

Warding Pattern Submission

to

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

XX July 2022

SUBMISSION SUMMARY

1. At its meeting held on Thursday 16 December, Fareham Borough Council resolved to submit a recommended council size to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) that would slightly increase the number of Fareham Borough Councillors from the current 31 Councillors to 32 Councillors.
2. This Council Size proposal was submitted to the LGBCE on 20 December 2021.
3. At this stage of the electoral review, Fareham Borough Council is now submitting its proposals for a new pattern of warding arrangements and has considered:
 - The number of wards
 - The names of wards
 - Where the boundaries between wards should lie
 - The number of councillors for each ward
4. When drawing up its proposals for the new warding arrangements, Fareham Borough Council considered the Commission's main rules for proposing new ward boundaries as follows:
 - **Delivering electoral equality for local voters** – ensuring that each local councillor represents roughly the same number of people.
 - **Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities** – establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
 - **Promoting effective and convenient local government** – ensuring that the new wards can be represented effectively by their elected representatives and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

INTRODUCTION

5. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is tasked to periodically review electoral arrangements for every council area in England. The last review in Fareham took place in 2000 and this review is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2024 local elections.
6. This submission forms the second stage of the Electoral Review process and is in keeping with guidance provided by the Commission.

7. This submission is the official response by Fareham Borough Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) and sets out its proposals for a new pattern of wards for the future delivery of effective, efficient, and accountable local democracy.
8. The working draft has been prepared by Officers on behalf of the Council in consultation with a Member Working Group made up of 5 Councillors representing both political groups of the Council.
9. The warding patterns plan has been presented to the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee in March 2022 with the submission draft being reported to and reviewed by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee at its meeting on 27 June 2022.

APPROACH TO RE-WARDING

10. Fareham Borough Council currently has 15 wards, consisting of 14 two-member wards and 1 three-member ward in Portchester East.
11. We are proposing a pattern of 16 two-member wards, taking into account electoral equality, community identity and effective and convenient local government.
12. When designing the new ward boundaries, the electorate figures per ward must be based on the forecast electorate for 2027, which includes future housing developments up until then. It is important to note that it is the calculated elector numbers that are used for this process, and not the number of properties.
13. The forecast electorate for the borough in 2027 is 97,790. With 16 two-member wards, the Fareham Borough therefore has a target electorate of 6,112 per ward, with a lower variance of 5,500 and an upper variance of 6,723. This means that each of the proposed wards must not have an electorate outside of these numbers.
14. Creating an additional ward in the Borough means that the existing Portchester East ward must be split to reduce the number of electors, as the new warding arrangements will mean there will only be two Council members in each ward across the borough.
15. Based on the current 15 ward arrangement, with 1 three-member and 14 two-member wards, the electorate forecast for each ward was calculated. This resulted in three existing wards being identified as over-subscribed, as follows: Park Gate (23% over target with 7511 electors) and Warsash (19% over with 7264 electors) in the west of the borough and Fareham North (25% over with 7635 electors) in the middle of the borough. In addition, removing the third member from Portchester East on the eastern side of the borough results in a forecast electorate of 53% with 9323 electors.

16. When considering the boundaries of the new wards, areas of new housing developments where elector numbers were expected to increase significantly up to 2027 were identified and incorporated into the community and ward planning process.
17. It is essential that boundary lines are drawn to allow for projected growth within the forecast period. For example, the new Welborne Garden Village development to the north of the Borough will eventually see an additional 6,000 homes built over the next 30 years, therefore the projected growth by 2027 of 1,566 electors has been included.
18. Similarly, the development site contained within the Local Plan for Warsash will see an additional 1,444 electors by 2027. As this ward sits in the south-west corner of the Borough and is bordered by the River Hamble to the west and the Solent to the south, it creates a similar issue to that of the Welborne development requiring the ward to be drawn allowing for this projected growth.
19. Administrative issues with the current register have been identified and fixed. This has included reviewing areas where the ward boundary cuts through a street resulting in next door neighbours appearing in different ward registers.
20. Other points that have been assessed when planning the new ward boundaries are:
 - Identifiable boundaries – where natural features such as rivers and woodland, as well as railway lines and major roads, can provide clearly identifiable boundaries.
 - Facilities – where a local shopping centre or leisure facilities can often be the focal point of a local community.
 - Community groups – where there is a local residents' group or community centre that unite a group of people with shared interests.
21. As well as revising the ward boundaries, the existing ward names have been considered. It is proposed that two-thirds of the wards are renamed to better reflect the area and established communities contained within each ward. Many of the current wards within Fareham and Portchester contain compass point names, which do not necessarily reflect the community; the use of north, east, south, and west within the ward names have therefore been removed in our renaming proposals.

PROPOSED WARDING PATTERN

22. The proposed new warding arrangements are as follows:

Sarisbury & Whiteley (SW)

23. Located on the western side of the borough, Sarisbury and Whiteley also incorporates the villages of Burridge, Swanwick, Lower Swanwick and Sarisbury Green. Sarisbury lies on the edge of the Hamble Valley, with the village of Whiteley located to the north of junction 9 of the M27. This large development straddles the boundary between two council districts: Fareham Borough Council to the south and east, and Winchester City Council to the north and west.
24. Whilst the M27 and the railway line creates a boundary between the Sarisbury & Whiteley and Park Gate wards, Swanwick Lane to the west of Whiteley connects Burridge with Swanwick and Sarisbury.
25. The Sarisbury & Whiteley and Warsash wards are separated by woodland to the south of the ward.
26. No changes are proposed to the current Sarisbury boundary although it is proposed to change the name from Sarisbury to Sarisbury and Whiteley to better reflect the two main communities within the ward.

Park Gate (PG)

27. The Park Gate ward is located south-west of the Sarisbury & Whiteley ward and is centred on the A27. Swanwick train station can be found to the north of the ward, with a village shopping centre within walking distance.
28. The new Park Gate boundary includes an area that is currently situated within the Locks Heath ward (LH3, nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of LH1). The new boundary provides for Park Gate Primary School to be sited in the Park Gate ward, correcting an anomaly whereby it was previously in the Locks Heath ward.

Locks Heath (LH)

29. Locks Heath Shopping Village is in the centre of this ward, comprising a selection of local shops and a supermarket, as well as a library and community centre, providing a central focal point for local residents.
30. The Locks Heath ward takes in the area to the east, west and south of the ward, whilst the northern parts of Locks Heath are now included in the Park Gate ward.

Hook-with-Warsash (HW)

31. Warsash lies on the east bank of the River Hamble. The village centre is a short distance from the river and centres around the clock tower.
32. The residential areas to the north and north-east of the ward remain united, whilst also allowing for the proposed development on either side of Greenaway Lane to be sited within the same ward.

33. Approximately 600 electors around the eastern end of Warsash Road have moved into the neighbouring wards of Locks Heath and Meon, creating a neater boundary.
34. To the north of Warsash, Cawtes Copse creates a natural boundary with Sarisbury & Whiteley. Warsash also includes the sparsely populated south-east area of the ward, which mainly consists of farmland.

Titchfield Common (TC)

35. The Titchfield Common ward is located between the Park Gate, Locks Heath, and Meon wards.
36. To the south, Warsash Road provides a boundary between the Titchfield Common and Warsash wards, with farmland just across the border also separating the two wards.

Meon (ME)

37. Set alongside the River Meon, the Meon ward is in the western part of Fareham. Titchfield village is in the centre of the ward and is a conservation area, consisting of shops, inns and houses grouped around a large square. The historical Titchfield Abbey and Titchfield Mill can also be found in the centre of the ward.
38. Two miles south of the village, at the mouth of the River Meon and on the shores of the Solent, is Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve, which forms a natural boundary with Hill Head. The village of Meon sits to the west of the river with Little Posbrook and Great Posbrook further inland.
39. Land to the south of the ward is mainly farmland and is sparsely populated, with the main areas of populous being in Titchfield village centre, Titchfield Park, the Hollam Drive area and the Bedford Drive development.
40. To the north west of the ward is the Segensworth area which is predominately business properties.

Hill Head (HH)

41. South of Stubbington, Hill Head is an attractive residential area with a beach and forms Fareham's boundary with the sea.
42. No changes are proposed to the current Hill Head boundary.

Stubbington (ST)

43. Stubbington lies to the south of Fareham, separated from Fareham by farmland. To the east of Stubbington, on the borough boundary with Gosport, is Solent Airport, previously the former Royal Naval air station of HMS Daedalus, as well as the Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus.
44. No changes are proposed to the current Stubbington boundary.

Uplands & Funtley (UF)

45. The Uplands & Funtley ward is located to the north of Fareham. The ward has been reduced in size to allow for the increase in electors contained within the initial stages of the new Welborne housing development.
46. To the east of the ward, the A27 creates a boundary between the Uplands & Funtley and Downend & Wallington wards.

Fareham Park (FP)

47. The Fareham Park ward is located to the north-west of Fareham, in the Hill Park and Henry Cort Community College area. Although relatively small geographically, it is a densely populated area. The M27 creates a boundary to the north of the ward.
48. No changes are proposed to the current Fareham Park (Fareham North-West) boundary.

The Avenue (TA)

49. Located to the west of the Borough, the Avenue ward benefits from the railway line, which forms the northern and eastern boundary.
50. The ward has been named after The Avenue, part of the A27 that runs across the centre of the ward.

Fort Fareham (FF)

51. The Fort Fareham ward covers much of the area currently known as Fareham South. With Cams Alders open space in the centre of the ward, the area comprises the north of Redlands Lane and extends to the area known as West End Fareham, shifting the focus of the ward from the south to the west.
52. Fort Fareham, one of the Palmerston Forts, incorporating a woodland area and Fort Fareham Industrial Estate, can be found to the south.

Fareham Town (FT)

53. Fareham Town is a new ward created in the centre of Fareham. Incorporating the town centre up to Fareham Train station, extending south to Gosport Road, along the A32 and the areas surrounding Salterns Quay, including the Watersmeet estate. The creek forms a natural boundary between the Fareham Town and Wicor wards.

Downend & Wallington (DW)

54. The Downend and Wallington ward brings together areas to the north and east of Fareham, as well as the Downend estate at the west of Portchester.
55. The River Wallington winds its way through the centre of this ward.

Castle (CA)

56. Located on the eastern boundary of Fareham, the Castle ward is dominated by the historic Portchester Castle, which can be found to the south of the ward. The village also has a shopping centre, Portchester Precinct, and a railway station. The roads to the north of the ward rise up the lower slopes of Portsdown Hill, where the borough boundary can also be found.

Wicor (WI)

57. Wicor is located in Portchester and borders the Portchester Castle ward to the east, and Downend and Wallington ward to the west.
58. The scenic coastline to the south of the ward, with views across Portsmouth Harbour, forms the boundary to this ward, with Wicor Recreation Ground a focal point for local residents.

SUBMISSION CONCLUSION

59. In developing our warding arrangements submission, we have considered how the working approach and culture of the council has evolved over the past two decades. We have also considered the changes throughout the Borough since the last electoral review in 2000 and more importantly, our growing electorate.
60. We have reviewed how the council currently operates in governance terms; reflected on what we have in place and also been cognisant that we frequently review our governance arrangements and implement changes where we believe they are required (both in democratic terms and to be 'business like' in our approach).
61. In considering alternative warding patterns, the Council is satisfied that the plan appended at **Annexe 1 is an appropriate pattern of wards for the following reasons:**

a)