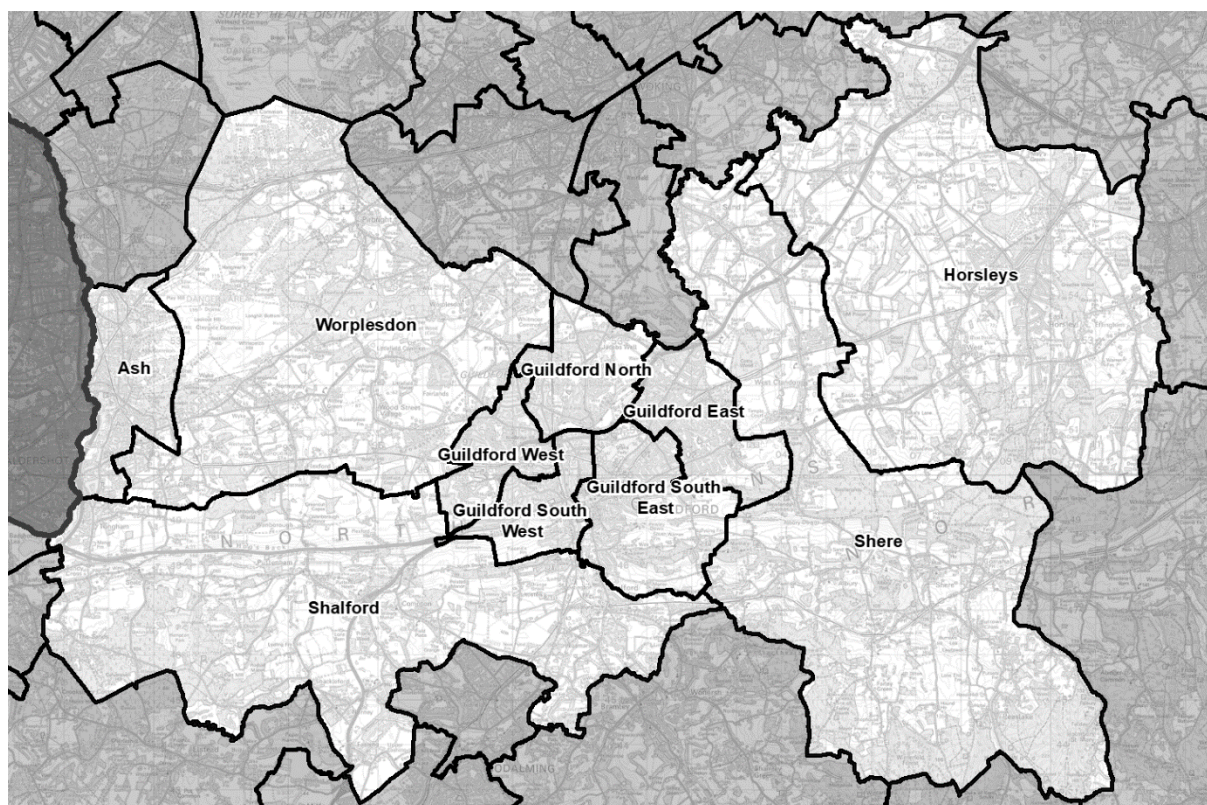
Ewell and Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington

55 Both proposals received suggested identical boundaries for these divisions, which we have adopted as part of our draft recommendations. There was a disagreement over the name of Ewell division, with the Labour proposal suggesting retaining the existing name, while the Council proposal suggested replicating the names of the constituent borough wards, and naming this division as Stoneleigh, Ewell Village & Nonsuch.

56 We considered this proposed name change carefully but, while retaining an open mind, have not included it as part of our draft recommendations. While we note that the northernmost division (Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington) has a name comprising the three wards constituting the division, we note that we are proposing to retain the existing boundaries for Ewell division, and that it may cause confusion for electors if the name of the division is changed but the boundaries remain unchanged. The Council did not provide significant evidence in favour of its proposed name, and we would welcome further evidence from residents and other

interested parties as to whether a different name might better reflect the communities in this area.

Guildford



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Ash	1	10%
Guildford East	1	6%
Guildford North	1	9%
Guildford South East	1	-7%
Guildford South West	1	11%
Guildford West	1	8%
Horsleys	1	8%
Shalford	1	-5%
Shere	1	-6%
Worplesdon	1	6%

57 Under a council size of 81, Guildford has been allocated 10 councillors, each councillor representing on average 4% more electors than the county average.

58 We received one full proposal for this borough, from the Council, which included several sub-options. Relatively limited evidence regarding community identity was provided, and we propose modifying the Council's scheme in a number of areas, to test whether our alternative proposals might offer a good reflection of community identity.

Ash, Shalford and Worplesdon

59 The town, and parish, of Ash is too large to be contained within a single division, which would have 25% more electors than average. Accordingly, it is necessary to include part of the town in a division with the surrounding area to provide for an acceptable level of electoral equality. The Council proposed a revision to the southern boundary of the existing Ash division, with the boundary to run to the west of Walsh C of E school, and behind Drapers Way to the parish boundary. This area, which is part of Ash parish, was proposed to be included in Shalford division.

60 We visited this area on our tour of Surrey, and considered that the boundary, while not necessarily strong, is recognisable, and we could not identify any alternative that we considered would be better. We are therefore adopting the boundary proposed by the Council, and the Ash division proposed.

61 The Council proposed placing the southern section of Ash parish, including Ash Green, in Shalford division, mirroring the current arrangements here, while placing Wanborough parish in Worplesdon division. No evidence of community identity regarding Wanborough was provided, nor was there any evidence that the southern section of Ash shares any particular community identity with the remainder of Shalford division. In order to propose what we consider to be a better pattern of divisions across the west of Guildford Borough, we propose to place the southern section of Ash within Worplesdon division.

62 This decision, removing a significant number of electors from the Council's proposed Shalford division, allows us to place Wanborough parish in Shalford division, and to unify all of Shalford parish within the division of that name. This improves coterminosity, allowing both Pilgrims and Shalford borough wards to be entirely within Shalford division.

63 With electors from the southern section of Ash placed in Worplesdon division, this division would have 15% more electors than average without any further changes. We propose to place the settlement of Jacobs Well into Guildford North division, with a boundary running along the Portsmouth railway line.

64 We would welcome further evidence during consultation on these draft recommendations as to whether this arrangement of divisions offers an adequate reflection of community identity, or whether an alternative would be a better reflection of our statutory criteria. We consider that the decisions we have taken in this area are particularly finely balanced. In particular, we welcome further views on whether the existing division of Ash whereby some of the parish is included in Shalford division is a better than our alternative. We also welcome views on our decision to unite Shalford parish in one division.

Guildford East, Guildford North, Guildford South East, Guildford South West and Guildford West

65 We received only a proposal from the Council for these divisions which included a number of sub-options. We have modified the Council's primary proposal slightly, to improve coterminosity with borough wards as well as reflect our observations on our tour of Surrey.

66 The Council proposed a boundary between Guildford West and Worplesdon divisions that follows the parish boundary for the most part, apart from the Rydeshill area where the proposed boundary ran along Broad Street. We visited this area on our tour of Surrey, but did not consider that Broad Street offered a particularly strong boundary, or that there was an obvious difference of community identity between the areas to the north and south of this road. We therefore propose to include the entire Rydeshill area in a Guildford West division, with the boundary running behind Bramble Close and Dorrit Crescent.

67 Our proposed Guildford South West division follows the Council's proposal, with a boundary running along the A3 Midleton Road, to the south of the University of Surrey campus, and south along the A320 before following the existing boundary. This division is forecast to have 11% more electors than average. We considered various options to improve this variance, but consider that no minor alteration is available, and that any significant change to the proposed boundaries would have a negative impact on community identity or the strength of the boundaries proposed.

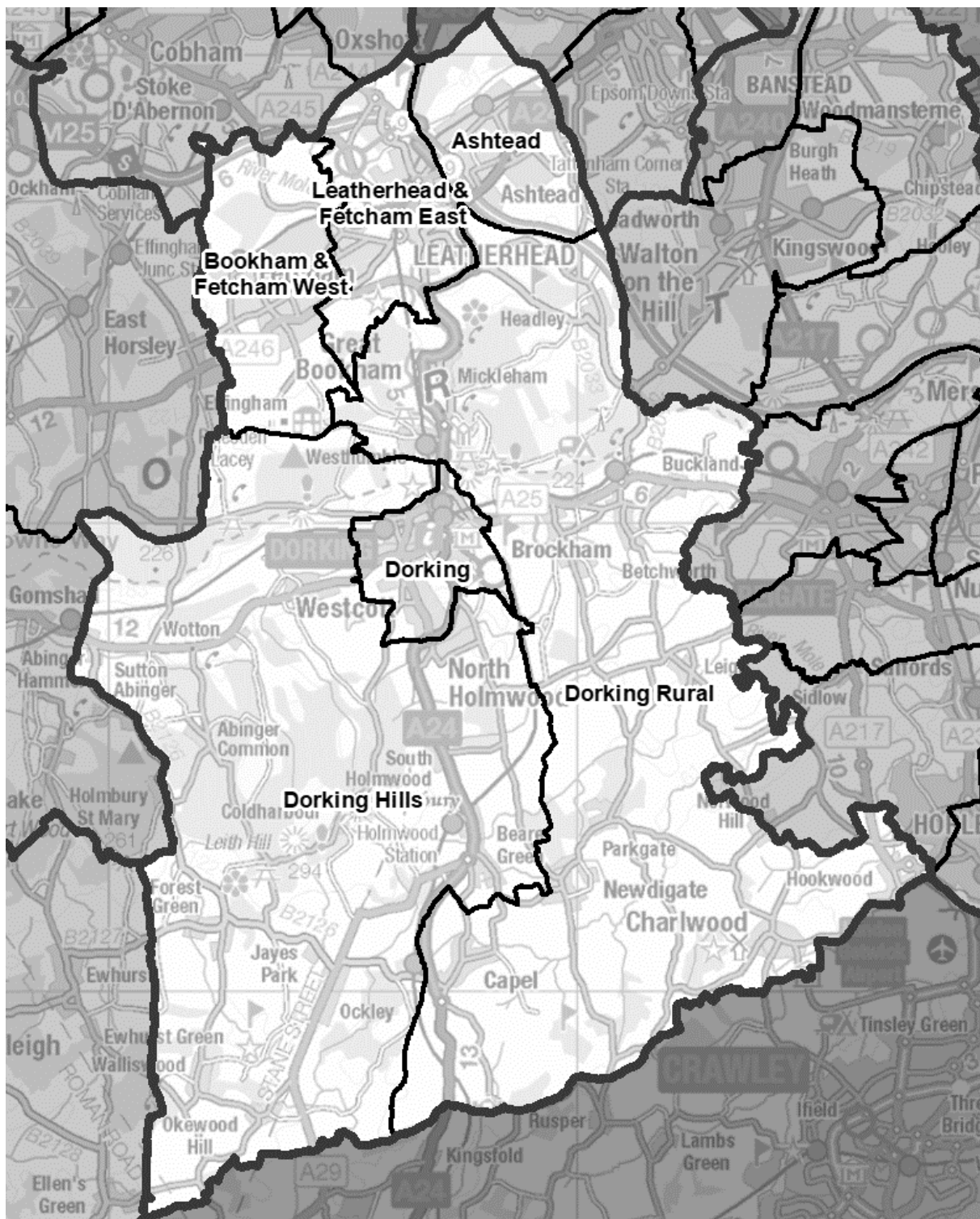
68 The Council proposed retaining the existing boundary between Guildford East and Guildford South East divisions. We propose to alter this as part of our draft recommendations, to place the Abbotswood area in Guildford East division, allowing all of Burpham ward to be within a single division. Cllr Fiona Davidson noted opposition to a more extensive change proposed by the Council as a sub-option, which we have not adopted as limited evidence was provided that it would reflect community identity.

Horsleys and Shere

69 The Council proposed no changes to the existing boundaries for these divisions. This was supported by Ripley Parish Council, who voiced support for the retention of Horsleys division with no changes. Other than unifying Shalford parish by moving the settlement of Chilworth from Shere into Shalford division (discussed above at paragraph 62), we have adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

70 We considered improving the electoral equality of both divisions in this area by moving East Clandon parish into Shere division. We would welcome further evidence as to whether community links between East Clandon and West Clandon exist beyond the names of these parishes, or whether the existing arrangement reflects the communities in this area.

Mole Valley



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2028
Ashtead	1	3%
Bookham & Fetcham West	1	16%
Dorking	1	10%
Dorking Hills	1	-2%
Dorking Rural	1	-3%
Leatherhead & Fetcham East	1	15%

71 Under a council size of 81, Mole Valley has been allocated six councillors, each councillor representing on average 6% more electors than the county average.

72 We received proposals for this district from the Council, as well as from Mole Valley Liberal Democrats, supported by Cllr Hazel Watson. All these schemes shared common features, and noted, like us, the challenge of accommodating the distribution of the electorate across the district; there are distinct urban areas in the north, the central town of Dorking and then significant rural areas. This combined with the fact that the average electorate for six divisions in Mole Valley is significantly higher than the average across Surrey as a whole has meant identifying divisions that reflect the statutory criteria has been challenging.

Ashtead, Bookham & Fetcham West and Leatherhead & Fetcham East

73 All the proposed schemes submitted identical proposals for an Ashtead division, mirroring the existing division and coterminous with the district wards of Ashtead Lanes & Common and Ashtead Park. Submissions commented on the use of the M25 as a strong boundary. We considered extending this boundary further along the motorway to bring electors around Patchesham Park, Consort Drive and other areas to the north of the motorway into an Ashtead-based division to improve electoral equality, but considered that this would be unlikely to reflect the community identity of these areas.

74 All proposals that we received noted that two divisions covering Leatherhead, Fetcham and the Bookhams would have significantly more electors than the average for the county and would not provide good electoral equality. The Council proposed moving electors from the south of Leatherhead into a rural-based division, with a boundary running along Church Road and Highlands Road. While this would improve electoral equality, we consider that it addresses only one of our statutory criteria – we do not consider that it would be a good reflection of community identity for part of Leatherhead to be placed in a division ranging to the southern boundary of Surrey, and we do not consider that Highlands Road and Church Road act as a particularly strong or clear boundary.

75 We therefore propose to retain electors in this area in a Leatherhead-based division, which we acknowledge will have poor electoral equality. We considered other options to improve the electoral equality of our proposed Bookham & Fetcham West and Leatherhead & Fetcham East divisions, but consider that, given the clear distinction of community identity between these areas and the rural areas of the district to the south, any potential solution that offers good electoral equality would offer a very poor reflection of community identity. We are aware that proposing two divisions with this level of electoral inequality is unusual; however, we consider that given the unique geography of Mole Valley, and particularly the northern areas of the district, this proposal offers the best available balance of our statutory criteria.

76 We propose to modify the boundary between Bookham & Fetcham West and Leatherhead & Fetcham East, to improve coterminosity, with Bookham West and Bookham East & Eastwick Park wards entirely within Bookham & Fetcham West division, together with Leatherhead North entirely contained within Leatherhead & Fetcham East division. From the railway line, our proposed boundary runs along The Street, Bell Lane and The Ridgeway.

77 We would welcome further evidence as to whether the poor electoral equality we propose for Leatherhead, the Bookhams and Fetcham is justified by the improved reflection of community identity in these areas, or whether a portion of the southern areas of these settlements should be moved into a rural-based division to achieve better electoral equality.

Dorking, Dorking Hills and Dorking Rural

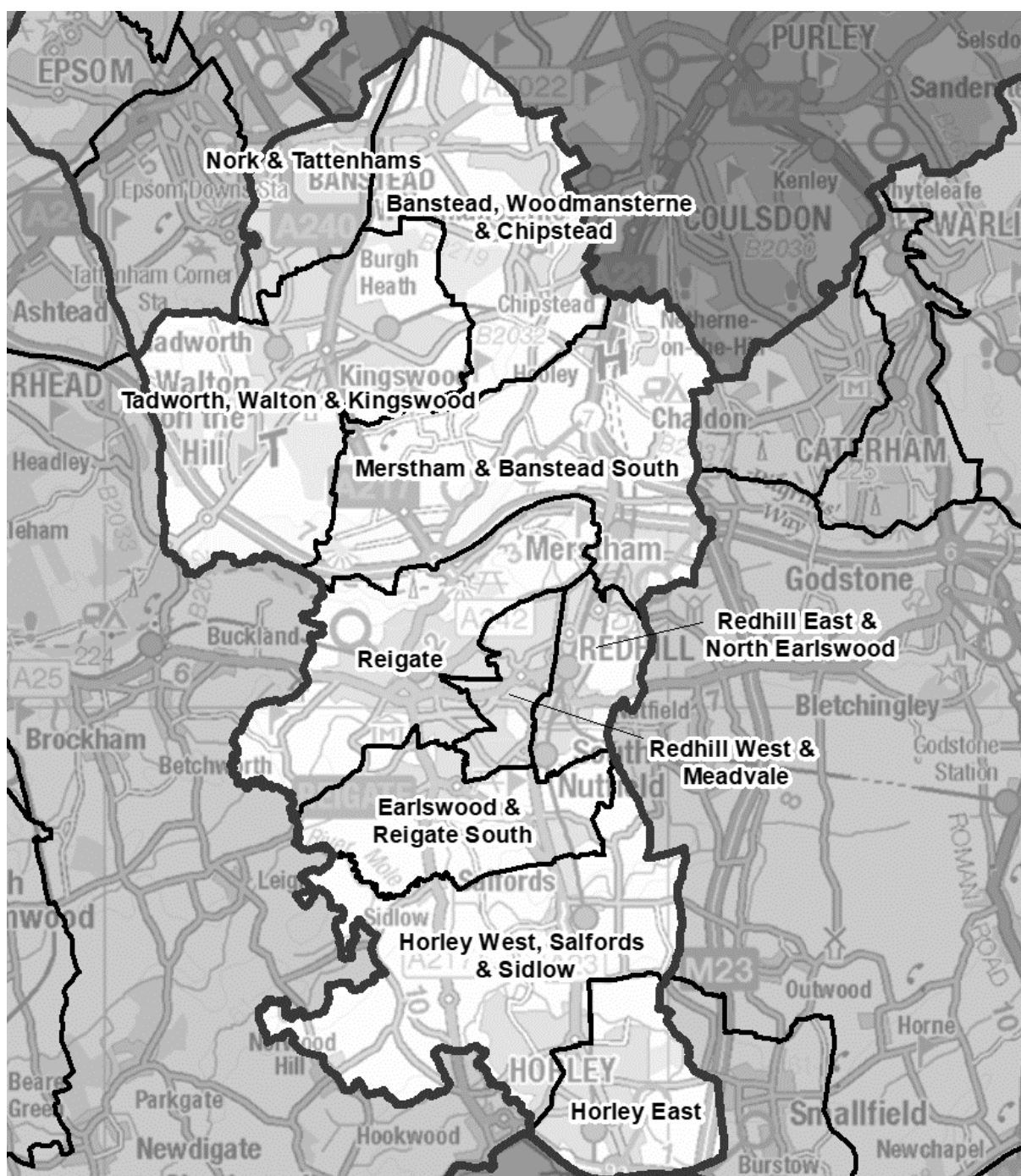
78 The Council's proposal, and that of Cllr Watson, included a Dorking division comprising the two district wards of Dorking North and Dorking South. The Mole Valley Liberal Democrats proposed a modification of the existing divisions, which still resulted in a split of the town of Dorking. We consider that a division covering the town of Dorking alone, and allowing for good coterminosity, offers the best available balance of our criteria, and we are therefore adopting the proposal of the Council, and Cllr Watson, as part of our draft recommendations.

79 We received representations from the parish councils of Brockham, Buckland, Betchworth and Headley, all arguing that these villages and parishes should be kept together in the same division on the basis of a shared community identity. The principal proposal from the Council reflected this, but that of Cllr Watson did not, with Headley parish and the Box Hill area placed in a division stretching around the western side of Dorking. Rather than adopt this proposal, we were persuaded to adopt the proposals put forward by the parish councils, and the Council. We propose a Dorking Rural division comprising the entire district wards of Brockham, Betchworth, Buckland, Box Hill & Headley and Capel, Leigh, Newdigate & Charlwood, together with smaller sections of Leatherhead South and Mickleham, Westcott & Okewood wards; and a Dorking Hills division comprising the entire district wards Holmwoods & Beare Green and the larger portion of Mickleham, Westcott & Okewood.

80 We considered whether to place the southern section of Capel parish, including the village of the same name, into Dorking Hills, rather than Dorking Rural division. This could be done while retaining good electoral equality, but we consider that the advantage of having Capel parish entirely within a single division is outweighed by the loss of coterminosity which would result. We would welcome further evidence on this point during consultation on these draft recommendations.

81 We propose to retain the division names of 'Dorking Hills' and 'Dorking Rural' for the divisions to the west and east of Dorking, respectively. We retain an open mind, and would welcome further evidence as to whether these names are adequate to reflect these areas, and whether having three divisions beginning with the name 'Dorking' might have the potential to cause confusion.

Reigate & Banstead



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Banstead, Woodmansterne & Chipstead	1	-3%
Earlswood & Reigate South	1	-5%
Horley East	1	9%
Horley West, Salfords & Sidlow	1	1%
Merstham & Banstead South	1	-5%
Nork & Tattenhams	1	6%

Redhill East & North Earlswood	1	-5%
Redhill West & Meadvale	1	0%
Reigate	1	-6%
Tadworth, Walton & Kingswood	1	6%

82 Under a council size of 81, Reigate and Banstead has been allocated 10 councillors with each councillor representing on average around the same number of electors as the county average.

83 We received only one full proposal for this borough, from the Council. We have adopted this proposal, with relatively minor modifications to reflect additional evidence of community identity and improve coterminosity.

Banstead, Woodmansterne & Chipstead, Merstham & Banstead South, Nork & Tattenhams and Tadworth, Walton & Kingswood

84 We have adopted the Council's proposal for these divisions, which broadly maintain the existing pattern. We visited the Chetwode Road area on our tour of Surrey, to assess the strength of the proposed boundary in this area. We concluded that the boundary proposed by the Council was reasonable, and noted that it was also supported by the Nork Residents' Association, and the Tattenham & Preston Residents' Association.

85 The Council proposed moving the northern boundary of Merstham & Banstead South division from its existing location of Chipstead Lane to run north of this road, to mirror the borough ward boundary in this area. While this does not result in the whole of Lower Kingswood, Tadworth & Walton ward being united in one division, we consider that it is likely to promote effective and convenient local government for division boundaries to follow ward boundaries where possible.

86 We received no proposals for alternative patterns of divisions in this area. While it is not ideal that Chipstead, Kingswood & Woodmansterne borough ward is divided between three divisions, there appears to be no way to improve this without a fundamental re-drawing of division boundaries in this area, for which we have no proposals or any suggestion this would reflect any of the statutory criteria.

Earlswood & Reigate South, Redhill East & North Earlswood, Redhill West & Meadvale and Reigate

87 The Council proposed retaining the existing divisions in this area. We have broadly adopted this proposal, but propose some changes to the boundaries to reflect additional evidence, as well as improving coterminosity.

88 The Council proposed retaining the existing boundary between Redhill East & North Earlswood and Redhill West & Meadvale divisions. We propose, as part of our draft recommendations, to move the boundary to run between Garlands Road and Ridgeway Road, placing the latter in Redhill West & Meadvale division together with

Upper Bridge Road. This is to follow the borough ward boundary in this area. Similarly, we propose to modify the boundary between Redhill West & Meadvale, and Earlswood & Reigate South divisions to follow borough ward boundaries and ensure that South Park & Woodhatch ward is not split between divisions.

89 A resident provided helpful views as to the community identity of several areas, and advocated for a division containing the whole of Redhill West & Wray Common borough ward. While we are not persuaded to adopt this proposal as a whole, as Reigate division would have 15% fewer electors than average, we were persuaded by evidence that Doods Park Road looks towards Redhill, rather than Reigate, for its community identity. We have therefore modified the Council's proposal to place this road, and neighbouring streets, in Redhill West & Meadvale division.

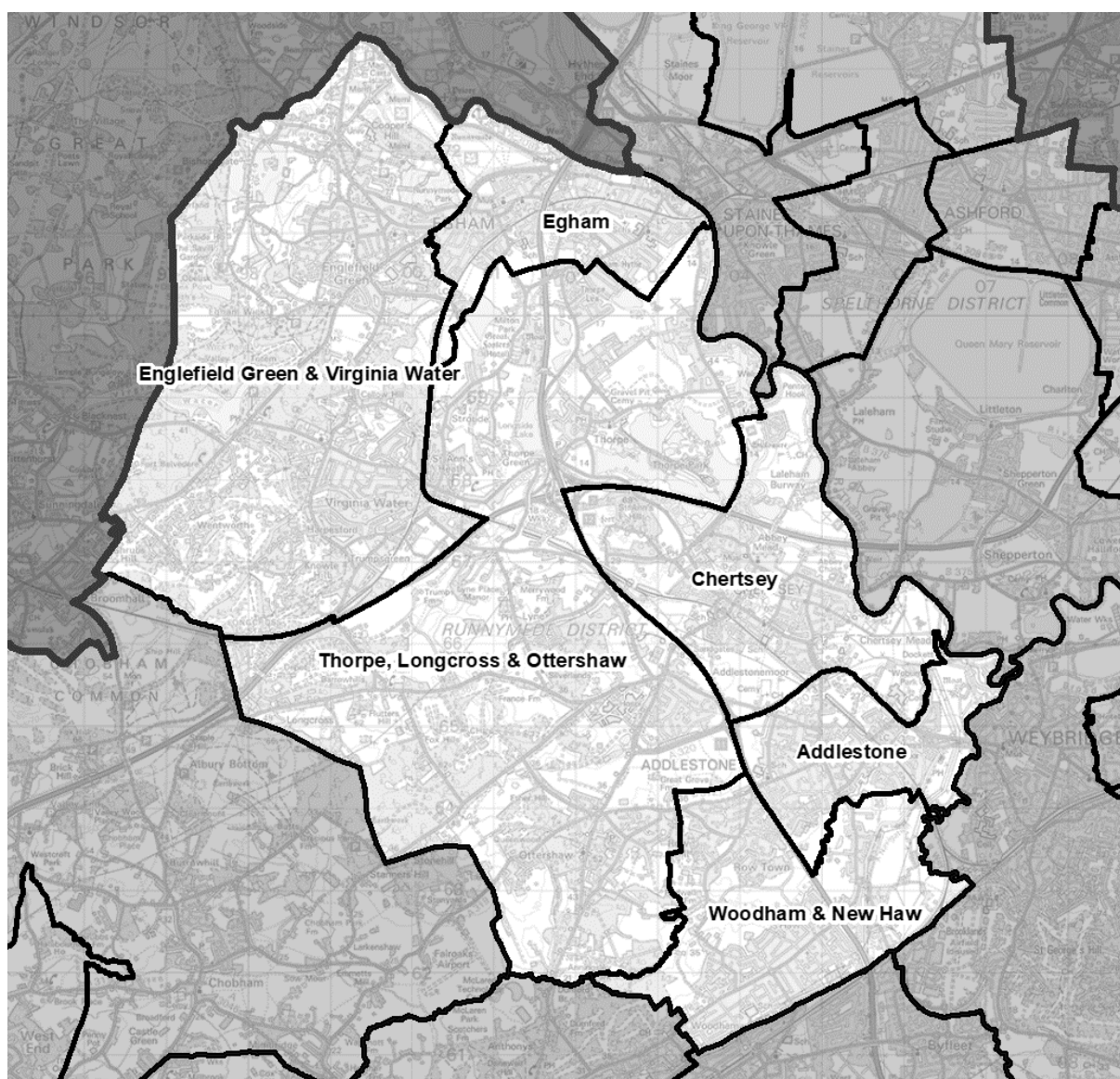
Horley East and Horley West, Salfords & Sidlow

90 The Council proposed a boundary between these divisions running down the A23 Bonehurst Road/Brighton Road. We have modified this proposal as part of our draft recommendations, with the boundary running along Horley Row and between Southlands Avenue and Hevers Avenue. This follows the borough ward boundary, and ensures that Horley Central & South ward is not divided between divisions. In order to retain good electoral equality for Horley East division, we are recommending a boundary to the east of the A23, running along the railway line, meaning that Sarel Way and Skipton Way are placed in Horley West, Salfords & Sidlow division.

91 Horley Town Council, while not proposing or commenting on specific boundaries at this stage of the review process, expressed satisfaction with the overall relationship between the Town Council and county and borough councillors.

92 A resident provided comments on potential boundaries for Horley Town Council wards, and the relationship between them and division boundaries. While we can (and must) create parish wards in such a way to reflect division boundaries as a part of this electoral review, we will not normally create parish wards that are not required as a direct consequence of our recommendations. Parish warding arrangements, and parish electoral arrangements more generally, are principally the responsibility of Reigate & Banstead Council, through the process of a Community Governance Review.

Runnymede



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Addlestone	1	-8%
Chertsey	1	-9%
Egham	1	-10%
Englefield Green & Virginia Water	1	-9%
Thorpe, Longcross & Ottershaw	1	-2%
Woodham & New Haw	1	-1%

93 Under a council size of 81, Runnymede borough is allocated six councillors. The average variance is -7%, making it challenging to propose six divisions with good electoral equality. In order to achieve this, we have had to propose a split of the settlement of Virginia Water.

Addlestone, Chertsey and Woodham & New Haw

94 We received no proposals for these divisions other than from the Council. We have adopted the Council's proposals, with relatively minor modifications to improve both coterminosity and electoral equality.

95 The Council proposed an Addlestone division similar to the existing arrangement, but adjusted so that the northern boundary follows the boundary between Addlestone North and Chertsey Riverside borough wards. The Council proposed that the southern boundary of Addlestone division should follow Liberty Lane and then run to the north of Orchard Way. We considered this carefully, but considered that Liberty Lane does not offer a strong or clear boundary, and that it would be preferable to follow the boundary of Addlestone South borough ward along the river and to the M25.

96 We have adopted the Council's proposals for Chertsey division, without modification. We considered whether to use the M3 as a boundary, with electors in the Penton Hook area placed into an expanded Thorpe, Longcross & Ottershaw division, but this would leave Chertsey with 15% fewer electors than average. We have therefore retained the existing division boundary as proposed by the Council.

97 Our decision regarding expanding Addlestone division (paragraph 95) means that without further modification, the Council's proposed Woodham & New Haw division would have 11% fewer electors than average. We propose to improve this electoral equality by moving the boundary of this division with Thorpe, Longcross & Ottershaw northwards, to run behind properties on the northern side of the B3121, rather than along Hare Hill and Ongar Hill as proposed by the Council. As well as improving electoral equality, we consider that this boundary is less likely to divide the community around Row Town, although we would welcome further evidence in this area during consultation on these draft recommendations.

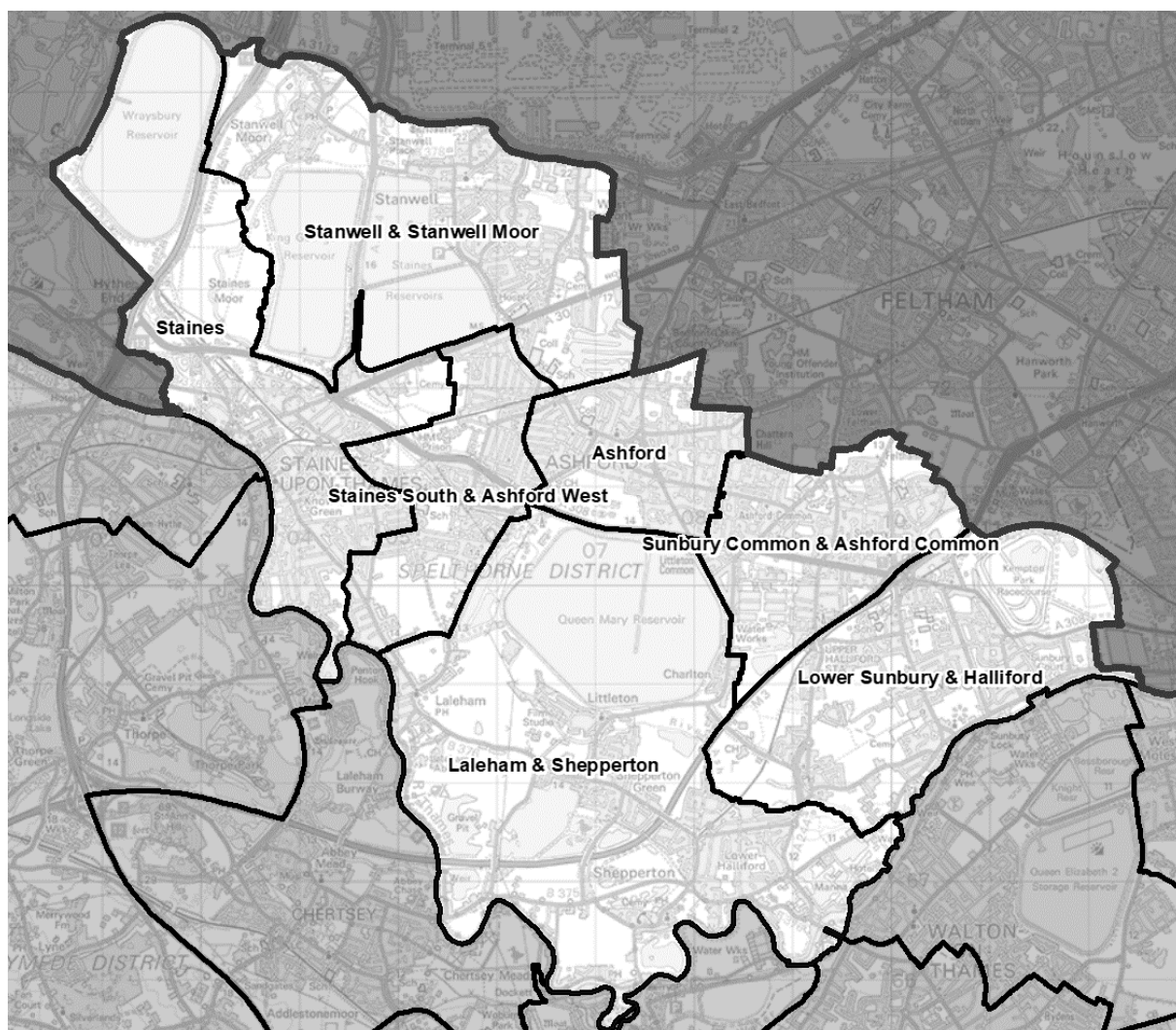
Egham, Englefield Green & Virginia Water and Thorpe, Longcross & Ottershaw

98 We have adopted an Egham division as proposed by the Council, covering the two borough wards of Egham Town and Egham Hythe.

99 The Council proposed an Englefield Green & Virginia Water division which would include all of Virginia Water. However, given our decision regarding the southern boundary of Thorpe, Longcross & Ottershaw division (paragraph 97), this would leave Thorpe, Longcross & Ottershaw with 14% fewer electors than average, as well as leaving a small portion of Virginia Water borough ward somewhat isolated within the northern section of Thorpe, Longcross & Ottershaw division.

100 We prefer to move the boundary with Englefield & Virginia Water division to the railway line, which offers a clear and recognisable boundary as well as allowing both divisions in this area to have good electoral equality.

Spelthorne



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Ashford	1	1%
Laleham & Shepperton	1	-9%
Lower Sunbury & Halliford	1	-1%
Staines	1	3%
Staines South & Ashford West	1	-7%
Stanwell & Stanwell Moor	1	-3%
Sunbury Common & Ashford Common	1	5%

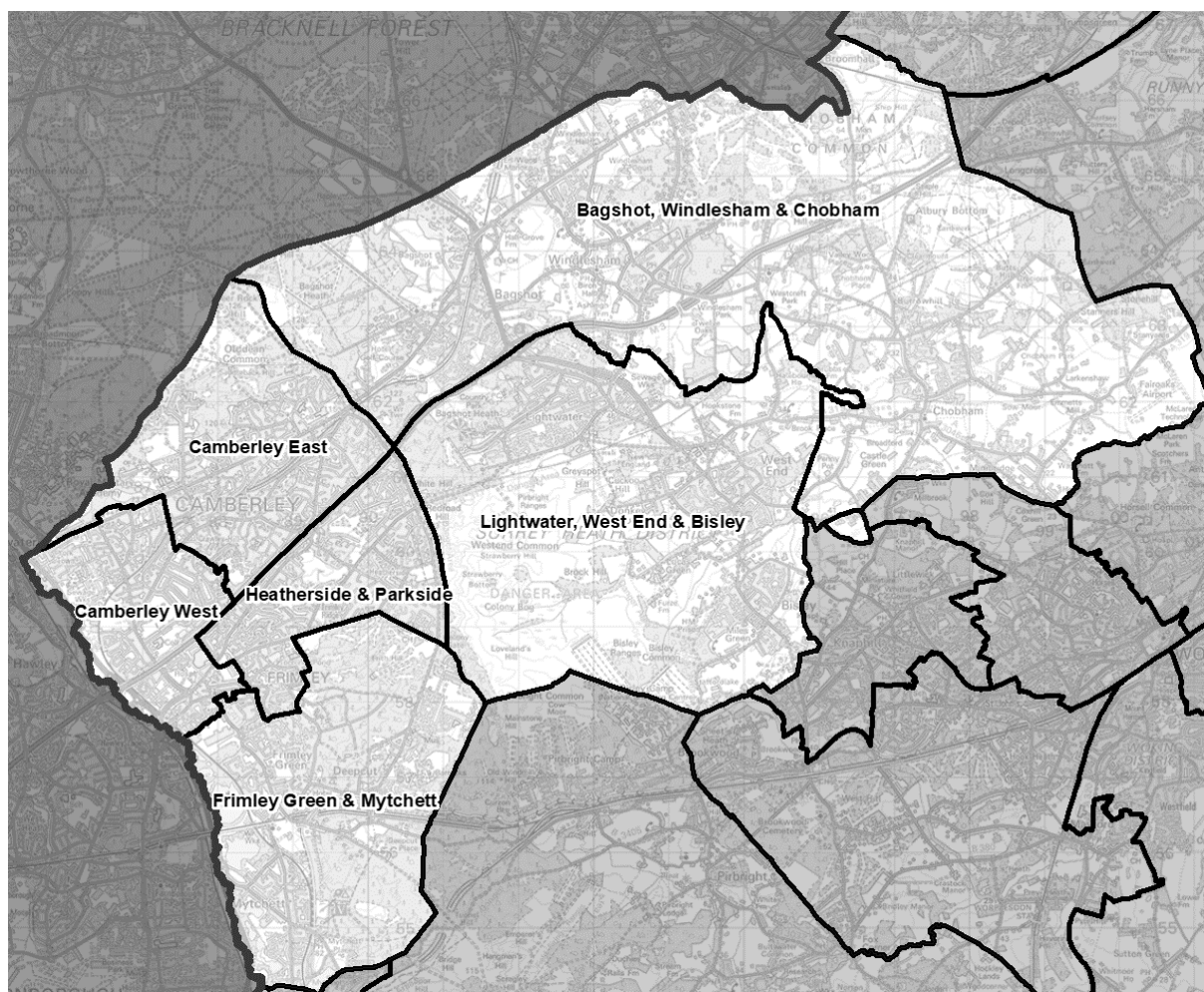
101 Under a council size of 81, Spelthorne borough is allocated seven councillors.

Ashford, Laleham & Shepperton, Lower Sunbury & Halliford, Staines, Staines South & Ashford West, Stanwell & Stanwell Moor and Sunbury Common & Ashford Common

102 We received no full proposals for this area other than that of the Council, which proposed no changes to the boundaries of divisions. We considered swapping areas between Staines and Staines South & Ashford West divisions to allow Staines and Staines South borough wards to remain within single divisions. This was suggested by Cllr Christopher Bateson. However, this would leave Staines division with 11% fewer electors than average. We have not adopted this proposal, due to the poorer electoral equality and as we are also aware that a full review of Spelthorne borough ward boundaries is likely to take place, meaning that coterminosity will potentially be lost in the near future.

103 The Council proposed two changes of division names, suggesting that Stanwell & Stanwell Moor should include 'North Ashford' in the name and that Staines South & Ashford West should include the name of Laleham. While we retain an open mind on these potential changes, we are not including them as part of our draft recommendations, as little evidence was provided that the existing names are not an adequate reflection of communities in the respective divisions. We consider that altering division names while boundaries remain unchanged may lead to confusion, and note that the names proposed by the Council across the borough include 'Laleham' twice with no further geographic descriptor or qualification.

Surrey Heath



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Bagshot, Windlesham & Chobham	1	1%
Camberley East	1	6%
Camberley West	1	-7%
Frimley Green & Mytchett	1	3%
Heatherside & Parkside	1	6%
Lightwater, West End & Bisley	1	10%

104 Under a council size of 81, Surrey Heath Borough is allocated six councillors. The average variance under this allocation is 3%.

105 We received no proposals for this borough, other than from the Council. We have adopted the proposals from the Council, which in most cases align with borough wards.

Bagshot, Windlesham & Chobham and Lightwater, West End & Bisley

106 The Council proposed retaining the existing wards in this area, and in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, we have adopted this proposal. Each division covers two entire borough wards, as well as ensuring that parishes are not split between different divisions.

107 We note that the southwestern parish boundary of West End parish divides Minorca Avenue in a way which is unlikely to reflect community identity, but that we cannot alter parish boundaries as part of this electoral review. A resolution to this matter would be for a Community Governance Review, led by Surrey Heath Council.

Camberley East, Camberley West, Heatherside & Parkside and Frimley Green & Mytchett

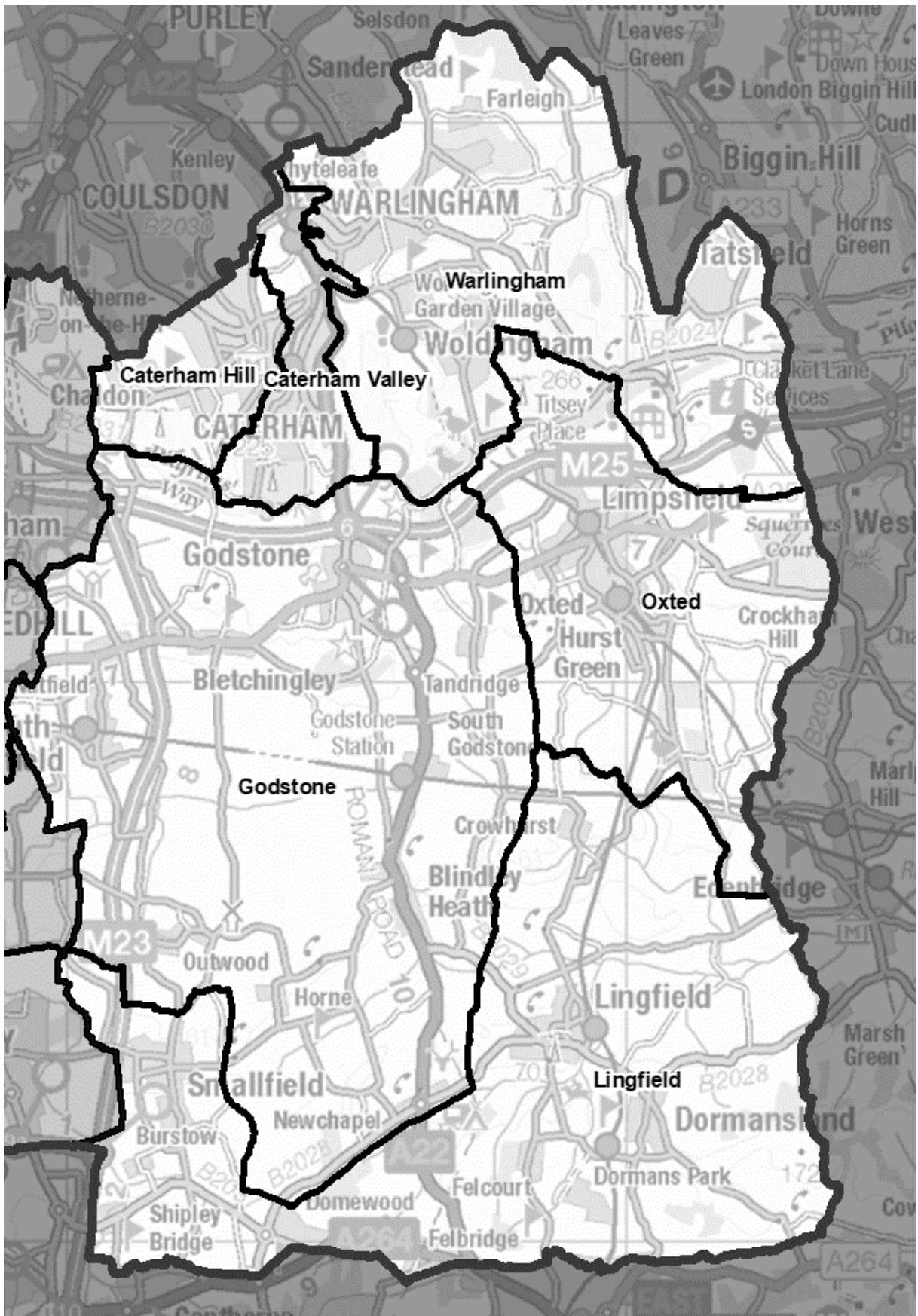
108 The Council proposed relatively minor changes to these divisions, both to improve coterminosity and allow for stronger boundaries to be used. Sovereign Drive, Seymour Drive and neighbouring streets are proposed to move from Heatherside & Parkside into Camberley West division, and we have adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. This allows the strong boundary of the M3 to be used as the entire boundary between Camberley East and Heatherside & Parkside divisions.

109 The Council proposed a boundary between Camberley West and Heatherside & Parkside divisions that follows the existing boundary to the east of Frimley Park Hospital and along Chobham Road, before turning south to place Sycamore Drive, Lakeland Drive and all streets to the east in Heatherside & Parkside division. We considered following the existing boundary in this area, which would mean that all borough wards in Surrey Heath would be entirely contained within single divisions, but this would result in a 12% variance in Camberley West and a -11% variance in Heatherside & Parkside. In this instance, we do not consider that two deviations from electoral equality are justified in the interests of maximising an already high level of coterminosity, and we have adopted the Council's proposals.

110 Other than a relatively small change around Parsonage Way, in order to follow borough ward boundaries, the Council proposed retaining the existing boundaries of Frimley Green & Mytchett division. We have adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

111 The Council suggested expanding the name of the division to include the name 'Deepcut'. We are not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations, as no evidence was provided as to whether this expanded name is necessary to adequately reflect the communities in this division, but we would welcome further evidence on this point during our consultation on these draft recommendations.

Tandridge



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Caterham Hill	1	2%
Caterham Valley	1	-12%
Godstone	1	-2%
Lingfield	1	7%
Oxted	1	6%
Warlingham	1	-6%

112 Under a council size of 81, Tandridge district will have six councillors, at an average variance of -6%.

113 We note that an electoral review of Tandridge District is currently underway, and the boundaries of the current district wards are likely to change by the time that the final recommendations for this review are published.

114 Our proposals here are based on those of the Council. We received relatively little alternative evidence for this district.

Caterham Hill, Caterham Valley and Warlingham

115 The Council proposed retaining the existing three divisions in the north of Tandridge, and we have adopted this proposal.

116 Our proposed Caterham Valley division is forecast to have 12% fewer electors than average by 2029. We considered making minor changes to improve this variance, but do not consider that, based on the evidence available, any change could be made without significantly disrupting the community identity of neighbouring parishes, or splitting parishes to create relatively small parish wards in a way that would not be compatible with effective and convenient local government.

Godstone, Lingfield and Oxted

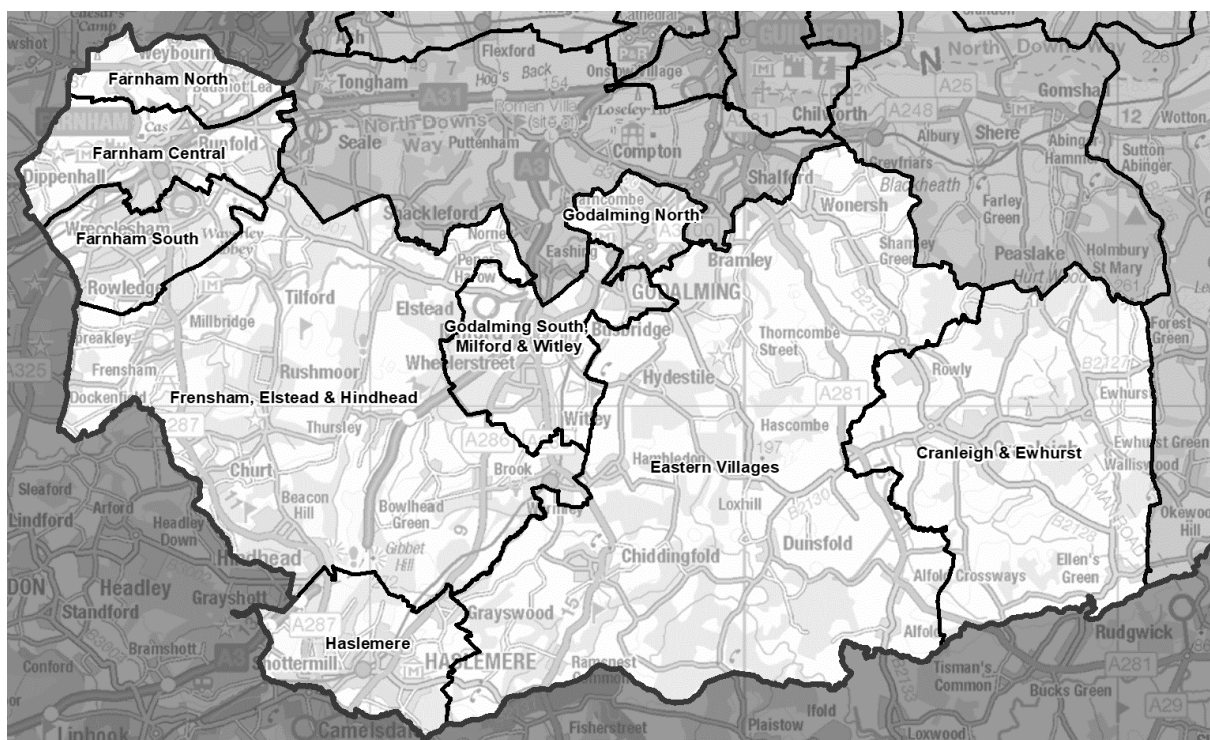
117 The Council provided different options for these wards, but these were largely based around electoral equality. The Council's submission stated that the parishes in this area were active, but no details were provided as to the relationships between the parish councils, and the links between them that can be reflected in a pattern of divisions.

118 The Council suggested either retaining the existing Oxted division, with a variance of 11%, or splitting Tandridge parish with a portion of the parish going into Godstone division. As part of our draft recommendations, we are proposing to go further, and place all of Tandridge parish in Godstone division – this improves the electoral equality of both divisions, and eliminates the need for parish wards to be created for Tandridge parish.

119 The Council proposed two options for rectifying the high variance of the existing Lingfield division, namely moving either Crowhurst, or Horne parish, into Godstone division. We are proposing moving Horne parish into Godstone, as it appears to us that road links between Horne and the remainder of Godstone are more convenient than those between Crowhurst parish and Godstone, but we would welcome further evidence on community identities in this area during consultation on these draft recommendations.

120 The remaining parishes in the south of the district are organised into Lingfield division. Given that Burstow is of a comparable size to Lingfield, we would welcome further evidence as to whether the name of this division is an adequate description of the communities covered, or whether 'Lingfield & Burstow', or another option, might be a better reflection of community identity.

Waverley



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Cranleigh & Ewhurst	1	1%
Eastern Villages	1	-3%
Farnham Central	1	-7%
Farnham North	1	-10%
Farnham South	1	-10%
Frensham, Elstead & Hindhead	1	-9%
Godalming North	1	-1%
Godalming South, Milford & Witley	1	-5%
Haslemere	1	-14%

121 Under a council size of 81, Waverley borough is allocated nine councillors. The average variance for nine councillors across Waverley is -6%.

122 Our proposals here are based on the Council's proposals. The Council did not offer a detailed proposal for the central area of Waverley, so we have produced our own proposals as part of these draft recommendations.

Cranleigh & Ewhurst and Eastern Villages

123 The Council proposed retaining the existing Cranleigh & Ewhurst division, which offers excellent electoral equality, is coterminous with two entire borough wards and keeps parishes within a single division. We have adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

124 Cranleigh Parish Council proposed that the western boundary of Cranleigh & Ewhurst division should be the A281, rather than parish boundaries. We have not adopted this, as it would require the creation of some very small parish wards and we are not persuaded this would provide for effective and convenient local government or reflect community identities in the area.

125 The Council proposed that a number of electors from Chiddingfold parish be moved into Haslemere division, to improve the electoral equality of the latter division. As discussed below (paragraph 129), we have not adopted this proposal, preferring to keeping Chiddingfold parish and borough ward within a single Eastern Villages division. We propose no changes to the boundaries of the existing Eastern Villages division.

126 The existing division is named Waverley Eastern Villages. While it is unrealistic to include every community in a diverse rural division within a division name, we would be interested in further evidence as to whether a generic name is more useful and representative of communities than a name which specifically references some of the larger settlements in this division. Even if a generic name is thought to be best reflective of communities, we would be interested in evidence as to whether 'Central Villages' or similar might be more geographically accurate, given the presence of the villages of Cranleigh and Ewhurst to the east of this division.

Farnham Central, Farnham North, and Farnham South

127 The Council proposed retaining the three existing divisions covering the town of Farnham, and in the absence of any alternative proposals we have adopted this as part of our draft recommendations. The three divisions all have good electoral equality, and five of the eight borough wards covering the town are contained within single divisions.

Frensham, Elstead & Hindhead, and Haslemere

128 The existing Haslemere division has fewer electors than required for good electoral equality. We considered adding electors from Hindhead to improve the electoral equality in Haslemere division, but noted that it is possible to add only a few electors before our proposed Frensham, Elstead & Hindhead division falls below the threshold of good electoral equality. This issue was also noted by Cllr David Harmer.

129 The Council suggested that a number of electors from Chiddingfold parish could move into Haslemere to alleviate the poor equality. We considered this carefully, but we consider that it would likely not reflect the community identity of electors in the rural areas of Chiddingfold parish to be placed in a division with the town of Haslemere; and that splitting the village of Chiddingfold itself would equally not reflect community identity. We therefore prefer to accept the relatively poor electoral equality in Haslemere.

130 Witley Parish Council proposed that the entire parish should be unified within Godalming South, Milford & Witley division, suggesting that social and transport links joined the distinct communities with the parish together. We considered this, but noted that this would leave Frensham, Elstead & Hindhead division with 19% fewer electors than average – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality, with no plausible option to improve this variance.

131 We have therefore not adopted Witley Parish Council's proposal, preferring to retain most of the existing Western Villages division, and add electors from the settlement of Wormley to this division in order to allow for relatively good electoral equality (9% fewer electors than average). We would welcome further evidence as to whether Wormley does indeed share a community identity with the other rural settlements in this division, or whether the identity is towards the more urban areas of Witley Village and Milford.

132 We considered retaining the name of Waverley Western Villages, but preferred to test an alternative as part of our draft recommendations. We propose a division name of Frensham, Elstead & Hindhead, but would welcome further local views on whether this is the best available possibility.

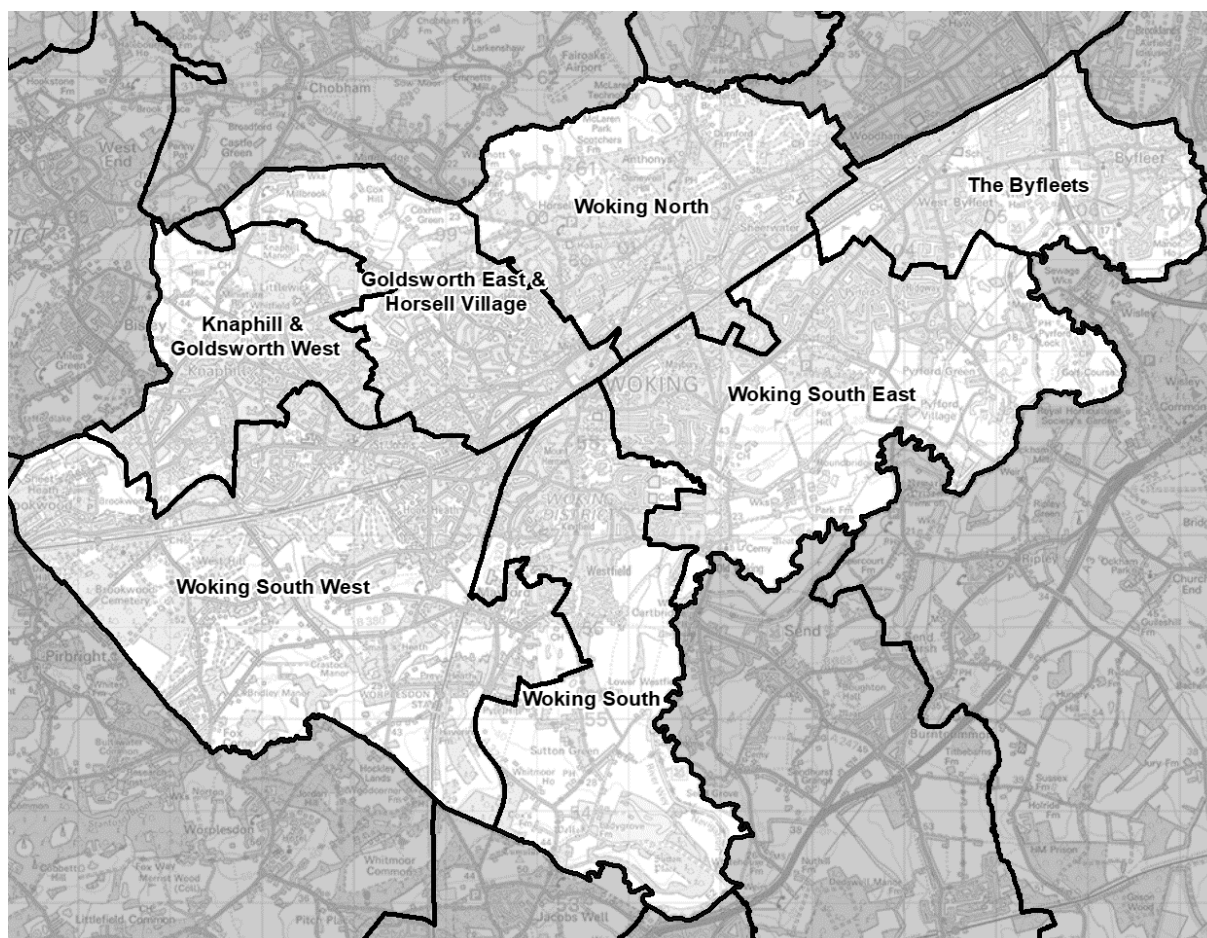
Godalming North and Godalming South, Milford & Witley

133 The Council provided relatively little evidence for these divisions on their own merits, instead focusing on the impact that decisions taken for Godalming divisions would have on electoral equality in other areas.

134 We propose broadly retaining the existing division, subject to changes to improve coterminosity. We propose to move the southern boundary of Godalming North division to Flambard Way, with Croft Road, Latimer Road and neighbouring streets moving into the southern division. This not only provides a stronger boundary, but allows Godalming Holloway borough ward to be contained within a single division. The remainder of the boundaries of the existing Godalming North division are unchanged as part of our draft recommendations.

135 Other than the change to the southern boundary around Wormley (discussed above at paragraph 131), and the change to the northern boundary to Flambard Way, we are proposing no changes to the existing boundaries for Godalming South, Milford & Witley division as part of our draft recommendations.

Woking



Division name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Goldsworth East & Horsell Village	1	-1%
Knaphill & Goldsworth West	1	6%
The Byfleets	1	-7%
Woking North	1	-4%
Woking South	1	-5%
Woking South East	1	-6%
Woking South West	1	-5%

136 Under a council size of 81, Woking borough is allocated seven councillors, with an average variance of -3%.

137 We received proposals for Woking from the Council and Woking Conservatives. The Council provided three varying options for this borough. Our proposals here are based on those of the Council, and the observations on our tour of Surrey.

138 With 10 borough wards, and seven divisions, it is impossible to achieve a good level of coterminosity across Woking. Only two of the 10 wards are entirely within a

single division – a much lower level of coterminosity than any other area across Surrey.

Goldsworth East & Horsell Village, Knaphill & Goldsworth West and Woking South West

139 We have broadly adopted the proposal of the Council for these divisions, but modified to improve coterminosity where possible. As their primary option, the Council proposed retaining the existing Knaphill & Goldsworth West division. In contrast, the Conservative proposal was for a division bounded by Lockfield Drive and Littlewick Road, with the area to the east of these roads placed in a Goldsworth East division, the bulk of which would be on the far side of Goldsworth Park. We prefer to retain Goldsworth Park as a strong boundary.

140 We have expanded the Council's proposed divisions to both the north and south, which allows all of Knaphill ward to be within a single division. This also means that electors on Percheron Drive and neighbouring streets are not isolated within a relatively large Woking South West division.

141 The Conservative proposal for the south-west of Woking was for a relatively large division geographically, stretching from Brookwood to Sutton Green, and including electors from the Barnsbury area and as far north as Salisbury Road. We prefer the proposal of the Council, supported by Cllr Forster for a geographically smaller division, including the western section of St John's ward. The Conservatives proposed using St John's Lye as a boundary – we observed this area on our tour of Surrey, and felt that this small stream does not represent a strong or particularly clear boundary, when there is a better alternative.

The Byfleets and Woking North

142 Apart from a minor change to the southern boundary of The Byfleets division, (discussed in more detail below at paragraph 145), we have adopted the Council's proposal for these divisions. The Conservatives proposed an identical division for The Byfleets.

143 On our tour of Surrey, we visited the Princess Road Estate, which under the Council's proposal is placed in Woking North division. While we considered that the railway line in this area was a strong boundary, which would make for a good division boundary, if possible, we were unable to identify a way of achieving this while maintaining acceptable electoral equality. Merely moving this area into Woking South East division with no other changes would result in Woking North having 21% fewer electors than average.

Woking South and Woking South East

144 We have adopted the Council's proposals for these divisions, with minor amendments to provide a stronger boundary. We considered retaining the Mayford and Pyle Hill areas within Woking South division as under the existing arrangements,

which would have allowed the use of the railway line as a very clear boundary. However, this would leave Woking South West with 17% fewer electors than average, so we have not adopted this idea as part of our draft recommendations.

145 The Council proposed retaining the existing boundary between Woking South East and The Byfleets divisions, which split Twisted Stone Golf Club between divisions. We are proposing an alternative as part of our draft recommendations, which places the entire golf club within Woking South East, with the boundary running between the golf course and Byfleet Lawn Tennis Club.

Conclusions

146 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Surrey, referencing the 2022 and 2029 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and divisions. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2022	2029
Number of councillors	81	81
Number of electoral divisions	81	81
Average number of electors per councillor	10,820	11,911
Number of divisions with a variance more than 10% from the average	9	7
Number of divisions with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Draft recommendations

Surrey County Council should be made up of 81 councillors serving 81 divisions representing 81 single-councillor divisions. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed divisions for the Surrey County Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Surrey on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

147 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different divisions it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

148 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, the districts and boroughs across Surrey have powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

149 As a result of our proposed division boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ash, Horley, Witley and Worplesdon parishes.

150 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ash parish.

Draft recommendations

Ash Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ash South	2
Ash South West	2
Ash Vale	2
Ash Wharf	6

151 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Horley parish.

Draft recommendations

Horley Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Horley Central North	1
Horley East	4
Horley South	5
Horley Upper North	1
Horley West	7

152 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Witley parish.

Draft recommendations

Witley Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Milford	8
Witley East	5
Witley West	3

153 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Worplesdon parish.

Draft recommendations

Worplesdon Parish Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Jacobs Well	2
Rydeshill	3
Villages	11

Have your say

154 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole county or just a part of it.

155 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Surrey, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of divisions.

156 Our website is the best way to keep up to date with progress on the review and to have your say www.lgbce.org.uk

157 Each review has its own page with details of the timetable for the review, information about its different stages and interactive mapping.

158 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Surrey)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

159 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of divisions for Surrey which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

160 A good pattern of divisions should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

161 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in the county?

162 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

163 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed divisions too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the divisions appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed divisions? Is there any form of public transport?

164 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

165 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation, we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

166 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

167 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which

brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Surrey in 2025.

Equalities

168 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Surrey

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
	ELMBRIDGE							
1	Cobham	1	12,205	12,205	13%	12,881	12,881	8%
2	Esher & Claygate	1	11,663	11,663	8%	13,155	13,155	10%
3	Hersham	1	10,775	10,775	0%	11,477	11,477	-4%
4	Long Ditton & Hinchley Wood	1	11,654	11,654	8%	11,883	11,883	0%
5	Thames Ditton & East Molesey	1	9,726	9,726	-10%	10,545	10,545	-11%
6	Walton	1	11,738	11,738	8%	12,240	12,240	3%
7	Walton South & Oatlands	1	11,104	11,104	3%	12,080	12,080	1%
8	West Molesey	1	10,174	10,174	-6%	10,662	10,662	-10%
9	Weybridge	1	11,781	11,781	9%	13,250	13,250	11%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	
EPSOM & EWELL								
10	Epsom Town & Downs	1	11,560	11,560	7%	12,810	12,810	8%
11	Epsom West	1	11,390	11,390	5%	12,152	12,152	2%
12	Ewell	1	12,157	12,157	12%	13,037	13,037	9%
13	Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington	1	11,779	11,779	9%	12,827	12,827	8%
14	West Ewell	1	11,141	11,141	3%	12,483	12,483	5%
GUILDFORD								
15	Ash	1	11,840	11,840	9%	13,123	13,123	10%
16	Guildford East	1	10,931	10,931	1%	12,582	12,582	6%
17	Guildford North	1	10,427	10,427	-4%	13,013	13,013	9%
18	Guildford South East	1	10,162	10,162	-6%	11,107	11,107	-7%
19	Guildford South West	1	9,781	9,781	-10%	13,236	13,236	11%
20	Guildford West	1	10,699	10,699	-1%	12,810	12,810	8%
21	Horsleys	1	9,844	9,844	-9%	12,921	12,921	8%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
22 Shalford	1	8,164	8,164	-25%	11,270	11,270	-5%
23 Shere	1	8,968	8,968	-17%	11,225	11,225	-6%
24 Worplesdon	1	11,166	11,166	3%	12,671	12,671	6%
MOLE VALLEY							
25 Ashtead	1	11,358	11,358	5%	12,250	12,250	3%
26 Bookham & Fetcham West	1	12,570	12,570	16%	13,857	13,857	16%
27 Dorking	1	11,124	11,124	3%	13,065	13,065	10%
28 Dorking Hills	1	10,586	10,586	-2%	11,639	11,639	-2%
29 Dorking Rural	1	10,439	10,439	-4%	11,551	11,551	-3%
30 Leatherhead & Fetcham East	1	11,597	11,597	7%	13,653	13,653	15%
REIGATE & BANSTEAD							
31 Banstead, Woodmansterne & Chipstead	1	10,682	10,682	-1%	11,607	11,607	-3%
32 Earlswood & Reigate South	1	9,931	9,931	-8%	11,368	11,368	-5%
33 Horley East	1	11,763	11,763	9%	12,945	12,945	9%

	Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
34	Horley West, Salfords & Sidlow	1	10,588	10,588	-2%	12,052	12,052	1%
35	Merstham & Banstead South	1	10,367	10,367	-4%	11,375	11,375	-5%
36	Nork & Tattenhams	1	11,764	11,764	9%	12,672	12,672	6%
37	Redhill East & North Earlswood	1	9,783	9,783	-10%	11,285	11,285	-5%
38	Redhill West & Meadvale	1	10,880	10,880	1%	11,896	11,896	0%
39	Reigate	1	10,277	10,277	-5%	11,162	11,162	-6%
40	Tadworth, Walton & Kingswood	1	11,526	11,526	7%	12,582	12,582	6%
RUNNYMEDE								
41	Addlestone	1	10,047	10,047	-7%	10,907	10,907	-8%
42	Chertsey	1	10,068	10,068	-7%	10,851	10,851	-9%
43	Egham	1	9,606	9,606	-11%	10,676	10,676	-10%
44	Englefield Green & Virginia Water	1	9,621	9,621	-11%	10,837	10,837	-9%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
45 Thorpe, Longcross & Ottershaw	1	10,889	10,889	1%	11,693	11,693	-2%
46 Woodham & New Haw	1	10,894	10,894	1%	11,792	11,792	-1%
SPELTHORNE							
47 Ashford	1	11,138	11,138	3%	11,991	11,991	1%
48 Laleham & Shepperton	1	10,364	10,364	-4%	10,816	10,816	-9%
49 Lower Sunbury & Halliford	1	10,743	10,743	-1%	11,832	11,832	-1%
50 Staines	1	11,146	11,146	3%	12,317	12,317	3%
51 Staines South & Ashford West	1	10,761	10,761	-1%	11,059	11,059	-7%
52 Stanwell & Stanwell Moor	1	10,676	10,676	-1%	11,588	11,588	-3%
53 Sunbury Common & Ashford Common	1	11,699	11,699	8%	12,540	12,540	5%
SURREY HEATH							

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
54 Bagshot, Windlesham & Chobham	1	11,246	11,246	4%	12,035	12,035	1%
55 Camberley East	1	11,816	11,816	9%	12,665	12,665	6%
56 Camberley West	1	10,086	10,086	-7%	11,094	11,094	-7%
57 Frimley Green & Mytchett	1	10,779	10,779	0%	12,264	12,264	3%
58 Heatherside & Parkside	1	11,580	11,580	7%	12,627	12,627	6%
59 Lightwater, West End & Bisley	1	12,268	12,268	13%	13,145	13,145	10%
TANDRIDGE							
60 Caterham Hill	1	11,173	11,173	3%	12,120	12,120	2%
61 Caterham Valley	1	9,703	9,703	-10%	10,459	10,459	-12%
62 Godstone	1	10,856	10,856	0%	11,719	11,719	-2%
63 Lingfield	1	11,765	11,765	9%	12,694	12,694	7%
64 Oxted	1	11,627	11,627	7%	12,603	12,603	6%
65 Warlingham	1	10,337	10,337	-4%	11,165	11,165	-6%

Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	
WAVERLEY								
66	Cranleigh & Ewhurst	1	11,709	11,709	8%	12,026	12,026	1%
67	Eastern Villages	1	10,876	10,876	1%	11,540	11,540	-3%
68	Farnham Central	1	10,572	10,572	-2%	11,072	11,072	-7%
69	Farnham North	1	10,244	10,244	-5%	10,757	10,757	-10%
70	Farnham South	1	10,185	10,185	-6%	10,705	10,705	-10%
71	Frensham, Elstead & Hindhead	1	10,224	10,224	-6%	10,793	10,793	-9%
72	Godalming North	1	11,170	11,170	3%	11,781	11,781	-1%
73	Godalming South, Milford & Witley	1	10,743	10,743	-1%	11,302	11,302	-5%
74	Haslemere	1	9,650	9,650	-11%	10,270	10,270	-14%
WOKING								
75	Goldsworth East & Horsell Village	1	10,942	10,942	1%	11,830	11,830	-1%
76	Knaphill & Goldsworth West	1	11,573	11,573	7%	12,593	12,593	6%

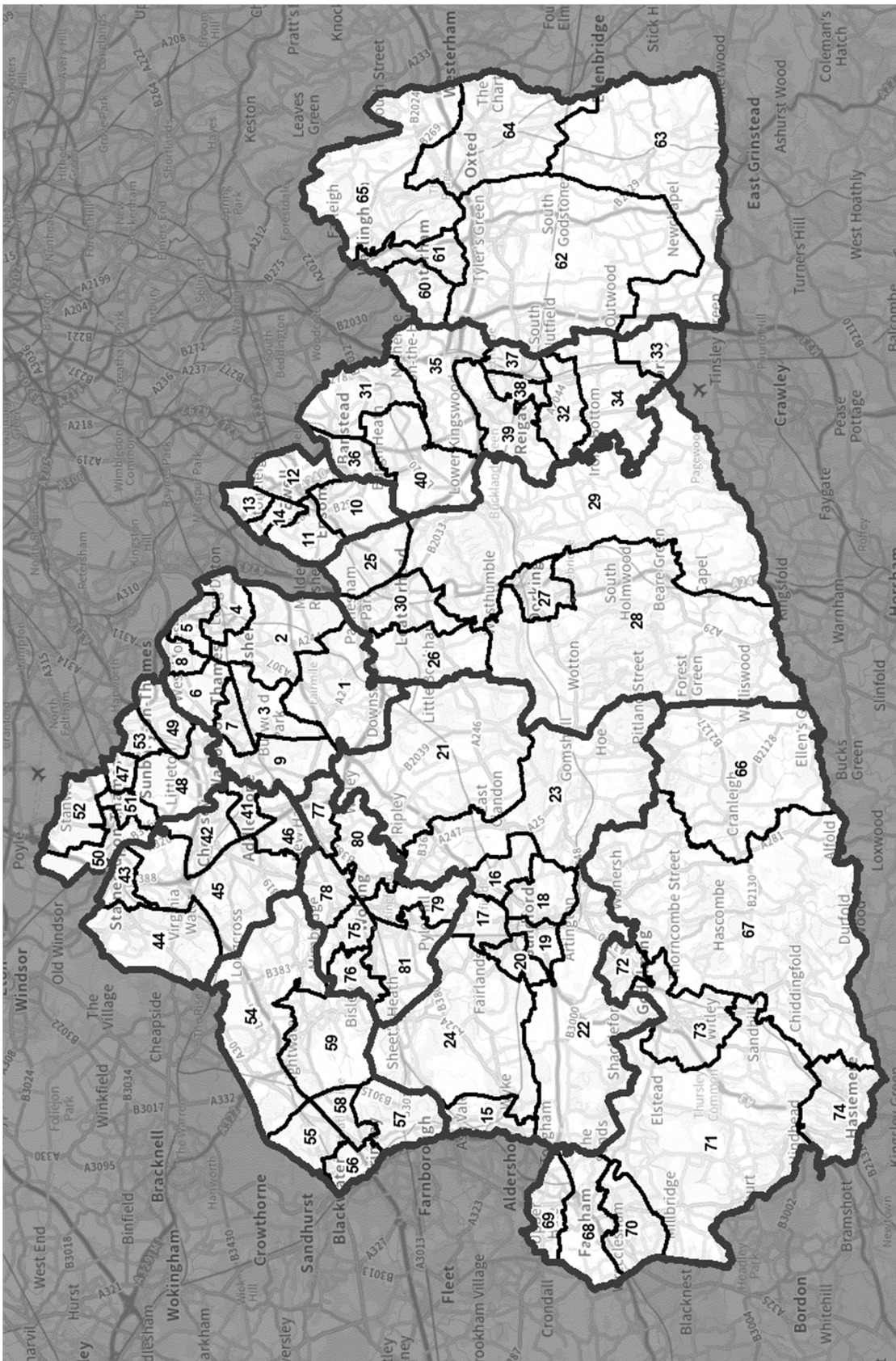
Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
77 The Byfleets	1	10,246	10,246	-5%	11,131	11,131	-7%
78 Woking North	1	10,451	10,451	-3%	11,397	11,397	-4%
79 Woking South	1	10,254	10,254	-5%	11,311	11,311	-5%
80 Woking South East	1	10,191	10,191	-6%	11,148	11,148	-6%
81 Woking South West	1	10,374	10,374	-4%	11,281	11,281	-5%
Totals		876,454	–	–	964,825	–	–
Averages		–	10,820	–	–	11,911	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Surrey County Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral division varies from the average for the county. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Division name	Number	Division name
1	Cobham	26	Bookham & Fetcham West
2	Esher & Claygate	27	Dorking
3	Hersham	28	Dorking Hills
4	Long Ditton & Hinchley Wood	29	Dorking Rural
5	Thames Ditton & East Molesey	30	Leatherhead & Fetcham East
6	Walton	31	Banstead, Woodmansterne & Chipstead
7	Walton South & Oatlands	32	Earlswood & Reigate South
8	West Molesey	33	Horley East
9	Weybridge	34	Horley West, Salfords & Sidlow
10	Epsom Town & Downs	35	Merstham & Banstead South
11	Epsom West	36	Nork & Tattenhams
12	Ewell	37	Redhill East & North Earlswood
13	Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington	38	Redhill West & Meadvale
14	West Ewell	39	Reigate
15	Ash	40	Tadworth, Walton & Kingswood
16	Guildford East	41	Addlestone
17	Guildford North	42	Chertsey
18	Guildford South East	43	Egham
19	Guildford South West	44	Englefield Green & Virginia Water
20	Guildford West	45	Thorpe, Longcross & Ottershaw
21	Horsleys	46	Woodham & New Haw
22	Shalford	47	Ashford
23	Shere	48	Laleham & Shepperton
24	Worplesdon	49	Lower Sunbury & Halliford
25	Ashted	50	Staines

51	Staines South & Ashford West	67	Eastern Villages
52	Stanwell & Stanwell Moor	68	Farnham Central
53	Sunbury Common & Ashford Common	69	Farnham North
54	Bagshot, Windlesham & Chobham	70	Farnham South
55	Camberley East	71	Frensham, Elstead & Hindhead
56	Camberley West	72	Godalming North
57	Frimley Green & Mytchett	73	Godalming South, Milford & Witley
58	Heatherside & Parkside	74	Haslemere
59	Lightwater, West End & Bisley	75	Goldsworth East & Horsell Village
60	Caterham Hill	76	Knaphill & Goldsworth West
61	Caterham Valley	77	The Byfleets
62	Godstone	78	Woking North
63	Lingfield	79	Woking South
64	Oxted	80	Woking South East
65	Warlingham	81	Woking South West
66	Cranleigh & Ewhurst		

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/surrey

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/surrey

Local Authority

- Surrey County Council

Political Groups

- Elmbridge Liberal Democrats
- Epsom & Ewell Constituency Labour Party
- Mole Valley Liberal Democrats
- Surrey County Council Liberal Democrat Group
- Tattenham & Preston Residents' Association
- Woking Conservatives

Councillors

- Councillor C. Bateson (Spelthorne BC)
- Councillor F. Davidson (Surrey CC)
- Councillor W. Forster (Surrey CC)
- Councillor D. Harmer (Surrey CC)
- Councillor H. Watson (Surrey CC)

Local Organisations

- Cobham & Downside Residents' Association
- Molesey Residents' Association
- Nork Residents' Association

Parish and Town Councils

- Betchworth Parish Council
- Brockham Parish Council
- Buckland Parish Council
- Cranleigh Parish Council
- Headley Parish Council
- Horley Town Council
- Ripley Parish Council

- Witley Parish Council

Local Residents

- 16 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
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www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Twitter: @LGBCE