

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Boundary Commission for England 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

Fareham Borough Council response to initial proposals for the existing Fareham constituency becoming the Fareham and Waterlooville constituency in the South East region.

1. Fareham Borough Council does not support the proposals to create a Fareham and Waterlooville County Constituency.
2. Fareham Borough Council does not support the proposals to create a Hedge End County Constituency.

REASONS

3. The Local Authority area of Fareham Borough Council is currently served by 2 MPs from the Fareham constituency (made up of 13 FBC wards) and the Gosport constituency (made up of 2 FBC wards and 17 Gosport Borough Council wards).
4. The proposals would see the Local Authority area of Fareham Borough Council being served by 3 MPs with Fareham and Waterlooville, Gosport and the newly created Hedge End Constituency. This additional MP for the area would split up the identity of the area and confuse residents who identify with the Fareham conurbation.
5. Fareham Borough Council urges the Boundary Commission for England to recognise the natural community identity of the existing Fareham constituency which is shaped by the trunk of the River Hamble to the west and the coastal inlet of Paulsgrove Lake to the east. The southern border of the current constituency follows the coastline from the mouth of the River Hamble at Warsash to the Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve at the mouth of the River Meon.
6. The proximity of the coastline and river course and the history of nautical life in and around the Fareham settlements is reflected in the Borough's crest which features an ancient ship of gold set sail on water representing the Town's ancient prosperity as a port and shipbuilding centre.
7. Fareham Borough Council strongly believes that the town centre of Fareham and its surrounding villages and towns has little or no community cohesion with the town of Waterlooville which lies at the northern foot of Portsdown Hill some 10 miles away.

8. Fareham Borough Council strongly believes that the western wards of Fareham have little or no community cohesion with the area west of the River Hamble. The river is a significant boundary that strongly defines and separates the local communities on either side.
9. The Electoral Registration Officer for Fareham Borough Council currently gives away the electorate of 2 wards to Gosport Borough Council. The proposals would mean that FBC will still give away to Gosport but in addition would take on electorate from Havant Borough Council and Winchester City Council to administer the new Fareham and Waterlooville constituency and either give away or take on from Eastleigh Borough Council and Winchester City Council to administer the new Hedge End constituency.
10. Dealing with electoral administration amongst 5 Local Authority electoral register during the preparation for a parliamentary election is an unwelcome additional burden for Council staff.
11. Fareham Borough Council is currently in the early stages of a Local Government Boundary Commission for England guided Electoral Review which is scheduled to be presented to Parliament in March 2023 and will be implemented via all out local elections in May 2024. It is therefore highly likely that the ward boundaries within the Local Authority area will change resulting in conflicts in data sets between the parliamentary constituency calculations and the Local Authority electoral register.
12. Whilst Fareham Borough Council acknowledges the BCE guidance which specifies that the parliamentary review is based on electoral register data from March 2020, the Local Authority strongly urges the BCE to recognise the difficulties created by having to run both parliamentary and local ward boundary reviews during the same time period.

COUNTER PROPOSALS

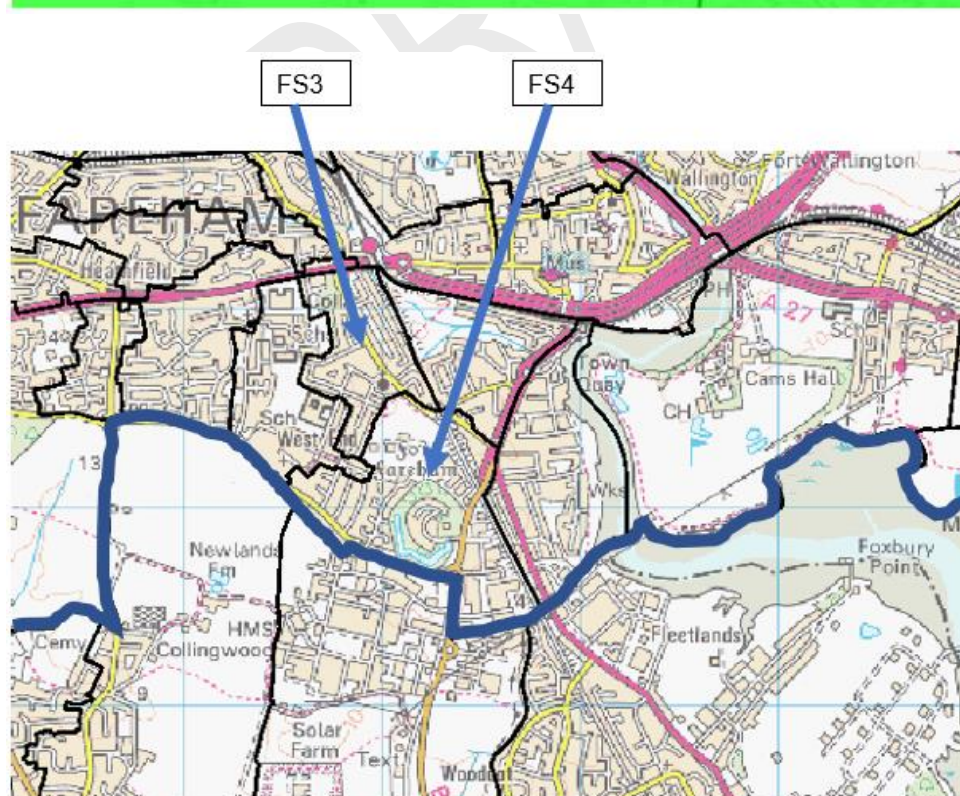
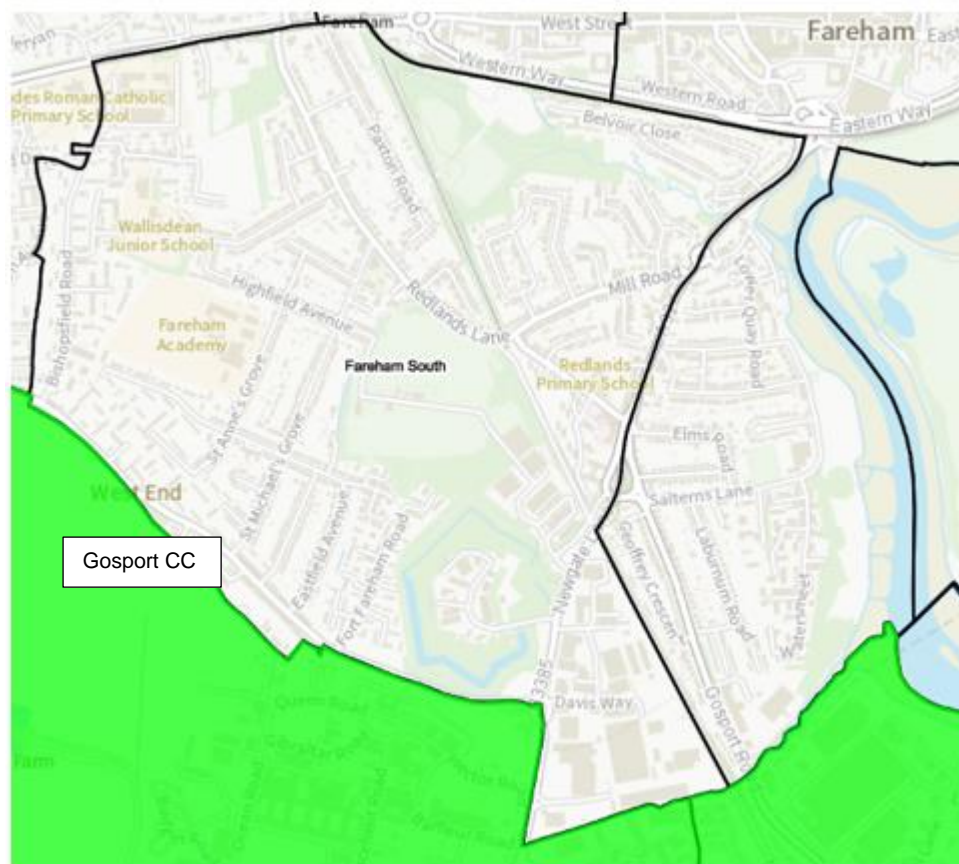
13. Fareham Borough Council is presenting the following counter proposals to the BCE as an alternative solution to meet the statutory requirements for the parliamentary boundary review whilst minimising disruption across Hampshire.
14. The following table shows the Fareham's neighbouring constituencies with the electorate figures as at March 2020:

Current constituency	Electorate	Notes
Fareham	78,815	Needs to lose 1,753 electors
Gosport	73,763	Within tolerance
Havant	72,766	Within tolerance
Meon Valley	75,591	Within tolerance

15. To resolve the Fareham constituency figures, we recommend giving polling districts FS3 and FS4 (from Fareham South ward) to Gosport Constituency (2,467 electors), which results in:

Fareham Constituency (78,815 – 2,467) = 76,348

Gosport Constituency $(73,763 + 2,467) = 76,230$



16. The polling district of FS4 is situated on the boundary with Gosport constituency (adjoining Stubbington and Bridgemary North wards) and FS3 is adjacent to FS4.
17. The main Gosport Road flows from the Fareham constituency into Gosport providing an important transport link between the two areas.
18. The counter proposals we are recommending would result in the following electorate figures for each Hampshire constituency:

Fareham 76,348

Fareham East	5,930
Fareham North	5,621
Fareham North-West	5,548
Fareham South (minus FS3 and FS4)	3,038
Fareham West	5,403
Locks Heath	5,648
Park Gate	7,137
Portchester East	8,883
Portchester West	5,608
Salisbury	6,018
Titchfield	5,926
Titchfield Common	6,052
Warsash	5,536

Hedge End & Waterlooville 75,123

Botley	4,782
Bursledon & Hound North	6,908
Hamble & Netley	7,970
Hedge End North	7,501
Hedge End South	8,790
Whiteley & Shedfield	4,634
Cowplain	7,434
Hart Plain	7,657
Waterloo	8,163
Denmead	6,494
Southwick & Wickham	4,790

Gosport 76,230

Alverstoke	3,532
Anglesey	2,998
Bridgemary North	3,453
Bridgemary South	3,556
Brockhurst	3,728
Christchurch	3,910
Elson	3,488
Forton	3,341
Grange	4,022
Hardway	4,211
Hill Head	5,980

Lee East	4,643
Lee West	4,123
Leesland	3,469
Peel Common	3,327
Privett	3,301
Rowner & Holbrook	3,256
Stubbington (plus FS3 and FS4)	8,019
Town	3,873

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