

COUNCIL

24 JANUARY 2017

REPORT OF MANAGEMENT AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT MANAGER

A.5 Electoral Review of Tendring

(Report prepared by Karen Neath)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To ask Council to agree the initial submission on proposed district council electoral wards for Tendring as the final submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 9 February 2016 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) formally wrote to the Council to advise that it had a place on the local government boundary review programme.
- In line with the first stage of this review, at the meeting on 6th September 2016, Council agreed a submission of a recommended council size of 48.
- On 25th October 2016 the LGBCE wrote to the Council to confirm the commencement of the consultation on ward boundaries. The LGBCE stated that it was “.....minded to recommend that 48 district councillors should be elected to Tendring District Council in future.....”
- The LGBCE is now seeking proposals from the Council, interested parties and members of the public on a pattern of electoral wards to accommodate 48 councillors.
- The deadline for responses was 9th January 2017.
- At the Council meeting on 29th November 2016, Council agreed that:-

“the Chief Executive be authorised to make, with the agreement of the Electoral Review Working Party, a provisional submission on ward boundaries to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to meet the LGBCE deadline of 9 January 2017, subject to the final submission being formally considered and determined by full Council at its meeting on 24 January 2017.”

- Accordingly, at the meeting of the Electoral Review Working Group held on 6th January 2017, agreement was given for the Chief Executive to submit to the LGBCE, the initial proposal for new ward boundaries in Tendring as attached at Appendix A of this report together with detailed ward maps.
- This initial submission was sent to the LGBCE on 9th January.
- Council is now asked to agree the initial submission on proposed district council electoral wards for Tendring (attached at Appendix A) as the final submission to the

LGBCE.

- Members are reminded that they can also submit comments as individuals or through their groups. However, these must be submitted to the LGBCE by the 25th January 2017.
- The LGBCE will issue draft recommendations for new boundaries in Tendring in March 2017 and this will provide a further opportunity to comment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council agrees the initial submission on proposed district council electoral wards for Tendring (attached at Appendix A) as the final submission to the LGBCE.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

It is important that the warding of the district allows for an appropriate level of electoral representation for residents across the District to ensure effective governance, decision making, and scrutiny.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

The total budget for member support costs for 2016/17 is £503,150.

Risk

The LGBCE look at electoral equality as part of their review. This should ensure that councillors have an appropriate size of electorate to represent. Emphasis is also placed on the importance of communities and the review will seek to ensure that communities are not dissected or compromised.

LEGAL

The LGBCE was established by and operates under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are none.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

There are no background papers.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Proposed District Council Electoral Wards for Tendring (commentary, spreadsheet and map of all district wards)

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

SUBMISSION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (LGBCE) ON DISTRICT COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARIES

1. Methodology

At Tendring District Council, work on the Electoral Review has been led by a Member Electoral Review Working Group which has cross party representation from the Council. In drawing up a proposed scheme of ward boundaries the Working Group has held four meetings to discuss proposals and has also led on arrangements for consultation with all other Members. At the request of the Working Group, Officers have attended meetings of the political groups on the Council to present and discuss proposed ward boundaries. Political groups were able to invite up to 3 other affiliated people to attend these meetings. In addition, two open days were held where all Members were given the opportunity to have an individual one-to-one with Officers. These sessions were very productive with Members that attended putting forward helpful and constructive suggestions.

The Council's submission has been drawn up based on 48 members and having regard to electoral equality, existing Town and Parish Council boundaries and extant communities. The Working Group was also keen that, as far as possible, the scheme focussed on single member wards across the District. The Working Group felt that single Member wards would:-

- Be fairer for independent candidates standing in any particular ward;
- Be better for voters in that there is more clarity when they come to vote and also in that they are clear who their ward councillor is; and
- Make canvassing easier.

2. Current Ward Boundaries

Tendring District Council currently has 35 wards of which one is a three member ward, twenty three are two member wards and eleven are single member wards. There are 27 Town and Parish Councils. Harwich Town Council and Frinton and Walton Town Council and St Osyth and Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Councils are warded. There are currently 60 District Councillors with a current average electorate of 1,871 per Councillor.

3. Proposed Ward Boundaries

The attached spreadsheet sets out on the left the existing District wards, the town / parishes in each ward, forecast electorate and number of councillors in each ward. The right hand side sets out the proposed new District wards with the proposed names, town / parishes in each ward, forecast electorate, number of councillors in each ward and the variance from the new average electorate of 2,417. There is a broad read across from the old wards to the new wards on the right but not a direct comparison.

The new scheme is based on 48 District Councillors and proposes 45 district wards of which 42 are single member and 3 are two member.

Attention is drawn to the following specific points in relation to new proposed wards:-

i. Clacton (18 wards)

The proposed ward boundaries in Clacton have been drawn to achieve single member wards as far as possible whilst looking to keep established estates within one ward.

Only West Clacton and Jaywick Sands is proposed as a two member ward. Jaywick is a distinct and separate community from the main town area of Clacton. Whilst it was considered whether this could be two, single member wards it was felt that the community aspect led to all of Jaywick remaining in one ward. In addition, it would be difficult to achieve electoral equality in two wards and retain meaningful community areas.

All of the wards in the Clacton area are within the 10% tolerance of electoral quality. Clacton does not have a Town or Parish Council so there are no issues with regard to coterminosity with these boundaries.

ii. Harwich and Dovercourt (6 wards)

All of the wards in the Harwich and Dovercourt area are proposed to be single member wards and all are within the 10% tolerance of electoral quality. It seeks to recognise the area of the old town of Harwich and the distinct community areas of Dovercourt.

We would ask that, as part of this electoral review, the LGBCE uses its powers to recommend new wards for Harwich Town Council that are coterminous with the new district ward boundaries. Under this proposed scheme, new Harwich Town Council wards of Harwich and Kingsway, Dovercourt Bay, Dovercourt Tollgate, Dovercourt All Saints, Dovercourt Hall Lane and Spring Meadows would be required. The Parkeston polling district of the Spring Meadows and Parkeston district ward would remain unchanged as a parish ward of Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council.

iii. Frinton and Walton (6 wards)

All of the wards in the Frinton and Walton area are proposed to be single member wards and all are within the 10% tolerance of electoral quality except for Homelands which is marginally beyond 10%. It is felt that the very small excess beyond 10% is acceptable within the overall context of achieving electoral equality, single member wards and maintaining community cohesion across the Frinton and Walton area.

The current forecast electorate for Frinton is 3,397 which makes it too big, as it stands, to be a single member ward but too small for a two member ward. To make Frinton a single member ward would have meant bringing the boundary inside of the railway line which is widely recognised locally as the natural boundary of the town. Therefore it was agreed to extend the area of the Frinton ward beyond the railway line but, in accordance with the desire to achieve single member wards, Frinton is proposed to be divided into East and West wards.

Again, we would ask that, as part of this electoral review, the LGBCE uses its powers to recommend new wards for Frinton and Walton Town Council that are coterminous with the new district ward boundaries. Under this proposed scheme, new Town Council wards of Frinton West, Frinton East, Kirby-le-Soken and Hamford, Kirby Cross, Homelands, Walton and Great Holland would be required. Great Holland is a ward of the Town Council. However, under the proposed scheme for district wards Great Holland would form a district ward with Beaumont and Thorpe-le Soken. For

district purposes, Great Holland is currently joined with Kirby Cross and Kirby-le-Soken. However, Kirby Cross is a large enough settlement to stand alone as a single member ward and there is not a community link between Great Holland and Kirby-le-Soken. Although there are road links between Great Holland and Holland-on-Sea it was felt that there is little community connection between Great Holland as a village and the more built up area of Holland-on-Sea. It is acknowledged that there is also limited community connection between Great Holland and Thorpe or Beaumont. However, it was felt that Great Holland would be best served by remaining in a rural focussed ward rather than being aligned to a more urban area.

iv. *Brightlingsea (3 wards)*

Brightlingsea is currently the only district ward that has three members. It is proposed that, in line with this Council's desire for single member wards, that it be divided into three single member wards. The proposed wards broadly follow the line of the existing polling districts. All are within the 10% tolerance of electoral equality.

v. *Lawford and Manningtree (1 ward)*

Lawford and Manningtree is proposed as a two member ward. Lawford is the larger town with a forecast electorate of 3,681. Manningtree has a forecast electorate of 716. It makes little community sense to split Lawford into two wards and therefore it is proposed that these two settlements be joined in a two member ward.

vi. *Rural Areas (11 wards)*

The remaining proposed district wards follow the boundaries of the existing Town and Parish Councils. Two are significantly beyond the 10% tolerance of electoral equality:-

- St Osyth and Point Clear is proposed as a two member ward. It is showing a -17.38% variance. It was considered whether this could be split into two single member wards along the lines of the current Parish Council wards i.e. into St Osyth and Point Clear. The forecast electorate for Point Clear is 1,395 which is over 1,000 electors below electoral equality. Point Clear's coastal location means there is little scope to sit it in a ward with any other settlement. The nearest settlement is Brightlingsea but access is across the river and, as set out, above, it is proposed that the outer boundary of the Brightlingsea electoral area remains unchanged. There is a very small boundary between St Osyth and Thorrington but this lines along the creek. Linking St Osyth and Point Clear with either Great Bentley, Weeley or Little Clacton and making these three member wards, would exceed the electoral variance in all three cases.

Following a recent Planning Inquiry outcome there will be new housing developments of around 90 homes in the St Osyth area which will reduce the electoral variance to around -14%.

- Alresford and Thorrington is proposed as a single member ward. It is showing a +16.01% variance. Alresford and Thorrington are only around a mile apart and have road connection along the B1027. It is not practical to link either Alresford or Thorrington with Brightlingsea as there is a creek between them and, as set out above, Brightlingsea is a workable scheme in its own right. There are also limited communication links between Alresford and Thorrington and the next nearest villages of Elmstead and Great Bentley. Alresford Parish Council does not share a boundary with Frating Parish Council so there is not

an option to join Alresford and Frating in a District Ward. Therefore, it is proposed that in this case the community argument overrides the fact that this ward would exceed the 10% tolerance.

All other rural wards are within the 10% tolerance and are proposed as single member wards. The other proposed rural wards are:-

- Little Clacton – this settlement is large enough to be a ward in its own right;
- Tendring and Weeley – Weeley is currently in a ward with Little Clacton but as Little Clacton can now form a ward of its own, Weeley is proposed to be in a ward with the next nearest village – Tendring;
- Mistle – this settlement is large enough to be a ward in its own right;
- Ardleigh and Little Bromley – unchanged;
- Bradfield, Ramsey and Wrabness (the proposed Stour Valley ward)– form a strip along the northern edge of the district on the River Stour;
- Frating and The Bentleys – although currently in a ward on its own, Great Bentley is not big enough to be a single ward under the new scheme. It is proposed to include this in a ward with Little Bentley and Frating;
- Great Oakley, Little Oakley and Wix – it makes community sense to keep Great and Little Oakley together in the same ward and it is proposed that, for electoral equality, Wix is also included;
- Elmstead and Great Bromley – although these two settlements sit either side of the A120 they work together for electoral equality purposes in a single ward.

4. Future Housing Development

The forecast electorate included with the Council's Council Size submission included an assessment of housing to be delivered over the next 6 years and the increase in electorate that would bring. However, since this forecast was done, further planning applications have been approved, by the Council or on appeal, which were not included in the forecast. In drawing up this proposed scheme of district wards, the Council has had regard to potential areas of future development and, where possible, without compromising any principles of community or electoral equality, has ensured that there is leeway within the electoral variance to accommodate new growth without breaching the upper 10% tolerance.

The most significant area of future housing is expected to be in the North West corner of the District. Tendring District Council is working with Braintree, Colchester and Essex County Councils to bring forward local garden settlements. For Tendring this would deliver large scale housing and infrastructure development around the Ardleigh and Elmstead areas.

5. Town and Parish Councils

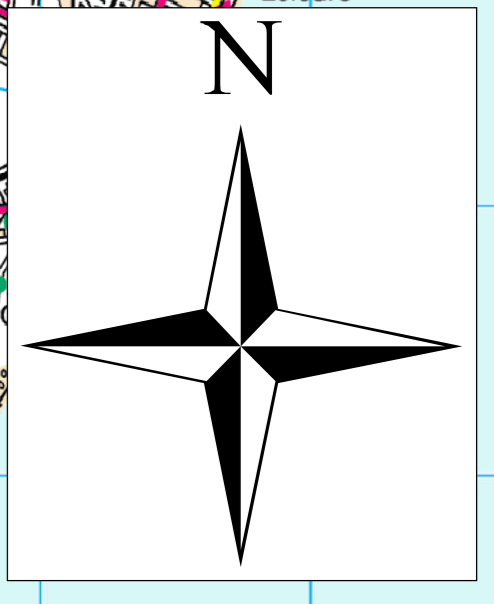
The District Council is aware that some Town and Parish Councils have submitted their own comments.

PROPOSED NEW DISTRICT WARDS 2019

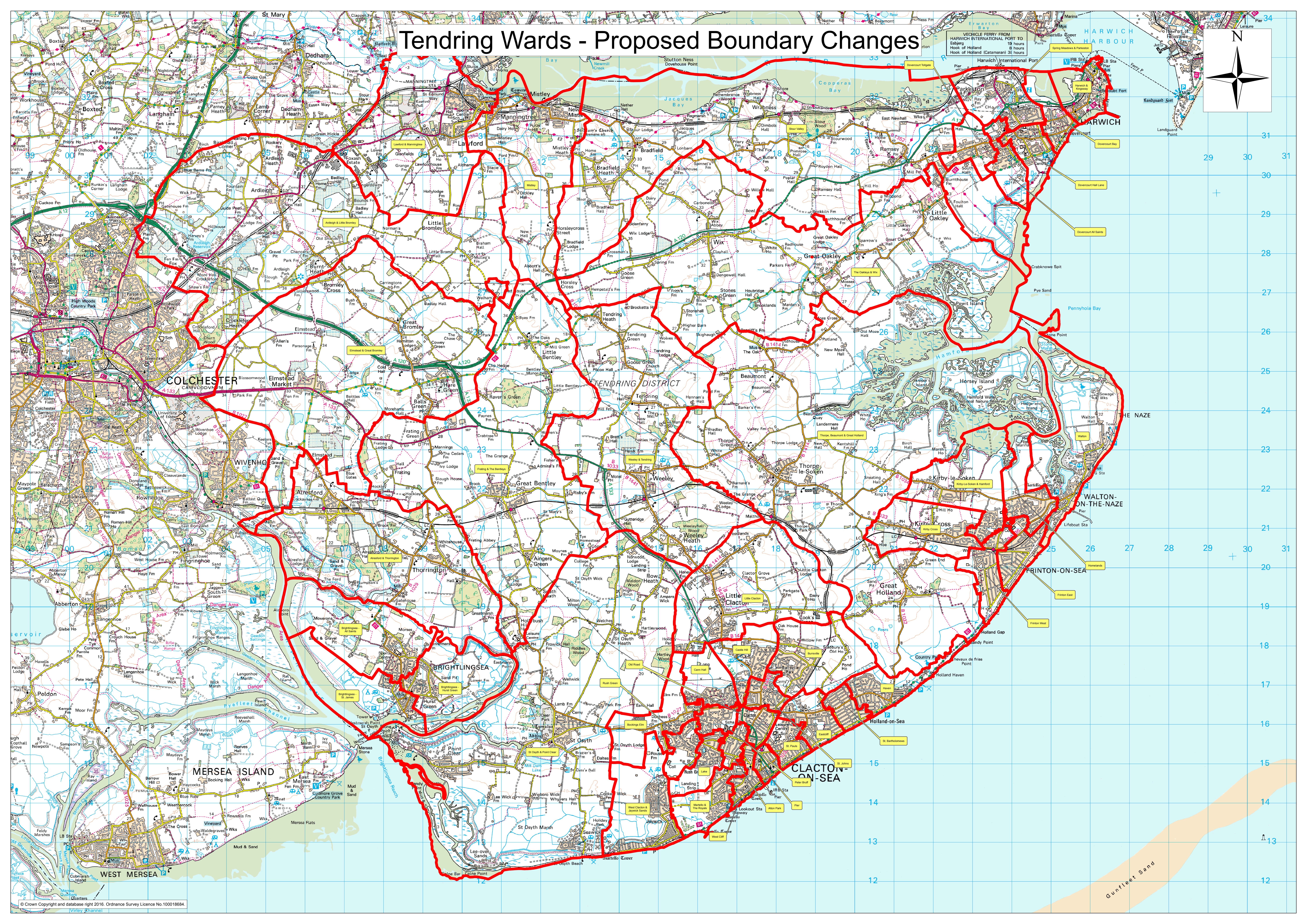
CURRENT WARDS				PROPOSED WARDS					
Existing District Ward	Existing Town and Parish Councils and Wards	Electorate 2022	Number of Councillors	Proposed New District Ward	Proposed Town and Parish Councils and Wards	Electorate 2022	Number of Councillors	Average Electorate	Variance from Perfect Electoral Equality (2417)
Alton Park		3589	2	Alton Park		2445	1	2445	1.16%
Bockings Elm		5198	2	Lake		2541	1	2541	5.13%
Burrsville		1975	1	Bockings Elm		2327	1	2327	-3.72%
Golf Green		4072	2	Cann Hall		2434	1	2434	0.70%
Haven		1792	1	Burrsville		2653	1	2653	9.76%
Peter Bruff		3302	2	West Clacton and Jaywick Sands		4629	2	2315	-4.24%
Pier		3917	2	Haven		2480	1	2480	2.61%
Rush Green		3453	2	Peter Bruff		2460	1	2460	1.78%
St Bartholomews		4031	2	Pier		2265	1	2265	-6.29%
St James		3406	2	West Cliff		2574	1	2574	6.50%
St Johns		3866	2	Rush Green		2268	1	2268	-6.16%
St Marys		3689	2	St Bartholomews		2424	1	2424	0.29%
St Pauls		3834	2	Martello and The Royals		2537	1	2537	4.96%
Harwich East	Harwich East (Parish Ward)	1836	1	St Johns		2451	1	2451	1.41%
Harwich East Central	Harwich East Central (Parish Ward)	3947	2	Castle Hill		2299	1	2299	-4.88%
Harwich West	Harwich West (Parish Ward)	4219	2	Old Road		2584	1	2584	6.91%
Harwich West Central	Harwich West Central (Parish Ward)	3957	2	St Pauls		2360	1	2360	-2.36%
Ramsey & Parkeston	Ramsey & Parkeston (Parish Ward)	1902	1	Eastcliff		2393	1	2393	-0.99%
Frinton	Frinton (Parish Ward)	3397	2	Harwich and Kingsway	Harwich and Kingsway (ward of Harwich Town Council)	2464	1	2464	1.94%
Hamford	Hamford (Parish Ward)	3409	2	Dovercourt Bay	Dovercourt Bay (ward of Harwich Town Council)	2487	1	2487	2.90%
Holland & Kirby	Great Holland, Kirby Crosss, Kirby-le-Soken (Parish Wards)	3919	2	Dovercourt Tollgate	Dovercourt Tollgate (ward of Harwich Town Council)	2392	1	2392	-1.03%
Homelands	Homelands (Parish Ward)	1702	1	Dovercourt All Saints	Dovercourt All Saints (ward of Harwich Town Council)	2419	1	2419	0.08%
Walton	Walton (Parish Ward)	3614	2	Dovercourt Hall Lane	Dovercourt Hall Lane (ward of Harwich Town Council)	2416	1	2416	-0.04%
Brightlingsea	Brightlingsea	6668	3	Spring Meadows and Parkeston	Spring Meadows and Parkeston (ward of Harwich Town Council)	2435	1	2435	0.74%
St Osyth and Point Clear	St Osyth	3994	2	Parkeston (ward of Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council)					
Alresford	Alresford	1763	1	Frinton West	Frinton West (ward of Frinton and Walton Town Council)	2299	1	2299	-4.88%
Ardleigh and Little Bromley	Ardleigh, Little Bromley	2210	1	Frinton East	Frinton East (ward of Frinton and Walton Town Council)	2571	1	2571	6.37%
Thorrington, Frating, Elmstead and Great Bromley	Thorrington, Frating, Elmstead, Great Bromley	3955	2	Kirby-Le-Soken and Hamford	Kirby - Le -Soken and Hamford (ward of Frinton and Walton Town Council)	2529	1	2529	4.63%
Beaumont and Thorpe	Beaumont-cum-Moze, Thorpe-le-Soken	1930	1	Kirby Cross	Kirby Cross (ward of Frinton and Walton Town Council)	2611	1	2611	8.03%
Bradfield, Wrabness and Wix	Bradfield, Wrabness and Wix	1972	1	Homelands	Homelands (ward of Frinton and Walton Town Council)	2668	1	2668	10.38%
Great and Little Oakley	Great Oakley, Little Oakley	1678	1	Walton	Walton (ward of Frinton and Walton Town Council)	2648	1	2648	9.56%
Great Bentley	Great Bentley	1869	1	Brightlingsea All Saints	Brightlingsea	2191	1	2191	-9.35%
Lawford	Lawford	3681	2	Brightlingsea Hurst Green		2219	1	2219	-8.19%
Little Clacton and Weeley	Little Clacton, Weeley	4314	2	Brightlingsea St James		2258	1	2258	-6.58%
Manningtree, Mistle, Little Bentley and Tendring	Manningtree, Mistle, Little Bentley, Tendring	3940	2	St Osyth and Point Clear	St Osyth	3994	2	1997	-17.38%
				Alresford and Thorrington	Alresford, Thorrington	2804	1	2804	16.01%
				Ardleigh and Little Bromley	Ardleigh, Little Bromley	2210	1	2210	-8.56%
				Elmstead and Great Bromley	Elmstead, Great Bromley	2486	1	2486	2.85%
				Thorpe, Beaumont and Great Holland	Beaumont, Thorpe-le-Soken, Great Holland (ward of Frinton and Walton Town Council)	2645	1	2645	9.43%
				Stour Valley	Bradfield, Ramsey (ward of Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council), Wrabness	2562	1	2562	6.00%
				The Oakleys and Wix	Great Oakley, Little Oakley, Wix	2336	1	2336	-3.35%
				Frating and The Bentleys	Frating, Great Bentley, Little Bentley	2496	1	2496	3.27%
				Lawford and Manningtree	Lawford, Manningtree	4396	2	2198	-9.06%
				Little Clacton	Little Clacton	2416	1	2416	-0.04%
				Weeley and Tendring	Weeley, Tendring	2371	1	2371	-1.90%
				Mistle	Mistle	2553	1	2553	5.63%
35 Wards		116000	60	45 Wards		116000	48	2417	-0.01%

New Parish Ward Proposed
Electoral Equality tolerance over 10%

Tending Wards - Proposed Boundary Changes



VEHICLE FERRY FROM HARWICH INTERNATIONAL PORT TO
Edburgh Hook of Holland (Catamaran) 31 hours
Hook of Holland (Catamaran) 31 hours



Gunfleet Sand